

MAGIC CORPS

Issue 1

by

Alberto Veloso

(www.albertoveloso.com)

MAIN CHARACTERS:

1) **JOANNA CRAFT** (Seduction Magic): Raised to be fierce and independent by her Fire General father, Joanna grew up a bit of a tomboy and is (to put it mildly) very uncomfortable with the sexist attitude that permeates the American military/magical system. She hopes to change things from the inside by becoming the very first woman in U.S.S.A. military history to assume a command position.

2) **DANIEL GUNTHRIE** (Fire Magic): Born into a long line of Fire Soldiers, Daniel is a kind and considerate "nice guy" who joined the Magic Corps to make his family proud (even though deep down inside, he didn't really want to). He's the kind of nice guy you hope wins out at the end, but more often than not, finishes last.

3) **SIMON BLACK** (Black Magic): Like all Black Magic practitioners, Simon changed his last name to "Black," and is only allowed to wear black or silver on his body. He is aloof, uncaring, and every bit the "bad boy." And while Simon is usually sarcastic and arrogant, at the same time he is amazingly aware of the hidden truths behind everyday things. It makes him surprisingly likable.

4) **HAZEL UNDERWOOD** (Healing Magic): Born poor, Hazel joined the Magic Corps to follow her lifelong dream of becoming a healer. Hazel is a sweet soul who rarely has a mean word to say about anyone. At the same time, she's strong enough to stand up for herself when threatened, and coming from a poor upbringing gave her plenty of opportunity to do just that.

5) **KANE COOPER** (Primitive Magic): The tough, strong man of the group, Kane has a "code" and he follows it, even though the code is misogynistic and old-fashioned. Like others in his discipline, Kane has tattoos all over his body, including his face. He also has a ferocious temper, which is a well-known side effect of practicing Primitive Magic.

6) **JESSE BRADDOCK** (Prophecy Magic): A bit of the goofball/slacker type, Jesse always has his feet up, reading a magazine (often the dirty kind). He hits on women

constantly and very unsubtly. And he is embarrassingly bad at magic, which of course comes from years and years of not taking anything seriously.

PAGE ONE AND TWO (1 PANEL):

DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD. In the middle of the page is a map of "Earthe," the world where our story takes place. The shape and continents are the same as our world, but the countries are radically different due to a long history of magic affecting historical events. For example, all of Europe is now "United Europa," the northern territories of Canada belong to Frost Giants, and the U.S.A. is now the U.S.S.A. (the United Sorcerer States of America).

Along the top of the page is a short description of the "Upper Magics" with their corresponding symbols (TO BE WRITTEN LATER):

- 1) Primitive Magic
- 2) Fire Magic
- 3) Black Magic

Along the bottom of the page are the "Lower Magics" with their own symbols and description (ALSO TO BE WRITTEN LATER):

- 1) Healing Magic
- 2) Seduction Magic
- 3) Divination Magic

This whole page serves as a sort of intro/cheat sheet to the world of "Magic Corps" (kind of like the maps you see at the beginning of fantasy novels).

PAGE THREE (4 PANELS)

1 - A convoy of vehicles travel along a country road. The first vehicle is a military humvee (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW) carrying a Magic Corps squad, while the other four vehicles are transport trucks (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW) carrying supplies.

NOTE: All photo references are listed on a separate page at the end of the comic.

CAPTION (JOANNA)

It was a standard escort mission,
sirs. We were guiding a shipment of
medical supplies down to the
Texan/Aztec border.

RAMIREZ

(From inside the humvee)
This mission blows.

2 - Inside the humvee, we get our first look at Joanna's squad, all of which are dressed in military camouflage uniforms. Sitting up front are Joanna, the squad leader Lt. Hilt (a skinny, fragile looking man), and another male soldier driving. In the back are two other female soldiers (one of which is named Stacy) and a male (Ramirez).

NOTE: The other soldiers are nameless since they have a VERY brief role in the story.

RAMIREZ

We're just babysitting cargo.

JOANNA

It's called an escort mission,
Ramirez.

RAMIREZ

You say "escort," I hear
"babysitting."

STACY

That just means it's time for your
annual ear cleaning.

3 - Close-Up Shot of Joanna smiling at their banter. She's happy. The mission is going well.

RAMIREZ (O.P.)

It's bi-annual, actually.

4 - BOOM! An explosion next to the humvee sends it flipping over!

SFX

BOOM!

PAGE FOUR (3 PANELS)

1 - Close-Up Shot of Joanna on the floor after getting knocked out of the car.

LT. HILT (O.P.)
We need air support, over.
They're... they're everywhere!

2 - Joanna gets up to see an army of trolls rushing toward the convoy, launching arrows and spears and explosive magic rocks (kind of like bombs). The trolls are small and green, with pointed tails and yellow eyes. They're dressed primitively, like Cavemen, and all they can say over and over again is "Kill Humanz!"

Two of Joanna's squad members (Ramirez and Stacy) are using the flipped humvee as cover and are firing back. Stacy is using a gun, while Ramirez (a Fire Soldier) is shooting fire from his hands.

The other two nameless soldiers lie dead on the floor from the original blast, while Lt. Hilt is standing off to the side, shell-shocked, with a radio transmitter (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW) in his hands.

TROLLS
Kill Humanz! Kill Humanz!

STACY
(To Lt. Hilt)
What are our orders, sir?

LT. HILT
I... I...

3 - Joanna leaps at and pushes Lt. Hilt out of the way of a spear that almost kills him.

JOANNA
Look out!

PAGE FIVE (4 PANELS)

1 - Joanna lands on top of him and can clearly see that the Lieutenant is completely paralyzed with fear.

LT. HILT
I don't... I don't know...

2 - Joanna stands and takes command, shouting orders at the other soldiers. Stacy and Ramirez, in response to her command, throw smoke gas canisters at the oncoming trolls.

JOANNA

Launch the smoke bombs. Use the cover to get to the trucks and lead them outta here. I'll grab Hilt and hitch a ride.

3 - Joanna starts shooting at the trolls for cover fire while the others leave to obey her commands.

RAMIREZ

Are you sure about this?

JOANNA

Question me later, Ramirez. We have some trucks to save.

4 - Another magic rock blast knocks Joanna off her feet and the helmet off her head.

SFX

BOOM!

PAGE SIX (3 PANELS)

1 - With smoke floating everywhere, Joanna lands next to some very large green feet.

2 - Large Panel. Joanna looks up and realizes that she's lying in front of an HUGE Troll, at least 12 feet tall and bulky, holding a wooden club in his hands.

BIG TROLL

Kill humanz.

3 - Joanna assumes a very seductive and sexy pose as she uses her "seduction" magic on the troll.

JOANNA

You're right. You win. I'm your prisoner.

PAGE SEVEN (4 PANELS)

1 - Joanna stands and seductively moves closer to the troll, running a finger down his bare green chest.

JOANNA

I'm yours now. You can do anything you want.

BIG TROLL

Um...

JOANNA

Doesn't that sound nice?

2 - As disgusting as it sounds, Joanna kisses the troll (who has bent down to be able to kiss her).

3 - After the kiss is done, the Troll has that mesmerized "completely in love" look on his face that comes from being under a Seductress' spell.

JOANNA

Now do me a favor, huh? Kill trolls.

4 - In the background, the huge troll starts running back toward and attacking his fellow trolls. In the foreground, Joanna carries Hilt away from the conflict.

BIG TROLL

Kill trollz! Kill trollz!

CAPTION (JOANNA)

The big one provided enough of a distraction for me to grab the lieutenant and catch a ride on one of the trucks.

PAGE EIGHT (5 PANELS)

1 - Joanna, in a clean set of combat uniforms, is standing before The High Tribunal of the U.S.S.A. military. The Tribunal consists of three generals, one from each of the Upper Magics.

The Fire General is an older, gray-haired man with a kind-looking demeanor. The Primitive General has tattoos running all over his body, all the way up to his stern and unfriendly-looking face. The Black Magic General is completely dressed in black and has a personality that is just as colorful.

JOANNA

And that, sirs, is how it happened.

FIRE GENERAL

Outstanding! I don't think I've ever heard of Seduction Magic being used on a troll before.

PRIMITIVE GENERAL

You're a credit to your discipline,
child.

2 - Joanna is uncomfortable with the compliment.

JOANNA

Yes, well, with respect, sir, it's
not like I had much of a choice,
seeing as how women are still
forbidden from learning the Upper
Magics.

BLACK GENERAL

For their own good, Sargent. You
know the Upper Magics can be quite
strenuous on the feminine
constitution.

3 - Joanna defends her beliefs before the tribunal.

JOANNA

What about the female fire militias
in United Europa? Or the rumors of
women practicing black magic inside
of China.

BLACK GENERAL

Hogwash! A woman's place is in the
Lower Magics. There's no shame in
that.

JOANNA

I just think, sirs, if --

4 - The Fire General cuts Joanna off.

FIRE GENERAL

That's enough, Sargent. We didn't
bring you here to debate gender
politics, although the topic is
relevant to your presence here
today. For your courage in the face
of danger, the council has decided
to promote you to the rank of
lieutenant, which means...

5 - Joanna is surprised (pleasantly) by the news.

JOANNA

I can have my own command!

FIRE GENERAL
Precisely. The first woman in the
Corps to do so. I presume this is
something you want.

PAGE NINE (5 PANELS)

1 - Close-Up Shot of Joanna, fighting back tears.

JOANNA
Sirs, it's... it's the only thing
I've wanted my whole life.

2 - Joanna salutes the generals.

FIRE GENERAL
Then I suppose a congratulations is
in order. A squad has been
assembled for you and the Corporal
outside will fill you in on the
details of your first mission.

JOANNA
I won't let you down, sirs. You
have my word.

FIRE GENERAL
Dismissed!

3 - Joanna leaves the room.

4 - With Joanna gone, the three generals exchange an evil
look.

5 - Close-Up Shot of the Fire General, whose friendly
demeanor is replaced with a sinister smile.

FIRE GENERAL
She'll do nicely.

PAGE TEN (6 PANELS)

1 - Wide Shot of the inside of a military barrack (PHOTO
REFERENCE BELOW) containing Joanna's new squad. Kane is
pacing, angry as usual, while Simon casually leans against
the wall. Hazel and Daniel are standing nearby while Jesse
sits carefree on one of the beds, reading a magazine.

KANE
This is bullshit. Reassignment this
late in the game. I've been with my
squad for 3 years.

HAZEL

It is odd that they'd make up a whole new unit. This mission must be important.

SIMON

Important? Is that what you think?

2 - Closer Two-Shot of Kane talking to Simon.

KANE

You got intel otherwise, Blacky?

SIMON

Nothing a feeble mind like yours could comprehend.

KANE

Screw you, pal.

3 - Back to the group, favoring Daniel and Jesse.

JESSE

I, for one, don't miss my old squad at all. They were a bunch of dicks. The women included.

DANIEL

Yeah, well, at least you all have squads. Mine got wiped out in a Afghanistan. I was the only survivor.

SIMON

Please, by all means Sargent, why don't you proceed to cry us a river?

4 - Hazel is annoyed at Simon's comment.

HAZEL

God, you Black Magic Soldiers are such jerks.

SIMON

Known many of us, have you?

HAZEL

I've known enough.

JOANNA (O.P.)

Ten hut!

5 - The squad turns and finds Joanna standing in the doorway, her hands behind her back and her expression serious.

JOANNA

Fall in!

6 - From Joanna's angle/Point-of-View, the squad looks at her with confused faces, unsure of what to do and hence, not moving.

KANE

Um, can we help you, darling?

PAGE ELEVEN (7 PANELS)

1 - Close-Up Shot of Joanna, shouting.

JOANNA

You're gonna need a lot of help if this is how you to talk to your superiors. Now on your feet! Move, move, move!

2 - Daniel, Hazel, and Jesse fall in line and stand at attention (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW). Kane and Simon, on the other hand, stay where they are, defiant.

KANE

Bullshit. No way you're an officer. You're a girl.

3 - Joanna gets up to Kane so that they are face-to-face.

JOANNA

I figured I might have to go through the whole macho "I'm not gonna follow a woman" routine. What say we skip to the end and you fall in line with the rest of your squad?

KANE

You gonna make me, sugar?

4 - Close-Up Shot of Joanna as she smiles.

JOANNA

I guess I am.
(A pause)
Sugar.

5 - Small panel, Close-Up Shot of Joanna's hand hitting Kane right in the bottom of his neck.

6 - Small panel, Close-Up Shot of Joanna's hand grabbing hold of Kane's wrist.

7 - Joanna twists Kane into a kind of Pankratiast lock (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW). Kane is coughing as he struggles to breathe.

KANE
Ack... ack...

PAGE TWELVE (8 PANELS)

1 - Still holding Kane in a lock, Joanna looks over at Simon.

JOANNA
You next?

KANE
(In pain)
Ahh... fuck...!

2 - Simon stands next to Jesse at attention.

3 - Joanna lets go of Kane and address the squad.

JOANNA
Now sound off. Name, rank, and discipline.

KANE
Jesus... Christ...

4 - Small Panel, Close-Up Shot of Daniel. NOTE: I know 8 panels seems like too much, but I imagine these last five panels as small, yearbook-like photos of the characters.

DANIEL
Gunthrie, Daniel. Sargent. Fire Magic.

5 - Small Panel, Close-Up Shot of Hazel.

HAZEL
Underwood, Hazel. Private First Class. Healing Magic.

6 - Small Panel, Close-Up Shot of Jesse.

JESSE
 Braddock, Jesse. Private.
 Divination.

7 - Small Panel, Close-Up Shot of Simon.

SIMON
 Black, Simon. Private First Class.
 Black Magic, obviously.

8 - Small Panel, Close-Up Shot of Kane, who has now fallen in line with the rest of the squad. His voice is still groggy.

KANE
 Cooper... Kane... Private.
 Primitive.

PAGE THIRTEEN (6 PANELS)

1 - Joanna stands in front of and addresses Jesse, but it's Simon (standing next to Jesse) who responds.

JOANNA
 Divination, huh? Kind of rare for a man to study the lesser magics.

SIMON
 Not as rare as a woman in command of a squad.

2 - Close-Up Shot of Jesse, a slightly embarrassed look on his face.

JESSE
 Truth is I, um, kinda flunked outta the Fire Academy. Prophecy was my backup.

3 - Joanna addresses the entire squad.

JOANNA
 Unconventional seems to be the theme of this squad, and I'm okay with it. What I'm not ok with is my soldiers second guessing me, disobeying me, and generally being an a-hole because their orders are coming from a woman. If any of you want to check out now, this is your one and only chance.

4 - Similar to the panel above, Joanna, speech finished, waits to see if anyone will take her up on the offer. No one does.

5 - Joanna starts walking out of the barracks.

JOANNA

Good. Now gear up and meet me on the copter pad. I'll brief you all in the air.

6 - The others watch her leave with a wide range of emotions, described below.

HAZEL

(Admiring)

I like her.

DANIEL

(Captivated, possibly the first inkling of love)

Me too.

JESSE

(Worried)

She scares me.

KANE

(Angry)

This is bullshit.

SIMON

(Curious)

No. This is... interesting.

PAGE FOURTEEN (5 PANELS)

1 - Establishing Shot of a military helicopter (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW) flying in the sky.

JOANNA

(From inside the copter)

We're heading deep into troll territory.

2 - Inside the copter are Joanna and her squad. Daniel, Joanna, and Jesse sit on one side of the copter, while Kane, Simon, and Hazel sit on the other.

JOANNA

Intelligence has unconfirmed reports that the trolls are

JOANNA
 creating some kind of super weapon
 inside Mt. Dern. Our orders are to
 confirm the reports and destroy the
 weapon, if possible.

KANE
 With all due respect, lieutenant,
 why the hell are we flying? Can't
 we get blacky here to port us?

JOANNA
 Like I said, we're going deep into
 troll country. If we teleport in,
 the trolls will smell that much
 magic. So keep your spells to a
 minimum.

3 - Joanna specifically addresses Simon, who responds with
 his usual sarcastic smirk. Hazel, who is sitting next to
 Simon, spits out a bit of vomit on the floor beside her.

JOANNA
 Still, I want you ready to port us
 out at the first sign of trouble.

SIMON
 Ma'am, yes, ma'am.

HAZEL
 (Puking SFX)
 Bleh.

4 - Hazel wipes her mouth.

JOANNA
 You all right, Private?

HAZEL
 Just a little airsick, sir. I'll be
 fine.

KANE
 How'd the hell you survive basic,
 girly?

5 - Close-Up Shot of Joanna.

JOANNA
 Enough chitchat, people. ETA in ten
 minutes. Get your game face on.

PAGE FIFTEEN (4 PANELS)

1 - The squad is moving away from the copter, which has already dropped them off and is heading back to base.

2 - Hours later, the squad continues to move in single file through a forest, much like the army patrols during the Vietnam War (PHOTO REFERENCE BELOW).

3 - Hours later, the squad is walking through a more open plain. They are walking right next to a herd of wild unicorns grazing. One of the unicorns looks at the squad curiously.

4 - Hours later, the squad is once again walking through a forest, only this time they can see a huge mountain ahead of them, Mt. Dern, their destination.

JOANNA

There it is.

PAGE SIXTEEN (4 PANELS)

1 - Jesse approaches Hazel.

JESSE

Hey. You feeling better?

HAZEL

Yeah, thanks. The nausea's gone now.

2 - Two-Shot of Jesse and Hazel as they walk and talk.

JESSE

That's good. You know, I forgot to mention before, but I got a glimpse into your future.

HAZEL

Really?

3 - Jesse points to himself, a very corny smile on his face.

JESSE

Sure did, babe. And I'm in it!

4 - Hazel walks away from him, annoyed.

HAZEL

Lord help me.

PAGE SEVENTEEN (5 PANELS)

1 - Simon is levitating a fallen tree out of his way when Kane approaches him.

KANE
So, whatcha think of the lady lieutenant?

SIMON
Since when do you care what a "blacky" thinks?

2 - Two-Shot of Simon and Kane as they walk and talk.

KANE
I don't. It's just, you guys are supposed to be smart and stuff, right?

SIMON
Especially the "and stuff" part.

3 - Close-Up Shot of Kane.

KANE
You don't think this whole thing smells fishy? I mean, new squad, female lieutenant. None of it makes any sense.

4 - Close-Up Shot of Simon.

SIMON
I think you're surprisingly not as dumb as you look, Private.

5 - Back to a Two-Shot of Simon and Kane. Kane is staring at Simon, annoyed/offended. Simon, however, has a surprised look on his face since he really was trying to give a compliment (he's just not good at it).

SIMON
What? That's a compliment. Really.

PAGE EIGHTEEN (5 PANELS)

1 - Daniel approaches Joanna at the front of the line.

DANIEL
Lt. Craft, sir, I mean ma'am, or...

JOANNA
Sir's fine, Gunthrie. What is it?

2 - Daniel and Joanna walk and talk.

DANIEL
I sense something, something
dangerous in that mountain.

JOANNA
Fire Soldiers can do that?

DANIEL
No, not usually, but I can... feel
it. It's hard to explain, but
there's something bad in there.

3 - Joanna holds out her hand with her fist closed,
signaling the others to stop.

JOANNA
Braddock, get up here.

4 - Jesse runs up to Joanna.

JOANNA
Give me a reading. I want to know
what we're heading into.

JESSE
No prob, boss.

5 - Jesse drops to his knees and throws 4 dice on the ground
to predict the future. The others are standing nearby,
waiting for the reading.

JESSE
I see panic and cheese?

PAGE NINETEEN (4 PANELS)

1 - Jesse picks up the dice off the ground. Simon and Kane
have condescending smirks on their faces.

JESSE
Let me try that again. Sometimes it
doesn't come out right the first
time.

KANE
Spoken like a real magic school
dropout.

2 - Jesse throws the dice again and reads.

JESSE
Umm, something's going to happen soon. Definitely.

SIMON
How delightfully vague.

3 - Jesse picks up the dice again. Joanna is getting annoyed.

JESSE
Let me try one more time.

JOANNA
You're trying my patience, Private.

4 - Another throw. Jesse is bent over, reading the dice on the floor while the others are staring behind Jesse, their faces in shock by what they see.

JESSE
Got it! I see it clear as day!

PAGE TWENTY (1 PANEL)

SPLASH. Behind Jesse, we can see the faces of trolls coming out of the forest, eyes glowing yellow, teeth revealed in a snarl. In the foreground, Jesse has a happy, almost excited look on his face as he's finally able to read the dice that he threw.

JESSE
It says danger is near!

TO BE CONTINUED...

PHOTO REFERENCES:

1) Military Humvee:

http://assets.bankspower.com/friday_inline_images/638/General-Purpose-1

2) Military Transport Truck:

http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_h2HFSk-YN8U/SWjn6wpbxoI/AAAAAAAAAno/Bp5MlOy9

3) Radio Transmitter:

<http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/airman-uses-a-prc>

4) Military Barrack:

<http://whfrtc.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/C688D510-8881-461A-A6E3-39865ACD2C17>

5) Standing at Attention:

<http://cdn.c.photoshelter.com/img-get/I0000LVsstWwTxy4/s/860/860/Soldi>

6) Pankratiast Lock:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/35/Pankratiasten_in_fi

7) Military Helicopter:

<http://www.usmilitaryhelicopters.org/sites/default/files/sites/all/hel>

8) Marching in Line:

<http://bookriotcom.c.presscdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/On-Patrol>