



Page 1 of the script is presented only for context; page 2 is what the artwork is based off of

PAGE 1

PANEL 1: We open in the Tokyo sewers. We see a rat crawling along the ledge of the sewer as the fetid water flows past. Somewhere in this panel, we see a manhole cover that will come into play in later pages.

Silent panel

PANEL 2: Move in closer on the rat. A shadow is falling over the rat, faintly man-shaped. The rat is reacting with surprise and fear.

Silent panel

PANEL 3: A pair of hands reach into the panel, greedily snatching up the rat. The hands have long nails.

SFX: SQUEEEE

PANEL 4: We reveal a scraggly-looking vampire feeding on the rat. The general idea here is that the vampires have gone underground, literally, and so are forced to feed wherever they can. Our vampire here almost looks like a homeless guy.

SFX: SHLORP

PANEL 5: This is the same basic shot as shown in panel 2, but here rather than a shadow falling over the rat and startling it, a shadow is falling over the vampire and startling him. We want to draw the obvious parallel between rat as prey/victim and then the vampire as prey/victim. The vampire wears an expression of fear.

1 Vampire: Huh?

PAGE 2

PANEL 1: This is the largest panel on the page, a big reveal to introduce Shinku. She's grabbing the vampire by the throat, shoving him back against the wall. The vampire is dropping what's left of the rat, and looks pretty scared. Shinku's expression is stern. She has her sword in her other hand.

1 Vampire (burst): GHHK!

2 Shinku: Where are they?

PANEL 2: Move in for a closer two-shot of Shinku and the vampire, the vampire still pinned to the wall. He begins to answer .

3 Vampire: Who?

4 Shinku: The rest of your kind. They're gone.

5 Shinku: Where did they go?

PANEL 3: Concentrate on the frightened vampire, as he tells all knows ... which isn't much.

6 Vampire: Underground! But I don't know where.

7 Vampire: I swear, I don't know anything. I'm just a stray.

PANEL 4: Shinku seemingly believes the vampire, and releases her grip on him. She no longer holds the sword at such a threatening angle.

7 Vampire: I'm not one of them, I don't have anything to do with them, I'm a loner.

8 Shinku: I believe you.

PANEL 5: The vampire visibly relaxes, thinking Shinku might actually release him. Frame the panel with Shinku's hand on her sword hilt, so the reader understands her proximity to the vampire.

9 Vampire: So you're letting me go?

Ron Marz has been writing comics for two decades, and thinks it's pretty much the best job ever. His current work includes "Witchblade" and the graphic novel series "Ravine" for Top Cow, "The Protectors" for Athleta Comics, his creator-owned title, "Shinku," for Image, and Sunday-style strips "The Mucker" and "Korak" for Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. Follow him on Twitter (@ronmarz) and his website, www.ronmarz.com.