

NOCTURNITY

“Issue #1”

(MASTER: 1-11 -2015)

BY MICHAEL G. PLUMIDES, JR.

PAGE 1:

Panel 1/

We see JADE WINTERS standing barefooted wearing a t-shirt and pajama bottoms as the creature sanctuary known as NOCTURNIA is destroyed by NUMEROUS MEN. Jade is nineteen, thin build, 150 pounds, dark emo hair, blue eyes, boyish, handsome but slightly gaunt and underdeveloped. Jade looks on as monsters and men do battle on the backdrop of a city in ruin. Gunfire and arson abound.

CAPTION: NOCTURNIA

I.D. CAPTION: A SANCTUARY BESIEGED..

PAGE 2:

Panel 1/

Jade sees ARGASUS. Dark olive skin color, muscular, with tendrils that come alive. Full lips and teeth with pegged incisors and reptilian facial features. Argasus fends off several MEN violently with his bare hands. His talons tear flesh.

I.D. CAPTION: ARGASUS: A GORGONITE OF THE SONS OF S'THENO

JADE: What is this place? I don't understand!

ARGASUS: This is Nocturnia, little one! Flee now or our future will die with you!

Panel 2/

Jade see's his mother in the distance, JENNA, an attractive young brunette in her early twenties, running for her life. Jenna is much younger than Jade recalls. Jenna holds the hand of MARCUS, her boyfriend. Jade calls out.

JADE: Mom?

Panel 3/

Jenna looks back over her shoulder and motions toward Jade but is pulled away by Marcus.

JENNA: Marcus, wait!?!

MARCUS: C'mon, Jenna! There's no time!

Panel 4/

Jenna reaches out towards Jade. Jenna's voice echoes through the chambers of the ancient structure. Jade is stressful, and confused.

JENNA: (with longing) Jade!

PAGE 3:

Panel 1/

Jade follows Jenna and Marcus through a maze of tunnels, all the while chaos between the tribes of men and monsters on each periphery - but Jenna and Marcus disappear into the recesses of a cavern.

JADE: Jenna, wait!

Panel 2/

Jade stands alone in yet another dark chamber. Someone approaches from the darkness of the cavern.

JADE: Hello!?!

Panel 3/

Slasher emerges from the darkness. He wears a maroon leather mask with night vision goggles built in (rose-tinted), a zipper mouth with symmetrical raised designs slightly prominent with a maroon cloak and body armor with visible stabbing weapons inserted in the vest.

I.D. CAPTION: SLASHER: A PSYCHOTIC

SLASHER: I am so delighted you've come.

JADE: Why?

SLASHER: It will be a night of long knives.

Panel 4/

We see Jade and Slasher standing face to face within an arm's length.

SLASHER: Are you one of... them?

JADE: (confused) I'm Jade. Jenna's son...

Panel 5/

Slasher's head is cocked to the left.

SLASHER: ...and the son of Marcus.

JADE: (OF) Who are you?

PAGE 4:

Panel 1/

In one singular swiping motion, Slasher slices Jade's throat. Jade reacts.

SLASHER: I am Death.

Panel 2/

Jade holds his neck as his blood gushes between his fingers.

JADE: Arrrrgh...

SLASHER: (OF) It's just not your day.

Panel 3/

Jade wakes. On Jade's face. His eyes wide open.

JADE: Nooooo!

PAGE 5:

Panel 1/

We see Jade sitting up in bed. His t-shirt is soaked with sweat. The room of a teenager. Comics, band posters, a guitar, a Bible on the desk, also Jade's name tag from Antioch Grocery that reads "Jade Winters". Jenna, now older in her 40's, pokes her head in.

JADE: Oh my God...

Panel 2/

JENNA: You okay, honey?? I heard you call out.

Panel 3/

JADE: (frightened) I had another bad dream.

JENNA: The monsters again?

Panel 4/

Jenna walks over and kisses Jade on the forehead.

JENNA: I love you. Try to get some sleep?

Panel 5/

Jade lays in a fetal position in the darkness.

JADE: (sighs) "Get some sleep" she says. Easy for Jenna to say. She's got Ambien.

PAGE 6:

Panel 1/

CAPTION: ANTIOCH, MISSOURI

I.D. CAPTION: POPULATION 1103

Night. Almost closing time. We see a rustic grocery store front. A half-lit florescent light that reads "AF" inside an oval (and underneath, "Antioch Foods"). A few cars spread throughout the parking lot. We see Jade through the window in a grocery store apron.

Panel 2/

Jade looks glum as he prices cans on a shelf with an old grocery store stamper, slowly and deliberately. Red apron and name tag. Dark 'emo' hair with bangs hanging in his face.

Panel 3/

PHIL, THE STORE MANAGER approaches with a smile. Bald. Slightly overweight (beer belly). Red bow tie and name tag.

JADE: Hey, Phil.

PHIL: Working hard or hardly working?

JADE: (off guard) Huh?

PHIL: Straighten up, son.

Panel 4/

JADE: Yes, sir.

Jade standing straight. Phil grabs Jade sternly by the shoulder with his right hand. Jade looks out of the corner of his eye at Phil's hand on his shoulder. Jade looks uncomfortable.

PHIL: We're friends, right?

JADE: Yes, sir.

Panel 5/

Phil points his finger at Jade with a big smile as they stand face to face. Jade looks surprised.

PHIL: How would you like to be my Assistant Manager?

Jade: Wha....?

PAGE 7:

Panel 1/

Jade looks uncomfortable with arms crossed. Phil in mid-conversation

PHIL: It's no secret you have to help Jenna make ends meet.

JADE: Well, we do okay...

Panel 2/

Manager crosses his arms. Jade looks down.

PHIL: There's a \$23 a week pay raise!?! Every little bit counts.

PHIL: I won't take no for an answer!

Panel 4/

Jade stands motionless. Phil leans in to Jades ear.

PHIL: (whispers) Plus, the ladies like a man of authority.

Panel 5/

JADE: But I...

Jade watches as Phil walks away down the aisle

PHIL: There's a spill on aisle seven. Clean it up, would you?

PAGE 8:

Panel 1/

Phil in the distance. Jade slumps and blows his hair out of his face.

PHIL: See you in church on Sunday, sport!

Panel 2/

We see a mop slosh in a bucket full of soiled water. Jades hands wrapped around the handle.

Panel 3/

Jade pushes the wheeled bucket down the aisle with the mop handle - a beaten expression on Jade's face.

Panel 4/

We see the interior of the store locker room. Jade stands in front of his locker with the door open. Disgust and disparagement on his face. He looks at the comics and pop culture items pasted on the inside of the locker door.

JADE: Maybe I should take the raise. I could save up for a car. Becca and I could just take off and never look back.

Panel 5/

Jade touches a photo of BECCA on the inside of the locker door and smiles.

JADE: But I can't leave Jenna by herself.

PAGE 9:

Panel 1/

Night. We see the exterior of Antioch Foods. Jade traverses the parking lot in the dark. Shoulder bag. iPod and white ear buds. Hoodie.

Panel 2/

He looks down at the ground as he walks. Muffled sound of music. The sign switches off as he walks underneath it. One car in the parking lot. Raining slightly.

JADE: Antioch. What a shit hole.

Panel 3/

We see a modest white church with steeple and black shutters with arched windows. The Antioch Church of Christ marquee on the knoll reads "God is angry. Pray with us."

JADE: Classic example of Middle America. Totally Teabaggers-ville (An American expression for an evangelical political movement).

Panel 4/

Jade walks by the abandoned Premium Glass & Mirror factory. The grass is grown up through the sidewalk. A big chain on the gate.

JADE: This place is so dull the factory closed last summer and moved to Mexico. This place sucks balls.

Panel 5/

We see small town fifties-styled store fronts. A dress shop. Drug store. Some with "For Lease" signs in the windows. Vacant.

JADE: Jenna won't tell me why we moved here, so I stopped asking.

PAGE 10:

Panel 1/

Jade walks up to the entrance of the movie house. The Carlisle Movie House marquee reads "Beauty and the Beast" dimly lit.

Panel 2/

Jade enters through the glass doors. We see BECCA, wearing her usher's uniform, sweeping up popcorn in the lobby. Brunette, green eyes, medium build, attractive. Senior in high school. JOHNNY, behind the counter, is your typical jock type. Good-looking, sandy blonde hair (flat top), large build.

JOHNNY: We're closed, dirt bag.

BECCA: It's okay, Johnny.

Panel 3/

Johnny leers at Jade in the background.

Panel 4/

Jade leans into Becca's ear and whispers. Jonny eavesdrops.

JADE: Uneventful night?

BECCA: Yes, it was soooo slow. The council only allows these annoying family movies.

JADE: Yeah?

BECCA: I'm totally Disneyed out.

Panel 5/

Becca and Jade in conversation. Johnny, behind the counter interjects.

BECCA: Anyway, would you walk me home?

JOHNNY: Hey, Becca? Just put new mags on my Camaro. It's boss.

BECCA: That's okay Johnny, Jade's gonna walk me... but thanks. You're really sweet.

Panel 6/

Johnny stands by himself squeezing a bag of popcorn as the kernels scatter.

JOHNNY: (jealous) That Jade thinks he's so cool. I could choke him.

PAGE 11:

Panel 1/

Jade and Becca in conversation as they walk together side by side on a neighborhood street.

BECCA: People have been coming to the church more since the plant closed.

JADE: Uh-huh

BECCA: My dad tells them God is angry and to accept his judgment.

JADE: That's a little harsh.

Panel 2/

They stop. Face to face.

BECCA: Mathius says the almighty is testing us for the trials that lay ahead.

JADE: Cryptic.

BECCA: Yeah. I think dad's losing it since mom passed.

Panel 3/

Jade reaches into his pocket.

JADE: Hey, Phil offered me Assistant Manager today.

BECCA: That's great... isn't it?

Panel 4/

Jade produces a pack of cigarettes from his pocket and lights one up.

JADE: I can't work in a grocery store for the rest of my life, Becca.

BECCA: (shocked) Where did you get those? We're gonna get in trouble!

JADE: I found 'em... somewhere.

Panel 5/

Becca grabs the cigarette from Jade's mouth.

BECCA: Lemme have a puff!?!

Panel 6/

Becca takes a drag, exhales, and coughs. Jade laughs.

PAGE 12:

Panel 1/

CAPTION: MOMENTS LATER

Jade and Becca stand on the sidewalk in front of her house. They stare at each other very close to each other.

BECCA: Well. This is me, I guess.

Panel 2/

MATHIUS appears from the darkness on the front porch - Becca's father. His face half lit. MATHIUS is the town pastor. Six Feet tall, dark hair. Widow peaks. Imposing. He wears a preacher color and black slacks.

MATHIUS; Rebecca? It's getting late. Time to come inside.

Panel 3/

BECCA: Gotta go. Bye!

Becca kisses Jade on the cheek. Jade looks surprised.

Panel 4/

Jade watches as Becca fast walks up to the porch where her father waits with the screen door open. (insert) Mathius stares at Jade for a moment, then turns and shuts the door.

Panel 5/

Jade touches his face. Johnny's car drives by.

JADE: WOW.

PAGE 13:

Panel 1/

CAPTION: MOMENTS LATER

We see Jade in his kitchen opening the refrigerator. The interior bulb lights up his face. He grabs an apple.

Panel 2/

Jenna sleeps. The TV is shows "Touched by an Angel" on the screen. Jade quietly kisses Jenna on the head.

Panel 3/

Jenna opens one eye. Jade a few inches away.

JENNA (smiles) You've been sneaking my cigarettes again, haven't you?

JADE: Oh, Jenna. Just one or two.

Panel 4/

Jenna sits up, a little groggy. Jade stands a few feet away.

JENNA: Why do you call me Jenna?

Jade ponders the question for a moment.

JADE: Because calling you "mom" doesn't help you find a boyfriend.

Panel 5/

On Jenna. A smirk on her face.

JENNA: I don't need a boyfriend. I have you.

PAGE 14:

Panel 1/

CAPTION: BRANSON, MISSOURI

I.D. CAPTION: NEW BREED BODY SHOP

We see the lower half of ARGASUS lying underneath his jacked-up motorcycle. Jeans and biker boots. An ashtray close by with a cigarette smoldering in it. His face not yet revealed, ARGASUS turns a ratchet and grunts while Motorhead plays in the background.

LEXI MINX, an attractive, sensual, and pixie-esque NOCTURN yet with more human attributes, also a "Gorgonite", sits on a couch under a lamp reading *Cosmopolitan*.

Panel 2/

Argasus rolls out from under the Indian Motorcycle. He is muscular with symbols on his body. Argasus smiles with razor sharp teeth. Of course, a Motorhead t-shirt and leather vest with heavy metal patches, necklaces.

ARGASUS: Okay, got it.

Lexi Minx leans her head back and rolls her eyes behind the lids. She breathes heavily.

LEXI MINX: Finally!

Panel 3/.

Wiping his hands off with a shop towel, Argasus approaches Lexi, revealing his pegged incisors with a grin.

ARGASUS: Wanna take her for a spin. Go take care of that thing?

PANEL 4/

Lexi pops up from her seat.

LEXI MINX: (catlike) I thought you would never ask.

PAGE 15:

Panel 1/

CAPTION: MOMENTS LATER

Argasus and Lexi (wearing a back pack), both wearing helmets with visors, leaves the yard in a hurry on the Indian motorcycle with a low baffle noise.

Panel 2/

We see a sign that reads HIGHWAY 112 and a faint motorcycle with two passengers in the distance on a winding country road.

Panel 3/

We see Argasus and Lexi blow by a sign that reads "Ashton - 38 miles".

I.D. CAPTION: ASHTON CREDIT UNION

We see a bank with a 24 hour teller machine. Lexi Minx, still wearing her helmet, approaches the machine outside the bank.

Panel 4/

Holding a paint can, Lexi sprays the camera lens on the machine.

Panel 5/

She looks left, then right and inserts a card tethered to her iPad.

PAGE 16:

Panel 1/

Lexi keys in a code and the machine spits out several thousands in twenties.

Panel 2/

Lexi stuffs the money and the iPad in her back pack and happily scampers off.

Panel 3/

ARGASUS leans against his motorcycle behind some bushes with his helmet off, his tendrils are alive in anticipation as he smokes a cigarette. Lexi approaches in the distance.

Panel 4/

Lexi lifts her helmet visor as she stands three feet away from Argasus.

ARGASUS: How much did you get?

LEXI MINX: (lifts visor) All of it.

ARGASUS: Beautiful.

Panel 5/

We see the motorcycle speeding down the desolate highway as Argasus and Lexi Minx laugh over the rumble of the engine.

PAGE 17:

CAPTION: MORNING

Panel 1/

Jenna sits across from Jade at the kitchen table as they eat breakfast (modest). Jade looks exhausted as he pushes the bacon and eggs around on his plate.

JENNA: You don't look like you've slept a wink.

Panel 2/

Jenna gathers the plates off the table. Jades is slumped in the chair

JADE: (fatigued) It's the dreams, Jenna.

Panel 3/ (small insert) ON JENNA as she gives a peculiar look.

Panel 4/

Jenna places the dishes in the sink.

JADE: (out of frame) ... and this place called Nocturnia.

Panel 5/

Nervously, Jenna breaks a dish in the sink and cuts her finger

PAGE 18:

Panel 1/

Jenna turns towards Jade with a concerned look on her face. Jade still sits at the table.

JADE: There's this guy in a weird mask.

JENNA: Like the Gimp?

JADE: Who?

JENNA: Never mind.

Panel 2/

Jenna in conversation. Jade crosses his arms, uncomfortable.

JENNA: Maybe you should talk to someone. How about Phil?

JADE: Mr. Garrison? I don't want him to think I'm crazy.

Panel 3/

Jenna sucks the tip of her cut finger. Jade stands in the background out of focus.

JENNA: Your teachers always said you had an active imagination.

JADE: But it felt like it was real. They call me Ag-ness....

Panel 4/

JENNA: (nervous) Go get your Sunday clothes on. You'll be late for church.

JADE: You're not going but you're making me go?

Panel 5/

As Jade walks away, he turns.

JADE: Why don't we ever talk about my dad?

JENNA: I told you. He died. There's nothing more to say. Now, go get ready.

PAGE 19:

I.D. CAPTION: PACIFIC NORTHWEST LOGGING CAMP

Caption 1/

It is morning. We see a Caterpillar Crane Crawler operated by Marcus.

Caption 2/

MILTON TWO TREE ties off cables around lumber and gives a thumbs up. The crane lifts the lumber and it swings around.

MILTON TWO TREE is a seven foot tall, hairy bipedal Nocturn, ape-like but more linear and humanoid. He is clothed in a flannel shirt, jeans, and boots, gloves, protective goggles, a fluorescent vest, hard hat, bandana over his face, completely covered up and unrecognizable.

I.D. CAPTION: MILTON TWO TREE

Caption 3/

Marcus is a handsome, 50, dark hair with grey highlights and a beard. Rugged and spirited. Marcus hums along with the radio.

I.D. CAPTION: MARCUS'S TRUCK CAB - LATER

Marcus and Two Tree haul a truckload of freshly cut trees up from the job site. Marcus is talking.

MARCUS: We've had a hellavu year Two Tree. We're killing it. A few more months, we'll be rolling in money.

Caption 4/

Two Tree grunts, continuing to look out the window as Marcus drives the 18 wheeler.

MARCUS: Hey, what's wrong with you?

Caption 5/

Two Tree turns around, exposing his Sasquatch-like face.

TWO TREE: Would you please turn that noise down!?!

PAGE 20:

Panel 1/

CAPTION: MATHIUS' CHAMBERS

We see Jade sitting in Mathius' office. Mathius behind his desk, with Jade sitting opposite him. Jade is nervous. Mathius is foreboding in his preacher collar.

MATHIUS: Jade, why have you come here?

JADE: Have you really been dreaming about Demons?

MATHIUS: I wouldn't dare tell a lie in God's house.

Panel 2/

On Jade. Nervous.

JADE: I've just been having dreams myself. Weird dreams with...

MATHIUS: With what?

JADE: I don't know. DEMONS maybe, or something.

Panel 3/

Mathius thinks for a moment sitting back in his chair. Jade leans forward in answer.

MATHIUS: Are you on... drugs?

JADE: No!

Panel 4/

Mathius stands behind the desk. Jade still sits.

MATHIUS: Jade, we are a dedicated Christian community. We welcomed you and Jenna many years ago, although she was unwed.

JADE: What does that have to do with my dreams?

Panel 5/

On JADE with a shocked look.

MATHIUS: What are your intentions with my Rebecca?

JADE: Huh?

Panel 6/

We see Jade walking away with the Church in the background with a disgusted look on his face.

JADE
(grumbles)
Bad idea.

PAGE 21.

CAPTION: QUITTING TIME

I.D. CAPTION: BILLINGS SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Panel 1/

We see a slaughterhouse exterior in a pale, rustic, depressed setting. Sand and earth tones. A white pick-up truck parked outside. FOREMAN in a safety helmet and a white, blood spattered apron speaks to TWO MEXICAN MEN.

Panel 2/

Foreman is on the phone sitting behind his desk in a swivel office chair with his back turned. Two Mexicans sitting in the entranceway. Cain stands in the doorway, his nostrils flared as he makes a disgusted expression.

FOREMAN: Yeah, and they got friends...

Panel 3/

FOREMAN: Hell, yeah! I'm gonna hire me a bunch of 'em and...

Foreman's swivel chair turns around. Obese man with a beard, green teeth and a cigar smoldering in his mouth. He is startled.

FOREMAN: Dammit, boy. Don't you knock! Sneakin' up on a man like 'at might give him a heart attack!

CAIN: Willis said you wanted to see me.

Panel 4/

Cain stands across from Foreman with his head turned slightly toward the open door with the two men sitting outside on a bench. (angled from behind Foreman's head.) A white envelope on the desk with the foreman's hand on it.

FOREMAN

Got some bad news for you, kid. I'm gonna have to let you go.

Panel 5/

CAIN examines the content of the envelope. \$72 and some change with a look of disgust.

CAIN

But Francine said I'm due a raise.

FOREMAN

Not anymore.

Panel 6/

On Cain with a smirk on his face. Foreman stands pointing his finger at Cain with the cigar hanging from his mouth. (Think John Wayne Gacy)

CAIN: I know what this is about.

FOREMAN: You better keep yer mouth shut, if you know what's good for you.

PAGE 22:

Panel 1/

Foreman swivels back around to make another phone call. Cain stands, boiling.

FOREMAN: Best of luck to you, son.

Panel 2/

Cain transforms into a monstrous were-beast, resembling a Hyena, with sharp teeth and talons, big and slightly hairy with a spotted Mohawk of brown fur - his true NOCTURN self.

Foreman sits in conversation unaware. As Cain's clothes rip apart, the noise behind the Foreman grows louder. He turns.

FOREMAN: Boy, I said best of luck to you...

Panel 3/

The cigar hangs out of the Foreman's mouth as it gapes in shock as he gazes on the newly transformed Cain, snarling and drooling.

FOREMAN: Holy shit.

CAIN

(monster voice)

It looks like your luck just ran out... sicko.

Panel/ 4/

We see the shadow of Cain already pounced onto Foreman through the exterior windows of the opaque window glass of Foreman's Office. Arterial spray all over the glass. The Two Mexican Men run for their lives.

FOREMAN: ... Aaaaaargh!

TWO MEXICAN MEN: Ayyyyyyyyyye!

CAPTION: TO BE CONTINUED...