

THE ORIGIN OF THE SPAWN COSTUME BEGINS HERE!



image

233

DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>



McFARIANE  
+fco





HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE HAVE BEFORE SOMEONE NOTICES YOU'RE GONE?

WHAT? MAYBE ANOTHER HALF DAY?



THAT'S NOT MUCH TIME. WE NEED TO FIND IT-- BEFORE IT SPREADS TO SOMEONE ELSE.



SO I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN...  
**WHERE DID HE PUT IT?!**



STOP THIS... PLEASE... JUST STOP.



STOP?

WE DON'T  
GET TO DECIDE THAT.  
NEITHER YOU NOR I HAVE  
ANY CONTROL OVER THIS!  
**I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU-- THIS**  
**IS THE LORD'S WORK! HE'S THE**  
**ONE DOING THIS!! YOU AND I**  
**ARE JUST VESSELS FOR HIS**  
**NEEDS. WHEN ARE YOU**  
**GOING TO ACCEPT**  
**THAT?**

YOU'RE...  
OUT OF YOUR  
MIND.

**IT**  
**DOESN'T**  
**MATTER!**  
WHAT'S IMPORTANT  
IS WE BOTH REGAIN  
OUR **SALVATION** BY  
DOING EXACTLY-- AND  
WITHOUT QUESTION--  
WHAT OUR LORD  
ASKS!

THERE'S A REASON WHY WE ARE NOW BOTH HERE TOGETHER. BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN CHOSEN. NONE OF THIS IS AN ACCIDENT. GOD WANTED YOU TO BE THERE ON THAT STREET CORNER! HE WANTED YOU NEAR THAT FALSE PROPHET JIM DOWNING. DON'T YOU GET THAT?



THE LORD WANTED YOU TO BE STRUCK BY THAT BUS. HE WANTED YOUR BODY CRUSHED AND BLEEDING SO THAT DOWNING WOULD BE FORCED TO 'HEAL' YOU WITH HIS POWER!\* HE NEEDED YOU TO BE THE CARRIER OF THAT DARK POWER UNTIL SOMEONE COULD BE SENT TO RETRIEVE IT!



\*Issues #203-4 --Todd

PLEASE... DON'T. NO MORE.



THAT SOMEONE WAS **ME!** FOR ALL MY FAULTS AND SINS... **GOD** WAS STILL WILLING TO GIVE ME A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION! JUST WHEN I THOUGHT HE'D FORSAKEN ME-- HIS GRACE AND COMPASSION HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO ME. AND ALL WE NEED TO DO TO RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS IS TO FIND WHERE DOWNING PUT THAT DARK POWER INSIDE YOU.



SO WHY ARE YOU RESISTING? WHY **ARE YOU** MAKING THIS SO DIFFICULT ON US?!







IT'S GOT  
TO BE IN THERE  
SOMEWHERE!



NOT AGAIN.



GOD DAMN IT-- NOT AGAIN!



WHY DO I KEEP WAKING IN PLACES I DON'T WANT TO BE?!



WHY CAN'T I JUST SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT?

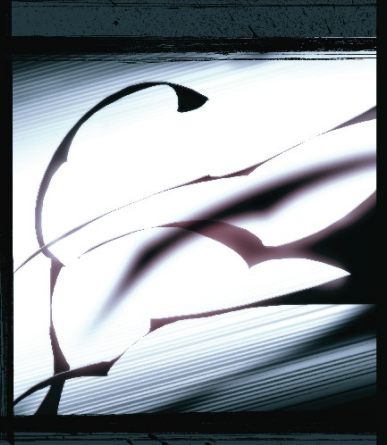
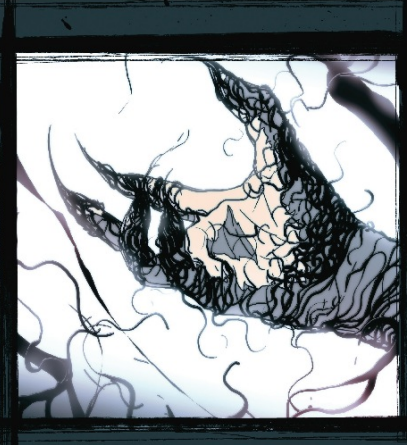


IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH? TO HAVE ONE NIGHT WITHOUT BEING THIS SPAWN?!

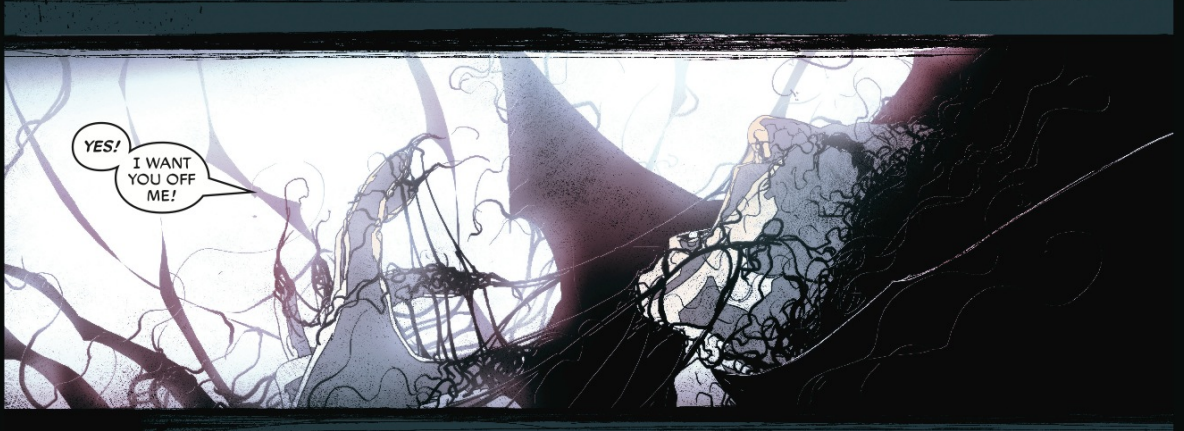
WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH THIS MADNESS?!



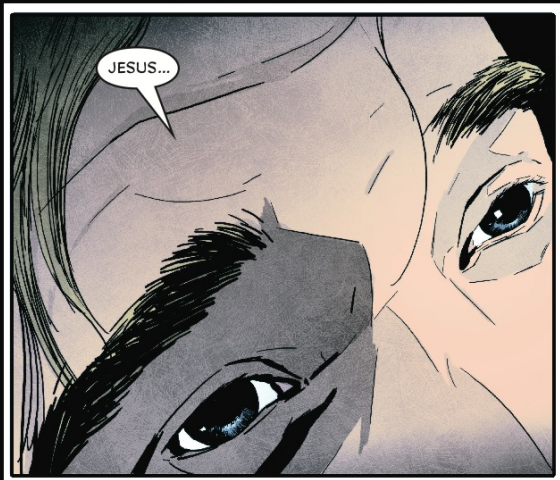
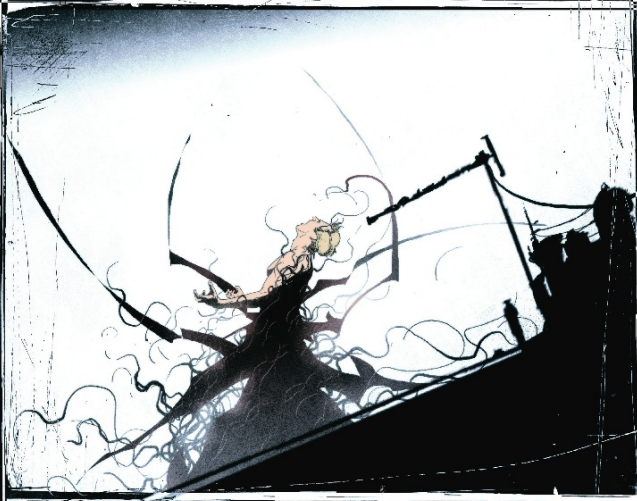
LEAVE ME ALONE!!



NO.



YES!  
I WANT YOU OFF ME!



JESUS...



I WAS DREAMING AGAIN.

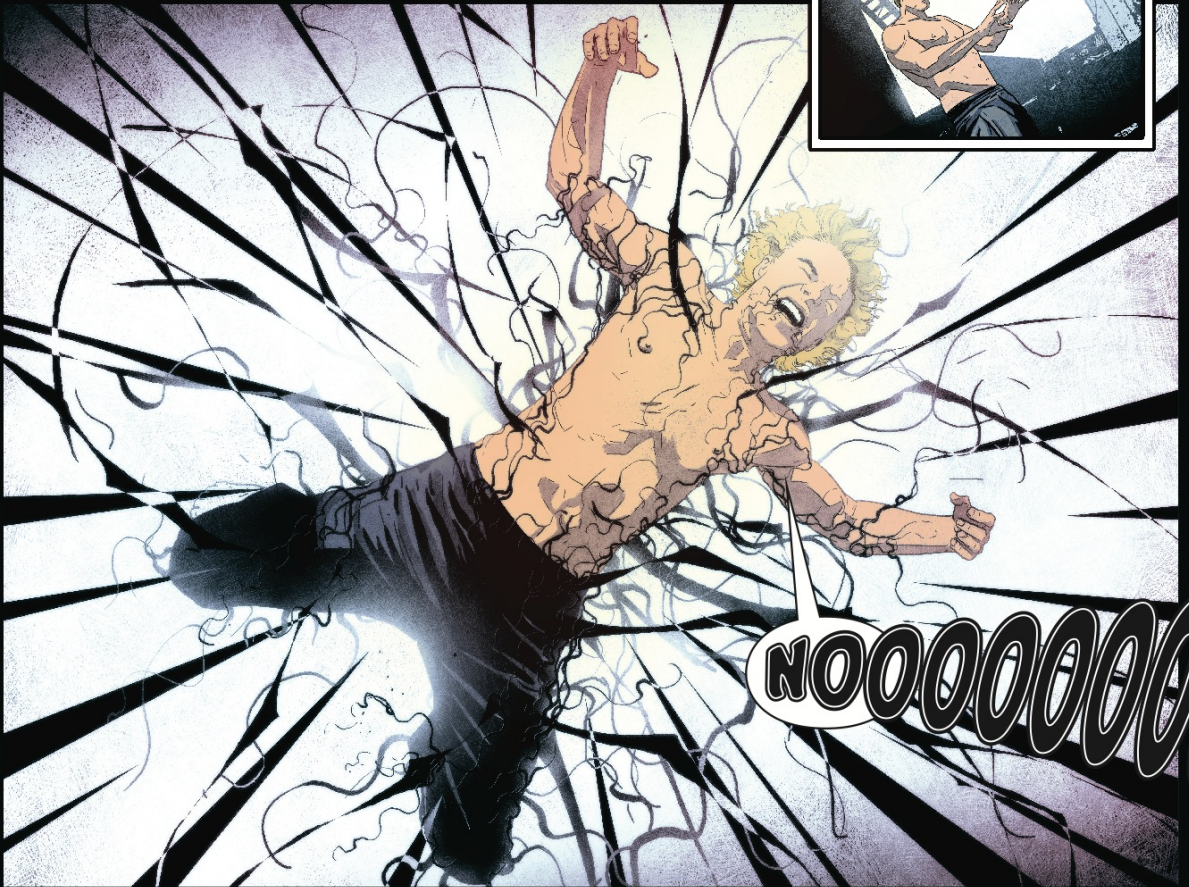
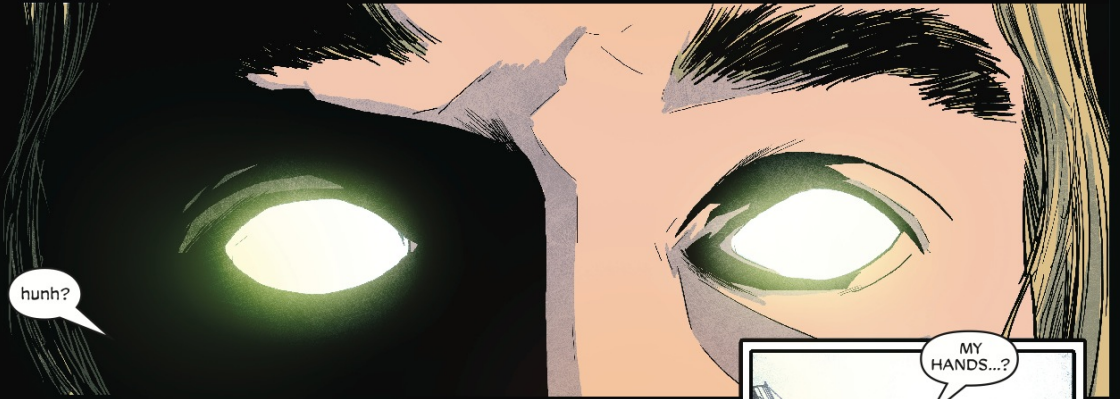
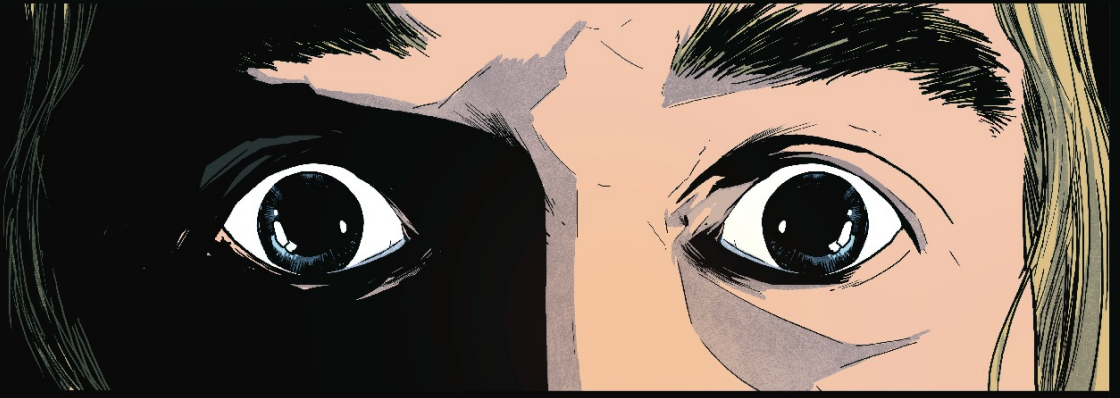


AND THOSE VOICES-- THEY KEEP POPPING INTO MY HEAD.

IS THAT WHY I'M SO TIRED EVERY MORNING? SO EXHAUSTED. BECAUSE I CAN'T SHUT OFF MY BRAIN AT NIGHT?



I SWEAR I'M DRIVING MYSELF CRAZY.





DID YOU  
THINK YOU HAD  
ANY POSSIBLE  
CHANCE...

...TO  
HIDE FROM  
ME?

LOOK AROUND. YOU'RE EXACTLY WHERE I WANT YOU.

I AM.

YOU'RE NOTHING.

AND IT'S YOU THAT'S HIDING NOW. WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?

I'M EVERYTHING YOU SEE. YOUR ARROGANCE IS BLINDING YOU.

SHOW YOURSELF.

IN THE DARK.


ARROGANCE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE-- THAT COMBINATION HAS ALWAYS GIVEN YOU HUMANS A FALSE SENSE OF GRANDEUR.

BUT SADLY, YOU'VE MISTAKEN PATIENCE FOR FEAR. YOUR OWN MORTALTY FORCES YOUR KIND TO RUSH INTO THINGS-- TRYING TO ACCELERATE GOALS SIMPLY BECAUSE EACH DAY MAY BE YOUR LAST.




"AND THOUGH IT TOOK NEARLY A MILLION OF YOUR HUMAN YEARS... I FINALLY HAVE WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR... A HOST... A MAN THAT NEVER DIED! A TRUE 'LIVING SOUL.'"

"BUT IF YOU'RE IMMORTAL... YOU CAN WAIT. THERE IS NO RUSH. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS WAITING UNTIL THE MOMENT IS PERFECT!"

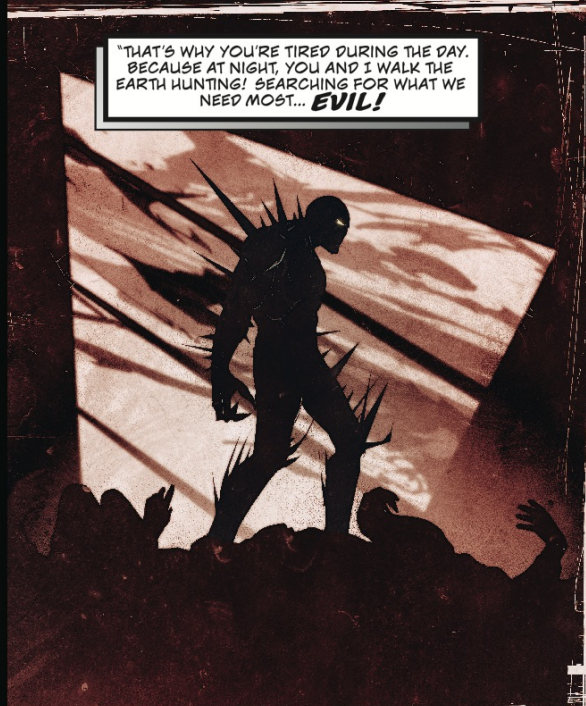


THAT WAS THE FIRST STEP. MORE CRUCIAL  
WOULD BE ADAPTING TO THAT HOST--  
**ADAPTING TO YOU!** AND I'VE BEEN  
PATIENTLY ALTERING MY FORM TRYING TO  
FIND THE PRECISE SHAPE THAT WOULD  
COMPLETE MY **BONDAGE** OVER YOU!

"THOUGH THAT TRANSFORMATION CAME  
WITH AN UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECT. INSTEAD  
OF JUST BEING DRAWN TO EVIL-- LIKE IN  
THE PAST-- I **NOW HUNGERED FOR IT!**  
CRAVED THE POWER IT GAVE US!"



"SO EVERY NIGHT, WHEN YOU SLEEP--  
WHEN OUR BOND IS STRONGEST!  
WHEN WE'RE **INVINCIBLE...** THAT'S  
WHEN I HUNGER MOST.



"THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TIRED DURING THE DAY.  
BECAUSE AT NIGHT, YOU AND I WALK THE  
EARTH HUNTING! SEARCHING FOR WHAT WE  
NEED MOST... **EVIL!**



"THEN WE **DEVOUR IT!!**"


"EACH DEATH BRINGING US MORE POWER. YOU'VE ACCEPTED YOUR PART QUITE WILLINGLY SO FAR. AND IN TIME YOU'LL ACCEPT ME AS YOUR *MASTER*. ON THAT DAY WE'LL RULE *ALL* OF EXISTENCE!

"HEAVEN, HELL, EARTH, ALL WILL BEND A KNEE TO OUR PRESENCE. THAT'S WHEN YOU'LL BECOME A KING-- *A GOD!* BECAUSE YOU'RE THE *'KEY!'*

"EVEN THOUGH HELL HAS TAKEN CREDIT FOR MY CREATION FOR EONS-- THEY KNOW IT'S A LIE! THEY ALSO KNOW THE TRUTH TOO.

"THAT I--  
THAT SPAWN-- WAS  
**BORN IN HEAVEN!**

"YOUR GOD, THE ONE YOU ALL WORSHIP, CREATED ME THE MOMENT HE CREATED THE UNIVERSE. BECAUSE WHEN HE CAST HIS FIRST LIGHT ON THE PLANETS HE'D CREATED... HE ALSO GAVE BIRTH TO SHADOWS! TO DARKNESS! HE THOUGHT HE COULD HARNESS BOTH LIGHT AND DARK AT THE SAME TIME. BUT JESUS MADE SURE THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!"\*



"AND WHEN HIS ONLY SON  
BETRAYED HIM-- IT WAS THEN GOD  
LEARNED THAT THE TRUE NATURE OF  
MAN WASN'T HIS LUST OF FLESH, BUT  
HIS LUST FOR POWER!

"YOU, JIM DOWNING,  
HAVE BECOME THE  
SHINING EXAMPLE OF  
THAT!



"I CAN'T EXIST... WE CAN'T EXIST--  
UNLESS YOU'VE ACCEPTED THAT WE  
MUST CORRUPT AND DESTROY  
EVERYTHING IN OUR PATH!"

"AND SO FAR YOUR  
ACTIONS HAVE PROVEN NOT  
ONLY THAT YOU'VE  
ACCEPTED YOUR FATE-- BUT  
YOU ACTUALLY **ENJOY** IT!"

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES I EVEN LEFT YOU IN COMMAND OF US TO SEE HOW YOU'D REACT. AND EACH TIME-- YOU CHOSE TO **EMBRACE THE DARK!** MY TOUCH HAS BECOME A SECOND SKIN TO YOU. MAKING OUR TRANSFORMATION NEARLY COMPLETE AS WE BEGIN TO FORGE INTO ONE SINGLE BEING.

SOON THERE WILL BE NO JIM DOWNING! NO SYMBIOTE! INSTEAD-- IN ITS PLACE-- THERE WILL ONLY BE A **SPAWN!**



AND TONIGHT THE LAST PIECE OF THAT PROCESS HAS BEGUN-- BECAUSE OUR FUSION COULDN'T BE COMPLETED UNTIL YOU'D BEEN MADE AWARE OF WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO BECOME. YOU NOW HAVE THAT KNOWLEDGE!

THOUGH IT'LL BE BURIED DEEP IN YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS.

BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW-- NOW THAT I'VE TOLD YOU-- YOUR TRANSFORMATION IS **IRREVERSIBLE!**

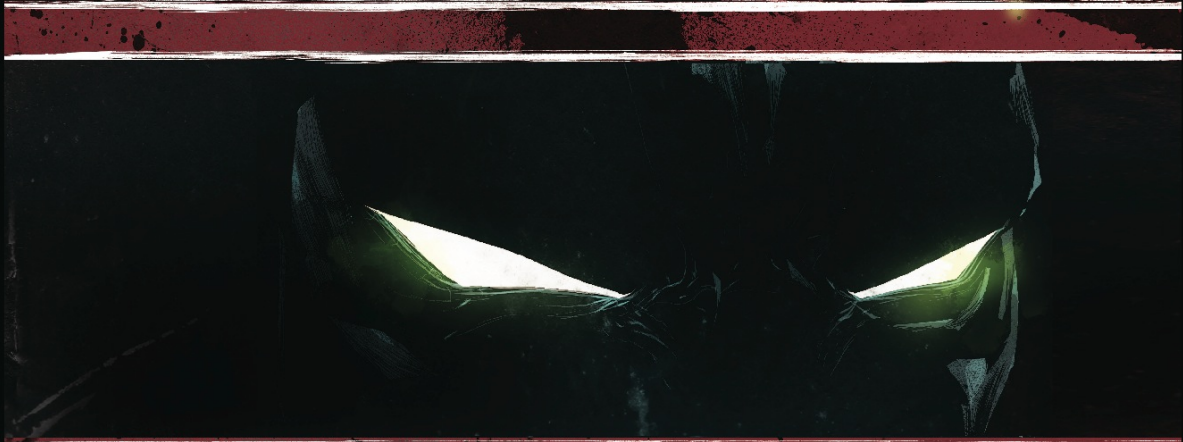




AND  
WHAT'S WORSE--  
YOU WON'T REMEMBER  
ANY OF THIS, BECAUSE  
WHEN YOU WAKE UP YOU'RE  
GOING TO GO ABOUT YOUR DAY  
LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.  
SEE... I CONTROL YOU,  
ALL OF YOU, YOUR SOUL,  
YOUR BODY AND  
YOUR MIND.



THAT'S WHAT'S  
BEEN TORTURING  
YOU, KNOWING YOU  
ONLY EXIST FOR **MY**  
**NEEDS**. AND THERE'S  
NOTHING YOU CAN  
DO ABOUT ANY  
OF IT.



YOU'RE  
WRONG...



I CAN DO  
**THIS!**



TO BE CONTINUED

