



ISSUE

1

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3392 AD



DASGUPTA/KANG

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3392 AD

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Printed in Canada.

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"ARMAGARH IS A LAND REFLECTING THE SPLENDOR OF HUMAN EXCELLENCE."

"IN AN AGE OF SHADOWS, THE GREAT CITY IS LIKE A SHINING LANCE, TEARING THROUGH THE NOXIOUS CLOUDS THAT COVER OUR WORLD, BRINGING THE LIGHT OF SUN TO OUR REALM."

"WE BELONGED TO THE HOUSE OF *SURYAVANSHA*, THE PROLDEST OF ALL THE CLANS OF ARMAGARH. THE FOUR OF US...

"...SHATRUGHAN..."

"...BHARAT..."

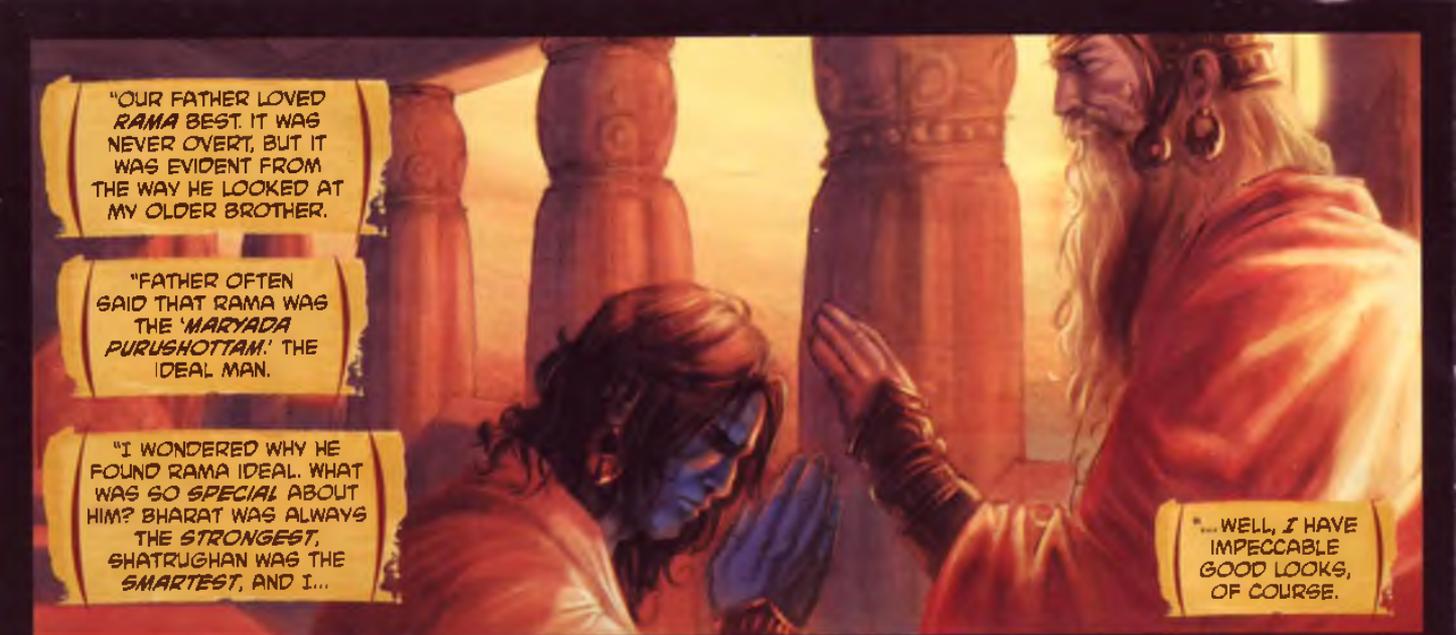
"...RAMA..."

"...AND MYSELF, LAKSHMAN."

"WE ARE THE SONS OF THE MAHARAJ DASHRATH, THE CHIEF COUNCILOR OF ARMAGARH. OUR LIVES WERE PRIVILEGED BEYOND BELIEF."

"THE LUXURIES WE ENJOYED WERE BOUNDLESS. WE WERE TRAINED BY THE BEST OF MEN, TO *BECOME* THE BEST OF MEN."

"WE ARE *KSHATRIYAS*, BORN AND BRED TO BECOME THE FINEST WARRIORS, SO THAT WE MIGHT PROTECT OUR NATION FROM THE MALIGN FORCES ALIGNED AGAINST IT--THE VILE *ASURAS* FROM THE DARK CONTINENT OF *NARK*."



"OUR FATHER LOVED RAMA BEST. IT WAS NEVER OVERT, BUT IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE WAY HE LOOKED AT MY OLDER BROTHER.

"FATHER OFTEN SAID THAT RAMA WAS THE 'MAYADA PURUSHOTTAM,' THE IDEAL MAN.

"I WONDERED WHY HE FOUND RAMA IDEAL. WHAT WAS SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM? BHARAT WAS ALWAYS THE STRONGEST, SHATRUGHAN WAS THE SMARTEST, AND I...

"...WELL, I HAVE IMPECCABLE GOOD LOOKS, OF COURSE.



"I WILL ADMIT THAT I ALWAYS FELT A HINT OF JEALOUSY OVER THE WAY MY FATHER DOTTED ON RAMA. BUT SOON I CAME TO KNOW THE REASON.

"WE BROTHERS WERE SEPARATED, AND SENT TO OUR RESPECTIVE DUTIES. I WENT WITH RAMA TO JANASTHAN, FAR WEST OF ARMAGARH, WHERE WE WERE TO ACT AS GOVERNORS OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENT THERE.



"THEREAFTER, OUR LIVES CHANGED.

"I STARTED TO SEE MY BROTHER FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, AS HE LED A SMALL ARMY OF PEASANTS AGAINST THE INVADING ASURA FORCES."



"JANASTHAN FOUND ITSELF UNDER ATTACK FROM A MASSIVE ASURA FORCE LED BY THE GENERAL VIV-SHAN, WHO WAS TASKED WITH ELIMINATING THE HUMAN PRESENCE IN THAT REGION BY NARK'S DARK LORD, RAVAN.

"RAMA FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY AGAINST THE HORDES, DISPLAYING COURAGE UNSEEN BY EVEN THE FIERCEST KSHATRIYAS.



"SO IT CAME AS A SHOCK WHEN RAMA *SURRENDERED* THE FORT TO VIV-SHAN, EXCHANGING IT FOR THE LIVES OF MYSELF AND THE FEW REMAINING WARRIORS...

"...AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IT WAS AN ACT OF HUMANITY *UNACCEPTABLE* BY THE CODE OF KSHATRIYA, *UNACCEPTABLE TO ME*...



"...AND UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GODS AND COUNCIL OF ARMAGARH. FOR HIS HUMANITARIAN DEED IN JANASTHAN, RAMA WAS SENTENCED TO AN *EXILE* OF FOURTEEN YEARS.

"HE WAS PUNISHED FOR SAVING LIVES, AND I PUNISHED HIM BY CALLING HIM *COWARD*, EVEN THOUGH I STAYED BY HIS SIDE."



"RAMA VALUES LIFE MORE THAN ANYTHING. I SAW HIM FIGHT FOR YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF MITHILA AGAINST THE ASURAS, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT HIS FIGHT.

"HE WAS DRAGGED INTO IT. BY VISHWAMITRA, THE SEER WHO BROUGHT US TO YOUR DOOMED LAND, RAMA FOUGHT BECAUSE HE COULDN'T STAND IDLE AND SEE YOUR PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED.



"RAMA SUFFERED NEAR FATAL WOUNDS IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST RAVAN'S SON DEVANTAK...

"... BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP.



"RAMA SLEW DEVANTAK. THE UNKIND WORDS I SAID TO MY BROTHER NOW CHOKE IN MY THROAT.

"RAMA IS NO COWARD. HE IS A TRUE KSHATRIYA, THE WAY WE IDEALLY SHOULD BE.

"I KNOW NOW WHY OUR FATHER CALLED HIM 'MARYADA PURUSHOTTAM.' RAMA IS A HERO..."

"... AND
NOW HE LIES
DYING.

"I CAN'T SAVE
MY BROTHER.

SEETA?

"THE DIMENSIONAL
PORTAL TRANSPORTED
US FROM MITHILA TO
THIS GODFORSAKEN
JUNKYARD..."

"... WITH THE ASURA-HAUNTED
CHITRAKUT MOUNTAINS
AT OUR BACKS, AND THE
WASTED DESERTS OF *THAR*
IN FRONT OF US.

"WHERE DO WE
GO NOW?"

CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

SHE IS A STRANGE ONE.
SO UNLIKE ANYONE I
HAVE EVER MET. BUT I
FEEL I CAN *TRUST* HER.

MORE THAN THAT, I HAVE
STARTED *BELIEVING* IN HER. IT
IS AS IF SHE CAN CHANGE THE
VERY FACE OF THE EARTH WITH
HER WILL, AND MAKE IT A
PLACE WE ALL DREAM OF.

FOR DAYS SHE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SILENT. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HER SORROW. SHE'S LOST EVERYTHING.

PRINCESS SEETA?

NO NEED FOR THAT. I WAS NEVER A PRINCESS.

RAMA WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER.

CAN'T YOU WORK SOME MIRACLE AND SAVE HIM? I SAW YOUR TEARS BRING A DEAD PLANT BACK TO LIFE.

LAKSHMAN, PLEASE. I AM NOT GOD. LIFE AND DEATH ARE NOT IN MY HANDS.

HE WAS WOUNDED SAVING YOU!

HE WOULD NOT LET DEVANTAK LAY HIS FILTHY CLAWS ON YOU! THE WOUNDS HE BEARS ARE BECAUSE OF YOU!

CAN'T YOU AT LEAST... TRY?



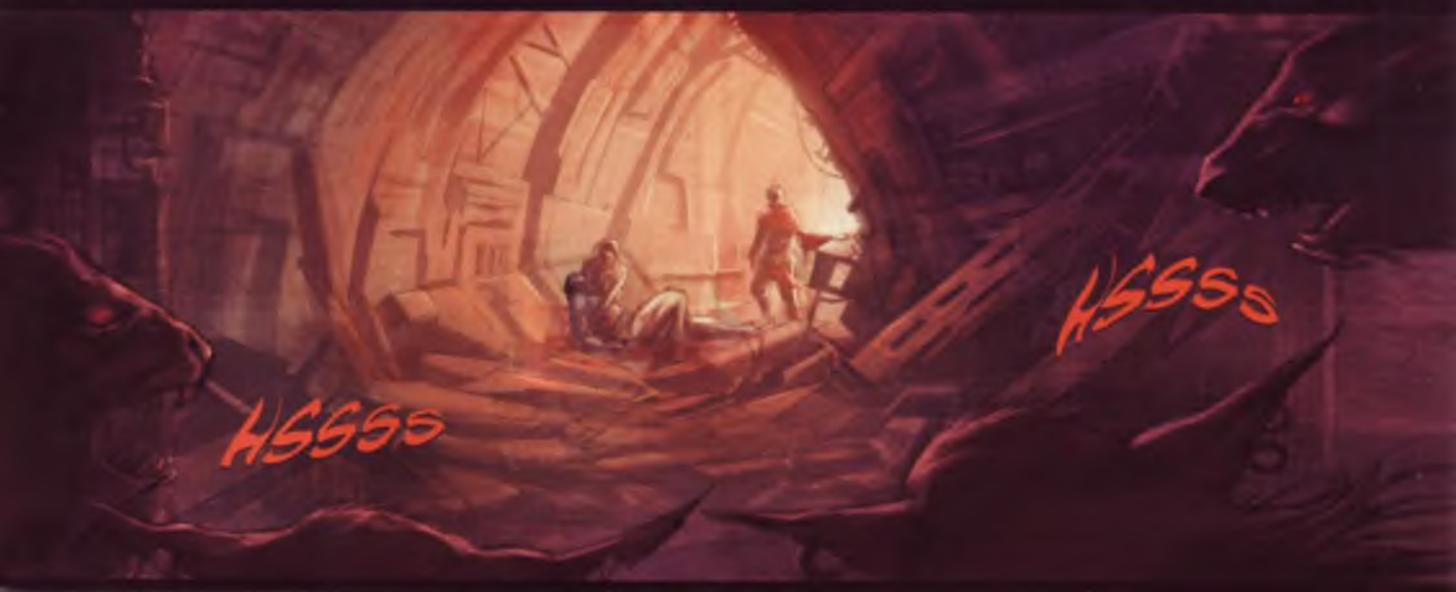
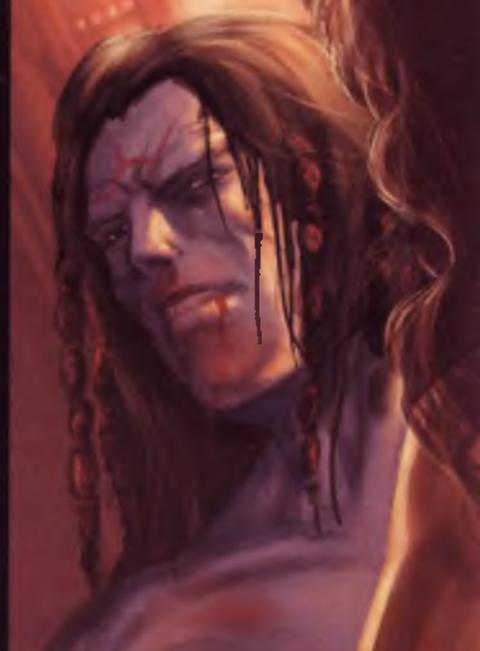
WHAT YOUR BROTHER ASKS OF ME, I DO NOT BELIEVE I CAN DO THIS.



I HAVE NOT THE *STRENGTH*.



NOTHING LIKE THE STRENGTH YOU HAVE.



LANKA,
CAPITAL CITY
OF NARK.

VRIGADRATH,
CASTLE OF THE
ASURA PRIME...

...RAVAN.

IF IT
PLEASES
MY LORD...

AS I'VE SAID,
YOU NEED NOT
ASK.

ENTER, LADY
MONDODRI.



I SEE THAT YOU ARE **TROUBLED** AFTER YOUR LAST VENTURE TO ARYAVARTA, MY LORD.

TROUBLED?

IF ONLY I COULD UNDERSTAND THE **MEANING** OF THAT EMOTION. OR ANY EMOTION.



I WISH YOU TO **DO** SOMETHING FOR ME, MY LADY.

YOU HAVE, BUT TO UTTER THE WORD.

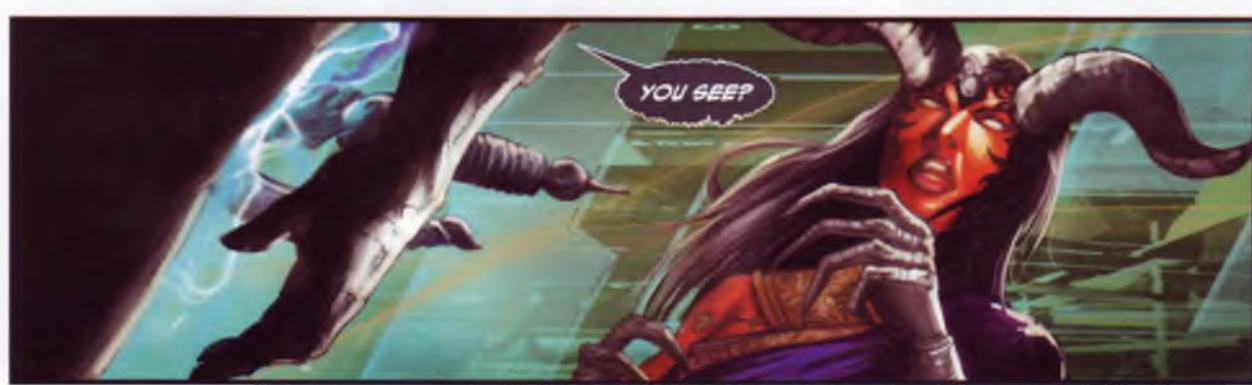
THEN DRAW YOUR BLADE...



... AND **STRIKE** ME.

MY LORD?

I **COMMAND** IT.



YOU **SEEP**



I FEEL NOTHING. NO PAIN...



NO PLEASURE.



NOTHING.



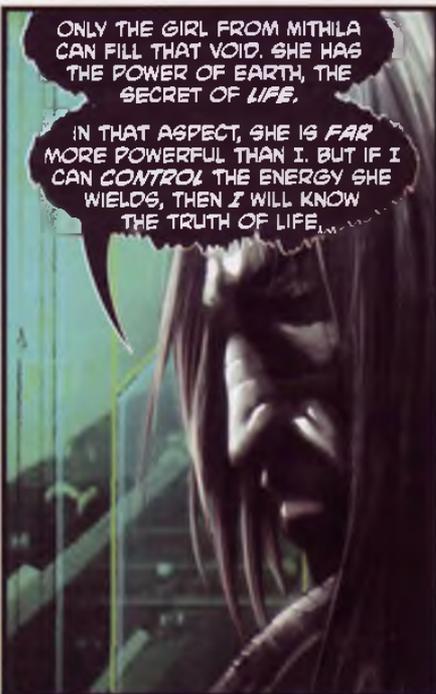
NOT JOY.
NOT FEAR.
NOT LOVE.
NOT HATE.



I CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS TO BE ALIVE.

THAT IS WHAT MAKES YOU MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER CREATURE ON EARTH.

THAT IS WHAT MAKES ME INCOMPLETE.



ONLY THE GIRL FROM MITHILA CAN FILL THAT VOID. SHE HAS THE POWER OF EARTH, THE SECRET OF LIFE. IN THAT ASPECT, SHE IS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN I. BUT IF I CAN CONTROL THE ENERGY SHE WIELDS, THEN I WILL KNOW THE TRUTH OF LIFE.



AND THEN?
AND THEN I SHALL BECOME GOD.



I'M AFRAID MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS DEMAND MY LORD'S ATTENTION.

THE LORDS OF NARK REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE, IN ORDER TO PRESENT REPORTS OF THE CONQUEST.

AS IF I AM OBVIOUS WHICH OF THEM WOULD WASTE MY TIME?



ALL THE LORDS OF YOUR VAST CONTINENT HAVE CONGREGATED TODAY.



"PRIME MINISTER KUBERA."



"YOUR SONS, PRAHASTA AND ATIKAYA."



"YOUR DAUGHTERS, AKSHAYA AND KUMBINI."



"THE PISAACH CHIEF, CHANDA, AWAITS."



"THE DAITYA LORD RAHU HAS RETURNED FROM CHITRAKUT. OUR STRONGHOLD IN ARYAVARTA IS SECURE."



"THE BRISCHIK KING, KAITAV IS HERE, WITH THE REPORTS OF VENOM PRODUCTION."



"AND OF COURSE, YOUR WISE MENTOR, WITH HIS CONSORT THE MAGE PRINCESS SUCANA."





LORD?

I BRING NEWS OF VICTORY. WE DESTROYED A LARGE CONTINGENT OF TROOPS SENT FROM ARMAGARH TO CHITRAKUT. WE REJOICE IN ANOTHER TRIUMPH OVER THE HUMANS!



MY LORD, I COME ON BEHALF OF MY PEOPLE, WHO SUFFER FROM THE LOSS OF FUEL. I REQUEST A SUPPLY OF BLOOD SEEDS.

BEGONE, SICKLY CHANDA. YOUR KIND ARE NOT WORTHY OF BLOOD SEED.



THAT'S FOR THE LORD TO DECIDE. ALL OF NARK HAVE AN EQUAL SHARE OF BLOOD SEED.



IT SEEMS MY FATHER IS NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE AFFAIRS OF HIS MINIONS, KAITAV.

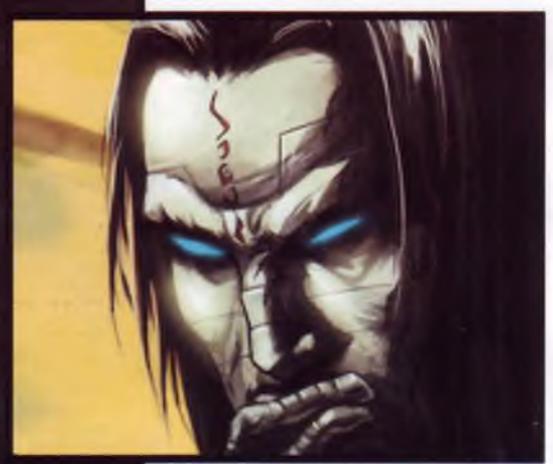
TIME TO ELECT A NEW ASURA PRIME, PERHAPS?



YES.

YES, IT SEEMS THE LORD IS DISTRACTED, AS IF THE ASURA RACE IS NOW A BURDEN ON HIS SHOULDERS. HIS AGED SHOULDERS

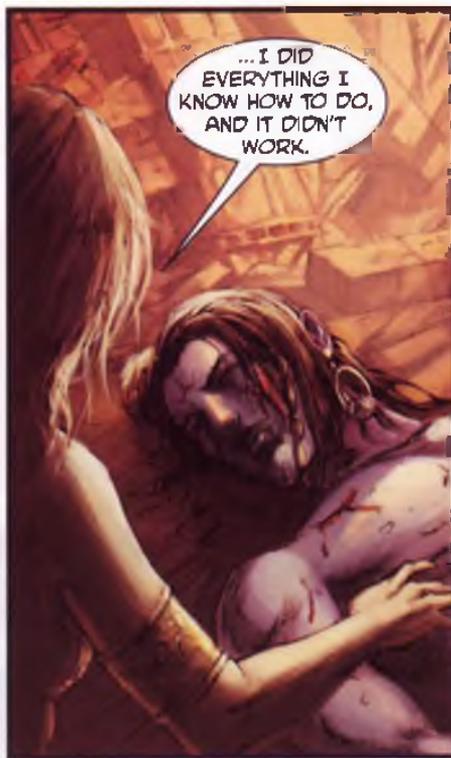
COULD IT BE HE IS READY TO RETIRE?



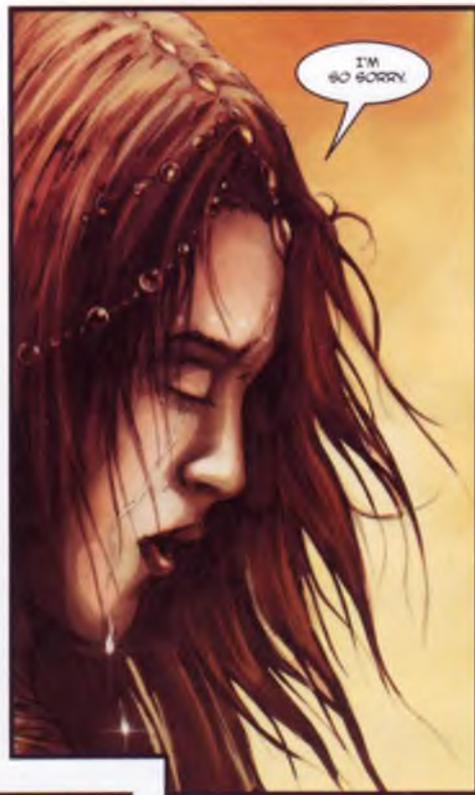




IT DIDN'T WORK...



... I DID EVERYTHING I KNOW HOW TO DO, AND IT DIDN'T WORK.



I'M SO SORRY.



LAKSHMAN...



... I TRIED, I TRULY TRIED, BUT I CANNOT SAVE YOUR BROTHER.

YOU BELIEVE I CAN DO MIRACLES, BUT I TELL YOU I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER IT.



THIRSTY...



.. I'M JUST SO THIRSTY.

DO YOU THINK ONE OF YOU... COULD GET ME SOMETHING TO DRINK?

RAMA?
RAMA!



CAREFUL, BROTHER!

YOU'RE STILL WEAK. YOUR WOUNDS ARE HEALED, BUT YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?



I WAS FIGHTING DEVANTAK. HE WOUNDED ME, BUT I WAS ABLE TO SLAY HIM, AND THEN...

THEN...



...HER.

SEETA HEALED YOU, BROTHER.

I TOLD YOU, SHE IS UNLIKE ANYONE WE HAVE EVER MET. SHE BROUGHT YOU BACK.

I OWE YOU MY LIFE. HOW DO I REPAY YOU?

I'LL... FETCH SOME WATER.



BY THE GODS, RAMA! HER TEARS BROUGHT A SAPLING BACK FROM DEATH...



... AND NOW MY BIG BLUE BROTHER!

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HER, LAKSHMAN. SHE IS--



EEEEAAAA!



SEETA!

WHAT...



...WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?



I DON'T KNOW...



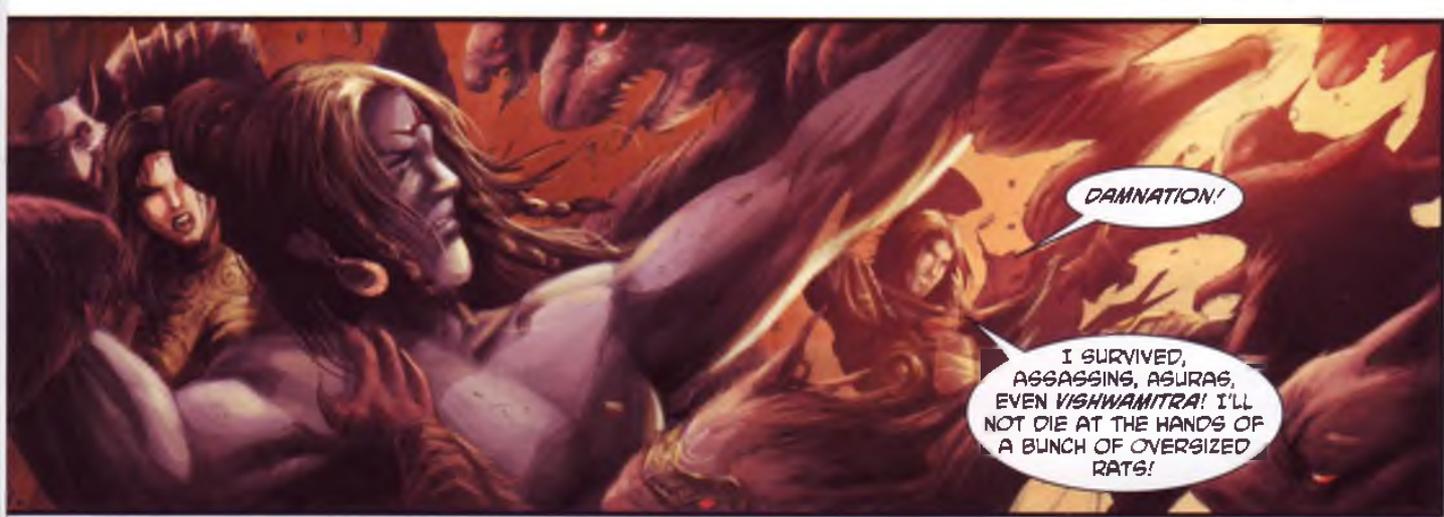
...BUT THERE ARE TOO DAMN MANY OF THEM!



I FEAR MY RECOVERY...

...MIGHT BE SHORT-LIVED...

CAN YOU EVEN STAND?



DAMNATION!

I SURVIVED,
ASSASSINS, ASURAS,
EVEN VISHWAMITRA! I'LL
NOT DIE AT THE HANDS OF
A BUNCH OF OVERSIZED
RATS!



BROTHER...

... SHUT UP
AND FIGHT!



A FINE
CATCH.

A
FINE CATCH
INDEED.



THREE
BIG, STRONG
ONES.

THERE SHALL
BE MEAT ENOUGH
FOR ALL OF SHABRI'S
CHILDREN!

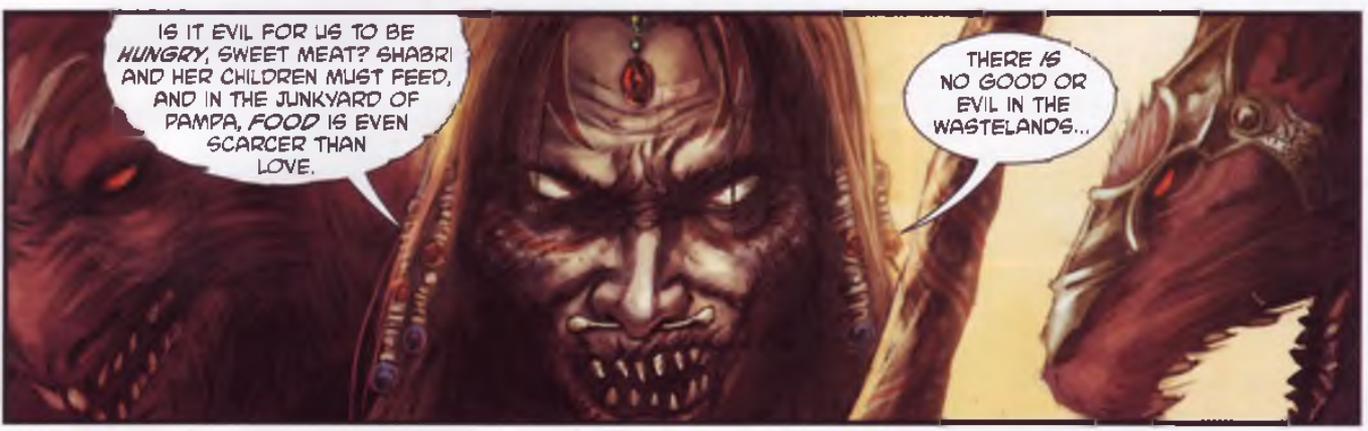


PREPARE THEM.

YOU... YOU CAN'T BE...

... YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY GOING TO EAT US?

THIS IS EVIL!



IS IT EVIL FOR US TO BE HUNGRY, SWEET MEAT? SHABRI AND HER CHILDREN MUST FEED, AND IN THE JUNKYARD OF PAMPA, FOOD IS EVEN SCARCER THAN LOVE.

THERE IS NO GOOD OR EVIL IN THE WASTELANDS...



... THERE'S JUST PREDATOR AND PREY.



SEETA, DO SOMETHING...

BUT... I CAN'T...



... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL WHAT I DO.

YOU HAVE TO. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN BRING LIFE. SEETA...



... I BELIEVE IN YOU.



...AS IT SHOULD BE.

SHOO...
...THERE'S PLENTY FOR YOU TO EAT NOW. BE VEGETARIAN LIKE MY BROTHER.



THIS IS A BOUNTY FROM HEAVEN!



AND FROM THIS, *MORE* BOUNTY SHALL SPROUT.

SHABRI AND HER CHILDREN WILL NEVER, *EVER* BE HUNGRY AGAIN!



YOU HAVE TURNED THE JUNKYARD OF PAMPA INTO AN *OASIS* AMID THE DESERTS OF THAR!



GODDESS...



...*STAY* WITH SHABRI AND HER CHILDREN. WE SHALL BE YOUR *SERVANTS* FOREVER.

HOW *ELSE* COULD WE REPAY YOU?



THAT ... IS NOT NECESSARY

WELL HOW ABOUT ONE OF THOSE OLD *RIDES* SCATTERED AROUND THE JUNKYARD? WE CAN *FIX* ONE AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.



TRY IT.



IT WORKS...
FOR NOW.

GET SEETA
AND LET'S
GO.

YOU COULD
HAVE STAYED
WITH US,
GODDESS...

MY DESTINY IS
WITH MY COMPANIONS,
GOOD WOMAN. I MUST
JOIN THEM.

VRRRRMMMM



FARE YOU
WELL, SHABRI.



WHERE
NOW?

SOUTH, TO AVOID
THE MOUNTAINS OF CHITRAKUT,
AND THEN TOWARDS EAST TO
THE NISHAAD VILLAGE.

NOT EXACTLY A *SHORT*
JOURNEY. WHAT ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO DO AMONG
THOSE FISHERMEN?



WE LOST MY FRIEND *GUHA*
IN OUR BATTLE WITH ASURAS. HIS
FAMILY'S WELLBEING BECOMES *MY*
RESPONSIBILITY NOW.

I EXPECT I'LL
SPEND THE REST OF
MY LIFE THERE.

NOT EXACTLY THE
ANSWER I WAS *HOPING*
FOR, BROTHER...

Target 7056 meters xv x
07 jaisasinvkld5

HUMANS FROM
ARMAGARH...

067 k5 pr h 2100

110000 2v

...ALL
ALONE IN THE
WASTELANDS.

CAN
WE, PRINCE
ANGAD?

INDEED.
LET'S GO HAVE
SOME FUN...

TO BE CONTINUED!

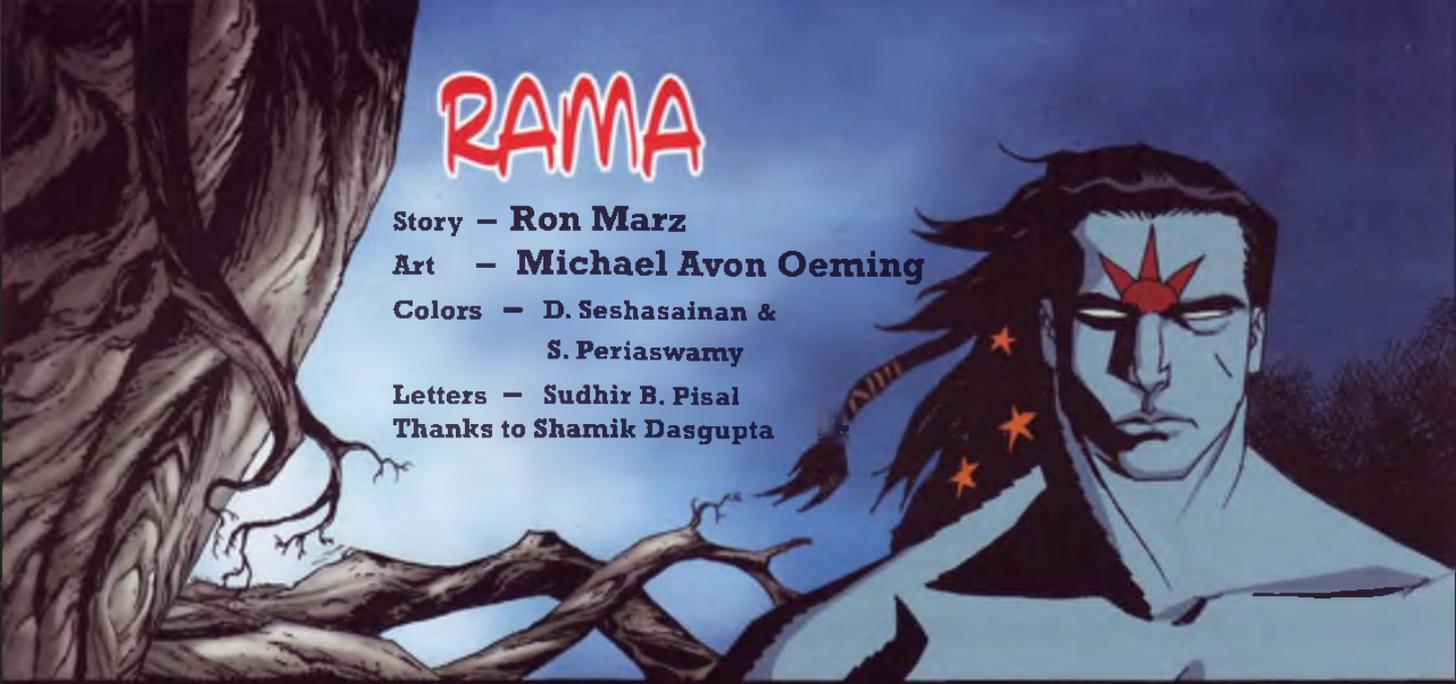
RAMA

Story – Ron Marz

Art – Michael Avon Oeming

Colors – D. Seshasainan &
S. Periaswamy

Letters – Sudhir B. Pisal
Thanks to Shamik Dasgupta



IN ARMAGARH, BOYS OF A CERTAIN AGE WHO WISH TO ONE DAY BE *KSHATRIYA* WARRIORS ARE SENT TO THE PERILOUS FOREST OF *DANDAKARANYA*.

WHEN *MY* TIME CAME, MY BROTHER, RAMA, WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS MY ELDER, BUT ALREADY WELL ON HIS WAY TO MANHOOD.

EQUIPPED WITH LITTLE FOOD, AND ARMED ONLY WITH A PRIMITIVE WEAPON, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO PROVE THEMSELVES BY BRINGING BACK A *TROPHY* OR CAPTURED ANIMAL.

HIS OWN TRIAL BEHIND HIM, HE TOLD ME TO HAVE *COURAGE*...

...AND I SET OUT FOR THE WILDERNESS.

FOR DAYS I SEARCHED FOR A TROPHY THAT WOULD BRING ME GLORY, A WILD AND DANGEROUS BEAST THAT WOULD CAUSE MY FATHER TO SMILE UPON *ME* IN THE WAY THAT HE SMILED UPON RAMA.

BUT I FOUND *NOTHING*, ONLY A YOUNG AND PUNY *VANARA*. NOT MUCH OF A PRIZE, BUT IF I COULD CAPTURE IT, I AT LEAST WOULD NOT RETURN HOME WITH EMPTY HANDS.

BUT BEFORE I COULD *CATCH* THE CREATURE...



...MY CHANCES OF RETURNING HOME AT ALL BECAME SLIM.

THERE APPEARED AN AJGAR, BIGGER THAN ANY I HAD EVER SEEN. THE GREAT SERPENT SWEEPED ME UP IN ITS COILS, AND SOUGHT TO CRUSH ME AS WELL AS THE VANARA...



...UNTIL RAMA APPEARED.



THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME RAMA SAVED MY LIFE...



...THOUGH BY NO MEANS THE LAST.

HE OFFERED ME THE AJGAR'S HEAD, A SPLENDID TROPHY THAT WOULD BRING GREAT ACCLAIM, PERHAPS EVEN MY FATHER'S APPROVAL.



I ASKED MY BROTHER IF HE DID NOT WISH TO KEEP SUCH A RARE PRIZE FOR HIMSELF. BUT RAMA SMILED IN THAT WAY OF HIS...



...AND TOLD ME HE PREFERRED THE VANARA'S FRIENDSHIP, A THING THAT SOMEDAY MIGHT PROVE FAR MORE VALUABLE THAN A TROPHY MOUNTED UPON A WALL.



RAMA WAS NOT MUCH MORE THAN A BOY THEN...

... BUT THAT DAY
I GLIMPSED
THE *MAN*...

... AND THE
HERO...

... THAT HE
WOULD BECOME.



NEXT:
RAVAN



ISSUE 2

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3392 AD



FEATURING
BACK UP STORY
BY RON MARZ AND
JIM STARLIN

STARLIN

ON STANDS SEPTEMBER 2007

INSIDE VIRGIN COMICS

TRADING UP

Storytelling is a tricky business. Don't get me wrong, it's an awesome business—I'm happy to work the long hours, take the endless meetings, and run myself ragged with all the other stuff, because it means I get to do things like decide how heroes live and die, create worlds and burn them down, and turn women into snakes and guys into zombies. I will be real with you, because, by virtue of picking up this book, I think you're pretty cool: this job rocks.

But that still doesn't mean there aren't difficulties and nuances in the work—even the cool work. When you write a comic book (as when TV writers write an episode) you have to think about two stories at once: the issue story, which is a scant 22-pages long, and the overarching series story, which can be 5, 7 or 10 issues together. And you have to make them both work. The problem is, while, when you're finished with an issue you can look at it and say "that's a nice issue," you have to wait until you finish a whole arc before you can see if the whole story came together.

Fortunately for us, it has. We've just put out our first six collected volumes, and we're all pretty stoked about the stories they tell. It's a wide range, moving from myth to mystery to metamorphoses, and typifies who we are not only as a company, but as storytellers. And, while all of these series will live beyond the first volumes, these six initial trade paperbacks are our building blocks, the foundation upon which we are building the (non-shared!) universe of Virgin Comics.

I invite you to check them out, enjoy the births of our worlds, and get to know our characters from the very beginning, and then stick around: all of our series are continuing their journey as monthlies in comic book shops now. It's going to be a wild ride, and I hope you all are up for it.

See you on the inside,

—The Chief
and the Virgin Comics Editorial Team



BONUS MATERIAL

FEATURED IN SEVEN BROTHERS,
DEVI AND SNAKE WOMAN
TRADE PAPERBACKS

The Diary of a Snake Woman:
April Manning (1945-1980)

June 6, 1980

It's gotten worse—the headaches, that heavy feeling that greets me each morning. My dreams are becoming more intense, more real, and I wake afterwards, drenched in sweat. It's like I've been chasing something all night. Something I desperately need. I just can't remember what. Michael says they're merely nightmares, but he should understand. He's a part of this somehow. I can feel it. It's almost instinct.

Thinking I should be happy if this, because he doesn't look at me the same way anymore. Actually he doesn't look at me at all anymore.

July 6, 1982

Thought I would never see him again, but I saw him again last night. He still looks like Michael, but I know his eyes look like deep black, not Michael's blue. He was looking at me, but I couldn't see his face. He was calling my name, but I couldn't hear it. I need to help him. It's driving me crazy, the way he looks. He's fighting for his life. I'll do anything I can to help him. And I will see him again. Even if it's in another life.

getting more concerned and says he wants to take her. Somewhere I can relax. But I think he's just to become more fully, less dependent than he is. I don't think he likes it. But I think I might I bring my husband's life my life, and I want like I'm my things. For his sake, at least, for the sake of my dream.

8/1982

When you... Except don't look at it as you and an even closer to each morning to give me some... of they call it, but I should have been Michael of me for the way I think. He says I'm done, says that I should be allowed. He says he doesn't I can imagine. I want to see him, me.

Michael he'd understand I did what I had to do. The truth is, Michael wasn't my first choice. There was someone else, someone who left me a long time ago, because I was too weak to fight for him. It's him in my dream, in my consciousness. How could I forget that? He's reaching out to me, appealing to me, but I can't see him. I'm fighting for his life. I'll do anything I can to help him. And I will see him again. Even if it's in another life.

ARCADE FIRE'S 'SUNSHINE' FOUND IN THE ROOM OF APRIL MANNING, BOSTON HOME APRIL 1980. SUBMITTED TO WOLFGANG PETERMANN'S 'PHOTOLIA' MAGAZINE IN 1988. (PHOTO: SEPTEMBER 27, 1988. LINDSEY OF BOSTON, BOSTON)

Devi-myth, LEGEND, OR LEATHER-CLAD SUPERBABE?

Who is the Devi? No, we don't mean just our own half-woman half-goddess leather clad superheroine from the streets of Sitapur, but the iconic Hindu goddess who inspired the story of Tara Mehta, Shekhar Kapur's *Devi*. In Sanskrit and Hindi, "Devi" literally means "Goddess". The word dates back 3,300 years to when the Vedas—Ancient Hindu scriptures from 1,300 BC—were written. And the stories told in the Vedas form the basis of the Hindu faith, which has close to a billion followers around the world.

Devi is a goddess of love, compassion, and nature. She is the All Mother who apportions both life and death, joy and pain. She is a Goddess of Fertility, rain, health, and nature. And she is the Green Earth Goddess, the holder of the universe in her arms.

In modern India still, hundreds of millions of people worship Devi in all her forms, to seek her blessings and to thank her for her gifts with the firm belief that she will give them strength to overcome obstacles and bring prosperity to their lives. There are many different celebrations during the year including Dussehra, when clay idols of the Goddess Durga are lovingly adorned and paraded through the city, and Dussehra, when people worship their more placid and calm forms, even their calculators to grant them prosperity in their businesses. And then there is Diwali, the festival of light which takes place in October, where a billion lamps are lit and tremendous fireworks are performed, all in an effort once again to draw the attention of Devi and her blessings.

At the core of all these celebrations is an acknowledgment by the people that Devi protects and provides for them, whether she is a fierce heroine who fights a demon to save a child, or a harbinger of prosperity for all souls. At the Devi is the All Mother who empowers us with her myriad faces and in a thousand different ways. But talk to the women of India, and they will whisper a last definitive word regarding Devi to all those that will listen. Devi is not an idol, simply worthy of worship, or a mere consort upon whose statue placed upon a pedestal, just as she was embedded within the Universe during its birth. So (to do so) she exists in the womb of each one of us. Worship her, nurture her, love her, and she will reveal herself within you to truly be the greatest Super Hero ever known.



ARTIST'S COMMENTARY: JEEVAN KANG

Seven Brothers Artist Jeevan Kang shows us his best pages from Volume 1 and tells us why they're his favorites.



Issue 5, page 7

This page was my homage to those legendary behemoths from the celluloid screen that plagued cosmopolitan cities, namely King Kong and Godzilla. I'm sure Garth Ennis intended for it to play that way and this page I felt, came somewhat close.

Issue 6, page 17

Issue 6, page 17



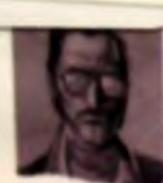
Issue 6, page 17

Issue 6, page 17



Issue 6, page 18

Hey Rachel! Here's that background info you asked for! Could you have picked seven guys who were farther apart? I've taken so many airplane flights in the last few weeks for this job, I could recite the entire in-flight menu to you in Spanish, Japanese and Hindi. (I've included receipts for the plane tickets, by the way, to add to my normal fee). Talk to you later!
-L. K.



Subj: Rama, Age 38
Location: Gujarat, India

Rama is a man of few words, but his actions speak volumes. He is a former soldier and has a deep understanding of military tactics. He is currently working as a mercenary and is known for his loyalty and skill.



Subj: Raj, Age 25
Location: New Mexico, United States

Raj is a young man with a bright future ahead of him. He is currently a student at a university and is known for his intelligence and leadership skills. He is currently working as a part-time job and is looking for a full-time position.



Subj: Ravi, Age 35
Location: New Mexico, United States

Ravi is a man of many talents. He is a former soldier and has a deep understanding of military tactics. He is currently working as a mercenary and is known for his loyalty and skill.



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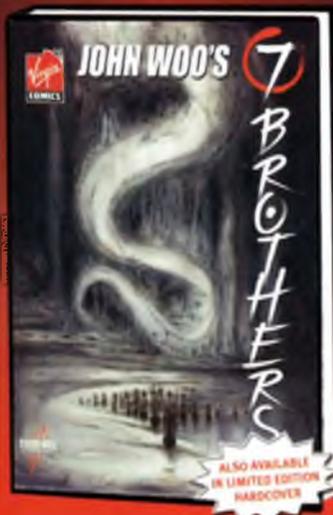
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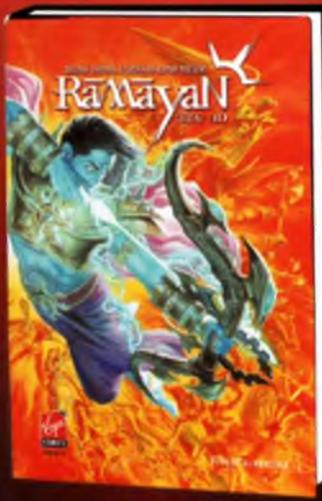
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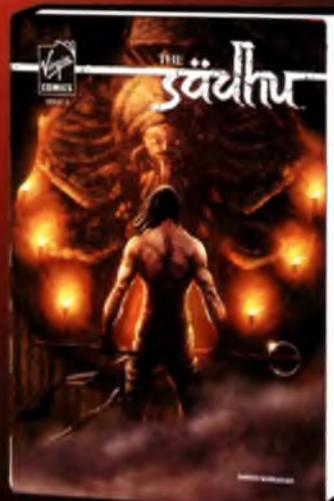
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VOL.1

ON STANDS AUGUST 2007

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