



W. VANCE - J. VAN HAMME

RELEASE THE HOUNDS

XIII

Colour work: PETRA

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ARRESTED BY **FRANK GIORDINO**, DIRECTOR OF THE HIGHLY SECRETIVE **NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY**, XIII—A.K.A. **JASON MCLANE**—STOOD ACCUSED OF ACTUALLY BEING **SEANUS O'NEIL**, AN **IRA** TERRORIST WHO HAD FLED TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE NAME **KELLY BRIAN** AND THEN ATTENDED THE INFAMOUS **SIERRA MAESTRA** GUERRILLA SCHOOL IN **CUBA**. HAVING ALSO BEEN ACCUSED OF THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT **WALLY SHERIDAN** (WHO WAS KILLED UNINTENTIONALLY, IN FACT, BY **GIORDINO** HIMSELF), XIII WAS PUT IN ISOLATION.



BUT, JUST AS NSA AGENTS WERE ABOUT TO DO AWAY WITH HIM DISCREETLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT, XIII WAS KIDNAPPED BY **EXECUTOR**, A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ORGANISATION LED BY THE FEROCIOUS **IRINA SVETLANOVA**, WHO HATES XIII WITH A BURNING PASSION.



AFTER A BLOODY MANHUNT CONDUCTED BY **JESSICA MARTIN**, AN NSA AGENT SECRETLY WORKING FOR **EXECUTOR**, XIII MANAGED TO LOSE HIS PURSUERS AND TAKE A NIGHT TRAIN TO **SAN DIEGO**, IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.



HIS GOAL WAS TO MAKE HIS WAY TO THE HACIENDA OF MARQUIS **ARMAND DE PRÉSEAU** IN **COSTA VERDE**, WHERE GENERAL **CARRINGTON**, COLONEL **AMOS** AND MAJOR **JONES** HAD TAKEN REFUGE AFTER THE BUSINESS OF **THE TRIAL**.



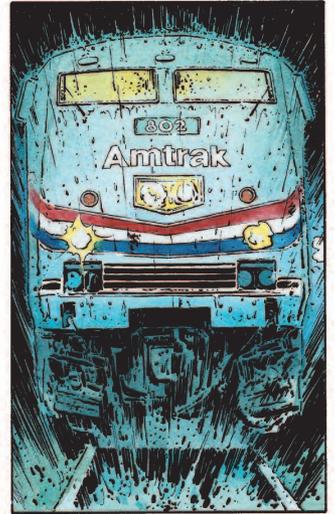
BUT XIII DIDN'T KNOW THAT **JESSICA MARTIN**, WHOM HE BELIEVED TO BE DEAD, HAD TRACKED HIM DOWN AND CALLED **GIORDINO** FOR REINFORCEMENTS. FOR THE NSA AS WELL AS FOR **EXECUTOR**, THE GOAL WAS STILL THE SAME: BRING DOWN THE MAN KNOWN AS **O'NEIL** AT **ANY COST!**



SACRAMENTO CENTRAL STATION - 3:20 AM



ATTENTION! COAST STARLIGHT
ARRIVING. THE TRAIN WILL STOP
AT OAKLAND AND LOS ANGELES,
DEPARTING FROM PLATFORM
FOUR AT 3:30 AM.



STAY ON THE PLATFORM
UNTIL THE TRAIN LEAVES,
JUST IN CASE OUR CUSTOMER
SHOULD HAVE THE
BAD IDEA TO GET OFF.

HE'LL
MAKE US.



IT WON'T SAVE HIM.
MEET ME IN CAR TWO,
COMPARTMENT FIVE.





THIS IS INSPECTOR FAIRWATER, AMTRAK POLICE. HE'S DONE SOME INVESTIGATING AMONG THE STEWARDS. OUR TARGET IS IN THE THIRD COMPARTMENT OF CAR SEVEN.

PERFECT. HERE ARE THE CLOTHES YOU ASKED FOR.



THANK YOU, INSPECTOR, WE HAVE NO FURTHER NEED OF YOU.

BUT...



THIS IS A TOP-SECRET OPERATION. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.



YOU DON'T MIND JUST STANDING THERE WHILE I CHANGE CLOTHES?

DON'T PLAY THE COY MAIDEN WITH ME, DIANE*. DOES O'NEIL KNOW THAT YOU'VE CAUGHT UP TO HIM?



NO. BUT UNLESS HE'S ASLEEP, HE'LL HAVE SPOTTED YOUR TWO FIT BULLS ON THE PLATFORM. THEY'RE AS OBVIOUS AS A PREGNANT MISS WORLD CANDIDATE.

DOESN'T MATTER. IS HE ARMED?



I DON'T KNOW.



I'M SURPRISED, DIANE. I ONLY KNOW YOU BY REPUTATION, BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D NEED HELP TO COLLAR THAT GUY.

HE'S A PRO, SATURN*. THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN.



BAH. FOUR AGAINST ONE... HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.

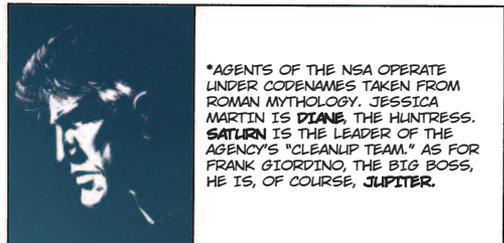
WELL?...



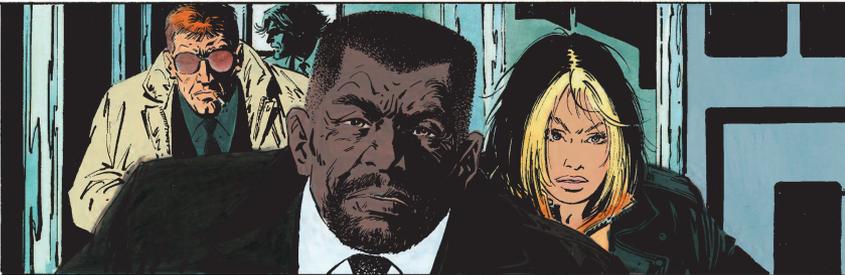
NO ONE GOT OFF.



GOOD. LET'S GO; WE'RE WASTING TIME!



*AGENTS OF THE NSA OPERATE UNDER CODENAMES TAKEN FROM ROMAN MYTHOLOGY. JESSICA MARTIN IS DIANE, THE HUNTRESS. SATURN IS THE LEADER OF THE AGENCY'S "CLEANUP TEAM." AS FOR FRANK GIORDINO, THE BIG BOSS, HE IS, OF COURSE, JUPITER.



EITHER HE HEARD US AND HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE OVER THE ROOF OF THE TRAIN, OR HE'D MADE US AND LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN TO THROW US OFF. STYX, YOU GO CHECK UP THERE. HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE ARMED.



ORCLUS, YOU STAY IN THE CORRIDOR WITH THE COMPARTMENT DOOR OPEN. DIANE AND I ARE GOING TO GET THE COMPANY COP AND WE'LL SEARCH THE ENTIRE TRAIN, RESTROOMS INCLUDED. WE HAVE MORE THAN THREE HOURS BEFORE WE REACH OAKLAND. HE CAN'T ESCAPE FROM US.



GO ON, PAL. THEY DO IT ALL THE TIME IN THE MOVIES.

I NEVER WATCH MOVIES.



I WARNED YOU HE WAS A CUNNING ONE.

STOP OVERESTIMATING HIM, DIANE.



ANY DUMBASS CAN OPEN A WINDOW TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK HE WENT OUT THROUGH IT.



I LIKE MY CRIME STORIES BETTER ON TV...

SERVICE NO ENTRY



