

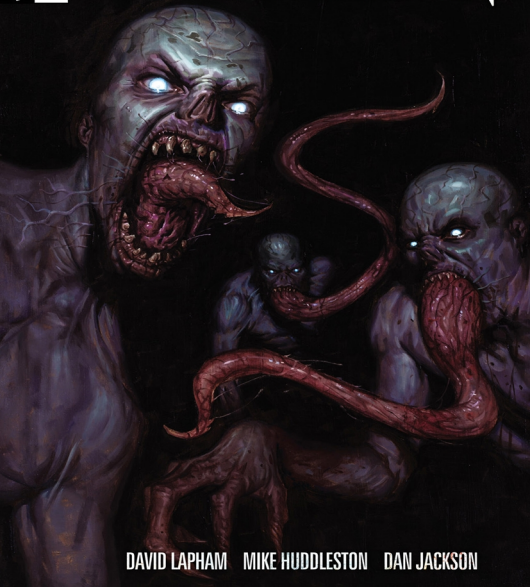


**DARK  
HORSE  
COMICS**  
THE STRAIN

9

GUILLERMO DEL TORO & CHUCK HOGAN'S

# THE STRAIN



DAVID LAPHAM   MIKE HUDDLESTON   DAN JACKSON

They have always been here.  
**VAMPIRES.**

In secret and in darkness.  
**WAITING.**

Now their time has come.  
In one week, Manhattan will be gone.  
In one month, the country.  
In two months—the world.

GUILLERMO DEL TORO & CHUCK HOGAN'S

# THE STRAIN

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WE'RE  
ALL DONE,  
MATT?

REGO PARK CENTER,  
QUEENS, 12:55 A.M. ...



FINALLY,  
YEAH, NATE.  
GREAT WORK. I'LL  
CLOCK YOU OUT AT  
ONE FOR THE FULL  
FOUR HOURS OF  
OVERTIME.

SEE YA ON  
THURSDAY.

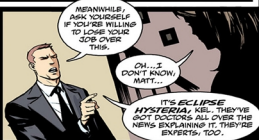


"WE'RE GOING."

"OPEN YOUR EYES,  
KEL. HE COULDN'T WIN  
IN COURT SO HE  
CONDUCTS THIS  
MASSIVE CONSPIRACY."



THIS IS HIS JOB,  
MATT. BPH WORKS  
FOR THE C.D.C.  
MAYBE HE KNOWS  
SOMETHING. MAYBE  
NOT. WHY NOT  
GO AWAY FOR A  
FEW DAYS FOR  
AT LEAST?





...YOU WANT TO TAKE  
A MACHETE ALONG  
ON YOUR TRIP?

**KLAK KLAK KLAK**

UGNNNNNN--  
NNN...

MUSLELAHH...  
UGHH...?

OH, MY  
GOD!

HOLD  
ON, MAN.

HELP!

SOMEBODY  
HELP! CALL AN  
AMBULANCE!

UNNNNN--  
UNNNNN--

SHIT...

FUCKING  
JUNKIES...



FLATBUSH,  
BROOKLYN,  
3:18 A.M. ...



QUICKLY, DR.  
GOODWEATHER.  
QUICKLY.

THE HOME OF  
ANSEL AND  
ANN-MARIE  
BARBOUR...

NOW IS NOT  
THE TIME FOR  
CAUTION. IF THEY  
ARE HERE, THEY  
ARE AWARE OF US  
AND TIMIDITY WILL  
ONLY MAKE IT  
HARDER.



WELL,  
FORGIVE ME  
IF A NAIL GUN FULL  
OF SILVER BRADS  
DOESN'T FILL ME  
WITH THE BURNING  
DESIRE TO CHARGE  
INTO POTENTIAL  
DANGER.

MAYBE AROUND  
BACK, EHT? IN  
CASE WE HAVE TO  
BREAK IN.



IF  
THERE'S  
ONE THING  
I'VE LEARNED  
SO FAR,  
NORA...

...IT'S THAT  
VAMPIRES  
AREN'T BIG  
ON LOCKS.





ALL MYTHS ORIGINATE WITH TRUTH. SOMETIMES IT IS TO RAISE THE INFLUENCE OF A RELIGION BY PACIFYING FEARS.

SOMETIMES THE REALITY IS FAR MORE FRIGHTENING.



~~order them into an army~~

8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which is allegorically called Sodom and Egypt where their Lord was crucified

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations

THIS IS A TRUTH I HAVE SOUGHT FOR MANY YEARS, BUT WHICH HAS AS YET ELUDED ME.

INTERESTING THAT THIS SHOULD BE HERE, UNDERLINED SO...

EPH! COME QUICK!



IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO KILL ONESELF BY THIS METHOD. ONE MUST BE EXTREMELY COMMITTED.

OR INSANE. EPH, REMEMBER HOW PARANOID ANSEL WAS ABOUT HER MENTAL STATE?

THERE'S A NOTE.





IT SAYS SHE SENT THE CHILDREN TO THEIR AUNT'S IN JERSEY...



...HERE... "I'M SO SORRY, ANSEL. THIS KEY I HOLD I CANNOT USE... I KNOW THAT GOD HAS FORSAKEN US AND WE ARE BOTH DAMNED. IF MY DEATH CAN CURE YOUR SOUL THEN HE CAN HAVE IT."

JESUS. SHE THOUGHT THIS COULD SAVE HIM?

SAVE HIS SOUL. ANOTHER DELUSION.



THERE IS BUT ONE RELEASE.



EPH, PROFESSOR. I FOUND THE KEY SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT...



"...NOW, WE JUST NEED TO FIND THE LOCK..."

OKAY, START  
RECORDING.

THIS IS  
DR. EPHRAIM  
GOODWEATHER,  
HEAD OF THE  
C.D.C.'S CANARY  
PROJECT FOR  
NEW YORK  
CITY.

I AM AT THE  
HOME OF ANSEL  
BARBOUR, ONE  
OF THE SUPPOSED  
SURVIVORS OF  
REGIS 753.

AS YOU CAN SEE, MR. BARBOUR  
WAS *NOT* A SURVIVOR. HIS  
CURRENT STATE IS THE RESULT  
OF BEING INFECTED WITH A  
PARASITIC ORGANISM WHICH  
HAS TAKEN OVER HIS  
BODY'S SYSTEMS  
AND--





SLOW,  
NORA, PEOPLE  
NEED TO SEE  
THIS.

AFTER  
TAKING OVER  
THE HOST'S  
BODY, THIS NEW  
CREATURE SEEKS  
OTHERS TO FEED ON  
THEIR BLOOD AND  
INFECT THOSE  
THEY FEED ON  
WITH THE SAME  
PARASITES.



THE  
ONLY THINGS  
THAT SEEM TO HURT  
THEM ARE SUNLIGHT,  
WHICH THEY HIDE  
FROM--

--AND  
SILVER.  
PROFESSOR--



IM SOURN  
ARTSATI  
MASIN E  
ERGOLM!







BUSY  
DAY TODAY,  
SO LET'S  
GET TO  
IT!

I SEE  
ALREADY YOU  
GOT SOME RAT  
DROPPINGS HERE.  
DEFINITELY SOME  
PROBLEMS...















BUT  
THE EASIEST TO  
EXTERMINATE,  
EH?

KAHHHHH!



GAH-AHHH--



WELL,  
FUCK  
ME...



YOUR  
DIRECTOR BARNES  
IS NOT A MAN TO BE  
TRUSTED.

WELL, WE'RE  
GOING TO HAVE  
TO TRUST  
SOMEBODY.

THERE  
WILL BE OTHERS  
WHO WILL HEED  
THE CALL.

OH,  
THAT'S *REAL*  
SPECIFIC--

HANG ON.  
KENT'S PHONE IS  
RINGING.

IT SAYS  
"UNKNOWN  
CALLER."

EPH, THAT COULD  
BE ANYBODY ON THE  
TEAM, SOMEONE  
FROM THE CITY,  
OR JIM'S MOM.

OR MAYBE  
IT'S ELDRITCH  
FALMER.

MAYBE  
I CAN FIND  
OUT WHERE  
HE'S RUN  
OFF TO.

HELLO?

YEAH,  
IS THIS THE  
C.D.C.?

I'M LOOKING  
FOR THAT DISEASE  
GUY FROM THE  
PROJECT, THE ONE  
ON THE T.V...

WHO'S  
CALLING?

NAME'S FET.  
**VASILY FET.**  
I WORK FOR THE  
CITY'S PET CONTROL  
AND ALSO A PILOT PROGRAM FOR  
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.  
WE'RE FUNDED BY A GRANT  
FROM THE C.D.C. SO YOU COULD  
SAY I WORK FOR YOU...  
DR. GOODWEATHER, I'M  
GUESSING THAT'S WHO  
I'M TALKING TO.

IT IS.

I'M AT A HOUSE IN  
BUSHWICK. I'VE GOT TWO  
DEAD ECLIPSE HYSTERIC IN  
THE BASEMENT WHO DIDN'T  
MUCH LIKE THE SUN.

MEAN ANYTHING  
TO YOU?



THE SUNLIGHT  
LITERALLY COOKED  
THEM ALMOST  
INSTANTLY.

THE SUN  
WORKS A LITTLE  
BETTER THAN THE  
U.V.C. LIGHTS,  
HUH?

IT  
DOES.

I'M GUESSING  
YOU'VE SEEN THIS  
BEFORE. OKAY...  
NOW LET ME SHOW  
YOU THIS.



WHAT  
ARE WE  
LOOKING  
AT? I  
MEAN,  
WHY?

YOU SEE THE SIZE  
OF THESE HONEYBYS?  
YOU NEVER SEE RATS  
LIKE THIS TOPSIDE. THEY  
RULE THE ROOST  
DOWN DEEP.

SOME-  
THING'S  
DRIVING  
THEM OUT.

WHAT DO  
THE RATS HAVE  
TO DO WITH  
VAMPIRES?

THEY ARE A SIGN. THE  
VAMPIRE NESTS UNDER-  
GROUND, DRIVING THESE  
CREATURES OUT INTO  
THE OPEN.

HOLD THE  
FORT A MINUTE.  
DID I JUST HEAR  
THE WORD VAMPIRE  
NOT ONCE BUT  
TWICE?





HNNN...

OKAY...  
THINGS ARE  
STARTING TO  
MAKE SENSE  
NOW.



LET ME ASK YOU THIS, MR. FET.  
AS AN EXTERMINATOR, HOW WOULD  
YOU STOP AN INFESTATION OF  
VERMIN?

WELL, I CAN TELL  
YOU THAT TRAPS  
AND POISON ARE  
A SUCKER'S GAME. THEY  
ONLY PICK OFF  
THE WEAKER RATS.



THE BIG ONES--THE SMART  
ONES--STAY DEEP. YOU HAVE  
TO FIND THE ROOT OF THE  
INFESTATION.



YES. YES. AND THE  
ROOT OF THE VAMPIRE  
IS THE MASTER. WE MUST  
LOCATE HIS NEST.  
HIS...LAIR.



LET ME ASK YOU,  
MR. FET. DO YOU HAVE  
A NOTION WHERE THE  
EPICENTER OF THESE  
RATS' DISPLACEMENT  
MIGHT BE?

YEAH.

I THINK  
I KNOW.

P.S. 69,  
JACKSON  
HEIGHTS...

MATT  
MATT, PLEASE  
PICK UP.

YOU  
NEVER CAME  
HOME LAST  
NIGHT, AND  
I--

BEEEP

DAMN...

HUHHNN...

caller: MATT  
come  
home

NEXT!  
**LAIR**

# PANDEMIC POST

Send your letters to [thestrain@darkhorse.com](mailto:thestrain@darkhorse.com).

*Exterminators, take note! That's how you take care of a pest problem!*

*As The Strain nears its conclusion with issue #11, make sure to get those letters in! Following #11, the Strain Trilogy continues with The Fall #1, the first issue of the second part of our series adapting the best-selling trio of novels from Guillermo del Toro and Chuck Hogan.*

I've said it before with other series and I'll say it now again: The real series starts now! Mainly because [issue #6] was only the best issue of *The Strain* I've ever read! Say, guys, how's the *Strain* movie project coming along? There is gonna be one, right? I've heard nothing, but still . . .

And, if you had to cash in on the current vampire craze with *The Strain*, then thanks—at least—for doing it so originally.

Andrew J. Shaw

*Andrew, in case you missed it, FX has ordered a pilot for a Strain TV series! Pretty soon, Chuck and Guillermo's vicious vampires are gonna be bringing their gruesome mugs to a TV screen near you! We'll bring you more info on the show as we get it, and stay tuned to DarkHorse.com for the latest news!*

Howdy, folks,

[Issue #6's cover] is an absolutely stunning portrait of Abraham by E. M. Gist! I hope we see more like this in the future.

I love that there are seven original ancient vampires, supposedly. Three stayed in the old world and three traveled to the new world. The Master, as he's become known, is the lone rogue.

David is doing some marvelous things with his interpretation of the novels, not that I've read them yet. I say that because I am thoroughly enjoying what I am reading. It cannot be easy to pick what is important to the story and needs to be on the page, what helps to make it that much more effective, scary, and creepy, and what helps it stand out from the crowd. He's really made this a must-have each and every month.

The artwork in this issue was brighter than I am used to seeing it. Then again, we didn't spend as much time around the vampires and the darkness as normal either. I like how the two are separated, light and dark; the contrast is striking and effective.

Sincerely,

Steven Leitman  
Cincinnati, Ohio

*And that's only your first taste of the Ancients, Steven. If you liked that, I think you'd better stick around for The Fall! That's right, Strain fans, we'll be following up The Strain with a comic adaptation of The Fall featuring the creative team whose work you've all enjoyed so much throughout this series. Make sure to grab issue #10 in January and The Strain's finale, issue #11, in February. And, don't forget, The Strain Volume 1, collecting issues #1 through #6, is out now, and volume 2 will hit stores in June. Finally, in July, head to your local comic shop and pick up a copy of The Fall #1, which follows the events of The Strain #11. Okay, got that? If you're reading this letter column at your local comic shop, ask them to put The Strain and The Fall in your pull box and you'll be all set!*

See you next month!

**JIM**

Jim Gibbons  
Assistant Editor



Face to face with bloodsuckers seeking their dear ones!  
**COMING IN JANUARY: The Strain #10**