

ILLUSTRATED TALES TO BEWITCH & BEDEVIL YOU

58856

VAMPI  
#24

MAY 1973

# VAMPIRELLA

A WARREN MAGAZINE PDC 75¢

GHOSTS  
FROM THE  
PAST  
RETURN  
TO HAUNT  
PENDRAGON...

...AND VAMPIRELLA'S  
BLOODLUST DRIVES HER  
TO THE EDGE OF INSANITY!

Page 6



WARREN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
PROUDLY INTRODUCES AN EXCITING NEW IDEA IN COMIC ART!

# THE WORLD'S GREATEST TALENT



IN A FULL COLOR 120 PAGE BOUND VOLUME  
OF THE MOST GRAPHICALLY EXCITING ILLUSTRATED STORIES IN THE WORLD!

# Dracula

SEE OUR DRACULA AD ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER OF THIS ISSUE





**OUR COVER**  
Time runs out for VAMPIRELLA as she is trapped by desperate criminals. She has no blood serum to quench her deadly thirst! And she is tormented by a newer and greater threat... drugs! "Into the Inferno," page 6.

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# VAMPIRELLA

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**MAY 1973**

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## "Vampirella, you are doubly oppressed!"

**T**his letter refers to the letter from Debbie and Kathy in issue #20 of **VAMPIRELLA**, wherein they said that a cannibalistic solution was the most inviting way to resolve the male/female conflict and Vampi replied, "I prefer cleavage to cleavers." I can only say this: I think they are both too extreme.

I can't understand why people can't be accepted individually! If a woman doesn't want to serve man as his comforter and companion, she shouldn't be condemned; and if a woman wants to serve a man, she should have that choice—or anything in-between. People should be able to accept that certain individuals of each sex can share interests or abilities without being labelled abnormal. They shouldn't be subjected to pressure to change their interests. We must learn to accept each individual on his/her merit, not sex.

**ANNA TYME**  
Washington State

I too would also like to add my praise to the Gonzalez-Goodwin collaborations that make up Vampirella and company. Gonzalez's rendition of the serial is the most graphically exciting thing to come along in many a year. I am particularly impressed by his costuming of the strip's characters. The clothes on each character vary, some slightly, so there is individuality, like each one's personality. Vampirella's high, stiff collar, though a basic part of her outfit, also reflects her alien mood while the same collar paints a totally different picture on Conrad Van Helsing's raincoat or, say, Pendoragon's cloak. I notice now that the Van Helsing's are wearing pull-over shirts, another clever costume idea that emphasizes the father-son roles. I do, however, miss seeing Conrad's checkered coat blowing in the wind.

Archie Goodwin's motivation behind the beloved Drakonian, her friends, and her enemies is outstanding when you consider the fact that so much is told with so few words. Instead of a lengthy balloon, we are treated to a smile, a frown, a tear. Great! I dearly love Pendoragon, and let's hope he's featured in more future issues.

**RON SAPP**  
Dover, Delaware

Only recently I began reading **VAMPIRELLA**, and I enjoy it very much. I am a vampire fan and so study the old legends and myths. Until your magazine, most of the things I had read about vampires were trash. I congratulate you on your excellent vampire fiction.

I've seen all the **VAMPIRELLA** covers (I have a friend who collects them), and I find Enrich's cover on issue #21 worth framing. You should turn it into a poster. I also liked the ending of "Slitherers of the Sand." I've read Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and was quite happy to see the Count return to his normally evil self. But now I must ask you, Vampi, is this the end of the Prince of Darkness in your magazine? I hope not. May blood be bountiful for your thirst.

**DOROTHY SCHORSTEIN**  
(no address listed)  
*Dracula will rise again, Dorothy, but in a book bigger and more beautiful than anything you have ever seen in my little mag. Watch for it!*

**VAMPIRELLA** #21 is the first issue I've read—and I guess I fell in love with Vampirella. I'm moonstruck! But then, I'm in love with all monsters. I have models of the Creature, Frankenstein, the Mummy, Godzilla, the Phantom, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, King Kong, *Dracula*, the Wolf Man, Dr. Jekyll, and Mr. Hyde. Also, I collect dinosaurs from prehistoric scenes. I'll certainly want to add Vampirella to my collection. Keep up the good work!

**DENNIE SPENCE**  
Kinston, North Carolina

"The Vampiress Stalks the Castle" was fantastic! More art by Felix Mas, please. And let's have more vampire stories! The cover of **VAMPIRELLA** #21 was great, and so was "Slitherers of the Sand." "Paranoia," however, was dumb, but "Short Shocker" made up for it.

You have a real cool magazine, Vampi!

**MIKE THELEN**  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

**VAMPIRELLA** #20 was a disappointment. What's happening? You're going downhill. The only redeeming features in the whole issue were the great cover and Vampi's newfound love with *Dracula*! Bring back artwork by Billy Graham and Frank Brunner to boost the quality of your magazine.

**RITA KOENIGSBERG**  
Salem, Connecticut

In a past mag, there was an article about the upcoming movie of Vampirella. My belief is that I would like to see Vampirella in a movie, but under different circumstances. I don't recommend Raquel Welch or Paula Prentiss for the part of Vampi. Why? Because they're not the type of actress who could play the part in a horror film. They're just too feminine. Vampirella should be played by a beauty who can give an unnatural, unearthly feel to the role. I suggest you take a look at Ingrid Pitt. She would make a perfect Vampi. So give her a chance, and I think you'll like her. Her latest film was "Countess *Dracula*," in which she played the countess herself. The film was like something out of **VAMPIRELLA** or an E.C. comic.

**GARY SEILER**  
Ontario, Canada

The countess was a blonde, Gary, a **BLONDE!**

I feel it's about time to hold a Vampirella look-alike contest. It might stimulate circulation and would be a great lift to all us loveluck guys just knowing someone as beautiful as Vampi does exist. I really dug ish #20 with Count *Dracula* and Vampi. 'Tis a pity the stories are only black and white. Keep up the great morale builder as us sick-type dudes need all the support we can get.

**WALT DANIELS**  
U.S. Naval Hospital, Naples

This is my first time writing to you, Vampi, but I assure you you'll hear from me more often. Issue #21 was a complete knockout. The stories I loved the most were Maroto's "Tomb of the Gods/Legend" and "Slitherers of the Sand." So, let's have some more of Maroto and Gonzalez, okay?

**JOSEPH A. JONES II**  
New York, New York

Okay, but only if you say "please."

I think your magazine is really great, Vampi! Creepy and Eerie are so far behind, I've forgotten about them. The current Vampirella stories are wonderful, and the back-up stories are great (except for "Tomb of the Gods.") Keep up the good work! Is there any chance of **VAMPIRELLA** becoming monthly? As much as you need your vial of blood, I need your magazine!

**JOE MAGGIO, JR.**  
Brooklyn, New York



"Slitherers of the Sand" was the best received story in #21. "A credit to the Vampi saga," says reader Jen Robinson.



## "VAMPIRELLA obsessed me!"

I have bought two issues of VAMPIRELLA, and I only can say that the stories are fantastic! I'm a fan of comic art (U.S. artists and Argentine artists, of course), so I was very lucky to meet with the work of Neal Adams, my favorite, and Jose Gonzalez, who may be the perfect artist for Vampirella. I was also glad to find the work of Esteban Maroto, who I know from his work in Spain, "5X Infinito." Of course, I had some troubles with the language since I only know English that I study in school, but finally I could understand all the stories. As I am now a buyer of Vampi's mags, I want to ask you something—please, in one future mag, give us a giant poster of Vampirella drawn and signed by Jose Gonzalez. Like someone said, "That's all, folks."

**ENRIQUE VIRDO**  
Cordoba, Republica Argentina

Vampi, doll, I don't know if anyone has ever told you this before, but you are doubly oppressed—both as a woman and as a vampire! As a vampire, you are ashamed of what you are. You have allowed human prejudice to deny your basic needs and pleasures. As a woman, you let yourself be directed and manipulated by the will of men. Why do you let yourself in for all the hurt that the likes of Dracula and Adam Van Helsing bring you? Liberate yourself!



**JON FORBES**  
Lansing, Michigan

Am I all that oppressed, or am I just bound by circumstances I can't control? And even if I am shackled and oppressed, do I have the right to liberate my Drakulonian nature on earth? Readers, this is a question for YOU!

Well, here I am—the one-million, nine-hundred and ninety-ninth victim of Vampi fever. Vampi has obsessed me, ever since I bought my first issue. I've been hooked ever since. Vampirella is a real person. She has that exquisite charm that separates her from those other humdrum heroines.

The cover of VAMPIRELLA #20 was pretty good, but it did an inefficient job of hinting what the real story was like. "Vengeance, Brother, Vengeance!" was an exciting sword and sorcery tale. I am quite fond of fantasies drawn in this theme. Also, why not lengthen the Vampirella stories to about 25 pages an issue?

**BERNARD HAYNES**  
Brooklyn, New York

#21 was really a fine issue, gang, really fine! I happen to prefer the irony of fantastic occurrences in realistic settings, so the format of a VAMPIRELLA mag is more to my liking than the generally more science fiction/sword and sorcery stories of CREEPY and EERIE. "Slitherers of the Sand" was quite well done, and it's a credit to the continuing Vampi saga. It was heartbreaking to see Vampirella give up Dracula; and I, for one, think the two of them could have had a lot more going between them than mere "homesickness" or loneliness. Vampi has great courage in her conviction to renounce the bloodlust within her, so I suppose hanging around with Drac would not have strengthened her resolve any, would it?

While the genre of "Tomb of the Gods/Legend" is not exactly my favorite, I must say that the story itself is truly a good one. My only criticism is that two such similar endings, renunciation of true love, in a row (Vampi and Drac and Farla and Atlik) tended to become a little mushy. The art is superb, as is all of Maroto's work, with a grace and clarity that is unmatched by any commercial artist in the comic mags.

"Paranoia" is one of those stories that can give the reader a mental imbalance of the same name. The disorientation in time and space is a common theme these days (with *Slaughterhouse Five* being the most popular example) but it must strike a responsive chord because it never fails to capture a reader's attention. Nice art by Luis Garcia never hurts anything either.

The tripest story this issue, though, was "The Vampire Stalks the Castle This Night." Two very young lovers up against the world need to meet with a vampire like they need a hole in the head, but yet the life-or-death quality of their experience will serve to put their more real problems into some sort of perspective. Maybe things will seem less desperate now. "Delicate" is the word or art by Felix Mas. And I really love the large, liquid eyes he gives his women. See you around.

**JEN ROBINSON**  
San Francisco, California

I must congratulate you on your magazine, Vampi. Creepy and Eerie are marvelous, but you are just wonderful.

**LLOYD ROSE**  
Charlotte, N.C.



A Vampirella look-alike contest? Walt Daniels thinks it would be a lift to know someone beautiful as Vampi exists.

What's happening, Vampirella? I am a big fan of yours, and I really love to read about you. I think you are a beautiful woman—and I do mean woman. As an artist myself, I like good art work so I wish brother Frank Frazetta would do some more of his great work for you. I drew you black, Vampirella, because I see you as many beautiful colors, all of which make you stand alone on top of everyone else. I am black, and I'm proud to be reading a great magazine with a sexy-looking lady like you. There's a soul song that says "What you see is what you get," and when I read you, Vampirella, I get plenty. Can you dig it?

**MARV**  
Los Angeles, California

In VAMPIRELLA #16 a demerited fool, who left only his initials, L.F., wrote in and insulted the good name of Vampirella. I was disgusted with what he had to say, and if I could have had my way, I'd have strung him up and left him to rot. Since then, I have noticed that there have been more and more complaints and insults, most of them about VAMPIRELLA having too many love stories. In a way, I agree with them, but you do make up for them with excellent horror stories. I want to compliment you on the story "Slitherers of the Sand" in VAMPIRELLA #21. In my view, it was the best of the Vampi saga.

**BRUCE BARR**  
Lawrence, Kansas

## HEY, BIG SPENDER—

Spend a little time on me. Spend just a few minutes to tell me you still love me. And send those tender letters to:

**SCARLET LETTERS**  
c/o Warren Publishing Co.  
145 East 32nd Street  
New York, New York  
10016





SOMETIMES THE DARKNESS BROUGHT ON BY *NIGHT* DOES STRANGE THINGS TO THE HUMAN MIND! LIKE THE WARMTH SNUFFED OUT BY A FADING SUN, THE NIGHT BRINGS ON THE COLD! AND WITH THE COLD COMES *LOVELINESS*... AND THE REALIZATION OF A WARMTH THAT WAS ONCE THERE, BUT IS NOW GONE! TONIGHT IS JUST SUCH A NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS... COLD AND LONELY FOR AN AGED STAGE MAGICIAN NAMED *PENDRAGON*, EVEN THOUGH HE SHARES THE NIGHT WITH GOOD FRIENDS AND A BEAUTIFUL VAMPIRESS FROM THE STARS...

# VAMPIRELLA

THE PAST CAN'T BE DROWNED OUT WITH JUST ONE BOTTLE OF THAT ROT-GUT, PENDRAGON!

ADAM'S CORRECT, OLD FRIEND! THE PAST, WHETHER IT BE BEAUTIFUL OR FULL OF UGLINESS, IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MEMORY!

ONE SHOULD NOT SULK UPON THE BYGONE PLEASURES ENJOYED IN A PREVIOUS TIME!

MAKE THE BEST OF IT, OLD FRIEND!

TODAY IS FOR LIVING! AND TODAY IS HERE FOR US TO ENJOY!

YOUR METICULOUS OBSERVATION IS UNERRING, DR. VAN HELSING!

UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR MEDICINE IS EASIER TO PRESCRIBE THAN TO ADMINISTER!

MEETING SALLY SUE CARTIER\* THE IMAGE OF MY DEAR SWEET ROSIE HAS BROUGHT BACK MUSTY OLD MEMORIES, BETTER LEFT FORGOTTEN!



\*SEE LAST ISSUE "WITCH QUEEN OF BAYOU PARISH"





ROSIE MUST HAVE MEANT  
QUITE A LOT TO YOU  
PENDRAGON, WHO  
WAS SHE?

ROSIE? CH...  
SHE WAS **NO**  
ONE IMPORTANT,  
REALLY...



... ONLY  
MY WIFE!



I THINK YOU'D BETTER  
**GO** WITH HIM, **VAMPIRELLA!**  
PENDRAGON SEEMS TO NEED  
SOMEONE RIGHT NOW, AND  
YOU ARE CLOSER TO HIM  
THAN EITHER OF US!

PERHAPS **I**  
SHOULD GO TOO,  
DAD!

NO, ADAM... SOMETIMES  
A WOMAN'S TOUCH IS A  
BETTER MEDICINE THAN ANY  
MIRACLE DRUG EVER  
DEvised.



PEN... I... WE...  
**NONE** OF US KNEW  
YOU WERE EVER  
**MARRIED!**

IT WAS A **LONG** TIME  
AGO, **VAMPIRELLA!** MY  
ROSIE WAS ONE OF THE  
FINEST WOMEN...



IS  
THAT **HIM**,  
DUKE?



HE'S THE **ONE**,  
ALRIGHT.

BUT WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
**GIRL?**



WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO **TAKE**  
**HER** TOO!

**COME**  
**ON!**

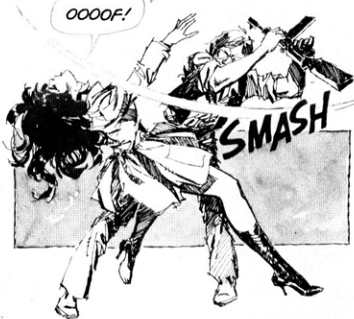


WHAT  
IS THIS?

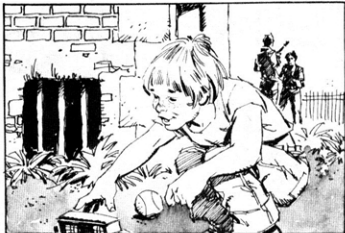
**GET**  
**'EM!**

MY GOOD MAN, I  
**PROTEST** THIS **VIOLENT**  
PHYSICAL ABUSE OF MY  
PRESENCE!

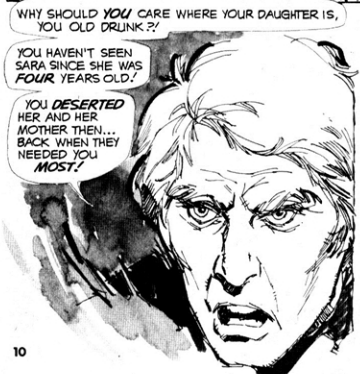
















HE...HE'S RIGHT VAMPIRELLA!  
I *DID* DESERT MY FAMILY!

IT WAS *SO*  
*LONG AGO* THAT  
IT ALMOST SEEMS  
AS THOUGH IT ALL  
HAPPENED TO  
SOMEONE ELSE!

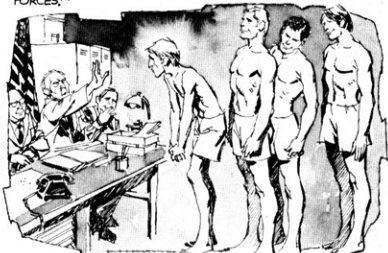


"IT WAS DURING THE WAR! ROSIE, MY WIFE AND I WERE  
SCRIMPING ALONG ON THE MEAGER SALARY OF A STAGE  
MAGICIAN, TRYING TO FIND A BIT OF COMFORT FOR  
OURSELVES AND OUR BABY, SARA!"

"MY BEAUTIFUL SARA WAS ONLY THREE YEARS OLD  
BACK THEN...BACK WHEN HITLER'S ARMIES WERE  
TEARING ACROSS WESTERN EUROPE! YET ALREADY  
SHE WAS AS DELICATE AND LOVELY AS HER MOTHER,  
MY SWEET ROSIE!"



"WHILE MOST OF AMERICA'S MALE POPULATION READIED FOR  
*BATTLE* I WAS FOUND PHYSICALLY *UNFIT* FOR THE ARMED  
FORCES!"



"BUT LIKE MOST YOUNG MEN BACK THEN, I WAS  
*PATRIOTIC* ENOUGH TO WANT TO SERVE MY  
COUNTRY IN ANY CAPACITY I COULD."



"TEARFULLY, I LEFT ROSIE AND MY LITTLE GIRL, KNOWING THAT  
THINGS WOULDN'T BE EASY FOR THEM  
AT HOME IN AMERICA, BUT THE WAR  
BROUGHT EASY TIMES FOR  
*NO ONE!!*"



"I SIGNED WITH THE FIRST USO TROUPE HEADING ACROSS  
THE ATLANTIC! IF I COULDN'T FIGHT, I COULD AT  
LEAST DO WHAT I WAS BEST AT...*ENTERTAINING!*  
EVEN BATTLE WEARY SOLDIERS NEEDED THE KIND OF  
LAUGH A PARLOR-MAGICIAN COULD AFFORD!"



"I SENT HOME WHAT LITTLE I MADE WHILE ON TOUR! AND ROSIE WROTE, TELLING ME OF THE JOB SHE WAS ABLE TO GET IN AN *ELECTRONICS* PLANT."



"FROM HER LETTERS, I COULD TELL THAT ROSIE WAS *INFATUATED* WITH THE YOUNG *ELECTRONICS* DYNAMO. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS TO ME *THEN*... BUT MY NAIVE AND HOMESICK MIND JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO MY ROSIE BACK HOME..."



"...SHE WAS FALLING IN *LOVE* WITH ANOTHER MAN..."

"HOW CAN YOU MAKE THE WOMAN YOU *LOVE* RETURN YOUR LOVE? I KNEW IT WAS *HOPELESS*. I CONSENTED TO THE DIVORCE BECAUSE I *LOVED* ROSIE... AND WANTED HER TO BE HAPPY! I KNEW OUR LIFE TOGETHER WAS *OVER*... AND I FELT LIKE HALF A MAN FOR NOT PUTTING UP A FIGHT TO KEEP THE WOMAN I LOVED."



"BUT WHAT KIND OF LIFE COULD A TWO-BIT STAGE MAGICIAN GIVE TO A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE ROSIE?!"



AFTER AWHILE I DIDN'T HEAR FROM HER MUCH! I CONTINUED TO WRITE, SENDING HOME MY MEAGER PAYCHECKS AND THE FEW TIMES ROSIE *DID* WRITE, HER LETTERS WERE MOSTLY ABOUT HER BOSS, DAVID POUNDS!

"THEN ROSIE WROTE ME ASKING FOR THE *DIVORCE*!! BUT BEFORE HER LETTER REACHED ME, I RECEIVED THE *DIVORCE PAPERS*..."



"...THAT'S WHEN MY LIFE BEGAN TO CHANGE..."





THAT WAS *SO* LONG AGO! I *KNEW* I COULD NEVER SEE ROSIE AND MY BABY AGAIN!

I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE EITHER OF THEM WITH *ANOTHER* MAN...

...A MAN TAKING *MY* PLACE WITH *MY* FAMILY!!



I LOST TRACK OF THEM BOTH... AND TRIED TO PUT THEM *OUT* OF MY MIND!

I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BE *REMIND*ED... SO I BURIED MYSELF IN THE *BOTTLE*, AND HAD ALL BUT *FORGOTTEN*!

*FORGOTTEN*, THAT IS, UNTIL I CAME TO THIS ACCURSED PLACE AND MET THAT *WITCH* WHO LOOKED LIKE MY ROSIE!\*

\* SEE LAST ISSUE!



WHICH IS WHEN WE HEARD OF YOUR PRESENCE HERE, SIR... IN THE *NEWSPAPERS*!

AND I *KNEW* THAT NOW WAS MY *CHANCE*...

...NOW WAS THE TIME FOR ME TO *MEET* YOU...



... TO HAVE *REVENGE* ON YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE IN THE PAST!

*WHAT?!*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW THE *WHOLE* STORY!

SURE, YOUR EX-WIFE WAS HAPPY WITH DAVID POUNDS FOR *AWHILE* AT LEAST!

HE WAS NICE TO HER AND SARA... UP UNTIL THE TIME HE GOT WHAT HE *WANTED*!



BUT AFTER YOUR WIFE GAVE *IN* TO HIM, SHE BEGAN TO SEE WHAT HE WAS *REALLY* LIKE!

SHE SAW HIS *WOMANIZING*...

SHE SAW HIS *DRINKING*...

AND THEN SHE WATCHED AS HIS BUSINESS STARTED TO GO *DOWNHILL*!







"YES, LIKE YOU, YOUR EX-WIFE'S NEW HUSBAND WAS A HEAVY DRINKER, TOO! BUT, UNLIKE YOU, LIQUOR MADE HIM **MEAN!** HE HURT ROSIE MORE THAN YOU **EVER** COULD HAVE! HE **BEAT** HER, HUMILIATED HER... AND BROUGHT **WOMEN** INTO HER HOME."

"AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, UNTIL ONE DAY HE WENT **TOO FAR!** COMING HOME DRUNK, HE LASHED INTO SARA... **MERCILESSLY!**"



"ROSIE MUST HAVE FELT **HELPLESS**, WATCHING HER LITTLE GIRL FLAIL ABOUT BEFORE THE MAN'S BLOWS... HEARING HER SCREAMS AND KNOWING THAT SHE COULD **DO NOTHING...**"

"HE WHIRLED IN TIME TO WARD OFF THE ATTACK... AND LAND A BLOW WHICH SENT ROSIE BACK... **BACK...**"

"...CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THEIR TWO-STORY APARTMENT..."



"SOMETHING MUST HAVE **SNAPPED** IN ROSIE'S MIND! SHE GRABBED A **KNIFE** AND CAME AT HER DRUNKEN HUSBAND."



"ROSIE LAY ON THE SIDEWALK, MOANING IN PAIN SPITTING **BLOOD** FROM INSIDES THAT WERE **PULPY MUSH!** LITTLE SARA WAS BESIDE HER, SOBBING HYSTERICALLY WHEN THE AMBULANCE ROARED UP!"

"WHEN THE POLICE CAME, THEY FOUND A DRUNKEN DAVID POUNDS, PASSED OUT IN HIS BEDROOM! AND WHEN THEY TOOK HIM AWAY, I WATCHED A VERY LOST AND HELPLESS LITTLE GIRL SHED ENRAGED TEARS OF **HATE!**"



"MY DADDY PENDRAGON WILL **GET HIM** FOR THIS!"

"MY **REAL** DADDY WILL **MAKE HIM PAY!**"





"WHEN POUNDS TRIED TO GET SARA BACK, MY DADDY WASN'T ABOUT TO GIVE HER UP! HE *KNEW* WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE THAT DRUNK WOULD GIVE SARA!"

"SO MY DADDY, HE PUT UP A *FIGHT*, AND POUNDS LEFT EMPTY-HANDED, SWEARING HE'D HAVE THE *LAW* ON US!"



"HE PROBABLY *WOULD* HAVE, TOO... IF MY DADDY HADN'T MADE SURE POUNDS HAD A LITTLE "*ACCIDENT*!"

"FUNNY THING, THAT! NO ONE EVER EVEN *MISSED* POUNDS! AND WE *KEPT* SARA ALL THESE YEARS... UNTIL I TOOK HER AS MY *WIFE*."











AND NOW, DRUNK, YOU WILL **PAY** FOR ALL OF YOUR YEARS OF **NEGLECT** TOWARDS YOUR FAMILY!



YOU WILL WATCH THIS **HARLOT** YOU'VE ATTACHED YOURSELF TO, **DEGENERATE**...

...JUST AS I HAVE HAD TO WATCH SARA SUFFER, AND ROSIE **DETERIORATE** ALL THESE YEARS!

NO!

DON'T **HARM** VAMPIRELLA!



HARM HER? I WOULDN'T **THINK** OF SUCH A THING!

WE'LL INJECT JUST ENOUGH PURE **COCAINE** INTO HER, TO SEND HER **FLYING** FOR A GOOD LONG TIME!



WHEN SHE **COMES TO** SHE'LL BE SO DRUGGED THAT SHE WON'T HAVE CONTROL OVER HER OWN **SENSES**! SHE'LL BE A MINDLESS VEGETABLE!

WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOUR WOMAN A **HARD** DRUG ADDICT...



...AND YOU'RE GOING TO **WATCH** EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

HOW WILL YOU **LIVE** WITH YOURSELF KNOWING THAT YOU'VE DESTROYED THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO YOU... YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER...



...AND NOW, BECAUSE OF YOU, THIS GIRL, VAMPIRELLA, WILL **DEGENERATE** INTO A **VEGETABLE**!

I'LL **LEAVE** YOU WITH THOSE THOUGHTS...

...AND THIS **BOTTLE**! I HAVE A FEELING YOU'LL BE **NEEDING** IT!



I...I **CAN'T** TOUCH THAT BOTTLE!

VAMPIRELLA WILL **NEED** ME WHEN SHE **COMES** TO!



IT'S ALREADY BEEN MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SINCE SHE'S TAKEN HER **BLOOD** SUBSTITUTE SERUM...

...WHEN SHE **COMES** AROUND SHE MUST AGAIN HAVE **HUMAN BLOOD** TO **FEED** AS WOULD ANY **VAMPIRE**!



MY GOD!

SHE'S **WAKING**!

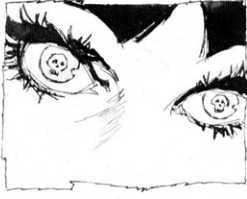
WITH THAT **DRUG** IN HER VEINS, THERE'S **NO TELLING** HOW SHE WILL **REACT**!



IN THE FRACTION OF A SECOND THAT IT TAKES TWO EYES TO MEET, A GLINT OF **RECOGNITION** PASSES THROUGH VAMPIRELLA!

... RECOGNITION THAT IS QUICKLY LOST... REPLACED BY THE INSANELY GLAZED STARE OF ONE HIGH ON FROM DRUGS!

VAMPIRE FANGS BARE, AND A SHRILL CRY ERUPTS FROM A THROAT TOO LONG **DRY!** VAMPIRELLA **THRISTS...**



... AND WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE SMALL CELL, THERE IS BUT ONE WITH THE HUMAN **BLOOD** NEEDED TO **QUENCH** THAT THIRST...



DRIVEN **INSANE**, HIGH ON FROM THE **HARSH DRUG** WITHIN HER SYSTEM, VAMPIRELLA TURNS ON HER FRIEND TO **FEED!** HER MIND NOT SEEING REALITY, BUT TORMENTED VISIONS OF HER OWN PRIVATE HELL! VAMPIRELLA IS NOT YET AWARE THAT **BLOOD** IS NOT THE ONLY THING SHE NOW NEEDS TO SURVIVE! FOR HER BODY CRIES OUT FOR A NEW CRAVING... THE CRAVING FOR EVEN MORE OF THIS STRANGE SUBSTANCE EARTH PEOPLE CALLS **DRUGS!** FOR VAMPIRELLA, THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP...

# INTO THE INFERNO!



SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

# VAMPIRELLA

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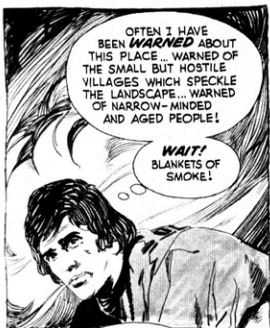


WHERE  
THERE'S SMOKE  
THERE'S FIRE.  
HERE'S A TAIL  
OF A YOUNG  
MAN WHO REALLY  
GETS BURNED  
LEARNING  
THAT OLD  
ADAGE...

THE  
MONASTERY LIES  
NOT *FAR*  
AHEAD!

THERE IS  
MUCH I WILL  
LEARN THERE!

BUT FIRST  
I MUST PASS  
THROUGH A *STRANGE*  
*LAND!*



OFTEN I HAVE  
BEEN *WARNED* ABOUT  
THIS PLACE ... WARNED OF  
THE SMALL BUT HOSTILE  
VILLAGES WHICH SPECKLE  
THE LANDSCAPE ... WARNED  
OF NARROW-MINDED  
AND AGED PEOPLE!

*WAIT!*  
BLANKETS OF  
SMOKE!

SMOKE AND  
SOOT -- GETTING IN  
*MY EYES!*

CAN  
HARDLY  
*SEE!* IT'S  
AS THOUGH--

*WHAT?*  
*WHO'S...*

*WAIT!*

WILL ANYTHING EVER REALLY CHANGE? THE DISTANT FUTURE...  
A WORLD DESTROYED ... A WORLD RE-BUILDING ITSELF ... AND A  
YOUNG MAN ON A PERILOUS JOURNEY THROUGH...

# MIDDLE-AM!

*SO--ANOTHER*  
HAS DARED COME! ANOTHER  
WHO SEEKS TO RAVAGE  
OUR COMMUNITY BY  
*DESTROYING* THE  
TEMPLE OF HEAT!

*NO! I WISH  
ONLY TO PASS  
THROUGH MIDDLE-  
AM! I AM ONLY A  
TRAVELLER, ON MY  
WAY TO...*

ENOUGH!  
WE WILL NOT BE  
FOOLED BY YOUR  
*LIES!*

YOU ARE FROM  
THE *OUTSIDE!*  
AND YOU ARE *YOUNG!*  
WE KNOW YOUR KIND  
*ALWAYS LIES!*







THEIR **TEMPLE OF HEAT!** YES, I'VE HEARD OF IT.

**EACH** COMMUNITY IN MIDDLE-AM SUPPOSEDLY HAS SUCH A TEMPLE! THE TEMPLES CAUSE THIS SMOKE!

THOSE IN THE MONASTERY BELIEVE THAT CONSTANT **BREATHING** OF THE FUMES CAN GREATLY **SHORTEN** ONE'S LIFE-SPAN!

BUT THE PEOPLE OF THESE VILLAGES **REFUSE** TO REPLACE THEIR TRADITIONAL HEATING MATERIAL, WHICH **GIVES OFF** THIS SMOKE... REFUSE TO REPLACE IT WITH A MATERIAL WHICH WILL **NOT** SHORTEN THEIR LIVES!...THEY BELIEVE THE MONKS LIE!

THESE PEOPLE ARE **SO** TIED TO TRADITION, THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO REASON THOUGH REASON MIGHT LENGTHEN THEIR LIVES!

THEY ACT AS THOUGH--  
**GNNNGH!**

**WHIEW!** NEARLY **DISARMED** ME!

HAVE TO GET MY MIND OFF THE **SMOKE**... CONCENTRATE ON THE **BATTLE!**

MY OPPONENTS ARE SLOW... EXTREMELY **SLOW!** AND I AM A QUICK **SWORDSMAN!**

I COULD **EASILY** DEFEAT THEM... IF I WERE NOT SO WEAK!

AND I WEAKEN **MORE** WITH EACH BREATH!

MUST TRY TO **FINISH** THIS FIGHT **NOW**... WHILE THERE IS STILL SOME **STRENGTH** LEFT!





SLOWLY...THE YOUNG WARRIOR FEELS  
HIS STRENGTH SAPPED BY THE  
ALL-ENVELOPING FUMES...



...UNTIL IT IS ONLY  
A MATTER OF TIME  
BEFORE THE BATTLE  
IS DONE!







HE FELT HIMSELF BEING CARRIED A LONG WAY... AS IF HIS CAPTORS WERE DESCENDING INTO AN ABYSS... THE SMOKE GREW HEAVIER... UNTIL IT SEEMED TO PEAK...





YOU CALL  
THIS A  
**TRIAL!**

YOU ALLOWED ME  
NO CHANCE TO  
**DEFEND MYSELF!** I  
WAS **UNCONSCIOUS**  
WHILE YOU--

SO -- YOU  
HAVE FINALLY  
**AWAKENED!**

BUT... BUT I  
HAD NO WISH TO  
DESTROY YOUR TEMPLE!  
PERHAPS **OTHERS** HAVE  
COME HERE FOR THAT  
PURPOSE, BUT I... I...

YOU **MUST** LET ME  
DEFEND MYSELF!  
YOU **MUST!**


YOUR PROTESTS MEAN  
**NOTHING!** YOU MUST PAY THE  
PENALTY FOR WISHING DESTRUCTION  
ON OUR **SACRED TRADITIONS!**

BUT THEY **DIDN'T!** AND THAT DAY, IN MIDDLE-AM,  
THEY HUNG THE YOUNG MAN AND THREE OTHERS  
LIKE HIM... HUNG THEM BECAUSE THEY FELT THAT  
THESE FOUR STUDENTS WERE A THREAT TO THEIR  
SACRED TRADITIONS...

WILL ANYTHING EVER  
REALLY CHANGE?

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE! HE SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO  
HANG LOOSE INSTEAD OF INFLAMING EVERYONE!  
GUESS HE GOT A LITTLE TOO HOT UNDER THE COLLAR!





SALUTATIONS, SMART-ALECKS!  
THIS **BRAIN-DRAINER** IS ALL  
ABOUT A BUNCH OF **REALLY** SMART  
GUYS... IN **FACT** A WHOLE **FACTORY**  
OF THEM / YES, AT THIS RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE, A CREW OF INGENUOUS GENIUSES  
THINK ABOUT ALL SORTS OF TOP SECRET  
STUFF FOR THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THEY  
**NEVER** THOUGHT ABOUT THE DAY  
WHEN THESE SUPERIOR SMARTIES  
BUMP INTO...

# HOMO

# SUPERIOR

WERNE  
RESEAR  
INSTITU

IDENTITY CARD  
PLEASE. /... OH, PARDON  
ME. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE  
YOU FOR A MOMENT, DR.  
WERNER, / BUT I GUESS I  
CAN LET YOU INTO YOUR  
OWN INSTITUTE. / THE  
OTHERS ARE ALREADY  
HERE!

THANK  
YOU, FRED!

WERNER, / GLAD I RAN  
INTO YOU! BEFORE WE GO  
INTO THE CONFERENCE, I THINK I'D  
BETTER WARN YOU ABOUT OLD HORNOR!  
HE'S REALLY GONE OFF THE DEEP  
END THIS TIME! SOME WILD THEORY  
ABOUT A SUPERMAN / HE'S BOUND  
TO BRING IT UP AT THE  
CONFERENCE!

WORKING  
TOO HARD, EH? I'LL  
GIVE HIM A VACATION...  
GLAD YOU WARNED  
ME!

AH... ALL  
ON TIME, / GOOD  
MORNING,  
GENTLEMEN!

GOOD  
MORNING, DR.  
WERNER.







GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT DOWN FROM WASHINGTON FOR THIS CONFERENCE, DR. WERNER! IT'S IMPORTANT! TO GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER, WE CAN SKIP OVER SOME ROUTINE TEST REPORTS OF DR. HORNER'S AND GET ON TO **THE PROJECT!**

EXCELLENT!

**WAIT A MINUTE!** YOU CAN'T SKIP MY TEST REPORTS! I'VE THE MOST **AMAZING** RESULTS TO GIVE YOU! IT'S **VITAL!**



OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HORNER. DON'T BRING UP THAT NONSENSE AGAIN! IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOUR COLLEAGUES HAVE TO HEAR IT, BUT TO INFLECT IT ON DR. WERNER IS INEXCUSABLE!

**I MUST** SAY THAT...

PARDON ME, DR. WERNER, BUT THIS IS OF THE MOST EARTH-SHATTERING IMPORTANCE! **I MUST** GO ON!



OH, I GUESS WE'D BETTER HEAR IT SO IT WILL BE OVER WITH AND OUT OF THE WAY!

THANK YOU! AS YOU KNOW, I'VE ADMINISTERED ALL SORTS OF ROUTINE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TESTS TO THE STAFF HERE JUST FOR REFERENCE AND FOR OUR MASTER COMPUTER'S KNOWLEDGE! **ONLY ONE** TEST IS OF ANY IMPORTANCE...



...AND THAT IS THE CARBON 14 AGE TEST! AS YOU KNOW, IT USES THE 1/2-LIFE OF RADIOACTIVE CARBON AS A POSITIVE MEANS OF DATING... PURELY ROUTINE, AND OF COURSE ANONYMOUS... BUT IT DEFINITELY REVEALS THAT **ONE OF US HAS A POSITIVE AGE OF 4725 YEARS!**



THE TEST MAY BE INFALLIBLE, HORNER, BUT YOU AREN'T! FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I SUGGEST...

JUST A MOMENT! THIS IS INTERESTING! LET'S ASSUME, AS ONLY WE INTELLECTUALS CAN, THAT THIS IS TRUE! WOULD THIS ANCIENT SUPERIOR INDIVIDUAL CARE TO ADMIT IT NOW?

WHAT THE...

GOOD LORD, HORNER. SIT DOWN BEFORE SOMEONE SWEARS OUT AN **INSANITY COMPLAINT** AGAINST YOU!

I KNOW... I KNOW! IT'S INCREDIBLE! BUT THE TEST IS INFALLIBLE! IT **COULDN'T** BE WRONG! ONE OF US IS... WELL... **MORE THAN HUMAN!** WE ARE HOMO SAPIENS AND HE'S **HOMO SUPERIOR!**





NO ONE!  
YOU SEE? NOW  
IF WE CAN GO  
ON TO...

WAIT, OF  
COURSE HE WON'T  
ADMIT IT! IF HE  
INTENDED TO...



... THEN HE  
WOULDN'T HAVE KEPT IT  
SECRET ALL THESE YEARS!  
DON'T YOU SEE? THIS  
"SUPERMAN" IN OUR MIDST  
SECRETLY IMPLIES SOME  
SORT OF SINISTER PURPOSE!  
WE'D BETTER FIND OUT  
WHO HE IS AND WHAT  
HE WANTS... **FAST!**

NOW THAT  
THAT NONSENSE  
IS OVER, LET'S GET  
ON WITH  
BUSINESS!



"CORNER, VERY WORRIED, WENT  
BACK TO HIS OFFICE TO WORK  
LATE THAT NIGHT..."

THEY... THEY WOULDN'T  
BELIEVE ME! I MUST MAKE  
THEM UNDERSTAND OUR  
DANGER! OTHERWISE MANKIND  
MAY BECOME AS OBSOLETE  
AS THE DINOSAUR!

I BELIEVE  
YOU, DR.  
HORNER!



YOU  
BELIEVE ME?  
WHO ARE YOU?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?  
I'M... "HOMO SUPERIOR"  
YOU CALLED ME, DIDN'T  
YOU? A VERY APT  
NAME!



B... BUT WHO **ARE**  
YOU? HOW DID YOU **GET**  
THAT WAY? WHAT DO  
YOU WANT?

SIMPLE... I  
AM THE PRODUCT OF  
EVOLUTION! A NEW AND  
BETTER SPECIES! AN  
ACCIDENT OF BIRTH... A  
FREAK COMBINATION OF  
SUPERIOR GENES... 4725  
YEARS AGO! AND NOW IT IS  
ONLY NATURAL THAT MANKIND  
MOVE OVER AND YIELD THE  
EARTH TO ME AS THE  
MONKEYS YIELDED IT  
TO MAN!



I SEEK THE GREAT  
SECRET OF INFINITE POWER...  
THE ABILITY TO CREATE AND DESTROY  
MATTER! THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SCIENCES  
WERE TOO PRIMITIVE TO FIND IT FOR ME!  
I CAME CLOSE WORKING FOR THE NAZIS,  
BUT WE WERE BOMBED OUT! NOW,  
YOUR "PROJECT" HERE WILL GIVE  
ME THE INFORMATION I NEED...













I'M THE ONE WHO CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO PERFORM THAT DATING TEST TOMORROW! MY AGE OF 4725 MUST REMAIN A SECRET!

THEN HORNER WAS RIGHT!



YES, HORNER WAS RIGHT, AND SINCE I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIM BEFORE HE DIED, IT'S ONLY FAIR TO TELL YOU...

INCREDIBLE! A GENETIC FREAK! A ONE-IN-A-ZILLION CHANCE COMBINATION OF SUPERIOR CHROMOSOMES, BUT YOU'LL BE STOPPED! YOU'RE NOT A NEW RACE... JUST A FREAK! SOMEONE WILL KILL YOU!



IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T BE KILLED! I DISCOVERED THAT WHEN THE NAZI RESEARCH PLANT WAS BOMBED! THE OTHERS WERE BLOWN APART, BUT MY CELLS REGENERATED INSTANTLY! AND NOW...

YOU! IT'S YOU!  
NO! NO! MY HEART!  
PAIN! I... AAAARRRGH!



IN THE LIGHT OF FIELD'S DEATH JUST BEFORE HE WAS TO MAKE THE DATING TEST, WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT HORNER'S THEORY! A SUPERHUMAN MONSTER EXISTS!

IF SO, HE'S ONE OF US! HERE... NOW!

ONE OF YOU TWO YOU MEAN! I'M NOT PART OF THIS RESEARCH TEAM!



YOU TOO, DR. WERNER... YOU WERE INCLUDED IN ALL HORNER'S TESTING! AND SINCE THIS FIEND IS USING OUR "PROJECT" FOR HIS OWN ENDS, IT SEEMS LIKELY TO SUSPECT THE MAN WHOSE PROJECT IT IS IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU, WERNER!





GENTLEMEN...  
WE'LL GET NOWHERE  
IF WE HURL ACCUSATIONS  
AT EACH OTHER!

WELL I KNOW  
IT'S NOT ME... AND  
THIS WHOLE **PROJECT**  
WAS WERNER'S  
IDEA!

**QUIET!**  
I'M STILL HEAD  
HERE, AND I'LL  
GIVE THE ORDERS!  
WHAT WE NEED...

... IS SOME OUTSIDE  
THINKING! I'M CALLING IN  
THE MOST BRILLIANT MIND I KNOW!  
DR. AUGUSTUS METZ! LUCKILY  
HE **LIVES JUST NEARBY!**

HALT! YOUR  
PASS AND IDENTIFICATION  
PLEASE!

OUT OF MY WAY,  
FOOL! DR. WERNER HAS  
SUMMONED ME! I AM  
DR. **AUGUSTUS METZ!**

WERNER  
INSTITUTE

... DR.  
**AUGUSTUS  
METZ!**

THANK YOU,  
WERNER! I CAME  
AS SOON AS I HEARD  
FROM YOU! NOW, JUST  
WHAT IS THIS SCIENTIFIC  
EMERGENCY YOU SPOKE  
OF!

... AND SO I SENT  
FOR YOU! THOUGH EVEN  
YOUR GREAT MIND MAY  
BE UNEQUAL TO  
STOPPING THIS SUPER-  
GENIUS!

MINUTES LATER ...

**AH!** WHAT A  
PLEASURE! SO VERY  
GLAD TO SEE YOU...

ASSUMING I ACCEPT  
THIS INCREDIBLE STORY,  
THE BEST PLACE TO  
START IS THIS  
CREATURE'S LAST  
APPEARANCE... FIELDS'  
LABORATORY!







THERE'S WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND...WE DREW A CHALK OUTLINE OF IT/HIS HEART VIRTUALLY EXPLODED/ THIS FIEND HAS SOME SORT OF MENTAL CONTROL OVER OUR BODIES!

SHHHH... I HEAR SOMETHINGS/SORT OF A HUM!

HERE'S THE SOURCE...FIELD'S CLICKED ON HIS DICTOPHONE AND DIED WITHOUT TURNING IT OFF/ WE CAN PLAY IT BACK AND HEAR WHAT HE HEARD!



... BUT MY CELLS REGENERATED INSTANTLY! AND NOW... "YOU! IT'S YOU! NO! NO! MY HEART! PAIN! I... AAAAAARRGH!

INCREDIBLE! I COULDN'T RECOGNISE THE MONSTER'S VOICE... AND THOUGH FIELDS KNEW HIM, HE NEVER SAID HIS NAME!

PERHAPS... BUT WE KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT OUR ENEMY THAN HE INTENDED US TO!



IF THE SUPERMAN'S CELLS REGENERATE INSTANTLY AS HE TOLD FIELDS, THEN HE'S RIGHT! HE CAN'T BE KILLED!

IN WHICH CASE, WE'RE BEATEN!


NOT YET! THE FIEND NEEDS THE COMPLETED PROJECT BEFORE HE CAN GO AHEAD WITH HIS PLANS! IF HE WAS READY NOW, HE'D HAVE KILLED US ALL!

BUT I'VE JUST SOLVED THE FINAL PROBLEM...THE PROJECT IS NOW COMPLETED!



FOOL!! DOLT!! WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?? YOU'VE JUST TOLD OUR ENEMY EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW!





SINCE KERN HAS THE SECRET ALREADY, WE MUST ASSUME HE'S NOT THE FIEND. / NOW, WITHOUT REVEALING THE SECRET, WE MUST FIND A WAY TO PROTECT THE KNOWLEDGE!




AND SO... THERE!... ON THAT TABLE ARE MY NOTES CONTAINING THE FINAL SOLUTION ON THE PROJECT!


GOOD! THIS ROOM CONTAINS EVERY PROTECTIVE AND WARNING DEVICE KNOWN TO SCIENCE. / EVEN THIS SUPERMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN HERE UNDETECTED!

UNLESS IT'S KERN HIMSELF... IN WHICH CASE HE ALREADY KNOWS!

PRAY...



...PRAY IT ISN'T KERN. FOR IF SO, HE HAS THE SECRET OF LIMITLESS POWER, AND THE INTELLIGENCE TO USE IT. THE FASCINATING THING IS THAT HORNER'S DATING TEST DISCOVERED HIS EXISTENCE BY ACCIDENT!



IF HE COULD HAVE REMAINED A SECRET FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, HE'D RULE THE WORLD IN A WEEK!

HE MAY ANYWAY!


NOTHING TO DO NOW! BUT GO ABOUT OUR BUSINESS. / IF ANYBODY TRIES TO GET INTO THIS ROOM, WE'LL KNOW IT!



BUT LATE THAT NIGHT...

GOOD EVENING, KERN! YOU KNOW WHAT INFORMATION I'VE COME FOR... AND I'VE THE MEANS TO GET IT FROM YOU!

THAT VOICE! IT MUST BE... I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS...



**QUIET, KERN!**  
FIELDS' DICTOPHONE TRICK WON'T WORK TWICE. / YOU'LL NOT GIVE AWAY MY IDENTITY. / BUT YOU WILL GIVE ME THE PROJECT SOLUTION!

YOU WON'T GET IT FROM ME...













BUT IT *ISN'T* ME / I KNEW  
OUR ALARMS COULD BE BEATEN  
WHEN I SET THIS ALL UP, AND HID  
HERE WITH A *BETTER* TRAP  
IN MIND / BUT NOW THAT  
*YOU'RE IN HERE...*

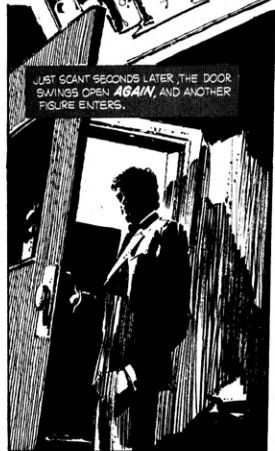


...I CAN'T *HELP*  
BUT THINK THAT...

OH, STOP TOYING  
WITH ME / YOU'VE  
*WON!* GET IT  
OVER WITH /



QUIET! GET *DOWN*  
HERE! I HEAR  
SOMEONE COMING  
THIS WAY!



JUST SCANT SECONDS LATER, THE DOOR  
SWINGS OPEN *AGAIN*, AND ANOTHER  
FIGURE ENTERS.



STOP!!!

WHY...  
IT'S... *IT'S...*

THE NEW INTRUDER IS  
QUICK TO CAPTURE  
THE PRIZE HE HAS  
WAITED SO LONG  
FOR... THE POWER  
TO *RULE THE*  
WORLD!





**VOLMAK!!!**

WHAT THE... **A TRAP**, EH? I SUSPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, BUT AFTER KERN KILLED HIMSELF THERE WAS NO CHOICE! BUT IT WON'T HELP YOU!



I HOLD IN MY HANDS THE SECRET I'VE NEEDED FOR CENTURIES TO **RULE THE WORLD!** YOU WON'T STOP ME... YOU'LL MEET THE SAME FATE AS HORNER AND FIELDS!




NOT AFTER I THROW THIS SWITCH, YOU WON'T!

**ACH!** WHAT THE BLAZES IS IT! CAN'T SEE... MOVE...




WHAT...WHAT IS IT!

A LITTLE TRAP I PREPARED / THE NOZZLES SPRAYED OUT A NEW **PLASTIC** SUBSTANCE WHICH DRIES INSTANTLY! HE COULDN'T BE KILLED BUT HE **COULD BE TRAPPED!** HE'LL STAY SEALED IN THAT PLASTIC LUMP **FOREVER!!**



AN **INGENIUS** TRAP! AND I WAS SURE YOU WERE THE FIEND WHEN I SAW YOU IN HERE!

I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE HERE BECAUSE I **KNEW** IT WAS VOLMAK! I SUSPECTED HIM, SO I STUCK HIM IN THE BACK WITH A KNIFE EARLIER! HIS CELLS REGENERATED SO FAST THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE'D BEEN **STABBED!**



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PROJECT? KERN IS DEAD AND HIS RESULTS ARE SEALED IN WITH VOLMAK!

I SUBSTITUTED **FAKE PAPERS** JUST IN CASE MY TRAP FAILED / THE REAL PAPERS ARE SAFE! THE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, AND MANKIND HAS BEEN SAVED FROM A MONSTROUS POWER! CONGRATULATIONS, OLD FRIEND!

SO, **BRAIN-BRATS**, DID YOU FIGURE OUT WHICH **WISE-GUY** WAS THE **SUPER-MIND**? VOLMAK HAD A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY, BUT NOW HE'S JUST A **PLASTIC FANTASTIC!** HE WON'T RULE THE WORLD, BUT HE'D SURE MAKE A SWELL PAPER-WEIGHT! AND NOW ON TO MY NEXT **WEIGHTY WAIL!**





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AT THAT MOON-BLANKETED  
MOMENT *SHE* AND *I* SHARED *ONE*  
THING IN COMMON...



...WE WERE *BOTH* UNDER A FURTIVE *SCRUTINY*, WHICH WOULD  
EVENTUALLY CONSTITUTE *TRAGEDY* TO US ALL... BUT  
TRAGEDIES OF SOMEWHAT *DIFFERING* MANIFESTATIONS...



THIS LITTLE  
TRAUMA TALE,  
RABID READERS,  
BEGINS WITH A  
*WOMAN* WATCHING  
THE *WOLFMAN*  
WATCH A *WOMAN*...  
AND IT ENDS  
WITH...

# THE CHOICE

MY VICTIM'S TRAGEDY WAS SWIFT, AND UN-RELENTING,  
*FIRST* THE *SLASHING* CONTACT OF RENDING  
FANGS AND CLAWS, THEN THE *EXPLOSIVE* IMPACT OF  
A HURLING FUR-BRISTLED BODY, AND *EXCRUCIATING*  
DEATH.

*YOU! YOU*  
ARE THE *DEMON*  
OF *DEATH*--OF  
THE *MANY*  
DEATHS PLAGUING  
OUR VILLAGE!



... SHE'S  
SEEN ME! I'VE  
BEEN CAUGHT  
RED-HANDED, THE  
BLOOD STILL  
SLIMING MY  
FINGERS...



I PREFER TO **STRIKE** UNEXPECTEDLY, LIKE THE **BEAST** I SOMETIMES AM. BUT I DID NOT KNOW IF MY DISCOVERER POSSESSED A PISTOL, OR IF THE PISTOL POSSESSED **LETHAL BULLETS OF HOLY SILVER**... SO I FLED, THRASHING THROUGH THE TANGLED FOLIAGE...



I **THRILLED** IN THE PLEASURE OF **SLAYING** MY OWN MEALS... NO **FIREARM** COULD ENHANCE THE SATISFACTION OF ACCOMPLISHING MY KILLS WITH NAKED FANG AND CLAW...



THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE WOMAN AND I MELTED LIKE SNOW IN SPRING AS I ROAMED UNSHACKLED... THROUGH THE SHADOW-CLENCHED **FOREST**, MY SECOND BUT MOST BELOVED HOME...



I FEASTED, NEVER SATIATED, UNTIL NIGHT RELINQUISHED ITS DARK SWAY TO BLOSSOMING DAY...



...AND LIKEWISE DID THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR OF THE BEAST **VANISH**... UNTIL, ONCE AGAIN, I WAS A **MAN**...





...A MAN **TORMENTED**--  
KNOWING HE WAS IN TRUTH  
AN UNGOODLY BEAST OF  
PREY... A FORCE OF EVIL...  
...**ME**, BARON GOLENFAST--  
THIS VILLAGE'S PRIME  
EXPONENT OF CIVILIZED  
**MAN**, THE EPITOMY OF  
MAN'S ELEVATION ABOVE  
THE BEAST...



WITH ALL MY **WEALTH**, MY  
CASTLE AND BOOKS... OH,  
HOW THE **FATES** MUST  
**HOWL** IN MIRTH!



AS UPON SO MANY TORMENTED MORNINGS IN THE PAST, I  
SCALED THE ROPE TO MY BED CHAMBER, THINKING...  
**HOPING**...



**LISSA**  
WILL STILL BE  
ASLEEP... MY  
**SECRET** IS  
SAFE STILL...

NOT **QUITE** OVER,  
MY HUSBAND. WE MUST YET  
RECONCILE THE FACT THAT YOU  
MET **ANOTHER** WOMAN LAST  
NIGHT... AND **FLED** AT THE  
SIGHT OF **ME**...



ONCE AGAIN IT  
IS OVER...



WHAT--?!



I STOOD FROZEN, A CHILD CAUGHT AT THE CART WITH THE CHUNK OF A PILFERED APPLE SUDDENLY SOUR IN HIS MOUTH, AS MY WIFE SOBBED BEFORE ME...

YOUR FOOTPRINTS... SO STRANGE. THEY CONFUSED ME... UNTIL I SAW WHAT YOU DID WITH THAT GIRL ON THE PATH...

...AND COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT I SAW. JUST AS I AM LOATHE TO BELIEVE WHAT I SEE NOW...

YOUR *FRAYED* CLOTHING, YOUR EXHAUSTED BODY SPATTERED WITH... *BLOOD* ...AND *GORE*...

OH, DAMIEN, IT IS TOO MUCH... FOR ME...

I... *NEEDED* YOU LAST NIGHT... MY HUSBAND... I *CAME* TO YOU... AND YOUR BED WAS EMPTY, A ROPE HUNG FROM YOUR WINDOW... I KEPT, THINKING YOU HAD LEFT FOR SOME *LOVER'S* MEETING... AND I *FOLLOWED* YOU...

THEN... IT WAS YOU... YOU *SAW*...?

FOR MOMENTS I TEETERED PRECARIOUSLY ON THE PRECIPICE OF SURVIVAL AND DOOM... MY SIMPLE QUESTION WOULD DECIDE THE BALANCE...

I HAVE... *NO CHOICE*, DAMIEN. I WILL DO WHAT I HAVE *ALWAYS* DONE-- I WILL *LOVE* YOU. IN SPITE OF... *ANYTHING*.

HER ANSWER FORBODE BOTH *HOPE* AND *DISASTER*, BUT I WELCOMED HER EMBRACE WITH RELIEF...

WHAT... WILL YOU *DO*, LISSA?



DURING THE NEXT WEEK, WE SPOKE LITTLE, AND NEVER OF THE ONE MATTER WHOSE CONSEQUENCES AFFECTED US THE MOST! UNTIL...



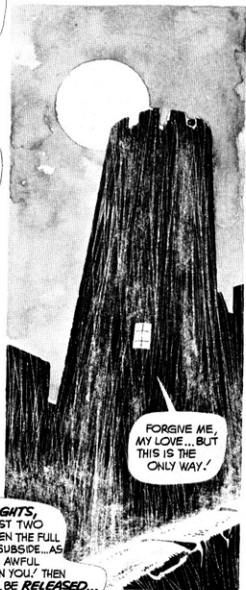
THE **MOON** WILL BE FULL IN BUT THREE WEEKS, LISSA. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE THE MATTER LONGER...

WHILE I HAVE NOT **SPOKEN** OF IT, NEITHER HAVE I IGNORED IT, AND IN MY SILENCE I HAVE REALIZED ONLY ONE SOLUTION...

THREE MORE WEEKS AND A PREGNANT MOON LEERED DOWN UPON THE HIGHEST TOWER OF MY CASTLE! THE **BEAST** WITHIN ME WAS READY TO BE **BORN** AGAIN...



TWO NIGHTS, DAMIEN! JUST TWO NIGHTS-- THEN THE FULL MOON WILL SUBSIDE... AS WELL AS ITS AWFUL CURSE ON YOU! THEN YOU SHALL BE **RELEASED**...



FORGIVE ME, MY LOVE... BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!

WHAT NEED OF FREEDOM WOULD I HAVE ONCE THE FULL MOON HAD GONE? I NEEDED FREEDOM NOW-- I NEEDED **RELEASE**, FREEDOM TO **HUNT**-- NOT THE SCRAWNY **HARE** DELIVERED ON A PLATTER, WHICH MY GROWL SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING FROM HER...

BUT MY HUNGER WAS **UNENDING**... I LUSTED FOR THE **TASTE** OF HOT THICK **BLOOD** AND THE STRONG FEEL OF MY **FANGS** RIPPING THROUGH STILL-LIVING FLESH!

I KNEW OF HER POORLY CONCEALED REVULSION AS I DEVoured THE HARE WHICH SHE PROVIDED TO STAVE OFF MY HUNGER, AND APPEASE THE BESTIAL TRAITS WITHIN ME... BUT WHAT COULD I DO FOR HER?



DAMIEN... PLEASE! HERE... HERE IS SOMETHING FOR YOU TO... **EAT**.



TWO NIGHTS... OH, **LORD**, TWO NIGHTS, DAMIEN...



I **HATED** HER THEN... I WANTED TO RIP OUT HER THROAT FOR **IMPRISONING** ME IN SUCH POUL CONFINEMENT. BUT I ALSO KNEW WHAT IT WAS FOR HER TO MAINTAIN HER **LOVELY VIGIL...** TO ENDURE THE **SIGHT** OF HER HUSBAND HOWLING TO A SILVER MOON...



BUT THE NIGHTS HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL UPON HER **RAVAGED** BODY, MIND, AND SOUL. SHE WAS **DRAWN, FRAIL** WITH EXHAUSTION, UNKEMPT... AND SOMEHOW ESTRANGED... DISTRACTED. MY DISPLAY OF **BESTIAL** FEROCITY HAD BRANDED ITS INDELIBLE MARK UPON HER SENSIBILITIES...

**GRATITUDE** IS AN **OBSCENE** WORD, LISSA! FOR IT IS FAR TOO WEAK TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.

YOU ARE THE SOLE VISION OF HOPE IN THIS NIGHTMARE OF WOLVES AND BLOOD AND MOONS WHICH HAS SEEPED INTO MY CRUMBLING MIND.

THERE WAS NOW A WALL BETWEEN US. LISSA WITHDREW HER PORTION OF OUR FORMER INTIMACY, LEAVING ME TO FEND FOR MYSELF IN THE VACUUM OF DESPAIR...

IS EVERYTHING ALL **RIGHT**, SIR?



**NO**, KARL... BUT THERE IS NOTHING **YOU** CAN DO TO RECTIFY IT.

DAWN OF THE SECOND DAY BROUGHT THE END OF THE MOON'S CONTROL... AND FROM MY IMPRISONMENT, I **LOVED** LISSA THEN. AS FEW MEN OR BEASTS HAVE LOVED ANOTHER. SHE HAD ALLIED HERSELF WITH THE EVIL FOR OUT TWO UNSPEAKABLE NIGHTS OF TERROR AND TORMENT.



IT IS **OVER**, DAMIEN... FOR NOW.

SPEAK NO MORE OF IT, DAMIEN. I WISH TO... **FORGET...**

IT WAS ON A SLEEPLESS NIGHT THAT I FIRST SAW KARL AND LISSA TOGETHER. THERE WAS NOTHING INHERENTLY IRREGULAR IN THAT LISSA WAS WALKING WITH A SERVANT, BUT HER RECENT AVOIDANCE OF ME CAST A SINISTER SHADOW OVER THE INCIDENT...



STILL, HOW MAY I **BLAME** HER? SHE **NEEDS** COMPANY AND CONVERSATION... AND TO **HER** I AM A **MONSTER**.



WITH THE **DISINTEGRATION** OF OUR BONDS, I **DREADED** THE NEXT FULL MOON. **WOULD** LISSA AGAIN SEE ME THROUGH IT?...OR HAD THE FIRST EXPERIENCE CAUSED HER TO LOSE ANY COMPASSION FOR ME?



LISSA SEEMED TO **INTENTIONALLY** SEEK OUT KARL'S COMPANY. I **SEETHED** WITH CONTAINED RAGE...IMAGINED THAT THE TALL, THIN SERVANT HELD SOME SORT OF **FASCINATION** FOR MY FAIR LISSA...



BUT AT LAST THE MOON WAXED TO FULLNESS, AND LISSA SILENTLY LED ME UP THE SPIRAL STAIRWELL...



LISSA, I'M...  
**SORRY** YOU MUST GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN. IF I COULD END IT, I WOULD DO SO... BUT...

PLEASE, DAMIEN...  
**HUSH!**

AS SHE CLANKED THE **CELL DOOR** SHUT WITH A DEATH RATTLE, I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT THE WHOLE **GHASTLY** AFFAIR HAD DONE TO HER. SHE HADN'T BEEN EATING, AND WAS EMACIATED WITH A DREADFUL PALOR. HER EYES, **UNFOCUSED**, SHE MOVED AS ONE IN A TRANCE... BUT ALL SUCH OBSERVATIONS **VANISHED** AS I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE...



THE **CHANGE**--ALREADY THE SPASMS SHUDDER THROUGH ME; MY HEAD--SIZZLING, **BURNING!** OH GOD, OH GOD, OH **GARRRRRRHHH--!**

LISSA LEFT MY TOWER CHAMBER ALMOST BEFORE THE **TRANSFORMATION** WAS COMPLETE...AND IN MY ANIMAL STATE I **EXPLODED** IN FURY. MY SUSPICIONS AND LISSA'S INFIDELITY WITH KARL HAD TO BE **AVENGED**...





**SAVAGELY**, I HURLED MY HUGE FORM AGAINST THE IRON BARS OF THE CAGE! BATTERED, BRUISED, BLEEDING, I REPEATEDLY LASHED OUT AGAINST MY HATED PRISON...



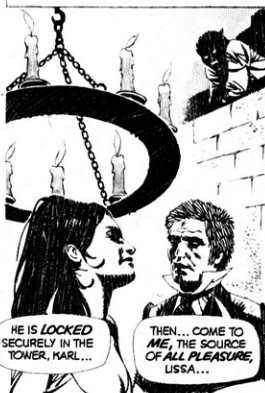
UNTIL, **INEVITABLY...**



**QUICKLY** I DESCENDED THE DANK STAIRWELL WITH **SWIFT** LUPINE AGILITY...

...UNTIL I REACHED THE **SECOND** LEVEL OF THE CASTLE. I ADVANCED TO THE POLISHED BALCONY AND PEERED DOWN UPON A SCENE OF SUCH **SHOCK** AS TO STAGGER **EVEN** THE HEART WITHIN **MY** ANIMAL BREAST...

THEIR SLOW, LIQUID EMBRACE WAS THE CATALYST OF MY FURY... THEY WOULD DIE, **BOTH** OF THEM-- BUT FIRST THE **GIRL**...



HE IS **LOCKED** SECURELY IN THE TOWER, KARL...

THEN... COME TO ME, THE SOURCE OF ALL PLEASURE, LISSA...





BUT THEN KARL LIFTED HIS **TREACHEROUS** HEAD... TO REVEAL THE **CRIMSON-SMEARED FANGS OF A VAMPIRE.** AT LAST I UNDERSTOOD, LISSA'S **HYPNOTIC** FASCINATION WITH THE SERVANT--AS WELL AS HER DRASTIC **LOSS** OF WEIGHT AND HER PALED COMPLEXION...

SHE HAD BEEN GRADUALLY **CONTROLLED** BY THE VAMPIRE'S POWER, SLOWLY **DRAINED** OF HER LIFE'S ESSENCE-- FILLED WITH VILE EVIL... **AGAINST HER WILL.**

LISSA HAD EXCUSED--**DISMISSED**-- THE CANCEROUS EVIL EXISTING WITHIN **ME...** COULD I DO LESS FOR **HER?** SHOULD I NOT **LOVE** HER, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT SHE WOULD **SOON** BECOME ONE OF THE WALKING **UNDEAD?**



AND NEITHER COULD I KILL HER NEW LOVER--WHATEVER THE ARCAIC REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER LOVING HIM. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO DENY HER THE SAME HAPPINESS SHE HAD PROVIDED ME...

KARL LEFT, AND THROUGH A MIST OF ANGUISH I STARED DOWN UPON MY **ENTRANCED** WIFE. **WOULD** IT NOT HAVE BEEN **BETTER** FOR ME, FOR HER, FOR **SLAUGHTERED INNOCENTS**, HAD SHE PLUNGED A SILVER BULLET INTO MY MATTED BREAST? SHOULD I NOT END **HER** DEPRAVED EXISTENCE BEFORE IT CORRUPTED **HER** INNOCENT SOUL...?





MY DECISION **LAUNCHED** ME FROM THE BALCONY ACROSS **DIZZYING** HEIGHTS...



I **CURSED** THOSE HORRIBLY GIGGLING **FATES** AS I LANDED UPON THE ORNATE CHANDELIER. I SHOULD **NEVER** HAVE TAKEN LISSA HUNTING WITH ME ON THAT **FATEFUL** DAY TWO MONTHS EARLIER...



NOR HAD MY **INTERVENTION** WHEN THE **WOLF** CHARGED HER BEEN OF ANY AVAIL...



TAKING THE WOLF'S BITE IN HER PLACE HAD BEEN FUTILE. I NOW KNEW, LISSA WAS **DESTINED** TO BE FILLED WITH EVIL-- ONE WAY OR THE OTHER...

THE IMPACT WAS **DULLED** WITH THE CRUSHING OF HER BODY... AND THE OIL FROM THE CHANDELIER **IGNITED** VIOLENTLY, I HOPED THAT MY DECISION HAD BEEN THE MERCIFUL ONE.

AND NOW ANOTHER DECISION HAD TO BE MADE. SHOULD I SEEK OUT THE **VAMPIRE** KARL AND **SLAY** HIM, AND THEREFORE **SUFFER** MYSELF AS A BEAST OF PREY? OR SHOULD I **REMAIN** HERE, WITH LISSA AND PERISH IN THE FLAMING PYRE AND ACHIEVE MY OWN PEACE... LEAVING AN **INNOCENT** WORLD TO BATTLE KARL...?



IT WOULD NOT BE AN EASY CHOICE...

DECISIONS, DECISIONS! TO BE OR NOT TO BLEED, **THAT** IS THE DIGESTION! DAMIEN'S CHOICE WAS A DILLY, ALL RIGHT... BUT YOU WON'T FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS FROM **ME!** AND KARL ISN'T THE TYPE TO KISS AND TELL EITHER, FEAR FIENDS!





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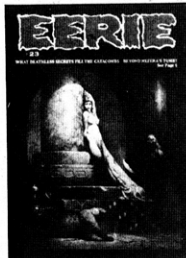
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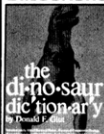
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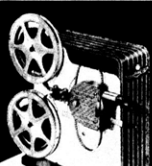
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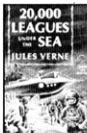
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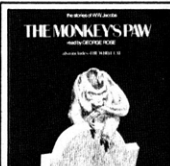
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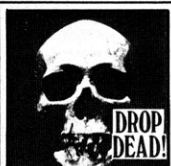
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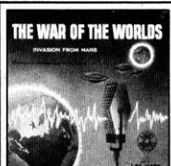
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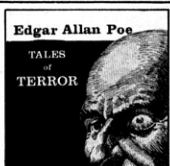
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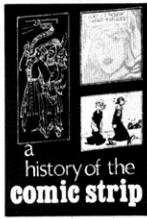
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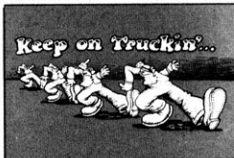


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hardly possible, and yet it is  
certainly a fact."



Unwary insect touches sensitive hairs,  
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## PROLOGUE

TED GOT OFF THE TRAIN WITH A HEADACHE, ARRIVED HOME WITH IT STILL INTACT.

HE WAS EXPECTING HIS WIFE TO MEET HIM AT THE DOOR WITH A COCKTAIL. TO KISS HIM LIGHTLY ON THE CHEEK AND TAKE HIS BRIEF CASE AND HIS COAT. HE WOULD THROW HIS COCKTAIL DOWN, PROBABLY IN ONE GULP, AND ASK FOR ANOTHER, PERHAPS EVEN ASK FOR AN ASPIRIN. HE WOULD SINK DOWN INTO THE SOFA AND LOOSEN HIS TIE.

HE HAD HAD A HARD DAY AT THE OFFICE—MIRIAM HAD QUIT, DOUG HAD ASKED FOR A RAISE, AND THE JANITOR (NOW DECEASED) HAD PUT A WHOOPEE CUSHION ON THE SEAT OF HIS EXECUTIVE DESK CHAIR.





BUT HIS WIFE DIDN'T MEET HIM AT THE DOOR. SHE WAS INSTEAD LYING ON THE NEW RUG IN A POOL OF CRIMSON, A LARGE KNIFE DEEPLY IMBEDDED IN HER SKULL DIRECTLY BETWEEN HER STILL OPEN, BLANKLY- STARING, PALE BLUE EYES, AND BLOOD STILL TRICKLING FROM THE WICKED GASH.



SOME WELCOME,  
EH? WELL  
PREPARE YOURSELF  
FOR SOME...



# CHANGES





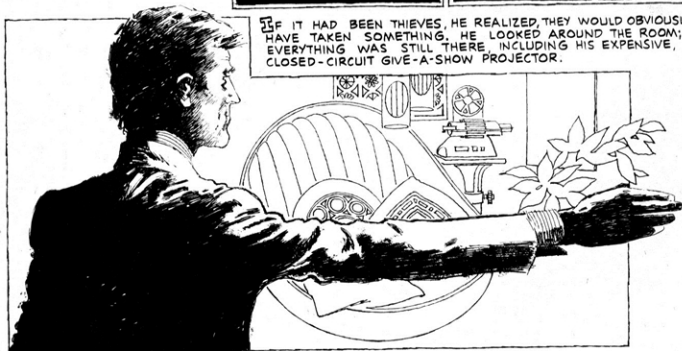
WHO? TED ASKED HIMSELF OUT LOUD, A BIT SHAKEN, AS HE STEPPED OVER HIS WIFE, WALKED TO THE LIQUOR CABINET, AND MIXED HIS OWN COCKTAIL.



HE THREW DOWN THE COCKTAIL IN ONE GULP.

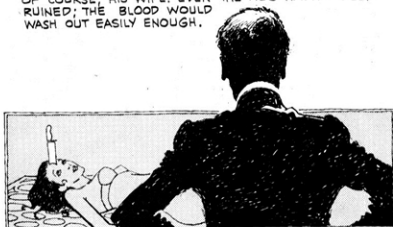


IF IT HAD BEEN THIEVES, HE REALIZED, THEY WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TAKEN SOMETHING. HE LOOKED AROUND THE ROOM; EVERYTHING WAS STILL THERE, INCLUDING HIS EXPENSIVE, CLOSED-CIRCUIT GIVE-A-SHOW PROJECTOR.



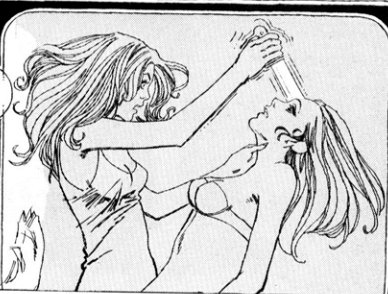
IF IT HAD BEEN VANDALS, THEY WOULD HAVE SMASHED, BROKEN AND DESTROYED EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE, BUT EVERYTHING WAS INTACT, EXCEPT, OF COURSE, HIS WIFE. EVEN THE RUG HADN'T BEEN RUINED; THE BLOOD WOULD WASH OUT EASILY ENOUGH.

HE HAD ELIMINATED THIEVES AND VANDALS. THAT LEFT ONLY SCOUNDRELS. BUT EVEN THAT DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE. WHY WOULD SCOUNDRELS BURY A MEAT CLEVER IN HIS WIFE'S SKULL? THERE WAS NO INHERENT DRAMA IN THE ACT. NO AUDIENCE TO PLAY TO.





PERHAPS, HE VENTURED, IT WAS NOT ONE OF THESE THREE GROUPS AT ALL. IT COULD HAVE BEEN A NEIGHBOR. AFTER ALL, IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED DURING AN OVERLY HEATED ARGUMENT. SEVERAL OF THE NEIGHBORS WERE STILL QUITE VIOLENT.



BUT STILL, IF ONE OF THEM HAD DONE IT, THE GUILTY PARTY, AFTER SHE HAD CALMED DOWN, SURELY WOULD HAVE CALLED TED AT THE OFFICE AND TOLD HIM ABOUT IT. NO, AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THAT ELIMINATED THE NEIGHBORS, TOO.



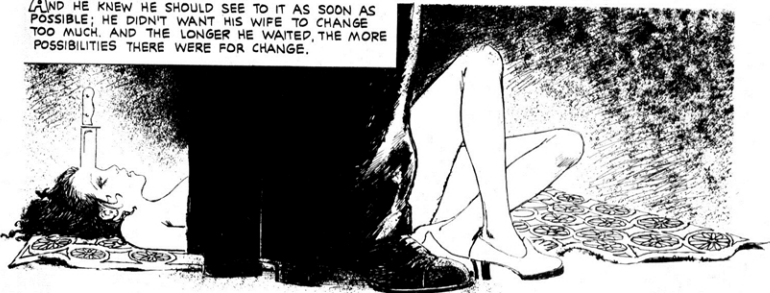
HE ABRUPTLY DECIDED TO STOP MULLING OVER THE POSSIBLE SUSPECTS AND GET ON WITH WHAT WAS IMPORTANT. HE MIXED HIMSELF ANOTHER DRINK FIRST.



HE SOMEWHAT DREADED THE BLOODY JOB THAT LAY AHEAD, FOLLOWED BY THE LONG DRIVE AND THE UNENDING STRING OF QUESTIONS AND FORMS HE'D HAVE TO FILL OUT, BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE.



AND HE KNEW HE SHOULD SEE TO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; HE DIDN'T WANT HIS WIFE TO CHANGE TOO MUCH. AND THE LONGER HE WAITED, THE MORE POSSIBILITIES THERE WERE FOR CHANGE.





AND HE WAS FINALLY GETTING ABOUT PRYING THE KNIFE LOOSE FROM HIS WIFE'S SKULL. HE DECIDED THAT PERHAPS, IN ONE WAY AT LEAST, THIS WAS ALL FOR THE BEST.



HE KNEW IT WAS A BIT SELFISH OF HIM, BUT, FOR THE LAST MONTH OR SO, HE HAD BEEN GETTING A BIT SICK OF HIS WIFE... THE WAY SHE WAS. YET SHE HAD DONE NOTHING HERSELF ABOUT BEING CHANGED. NOW IT HAD BEEN DONE FOR HER.

DEBRA, AGE SEVEN, CAME RUSHING IN THE FRONT DOOR JUST THEN, CHOMPING ON HER USUAL HUGE WAD OF CHEWING GUM.

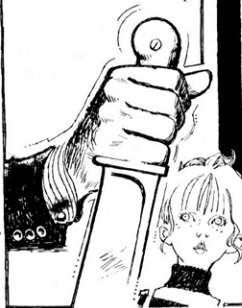


HI DADDY!  
IS THAT  
MOMMY THERE  
ON THE FLOOR?  
DID SOMEBODY  
KILL HER?

YES,  
DEAR!

DID YOU KILL HER,  
DADDY?

NO, DEAR,  
EVEN THOUGH I'VE  
FELT LIKE IT A  
COUPLE TIMES  
THIS PAST WEEK,  
IT WASN'T  
ME!



GEE, DADDY, I WAS  
GOING TO ASK MOMMY  
IF I COULD GO OVER  
TO TOMMY'S FOR  
SUPPER TONIGHT!  
CAN I ASK YOU,  
INSTEAD?

SURE,  
KITTEEN!





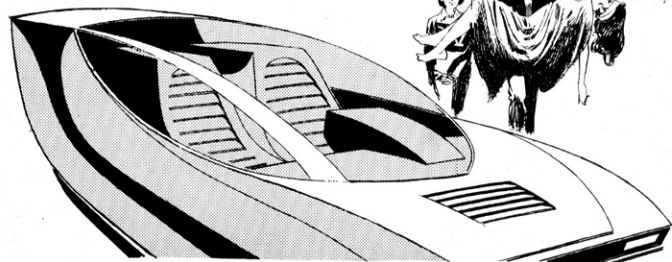


HE REALIZED, BEING PERFECTLY HONEST WITH HIMSELF THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE DEBRA OUT OF HIS HAIR FOR A WHILE; FOR ONE THING, HER HIGH-PITCHED VOICE WAS MAKING HIS HEADACHE WORSE.



HE HAD FOUND THE PAPERS AND WAS WALKING BACK TO HIS WIFE'S BODY. HIS HEADACHE WAS NOW A MAMMOTH THROBING THING.

THEY PICKED HER UP, CARRIED HER OUT TO THE CAR, AND PUT HER IN THE TRUNK.







AT THE OPERATIONS COMPLEX, TED FILLED OUT THE PROPER FORMS, SUGGESTING HOW HE WANTED HIS WIFE CHANGED AND SPECIFYING IN WHAT PERSONALITY AREAS HE WANTED HER TO REMAIN AS SHE HAD BEEN.

THERE WAS, OF COURSE, A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY FOR SURGICAL ERROR, WHICH GREW EVER LARGER IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT PASSED BETWEEN THE DEATH AND THE OPERATION. HOWEVER, SINCE TED HAD BROUGHT IN HIS WIFE ON THE SAME DAY THAT SHE HAD BEEN KILLED, THERE WAS LITTLE FOR HIM TO WORRY ABOUT.



HE HANDED IN THE FORMS ALONG WITH THE BRAIN-WAVE RECORDS TO THE HEAD SURGEON, WHO READ THEM OVER, THEN PASSED THEM ON TO THE POLICE OFFICER ON DUTY THERE AT THE COMPLEX.



THE POLICE OFFICER ASKED TED THE USUAL QUESTIONS...

DID YOU KILL YOUR WIFE?

NO.

DO YOU KNOW WHO DID?

NO.

DO YOU WISH TO GIVE RETRIBUTION?

OF COURSE. WHO DOESN'T?

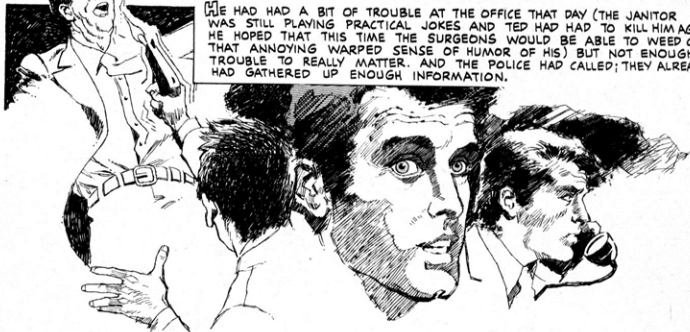
OH, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF YOUNG COUPLES NOWADAYS WHO DON'T CARE TO GIVE RETRIBUTION. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION.



THAT NEXT DAY WAS THE FIRST DAY IN TWELVE LONG YEARS THAT TED GOT OFF THE TRAIN WITHOUT HIS TRADITIONAL HEADACHE.



HE HAD HAD A BIT OF TROUBLE AT THE OFFICE THAT DAY (THE JANITOR WAS STILL PLAYING PRACTICAL JOSES AND TED HAD HAD TO KILL HIM AGAIN; HE HOPED THAT THIS TIME THE SURGEONS WOULD BE ABLE TO WEED OUT THAT ANNOYING WARPED SENSE OF HUMOR OF HIS) BUT NOT ENOUGH TROUBLE TO REALLY MATTER. AND THE POLICE HAD CALLED; THEY ALREADY HAD GATHERED UP ENOUGH INFORMATION.



HE WOULD SURELY ALSO HAVE ARRIVED HOME WITHOUT A HEADACHE IF A YOUNG SCOUNDREL HADN'T THROWN A ROCK AT HIS HEAD AS HE WAS PASSING THROUGH THEIR PART OF TOWN.



HIS WIFE MET HIM AT THE DOOR WITH A COCKTAIL, KISSED HIM LIGHTLY ON THE CHEEK AND TOOK HIS BRIEF CASE AND HIS COAT.

HER BREASTS WERE LARGER NOW; HE LIKED THAT. HE LIKED HER BLONDE HAIR, TOO. HER RATHER SQUEAKY VOICE WAS THE ONLY THING HE HADN'T COUNTED ON, HADN'T ASKED FOR; IT WAS AN ERROR, BUT THE ONLY ERROR, AND HE WAS THANKFUL FOR THAT.





HE THREW HIS COCKTAIL DOWN IN ONE GULP AND HE WAS ABOUT TO ASK FOR ANOTHER, WHEN HE REMEMBERED THAT HE NOW HAD THE INFORMATION.



RE-PACK  
MY BRIEF  
CASE!

... FOR THE  
RETRIBUTION!



HIS WIFE, OF COURSE, DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE WORD "RETRIBUTION" MEANT, AND IF SHE HAD KNOWN, SHE STILL WOULDN'T HAVE REALIZED WHO OR WHAT THE RETRIBUTION WAS FOR. THE MEMORIES OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING HER DEATH HAD BEEN, FOR HER OWN SAKE, TAKEN OUT OF HER MIND.

SHE WENT ABOUT HER BRIEF, CASE- PACKING DUTIES WHICH HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED INTO HER MIND, HAPPILY, WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS. TED LIKED THAT, TOO.



LATER, WITH HIS RE-PACKED BRIEF CASE IN HAND, AS HE RUSHED THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE SMALL, SUBURBAN TOWN, TED DWELLED AGAIN ON THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN A SCOUNDREL AFTER ALL.



WHEN THE POLICE HAD TOLD HIM, HE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT; HE STILL COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT. HE'D HAVE TO WATCH HIS STEP, OF COURSE, AS HE PASSED THROUGH THEIR PART OF TOWN, OR HE MIGHT BE PELTED TO DEATH WITH ROCKS AND STONES.



BUT IT WAS WORTH THE RISK.



HE FINALLY MADE IT SAFELY TO THE CRUDE DWELLING OF THE HASKELLS, AND KNOCKED ON THE OLD FASHIONED, WOODEN DOOR.



IT WAS A WOMAN WHO OPENED THE DOOR.



MRS. HASKELL?

YES?



HE OPENED THE BRIEF CASE, TOOK OUT THE CLEAVER, AND, BEFORE SHE COULD EVEN SHRIEK, BURIED IT IN HER SKULL.



AS SHE FELL A WEIRD SENSATION, A WEIRD SENSE OF SATISFACTION, WASHED OVER HIM - A SENSE OF SATISFACTION HE HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE.



HE HAD ENACTED RETRIBUTION BEFORE, OF COURSE, BUT NEVER AGAINST A SCOUNDREL. HE GUESSED THAT THAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE. THIS WEIRD SENSE OF SATISFACTION CAME. HE WAS CERTAIN FROM THE FACT THAT HE KNEW THAT THESE STRANGE FANATICS, THE SCOUNDRELS, DID NOT BELIEVE IN REVITALIZING OPERATIONS OR IN CHANGES.

THIS WOMAN WITH THE DOWDY DRESS AND UNAPPEALING FIGURE WAS TRULY DEAD.



CUTS YOU TO THE QUICK, DOESN'T IT?





# VAMPIR'S VAULT

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT

## GERRY BOUDREAU

A VERY CREEPY WRITER WITH AN EERIE MIND!

It never ceases to amaze me that the smallest state in the union has spawned no less than three professional comic writers. But I humbly add my name to the tradition set by Don McGregor and Greg Potter, also native of Rhode Island. Born in Cumberland, most of my early years were divided between listening to The Coasters, watching Roger Corman sci-fi flick, and reading comics. Things haven't changed much.

While studying journalism at the University of Rhode Island, I discovered I could get paid for doing what I enjoy most, namely writing. My first effort was a pop music magazine which I wrote, illustrated and edited myself, as well as handling distribution and advertising. It lasted four issues, a feat which I marvel at even today considering it was published on a total budget of forty dollars.

Once the zine folded, I realized I could save myself a lot of

headaches by writing for other people, so I began with an article on comic collecting for the magazine section of the Providence Sunday Journal.

Shortly after, I met artist Walt Simonson and that led to my first writing per se: a two issue, black & white, comic book called *The Outsiders*, published by the University of Rhode Island. The mags were well received by both fans and pros, and it was Denny O'Neil who, after reading it, encouraged me to begin writing comics professionally. Taking him at his word I began aiming scripts at commercial markets and before long had sold scripts for *Dark Shadows*, *Star Trek*, several mystery and war titles for National, and the Warren Magazines.

Whence from here? Well, it's hard to be certain in an uncertain world, but I hope to get into film and TV writing without forsaking my first love, comics.



Gerry Boudreau's last strip, "Planet of the Werewolves," teamed him with artist Reed Crandall in EERIE #46. Needless to say, it was a hit!

## WHAT'S NEWS!

How would you like to see *Dracula*, the *Mummy* and the *Wolfman* starring together in a colossal all-series magazine? Kind of an off-beat idea, even for Warren Publishing? You bet! But it's exactly what we've got planned! Beginning with the new issue of EERIE magazine, (EERIE #48, on sale April 3) we unwrap the new *Mummy* series, and Jerome Curry, alias mild-mannered two-thousand-year-old Egyptian Pharaoh, takes his place next to the ever-popular *Dracula*. *Dracula*, as regular EERIE readers know, has been serialized in EERIE for several issues now. And the king of vampires has risen to new heights under the competent artistic direction of Tom Sutton.

The adventures of the *Mummy* will be guided by two long-time Warren veterans. *Steve Skeates*, acclaimed as one of the finest writers in comics, will be handling the *Mummy*'s scripting. While *Jaime Brocal* will handle the art chores.

And then there's the new *Werewolf* series, right next to *Dracula* and the *Mummy* in EERIE #48. Two relatively-new-comers to the Warren titles are guiding this one. *Al Milgrim*, a writer coming from National Comics' production department, is the creator of the series. And *Rich Buckler*, whom we've marvelously captained away from a comics' house that shall remain nameless, is the strip's artist. Al and Rich both outdid themselves on the *Werewolf*'s first episode.

## FANZINE REVIEWS

FANZINES are amateur publications produced by comic book fans, geared to an audience with a similar interest in comics. They contain a diversity of material, from historical articles on comics of the past, to discussions of current comics and news of comics yet to come! Fanzines are available only by MAIL, direct from their publishers! We think you'll enjoy reading some of the better examples from the present fanzine market!

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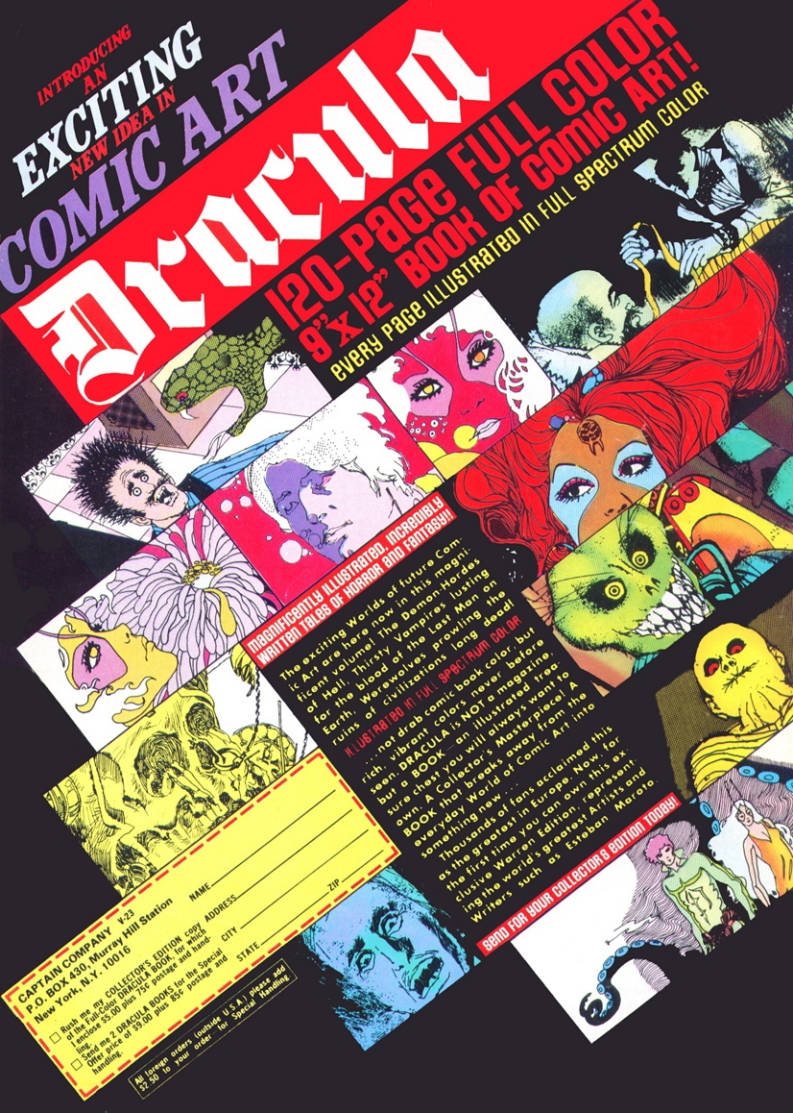
Phase is a fanzine, but you'd never know it by looking at it! It's one of those new-breed fanzines that comes off looking more like Playboy Press' version of a comic book! And the lineup of talent is equally as impressive as the magazine's reproduction quality. Ken Barr should win an award for his excellent full-color wrap-around cover. Neal Adams, too, outdid himself on an 8-page story, "A View From Without." The art is Neal's—usual, great stuff! But his story is a tear-jerker, and worth the price of the book alone. There's also work by Morrow, De Zuniga, Jones, Kaluta, Skeates and Sutton, to cite only part of an all star talent lineup!

If you're a comics buff, and your allowance won't allow you to buy more than one fanzine a month, that fanzine should quite naturally be the one with the most news and info on the comics. And only one publication fills that bill: *The Comic Reader*! TCR is a news-zine, and probably the most accurate one around! If anything at all is to happen in the comics world, *The Comic Reader* is there, reporting it first: news from all of the major comic publishers, underground, and TCR reporters have a way with words that makes the most bland things happening in the comics sound both interesting and exciting.

It seems a awfully strange calling a publication like *Heritage* a fanzine! It comes in a soft-book binding, and boasts the work of such talented superstars as Esteban Maroto, Reed Crandall, Wally Wood, Al Williams and Neal Adams! *Heritage* is a gathering place for the top talent in the comics; a place where the comics' fine art men gather to pay their respects to one who went before: Alex Raymond! The whole package is so well put together that one would expect to find it in only the finest bookstore! Unfortunately *Heritage* is available only by mail. The price tag is a steep \$5.00, but a bargain to Flash Gordon fans and fans of fine art!







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# PREVIEW OF OUR NEXT ISSUES!

## CREEPY



**A SCREAM  
IN THE  
FOREST**

A band of bearded dwarves slinks through the forest, following the two lovers! Goady little eyes are opened wide, filled with but one desire... to again taste fresh HUMAN meat!

## COVEN'S CURSE!



Eric von Gronau trusts no one, despises everyone, and is hated by all! Eric is a WITCH! Eric is immortal... and Eric is MAD!

ON SALE MAY 3

## EERIE



A shotgun blast rips through the immortal body of Dracula, and the mutilated corpse of the vampire king falls into an endless pit. What is the deadly secret of the vampire killer who lurks in the dark?

## THE SON OF DRACULA!

A full moon rises over the quiet English township of Dwarves Bay, and the once-silent streets come alive with terror-filled screams!



## ON A STALKING MOONLIT NIGHT

ON SALE APRIL 3

## VAMPIRELLA



Ghosts from the past return to haunt Vampirella in the Bayou country of New Orleans! This Vampirella, captured by gangsters must fight to ward off a more treacherous lust than her craving for human blood... her need for HEROINI!

## WHAT PRICE LOVE?



When the earth was not tamed, I was the greatest of all hunters! The spirit of DEATH became MY scorn, and beasts cringed at my coming! Even the most proficient of all killers fell before my weapon... the mighty

## NIMROD!

ON SALE MAY 1