

HARRIS
H
COMICS

#1

OCTOBER
\$2.95 US
\$3.95 CANADA
PRINTED IN USA

VAMPIRELLA

STRIKES

SNIEGOSKI
McGUINNESS
MASSENGILL





PUBLISHER
Stanley Harris

EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER
Dennis S. Page

**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
& EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**
Meloney Crawford Chadwick

**RETAIL SALES &
MARKETING DIRECTOR**
Jonathan Rheingold

ART DIRECTOR
Mark Mazz

**PRODUCTION &
PROMOTIONS MANAGER**
Stewart Morales

ASSISTANT EDITOR
David Bogart

DESIGN ASSOCIATE
Katrín Auch

**DIRECT SALES
COORDINATOR**
Yoshi Aino

EDITORIAL INTERNS
Seth Kockin Gledeman
Lightning Lin Leung
Samuel Nikke Merriens

COVER PHOTOGRAPHER
SILVERIO

COVER IMAGING
Mark Webb

STRIKING OUT IN NEW DIRECTIONS

Welcome to the first issue of **VAMPIRELLA STRIKES**.

If everything goes according to plan, many of you will be new readers. Harris Comics decided to produce a new Vampirella title for a number of reasons, first being the overwhelming demand for more new adventures of the character who continues to mesmerize thousands of fans after over twenty-five years. In designing this new title, some consideration was also given to featuring more episodic stories: one-shots, team-ups, and speculative tales of Vampirella's past or future. (As a long time comics reader, I find that these types of stories always fascinate me, even if they fall outside of orthodox continuity.)

Not only would this format be easier for a new reader to follow, but it gives us a stage for special guest talent. All of these people whose busy schedules have kept them from making an extended commitment, but who harbor a secret lust to tell their own tale of Vampirella. YOU know who you are.

Finally, when launching a different type of Vampirella book, it seemed appropriate to start with a cover idea that was fresh while having its roots in Vampirella's past. This photo cover, featuring our own real-life Vampirella (who many of you met up-close-and-personal at comics conventions this summer), is the first of its kind on a Harris title. What do you think? Are more in order? And how about that art?

Of course, while you can always write to us (c/o Vampirella Strikes, Harris Comics, 1115 Broadway 5th fl, New York, NY 10010), this month you can use the fabulous phone card Dynamic Entertainment has produced. It's emblazoned with cover art from *Vamp! Zero* by Quesada & Palmiotti. In addition to being a great collectable item, each card is good for thirty minutes of valuable long distance time.

You can use it to reach out to us in the office, to call your fellow Vampirella fans, or to call your favorite comics professional and suggest they do a turn at the helm of **VAMPIRELLA STRIKES**!

Meloney Crawford Chadwick
**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
& EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**
HARRIS COMICS

VAMPIRELLA STRIKES
is published by
Harris Publications, Inc.,
1115 Broadway,
New York, NY 10010.
©1995 Harris
Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved, including
the right of reproduction
in whole or in part in any form.
Printed in USA
VAMPIRELLA is and all
associated characters,
appearing herein and the
Harris logo are the
trademarks of Harris
Publications, Inc.
\$2.95 US/\$3.95 Canada
Harris Publishing
October 1995

Vampirella Strikes • Volume One Number One

"LOOK AT HER, MITCHELL. LOOK AT THE *BOTH* OF THEM, REALLY. THEY'RE *SOMETHING*. DON'T YOU AGREE?"

IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU'RE *LOOKING* FOR, SIR.

THOSE TWO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR RESEARCH PROJECT THAT COULD HAVE *REAPED* THE CORPORATION IN EXCESS OF...

I'M WELL AWARE OF THE *NUMBERS*, MITCHELL. DO WE HAVE ANYTHING *MORE* ON THESE TWO? WHO DO THEY *WORK* FOR?

"FROM WHAT OUR FACT FINDERS WERE ABLE TO *DREDGE* UP, IT APPEARS THEY ARE IN THE EMPLOY OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE *DANSE MACABRE*..."

THESE TWO EXHIBIT... *UNIQUE* ABILITIES, FAR BEYOND THOSE OF THE AVERAGE *FIELD* AGENT. POWER SUCH AS *THIS* COULD PROVE *QUITE* BENEFICIAL WHEN DEALING WITH SOME OF OUR MORE *TROUBLING* ACQUISITIONS.

...A *SHADOWY* ORGANIZATION, SIR. THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE LIES IN THE FIELD OF THE PARANORMAL AND SUPERNATURAL. I BELIEVE WE'RE LOOKING AT TWO OF THEIR *FIELD* OPERATIVES.



HOW ARE WE DOING WITH THE FORMATION OF OUR OWN TEAM OF SPECIAL AGENTS, MITCHELL?

WE'RE FINALIZING THE ROSTER NOW, SIR. LET ME SHOW YOU OUR RECRUITS SO FAR.

"FIRST, WE HAVE HEYWOOD GOULD, CODE NAMED *MIND'S EYE*. A HORRIBLE MAN WITH THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO MAKE YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE SEEM LIKE *REALITY*. HE IS ON LOAN FROM SEA GATE PRISON.



"BOTTOM LEFT WE HAVE... WELL, WE'RE NOT QUITE SURE *WHAT* WE HAVE. HE'S A SHAPE CHANGER WHO WAS DISCOVERED IN A SUPERNATURAL SENSOR SWEEP OF NEW YORK'S BOWERY. HE'S *QUITE* WILLING TO PLEASE, REALLY. WE CALL HIM *BOG*."



"TO THE RIGHT IS THE ONCE LOVELY MODEL *JEANINE SURETYE*, AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT WITH SUPER-NATURALLY ENHANCED STEROIDS LED TO THIS SUPER-STRONG, SUPER-VOLATILE CONDITION. SHE IS THE *MUSCLE* IN OUR LITTLE FAMILY, AND QUITE HAPPY TO BE EMPLOYED.



"AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WE..."



THE TEAM ISN'T *COMPLETED*? I THOUGHT I GAVE *SPECIFIC* INSTRUCTIONS TO HAVE THE RETRIEVER TEAM READY FOR MOBILIZATION *BY TODAY!*

MITCHELL, I'M NOT QUITE SURE YOU *UNDERSTAND* THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TEAM'S FIRST RETRIEVAL MISSION. THIS FIND COULD RECOUP NEARLY *ALL* THE LOSSES INCURRED BY THE DANSE MACABRE'S ASSAULT ON OUR RESEARCH FACILITY.

IF WE CAN TRUST OUR RID BOYS, WE'RE PRACTICALLY *SITTING* ON AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL ACCESS WAY... A *GATEWAY* TO ANOTHER WORLD, MITCHELL!

OUR RETRIEVERS MUST BE *FULLY* FUNCTIONAL SO THAT GATEWAY CAN BE CLAIMED FOR THE CORPORATION! DO YOU *FOLLOW* ME, MITCHELL?!

OF *COURSE*, SIR!

AS I WAS ABOUT TO EXPLAIN, WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING THE *FINAL* AND PROBABLY MOST *POWERFUL* RECRUIT.

SHE APPEARS TO BE THE LATEST IN A STRING OF NEW AND *FASCINATING* PARANORMAL LIFE FORMS POPPING UP IN THE AREA. SHE IS A *LIVING, THINKING* BEING COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SOLIDIFIED SUPER-NATURAL ENERGIES.



SHE GOES BY THE NAME...

THE Prize

SCRIPT- TOM SNIEGOSKI
PENCILS- ED MCGUINNESS
INKS- NATHAN MASSENGILL
LETTERS- ROBIN SPEAR
COLORS- KEVIN HORN & ROD PEREZ
BEAR-BYTE GRAPHICS
PRESIDING OVER IT ALL-
MELONEY CRAWFORD CHADWICK
SERVING FAITHFULLY-
DAVID BOGART

"...PASSION."

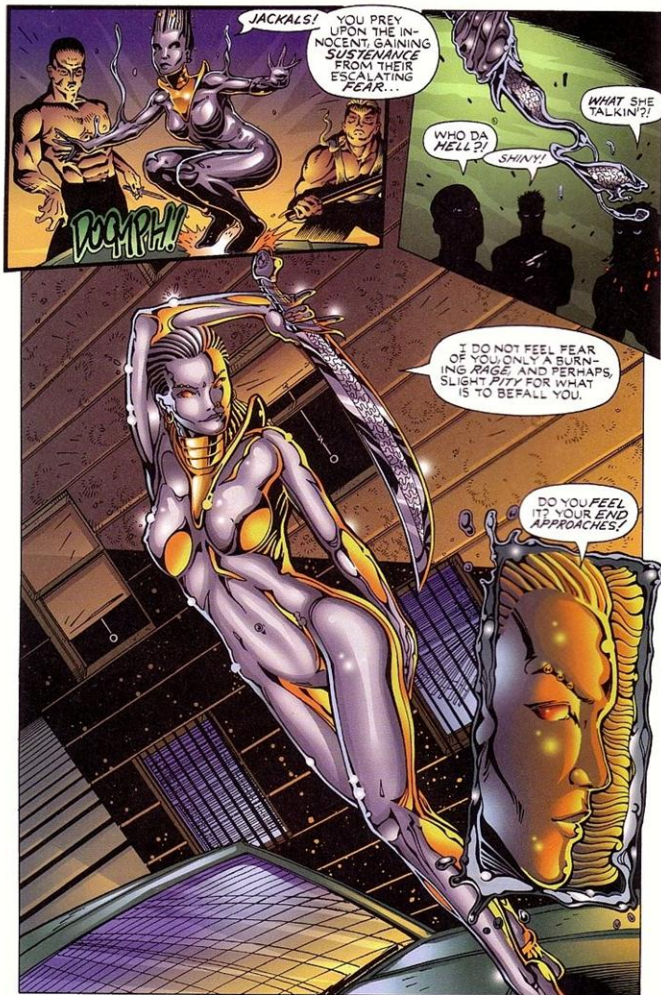
IT FLOWS THROUGH HER,
THE LIFEBLOOD OF HER
HEATED EXISTENCE,
PASSION.

BORN OF LOVE TURNED TO
BITTER POISON BY LOSS.
HER REASON FOR EXISTING...

...IS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF
EVIL'S DARK TOUCH, TO
PREVENT IT FROM CLAIMING
THE INNOCENT BY ANY
MEANS POSSIBLE...

...TO METE OUT SEVERE JUSTICE
WHEN POSSIBLE, TO EXTRACT
VENGEANCE IF NECESSARY...

...WITH A
PASSION.



JACKALS!

YOU PREY UPON THE INNOCENT, GAINING *SUSTENANCE* FROM THEIR ESCALATING FEAR...

DOOMPH!

WHO DA HELL?!

SHINY!

WHAT SHE TALKIN'?!

I DO NOT FEEL FEAR OF YOU, ONLY A BURNING RAGE, AND PERHAPS, SLIGHT *PITY* FOR WHAT IS TO BEFALL YOU.

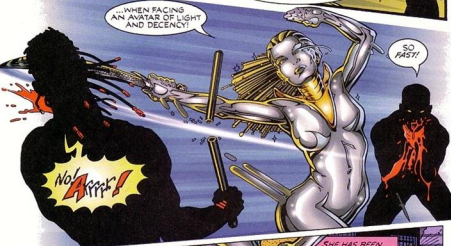
DO YOU *FEEL* IT? YOUR *END* APPROACHES!

SHE SURE TALKS GOOD! WONDER IF SHE CAN TAKE A BULLET AS NICE?



IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER IF YOU HAD JUST ACCEPTED YOUR PUNISHMENT...
... BUT AGAIN, TRUE EVIL SELDOM RECOGNIZES THE FUTILITY OF ITS ACTIONS...

...WHEN FACING AN AVATAR OF LIGHT AND DECENCY!



SO FAST!

No! Arrrr!



SHE HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THIS SUPERNATURAL CREATURE, THIS PERSONIFICATION OF LOVING EMOTION TURNED TO LIVING RAGE.

MY HAND!



HOME
RUN,
SLICK!

Yeeeeek!

SQUELCH

MUST'VE THOUGHT
YOU WAS PRETTY
AWESOME, AVENGING
ANGEL OF THE
NIGHT AND CRAP.

SHE'S *NOTHIN'*!
DON'T EVEN THINK
SHE'S HUMAN.

LET'S JUST
HOPE SHE'S
HUMAN ENOUGH
TO SUFFER!

IT IS NOT I
WHO WILL SUFFER
THIS NIGHT!



NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE TRIES TO DENY THIS, THERE IS AN UNNATURAL LINK BETWEEN THEM, AND THIS MUST BE ADDRESSED.





YOU DO REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU? MY MOTHER-IN-LAW ... SHE CREATED YOU.

KATHLEEN... YES, I REMEMBER.



YOU INTERRUPT MY MISSION, KATHLEEN BENWAY! THE EVIL MUST BE **PUNISHED** ... **DESTROYED**! IT IS THE REASON I EXIST!

THEY HAVE BEEN PUNISHED ENOUGH! THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO LIFE THAN VIOLENCE AND DEATH!



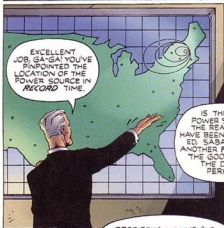
'WE... WE'RE SOMEHOW LINKED. YOU AND I. COME WITH ME, BACK TO MY HOME. PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE SENSE OF THIS TOGETHER.'



I PARKED MY CAR ON THE NEXT STREET OVER. IT'S ONLY A SHORT RIDE TO MY PLACE.

YES... WE ARE LINKED. I REMEMBER YOU... AND A MAN... MY SON? AND THERE WERE BABIES... BEAUTIFUL BABIES...

I WILL GO WITH YOU, KATHLEEN BENWAY, FOR THERE IS MUCH I MUST KNOW.



STOP ME IF I AM INCORRECT,
BUT YOU SOUND UPSET THAT
WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR
SPECIAL TALENTS. PERHAPS
YOUR MEMORY NEEDS A BIT
OF REFRESHING,
VAMPIRELLA.



"WHEN YOUR LOVER, SENATOR
ADAM VANHELING, PARTOOK OF
THE MUTAGENIC DRUG HYDE 25
AND WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED
ON A MISSION, THE DANSE TOOK
IT UPON *OURSELVES* TO SAVE
HIS LIFE AND ATTEMPT TO
REHABILITATE HIM...."



... WE ARE STILL
TREATING MR. 'BAD JACK'
VAN HELSING, AT OUR
OWN EXPENSE, I
MIGHT ADD.

REVIEWING THESE FACTS,
MY DEAR VAMPIRELLA, I
WOULD HAVE TO COME TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT YOU ARE
STILL VERY MUCH IN OUR DEBT.
AM I MAKING MY POINT?



I AM MEETING MY *LOVER*
IN THE HOLO ROOM FOR A
WORKOUT. YOU CAN REACH
ME THERE WHEN IT'S
TIME FOR ME TO GO.

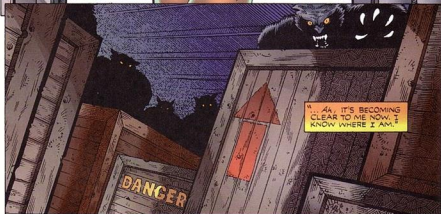
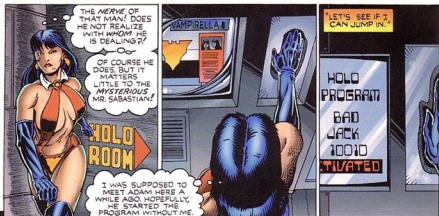


WONDERFUL! I'M SO
GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND.
DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF
DURING THE WORKOUT.

I DON'T
THINK SHE
WAS VERY
HAPPY,
SIR.

IN THESE
TROUBLED
TIMES, GA-GA,
WHO REALLY
EVER IS
HAPPY?





IT IS AS ADAM DESCRIBED IT.

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE HE AND HIS TEAM MET THEIR HORRIBLE DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE INTER-DIMENSIONAL BEASTS, THE SLASH-MAR--



"--AND HERE THEY ARE NOW."

I CAME HERE FOR A WORKOUT..



... AND I INTEND TO GET ONE!





TOO MANY OF THEM - CAN'T LET THEM GET THE UPPER HAND!



I THINK THE LADY HAS HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF YOU SON'S OF BITCHES!



HOW'S ABOUT GIVIN' ME SOME OF YOUR TIME?!



THAT'S IT, STEP THIS WAY, PLENTY FOR EVERYONE!

ADAM!

GIVE ME BUT A SECOND AND I WILL ASSIST YOU!

BOOM!



I'LL FEEL YOUR FOUL TOUCH UPON ME NO LONGER!





TEA?
I... LIKE
TEA?



WELL...
I'M NOT SURE
IF YOU LIKE
TEA, BUT I
KNOW MY
MOTHER-IN-
LAW DID.

"PASSION, I SOUGHT YOU OUT BECAUSE
MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, LEONA BENWAY,
CREATED YOU. SHE USED THE MIDDLE
EASTERN MAGIC SHE MASTERED AFTER
THE DEATHS OF HER SON AND TWO
GRANDCHILDREN. HER SON WAS MY
HUSBAND-AND HER GRANDCHILDREN,
MY CHILDREN.

LEONA...YES,
I REMEMBER
MY MASTER.



YOU WERE AN
EXTENSION OF THE
LOSS SHE FELT WITH
THE MURDER OF HER
LOVED ONES. SHE USED
YOU AS A TOOL OF
REVENGE, TO SLAY
THOSE SHE FELT WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR HER
OVERWHELMING SAD-
NESS. EVENTUALLY,
IT SIMPLY GOT
OUT OF HAND...

...WHEN LEONA
REALIZED THAT HER
HATE WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DEATHS OF SOME
INNOCENTS, SHE GAVE UP HER
LIFE FORCE IN SHAME. BUT
...SHE GAVE THAT LIFE
FORCE TO YOU,
PASSION...



"... YOU ARE NO
LONGER A MERE
MAGICAL CONSTRUCT.
MY MOTHER-IN-LAW'S
SOUL EXISTS IN YOU..."

"... WHEN LEONA
DIED, I THOUGHT
I HAD LOST THE
LAST REAL
FAMILY I HAD,
BUT THEN I REAL-
IZED THAT SHE
WAS STILL ALIVE
... SOMEHOW...
IN YOU."

YES...
I DO LIKE
TEA!



I WANT TO ~~TEACH~~ YOU, PASSION.
I WANT TO SHOW YOU WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO BE *ALIVE*! I WANT YOU
TO BE ABLE TO APPRECIATE
THIS LIFE THAT HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO YOU.

HAVE A COOKIE.
THE RED ONES WERE
LEONA'S FAVORITE.

I... I REMEMBER
SHE WHO CREATED
ME AND... AND I CAN
SENSE THAT EVERY-
THING SHE ~~WAS~~ - IS
NOW PART OF
WHAT I AM...

Passion...

THAT
VOICE. DO
YOU HEAR
IT?

PASSION,
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T HEAR
A THING!

SOMETHING CALLS
TO ME IN THE NIGHT AIR,
REMINING ME OF MY
SACRED MISSION TO
PURGE THIS WORLD
OF DARKNESS.

FORGET ALL THAT!
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT
ANY LONGER! YOU
CAN BE HUMAN
WITH ME NOW! WE'LL
EACH HAVE SOME-
ONE WHO WILL ...

I...
WILL RETURN.
KATHLEEN
BENWAY.

DON'T GO
... I DON'T WANT
TO BE ALONE...
AGAIN.

IT STARTED AS A GENTLE WHISPER, CALLING HER NAME. NOW IT IS A FORCEFUL ROAR OF CHALLENGE.



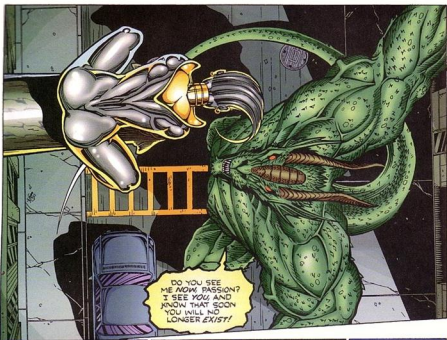
COME AND FACE ME, CHILD OF RAGE! I AM THE OBJECT OF YOUR SACRED HUNT, THE PERSONIFICATION OF ALL THINGS DARK!

WHERE?

HERE I AM, PASSION-BENEATH YOUR NOSE!

THERE!

FACE ME!







WE ARE THE
RETRIEVERS,
MY GOOD
WOMAN, WE
SHARE YOUR
DREAM OF
EVIL
VANGUISHED!

I'M BOGY,
AND HE'S MIND'S
EYE, OUR
LEADER.

I'M RUPTURE
AND I COULD
KICK YOUR BUTT
BUT FIRST I
THINK I'LL KILL
THIS BIG
LIZARD!

YOU
SHARE MY
DREAM?

I'LL DISTRACT
HIM UP HIGH SO
RUPTURE CAN
WORK HER MAGIC
BELOW!

HEY,
YOU'RE
ALMOST AS
CUTE AS
I AM!

MORE
INSECTS
THAT TAUNT
ME!

WONDER
IF I COULD
KILL SOMETHIN'
THIS BIG WITH
ONE PUNCH?

THOM-
CRAACK!

YEEEEEEEEE

CURSE YOU
ALL! WHAT HOPE
DO YOU HAVE OF
STOPPING THE
SPREAD OF
DARKNESS? IT IS
EVERYWHERE AND
GROWING BY
THE MINUTE!

THAT IS
PRECISELY WHAT
WE HAVE, MONSTER!
HOPE!

MY LADY,
WOULD YOU
AID US IN
VANGUISHING
THIS MON-
STROSITY?



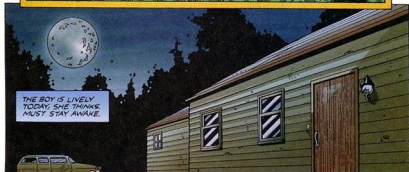
YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THE BEAST'S CHALLENGE AS I DID!







DIXVILLE NOTCH, NEW HAMPSHIRE.



THE BOY IS LIVELY
TODAY, SHE THINKS.
MUST STAY AWAKE.

WHEN WAS THE
LAST TIME HE
SLEPT?

SHE SLEPT?



CAN'T SLEEP. SHE
THINKS, FIGHTING A
FUTILE BATTLE TO
OVERCOME THAT
OBSESSION THAT
THREATENS TO
TAKE HER UNDER.

THE BOY AND HIS SPECIAL TRICKS, WE'LL GET INTO TROUBLE
FOR SURE. THESE ARE HER THOUGHTS BEFORE SLEEP
OVERTAKES HER. THEN THEY'LL BE IN THE THICK OF IT...



...DEEP

