

FOREWARD

DARKNESS IS THE HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP OF THE SUPERHERO/ACTION COMIC. IT'S PRACTICALLY UNAVOIDABLE, AND TOO MUCH OF IT GIVES YOU AN ICKY FEELING. AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL AFTER READING ONE TOO MANY DARK COMICS STARRING CHARACTERS DESPERATELY IN NEED OF TALK THERAPY AND YOGA.

THAT'S WHY I WAS SO VERY HAPPY TO DISCOVER BRIAN ANDERSEN AND CELINA HERNANDEZ'S REIGNBOW AND DEE-VA A FEW YEARS AGO.

THIS SPARKLING ROMP OF A COMIC BOOK HAD ME AT "HYPER-GAY SECRET AGENT AND HIS SASSY, BUTT-KICKING PARTNER" AND, TO EXTEND THE FOOD METAPHOR, IT'S HEAVY ON AN INGREDIENT THAT'S MISSING IN A LOT OF COMICS: JOY. REIGNBOW AND DEE-VA LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES AS THEY BEAT DOWN ZOMBIES WITH FLAIR, OF COURSE AND TRADE HILARIOUS TRASH TALK WITH A VAMPIRE QUEEN.

LIKE THE CHARACTERS THEY'VE CREATED, ANDERSEN AND ARTIST HERNANDEZ ARE A DYNAMIC DUO OF LAUGH-OUT-LOUD, BAWDY FUN. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW A RAINBOW-COLORED BOUNCY HOUSE IN AN ACTION COMIC, OR A VILLAIN REFERRED TO AS A "HO-BAG?" (FOR THE RECORD, THAT TERM SHOULD BE USED MUCH MORE OFTEN TO DESCRIBE COMIC BOOK EVILDOERS.) EVERY PAGE HAS A HIGH "TA-DA!" FACTOR AND AT LEAST ONE QUIP THAT WILL MAKE YOU SPIT OUT YOUR DIET BEVERAGE.

THE BEAUTY OF REIGNBOW AND DEE-VA IS THAT IT IS FEARLESSLY OVER THE TOP AND ANYTHING BUT AMBIGUOUS. IT'S A VERY GOOD THING THAT MAINSTREAM PUBLISHERS HAVE, HOWEVER LATE, BEGUN INCLUDING GAY CHARACTERS IN THEIR COMICS. BUT ANDERSEN'S APPROACH IS FAR FROM TEPID. HE PUTS A FLAMBOYANT HERO FRONT AND CENTER, SHOWING THAT A MAN WHO WEARS TIGHT WHITE SHORTS AND BUSTS MADONNA DANCE MOVES CAN CRACK SOME SKULLS.

"BROWN SUGAR MAMA" DEE-VA IS RIGHT BY HIS SIDE, ARMED WITH DEADLY JEWELRY AND SOME OF THE BEST ONE-LINERS IN COMICS. "WE READY TO FANG-SLAP SOME MONSTER BITCHES OR WHAT?"

YES. YES, WE ARE!

THE BOOK YOU'RE HOLDING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO GLOOMY STORIES
ABOUT GLOOMY PEOPLE DOING GLOOMY THINGS, NOT TO MENTION
THE RESULTING FROWN LINES. BUT MOST OF ALL,
REIGNBOW AND DEE-VA IS A REMINDER THAT A COMIC BOOK FOR
GROWN-UPS CAN BE PURE FUN. I KNOW YOU'LL ENJOY IT AS
MUCH AS I DID.

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REIGNBOW & DEE-VA

©BRIAN ANDERSEN AND SO SUPER DUPER COMICS (FORMERLY CBG COMICS)

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Must be one of those tre-uber-cool places that's above having something as lame as a sign on the door.

Total VIP's only.

















