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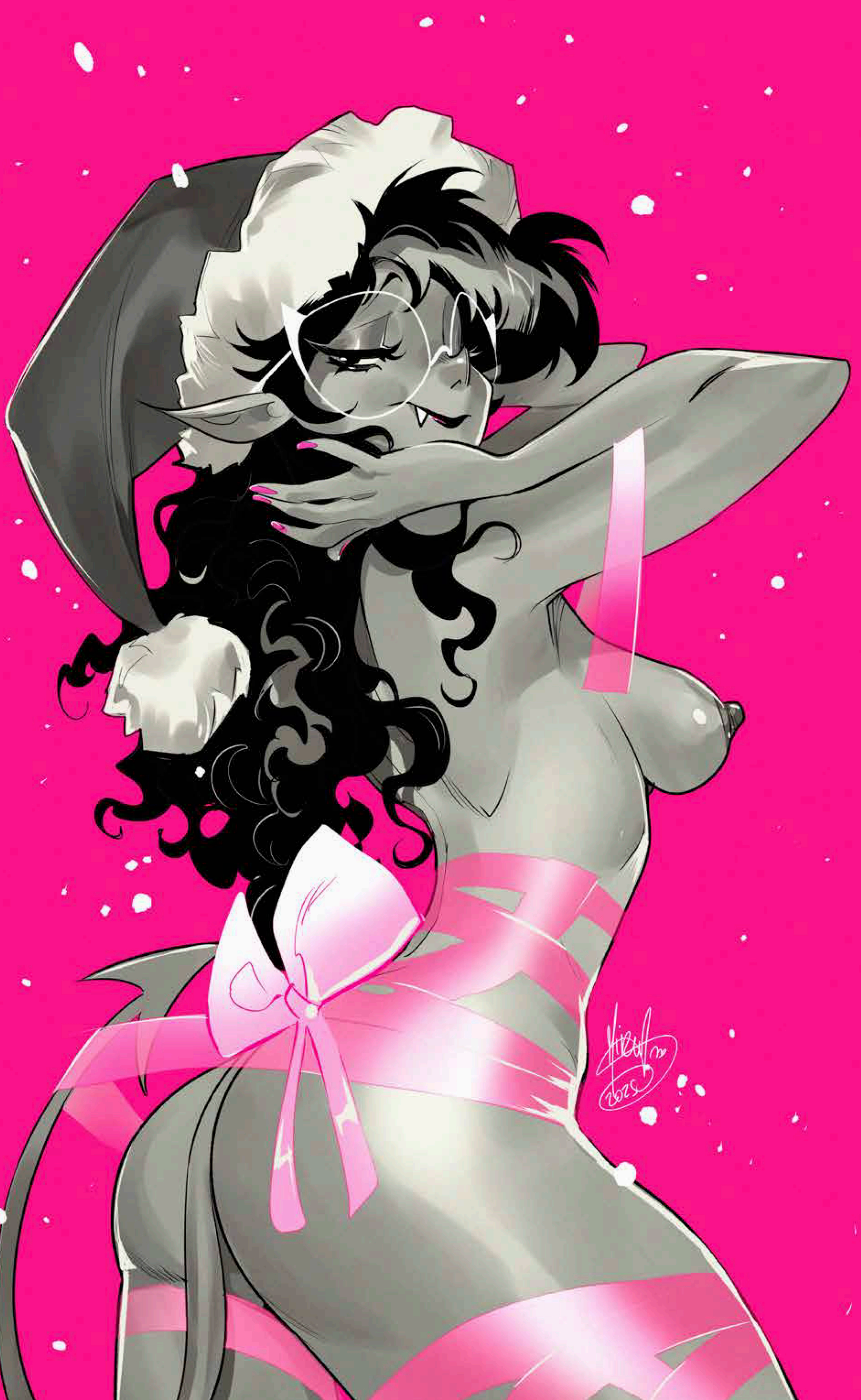

# CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

STORY: MIRKA ANDOLFO ART: SATOSHI SHIKI

DLING DLONG

DLING DLONG

HO,HO,HO!

...MERRY CHRISTMAS EVE TO YOU TOO, MINT AND PICKLE!

SURE, LET'S TALK TOMORROW.

AHHHH, YOU LOOK **SO CUTE** WITH THAT HAT, BEAN!

**WHO** NEEDS CHRISTMAS WHEN YOU'RE SUCH **AN ADORABLE LITTLE WITCH?** ♥

**DON'T WORRY** ABOUT DILL.

I'LL STAY WITH HIM THE WHOLE TIME...

=CLIC=

DILL, ARE YOU REALLY SURE **YOU DON'T WANT TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS** THIS YEAR?

WE COULD STILL JOIN YOUR DAD AND THE OTHERS FOR THE **MIDNIGHT PARTY.**

**DON'T WORRY, PAPRIKA!** I'M FINE HERE.

I TOLD HIM TO GO-- YOU KNOW, **HIS GIRLFRIEND** REALLY WANTED TO BE THERE!

AT LEAST **I WON'T RUIN HIS PARTY.** I MEAN, I ALREADY RUINED YOUR PLANS...

**I'M SO SORRY.**

**YOU SWEET, SILLY PENGUIN!** ALL I CARE ABOUT IS HOW YOU'RE FEELING. ♥

HOW ARE YOU?

TELL ME THE TRUTH.

=SIGH= IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS THIS MONTH SINCE **MOM PASSED AWAY.** I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THIS YEAR IT JUST FEELS... **VERY HARD.**

WE'LL STILL HAVE A **WONDERFUL EVENING** TOGETHER ANYWAY.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?**

WE COULD WATCH A MOVIE AND SNACK ON SOMETHING...

ANYTHING'S FINE, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT ABOUT CHRISTMAS, PRESENTS, OR-- **HUH?**

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, **NO PRESENTS?!**

**HUH?!**

**WEIRD.** THERE'S A PACKAGE IN THE PANTRY.

**SLAM!**

**HA!** N-NOTHING, NOTHING. NEVERMIND. IT'S **JUST SOME OLD MAIL**

--WE'LL CHECK IT ANOTHER DAY, OKAY?

I-I WAS THINKING... MAYBE...

...I KNOW **A GREAT WAY** TO SPEND THIS LOVELY EVENING, **JUST THE TWO OF US.** ♥

UH... I'VE BEEN THINKING **THE SAME THING** SINCE THE MOMENT I SAW YOU DRESSED AS A KITTY. ♥

**...OOPS!**

BETTER MOVE TO THE BEDROOM--I'D HATE TO **DESTROY HALF THE KITCHEN...** ♥