

ENNIS • WOHL • CONEY • LOBDELL • JENKINS
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THE DARKNESS

COMPENDIUM

VOLUME 1



Marcia Chen • Brian

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#1/2
Digital
Edition



THE
ORDER

SOMEWHERE DEEP
IN THE HEART OF THE
AMAZON RAINFOREST.

I AM THE
ANGELUS. I AM
THE LIGHT.

BUT ONCE,
I WAS A MORTAL.
ONCE, I WAS A
WOMAN.

I REMEMBER
A CHILD WHOM I LOVED,
MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER,
APPOLONIA.

I REMEMBER
A MAN, A CORRUPT, EVIL
MAN -- MY HUSBAND,
FRANKIE FRANCHETTI.

AND I REMEMBER
A BURNING HATRED FOR HIM,
FOR HE WHO WAS ONCE MY LOVE,
WHICH SPARKED THE DAY HE FIRST
BEAT ME AND BLAZED WHEN HE
BUTCHERED MY LOVER, WHICH
ROARED IN MY HEART EVEN WHILE
MY BODY LAY DEAD IN A WHEEL-
CHAIR, A HATRED I THOUGHT
WOULD BURN FOR ALL
ETERNITY.

BUT I ALSO
REMEMBER OTHERS --
SO MANY OTHERS, PEOPLE
I'VE NEVER MET, AND
PLACES I'VE NEVER BEEN,
LIVES I'VE NEVER
LIVED.

I HAVE NEVER
BEEN TO THIS TEMPLE
BEFORE, YET I REMEMBER
SLEEPING IN THIS CHAMBER,
EVEN USING THIS
HAIRBRUSH.

THE MEMORIES
OF LAUREN FRANCHETTI
FADE, AND THE LIVES OF
THE ANGELUS SWAMP
MY MIND.

ALREADY,
THE HATRED I FELT
FOR MY HUSBAND
IS BUT A DYING
EMBER.

AND THE LOVE
I FELT FOR YOU, DEAR
DAUGHTER, HOW LONG
THAT, TOO, IS GONE, LEAVING
ONLY THE LIGHT

ST. MARTHA'S HOSPITAL, ROME, ITALY

IN THE TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE CHURCH HAS GONE FROM A FEW INTENTIONALLY IMPOVERISHED STRAGGLERS WHO WANDERED THE COUNTRYSIDE, PREACHING PEACE AND LOVE AND GOODWILL TOWARDS MAN, TO A MIGHTY INSTITUTION WITH GREAT WEALTH AND POWER, WITH MILLIONS OF FOLLOWERS WORLDWIDE.

WITH THE VAST AMOUNT OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE CHURCH, VERY LITTLE CAN HAPPEN WITHOUT ITS KNOWLEDGE, THOUGH MOST OF THE INFORMATION IT GATHERS IS KEPT HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC.

"OH, PARDON ME, FATHER!"

SISTER MARIELLA! I'VE GOT YOUR RELEASE FORMS!

VOICE TRANSLATED FROM ITALIAN

JUST SIGN HERE AND YOU'RE FREE TO GO.

FEW, FOR EXAMPLE, KNOW ABOUT THE DARKNESS, AN EVIL POWER WHICH MANIFESTS IN A MALE CHILD EVERY GENERATION, CARRYING THE SEED OF SATAN.

MEANWHILE, THE CHURCH CONTINUES ITS QUIET SURVEILLANCE OF THE DARKNESS, WAITING FOR THE DAY IT WILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DEFEAT IT.

OH, WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S ADDRESSED TO YOU, A GET WELL CARD, I SUPPOSE.

WELL, GOOD LUCK TO YOU, SISTER, AND GOD BLESS.

GOD BLESS.

SOME SAY THAT DAY IS FAST APPROACHING, THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, WHEN THE FATE OF THE WORLD WILL BE DECIDED IN A FINAL BATTLE BETWEEN THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF SATAN.

HMMM, WHAT'S THIS?

"DO YOU WISH TO RECLAIM THE HONOR YOU LOST IN YOUR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DARKNESS? THE HOLY LANCE LIES HERE, IN THE AMAZON JUNGLE. LUCK, A FRIEND!"

IT'S TRULY WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU UP AND ABOUT, SISTER MARIELLA. WHEN MONTH AFTER MONTH PASSED BUT YOU REMAINED IN A COMA, WHY, EVEN THE DOCTORS THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER WAKE AGAIN. THANK THE LORD THEY WERE WRONG.

I DO, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE, G... I KNOW IT HAD NO... IN MY RECO...

MANY HUNDREDS OF THE CHURCH SENT AN ON A QUEST TO DESTROY NOT ONE RETURNED. ANY RARE, THE CHURCH BEEN RESIGNED TO JUST AND OBSERVE.

BUT MANY MONTHS AGO, THE MAGDALENA, BLESSED OF THE CHURCH, WAS MIS... AGAINST THE CURRENT INK... OF THE DARKNESS, AGAIN... DISASTROUS RESULTS.

HERE, IN THIS HOSPITAL BED, SHE HAS SLEPT, HER MANY PHYSICAL WOUNDS HEALED, BUT HER MIND SHATTERED, UNTIL JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, WHEN SHE FINALLY WAKENED FROM HER COMATOSE STATE.

LATER
THAT
MONTH

DAY ONE

LIT
HEA
AS
MO

DAY TWO

THE PEOPLE OF THIS
REGION HAVE LEARNED
TO LIVE IN HARMONY
WITH THE DANGERS
SURROUNDING THEM

DAY THREE

OUTSIDERS, BEWARE
YOU MAY NOT FARE
AS WELL

DAY FOUR

THE NATIVES HAVE HA
IF ANY CONTACT WITH
WORLD, THEY HAVE NI
CHRIST OR HIS TEACH
WORSHIP THE GODS



ENGRAVED ON THE WALLS OF THIS ANCIENT TEMPLE IS THE TALE OF INTI THE SUN GOD AND NIDA, GODDESS OF THE MOON, FIRSTBORN OF ROAM THE CREATOR.

NOW INTI LOVED ORDER AND GAVE HIS PEOPLE LAWS TO OBEY THAT THEY WOULD LIVE IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY, AND HE TAUGHT THEM THE SECRETS OF NUMBERS AND OF THE STARS AND PLANETS, AND THEY BUILT GREAT TEMPLES AND PYRAMIDS TO WORSHIP HIM.

BUT NIDA LOVED CHAOS AND WOULD OFTEN RUN WILD WITH THE ANIMALS. SHE GIFTED HER PEOPLE WITH INDEPENDENCE AND FREE WILL, AND LET THEM DISCOVER THEIR OWN RULES AND TRADITIONS, AND SHE DELIGHTED IN THEIR INVENTIVENESS AND CREATIVITY.

AND THE TWO GODS DESPISED ONE ANOTHER, AND MADE WAR UPON EACH OTHER.

THE MOUNTAINS BLEW AWAY AND THE SKIES RAINED FIRE AND LIGHTNING. THEY WERE DESTROYED THE WORLD WAS BATTERED, BUT ROAM THE CREATOR INTERVENED AND BANISHED THEM TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PLACES. THE SUN AND MOON NEVER WALK THE EARTH AGAIN.

BUT THE GODS WERE VICARIOUSLY MORTAL AS ALL, ALBEIT IN A DIFFERENT WAY. SO INTI CHASES THE MOON AND THE MOON CHASES THE SUN.

BUT INTI IN HIS WAR VESSEL INVADED THE DARKNESS.

AND SO THE BATTLES BETWEEN INTI AND NIDA CONTINUE AND SOMETIMES THE SUN IS A LITTLE BRIGHTER, AND OFTEN THE NIGHTS ARE A LITTLE DARKER. NEITHER SIDE EVER PREVAILS. WILL THEIR WAR CONTINUE?

W
DARE
THE TE
THE

SPEAK NOW, TRESPASSER, LEST THE WRATH OF THE GODS FALLS UPON YOU.

WHO-- WHAT ARE YOU?

I HAVE BEEN CALLED MANY NAMES IN MY MANY LIFETIMES. IN THE EAST, I AM THE SUN GODDESS AMATERASU-OMI-KAMI. TO THE WEST, THEY CALL ME ANGELUS, QUEEN OF THE LIGHT. AND HERE, I AM ILLA, BRIDE OF INTI, GOD OF THE SUN.

I TIRE OF YOUR IMPERTINENCE. GUARDS, DISPOSE OF HER.



IT'S NO

KRAASH!!!



DUMB MOVE,
TRAPPING MY
WARRIORS.

NOW,
YOU'LL HAVE
TO DEAL WITH
ME!

LORD,
PROTECT
ME!

HUH?

TASTE THE
POWER OF THE
ANGELLUS!

HOW IS IT
THAT MY POWER HAS
NO EFFECT ON YOU?
WHAT POWERS COULD
YOU SERVE TO MAKE
YOU IMMUNE TO
THE LIGHT?

I AM AN
AGENT OF CHRIST!
I SERVE ALMIGHTY
GOD!

NO MATTER,
I CAN STILL DISPOSE
OF YOU BY MORE
MUNDANE MEANS.

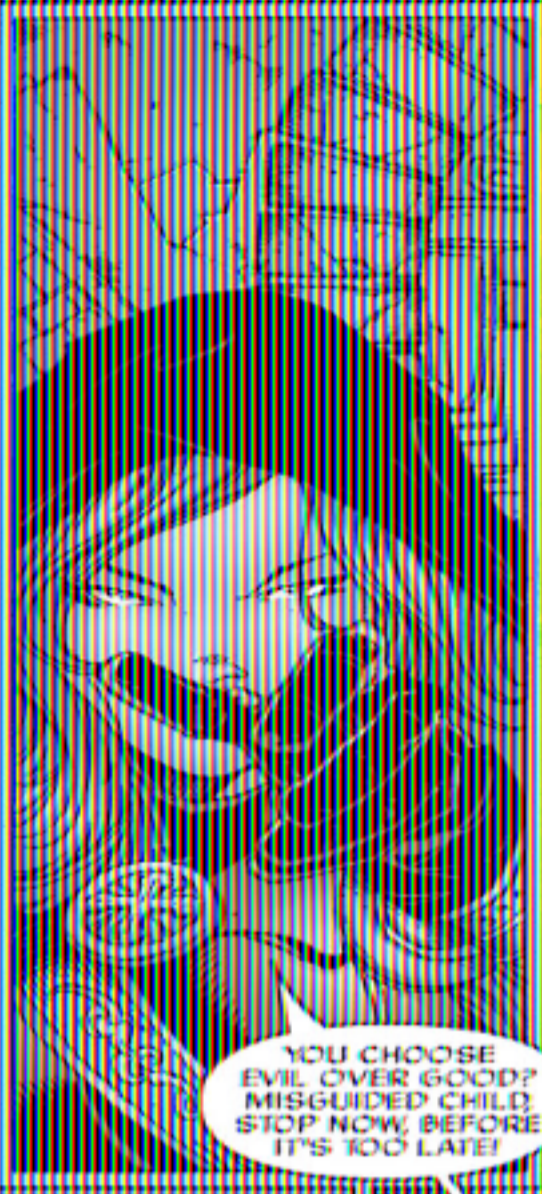
POW!

BAD MOVE,
DEMON!

NOW
YOU'LL HAVE
TO DEAL WITH
ME.

DIE!

THUNDER




YOU CHOOSE
EVIL OVER GOOD?
MISGUIDED CHILD,
STOP NOW, BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE!



LOOK INTO
YOUR HEART AND
SEE THE MISERY AND
PAIN YOU'VE CAUSED.
REPENT YOUR SINS
AND EMBRACE THE
LORD INTO YOUR
HEART!

HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA





WHAT?
AM I SUPPOSED
TO CRY NOW OR
SOMETHING? DOES
YOUR LITTLE TRICK
EVER WORK?

ALL MY LIFE,
I'VE HAD ONE S#ITTY
THING AFTER ANOTHER
HAPPEN TO ME, AND NOW
IT'S PAYBACK TIME. AFTER
ALL, THE BIBLE DOES
SAY "AN EYE FOR
AN EYE."

SO YOU
CAN TAKE YOUR
LITTLE REDEMPTION
CRAP AND
SHOVE IT.

YOUR CHANCE
AT REDEMPTION IS
PASSED. NOW, FACE
JUDGMENT!

OH, YOU HAVE
SO GOT TO BE KIDDING!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU
CAN POSSIBLY DO
AGAINST THIS?

Mmmph...



OH, DON'T WORRY. I WON'T KILL YOU. KILLING NUNS IS VERY BAD FORM. MY FAMILY'S VERY RELIGIOUS, YOU KNOW.

HAVE A NICE DAY!

ISN'T WONDERFUL? LOOK AT ME! THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS ARE AGAINST HIM, JUST STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM AGAIN!



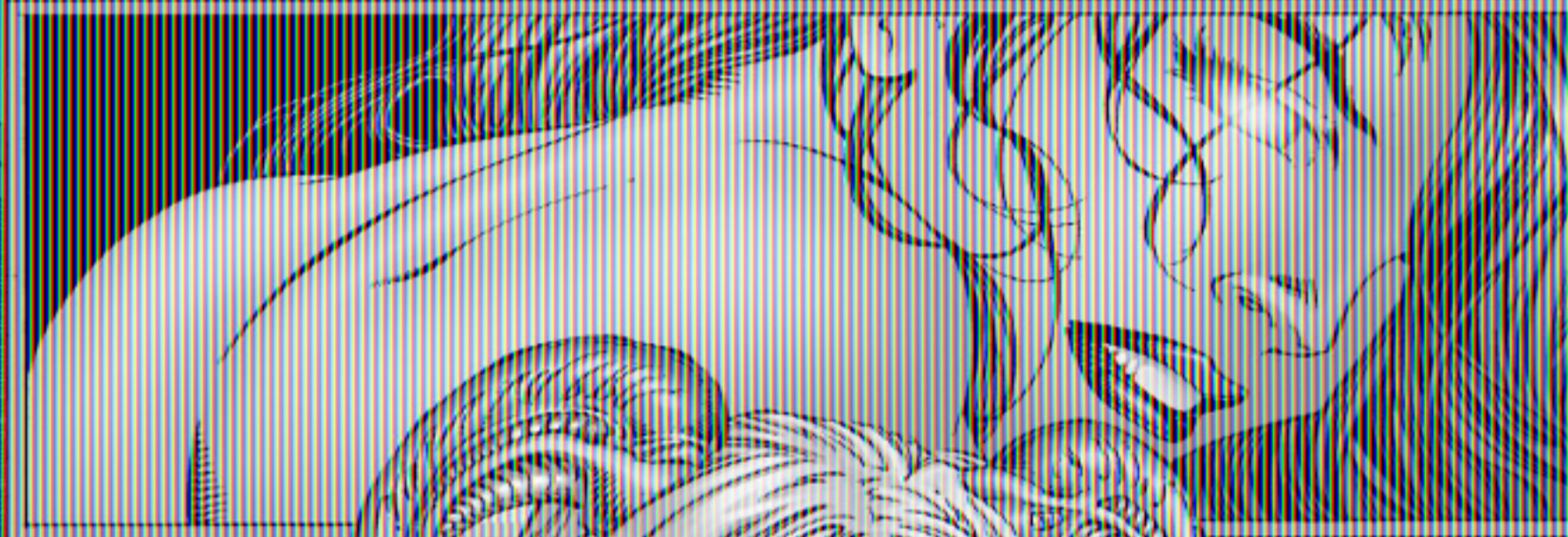
MAMA? WHAT?



MAMA? NO!



THE DARKNESS MUST BE DESTROYED.



THE DARKNESS MUST DIE!



NO, I CAN'T FIGHT YOU MAMA, NO!

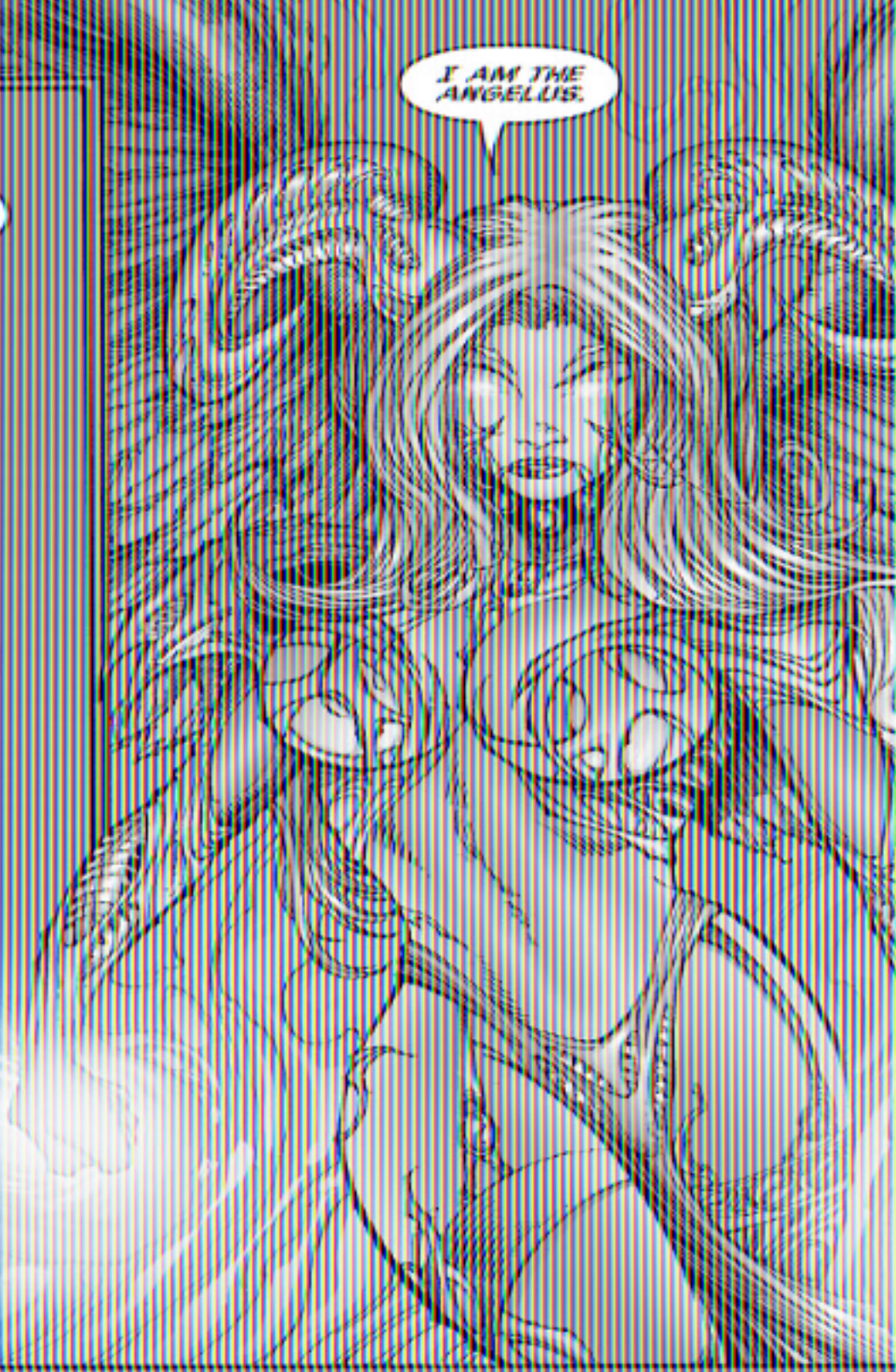


NOOOO
MAMA.



RUN,
DAUGHTER,
RUN. MY
LAST GIFT
TO YOU.

THE LAST
ACT OF LAUREN
FRANCHETTI.



I AM THE
ANGELUS.



TH

