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BLOOD IN FOUR COLOURS

BY PEDRO CABEZUELO

Regardless of your religious beliefs, there's no denying the stories in the Bible have plenty to offer even the most diehard horror fan. From global cataclysms, to the wholesale slaughter of babies, to the entire Book of Revelation, many horror authors have used biblical themes and imagery as a catalyst for their tales

High on the list is Clive Barker, whose body of work has drawn heavily on religious iconography. It's a theme he has continued with his recent *Hellraiser* comics (see *RM#132*) and is set to revisit, along with co-writer Mark Miller, in a new twelve-issue series for Boom! called *New Genesis* (the first issue hits stores in May).

"You know those books of the Bible where all the really terrible things happen?" says Miller. "Put them all into one comic book series and that's the story we're offering."

New Genesis tells the tale of Tristan and his fiancée, Elspeth, who are trying to make some sense out of Tristan's father's claim that he's found God in the form of a strange man named Wick. Wick not only asserts that he's a deity, he's also adamant that the human race has completely misinterpreted his teachings and he's come back to set things straight, whether we like it or not.

"Essentially, we want people to re-examine the myths they've built their lives around," explains Miller. "This came out of a very personal place for both me and Clive. I grew up with a very conservative Christian background, and when I was entering adulthood, I was finding it difficult to make that old way of thinking fit into the current framework of my life. This story actually helped

me adjust to and usher in new schools of thought. So I very much hope it does the same for others. I know that makes it sound very literary and philosophical and dull, but believe me, there's nothing quite as terrifying as a genuine crisis of faith."

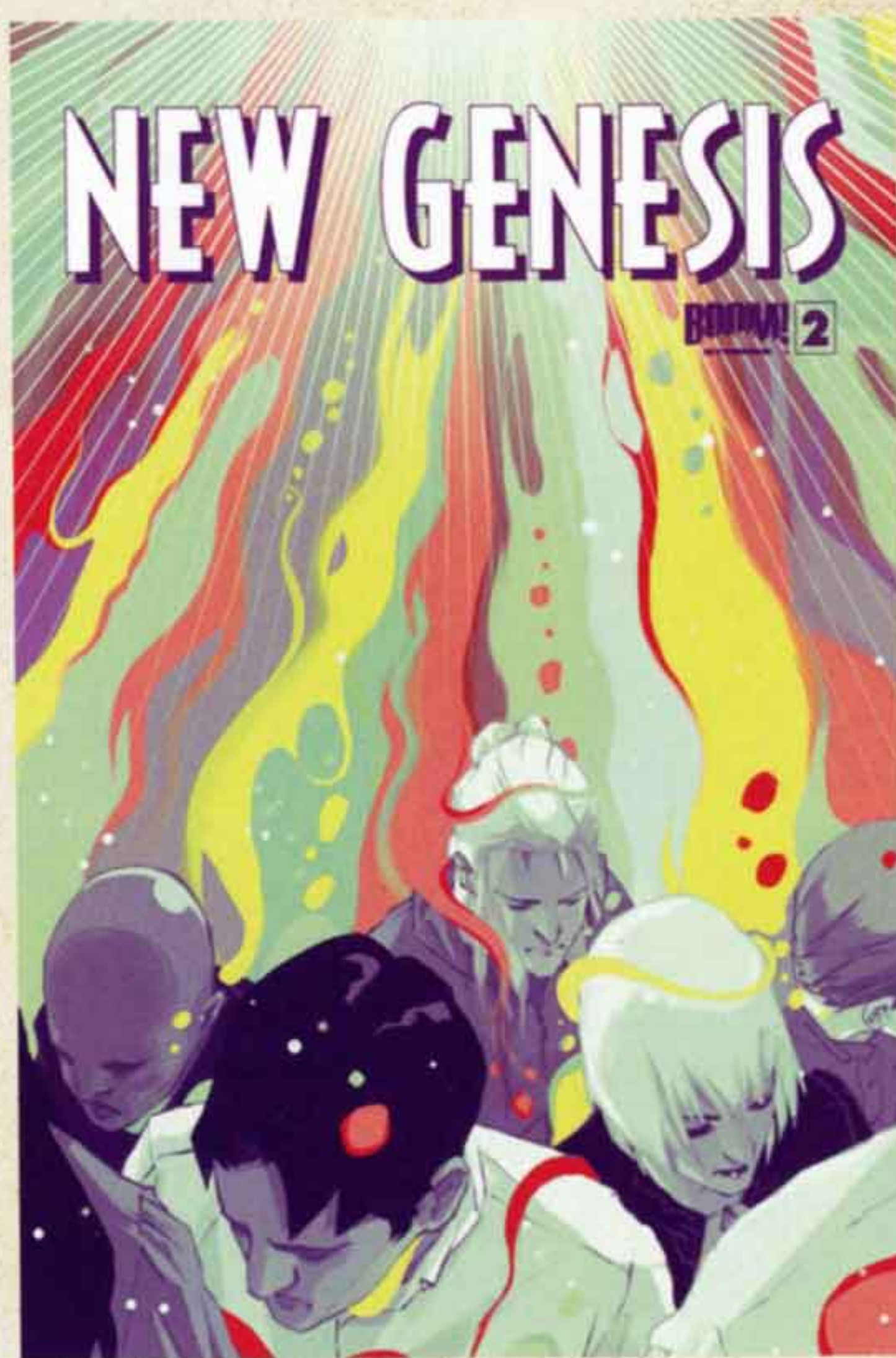
And a terrifying experience is ultimately what Miller and Barker hope to create. It's not the first time Miller has collaborated with the celebrated author on a horror project. Not only is he the co-head of Barker's production company, Seraphim Films, he's also written several issues of the latest round of *Hellraiser* comics. Working with Barker has given him insight into the appeal of the horror genre.

"Nothing really has the capacity to move me like a great horror story," says Miller. "I never wanted to tell stories for the sake of telling stories. I believe that if you're not provoking people with the stories you tell, you're not doing your job as a storyteller. I want to move people. I want to make them sit up and take notice. And most importantly of course, I want to scare the hell out of them."

Miller is quick to point out, elements of dark fantasy and horror do not simply add to the story of *New Genesis* they are the story.

"Carl Jung hypothesized that the book of Job [in which a man loses everything because God doesn't want to lose a bet he made with the Devil] is the main turning point of the Bible.

He asserts that it reveals an aspect of God's nature that we've ignored for far too long. The po-



Clive Barker and Mark Miller go biblical.

tential ramifications are absolutely chilling, and it's these ramifications that we're exploring. And they're steeped in mythology and lore so you can't very well write a story like this without injecting fantasy and horror."

Miller adds that artist Haemi Jang's capable hands have given the writers the freedom to take more visual risks, as well as giving them confidence that the comic medium is the perfect vehicle for their vision.

"You get the best of both worlds: epic storytelling on divinity and metaphysics, with all the details and imagery you've come to expect from a Clive Barker comic," he says. "And you know what they say about divinity and details..."

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