

DYNAMITE  
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# RED SONJA

SHE-DEVIL WITH A SWORD



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# RED SONJA

**SHE-DEVIL WITH A SWORD**

"Know also, O Prince, that in the selfsame days that the Cimmerian did stalk the Hyborean Kingdoms, one of the few swords worthy to cross with his was that of Red Sonja, warrior-woman out of majestic Hyrkania. Forced to flee her homeland because she spurned the advances of a king and slew him instead, she rode west across the Turanian steppes and into the shadowed mists of legendry.

For a time, O Prince, after the destruction of the evil Kulan Gath, the world was a different place and time ripped asunder. Sonja knew not herself, nor her companions, nor her world... but fight on she did, and reclaim herself anew. Now, once again does the She-Devil roam the lands, striking at the very heart of evil and tyranny." - The Nemedian Chronicles

*script*

**Eric Trautmann**

*art*

**Walter Geovani**

*colors*

**Adriano Lucas**

*COVERS*

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**Marc Wolfe (25%)**

**Walter Geovani (25%)**

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*based on the heroine created by*

**Robert E. Howard**

*executive editor - Red Sonja*

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*Special thanks to*

**Arthur Lieberman**

*at Red Sonja, llc*

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Know, O Queen, of a time when the fate of kingdoms passed from despot to despot through war, assassination, and armed insurrection.

In such times, one bought the loyalty of one's army, hiring adventurers and pay-soldiers to carry on the bloody business of empire.

And so it came to pass that a rebellious Prince of Argos attempted to seize his liege's throne in jeweled Messantia.

The Prince's doomed rebellion faced its predictable end, but the sudden unrest within Argos set other forces to stirring.

The Messantian legion rode from the West, to crush the remnants of Oleg the Venetian's mercenary company, who fought in service to the errant prince.

#### KOTH

To the North lay Koth, hungry for conquest, and set on the march by the crown prince of the realm, Strabennus, he who would one day be Emperor.

To the South, the withering forces of darkest Stygia, creeping from their shadowy realm to sow despair and terror in their wake.

At the crossroads of these terrible forces lay unwary them, pastoral land of independent city states and the fiefdoms of minor kings.



Hither came Sonja the Red, peerless sword-maiden from the steppes of Kyrkante, and later a captain in Oleg's mercenary company.

And she has plans of her own.  
--The Last Nemedian Chronicle.

YOU  
WANT ME TO  
SURRENDER MY  
SWORD?

PERSEMHIA  
CITY-STATE  
OF SHEM.

COME  
TAKE IT.

YOU THINK  
YOU'RE THE FIRST  
MURDERING  
TAVERN WENCH  
I'VE FACED?

AS I SAID,  
MARLOT, YOU  
AND THE REST OF  
THIS RABBLE ARE  
UNDER ARREST BY  
AUTHORITY OF  
KING ARKIMAR OF  
PERSEMHIA.

AHEM.

NOW THEN, MY  
GOOD MAN, LET'S  
NOT BE HASTY.  
THERE'S BEEN  
NO MURDER  
HERE.

OH, NOT THERE  
ARE CORPSES  
COOLING ON THE  
FLOOR, OPHIRAN.  
THAT SPIN A  
DIFFERENT  
TALE.

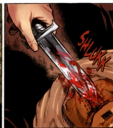
DEAD AFTER A FAIR  
FIGHT. WAS *THEY* WHO  
AMBUSHED US.

AND'S  
BALLS.

TERRIBLE  
DECISION,  
LAD.

THEN YOU CAN  
EXPLAIN THAT TO  
THE MAGISTRATE.  
OR YOU CAN DIE IN  
ANOTHER "FAIR  
FIGHT" WOMAN.  
FORWARD,  
DISARM THESE  
MISCREANTS.









**PALACE OF THE RAM  
THRONE ROOM OF  
KING AKKIMAR OF  
PERSEMHIA**

BY THE  
GRACE OF  
ASTEROOTH AND  
NERGAL, HIS  
MAJESTY KING  
AKKIMAR BIDS  
YOU APPROACH,  
CAPTAIN  
SHEWZAN.

ABOUT BLOODY  
TIME, THREE YEARS  
OF THE HOURGLASS  
WE'VE BEEN  
WAITING—

BY  
THE GODS,  
SOMEBODY BE  
SILENT.

EH?  
WHAT IS THIS,  
OZMANT?

CAPTAIN  
SHEWZAN'S  
MERCENARY  
COMPANY, WHO  
SEEK EMPLOY  
UNDER YOUR  
GRACE'S  
AUSPICES.

AH,  
YES.



WE HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR OFFER, BUT I ASK YOU, WHAT NEED HAVE I FOR MERCENARIES?



TO PROPERLY TRAIN YOUR MILITIA, FOR A START, YOUR MAJESTY.

THE WAR IN ARGOS WILL SPREAD. I SHOULD THINK YOU'D WELCOME STRONG SWORD ARMS.

SHE, UM, SHE SPEAKS THE TRUTH, YOUR HIGHNESS.

SHE'S THE DEVIL HERSELF WITH A BLADE. I CAN ATTEST OUR MEN COULD LEARN MUCH.



VERY WELL.

SET THEM TO WORK, SHERUZAN.



I ADVISE AGAINST THIS, YOUR MAJESTY. OUR ARMY IS STRONG. OUR DEFENSES HAVE SERVED THE KINGDOM FOR CENTURIES.

LOOK TO ARGOS WITH MERCENARIES FIGHTING FOR BOTH THE WOULD-BE USURPER, AND THE COMPANY OF THE BLOODY TUSK RIDING FOR MESSANTIA.



ARGOS' FIELDS BURN, HER LANDS UNTILLED, HER THRONE IN JEOPARDY.

MERCENARY RABBLE ARE DECIMATING THEM. SURELY WE NEED NOT BRING SUCH SERPENTS INTO OUR MIDST.





MESSANTIAN LEGION  
ENGAGEMENT AT  
ARGOSY-STEM  
BORDER REGION



THAT IS YOUR REPORT,  
CAVVALUST?

OLAG'S BAND IS  
SMASHED, AND  
OLAG HIMSELF IS  
DEAD BY YOUR  
HAND.

YES,  
GENERAL  
SEPTIMIUS.



SO THE  
REPORTS I'VE  
RECEIVED OF SMALL  
PARTIES OF FOREIGN  
MERCENARIES  
PILLAGING ALL ALONG  
THE BORDER ARE  
FALSE?

OR COULD  
IT BE THE MERCENARY  
CHIEFTAIN MY KING HIRED--  
OVER MY MOST STRENUOUS  
OBJECTIONS--HAS FAILED  
IN HIS TASK?



UNDOUBTEDLY,  
THERE ARE A HANDFUL  
OF DESERTERS,  
TROUBLESOME BUT  
HARDLY A THREAT.

AYE, THEY'RE  
TROUBLESOME. WORD  
OF THEM HAS REACHED  
MESSANTIA. THE KING  
IS DISPLEASED.



AND WHEN THE KING  
IS DISPLEASED, I AM  
DISPLEASED.

YOU WERE PAID  
TO COMPLETE A  
TASK, AND YOU  
HAVE FAILED.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT THE  
PENALTY FOR  
FAILURE IS, DON'T YOU?



I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR  
PREDICAMENT, GENERAL--  
COMMAND CAN BE A  
TERRIBLE WEIGHT.

IF  
YOU'LL  
PERMIT  
ME...

















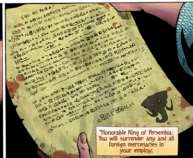
OUTSKIRTS OF PERSHEWIA,  
NORTHWESTERN SHER.











"You will provide military assistance in rounding up any foreign mercenaries within your borders."

BASTARD.

KRRNNCH

"upon the arrest and execution of these foreign elements, you will relinquish control of your militia to the authority of the Persianian legions."

FIND  
VALKOS AND  
DIMITRI.  
NOW.  
IF THIS  
WHORESON  
WANTS A  
WAR...

...THEN  
WAR IS  
WHAT HE  
SHALL  
HAVE.

ARGOS / SHEN BORDER  
TWO DAYS' RIDE TO  
PERSENNIA.

"Tribute to the royal authority of Argos will be selected from your vaults and delivered to the commanding general of the Perennian legion."

WE'RE  
NEARING  
THE BORDER,  
M'LOD.

"All resistance will be  
punishable by death."

EXCELLENT,  
CLAUDIO.

"Cavalier of the Bloody Tusk,  
commanding general of the  
Perennian legion."

THIS  
SHOULD BE  
A *LOVELY*  
WAR.

TO BE  
CONTINUED...

# GRIM TIDINGS

## WAR SEASON, PART 2

Written by: Eric S. Trautmann  
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Colors by: Adriano Lucas  
Letters by: Troy Peteri  
Edited by: Joe Rybandt

# DYNAMITE SPATCHES

Hey, Dynamite fans! Have any questions or suggestions? Email: [LETTERS@DYNAMITEENTERTAINMENT.COM](mailto:LETTERS@DYNAMITEENTERTAINMENT.COM)

## NEXT ISSUE



Sonja leads her men into a war she didn't want, but will be more than ready to finish. But, what are the Red Warrior's true goals and will her men stay with her until the bitter end?

## ASK DYNAMITE:

**ASK DYNAMITE:** Send letters to: [letters@dynamiteentertainment.com](mailto:letters@dynamiteentertainment.com) and mark them "ask to print!"

**BROOKE WRITES:** "Just wanted to thank you for publishing this book [Warlord of Mars]. I cannot wait for it to come out. I spotted it in Comic Shop News. I told my comic shop to get me all 4 covers. Just hope he does not forget."

You'd better hit the shop this week and remind him, because we've got a pre-press proof in hand, and putting the finishing touches on it and ready to ship it to YOU! You're gonna LOVE it!

**AJ WRITES:** "I'm glad to see a qualified fantasy writer, Eric Trautmann, working on Red Sonja now. I just read #61 and am pleased. He obviously knows what he's doing, so I'll happily continue buy the book. Good choice."

Ironically here being that Eric would most likely not consider himself a qualified fantasy writer, but we'll take the compliment and say that Eric has fit seamlessly into the world of Red Sonja, and when you factor in the work on the companion series — Queen Sonja — it's never been a better time to be a fan of the She-Devil. Now, wait until you see what Eric has planned for Vampirella!

## DYNAMITE IN THE NEWS:

### DYNAMITE ENTERTAINMENT RECEIVES TWO SCREAM 2010 NOMINATIONS!

Dynamite Entertainment is pleased to announce that they have received two Scream Nominations: the "Best Comic Book or Graphic Novel" category with *The Boys* as well as the "Best Comic Book Winter category" for *Garth Ennis* and his work on *The Boys* and *Battlefields*. Scream 2010 will once again be dedicated exclusively to celebrating the genres of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror! The nominations will be put up online at [www.scream.com](http://www.scream.com) on Wednesday, September 1st for fan voting, concluding on October 15th! Dynamite is asking all of our fans to vote for *The Boys* for "Best Comic Book or Graphic Novel" as well as *Garth Ennis* as "Best Comic Book Writer". Scream 2010 will air on SPIKE Tuesday, October 19th at 10 PM!

"We'd like to thank our wonderful creative teams as well as all of those at the Scream Awards for another set of nominations," stated Dynamite President Nick Bernucci. "The Awards bring mainstream awareness to our corner of the pop-culture world, and we're honored to be included."

*The Boys* is one of Dynamite's best-selling and most critically acclaimed books and will soon become a live-action feature-length film directed by Adam (The Other Guys) McKay at Sony Pictures! *The Boys* is set in a contemporary world very much similar to the real world, with one notable exception: a number of people have some form of superpowers. The series follows a superpowered "C" squad, known informally as *The Boys*, whose job it is to keep watch on superheroes and, if necessary, intimidate or kill them.

In addition to Garth Ennis' wonderful work on *The Boys*, he has been spearheading the World War II epic, *The Battlefields*. The first mini-series, with artist Russ Braun, titled *The Night Wolves* is set on the Eastern front and concerns a women-only Soviet bomber regiment. The second mini-series, with artist Peter Steyberg, titled *Dear Billy* concerns a British nurse who had survived rape and execution by Japanese soldiers in Singapore, and her relationship with a decorated flying ace. The third mini-series, *Tankies*, with artist Carlos Ezquerro, is about an inexperienced British tank crew of Londoners in a Churchill Tank led by a German veteran as they attempt to catch up with their company, enduring attacks by Nazi Tiger tanks at the Battle of Normandy rages on. The most recent arc, *Motherland*, drawn by Russ Braun recently came to a conclusion, drawing rave reviews among its fans! Garth Ennis has also made an impact with DC and

Marvel Comics, most notably with *Invaders Now!* and *The Punisher*!

## DYNAMITE REVIEWS

### RED SONJA #51

*BestShots@Newsarama.com:* "So what's the verdict on Eric Trautmann's first issue? I think he's got a great handle on our heroine, and while there's some degree of set-up-itis with the various new players being introduced here, there's a real likability to Sonja. Yeah, she's beautiful, but she sees that as just another weapon in her arsenal."



### RED SONJA #51

*ComicSlate.com:* "Red Sonja is a good companion to Queen Sonja, as it gives the fan two different aspects of a great character. One provides high adventure, while the other offers high intrigue. Both versions of the She-Devil are fun."

### INVADERS NOW #1

*ComicSlate.com:* "What I love about *Invaders Now* is that it feels important. That this is a challenge that only the *Invaders* can face. Ross, Reis, Gage and Andrade combine their skills to make this test beautiful and engrossing reading with the first Marvel characters and others that while younger still resonate with thirty years of history."

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### THE BOYS:

#### HIGHLAND LADDIE #1

*ComicSlate.com:* "This issue is devoid of fanfictions, focusing on Hughes' emotional journey, and yet it completely captivates. Ennis is mining territory here that he hasn't touched since *HITMAN*,

and damned good comics is the result. Highly recommended."

### THE BOYS:

#### HIGHLAND LADDIE #1

*Newsarama.com:* "Totally very different from its parent series, *The Boys*. Highland Laddie #1 follows Weir Hughes as he returns to the village in Scotland where he grew up for the first time in several years. With none of *The Boys'* trademark superhero satire, over-the-top violence, and only a bit of gross-out humor, this issue stands apart, becoming almost a piece about the life and times of Hugh Campbell. And that's a good thing!"

### THE BOYS:

#### HIGHLAND LADDIE #1

*ComicBookResources.com:* "This comic plays to their [McCrea/Burns] strengths while also subverting the expectations of an Ennis comic where three guys go out drinking. 'Highland Laddie' #1 shows a different side of Hughes and builds nicely on what's been going on in 'The Boys.' This is exactly what you want out of a spin-off run!"

### THE GREEN HORNET

#### ANNUAL #1

*BestShots@Newsarama.com:* "The Green Hornet franchise can be confusing at times for fans of the character, but not quite sure where to begin or even start. If you haven't started, I strongly suggest this issue."

### THE GREEN HORNET

#### ANNUAL #1

*ComicBookResources.com:* "Michael Netzer and Josef Rubenstein's art on the Flashbacks is dynamic and fun with the use of Sunday data for coloring. They give those scenes a look and feel of an old comic, especially some of the more goofy details like young Carter's clothing. It makes for a good contrast to Carlos Rafanelli's art on the contemporary story, which is much slicker and attempts realism more."



To discuss these issues and more, log onto the Dynamite Entertainment Message Boards at [WWW.DYNAMITEENTERTAINMENT.COM/BOARDS](http://WWW.DYNAMITEENTERTAINMENT.COM/BOARDS)

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