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## Offerings from Gentlemen

### An Adults-Only Comics Publisher

By [Wolfen Moondaughter](#)  
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(Trigger warning: some of the comics I'm discussing involve rape / sexual abuse.)


I actually first discovered **Gentlemen Comics** through a banner ad on another site, but coincidentally, a short time later, the company contacted **Tart**, asking us to review some titles. We were a little puzzled by it, as their name and tagline ("Comics For Men Not Boys") suggests that women aren't exactly their target audience. I'd actually already had a taste of one title, though, and while I have very mixed feelings about it, the things I liked about it were enough for me to decide to give samples sent a go (as well as catch up on that first title and try their other free-to-all title). Their assortment of comics doesn't seem to include any male / male interaction at all, as least from the stuff I've read, but if you like either male / female or female / female stories (I like those too), you'll probably find *something* to be at least moderately appealing here.

The one I'd initially tried on my own was one of their free comics, **Maya** (currently on its third "episode"), which tells of a secret agent whose cover is being a prostitute. The story is by Dark Mark, with art by Da Toy. The story-concept itself is admittedly a touchy subject, since so often



prostitution involves women who are coerced or even forced into the work when they are at the rock bottom of their life; glamourizing the occupation might read as insensitive. On the other hand, it can read as

empowering: if the person is *not* being coerced, works under safe conditions, and enjoys their job (how many people can say that?), why shouldn't "sex worker" be just as acceptable an occupation as anything else? And in this case, there's the bonus of it facilitating her work as an agent.



**Maya, Episode 1:  
Dressed to Kill**  
© Gentlemen Comics

The anatomy can be a bit wonky a lot of the time, like Maya having a waist that's almost "Jessica Rabbit"-thin (making her hips look wide enough to give birth to twins simultaneously) and balloon-y breasts, and making impossible poses (for example, the cover of the second "episode" has her standing at a mighty awkward angle just so that we can see up her skirt). Still, on the whole, I do like the art -- I think it's the colouring that really makes it work. Some of Maya's clients aren't exactly classically attractive, but I actually find that a refreshing change of pace.

With that in mind, I was pleased by the presence of a heavier-set prostitute at one point. At the same time, there are some issues involving her that could be disturbing if they were intentional. For one, when a couple of other prostitutes strip down to try to get a guy "up", she remains clothed as she attempts the same thing. Why? Is she to be considered not as attractive? While the text calls her lovely, the client seems less enthusiastic. Also worrying is the fact that the girls who got naked then -- one of them being Maya -- are of fairer skin; are we meant to feel that paler skin is more desirable? She does get naked later, so maybe it's nothing -- especially since she plays a role helping Maya out on a not-sex-oriented (but still sex-inclusive) escapade.

Still, the story takes place in India, but Maya is only half-Indian, and not only has pale skin but also red hair! Why have a starring-role Indian character look white? Why set it in India at all, then? I thought at first that the writer worried that depicting a person of colour a prostitute would be problematic, but since they had one anyway, perhaps not.

I find the presence of some reader-point-of-view panels annoying, personally -- but then again, as I noted, I'm not the target audience, and this *is* porn. I can't really fault a comic of this nature for pandering in an "imagine yourself having sex with this hot chick" kind of way.

As for the writing, the dialogue is usually engaging and fairly amusing, and the plots are interesting and well interwoven with the sex; you probably won't feel a need to "fast forward to the good stuff," so to speak. There is, however, an ongoing situation I find to be problematic,

involving an otherwise strong female being abused (non-sexually, at least) by a male of authority.

Spoiler time. The scene has emotions running all over the place and the dialogue is not as natural. Maya wants her "Mentor" to have sex with her, even though she considers him to be as a father to her. He insists that he's just her father's friend (never mind that a later scene has him sternly telling her that he's the head of her family now), but seems to feel as guilty about having sex with her as if he'd committed a taboo. Well, I suppose he *could* feel like he's betrayed his late friend by sleeping with the man's daughter, but he's also the one who sends her on these dangerous, sex-laden missions! Yet despite his reluctance to have *consensual* sex with her, and despite his insistence that he would do anything to protect her, he gets furious with her when she tries to refuse a mission, and seems to have no compunction about *hitting* her -- hard enough to give her a black eye. The scene felt off, especially compared to the rest of the story. Another, recent scene has her berating him for letting her be attacked one moment, then begging him to hold her and saying she feels safe in his arms the next. We know he's responsible for the beating, yet his only thought in response is that *maybe* he'd been too hard on her. I suppose every story needs some drama, and every protagonist a weakness, but it's a bit *overly* dramatic for me -- I can't decide if it's chilling or silly. But I at least appreciate that she does what she feels is right anyway, not letting her feelings for Mentor sway her to obeying his wishes.

The series also includes a variety of mild kinks -- for example, the first client we see Maya with has a foot fetish, and Maya gets to act in a dominant capacity with another client. I don't always care for the kinks myself, but I can appreciate the departure from vanilla sex. I was concerned when Maya seemed to be entering into a sex-slave situation (which I feared might lead to a rape scenario, and I don't care for rape as titillation), but it had an awesome twist! She does encounter danger (and I will say that seeing pistols aimed at her is something of a trigger for me, so that aspect is hard to handle), but at least it derives from her *other* line of work -- as does a brutal (off-screen) beating she takes. On the whole, I like the series, but just barely.

I wasn't terribly thrilled with another comic the site currently freely offers: the first installment of the horror story **Kali** (story by Nakshatra, art by Abel Garcia, and colours by Moises Belilty). The art's not bad -- the thick-lined scratchiness of it suits the genre. It's the subject matter that I dislike: a woman is repeatedly sexually abused, until one night



she is possessed by the goddess Kali, and kills her abusers. I didn't actually need to see her be raped in graphic detail in order to appreciate her vengeance -- the vengeance doesn't make rape as titillation okay. The only worthwhile part of the comic was her subsequent horror over what she'd done, once the goddess had left her -- that could make for some interesting character exploration. Given the distanced writing style, though, unless the approach is changed in later issues, I doubt we'll get anything that in-depth.



**Kali #1**  
© Gentlemen Comics

Aside from those two free comics on the site, we were sent a few review copies. One of them was for the first "episode" of **Beezlebabe** (story by TJ Hunter, with art by Nestor and colours by Ino), which tells of a demonesse living as an ordinary girl. In this issue, she's masturbating everywhere, desperate to climax, but keeps getting interrupted. Her first session, in which she describes what she imagines a guy she likes doing to her, felt like annoying pandering to the camera, à la porn, in a way that allows the audience to pretend that they are her lover. Well, at least she's talking about what *she* wants, I guess, rather than offering pleasure to the audience outright.

It gets marginally better (though her talk often comes off as a mix of silly dirty talk and purple prose) as she struggles throughout the day, her focus moving from her fantasising about a guy to her technique, a point which makes it easier for readers to *relate* to her. A sneak-peek ad for another issue suggests that she will be reverting to dirty talk when having sex with someone else, in language that again smacks of pandering; I'm hoping that there will be other scenarios that allow the reader to continue empathising with her rather than objectifying her. There is an issue of non-consent, but it starts out consensual, and when it turns into rape we stop seeing details. Also,



**Beezlebabe Episode 1**

the one violating consent ends up dangerously on the wrong side of our heroine for it. Spoiler time:

the sex is consensual up until the woman involved discovers that her partner lied about using a condom; he refuses to pull out at that point.

**Conquests of Semal** (story, art, and lettering by P. Faffel and colouring by Ruiz) follows the travels of a barbarian. The art has its moments, but overall is clunky and not very well inked. The story is pretty lacking in characterization and plot so far as well. While the women are confident and choose to have sex rather than being forced into it, that doesn't much alleviate the feel of exploitation. It smacks to me of a male fantasy where women are there to please the guy in every way -- and are happy to do it (which I suppose is marginally better than a story where they aren't happy about having sex, but still isn't all that appealing).

Spoiler time. In the first issue, we see him badly wounded but healed by sex with a goddess -- one who initiated that healing by molesting him in his sleep. I suppose it's not rape if you're dying and the sex heals you. Once he woke up, he didn't exactly mind what she was doing, even before he realised she'd healed him, either. After all, what person would object to waking up to find themselves having sex with a beautiful person, even if said person was a stranger (and blue-skinned)? She's delighted he came, literally and figuratively, hungry for his ejaculate. She's not the only one who proves to feel that way, either. The innkeeper gives Semal a blowjob herself, apparently really enjoying it, even when he takes over control, informing her: "I need to fuck your beautiful face." After she proclaims that they *both* needed that, she then douses the fire, saying he needs some well-earned sleep. *Well earned??*

She's satisfied by his manhood being shoved repeatedly down her throat? His sperm is that tasty? If he does anything to pleasure her in bed after that, we don't get to see it. While there are background images that suggest more mutual pleasuring between others, there's also one



**Conquests of Semal, No. 1:  
The Lands of Min**  
© Gentlemen Comics

panel that shows a naked woman giving a more clothed man a blow-job, while another naked woman walks by carrying a tray of food. The end of the issue suggests there may be an actual plot, but I'm not sure I want to even bother with it.

***F.E.R.A.L., Episode One: A Toxic Affair*** (story by Dark Mark,

art by Kokoy, colouring by Saint) is a "superhero team" tale. In this issue, Monty, a man occasionally possessed by Aztec King Moctezuma, and Ruva, a werewolf girl, find themselves pitted against a nearly-invincible, acid-blooded lab-experiment called TocSin. Back at the base, there's also Hermes / Aphrodite, a rich, gender-bending shapeshifter scientist who could be a peer of the likes of Tony Stark; a guy named Trojan who can enter computers; and a non-human flying Goth girl named Loona. The overall art is good, especially towards the end -- the linework and anatomy is a bit shaky here and there, with the faces rather unappealing at times, but the colouring really makes it work, and Ruva looks hot during a battle later in the book (provided you don't mind her ears, tail, and a bit of fur here and there). Unfortunately, I'm not personally into a lot of muscles, so Moctezuma did nothing for me (nor did Monty), but Hermes / Aphrodite, Trojan, and Loona all held some appeal. There's a lot of swearing (including a racial slur from a bad guy), and gratuitous sex slaves in the lair of the enemy, but on the whole, it's a good story. I really want to know more about the characters!



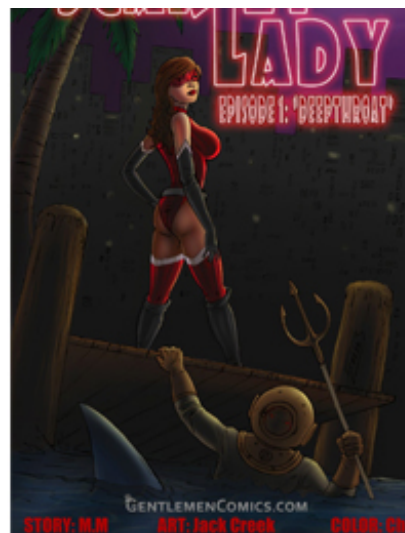
***F.E.R.A.L., Episode 1:  
A Toxic Affair***  
© Gentlemen Comics

Spoiler time. After the mission with TocSin, Monty is badly hurt but refuses to call on the king-spirit to save him. Ruva attacks him to get the king to take over; this leads to angry sex, which I don't normally care for but think works here!

***Scarlet Lady, Episode One: Deepthroat*** (story by M. M., with art by Jack Creek and colours by Chi) reveals how porn star Scarlett became a "silicone-



enhanced metahuman" superhero: by way of special silicone breast implants. Poor Scarlett can't seem to make it into the local superhero squad, though. It's so-so art-wise, rough line work that is sometimes great and sometimes really awkward, usually made better by the colouring. There are a few gory moments, including the surgery. (Way to kill the sexy!) It's a fairly good story, too; Scarlett's life as a porn star bears some nice human interest notes, and I like the hint about the secret identity of one of the other heroes.



**Scarlet Lady, Episode 1:  
Deepthroat**  
© Gentlemen Comics

However, a few things stick in my craw, the biggest thing being that she was basically experimented on without her consent (which is basically rape) *and* must have recurring and painful treatments to maintain proper body chemistry -- so it's like a rape that never ends. The fact that the scientist otherwise seems nice doesn't really help -- I'd like the scenario much more if she'd gone into it willingly and maybe just underestimated it all.

On the other hand, I'm actually moderately forgiving of the very in-your-face crotch shots, since this actually *is* a porn comic -- even if the scene in question had nothing to do with sex. And it's giggle-inducing when one of them has a word balloon pointing directly at it.

Spoiler time. There's a scene where, after seeing the excruciating pain Scarlett must go through, another superhero says "Am I the only one who thinks there's something creepy and misogynistic about this whole thing?", to which Scarlett replies, "I think he's German." The other hero then remarks, "Well ... that explains a lot." I like that they basically acknowledged the misogyny of the plot in a self-deprecating way, but I'm annoyed at the suggestion that misogyny (and creepiness?) and being German go hand-in-hand, as a matter of course. I'm also unsettled by Scarlett offering the Doc comfort when he broods that she must think him a monster, telling him that she can see the good he was trying to do -- but at the same time, being a fan of redemption tales, I like storylines of scientists gaining some humanity and regretting their actions. If the Doc is really going to redeem himself, though, I'd like to see him consider not giving her the treatments anymore and offer to change her back, rather than saying things like, "Pain is of the moment! Legacies are

forever!" -- especially since he's not the one going through the pain!

**Krystopia** (written by Rodger Smith, with art by Laura Kloge and colours by Moises Belilty) tells of a secluded island populated solely by women. It's ruled by Krysta Sears, a woman who seems to have special mind powers; some of the women adore their ruler, while others regret agreeing to serve her, missing the company of men. Oh, and men are not allowed there, upon pain of death. When some of the women end up dead too, who is responsible -- invaders or Krysta herself? What is Sears planning for her island? And will the men who have decided to visit ever leave? I like the art; while the inks are rough, the proportions and anatomy are good, as are the colours. I don't care all that much for the dirty talk, but there's not a lot of it. I appreciate that what sex there is, is there to provide characterization and plot

as much as it is to titillate, such as how some proves part of a ritual, while another moment is a dream that both reveals the discontent of one of the girls and tells us how men are not welcome. While the women wear skimpy clothes, it suits their beach locale, as well as serving to please their mistress and quite possibly themselves, rather than just being about letting the reader ogle them. I can't say I love Krys all that much, the way she pushes her girls around, but at least one of them is quite eager on her own to serve the woman (even before being given something that seems to act as a date rape drug). Also, there is a moment where Krysta seems vulnerable and regretful, so I am curious to learn more about her, as well as the island she rules and how it fits into the world.

**Sexual Tension** (story by TJ Hunter, art by Matiny, colours by Jessica) tells of three supernatural sisters who feed on people through sex -- and one of the sisters isn't terribly thrilled about it. Also, while they are hunters, they are also being hunted.



**Krystopia, Episode: 1**  
© Gentlemen Comics





There's a slight manga flavour to the art, and also of *Batman: The Animated Series*; the linework is a little rough and there are some anatomy issues, but overall, there's some appeal. The story is compelling -- while technically the women are raping their victims (and that's not appealing), they are also *feeding* -- a being's got to eat to live, right? And there's a certain sweetness to when Tama does it, given her regret. There's some pandering to the camera and dirty talk, but I feel a little better about it here because the girl doing it is arguably making her lover's last moments as pleasurable as possible -- she's getting something out of it, and he's paying the ultimate price.



**Sexual Tension #1**  
© Gentlemen Comics

In summary, **Gentlemen Comics** aren't without potential, but none of them exactly *wowed* me, and they could stand to improve the inking on many titles. And if they really are interested in cultivating a female readership (I assume they are by the very fact that they sent samples to **Tart**), I hope they take some of my complaints to heart. Meanwhile, I would recommend giving **Beelzebabe**, **F.E.R.A.L.**, **Krystopia**, **Scarlet Lady**, **Sexual Tension**, and (with a bit more reluctance) **Maya** a go.

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