

THE 13TH LEEDS

A comic
written as

Dee C. Marvel

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PANEL 1: EXT. DISTANT VIEW OF A TWO-STORY COLONIAL STONE FARMHOUSE -- ADJACENT IS A FIELD BEING PLOWED AND SURROUNDED BY MILES OF PYGMY PITCH PINE AND WHITE CEDAR TREES -- DAY.

CAPTION:

The Pine Barrens, New Jersey 1735

PANEL 2: EXT. FIELD WITH FARMHOUSE IN THE BACKGROUND -- A BEARDED MAN (40) IN A QUAKER-STYLE HAT, BLACK COAT, WHITE SHIRT AND BLACK PANTS, WALKS BEHIND A PLOW AND SLAPS THE REINS TO ENCOURAGE THE OX TO PULL -- CHILDREN OF VARYING AGES FOLLOW AND SOW SEEDS.

CAPTION 1:

Meet Titan Leeds.

CAPTION 2:

Husband. Father. Farmer.

PANEL 3: INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM -- A WOMAN (LATE 30'S), DRESSED IN A WHITE HOUSE FROCK, HAS HER HANDS ON A SLIGHTLY DISTENDED BELLY WITH AN EXCLAMATION MARK ABOVE HER HEAD.

CAPTION 1:

Meet Jane.

CAPTION 2:

Wife of Titan. Mother of twelve.

PANEL 4: TITAN, STILL BEHIND THE PLOW, IS STARTLED WHEN HE HEARS THE A BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM OF "TITAN!" COMING FROM THE FARMHOUSE BEHIND HIM -- ALL THE CHILDREN LOOK TO THE HOUSE WITH CONCERNED EXPRESSIONS.

PANEL 5: INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM -- A PANICKED AND EXHAUSTED TITAN HOLDS THE DOOR OPEN -- A WIDE-EYED AND FRANTIC JANE GRIPS HIM BY THE LAPELS OF HIS COAT.

TITAN:

Jane? What's wrong?!

JANE:

You've gone and planted the thirteenth! Do you know what that means?

PANEL 6: SAME -- JANE AND TITAN HOLD EACH OTHER TIGHT AND LOCK LIPS IN AN OBSCENE KISS.

CAPTION 1:
Satanists.

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PANEL 1: EXT. BARNYARD -- NIGHT -- JANE, IN A WHITE GOWN, LIES ON HER BACK IN THE GRASS WITH ARMS SPREAD WIDE -- TITAN HOLDS A BLEEDING BILLY GOAT OVERTOP JANE -- A BONFIRE BURNS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TITAN:
Accept this bounty in Thy name.

PANEL 2: SAME -- TITAN HOLDS THE DECAPITATED HEAD OF THE BILLY GOAT BY THE HORNS OVER HIS HEAD -- BLOOD RUNS DOWN HIS ARMS AND ON HIS HEAD -- JANE AND HER TWELVE CHILDREN DANCE WILDLY AROUND A LARGE BONFIRE ALSO SPLASHED WITH THE GOAT'S BLOOD.

CAPTION 1:
Let the transfiguration begin.

PANEL 3: INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM -- JANE IS IN BED WITH KNEES UP, COVERED WITH A SHEET -- THE MIDWIFE IS AT THE FOOT OF THE BED, PREPARED FOR CHILDBIRTH -- THERE'S A FIRE IN THE FIREPLACE IN THE BACKGROUND.

MIDWIFE:
That's it, Mother Leeds. Now push...

CAPTION 1:
Pity the uninformed.

PANEL 3(INSET): SAME -- POV FROM JANE OF MIDWIFE FRAMED WITH KNEES -- THE MIDWIFE'S EXPRESSION HAS TURNED WIDE-EYED AND PUZZLED.

PANEL 4: SAME POV -- THE NOW HORRIFIED MIDWIFE HOLDS A THE BABY AT ARMS LENGTH -- THE BABY IS BRIGHT RED WITH A SHORT FORKED TAIL THAT DANGLES FROM IT'S REAR.

PANEL 5: INT. FARMHOUSE HALL -- TITAN IS STARTLED BY THE MIDWIFE'S SCREAM (AAAAAIIII!) AS HE PACES OUTSIDE THE BEDROOM DOOR.

PANEL 6: INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM -- TITAN STANDS IN THE OPEN DOORWAY -- THE MIDWIFE IS FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR IN A POOL OF BLOOD -- JANE, IN BLOODY SHEETS, HAS SAT UP IN BED WITH ARMS AROUND HER KNEES -- SHE WAILS.

JANE:
My child! Find my child!

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PANEL 1: SAME -- TITAN KNEELS BY JANE -- SHE POINTS TO A DARK CORNER OF THE ROOM BEHIND TITAN.

TITAN:
Where could it be?

JANE:
There!

PANEL 1(INSET): SAME -- HIGH IN A DARK CORNER IS THE DEVIL SPAWN -- FROM THE DARKNESS EXTENDS TWO TALONED HANDS THAT CLING TO THE WALLS -- RED EYES BLAZE IN THE DARKNESS.

PANEL 2: SAME -- POV FROM THE SPAWN IN THE DARK CORNER -- TITAN HOLDS HIS ARMS OUT TO THE SPAWN -- JANE SITS UP ANXIOUSLY IN BED.

TITAN:
Come to me, little one!

PANEL 3: SAME -- SIDE VIEW SILHOUETTE OF THE BEAST AS IT LEAPS THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS TITAN -- THE HEAD HAS A PROFILE OF A GOAT WITH SHORT HORN NUBS, SMALL UNDEVELOPED WINGS, TALONS AND CLOVEN HOOFS.

PANEL 4: SAME -- VIEW OF TITAN FROM THE BACK AS THE BEAST ATTACKS HIS NECK FROM THE FRONT -- NO CLEAR VIEW OF THE BEAST -- BLOODS SPRAYS AS TITAN TRIES TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

JANE:
No!

CAPTION 1:
Beware of what you wish for...

PANEL 5: SAME -- CLOSE UP OF FIREPLACE -- A RED FORKED TAIL IS THE ONLY SIGHT OF THE LEEDS CHILD AS IT ESCAPES THROUGH THE FIREPLACE AND UP THE CHIMNEY.

JANE:

Come back, my child!

PANEL 6: EXT. THE PINE BARRENS -- THE LEEDS CHILD, NOW FULL GROWN, IS SILHOUETTED IN A STAND OF PINE TREES OVERLOOKING A BUSY FREEWAY -- THE BEAST HAS A HORNED GOAT'S HEAD, LARGE LEATHERY WINGS, LONG-TALONED HANDS AND CLOVEN HOOFED FEET.

CAPTION 1:

Sightings of the 13th Leeds child, known now as the Jersey Devil, are still reported today.

CAPTION 2:

End