

IDW
ISSUE
3
\$3.99

CAREY · DAVID · RAMONDELLI

DARKNESS VISIBLE



WHEN THE DEMONS CAME, HUMANITY RELUCTANTLY LEARNED
TO SHARE THE WORLD WITH ANOTHER SENTIENT RACE.
EIGHTY YEARS LATER, THIS UNEASY CO-EXISTENCE HAS
SPAWNED AN ENDLESS TERRORIST CONFLICT.
DETECTIVE DANIEL ASTON, CHARGED WITH BEING THE THIN
BLUE LINE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, WAS KILLED WHILE
STOPPING A TERROR ATTACK, BUT AWOKE TO FIND A DEMON
HAD SET UP HOUSE INSIDE HIS SOUL...

DARKNESS VISIBLE

WRITERS

MIKE CAREY
& ARVIND ETHAN DAVID

ART

LIVIO RAMONDELLI

LETTERS

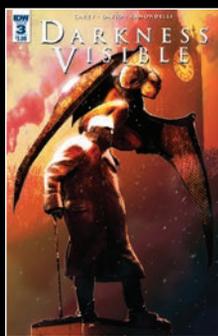
ROBBIE ROBBINS

EDITS

DENTON J. TIPTON

PUBLISHER

TED ADAMS



REGULAR COVER
ART BY LIVIO RAMONDELLI



SUBSCRIPTION COVER
ART BY DAVE KENDALL



INCENTIVE COVER
ART BY RYAN KELLY

Special thanks to Trevor Macy, Marc Evans, Cavan Ash, Toby Rushton, Bharat Nalluri and all who helped Detective Aston on his journey.

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com

IDW[®]
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

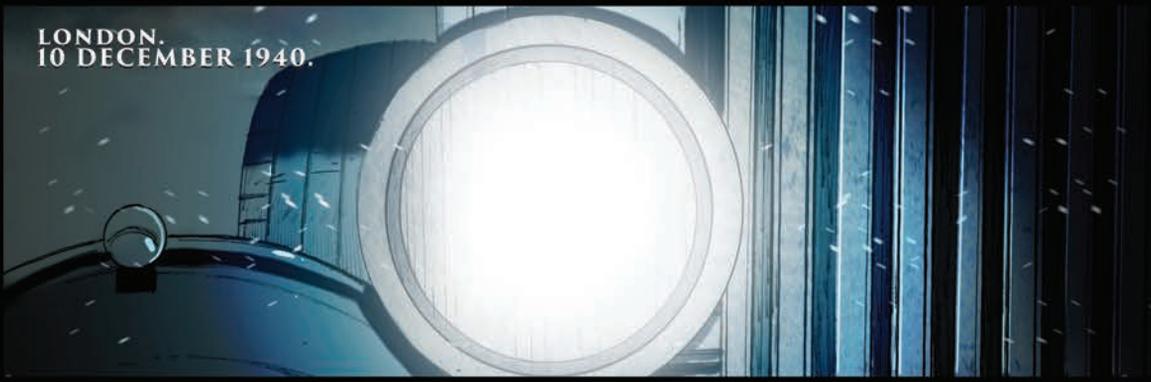
Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher • Greg Goldstein, President & COO • Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist • Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer • David Hedgecock, Editor-in-Chief • Laurie Windrow, Senior Vice President of Sales & Marketing • Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer • Dirk Wood, VP of Marketing • Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services • Jeff Webber, VP of Licensing, Digital and Subsidiary Rights • Jerry Bennington, VP of New Product Development

Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing • Twitter: [@idwpublishing](https://twitter.com/idwpublishing) • YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing
Tumblr: tumblr.idwpublishing.com • Instagram: instagram.com/idwpublishing



DARKNESS VISIBLE #3, APRIL 2017, FIRST PRINTING. Darkness Visible © 2017 Mike Carey, Arvind Ethan David, Intrepid Pictures Development Company LLC, and Slingshot Productions Limited. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

LONDON.
10 DECEMBER 1940.



PRIME MINISTER.
FIELD MARSHAL DILL.

MR. CANAVAN.

I APOLOGIZE, SIR, FOR THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR AND THE INCLEMENT WEATHER. SHE SAID TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE.



AND SO IT IS. THE HOUR AND THE WEATHER BE HANGED, CANAVAN.

TAKE ME TO HER. IS SHE IN THE CHURCH?



NO, SIR.

UNDER IT.



A VERY GOOD EVENING TO YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER.

WELCOME TO MY LITTLE PIED SOUS TERRE.



WILL YOU TAKE TEA?
OR WOULD YOU PREFER SOMETHING STRONGER?



PRIME MINISTER, LADY CAROLINE VIVIAN.

OH DEAR, MADAM. I CONFESS, I AM DISAPPOINTED.

YES? HOW SO?

WE'RE MEETING IN A CRYPT. AT MIDNIGHT. AND YOUR TEA SERVICE INCLUDES A HORNED SKULL.



YOU APPEAR TO HAVE COLLECTED EVERY CLICHÉ RELATING TO THE FANTASTIC AND ITS FURNITURE.



THE CRYPT IS A USEFUL PRECAUTION IN CASE OF AIR RAIDS. THE TIME IS CONGENIAL TO OUR KIND.

AS FOR LOPAXIS... WELL, I ASSUME YOU BROUGHT YOUR MOST TRUSTED ADVISERS. I DID THE SAME.

YOU FLATTER ME, MAJESTY.



YOU SEEM UNINTERESTED IN REFRESHMENT, BUT IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I WILL PARTAKE.

I FIND MYSELF QUITE PARCHED.

"WINSTON AND VIVIAN"



VERY WELL. I AM SITTING DOWN.

EXCELLENT.

WITH A WOMAN WHO PROFESSES TO BE AN IMMORTAL DEMON INHABITING A HUMAN BODY.

DEMON IS A HUMAN WORD OF VAGUE IMPORT AND DIRE CONNOTATION. WE CALL OURSELVES THE SHAITAN ANAZGE. THE HUNDRED TRIBES.



I MADE MY BARGAIN WITH LADY CAROLINE VIVIAN IN 1853. YOU MAY SPEAK WITH HER IF YOU WISH. SHE'S STILL IN HERE WITH ME, BUT SHE SLEEPS A LOT, OF LATE.

IT'S HARD FOR ME TO VERIFY ANY OF THOSE DETAILS, MADAM.

BUT IT WOULD BE A VERY SIMPLE MATTER TO TEST YOUR CLAIM OF IMMORTALITY.



BY HAVING ONE OF THESE FINE YOUNG MEN SHOOT ME WITH HIS RIFLE?

MORE LIKELY HIS SERVICE PISTOL.

BUT I SHOULD CONSIDER THAT AN AFFRONT, AND A SERIOUS BREACH OF PROTOCOL.

WHAT PROTOCOL, MADAM?



THAT WHICH PERTAINS TO TWO FRIENDLY HEADS OF STATE.

LOPAXIS, PLEASE STATE FOR MR. CHURCHILL THE TERMS OF OUR PROPOSED AGREEMENT.



OF COURSE, MAJESTY.



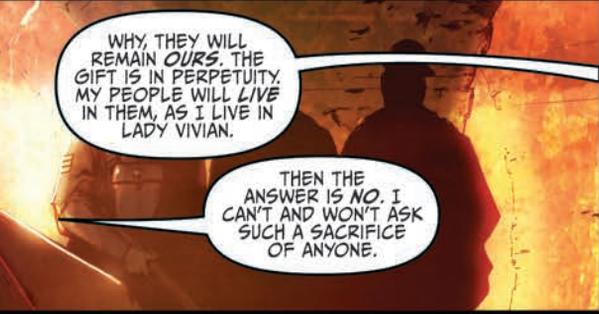
BRITAIN WILL GIVE THE *SHAITAN* ONE THOUSAND WILLING SOULS. VOLUNTEERS. A THOUSAND OF OURS WILL TAKE UP *RESIDENCE* IN THEIR BODIES, AND THEY WILL BE THE CORE OF A NEW MILITARY CONTINGENT.

YOU WILL VOUCHSAFE A THOUSAND *MORE* HOST BODIES EACH YEAR FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS CENTURY. AND GIVE US BESIDES, WHEN *GERMANY FALLS*, A MOIETY OF HER CURRENT TERRITORIES.

THE *SHAITAN* ENGAGE, IF THESE THINGS ARE DONE, TO SCOURGE BRITAIN'S ENEMIES AND WIN BRITAIN'S WAR.



AND WHAT WILL *BECOME* OF THESE THOUSANDS WHEN THE WAR IS OVER?



WHY, THEY WILL REMAIN *OURS*. THE GIFT IS IN PERPETUITY. MY PEOPLE WILL *LIVE* IN THEM, AS I LIVE IN LADY VIVIAN.

THEN THE ANSWER IS *NO*. I CAN'T AND WON'T ASK SUCH A SACRIFICE OF ANYONE.



THAT'S A *PITY*.

I SHALL HAVE TO SEE WHETHER THE *GERMAN FÜHRER* IS WILLING TO HEAR ME OUT.



AH. AND HERE WE *ARE*.

UNFORTUNATELY.



YOUR WORDS ARE TREASON, MADAM. I COULD HAVE YOU SHOT.

WAITING ON YOUR ORDERS, SIR.

OF COURSE YOU COULD. BUT I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF YOU DID ANYTHING QUITE SO STUPID.



IF I AM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH, YOUR MEN'S BULLETS WILL NOT HARM ME. AND I SHALL CERTAINLY TAKE MY OFFER TO HERR HITLER.

WHEREAS IF I AM LYING, YOU WILL HAVE MURDERED A MAD OLD WOMAN. IT'S HARD TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE TO GAIN IN EITHER CASE.



I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO TREAT WITH ENGLAND'S ENEMIES.

THEN TREAT WITH ME YOURSELF.

EVEN IF I WANTED TO, NOBODY IN MY GOVERNMENT WOULD BELIEVE YOUR CLAIMS FOR A MOMENT.



HOW LONG WILL ENGLAND STAND, WITHOUT OUR HELP? LONDON IS BURNING.

LONDON HAS BURNED BEFORE.

WE WILL BUILD IT UP AGAIN.



IF OUR PROBLEM COMES DOWN TO TRUST, PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL, THEN IT HAS A SOLUTION.

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE, LADY VIVIAN?

A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION.



FIND ME TEN VOLUNTEERS. NOT A REGIMENT OR A PLATOON, BUT A MERE HANDFUL.

AND I WILL PROVE MY CASE.