

IDW



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ROM



Far, far away, in another galaxy, the knights of the Solstar Order, defenders of justice and truth, have been ambushed by the evil magicians, the Dire Wraiths. The Solstar Order has prevailed and is now seeking out their scattered enemies.

One of these knights has followed the trail of the Dire Wraiths all the way to Earth. This one, the Dire Wraiths fear more than all others. This one has hounded them and kept them underground for centuries. This one alone could wipe them off the face of creation.

*He is ROM,
Lord of the Solstar Order.
Rom, the Wraithslayer.*

ROM

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BATTLE SCARS, PART 1”

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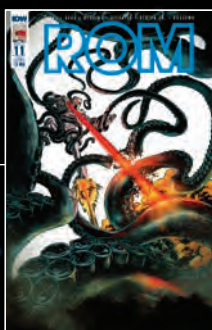
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OMINOUS THOUGH THE
DIRE WRAITH INFILTRATION
IS, WHEN VIEWED FROM
HERE, EARTH SHINES
LIKE THE JEWEL I HAVE
ALREADY SEEN IT TO BE.

MAKING IT ALL THE MORE
IMPORTANT THAT WE
PRESERVE, NOT DESTROY,
WHAT LIES BELOW.

ROM,
LOOKING DOWN
UPON IT NOW, DO
YOU TOO SENSE
WHAT A FESTERING
PUSTULE OF WRAITH
FOULNESS THIS
PLANET HAS
BECOME?

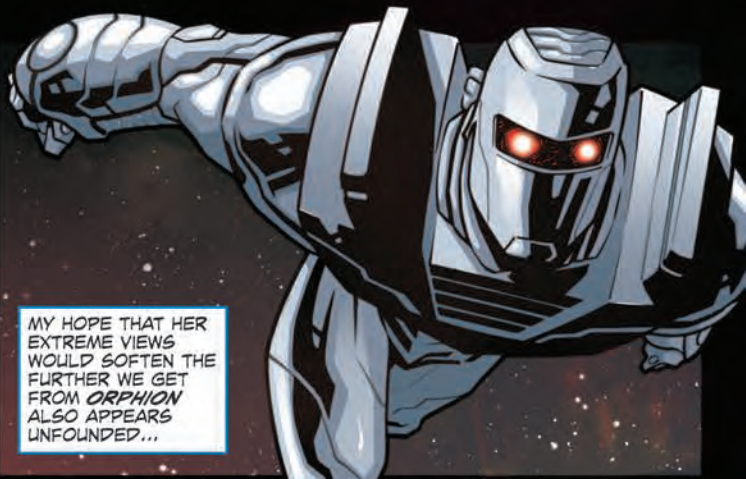
IT APPEARS LIVIA
FEELS DIFFERENTLY.

WHATEVER SPARK OF HER ONCE-LIGHT HEART I WITNESSED BEFORE OUR BATTLE WITH THE WRAITH PRIEST SEEMS TO HAVE RECEDED.*



EARTH IS A PLANET OF CONTRADICTIONS, LIVIA, ITS WONDERS AND TERRORS CO-EXISTING. IT NEEDS OUR AID, NOT—

EVEN NOW, SHE FLIES ON AHEAD, HEEDLESS OF BOTH HER PARTNER AND ANY NEED FOR STEALTH.



MY HOPE THAT HER EXTREME VIEWS WOULD SOFTEN THE FURTHER WE GET FROM ORPHION ALSO APPEARS UNFOUNDED...

OUR ANALYZERS CONFIRM IT. THE PLANET IS INFESTED, UTTERLY.

OUR CHALLENGE IS CONSIDERABLE, YES.

CONSIDERABLE? EARTH IS BEYOND HELP, ROM.



EARLIER...



I WAS RIGHT FROM THE START. IT MUST BE DESTROYED.

YOU STAYED MY HAND OUT OF FOOLISH SENTIMENTALITY. THIS PLANET IS RIDDLED WITH A CANCER...



AND WE WILL CUT IT OUT. WITHOUT KILLING THE PATIENT.

*SEE LAST ISSUE, BUT YOU ALREADY READ THAT ONE, RIGHT?-EP.





BUT YOU ARE CORRECT—THE WRAITH INFESTATION RANGES FAR AND WIDE.

WE MUST DIVIDE OUR FORCES... ATTACK ON MULTIPLE FRONTS.

FINALLY, ROM, YOU SHOW THE STRATEGIC ACUMEN I FEARED BURIED BENEATH MAUDLIN MELODRAMA. I AGREE WITH YOU.



GOOD. WE MUST LEAVE THIS CONTINENT. MY RECENT BATTLES WITH THE CYBERTRONIANS AND THE G.I. JOE TEAM COULD SPARK UNNECESSARY CONFLICTS.

THE WRAITH PRESENCE IN THESE EUROPEAN WATERS—IT DOESN'T FIT THE NORMAL ENERGY PATTERNS.

I WISH TO EXPLORE THIS FURTHER.



THAT IS WISE. I SHALL EXPLORE THIS COUNTRY'S 37TH PARALLEL, WHICH SEEMS TO CARRY A HIGHER THAN NORMAL CONCENTRATION OF WRAITHS.

“NORMAL”? WHAT OF THIS EARTH-WAR COULD BE SAID TO FIT THAT DESCRIPTION?

LIVIA, YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ROM.



SIR, LIVIA IS YOUR PARTNER...

AND YET... PERHAPS, AWAY FROM HIS INFLUENCE, SHE MIGHT FIND HER OLD SELF AGAIN.

...BUT I HAVE NO OBJECTION IF YOU DEEM IT THE BEST COURSE.

GOOD. YOU HAVE BEEN ALONE TOO LONG, ROM. IT'S TIME YOU REDISCOVERED THE BENEFITS OF A PARTNER. NOW GO...

...AND LEAVE ME TO MY TRUE BUSINESS HERE.

HIGH ABOVE THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

I FEEL
IT. *EVIL*,
EMANATING FROM
THE LANDS
BELOW.

LET US NOT
ACT RASHLY. WE
CANNOT KNOW THE
TRUTH OF THE
SITUATION UNTIL
WE'VE INVESTIGATED
FURTHER.

WE KNOW
ENOUGH, DON'T
WE?

YOU SAW THE GLOBAL
CRISIS OUR ANALYZERS
REVEALED—WE CANNOT
STOP IT, ONLY
CONTAIN IT.

I WILL HEAR
NO MORE OF
YOUR WHINING
AND DITHERING.

LIVIA REFUSES TO
LET ME IN, AFTER
ALL WE ONCE MEANT
TO EACH OTHER.

WAR MAKES US ALL
STRANGERS, YET SHE
SEEMS SCARRED IN
A WAY I NEVER
IMAGINED. WHY?

LIVIA, WE
CAN STILL
HELP THESE
PEOPLE—

IT'S TOO
LATE FOR
THEM, ROM.
FACE IT...

...IT MAY
WELL BE
TOO LATE
FOR US ALL.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.



IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, RUAN.

BUT IF SOME SUPER-WEAPON THAT'LL SHOW ME WHO IS AND ISN'T A WRAITH IS IN THERE, WHY AREN'T THERE MORE GUARDS?

CONSIDER IT WRAITH ARROGANCE.



NOT UNFOUNDED, EITHER—THE WEAPON'S INACCESSIBLE TO ANYONE ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

OH, THIS PLAN GETS BETTER AND BETTER.



I CAN REACH IT, GIVEN PROPER... EFFORT.

I JUST NEED TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT MY BACK. THAT YOU TRUST ME.



THE LATTER, YES—I DO. AS FOR MY SUPPORT IN A FIGHT... DON'T WORRY. MY PTSD WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

WHEN I FROZE UP BACK HOME, IT WAS 'CAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON.



BUT NOW I'VE SEEN WRAITHS. I KNOW IT'S MY PLANET I'M FIGHTING FOR. AND YOU'D BEST BELIEVE I'M READY.

LET'S RUN THROUGH THE PLAN ONE LAST TIME.