

Nightress Issue 1 “Amante”

Page 1 – 3 horizontal panels stacked

Panel 1

EXT. COURTROOM, DAY: We see a courtroom in the middle of a busy downtown. Dialogue balloon points to a window indicating the Juror is speaking inside the building.

CAPTION: In downtown Dominion City, a decision is made.

JUROR: On the count of murder in the second degree...

Panel 2

INT. COURTROOM: In the packed courtroom, a diminutive man sits next to his lawyer and waits for the verdict.

JUROR: We find the defendant...

Panel 3

Close up view of the back of the defendant’s head as he slumps in his seat when the verdict is read.

JUROR: ...guilty.

Page 2

Panel 1

INT. COURTROOM, the murderer is led out of the courtroom through a back hallway.

Panel 2

Side view of dark hallway as murderer hangs his head and walks in chains with officers behind.

Panel 3

They continue to walk past a door that is slightly ajar with light behind it.

Panel 4

After passing the door, a voice calls out from inside. The officers turn while the murderer continues to stare downward.

VOICE: Officers? Bring him in here, please.

Page 3

Panel 1

INT. SMALL ROOM; RILEY, A portly, balding man with glasses, a mustache/goatee, and a ponytail is sitting at a desk with a few folders in front of him. The murderer stands in the doorway, looking at Riley without raising his head.

RILEY: Could you please sit down?

Panel 2

The murderer is sitting down across from Riley as the officers stand near the door. Riley is looking through his files, barely regarding the killer sitting across the table from him.

RILEY: You are dismissed officers. I will handle the rest of this transfer.

Panel 3

The murderer turns in shock as the officers close the door, leaving him alone with Riley.

RILEY: Now that they're gone, we can get to business.

MURDERER: Wait, you can't kill me here. I get an appeal.

Panel 4

Riley smiles and hands him a folder.

RILEY: I'm not killing you. (PAUSE) In fact, my boss just saved your life.

Page 4

Panel 1

INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE IN HIGHRISE, DAY; Vitana Morgan, a stern looking business woman, is sitting in her office which is surrounded by windows that overlook downtown Dominion City. An advisor is standing near her as she examines documents.

ADVISOR: Ms. Morgan, Riley has retrieved the target.

VITANA: Good news. Our officers were there?

ADVISOR: Yes, they pulled it off perfectly.

Panel 2

Vitana looks at a picture of the murderer.

VITANA: Telekinesis, correct?

ADVISOR: Yes Ms. Morgan.

VITANA: Good.

Panel 3

Vitana picks up a different folder with a picture of Mr Sanders, Mrs Sanders, and Sonia Sanders clipped to the front.

VITANA: Any word on the Sanders family?

ADVISOR: ...

Panel 4

Vitana starts to become annoyed.

VITANA: Sorry, I didn't hear you.

ADVISOR: They, um, left a few days ago.

VITANA: Left?

Panel 5

The advisor shifts a step away from her. Vitana stands up.

ADVISOR: We're not sure what happened. They must have learned we were pursuing them.

VITANA: No kidding.

Panel 6

Vitana walks toward the window as the Advisor anxiously continues.

ADVISOR: They were seen leaving town. Possibly--

VITANA: Were they alone?

ADVISOR: I'm sorry?

VITANA: Was their daughter with them?

ADVISOR: No. She wasn't.

Page 5 – 2 panels, 1 small at top and 1 large at bottom

Panel 1

Vitana looks out the window down onto the city. The advisor looks at her nervously.

ADVISOR: What would you like us to do, Ms. Morgan?

VITANA: Find the girl. Now.

Panel 2

(INT. CONFERENCE ROOM; We see an overhead view of a conference room with several official-looking people sitting around a large conference table as a teenage girl--**Sonia Sanders**--and an attractive, athletic middle-aged woman--her aunt, **Amelia**--sits off to the side of the room listening. The girl appears dazed and tired while her aunt listens to the conversation with a stern, but nervous, look on her face. The table is covered with documents and photos. All we see are bits and pieces of the conversation in random dialogue balloons.)

RANDOM DIALOGUE: ...Mr & Mrs. Sanders...

...disappearance...

...criminal connection...

...no evidence...

...just a kid...

...she's scared...

...a pretty good act...

...police custody...

...flight risk...

...she's only sixteen...

Page 6 - 5 Horizontal Panels; 1x5

Panel 1

(EXT. DUSK; We see a wide shot of a pickup truck driving away from downtown. From inside, a dialogue balloon shows Amelia speaking from the driver's seat)

AMELIA: You okay?

Panel 2

(We see Amelia and Sonia sitting in the front seat of the truck. Amelia is driving as Sonia stares out the passenger window)

AMELIA: Sonia? You okay?

SONIA (small voice): yeah.

Panel 3

(Same view of front seat. Amelia is looking out the driver's window now, her eyes tearing)

AMELIA: I'm sorry. That was a dumb question. (PAUSE) Of course you're not okay.

SONIA: I won't run

Panel 4

(Close up of Sonia still looking out the window, and we see Amelia looking at her from the drivers seat.)

AMELIA: What?

SONIA: I heard them. Why would I run?

Panel 5

(Back to the earlier view of the front seat with Sonia looking out the window and Amelia looking at the road.)

AMELIA: Those people just talk to sound important, but they don't know anything. We can talk

more about it tomorrow, but tonight we both need to get some rest.

Page 7 - 4 panels; 2x2

Panel 1

(INT. AMELIA'S LIVING ROOM; Sonia is sitting on Amelia's couch looking through a book of photos as Amelia is in the kitchen washing dishes.)

AMELIA: How did you like dinner?

SONIA: It was fine. (Pause) This is you, isn't it?

Panel 2

(Looking over Sonia's shoulder, we see the photo album with pictures of Amelia in full pro wrestling gear, including the Nightress mask.)

AMELIA: Ha! I forgot those were in there. That, my girl, is the former Puerto Rican women's wrestling champion.

SONIA: Oh. She looks a lot like you.

Panel 3

(Amelia starts to dig through a nearby drawer.)

AMELIA: She is me! Your mama never told you about her luchadora sister?

SONIA: No. That's awesome!

Panel 4

(Amelia is putting something over her head.)

AMELIA: Si, mi amor. No one ever messed with...

Page 8 - 6 panels; 2x3

Panel 1

(Amelia turns to reveal her masked persona.)

AMELIA: AMANTE!

Panel 2

(Sonia is laughing as Amelia gives her a playful scowl.)

AMELIA: Stop that! Amante is supposed to be intimidating.

SONIA: Sorry, Aunt Amelia, but doesn't Amante mean "Mistress"?

Panel 3

(Amelia holds the mask in her hand as she looks wistfully at it)

AMELIA: Yeah. I was supposed to be the Mistress of the Night, but the "de la Noche" part didn't stick and I became "Amante." But I was so good, no one ever gave me a hard time. Until now.

Panel 4

(Amelia puts the mask in the drawer)

SONIA: Don't be mad. You realize it's at least kinda funny, right?

AMELIA: Whatever, it's time for you to go to bed.

Panel 5

(Before she closes the drawer, Sonia hands Amelia a watch)

SONIA: Can you put this in there too?

AMELIA: This is your dad's, isn't it?

SONIA: Yeah, it's the only thing I could grab before I left.

Panel 6

(Amelia closes the drawer)

AMELIA: His watch will be safe in here. Amante will protect it.

Page 9 - 4 Panels; 2x2

Panel 1

(INT. AMELIA'S GUEST BEDROOM; Sonia is in bed as Amelia stands in the bedroom doorway.)

AMELIA: Try to get some sleep, okay?

SONIA: I'll try.

Panel 2

(Amelia turns out Sonia's light, with only the light from the hallway illuminating Sonia's face)

SONIA: Aunt Amelia. (PAUSE) I'm glad I'm here.

AMELIA: Me too. Good night.

Panel 3

(Sonia lies awake in bed, thinking)

SONIA (thought): Mom...Dad...I don't know where you are or if you can hear me, but--

Panel 4

(Sonia sits up straight in bed when she hears a crash outside her room.)

SONIA (whispering): Amelia!

Page 10

Panel 1

(INT. AMELIA'S LIVING ROOM; Sonia peeks outside of her room, and she sees a group of four guys, dressed in dark colors ransacking her Aunt's living room. They're all wearing hats and sunglasses, but she see's one of them is wearing earbuds)

SONIA (thought): My watch!!!

Panel 2

(Sonia crawls over to the drawers where the watch is hidden as the burglars continue to make noise)

Panel 3

(She grabs the watch, and Amante's mask)

BURGLAR (from off panel): HEY!

Panel 4

(The men approach the drawers)

BURGLAR: What are you doin'?

Panel 5

(Sonia pops up wearing the mask)

SONIA: Stay away from me!

BURGLARS: HAHAAHAHAHA!

Panel 6

(The men charge as Sonia covers her face with her hands)

BURGLAR: GET HER!!

Page 11

Panel 1

(The men try to grab her in a flurry of activity)

BURGLAR 1: I have her!

BURGLAR 2: No, you don't! You got me!

Panel 2

(Sonia pops up on the other side of the room, still cowering from the men)

BURGLAR 3: What the--? She's over there!

Panel 3

(The men charge again. Amelia is now looking on in the background.)

AMELIA: SONIA! LOOK OUT!

Panel 4

(Sonia has disappeared, and the men look in all directions for her)

Page 12 - Single panel, full page

Panel 1

(Sonia is perched over their heads, clutching the ceiling fan. Sirens can be heard in the distance)

AMELIA: I just called 911, and that sure sounds like the police to me.

Page 13 - 4 panels

Panel 1

(Sirens still audible, three of the men are running for the door, but the one wearing the earbuds lingers and stares at Sonia while she jumps down to the floor. One of the other burglars yells over his shoulder)

BURGLAR 1: Come on, kid! We gotta go!

Panel 2

(The other burglar grabs the kid by his collar and drags him out of the house as the sirens get louder)

BURGLAR 1: COME ON!

Panel 3

(Amelia slams the door behind them as Sonia stands in the center of the room stunned, still wearing the mask)

Panel 4

(Amelia hugs Sonia as she still stands stunned)

AMELIA: Are you hurt?

SONIA: You were right. (PAUSE) She saved my dad's watch.

Page 14 - 4 panels, 1 half page and 1 row of three

Panel 1 - Half page

(INT. SONIA'S TRASHED LIVING ROOM; Police are cleaning up their gear after examining the scene. A cop is standing with Amelia as Sonia sits alone with the mask and her dad's watch in her hand.)

COP: Are you sure you want to stay here tonight?

AMELIA: Yeah. (PAUSE) We'll be fine.

COP: Well, call us if you see or hear anything strange.

Panel 2

(Cops gone, Amelia sits with Sonia on the couch as she keeps staring at the mask.)

AMELIA: I don't know what to tell you. I tried to protect you from all this, but I guess our world is different now.

SONIA: What did I just do?

Panel 3

(Sonia looks at Amelia as she speaks.)

AMELIA: Yeah, about that.

Panel 4

(Amelia puts her arm around Sonia.)

AMELIA: There's a lot you need to know about yourself...and your parents.