THE STORY SO FAR...

The American West has spawned many legends, but none so bloody and tragic as the tale of Ivan Isaacs. A newly ordained Catholic priest and scholar, Ivan's first assignment after seminary was to decrypt the Domas Porada, an unholy sarcophagus located in Stonetale Abbey. He managed to unlock the ancient tomb, but at a terrible cost—Not only did he release the fallen archangel Temozarela from a five hundred year slumber, but he lost his own life, as well as the life of his one true love, Gena.

In order to get revenge against the one who destroyed his life and alone for his sin, Ivan made a pact with the devil Belial—his soul in exchange for the power to fight the darkness. Now Belial haunts his footsteps, waiting to take Ivan's body as well. Tormented by evil on all sides, Ivan knows he can never find peace. All that keeps him moving is the flame of rage that burns within him. He's the latest avatar in a war that has been fought for millennia.

Until now this war of the damned has remained hidden from the secular world, but no more. Temozarela's plague is now corrupting the bodies of all it touches, turning them into the walking dead. Coburn, a federal marshal, is leading an expedition to get to the bottom of the situation. His key to finding the truth is Lizzie, leader of a band of outlaws who he saved from the gallows. She is the only person to have survived an encounter with Temozarela's forces. Together they search for Ivan Isaacs, the pale-faced preacher who is the only one with the answers they need.
During the war against Lucifer, the archangel Temozarela led the agents of light. In the years that followed, Temozarela watched as God's attention shifted from his seraphim to his new creation—man. Jealousy caused Temozarela and his disciples to abandon their heavenly post and attempt to corrupt humanity to prove the superiority of the seraphim to God. During the Crusades he attempted to begin his plan, but Bellal sealed him in the Domas Parada for 500 years. Now, released by Ivan Isaacs, Temozarela is free again, but too weak to carry out his dark designs. His disciples have begun sanctifying the ground in the American West, spreading plague and death in preparation for the Unholy Sabbath.

Ivan Isaacs was a young priest with a passion for ancient cultures when he was recruited to study the Domas Parada. Little did he know that his mission would be his last—perhaps his last in life. After helping revive an ancient battle for Heaven and Earth, Ivan and his beloved Gena were slain. In order to get revenge and avenge their deaths, the world, Ivan made a pact with the devil Bellal: his soul in exchange for a second chance at life... and superhuman strength. Now Ivan wades the old west, hunting down Temozarela's disciples and keeping a journal of his tragic tale.

Gena Isaacs was an only child, so her father Jacob adopted Ivan to keep her company. In time the two developed a mutual love that went beyond sibling affection, much to their father's dismay. Jacob sent Ivan to seminary, but the young would-be lovers' feelings remained. Before Ivan could act on his feelings, Gena was captured and killed by agents of Temozarela.
With the West filled with outlaw, corrupt lawmen and superstitious townsfolk, these companions are the only ones Coburn trusts. Father Lucien is a Vatican envoy sent to investigate what happened at Stonetale Abbey. Novic is a Civil War veteran and mute who aids Coburn with his heavy gettling gun. Cairo is an old friend of Coburn's who throws his knives with deadly accuracy.

Lizzie inherited leadership of the Angel Gang from her father. She's loved by her men, and feared by everyone else. She has more of a conscience than some of her fellow outlaws, but her hands are not clean of blood. Her rational world was shattered when her path crossed that of Ivan Isaacs. Now trouble seems to be her only friend. A hanging, a lynching, even a zombie curse -- she just can't seem to get a break these days. During the St. Baldlas massacre, she was bitten by one of Temozarela's zombies and her blood now bears his curse.

The devil Belial makes Ivan his agent in the mortal world so that he may battle the agents of the fallen Arch-Angel Temozarela, who is planning an upheaval of Heaven and Hell. Belial used to be Bethal, a Catholic priest in the Middle Ages when he was a prosecutor in trials of heresy. After Temozarela shattered his faith, Bethal turned himself into the demon Belial in order to get his revenge.

Coburn is the only federal marshal investigating possible links between an outbreak of plague and other mysterious events happening around the Old West. After Lizzie is found to be the only survivor of the St. Baldlas massacre, Coburn takes her into custody. Together they follow Ivan Isaacs, the only one who knows the truth about what's going on.
PRIEST

A PALE RIDER'S CHORUS
THE MASTER’S PLAN IS NOW IN MOTION.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

IVAN ISAACS
YOUR PILGRIMAGE HAS BEGUN.
CLOCK
BLANK
BLANK
YOUR HATRED MAKES YOU STRONG, IVAN. BUT IT CANNOT BRING HER BACK.
WHY DO YOU HATE ME, IVAN?
DID I NOT WARN YOU OF THIS FATE?

IT WAS YOUR CURiosity-- YOUR PRIDE-- THAT KILLED HER.
YOU HAVE FAILED, IVAN.

FAILED HER...

FAILED YOURSELF...

FAILED GOD.

BUT YOU CAN STILL LET YOUR DEATH MEAN SOMETHING.

GIVE YOUR BODY TO ME!

LET YOUR BODY BE A VESSEL FOR MY RAGE.
YOUR SOUL BELONGS TO ME NOW!!
RE-BORN AGAIN IN TOTAL DARKNESS, IVAN ISAACS!!!
CAN YOU SEE, TEMOZARELA?!

THE END OF YOUR PITIFUL REBELLION IS NEAR!
WHY?

WHY DO YOU REFUSE ME?

BUT ONLY BY SURRENDERING YOUR BODY TO ME CAN TEMPLAR BE STOPPED!

I HAVE LENT YOU MY POWER...
OH! OH! OH!

GO TO HELL.

MY BODY IS MY OWN.

I WILL KEEP MY CONSCIOUSNESS UNTIL THE END.
I will see Temozarela destroyed with my own eyes.

I will rip out his heart and the hearts of any who stand in my way.

Not until then.

Not until then!

Belial!

You will not take my body!
WHY DO YOU RESIST?

OPEN YOUR BODY TO ME NOW AND I WILL LET YOUR SOUL RETAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.

IVAN....

AHHH!

YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM, YOU KNOW.

REFUSE ME NOW AND YOU GUARANTEE TEMZARELA'S VICTORY.

ARGHHH!!!
YOU HAVE MY SOUL, BELIAL.

BUT YOU SHALL NEVER HAVE MY BODY!
I have paid for the resurrection you gave me.

As long as I walk this earth you will haunt me.

But I will not allow you to come any closer.
SO BE IT.
FOLLOW YOUR ANGER INTO TEMOZARELA'S ARMS.
THANK!

The cycle of hate and death will continue with you, as I did me.

Not even God himself can stop it now.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, IVAN?

ARE YOU STILL CRYING FOR GOD'S INTERVENTION?

OR IS THIS YOUR WAY OF TELLING YOURSELF THAT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS LIFE?

YOUR ATTACHMENT TO THIS BODY WILL SOON FADE.

I WILL NOT RUSH YOU.

YOUR ANGER WILL BURN HOTTER AS YOU GET CLOSER TO HIM. AND THAT WILL LEAD YOU STRAIGHT TO ME.
HEH HEH

I N T E R V I E W

HEH

HEH

HEH HEH HEH

TALK ALL YOU WANT

BUT DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, BELIAL!
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THIS?

THIS IS FOR THEIR FUNERAL MASS

I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEND THOSE CURSED SOULS TO THE NEXT WORLD WITHOUT A PROPER PRAYER

NO ONE WILL GET AWAY

YOU HEAR ME, TEMOZAMELAPI? NO ONE!
I spit on the fate god has prepared for me!
THE SMELL OF BLOOD

HEH HEH...

THE SMELL...

IT WONT GO AWAY

BLOOD
ARISE...
RISE FROM THE DEAD AND SERVE YOUR MASTER!

NEIGH!

NEIGH!
GENA: I CANNOT PRAY FOR YOU.

WOULD THAT...

BUT I KNOW YOUR SOUL IS AT PEACE.

I COULD JOIN YOU AT MY JOURNEY'S END.
NEIGH!

NEIGH!

JUPITER?
EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE. MY FOOLISH PRIEST.

YOUR PILGRIMAGE WILL BE LONG AND HARD.

YOU SHOULD NOT GO ON FOOT.

CAN PANDORA STOP THE EVIL RELEASED FROM THE BOX?

THE MURDERER BECOMES THE MURDERER, THE DESTROYER THE DESTROYER.
GO, IVAN.

EMBRACE YOUR RAGE! PAY THEM BACK TENFOLD FOR THE PAIN THEY SHOWED YOU.
I AM LIVING A LEGEND

THE TALE OF IVAN ISAAC'S HEH!
JUST ANOTHER PLAYER IN A TRAGIC HISTORY...

...THAT NO ONE REMEMBERS
It was around the time my journey was about to begin that He shared with me the powers of darkness.

The powers available to those who lived outside the light of God.
AND HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE FATE I'D CHOSEN IN THE FIGHT TO COME. 

...HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON... AND THE HOLY GHOST.

AMEN.
FATHER LUCIAN, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE ORDER OF ST. VERTINEZ, ALSO KNOWN AS MICHAEL'S SWORD? OF COURSE. THEY ARE AN INVESTIGATIVE BRANCH THAT WORKS WITH AUTONOMY, ANSWERING ONLY TO THE POPE BUT DIDN'T.

I SEE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT FATHER FESTRO'S DISAPPEARANCE. THE TRUTH IS MUCH WORSE. WE'VE MANAGED TO CAPTURE THE FEW SURVIVING MEMBERS.

CAPTURE? SURVIVORS? ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
Father Piestro led the Order in an investigation deep in the American Southwest.

When he failed to report back to the Vatican, we sent our men to investigate.

God only knows what went on in that place. Father Piestro and the others were dead—slaughtered.

Even more troubling was what we learned from the survivors.

It seems the entire order had converted to the ways of heretics.
Father Lucian: Do you know what I am about to ask you?

Yes.

I do know, Bishop.

I'm ready to face the tests of faith that stand before me.

In this investigation.

Father Lucian: The real test of faith...

Does not come from outside.
THE GREATEST DANGERS TO FAITH...
THOSE ARE TRUE TESTS OF GOD...
NOSTALGIA
WELL, SHIT!

IT JUST GOES ON AND ON, DON'T IT?

HEY, NOVIO!

HOW FAR'D YOU SAY IT IS TO CAROWS?
SELFISH SON OF A BITCH...

SHOULD THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT ARE TRAILING HIM.

WHOA!

TUP!

TUP!

TUP!

NEIGH

IT AIN'T HELPING...

THAT LADY THERE'S SLOWIN' US DOWN.
ENOUGH COBAIN
SHE'S SICK

LIZZIE
WE CAN REST IF YOU WANT

NO.

I DON'T CARE

FINE, FINE.

COBURN
I'LL BE THE BAD GUY

WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE?
WE'RE ABOUT HALF WAY BETWEEN ST BALDAS AND BOSACK.

IF WE COULD JUST CROSS THIS DAMN VALLEY, IT'D BE A QUICK RIDE TO BOSACK.

BUT I'M NOT SURE IF WE CAN CATCH HIM.

CARRYING ALL THIS BAGGAGE

THE STRANGER

HE'S THE ONLY ONE...

...WITH THE ANSWERS WE NEED.

WE HAVE TO FIND HIM AT ANY COST.

I KNOW I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE THIS FUCKING DESERT.

SIGH
Stay away from their dogma, Lizzie!
FOLLOWERS OF TEMOZARELA'S DOCTRINE WILL FACE THE BAPTISM OF BLOOD.

NOW WHAT IF WE CUT ACROSS THIS?

PLOP!

OH, SHIT.
SHIT!

DID THE MUTATION START?

I THINK SO!

K'YAAK!!

ARGHH!!

DON'T LET HER TOUCH YOU!

HOLD HER DOWN AND PULL UP HER SLEEVES!
ON LORD, WHO ART MY SAVIOR AND PROTECTOR...

THE ENEMY, MY FOE, TRIES TO DEVOUR ME...

...BUT I AM SAVED BY YOUR GRACE.
Accept the Lord Christ in your heart...

And you will be ruled by the spirit, not by the flesh.

The temptations of the flesh cannot destroy you if your spirit is with him.

Aaagh!

Cut open her wound in the shape of a cross!

Goddamn it!

I hate this religious shit.

Ping!
Jesus gave his life for your sins.

And if you accept His resurrection...

...and take His spirit into your heart.

Even if your body should die, your soul shall live forever!

ARGH!

SPLASH!
Oh, father, who art in heaven...

I have mercy on this your wretched child.
GIVE US THE POWER TO FIGHT THE DARKNESS!
WHO IS--?

THAT'S ME?
WAIT!!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?

ANSWER ME!!!
Is it over?

I'm not sure, but...

...the mutation's been stopped for now.

All I can do is slow down the process.

If we don't find the source of this plague soon...

...the mutation could start again...

...at any time.

Crack

Snap

PCF
This isn't just a problem... for Lizzie.

Hundreds of people have already been exposed to this disease.

You'll have to kill them!
This isn't a disease and you can't cure it!

You'll have to kill everyone, including me.

Lizzie: What's the matter, Lizzie?

Is the rebel angel afraid to keep living?

Yes

Sometimes...
Sometimes you realize how terrible...
AND PAINFUL...

Especially after you've seen hell like I have.
Cough!

Lizzie!

If I have to live like that... I'd rather...

You'd rather die...
A HUMAN BEING...

...THAN LIVE AS ONE OF THOSE MUTATED BEASTS, EH?

POP

Y'KNOW

SURPRISED?

DECKER WOULD BE REALLY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I SPOKE TO BRING DOWN YOUR OLD MAN IF IT KILLED ME.
SO, DECKER.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF PLACES TO HIDE.

HA HA HA!

COBURN
I'm impressed.

You're a better tracker than I gave you credit for!

But I'm afraid you're going to have to catch me another time.

You see today is a very special day for me.

No, today is a very important day for me!

Today is the day I bring in the leader of the rebel angels!
CUCK!

CLICK!

BANG!

FINE. IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO...

!!
WHAT THE...

WHAT THE HELL??

DECKER!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SORRY, COBURN.

BUT TODAY IS MY DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY.

LIZZIE'S WAITING FOR ME!

WE'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR BUSINESS TILL NEXT TIME!

CRAZY.

...SON OF A BITCH!
That damn near ruined my career.

I never could live it down with the guys.

And before I got a chance to redeem myself.

He was killed by a soldier's bullet.

Strange thing is, I feel sorry he had to go down that way.

Your old man was a fighter he loved life no matter how hard it was.
HE ALWAYS SMILED AT ME...

EVEN UP TO THE MOMENT HE DIED.

...I DO REMEMBER.

YES
I knew that I would be happy and safe...as long as he was with me.
LOOK, LIZZIE...

I'M RUNNING OUT OF...

...COMFORTING THINGS TO SAY

SO WHY DON'T YOU...

FIND SOME MEMORY TO HOLD ON TO THAT WILL KEEP THAT DECKER FIGHTING SPIRIT GOING.

WHY?

WHY DO YOU CARE IF I LIVE OR DIE?

BECAUSE WE NEED YOU DAMMIT!

YOU'RE THE ONLY CLUE WE HAVE TO WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON.

AND BECAUSE I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO YOU WHINE.
But, if you still want me to kill you.

I'll grant your wish here and now.

No...

Lizzie...

There is no reason to give up.

The mutation has stopped for now.

I don't know if you believe in God...

But I know he would not let this happen without giving us a chance.

Help us find the ones who did this to you, Lizzie. Let's find your cure.
NOVIC!  CLICK
Y'KNOW YOU SCARE ME SOME TIMES NOVIC.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOU BACK IN ANTIETAM?
The plague does not seem... to have spread to this area.

Between here and Rosack it is mostly desert... but I find it most odd.

I did not see any of them... or smell the stench of their black blood.

That no one here even knows about the plague.
That is odd.

I did see one thing...

A group of men fleeing across the desert to the south.

There were three of them—one was injured.

So what?

What's that got to do with our mission?

They fled as if from the devil himself.

But there was no one chasing them.
HUFF HUFF HUFF

HUFF

GASP

H-HEY!

WAIT FOR ME!!

WAIT FOR ME!!

M-MY HORSE...

SENT-ENZA!!
WAIT FOR ME... MY HORSE...

HE IS DEAD... I... I CAN'T...

PLEASE...

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!

SENT-ENZA!!

TIME!!!

HIT ME!!
SAVE YOUR BULLETS.
SENTENZA.

HEH HEH...
THAT SHOULD BUY US SOME TIME.

HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

AHHH!! MALDITO SEAS!

SENTENZA PENEJOS PERROS!

SENTENZA!
HUFF

DEEP...

DEEP...

NO... NO...

...EL DIABLO!!
SHIT!

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT!!

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL GIVE UP AFTER TAKING TUCO?

I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT.
OUR LOOT'S WORTH A LOT MORE THAN HIS BOUNTY!

- WE RETURN THE DIAMONDS?

KA-CHUCK

SENTENZA

WHAT IF...

GO AHEAD! TURN YOURSELF IN, BLONDIE!!

BUT AFTER WHAT WE WENT THROUGH, I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP NOW!

JUST KEEP YOUR EYES PEN FOR HIM

THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN JUMP US HERE!
DANG!
DANG!
DANG!

WE... GOT HIM!

OH, YEAH!

HAR HAR HAR!!

YOU LIKE THAT CABRÓN ?!

THAT'S IT...
AMAZING, SENTENZA!

FUCKIN' AMAZING!!

HAR HAR...

NO ONE MESS WITH SENTENZA!

HEH HEH...

HEY, COME LOOK!

YOU GOT HIM REAL GOOD!!

WUH?
HA HA HA...

SENTENZA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE GUY'S DEAD

SIMPLE MATH, HOMBRE.

LESS PEOPLE MEANS MORE PROFIT

H-HEY!

SENtenza!

!
C'MON, SENTENZA!!

WE'RE A TEAM!

UH...

UH...

UH...

WHAAAA...?
NEIGH

PHOP

HOW

HOW...

HOW CAN...
SHIT!
THMP

AAGH!

OH, FUCK!
NO!

N-N-NOCO!!!

GAHH!

ARGHH!
Huh!

Gah!

Wait!

I'll cut you a deal.

Let me live...

And all the diamonds are yours!

Meh.

It's not me you should be paying to.

Meh.
Goddamn the devil, I don't care...

...but you'll be seeing one or the other very soon.

!!

AGHUUU!!

TUG
CLINK

WHAT...

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU, FATHER?

CLINK

SLAM!
...IS THIS?

W- WHAT

JUST A FEW SINNERS.

I FOUND IN THE DESERT
GASP!

THE SENTENZA GANG

$50 Thousand for Sentenza.

They robbed the Federal Bank in Nobasco.

TUCO AND BLONDIE $20 Thousand Each

AND I BELIEVE THESE

ARE THE STOLEN DIAMONDS

I BELIEVE THAT'S $90 Thousand you gave me.
WELL?

YOU ARE THE SHERIFF AIN'T YOU?

SH...

SHERIFF!

THIS IS A MATTER FOR FEDERAL MARSHALS.

WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY IN THIS LITTLE TOWN!

I DON'T NEED MONEY.

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU.

I'LL LET YOU TURN IN THE BOUNTIES YOURSELF.

IN EXCHANGE FOR ALL THE SILVER THIS TOWN CAN MUSTER.
I remember...

The garden of clouds filled with beautiful scents...

...and his holy compassion.

...all the glories of heaven.

...songs of joyous angels...
I've made do with memories in this dream-like place... but no more.
ALL THAT I LOST...

WILL BE RETURNED TO ME!!!
ANGRY

HEY!

Huh?

Look up there!

I think there's someone up there!
This is it.

All the silver in town.

Thank you, sheriff.
Hey you!

How dare you!

Hiding behind the cloth doing this kind of work.

Aren't you afraid of God's judgement?

Heh heh heh...
Do you still believe that God will punish the wicked and spare the righteous?

Someone I know believed that...

And he paid dearly for it.

But then I guess you wouldn't understand.

Unless you'd gone through hell yourself.
CLINK

DRIP

Zzzzzzz

TING!

TING!
I think he's leaving now!
SHOULDN'T WE WARN HIM ABOUT THE--

LET HIM BE HE ASKED FOR IT.

IF WE TRIED ANYTHING...

OUR TOWN MIGHT PAY FOR IT AS WELL.

WEARING AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT...

HE DESERVES ANYTHING HE GETS.

HE'LL ANSWER TO GOD FOR HIS BLASPHEMY IN TIME.

BUT FIRST HE'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO SENTENZA'S
AND I DON'T THINK THEY'LL LET HIM OFF EASY AFTER WHAT HE DID TO THEIR LEADER

NEIGH

NEIGH
Lookie here, carnales.

I wouldn't believe it if I didn't see it for myself.

I think we've found our man.
If you're looking for his head, I left it with the sheriff.

Hee hee hee!

War War!

Listen, padre!

Ka-chuck

I don't need that Descarado's head.

But... I do want...

...the diamonds!!

...or the next funeral service you'll attend...

...will be your own!

So hand them over...
HEH HEH HEH!!

UM?

PEDRO, THERE'S A STAGE COACH HEADING THIS WAY!
GAW! I'M BUSY, MAN TAKE CARE OF IT?

WELL, SHEE-IT!

WHAT'S A STAGE CO. DOIN' OUT HERE ANYWAY?

HUH?
To Be Continued...
IVAN ISAACS WILL RETURN IN
PRIES+ VOLUME 9: Hallelujah of the Beast

In which a homesick angel shares visions of heaven with our hero, and the true nature of the seraphim is revealed.
Everybody wants a piece of Ivan Isaacs. The agents of the fallen angels, the law, and the mafia all want to destroy him. The law has a bounty on his head, not knowing that no mortal man could hope to take it. The one who needs Ivan most of all is Coburn, a US Marshall who leads a team in an investigation of the recent string of "unusual" incidents around the Southwest. His only lead to finding Ivan is Lizzie, former leader of the Rebel Angels and the only surviving witness of the St. Baldas Massacre. Lizzie needs Ivan too—he might be the only one who can help her cure the plague she contracted from her encounter with Temozarel's agents.

"Succeeds in fusing unabashed and exhilarating action with spiky intellectual matters. Each chapter adds a new layer of queasy delight."
- Mike Carey, writer for Lucifer and Hellblazer

"Priest is a series that keeps getting stronger with each volume with a story that goes into unexpected directions at the turn of a page."
- Gamepro