

image
251
DIGITAL EDITION

SPAWN



Jon Boy!
+ico

SPAWN

PAUL JENKINS
TODD McFARLANE
DIALOGUE

JONBOY
ART

LAURA MARTIN
COLOR

TOM ORZECOWSKI
LETTERING

JONBOY
FCO PLASCENCIA
COVER ART

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 RESURRECTION*

Five years ago, Al Simmons removed himself to a state of limbo by means of suicide. But what tragic revelation could persuade him to finally return to the city, and how is this connected to the very creation of humanity? After finding out the events of his past was all a calculated maneuver, including the death of his wife and unborn child, Al vows vengeance and begins the journey to taking his life back.






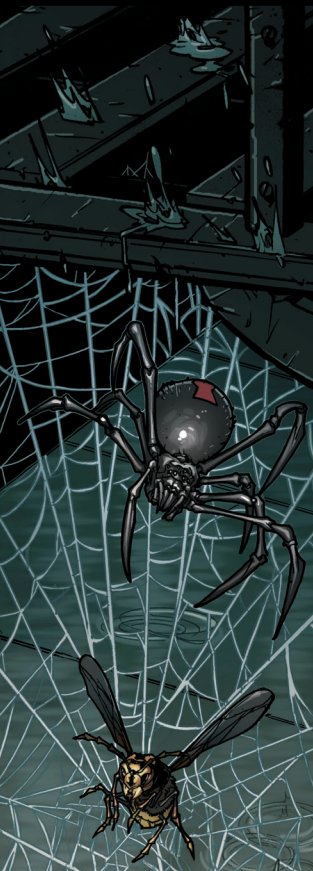
HUMANS, EVERY DAY WE EXIST IS AN EXPERIMENT.



SOMETIMES THAT EXPERIMENT WORKS THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED.




OTHER TIMES, IT DEVIATES FROM THAT COURSE, BUT THROUGH IT ALL, 'THE STRONG SURVIVE,' AND THE STRONGER YOU ARE, THE BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.



THE THING IS, NO MATTER HOW BIG YOU MIGHT BE, OR HOW STRONG YOU ARE...


THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU ARE.




AND IF THAT SOMEONE DECIDES TO BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE THEY THINK YOU HAVE WRONGED THEM...TO HUMILIATE THEM...THEY WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO PROVE THEY ARE YOUR SUPERIOR ON EVERY LEVEL.



YET THE STRONGEST CAN, AT TIMES, BE COWARDS, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO TAKE THEIR EMOTIONS OUT ON THE WEAKEST, MOST INNOCENT AROUND THEM, HOPING THOSE ATTACKS WILL ENRAGE THEIR ACTUAL ENEMY.



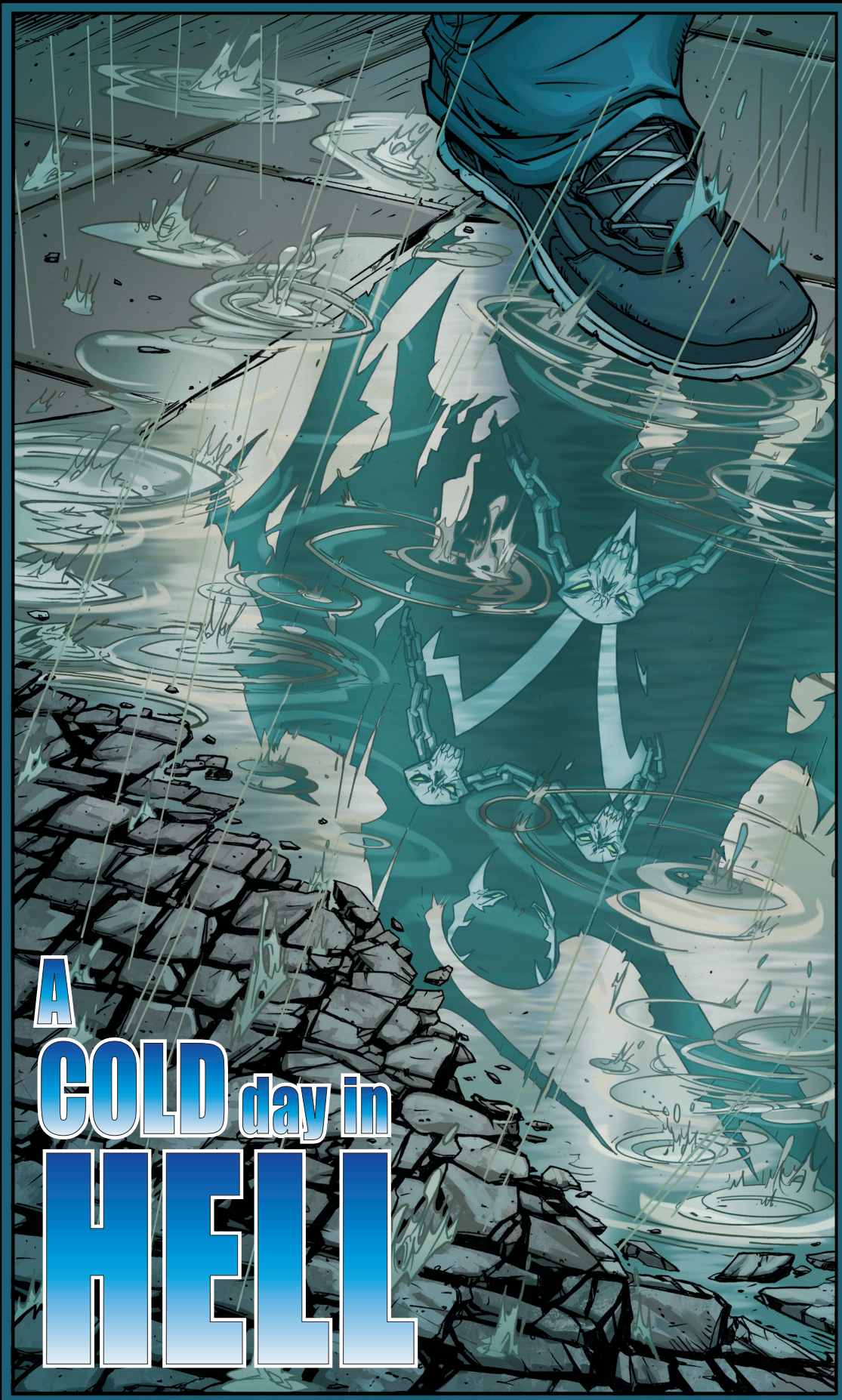
SO IF A WOMAN... A WIFE NEEDS TO PAY THE PRICE FOR HER HUSBAND, SO BE IT, AND EVEN IF THAT WOMAN WAS CARRYING AN UNBORN CHILD AT THE TIME, IT DOESN'T MATTER, THE ONLY THING THAT DOES, IS GETTING THE ATTENTION OF YOUR ENEMY.



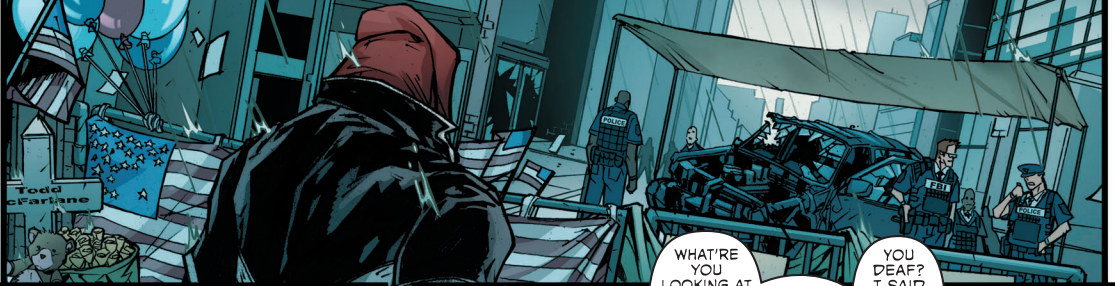
BUT NOT EVERY ONE OF YOUR ENEMIES COWER. THERE ARE SOME WHO WILL RISE AND DEFY YOU, WHO WILL FIGHT BACK TO HELP PROTECT THEIR LOVED ONES WITH EVERY OUNCE OF POWER THEY HAVE, BECAUSE THE DAY THEY ALLOW HARM TO THOSE THEY LOVE MOST...



...THEY KNOW WHAT DAY THAT IS!



A
COLD day in
HELL



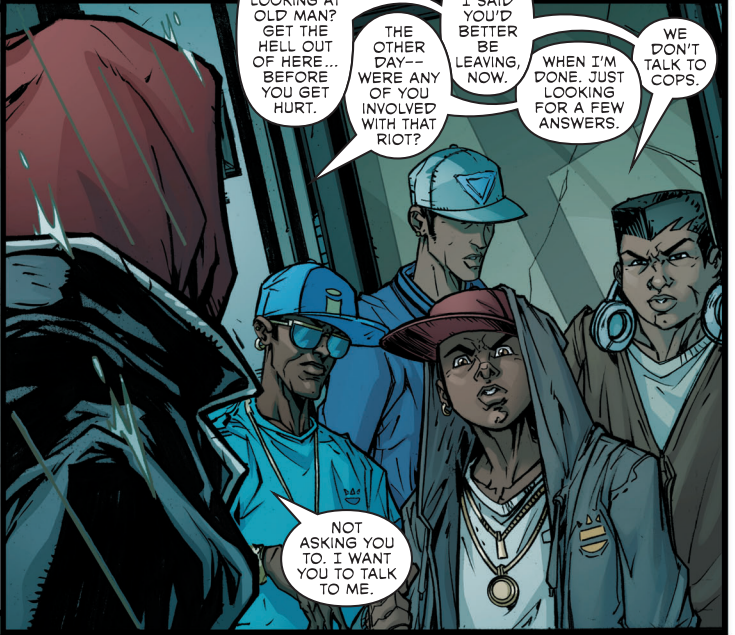
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT OLD MAN? GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE... BEFORE YOU GET HURT.

THE OTHER DAY-- WERE ANY OF YOU INVOLVED WITH THAT RIOT?

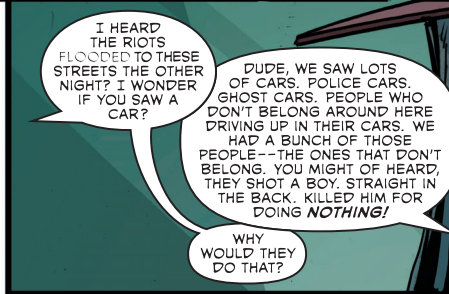
YOU DEAF? I SAID YOU'D BETTER BE LEAVING, NOW.

WHEN I'M DONE, JUST LOOKING FOR A FEW ANSWERS.

WE DON'T TALK TO COPS.



NOT ASKING YOU TO. I WANT YOU TO TALK TO ME.



I HEARD THE RIOTS FLOODED TO THESE STREETS THE OTHER NIGHT? I WONDER IF YOU SAW A CAR?

DUDE, WE SAW LOTS OF CARS. POLICE CARS. GHOST CARS. PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELONG AROUND HERE DRIVING UP IN THEIR CARS. WE HAD A BUNCH OF THOSE PEOPLE-- THE ONES THAT DON'T BELONG. YOU MIGHT OF HEARD, THEY SHOT A BOY STRAIGHT IN THE BACK, KILLED HIM FOR DOING NOTHING!

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?

YOU TELL ME?! AFTER THAT CRAZY BUG INVASION... THE COPS AND MILITARY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE US ALONE. WE WERE JUST LETTING THEM KNOW WE WANTED OUR HOMES BACK. THEY DON'T GET TO TELL US WHERE WE GO AND WHERE TO LIVE.*

*See issues 249 and 250-- Todd.



I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT.

A CAR WAS BURNT. IT HAD A WOMAN INSIDE. I'M LOOKING FOR THOSE THAT SET THE FIRE.



WHY WOULD WE SNITCH 'EM OUT TO YOU?

BECAUSE I'M GUESSING THERE WERE A FEW OF THOSE TYPES THAT DIDN'T BELONG HERE. AND I'M ALSO GUESSING WHAT THEY DID ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE AROUND HERE FOR YOU. FOR EVERYONE THAT LIVES HERE. SO WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE TO THE COPS FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

YOU HELP ME AND I'LL MAKE SURE THAT GANG NEVER STEPS FOOT IN THESE STREETS AGAIN.

WHAT MAKES YOU SUCH A BADASS?



SAME THING THAT MAKES YOU ONE... ANGER, AT THOSE ALWAYS TRYING TO CONTROL WHAT WE DO.

CHECK DOWN THE STREET. NEAR JIMMY'S POOL HALL.



I SAW A FEW OF THEM STILL HANGING NEAR THERE. YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANGER OUT ON THEM, BE MY GUEST.

'CAUSE MY BOY GOT SHOT AND THAT'S WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT. HE WAS JUST WALKING HOME. MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS. INSTEAD THEY POPPED HIM AND LEFT HIM BLEEDING IN THE STREETS LIKE AN ANIMAL. AND IF THEY DON'T WATCH OUT, WE GOIN' RIOT AGAIN. ONLY THIS TIME, THE COPS ARE GOING TO BE THE ONES WHO'RE AFRAID.



WE WANT EVERYONE OUT OF HERE. THE NEWS PEOPLE, THE DEMONSTRATORS THAT GOT BUSED IN. ALL OF THEM. YOU CAN EVEN TAKE THAT WHITE CRACKER AND HIS DOG WITH YOU.

HE DEFINITELY DON'T BELONG HERE.

WHAT...



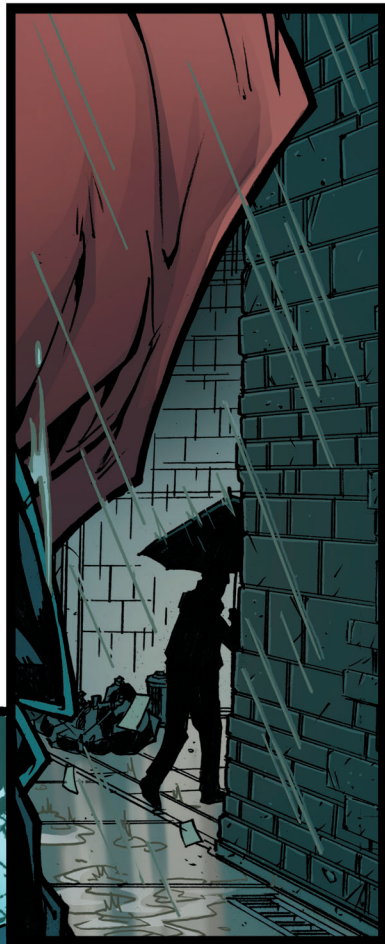
...the hell?

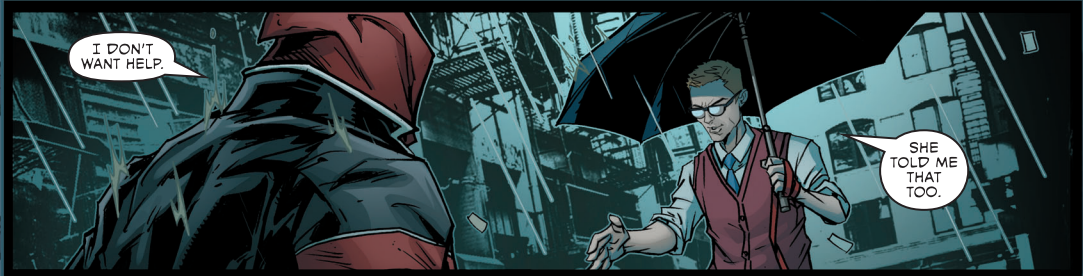


THE DOG. IT'S THE SAME ONE HE SAW IN THE 'BLACK,' THE SAME ONE THAT TOLD HIM WANDA WAS DEAD.

WHEN TOLD OF WANDA'S DEATH, A HUNDRED QUESTIONS RACED THROUGH AL'S MIND, BUT INSTEAD OF ASKING THEM, HE REMAINED SILENT, STOIC, BUT NOW, GIVEN TIME TO GET PAST HIS EMOTIONS, HE THINKS THIS COULD BE ANOTHER CHANCE TO ASK THEM.

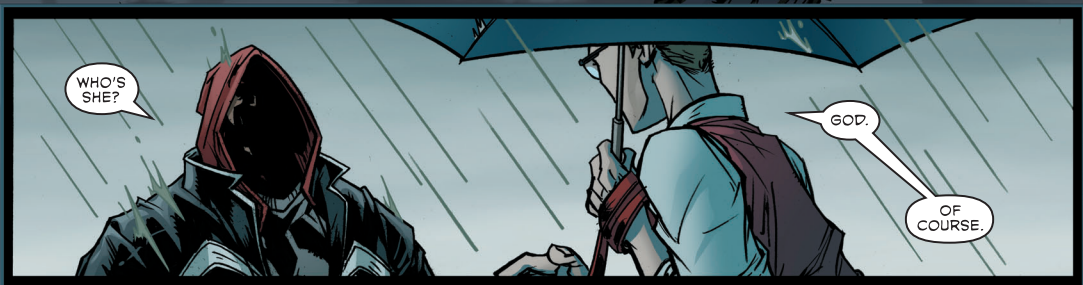
WHETHER THOSE STALKING HIM WANT TO LISTEN OR NOT.





I DON'T WANT HELP.

SHE TOLD ME THAT TOO.



WHO'S SHE?

GOD.

OF COURSE.



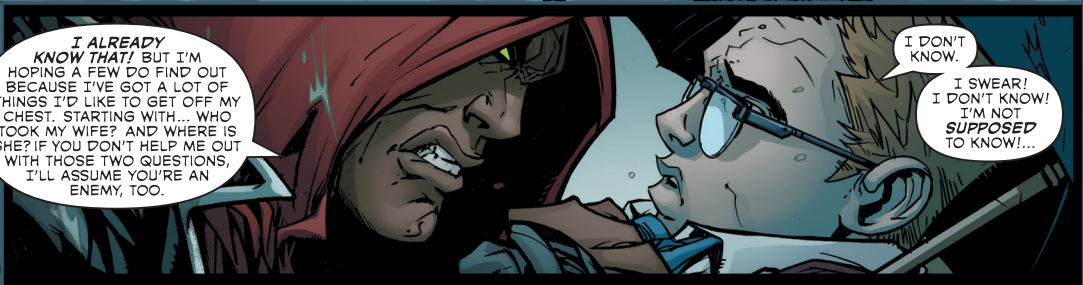
SHE SAID YOU TWO HAD A CONVERSATION.*

WHAT THE F*CK DO YOU WANT?

LIKE I SAID, I'M HERE TO HELP. YOU'VE BEEN GONE AWHILE, AND GOD THOUGHT YOU COULD USE A HELPING HAND GETTING REINTEGRATED. BUT WE NEED TO DO IT CAREFULLY.

THE FEWER ENEMIES WHO KNOW YOU'RE BACK, THE BETTER.

*See SPAWN: Resurrection #1--- Todd



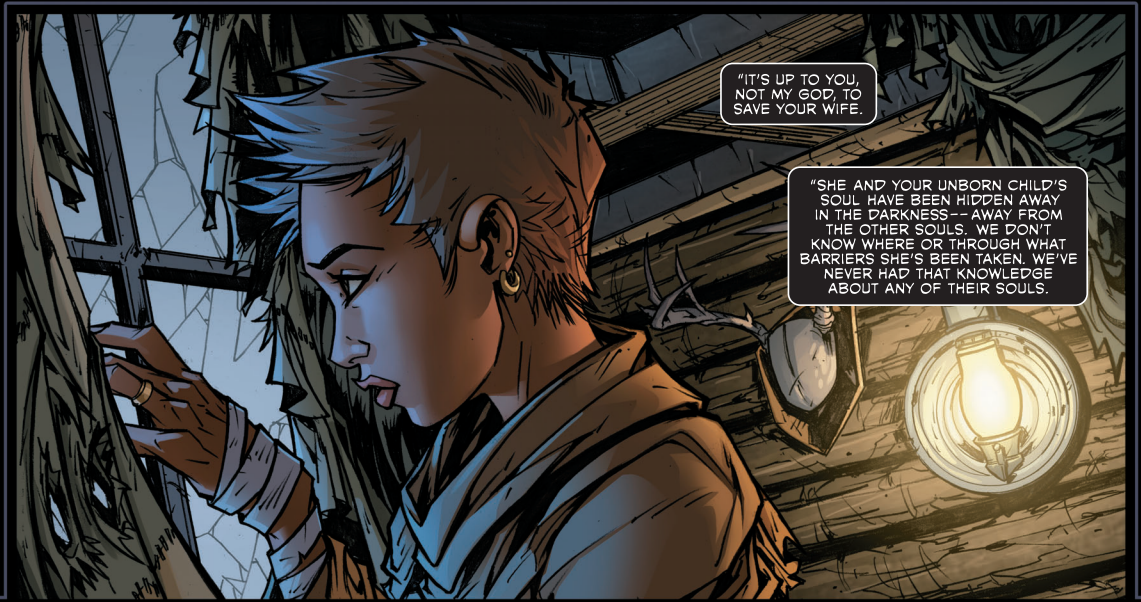
I ALREADY KNOW THAT! BUT I'M HOPING A FEW DO FIND OUT BECAUSE I'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO GET OFF MY CHEST. STARTING WITH... WHO TOOK MY WIFE? AND WHERE IS SHE? IF YOU DON'T HELP ME OUT WITH THOSE TWO QUESTIONS, I'LL ASSUME YOU'RE AN ENEMY, TOO.

I DON'T KNOW.

I SWEAR! I DON'T KNOW! I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW!...

"GOD SAID SHE WAS SAFE, BUT DIDN'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG. HEAVEN HAS SOME POWERS THAT STILL WORK IN HELL, BUT THEY DON'T LAST FOREVER. OVER TIME IT ERODES. WE WERE HOPING THAT WHEN SHE DIED, YOUR WIFE WOULD FALL TO OUR SIDE. SHE DIDN'T.

"AND GOD CAN'T INTERFERE. YOU WERE TOLD THAT!"



"IT'S UP TO YOU, NOT MY GOD, TO SAVE YOUR WIFE."

"SHE AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S SOUL HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY IN THE DARKNESS—AWAY FROM THE OTHER SOULS. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OR THROUGH WHAT BARRIERS SHE'S BEEN TAKEN. WE'VE NEVER HAD THAT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANY OF THEIR SOULS."



"BUT WE DO KNOW THAT WHEN GOD ANOINTS A PERSON BEFORE THEY DIE, THEIR SOUL CAN BE PROTECTED, FOR A TIME, FROM HELL'S SADISTIC TORTURE."



"YOUR WIFE WAS ONE OF THOSE FEW GOD ANOINTED BECAUSE HEAVEN KNEW THAT THERE WOULD COME A DAY WHEN ONE OF HELL'S VERY OWN WOULD RISE AGAINST SATAN HIMSELF."




"AND THE BEST WAY TO BE ABLE TO EMPOWER THAT PERSON WOULD BE TO PROTECT THAT PERSON'S LOVED ONES FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE."



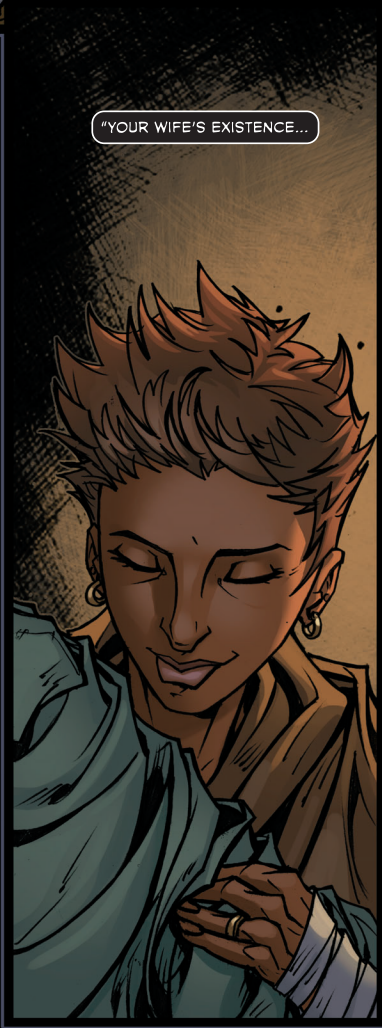
"NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO ONCE LIVED..."



"BUT ALSO TO PROTECT THE SOULS OF THOSE INNOCENT LIVES WHO NEVER WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO LIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE."



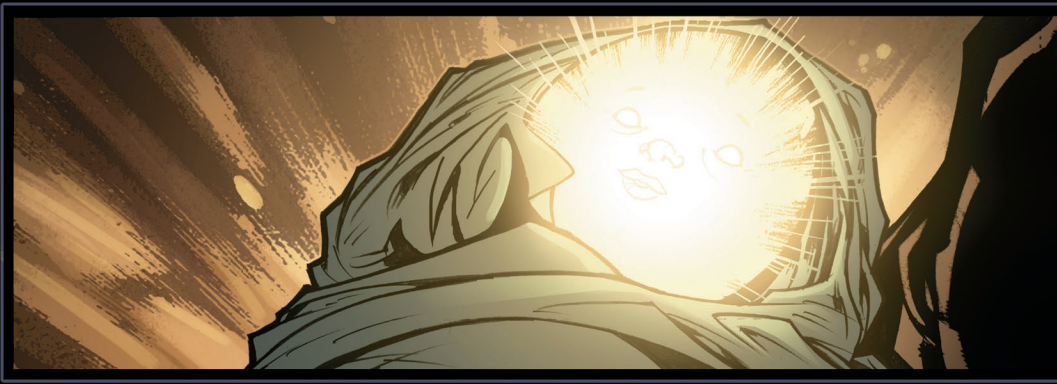
"SO, IF YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR WIFE, THEN I'D SUGGEST YOU STOP WASTING YOUR TIME WITH ME AND START MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION."

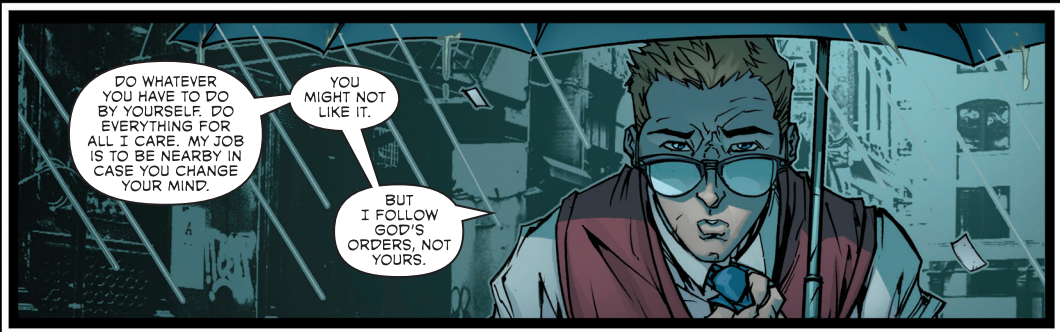


"YOUR WIFE'S EXISTENCE..."



"... AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S, DEPEND ON YOUR NEXT MOVE."

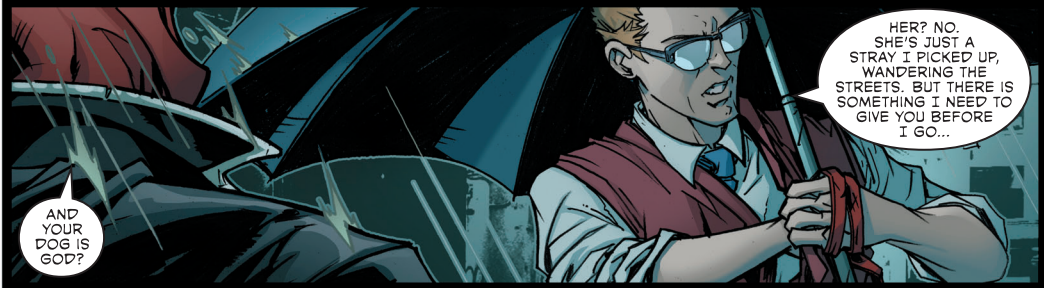




DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO BY YOURSELF. DO EVERYTHING FOR ALL I CARE. MY JOB IS TO BE NEARBY IN CASE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.

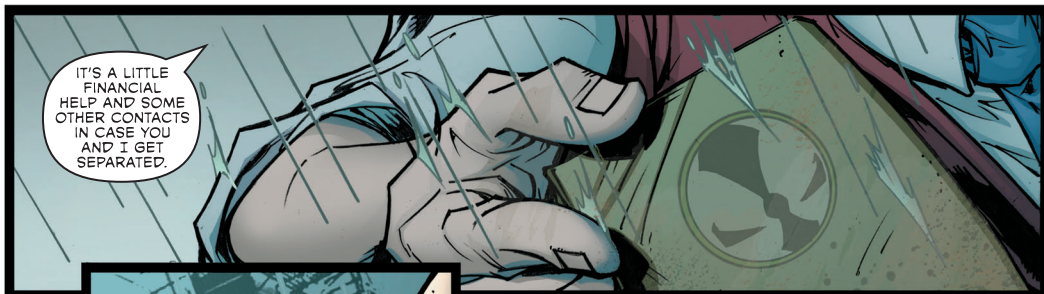
YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE IT.

BUT I FOLLOW GOD'S ORDERS, NOT YOURS.



HER? NO. SHE'S JUST A STRAY I PICKED UP, WANDERING THE STREETS. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO GIVE YOU BEFORE I GO...

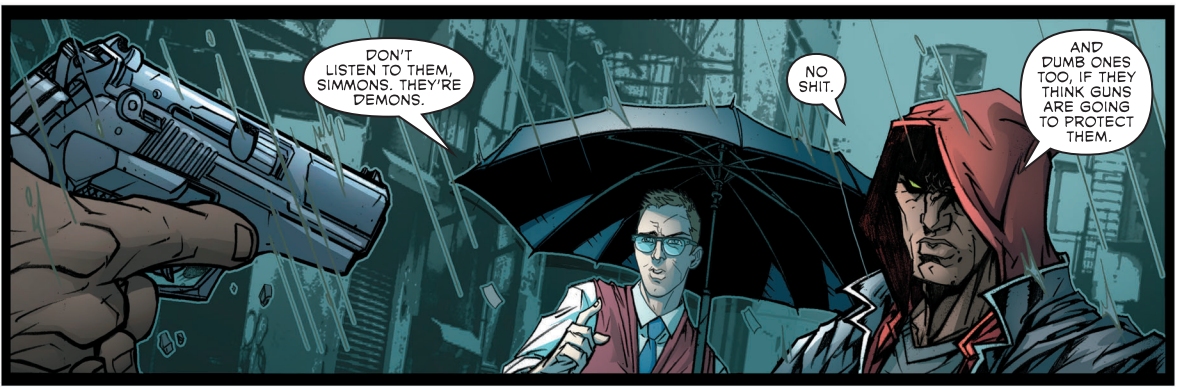
AND YOUR DOG IS GOD?



IT'S A LITTLE FINANCIAL HELP AND SOME OTHER CONTACTS IN CASE YOU AND I GET SEPARATED.



FREEZE RIGHT THERE, ASSHOLES!



DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, SIMMONS. THEY'RE DEMONS.

NO SHIT.

AND DUMB ONES TOO, IF THEY THINK GUNS ARE GOING TO PROTECT THEM.



OH, WE'VE GOT MORE THAN GUN POWER ON OUR SIDE. **LOTS** MORE.



THEN **SHOW ME!** IT'S BEEN A **LONG TIME** SINCE I'VE BEEN IN A GOOD FIGHT.



AL, I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO HELP RIGHT NOW.

HOW CONVENIENT FOR YOU...

WHAT THE HELL'S YOUR NAME ANYWAY?

MIKE.

OKAY, MIKE. YOU RUN ALONG. AND I HOPE WE DON'T MEET AGAIN.





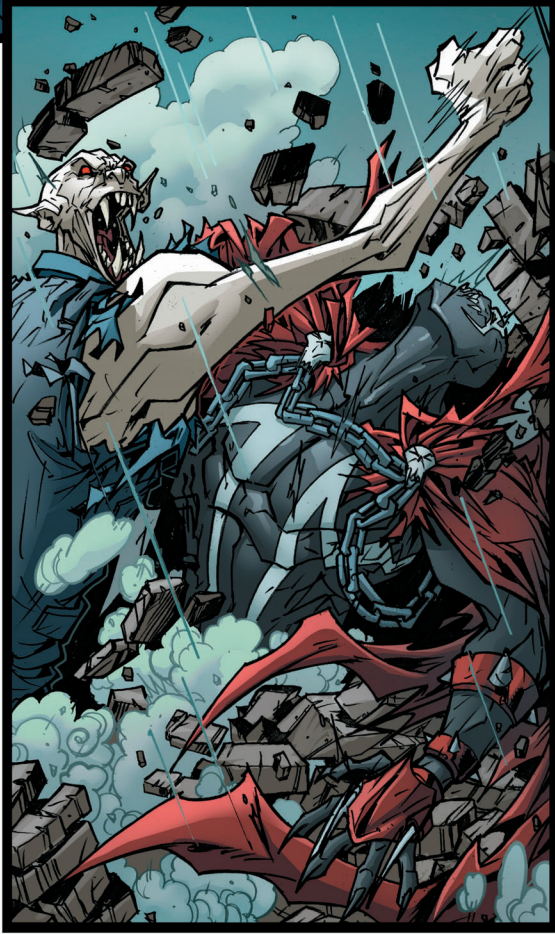
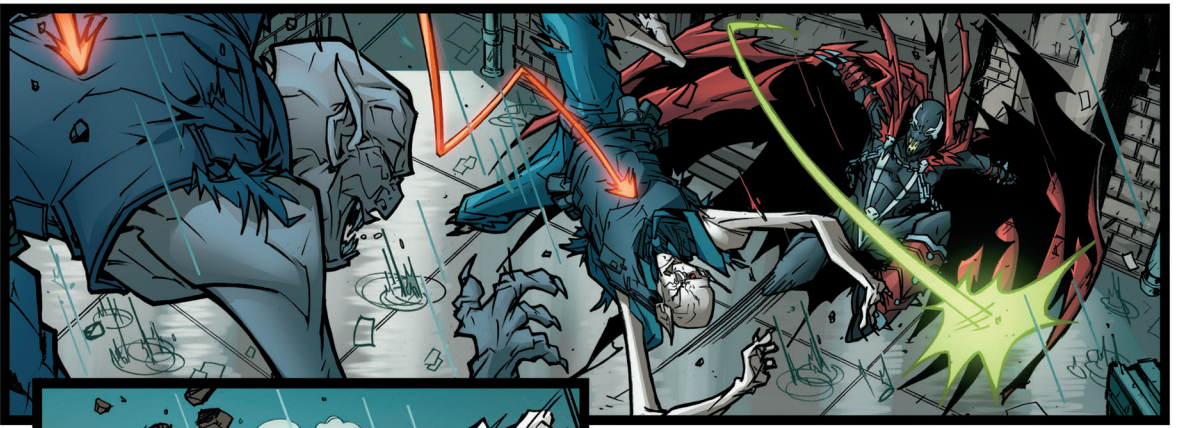
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.

YOUR MOVE.

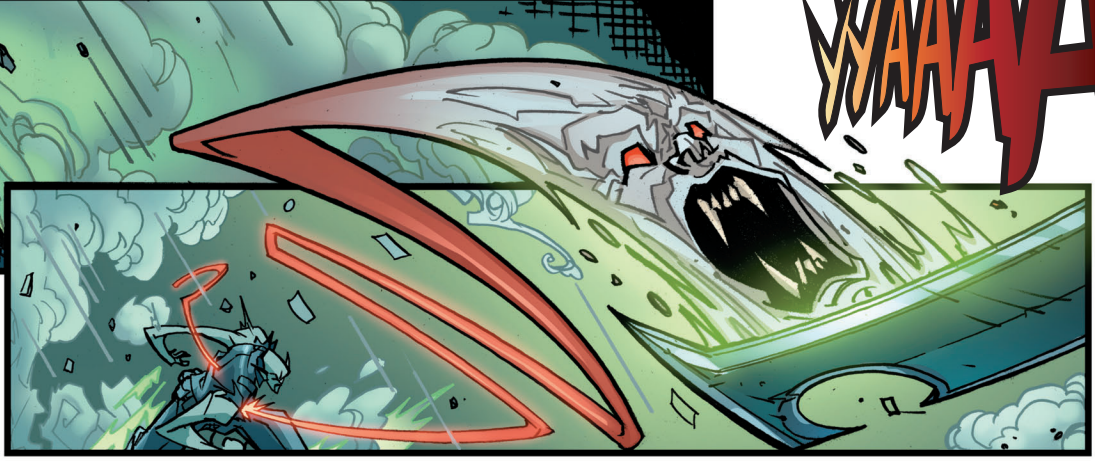
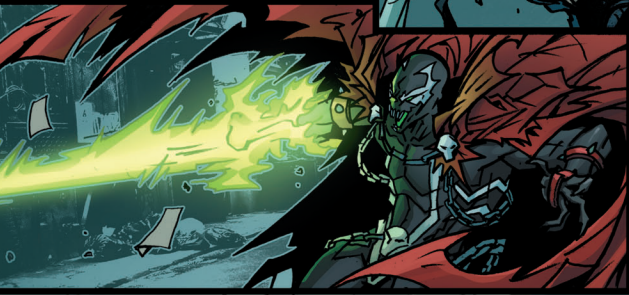


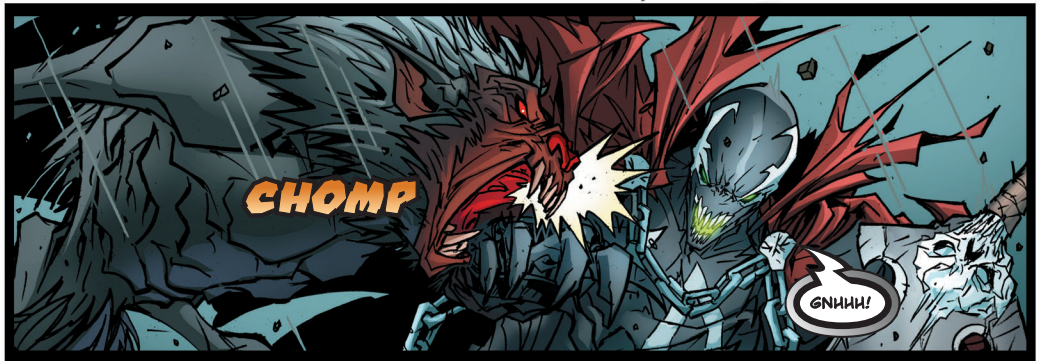
AND YOU'D BETTER PRAY YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY WIFE'S DEATH.













WHERE'S MY WIFE?



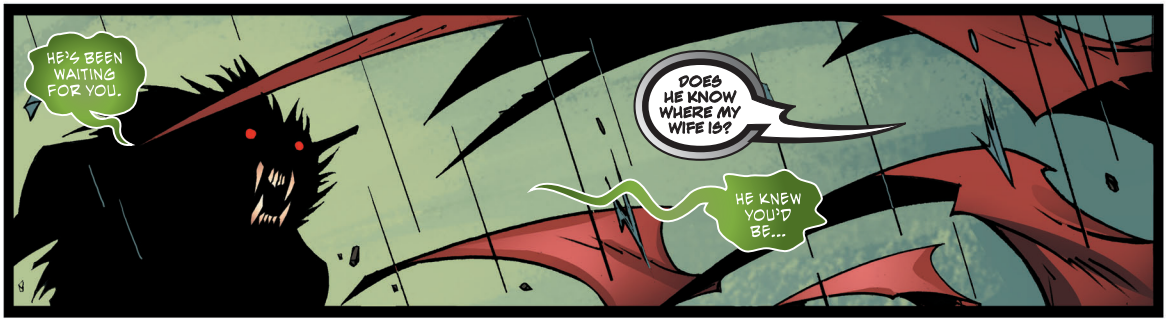
OUR MASTER SAID YOU'D NEVER...



HE WAS WRONG!



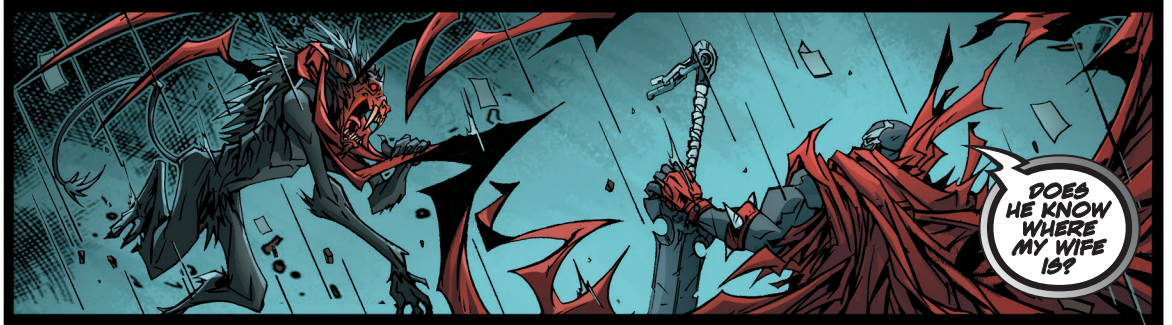
SO... YOU HAVE A MASTER? DOES HE KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS?



HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

DOES HE KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS?

HE KNEW YOU'D BE...



DOES HE KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS?



DOES HE?



YES.

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

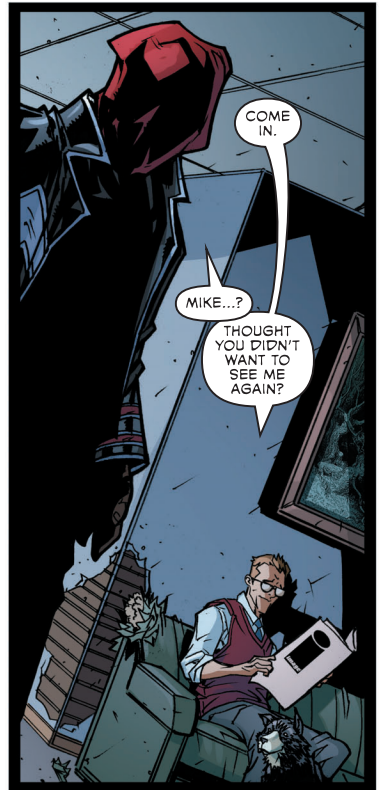
BELIAL.

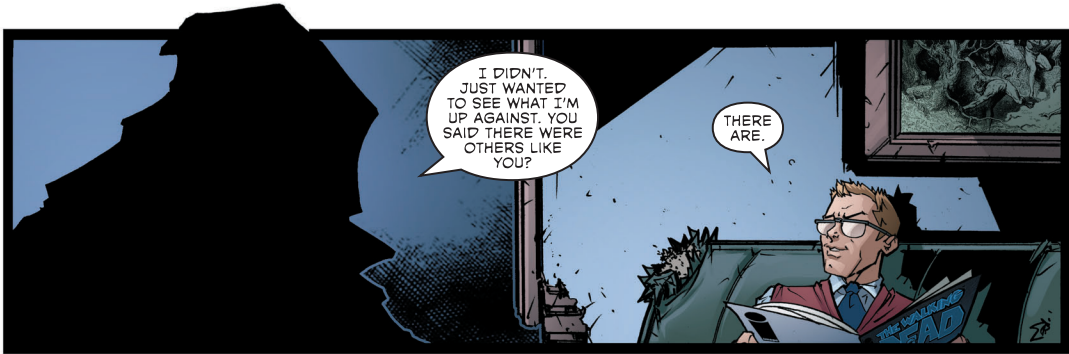


BELIAL.



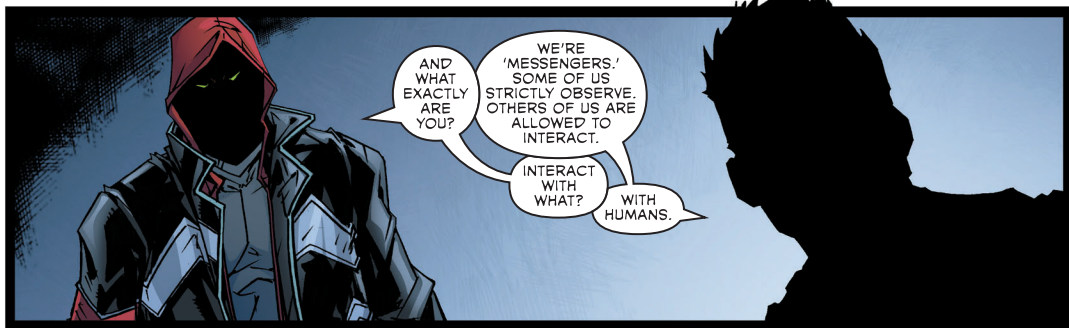
An hour later.





I DIDN'T JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST. YOU SAID THERE WERE OTHERS LIKE YOU?

THERE ARE.

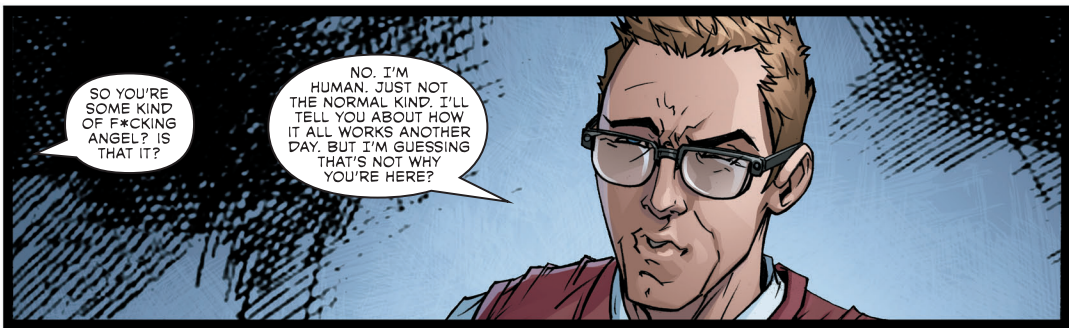


AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU?

WE'RE 'MESSENGERS.' SOME OF US STRICTLY OBSERVE. OTHERS OF US ARE ALLOWED TO INTERACT.

INTERACT WITH WHAT?

WITH HUMANS.



SO YOU'RE SOME KIND OF F*CKING ANGEL? IS THAT IT?

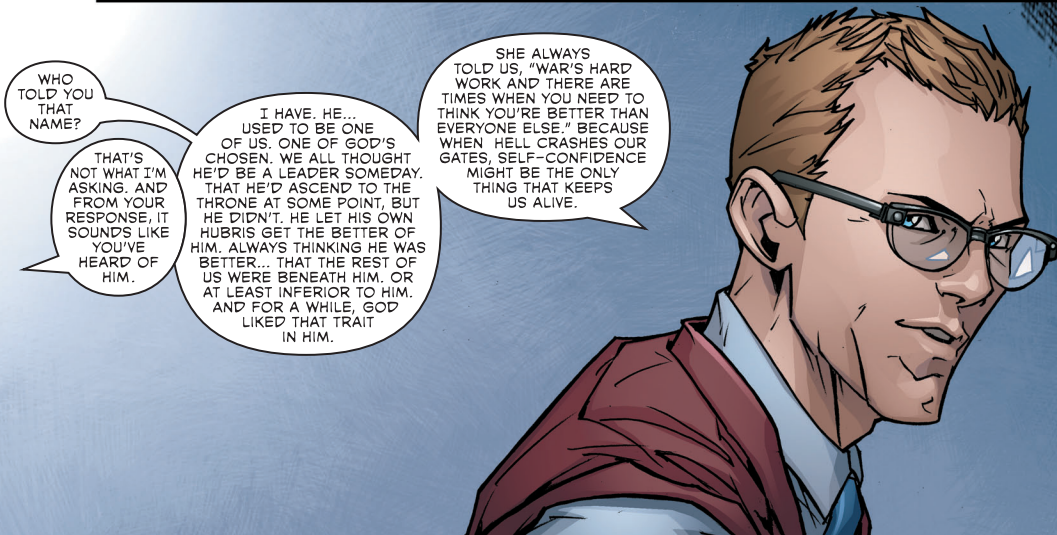
NO, I'M HUMAN. JUST NOT THE NORMAL KIND. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HOW IT ALL WORKS ANOTHER DAY. BUT I'M GUESSING THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE?



YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HELP.

I DO.

THEN TELL ME--YOU EVER HEARD OF THE NAME 'BELIAL?'



WHO TOLD YOU THAT NAME?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING. AND FROM YOUR RESPONSE, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM.

I HAVE. HE... USED TO BE ONE OF US. ONE OF GOD'S CHOSEN. WE ALL THOUGHT HE'D BE A LEADER SOMEDAY. THAT HE'D ASCEND TO THE THRONE AT SOME POINT, BUT HE DIDN'T. HE LET HIS OWN HUBRIS GET THE BETTER OF HIM. ALWAYS THINKING HE WAS BETTER... THAT THE REST OF US WERE BENEATH HIM. OR AT LEAST INFERIOR TO HIM. AND FOR A WHILE, GOD LIKED THAT TRAIT IN HIM.

SHE ALWAYS TOLD US, "WAR'S HARD WORK AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE." BECAUSE WHEN HELL CRASHES OUR GATES, SELF-CONFIDENCE MIGHT BE THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US ALIVE.

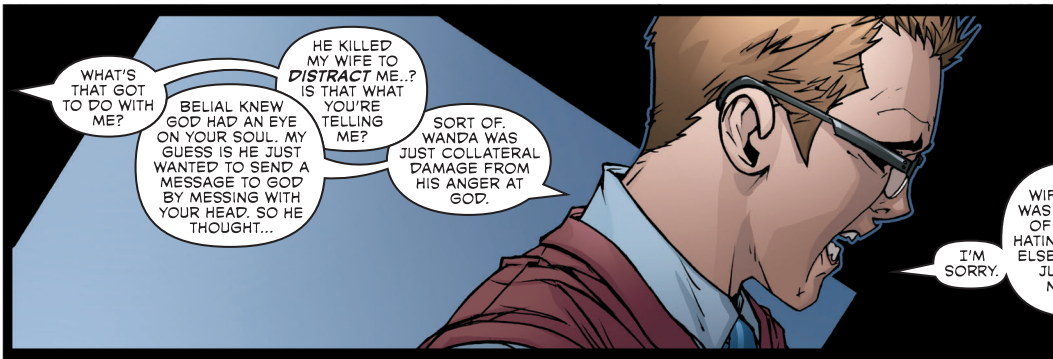


MOST OF US UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT MEANT, BUT BELIAL TOOK IT TO AN EXTREME, BECOMING SO SELF-ABSORBED WITH HIMSELF, HE WAS BLINDED TO THE DESTRUCTION HE WAS DOING TO THE CHEMISTRY OF OUR BATTALION. EVENTUALLY HE NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH.

HE DIDN'T TAKE HIS PUNISHMENT VERY WELL.



SO HE JUMPED TO THE OTHER SIDE, THINKING HE'D SHOW HEAVEN IT WAS WRONG. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A LEADER--THE ONE GOD LOOKED TO. HE ALSO SWORE HIS REVENGE ON ALL OF US AT SOME TIME. HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ANYONE HE THOUGHT HAD HUMILIATED HIM, REGRET THEIR ACTIONS.



WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

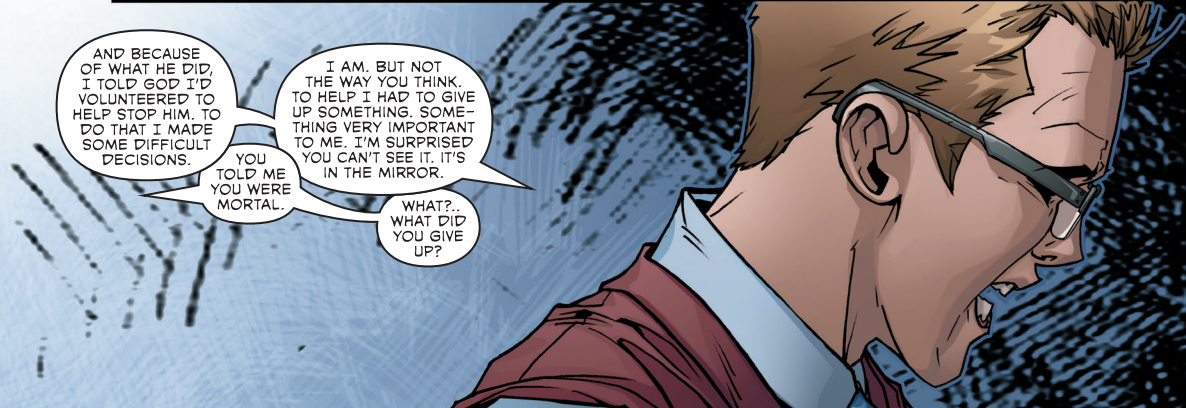
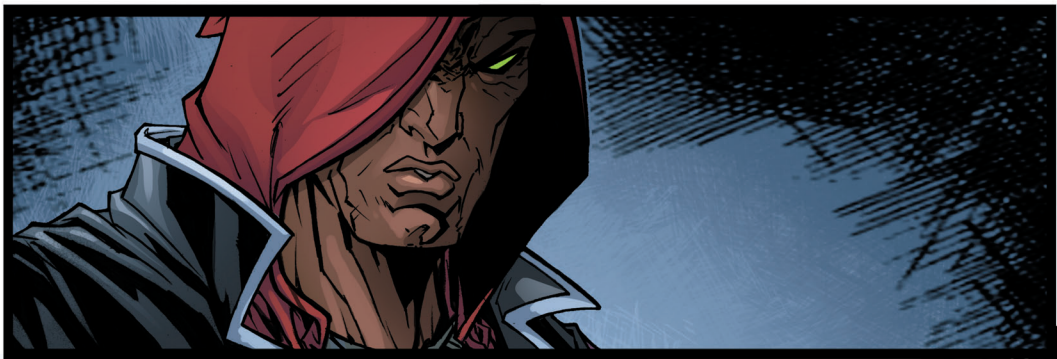
BELIAL KNEW GOD HAD AN EYE ON YOUR SOUL. MY GUESS IS HE JUST WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GOD BY MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD. SO HE THOUGHT...

HE KILLED MY WIFE TO **DISTRACT** ME...? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?

SORT OF. WANDA WAS JUST COLLATERAL DAMAGE FROM HIS ANGER AT GOD.

I'M SORRY.

YOUR WIFE'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF SOMEONE HATING SOMEONE ELSE. YOU WERE JUST WHITE NOISE TO HIM.



AND BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID, I TOLD GOD I'D VOLUNTEERED TO HELP STOP HIM. TO DO THAT I MADE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS.

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE MORTAL.

I AM, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK. TO HELP I HAD TO GIVE UP SOMETHING. SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN'T SEE IT. IT'S IN THE MIRROR.

WHAT?... WHAT DID YOU GIVE UP?

EVERYTHING!

I HAD TO
GIVE UP
EVERYTHING
I EVER WAS.



SPAWNING GROUND

Hello all,

After the celebration of hitting the #250 milestone and introducing our new *Spawn* creative team in *Spawn Resurrection*, we are back on track with *Spawn* #251. In only 50 more issues, Todd will have one of the LONGEST RUNNING INDEPENDENT COMICS in history.

Although things are slowing down in *Spawn* news, Todd has a NEW comic debuting this month. *Savior* #1 hits shelves April 15th with beautifully painted pages by Clayton Crain and co-written by Todd and Brian Holguin.

For those of you who need a refresher on who Brian and Clayton are, we'll see if we can bring you up to speed. Both of them have done extensive work in comics, and both also have a history with Todd.

Brian began his collaboration with Todd writing *Spawn* in 1998. He continued in that role until 2005, creating many memorable moments. Brian has also worked on *KISS: Psycho Circus*, *Aria*, *Jim Henson's' Dark Crystal: Creation Myths*, and *Spawn: Godslayer* comics.

Clayton Crain is a well-known comic industry top talent. His resume is extensive with highlights containing prominent titles such as *X-Force*, *Ghost Rider*, and *Carnage*. Crain's previous work with Todd also includes *KISS: Psycho Circus* and *Curse of the Spawn*. He also lends a hand creating breathtaking covers for the *Spawn: Origins* collected editions. Clayton is currently working for Valiant Comics on the popular comic, *Rai*.

For this week's Spawning Ground, we are finishing up answering Reddit questions. There were so many good questions. we didn't want to leave any out. As always, if you have a question you would like Todd to answer, you can either write to letterspage@mcfarlane.com or go on Todd's Facebook ([facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane](https://www.facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane)) or Twitter (@Todd_McFarlane).

Enjoy!

Shannon Bailey

Publishing Coordinator

Will Spawn ever return to HBO or the big screen?

Metsfan718

Hopefully he'll get back on the big screen and then immediately follow up with him being back on television, but not necessarily HBO.

TODD

How did you get started in the art world and how do you find inspiration for your day-to-day work?

Courtierbaby420

I started collecting comics when I was about 16 years old. Then taught myself how to draw superheroes. When I went to college, I sent out about 700 submissions and received about 350 rejections, and I still have a lot of them. Eventually somebody said yes. So after 350 "no's" I got one "yes" and I was in the business! My persistence and some stubbornness paid off. I think that we all have some kind of skill in us. But maybe I look at the world slightly different than everybody else. I take what's in front of me, twist it, and turn it into some big melodramatic fantasy story.

TODD

When can we expect the next printing of *Spawn Origins* Hardcover #1?

Brandon_Storm

Well, we just released the entire 250-issue library digitally in January for the first time. I'd been holding out for 2 decades on that. So we made that move and we didn't want digital downloads to interfere by putting out a new *Origins* book. We'll probably do another *Origins*

letterspage@mcFarlane.com

P.O. Box 12230
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane
www.Facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane

book later in the year, once we let the digital stuff take off.

TODD

What do you consider the best thing you ever wrote or have drawn? Do you think your artistic talent and creativity helps with business decisions since you tend to come from a different direction?

Kelly54

I'm naive enough to think that the future will be my better artwork. But I wrote a single contained story about a dad who was abusive to his kids, (so a bit of a personal story about just some topics that got me wound-up). And I thought that issue from a storytelling perspective was really good. I thought *Spider-Man* was pretty good artistically. I think being an athlete, being competitive, and having to always earn my position made me very focused - not only as an artist, with my deadlines, but also now as a businessman.

TODD

Will there be a *Spawn* Universe where the different Spawns will come together for a joint venture? Spawn League of America?

Luoy_panda

No.

TODD

What are some key dos and don'ts to getting a comic ready to submit to Image?

Stavius

Concentrate on storytelling more than any other element. Which simply means don't worry about drawing pretty pictures. Make an engaging story.

TODD

Do you think you will at some point do a complete reboot back to a #1 issue?
Denzalo

The simple answer is: no, never. The biggest reason is that ALL of the other companies have been doing that. So currently I have the highest book in the NATION! Issue #250 just came out and the only way to get the 250 issues is by putting in over 20 years of your life. One per month, times twenty years still isn't even 250. So I'm not willing to throw away 20 years of my life for an arbitrary number in the corner of my book.

TODD

As a former owner of the Edmonton Oilers, what's your opinion of the team under Katz's ownership? Is there anything you would change immediately?

OhHelloPlease

Well, the Oilers are an NHL franchise, so they've fallen on tough times here since we sold it to the new guy. He gets to make the decisions, he's the boss now. And I would probably change a few things, if I was the boss, but I'm not. So I'll let him have all the credit and the criticism, because it's his game right now.

TODD



NEXT ISSUE

What if everything you thought you ever knew was a lie? Armed with the Sword of the Spirit, Spawn discovers the true secret of his infernal suit, and his connection to those innocent souls he has unwittingly damned to eternal torment.



SPAWN®

ORIGINS COLLECTION VOLUME 20



TODD MCFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS



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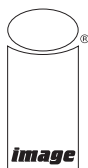
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