

TAKENAGA • JOHNSON • FRIEND • GORDER

WETWORKS

Enter: DAG!

Exit: GRAIL!

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HIS NAME IS JOEL BLONDMY.
UNTIL RECENTLY, HE WAS BELIEVED
TO BE UNDETECTABLE.

HIS BODY HAD BECOME A VESSEL
OF SHAMING, FORMLESS ENERGY,
WHICH BOILED ON THE SURFACE, THE
ULTIMATE PROOF OF EINSTEIN'S
THEORY OF RELATIVITY.

IT WAS AN EVOLUTION BROUGHT
ABOUT BY THE MYSTERIOUS
SYMBIOTE ANCHORED WITHIN HIS BODY.
IN A BATTLE THAT NEARLY COST HIM
HIS LIFE, THAT VESSEL WAS BROKEN.

NOW IT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN IF HIS LIFE WILL
SOON FOLLOW.

A FAREWELL TO ARMS

words FRANCIS TAKENAGA

pencils JASON JOHNSON

inks FRIEND, GORDER, CONRAD, RAPMUND & RIZZO

colors NATHAN LUMM

computer colors WILDSTORM FX

letters BILL "THE THRILL" O'NEIL

NETWORKS coated by

Walter Portacio and Brandon Choi





THEY'RE THROWING EVERYTHING AT US. THIS ATTACK WAS PROBABLY CRAVEN'S LAST WISH...TO MAKE SURE NONE OF US WERE LEFT AS A COVENANT WITH ONE OF HIS CREW'S GONE FURAR.

BRING JOSHUA. I WANT TO QUESTION HIM WHEN WE GET AWAY FROM THIS MESS.

LET'S ROCK.

LEAVE ME.

NO.

YOU KNOW I WON'T LIVE TO SEE TOMORROW. I'D JUST BLOW YOU DOWN.

WHAT I KNOW, YOU FALSELY MODEST, HORRIBLE ACTOR.

...IS THAT I LOVE YOU.

AND I, YOU.





SOOOOYYE.

HIS FINAL MOMENT MADE NO SOUND IN MY EARS. GUNSHOTS AND RAZORS ALIKE WERE CONSUMED INSTANTLY BY HIS FIRE. A WONDERFULLY FRIGHTENING SPECTACLE OF HELL MAKING ITS WAY HEAVENWARD.

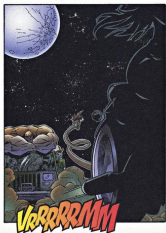
ALL OF MY SENSES WERE CONSUMED BY ITS AWESOME FORCE, MORE SO BY THE MAN BEHIND IT.

JOEL NEVER LIVED LIFE AS MOST MEN LIKE HIM WOULD HAVE.

THIS DISPLAY MADE IT CLEAR HE DIDN'T INTEND TO BE AS THEY WOULD HAVE, EITHER.







I TAKE
IT YOU'VE
HEARD?

I HEARD IT
ALL. AN ENTIRE
ARM
OF THE RADARS
AND
THEIR EQUIPMENT
OBLITERATED...

...NOT TO
MENTION EXTENSIVE
DAMAGE TO THE REAL ESTATE.
I'VE GOT THE COMMAND'S SPIN
DOCTORS CALLING IT A GAS
MAIN EXPLOSION. WE'LL SEE
HOW THAT WASHES WITH
THE PRESS.

HAVE A CUP,
BLACK AS INK,
THICK AS TAR. WE'VE
GOT A MOUNTAIN OF
PAPERWORK COMING
FOR THIS ONE.

NO WE
DON'T. THIS NEVER
HAPPENED, EVEN IN
OUR RECORDS.

SRF?

DAR WAS A
THREAT TO FAR MORE
THAN NATIONAL SECURITY.
HE WAS AFTER THE
SYMBIONESE, COLBY.

THE ORDER
FOR HIS "ACCIDENTAL
DEATH" CAME FROM
THE TOP. SOMETHING BIG IS
GOING DOWN, AND THEY WON'T
EVEN TELL ME WHAT IT IS.

"THAT, MY FRIEND,
SCARES ME."

"I'M NEVER GOING
TO UNDERSTAND WHY
NOBODY HAS FOUND THIS
JOINT WITH A WINDOW
OUT IN PLAIN
SIGHT."

HOLOPROJECTORS
TO FEEL VISUAL
SONIC STIMULATORS
TO GIVE FALSE
ADORA SIGNATURES
OF ROCK. THIS WINDOW
LOOKS LIKE A CLIFF
FROM THE OUTSIDE.

"I KNOW,
JUST TRYING
TO MAKE SMALL
TALK TO GIVE
YOU THIS."

"IT ROOTED
ITSELF OUT OF ME
WHEN GRAIL...WELL,
IT'S BECOME SOLID.
DOESN'T BURN."

"THE ORIGINAL
SPHERE JOEL HAD ME
USE TO HELP FOCUS ON
CONTROLLING MY SIDE."

"I KNOW
WHO WANTS YOU
TO HAVE IT AS
A REMINDER
OF HIM."

"I'LL
LEAVE YOU TWO
ALONE."

JOEL



FOR THE
LAST TIME, I...
DON'T KNOW
WHAT CAME
OVER ME.



YOU KILLED
AN UNCONSCIOUS
MAN IN COLD BLOOD.
THINK HARDER.

YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
DONE THE SAME? I
COULD FEEL YOUR
HATE THROBBING
UNDER YOUR
GOLD, DAVE.

THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE IS
THAT I ACTED ON
MY FEELINGS. JOEL
HAD A FRIEND.



MARITZA,
CAN'T YOU
JUST WHIP-BOAG
JOEL BACK? LIKE
YOU DID...

IT DOESN'T
WORK LIKE THAT,
DEX. I GOT
EXTREMELY LUCKY
WITH NATHAN. I
PROBABLY SHOULD'VE
DIED FOR
TRYING.



WELL, I DON'T
SEE YOU TAKING
ANY CHANCES
FOR JOEL!

**STAND
DOWN,
SERGEANT!**

CRASH



LET ME INTO
YOUR SYMBIOTE.
IF THE GOLD
IS CHANGING
YOU, I'LL FIND
THE ANSWERS
HERE.

Y...YES.
HELP ME...



GREEN GOLD
WENT TO ME,
GLAYFRODE!

GET THIS
HATE OUT OF
ME, SIR. IT'S
KILLING ME. I
KNOW IT.



I...
CAN'T SEE...
ANYTHING...

MEANWHILE, IN THE BARREN
WASTELANDS THAT HAVE BEEN
NO MAN FOR CENTURIES — IS
A PLACE OF ETERNAL DARKNESS.

IT IS THE HOME
OF THE RUBERLOODS...
THE TRUE VAMPIRES.

A SANCTUARY BEHIND WHOM
DOZENS DWELL VAMPIRES WHO
HAVEN'T BEEN CHALLENGED BY
MORTAL MEN SINCE THE BEGINNING
OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

IT IS A PLACE
CALLED
NIGHTHOLD.



I IMPLORE
YOU, LET ME
RETAKE ORDAIN ADVN
FROM DRAGONS' MANSIONS.

ANYTHING
BUT TO ROT IN
INDOLENCE!

THERE, YOU
ARE GROWN, BUT HERE
YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER
FIRST. WHEN YOU
LEARN RESPONSIBILITY
YOU MAY RETURN WITH
MY BLESSING.









"BY THEIR LAST REPORT, THIS EPISODE SHOULD BE CONCLUDED WITHIN THE WEEK, WITH NO ONE THE WISER OF OUR PRESENCE IN THIS WORLD."

SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON.



IT'S PRETTY
BAD, PAUL. SAME
M.O. -- OUT WITH
A VENGEANCE.

THIS GUY'S
GONE FROM DRAINING
HIS VICTIM'S BLOOD
TO TURNING THEM INTO
DIRTY CORPSES
OVERNIGHT.



I'VE SEEN THIS A
LOT IN MY TIME. NEVER
I DOUBT IF THERE'S
ANYTHING THAT COULD
TURN THIS OLD
STOMACH.



SWEET
OF JESUS!

WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED
TO HIM?



DAMNED IF I
KNOW. LOOKS LIKE
THE LIFE WAS
SUCKED RIGHT
OUT OF HIM.
DON'T IT?

GET THIS
ONE TO COUNTY
ASAP. I'LL SEND THE
NEWS DOWN TO
GET THE REPORT
LATER.

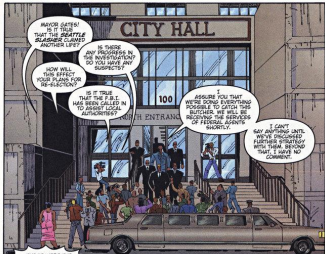


IT'LL BE A
GOOD PRIMER
FOR HIS CAREER
IN THE FORCE...
-GARTH-

TELL ME,
KEY. WHAT ON
GOD'S GREEN EARTH
COULD POSSIBLY
DO THAT TO A
HUNT?

MAYBE
SOMETHING
NOT OF THIS
EARTH.





...THOSE WERE THE ONLY WORDS UTTERED BY MAYOR GATES REGARDING SEATTLE'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER IN MANY, MANY YEARS.



MAYOR, HAVE YOU REALLY THOUGHT EVERYTHING?



THEN WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LATEST VICTIM?



SORRY, MAYOR. I'M AFRAID THE MAYOR HAS IMPORTANT MEETINGS TO ATTEND.





THANK YOU FOR THE SAVE, SON.

IT'S WHAT I'M PAID FOR.

IF I MANAGE TO GET MYSELF IN FOR A SECOND TERM, YOU'LL BE RECEIVING A SUBSTANTIAL RANGE FOR TODAY.

MORE IF YOU CAN GET THAT FACTURE AWAY FROM MS. VELAQUET.

CONSIDER IT DONE.



I TRUST BY YOUR PRESENCE HERE THAT WE'VE COME TO AN AGREEMENT? HAVE YOU DETERMINED A PRICE FOR YOUR "SKILLS" IN THIS MATTER, MISTER...MISTER --

SAVOY. THE NAME IS SAVOY.



THE MISSING BOOK START

OBVIOUSLY. I'VE HAD PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS THAT TOOK ME AWAY FROM MY FANS, AS PART OF MY FEEL, YOU NEVER SAW ME... WHAT GRADE IS THIS SMOCKED GLASS? VERY NICE FOR THESE SULTRY DAYS.

IF YOU CAN CLEAR THIS UP BEFORE THE FEES ARRIVE, I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING! MY CAMPAIGN...MY LIFE IS BEING ON IT!

GOOD. THEN WHAT I'LL REQUIRE IS ONE FAVOR DURING YOUR NEXT TERM. GRANTED WITHOUT QUESTIONS, AND WITHOUT STRAHS. DON'T LOOK SO GLUM. I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO LAST ME TEN LIFETIMS, SO IT WON'T BE THAT.

DONE. BUT HOW WILL YOU KILL, MUCH LESS FIND, WHAT MY POLICE COULD NOT?

MAJOR GATES,
MEET "WILDER," THE
GREATEST TRACKER WHO
HAS EVER LIVED, AND
I MEAN THAT QUITE
LITERALLY.



PLEASUED TO
MEET YOU, MR.
WILDER...



IS HE
ALWAYS THIS
CHERRY?

BE
GRATEFUL YOU
HAVEN'T SEEN HIS
"OTHER SIDE."



MAKE THIS
GO AWAY, GENTLEMEN.
MY LIFE, AND THOSE
OF THIS CITY,
DEPEND ON IT.



S SEVERAL MILES
AWAY...

I'M SO
GLAD YOU FINALLY
DECIDED TO TAKE THIS
LITTLE VACATION,
CRAG.

FOR YOU,
BUBBLES, IT WAS
THE LEAST I
COULD DO.

TWENTY-
SOMETHING YEARS
ON THE JOB WITH NO
BRIKES, AND A WIFE WHO
STOOD BY ME FOR THE
DURATION, I'M A LUCKY
MAN!

GRUNCH

WHAT WAS
THAT?!

PROBABLY
SOME BIRD FROM
THE NEXT CAMP
TRYING TO PLAY
PEEPING TOM.

CRAG,
PLEASE
DON'T DO
IT. COULD BE
A MOUNTAIN
LION OR
SOMETHING!

CLICK

WELL, IF THAT
MOUNTAIN LION RANG
ON TWO FEET AND REEKS
SOMETHING AWFUL, THEN
IT'S GOING TO GET
THE BEATING IT
DESERVES.

COME BACK
INSIDE THE
TENT!



HERE, PUDDY.
PUDDY, PUDDY...NICE
PUDDY-CAT. COME TO POPPA
AND LET HIM HELP YOU SEE
STARS WITH HIS LITTLE
BASEBALL BAT.

HMM



WHO'S
THERE? I HEARD
YOU COME ON OUT
BEFORE SOMEBODY
GETS HURT!



CRAG,
PLEASE!

DON'T WORRY,
JESSE. JUST WANT
TO TEACH THESE YOUNG
PUNKS SOME MANNERS.
IS ALL.



OHAY. GAME'S
OVER. I HEARD
YOU AROUND HERE
SOMEWHERE.

THUD

HONT
IS THAT
YOU?

Noooooo!

IN A WORLD WHERE HALF OUR LIVES
ARE SPENT IN DARKNESS, THERE ARE
CREATURES THAT ROAM THE EARTH
LONG HIDDEN AWAY FROM THE LIGHT
OF MODERN SCIENCE.

DEADLY CREATURES THAT HAVE MET
TO RECOGNIZE MAN AS THE SUPERIOR
SPECIES. MONSTERS NOT CONSIDERED
FROM OUR DARKEST NIGHTMARES, BUT
THE VERY INSPIRATIONS FOR THEM.

UNWORLDLY KILLERS
LIKE THE DEVOURER
OF SOULS...

...THE SKILL-BENDER...

next month
**A TALE OF
TWO KNIGHTS**

THE DEEP END...

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MIKE ROCKWITZ
COVER BY:
JASON JOHNSON
SANDRA HOPE

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IN CASE YOU ARE JUST JOINING US: The WetWorks team settled in to their new headquarters, using an old safe house the members of the original Team 7 had set up some time ago. The team, looking to unwind from the tumultuous events of the past few weeks, ventured into the city for a night out on the town. Unbeknownst to them, NSC has dispatched a team of assassins led by the insane Dag, to eliminate them.

Dear WETWORKS Crew,

As an avid WETWORKS reader, I wanted to take this opportunity to write in and tell you guys and gals what an incredible job I think you are doing. This is not the first time I have written you detailing the wonders of your comic, and it certainly will not be the last. I have been with you since the very start of WETWORKS and have thoroughly enjoyed the ride. There was a time, between Mr. Portacio's penciling and Cedric's art that I was not too happy with it (although I am currently very impressed with Mr. Raney's art on STORMWATCH!)—and I feel that the beginning of Cedric's stint (during the FIRE FROM HEAVEN crossover) was somewhat disappointing also. But I can no longer say that I have any disappointments with WETWORKS!! Jason Johnson is an incredible artist and I thoroughly enjoy every page that he beautifully pencils. The art team as a whole is excellent! The pencils and inking are really beautiful—very unique, detailed, and expressive. The colors, oh boy, are amazing. Actually, the art on WETWORKS reminds me somewhat of the art in BACKLASH! Both are superbly done and a real treat to look at. And I am happy to say the writing is just as good as the art. In the beginning, I was somewhat confused about the team and felt there were so many plot and sub-plot twists and barely decipher-

able hints, that it made it difficult to read one issue by itself. I had to get out the previous 2 or 3 issues to get everything that was going on. While I certainly don't want to have everything laid out straight for me, I feel that the writing is more clear and the plots and angles more easy to follow. As a reader of over 10 comics a month (of which WETWORKS is right up there in the top 3), it is somewhat difficult to keep track of all the little details of each issue over a 3 to 4 month period. Let me just say that I feel much more enthralled reading WETWORKS now than I used to. As I have heard so many people complain that Mr. Portacio isn't on board anymore—let me just say that although I love his art on past WETWORKS issues and on the current IRON MAN series, I feel that the current art team is the best that WETWORKS has ever had and I am sad to even think about the team changing (as art teams must always do so often). And while I really enjoyed Mr. Rubi's art on the GRIFTER mini-series and on BACKLASH, it just didn't seem to fit as well on WETWORKS (sorry Mel!!!). This thing is getting long—but I feel compelled to write and let you know how happy I am with WETWORKS and for everyone to take a couple of minutes to pat each other on the backs and congratulate each other on such a fine comic. You guys and gals really know how to make someone look forward to those next

issues!! Thanks for listening.

Matthew Dwyer
Muncie, IN
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bsuvc.bsu.edu

Before I begin, let me say that it's letters like this that make our jobs a worthwhile experience (at least in terms of sharing a vision with others). From a creative standpoint, those first few issues were extremely difficult to compile. Too much to say, and only 22 pages (or so) in which to say it. Oftentimes it wasn't enough. Whilce and I spent many a sleepless night trying to figure out what to keep, and what to stash away for another day. From a reader's point of view, I can see how things may have gotten a bit muddled. Still, I'm glad that you're pleased with where the book is going and how it's being handled. Basically, it's all exposition on those crazy first issues with a bit of garnishing on the side to keep things off-balance. Heaven forbid we become even remotely predictable! Thank you for your continued support of our little project and I hope I don't disappoint you in the issues to come. Revelations abound... the least of which being the origins of the symbiote!

WETWORKS Crew,

WETWORKS must be one of the best comic books on the market. With its great storyline written by

Francis Takenaga and pencils by Jason Johnson, only amazing things can happen. The major character developments with Dane and Jester were astonishing. Dane fighting the BloodQueen mano a mano was great. I hope there is a rematch. Showing Grail wasn't invulnerable in issue #24 was a nice touch. Jester's shape-shifting ability is nothing short of amazing. With the team leaving Waering, it is going to be difficult: no new weapons or anything. It's going to be hard for the team, but it may be for the better. I could go on and bore you, but I won't.

One thing I don't like is Pilgrim. Bringing her back to the team was great. But then learning that she was a werewolf made me disappointed. Don't get me wrong, she is a spectacular character. In fact, she is my favorite character. It's just one flaw, I can live with it. Another thing is that you bring her back and she gets hardly any action in the book. I suppose this will change when her werewolf side reveals itself.

Even though Jason Johnson's artwork is especially great on the cover for issue #23, I wonder why Cedric Noxon stopped illustrating the book. His artwork was the best since Willcoe Portacio left the book. It has the Willcoe look but his own cool style. I consider the books he illustrated among the best of my collection. Will he be doing the book again? Which book is he working on now? The inks by Chuck Gibson were marvelous too.

One question: When do we get to see the Aquarians (previewed in issue #16) again?

Jeffrey Beines
RR #2 Listowel
Ontario, Canada
N4W 3G7

Thank you again for such a positive response, Jeffrey. The split with Waering was a long time coming, especially when you consider how Dane never really trusted the guy since issue #2! Well, that time has finally come and while the lack of cable might drive fellows like Jester batty, I intend to keep their hands plenty busy with other factions of Night Tribes (and more!) to keep them from getting too bored. As for buying munitions, their new base of operations is an old Team 7 hangout loaded with weaponry! Convenient, isn't it? As for this Pilgrim having very little action, this is true. But as we've seen in #19, using this power is extremely dangerous to her. The fact that she's a wolf can (and will) complicate things, of course. Don't be surprised if you see her risking her neck again in the very near future. The last I heard, Cedric had hopped off to the Big "M" working on an "X". I can say no more, but I think you can figure it out from there!

Dear WETWORKS

I just pick up issue #25 and WOW! It was great. Most of all, I like the part when Pilgrim turned into a werewolf and that is the main point of my e-mail.

Does WetWorks have any plans in the future to have Pilgrim turn back into a type of werewolf and stay that way for a period of time as she looked on page 27. she looked a real fox (pun intended) with her gold laid fur and pointy ears and claws and if you do have her transform back into a werewolf as shown on page 27 How about have her grow a wolf type tail that she had on page 16 when she was really ugly as a full blown werewolf. I guess what I am wishing that is that to see Pilgrim as female werewolf trapped in that form; but still identifiably feminine as in issue

#25 page 27. Have her with wolf characteristics such as body fur, claws,fangs,pointy ears and a tail. Anyway, thanks for reading this I know it sounds strange, but that's why comics are a very strange place to visit.

Pwesty@sina.com

Thanks for the note. Only time will tell how far Pilgrim will go in her transformation. Glad you like what you've read so far. Take care.

Next Issue: A string of vicious murders and mysterious abductions have authorities baffled. It's a recipe for disaster when a horror beyond imagination terrorizes the Pacific Northwest and it's up to Dane and WetWorks—minus Grail—to track a creature of vampire legend and somehow destroy it. Survival may hinge on the help of their old ally, Johnny Savoy and the sudden change of Claymore.

