



**Illustrated by Richard Corben**

Quilla June was Vic's first contact with love, however ill-conceived it might have been. He could not have sacrificed her without being torn up by it. The story, for all its fantastic aspects, is not an amoral tv segment in which someone is murdered and then other players stand around paying no attention to the body, carrying on a conversation. The death of someone who matters leaves indelible marks on all those who knew him or her. And so it was important to show the effect on both Vic and Blood of Quilla June's terrible death.

For that reason, and to make a gesture of recognition to all the women who were smart enough to know there was an aspect of human conflict I had not addressed, I have written this linking section — complete in itself — to bridge the two major sections of the novel *BLOOD'S A ROVER*, which Ace Books will publish in October, 1980.

I still abhor sequels; but I detest even more violently leaving a story unfinished. With this piece, and the novel, I go content to my twilight that the story of Vic and Blood and Spike (whom you will meet in the novel) is complete.

### — Harlan Ellison



## Harlan Ellison

A Phenomenon. What else can you call a man who commands so broad a spectrum of literary accomplishment in such high style and with such elan — and who still has energy to spare for championing causes, fighting industry giants, marrying lots of women, appearing on television talk shows, traveling all over the globe, collecting fine art, helping hosts of friends, dealing with the not-so-friendly in his own direct, Ellisonian manner — and probably a number of other things as well. One gets the impression early on that here is a formidable personality to tangle with and that you'd better not idly or otherwise attack or misuse him or his friends. This is clearly a man who grabs life by the neck and takes control where possible since he is supremely aware of the dystopian ways of the world, as reflected in his literature. His work is highly thought-provoking, heavily symbolic and more easily fits into what is known as speculative fiction than sf. For short story collections look for "Ellison Wonderland", "Deathbird Stories", "I Have No Mouth And I Must Scream", "Alone Against Tomorrow" and "The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World". If you want Ellison editing, delve into the "Dangerous Visions" volumes ( five of them ) or Pyramid Books, Harlan Ellison Discovery Series. Journalism? Read his collected columns on television (from the Los Angeles Free Press) in "The Glass Teat" and "The Other Glass Teat". Ellison has also written novels and screenplays for television and motion pictures.—*Editor*