

**MARVEL**

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17



**DAMNATION**

**BEN REILLY:  
THE SCARLET SPIDER**



ROSENBERG  
2008

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**BONUS  
DIGITAL  
CONTENT**  
see inside for details



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

Following a misguided turn as a super villain, **BEN REILLY** has made a home for himself in Las Vegas. Becoming the **SCARLET SPIDER** once more, he has been trying to be a better man. But lately, Ben's choices have been less than heroic. After a visit from Lady Death, he learned that his very soul is now in jeopardy.

Dr. Stephen Strange recently used his magical powers to repair the damage done to Las Vegas from Hydra Cap's attack during **SECRET EMPIRE**. But Strange's efforts summoned the **HOTEL INFERNO** along with the evil **MEPHISTO** to the Strip, who has transformed many of the revived souls--and the **AVENGERS**--into his demonic minions.

Ben originally joined Strange's ally **WONG** and the new **MIDNIGHT SONS** to save Las Vegas, but Mephisto's struck a nefarious bargain with the Scarlet Spider. A deal that could be the only way to save Ben's corrupted soul from...

# DAMNATION

NOTE: THE EVENTS OF **BEN REILLY #17** TAKE PLACE BEFORE **DOCTOR STRANGE: DAMNATION #4**.

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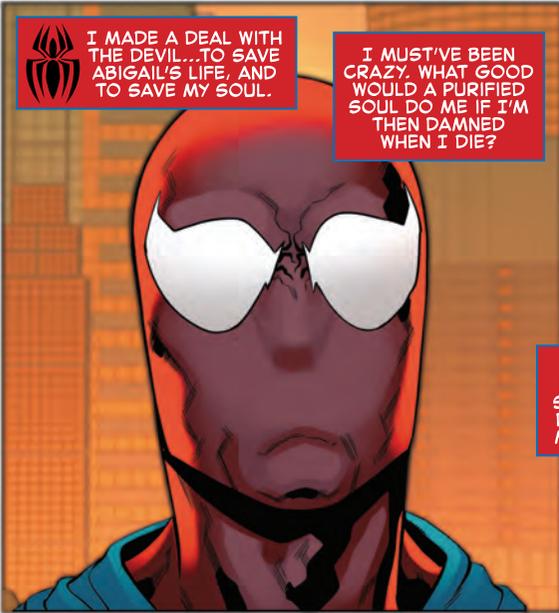
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I MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL... TO SAVE ABIGAIL'S LIFE, AND TO SAVE MY SOUL.

I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY. WHAT GOOD WOULD A PURIFIED SOUL DO ME IF I'M THEN DAMNED WHEN I DIE?



JEEZ, WHAT IF THAT WAS SUCH AN EVIL DECISION TO MAKE THAT--



GOTTA CHECK MY FACE, SEE IF I'M TOTALLY EVIL.



WHEWWWWW...



MAYBE MY SOUL'S WAITING TO SEE WHAT I ACTUALLY DO. WHETHER I'M ON THE SIDE OF MEPHISTO...



...OR THE MIDNIGHT SONS.

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF I DID THE RIGHT THING.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE THE MIDNIGHT SONS LIKE ME, ESPECIALLY. THEY WENT TO TAKE ON THE EVIL AVENGERS AND LEFT ME AT MEPHISTO'S EVIL HOTEL...

MAKE SURE NO INNOCENT SOULS COME WANDERING IN.

THEY WANTED ME TO STAND GUARD...

STAND FREAKING GUARD!

HOTEL  
INFERNO



KRAAAAK



OW.  
OW OW  
OW.



AAAAND THE WALL FIXED ITSELF.

FREAKING FIGURES.



EVEN THE WEB BLOCKADE I CREATED FELL APART.

THAT'S ABOUT PAR FOR THE COURSE.



THE DEAL SEEMED TO MAKE SO MUCH SENSE AT THE TIME. IT WOULD SOLVE BOTH MY MAJOR PROBLEMS.

THE WAY I'VE ACTED, MY SOUL PROBABLY ENDS UP DAMNED ANYWAY. SO THAT'S NO LOSS...

AND ABIGAIL'S CURED. PLUS WITH MY SOUL PURIFIED, I GET TO BE A HERO AGAIN.

EXCEPT...WHAT KIND OF IDIOT MAKES A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL?

IF HE OFFERED A DEAL TO ANY OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS, THEY'D TELL HIM TO STICK IT WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE.

HOW CAN I CALL MYSELF A HERO IF I ACT TOTALLY DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY HEROES ACT?

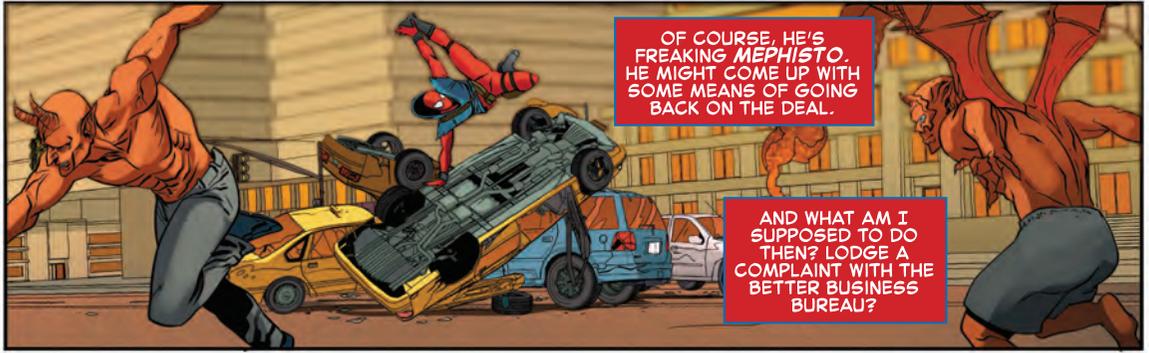
PETER AND KAINE BOTH SAID I WAS A VILLAIN. I KEPT SAYING NO. BUT WHAT HERO WOULD DO WHAT I DID?

ONE WHO WANTED TO SAVE AN INNOCENT GIRL, I GUESS.



IT SEEMED SO SIMPLE TO MAKE THE DEAL WITH HIM.

HE CURES ABBY, CURES MY SOUL... AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HELP HIM IN A FIGHT HE'LL LIKELY WIN ANYWAY.



OF COURSE, HE'S FREAKING *MEPHISTO*. HE MIGHT COME UP WITH SOME MEANS OF GOING BACK ON THE DEAL.

AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO THEN? LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU?



SO BASICALLY I'M TRUSTING THE PRINCE OF LIES TO STICK TO THE AGREEMENT.

WHICH IS WHAT HE GENERALLY DOES IN VARIOUS STORIES. SO ISN'T IT LIKELY HE'D STICK TO THIS ONE?



**SPLUUNCH**

WHOA!