



SPAWN

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221
JUL.

THOUGH THE WORLD MAY CLAMOR FOR THE HEALING POWER OF JIM DOWNING...

...IT WILL SOON COVER AT THE FEARSOME IMAGE OF SPAWN!

McFERRANE
Penciler



SPAWN

APPROVED
BY THE
IMAGE
COMICS
AUTHORITY

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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Following his defeat of Malebolgia's Earthly vessel, Jim's attention turns toward piecing together the final mysteries of his previous life – a life tied closely to key events and characters from throughout the Spawn universe.

Using half-remembered events as a guide, Jim starts his search for answers at an abandoned facility in Argentina, just as a team of mercenaries attempts to wipe the site of any useful data. Someone wants Jim's past to stay buried.

Later, Jim once again steps in front of the media to make a special announcement – "Rat City" is no more, to be replaced by an all-new, revitalized city district, though Jim's full intent with the site remains to be seen.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



The Program – A clandestine military operation with deep-rooted ties to events from throughout Spawn's 20-year existence. Hidden within the secrets of The Program lies the truth Jim seeks, and the dark heart of a past better left buried.



K7-Leetha – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.



Richard Masullo (Tremor) – Transformed into the hulking monster known as Tremor by the same clandestine government program that Jim Downing once oversaw, Richard is a man on a mission, crossing the country to confront Jim about their shared past – but is he friend or foe?

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IT'S TOO LATE.

THAT'S THE THING YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND. ONCE YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN... IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN BACK.

TOO LATE TO EVER REGAIN THE HUMANITY YOU ONCE HAD.

BECAUSE WHEN GOD CREATED MAN HE GAVE HIM THE CAPACITY OF SIN AND WITH THAT CAME AN OPENING FOR US TO CORRUPT HIS DESIGN FLAW.

GOD MADE THE FATAL MISTAKE OF MAKING HIS NEW CREATIONS 'IMPERFECT.'



SO THEY ALL BECAME
ADDICTED TO IT.

SOON THEY DEVELOPED
A DESIRE FOR THEIR
SINS, AND AS TIME WENT
BY, THOSE DESIRES
TURNED TO A DARK
CRAVING, A LUST,

ONE THAT COULDN'T
BE SATIATED.




THAT'S WHEN
WE CAME--
WHEN WE
POURED
OVER THEM.



DROWNING THEM IN
THEIR OWN DESIRES.



UNTIL EACH AND EVERY ONE
OF THEM TIGHTLY CLUNG TO
THE **ONE THING** GOD MEANT
TO ELIMINATE. THE COLD, DARK
EMBRACE OF... **EVIL!**




AND FOR YOU, JIM
DOWNING, THAT'S
WHERE I COME IN.
THAT PAIN YOU FEEL
INSIDE-- IS ME--
YOUR COSTUME.

I'M THE ADDICTION
COURSING THROUGH
YOUR VEINS.

I'M YOUR EVIL.

AND AS MUCH AS YOU
MIGHT TRY TO BREAK THAT
LINK, THE THING THAT
WILL ALWAYS BE TRUE
FOR YOU HUMANS
IS THAT, WHEN YOU'RE
BEING CONSUMED BY
YOUR ADDICTION...

...YOU'RE THE
LAST ONE TO
KNOW IT!



AS AN ADDICT, YOU WILL NEVER ADMIT THAT THERE'S EVEN A PROBLEM-- OR THAT YOU ARE HARMING YOURSELF AND OTHERS. INSTEAD, YOU'LL DENY THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THAT WHICH IS DESTROYING YOU.

CLINGING FOOLISHLY TO THE 'LINK' YOU MIGHT HOLD WITH HEAVEN. TRYING TO RATIONALIZE THAT WHATEVER IS HAPPENING TO YOU WON'T TOUCH YOUR SOUL.



BUT THAT'S THE MOMENT IT HAPPENS.



THAT'S WHEN I DEVOUR YOU AND YOUR FREE WILL.

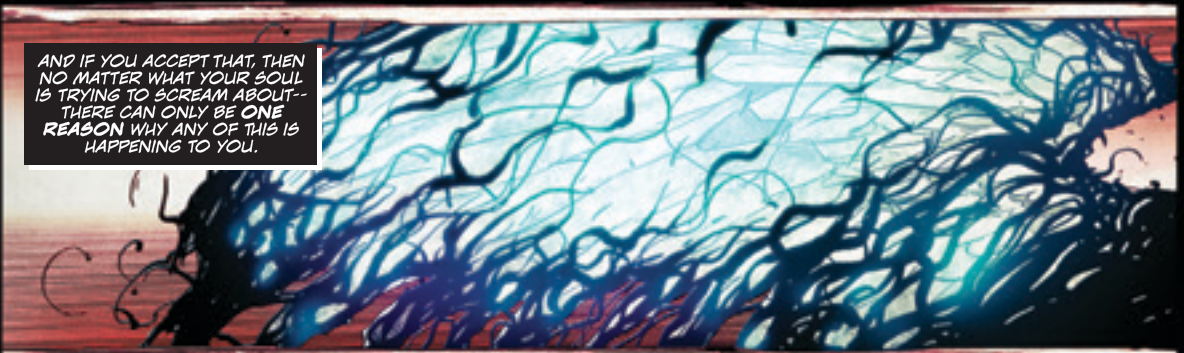


AND THAT'S WHEN WE COMPLETE YOUR TRANSFORMATION.



WHEN IT ALL BECOMES
PERMANENT!

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T
BELIEVE I'M TAKING OVER YOUR
BODY-- OR THAT I EVEN EXIST--
THEN EVERYTHING YOU DO,
EVERY ACTION YOU TAKE
MUST BE YOUR OWN.



AND IF YOU ACCEPT THAT, THEN
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SOUL
IS TRYING TO SCREAM ABOUT--
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE
REASON WHY ANY OF THIS IS
HAPPENING TO YOU.



IT'S BECAUSE YOU LIKE
THE **POWER** I
GIVE YOU!