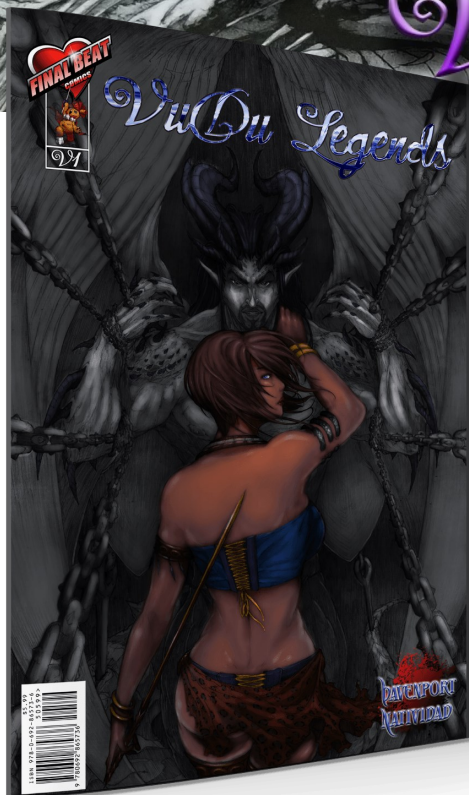


VuDu Legends Volume One



Author: Ashleigh Davenport
Artist: Michael Natividad
Editor: Cynthia Hudson
Category: Romance Comic Book
Publisher: Final Beat Comics
PDF Retail: \$5.00
Print ISBN: 978-0-692-86573-6
Print Retail: \$5.99
Pages: 52
Cover: Full Color, 100# Gloss,
1.2 mil Gloss Laminate
Interior: Black and White,
80# Gloss Text White
Language: English
Finishing: Saddle Stitch
Copyright: © 2017

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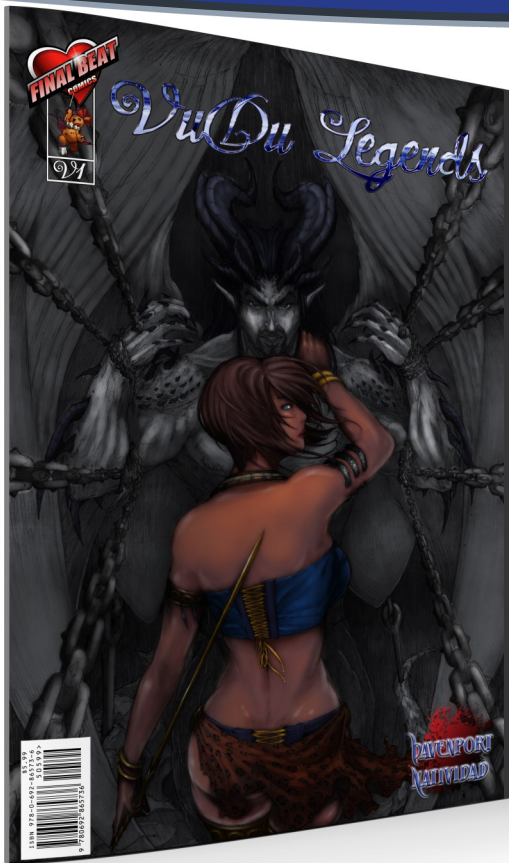
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Love is found in Darkness.

Comic Bio

Logline: VuDu Legends is a paranormal romance about a voodoo priestess who has to protect New Orleans from a demon that may be after more than her power.

Pitch: In the mists of another day defending her childish friend, a solemn voodoo priestess meets a man with a demotic problem. When she uses her power to push out the gluttonous demon, she must fight to keep him from destroying those she holds dear. But, his target was her power and he gets more than he bargained for when he unleashes it.

Comic Synopsis

Somewhere in North Dakota, a desperate young man seeks out help to rid himself of an ancestral curse. He earns a remedy only after a terrible trial, where he eliminates a demonic Iron finger plaguing the tribes land. With a new lead from a fire, Stephen is told by the elder to go to New Orleans to find out his next step.

Later In New Orleans, Kenna, a Damu (assistant) to the LaVeau family, helps Damian figure out who desecrated his ancestor's grave. After some fighting and clearing up the mess to figure out who was really to blame, KC helps get her comatose friend home.

Stephen has just made it to their door when they arrive and Cassandra LaVeau ushers them all inside. After some talk amongst Cassandra, KC, and Damien about the extra presence inside of him, Stephen asks how to get rid of it. Damian is quick to request money, but KC jumps to give Stephen help as a gift in fear of retribution from Samedi, one of the Great Spirits of the city.

The extraction is scheduled to happen that night at the Congo Square, where KC uses her power to push the demon out. As things are with demonic forces, nothing goes as planned and KC and the demon fight. When the demon tries to take Cassandra as a hostage, KC gets serious and gives him a taste of what he's been looking for. The demon fights back, but, his greed and hunger for her power proves to be his downfall as it is unleashed and unfiltered. To contain the situation, the Loas, Baron Samedi and Maman Brigitte have to step in.

Once again bound to a human, the demon is fairly upset and by the looks of KC, the feeling is mutual. Cassandra puts them to sleep to tame the destruction, but even as they sleep in Cassandra's home, the prevailing connection between KC and the demon cannot be denied.

Comic Characters



Kenna Cyan

Usually quiet and more observant of her surrounds than most, Kenna's protective nature can come off as defensive. Not willing to play games, she takes her position as Damu (guard, assistant) seriously. She protects the living from the dead and the dead from the living in the city of New Orleans, but has a well of power inside her that could threaten them all. She is usually diligent in keeping her power under control until Maurice enters her life.



Maurice Otieno

Always ready for a meal of power, Maurice is willing to do anything to get it. He uses his demonic power to overwhelm his victims and has a tendency to ignore reason. Often getting into trouble or found hovering around as a brewing cloud of mayhem, he is the bane in most situations that deal with Kenna.

Comic Characters



Stephen Thompson

Stephen is an ordinary man with an extraordinary problem. Feeling like he has nowhere to turn for help, Stephen looks towards the LaVeau family in New Orleans for an answer. To him, voodoo is the ultimate cure for healing a particular ailment plaguing his family for generations.



Damian LaVeau

If there is any reason to fight, Damian is often the one to find it. In line to be the next Witch Doctor of New Orleans, he can be an overly pompous and big headed. Beware of his displeasure!

Comic Characters



Cassandra LaVeau

If you are hungry, there is no need for an invitation to dine with Cassandra LaVeau. She is the current Voodoo Queen of New Orleans and has been for 60 years. Looks great at 79! She comes from a long line of voodoo practitioners and is the granddaughter of Marie LaVeau. She is currently training her grandson, Damian LaVeau, to become the city's next Witch Doctor and KC as his Damu (assistant).



Marie LaVeau

Marie is the first in an excellent line of voodoo practitioners who have reigned supreme over New Orleans for uncountable generations. Though little else is known about Marie, she is well known as a powerful priestess. Her granddaughter, Cassandra, is the current living Queen of New Orleans and her great-great-grandson, Damian, is next in line to the throne. Little else is known about Marie except she finds it quite fun to play tricks on the living and loves "playing cat and mouse" with her heir, Daimon and his Damu, KC.

Comic Characters



Gris-Gris

The loyal and helpful assistant to Cassandra, Gris-Gris is always willing to lend a hand. His special relationship with KC allows him to snag the occasional piece of chocolate without adverse consequences.



Baron Samedi

BS is the foul mouth, chain smoking, and binge-drinking Death Loa and husband of Maman Brigitte. He and his armies dig graves allowing you passage to the domain of Li Grand Zombi. If your grave is not open, you will wander the abyss between life and death. That's why you should never, ever, make the digger angry!

Comic Characters



Maman Brigitte

This hot-tempered Loa is the wife of Baron Samedi. She rules over the tombstones which crown the graves BS digs. Don't make her angry because stones can have a rather physical impact when dropped from the right height.

Other Characters



Baker

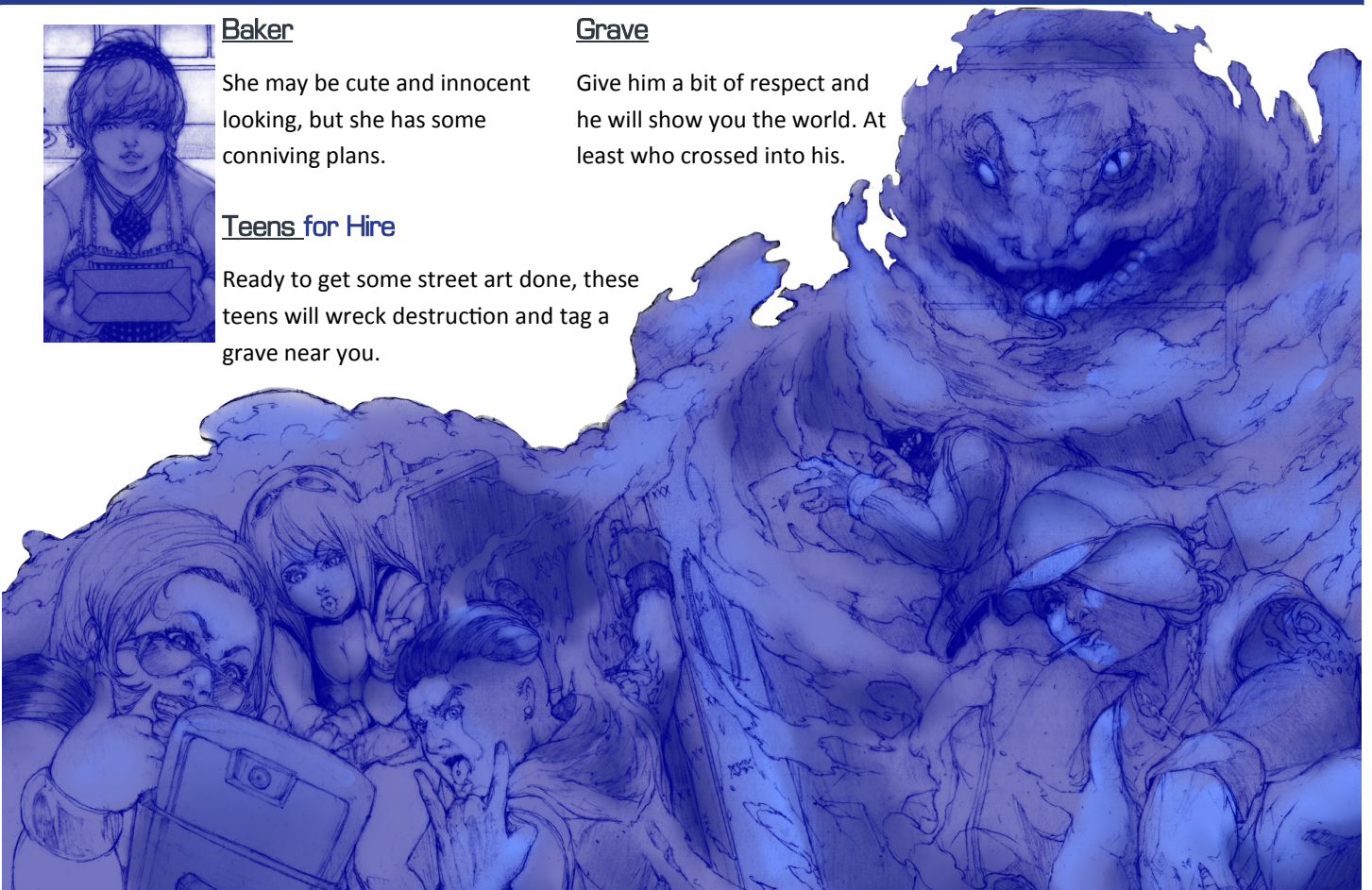
She may be cute and innocent looking, but she has some conniving plans.

Teens for Hire

Ready to get some street art done, these teens will wreck destruction and tag a grave near you.

Grave

Give him a bit of respect and he will show you the world. At least who crossed into his.



Writer's Statement

Why did I make this comic?

I'm an avid romance and comic book reader, when I tried to find a combination of the two, I had a problem.

There weren't any options out there to really latch onto. I love reading series that have a central theme of the paranormal and romance, but finding a comic like that was close to impossible. Even when looking through comics from the big publishers, the romances were hard to find inside of their expansive and sometimes confusing stories.

There was a void and it was empty for years. It wasn't until I started doing more research on writing that I found the courage to try my hand at comic book writing. Thus, VuDu Legends was born. It took even more years to get the first two comics completed and there's still more work being done. But, I wouldn't change the journey for anything less.

Team Bio



Ashleigh Davenport is the founder of the romance comic publishing house, Final Beat Comics. What began as a creative writing project is now a full-fledged publishing company which caters to the need for fun and diverse comic book heroines and their romantic encounters with the sexy monsters who just can't get enough of their curves. Her latest paranormal romance comic is Volume One of VuDu Legends. Lives in Marietta, Georgia with her husband and daughter. Addicted to chocolate and bacon, they fuel her late sessions of writing about things that go bump in the night.

Titles: Creator, Writer, Letterer, and Colorist

About Michael



Hi to all. I am John Michael B. Natividad. I'm known in the business world as Michael Natividad, comic and manga artist. I live in the Philippines where I was born in San Juan City, Manila on the 8th of May, 1991. Throughout my life, I have enjoyed watching anime, reading anime and comics, and am a casual RPG game player. These activities are my hobbies, but my passion and livelihood is drawing.

While working with Ashleigh's VuDu Legends, I feel I have created a pictorial world accentuated by textures, flowing form, and graphic appeal. This comic is an amazing concept, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Ashleigh by helping her to realize her dream of showing her world of VuDu and all of its diverse characters to you, the reader.

Titles: Penciller, Character Designer, Background Artist, and Colorist.

About Cynthia



My name is Cynthia Hudson. I am from Metro-ATL via Dover, Delaware. I have had the privilege and honor to be part of this amazing project and many others with such a wonderfully talented writer and friend, namely Ashleigh Davenport and with the VuDu Legends artist, Michael Natividad. I am the lowly, under-needed editor for Ashleigh who does a great job of creating a visually stimulating world with her elegant use of lyrical phrases and bits of flashy and seductive prose. Michael's art is a picturesque addition as you would find anywhere in the comic world and pleasure for all to enjoy.

I love to read all types of media: comics, graphic novels, as well as multiple other genres of action. I am one of those other "wanna-be writers"; a novelist who has let life momentarily push her dreams aside. I hope to finish my ever-lingering novel within the next year, but if truth be told, I think I have played that song many times before.

Title: Editor, Red Pen Mage

Production Steps

ANATOMY OF A PAGE

Page 35 (3 panels + 2 heads) VuDu Legends #1 A. Davenport

Panel 1 Maurice is now on top of the statue looking smugly down at KC. His claws are digging into the statue and pieces are crumbling off. View behind KC who is looking up at Maurice in their standoff. Stars are scattered across the cloudy sky. The moon bright behind Maurice.

KC Caption: There was something odd about this affliction.

Maurice: How should I thank you for releasing me?

KC: Don't worry about it.

Panel 2 Close up of KC's calm blue eyes.

Maurice (off panel): Let me thank you for the feast.

Panel 3 Close up of Maurice's sinister grin with a K9 over lapping his bottom lip.

Maurice: I hope you taste as good as you smell.

KC Caption: A bound soul, one searching for freedom.

Panel 4 Overlay panel of Maurice's head profile at the top right smiling down to the lower left corner.

Panel 5 Overlay panel of KC's head profile at the bottom left corner, her face stoic, looking up to the opposite corner.

STEP 01: WRITE

The script is usually a lengthy process, but best done at the beginning. That way, I will know what needs to show up at different points of the story.

Sometimes, Michael has to suffer through a sketch when I can't find the words to describe what I want on the page.



STEP 02: SKETCH

Get what Michael calls a "thumbnail," and request any changes to the page.



STEP 03: FINALIZE

Gawk at the details that make this a Michael approved final. Then add text, bubbles, and sfx.

Press: FAQs

1

When did you first decide to create comics as a career?

I've always loved comics and my favorite parts always included some type of romance. Since there was a lack of those types of comics, I decided to make them.

2

How did you come up with VuDu Legends?

I get most of my ideas from music and it was M.I.A.'s Teqkilla featuring Nicki Minaj that inspired me. The beats made me think of voodoo in a fight against evil. Then it warped into a dark sexy demon seducing the dancer.

3

Why voodoo? Isn't it bad?

As a Louisianaian, I've always heard about voodoo from family and friends. The folktales of my grandparents kept me the most interested. After lots of research, the good aspect of voodoo was minimal, so I decided to fill the gap.

4

Do you have any formal education?

Yes, but not in the least related to art. I have an AAS in Accounting and one in Office Administration from Albany Technical College. I'm currently pursuing a B.A. in Business Administration Management with a minor in Marketing from St. Leo University.

5

What is your comic book writing process?

I follow the elements of romance after I compile all my notes that I write down when I get a new idea. Once I create character bios, I work out the beat of the story. After that, to my editor's dismay, I'm all over the place.

Comic Excerpt

Page 34

What is Voodoo?

Voodoo... What do you think when you hear that word?

Demon summoning?

Needles in dolls?

Zombies?

Well, there are zombies but not your typical brainless eat-you-till-they-pop kind.

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Pencils by: Michael Natividad

Comic Excerpt

Page 35

Burn!



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Comic Excerpt

Page 36

The Meeting

There was something odd about this affliction.



Let me thank you for the feast.



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A bound soul, one searching for freedom.

Comic Excerpt

Page 37

Fight!

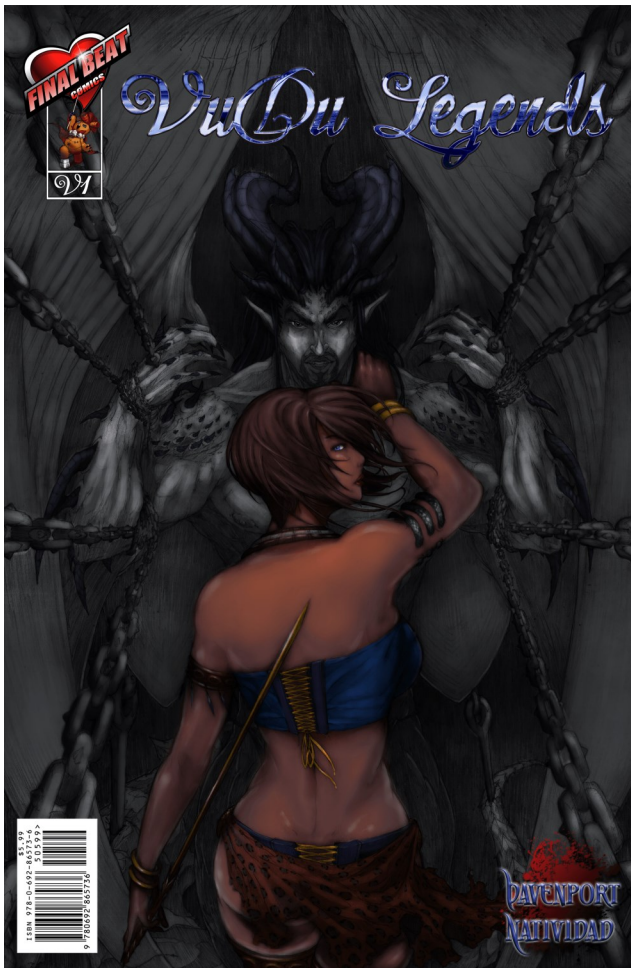


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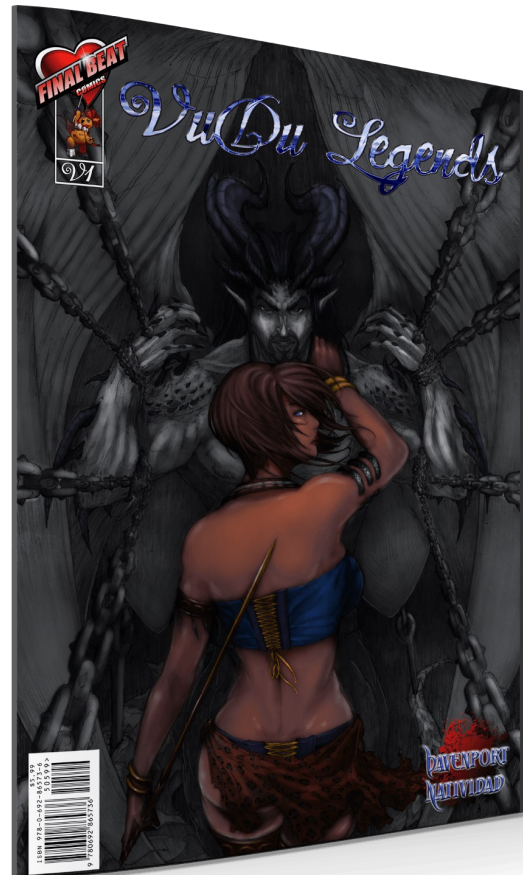
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-Thank you.



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Thank You!

Thank you so much for taking the time to review VuDu Legends Volume 1.

We hope you enjoyed getting a little voodoo in you!

