

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

TM



WORLDS of ASPEN

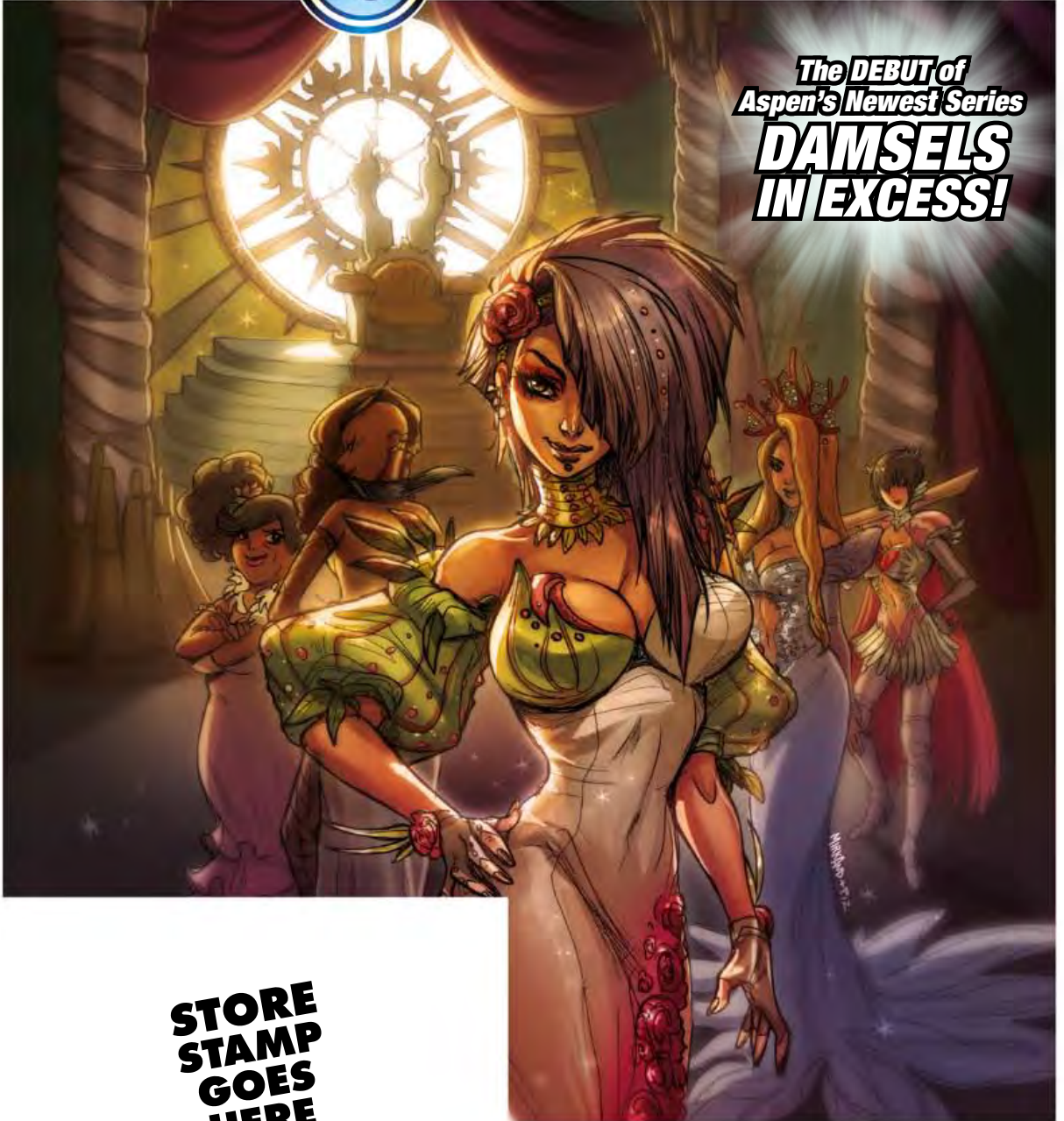
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*The DEBUT of
Aspen's Newest Series*
**DAMSELS
IN EXCESS!**



**STORE
STAMP
GOES
HERE**

An open letter from Aspen MLT, Inc. to whomever is reading this...yes, YOU.

A NEW GENERATION OF WORLDS FOR A NEW DECADE!

This year we embark on our second decade in the comic book publishing industry! While the first ten years brought its fair share of fun, excitement and yes—challenges—we are wholeheartedly ready to deliver to you even more thrilling and awe-inspiring new worlds to explore! If this is your first time checking out what we have to offer—you're in luck! This year's **WORLDS OF ASPEN 2014** Free Comic Book Day offering, the book you hold in your hands, features two **ALL NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** zero issue stories!

We are proud to present the world premiere of our new fairy-tale adventure series, **DAMSELS IN EXCESS**, from Vince Hernandez and illustrator Mirka Andolfo, with this special prologue zero issue story leading directly into this summer's official release in July!

AS WELL, this jam-packed flip book features the zero issue of the long-awaited sci-fi action-adventure series, **THE ZOOHUNTERS**, by Aspen's own Peter Steigerwald! Catch your first glimpse of this astonishing new property coming Fall 2014!

AND, this year's edition of **WORLDS OF ASPEN** also includes TWO pull-out posters of our new 2014 releases, **LOLA XOXO** and **JIRNI** vol.2!

We sincerely hope you like this introduction to what we have in store for 2014, and you can get to know us better by picking up the full issues and their related series at your local retailer. All of us here at Aspen feel that your participation is vital to our success and we welcome your feedback. We encourage you to visit our official website and the following social media avenues:

Facebook.com/aspencomics

Twitter.com/aspencomics

Instagram: aspencomics

You can also write to us at:

**FANMAIL C/O ASPEN COMICS,
5855 GREEN VALLEY CIRCLE, SUITE 111, CULVER CITY, CA 90230**

If you're looking for more info on Aspen titles, we invite you to seek out your local retail comic book store (1-888-COMICBOOK or www.diamondcomics.com).

So, kick back, relax and dig into the best that we have to offer. We hope you enjoy...and once again, hello and welcome!

Sincerely,

The Staff and Artists of Aspen Comics.

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DIRECTOR OF DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: MARK ROSLAN ORIGINAL LETTERING FONT DESIGNED BY: DREAMER DESIGN AND JOSH REED

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**CELEBRATE YOUR LOVE FOR ASPEN COMICS
BY FOLLOWING OUR TAG: #LOVEASPEN**



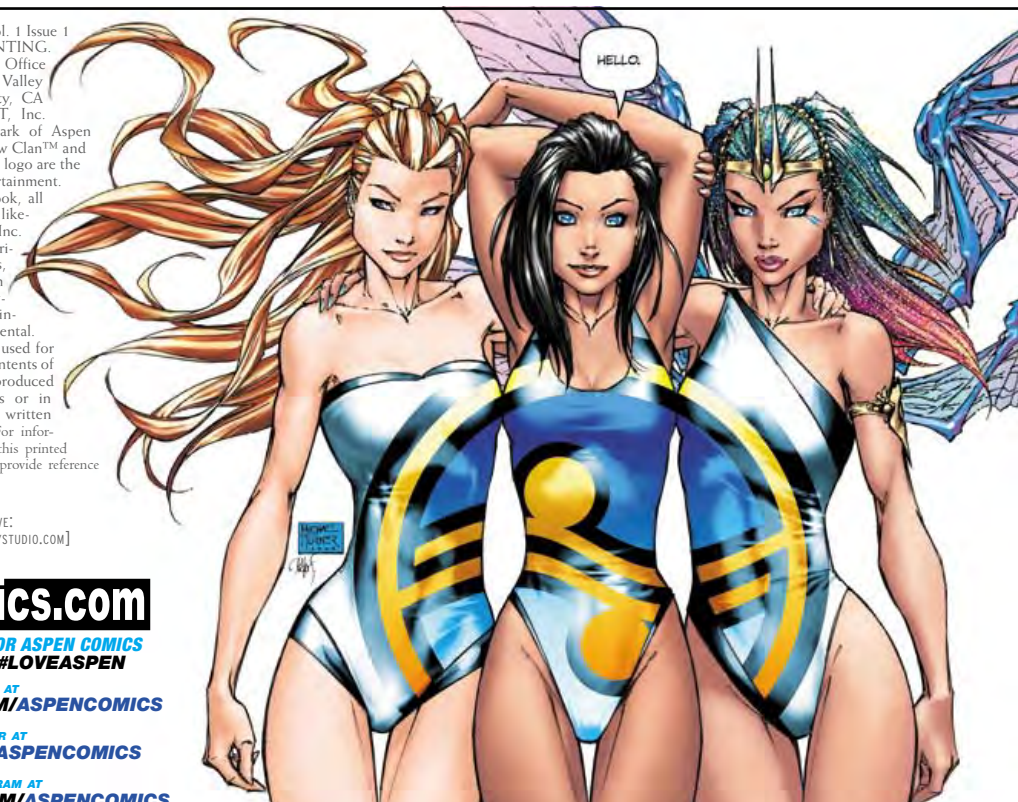
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Say Hello to Aspen!

COMING
this
SUMMER
FROM
ASPEN
COMICS...

SO...
UH, DO I
JUST START
TALKING?

ALRIGHTY
THEN...

I AM BETHANY,
PRINCESS OF EVANFAR,
THE LARGEST AND MOST
PROMINENT KINGDOM OF
THE FIVE REALMS. AND UH...
I SUPPOSE... I AM REALLY
LOOKING FORWARD TO
SHOWING YOU WHAT MY
REIGN CONSISTS
OF...



...THE EXCITEMENT...

YOUR HIGHNESS...

...THE MONTHLY
INSURANCE TAX ON MY LAND
IS UNREASONABLE.

I MAY AS WELL HIRE
AN OFF-DUTY DRAGON TO
SCORCH THE PROPERTY AND
COLLECT THE SUM.

YAWN

YOU ARE
THE MINISTER OF
FINANCE, FOR LORD'S
SAKE-- THE TAX WAS
YOUR IDEA.

AND NOW
I AM SAYING IT IS
A BAD IDEA. WHY DID
YOU EVER LISTEN
TO ME?!

...THE PAGEANTRY...

I THINK...
HNNH... YOU
JUST CUT OFF
MY OXYGEN
SUPPLY.

TIGHTER! THE
CITIZENS WILL
EXPECT AMPLE
CLEAVAGE!

...AND OF COURSE,
THE DRAMA...

OH, PLEASE-- YOU
KNOW YOUR KINGDOM CANNOT
POSSIBLY AFFORD THAT!

DO NOT
TELL ME WHAT I
CAN OR CANNOT
PURCHASE!

I SHOULD START BY
TELLING YOU THAT I AM
NOT THE ONLY PRINCESS
IN THE FIVE REALMS...



SOMETIMES I THINK I AM THE ONLY TRUE PRINCESS IN THE FIVE REALMS.

WELL... THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARSH. WHAT I MEAN IS-- I MIGHT BE THE ONLY TRUE LADY.

OKAY, SHOOT. THAT DOES NOT SOUND MUCH BETTER DOES IT? BUT, SERIOUSLY, IT IS THE TRUTH. I MEAN, LOOK AT BETHANY. THAT HAIR. THOSE PIERCINGS? COME ON!

NOT VERY LADYLIKE.

AND I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT HER DRESSMAKERS PURCHASE THEIR FABRIC FROM MEDIEVAL MART, OR SOMETHING OF THE LIKE.



BUT, BACK TO ME, I WOULD SAY OF ALL THE FIVE REALMS, I AM THE MOST EMPATHETIC TO THE COMMONWEALTH...

...THE BACKBONE OF OUR LIVELIHOOD.

HAVE THESE BEEN TESTED FOR POISON OR CURSES? I HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF THOSE LOOKING TO SPOIL MY FUN, YOU KNOW?

OF COURSE, PRINCESS ILINA.

PARDON ME?

MY APOLOGIES MY LADY, I MEANT YOUR HIGHNESS!

BETTER.



YES... I FANCY MYSELF A CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE.

YET, THAT DOES NOT MEAN I DO NOT TAKE A LITTLE "ME" TIME EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.



SHE WOULD SAY THAT.

IF ILINA SPENT LESS TIME ON HERSELF, AND MORE TIME ON HER KINGDOM, SHE MIGHT HAVE MORE SUPPORTERS TO HER THRONE--LIKE BETHANY.

THANKFULLY, NOT ALL OF US ARE BLESSED WITH HER... FINER DETAILS. SOME OF US HAVE TO MAKE DO ON PERSONALITY ALONE. RESOURCEFULNESS IS A TRAIT OF THE GREAT KEER...

...AND I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL FIND THE KEEP TO BE THE MOST SPLENDID KINGDOM IN ALL THE REALMS...



...WE TREAT OUR GUESTS KINDLY. SPARING NO ACCOMMODATION...



...OR PLEASURE.

THIS WINE NUMBS MY SENSES! SIMPLY AWFUL!

APOLOGIES, YOUR GRACE! THE WINE CELLARS ARE FACING A DROUGHT AND ILINA'S PRICES HAVE RISEN.

THEN TAX THE FOREIGNERS AGAIN!





MY SPIES
TELL ME TROUBLE
IS STIRRING.

JACOB WARNS OF HER
RETURN, AND HE IS SELDOM
MISTAKEN. BUT, I REFUSE
TO BELIEVE IT...



...I WATCHED
HER DIE.



I WILL TELL YOU ONE
THING-- IF THE... DEAD QUEEN
STIRS, HEAVEN'S FORGE WILL BE
READY. WE PROTECT OURSELVES
FIERCE, IF NOTHING ELSE.



IS THAT
NOT RIGHT,
JACOB?



FERRETS. SO
DRAMATIC.

THANK THE GODS I
HAVE THE SEA BETWEEN US,
THE WAY THEY GOSSIP AND
OVERREACT AS SUCH.

CURSES.

IT IS A
WONDER THE LAND
FOLK GET ANYTHING
ACCOMPLISHED WITH
THEIR FEARS OWNING
THEM.

AS YOU CAN SEE,
WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU
COULD EVER NEED ON THE
MAIDEN ISLANDS. AND UNLIKE
ILINA'S MEAGER LITTLE BAY--
WE HAVE OCEAN VIEWS
ON ALL SIDES.

IT IS ALSO WHY
WE HAVE TO BE ON
CONTINUAL WATCH FOR
OUR ENEMIES... AND
MORE-SO...

...OUR ALLIES.

YOU
HAVE TO COME,
KIMBERLEIN-- ALL
THE GIRLS WILL
BE THERE.

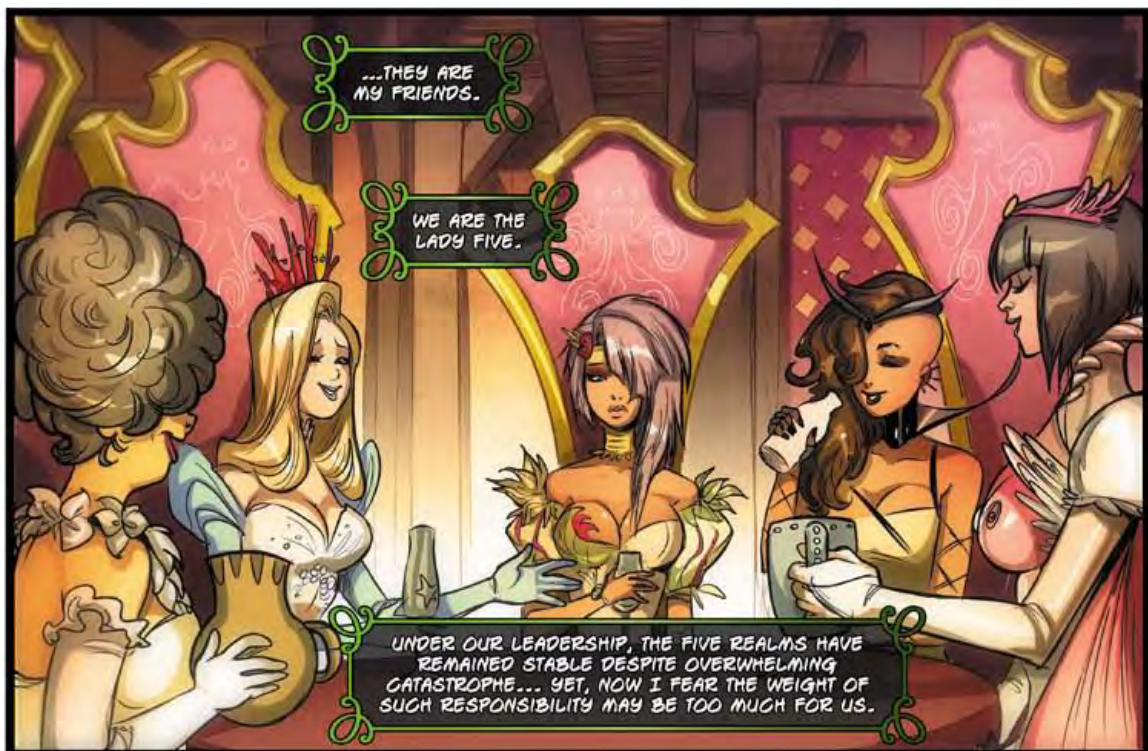
THAT IS WHAT
I FEAR. LOOK, BETHANY,
DO NOT MISTAKE ME. I RELISH
YOUR COMPANY, BUT THE
OTHER GIRLS... THEY ARE
SO... VAPID.

BARRA
CAN BE A
BORE, YET THE
OTHERS ARE NOT
SO BAD. WE ALL CALL
DISTANT LANDS HOME,
BUT THIS IS NECESSARY
FOR THE FUTURE OF
THE FIVE REALMS.
MY SPIES TELL ME
SOMETHING BAD
IS AFOOT.

SPIES? WHAT
ELSE DO THEY
TELL YOU?

OH, SHUT
IT. DO NOT ACT
SO NAIVE.

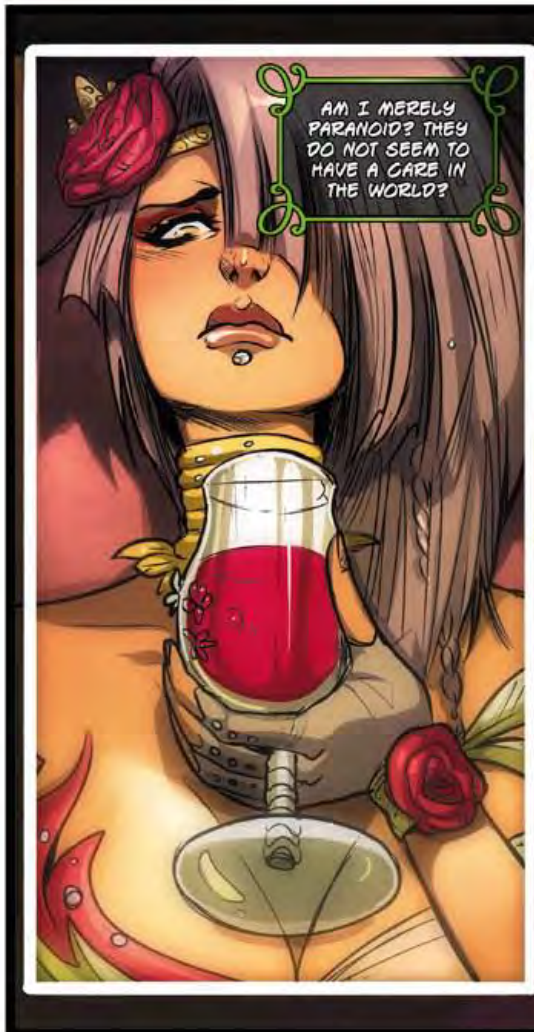
LATELY... I HAVE REASON TO
SUSPECT THE GIRLS ARE HOLDING
SOMETHING BACK. KEEPING
SOMETHING FROM ME...



...THEY ARE MY FRIENDS.

WE ARE THE LADY FIVE.


UNDER OUR LEADERSHIP, THE FIVE REALMS HAVE REMAINED STABLE DESPITE OVERWHELMING CATASTROPHE... YET, NOW I FEAR THE WEIGHT OF SUCH RESPONSIBILITY MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR US.




AM I MERELY PARANOID? THEY DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD?




PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT TROUBLES ME THE MOST.



THE WOMEN
HATE ME.



YET, THEY BARELY KNOW ME. ONLY
WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD IN FAIRY TALES
AND WHISPERS. THEY KNOW NOT WHAT
I HAVE DONE FOR THEM...




I FREED THEM ALL.

BEFORE ME, THERE WAS
DECEPTION, VIOLENCE...

...MURDER...

...MEN.



THE MALES
RULED OVER US
ALL WITH CRUEL
INTENT. THEY
CONTROLLED US.
DOMINATED US...



THAT IS WHY I KILLED THEM ALL.

written & created by VINCE HERNANDEZ
line art by MIRKA ANDOLFO with Alberto Pizzetti
colors by MIRKA ANDOLFO
lettering by JOSH REED

**TO BE CONTINUED IN...
DAMSELS IN EXCESS #1!**



DAMSELS IN EXCESS

FIVE REALMS . FIVE PRINCESSES .
ZERO MEN .

BY VINCE HERNANDEZ AND MIRKA ANDOLFO
COMING THIS SUMMER



**THE FATE OF TWO CIVILIZATIONS ONCE
RESTED IN HER HANDS...**

Aspen Matthews grew up a child of the water. A marine biologist, she was intimately tied to the ocean by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to explore the hidden wonders beneath the surface. However, her link to the mystery below was far greater than she could ever have imagined, as Aspen discovered she was the daughter of two worlds—the Human race, and the Blue, a race of beings living deep within the ocean's massive unknown. After a long and perilous journey of startling revelations about her true identity and origin, and the shocking arrival of the Blue above the surface, Aspen has finally declared her independence from the pressures of both sides. Yet, the world around her continues to struggle to adapt to a new way of life alongside those who dwell below...

writer **DAVID WOHL** • pencils **ALEX KONAT**
colors **BETH SOTELO** • letters **JOSH REED**

ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
FATHOM

**IN STORES
NOW!**



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ALL NEW
MICHAEL TURNER'S
SOULFIRE

THE MAGIC HAS RETURNED!

A young orphan named Malikai discovered he is the Samusara—a catalyst for bringing back the ancient forces of magic long hidden away in a futuristic society dependent on the advancement of technology. However, with such great power, Malikai quickly discovered the cost of wielding it. Along with his sworn protector Grace, and his group of friends Sonia, PJ and Benoist, they have continually battled to protect these interests from Rainier, a dark lord of technology who would see the age of magic forever perished—along with Malikai and his allies...

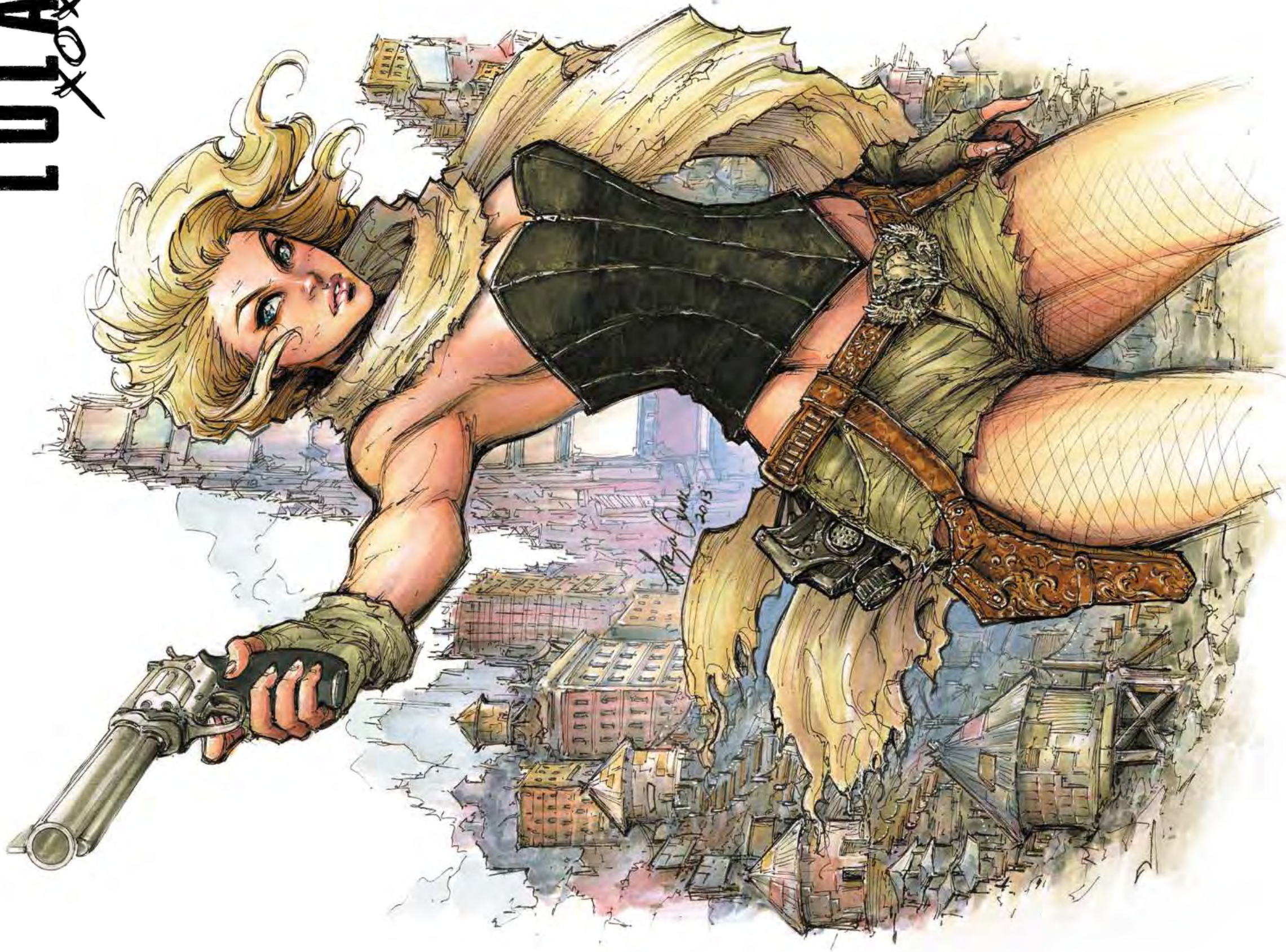
writer **J.T. KRUL** • pencils **V KEN MARION**
colors **KYLE RITTER** • letters **JOSH REED**

**IN STORES
NOW!**



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LOLA XOXO





Jirni vol. 2

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**CUTTHROAT...
SAVAGE... BRUTAL...
MEET LOLA.**

In the "Wasteland", Lola, a young woman with a resolve fortified by a lifetime of survival on her own, must journey across the nuclear-decimated United States in order to find the family that was taken from her. As her quest for the truth begins, Lola uncovers the true inhumanity of the Apocalypse that tore apart the nation, as those who seek to hold power in the new frontier, will do so at all costs—including her life!

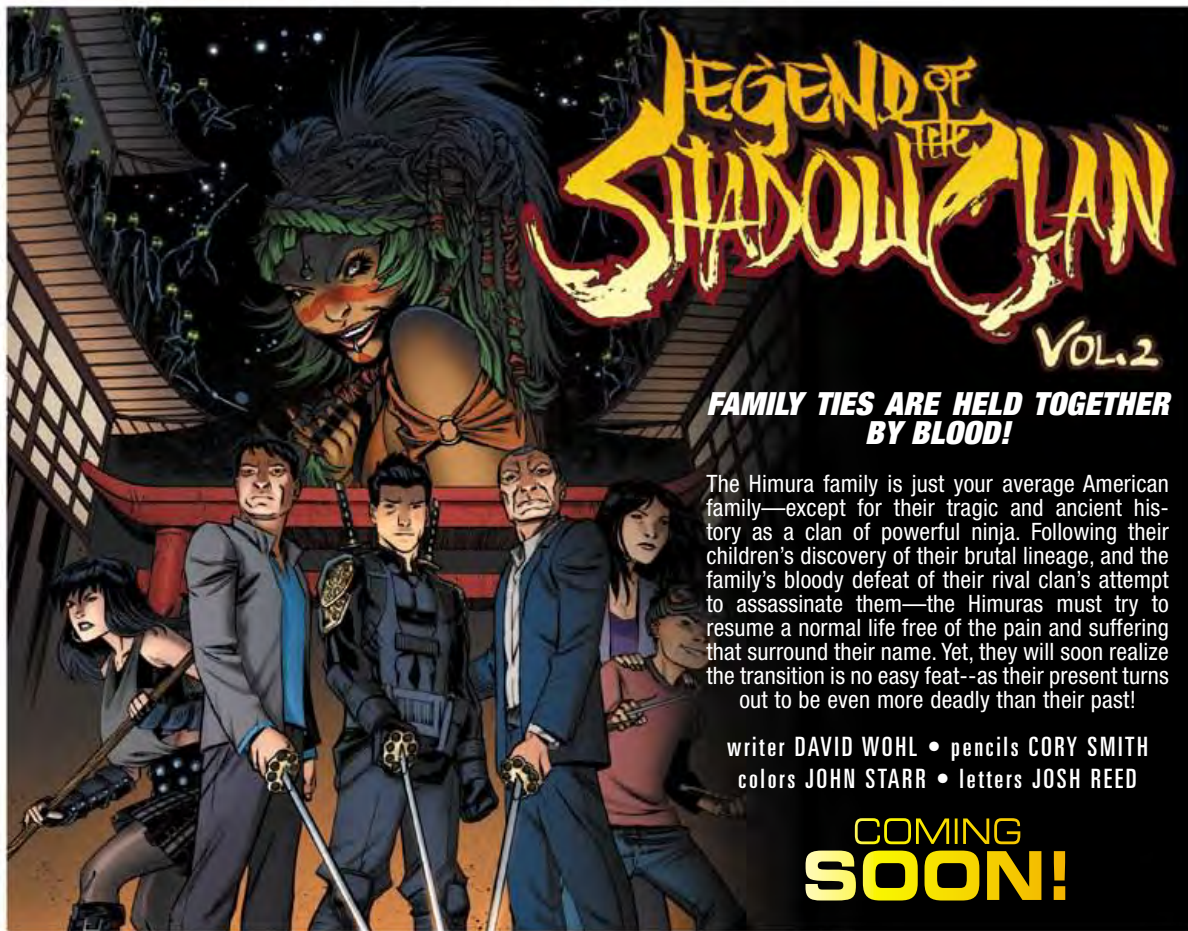
written & illustrated by SIYA OUM
letters JOSH REED

IN STORES
NOW!

LOLA

XOXO

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**FAMILY TIES ARE HELD TOGETHER
BY BLOOD!**

The Himura family is just your average American family—except for their tragic and ancient history as a clan of powerful ninja. Following their children's discovery of their brutal lineage, and the family's bloody defeat of their rival clan's attempt to assassinate them—the Himuras must try to resume a normal life free of the pain and suffering that surround their name. Yet, they will soon realize the transition is no easy feat—as their present turns out to be even more deadly than their past!

writer DAVID WOHL • pencils CORY SMITH
colors JOHN STARR • letters JOSH REED

COMING
SOON!

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2014

*The DEBUT of
Aspen's Newest Series*
**THE
ZOOHUNTERS**



THE ZOOHUNTERS

F F E L U D E

"OVERTURES"

story & art PETER STEIGERWALD

lettering JOSH REED

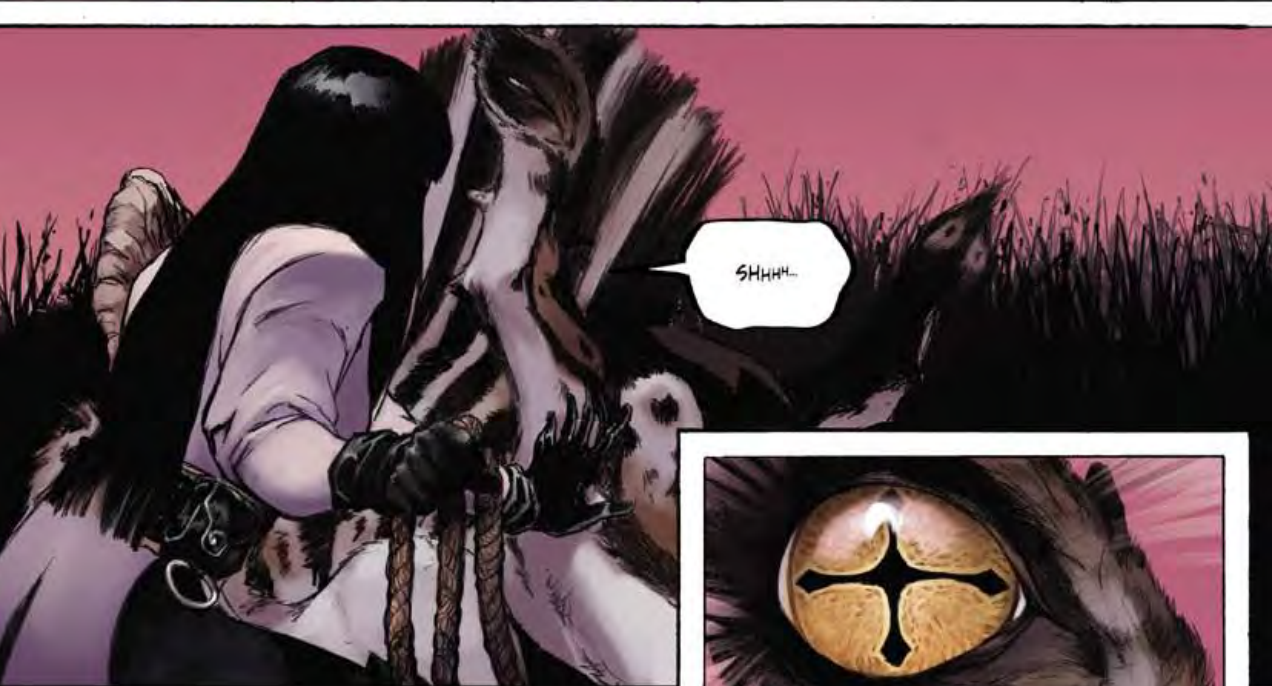
editors VINCE HERNANDEZ

& FRANK MASTROMAURO



NORTHERN HAH'SUFARI
GRAND PLAINS: IDULANI.









BAY 25, DEPOT 14:
LIVE CARGO HOLDING:
POSLAN COSMOPORT.

AS ORDERED,
NARIV--ONE ATRURK,
PRIME MALE.

GOOD. GOOD.
A FINE SPECIMEN.
BURLY, WELL SPIKED,
AND GOOD TUSKS.

OH,
AND JUST TO WARN YOU...

QAUREC IS
LOOKING FOR
YOU.

I SEE HIM.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

MINALARA,
MINALARA...

SO COLD
MY LOVELY.
YET I BRING WARM
SALUTATIONS.

LOOKS LIKE YOU
GOT A BIT OF A SCRAPER.
SUCH A TRAGEDY TO HAPPEN
TO SUCH LOVELY FLESH.

KEEP THAT
HAND MOVING
TOWARD ME
AND LOSE IT
QAUREC.

SUCH A
DULCET VOICE
BUT SUCH AN UGLY
TONE-- SUCH A
SHAME.

GET
TO YOUR
POINT.



FAIR ENOUGH.
I AM ONLY AN
ADMIRER OF YOUR
INCANDESCENCE.

WALK WITH
ME.



I'M HEADED
TO THE BAR.
AT THE DOORWAY
THIS CONVERSATION
IS OVER.

SO TALK
FAST.

AND IF THIS
IS ABOUT JOINING
YOUR COALITION,
MY PREVIOUS
ANSWERS STILL
STAND.



YOU ARE MISSING
A FINE OPPORTUNITY.
YOU'LL TRIPLE YOUR
MONEY, AND GET THE
PREMIERE JOBS.



STILL NOT
INTERESTED.
I'VE SEEN YOUR
METHODS.

CASE IN
POINT...

WHO'S
THIS...?



BYCATCH FROM A TRAPPER
OFF AN OUTER SYSTEM PLANET.
IT WON'T EAT ANYTHING WE GIVE IT.
IT'S TOO SICKLY FOR A BUYER AND
PROBABLY DEAD TOMORROW.

I'M
FEEDING
IT TO THE
FIRROC.

BUT, FIRROCS
ONLY EAT
CAYWYRMS.



THIS ONE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE.

THE THING'S RAVENOUS. IT'S COSTING ME THOUSANDS TO KEEP IT IN PREY.

I'VE STILL GOT TWO WEEKS TILL THE CLIENT GETS IN AND HE WANTS HER IN PRIME BREEDING CONDITION.



HM.



HELLO TO YOU TOO!







PETER STEIGERWALD'S
ZOOHUNTERS

THERE IS LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS.
THEY FIND IT.

BY PETER STEIGERWALD
THE HUNT BEGINS THIS FALL

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