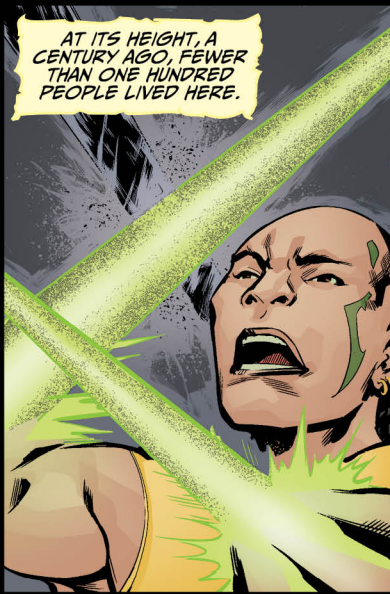
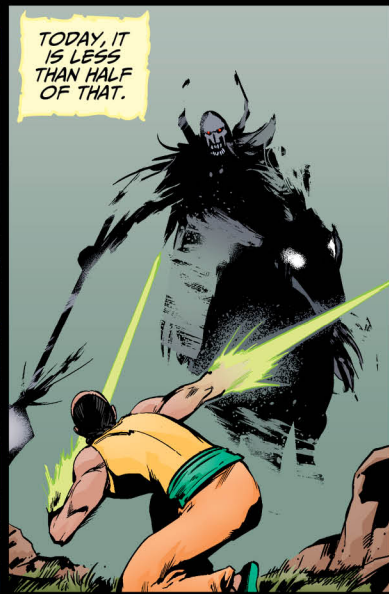


TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE KILOMETERS SOUTH AND EAST OF CHINA'S FLAMING MOUNTAINS LIES A LONG-FORGOTTEN TOWN.

SO INSIGNIFICANT IT REGISTERS AS A BLANK HOLE ON EVERY GPS DEVICE.



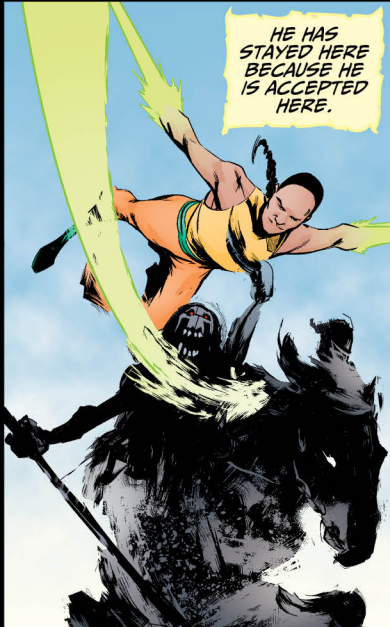
AT ITS HEIGHT, A CENTURY AGO, FEWER THAN ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE LIVED HERE.



TODAY, IT IS LESS THAN HALF OF THAT.



SHING JIE, TALL AND SLENDER, WAS BORN INTO THIS NAMELESS SQUALOR ONLY TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.



HE HAS STAYED HERE BECAUSE HE IS ACCEPTED HERE.



ELSEWHERE, HE WOULD BE REGARDED AS A FREAK. ELSEWHERE, HE'D BE HUNTED AND EXTERMINATED.



SHING JIE IS AN ARCAIC. BORN OF DARK MAGIC.



HE HOPED BY STAYING WHERE HE WAS BORN HE COULD LIVE HIS LIFE IN ANONYMOUS PEACE.



HE WAS WRONG.



EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU SHING JIE? I REALLY HOPE SO.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING, LIKE, LITERALLY EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.



(WHO ARE YOU?)



OH, RIGHT. I'M RED DEVIL.

YOU DON'T KNOW HIM YET, BUT THE BARON SENT ME TO RESCUE YOU.



ARCANE, YOU ARE A FOOL TO HAVE COME HERE TO RESCUE HIM.

DIE!

THE CHOICE



MARV WOLFFMAN WRITER
POP MHAN ARTIST
LOVERN KINDZIERSKI COLORIST
SAIDA TEMOFONTE LETTERER
CULLY HAMNER COVER ART
MICHAEL McCALISTER ASST. EDITOR
MARIE JAVINS GROUP EDITOR
JOEY CAVALIERI STRANGE VISITOR
RAVEN CREATED BY MARV WOLFFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ





WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE.

I AM SO GONNA--



--FRY YOU!



IT IS NOT YOUR TURN.

BUT VERY SOON.

UNNNHH!



B-BARON... HELP... FOR GOD'S SAKE... PLEASE HELP ME...

I--I CAN'T DO THIS... I CAN'T...





DISGUSTING.
SOME PEOPLE
DO NOT KNOW
HOW TO FAIL WITH
GRACE.

TH- THEY WERE
LIKE N- NOTHING
I'VE EVER SEEN... I...
I... C- CAN'T DO THIS
ANYMORE... I CAN'T...



OBVIOUSLY.




AND AS
SUCH, YOUR
SERVICES ARE
NO LONGER
NEEDED.



THE
DEVIL--?

DON'T ASK. I
ALREADY HAVE HIS
REPLACEMENT.

HIS
NAME'S KLARION.
YOU'LL LIKE HIM.
HE'S A WITCH BOY.



I AM ONLY
HERE BECAUSE YOU
SAID IF I HELP, YOU
WOULD SHOW ME HOW
TO RETURN HOME TO
LIMBO TOWN.

AND SO I SHALL.
I HARDLY EVER MAKE
PROMISES I DON'T KEEP.



YOU'RE RAVEN.
THE BARON
TOLD ME ALL
ABOUT YOU.

MY CAT. HIS NAME
IS TEEKL. WE'RE
INSEPARABLE.

GRROOWL!