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James Jensen came to 19th-century India as a soldier in Her Majesty's Army. Marked as a traitor by his cruel commanding officer, Col. Townsend, for defending the indigenous population, Jensen's family was massacred before his eyes. Hunted as a deserter after escaping imprisonment, James found refuge with the enigmatic Dadathakur, who initiated him into the ways of the Sadhu, mystic warriors of legend. Spurred by vengeance, James killed Townsend in a climactic battle. His spiritual quest unfinished, James drifted through life without sense of purpose or ambition. But at the Kumbh Mela, the greatest gathering of mystics known to man, James encountered the evil cult of the Silent Ones, led by their Grand Mistress. She revealed to James that his son Jack was still alive, and was now her prisoner. As the Grand Mistress prepared to trap James in her thrall, the Sadhu was whisked away to

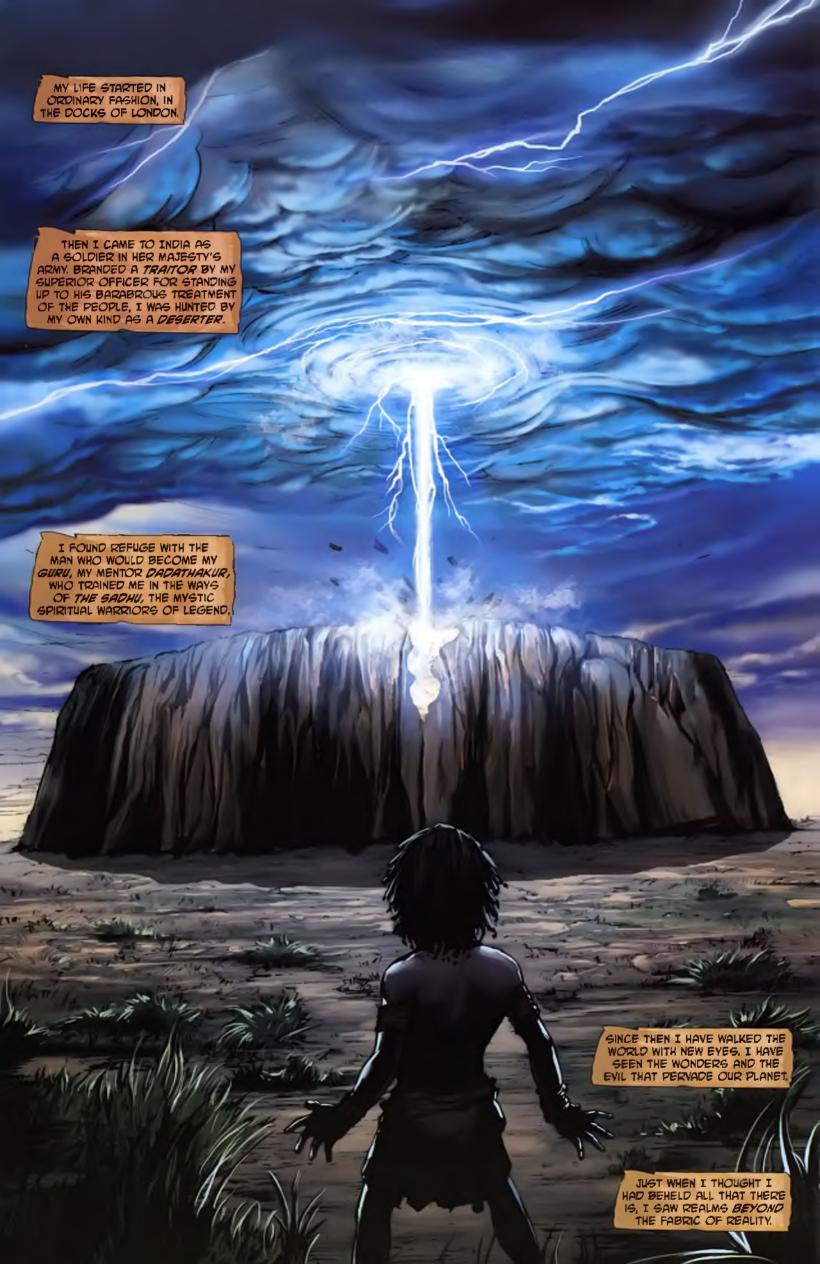
Limbo, where he was greeted by a mysterious stranger named Trishanku. Spurred by James' desire to return to the mortal plane and rescue Jack, Trishanku attempted a Summoning, which at first attracted a deadly trans-dimensional beast. Trishanku and James were saved by the timely arrival of Xuli, the Songstress of the Southern Skies, who offered to ferry them to the mortal plane.

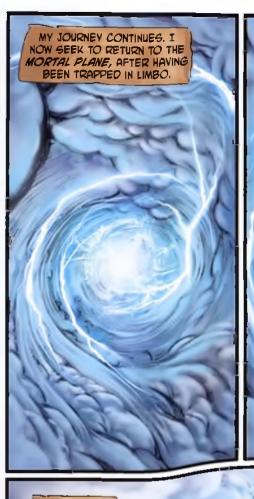
























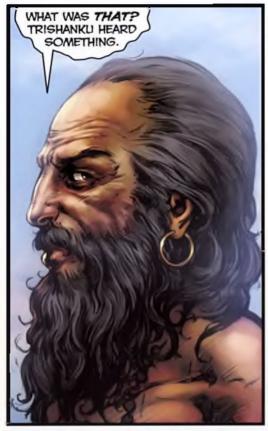










































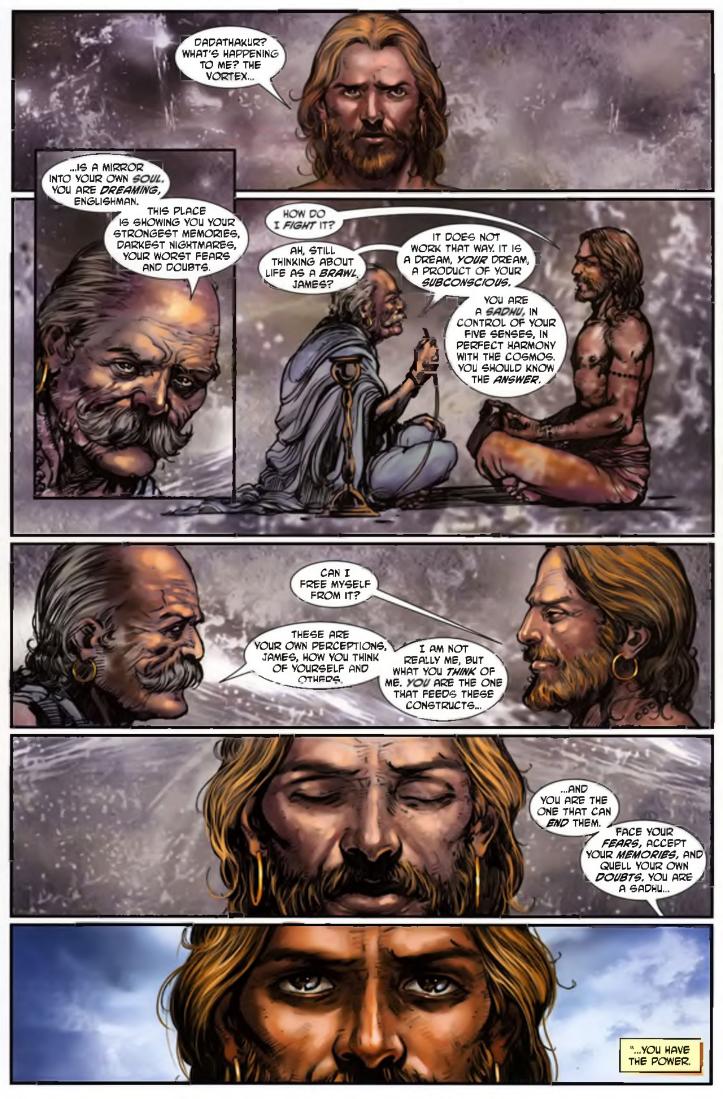










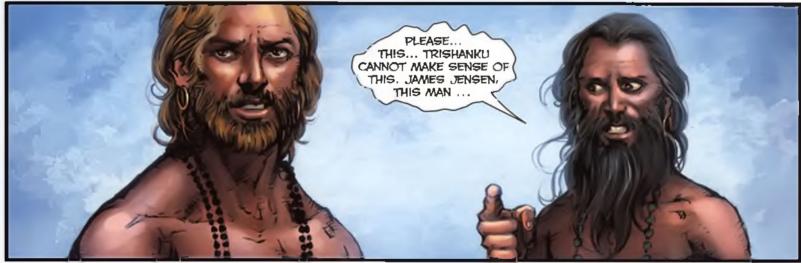


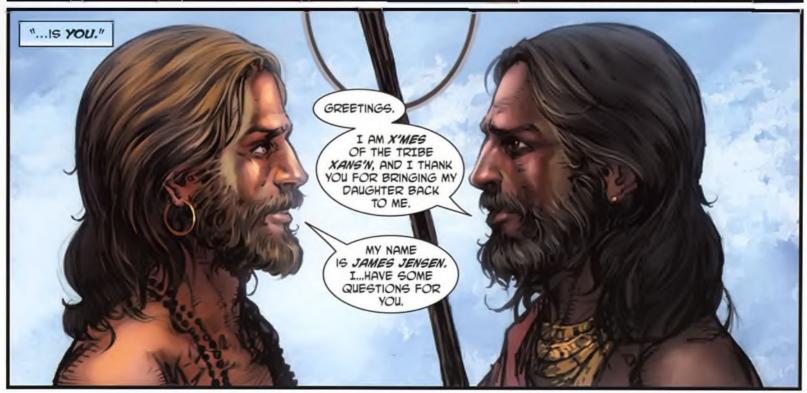




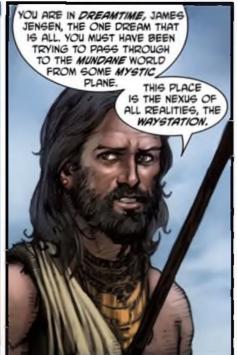








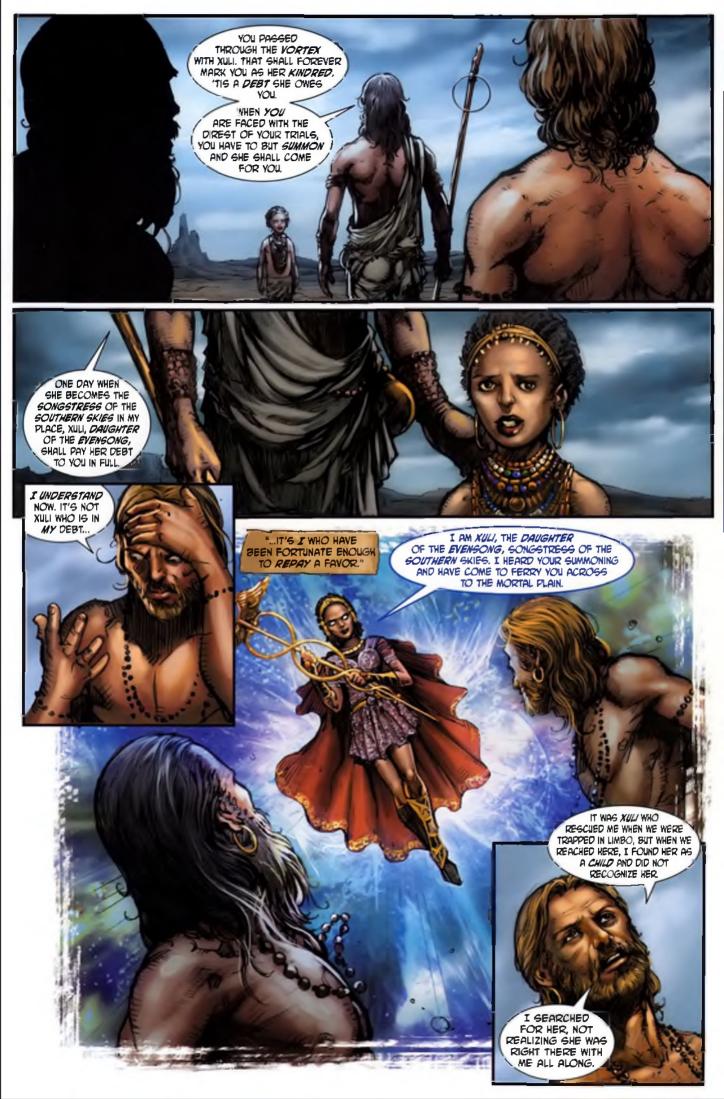
















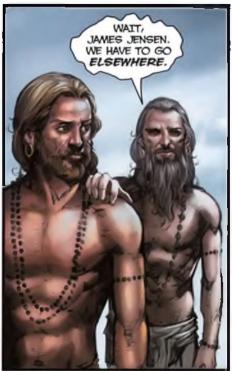


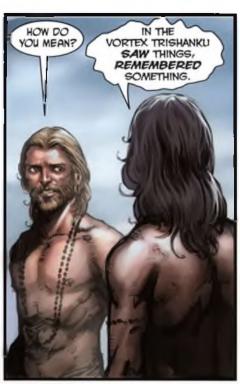














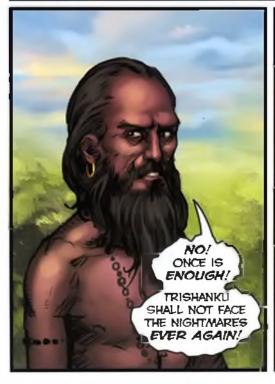


























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VIRGIN COMICS & SCI FI

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 where 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*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Tin Man*. Now they have joined forced with us, Virgin Comics, to create 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—these 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 on 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 tread the well-worn path of allowing these great comics to serve 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 lead 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, Adam Stotsky, SC Cupelli, and Tony Optican, 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



