

**PROLOGUE:** IN THE CARRIBEAN REPUBLIC OF *CÔTE DE SOLEIL*, IT IS NIGHT. NOT A NIGHT OF SOFT SHADOW AND QUIET, GLEAMING STARS, BUT OF BURSTING FIREWORKS AND RAUCOUS LAUGHTER, AND CROWDS GOING MERRILY MAD IN THE STREETS. IT IS **CARNIVAL** TIME IN THE CAPITAL CITY; A TIME WHEN STRANGERS MEET AND TRAVELLERS THROG. AND THREE SUCH TRAVELLERS WE SEE NOW: **ADAM VAN HELSING**, LAST IN A LINE OF EXPLORERS OF THE UNKNOWN, STALKERS OF THE UNDEAD; **PENDRAGON**, VAUDEVILLIAN AND STAGE MAGICIAN; AND THEIR COMPANION, THE STRANGE, LOVELY GIRL FROM A DISTANT WORLD CALLED DRAKULON...



\*SEE VAMPIRELLA #14

ART BY:  
STORY BY:

678  
Page 1









YOU **KNOW** ME? HOW--PAUL!  
**PAUL GIRAUDI!** YOU WERE AN  
EXCHANGE STUDENT IN MY FATHER'S  
CLASS AT NEW ENGLAND  
UNIVERSITY!

BUT WHY NOT A SIMPLE  
**HELLO** INSTEAD OF THIS  
**CLOAK AND DAGGER**  
BIT?

I HAD TO BE  
**CERTAIN** NO ONE  
WAS AROUND... MY  
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
AGAINST THE SUPPORTERS  
OF OUR LATE PRESIDENT  
HAVE MADE ME A  
TARGET OF THE  
**SECRET POLICE!**

THEN  
YOU'VE COME  
TO US FOR  
**HELP**  
RIGHT?

NO, TO **WARN** YOU! YOUR  
**FATHER** RECENTLY CAME TO  
CÔTE DE SOLEIL... APPARENTLY OUT  
OF SOME BELIEF **YOU** WOULD  
SHOW UP HERE, I MET HIM  
BRIEFLY BY ACCIDENT...

ONCE THEY **HAVE**  
SOMEONE, NO FRIEND OR  
RELATIVE OF THAT PERSON  
IS **SAFE!** IF THEY LEARN  
YOU'RE HERE, THEY WILL  
BE **AFTER** YOU!

YESTERDAY  
THE SECRET POLICE  
**ARRESTED** HIM!

SUCH OMINOUS  
WORDS ARE DEVASTATING  
**ENOUGH** TO A  
DEVOUT COWARD LIKE  
MYSELF... DOES THE  
**WIND** HAVE TO RISE  
ON CUE TO RAISE  
MY HACKLES  
AS WELL?

THERE'S A **SOUND**  
ON THE WIND... I CAN  
HEAR IT **FAINTLY**. SOME  
SORT OF... **MUSIC!**

OUR PEOPLE CALL  
IT THE **VOUDOU WIND**...  
BECAUSE IT'S BLOWN NIGHTLY  
EVER SINCE THAT OLD TYRANT,  
VALIER, DIED, BUT PERHAPS  
YOU DON'T **KNOW** OUR  
NICKNAME FOR PRESIDENT  
VALIER... **PAPA VOUDOU!**

pg 61



4

YES, *MUSIC*. TOO FAR AWAY AT FIRST TO BE CAUGHT BY ANY BUT THE SUPER-KEEN SENSES OF THE GIRL FROM ANOTHER WORLD. THEN, IT *GROWS!* THE THROBBING DRUMS, THE SHRILLING FLUTES, THE WILD RHYTHMS OF DANCING FEET. MIXING, BUILDING TOWARD A HAUNTING, HORRIFYING CRESCENDO... *THE MUSIC OF VODOU!*



EACH MIDNIGHT, *MADAME DOMINIQUE* HAD DANCED. SHE HAD SUNG THE ANCIENT CHANTS AND CALLED TO HER DEPARTED LOVER, *JACQUES VALIER*. SHE HAD EXERCISED ALL HER POWERS AS *BOCUR*-SORCERESS-- OF THE VODOU CULT. AND NOW AT LAST THERE WAS A *STIRRING*. NOW AT LAST THE BLACK MAGIC FORCES WERE CULMINATING IN...

# THE RESURRECTION OF PAPA VODOU!





**PAPA VOODOU!** WHO FOR TWENTY YEARS CRUELLY MANIPULATED AND SELFISHLY EXPLOITED THE THIRD LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE CARRIBEAN...

**PAPA VOODOU!** WHO MAINTAINED POWER THROUGH TERRORISM; BY HIS SECRET POLICE AND THE DARK CULT FROM WHICH HIS NICKNAME CAME...

**PAPA VOODOU!** WHO LONG VOWED THAT HIS IRON GRASP ON THE THROAT OF CÔTE DE SOLEIL WOULD NEVER BE BROKEN BY ANY FOE, ANY FORCE...



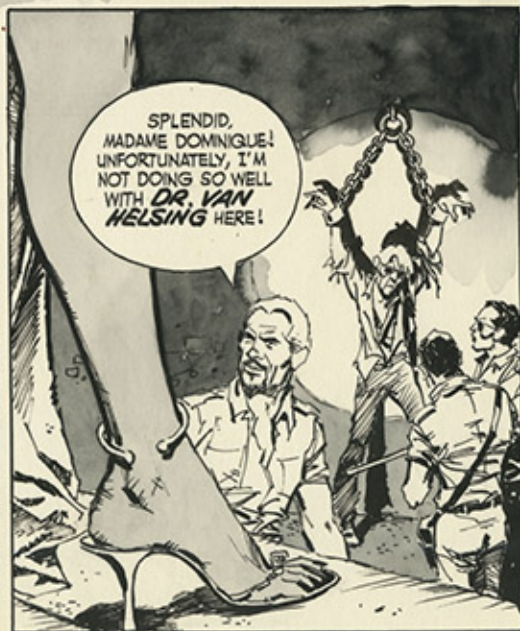
...NOT EVEN BY THE GRAVE!



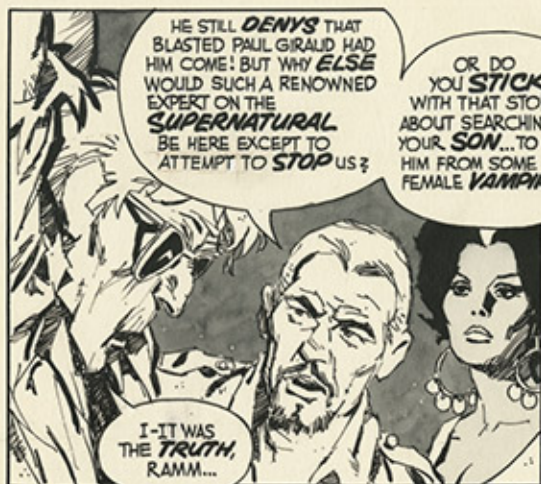
SUCCESS, COLONEL RAMM!



SPLENDID, MADAME DOMINIQUE! UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT DOING SO WELL WITH DR. VAN HELSING HERE!







HE STILL **DENYS** THAT  
BLASTED PAUL GIRAUD HAD  
HIM COME! BUT WHY **ELSE**  
WOULD SUCH A RENOWNED  
EXPERT ON THE  
**SUPERNATURAL**  
BE HERE EXCEPT TO  
ATTEMPT TO **STOP** US?

OR DO  
YOU **STICK**  
WITH THAT STORY  
ABOUT SEARCHING FOR  
YOUR **SON**... TO SAVE  
HIM FROM SOME  
FEMALE **VAMPIRE**?!

I-IT WAS  
THE **TRUTH**,  
RAMM...



STUBBORN, EH? WELL, SO AM I!  
STUBBORN ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE  
AMERICAN ARMY WHEN IT WENT **SOFT**!  
STUBBORN ENOUGH TO SUCCEED AS  
MILITARY ADVISOR TO A **REAL MAN**  
LIKE PRESIDENT VALIER!

AND STUBBORN ENOUGH NOT  
TO LET A BUNCH OF COMMIES AND  
RADICALS TEAR DOWN WHAT **HE**  
BUILT! **KEEP WORKING ON**  
**HIM, BOYS!**



NO ONE WILL EVER  
ACCEPT HIM AGAIN LIKE  
**THAT! A-A ZOMBIE**...  
A PIECE OF ROTTING  
FLESH! YOU CAN EVEN  
**SMELL**--

THIS IS  
ONLY THE **FIRST**  
**STEP**, COLONEL...

AND LED BY MADAME DOMINIQUE, COL. TRAVIS RAMM  
IS BROUGHT TO THE SIGHT HE HAS BEEN WAITING,  
**HOPING**, TO SEE FOR MONTHS...



**N-NO...!** I DIDN'T  
THINK IT WOULD BE  
**THIS WAY!**

JUST TO GET THIS FAR, I HAVE  
EXPLOITED MY **FULL POWERS** AS  
A PRIESTESS OF **VOUDOU!** TO  
BRING THE MASTER TO **FULL**  
**LIFE**, TO MAKE HIM MORE THAN  
THE MINDLESS THING YOU SEE...



...WILL REQUIRE THE  
**STRONGEST**  
OF MAGICS!



**THIS!** THE  
POWERS OF THE MAD  
GOD, **CHAOS**, WHO ALONG  
WITH HIS SEVEN DEMON  
SERVANTS, ONCE  
RULED EARTH!

THE BOOK  
SETS FORTH **SPELLS**  
FOR CALLING TO HIM IN HIS  
PLACE OF BANISHMENT...  
THE **NETHER-VOID!**  
IT IS **DANGEROUS**,  
BUT WE MUST  
RISK IT!



BUT...

YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR OVER AN HOUR! PAPA VOUDOU'S STILL **UNCHANGED!** WHY ISN'T THE MUMBO-JUMBO **WORKING?**

**MAGIC** IS SOMEWHAT LESS PRECISE THAN **MILITARY TACTICS**, COLONEL! THE SPELLS I'VE **TRIED** DO NOT SEEM **POWERFUL** ENOUGH TO EVOKE THE PROPER **RESPONSE!**

THERE IS ONLY **ONE** LEFT THAT MAY WORK, BUT I'D HOPED TO **AVOID** IT... IT COULD PROVE **TOO POWERFUL!** IF ONLY SOMEONE **EQUALLY** SKILLED IN THESE MATTERS WERE ASSISTING ME...

**THEN** IT MIGHT BE SAFELY **EVOKED!**

NO **DOUBT** CONRAD VAN Helsing's STUDIES HAVE MADE **HIM** QUALIFIED FOR SUCH A CHALLENGE... BUT OF COURSE A MAN OF HIS **SCRUPLES** COULD NEVER BE MADE TO—

THE HELL HE CAN'T! GIVE ME ENOUGH **TIME**, LADY, AND I'LL FIND **SOME** WAY TO BREAK THAT OLD MAN... YOU GOT MY WORD AS AN OFFICER AND GENTLEMAN!

THE LONG NIGHT WEARS ON. THE VOUDOU WIND HAS DIED. THE CARNIVAL REVELERS HAVE LEFT THE STREETS. ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE NOWHERE TO GO REMAIN...

WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND A PLACE STILL OPEN, PAUL. BUT ISN'T THIS RISKY FOR YOU, PAUL?

A MAN ON THE RUN GETS TIRED, ADAM... AND LONELY. IT'S GOOD TO SIT, TO TALK... IF ONLY FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

I'M NOT WELL KNOWN IN THIS QUARTER. IT'S DOUBTFUL I'D BE RECOGNIZED.

BESIDES, YOUR FATHER WAS PROBABLY ARRESTED BECAUSE HE WAS SEEN WITH ME. I FEEL OBLIGATED TO HELP...





BUT GOD KNOW  
IS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE!  
BY NOW HE IS IMPRISONED IN  
THE ROYAL PALACE BEING  
ENTERTAINED BY PAPA  
VOUDOU'S MISTRESS AND  
HIS MILITARY ADVISOR!

THERE IS NO  
ORDINARY WAY DR.  
VAN HELSING COULD  
BE REACHED OR  
RESCUED?

INKEEP...  
INKEEP?



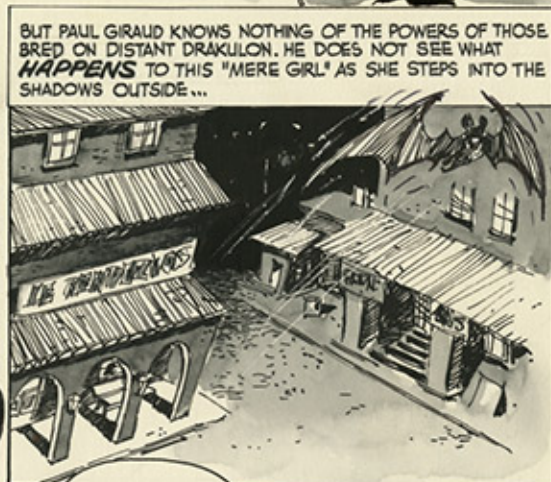
RASCAL SEEM'S TO HAVE VANISHED...  
AH, WELL! NEVER LET IT BE SAID  
PENDRAGON WAS TOO PROUD TO  
SERVE HIMSELF!

VAMPIRELLA,  
KNOWING THE WAY  
DAD **FEELS** ABOUT YOU,  
THE WAY HE'S HOUNDED  
AND HUNTED YOU, YOU'RE  
**STILL** INTERESTED  
IN HELPING HIM?



HE'LL **NEVER** BE  
CONVINCED I'VE CHANGED  
FROM THE CREATURE OF PREY  
I **USED** TO BE IF I DON'T.  
BUT IF I CAN FIND HIM HIM  
IN THE ROYAL PALACE...

BUT DON'T YOU  
UNDERSTAND? THAT PLACE  
IS A **FORTRESS**! HOW CAN  
A MERE GIRL HOPE TO --



BUT PAUL GIRAUD KNOWS NOTHING OF THE POWERS OF THOSE  
BRED ON DISTANT DRAKULON. HE DOES NOT SEE WHAT  
**HAPPENS** TO THIS "MERE GIRL" AS SHE STEPS INTO THE  
SHADOWS OUTSIDE...



ADAM...  
THE SECRET  
POLICE!

AND MORE UNFORTUNATELY, **VAMPIRELLA** DOES NOT SEE  
THE DARK SEDAN THAT COMES SCREECHING TO A HALT IN  
FRONT OF THE BISTRO ONLY MINUTES AFTER SHE WINGS HER  
WAY TOWARD THE ROYAL PALACE!





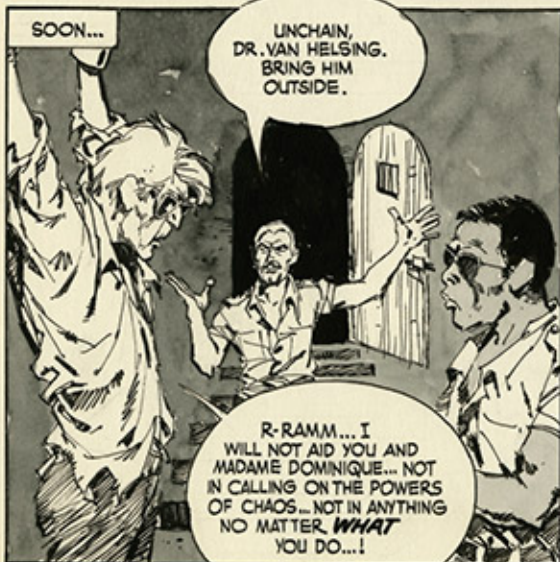


THEY'RE BOTH STILL **BREATHING!** ANOTHER BURST?

ONE MOMENT. LET ME CHECK THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE ONE WITH GIRAUD. IT WILL LOOK MORE PROPER IN OUR REPORT IF WE HAVE A NAME.

VAN HELSING...! IT IS **FAMILIAR...**

THE **OLD MAN** COL. RAMM HAS BEEN INTERROGATING! HE WILL BE **INTERESTED** IN THIS...



SOON...

UNCHAIN, DR. VAN HELSING. BRING HIM OUTSIDE.

R- RAMM... I WILL NOT AID YOU AND MADAME DOMINIQUE... NOT IN CALLING ON THE POWERS OF CHAOS... NOT IN ANYTHING NO MATTER **WHAT** YOU DO...!



YES, YES. I **KNOW** HOW STUBBORN, HOW UNBREAKABLE, YOU ARE, DEAR DOCTOR. I JUST HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING TO **SHOW** YOU...

I AM BLIND, RAMM... THERE IS **NOTHING** YOU CAN SHOW ME.







DEATH COMES IN TIME FOR EVERY MAN. NONE TRULY ESCAPE, BUT GIVEN THE STRENGTH OF WILL, THE SOURCE OF DETERMINATION, SOME FOR A WHILE MAY **RESIST**. SO, PAUL GIRALD DRAWS ON HIS **HATRED** FOR WHAT A DICTATOR DID TO HIS PEOPLE, HIS **RAGE** AGAINST THE MAD SCHEMES OF THE MAN'S FOLLOWERS ... AND CLINGS TO **LIFE**.





