Darkness Origins: Xombi

James Lucius Haynes / *Top Cow Talent Hunt 2019*

Script fFrmatting Legend:

Page Number (Number of Panels)

Panels{Panel 1.1(ECU)/[1/9]}:

Panel Pg#.Panel#(Shot Type)/[Fraction of page]

Shot Types:
(CU): Close Up
(BH): Big Head/ Medium Close Up
(ECU): Extreme Close UP
(MS): Mid Shot
(NBG): No Background
(SP): Super Panel
(StP): Stacked Panel
(OTS): Over the Shoulder
(2PS): 2 page Spread
(DS): High Angle(Down) shot
(US): Low Angle(Up) shot
(LS): Long Shot
(WS): Wide shot
(BHPH): Back of Head Part of Head
(FB): Flash Back

Dialogue: {2. Character 1(OP): } {insert dialouge}

Bubble#. Character Name(dialogue type) Dialogue

Dialogue Types:
(Thought): Close Up
(OP): Off Panel
(W): Whisper
(Y): Yelling
(N): Narration
(SoC): Stream of Consciousness

Notes: **N1.1* - In text notes are to highlight the significance of a panel to the story that may not be in the picture but useful to the artist.*

**N.Page#.Panel#* - Insert note here*

Footnotes: All footnotes at the end of page include things such as reference shots, character history, source material from previous issues, and definitions

Page 1(6 Panels):

Panel 1.1/ There is a larger manor on the streets of Port-au-Prince. It is morning. 2-3 pirates stand outside the mansion. Yelling can be heard from inside

1. Caption: Port-au-Prince, Saint-Domingue, August 14, 1791[1]

2. Solomon[2](OP): How am I supposed to trust you when you let the ***affranchi*** [3]walk among you as equals?!?!

3. Marvin Estacado[4](OP): While they are most certainly not my equals, I have traveled the world over with these men--

**N1.1* - This is the establishing shot. Late 18th century Haiti and the time of day is mid-day so that we know it takes until night for Ciro to get to the ceremony. The black pirates standing outside the mansion - Highlights the obvious racial dynamic on a slave colony.*

Panel 1.2(CU)/ Marvin Estacado's face firm. He is visibly firm as if he speaks from a position of power with a scowl on his face.

4. Marvin Estacado: They go where I go.

**N1.2* His face is clear and firm and he backs down the next Panel. It is indicative of the perception of his reputation and who he really is. The close up shot also lets us know that he is one of the main players in this story.*

Panel 1.3(WS)/ The characters are in a study with a bookshelf that spans the entire wall behind the characters, a window, and a desk with a couple of chairs in front of it that the owner of the mansion sits behind near the window. Marvin Estacado is standing in the center of the study. His body language and face has softens as he is walking back his previous statement. He does not want to ruin this deal and his conviction was not as strong on this matter as he initially let on. To his left is his advisor(Sergio), an older man who has been with the Captain since he was born[5]. He is the wielder of the ember stone which he can be seen wearing around his neck. To his right is his first mate(Ciro)[6], a man of mixed African and Italian heritage with semi-freeformed dreadlocks[7] mostly tied back in a pony tail. His right hand tightly clenched to a dagger. Off in the corner of the room a house slave who likely guided them into the study is standing in the corner. On the other side of the room is a desk with a middle age man, not quite as elderly as the man with the ember stone. We cannot see his face.

5. Solomon(Y): Then we have no business![8]

6. Marvin Estacado: Hey, let's not be so rash. Why not have your servant show my boys around while we talk.

7. Solomon: Very well.

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[1] This date is the real date of the ***Bois Caïman*** ceremony. The story is rooted in real events and places the Darkness at the center of those events in history.

**N1.3* This is the first look we get at the main players in this story. We cannot see the face of the middle age man at the desk intentionally. His face is not to be clearly seen in this comic until his look of existential dread just before his death. The 3 members of the crew however are clearly seen. They are the crew captain, his right hand man, and his most trusted advisor. The emberstone needs to be somewhat prominent because readers of the Darkness and artifacts would recognize it and understand why the captain travels with the old man. The servant needs to be off in the corner but notably in the corner to highlight that he is not on equal footing with the rest of the room.*

Panel 1.4(BHPH)/ Zoom in on Ciro face with the captain's hand on his shoulder. Ciro is visibly perturbed as he has been disrespected but he does not break.

8. Marvin Estacado — Easy Ciro. Rendezvous back at the ship in 3 days. Tell me what you learn from the slaves.

**N1-4* This is the second face we see a close up of, on the opening Page. The idea is to let the readers know that these are the 2 main characters in the story. The word slaves for the first time because until now, we've strongly implied what was going on but this carves out the dynamic of the time we are in.*

Panel 1.5/Servant guides Ciro out the study

No Dialogue

Panel 1.6/Marvin and Solomon more calmly talking.

9. Solomon: — Marvin Estacado, of the last great age of pirates. I heard you abandoned your fathers kingdom to chase your grandfather Miguel's legendary exploits.

10. Marvin Estacado: — You do not know me.

11. Solomon: — I know you wield **the Darkness.**

***N1** Setting: In order to not interfere with the Darkness continuity but add to the mythology, this story is set in the year 1791. After Darkness Origins: Black Sails and before Witchblade Day of the outlaws*

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[2] Solomon is the unnamed wielder of the Coin of Solomon in this story. His name is not important, but the coin is what lures Marvin Estacado to the island. He is an old greasy looking man who worked his way up from poverty to become a *Gran Blanc* in Saint-Domingue

[3] Affranchi: French word literally meaning "ex-slave" was a derogatory term used for the free people of color (who were mixed black and white) in the colony. The language difference let the reader know that the native tongue on the island is French.(https://thelouvertureproject.org/index.php?title=Affranchis)

[4] Marvin Estacado (Marvin means lives by sea and is Italian) is the grandson of Miguel Estacado from Darkness Origins: Black Sails. His grandfather had to settle on land to start the Brotherhood of Darkness and his son Manuel became a *hacendado.* Seeking to pass the legacy of his father and grandfather, he wants to collect all the artifacts and overturn the world.

[5] Sergio(means protector) is Marvin's most trusted advisor and wielder of the ember stone. He is loyal to the order of the Darkness. He has been around since the order's founding and he is extremely old. Hair long greyed. Ember stone pics (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/ember-stone/)

[6] First Mate Ciro(name means sun and sounds like zero) is the half brother of Marvin Estacado and first mate of Marvin's crew. He is tall, lean muscular and wields the sundagger. He comes off as the strong silent type (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/ciro-aesthetic/)

[7] Freeform Loc reference board(https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/ciro-hair/)

[8] The fact that a black man is in the house presumable as an equal causes an argument. However being mixed and a presumed free person of color he was let in while the other black pirates are left outside the mansion speak to the complicated existence as someone of mixed heritage.

Page 2(5 panels):

Panel 2.1/ Marvin is near the bookshelf he grabs L'Ingénu[9] off the shelf. He cannot actually understand it for he doesn't read French well. He is just posturing. Solomon at the desk is also visible.

1. Marvin Estacado: and that's why you wish to employ my services?

2. Solomon: To combat an army of monsters I figured I'd need one of my own.

Panel 2.2(FB)/ Image of a black man, beaten on the ground, surrounded by petits blancs[10]. He is pleading. The words coming out of his mouth are inaudible.

3. Solomon(OP): A few days ago a slave was captured and told us that the slaves were planning an attack.

**N2.2* I'd like it to be clear that the man confessed in desperation. He was surrounded, publicly humiliated and feared for his life. This is enough to ring true for a slave, but be a reason some of the white people didn't believe him.*

Panel 2.3(OTS)/: OTS of the man at the desk. The old man with the captain is mostly blocked by Solomon's body. Marvin closes the book and looks at him more directly. He is now intrigued because he thinks Solomon's believe in the tail might be because his inkling was true.

4. Marvin Estacado: And you believe them…

5. Solomon: I do

6. Marvin Estacado No, you've seen it.

7. Solomon: I know not what you mean, but I assure you I can pay well. But if you could demonstrate your powers first then--

**N2.3* The look of intrigue on Marvin Estacado's face is the key here. He has figured out something the reader hasn't. This man possesses the Coin of Solomon said to bring the wielder great insight.*

Panel 2.4/ Marvin firms back up. Though he bent before this seems to be a line he's not moving from. The man's body language is both confused and intimidated by the denial.

8. Marvin Estacado: No[11].

9. Solomon: **No?**

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[9] The book foreshadows a bit of what's going on. The first mate plays a role similar to the Heron. He knows of the system of slavery in the colonies but because he is not of that life style he does not know it directly.

[10] Petits Blanc: The *petits blancs* were the poor, white underclass of Saint-Domingue, including artisans and laborers.

Panel 2.5/ Marvin places book on the desk, where the title can be read. He has a serious look on his face.

10. Marvin Estacado: The nature of darkness is to swallow everything in its presence. It sometimes has a mind of its own.

11. Marvin Estacado: If my power were unleashed, that *"affranchi"* wields **the sun dagger**--

[11] There is a reason that Estacado is so firm on not using the darkness. He can't control it. As he remembers it, when the Darkness awoke on his 21st birthday, he was not in control. He had waited his life for that moment and recklessly sent his crew into a battle he could not win being confident he could not win. When it came all he could do is watch the chaos. He passed out while using it only to wake up and see Ciro at his side. Ciro told the captain that he lost control and Ciro used the Sun dagger to stop him. He has believed this ever since

Page 3(4 panels):

Panel 3.1/[1/2] It is now later in the afternoon than in the opening Panel. A few hours have passed. Ciro, the black men that were waiting outside in the opening Panel, and the servant are hiking up mountain along a waterway. You can see the time of day pass and the travelers making their way up the mountain.

1. Estacado(CAP): --The only thing that can stop me if it were to happen
2. Servant: Your captain calls you brother. Does that mean you are ***gen de colour***[12]?
3. Ciro: We do share a father, but he is no brother of mine.

Panel 3.2/ The servant hopping across a small Creek while the pirates scurry along the edge of a cliff

4. Servant: I see, not quite esclave, but not quite free. But a strong man like you could certainly take out your captain. Why haven't you taken that dagger you hold on to so tightly and driven it into his chest?

Panel 3.3/They stop on the other side of the creek. Ciro unsheathes the dagger and holds it out. The servant looks at the blade in awe.

5. Ciro: My blade is known as the sun dagger.

**N3.1-3.3*: These Panels are to orient the reader to the group hiking somewhere far from the manor they just left and that it is taking hours in the day as they discuss the Ciro background*

Panel 3.4(NBG)/Only thing shown is the hands of a young Ciro held out as his African mother places the dagger in his hand.

6. Ciro: It was given to me by my mother who wished to slay the darkness that plagued our family.

[12] Free People of color on the colony. Children of an enslaved African and a Frenchmen were treated as free people and allowed to amass wealth.

Page 4(6 panels):

Panel 4.1[13](NBG)/ Hands in the same position. His mother's hands wearing similar sleeves are now stretched out in the same way his was receiving the dagger. It is apparent that the hand presenting her with the dagger is one of the Magdalena

1. Ciro(N): --It was given to her by a mysterious trader who saw my mother's desire for freedom and offered her a way out.

**N4.1* The sleeves are the same to give the reader an indicator that this is the same woman. Readers of the darkness will know the hands of the Magdalena when they see it. If not it does not take away from the story.*

Panel 4.2(LS)/The year is approximately 1765. Manuel Estacado[14] is 45 and sits naked in an 18th century bath as Ciros mother rinses him. The dagger is at the side of the washing tools

2. Ciro(N): When the time came she almost succeeded.

Panel 4.3(US)/ The woman has stabbed downward but Manuel reacted and she stabs but missed his heart no vital organs are damaged. She missed her chance. The stabbed Manuel is now facing her.

3. Ciro(N): But her slaver dodged a fatal blow

**N4.3* The Magdalena was using Ciro mother as a tool in order to kill the darkness. He was a powerful man and hard to access. The woman almost does the deed and fails.*

Panel 4.4(DS)/ Manuel has now stood outside of the tub and wrested the woman's arms. It is implied what happens next. The darkness acting in survival mode was not going to pass the opportunity to continue passing itself through the line.

4. Ciro(N): and retaliated.

**N4.4* I think the implications of what happened here are obvious. But it is important to imply because this is part of his disdain for the darkness.*

Panel 4.5(DS)/ A baby Ciro crying in his mothers arms

5. Ciro: The following year I was born

**N4.5* If they were not they are now. Some readers may begin to pick up on all the hints but in case you have not, this is the wielder of the darkness*

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[13] This Panel can actually fit on the previous page if space is tight, however the same image on the page turn is what I am hoping to get.

[14] Manuel Estacado is the son of pirate Miguel Estacado from Darkness Origins: Black Sails. Miguel settled with his wealth in the new world in the Spanish colonies where his family own a large hacienda. He lived a long life after founding the Brotherhood of Darkness and passed in 1720. His son Manuel Estacado continued the work of the brotherhood and lived his life as one of the cruelest and most powerful hacendadas on the colonies. Mauel believed he had achieved the kingdom his father wanted.

Panel 4.6(DS)/ Similar image but it's Marvin

6. Ciro: and few months later, so was my brother.

**N4.6* Estacado had been raised his whole life to believe he was the wielder of the darkness. His father and grandfather wielded it before him and racial ideas of the time would not allow anyone to suspect that Manuel would have passed the darkness to yet alone had a child with a slave.*

Page 5(6 Panels):

Panel 5.1/ It is now approaching nightfall and the group is approaching a camp in the first. Light reds from the embers and the green yellows of fire flies reflect off their skin and illuminate the path.

1. Ciro: My mother's goal soon became my own. But I had to wait for the Darkness to awake within him to kill him.

2. Servant: Hasn't the Darkness already awakened in your Captain?

**N5-1* The idea of light coming from the fireflies and light coming from a torch allows us to play with lighting and color to present different auras. The question the servant ask is based on the story and the trust he has from his captain, he could have definitely killed him by now.*

Panel 5.2(CU)/ Hand grasping his dagger. The dagger sheath illuminated by fire while the hand is illuminated by fireflies near his hand. Around his hand is a dark aura

3. Ciro: Its... Complicated[15].

**N5-2* He believes the dagger helps him hold back the Darkness which is why he always has it clenched at his hip. Bakground - The Truth is, Ciro is the wielder of the darkness but never wanted it. He was raised thinking his destiny was to destroy it.*

Panel 5.3/ Servant pulls back a red curtain strung up on trees to reveal the source of the fire. There is a ceremony[16] and a crowd gathered around the fire. In the center are a Vodou Priest(Dutty Boukman[17]) and a Vodou Mambo(Cecile Fatiman[18]).

4. Servant: We are here. Tonight is a special night

Panel 5.4/ The 2 crew members are excited by what they see and join in on the festivities meanwhile Servant leads Ciro to the front of the crowd.

No Dialogue

**N5-4* August 14, 1971 is the actual date of the Bois Caïman vodou ceremony a week before the event that triggered the Haitian rebellion.*

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[15] When he was 21 he found out he was in fact its vessel and decided to suppress it. On Marvin's 21st birthday, he sailed into a French Naval fleet like a madman trying to force the Darkness to awaken. The only way for the crew to make it out was for Ciro to use the darkness. He thought about killing Marvin that day, but his internal conflict kept him from dealing a fatal blow. He keeps his alive to preserve an object of hate outside himself since he is self loathing.

[16] Bois Caiman Ceremony: Key imagery is the black pig used as sacrifice, Mambo Fatiman dressed in read, Boukman holding a book, and the fire in the center
Pictures: (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/bois-caiman/)

[17] Dutty Boukman - African born Voudou Priest who presided over ceremony. Key Figure in the revolution (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/dutty-boukman/)

[18] Cecile Fatiman – Corisca born Vodou Mambo who presided over the ceremony. Key Figure in the revolution (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/cecile-fatiman/)

Panel 5.5(MS)/ The woman in the center of the circle is holding her hand out to guide Ciro to the center of the circle.

5. Fatiman: Ahhh I've been expecting you.

**N5-4* The Woman extending her hand is Cecile Fatiman. The vodou mambo who preceded over the ceremony.*

Panel 5.6/ She begins leading Ciro to the center of the circle. He reluctantly follows. He has spent so much time staying out of the spotlight this is not something he desires. But he does not which to be disrespectful.

6. Ciro: Do… I know you?

7. Fatiman: Aye but I know you Ciro. And I know your power.

Page 6(5 Panels):

Panel 6.1/ In the foreground Mambo Fatiman and Ciro are standing behind the platform. Ciro does not know what is going on and is extremely nervous. He In the background the priest can be seen displaying a black pig to the crowd.

1. Fatiman:	With your help, we can get back a power long lost to our people.
2. Ciro:	I don't know what you have heard. But I have no intentions of giving in to this curse
3. Fatiman:	You do not have to hide it here. You will see.

**N6-1*: The ritual will allow Èrzulie Dantòr to use the power of the Darkness to open a portal into hell*

Panel 6.2/ Conversation continues but camera angle begins to turn slightly. We need to make the background the foreground and be at the front of the stage by panel 4

4. Ciro:	Can you…Can you help me?
5. Fatiman:	Yes. Just not in the way you think. I just need you to trust me.
6. Ciro:	Okay.

Panel 6.2/ Fatiman pulling Ciro into the spotlight

No Dialogue

Panel 6.4(WS)/ Zoomed out view of the scene to better orient us. (see Bois Caiman reference photos) Fatiman, Boukman, Ciro, and a hanging black pig are the focal points)

7. Boukman:	There is an artifact that has been lost to us for ages. But tonight! We will reclaim it. Our Mambo has summoned the spirit of Èrzulie Dantòr[19] and brought the current vassal of the Darkness

Panel 6.5(WS)/ The people in the crowd begin to cheer. Ciro looks confused by all that is happening and clenches his dagger tight.

8. Ciro:	I will not be controlled by this evil
9. Fatiman:	The truth of the Darkness is that is neither good or evil. It is how you use the chaos within you.

Panel 6.6(CU)/ The fire in the center of the ceremony

[19] It is said she was guided by the spirit of Èrzulie Dantòr. The Loa protector of women, children and the neglects of society. Treatment of slaves was a major neglect.
Picture:(https://www.pinterest.com/pin/777433954412494076 /)

Pages 7(At least 4 Panels):

Panel 7.1(WS)/ Back at the Manor, it is now night time. They have moved from the study to a living room near a fireplace. It is now just Estacado and Solomon sitting on some couches. The fireplace and faint lights passing through any window are our only source of light

1. Marvin:	I appreciate you providing us shelter for the night, but you must know, whatever the job, my price will be the same.
2. Solomon:	I have more gold just name your price. I just need to stop the coming chaos.

Panel 7.2/ Estacado calmly raises his hand to cut Solomon off. Solomon begins to fidget nervously. Solomon's face can partially be seen for the first time. Illuminated in certain places by the fire, completely dark in others

3. Marvin:	I know your story too Solomon. The gran blanc who worked his way up from peasantry in the new world. Few do that without great insight.[20]
4. Solomon:	Yes well--
5. Marvin:	I wasn't finished. I know you wield the Coin of Solomon
6. Solomon:	I heard you wished to collect all the artifacts[21] and descend the world into darkness. I didn't think you were that bold

**N7-2* Solomon is a man of secrets. We don't even know his name. His face is revealed the more we see his true colors. Feel free to at more panels between Panel 7.2 & Panel 7.3 as Solomon makes his way to the fireplace.*

Panel 7.3/ Solomon goes to stoke the flames in the fireplace. Estacado remains sitting

7. Solomon:	I know now I picked the right man for the job. The coin is yours if you can hoard off what's coming
8. Marvin:	What has you so afraid?

Panel 7.4/ Only the fire in the fireplace

9. Solomon(N):	There is a tale among the *petits blancs*, of *esclave* [22]who have the power to summon the dead.[23]

**N7-4* The End of this page visually rhymes with the last page. With the narration beginning we recognize the fire as the beginning of a story both parties are about to tell their version of. This also establishes the lettering for Solomon's Narration so we can recognize it as distinct from Fatiman's on the next page.*

[20] It is said that the coin of Solomon gives the wielder great insight. Solomon used that insight to come up on the colony Info(https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/coin-of-solomon/).

Page 8(5 Panels):

All wide panels

Panel 8.1/ Back at the ceremony Mambo Fatiman begins to tell a story flames flash in front of her

1. Fatiman: Our people live in the worst conditions imaginable. Every year 100s of thousands of Africans arrive at the Port of Santa Domingue and are forced to live as slaves

Panel 8.2/ Slaves arriving to port in Saint Domingue looking miserable in shackles and a rope line

2. Solomon(N): We go through thousands of esclave a year. Many cannot survive the intense working conditions. It is the nature of the beast.

**N8.2* This panel is important as it will directly contrast Panel 19.5 where many Hatians willingly board Ciro's ship.*

Panel 8.3/ Slaves working like drones in sugar cane fields with emotionless expressions on their faces

3. Fatiman(N): Those of us who succumb to the work and are dehumanized become bodies without souls.

4. Fatiman(N): No fear, no sadness, just mindless workers to do the grand blanc's bidding. It is what they all wish we would all become

Panel 8.4/ Silhouettes of people descending on the town

Solomon(N): The petits fear that one day the dead slaves would rise up and attack and one day they would become

Panel 8.5/ Split wide Panel. Close up to both characters faces. There is no gutter between

Solomon/Fatiman: Xombis!

[21] This story takes place during a dying age of piracy. The greatest pirates that remain on the sea are in search of the Artifacts to turn the world over. At this point Marvin possesses 2/13 and seeks out his 3rd in Haiti

[22] The story is amongst poor whites because they are the only ones who fear the enslaved people. Solomon knows the tale because he was once one of them. Esclave French for slave

[23] Zombie lore (Spelled Xombi at the time) is of Hatian Vodou origin. The enslaved Hatians and the French colonizers had different versions of the tale. With the aid of the darkness we see that both were right. (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/haitian-zombie/)

Page 9 (6 Panels):

Panel 9.1(WS)/ The campfire ritual in full bloom. Boukman and Fatiman are displaying Ciro to the crowd

1. Boukman: There is a relic that can tear open a portal to hell that has been lost to us.

2. Fatiman: But tonight the Darkness has come to open a portal and return what is lost[24]

Panel 9.2/ Boukman slashes open the sacrificial black pig in the middle of the ceremony as Mambo lets the pigs blood pour over her hands

No Dialogue

Panel 9.3/ Mambo wipes the blood across Ciro's forehead as he is reluctant and tying to grasp what's going on

3. Ciro: but I…

4. Fatiman: Shhhh, you have been raised to despise the gift you have been given, but tonight you will see that the Darkness is an opportunity to do something greater than yourself[25]

5. Ciro: No…

Panel 9.4/ Ciro eyes have gone pitch black, a dark aura completely surrounds him and he is now wearing the Darkness armor. In front of him is a portal to hell that has opened up. The fire lighting the ceremony has gone out, but the enchanted pig blood is glowing and enough of the scene is lit by fireflies so they can see what is going on.

No Dialogue

Panel 9.5/ Mambo Fatiman begins to walk toward the portal, she herself is surrounded by a visible aura

No Dialogue

Panel 9.6/ Shot facing Mambo. Her eyes are full red. She is possessed by the Loa Erzulie Dantor[26] and the Loa's symbol can be seen in her pupils in yellow.

[24] No one knows where the rapture was before 1901 in the Darkness universe. Part of that reason was that the rapture was hidden in hell, making it harder to access.
Pictures: (https://www.pinterest.com/lilluminux/tom-judge-rapture/)
[25] This is the sticking point of the story. That I think Jackie can find useful in self determination. It's how you use the sarkness. Ciro just has to see this for himself.
[26] Èrzulie Dantòr symbol is a sword through a stitched heart
(https://www.pinterest.com/pin/777433954412494166/)

Page 10:

Panel 10.1/ She is in hell. In hell she sees the souls of dead slaves being tortured and forced to work by some demons. They all are staring at the portal as it has caught them off guard.

1. Demon: It is a long time since we have had visitors from the land of the living. Whowould dare--

Panel 10.2/ The symbol for Erzulie Dantor appears over the read eyes in yellow as she glares at the demons. Her aura shines brightly and is also yellow. The zombified people all look to behold her aura.

2. Demon: Er... Erzulie Dantor

Panel 10.3/ The demons now bow to the Loa that has appeared before them

3. Demon: I…I am sorry

4. Fatiman: I have only come to claim that which is mine.

Panel 10.4/ A demon steps toward her a kneels presenting the Rapture.

No Dialogue

Panel 10.5/ She steps back through the portal holding up the Rapture as the crowd's faces stare in arrest as they wait eagerly. Ciro is still frozen in the darkness form as he holds the portal open. The fire and lights return to the scene.

5. Fatiman: I have returned with our Rapture[27].

[27] The rapture was located in hell at one point effectively neutralizing it, but the powers of the Darkness allowed the Mambo to go to hell and retrieve it. Taking a risk here and giving the Rapture the power to summon the dead. It does not seem out of the realm of possibility. No one was aware of the powers for ages

Page 11(6 Panels):

Panel 11.1/ Ciro has returned to normal and Mambo holds his hand up like a boxing champion in with her left hand and displays the rapture with her right. Boukman can be seen on the platform too ecstatic that the ritual was a success.

1. Fatiman:	The holder of the Darkness will be the *N to our freedom!! We owe him a debt of gratitude!
2. Boukman:	6 moons from now we take our vengeance. But for now we celebrate!

Panels 11.1-11.4/ All of the people at the encampment dancing and eating the pig together. Ciro and his crew mates can be seen enjoying the festivities.

No Dialogue

Panel 11.5/ It is morning at the same camp a few days later. Ciro and his crew look more relaxed than they have the entire issue. Time with their people has brought them a sense of piece. They have their things packed and are ready to descend back down the mountain. Mambo and Boukman are there to see them off.

3. Servant:	Do you know how to get back to your ship from here?
4. Ciro:	We should get back fine. Thank you… for everything
5. Fatiman:	Thank you. I hope that you find a way to turn that chaos into good.

Panel 11.6/ Boukman and Ciro talking.

6. Boukman:	Brother[28]! Will, you return to join us in our vengeance?
7. Ciro:	I...I don't know

[28] The fact that a man he has just met sees him and treats him as more of a brother than Marvin has is very impactful to Ciro. He is receptive of the designation

Page 12(6 Panels):

Panel 12.1(WS)/: It is dusk back on the ship. The captain and Ciro greet each other on the deck. The captain is in a good mood. Ciro has returned to his stoic manner.

1. Caption:	The Black Sail, August 17, 1791[29]
2. Marvin:	Hermano[30]! What have you learned?
3. Ciro:	The rebels will descend on the city in 4 days. They have an artifact of their own.
4. Marvin:	So that greedy bastard was telling the truth eh?
5. Ciro:	It's true, but their cause is righteous, and I don't know that we should--
6. Marvin:	Know? And what do you know? All that you have and all that you are is because of me.
7. Marvin:	I wield the darkness and Sergio wields the ember stone. They are no match for us.

Panel 12.2/ The captain rehardens his demeanor. Ciro's body language is pleading

8. Ciro:	but--
9. Marvin:	Remember your place before I have to remind you.

Panel 12.3(MS)/ Ciro's eyes are tinged black as the Darkness flares up. He is tightly clenching his dagger to hold it together. He speaks between his teeth.

10. Ciro:	Yes sir

Panel 12.4/ The Captain walks off to his chambers

11. Marvin(SoC):	It will be just like last time. The Darkness will come win I need it.

Panel 12.5/ Marvin sitting on his bed in the captain's chambers. Looks nervous because he knows he can't control the darkness.

12. Marvin:	Then I will have 4 artifacts in my possession.

Panel 12.6/ Ciro sitting on his bed in the group chambers. Here some crew members that have not been seen before can be seen. This panel is placed next to the last one to contrast the characters.

No Dialogue

[29] The Black Sail is the name of the ship. Call back to Miguel Estacado
[30] Marvin's first language is Spanish. Though he is of Italian blood, most of the Americas were colonized by the Spanish so it is the language he grew up speaking.

Page 13 (6 Panels)

Panel 13.1/ Boukman is leading the charge of people down the mountain with a mixture of men and women, enslaved people and zombies summoned by the rapture. Some of the zombie faces look familiar from hell. Some of the people's faces look familiar from the ceremony. The rapture is worn around Bookman's neck.

1. Caption:	Port-Au-Prince, August 21, 1791[31]
2. Boukman:	Tonight, is our time! We walk with an army of our fallen to take back the freedoms we were robbed of. Tonight we will have our revenge.

Panel 13.2/ Looking up at the mountain Solomon, Estacado, and his entire crew prepare to combat the red light descending towards them.

3. Solomon:	Are you sure your men said it was xombi? Is it true?

Panel 13.3/ Boukman and his rebellion descend further down the mountain. The view on the group is closer and head on.

No Dialogue

Panel 13.4/ Ciro, Sergio, Marvin, and Solomon can be seen standing in the Panel. Solomon has a look of work, Sergio looks determined, Marvin looks cool as a cucumber and Ciro is unnerved.

4. Marvin:	Aye, but with 3 artifacts on our side there's no way we can fail.

Panel 13.5/ Zoom in on the middle 4 people in Boukman's pack, which include Boukman, the servant, a Zombie, and a man from the ceremony.

No Dialogue

Panel 13.6/ Head on view of the pirate crew, swords and guns drawn and raised

5. Marvin:	Isn't that right men?!
6. Solomon:	The embers of fire, they are approaching.
7. Marvin(To Solomon):	Get inside now

[31] Date of the actual event that started the Haitian rebellions

Page 14(At least 4 Panels)

Panel 14.1/ Wide Panel of the two sides facing each other.

1. Boukman: I know you were hired. This is not your fight. Stand down.

2. Marvin: You know not what you're in for.

Panel 14.2/ Sergio uses the power of the ember stone and steps forward transformed

Panel 14.3/ Boukman uses the Rapture to transform into a beast[32] and steps forward

Panel 14.4/ The two sides charge into battle.

**P14* This is the preamble to the splash battle page. Have fun with it*

[32] Same one Tom Judge Transforms into (See previously linked rapture pictures)

Page 15-16(Artist Choice. Fight Scene):

Pages 15&16: Artist pick. A battle ensues. The Rapture and the Ember stone wielders face off in a fair fight and there is carnage on both sides everywhere. Ciro is paralyzed by his internal conflict until he decides he's had enough and appears in the darkness armor for the first time engulfing the area in an aura of shadows and dark tendrils.

1. Ciro:	Stop! I will not fight to deprive people of their freedom.
2. Marvin:	That's impossible... There's no way the darkness could be passed on to a negro I am--
3. Ciro:	My Name is Ciro Etstacado. I let my brother think he was the Darkness because I was afraid of what I was. But I see now that his power lust should not be in control of anything.

Page 17

Panel 17.1/ For the first time we see fear in Marvin's eyes. He now comprehends why he cannot use the Darkness at will. He desperately calls his protector for protection who can be seen in the background flying towards him

1. Marvin: Sergio!

Panel 17.2/ Sergio has stopped flying and paused when he got close to Ciro who stares at him menacingly.

2. Ciro: Stop!! You pledged your loyalty to the wielder of the Darkness that is me.

Panel 17.3/ Sergio kneeling before the darkness. Everyone else is still paused looking on.

3. Sergio: Yes master.

4. Ciro: Do away with the imposter.

Panel 17.4/: Marvin Estacado is maimed by his most trusted advisor.

Panel 17.5/ Ciro turns to Boukman who is still paused.

5. Ciro: Boukman!

6. Boukman: Yes brother?

Panel 17.6/ Zoom in on Ciro face. He has dropped the face guard from the armor.

7. Ciro: I will not stand in your way.

Page 18

Panel 18.1/ Ciro has recalled the dark aura that engulfed the battle field. As it begins to rain the pirates gather behind Ciro letting Boukman's army pass.

No Dialogue

Panel 18.2/ back at the manor, Solomon is hiding in his study under his desk clenching the coin.

No Dialogue

Panel 18.3/ A shadowy figure enters the study looking for Solomon.

No Dialogue

Panel 18.4/ The chair under the desk moves alerting the figures attention.

Solomon: What is it? Estacado? Is that you?

Panel 18.5/ Point of view of Solomon, Boukman's body in rapture form is illuminated by lightning striking in the window behind the desk.

Boukman: It is death!!![33]

Panel 18.6/ Boukman notices the Coin of Solomon was holding and picks it up.[34]

[33] Reference to the line supposedly spoken at the Hatian Revolution Source: https://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/675831.html

[34] This is a reference to Aphrodite IX Cyberforce where the coin also appears to bring great misfortune to the wielders. Historians know that Dutty Boukman's head would eventually end up on a pike. I am implying it is the coin that does it. (see previously linked coin of Solomon board)

Page 19:

Panel 19.1/ The following morning the rain has stopped. Everyone has reconvened at the docks. Much of the town, which can be seen in the distance is in shambles from attacks and fires the night before. Fatiman, Boukman, and Ciro stand before the gathered survivors of the night. Fatiman takes the rapture from around Boukman's neck and he returns to human form. The zombies spirits are released from hellish bondage because the night has given them hope.[35]

Fatiman: Thank you for returning hope to us. May you rest in peace.

Panel 19.2/ The residents of the town that are left are probably hiding. Ciro and his crew face Boukman, Mambo Fatima and their crew.

Ciro: You should have peace now

Fatiman: No, our fight is just beginning. But what will you do?

Ciro: I will set sail with my crew. Anyone who is willing and able to join me is welcome.

Panel 19.3/ Boukman holds out the rapture to Ciro.

Boukman: I see continuing your brother's quest for the artifacts? The. You will need the rapture

Panel 19.4/ Ciro closes Boukman's hand

Ciro: No. You keep it. That was my brother's goal. That was his darkness.

Panel 19.5/ Several men begin to board he ship behind Ciro

No Dialogue

**N19.5* This is the inverse of panel 8.2. People willingly boarding the ship to serve a mission they believe in.*

[35] In the Tom Judge Rapture books, hope frees souls from hell. The Africans turned Xombis were given hope by the night and their souls could now rest in peace.

Page 20

Panel 20.1/ Miguel Estacado from Black Sails with demons

Ciro: My grandfather who sailed the sees to rule summoned demons.

Panel 20.2/ Manuel Estacado mid transformation.

Ciro: My father who used deception to become a ruler could change form.

Panel 20.3/ Ciro in full darkness armor comfortable in his powers.

Ciro: The darkness within me is a righteous rage.

Panel 20.5/ Slaves uprising somewhere else

Ciro: The chaos I sew will liberate those in need of freedom.

Panel 20.5/ Full body shot of Ciro. He is not clinching the sun dagger though it is still at his waist. He is the calmest he's been the whole book. It is the brightest it has been the whole comic book.
In the background the crew is loading the ship.

Ciro: You said it yourself. This is an opportunity to do something greater than myself. I will. The age of revolution is upon