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FROM THE  
WAR-RAVAGED  
WORLD OF  
NU EARTH...  
MONSTERS  
ARE BORN

GORDON  
RENNIE

# JAEGER

SIMON  
COLEBY



Script                      Art                      Colours                      Letters                      Editor  
GORDON RENNIE   SIMON COLEBY   LEN O'GRADY   SIMON BOWLAND   MATT SMITH

# JAEGR

S                      T                      R                      I                      G                      O                      I

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AN IZBRISAN SHANTY CAMP,  
ODESSA BINARY INDUSTRIAL  
WORLD, INNER RODINA SYSTEMS:

I CHASE HIM, THROUGH THE  
FALLING SMELTER ASH AND POOLS OF  
MERCURY FROM THE RUN-OFF FROM  
THE GRAND PATRIOT MUNITIONS PLANT.

I SHOUT OUT THE STANDARD WARNING  
BEFORE I FIRE, MY VOICE MUFFLED BY THE  
CHEM-MASK I'M WEARING, MY WORDS  
DROWNED OUT BY THE INCESSANT ROAR OF  
TROOP-CARRIER SHUTTLES LIFTING OFF  
FROM THE NEARBY MUSTERING GROUNDS.




NEVERTHELESS,  
THE LEGALITIES MUST  
BE OBSERVED.



STILL, I THINK I PROBABLY FINALLY  
HIT SOMETHING PAINFUL INSIDE IT...

NOT THAT I'M  
SURE THE THING  
I'M CHASING STILL  
UNDERSTANDS  
THE BASICS OF  
HUMAN SPEECH.

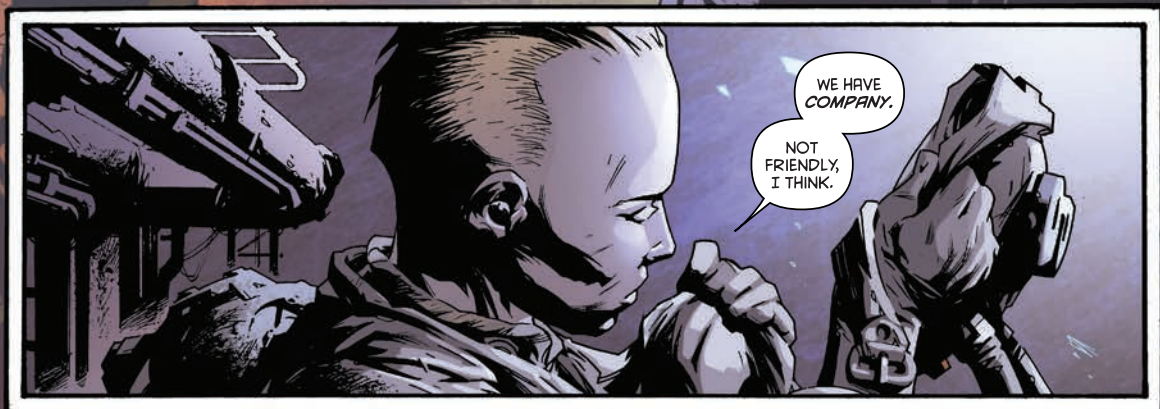


...BECAUSE, FOR THE  
FIRST TIME SINCE I  
SAW IT TWIST OPEN  
THE SKULL OF THAT  
SPEKTZOI TROOPER,  
I SEE IT GET *ANGRY*  
AT SOMETHING.













"OFFICE OF PUBLIC TRUTH"? TRAITORS WHO STAB THEIR OWN KIND IN THE BACK, YOU MEAN.

WE ALL SERVE RODINA AS BEST WE CAN, COMRADE.

I ROOT OUT **WAR CRIMINALS** WHO BLACKEN THE NAME OF THE GREATER NORDLAND ARMED FORCES, WHILE YOU AND YOUR MEN APPARENTLY GUARD SLAGHEAPS AND SCRAPYARDS.

YOU DARE--

**NU KARTHAGE. NU EARTH. PAESCHENKOV.** YOU HAVE SERVED AND BLED IN THESE **WARZONES**, LIEUTENANT? THE KAPITEN-INSPECTOR HERE HAS.



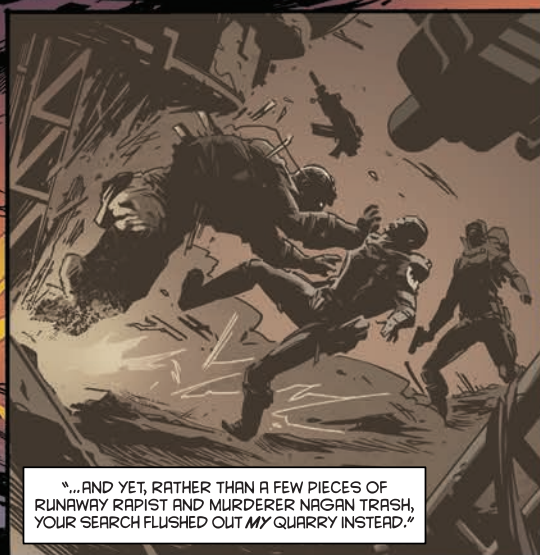
**COLONEL-INSPECTOR NERRIA, OFFICE OF GENETIC PURITY.** YES, THAT'S RIGHT, LIEUTENANT--

THE **STRIGOI-HUNTERS** ARE HERE. YOU AND YOUR MEN CAN NO DOUBT BE DELIGHTED TO CONSIDER YOURSELVES DISMISSED. MY BUSINESS IS WITH KAPITEN JAEGR.

YOU ARE RUNNING AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION, KAPITEN?

A FUGITIVE HUNT, COLONEL. THREE DESERTERS FROM THE NAGAN LEGIONS. POSSIBLE MATERIAL WITNESSES TO A **WAR ATROCITY INCIDENT** MY TEAM ARE INVESTIGATING.

A NOTORIOUS BOLT-HOLE FOR SUCH TYPES, THESE OUTCAST CAMPS...



"...AND YET, RATHER THAN A FEW PIECES OF RUNAWAY RAPIST AND MURDERER NAGAN TRASH, YOUR SEARCH FLUSHED OUT **MY** QUARRY INSTEAD."





THE *STRIGOI GENETIC TAIN*. A GIFT FROM OUR SOUTHER ENEMIES. YOU'VE SEEN SUCH A THING BEFORE?

TWICE ON NU KARTHAGE, AND ONCE ABOARD A TROOP SHIP IN SHIFT-TRANSIT.

ALL GOOD SOLDIERS FROM RENOWNED MILITARY-CASTE FAMILIES.



AS IS THIS ONE. YOU DID WELL TO BRING IT DOWN.



I WAS LUCKY, THAT'S ALL.

THEN I WISH FOUR OF MY OWN TEAM, INCLUDING MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND THAT YOU SAW THIS ONE KILL, HAD SIMILAR LUCK.

WE COULD USE MORE OF SUCH LUCK IN THE OFFICE OF GENETIC PURITY--AND IT APPEARS WE NOW HAVE FOUR EMPTY BERTHS TO FILL.



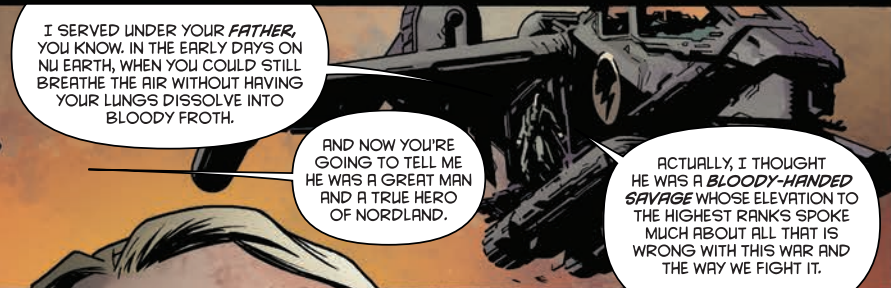
I'M HAPPY WHERE I AM, SIR. I BELIEVE THE WORK I CONDUCT AT THE O.P.T. TO BE VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF NORDLAND.

I ONCE SERVED ALONGSIDE ONE OF OUR ALIEN ALLIES WHO ENJOYED *BATHING* IN THEIR OWN *FILTH*.

I IMAGINE TRYING TO BRING OUR GLORIOUS MILITARY TO TASK FOR ITS FREQUENT LAPSES IN *CIVILISED CONDUCT* MUST FEEL SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



I SERVED UNDER YOUR *FATHER*, YOU KNOW. IN THE EARLY DAYS ON NU EARTH, WHEN YOU COULD STILL BREATHE THE AIR WITHOUT HAVING YOUR LUNGS DISSOLVE INTO BLOODY FROTH.



AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME HE WAS A GREAT MAN AND A TRUE HERO OF NORDLAND.

ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT HE WAS A *BLOODY-HANDED SAVAGE* WHOSE ELEVATION TO THE HIGHEST RANK'S SPOKE MUCH ABOUT ALL THAT IS WRONG WITH THIS WAR AND THE WAY WE FIGHT IT.



I AM SENDING YOU A *FILE*, ATALIA JAEGRIR. READ IT, AND THEN I THINK WE WILL TALK AGAIN...






AGAIN, IN MY DREAMS, I SEE  
THE VIRUS PELLETS RELEASED  
INTO THE CHAMBER.

ZYCLOPS-D. DESTINED TO BE  
DEPLOYED ON NU EARTH AS ONE  
OF A NEW GENERATION OF BIO-  
AGENTS THAT WILL TURN THAT  
WORLD INTO A POISONED HELL.

BUT HERE STILL IN ITS  
PROTOTYPE STAGE,  
TESTED ONLY ON  
PRISONERS *UNDER*  
SENTENCE OF DEATH.



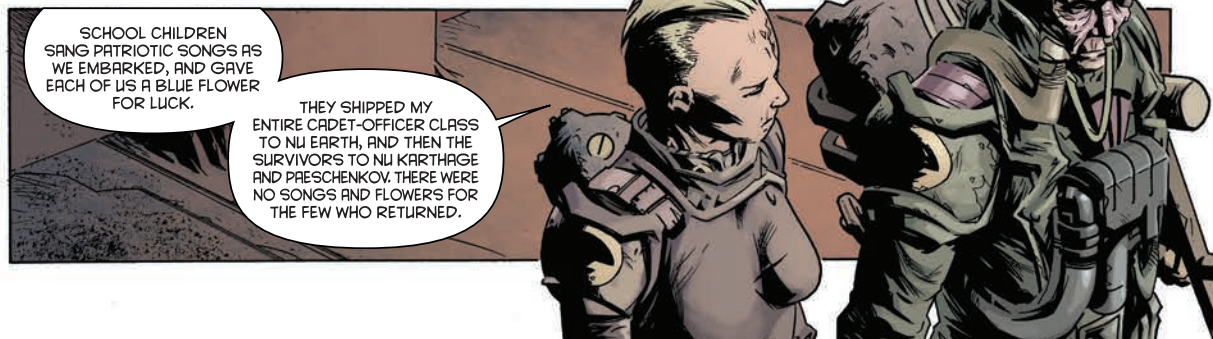
A TRULY VILE SUBSTANCE, AND TESTAMENT  
TO THE GENIUS OF OUR BIO-CHEM SCIENTISTS. WHEN  
BREATHED IN, IT REACTS WITH THE FLUIDS IN THE LUNGS,  
EXPANDING, COLONISING AND CANNIBALISING ALL  
OTHER CELLS IN THE BODY AT AN ASTONISHING RATE.

QUITE SIMPLY, IT EATS YOU ALIVE,  
FROM THE INSIDE OUT. IN SECONDS.



AND, AGAIN, IN MY  
DREAMS, I WATCH  
MY MOTHER DIE.







NOT FOR YOU, NOR  
FOR YOUR CLASSMATE  
*GRIGORU KUTTNER*.  
YOUR IMPRESSIONS  
OF HIM?

ANOTHER GOOD  
MAN FROM A GOOD  
MILITARY-CASTE  
FAMILY. HE SAVED MY  
LIFE TWICE--

"ON PRESCHENKOV, A DIRECT HIT ON OUR BARRACKS  
CAVERN FROM A SOUTHER BUNKER-BUSTER BURIED  
US THIRTY LEVELS DOWN. IT WAS GRIGORU WHO FOUND  
A WAY OUT AND LED US BACK UP TO THE SURFACE.

"AND AGAIN ON NU EARTH, AT THE  
EIGHTH BATTLE OF NORDSTADT, WHEN  
SOUTHER ATMO-CRAFT CAUGHT US  
OUT IN THE OPEN, IT WAS GRIGORU  
WHO GAVE US COVERING FIRE."

AN EXEMPLARY  
RECORD, AND FROM  
ONE OF THE MILITARY-  
CASTE FAMILIES NOT  
PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO  
HAVE BEEN AFFECTED  
BY *THE TAINT*...

...ALTHOUGH THAT  
IS THE SPECIAL NATURE  
OF THE *STRIGOI GENE-  
CURSE*. WE THINK WE  
HAVE ERADICATED IT  
FROM ONE BLOODLINE,  
ONLY TO SEE IT ERUPT  
IN ANOTHER.





THERE IS A *SICKNESS* IN OUR BLOOD, ATALIA JAEGR. WE ALL KNOW OF IT, YET IT IS ALMOST FORBIDDEN TO SPEAK ABOUT IT.

WE ARE FEW, AND THE SOUTHERS ARE MANY. TO OVERTURN THOSE ODDS, WE TRIED TO TURN OURSELVES INTO SOMETHING *GREATER* THAN HUMAN.



"INSTEAD, SOME OF US BECOME SOMETHING *FAR LESS*--

"THE STRIGOI TAINT--

"THE POISON IN OUR OWN GENES--

"THE POLLUTANT THAT TURNS THOSE WHO SHOULD BE SUPER-WARRIORS--

"--INTO BEASTS AND MONSTERS."



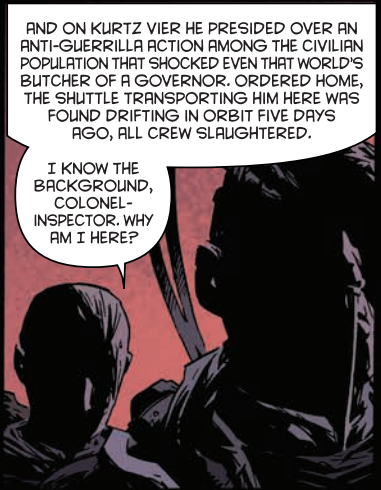
I'VE READ THE FILE--

--BUT THE HORROR OF IT NEEDS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED, SO WE KNOW WHAT IT IS WE MIGHT ALL BECOME.

ON THE R&R STATION OF BADEN VRI, YOUR CLASSMATE TRAPPED, KILLED AND ATE FOUR LOCAL CHILDREN.


POSTED TO GARRISON DUTIES ON THE THE FACTORY WORLD OF ZELL PRIME, HE RAVAGED AT WILL AMONG ITS SLAVE-WORKER POPULATION.





AND ON KURTZ VIER HE PRESIDED OVER AN ANTI-GUERRILLA ACTION AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION THAT SHOCKED EVEN THAT WORLD'S BUTCHER OF A GOVERNOR. ORDERED HOME, THE SHUTTLE TRANSPORTING HIM HERE WAS FOUND DRIFTING IN ORBIT FIVE DAYS AGO, ALL CREW SLAUGHTERED.

I KNOW THE BACKGROUND, COLONEL-INSPECTOR. WHY AM I HERE?



BECAUSE I HAVE ANOTHER MONSTER ON THE LOOSE, ATALIA JAGIR, AND I THINK YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WILL BRING HIM THE SOLACE HE SEEKS.

SOLACE?



TWO DAYS AGO, GRIGORU KUTTNER'S PARENTS AND TWO YOUNGER SISTERS WERE MURDERED--BY KUTTNER HIMSELF, JUDGING BY THE LEVEL OF ANIMAL SAVAGERY EMPLOYED.

WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE, BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT THE STRIGOI THAT IT'S UNWISE TO OFFICIALLY RECORD...



THEY KILL THEIR OWN FAMILIES, BECAUSE...

YES, BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DESTROY THEIR *OWN BLOODLINE*, TO STOP THE TRAIT SPREADING ANY FURTHER, AND SPARE THEIR LOVED ONES FROM THE MADNESS OF TURNING STRIGOI.



BUT GRIGORU'S WIFE AND CHILDREN--

--WILL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. YOURS, AND YOUR TEAM'S.



HE SAVED YOUR LIFE TWICE. NOW YOU CAN REPAY HIM--

--BY KILLING HIM AND PREVENTING HIM MURDERING HIS OWN CHILDREN.







KAPITEN JAEGIR,  
COLONEL-INSPECTOR  
NERRIA'S OFFICE HAS BEEN  
IN TOUCH, ASKING FOR  
PROGRESS ON THE  
KUTTNER CASE.

GIVE  
THE STRIGOI-  
HUNTERS MY  
APOLOGIES...



"...TELL THEM WE HAVE BEEN  
BUSY TIDYING UP LOOSE  
ENDS ON SOME OF OUR  
OTHER INVESTIGATIONS."

VESSEL-KAPITEN TANVA CHUIRRO. HER  
DARING ATTACKS ON SHIPPING DEEP WITHIN  
SOUTHER-HELD SPACE EARNED HER A *HERO  
OF THE NORDLAND REPUBLIC* AWARD. LESS  
WELL KNOWN IS HER ILLEGAL ATTACK ON  
THE UNARMED SOUTHER TRANSPORT SHIP  
MEMPHIS STAR, AND THE DEATHS OF THE  
*SIX THOUSAND CIVILIANS* ABOARD IT--



--AN ACTION THAT RESULTED IN RETALIATION  
STRIKES ON OUR CIVILIAN COLONIES IN THE  
KUSHKOW SYSTEM, AND THE DEATHS OF  
OVER *NINETY THOUSAND* OF OUR PEOPLE.



THE VESSEL-KAPITEN  
SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED--

--IN WAR, EVERY ACTION  
PROVOKES A RESPONSE.





GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
KARLAS YANNIK,  
WAR PROFITEER AND  
MASS MURDERER.

APPOINTED TO ONE OF OUR ALLIED  
ALIEN WORLDS, HE WORKED *HUNDREDS OF  
THOUSANDS* OF ITS INHABITANTS TO DEATH  
IN ORDER TO MEET PRODUCTION QUOTAS  
AGREED WITH HIS BUSINESS CRONIES.



POLITICAL CONNECTIONS HAVE  
ALWAYS PROTECTED HIM FROM  
MY OFFICE'S ATTEMPTS TO  
BRING CHARGES AGAINST HIM.



THERE ARE ALWAYS  
WAYS AROUND THE  
RED TAPE, THOUGH.



*COLONEL ANTOS FEIZEN*, ON NU EARTH,  
HE SENT FOUR BATTALIONS OF RAW  
RECRUITS NEWLY ARRIVED IN THE WARZONE  
INTO AN ASSAULT ON AN OBJECTIVE THAT  
HARDENED KASHAN LEGION VETERANS  
WOULD HESITATE ABOUT ATTACKING.



FEIZEN PINNED THE BLAME ON  
TWO SUBORDINATES, WHO WERE  
SWIFTLY EXECUTED. HE HIMSELF  
ESCAPED ANY PUNISHMENT FOR  
HIS INCOMPETENCE...

...UNTIL NOW.





KLAIUR?

THIS HUMBLE SOLDIER IS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE FEIZEN INVESTIGATION CAN NOW BE CONSIDERED CLOSED. ALSO, I HAVE A NEW JOKE FOR YOU, KAPITEN.

MAYBE LATER.



AS YOU WISH. YOUR OWN ASSIGNMENT?

ONE OF OUR RUNAWAY NAGANS WAS AN ADDICT. THROUGH APPEALS TO THEIR PATRIOTIC SPIRIT AND WITH ALMOST THE BARE MINIMUM OF THE BREAKING OF LIMBS, I WAS ABLE TO SECURE THE LOCAL DEALERS' CO-OPERATION.

TRACKING HIM DOWN AND DEPRIVING HIM OF HIS DAILY FIX, HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO INFORM ME OF HIS COMRADES' WHEREABOUTS.



I AM NOW IN THE PROCESS OF BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE FOR WAR-CRIME ACTIVITIES.

YOU ARE DOING THIS NOW, ATALIA? ALONE, IN AN OUTCAST WARREN?





YOU REMEMBER I'M  
A SURVIVOR OF THE  
EIGHTH, NINTH AND  
TENTH BATTLES OF  
NORDSTADT, YES?



APOLOGIES,  
KAPITEN.

HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH. THESE  
IZBRISAN HIDEOUTS ARE HOME TO  
CRIMINALS, DESERTERS, DISSIDENTS  
AND ANYONE ELSE LOOKING TO  
KEEP OUT THE STATE'S GAZE.



HERE, I AM HATED AND ALONE. HERE,  
I AM THE ENEMY. BUT THERE IS ONE  
WEAPON I HAVE AGAINST THEM---

--FEAR.

STATE SECURITY  
POLICE. WHATEVER YOUR  
CRIMES, WHATEVER YOUR  
CAUSE, I AM NOT HERE FOR  
YOU TODAY. TRY TO STOP ME  
NOW, THOUGH, AND EVERY  
AGENCY THAT KNOWS YOUR  
NAME WILL BE HERE FOR  
YOU TOMORROW.



KLAIUR?

KAPITEN?

YOU  
STILL HAVE  
THAT JOKE  
FOR ME?

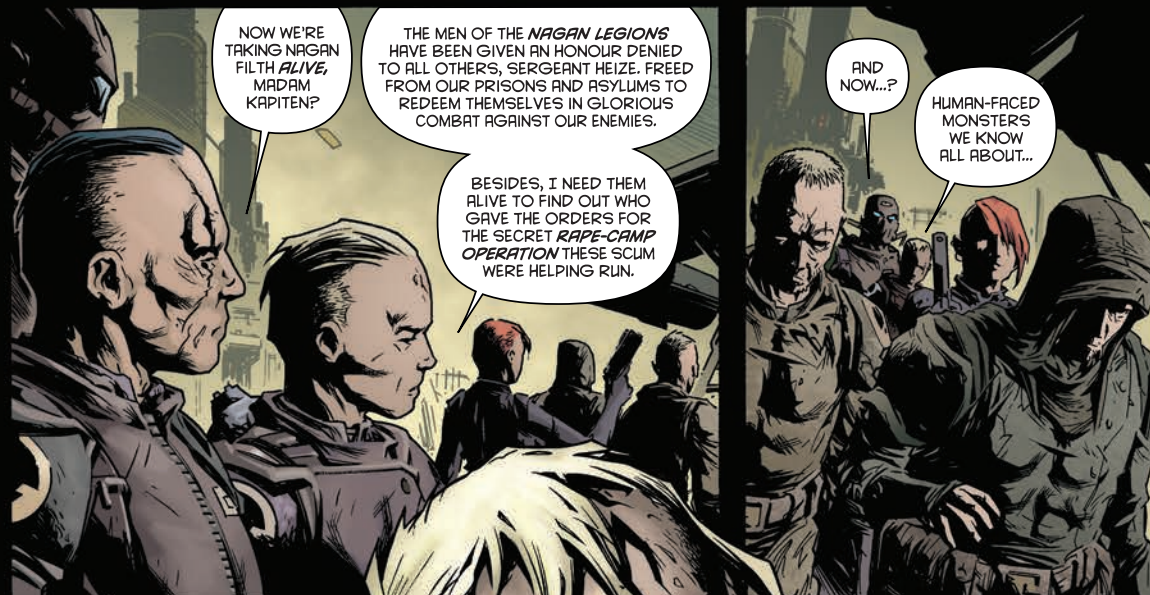




WHY DO AGENTS FROM THE *OFFICE OF PATRIOTIC LOYALTY* ALWAYS WORK IN GROUPS OF THREE?

ONE CAN READ, ANOTHER CAN WRITE, AND THE THIRD'S THERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE TWO INTELLECTUALS.

NEW JOKES, KLAIR. THAT ONE'S OLDER THAN BLOWIRE.



NOW WE'RE TAKING NAGAN FILTH *ALIVE*, MADAM KAPITEN?

THE MEN OF THE *NAGAN LEGIONS* HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN HONOUR DENIED TO ALL OTHERS, SERGEANT HEIZE. FREED FROM OUR PRISONS AND ASYLUMS TO REDEEM THEMSELVES IN GLORIOUS COMBAT AGAINST OUR ENEMIES.

BESIDES, I NEED THEM ALIVE TO FIND OUT WHO GAVE THE ORDERS FOR THE SECRET *RAPE-CAMP OPERATION* THESE SCUM WERE HELPING RUN.

AND NOW...?

HUMAN-FACED MONSTERS WE KNOW ALL ABOUT...



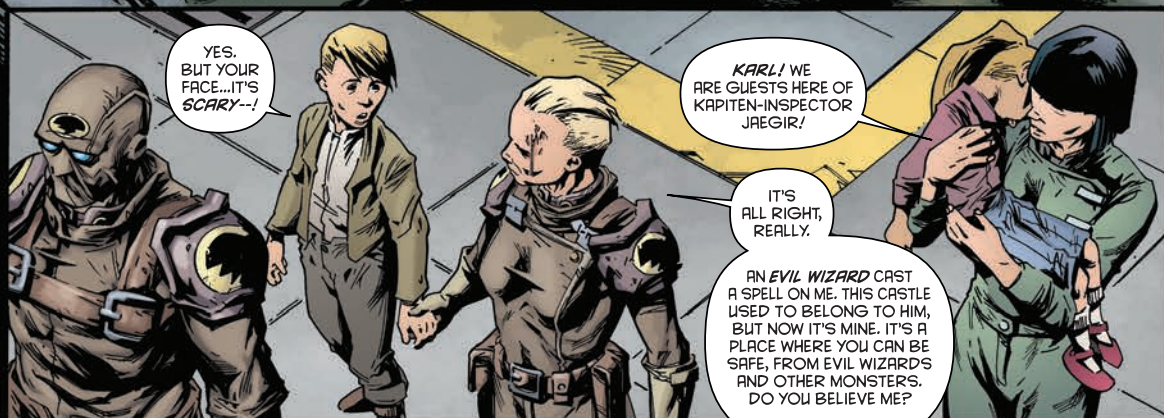
"...NOW WE TURN *STRIGOI-HUNTER*, AND GO FACE THE REAL THING."





THIS CASTLE,  
IT'S REALLY  
YOURS?

IT IS.  
DO YOU  
LIKE IT?



YES.  
BUT YOUR  
FACE...IT'S  
SCARY--!

KARL! WE  
ARE GUESTS HERE OF  
KAPITEN-INSPECTOR  
JAEGR!

IT'S  
ALL RIGHT,  
REALLY.

AN EVIL WIZARD CAST  
A SPELL ON ME. THIS CASTLE  
USED TO BELONG TO HIM,  
BUT NOW IT'S MINE. IT'S A  
PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE  
SAFE, FROM EVIL WIZARDS  
AND OTHER MONSTERS.  
DO YOU BELIEVE ME?



I-I  
GUESS  
SO...

GOOD. MY FRIEND  
REESA HERE WILL  
SHOW YOU AROUND,  
IF YOU LIKE. SHE'S  
PRETTIER AND NICER  
THAN ME, SO YOU'LL  
LIKE HER BETTER.

REESA WAS ONE OF OUR TOP  
BIO-WARFARE INFILTRATION  
& INFECTION AGENTS--  
"FILTH COLUMNISTS", THE  
SOUTHERNS CALL THEM--  
BEFORE I RECRUITED HER.

"NICE" IS NOT A TERM  
I HAVE EVER HEARD  
APPLIED TO HER.

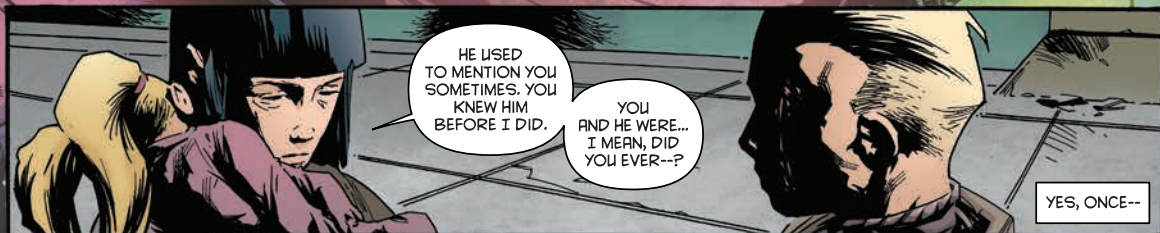


THIS THING  
YOU SAY MY  
HUSBAND HAS  
BECOME...

A *STRIGOI*. A SEVERE  
MUTATION CAUSED BY THE  
*GENE-FLAW* INTRODUCED  
INTO OUR WARRIOR-CASTE  
BLOODLINES. WHATEVER  
HE HAS BECOME, THE  
GRIGORI YOU KNEW IS  
LOST TO US NOW.







HE USED  
TO MENTION YOU  
SOMETIMES. YOU  
KNEW HIM  
BEFORE I DID.

YOU  
AND HE WERE...  
I MEAN, DID  
YOU EVER--?

YES, ONCE--

ON *NU EARTH*,  
ON THE EVE OF THE THIRD  
*NU-ATLANTA* OFFENSIVE.

AFTERWARDS, WE LAY TOGETHER, NOT  
TALKING, AND WATCHED THE CHEM-CLOUDS  
LIGHT UP WITH FLASHES FROM A BATTLE  
HAPPENING IN SUB-ORBITAL SPACE.



NO.  
NEVER.

YOU AND YOUR  
CHILDREN WILL BE  
SAFE HERE, MARZTA. I  
PROMISE YOU. SEE TO  
YOUR FAMILY--MY TEAM  
WILL MAKE THEIR  
PREPARATIONS.



EVERYTHING  
WENT AS  
PLANNED?

I EVACUATED THE  
WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN,  
AND LEFT A TRAIL FOR THE  
STRIGOI TO FOLLOW. A  
QUESTION, ATALIA--

*KLAUR*, MY OLD  
PLATOON SERGEANT.  
A GOOD MAN, BUT  
*SCARRED*, LIKE TOO  
MANY OF US--



LIKE MANY *NU EARTH* VETERANS,  
HE FINDS LIFE EASIER TO DEAL WITH  
WHEN VIEWED THROUGH THE SAFETY  
OF HIS OLD CHEM-SUIT MASK.

"WHY DO I WANT TO LURE THE  
CREATURE TO A PLACE FAR AWAY FROM  
URBAN AREAS FULL OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS?  
TO MY FAMILY'S OLD HUNTING ESTATE, WHERE  
I KNOW THE TERRITORY INTIMATELY, AND  
WHERE THE SURROUNDING FORESTS ARE  
FULL OF DISCREET MONITORING DEVICES  
TO BETTER TRACK THE LOCAL GAME AND  
SOUTHER EXECUTION SQUADS?"

IS THAT YOUR  
QUESTION, OLD  
FRIEND?

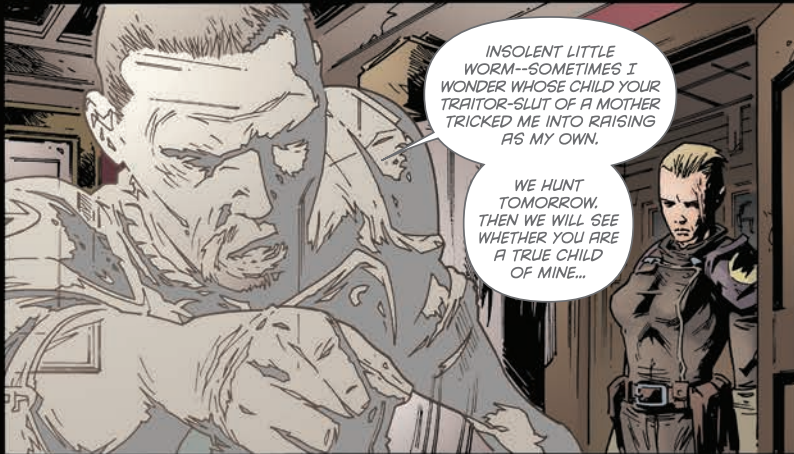








I WOULD WISH  
THAT FOR YOU  
TOO, PAPPA.



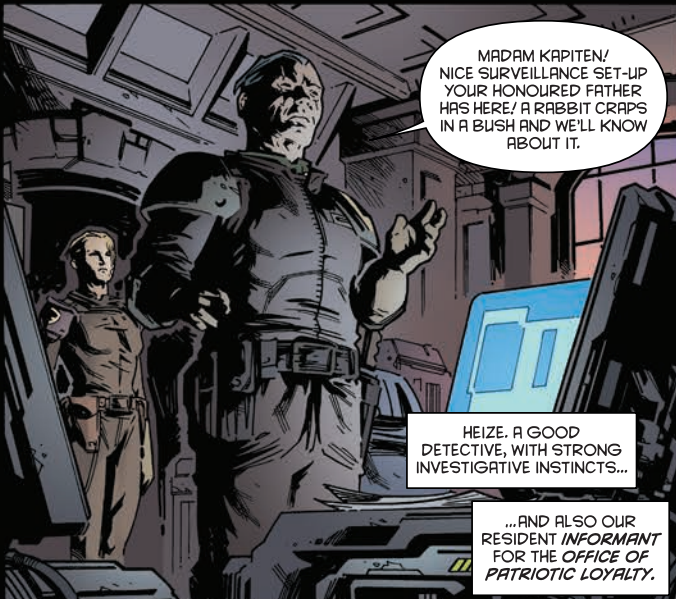
INSOLENT LITTLE  
WORM--SOMETIMES I  
WONDER WHOSE CHILD YOUR  
TRAITOR-SLUT OF A MOTHER  
TRICKED ME INTO RAISING  
AS MY OWN.

WE HUNT  
TOMORROW.  
THEN WE WILL SEE  
WHETHER YOU ARE  
A TRUE CHILD  
OF MINE...



A GHOST HOUSE...

...FULL OF  
THE GHOSTS OF  
MONSTERS NOT  
EVEN YET DEAD.



MADAM KAPITEN/  
NICE SURVEILLANCE SET-UP  
YOUR HONOURED FATHER  
HAS HERE! A RABBIT CRAPS  
IN A BUSH AND WE'LL KNOW  
ABOUT IT.

HEIZE. A GOOD  
DETECTIVE, WITH STRONG  
INVESTIGATIVE INSTINCTS...

...AND ALSO OUR  
RESIDENT INFORMANT  
FOR THE OFFICE OF  
PATRIOTIC LOYALTY.



EVERY UNIT HAS ONE. IF I GOT RID OF HIM,  
THEY'D ONLY FIND ANOTHER, AND AT LEAST THIS  
WAY I KNOW WHO'S THE RAT IN OUR MIDST.

AND?

I'VE COMPENSATED FOR  
THE EXPECTED WILDLIFE  
READINGS OUT THERE,  
INCLUDING THE EXOTIC  
OFF-WORLD STUFF THAT  
YOUR HONOURED FATHER  
HAD IMPORTED IN...



"...AND THERE'S A LARGE  
AND UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALY  
COMING TOWARD US FROM  
THE NORTH-WEST."





IF YOU LIKE **SAGA** OR **HINTERKIND** YOU'LL LOVE THIS AMAZING CLOCKPUNK ADVENTURE!

# BRASS SUN

ISSUE 4  
(OF 6)  
ON SALE  
AUG 27<sup>TH</sup>

IAN  
EDGINTON  
(HINTERKIND)

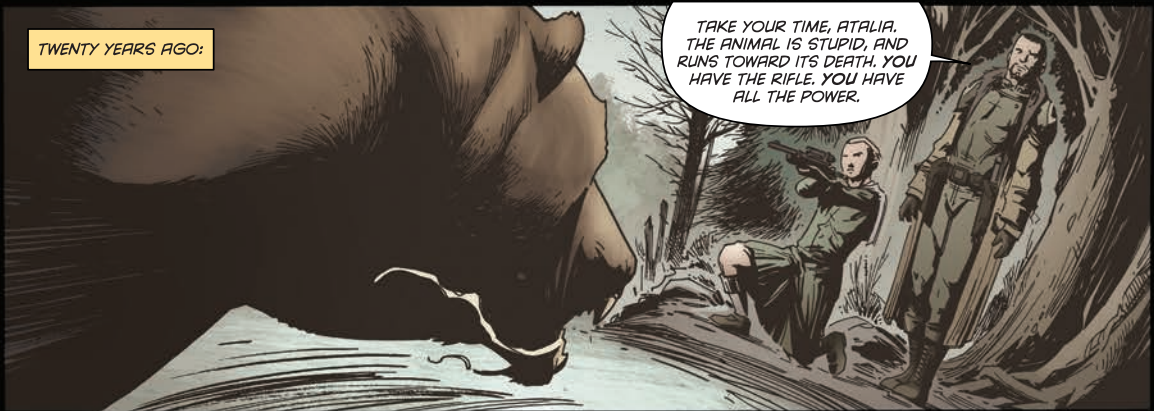


I. N. J.  
CULBARD  
(NEW DEADWARDIANS)



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TWENTY YEARS AGO:

TAKE YOUR TIME, ATALIA. THE ANIMAL IS STUPID, AND RUNS TOWARD ITS DEATH. YOU HAVE THE RIFLE. YOU HAVE ALL THE POWER.



YES, PAPPA. I UNDERSTAND.



BETTER. NOW TAKE CLOSER AIM AND TRY AGAIN.



NOW, ATALIA. FIRE NOW.







I-I'M SORRY,  
PAPPA. I  
FAILED YOU...



YOU  
DIDN'T FAIL,  
ATALIA...



YOU STOOD  
YOUR GROUND.  
YOU DID NOT  
PANIC. YOU DID  
YOUR DUTY.

BETTER  
MARKSMANSHIP  
CAN BE LEARNED.  
COURAGE, NOT  
SO EASILY.



WHEN  
THE TIME COMES,  
YOU WILL MAKE  
A FINE SOLDIER  
OF NORDLAND,  
I THINK...



NOW:

MADAM  
KAPITEN? YOUR  
THOUGHTS?





ONE OF OUR PATROLS ELIMINATED, WITH ALL THE HALLMARKS OF A STRIGOI SLAYING. CHECK THE MONITORING SYSTEM--IT MUST STILL BE CLOSE.

I ALREADY HAVE DONE, MADAM KAPITEN. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE OUT THERE EXCEPT YOU AND YOUR TEAM.

THEN CHECK IT *AGAIN*, HEIZE, OR START BRUSHING UP ON YOUR NU EARTH CHEM-SUIT DRILL.



AT ONCE, MADAM KAPITEN.

KLAUR?

WE KNEW ONE OF THESE MEN, ATALIA--SERGEANT TOLOV'S BOY.

YOU REMEMBER TOLOV? A DEMON GAMBLER...AT LEAST UNTIL SHE GOT FRIED IN THAT SOUTHER ELECTRO-FLARE BOMBARDMENT ON PRESCHENKOV.



ATALIA...?



NOT ALL PREY IS AS STUPID AS THIS ONE, ATALIA. ON THE WORLD THIS THING COMES FROM, I ONCE HUNTED ANOTHER SPECIES THAT LED ME A MERRY DANCE.

IT LURED ME TO AN AREA AWAY FROM MY CHOSEN KILLZONE. WHILE I WAITED FOR IT THERE, IT RAIDED MY CAMP AND ATE MOST OF MY SUPPLIES.



REMEMBER--DO NOT ASSUME THAT BECAUSE YOU HUNT **SOMETHING BESTIAL** THAT THE BEAST CAN HAVE NO CUNNING IN IT.

THIS IS YOUR FIRST HUNTING TROPHY, CHILD. LET US HOPE IT IS NOT YOUR LAST...



KLAUR-- WITH ME/ HEIZE-- THE MONITORING DEVICES AROUND THE LODGE...

NOTHING, MADAM KAPITEN. NO ACTIVITY ANYWHERE OUT THERE, OTHER THAN YOU AND YOUR SQUAD.

I WANT THE LODGE LOCKED DOWN!





"THE STRIGOI ARE *MUTANTS*, THEIR CAPABILITIES WILD AND UNPREDICTABLE.

"THIS ONE MUST HAVE SOMETHING *NEW*...SOME ABILITY TO DECEIVE THE MONITORING DEVICES.

"\*YOUR MADAM KAPITEN IS A FOOL, INVESTIGATOR SERGEANT HEIZE..."



"...I THOUGHT WE WERE HUNTING A *BEAST*, AND FORGOT ABOUT THE CUNNING OF THE MAN BENEATH. NOW PEOPLE WILL DIE BECAUSE OF MY FOOLISHNESS."



WE'VE JUST LOST CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH BATTLEMENT SENTRY, MADAM KAPITEN. ASSUME TARGET IS NOW INSIDE OUR PERIMETER.

UNDERSTOOD, HEIZE. REESA?



ON MY WAY, ATALIA. I'VE ENOUGH *TOXINS* HERE TO ERADICATE A BATTALION OF SOUTHER GENETIC INFANTRYMEN.

AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, SOMETHING TO ENSURE THOSE KIDS WON'T FEEL A THING BEFORE THEIR FATHER CAN GET TO THEM.



WE'RE NOT LETTING IT COME TO THAT, REESA.

HEIZE--

BAD NEWS, MADAM KAPITEN-- WE'VE JUST GONE DARK ON ANOTHER SENTRY CONTACT.





THAT'S FOUR  
OF OUR PEOPLE  
GONE NOW, AND WE  
HAVEN'T EVEN HAD  
A VISUAL FIX ON  
THIS THING!

WE'RE ONE  
MINUTE AWAY. PUT  
EVERYTHING LEFT  
AROUND THE WOMAN  
AND THE CHILDREN. IF  
YOU SEE IT, SHOOT  
TO KILL--

ATALIA? IS  
THAT YOU?



IT'S ME...IT'S  
GRIGORU...

THERE!  
LOOK  
OUT--!



WE HAVE  
TO TALK,  
ATALIA...YOU  
AND I...



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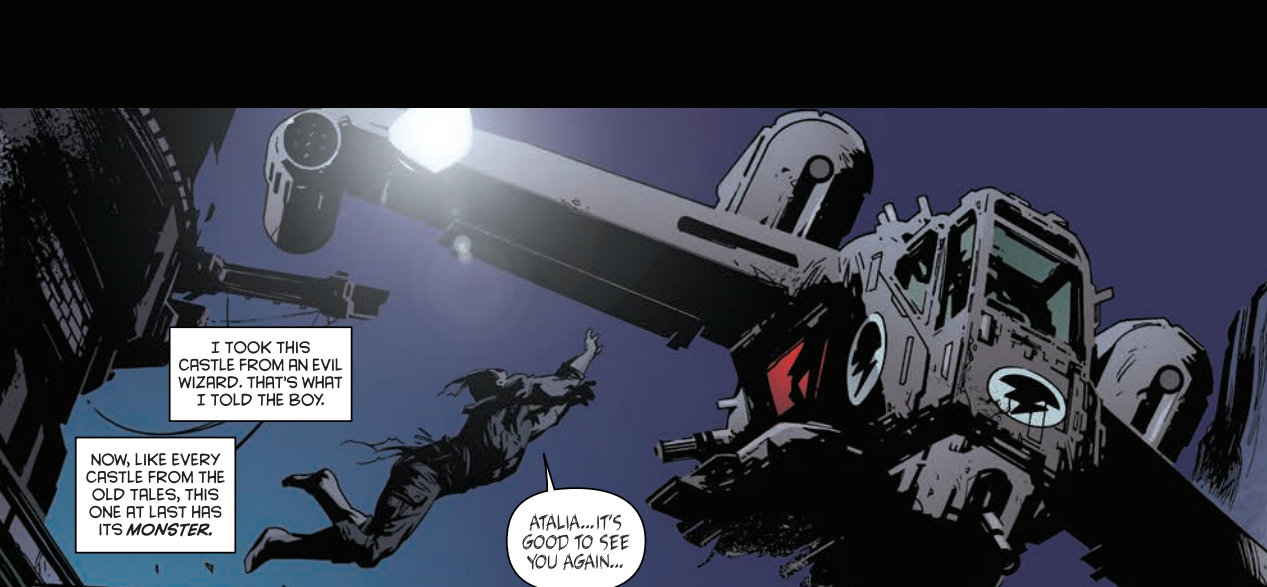


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I TOOK THIS CASTLE FROM AN EVIL WIZARD. THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THE BOY.

NOW, LIKE EVERY CASTLE FROM THE OLD TALES, THIS ONE AT LAST HAS ITS *MONSTER*.

ATALIA...IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN...



NAIN--!

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT, ATALIA...AND YOU CAN GIVE IT TO ME...



GIVE ME WHAT I WANT...GIVE ME MY CHILDREN, AND I PROMISE NO ONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO DIE...



REMEMBER NU EARTH, ATALIA... THE LIGHTS IN THE CLOUDS...



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD EVER HAVE COME TO THIS?





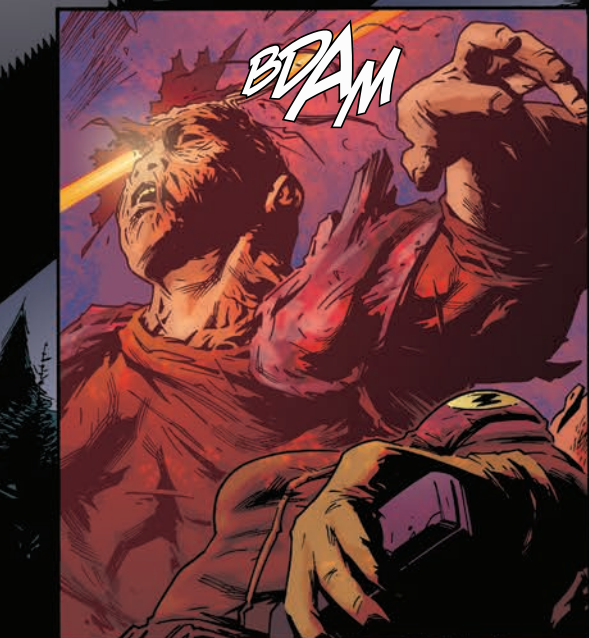
THE CHILDREN...  
I PROMISE I WILL  
MAKE IT QUICK  
FOR THEM...

AND  
I PROMISE THE  
SAME FOR YOU,  
OLD FRIEND.



HEIZE?

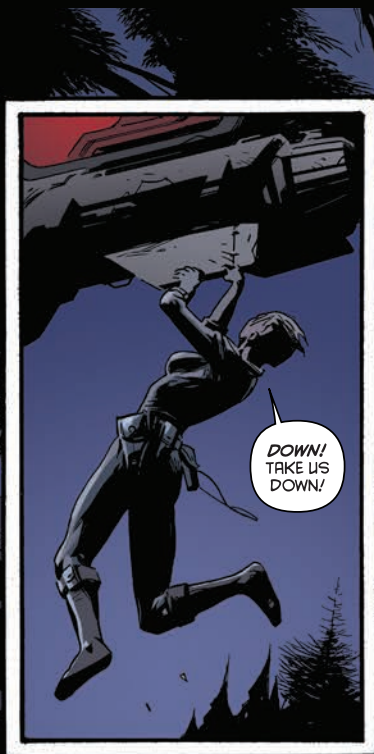
TAKING THE  
SHOT, MADAM  
KAPITEN.



BAM











I STOPPED THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE A LONG TIME AGO, GRIGORU. IN THIS WAR, WHO EXPECTS TO LIVE THAT LONG?

BUT...BUT WHAT OF MY FUTURE?

YOU SHOULD BE DEAD, BUT YOUR STRIGOI STRENGTH KEEPS YOU ALIVE...



THEY WILL COME FOR YOU. THEY WILL TAKE YOU AWAY AND TEST YOU, TO FIND THINGS IN YOU THAT THEY CAN USE. YOU WILL WISH MANY, MANY TIMES THAT YOU HAD DIED AT THIS MOMENT HERE.

A--A POOR FATE...NOT THAT OF A SOLDIER...



OR FOR AN OLD FRIEND.

GOODBYE, GRIGORU.



ONCE, WE LAY TOGETHER AND WATCHED THE SKIES OF NU EARTH FILL WITH A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE BEAUTY.

NOW WE SIT TOGETHER HERE AND WATCH THE SUN COME UP...



...BUT WE ARE SOLDIERS OF NORDLAND, AND DUTY IS NEVER FAR AWAY.





COLONEL-INSPECTOR NERRIA.

A TASK WELL ACCOMPLISHED, ATALIA. YOU AND YOUR TEAM MAKE FINE *STRIGOI-HUNTERS*.

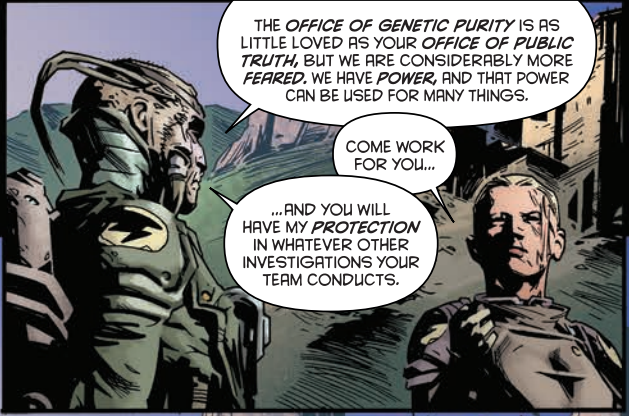
WE ALREADY HAVE OUR *OWN* INVESTIGATIONS TO CONDUCT, COLONEL.



AH YES, HOLDING OUR GLORIOUS MILITARY TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS LAPSES IN HONOURABLE CONDUCT. A THANKLESS TASK, I IMAGINE. THEY TIE YOU UP IN RED TAPE, WHILE MURDERERS AND WORSE GO FREE.

THERE ARE *OTHER* WAYS TO DEAL WITH SUCH CASES...

*DANGEROUS* WAYS, ATALIA.



THE OFFICE OF *GENETIC PURITY* IS AS LITTLE LOVED AS YOUR OFFICE OF *PUBLIC TRUTH*, BUT WE ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE *FEARED*. WE HAVE *POWER*, AND THAT POWER CAN BE USED FOR MANY THINGS.

COME WORK FOR YOU...

...AND YOU WILL HAVE MY *PROTECTION* IN WHATEVER OTHER INVESTIGATIONS YOUR TEAM CONDUCTS.



ME, A *STRIGOI-HUNTER*...

A *MONSTER-HUNTER*. AND, IN NORDLAND, MONSTERS COME IN MANY FORMS...



...I DO NOT NEED TO REMIND THE DAUGHTER OF *MARSHAL-MINISTER JOSEF JAEGER* OF THAT, *SURELY?*

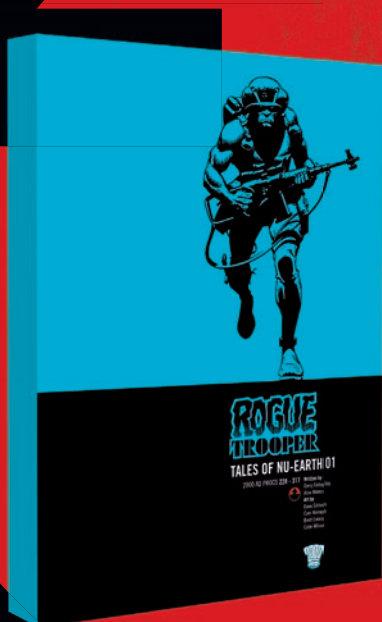
YOU HAVE MONSTERS IN YOUR PAST, ATALIA. I GIVE YOU NOW THE OPPORTUNITY TO *HUNT AND SLAY* THEM.

**THE END**



# ROGUE TROOPER

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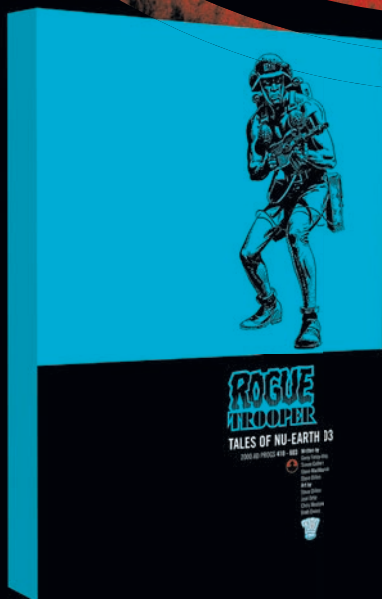
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