

The Coveter

Issue 1

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PAGE ONE (FIVE PANELS)

Panel 1. This panel fills the top of the page. Night shot of the castle. Lightning scorches the sky above it. The wind drives the rain to batter the stone. It pushes the sea to crest the cliff and slap at the castle.

CAPTION: EWART GLENN CASTLE HOTEL, EWART GLENN, NY

SFX: CRACK! RUMBLE!

Castle reference: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/f8/71/66/f871669ce21cf7feb65f7980eb7e54d9.jpg>

Panel 2. Bathroom: Large tiled bathroom with enclosed glass shower. ALEXANDRA KENDRICK, aka Alex, mid-30's, Scottish/Italian, green-eyed, auburn shoulder-length hair, athletic female, stands under a steaming hot shower.

Master Bathroom shower reference:

<http://hotels.about.com/od/disneyworld/ig/Saratoga-Springs/Master-Bathroom-Grand-Villa.htm#step-heading>

2 CAP:

Owner's Suite Bathroom

Panel 3: Alex's hand freezes just outside the shower door, in the process of grabbing the towel. She hears something outside.

SFX: CREAK! SQUEAK! SQUEAK! SQUEAK!

Panel 4: Alex steps out wrapped in a towel, stares at the mirror.

Panel 5: Close up of bathroom mirror with message that reads: "THOSE WHO DON'T APPRECIATE WHAT THEY HAVE LOSE IT. MISSING SOMETHING?"

Master Bathroom mirror reference:

http://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g34515-d483299-i121424944-Disney_s_Saratoga_Springs_Resort_Spa-Orlando_Florida.html

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PAGE TWO

Panel 1: This panel should take up the bottom portion of the page. The message is replaced with the image of her three children (two girls and a boy), her husband, and dog playing outside the castle. The man, NEIL KENDRICK, is in his mid 30's with curly dark hair, brown eyes. The oldest girl, OLIVIA, 12, has curly brown hair and a round face. The other girl, ALVA, 7, has curly, red hair and a round face. The boy, ELVIN, 9, had straight red hair around a square face. All are wearing jeans and jackets in difference to the fall season. Behind the happy family is the ghostly outline of the woman previously seen in the window of the south tower. Her arms stretch out as if to capture the entire family.

Panel 2: Close up on Alex's shocked and horrified face.

ALEX: (OP)

NO!

PAGE THREE (FIVE PANELS)

Panel 1: Alex bolts up in bed, clutching the covers to her breasts. A bolt of lightning can be seen in the window above the bed. Beside her, Neil sleeps soundly.

CAPTION: MASTER BEDROOM, LATE NIGHT.

Panel 2: Alex drops her head into her hands.

ALEX:

Just a dream. It wasn't real. They're safe.

GHOST/GRIZEL: (OP)

Are they?

Panel 3: Alex, wearing a tank top, pajama pants, and tennis shoes leans over and kisses her husband's cheek.

Panel 4: Alex peeks through a bedroom door. Light from the hallway falls on her children's sleeping faces. The youngest sleep in a set of bunk beds against the far wall. Olivia is half under the covers of a twin bed closer to the door.

CAPTION: KIDS' ROOM

Panel 5: Close up of Neil in bed. The pillow next to him bares a head impression. The air around his mouth and nose is fogged. Goosebumps appear on the exposed flesh of his arms, shoulders, cheeks, and forehead.

CAPTION: MEANWHILE, BACK IN ALEX'S BEDROOM

NEIL:

Alex?

PAGE FOUR (NINE PANELS)

Panel 1: Library: Alex leans against a pink settee in the library staring at a portrait of a family. On either side of the settee are small tables with desk lamps on them. On one table, Alex's flashlight sits. The portrait is flanked by floor to ceiling stained glass windows covered with plastic. There is a fire burning in the recessed marble fireplace on the far wall. A shadow falls across Alex from the open doorway.

CAPTION: LIBRARY 3 AM

Panel 2: Neil stands in the doorway, flashlight in his hand.

NEIL:

What are you doing down here?

ALEX: (OP)

Sorry, did I wake you?

Panel 3: Neil leans on the settee next to Alex. His flashlight now sits next to hers on the table.

NEIL:

I woke up to a cold spot.

Panel 4: Close up on Alex's shocked face.

ALEX:

She was there!

Panel 5: Close up on Neil's face.

NEIL:

What are you talking about?

PAGE FOUR (CONTINUED)

Panel 6: Alex points to the portrait of the family. We are looking at the couple from behind focusing more on the portrait of the family. In the center, a regal looking woman sits. She shares the same features as Alex. Her dress is indicative of the 1800s with a high neck and long skirt. Her hair is tightly bound on top of her head. Various children sit spread at her feet, with stoutly men and gentile women surrounding her.

ALEX:

Chase asked me if I recognized the ghost in the mirror. I came back down to have a look.

NEIL:

Why not take a picture a look at it on the laptop in full detail?

ALEX:

Chase claimed he tried that. The pictures came out fuzzy.

NEIL:

Let me try.

Panel 7: Neil takes pictures of the portrait and the room with his cellphone.

SFX: CLICK. CLICK.

NEIL:

Done. Let's go see what we can find.

Panel 8: At the entrance to the library, the sliding glass and wood, pocket doors slam shut in their faces. Alex and Neil stop short.

SFX: SLAM!

NEIL:

What the...?

PAGE FOUR (CONTINUED)

Panel 9: The room is dark now. The lights and fire have been extinguished. Illumination comes from their flashlights and the lightning outside. The temperature has dropped drastically. Their breaths can be seen in the light of their flashlights. From the phone on Alex's hip, Alva calls for help.

ALEX:

I don't think she likes your idea.

ALVA: (OP)

Mommy! Help, Mommy! Where are you?

PAGE FIVE (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: Library: Neil and Alex tug on the handles of the doors. Books and lamps fly towards them.

ALEX:

We've got to get to the kids. What is it with this ghost and locked doors?

NEIL:

Does it give you a clue to who the ghost is?

ALEX:

Duck!

Panel 2: Neil and Alex crouch behind a settee. Above their heads, books bounce off the walls. Lamps bob up and down like hammers waiting to play bop the weasel. From their cellphone speakers, their children cry for help.

ALVA: (OP)

Mommy! Where are you?

ELVIN:

Daddy! I'm scared. Please, help me.

Panel 3: Alex grabs one of the flying lamps and bats at the others with it. Neil grabs another lamp and swats at flying books. Back to back, they battle the flying debris.

ALEX:

Enough of this shit.

NEIL:

Head for the door.

Panel 4: Neil bends low at the door, arm swung back. Alex stands in front of him, protecting him from flying objects.

NEIL:

Watch out.

PAGE FIVE (CONTINUED)

Panel 5: Close up of the bottom half of the door as Neil uses his Maglite flashlight and leg to smash and kick through the glass and wood frame.

SFX: CRASH! CRUNCH!

NEIL: (OP)

You first.

Panel 6: Close up of Alex half way through the opening in the door.

Panel 7: Close of Neil crawling after Alex. Books fall behind him.

Panel 8: Close up of portrait in library. A fire begins on the regal woman's face.

PAGE SIX (SIX PANELS)

Panel 1: Front main hall: Alex and Neil run down the red carpeted hallway to the main staircase.

CAPTION: FRONT MAIN HALL

ALEX:

We've got to get to the kids.

NEIL:

The main stairs will be the fastest.

Panel 2: Alex and Neil stop short just shy of the main staircase, frozen in fear.

ALEX:

Oh, hell no!

Panel 3: The staircase, lit only by a few wall sconces, is covered in a waterfall of red, beady-eyed rats.

SFX: EEK! EEK!

Panel 4: Alex and Neil run away from the staircase, chased by the rats.

ALEX:

The back stairs. Hurry!

Panel 5: Alex and Neil run through a doorway.

Panel 6: They slam the door shut behind them, ignoring the scratching rats on the other side.

SFX: SLAM!

SFX: SCRATCH! SCRATCH!

PAGE SEVEN (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: Back staircase. This is a circular stone staircase with platform landings on every level. Alex and Neil stand at the bottom of the stairs, the wooden access door, closed and bolted with a wooden plank, behind them. They are pointing their flashlights up the staircase, looking for dangers. From their phones, their children call to them.

CAPTION: BACK STAIRCASE

ALVA: (OP)

Mommy! Where are you?

ELVIN: (OP)

Daddy! I'm scared. Please, help me.

Panel 2: The pair run up the stairs. From above a legion of bats descend down.

SFX: SCREECH! SCREECH!

Panel 3: Close up of their faces, looking up in terror!

Panel 4: They are on the second floor landing. Next to the wooden door, there is a small placard that reads: "2nd Floor". Neil yanks on the old rung handle trying to get the door open.

NEIL:

I hate bats.

Panel 5: The door opens. A dead body hangs in front of it, blocking their escape. The woman wears a pink teddy with the words "HOME WRECKER" written in blood on it. Her eyes and tongue bulge from a purple bluish face. Her blonde, shoulder length hair is a tangled mess around her head. In one hand, she is holding a man's head by its brown hair. In the other hand, she holds a pink mass. Beneath her, we see the outline of another body.

PAGE SEVEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 6: Neil's hand is frozen on the door. His face is filled with horror.

NEIL:
AAAAHHHHH!!!

Panel 7: Alex pushes Neil into the body and through the door.

ALEX:
Move!

Panel 8: Alex pulls the door closed. The bats crash into it.

SFX: SLAM!

SFX: THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

PAGE EIGHT (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: An angry Neil turns pointing a finger at an annoyed looking Alex, who points to the side.

CAPTION: SECOND FLOOR, NORTH WING

NEIL:

Don't ever push me into a dead body again! You may be used to corpses from your time in Afghanistan, but I'm not!

ALEX:

First, no one ever gets used to dead bodies. Second, I figured you'd prefer this to the bats.

Panel 2: Neil, using his arm to cover his nose and mouth, steps closer to the bodies to look at them. We see now that the body beneath the woman's is decapitated. It is wearing boxers and a white T-shirt. On the shirt, written in blood, are the words: "HE WILL TELL NO TALES!"

NEIL:

I'm not sure which I prefer at the moment. I thought this ghost was after us. Why kill the Sheridans?

Panel 3: Alex studies the woman's body closer.

ALEX:

I don't know.

NEIL: (OP)

They've been here a week. Why now?

Panel 4: Lightning outside the hall window behind the bodies illuminates the woman's hanging body, casting everything else into shadow.

SFX: RUMBLE! CRASH!

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Panel 5: Alex turns to Neil. The corpses lie in the background.

ALEX:

Do you see what she is holding?

NEIL:

What?

Panel 6: A close up of the woman's clutched hands. In the right is the head. Its mouth is agape and bloody. In her left hand is the tongue that has been cut out.

ALEX: (OP)

His tongue.

NEIL: (OP)

EEEWWWW!!!!

Panel 7: Back to board view of the hall and characters.

ALEX:

What room were the Sheridan's in?

NEIL:

The Mulberry Suite, South Wing. Why?

Panel 8: Alex and Neil run down the corridor. The walls are stone. There are arched windows every ten feet and old gas wall sconces, which light the way, between the windows. Beneath their feet, an old embroidered runner runs the length of the hall.

ALEX:

I think I know who our ghost is and why she killed them. I just need to check Chase's research.

NEIL:

What about the kids?

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ALEX:

She won't harm innocent children.

PAGE NINE (SIX PANELS)

Panel 1: At a T- junction in the hallway, a gust of cold wind picks them up and sends them flying towards the stone wall.

SFX: WHOOSH!

GHOST/GRIZEL: (OP)
HA! HA! HA! HA!

Panel 2: Alex and Neil pick themselves up from the floor against the far wall.

NEIL:
You were saying?

ALEX:
We're the enemy. The kids aren't. Let's go.

Panel 3: They fight to open a door. On the door is a placard that reads "MULBERRY SUITE".

CAPTION: MULBERRY SUITE, SOUTH WING

NEIL:
It's jammed.

ALEX:
Kick it in. Quickly!

Panel 4: Close up of the door, as their feet continuously makes contact with it.

SFX: THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

Panel 5: The door swings open. Behind it is a large, swirling black hole.

Panel 6: Neil's fingers just miss the edge of the door frame as his body is pulled into the vacuum of the black hole.

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NEIL:

ALEX!!!!

PAGE TEN (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: Alex grabs the door handle and reaches for Neil. Their finger tips cling. Her body is suspended in the air.

ALEX:
Hold on!

NEIL:
I'm slipping!

ALEX:
Grab my leg!

Panel 2: Close up of Neil suspended in air, biceps bulging as they fight against the vortex's vacuum to grasp Alex's pant leg.

Panel 3: Close up of pant leg as Neil hangs on with both hands, suspended in air due to vortex vacuum.

Panel 4: View of the pair from inside the room, looking out the door. A nest of vipers sits on the other side of the door frame.

SFX: HISS! HISS!

Panel 5: Close up on Alex's terrorized face. Eyes wide with fear. Mouth open in panic.

SFX: HISS! HISS!

Panel 6: Alex holds onto the door. Her focus is on the snakes slithering towards her. Behind her, her pants and Neil slide towards the vortex.

NEIL:
Alex, your pants!

PAGE TEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 7: Neil's body, arms extended, clutching Alex's pants, is in the middle of the swirling vortex. In the corner of the frame is Alex's hand desperately trying to reach Neil.

ALEX:
NEIL!!!!

Panel 8: Vortex collapses into a tiny dot.

PAGE ELEVEN (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: Alex, sans pants, lays on the floor by the door, still holding door handle. The nest of snakes advance towards her.

SFX: HISS! HISS!

Panel 2: Door closed. Alex shoves a throw rug under the door.

SFX: SLAM!

SFX: HISS! HISS!

Panel 3: Alex sitting on the floor, her back against a desk, knees drawn up. Her head on her knees, crying.

SFX: SNIFF! SNIFF!

GHOST/GRIZEL:
MINE! MINE! MINE!

Panel 4: MULBERRY SUITE Sitting Room: The room is normal again. It looks like a normal sitting room of any hotel geared towards the Medieval theme. Alex stands in the middle of the room, wiping her eyes.

CAPTION: MULBERRY SUITE SITTING ROOM

GHOST/GRIZEL:
MINE! MINE! MINE!

ALEX:
Like hell they are!

Panel 5: MULBERRY SUITE Bedroom: The bedroom is a typical bedroom with a queen size bed, dresser with mirror, bureau, and closet. Alex searches through the closet. A pair of jogging pants sit next to her.

CAPTION: MULBERRY SUITE BEDROOM

PAGE ELEVEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 6: Alex sits on the floor, wearing the jogging pants that were sitting next to her in the previous panel. On her lap is an open laptop.

Panel 7: Close up on computer screen. It shows a very complicated, interactive family tree with the name "McTaggart Family Tree" on top". The mouse button lingers over one leaf.

ALEX:
There you are.

Panel 8: Alex, a computer bag strap across the front of her body, and the bag draping by her backside, exits the suite.

PAGE TWELVE (NINE PANELS)

Panel 1: North Tower Master Suite Sitting Room: The room is a modest sitting room with two high back chairs of crushed red velvet, a red crushed velvet settee, and small coffee table in front of a cold fireplace. A wardrobe lies against the far wall. The windows are surrounded by crushed velvet curtains. A rocking chair sits in front of one of the windows. Grizel, the ghost, sits in the rocking chair, knitting. Alex enters the room, sans the computer bag.

CAPTION: NORTH TOWER MASTER SUITE SITTING ROOM

ALEX:
Hello, Grizel.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
Aren't you the clever one? Did you figure that out all by yourself or did you get help?

ALEX:
We all need help.

Panel 2: Close up of Grizel's face inches from Alex's. Grizel's face is full of fury.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
I don't need anyone!

ALEX:
Except my family.

Panel 3: Grizel stands next to the window, looking out at the rain. Her reflection stares back at her.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
You don't deserve them. All you've done is yell at your kids and foist them off on that home wrecker.

PAGE TWELVE (CONTINUED)

Panel 4: The two women stand in the middle of the room about two feet separating them. Grizel's face is full of resentment. Alex's posture is nonchalant.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

You're just like *HER*!

ALEX:

You mean your sister, Eavan. The one Tavish O'Holland preferred over you.

Panel 5: Exterior scene of the castle shaking, sliding off the cliff.

Panel 6: Electricity surrounds Grizel as she begins to float above the floor.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

She was a spoiled, ungrateful brat! All she did was complain. The baby cried too much. The kids were too loud. Her husband wanted too much. She didn't appreciate what she had.

ALEX:

So you killed her.

Panel 7: Grizel's hair stands straight up away from her head. Electricity running through it as if she were attached to a live wire.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

She stole my life!

ALEX:

So your revenge is to steal others?

Panel 8: Focus on Grizel's determined face.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

Until all they're bloodline have been erased, or the last stone of this castle no longer stands, I will kill them all!

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PAGE TWELVE (CONTINUED)

Panel 9: Close up of Alex's face. A small smirk hidden behind her hand in a pretend yawn.

ALEX: (THOUGHT)

Now I know how to get rid of you.

PAGE THIRTEEN (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: Alex leans against the arm of the settee, in a relaxed position. Her arms are crossed under her breasts. Grizel floats above the rocking chair, electricity still radiating from her body.

ALEX:

Revenge is boring, Grizel. Why don't you just give up the ghost and live the rest of your afterlife peacefully?

Panel 2: Grizel fills the panel. Electricity surrounds her.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

How dare you! You never appreciated what you had.

Panel 3: Alex looks unimpressed.

ALEX:

What is it I had?

GHOST/GRIZEL:

You had a family!

ALEX:

I still have them!

GHOST/GRIZEL:

No! I have them!

Panel 4: Alex smiles at Grizel.

ALEX:

Wanna bet? I found them, Grizel. They're safely away from you.

Panel 5: Electric bolts shoot from Grizel's hands. Alex dives out of the way.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

You LIE!

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PAGE THIRTEEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 7: Alex peers from behind the settee.

ALEX:

In two hundred years of haunting this place, you didn't find that hidden staircase in the closet?

Panel 8: Grizel floats through a far wall leaving Alex in the room alone.

PAGE FOURTEEN (EIGHT PANELS)

Panel 1: Exterior shot of the castle as it is lashed by the storm and slowly slips further into the sea.

Panel 2: Grizel floats through the wall electrified and furious. Her form has increased in size. The electricity surrounding her hits every wall. Alex's body flies through the air, hitting the far wall.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

Where are they? Give me back my family! Or else....

ALEX: (THOUGHT)

Didn't see that coming.

Panel 2: Alex stands shaking her head, adopts a fighting stance.

ALEX:

Bring it. I was a POW in an Al-Qaeda camp for three months. If they couldn't break me, there no way I'm gonna let you do it.

GHOST/GRIZEL:

We'll see about that.

Panel 3: Alex's body spins in the air, bounces from one side of the room to the other, then goes flying out the window, feet first.

Panel 4: Alex hangs onto the billowing velvet curtain out the shattered window. Lightning bolts zing past her suspended body. Rain and wind batter her as she fights to hold on and return to the safety of the castle. One lightning bolt hits her hip. Another bolt sears her bicep.

GHOST/GRIZEL: (OP)

Let go! You deserve to die!

Panel 5: Alex pulls herself up over the ledge of the window, swings onto the roof.

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ALEX:

Maybe someday. But not today.

PAGE FOURTEEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 6: Alex falls onto the roof. Looks down to see the cliffside crumbling below.

ALEX: (THOUGHT)
Need to make her angrier.

ALEX: (BURST)
Is that all you got, Grizel? Come on, I know you can do better.

Panel 7: A ghostly white hand shoots up right in front of Alex's face.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
Get in here!

Panel 8: Alex jumps back, evading the hand.

ALEX:
Not a chance.

PAGE FIFTEEN (NINE PANELS)

Panel 1: Full frame of Grizel. Face is focused. Eyes are closed. Arms stretched above her head, pointed at the ceiling. She floats two feet above the floor. Her hair stands straight out from her head like Liberty's crown. Electricity surrounds her like a bright aura. The closer to her, the brighter the aura. She is gathering strength and energy.

Panel 2: Full view of the tower room. Grizel is center. Lightning is shooting from her hands through the roof. Around her, all objects in the room draw closer to her. We see objects in other rooms and from the hall being pulled towards her energy.

Panel 3: Exterior shot of the castle. Remaining cliffside has crumbled. Castle splinters as it hits the sea.

Panel 4: Alex slips through the hole Grizel has created in the roof.

GHOST/GRIZEL: (OP)
Now you will die!

Panel 5: The room is quickly filling with water. Alex stands in knee-high water several feet from Grizel. She points down. Grizel looks momentarily stunned.

ALEX:
So will you.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
What have you done?

ALEX:
You're own greed has destroyed you and your castle.

Panel 6: The water is now at Alex's chest. She moves closer to the hole in the ceiling. Grizel is in a midair leap towards Alex.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
I'm not dying alone.

PAGE FIFTEEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 7: Close up of Grizel half in/half out of the water.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
AAARRGGGHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!

ALEX: (OP)
Stings, doesn't it. It's salt water. You're done, Grizel. Your vendetta is over.

Panel 8: Grizel stands, melting in the water.

GHOST/GRIZEL:
No! This isn't the way its suppose to end! I'm supposed to win!

Panel 9: Alex grabs the sides of the hole in the roof, pulls herself up and through the water that is rushing in.

ALEX:
You lose, Grizel! Enjoy the afterlife.

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PAGE SIXTEEN (7 PANELS)

Panel 1: Underwater shot of the castle crumbling and sinking. Bubbles escape from the hole in the roof. A figure is seen swimming away from the sinking wreckage.

Panel 2: Alex treads water. Rain pounds the turbulent surface of the sea.

Panel 3: Twin beams of light pierce the grey curtain of rain. Alex swims along their path to the shore.

Panel 4: On shaky, tired legs she drags herself up the rocky coastline to the grassy knoll. Her children and husband can be seen at the edge of the frame running towards her.

Panel 5: Her son and youngest daughter reach her first, hug her.

ALVA:
Mommy.

ELVIN:
Mommy.

Panel 6: Olivia and Neil join in the group hug.

OLIVIA:
Are you okay, Mom?

NEIL:
You scared me half to death, honey.

ALEX:
I'm... I'm okay.

PAGE SIXTEEN (CONTINUED)

Panel 7: Group stands close but separate.

OLIVIA:
Is she...?

ALEX:
She's gone.

OLIVIA:
Good riddance.

ALVA:
Can we go home now?

ALEX:
Home sounds pretty good to me. Home with my family.