

REALMTM OF THE DAMNED

T E N E B R I S D E O S

WRITTEN BY
ALEC WORLEY

ART BY
PYE

PUBLISHED BY
WEREWOLF PRESS



REALMTM OF THE DAMNED

T E N E B R I S D E O S

There's no one left to protect us from what lurks in the dark. There's no Hellboy, no Mulder and Scully, no Torchwood or Men in Black coming to save us. The monsters have won.

Our world now belongs to them.

The Vatican's last line of paranormal defence – The Congregation – has finally been overrun by the supernatural forces of darkness. Our heroes are all dead; only the damned remain. Among them is Alberic Van Helsing – addict, murderer, survivor – and the creatures that were once his prey now hunt him across America. But when an apocalyptic evil is resurrected in the forests of Norway, it falls to Van Helsing to become the hunter once again if mankind and monster alike are to see the dawn.

Van Helsing's quest for salvation and survival takes him through the ruins of a neo-gothic Europe, where he must face the vampire queen of the Vatican, a man-made monster with the heart of a storm, the lycanthropic lord of the forest, the mummified ruler of the slums of Cairo, and the crazed vampire demi-god who threatens to devour them all.

This is **Realm of the Damned: Tenebris Deos**, a graphic novel of pure Black Metal horror that unleashes the classic gothic monsters on a modern rampage of redemption and damnation. Raw, fast-paced and bristling with atmosphere, this is a bloody and blasphemous epic that leaves no church unburned.

REALM OF THE DAMNED™

T E N E B R I S D E O S

SELLING POINTS:

Written by well respected **2000AD** (amongst others) writer **ALEC WORLEY**,
graphic art by well respected **2000AD** (amongst others) artist **SIMON 'PYE' PARR**.

Will be an immediate hit and “must have” collectible for all fans of featured artists, **BEHEMOTH**,
EMPEROR, **MAYHEM**, **THE DAMNED** and **ZARDONIC**.

Will be a hit with all fans of the horror genre as well as legions of heavy metal fans.

MEDIA / PUBLICITY:

Serialised in **2000AD “Megazine”** February through September 2016.

Massive social media promotion via music artists featured, **BEHEMOTH 1.3 MILLION** Facebook
followers, **THE DAMNED 130,000**, **ZARDONIC 120,000**, **MAYHEM 400,000** and
EMPEROR 120,000.

Combined reach over **2 MILLION FANS**.

Reviews and features in most international heavy metal media.
1700+ publications! sites etc serviced.

13 unique 60 second adverts released via social media running
March 2016 thru March 2017.

Unique 60 second adverts produced for individual retailer social media sites,
approx reach of 1 million views.

Competitions running in selected high profile media outlets.

Hundreds of logo shirts given to high profile metal bands for stage and
promotional photography.

Teaser adverts circulating from October 2015.

Adverts on hundreds of Heavy Metal websites.

REALM OF THE DAMNED™

T E N E B R I S D E O S

**CHAPTER ONE:
HELLS HUNGER**

**WRITTEN BY
ALEC WORLEY**

**ART BY
PYE**









HRRRGH



ALBERIC VAN HELSING

MONSTER-HUNTER

An eccentric Dutchman born in the middle of the 19th century, Van Helsing was once a respectable expert on obscure diseases. But when his wife went insane following the mysterious death of their son, his studies led him into uncovering the secrets of the supernatural. He remained, however, a devoted catholic, dedicated to God and committed to whatever sacred mission the Almighty had planned for him.

Following Van Helsing's victory over a major supernatural power towards the end of the century, he was recruited by the Congregation, a secret organisation within the Vatican dedicated to defending humanity from the predatory forces of darkness. Van Helsing's holy mission against evil became an obsession until – shortly before the outbreak of the First World War (and now in his early 60s) – he made the decision to prolong his own life using a serum he had concocted using vampire blood. Now empowered with the vigour and endurance of a much-younger man, Van Helsing helped the Congregation defend humanity throughout both World Wars. But his decision to extend his life came at a terrible cost, as he became addicted to his serum. Now he is overcome by his awful craving every month, forcing him to hunt down vampires and use their blood to create more serum, without which his body would crumble to dust.

The Congregation finally succumbed to the forces of darkness at the turn of the 21st century and the so-called 'Vampire Elite' now rule the world in secret. Van Helsing has been forced into hiding, and been branded the world's most wanted terrorist. He remains an iron-willed catholic with an unbreakable faith in God, dedicated to slaughtering the forces of darkness whatever the cost to his soul.

He is also a consummate survivor, as well as the world's foremost authority on occult and esoteric lore, an expert in hypnotism and survival skills, with a trick up his sleeve for every occasion. But he is weary of living like an animal, and is beginning to question why God would want him to endure such torment. Although his faith remains absolute, for now...



A Romanian vampire of an ancient bloodline, possibly related to Dracula himself. In a story to be told another time, Athena was responsible for murdering her wayward vampire brother Balaur, who had become a threat to both her family and perhaps even the world.

Following the Congregation's defeat by the forces of darkness, Athena is now the Director of the 'New Congregation' as well as the Vatican's Head of Security. The flipside of its former incarnation, the New Congregation is devoted to hunting down the monster-hunters themselves, rooting out pockets of resistance and maintaining the vampires' control over the world. The Vampire Elite has effected a sort of mass-hypnosis over humanity via the media and pop culture. Should the New Congregation lose their foothold, this spell will be broken and anarchy will prevail as the other forces of darkness – the lycanthropes, the darklings, the shining ones, the revenants, and every other monstrous race – would battle for dominion over the world. In many ways, the Vampire Elite are the least of all evils...

Athena herself is centuries old and enjoys her newfound wealth and resources, and is an enthusiastic participant in the many blood orgies arranged by the vampires in the sacred temples of their fallen enemies. In her quieter moments, however, she yearns for the old days and can be found in her chambers enjoying the Romanian folk music of her mortal youth.

She believes that the establishment of the New Congregation is best for everyone. Mankind is (literally) the blood that keeps both the world and the Vampire Elite alive, running the factories that keep the wheels turning and the vampires fed. Perhaps the world would be better off with 'evil' running the show...

Ruthlessly level-headed, Athena knows what she is and the way the world works, and is as much a pragmatist as Van Helsing, as she strives to maintain control of the world her people have fought long and hard to obtain.



BALAU

**HALF - VAMPIRE,
HALF - 'SOMETHING ELSE'**

No one knows the real name of the legendary Carpathian vampire known as 'Balaur' (the Dragon) for his demonic ability to breath fire. He existed for a relatively short while in 15th/16th century Europe, feared among mortals and vampires alike. His origin a secret lost in time, although his bloodline was clearly mixed with 'something else'. Although a scion of House Petrova, Balaur remained a wild animal who ran berserk across the battlefields of Europe, even fighting alongside the 'Great Impaler' Vlad Tepes. Otherwise he did as he pleased, upsetting the Petrovas' stratagems whenever not immersed in chaos and violence, until it fell to his blood-sister Athena to make the decision to murder him for the good of the family.

During his relatively short existence as a vampire, Balaur was a pure sociopath, a sensualist devoted only to satisfying his own whims. All he ever wanted was to destroy the world, for no other reason than to hear its inhabitants scream. He is chaos, bloodlust and destruction incarnate, an (un)living reminder that life cannot be tamed and that control over the world is nothing but a comforting fantasy. As the scholars of his day put it: "He is the Dragon – the fire that knows nothing except how to burn."

Following Balaur's death at the hands of his sister, his loyal retainers retrieved a fragment of his body, which they revered as an unholy relic, dedicating themselves to finding a way of resurrecting him. This cult endured for centuries, its acolytes known as the 'Sons of Balaur'. Today this coven has become a mere footnote in occult history, known only among the most dedicated of followers, including a group of Norwegian black metal musicians who have named their band after the infamous cult and decided to continue its unholy mission...



TOMAS

**EARLY 20S; OCCULT GEEK;
VOCALIST AND GUITARIST OF
BLACK METAL BAND
'SONS OF BALAUR' – NAMED
AFTER THE VAMPIRIC CULT**

Norwegian-born Tomas is obsessed with the legend of Balaur, even going so far as to form a black metal band in the vampire's honour and name it after the cult devoted to his resurrection. Conceived in secret at Oslo's notorious Klubb Helvete with the intention of not only taking black metal to its darkest extreme by physically resurrecting a lord of chaos, as well as creating a soundtrack for the death of humanity, the band consist of Tomas (vocals and guitar), psychopath Markus (bass guitar), soulful Kristopher (guitar) and thuggish Lars (drums).

The band's ringleader, Tomas despises the world for reasons of his own and has devoted his life to gathering every piece of Balaur's resurrection spell, gathering clues from every corner of the dark web. He has finally located the last piece of the puzzle and is now willing to stake his life – and those of his bandmates – on the legend of Balaur being true.

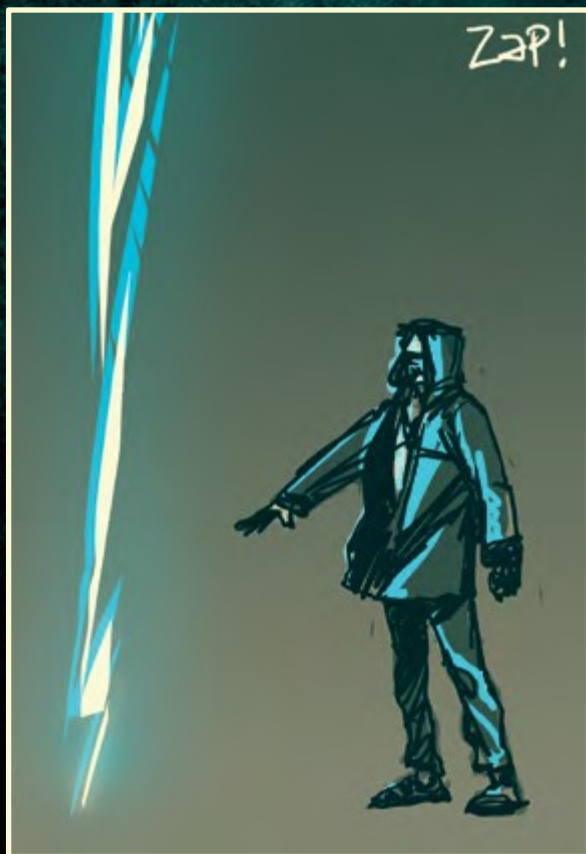




THE NAMELESS

THE WORLD'S FIRST
ARTIFICIAL HUMAN

Little is known about 'the Nameless', except that he is the world's first man-made homunculus, his heart containing the elemental fury of the storm. His maker long dead, the Nameless has wandered the earth for centuries, fascinated by the human beings in whose image he was crudely made. He has become fluent in every arcane tongue – from Nemortian runes to birdsong – perhaps seeking to solve the riddle of his existence. Although a tender soul, even something of a poet, he remains a formidable opponent in battle; a being with few friends but even fewer living enemies.



The Werewolf King, the wellspring from which all lycanthropy flows. Some say he is a nature spirit, others some form of protean elemental, an embodiment of nature's ability to change and adapt. His howl of command can summon the beast from within the body of any creature living or undead.

Once upon a time, from his home-kingdom of Géuvadan (now Lozère) in Southern France, he and his pack defended the natural world against human civilisation. In more recent times, however, the Congregation hunted his people almost to extinction, allowing humanity to continue poisoning the natural world. Now the Vampire Elite have taken over the Congregation, the fate of the now-weakened werewolf king and his people seems uncertain. However, la Bête is merely gathering his strength to strike back, firmly believing that he can win back the natural world from those who would desecrate it.



'QUEEN' NEMETARI

MUMMIFIED CRIMINAL KINGPIN

Born in 'Old Kingdom' Egypt (2686 BC – 2181 BC), Nemetari was guardian to a venerable high priestess of the sun god Ra. When her elderly charge died, young Nemetari was ritually murdered and mummified in order to guard the priestess in the afterlife. Archaeologists plundered their tomb in the 1920s by which time Nemetari had decided to take her (un)life in her own hands, slaughtering her resurrected mistress and striding off into the desert to create a new life for herself. Disguising herself as human, she worked her way up the ranks of the Egyptian underworld, eventually rising to prominence as a major drug trafficker who runs a chain of nightclubs.

While monsters like la Bête have become relics of the old world, Nemetari is a thoroughly modern monster, perfectly adapted to high-tech urban life. Fiery, proud and fantastically foul-mouthed, Nemetari spent her mortal life in servitude to the gods, but in her unlife has come to believe it's all a big waste of time. She believes that we make our own gods and devils, build our own prisons and palaces, and that the world is what we make it. She has made a choice of her own and has chosen to be a monster.



SONS OF BALAUR

BLACK METAL BAND

Sons of Balaur are a true kult Black Metal band based in Oslo, Norway. Formed in March, 1992, the band were part of the original first wave of Norwegian Black Metal – a notorious inner circle of underground artists who took music to extremes it had never previously reached. Started in secret, for obvious reasons, the band features some of Norwegian Black Metal's most dedicated and shadowy personalities: Tomas – vocals and guitar, Markus – bass guitar, Kristoffer – guitar, and Lars – drums.

The band are true followers of the Dark Arts, and their songs are as much spells to the black forces of the underworld as they are music. The band's recordings have been kept closely guarded within a tight-knit community of like-minded servants of the night, and remained unreleased in any official form until now. Their new album is an invocation of the dark vampiric overlord of chaos and death: Balaur.

Lead singer Tomas (all surnames are withheld due to legal reasons) is one of Black Metal's most infamous, yet secretive, personalities. Having burned down two churches (a centuries-old wooden stave church in Øksfjord, Norway, and a fortified church listed as a heritage site in Transylvania, Romania) Tomas has been imprisoned for arson, and has also been arrested twice on murder charges – though, in both cases, he was released as a result of insufficient evidence.

The band members all knew each other as children – they all hail from the small town of Øksfjord in the very far north of Norway, inside the Arctic Circle. Even as teenagers, those who knew them said there was trouble ahead, and so there was: trouble at school, at home, with the police... it was an endless litany of turmoil. One notable incident involving Markus (bass guitar) resulted in him being detained in a juvenile prison, having been caught digging up graves and allegedly attempting acts of necrophilia with the corpses... he was fifteen at the time.

As they grew older, the band members moved away from Øksfjord one by one, and played in an assortment of separate bands, all of which came to nothing – each of them feeling that their new bandmates simply showed no real wish to be truly occult and evil. They had not seen each other for some time when a fateful chance meeting at the legendary Helvete record shop in Oslo brought them back together. It would appear that destiny once again drew these dark souls to one another, for a shadowy purpose.

This group of musicians ignored the rest of those who frequented Helvete – a gathering place and centre of nefarious activity for all those involved in Black Metal's inner circle in its early days. They had no interest in forging alliances with others, instead keeping themselves apart and sitting in each other's company without uttering a word, until eventually Lars broke the deathlike silence between them, inviting Tomas, Kristoffer and Markus to form a new band – a band that would reign supreme and write the history of Black Metal as it would be known around the world in years to come. A band that would provide the soundtrack to the death of humankind... A band that would serve their lord and master as no other could... A band that would be the ultimate incarnation of Black Metal in Hell itself!

They began rehearsing in earnest, and several demos were recorded – but none were ever officially released to a wider audience. These early years yielded such legendary recordings as: 'To Summon Him' (1993, unreleased, cassette only); 'The Dark Lord Shall Rise' (1995, unreleased, cassette only), 'Bloodfrenzy' (1996, ultra-rare 7" single) and 'The Equanimity Of Chaos' (1999, unreleased, cassette only).

'Bloodfrenzy' is reputed to change hands for well over £1,000 on the underground collectors' market, but the chances of a copy being offered for sale are unimaginably slim – the authorities have declared they will arrest



SONS OF BALAUR

BLACK METAL BAND

anyone found with a copy in their possession, so it's seldom that anyone has been known to publicly admit to owning what is probably the most controversial song ever recorded.

The band have, until now, only played to secretive gatherings of the followers of the cult of Balaur, a vampire whose legends permeate the darkest recesses of Romanian folklore and sorcery. No one knows the real name of this legendary Carpathian predator. Known as 'Balaur' (the Dragon) for his demonic ability to breathe fire, he existed for a relatively short period in 15th/16th century Europe, feared among mortals and vampires alike. His origin is a mystery lost in time, though his bloodline was clearly mixed with 'something else' – a scion of House Petrova, Balaur remained a wild animal scything across the battlefields of Europe completely out of control, even fighting alongside the 'Great Impaler' Vlad Tepes. He did as he pleased, upsetting the Petrovas' schemes, until it fell to his blood-sister, Athena, to make the decision to murder him for the good of the family.

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Following Balaur's death at the hands of his sister, his loyal retainers retrieved a fragment of his body, which they revered as an unholy relic, dedicating themselves to finding a way of resurrecting him. This cult has endured for centuries, but has become a forgotten footnote in the occult history books – remembered only by the most dedicated acolytes.

The band's live shows are rumoured to have included occult rituals, mass orgies, extreme violence, and even human sacrifice – with the ultimate offering being made in an attempt to summon the undead. More of a Satanic ceremony than a live Black Metal performance, these 'gigs' have been highly secretive, in an attempt to avoid attention from the vampire hunting organisation (themselves extremely enigmatic) known as 'The Congregation'.

The band dropped out of public sight in the year 2000. Aside from each other, they had no close friends, so the rare reported sightings of the individual members are usually considered to be nothing more than urban legends. Rumours have persistently spread that they disappeared after travelling in the murky Transylvanian region of Romania – that they had been murdered, sacrificed at one of their own shows by competing followers of the vampire Balaur. The truth about what had become of Sons of Balaur, where they had disappeared to, or even if they still survived, remained a mystery... until now!

After an absence of fifteen years, during which no one outside of the most extreme Satanic circles has known anything that could be substantiated about their activities, the 'Sons Of Balaur' have returned from their self-imposed exile in the netherworld to release their debut full length album...

Influenced by the dark forces of the underworld and the true Norwegian Black Metal sound of their contemporaries, bands such as:
Emperor
(the true) Mayhem
Immortal
Darkthrone





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