

JOE BENITEZ'S

COLLECTED EDITION

Benitez · Steigerwald

# Lady Mechanika

Nos.  
2 & 3

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ONLY  
\$4.99





Ministry of Health.

WHA' THE BLOOMIN' HELL IS GOIN' ON HERE?!

OUR MINDS HAVE MECHANISMS DESIGNED TO PROTECT US FROM THOSE UNBEARABLE REALITIES THAT LIFE MAY AT TIMES LAY UPON US.



WHEN FACED WITH HORRORS THAT THREATEN TO SHRED OUR SANITY, OUR MINDS DEFEND US.

TRANSPORTING US TO A SANCTUARY DEEP WITHIN.



HEY! HOLD ON THERE! WHERE YOU THINK YOU GOING?

A SAFE HAVEN WHERE NOTHING AND NO ONE CAN EVER TOUCH US.



EY FELLA! IS YOU BLOOMIN' DEAF?!



SIR!

HUNGGG!!



A close-up illustration of a character wearing a dark, metallic helmet with two large, circular red visors. The character has pale skin and red eyes. The helmet is detailed with rivets and mechanical components. Two speech bubbles are positioned above the character's head.

I AM NO FELLOW.

I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU KEEPING YOUR HANDS OFF ME.

AND WHEN WE WAKE,  
TORN FROM THAT REFUGE,  
THE MIND CONTINUES  
TO PROTECT.

BLOCKING THOSE  
MEMORIES WE HAVE  
NOT THE STRENGTH  
TO ENDURE.

A smaller illustration showing a character in a dark, form-fitting suit running. The character is wearing a helmet and has a determined expression. The background is a simple, light-colored ground.

SORRY,  
MUM...

...NGH... I... I...  
I'LL BE GOIN'  
NOW.

KLAT  
KLAT  
KLAT  
KLAT



MEMORIES OF A  
DARK TIME IMPRISONED  
IN A MADMAN'S CELLAR,  
SUBJECT TO UNTHINKABLE  
TORMENTS.

BUT THERE ARE  
MEMORIES STILL.

HUH...  
WHAT HAVE  
WE HERE?

NNGH...  
BLOODY  
NECK...

MEMORIES THAT ARE PERHAPS NOT  
AS APPALLING, BUT WHICH CAN BE  
EXCRUCIATINGLY PAINFUL NONETHELESS.

MEMORIES WE  
WOULD CHOOSE  
TO FORGET  
WERE WE GIVEN  
THE CHOICE.

HM...  
CIRQUE DU  
ROMANI?

MEMORIES THAT COULD  
DESTROY US...

LADY  
MECHANIKA...



...IF WE LET THEM.

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.

DON'T BOTHER TRYING FOR YOUR WEAPON. MY MEN ARE EXPERT SHOTS AND WILL SHOOT YOU DEAD WITHOUT HESITATION IF YOU MAKE ANY SUCH ATTEMPTS.

BESIDES, I WOULD HATE TO BE ROBBED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVERSE WITH MY OLD ASSOCIATE, ONE LAST TIME.

I HAD A FEELING I WOULD RUN INTO YOU THIS NIGHT.

THE MOMENT I SAW THE STORY OF THE HALF-MACHINE GIRL IN THE PAPERS, I WAS CERTAIN YOU WOULD COME CALLING. YOU ARE VERY PREDICTABLE.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME MECHANIKA, YOU LOOK WELL.





The following day, Global Plaza, Mechanika City.

SO YOU'RE CONVINCED BLACKPOOL HAS GOT A PART IN THIS WHOLE MECHANICAL GIRL THING?

VERY MUCH SO. I BELIEVE BLACKPOOL'S FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO PERFORM MECHANICAL ENHANCEMENTS OF SORTS. I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW THE EXTENT OF HIS EXPERIMENTS.

SO WHA'S THE PLAN, LOVE?

WHA? YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU'RE JUS' GOIN' TO WALK UP TO BLACKPOOL AND ASK HIM IF HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO DO WITH THE MECHANICAL GIRL?

IF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF.

I BELIEVE I'LL GO UP AND ASK HIM.

BESIDES, I HAVE A FEW OTHER WORDS I WISH TO HAVE WITH HIS LORDSHIP.

LADY MECHANIKA!

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THA', LOVE. IT'S A L'L BABY YOU.

I'M WAGERIN' SHE'S GOIN' TO 'AVE THE THRILL OF HER LIFE RIGH' NOW GET'ING TO MEET YOU IN THE FLESH...

...UH, METAL. YOU KNOW WHA' I MEAN.





NOT LIKELY.

WE'VE ALREADY MET AND I MUST TELL YOU SHE IS THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT I AM SOME SORT OF IMPOSTER PRETENDING TO BE LADY MECHANIKA.

HEH-HEH. THAT'S BRILLIAN'. I CAN SEE WHY SHE WOULD.

OH, REALLY? HOW SO?



WELL, BEFORE WE MET I ALWAYS IMAGINED YOU A BIT MORE... ON THE PLEASANT SIDE.

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? I'M PLEASANT!

IF YOU SAY SO, LOVE.

HRM!



IT'S VERY NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LADY MECHANIKA!

LIKewise, DOCTOR. MAY I INTRODUCE TO YOU MY ASSOCIATE.

ARCHIBALD C. LEWIS, AT YOUR SERVICE.

DR. CHARLES LITTLETON, THE THIRD. A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MR. LEWIS. THIS IS MY DAUGHTER.



ALEXANDRA MARIE LITTLETON...

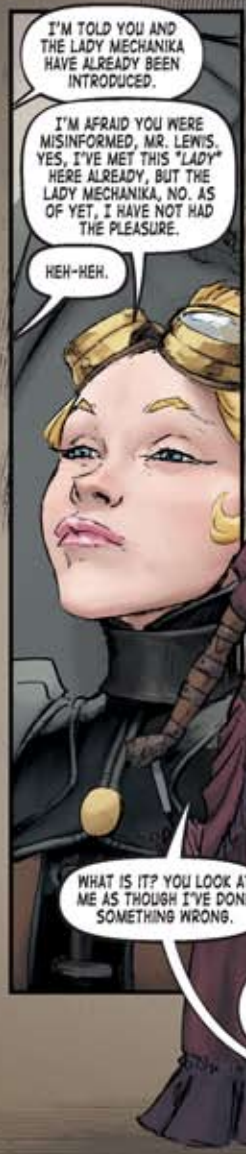
...THE FIRST.

A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, MR. LEWIS.

THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE, I'D MISS ALEXANDRA.

I PREFER TO BE CALLED ALLIE.

WELL, I'D MISS ALLIE IT IS, THEN.



I'M TOLD YOU AND THE LADY MECHANIKA HAVE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED.

I'M AFRAID YOU WERE MISINFORMED, MR. LEWIS. YES, I'VE MET THIS "LADY" HERE ALREADY, BUT THE LADY MECHANIKA, NO. AS OF YET, I HAVE NOT HAD THE PLEASURE.

HEH-HEH.



SO, IS YOUR WIFE HERE AS WELL, DR. LITTLETON?

UH, NO. SHE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND. ALLIE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY DYING TO COME. IT'S THE FIRST TIME FOR BOTH OF US.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BOTH HAVE A MARVELOUS TIME! I'VE BEEN COMIN' TO THIS THING SINCE I WAS A YOUNG APPRENTICE MACHINE-SMITH. MAT'ER O'FACT I'VE ATTENDED EVERY YEAR APAR' FROM THE FIRS'.

OH YES, DOCTOR. I REMEMBER BACK WHEN IT WAS JUS' A SMALL ONE DAY CONFERENCE HELD IN A BANQUET HALL AT THE GALLANT HOTEL. NOT THIS WEEK-LONG AFFAIR IT IS NOW. FRANKLY, THERE WASN' MUCH INTERES' FROM THE PUBLIC IN THEM EARLY YEARS.

JUS' A HANDFUL OF US INDUSTRY BLOKES WOT WOULD SHOW OFF OUR WARES.

REALLY?



I MUST SAY I AM QUITE TAKEN BY YOUR OUTFIT. IT IS RATHER FORWARD OF YOU TO BE WEARING MALE TROUSERS, IN PUBLIC NO LESS, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT IT'S VERY BECOMING.

THANK YOU.

YOU ARE WELCOME. SO, IF I MAY, IS THAT MORE PROPER ATTIRE FOR FIGHTING VILLAINS, MONSTERS, AND THE LIKE?

IT IS.

THEN I SHALL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE, MADAM, THAT I WILL BE KEEPING MY EYES ON YOU. SO I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF.

I SEE. WELL THEN, I PROMISE YOU I SHALL DO MY BEST TO KEEP FROM DOING ANYTHING OUT OF SORTS.

YOU BETTER.

YOU SHOULD. IF YOU INSIST ON CONTINUING TO PASS YOURSELF OFF AS THE LADY MECHANIKA, THE VERY LEAST YOU COULD DO IS TRY TO LOOK THE PART.

DULY NOTED.

WHAT IS IT? YOU LOOK AT ME AS THOUGH I'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG.

PERHAPS YOU HAVEN'T YET, BUT I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS YOU WILL.

DO YOU NOW?

YES, I DO.



