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MICRONAUTS

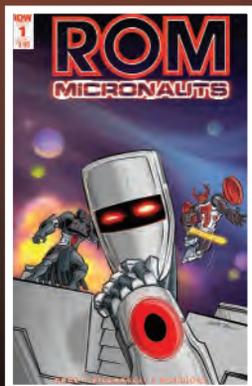


GAGE | VILLANELLI | ALEXAKIS

ROM

MICRONAUTS

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Dedicated to Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema.
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"YOUR HISTORY WITH DIRE WRAITHS IS HARDLY AN AUSPICIOUS ONE, BARON KARZA.

"YOU AIDED A HUMAN IN BETRAYING US... USING YOUR BLASPHEMOUS, OTHERWORLDLY SCIENCE TO FORM A COLOSSAL BODY OUT OF MY PEOPLE!*

"AND NOW YOU DARE COME TO ME PROPOSING AN ALLIANCE? EXPECT ME TO TRUST YOU?"



*IN THE *REVOLUTION* EVENT!

OF COURSE I BETRAYED YOU, DIRGE. AS I EXPECT YOU WOULD DO TO ME, IF IT SERVED YOUR INTERESTS. TO HARBOR A GRUDGE FOR THAT IS INFANTILE.

BUT IN THIS CASE, OUR INTERESTS CONVERGE. I WISH TO SAVE *MICROSPACE* BY PLACING IT UNDER MY POWER. YOU WISH TO WAKE YOUR DARK GOD.

AND WE BOTH WANT OUR ENEMIES DESTROYED.

I DO NOT ASK YOU TO TRUST ME. THE PROOF THAT I CAN DO AS I CLAIM IS IN THE VERY BETRAYAL YOU BEWAIL LIKE A SLAPPED CHILD.

YOUR ARROGANCE ILL BEFITS ONE WHOSE POWER HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH HIS SIZE.

EVEN IF I ACCEPT A CERTAIN... LOGIC IN YOUR ARGUMENT, AMONG WRAITHKIND, SCIENCE IS VIEWED AS HERESY. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONVINCE MY PEOPLE.

...BUT THEY ALSO FEEL A KEEN ABSENCE. ONE THAT'S PERSISTED SINCE THE SOLSTAR KNIGHTS DESTROYED OUR HOME WORLD.

TO BRING ABOUT A NEW WRAITH KINGDOM ON EARTH, THEY WILL PUT ASIDE THEIR PREJUDICES.

OUR FLOCK HAS GREAT FAITH, IT'S TRUE...

AH, BARON KARZA. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY COLLEAGUE, THE ABSENCE.



WE'VE MET, OR, RATHER, SPOKEN. I AM UNSURE IF WE'VE EVER TRULY BEEN IN THE SAME PHYSICAL LOCATION.

THAT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY, BARON. I AM SO SELDOM ENTIRELY IN ONE PLACE.

STILL, SEMANTICS ASIDE... IF WE ARE AGREED IN OUR GOALS, AND FIND A CERTAIN SECURITY IN OUR MUTUAL LACK OF TRUST...



...THEN LET US BEGIN.



"WITH THE MOST WELCOME ANNIHILATION OF THOSE WHO STAND AGAINST US."



A FEW HOURS LATER.

WE ARE TOO LATE, MICRONAUTS!



READINGS CONFIRM KARZA WAS HERE... RECENTLY, AND NOT ALONE.

AFTER OUR RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH THEM, I AM NOW ABLE TO IDENTIFY TRACES OF DIRE WRAITH MAGIC. THERE IS A POWERFUL CONCENTRATION IN THIS PLACE.

IF YOU'RE SURE, BIOTRON, WE HAVE TO FIND THEM, FAST.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF A FIGHT, SO WE HAVE TO ASSUME THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER.



THEN LET'S MAKE HASTE, I OWE KARZA MUCH FOR... WHAT **TRANSPIRED**... WHEN I WAS HIS PRISONER.

I UNDERSTAND, **ACROYEAR**. BUT SEPARATELY, BOTH KARZA AND THE WRAITHS ALMOST SLAUGHTERED US, TOGETHER...

YOU'RE WELCOME TO RETURN TO OUR COLONY, **SPACE SLIDER**.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY WHILE MY FATHER MURDERS MORE INNOCENTS.

NOW, HOLD ON, **LARISSA**! I'M IN, OKAY? I'M JUST SAYING WE WON'T DO ANYONE ANY GOOD BY GETTING KILLED. WE MIGHT NEED HELP ON THIS ONE.

THAT "ROM" FELLOW INVITED US TO CONTACT HIM AT ANY TIME.

AND FIGHTING THE WRAITHS IS RATHER HIS PRIME DIRECTIVE, ISN'T IT?

MICROTRON'S RIGHT. ROM HAD A DEVICE—HIS "ANALYZER"—THAT CAN PROBABLY FIND THESE WRAITHS A LOT FASTER THAN WE CAN.



HAIL ROM ON THE FREQUENCY HE GAVE US.

WELCOME NEWS, MY ALLIES. OUR FOES SEEM INTENT UPON DOING PRECISELY WHAT WE REQUIRE OF THEM...



UTAH. A WRAITH CELL,
NOW PURGED.



YOUR NEWS IS GRIM INDEED, MICRONAUTS. EVERY ONE OF US WILL BE NEEDED IN THE BATTLE TO COME.

THAT WOMAN, ROM... SHE LOOKS LIKE A WRAITH.
ARE YOU SURE SHE CAN BE TRUSTED?



CAMILLA BYERS IS A VALIANT TERRAN LAW OFFICER. I PURGED A WRAITH INFECTION FROM HER. IT... LEFT MARKS.

BUT I VOW TO YOU, SHE IS THE STAINCHEST OF ALLIES.

IS THAT ONE TALKING ABOUT ME? YOU'RE LOOKING AT MY ARM, AREN'T YOU?

TELL HER I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT IT EITHER.



AND THIS IS DARBY MASON, A BATTLE-TESTED WARRIOR. SHE HAS COME INTO POSSESSION OF THE ANALYZER BELONGING TO A FALLEN FELLOW KNIGHT.

NOT HIS TRANSLATOR, HOWEVER. I SHALL HAVE TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU.

THEY'RE ADORABLE!



DOES THIS WOMAN REALIZE I AM THE DEADLIEST WARRIOR IN MICROSPACE?

HE WISHES YOU TO KNOW HE IS A DEADLY WARRIOR.

WHO'S THE CUTEST LITTLE DEADLY WARRIOR? YOU ARE!