



SPAWN

image

295

DIGITAL
EDITION

TODD
MCFARLANE

JASON
SHAWN
ALEXANDER

SPAWN

TODD McFARLANE
SCRIPT/PLOT

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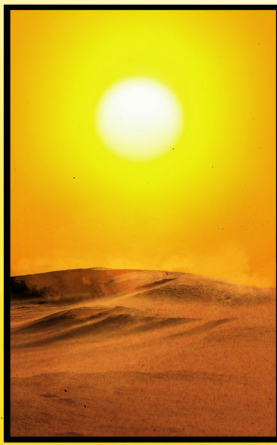
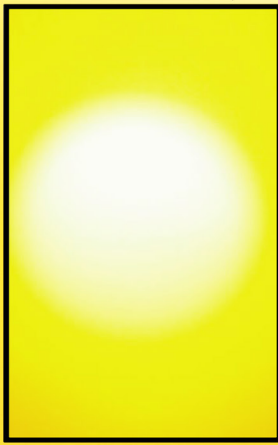
Publisher For Image Comics
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

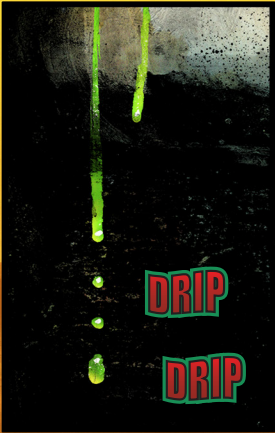


PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

As Al Simmons reveals himself to be Spawn, the news spreads around the world thanks to the internet and social media. Spawn's ultimate plan is to draw out the killer of his wife by revealing himself to the masses and he does just that. Spawn's oldest nemesis, the Violator, materializes to Spawn and tell him he is finally putting an end to the Hellspawn. After a wicked fight between the two, Violator transports them to a sunny desert where he knows Spawn's powers will be drained because there are no shadows for him to hide in. Once the Hellspawn's powers are gone, the Violator, now in Clown form, pierces Spawn's skin and hangs him on a cross to die.



WHAT A WASTE.



DRIP
DRIP

I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY MALEBOLGIA KEPT YOU AROUND SO LONG.
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MY CHOICE.





*Back in issue 100--TODD



BUT HE'S
GONE NOW.
YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW BIG A FAVOR
YOU DID FOR SOME
OF US WHEN YOU
DECAPITATED
HIM.*

DUDE WAS NEVER
THE SAME AFTER THAT,
AND WITH YOU TAKING OUT
SATAN TOO, THAT'S LEFT A
PRETTY BIG GAP TO BE FILLED.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, THOSE
WHO FILLED THE GAP, DON'T
HAVE ANY FURTHER USE
FOR YOU. THAT'S WHY
THEY SENT ME.

DIDN'T
INTEND ON MUTILATING
MYSELF... BUT WHAT'RE
YA GONNA TO DO? IT'S
MY BAD. IF I'M GOING
TO "NAIL SOMEONE TO
A CROSS," NEXT TIME
I SHOULD BRING
SOME NAILS.

THOUGH,
MY CLAWED
FINGERS SEEM
TO BE DOING THE
JOB. HOW DO
THEY FEEL,
ANYWAY?

FORGET IT.

YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER. I SEE BY THE JOY ON YOUR FACE, IT'S NOT EXACTLY YOUR FAVORITE THING.



THAT'S ALRIGHT. YOU'VE CAUSED ME PLENTY OF PAIN IN THE PAST, SO I GUESS WE'RE KINDA EVEN.

DO YOU KNOW WHY I BROUGHT YOU OUT HERE?



C'MON! OF COURSE, YOU DO. YOU'RE SO OBSESSED WITH GETTING ANSWERS TO WHO KILLED YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE WIFE, WHY WOULDN'T YOU WANT MORE DETAILS?

I DON'T CARE.



UNLESS YOU'RE JUST PLAYING, AND THIS IS ALL JUST A GAME. SO, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.



LICK



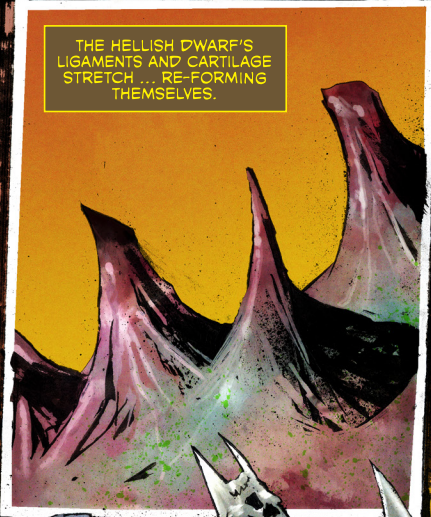
HEY? YOU WANT TO SEE A TRICK? I DON'T THINK I'VE SHOWN YOU THIS ONE BEFORE.



CRACK

CRICK





THE HELLISH DWARF'S LIGAMENTS AND CARTILAGE STRETCH... RE-FORMING THEMSELVES.

SEE!

DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR? DO I REMIND YOU OF ANYONE?!



I HELPED CREATE THE FIRST 'SPAWN'. EVERYTHING YOUR SYMBIOTE DOES, I HAD A HAND IN DESIGNING. WHY DO YOU THINK HELL SENT ME TO TEST *EVERY* SPAWN THAT'S EXISTED?

BECAUSE THEY KNEW IF ANY OF THEM COULD DEFEAT ME, THAT SPAWN WOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER THEIR THRONE. BUT THEY HAVEN'T. NOT ONE SPAWN HAS EVER COME CLOSE TO PROVING THEIR WORTH.

AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE THE FIRST. SHIT, YOU'RE NOT EVEN IN THE *TOP FIVE!*





YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOU'RE STUPID. DID YOU REALLY THINK EXPOSING YOUR IDENTITY WAS GOING TO PROTECT YOU SOMEHOW?



NOPE. IN FACT, IT'S HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.

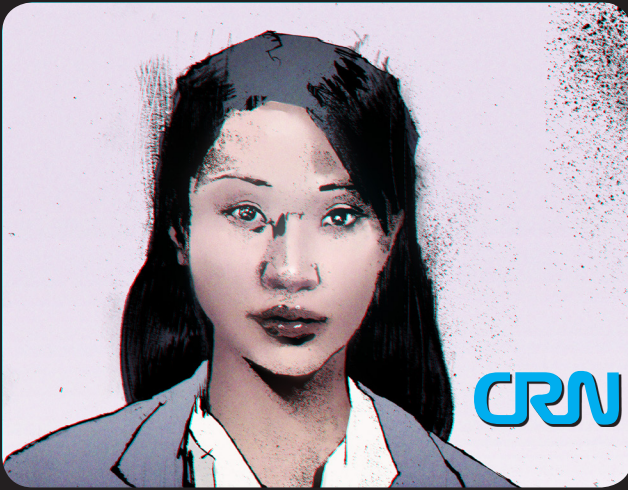


THEY JUST WANTED ME TO CAPTURE YOU, BUT WHEN YOU DID THAT, YOU CROSSED A LINE. AND NOW-- THEY CAN'T LET YOU LIVE.

IMAGINE! THEY'RE WALKING AWAY FROM GETTING TO TORTURE YOU. THAT'S HOW PISSED OFF THEY ARE.



THEY JUST WANT YOU GONE.



"Our investigations into the mysterious return of Lt. Col. Albert Francis Simmons provides more questions than answers, as well as new, yet limited, insights into a fallen hero's tragic family history. While officials at the Pentagon, and other governmental and military agencies have been unable or unwilling to provide details pertaining to Lt. Col. Simmons' military records, independent research has also come up short.

One unnamed source claims all Pentagon records connected to Simmons's career have gone 'missing'. Our source was very careful with his choice of words. He said, *"All records were missing"*. Not misplaced. Not misfiled. Everything they officially tracked and recorded related to Al Simmons' military service file are gone.

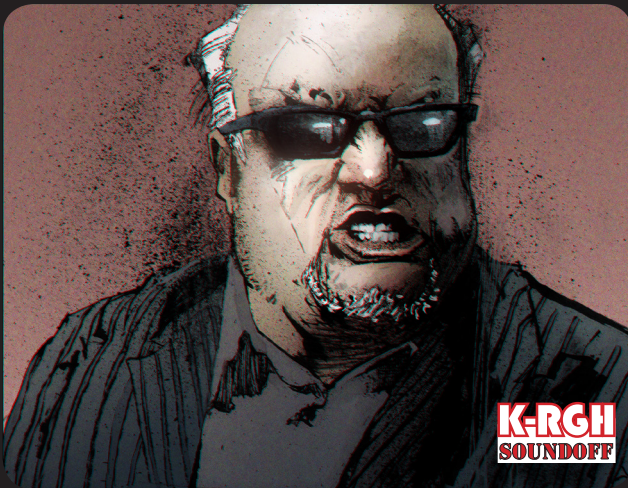
And now, all attempts to glean details from any military relationships have also proven fruitless. As for Simmons' own family, it appears they are no strangers to unexplained deaths either.

More tonight at Eleven.



More troubling news coming out of the story everyone is talking about: Al Simmons, the dead-but-not-dead hero who saved President Mitchell from assassination, isn't the only one connected to this story whose life and death has been marked by unknown tragedy. Multiple outlets have attempted contact those closest to Simmons only to find that his ex-wife, Wanda Fitzgerald, recently died under mysterious circumstances. Her widower husband, Terrence Fitzgerald, isn't speaking to the media, and his daughter, Cyan Fitzgerald is, get this... Nowhere to be found. She is missing. Yet no report has officially been filed on her behalf and no one has made contact with her since our investigation into the Simmons' matter began.

But wait, there's more... Al Simmons has two brothers, Marc and Richard. Marc works for the FBI, and you guessed it, he has not been seen or heard from either. It's possible he's on-assignment. But no one will confirm that. As for Richard... I'm sorry to report, like the ex-wife, Al Simmons' younger brother also passed away under unexplained circumstances. We'll continue exploring these matters. For now, the mysteries of Lt. Col. Al Simmons' return only get deeper the more we dig. Who knows what we will or won't find next.



Let's be clear: What they want us to believe is... American-hero, Albert Francis Simmons, a Lieutenant Colonel in our honored, unassailable armed forces and ex-member of former-President Mitchell's Secret Service detail -- a man who **SERVED** this country, took a bullet to **SAVE** a President's life, and **DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY** - is now alive and well!

That's what **they're selling!** That's who they think **WE** are. That's who they think **YOU** are! The ignorant, easily-misled American public.

A man shows up in a ridiculous costume and sullies the name and legacy of a fallen hero and they expect us to fall in line and buy what they're selling. Fine! I'll bite. But someone please tell me...

If Albert Francis Simmons is still breathing, then who is buried, **WITH HONORS**, in his grave at the national cemetery? **Oh, wait!** That's right... Everyone closest to the man is either dead, missing or not talking. And any files on his service are conveniently missing. Cute story **LAME STREAM** media, but I know the truth. My viewers know the truth. This man is an impostor and any one saying otherwise is full of *BEEP*.

REACTIONS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE CONTINUE TO STREAM IN, AS SOME POTENTIAL WHISTLE-BLOWERS ARE RUMORED TO BE COMING FORWARD. BUT THE ONLY STORY ANYONE IS CONCERNED WITH, IS WHERE HAS SIMMONS DISAPPEARED TO? A RECENT POLL FOUND THAT GETTING TO THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS IDENTITY, IS A MAJOR CONCERN FOR 94% OF PEOPLE.

SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES HAVE BEGUN IN-FIGHTING, AS LEADERS FROM BOTH BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT ARE INSISTING ON GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF WHY LT. COLONEL SIMMONS' INFORMATION IS BEING WITHHELD FROM THE PUBLIC.

OUR REPORTERS ARE BEING TOLD BY COUNTLESS PEOPLE INTERVIEWED ON THE STREET, THAT THEY ARE SCARED OF WHAT THIS COULD ALL MEAN. IS HE A THREAT? A TERRORIST? NO ONE KNOWS AND THAT'S WHAT IS DRIVING THE APPALLING BEHAVIOR FROM MOST ELECTED OFFICIALS NATIONWIDE.

TAP

MR. ROSEN?





I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.

AND YOU ARE?

JUST SOMEONE TRYING TO HELP.

WITH WHAT? AND HOW'D YOU GET UP HERE? SECURITY IS SUPPOSED TO ESCORT EVERYONE.

I JUST DID.

WELL, I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW, IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE FRONT DESK, I'M SURE THEY'LL...



NO THEY WON'T.

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING TIME WITH AL SIMMONS?

EXCUSE ME?

SAVE YOUR ACT. I ASSURE YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT. YOU HAVE ENEMIES THAT WANT TO FIND YOU BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN WITH SIMMONS— OR MAYBE YOU JUST CALL HIM SPAWN— EITHER WAY THEY'RE GOING TO COME FOR YOU.



THE NAME'S COGLIOSTRO BY THE WAY.

I THINK AL MENTIONED YOU.

I'M SURE HE HAS.



ROSEN! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!



WHY'RE YOU STANDING AROUND? YOU SEE WHAT'S ON TV? I NEED EVERY PERSON I CAN ON THIS JOB. YOU WERE ASKING SOME BIG QUESTIONS BEFORE ALL THIS BROKE. I NEED YOU TO FOCUS ON **THIS** STORY. NOTHING ELSE! BECAUSE THE ANSWERS COMING OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE ARE ALL BULLSHIT!

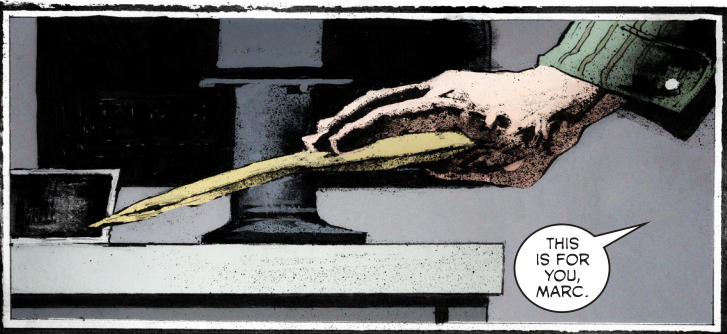


I'M SORRY...

I'M SURE WHATEVER STORY YOU HAVE IS IMPORTANT, SIR, BUT MARC NEEDS TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS STORY FIRST.

HE'LL CALL YOU WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN.

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND. I JUST CAME BY TO DROP SOMETHING OFF.



THIS IS FOR YOU, MARC.



MARC WAITS FOR HIS BOSS TO DISAPPEAR, THEN TURNS TO THE ENVELOPE.

WHERE HE QUICKLY REALIZES...



HOLY SHIT.

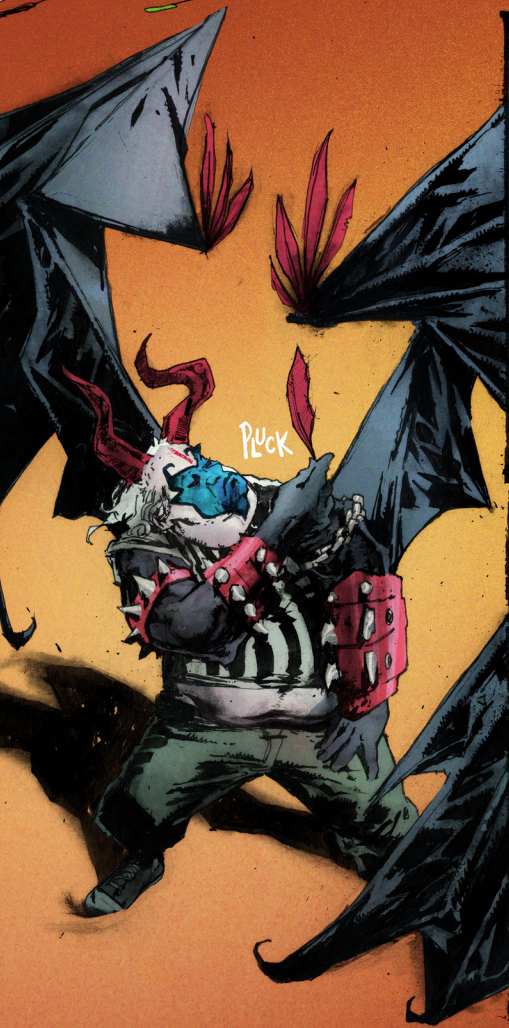


...HE'S HOLDING THE MISSING MILITARY FILES OF LT. COLONEL AL SIMMONS.





WANT TO SEE ANOTHER TRICK?



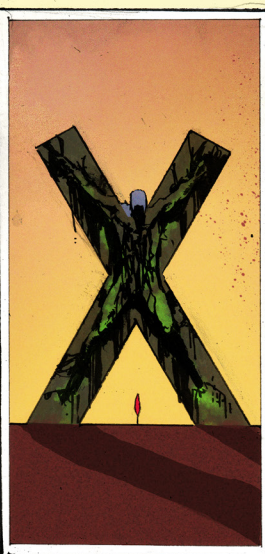
Puck



YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THIS ONE.



HIS WINGS RETRACT.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

TURN YOUR BACKS ON THEM. JOIN MY SIDE. THERE'S STILL TIME.



AS QUICK AS THE SERPENTS ARE, SPAWN IS QUICKER.



NOW... IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU MY TRICKS.

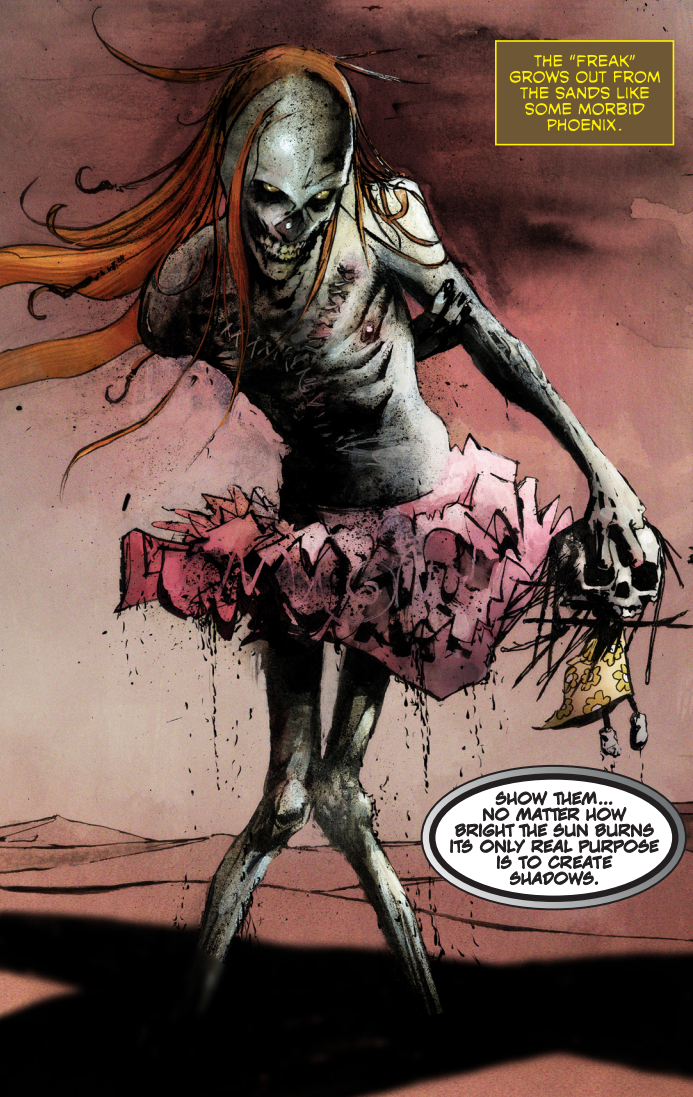


RISE!

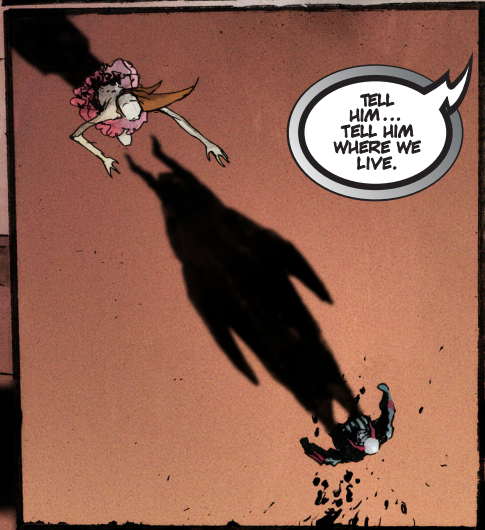


RISE, MY PETS. SHOW THEM WHO WE ARE!

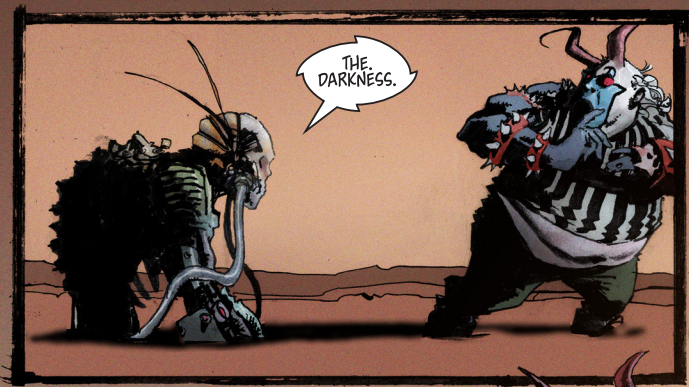
THE "FREAK" GROWS OUT FROM THE SANDS LIKE SOME MORBID PHOENIX.



SHOW THEM... NO MATTER HOW BRIGHT THE SUN BURNS ITS ONLY REAL PURPOSE IS TO CREATE SHADOWS.



TELL HIM... TELL HIM WHERE WE LIVE.



THE DARKNESS.

ANOTHER SPAWN PET EMERGES.

WE ALL LIVE IN THE DARKNESS.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A THIRD PET BEGINS TO APPEAR.

I'M HAPPENING. HELL... MADE A MISTAKE! YOU'VE ALL MADE A MISTAKE!





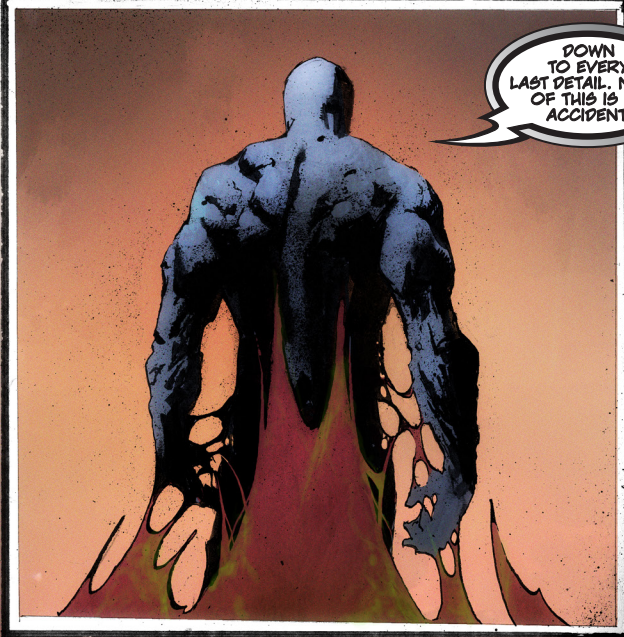
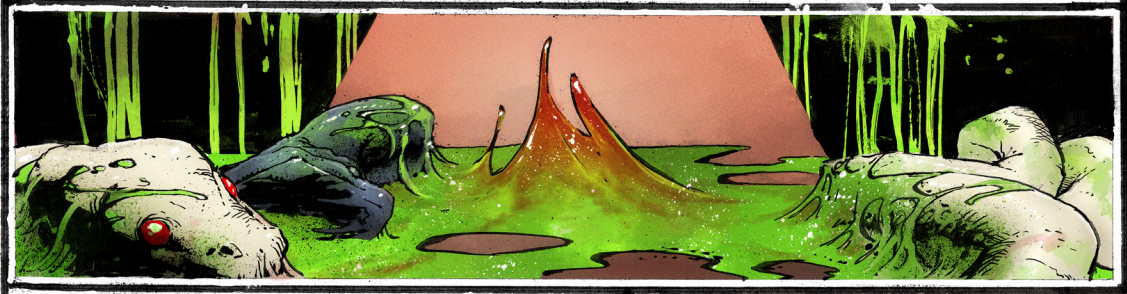
WHEN HELL
KILLED ME, I
DIDN'T DIE. I
BECAME "UNDEAD."
UNTIL RECENTLY I
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
THAT MEANT.



NOW
I DO.

LIKE HEAVEN
AND HELL, I CAN
RESURRECT THINGS
BESIDES MYSELF.
AND WHAT I
RESURRECT, I
CONTROL.

I'VE BEEN
CONTROLLING
EVERYTHING
THE LAST TWO
WEEKS.



DOWN
TO EVERY
LAST DETAIL. NONE
OF THIS IS BY
ACCIDENT.



AND THE
WAR I'M ABOUT
TO UNLEASH...



TRIP



SNAP



NONE OF YOU CAN STOP IT.



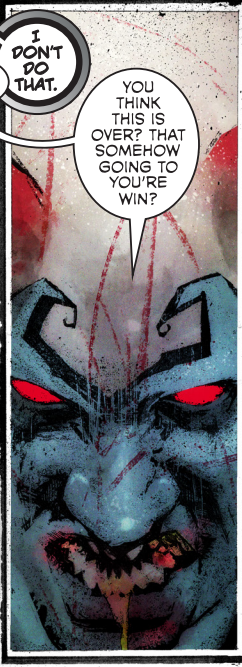
YOU'RE GOING TO STAB ME?



NO, THAT WON'T KILL YOU, BUT I KNOW WHAT WILL.

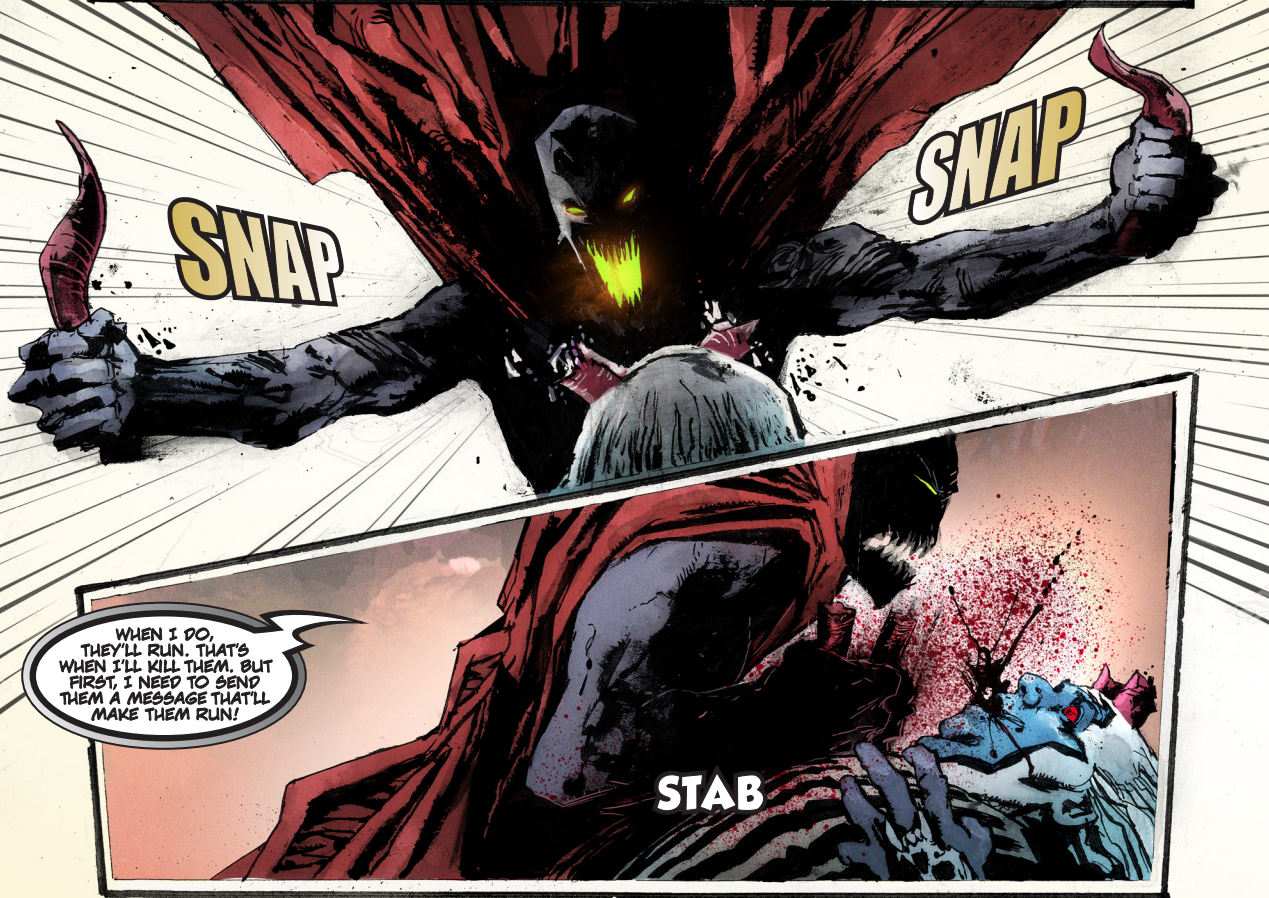
NOW... WHO'S YOUR NEW LEADER?

YOU'RE KIDDING!



I DON'T DO THAT.

YOU THINK THIS IS OVER? THAT SOMEHOW GOING TO YOU'RE WIN?

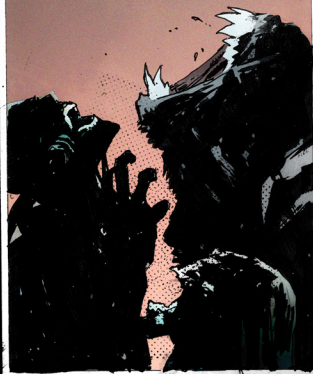




PWAKK

CY-GOR. THE FREAK. OVERT-KILL. HOWL AT THE SUN LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES. HOUR UPON HOUR THEY SCREAM, UNTIL BRIGHT SKIES FADE AWAY, AS TIME DELIVERS THE ONLY GIFT THAT MATTERS TO THESE CREATURES... **DARKNESS**. TIME HAS ONCE MORE BROUGHT THEM THEIR BELOVED BLANKET OF DARKNESS.

SHUCK



SOON THEY WILL ALL VANISH ... MELT DOWN INTO SOME COLD, PITCH BLACK SHADOW. AND AS THE NIGHT WINDS WAIL AT THE SIGHT OF THIS GROUP BEING SWALLOWED INTO THE GROUND, THEIR 'MASTER' GIVES THEM ONE LAST COMMAND...

WAR IS COMING. IT'S TIME FOR US TO GET PREPARED.

SOMEWHERE IN A HIDDEN CORNER OF EARTH...

BROTHERS, DID YOU SEE HIS RESURRECTIONS? HOW EFFORTLESS IT WAS? HOW EFFORTLESS IT WAS? THIS SPAWN IS ON THE BRINK TO UNLOCKING HIS 'TRUE' POWERS.

GET THE WORD OUT--I NEED EVERY AVAILABLE WARRIOR ON STANDBY.



NEXT: THE HISTORY OF SPAWN AND AL SIMMONS.

SPAWNING GROUND

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twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane
facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane

How about that!?

Can't go wrong when you end an issue with a demonic bastard's head on a pike!

Top that off with the Redeemer keeping tabs on Spawn and his new crew of undead rogues and things are heating up as we continue to pick up speed heading into SPAWN 300 (and 301!).

But... Before Spawn can face-off with his long-time Heavenly adversary in issue #298, the Redeemer is going to cast his judgment upon Al in a special TWO-PART story that explores Al's many trial, tribulations, lives and deaths from SPAWN #1 til NOW!!!!

With Jason Shawn Alexander providing epic, widescreen visuals and Todd weaving a tale that re-examines Al's legacy while setting the stage for the battles and mysteries and tragedies to come, issues #296 and #297 will challenge current SPAWN readers and introduce new fans to a hero's journey to Hell and back.

Don't want to give away any of the visual treats coming your way next issue, but here's a look at Todd's cover to SPAWN #298, a tribute to his first Amazing Spider-Man cover, fittingly enough done for an issue with a familiar number (hint: it was also #298)...

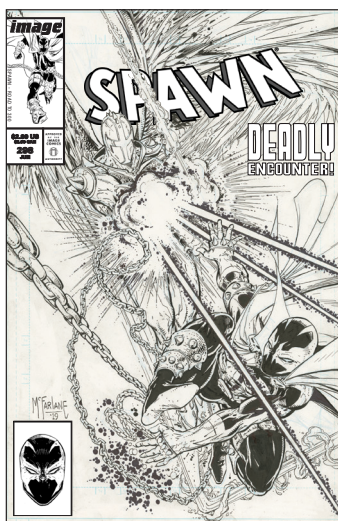


NEXT ISSUE

History of Spawn Part II



Spawn 298 main cover



Spawn 298 black & white variant

'Til next month. Give 'em Hell!

-Jon

SPAWN®

KILLS

EVERYONE!



TODD McFARLANE

J.J. KIRBY

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IN STORES
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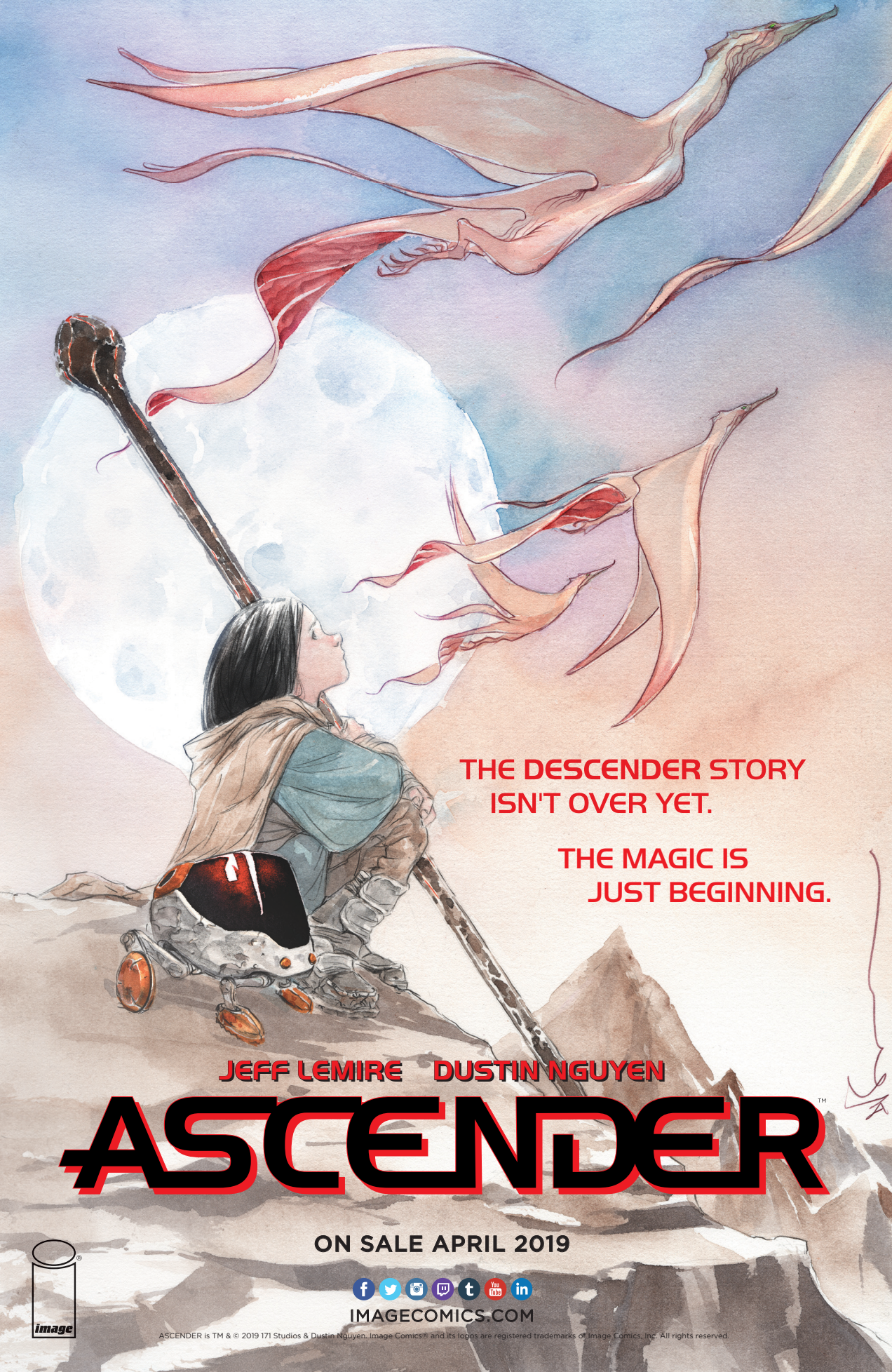
ARYA
STARK

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McFARLANE TOYS



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THE DESCENDER STORY
ISN'T OVER YET.

THE MAGIC IS
JUST BEGINNING.

JEFF LEMIRE DUSTIN NGUYEN

ASCENDER™

ON SALE APRIL 2019



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MAGIC ORDER



“Excellent world-building, gorgeous art, and breakneck pacing.”

MONKEYS
FIGHTING
ROBOTS

“I’m gonna give it to you straight. This is a comic you’ll definitely want to read, no matter what genre you’re into.”

IMPULSE
GAMER

“The writing is ripe with tantalizing new ideas and concepts. The art is dark and wondrous.”

BLACK NERD
PROBLEMS

**ON
SALE
APRIL
17th**

NETFLIX



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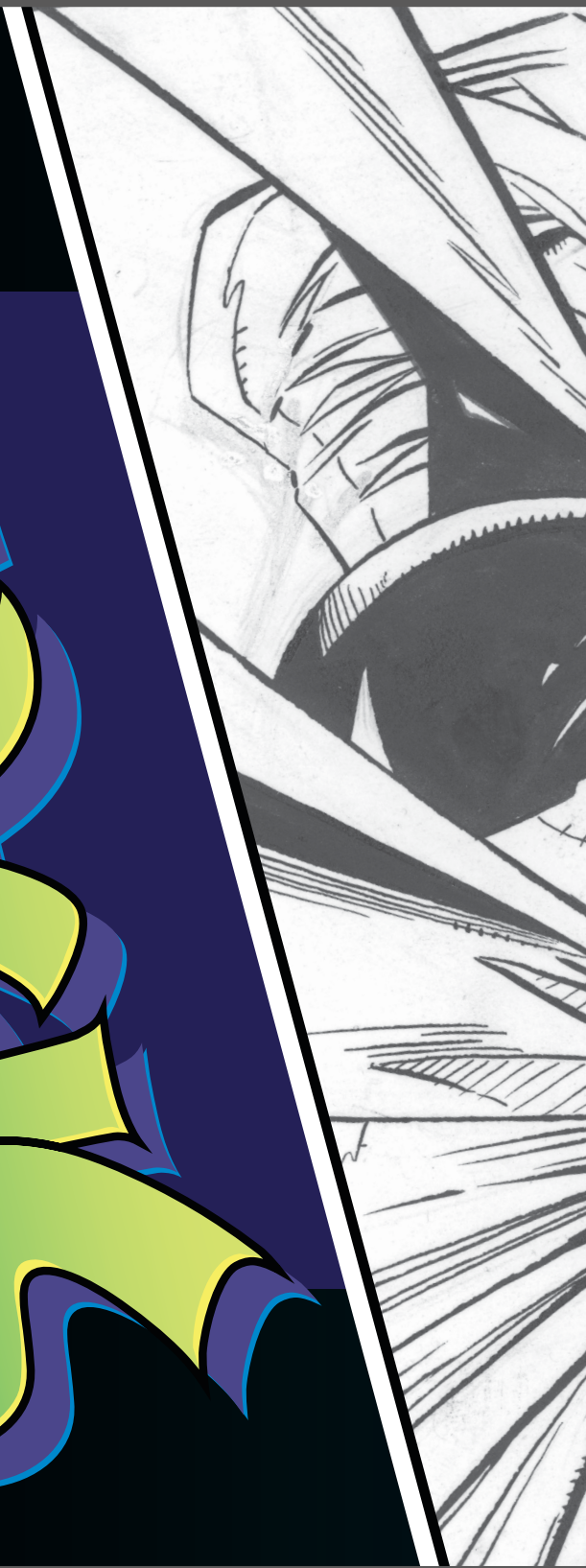
MARK MILLAR OLIVIER COIPEL

BOOK ONE



SPIN®

TODD
McFARLANE





OVERSIZED VAULT EDITION II

JULY 2019



Todd McFarlane has opened his personal vault ONCE AGAIN and is collecting issues 8-15 of SPAWN in their original artboard form.

COLLECTING SPAWN 1-6



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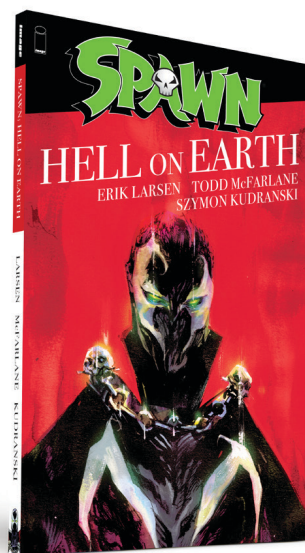


DEMON'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

Killed by his own men, Government Agent Al Simmons struck a deal with the devil, resurrecting him from the depths of hell. Returning to Earth he guards the forgotten alleys of New York City as the warrior Spawn, a hero unlike any other. Seeking answers about his past, Spawn grapples with the dark forces that returned him to earth, battling enemies and discovering unlikely allies.

Even though the doors of Heaven and Hell are now locked, there's enough evil on Earth to keep Spawn busy. But without his full powers, Spawn will have to find a way to fight his enemies without getting himself killed again in *Spawn: Hell on Earth*. Featuring the kinetic art and imaginative story-telling of Image Comics founders Todd McFarlane (*Spawn*, *Spider-Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*) and Erik Larsen (*Savage Dragon*, *Spider-Man*), as well as veteran *Spawn* artist Szymon Kudranski, this is one collection you don't want to miss!

The *Spawn: Hell on Earth* trade paperback collects 12 issues – a whole year's worth – of this fan-favorite story into one thick volume. All at a hard to beat price.



SPAWN: HELL ON EARTH
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SPAWN®

TODD MCFARLANE •

JASON SHAWN ALEXANDER

DARK HORROR

COLLECTING THE SOLD OUT SPAWN 276-283

APRIL 2019

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