



# SPECIAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION DIRECTOR'S CUT

ISSUE 1 COMMENTARY BY SPAWN CREATOR TODD MCFARLANE



## SPAWN #1 COVER (OPPOSITE AND PREVIOUS PAGE)

I was looking for a cover design that was simple. Because, to me, the books that stand out the most are the ones with a simple cover.

I wanted a logo that was easily recognizable, so I sat with Tom Orzechowski, who's been lettering the book since inception (and still is), and gave him an updated design of the original Spawn logo I created when I was 16 years old. I knew I wanted to keep the skull in the middle of the 'A', and that's still the same logo you see, today, on the cover of *Spawn*. As an artist, you should establish your logo and brand before you get too artistic with it.

When we started Image, we needed a company logo. The Image 'I' came from an idea Rob Liefeld thought of. For my comic book *Spawn*, I wanted to put some artwork in the Image 'I'. It was something I'd done at Marvel with *Spider-Man*, and wanted to continue with my own book. I decided on a headshot of Spawn sitting in the image 'I' because I wanted to give the book a different feel than what I had done on previous titles.

I wanted the cover to look different from the Marvel or DC comics covers I had done in the past. I gave the color work to Ken Steacy, who I'd met while I was living up on Vancouver Island. He put his magic touch on it, which made it look very different than anything that was on comic book shelves at the time.

## INSIDE FRONT COVER (LEFT)

**image** COMICS PRESENTS:

### "QUESTIONS" PART 1

story, pencils & inks  
**TODD MCFARLANE**

letters  
**TOM ORZECZOWSKI**

color  
**STEVE OLIFF**

editor  
**WANDA KOLOMYJEC**

special thanks to:  
**LANCE GUECK**



Dedicated to:  
**JACK KIRBY**

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Cover painting by Ken Steacy over Todd McFarlane art.



It was important to me to dedicate my first issue to Jack Kirby, because I considered him the KING of all comic artists (and still do!). I thought that since we were starting something new, I'd tip my hat to the guy who I thought had the biggest career out of all of us.

Round Spawn symbol: There are two versions of the logo right above the dedication box. On one version, the logo had a smudge on it and the other version, the logo is perfectly fine. People have asked me which version is more rare, but it was a pretty even split. But for those of you who are completest out there, there are actually 'two versions' of the first issue.

Credits: The editor was Wanda, my lovely wife. She helped me because she's way smarter and better at the English language than I am.

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SERVICES WERE HELD TODAY FOR LT. COLONEL AL SIMMONS AT ARLINGTON CEMETARY IN VIRGINIA. SIMMONS IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS COURAGEOUS INVOLVEMENT IN SAVING THE PRESIDENT FROM AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

SIMMONS ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE MARINE CORPS FOLLOWING HIS SERVICE OVERSEAS. HIS MEMORY WAS HONORED BY BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF OFFICERS FROM ALL THE ARMED SERVICES.

HIS WIFE, WANDA BLAKE, REMAINED QUIET FOR THE DURATION OF THE FUNERAL, BUT SEEMED TO NEED HELP NEAR THE END OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY HAVE ALL BEEN SUPPORTIVE, AND WILL START A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN HIS NAME THAT WILL BENEFIT THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND.



LT. COLONEL SIMMONS, WHO DISAPPEARED FROM PUBLIC VIEW SHORTLY AFTER THE HINCKLEY INCIDENT, WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH NUMEROUS COVERT GOVERNMENT TASK FORCES.

INFORMED SOURCES SAY THAT HIS PRESENCE IN BOTSWANA AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUNGBLOOD AGENTS WAS NO COINCIDENCE.

FRANKLY, THIS STINKS OF A GOVERNMENT COVER-UP. SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

THOUGH I'M SURE LT. COL. SIMMONS WAS A MAN OF COURAGE AND INTEGRITY, IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S BOYS' CLUB ATTITUDE THAT APPALLS ME.

INFORMATION IS GIVEN OUT AT THEIR DISCRETION IN AN ALMOST HOLLYWOOD-TYPE FASHION, AND WE ALL KNOW HOW MOVIE MAKERS NEVER STRETCH THE TRUTH.



AND THE LOVELY WANDA BLAKE WAS ABSOLUTELY DIVINE IN A DISARMINGLY SIMPLE JET BLACK GIOVANNI ORIGINAL. AND SAY, WHO WAS THAT TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME PRINCE ON HER ARM AT THE CEREMONY?

WELL, A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME THAT MARTIN ALEXANDER WAS WANDA'S CLOSEST FRIEND BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL. HE INTRODUCED HER TO AL SIMMONS AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN 1984.

WELL, WHERE THIS POTENTIAL AFFAIR IS LEADING REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WE'LL BE KEEPING AN EYE OUT. AS FOR YOU, MISTER MARTIN ALEXANDER, SHAME, SHAME ON YOU! LET THE POOR WOMAN GRIEVE. BESIDES, SHE'LL HAVE A TOUGH TIME FINDING A REPLACEMENT FOR A HUSBAND VOTED ONE OF "THE TEN SEXIEST MEN" TWO YEARS AGO. EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO HIDE THIS SWEET MORSEL FROM ALL OF US, THIS CHARISMATIC GENTLEMAN COULDN'T BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT.



**PAGE 1** (PREVIOUS SPREAD)

I was introducing a new character and didn't want to spoil any of it. I was trying to see it from the perspective of a new reader seeing the first page of new comic.

People knew me from my career on *Spider-Man*, *Hulk* and *Batman*... but for *Spawn*, I wanted to make sure my introduction was going to be big and powerful.

For the art, I pulled back because I knew *Spawn* was going to be dealing with things like heaven and hell and other big universal topics. So, I started with an outside view of Earth and then started to pull you in closer to the scene.



**PAGE 2** (PREVIOUS SPREAD)

*Spawn* was standing like the sentinel being he is.

You get a first glance at what the 'hero' *Spawn* will look like later on in the issue, but on this page, the four panels of *Spawn* are 90% black. At this point, I wanted *Spawn* to remain a mystery until I could unveil him in a big way.

**PAGE 3** (OPPOSITE PAGE)

A mechanism I still use today, is the 'reporter page'. Since *Spawn*/*Al Simmons* was going to be a character who was a bit of a loner, I didn't want him to do a lot of the talking and exposition, so I created the 'reporter page.'

This page has three types of reporters: The first one was the classic, good looking reporter from a popular news channel. The second is the big, burley reporter. My theory behind him is that he's so bombastic, he keeps getting fired and must find new stations to report for. Throughout the last 25 years of *Spawn*, he's intentionally had about 30 different station logos next to him. He's like a bad version of Rush Limbaugh; a hot maverick combination of these types of guys who do talk radio. The third reporter is the one who gets the news across in an entertaining way like *Entertainment Weekly* or *People Magazine* in contrast to the straight-forward journalism like reporters 1 and 2. I've mixed the order they appear in over the years, but it's still the same three to this day.

9:9:9:9

YEAH, HE GAVE ME POWER, BUT HE ROBBED ME OF MY MEMORIES.

IF I CAN JUST FIND HER, THEN I'LL KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. BUT... I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO SHE IS.

NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE. A HANDFUL OF IMAGES DARTING IN MY MIND. THAT'S IT?! THAT'S ALL I HAVE OF MY LIFE?!

I FEEL I CAN DO ANYTHING... ANYTHING AT ALL WITH MY POWER. BUT WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER?

SHE'LL KNOW WHO I AM.

