



UNDERWORLD





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Flashback panels 2 & 3 on page 21
inspired by the art of **Salvati Design**



F

OR NEARLY 600 YEARS, THE WAR HAD BEEN ALL BUT *OVER*. WITH THE DEATH OF THEIR LEADER, LUCIAN, THE LYCANS *SCATTERED*.

BUT SELENE'S MISSION WAS NOT *COMPLETE*. THE WEAPONS HAD CHANGED, BUT SHE AND HER FELLOW DEATH DEALERS' ORDERS REMAINED THE SAME: HUNT THEM DOWN AND KILL THEM OFF, ONE BY ONE.



THE PREY SPOTTED, SELENE
GLIDES THROUGH THE DARK AIR
WITH SUPERNATURAL GRACE.



THE HUNTING PARTY WILL NOT
BE DENIED. THEY MELD WITH
THE CROWD AND FOLLOW THE
LYCANS INTO THE SUBWAY.



EYES MEET,
AND LOCK, IN A
HYPNOTIC GAZE.



BUT THIS IS A MERE HUMAN,
NOT ONE THAT THEY SEEK. THEY
MUST STRIKE FAST, BEFORE THE
MOMENT OF SURPRISE IS LOST.







UGGGH.



BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM



RUN IF YOU'D LIKE,
BASTARD—YOU'LL BE
DEAD SOON ENOUGH.



MEANWHILE, ANOTHER
DEATH DEALER PURSUES
THE LYCAN KNOWN AS RAZE.



BOOM



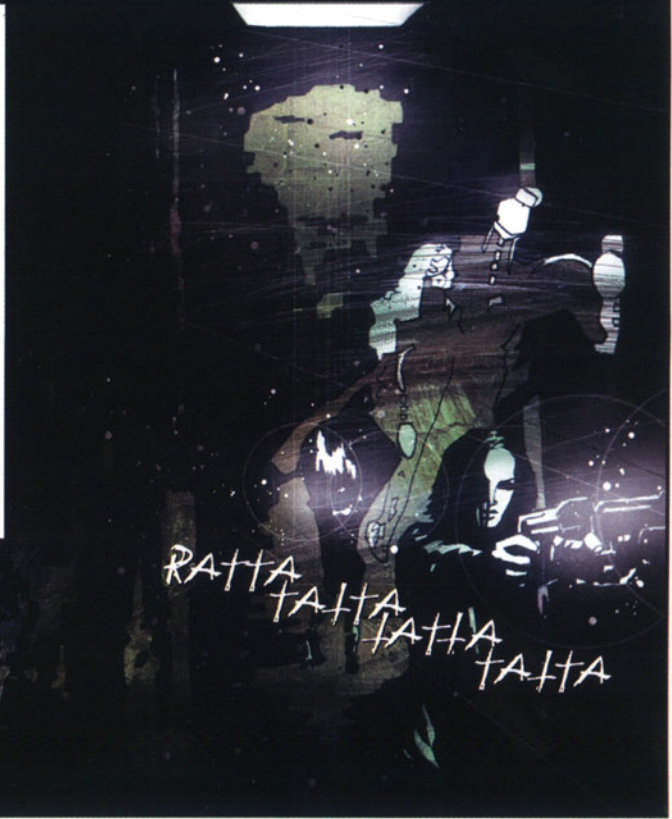
BONES CRUNCH, RECONFIGURING
RAZE FROM HIS HUMAN FORM
TO ONE MUCH MORE DEADLY...



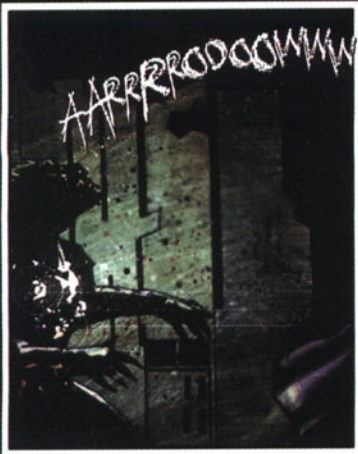
NOOO...
AAAAAA!!



NATHANIEL
TOO?! I'LL
HAVE THEIR
HIDES.



RATTA
TAITA
TATIA
TAITA



GRRR
RRRR

TAKE
HIM
DOWN

KR-
BLAM

YOU'RE ACTING
LIKE A PACK OF
RABID DOGS. THAT
WON'T DO... NOT IF YOU
EXPECT TO DEFEAT THE
VAMPIRES ON THEIR
OWN GROUND.

NOT IF
YOU EXPECT
TO SURVIVE
AT ALL.

TO SELENE, VIKTOR'S MANSION IS HOME. EVEN HERE, THOUGH, SHE FEELS OUT OF PLACE.

WITH THE VAMPIRE ELDER VIKTOR SLUMBERING AND SELENE'S WOULD-BE-PARAMOUR KRAVEN IN CHARGE, TOO MANY DECADENT LAYABOUTS HAVE COME TO INHABIT ITS HALLS.

ONLY IN THE DOJO CAN SELENE BE HERSELF.

KAHN, WE HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

IT'S AN IRRADIATED FLUID OF SOME SORT.

ULTRAVIOLET AMMUNITION!

DAYLIGHT... HARNESSED AS A WEAPON.

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A MANGY ANIMAL CAME UP WITH A BULLET SPECIFICALLY ENGINEERED TO KILL VAMPIRES?

I DON'T CARE WHERE THEY GOT THOSE THINGS, KRAVEN. WE SHOULD GATHER THE DEATH DEALERS AND HEAD BACK DOWN THERE IN FORCE.



OUT OF THE QUESTION! NOT WITH THE AWAKENING ONLY A FEW DAYS OFF!

I'M TELLING YOU, I HEARD DOZENS OF LYCANS DOWN THERE—MAYBE HUNDREDS!

WE'VE HUNTED THEM TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION.



KRAVEN'S RIGHT, SELENE. THERE HASN'T BEEN A DEN OF THAT MAGNITUDE SINCE THE DAYS OF LUCIAN. BUT I'LL CHECK IT OUT.

NO, KAHN. SOREN HERE WILL HANDLE IT. HUNDREDS, REALLY!



"VIKTOR WOULD BELIEVE ME."

BY CUSTOM, TWO ELDERS SLEEP WHILE ONE RULES. AMELIA IS ABOUT TO RELINQUISH HER RULE TO MARCUS.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR SELENE, VIKTOR SLEEPS... NOT TO BE AWAKENED FOR 100 YEARS.



LATER.

COME ON, WE NEED YOU TO GET READY FOR THE PARTY. AMELIA'S ENVOY WILL BE HERE ANY TIME NOW.



THEY WERE AFTER YOU.



WHY AREN'T YOU DRESSED, SELENE? YOU KNOW I WAS PLANNING TO HAVE YOU AT MY SIDE THIS EVENING.

DO YOU SEE THIS HUMAN?

WHAT OF HIM?

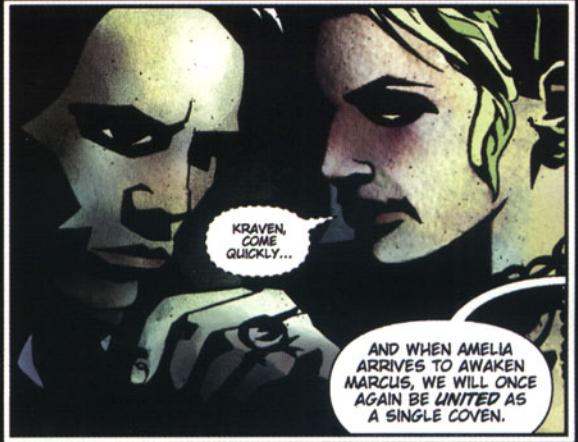
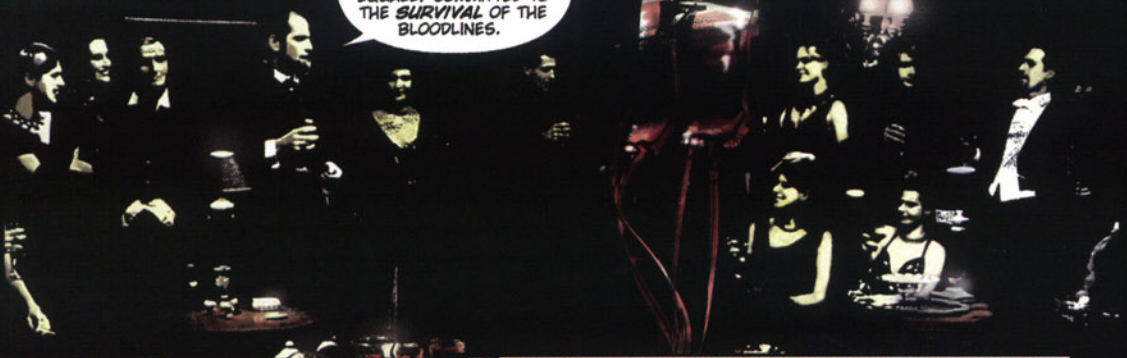


I THINK THE LYCANS WERE AFTER HIM.

OTHER THAN FOOD, WHY WOULD LYCANS STALK A HUMAN?

STILL LATER,
THE VAMPIRE
DIGNITARIES
GATHER...

OUR NOBLE
HOUSES MAY BE
SEPARATED BY A GREAT
OCEAN, BUT WE ARE
EQUALLY COMMITTED TO
THE *SURVIVAL* OF THE
BLOODLINES.

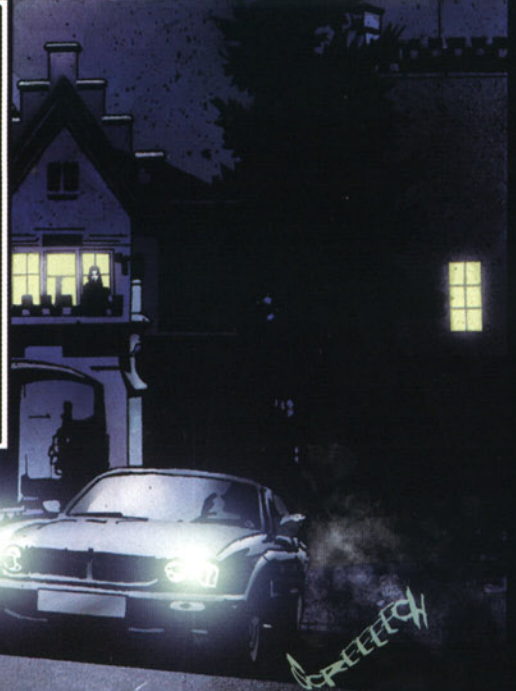


KRAVEN,
COME
QUICKLY...

AND WHEN AMELIA
ARRIVES TO AWAKEN
MARCUS, WE WILL ONCE
AGAIN BE *UNITED* AS
A SINGLE COVEN.



SELENE!







THE ELEVATOR WITH
THE FLEEING HUMAN
REACHES THE LOBBY...

HELLO,
MICHAEL.

AAARGH!

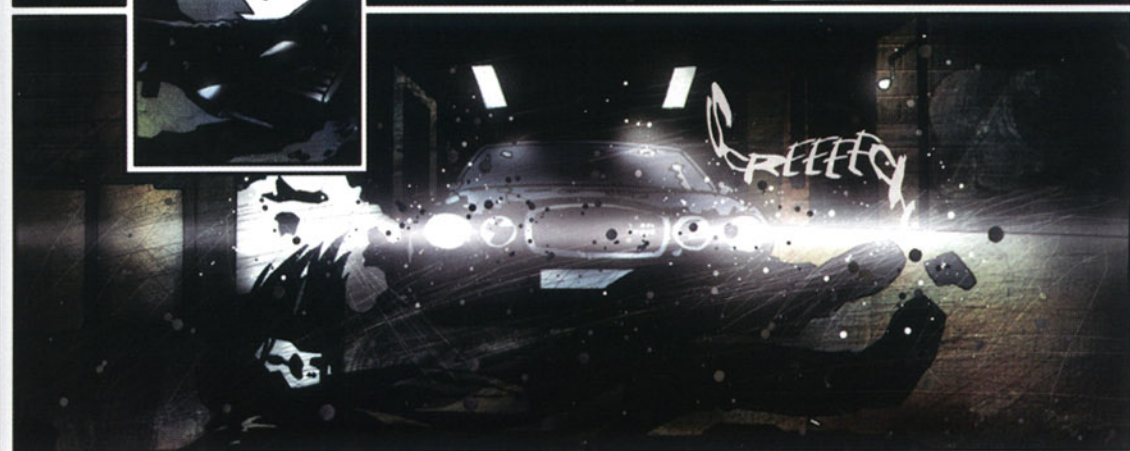
FLAM
FLAM

OOOF!

CRUNCH







BACK OFF!
NOW SHUT UP
AND HOLD ON.
I'LL BE...



...FINE.



VIKTOR'S MANSION.

WHERE?

LAY STILL.
YOU PASSED OUT
AFTER YOU REVIVED
ME, BUT YOU'RE
SAFE NOW.

I'M
SELENE.

MICHAEL CORVIN SLIPS
INTO FITFUL SLUMBER AS
SELENE IS SUMMONED TO
KRAVEN'S CHAMBERS.

SO NOW IT'S *MICHAEL*. WHY
ARE YOU STILL OBSESSING OVER
THIS RIDICULOUS THEORY? LUCIAN
WOULDN'T BE THE SLIGHTEST BIT
INTERESTED IN A HUMAN!

YOU GO
AGAINST MY
ORDERS, THEN
BRING THIS...
HUMAN... INTO
MY HOUSE?

AS FAR AS
I'M CONCERNED, THIS
IS STILL *VIKTOR'S*
HOUSE! LOOK, I DON'T
WANT TO ARGUE. *MICHAEL*
IS SOMEHOW IMPORTANT
TO THE LYCANS.

WAIT. YOU'RE
INFATUATED WITH
HIM. ADMIT IT!

THERE'S
A RIDICULOUS
THEORY.

IS IT?

HE'S
GONE!



NURSING BRUISED PRIDE AND A SPLIT LIP, SELENE PAYS A VISIT TO KAHN IN THE DOJO.



EJECT THE MAG.



YOU'VE COPIED THE LYCAN ROUNDS. SILVER NITRATE?

A LETHAL DOSE—GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE BLOODSTREAM.



TELL ME... DO YOU BELIEVE LUCIAN DIED THE WAY THEY SAY HE DID? KRAVEN'S STORY IS JUST THAT—HIS STORY. THERE'S NOT A SHRED OF PROOF THAT HE KILLED LUCIAN.

VIKTOR BELIEVED HIM, AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS. WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS?

"NOWHERE."



WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON? ENGAGING DEATH DEALERS IN PUBLIC AND CHASING AFTER SOME HUMAN?

HE DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, KRAVEN.

JUST KEEP YOUR MEN AT BAY, LUCIAN. DON'T FORCE ME TO REGRET OUR ARRANGEMENT.

JUST CONCENTRATE ON YOUR PART. REMEMBER, WITHOUT ME, YOU'D BE NOTHING.

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, AN AWAKENING HAS NEVER BEEN ATTEMPTED BY ONE SUCH AS MYSELF.

THE ELDERS ALONE HOLD THE POWER TO ORGANIZE THEIR MEMORIES AND THOUGHTS INTO A SINGLE, COHESIVE VISION: A DETAILED RECORD OF THEIR REIGN.

KSHFFFT

WHIRRRR

I CAN ONLY HOPE VIKTOR WILL HEAR MY PLEA.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, BUT I DESPERATELY NEED YOUR GUIDANCE.

SELENE'S BLOOD, THE CONDUIT FOR HER GENETIC MEMORIES, IS FUNNELED TO THE SLUMBERING ELDER.

I APOLOGIZE FOR BREAKING THE CHAIN, AWAKENING YOU EARLY, BUT WE MAY ALL BE IN GRAVE DANGER. I FEAR LUCIAN IS *ALIVE*, HERE IN THIS CITY... AND KRAVEN IS IN *LEAGUE* WITH HIM!

HOURS LATER, FOLLOWING
KRAVEN'S RETURN...

SELENE!

LET ME
SPEAK WITH
SELENE! WHAT
THE HELL IS
HAPPENING TO
ME?!

IS THAT
MICHAEL?!

IF YOU GO TO HIM,
BY GOD, YOU'LL NEVER
BE WELCOMED IN THIS
HOUSE AGAIN!

I'M
COMING
DOWN.

NOW THAT
VIKTOR'S AWAKE,
I'M SURE HE'LL HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY
ABOUT THAT.



YOU CAN NEVER
COME HERE AGAIN.
THEY'LL KILL YOU—
UNDERSTAND?

KILL ME? WHO
THE HELL ARE
YOU PEOPLE?!

"WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE IN THE
MIDDLE OF A WAR THAT'S BEEN RAGING FOR
THE BETTER PART OF A THOUSAND YEARS..."



"...A BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN
VAMPIRES AND LYCANS."



WEREWOLVES.



CONSIDER YOURSELF
LUCKY. MOST HUMANS DIE
WITHIN AN HOUR OF BEING
BITTEN BY AN IMMORTAL —
THE VIRUSES WE TRANSMIT
ARE DEADLY.

THEN WHY
ARE YOU
HELPING ME?



I'M NOT! MY
ONLY INTEREST IS
FINDING OUT WHY
LUCIAN WANTS YOU
SO BADLY!

AT THE MANSION, KRAVEN RUSHES TO SEE IF SELENE'S NEWS ABOUT VIKTOR IS TRUE.

NOTHING. THANK GOD.

I WARNED HER, BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN. I'M SORRY, I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU SOONER.

TOLD ME WHAT?

HER HUMAN, MICHAEL. HE'S A LYCAN. I SAW THE WOUND MYSELF.

WHAT?!

WHAT'S THIS RUCKUS?

DO YOU KNOW WHY I HAVE BEEN AWAKENED, SERVANT?

NO, MY LORD, BUT I'LL SOON FIND OUT... WHEN I FIND SELENE.

YOU WILL LET HER COME TO ME. SHE HAS SHOWN ME A GREAT MANY DISTURBING THINGS. THINGS THAT WILL BE DEALT WITH SOON ENOUGH.

STILL... HER BLOOD MEMORIES ARE CHAOTIC. SUMMON MARCUS SO I MAY BE BROUGHT UP TO SPEED.

BUT... HE STILL SLUMBERS. AMELIA ARRIVES TOMORROW NIGHT TO AWAKEN MARCUS, NOT YOU. YOU'VE BEEN AWAKENED A FULL CENTURY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.



ACROSS TOWN...

THIS IS ONE OF THE PLACES WE USE FOR INTERROGATIONS. YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE.

THE LYCANS... WHY DO YOU HATE THEM SO MUCH?



"THEY SLAUGHTERED MY FAMILY, FED ON THEM. THEY TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME.

"THEY KILLED MY MOTHER, SISTER, FATHER. MY NIECES—TWIN GIRLS, ONLY 6 YEARS OLD—WERE BUTCHERED LIKE ANIMALS. THEY CRIED FOR ME.



"VIKTOR, THE OLDEST AND STRONGEST OF US, HAD BEEN TRACKING THE LYCANS FOR DAYS. HE SAVED ME."



THAT NIGHT, HE MADE ME A VAMPIRE. HIS BLOOD GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO AVENGE MY FAMILY.



ALMOST 5 AM— I SHOULD BE HEADING BACK. VIKTOR WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU. I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW.

NO, I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!

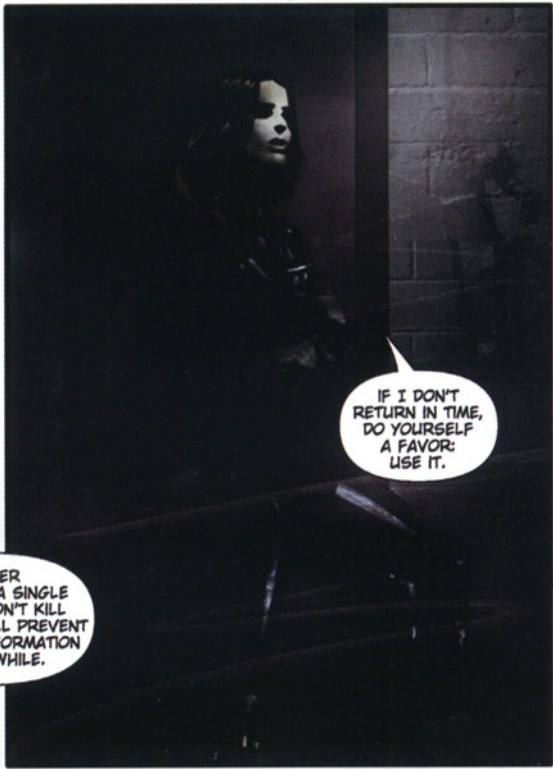


HANDCUFFS?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

WHEN THE FULL MOON RISES TOMORROW NIGHT, YOU WILL CHANGE, KILL, FEED. I CAN'T LEAVE YOU FREE. I'M *SORRY*.

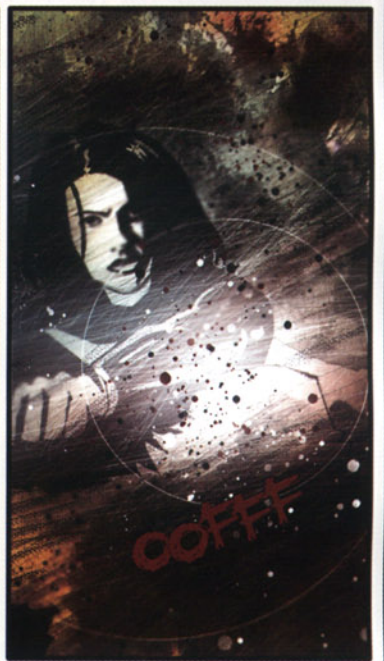


SILVER BULLETS: A SINGLE ROUND WON'T KILL YOU, BUT IT'LL PREVENT THE TRANSFORMATION FOR A WHILE.



IF I DON'T RETURN IN TIME, DO YOURSELF A FAVOR: USE IT.

LATER.





TELL ME, WHY HAVE YOU COME TO BELIEVE THAT LUCIAN STILL LIVES?

BUT... MY BLOOD MEMORIES! I'VE GIVEN YOU ALL THE PROOF YOU NEED!



INCOHERENT THOUGHTS AND IMAGES, NOTHING MORE. YOU LACK THE SKILLS TO PERFORM AN AWAKENING, SELENE.

THE CHAIN HAS NEVER BEEN BROKEN—NOT ONCE IN FOURTEEN CENTURIES!



I HAD NO CHOICE—THE COVEN IS IN DANGER AND MICHAEL IS THE KEY. JUST GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO PROVE IT.

AH, YES... THE LYCAN, KRAVEN WILL COLLECT THIS "PROOF," IF THERE IS ANY.



HOW COULD YOU TRUST HIM OVER ME?

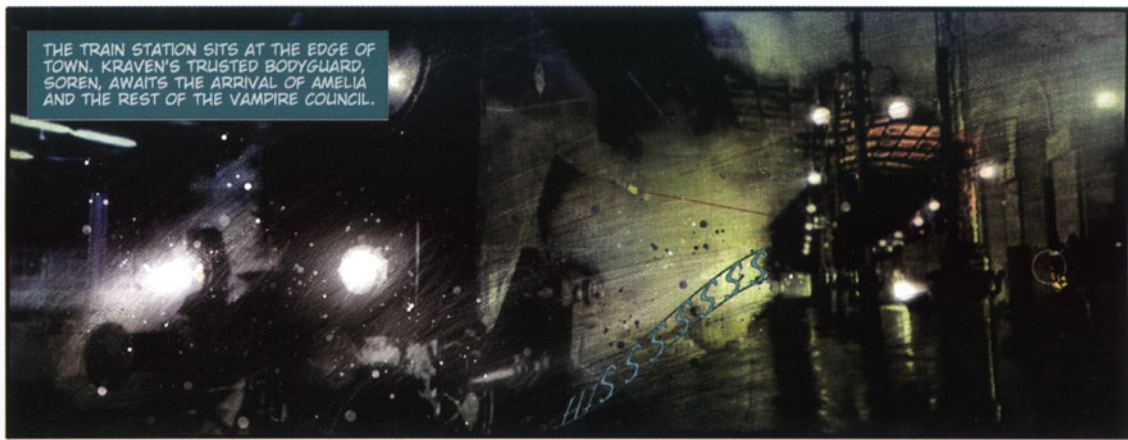
BECAUSE HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO'S BEEN TAINTED BY AN ANIMAL!



"I LOVE YOU LIKE A DAUGHTER, BUT YOU WILL BE SHOWN NO LENIENCY."

"WHEN AMELIA ARRIVES, THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE."

THE TRAIN STATION SITS AT THE EDGE OF TOWN. KRAVEN'S TRUSTED BODYGUARD, SOREN, AWAITS THE ARRIVAL OF AMELIA AND THE REST OF THE VAMPIRE COUNCIL.



ARROUGHHA AROUGHHA AROUGHHA ARROO

AS VAMPIRE BLOOD SOAKS THE TRAIN ACROSS TOWN, A SWITCH INSIDE THE MANSION IS THROWN.

ARROUGHHA AROUGHHA AROUGHHA

THE PERIMETER SENSOR'S BEEN TRIPPED! LET'S GO!

QUICK, WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED.

ROUGHHA AROUGHHA AROUGH

TIRES SQUEALING, SELENE SETS OFF FOR THE SAFE HOUSE...



BUT SHE'S NOT ALONE.



MICHAEL, OUT THE WINDOW— NOW!



GO, GO— JUMP!

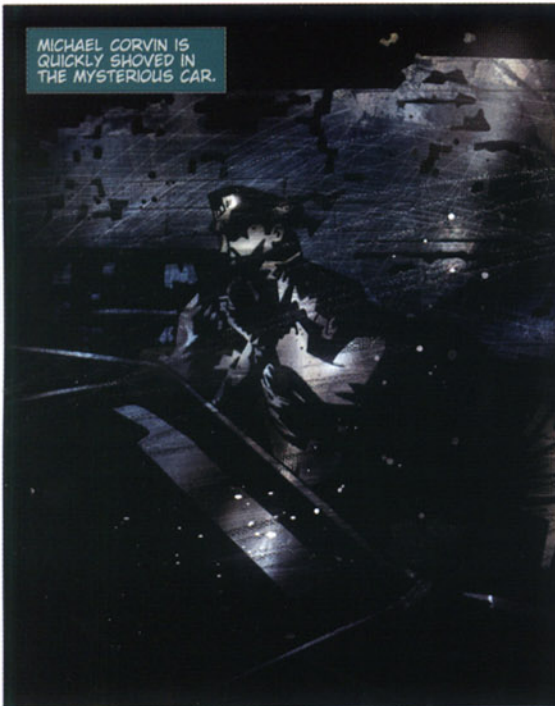
ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?



=GULP=



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA





MEANWHILE, SELENE BRINGS THE CAPTIVE LYCAN SINGE TO VIKTOR.

VIKTOR, SHE'S BECOME OBSESSED! THINKS I'M AT THE CORE OF SOME RIDICULOUS CONSPIRACY!

AND HERE'S MY PROOF!

NOW TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT YOU TOLD ME.

WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A DIRECT DESCENDENT OF ALEXANDER CORVINUS, A 12TH CENTURY WARLORD AND SOLE SURVIVOR OF A PLAGUE-RAVAGED VILLAGE.

HIS BODY WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO... ADAPT. HE BECAME THE FIRST IMMORTAL, AND LATER FATHERED THREE CHILDREN.

AH, YES. ONE BITTEN BY BAT, ONE BY WOLF, AND ONE TO WALK THE ROAD OF MORTALITY.

"MAYBE, BUT OUR SPECIES DO HAVE A COMMON ANCESTOR. WE NEEDED A PURE, HUMAN SOURCE OF THE ORIGINAL VIRUS... AND FOUND IT IN MICHAEL CORVIN.

"NOW WE CAN COMBINE THE THREE BLOODLINES TO CREATE A HYBRID OF UNSPEAKABLE POWER!"



"...WHEN YOU KILL THE DESCENDENT OF CORVINUS, THIS MICHAEL."

MR. CORVIN, HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. MY NAME IS LUCIAN.



ENTRANCE SHAFT!



THE LYKANS MOVE WITH FULL FORCE TO STOP THE INCURSION INTO THEIR TERRITORY.

MOMENTS LATER, IN LUCIAN'S CHAMBERS...

LUCIAN! I THOUGHT WE HAD A DEAL!

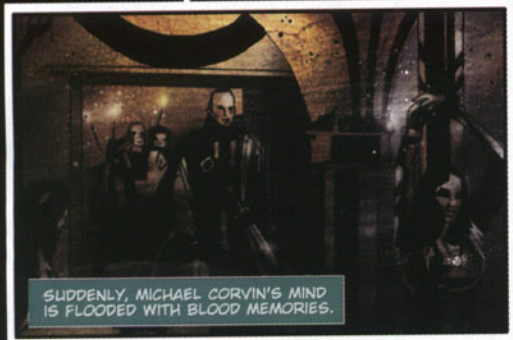


THE COUNCIL IS DESTROYED. SOON YOU'LL HAVE TOTAL CONTROL, PLUS AN IRONCLAD PEACE TREATY WITH THE LYKANS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT VIKTOR? HE...

SHRIEK

SUDDENLY, MICHAEL CORVIN'S MIND IS FLOODED WITH BLOOD MEMORIES.



HE RECOGNIZES LUCIAN, SHACKLED LIKE AN ANIMAL, IN A TIME LONG PAST...



AAAAAAAAAAAA

SONJA!



THEY FORCED YOU TO WATCH HER DIE... SONJA. I'VE SEEN IT. YOUR MEMORIES. AS IF I WAS ACTUALLY THERE.



"WHY DID THEY KILL HER?"

"VIKTOR FEARED A BLENDING OF THE SPECIES ENOUGH TO KILL HIS OWN DAUGHTER... FOR LOVING ME, HE'S SPENT THE LAST 600 YEARS EXTERMINATING OUR SPECIES."



"WE WERE SLAVES TO THE VAMPIRES ONCE, YET I HARBORED NO ILL WILL. EVEN TOOK A VAMPIRE AS MY BRIDE. BUT IT WAS FORBIDDEN, OUR UNION."





THE DEATH DEALERS
MAKE READY TO ENTER
THE UNDERWORLD...

SILVER
GRENADE!



...WHILE BELOW
THINGS TURN UGLY.

IT'S VIKTOR! IS
THERE ANOTHER
WAY OUT?

ANOTHER
WAY OUT?



DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT
LEAVING.



SILVER
NITRATE. BET
YOU WEREN'T
EXPECTING
THAT!

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE LYCAN UNDERWORLD, THE BATTLE IS RAGING.



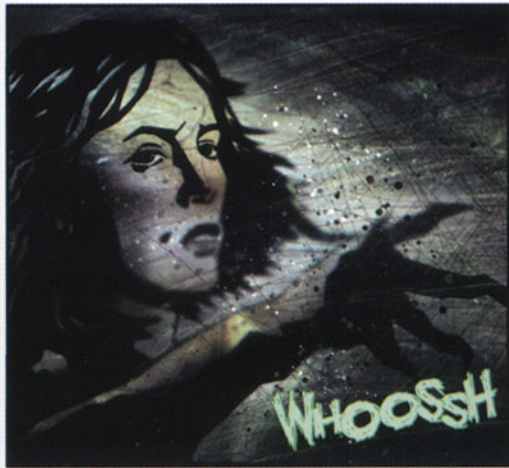
SELENE!
WAIT!

UNLIKE THE OTHER DEATH DEALERS, SELENE HAS HER OWN BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO HERE.



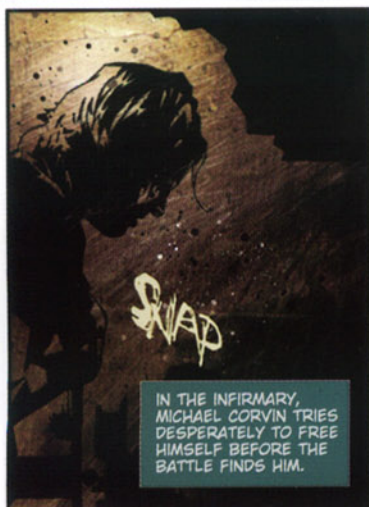
RARRRR

RATTA
TATA
TATA
TATA



WHOOSH

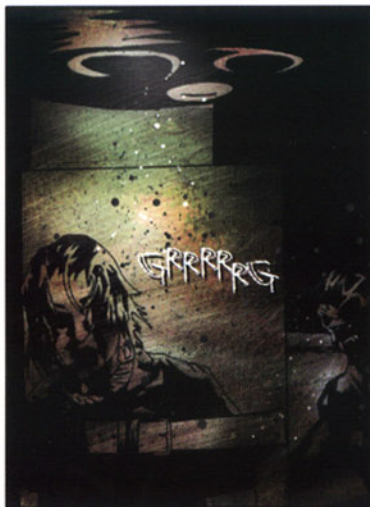




IN THE INFIRMARY, MICHAEL CORVIN TRIES DESPERATELY TO FREE HIMSELF BEFORE THE BATTLE FINDS HIM.



OH SHIT.



GRRRRR



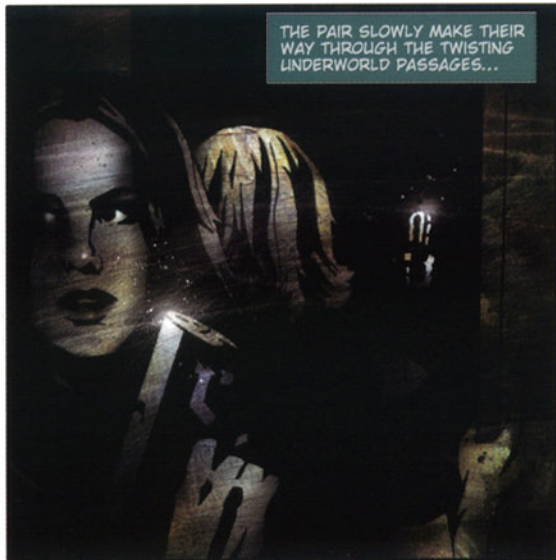
BLAM
BLAM

I NEED YOU OUT OF HERE. VIKTOR'S ON HIS WAY...



SELENE, LUCIAN DIDN'T START THIS WAR... VIKTOR DID.

THE PAIR SLOWLY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE TWISTING UNDERWORLD PASSAGES...



...UNTIL SELENE OPENS THE WRONG DOOR AND KRAVEN UNLOADS HIS WEAPON INTO CORVIN'S CHEST.



SO HE TOLD YOU ABOUT VIKTOR? IT WAS *HE* WHO KILLED YOUR FAMILY, NOT THE LYCANS. SPARED YOU BECAUSE YOU REMINDED HIM SO MUCH OF HIS PRECIOUS DAUGHTER, SONJA.

LIES...



IF YOU WON'T BE BY MY SIDE, SO BE IT...







IT WAS YOU THAT KILLED MY FAMILY, NOT THE LYCANS!

FORGIVE ME, MY CHILD—I'VE TAKEN MUCH FROM YOU. BUT ISN'T THE GIFT OF IMMORTALTY A FAIR TRADE?



AND THE LIFE OF YOUR DAUGHTER... YOUR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD?

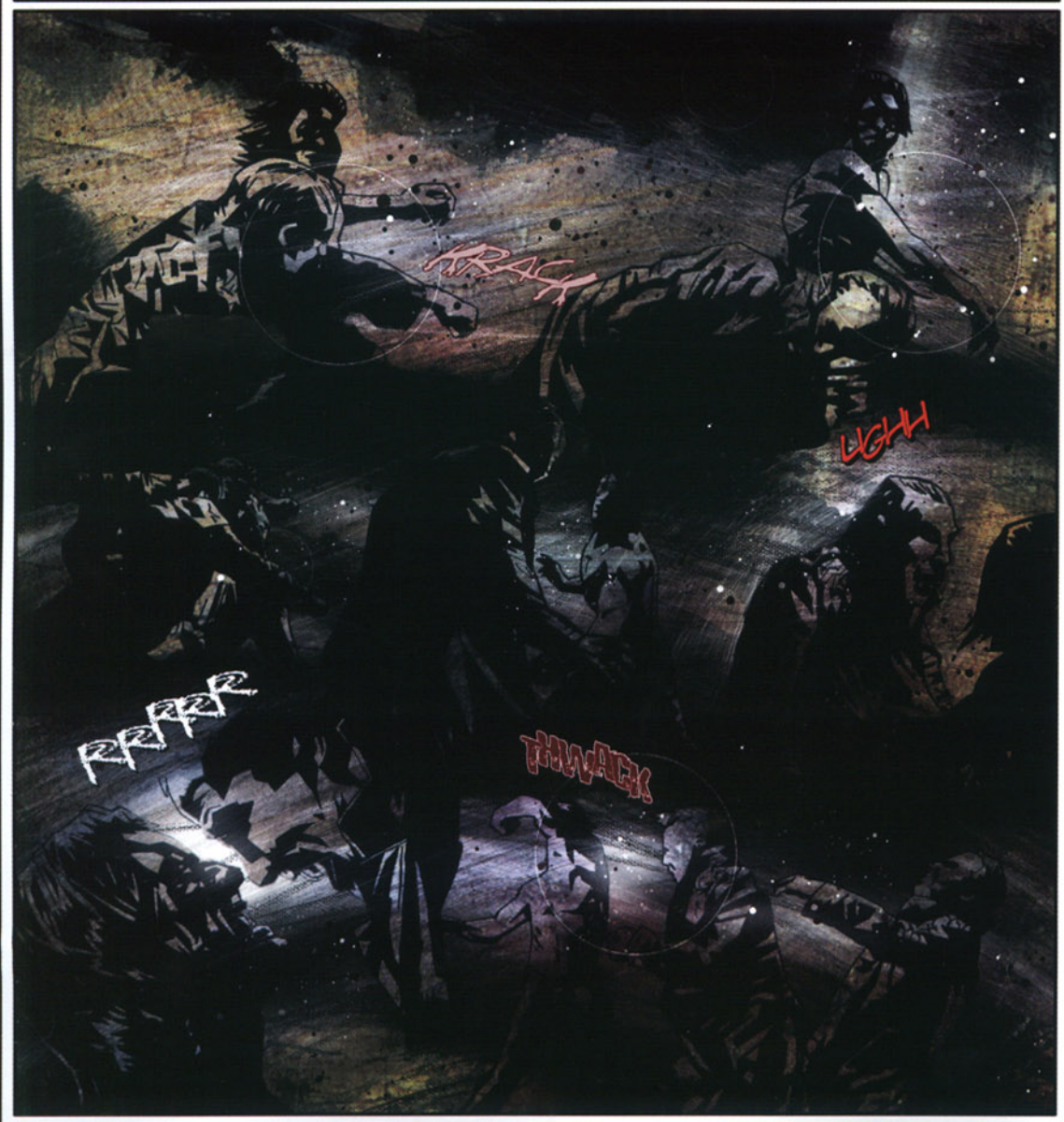
I LOVED MY DAUGHTER... BUT THE ABOMINATION GROWING IN HER WOMB WAS A BETRAYAL OF ME AND THE COVEN.



I DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR SPECIES... AS I AM FORCED TO DO YET AGAIN!



BY ALL THAT IS...







AND SO IT ENDS.
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS, THOUSANDS
OF DEATHS LATER...



...THE WAR
IS FINALLY...

...OVER?

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS NIGHT WILL
REVERBERATE THROUGH THE HALLS OF
BOTH GREAT COVENS. TWO VAMPIRE
ELDERS HAVE BEEN SLAIN... ONE BY
MY OWN HAND.

SOON, MARCUS WILL TAKE THE THRONE, AND A DARK
TIDE OF ANGER AND RETRIBUTION WILL SPILL OUT INTO
THE NIGHT. AND SOON, I WILL BECOME THE HUNTED...



THE END.



UNDERWORLD

IN THEATRES FALL 2003

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Mature Collectors

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