

"KILLING FLOOR"

STEVEN A. ROMAN WRITER/LETTERER

HOLLY GOLIGHTLY PENCILS

"CHAINSAW" CHUCK MAJEWSKI INKS, PAGES 1-4

ELISEU GOUVEIA COVER COLORS

"HEART -STOPPER/ TROLLORDS"

STEVEN A. ROMAN WRITER/LETTERER

SCOTT BEADERSTADT TROLLORDS PENCILS (COVER) & PAGES 1-3

HOLLY GOLIGHTLY SEBASTIENNE PENCILS (COVER)

BILL LAVIN INKS

ELISEU GOUVEIA COVER COLORS SEBASTIENNE
MAZARIN
CREATED BY
STEVEN A. ROMAN
& URIEL CATON

TROLLORDS CREATED BY SCOTT BEADERSTADT & PAUL FRICKE

HEARTSTOPPER LOGO BY GRANT MIEHM

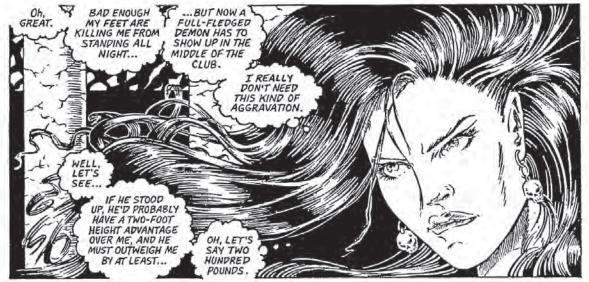
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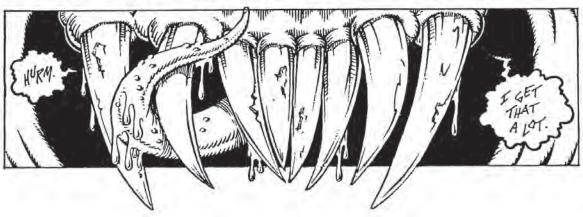
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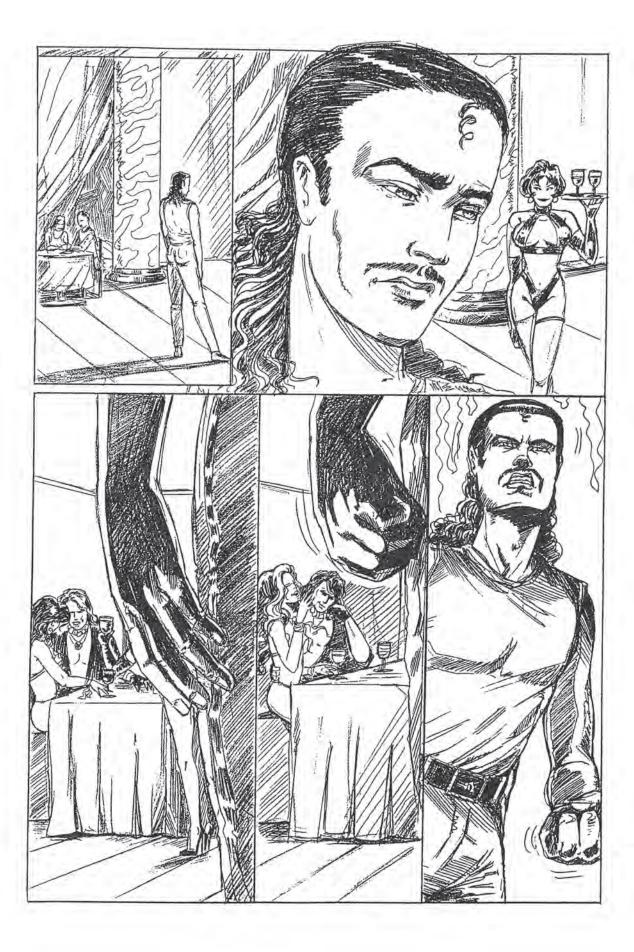


























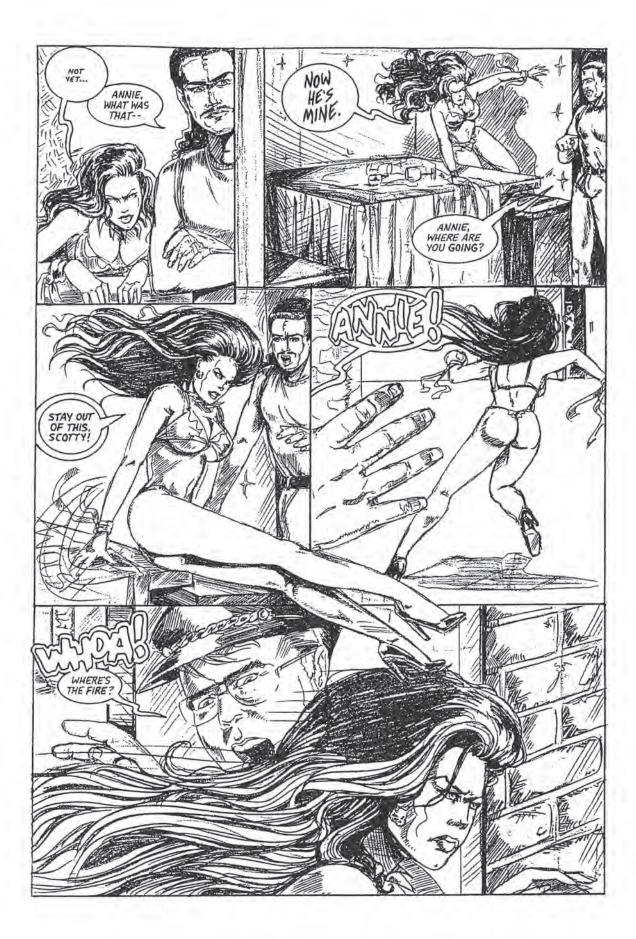






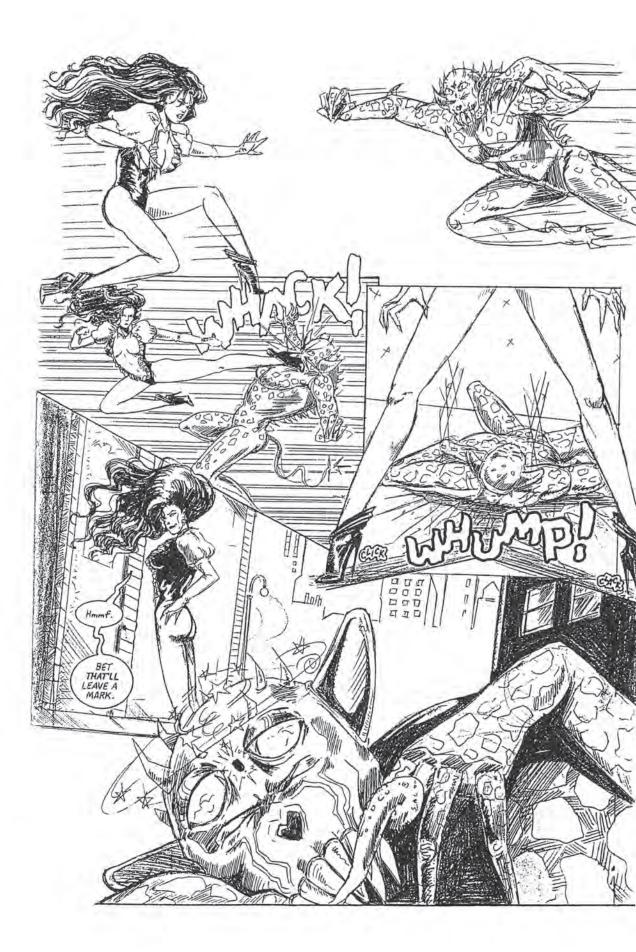






















masthead art by Uriel Caton.

WE'RE ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE ...

-AN AFTERWORD BY STEVE ROMAN-

nd so we reach the end of the *Heartstopper* comic—but, clearly, not the end of the story, since this issue ends on a cliffhanger.

Unfortunately, this is as far as the proposed four-issue miniseries got before I canceled it in 1995, due to a disagreement with Millennium Publications over royalties—as in, eight people working for free on 100 pages of content with no guarantee of ever seeing a dime for our efforts was just ridiculous. (And this was after the two published issues had recorded strong sales figures for an independent comic series.)

If you've read my afterwords in the first two issues of *Heartstopper*:

The Legend of La Bella Tenebrosa (both still available for download from the StarWarp Concepts Web site), you know the history of this prequel-of-sorts to The Saga of Pandora Zwieback—my dark-urban-fantasy series of young adult novels in which Sebastienne (Annie) Mazarin, the star of this comic, acts as Pan's monster-hunting mentor. And you know that the miniseries ended with issue two.

What we have here is the neverbefore-published third issue, fully penciled by Holly "Fauve" Golightly (who also penciled and inked the cover art) and lettered by me before I hit the brakes. "Chainsaw" Chuck Majewski—admirably stepping into the inker's spot vacated by Alan Larsen, who'd worked on issues one and two—made it as far as page four before he, too, got the word to stop.

Looking over the work today, I think Holly and Chuck made a terrific art team—his delicate, detailed inks added depth to her pencils, and would have helped her bring the miniseries to an even stronger finish. (And you should see how well he also meshed with original *Heartstopper* artist Uriel Caton on a brief *Lorelei* project! Maybe one day you will . . .)

But to ask Holly and Chuck (and no doubt issue two's colorist, Zeea Adams) to continue working for free, after being told by the publisher he had no idea when/if I'd ever see money coming in to pay for the four issues' production costs? Nope. Can't do it.

hat made my decision even more painful was that I'd recently negotiated Annie's first crossover with another comics title: Scott Beaderstadt and Paul Fricke's *Trollords*—a popular indie series about a trio of knuckleheaded trolls based on The Three Stooges.

The plot of *Heartstopper/Trollords* opened with Death (no, not the cute Goth chick version from DC's *Sandman*, but Trollords' skeletonized nemesis) attending a family get-together and being nagged by relatives about why he can't find a good woman to settle down with. Realizing that he does indeed "live" a lonely existence, Death

(whose voice I always thought would sound like Kelsey "Frasier" Grammer's) then decides to put the moves on his favorite huntress: Sebastienne, who's either killing monsters or being killed (and then resurrecting).

However, since he lacks the social graces for properly courting such a beautiful woman, Death finds himself desperately turning to the Trollords—Harry, Larry, and Jerry—for advice and help, even though he considers them a constant pain in his bony ass. Much hilarity then ensues, leading up to a literal shotgun wedding. Annie, to say the least, is not too thrilled by any of this.

The plan was for me to write the script, with Scott kibitzing to make sure I got the characterization of Death and the trolls right. He would then draw his characters, Holly would draw Annie and her supporting cast, and new inker Bill Lavin would provide finishes.

We got as far as page three and the cover before the royalties debacle knocked everything off the track.

Well, that sucked (again). The cover art looked fantastic—especially now that I've seen the mocked-up design in color—and Scott and Bill had a real EC Comics vibe going on with the three finished pages of Death at his family reunion. At the time, Holly was too busy penciling *Heartstopper* #3, so she didn't have a chance to work on Annie's first chapter in the crossover, which would have picked up from where HS #4 left off.

And that, sadly, was the very quiet end to Annie's 1990s comicbook adventures. As the bad-girl era drew to a close, she retired her skinbaring outfit and returned to monster hunting from the shadows—until, of course, the day she crossed paths with a sixteen-year-old Goth chick who possessed "monstervision" . . .

* * *

o now I hear you say, "Who cares about all that whining about getting hosed by a publisher? *Everybody* gets hosed by publishers! Where's the damn fourth issue? And what about that *Heartstopper/Trollords* thing—is that ever coming back? And if they're not, why are you torturing us with incomplete stories?"

Well, first off, I'm a horror writer, so how could you expect me to not torture my audience once in a while? :D

Secondly, I'm sorry, folks, but this is as far as both projects go; like Bill Paxton screeched in *Aliens*, "Game over, man!" But hey—the Annie you've seen in these comics is still around and still kicking monster ass, only now she's moved to the edge of the spotlight to give her protégé Pandora Zwieback a chance to shine. I just thought you'd like to see where all the weirdness in the "Paniverse" got its start.

(Good news for *Trollords* fans [like me!], though: It appears that Beaderstadt is reviving the characters for a new series, and is making use of the three completed *HS/Trollords* art—his colorized version of page one was posted to the Trollords Facebook page in July 2012. You can be sure I'll be adding that new TL issue #1 to my pull box!)

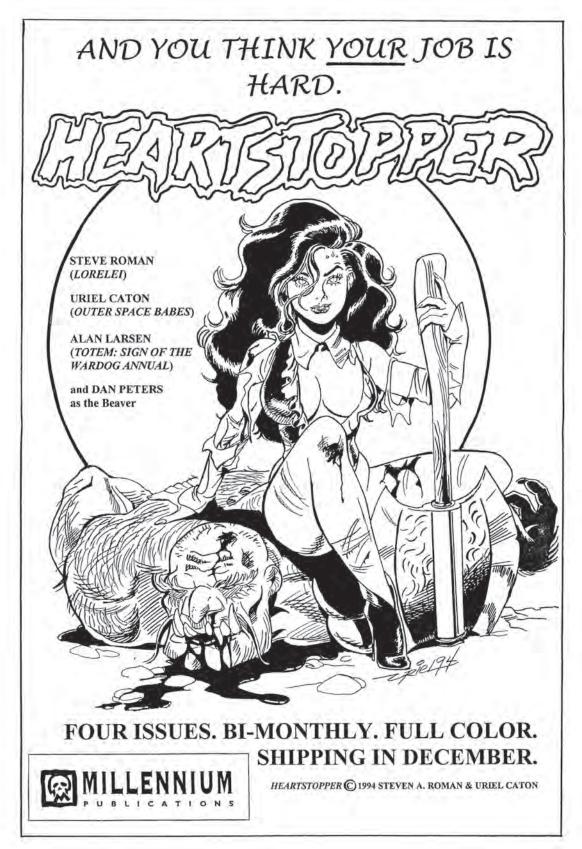
As for this e-comic, just to make it a little more special I enlisted the coloring help of Eliseu "Zeu" Gouveia, the multitalented artist whose work you've seen in the StarWarp Concepts graphic novel Lorelei: Sects and the City, the illustrated classics Carmilla and A Princess of Mars, and the comic books The Saga of Pandora Zwieback #0 (also available for download from the SWC site) and The Saga of Pandora Zwieback Annual #1. Not wanting this to be a complete b&w comic, I asked Zeu to spruce things up by coloring the covers for both unpublished projects. I think he did an incredible job; hopefully you do, too!

Also doing a fantastic job was designer Mike Rivilis, who went above and beyond the call of duty on all three of these issues. Considering he had to work with scans of two printed comics (damn you, moiré patterns!) and *photocopies* of the unpublished one, I'm amazed he was able to make it all look so good. (You've also seen Mike's far-superior-to-mine lettering skills in *Lorelei: Sects and the City* and the *Saga of Pandora Zwieback* comics.)

s artist/writer Matt Howarth used to say on the last page of each issue of his indie comic *Those Annoying Post Brothers*, "the party may stop, but it never ends."

The Legend of La Bella Tenebrosa (that's "the beautiful dark one" in the Olde Tongue, by the way) may have momentarily stopped with this comic book, but it continues today, stronger than ever, in *The Saga of Pandora Zwieback*. I hope you'll check it out as well, and follow Annie's ongoing monster-bashing adventures. To paraphrase the old saying, you can take the bad girl out of the comics, but you can't take the ass kicking out of the bad girl.

Or something like that.







-A QUICK WHO'S WHO-



SEBASTIENNE "ANNIE" MAZARIN

First Appearance: *NightCry* #1 (1994, CFD Productions) **Created by**: Steven A. Roman and Uriel Caton

orn in the early 1600s, Annie has been hunting monsters for over four hundred years; this vocation has earned her the much-feared nickname of "La Bella Tenebrosa" (the beautiful dark one). At the time of the 1995 miniseries *Heartstopper: Sorrow About to Fall* (now reprinted under the title *Heartstopper: The Legend of La Bella Tenebrosa*), Annie was making a living as a freelance magazine

article writer; her latest subject was to be an exposé on the lives of exotic dancers who performed at a New York City "gentlemen's club." In 2011, she returned to monster hunting as mentor to teen Goth adventuress Pandora Zwieback in the novel *Blood Feud: The Saga of Pandora Zwieback, Book 1*.



THE TROLLORDS and DEATH

First Appearance: *Trollords*, Vol. 1 #1 (1986, Tru Studios) Created by: Scott Beaderstadt and Paul Fricke

iving under a bridge spanning the Winnemasakee River, Harry, Larry, and Jerry were three trolls who drowned when the river crested during a heavy rainstorm and flooded their cave home. Awakening in limbo, they were met by Death, who was surprised to find their names missing from his ledger. While he was distracted by this revelation, they snuck out and returned to their bodies, and then immediately found themselves rescuing Kelly Ann

Nugrowski, a woman who'd just attempted suicide by leaping off the bridge. From that point on, the boys and Kelly Ann became a team and went on to have many adventures—when they weren't escaping attempts by Death to claim their souls, that is.

To follow the latest Trollords news, visit their official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Trollords/174893944719









Sebastienne poses with StarWarp Concepts' first supernatural femme fatale, Lorelei, in Holly Golightly's proposed cover art for *The Comics Buyer's Guide*. The illustration was rejected when the magazine's editors deemed it too violent.



"I MOST DEFINITELY ENJOYED THE LOOK OF HEARTSTOPPER. THAT COSTUME IS RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME." -COMIC BASTARDS

"SEBASTIENNE IS A GREAT CHARACTER WHO WILL HAVE YOU ON YOUR TOES." -JAZMA ONLINE

DOWNLOAD THEM FOR FREE AT STARWARPCONCEPTS_COM



ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

STEVEN A. ROMAN is the author of the dark-fantasy novel series The Saga of Pandora Zwieback and the graphic novel Lorelei: Sects and the City, as well as the novels X-Men: The Chaos Engine Trilogy and Final Destination: Dead Man's Hand. His current projects include the science fiction novel Doctor Omega and the Megiddo Factor.

HOLLY GOLIGHTLY (aka Fauve) has been an artist on such comic books as *Heartstopper: The Legend of La Bella Tenebrosa #2*, *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch*, *Nightmare Theatre*, *Vampfire*, and her own *School Bites*. Currently she and her husband Jim Balent run BroadSword Comics, known for its adult series *Tarot: Witch of the Black Rose*.

"CHAINSAW" CHUCK MAJEWSKI counts among his major artistic influences "Big Daddy" Ed Roth (creator of Ratfink) and Harvey Kurtzman. His work as a comic-book inker includes Harvey Kurtzman's New Two-Fisted Tales and the Lorelei Returns! Special.

SCOTT BEADERSTADT is the co-creator (with Paul Fricke) of *Trollords*, one of the most popular comics of the 1980s. His other work in comics includes *Empty Love Stories*, *Chill: Undead & Buried*, and the graphic novel *The Murder Professor: A Division & Rush Mystery*.

BILL LAVIN's work as an inker includes the supernatural superheroteam comic book *Troubleshooters Incorporated*.

ELISEU GOUVIEA is the acclaimed artist of StarWarp Concepts' comic books *The Saga of Pandora Zwieback* #0 and *The Saga of Pandora Zwieback Annual* #1, the graphic novel *Lorelei: Sects and the City*, and the SWC reissues of J. Sheridan Le Fanu's *Carmilla* and Edgar Rice Burroughs's *A Princess of Mars*. His current projects include *The Saga of Pandora Zwieback Annual* #2. Check out his work at **eliseugouveia.deviantart.com**.

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