

Thirteenth day of
September, 1878.

Created
Written
& Drawn

by **JOE
JOE
BENITEZ
DENIEZ**

Colors

by **PETER
PETER
STEIGERWALD**

Letters

by **JOSH
JOSH
REED**

**Lady
Mechanika**
in
**THE
DEMON
of
SATAN'S
ALLEY**

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.

Special Thanks to "M"

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO

Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED

Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD

Bow-Wow Crupps: CHRIS RUPP



A: DIRECT EDITION

**JOE BENITEZ
& PETER
STEIGERWALD**



C: RETAILER
INCENTIVE EDITION

**JOE BENITEZ
& PETER
STEIGERWALD**



B: DIRECT EDITION

**JOE BENITEZ
& PETER
STEIGERWALD**



D: NEW YORK
COMIC-CON
EXCLUSIVE EDITION
LIMITED TO 500

**JOE BENITEZ
& PETER
STEIGERWALD**

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER President: FRANK MASTROMAURO Vice President: PETER STEIGERWALD
Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Director of Design and Production: MARK "BRASS KNUCKLES" ROSLAN

Some Lady Mechanika lettering fonts designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

LADY MECHANIKA™ Vol. 1 Issue 0 OCTOBER 2010. FIRST PRINTING. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc., Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite 102, Culver City, CA 90230-6965. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Lady Mechanika™ and the Lady Mechanika logo are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2010 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # EAST - 999999


VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FOR MORE LADYMECHANIKA VISIT
WWW.JOEBENITEZ.COM

& [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
LADYMECHANIKA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LADYMECHANIKA)

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS
ASPENSTORE.COM

OR FOR THE COMICS
RETAILER NEAREST YOU
1800-comicbook



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.

ZzzzDEMON!!!
DEMON!

I SVOIII
zzzz



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



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...



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



SHLLSSHH

NNGHH!!

I'VE HAD
ENUGH JUST
ABOUT...

ENOUGH!!

DON'T
MAKE ME
KILL YOU.



THANK



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



WHA...IT...IT
SPEAKS?



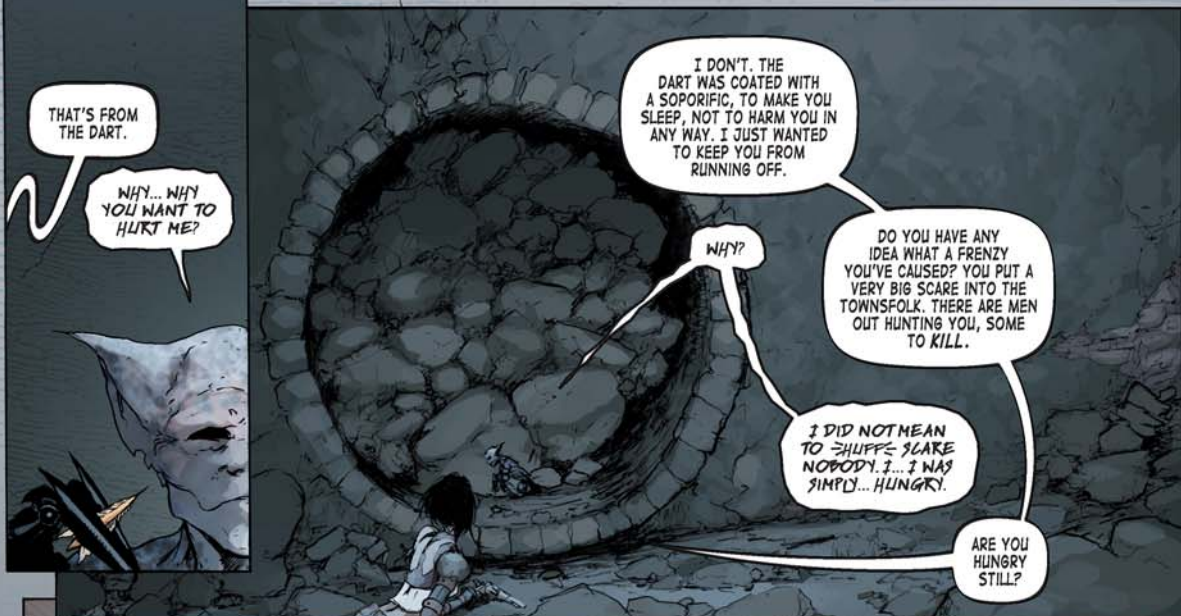
DEAR GOD! YOU
CAN SPEAK?!

YES...SO
CAN YOU...

ARE, ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



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



THAT'S FROM THE DART.

WHY... WHY YOU WANT TO HURT ME?

I DON'T. THE DART WAS COATED WITH A SOPORIFIC, TO MAKE YOU SLEEP, NOT TO HARM YOU IN ANY WAY. I JUST WANTED TO KEEP YOU FROM RUNNING OFF.

WHY?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT A FRENZY YOU'VE CAUSED? YOU PUT A VERY BIG SCARE INTO THE TOWNSFOLK. THERE ARE MEN OUT HUNTING YOU, SOME TO KILL.

I DID NOT MEAN TO SHUFFE SCARE NOBODY. I... I WAS SIMPLY... HUNGRY.

ARE YOU HUNGRY STILL?



I... I AM...

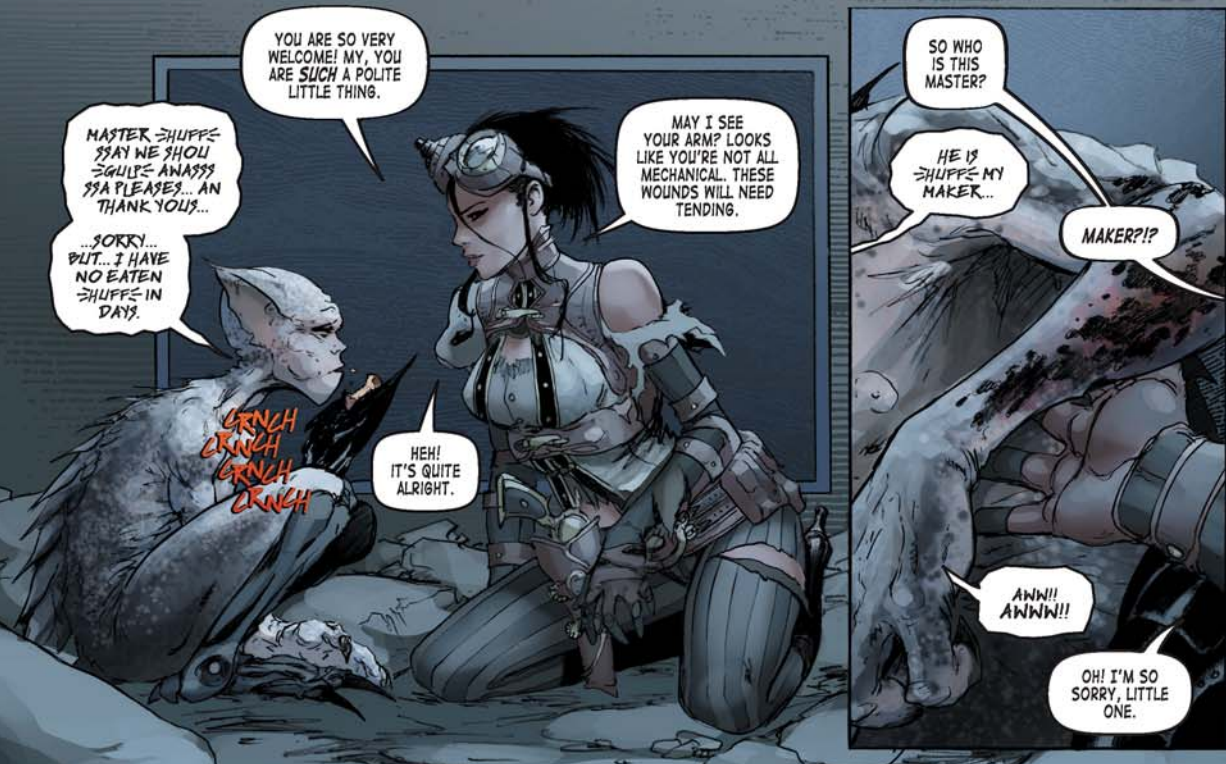
I MAY HAVE SOMETHING ON ME.

AH, HERE WE GO.



WOULD YOU LIKE IT?

YES, PLEASE SHUFFE THANK YOU... SO... VERY MUCH.



YOU ARE SO VERY WELCOME! MY, YOU ARE SUCH A POLITE LITTLE THING.

MASTER SHUFFE SAY WE SHOU EQUIS ANASSA PLEASES... AN THANK YOU...

...SORRY... BUT... I HAVE NO EATEN SHUFFE IN DAYS.

CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

HEH! IT'S QUITE ALRIGHT.

MAY I SEE YOUR ARM? LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE NOT ALL MECHANICAL. THESE WOUNDS WILL NEED TENDING.

SO WHO IS THIS MASTER?

HE IS SHUFFE MY MAKER...

MAKER?!?

AWN!! AWWW!!

OH! I'M SO SORRY, LITTLE ONE.



THIS MASTER OF YOURS, HE MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE? WHO YOU ARE, I MEAN? DID HE GIVE YOU THESE MECHANICAL LIMBS?

YES, MASTER FIX ME WHEN SHUFFE I GET HURT. HE MADE ME BETTER.

WHERE IS HE? WHERE CAN I FIND HIM? TELL ME AND I CAN TAKE YOU TO HIM!

MASTER? I... I DO NOT KNOW... I WAS LEFT BEHIND... HE... HE FORGOT ME... SNEEZES I FEEL... WEAKER.

THE DRUG IS TAKING EFFECT. YOU WILL ONLY FALL ASLEEP FOR A WHILE. WHEN YOU WAKE, WE WILL GO SEARCH FOR THIS MASTER OF YOURS.

REALLY?

PROMISE, LITTLE ONE.

I KEEP CALLING YOU "LITTLE ONE." DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

NAME? I'M... I'M LUCKY.



LUCKY... WELL, LUCKY, WHEN YOU WAKE YOU WILL HAVE TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR MASTER. HE IS SOMEONE THAT I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET.

I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET, LUCKY. YOU AND I ARE TWO OF A KIND. NEVER IN MY DEALINGS HAVE I EVER COME ACROSS SOMEONE ELSE LIKE YOU. YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

SPECIAL?



YOUR... YOUR FACE...

WHAT ABOUT IT?

WHAT IS IT?



I...

...I REMEMBER YOU.

I REMEMBER YOU NOW...

YOU WHAT?!



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

...YOU ARE SHUFFE OLDER... BUT IT IS YOU. LONG, LONG... TIME AGO, I'VE NOT SEEN YOU SNEEZES LONG...

LUCKY, PLEASE TELL ME! WHO AM I? WHAT'S MY NAME? WHERE DID I COME FROM? PLEASE!! I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR SO LONG.

YOU WERE ALWAYS MASTER'S FAVORITE.

MASTER?!? WHO IS HE? WHAT'S HIS NAME? OH GOD LUCKY... LUCKY!!

LUCKY? YOU SNEEZES YOU NAMED HE...

SPLAT!

WHAAP!

NOOOOOO!

GOOD SHOT, COLONEL.

YES, YES. A MOST SIMPLE TASK MADE EASIER BY LORD BLACKPOOL'S WONDROUS GADGET HERE.

COLONEL. I NEEDED THAT CREATURE ALIVE.

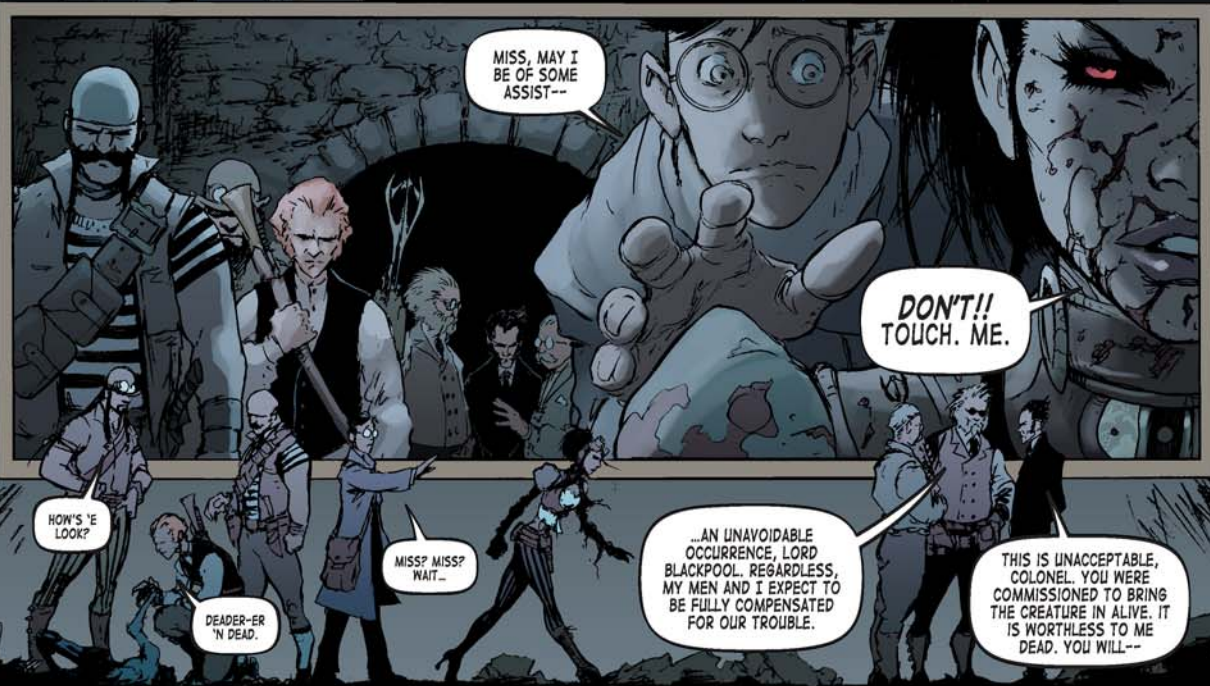
DOCTOR LITTLETON! SEE TO THE YOUNG LADY THERE. POOR CHILD SEEMS TO BE HAVING A BOUT OF HYSTERIC.

YES, WELL, THE CALIBRATION ON YOUR RIFLE MUST HAVE BEEN OFF. IT'S NOT A PERFECT SCIENCE.

THE REST OF YOU, SECURE THE DEMON AND ANYTHING ELSE OF INTEREST.

BUT SIR, I CALIBRATED IT MYSELF AND--

ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY COMPETENCE, MR. HIGGINS?



MISS, MAY I BE OF SOME ASSIST--

DON'T!! TOUCH. ME.

HOW'S 'E LOOK?

DEADER-ER 'N DEAD.

MISS? MISS? WAIT...

...AN UNAVOIDABLE OCCURRENCE, LORD BLACKPOOL. REGARDLESS, MY MEN AND I EXPECT TO BE FULLY COMPENSATED FOR OUR TROUBLE.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, COLONEL. YOU WERE COMMISSIONED TO BRING THE CREATURE IN ALIVE. IT IS WORTHLESS TO ME DEAD. YOU WILL--



WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?!

AH, YOUNG MISS. NO NEED TO THANK US. IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL GOOD CHRISTIANS TO RENDER--



AUGH!

THUMKT



IDIOT!! YOU KILLED AN INNOCENT BEING FOR NO PURPOSE! THAT CREATURE MEANT NO HARM! IT WAS JUST HURT, AND SCARED!



STUPID FOOL.



THERE WAS NOTHING INNOCENT ABOUT IT.

THAT THING WAS AN ABOMINATION! ITS VERY EXISTENCE A CLEAR AFFRONT TO GOD AND EVERYTHING THAT IS HOLY IN THIS WORLD.

THERE WAS NOTHING MORE HUMANE THAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE DONE THAN PUT THAT... THAT MECHANICAL MONSTROSCITY OUT OF ITS MISERY.



PUT ME OUT OF MINE THEN...

...IF YOU THINK YOURSELF SO RIGHTEOUS.



ME- ME- MECHANIKA?!



MADAME, A WORD, IF I MAY?

HERE'S TWO... PISS OFF!

BLAM

?!

LADY MECHANIKA, THE INFAMOUS MECHANICAL HUNTRESS! THIS IS QUITE THE HONOR. MY NAME IS NATHANIEL BLACKPOOL, OF BLACKPOOL ARMAMENTS?

I'M A VERY BIG ADMIRER AND HAVE BEEN WANTING TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE FOR SUCH A LONG--

ARE YOU MAD?! YOU JUST... MURDERED THAT MAN!



I DON'T TOLERATE DISOBEDIENCE.

THE COLONEL ALLOWED HIS RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS TO DIVERT HIM FROM THE TASK AT HAND. AND HE BLATANTLY LIED TO ME ABOUT IT. I COULD NOT ALLOW SUCH A TRANSGRESSION TO GO UNPUNISHED.

THE REST OF YOU MEN WILL ALL BE COMPENSATED IN FULL, PLUS THE COLONEL'S SHARE, FOR YOUR HARD AND LOYAL WORK.

I WILL ALSO TRIPLE THE FEE TO EACH OF YOU FOR ONE SIMPLE TASK...

...SECURE THE GIRL.



WHAT?! YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

I NEED A LIVE SUBJECT. AS IT TURNS OUT, YOU'RE AN EVEN BETTER PRIZE THAN THE DEMON CREATURE.

I SUGGEST YOU RETHINK YOUR ACTION. I WARN YOU, BLACKPOOL... YOU DO NOT WISH ME YOUR ENEMY.