



ISSUE

7

Rāmāyaṇ

3392AD
RELOADED.



DASGUPTA/KANG

RāMāyaN^{3392AD} RELOADED™

PREVIOUSLY...

Thousands of years in the future, an epic unfolds. From his stronghold on the continent of Nark, the evil **Ravan** means to crush the world under his heel. But the free-willed races of the lands of Aryavarta, led by the humans of the city of Armagarh, resist the dark lord. However, treachery resulted in the exile of **Rama**, who is the Armagarh's greatest warrior. Along with his younger brother **Lakshman**, and beautiful **Seeta**, daughter of earth, Rama travels the land in a quest to restore the earth to its former glory.

Rama and Lakshman, along with their friend **Viv-Shan**, currently serve as mercenaries in the rebel armies of **Shugreave**, who means to overthrow his despotic brother, **King Baali**. Baali's forces are legion, and launch regular attacks on the jungle strongholds of the rebels. The latest attack has unleashed the most powerful and dangerous foe they have ever encountered: the enigmatic super-soldier of Kishkindha, the invincible **Mahabali**.

VIRGIN COMICS

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IN OUR TRAVELS THROUGH ALL THE MYRIAD LANDS, WE HAVE FACED MONSTERS, WARRIORS, WARLORDS AND EVERY OTHER HOSTILE THREAT ARYAVARTA COULD THROW AT US.

FROM TATAKA AND HER BROOD TO THE CHILDREN OF RAVAN, FROM RATS LIKE THE MUSHIKAS TO THE MONSTROUS KABANDHA, VANARAS, ASURAS... YOU NAME THEM, WE'VE FOUGHT THEM.



BUT I'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS.



THE CREATURE THROBBED WITH POWER, A JUGGERNAUT OF DOOM.

OUR FELLOW REBELS WERE WASHED AWAY LIKE DRY LEAVES BY A MIGHTY WAVE.



WE WERE NO MATCH FOR THE MYSTERIOUS MAHABALI. I COULD FEEL FEAR THREATENING TO OVERWHELM OUR KSHATRIYA COURAGE.

GATHER AROUND ME. WE CAN TAKE HIM.

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, RAMA? HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIZE OF THAT THING?

SHALL I OFFER YOU A DIFFERENT CLICHE, LAKSHMAN?



THE
BIGGER THEY
ARE...

YEAH,
YEAH...



... BUT I HAVE
SERIOUS DOUBTS
MAHABALI IS GOING
TO TAKE A FALL
AT ALL!





MAN
OR MONSTER, I
WILL **NOT** LET YOU
OVERUN US!

I AM A
GENERAL, I HAVE LED
ARMIES. YOU POSE NO
THREAT TO **ME!**



SLAM



THERE
ARE **BETTER** WAYS
TO DISPATCH HEAVYWEIGHT
HITTERS THAN FULL-CONTACT
COMBAT.

BAMPH



BWOOOM



BY HANUMAN!



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9

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HOW COULD YOU ABANDON OUR FRIEND TO THE ENEMY, RAMA?

IT WAS AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT TO COMMIT SUICIDE, LAKSHMAN.

NEVER IN MY LIFE, OR EVEN IN THE KSHATRIYA WAR ANNALS, HAS SUCH A POWERFUL CREATURE BEEN REPORTED.



NOR IN ASURA WAR HISTORY. I AM AN ASURA WARBORN, ONE OF THE STRONGEST IN MY CLAN, AND I STOOD NO CHANCE AGAINST THE BRUTE.

WE CAN'T GIVE UP, VIV-SHAN. WHAT OF ANGAD?



ANGAD SHALL BE RESCUED, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SNATCH HIM FROM THE HEART OF KISHKINDHA.

BUT NOW WE MUST REPORT THIS INCIDENT TO HIGHER AUTHORITY.



WE NEED THE GUIDANCE OF LORD SHUGREAVE.



YOU
BRING GRIM NEWS,
RAMA.

ANGAD IS NOT
ONLY MY NEPHEW, HE IS
THE FINEST TACTICIAN IN
THIS WAR AGAINST
BAALI.

WE SHALL
BRING HIM BACK, LORD
SHUGREAVE.

EASIER SAID
THAN DONE. HE HAS
SURELY BEEN TAKEN TO
THE ROYAL PALACE, THE
HEART OF BAALI'S
EMPIRE.

THEN WE
SHALL RESCUE HIM
FROM THAT BLACK HEART,
AS RAMA HAS
PROMISED.

WE ARE
LOSING GROUND
EVERY DAY AND BAALI
GROWS MORE
POWERFUL.



WE STARTED OUR CAMPAIGN
BY RECRUITING DISILLUSIONED
AND TORMENTED VANARAS.

OUR NUMBERS
GREW IN THE EARLY
YEARS, BUT NOW OUR
RANKS THIN. WE LOSE
SOLDIERS EVERY
DAY.



BUT BAALI IS A
TYRANT, A BLOODTHIRSTY
MADMAN. WHY DO THE
KISHKINOHANS SUPPORT
HIM?



WHY WERE YOU EXILED FROM
ARMAGARH, RAMA? THE PEOPLE
LOVED YOU, YOUR FATHER KNEW
ABOUT YOUR ACT OF NOBILITY IN
JANASTHAN. SO WHAT WENT
WRONG?

IT WAS RELIGION.
MY FRIEND. YOUR GODS
PUNISHED YOU UNJUSTLY, BUT
NO ONE COULD SAY A
WORD ABOUT IT.



RELIGION
CAN BE THE MOST
DANGEROUS WEAPON
OF ALL.

BUT I HAVE A
PLAN. WE CAN WIN AGAINST
BAALI. HE HAS THE WEAPON OF
RELIGION IN HIS ARSENAL, BUT
WE HAVE SOMETHING
OF OUR OWN.

OUR
WEAPON WILL
BE BAALI'S OWN
MONUMENTAL
EGO!



KISHKINDHA,
THE PYRAMID OF
HANUMAN

THE REBEL
SYMPATHIZERS WILL
PAY FOR THEIR SINS, FOR
THEIR *TREACHERY*, FOR
THEIR LOSS OF BELIEF
IN OUR LORD AND
GOD...
...HANUMAN!

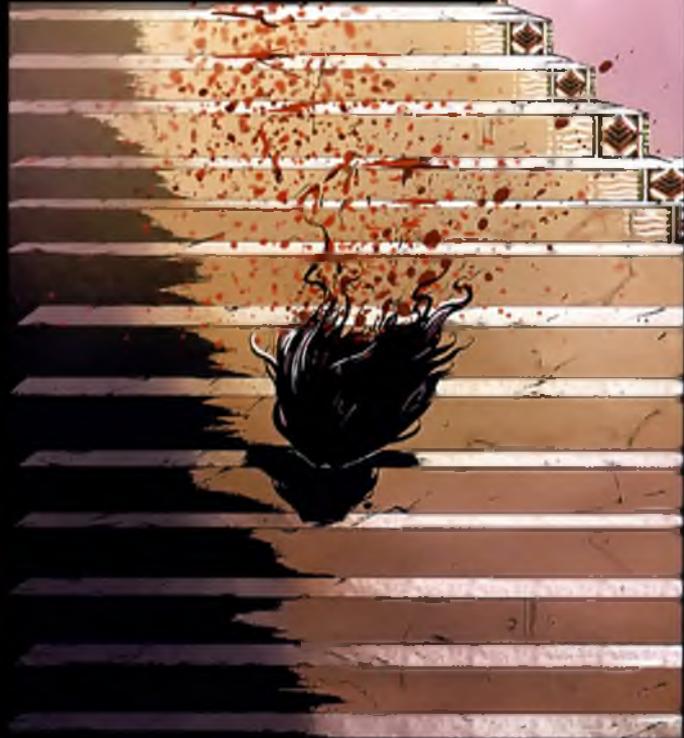




DAMN YOU ALL!



WHO WOULD HAVE A TROPHY?



BY HANUMAN, WHAT HAVE WE BECOME?

ENJOYING THE SHOW...



...MY SON? I ARRANGED FOR THIS SACRIFICIAL CEREMONY IN HONOR OF THE RETURN OF MY HEIR.

WELCOME BACK TO KISHKINHA!

Virgin
COMICS

ISSUE 7

**SPECIAL
DOUBLE-SIZED
FINALE**

**WRAP-AROUND COVERS BY
DAVE GIBBONS AND GARRY LEACH!**

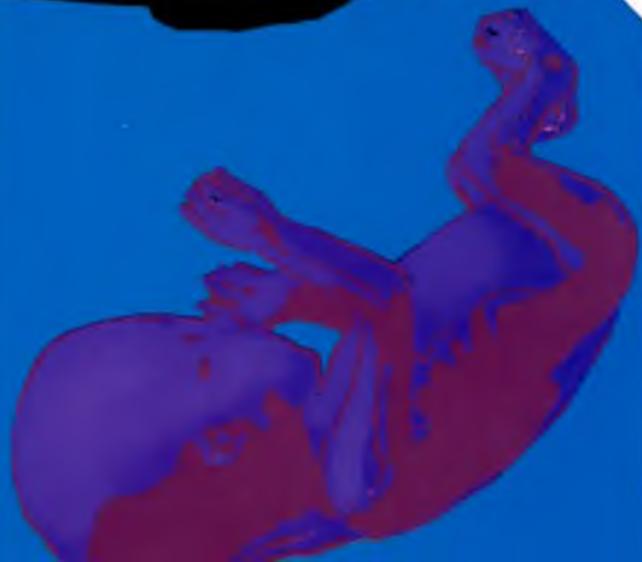
ON SALE JULY 2008

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ISSUE 2



**ON SALE
NOW**

**Man of the Year... or Master of
Armageddon?**



OH,
HOW I HAVE
MISSED YOU THESE
YEARS!



DON'T
TOUCH ME,
MONSTER!

I SEE YOUR CLOSE
ASSOCIATION WITH YOUR
DASTARDLY UNCLE HAS MADE
YOU FORGET YOUR MANNERS.



BUT I AM A
FORGIVING KING AND A
FATHER. IT'S GOOD TO SEE
YOU AFTER SO LONG,
MY BOY.

ANOTHER TIME
I WOULD SURELY HAVE YOU
FLOGGED FOR THIS, BUT I'M
FEELING RATHER BENEVOLENT
THESE DAYS.



RULING AN ENTIRE RACE
OF DIMWITS AND SCOUNDRELS CAN
BE A LITTLE TIRING. I COULD SURELY
USE ANOTHER HAND, AND WHAT'S
BETTER THAN YOUR OWN
BLOOD?

WHAT HAVE
YOU TURNED OUR PEOPLE
INTO? WE WERE A STRONG,
PROUD RACE!

NOW ALL
I SEE IS A NATION
DEGRADED BY MISERY
AND DECADENCE.



THIS WRITHING,
CRAWLING MASS OF FLESH,
BONE AND FUR AROUND US?
NOTHING BUT A PET BEAST
TO BE KEPT ON A
LEASH.

I WAS A FOOL
BEFORE. I WAS EASY
ON THEM, AND SOME OF
THEM REPAID MY KINDNESS
BY RISING UP AGAINST
ME.

IT WAS AN
ERROR THAT MUST
BE RECTIFIED. AND YOU,
MY SON, ARE THE
SOLUTION.

HOW?



TELL THE
PEOPLE YOU WERE
ABDUCTED BY SHUGREAVE, AND
FORCED TO JOIN HIS RANKS. TELL
THEM YOU WERE TORTURED, AND
MADE TO PARTICIPATE IN HIS
CRIMES AGAINST THE KING
AND GOD.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?



I SHALL DO NO SUCH THING... "FATHER."

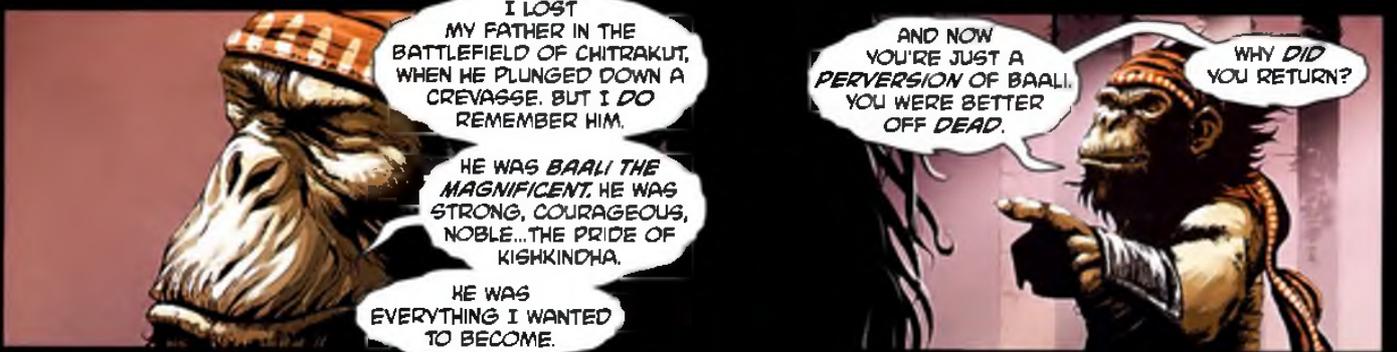
YOU CALL YOURSELF THE SCION OF GOD? THE WAY YOU DEFILE THE NAME OF HANUMAN BY SACRIFICES AND MINDLESS BLOODLETTING, YOU SHALL NEVER BE FORGIVEN. NEVER BE ABSOLVED OF YOUR SINS.

YOU INDEED HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR MANNERS.



YOU DARE SMOKE IN PRESENCE OF YOUR KING AND FATHER?

YOU ARE NEITHER MY KING NOR MY FATHER. DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF, BAALI.



I LOST MY FATHER IN THE BATTLEFIELD OF CHITRAKUT, WHEN HE PLUNGED DOWN A CREVASSE. BUT I DO REMEMBER HIM.

HE WAS BAALI THE MAGNIFICENT. HE WAS STRONG, COURAGEOUS, NOBLE...THE PRIDE OF KISHKINDHA.

HE WAS EVERYTHING I WANTED TO BECOME.

AND NOW YOU'RE JUST A PERVERSION OF BAALI. YOU WERE BETTER OFF DEAD.

WHY DID YOU RETURN?



I...I...

WHY CAN'T YOU AGAIN BE THE TRUE SCION OF LORD HANUMAN? WHY CAN'T YOU BE THE FATHER I LOVED AND RESPECTED?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU. BUT I BELIEVE BAALI IS STRONGER THAN ANY ASURA VENOM, THAN ANY YANTRA THAT RAVAN HURLED AT YOU.

I HAVE FAITH THAT BAALI WILL RETURN...



...WON'T YOU, FATHER?



ANGAD...I... GAVE YOU A PROPOSAL...



...AND
I TAKE IT
YOUR ANSWER
IS NO.

HONESTLY, YOU
LEAVE ME NO CHOICE BUT
TO MAKE AN *EXAMPLE* OF YOU,
TO SHOW THE PEOPLE EVEN THE
PRINCE OF KISHKINDHA PAYS THE
PRICE OF INSURGENCE. YOU
SHALL BE *SACRIFICED*
UPON THE ALTAR
OF HANUMAN...

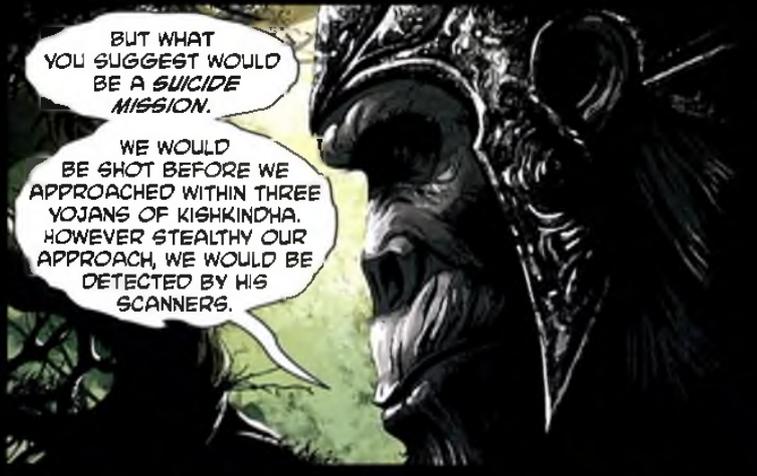
...AND
THEN I WILL
FEAST ON YOUR
FLESH.



WE MUST TAKE THIS STRUGGLE TO BAALI'S TURF.

WE HOLE UP IN THE JUNGLE, HE SENDS TROOPS AFTER US. EVERY DAY, WE FIGHT AND RUN, AND IF WE WIN, THE VICTORIES ARE SMALL. WE MUST ENTER KISHKINDHA AND CHALLENGE BAALI'S MIGHT.

I TRUST YOU, RAMA. YOU ALONE HAVE BROUGHT MANY VICTORIES AGAINST BAALI'S FORCES.



BUT WHAT YOU SUGGEST WOULD BE A SUICIDE MISSION.

WE WOULD BE SHOT BEFORE WE APPROACHED WITHIN THREE YOJANS OF KISHKINDHA. HOWEVER STEALTHY OUR APPROACH, WE WOULD BE DETECTED BY HIS SCANNERS.



I DON'T FEEL LIKE BEING TARGET PRACTICE FOR THE KISHKINDHAN ARMY.



OF ALL THE THINGS YOU PERSECUTE ME FOR, LITTLE BROTHER, I HOPE SUICIDAL INTENTIONS AREN'T AMONG THEM.

REST EASY, LAKSHMAN. I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SURPASS THE BORDER SECURITY.



THAT'S OUR WAY INTO THE HEART OF KISHKINDHA.

WHAT IS IT?

BY THE GODS!



A FEW MONTHS AGO, VIV-SHAN AND I FOUND THIS ANCIENT AIRCRAFT.

IT BELONGS TO THE PRE-MAHAVINAASH AGE, WHEN MEN USED TO FLY AT ALTITUDES NOT POSSIBLE NOW BECAUSE OF THE NOXIOUS CLOUD COVER.

BUT THIS IS BUILT FOR *HIGH-ALTITUDE* FLIGHTS. IT CAN TAKE US *WITHIN* THE CLOUDS, SO WE ARE UNDETECTED BY KISHKINDHA'S RADARS.

AN IMPRESSIVE TACTIC

BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY WE VANARAS ARE ONLY THE *SECOND* RACE OF ARYAVARTA, AFTER YOU HUMANS OF ARMAGARH?

BECAUSE WE ARE *INSTINCTUALLY* AFRAID OF TRAVELING BY WATER OR AIR.

COME ON, LORD SHUGREAVE, THIS IS THE *LEAST* YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR NEPHEW.

NO ONE IN THE *HISTORY* OF ARYAVARTA HAS FLOWN SO HIGH. NO ONE HAS SEEN WHAT LIES WITHIN THOSE DARK CLOUDS.

YOUR CHARIOT AWAITS, LORDS. JUST BE CAREFUL WITH THE STEERING, IT'S A BIT STIFF.

THANK YOU, COMRADE NEEL...

"...WE'LL TAKE
OFF RIGHT NOW."



BY THE GODS,
WE ARE ALMOST
TOUCHING THE
CLOUDS!

SOON WE'LL
BE *ENGULFED* BY THEM.
I SUGGEST EVERYONE PUT
ON THEIR GAS MASKS, THERE'S
NO TELLING WHAT AWFUL
SUBSTANCES FILL THE UPPER
ALTITUDES.



WE DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME, *ACID VAPORS*
ARE EATING THROUGH THE
FUSELAGE. HOW FAR IS
KISHKINDHA?

THE READINGS
OF THIS ANCIENT RADAR
ARE DIFFERENT, BUT I WOULD
GUESS ANOTHER FOUR
HUNDRED YOJANS.



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IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US!

DAMN!



HANG ON...



...WE'RE GOING TO HIT!



YOU SAVED US, VIV-SHAN! WE DIDN'T COLLIDE WITH IT!



SKRASH



HANG ON, MY FRIENDS, I'LL TRY TO GLIDE US IN...

HOW? THE RUDDER IS BROKEN, WE'RE IN A NOSE DIVE!



Oh Hanuman
kyan gun sugar
ke kapa than
lok upkar

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

PRAYING TO HANUMAN! YOU SHUT UP!



IF YOUR GOD SAVES OUR TAILS TODAY, I WILL SURELY CONVERT TO YOUR RELIGION.



BY THE GODS, IS THAT KISHKINDHA?





HRRGHH!



I SUGGEST WE ARM OURSELVES.

WAIT, I CAN REASON WITH THEM!



SOMEHOW
I DOUBT THAT...



TO BE CONTINUED!



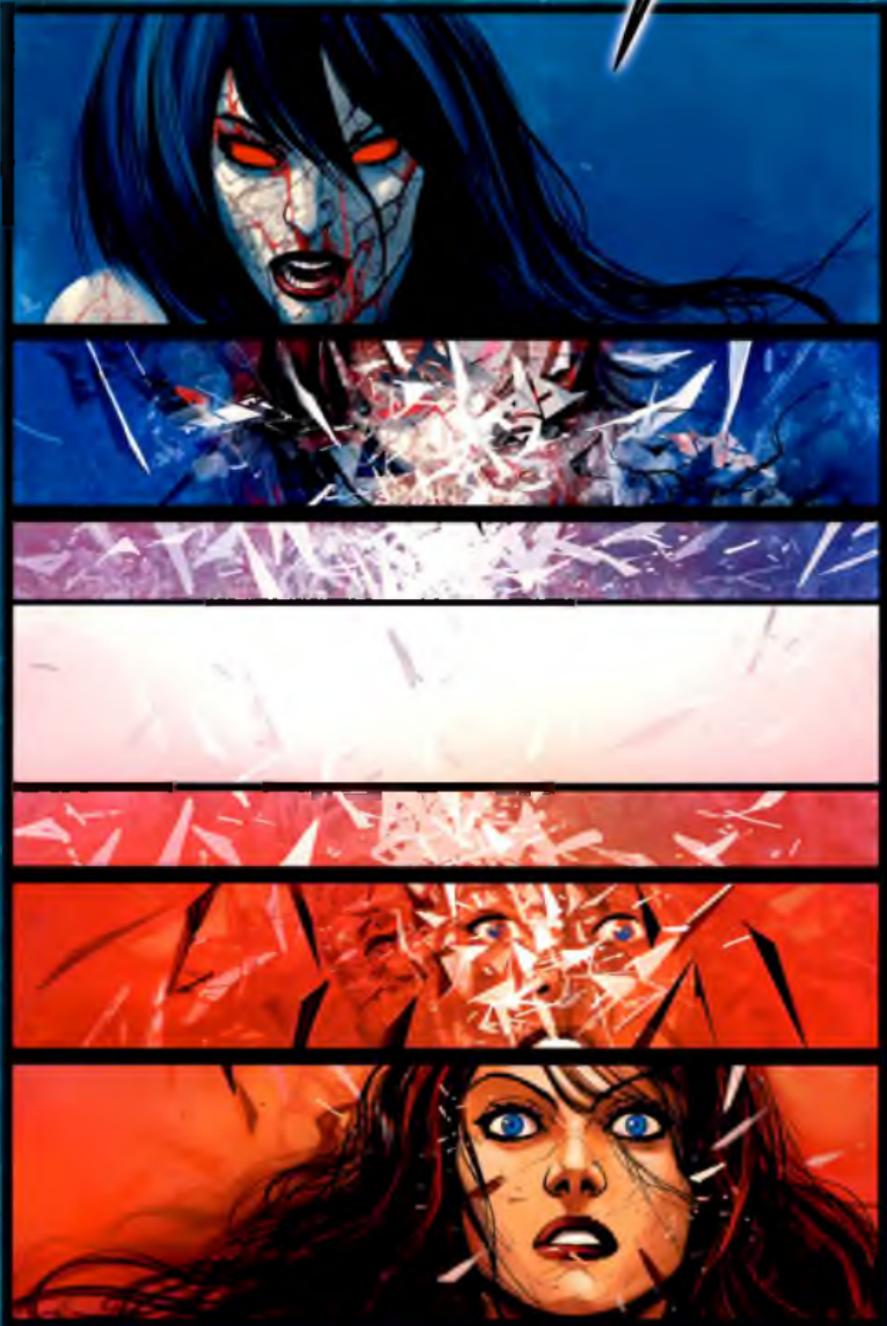
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MUKESH SINGH**

GUY RITCHIE'S

GAME KEEPER

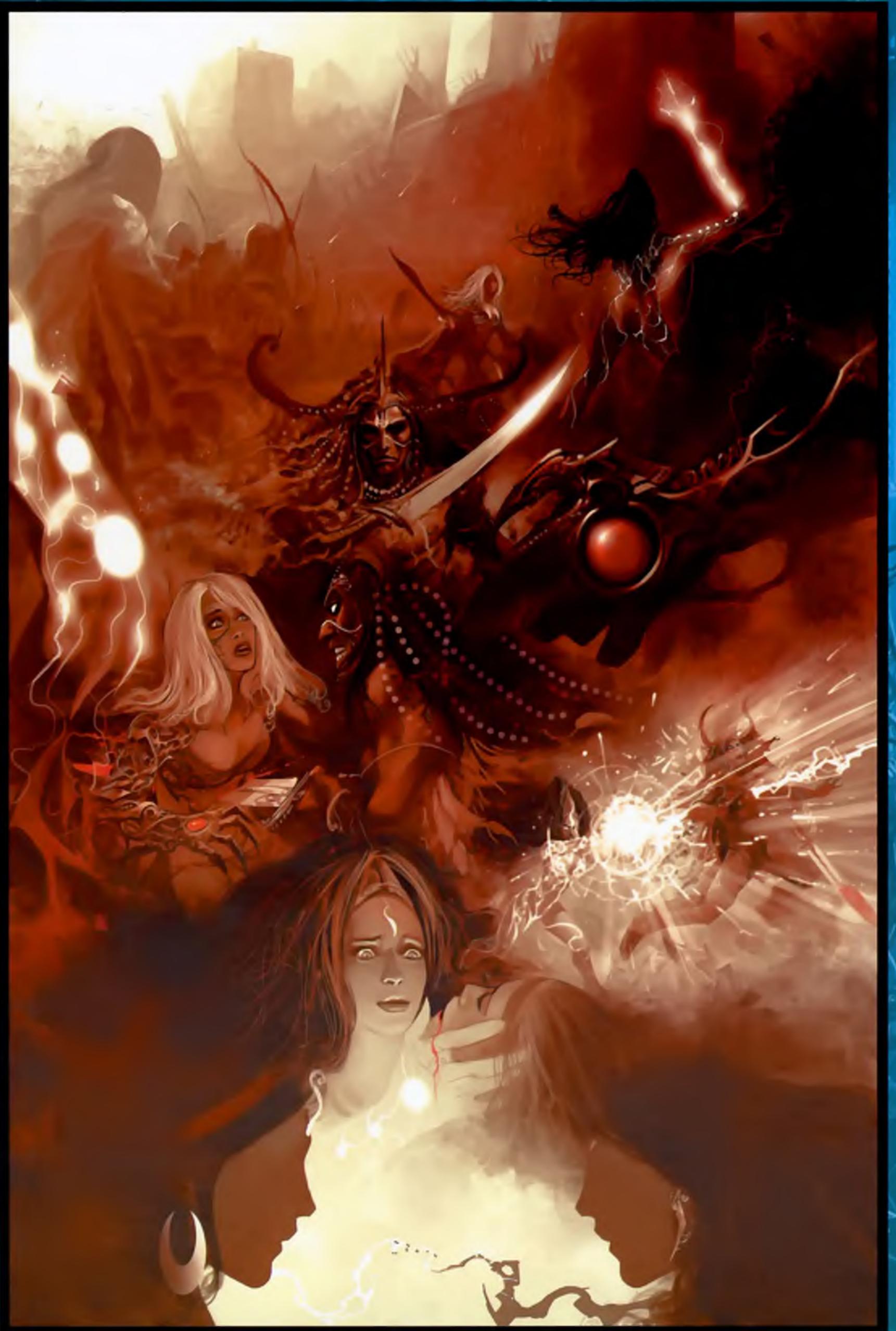


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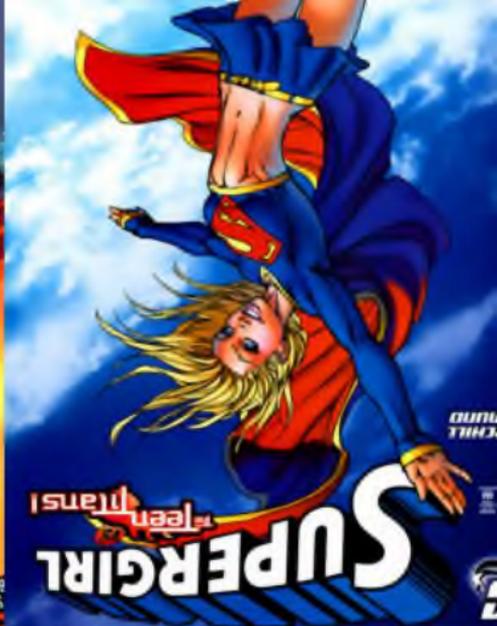
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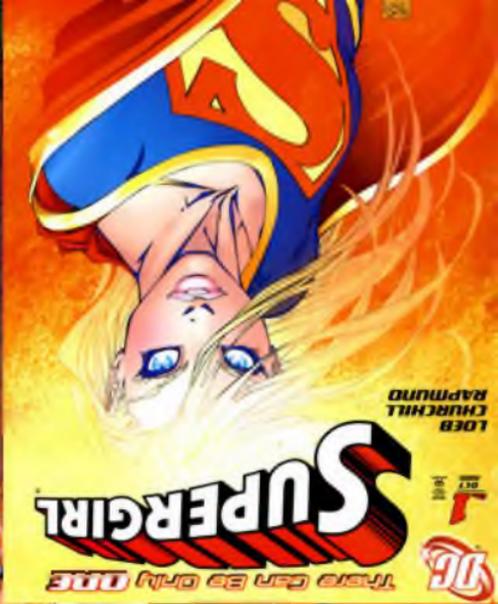
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*In Spite of
Everything, I
Still believe people
are good at heart.*

- Anne Frank

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