



ATHENA VOLTAIRE

ATHENA VOLTAIRE



THE PITCH

Based on the long-running critically acclaimed and award-nominated comic book series, ATHENA VOLTAIRE is a globe-trotting action-adventure fantasy series that will subvert genre conventions and present audiences with rollicking, smart world-building entertainment in the vein of such fan-favorites as *Wonder Woman*, *Hellboy* and *Indiana Jones* (to name just a few).

The series' eponymous heroine, Athena Voltaire, is a world-famous aviator & adventurer – imagine an amalgam of heroes real and fictional including *Amelia Earhart*, *Indiana Jones*, *Houdini*, and *Doc Savage*. Athena's adventures will put her on the trail of a sinister international cabal with a globe-shaking agenda that will intersect with family secrets from her own past.

Each season (or "volume") will consist of self-contained story arcs and stand-alone episodes that will also establish an overarching mythology and set up plotlines for further adventures, as well as continuous character development, to explore in subsequent seasons/volumes.

Magic, mythology, the paranormal, and two-fisted pulp adventure collide in ATHENA VOLTAIRE!

THE CONCEPT

It's the 1930s and the entire globe is on edge as the winds of war blow again. A world that is was still recovering from World War I has been rocked by the Great Depression, and the Axis powers are on the rise with Nazi Germany becoming ascendant.

Amidst the tumult, there are secret societies seeking to take advantage of the chaos as cover for their own nefarious agendas. Among these is the THULE SOCIETY, a shadowy German occultist society formed in the wake of WWI which has been seeking objects and locations of great supernatural power, most significantly the entrance to the "HOLLOW EARTH", a legendary lost world within our own Earth, thought to be the source of unimaginable wealth and power.

Rising to combat this threat – and many others – is the world-famous aviator & adventurer, ATHENA VOLTAIRE, and her diverse network of highly skilled associates. As Athena and her confederates seek to uncover the mysteries of the Thule and stop the threat they present, she will unlock new secrets – including some of her own past - that will lay the groundwork for storylines and adventures in subsequent seasons.



ATHENA VOLTAIRE

Pilot/adventurer/soldier-of-fortune Athena Voltaire is known for transporting her clients to dangerous, exotic locales, handling unusual cargo and getting mixed up into all manner of intrigue along the way.

The daughter of stage magicians, Athena picked up many valuable skills while assisting in her family's act, and in the circuses, Wild West shows and barnstorming air shows that the family toured with. Her talents serve her well, enabling Voltaire to get clients out of many a precarious scenario. Her adventures have led her to cross paths many times with the shadowy Thule Society and they share a mutual loathing of one another.



Desmond Forsyth

Athena is an ace pilot and a crack shot, as quick with her fists as she is with her wits and savoir faire. Based on her unusual upbringing, she also has a deep knowledge of magic and illusions that not only helps her puzzle out mysteries, but also can help her in a jam. She doesn't suffer fools gladly, isn't one to conform to her era's expectations of gender roles, and is as comfortable—if not more—in her aviator gear as she is in a business suit or evening dress.

DESMOND FORSYTH

The British Special Intelligence Service agent works under the auspices of DIVISION 7, handling everything from occult mysteries to mad science. He's as suave and hard-boiled as they come, and cut from the James Bond template, which enables us to play with the Bond tropes as a foil to Athena.

Forsyth and Athena will also have a romantic attraction that develops over the course of the series, allowing us to have fun with the "will they or won't they" romantic dynamic.

We will also explore and develop Forsyth over the course of the series, learning secrets about his past as well as his motivations. Occasionally, he and Athena will have opposing agendas that find them at



Louis Voltaire

cross-purposes or distrustful of each other—which will further complicate the romantic tension between them.

LOUIS VOLTAIRE

Louis Voltaire was one of the finest stage magicians in the world. His act starred himself, his wife/stage partner ASTRID, and as his daughter, Athena. As vaudeville began to die, Louis retired from the stage, taking a job in Hollywood creating effects for the burgeoning motion picture industry.

Louis and Athena are estranged from Astrid and he remains Athena's closest confidant and advisor.

Louis is also a writer/researcher of the paranormal in the vein of Charles Fort, while also acting as a "debunker" like Houdini was—taking pride in exposing charlatans who fake paranormal phenomena to exploit others.

Louis served the United States as a spy during World War I, putting his slight of hand skills to use, and still consults with intelligence services while also aiding Athena in her adventures.

ASTRID VOLTAIRE

Athena's mother comes from a wealthy but mysterious



Astrid Voltaire

European family and was once Louis' stage show partner, which abilities every bit the equal of his. She's long been estranged from her husband and daughter, but circumstances will eventually put her on a collision course with Athena and Louis.

Astrid's family has a generations-long connection to Thule, and this connection will be revealed when we eventually meet her. (The show will see Astrid gradually emerge from the shadows and we'll eventually piece together her true motivations).

AGENT SYBIL SHARPE

Sharpe is Desmond Forsyth's partner in spycraft at Department 7—and is just as much of an ass-kicker as he is. Forsyth alternates between attempting to flirt/banter with her and reminding her that he's into Athena. Of course, Sharpe has no interest in him. She and Athena have a mutual



Agent Sybil Sharpe



Caine Foster

respect and comraderie that is a constant source of annoyance and jealousy for Forsyth. There will be instances where Sharpe and Athena team up without Forsyth altogether.

CAINE FOSTER

In return for unlimited access to his various aircraft, this reclusive millionaire asks Athena to obtain and/or transport various artifacts which may be mystical in nature. He will eventually be revealed as a member of a clandestine organization seeking to keep these objects out of the hands of the Thule Society.

CARTER CHARLES

Carter is a dashing Hollywood actor and matinee idol who worked with Louis on many films and fell for Athena after hiring her as an advisor for an adventure franchise that made him a star (though she doesn't necessarily reciprocate his affections).



Carter Charles



Professor Marjorie Mordido

Carter is good-natured and affable but also believes in his own hype—he sees himself as capable in real-life of the heroics he performs on-screen. He sometimes accompanies Athena on her missions under the guise of "research," and often ends up as a comedic foil.

PROFESSOR MARJORIE MORDIDO

Just as Caine Foster has Athena on retainer, he funds research for Professor Mordido. In return, she investigates objects and sites that interest Foster, especially the HOLLOW EARTH. She's a source of information for Athena, providing possible solutions and tidbits about the supernatural menaces Athena faces. The knowledge she provides can be as effective as the weaponry provided to James Bond by Q.

MAJOR ADA KLIMT

Athena's archnemesi, Klimt is as imposing physically as she is intellectually—not only is she highly educated and brilliant, but she's been trained in all manner of combat. She's essentially Athena's counterpart in the Thule Society.

Like Astrid Voltaire, Ada comes from a wealthy family with Thule connections, and Astrid and Ada have



Major Ada Klimt

even developed a mother-daughter like relationship. Klimt isn't just Athena's rival, she's a sinister funhouse mirror of Athena. Though she seems to embody Aryan ideals, deep down Ada rejects the Nazi ideology and sees them as a blunt instrument that she can use to implement the Thule agenda.

BARON SIEGFRIED VON STURM

Brilliant, strapping, and handsome, Siegfried von Sturm is pretty much Doc Savage as a Nazi bastard. Von Sturm traces his lineage back to the Teutonic Knights, a quasi-mystical sect similar to the Knights Templar, and views his ascension in the Thule Society as a step toward ultimate power.

MR X

An enigmatic and mysterious V.I.P. that British Secret Intelligence is getting much of their arcane info from. He wears a suit, hat and trench coat, and his face is bandaged like the Invisible



Mr. X

Man. He's playing Athena and Forsyth against each other, and we'll gradually reveal his true identity and motivations over the course of the first season.

He's actually Hernando Fontenada, a 17th century explorer who found the Fountain of Youth – and later "lost" it. In the 20th century, he hired Athena to help him recover his treasure, but was horribly disfigured by an explosion when he attempted to betray her. He's immortal, and badly scarred, so he's been constructing a plan to destroy Athena and other perceived enemies. (The Fontenada story will eventually tie into the overarching Thule/Shambalha/Division 7 storylines, and we could reveal his backstory in a cold open for an early episode).

XIANG ZHOU

Louis Voltaire's last stage assistant before retiring, Xiang is actually a supremely



Benton Quinn

talented stage magician in her own right. After the Great Voltaire retired from the stage, she attempted to carve out a career on her own. Unfortunately, bigotry and sexism kept her from realizing that dream. She assists Louis in the occasional Hollywood VFX job, but prefers to use her incredible sleight-of-hand skills conning and hustling unsuspecting marks. Athena has put those grifting skills to use as well, hiring Xiang to work with her on various missions.

BENTON QUINN

Benton Quinn has a murky history with Athena. The implication is there was something romantic there, or at least he angled for it. Athena, for now, wants nothing to do with him in that manner but is happy to see him as a recurring ally on various adventures.

Quinn is a man of many talents, though not quite the pilot that Athena is, and not scholarly enough to be an archeologist, and too moral to be a mercenary. However, he frequently finds himself in the right place at the right time to make a rather comfortable living as an "adventurer."

ESTEBAN CRUZ

Athena's first love, Esteban Cruz, was another aviator working the air-racing circuit



Esteban Cruz

with Athena, and who taught her much about being a crackerjack pilot. Esteban did not share Athena's desire to pursue life as a globetrotter and the two broke up when he chose to return to his family's vast ranch in New Mexico and working the region as a simple crop duster.

Eventually, he and Athena cross paths again, and when he expresses a desire to join in her adventures it means they will have to maintain a professional relationship while recognizing that old sparks still smolder.

SATO JURO

Expatriate Japanese 'businessman' Sato Juro has made plenty of enemies in his homeland. Not a gangster, but certainly not a traditional tycoon, Sato operates his import/export business in Los Angeles and from his mobile seafaring junk in the Pacific Ocean. He's a source of work for Athena, as well as an underworld contact.



Baron Siegfried von Sturm



Xiang Zhou



Sato Juro

THE HOLLOW EARTH

Long believed to be a place of myth, the Hollow Earth is actually a secret world beneath the surface of our own, and the location of the lost city of AGHARTA, a land of unimaginable wealth and power, the home of a superhuman race known as the VRIL-YA and other bizarre creatures, and a source of highly advanced technology.

Agharta, and the long hidden entrance to it, is the prize that the Thule Society, Division 7 and Brotherhood of Shambalha. Some seek to seize and exploit its power, others to protect it, and none are prepared for what they will find there.



Secret Societies!

THE THULE SOCIETY

The Thule Society is a sinister consortium that has operated under various names in the shadows for centuries, and only spoken about in rumors and whispers. They are seeking objects and locations of great supernatural power, with the grand prize being the location of Agharta within the Hollow Earth.

While they have connections with the Nazis, we'll learn that the Thule Society sees them as a means to an end, and its reach extends far beyond into governments and high society throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia, as well as the criminal underworld and warlords and pirates scattered throughout the Pacific Rim nations and oceans.

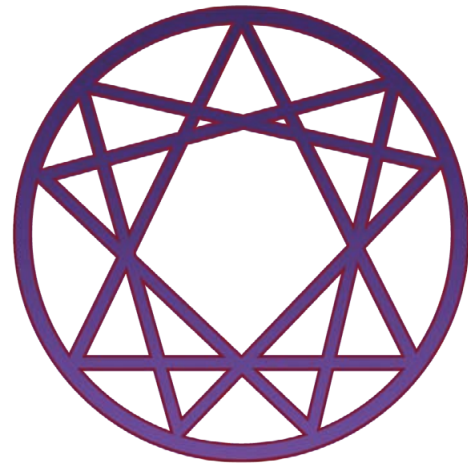
When we meet our heroes, they do not yet know what the end game of the Thules and its allies is, and this is a question to be explored over the course of the season.



THE BROTHERHOOD OF SHAMBALHA

Athena has been enlisted by the mysterious Brotherhood of Shambalha, another group which has longed worked in the shadows to thwart the Thules and protect the secrets and power of places like the Hollow Earth.

The Brotherhood has its origins in Asia and emerged from Hindu and Buddhist traditions but it is not limited to monks and holy men, and it has agents located around the world. Athena's benefactor, Caine Foster, is eventually revealed to be a member.



DIVISION 7

A subdivision of the British S.I.S. (Special Intelligence Service), Division 7 specializes in fringe science and the supernatural, and works (along with other Western interests) to subvert the efforts of the Thule Society.

Of course, Division 7 also seeks to secure these occult artifacts for the "good" of the British Empire. This will lead to secrets being kept between Athena and Agent Forsyth, complicating their intermittent romantic entanglement.





Athena's adventures will take her all over the globe to places both real and mythic - discovering lost cities, exploring ancient ruins and deciphering cryptic puzzles.

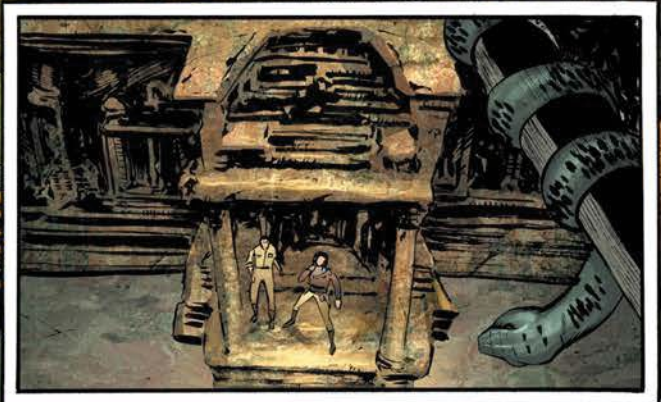
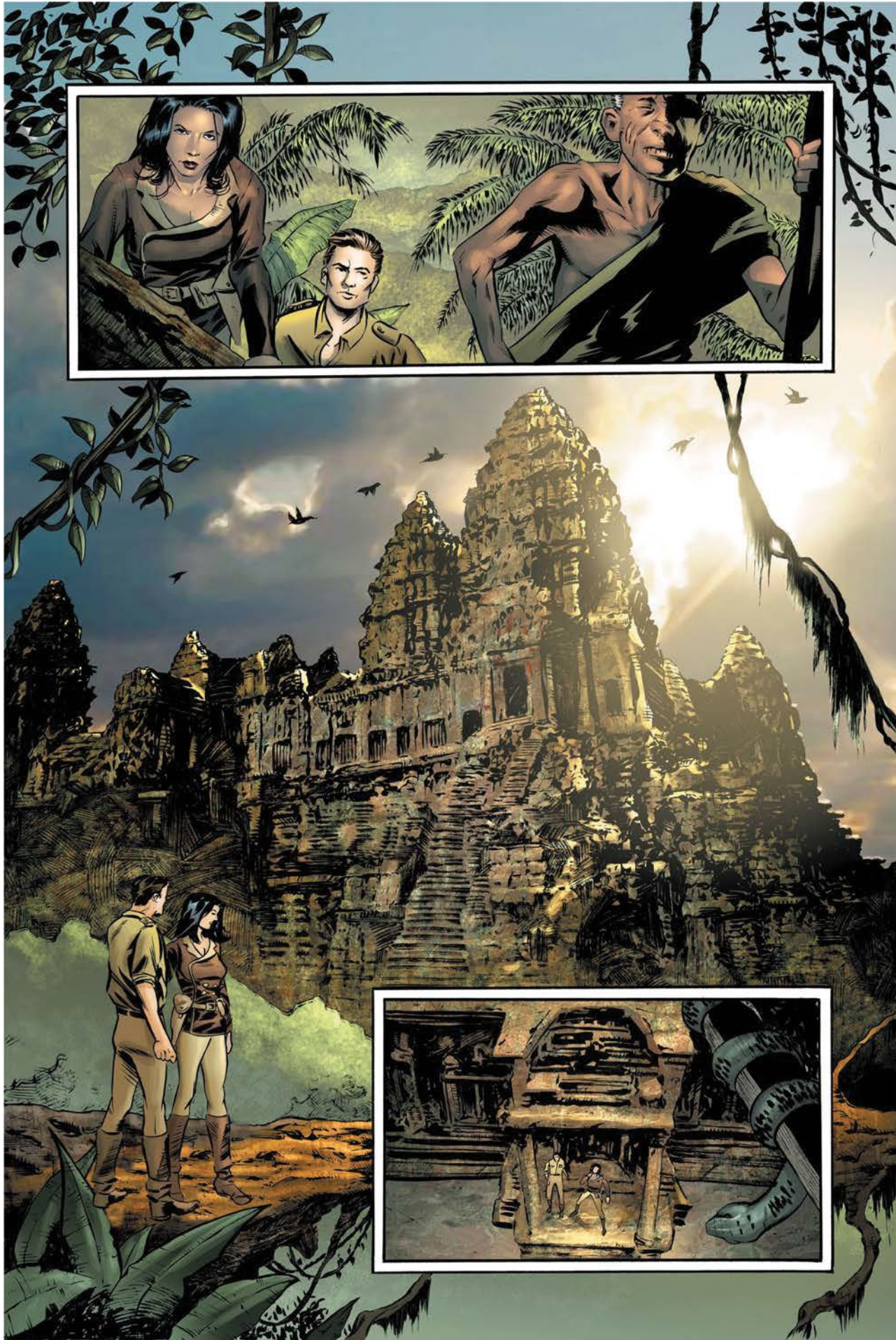
Many adventures take place in various Central and South Pacific locations, from Hawaii to Polynesia and all points in between. South & Central America, Mexico, Hong Kong, Tibet, the Middle East, Malaysia and Borneo are among other locations Athena will venture to – even the bottom of the ocean!

Of course, there will also be stops in Los Angeles/Hollywood, New York City, Washington, D.C. and London.

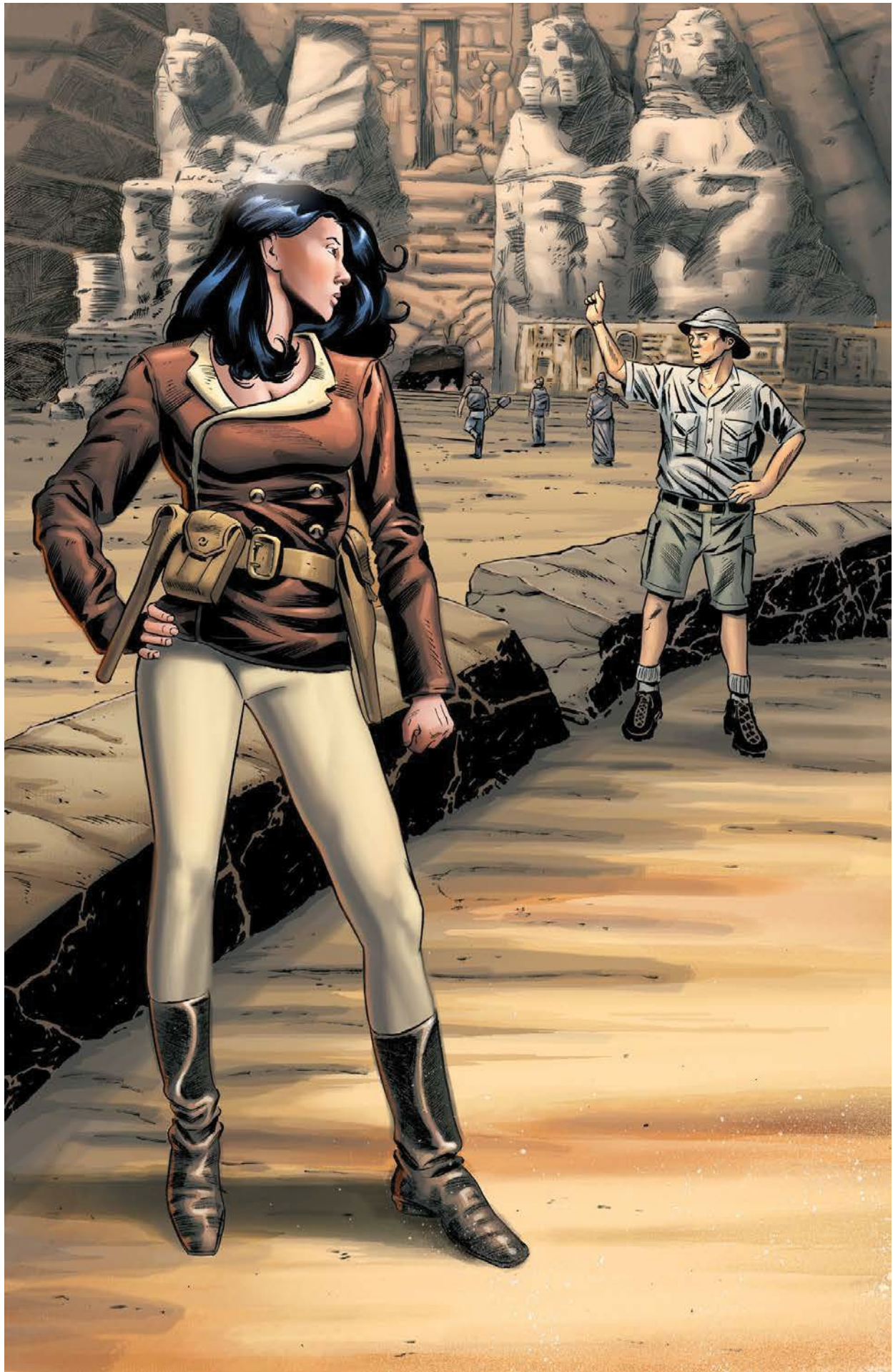










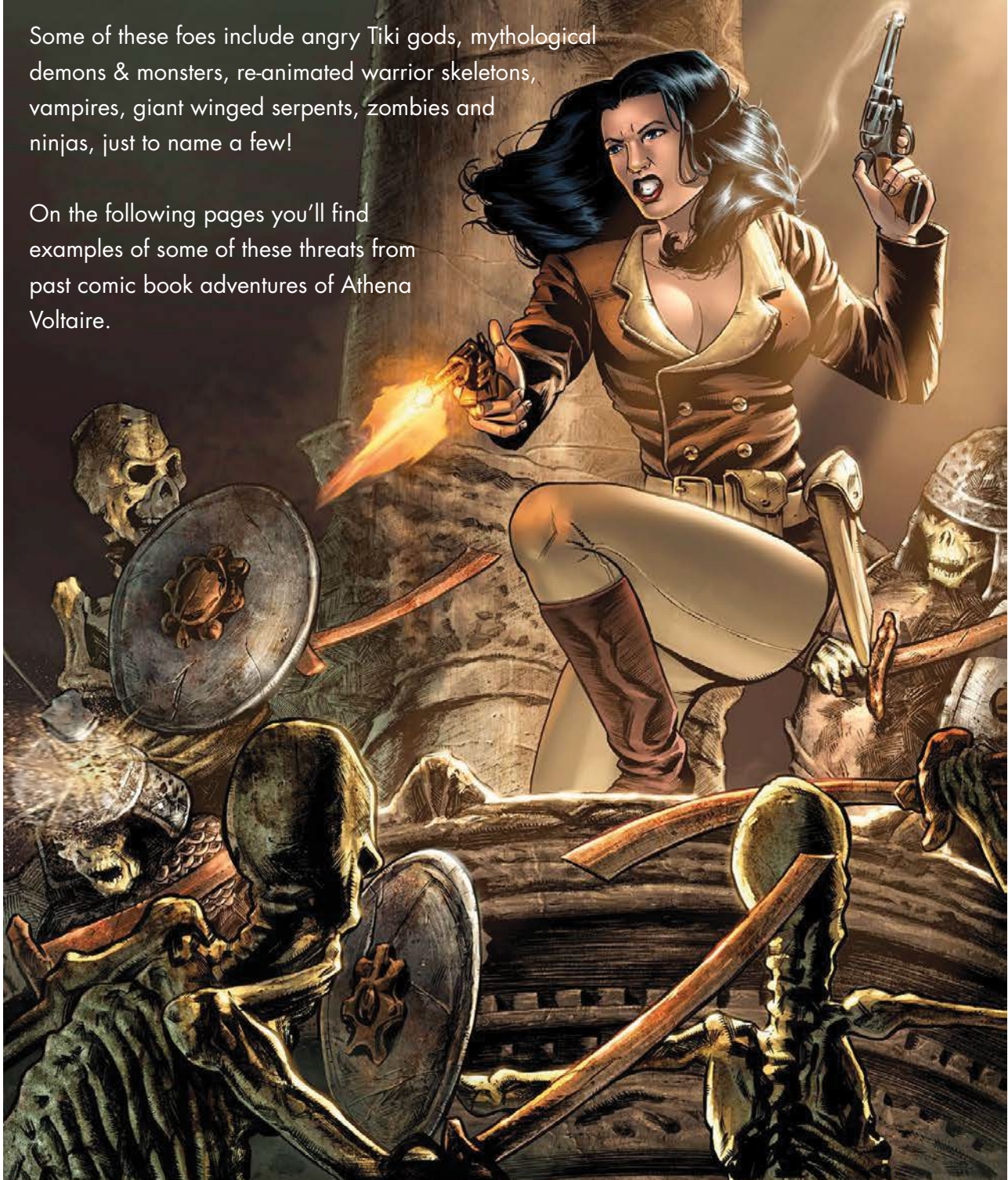


Fiendish Foes!

In addition to combating the Thule Society, many of those occult artifacts have powerful guardians, many of mythic and/or supernatural origin. There will be also more “grounded” threats such as pirates, gangsters, warlords and enemy armies that the globetrotting Athena and her allies will have to contend with.

Some of these foes include angry Tiki gods, mythological demons & monsters, re-animated warrior skeletons, vampires, giant winged serpents, zombies and ninjas, just to name a few!

On the following pages you’ll find examples of some of these threats from past comic book adventures of Athena Voltaire.







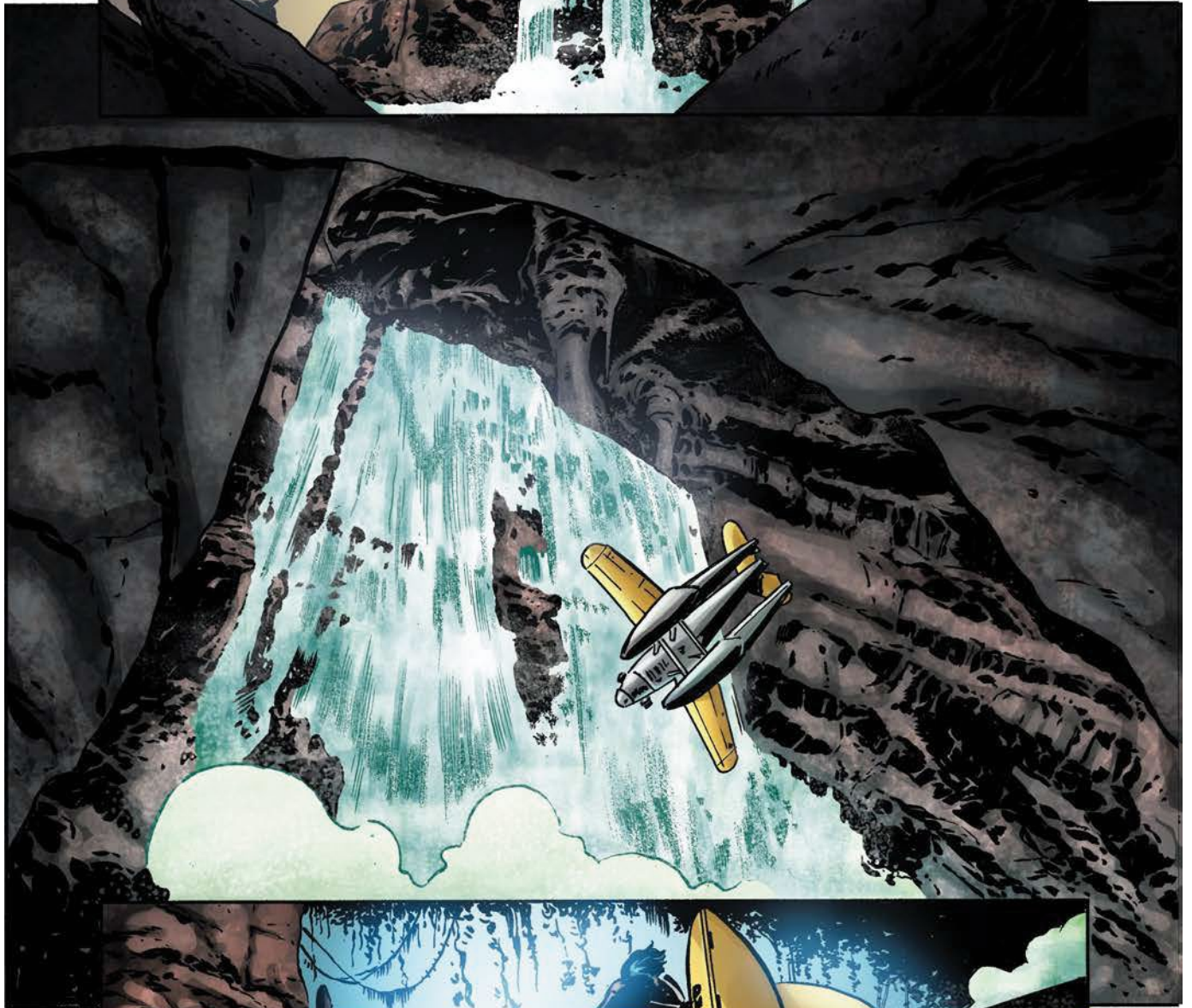








Narrow Escapes!





Endless Adventure!

