



SUGGESTED
FOR MATURE
READERS

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the
SANDMAN
CONVERGENCE™

w r i t t e n b y
NEIL GAIMAN
i l l u s t r a t e d b y
JILL THOMPSON
VINCE LOCKE



OBI



...AND THEN THE BABY BEAR SAID "SOMEONE'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY BED--AND SHE'S STILL THERE!"

AND GOLDILOCKS, WELL, SHE WOKE UP, AND SHE JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW, AND DIDN'T STOP RUNNING UNTIL SHE GOT HOME.

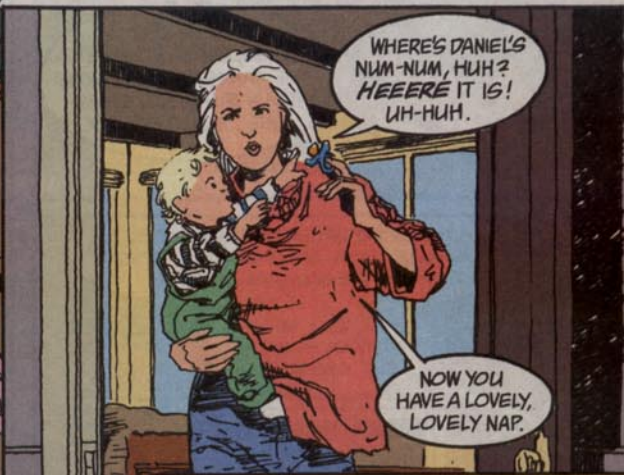
AND THAT IS THE END OF THE STORY. THERE.



DID YOU LIKE THAT, DANIEL? DID YOU? DID YOU LIKE IT?

NOW, YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

YOU GOT IT, BABYCAKES. TIME FOR YOUR NAP.

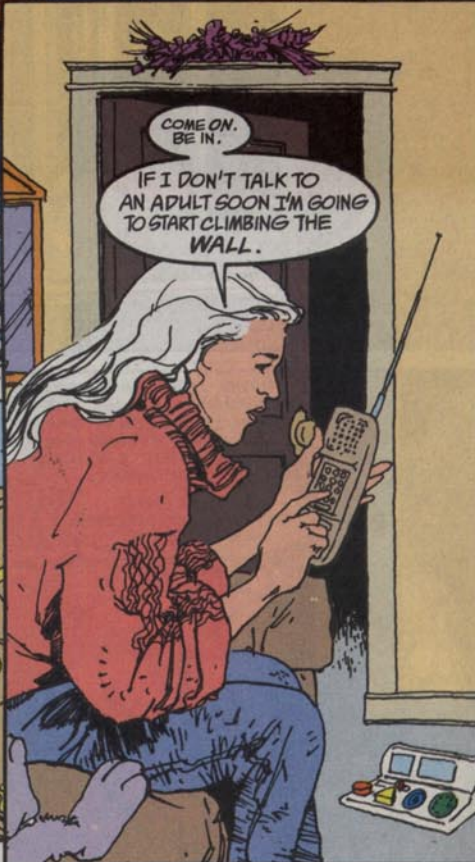


WHERE'S DANIEL'S NUM-NUM, HUH? HEEREER IT IS! UH-HUH.

NOW YOU HAVE A LOVELY, LOVELY NAP.

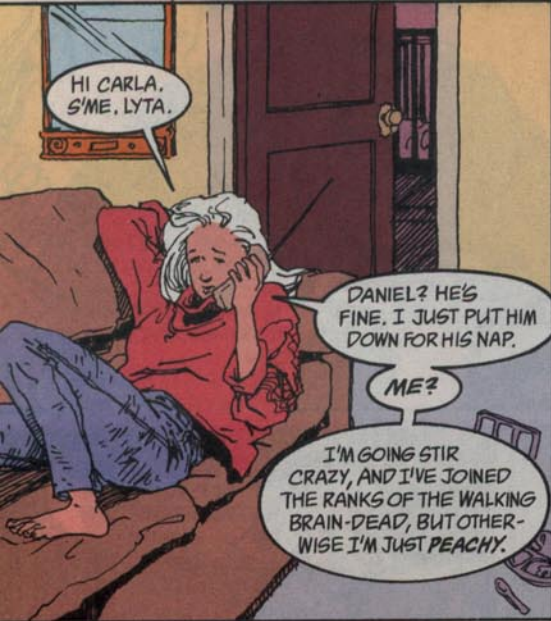


DREAM GOOD DREAMS, AND MOMMA WILL COME AND GET YOU WHEN YOU WAKE UP. OKAY, BABY?



COME ON. BE IN.

IF I DON'T TALK TO AN ADULT SOON I'M GOING TO START CLIMBING THE WALL.



HI CARLA.
S'ME. LYTA.

DANIEL? HE'S FINE. I JUST PUT HIM DOWN FOR HIS NAP.

ME?

I'M GOING STIR CRAZY, AND I'VE JOINED THE RANKS OF THE WALKING BRAIN-DEAD, BUT OTHERWISE I'M JUST PEACHY.



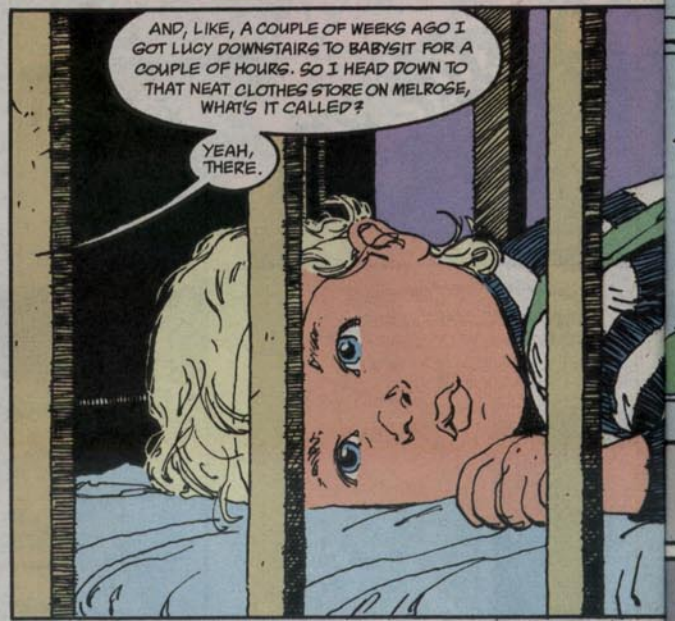
NO, I'VE GONE OUT A COUPLE OF TIMES IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

LAST WEEK I WENT OUT TO DINNER WITH MY LAWYER AND HIS WIFE. YOU REMEMBER BILL AND TRISH? YEAH, THAT'S THEM. SO YOU KNOW WHAT I DID? WELL, BILL ORDERS A STEAK.



SO WHEN THE WAITER BRINGS THE FOOD TO THE TABLE, I PULL HIS PLATE OVER AND START CUTTING HIS STEAK UP REALLY SMALL.

WELL, THEY WERE PRETTY NICE ABOUT IT, BUT SHEESH...



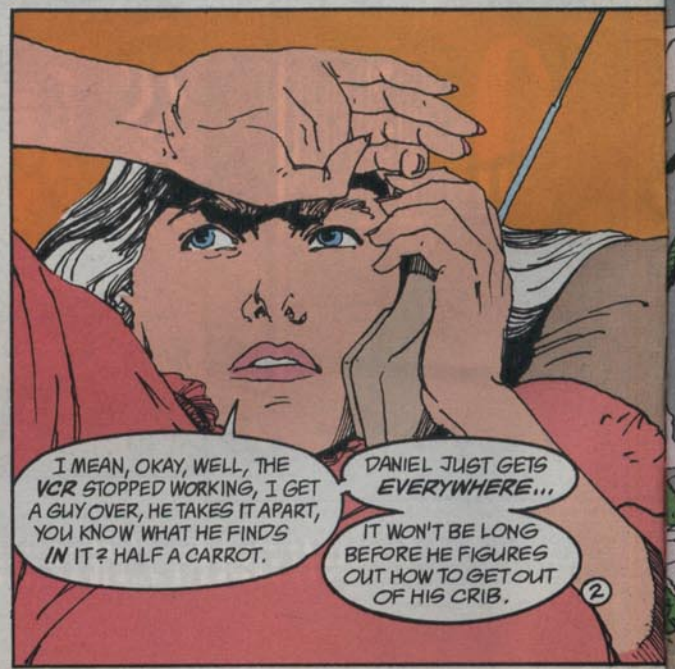
AND, LIKE, A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO I GOT LUCY DOWNSTAIRS TO BABYSIT FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS. SO I HEAD DOWN TO THAT NEAT CLOTHES STORE ON MELROSE, WHAT'S IT CALLED?

YEAH, THERE.



ANYWAY, I HEAR A SIREN, SO I TURN AROUND AND YELL "LOOK! FIRE TRUCK!" I MEAN, I'M THERE ON MY OWN. AND THE WHOLE STORE'S STARING AT ME, LIKE WHO IS THIS NUT? I FELT SUCH A TOTAL DWEBB.

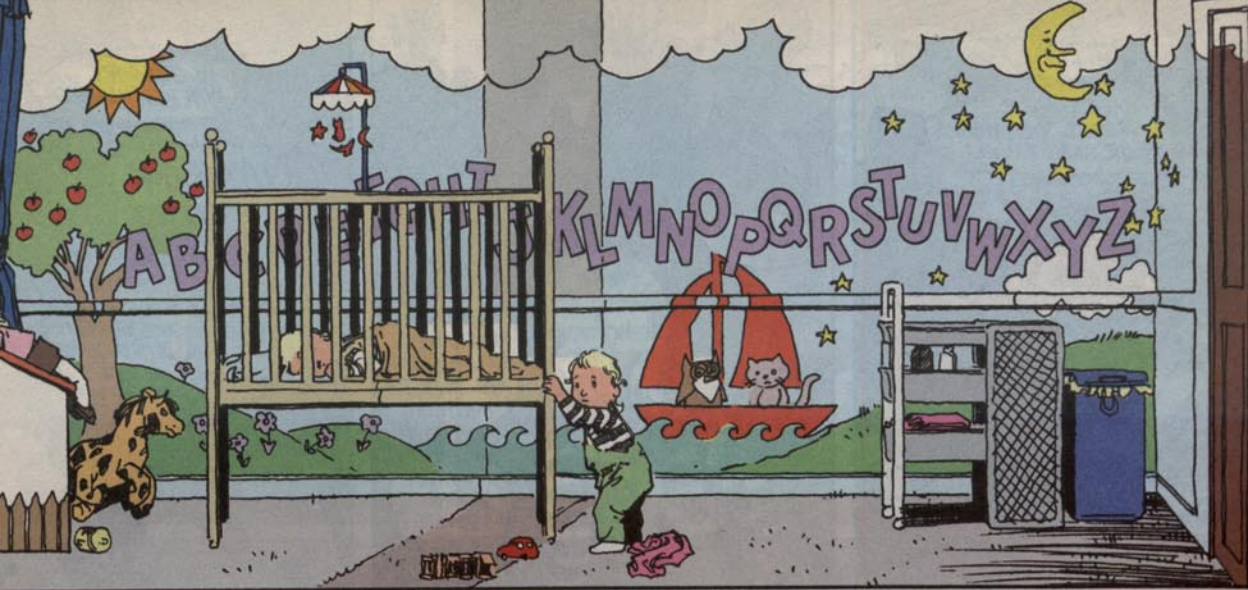
NO. I THINK I KIND OF PREFERRED IT BEFORE HE WAS WALKING.



I MEAN, OKAY, WELL, THE VCR STOPPED WORKING, I GET A GUY OVER, HE TAKES IT APART, YOU KNOW WHAT HE FINDS IN IT? HALF A CARROT.

DANIEL JUST GETS EVERYWHERE...

IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE FIGURES OUT HOW TO GET OUT OF HIS CRIB.







I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, YOU ALWAYS HAVE. AS LONG AS WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER. AND RULES? HEY, THIS PLACE IS FULL OF MORE RULES THAN YOU COULD SHAKE A STICK AT.

SOMETIMES I THINK HE MAKES THEM UP AS HE GOES ALONG.



NO. HE MADE THEM A VERY LONG TIME AGO. IT'S PART OF HIS NATURE. MAKING RULES.

UP YOU COME, CHILD.



WHAT IS HE? I THOUGHT HE WAS A DREAM, AT FIRST. BUT HE DOESN'T TALK.

NO, HE'S A HUMAN CHILD.

THE PARLIAMENT OF ROOKS

WRITTEN BY NEIL GAIMAN
PENCILLED BY JILL THOMPSON
INKED BY VINCE LOCKE
COLORED BY DANIEL VOZZO
LETTERED BY TODD KLEIN
EDITED BY KAREN BERGER
ASSISTED DUTIFULLY BY ALISA KWINNEY



YEAH? SO WHAT'S HIS STORY?

SANOMAN

FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED BY GAIMAN, DRINGENBERG & KIETH.

HIS, UH, HIS UH, HM, HIS NAME IS DANIEL.

WUHWON'T YOU ALL UH CUHCOME IN? THIS UH, IS INDEED AN UM. HM. HONOR.





WER WOULD UM ANYBODY CUH CARE FOR, UH, REFRESHMENTS?

THAT WOULD BE VERY NICE. THANK YOU. TEA, PLEASE. WITH LEMON.

I DON'T DRINK TEA. BUT I'LL TAKE A SAUCER OF WATER. AND IF YOU GOT ANYTHING FOR ME TO EAT, HEY, I WOULDN'T SAY NO.



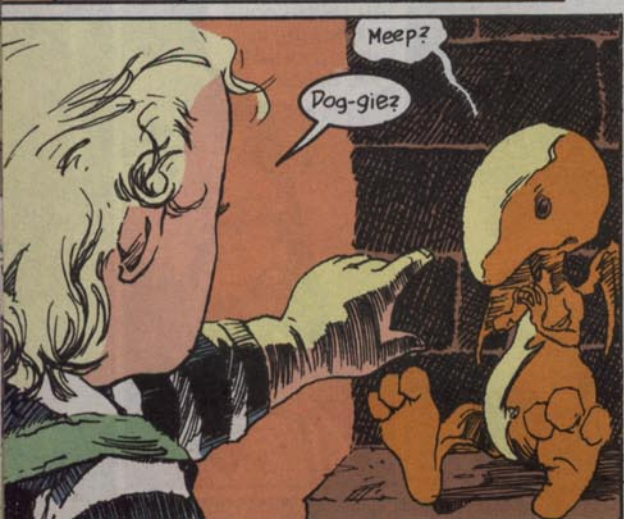
THERE, UH, MUH-MAY BE A DEAD RAT OR TWO, HM, LEFT DOWNSTAIRS.

WE, UH, WELL, UH, HM, WE'VE GUH GOT SOMETHING NASTY IN THE BASEMENT, BUT HE UH MM ALWAYS KERKER KILLS MORE THAN HE CAN EAT. EYES TOO BLUBBIG FOR HIS, UM, UH... WHATEVER...



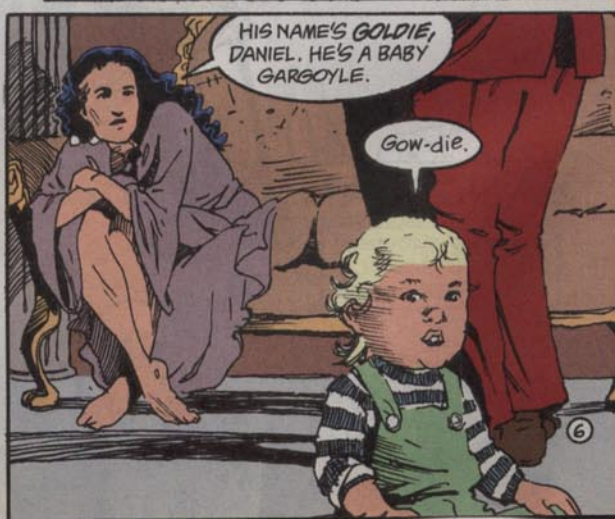
YEAH, A RAT WOULD BE GREAT. WITH THE EYES IN FOR PREFERENCE...

I'LL UH SUHSEE WHAT WE CAN HM DO.



Meep?

Dog-giez?



HIS NAME'S GOLDIE, DANIEL. HE'S A BABY GARGOYLE.

Gow-die.

IT'S WEIRD,
BEING A RAVEN.

I MEAN, YOU REALLY ARE
A RAVEN, WHEN YOU'RE A RAVEN.
WHEN HE GAVE ME THE OPTION OF
STAYING WITH YOU AS A BIG BLACK
BIRD OR MOVING ON, I SUPPOSE
I FIGURED I'D BE A MAN IN A
RAVEN'S BODY.

NOPE. IT DON'T
WORK LIKE THAT. I'M A
RAVEN. ONE OF THE
CORVIDAE FAMILY.



HELL, I SUPPOSE IT COULD
BE WORSE. I COULD HAVE BEEN
A CROW. I MEAN, THEY'RE DUMB AS
SHIT, AND THEY LIE A LOT.

YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR
FRIENDS, MY LOVE. YOU
CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR
FAMILY.

JACKDAWS ARE
OKAY, THOUGH.

AND ROOKS
ARE JUST
WEIRD.

MAGPIES
ARE COOL. I MEAN,
THEY'VE GOT THEIR
OWN COUNTING
RHYME. YOU EVER
HEAR IT? ONE
FOR SORROW,
TWO FOR JOY--

THREE FOR
A GIRL, FOUR FOR
A BOY...

FIVE FOR
SILVER, SIX
FOR GOLD...

AND SUHSEVEN FOR
A SECRET, NEVER TO BE
TUHTOLD. IT'S HM QUITE
TRUE, YOU KNOW.



HUWHURE YOU ARE.
A RUHRAT. IT'S A BIT
RUHROTTEN, I'M
AFRAID.

ND PROBLEM. THEY
TASTE BETTER THAT WAY.
GIVES THEM SOME FLAVOR.





THANK YOU, ABEL.

SQUERRONK.

HEY, ABEL, TERRIFIC RAT.



H.M. UH. SO, MATTHEW. ERUH HOW'S LORD MUHMORPHEUS?

I'M NOT SURE. I MEAN, THEY'VE BEEN PRETTY INSEPARABLE FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS. I'VE HARDLY SEEN HIM. EITHER THEY'RE IN HIS QUARTERS, OR GOING FOR LONG WALKS, HAND IN HAND.

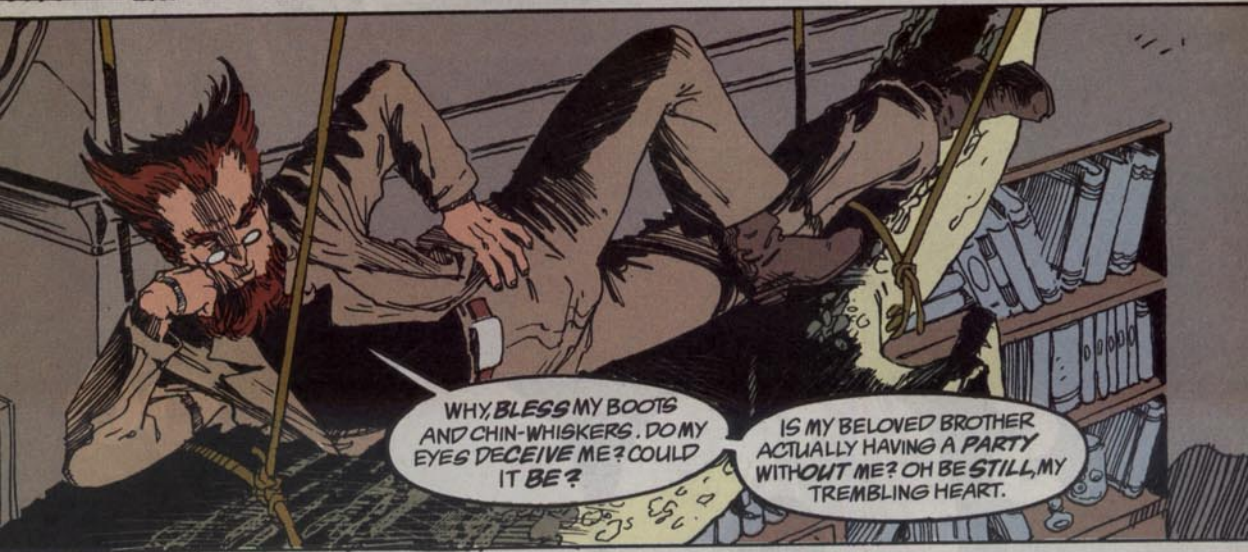


OH DEAR.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

SHE'S NOT REALLY HIS TYPE, IS SHE?

I DIDN'T THINK HE HAD A TYPE.



WHY, BLESS MY BOOTS AND CHIN-WHISKERS. DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? COULD IT BE?

IS MY BELOVED BROTHER ACTUALLY HAVING A PARTY WITHOUT ME? OH BE STILL, MY TREMBLING HEART.



CUHCUHCUHCAIN? NUHNUHNUHNO NUHNOTATALL. WUHWE WERE JUH-JUST SUHSAYING HOW NUHNICE IT WOULD BUHBE IF YUHYOU WERE HERE...



YOU'RE NOT EVEN A GOOD LIAR, BARREL-BELLY. WHO'S THE BRATLING?

HIS NAME'S DANIEL, CAIN. A HUMAN CHILD, OFF-LIMITS. HE'S WITH ME.



A HUMAN CHILD? REALLY? WELL, WELL, WELL...

THREE OLD STORY-TELLERS HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES AN AUDIENCE. WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?



"ROOK: CORVIUS FRUGILEGUS. ALSO A WORD MEANING TO CHEAT OR STEAL. ALSO A PIECE IN CHESS."

"ROOKS ARE THE MOST SOCIAL OF THE CORVIDAE. THEY BUILD NESTS IN ROOKERIES (AN OBSOLETE NAME, INCIDENTALLY, FOR A GHETTO OF THIEVES AND WHORES), FOR A GHETTO OF THIEVES AND WHORES), MANY HUNDREDS OF BIRDS TO A TREE."

"THEY HAVE ENOUGH OF A LANGUAGE THAT EVEN HUMANS CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR DANGER CALLS AND THEIR ALL-CLEAR CALLS. THEY CAN IMITATE HUMAN SPEECH."

"BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE: THE MYSTERY."

"IT'S A MYSTERY FROM WHICH WE DERIVE THE COLLECTIVE NOUN WE USE FOR THESE BIRDS. LIKE A MURDER OF CROWS, A TIDING OF MAGPIES, AN UNKINDNESS OF RAVENS..."

"A PARLIAMENT OF ROOKS."

"YOU'LL GET A FIELD. EMPTY. SUDDENLY THE SKY IS BLACK WITH BIRDS. AND THEY FALL LIKE A RAGGED BLACK RAIN ONTO A FIELD, COVERING IT COMPLETELY. OR ALMOST COMPLETELY."

"IN THE CENTER OF THE FIELD, THERE'S AN EMPTY SPACE. AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT SPACE SITS ONE LONE ROOK."

"IT CAWS AND CALLS, AND CAWS SOME MORE."

"TEN THOUSAND LITTLE EYES STARE AT IT, UNFLINCHING. SOMETIMES THEY CALL OUT, AS IF THEY'RE ASKING QUESTIONS. IT'S LIKE A PARLIAMENT. IT'S LIKE A TRIAL."

"THE LONE ROOK CONTINUES TO CAW. AND THE OTHERS WAIT."

"THIS CAN GO ON FOR HOURS. FROM DAWN TILL NEAR DUSK."

"YEAH? THEN WHAT HAPPENS?"

"ONE OF TWO THINGS..."



"ON SOME SIGNAL-- WHICH HUMAN OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY-- EITHER THE BIRDS TAKE WING AS ONE, LEAVING THE LONE ROOK ALONE IN THE FIELD..."

"...OR, AGAIN AS ONE, THEY FALL ON THE BIRD, AND PECK IT TO DEATH."

"THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS."



WHY?

IT'S A MYSTERY, ISN'T IT?

NOW, THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE NEVER DONE. EH, BROTHER GULLY-GUTS? PECKED YOU TO DEATH.



THERE. THAT WAS MINE. NOW, WHO'S NEXT? YOU, MEAT BOY?

NUHNUH-NUHNUHNUH-NUHNUHCUH-CUH...



NO, HE'S USELESS FOR NOW. IT'LL HAVE TO BE YOU, MOTHER.

I'M NOT YOUR MOTHER, CAIN.

YOU'RE EVERYBODY'S MOTHER.

THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION.



BUT I DON'T TELL STORIES. NOT ANY MORE.

NOT EVEN TO LITTLE CHILDREN? LITTLE HUMAN CHILDREN? A LITTLE SON OF ADAM?

I DON'T HAVE ANY STORIES.

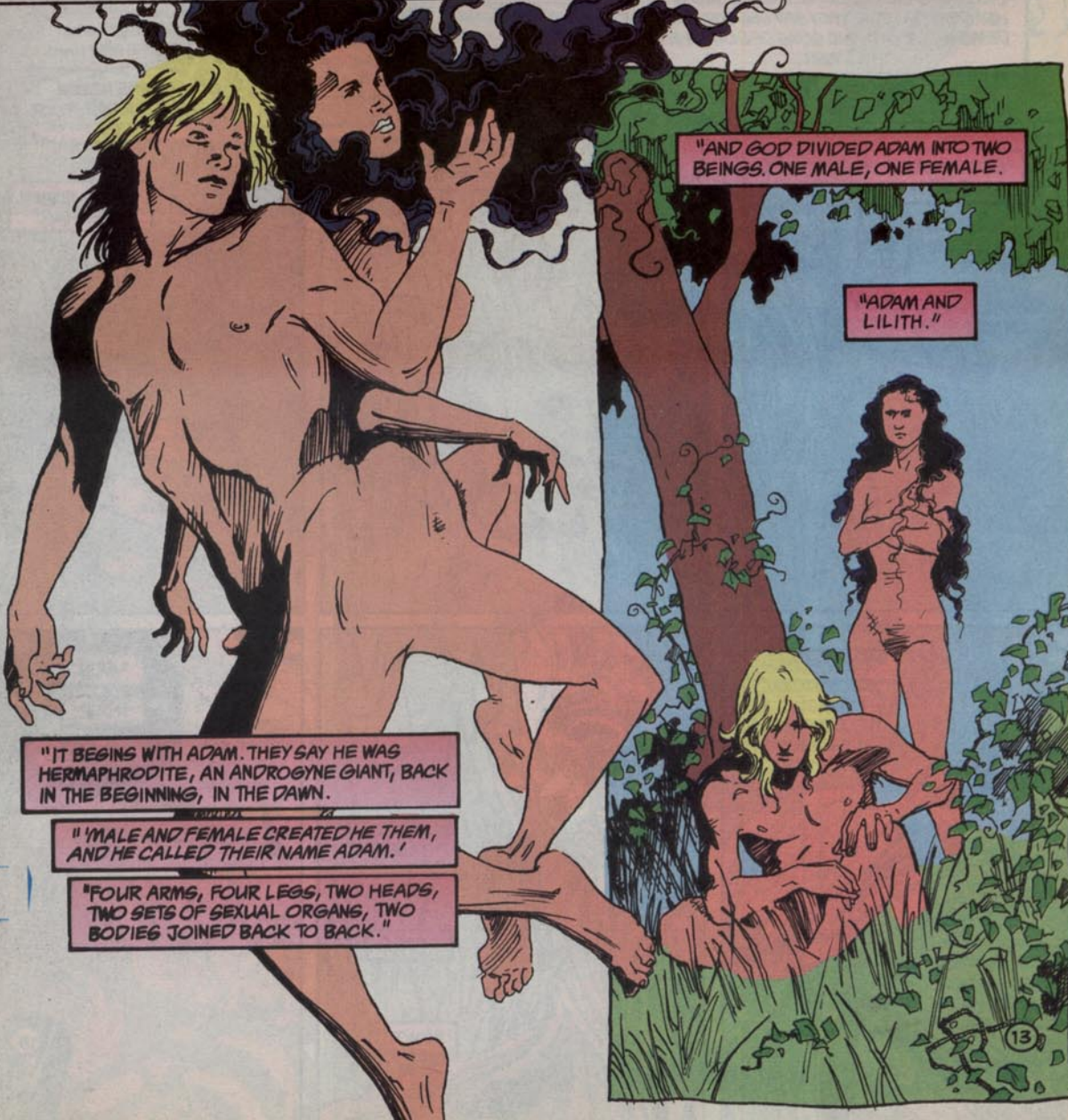
EVERYBODY HAS ONE STORY.

YES. YES, THEY DO...

OKAY. ADAM HAD THREE WIVES.

HUH? THREE?

SURE. IT'S NOT A STORY THEY TELL MUCH ANY MORE, MATTHEW. IT'S AN OLD STORY...



"AND GOD DIVIDED ADAM INTO TWO BEINGS. ONE MALE, ONE FEMALE.

"ADAM AND LILITH."

"IT BEGINS WITH ADAM. THEY SAY HE WAS HERMAPHRODITE, AN ANDROGYNE GIANT, BACK IN THE BEGINNING, IN THE DAWN.

"MALE AND FEMALE CREATED HE THEM, AND HE CALLED THEIR NAME ADAM."

"FOUR ARMS, FOUR LEGS, TWO HEADS, TWO SETS OF SEXUAL ORGANS, TWO BODIES JOINED BACK TO BACK."



LILITH WAS ADAM'S FIRST WIFE.



"SHE WAS POWERFUL AND INTELLIGENT. SHE WAS, AFTER ALL, HIM-- A FEMALE HIM. DURING SEX, SHE INSISTED ON CLIMBING ON TOP. A POSITION OF EQUALITY. SUPERIORITY, PERHAPS.

"THAT WAS, PERHAPS, THE FINAL STRAW."



"LILITH WAS EXPELLED FROM EDEN. AND SHE PLANTED HER OWN GARDEN. THEY SAY SHE COUPULATED WITH DEMONS, OR WITH THE SONS OF GOD. SHE HAD MANY CHILDREN.

"ADAM WAS LEFT ALONE."



IT WAS THEN THAT GOD CREATED THE SECOND WIFE.

YEAH? WHAT WAS HER NAME?

OH. SHE NEVER HAD A NAME, POOR THING.



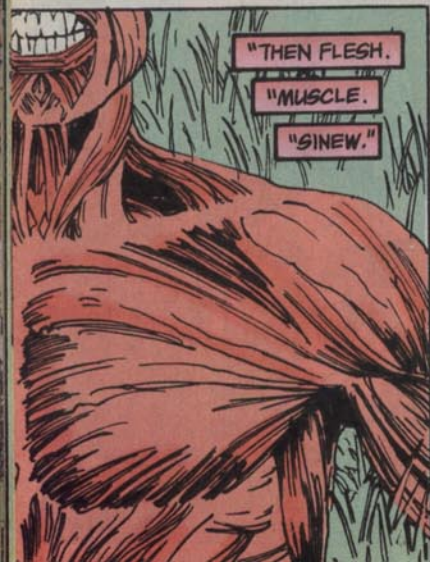
"GOD CREATED HER FOR ADAM, OUT OF NOTHINGNESS."



"BONES FIRST."



"THEN INTERNAL ORGANS."



"THEN FLESH."
"MUSCLE."
"SINEW."



"FAT."
"BILE."
"EYES."
"SNOT."



"SKIN."
"HAIR."
"BREATH..."

"ADAM COULDN'T BEAR TO GO NEAR HER. HE WOULDN'T TOUCH HER."



"'HE SAW HER FULL OF SECRETIONS AND BLOOD.' THAT'S WHAT THE MIDRASH STATES."

"BODIES ARE STRANGE. SOME PEOPLE HAVE REAL PROBLEMS WITH THE STUFF THAT GOES ON INSIDE THEM."



"YOU FIND OUT THAT INSIDE SOMEONE YOU KNOW THERE'S JUST MUCUS AND MEAT AND SLIME AND BONE."

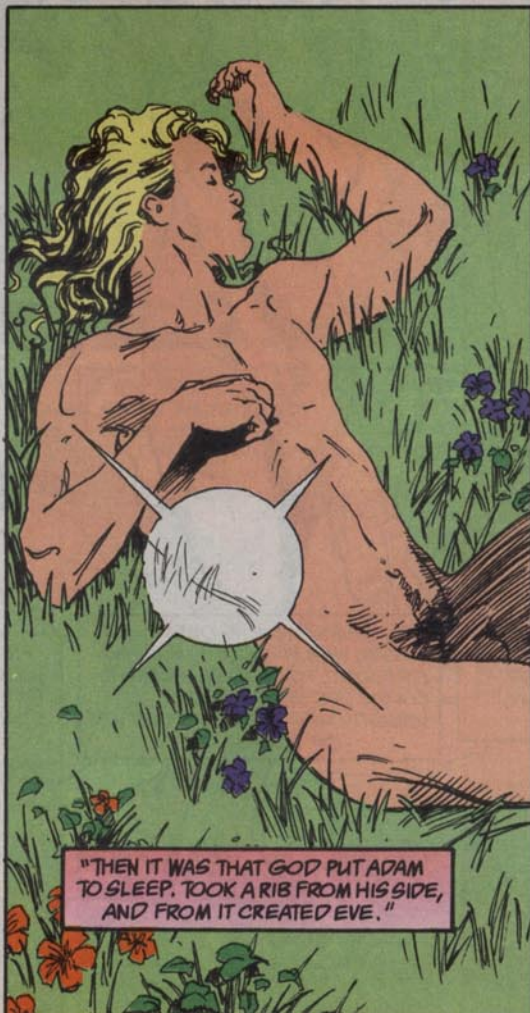
"THEY MENSTRUATE; SALIVATE, DEFECATE AND CRY. YOU KNOW? SOMETIMES IT CAN JUST KILL THE ROMANCE."

"YOU KNOW THAT?"

JESUS.
SO WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER?



OPINIONS DIFFER. MOST SAY GOD DESTROYED HER. A FEW HAVE CLAIMED THAT SHE WAS PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE GARDEN. ALONE.




"THEN IT WAS THAT GOD PUT ADAM TO SLEEP. TOOK A RIB FROM HIS SIDE, AND FROM IT CREATED EVE."



ONLY WHEN SHE WAS COMPLETE DID ADAM WAKE. HE SAW EVE, FINISHED AND PERFECT, AND TOOK HER TO WIFE.

AND THEY ATE OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL; AND, KNOWING GOOD FROM EVIL, THEY WERE NO LONGER IN PARADISE.



"IN GENESIS IT STATES THAT GOD EXPELLED THEM BECAUSE HE WAS SCARED: SCARED THAT, HAVING DISOBEYED HIM ONCE, THEY'D DISOBEY HIM AGAIN-- THEY'D EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE, AND LIVE FOREVER, LIKE GODS. ENDLESS..."



ADAM AND EVE LIVED TOGETHER UNTIL DEATH PARTED THEM.

SOME THERE ARE THAT SAY THIS IS TRUE HISTORY, AND THAT THERE REALLY WAS AN EARTHLY PARADISE, OTHERS CLAIM THE TALE IS MERELY A METAPHOR FOR THE RISE OF CONSCIOUSNESS; THE BITTERSWEET FRUIT OF WISDOM.

"BUT THIS IS TRUE: ADAM HAD THREE WIVES.



"AND LILITH GAVE BIRTH TO THE LILIM, THE CHILDREN OF LILITH, WHO HAVE HAUNTED THE NIGHTS OF THE SONGS OF ADAM EVER SINCE. MOTHER TO SO MANY, THEN AND NOW..."

"AND THE NAMELESS ONE, THE VIRGIN, WAS MADE OF FLESH AND OF BLOOD, FORGOTTEN, PERHAPS COLDLY DESTROYED, AND UNMENTIONED SAVE IN THE DUSTIEST OF BOOKS.

"AND EVE LIVED TO BE OLDER THAN ANY WOMAN; WHO, IN THE END, DID NOT DIE, BUT WHO RETREATED TO HER CAVE, BLAMED FOR SIN. FOR MISERY. FOR THE FALL."



BUT SOME SAY ADAM MARRIED ONLY ONCE, AND THEY SPEAK TRULY TOO.

THAT IS MY STORY FOR YOU, CHILD. REMEMBER IT.



WASN'T THAT NICE?

A LITTLE PIECE OF FAMILY HISTORY. LIKE FLIPPING THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE FAMILY ALBUM. MAKES ME GO ALL SOFT AND GOOEY INSIDE.



JUST LIKE YOU, EH, LACK-WIT?

IF I HAD A SHARP ROCK ON ME, I COULD SHOW THESE NICE PEOPLE JUST HOW SOFT AND GOOEY YOU ARE INSIDE. HEHEHEH...



ANYWAY, NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN. I HAVEN'T THROWN YOU OFF, HAVE I?

MUH-MY TURN?

YES INDEEDY.



I-- I'M NUNOT HM, VERY GOOD WITH UH CHILDREN.

NO?



WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM THE STORY ABOUT THE LILY THAT WANTED TO BE AN EYE? OR THE WOLF-BOY AND HIS LADY-LOVE, AND HOW THEY MADE LOVE BENEATH THE MOON?

I...



COME ON, BLUBBERBALL. THIS IS THE HOUSE OF SECRETS, ISN'T IT?

CHUMPFEE

SO TELL HIM A SECRET.

GO ON. TELL HIM OF THE DOORS IN THE MIST, AND HOW TO OPEN THEM. OR THE TRUE TITLE OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE BLACK AND WHITE EAGLE.

TELL HIM ABOUT THE GIRL WHO COULD DRINK ONLY TEARS, AND HOW SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN WHO HAD NEVER LEARNED TO CRY.

THOSE AREN'T CHILDRREN'S STORIES, CAIN.

NO?

WELL, THEN. TELL HIM A CHILDREN'S STORY.

WH. OKAY. A LONG TIME AGO, LONG BEFORE THE WORLD YOU KNOW WAS A SPECK IN SPACE WHEN EVERYTHING WAS YOUNG, DEATH AND DREAM WENT WALKING...

ALL RIGHT. I WILL.

"DEATH WAS A LITTLE OLDER THAN DREAM. THINGS HAD THE POTENTIAL TO DIE BEFORE THEY HAD THE POTENTIAL TO DREAM. BUT THERE HADN'T BEEN MUCH DREAMING OR MUCH DYING BACK THEN.

"THEY WERE ... THEY WERE CHILDREN, BACK THEN. IN THE OLDEN DAYS."

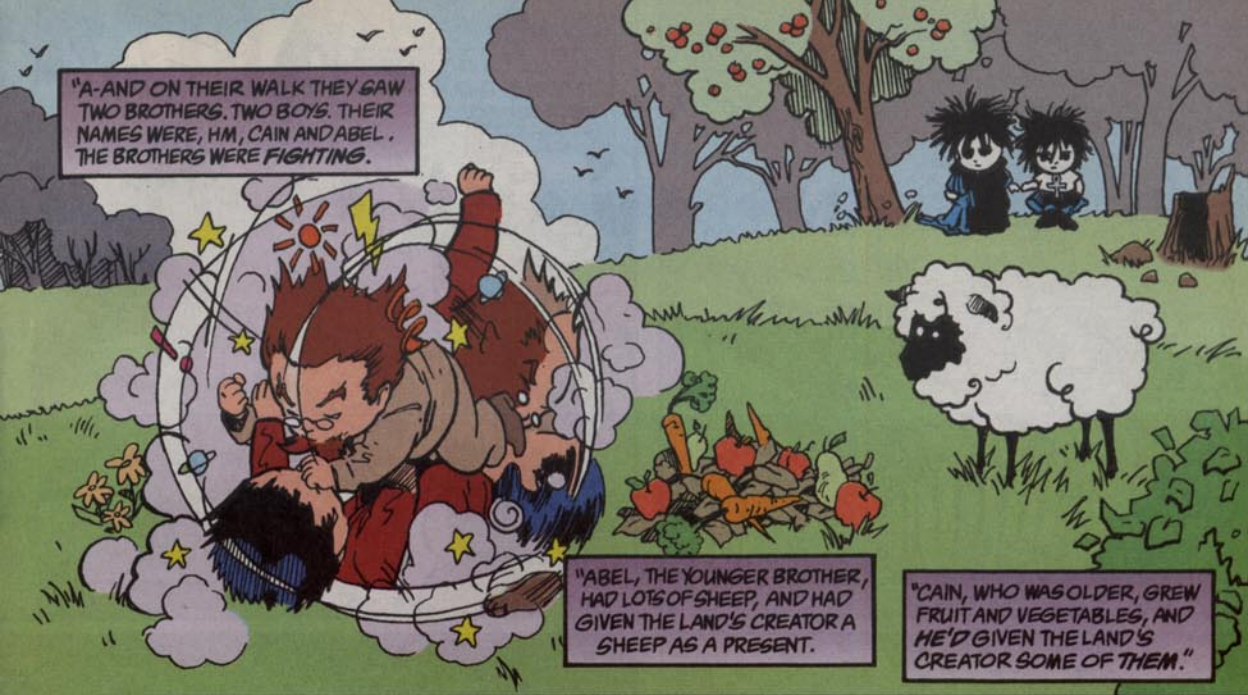


CHILDREN?

THEY DIDN'T EVEN LOOK REMOTELY HUMAN. NONE OF US DID, BACK THEN. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO FEED THE CHILD -- SANITIZED PABLUM? LI'L DEATH? LI'L MORPHEUS? REVOLTING!

THIS IS MUMMY STORY, CAIN. LUHLEAVE ME ALONE.

"A-AND ON THEIR WALK THEY SAW TWO BROTHERS. TWO BOYS. THEIR NAMES WERE, HM, CAIN AND ABEL. THE BROTHERS WERE FIGHTING."



"ABEL, THE YOUNGER BROTHER, HAD LOTS OF SHEEP, AND HAD GIVEN THE LAND'S CREATOR A SHEEP AS A PRESENT."

"CAIN, WHO WAS OLDER, GREW FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, AND HE'D GIVEN THE LAND'S CREATOR SOME OF THEM."

BUT THE CREATOR LIKED THE SHEEP BEST, BECAUSE IT WAS ALL FUNNY AND FLUFFY AND WHITE--

BECAUSE IT WAS WARM STEAMING MEAT. IT WAS A BLEEDING SACRIFICE, YOU BLOODY IDIOT! YOU CAN'T EVEN GET YOUR OWN STORY RIGHT!

"SO THE BIGGER BROTHER GOT UPSET, AND THEY STARTED TO FIGHT."

"WHEN THEY'D FINISHED FIGHTING, THE LITTLE GIRL WENT OVER TO THEM. SHE TOOK LITTLE ABEL BY THE HAND. 'YOU'RE COMING WITH ME,' SHE SAID. 'YOU'RE COMING TO PLAY IN MY GARDEN, NOW.'"



THIS IS MY STORY. I TELL IT MY WAY.



"BUT HER BROTHER STOPPED HER."

I'm building a garden, too. Why don't you come with me?

WHAT WOULD I DO THERE?

I'd give you a little house, and a job. You'd get to tell stories.

WHAT KIND OF STORIES?

"AND THEN DREAM SMILED. 'SECRET STORIES,' HE SAID."

"I THINK I'D LIKE THAT," SAID ABEL."

"ABEL GOT A LOVELY HOUSE, AND A LETTER OF COMMISSION. BUT HE WAS LONELY.



"SO ABEL WENT UP TO DREAM'S BIG HOUSE.



"WHAT'S THE MATTER?!" ASKED DREAM.

I'M LONELY.

Would you like a friend?



YES, PLEASE.

Then go home. There's a nice surprise waiting for you.



"ABEL WENT HOME. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE FOUND? NEXT TO HIS HOUSE WAS ANOTHER LITTLE HOUSE. AND SITTING IN THE GARDEN WAS HIS BROTHER, CAIN.



"I'M GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER, TOO," SAID CAIN. "LOOK! I'VE GOT A LETTER OF COMMISSION AS WELL!"

AND THEY LIVED NEXT DOOR FROM THAT DAY TO THIS...

"HURRAH!" SAID ABEL, AND THE TWO BROTHERS HUGGED EACH OTHER JOYFULLY.



...HAPPILY EVER AFTER.







