

# VAMPIRELLA

AS THE SAGA OF THE DELICIOUS DRAKULONNE CONTINUES TO UNFOLD, CERTAIN MYSTERIES BECOME MORE CLEAR, OTHERS REMAIN...

WHY, WE ASK, IS THE ADORABLE VAMPIRELLA STUCK WITH PENDRAGON, THAT VERBOSE ALCOHOLIC WHOSE END IS ONLY TOO PREDICTABLE?

THAT IS A MINOR MYSTERY, AND IT WILL BE RESOLVED WITHIN THESE PAGES. A LARGER QUESTION REMAINS. WHAT LIES BEHIND VAMPIRELLA'S FORMER EXISTENCE ON THE VAMPIRE PLANET DRAKULON... AND WHY, WHEN DRAKULON DIED, WAS SHE DRAWN TO EARTH?

TO FIND THE ANSWER, WE FOLLOW THE HEROINE FROM DRAKULON TO THE ANCIENT CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION THAT LIES ATHWART THE RIVER NILE... TO EGYPT.

TO MEET...

## "THE VAMPIRE OF THE NILE"

I WILL  
MAKE YOU  
LIKE  
MYSELF...  
A  
VAMPIRE!



THE LANGUOROUS DELIGHTS OF MODERN-DAY ALEXANDRIA HAVE FALLEN A LITTLE FLAT WITH VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON...



IT WAS BAD ENOUGH...HAVING TO FOLLOW AN ACT LIKE THE TOP BELLY-DANCER OF THE ORIENT...

IT WAS BAD ENOUGH...CONSTANTLY HAVING TO FEND OFF THE HOT-EYED SNAKE CHARMER FROM THE NEXT DRESSING ROOM...



...BUT, WHEN THE OWNER OF THE NIGHT CLUB DECAMPS WITH A GREEK STRIPPER AND ALL THE MONEY, I TELL MYSELF WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME TO EGYPT!

SPOKEN WITH SLURPP SPIRIT, M' DEAR VAMPI!



WHICH IS STRANGE BECAUSE SOMEHOW, I FEEL A GREAT HARMONY ABOUT ME HERE...I FEEL ATTUNED...CONNECTED... SWITCHED-ON... ALMOST AS IF... AS IF I'D BEEN HERE BEFORE!

LATER, PENDY...WHO HAS PERHAPS IMBIBED TOO DEEPLY OF WHAT HE CHOOSES TO DESCRIBE AS THE DISTILLED ESSENCE OF CEREAL GRAINS ...DRIVES THEM TO THE AIRPORT AND HOME...



PENDY... LOOK OUT!



WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

I-I DON'T KNOW...

THEY EXPERIENCE A WRENCHING APART OF MATTER AND SPIRIT... AND RISE TOGETHER IN THE ASTRAL AIR...



THEY ARE UNDER THE SAME SKY, THE SAME SEA OF IRIDESCENT BLUE LIES  
UNDER THE TALL TOWERS OF THE ANCIENT CITY... BUT ALL IS CHANGED!

THIS IS NOT THE EGYPT OF ANTIQUITIES... OF RUINS AND DUSTY  
MUSEUMS... **ALL IS NEW...**





I HAVEN'T SEEN PTOLEMY SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN TOGETHER...IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROYAL CUSTOM, WE WERE MARRIED BY PROXY... BUT HE WAS A LOATHSOME LITTLE BOY!

MY QUEEN, IF THE GOSSIP OF THE SLAVE MARKET'S ANYTHING TO GO BY, HE'S GROWN INTO A LOATHSOME LITTLE MAN!

THEY GO OUT INTO THE BLINDING SUNLIGHT OF THE EGYPTIAN DAY.

AND HE LIVES OUT HIS DAYS IN THAT HIDEOUS TEMPLE HE HAD BUILT OVER THERE... WHERE I MUST VISIT HIM TONIGHT!

WHAT DOES PTOLEMY DO IN THAT HATEFUL PLACE? WHAT HORRORS AWAIT ME THERE, TONIGHT?

MY QUEEN, HE CLAIMS THAT THE TEMPLE'S DEDICATED TO AMUN-RA! BUT, I'M PRETTY SURE, IF THE NOBLE SUN-GOD KNEW HALF OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, HE'D BLAST THE WHOLE LAND OF EGYPT INTO THE NILE!

PTOLEMY'S ROCK-HEWN TEMPLE FACES THEM ACROSS THE SHIMMERING EXPANSE OF HOT SAND...

I MUST GO THERE ALONE... AND FACE WHATEVER HIDEOUS FATE AWAIT ME!

THE DUSKY WINGS OF NIGHT ARE WRAPPED ABOUT THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS. THE ROYAL QUEEN, WHO, IN A LATER REINCARNATION IS TO BECOME VAMPIRELLA, APPROACHES THE DREAD TEMPLE OF HER BROTHER-HUSBAND, PTOLEMY!



PRIESTS OF AN UNHALLOWED CULT GREET HER, IMPRISON HER SLENDER WRISTS WITH FETTERS OF BEATEN GOLD...



IN SILENCE, SHE IS BORNE INTO A ROCK-HEWN SEPULCHRE AND SHACKLED TO A LOFTY COLUMN.



THIS NIGHT, O QUEEN, YOU WILL TRULY BECOME THE BRIDE OF YOUR LORD AND MASTER, THE VAMPIRE-KING OF THE NILE!

AS SHE WATCHES ALONE, THE VAMPIRE-KING RISES FROM HIS TOMB!

POSTERITY WILL BOTH LAUD AND DEFILE MY NAME AS THAT OF THE TRUE BEGETTER OF VAMPIRISM! THIS IS MY DARK RELIGION, O MY QUEEN! THIS IS THE CULT THAT SHALL CAST DOWN EVEN AMUN-RA HIMSELF! NOW I WILL GORGE MYSELF ON YOUR BLOOD...



...AND YOU WILL BECOME LIKE ME! A VAMPIRE!

N-NO!





IT IS FROM THIS TIME THAT THE LEGEND OF CLEOPATRA, BEWITCHING SERPENT OF OLD NILE TRULY BEGINS! GONE THE INGENUOUS GIRL. IN HER PLACE, THE TIMELESS ENCHANTRESS WHOM AGE CANNOT WITHER, NOR CUSTOM STALE...



MEN, SHE TAKES AND CASTS ASIDE AT WILL... THE EARTH-SHAKING AFFAIR WITH JULIUS CAESAR IS WORTHY OF A PASSING REFERENCE...



THE BEGINNING OF THE END COMES WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE TRIREMES OF MARK ANTONY, AS SHE GREETES HIM IN HER BURNISHED BARGE. ONE LOOK, AND ANTONY IS HER SLAVE FOR ETERNITY.



RANKING AS THE TOP LOVE AFFAIR OF ALL TIME, IT WAS A TRAGICALLY SHORT-LIVED ENCOUNTER. BUT ETERNITY WAS IN THEIR LIPS AND EYES, AND BLISS ON THEIR BROWS.



TEMPTATION IS NEVER FAR FROM THE BLOOD-LUSTING MIND OF THE BEAUTIFUL VAMPIRESS...

WHILE HE SLEEPS, I'LL GORGE MYSELF... NOT ENOUGH TO MATTER...



YOU ARE RESTLESS, MY LOVE...

NOT RESTLESS...



...THIRSTY!

ANTONY LAVISHES GIFTS UPON HER... KINGDOMS AND PROVINCES! BUT IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MEAN A LOT TO A WOMAN...

HE'S BEEN TRAINED TO TEAR THE THROAT OUT OF ANY SLAVE WHO SHOWS THE LEAST SIGNS OF MISBEHAVING!

HE'S A DARLING!... I SHALL CALL HIM ANUBIS!



YOU AND I UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, MY ANUBIS!





THE ELEMENTS OF TRAGEDY ARE ALREADY GATHERED TOGETHER!  
IT NEEDS ONLY THE SPARK TO IGNITE THEM. IT HAPPENS  
DURING A FEAST...

OOOPS!  
SORRY, O MY  
QUEEN!

CLUMSY  
OFFAL!

ANUBIS!



KILL MY  
PET!

No!

THE CURVED INCISORS  
ARE ALREADY  
QUESTING FOR THE  
SOFTNESS OF THE  
SLAVE'S THROAT... BUT  
EGYPT'S QUEEN  
HAS SPRUNG  
FORWARD...



AAAHHH...



MARK ANTONY'S TIME-  
LESS LOVE TURNS TO  
HORROR AND  
REVULSION!

ANTONY!...  
I... I CAN  
EXPLAIN...

YOU ARE  
AN OBSCENITY  
OF EVIL!  
YOU ARE  
DEATH IN ITS  
MOST  
HIDEOUS  
FORM!







MARK ANTONY THROWS HIMSELF UPON HIS SWORD IN THE TIME-HONORED ROMAN FASHION!



FORGIVE?  
DOES ONE  
FORGIVE A  
LOATHSOME  
SERPENT?

I AM  
DYING,  
EGYPT ...  
DYING!



FOR ONCE,  
VAMPIRISH LUST IS  
QUENCHED AND TRANS-  
SCENDED BY THE PURER  
PASSION OF GRIEF.  
SHE PILLOWS THE  
CORPSE TO HER, HEED-  
LESS OF THE HEEDY  
SCENT OF THE  
FRESHLY-SHED  
BLOOD...

GONE... AND ALL  
THAT'S LEFT  
ME IS ...  
VENGEANCE!



ACCOMPANIED BY HER FAVORITE SLAVE,  
SHE GOES TO THE DREAD TEMPLE WHERE  
HER YOUTHFUL INNOCENCE HAD BEEN  
TORN AND RENT FROM HER ...

PTOLEMY!  
I'M  
COMING  
FOR YOU!



WAIT  
AND  
SEE!

WHY DO WE  
BRING A WOODEN  
STAKE AND  
A HAMMER,  
O MY  
QUEEN?



THEY GAZE DOWN UPON THE  
SLEEPING COUNTENANCE OF  
THE VAMPIRE-KING OF EGYPT.

IT IS HER HAND THAT  
DRIVES HOME THE  
POINTED SHAFT!

YOUNG PTOLEMY?  
BUT, MY QUEEN,  
HE LOOKS AS  
OLD AS  
TIME!

HE HAS  
TAKEN UPON  
HIMSELF AN  
ETERNITY  
OF EVIL!



THEN THERE  
IS A BURST  
OF ASTRAL  
LIGHT!

A VOICE OF  
THUNDER  
ECHOES  
THROUGH  
THE VAULTED  
SEPTULCHRE!

THE QUEEN  
OF KINGS  
AND HER  
SLAVE  
PROSTRATE  
THEMSELVES...



SO PERISH ALL  
WHO TURN THEIR  
FACES FROM THE  
SUN AND GAZE  
UPON THE PLACES  
OF DARKNESS!

THE RAM-HEADED  
SUN-GOD OF EGYPT  
RAISES UP THE  
VAMPIRE-QUEEN...



AMUN-  
RA!



YOU, CHILD OF  
THE EARTH, HAVE  
FOUND FAVOR BY  
DESTROYING HE WHO  
DEFIED THE WAYS OF  
LIGHT. AMUN-RA WILL  
REWARD YOU.





AMUN-RA CAN-  
NOT REMOVE  
THE EVIL THAT  
HAS ENTERED  
YOU, BUT HE CAN  
GRANT YOU A  
**HUMAN  
DEATH!**

AFTER YOU  
HAVE PASSED  
BEYOND, YOU  
WILL BE  
**REINCARNATED**  
IN A WORLD BEYOND  
THE STARS, WHERE  
THE EVIL WITHIN YOU  
WILL BE TRANSMUTED  
INTO **GOOD...**  
YOU WILL BE HAPPY  
THERE, WHERE THE  
**SWEET RIVERS OF  
BLOOD FLOOD** THROUGH  
VALLEYS OF DEEP  
CONTENTMENT, AND  
THE **BLOOD-DRINKERS**  
KNOW NO PAIN, NO  
GUILT, NO DESPAIR...  
THIS PLACE  
IS CALLED...  
**DRAKULON!**

*CLEOPATRA SAYS GOODBYE TO HER  
FAVORITE SLAVE...*

NO TEARS FOR  
ME, MY FRIEND.  
I'M GOING  
TO A BETTER  
PLACE. DID YOU  
GET... IT?

IT'S IN THE  
BASKET,  
O MY  
QUEEN...



WHEN I GET TO THE  
OTHER PLACE...TO  
**DRAKULON...** I  
THINK I SHALL TAKE  
THE NAME OF...  
**VAMPIRELLA!**



YOU KNOW  
WHAT? I HAVE  
IMMORTAL  
LONGINGS  
IN ME!



I  
MUST  
REMEMBER  
HER DYING  
WORDS! SUCH  
LOVELY  
SENTIMENTS  
SHOULDN'T BE  
LOST TO  
POSTERITY!  
POSTERITY  
COULD **USE**  
SENTIMENTS  
LIKE  
THESE!

THE SPIRIT OF SHE WHO HAD BEEN CLEOPATRA, DAUGHTER OF THE PTOLEMIES, DESCENDANT OF ALEXANDER, BELOVED OF AMUN-RA, QUEEN OF KINGS, RISES FROM HER EARTHLY BODY AND DRIFTS ACROSS THE VOID OF BLACKNESS, ACROSS THE TRACKLESS WASTES OF SPACE AND TIME TO A NEW LIFE ON A DISTANT WORLD...



TIME IS MEANINGLESS. NOW IS THE INSTANT IN WHICH SHE LIVES. NOW SHE IS VAMPIRELLA, THE GIRL WHO CAME FROM DRAKULON... THE MISTS CLEAR. SHE HAS THE TANG OF ETHER IN HER NOSTRILS. SHE OPENS HER EYES...



NO!  
IT CAN'T  
BE...  
**ANTONY!**



ANTONIONI!  
DOCTOR  
ANTONIONI...

...FROM  
**ROME!**

YOU WERE IN A  
TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.  
YOU CAR  
DEMOLISHED.

FORTUNATELY, NO  
ONE WAS SERIOUSLY  
HURT...YOU'VE BEEN  
UNCONSCIOUS...AND,  
I SUSPECT, **DREAMING!**

BUT YOUR  
ALRIGHT. YOU'VE A  
FRIEND WAITING  
FOR YOU OUTSIDE!



YOU WENT...  
WHERE?  
**EGYPT?**

WE WERE  
THERE TOGETHER...ALL THOSE  
**CENTURIES**  
AGO,  
**PENDY!**

THERE HAD TO BE A BOND  
BETWEEN US! I KNEW IT!  
THERE HAD TO BE SOME REASON  
WHY FATE BROUGHT US TOGETHER...  
AND HAS KEPT US SO  
**CLOSE** ALL THESE  
YEARS!

VAMPI, MY DEAR...  
IT LOOKS AS  
THOUGH WE WERE  
**FATED** TO STAY  
INSEPERABLE!

