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The Darkness is a superhero character created by Marc Silvestri, Garth Ennis, and David Wohl. He first appeared in Witchblade #10 (Nov. 1996) and has since become a prominent figure in the comic book industry. ========== Jackie Estacado, a young man from a troubled past, becomes the vessel of the Darkness after turning 21. This curse brings him immense power and a twisted sense of morality. He is forced to live with the consequences of his own darkness, often walking the fine line between good and evil. Throughout history, the Darkness has inhabited human vessels, often choosing violent and ruthless individuals to carry its power. These hosts have been known to wield significant influence and power, sometimes leading to catastrophic events. The Darkness possesses 13 cosmic powers, known as "Artifacts", which it uses to shape reality. As a complex antihero, Jackie struggles with his own demons, frequently finding himself at odds with his own morality. He is driven by a desire for justice, yet often finds himself entangled in dark and violent circumstances. Despite this, he remains committed to protecting those he cares about, even if it means putting himself in harm's way. The Darkness is a thought-provoking character study, exploring the nature of good and evil, power and corruption. Its complex history and vast array of abilities make it a compelling figure in the world of comics.The Dark Legacy of Jackie ========== Jackie earns fierce loyalty from his family and allies. His childhood friend Jenny Romano is his first love interest, but he later develops feelings for Sara Pezzini after their daughter, Hope, is born. The mob provides Jackie with a sense of home and safety, but also makes him violent and prone to illegal activities. Losing his virginity at 14, Jackie becomes more reckless. Completing his first hit at 16, Jackie quickly becomes Frankie's top enforcer, boosting the Franchetti family into New York City's top mob families. Jackie frequently visits Jenny's club to stay in touch. The Angelus and Sonatine watch over him, waiting for him to unlock the Darkness – the Brotherhood wanting to exploit his power, and the Angelus wishing to eliminate him at his most vulnerable. Regis Tyne, a mob accountant turned enemy, watches over Jackie from afar. At 21, Jackie's dark powers awaken, and he learns about his evil heritage. He spends time escaping or fighting the Angelus and Brotherhood. After turning 21, Jackie tries to quit the mob, but Frankie kidnaps and kills Jenny. Desperate, Jackie destroys a warehouse with Franchetti crew in it, killing Frankie and burning himself alive. ========== Jackie fulfills the Sovereign's demands, eliminating threats such as a possessed nun, an immortal drug dealer, and a young African warlord. He visits New York to punish thugs from the Franchetti mob responsible for a 5-year-old girl's death and reunites with Sara and his daughter. The antagonists Glacier Stone and Ember Stone are introduced, alongside Jackie learning about 13 artifacts and killing the current Angelus incarnation. Jackie develops feelings for Sara and shares a first kiss with her. Months later, he saves himself from Egyptian mob capture and encounters a woman tied to a red ribbon, sparking intrigue. Meeting Aram, a former Darkness wielder, reveals that the Sovereign manipulates him and that his soul remains connected to the Darkness, repressed by freedom's desire. Ignoring Aram's warnings, Jackie pursues the woman and faces a resurrected djinn. After struggling with its power, Jackie strangles the woman, breaking the curse and freeing her from eternal servitude. Confronting Aram again, he realizes the Sovereign's true intentions and decides to attack. Jackie conquers the Sovereign's base and destroys statues of his nemesis, assembling a team to hunt down others. He escapes government capture with army officer help and navigates treacherous situations with allies like Leonard Kim. However, Regis Tyne, a traitorous team member, is killed by Jackie, but later revived through Darkness control. In the final confrontation, Jackie and his team outsmart the Sovereign using illusions. The outcome relies on Leonard's sacrifice, earning him a heroic reward. Though offered healing with the Darkness, Leonard declines, leaving Jackie to carry on without him. ========== The concept of hardened individuals with exceptional fighting skills and survival abilities is explored in this narrative. These characters, often found in historical contexts, possess expertise in swordsmanship, while their modern counterparts, such as Jackie, are skilled marksmen. Jackie's unique abilities stem from his training in chemistry by Kirchner, allowing him to manipulate Darkness into various substances. The article provides an in-universe analysis of a work or element of fiction, describing the Angelus and its connection to the protagonist, Jackie. The Angelus serves as the antithesis of Darkness and is often featured as a recurring antagonist in the series. Its first encounter with Jackie resulted in his victory, but the entity later possessed Appolonia Franchetti's catatonic mother, Lauren, instead of her intended target, Estacado's sister. This twist led to Jackie creating a doppelganger of himself from the Darkness. Subsequent encounters between Jackie and the Angelus revealed that this entity was used by Sonatine to try and possess Appolonia, as well as an attempt by Patience to eliminate Jackie, who had become Don of the Franchetti Mafia. The Angelus's involvement in these events showcased its power and ability to manipulate others. Furthermore, the narrative delves into the backstories of various characters, including Appolonia Franchetti, who was driven by a traumatic experience involving her father's brutal actions towards her mother's lover. This event led to her resentment of Frankie and developed an antisocial behavior, which intensified as she grew older. Additionally, Aram, the oldest recorded host of Darkness, possessed immense power but eventually chose to exorcise the curse from his body, only to be condemned with immortality. His journey through time, known as the Foreigner, allowed him to observe and guide hosts from a distance. Lastly, Capris Castiglione, Jackie's twin sister, inherited a portion of the Darkness's power but struggled with her identity, eventually succumbing to its influence after her friend's death.She was initially nothing more than a vessel for the Darkness's powers. It chose her to be its new host and used her to try killing Jackie. Capris turned out stronger than expected, overpowering the Darkness with ease and nearly finishing him off if not for Aram shutting it down with his last bit of magic. Capris was eventually killed by Jackie using a crystal glove given to him by Aram. She's now stuck in some sort of purgatory afterlife for Darkness-wielders. Although she developed Darkness powers at 21, they were significantly weaker than her brother's when she first appeared. Instead, she acted as a power bank that Jackie could draw on during their battle with the Cherub Hostile. At first, Capris only showed increased strength and resilience along with some basic shadow manipulation. However, over time, her powers grew exponentially to the point where she was creating zombies by feeding them her blood and even manifesting armor of her own. In contrast, the Doppleganger was an evil clone of Jackie created by the Darkness after Aram purged it from its host. Sonatine was a high-ranking member of the Brotherhood of Darkness who followed the Estacado family for years. He sought to remake the world according to his ideals using the powers of the Darkness. Sonatine first encountered Jackie when he manifested the curse and initially presented himself as a mentor but turned out to be manipulative, kidnapping Jenny to force Jackie's cooperation. However, they had to work together after the Angelus intervened. Thanks to his knowledge of the occult, Sonatine possessed some arcane abilities and could live for extended periods due to carrying a star talisman that compelled people to believe him or answer any question truthfully. It also created powerful light capable of frightening Darklings. The Sovereign was the Emperor of Rome over 3,000 years ago who managed to deceive an angel into freeing his soul after being sentenced to Hell for his cruel ways in life. Bargaining with the Fates, he became a custodian of souls sent to Hell but could enter the living world by possessing statues made in his image. He was obsessed with taking revenge on any vessel of the Darkness he encountered and eventually met Jackie. Jenny Romano was Jackie's childhood friend and girlfriend while Frankie Franchetti was one of the main antagonists, a ruthless mobster who would stop at nothing to achieve his goals. The Magdalena was an assassin born and bred to serve the Vatican in times of need, descended from Mary Magdalene and Jesus Christ. Nino Wenders worked for Sonatine as his manservant but later became obsessed with Jackie, whom he regarded as untrustworthy and cowardly. Angelus Warriors were servants of the Angeleus while Elle was an artificial human companion to Jackie.A comic book series called The Darkness was first released in 1996 and followed the story of a man named Jackie Estacado who gained powers after being killed and brought back to life by an entity known as the Darkness. The series has had several volume releases, including Volume 1: Coming of Age, which collects issues #1-6 and #40, and Ultimate Collection, which collects issues #1-6 and #40, Volume 2 #1-6. The story explores themes of power, identity, and morality as Jackie struggles to control his abilities and navigate the world of organized crime. Other notable releases include Compendium 1, which collects issues #1-40, Origins Volume 1, which collects issues #½-6, and Rebirth: Volume 1, which collects issues #101-105. The series has also had crossovers with other comic book titles, such as Marvel's Universe #3 and DC Comics' Universe #3. First Born, a one-shot issue, was released in 2007, followed by Broken Trinity, a collection of issues #41-89, and Compendium 2, which collects issues #41-89. Accursed: Volume 1, released in 2008, collected issues #1-6, while Rebirth: Volume 3, released in 2014, collected issues #112-116.The Darkness is an American comic series published by Top Cow Productions. The concept was created by Marc Silvestri. The Darkness follows Mafia hitman Jackie Estacado who on his 21st birthday became the bearer of the Darkness, a powerful and ancient force that allows him to wield immense power. ========== The comic book series, The Darkness, revolves around the age-old power of The Darkness, which has been passed down through generations. This mysterious energy is tied to The Angelus and Witchblade, and its wielders have been at war with these opposing forces for millennia. The power manifests in individuals on their 21st birthday, allowing them to create anything they desire using the darkness, but only while it's dark. Users can also summon minions, known as Darklings, and enhance their physical abilities. Jackie Estacado, the current host of The Darkness, is a violent and sexual individual who has gained immense power since acquiring the energy. He struggles with his newfound abilities, particularly the risk of impregnating someone, which would result in his own death. Despite living life on the wrong side of the law, Jackie possesses a strong moral compass and tries to protect those he cares about. The history of The Darkness is rich, with various hosts throughout the ages. One notable user was Anthony Estacado, a pirate who wielded the power during a bygone era. In another tale, Darkness Infinity, Earth is destroyed by The Darkness, and an alien species discovers the remains, leading to the energy seeking a new host. Capris Castiglione, Jackie's twin sister, also possesses a portion of The Darkness, allowing her to teleport short distances. She was trained in using her powers by Robert Bearclaw (Ripclaw). The writer Ann Nocenti claimed she was hired to create a treatment and first issue but was never paid or credited. The power of The Darkness grants its wielders incredible abilities, including creating objects and summoning minions. Jackie has utilized this energy to make various creations, such as tentacles and guns, and has even enhanced his physical strength and speed while using it. ========== The concept of The Darkness in popular culture revolves around its ability to transform individuals into powerful armor, allowing them to breathe underwater and potentially withstand toxic gases. However, this has yet to be proven. In the realm of comics, The Darkness is a fictional character created by Marc Silvestri, Garth Ennis, and David Wohl, first appearing in Witchblade #10 (Nov. 1996). The story revolves around Jackie Estacado, a young New York mafioso who inherits the curse of the Darkness upon turning 21. This entity is depicted as a cosmic force predating recorded history, embodying chaos that existed before God's light. It has been known to manifest in human vessels, particularly those from its chosen bloodline, where it imbues its hosts with supernatural abilities at their 21st birthday. Throughout history, The Darkness has been associated with various powerful entities and artifacts, shaping the course of human events. Its wielders often exhibit violent tendencies, having been dictators, murderers, thieves, and abusers in past lives. The character's storyline explores the complexities of its existence, with some hosts aligning themselves with good and others with evil. In Vol. 2, #5, Jackie Estacado outlines his philosophy as "My whole life I've been kicked around," reflecting his tendency towards a violent past. Initially taken in by Saint Gerald's Orphanage, where he faced abuse, Jackie was later adopted by mob boss Frankie Franchetti, who introduced him to the world of organized crime.Making Him Powerful: The Evolution of Jackie ========== Jackie, raised as a hitman for the Franchetti mob family, has a natural inclination towards violence and promiscuity. Despite his criminal lifestyle, he adheres to a strict moral code of trust among those who earn it and exhibits fierce loyalty to family and allies. His early love interest is Jenny Romano, with whom he shares a deep childhood connection. Later, he develops a romance with Sara Pezzini, resulting in the birth of their daughter, Hope. Jackie's life within the mob provides him with a sense of belonging and security but also increases his tendency towards violence and lawlessness. His sexual escapades begin at age fourteen, leading to a history of reckless behavior. Completing his first hit at sixteen marks Jackie as Frankie's chief enforcer, catapulting the Franchetti family into New York City's top mob families. Throughout his life, Jackie faces numerous challenges and adversaries, including the Angelus and the Brotherhood of Darkness. These forces seek to exploit his powers or annihilate him at his most vulnerable. Regis Tyne, a mob accountant with ties to Jackie, attempts to assassinate him years later. When Jackie awakens to his dark powers at age twenty-one, he must navigate the complexities of his evil heritage. After a series of struggles and losses, including the death of Jenny, Jackie finds hope through priest Tom Judge's artifact known as "the Rapture." He is given the opportunity to exit Hell and eventually regains control over his powers. Jackie confronts the Russian mafia in Atlantic City, ultimately siding with the Magdalena, who wields another powerful artifact. The Angelus launches an attack on the Franchetti family, prompting Jackie to learn of Sara's pregnancy and his own paternity. With the help of Danielle Baptiste, new bearer of the Witchblade, Jackie defends Sara and her unborn child from the Angelus's army. After a fierce battle, Sara dies in childbirth but is reborn as Hope, imbued with half of the Witchblade's power. Jackie establishes himself in Sierra Muñoz, South America, taking control over a drug cartel and building an empire. However, he faces resistance from U.S. forces seeking to capture him for experimentation. Ultimately, Jackie defeats his adversaries but loses control to Professor Kirchner and his pregnant lover, who wields the Darkness. In a climactic confrontation, Jackie recovers the Darkness by sheer willpower. He learns that the baby is already born, an incarnation of the Darkness devoid of human flaws like conscience. After defeating this manifestation, Jackie returns to the United States, having survived encounters with dream-stealing witches in Mexico and other dangers.The Sovereign, a malevolent entity named the Devil, had a peculiar proposition for Jackie. During his visit to hell, Jackie made a pact with the Sovereign, in exchange for carrying out several assassinations, the Sovereign would reunite Jackie's body and soul.[2] Jackie fulfilled these demands, eliminating a possessed nun, an immortal drug dealer, and a 10-year-old African warlord.[3] Jackie then visited New York to address the Franchetti mob responsible for the death of a 5-year-old girl[4] and spent time with his loved ones, including Sara and her daughter. The presence of Glacier Stone and Ember Stone marked significant developments in Jackie's journey, as he discovered there were 13 artifacts at play.[5] Furthermore, Jackie killed the current incarnation of the Angelus,[6] had a romantic encounter with Sara, and was introduced to Michael Finnigan, an Irish mobster hired to protect Sara and Hope. Months later, Jackie intervened in his own capture by an Egyptian mob driven by revenge.[7] During these missions, Jackie encountered a mysterious woman with a red ribbon, which piqued his interest. He also met Aram, a former Darkness wielder, who revealed that the Sovereign had manipulated Jackie from the start.[8] Ignoring this warning, Jackie followed the woman and defeated a resurrected djinn created by a shaman to harm Darkness wielders. After killing the woman with her ribbon, Jackie was compelled by Aram to unleash the full potential of his powers. Upon realizing the Sovereign's manipulation, Jackie attacked him, chased him away from his base, and claimed it for himself.[9] To destroy all statues of the Sovereign, Jackie assembled a team of misfits, starting with Leonard Kim, a surviving member of the Sovereign's mercenaries. Jackie faced numerous challenges, including government assassins, traps set by a Russian mafia, and treacherous team members like Regis Tyne. However, Jackie ultimately triumphed in his final confrontation with the Sovereign, thanks to Leonard's sacrifice.[10] This victory was made possible by the power of the Darkness, an elemental force that granted its wielder immense strength, agility, and magical abilities. As a Darkness wielder, Jackie could navigate other dimensions through shadows and command Darklings – demonic creatures bound to his will. These beings possessed supernatural strength, speed, and agility, as well as deadly claws and fangs.[11] The Darkness also granted its wielders the ability to shapeshift, create powerful armor from shadowy metal, and regenerate at an accelerated rate. Throughout his journey, Jackie discovered the true extent of his powers and the responsibility that came with wielding the Darkness. ========== The Darkness is a fictional concept within the series, characterized by its ability to corrupt individuals and grant them immense power. This corruption often results in an individual becoming a vessel for a supernatural entity known as the Angelus. The Darkness also possesses the power to preserve its hosts over millennia, effectively granting them a form of pseudo-immortality. Those who wield the Darkness are typically hardened individuals with exceptional fighting skills and survival abilities. The mythology surrounding the Darkness is rich and complex, drawing from various sources including ancient mythologies and folklore. One of the oldest recorded hosts of the Darkness was Aram, an ancient warlock from Africa who willingly succumbed to the curse over 10,000 years ago. He used its power to expand his dominion but eventually exorcised it from his body, only to be condemned with immortality. Throughout history, various individuals have hosted the Darkness, each with their own unique experiences and struggles. Some, like Jackie, have become masters of wielding its power, while others, such as Capris, inherit only a small portion of its abilities. The Angelus, on the other hand, is a powerful entity that serves as the antithesis to the Darkness. The series explores themes of corruption, power, and the blurred lines between good and evil. Through its complex characters and intricate mythology, it delves into the human condition, exploring the consequences of playing with forces beyond one's control.The seedy underworld of dark magic and ancient powers is where Jackie Estacado's story unfolds, intertwined with that of Capris, his seduced sibling who became host to the Darkness. In the Outer Darkness arc, it's revealed that Capris had grown so enthralled by the euphoric power of the Darkness she was training her abilities to perfection. The Darkness chose her as its new vessel and attempted to kill Jackie with her superior powers; however, Aram intervened just in time using his last bit of magic to shut down the Darkness. Capris would have taken Jackie's life if not for this timely intervention, ultimately being killed by him after obtaining a magical crystal glove from Aram. The Darkness found its new host and was seen as a damned soul in an eerie afterlife reserved for wielders of such dark powers. Capris's abilities were not on the same level as her brother's when she first appeared but evolved significantly over time, eventually allowing her to conjure armor and create zombies by feeding them her blood. Her power repository role during their encounter with the Cherub Hostile showcased increased strength and resilience along with the ability to manifest tendrils from shadows. The Doppleganger, an evil clone of Jackie created by the Darkness after Aram purged him from it, was a formidable foe in its own right. Sonatine, the leader of the Brotherhood of Darkness and a recurring antagonist early on in the series, followed the Estacado bloodline since their founder - Miguel Estacado. His goal was to remake the world according to his vision using the powers of the Darkness. Initially presenting himself as Jackie's mentor but becoming obsessed after being refused by him, Sonatine kidnapped Jenny to force cooperation. However, this plan backfired when the Angelus arrived and they were compelled to work together. Sonatine wielded arcane abilities due to his knowledge of the occult, which granted him a prolonged lifespan. He possessed a star talisman that could compel people to believe anything he said or answer any question truthfully, also capable of creating light powerful enough to frighten Darklings. His ceremonial magic and possession skills were showcased when attempting to enslave the power of the Angelus and later after transferring his consciousness into Wenders during a grave wounding. The Sovereign, Emperor of Rome roughly three thousand years prior to the Common Era, had a short-lived reign due to being murdered by a bearer of the Darkness. Sentenced to Hell for his cruelties in life, he deceived an angel to free his soul and bargained with the Fates to avoid eternal torture. Becoming a custodian of souls sent to Hell, the Sovereign entered the living world only through possessing statues made in his image, becoming obsessed with taking revenge on any vessel of the Darkness. Jenny Romano was Jackie's childhood friend and girlfriend, while Frankie Franchetti was one of the main antagonists as a vicious mobster. The Magdalena, descended from Mary Magdalene and Jesus Christ, served as an assassin for the Vatican in times of duress. Nino Wenders was a manservant working for Sontaine but later became romantically obsessed with Jackie. Angelus Warriors served as servants to the Angeleous, while Elle was an artificial human companion to Jackie. Paulie Franchetti, Frankie's cousin and the Don of the Franchetti crime family after killing his cousin, had no morals or empathy for others' lives. He had a short temper, engaging in brutal retaliation against slight offenses. The Brotherhood worshipped the Darkness, while Captain Eddie Shrote was a corrupt police captain in the NYPD and business partner to Paulie Franchetti.The film rights were later sold to the Pang brothers in December 2005.[15] At Comic-Con 2009, Top Cow president Matt Hawkins reveled that a live-action The Darkness film was in development, with Scott Stuber Productions attached as the producer for the project.[16] In 2012, Len Wiseman signed on to produce the movie.[17] Main articles: The Darkness (video game) and The Darkness II A game based on The Darkness was released for the PlayStation 3 on June 20, 2007, and for the Xbox 360 eight days later. Developed by Starbreeze Studios and published by 2K Games, the game follows a differing version of the story and gives more characterization to the Darkness.[18][19] A sequel, titled The Darkness II, was released for the PC, the Xbox 360 and the PlayStation 3 on February 7, 2012, developed by Digital Extremes and published by 2K Games.[20] The series has been collected into a series of trade paperbacks: Volume 1 (1996–2001): Coming of Age (176 pages, collects The Darkness preview and The Darkness #1–6, 1998, ISBN 1-58240-032-6) Ultimate Collection (352 pages, collects The Darkness #1–6 and #40, Volume 2 #1–6, 2007, ISBN 1-58240-780-0) Heart of Darkness (144 pages, collects The Darkness #7–8, 11–14, 2001, ISBN 1-58240-205-1) Spear of Destiny (106 pages, collects The Darkness #15–18, 2000, ISBN 1-58240-147-0) Original Sin (166 pages, collects The Darkness #15–25, 2005, ISBN 1-58240-459-3) Flesh and Blood (464 pages, collects The Darkness #26–39, October 2005, ISBN 1-58240-538-7) Compendium 1 (1280 pages, collects The Darkness #1–40, Tales of the Darkness #1–4 and Darkness: Wanted Dead, December 2006, ISBN 1-58240-643-X, November 2007, ISBN 1-58240-801-7) Origins Volume 1 (176 pages, collects #½-6, ISBN 978-1-60706-097-0) Origins Volume 2 (176 pages, collects #7-10, Witchblade issues #18–19, ISBN 978-1-60706-103-8) Origins Volume 3 (208 pages, collects #11–18, ISBN 978-1-60706-208-0) Origins Volume 4 (176 pages, collects #19–25, ISBN 978-1-60706-549-4) Volume 2 (2002–2005): Resurrection (176 pages, collects The Darkness Volume 1 #40, Volume 2 #1–6, 2004, ISBN 1-58240-349-X) Demon Inside (272 pages, collects The Darkness #7–16 and Darkness: Wanted Dead, January 2007, ISBN 1-58240-646-4) Depths Of Hell (224 pages, collects The Darkness #17–24, September 2007, ISBN 1-58240-795-9) The Darkness Vs. 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