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DR. STRANGE

SORCERER SUPREME



POSSESSION IS $\frac{9}{10}$ OF THE LOGARITHM

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DO YOU
KNOW
ME?

ONCE BEFORE, I LED
A TRANS-DIMENSIONAL
EXPEDITION TO THE
EARTH, TO DETERMINE IF
IT WAS RIPE FOR
CONQUEST BY OUR
PEOPLE.

BUT OUR FACES, LACKING
WHAT YOU CALL "FEATURES,"
ARE PERHAPS LESS RECOGNIZ-
ABLE TO YOU THAN THOSE OF
YOUR OWN KIND.

KNOW
YOU? OF
COURSE
I DO!

YOU'RE THE
POSSESSORS!

CLEARLY, YOU POS-
SESSED THOSE HUNTERS
WHO HIT US FROM BE-
HIND-- AND WHO'D BEEN
CHASING JACK RUSSELL
HERE, IN HIS WERE-
WOLF FORM!

SO YOU
RECOGNIZE
RACIAL
TYPES, IF NOT
INDIVIDUALS.

RELEASE US,
VILLAIN, FROM THIS
MYSTIC STONELIKE
SUBSTANCE IN WHICH
YOU ENAGED US
WHILE WE WERE UN-
CONSCIOUS--

-- AND I SHALL
PERSONALLY SEE TO
IT THAT EVEN YOUR
INSECTOID MOTHER
WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE
YOU!

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STEPHEN--
DO YOU REALLY
KNOW THESE
MOUTHLESS
MONSTROUS-
TIES?

I'M
AFRAID
SO,
TOPAZ.

IT WAS
SOON AFTER
I RETURNED
TO AMERICA
HAVING
SERVED AS
THE DISCIPLE
OF THE
ANCIENT
ONE IN
TIBET.

"AS HE SAID--
THE **POSSESSORS**
HAD COME TO OUR
WORLD FROM
ANOTHER PLANE,
EAGER TO TEST
THE DEFENSES OF
ITS DOMINANT
RACE."

"AS THEIR TEST
MARKET, THEY CHOSE
A SMALL VILLAGE
IN THE **BAVARIAN**
ALPS."

"THEY FOUND IT
RIDICULOUSLY EASY
TO **ENTER** HUMANS--
TO TAKE THEM OVER--
AND THEY WERE ABOUT
TO EXPAND THEIR
FRANCHISE TO TRY FOR
THE **WHOLE PLANET--**"

"--WHEN
FORTUNATELY, THE
ORB OF
AGAMOTTO
REVEALED THEIR
PRESENCE TO ME.

"RUSHING TO
SOUTHERN
GERMANY, I
ENGAGED IN
A MAGICAL
DUEL
WITH THEIR
LEADER."

"HE CREATED A
ROCKLIKE
SHIELD AROUND
HIMSELF--A LOT
LIKE WHAT HOLDS
US
HELPLESS
NOW. MATTER OF
FACT--

"THEN, AS ONE
ENTITY, THE
POSSESSORS LEFT
THEIR HUMAN
HOSTS--

"--BUT AT
A CRUCIAL
MOMENT I
MANAGED TO
MELT IT--
DEFEATING
HIM."

"--TO FLEE BACK
THROUGH THE DI-
MENSIONAL ENTRANCE
TO THEIR OWN
SPHERE!"

* WAY BACK IN
STRANGE TALES
#118--ONLY THE 7TH
DR. STRANGE STORY.
--OLD TIMER RALF

IT IS SCARCELY
TACTFUL--OR
WISE-- TO
REMINDE ME OF
MY EARLIER
HUMILIATION,
STRANGE.

IT IS NOT
ONLY SUBHUMAN
CATTLE THAT MAY
BE RITUALLY
SLAUGHTERED UPON
THIS CAVERN'S
ALTAR...

THEN IT WAS
YOU WHO DID THE
CATTLE
MUTILATIONS
THAT BROUGHT ME
TO COLORADO!

I
FIGURED
IT HAD TO
BE-- BUT
WHY?

WHAT
GOOD COULD
SUCH BUTCHERY
DO YOU?

MORE THAN
YOU COULD
POSSIBLY IMAGINE.
WEREWOLF-
THAT WAS.

YOUR SORCERER
FRIEND SEALED THE
GATEWAY BEHIND US,
SO WE COULD NEVER
RETURN TO EARTH
BY THAT PATH.

WE WERE IN
DESPAIR, FOR OUR
TECHNOLOGY--OUR
COMMAND OF LOGARITHM
AND ANTI-LOGARITHM--
HAD NEVER FAILED US
BEFORE.

YET, BY SHEER
FORCE OF WILL,
I SLOWLY GAINED
ASCENDANCY IN
OUR WORLD,
WHERE INDIVIDUAL-
ISM ORDINARILY
COUNTS FOR
LITTLE.

I BECAME
LORD
LEADER--

--AND
DETERMINED
TO MAKE OUR
SECOND
INVASION OF YOUR
SPHERE SUCCEED,
WHERE THE FIRST
HAD FAILED!

"THUS I PERSONALLY LED A
CHOSEN HANDFUL OF OUR PEOPLE
TO THIS PLACE YOU CALL
COLORADO--"

"--FOR THE
EXPRESS
PURPOSE
OF WHAT
YOUR NEWS-
PAPERS HAVE
TERMED
'CATTLE MUTILA-
TIONS.'"

"ONCE
HERE, WE
POSSESSED
THE BODIES OF
HUMAN
HUNTERS,
TO GO ABOUT
OUR BUSINESS
UNDETECTED."

BUT YOU STILL
HAVEN'T SAID
WHY YOU KILLED
THOSE CATTLE.

CLEARLY,
JACK, THE
RITUAL
CARVING
IS THE KEY.

YES--ALONG WITH THE
LOCATION, AND THE
BLOOD ITSELF!

AS OUR TECHNOLOGY
DECLINED, WE HAVE
BECOME MORE AND MORE
DEPENDANT ON
MAGIC.

EACH CRIMSON
SACRIFICE BRINGS
US NEARER THE
MOMENT WHEN A
STABLE GATEWAY
WILL BE OPENED
BETWEEN OUR TWO
PLANES--

--AND
HORDES OF
OUR RACE WILL
POUR IN--
ENOUGH TO
POSSESS MUCH
OF YOUR POPU-
LATION--

--AND USE ITS
BODIES TO
SLAUGHTER
THE REST!



TOPAZ--WHY DOESN'T STRANGE
WASTE THESE BUG-EYED MONSTERS?

THIS MYSTIC STONE
COVERS HIS AMULET
OF AGAMOTTO--AND
HE KNOWS THOSE
ALIENS WOULD ZAP HIM
IF HE STARTED MOUTH-
ING A SPELL.

IF IT'S NOT
TOO PERSONAL --
WHAT'S WRONG WITH
YOUR OWN BACK-
YARD, THAT YOU WANT
TO EMIGRATE EN
MASSE TO OURS?

SAME RATIONALE
A LOT OF PEOPLE
HERE WOULD USE,
AFTER HUMANITY
TURNED EARTH IN-
TO ONE BIG GAR-
BAGE DUMP.

AS OMNIPOTENT
OSHTUR IS MY
WITNESS--YOUR
KIND ISN'T GOING
TO TAKE OVER
AND HASTEN THE
PROCESS!

I CAME HERE
LOOKING FOR
OTHER WERE-
WOLVES I MIGHT
HAVE CREATED,
STRANGE--

--BUT GET ME
OUT OF THIS
STUFF, AND I'LL
FIGHT BESIDE
YOU -- IN ONE
FORM OR
ANOTHER!



OUR WORLD IS
DYING--DRAINED
OF ITS LIFEBLOOD
BY OUR PAST
TECHNOLOGY--AND
WE NEED A PLACE
TO START ANEW.



FORGET ABOUT
THE MERCY MISSION
YOU CAME HERE TO
HELP ME WITH,
STEPHEN!

THE CAUSE
OF MARKING
COMES FIRST!



AND OF...
THOSE POOR
CATTLE!

MASTER! THE
SUBSTANCE WHICH
HOLD US FAST--
BEGINS TO DISSOLVE!





IT IS HARDLY NECESSARY ANY LONGER--NOW THAT WE ARE READY TO TAKE POSSESSION OF YOU.

THE OTHERS-- QUICKLY --!

YES, LORD LEADER!

AH! THE SORCERER PROVED AN EVEN MORE RECEPTIVE VESSEL THAN I WOULD HAVE IMAGINED.

THE MAN-BULL'S DUAL NATURE PROVED A BIT TRICKY TO MASTER--BUT I HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL.

MY LORD! I--I CANNOT ENTER THE SILVER-HAIRED FEMALE!

SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN IS HURLING ME OUT!

IF YOU'D DONE YOUR HOMEWORK YOU'D KNOW--

--THAT I'M ALREADY POSSESSED!

BY A DEMON NAMED ULLIKUMHIS!

THAT'S THE LITTLE PROBLEM DR. STRANGE WAS HELPING ME SORT OUT, BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG!

GRAB HER!



DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELVES, I HAVE HER.

AND I KNOW ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THE EMPATH TOPAZ HAS NO POWERS THAT CAN THREATEN US.

THUS, WE CAN HOLD HER HERE--FOR LATER DISSECTION AND STUDY.

AND HOW FARES IT WITH THE WEREWOLF?

IT SEEMS THE MAN AND THE BEAST WITHIN HIM HAVE BEEN FULLY INTERGRATED INTO ONE BEING, LORD LEADER--

--MAKING IT FAR EASIER TO POSSESS HIM THAN OTHERWISE.

A MOMENT'S CONCENTRATION--

--AND THE WEREWOLF WALKS AGAIN, AT OUR COMMAND!

GOOD! NOW WE CAN MAKE FAR BETTER USE OF HIM THAN IF OUR SILVER BULLETS HAD SLAIN HIM, AS WE ORIGINALLY INTENDED.



WH-WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

IT SEEMS ONE OF THE HUNTERS WHOSE BODIES WE USED BEFORE HAS AWAKENED.

IT IS HIS MISFORTUNE THAT WE NOW HAVE MORE HUMAN SHELLS THAN WE NEED.

WEREWOLF--DISPATCH HIM!

PERHAPS--I SPOKE TOO SOON--LORD LEADER.

I--CAN FEEL--THE REMNANTS OF THE MAN-WOLF'S UNIQUE PERSONALITY--RESISTING YOUR FATAL COMMAND.

HIS WILL IS CLEARLY STRONGER THAN MOST!

NO DOUBT BECAUSE IT IS THE COMBINED WILL OF TWO BEINGS, RATHER THAN ONE.

STILL, YOU ARE A POSSES-SOR!

I ORDER YOU--TAKE FULL CONTROL OF THE LYCAN--THROPE--

AS YOU WISH, LORD LEADER!

HE--HE KILLED HIM!

YOU'VE TURNED JACK RUSSELL INTO A MURDERER!

--AND SLAY!

THAT WORD IS INAPPLICABLE TO US, FEMALE.

CATTLE OR HUMANS, THEY ARE ALL THE SAME--MERE INFERIOR LIFE FORMS, TO BE DISPOSED OF AS SUITS OUR HIGHER PURPOSE.

DOES YOUR RACE NOT TREAT OTHER SPECIES MUCH THE SAME WAY?

AAAGGKK

NOW, IT IS TIME TO GATHER THE FINAL SACRIFICES....!



YOU THERE--
GUARD, IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
BE!

MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T LOOK
A GIFT ALIEN
IN THE MOUTH--
BUT WHY DIDN'T
YOUR PRECIOUS
LEADER HAVE ME
SLAUGHTERED, TOO?

OR DOES HE
WANT TO **STUDY**
ME LATER, BECAUSE
DEEP-DOWN, I'M
POSSESSED BY A
DIFFERENT KIND
OF MONSTER?

NO
TALK,
HUNK?

THEN YOU
CAN BLASTED
WELL
LISTEN!

SOMEBODY
AT THE DOOR,
EMMA.

WHO'D COME WAY
OUT HERE THIS
TIME OF NIGHT?

DON'T KNOW,
YOU STAY HERE
WITH THE KIDS,
AND I'LL--

I'VE KNOWN **JACK**
LONGER THAN ANY-
BODY-- I'VE SEEN
HIM GO THROUGH
HORROR, AGONIZING
WHETHER HE MIGHT
HAVE **HURT** SOME-
ONE DURING HIS
THREE NIGHTS A
MONTH AS A
WEREWOLF--

AND NOW, JUST
WHEN HE'S FINALLY
GAINED CONTROL OF
HIS NATURES--YOU
TURN HIM INTO A
SLASHER!

WHAT KIND OF
UNFEELING RACE
ARE YOU POSSES-
SORS, ANYWAY?

WH--?

EVIDENTLY,
AT LEAST--

--THE
KIND
THAT
CAN
CRY!?

OH MY
GOD...

RRRRRRRR



MAMA--!

ELLIE--
JOEY
RUN!

DON'T
LOOK
BACK!

I
ADMIT
IT...

THIS
IS THE
PART
OF OUR
MISSION
I MOST
ENJOY.

D-DON'T
HURT US--
PLEASE--!



AND WHY SHOULD WE
WISH TO HARM YOU,
HUMAN-CHILD...

...WHEN WE
COULD POSSESS
YOU, ON OUR
MEREST WHIM?



BLAM
BLAM
BLAMM

THEY'RE SHOOTING
AT US, WAYNE!

WE GOTTA
GET HELP
FROM TOWN!

FIVE HUMANS
WAS NOT ENOUGH
TO COMPLETE OUR
RITUAL...

...BUT THE FAR
GREATER NUMBER
TO SHORTLY ARRIVE
WILL PROVE MORE
THAN AMPLE. EH,
LORD LEAPERT?

DID YOU HEAR
THAT? THEY
PLAN TO BRING
BACK OTHER
HUMANS TO
TRY TO DRIVE
US FROM THIS
PLACE.

WHICH, OF
COURSE, IS
PRECISELY WHAT
WE WANT THEM
TO DO.





Y-YOU
KEEP AWAY
FROM ME!

CROCODILE
TEARS OR
NO--YOU'RE
STILL DIMEN-
SIONAL SCUM
AS FAR AS
I'M--

HUH?
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU?

YOU'RE
SHAKING
ALL
OVER--!



TOPAZ--
I--



I CAN'T--



STEPHEN?

IS THAT
YOU IN
THERE?



HURRY,
EVERYBODY--
NEED HELP--
UP ON THE
MOUNTAIN!

WOLVES--
WALKING
ON THEIR
HIND
LEGS--



--DEVILS--
WITH HORNS AND
EVERYTHING!

WE GOTTA
STOP 'EM--BE-
FORE THEY COME
DOWN HERE!



THEY WILL BE
VERY
SOON, MY FELLOW
POSSESSORS--



...THE FINAL
PIECES IN THE
COSMIC GATEWAY
BETWEEN THIS
FOREDOOMED
WORLD AND OUR
OWN!



THIS IS
THE LOCATION
WHERE WE OUR-
SELVES
MATERIALIZED,
WEEKS AGO.

IT IS HERE,
AND NOWHERE
ELSE, THAT THE
ULTIMATE RITUAL
OF BLOOD MUST
BE PERFORMED AT
THE PRECISE
MOMENT--

--THAT
THE PORTAL
TO OUR WORLD
BE OPENED--

--BEYOND
THE POWER
OF ANY TO
CLOSE!

HOW FITTING
THAT I SHALL
PERFORM THE
FINAL SLAUGHTER
WEARING THE
FACE AND
FORM OF DR.
STRANGE!

HE WAS THE INHABI-
TANT OF THIS SPHERE
WHO FORCED US TO
RETREAT, YEARS
AGO--

--AND TONIGHT, IT
SHALL BE HIS HAND
WHICH SHALL FLING
WIDE THE DOOR TO
TOTAL CONQUEST!



...IT
IS YOU,
ISN'T IT,
STEPHEN
?!

TAKEN
ME... ALL
THIS
TIME...



...TO GAIN
FULL CONTROL...
OF THIS POSSES-
SOR'S DECIDEDLY
NON-HUMAN
BRAIN!

HARD TO
CONCENTRATE...
ON A SPELL...
ON A SPELL...
BUT PERHAPS...

YES!
IT--
MIGHT
DO--!

BY THE GREY SPECTER
OF THE VISHANTI, I
SUMMON ALL THE MYSTIC
FORCES OF THE SHADOW
WORLDS!

I CALL ON
THE HOSTS
OF DARK-
NESS... STRIKE--



STRIKE AT
THE COMMAND
OF YOUR
MASTER!

YOU DID IT!
YOU SHATTERED
THE FORCE
THAT HELD
ME!

BUT THAT SPELL-- IT SEEMED
SO UNLIKE YOUR USUAL ONES,
SOMEHOW.

THAT BUSINESS ABOUT
"SHADOW WORLDS" AND
"HOSTS OF DARKNESS"--

AN EARLY,
PRIMITIVE
INCANTATION
OF MINE,
TOPAZ...



I HAD TROUBLE
BRINGING THIS
ALIEN BRAIN TO
HEEL, AFTER I
WILLED MY
MIND INTO IT--

BUT THEN, BURIED DEEP
INSIDE IT, I FOUND ITS
MEMORY OF THE VERY
SPELL I'D USED TO
MELT THEIR SHIELDS THE
FIRST TIME I'D ENCOUN-
TERED THEM.

THE WORLD'S PROBABLY
LUCKY IT DID TAKE YOU
A WHILE!

OTHERWISE, YOU
MIGHT'VE ATTACKED
THE POSSESSORS
BEFORE YOU WERE
REALLY
READY.

WELL,
I'M READY
NOW.

AND SINCE
THE LORD LEADER
OBLIGINGLY LEFT
MY CLOAK OF
LEVITATION
BEHIND--



--WE CAN BOTH
RIDE TO THE FINAL
SHOWDOWN IN
STYLE!

THE
MOMENT
IS AT
HAND!

LET THE
RITUAL
OF BLOOD
BEGIN!

LET THE TALONS OF
THE WEREWOLF TEAR
AT THE THROAT OF THE
SACRIFICIAL BEAST--



-- AND LET THE FISTS OF
THE MAN-BULL CRUSH THE
SKULLS AND SKELETONS OF
THOSE WHO ARE ITS FOUR-
FOOTED BRETHREN!



THERE
THEY
ARE!

THEY MUST
BE THE ONES
WHO'VE BEEN
KILLING OUR
CATTLE TOO,
SHERIFF!

WELL, THE NEXT
THING THEY STEAL
IS GONNA BE THEIR
OWN TOMBSTONES!

SHOOT
TO
KILL, MEN!

BLAM

BLAM

UP PSYCHIC
SHIELDS!

WHEN THEIR
WEAPONS FAIL,
THEY WILL BE
FORCED TO ATTACK
US AT CLOSE
QUARTERS--

--AND THAT
WILL BE THE
DEATH
OF THEM!

RRRRRR

L-LORD IN
HEAVEN--

THESE
THINGS ARE
EVEN WORSE
THAN WAYNE
SAID!



EXCELLENT! I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THAT THIS HUMAN SHELL WIELDS NO POWER IN AND OF ITSELF-- ONLY WHAT DR. STRANGE'S ODDLY-VANISHED MIND HAD GIVEN IT.

STILL, IT IS ONLY FITTING AND PROPER THAT HIS FACE AND FORM PRESIDE OVER THE END OF THE WORLD HE SOUGHT TO GUARD--

FOR ALREADY, THE GREAT CUBE-- OUR DIMENSIONAL PATHWAY-- BEGINS TO MANIFEST ITSELF, SAILING UPON AN OCEAN OF BLOOD!

WITHIN, I SEE THE FOREMOST OF THE VAST MULTITUDE WHICH WILL SOON STEP FORTH TO INHERIT THIS EARTH.

A FEW DEATHS MORE-- HUMAN DEATHS-- AND--

WHAT--?

THE AMULET UPON THE SORCERER'S NECK-- IT HAS OPENED OF ITS OWN ACCORD!

THAT GREAT EYE-- FLOATING OUT FROM IT--

YOU'RE WARNED ON ONE COUNT, LORD LEADER...

--IT BATHES ME SUDDENLY-- BLINDS ME-- WITH THE GLARE OF A THOUSAND SUNS!

THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO DIDN'T COME OUT OF ITS OWN ACCORD--

I CALLED IT OUT!

YOU!

AND IN THE BODY OF ONE OF MY OWN RACE--

YOU POSSESSORS ARE SO GOOD AT STEALING BODIES-- YOU'VE FORGOTTEN IT'S THE MIND THAT REALLY COUNTS, IN THE END!

MAY THE CRIMSON SHARDS OF CYTTORAK PIERCE MY MORTAL FRAME FROM WITHOUT!

YET HARM IT NOT, BUT MERELY DRIVE--

--THE INTERLOPER OUT!

Noooooooooooo





MAY THE LANCE OF OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR
HURLED BY HOSGOTH'S
WHITE, WONDROUS HAND
NOW SMITE THIS CLUED
PORTAL, AND SEND IT
BACK HOME TO THAT
THRICE-DOOMED LAND!

JUST AS I
THOUGHT--AND
PRAYED!

THE
POSSESSORS
REALIZE THAT, IN
ANOTHER MOMENT,
THEY'D BE STRANDED
HERE--HELP-
LESS.



IN THEIR MAD
HASTE TO ESCAPE,
THEY'RE ABANDONING
THE HUMAN BODIES
THEY'D TAKEN
OVER--



--NOT TO MENTION
A COUPLE OF SLIGHTLY
LESS HUMAN ONES.

JACK--RINTRAH--
ARE YOU BOTH
ALL RIGHT?

YES--BUT I FEEL
SO UNCLEAN!
THOSE ALIENS
TURNED ME INTO
A MURDERER...

THAT--IS
NO MORE--JACK
RUSSELL--

WHAT'S THAT
MATTER?
THEY KILLED
OUR CATTLE
DIDN'T THEY?

--THAN WHAT THOSE
ARMED YIMMAYS
MEAN TO BECOME--
WITH OURSELVES
AS THE VICTIMS!

LOOK! THERE'S
JUST TWO OF 'EM
LEFT--OVER ON
THAT LEDGE!

BUT--THEY
DON'T EVEN
SEEM
HUMAN!

AND TRIED
TO KILL US!

WIND OR NO
WIND, WE'RE
GONNA FINISH
THE JOB!

STOP, YOU
BRAINLESS--

THEY CANNOT HEAR YOU,
IN THE SWIRLING VORTEX
CREATED BY THE MASTER'S
SPELL.



WE MUST USE
OUR POWERS TO
BECOME MAN-
LIKE IN ASPECT--



--AND
THEN TRY
TO BLEND
INTO--

JACK RUSSELL?
DID YOU NOT
HEAR ME--?

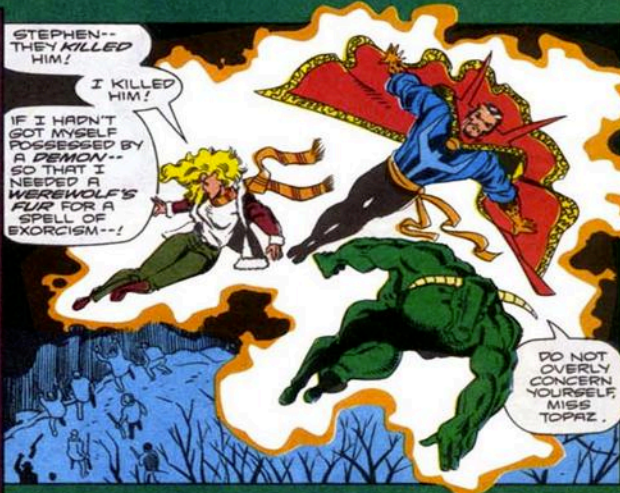


ARRR--!

GOT
'IM!

MY OWN
GUN JAMMED--
BUT THIS ONE
I FOUND LYIN'
AROUND
WORKS JUST
FINE!







--THAT
YOUR OLD
FRIEND
ISN'T
DEAD.

JACK!
THEN--THAT
BLINDING
LIGHT--

MY DOING,
WHILE I
WHISKED
HIM
AWAY--
LEAVING
A WERE-
WOLF
IMAGE TO "DIE"
IN HIS PLACE.

GORRY I
DIDN'T TALK
UP SOONER,
TOPAZ--BUT
I'D LOST
A LOT OF
BLOOD.



ALREADY, HOW-
EVER, YOUR
VITALITY HAS
CURED YOUR
WOUND.

A SIMPLE
WEAVING
SPELL WILL
RENDER YOU
GOOD AS NEW.

IT'LL
TAKE MORE
THAN
CLOTHES
TO DO THAT.



I KNOW YOU
RETAIN THE
MEMORY OF
YOUR WEREWOLF
BODY BEING
USED TO COMMIT
MURDER,
JACK.

PERHAPS A SPELL
OF SELECTIVE FOR-
GETFULNESS--

THIS WAY
IS BETTER,
STEPHEN.

AS AN EMPATH,
I CAN TAKE MUCH
OF THE HURT
AWAY.

YES, I
WANT TO
REMEMBER
...I MUST
REMEMBER
...

...SO I
CAN STOP
ANYONE FROM
EVER TAKING ME
OVER AGAIN!



WELL, I'VE
GOT TO GET
GOING.

MY 'CYCLE'S
HIDDEN NEAR-
BY, AND THERE
ARE OTHERS
WHO NEED MY
HELP--SOME-
WHERE.

IF YOU EVER
NEED ME,
JACK--

--YOU
KNOW
HOW TO
REACH
ME.

AND ME
AS WELL.



NOW WE
TOO, MUST
BE ON OUR
WAY...

MISS TOPAZ--
YOU FORGOT
TO ASK HIM
FOR A BIT OF
HIS WERE-
WOLF FLUR.

OH...
THAT.



I YANKED OFF A
HANDFUL OF IT
WHEN WE FIRST
GOT HERE.

HE
NEVER
FELT A
THING.

ONE
DOWN...TWO
TO GO.



GETTING OUR HANDS
ON A VAMPIRE'S
TALON SHOULD BE
CHILD'S PLAY--ONCE
MY BROTHER RE-
TURNS TO NEW YORK.

AS FOR THE DEMON'S
FLAME WE ALSO
NEED FOR THE SPELL
TO RID YOU OF THE
DEVIL THAT'S FOUND
A HOME DEEP INSIDE
YOU--

--I THINK WE
BOTH KNOW
JUST THE PLACE
TO FIND IT!

NEXT:

ENTER
GHOST RIDER

THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI

LEGACY OF THE WOLF PART II

... AYE, A HUNDRED CENTURIES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE CARETAKERS FROM THE STAR-SUN ARCTURUS CAME TO THE PLANET WE CALL EARTH...

... AND DID BIND THE SEED OF WOLVES INTO CERTAIN HUMAN BEINGS, THEREBY ORIGINATING THE OUTCAST RACE FOREVER AFTER KNOWN AS WEREWOLVES...

... ONLY TO LOSE CONTROL, IN TIME, OVER THEIR CREATION.

THOMAS E LOFFICIER WRITERS
ISHERWOOD ARTIST
SIMEX LETTERER
BECTON COLORIST
MACCHIO EDITOR
DE FALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

IN LATER DAYS, THEY HELPED THE WIZARD EBROK SPAWN THE FABLED CAT PEOPLE... WITH NO MORE ULTIMATE SUCCESS FOR THEIR OWN CAUSE.

FOR THIS REASON DID THEY TURN TOWARD THE CREATION OF "SUPER-HUMANS"--EARLY MUTATIONS SUCH AS THE UNKNOWN WARLOCK WHO ONCE DARED IMPERSONATE THE MAGE MERLIN.

--THE MUTANT WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE SPHINX--

--AND MANY ANOTHER.

BUT EACH EVENTUALLY ESCAPED THE CARE-TAKERS' CONTROL--

--MUCH AS THEIR OWN DISTANT STAR-WORLD HAD.



THE SELF-STYLED CARETAKERS' ULTIMATE CHALLENGE CAME FROM YET ANOTHER OF THEIR REBELLIOUS CREATIONS:

THE WARLOCK DAEMON, AGAINST WHOM THEY WERE AT LAST FORCED TO ENLIST THE HELP OF DR. MORBIUS, THAT TRAGIC HUMAN WHO HAS BEEN CALLED THE "LIVING VAMPIRE."



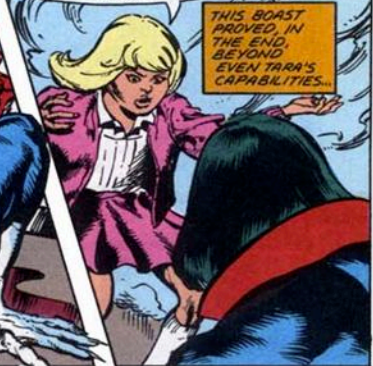
YET, IN THE THROES OF NEAR DEFEAT, MORBIUS CAME TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS THE BLOODY RELEASE OF HIS OWN LIFE ENERGIES WHICH WAS TO UNLEASH DAEMON'S OTHER-DIMENSIONAL HELL-HODES UPON AN UNSUSPECTING EARTH.

THE CARETAKERS, FOR ALL THEIR STAR-SPANNING WISDOM AND VAST KNOWLEDGE, WERE BEING MANIPULATED BY YET ANOTHER OF THEIR UNHOLY CREATURES--

--THE "GIRL-CHILD" AND PSYCHIC VAMPIRE CALLED TARA.

I CAN END THE WORLD, MORBIUS--IN A TWINKLING OF HORROR AND MASS DEATH!

THIS BOAST PROVED, IN THE END, BEYOND EVEN TARA'S CAPABILITIES...



BUT SHE DID SUCCEED IN SETTING OTHERS OF THE CARETAKERS' CREATIONS UPON THEIR ILL-FATED MASTERS...

AND SO PERISHED THE SUPPOSEDLY IMMORTAL CARETAKERS...

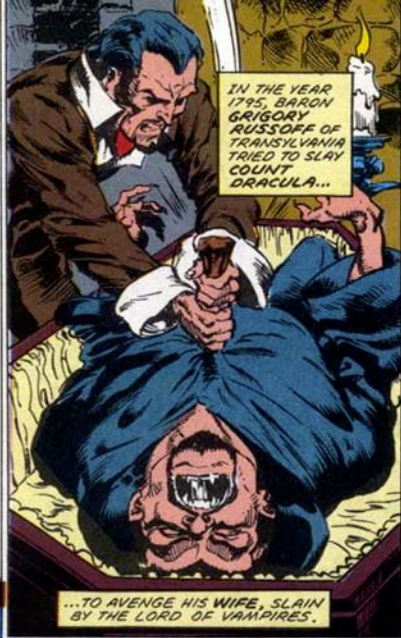
...WHILE MORBIUS, SUCCEEDING TO HIS BLOOD FRENZY, SAVED THE EARTH BY SLAYING THIS MONSTER WHO ONLY LOOKED LIKE A CHILD.



THE CARETAKERS' LEGACY, HOWEVER, DID NOT DIE WITH THEM.

THE WEREWOLVES LIVED ON.





IN THE YEAR 1795, BARON GRIGORY RUSSOFF OF TRANSYLVANIA TRIED TO SLAY COUNT DRACULA...

...TO AVENGE HIS WIFE, SLAIN BY THE LORD OF VAMPIRES.



BUT IN SO DOING, THE BARON HIMSELF WAS BITTEN BY A FEMALE WEREWOLF, WHICH THE MASTER OF THE UNDEAD HAD KEPT PRISONER IN HIS DUNGEONS.



YEARS LATER, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST MEN CALL THE SECOND WORLD WAR...

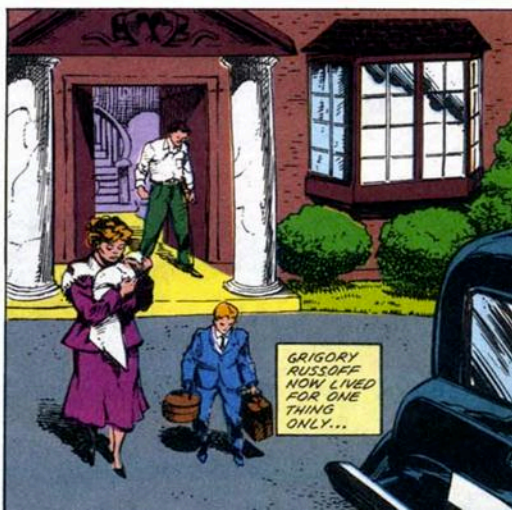


...THE BARON'S SIMILARLY-NAMED DESCENDANT OBTAINED BY FORCE THE NOTORIOUS SPELLBOOK KNOWN AS THE DARKHOLD, OR BOOK OF SINS, FROM THE WIZARD NAMED TABOO.



READING IT BY THE LIGHT OF A FULL MOON, BARON GRIGORY RUSSOFF STIRRED, WITHIN HIMSELF, THE SLEEPING LUDINE GENE WHICH HIS ANCESTOR HAD CONTRACTED FROM THE FEMALE WEREWOLF--

--AND BECAME HIMSELF ONE OF THAT LOATHSOME BREED!



GRIGORY RUSSOFF NOW LIVED FOR ONE THING ONLY...



...TO RID
HIMSELF OF
THE WERE-
WOLF CURSE!

IN HIS FRENZIED
ATTEMPTS TO
FATHOM THE
MYSTERIES OF THE
DARKWORLD, HE
MISTAKENLY
SUMMONED UP
THE ELDER GOD
CHTHON...



...AND FOREFEIT
HIS LIFE AS THE
PRICE OF HIS
PRESUMPTION.

THE CURSE,
HOWEVER,
WAS NOT
DONE WITH
VICTIMS.

SOON AFTERWARD, THE BARON'S
OWN MOTHER, MARIA, WAS STONED
BY A FEAR-MADDENED MOB...



IN AMERICA, UPON HER HUSBAND'S
DEATH, THE BARONESS LAURA
MARRIED PHILIP RUSSELL, AND
HER CHILDREN TOOK HIS NAME.

THEN, UPON
JACK
RUSSELL'S
EIGHTEENTH
BIRTHDAY--

...FINDING
REFUGE IN
EXILE
AMONG THE
GYPSIES.

RINGED ABOUT, IN THE
MONTHS AND YEARS THAT
FOLLOWED, BY FOES SUCH
AS DRACULA-- THE
HANGMAN--TABOO--
DR. GLITTERNIGHT--
AND THE MYSTERIOUS
MOON KNIGHT--



--YOUNG JACK
FOUGHT TO
RETAIN BOTH
HIS SANITY--
AND HIS VERY
HUMANITY.



FOR A TIME, THE COSMIC ENTITIES KNOWN AS THE THREE WHO ARE ALL GRANTED HIM THE ABILITY TO CONTROL HIS LYCANTHROPIC TRANSFORMATION--

--AND TO RETAIN HIS HUMAN INTELLECT--



--UNTIL THE EVIL DR. MALUS DECEIVED HIM INTO UNDERGOING A TREATMENT WHICH CAUSED HIM TO REVERT TO HIS EARLIER, SAVAGE STATE--



--AND WORSE.

RECENTLY, WHILE SORELY WOUNDED BY THE FANATICAL SILVER DAGGER, RUSSELL AND HIS WEREWOLF SELF ACHIEVED AT LAST A MYSTIC FUSION.

FOR THE FIRST TIME HE WAS TRULY WHOLE-- BOTH MAN AND WEREWOLF AT ONCE.



AND ONLY HIS BASIC HUMANITY KEPT THE REVENGE HE REAPED FROM BEING EVEN MORE TERRIBLE.



SINCE THAT NIGHT, HE HAS FELT A MISSION TO HELP OTHERS WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE SUPERNATURAL --

--EVEN THOSE WHOM HIS OWN BITE MAY HAVE TURNED, IN AN EARLIER ERA, INTO WEREWOLVES.

WHEREVER YOU GO, JACK RUSSELL--UNDER FULL MOON OR FAINT--

--MAY AGAMOTTO'S ALL-SEEING EYE WATCH OVER YOU!

[[FIN]]