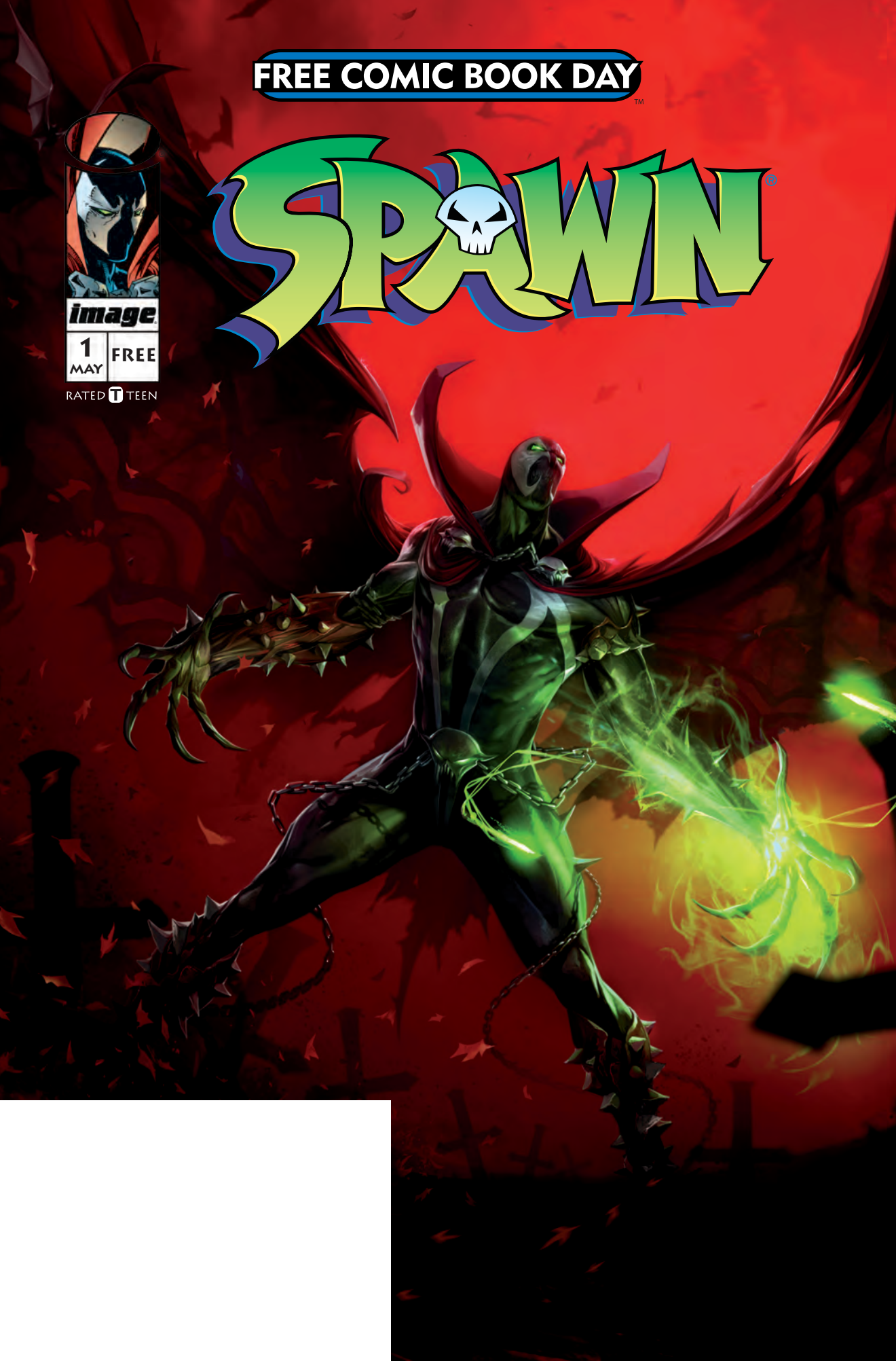

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
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MAY
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RATED T TEEN

I DON'T BELONG.

NOT HERE. NOT NOW.

I HAVE TO GET BACK THERE.

THE BET WAS RIGGED, HE MADE ME BELIEVE.

NOW THERE'S DARKNESS IN MY SOUL.

I WANT TO DIE...

...AGAIN.

BUT I CHOSE TO COME BACK.

WHY?

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.



1987



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.

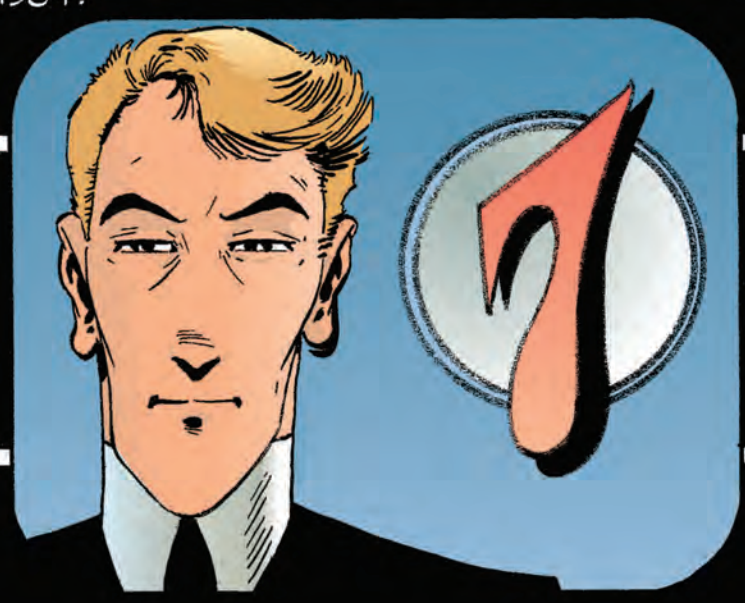


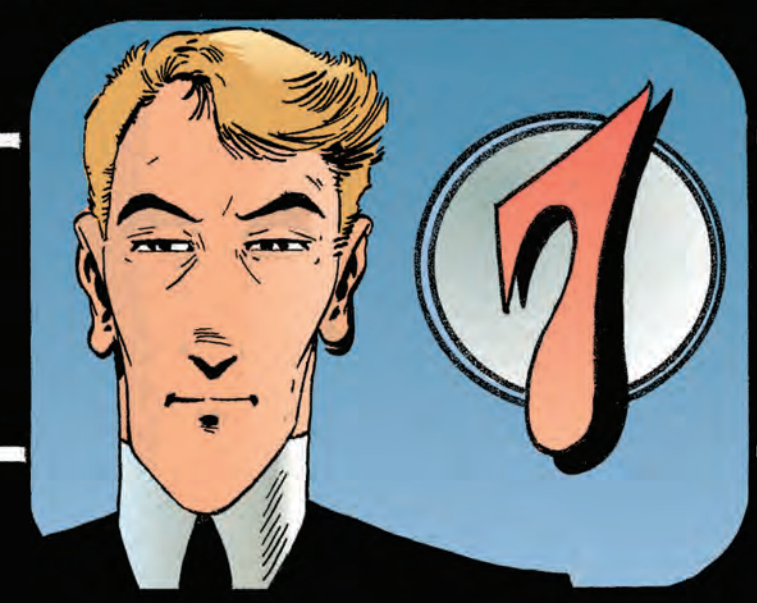


AND THE LOVELY WANDA BLAKE WAS ABSO***LUTE***LY ***DIVINE*** IN A DISARMINGLY SIMPLE JET BLACK GIOVANNI ORIGINAL. AND ***SAY,*** WHO WAS THAT TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME ***PRINCE*** ON HER ARM AT THE CEREMONY?

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, MIS***TER 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.





I REMEMBER THERE WAS SOMEONE.

SOMEONE TO LOVE.

SOMEONE TO HATE.

AND I WAS SOMETHING.

SOMETHING SPECIAL.

AND PROUD OF IT. FOR A TIME.

THEN THEY TURNED ON ME.

HE TURNED ON ME.

I REMEMBER...

...DYING.

AND HER. OH, GOD, SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

I NEEDED.

HE GAVE.

I HAD TO.

ALL I COULD THINK OF

WAS HER.

SO I PROMISED,

AND HE ACCEPTED.

ALL BECAUSE OF HER.

DAMN HIS LIES.

HE ACCEPTED THE DEAL... ON **HIS** TERMS. HIS RULES. HIS WAY.

AND SOMEWHERE IN TIME HE BUST A GUT LAUGHING.

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