

SPAWN

TODD
MCFARLANE

CARLO
BARBERI

image
319
DIGITAL
EDITION



CB



SPAWN®

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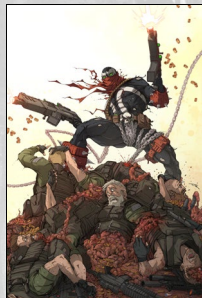
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SPAWN CREATED BY
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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Previously: The world of Spawn's Universe has blown open. After barely surviving a second trip to Omega Spawn's tropical island, Al has realized there are even more Shadow Players than he thought. Who is Jericho? And what are his plans for Cy-Gor?



FOSITANO, ITALY.

A ROMANTIC, SMALL VILLAGE FILLED WITH SOOTHING SEA AIR AND THE AROMA OF DOZENS OF EATERIES.



LOCALS AND TOURISTS ALIKE LOVE THE MANY CHOICES TO ENJOY FINE FOOD.



ONE SUCH LOCAL FAVORITE IS CANTINA del ROMA, ESTABLISHED IN 1918. BUT THE MAIN REASON MANY COME IS FOR GINO SPADILLO, THE RESTAURANT'S KIND OWNER.



AH! A WONDERFUL SELECTION YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS HAVE MADE. I PROMISE YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. AND, PLEASE, A GLASS OF WINE ON ME WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.



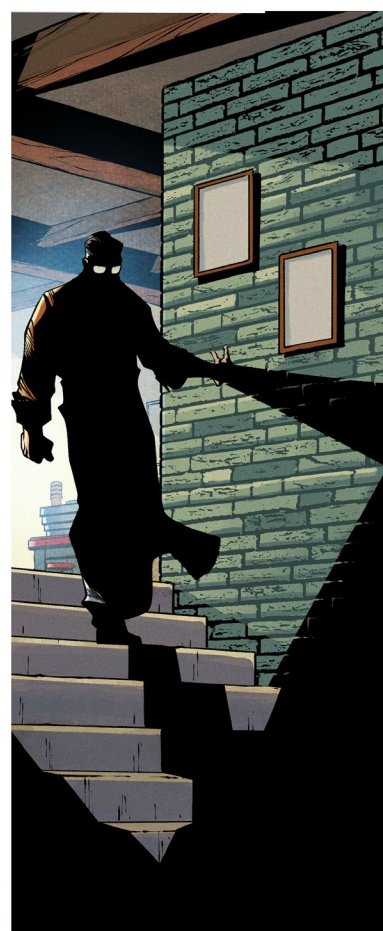
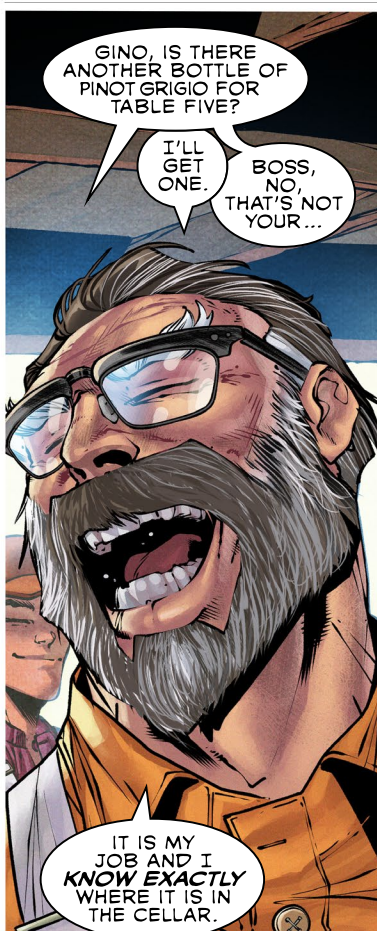
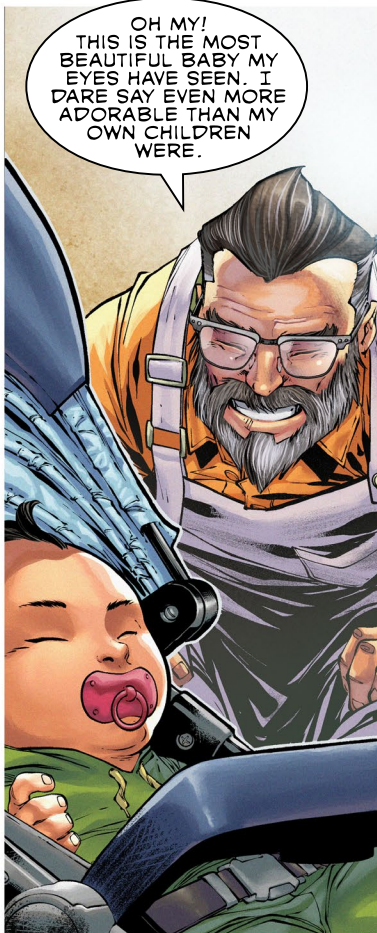
ANTHONY, HOW ARE YOUR PARENTS? DID THEY ENJOY THEIR VACATION?

THEY HAVEN'T STOPPED TALKING ABOUT IT. AND THEY ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFT BASKET YOU SENT TO THEIR HOTEL.

IT'S FOR THEIR YEARS OF SUPPORTING MY CAFÉ.



WAITER, COOK, BARTENDER, GINO STILL HELPS WITH ANY TASKS THAT MAY HELP OUT HIS STAFF.



DOWN A LONG HALL-
WAY IS A MAGNIFICENT
SELECTION OF SOME
OF THE WORLD'S MOST
FAMOUS WINES.



BUT A FAINT SOUND
HE HEARS ISN'T TO HIS
LIKING. HE OPENS A
DOOR HIDDEN BEHIND
A WINE RACK.



I'M
THIRSTY...
I NEED
WATER.

I TOLD
YOU BEFORE--
SILENCE! IS ALL
I WILL TOLERATE.
UNLESS YOU WISH
TO BE TORTURED
MORE?



I HAVE
NONE.
WOULD YOU
LIKE WINE
INSTEAD?



THEN, JUST AS HIS
LAUGHTER DIES DOWN,
THE CANDLES
SUDDENLY GO DARK.





THE TEMPERATURE IN THE DUNGEON DROPS AND THE CHILL IN THE ROOM IS COLD ENOUGH THAT GINO IS ABLE TO SEE HIS OWN BREATH.

THE CLANK OF HEAVY CHAINS, ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO STRIKE, CONFIRM WHAT GINO ALREADY KNOWS: THAT SOMEONE HAS INVADDED HIS SPACE.

TURN AROUND, GINO.

WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO BE HERE? I TOLD THEM I WAS NEVER TO BE DISTURBED. WHO SENT YOU?

I'M TOLD YOU HAVE ONE OF THE FILES.

SOME-ONE LIED.

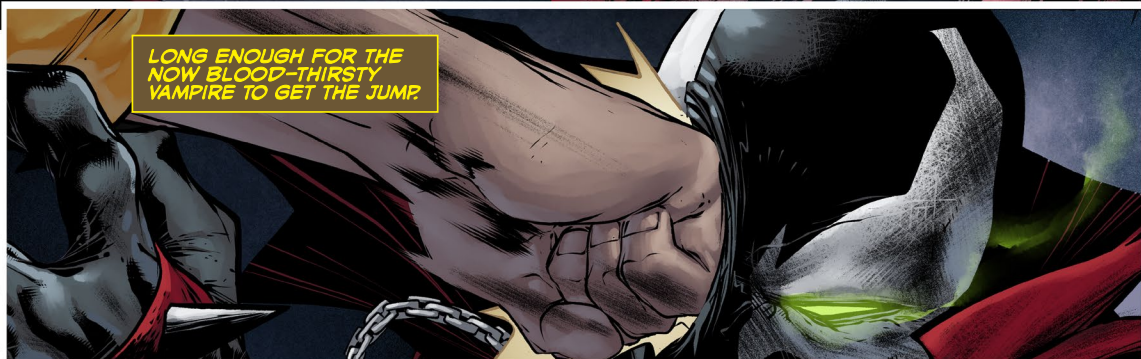
NOT THE WAY I ASK QUESTIONS. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HOW FAST YOUR VAMPIRE FRIENDS SOLD YOU OUT.



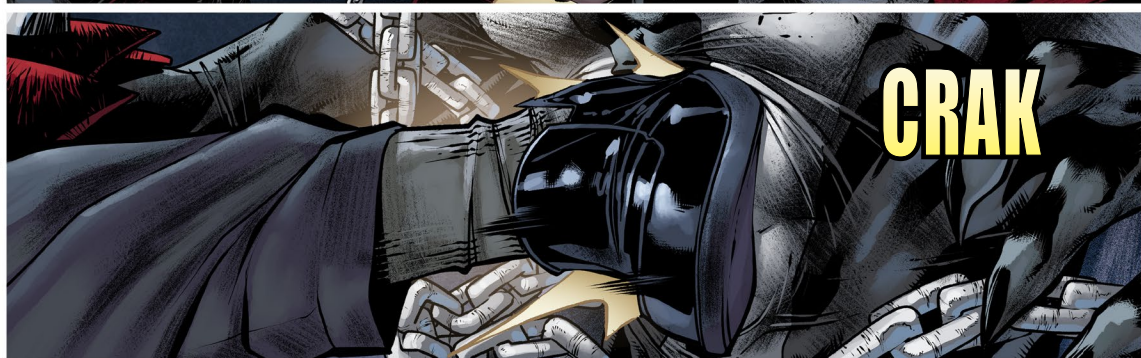
FANGS BARED, GINO ATTACKS WITH THE QUICKNESS OF AN ELITE ATHLETE. CATCHING SPAWN OFF GUARD FOR A SPLIT SECOND.



LONG ENOUGH FOR THE NOW BLOOD-THIRSTY VAMPIRE TO GET THE JUMP.



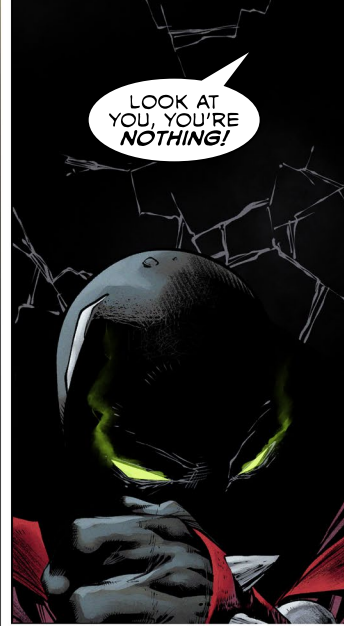
CRAK



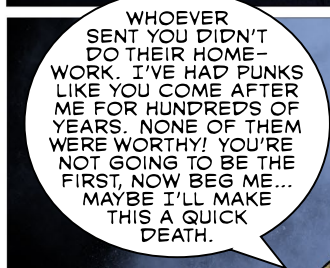
HITTING SPAWN LIKE A BULL-- FULL FORCE!



WUMP



LOOK AT
YOU, YOU'RE
NOTHING!



WHOEVER
SENT YOU DIDN'T
DO THEIR HOME-
WORK. I'VE HAD PUNKS
LIKE YOU COME AFTER
ME FOR HUNDREDS OF
YEARS. NONE OF THEM
WERE WORTHY! YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO BE THE
FIRST, NOW BEG ME...
MAYBE I'LL MAKE
THIS A QUICK
DEATH.



BUT
FIRST
YOU'RE
GOING TO
TELL ME
WHO SENT
YOU.

**SPAWN RISES TO
HIS FEET, STRONG
AND DEFIANT.**



YOU THINK
I'M HURT?! YOU'RE
NOT THAT GOOD. AND
I'M HERE ALONE, NO ONE
SENT ME, BUT THEY SHOULD
HAVE TAUGHT YOU WHAT A
HELLSPAWN LOOKED
LIKE.



SPAWN?
THEY
SAID THEY
KILLED
YOU.



SOMEONE
LIED.



AS HE SPEAKS, HIS
RED CLOAK STARTS TO
MORPH, TRANSFORMING
FROM LEATHERY CLOTH
INTO VEINED WINGS.

THE MASTERS
YOU SERVE, THEY THINK
THEY'VE GOT THE EDGE, THAT
SOMEHOW, I'M **TOO WEAK**
TO TAKE THEM ON. THEY'LL TELL
THEIR ARMY TO CONTINUE THEIR
MISSION, TRYING TO BUILD THE
CONFIDENCE OF THEIR
WARRIORS. AND I HOPE THEY
DO, BECAUSE THEY'LL FIND
OUT THEY'VE ALL BEEN LED
TO THEIR OWN
SLAUGHTER.

BECAUSE
ABSENT OF LIGHT,
IN DARKNESS LIKE
THIS PRISON ROOM...
I THRIVE!
IT'S PERFECT
FOR ME!

THAT'S BECAUSE A PORTION
OF THE SYMBIOTE SPAWN
WEARS HAS A TOUCH OF
VAMPIRIC BLOOD COURSEING
THROUGH IT, TOO.

UP TO THIS POINT, SPAWN HAS BEEN HOLDING BACK HIS 'PET,' WAITING FOR THE PROPER TIME TO ASSERT THAT HE'S VERY MUCH READY TO BATTLE ANYONE THEY MAY WANT TO SEND.

OR IN THIS CASE, ANYONE THAT CAN BE OF USE TO HIM.



FOR NEARLY THREE MINUTES, SPAWN SLAMS, GUTS, RENDS AND TOSSES HIS ENEMY AROUND WITH EFFORTLESS EASE.

YOUR FILE! WHERE IS IT?



ENDING WITH A FINAL INSULT NO VAMPIRE CAN EVER RECOVER FROM.



pik

I BELIEVE YOU LOST YOUR FANGS. NOW...

YOU GOING TO F*CKIN' TELL ME WHAT I WANT?

NOT SURPRISINGLY, SPAWN GETS HIS ANSWERS.

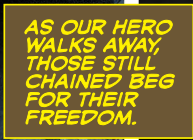




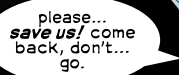
**THEN TOSSES
THE RESTAURANT
OWNER BETWEEN
THOSE HE'S
IMPRISONED.**



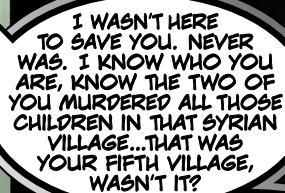
BAP



**AS OUR HERO
WALKS AWAY,
THOSE STILL
CHAINED BEG
FOR THEIR
FREEDOM.**



please...
save us! come
back, don't...
go.



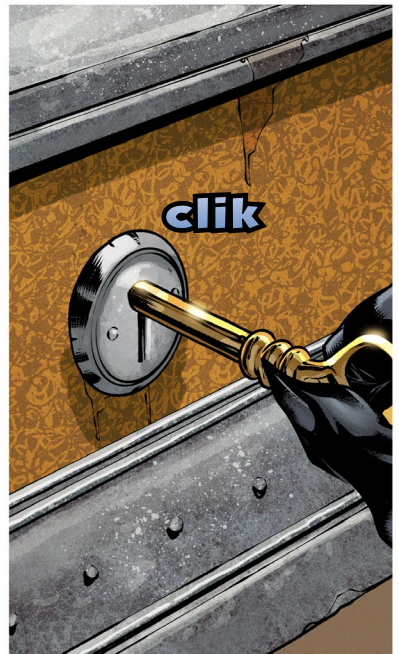
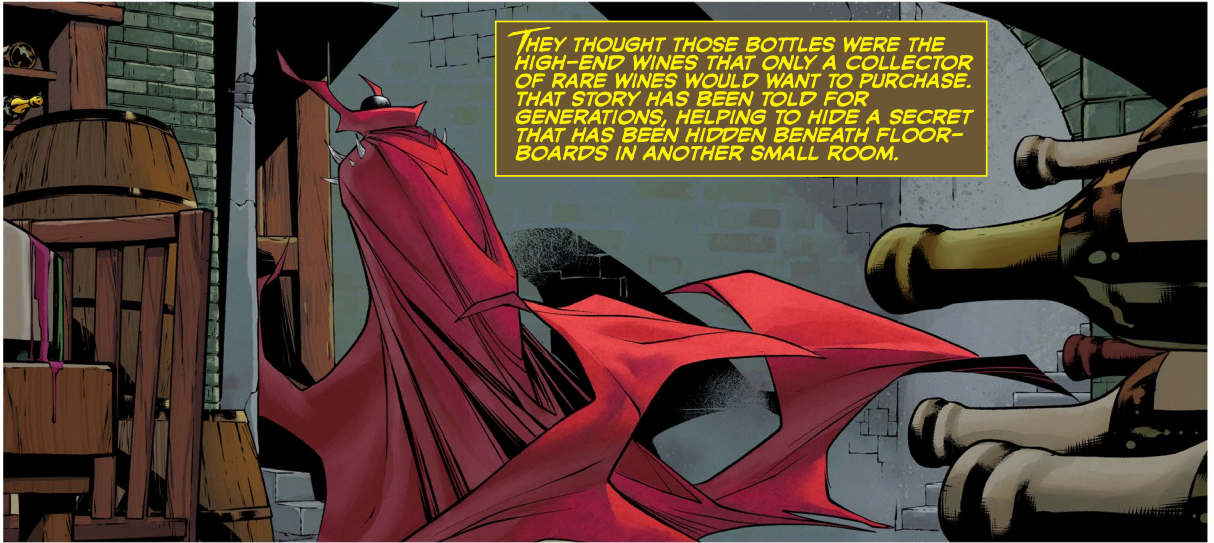
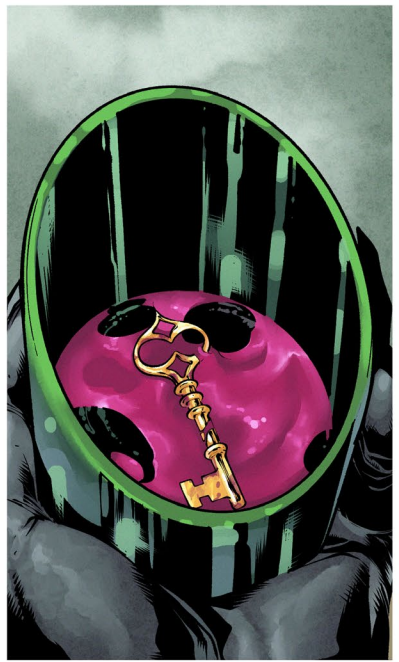
I WASN'T HERE
TO SAVE YOU. NEVER
WAS. I KNOW WHO YOU
ARE, KNOW THE TWO OF
YOU MURDERED ALL THOSE
CHILDREN IN THAT SYRIAN
VILLAGE...THAT WAS
YOUR FIFTH VILLAGE,
WASN'T IT?

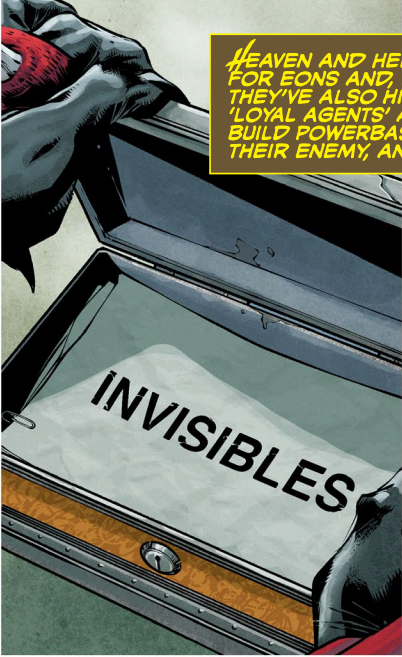
SO, I DON'T
GIVE A SHIT IF YOU
EVER GET OUT OF HERE...BUT
I'VE GIVEN YOU A CHANCE TO
EXACT REVENGE ON YOUR
CAPTOR. DO WHATEVER
YOU WANT.

**NECRO-PLASM
LITERALLY
SEALS THE
DOOR SHUT.
FOREVER.**

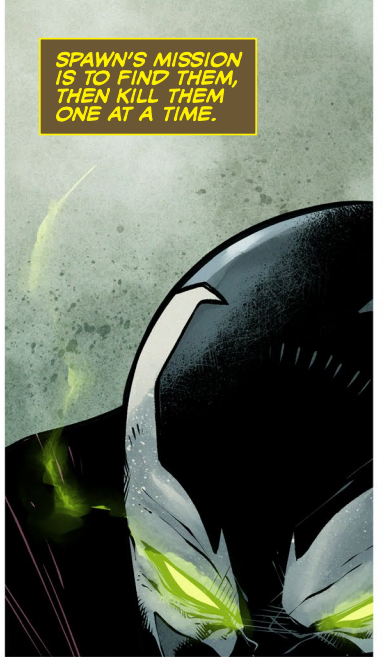
**NECRO-PLASM
LITERALLY
SEALS THE
DOOR SHUT.
FOREVER.**







HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE WAGED THEIR WARS FOR EONS AND, AS PART OF THOSE BATTLES, THEY'VE ALSO HIDDEN THOUSANDS OF 'LOYAL AGENTS' ACROSS THE PLANET AS THEY BUILD POWERBASES CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THEIR ENEMY, AND SUBJUGATING HUMANITY.



SPAWN'S MISSION IS TO FIND THEM, THEN KILL THEM ONE AT A TIME.



NEW YORK CITY,
NEW YORK.

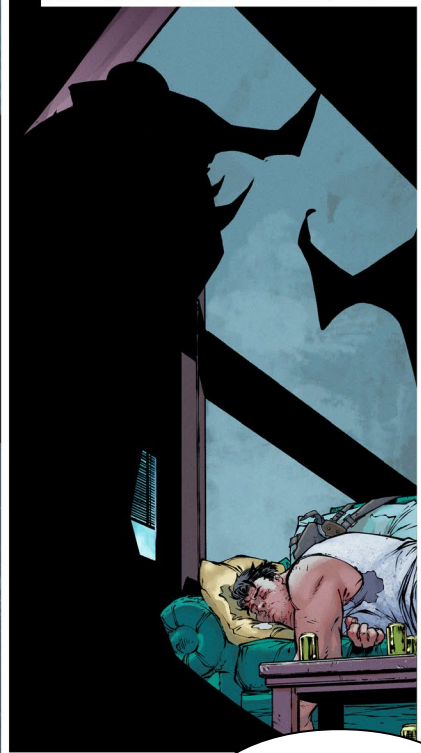
THOUGH THIS CITY HOUSES SOME OF THE RICHEST, MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE ON THE GLOBE, IT ALSO HAS ITS FAIR SHARE OF UNDER-SERVED AND NEGLECTED AREAS WHERE THOSE JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE THE DAY CAN SEEK SHELTER FROM THEIR DAILY GRIND.

AND FOR MOST OF THEM, THIS WILL BE AS GOOD AS IT GETS.



ONE OF THESE LOST SOULS IS DETECTIVE SAM BURKE, A VETERAN OF THE N.Y.P.D. FOR MORE YEARS THAN HE'D LIKE TO COUNT.

zzzz



FREEZE!
MOTHER
F*CKER...!!



HELLO,
SAM.

DON'T YOU
"HELLO" ME! I WAS
ABOUT TO BLOW YOUR
HEAD OFF, YOU
DUMBASS! I DON'T
TAKE KINDLY TO
TRESPASSERS.

WHAT'DYA
WANT?
I SEE
THAT.



WHERE'S
TWITCH?



YOU KIDDIN'
ME?! YOU WALTZ
IN HERE, GIVE ME
A HEART ATTACK AND
ALMOST GET A HOLE
IN YOUR HEAD,
TO ASK ABOUT
TWITCH?



I LOOKED,
COULDN'T FIND
HIM. HE'S NOT
HOME.

HE'S ON
VACATION,
NUMB-NUTS!
TOOK HIS FAMILY WITH
HIM. THAT'S WHAT
REAL HUMANS
DO.

ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
NEED?

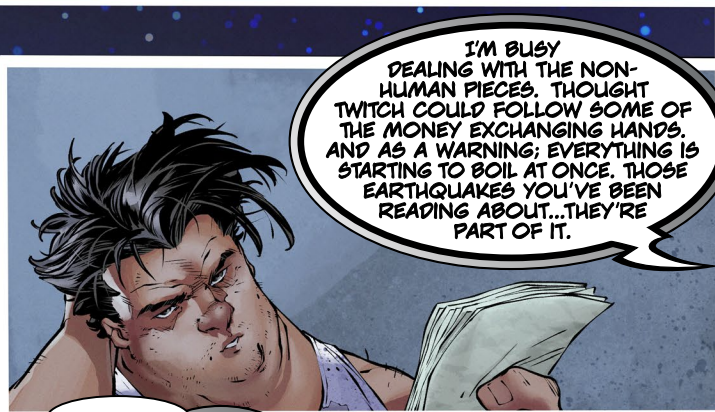


GIVE THIS FILE TO TWITCH WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE.

WHAT'S IN IT?

NAMES, AND A LIST OF CORPORATIONS.

THESE ARE SOME HEAVY HITTERS. WHY AREN'T YOU DOING YOUR 'BOOGIE-MAN' THING ON THEM.



I'M BUSY DEALING WITH THE NON-HUMAN PIECES. THOUGHT TWITCH COULD FOLLOW SOME OF THE MONEY EXCHANGING HANDS. AND AS A WARNING; EVERYTHING IS STARTING TO BOIL AT ONCE. THOSE EARTHQUAKES YOU'VE BEEN READING ABOUT...THEY'RE PART OF IT.

MEANING?

IF I DON'T GET A HANDLE ON THIS SOON, FIND SOME OF THESE "SHADOW PLAYERS," IT MAY BE TOO LATE.



SO, I COULD USE SOME HELP.

THOUGH SAM HAS NEVER SEEN EYE TO EYE WITH SPAWN, HE UNDERSTANDS THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT MAY BE COMING.

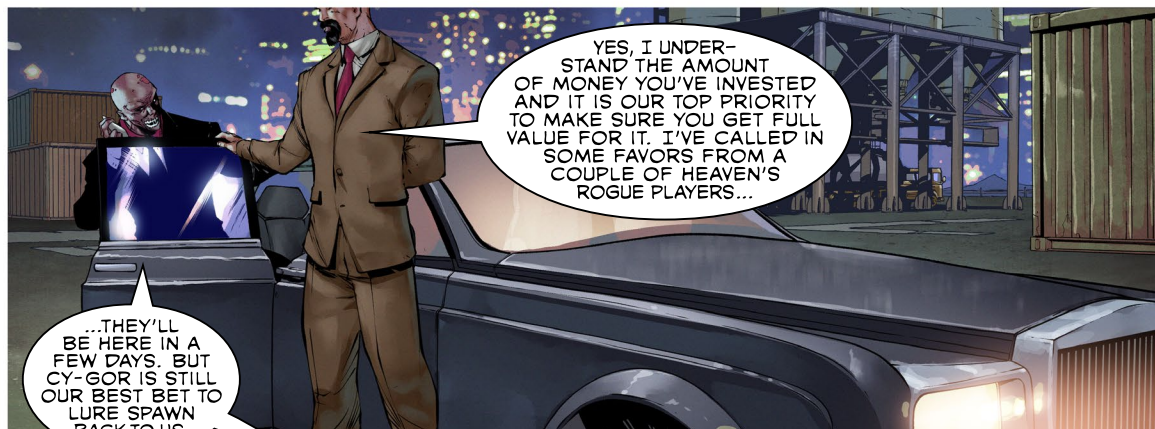






SEDATED AND ALREADY RECOVERING FROM HIS BOUT WITH THE NEW VILLAIN 'DISRUPTOR', CY-GOR IS INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING IN HIS CATIONIC STATE.

JERICO HERE. NOTHING WAS DESTROYED THAT YOU HAD YOUR MONEY INTO. SPAWN AND THE GUNSLINGER ESCAPED WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE TO THE FORTRESS.



YES, I UNDERSTAND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU'VE INVESTED AND IT IS OUR TOP PRIORITY TO MAKE SURE YOU GET FULL VALUE FOR IT. I'VE CALLED IN SOME FAVORS FROM A COUPLE OF HEAVEN'S ROGUE PLAYERS...

...THEY'LL BE HERE IN A FEW DAYS. BUT CY-GOR IS STILL OUR BEST BET TO LURE SPAWN BACK TO US.



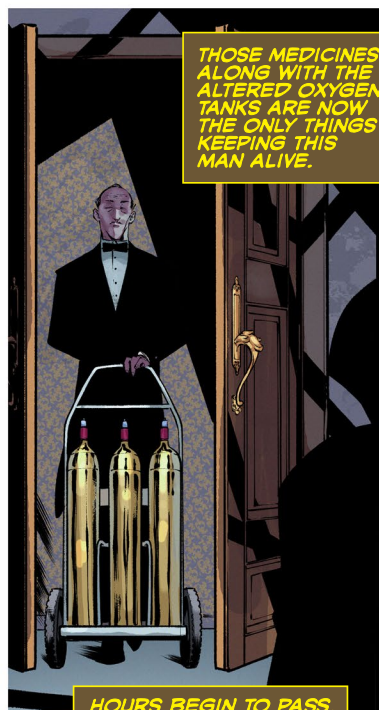
AND WHY WILL YOUR PLAN WORK ANY DIFFERENT THE NEXT TIME? WE NEED SPAWN... I NEED HIM! SO, I MAY HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SIR.

THAT'S WHAT YOUR PEOPLE SAID LAST TIME.

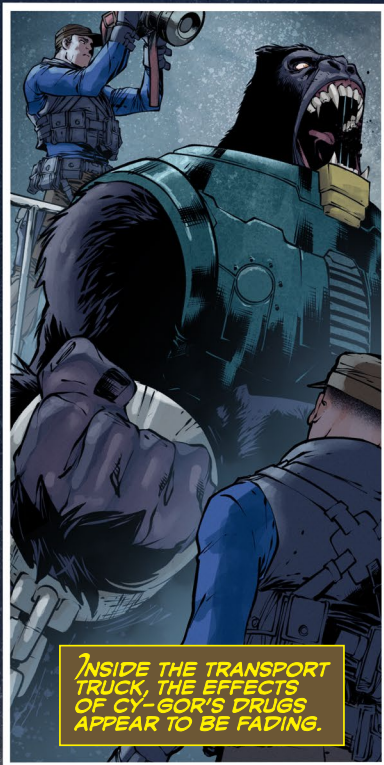


THE MYSTERY MAN HANGS UP HIS PHONE AS MEDICAL STAFF GIVE HIM HIS REQUIRED INJECTIONS.



THOSE MEDICINES ALONG WITH THE ALTERED OXYGEN TANKS ARE NOW THE ONLY THINGS KEEPING THIS MAN ALIVE.

HOURS BEGIN TO PASS.



INSIDE THE TRANSPORT TRUCK, THE EFFECTS OF CY-GOR'S DRUGS APPEAR TO BE FADING.



HIS AGITATION GROWING BY THE SECOND.

ENGAGE MASK AND PREPARE **THE GAS!** SUBJECT NEEDS CALMING.



RELEASE!

A STRANGE MIST OF SMOKE FILLS THE MASK.



YET, IT HAS THE OPPOSITE OF ITS INTENDED EFFECT.



BECAUSE INSTEAD OF CALMING THE GREAT BEAST, HE'S HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION THAT'S FEEDING HIS **FRENZIED RAGE!**



KLAT!

A RAGE THAT WON'T BE CONTAINED INSIDE THE REFORTIFIED STEEL WALLS OF A FORTY-EIGHT FOOT TRAILER...NO MATTER HOW HIGH TECH IT MAY BE.

RRIP

KOOM!

Skreeeeeeee

THE TRAILER CRASHES TO THE GROUND ON ITS SIDE. BUT BEFORE ANY AUTHORITIES EVEN GET A REPORT OF THIS DISASTER, SOMEONE WAS ALREADY THERE WAITING. SOMEONE FROM ABOVE..!

I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

A large, imposing figure in a yellow hooded cloak and gas mask stands on a rooftop, holding two assault rifles. The figure's eyes glow white. In the foreground, several dark, armored figures are visible. The background shows a city skyline at night with a full moon.

HE LANDS ON THE TRAILER LIKE A NAVY SEAL GOING INTO COMBAT, READY FOR THE ENEMY HE'S ABOUT TO FACE, DRIVEN BY HIS DISGUST AT THE FAILURES OF THOSE WHO CONSTANTLY REMIND HIM OF THEIR SUPERIORITY. BUT SO FAR, THOSE FROM HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING!

IT'S TIME TO LET A HUMAN HAVE A CHANCE.

FIGHT ALL YOU WANT, MONSTER! BUT YOU DON'T LEAVE MY SIGHT UNTIL SPAWN ARRIVES. AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHO'S GOT MORE POWER-- A **HELLSPAWN** OR A

SOUL CRUSHER..

MADE OF FLESH AND BONES!

THE CLARION CALL HAS BEEN SENT.

TO BE CONTINUED



SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

INTERVIEW WITH TODD McFARLANE... *BY YOU*

What was your favorite story arc from the Spawn run so far and why?

– Adam L

Not sure that I have a favorite arc. There are certainly issues here and there, scattered through the decades, that I am particularly proud of based on art or character development. But I'd like to think that my best work is still ahead of me in the future. I try not to critique my own work too much. I will just move onto the next issue. That's how you get to #319.

Will we know more about characters like The Freak and The Curse?

– Francisco M

Short answer, YES! One of the main reasons for the new Spawn's Universe is to be able to give more room to some of the neglected characters that the fans have come to love. I can't tell all these stories in just one monthly book, so I had to expand. That's why we decided to start Spawn's Universe. With some time and a bit of your patience, we will be able to get to your favorite characters and explore them some more.

How is current day Spawn different from how you originally envisioned his future in the 90s? What are some meaningful ways the story grew into something better and were there aspects that left you disappointed?

– Ryad H

Spawn is pretty much tracking how I had envisioned it. I knew it would start as a "Superhero" book and then take a turn into the creepy and dark. It's evolved just like Spawn's costume. I feel that this is a different book today than it was in the '90s, and that kind of was the point for me. I wanted it to evolve and change.



Issue 301 cover by **TODD McFARLANE**

Will "The Art of Spawn" statues make a comeback? If so, could I recommend Spawn #301 cover? Spawn holding up a crown.

– Selim M

Yes. We have already been discussing this internally. We are talking about bringing back a line of figures based on covers. Stay tuned!

What is your writing process like? Do you plan on bigger stories or focus more issue to issue?

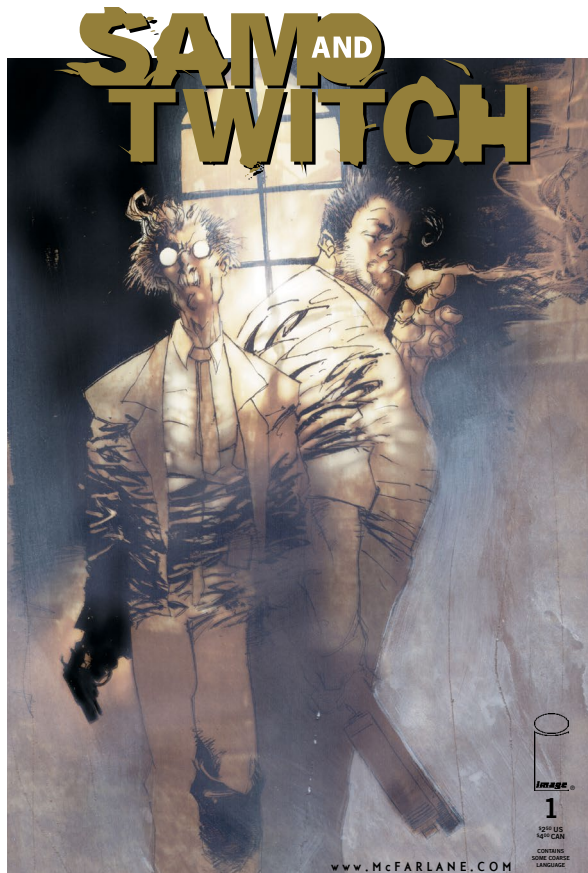
- Eddie K

Way more "issue to issue". Most full-time writers would be horrified by my process. I know my editor Thomas is. Sure, we have major plot points planned out ahead of time but the individual stories in the issues are written on the fly. It works for me due to how organic it is.

Is there a power or change you thought about making to Spawn but never did and why?

- Thomas B

It's interesting. Your question and a few others have been pretty similar. I am 300+ issues in and everything that I have wanted to do so far, I have done. I can do it because there is no one here that can tell me no. I like having no regrets about the things I've put in the book. The bad analogy is making a sandwich at home. You make it the way you like. You don't put things on it that you don't want to eat.



Sam and Twitch Book 1 cover by **ASHLEY WOOD**



The Curse by **GREG CAPULLO**

Is there a chance for all of Sam & Twitch to be collected in a Compendium?

- David S

We would have to check the material and see how much of it we can logistically fit into a book like the compendiums. But with the latest news that broke with Sam & Twitch and Hollywood, those chances have certainly increased.

When you're inking a page do you prefer to do it digitally or the old-fashioned way? Do you think one way has a better outcome than the other?

- Leasa H.

I am pretty much all digital these days. Digital vs. Pencil & Ink, both have pros and cons. I do digital due to the efficiency and speed I have developed compared to doing it on paper. As well as the ability to work almost anywhere. Including the beach! I would say that whatever method allows you to practice hours at a time is the method that you should focus on.



Do you have a question for Todd about the upcoming Spawn's Universe? If so, e-mail it to us at: spawningground@mcfarlane.com, and next month, we'll pick a few for Todd to answer!

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*
NOWHERE MEN

HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** SEVEN TO ETERNITY

DESCENDER *PAPER GIRLS*

OCTOPUS PIE WYTCES *SHUTTER*

TOKYO GHOST THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS **BITCH PLANET**

SAGA *MOTOR CRUSH* **WAYWARD** *TREES*
THE AUTUMNLANDS

PLUTONA *LOW*

REVIVAL **NAILBITER**

CAMP MIDNIGHT

SNOTGIRL **ODDLY NORMAL**

MAGE *HINGES*

BLACK SCIENCE

PRETTY DEADLY

THE FADE OUT

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**KATSUKI BAKUGO
GRENADIER
BRACERS**



ROLEPLAY



**SHOTO
TODOROKI**

12" FIGURE



**ALL
MIGHT**



5" FIGURES



**KATSUKI
BAKUGO**



**IZUKU
MIDORIYA**

SPAWN® 320

WRITTEN BY SPAWN CREATOR:

TODD
McFARLANE



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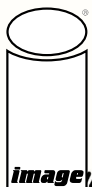
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