

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS **india** authentic™
YAMA
THE LORD OF DEATH



MOHAPATRA/RAMAKRISHNA

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india
authentic™

YAMA

Created by Deepak Chopra

Writer : Saurav Mohapatra

Pencils: G. Rama Krishna

Colors: Venkatvasa

Letters: B.S. Ravikiran

Cover Art: Venkatvasa

Project Manager: S.P Karthikeyan

Assistant Editor: Neha Bajaj

Editor: Mahesh Kamath

VIRGIN COMICS

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Special Thanks to:

Frances Farrow

Dan Porter

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Yama,
the Lord of Death,

is also the Lord of Resurrection.

*Death is quantum creativity for
the soul. Only by facing death will
you find the real passion for being alive.*

*You are dying at every moment so you can
keep creating yourself. The purpose of death
is to imagine yourself into a new form into a new
location in space and time. And the absolute
break between life and death is an illusion. In the
absence of death, the world would be like a museum.*

*We would be doomed to eternal senility, living fossils in
a mummified universe. Cellular death helps us to renew
ourselves. When cells forget to die, they become cancerous.
Death actually makes life possible.*



If you want to truly understand Yama the Lord of Death, then identify those things in you that don't serve your higher purpose and let them die. Surrender to the unknown. We live, breathe, and move in the unknown all the time pretending it's the known. The known is the prison of past conditioning. The unknown is the fresh field of infinite possibilities. Yama invites us to enter this field, to surrender. Surrender is: full attention, appreciation of life's richness, opening yourself to what is in front of you, nonjudgement, absence of ego, humility, being receptive to all possibilities, allowing love.

*Virgin Comics is proud to present the
India Authentic on YAMA: LORD
OF DEATH.*

*Deepak Chopra
November 2007*



ONCE, I
WAS ALIVE...



... THEN, I DIED.



IN FACT, I
WAS THE FIRST
TO DIE.

AS MY SOUL LEFT MY
DEAD BODY, I BECAME
THE FIRST OF MANY
WHO WOULD WALK THIS
PATH AFTER ME.



I WAS CONFUSED.
AS A MAN, I STUMBLLED
THROUGH LIFE, LETTING
MY EXPERIENCES DRIVE
MY JOURNEY.

BUT AS A SOUL,
I WAS LOST. THERE
SEEMED TO BE
NOWHERE TO GO.



AS I JOURNEYED
THROUGH THE VAST VOID,
I REALIZED THAT I HAD
INTRODUCED A NEVER
BEFORE EXPERIENCED
CONDITION.

A GLITCH
IN THE ORDER OF
THE UNIVERSE.



BUT MY FEARS WERE
SHORT-LIVED, FOR NATURE
ABHORS A *VACUUM*.
SOON, I FELT FORCES AT
WORK THAT WERE MUCH
GREATER THAN ME.



EVEN IN MY
INCORPOREAL STATE, I
FELT THE COSMOS *MOVE*
TO REARRANGE ITSELF.

TO PREPARE FOR
SOMETHING MORE
THAN JUST LIFE.



AND THAT IS HOW
ALL THIS CAME
TO BE.

MY NAME IS *YAMA*,
AND THIS IS *NARAK*,
THE *AFTERLIFE*.

EONS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE
DAY I DIED. IN DEATH I OVERCAME
MY MORTALITY AND BECAME ONE
OF THE GODS, THE FERRYMAN OF
DEAD SOULS, THEIR GUIDE FOR
THE JOURNEY TO AFTERLIFE.

I AM *YAMA*. I AM *DEATH*, AND I
TOO AM A *NEW BEGINNING*, FOR
THE WHEELS OF *KARMA* NEVER
STOP TURNING. AS THE LORD OF
THE DEAD, I WAS BLESSED BY
THE ELDER GODS WITH THE
GIFT OF WISDOM, AN INNATE
UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKINGS
OF *DHARMA*, THE METRIC BY WHICH
A LIFE'S WORTH IS JUDGED.



EACH SOUL I FERRY IS JUDGED
AND IS REBORN. I AM BUT A COG
AND THIS AFTERLIFE IS BUT A
WAYSTATION IN THAT ETERNAL
COSMIC CYCLE

YET, IT SOMEHOW
FEELS SO HOLLOW
SOMETIMES.

...SO LONELY.

MY LORD,
DHARMARAJ YAMA.
A MOMENT IF YOU MAY.
SOMETHING YOU HAD ASKED
ME TO WATCH OUT
FOR IS ABOUT TO
HAPPEN.



AH! CHITRAGUPT, KEEPER OF THE AKASHIK RECORDS. WHAT IS IT?



MY LORD, HER TIME HAS COME.



ARE YOU CERTAIN?



YES, MASTER OF NARAK, I AM CERTAIN OF IT.



THE BOOK HAS SPOKEN.



I HAVE FERRIED MANY TO AFTERLIFE, A MONOTONY THAT SOMETIMES THREATENS TO DRIVE ME INSANE WITH THE SHEER TEPIDNESS OF IT.

I'VE FERRIED RICH MEN AND POOR, COWARDS AND HEROES, THE STRONG AND THE INFIRM. YET, THERE WAS ONE WHO I STILL REMEMBER, ONE SOUL THAT I HAVE WAITED FOR, FOR ALL THESE YEARS.



IT IS TIME FOR HER.

THE Y WHO DEF

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TEXT 'KARMA' TO 68405



...SAVITRI.

I BESEECH YOU HUSBAND, THE OMENS DO NOT AUGUR WELL FOR TODAY.

THE WIFE OF THE EXILED PRINCE SATYAVAN, THE SON OF THE BLIND KING DYUMATSENA.

PLEASE, MY LIEGE, DO NOT GO INTO THE FOREST TODAY.

AH, MY DEAR SAVITRI, IT IS BUT NATURAL FOR A WIFE TO BE WORRIED. THE AUGURIES ARE BUT YOUR FEARS AMPLIFIED. I SHALL RETURN SHORTLY AFTER GETTING FIREWOOD.

HUSBAND, IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU *MUST* GO, LET ME AT LEAST ACCOMPANY YOU. YOUR PARENTS ARE FAST ASLEEP AND WE CAN RETURN BEFORE THEY AWAKEN.

AT LEAST, THIS WAY MY ANXIETY SHALL BE ALLEVIATED SOMEWHAT.

PERHAPS IT WAS A FLUKE OF NATURE, OR MAY IT BE SO THAT SAVITRI HERSELF HAD ATTAINED AN INSTINCTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF FATE AND DESTINY BY DINT OF HER VIRTUOUS LIFE...

...FOR SHE WAS ONE OF THE RARE MORTALS WHO HAD A SENSE OF THE WORKINGS OF THE WHEELS OF KARMA.



SAVITRI'S
FEARS WERE
NOT UNFOUNDED.

FOR THE BOOK
OF DESTINY HAD
INDEED SPOKEN
OUT HER
HUSBAND'S NAME.



SATYAVAN,
UNWARE OF THE
IMPENDING DOOM
CARRIED ABOUT
HIS BUSINESS...



... NOT KNOWING
HOW CLOSE HIS
DEATH WAS.

AS CERTAIN AS
THE FACT THAT THE
SUN THAT SETS
SHALL RISE AGAIN...

... IT IS THE WAY OF
THE *COSMOS* THAT
IF WE ARE BORN...



... WE SHALL
DIE ONE DAY.

AHHHHH!



SAVITRI!

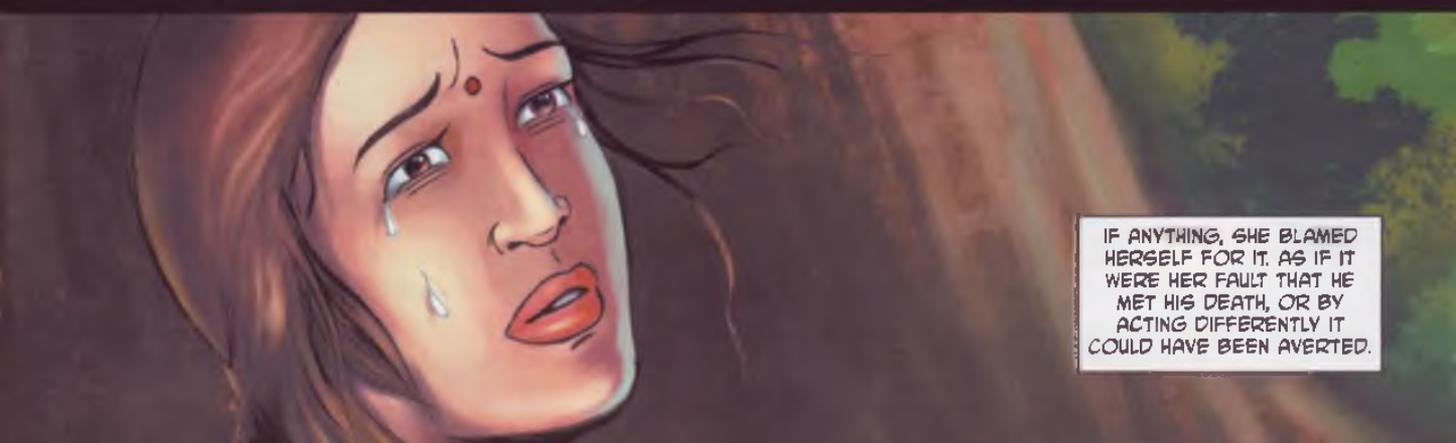
OH!
NO!



MY LIEGE!
MY LIEGE! WHAT HAS
HAPPENED?



THE FACT THAT SHE HAD
A PREMONITION OF HER
HUSBAND'S IMPENDING
DEMISE DID NOT LESSEN
THE GRIEF AS HER FEARS
CAME TO PASS.



IF ANYTHING, SHE BLAMED
HERSELF FOR IT. AS IF IT
WERE HER FAULT THAT HE
MET HIS DEATH, OR BY
ACTING DIFFERENTLY IT
COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED.



SCRIPT

ART

GARTH ENNIS GARY ERSKINE

DARE DARE



VARIANT COVER BY
GREG HORN

A LEGEND RETURNS
11-28-2007

THAT WAS NAIVETE
INDEED, FOR DEATH IS
THE ONLY CERTAINTY EVEN
IN THE MOST *UNCERTAIN*
OF TIMES.

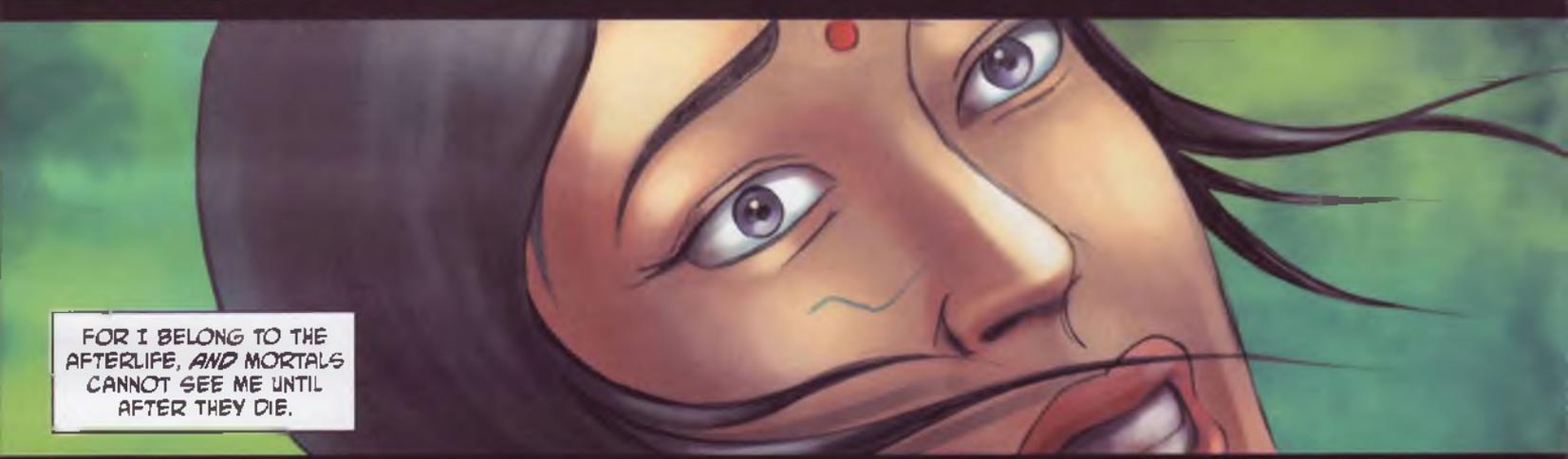
I KNOW THAT BETTER
THAN ANYONE ELSE,
HAVING WITNESSED *EVERY*
SINGLE DEATH.

I THOUGHT OF SATYAVAN'S DEATH
NO MORE OR NO LESS THAN ANY
OTHER I HAD WITNESSED. THE
MONOTONY OF MY OWN DUTIES
HAD BLINDED ME TO THE FACT
THAT FATE CAN EVEN SURPRISE
THE GOD OF DEATH.





I WENT ABOUT MY TASK OF CLAIMING SATYAVAN'S SOUL AND GUIDING HIM TO THE AFTERLIFE FOR JUDGEMENT.



FOR I BELONG TO THE AFTERLIFE, AND MORTALS CANNOT SEE ME UNTIL AFTER THEY DIE.



M... MY LORD? PLEASE LORD YAMA, LET MY HUSBAND LIVE.

OR SO I THOUGHT TILL I MET SAVITRI.



NOT ONLY COULD SHE SEE ME, BUT SOMEHOW, SHE INSTINCTIVELY COMMUNICATED WITH ME IN THE TONGUE OF THE DEAD.

STILL, I BELIEVED IT TO BE A TRANSIENT PHENOMENA, THE SHOCK OF THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND CAUSING HER TO BE DELIRIOUS.



THUS, I GET ABOUT EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN SATYAVAN'S SOUL FOR JUDGEMENT, SURE THAT SHE SHALL STAY BEHIND.

O GOD OF DEATH, PLEASE RETURN MY HUSBAND'S SOUL, SO THAT HE MAY LIVE AGAIN. IF YOU HAVE TO, TAKE MINE IN RETURN.

I WAS MISTAKEN.



SAVITRI, DAUGHTER OF ASVAPATI, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ASK FOR? YOUR HUSBAND'S SOUL HAS ALREADY LEFT ITS MORTAL COIL. HE LED A VIRTUOUS LIFE FULFILLING HIS DUTIES AS AN OBEDIENT SON AND A DILLIGENT HUSBAND. REST ASSURED THAT HIS SOUL IS DESTINED FOR HEAVEN, FREED FOREVER FROM THE CYCLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH.



YOU ARE INDEED FORTUNATE THAT YOU CAN SEE ME ESCORT THIS LUMINOUS SOUL TO THE AFTERLIFE. BUT MY CHILD, YOU CANNOT STOP THE WHEELS OF DESTINY FROM TURNING. THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS TO BE. I COMMAND YOU TO RETURN.

MY LORD, THE KING OF AFTERLIFE AND MASTER OF DHARMA IS THE WISEST OF ALL. HE MUST SURELY KNOW THAT A WIFE'S DHARMA IS TO BE WITH HER HUSBAND TILL SHE CAN.

SHE SPOKE WITH THE ASSURANCE OF ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS ONE'S DHARMA INSTINCTIVELY AND SHE SPOKE THE TRUTH.

THE EDICTS OF DHARMA WERE ON HER SIDE AND MY CURIOSITY WAS PIQUED.

AH! WELL SPOKEN SAVITRI. YOU MAY FOLLOW US IF YOU CAN TILL THE BORDERS OF THE MORTAL WORLD. MAYBE SEEING YOUR HUSBAND'S SOUL CROSS OVER TO THE AFTERLIFE MIGHT OFFER YOU THE CLOSURE THAT YOU NEED.





FOR ME, IT WAS TAKING THE FORM OF A GAME EVERY PASSING MOMENT. MY JOURNEY SEEMED TO BE ENLIVENED BY THIS NOVEL CHALLENGE



NEVER BEFORE HAD I FELT THE THRILL OF THE UNEXPECTED IN THIS DULL DREARY ROUTINE OF FERRYING SOULS ACROSS.



I PLAYED IT AS A GAME, KNOWING THAT SOON, SAVITRI'S MORTALITY WOULD WEIGH IN AGAINST HER.



I WAS SURE, THAT AS WE REACHED THE RIVER OF FIRE THAT SERVES AS A BOUNDARY BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT...



... SAVITRI, EXHAUSTED BY THE JOURNEY THAT NO MORTAL HAD EVER UNDERTAKEN BEFORE, WOULD RELENT AND STAY BACK.



ONE PART OF ME WANTED THIS GAME TO GO ON FOREVER, BUT I KNEW THAT IT WOULD END HERE.



INSPIRE OF MYSELF, I FELT A LITTLE ELATED THAT I HAD DEFEATED THE DETERMINED MORTAL AND SADDENED THAT THIS LITTLE TRYST WHICH BROKE THE MONOTONY OF MILLENNIA HAD NOW COME TO AN END.

BUT EVEN GODS ARE KNOWN TO FALL PREY TO *HUBRIS*.

I PRAY TO YOU O GODS OF *SVARGA*. GIVE ME STRENGTH TO WIN BACK MY HUSBAND'S SOUL AND THE COURAGE TO DIE WITH HIM IF I FAIL IN MY ENDEAVOR. IF MY LIFE HAS HAD EVEN AN IOTA OF DHARMA, I BESEECH YOU *PROTECT* ME IN THIS JOURNEY.

I FELT FEAR FOR SAVITRI WAS RUSHING TO HER DEATH AND IT WAS NOT YET HER TIME.



SHE WAS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS OVER FROM THE MORTAL WORLD WITH HER CORPOREAL BODY. IT WAS MADNESS TO EVEN THINK OF IT AND UTTER *LUNACY* TO ATTEMPT.



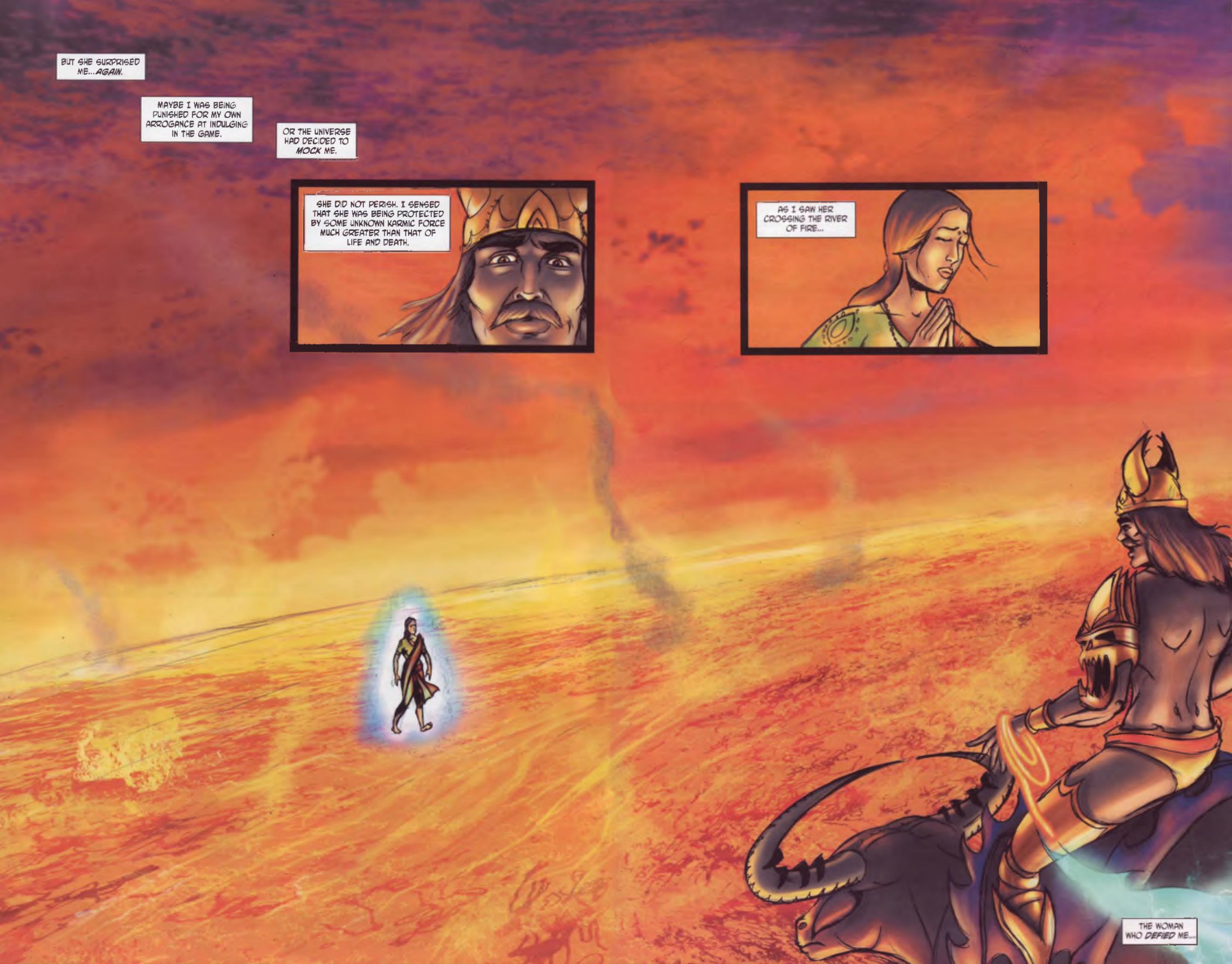
I WAS SURE SHE WOULD PERISH IN THE FIERY RIVER AND I WOULD HAVE TO FERRY ACROSS TWO SOULS INSTEAD OF ONE.



BUT SHE SURPRISED
ME...*AGAIN*.

MAYBE I WAS BEING
PUNISHED FOR MY OWN
ARROGANCE AT INDULGING
IN THE GAME.

OR THE UNIVERSE
HAD DECIDED TO
MOCK ME.

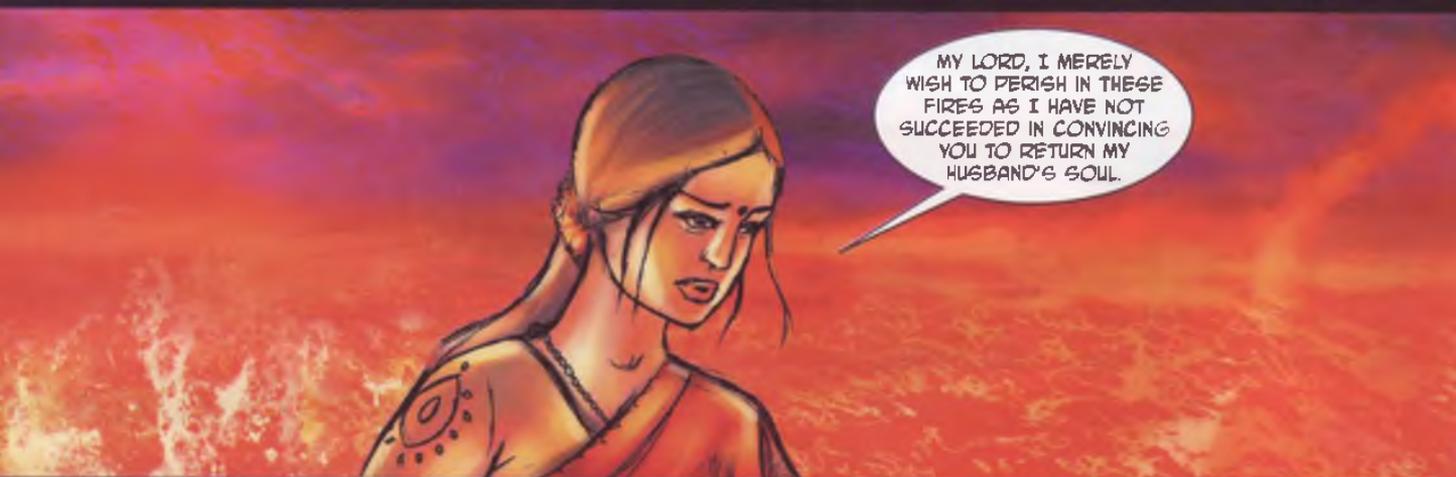


THE WOMAN
WHO *DEFIED* ME...



... THE *ULTIMATE* CONSEQUENCE OF THIS DAWNED ON ME.

HALT, SAVITRI. YOU KNOW NOT WHAT *CALAMITY* YOU BRING UPON THE WORLDS.



MY LORD, I MERELY WISH TO PERISH IN THESE FIRES AS I HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING YOU TO RETURN MY HUSBAND'S SOUL.



SURELY, THAT IS NOT OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS.

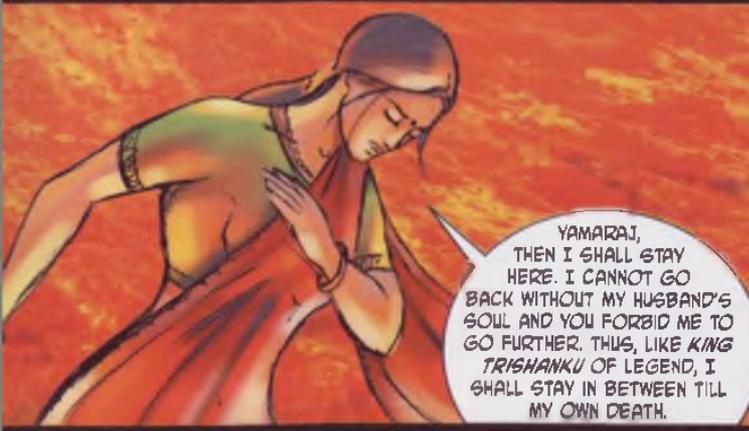
YOU ARE *MISTAKEN*, MY CHILD.



IF YOU WERE TO PERISH HERE BEFORE YOUR TIME, YOU SHALL CAUSE AN ERROR IN THE CYCLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH.

AND BY CHANCE, IF YOU WERE TO SURVIVE, AND CROSS OVER TO THE AFTERLIFE BEFORE YOUR DEATH, YOU SHALL THROW THE VERY UNIVERSE OUT OF ORDER.

LOOK! THE PORTENTS OF SUCH AN ANOMALY ARE ALREADY TAKING PLACE. AS YOU JOURNEY FURTHER ACROSS THIS BORDER OF LIFE AND AFTERLIFE, IT IS ALREADY CAUSING UPHEAVALS IN THE FABRIC OF REALITY.



YAMARAJ, THEN I SHALL STAY HERE. I CANNOT GO BACK WITHOUT MY HUSBAND'S SOUL AND YOU FORBID ME TO GO FURTHER. THUS, LIKE KING TRISHANKU OF LEGEND, I SHALL STAY IN BETWEEN TILL MY OWN DEATH.



I TOOK A LOOK AT HER DETERMINED EYES.

THIS WOMAN WOULD STICK TO HER WORD.

I HAD TO PONDER DEEP TO FIND A COMPROMISE.

AND THEN, A SOLUTION PRESENTED ITSELF.

SAVITRI, YOU HAVE PUT ME INTO A ROYAL QUANDRY INDEED.



IN RETURN FOR YOUR WORD THAT YOU SHALL PURSUE ME NO FURTHER, I SHALL GRANT YOU THREE BOONS.

ANYTHING YOU WISH, EXCEPT FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S SOUL.



DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Rāmāyaṇ RELOADED™

3992 AD

ISSUE
#3

FEATURING
BACK-UP STORY
BY RON MARZ AND
DAVID PETERSEN

ON STANDS NOVEMBER 2007



MY LORD, MY PARENTS HAVE NO OTHER CHILD EXCEPT ME. I PRAY THAT THEY BE GRANTED OTHER CHILDREN TO CARRY ON THE NAME OF MY FATHER, KING AGVAPATI.

THIS WAS TRULY A REMARKABLE WOMAN...

TATHASTU.



"THEY ARE THUS BLESSED."



AS MY SECOND BOON, I ASK THAT MY BLIND IN-LAWS, KING DYUMATASENA AND HIS QUEEN HAVE THEIR SIGHT RESTORED. FOR MY HUSBAND WAS THEIR ONLY SON AND IF I WERE NOT TO RETURN, THEY SHALL HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN SURVIVING WITHOUT THEIR EYESIGHT.

MY RESPECT FOR THIS TRULY REMARKABLE WOMAN WAS GROWING EVERY MOMENT.

TATHASTU.



HUSBAND, IT IS A MIRACLE.

YES MY QUEEN, I CAN SEE AGAIN.



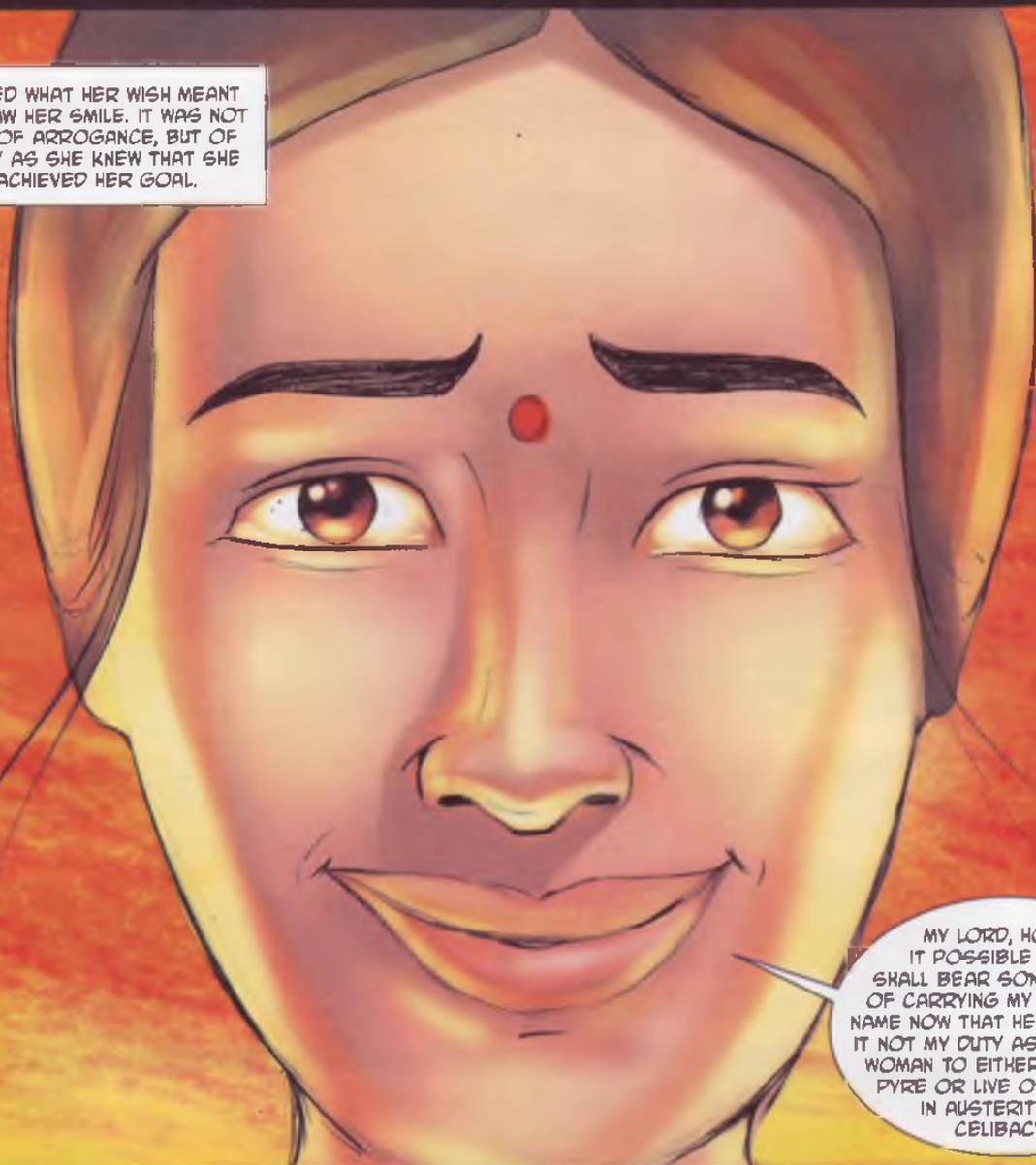
FINALLY
MY LORD, I ASK OF
YOU MY LAST BOON.
SINCE YOU SHALL NOT
RETURN MY HUSBAND'S SOUL,
ASK THAT I MAY BE
BLESSED WITH SONS WHO
SHALL BE WORTHY SCIONS
TO HIS DYNASTY.



SO LULLED INTO A
SENSE OF FALSE
SECURITY WAS I
THAT I BARELY
NOTICED THE
NUANCES OF WHAT
SAVITRI WAS
ASKING.

TATHASTU.

I REALIZED WHAT HER WISH MEANT
WHEN I SAW HER SMILE. IT WAS NOT
A SMILE OF ARROGANCE, BUT OF
PURE JOY AS SHE KNEW THAT SHE
HAD ACHIEVED HER GOAL.



MY LORD, HOW IS
IT POSSIBLE THAT I
SHALL BEAR SONS WORTHY
OF CARRYING MY HUSBAND'S
NAME NOW THAT HE IS DEAD? IS
IT NOT MY DUTY AS A VIRTUOUS
WOMAN TO EITHER ENTER HIS
PYRE OR LIVE OUT MY LIFE
IN AUSTERITY AND
CELIBACY?



THEY SAY HUBRIS
CAN DEFEAT EVEN THE
GREATEST OF GODS,
AND NOW I KNEW IT
FIRST HAND.

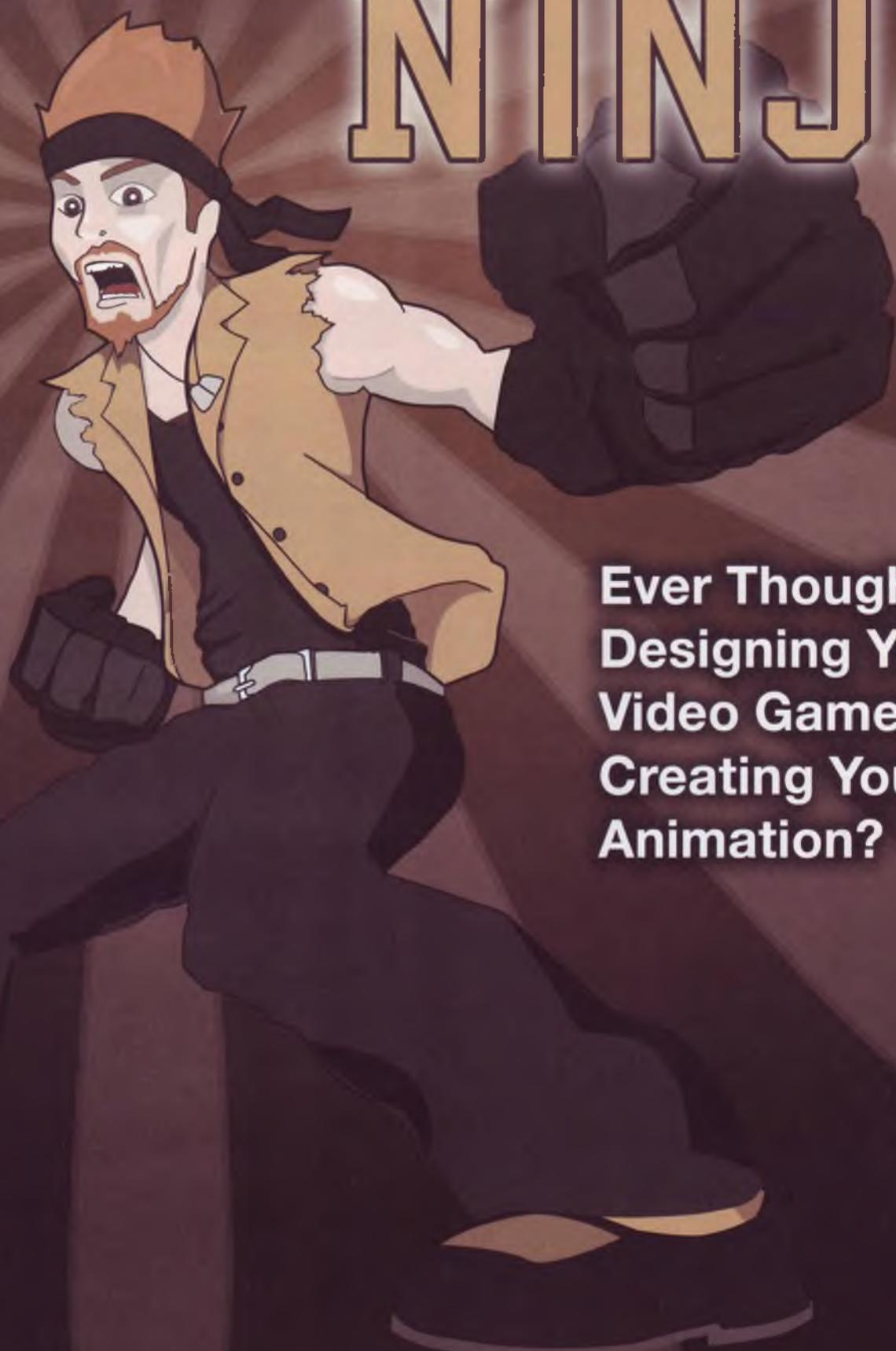
AH! A
QUANDRY INDEED,
SAVITRI. YOU HAVE
LEFT ME WITH NO
CHOICE...



... BUT TO
GRANT YOU
YOUR WISH.

BUT IN A MOMENT I
REALIZED THAT IN THIS
BRIEF PASSAGE OF
TIME, I HAD THE MOST
INTERESTING TIME OF
MY AFTER-LIFE.

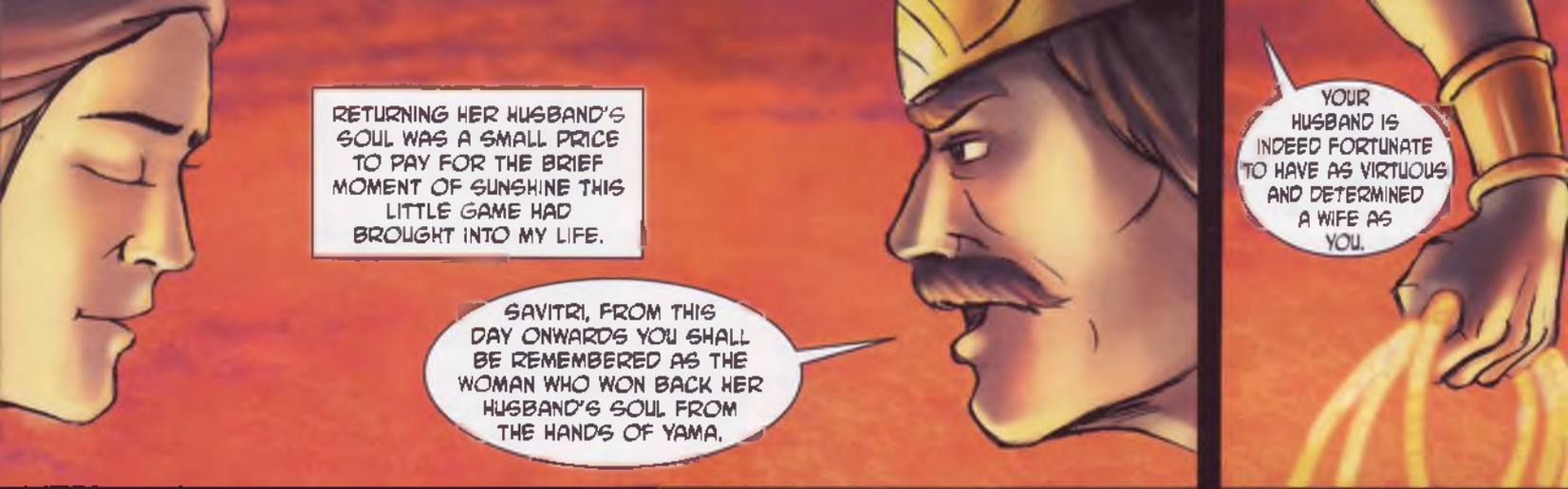
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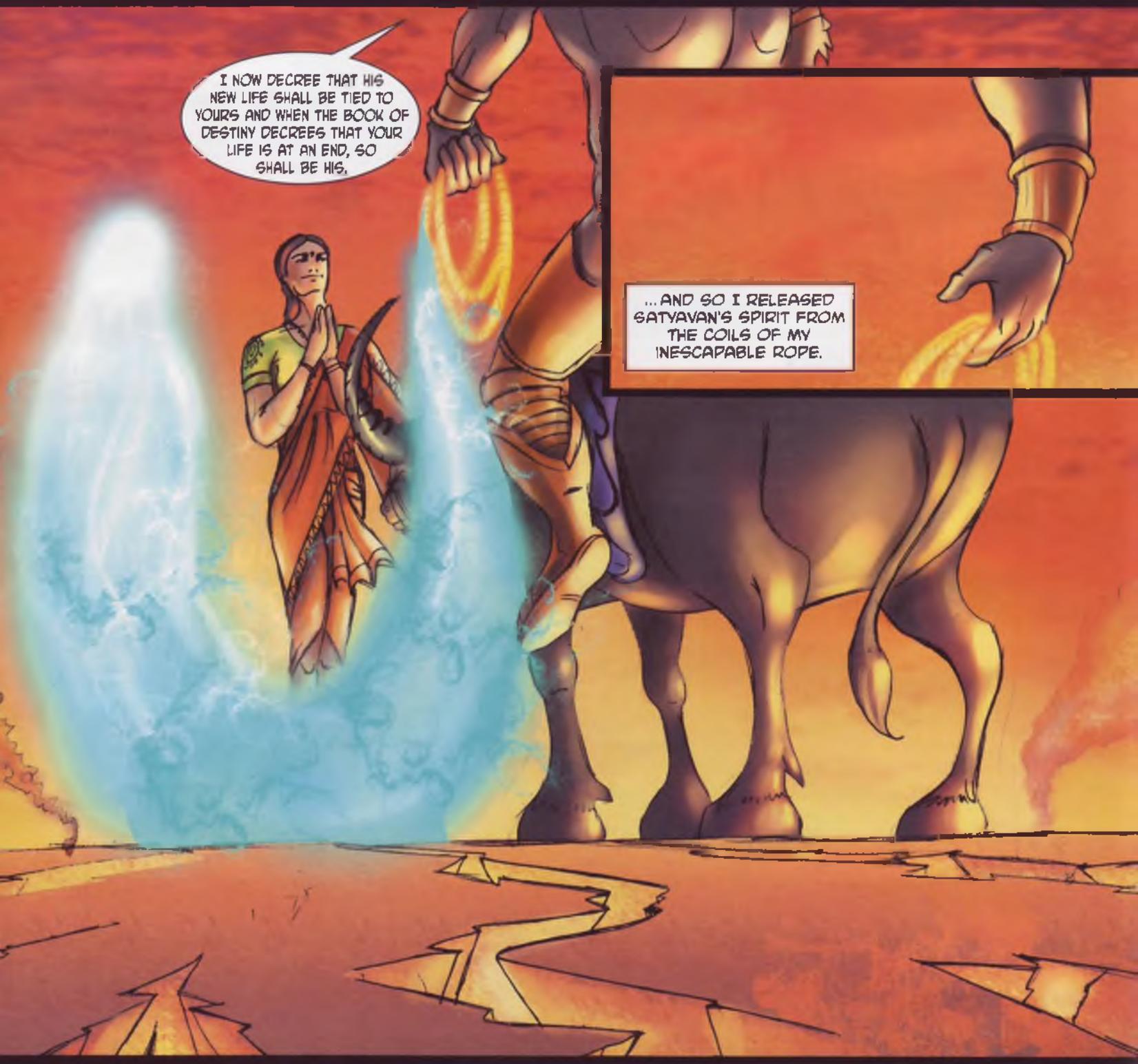
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RETURNING HER HUSBAND'S SOUL WAS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE BRIEF MOMENT OF SUNSHINE THIS LITTLE GAME HAD BROUGHT INTO MY LIFE.

YOUR HUSBAND IS INDEED FORTUNATE TO HAVE AS VIRTUOUS AND DETERMINED A WIFE AS YOU.

SAVITRI, FROM THIS DAY ONWARDS YOU SHALL BE REMEMBERED AS THE WOMAN WHO WON BACK HER HUSBAND'S SOUL FROM THE HANDS OF YAMA.



I NOW DECREE THAT HIS NEW LIFE SHALL BE TIED TO YOURS AND WHEN THE BOOK OF DESTINY DECREES THAT YOUR LIFE IS AT AN END, SO SHALL BE HIS.

... AND SO I RELEASED SATYAVAN'S SPIRIT FROM THE COILS OF MY INESCAPABLE ROPE.



THUS, THAT CHAPTER ENDED WITH SATYAVAN WAKING UP IN HIS WIFE'S ARMS UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED.

OH! I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP, SAVITRI. I HAD THE STRANGEST NIGHTMARE.



PAY NO HEED TO IT, HUSBAND. WHATEVER IT WAS HAS PASSED AND YOU HAVE COME BACK TO ME.



SO YOU'VE
COME, LORD
OF DEATH.



IS IT
OUR TIME?



YES INDEED,
SAVITRI. BUT FEAR NOT,
YOU COME INTO MY
REALM NOT TO BE
JUDGED BUT...



...TO BE *FELICITATED*,
FOR YOUR EXPLOITS ARE
LEGEND IN THE
AFTERLIFE.



AS I WALKED WITH THEM I
KNEW THAT SOON I WOULD BE
BACK TO THE MONOTONY OF
FERRYING SOULS ACROSS
AGAIN IRRESPECTIVE OF CAST,
CREED OR STATION.

AS THE MILLENNIA
PASS, I SHALL FEEL
THE EMPTINESS
AGAIN.

BUT THAT
IS FOR THE
FUTURE.

AS OF NOW I WAS CONTENT
HAVING FOUND SOMEONE WHO
LIVENED UP MY DREARY
EXISTENCE, SOMEONE WHO
STOOD UP TO ME AS AN EQUAL,
NOT AFRAID TO MEET DEATH
PERSONIFIED IN THE EYE.

IT IS THE SMALL
THINGS IN LIFE
THAT WE CHERISH.

IT IS NO DIFFERENT
FOR EVEN YAMA, THE
GOD OF DEATH,
MASTER OF THE
AFTERLIFE.

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 the incubator for great TV and films.

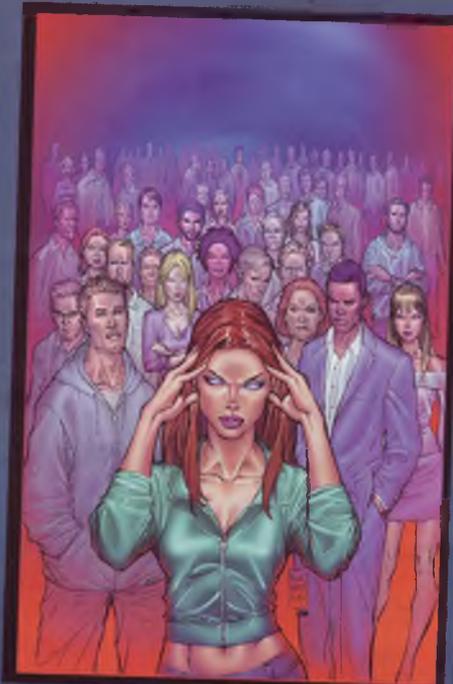
Really, our mission with this new partnership is simply to find great stories and launch them in the medium we love—comics. To that end we think we've put together an editorial team that can help us nurture exciting and challenging material. It includes the best talent in our line and a man with a history 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 Rowe, Julian Strzsky, 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

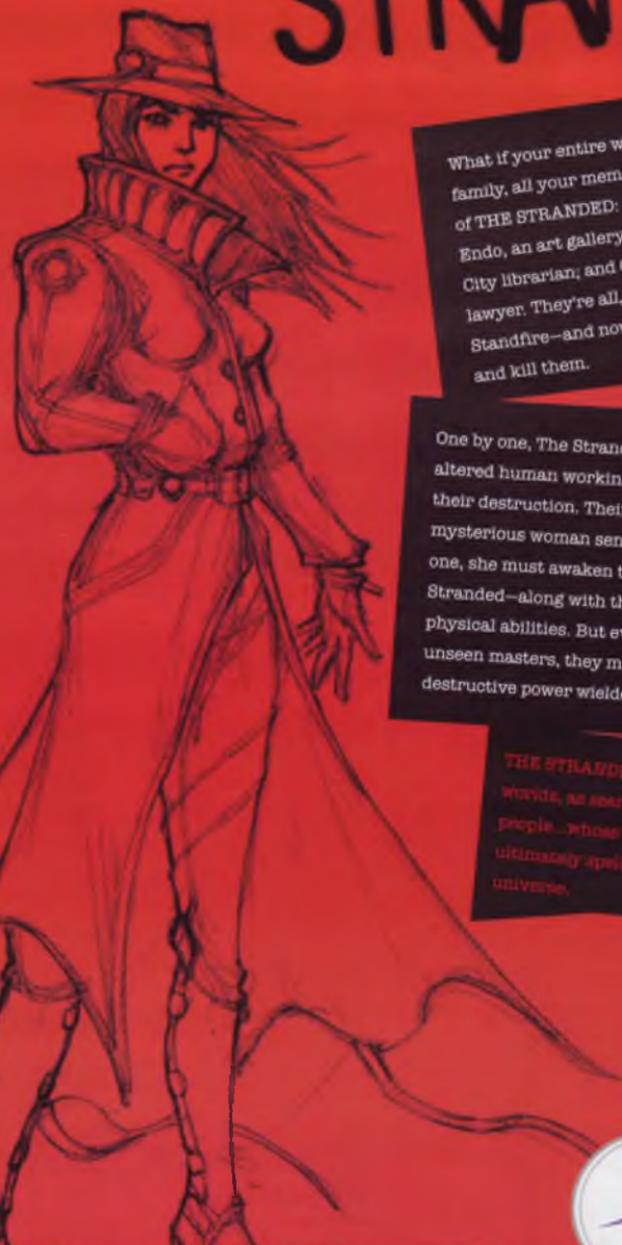
Covers by Marc Silvestri, Greg Horn,
Christopher Moeller and Virgin Studios



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

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

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