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PRESENTS

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LUCIFER

THE
MORNINGSTAR
OPTION

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MIKE CAREY
SCOTT HAMPTON

THE
S A N D M A NTM
P R E S E N T S

Lucifer

THE
MORNINGSTAR
OPTION

PART ONE



MIKE CAREY
WRITER

SCOTT HAMPTON
ILLUSTRATOR AND
COVER ARTIST

TODD KLEIN
LETTERER

JENNIFER LEE
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

ALISA KWITNEY
EDITOR

NEIL GAIMAN
CONSULTANT



LUCIFER LOGO BY
ALEX JAY

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"THE BIBLE TELLS THAT STORY IN TERMS OF TIME — ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER. FIRST THERE WAS DARKNESS. THEN THERE WAS LIGHT.

"YOUR PEOPLE REMEMBER IT DIFFERENTLY. THEY SEE THE DARKNESS AS A TUNNEL THAT THEY CRAWLED THROUGH TO REACH THE LIGHT. A VERTICAL TUNNEL. THE LIGHT WAS IN ANOTHER PLACE FAR ABOVE.

"IN ANY CASE THEY TELL THE STORY AS A JOURNEY. A HARD AND TERRIBLE JOURNEY. THE PLACE WHERE THEY STARTED FROM WAS FIRST WORLD.

"WHERE THE DARKNESS WAS. WHERE IT STILL IS.

"THIS MEANS NOTHING TO YOU, DOES IT?"

"UNDERSTAND ME. WHAT EVER LIVED THERE THEN LIVES THERE STILL, THOUGH YOUR KIND ABANDONED THIS PLACE HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO. THERE ARE FORESTS OF BLACK OAKS, A HUNDRED FEET TALL, STANDING INVISIBLE IN THE DARK. THERE ARE CREATURES... PREDATORS ... THAT HAVE NOT EATEN IN GEOLOGICAL AGES.

"YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE VOICELESS, BUT THEY HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOU. THEY WANT YOU TO COME HOME. WANT THE FEEL OF YOUR FEAR AND YOUR WORSHIP. BUT WHILE THE DARKNESS IS A HOME FOR THEM, FOR YOU IT WAS ONLY A WOMB.

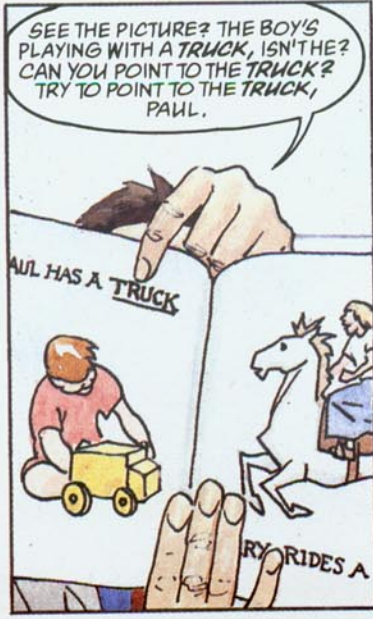
"YOU BETRAYED THEM..."

"... WHEN YOU WERE BORN INTO THE LIGHT."



NO ASYMMETRY, BUT THE PUPILLARY DILATION IS ON THE SLOW SIDE.

IT'S OKAY, PAUL, THE LIGHT WON'T HURT YOU.



SEE THE PICTURE? THE BOY'S PLAYING WITH A TRUCK, ISN'T HE? CAN YOU POINT TO THE TRUCK? TRY TO POINT TO THE TRUCK, PAUL.

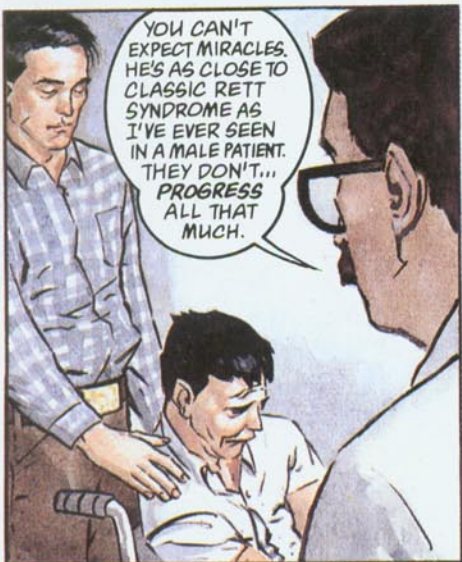


LET'S FEEL THOSE FINGERS. OH, GOOD GRIP, PAUL. NICE GRIP. HE'S LEFT-HANDED, ISN'T HE? LET'S TRY THE OTHER SIDE.

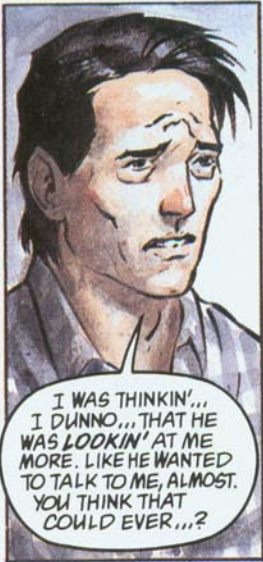


THERE JUST ISN'T ANYTHING HERE TO SUGGEST HE'S IMPROVING, MR. BEGAI. NOT IN TERMS OF MOTOR SKILLS OR PERCEPTUAL RESPONSE, ANYWAY, AND HE'S NOT MAKING A WIDER RANGE OF SOUNDS, IS HE?

WELL... I GUESS NOT. MAYBE WHEN I BRUSH HIS TEETH SOMETIMES...



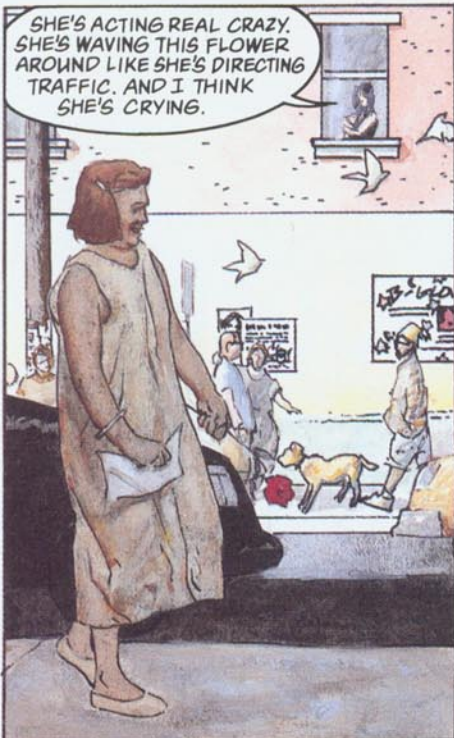
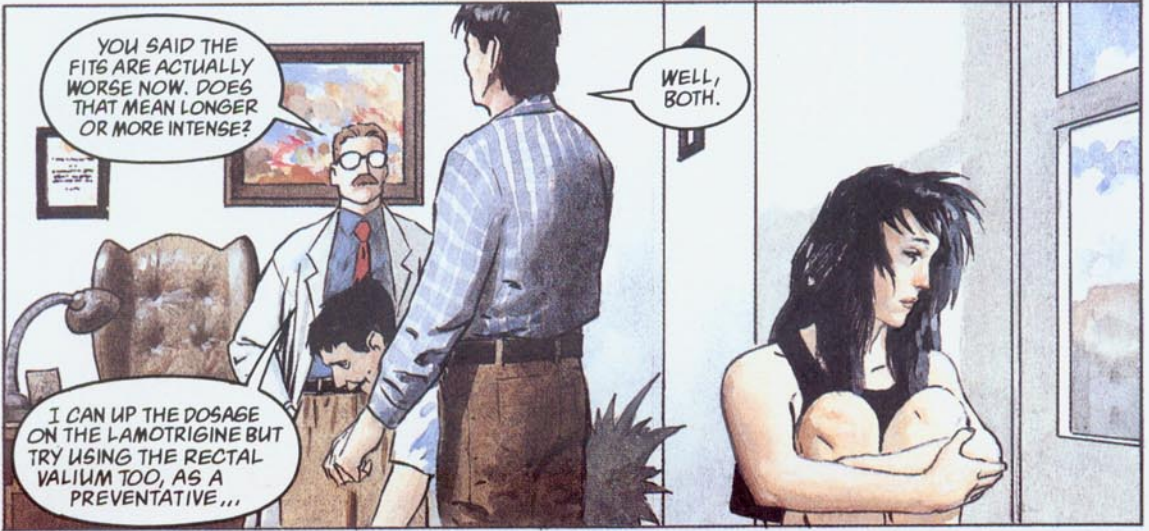
YOU CAN'T EXPECT MIRACLES. HE'S AS CLOSE TO CLASSIC RETT SYNDROME AS I'VE EVER SEEN IN A MALE PATIENT. THEY DON'T... **PROGRESS** ALL THAT MUCH.



I WAS THINKIN'... I DUNNO... THAT HE WAS LODKIN' AT ME MORE. LIKE HE WANTED TO TALK TO ME, ALMOST. YOU THINK THAT COULD EVER...?



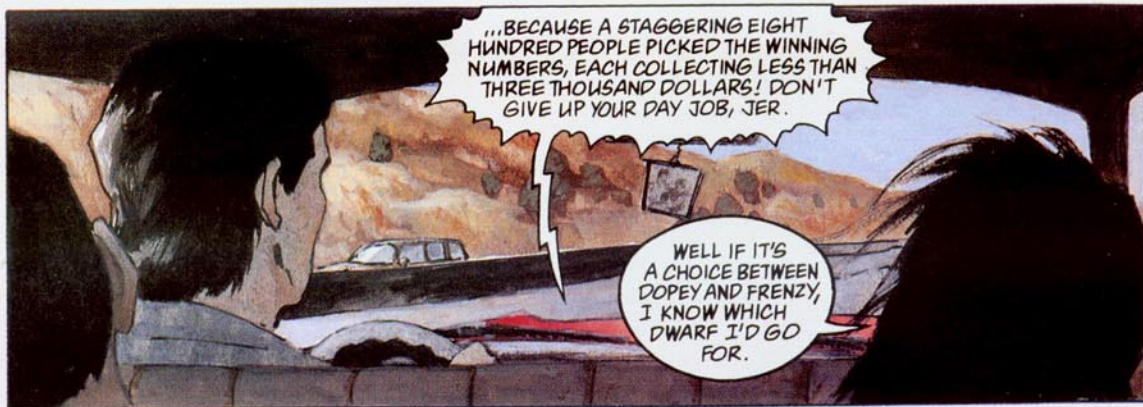
NO. PUT THAT OUT OF YOUR MIND.





LOCAL MAN JERRY RUFINO
SPRAYED HIS BOSS WITH SHAVING
FOAM WHEN HE WON THE STATE
LOTTERY YESTERDAY, BUT TWELVE
HOURS LATER HE WAS ASKING
FOR HIS OLD JOB BACK...

I DUNNO ABOUT
USIN' MORE OF THAT
LAMOTRIGINE STUFF.
IT ALWAYS LEAVES
'IM DOPEY. WHAT D'YOU
RECKON, RACH?



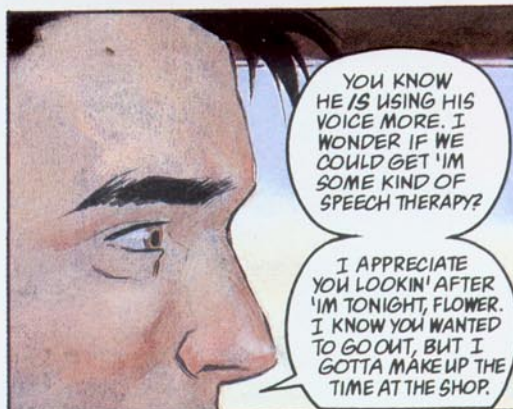
... BECAUSE A STAGGERING EIGHT
HUNDRED PEOPLE PICKED THE WINNING
NUMBERS, EACH COLLECTING LESS THAN
THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS! DON'T
GIVE UP YOUR DAY JOB, JER.

WELL IF IT'S
A CHOICE BETWEEN
DOPEY AND FRENZY,
I KNOW WHICH
DWARF I'D GO
FOR.



WHAT'S THAT,
FLOWER?

NOTHING,
DAD.



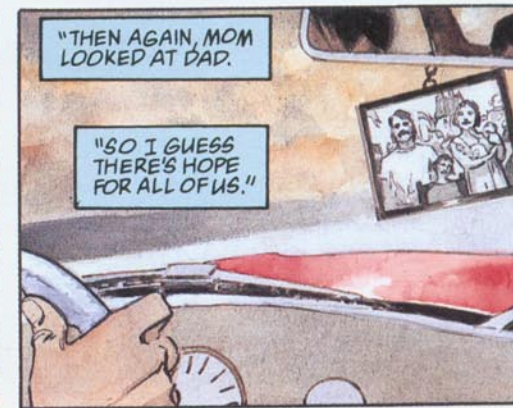
YOU KNOW
HE IS USING HIS
VOICE MORE. I
WONDER IF WE
COULD GET 'IM
SOME KIND OF
SPEECH THERAPY?

I APPRECIATE
YOU LOOKIN' AFTER
'IM TONIGHT, FLOWER.
I KNOW YOU WANTED
TO GO OUT, BUT I
GOTTA MAKE UP THE
TIME AT THE SHOP.



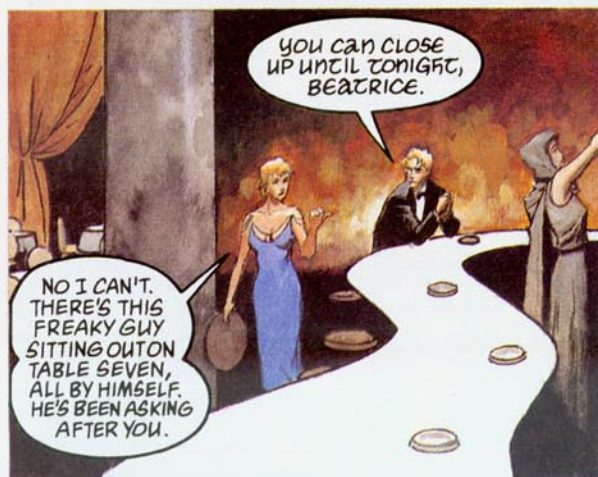
NO PROBLEM.
ALL PART OF THE
SERVICE.

TCH. COME ON, PAUL,
MOST CHICKS WON'T EVEN
LOOK AT A GUY WITH DROOL
ON HIS CHIN.



"THEN AGAIN, MOM
LOOKED AT DAD.

"SO I GUESS
THERE'S HOPE
FOR ALL OF US."

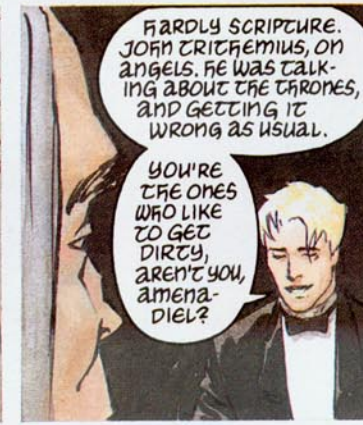




"WHOSE FEET MAY NOT TOUCH THE GROUND, NOR ANY FOULNESS STAIN THEIR GARMENTS, FOR THEY ARE OF THE SEVENTH SPHERE WHICH IS ABOVE CORRUPTION."

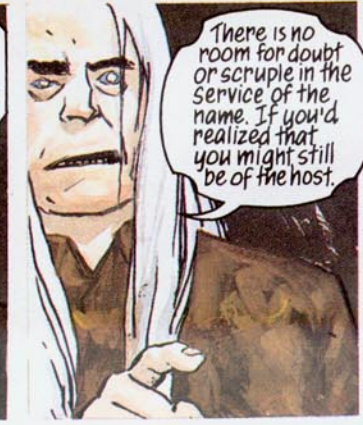


The devil can cite scripture for his purpose. Good day to you, Lucifer Morningstar.



FARDLY SCRIPTURE. JOHN TRITHEMIUS, ON ANGELS. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE THRONES, AND GETTING IT WRONG AS USUAL.

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO LIKE TO GET DIRTY, AREN'T YOU, AMENADIEL?



There is no room for doubt or scruple in the service of the name. If you'd realized that you might still be of the host.



I SHOULD SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I FIND THIS VISITATION BOTH IRKSOME AND UNWELCOME. I AM NO LONGER FELL'S RULER AND YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH ME.



And how are you finding your retirement, Prince of the East?



RESTFUL.





I would have thought you'd be bored. It's difficult to let go of power when you've been used to exercising it.

To settle down and grow roses up the door.

AND YET HERE I AM.



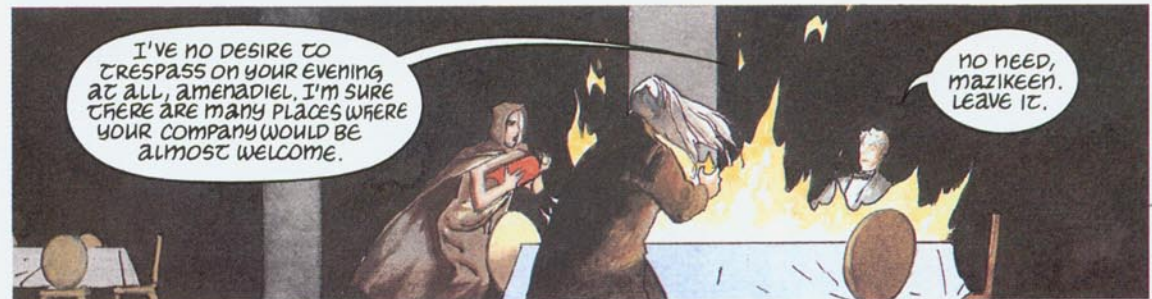
AND THE OLD FIRM IS IN NEW HANDS. AND THE WORLD GOES ON.



THAT'S AN EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD JANNEAU ARMAGNAC. IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE GOING TO WASTE IT ON MELODRAMA I'D HAVE GIVEN YOU THE '78.

The world is on fire, Lucifer Morningstar. I wanted to make that point forcefully.

Otherwise we could squander the whole evening in stale repartee.



I'VE NO DESIRE TO TRESPASS ON YOUR EVENING AT ALL, AMENADIEL. I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY PLACES WHERE YOUR COMPANY WOULD BE ALMOST WELCOME.

NO NEED, MAZIKEEN. LEAVE IT.



I am to place a proposition before you. Against my will. Against my judgment. Knowing you to be the king of liars and traitors.

Say **NO** right now and you will spare me considerable effort.



There is a power at work on Earth which is granting human wishes.

SO? THERE ARE **many** SUCH. THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGENCIES THAT TRAFFIC IN THAT WAY.



Ah, but this is different. For one thing, it is new. For another, it is **growing** by increments. We have collated examples.



SHOULDN'T THIS BE ON MICROFILM?



The instances so far are trivial--treasures found in old mattresses, unexpected sexual encounters of surprising sweetness, the sudden death of rich relatives. But you know the nature of human desire.

They'll rip each other apart like rats in a sack.



WHY ME?

Because heaven wishes neither to intervene directly in this nor to stand by and let it happen.

You represent a third option. I am told that you will name your price.

THAT I MAY NAME MY PRICE OR THAT I WILL NAME IT?

YOU'D THINK PART OF OMNISCIENCE WOULD BE KNOWING WHEN TO STOP.

BUT STILL...

Will.

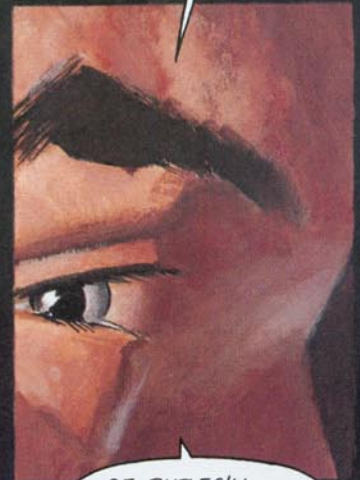


LIVING HERE AMONG THEM-- WATCHING THEM LIVE AND DIE AND BUILD AND BREAK-- YOU CAN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT HOW IMPERMANENT EVERYTHING IS IN THIS UNIVERSE. NOTHING REALLY WORKMAN-LIKE. NOTHING MADE TO LAST.

A LETTER OF PASSAGE.

Your pardon?

SAY THAT MY PRICE IS A LETTER OF PASSAGE.



AF, BUT HE'LL ALREADY KNOW THAT, WON'T HE?



I do not grasp your meaning.

IT'S NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU SHOULD.

THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THE SKY, THAT'S ALL. I'M SURE THEY'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT SOME DAY. SOME BIG, FAIRY ARCHANGEL WILL SIT YOU ON HIS LAP AND GIVE YOU THE TALK.



Your mockery demeans you. You have accepted the commission.

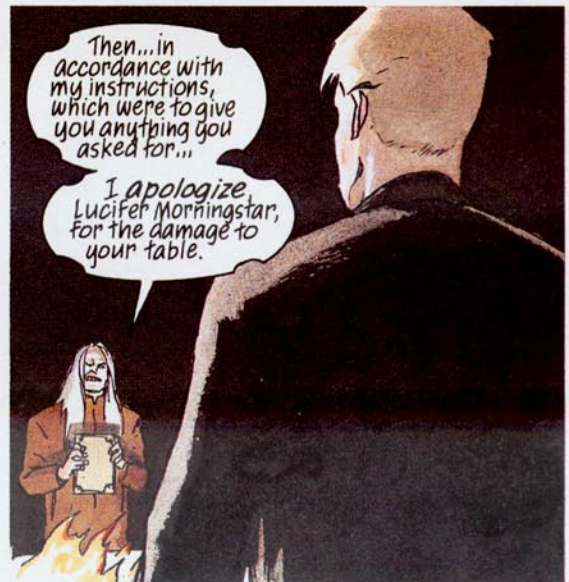
Do you require anything else of me before I leave?



YES. I'D LIKE AN APOLOGY.

An ap...?

FOR THE DAMAGE YOU CAUSED TO THE TABLE.

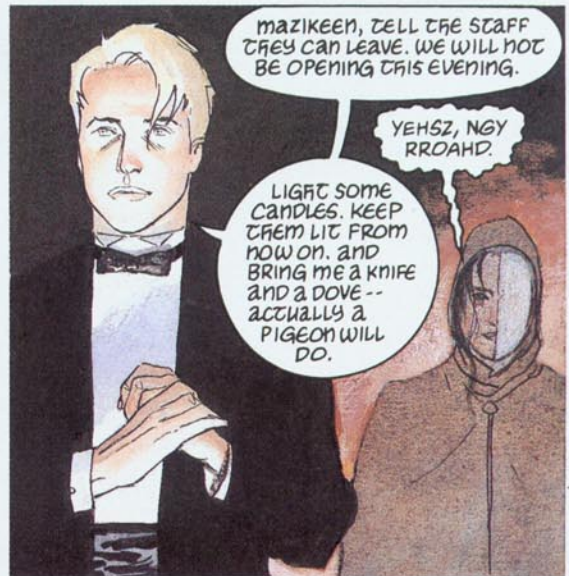


Then...in accordance with my instructions, which were to give you anything you asked for...

I apologize, Lucifer Morningstar, for the damage to your table.



GOODBYE, AMENADIEL.



MAZIKEEN, TELL THE STAFF THEY CAN LEAVE. WE WILL NOT BE OPENING THIS EVENING.

YHSZ, NGY RROAHD.

LIGHT SOME CANDLES. KEEP THEM LIT FROM NOW ON. AND BRING ME A KNIFE AND A DOVE -- ACTUALLY A PIGEON WILL DO.



OF WHERE ARE YOU GOING... SAID THE FALSE KNIGHT ON THE ROAD..



NGY RROAHD, HRRALL I NGRING HEOU A BOWL TO CASZSZ GHE VHLOOD?

TFANK YOU, MAZIKEEN. NO, THE BIRD'S NOT FOR SACRIFICE. WHO WOULD I SACRIFICE IT TO?



MEMSOPH IS THE RUDE OF FINDING. IN THIS WAY THE KNIFE BECOMES A LODESTONE.



I MAY NOT KNOW WHERE I'M GOING, BUT I SEE NO REASON TO TRAVEL BLIND.



NOW YOU. DON'T BE SO FRIGHTENED. I'M NOT HUNGRY.



I'LL JUST TROUBLE YOU FOR A LOAN OF THESE. I MAY NEED TO FLY BEFORE THIS BUSINESS IS DONE WITH, AND I FORFEITED MY OWN WINGS SOME TIME SINCE.



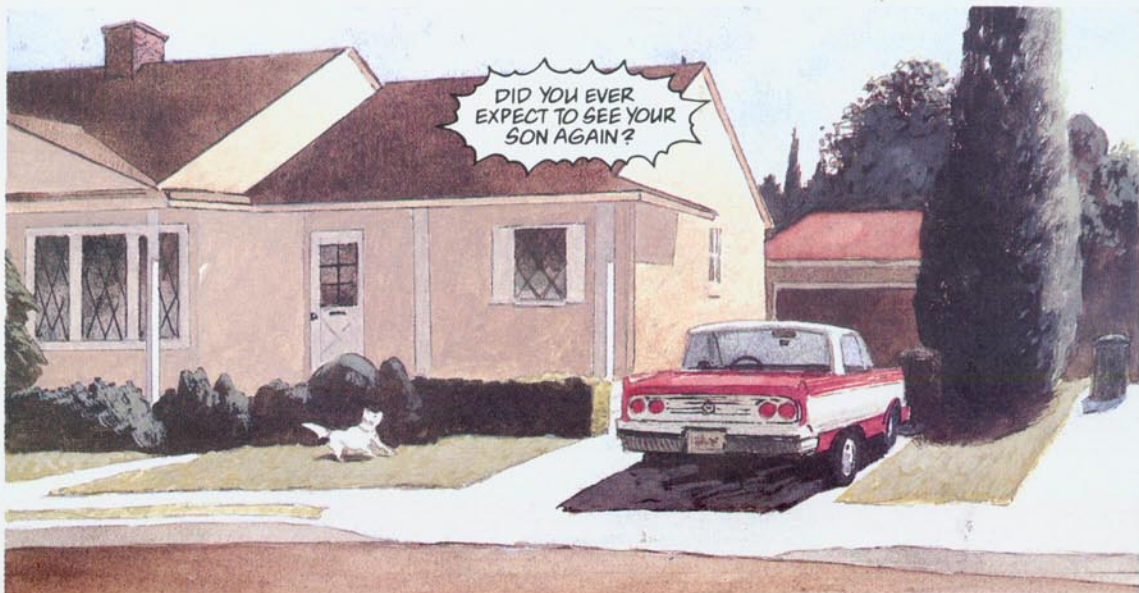
mazikeen.

YEHSZ, NGY RROAHD.

MY COAT, PLEASE. AND BRING ME MY OTHER BOTTLE. THE ONE ON THE RIGHT.



I'M GOING OUT.



DID YOU EVER EXPECT TO SEE YOUR SON AGAIN?



THERE YOU GO, SLUGGER. YOU CLEANED OUT THE WHOLE BOWL.

YOU LIKE THE CHOCOLATE ONE BEST, DON'T YOU?

NO, I... I STOPPED HOPING WHEN I SAW THE STROLLER WAS GONE. IT'S JUST A MIRACLE, THAT'S ALL.



I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU AT THE WINDOW HERE. YOU CAN WATCH THOSE KIDS PLAYING.

YOU HEAR 'EM SHOUTING? NOISY LITTLE SHITHEADS.



IT'S FUNNY. YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HER, BUT SHE NEVER STOPPED TALKING. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I FEEL LIKE I KNOW WHAT YOUR VOICE WOULD SOUND LIKE.



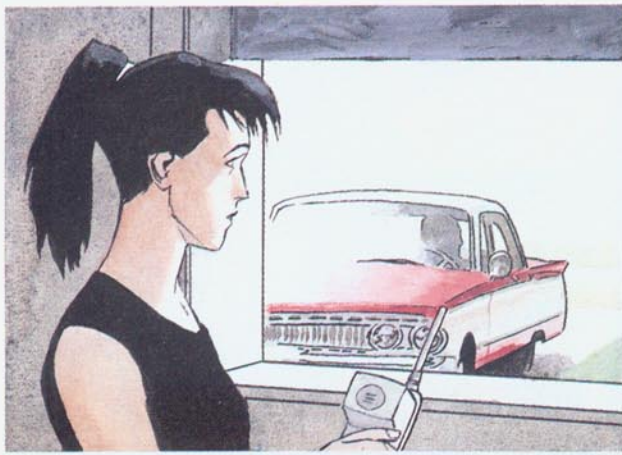
ANYWAY, I'M GONNA BE BACK AROUND ELEVEN. YOU'LL BE ASLEEP THEN, SO I'LL SEE YOU IN THE A.M.



I'M OUTTA HERE. TALK TO 'IM A BIT, WILL YOU, FLOWER?

OKAY, DAD.

AND MOVE 'IM IN THE CHAIR ONCE IN A WHILE TO STOP 'IM GETTING SORE. SEE YOU LATER.



OKAY, LINDA. YOU'RE CLEAR TO COMMENCE APPROACH.

I'M HEARING YOU, RED LEADER. YOU WANT PRETZELS?

NAH, JUST CORN CHIPS.



I'M MOVING YOU INTO YOUR ROOM, PAUL. IT'LL BE NICE AND QUIET THERE.



LOOK, YOU'VE GOT TEDDY AND RABBIT AND SOPHIE.

OKAY?



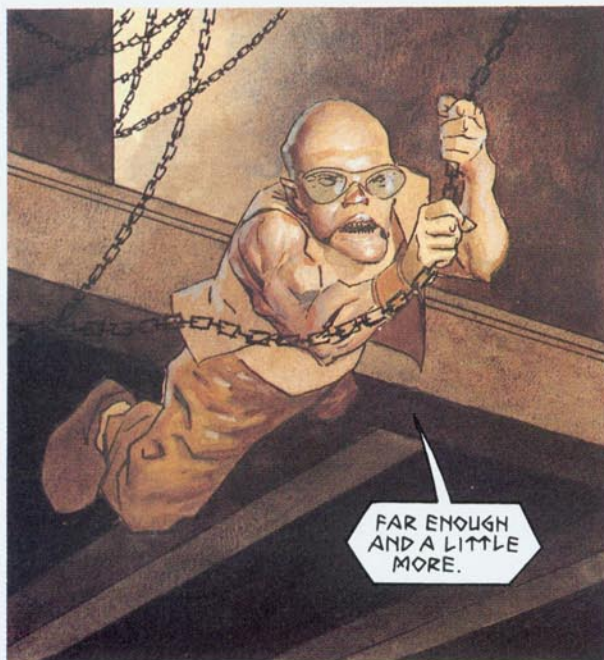
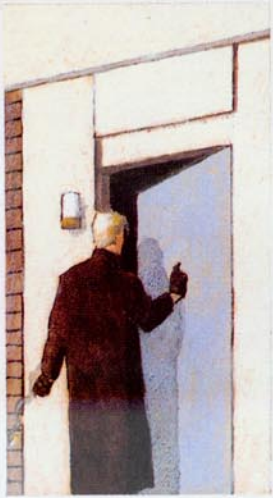
JUST AS WELL. YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE ARLENE DIAZ.

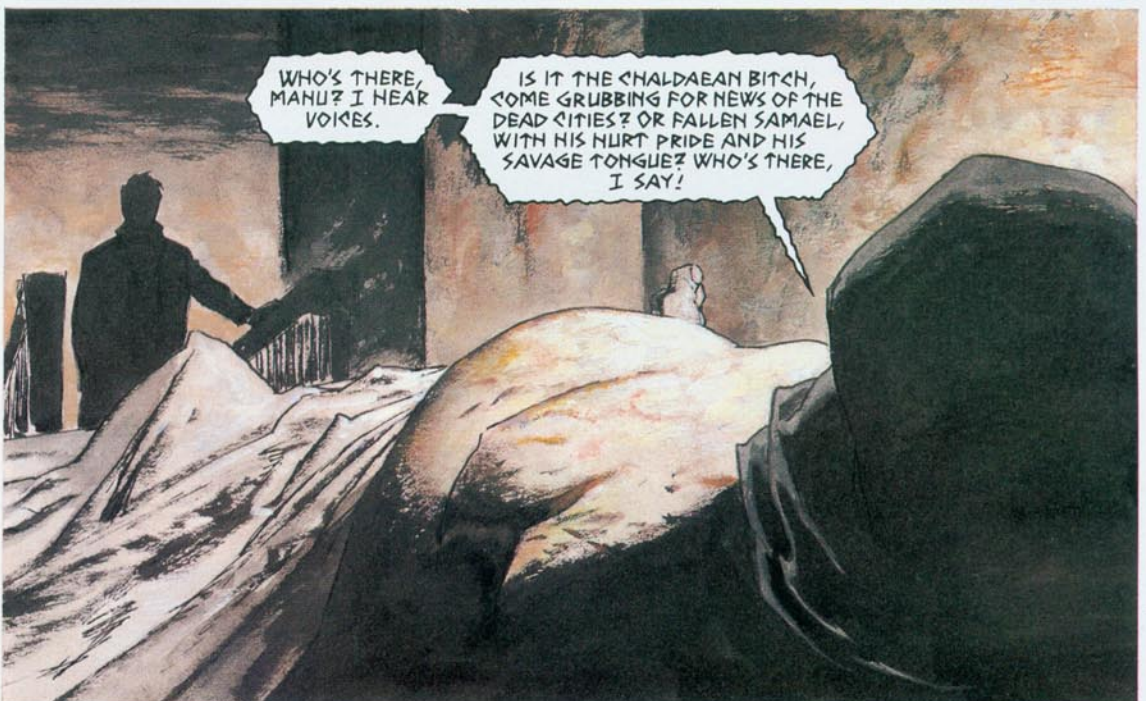
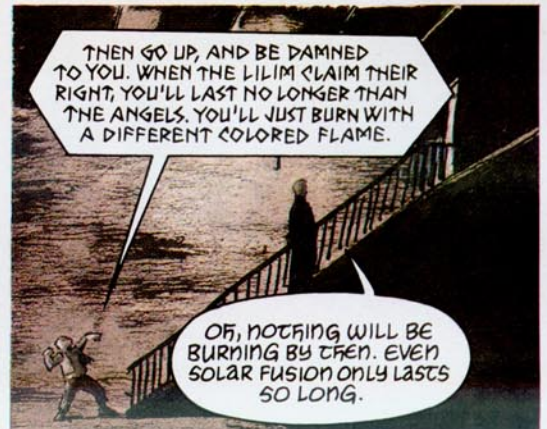
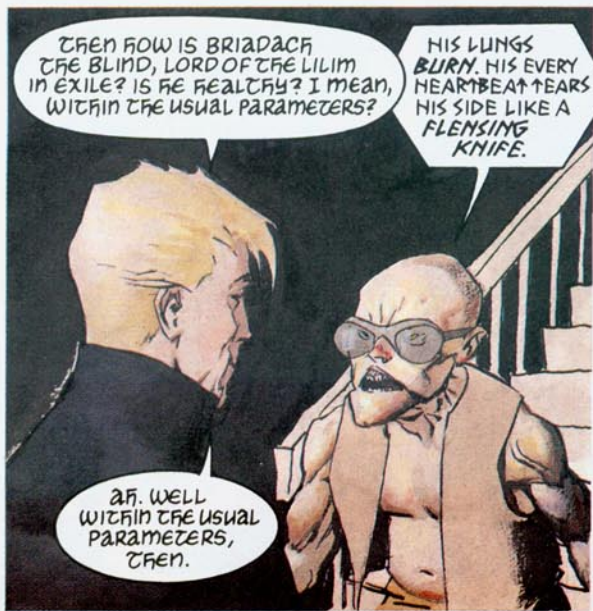
GUY IN ROWLEYS DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT MY I.D.

THAT'S WHAT LETS ME SLEEP AT NIGHT. HERE, RACHEL...



...GET HAPPY.







NOBODY'S CALLED ME SAMAEI FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. IT'S LIKE SOMEONE USING YOUR MAIDEN NAME.

LORD LUCIFER!

BRIADACH, STILL SICK, I SEE.



SICK? THAT'S A SHALLOW WORD TO MEASURE THE FATHOMS OF MY SUFFERING. MY LORD, IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THAT HEALING WATER ABOUT YOU I'LL TAKE IT NOW AND PAY YOU IN SOME LITTLE SPACE.



BUT IT DULLS YOUR EYES.

DULLS MY EYES! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I SEE. YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW MUCH BLINDNESS HEAVEN HAS ALLOWED TO ME!



"THE SEED AND THE ROT." THERE'S NO NEED TO REMIND ME OF YOUR CURSE. DO YOU THINK THIS IS A SOCIAL CALL?

IF YOU WANT THE LETTÉ WATER, DEMON, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK FOR IT. THE SAME RULES AS ALWAYS.



ASK ME THEN, BUT IN HELL'S NAME BE BRIEF! A BIRTH AND A DEATH. I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MOMENTS FOR TWO SIPS OF OBLIVION.

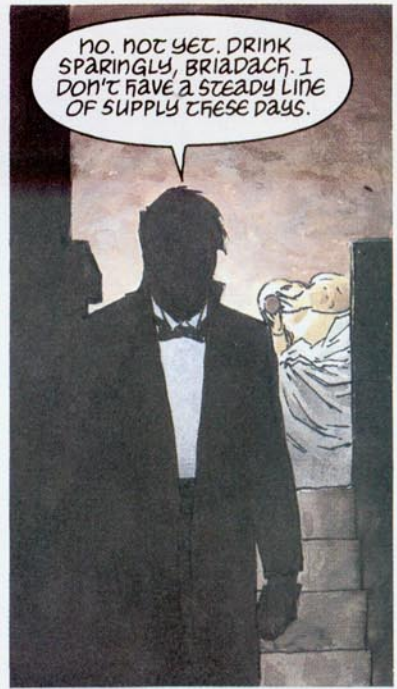
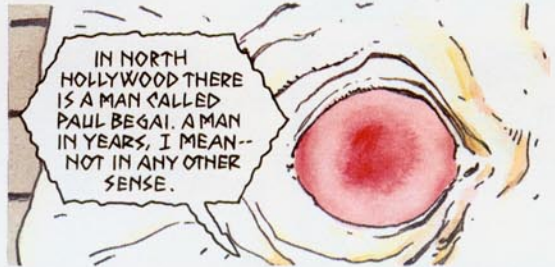
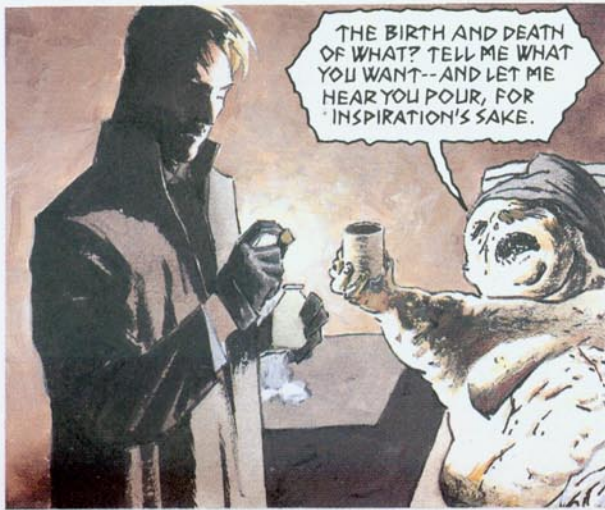
ONE moment.



IT WILL BE BOTH, YOU SEE.



a BIRTH and a DEATH.



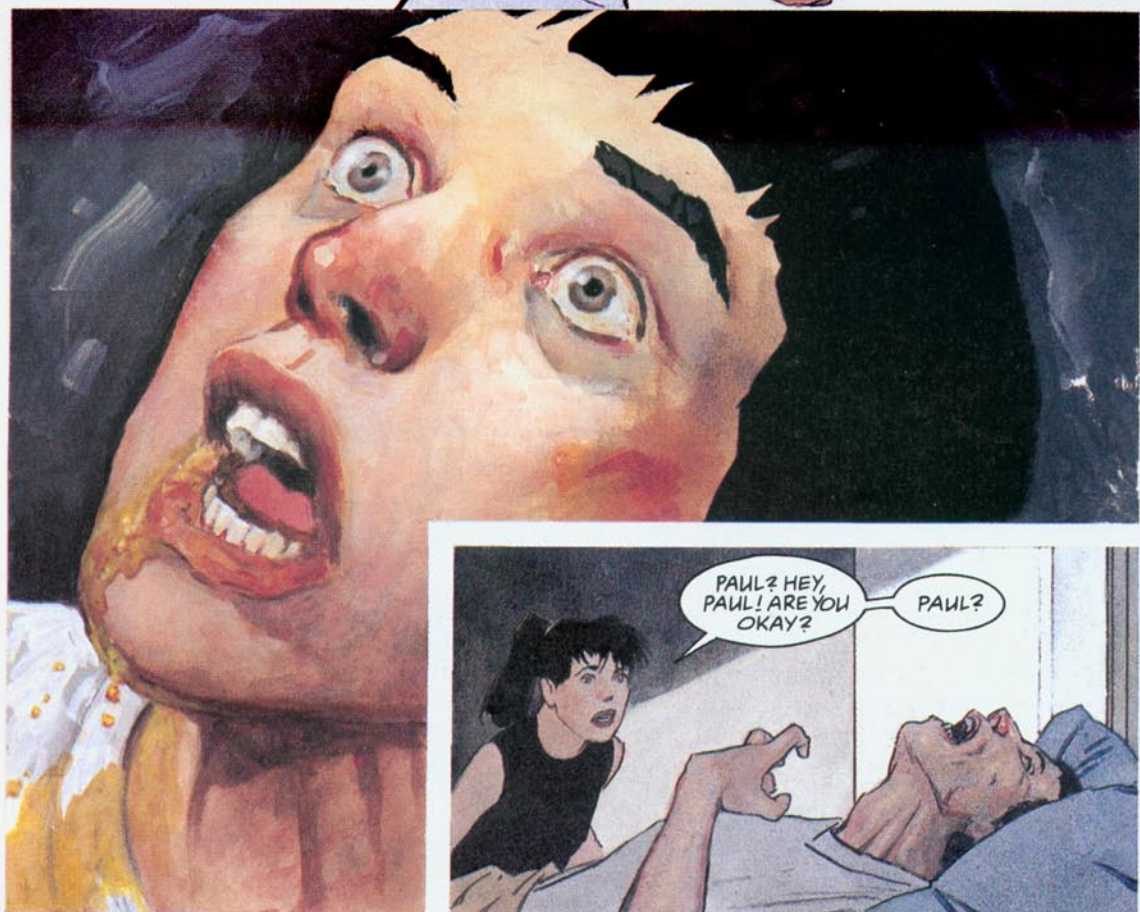


KRAASH!

HEY, WHAT WAS THAT? IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE HERE?

SHIT. JUST MY BROTHER. GIVE ME A SECOND, GUYS.







OH MY GOD!
PAUL, PLEASE!
DON'T DO THIS TO
ME! BREATHE!
PLEASE BREATHE!



EXCUSE ME,
I'D LIKE TO EXAMINE
FILM.

WH...? WHO
ARE YOU? WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?



CURIOUS. THIS WAS
A MORE COMPLEX TRANS-
ACTION THAN I THOUGHT.

AN EXCHANGE --
A TWO-WAY FLOW.
POWER WAS EXPENDED
HERE, BUT POWER
WAS GENERATED
TOO.



A VELLEITY.
SOME MORON
HAS CREATED
A VELLEITY.

LISTEN, ARE
YOU SOME KIND
OF DOCTOR? ARE
YOU GONNA ... ARE
YOU GONNA
RESUSCITATE
HIM?

BUT HE
SAID THAT
THE POWER
LINGERED
HERE...



COULD HE TALK?

WHAT?

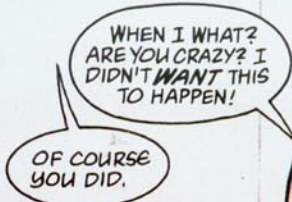
YOUR
BROTHER.
COULD HE
TALK?



NO. HE JUST...
HE JUST MADE NOISES,
YOU KNOW.



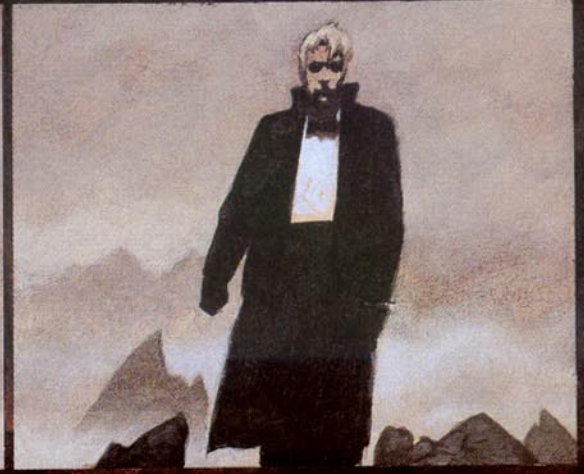
YOUR DESIRE. WHEN YOU WISHED FIM DEAD.



WHEN I WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY? I DIDN'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN!

OF COURSE YOU DID.





HOME
AGAIN, HOME
AGAIN.

JIGGETTY
JIG.

TO BE CONTINUED.