

SPAWN

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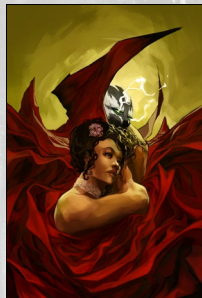
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**SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE**



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Marc Rosen has been at Al's side for what seems like an eternity. Putting his life on the line for a man whose cause he believes in. Now, with his newfound powers, doubt is beginning to creep in, and the words of Jim Downing are starting to make sense.



FOR THIS
CENTURION
SPAWN,
TIME WAS
BEGINNING
TO RUN OUT.

TWO DAYS
AGO, HE WAS
AMBUSHED.
HE KNEW THAT,
BEFORE LONG,
THIS MOMENT
WOULD COME.

IT WAS JUST
A QUESTION
OF WHEN.



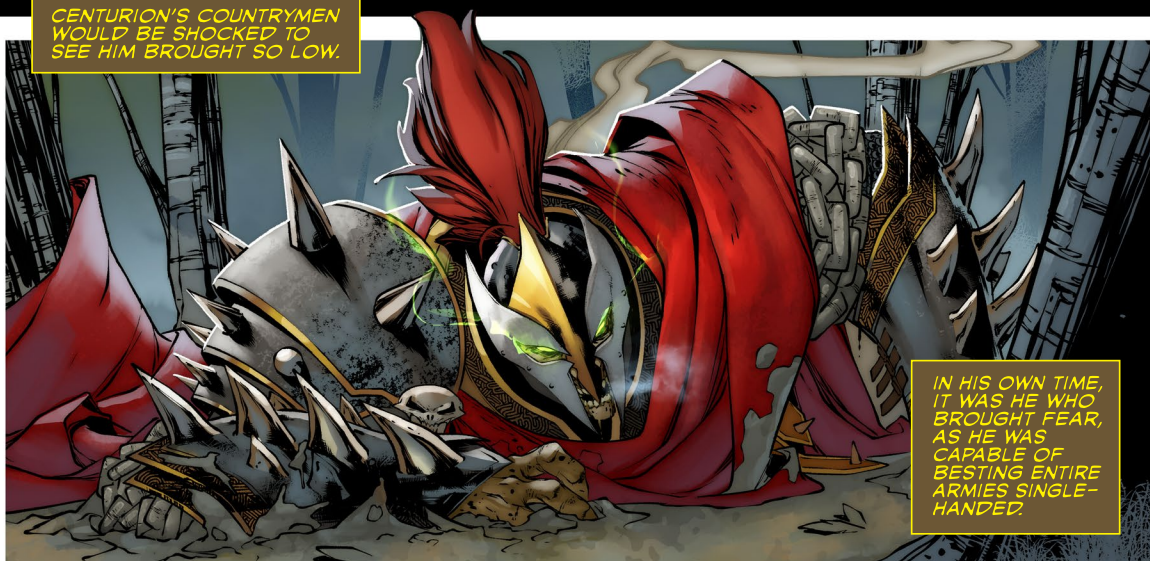
CENTURION HAS
HEARD MANY
TALES ABOUT
HIS PURSUER,
ONE OF THE
FEW BEINGS IN
EXISTENCE TO
SPARK ACTUAL
FEAR IN
HELL'S ARMIES.

SKITKK

THOUGH THIS
OUTCOME MAY
APPEAR TO
BE WRITTEN
ALREADY...

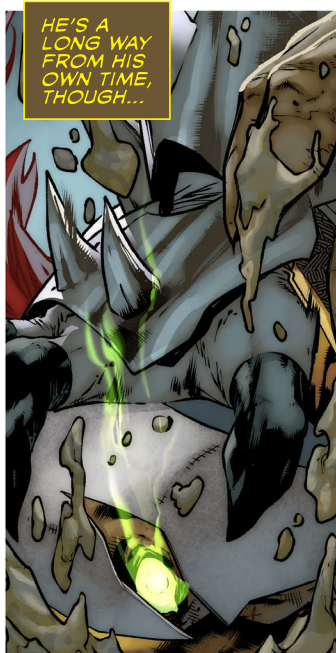
...IF THIS
IS TO BE HIS
END, HE WILL
NOT ACCEPT
IT QUIETLY.

CENTURION'S COUNTRYMEN
WOULD BE SHOCKED TO
SEE HIM BROUGHT SO LOW.

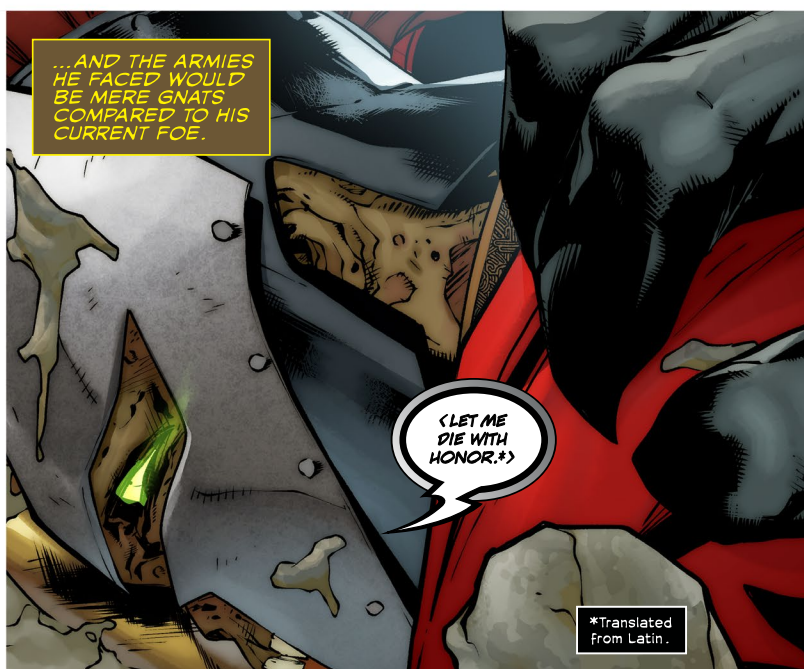


IN HIS OWN TIME,
IT WAS HE WHO
BROUGHT FEAR,
AS HE WAS
CAPABLE OF
BESTING ENTIRE
ARMIES SINGLE-
HANDED.

HE'S A
LONG WAY
FROM HIS
OWN TIME,
THOUGH...



...AND THE ARMIES
HE FACED WOULD
BE MERE GNATS
COMPARED TO HIS
CURRENT FOE.



(LET ME
DIE WITH
HONOR.)*

*Translated
from Latin.



OTHERS
MIGHT HAVE
GRANTED HIS
REQUEST, BUT
THIS ATTACKER
WAS FORGED
IN BLOOD
AND FIRE, A
PROCESS THAT
PURGED HIM
OF MERCY.



THERE HAVE
BEEN MANY
NAMES FOR HIM
THROUGHOUT
HISTORY...

...BUT TO MOST, HE IS KNOWN AS

the
FORSAKEN.

"--OVER 200,000 PEOPLE DESCENDED ON WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON. WHILE EFFORTS HAVE LARGELY BEEN PEACEFUL, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SEVERAL ARRESTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AS SOME PROTESTORS TURNED VIOLENT.



"THIS IS THE LATEST MARCH THAT'S TAKEN PLACE SINCE LT. COLONEL AL SIMMONS ISSUED HIS PLEA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, CALLING ON PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO DEMAND GREATER TRANSPARENCY FROM THEIR LEADERS."



WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS, AND SOON. I'M GETTING A LOT OF PUSHBACK FROM SOME OUTSIDE CLIENTS.

WE'VE BEEN LETTING THOSE THAT DECIDED TO FOLLOW SIMMONS' AGENDA, DRIVE THE NARRATIVE ON THIS FOR TOO LONG.

IT'S STARTING TO GET OUT OF CONTROL. THE MORE THEY MARCH, THE MORE QUESTIONS THE MEDIA ASKS.



NONE OF IT IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

Oh
C'MON,
CORDELIA.
THAT'S A BIT
PARANOID.
DON'T YOU
THINK?

THESE THINGS
COME AND GO. IF
ANYTHING, IT GIVES
HUMANS A HARMLESS
LITTLE OUTLET TO VENT
THEIR FRUSTRATIONS.
AND AS WE KNOW,
THEY'RE ALWAYS
FRUSTRATED AT
SOMETHING.

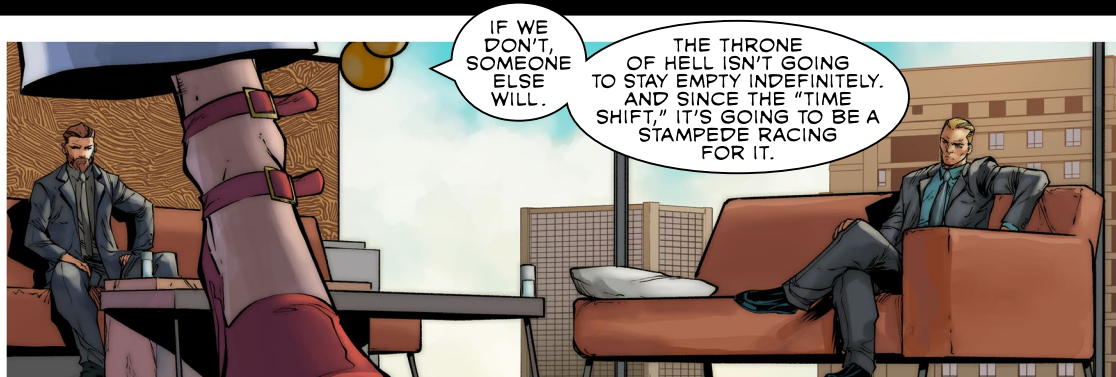
MAYBE BEFORE,
BUT WE'RE OPERATING
IN A DIFFERENT WORLD
NOW. WE LEAVE THIS
UNCHECKED, IT'LL KEEP
BUILDING AND BUILDING,
AND THEN WE'RE
F*CKED.

SO, I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THE
REST OF YOU, BUT I HAVE
NO PLANS TO SURRENDER
THE LIFE I'VE BUILT HERE
BECAUSE A BUNCH OF
LIBERAL YOUTHS DON'T
LIKE CAPITALISM.

BUT THE MORE
THEY PRY, THE HIGHER THE
LIKELIHOOD SOME HUMAN IS
GOING TO FIGURE OUT THE
TRUTH, EVEN IF IT'S BY ACCIDENT.
THAT'S ONLY GOING TO MAKE
IT HARDER ON US AS THE
WAR RAMPS UP.

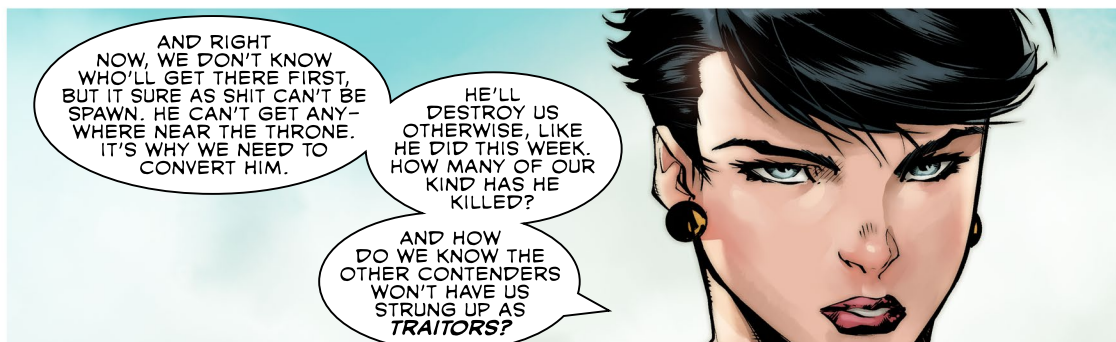
OH GOOD, AT
LEAST WE'RE ALL
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT
THERE IS A WAR GOING
ON. I WAS WONDERING
WHEN WE WERE GOING TO
ASK, WHY ARE WE WASTING
OUR TIME WITH THIS LOW-
LEVEL CRAP WHEN, SOON,
THERE MIGHT NOT
EVEN BE A PLANET TO
RULE OVER.

WE NEED TO
BE DEALING WITH
SPAWN, THEN WE NEED TO
HELP OUR POSITION IN CASE
THE WAR SPILLS OUT
FASTER THAN WE HOPE. SO,
WE NEED TO FIND SPAWN
AND CONVERT HIM TO
OUR SIDE.



IF WE DON'T, SOMEONE ELSE WILL.

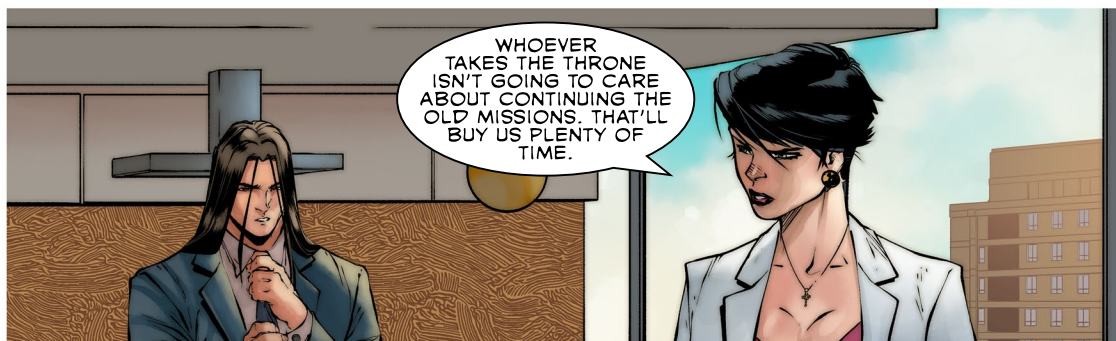
THE THRONE OF HELL ISN'T GOING TO STAY EMPTY INDEFINITELY. AND SINCE THE "TIME SHIFT," IT'S GOING TO BE A STAMPEDE RACING FOR IT.



AND RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T KNOW WHO'LL GET THERE FIRST, BUT IT SURE AS SHIT CAN'T BE SPAWN. HE CAN'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR THE THRONE. IT'S WHY WE NEED TO CONVERT HIM.

HE'LL DESTROY US OTHERWISE, LIKE HE DID THIS WEEK. HOW MANY OF OUR KIND HAS HE KILLED?

AND HOW DO WE KNOW THE OTHER CONTENDERS WON'T HAVE US STRUNG UP AS TRAITORS?



WHOEVER TAKES THE THRONE ISN'T GOING TO CARE ABOUT CONTINUING THE OLD MISSIONS. THAT'LL BUY US PLENTY OF TIME.



ULTIMATELY, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PICK A SIDE, BUT FOR NOW I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY RUSH TO PIN OUR FLAG ON ANYONE'S MAST. WE CAN BE PATIENT AND SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP.

STAY ON THE SIDELINES AND WAIT FOR THE CONTENDERS TO REVEAL THEMSELVES. ONCE WE SEE A LIKELY WINNER, *THAT'S* WHEN WE MAKE OUR DECISION.



WE DO OUR JOB AND WE'LL HAVE LEVERAGE. IF SPAWN'S ON OUR SIDE, WE CAN OFFER HIM AS A SACRIFICE TO THAT WINNER. THAT MOVES US CLOSER TO THE INNER RING.

CAN I JUST ASK... WHY ARE WE SETTING OUR SIGHTS SO LOW?

WHY AREN'T WE TALKING ABOUT INSTALLING ONE OF *OUR OWN* ON THE THRONE?



YOU WANT TO TAKE A SHOT? BE MY GUEST. BUT YOU WON'T GET ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ME.



BECAUSE EVEN IF YOU DO SUCCEED, ALL YOU'LL BE DOING IS ENSURING A TARGET ON YOUR BACK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. BUT IF WE'RE ONE OR TWO STEPS AWAY FROM THE TOP, IT ALLOWS US TO REPENT AND CHANGE SIDES.

THE WAR CAN WAIT. IF THE HUMANS FIND OUT THE TRUTH, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WINS.

DEALING WITH SIMMONS AND HIS MOVEMENT IS THE SMART PLAY FOR NOW.



SO, WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE?

SIMMONS HAS TOLD HIS STORY TO THE PUBLIC...

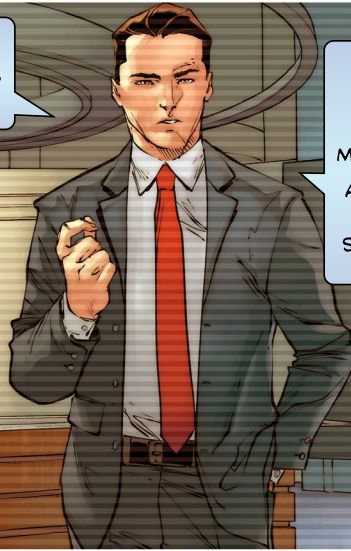
IT'S TIME TO TELL THE HUMANS A DIFFERENT ONE.





"THE BIG QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS WHERE IS SPAWN?"

"SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, LT. COLONEL AL SIMMONS MADE A FLURRY OF CONTROVERSIAL MEDIA APPEARANCES, BUT SINCE THOSE ANNOUNCEMENTS HE HASN'T MADE ANY FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT. OR BEEN SEEN AT ALL."



"THE ALLEGATIONS HE MADE HAVE NOW LIT A FIRE IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE. SO, SPAWN, IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, WE'D GLADLY GIVE YOU A NATIONAL FORUM TO EXPAND ON YOUR STATEMENTS."

AL SIMMONS NEVER INTENDED TO BECOME A PUBLIC FIGURE.

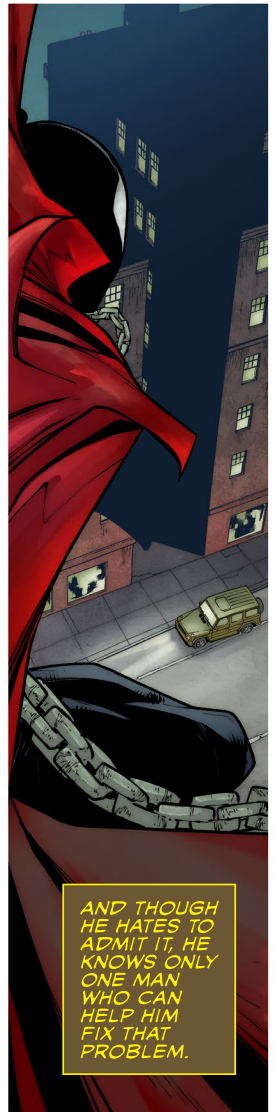
ALL HE WANTED WAS TO NUDGE HUMANITY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, TO START THEM ON THE JOURNEY TOWARDS UNCOVERING THE TRUTH.

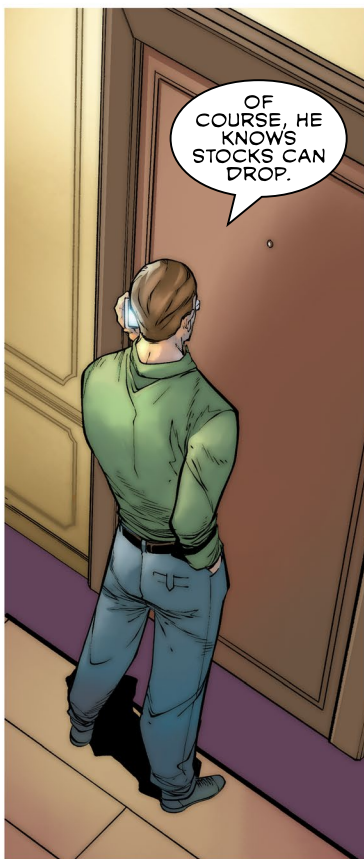
TO PIECE TOGETHER THIS PUZZLE ON THEIR OWN.

EVEN IF HE'D CRAVED CELEBRITY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO EMBRACE IT.

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, HIS ATTENTION HAS BEEN CONSUMED BY AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF NEW THREATS.

AND THOUGH HE HATES TO ADMIT IT, HE KNOWS ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN HELP HIM FIX THAT PROBLEM.





Gasp!

WHY'RE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!

DON'T WASTE MY F*CKING TIME, ARNOLD. I KNOW ABOUT THE LITTLE CLUB YOU TWO WERE IN.

WHERE IS HE?

I'M NOT... PART OF THAT ANYMORE. I **SWEAR!** COG AND I HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN YEARS.

WE HAD A FALLING OUT A LONG TIME AGO.

THAT SO? WELL, I SAW HIM RECENTLY. SEEMED LIKE HE'D GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO SOME TROUBLE.*

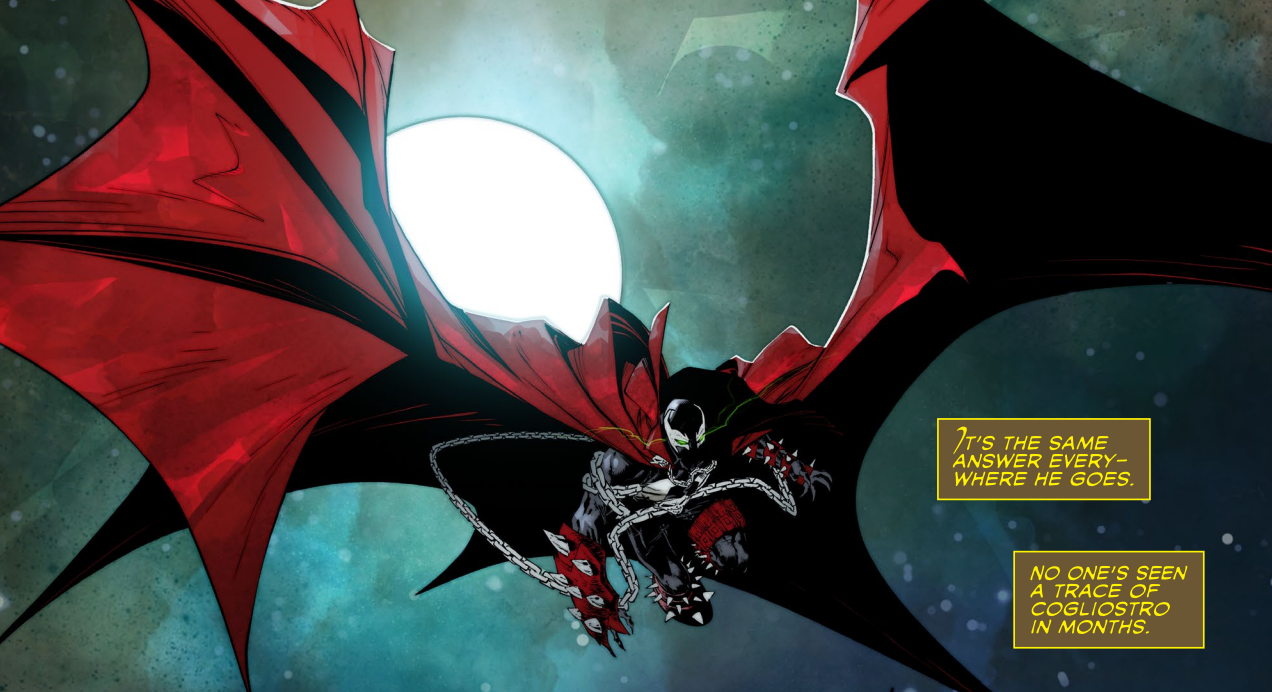
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THAT... BUT, THE LATEST I HEARD IS THAT HE'S GONE.

GONE WHERE?

I SAID I DON'T KNOW, BUT IF IT'S TRUE, IT'S BECAUSE THAT BASTARD IS **PLANNING--** NOT HIDING.

HIS AMBITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO WANT TO LEAVE HIS MARK. I'D BE CAUTIOUS IF I WERE YOU.

*Spawn's Universe #1 - Todd



IT'S THE SAME
ANSWER EVERY-
WHERE HE GOES.

NO ONE'S SEEN
A TRACE OF
COGLIOSTRO
IN MONTHS.



THE LAST TIME SPAWN CROSSED
PATHS WITH HIM WAS ON OMEGA
ISLAND, WHILE BOTH WERE
PRISONERS OF DISRUPTOR.



SPAWN ASSUMED COG FOUND A
WAY TO ESCAPE, SOMEHOW, BUT AS
HE THINKS BACK, HE REMEMBERS
HOW TIRED AND FEEBLE COG HAD
LOOKED. MAYBE HE DIDN'T ESCAPE.

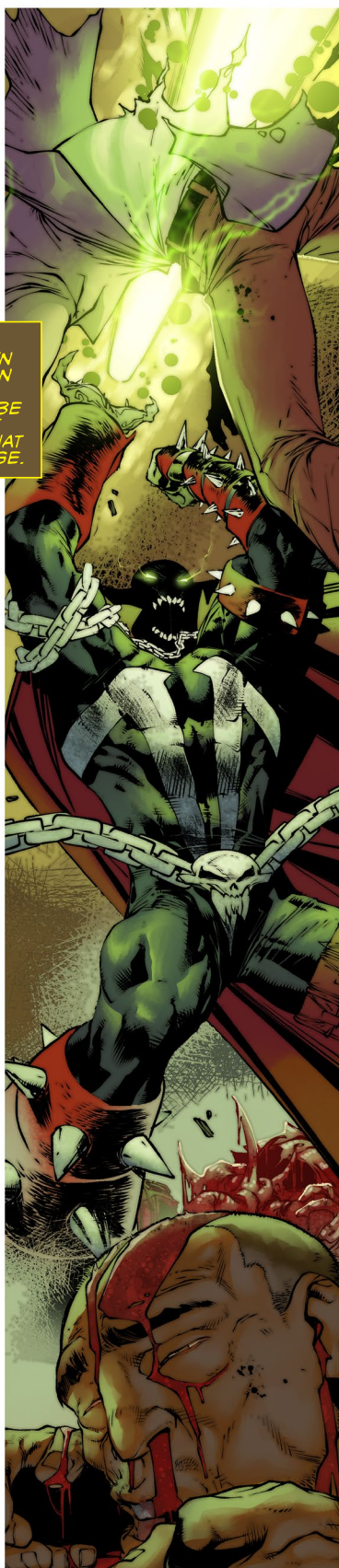


SPAWN, HIMSELF, BARELY SURVIVED
TWO TRIPS TO THAT ISLAND AND
DOESN'T WANT TO RISK A THIRD
UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

IF HE CAN'T FIND COG
SOON, HE MAY NOT
HAVE ANY CHOICE.

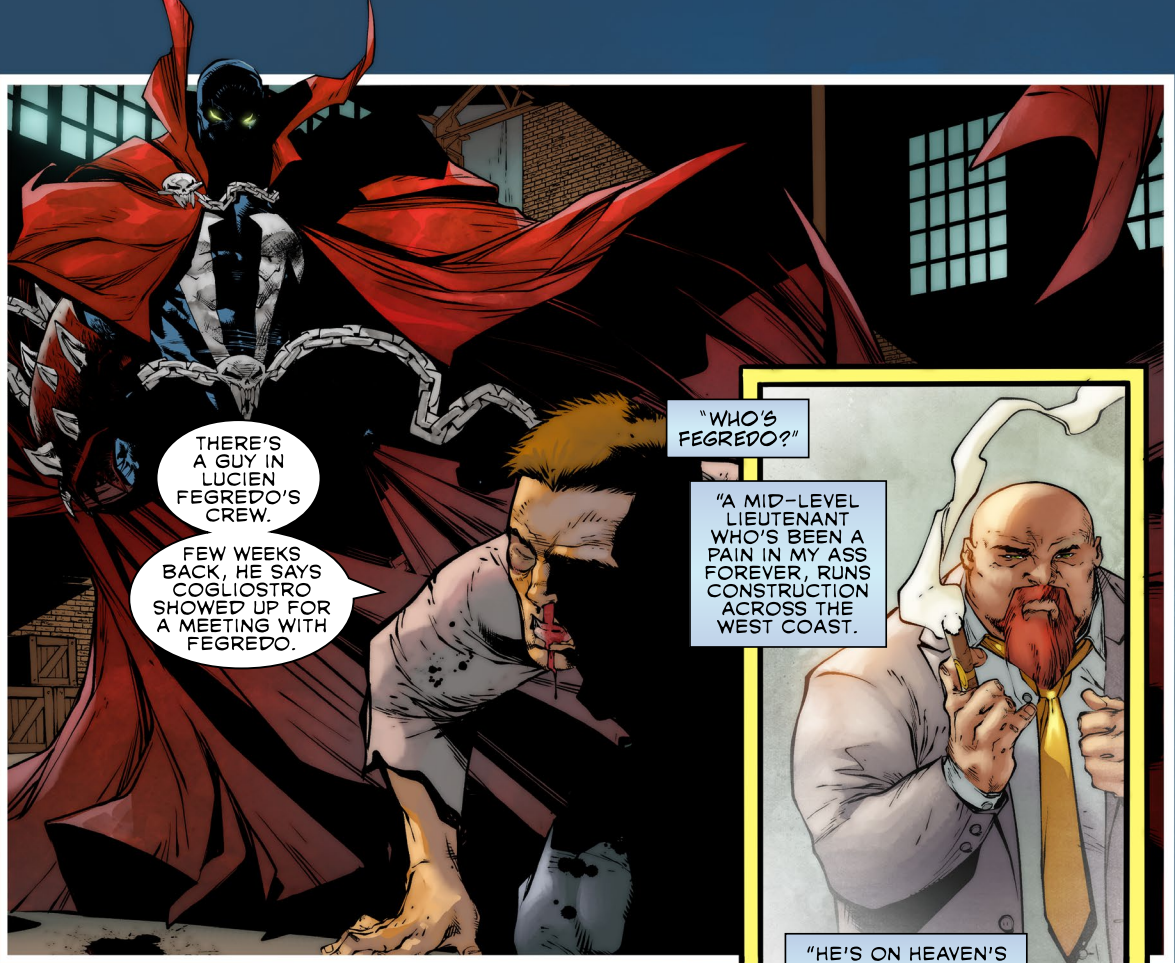
EXPERIENCE
TAUGHT SPAWN
NOT TO TRUST
HIS FORMER
MENTOR, BUT
IF THERE'S ONE
THING COG
DOES UNDER-
STAND--IT'S
HELLSPAWNS.

THE TEAR
THAT SPAWN
CREATED IN
TIME MAY
POSSIBLY BE
FIXED, BUT
ONLY BY THAT
KNOWLEDGE.



SO, WITH
NOT A LOT
OF OPTIONS,
SPAWN
SPENDS
THE NEXT
FEW HOURS
CHASING
DOWN
LEADS
UNTIL...

OKAY.
OKAY!



THERE'S
A GUY IN
LUCIEN
FEGREDO'S
CREW.

FEW WEEKS
BACK, HE SAYS
COGLIOSTRO
SHOWED UP FOR
A MEETING WITH
FEGREDO.

"WHO'S
FEGREDO?"

"A MID-LEVEL
LIEUTENANT
WHO'S BEEN A
PAIN IN MY ASS
FOREVER, RUNS
CONSTRUCTION
ACROSS THE
WEST COAST.

"HE'S ON HEAVEN'S
SIDE, IN THEORY, BUT
HE'LL WORK WITH
ANYONE WHO CAN
ADVANCE HIM."

THAT'S
TOLERATED?

FOR NOW.
HE KEEPS IT
WELL HIDDEN
FOR THE MOST
PART, AND HE'S
GOT ENOUGH
ALLIES IN HIS
CORNER.

WHAT WAS
THE MEETING
ABOUT?

DON'T
KNOW. MY
GUY WASN'T
IN THE ROOM.

WHERE'S
FEGREDO
NOW?





CHRIST.

THE STENCH
OF DEATH HITS
SPAWN BEFORE
HE'S THROUGH
THE DOOR.



MANY OF
THE WOUNDS
APPEAR
FRESH.



MEANING, WHOEVER
KILLED FEGREDO'S CREW
IS LIKELY STILL HERE.



AGHHHHH



SPAWN'S ENTRANCE STOPS
THE ASSAILANT FROM FURTHER
DISEMBOWELING AN ALREADY
DEAD FEGREDO.

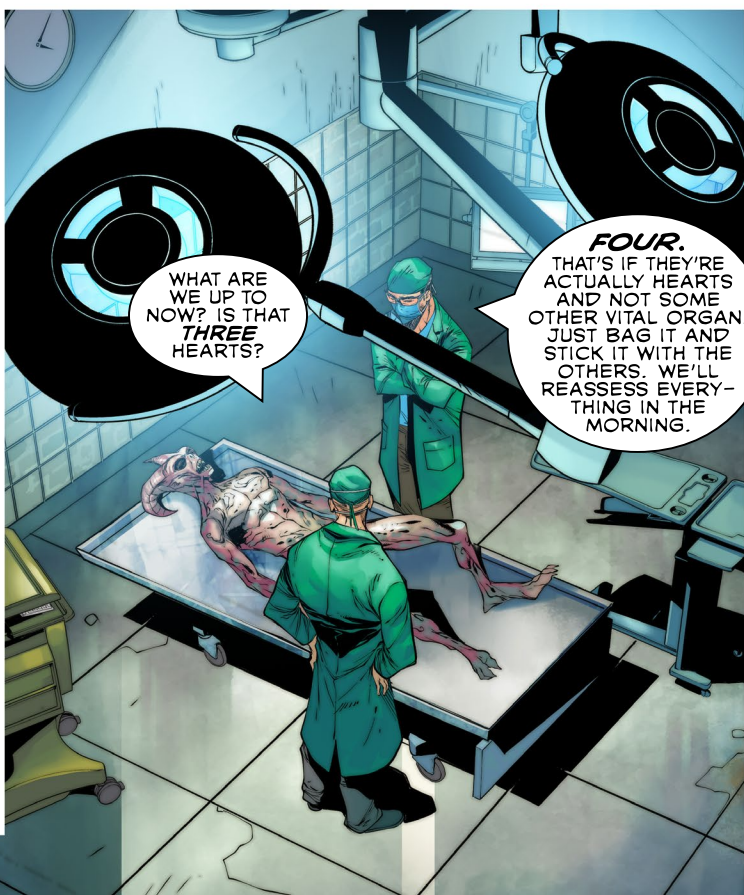
BUT LIKE A WILD WOLF,
THE THING HUNCHED OVER
ITS PREY, PROTECTING ITS
KILL FROM ANY WOULD
BE PREDATOR.





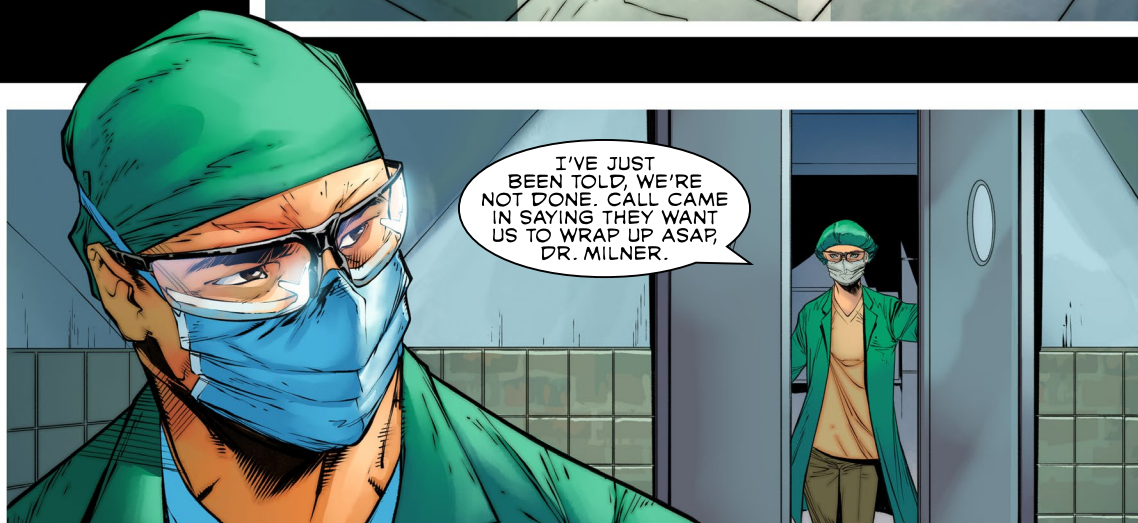
JESUS...
IT'S
ANOTHER
ONE, I
THINK.

UNBELIEVABLE.

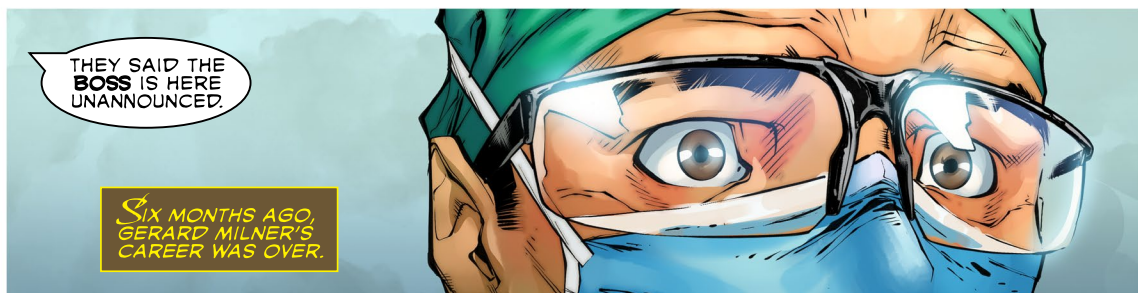


WHAT ARE
WE UP TO
NOW? IS THAT
THREE
HEARTS?

FOUR.
THAT'S IF THEY'RE
ACTUALLY HEARTS
AND NOT SOME
OTHER VITAL ORGAN.
JUST BAG IT AND
STICK IT WITH THE
OTHERS. WE'LL
REASSESS EVERY-
THING IN THE
MORNING.



I'VE JUST
BEEN TOLD, WE'RE
NOT DONE. CALL CAME
IN SAYING THEY WANT
US TO WRAP UP ASAP,
DR. MILNER.



THEY SAID THE
BOSS IS HERE
UNANNOUNCED.

*SIX MONTHS AGO,
GERARD MILNER'S
CAREER WAS OVER.*

DISGRACED AND OSTRACIZED, HE'D GIVEN UP ALL HOPE OF EVER WORKING AGAIN, UNTIL ONE EVENING HIS PHONE RANG WITH AN OFFER OF A DIRECTORSHIP AT A PRIVATE RESEARCH FACILITY.



THAT NIGHT, AFTER GOING TO SLEEP, HE WAS SURPRISED TO WAKE UP THE NEXT MORNING IN THE PRIVATE QUARTERS OF HIS NEW WORKPLACE.



SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, HE HASN'T STEPPED OUTSIDE OF 'THE ZOO,' AS IT'S KNOWN TO STAFF, A SINGLE TIME.

NO ONE WILL CONFIDE TO GERARD ITS EXACT LOCATION, BUT HE SUSPECTS, PERHAPS, IT'S DEEP UNDERGROUND.



THOUGH HE'S NOT EVEN SURE IF HE'S ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COMPLEX... FOR NOW AT LEAST... HE HAS NO DESIRE TO DO SO.

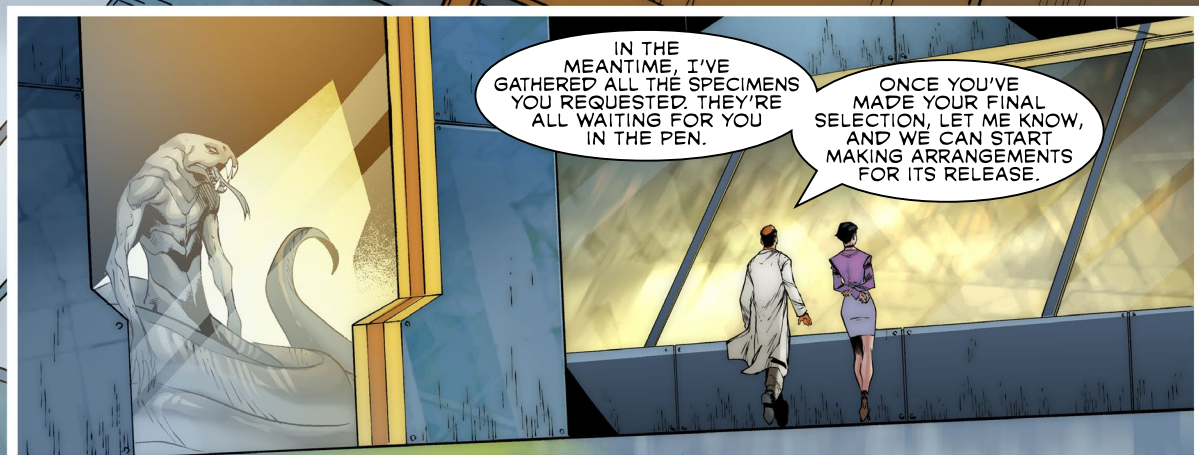


GOOD EVENING, CORDELIA.

NOT INTERRUPTING, AM I?

OF COURSE NOT.







...AFTER ALL,
WE'VE GOT
PLENTY TO
CHOOSE
FROM.

TO BE CONTINUED



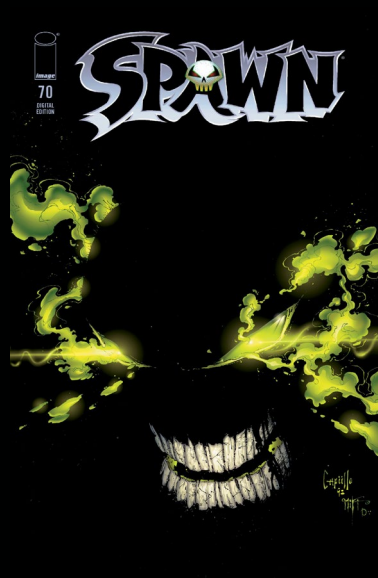
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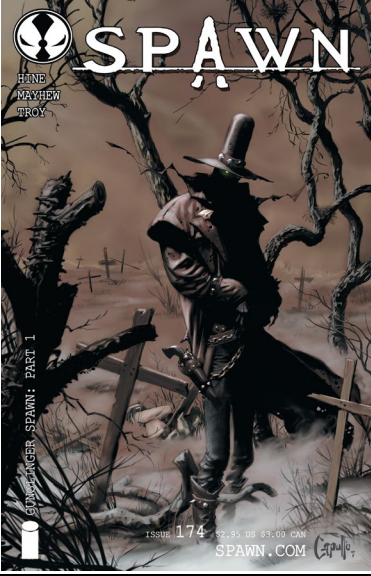
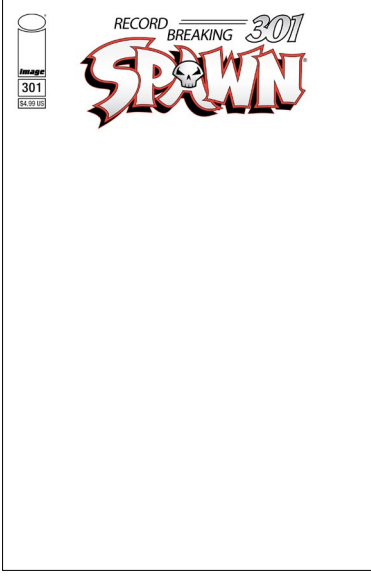
SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

We've had A LOT of incredible artwork gracing the cover of Spawn over the last 30 years. It's hard to choose favorites, but here are a few of ours from across this record-breaking run. Which covers are we missing? Tell us what covers you love! Show us your favorites with the hashtag #CoverSpawn!





Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at: spawnnground@mcfarlane.com

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
CURSE WORDS *RATQUEENS*
SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE **BLUE MONDAY**
MONSTRESS **CHEW** *KINGSMAN*
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*
THE AUTUMNLANDS
PLUTONA *CRIMINAL* *LOW*
REVIVAL **NAILBITER**
CAMP MIDNIGHT
SNOTGIRL **ODDLY NORMAL**
MAGE *HINGES*
BLACK SCIENCE
PRETTY DEADLY
THE FADE OUT

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THE **SCORCHED**



JANUARY 2022

SPAWN®

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WRITTEN BY SPAWN CREATOR:

TODD
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JANUARY 2022



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DIGITAL
EDITION

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