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256  
DIGITAL EDITION

# SPAWN



JonBent  
Lacina

# SPAWN

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SPAWN CREATED BY  
TODD McFARLANE

## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Satan's messenger is sent to Earth to bargain with Spawn. He is told to give Satan his Costume or Wanda's soul will end up lost forever. Spawn, refusing the deal, battles the demon and as a result of losing the fight, the demon is forced to return to Satan in a permanent human form.

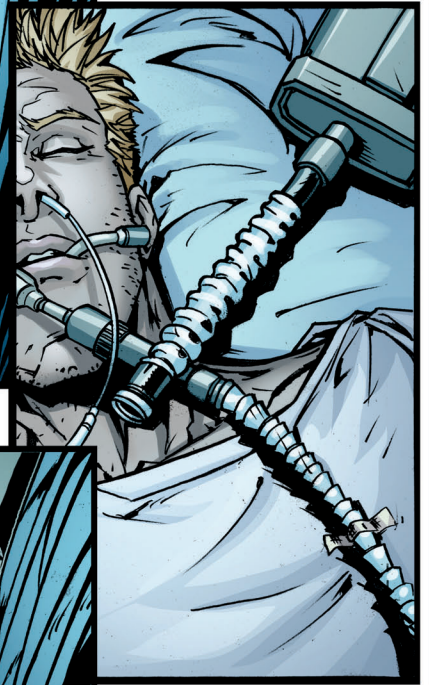
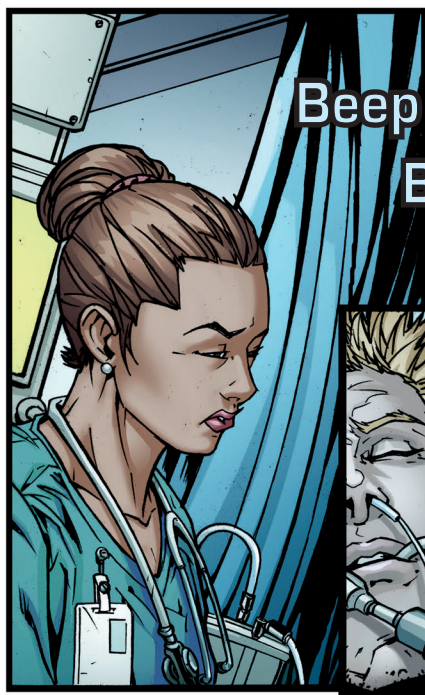
Following the fight, Al pays his respect at Wanda's funeral. Afterwards, Al visits an extremely distraught Terry, who blames Al for Wanda's death. He asks Terry information about the day Wanda was killed and reluctantly, Terry tells him. Before he leaves, Al puts a protection on the family and erases any memory of him ever coming to visit the Fitzgerald household.



Beep

Beep

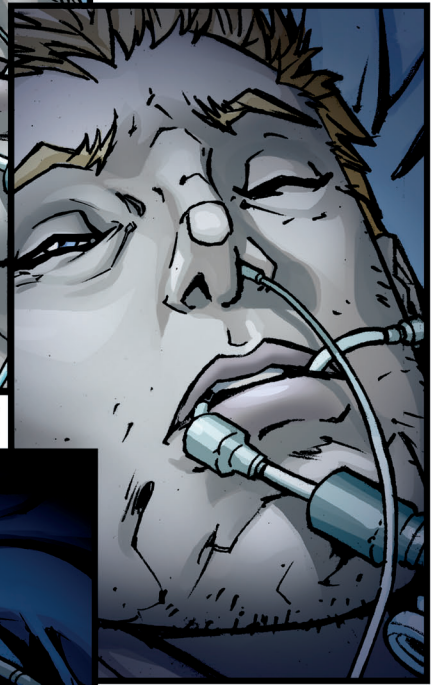
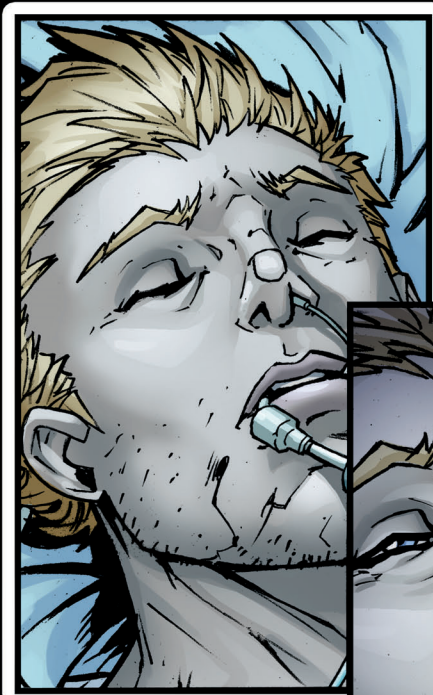
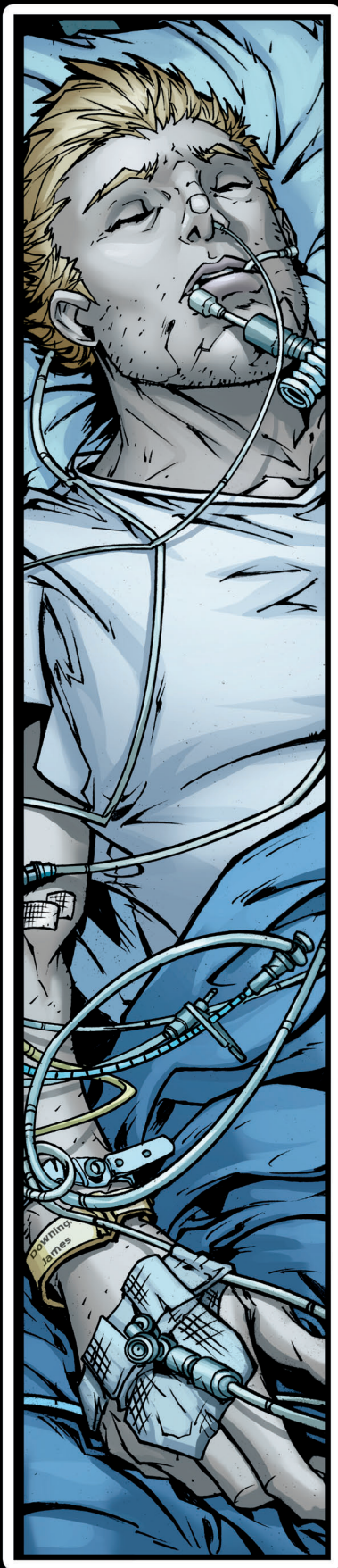
Beep Beep



DOWNING,  
JIM  
RM. 923

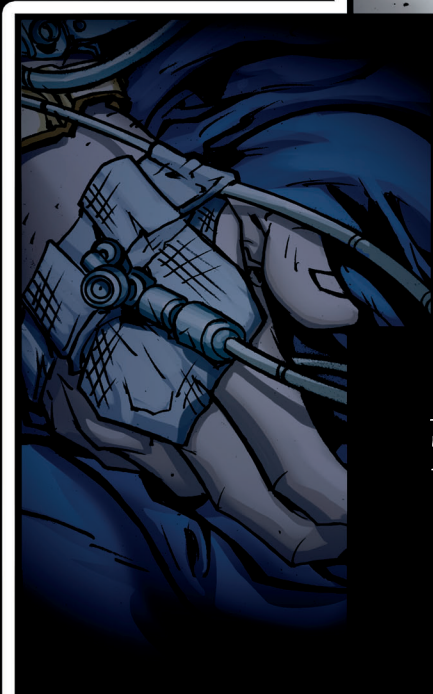
"... AS MENTIONED EARLIER, WE WANTED TO BRING YOU AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT CONDITION OF JIM DOWNING."





"THE UNFORTUNATE AFTERMATH OF NEW YORK CITY'S MYSTERIOUS ATTACK BY BILLIONS OF INSECTS NOT ONLY CAUSED DAMAGE TO THOUSANDS OF BUILDINGS, BUT TOOK ITS TOLL ON THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY AS WELL.\*

\*See issue 250 - Todd



"MR. DOWNING WAS ONE OF THEM. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, HE HAD APPEARED SEEMINGLY OUT OF NOWHERE. FOR A TIME HE GAVE GREAT HOPE TO THOSE AROUND THE WORLD LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CURE THE AFFLICTIONS MEDICAL SCIENCE COULD NOT.

"HE WAS, AS SOME CALLED HIM, A MODERN DAY MESSIAH.

"HIS NEWLY ANNOUNCED FOUNDATION WAS TO BE AT THE CENTER WHERE DOWNING WOULD USE THOSE HEALING POWERS TO HELP OTHERS..."



CNR

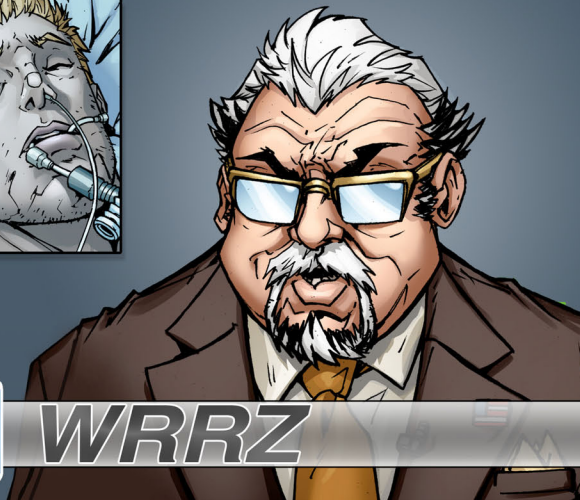
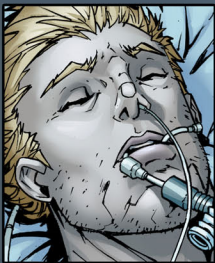
"... BUT AS REPORTED LAST WEEK, HIS BODY WAS RECOVERED, ALONG WITH DOZENS OF OTHERS BY THE NATIONAL GUARD. THOUGH HE DIDN'T APPEAR TO HAVE ANY LIFE THREATENING INJURIES, HE HAD ONCE AGAIN LAPPED INTO A COMA. VIEWERS WILL RECALL THAT IT WAS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT MR. DOWNING CAME ONTO THE PUBLIC STAGE AFTER WAKING FROM A LONG STANDING COMA. AT THAT POINT HE HAD NO KNOWN IDENTITY AND NO IDENTIFIABLE PAST. NO ONE FROM ANY GOVERNMENT OR SOCIAL AGENCY, THEN OR SINCE, COULD TELL US WHERE HE CAME FROM.

WITH THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANY ANSWERS AS TO WHO HE REALLY IS AND WHERE THOSE POWERS CAME FROM. DOCTORS CAN ONLY SAY THAT THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN HE WILL AWAKEN ONCE MORE."



"THE SADDEST PART OF THIS SITUATION IS THE DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY COUNTLESS DESPERATE PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER. MR. DOWNING HAD GIVEN HOPE TO THOSE WHO HAD BEEN PRAYING THAT THEY, OR THEIR LOVED ONES, WOULD SOMEHOW BE 'SAVED' BY HIS HEALING ABILITIES. CONSTRUCTION HAS STOPPED ON THE FACILITY THAT WAS TO HOUSE HIS NEW FOUNDATION. BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST MATTHEW RAMUS, WHO WAS FUNDING THE ENDEAVOR, SAID HE WILL DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO FIND HELP FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE PROMISED TO GET MR. DOWNING THE BEST DOCTORS MONEY CAN BUY.

CRITICS ARE SUGGESTING ALL OF THIS MAY HAVE JUST BEEN A CLEVER PLOY BY MR. RAMUS TO LIFT PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD HIS COMPANY'S BRANDS. SOME WALL STREET INSIDERS ARE SUGGESTING THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN USING DOWNING AS A SMOKE-SCREEN WHILE SEVERAL OF HIS GLOBAL HOLDINGS FACE LEGAL BATTLES OVER THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL LAPSES."



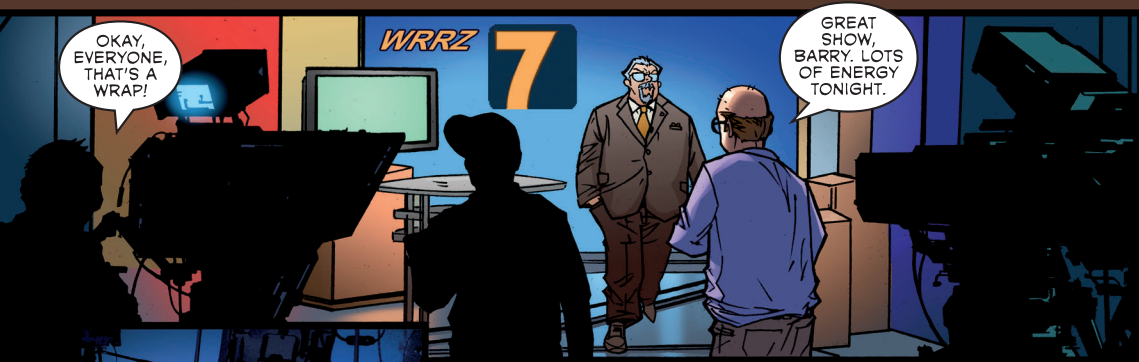
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WRRZ

"LOOK... I GET IT! HONESTLY, I DO.

YOU'RE PUPPETS. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE. YOU DON'T REALLY CARE THAT IT WAS NEVER DEFINITELY PROVED THAT MR. DOWNING COULD ACTUALLY DO HIS 'HEALING THING' WHENEVER HE WANTED. **ALL YOU SUCKERS** JUST TOOK HIS WORD FOR IT! **YOU'RE PATHETIC!**

HE WAS A CON MAN. A SNAKE OIL SALESMAN. AND INSTEAD OF US QUESTIONING THE VIABILITY OF WHAT HE COULD OR COULDN'T DO... WE MADE HIM A MEDIA DARLING. A SEX SYMBOL. HELL, YOU EVEN STARTED A WEBSITE CALLING HIM THE "SECOND COMING." THAT'S HOW **DESPERATE AND BROKEN** OUR COUNTRY HAS BECOME! THAT WE PUT ALL OUR FAITH INTO A MAN WHO **COULDN'T EVEN TELL US** WHO HE WAS! SO, SEND ME YOUR NASTY EMAILS IF YOU WANT, BUT I'M GLAD HE'S IN A COMA! I GUESS YOU'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER **FRAUD** TO GIVE MEANING TO YOUR **RIDICULOUS LIVES!**"



OKAY, EVERYONE, THAT'S A WRAP!

GREAT SHOW, BARRY. LOTS OF ENERGY TONIGHT.

IT'S NOT ENERGY! IT'S THE TRUTH. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT EASY.



TELL THE STAFF TO LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A FEW HOURS. I NEED TO MAKE SOME PHONE CALLS.



WANDA BLAKE.

WHAT DID YOU DEMONS TO DO TO HER?

UH?



I NEVER TOUCHED HER!



THEN WHO DID?

SMASHH

WAS IT BELIAL? DID HE GIVE THE ORDERS? OR WAS IT SOMEONE ELSE?

THEY'LL KILL ME IF I...

I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T.

TELL ME WHERE THEY TOOK HER.

**'THE TUNNEL!'**  
THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO TORTURE HER IN THE TUNNEL... AFTER THEY KILLED HER.





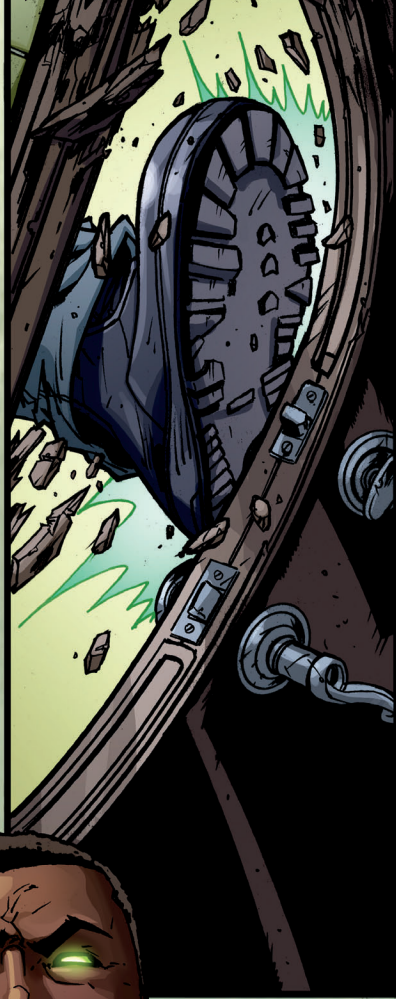
...THE FASCINATION HUMANS HAVE WITH THINGS THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT. IT MUST BE THE VISUALS THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO.

THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS GUY'S ART, AND THESE SILLY CHARACTERS. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

REALLY, A GUY WITH SPIDER POWERS?

CRASH

WHO'S DUMB ENOUGH TO FALL FOR THAT?



?



GET UP AND WIPE YOUR ASS. WE NEED TO TALK.

IT CAN'T WAIT A FEW MINUTES?



NO.  
IT CAN'T.

'THE TUNNEL.'  
WHERE IS IT  
AND HOW  
DO I GET  
TO IT?



THE  
TUNNEL!?  
YOU WANT TO  
GO TO THE  
TUNNEL?

DO YOU  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT THAT IS?  
IF YOU DID, YOU  
WOULDN'T BE  
ASKING ME  
ABOUT IT.



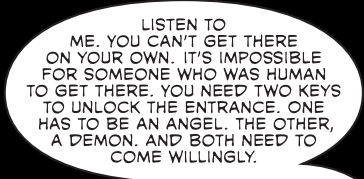
WHY?  
BECAUSE  
I'LL BE  
AFRAID?

I DON'T GIVE  
A SHIT WHAT  
SATAN OR YOUR  
GOD HAVE CREATED  
TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.  
IF YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED  
IT OUT-- 'FEAR'  
ISN'T SOMETHING I  
ACKNOWLEDGE ANY-  
MORE. NOW... YOU  
GOING TO HELP  
ME OR NOT?

I'M  
NOT THE  
BAD GUY  
HERE, AL..  
TAKE IT  
EASY.



SO YOU  
KEEP SAYING  
THEN SHOW  
ME AND STOP  
TALKING  
ABOUT IT.

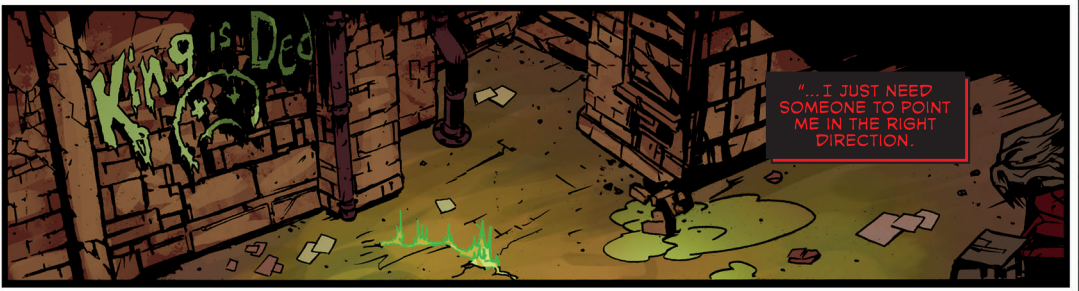


LISTEN TO  
ME. YOU CAN'T GET THERE  
ON YOUR OWN. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS HUMAN  
TO GET THERE. YOU NEED TWO KEYS  
TO UNLOCK THE ENTRANCE. ONE  
HAS TO BE AN ANGEL. THE OTHER,  
A DEMON, AND BOTH NEED TO  
COME WILLINGLY.

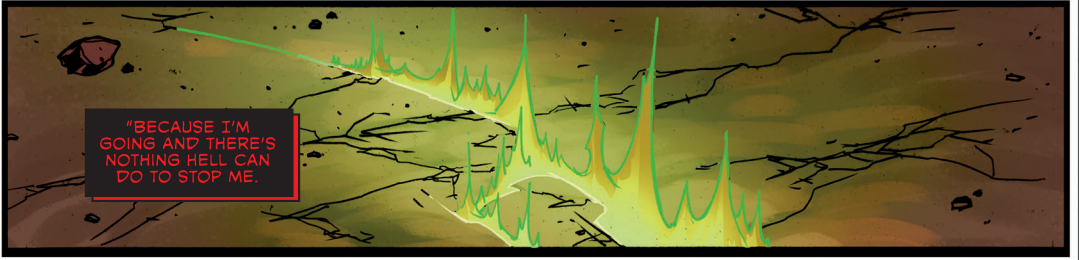
I CAN BE  
ONE OF YOUR  
KEYS. BUT EVEN IF  
WE COULD GET PAST  
THE FIRST BARRIER...  
IT'S A MAZE. A BLACK,  
INFINITE MAZE TO  
GET TO THE TUNNEL  
ITSELF. WE COULD  
GET LOST FOR A  
CENTURY IN  
THERE.

I DON'T  
PLAN ON  
DOING  
THAT...





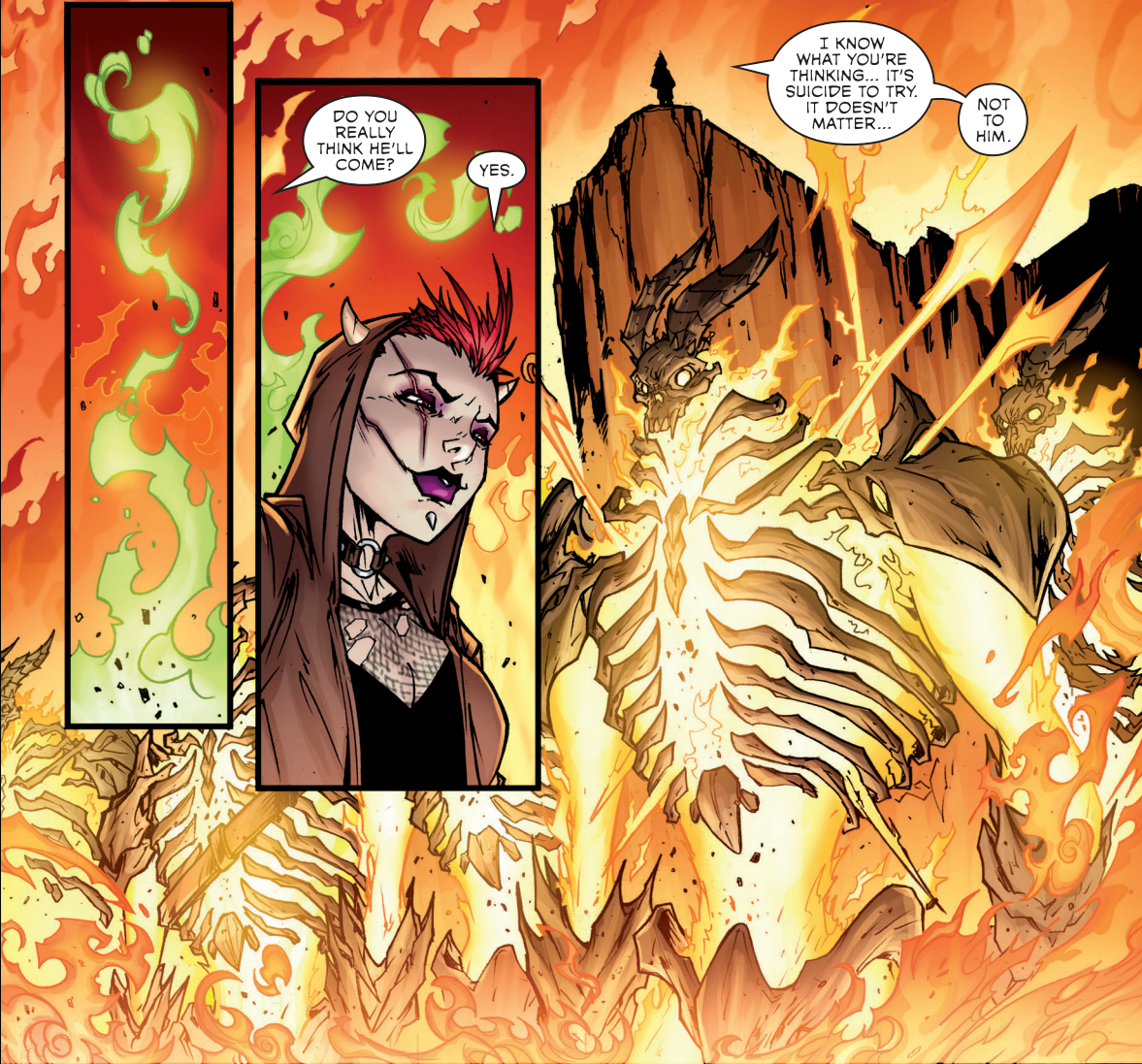
"... I JUST NEED SOMEONE TO POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."



"BECAUSE I'M GOING AND THERE'S NOTHING HELL CAN DO TO STOP ME."



"NOTHING."




DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL COME?

YES.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING... IT'S SUICIDE TO TRY. IT DOESN'T MATTER...

NOT TO HIM.



THEN WE'LL DO TO HIM WHAT WE'VE DONE TO ALL THE OTHERS THAT TRIED.

THAT'S WHAT I'M COUNTING ON. WHY YOU WERE PICKED FOR THIS MISSION.



YOU'VE NEVER FAILED TO STOP ANY INTRUDER, AND OUR LORD HAS NEVER NEEDED TO BE BOTHERED BY ANY BREACH.


AND HE WON'T THIS TIME, EITHER.



DO YOU WANT HIM TAKEN PRISONER?

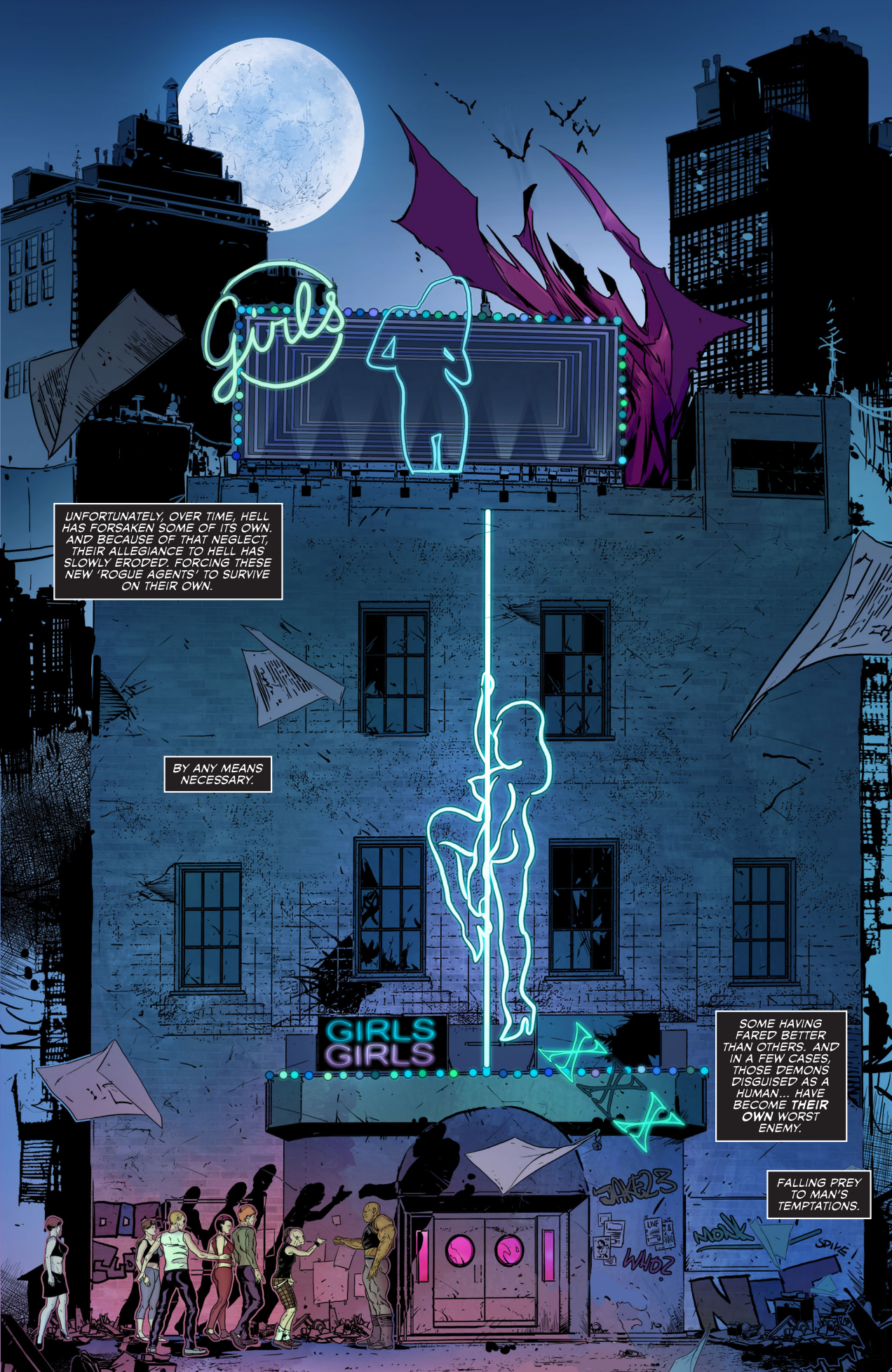
SORT OF.

SATAN WANTS THE COSTUME. THAT'S ALL. CAPTURE THAT AND HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT YOU DO TO THE HUMAN.



AND JUST LIKE HE DID WHEN HE HEALED ME FROM MY INJURIES, HE'LL REWARD YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS. YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE ARMY.

YOU'LL ALL BASK IN THE GLOW OF OUR MASTER'S GRATITUDE.



UNFORTUNATELY, OVER TIME, HELL HAS FORSAKEN SOME OF ITS OWN, AND BECAUSE OF THAT NEGLECT, THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO HELL HAS SLOWLY ERODED, FORCING THESE NEW 'ROGUE AGENTS' TO SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN.

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

SOME HAVING FARED BETTER THAN OTHERS, AND IN A FEW CASES, THOSE DEMONS DISGUISED AS A HUMAN... HAVE BECOME THEIR OWN WORST ENEMY.

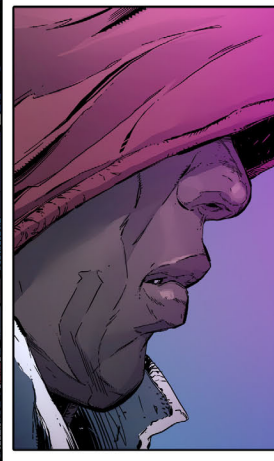
FALLING PREY TO MAN'S TEMPTATIONS.

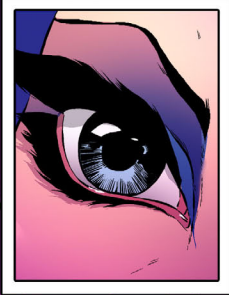
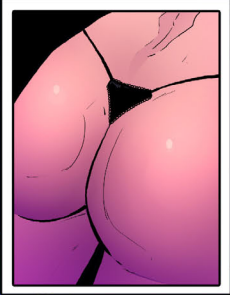


BUT IN TIME, THOSE FORSAKEN AGENTS WILL ULTIMATELY SHOW THE WORLD IF THEIR PAIN WAS REAL...



HEY, BIG FELLA, LOOKING'S FREE. SO HOW ABOUT YOU BUY US A DRINK?





...OR IF IT WAS JUST SOME FANTASY. AN ACT TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THEY APPEARED WEAK.



I'M NOT THIRSTY.

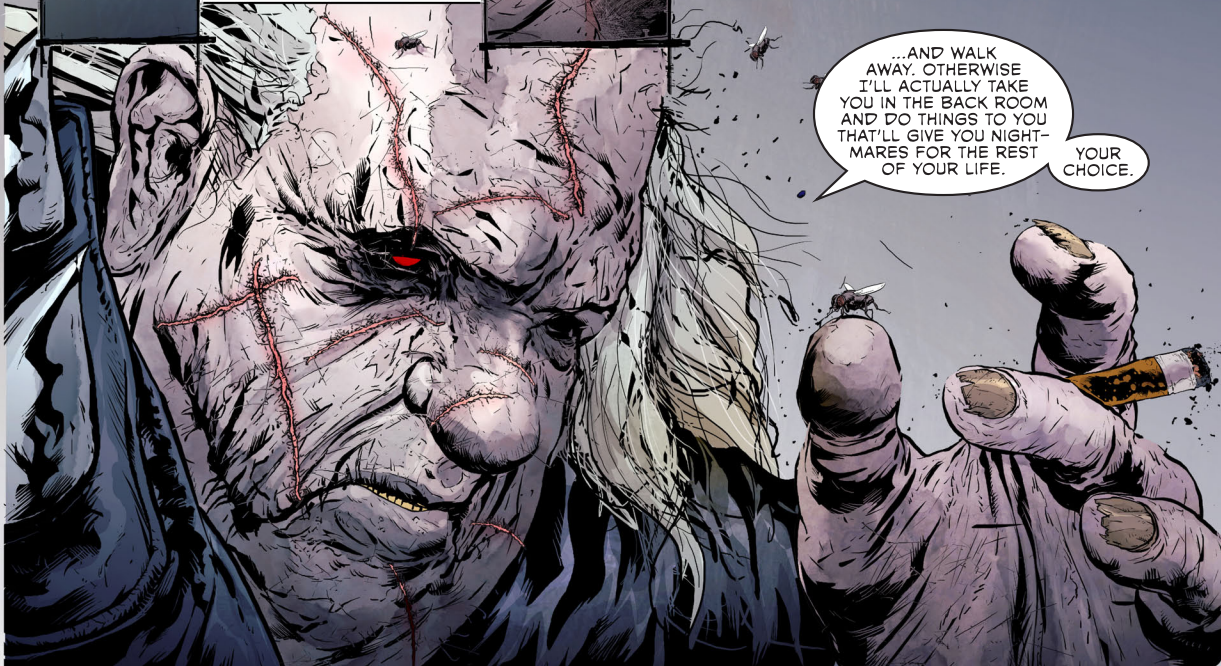
EVER.



FINE... HAVE IT YOUR WAY.



DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, SWEET-HEART...



...AND WALK AWAY. OTHERWISE I'LL ACTUALLY TAKE YOU IN THE BACK ROOM AND DO THINGS TO YOU THAT'LL GIVE YOU NIGHTMARES FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

YOUR CHOICE.



THAT'S TOO BAD. I'M NOT GIVING YOU A CHOICE.

**SIMMONS?!**

JEEZ!... HOW'D YOU...?

HOW'D I REGENERATE MY HEADLESS CORPSE? THE CORPSE YOU HID IN THE ALLEYS?

MAYBE I'LL TELL YOU ANOTHER DAY. THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE. SEE, I NEED TO EXTRACT A LITTLE INFO AND YOU'RE JUST THE GUY I'M LOOKING FOR. NOW SCOOT YOUR FAT ASS OVER.



YOU DON'T SCARE ME.

I SHOULD, 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN DOING MY HOMEWORK AND I HEAR YOU CAN'T SHAPE SHIFT ANYMORE. THAT'S A SHAME.

OH, YEAH? I BET THAT'S BREAKING YOUR HEART.





DID YOU TELL DOWNING HOW TO DO THAT TO ME, OR DID HE DO THAT ALL BY HIMSELF?

DOWNING WAS HIS OWN MAN. I'M SURE HE DID WHAT HE NEEDED TO.

BUT LET ME ASK YOU--WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT 'THE TUNNEL?'



WHY? YOU'RE NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK YOU CAN GET THERE, ARE YOU? THOUGH, IF YOU DID, YOU'D BE DOING ME A FAVOR SINCE I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.



SO... WHAT'S OUR NEXT TOPIC?

WE'RE STILL ON IT. 'THE TUNNEL,' I NEED TO GET THERE. FAST. I'M BETTING YOU CAN HELP ME WITH THAT.

MAYBE. WHAT'S YOUR RUSH?

I WANT TO KILL SATAN. THEN STOP GOD FROM MESSING WITH US.

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THEM BOTH ON?

YEP.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



WATCH IT, OLD MAN!



I'LL WATCH MYSELF ALL RIGHT.



A REAR DOOR GIVES THEM THEIR PRIVACY.

NOW WHAT?

I NEED YOU TO TURN INTO SPAWN. AND DON'T ASK WHY. **JUST DO IT!**

THE PROBLEM WITH YOU SPAWNS IS YOU'RE **STUPID!** YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU... YOU CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR RANTS. I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GET TO THE TUNNEL.

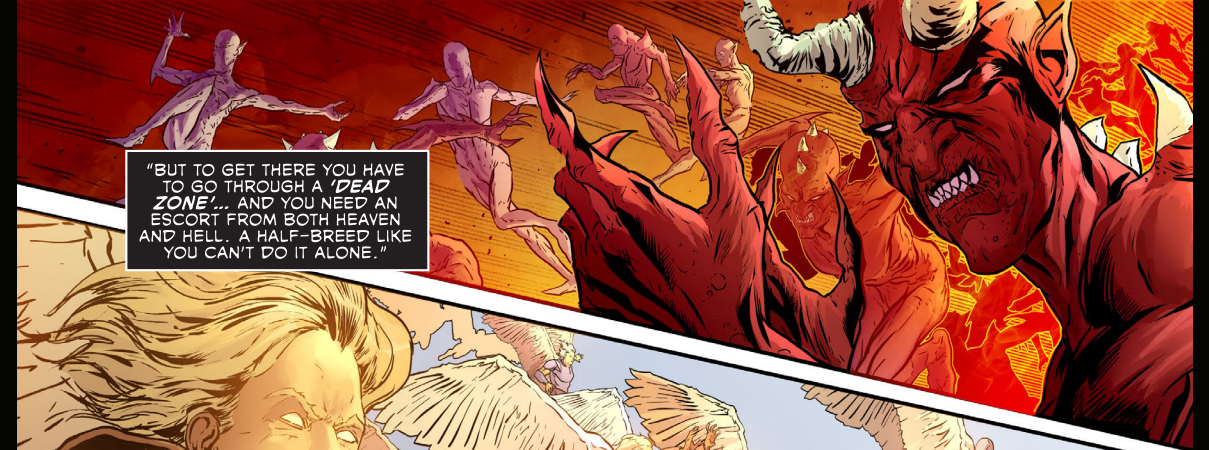
YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO GET THERE. YOU ALWAYS HAVE.

I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE, CLOWN!




RIGHT THERE! THE WHITE MARK-- ON YOUR CHEST. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

IT'S A MAP. A MAP THAT LEADS YOU STRAIGHT TO SATAN HIMSELF. FOLLOW THAT ROUTE AND EVENTUALLY YOU'LL GET WHERE YOU WANT.



"BUT TO GET THERE YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH A 'DEAD ZONE'... AND YOU NEED AN ESCORT FROM BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL. A HALF-BREED LIKE YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE."




I'M TALKING TRUE HELL-BORN. THEN YOU'LL NEED TO FIND A HEAVEN-BORN ESCORT. AND I SURE AS SHIT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND ONE OF THOSE.

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY HELL PIECE.

WHAT!?

I'M ASSUMING I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. SO TELL ME. WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



I'LL GIVE YOU ENOUGH POWER TO SHAPE SHIFT AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR.



AS THE NIGHT AIR GROWS FRIGID, THE CLOWN IS MESMERIZED BY ONE THOUGHT ONLY.

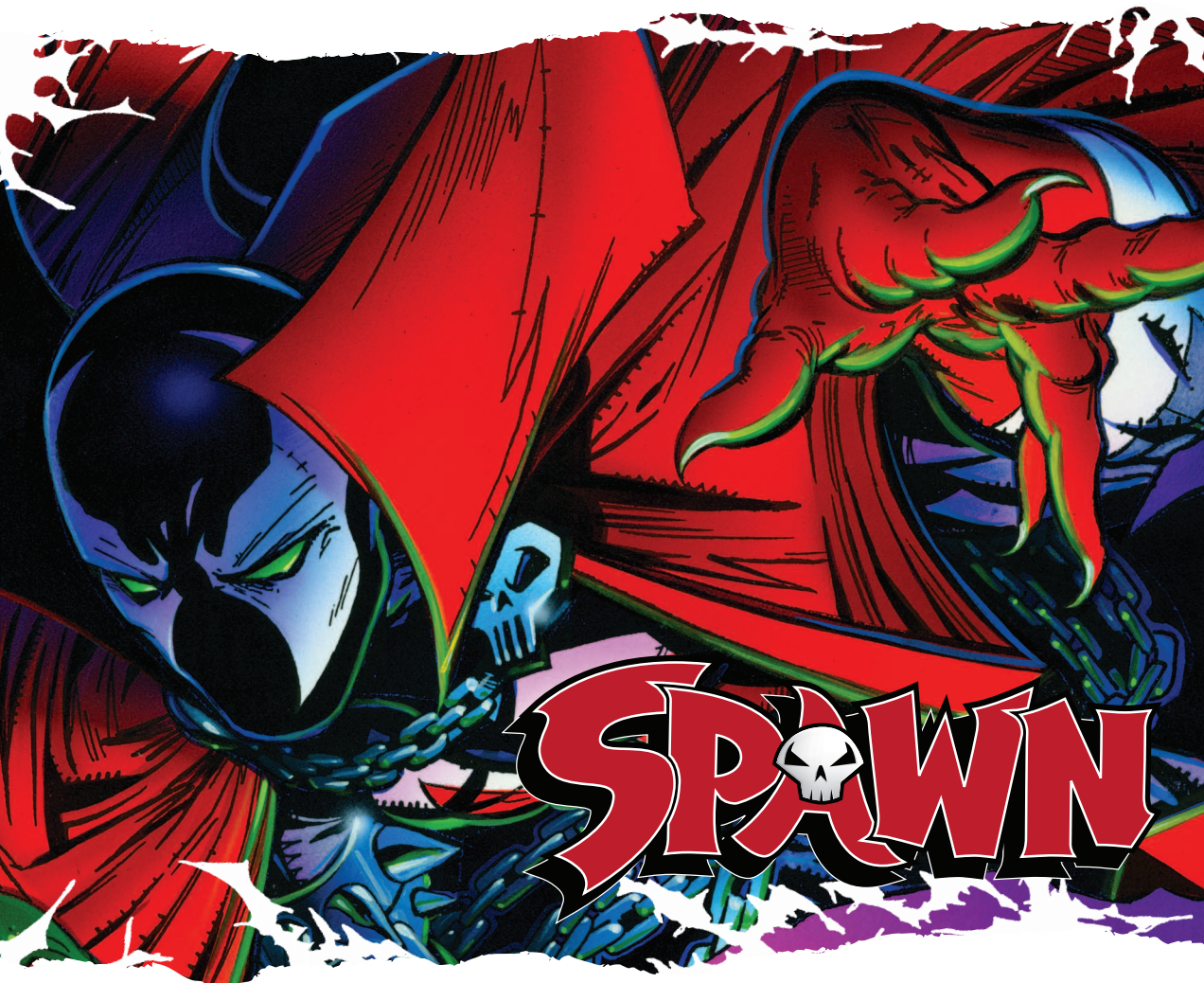
More power...





... I WAS  
HOPING  
YOU'D  
**SAY  
THAT!**

**NEXT:** into the **ABYSS...** towards **'THE TUNNEL'**



## SPAWN WHEREVER YOU ARE.

The ENTIRE *Spawn* comic library and *Spawn Origins Collection* Volumes 1 – 20 is now available in digital format from ComiXology, iBooks, Google Play, and imagecomics.com. Fans can immerse themselves with 23 years and 250+ issues of *Spawn* with the simple swipe of a fingertip. *Spawn* is one of the world's best-selling and longest-running independent monthly comic books, known for its hyper-detailed art from its creator, **Todd McFarlane**. Now you can read the entire series wherever you are.

**ALL ISSUES**  
**AVAILABLE NOW DIGITALLY**



# SPAWNING GROUND

Hello all,

After a quiet few months, we are picking up in McFarlane news again. First of all, Todd attended a GameStop Convention in Vegas a few weeks back to show the retailers and fans all of the cool new HBO's *Game of Thrones* and AMC's *The Walking Dead* construction sets we have coming out in the fall.

Finally, we have launched our NEW McFarlane website! There is all kinds of information about products, projects and of course, the SPAWN comic! Some of the highlights of the website include: a where to buy feature for all toys and comics, a wish list and 'my collection' creator. The best part (I think) is Todd's blog! Check it out at [mcfarlane.com](http://mcfarlane.com).

Next month, Todd will be attending New York Comic Con with McFarlane Toys. His schedule is jammed packed showing off awesome toys, hosting free autograph sessions and even speaking in a panel or two. Information about his schedule will be posted on [Mcfarlane.com](http://Mcfarlane.com) and his blog (*ToddFather Talk*) when it becomes available.

For this week's Spawning Ground, we wanted to spotlight someone who has been with *Spawn* and Todd since the beginning. There are not many people who can say they've been on a book from issue #1, let alone be on a series for 256 issues! Tom Orzechowski has lettered a whole lot of comics for a great range of publishers over a good many years. He did his first logo, for a zine, at age 14, and began lettering for Marvel five years later. His influences include '60s comics, '40s sheet music and '20's sign painting. Projects include *Spawn*, of which he lettered #1 and has worked on every issue since; seventeen years on *Uncanny X-Men*; *Manara Library*; *Scooby-Do*; *Ghost in the Shell*; and many others.

Enjoy!

Shannon Bailey  
Publishing Coordinator

## 1. How did you first come to work with Todd?

Marvel had a creator-owned line of comics, called Epic, in the 1980s. Todd's first published work was there, on a few stories in Steve Englehart's comic *Coyote*, which I was lettering. That was in 1985. Todd then worked for DC for a year or so, which is when he and I first met face-to-face at the San Diego Comic-Con. I believe he got his first Marvel script within a few days of getting home from that con, and that led quickly to *Hulk* and then *Spider-Man*. Meanwhile, I was lettering most of the *X-Men* related books. We had different editors, and so none of his Marvel books came my way.

## 2. What has made you want to work with Todd for all of these years?

Todd is never boring. I was among the first two or three people he called when he was developing *Spawn*, and that was really flattering. I'd quit *X-Men* a few months earlier, and was in the market for something new that I could get my hooks into. Out of nowhere came he called with the offer to work on something intense, where I could really cut loose. Was I interested? Heck yeah, let's talk business. That was 23 years ago. The book is still intense. I'm staying put.

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[www.facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane](https://www.facebook.com/liketoddmcFarlane)

### 3. How has the industry changed since you first started and what has changed most?

My start at Marvel was in 1973. Comics were 20¢ and you could buy them at drug stores, corner stores, pretty much everywhere. Everyone saw comics all the time and so there were comics for everyone. Romance. Humor. Kid comics. When the comic shops became widespread, superheroes and suspense books were pretty much all you'd see. Image Comics started just as tastes were pushing out again. There are a lot of people reading the books now who've never read a costume hero comic. Image has been a part of that.

### 4. What do you find most challenging about being a letterer?

The biggest impact on me personally has been the shift away from pen and ink. Digital media can save a lot of time, but it's not as personable. The challenge is to get the crazy spontaneity into the fonts.

### 5. What do you love about being a letterer?

It's very satisfying to take the script bits, the balloons, captions and sound effects, and make them match the flow of the artwork. You can't just place those things into the corners of the panels to get them out of the way. Comics today aren't drawn with the tops of the panels left blank to hold the dialogue. So, it's a

matter of complimenting the script and artwork equally. You want a seamless outcome. If the balloons are placed sensibly within the artist's compositions, they won't have the appearance of being in the way. I've done workshops on this, titled "Lettering As Cosmetic Surgery: What To Do When The Art Is In The Way Of The Script." Big fun!

### 6. What is your process?

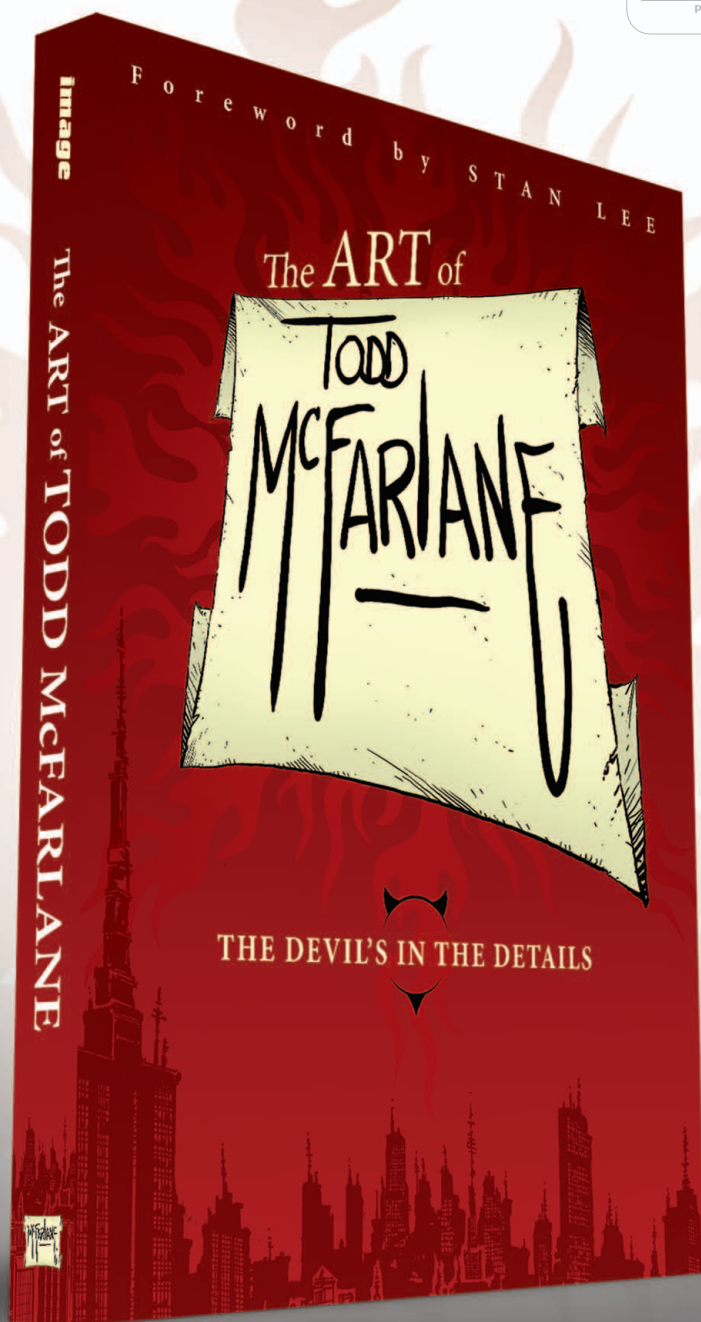
The lettering is done in Adobe Illustrator. It's possible to do the job in Photoshop, InDesign or Manga Studio, but there's a lot less flexibility that way.

### 7. Any advice for someone looking to getting into lettering comics?

The competition is fierce. Get familiar with the best work that was done, past and present, on story titles and sound effects. Buy new fonts every so often, including a few that not everyone else is using. The font vendors have tutorials on page design, as well as on how to do clever & easy effects. They're all worth the practice time. The more time you spend learning the basics, the faster your work will go. But, I repeat: the competition is fierce, and that includes me!



**NEXT ISSUE**  
Spawn enters The Tunnel.



**SOFT  
COVER  
EDITION  
IN STORES  
NOW**

*THE ART OF TODD MCFARLANE: THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS* IS A VISUAL BIOGRAPHY CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ARTWORK FROM ONE OF THE COMIC INDUSTRY'S MOST POPULAR AND ICONIC ARTIST PERSONALITIES.

Follow McFarlane's creative output, starting at his formative years as a comic book fan mimicking his favorite artists all the way through his first published work and subsequent rise to comic book stardom. This book has it ALL: beloved DC and Marvel Comics characters, Todd's history making move of helping found Image Comics and subsequent introduction of his own creative brainchild, *Spawn*, plus art and sketches you've never seen before! Also, get an exclusive look at McFarlane's forays into various media (toys, film, animation, music videos, video games), putting his creative stamp on all of them with his signature eye-catching imagery.

**DON'T MISS THE FIRST AND ONLY ART BOOK DOCUMENTING ONE OF THE COMIC INDUSTRY'S MOST LEGENDARY ARTISTS.**

# HALO 5

ACTION FIGURES

FALL 2015

G U A R D I A N S



SPARTAN ATHLON



SPARTAN FRED



SPARTAN KELLY



MASTER CHIEF



SPARTAN LOCKE



SPARTAN TANAKA



SPARTAN ATHLON



SPARTAN CENTURION



SPARTAN TECHNICIAN



SPARTAN LOCKE



HELMETED 10" SPARTAN LOCKE  
AND EXCLUSIVE  
UNHELMETED 10" SPARTAN LOCKE

10-INCH FIGURES

## 6-INCH ACTION FIGURE EXCLUSIVES

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# OCTOBER 2015



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*Sam and Twitch: The Complete Collection* collects the entire groundbreaking series in two hardcover, oversized volumes. Sure to please fans of crime fiction and comic book fans alike, this collection also features an art gallery and a look behind-the-scenes with the series author, as well as an afterword with the series creator, Todd McFarlane.



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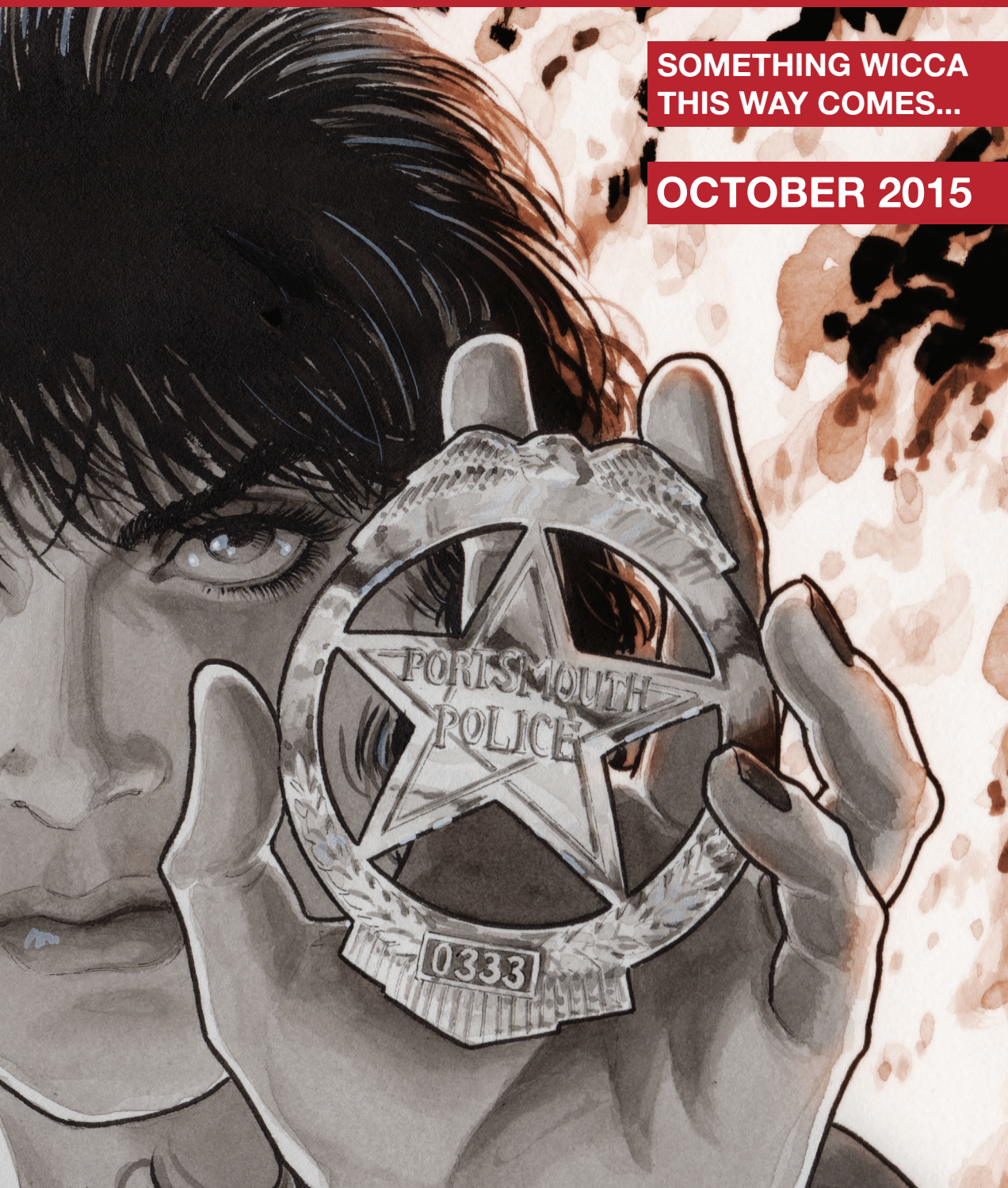
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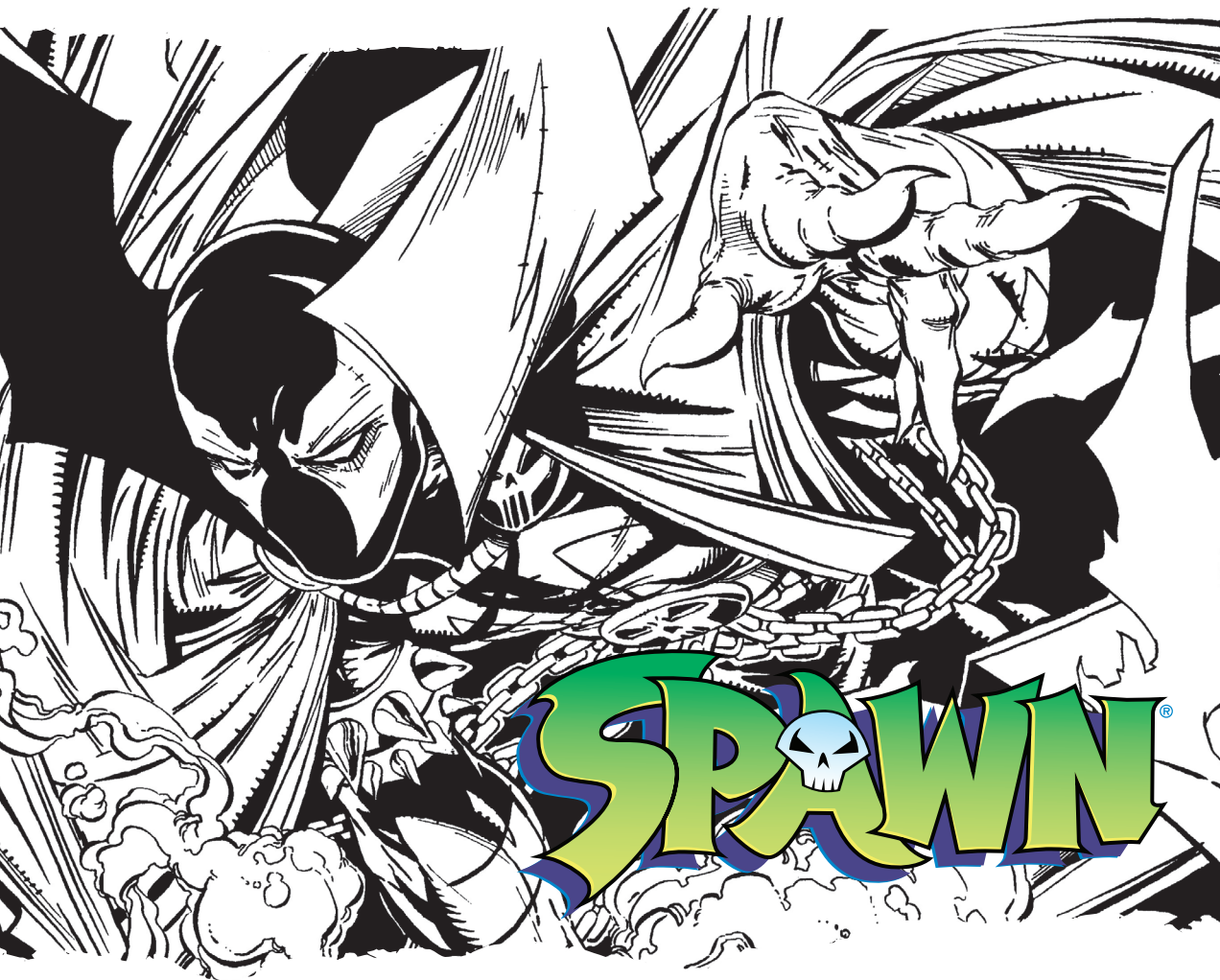


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