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IN THIS ISSUE...
THE
TERRIBLE TRIDENT!
The Happy **DEAD**
NIGHT OF THE LEOPARD MEN
TAKE CARE OF YOUR
LITTLE
BROTHER

HALLOWEEN NIGHT... WHEN DEMONS AND MONSTERS CAN PROWL EVEN THE BUSTLING STREETS OF **NEW YORK CITY** WITHOUT NOTICE...

IT WAS ON THIS COOL OCTOBER NIGHT THAT A RATHER SHABBY "SATAN" PARKED HIS CAR ON A SIDE STREET NEAR CENTRAL PARK AND WALKED INTO THE MISTY BREEZE...

HELL! THIS OUTFIT THE **COSTUME RENTAL PLACE** DELIVERED TO ME LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D FIND IN A **DIME STORE!** BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO SEND IT BACK! THE PARTY HAS ALREADY **STARTED!**

"THE TERRIBLE TRIDENT!"

STORY - DON GLUT
ART - VICENTE ALCAZAR

THERE WERE **MANY** SATANS STALKING THE STREETS THIS NIGHT... BUT **THIS** DEVIL WAS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN NAMED **RONALD PALM!**

HMMMF! YOU'D THINK THAT AFTER DEMANDING \$40 A NIGHT, THEY COULD HAVE SENT SOMETHING **BETTER!** NOW ALL I CAN DO TO GIVE THIS \$#!%&*! COSTUME ANY **CLASS,** IS A DECENT LOOKING **PROP...** LIKE A **PITCHFORK!**

THE JUNKSHOP! IF THERE'S ANY PLACE IN TOWN THAT JUST **MIGHT** HAVE A PITCHFORK AT **THIS** HOUR OF THE NIGHT, IT'S **THIS** RUN-DOWN LOOKING STORE!



RONALD STARED FOR A FEW MOMENTS INTO THE DIMLY-LIT SHOP... SEEING THE CONGLOMERATION OF JUNK THAT CLUTTERED THE WINDOW...

I'VE DRIVEN PAST THIS PLACE DURING RUSH HOUR MORE TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER! THANK GOD IT'S STILL OPEN! NOW I JUST HOPE THE SHOP LIVES UP TO ITS CLAIM!



YES, SIR! MAY I HELP YOU SIR?

I HOPE SO! I NEED A PROP FOR THIS OUTFIT.



HMMM... I SEE!

Y-YES! BUT HOW COULD YOU KNOW? I DIDN'T EVEN MENTION--

YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME TOLD ME, SIR! A DEVIL CANNOT GO ABOUT THESE DAYS WITHOUT THE PROPER EQUIPMENT!



IT'S A DEVIL'S PITCHFORK!

IF I MAY CORRECT YOU, SIR, IT IS CALLED A TRIDENT!


AND IT MAKES MY HAND FEEL... STRANGE! Y-YES, I MUST HAVE IT! HOW MUCH?!




RONALD PALM DISCOVERED THAT THE PRICE OF THE TRIDENT WAS SURPRISINGLY LOW. YET WHILE HE MADE THE TRANSACTION WITH THE PECULIAR MR. BEEL, ANOTHER DRAMA WAS UNFOLDING ON A FOGGY NEW YORK STREET...

IT AIN'T RIGHT FOR A CHICK LIKE THAT TO BE WALKIN' THE STREETS ALONE AT NIGHT! IT'S DANGEROUS! MAYBE SHE NEEDS SOME COMPANY, HUH?! HEH! HEH...






HIYA, FOX! DON'T YOU KNOW
NEW YORK AIN'T *SAFE* THESE
NIGHTS... NOT WITH ALL THOSE
MUGGINGS YOU KEEP READING
ABOUT IN THE PAPERS!



WH-WHAT DO YOU
WANT? Y-YOU'D
BETTER LEAVE
ME ALONE... OR
I'LL CALL OUT
FOR THE *POLICE*!

COME *OFF* IT! YOU
KNOW THERE AIN'T NO COPS
AROUND WHEN YOU NEED ONE!
AN' YOU ALSO KNOW THAT
NEITHER OF US *REALLY*
WANTS THE *MAN*
SNOOPING AROUND
OUR *TURF*!



WE ALSO KNOW THAT
HIGH CLASS CHICKS
HAVE A LOT OF BREAD!
SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL JUST
HELP *MYSELF* TO A LITTLE OF
IT! STAY COOL AND YOU
WON'T GET HURT! I JUST
WANT THE CASH!

BUT NEW YORK'S MUGGERS DO NOT
USUALLY ENCOUNTER THE *PRINCE*
OF DARKNESS ON THE CITY'S
STREETS...



STOP WHAT YOU DO
THIS NIGHT, MORTAL! FOR
YOUR *MASTER* IS
HERE... AND
COMMANDS
YOU!

WHA--?
THE *D-*
DEVIL?!!



HOLD IT! TONIGHT'S
HALLOWEEN! YOU MUST
TAKE ME FOR A *FOOL*, MISTER!
WELL I DON'T *LIKE* BEIN' A
FOOL, SEE?! SO MAYBE WE
JUST OUGHTA FIND OUT IF
"SATAN" HAS POWER
ENOUGH TO STOP A
BLADE!

THE TRIDENT SUDDENLY CAME ALIVE IN PALM'S SWEATY, SHAKING HAND... THROBBING WITH ALL THE ENERGIES OF SOME NETHERWORLD...

WHAT TH--!

N-NOOOOO!

WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?! TO HAVE SUCH POWER YOU MUST REALLY BE...

I'M JUST A MAN WHO'S AS PUZZLED ABOUT THIS AS YOU!

LOOK, I'M JUST ON MY WAY TO A HALLOWEEN PARTY! SOME WEIRD DUDE SOLD ME THIS TRIDENT AND OWES ME A LOT OF ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TONIGHT!

TH-THEN, MIND IF I GO WITH YOU? I DON'T WANT TO STAY... ALONE!

NOW WHAT! THERE WAS A STORE HERE BUT NOW IT'S GONE... LIKE IT WAS INCINERATED!

THE WOMAN WHO IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS DORI, HARDLY NEEDED TO CONVINCE PALM. HER BEAUTY AND IMPLOING EYES WERE INSPIRATION ENOUGH... BUT AS THE TWO APPROACHED THE LOCATION OF "BEEL'S STORE"...

DORI! I'M BEGINNING TO REGRET I EVER LEFT MY *APARTMENT* TONIGHT!

DON'T THINK OF IT AS A *TOTAL WASTE*, RON!

SIR, I *MUST* HAVE THE TRIDENT BACK! I *MUST* HAVE IT *NOW*!

BEEL!! NOT SO *FAST*, BEEL! BEFORE I GIVE *YOU* ANYTHING I WANT SOME *EXPLANATIONS*!

BUT THERE IS NO *TIME*! JUST GIVE ME THE *TRIDENT* WHILE YOU ARE STILL *ABLE*!

WHAT--?!!

TOO LATE, MORTAL! NOW *HE* HAS RETURNED! AND *WE* ARE ALL DAMNED!


THANK THE POWERS THAT BE, YOU STILL *HAVE* IT!

WHAT THE DEVIL-- IT'S *SATAN*! I M-MEAN, THE *R-REAL* SATAN! THEN THAT *TRIDENT*...


YES, YOU WHO PRESUME TO EMULATE MY DARK PERSONAGE...THE REAL SATAN! AND IF YOU ARE NOT TOO COWARDLY TO *OBSERVE*, I WILL SHOW YOU THE *TRUE* IDENTITY OF THIS DODDERING FOOL WHO CALLS HIMSELF "*BEEL*"--




BEHOLD ONE OF MY **LESSER**
DEMONS OF HELL-- **BEELZEBUB!**
WHO **STOLE** MY TRIDENT THAT HE
MIGHT SEIZE MY FIERY THRONE!



M-MERCY,
MA-MASTER!
I **B-BEG**
OF YOU!



BUT WITH **SATAN**
"MERCY" WAS A
MEANINGLESS
WORD!



AND AS THE SMOKE FADED WITH
THE NIGHTTIME MISTS...

IT'S ALL **OVER**, DORI! BUT THAT
DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN IT'S OVER
FOR **US!** IT'S **EARLY** YET... AND
WE COULD GO TO THAT PARTY!

THERE'S NO **NEED** TO
GO THAT FAR **AWAY**,
RON! WHAT **I** MUST DO,
I CAN DO RIGHT **HERE!**



YOU SEE, SATAN HAS
MANY LESSER
DEMONS IN HIS
COMMAND! AND **I**,
LILITH, HAPPEN TO
BE **ONE** OF THEM!
MY TASK WAS TO
FIND BEELZEBUB
AND THE TRIDENT...
BUT I ALSO
FOUND **YOU!**