

CHAMPIONS®

She was Katherine Kaat.
Now she is the Tigress.

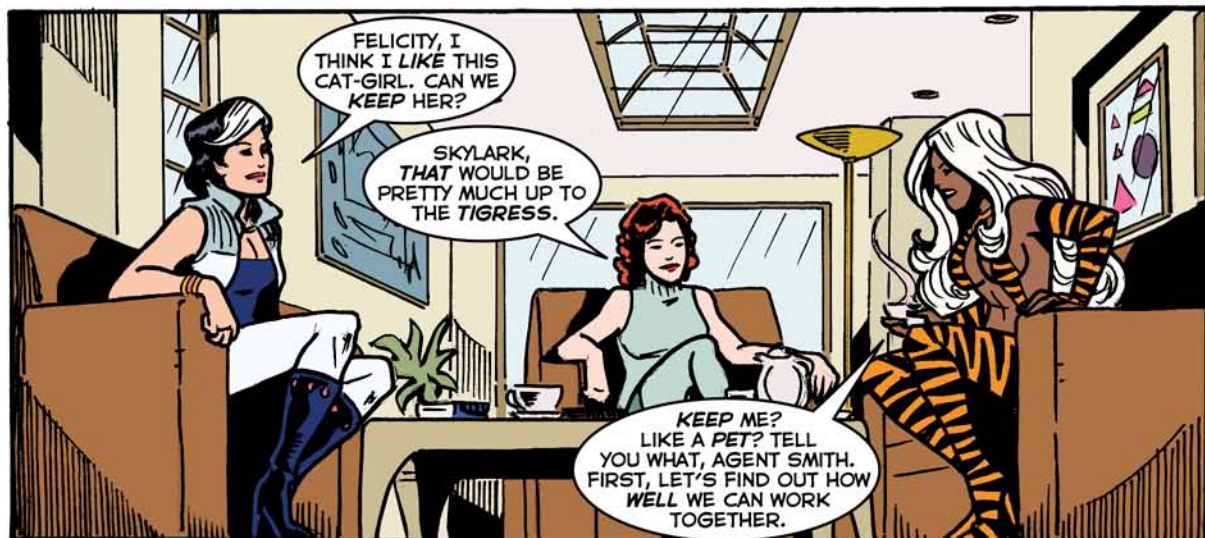
As you'll see in this issue of CHAMPIONS, despite Lady Arcane's well intentioned effort to restore to Doctor Katherine Kaat a sense of her own identity, the savage Tigress is once again in full control. The profound physical and mental "improvements" the Tigress has been making in her reluctant avatar are now complete. And what there was still left of Kitty Kaat as an individual has been subsumed into the living spirit of an ancient and immortal goddess.

This first of what we hope will be many more all-new adventures of our savage heroine picks up exactly where her story left off, almost two decades ago in the pages of *Tigress* #6. A new alliance is about to be formed, and the Tigress's great enemy, the sinister Serpent, is going to find that he has more than just one intently hostile woman of power to deal with.

Also with this issue, we welcome on board as the savage Tigress's newest artist, the talented Oski Yañez. With Oski's help, we're looking forward to the possibility of having brand-new Tigress adventures appear in alternate issues of this magazine. And maybe sometime in late 2013 or early 2014, we'll see the return of our savage heroine to her own magazine.

For SPARKPLUG, her trip to Germany in search of her long-missing brother, Tomas, is about to yield unexpected results. Specifically, it's a "Rematch" between Sparks and an old rival, a character we haven't seen in the pages of CHAMPIONS since way back in issue #38: The Queen from King's Gambit!







THEN, IF I
DECIDE I LIKE YOU,
I'LL ALSO DECIDE WHAT
THE NATURE OF ANY ONGOING
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE TWO OF US
WILL BE.

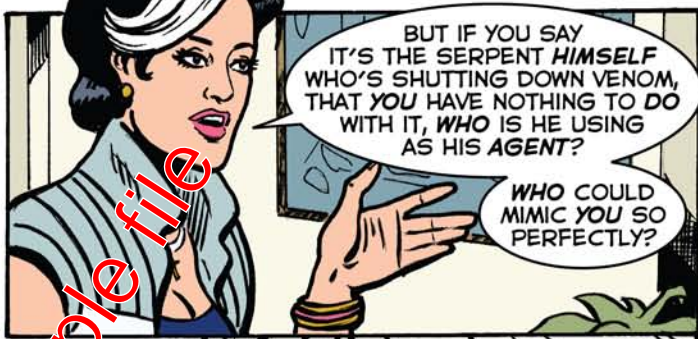


AS WOMAN
OR WARRIOR, YOU
MAY FANCY YOURSELF
MY EQUAL, BUT YOU
ARE NOT.

I AM
THE ORIGINAL
WOMAN.

I AM
WHAT YOU STRIVE
TO BE.

WELL, I
ADMIT YOU HAVE
ME OUTCLASSED
IN CONCEIT.



BUT IF YOU SAY
IT'S THE SERPENT HIMSELF
WHO'S SHUTTING DOWN VENOM,
THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO
WITH IT, WHO IS HE USING
AS HIS AGENT?

WHO COULD
MIMIC YOU SO
PERFECTLY?



I KNOW
OF ONLY ONE
PERSON IT
COULD HAVE
BEEN

WHO?

ENLIGHTEN
US, PLEASE.



HMPF.
VERY WELL. YOU WILL
RECALL THAT BEFORE WE **BEGAN**
THIS CONVERSATION, I WARNED YOU
THAT TO LEARN THE **TRUTH** BEHIND
THE SERPENT'S POWER PUTS A
WOMAN AT RISK OF LOSING
HER SOUL.

Such Is the Fate of **HARPYRA**™

IN LIFE, SHE WAS AN INNOCENT NAMED DIANA. IN DEATH, THROUGH A CEREMONY OF SCIENCE AND BLOOD, THE SERPENT BOUND HER LIFELESS FLESH TO SERVE **IRREVERSIBLY** AS THE VESSEL FOR A **MOTHER OF DEMONS**.

by Dennis Mallonee
and Oski Yañez
Colors and Letters
by Dick O'Malley

AND BOUND HER
IRREVERSIBLY TO LOVE
AND TO SERVE HIM.

SO OF COURSE
SHE HATES IT THAT
THE SERPENT'S **DESIRE**
IS ALWAYS TOWARD ME.

BUT HER ENMITY TOWARD ME IS
NOT WHAT MAKES HER **DANGEROUS**.
WHAT MAKES HER DANGEROUS IS THE
FACT THAT HER **BLOOD**, ONCE TASTED,
WILL SERVE TO OPEN A GATEWAY
FOR ONE OF HER NUMEROUS
CHILDREN INTO THIS WORLD.

THERE ARE, AT THIS POINT, **UNCOUNTED**
NUMBERS OF OTHERWISE INNOCENT PEOPLE
SO AFFLICTED, PEOPLE WHO DO NOT EVEN
REALIZE THE VAST POTENTIAL FOR EVIL THAT
LURKS WITHIN THEM, WAITING FOR THE CALL
THAT WILL SUMMON THAT EVIL FORTH.

HARPYRA created
by Paul Abrams



ON THE OCCASION OF OUR FIRST BATTLE, HARPYRA SOUGHT ME OUT.

AT THE TIME, I HAD NO IDEA OF THE PURPOSE TO WHICH THE SERPENT INTENDED TO PUT HER.



WHAT I THOUGHT I WAS FACING WAS A POOR, DELUDED GIRL WHO HAD CONVINCED HERSELF SHE COULD WIN THE SERPENT'S LOVE BY ELIMINATING ME.



I EVEN TRIED TO REASON WITH HER.



SHE RESPONDED BY SPITTING BLOOD INTO MY MOUTH.



THAT WAS MY FIRST CLUE THAT THE SERPENT'S LATEST BOSOMY PLAY-THING WAS MUCH MORE THAN MERELY A DEAD GIRL ANIMATED BY A DEMON.

THE INSTANT THAT BLOOD TOUCHED MY LIPS, I FELT ANOTHER DEMONIC ESSENCE SURGING INTO ME.

AND, TO HARPYRA'S EVIDENT ASTONISHMENT, INVIGORATING ME.

I DEVoured HER CHILD, AND TOOK NOURISHMENT FROM IT. I CAN DO THAT. I AM A PREDATOR OF DEMONS.