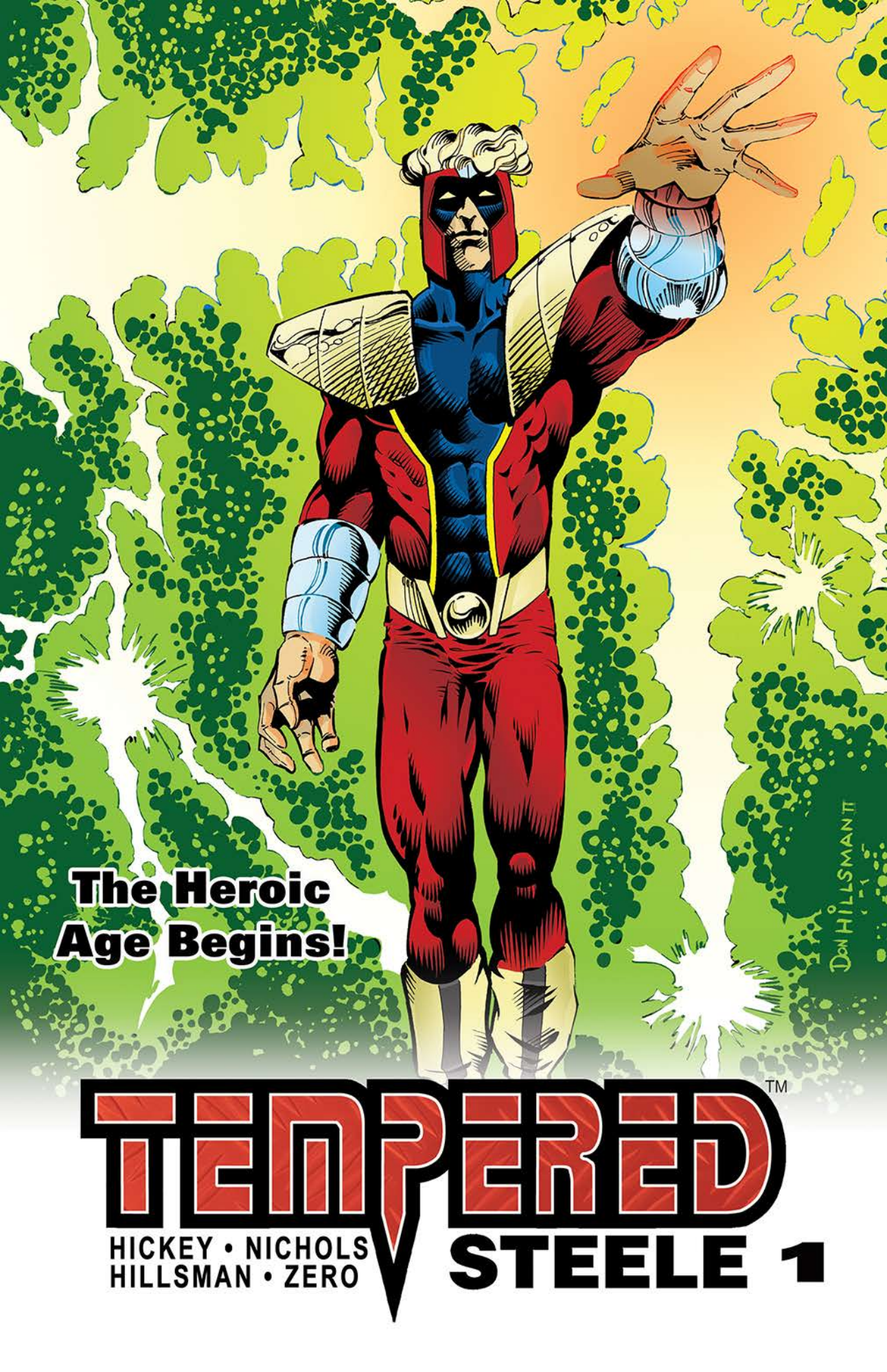

TEMPERED™ STEELE 1

HICKEY • NICHOLS
HILLSMAN • ZERO

TEMPERED STEELE™

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Prequel to...

PARADOX WARS

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IT'S A DANGEROUS WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE AND THE WORLD NEEDS A HERO. WATCH WITH US THE ADVENTURES OF KEVIN STEELE, A MAN THE WORLD WILL COME TO KNOW AS THE HERO
TEMPERED STEELE
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M MISSING LETTERMAN AGAIN. BUT I PROMISED CYBERTEK THAT I WOULD GET THIS TIME PLATFORM CONTROLS BACK ONLINE BEFORE HE GOT BACK FROM HIS MISSION.
12:01
THIS FUTURE TECH IS SO FREAKIN' AWESOME. THE APPLICATIONS ARE SO FAR-REACHING
I WONDER JUST FAR WE CAN GO WITH THIS?

WHOA, I THINK IT'S DONE!
HARD TO BELIEVE SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.
SINCE THAT NIGHT ON MARTIN'S BLUFF.
<WE HAVE YOU. PROMISED ONE.>
WHAT THE?
AAUGH,
<YYEESSSS>
NOOO!
BLAM!

DARKNESS CHRONICLES
NICE SHOT.
ONE DOWN.
HELLO, KEVIN, LET ME HELP YOU UP.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M MIDNIGHT MONTANA.
THAT'S HAGGARD.
SHARPE.
YOU NEED TO GET HOME NOW.
NOW, KEVIN!
WHAT? BUT-
I'M GONE!
NICE KID.
YES, AND IT SUCKS FOR HIM. . .

. . .THE TRAGEDY HE'S ABOUT TO FACE.
YEAH, MONTANA, BUT HIS *FUTURE*. . .
. . .THAT'LL BE SOMETHING TO *WATCH*.
DON'T MIND THE MESS
MOM?
HER NECKLACE. SHE NEVER TAKES THIS OFF- SHE'S AFRAID-
NO
OH, GOD, THE ALIENS WERE ALREADY HERE! AND THOSE GUYS *KNEW*. . .
. . .AND LIKE THAT, SHE WAS GONE. . .
. . .AFTER MY DAD WAS KILLED, MOM TOOK OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS. . .
. . .SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME.
HENDRIX YOU LED?
BOOKS
LIFE

AND THOSE THINGS KILLED HER AND FOR WHAT?
SHE'S GONE.
BUT IT DIDN'T END THERE.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHEN THINGS REALLY STARTED.
VANS
DANZIG
WHA-?
AGAIN!
WHAT?
WAIT. WHAT THE CRAP? THEYAREN'T ATTACKING.
HAIL, KEVIN SHARPE, PROMISED HERO.
YOU SEE ONE PLACE OF HONOR OPEN, CHOSEN.
IT WILL BELONG TO YOU ONE DAY.
COME.
THIS PLACE SEEMS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW

AND HERE IS THE CHAMBER OF ENHANCEMENT.
WHAT'S IT FOR?
YOU WILL BECOME THE HERO YOU WERE MEANT TO BECOME.
SOUNDS LIKE A CRAZY IDEA. A CRAZY, FANTASTIC IDEA
A HERO, HUH?
CHOSEN, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES.
YOU WILL BE THEIR CHAMPION.
YOU WILL BE A HERO.
YOU WILL BE CALLED TEMPERED STEELE!

A HERO.
ONE TIRED HERO.
ONE REALLY TIRED HERO.
TIME PORTAL ACTIVATED.
PULL TIME
CYBERTEK
FZZZZARP!
KEVIN...
HAVE TO WARN YOU

DANGER!
SHARP STEELE INDUSTRIES. THE NEXT DAY.
THE BOY CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.
HIS MOTHER WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN SHE TOOK OVER.
BUT NOW-
SIR, IF LAWSON HADN'T BOTCHED HIS END...
DON'T START THROWING BLAME AT ME, JONES. I HIRED THE BEST
SIR, I CAN VOUCH FOR THE JUSTIFIED EXPENSE
KNOCK KNOCK
BRONZE BLADE.
MR. LAWSON IS CORRECT. HE DID HIRE THE BEST, BUT SOMETHING BEAT ME TO IT.
NOW, IF YOU LADIES WOULD KINDLY SHUT UP, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT' COMES NEXT.

AND SO WE LAY MARTHA SHARPE TO REST. GOD REST HER SOUL.
DYE HARD
I WON'T REST...
I WON'T REST UNTIL HER KILLERS IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.
LET THE POLICE DO OUR JOB, KEVIN.
THEN DO IT, DETECTIVE.

FOR ALL HER MONEY, SHE WANTED TO LIVE HERE.
YOUR MOM WAS A GREAT PERSON, KEVIN. SHE WAS GROUNDED.
THIS WAS HER HOME.
AND YOU WERE HER LIFE.
THAT'S SWEET.
HOW ABOUT HER DEATH? COULDN'T HELP HER THERE, COULD YOU?
RACHEL! INSIDE! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
REALLY, BOY? NOBLE AND PATHETIC. JUST LIKE YOUR DAD.
KEVIN!

YOU KILLED MY DAD?
MAN, YOU'RE *QUICK*.
NOW, HOLD STILL.
I DON'T THINK SO.
GET BACK HERE, BOY!

THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY THAT EASY?
BOY?
OH, TRUST ME, I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE, MURDERER!
AND IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, THE NAME IS
TEMPERED STEELE!
DAMN, AN ENHANCER.

LET'S DANCE.
BOY, YOU WON'T LIKE THE WAY I CUT A RUG!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, COMING HERE?
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY!
OH, SHUT UP.
YOU'RE STARTING TO BORE ME!

WUMP!!
MORNING, MR. MORGAN.
KEVIN? THAT YOU? LITTLE EARLY FOR HALLOWEEN, ISN"T IT?
THERE YOU ARE!
EXCUSE ME, MR. MORGAN.
WE AREN'T DONE BOY!
I HAVE A DANCE TO FINISH!
UH, N-NO PROBLEM!

TOLD YOU, YOU'RE DONE!
THAT WILL BE YOUR LAST MISTAKE.
SON OF A-OOF!
HOLD THAT POSE KID!
I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK!
KEVIN!

BOY, YOU'RE TAKING ENTIRELY TOO MUCH OF MY DAY!
AWW, ISN'T THAT A BLOODY SHAME!
TOO BAD MY *DAD* DIDN'T HAVE A DAY TO WASTE.
CRASH!

MEANWHILE...
A LONG-DORMANT RELIQUARY HAS BEEN OPENED AND SOMETHING HAS AWAKENED.
WHAT?!
GIRL, I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT WITH YOUR BEAU OVER THERE.
TIME TO FINISH THIS.
LET HER GO.
ONE PIECE AT A TIME.

DON'T YOU GET IT?
THIS IS OVER, BOY!
DAMN BOY.
NOT WHILE THERE'S A BREATH LEFT IN ME.
KEVIN?
WHAT ABOUT *HER*?

AAUGH!
BLAM

GREAT TIMING!

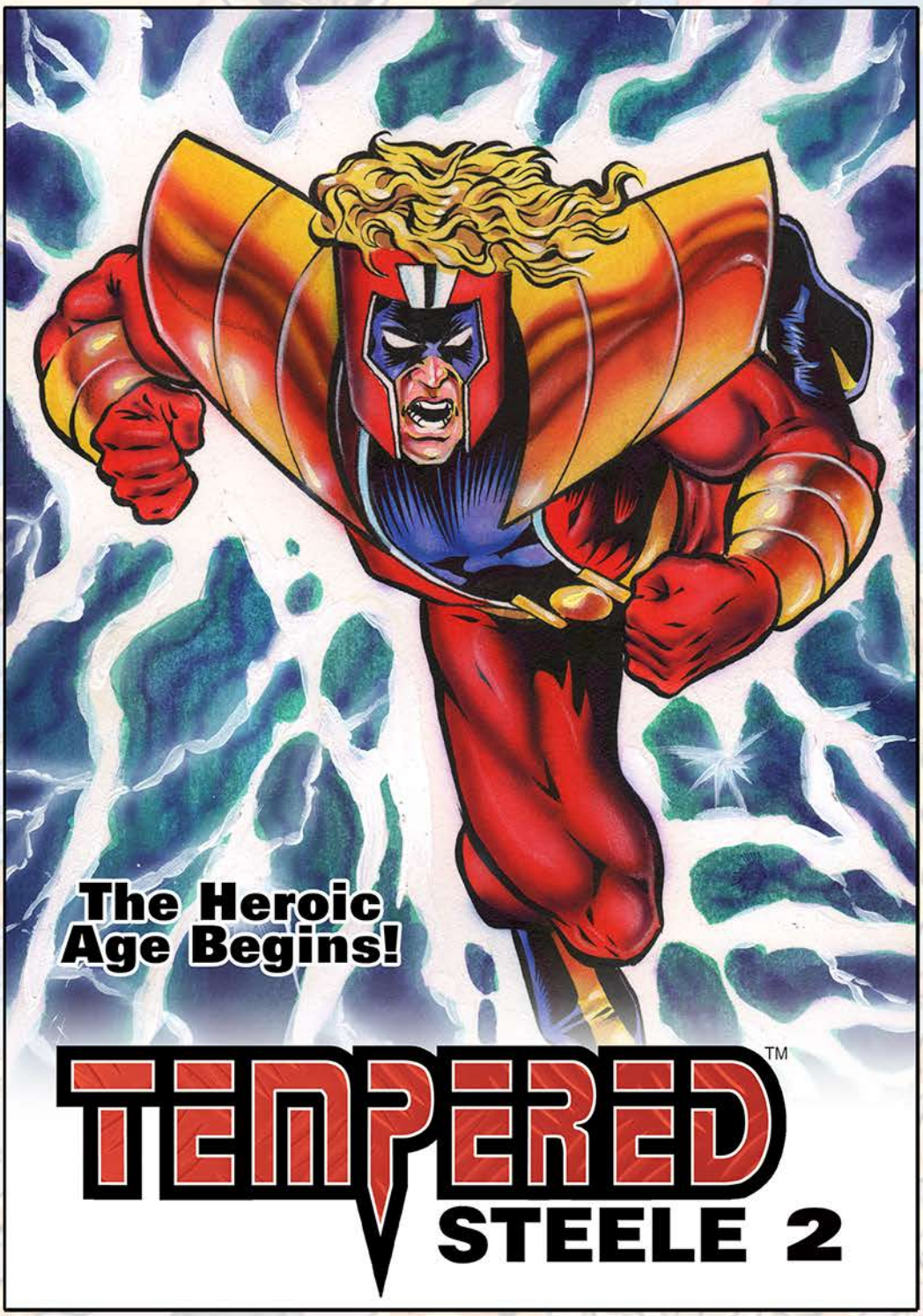
OH, KEVIN!

NOBODY TOLD ME THIS WAS A COSTUME PARTY.
SON OF A

I STILL BROUGHT MY OWN PARTY FAVOR, THOUGH.
HA HA I'M JUST DYING LAUGHING.
YOU'LL JUST BE DYIN'.
WAIT!.
COUGH COUGH... AND EVERYONE TELLS ME SMOKING WILL KILL YOU.
NEXT TIME

THANK YOU, DETEC-
SAVE IT, STEELE! THAT'S WHAT I DO!
I DON'T NEED A FANCY JUMPSUIT
LEAVE THIS TO THE PROFESSIONALS.
I WONDER WHO PUT THE BUG UP-
KEVIN STEELE, HOW COULD YOU KEEP THIS FROM ME?
RACHEL, I'M SORRY FOR BEING A JERK...
FORGIVEN... FOR NOW.

A NEW CYCLE BEGINS
AS AN OLD EVIL AWAKENS.
AND IS SET LOOSE UPON THE EARTH ONCE MORE.
AT LAST, SKORCH IS FREE!
FREE TO DO THE BIDDING OF HIS MISTRESS
AND BURN!



Is this the End of The Heroic Age?
How does Tempered Steele
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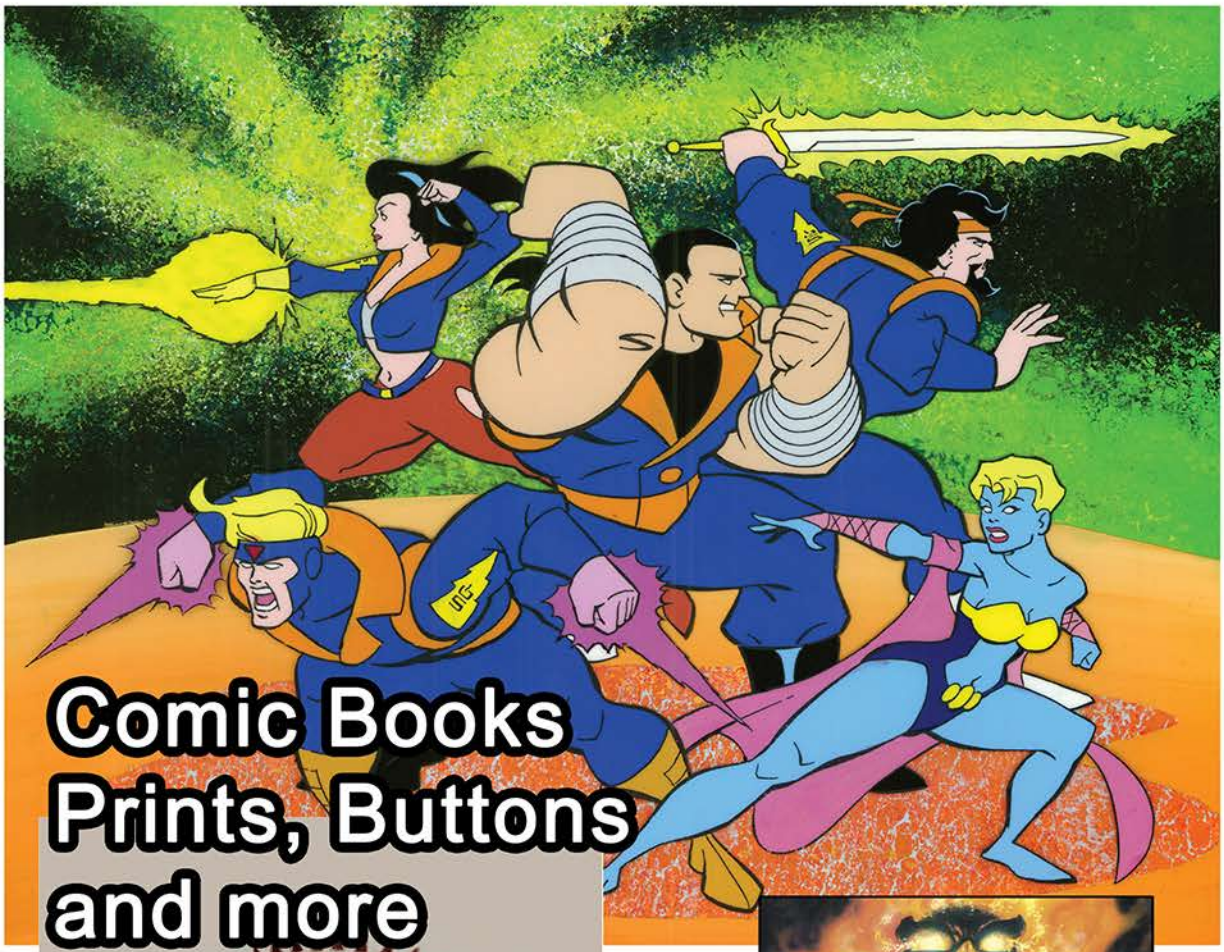

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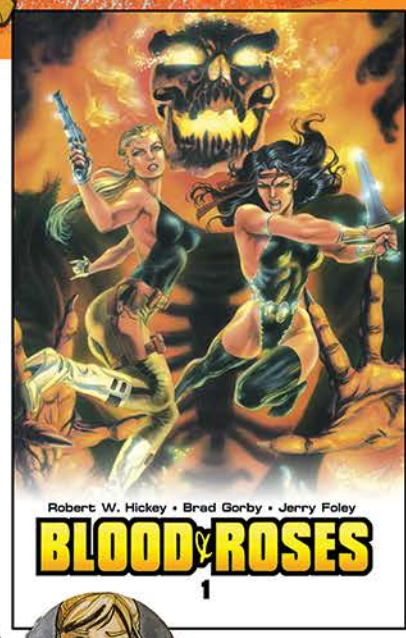

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