

MARVEL

25

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CONTENT

see inside for details

BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

BEN REILLY
DIED
A
HERO

BORN 19
DIED 20

*David
Oliveira
2012*

RATED T+
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Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of Spider-Man. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world as...



BEN REILLY: **THE SCARLET SPIDER**

In an effort to heal his damaged soul and avoid eternal damnation, Ben has been working to cure ABIGAIL MERCURY, daughter of casino magnate CASSANDRA MERCURY, of a rare disease.

However, Ben's plan to deliver the cure went horribly wrong when Mephisto, unwilling to give up Ben's soul, altered everyone's memories to believe that Ben selfishly withheld the cure and let Abigail die.

Cassandra, in her grief and rage, and Kaine (another clone of Peter Parker who bears the moniker Scarlet Spider) hunted Ben down and shot him to avenge Abigail's death.

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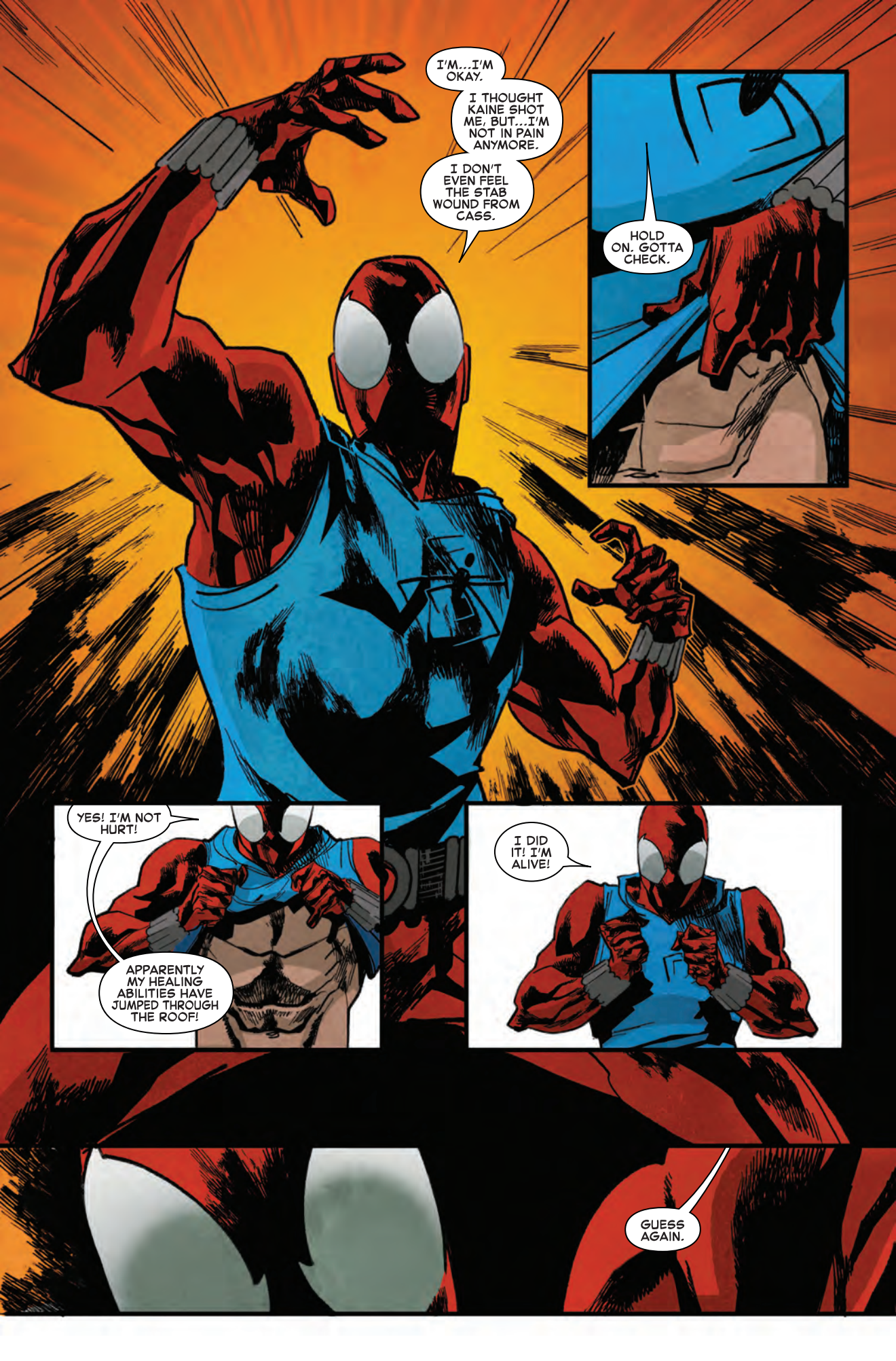
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I'M...I'M OKAY.

I THOUGHT KAINE SHOT ME, BUT...I'M NOT IN PAIN ANYMORE.

I DON'T EVEN FEEL THE STAB WOUND FROM CASS.



HOLD ON. GOTTA CHECK.



YES! I'M NOT HURT!

APPARENTLY MY HEALING ABILITIES HAVE JUMPED THROUGH THE ROOF!



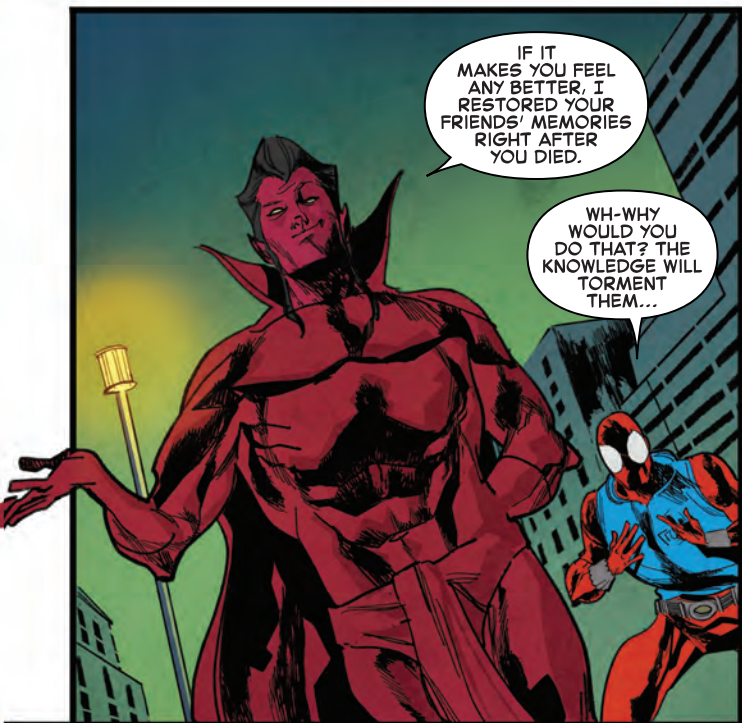
I DID IT! I'M ALIVE!

GUESS AGAIN.



AW,
CRAP.

THE
LAST
DANCE



IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I RESTORED YOUR FRIENDS' MEMORIES RIGHT AFTER YOU DIED.

WH-WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT? THE KNOWLEDGE WILL TORTURE THEM...



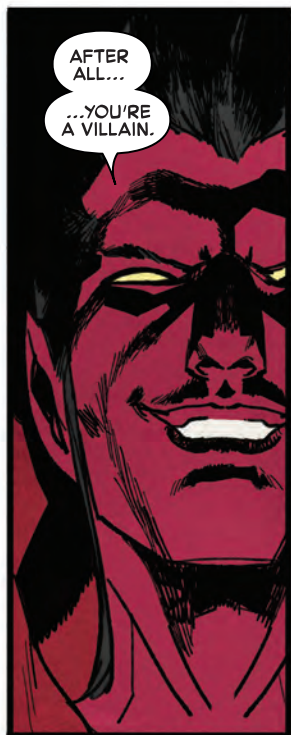
RIGHT. OF COURSE. YOU'RE THE LITERAL DEVIL.



COME, BEN. IT'S TIME.

SO... I'M GOING TO HELL?

WELL, NATURALLY.



AFTER ALL...
...YOU'RE A VILLAIN.



NO! I'M NOT!

I DIED SAVING SOMEBODY'S LIFE! THAT SHOULD COUNT FOR SOMETHING!



AND JEFFREY DAHMER ONCE PULLED A DRUNK OUT OF THE WAY OF AN ONCOMING CAR.

HE STILL HOWLS BELOW.



COME NOW, BEN. IT'S ME. YOU CAN BE HONEST.

WHATEVER YOUR INTENTIONS, WHATEVER YOUR PROTESTS AND PERSONAL CRIES OF SELF-WORTH...



...YOU KNOW YOU'RE A VILLAIN. MORE...

...YOU ENJOY IT.



No!



YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

♫SIGH♫ YOU WANT TO FIGHT? FINE.



SATISFIED?

KRAK!



LET'S HURRY IT UP. RAIN IS MOVING--- WHOAAAA...

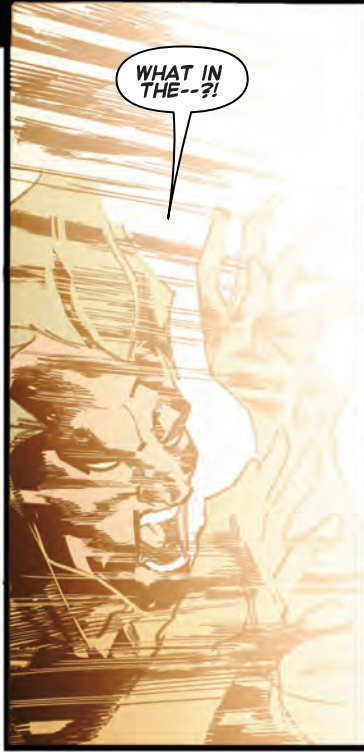
WHAT?

YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING ABOUT SOMEONE STEPPING ON YOUR GRAVE?



I'VE BEEN PATIENT WITH YOU, BEN. I COULD JUST DRAG YOU TO HELL, BUT I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE DIGNITY OF GOING ON YOUR OWN.

BUT YOU WISH TO BE FORCED? SO BE IT.



WHAT IN THE--?!



THUNDERATION. HAVEN'T SEEN A SILENT EXPLOSION LIKE THAT IN...



AH. FINALLY READY TO GO, BENJAMIN?



YES. I AM.