

*"It had whispered to him things about himself which he did not know...and the whisper had proved irresistibly fascinating. It echoed loudly within him because he was hollow at the core."*



*"It was written that I should be loyal to the nightmare of my choice."*

*-Joseph Conrad,  
Heart of Darkness.*



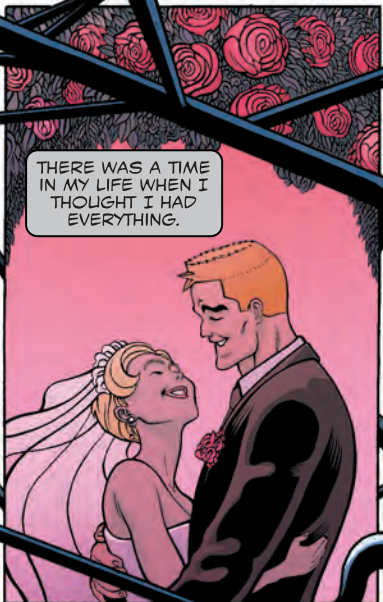
THIS IS A  
LOVE STORY.



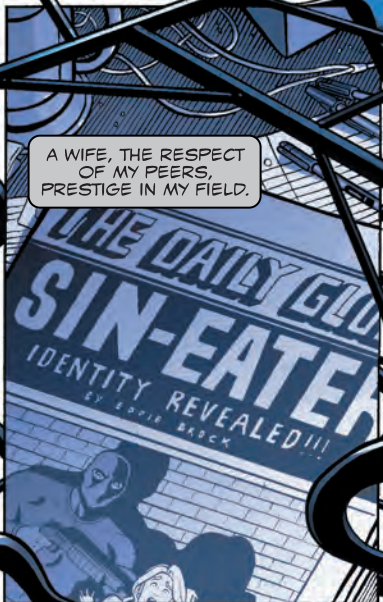


SHHHH.

HE'S SLEEPING.



THERE WAS A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD EVERYTHING.



A WIFE, THE RESPECT OF MY PEERS, PRESTIGE IN MY FIELD.



I WAS SO WEAK BACK THEN. SO READY TO *BREAK*. I WAS *HOLLOW*.

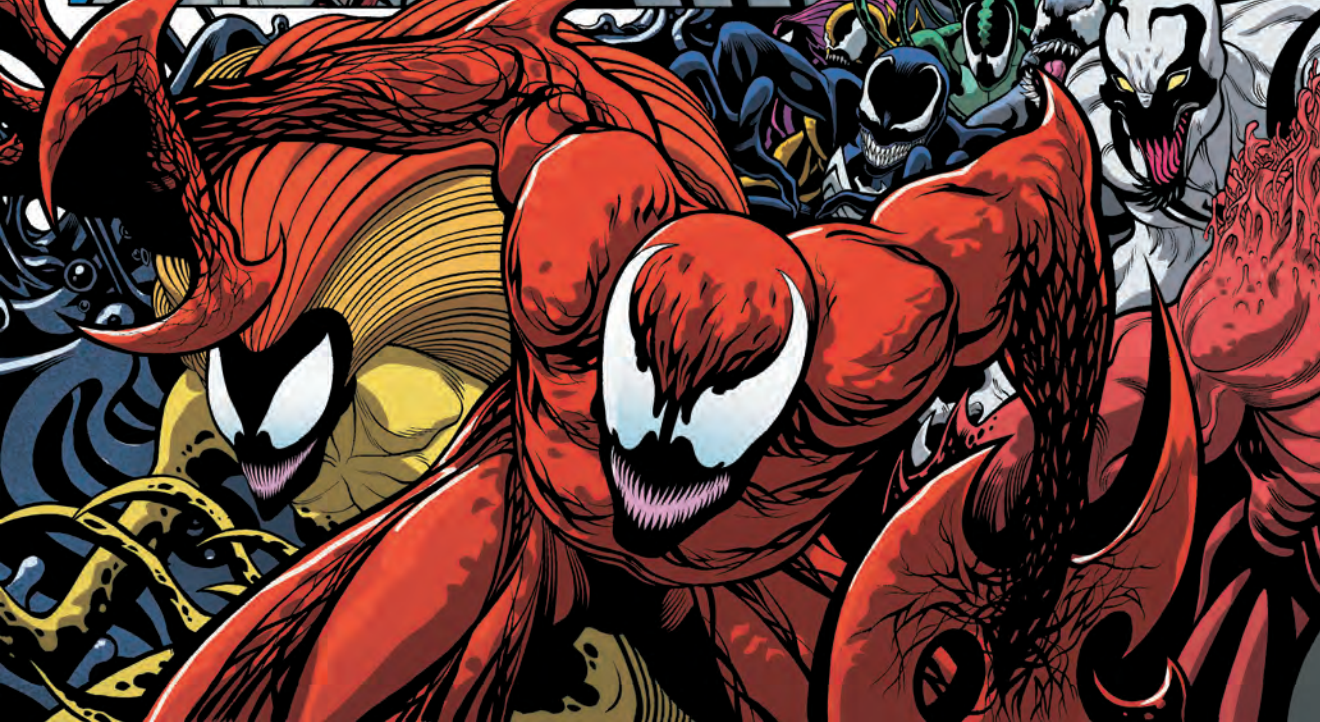
BUT THAT WAS WHEN WE *FOUND* EACH OTHER.



WHEN I BECAME *WHOLE*.



THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE WHO WILL SEEK TO *DESTROY* YOUR HAPPINESS. PEOPLE YOU MUST *FIGHT*.







BUT RESPECT, PRESTIGE, FAME? THOSE THINGS ARE ILLUSORY.

AND THOSE PEOPLE WHO ONLY WANT YOU FOR *THOSE* THINGS DON'T REALLY WANT *YOU* AT ALL.



I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD NEVER BE WEAK AGAIN.

I'LL ADMIT...THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE WERE *SEPARATED* THAT I WANTED TO GIVE UP, I THOUGHT I WOULD *DIE*.



THE THING ABOUT LOVE IS THAT IT'S NOT *GENTLE* OR *SOFT*. NOT AT ALL.

LOVE IS *STRENGTH*, AND FULL OF TERRIBLE *PURPOSE*. LOVE IS POWER, AND IT WILL *NEVER* BE DONE WITH YOU.

IT CONSUMES YOU.





GAH!



EDDDDDIIIEEEE...



GAH!



EDDDDDIIIEEEE...



LET'S GO OUT, EDDIE.  
DRINK THE MOONLIGHT.  
LET'S GO OUT.

OKAY...



OKAY...

CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE AFTER HIS LIFE FELL APART, DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK SOUGHT FORGIVENESS AT THE SAME CHURCH WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS REJECTING A LIVING, ALIEN COSTUME CALLED A SYMBIOTE. SENSING BROCK'S MISERY, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH HIM AND IMBUED HIM WITH POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

FOR A TIME, EDDIE TRIED TO BE A HERO. HOWEVER, HIS VIOLENT METHODS OFTEN PUT HIM AT ODDS WITH HEROES AND VILLAINS ALIKE. EVENTUALLY, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WERE SEPARATED, AND, FOR A TIME, THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

FOR A TIME, THEY WERE HAPPY LIVING SEPARATELY. BUT WHEN FATE OFFERED THEM THE CHANCE TO REUNITE, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE TO RESIST.

TOGETHER OR APART, EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE WILL ALWAYS BE...

# VENOM

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