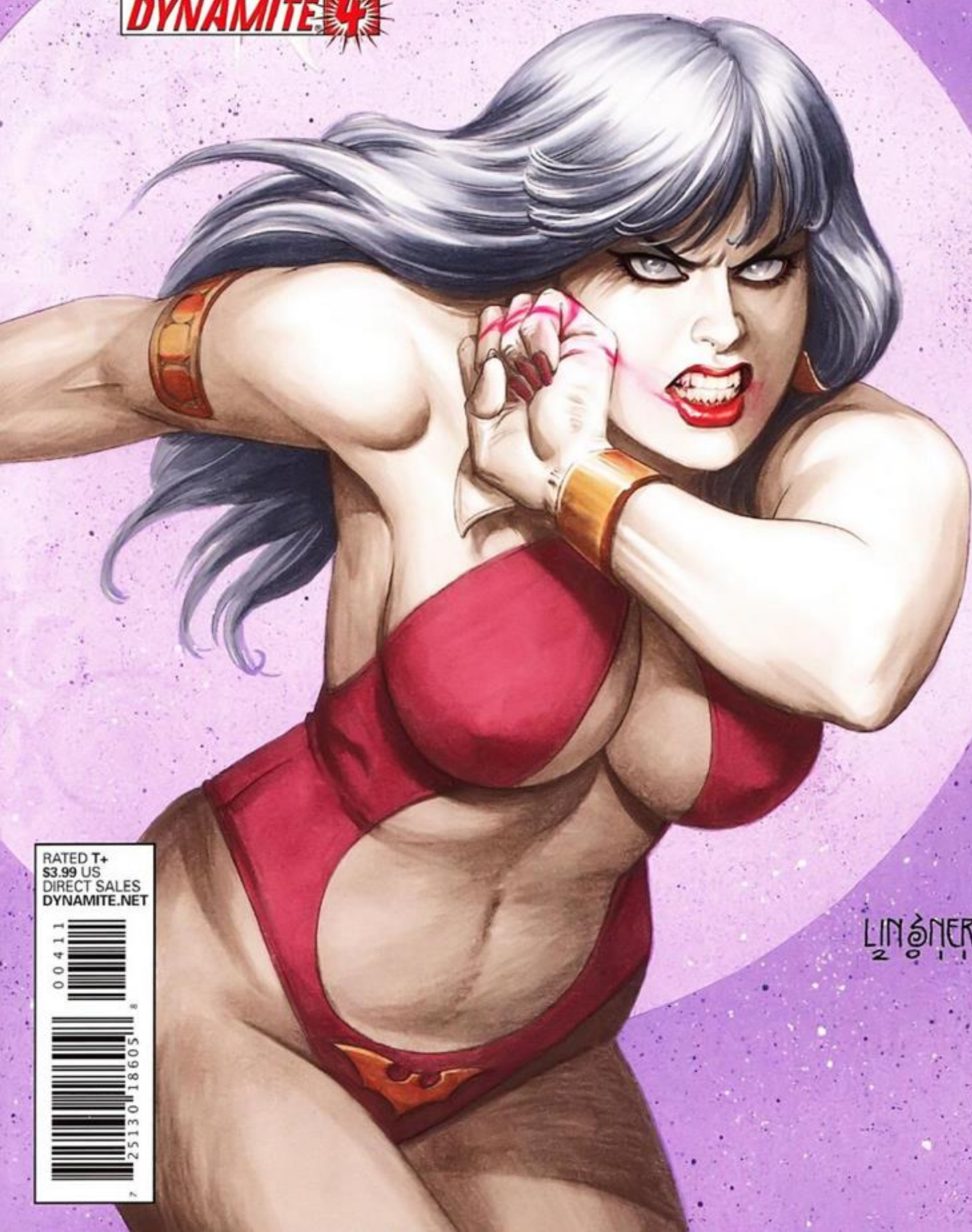


# VAMPIRELLA<sup>®</sup>

VS. *Dracula*

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LINCOLN  
2011





The Carpathian  
foothills, where  
the time, for us,  
is unspecified--

--and the age  
insignificant.

THIS WAY,  
SZGANY! THIS  
WAY, GYPSY  
TRAVELLERS!

OURS IS  
THE ORDER OF  
THE DRAGON,  
AFTER ALL...











And her new role  
in the Great Narrative  
had only begun to be  
revealed...





YOU  
WON'T SEE  
IT NOW...



THE ORDER  
OF THE DRAGON  
ONLY SHOWS THEIR  
INFLUENCE WHEN THE  
MOMENT IS PIVOTAL.  
THEY DO NOT ANNOUNCE  
THEMSELVES,  
RATHER...

THEY  
LET YOU KNOW  
WHEN THEY'VE  
BEEN THERE.



YOU  
MENTION THIS  
GROUP-- THIS  
ORDER.

CAN  
THEY BE  
FOUGHT?

HM...  
UNLIKELY.



THEY ARE  
ETHEREAL IN THEIR  
MAKEUP. THE MOST  
CRAFTY AND SHIFTLESS  
OF SPECTERS AND  
TROUBLEMAKERS.

BUT  
THEY CAN BE  
DENIED THEIR  
MOMENT.



WE CAN  
DENY THEM,  
YOU AND I.

YOU DON'T  
SAY...





WHEN I ABDICATED MY PLACE IN THE ORDER'S DESIRED NARRATIVE, THEY ADAPTED. THAT WE ARE HERE, IN NEW YORK CITY, IN THIS TIME, IS EVIDENCE OF THIS.

NOW, THEY SEEK A NEW TERRIBLE VAMPIRE THREAT FOR THEIR TALE...

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT VAMPIRELLA, AREN'T YOU.

I'M TALKING ABOUT STORIES, MR. HALLORAN. ABOUT HEROES.



ABOUT MONSTERS.



I'M TALKING ABOUT FREEING OURSELVES FROM THEM.

ABOUT TAKING BACK CONTROL SO THAT WE MIGHT OWN THE ENDING OF OUR OWN STORIES.

BUT... YOU DIE AT THE END OF OUR STORY.



WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT, MR. HALLORAN.

WE SHALL SEE...





We pushed through the snow, our prize secured.

THIS WAY, YOU LAGABOUTS! NOT MUCH FARTHER!

But the final leg of our journey would be the toughest...



DAMN YOU, I WOULD BE--



FREE...?



...for all parties involved.



EVERY GOOD TALE NEEDS ITS INSPIRATION...

HA! WE'LL GIVE IT A GOOD ONE, WON'T WE?





The story was a familiar one...

Szgaryn minions bore the vampire's casket back toward the castle high in the mountain snow.



IF THESE BONDS NNNNGH...

...WILL NOT BREAK...



Only vigilantes pursued, determined to stop them from reaching safe haven.

A brutal battle awaited. Each participant oddly knowing the bloody fate they faced.



THERE IS ONLY ONE GAAA...

...OTHER WAY...



And yet... it felt so now all at once.













FREE HER FROM  
THE ORDER'S GRIP  
AND WE CAN PUT  
THINGS BACK THE  
WAY THEY--

YOU'RE  
A LIAR.



YOU DON'T  
CARE ABOUT ANY  
OF THIS.

YOU JUST  
CAN'T STAND THAT  
THE ORDER MIGHT'VE  
REPLACED YOU.



THIS IS A GAME TO ALL OF  
YOU PEOPLE. AND I DON'T  
KNOW HOW MUCH YOU  
EVER CARED ABOUT  
WINNING IT...

BUT YOU  
SURE AS HELL  
DON'T LIKE  
TO LOSE!



DO YOU  
KNOW I HAVE  
NOT SEEN THE  
SUN RISE IN OVER  
FIVE HUNDRED  
YEARS?

CAN YOU  
IMAGINE  
THAT...?



TO FOREVER  
KNOW DARKNESS  
AND NEVER THE  
LIGHT AGAIN?



OH I THINK  
YOU'VE HAD YOUR  
PLEASURES, COUNT.

IT TEACHES  
HUMILITY, MY DEAR  
MR. HALLORAN...



AND THAT,  
SOMETIMES,  
WE NEED TO  
LOSE IN ORDER  
TO TRULY  
WIN.

DO YOU MEAN TO  
STAKE ME THROUGH  
THE HEART, JACK?



WITH THE  
SUN ABOUT TO  
COME UP...?



NOT  
EXACTLY!







































I WOULD NOT EXPECT LESS BY NOW.



ARE YOU READY, THEN?  
ARE YOU READY TO COMPLETE THIS STORY...

...AND BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE?



I AM WHAT THE ORDER HAS MADE ME.



YOU'LL BE MUCH MORE THAN THAT, MY DEAR. BUT DO NOT FEAR.

SOMETIMES WE ALL MUST LOSE... IN ORDER TO WIN.





And so with his senses clearing and his both his mission and motivation seemingly of his own possession, the eternal hero set out to face his greatest challenge...





He left with  
a heavy heart,  
but renewed  
purpose...



...as well as the  
curious, nagging  
feeling...



...that he'd done  
all this before...



NEXT:  
LOVE OF THE DAMNED!



## NEW YORK CITY.

EVEN IN GOOD TIMES,  
THERE'S PLENTY OF  
*MISERY* IN THIS TOWN.

RIGHT NOW,  
TIMES ARE NOT  
SO GOOD.







DON'T.

WHY GO  
INSIDE? WE  
MAKE PARTY  
HERE.

RIGHT NOW,  
HALF OF IT IS  
PLENTY.

IN THE MOVIES, IN  
THE COMIC BOOKS  
AND TV SHOWS, THE  
GUYS IN MASKS LIVE  
BY A CODE.

YOU DON'T TAKE  
A LIFE. YOU DON'T  
CROSS THE LINE.

YOU MIGHT  
WANT TO LEAVE.  
THERE'S GOING  
TO BE MORE  
KILLING.

WHAT GIVES ME  
THE RIGHT TO  
DECIDE WHO LIVES  
AND WHO DIES?

IT'S TOO  
LATE FOR THAT.

NOT  
A DAMN  
THING.

SOME PEOPLE  
DON'T DESERVE A  
SECOND CHANCE.



I'M NO MORE MORAL OR WISE  
OR INSIGHTFUL THAN ANYONE  
ELSE. BUT I LEARNED HOW TO  
DO A FEW THINGS IN THE *WAR*.

THE POLITICIANS  
TALK. THE PUNDITS  
TALK. SOMEONE  
HAS TO *ACT*.

THE COPS ARE  
OVERWHELMED, AND  
I DON'T SEE ANYONE  
ELSE FIGHTING THIS  
*MADNESS*.

I STEPPED UP.  
BECAUSE SOMEONE  
HAD TO, AND  
BECAUSE I COULD.

AND I DO IT  
AS I SEE FIT.

**THE SPIDER**  
ISSUE #1  
IN STORES NOW!





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