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# EMPIRE

## UPRISING





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TUMBRIL, GOLGOTH'S MINISTER OF DISCIPLINE, HAS GONE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS "PROJECT CHIMERA" AND "PROJECT FAR REACH," BUT ALL HE FINDS IS A NEWFOUND DISTASTE FOR HIS FELLOW MINISTERS. MEANWHILE, GOLGOTH HAS REQUESTED THAT XANNA ASSESS THE LOYALTY OF ALL HER FELLOW MINISTERS WHILE HE CHECKS IN ON THE PROGRESS OF HIS SECRET PROJECTS.

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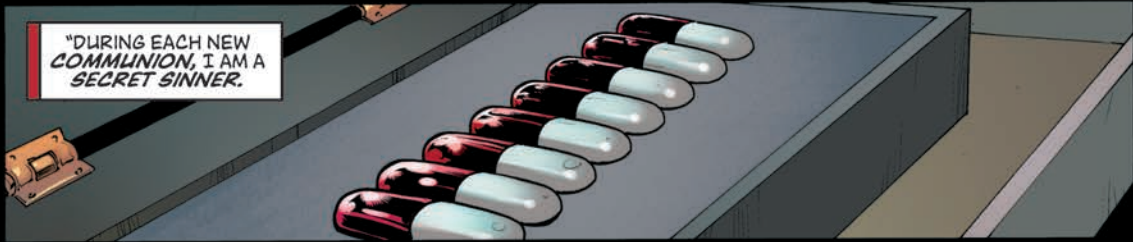
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I AM  
VALPURGIS,  
THE EMPIRE'S  
MINISTER OF  
RELIGION.

AND THIS IS MY  
CONFESSION.





"DURING EACH NEW COMMUNION, I AM A SECRET SINNER."



"I GIVE HOLY BLESSING TO THE EUCHARIST BEFORE GOLGOTH ALLOCATES IT TO HIS MINISTERS."



"THEY TAKE THIS 'DIVINE OFFERING' WITHOUT QUESTION, EAGERLY, HUNGRILY. THEY ALWAYS DO."



"THEY CRAVE THE SENSATION IT BRINGS..."

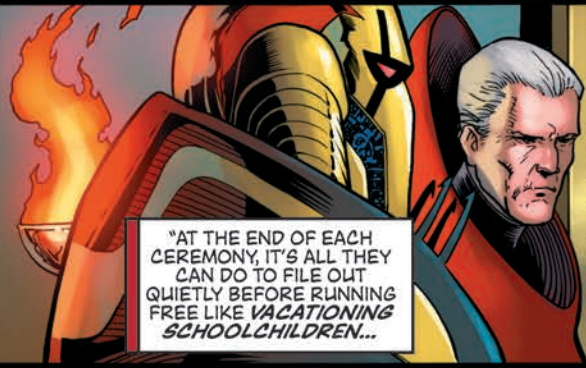


"...THE EUPHORIC JOY..."


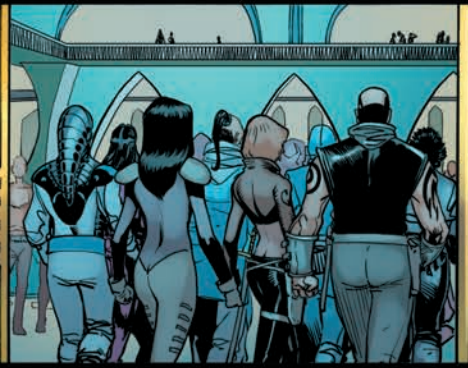


"...AS IT WASHES INTO THEIR VEINS AND ELECTRIFIES THEIR NERVES."





"AT THE END OF EACH CEREMONY, IT'S ALL THEY CAN DO TO FILE OUT QUIETLY BEFORE RUNNING FREE LIKE *VACATIONING SCHOOLCHILDREN...*



"...BOLTING TO INDULGE IN THE EARLY RUSH SOMEHOW, BE IT WITH VIOLENCE OR SEX. SOME OUTLET IS NECESSARY.



"EACH MINISTER RECEIVES ONE REGULAR DOSE..."



"...EXCEPT THE ONE DEIGNED ESPECIALLY SERVILE TO THE THRONE.



"TO WONDER ALOUD AT THE ORIGINS OF THE EUCHARIST IS SACRILEGE. THE FORMULA IS GOLGOTH'S SECRET.


"THE ONLY KNOWN INGREDIENT IS *ADDICTION.*





"THIS, THEN, IS THE RITUAL CONFERRED UPON US BY GOLGOTH, OUR 'LORD AND MASTER.'

"ONCE 'BLESSING' US, HE ENCOURAGES US TO PURSUE OUR OWN RITUALS...



"...TO USE THE POWER GRANTED US TO SPREAD WORD OF THE EMPIRE'S MAJESTY HOWEVER WE SEE FIT.

"FORTUNATELY, I AM SURROUNDED BY NO SHORTAGE OF INNOCENT YOUNG STUDENTS EAGER TO...



"...ACCEPT THE GOSPEL, 'SHALL WE SAY."



CLEANSE ME.

WITH PLEASURE, MINISTER.

IT IS OUR HONOR SIMPLY TO LAY HANDS UPON ONE SO ENERGIZED BY EUCHARIST.

YOU NEVER FAIL TO RETURN TO US *ENERVATED* AND SO OBVIOUSLY *EAGER* AND *WILLING* TO GIVE.

ONE WONDERS WHAT'S *IN* THIS EUCHARIST THAT'S SO--

