

**THE FALLEN**

Issue 1 of 3

by

Alberto Veloso

(www.albertoveloso.com)

**PAGE ONE (4 PANELS)**

1 - Extreme Close Up Shot of Azrael's angelic red eyes. They look distressed as they stare off-panel.

CAPTION

Millennium ago.

LUCIFER (OFF-PANEL)

Azrael!

2 - Zoom out to a Close Up Shot of Azrael, still shocked as he stares off-panel.

LUCIFER (OFF-PANEL)

Join us, my brother!

3 - Zoom out again to a Medium Shot of Azrael. We can now see that he has a flaming sword in his hands and is standing on the "cloud" floors of Heaven.

LUCIFER (OFF-PANEL)

We need your strength!

4 - Zoom out yet again to a "bird's eye view" of Azrael, making him seem a bit small in the mist of this epic moment.

LUCIFER (OFF-PANEL)

Join us, and fight for what is right!

**PAGE TWO & THREE (1 PANEL):**

DOUBLE PAGE SPLASH - Over Azrael's shoulder, we finally see what he was staring at so frightfully. All of Heaven is in the mist of an epic battle, with angels fighting angels all over the sky and clouds.

Near to Azrael, the angel Lucifer is fighting with the archangel Michael. Their flaming swords are clashing.

LUCIFER  
Azrael!

**PAGE FOUR (4 PANELS):**

1 - Michael punches Lucifer hard, forcing Lucifer to lose his grip on his sword.

MICHAEL  
Vile betrayer!

2 - Lucifer is on the "cloud" ground, with Michael standing over him. Michael's flaming sword is raised above him, ready to come down hard.

MICHAEL  
Let all those who turn from the  
Lord's embrace face the ultimate  
penalty!

3 - Close Up Shot of Michael's sword being blocked by another flaming sword.

AZRAEL (OFF-PANEL)  
No!

4 - Reveal that this new sword is Azrael's weapon. Michael looks at him in shock.

MICHAEL  
YOU!

**PAGE FIVE (5 PANELS):**

1 - Close Up Shot of a man's face, beaten, bruised, and bloody after hours of torture. Though it can't be clearly seen in this panel, the man sits tied to a chair, while his torturer speaks to him off-panel.

CAPTION  
Now.

MAN  
(Weakly)  
Please, no more.

MARTIN DRACON (OFF-PANEL)  
I gotta tell you, pal. I hate doing  
business at home.

2 - Wide Shot of the room, a spacious mansion living room with the tortured man in the middle. Near him are two henchmen (Tony and Derek), along with the torturer, mob boss Martin Dracon, who is wiping the blood off his hands.

MARTIN DRACON

It's too hard to get the blood stains off the floor.

MAN

The money... it's in the kitchen... under the floor...

3 - Martin bends down close to the tortured man. Martin's expression is friendlier, almost cheerful.

MARTIN DRACON

See. That wasn't so hard. If you had just told us sooner, you woulda saved yourself a whole lot of pain.

4 - Martin is walking toward the door to his study, which is slightly ajar, while the man is pleading off-panel. Martin talks to his henchmen without looking back.

MARTIN DRACON

Tony, go get the money. Derek, rip out his Adam's Apple. We wouldn't want him telling others about the hidden cash.

MAN

No! God! Noooo!

5 - Small panel Close Up Shot of the study door slamming shut.

SFX

SLAM!

**PAGE SIX (3 PANELS):**

1 - Inside the study, Martin is at a small bar set, pouring himself a drink.

MARTIN DRACON

(To himself)

Talk about a hard day's work.

AZRAEL (OFF-PANEL)

Fear not, Martin Dracon, for it will be your last.

2 - Big Panel, almost a Splash, revealing Azrael (in angel form) hovering in the study, wings spread, flaming sword in his hands. Martin sees him and is, naturally, shocked.

AZRAEL

The vengeance of the Lord is at hand.

MARTIN DRACON

What the--?

3 - Close Up Shot of the flaming sword swiping.

**PAGE SEVEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Close Up Shot of a cell phone on a nightstand, ringing.

SFX

RING! RING! RING!

2 - Same shot as above, except now Elisa Morgan's hand reaches over and grabs the phone.

ELISA (OFF-PANEL)

Fuck.

3 - Wide Shot of Elisa's bedroom. She has the phone to her ear and is sitting up in bed. Her cat, Hunter, is on the bed, meowing at her.

HUNTER

Meow!

ELISA

This is Elisa.

MATT

You won't believe who just died.

ELISA

I wish it'd been you, Matt, so I could get a decent night's sleep.

MATT

Beauty rest can't help you, E. It's too late for you.

4 - Close Up Shot of Elisa trying to rub the sleepiness from her face.

ELISA

Is that why you're always trying to  
get in my pants?

MATT

What can I say? I'm easy. Now  
enough chit-chat. Get dressed and  
meet me at 1285 Highland. Pronto!

5 - Elisa hangs up the phone and sighs, tired.

**PAGE EIGHT (4 PANELS):**

1 - Establishing Shot of the Dracon mansion with various  
police officers all around it.

2 - Elisa enters the mansion and is met by her partner,  
Detective Matt Reid.

MATT

You know whose house this is?

ELISA

Martin Dracon, the most ruthless  
mob boss on the west coast. Drugs,  
extortion, prostitution. He does it  
all.

3 - Two Shot as Elisa and Matt walk further into the  
mansion. Matt is gesturing in front of him.

MATT

Correction. He DID it all. Someone  
burnt him to a crisp last night.

ELISA

You're kidding.

MATT

Don't believe me?  
(Gesturing)  
See for yourself.

4 - Big panel reveal of Martin's dead body in the study. The  
body is badly burnt and has the scar of a cut across its  
chest (both from the flaming sword). Elisa and Matt look  
down at it.

ELISA

Jesus Christ.

MATT

I know, right. Pretty sick. I don't know who did this, but I can tell you one thing...

**PAGE NINE (4 PANELS):**

1 - Azrael, still in angel form, is inside a small priest's chambers which contains very few items aside from a bed, a cabinet, and a large cross on the wall. Azrael is on his knees praying before the cross.

CAPTION (MATT)

(Finishing previous sentence)  
Whoever he is, he isn't human.

AZRAEL

Almighty Father, I surrender my life to your service. I will obey your righteous commands and set upon the task you have given me. For this, I ask only for your love, your guidance...

2 - Close Up Shot of Azrael, his head bent down as he finishes his prayers.

AZRAEL

(Finishing prayer)  
And your forgiveness.  
(Pause)  
Amen.

FATHER BURNETT (OFF-PANEL)

Peter? Are you ready? Your class is about to begin.

3 - Father Burnett enters the room in search of Azrael.  
NOTE: Azrael can not be seen in this panel. The panel focuses on Father Burnett coming in through the door and looking toward Azrael off-panel. Father Burnett has a surprised look on his face (to trick the reader into thinking he has seen Azrael in his angel form).

FATHER BURNETT

Oh my! I hope I'm not interrupting.

4 - Big panel reveal of Azrael in his human form, dressed in the traditional black gown and white collar of a Catholic priest. Azrael is standing now and facing toward Father Burnett.

AZRAEL

Not at all, father. I was just finishing my prayers.

**PAGE TEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Wide Shot of Father Burnett and Azrael as they walk down a church hallway.

FATHER BURNETT

The congregation has donated another batch of books for our library, as well as pencils and crayons for the students.

AZRAEL

That's wonderful, Father Burnett.

FATHER BURNETT

Peter, I guided you through seminary. I put that collar on your neck at graduation. I think it's okay if you call me Jeffery.

2 - Two Shot as the priests continue to walk and talk.

AZRAEL

I was taught to respect my superiors, father. To call you anything else would be unacceptable.

FATHER BURNETT

Always so proper, Father Azrael. Tell me, what troubles you today? You seem bothered.

3 - Close Up Shot of Azrael, who is troubled.

AZRAEL

Nothing, father. I merely worry about fulfilling my purpose in life. At times, it all seems so... pointless.

4 - Close Up Shot of Father Burnett, smiling, trying to cheer Azrael up.

FATHER BURNETT

There is a reason for everything, Peter. Often we are too close to see it, but the Lord has a plan. Trust in Him.

5 - Close Up Shot of Father Azrael, who is still troubled, but is trying not to show it as much.

AZRAEL  
I pray you're right, father. I pray  
you're right.

**PAGE ELEVEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Close Up Shot of an slightly annoyed coroner, Angela Hacker, a woman in 30s wearing glasses.

MATT (OFF-PANEL)  
Blow torch?

ANGELA  
No.

MATT (OFF-PANEL)  
Gasoline?

ANGELA  
It would leave a residue.

2 - Wide Shot of the morgue, which has Martin's dead body on a slab between Angela on one side and Matt and Elisa on the other.

MATT  
So what the hell killed this guy?

ANGELA  
Your guess is as good as mine.

MATT  
I thought you went to school for  
this?

ANGELA  
Don't question my credentials,  
okay? The fact of the matter is,  
whatever killed this guy is  
something I've never seen before.  
Something... new. But that isn't  
even the weirdest part. The  
weirdest part is the smell.

3 - Close Up Shot of Elisa responding to Angela's comment.

ELISA  
Flowers?

ANGELA (OFF-PANEL)  
That's right. And the body's been  
dead for over 12 hours.

4 - Back to a Wide Shot of the room.

MATT  
So what? An extra strength flowery  
men's cologne?

ANGELA  
Detectives, if you want my  
professional opinion, then I  
honestly gotta tell you, whatever  
you're dealing with here...

5 - Close Up Shot of Elisa, thoughtful.

ANGELA (OFF-PANEL)  
I think it's supernatural.

**PAGE TWELVE (4 PANELS):**

1 - Wide Shot of Azrael, in human form, teaching a class of pre-teens in his church's classroom. Azrael is standing in the front of the room, while his students sit on the floor in a semi-circle around him. Near the back of the group, a young boy (Timmy) has his hands raised.

AZRAEL  
Satan, class, was once an angel. He  
was known as Lucifer, the Light  
Bearer, and he was God's favorite  
angel. Then one day, he led a  
revolt in Heaven. Angels battled  
angels until God cast Lucifer's  
army out of paradise. They all fell  
from God's divine grace.  
(Noticing Timmy)  
Yes, Timmy?

2 - Over the Shoulder Shot of Azrael talking to Timmy (we see Azrael's shoulder and Timmy's face).

TIMMY  
So did the angels become demons  
after they fell?

AZRAEL  
Most did. Some of them chose to  
keep their angelic forms.

TIMMY

But which angels were the bad ones?  
The ones that fell?

3 - Azrael starts to pace a bit as he recalls the names of the fallen angels.

AZRAEL

There were quite a few of them,  
Timmy. There was Belial, the Angel  
of Obedience, Marou, Angel of  
Healing and Longevity, Verrine,  
Guardian of Divine Wisdom...

4 - Close Up Shot of Azrael, saddened, as he remembers his greatest regret.

AZRAEL

And of course, my namesake, Azrael,  
the Angel of Vengeance.

**PAGE THIRTEEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Small Panel Close Up Shot of a hand holding a rubber ink stamp on top of a photo in a police file.

2 - Same shot as above, but now the stamp has been lifted revealing the word "DECEASED" stamped on a photo of Martin Dracon.

ELISA (OFF-PANEL)

Good riddance.

3 - Wide Shot. Elisa is about to put the file away in a cabinet at the police station. Matt is walking over to her.

MATT

Don't count your blessings just  
yet. My CI just got word that Old  
Man Dracon is coming out of  
retirement, no doubt looking to  
avenge his bastard of son.

ELISA

Martin's father? I don't know much  
about him. He retired before I  
transferred precincts.

4 - Elsewhere. Wide Shot of a small private jet taxiing to a stop in a private airfield. A small group of people (including the henchmen Tony and Derek) are waiting for someone to get off the plane.

CAPTION (MATT)

Well, take all the horrible shit  
that his son did and multiply it by  
twenty. That'll give you an idea.

5 - Reveal Anton Dracon ("Old Man Dracon") stepping off the  
plane, an air mask on his face attached to a small oxygen  
tank at his waist. His face has a cold, ruthless expression.

CAPTION (MATT)

Anton Dracon is a seriously evil  
m.f.

ANTON

(To the group of people)  
Now, then. Who are we gonna kill  
today?

**PAGE FOURTEEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Wide Shot of the Confession Booth inside Father Azrael's  
church. Though we can not see them, on the left side of the  
booth is Father Azrael, while on the right side is a  
distraught woman named Maria Chavez.

MARIA

(Coming from inside the booth)  
Forgive me, father, for I have  
sinned. It's been years since my  
last confession.

2 - Close Up Shot of Maria inside the booth. We see her face  
through the inner divide between her side and the priest's  
side.

MARIA

I've had impure thoughts about  
killing a man... A very bad man.

FATHER AZRAEL (OFF-PANEL)

Why do you want to kill him, my  
child?

3 - Similar Close Up Shot as above, only now Maria's  
expression is sadder as she talks about her brother. Tears  
start to form.

MARIA

He murdered my brother, and  
somehow... he went free! Some kind  
of mix-up with how the evidence was  
collected. I... It isn't fair,

MARIA  
 father, why should he live while my  
 brother... My brother...

4 - Again, similar Close Up Shot as above, only Maria's expression has changed and she is a bit confused and surprised by the priest's question.

FATHER AZRAEL (OFF-PANEL)  
 What's this man's name, my child?

MARIA  
 His name? It's Vinnie. Vinnie Brod.

FATHER AZRAEL (OFF-PANEL)  
 Cast out all your thoughts on his  
 man, and trust in God's plan. After  
 all...

5 - Close Up Shot of Father Azrael in his own side of the booth. Although he is in human form, his eyes have switched over to their angelic red and are brimming with fire.

FATHER AZRAEL  
 Vengeance is the Lord's.

**PAGE FIFTEEN (4 PANELS):**

1 - Establishing Shot of an empty street at night in a very dangerous and dirty part of town. Vincent "Vinnie" Brod (20s, and thuggish) is walking down the sidewalk with a small bag of drugs in his hands and an upset look on his face.

VINNIE  
 (To himself)  
 He fucked me. I just know it. This  
 ain't no dime bag.

2 - Vinnie turns into an alley.

VINNIE  
 Once I snort this shit, I'm gonna  
 go talk to him. Sort this shit out.

AZRAEL (OFF-PANEL)  
 Vincent Brod.

3 - Similar to Page Six, Panel 2. Reveal Azrael, in angel form, floating down into the alley, flaming sword in hand. Vinnie is freaking out.

AZRAEL  
The vengeance of the Lord is at  
hand.

VINNIE  
Holy shit, man!

4 - Vinnie, an terrified look on his face, pulls out a gun  
and points it.

VINNIE  
Stay back, you freak! Stay back or  
I'll... I'll shoot!

**PAGE SIXTEEN (4 PANELS):**

1 - Azrael is on the ground now, and moving closer to  
Vinnie.

AZRAEL  
Repent, and beg the Lord, your God,  
to pardon your eternal soul.

2 - Vinnie, freaked, shoots three bullets at Azrael.

VINNIE  
I said stay back!

SFX  
BAM! BAM! BAM!

3 - Reveal Azrael, completely unharmed by the bullets.

AZRAEL  
Wrong answer.

4 - Medium Close Up Shot of Vinnie, terrified, as the  
flaming sword gets closer.

VINNIE  
No! No! Nooooo!

**PAGE SEVENTEEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Elisa drops her coat on the floor of her bedroom after a  
very long day of work. The cat is waiting for her on the  
bed.

ELISA  
Hey, Hunter.

HUNTER

Meow!

2 - Elisa just collapses face down onto the bed, next to the cat.

3 - Same shot as above. She's so tired she's going to sleep just like that.

4 - Same shot as above, except now her phone is ringing.

SFX

RING! RING! RING!

5 - Same shot as above, only now she's talking to herself.

ELISA

(To herself)

You gotta be kidding me.

**PAGE EIGHTEEN (5 PANELS):**

1 - Establishing Shot of the alley where Vinnie confronted Azrael. Police stand outside the entrance to the alley, blocking pedestrians from entering. Matt's dialogue comes from inside the alley, though we may not be able to see him in this panel.

MATT

(From inside the alley)

So, you getting a feeling of deja vu, yet?

2 - Elisa and Matt are examining the now burnt body of Vinnie in the alley. Elisa is kneeling down for a closer look. Matt stands.

ELISA

Same cut and burn pattern. This is our guy.

MATT

Whadda you thinking? Vigilante?

ELISA

Maybe.

MATT

If he is, then he's casting a pretty wide net. First a mob boss, now a street Vinnie.

3 - Two Shot as Elisa stands next to Matt.

ELISA  
We should get him to the coroner's.

MATT  
Why? So she can give us some more  
useless supernatural mumbo jumbo?

ELISA  
I wouldn't say that. She gave us  
our first real lead.

4 - Elisa is walking away from Matt, who stays standing,  
confused. Matt shouts out to her.

MATT  
Umm. And what exactly would that  
be?

ELISA  
Can't you smell it?

5 - Close Up Shot as Elisa looks back at Matt.

ELISA  
Flowers. This body smells like  
flowers too.

**PAGE NINETEEN (4 PANELS):**

1 - Azrael, in human form, kneels before the cross in his  
room, praying.

AZRAEL  
Lord Father, hear my pleas and  
guide me in all my actions and  
deeds. I strive to fulfill your  
will on Earth, as it is done in  
Heaven. And if I have satisfied you  
in my effort, my Lord, please...

2 - Azrael looks upward, as if pleading directly to God.

AZRAEL  
Please show me a sign.

3 - Similar shot as above, as Azrael waits for the sign to  
happen, but nothing does.

4 - Azrael hangs his head down in disappointment.

LUCIFER (OFF-PANEL)  
Sorry, Azy, but I'm afraid God's a  
little bit busy right now.

**PAGE TWENTY (1 PANEL):**

SPLASH - Azrael turns to see Lucifer (in human form)  
standing by the door, smirking mischievously. Azrael, at the  
bottom corner of the panel, reacts with a natural shock.

LUCIFER  
Maybe I can help.

AZRAEL  
Lucifer!

**TO BE CONTINUED...**