

DAMSELS mermaids

DYNAMITE 5



DAMSELS mermaids™

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LOVE IS A WAVE.



TO THOSE OF US WHO LIVE BENEATH THE SEA, A WAVE IS MERELY A RIPPLING OVERHEAD—MORE A NOTION THAN A REALITY.



BUT TO A SURFACE DWELLER, A WAVE IS A PROMISE, A MYSTERY, A FORCE OF NATURE.


LOVE COMES CRASHING IN, KNOCKING YOU DOWN, TAKING YOUR BREATH AWAY...

...DRAGGING
YOU UNDER.



LOVE is a **WAVE**

UNDERWATER part five of five




DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT
YOU HAVE JUST
DONE, *PRINCE
JOHN*?

I'VE
DESTROYED
ATLANTIS. FOR
MY POOR EMILY'S
SAKE!




BUT
YOU'LL
DIE!



I DON'T CARE! DO
YOU THINK I CAME
HERE EXPECTING
ANYTHING ELSE?

I CAN
NEVER LIVE DOWN MY
SHAME AND I DON'T
INTEND TO.

PLEASE. I'M
BEGGING YOU.



YOU'VE DONE
WHAT YOU
CAME TO DO.
LET'S GO!

NO! I
NEED TO GET
LOWER. THERE
ARE TUNNELS
BENEATH
THE CITY.

FROM THERE,
I CAN LOWER
THIS ISLAND TO
THE BOTTOM
OF THE SEA.



DON'T
YOU GET IT? I
NEVER LOVED
YOU.



IT WAS A
LIE! ALL OF IT!
EVERYTHING I
SAID TO YOU.

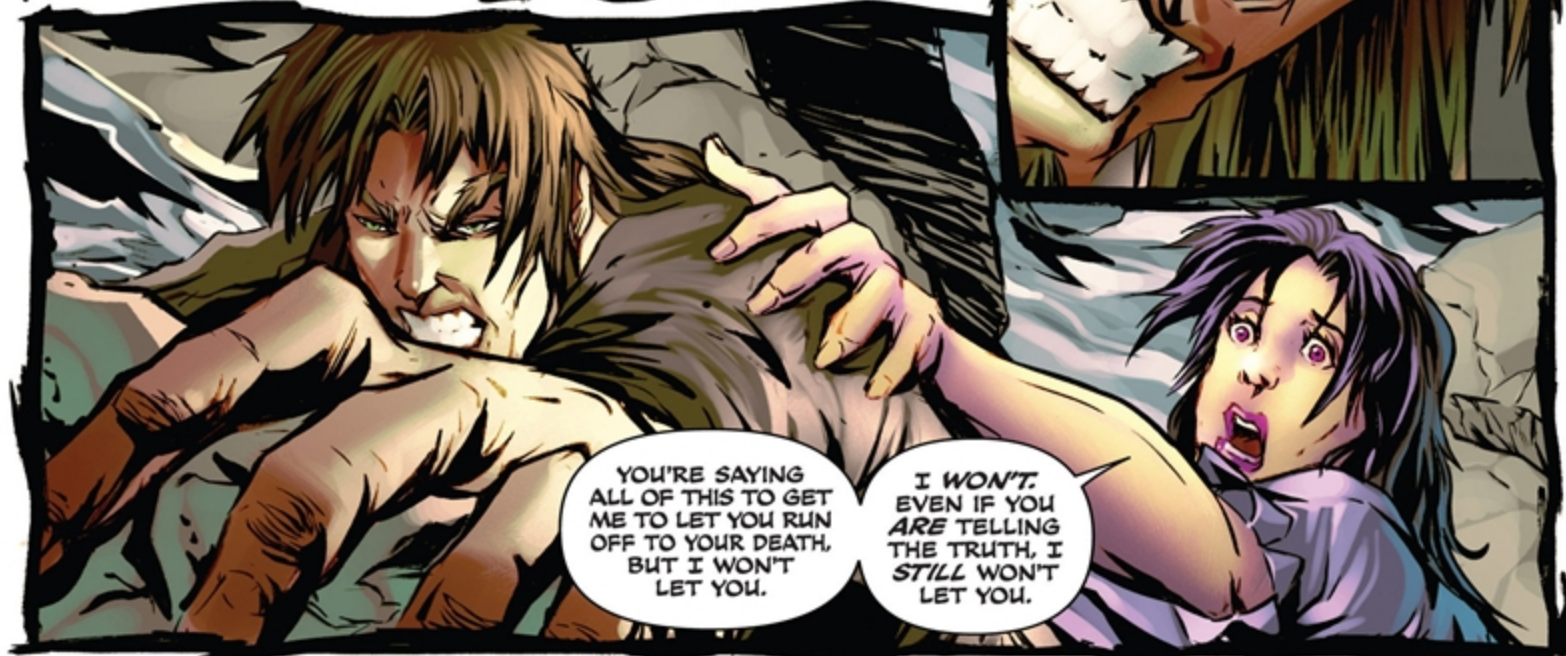
ARE YOU
REALLY SO
BLIND? SO
DESPERATE?



EVERYTHING
I SAID TO YOU
ABOUT AURORE,
THAT AS WELL,
ALL LIES.

ALL HE
TOLD ME ABOUT YOU
WAS THAT A PRETTY
MERMAID SAVED
HIS LIFE ONCE.

I MADE THE
REST UP TO
MANIPULATE
YOU.



YOU'RE SAYING
ALL OF THIS TO GET
ME TO LET YOU RUN
OFF TO YOUR DEATH,
BUT I WON'T
LET YOU.

I WON'T,
EVEN IF YOU
ARE TELLING
THE TRUTH, I
STILL WON'T
LET YOU.



JUST
GO!

YOU.



THIS IS
YOUR FAULT.
YOU BROUGHT
THIS UPON
ME. ME!



AND I WILL
MAKE YOU PAY
FOR WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE!



DO YOU KNOW
HOW I BECAME
CHIEF HIEROMANCER
OF ATLANTIS? I DID
NOT ACHIEVE THIS
RANK BASED UPON
MY MERIT OR MY
POPULARITY.

I AM CHIEF
HIEROMANCER
BECAUSE I CAUSE
INTENSE SUFFERING
TO ANYONE WHO
CHALLENGES ME.



BUT NONE OF
THEM *EVER*
SUFFERED
AS YOU ARE
ABOUT TO.



WHAP



DISGUSTING!
JUST LOOK AT YOUR
MONGREL FORM.

IF SUCH AN
ABOMINATION WERE
BORN IN ATLANTIS,
IT WOULD BE LEFT
ON A HILLTOP
TO DIE.



MY PEOPLE SAY
THAT THE MER-FOLK
EXISTED LONG BEFORE
MEN, AND THAT YOU
LAND-DWELLERS ARE
OUR CRIPPLED
DESCENDANTS.



LOOK AT ALL
YOU'VE LOST--
YOUR TAILS,
YOUR ABILITY
TO BREATHE
UNDERWATER.

YOU ARE
WEAK.



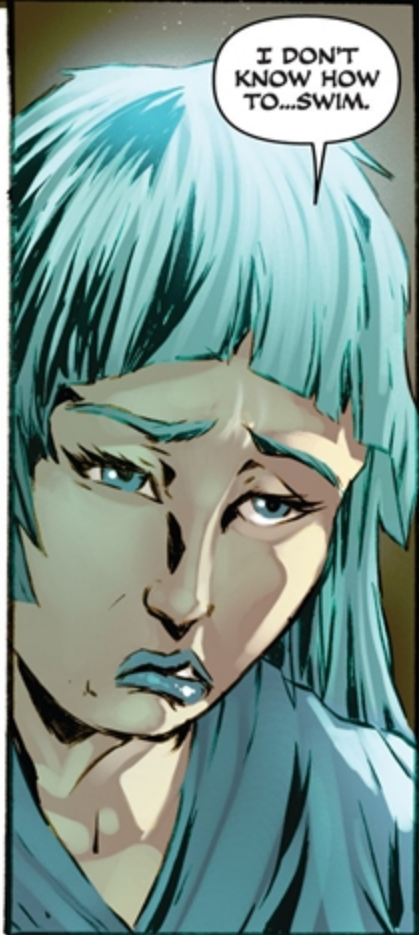
THOSE ARE
BEAUTIFUL LAST WORDS.
I WILL MAKE SURE TO
ETCH THEM ON YOUR
TOMBSTONE.

YOU'RE ALSO
VERY QUICKLY
RUNNING OUT
OF HILLTOPS,
IT APPEARS.



YOU
WILL
PAY--

HRK!





HELP!
HELP US!

HELP
YOURSELVES. YOU
ALL APPEAR TO
BE VERY GOOD
AT IT.

LOVE IS
A WAVE.

IT IS A RHYTHM, A PULSE.

IT IS A LIVING THING,
BUT WHERE IS IT? HOW
DO YOU TOUCH IT?

SIMPLE,
YOU CAN'T.

JOHN!

YOU CAN'T
TOUCH WHAT IS
EVERYWHERE.



I...I TOLD
YOU TO
STAY AWAY.





WE
NEED TO
GO. NOW.

YES...



HOW?

WE SWIM,
OF COURSE!



DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND? I
CAN'T BREATHE
UNDERWATER!

I KNOW
THAT, MY
LOVE.

I'LL
BREATHE
FOR BOTH OF
US.

IT WILL
BE ALL
RIGHT.

I PROMISE.



I KNOW YOU CAN'T
SPEAK UNDERWATER,
SO LISTEN WHILE I
TELL YOU A STORY.

ONCE, LONG
AGO, THE SUN STAYED
IN THE SKY ALL THE
TIME. THERE WAS NO
NIGHT, ONLY DAY.

BUT IT CAME TO
PASS THAT THE SUN
LOOKED DOWN AT THE
SEA AND SAW HIMSELF
REFLECTED THERE.

AND HE CALLED
DOWN TO THE SEA,
AND SAID, "WHY
DO YOU HOLD MY
REFLECTION?"

AND THE
SEA CALLED
BACK, "BECAUSE
I LOVE YOU,
AND I WANT
TO HAVE YOU
WITH ME."



AND THE
SUN SAID, "YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL, BUT IF
I COME DOWN TO
YOU AND KISS YOU,
MY FIRE WILL
GO OUT!"

AND THE SEA
SAID, "YES, BUT
THEN OUR LOVE
WILL REKINDLE YOU,
AND YOU WILL RISE
UP STRONGER
THAN EVER."



AND THE
SUN SAID, "I BELIEVE
YOU, AND SO LET US
CELEBRATE OUR UNION
WITH A THOUSAND
COLORS OF LIGHT!"







GET
OUT OF
MY WAY!



JOHN,
PLEASE.
PLEASE
WAKE UP.



PLEASE
DON'T DIE.

I WILL
BREATHE
FOR YOU.



FOR
BOTH
OF US.



COUGH
COUGH



JOHN?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

COUGH
I THINK SO.

WHAT
HAPPENED?



YOU STARTED TO
CHOKES, AND I SWAM
SO FAST, AND I WAS
AFRAID YOU WEREN'T
GOING TO MAKE IT.



BUT YOU
MADE IT.

NOW I
JUST HAVE TO
FIGURE OUT A
WAY TO GET
BACK TO
AVALON.

THEN,
I CAN--

DID YOU
FORGET ABOUT
VODYANOY?





YOU SHOULD NEVER FORGET ABOUT VODYANOY. IT MAKES HIM SO SAD!

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME, CREATURE!

I AM PRINCE JOHN OF AVALON AND I DEFY ANYONE TO STOP ME NOW!



HYA!

OUCH! STOP!

VODYANOY WILL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT LIKE TO BE SLICED ON.



IT STINGS HIM IN THE SALTY SEA.



DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, JOHN. HE'S ONLY TRYING TO CATCH YOU OFF GUARD.

WHAT IS YOUR DEAL?

VODYANOY ONLY WANTS THE MERMAID. LEAVE HER WITH ME AND I LET YOU GO.

ARE YOU INSANE? WHO WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A THING?



I'M SORRY,
LITTLE ONE.

BUT THERE'S
NO REASON
FOR BOTH OF
US TO DIE.

AT LEAST THIS
WAY I WILL SURVIVE
AND MAKE IT BACK
TO LEAD AVALON,
LIKE YOU SAID.

OH HO!
BETRAYAL!

LIKE I SAID?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



WHAT
YOU SAID
ABOUT MY
REASON
TO KEEP
LIVING.

DOWN THERE, IN
THE TUNNEL, I SAID
THERE WAS LOVE IF
YOU'LL HAVE IT.
MY LOVE.



AND YOU
SAID, "YOU'RE
RIGHT!"

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!



NO, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD.
I WAS SAYING "YOU'RE RIGHT"
TO WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT
MY PEOPLE NEEDING A
HERO, AND A KING.

THAT'S
BIGGER
THAN ME,
OR YOU.



I'M
SORRY,
OKAY?

MY PEOPLE
NEED ME!





LOVE IS A WAVE.



IT MOVES,
BUT IT GOES
NOWHERE.

WHEN CAN
WE STOP, CAP'N
ARGENT?

WHEN WE
FIND LAND, OR
WHEN I FIND
MYSELF PECKISH
ENOUGH TO EAT
YOUR ARMS.

UNTIL THEN,
SHUT YOUR YAP
AND ROW.

THE WAVE IS NOT THE
WATER. IT IS A MOVEMENT
THROUGH THE WATER.



WHAT ARE YOUR
ORDERS, CHIEF
HIEROMANCER?



FIRST
THINGS
FIRST.

WE ALL
LEARN
HOW TO
SWIM.



I DEDICATE
THIS IN LOVING
MEMORY OF MY
SADLY DEPARTED SON
JOHN, WHO SINGLE-
HANDEDLY REMOVED
THE ATLANTIAN
YOKE FROM
OUR NECKS.

IT IS A PATTERN
REALIZED. A DREAM
GIVEN LIFE...



...BUT NOT
SUBSTANCE.

WASH, WASH,
RINSE, RINSE

HINT OF
LIME, DASH
OF QUINCE

SLICE AND
DICE AND CHOP
AND MINCE

THAT'S THE
WAY TO EAT
A PRINCE!



AURORE, MY LOVE, HAVE A LOOK AT THIS!



IT'S FOR ME. I WONDER WHO IT'S FROM?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT HAD BETTER NOT BE A SECRET ADMIRER.

I'M THE QUEEN, AND I HAVE A DUNGEON IF I NEED IT.



WELL, DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE. WHAT IS IT?

I...DON'T KNOW.



OH, DEAR. IT MUST HAVE BEEN DROPPED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY. I'M SURE IT WAS A LOVELY LITTLE STATUETTE.

I DON'T THINK IT WAS DROPPED--I THINK IT WAS SMASHED.



IT SAYS, "IF THIS IS WHAT MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND, THEN I'D RATHER IT STAND STILL."

I THINK IT *IS* FROM ONE OF YOUR SECRET ADMIRERS. AND I HOPE SHE STAYS SECRET FOREVER.



WE'LL SEE.

THE END

DYNAMITE®

IN THE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2013

**DYNAMITE TO LAUNCH
LEGENDS OF RED SONJA PRESTIGE
MINI-SERIES FEATURING TOP FEMALE
NOVELISTS AND COMIC BOOK WRITERS**



Following on the immense success of the newly launched *Red Sonja* ongoing series by Gail Simone, Dynamite proudly announces the upcoming *Legends of Red Sonja* prestige miniseries, an extravaganza celebrating the iconic fantasy heroine's long and storied career. *Legends of Red Sonja* is a collaborative effort uniting Simone with a star-studded and prestigious creative team including Marjorie Liu, Mercedes Lackey, Kelly Sue DeConnick, Rhianna Pratchett, Leah Moore, Tamara Pierce, Blair Butler, Nancy Collins, Meljean Brook, Nicola Scott, Devin Grayson, and more to be announced. Frank Thorne, one of the key artists responsible for defining the character's distinct look, will be among the artists to contribute cover artwork, as will Jay Anacleto.

"When it was first decided that I would be taking part in the relaunch of Red Sonja, we had what I thought was a very fun idea, which was to have all the covers and variant covers be drawn by top female artists," says Gail Simone, an industry legend with celebrated runs on *Birds of Prey*, *Secret Six*, and *Batgirl*. "The idea just took off, as some of my artistic heroes, people like Colleen Doran, Amanda Conner, and Nicola Scott all contributed these gorgeous, eye-popping pieces of art for the book. It made everyone tremendously happy and gave us a wonderful extra kick for our relaunch of this classic character. So when Dynamite told me that the 40th anniversary of Red Sonja was coming up, I thought, 'I wonder if we could do the same thing, but with all my favorite female writers?' I can't tell you how exciting this is for me, it's something I've wanted to do for years."

The structure of the *Legends of Red Sonja* prestige series will be, in Simone's words, "a braided story, with individual, unique stories written by titans of comics, prose, and the gaming world. These are all powerful voices whose work I adore. Dynamite asked me to make a list of the women I'd love to see included, and again, I was astounded at the eager responses! We have giants of the fantasy and horror prose world: Tamara Pierce, Nancy Collins, Mercedes Lackey, and Meljean Brook. We have some of the hottest comics talents: Marjorie Liu, Kelly Sue DeConnick, Leah Moore, Devin Grayson and

(in her first published story as a writer) Nicola Scott. And we have brilliant writers from games and television: Rhianna Pratchett and Blair Butler. Getting to hand-pick this crew of fierce women was an absolute joy, and the fun of it is we're all fans of Red Sonja and of each other. Throwing ideas back and forth and shaping the stories has been some of the most fun I've ever had in comics. I can't wait for people to read these takes on Red Sonja...some are funny, some are scary, some are very different versions of Sonja than we are familiar with!"

Many of Gail Simone's hand-picked contributors have shared their excitement about the project:

Rhianna Pratchett (*Heavenly Sword*, *Mirror's Edge*): "I treasured my Red Sonja poster when I was kid. So to get the opportunity to write a story for the character, and to do it in the company of such extraordinary, talented women, is a dream come true."

Leah Moore (*Doctor Who: The Whispering Gallery*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Liverpool Demon*): "It's not everyday that Gail Simone asks me to write Red Sonja. To be honest, I'm glad, because when it happened, I had to be peeled off the ceiling. Writing Red Sonja has been a personal ambition of mine for a long time. She is about the most fun a writer can have."

Tamara Pierce (*The Song of the Lioness*, *Mastiff*): "This is the coolest project ever: new stories crafted by some of the best writers and artists out there, about a woman warrior created by one of my literary idols, Robert E. Howard, spearheaded by my comics goddess, Gail Simone. I'm honored to be a part of this, and can't wait to see the whole thing."

Blair Butler (*Heart*, host of MSN's *Nerdcore*): "I'm honored and exceedingly intimidated to be included in this group of talented creators. Gail Simone is amazing -- and her take on Red Sonja is something I've been looking forward to since it was announced way back at Emerald City Comic-Con. So when she asked me to contribute, I agreed immediately, even though I'm totally nervous about it."

Nancy Collins (*Swamp Thing*, *VAMPS*): "I am thrilled to have been chosen by Gail Simone to participate in *Legends of Red Sonja*. I remember how excited I was when I plucked *Conan the Barbarian* #23 off the spinner rack as a kid, all those years ago, and finally saw a female hero capable of dishing it out with the best of them. I am honored to have been given this chance to add to Red Sonja's mythos."

Meljean Brook (*Iron Seas*, *Demon Angel*): "I'm absolutely thrilled to be writing a story for the she-devil, Red Sonja. I first encountered Red Sonja in the movie with Nielsen and Schwarzenegger when I was about eight years old -- and I know that movie isn't without its problems, but it's almost impossible to describe how incredible it was to watch a film in which the heroine was just as strong and as tough as the muscle-bound hero. Red Sonja was a revelation to eight-year-old me, and I can trace many of the heroines I write today back to those roots."

"Wow. Gail and the editorial team at Dynamite have put together an incredible team of creators - a prestigious and impressive list - on a series that celebrates one of the strongest female characters in comics. I can say that they have done an incredible job together, and I thank them," says Dynamite CEO and Publisher Nick Barrucci.

IN STORES NOW!



CODENAME: ACTION #1

During the height of the Cold War, unknown forces scheme to heat up a global conflict. As key officials on both sides of the Iron Curtain are replaced with doppelgangers, the infiltration threatens to disrupt the precarious state of world affairs. The security of the Free World depends on a young secret agent, one assigned to shape the world's masked heroes into a force with singular purpose and unyielding resolve!

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