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AWARD WINNER
GREGORY WRIGHT,
DIRECTOR OF "CLEVELAND
CHAINSAW CHEERLEADERS"

"I'M
GONNA
GIVE IT
BACK!"

**STARTLING INTERVIEW WITH
"DR. STRANGE" AUTHOR
MORGANA BLESSING**

DR. STRANGE

THE MAN—THE MYTH— THE MAGIC

A SPECIAL
BOUND-TO-BE-CONTROVERSIAL
NEW-BOOK EXCERPT

His biographer says he turned Count Dracula to dust and battled the forces of Satan in Times Square... that his former girlfriend is now queen of another dimension... and that he died fighting to save the Earth in some "Secret Wars" even Nick Fury never heard of.

**WAS STEPHEN STRANGE, M.D.
A "SORCERER SUPREME"—
OR THE ORIGINAL
MAD DOCTOR?**



**FEUDING JANET VAN DYNE TELLS DI:
"KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF
MY MAN, PRINCESS!"**



Stan Lee presents

**DR.
STRANGE**

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THAT WAS THEN...
THIS IS NOW

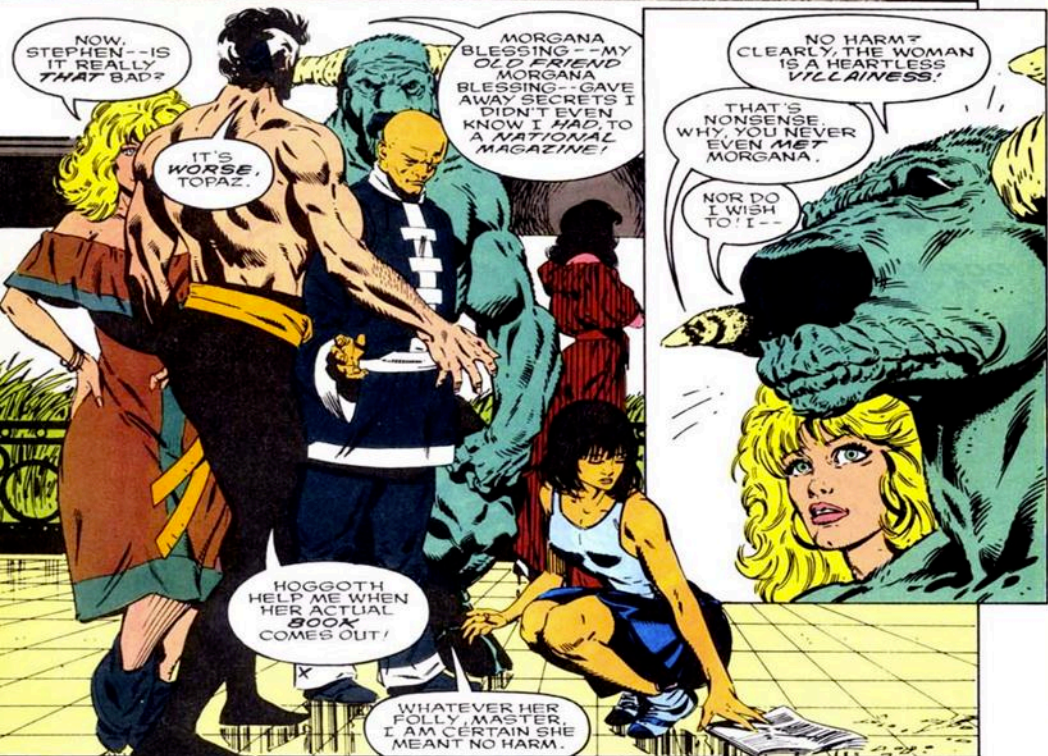
DORMAMMU
TAKE THAT
WOMAN!

DR. STRANGE

THE MAN-THE MYTH-
THE MAGIC

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A SPECIAL
TO-RE-CONTRIVERSIAL
BOOK EXCERPT



... BUT I'LL
SEE TO IT MORDO
PAYS FOR WHAT
HE DID .

NOW, IF
YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME--

-- I'VE
GOT TO GO
SEE A
LADY
ABOUT A
BOOK!

NICE
TOUCH,
RINTRAH...
YOUR LITTLE
SPELL, I
MEAN.

NO SENSE IN
STEPHEN'S GOING
TO SEE AN OLD
FLAME WITH HOLES
IN HIS CLOTHING,
IS THERE?

MY HUMBLE
MAGICKS ARE
MOST MODEST
THINGS, MISS
TOPAZ.

STILL, I
WAS A
WEAVER'S
APPRENTICE
BEFORE I
BECAME THAT
OF DR.
STRANGE.

THAT
ARTICLE
OF MORGANA'S--
I GUESS I'M
THE ONLY ONE
HERE WHO
HASN'T READ
IT YET.

YOU NEEDED
SOME SLEEP
YOURSELF,
SARA.

I KNOW, BUT -- WELL,
I'M SURE STEPHEN IS
OVER-REACTING.

I MEAN, MORGANA
THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD--
JUST LIKE WE ALL DID, FOR
A WHILE-- LIKE HE
MEANT FOR US TO,
IN FACT.

WHAT COULD
SHE POSSIBLY
HAVE WRITTEN
THAT COULD'VE
SET HIM OFF
LIKE THAT?

PERHAPS
YOU HAD
BEST READ THE
PIECE FOR YOURSELF.

GOOD
IDEA

AFTER ALL,
I'M CERTAIN
SHE WOULDN'T
HAVE REVEALED
ANY REAL
SEC--

OH.



I HOPE YOU ARE WRONG, BELOVED. THE MASTER WILL FACE TROUBLES ENOUGH, IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

TO HAVE, AS WELL, THE SPECTER OF A LOOMING ROMANCE BETWEEN SARA AND HIS DEADLIEST MORTAL ENEMY--?

TROUBLES? WHAT TROUBLES? HE JUST WON A GREAT VICTORY.

DO YOU NOT SEE? BECAUSE OF THE *BOOK*, ONCE IT IS KNOWN HE IS *ALIVE*--

-- HE WILL BE *BESIEGED* BY MULTITUDES OF THE *CURIOUS*-- AND THAT, IN TURN, WILL INTERFERE MOST GRAVELY WITH HIS MISSION AS EARTH'S *SORCERER SUPREME*.

ON THIS, WONG, I FEAR I MUST AGREE WITH OUR FRIEND FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.

LIKE HIM, I MAY ONLY BE RECENTLY ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY... AND AMERICA IS INDEED QUITE DIFFERENT FROM *XIZANG*...

*TIBET
--LAMA-RALF

STILL, LIKE RINTRAH, I AM CERTAIN YOU ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATING THE PROBLEMS A MERE *BOOK* CAN CAUSE.

WELL, ACTUALLY, IMEI...

...I'M A
BIT LESS
CERTAIN
THAN I
WAS...!

DAILY PAPER

NE

NEXT:
MORBIUS
THE LIVING
VAMPIRE!
BLISS - DOC
CONFRONTS THE
MIND-SHATTERING
MENACE OF -
MORGANA
BLESSING!

IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS SANCTUM SANCTORUM, STEPHEN STRANGE TURNS TO THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI, TO LEARN THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF ANOTHER AND FAR MORE OMINOUS VOLUME:

THE DARKHOLD HAD BEEN KNOWN, BY THOSE WHO TROD THE MAGIC WAYS, TO CONTAIN A SECRET SPELL-- A FORMULA WHICH WOULD UTTERLY DESTROY ALL VAMPIRES.

YET, IN AN IRONY OF CAPRICIOUS FATE, IT WAS A CREATURE OF A QUITE DIFFERENT STRIPE WHICH SET IN MOTION THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT LED TO THEIR ANNIHILATION...

... WHEN YOUNG JACK RUSSELL WAS CAPTURED, AT GUNPOINT, AS HE DREW NEAR A SECLUDED ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.

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WELCOME TO BLACKGAR ISLAND, MY BOY.

I AM MILES BLACKGAR... AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, MARLENE.

YOU'RE JUST THE GUY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

THE LAD HAD COME SEEK-
ING THE LEGACY OF HIS
FATHER, BARON GREGOR
RUSSOFF-- ESPECIALLY
THE LEGENDARY BOOK
KNOWN AS--

THE
DARKHOLD!

HE BELIEVED IT HELD THE
CURE FOR THE TERRIBLE
CURSE HE HAD INHERITED,
UPON HIS EIGHTEENTH
BIRTHDAY--

SOON, THE
WORLD WILL
SPIN BACKWARD
THROUGH THE
AGES-- TO REGAIN
THE SINS, THE
SUPERSTITIONS,
THE DARKEST
FEARS OF MY
OWN ERA!

WHEN THAT
MOMENT
COMES, I WILL
REIGN
SUPREME--

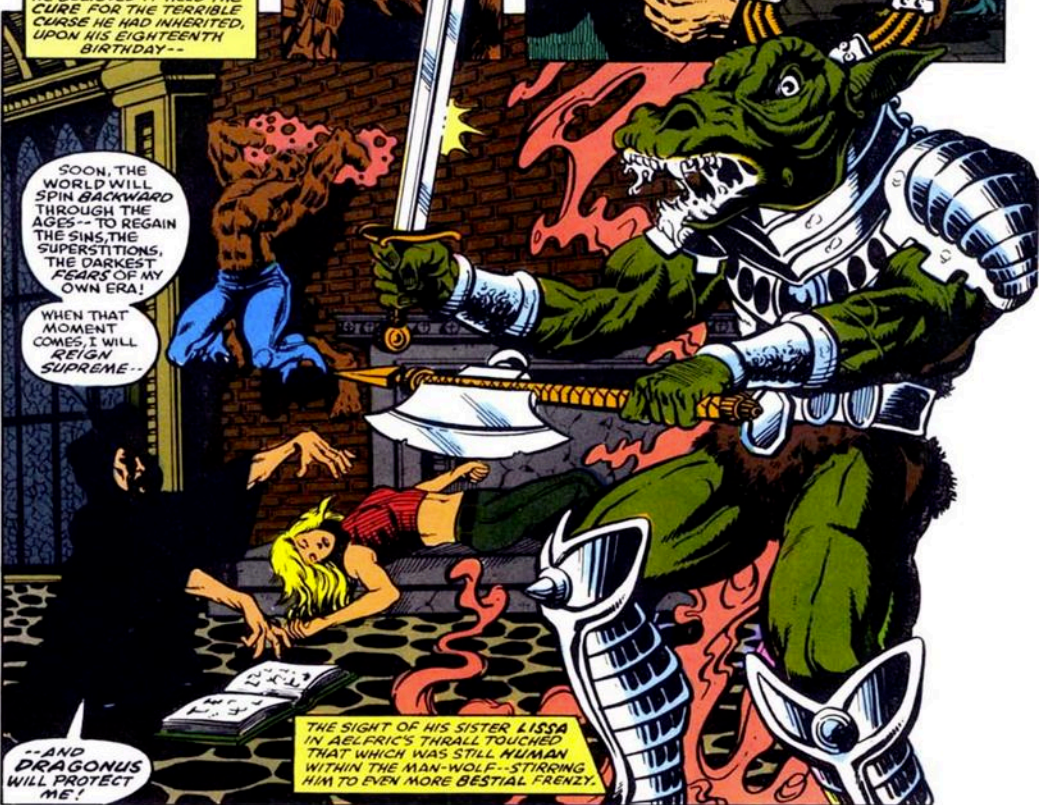
--WHEN HE HAD FIRST
BEEN TRANSFORMED,
BY FULL MOON'S GLEAM,
INTO A SLAVERING
WEREWOLF.

UNABLE TO DECIPHER
ITS RUNES, HE SOUGHT
HELP FROM FATHER
DAMON JOQUEZ.

BUT, BECAUSE THE
PRIEST'S OWN FAITH
WAS WEAK, HIS MERE
READING IN THAT
EVIL TOME UNLEASHED
A DEMON LONG IM-
PRISONED WITHIN
ITS PAGES...

AND SO THE SPIRIT OF
LONG-DEAD AELFRIC,
CALLED THE MAD MONK,
TOOK POSSESSION OF
FATHER JOQUEZ! BODY,

THIS BOOK OF SINS
IS MINE!



--AND
DRAGONUS
WILL PROTECT
ME!

THE SIGHT OF HIS SISTER LISSA
IN AELFRIC'S THRALL TOUCHED
THAT WHICH WAS STILL HUMAN
WITHIN THE MAN-WOLF--STIRRING
HIM TO EVEN MORE BESTIAL FRENZY.

IN THE STRUGGLE THAT ENSUED, THE MAD MONK WAS IMPALED UPON THE HORNS OF THE FIEND HE HAD SUMMONED FROM THE PIT...

NNOOOO



BUT, AS FATHER JOQUEZ DIED, CRADLED ONCE MORE IN THE COMFORTING ARMS OF FAITH, THE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF THAT NIGHT'S HORROR HAD BEGUN TO UNFOLD.



FOR THERE WAS ANOTHER WHO SOUGHT THE DARKHOLD--

--COUNT DRACULA!

YEARS PAST, THE LORD OF VAMPIRES HAD SUSPECTED THAT HIS TRANSYLVANIAN NEIGHBOR, BARON RUSOFF, POSSESSED THE VILE AND DANGEROUS BOOK.

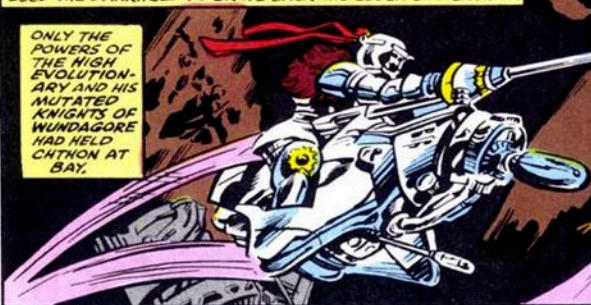
ARROOOO



PERHAPS, HE REASONED, RUSOFF SOUGHT IN IT A CURE FOR THE LYCANTHROPY WHICH GRIPPED HIM THREE NIGHTS A MONTH.

AND INDEED, IN PURSUIT OF DELIVERANCE, RUSOFF HAD ONCE USED THE DARKHOLD TO BRING BACK THE ELDER GOD CHTHON.

ONLY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY AND HIS MUTATED KNIGHTS OF WINDAGORE HAD HELD CHTHON AT BAY.



THROUGH ALL THIS, DRACULA HAD WATCHED... AND WAITED.

HIS TIME, HE HAD KNOWN, WOULD COME.



BUT WHEN THE REINCARNATED SORCERER MAGNUS HAD FORCED RUSOFF TO BANISH CHTHON FOR A SECOND TIME, THE ELDER GOD HAD STRUCK THE BARON DEAD.

EVEN DRACULA COULD NOT HAVE ANTICIPATED THAT, ON RUSOFF'S DEATH, HIS ESTATE WOULD BE SENT TO HIS FORMER WIFE IN CALIFORNIA.

UPON LAURA RUSSELL'S DEMISE, SOON AFTER, HER SECOND HUSBAND HAD SOLD THE ESTATE TO A POWER-MAD MAN OF SCIENCE--MILES BLACKGAR.

THE DARKHOLD HAD SEEMED OUT OF DRACULA'S REACH... FOR THE MOMENT.



BUT THEN, JACK RUSSELL
CAME TO PENNSYLVANIA,
STILL SEEKING RELIEF FROM
THE TERRIBLE CURSE THAT
OPRESSED HIM.

THE LORD OF VAMPIRES
WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE
PREVAILED AGAINST HIM,
BOTH AS BOY AND AS
BEAST--

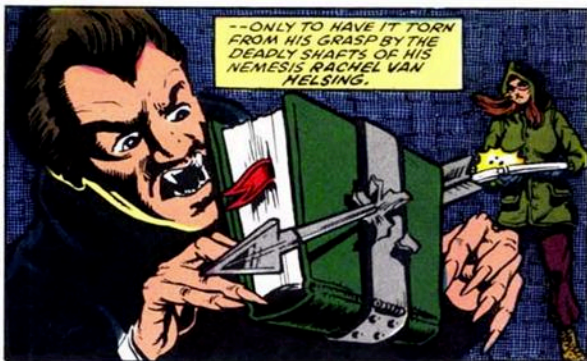


-- SAVE ONLY THAT
RUSSELL'S WERE-
WOLF SELF WAS
GUIDED BY THE
BEAUTIFUL MYSTIC
TOPAZ, AS SHE
CLUTCHED THE
DARKHOLD TO
HER BREAST.



EVEN SO, DRACULA
GAINED MOMENTARY
POSSESSION OF
THE BOOK--

-- ONLY TO HAVE IT TORN
FROM HIS GRASP BY THE
DEADLY SHAFTS OF HIS
NEMESIS RACHEL VAN
HELSING.



THE GRAND-
DAUGHTER
OF ABRAHAM
VAN HELSING
SOUGHT TO
ESCAPE WITH
THE DARKHOLD
BY HELICOPTER...



BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE.



SURVIVING THE
CRASH, DRACULA
AND HIS ARCH-FOE
WERE STRANDED
AMID AN ALPINE
VASTNESS.

YET, IN A RARE
SHOW OF FOOLISH
PRIDE...



WE ARE SO FAR
FROM CIVILIZATION--
THAT NONE SHALL
EVER FIND THE
BOOK HERE.

PERHAPS IT WAS
ONLY THAT HE
SENSED HE COULD
NOT ACTUALLY
DO AWAY WITH
THE BOOK...

... BUT ONLY KEEP IT FROM
THE HANDS OF THOSE
WHO WOULD USE IT TO
EXTERMINATE HIM AND
HIS KIND.

YET THE THREAT
TO ALL VAMPIRES
WHICH DRACULA
FEARED WAS NOT
YET AT AN END.

THE DEATH OF SO
LEARNED A PRIEST AS
FATHER DAMON JOQUEZ,
UNDER SUCH MYSTERIOUS
CIRCUMSTANCES, ATTRACTED
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION
IN A LITTLE-KNOWN WING
OF THE VATICAN LIBRARY
IN ROME...

...A WING DEVOTED SECRETLY
TO OCCULT LORE, AND PRE-
SIDED OVER BY AN AGED
BUT POWERFUL PRELATE
WHO AFFECTED THE DRESS
OF A MONK...

...MONSIGNORE
GIUSEPPE MONTESI.

PORING OVER THE DEAD PRIEST'S
NOTES, HE EXULTED, BECAUSE
EVEN THOSE INCOMPLETE SCRIB-
BLINGS MEANT THE ACHIEVE-
MENT OF HIS FAMILY'S LONG-
CHERISHED DREAM.

THE ANCIENT MONTESI
FORMULA WAS NOW
MORE IN HIS HANDS!

BUT THERE WERE
CERTAIN VAMPIRES
WHOSE SOLE FUNCTION
IN UNLIFE WAS TO
KEEP WATCH ON THE
MONSIGNOR.

THEY INFORMED THEIR
MASTER THAT THIS LATTER-
DAY MONTESI HAD OBTAINED
A COPY OF THE DREADED
INCANTATION LONG KNOWN AS
THE MONTESI FORMULA...

...AND SO COUNT
DRACULA CAME TO
THE ETERNAL CITY.

FOR, IN THE HANDS OF
EVEN AN INEXPERIENCED
MAN, THE MONTESI
FORMULA COULD OB-
LITERATE A VAMPIRE.

IN THE HANDS
OF A SKILLED
SORCERER...
IT COULD WELL
MEAN THE END
OF ALL THE
VAMPIRE
BREED.

NO DOUBT, MONSIGNORE
MONTESI THOUGHT HIMSELF
SAFE IN THE HEART OF THE
VATICAN FROM THE REACH
OF THE UNDEAD.

DRACULA PROVED
HIM WRONG.

YET IT WAS A TRIUMPH
MARRIED.

YOUR HADES,
DRACULA... HAS
JUST BEGUN.

DAYS AGO...
I MAILED...
COPY OF
INCANTA-
TION... TO
YOUR
ENEMY...
QUINCY
HAR-
KER...

YOU
LIE!
BUT DYING
MEN RARELY
LIE...

... AND THAT COPY WAS DESTROYED ONLY MUCH LATER, WHEN DRACULA FACED THE MUTANT X-MEN IN ENGLAND'S PENDRAMMON CASTLE.

AS FOR THE DARKHOLD ITSELF--

NO SNOWY VASTNESS COULD LONG SHIELD IT FROM THE TIME-WANDERING SPIRIT OF MORGAN LE FAY, WHO HAD HAD IT ONCE, CENTURIES PAST-- AND DESIRED TO DO SO AGAIN.

BUT HER FORMER LOVER AND SWORN ENEMY, MAGNUS, ALSO BECAME REINCARNATED IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

WITH HELP FROM THE MYSTERIOUS SPIDER-WOMAN, HE THWARTED THE SORCERESS'S SCHEMES MORE THAN ONCE.

YET ANOTHER ENTITY HAD ENTERED THE SCENE...

... ONE WHO ENLISTED, AS HIS PAWNA A REVIVED SORCERER, MODRED THE MYSTIC-- A MAN WHO HAD BEEN TAINTED BY THE DARKHOLD IN THE SIXTH CENTURY.

THAT SCHEMING ENTITY WAS THE ELDER GOD, CHTHON.

HIS MAGICAL ESSENCE STILL LAY IMPRISONED WITHIN WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN...

...TO WHICH, AT HIS COMMAND, MODRED BROUGHT WANDA FRANK-- ALSO KNOWN AS THE SCARLET WITCH.

TAKING POSSESSION OF THE YOUNG WOMAN, CHTHON PREPARED FOR HIS THIRD RISING--

-- AND NOT EVEN HER AVENGER COMRADES COULD STAND AGAINST THE WIZARDRY HE CHanneled THROUGH HER.

IT IS DONE! THE CIRCLE IS COMPLETE!

SOON, BY THE POWER OF THE DARKHOLD, THIS WORLD SHALL BE MINE--

--OR ELSE LIE DECIMATED, A BLOOD-SPATTERED SHEAR BE-NEATH MY THUMB!

STILL, ACTING IN CONCERT, AND USING THE MEDIUM OF OLD DJANGO MAXIMOFF'S MAGICAL PUPPET--

-- THE ASSEMBLED AVENGERS WERE ABLE TO DELIVER CHTHON HIS THIRD DEFEAT.

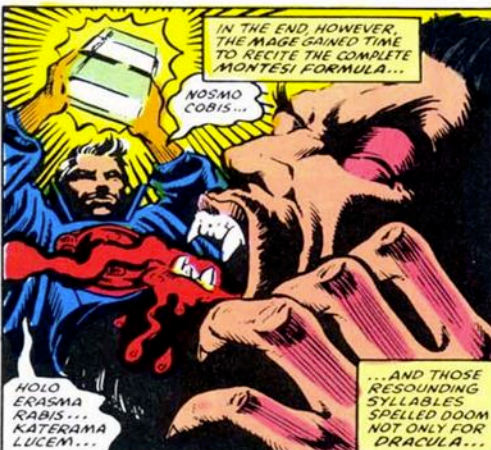
IN THE PROCESS, THEY SAVED A WORLD.

IF THE DARKHOLD HAD RESURFACED-- COULD COUNT DRACULA BE FAR BEHIND?

AND SINCE THAT SINISTER TOME WAS THEN IN THE AVENGERS' KEEPING--

--IT WAS AGAINST THEIR MANSION THAT A BEARDED DRACULA HURLED HIS CULT OF DARK-HOLDERS.

THIS DEFENSE GAINED STRANGE TIME TO TRANSPORT THE VOLUME TO CASTLE MORDO, WHERE DRACULA'S MOST COMMITTED ENEMIES GATHERED FOR A FINAL CONFRONTATION...



THE VAMPIRE LORD NOW CRAVED NOT THE BOOK'S DESTRUCTION, BUT THE ADDED POWERS HE HAD LEARNED IT COULD BESTOW UPON HIM.

HE WAS STALEMATED, ALL THE SAME, BY THE AVENGERS-- BY DR. STRANGE-- AND BY THE VAMPIRE-DETECTIVE HANNIBAL KING.



THEN, AT LAST, DR. STRANGE FACED DRACULA IN A WEDDING REALM.



DRACULA'S MIGHT HAD BEEN DRASTICALLY INCREASED BY THE DARKHOLD'S SPELLS...

... BUT FOR HIS ESTRANGED DAUGHTER LILITH, IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE...



... INDEED, TO ALL TRUE VAMPIRES EVERYWHERE!

HIS VICTORY HARD-WON, STEPHEN STRANGE REPAIRED WITH THE DARKHOLD TO HIS OWN DOMICILE.

BUT ONE THERE WAS--THE WIZARD URTHONA, MASTER OF A PLANET WHERE HYDRO-CHLORIC WINDS WHIPPED ACROSS MANGANESE SANDS--WHO DESIRED ABOVE ALL ELSE, TO BECOME THIS COSMOS'S SORCERER SUPREME.

HE STOLE THE DARKHOLD, AND WITH IT THE EARTHLY MAGICIAN'S OTHER TALISMANS.

AND EVEN WHEN STRANGE SEEMINGLY DISINTEGRATED HIS OTHER PURLOINED ARTIFACTS...

NOW, ALIEN-- YOU WILL HAVE NONE OF YOUR STOLEN MAGIC!

MOONS OF MUNNOPOR!

...IT SEEMED URTHONA WOULD HAVE ONE CONSOLING PRIZE, AT LEAST.

THE POWER OF THE DARKHOLD--WHICH EVEN YOU CANNOT DESTROY--WILL SPIRIT ME AWAY!

HOW SURPRISED HE WAS, MERE MOMENTS LATER, IN A FAR-OFF PLACE--

--TO SEE THE COVETED BOOK VANISH FROM HIS HAND, LIKE A FLEETING MIRAGE!

URTHONA COULD NOT KNOW THAT AGAMOTTO THE ALL-SEEING--UNWILLING TO SEE HIS BE-LOVED ORB OBLITERATED BY STRANGE--HAD CALLED IT HOME TO HIS DISTANT DIMENSION--

--AND THAT STRANGE'S OTHER TALISMANS, FROM THE DARKHOLD TO THIS VERY BOOK OF THE VISHANTI, HAD BEEN DRAWN ALONG WITH IT, LIKE FLOTSAM CAUGHT IN A GREAT SHIP'S WAKE.

YET, WHATEVER THE DARKHOLD'S FATE, THE VAMPIRE'S NIGHT ON EARTH IS ENDED, FOR ALL TIME--

--UNLESS, SOMEDAY, A WAY BE FOUND TO REVERSE THE MONTESI FORMULA--

--AND UNLEASH ANEW THE UNDEAD HORDES.

NEXT:
VOODOO,
VAMPIRES
--AND
MARIE
LAVEAU