

VERTIGO
DC COMICS

THE SANDMAN™
PRESENTS

NO. 1 OF 3
MAR 89
\$2.95 US
\$4.75 CAN

SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS

Lucifer

THE
MORNINGSTAR
OPTION

Scott Hampton



OBI

MIKE CAREY
SCOTT HAMPTON

THE
S A N D M A NTM
P R E S E N T S

Lucifer

THE
MORNINGSTAR
OPTION

PART ONE



MIKE CAREY
WRITER

SCOTT HAMPTON
ILLUSTRATOR AND
COVER ARTIST

TODD KLEIN
LETTERER

JENNIFER LEE
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

ALISA KWITNEY
EDITOR

NEIL GAIMAN
CONSULTANT

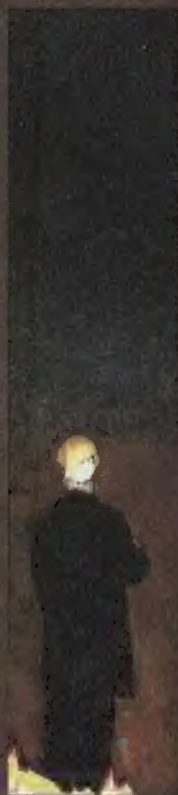
LUCIFER LOGO BY
ALEX JAY

SANDMAN PRESENTS: LUCIFER 1, March, 1999. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1999 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. Vertigo, all characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper.

Printed in Canada.

DC Comics: A division of Warner Bros.
A Time Warner Entertainment Company.

JENETTE KAHN, President & Editor-in-Chief
PAUL LEVITZ, Executive Vice President & Publisher
KAREN BERGER, Executive Editor
RICHARD BRUNING, VP Creative Director
PATRICK CALDWELL, VP Finance & Operations
DOROTHY CROUCH, VP Licensed Publishing
TERRI CUNNINGHAM, VP Managing Editor
JOEL EHRLICH, Senior VP Advertising & Promotions
LILLIAN LASERSON, VP & General Counsel
JIM LEE, Editorial Director WildStorm
JOHN NEE, VP & General Manager WildStorm
BOB WAYNE, VP Direct Sales



"THE BIBLE TELLS THAT STORY IN TERMS OF TIME—ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER. FIRST THERE WAS DARKNESS. THEN THERE WAS LIGHT.

"YOUR PEOPLE REMEMBER IT DIFFERENTLY. THEY SEE THE DARKNESS AS A TUNNEL THAT THEY CRAWLED THROUGH TO REACH THE LIGHT. A VERTICAL TUNNEL. THE LIGHT WAS IN ANOTHER PLACE FAR ABOVE.

"IN ANY CASE THEY TELL THE STORY AS A JOURNEY. A HARD AND TERRIBLE JOURNEY. THE PLACE WHERE THEY STARTED FROM WAS FIRST WORLD.

"WHERE THE DARKNESS WAS. WHERE IT STILL IS.

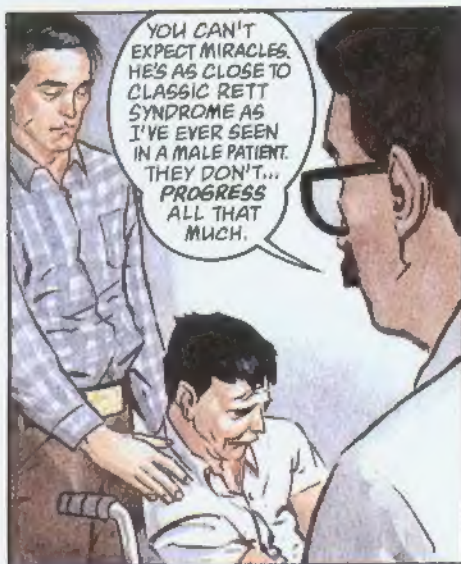
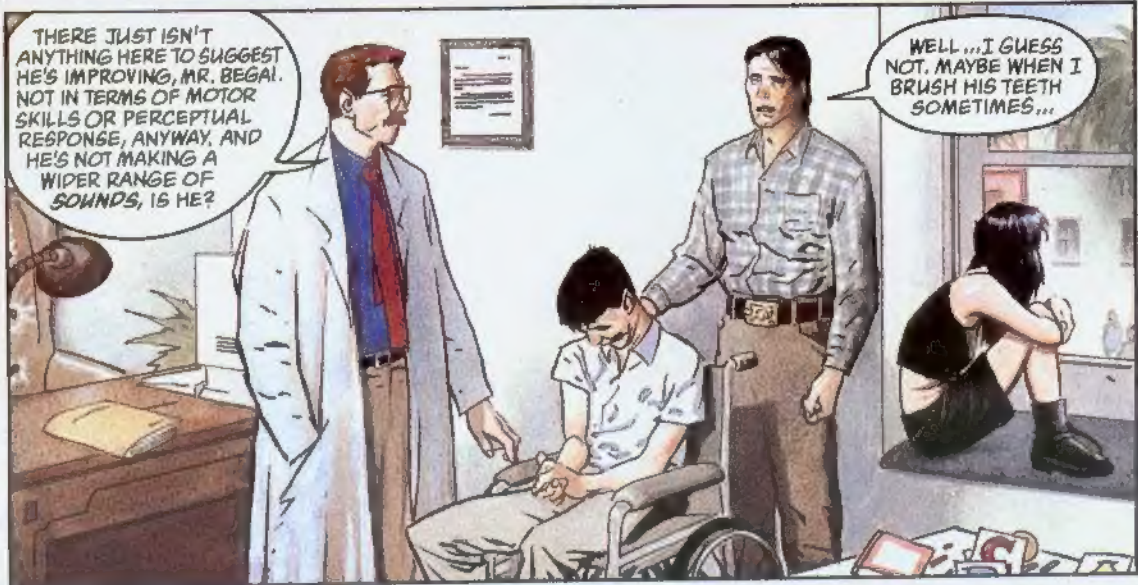
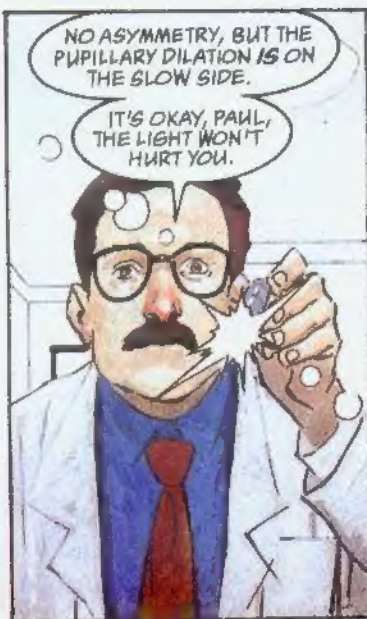
"THIS MEANS *NOTHING* TO YOU, DOES IT?

"UNDERSTAND ME. WHAT EVER LIVED THERE THEN LIVES THERE STILL, THOUGH YOUR KIND ABANDONED THIS PLACE HALF A MILLION YEARS AGO. THERE ARE FORESTS OF BLACK OAKS, A HUNDRED FEET TALL, STANDING INVISIBLE IN THE DARK. THERE ARE CREATURES... PREDATORS ... THAT HAVE NOT EATEN IN GEOLOGICAL AGES.

"YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE VOICELESS, BUT THEY HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOU. THEY WANT YOU TO COME HOME. WANT THE FEEL OF YOUR FEAR AND YOUR WORSHIP. BUT WHILE THE DARKNESS IS A HOME FOR THEM, FOR YOU IT WAS ONLY A WOMB.

"YOU BETRAYED THEM...

"...WHEN YOU WERE BORN INTO THE LIGHT."





YOU SAID THE
FITS ARE ACTUALLY
WORSE NOW. DOES
THAT MEAN LONGER
OR MORE INTENSE?

WELL,
BOTH.

I CAN UP THE DOSAGE
ON THE LAMOTRIGINE BUT
TRY USING THE RECTAL
VALIUM TOO, AS A
PREVENTATIVE...



"HE'S YOUR BROTHER. YOU'D
WANT TO BE THERE FOR
YOUR BROTHER, WOULDN'T
YOU RACHEL?"

"YEAH, DAD, FINE. IT'S
JUST A SCHOOL DAY.
I'LL JUST MISS IT. NO
PROBLEM. MY TIME IS
YOURS."

"...OBVIOUSLY."



HEY, DAD--THERE'S
SOME WEIRD WOMAN
HANGING 'ROUND
YOUR CAR.

I TOLD
YOU NOT
TO PARK
THERE.



SHE'S ACTING REAL CRAZY.
SHE'S WAVING THIS FLOWER
AROUND LIKE SHE'S DIRECTING
TRAFFIC. AND I THINK
SHE'S CRYING.



MY GOD, HE
LOVES ME! HE
REALLY LOVES ME!
OH JESUS, SWEET
JESUS!



LOOK!
I FOUND
THIS!

THAT'S
NICE. TAKE
CARE. TAKE
CARE, NOW.





LOCAL MAN JERRY RUFINO
SPRAYED HIS BOSS WITH SHAVING
FOAM WHEN HE WON THE STATE
LOTTERY YESTERDAY, BUT TWELVE
HOURS LATER HE WAS ASKING
FOR HIS OLD JOB BACK...

I DUNNO ABOUT
USIN' MORE OF THAT
LAMOTRIGINE STUFF.
IT ALWAYS LEAVES
'IM DOPEY. WHAT D'YOU
RECKON, RACH?



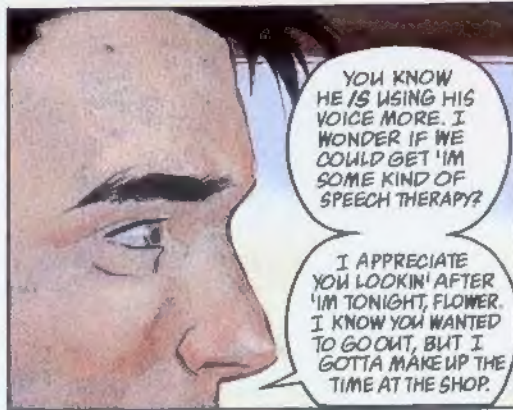
...BECAUSE A STAGGERING EIGHT
HUNDRED PEOPLE PICKED THE WINNING
NUMBERS, EACH COLLECTING LESS THAN
THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS! DON'T
GIVE UP YOUR DAY JOB, JER.

WELL IF IT'S
A CHOICE BETWEEN
DOPEY AND FRENZY,
I KNOW WHICH
DWARF I'D GO
FOR.



WHAT'S THAT,
FLOWER?

NOTHING,
DAD.



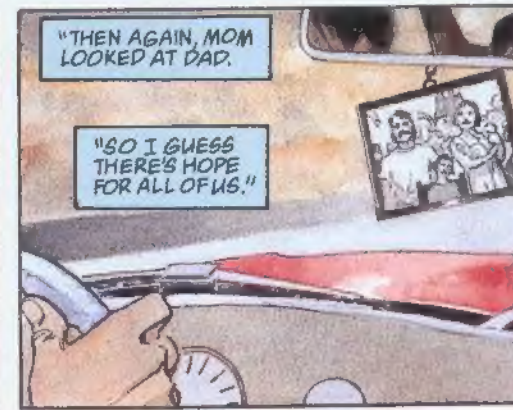
YOU KNOW
HE ~~IS~~ USING HIS
VOICE MORE. I
WONDER IF WE
COULD GET 'IM
SOME KIND OF
SPEECH THERAPY?

I APPRECIATE
YOU LOOKIN' AFTER
'IM TONIGHT, FLOWER.
I KNOW YOU WANTED
TO GO OUT, BUT I
GOTTA MAKE UP THE
TIME AT THE SHOP.



NO PROBLEM.
ALL PART OF THE
SERVICE.

TCH. COME ON, PAUL,
MOST CHICKS WON'T EVEN
LOOK AT A GUY WITH DROOL
ON HIS CHIN.



"THEN AGAIN, MOM
LOOKED AT DAD.

"SO I GUESS
THERE'S HOPE
FOR ALL OF US."

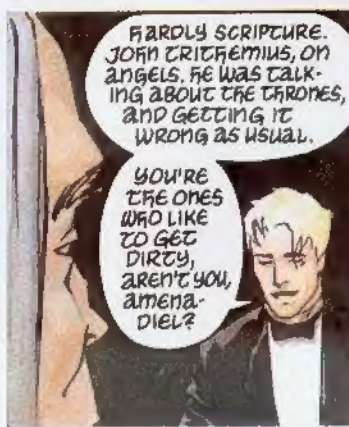




"WHOSE FEET MAY NOT TOUCH THE GROUND, NOR ANY FOULNESS STAIN THEIR GARMENTS, FOR THEY ARE OF THE SEVENTH SPHERE WHICH IS ABOVE CORRUPTION."



The devil can cite scripture for his purpose. Good day to you, Lucifer Morningstar.



HARDLY SCRIPTURE. JOHN CRITCHFIELD, ON ANGELS. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE THRONES, AND GETTING IT WRONG AS USUAL.

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO LIKE TO GET DIRTY, AREN'T YOU, AMENADIEL?



There is no room for doubt or scruple in the service of the name. If you'd realized that you might still be of the host.



I SHOULD SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT I FIND THIS VISITATION BOTH IRKSOME AND UNWELCOME. I AM NO LONGER FELL'S RULER AND YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH ME.



And now are you finding your retirement, Prince of the East?



RESTFUL.





I am to place a proposition before you. Against my will. Against my judgment. Knowing you to be the king of liars and traitors

Say no right now and you will spare me considerable effort

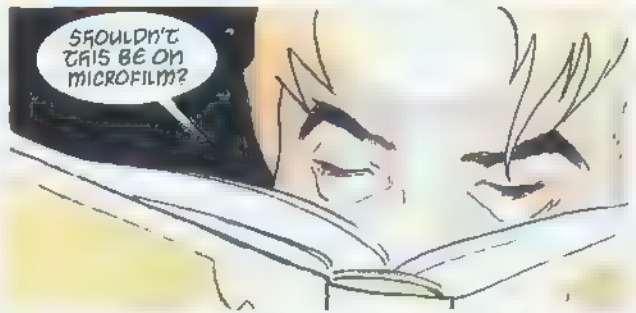
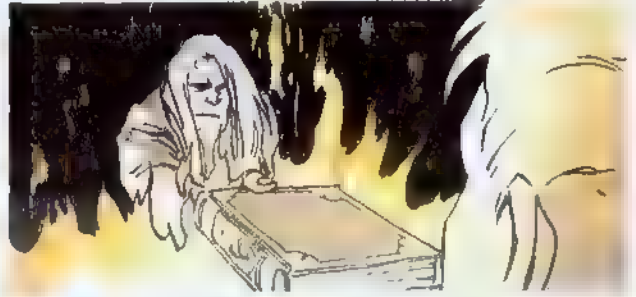


There is a power at work on Earth which is granting human wishes

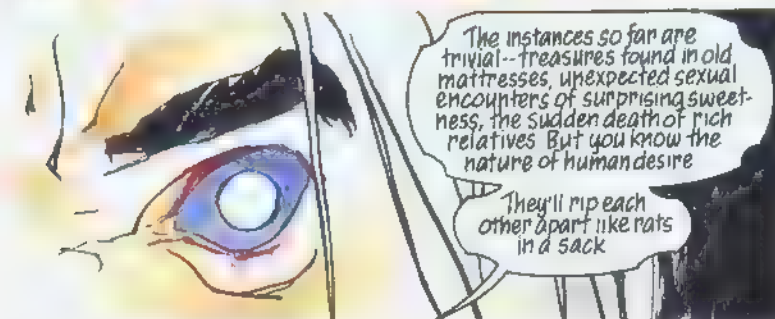
SO? THERE ARE many SUCH. THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGENCIES THAT TRAFFIC IN THAT WAY.



Ah, but this is different. For one thing, it is new for another, it is growing by increments. We have collated examples.

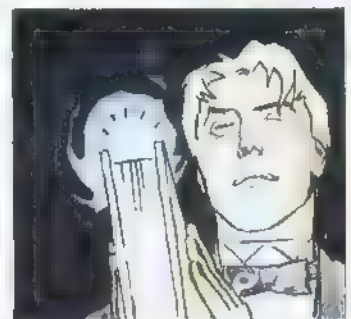


SHOULDN'T THIS BE ON MICROFILM?



The instances so far are trivial--treasures found in old mattresses, unexpected sexual encounters of surprising sweetness, the sudden death of rich relatives. But you know the nature of human desire

They'll rip each other apart like rats in a sack



why
me?

Because
heaven wishes
neither to
intervene
directly in this
nor to stand
by and let it
happen.

You
represent a
third option. I
am told that you
will name your
price

That I
may name
my price or
that I will
name it?

YOU'D
THINK PART OF
OMNISCIENCE
WOULD BE
KNOWING WHEN
TO STOP

BUT
STILL...

Will

LIVING HERE
among them--
WATCHING THEM LIVE
AND DIE AND BUILD
AND BREAK--YOU CAN'T
HELP BUT THINK ABOUT
HOW IMPERMANENT
EVERYTHING IS IN THIS
UNIVERSE. NOTHING
REALLY WORKMAN-
LIKE. NOTHING
MADE TO LAST.

A LETTER
OF PASSAGE.

Your
pardon?

SAY THAT
MY PRICE IS A
LETTER OF
PASSAGE

ah, BUT HE'LL
ALREADY KNOW THAT,
WON'T HE?



I do not grasp your meaning

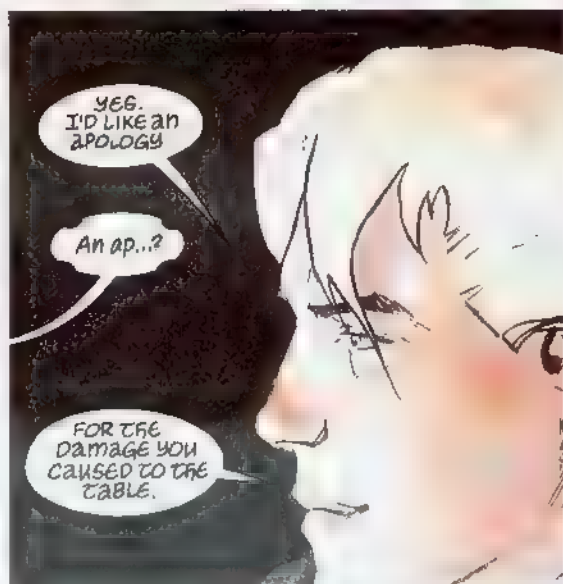
IT'S NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU SHOULD.

THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THE SKY, THAT'S ALL. I'M SURE THEY'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT SOME DAY SOME BIG, FAIRY ARCHANGEL WILL SIT YOU ON HIS LAP AND GIVE YOU THE TALK.



Your mockery demeans you you have accepted the commission

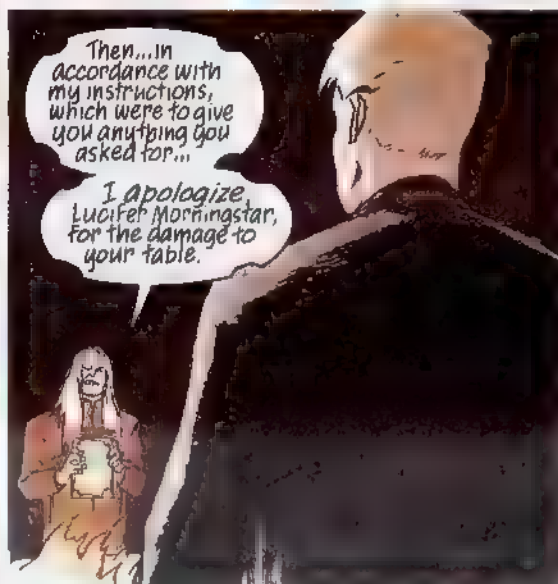
Do you require anything else of me before I leave?



YES. I'D LIKE AN APOLOGY

An ap...?

FOR THE DAMAGE YOU CAUSED TO THE TABLE.

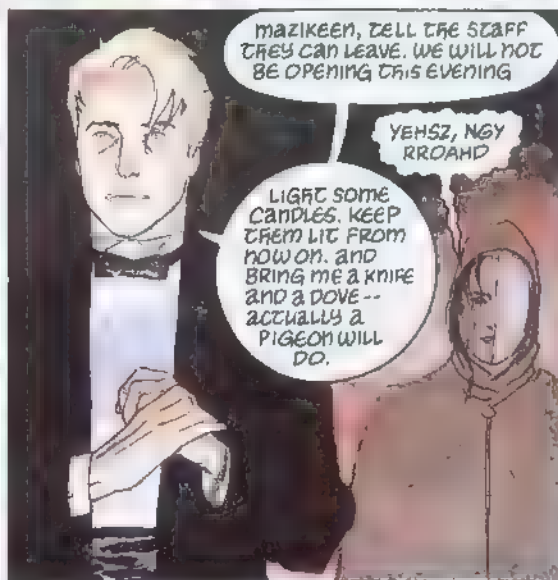


Then...in accordance with my instructions, which were to give you anything you asked for...

I apologize, Lucifer Morningstar, for the damage to your table.



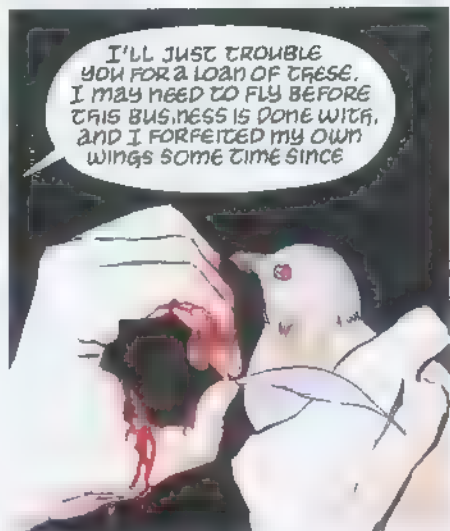
GOODBYE, AMENADIEL.

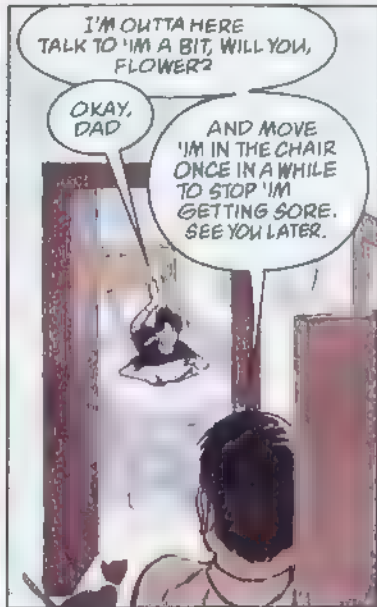
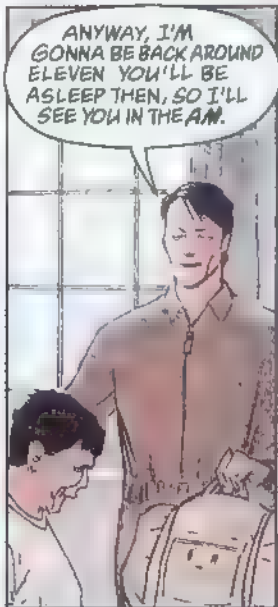
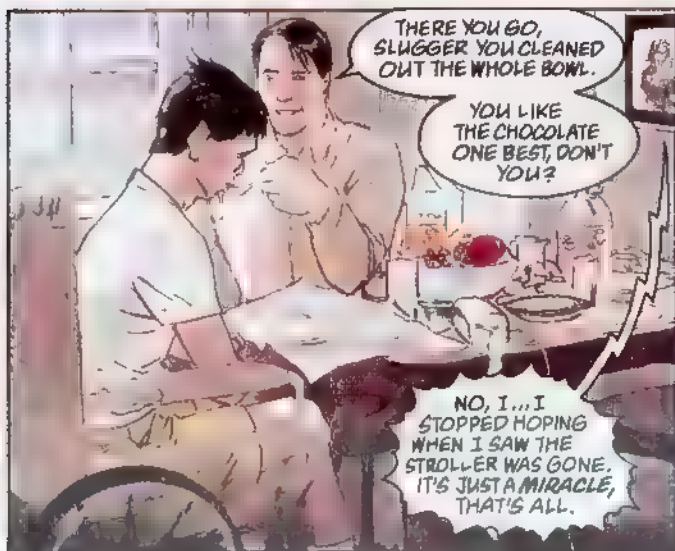


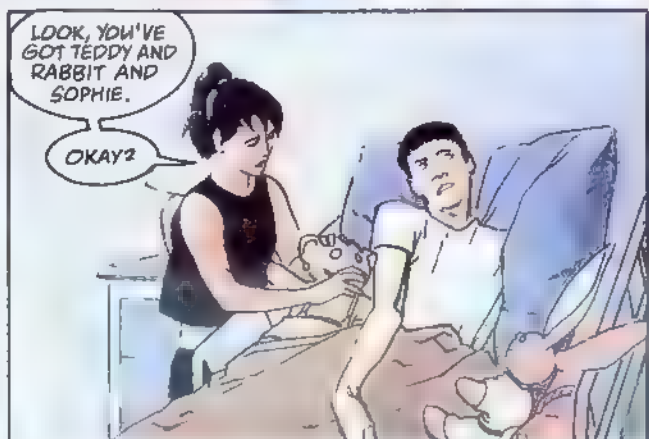
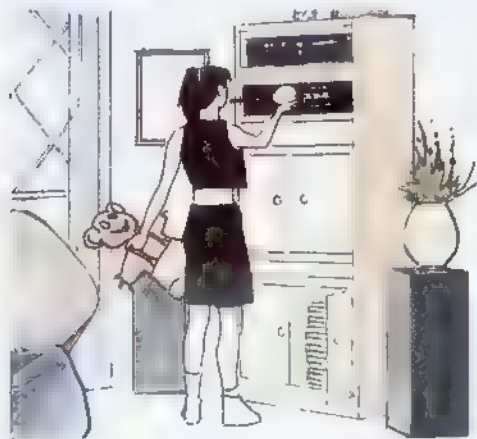
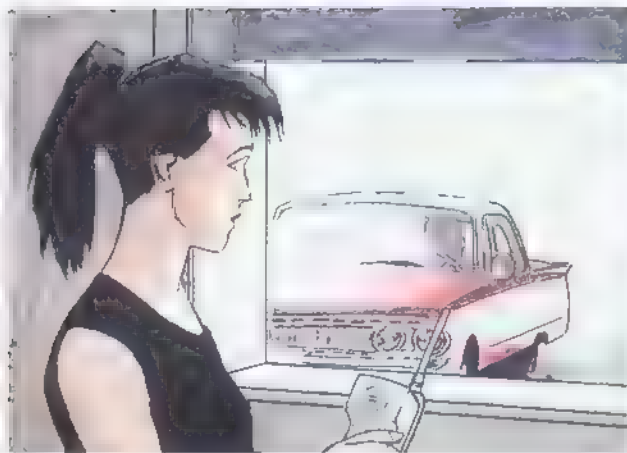
MAZIKEEN, TELL THE STAFF THEY CAN LEAVE. WE WILL NOT BE OPENING THIS EVENING

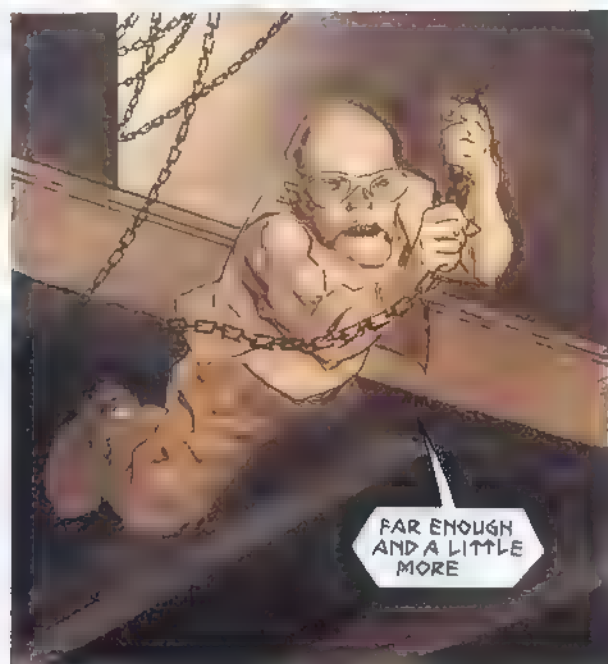
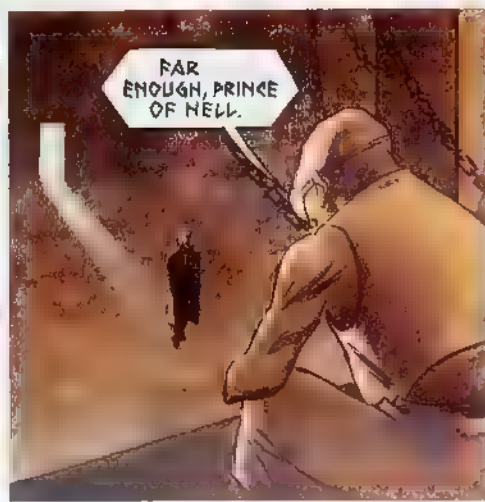
YEHSH, NGY RROAHD

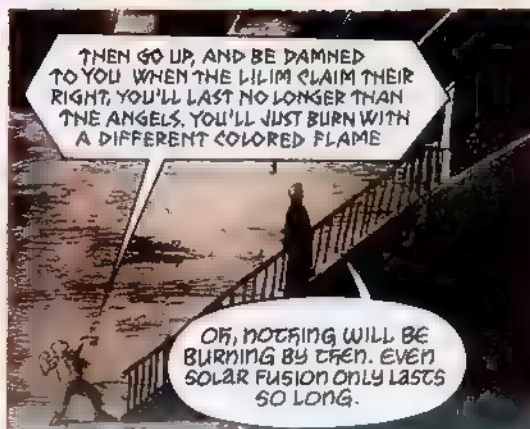
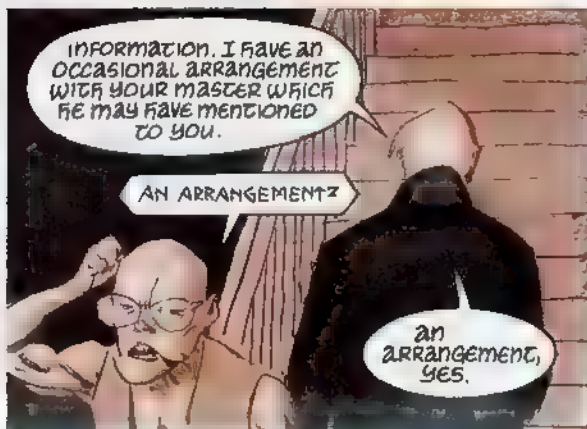
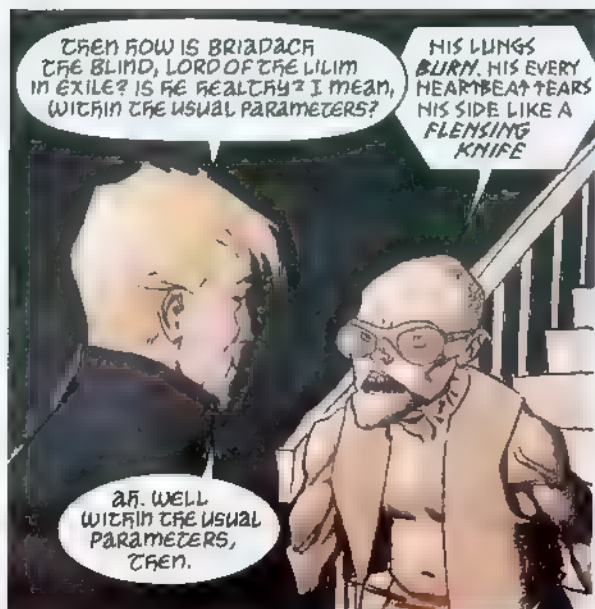
LIGHT SOME CANDLES. KEEP THEM LIT FROM NOW ON. AND BRING ME A KNIFE AND A DOVE-- ACTUALLY A PIGEON WILL DO.













NOBODY'S CALLED ME SAMUEL FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. IT'S LIKE SOMEONE USING YOUR MAIDEN NAME.

LORD LUCIFER!

BRIADACH, STILL SICK, I SEE.



SICK? THAT'S A SHALLOW WORD TO MEASURE THE FATHOMS OF MY SUFFERING. MY LORD, IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THAT HEALING WATER ABOUT YOU I'LL TAKE IT NOW AND PAY YOU IN SOME LITTLE SPACE.



BUT IT DULLS YOUR EYES

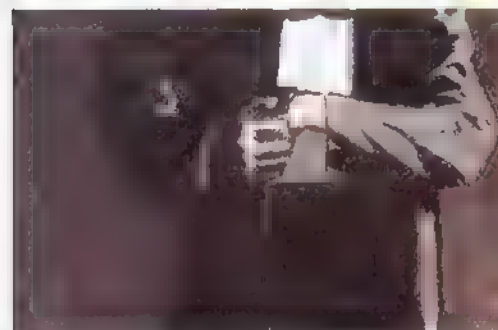


DULLS MY EYES! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I SEE. YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW MUCH *BLINDNESS* HEAVEN HAS ALLOWED TO ME!



"THE SEED AND THE ROT." THERE'S NO NEED TO REMIND ME OF YOUR CURSE. DO YOU THINK THIS IS A *SOCIAL* CALL?

IF YOU WANT THE LITTLE WATER, DEMON, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK FOR IT. THE SAME RULES AS ALWAYS.



ASK ME THEN, BUT IN HELL'S NAME BE BRIEF! A BIRTH AND A DEATH. I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MOMENTS FOR TWO SIPS OF OBLIVION.

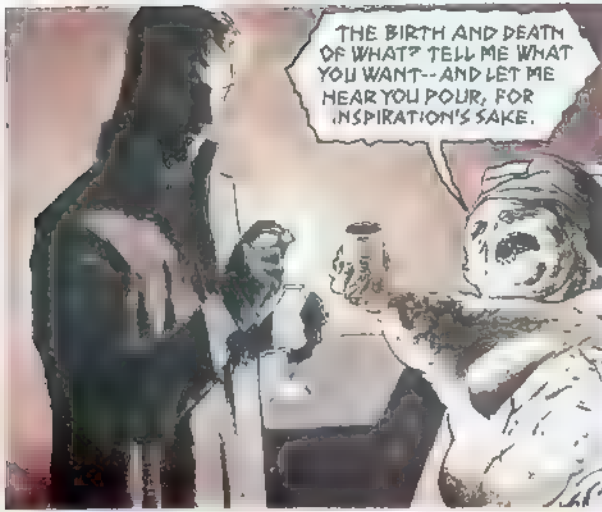
ONE moment.



IT WILL BE BOTH, YOU SEE



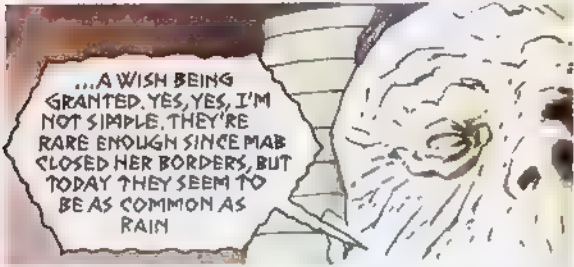
a BIRTH and a DEATH.



THE BIRTH AND DEATH
OF WHAT? TELL ME WHAT
YOU WANT-- AND LET ME
HEAR YOU POUR, FOR
INSPIRATION'S SAKE.



THE BIRTH
AND DEATH OF A
DESIRE. A DESIRE
SATISFIED IN THE
MOMENT IT'S
CONCEIVED. A
WISH...



...A WISH BEING
GRANTED. YES, YES, I'M
NOT SIMPLE. THEY'RE
RARE ENOUGH SINCE MAB
CLOSED HER BORDERS, BUT
TODAY THEY SEEM TO
BE AS COMMON AS
RAIN



IN NORTH
HOLLYWOOD THERE
IS A MAN CALLED
PAUL BEGAI, A MAN
IN YEARS, I MEAN--
NOT IN ANY OTHER
SENSE.

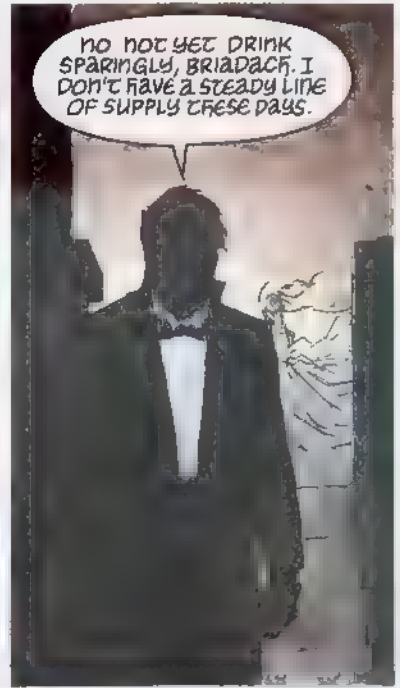


WHY
FILM?



BECAUSE THE POWER
LINGERS AROUND HIM. IT
WINDS OVER AND THROUGH
HIM.

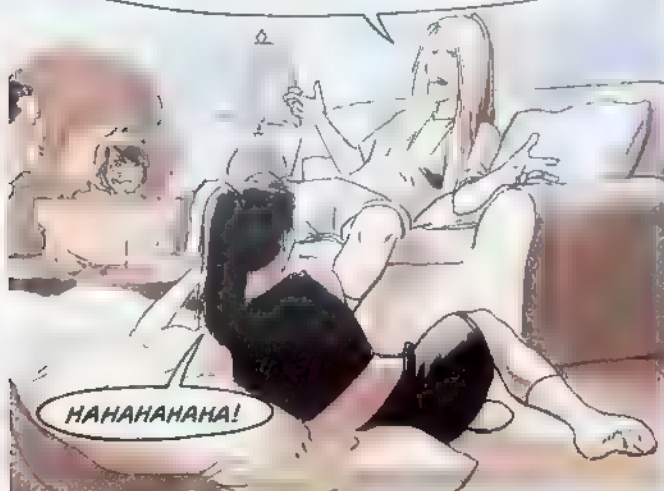
WHAT IS IT, LUCIFER?
THIS THING THAT OPENS
AND OPENS AND SEEMS TO
HAVE NO DEATH? HAVE
YOU SEEN IT? HAVE YOU
TRIED TO TALK TO IT?



NO NOT YET DRINK
SPARINGLY, BRIADACH. I
DON'T HAVE A STEADY LINE
OF SUPPLY THESE DAYS.



SO KEVIN'S STILL SITTING THERE WITH HIS DICK OUT, BUT SUZIE'S CLIMBED OUT OF THE BATHROOM WINDOW. SHE'S HALFWAY DOWN THE STREET AND THE LAST THING SHE HEARD HIM SAY WAS, "SHUUUUZIE! I'VE GOT THE CONDOM ON!"



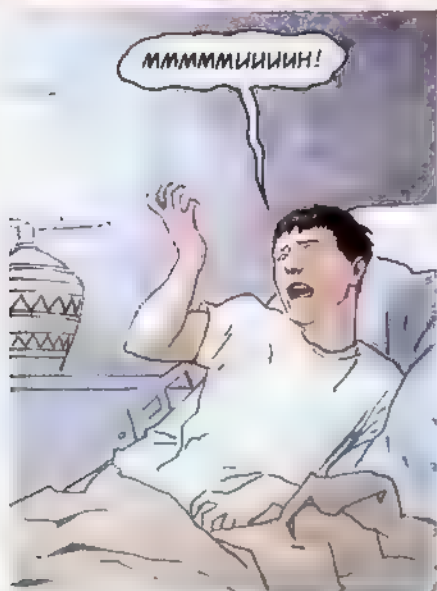
HAHAHAHAHA!

HEY, SUZIE SAID NO WAY ARE YOU A NAVAJO, COS NAVAJOS ARE BRIGHT RED LIKE TOMATOES I TOLD HER TO SUCK IT.

UMM, HALF NAVAJO DAD'S THE REAL THING. HE WAS BORN ON A RESERVATION. AND MY GRANDAD'S SOME KIND OF WITCH DOCTOR SHAMAN. THING.



MMMMMMMMIIIIIIH!



NNNNNNAAAAH!



KRAASH!

HEY, WHAT WAS THAT? IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE HERE?

SHIT JUST MY BROTHER. GIVE ME A SECOND, GUYS.



YOU OKAY, PAUL?



AW, NO!







YOUR DESIRE.
WHEN YOU WISHED
HIM DEAD.

WHEN I WHAT?
ARE YOU CRAZY? I
DIDN'T WANT THIS
TO HAPPEN!

OF COURSE
YOU DID.





HOME
AGAIN, HOME
AGAIN.

JIGGETTY
JIG.

TO BE CONTINUED