

image
325
DIGITAL
EDITION

SPAWN

TODD
MCFARLANE
CARLO
BARBERI



CB

SPAWN®



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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN


Marc Rosen has been at Al's side for what seems like an eternity. Putting his life on the line for a man whose cause he believes in. Now, with his newfound powers, doubt is beginning to creep in, and the words of Jim Downing are starting to make sense.



FOR THIS
CENTURION
SPAWN,
TIME WAS
BEGINNING
TO RUN OUT.

TWO DAYS
AGO, HE WAS
AMBUSHED.
HE KNEW THAT,
BEFORE LONG,
THIS MOMENT
WOULD COME.

IT WAS JUST
A QUESTION
OF WHEN.



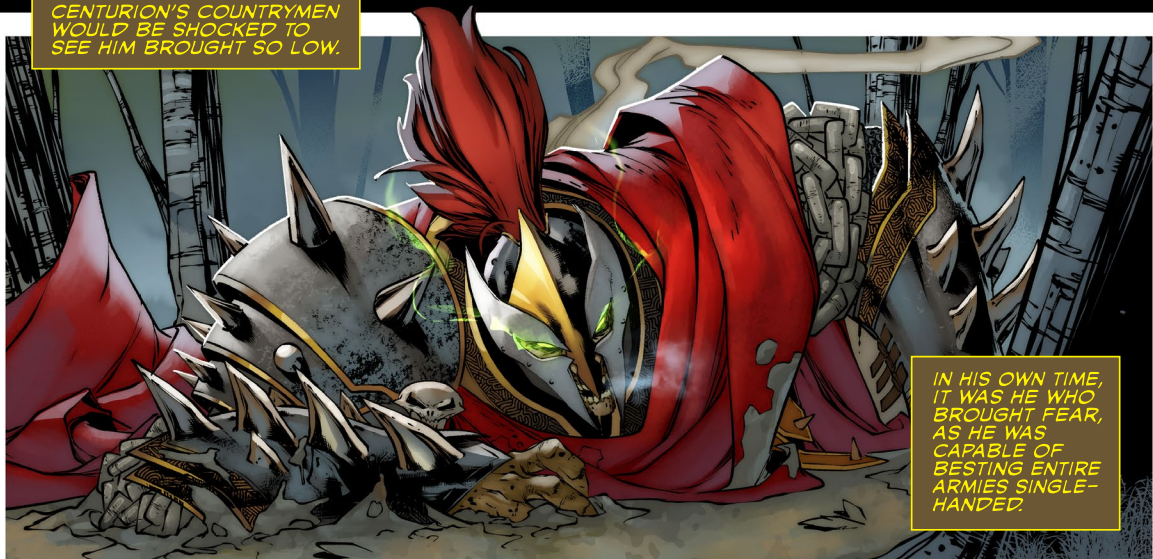
CENTURION HAS HEARD MANY TALES ABOUT HIS PURSUER, ONE OF THE FEW BEINGS IN EXISTENCE TO SPARK ACTUAL FEAR IN HELL'S ARMIES.

SKITKK

THOUGH THIS OUTCOME MAY APPEAR TO BE WRITTEN ALREADY...

...IF THIS IS TO BE HIS END, HE WILL NOT ACCEPT IT QUIETLY.

CENTURION'S COUNTRYMEN
WOULD BE SHOCKED TO
SEE HIM BROUGHT SO LOW.

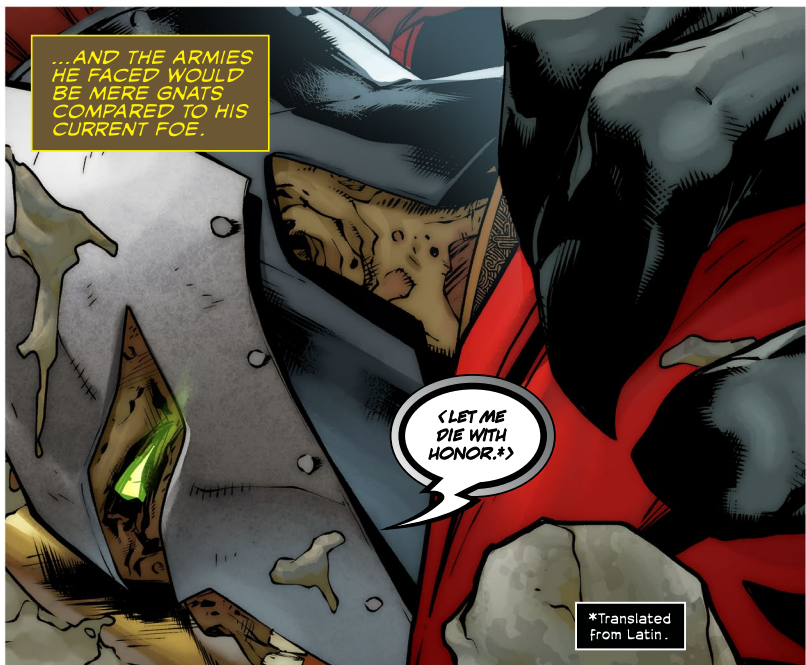


IN HIS OWN TIME,
IT WAS HE WHO
BROUGHT FEAR,
AS HE WAS
CAPABLE OF
BESTING ENTIRE
ARMIES SINGLE-
HANDED.

HE'S A
LONG WAY
FROM HIS
OWN TIME,
THOUGH...



...AND THE ARMIES
HE FACED WOULD
BE MERE GNATS
COMPARED TO HIS
CURRENT FOE.




(LET ME
DIE WITH
HONOR.?)

*Translated
from Latin.




OTHERS
MIGHT HAVE
GRANTED HIS
REQUEST, BUT
THIS ATTACKER
WAS FORGED
IN BLOOD
AND FIRE, A
PROCESS THAT
PURGED HIM
OF MERCY.



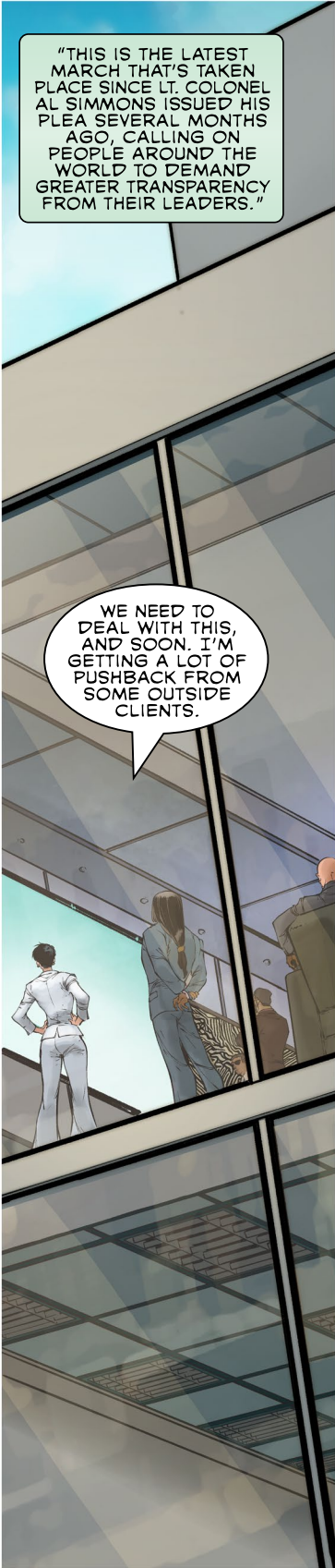
THERE HAVE
BEEN MANY
NAMES FOR HIM
THROUGHOUT
HISTORY...

...BUT TO MOST, HE IS KNOWN AS

the
FORSAKEN.

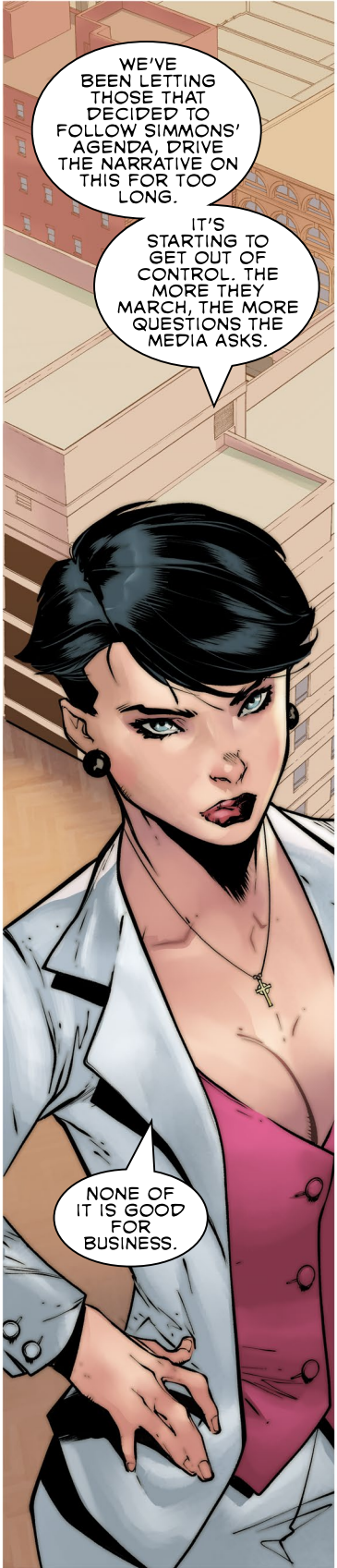


"--OVER 200,000 PEOPLE DESCENDED ON WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON. WHILE EFFORTS HAVE LARGELY BEEN PEACEFUL, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SEVERAL ARRESTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AS SOME PROTESTORS TURNED VIOLENT."



"THIS IS THE LATEST MARCH THAT'S TAKEN PLACE SINCE LT. COLONEL AL SIMMONS ISSUED HIS PLEA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, CALLING ON PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO DEMAND GREATER TRANSPARENCY FROM THEIR LEADERS."

WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS, AND SOON. I'M GETTING A LOT OF PUSHBACK FROM SOME OUTSIDE CLIENTS.



WE'VE BEEN LETTING THOSE THAT DECIDED TO FOLLOW SIMMONS' AGENDA, DRIVE THE NARRATIVE ON THIS FOR TOO LONG.

IT'S STARTING TO GET OUT OF CONTROL. THE MORE THEY MARCH, THE MORE QUESTIONS THE MEDIA ASKS.

NONE OF IT IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

Oh
C'MON,
CORDELIA.
THAT'S A BIT
PARANOID,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

THESE THINGS
COME AND GO. IF
ANYTHING, IT GIVES
HUMANS A HARMLESS
LITTLE OUTLET TO VENT
THEIR FRUSTRATIONS.
AND AS WE KNOW,
THEY'RE ALWAYS
FRUSTRATED AT
SOMETHING.

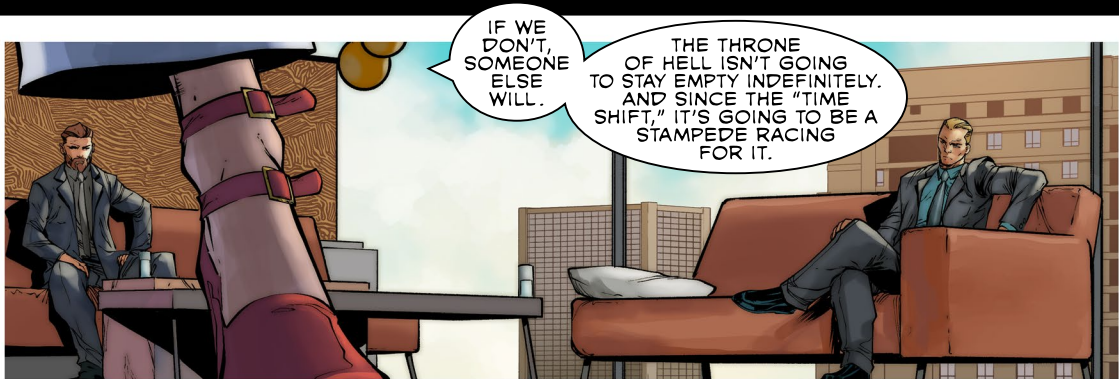
MAYBE BEFORE,
BUT WE'RE OPERATING
IN A DIFFERENT WORLD
NOW. WE LEAVE THIS
UNCHECKED, IT'LL KEEP
BUILDING AND BUILDING,
AND THEN WE'RE
F*CKED.

SO, I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THE
REST OF YOU, BUT I HAVE
NO PLANS TO SURRENDER
THE LIFE I'VE BUILT HERE
BECAUSE A BUNCH OF
LIBERAL YOUTHS DON'T
LIKE CAPITALISM.

BUT THE MORE
THEY PRY, THE HIGHER THE
LIKELIHOOD SOME HUMAN IS
GOING TO FIGURE OUT THE
TRUTH, EVEN IF IT'S BY ACCIDENT.
THAT'S ONLY GOING TO MAKE
IT HARDER ON US AS THE
WAR RAMPS UP.

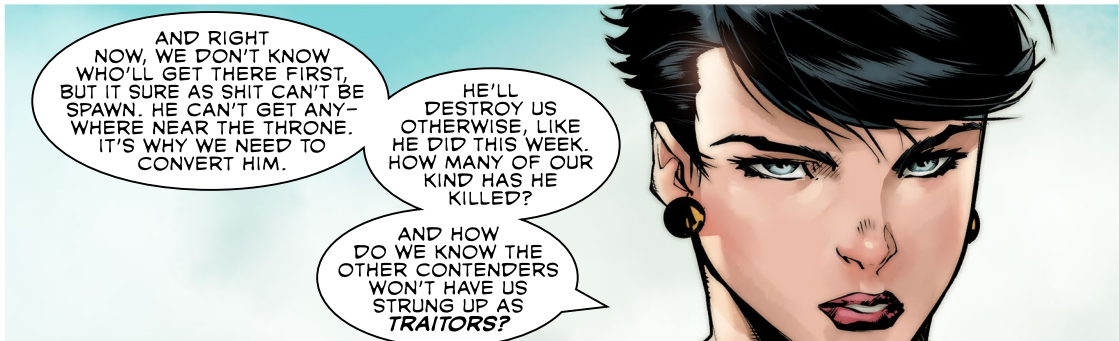
OH GOOD, AT
LEAST WE'RE ALL
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT
THERE IS A WAR GOING
ON. I WAS WONDERING
WHEN WE WERE GOING TO
ASK, WHY ARE WE WASTING
OUR TIME WITH THIS LOW-
LEVEL CRAP WHEN, SOON,
THERE MIGHT NOT
EVEN BE A PLANET TO
RULE OVER.

WE NEED TO
BE DEALING WITH
SPAWN, THEN WE NEED TO
HELP OUR POSITION IN CASE
THE WAR SPILLS OUT
FASTER THAN WE HOPE. SO,
WE NEED TO FIND SPAWN
AND CONVERT HIM TO
OUR SIDE.



IF WE DON'T, SOMEONE ELSE WILL.

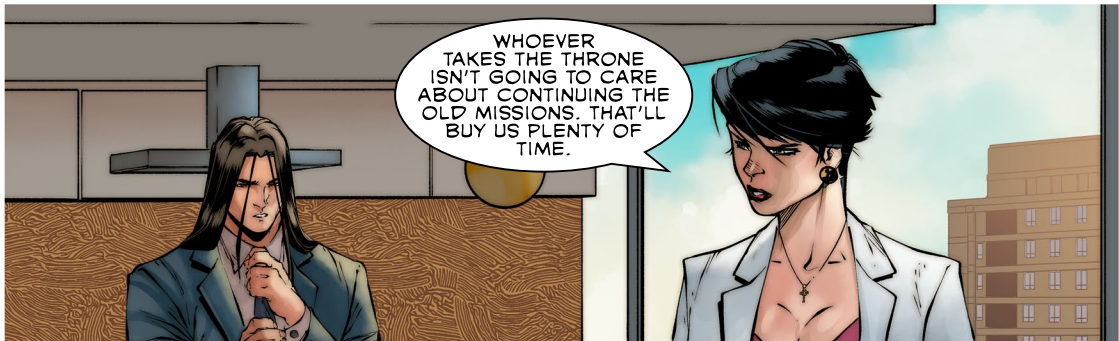
THE THRONE OF HELL ISN'T GOING TO STAY EMPTY INDEFINITELY. AND SINCE THE "TIME SHIFT," IT'S GOING TO BE A STAMPEDE RACING FOR IT.



AND RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T KNOW WHO'LL GET THERE FIRST, BUT IT SURE AS SHIT CAN'T BE SPAWN. HE CAN'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR THE THRONE. IT'S WHY WE NEED TO CONVERT HIM.

HE'LL DESTROY US OTHERWISE, LIKE HE DID THIS WEEK. HOW MANY OF OUR KIND HAS HE KILLED?

AND HOW DO WE KNOW THE OTHER CONTENDERS WON'T HAVE US STRUNG UP AS TRAITORS?



WHOEVER TAKES THE THRONE ISN'T GOING TO CARE ABOUT CONTINUING THE OLD MISSIONS. THAT'LL BUY US PLENTY OF TIME.



ULTIMATELY, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PICK A SIDE, BUT FOR NOW I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY RUSH TO PIN OUR FLAG ON ANYONE'S MAST. WE CAN BE PATIENT AND SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP.

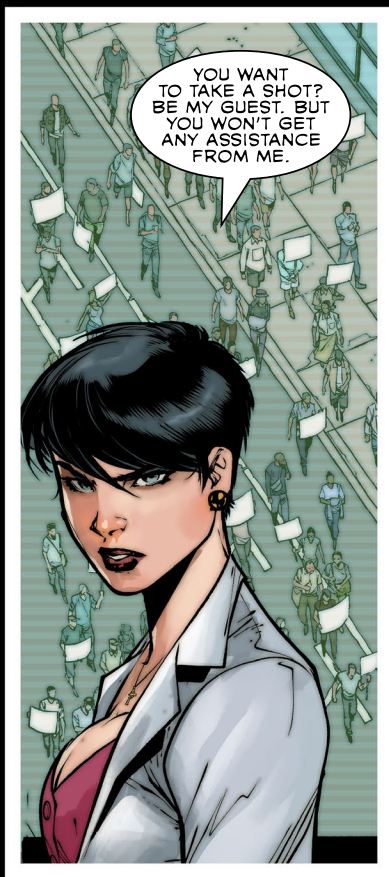
STAY ON THE SIDELINES AND WAIT FOR THE CONTENDERS TO REVEAL THEMSELVES. ONCE WE SEE A LIKELY WINNER, *THAT'S* WHEN WE MAKE OUR DECISION.



WE DO OUR JOB AND WE'LL HAVE LEVERAGE. IF SPAWN'S ON OUR SIDE, WE CAN OFFER HIM AS A SACRIFICE TO THAT WINNER. THAT MOVES US CLOSER TO THE INNER RING.

CAN I JUST ASK... WHY ARE WE SETTING OUR SIGHTS SO LOW?

WHY AREN'T WE TALKING ABOUT INSTALLING ONE OF *OUR OWN* ON THE THRONE?



YOU WANT TO TAKE A SHOT? BE MY GUEST. BUT YOU WON'T GET ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ME.



BECAUSE EVEN IF YOU DO SUCCEED, ALL YOU'LL BE DOING IS ENSURING A TARGET ON YOUR BACK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. BUT IF WE'RE ONE OR TWO STEPS AWAY FROM THE TOP, IT ALLOWS US TO REPENT AND CHANGE SIDES.

THE WAR CAN WAIT. IF THE HUMANS FIND OUT THE TRUTH, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO WINS.

DEALING WITH SIMMONS AND HIS MOVEMENT IS THE SMART PLAY FOR NOW.



SO, WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE?

SIMMONS HAS TOLD HIS STORY TO THE PUBLIC...

IT'S TIME TO TELL THE HUMANS A DIFFERENT ONE.





"THE BIG QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS WHERE IS SPAWN?"



"SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, Lt. COLONEL AL SIMMONS MADE A FLURRY OF CONTROVERSIAL MEDIA APPEARANCES, BUT SINCE THOSE ANNOUNCEMENTS HE HASN'T MADE ANY FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT, OR BEEN SEEN AT ALL.

"THE ALLEGATIONS HE MADE HAVE NOW LIT A FIRE IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE. SO, SPAWN, IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, WE'D GLADLY GIVE YOU A NATIONAL FORUM TO EXPAND ON YOUR STATEMENTS."

AL SIMMONS NEVER INTENDED TO BECOME A PUBLIC FIGURE.

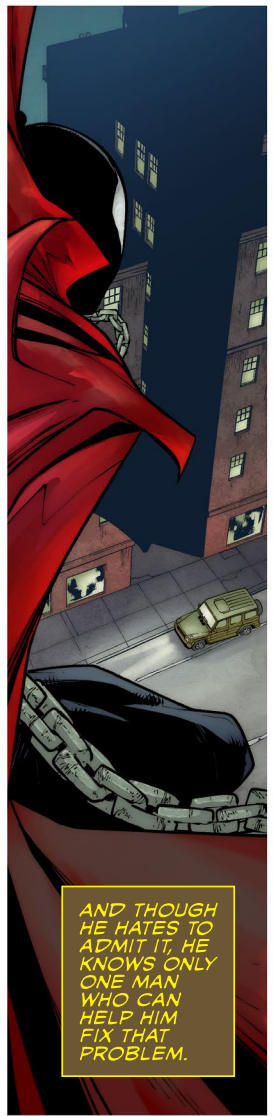
ALL HE WANTED WAS TO NUDGE HUMANITY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, TO START THEM ON THE JOURNEY TOWARDS UNCOVERING THE TRUTH.

TO PIECE TOGETHER THIS PUZZLE ON THEIR OWN.

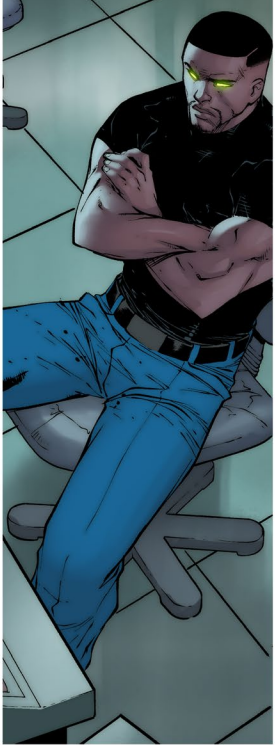


EVEN IF HE'D CRAVED CELEBRITY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO EMBRACE IT.

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, HIS ATTENTION HAS BEEN CONSUMED BY AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF NEW THREATS.



AND THOUGH HE HATES TO ADMIT IT, HE KNOWS ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN HELP HIM FIX THAT PROBLEM.





Gasp!

WHY'RE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!

DON'T WASTE MY F*CKING TIME, ARNOLD. I KNOW ABOUT THE LITTLE CLUB YOU TWO WERE IN.

WHERE IS HE?

I'M NOT... PART OF THAT ANYMORE, I SWEAR! COG AND I HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN YEARS.

WE HAD A FALLING OUT A LONG TIME AGO.

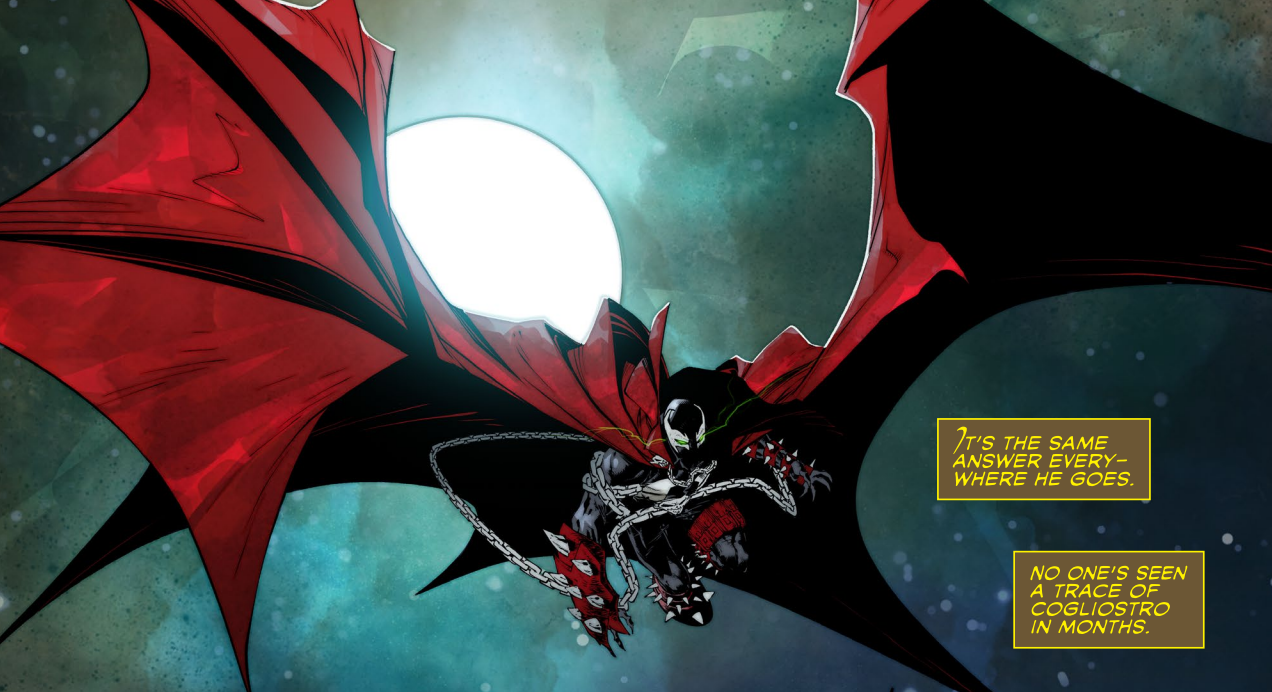
THAT SO? WELL, I SAW HIM RECENTLY. SEEMED LIKE HE'D GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO SOME TROUBLE.*

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THAT... BUT, THE LATEST I HEARD IS THAT HE'S GONE.

GONE WHERE?

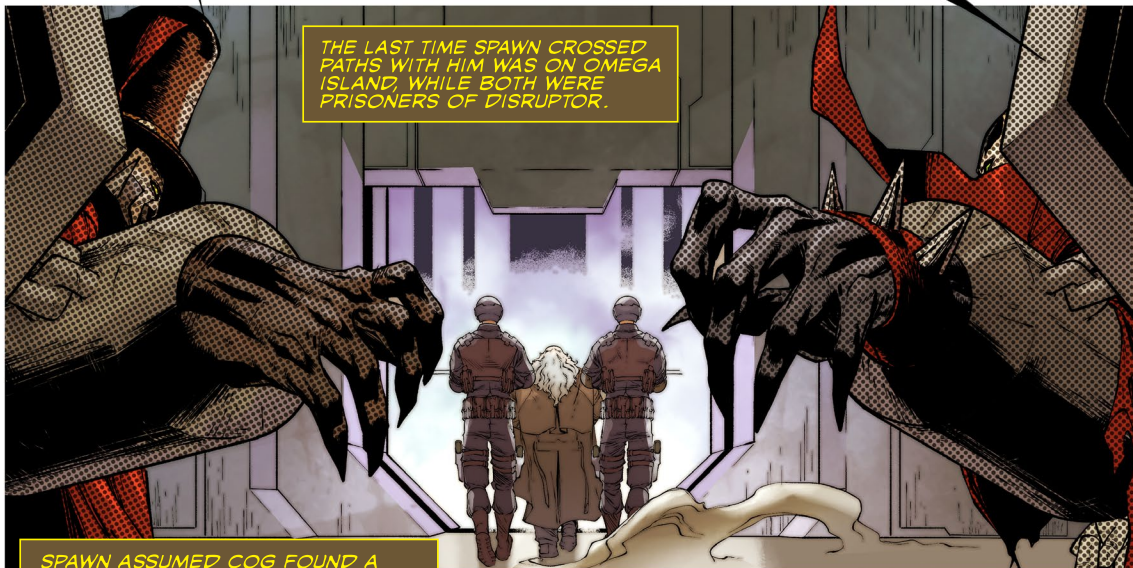
I SAID I DON'T KNOW, BUT IF IT'S TRUE, IT'S BECAUSE THAT BASTARD IS PLANNING-- NOT HIDING.

HIS AMBITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO WANT TO LEAVE HIS MARK. I'D BE CAUTIOUS IF I WERE YOU.



IT'S THE SAME ANSWER EVERYWHERE HE GOES.

NO ONE'S SEEN A TRACE OF COGLIOSTRO IN MONTHS.



THE LAST TIME SPAWN CROSSED PATHS WITH HIM WAS ON OMEGA ISLAND, WHILE BOTH WERE PRISONERS OF DISRUPTOR.

SPAWN ASSUMED COG FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE, SOMEHOW, BUT AS HE THINKS BACK, HE REMEMBERS HOW TIRED AND FEEBLE COG HAD LOOKED. MAYBE HE DIDN'T ESCAPE.



SPAWN, HIMSELF, BARELY SURVIVED TWO TRIPS TO THAT ISLAND AND DOESN'T WANT TO RISK A THIRD UNLESS IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

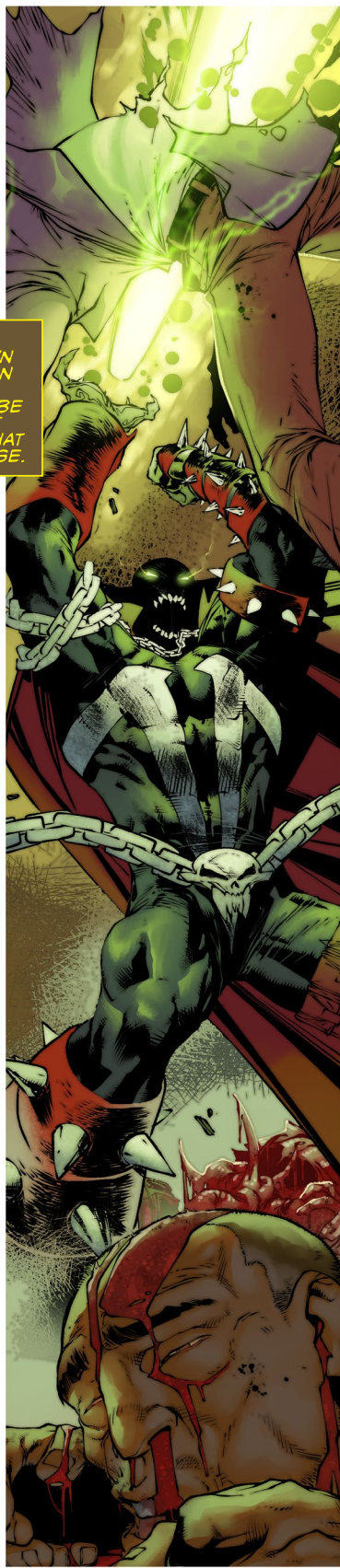
IF HE CAN'T FIND COG SOON, HE MAY NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE.

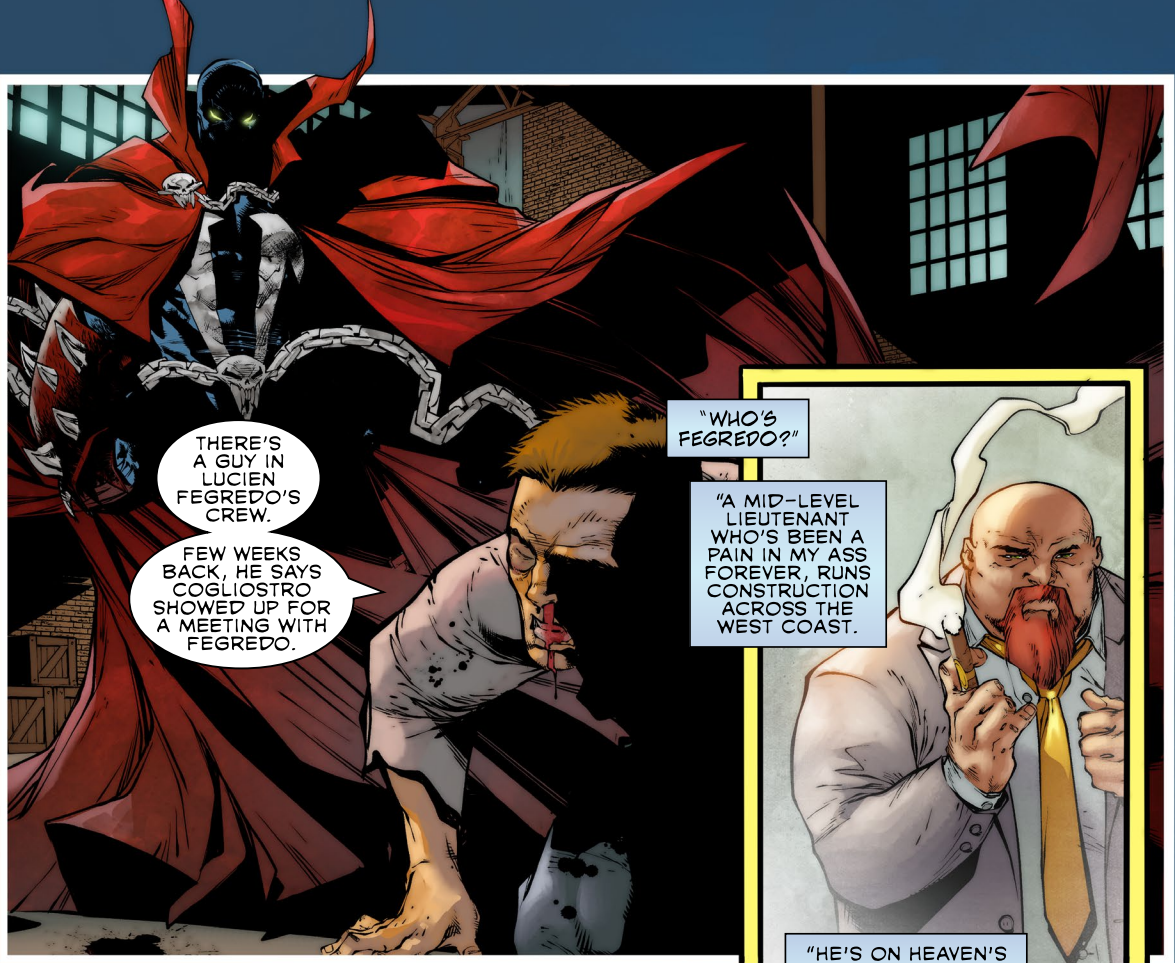
EXPERIENCE TAUGHT SPAWN NOT TO TRUST HIS FORMER MENTOR, BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING COG DOES UNDERSTAND--IT'S HELLSPAWNS.

THE TEAR THAT SPAWN CREATED IN TIME MAY POSSIBLY BE FIXED, BUT ONLY BY THAT KNOWLEDGE.

SO, WITH NOT A LOT OF OPTIONS, SPAWN SPENDS THE NEXT FEW HOURS CHASING DOWN LEADS UNTIL...

OKAY.
OKAY!





THERE'S A GUY IN LUCIEN FEGREDO'S CREW.

FEW WEEKS BACK, HE SAYS COGLIOSTRO SHOWED UP FOR A MEETING WITH FEGREDO.

"WHO'S FEGREDO?"

"A MID-LEVEL LIEUTENANT WHO'S BEEN A PAIN IN MY ASS FOREVER, RUNS CONSTRUCTION ACROSS THE WEST COAST."



"HE'S ON HEAVEN'S SIDE, IN THEORY, BUT HE'LL WORK WITH ANYONE WHO CAN ADVANCE HIM."



THAT'S TOLERATED?

FOR NOW. HE KEEPS IT WELL HIDDEN FOR THE MOST PART, AND HE'S GOT ENOUGH ALLIES IN HIS CORNER.

WHAT WAS THE MEETING ABOUT?

DON'T KNOW. MY GUY WASN'T IN THE ROOM.



WHERE'S FEGREDO NOW?





THE STENCH OF DEATH HITS SPAWN BEFORE HE'S THROUGH THE DOOR.



MANY OF THE WOUNDS APPEAR FRESH.



MEANING, WHOEVER KILLED FEGREDO'S CREW IS LIKELY STILL HERE.



SPAWN'S ENTRANCE STOPS THE ASSAILANT FROM FURTHER DISEMBOWELING AN ALREADY DEAD FEGREDO.

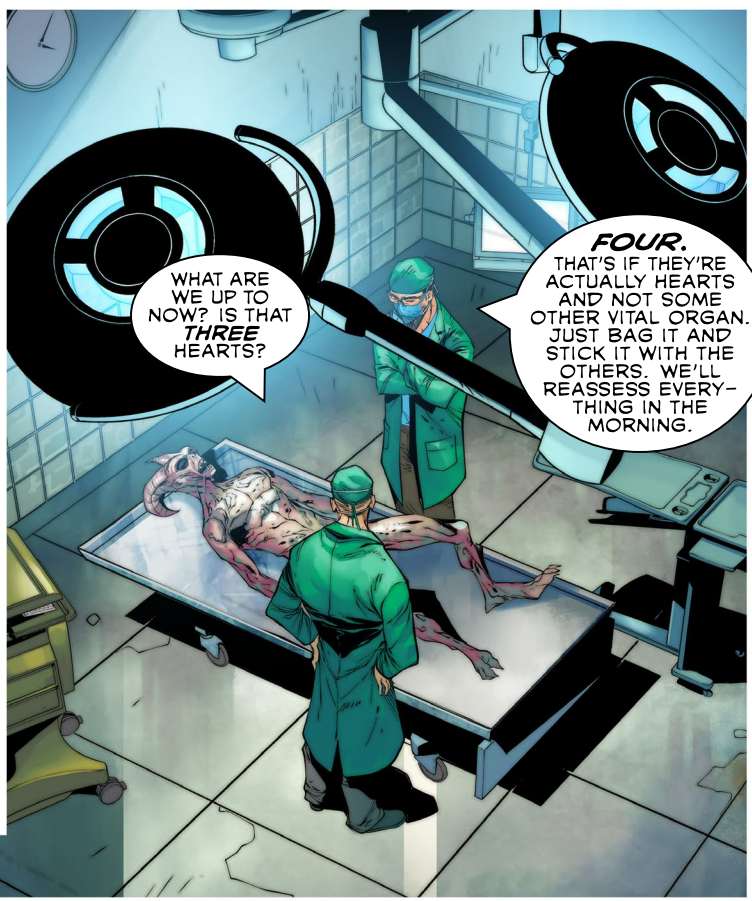
BUT LIKE A WILD WOLF, THE THING HUNCHED OVER ITS PREY, PROTECTING ITS KILL FROM ANY WOULD BE PREDATOR.





JESUS...
IT'S
ANOTHER
ONE, I
THINK.

UNBELIEVABLE.



WHAT ARE
WE UP TO
NOW? IS THAT
THREE
HEARTS?

FOUR.
THAT'S IF THEY'RE
ACTUALLY HEARTS
AND NOT SOME
OTHER VITAL ORGAN.
JUST BAG IT AND
STICK IT WITH THE
OTHERS. WE'LL
REASSESS EVERY-
THING IN THE
MORNING.



I'VE JUST
BEEN TOLD, WE'RE
NOT DONE. CALL CAME
IN SAYING THEY WANT
US TO WRAP UP ASAP,
DR. MILNER.



THEY SAID THE
BOSS IS HERE
UNANNOUNCED.

*SIX MONTHS AGO,
GERARD MILNER'S
CAREER WAS OVER.*

DISGRACED AND OSTRACIZED, HE'D GIVEN UP ALL HOPE OF EVER WORKING AGAIN, UNTIL ONE EVENING HIS PHONE RANG WITH AN OFFER OF A DIRECTORSHIP AT A PRIVATE RESEARCH FACILITY.



THAT NIGHT, AFTER GOING TO SLEEP, HE WAS SURPRISED TO WAKE UP THE NEXT MORNING IN THE PRIVATE QUARTERS OF HIS NEW WORKPLACE.

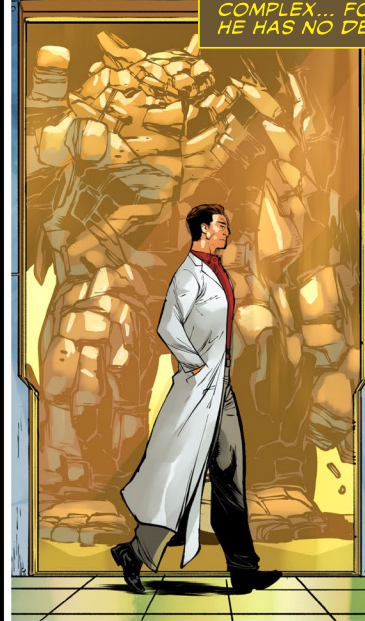


SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, HE HASN'T STEPPED OUTSIDE OF 'THE ZOO,' AS IT'S KNOWN TO STAFF, A SINGLE TIME.

NO ONE WILL CONFIDE TO GERARD ITS EXACT LOCATION, BUT HE SUSPECTS, PERHAPS, IT'S DEEP UNDERGROUND.



THOUGH HE'S NOT EVEN SURE IF HE'S ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COMPLEX... FOR NOW AT LEAST... HE HAS NO DESIRE TO DO SO.



GOOD EVENING, CORDELIA.

NOT INTERRUPTING, AM I?

OF COURSE NOT.





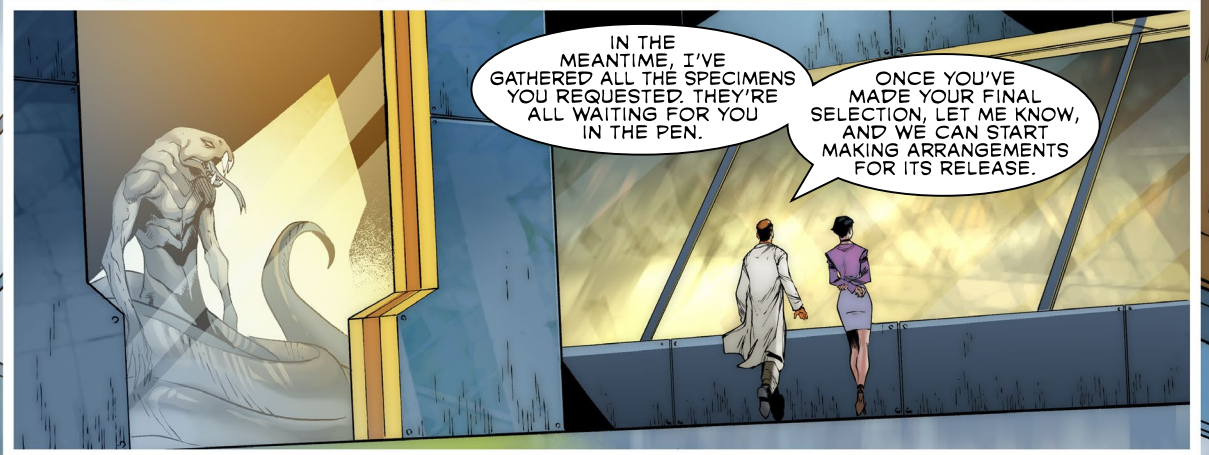
IT'S NOTHING THAT CAN'T WAIT UNTIL LATER. ONE OF OUR CREATURES JUST **DIED** IN ITS CELL LAST NIGHT, WE WERE FINISHING THE AUTOPSY TRYING TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

ANY LUCK?

MY THEORY IS, THAT, POSSIBLY, IT MAY HAVE BEEN ALLERGIC TO SOME OF THE FOOD FROM THIS ERA.

WE WON'T KNOW ANYTHING CONCLUSIVE UNTIL WE'VE RUN A **FULL BATTERY** OF TESTS.

AND SINCE THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ITS PHYSIOLOGY, IT COULD ALSO BE THAT IT JUST REACHED THE END OF ITS NORMAL LIFESPAN.



IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE GATHERED ALL THE SPECIMENS YOU REQUESTED. THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU IN THE PEN.

ONCE YOU'VE MADE YOUR FINAL SELECTION, LET ME KNOW, AND WE CAN START MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS RELEASE.



I'D LIKE YOU TO RUN A FEW ASSESSMENTS FIRST, TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE UP TO THE TASK.

YOU SURE? SOME OF THEM ARE IN QUITE A **VULNERABLE STATE**.



I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT TOO MUCH, IF WE BREAK A FEW, WE CAN AFFORD IT...



...AFTER ALL,
WE'VE GOT
PLENTY TO
CHOOSE
FROM.

TO BE CONTINUED



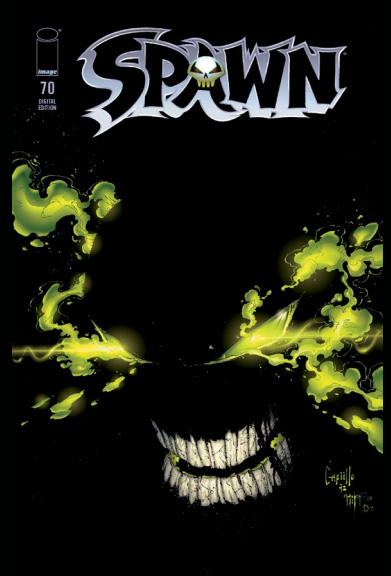
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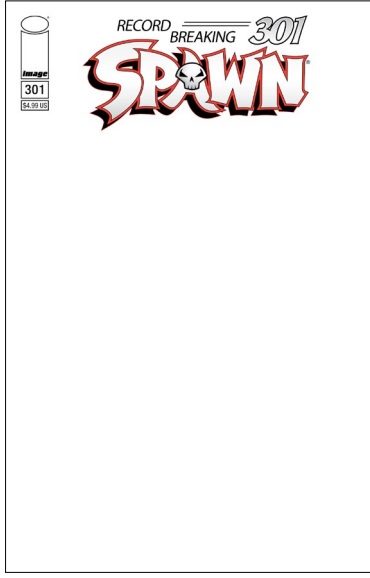
SPAWNING GROUND


PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

We've had A LOT of incredible artwork gracing the cover of Spawn over the last 30 years. It's hard to choose favorites, but here are a few of ours from across this record-breaking run. Which covers are we missing? Tell us what covers you love! Show us your favorites with the hashtag #CoverSpawn!





 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** *RAT QUEENS*

SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE **BLUE MONDAY**

MONSTRESS CHEW *KINGSMAN*
HOWTOONS THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** SEVEN TO ETERNITY
NOWHERE MEN

DESCENDER *PAPER GIRLS*
OCTOPUS PIE WYTCHEs *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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THE
SCORCHED



JANUARY 2022

SPAWN® 326

WRITTEN BY SPAWN CREATOR:

TODD
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JANUARY 2022



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SPAWN

A detailed illustration of the Spawn character, a large, muscular, black, fur-covered creature with glowing blue eyes and a menacing expression. He is shown in a dynamic, crouching pose, surrounded by a dark, rocky environment. The artwork is highly detailed, with strong highlights and shadows, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The background is a mix of dark blues and greys, suggesting a cavernous or industrial setting. The overall tone is gritty and intense.