

JOE BENITEZ'S

COLLECTED EDITION

Benitez · Steigerwald

Lady Mechanika

Nos.

0 & 1

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ONLY
\$3.99



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& Drawn

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REED

JOE DENITTEZ'S
Lady
Mechanika
in
THE DEMON OF SATAN'S ALLEY

Thirteenth day of
September, 1878.

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH,
NOT THE MOST AUSPICIOUS
DATE FOR THIS NIGHT'S VENTURE,
IF YOU BELIEVE IN THAT
SORT OF THING.

THEN AGAIN, WHAT
BETTER NIGHT TO HUNT
"THE DEMON OF
SATAN'S ALLEY"?

I MAY NOT BE SUPERSTITIOUS,
BUT I'VE FOUND THERE'S
USUALLY A KERNEL OF TRUTH IN
EVERY STORY, EVEN THE RUBBISH
PRINTED IN THE TABLOIDS.

BLOODY PAPERS WITH THEIR
OUTRAGEOUS HEADLINES! NOW EVERY
GUN-TOTING FOOL IN THE PARISH IS
OUT, SHOOTING AT SHADOWS.

IT'S EVEN DRAWN THE INTEREST OF
THE BLACKPOOL ARMAMENTS CO.
THE AREA IS SWARMING WITH THEIR
HIRED GUNS, ALL SEARCHING FOR THE
"FEROCIOUS DEMON" TERRORIZING THE
EAST END OF TOWN.

I'VE BEEN KEEPING WATCH
THE LAST THREE NIGHTS,
WAITING FOR IT TO RETURN.

BOOM!

HERE
WE GO.

BUT BLACKPOOL'S GUNS ARE
EXPERIENCED HUNTERS.

I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK
IF I'M TO CATCH THE
CREATURE FIRST.

Zzz DEMON!!!
DEMON!

I SHOT IT
zzzz





where are you?

KZZZT

I SHOT THE MONZZZZTER!!!
Zzzz!



THERE'S MY BOY.

ONE MIGHT ASK WHY A WEAPONS COMPANY WOULD BE SO INTERESTED IN A SENSATIONALIZED MONSTER STORY...



...BUT I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT DREW THEIR ATTENTION.

THE SAME THING THAT CAUGHT MY EYE.

BURIED AMONGST HYSTERICAL REPORTS OF A DEMON TRYING TO SNATCH CHILDREN OR STEAL SOULS OR OTHER SUCH NONSENSE WAS A SINGLE ACCOUNT DESCRIBING THE CREATURE AS... HALF-MACHINE.

I'M CERTAIN BLACKPOOL WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO ACQUIRE SUCH A CREATURE AND DISSECT IT, FIND SOME WAY TO TURN IT INTO A WEAPON.

Moments later...



Mechanical...

I, OF COURSE, HAVE MORE-- PERSONAL-- REASONS FOR WANTING TO FIND IT.



SHLISHH

NNGHH!!

I'VE HAD
NUNGHE JUST
ABOUT...



ENOUGH!!

DON'T
MAKE ME
KILL YOU.

THNK



SHUFF HUFFE
...ALRIGHT... I WILL
NOT FIGHT YOU
SHUFFE ANY
MORE.



WHA...IT...IT
SPEAKS?



DEAR GOD! YOU
CAN SPEAK?!

YES...SO
CAN YOU...

ARE, ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



I, I FEEL
SHUFFE VEKY
WEAK... AND
TIED.

314 Faraday Street.



CLK-SHINK



CHNK-FRNK

ZZZT-NNNK



SQUEEEEE



SCOFFS

SHLINK

CHNK

CHNK



YOU'RE DEAD, MECHANIKA...



WHEN I COMMISSIONED YOU TO CONSTRUCT A SECURITY SYSTEM FOR ME, MR. LEWIS, I INTENDED FOR IT TO KEEP EVERYONE OUT!



WOT? EVEN A GOOD FRIEN' LIKE ME?

...OR 'AVEN'T YOU HEARD? S' ALL OVER THE PAPERS.

LEWIS!

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL DO YOU WANT?!

MORE BRANDY IF YOU'VE GOT ANY. YOU SEEM T'AVE RUN OUT. BOURBON TOO.



WHOEVER SAID WE WERE FRIENDS? LET ALONE GOOD ONES?



HAI YOU'D BE LOST WITHOUT ME AND YOU KNOW IT, BEING AS I'M THE ONLY ONE WOT EVER COMES CALLIN'. YOU REALLY SHOULD BE A BIT MORE APPRECIATIVE WHEN I GRACE YOU WIT' MY COMPANY.

LEWIS, I TOLERATE YOU AND YOUR COMPANY, AND THAT'S BEING INCREDIBLY GENEROUS.




THERE YOU GO AGAIN WIT' THAT GRACIOUS DISPOSITION OF YOURS. AND 'ERE I'VE BEEN, WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU ALL DAY. THINKN' THE WORS', THA' YOU'D GONE AND FINALLY GOT'N YOUR SELF KILLED.

I'M BUSY, LEWIS. I HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR YOU OR YOUR NONSENSE TODAY.




GOT A CASE,
DO YOU? A
REAL ONE?



OR ARE YOU JUS' LOOKIN'
INTO THA' MECHANICAL LADY
WOT WAS FOUND TODAY?
THE ONE THA' IS DEAD?



BUGGER OFF,
LEWIS!




YOU ARE,
AREN'T YOU?
YOU THINK IT'S
CONNECTED TO
YOU? THA' IT'LL
LEAD YOU TO ALL
THE ANSWERS
YOU'VE BEEN
SEARCHIN'
FOR?

LEAVE IT
ALONE, I TELL
YOU. IT'S A
WASTE OF
TIME.



WHEN ARE
YOU GONNA
LEARN?



OBSESSING WIT'
THE PAST WILL LEAD
TO NOTHIN' BUT
'EARTACHE.



TRUST ME.



I SHOULD KNOW.



LOOK, THE REASON I'M HERE...



...THERE'S A VILLAGE UP NORTH HAVIN' A BIT OF TROUBLE WIT' WEREWOLVES OR NIGHT CREATURES OF SOME SORT. YOU KNOW, THE USUAL.



LET'S 'EAD OUT THERE. I'LL BRING ME GADGETS, YOU BRING YOUR PRETY' LI'L SELF.

I'LL SPLIT THE BOUNTY WIT' YOU, FIFTY-FIFTY.



WHAT D'YOU SAY, MECHANIKA? SOUND GOOD?



ALRIGH', SIXTY-FORTY. THA' BETTER, MECHANIKA?



MECHANIKA?!?

Ministry of Health.

THE AUTHORITIES FOUND ME LOCKED IN SOME LABORATORY BASEMENT, SURROUNDED BY CORPSES AND BODY PARTS.

LEAST THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD.

I STILL HAVE NO
MEMORY OF IT, OR OF
THE TIME BEFORE.



BUT I REMEMBER WHAT
CAME AFTER.



THEY "RESCUED" ME,
ONLY TO LOCK ME UP
IN THEIR OWN MINISTRY
OF "HEALTH."



A FOREBODING
INSTITUTION.

