

# DAMSELS mermaids

DYNAMITE 4



Reynolds  
2013



# DAMSELS mermaids

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AND NOW I FEEL AS IF THEY'VE INFECTED ME, AND I NO LONGER KNOW WHAT I FEEL.



ONE THING I DO KNOW, HOWEVER.

THAT'S THE END OF HIM, I DARE SAY.

AND YOU'VE SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF SQUEEZING OUT TEARS, TO BOOT!

THESE'LL FETCH A PRETTY PENNY, I WARRANT.



THE THING THAT HAS DOOMED ME.

YOU KILLED HIM.



CAP'N! LOOK!

WHAT IS IT?

I KNOW THAT I LOVE HIM.



YOUR BAUBLE, SIR. IT'S ALIVE!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?





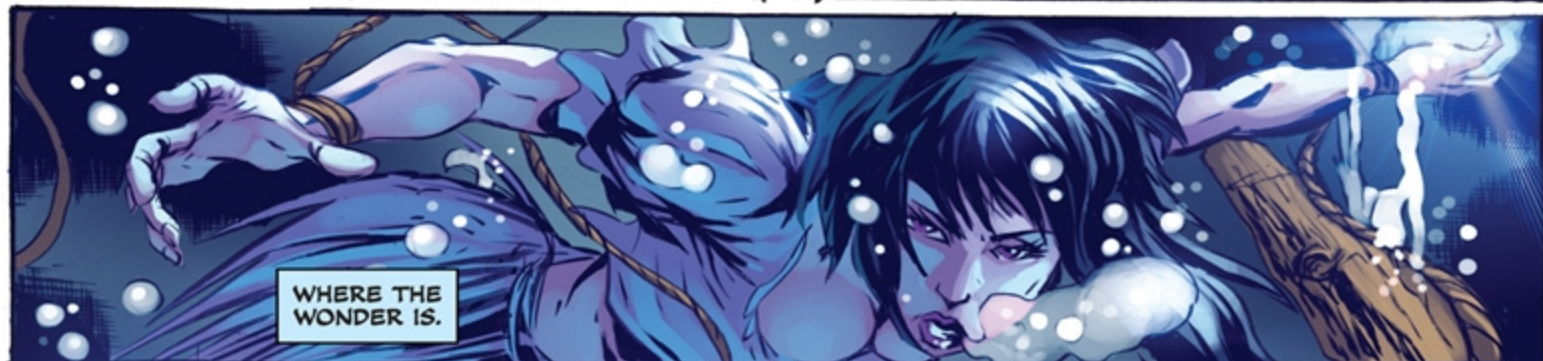




LOVE IS A  
TERRIBLE THING  
TO KNOW.



IT TAKES YOU  
DOWN TO THE  
MURKY DEPTHS.



WHERE THE  
WONDER IS.



WHERE THE  
BEAUTY IS.



WHERE THE  
DREAD IS.



A  
BONE?

WHERE THE  
TERROR IS.



**Avalon.**

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN THIS BACKWARD AND DANGEROUS LAND?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE BACK HOME, DEFENDING YOUR POSITION AS CHIEF HIEROMANCER?

ATLANTIS WILL STILL BE THERE WHEN WE RETURN, AMPHERES. AS WILL MY ENEMIES ON THE COUNCIL.

WE ARE HERE TO OBSERVE.

BY NOW, VODYANOV WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING THE PRINCE AND HIS PRIZE.

MNESEUS! HOW CAN YOU BE SO CERTAIN?

MY ORB HAS SHOWN ME A VISION, OF THE AXIS MUNDI HELD IN MY HAND. AND MY ORB NEVER LIES.

I ADMIT, I WAS WRONG TO DOUBT YOU.

STILL, IT WAS BETTER TO RISK THE LIVES OF THE FISH-GIRL, AND THE AVALONIAN PRINCEING TO FIND OUT, RATHER THAN OUR OWN.

ON THAT WE ARE AGREED, AMPHERES.

IF NOTHING ELSE.





AND ONCE THE  
AXIS MUNDI IS IN  
OUR POSSESSION,  
WE CAN USE IT AS  
IT WAS *MEANT*  
TO BE USED.

YES...  
ASSUMING YOU  
KNOW HOW IT  
WORKS.

YOU *DO*  
KNOW HOW  
IT WORKS,  
DO YOU  
NOT?



*SOME*  
TESTING WILL  
BE REQUIRED,  
OF COURSE.

AND WHAT  
BETTER LABORATORY  
THAN THIS SAD  
VASSAL STATE OF  
AVALON?

WE CAN END  
THE REBELLION  
HERE WITH A  
STROKE.



THAT'S GOOD,  
SINCE THIS REBELLION  
HAS BECOME QUITE  
A THREAT TO YOUR  
POSITION. BUT I'M  
SURPRISED AT YOUR  
NAIVETÉ!

IS THAT  
SO? PRAY,  
ENLIGHTEN  
ME.

SURELY YOU  
KNOW THAT KILLING  
A FEW RESISTANCE  
LEADERS *NEVER*  
STOPS A  
MOVEMENT!



IT ONLY  
CREATES  
*MARTYRS!*

YOU AND  
THE COUNCIL  
UNDERESTIMATE  
BOTH *ME* AND  
THE *AXIS MUNDI*.  
FOOLISH CHILD.

WE'RE NOT  
GOING TO  
KILL "A FEW  
RESISTANCE  
LEADERS."



WE'RE  
GOING TO KILL  
*EVERYONE.*



EVERY  
MAN, WOMAN,  
AND CHILD IN  
AVALON.



Somewhere in the ocean.

DO YOU WANT  
TO GUESS WHAT  
I'M HOLDING IN  
MY HAND?

WHAT I WANT,  
IS TO KNOW  
WHY YOU'VE  
CAPTURED ME.

WHAT?  
NOT EVEN A  
"THANK YOU?"

VODYANOY  
SAVED YOU FROM  
DROWNING!  
YOU HAVE HURT  
VODYANOY'S  
FEELINGS!

NOW, GUESS  
WHAT I AM  
HOLDING IN MY  
HAND, OR I  
WILL POUT!

I DON'T CARE.  
I WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT YOU WANT  
WITH ME.

OH, VODYANOY  
DOESN'T WANT  
YOU AT ALL,  
MISTER NO-FUN!

THE  
HIEROMANCERS  
ENGAGED MY  
SERVICES TO  
RECOVER YOU.

HIEROMANCERS?  
WE'RE GOING TO  
ATLANTIS?

~CHOMP~ YES! IT  
IS A LOVELY PLACE,  
ESPECIALLY IN THE  
SPRING! ~CHOMP~

HAVE  
YOU BEEN?  
~CHOMP~  
~CHOMP~

HA!

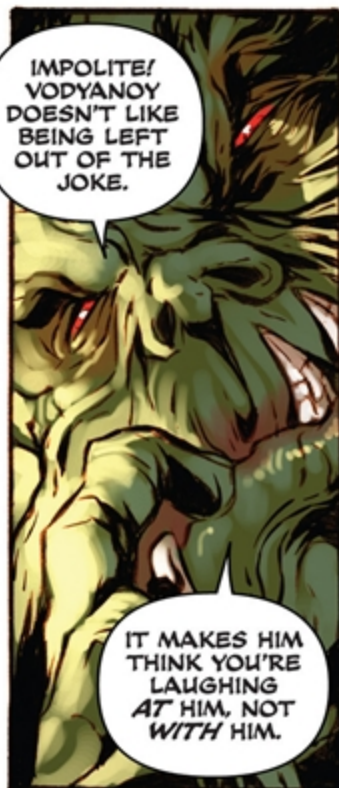
WHAT IS  
SO FUNNY?  
TELL ME!





PTOOE

OH,  
THIS IS RICH.  
THIS IS TOO  
RICH.



IMPOLITE!  
VODYANOV  
DOESN'T LIKE  
BEING LEFT  
OUT OF THE  
JOKE.

IT MAKES HIM  
THINK YOU'RE  
LAUGHING  
AT HIM, NOT  
WITH HIM.



IT'S FUNNY, MY  
FRIEND, BECAUSE  
YOU'RE TAKING ME  
*EXACTLY* WHERE  
I'VE WANTED TO  
GO ALL ALONG.

I DON'T GET  
IT. IS THERE A  
PUNCH LINE?



THAT WAS  
THE ONE THING I  
COULDN'T QUITE  
FIGURE OUT--HOW  
TO ACTUALLY GET  
INTO ATLANTIS.

THE *IRONY*, OF  
COURSE, IS THAT I'LL BE  
RIGHT WHERE I WANT  
TO BE, BUT WITHOUT  
ALL THAT I WENT TO  
SO MUCH TROUBLE  
TO ACQUIRE.



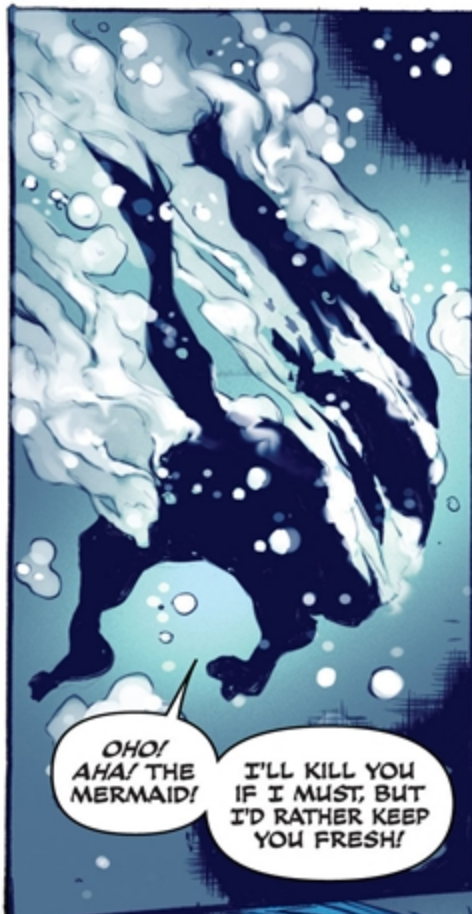
HA!  
THAT *IS*  
FUNNY!

VODYANOV  
GETS IT! VODYANOV  
HAS AN EXCELLENT  
SENSE OF--

EEK!

SPLASH





OHO!  
AHA! THE  
MERMAID!

I'LL KILL YOU  
IF I MUST, BUT  
I'D RATHER KEEP  
YOU FRESH!



DO YOU WANT  
TO GUESS WHAT  
I'M HOLDING IN  
MY HAND?

NO.



OOF!



OH, BUT HOW  
EVER DID YOU  
FIND ME IN THIS  
GREAT, WIDE  
OCEAN?

YOU LEFT A TRAIL  
OF BONES IN YOUR  
WAKE. IT WASN'T  
THAT DIFFICULT TO  
SNIFF YOU OUT.



OH, RATS  
AND BATS AND  
CATS. I SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN MORE  
CAREFUL.





OH!  
THAT *HURTS*  
VODYANOY!

DON'T  
YOU WANT  
TO GUESS  
WHAT  
I'M HOLDING IN  
MY HAND?

NO! WHAT  
IS *WRONG* WITH  
YOU, BEAST?

VODYANOY  
IS GETTING  
DIZZY!



I COULD  
KILL YOU NOW,  
WITH EASE.

YIELD, OR  
I WILL NOT  
HESITATE  
TO DO IT.



*SHE*  
DOESN'T  
WANT TO  
GUESS  
EITHER!



SURRENDER  
OR DIE!

FINE, I'LL  
JUST *SHOW*  
YOU.







**The City-state  
of Atlantis.**

ALL RISE. THE  
HIGH COURT OF THE  
MOST ANCIENT AND  
NOBLE ATLANTEAN  
THAUMATOOCRACY IS  
NOW IN SESSION!

PLEASE,  
BE SEATED.

I AM *CHIEF*  
HIEROMANCER MNESEUS,  
AND TO MY LEFT IS *SUB-*  
HIEROMANCER AMPHERES,  
WHO IS MY SUBORDINATE...  
IN ALL RESPECTS.



LET'S GET  
STARTED,  
SHALL WE?

PRINCE  
JOHN, YOU ARE  
ACCUSED OF...  
OH, MY!

SEDITION?  
TREASON? MURDER?  
AND--WOULD YOU  
BELIEVE IT--PIRACY!  
HOW DO YOU  
PLEAD?

I DO NOT  
RECOGNIZE YOUR  
AUTHORITY TO  
TRY ME.





OH, BUT  
WE'VE GONE TO SO  
MUCH *EFFORT!*  
I SIMPLY MUST  
INSIST.

AND REALLY,  
ATLANTEAN  
JUSTICE IS THE  
FAIREST IN THE  
KNOWN WORLD!

OH? WILL  
I BE ALLOWED  
TO PRESENT  
EVIDENCE IN MY  
DEFENSE?



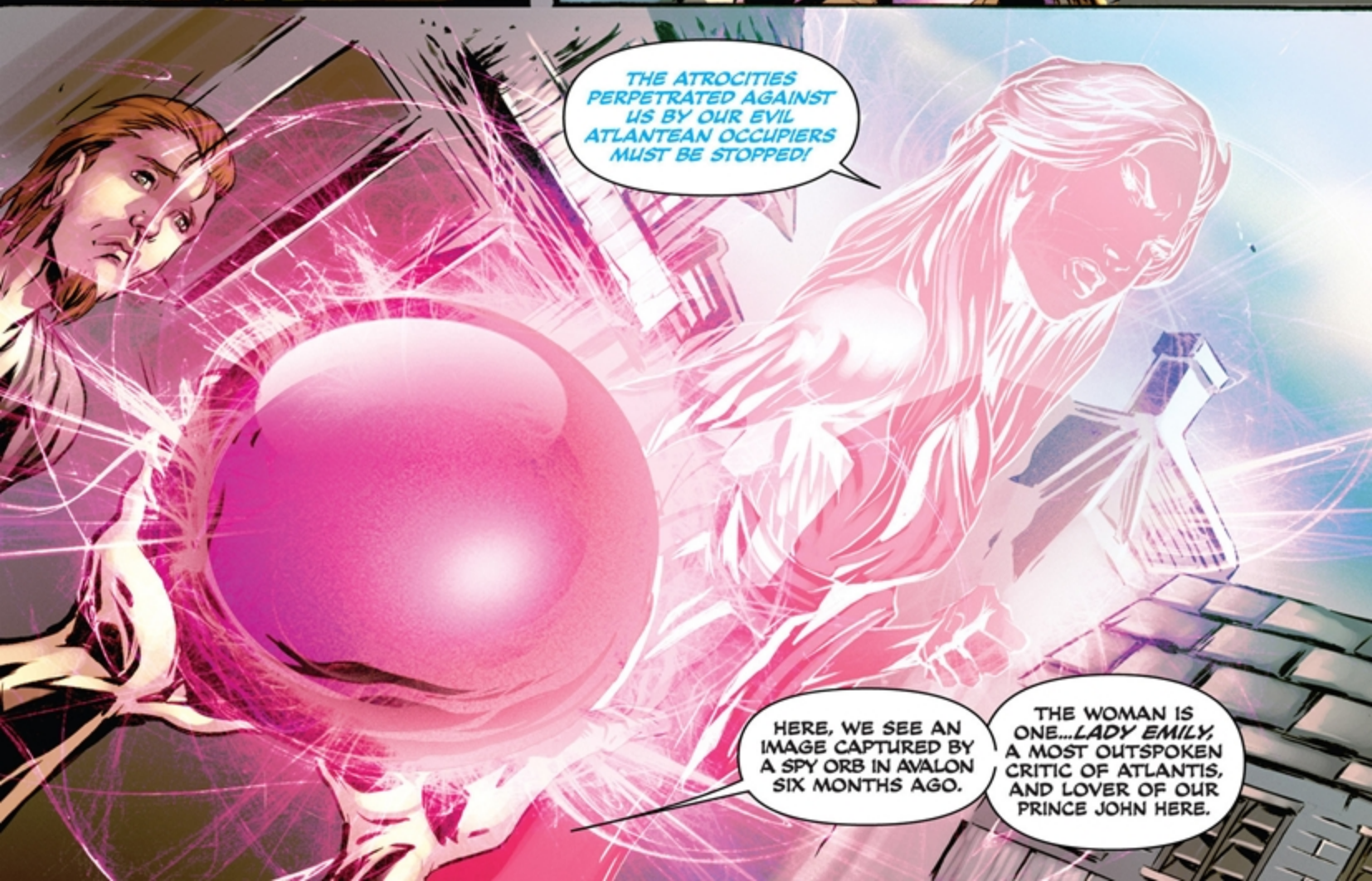
NO, OF  
COURSE NOT.  
THIS IS A SHOW  
TRIAL.

*EVERY*  
DEFENDANT IS  
FOUND GUILTY--  
THAT'S WHAT  
MAKES IT SO  
*FAIR.*



LET THE RECORD  
SHOW THAT AN *ORB*  
OF SEEING HAS BEEN  
ACTIVATED.

DISPLAY THE  
INCRIMINATING  
EVIDENCE!



*THE ATROCITIES  
PERPETRATED  
AGAINST  
US BY OUR EVIL  
ATLANTEAN OCCUPIERS  
MUST BE STOPPED!*

HERE, WE SEE AN  
IMAGE CAPTURED BY  
A SPY ORB IN AVALON  
SIX MONTHS AGO.

THE WOMAN IS  
ONE...*LADY EMILY*,  
A MOST OUTSPOKEN  
CRITIC OF ATLANTIS,  
AND LOVER OF OUR  
PRINCE JOHN HERE.



"AND HERE A FEW DAYS LATER, A POIGNANT VIEW OF PRINCE JOHN DOING *NOTHING*, WHILE HIS OUTSPOKEN LOVE IS HANGED FOR TREASON.

PLEASE,  
NO. PLEASE,  
PLEASE NO.

"IN HIS--UNDERSTANDABLY EXTREME--GUILT AT NOT HAVING PROTECTED HIS BELOVED, JOHN DEVISED A PLAN.

"A RATHER *ELABORATE* PLAN TO GET REVENGE UPON HIS TYRANNICAL ATLANTEAN OVERLORDS.

"A PLAN INVOLVING AN ANCIENT RELIC KNOWN AS THE *AXIS MUNDI*.

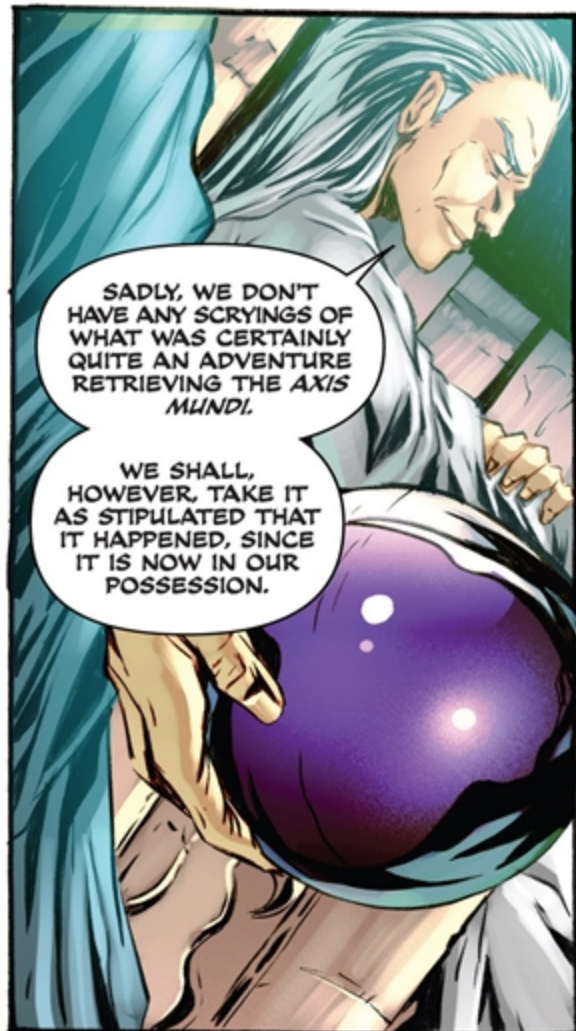
"HE TRICKED A GULLIBLE MERMAID INTO JOINING HIM, THEN TOOK TO THE SEAS! HOW EXCITING!

"UNWISELY, HOWEVER, HE EMPLOYED A DISGRACED AVALONIAN SEA CAPTAIN BY THE NAME OF ARGENT, AND SET OFF TO FIND THE LEGENDARY GREAT WHORL.

"ARGENT, IT SEEMS, WAS A RATHER BLOODTHIRSTY *PIRATE*. TOGETHER, HE AND PRINCE JOHN VICIOUSLY ATTACKED AN INNOCENT ATLANTEAN MERCHANT SHIP.

"THE CREW OF WHICH, I MIGHT ADD, WERE ABANDONED WITHOUT FRESH WATER, AND LEFT FOR DEAD."





SADLY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY SCRYINGS OF WHAT WAS CERTAINLY QUITE AN ADVENTURE RETRIEVING THE *AXIS MUNDI*.

WE SHALL, HOWEVER, TAKE IT AS STIPULATED THAT IT HAPPENED, SINCE IT IS NOW IN OUR POSSESSION.



YOU DID ALL THIS FOR *REVENGE*, BECAUSE THEY KILLED YOUR LOVE. NOT IN ORDER TO FREE YOUR PEOPLE.

I WANTED TO TELL YOU, BUT I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD THINK LESS OF ME.



QUITE THE CONTRARY, I WOULD HAVE LOVED YOU ALL THE MORE, GIVEN ALL THE FOOLISH THINGS THAT I HAVE DONE FOR LOVE.

THE LIE MATTERS LITTLE NOW. I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT LOVE AND TRUTH ARE SELDOM TO BE FOUND IN EACH OTHERS' COMPANY.



WISE WORDS FROM SUCH A *BEDRAGGLED* AND *BARBARIC* SOURCE!

WHO KNEW AN ORDINARY MERMAID COULD SPEAK SO ELOQUENTLY OF LOVE?

I AM NO ORDINARY MERMAID.



APOLOGIES, SIR.

YES, WHAT IS IT?





WHAT?!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT DOESN'T WORK?!

THERE... THERE IS NO MAGIC IN IT, GREAT ONE.

IT IS SIMPLY A PIECE OF CARVED STONE. IT DOES NOTHING.



IDIOT! GIVE ME THAT!

YOU MAY EXAMINE IT ALL YOU LIKE, BUT IT DOES *NOTHING*. IT HAS NO POWER WITHIN IT.

OH, BUT THIS IS RICH.



ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THIS *ENTIRE* BUSINESS HAS BEEN A *COMPLETE* WASTE OF TIME?



OH, HOW *AWKWARD* FOR YOU, MNESEUS.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BOASTED TO THE COUNCIL *QUITE* SO MUCH ABOUT ALL THIS.

DON'T YOU *DARE* START DOWN THAT PATH, AMPHERES.



WHAT IS *DARING* ABOUT IT? AFTER *THIS* FAILURE, YOU'LL NOT BE CHIEF HIEROMANCER FOR LONG.





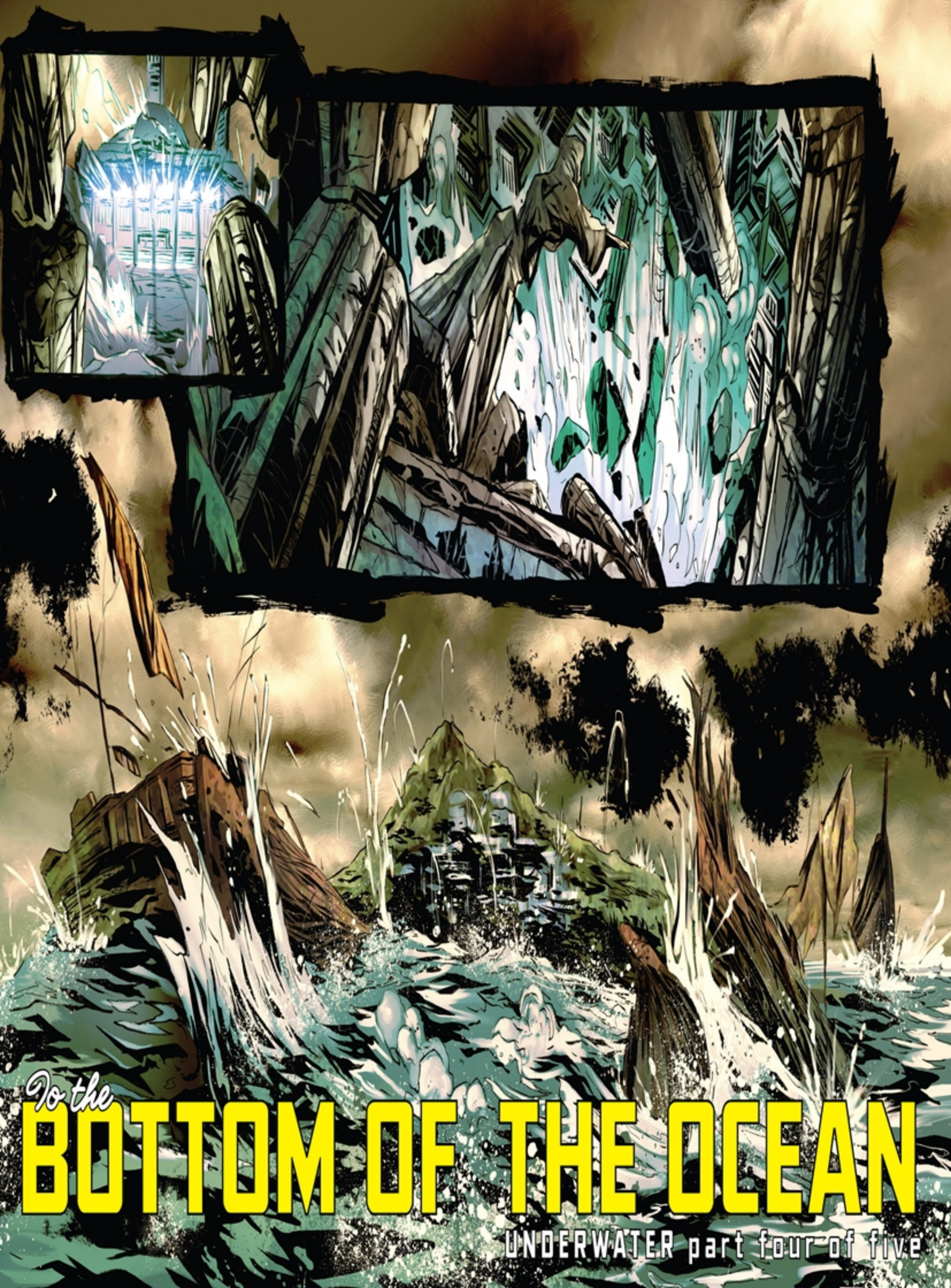












*To the*  
**BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN**

UNDERWATER part four of five





TO BE CONCLUDED!



# DYNAMITE®

## IN THE NEWS - AUGUST 2013

ACCLAIMED WRITER STEVE NILES TO TURN NEW *ASH AND THE ARMY OF DARKNESS* ONGOING SERIES INTO THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE IN MEDIEVAL



Dynamite is proud to announce that their flagship comic book title, *Army of Darkness*, will receive a complete overhaul and a new ongoing series as imagined by Steve Niles, acclaimed author of *30 Days of Night* and *Batman: Gotham County Line*. A horror/action series with dark comedic overtones, the newly-titled *Ash and the Army of Darkness* continues the time-traveling, demon-fighting adventures of Ash Williams, the smart-mouthed hero of the 1992 cult-favorite film of the same name.

"What I'm doing with *Ash and the Army of Darkness* is a complete reboot," says Niles. "We start and the last frame of the film and then go right to the next. It's a wild ride and I think fans of the film will be very happy because I am bringing back a lot of what made the movie so fun. My run of *Ash and the Army of Darkness* takes place almost entirely in the 1300's setting. That was what made *Army of Darkness* stand apart. I'm hoping readers agree."

Comic book writer and novelist Steve Niles

To discuss this and more, log onto the Dynamite forums at  
**WWW.DYNAMITE.COM/BOARDS**

is credited as being an instrumental force in bringing horror comics back to prominence in recent years. Perhaps his best-known work is *30 Days of Night*, a best-selling vampire series co-created with innovative illustrator Ben Templesmith and adapted into a feature film. His impressive list of credits include such licensed and creator-owned tales of terror as *I Am Legend*, *Hellspawn*, *Chin Music*, *Simon Dark*, *The X-Files*, *Remains*, *Criminal Macabre*, and *28 Days Later*.

"I'm very excited to be working with Dynamite and thrilled to be working on *Ash and the Army of Darkness*," adds Niles. "The film is one of my favorites and I think we have a really fresh, exciting take for Ash's continuing adventures fighting the dead. Dynamite has been expanding their line and have an impressive array of comic creators working with them now. I'm looking forward to joining the team."

Placing Steve Niles on *Ash and the Army of Darkness* follows Dynamite's recent trend of reinventing their established classics, thanks in no small part to partnering established industry writers with projects that naturally fit their narrative strengths. To name just a few of their recent publishing moves: the talented Gail Simone (*Birds of Prey*, *Batgirl*) launched a new incarnation of *Red Sonja*, the sci-fi team of Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) have retooled the classic *Battlestar Galactica*, and superhero legend Mark Waid (*Daredevil*, *Kingdom Come*) brought *The Green Hornet* back to basics. These projects have met with critical acclaim and high sales, and the new *Ash and the Army of Darkness* promises to continue the trend.

"I am really excited to welcome Steve Niles on-board for the *Ash and the Army of Darkness* relaunch," says Nick Barrucci, CEO and Publisher of Dynamite. "There's no writer in recent years whose name has been attached to more bestselling horror comic concepts than Steve, and for good reason -- he's got an amazing talent for writing hard-hitting, white-knuckle, edge-of-your-seat fright fiction. *Army of Darkness* has a legion of hardcore fans, and they deserve the best. Well, they're getting the best, courtesy of Steve Niles!" Dynamite expects longtime fans and curious newcomers to welcome a new creative voice, story direction, title, and logo for a horror classic with *Ash and the Army of Darkness*.

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[www.facebook.com/dynamitecomics](http://www.facebook.com/dynamitecomics)

## NEXT ISSUE:



### ISSUE #5

Willing to sacrifice his life, Prince John has unleashed the destructive axis mundi in the heart of Atlantis! With time running out, the Little Mermaid must decide if love is worth living for - or worth dying for! And if that wasn't bad enough, Vodyanoy is still alive, and he has a bone to pick with the Little Mermaid... literally. Who will survive the fall of Atlantis?

## DYNAMITE

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## FEATURED REVIEWS

### RED SONJA #1

(Newsarama):

"A strong and promising debut... (Gail Simone's) skill at combining the brutal with the humorous will go a long way in maintaining the correct tone for Sonja."

### RED SONJA #1

(Comic Book Bin):

"Simone's Red Sonja is fiery and aggressive, not icy and reserved... Simone's presentation of the character makes this book worth a look."

### RED SONJA #1

(Comic Vine):

"5 stars out of 5. I can't wait to see what Simone has planned for future issues."

### RED SONJA #1

(Geeks of Doom):

"This is a fantastic comic, plain and simple."

### UNCANNY #1

(Comic Book Resources):

"Diggle and Campbell create real, enjoyable suspense... on the strength of their ability to keep the action tight and vivid."

### UNCANNY #1

(Comic Book Revolution):

"From the opening page, *UNCANNY #1* was able to grab my attention and left a strong impression by the time I finished reading the issue. Andy Diggle was able to create a fascinating world around the lead character."

### THE OWL #1

(Graham Cracker Comics):

"Butt-kicking action... This is a wonderful revamping and makes the now elderly fan boy in me giddy with delight!"

### THE OWL #1

(Comic Book Therapy):

"The Owl is a worthy entry in Dynamite's ever expanding world of new pulp stories."

### THE SHADOW / GREEN HORNET: DARK NIGHTS #1

(Lethal Farce):

"I loved this. This was my favorite book of the week, and I'm very excited for the next one. I'm betting I'm going to wish this went on past five issues."

### THE SHADOW / GREEN HORNET: DARK NIGHTS #1

(Unleash The Fanboy):

"Michael Usian... writes a solid Shadow, one whom is always getting down to business and giving the hard truth without worry of hurting peoples' feeling."