

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india authentic™
GARUDA



MOHAPATRA/JOG

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

GARUDA

india  authentic™

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Mallika Chopra

Mama's Boy

Would you go the ends of the Earth, descend to the very bowels of the Underworld, seek the assistance of your arch enemies in order to save that which is most important to you? Would you defy the very Gods to save your mother?

If your answer is yes, then within you exists in embryo the Hindu God Garuda. For Garuda is perhaps most known for the dramatic journey he embarked on once upon a time to rescue his mother from deep within the Underworld. And even once he successfully achieved his goal, it was some of his fellow Gods that chased him in an effort to stop him. So great was his desire and his intention that not even they could deter him.





The story of Garuda, like many others that exist in the vast vault of Indian mythology, is rife with emotions that are often considered most unholy – from rage to dishonesty to vengeance. The very Gods that are the upholders of morality are the same beings that often conspire against one another, ally with evildoers, and immerse themselves in the most sinister sacrilege. It often reminds me of another race that I know, one that is capable of the most glorious achievements, that devises civilizations with the greatest ethics and ideals, but inexplicably descends into malice, darkness, and vice and tramples upon those very codes. That race, so reflective of the complexity of all the various Gods in the Hindu pantheon and the many forces and archetypes they represent, is of course our own, the human race. And the story of Garuda, like so many others from the Indian canon, is a great allegory of ourselves.

But back to Garuda and his quest to voyage beyond the boundaries of ordinary existence to salvage that which is most precious to him, no matter the price. It is certainly one of the most resonant of plots amongst the divine myths and yet it chronicles an emotion that can only be qualified as most human. And perhaps that is the most enduring message that we can take away from this story, from the following pages, that ultimately what is most precious to us, that elevates us to the realm of the Gods, is our humanity.

Enjoy the read.

*Deepak Chopra
December 2007*



THEY HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN A
TREACHEROUS LOT.



THE SLITHERING
SERPENTS, ACCURSED
BY THE ANCIENTS...



...TO FOREVER
WRITHE ALONG
THE GROUND.



THE SNAKES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY ENEMY. EVEN THOUGH WE SHARE A COMMON BOND, A DISTANT FAMILIAL TIE, TODAY THEY HAVE MADE THEIR HOSTILITIES OPEN.



THEY HOLD HOSTAGE THE WOMAN WHO BORE ME INTO THIS WORLD.



WIFE OF THE GREAT RISHI KASHYAPA, VINEETA, MY MOTHER IS HELD PRISONER BY THE SERPENTS...

... ALL BECAUSE OF A TWISTED WAGER.



I FEEL AN ANGER RISE IN ME AS I SEE HER FLIGHT.



BOUND BY THE SLITHERING REPTILES...



... HELPLESS, HOPELESS AND DEFEATED.

A detailed illustration of Garuda, a multi-headed eagle deity from Hindu mythology. He is depicted with a large, muscular human-like torso and a head with multiple eagle heads. The central eagle head has a sharp beak and glowing green eyes. His wings are spread, showing intricate feather patterns. The background is a warm, golden glow with radiating lines, suggesting a bright, divine light. Three text boxes are overlaid on the image, providing context for the scene.

I MAKE MYSELF
A PROMISE.

THE SNAKES
SHALL PAY
FOR THIS.

THUS SWEARS
GARUDA, THE SON
OF VINEETA AND
KASHYAPA.



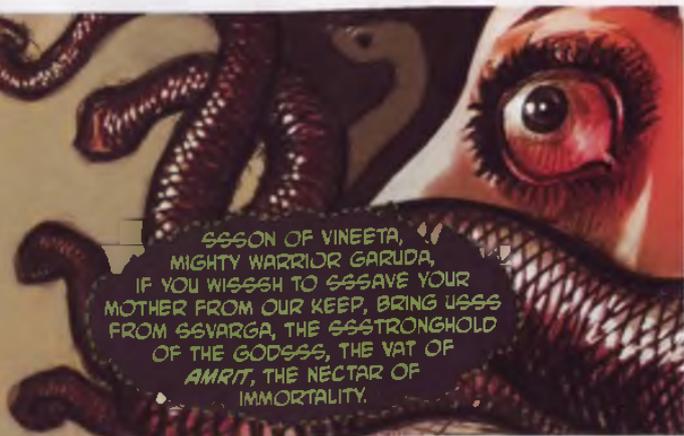
THE CRAFTY SNAKES
TIGHTEN THEIR GRIP
ON MY MOTHER'S
THROAT THREATENING
TO STRANGLE HER.



SO I BIDE MY TIME.
I SWALLOW THE
WELLING ANGER...



... AND I
NEGOTIATE.



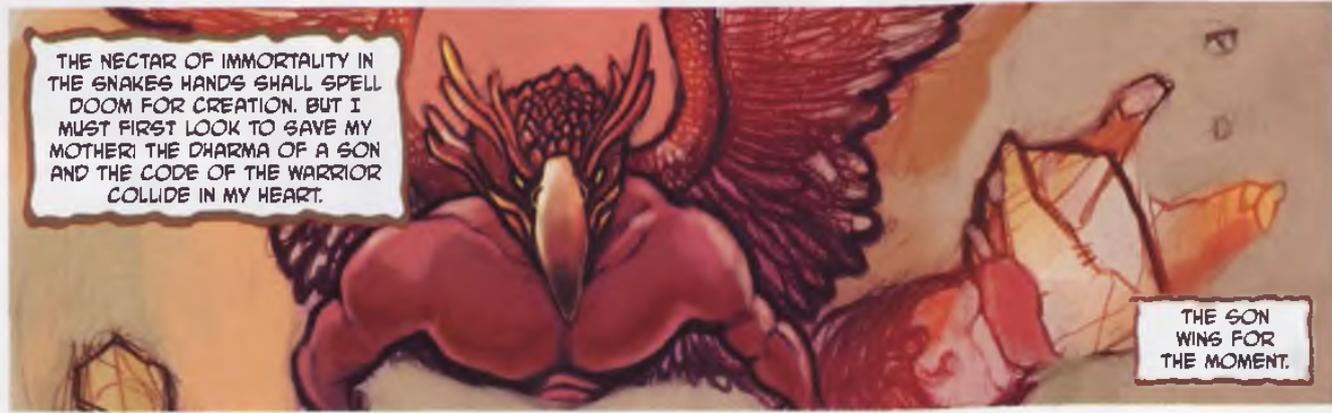
SSON OF VINEETA,
MIGHTY WARRIOR GARUDA,
IF YOU WISSEH TO SSSAVE YOUR
MOTHER FROM OUR KEEP, BRING USS
FROM SSVARGA, THE SSTRONGHOLD
OF THE GODSSS, THE VAT OF
AMRIT, THE NECTAR OF
IMMORTALITY.



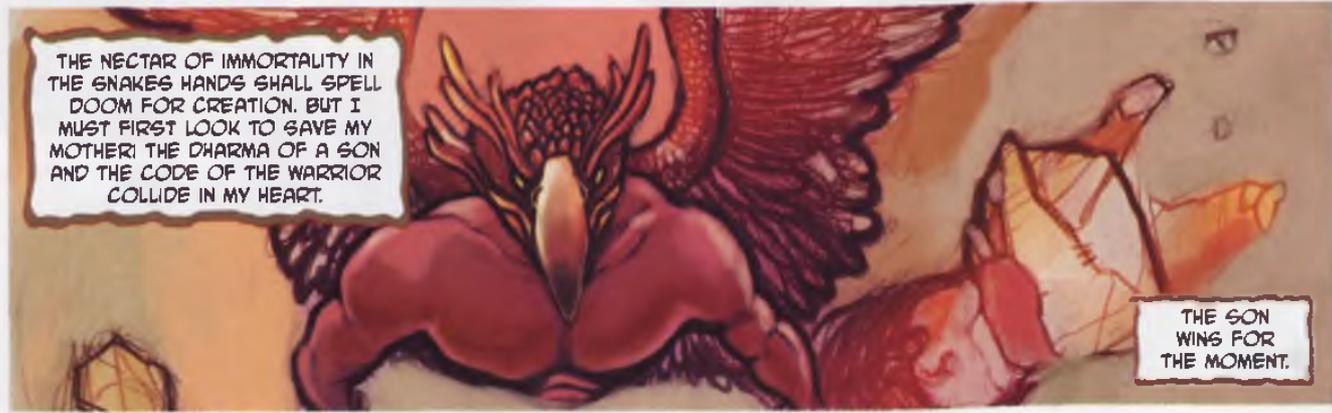
A WARRIOR MUST NOT
ONLY FIGHT BATTLES,
BUT ALSO KEEP THE
WAR IN MIND.



COUSINS, I PROMISE
YOU I SHALL BRING THE VAT
OF AMRIT HERE. BUT IF EVEN THE
TINIEST OF HAIRS ON MY MOTHER IS
HARMED, THEN I ALSO PROMISE
THAT I SHALL BRING THE FURY OF
A THOUSAND BURNING SUNS UPON
YOU AND SHALL NOT REST TILL
THE LAST OF YOUR KIND HAS
BEEN EXTERMINATED.



THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY IN
THE SNAKES HANDS SHALL SPELL
DOOM FOR CREATION. BUT I
MUST FIRST LOOK TO SAVE MY
MOTHER! THE DHARMA OF A SON
AND THE CODE OF THE WARRIOR
COLLIDE IN MY HEART.



THE SON
WINS FOR
THE MOMENT.

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TEXT 'KARMA' TO 68405

THE RE*
GENERATION



THE AMRIT IS PLACED
IN A STRONGHOLD IN
SVARGA, THE ABODE
OF THE GODS.

IN *SIRSHANCHAL*,
THE ETHEREAL WHITE
TOWER OF ETERNITY.

IT SOARS ABOVE ALL OTHER
STRUCTURES IN CREATION, A
LOFTY TESTIMONY TO THE SKILL
OF *VISHWAKARMA*, THE ARCHITECT OF
THE GODS. I FEEL MY WINGS STRAIN
AS I TRY TO ASCEND, MARVELING AT
THE FEAT OF THE DIVINE ARCHITECT
IN BUILDING THIS.

THE TOWER IS SAID TO
BE PROTECTED BY MYSTICAL
SPELLS, RINGS OF PROTECTION
CRAFTED BY THE GODS
THEMSELVES.



I TAKE A DEEP
BREATH AND START
FOR THE OUTERMOST
DEFENSES.



VISHWAKARMA HAD CALLED UPON THE MIGHTY GOD OF FLAMES-AGNI, FOR THE FIRST DEFENCE.



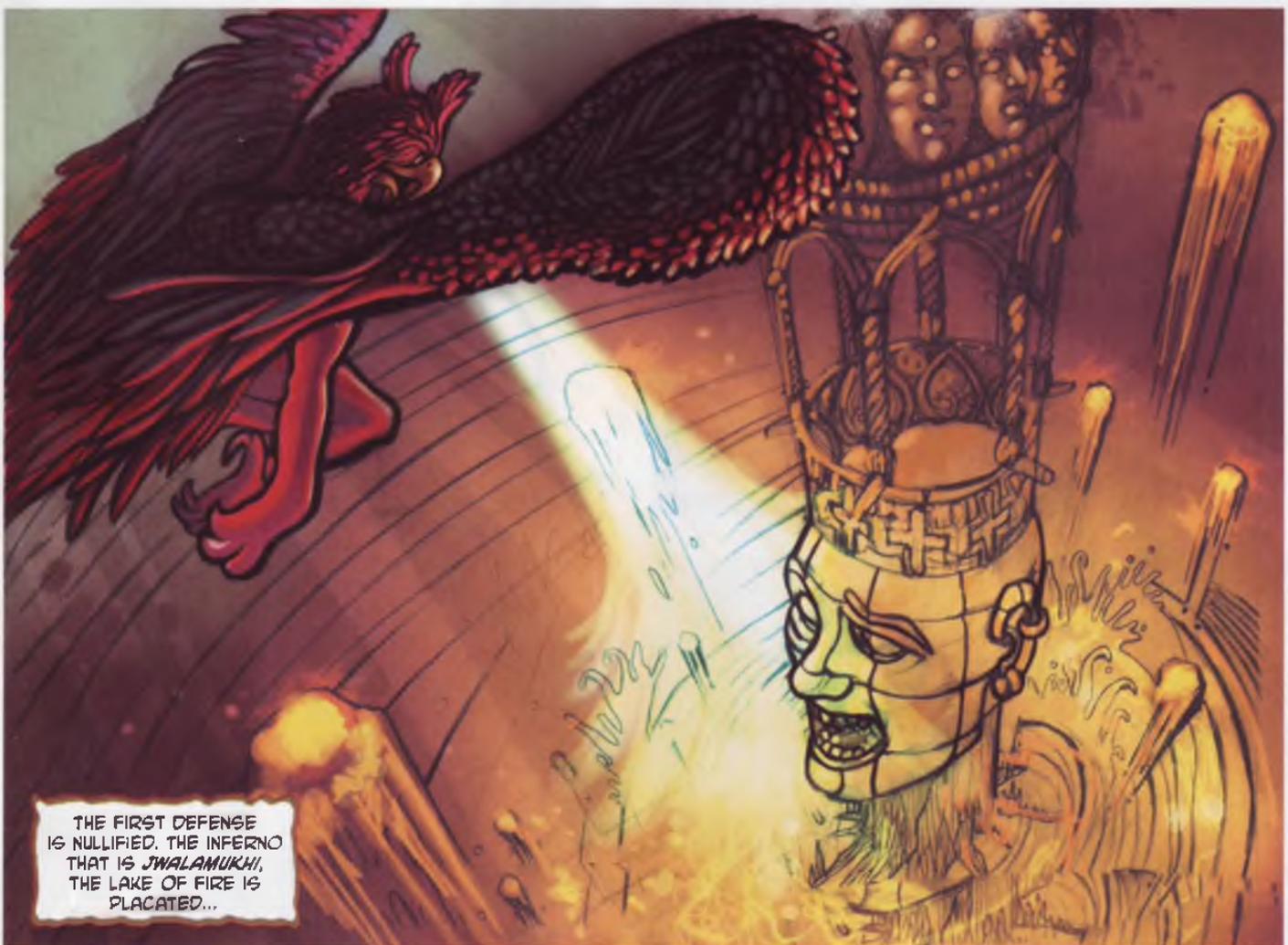
BUT FIRE IS SOMETHING I AM NO STRANGER TO, HAVING BEEN BORN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ADITYA, GOD OF THE SUN, WHO HAD BLESSED ME WITH THE FIRE OF A THOUSAND NOVAE.



THE ABILITY TO GENERATE FIRE...



... AND THE STRENGTH TO CONSUME IT TOO.



THE FIRST DEFENSE IS NULLIFIED. THE INFERNO THAT IS JWALAMUKHI, THE LAKE OF FIRE IS PLACATED...



ON STANDS JANUARY 2008

THE
SADHU

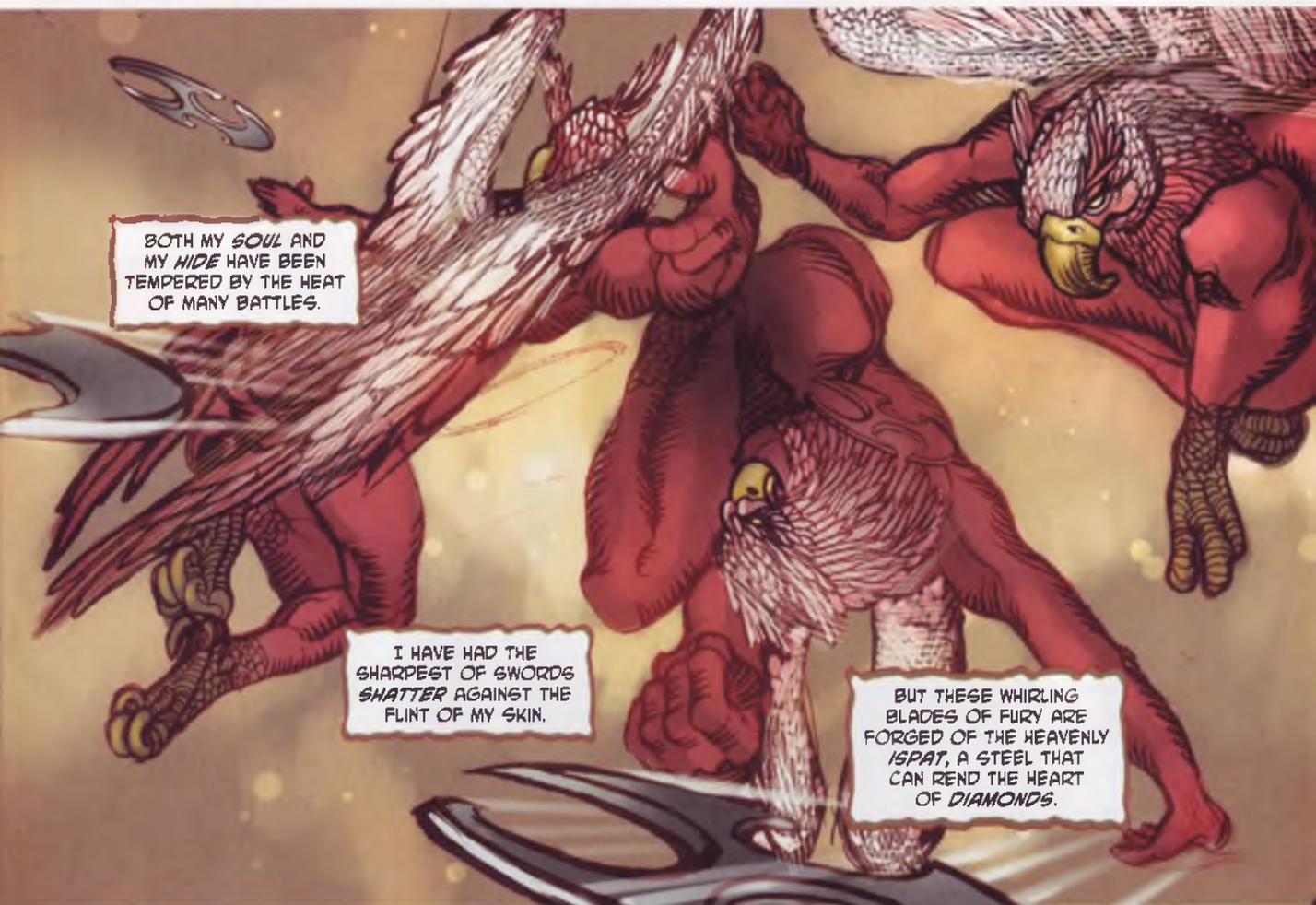
THE SILENT ONES



ISSUE 4

IN PRODUCTION TO BE FILMED AS A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING
NICOLAS KAGE AS THE SADHU.

SPEARHEADED BY
RON MARZ



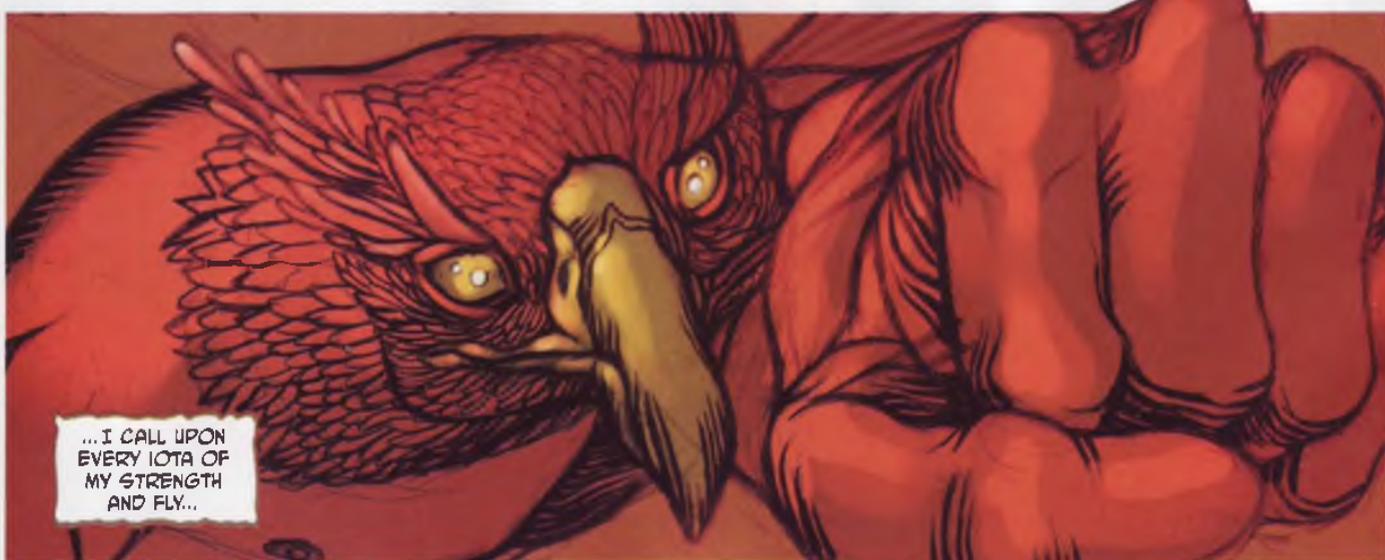
BOTH MY *SOUL* AND
MY *HIDE* HAVE BEEN
TEMPERED BY THE HEAT
OF MANY BATTLES.

I HAVE HAD THE
SHARPEST OF SWORDS
SHATTER AGAINST THE
FLINT OF MY SKIN.

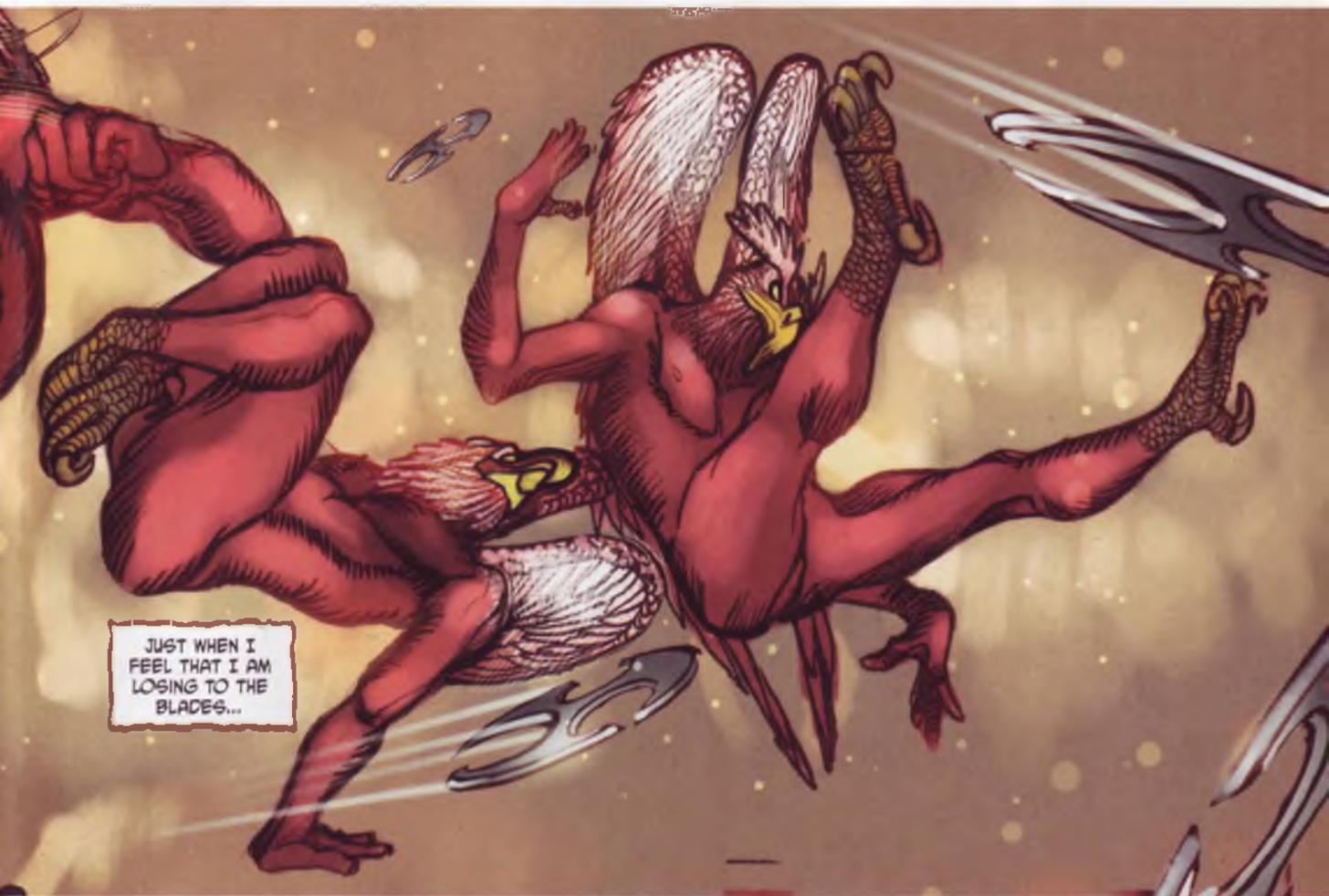
BUT THESE WHIRLING
BLADES OF FURY ARE
FORGED OF THE HEAVENLY
ISPAT, A STEEL THAT
CAN REND THE HEART
OF *DIAMONDS*.



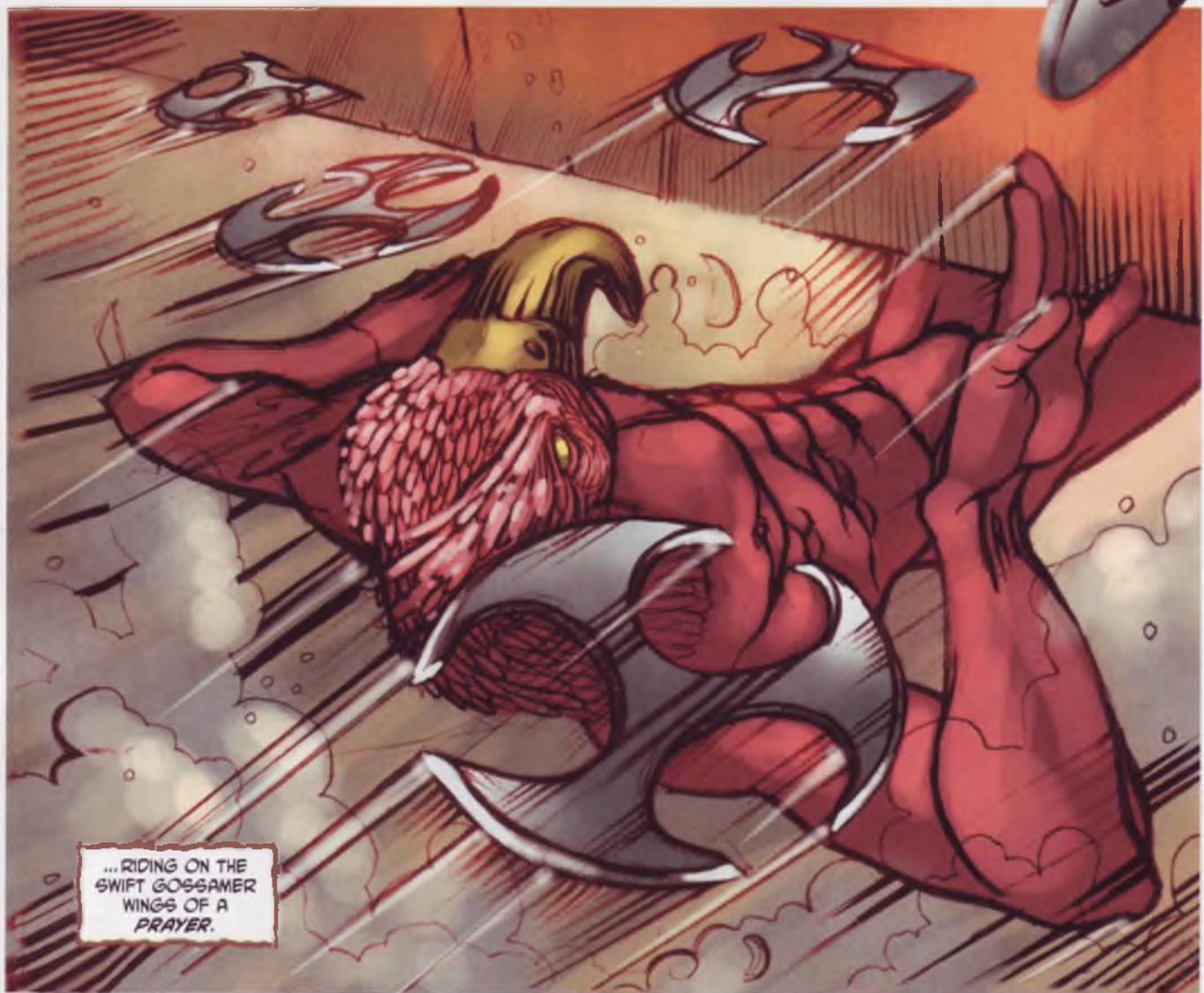
... I SPY
AN *EXIT*.



... I CALL UPON
EVERY IOTA OF
MY STRENGTH
AND FLY..



JUST WHEN I
FEEL THAT I AM
LOSING TO THE
BLADES...



...RIDING ON THE
SWIFT GOSSAMER
WINGS OF A
PRAYER.



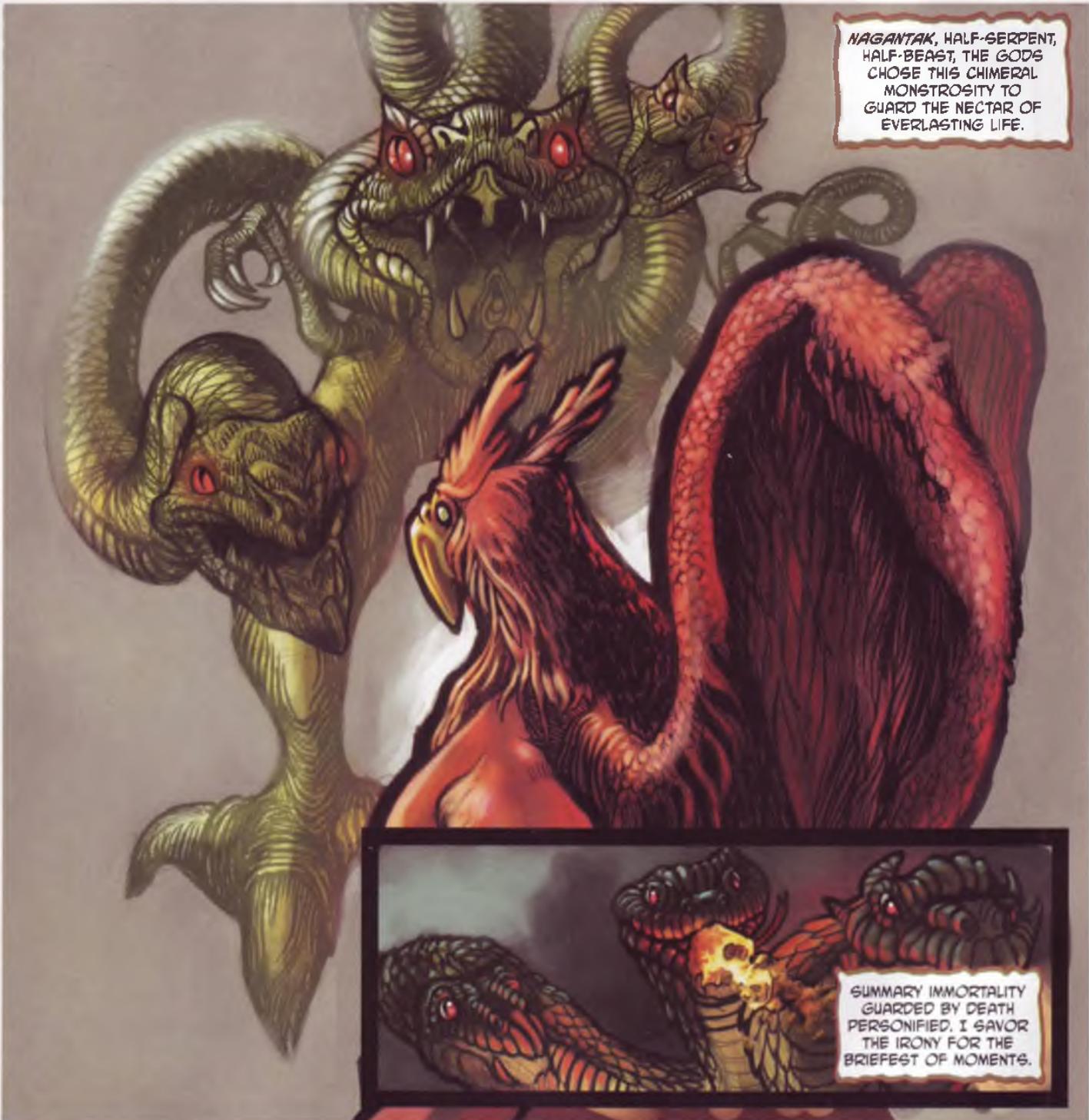
THE LAST CHALLENGE CAME CLOSE TO KILLING ME.



AND THERE REMAINS ONE MORE, BEFORE I CAN LAY CLAIM ON THE AMRIT.



I SEE WHAT I AM FACING AND I AM JARRED...



NAGANTAK, HALF-SERPENT, HALF-BEAST, THE GODS CHOSE THIS CHIMERAL MONSTROSITY TO GUARD THE NECTAR OF EVERLASTING LIFE.

SUMMARY IMMORTALITY GUARDED BY DEATH PERSONIFIED. I SAVOR THE IRONY FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS.

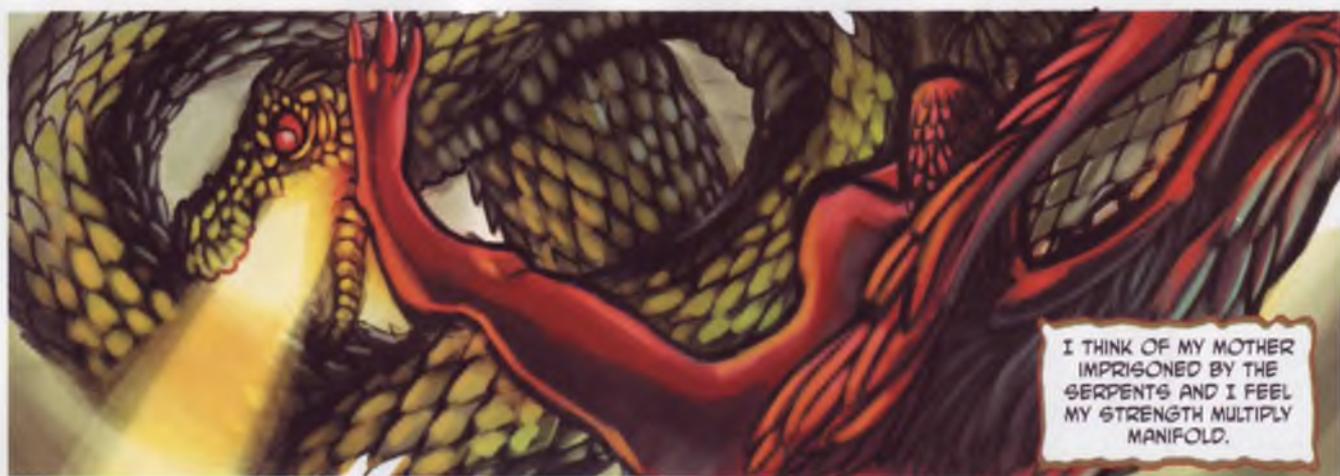


HAD I BEEN SEEKING
AMRIT FOR MY OWN
SAKE, THIS MIGHT HAVE
BEEN THE PLACE FOR
SECOND THOUGHTS.

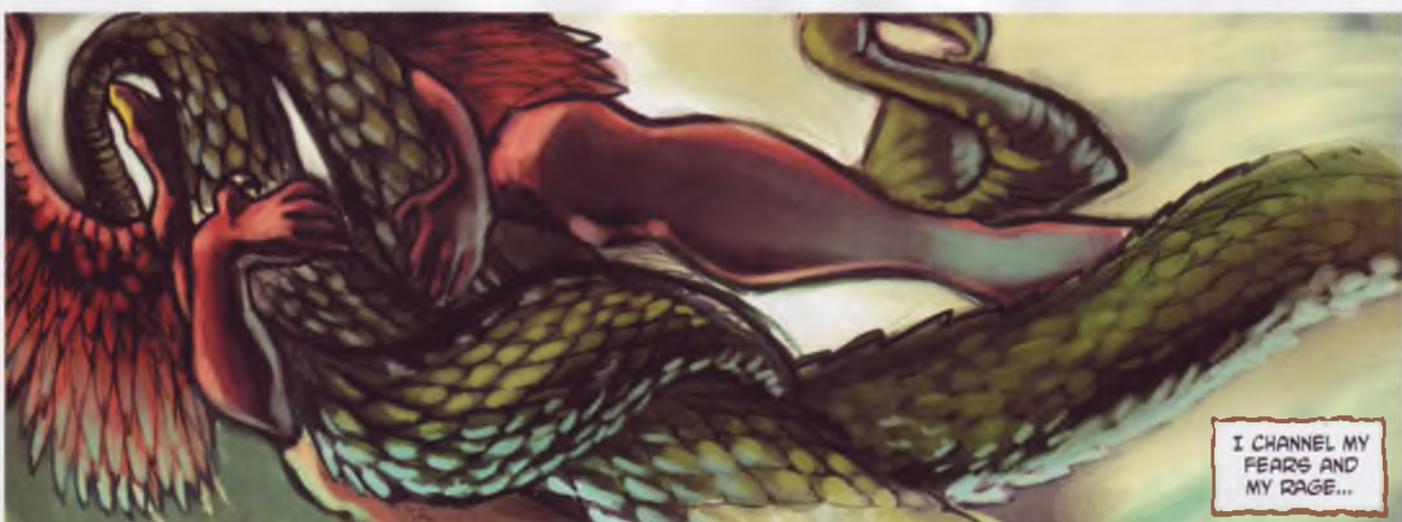
BUT THIS IS
NOT FOR ME...



AND NOTHING
SHALL STOP ME
FROM KEEPING
A PROMISE.



I THINK OF MY MOTHER
IMPRISONED BY THE
SERPENTS AND I FEEL
MY STRENGTH MULTIPLY
MANIFOLD.



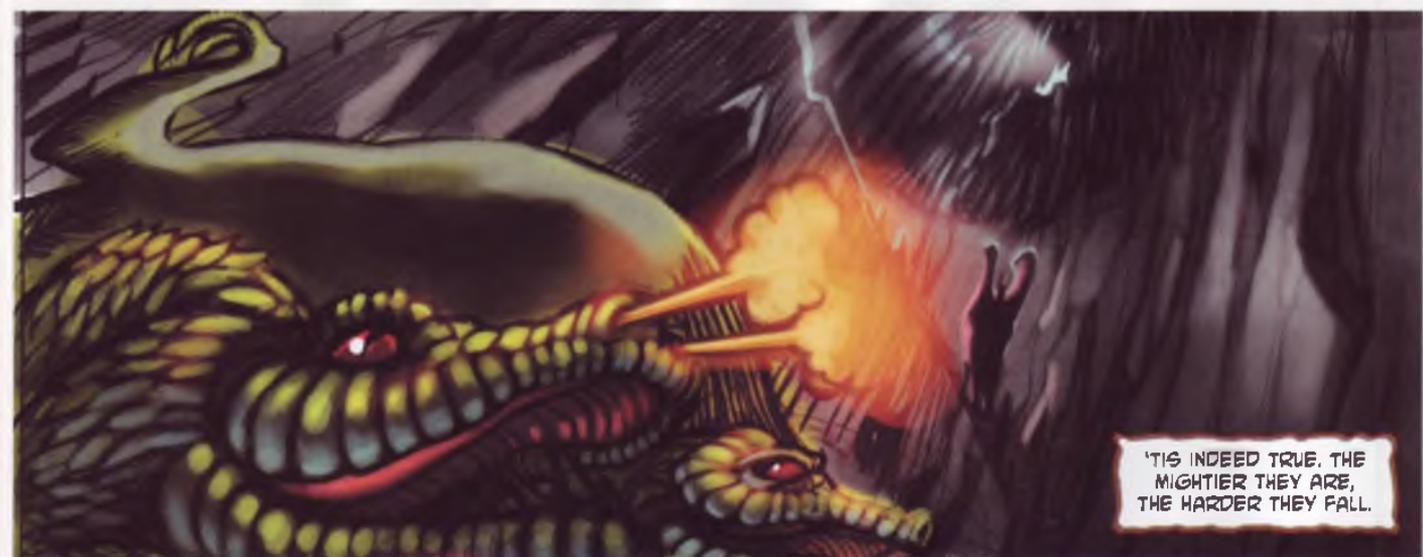
I CHANNEL MY
FEARS AND
MY RAGE...



...AND RELEASE IT ON
THE CHIMERAL SENTINEL.



I TURN ITS GREATEST
STRENGTH INTO A WEAKNESS.
NOW, IT CANNOT USE ITS
FIERY VENOM BREATH
WITHOUT BURNING ITSELF.



'TIS INDEED TRUE, THE
MIGHTIER THEY ARE,
THE HARDER THEY FALL.

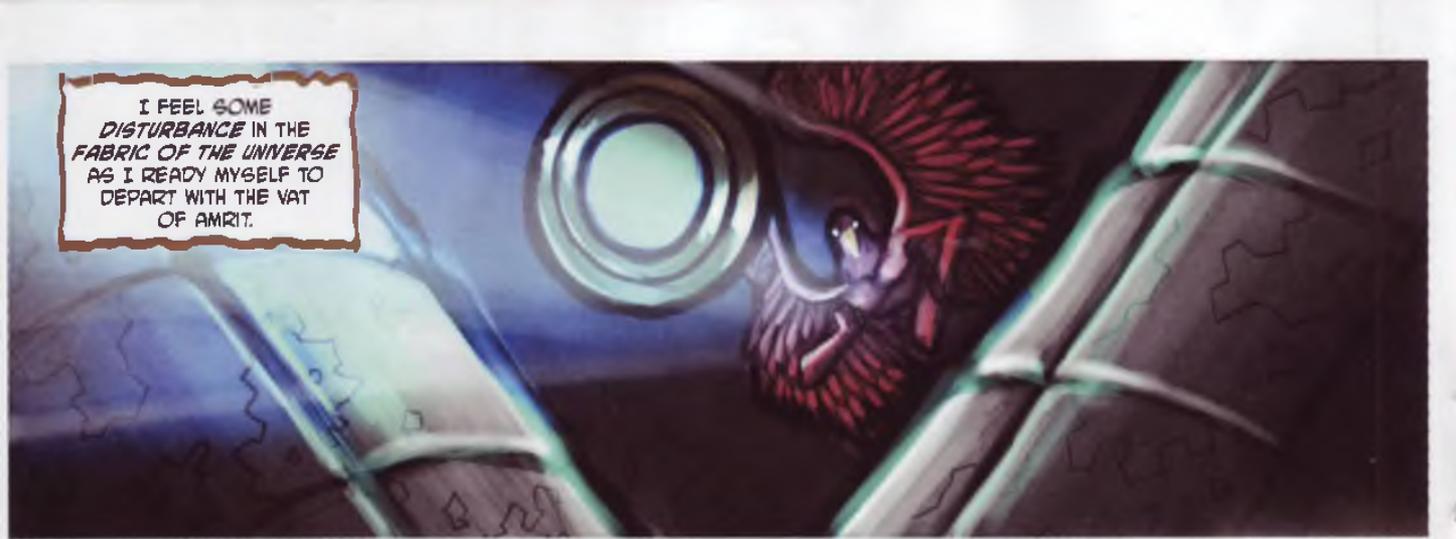


THE CHALLENGES
HAVE BEEN MET
AND SURPASSED.

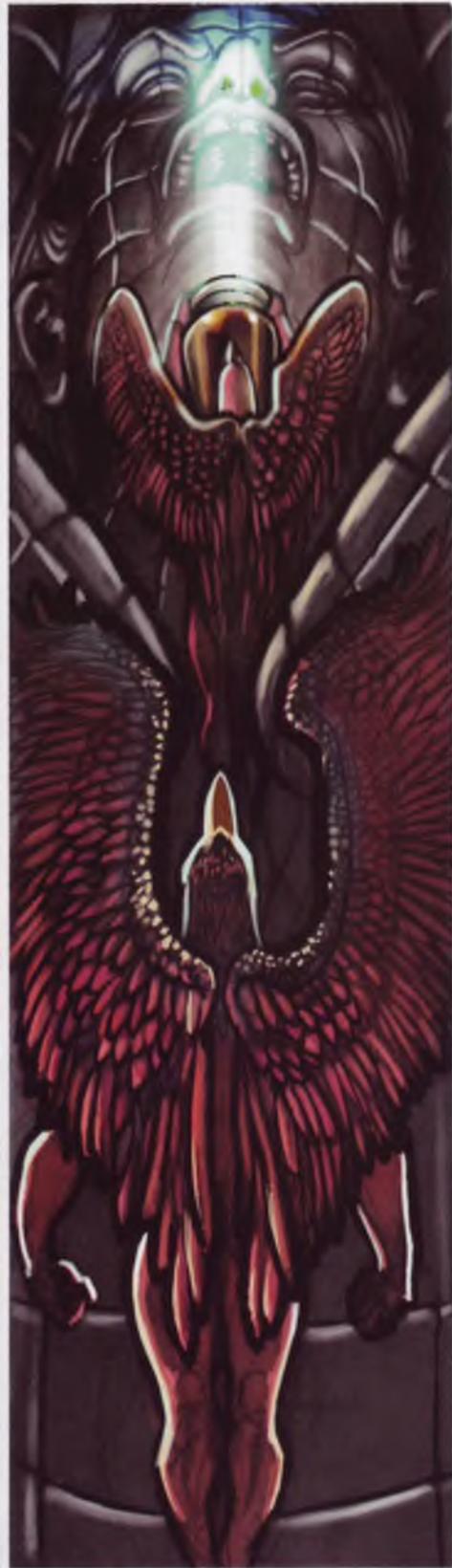
AND MY
PRIZE AWAITS...

...AMRIT, THE
NECTAR OF GODS,
THE ELIXIR OF
IMMORTALITY.





I FEEL SOME
DISTURBANCE IN THE
FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE
AS I READY MYSELF TO
DEPART WITH THE VAT
OF AMRIT.



IMMORTALITY TILL
NOW HAS BEEN THE
RIGHT OF GODS
ONLY...



...AND I FEEL A TINY
TINGE OF GUILT AT MY
ACTIONS AS I SPEED
OFF TO RESCUE MY
MOTHER.





DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3992 AD

ISSUE
#3

FEATURING
BACK-UP STORY
BY RON MARZ AND
DAVID PETERSEN

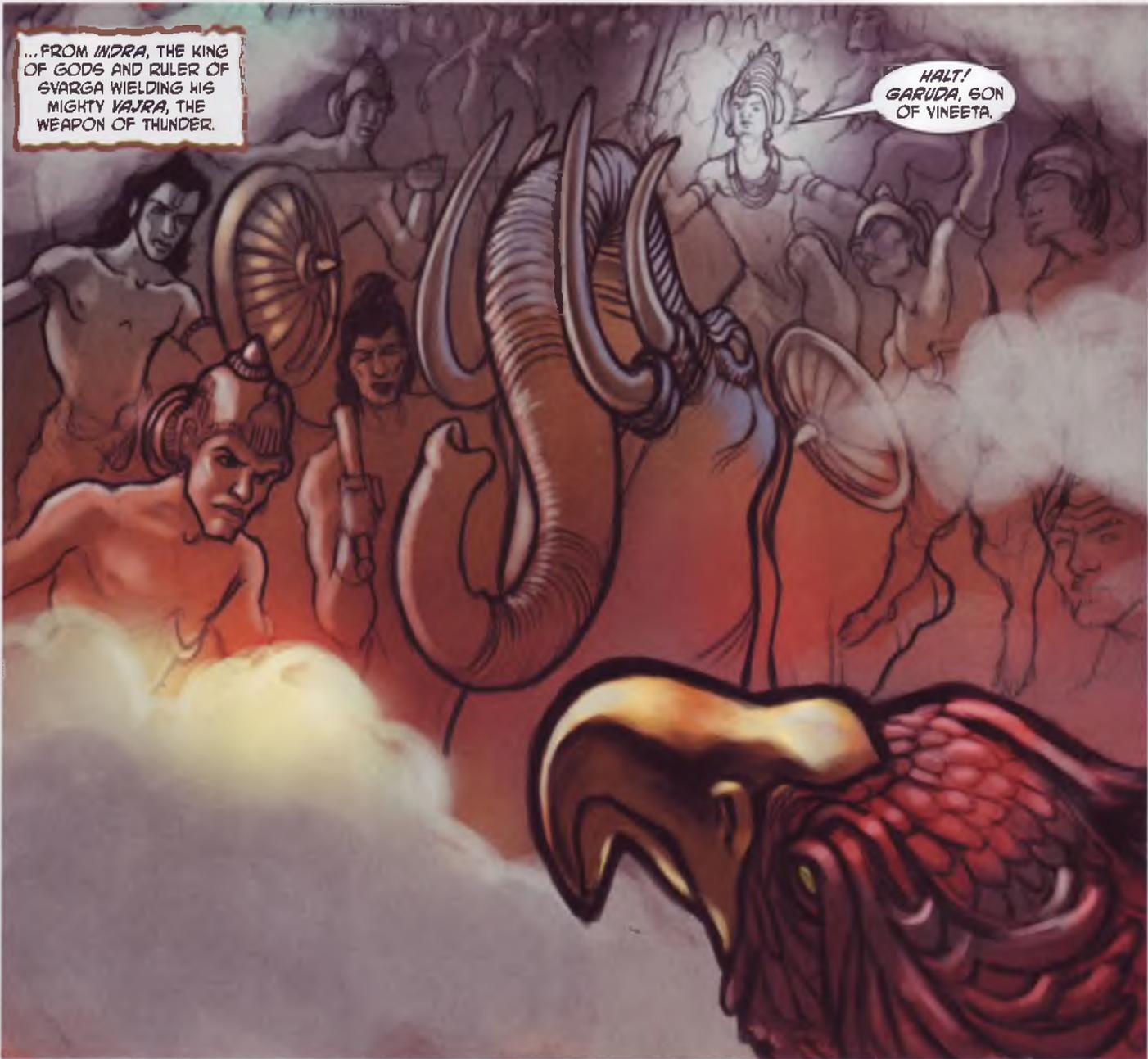
ON STANDS NOW



IT WAS NAIVE OF ME TO
THINK I COULD FLY OFF
WITH THE MOST POWERFUL
POTION IN THE UNIVERSE
UNCHALLENGED.



A BOLT OF
LIGHTNING SERVES
AS A WARNING...



...FROM *INDRA*, THE KING
OF GODS AND RULER OF
SVARGA WIELDING HIS
MIGHTY *VAJRA*, THE
WEAPON OF THUNDER.

HALT!
GARUDA, SON
OF VINEETA.



RETURN THE AMRIT TO ITS PLACE OR BE PREPARED TO FACE THE THUNDER OF THE VAJRA.



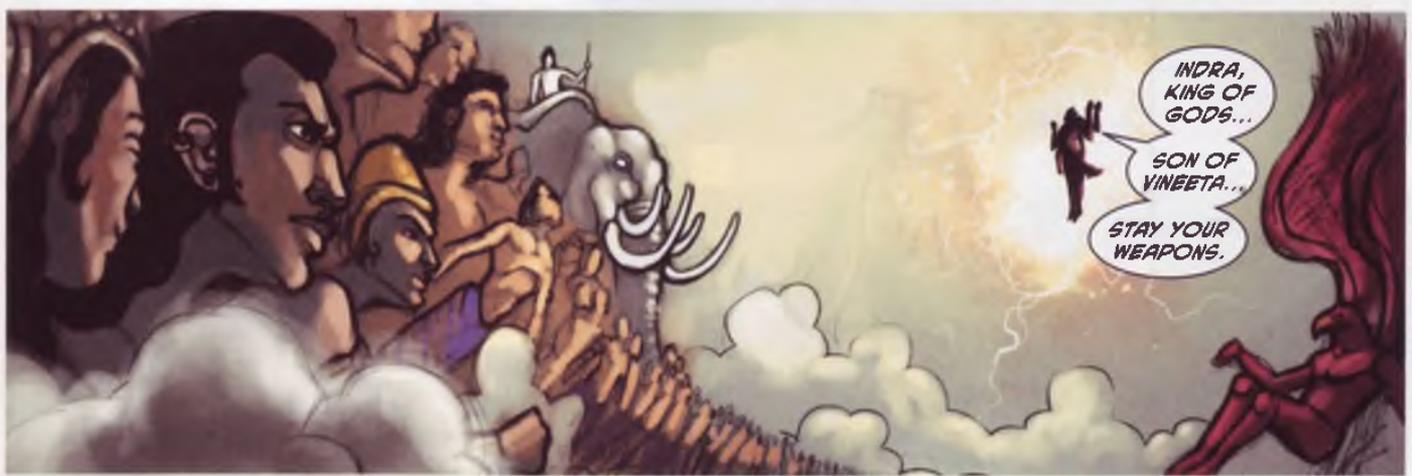
LORD INDRA, I AM AFRAID I CANNOT DO WHAT YOU ASK.



I KNOW THE ODDS WERE AGAINST ME, BUT STILL, I CANNOT GIVE UP, FOR MY MOTHER'S LIFE DEPENDS ON THIS.

YOU LEAVE US NO CHOICE, GARUDA.

SO BE IT, KING OF GODS.



INDRA, KING OF GODS...

SON OF VINEETA...

STAY YOUR WEAPONS.



IT IS THEN THAT HE APPEARS...

...LORD VISHNU OF THE TRINITY.



LORD INDRA, I HAVE LONG WATCHED THIS MIGHTY AVIAN WARRIOR AND I KNOW OF HIM TO BE A WORTHY CHAMPION OF DHARMA.



I SUSPECT HE HAS JUST CAUSE FOR HIS ACTIONS WHICH I AM SURE HE SHALL EXPLAIN IF GIVEN THE CHANCE.



THAT IS INDEED TRUE, KING OF GODS. MY MOTHER LOST A WAGER SHE MADE WITH **KADRU**, THE MOTHER OF SNAKES AND THE SERPENTS DEMAND THE AMRIT VAT AS RANSOM.



YOU HAVE PUT US IN A QUANDRY, GARUDA.



BUT PERHAPS THERE IS A WAY OUT. WE CAN LET YOU TAKE THE VAT IF YOU PROMISE US THAT YOU SHALL NOT LET THE SNAKES DRINK FROM IT AND THAT ONCE YOU HAVE RESCUED YOUR MOTHER, YOU WILL BRING IT BACK TO US WITHOUT SPILLING A DROP.



I PROMISE AS MUCH, LORD INDRA.



ANOTHER PROMISE MADE MEANS THE PATH I WALK ON GOT EVEN NARROWER.

BUT I FEEL MY FOOTING GET SURER AS THE INKLING OF A PLAN FORMS IN MY MIND.

SHORTLY...

COUSINS,
I HAVE KEPT MY
PROMISE...

...AND IT
IS TIME YOU
HONORED
YOURS.

WHERE IS
THE AMRIT?

I PROMISED I
SHALL BRING IT
HERE AND
THUS I HAVE.
IT AWAITS
YOU THERE
ON THAT
MOUND.

THE SNAKES
SLITHER OFF
HUNGRILY
IN A MAD
DASH FOR
IMMORTALITY,
RUSHING
TOWARDS
THE ELIXIR.

MOTHER,
IT IS OVER
NOW. YOU
ARE FREE.

GARUDA... MY SON...
WHAT... HAVE... YOU... DONE?
THE SNAKES... WITH AMRIT...
THEIR EVIL... SHALL... KNOW
NO BOUNDS...

HAVE FAITH,
MOTHER.

LET ME
FIRST GET
YOU TO
SAFETY...



BEFORE THE SNAKES
FIGURE OUT WHAT I HAVE
DONE TO THEM.



BEFORE LETTING THE SNAKES
KNOW WHERE THE AMRIT WAS, I
HAD COVERED THE HILLOCK WITH
DRIED *KUSHA* LEAVES, THE SHARP
EDGES OF WHICH BIT INTO THE SOFT
BODIES OF THE SNAKES TRYING
TO SLITHER PAST THEM.

I NEEDED TO SLOW
THEM DOWN TO MAKE
SURE I FULLFILLED MY
SECOND PROMISE
MADE TO THE GODS.



IT SEEMS MY
CALCULATIONS HAD
VERY LITTLE MARGIN
FOR ERROR.



I FLY AS FAST AS
I CAN AND SNATCH
THE AMRIT AWAY.



FINALLY I BREATHE
EASY. I HAVE KEPT
BOTH MY PROMISES.

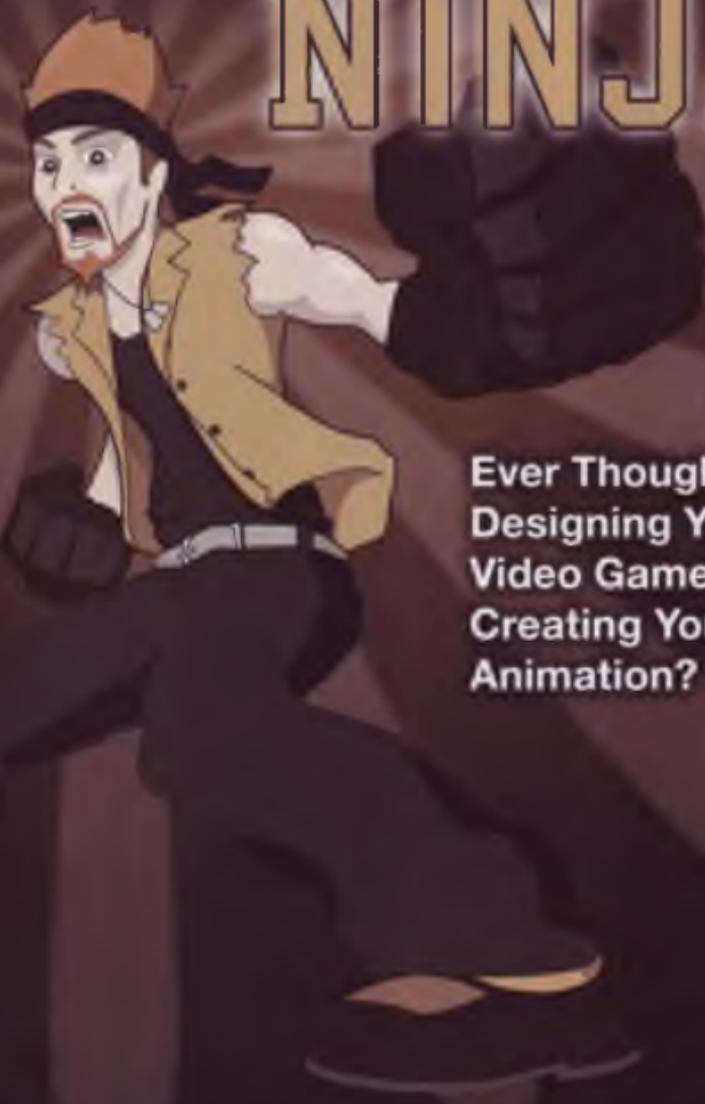


THE SON
HAS *SAVED* HIS
MOTHER.

THE WARRIOR
HAS KEPT HIS
OATH.

THE DHARMA OF
BOTH HAS BEEN
UPHELD.

BECOME A GAMING NINJA



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MY APOLOGIES,
LORD INDRA, FOR STEALING
THE AMRIT. I RETURN IT WITH
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES,
SO THAT IT MAY BE RESTORED
TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE
IN THE TOWER OF
SIRSHANCHAL.



GARUDA, WE ARE
INDEED IMPRESSED BY
YOUR VALOR AND INTEGRITY.
WE WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU
WOULD CHOOSE TO SERVE
WITHIN THE RANKS OF
HEAVEN'S HOST.



NOTHING CAN
MAKE ME HAPPIER,
KING OF GODS. BUT
I HAVE SOMETHING
ELSE I MUST DO
FIRST...



A TRUE
WARRIOR NEVER
FORGETS HIS
ALLIES...



... FOR BATTLES
ARE NOT ALWAYS
DECIDED BY
MIGHT ALONE.



THE JOURNEY OF THE
WARRIOR OFTEN TAKES
HIM ONTO THE NARROWEST
OF PATHS.

BUT IF IN HIS HEART
ONE HOLDS TRUE TO
THE PRINCIPLES OF
DHARMA...

...THE RIGHTEOUS
SHALL ALWAYS
PREVAIL.

THE END.

INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

VIRGIN COMICS & SCI FI

We've been wracking our brains, trying to recall how our relationship with the SCI FI Channel actually started. BUT like most things that get better every day, it's hard to backtrack and find that singular moment when it all began, so instead of getting lost in the nostalgia, let's move into the present and look ahead to our future with the first book in our partnership, *The Stranded*.

Over the past few years, the SCI FI Channel has established itself as the preeminent brand name for fantasy and speculative television, with hit series like *Eureka*, *Rat Patrol*, *Galactica*, and *The Mentalist*. Now they have joined forces with us, Virgin Comics, to create an entirely new and original stories that can exist in multiple media. Rather than taking television shows and turning them into comics, the Virgin/SCI FI team is collectively creating all new original stories to premiere first in a range of new comic book titles, and then go on to live elsewhere.

Our first book together is *The Stranded*, written by a creator that is fast becoming one of our favorite collaborators at Virgin Comics: Mike Carey. In *The Stranded*, five ordinary people must face a terrifying question: What if your entire world—your childhood, your family, your memories—was a lie? For *The Stranded*, it's true—they're each secretly from another world. And now a deadly alien force has returned to kill them, operating through a twisted, altered human called Janus. Their only hope: Tamree, a dark, mysterious woman sent to Earth as their protector. One by one, Tamree must awaken the buried, true memories of the *Stranded*—along with their unique psychic and physical powers. Not only is this a story of discovery, but one of suspense—those forgotten are being hunted by someone that is not particularly keen on them remembering who they are and what their real mission is here on Earth. We know we don't really need to convince you of anything written by Mike Carey, but this one is absolutely worth the price of admission!

One of the first questions people ask when they hear about our partnership with SCI FI is if our comics will eventually become TV shows on the SCI FI Channel? And the honest answer is: we certainly hope so! That's definitely part of the mission of our collaboration, to treat the sci-fi channel as a incubator for great TV and films.

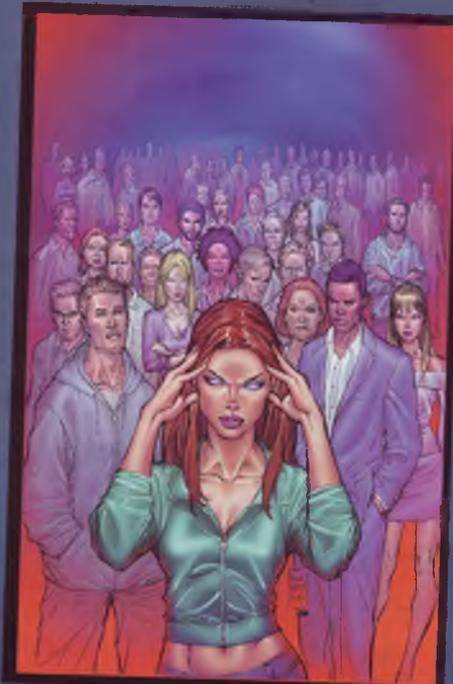
Really, our mission with this new partnership is simply to find great stories and launch them in the medium we love—comics. To that end we think we've put together an editorial team that can help us nurture exciting and challenging material. It includes the best editor of our line and a man with a history in the genre: the great Stuart Moore. On top of that, creatives from both Virgin Comics and the SCI FI Channel have been involved in the genesis and development of the stories. Specifically worth introducing to the readers of comics are a few of our partners at SCI FI, including Dave Howe, Julian Strzyski, Rick Copelli, and Tony Clifton, all of whom from day one of our initial discussions have been immersed in working with us to create great new stories that challenge the conventions of speculative fiction.

We hope to make this another laboratory for the imagination, a place where creators will come not only because they see it as a launching pad for great ideas, but also because our definition of "Sci-fi" will challenge them to redefine the rules, harness the power of possibility, and build a great story within the world they create.

So that, like a great Sci-fi tale, is our story so far. With no limits and no end in sight, we're on a voyage and hope you'll join us.

— The Chief
& the VC Editorial Team





ISSUE 1 Marc Silvestri



ISSUE 1 Greg Horn



ISSUE 2

Christopher Moeller

ISSUE 3



THE STRANDED™

Created and Written by Mike Carey

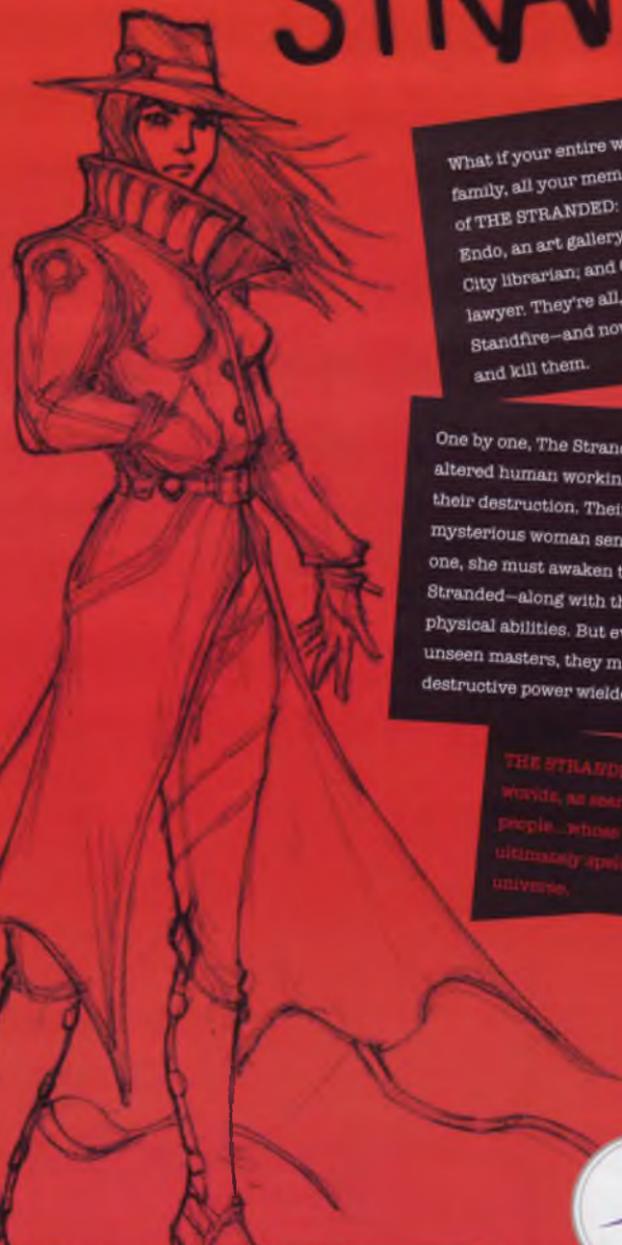
Art by Virgin Studios

Covers by Marc Silvestri, Greg Horn,
Christopher Moeller and Virgin Studios

ISSUE 2



THE STRANDED™



What if your entire world—your childhood, your family, all your memories—was a lie? Ask the cast of **THE STRANDED**: Sisera, a conceptual artist; Endo, an art gallery worker; Drum, a New York City librarian; and Cullen, a Washington D.C. lawyer. They're all, secretly, from a world called Standfire—and now their past is returning to try and kill them.

One by one, *The Stranded* are assaulted by Janus, an altered human working for an otherworldly force that seeks their destruction. Their only hope: Tamree, a dark, mysterious woman sent to Earth to protect them. One by one, she must awaken the buried memories of *The Stranded*—along with their powerful, unique psychic and physical abilities. But even if they can defeat Janus and his unseen masters, they must also deal with the uncontrollable destructive power wielded by one of their own.

THE STRANDED is an epic adventure spanning two worlds, as seen through the eyes of five ordinary people... whose extraordinary abilities may ultimately spell doom or salvation for the entire universe.

ON STANDS DECEMBER 2007

Sci Fi.

Virgin
COMICS

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *india* authentic™
KARTIKKEYA



ON STANDS JANUARY 2008



COALITION COMIX



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WITH MIKE CAREY**

[Writer of X-Men and Weston & Nicolas Cage's Voodoo Child]

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