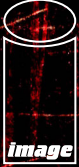


"DARK HORROR" PART 3



278

**DIGITAL
EDITION**

SPAWN®

**DARRAGH SAVAGE
JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER**





DARRAGH SAVAGE
SCRIPT/PLOT

JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER
CO-WRITER

TODD McFARLANE
ADDITIONAL SCRIPT

JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER
ART

TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERING

JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER
COVER ARTIST (A and B)

TODD McFARLANE
EDITOR

Publishing Coordinator
SHANNON BAILEY

Art Director
BEN TIMMRECK

Publisher For Image Comics
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

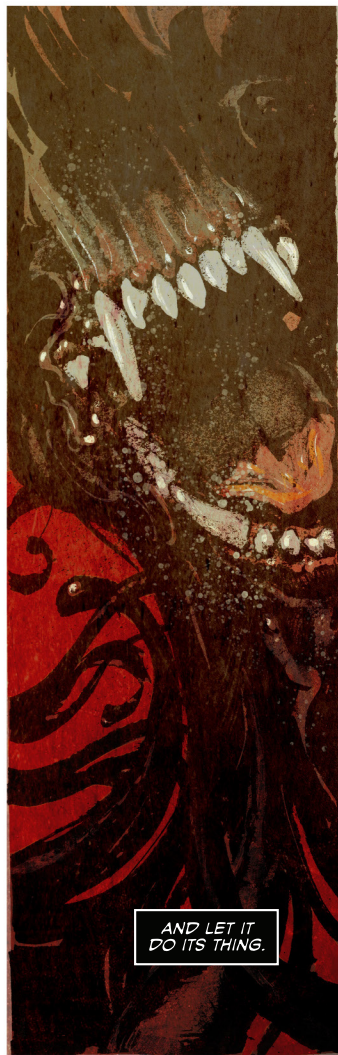
Spawn follows and manipulates a large flock of black crows and captures one of them. In its talons is the gold ring dropped by a young lady being taken to the pet shop (see *Spawn* issue 276). Still unsure of the ring's importance, Spawn continues his quest to find the truth. He follows his leads to the gang of men in charge. Spawn uses his chains to eliminate some of them. But he is unable to contain the leader, who puts him under a spell and chokes Spawn with his own cape. Meanwhile Cyan is still seeing the ghostly girl and doesn't understand why. She asks her friend, 'what dead people want' and her friend replies that it could be the deceased hasn't found the thing that puts them at rest. Cyan begins to ponder if that is the reason this ghost needs HER.

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO DO SOME-
THING IN A MIRROR, YOU
MOVING YOUR HAND, BUT IT
GOES THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION
YOUR MIND WANTS IT TO.

THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LIKE.
HIS POWER MADE ME
THINK I WAS DOING ONE
THING, WHEN I WAS
DOING THE OPPOSITE.



SO INSTEAD OF
TRYING TO TELL MY
COSTUME WHAT TO
DO, I STOPPED.

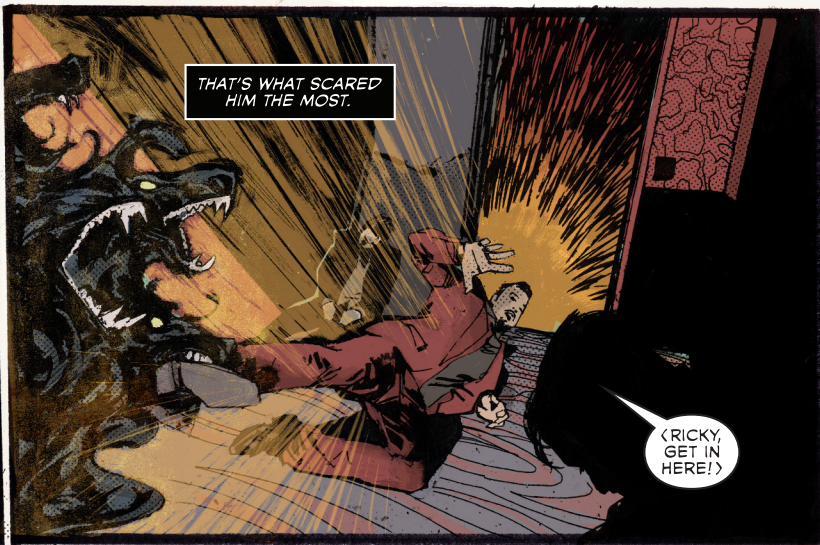


AND LET IT
DO ITS THING.

A man in a red suit is running away from a large, dark, multi-limbed monster with sharp teeth. The man has a shocked expression, with his mouth open. He is wearing a red jacket over a dark shirt and red pants. The monster is on the left, with its head and one arm visible, reaching out. The background is a dark, industrial-looking environment with some light reflecting off surfaces.

(GOD
DAMN
IT!)

WHATEVER HE WAS DOING
TO MY MIND SEEMS A
LITTLE LESS EFFECTIVE ON
THE SYMBIOTE.



SO,
YOU'RE THE
ONE THEY'VE
TALKED
ABOUT?



SHUNK



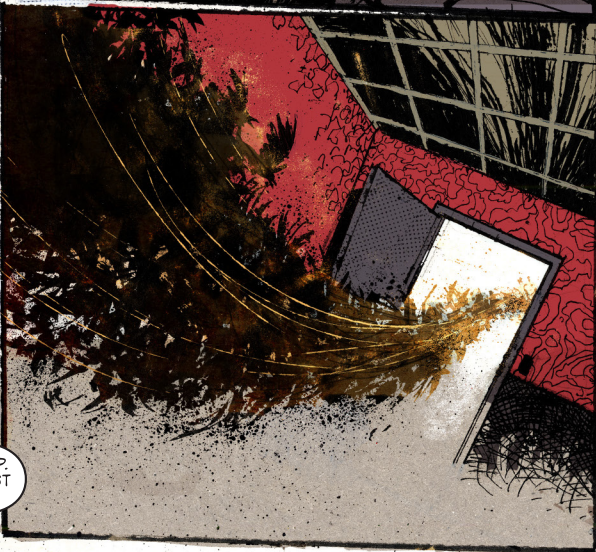
SHIT.



(I TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL, SHIZUMU.)



(GET UP, WE MUST GO.)



STINGS A LITTLE.



ARE YOU OK?



YES.

BUT,
PLEASE... I
JUST WANT TO
LEAVE HERE
NOW.

I WANT
TO GO
HOME.



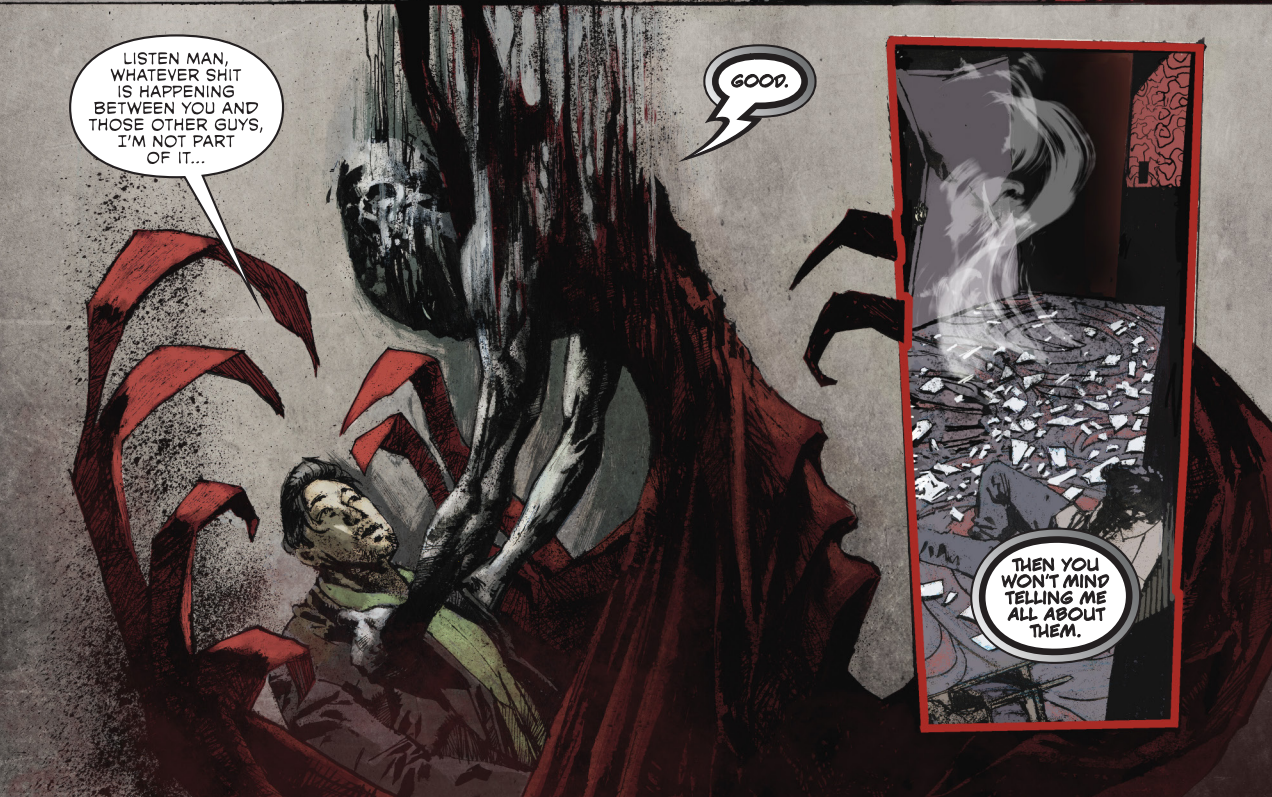
I NEED
TO FEED MY
DOG.



〈SAYA,
THAT **THING!**
DON'T--YOU
CAN'T LEAVE
ME HERE
WITH IT.〉



(YES I
CAN.)



LISTEN MAN,
WHATEVER SHIT
IS HAPPENING
BETWEEN YOU AND
THOSE OTHER GUYS,
I'M NOT PART
OF IT...

GOOD.



THEN YOU
WON'T MIND
TELLING ME
ALL ABOUT
THEM.



WHAT
THE
HELL?

DON'T
MOVE. JUST
TALK.

WHERE
AM I?



IN NO
POSITION TO
NEGOTIATE.

SHIT.

JO?

OK. OK. SO,
IT'S LIKE THIS...
THOSE BASTARDS START
MAKING NOISE A FEW
MONTHS BACK. SHIZUMU
WAS JUST SOME MINOR
LEAGUE PIMP THEN,
SAME WITH THE REST
OF HIS CREW.

NOBODIES.

NEXT
THING YOU
KNOW THEY'RE
TAKING HEADS
LEFT AND
RIGHT.

THERE WERE
RUMORS ABOUT
THE CRAZY STUFF THEY
COULD DO. DIDN'T
REALLY BELIEVE IT UNTIL
THAT SONOVABITCH
SHOWED UP IN MY
OFFICE.

WHO DO
THEY WORK
FOR?

THE PRICK
YOU WANT IS CALLED
OKUMATSU, PEOPLE CALL
HIM MR. O. SHIZUMU AND
THE REST REPORT TO
HIM, I WAS GONNA GO
AFTER HIM.

WHERE?



SHINAGAWA.
COMPANY
CALLED SHINSEI
MEDIA. TONS OF
SECURITY.

THAT
EVERYTHING?

YES.

I JUST
WANT OUT
OF HERE... TO
HAWAII. I JUST
WANT TO GO
HOME TO
HAWAII.





I LIKE
YOUR NEW
LOOK. YOU LOOK
GOOD, MORE
GROWN UP.

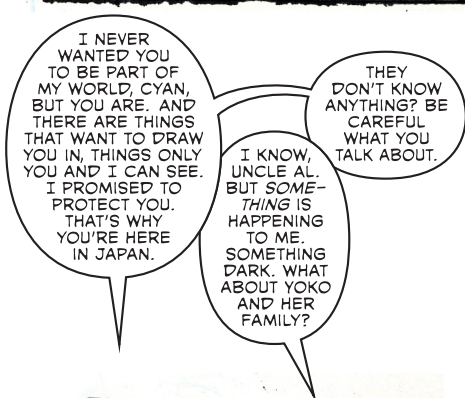
THANKS.
BUT THAT'S
NOT WHY YOU
ASKED ME
HERE IS IT?



I SAW
WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN SEEING. I
CAN'T ENTIRELY
EXPLAIN YET, BUT IT
WILL BE TAKEN
CARE OF.



THAT'S IT?
IT WILL BE TAKEN
CARE OF. COME ON.
YOU CAN'T JUST TELL
ME NOT TO WORRY.
SHE CAME LOOKING
FOR ME.



I NEVER
WANTED YOU
TO BE PART OF
MY WORLD, CYAN,
BUT YOU ARE. AND
THERE ARE THINGS
THAT WANT TO DRAW
YOU IN, THINGS ONLY
YOU AND I CAN SEE.
I PROMISED TO
PROTECT YOU.
THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE HERE
IN JAPAN.

THEY
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING? BE
CAREFUL
WHAT YOU
TALK ABOUT.

I KNOW,
UNCLE AL.
BUT *SOME-
THING* IS
HAPPENING
TO ME.
SOMETHING
DARK. WHAT
ABOUT YOKO
AND HER
FAMILY?



UM, WHAT
DO YOU THINK
I'VE BEEN
DOING? I'M
NOT STUPID.









MINUTES LATER.

YOKO JUST
WANTED YOU BACK
FOR YUJIRO'S PARTY,
SHE THOUGHT
YOU'D FORGOTTEN
ABOUT IT.

I'M SO
SORRY.

I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED.
I'LL BUY YOU
A NEW
DOOR.

NONSENSE.
BESIDES, WE
TOLD YUJIRO THAT
YOU'RE A LOT
STRONGER THAN YOU
LOOK. I THINK
YOU'RE HIS NEW
FAVORITE PERSON
NOW.

YOU MEAN
I'M NOT IN
TROUBLE?

CYAN, I UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.
BELIEVE ME. IT'S WHY SIMMONS--
YOUR UNCLE AL--THOUGHT
THIS WOULD BE A SAFE PLACE
FOR YOU.

BUT I DO
HAVE A FEW
QUESTIONS
FOR YOU.

OK.

BUT FIRST,
LET'S HAVE
SOME CAKE. NO
SENSE HAVING
THAT GO TO
WASTE.

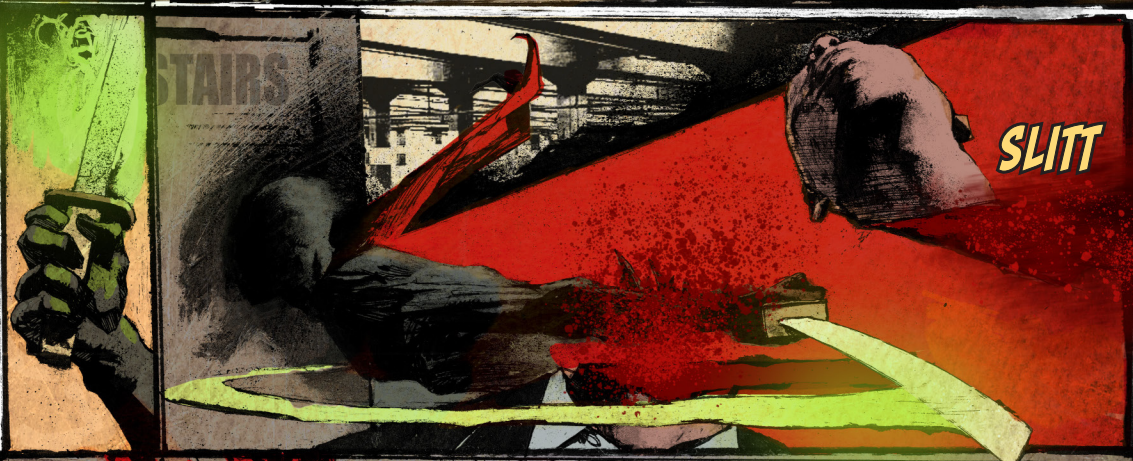
SO, HOW
DID YOU DO
THAT? AND
WHERE IS
YOUR UNCLE
AL?

*Cyan looks
a little better.
A little better.
A little better.*

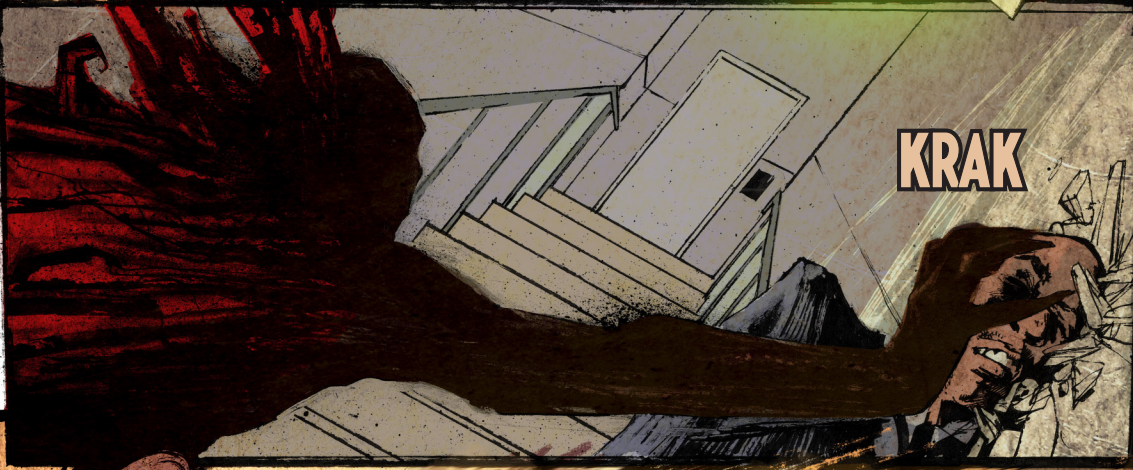


SHUOKK

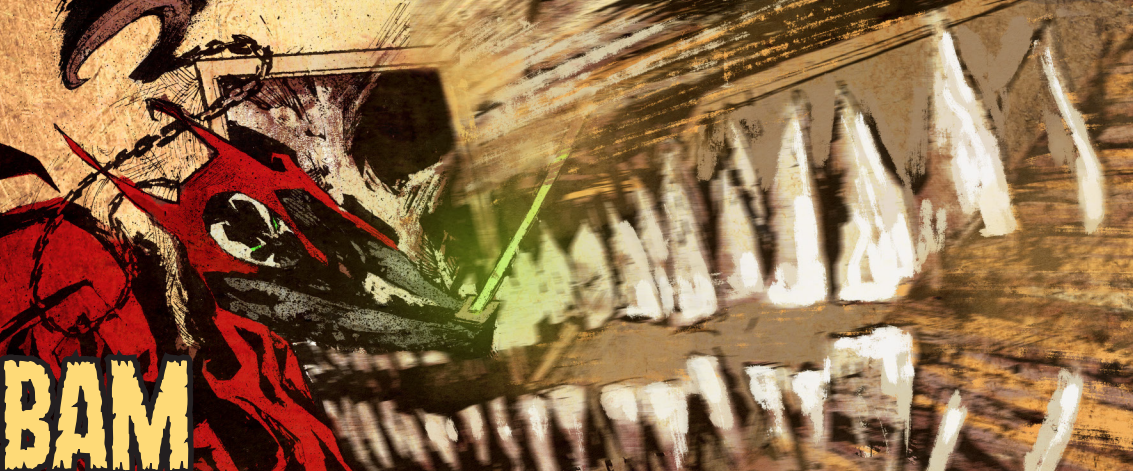
IT WOULD SEEM I'M IN THE
RIGHT PLACE IF IT'S ANY
INDICATION THE WELCOMING
I'M GETTING.



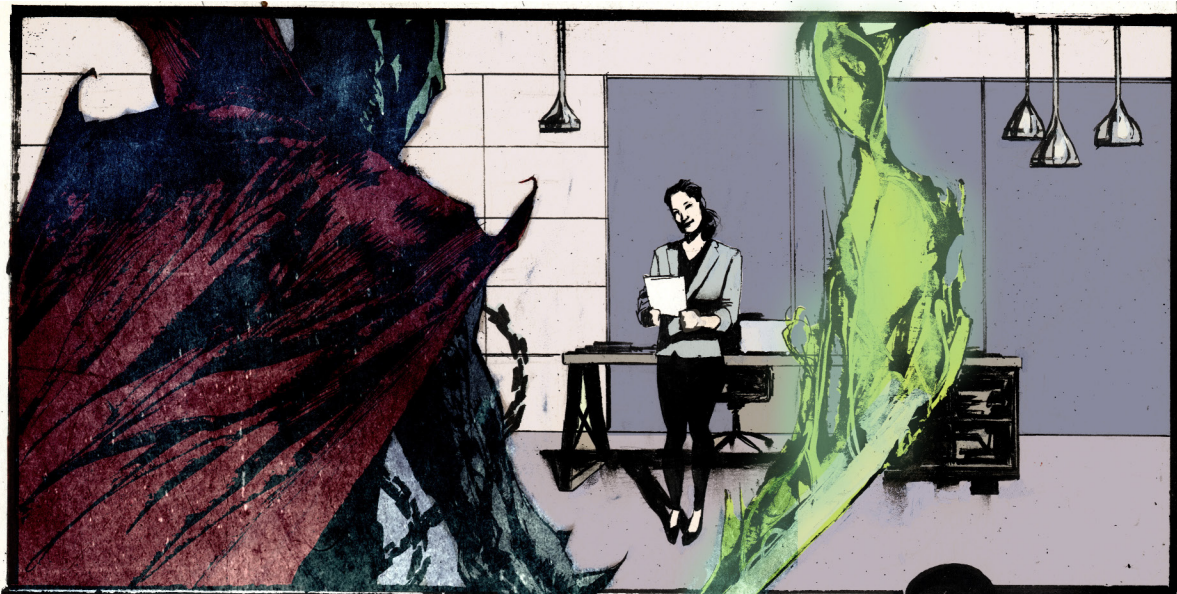
SLITT



KRAK



BAM



Mr. Simmons,
I don't think it's really
necessary for you to kill
any more of my
employees.

I'll be happy to hear
what you have to say
over lunch – but do
change your clothes,
it's a fine establishment





WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

ABOUT WHY YOU'RE HERE.

IT'S SIMPLE. I WANT YOU TO DESTROY THE DEMONS, THEN HIDE YOURSELF DEEP ENOUGH SO MAYBE-- WE WON'T HAVE TO HAVE THIS TALK AGAIN.

FIGURED YOU'D BE LIKE THIS, ALSO FIGURE YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MESS OUT OF A BUNCH OF NICE PEOPLE.

THIS ONE WEARS HIS FLESH WELL, BUT I ALWAYS GET THE SENSE OF SOMETHING ROTTEN WHENEVER I GET CLOSE TO AN ANGEL.

WHO ARE YOU?

NAME'S MR. O.

WE'VE NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED, BUT YOU'RE A BIT OF A CELEBRITY WHERE WE COME FROM.

AND WHEN I HEAR TALK ABOUT CAPES AND CHAINS ALONG WITH CHOKINGS AND STABBINGS AND HANGING BODIES--I SAY TO MYSELF: WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?

I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT THE COMPLICATION OF OUR PRESENCE HERE, *BUT YOU*-- OF ALL PEOPLE-- KNOW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE.

BECAUSE WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

YOU TOOK THAT OPTION AWAY. SEE, WHILE YOU WERE SOLVING THE SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS OF ALL HUMANITY, IT MAY HAVE ESCAPED YOUR NOTICE BUT YOU CREATED A LITTLE PROBLEM BACK IN THE TEMPORAL SPHERE!

A man with a beard and a suit, Mr. Simmons, is seated at a table. He has a bottle of wine and a plate of food in front of him. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking.

AN IMMIGRATION PROBLEM. WE *CAN'T* GO HOME! YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? WE'RE STUCK HERE ON EARTH ALONG WITH HELL'S LEFTOVERS.

YOU MADE SURE OF THAT WHEN YOU LOCKED THE 'DEAD ZONE.' SO, WE'RE TRYING TO PUT OUR TALENTS TO USE, DO A LITTLE *BUSINESS*, BE PRODUCTIVE. "A MAN MUST HAVE HIS WORK" IS WHAT A FRIEND OF MINE USED TO SAY.

A close-up of Mr. Simmons looking upwards with a pained or desperate expression. His hands are clasped together in front of him.

IF YOU CAN'T GO HOME...

A close-up of Mr. Simmons looking intensely at the viewer. He is holding a lit cigarette in his hand.

YOU CHECK THE MORAL SCORECARD ON THE PEOPLE WE'VE ACED SO FAR. I THINK WE'RE DOING OKAY. PLUS WE'RE *JOB CREATORS* TOO. YOU MET RICKY AND SHIZUMU EARLIER-- BRIGHT KIDS!

A close-up of Mr. Simmons looking down with a somber expression. His hands are clasped together.

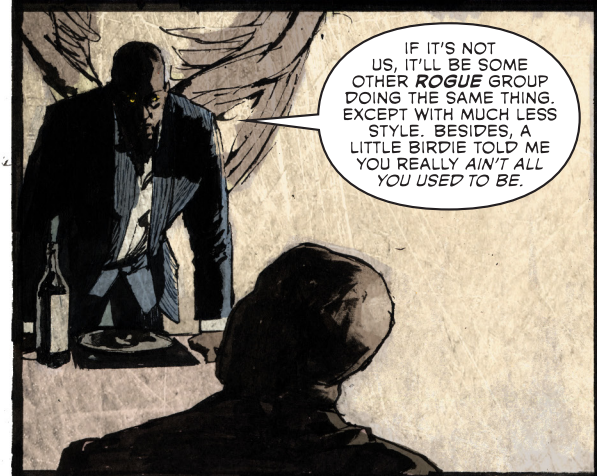
THEN YOU CAN DIE. AND YOU WILL.

A close-up of Mr. Simmons looking upwards with a desperate expression.

SO, WHY WASTE YOUR TIME SCREWING UP WHAT WE'VE ALREADY GOT GOING?

A very close-up shot of a single green eye, looking directly at the viewer.

ALL OF YOU WILL. ONE BY ONE.

Mr. Simmons is standing at a table, looking down at something on it. A bottle and a plate are visible.

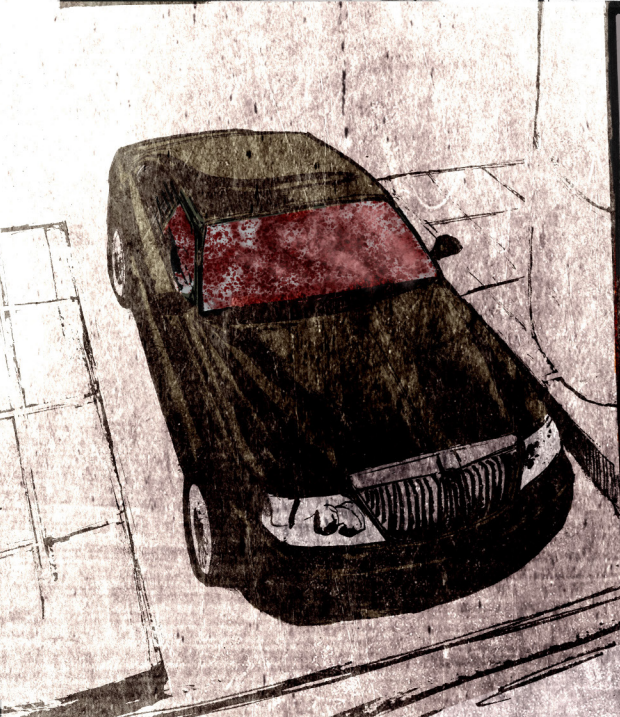
IF IT'S NOT US, IT'LL BE SOME OTHER *ROGUE* GROUP DOING THE SAME THING. EXCEPT WITH MUCH LESS STYLE. BESIDES, A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME YOU REALLY AIN'T ALL YOU USED TO BE.

Mr. Simmons is walking away from the viewer, looking back over his shoulder. Another person is visible in the background.

GOOD EVENING, MR. SIMMONS.

AND I DON'T GIVE A SHIT IF YOU'RE FROM HEAVEN OR HELL.







WHAT DID
YOU JUST...
DO?

DAMMIT. NOT NOW.

SPAWNING GROUND

P.O. Box 12230
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MONTHLY CONTEST

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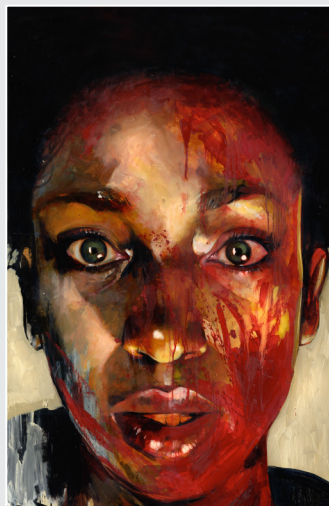
Spawn 278 Code Word: **BLACKBIRDFLY**

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

Good Luck!

Thank you all for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

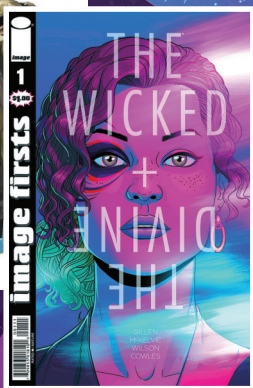
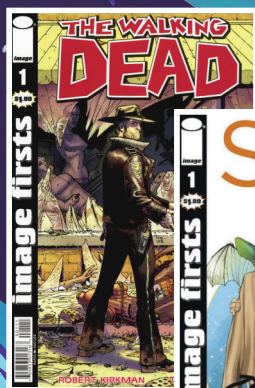
DARK HORROR PART 4 of 6

Battle in Japan continues to lead to the evolution of a new hero in the Spawn mythos.

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TO LEAVE
YOUR

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TODD McFARLANE



NEW YORK OCTOBER 5-8, 2017
COMIC CON

NEW YORK OCTOBER 5-8, 2017
COMIC CON

APPEARANCES

Thursday October 5th
Panel - 1:30-2:30 PM
Todd McFarlane Talks Movies,
Comics and Toys!
Location: Room 1A06

Thursday October 5th
Todd McFarlane FREE Autograph
Session 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Location: Image Comics Booth #1444

Friday October 6th
FREE Autograph Session 3:00 - 5:00PM
Location: Image Comics Booth #1444

Saturday October 7th
FREE Autograph Session 1:00-3:00PM
Location: Image Comics Booth #1444

Saturday October 7th
VIP Pre-Ticketed Autograph Session
5:30-7:00PM
Location: TBD

Todd McFarlane, creator of Spawn, founder of Image Comics and McFarlane Toys CEO, will be at New York Comic Con October 5th, 6th and 7th. On Thursday, October 5th, Todd McFarlane will host a panel to talk comics, toys, and movies, including the highly anticipated Spawn movie. Pack your favorite McFarlane comic or toy because on October 6th and 7th he will be signing autographs! For all the details on Todd and this event check out **McFARLANE.COM!**

IMAGE+

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The ENTIRE *Spawn* comic library and *Spawn Origins Collection* Volumes 1 – 20 is now available in digital format from ComiXology, iBooks, Google Play, and imagecomics.com. Fans can immerse themselves with 23 years and 250+ issues of *Spawn* with the simple swipe of a fingertip. *Spawn* is one of the world's best-selling and longest-running independent monthly comic books, known for its hyper-detailed art from its creator, **Todd McFarlane**. Now you can read the entire series wherever you are.

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