

SPAWN



RORY
McCONVILLE

CARLO
BARBERI

image

324

DIGITAL
EDITION



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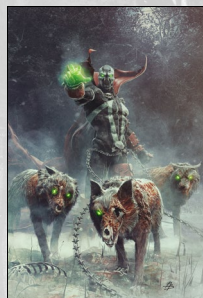
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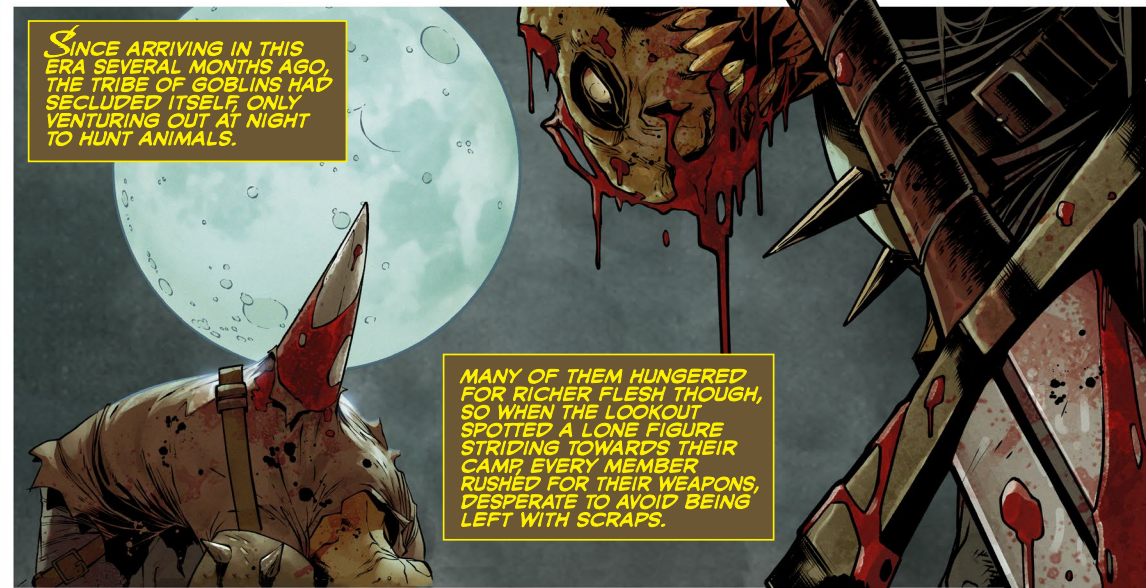
Publisher For
Image Comics/
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**SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE**



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

After a vicious battle with one of the Vampire Clans in which Spawn refuses to make a alliance, Spawn summons the undead to end the fight quickly. Hurt, he escapes back to his lair...alone.



SINCE ARRIVING IN THIS ERA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THE TRIBE OF GOBLINS HAD SECLUDED ITSELF, ONLY VENTURING OUT AT NIGHT TO HUNT ANIMALS.

MANY OF THEM HUNGERED FOR RICHER FLESH THOUGH, SO WHEN THE LOOKOUT SPOTTED A LONE FIGURE STRIDING TOWARDS THEIR CAMP EVERY MEMBER RUSHED FOR THEIR WEAPONS, DESPERATE TO AVOID BEING LEFT WITH SCRAPS.



IT WAS ONLY AS THE FIGURE DREW CLOSER THAT THEY RECOGNIZED HIM AS A FELLOW REFUGEE FROM THEIR OWN TIME, ONE WHO HAD BUTCHERED HUNDREDS OF THEIR SPECIES.

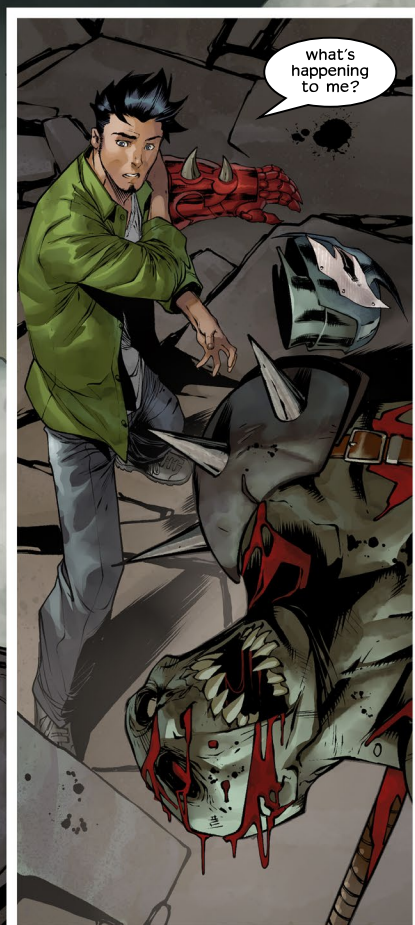


BY THAT POINT, IT WAS TOO LATE TO RUN.

no...



not
again.



what's
happening
to me?



FOR WEEKS NOW, MARC
HAS BEEN TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT WHERE HE
GOES WHEN MEDIEVAL
SPAWN'S PERSONA
TAKES HIS PLACE.

EVERY TIME HE TRANSFORMS BACK,
HE SENSES THE MEMORY OF A
DARK, SCREAMING VOID. NOW, AS
BEFORE, HE STRAINS TO HOLD IT
IN HIS MIND... BUT WITHIN SECONDS,
THAT MEMORY'S GONE.



IT'S NOT
EASY, IS IT
MARC?



JIM?!

holy shit,
WHAT'RE YOU DOING
HERE, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED
FROM THE HOSPITAL I
THOUGHT, I DON'T KNOW,
THAT THEY'D GOTTEN
TO YOU.

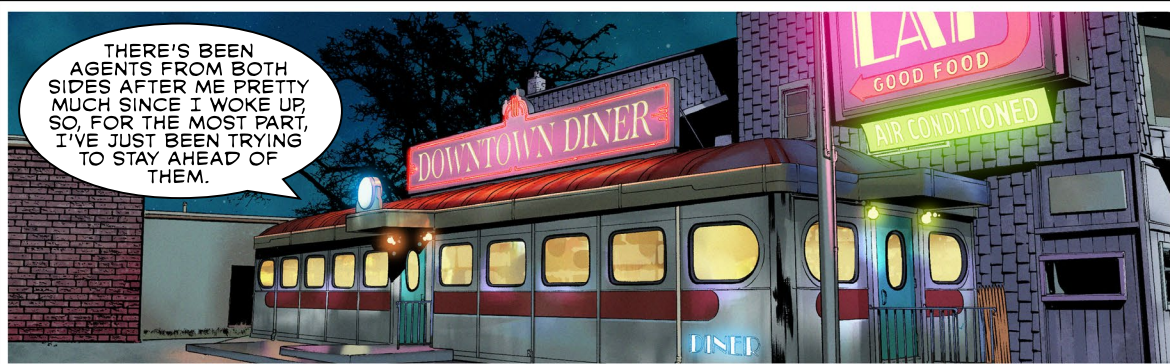
THEY
TRIED.

SO,
I LEFT--
HAD A LOT
TO PROCESS
FROM THE
LAST FEW
MONTHS.

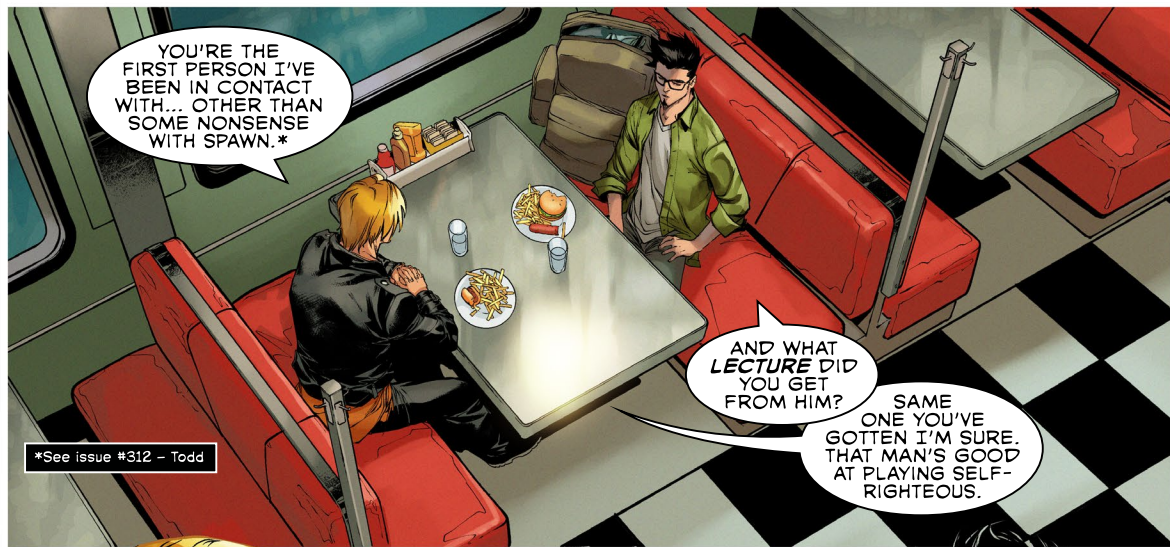
THOUGH
IT LOOKS LIKE
I'M NOT THE ONLY
ONE GRAPPLING
WITH THIS
MADNESS.

HOW'D
YOU FIND
ME?

DOESN'T
MATTER, HOW
ABOUT WE GET
OUT OF HERE, I
NEED TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT A
FEW THINGS.



THERE'S BEEN AGENTS FROM BOTH SIDES AFTER ME PRETTY MUCH SINCE I WOKE UP, SO, FOR THE MOST PART, I'VE JUST BEEN TRYING TO STAY AHEAD OF THEM.

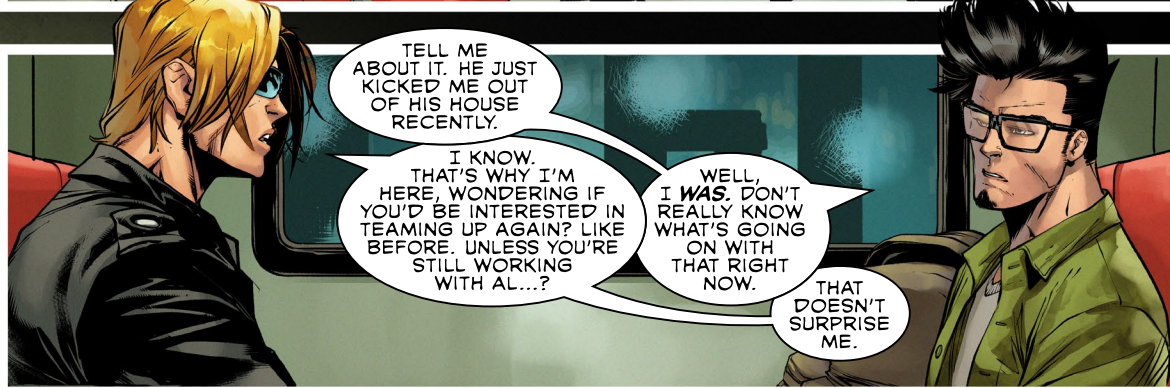


YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH... OTHER THAN SOME NONSENSE WITH SPAWN.*

AND WHAT LECTURE DID YOU GET FROM HIM?

SAME ONE YOU'VE GOTTEN I'M SURE. THAT MAN'S GOOD AT PLAYING SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

*See issue #312 - Todd



TELL ME ABOUT IT. HE JUST KICKED ME OUT OF HIS HOUSE RECENTLY.

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, WONDERING IF YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN TEAMING UP AGAIN? LIKE BEFORE. UNLESS YOU'RE STILL WORKING WITH AL...?

WELL, I *WAS*. DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THAT RIGHT NOW.

THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.



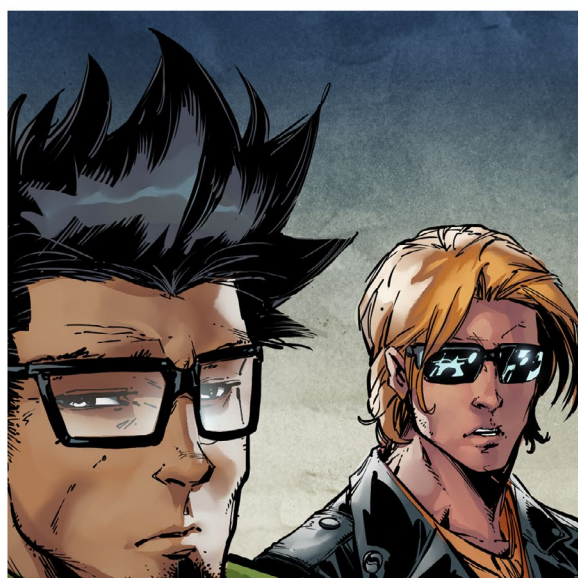
JIM, I NEED TO ASK, HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE? YOU WERE NEAR DEATH LAST TIME I SAW YOU, NOW HERE YOU ARE ACTING LIKE EVERYTHING'S NORMAL.

MY LIFE'S SO FAR FROM NORMAL, YOU CAN'T IMAGINE. IT'S WHY I'M LOOKING FOR SOME HELP BET YOU COULD USE THE SAME.

I'M FINE.

YEAH? WHAT ABOUT THE HELMET? HOW LONG'S *THAT* BEEN GOING ON?





"BECAUSE, I DON'T KNOW IF HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT OR JUST DOESN'T CARE, BUT EITHER WAY HE'S ON THE VERGE OF BRINGING THE **WHOLE WORLD** DOWN WITH HIM.

"**NO!** HE JUST KEEPS CHARGING FORWARD AND HALF THE TIME IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED. AND IF IT WERE JUST HIS LIFE AT STAKE, I'D LEAVE HIM AT IT, BUT THIS IMPACTS **ALL OF US.**"

"HE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT SAVING HUMANITY BUT HE'S TURNED THE PLANET INTO HIS PERSONAL **WAR ZONE**. HE RIPPED A HOLE IN TIME. FOR F*CK'S SAKE, YOU THINK HE'S EVER STOPPED TO THINK THAT MAYBE HE'S DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD?"

SO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

JUST THAT A TIME'S GOING TO COME WHEN WE ALL NEED TO DECIDE IF IT'S IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST FOR AL TO WIELD SO MUCH POWER AT ONCE.

IF THE ANSWER'S NO, I NEED TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON YOU.

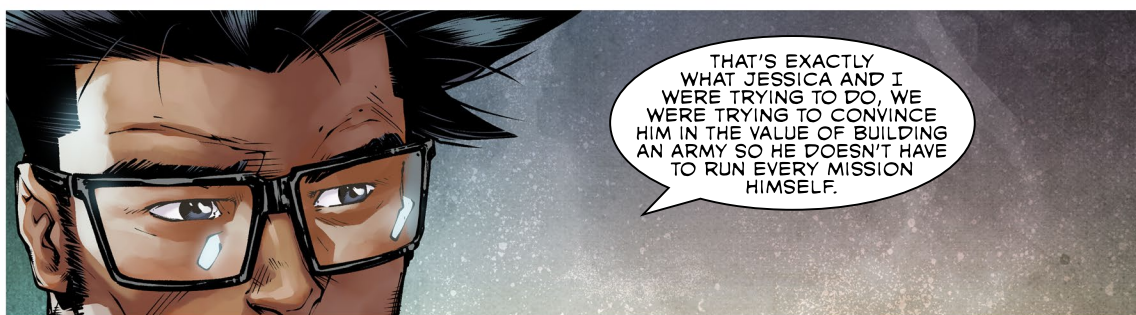
SHIT, DUDE! YOU WANT TO STAGE A **COUP**?

IF SO, WHO'S GOING TO TAKE AL'S POWER? **YOU?**





THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR ENEMIES' NUMBER ONE TARGET ISN'T CONSTANTLY PUTTING HIMSELF AT RISK OF BEING CAPTURED. OR KILLED.



THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT JESSICA AND I WERE TRYING TO DO, WE WERE TRYING TO CONVINCE HIM IN THE VALUE OF BUILDING AN ARMY SO HE DOESN'T HAVE TO RUN EVERY MISSION HIMSELF.



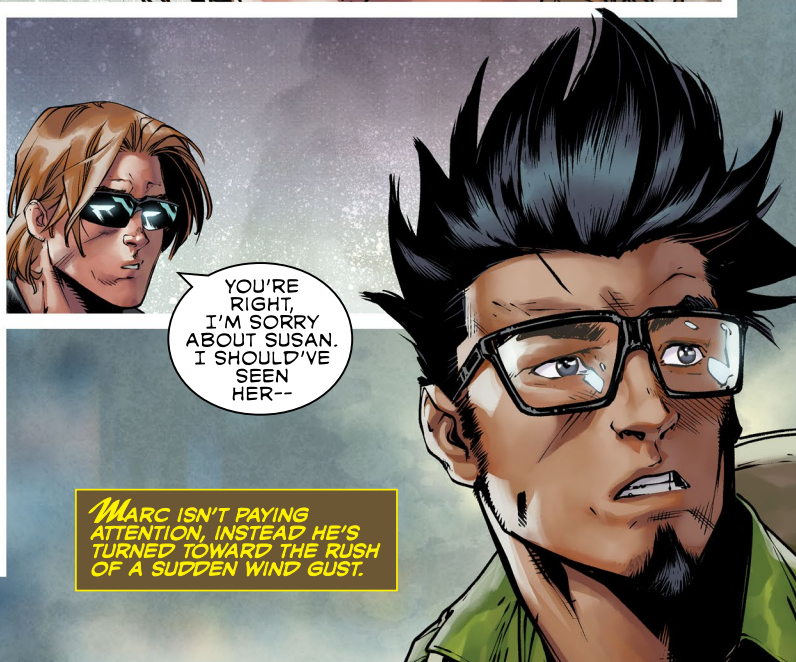
AND HOW'S THAT BEEN WORKING OUT?

SHITTY.

LOOK, DESPITE WHAT AL MIGHT THINK, HE'S JUST ONE MAN. HE DOESN'T KNOW EVERYTHING.



HE KNEW SUSAN WAS DEAD. SOMETHING *YOU* DIDN'T.

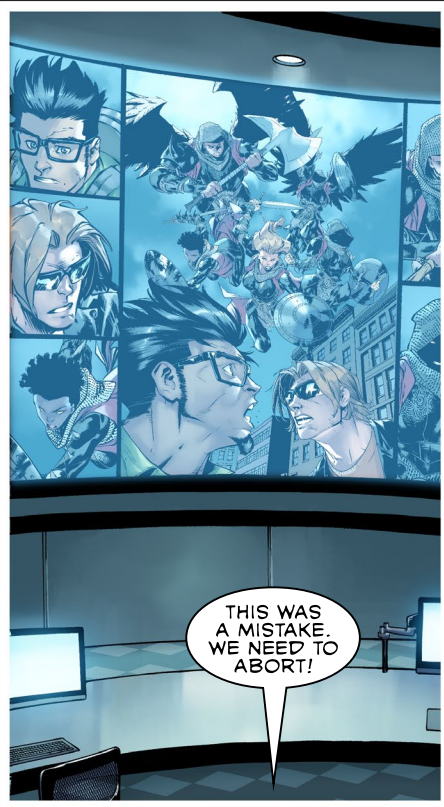


YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M SORRY ABOUT SUSAN. I SHOULD'VE SEEN HER--

MARC ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION, INSTEAD HE'S TURNED TOWARD THE RUSH OF A SUDDEN WIND GUST.



SECURE THE
HELLSPAWN!!



THIS WAS
A MISTAKE.
WE NEED TO
ABORT!



DOWNING'S
PRESENCE
WASN'T FACTORED
INTO THIS MISSION.
WE DON'T HAVE AN
ACCURATE
ASSESSMENT ON
HIS ABILITIES
YET.

WELL,
THIS IS AS
GOOD A WAY
TO FIND OUT AS
ANY. ANYWAY, IF WE'D
WAITED LONGER, THE
MARC ROSEN HUMAN
WOULD'VE PROBABLY
DISAPPEARED BACK
INTO WHATEVER HOLE
SIMMONS HAS
BEEN HIDING
HIM IN.



BESIDES,
THE **BOARD'S**
ALREADY
AUTHORIZED IT, SO
WHATEVER PROBLEMS
YOU'RE HAVING WITH
THIS, JUST **DEAL**
WITH IT.

THE VATICAN
HAS PAID BIG
MONEY TO GET
THEIR PET SPAWN
BACK--BY **ANY**
MEANS
NECESSARY.





TIM DOWNING PUTS A VICE GRIP ON MARC'S ARM. THEY NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE... NOW.



MOMENTS LATER, BATHED IN A GREEN GLOW, THEY MATERIALIZE SEVERAL MILES AWAY, OUT OF ANY PUBLIC VIEW.





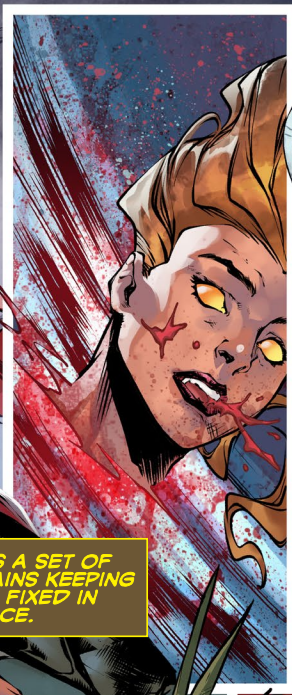
ALMOST FROM THE
MOMENT HE ARRIVED
IN THE 21st CENTURY,
MEDIEVAL SPAWN
WAS A PRISONER.



TO HIM, THE
21st CENTURY
IS A WORLD
OF PAIN.



IT IS A CRAMPED CELL
DEEP UNDERGROUND
AND AN OPPRESSIVE
LIGHT SEARING HIS
FLESH.



IT IS A SET OF
CHAINS KEEPING
HIM FIXED IN
PLACE.



IT IS THE LAUGHTER
OF GUARDS AND THE
HISSING OF RATS.

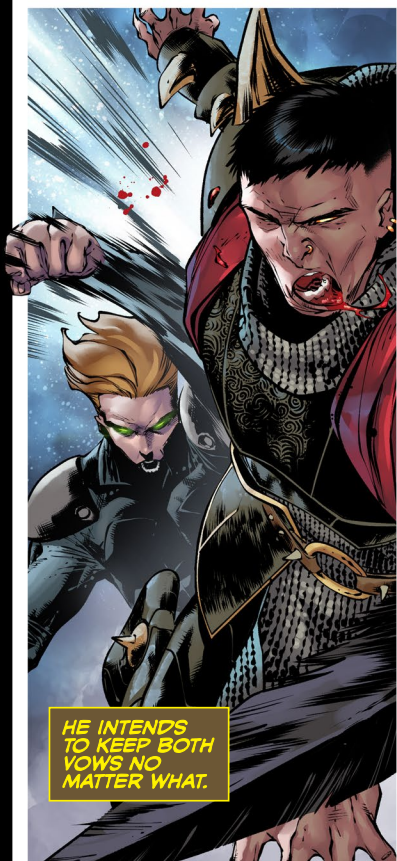
AFTER OBTAINING
HIS FREEDOM, HE
MADE TWO VOWS.



FIRST, THAT HE
WOULD NEVER
BE A PRISONER
AGAIN.



SECOND,
THAT HE
WOULD NOT
REST UNTIL
HE HAD PAID
EVERY ONE
OF HIS CAPTORS
BACK
TENFOLD.



HE INTENDS
TO KEEP BOTH
VOWS NO
MATTER WHAT.



SO WHILE THESE FIVE
ANGELS ARE THE FIRST
TO TASTE HIS BLADE...



...THEY
WILL NOT
BE THE
LAST.

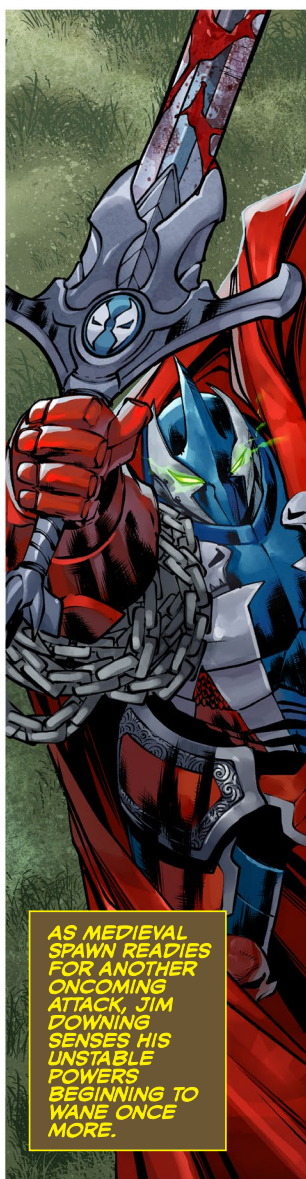


UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, THE FORCES OF HEAVEN AND HELL WOULD'VE NEVER DARED LAUNCH SUCH A PUBLIC ATTACK.

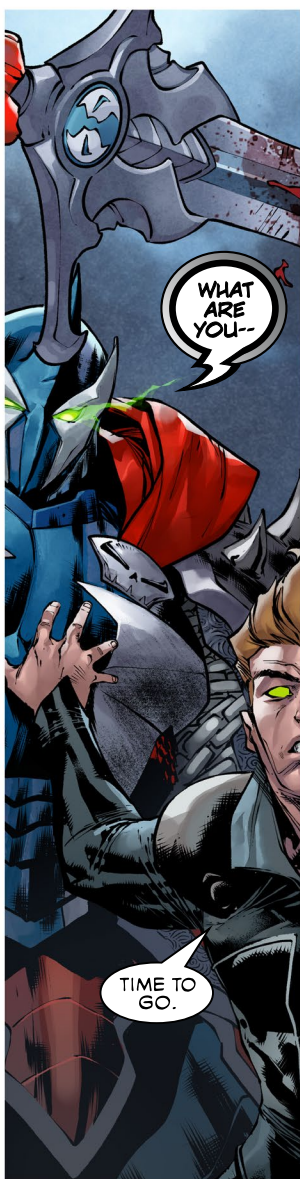
BUT THE OLD RULES ARE COMING UNDONE, AND DAY BY DAY, SPAWN'S ENEMIES ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THEY DON'T NEED TO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS ANYMORE.



shit.



AS MEDIEVAL SPAWN READIES FOR ANOTHER ONCOMING ATTACK, JIM DOWNING SENSES HIS UNSTABLE POWERS BEGINNING TO WANE ONCE MORE.



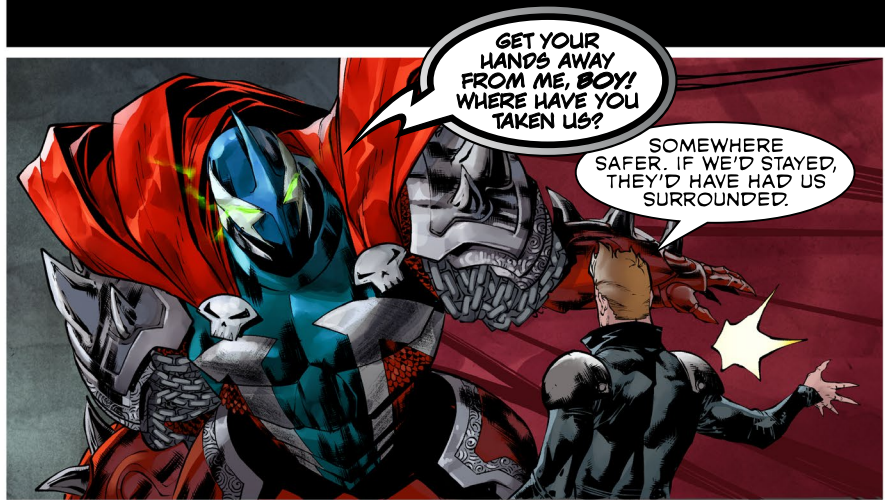
WHAT ARE YOU--

TIME TO GO.





THE TWO
HEROES
RETURN
TO WHERE
DOWNING
HAS BEEN
HIDING
HIMSELF.



GET YOUR
HANDS AWAY
FROM ME, **BOY!**
WHERE HAVE YOU
TAKEN US?

SOMEWHERE
SAFER. IF WE'D STAYED,
THEY'D HAVE HAD US
SURROUNDED.



IF YOU
DON'T HAVE THE
FORTITUDE FOR BATTLE,
BE YOUR OWN COWARD.
I'D RATHER FIGHT MY
ENEMIES.

THEN
YOU'RE A
FOOL! AND AS
LONG AS YOU'RE
USING MARC'S BODY,
I'M GOING TO
MAKE SURE **HE**
STAYS IN ONE
PIECE.



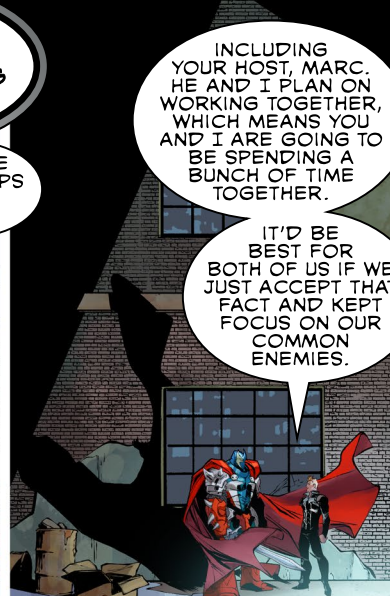
FINE...
BUT YOU--YOU BEAR
THE MARK OF HEAVEN
AND HELL... LIKE SOME
ABOMINATION.

I'LL
EXPLAIN
THAT LATER...
I'M JIM
DOWNING, BY
THE WAY.



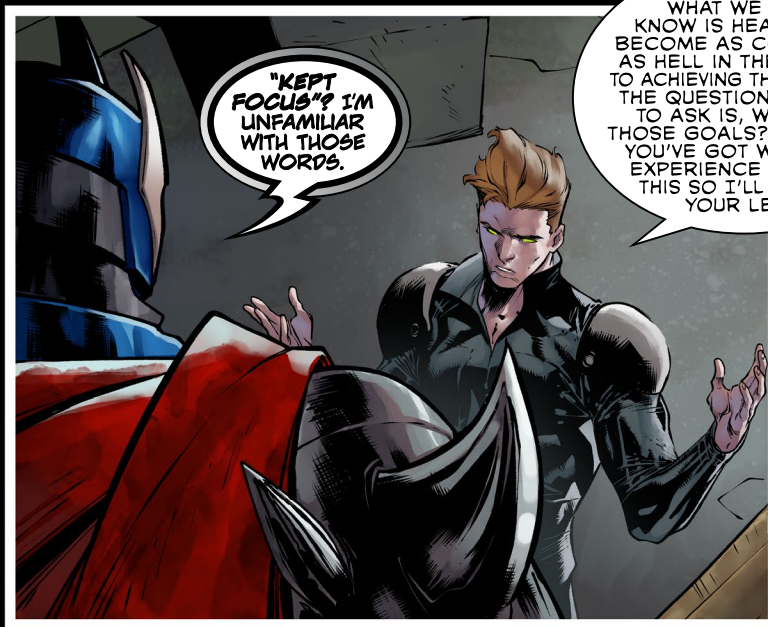
YOU STAND
BEFORE SIR JOHN
OF YORK. WHAT'S
MORE IMPORTANT--IS
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU
LOYAL TO?

THE ONE
THAT KEEPS
US ALL
ALIVE.



INCLUDING
YOUR HOST, MARC.
HE AND I PLAN ON
WORKING TOGETHER,
WHICH MEANS YOU
AND I ARE GOING TO
BE SPENDING A
BUNCH OF TIME
TOGETHER.

IT'D BE
BEST FOR
BOTH OF US IF WE
JUST ACCEPT THAT
FACT AND KEPT
FOCUS ON OUR
COMMON
ENEMIES.



"KEPT FOCUS"? I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH THOSE WORDS.

NEVER MIND. WHAT WE BOTH KNOW IS HEAVEN HAS BECOME AS CORRUPTED AS HELL IN THEIR QUEST TO ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS. THE QUESTION WE NEED TO ASK IS, WHAT ARE THOSE GOALS? AND WHY? YOU'VE GOT WAY MORE EXPERIENCE WITH ALL THIS SO I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD.



YOU INTRIGUE ME.



AND I SENSE, FROM MARC ROSEN'S MEMORIES THAT HE TRUSTS YOU. SO, FOR NOW I'LL DO YOU THE FAVOR AND LOWER MY SWORD.

DON'T EXACTLY KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE CONFIDENCE.



LET US BE CLEAR, ABOMINATION. YOU MAY HAVE PROVEN USEFUL TODAY, TOMORROW IS ANOTHER TEST. I'VE SEEN FAR TOO MUCH BETRAYAL IN MY TIME. I'LL ALWAYS BE GUARDED.

AND WHILE MARC ROSEN MAY TRUST YOU, I RESERVE JUDGEMENT. I WILL BE WATCHING YOU.



CLANK



MY BODY... I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.



AND THOSE ANGELS... GUESS THEY DIDN'T KILL US?

NO.

MEDIEVAL, DID HE SAY ANYTHING HELPFUL?

AFRAID NOT. JUST DISAPPEARED ONCE WE GOT AWAY.



AS FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP THIS UP, YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU NEED TO BRACE YOURSELF BECAUSE UNTIL WE WIN THIS WAR, FORCES ARE GOING TO BE COMING FOR YOU EVERY DAY--FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

LIKE THEY DID WHEN I AWOKED THE FIRST TIME.* SIMMONS DIDN'T ASK IF WE WANT TO BE INVOLVED, HE JUST PULLED US IN BECAUSE WE WERE USEFUL TO HIM, PROPS HE CAN USE IN HIS WAR.

SO, ASK YOURSELF--WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF YOU'D BEEN CAPTURED? IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE OR YOU HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THE HELMET ON IN TIME?



WOULD AL HAVE COME TO RESCUE YOU? SHIT, WOULD HE HAVE EVEN NOTICED YOU WERE MISSING?



I NEED YOU TO THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT THAT, MARC.

I'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON.



--JUST THE LATEST IN A NUMBER OF MARCHES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AROUND THE COUNTRY IN RECENT WEEKS. THE MOVEMENT, WHICH IS DEMANDING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY FROM THE GOVERNMENT, EMERGED IN RESPONSE TO A PAIR OF INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY THE CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL AL SIMMONS, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

THIS BEGAN AS A REQUEST FROM SIMMONS FOR US IN THE MEDIA TO QUESTION ALL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT--ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY--ABOUT CERTAIN REMARKABLE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TRANSPIRED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THERE NOW APPEARS TO BE A LINK BETWEEN SOME OF THOSE...



THERE'S BEEN AN UPTICK IN SIGHTINGS OF **STRANGE** HUMANS DRESSED IN THE **SAME** TYPE OF COLORFUL COSTUME THAT **AL SIMMONS** HAS CHOSEN TO WEAR, LOOKING FOR ALL THE WORLD LIKE SOME KIND OF COMIC BOOK **SUPERHEROES**. THIS TREND HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR THE MARCHES FOR INCREASED **ACCOUNTABILITY** NOW TAKING PLACE IN MAJOR CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. TODAY'S GATHERING IN CHICAGO LOOKS TO BE ONE OF THE LARGEST **YET**.

WITH THIS FERVOR ONLY **CONTINUING** TO GROW, OUR SOURCES SUGGEST THAT A NATIONWIDE MARCH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON **NEXT MONTH**. EARLY ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT THERE COULD BE **AS MANY AS** 200,000 PEOPLE, ARRIVING FROM ACROSS THE **COUNTRY**, PROMPTING CONCERNS FROM HEALTH OFFICIALS ABOUT--



LOOK...! I'M ALL IN FAVOR OF A **REVOLUTION**, FOR PUSHING BACK AGAINST **BIG GOVERNMENT**. BUT CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT THESE IDIOTS ARE EVEN **HOPING TO ACHIEVE?** "**ACCOUNTABILITY.**" "**TRANSPARENCY.**" GIVE ME A BREAK. **THAT'S** NOT HOW **TRUE** PATRIOTS DO IT. WE DON'T **ASK**. WE **DEMAND!**

THAT'S WHY THESE MARCHES DON'T HAVE A HOPE OF **SUCCESSING. REAL** CHANGE? I'M ALL FOR THAT... BUT **THIS...** THIS IS JUST A **PANTOMIME**, A GODDAM CIRCLE-JERK **PHOTO OP** FOR A BUNCH OF CONSPIRACY-MAD ALT-RIGHT FANATICS AND A WHOLE ARMY OF ANTIFA GROUPS... **BOTH** OF 'EM, **WORKING TOGETHER...** TO TAKE THEIR SELF-OBSSESSED AGENDAS AND ALL PAT THEMSELVES ON THE BACK, THINKING THEY'RE THE **ALL-ENLIGHTENED** ONES. WELL, I'M BETTING THE GOVERNMENT BOYS WILL HAVE A **FEW THINGS TO SAY** ABOUT ALL THIS. **MY** MONEY IS ON **DRONE** STRIKES. **THAT'S** WHERE THE BLACK BUDGET DOLLARS HAVE BEEN GOING, BELIEVE-YOU-**ME!**

TWO DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE HIS CONFRONTATION WITH THE VAMPIRE GENERAL CALLED REBIRTH, YET HIS WORDS STILL ECHO IN SPAWN'S EARS.

REBIRTH WAS A ZEALOT, BUT THERE WAS TRUTH IN WHAT HE WAS SAYING. AT SOME POINT, TO WIN THIS WAR, SPAWN WILL INEVITABLY NEED TO ALLY HIMSELF WITH SOME OF HIS MOST DETESTED ENEMIES.

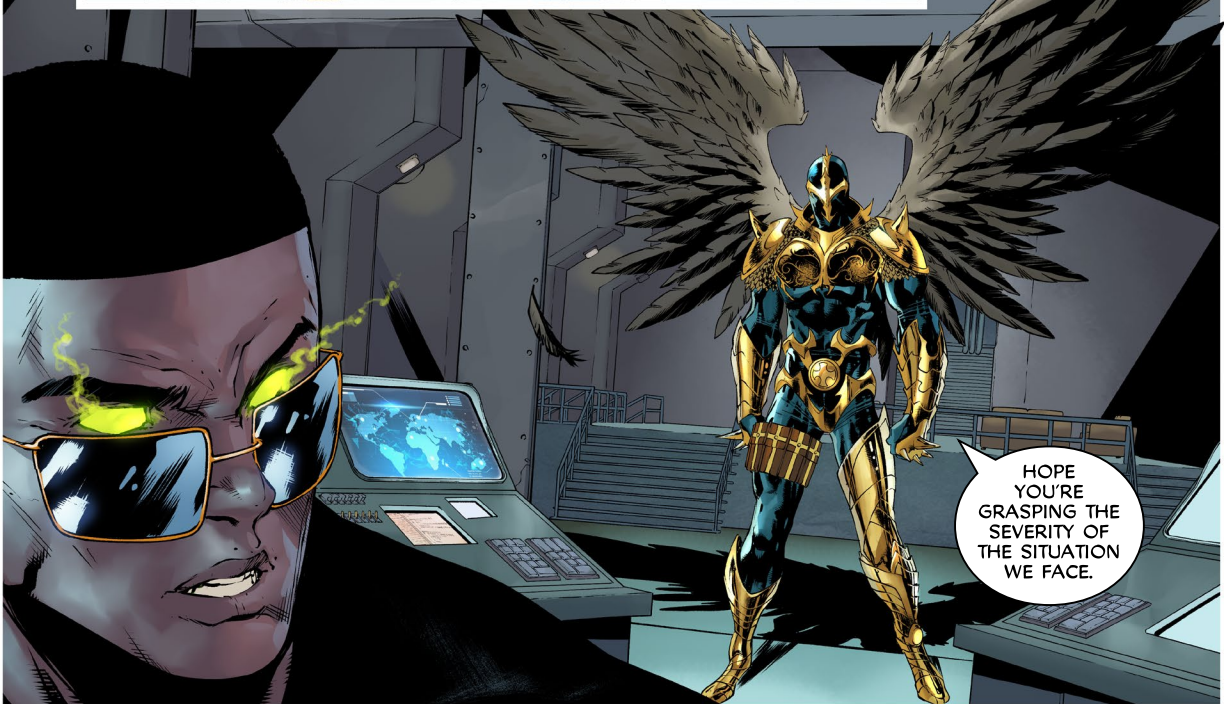


THE QUESTION IS, HOW FAR IS HE WILLING TO CORRUPT HIMSELF FOR THAT POTENTIAL VICTORY?

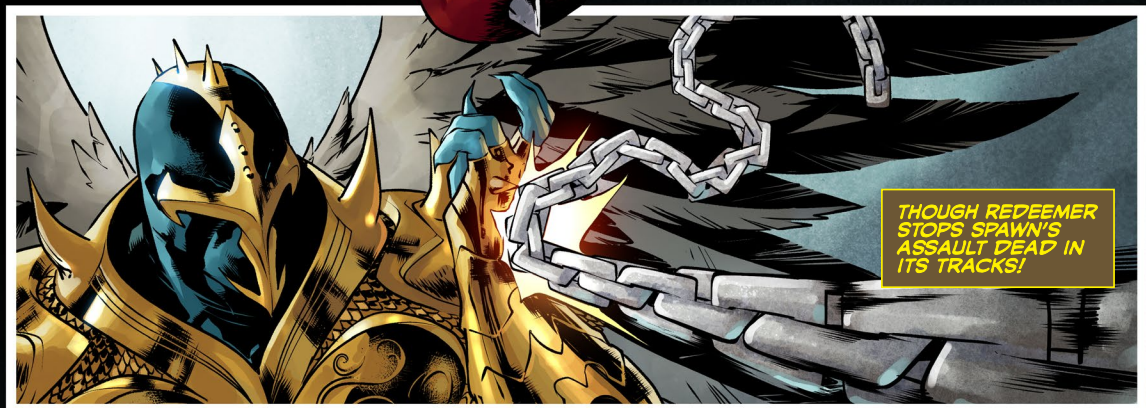
DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, DOES IT?



HOPE YOU'RE GRASPING THE SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION WE FACE.



*SPAWN LASHES OUT INSTINCTIVELY,
THE SIGHT OF A REDEEMER STOKING
A PRIMAL HATRED IN HIS SYMBIOTE.*



*THOUGH REDEEMER
STOPS SPAWN'S
ASSAULT DEAD IN
ITS TRACKS!*



YOU SHOULD
CONSERVE YOUR
STRENGTH. WE'LL NEED
IT LATER.

HOW'D
YOU DO THAT
JUST NOW?

IF YOU CAN
CALM DOWN FOR
A SECOND, I'LL
EXPLAIN.

NOW... THERE'S
A LOT WE NEED
TO DISCUSS.



SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

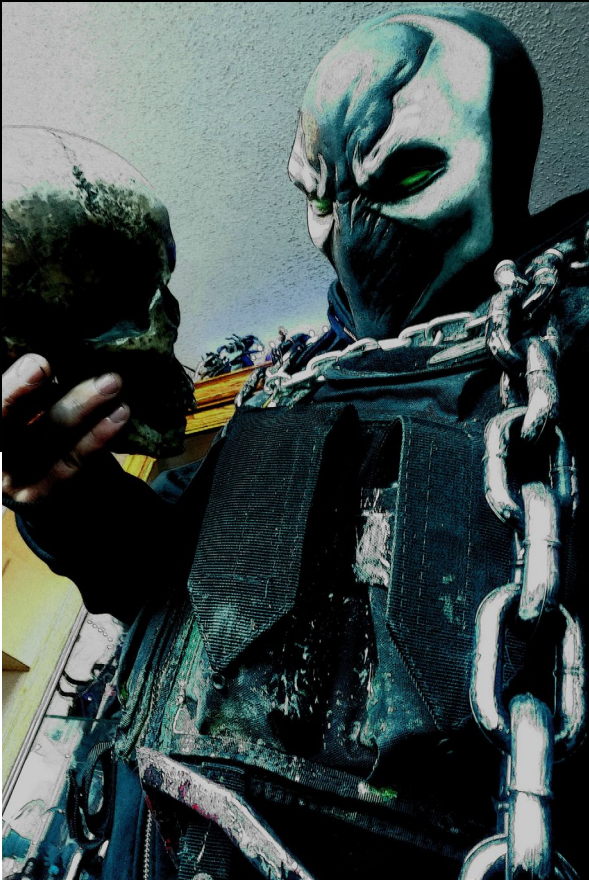
LAST MONTH WAS SPAWN-O-WEEN!

Some of the coolest
Spawn-themed
costumes
by some of the
coolest Spawn fans.



SAM | TWITCH | SHE-SPAWN | CLOWN | BILLY KINCAID





Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at: spawningground@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*
SAGA 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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JANUARY 2021

SPAWN® 325

WRITTEN BY SPAWN CREATOR:

TODD
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DECEMBER 2021



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SPAWN



BARBERI 21

to Jay