



DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *India*
LAKSHMI *Authentic*



MOHAPATRA/SWAPNIL

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india authentic™

LAKSHMI



CREATED BY DEEPAK CHOPRA

SCRIPT SAURAV MOHAPATRA

ART SWAPNIL SINGH

INKS JYOTSNA V. DOMSE

COLOR K. GOPALAKRISHNAN

LETTERS RAVIKIRAN B.S.

COVER ART ABHISHEK MALSUNI

PROJECT MANAGER SANDEEP NAIR

EDITOR MARIAH HUEHNER

II VIRGIN COMICS II

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PUBLISHER
SHARAD DEVARAJAN

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
GOTHAM CHOPRA

PRESIDENT & STUDIO CHIEF
SURESH SEETHARAMAN

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER
LARRY LIEBERMAN

SRVP STUDIO
JEEVAN KANG

VICE PRESIDENT-OPERATIONS
ALAGAPPAN KANNAN

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
MACKENZIE CADENHEAD

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
NEIL MARKS

CHIEF VISIONARIES
DEEPAK CHOPRA, SHEKHAR KAPUR,
SIR RICHARD BRANSON

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Frances Farrow, Dan Porter,
Christopher Linen, Peter Feldman,
Raju Puthukkadi, Mallika Chopra,
Jonathan Peacheay.

INDIA AUTHENTIC #13, MAY 2008 published by VIRGIN COMICS L.L.C. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 594 Broadway,
New York, NY 10012. Copyright ©2008, Virgin Comics L.L.C. All Rights Reserved. The characters included in this issue, LAKSHMI,
and the distinctive likenesses thereof are properties of Virgin Comics L.L.C. No similarity between any of the names, characters,
persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended,
and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in Canada.

For advertising, licensing and sales info please contact:
info@virgincomics.com or (212) 584-4040. www.virgincomics.com

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS *indian authentic*™

LAKSHMI™

In the Hindu pantheon perhaps the most revered goddess is Lakshmi; daughter of the Ocean and Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. The story goes that gods and demons, working together, churned the primordial ocean, and that great marine heart bestowed upon them gifts from her very bosom, each more grandiose and magnificent than the last. The most beautiful among them was Lakshmi, the betrothed bride of Vishnu.

It's easy to classify Lakshmi as just the goddess of "material" riches and Indian mythology is rife with famous oneup(wo)manship stories between Lakshmi representing wealth and Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. But if one pauses but to look and think, there is another dimension to her.





She represents achievement and endowment. Industry and perseverance are the twin offerings she adores the most. In Lakshmi, we find a felicitation of the long hard road that one walks before achieving one's goal. She is as much the goddess of the journey towards it as she is the keeper of the prize at the conclusion, the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. She is the celebration of the human will to achieve great things and the inspiration to toil hard and never let adversities stand in one's way.

THE OCEAN,
MY MOTHER.

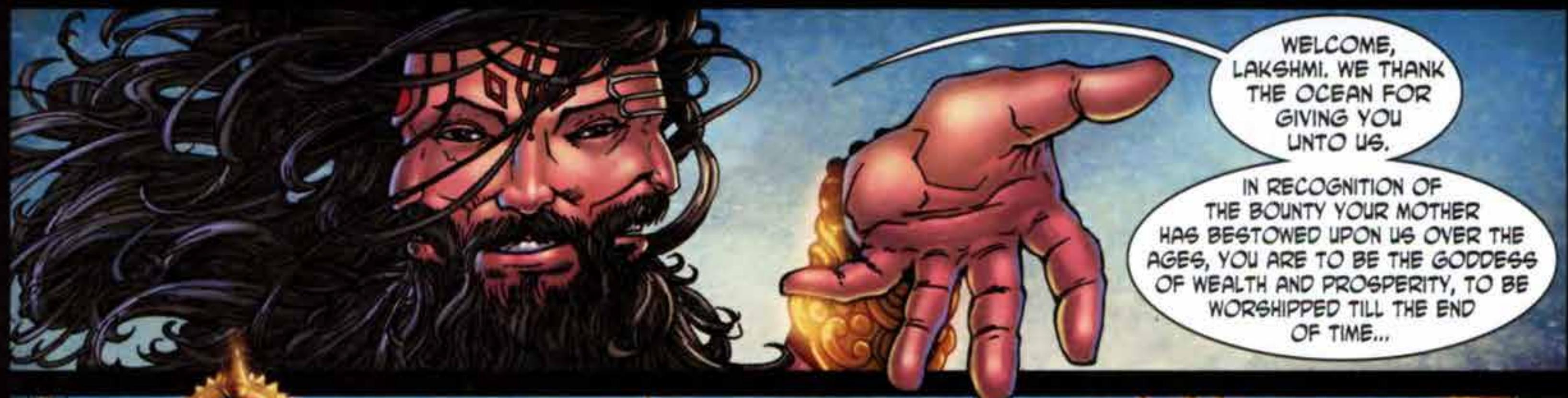
THE DEPTHS,
MY WOMB.

THE SWEET
SOUND OF THE
WAVES...

...MY
ULLABY.

THUS, I WAS
CONCEIVED.





BAIKUNTH, THE
ABODE OF VISHNU,
MANY MILLENNIA
LATER.

LORD BRAHMA'S
PRESENT WAS
MORE THAN JUST
A GAME.

YOUR TURN,
LAKSHMI.



THE DICE
SPEAK OF
PROSPERITY.

LET US SEE
WHAT THE DICE
FORETELL THIS
TIME, MY LORD.



IT WAS, IN A WAY, A
TOOL FOR MY DUTIES
AS THE GODDESS OF
WEALTH AND FORTUNE.

AH, THE
OMENS AUGUR
WELL, LORD
VISHNU.



LAKSHMI, IN ALL
THESE YEARS OF US PLAYING
THIS GAME, HAVE YOU NOT
LEARNED THE SIMPLEST
OF TRUTHS YET?





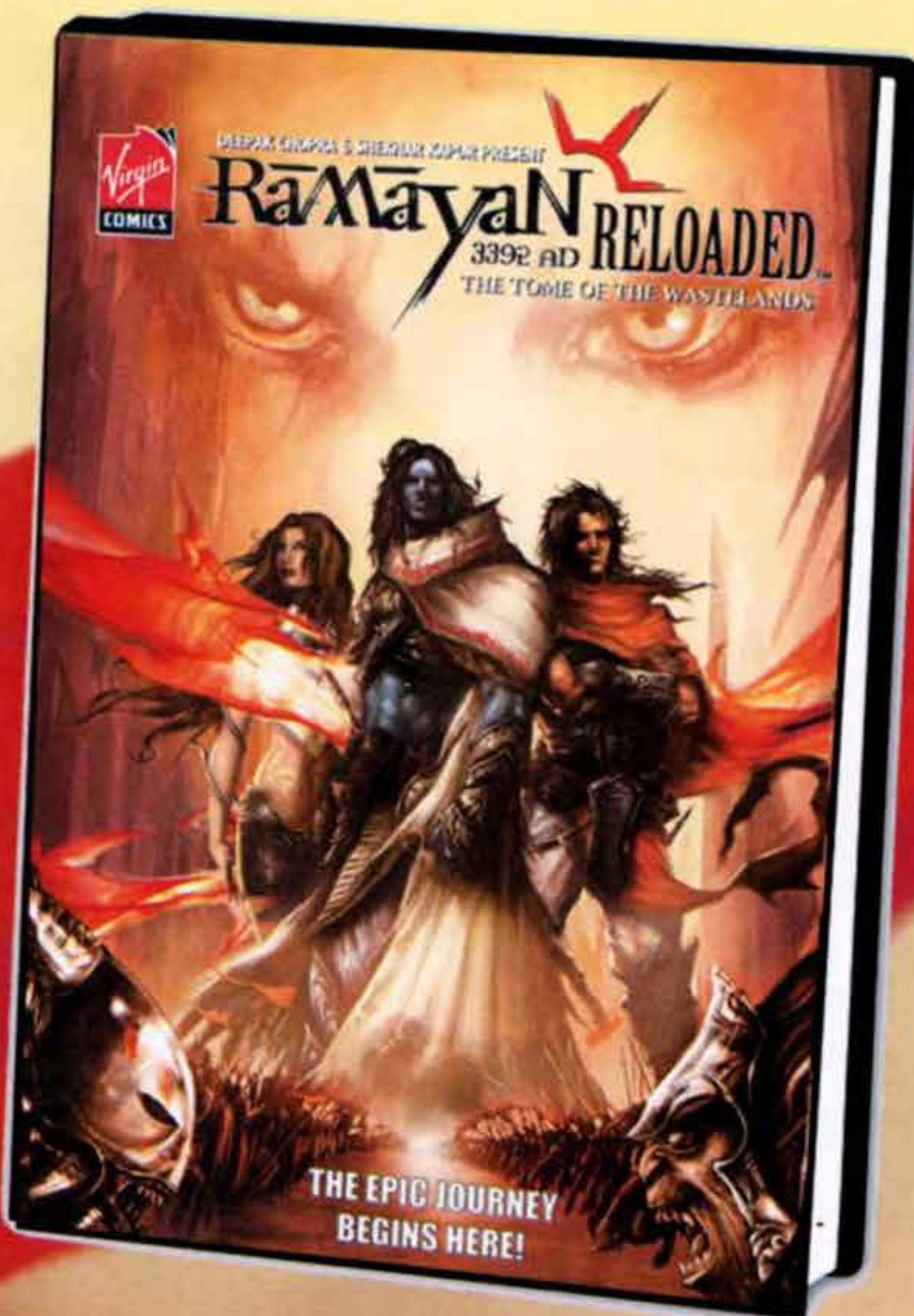
"INDIA'S ANSWER TO LORD OF THE RINGS"

—THE TIMES OF INDIA

A story thousands of years in the making...

A re-imagining of one of the greatest tales ever...

Retold in a post-apocalyptic future...



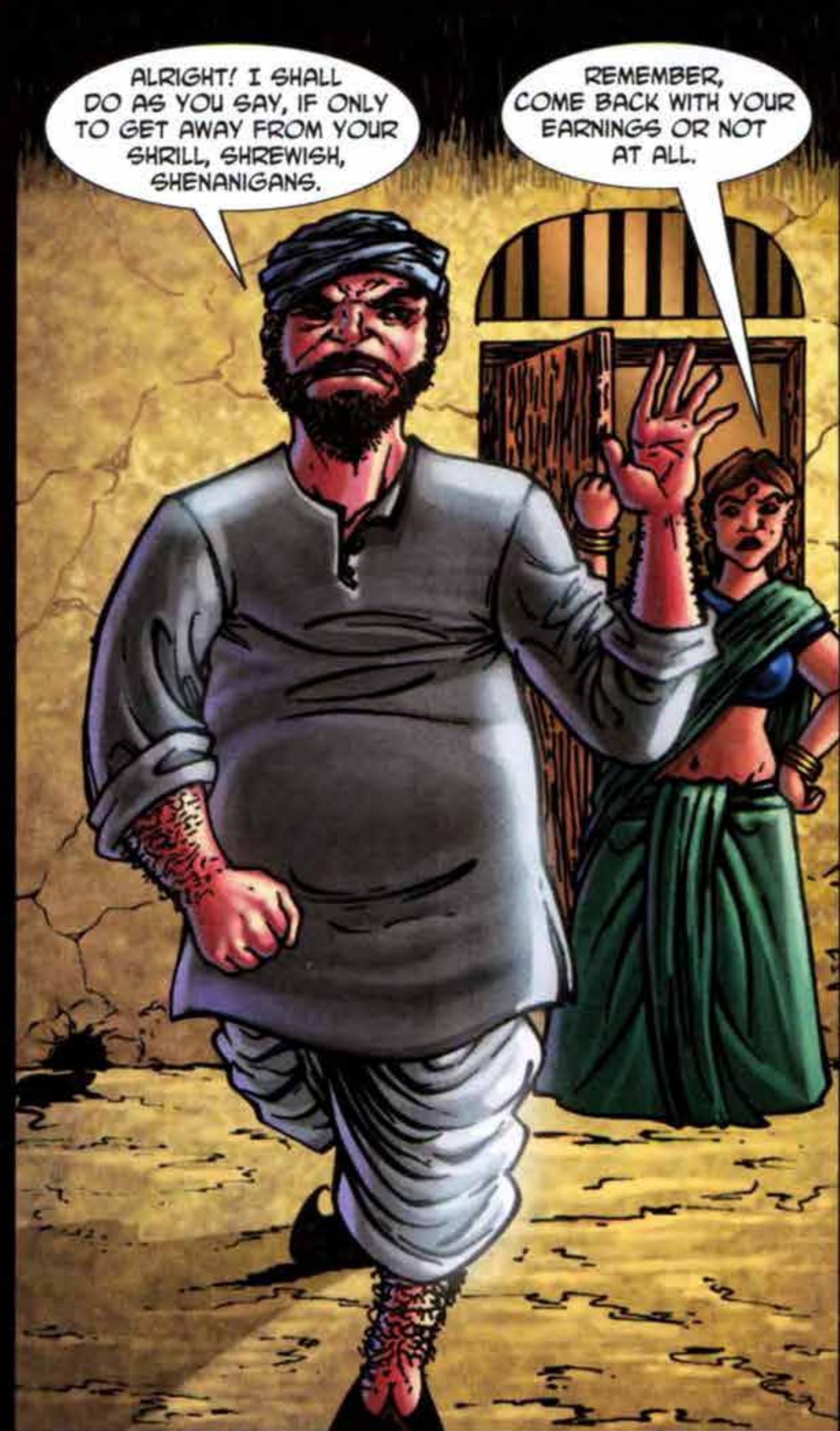
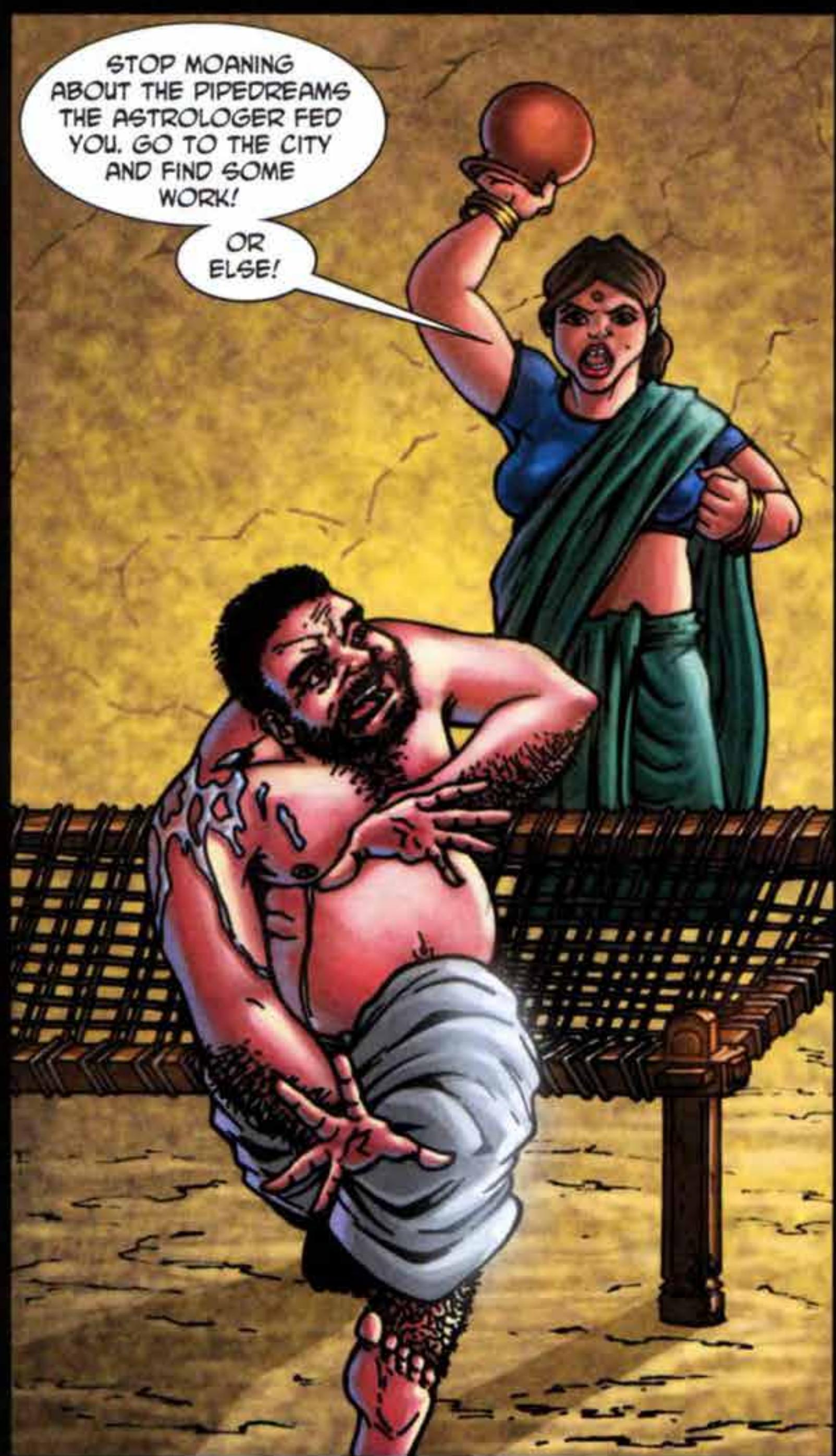
Also Available

Cover by
Alex Ross

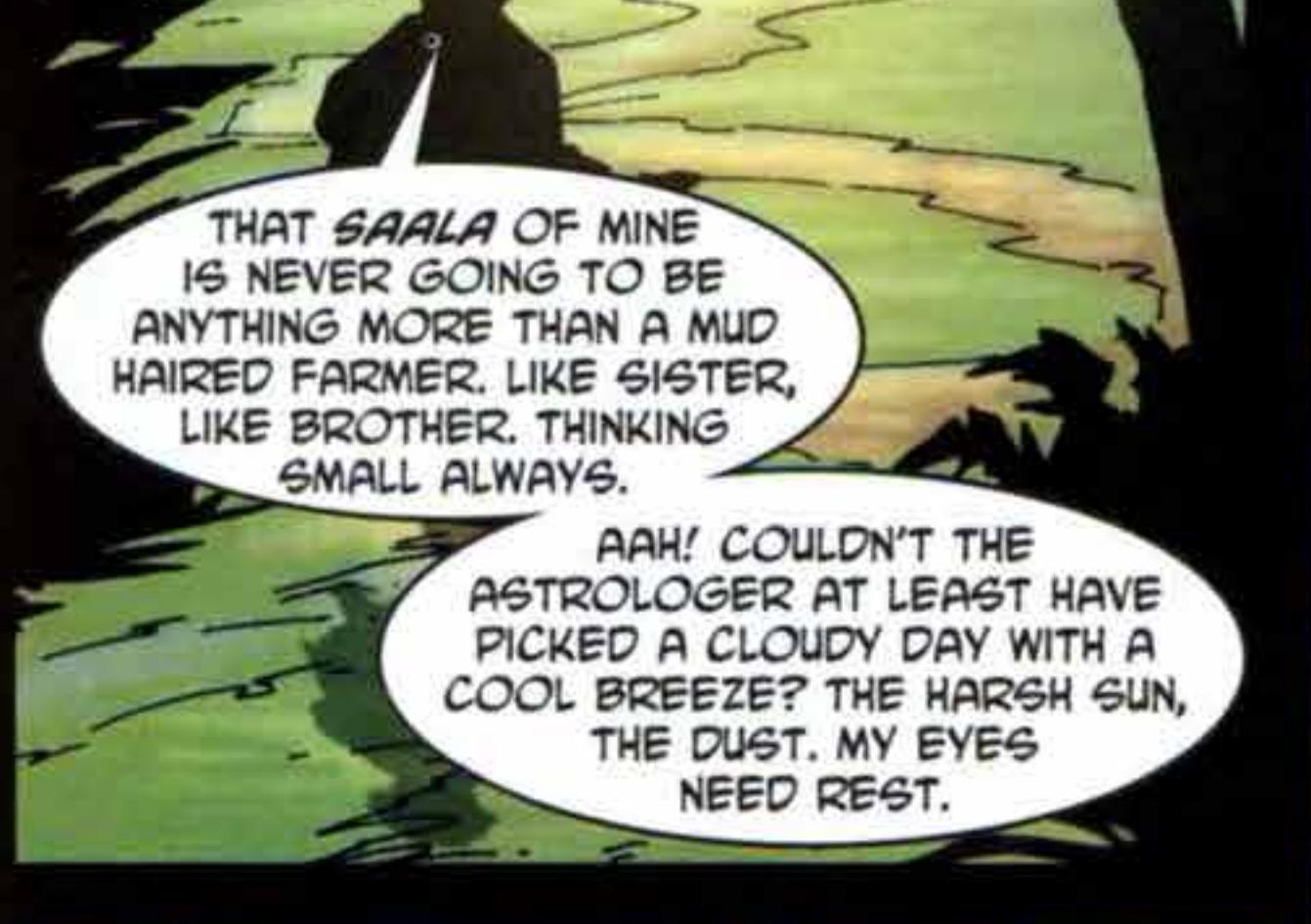


VIRGINCOMICSSTORE.COM









AAH! COULDN'T THE
ASTROLOGER AT LEAST HAVE
PICKED A CLOUDY DAY WITH A
COOL BREEZE? THE HARSH SUN,
THE DUST. MY EYES
NEED REST.

WHY DIDN'T
I THINK OF THIS
BEFORE?





THE NEW VIRGINCOMICS.COM IS HERE



About Us | Featured Titles | Blog | Digital Comics | Videos | Community | Gallery | Extras | Store

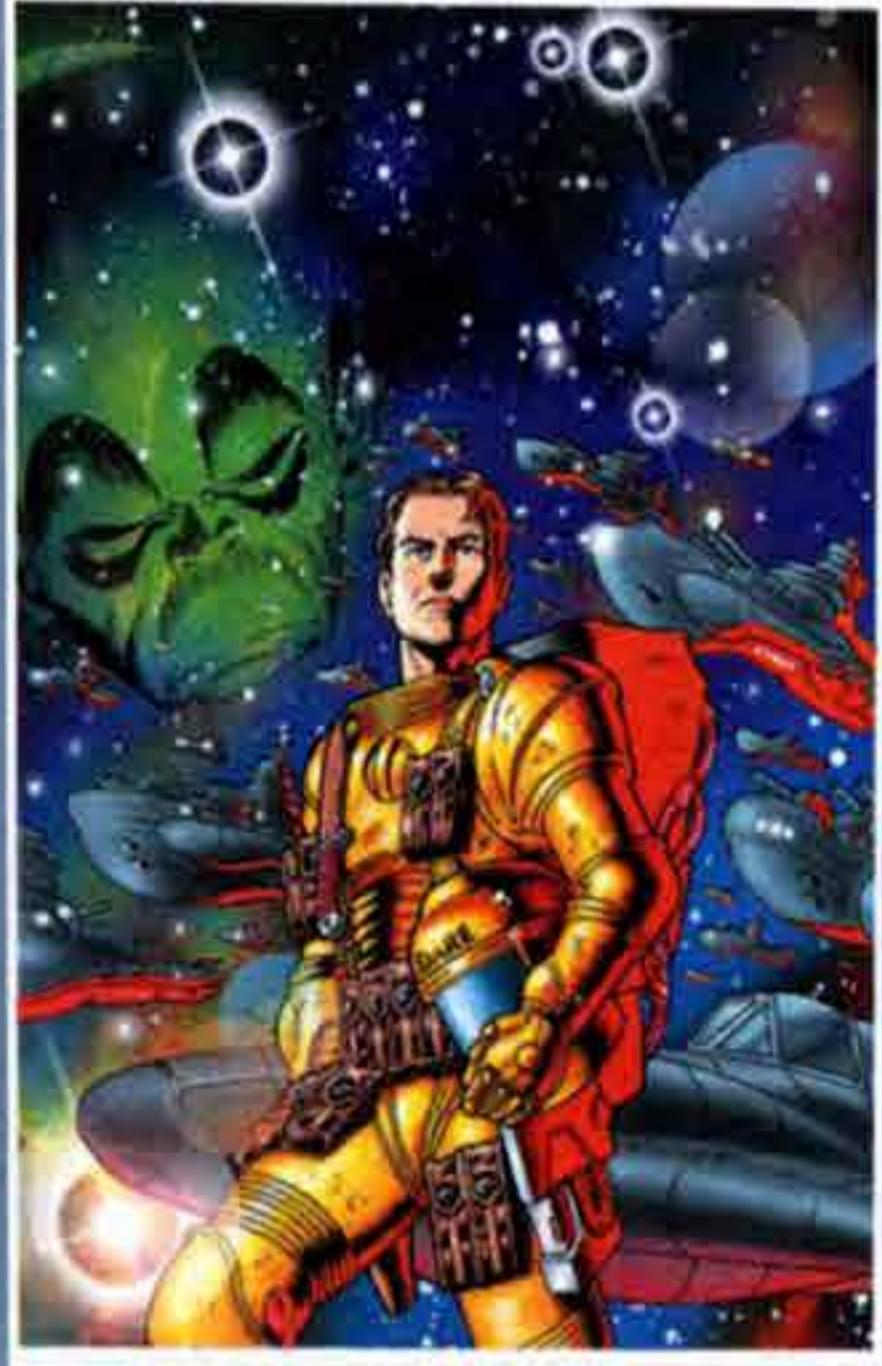
FEATURED TITLES

SEARCH

[Sign Up](#) for Virgin Comics Newsletter

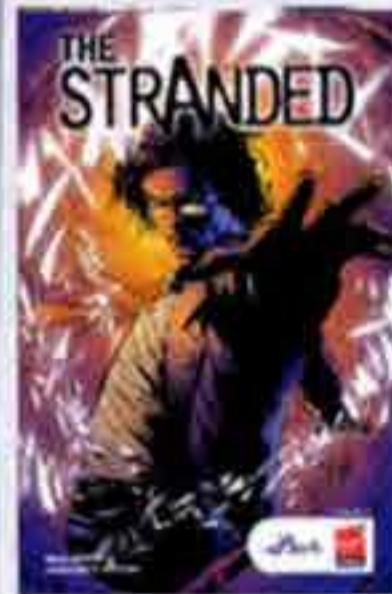
STAY UPDATED
ON OUR LATEST
RELEASES

DAN
DARE



Jenna Jameson's
Shadow Hunter #2

Sexy, Powerful, Deadly



The Stranded #4

What If Your Entire Life
Was a Lie?



Deepak Chopra's
Buddha #2

A Story of
Enlightenment

BLOG

Recent Posts

[Virgin Comics Blog](#)
**STAN LEE TO CREATE NEW
SUPERHERO UNIVERSE FOR VIRGIN
COMICS!!!**

YES, YOU READ RIGHT! We're extremely honored to announce that Stan Lee, the living legend of comics, and creator of titles such as Spider-Man, Fantastic Four, X-Men, and Hulk has found a new home to create his next epic universe of superheroes. No one has created perennial superheroes and defined global popular culture like Stan [...]

[MySpaceTV Showcases Guy Ritchie's
Gamekeeper Trailer on Homepage](#)

The animated trailer for Guy Ritchie's Gamekeeper has been selected as featured content on MySpaceTV, the viral video community of MySpace. Concurrently, the trailer is also the Featured Video of the social networking site's comic book community, MySpace Comic Books.

[Marc Guggenheim talks NOWHERE
MAN](#)

Marc Guggenheim, writer of Hugh Jackman's Nowhere Man shares his thoughts on story concepts and themes: "It's basically a science fiction book, set in the far future and it deals, essentially, with the Patriot Act on steroids, but in

[More Posts](#)

LATEST NEWS!
UPDATED DAILY!

VIEW OUR
SIGNATURE
WIDESCREEN
DIGITAL
COMICS

WIDESCREEN DIGITAL COMICS



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

EXTRAS CONTEST:

DANDARE

The Legendary Hero

Tell us why Dan Dare is your hero and win a limited edition Dan Dare lithograph signed by Garth Ennis

[ENTER NOW](#)

EXCLUSIVE
CONTESTS,
DOWNLOADS
& MORE

COMMUNITY

SPEAK OUT!

Interact with fans and creators
on the Virgin Comics
message boards

[Join the conversation](#)



SHAKTI



DIRECTOR'S CUT



VOICES



VIRGIN COMICS/SCI FI

PLUS...

ART GALLERY, TRAILERS, SKETCHBOOKS, VIRGIN COMICS STORE,
AND MUCH MORE...

AH, THIS IS HARD ENOUGH WORK, WALKING IN THIS HEAT.



MY FACE BURNS IN THIS SUN.
UNLESS...

AH! MY CLEVERNESS KNOWS NO BOUNDS TODAY.



WELL, ONWARDS AGAIN!



I SEE YOU'VE DOUBLED YOUR BET, LAKSHMI.



YES, I HAVE MADE THE PRIZE BIG ENOUGH SO THAT EVEN OUR SIMPLETON CANNOT MISS IT.

AAAAAHHHH!

WHAT WAS THAT?

WHY DOESN'T THE KING TAKE CARE OF THE ROADS OF HIS KINGDOM? LITTERED WITH ROCKS THEY ARE.



THE FAIREST OF FORTUNE IS READY TO SHOWER RICHES ON HIM, YET HE HIDES UNDER THE IMMENSE ROCK OF HIS OWN IDIOTY.





AH, I AM TIRED OF WALKING. THE CITY IS STILL A WAYS OFF.



AND LOOK AT ME SWEAT. I HAVE NEVER TOILED THIS HARD. DAMN THAT SHREW FOR DEMANDING THIS HARD LABOR OF ME.



AH, WAIT! I HAVE INDEED COME FAR ENOUGH FROM THE VILLAGE.



I CAN JUST SLEEP UNDER THE SHADE OF THIS TREE AND RETURN HOME TO TELL HER THAT I COULD NOT FIND WORK. SHE WILL NEVER KNOW ANY BETTER AND I COULD BE HOME BEFORE SUPPER.



MY LORD, I AM BEGINNING TO THINK THAT I AM POWERLESS TO HELP THIS FOOL.

“Encoded into the stories of the divine Pantheon of India are some of the most primal stories ever told. They chronicle our greatest aspirations, our darkest fears, and our collective experience as a species.”

—DEEPAK CHOPRA

DEEPAK CHOPRA

PRESENTS

india authentic™



**“TRUE MYTHIC WONDER...
5 OUT OF 5 STARS.”**

—Comiccritique.com

**“A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO
SUBJECTS RARELY BROACHED
IN COMICS.”**

—Comixfan.com

**“STRANGE AND MAGICAL
AND MOVING.”**

—Mike Carey

(AUTHOR OF X-Men, Voodoo Child)

**“A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED
GRAPHIC NOVEL... A MUST READ
AND A COLLECTOR’S ITEM.”**

—Desicritics.com

Also Available

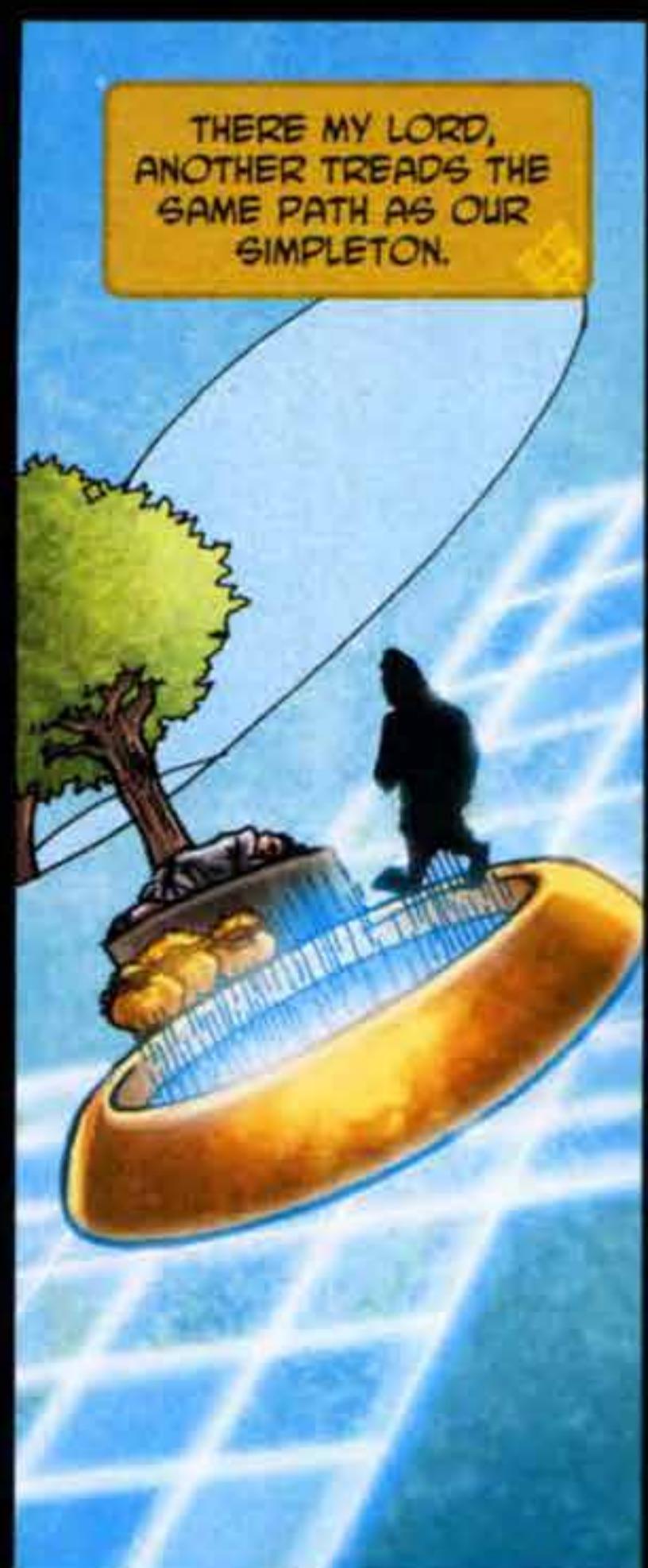




HE HAS GIVEN UP SO
VERY CLOSE TO THE
RICHES THAT ARE HIS
BY DESTINY.



HAVE HEART, MY DEAR LAKSHMI. LET THE GAME PLAY OUT THIS ROUND.



THERE MY LORD, ANOTHER TREADS THE SAME PATH AS OUR SIMPLETON.



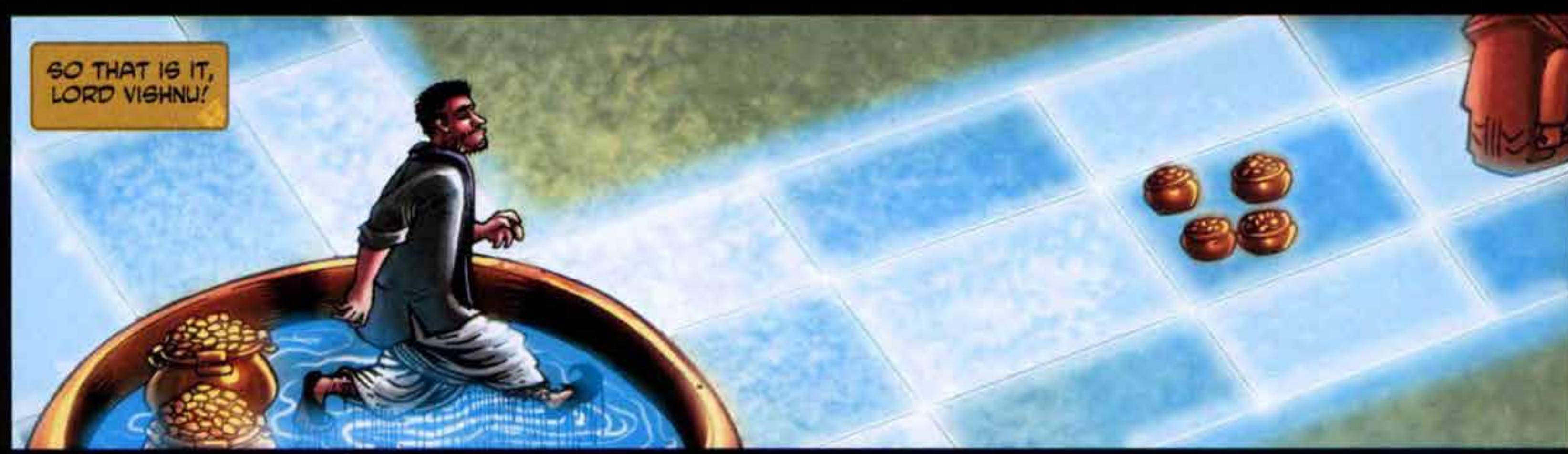


THERE, LAKSHMI, YOU
HAVE THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE STORY.

THOSE THAT TRANSCEND
THE MATERIAL NEED FOR
RICHES HAVE NO USE
FOR THEM EITHER.

FOR THE WISE, THE TRUE
WEALTH IS THAT OF THE
SPIRIT AND SOUL--THE
ENLIGHTENMENT OF
MOKSHA.

THE UNIVERSE
IS INDEED
JUST.





LAKSHMI, CARE
FOR ANOTHER
ROUND?

WHY NOT, MY
LIEGE? WE HAVE
ETERNITY.

THE END

SPOTLIGHT ON

SHAKTI

Shakti, an ancient Sanskrit word pronounced “shuk-TEE”, has many meanings. Upon my latest Google search, I found over 3.6 million entries. Some say Shakti is the divine embodiment of power. Others claim Shakti is a bolt of electricity bestowed by the Gods to those seeking their benevolence.

To us, the comics that are part of the Shakti imprint showcase a generation of South Asian creators who are using their own imaginations and modern sensibilities to craft stories that feel fresh and original, yet intimately familiar. But Shakti does not merely retell classic tales. Our Shakti stories re-imagine the myths of old, in all their epic and fantastic glory, while boldly proclaiming their relevance in the world today.

In *Ramayan 3392 A.D.*, we re-imagined India's greatest epic... the adventures of Prince Rama, his brother Lakshman and Seeta, the daughter of Mother Earth, as they battle their nemesis Ravan in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic world. *Shekhar Kapur's Devi* tells the story of an omnipotent goddess reincarnated into the body of an inhibited modern woman.

Shakti also draws from the spiritual wisdom of Deepak Chopra (who happens to be my dad) who, in *India Authentic*, explores the lives of Hindu Gods

and Goddesses as archetypal embodiments of our own instincts. In *Deepak Chopra's Buddha*, a comic series adapted from his *New York Times* bestselling novel, we follow the story of a young prince destined to become The Enlightened One. Shakti has even dusted off the pages of the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book of animal fables, with *The Tall Tales*, where the *Panchatantra* and its characters are threatened by modern-day anime sociopaths and evil boy wizards.

Our mission with Shakti is simple: to give readers a taste of the rich storytelling that goes back thousands of years. We also hope that each book feels fresh, provocative, and unlike anything fans have previously experienced. We realize that we're asking a lot for folks to enter into an alien world, one with strange names and exotic settings. It's uncomfortable—at first. But trust me, it gets easier. Remember the first time you held a Japanese Manga in your hands?

These aren't your parents' comics. But then again, that's why we're making them.

Gotham Chopra
Editor-In-Chief

RAMAYAN 3392AD

INDIA AUTHENTIC

DEVI

BUDDHA

THE SADHU

DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT



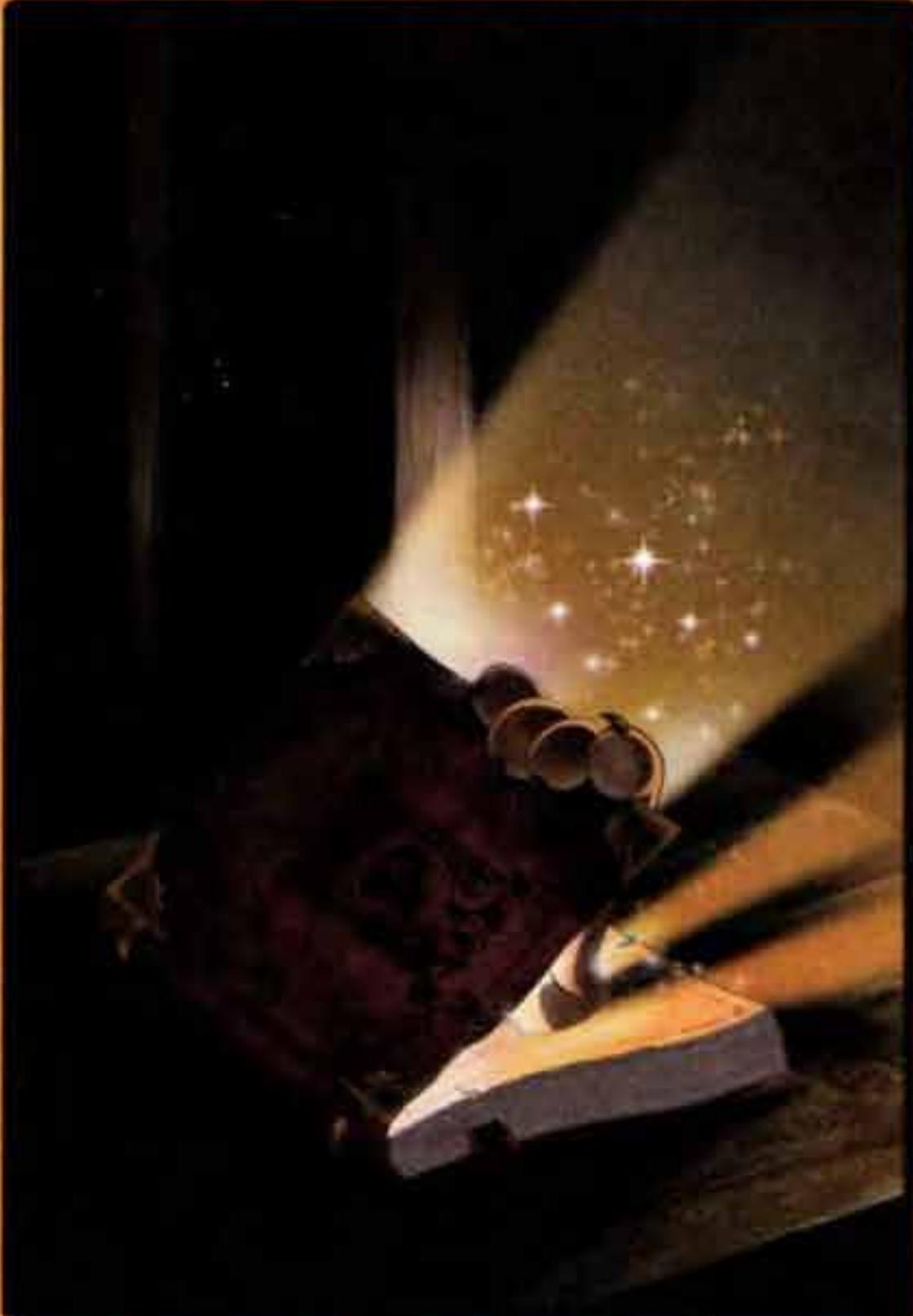
India's answer to *The Lord of the Rings*, *Ramayan* (pronounced *ruh-MY-an*) follows the epic adventures of the mighty warrior, Prince Rama, who, along with his brother and the daughter of Mother Earth, set out on a perilous journey to end the treacherous reign of Ravan, a monstrous being attempting to wipe out what little is left of humanity in this post-apocalyptic retelling of one of the greatest tales ever told.



Devi (day-VEE) follows the story of Tara Mehta, a young woman whose body was fused with the spirit of a divine warrior and became a living goddess more powerful than any other deity. As mankind's champion, Devi protects the earth and her own city of Sitapur from supernatural scourges and criminal elements alike.

THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA

Some books have lives of their own. So it is with the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book wherein fabled animals live in harmony with one another. But now assassins seek to destroy their world and corrupt the minds of story-lovers worldwide. To ensure their survival, three heroes—a lion, a bull, and a monkey—must convince a craven, video-gaming teen named Vishnu Sharma to accept his destiny as protector of the *Panchatantra*.





DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

indian authentic



There exists a world beyond our mortal comprehension that tells the story of life before men came to be. These are stories of the Gods and Goddesses who now reign over humanity and wield the forces of the universe, providing balance for all existence. These are the stories that have laid the foundations of a country a billion strong, that have taught and inspired countless generations.



Deepak Chopra's

Buddha

A Story of Enlightenment

Awaken. Seek truth. Stumble. Begin again. This is the simple yet profound message from the inspiring man who achieved Enlightenment and showed the world a way for peace, understanding, and serenity. Follow young prince Siddhartha as he defies tradition and achieves his destiny as the *Buddha*. No desires, fears, or duties could prevent what was always to be: the coming of the great Awakened One.



THE SADHU

James Jensen's sole purpose in life was to seek vengeance on the British officer who murdered his family in 18th century India. But his life was not meant for just blood-thirsty revenge. He was destined to be a *Sadhu* (sah-DOO), a mystic warrior walking the path to spiritual salvation. But can James' quest for enlightenment overcome his desire for revenge?

EXPLORE THESE UPCOMING SHAKTI RELEASES

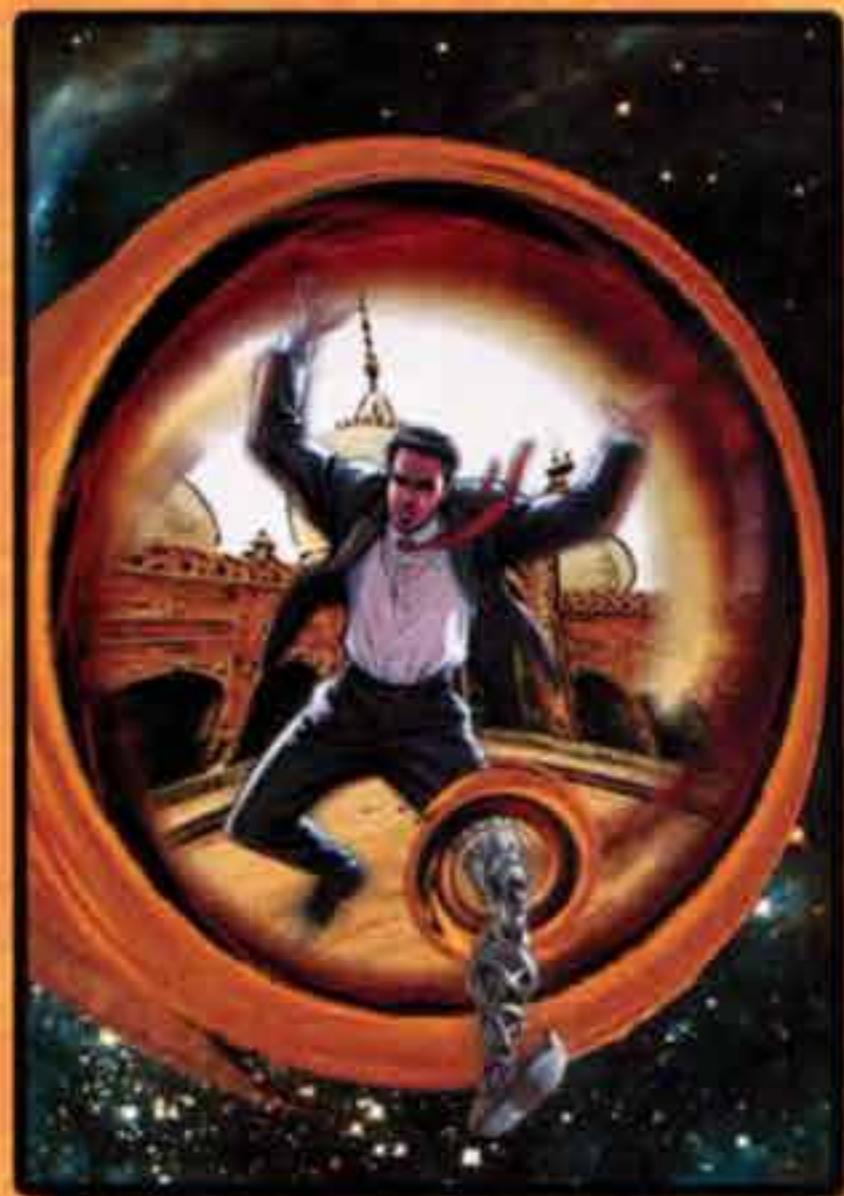


BLADE OF THE WARRIOR: KSHATRIYA

He is a prince who lost his kingdom. He is a hero who struggles to be heroic. He will go on to define a class of warriors. He is *Kshatriya* (*shut-REE-yuh*). Before the great civilizations of the world had begun, when sword and sorcery still existed and Gods walked the earth in mortal disguise, he was born to oppose an inexorable tide of darkness. When faced with the evil forces of the demonic *Shaitan* (*shaye-tahn*) in the form of his own brother, this warrior will face the battle of his life.

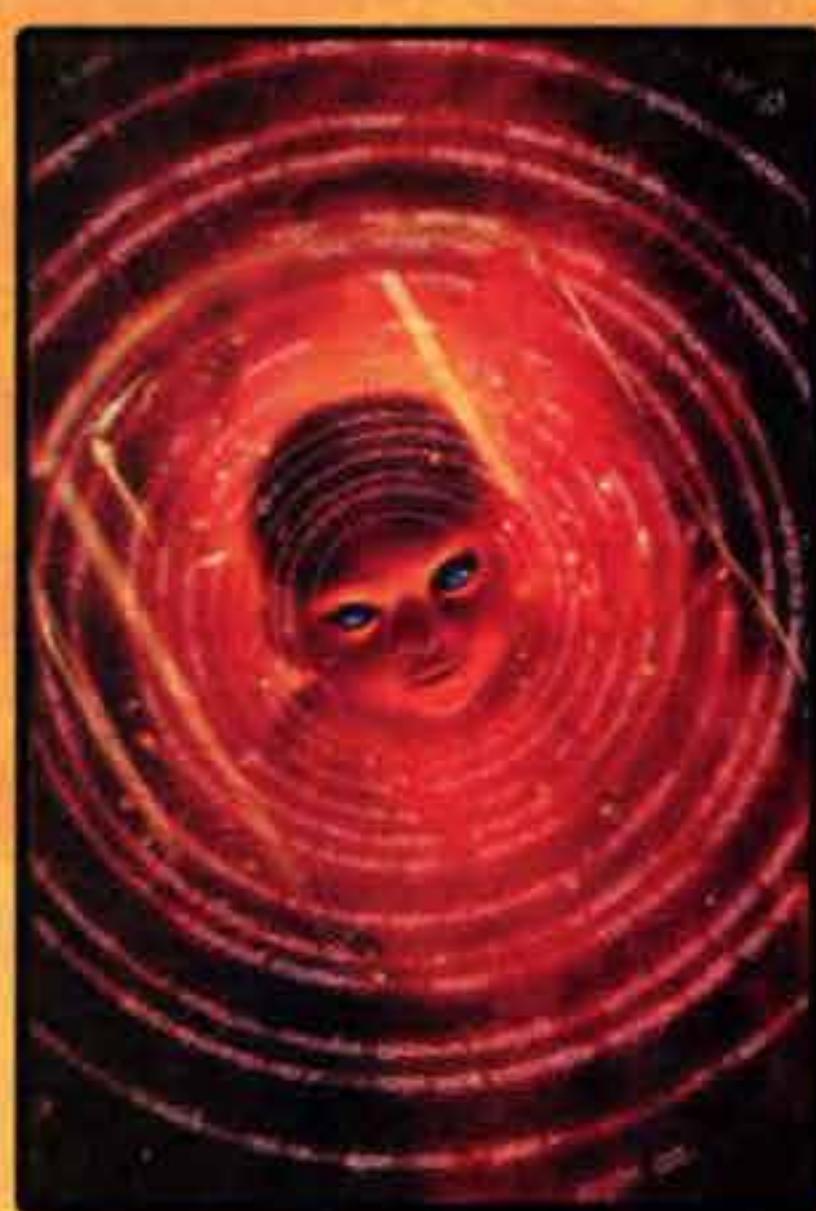
DEEPAK CHOPRA'S BEYOND

Acclaimed writer Ron Marz adapts Deepak Chopra's original science fiction story of an American businessman who is propelled across dimensions and into an adventure like no other when his wife goes mysteriously missing in India. His journey will lead him to trials both physical and metaphysical as he will stop at nothing—and go literally anywhere—to save her.



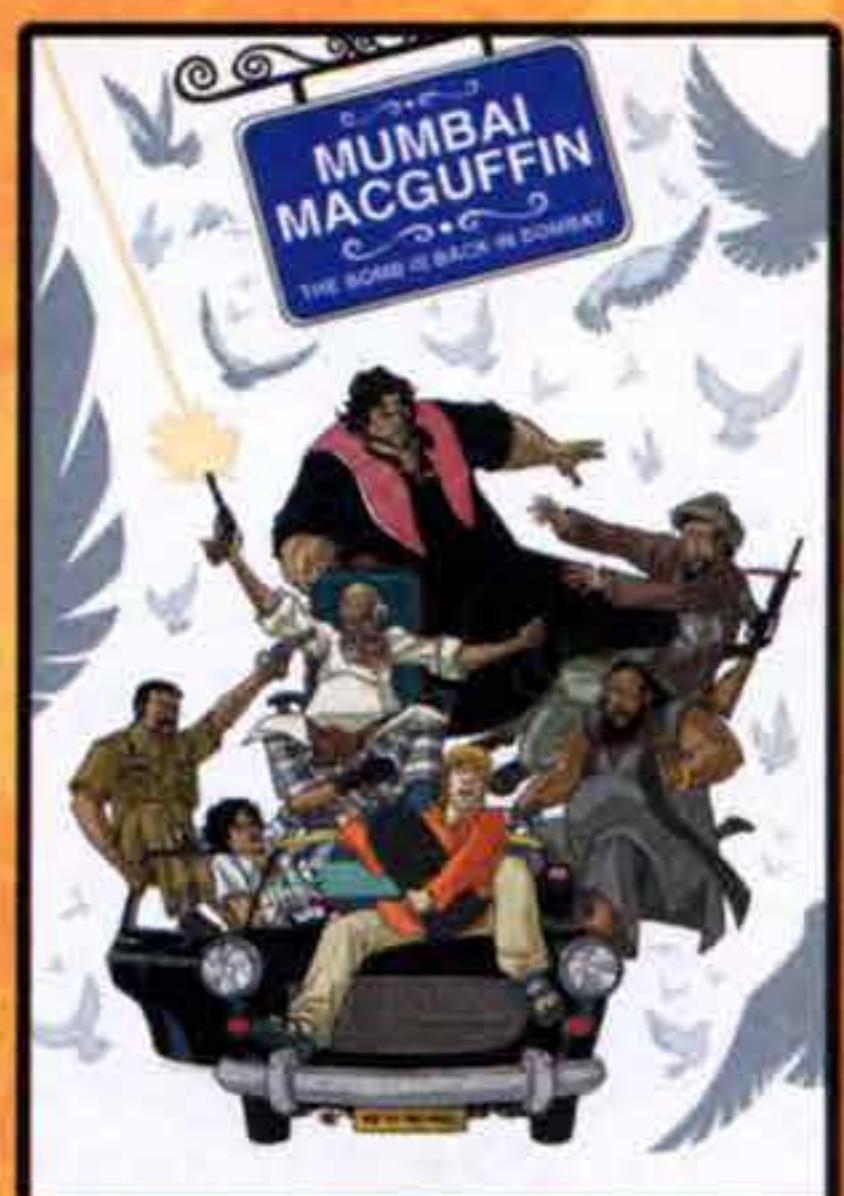
PROJECT: KALKI

The end of the world is upon us. War, famine, suffering. There's no stopping the havoc created by humans. But in a small lab in India, a geneticist has cloned the remains of what was once thought to be only a mythological figure, creating a "human" being with the power to save the world... or end it.



MUMBAI MACGUFFIN

This one-shot graphic novel is a high-octane adventure through the never-before-seen underbelly of Mumbai, as an ace CIA operative finds himself out of his element and out of his depth when tasked with recovering a downed satellite deep within the biggest slum in Asia. Nothing can prepare him for the wild and dangerous characters he encounters, including a wheelchair-ridden gangster hooked on John Wayne westerns, a brilliant bar dancer, a trigger-happy cop and a religious cult that will do ANYTHING to protect its phallic totem. Seriously.





DEEPAK CHOPRA'S

BEYOND

ISSUE 1
OF 4



**A missing woman.
A desperate man.
An adventure that takes them both BEYOND.**

on sale may 2008

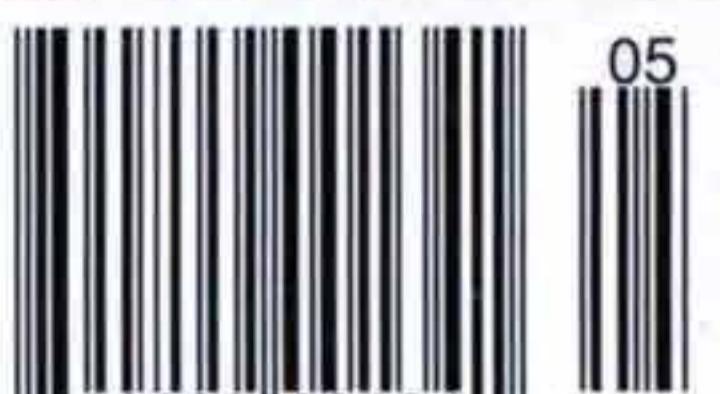


DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

RāMāyaN^{3392AD} RELOADED

JUMP IN NOW!

*Heroes
Villains
Weapons
Technology
Maps
City Guides
Exclusive Art
and much more*



05

8 90299 00134 1

US\$ 2.99

BUY THE GUIDEBOOK NOW