



image

281

DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN[®]

DARRAGH SAVAGE
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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

After watching Yoko's family get slaughtered and Yoko get taken, Cyan departs on a journey to get her back. She meets up with the ghost who had been haunting her, but instead of being afraid, Cyan asks for the ghost's help. The ghost, unable to communicate verbally, uses drawings to help Cyan find her friend and figure out who is behind the killings. But they are both unaware that the enemy is close by and are caught by surprise when Cyan is shot by a tranquilizer dart. Elsewhere, Spawn is doing some hunting of his own and leaving no survivors, he slashes his way through a slew of men who are intent on killing the people he loves.



SPAWN KNEW HE'D MADE A MISTAKE THE MOMENT TERRY TOLD HIM HE'D JUST HAD A "WEIRD" CONVERSATION WITH HIS DAUGHTER, CYAN. SPAWN NAIVELY THOUGHT HE COULD 'HIDE' TERRY'S GIRL FROM THE HORRORS THAT WERE CONSTANTLY TRYING TO HAUNT SPAWN HIMSELF.

HE ALSO KNEW THAT CYAN WAS FAR MORE THAN AN AVERAGE TEENAGER. HE'D SEEN THE LATENT ABILITIES SHE FIRST EXHIBITED WHILE AT THE REHABILITATION CENTER BACK IN NEW YORK. AND THOSE POWERS SHE WAS MANIFESTING WOULD NOW MAKE HER A TARGET.



THAT'S WHY HE SENT HER HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD TO JAPAN IN HOPES OF KEEPING HER SAFE FROM BOTH THE AGENTS OF HEAVEN AND HELL. THAT 'SAFETY' WAS SHATTERED ALMOST INSTANTLY.





NOW CYAN WAS MISSING, TAKEN BY A MAN NAMED TAMURA WHO WAS INVOLVED IN SOME SADISTIC EXPERIMENT WITH A CREATURE THAT EXCRETES A LIQUID DRUG THAT CAN BE USED TO CONTROL HUMAN BEHAVIOR.

THE REASON THAT LIQUID WAS GENERATED WAS THAT THE CREATURE NEEDED TO KIDNAP AND THEN DEVOUR YOUNG, INNOCENT CHILDREN. YOUTHFUL SOULS WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE THEIR BODIES AND MINDS HAD YET TO SUCCUMB TO THE CORRUPTIONS OF MOST ADULTS.



THAT'S WHAT MADE EACH VIAL OF
DRUG SO PURE. SO VALUABLE.





I TOLD
YOU... I'M NOT
HUNGRY.



WELL, IN
THE LONG RUN
THIS NOURISHMENT
ISN'T FOR YOU.
YOU'RE JUST
A HOST.



He'll come
looking for
her, you
know.

I'M
SURE HE
WILL.



BUT WHEN
HE DOES, CAN
YOU STOP HIM THIS
TIME? OR AM I GOING
TO CONTINUE TO SEE
HIM TEAR THROUGH
MY MEN ONE
BY ONE?



His powers...
they've changed
somehow. This
isn't the same
Spawn I remember
hearing about.



THAT WASN'T
MY QUESTION.
I SAID, CAN YOU
STOP HIM?



TO THE ONLOOKERS BELOW, THEY MERELY SEE A GIANT RED FLAG, BLOWING IN THE WIND, ATOP A FIFTY-STORY SKYSCRAPER. WHAT THEY COULD NEVER IMAGINE IS THAT THIS HELLBORN HERO IS ON THE HUNT. HE IS 'SCRYING' FOR CYAN BY USING AN OBJECT HE'D TAKEN FROM HER ROOM. IT'S THE SAME METHOD HE USED TO RECOVER ANOTHER YOUNG GIRL A FEW DAYS AGO.

HE HAD TO LIE TO CYAN'S FATHER WHEN HE CALLED ABOUT HER NOT GETTING OFF THE PLANE THE AIRLINES SAID SHE BOARDED.*

HE TOLD HIM SHE'D MISSED THE FLIGHT INSTEAD. WHEN THE FATHER PRESSED FURTHER ABOUT HOW THEY WERE TALKING THAT SHE HAD DISAPPEARED... SPAWN HUNG UP. THERE WERE NO ANSWERS THAT WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH, SO INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME WITH HER FATHER, HE HAS GONE HUNTING.

AND IT APPEARS HIS FIVE HOUR VIGIL MAY HAVE FINALLY PAID OFF.

*See last issue---Todd.

A large, dark figure with a red cape and a white mask with a single eye is flying over a city at night. The figure is holding a glowing green orb. The city below is illuminated by streetlights and building lights. The figure's cape is flowing in the wind. The overall tone is dark and dramatic.

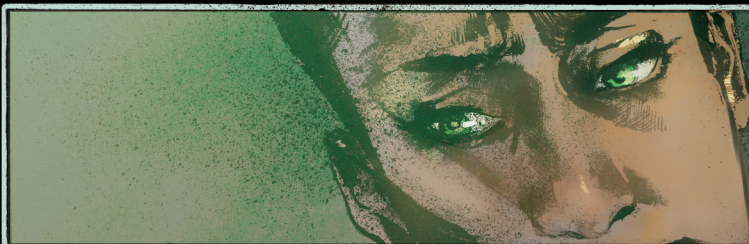
AND IF THAT'S TRUE...

A close-up of Spawn's face, showing his white mask with a single eye and his red cape. He is looking down at a city at night, with a bright light source visible in the distance.

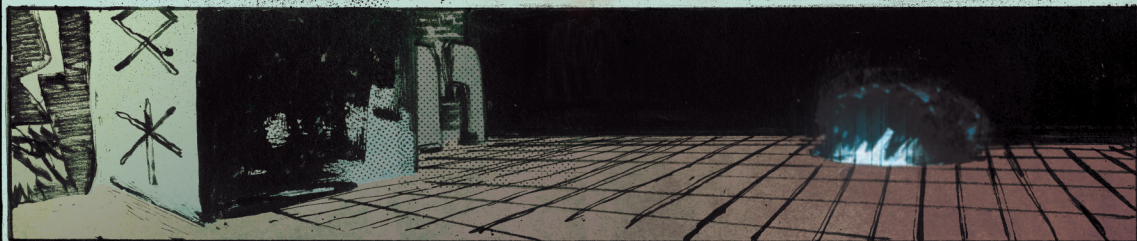
HE'S UNABLE TO PIN AN EXACT LOCATION, BUT THE 'SCRYING' GIVES HIM A GENERAL DIRECTION. AND MUCH MORE IMPORTANT... HE ONLY GETS A SIGNAL IF SHE'S ALIVE!

A wide shot of Spawn flying away from the city at night. He is holding the glowing green orb. The city is visible in the background, with its lights and buildings. The figure's cape is flowing in the wind. The overall tone is dark and dramatic.

... HIS ENEMIES HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SPAWN'S ABOUT TO UNLEASH UPON THEM.



IT'S BEEN AN HOUR SINCE TAMURA LEFT CYAN ALONE. HE WANTS HER TO SLEEP, TO BE "READY" FOR WHAT IS TO COME IN THE MORNING, BUT THOUGH SHE'S EXHAUSTED, SHE IS UNWILLING TO DO ANYTHING THEY WANT HER TO DO.

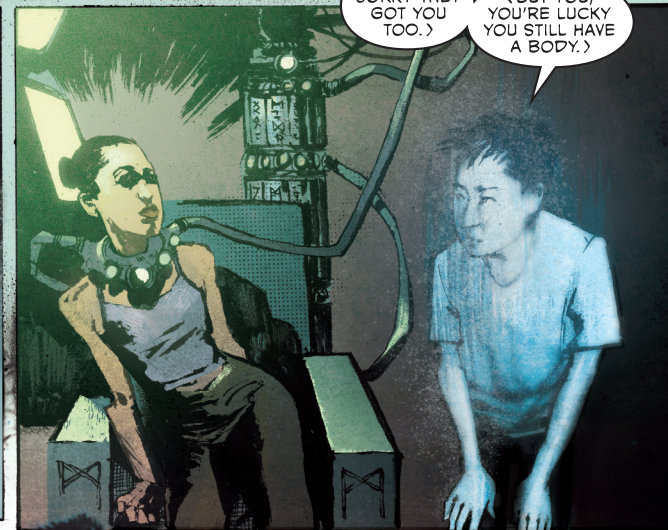


EVEN AFTER THE DRUGS THEY GAVE HER MAKE HER BRAIN FEEL LIKE IT'S WRAPPED IN A WET BLANKET. SO WHEN SHE FIRST SEES THE LITTLE BOY APPEAR FROM THE FLOOR, SHE WONDERS HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS SHE CAN TAKE.



◁ I'M SORRY THEY GOT YOU TOO. ▷

◁ BUT YOU, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU STILL HAVE A BODY. ▷



YOU... TALK?

◁ ONLY SOME OF US CAN. THE GIRL WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE CAN'T. SHE'S NOT LIKE ME. THEY GOT REALLY MAD AT HER WHEN SHE SCREAMED ALL THE TIME. SO THEY MADE SURE SHE COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING AGAIN. THEY GAVE HER LOTS AND LOTS OF NEEDLES. ▷





WHAT
HAPPENED?

DID
THEY HURT
YOU?

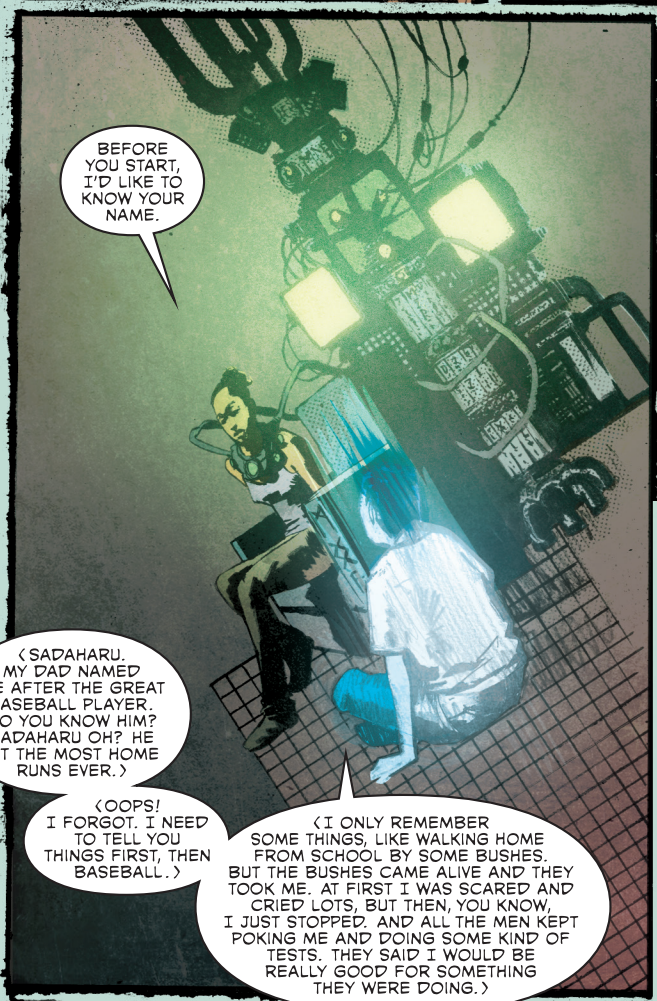
<NOT REALLY,
BUT I DON'T LIKE
TO TALK ABOUT IT
MUCH. DO YOU LIKE
BASEBALL? I DO. MY
DAD USED TO TAKE
ME TO LOTS OF
GAMES.>

I DO LIKE
BASEBALL. LOTS.
IF YOU TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED TO YOU, THEN
I'LL TELL YOU LOTS OF
COOL BASEBALL
STORIES.



<REALLY?>

<WE
CAN DO
THAT.>



BEFORE
YOU START,
I'D LIKE TO
KNOW YOUR
NAME.

<SADAHARU.
MY DAD NAMED
ME AFTER THE GREAT
BASEBALL PLAYER.
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
SADAHARU OH? HE
HIT THE MOST HOME
RUNS EVER.>

<OOPS!
I FORGOT. I NEED
TO TELL YOU
THINGS FIRST, THEN
BASEBALL.>

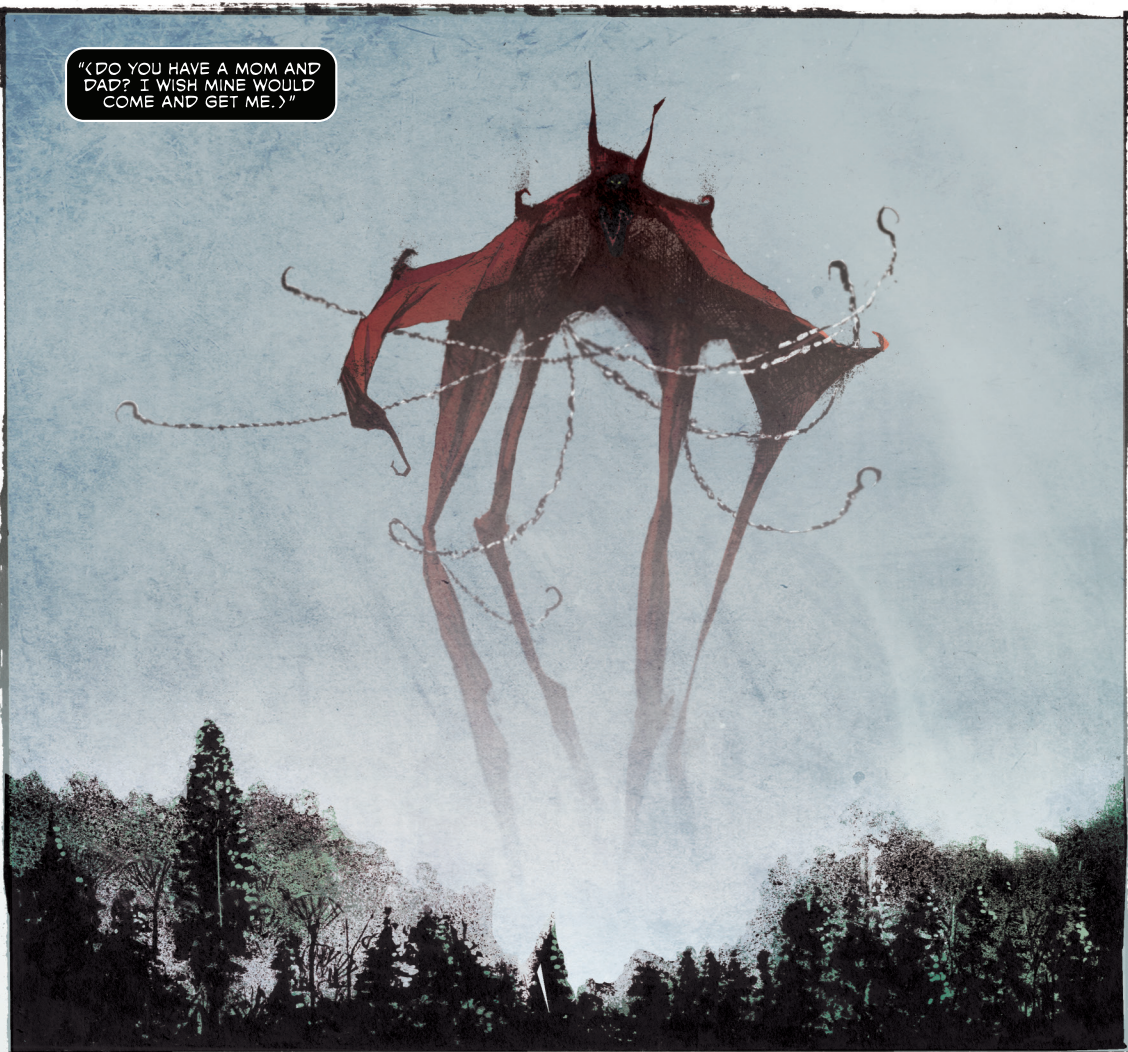
<I ONLY REMEMBER
SOME THINGS, LIKE WALKING HOME
FROM SCHOOL BY SOME BUSHES.
BUT THE BUSHES CAME ALIVE AND THEY
TOOK ME. AT FIRST I WAS SCARED AND
CRIED LOTS, BUT THEN, YOU KNOW,
I JUST STOPPED. AND ALL THE MEN KEPT
POKING ME AND DOING SOME KIND OF
TESTS. THEY SAID I WOULD BE
REALLY GOOD FOR SOMETHING
THEY WERE DOING.>

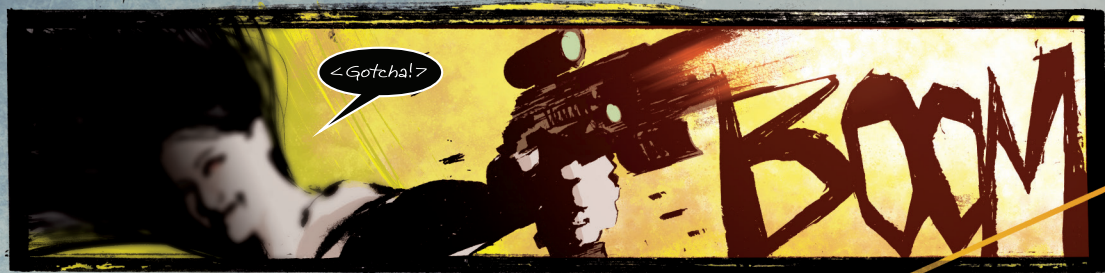


<SO THEY GAVE ME
LOTS OF FOOD AND STUFF
AND MADE ME TAKE A BUNCH OF
PILLS. BUT IT DIDN'T HURT. I JUST
DIED AND IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE
NOTHING. SO, NOW I'M DEAD.
AND I MISS MY BODY AND
MY MOM AND DAD.>



"(DO YOU HAVE A MOM AND
DAD? I WISH MINE WOULD
COME AND GET ME.)"





...BECAUSE
THIS WILL
BE!



THE MOMENT CONTACT IS
MADE BETWEEN SPAWN
AND THE OBESE, IMPISH
CREATURE A FUSION
EXPLOSION OCCURS...
HITTING HIM LIKE A HOUSE
HAS BEEN DROPPED ON
HIS HEAD.

AND AS THE OTHER
SMALL CREATURES
ATTACK, EACH OF THEM
ARE ALSO 'LIVING TIME
BOMBS' ON IMPACT.



ONE AFTER ANOTHER THEY
POUND SPAWN RELENTLESSLY
WITH THEIR MYSTIC ASSAULT.



BUT WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW, WHAT NONE
OF THEM HAVE FACTORED, IS THAT SPAWN
WANTED TO GET CAUGHT! HE WANTED
TO GET NEAR THEM, BECAUSE NOW HE
KNOWS WHERE THEY ALL ARE.



MAKING HIS GAME
OF CAT AND
MOUSE ALL THE
MORE IMPORTANT.



<Oooh. Poor, baby. Are you hurt? And how sweet. You're trying to protect the girl.>

CLANG

<It won't work.>

BLAM

SPAWN!

CLICK

CLICK
CLICK

<You're dead.>

<Now it's your turn, Cyan.>

<NO, DON'T! IT'S ME! I'M...>

SHUCK

CYAN'S SEVERED
HEAD MORPHS.



BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO
CONTROLS
MAGIC.



AND YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY
ONE WHO CAN
**CHANGE
SHAPES!**









"...AND THEY HAD BETTER
GET PREPARED **FOR**
WHAT'S ABOUT TO
COME!"

TO BE CONTINUED

SPAWNING GROUND

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MONTHLY CONTEST

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Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

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Spawn 281 Code Word: **SPAWNHASCHAINS**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Also, a few months back we offered a special tribute cover to another great Image Comic - *The Walking Dead*. Todd redrew Charlie Adlard's iconic cover of *The Walking Dead* #115 but with a Spawn twist, of course. Hope you were able to get your hands on a copy!

Thank you, as always, for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

DARK HORROR PART 7

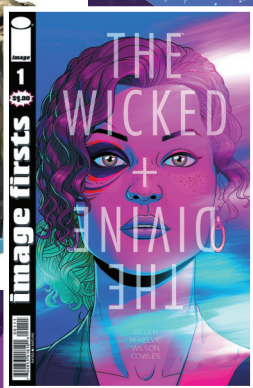
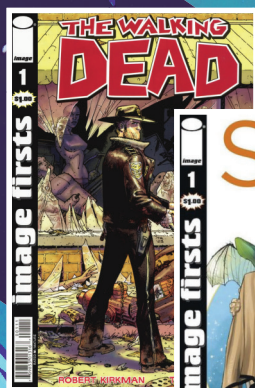
The exciting FINALE of the Dark Horror story arc! This issue marks the introduction of a NEW CHARACTER, soon to have its OWN Image comic book!



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THE WALKING DEAD

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VELVET DEADLY CLASS **ROYAL CITY**
LAZARUS **EAST OF WEST** **I KILL GIANTS**
THE WALKING DEAD **I HATE FAIRYLAND**
KING CITY **SEX CRIMINALS**
KILL OR BE KILLED **RATQUEENS**
CURSE WORDS
SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE **BLUE MONDAY**
MONSTRESS **CHEW** **KINGSMAN**
NOWHERE MEN
HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** SEVEN TO ETERNITY
DESCENDER **PAPER GIRLS**
OCTOPUS PIE WYTCHEs **SHUTTER**
TOKYO GHOST THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS **BITCH PLANET**
SAGA **MOTOR CRUSH** **WAYWARD** **TREES**
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Rick And Morty



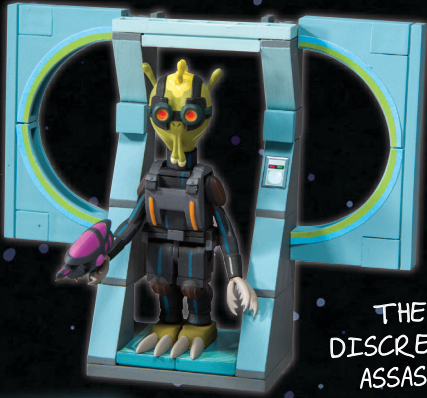
ANTS IN MY EYES
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THE
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BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE



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