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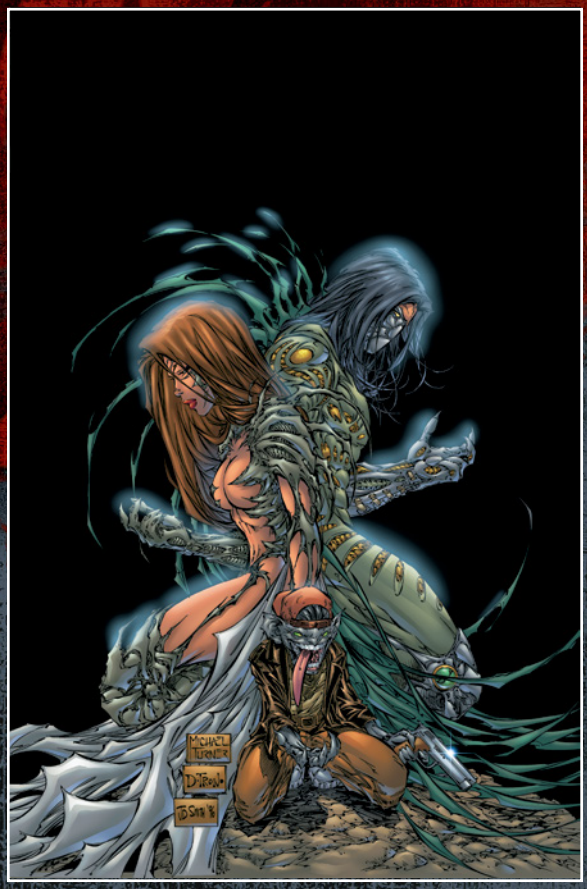
THE DARKNESS®

30TH ANNIVERSARY ART GALLERY

The Darkness first appeared on the covers of *Witchblade [1995] #10*, including the cover B that featured the supplemental citation of *The Darkness #0*. Here is a snapshot of those first covers from **Marc Silvestri** and **Michael Turner**.



Witchblade [1995] #10, cover B art by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt "Batt" Banning**, **Steve Firchow**



Witchblade [1995] #10, Dynamic Forces variant, cover art by **Michael Turner**, **D-Tron**, **Jonathan D. Smith**

Facing page. *Witchblade [1995] #10*, cover A, art by **Michael Turner**, **D-Tron**, **Jonathan D. Smith**


MICHAEL TURNER
D-TRON
JD SMITH '96

The Darkness®

Series cover commentary by Marc Silvestri



The Darkness *[1996] #1,* cover A, art by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt "Batt" Banning**, **Brian Haberlin**, **Steve Firchow**
Well, this is the #1 issue, so it's kind of a no-brainer. The important thing here was to not only establish what the main character looked like, but to give any potential reader a reason to pick this comic up from a rack full of other comics. I had to establish a tone (both serious and mischievous) that told the reader that: Yeah, it's a "superhero" book, but fun and definitely not from one of the big two publishers. Amazing inks from BATT and sublime colors from Brian Haberlin and Steve Firchow bring it all home.

The Darkness *[1996] #3,* cover art by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt "Batt" Banning**, **Steve Firchow**
By this time, The Angelus had become a breakout character in the series, and fans couldn't get enough of her; since we're all about the fans, this cover had to happen! I also really like her attitude here, like she's doing an Instagram post showing off her latest prize. The shape of her wings made for a nice composition leading up into the Darkness logo that would be on the printed cover. I'm also a big fan of letting the villain take center stage once in a while.





The Darkness *[1996] #7,* cover A, art by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt "Batt" Banning**, **Steve Firchow**
I do love me some Darklings! One of my favorite things about the book is its twisted sense of humor. Sure, Jackie had lots of cutting one-liners, but the wacky antics of his crew as they gleefully tore his enemies apart were always a highlight for me. My love of old-school 'Looney Tunes' cartoons as well as the 'Calvin and Hobbes' comic strips really influenced the way I drew these demonic knuckleheads. More awesome inks by BATT and colors by Steve Firchow!

Witchblade *[1995] #18 "Family Ties"* crossover Part 1, cover A, art by **Michael Turner, Marc Silvestri**, **Matt "Batt" Banning**, **Steve Firchow**
Anytime I got the chance to collaborate with the great Michael Turner was a reason to celebrate, and this cover was no exception (I even have the original hanging over my desk)! Mike's rendition of Sara was always peak, and I remember this cover being really fun to draw. Add in the talents of BATT, Steve Firchow, D-Tron and JD Smith, and you can't miss!





The Darkness *[2002] #6,* cover art by **Dale Keown**, **Matt Milla**
I've always loved his version of Jackie but throw in a couple of his demonic pets on their evening walkies and I dare you to try and wipe the smile off my face! Yet another great example of "Do whatever you want"! I love it!

The Darkness *[2002] #11,* cover art by **Dale Keown**, **Matt Milla**
Another killer cover from Dale Keown. What can I say about Dale Keown that hasn't already been said? The guy just never misses and this startling shot of Jackie proves that. It just screams at you from across the comic shop! With Dale, we usually just told him: "Do whatever you want, man!" and what came in always blew the studio away. As I said, dude never missed.





The Darkness [2025] #9, cover A, art by **Björn Barends**
Björn Barends understood the assignment and gave us this modern classic filled with mood and dramatic lighting. Everything that's cool about Jackie is right here. Attitude, Darkness, and the tools of his trade, made of steel and supernatural nightmares. Björn brings it all in one image!

These pieces presented in full on the following pages...


BRIAN
STEVE


SIL
VES
TRI
BATI
STEVE


SIL
UES
TRI
BAT


SIL VES TRI
MICHAEL TURNER
BATT
D-TRON
JD SMITH '97