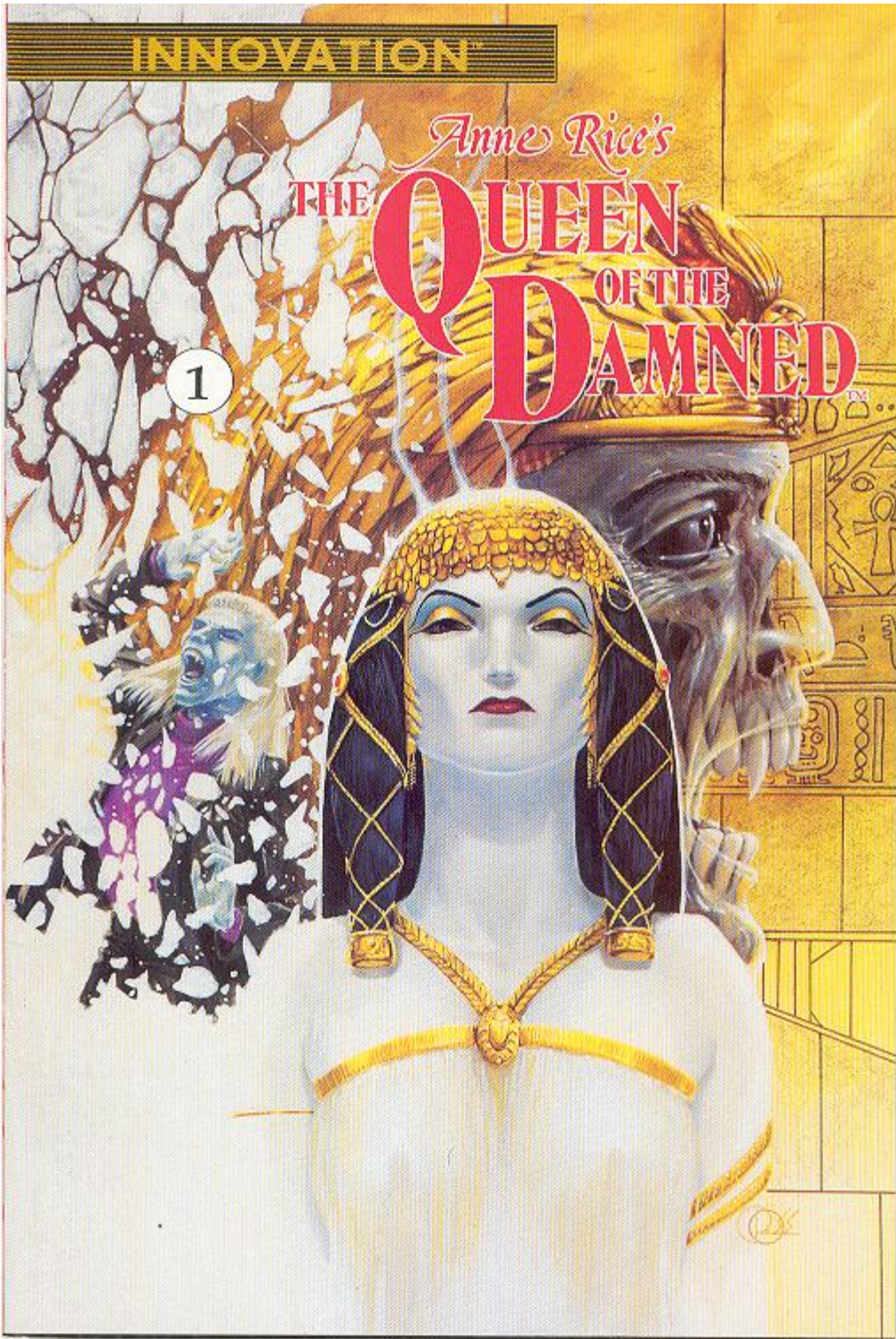


INNOVATION™

Anne Rice's  
**THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED**

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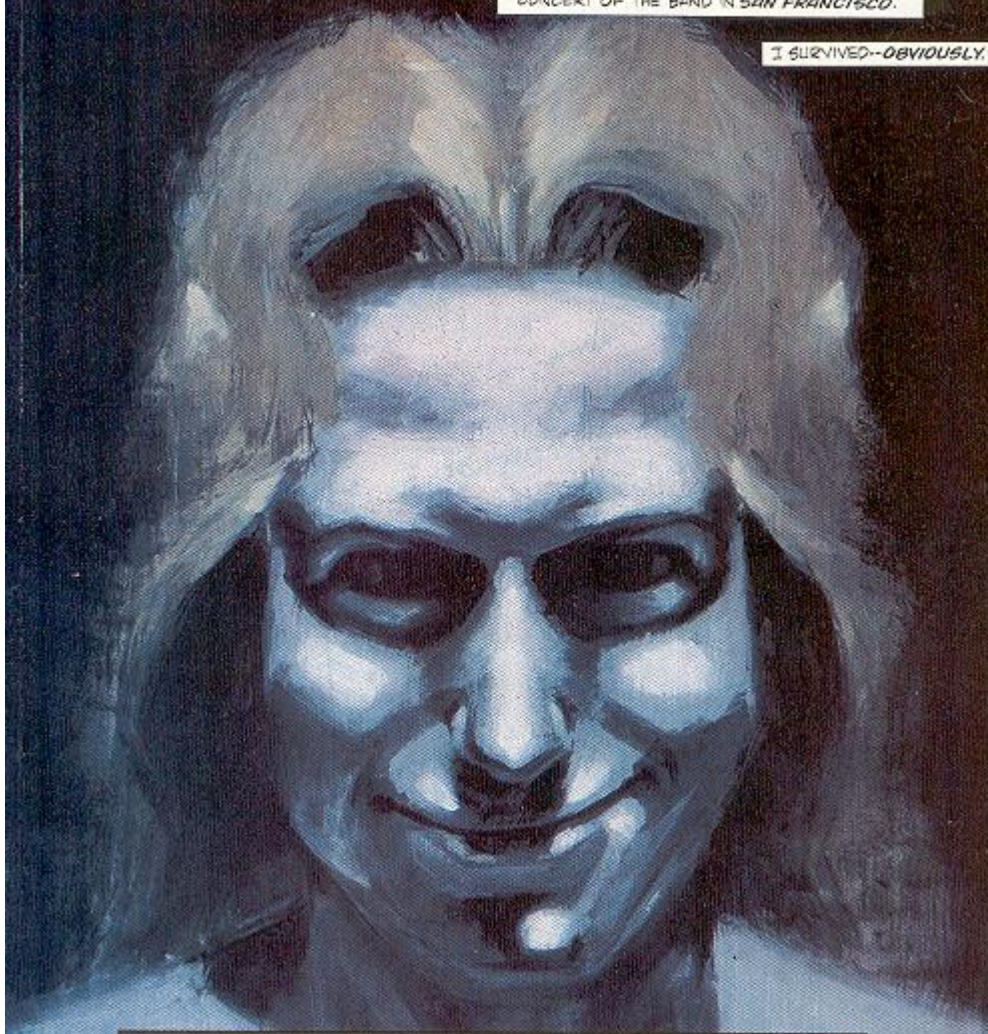
I'M THE *VAMPIRE LESTAT*--REMEMBER ME? ROCK STAR--WRITER ?

MY ALBUM WAS A *HUGE SUCCESS* AND MY *AUTOBIOGRAPHY* WAS SELLING WELL WITH *BOTH* THE *LIVING* AND THE *UNDEAD*.

THROUGH MY SONGS AND STORY, I WAS *COURTING DISASTER*--

--AND IT *FOUND* ME FOLLOWING THE *FIRST* LIVE CONCERT OF THE BAND IN *SAN FRANCISCO*.

I SURVIVED--*OBVIOUSLY*.



## *On The Road To The Vampire Lestat*

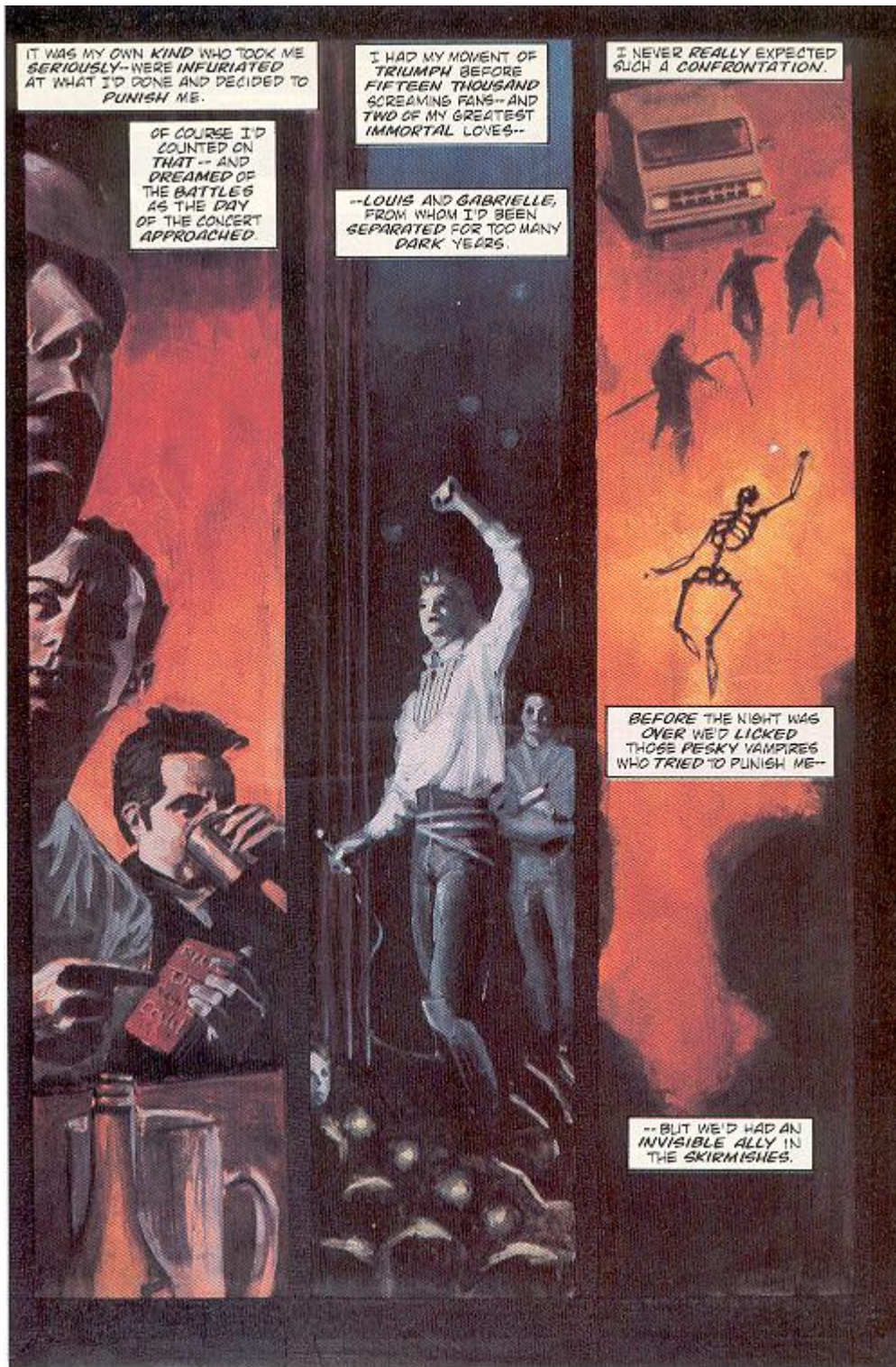
CYNTHY J. WOOD  
*Words*

SCOTT MULTER  
*Paintings*

VICKIE WILLIAMS  
*Letters*

DAVID CAMPITI  
*Edits*

*Adapted From The Novel By ANNE RICE*  
*Cover Painting & Art Supervision By DAERICK GROSS, SR.*



IT WAS MY OWN KIND WHO TOOK ME SERIOUSLY--WERE INFURIATED AT WHAT I'D DONE AND DECIDED TO PUNISH ME.

OF COURSE I'D COUNTED ON THAT -- AND DREAMED OF THE BATTLE AS THE DAY OF THE CONCERT APPROACHED.

I HAD MY MOMENT OF TRIUMPH BEFORE FIFTEEN THOUSAND SCREAMING FANS--AND TWO OF MY GREATEST IMMORTAL LOVES--

--LOUIS AND GABRIELLE, FROM WHOM I'D BEEN SEPARATED FOR TOO MANY DARK YEARS.

I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED SUCH A CONFRONTATION.

BEFORE THE NIGHT WAS OVER WE'D LICKED THOSE PESKY VAMPIRES WHO TRIED TO PUNISH ME--

-- BUT WE'D HAD AN INVISIBLE ALLY IN THE SKIRMISHES.



I WAS TOO ELATED TO TAKE THE QUESTION OF DANGER SERIOUSLY.

I IGNORED GABRIELLE'S IMPASSIONED WARNINGS-- AND I DISMISSED LOUIS' DARK SUSPICIONS AS I ALWAYS HAD.

I REALIZED THAT I WASN'T ALONE.

IT WASN'T JUST THE YOUNG VAMPIRES I'D REACHED--

--MY SONGS HAD ROUSED FROM THEIR SLUMBER, THE VERY OLDEST OF OUR KIND IN THE WORLD.

WAS I TO DIE FINALLY--OR PERHAPS TO BE REBORN?

TO TELL YOU THE STORY I MUST BEGIN TEN DAYS BEFORE THE CONCERT. WE WILL GALLOP INTO THE WORLD OF "THIRD PERSON" AND "MULTIPLE POINTS OF VIEW."

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, I'M THINKING OF YOU ALWAYS-- I LOVE YOU. I WISH YOU WERE HERE--

--IN MY ARMS.

THOUGH I AM LEAVING YOU-- I WILL RETURN WITH FULL FLAIR AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

## CHILDREN OF DARKNESS

BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING:

BOOK ONE: INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE IS A TRUE STORY — AN ACCOUNT OF BECOMING WHAT WE ARE, OF THE MISERY, AND THE SEARCHING. LOUIS HASN'T GIVEN UP THE SEARCH FOR SALVATION YET — THOUGH ARMAND, THE OLDEST IMMORTAL HE FOUND, COULD TELL HIM NOTHING OF WHY WE ARE OR OF WHO MADE US. NOT VERY SURPRISING, IS IT, VAMPIRE BOYS AND GIRLS? AFTER ALL THERE NEVER WAS A BALTIMORE CATECHISM FOR VAMPIRES.

UNTIL THE PUBLICATION OF BOOK TWO: THE VAMPIRE LESTAT THIS VERY WEEK, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT? CHECK WITH YOUR NEAREST MORTAL BOOKSELLER. THEN GO TO THE NEAREST RECORD STORE AND ASK TO SEE THE ALBUM THAT WAS ONLY JUST ARRIVED — ALSO CALLED THE VAMPIRE LESTAT. OR IF ALL ELSE FAILS, SWITCH ON YOUR CABLE TV AND WAIT FOR ONE OF LESTAT'S NUMEROUS ROCK VIDEOS WHICH BEGAN TO AIR WITH NAUSEATING FREQUENCY ONLY YESTERDAY.

WHY IS HE DOING THIS?

WHAT DO HIS SONGS TELL US? IT IS SPELLED OUT IN HIS BOOK. HE HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN US A CATECHISM BUT A BIBLE AS WELL. ENKIL AND AKASHA — RULERS OF THE NILE EVEN BEFORE IT WAS CALLED EGYPT. FORGET THE TALE OF HOW THEY CAME TO BE THE FIRST BLOOD-SUCKERS. THE TRUTH IS WE ARE DESCENDED FROM THEM, AND THERE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRIMAL GENERATOR OF ALL OUR POWER, RESIDES IN ONE OR BOTH OF THEIR BODIES. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, IF ENKIL AND AKASHA SHOULD EVER WALK HAND IN HAND INTO A FURNACE, WE SHOULD ALL BURN WITH THEM.

AH, BUT THERE'S HOPE. THE PAIR HAVEN'T MOVED IN FIFTY CENTURIES / EXCEPT THAT LESTAT CLAIMS TO HAVE AWAKENED THEM BOTH BY PLAYING HIS VIOLIN AT THE FOOT OF THEIR SHRINE. DISMISSING HIS EXTRAVAGANT TALE — THEY HAVEN'T BATED AN EYELASH SINCE THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THEY'VE BEEN KEPT IN A PRIVATE CRYPT BY A ROMAN NAMED MARIUS ALL THIS TIME. HE CERTAINLY KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR US ALL. IT WAS HE WHO TOLD LESTAT NEVER TO REVEAL THE SECRET.

NOT VERY TRUSTWORTHY IS HE? WHAT ARE HIS MOTIVES? QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW-- EXCEPT THAT THIS FIEND DOES WHAT HE WANTS, WITH REMARKABLE CONSISTENCY.

SO, THAT'S THE GIST: LOUIS-- WHOM NONE CAN FIND HAS CONFIDED OUR DEEPEST MORAL SECRETS, AND LESTAT HAS REVEALED OUR HISTORY AS HE PARADES HIMSELF BEFORE THE MORTAL PUBLIC.

NOW THE QUESTION: WHY DO THESE TWO STILL EXIST? WHY HAVE WE NOT DESTROYED THEM ALREADY? THE OUTRAGE EXCEEDS ALL PRECEDENT-- IT CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED.

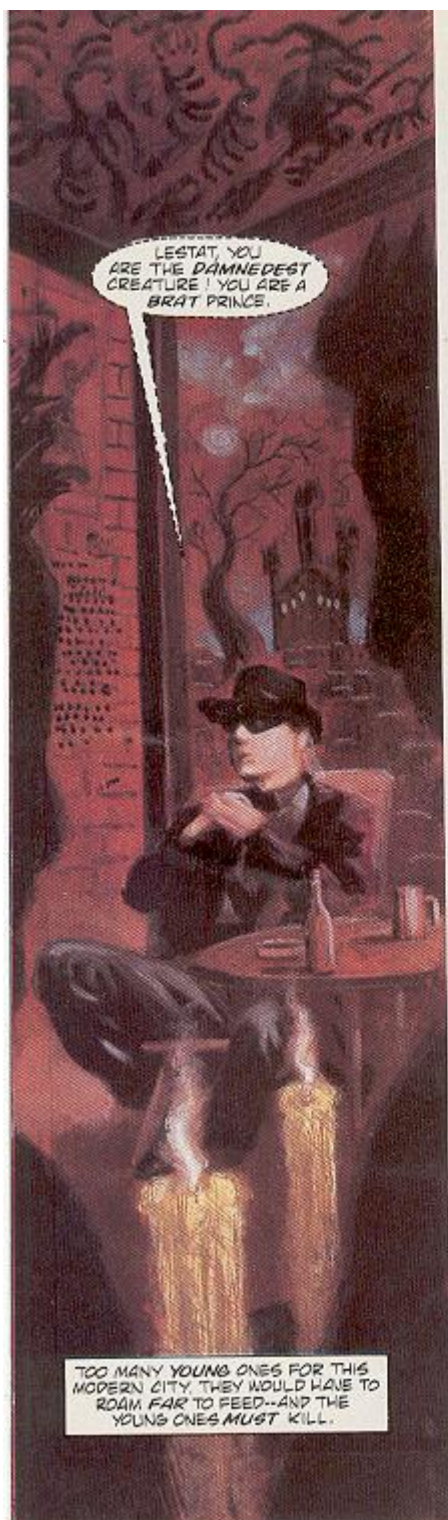
FURTHER OBSERVATIONS: IF LESTAT'S STORY IS TRUE-- MAY NOT MARIUS COME FORWARD TO PUNISH LESTAT'S DISOBEDIENCE? OR, PERHAPS, THE KING AND QUEEN WILL AWAKEN AT HEARING THEIR NAMES CARRIED ON RADIO WAVES. IF THEY DO-- SHALL WE PROSPER OR WILL THEY DESTROY US ALL? IN ANY CASE, MIGHT NOT THE SWIFT DESTRUCTION OF LESTAT AVERT IT?

THE PLAN: DESTROY THE VAMPIRE LESTAT AND ALL HIS COHORTS AS SOON AS THEY DARE SHOW THEMSELVES. DESTROY ALL WHO SHOW HIM ALLEGIANCE.

A WARNING: INEVITABLY, THERE ARE OTHER VERY OLD BLOOD DRINKERS OUT THERE. AND SURELY WITH THEIR GREAT POWERS, THEY CAN HEAR LESTAT'S MUSIC. WHAT AN UGLY AND TERRIBLE BEINGS MIGHT BE MOVING SLOWLY AND INEXORABLY TO ANSWER HIS SUMMONS?

COPIES OF THIS DECLARATION HAVE BEEN SENT TO EVERY MEETING PLACE ON THE VAMPIRE CONNECTION-- TO COVEN HOUSES THE WORLD OVER. BUT YOU MUST TAKE HEED AND SPREAD THE WORD-- LESTAT IS TO BE DESTROYED AND WITH HIM HIS MOTHER, GABRIELLE, AND HIS COHORTS, LOUIS AND ARMAND, AND ALL OTHERS WHO SHOW HIM LOYALTY.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN, VAMPIRE BOYS AND GIRLS. WE SHALL SEE YOU AT THE CONCERT. WE SHALL SEE THAT THE VAMPIRE LESTAT NEVER LEAVES IT.



LESTAT, YOU ARE THE DAMNEDEST CREATURE ! YOU ARE A BRAT PRINCE.

TOO MANY YOUNG ONES FOR THIS MODERN CITY. THEY WOULD HAVE TO ROAM FAR TO FEED--AND THE YOUNG ONES MUST KILL.



THEY THOUGHT OF HIM JUST NOW--WHO WAS HE? WHERE WAS HE FROM? WAS HE VERY OLD AND STRONG?--WHY WAS HE HERE?



TIME TO LEAVE THEIR QUESTIONS UNANSWERED--HE HAD WHAT HE WANTED.

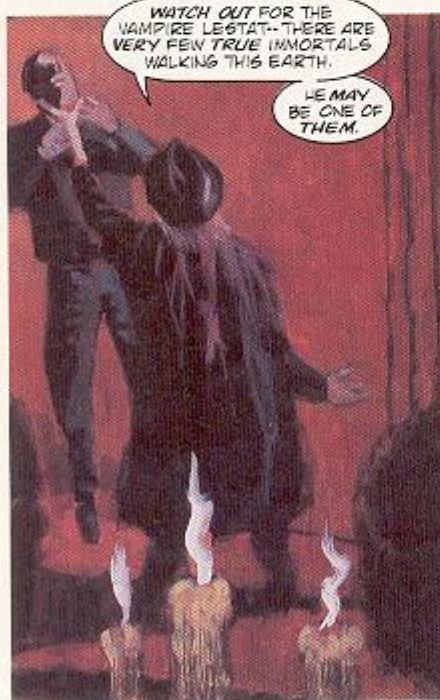
A FIX ON THEIR INTENTIONS.



WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, STRANGER ?

WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE VAMPIRE LESTAT, ON THE DECLARATION ?

YOU MUST FORGIVE ME--I'M GOING NOW.







In my dreams I hold her still,  
Angel, lover, Mother  
And in my dreams, I kiss her lips,  
Mistress, Muse, Daughter



IS SHE HERE  
ALREADY, GABRIELLE,  
HIS MOTHER ?

SHE WAS THERE-- BUT  
WHERE, PRECISELY ?

GABRIELLE,  
GABRIELLE



YES, HERE, WAITING FOR HER  
SON, LESTAT. WHY HAD HE  
FEARED FOR HER? ALL RIGHT,  
LESTAT WOULD BE PLEASED, TOO.




BUT WHAT OF LOUIS,  
THE GENTLE ONE?

LOUIS,  
WHERE ARE  
YOU ?



LOUIS WAS WAITING  
FOR LESTAT--  
FEARFUL FOR LESTAT.



SO, THEY HAD NOT FOUND EACH OTHER, YET--GABRIELLE AND LOUIS. BUT THAT WAS ALL RIGHT. LESTAT WOULD BRING THEM TOGETHER SOON ENOUGH.



TWO HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THAT TIME ON THE ISLAND--

--NOW THOSE WHO MUST BE KEPT WERE A FICTION TO THEIR OWN CHILDREN!



THEY WERE WEAK--THOSE "CHILDREN OF DARKNESS."



IF ONLY HE HAD NOT USED THE NAMES OF MAEL AND PANDORA.

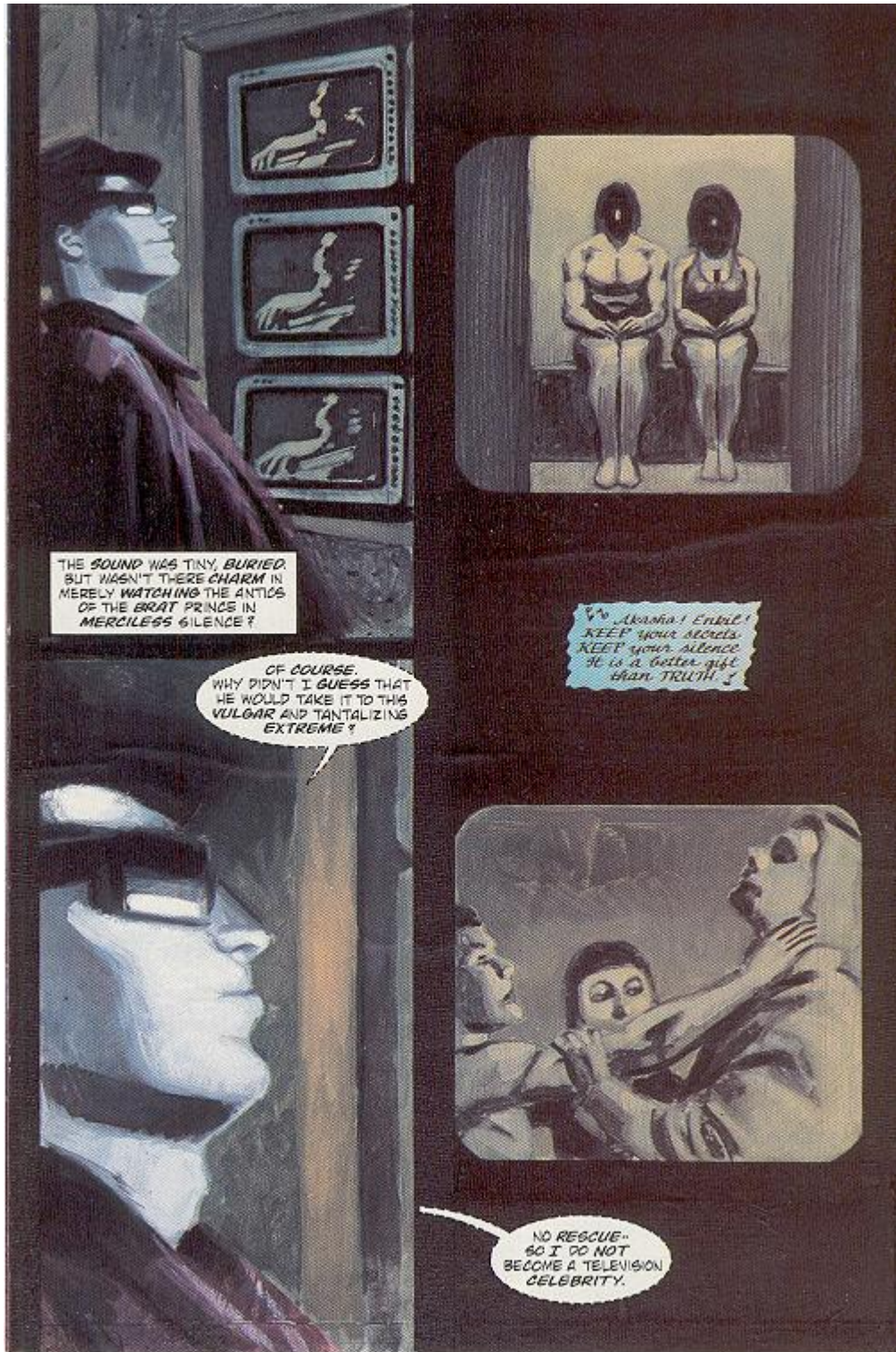


--ANCIENT AND TERRIBLE BEINGS--MOVING SLOWLY AND INEXORABLY TO ANSWER HIS SUMMONS."



I WANT TO BE HOME. I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM THOSE WHO MUST BE KEPT TOO LONG.

THE CONCERT ISN'T FOR MANY NIGHTS--I CAN SEE LESTAT THEN. IF I CHOOSE.



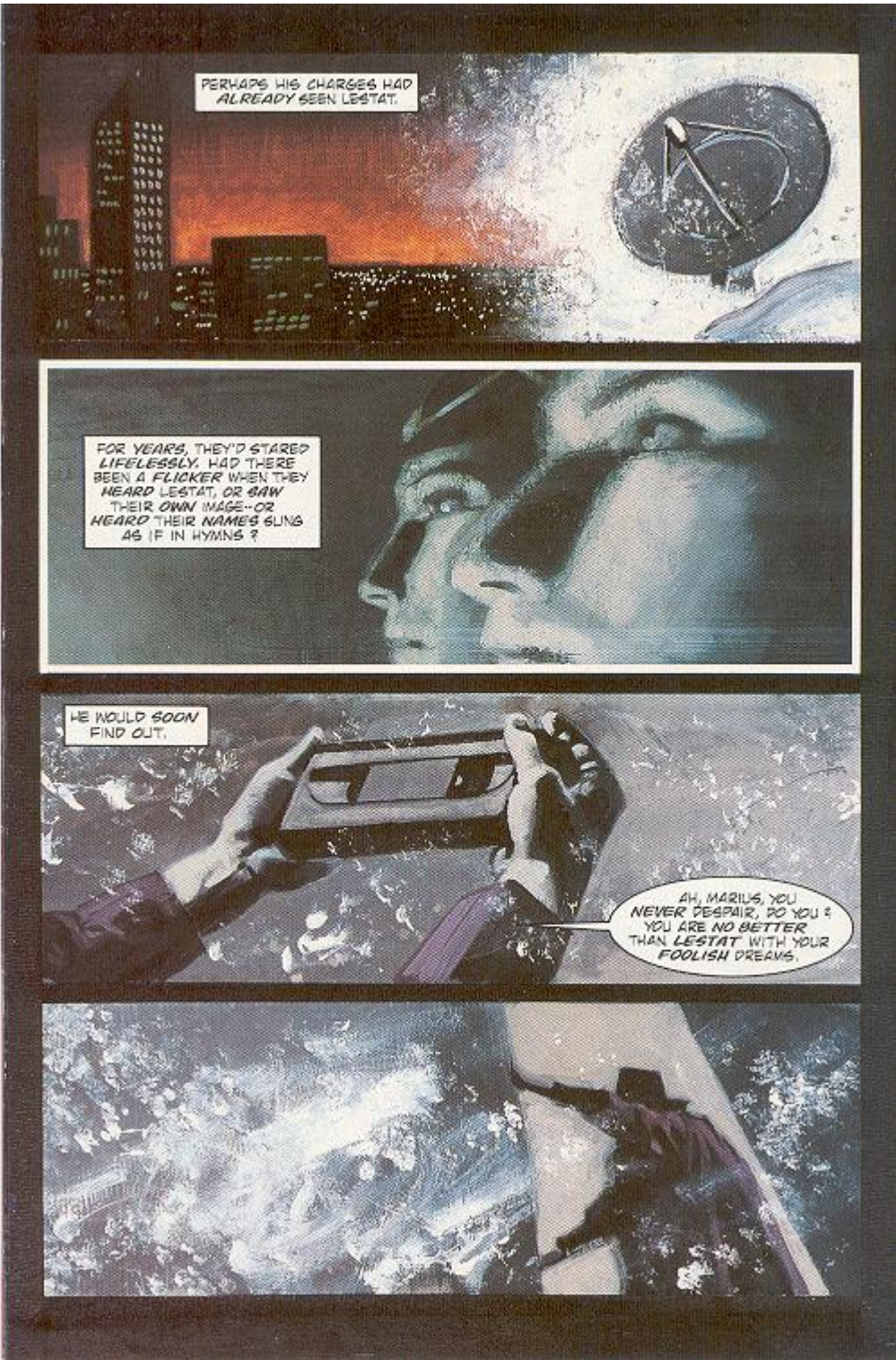
THE SOUND WAS TINY, BURIED.  
BUT WASN'T THERE CHARM IN  
MERELY WATCHING THE ANTICS  
OF THE BRAT PRINCS IN  
MERCILESS SILENCE?

OF COURSE.  
WHY DIDN'T I GUESS THAT  
HE WOULD TAKE IT TO THIS  
VULGAR AND TANTALIZING  
EXTREME?

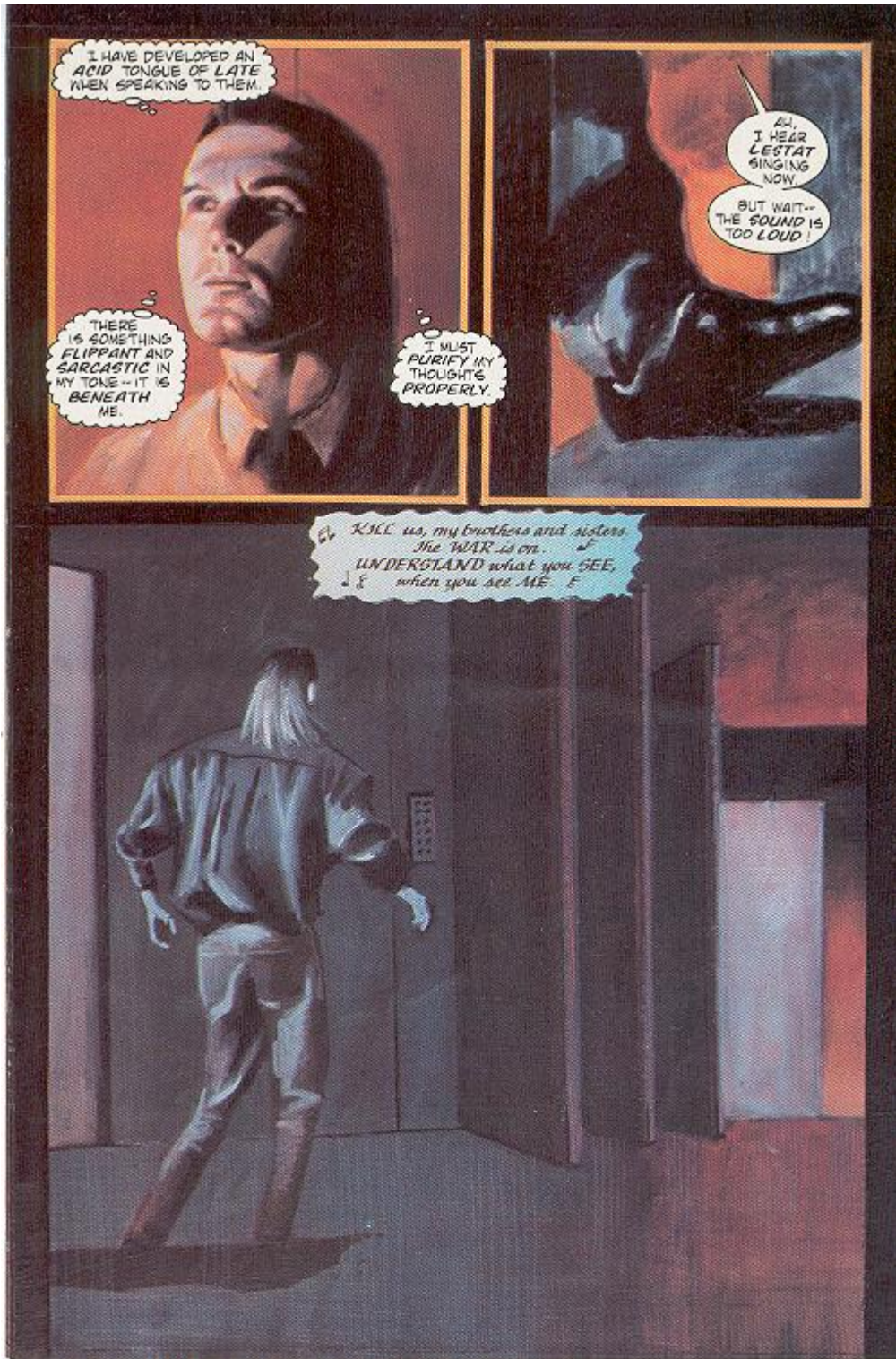
*No. Abashia! Enbil!  
KEEP your secrets.  
KEEP your silence.  
It is a better gift  
than TRUTH.*

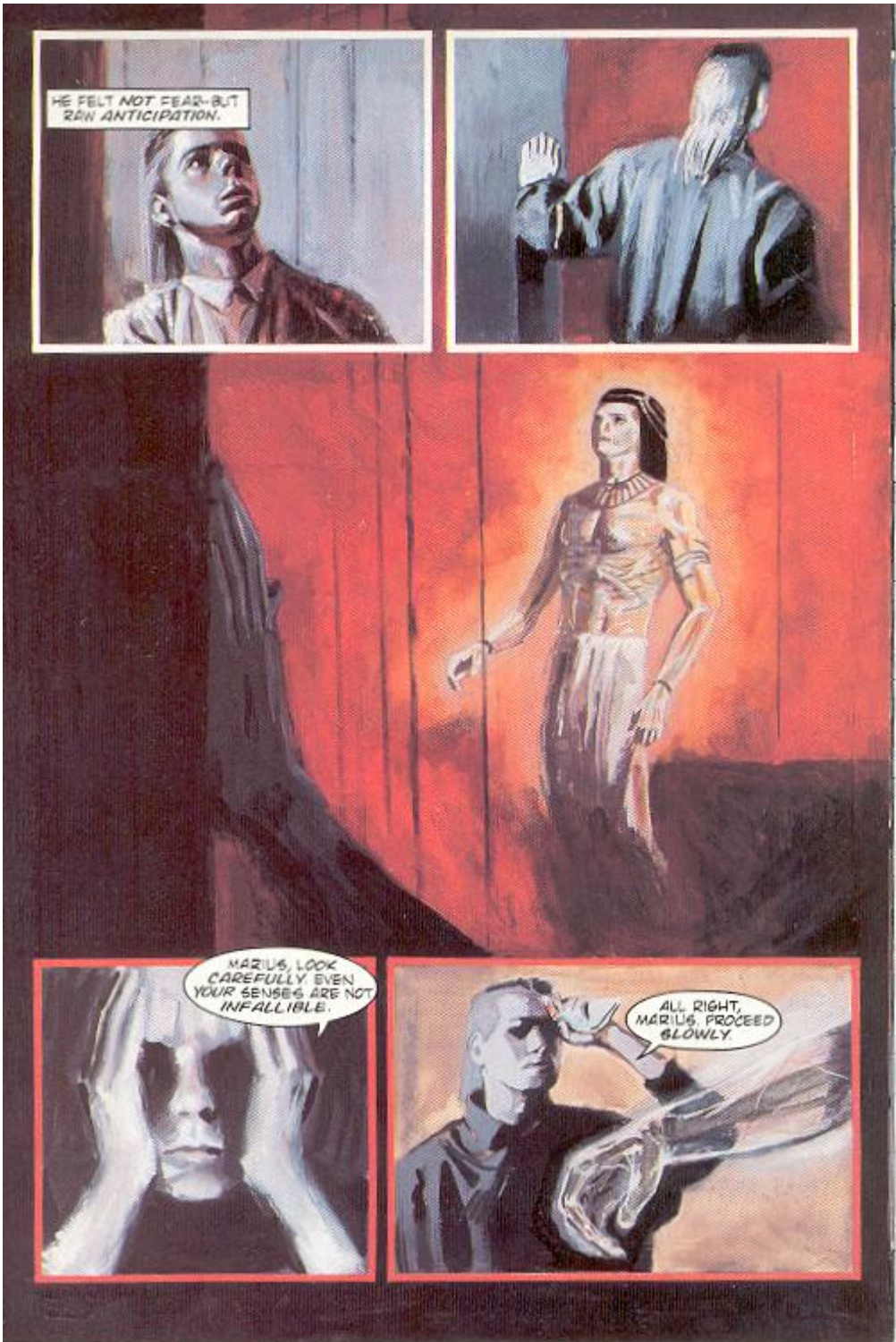
NO RESCUE—  
SO I DO NOT  
BECOME A TELEVISION  
CELEBRITY.



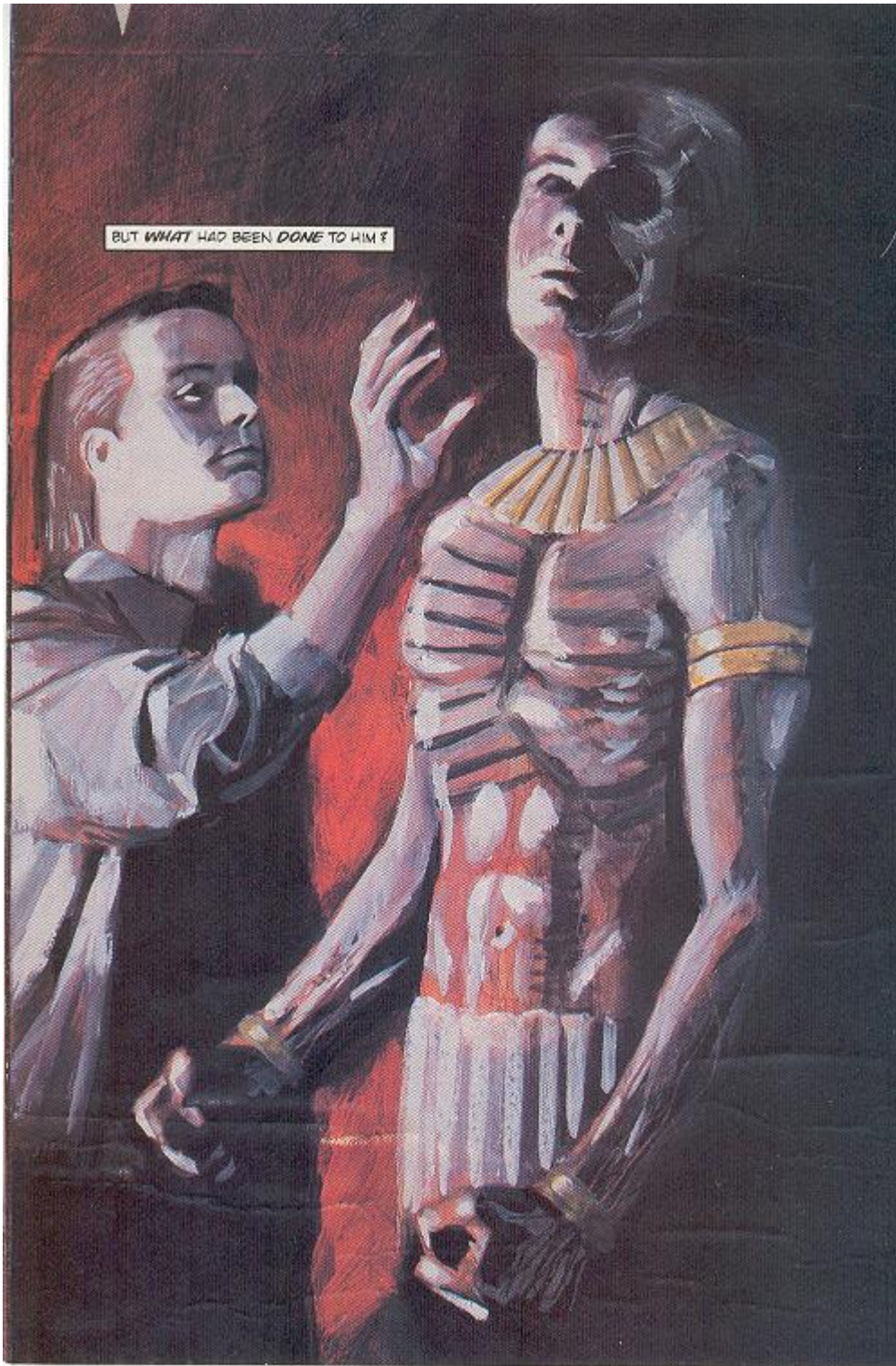


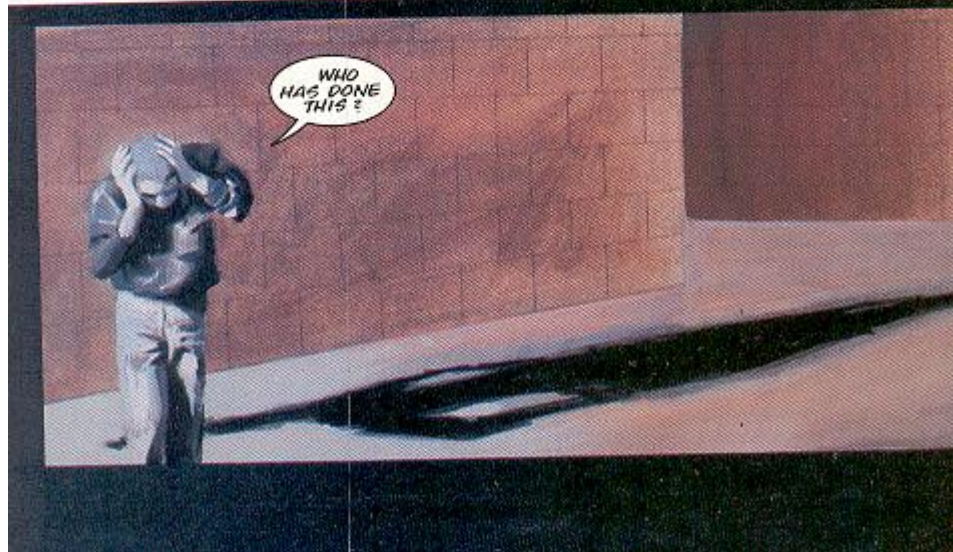




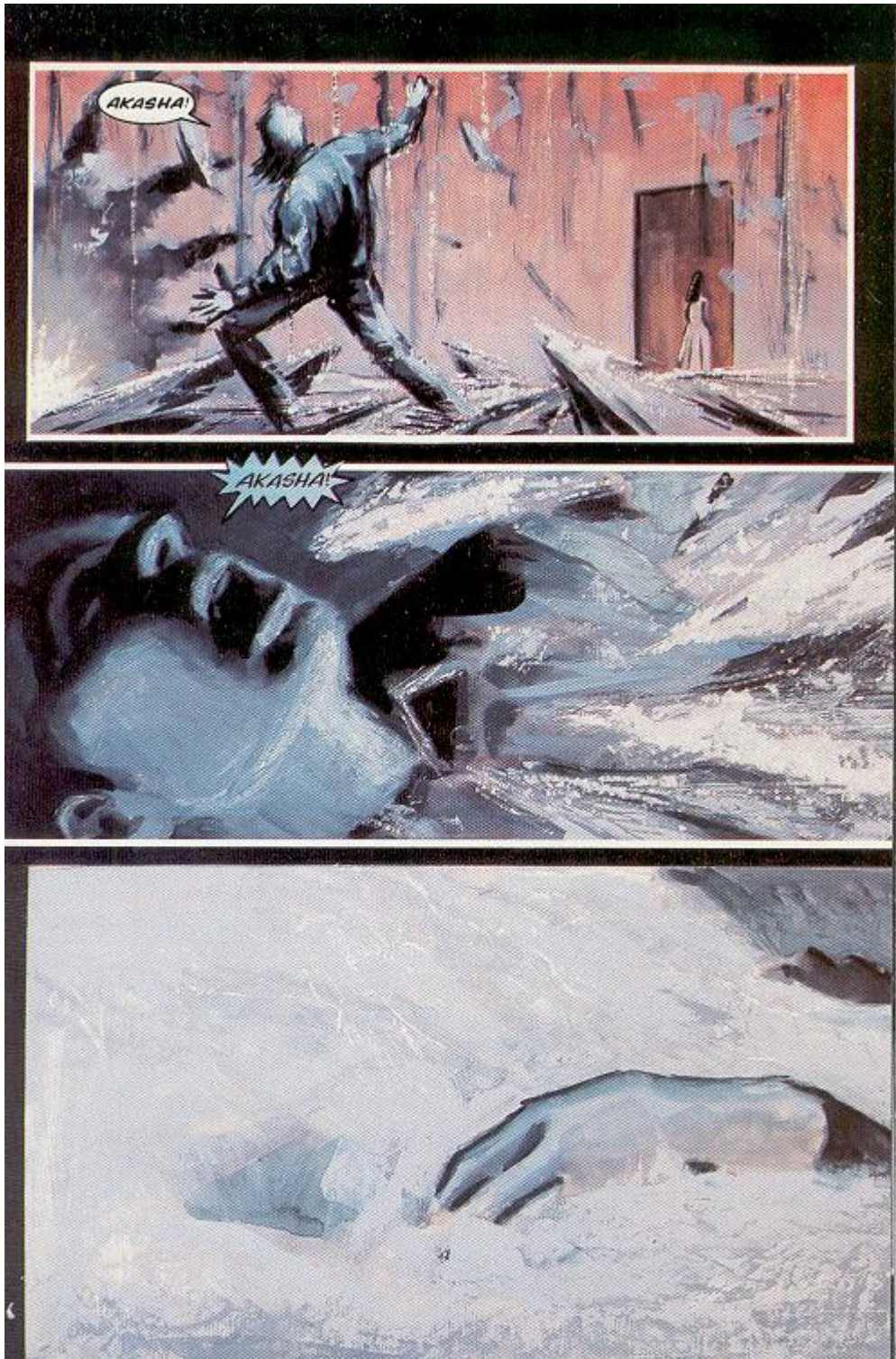


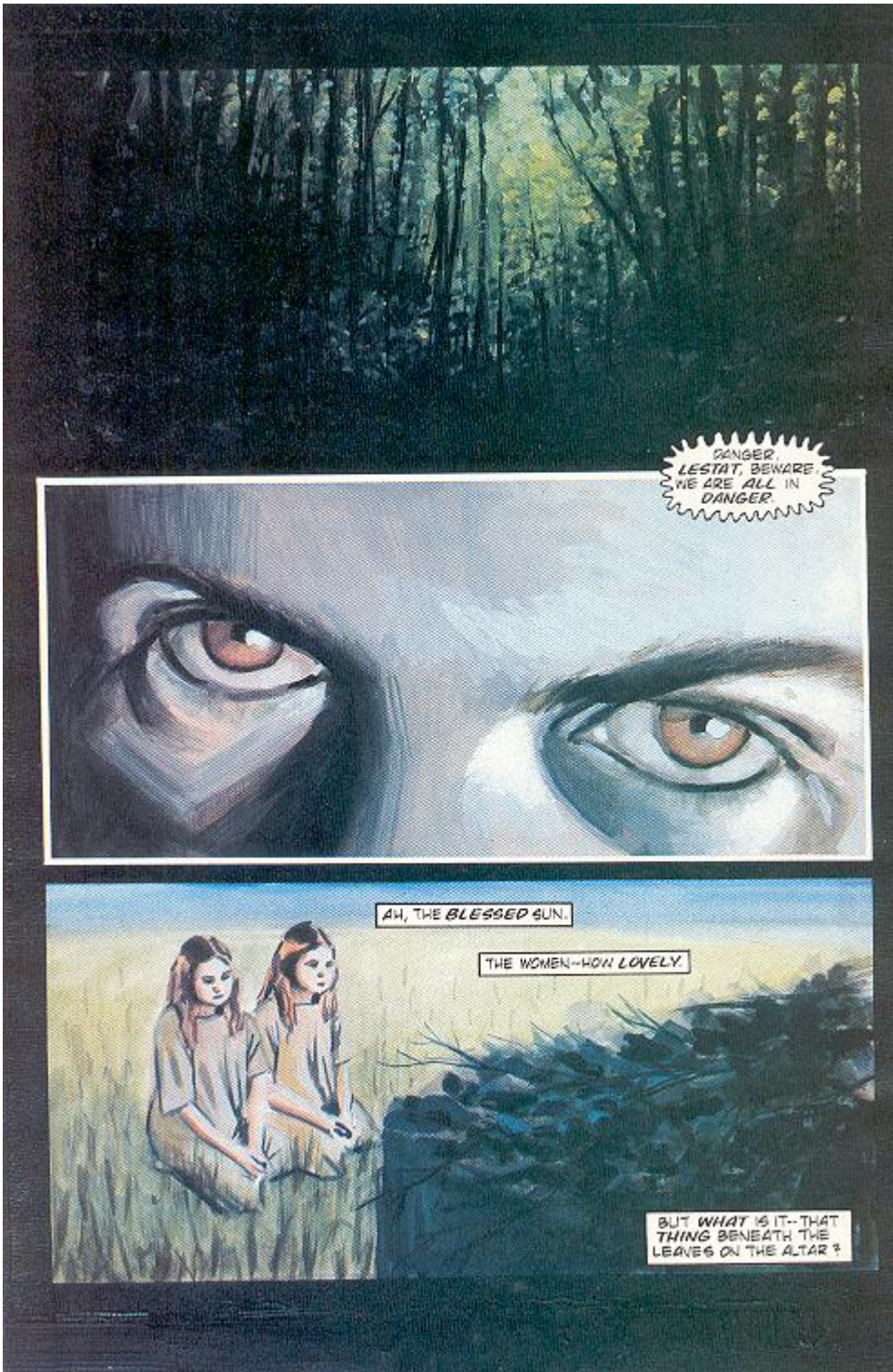




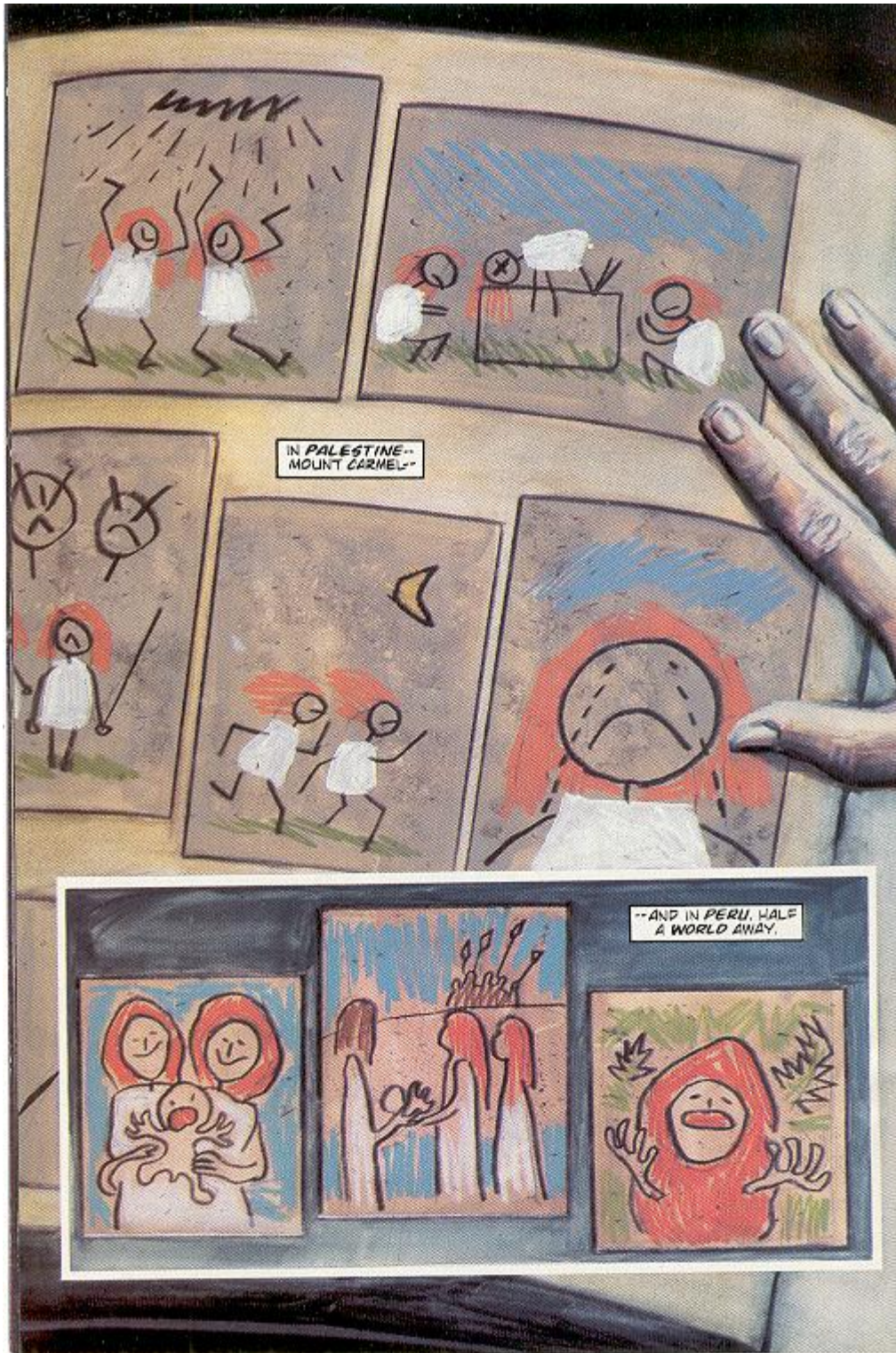






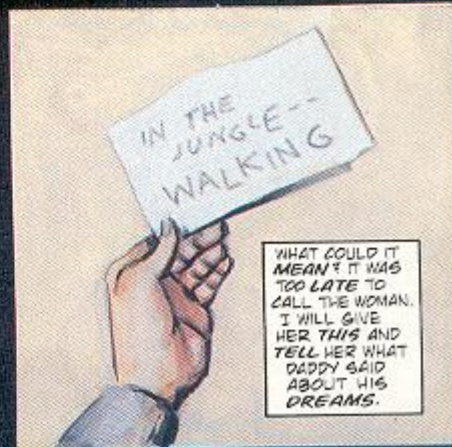
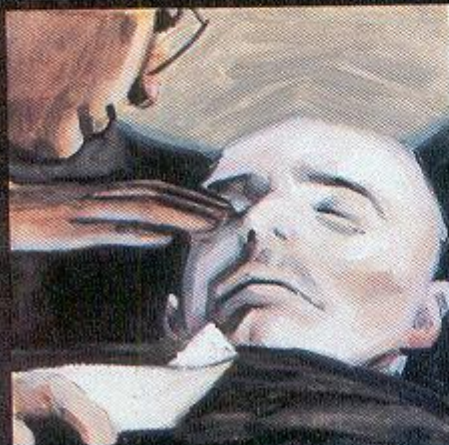












*The Short Happy Life of Baby Jenks and the Fang Gang*

FIVE NIGHTS OUT OF SUN BARREL CITY-- THE FANG GANG WAS IN TROUBLE-- SHE KNEW IT.

THEY HADN'T MET HER SOUTH OF DALLAS-- AND SHE'D WAITED TWO NIGHTS IN THE GRAVEYARD.

SHE WAS LONELY-- AND THAT DAMNED DREAM! PRETTY RED-HAIRED LADIES AND THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT WENT DOWN.

THEY WERE ALL GOING OUT TO SAN FRANCISCO TO THE CONCERT-- KILLER AND DAVIS WOULD NEVER HAVE DUMPED HER.

KILLER SAID HE LOVED HER--

--SHE WOULD HAVE DIED IN DETROIT IF KILLER HADN'T--



THE DOCTOR DID IT ALL  
RIGHT. THE *BABY* WAS GONE.  
BUT HE *CUT* SOMETHING AND  
I WAS DYING--

--THAT'S HOW I  
KNEW THAT KILLER  
WAS A DEAD GUY.



AIN'T YOU  
CUTE, LITTLE  
GIRL!

SUDDENLY I WAS BACK  
IN MY BODY--FULL OF  
SOMETHING WARMER AND  
BETTER THAN A HORSE.

YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO DIE,  
BABY JENKS, NOT  
EVER!



THE GUYS HERE  
WEAR SUITS AND  
CALL THEMSELVES  
'VAMPIRES'--  
THERE'S ONE OF  
THESE HOUSES IN  
EVERY CITY.

YOU GOTTA  
KNOW WHERE  
IT IS -- AND  
STAY AWAY



WHY? -- BECAUSE TO THEM, WE'RE ROGUES. THEY GOT RULES AND THEY WANT TO RUN THINGS.



THERE'S A LOT OF BAGGAGE TO THIS BG-CITY LIFE-- BUT WE'RE FREE.

THEY DON'T THINK WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE DEAD. LIKE WHEN THEY MAKE A NEW VAMPIRE THEY HAVE LIKE THIS BIG CEREMONY.



YOU MEAN LIKE A WEDDING?

NOT EXACTLY-- MORE LIKE A FUNERAL.

THE POINT IS, BABY JENKS, THAT THEY'RE SPREADING IT AROUND THAT THEY'RE GONNA GET THE VAMPIRE LESTAT THE NIGHT OF THE CONCERT

BUT, YA KNOW WHAT? THEY'RE READING HIS BOOK LIKE IT WAS THE BIBLE-- USING HIS LANGUAGE--STUPID.

"THEY'LL NEVER GET LESTAT-- NO WAY, MAN. FLAT OUT IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S BEEN TRIED. THAT IS ONE CAT THAT IS UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY IMMORTAL!"





NOW, IF YOU EVER HAVE TROUBLE WITH A BIG-CITY VAMPIRE--YOU JUST HEAD FOR A VAMPIRE BAR. NO ONE CAN HURT YOU IN THERE.

BUT I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO GET INTO A BAR.

YOU FIND ONE, BABY JENKS, AND GIVE 'EM THE OLD EVIL EYE AND SAY "LET ME IN."



KILLER AND DAVIS TAUGHT HER EVERYTHING --

--ABOUT BLOOD. YUM.



ABOUT HOW, IF YOU COULDN'T GET RID OF A BODY, YOU COULD--



--HIDE THE TRUE CAUSE OF DEATH.



WE'RE ALL AN UNBROKEN LINE OF BLOOD COMING DOWN FROM THE KING AND QUEEN--THOSE WHO MUST BE KEPT.

AND THE REASON YOU GOTTA KEEP THEM IS THAT IF YOU DESTROY THEM--YOU DESTROY US ALL.



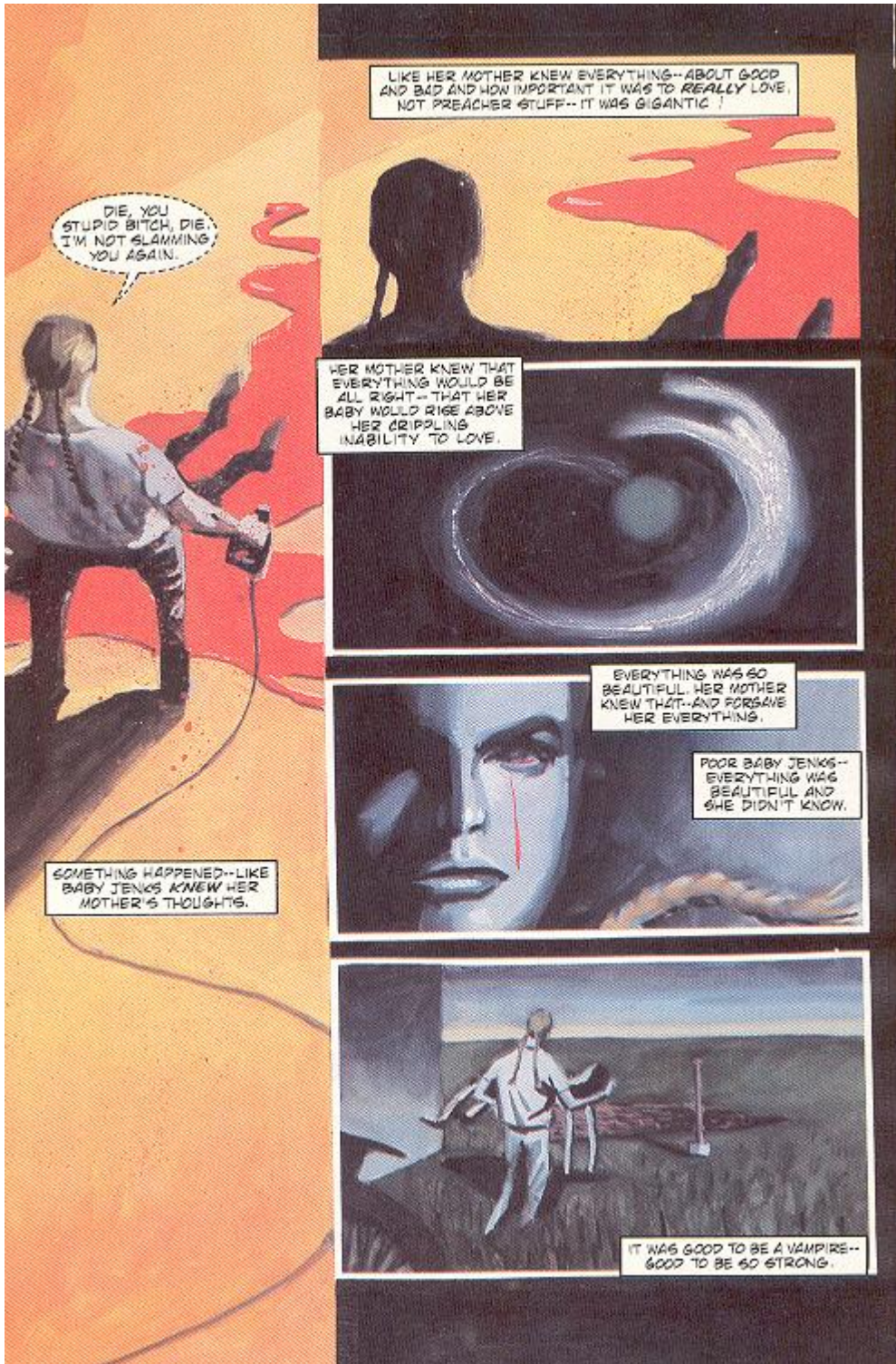
LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA DO BACK IN GUN BARREL CITY. WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME?

YOUR PARENTS, HUH? SURE.

DO WHAT YOU GOTTA. BACK HERE SAY, TOMORROW NIGHT?

YEAH--GOOD. THANKS, GUYS. TOMORROW, RIGHT?





LIKE HER MOTHER KNEW EVERYTHING-- ABOUT GOOD AND BAD AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO REALLY LOVE. NOT PREACHER STUFF-- IT WAS GIGANTIC !

DIE, YOU STUPID BITCH, DIE I'M NOT SLAMMING YOU AGAIN.

HER MOTHER KNEW THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT-- THAT HER BABY WOULD RISE ABOVE HER CRIPPLING INABILITY TO LOVE.

EVERYTHING WAS SO BEAUTIFUL. HER MOTHER KNEW THAT-- AND FORGAVE HER EVERYTHING.

POOR BABY JENKS-- EVERYTHING WAS BEAUTIFUL AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW.

SOMETHING HAPPENED-- LIKE BABY JENKS KNEW HER MOTHER'S THOUGHTS.

IT WAS GOOD TO BE A VAMPIRE-- GOOD TO BE SO STRONG.

