

## WAR INTERLUDE III

# EARTH

AGENT MARY LO,  
COMMENCING DEBRIEFING.  
RECORDING TO  
GENERAL RICHTER.

PER MY LAST  
EXAMINATION, DONALD  
RIDGEWAY IS RAPIDLY  
REGENERATING HIS  
MORTAL PHYSIOLOGY.

I RECOMMEND  
WE ASCERTAIN WHETHER  
A PARANORMAL BARGAIN  
WAS MADE BY RIDGEWAY  
TO WREST THE MONOLITH  
FORCE FROM THOMAS  
CZUCHRA.

IF SUCH IS THE  
CASE, IF WE KILL  
RIDGEWAY BEFORE HE  
BECOMES FUNCTION-  
ALLY IMMORTAL...



...PERHAPS  
THOMAS WILL  
COME BACK.

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THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN. I WAS SUPPOSED TO SEDUCE HIM, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

NOW I CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY MIND!



AND THE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE GONE... IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH M--HUH?



I'M BEING WATCHED! FROM OVER HERE! I CAN SENSE IT!

THERE'S NO CAMERA HERE, BUT...

YOU MUST BE PARA-NORMAL.



YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU? WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU?



THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, MARY.

THOMAS?





**TOMMY!**  
THANK GOD  
YOU'RE HERE! I'VE  
BEEN SO WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU!

UM... SORRY,  
MARY... I MEANT  
TO WRITE...

...BUT WITH  
THE WAR AND  
EVERYTHI--

THE  
HELL  
WITH  
THAT!



OH,  
TOMMY!  
WHAT HAP-  
PENED TO  
YOU?

THE DREAM  
I HAD? \* IT  
CAME TRUE!

\* EL. SEX SPECIAL #1



ESSENTIALLY. ARROWS... NOT  
SPIKES, AS YOU SAW... BUT NONE-  
THELESS LETHAL. PROBABLY  
COATED WITH TROLL POISON.

FIRST ONE WENT  
THROUGH MY HEART...  
ANOTHER, PIERCED MY  
CHEEKS. FIVE IN  
ALL.



THEY KILLED ME, ALL RIGHT.  
BUT I MANAGED TO CHANGE INTO  
MY MORE IMPERVIOUS SUPER-  
NATURAL FORM, SO I LIVED  
ON AS MONOLITH.

BUT WE'RE IN  
A WAR OF SUPER-  
NATURALS. AN ENEMY  
TOOK LIMBRAGE  
WITH ME...

AND MONO-  
LITH WENT  
BOOM.



THE END  
RESULT OF WHICH  
WAS THAT, DEAD  
TWICE OVER, I WAS  
CLEAN OUT OF  
BODIES. SO...

I BUILT A  
NEW ONE.  
A FEW MODI-  
FICATIONS, BUT  
BASICALLY THE  
SAME OLD  
MODEL.

WHY' FITZ  
WITH PER-  
FECTION?





OH, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW? WELL, MISTER CZUCHRA, YOU DIDN'T MAKE YOURSELF INTO A WOMAN, DID YOU?



SO, I FIGURE YOU'RE STILL ONLY HALFWAY... TO...

PERFECTION.



MY GOD, YOU HAVE--



--CHANGED.



THOMAS! WHAT--?

MARY? I'VE ROUTED EVERY SURVEILLANCE DEVICE IN THE BUILDING AROUND US. THERE'S NO ONE ON THIS FLOOR. THERE WON'T BE. LET'S TAKE OUR CLOTHES OFF, SHALL WE?





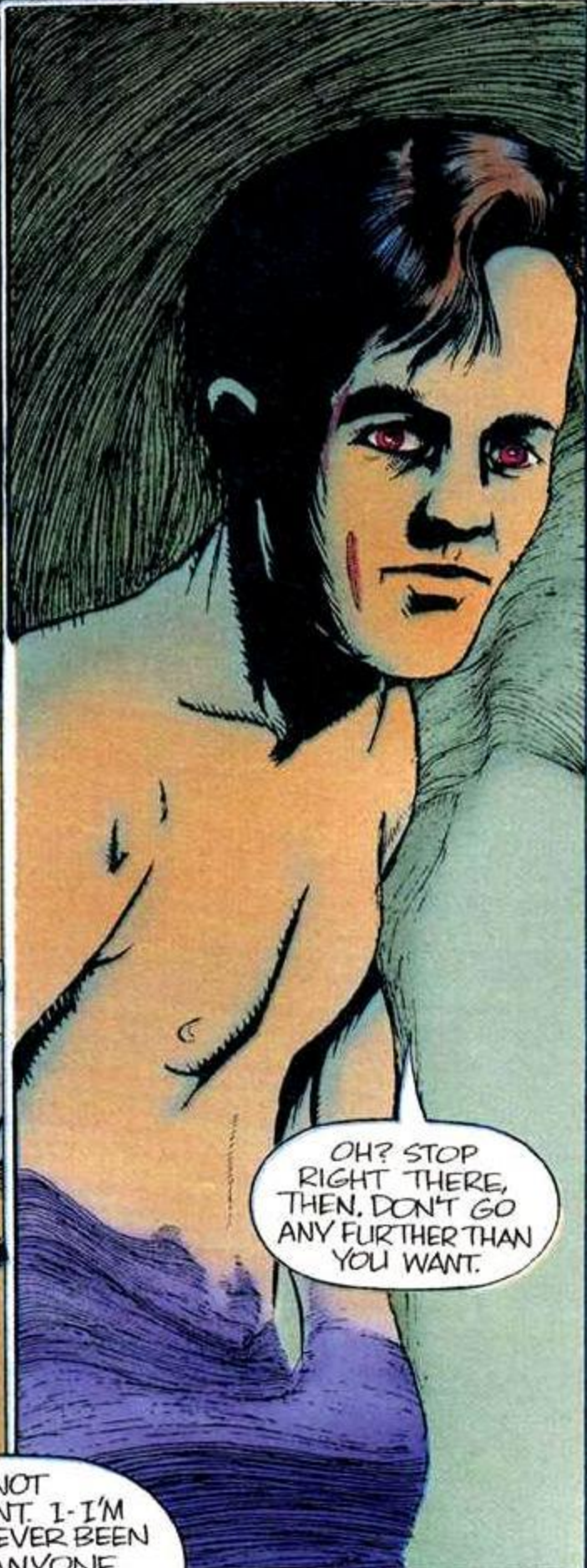
WHAT...  
WHAT WAS  
THAT YOU DID,  
THOMAS?



THOMAS?  
I... I FEEL  
FUNNY. LIKE I'M  
DOING SOMETHING  
I SHOULDN'T.

WHATEVER  
IT WAS I HAD  
WHEN WE WERE  
TOGETHER OUR FIRST  
NIGHT HAS GOTTEN  
STRONGER. THAT'S  
ALL.

THAT LITTLE  
THING CALLED  
LOVE.



OH? STOP  
RIGHT THERE,  
THEN. DON'T GO  
ANY FURTHER THAN  
YOU WANT.

THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I MEANT. I-I'M  
AFRAID. I'VE NEVER BEEN  
AFRAID OF ANYONE  
OR ANYTHING BEFORE.  
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING  
IN YOU--?

THOMAS? I STILL  
WANT TO MAKE LOVE  
TO YOU. MORE THAN  
ANYTHING.  
AM I LOSING  
MY SOUL,  
TOMMY?



I LIKE  
YOU JUST THE  
WAY YOU  
ARE.







YES.  
YOU  
WILL.

BUT I'LL  
TRY TO  
FILL THE  
VOID.

MARY...  
YOU ALREADY  
HAVE.

AM...  
AM I GOING  
TO MISS IT,  
THOMAS?

OH, MY  
GOD!  
TOMMY!

AH...AH!  
AH!

OH, MY...  
OH, MY!





OH, TOMMY,  
YOU'RE  
WONDERFUL!

I WANT YOU,  
TOMMY. MORE.

UH,  
UH...

UH,  
UH...



OH, GOD!  
HOW LONG CAN  
YOU LAST,  
TOMMY?

UH, UH...  
ALMOST...  
THERE...

YES!  
AGAIN!



WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
TOMMY?

UH...UH...  
CAN'T...

TRYING...  
BUT CAN'T...



HUH... I JUST  
COULDN'T... HUH...  
SEEM TO... HUH...  
MAKE MYSELF...  
HUH...

NO, NO...  
HUH... MARY... IT  
WAS ME... MY  
PROBLEM...

WAS IT  
SOMETHING I  
DIDN'T DO?  
MAYBE I'M  
NOT--





LET ME THINK.

WHEN I CREATED THIS BODY FOR MYSELF, I WAS IN A STATE OF PURE MENTALITY. SOME FEELINGS WERE KEPT, OTHERS WERE DISCARDED.

CERTAINLY DESIRE REMAINS, BUT THE MENTAL CLUTTER, THE UNNECESSARY THOUGHTS THAT DISTRACTED ME, THOSE ARE GONE NOW.

I DESIRE SEX, BUT THE ABILITY TO CROSS CIRCUITS AND WALLOW IN SENSORY OVERLOAD, THAT'S WHAT'S MISSING. I CAN'T TRIGGER AN ORGASM.



THE PRICE OF PERFECTION, DARLING? AND HOW MUCH MORE DID YOU GIVE UP TO STAY ALIVE?

WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS **WORTH** IT. YOU'RE ALIVE, AND THAT'S EVERYTHING TO ME NOW.



WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO TO HELP YOU, I WILL. JUST ASK ME. ASK ME ANYTHING.



I LOVE YOU, TOMMY CZUCHRA.



I DON'T LOVE YOU.

I CAN'T. THAT PART'S GONE, TOO.





BUT I **NEED**  
YOU, MARY.

I REALLY  
DO NEED  
YOU.



WILL  
THIS  
HELP?

UM, YES.  
YOU READ MY  
MIND. GOOD.

THERE'S SO  
MUCH FOR ME TO  
LEARN ABOUT THIS  
BODY. SO MANY  
THINGS I'M GOING TO  
BE ABLE TO DO  
WITH IT.



AND YOU  
AND I,  
MARY... ?

... WE'RE  
GOING TO TRY  
THEM ALL.