

TOP COW



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LAWSON
LLAMAS
MELSON

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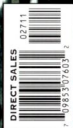
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FOR **Image**
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IT'S NOT
THAT OLD
REALLY.

BARELY
TWENTY-ONE
YEARS NOW.

BUT JACKIE ESTACADO
HAS AN OLD SOUL.

SOME MIGHT
SAV' ANCENT.

IM
KING O' THE
WORLD!

SOMEBODY
WIND HE AN
OYCAR!

WHAT'S
WIT' DA
POSING?

IT
MAKES
ME FEEL
CHEAP.

YOUR
FATHER NEVER
MADE US POSE
LIKE THIS!

SHANN.

MADE MAN.
ARRABON.
POSSORION OF
THE POWER OF
THE DARKNESS!

AT THE END OF
THE END, HE'S
STILL A KID.

It's time to
show them
the power of
the Dark
Side!



It's time to
show them
the power of
the Dark
Side!



ENOUGH WITH
THE INNUENDO
WENDERS, YOU'RE
HOT FOR ME --
I GOT IT.

PROP
IT.

IT'S BAD
ENOUGH THAT
I CAN'T HAVE SEX
ANYMORE WITHOUT
THE RISK OF DYING
ON ACCOUNT OF ME
BEING THE VESSEL
OF THE ETERNAL
CHAOS
BRINGER --

-- PUTTING UP
WITH YOUR TAFKY
ASSED COME ONE
IS THE FINAL INSULT
I WASN'T LOOKING
FOR, CARICE!

WHEEE...
NOTHING
SIR!

BUT I'M
ENJOYING
THE VIEW.

I'M SORRY,
S-SIR. I GUESS WE'VE
ALL BEEN UNDER A LOT
OF PRESSURE AFTER
EVERYTHING THAT
HAPPENED IN
LAS VEGAS.

I'M AFRAID
I'VE NOT BEEN
MYSELF
LATELY.

THAT'S
PROBABLY
A GOOD THING
WHERE YOU'RE
CONCERNED, NOW
GIVE ME MY
CLOTHES.

• NEW DARKNESS 23-24 •



AND
TURN
YOUR HEAD
BEFORE
I DO.

YES,
S-SIR,
SORRY
SIR.




ASTOUNDING.

SIMPLY
ASTOUNDING.



ASHES
FROM THE
DAMNABLE
DARKLINGS!

THIS MAY PROVE
THE KEY I NEED TO AT
LAST WIELD THE POWER
OF THE DARKNESS AS
MY OWN!



PERHAPS WHAT I
THOUGHT WAS A REGRETTABLE
TURN OF EVENTS MIGHT PROVE
MORE FORTUITOUS THAN EVEN THE
CENTURIES OF MY MYRIAD
MACHINATIONS COULD
POSSIBLY HAVE--

YO,
WENDERS--
YOU LISTENING
TO ME, OR
WHAT?

IM SPILLING
MY GUTS OUT FOR YOU,
AND YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR A FRICKIN'
PUSTBUSTER.

AS
FAITHFUL
MANSERVANTS
GO, YOU'RE
A WACK.

OH MY!
IM SORRY,
SIR!

WHAT
WERE YOU
SAYIN'?



IT'S MY
UNCLE FRANKIE,
WENDERS.

I'VE ALWAYS
THOUGHT WE WERE
PRETTY CLOSE,
YOU KNOW?

SURE,
HE'S A BIT OF A
SCUM -- BUT LOOK
AT THE FAMILY
BUSINESS.



THE POINT IS,
I ALWAYS THOUGHT
HE WAS A BUM
WITH HONOR.

NOW I FIND OUT
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIDING
THINGS FROM ME...THINGS
LIKE A SISTER I NEVER
KNEW I HAD.

THAT'S
JUST NOT
RIGHT.

I'VE GOT
TO SET THINGS
STRAIGHT.



WHATEVER
YOU DECIDE,
SIR... YOU KNOW
IM ALWAYS HERE
FOR YOU.

WHERE
WOULD I BE
WITHOUT YOU,
WENDERS?





"I'M NOT SURE I CAN
DO THIS. I'M NOT
SURE I CAN DO
THIS."

"I'M NOT SURE I CAN
DO THIS. I'M NOT
SURE I CAN DO
THIS."

"I'M NOT SURE I CAN
DO THIS. I'M NOT
SURE I CAN DO
THIS."

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"I'M NOT SURE I CAN
DO THIS. I'M NOT
SURE I CAN DO
THIS."

"I'M NOT SURE I CAN
DO THIS. I'M NOT
SURE I CAN DO
THIS."

The
POOR.

ALAS
POOR
WENDERS.

POOR
MISGUIDED
FOOLISH AND
ULTIMATELY ---
DEAD,
WENDERS.

I RECRUITED
YOU FRESH OUT
OF LAW SCHOOL, A
PATHETIC LOSER OF A
HUMAN, MY INTENT WAS
TO ENGENDER YOUR
ETERNAL LOYALTY BY
GIVING YOUR LIFE
PURPOSE.

MANY WERE
THE FAITHFUL AND
DEVOTED WHO WERE
WILLING TO PLEDGE
THEIR VERY SOULS TO
THE BROTHERHOOD OF
THE DARKNESS.

I MADE
THE MISTAKE
OF CHOOSING
YOU.

LET'S LOAD
THIS CARGO AND
GET THE SHIP HEADED
FOR RUSSIA, THIS
GUY GIVES ME
THE CREEPS.

SERIOUSLY!
THE GUY'S TALKIN'
TO A FREAKIN'
CRATE!

THAT WAS
FOOLISH OF
ME. I NEED TO
BE DISCREET IF MY
RUSE IS TO BE
EFFECTIVE!

SINCE
THE MOMENT
I ENTERED
YOUR BODY,
WENDERS --

-- AND YOU ENTERED
MY LIFELESS CORPSE,
THE BODY OF THE GREAT
SONATINE, RIGHTFUL
WELDER OF THE
DARKNESS --

-- I ADMIT I'VE
FOUND IT DIFFICULT
TO PLAY THE ROLE OF
THE SPINELESS FOP
WHICH WAS WHAT
PASSED FOR YOUR
"LIFE".

BUT SOON,
IT WILL ALL BE
WORTH --

WHAP!

HELLO,
CHILD!

OH MY
BUTCHER
JOYCE!

HOW
NICE OF
YOU TO MEET
ME HERE AS
I ASKED.

PHALGOK.

THINK NOTHING OF
IT, CHILD. ANY FRIEND
OF JACKIE ESTACADO
IS A FRIEND OF
MINE.

WAS I
INTERRUPTING
ANYTHING
HERE?

OH NO,
NOT AT
ALL.

JUST
TYING
UP SOME
LOOSE
ENDS.

THE HOSPITAL

SO TALK
ALREADY.

WHEN YOU
WERE KIDNAPPED
I LEARNED WHERE
YOU WERE -- WHERE
YOU WERE BEING
KEPT -- BECAUSE
SOME WOMAN
TOLD ME.

A WOMAN
WHO CLAIMED
TO BE MY
SISTER.

YOU
KNEW I HAD
A SISTER.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THE HELL YOU
TALKING
ABOUT.





"...FROM
PAY ONE.

"GOES WAY BACK,
WHEN I WAS STILL
BUSTIN' HEADS FOR
LITTLE IGNACIO
AND HIS MOONS.

"EVEN THEN
I WAS MADE.

"THE HOUSE WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
SECURED.

"BUT THERE WAS NO
STOFFIN' SCENARIOS
WHEN THE GUY MAKES
UP HIS MIND.

"FOR A GUY WHO NEVER
CARRIES A GUN, HE'S ONE
SCARY SCHMABITCH.

"SO HE TELLS ME
ABOUT YOU, 'BOUT YOU
BEIN' THE KID OF DANNY
ESTACADO, A FORMER
ASSOCIATE OF MINE.

"'BOUT THE
ORPHANAGE.

"'BOUT HOW
UNHAPPY YA
ARE.

"SO I GET CRISTO
TO LOOK IN TO YOU
AND THE REST OF
YOUR FAMILY.

"JUST IN
CASE.



"LET'S JUST SAY
THERE WAS MORE
THAN ONE SURPRISE."



CUTE
LITTLE GIRL. A
LITTLE ANGEL
REALLY.

HER
NAME WAS
CAPRI.

MY FIRST
THOUGHT WAS 'HEY,
SHE'S JACKIE'S SISTER...
MEANS SHE'S PART OF
THE FAMILY. I SHOULD
BRING HER TO COME
LIVE WITH US.'

THEN I GOT
THINKING 'BUT SHE'S
SO SWEET AND INNOCENT-
LIKE. OUR WORLD ISN'T THE
TYPE OF PLACE FOR A
LITTLE PRINCESS
LIKE HER.'

YOU AND ME,
JACKIE. WHAT
WE DO IS MAN'S
WORK.

IT'S UGLY
AND CRUEL
WORK.

I JUST FELT
IT WAS WRONG TO
SHOW HER SUCH AN
UGLY SIDE OF
THE WORLD.

IS
THAT SO
WRONG?



FRANKIE,
CMON.

DO I GOT A BIG
M* TATTOOED ON MY
FOREHEAD?

YOUR
WHOLE
LIFE...

...YOU NEVER
DONE NOTHING FOR
NOBODY THAT WASN'T FOR
THE BENEFIT OF FRANKIE
FRANCHETTI.

SAVE YOUR
HUMANITARIAN
ACT FOR THE
PAPERS, HEAT



DON'T
PUSH IT.

I LIKE
YOU, JACKIE.
BUT DON'T
PUSH IT.



YA WANT
THE TRUTH?
THE TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T
TELL YA ON ACCOUNT
OF THE WAY YER
ACTIN' RIGHT
NOW!

OUR FAMILY
WAS THE ONLY
FAMILY YA EVER
NEEDED TO KNOW.
GOT IT?

WASN'T BAD
ENOUGH FRKKIN' JENNY
ALMOST TRAPPED YA INTO
BECOMING A LITTLE PUSSEY
CAT! IF YOU'DA KNOWN YA
HAD A SISTER --

-- YOU'DA BEEN
MORE LOYAL TO HER
THAN TO ME, THE GUY
WHO RAISED YA
AS MY OWN!

THAT WAS...
HONEST.

WIL

KATE

LOOK, KID --
YOU GOT WORK TO DO.
I NEED YA TO GO BREAK
SOME HEADS AND TAKE
SOME NUMBERS FOR ME.
YER THE ONLY GUY
WHO I TRUST.

GO TO THIS
PLACE*-- DO RIGHT
BY ME -- AND WHEN
YA GET BACK, I'LL
TELL YA EVERYTHING
I KNOW ABOUT
YER SISTER.

OKAY?

SURE.

OKAY.



A BAC...

AND
STRY
OUT!

KRAK!



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN WHEN
YOU SAY 'WE HAVE
A PROBLEM?'

JUST
THAT.

YOU JUST
ASKED ME TO TELL
YOU EVERYTHING I
KNOW ABOUT
JACKIE.

ABOUT
ALL THE MESSES
I CLEANED UP
FOR HIM.

BUT EVEN
WITH YOU BEING
HIS FRIEND AND
ALL, I CAN'T
DO THAT.

IT'S
KIND OF LIKE
ATTORNEY/CLIENT
PRIVILEGE.



A PARK, NOT FAR
FROM THE HOME OF
DOC, AKA "J" RANG

DOC,
IT HURTS
WHEN I
GO LIKE
THIS.

JACKIE,
THERE'S A PART
OF ME THAT'S GLAD
YOU'RE STILL
ALIVE.

PROBABLY
THE PART MOST
IN NEED OF A
THERAPIST,
FRANKLY.

BUT THAT'S
AS FAR AS IT GOES.
I'D APPRECIATE IT
IF YOU'D STOP
STALKING ME.



IF I
WAS STALKING
YOU DOC, YOU
WOULDN'T
KNOW IT.

LOOK, KIM...
NOTHING I CAN DO IS
EVER GOING TO CHANGE
WHAT HAPPENED
BETWEEN US.

YOU MEAN,
WHAT YOU DID
TO ME.



THAT'S
FAIR. I TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF YOU.

BUT THAT
WAS A LONG TIME
AGO, AND A LOT HAS
HAPPENED IN MY LIFE
SINCE THEN.

I'M SORT
OF A NEW
PERSON.

I CAN'T
SAY FOR SURE,
BUT A PART OF
ME THINKS I'VE
CHANGED FOR
THE BETTER.

WELL,
THEN --

-- I GUESS
THAT MAKES
EVERYTHING ALL
BETTER.

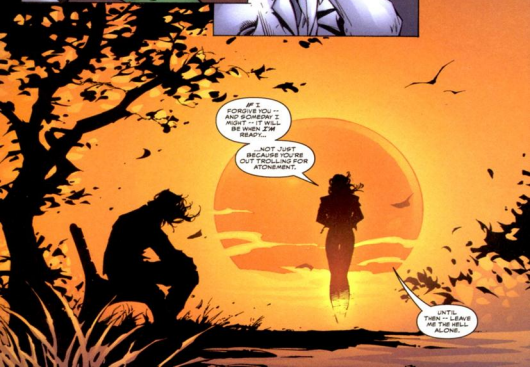






AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS
YOU FEEL BAD AND
EVERYTHING IS JUST
SUPPOSED TO BE
FORGIVEN

IT DOESN'T
WORK THAT WAY,
ESTACADO... YOU
CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE
SINS OF THE PAST LIKE
YOU'RE THROWING YOUR
CLOTHES INTO
THE LAUNDRY.



IF I
FORGIVE YOU --
AND SOMEDAY I
MIGHT -- IT WILL
BE WHEN I'M
READY...

...NOT JUST
BECAUSE YOU'RE
OUT TROLLING FOR
ATONEMENT.

UNTIL
THEN -- LEAVE
ME THE HELL
ALONE.



HEY
THAT'S
GOTTA
SUCK...HEY
BOSS!

YEAH,
NEW NEW --
SHE TOLD
YOU!

SHUT
UP.

WE
WANT TO
KNOW
WHY YOU
LET US GET
OUT OF HERE.

WE
WANT
TO KNOW
WHY YOU
LET US GET
OUT OF HERE.

WE
WANT TO
KNOW
WHY YOU
LET US GET
OUT OF HERE.



THIRTY BLOCKS NORTH

...NOT TOO TERRIBLY FAR AWAY WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...

...FORMER FBI SPECIAL AGENT CARLA PENTON...WATS



ARE YOU READY YET?

ARE YOU READY TO KILL JACKIE ESTACADO?



KUSKRUT, FEK.

SOON.

YOU HAVE A LOT TO DO BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT ISSUE! GUESS YOU ALREADY HAVE A COPY OF BATMAN/DARKNESS, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO PICK UP A COPY OF WYTCNBLADE AND BOTH PARTS ONE AND TWO OF WYTCNBLADE/DARKNESS! BUT DON'T WORRY--IT'LL BE WORTH IT! WE'LL STAKE JACKIE'S LIFE ON IT!