

VAMPIRELLA[®]

THE FINAL
CURTAIN



FABIANO[®]

DYNAMITE.

JERWA • KHAN MICHAEL • BERKENKOTTER

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THE FINAL CURTAIN

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THE INHERITANCE, PART ONE:
WALK ON GILDED SPLINTERS



TEN YEARS AGO*: VAMPIRELLA, PENDRAGON, AND ADAM VAN HELSING TRAVELED TO THE EXOTIC ISLAND NATION OF COTE DE SOLEIL...

...TO RESCUE ADAM'S FATHER CONRAD FROM A SINISTER BLACK MAGIC CABAL.

THE HEROES WERE AIDED BY PAUL GIRAUD, AN OLD FRIEND OF THE VAN HELSING FAMILY.

RESCUING CONRAD WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH. PAUL KNEW THAT MADAME DOMINIQUE AND HER COLLABORATORS HAD A MONSTROUS GRAND PLAN...



...AND HE VOWED TO STOP THEM, OR DIE TRYING.

*SEE VAMPIRELLA ARCHIVES VOLUME 3.

THE CABAL MADE A PACT WITH THE FORCES OF CHAOS, AND PERFORMED A DARK RITUAL THAT RESURRECTED COTE DE SOLEIL'S DECEASED TYRANT PRESIDENT, JACQUES VALIER...

THE RESURRECTION SPELL WENT AWRY. THE ENERGY THAT WAS MEANT TO RESTORE PAPA VOUDOU'S SHAMBLING FORM...

...BETTER KNOWN TO HIS FOLLOWERS AS PAPA VOUDOU!



...AND PAUL GIRAUD EVENTUALLY SHARED HIS NEW LIFE WITH THE NATION OF COTE DE SOLEIL BY BECOMING ITS MOST BENEVOLENT LEADER.



...WAS CHANNLED INTO PAUL GIRAUD'S FATALLY-WOUNDED BODY INSTEAD! THE MONSTER TURNED AGAINST HIS FOLLOWERS, AND THEN RETURNED TO DEATH HIMSELF...

WINTER'S END
(IN TRANSIT)
CURRENT LOCATION:
THE SCOTTISH
COUNTRYSIDE

I'M SORRY
FOR THE URGENT
MEETING REQUEST,
PENDRAGON.

PSHAW.
NEVER TOO BUSY
FOR THE SISTERS
OF THE SCARLET
LEGION. WHAT'S
THE TROUBLE?

ONE OF
MY TRAINEES HAD...
AN EPISODE. SHE
BLACKED OUT DURING
A SPARRING SESSION
AND WAS
UNCONSCIOUS FOR
ALMOST TEN
MINUTES.

SHE WOKE
UP AND SAID
SHE'D HAD A
CONFUSING
NIGHTMARE--

--THAT'S NOT
UNCOMMON. THE
STRESS OF A BODY
SHUTTING DOWN
CAN TRIGGER ALL
MANNER OF--

SHE
BEGGED ME TO
BRING HER STRAIGHT
TO YOU. SHE CLAIMS
TO HAVE A MESSAGE
THAT ONLY YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND.

I...SEE. I'M ON THE CASE,
SISTER BRITTANY.
LET ME SPEAK TO
THE YOUNG LADY,
AND WE'LL SORT
THIS ALL OUT.

GO RELAX. IF YOU
STOP BY THE KITCHEN,
I THINK THE GARGOYLES
ARE MAKING
SNICKERDODDLES.



SO, THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN A TRAVELING MAGICAL FORTRESS? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S UNREAL. I DON'T THINK MY BRAIN HAS THE GEARS TO PROCESS IT.

YOUR GEARS WORK JUST FINE, I'M SURE. HAVE YOU EVER HAD YOUR MYSTICAL ALIGNMENT CHECKED, SIMONE?

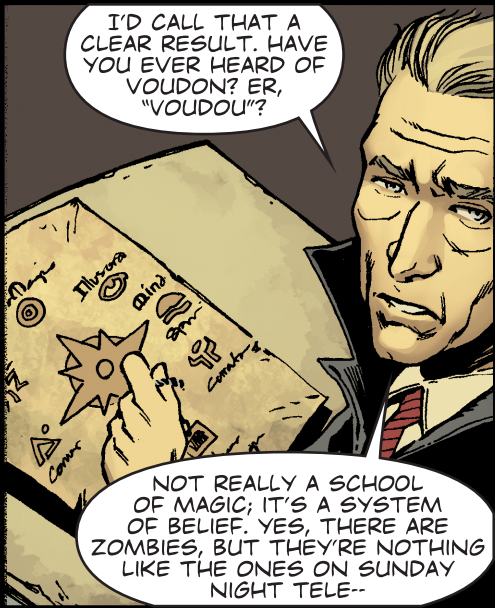
I'M, AH... I'M GOING WITH "NO."

BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS.



CLEAR YOUR MIND, PLEASE.





I'D CALL THAT A CLEAR RESULT. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF VOUDON? ER, "VOUDOU"?

NOT REALLY A SCHOOL OF MAGIC; IT'S A SYSTEM OF BELIEF. YES, THERE ARE ZOMBIES, BUT THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE THE ONES ON SUNDAY NIGHT TELE--



I MUST BE HEARD. THE MESSAGE MUST BE DELIVERED.
PENDRAGON? WILL YOU HEAR ME?

YES. SPEAK TO ME.



THE GIRL, SIMONE. SHE IS A PIGEON. SHE BUT CARRIES THE NOTE.

UNDERSTOOD.



AT RISK, IN JEOPARDY: THE BODY AND SOUL OF THE GOOD MAN GIRAUD.

WHAT? DO YOU MEAN PAUL GIRAUD?



THE SAME. THE HEART OF THE ISLAND. HIS SPIRIT CALLS AS HIS BODY DIES--

