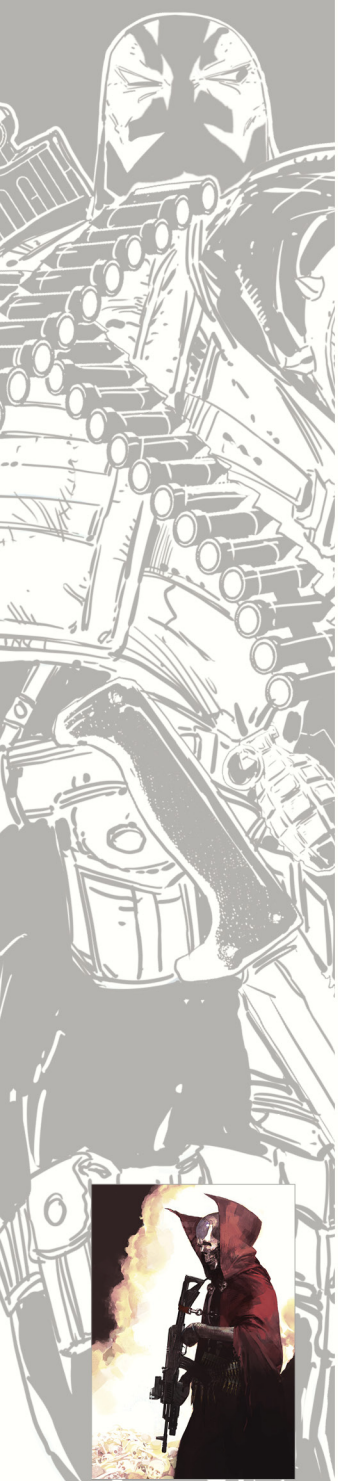
SOUTHPAWS
IT'S LATE. THE GYM IS CLOSED FOR THE NIGHT.
UNLESS YOU'RE BUDDIES WITH OWNER.
LIKE EARL.
THUP
THUP
NICE HOOK OFF YOUR JAB
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU. SO, TURN AROUND AND WALK AWAY.

JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT. I TOLD YOU... I'M OUT. I'M NOT DOING ANY MORE OF YOUR BULLSHIT.*
*See last issue—Todd
I KNOW.
AND BECAUSE OF YOU I'VE GOT NO RIDE. YOU'RE PAYING FOR MY VAN.
I KNOW THAT, TOO.
GOOD.
I NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HELPED PEOPLE LAST NIGHT.
MOST OF THEM YOUNG KIDS. THE KIND NOBODY GIVES A CRAP ABOUT.
IS THAT SO?
IT IS.
I ALSO UNDERSTAND YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED.
SO, HERE'S SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR RIDE. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET AN UPGRADE.

Jesus.
KEEP IT!
PEOPLE WITH THIS KIND OF CASH I DON'T NEED IN MY LIFE.
BUT WHAT IF THEY NEED YOU?
A FEW MINUTES LATER.
GODDAMN! WHY YOU FOLLOWING ME? I DON'T WANT YOUR BUSINESS. DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT. AND THAT NEARLY GOT ME KILLED.
BUT IT DIDN'T. JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE MILITARY... SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA DO NASTY SHIT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE THE GOOD GUYS. YOU KNOW THAT. YOU FOLLOWED ORDERS TOO.
BUT THIS WAR I'M FIGHTING-- I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.
WHAT ARE YOU INTO, AL? CONVINCE ME. GIVE ME SOMETHING THAT SAYS I SHOULDN'T TELL THE COPS EVERYTHING ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

I'M KEEPING A PROMISE. AND FOLLOWING A PLAN. TRYING TO HELP A GIRL OUT AND A MILLION OTHERS LIKE HER THAT GET TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF EVERY DAY AROUND THIS PLANET.
THERE'S EVIL SHIT OUT THERE. TONS OF IT! AND I CAN DO SOMETHING TO STOP IT. BUT NOT SOLO.
SO, WHAT AM I DOING? I'M TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN THAT TOO.
GUESS I HAD YOU WRONG.

HERE.
KEEP THE MONEY. IT'S ALL CLEAN.
OR GIVE IT AWAY. I DON'T CARE. DO WHAT YOU WANT.
THANKS FOR THE HELP LAST NIGHT.
EARL'S A GOOD MAN. BUT EVEN GOOD MEN NEED TO EAT.
AND SMART MEN: HARD-CORE, BATTLE SCARRED VETS LIKE EARL, THEY TRY GATHERING INTELLIGENCE BEFORE MAKING THEIR NEXT MOVE.



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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Spawn goes on a killing spree looking for the people who are responsible for Cyan's drug addiction. But he realizes he cannot fight alone and enlists the help of his 'friend' Earl. Al tells Earl the job he wants him to do pays well and because Earl needs money to take care of his ill mother, he takes it. After Earl takes his van to pick up a mysterious package for Al, he meets him at a large warehouse where one of the big drug lords resides. Spawn tells Earl to run as fast as he can away from the van and Spawn detonates explosives which not only blow up the van, but most of the contents of the warehouse as well. Meanwhile, Terry goes to visit Cyan who's still in a treatment center. She tells Terry to tell Al that she has the answer to the question he had asked her. Later, Terry gets a call from his boss who tells him the 'body count' of drug dealers is skyrocketing and is approached by a man in black suit who takes him into police custody.

image
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