

IDW



ISSUE  
**13**

COVER A  
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# ROM



Alvendo  
2016

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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"LONG ROADS TO RUIN," PART 3

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BATTLE SCARS, PART 3"

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**COVER B**  
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**COVER C**  
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**COVER D**  
Art by Tom Vhalen



**INCENTIVE COVER**  
Art by Raffaele Ienco

Guy dedicates this issue to Jack Kirby, King of Comics.

Special Thanks to Derryl Depriest, Mark Weber, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly

Guiding Lights: Bill-n-Sal

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**ELONIA, ONE MONTH AFTER THE DIRE WRAITH INVASION.**

I AM CONCERNED FOR YOU, ROM. OF COURSE YOU SHOULD MOURN YOUR FAMILY, BUT TO SPEND THIS MUCH TIME BROODING IN THE RUINS OF YOUR HOME...

I'M SAYING GOODBYE, LIVIA. FOREVER. TO A PLACE ONCE FILLED WITH INNOCENCE AND LOVE, NOW FOREVER TAINTED.

TERRIBLE LOSSES. YET THIS NEW POWER COURSING THROUGH US ALLOWED YOU TO SLAY THEIR ATTACKERS, FOREVER MEMORIALIZE THEM HERE... AND WILL BRING US REVENGE.



A COLD COMFORT AT BEST. NO SHRINE—NO **POWER**—CAN REPLACE WHAT HAS BEEN TAKEN.



WHAT'S MORE: AS WE PREPARE FOR INTERPLANETARY WAR, I WONDER **WHO ELSE** I MIGHT YET LOSE.

WORRY NOT, ROM...



...FOR THOUGH OUR **BODIES** ARE ENCASED IN THIS LIVING METAL, I REMAIN THE ONE WHO LOVES YOU.

I AM STILL **LIVIA** IN ALL WAYS THAT MATTER, JUST LESS WEAK, LESS VULNERABLE THAN I WAS.

OUR WEAPONS MAY BE MIGHTY, BUT THIS ARMOR SEALS US AWAY. PREVENTS US—



NO—**IT** ENABLES US. IT LETS ME MOVE THROUGH MY DAYS UNAFRAID.

IT ALLOWS ME TO MAKE THE WRAITHS PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.



AND IF IT ALSO BLOCKS ME FROM FEELING THE WARMTH OF YOUR HANDS?



WE MUST EVER TAKE WHAT THE GODS PROVIDE, ROM. THERE IS STILL ENOUGH OF ME HERE... AS THERE IS YOU. SHOW ME.

LIVIA, I CANNOT—



YOU CAN. CONCENTRATE. SHOW ME THE MAN INSIDE THE MASK.



SEE? YOUR CONTROL OVER YOUR ARMORED SKIN GROWS DAILY.

MY FACE...

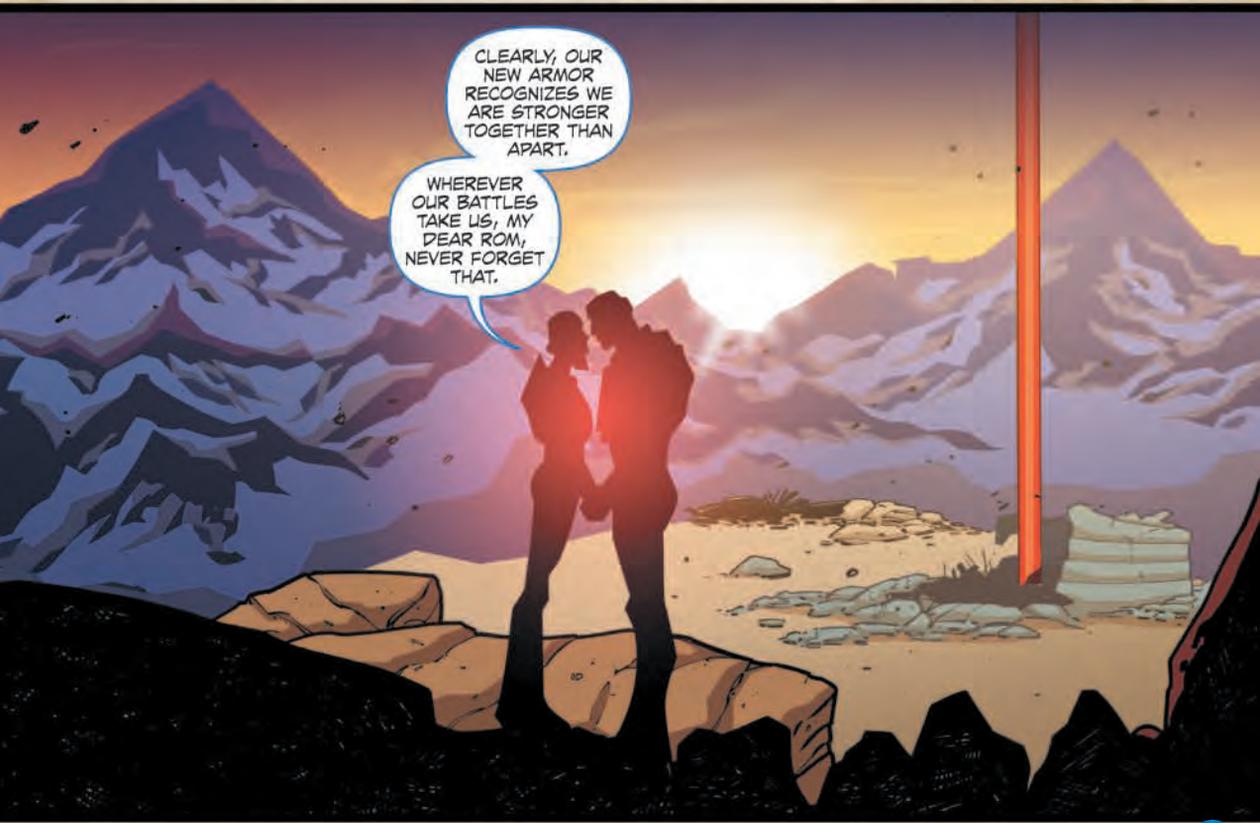


IS MORE BEAUTIFUL TO ME NOW THAN EVER.



PERHAPS... WE MAY YET ENDURE.

WE WILL.



CLEARLY, OUR NEW ARMOR RECOGNIZES WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER THAN APART.

WHEREVER OUR BATTLES TAKE US, MY DEAR ROM, NEVER FORGET THAT.



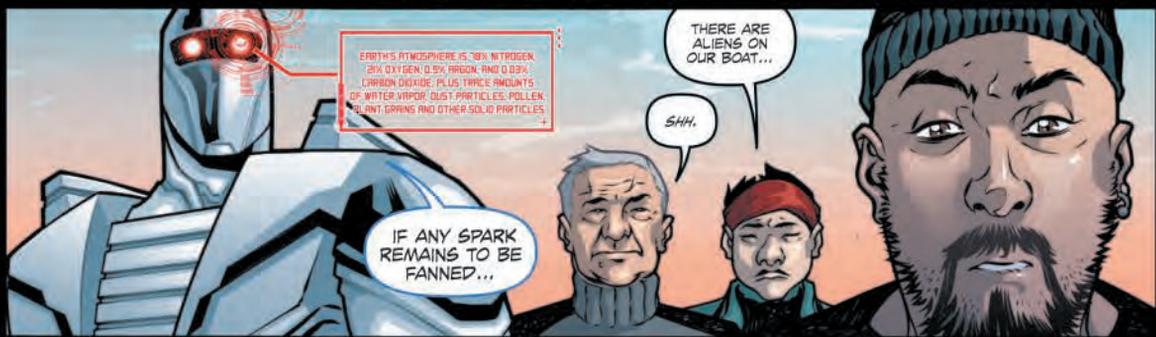
"WE ARE STRONGEST TOGETHER..."

IS SHE—IS SHE BREATHING? DID SHE EVER?!

NOT IN ANY WAY HUMANS COULD COMPREHEND.

THE ENERGY THAT SUSTAINS HER HAS BEEN DRAINED.

ITALY. NOW.



EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IS 78% NITROGEN, 21% OXYGEN, 0.9% ARGON, AND 0.009% CARBON DIOXIDE, PLUS TRACE AMOUNTS OF WATER VAPOR, DUST PARTICLES, POLLEN, PLANT ESPANS AND OTHER SOLID PARTICLES.

THERE ARE ALIENS ON OUR BOAT...

SHH.

IF ANY SPARK REMAINS TO BE FANNED...



...IT WILL REQUIRE DRASTIC METHODS.



ODDIO!

YOU... CAN BREATHE OUR AIR...?



NO. THE ARMOR'S POWER SUSTAINS ME. AND IF I AM TO SHARE IT WITH LIVIA, MY ARMOR MUST SPEAK TO HERS...



...AND REMOVE ALL BARRIERS BETWEEN US.





TWICE, LIVIA, I HAVE THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER. I CANNOT BEAR THAT A THIRD TIME.



SHARE MY LIFE FORCE. WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER...

...OR DIE TOGETHER.



THE PAIN OF LOSS IS THE SAME ACROSS THE COSMOS, IT SEEMS.

Si.



THIS IS WHY I TELL YOU TO RESPECT YOUR MOTHER AND ME. ABANDON YOUR SILLY DRAWINGS, TAKE OVER MY BOAT. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN—

NOT NOW, PAPA, PLEASE! THAT POOR WOMAN IS DEAD—



ROM, BE CAREFUL, THEY'RE—!

OH.



AHH, GODS BE PRAISED.

THE GODS ABANDONED ME. I SEE YOU DID NOT.

NEVER.



ROM, THE WRAITH CREATURE THAT DRAINED ME... IT WAS LIKE NOTHING I'VE FACED BEFORE. NO MERE PERVERSION OF NATIVE LIFE FORMS.

AGREED. WRAITHS HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO ABSORB OUR ENERGY.

WE MUST LEARN THE SOURCE OF—

THAT'S JUST IT. THE TENTACLES THAT STOLE MY LIFEFORCE... CAME FROM *BELOW* THE OCEAN'S FLOOR!



SCUSAMI!...

...THE SEA LOOKS ANGRY AGAIN!



LIVIA, ARE YOU—

TOO WEAK TO POWER MY NEUTRALIZER.

NOT TOO WEAK TO FIGHT.



THE WHIRLPOOL AGAIN... IT HERALDS SOME NEW ATTACK.

IT THINKS US POWERLESS. WEAK.



AHHH!



AHHH!  
AHHHH!

LET US TEACH IT THE ERROR OF ITS WAYS!