

JOE KING

Backroads

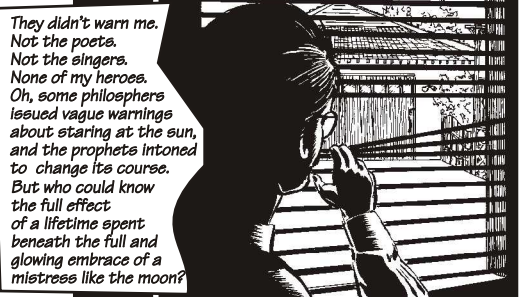
A GOTHIC ROMANCE -

OFF THE MAIN THOROUGHFARES OF LIFE -- AWAY FROM EVERYDAY CONCERNS -- YOU MAY FIND THAT WHICH HAS ELUDED YOU. WHAT YOU CHERISH MOST MAY BE WAITING ... ON THE BACK ROADS. AS THOUGH I'M CAUGHT IN A BITTERSWEET TWILIGHT ZONE, I'VE BECOME SUDDENLY AFRAID ... THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND MY WAY BACK TO THIS PLACE. BUT THE CAR KNOWS THE WAY. AND IT WILL KEEP ME SAFE ALL THE LONG WAY 'ROUND, 'TILL THIS ROAD BRINGS ME BACK -- TO THE FRIENDS I'VE YET TO SEE -- AND THOSE I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE AGAIN.



The recipient of several national and international design awards, his work is on display at the National Museum Of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. "That Joe Guy" is a member of the National Cartoonist Society, The National Press Club, The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, A Golden Mug winner and 2004 Pulitzer Prize Nominee for Editorial Journalism.

PROLOGUE - "THE KEEPSAKE"

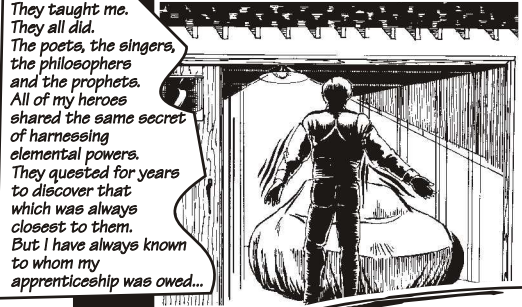


They didn't warn me. Not the poets. Not the singers. None of my heroes. Oh, some philosophers issued vague warnings about staring at the sun, and the prophets intoned to change its course. But who could know the full effect of a lifetime spent beneath the full and glowing embrace of a mistress like the moon?

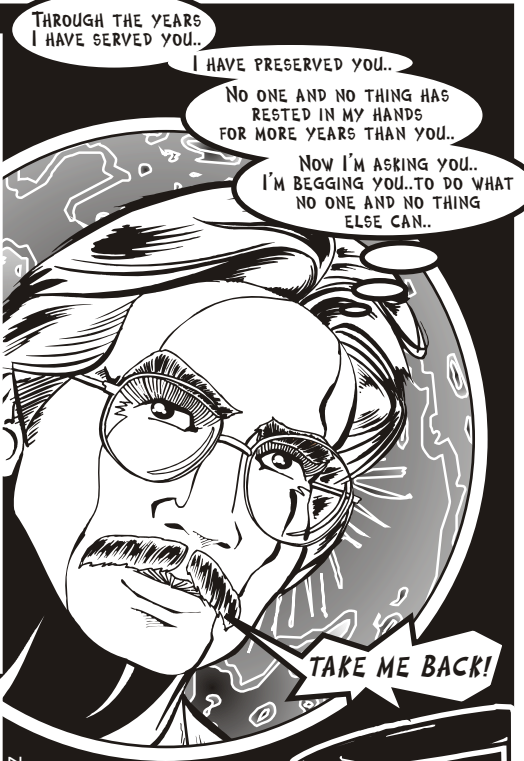


Always alone in a world where others sleep while I'm awake, she has been with me, watched over me, and kept my secret.

Like a genie in a bottle, waiting in the dark. Waiting for your master to summon your strength.



They taught me. They all did. The poets, the singers, the philosophers and the prophets. All of my heroes shared the same secret of harnessing elemental powers. They quested for years to discover that which was always closest to them. But I have always known to whom my apprenticeship was owed...



THROUGH THE YEARS I HAVE SERVED YOU.

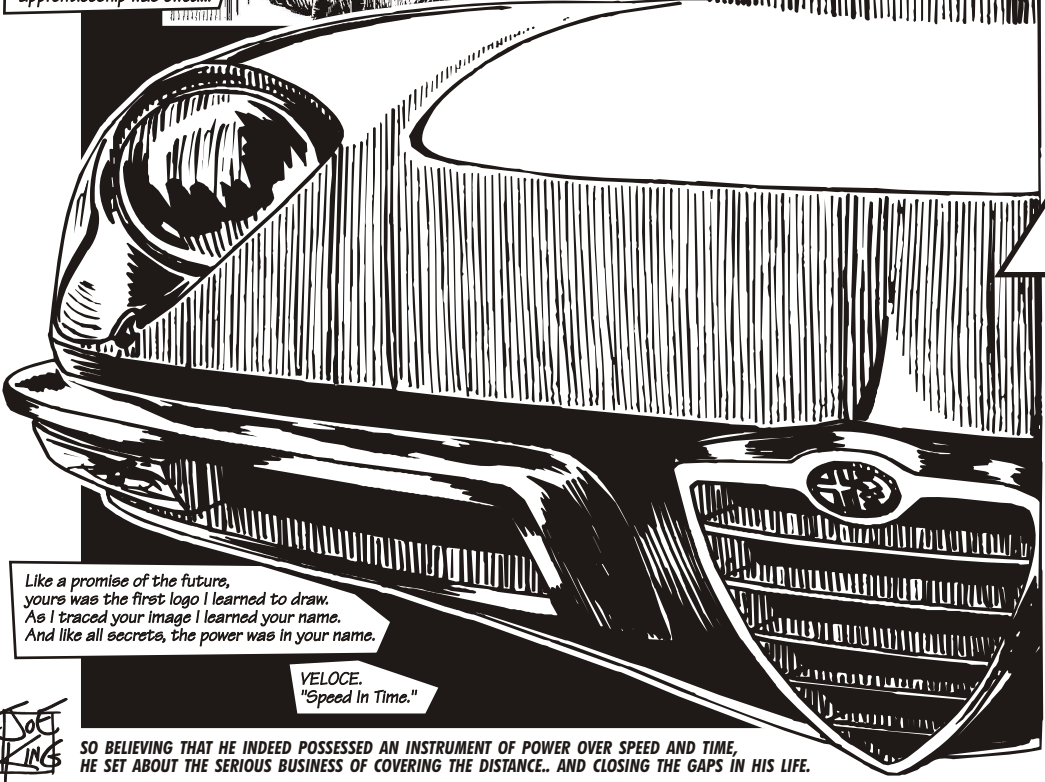
I HAVE PRESERVED YOU..

NO ONE AND NO THING HAS RESTED IN MY HANDS FOR MORE YEARS THAN YOU..

NOW I'M ASKING YOU.. I'M BEGGING YOU.. TO DO WHAT NO ONE AND NO THING ELSE CAN..

TAKE ME BACK!

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Like a promise of the future, yours was the first logo I learned to draw. As I traced your image I learned your name. And like all secrets, the power was in your name.

VELOCE. "Speed in Time."

JOE KING

SO BELIEVING THAT HE INDEED POSSESSED AN INSTRUMENT OF POWER OVER SPEED AND TIME, HE SET ABOUT THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF COVERING THE DISTANCE.. AND CLOSING THE GAPS IN HIS LIFE.

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