

Hook! FINALLY...HOOK...
HERE AT LAST!

ALL THAT YOU ARE IS MINE!

NO ESCAPE!
THIS DAY!
THIS DAY!

A GENTLE,
SMALL PIECE
OF ADVICE,
BOSTON
BRAND.

BEWARE THAT ONE DAY
YOU MAY ACTUALLY GET
WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

DEADMAN

STILL DEAD...AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

AMBASSADOR GORDON, YOU ARE WELCOME AND YOUR VISIT HERE IS HONORED BY MANY.

YOU COMING BY YOURSELF HAS DISPELLED ANY FEARS THAT YOU HAVE WRONG MOTIVES.

NOT BY EVERYONE, I FEAR.

REMEMBER, IT'S COMMISSIONER GORDON. I AM MERELY THE ACTING AMBASSADOR DURING THIS TOUR OF NUCLEAR SITES.

I'M SURE, AKIRA OLD FRIEND, THAT ONLY BENEFIT FOR ALL WILL COME FROM THIS TOUR.

THEN COME TO THE CAR, JAMES, AND IN HALF AN HOUR WE WILL HAVE MY NEPHEW, HUI, BEGIN YOUR TOUR.

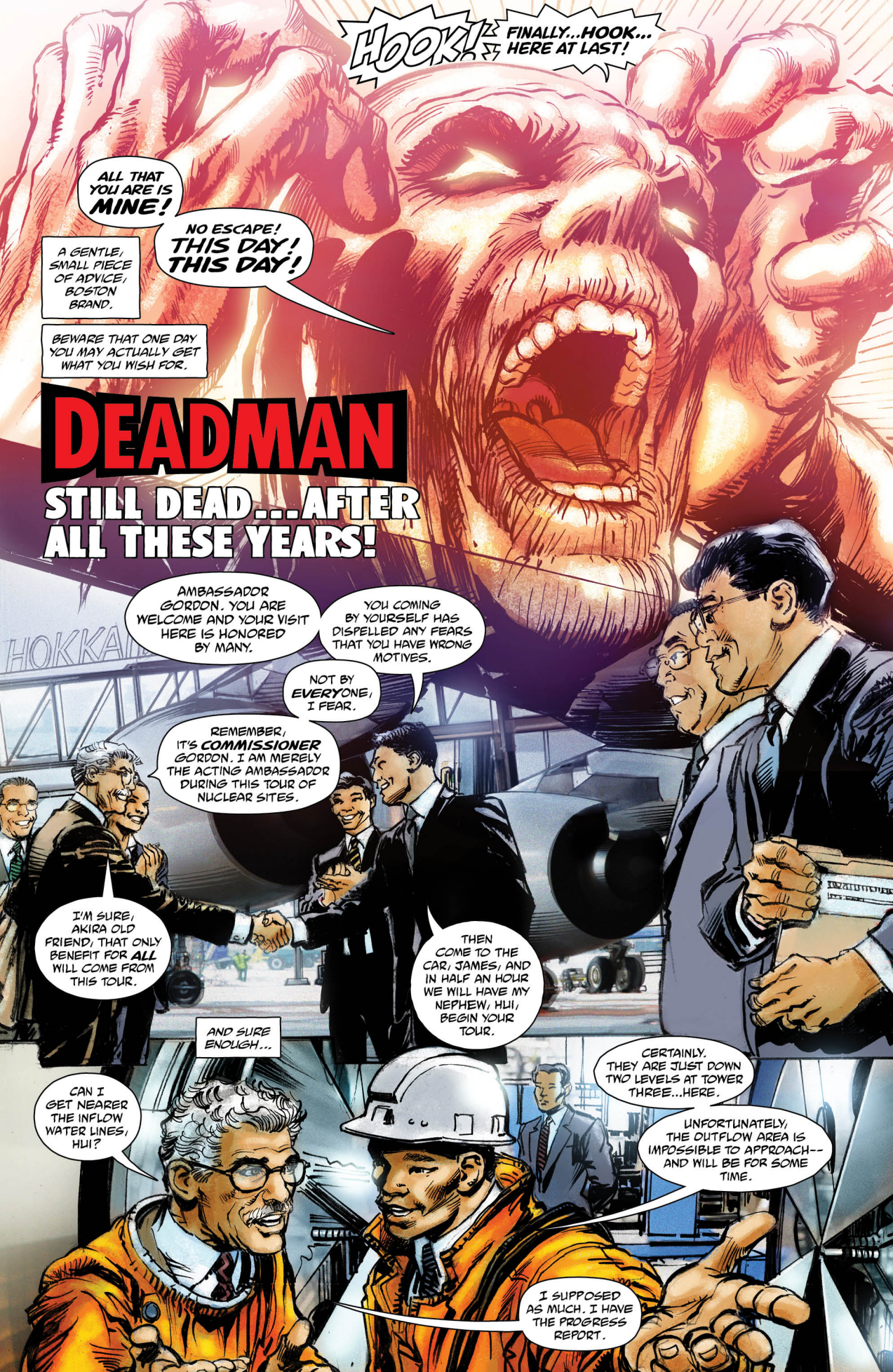
AND SURE ENOUGH...

CAN I GET NEARER THE INFLOW WATER LINES, HUI?

CERTAINLY. THEY ARE JUST DOWN TWO LEVELS AT TOWER THREE...HERE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE OUTFLOW AREA IS IMPOSSIBLE TO APPROACH-- AND WILL BE FOR SOME TIME.

I SUPPOSED AS MUCH. I HAVE THE PROGRESS REPORT.



THIS, BOSTON BRAND, IS A SMALL PART OF THE THINGS YOU...NOW...HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH.

YOU SOON WILL.

WE ARE CAPPED TO THIS AREA AND DO ALL OUR WORK FROM THE SIDE AREA TO YOUR RIGHT.

MY EYES ARE JUST GETTING USED TO THE GLOOM.

CAN YOU GET A BIT MORE LIGHT DOWN HERE?

A MOMENT.

TETSURO, BRING UP THE LIGHTS ON TWO.

THESE SEALS...EXCELLENT...I HAVE NEVER SEEN SEALS THIS THICK...AND, WELL, SO ROBUST.

MY COMPLIMENTS, HUII.

ELEVEN FEET THICK AND THE CORE IS A FOOT OF LEAD.

THAT IS NOT THE DANGER HERE TODAY.

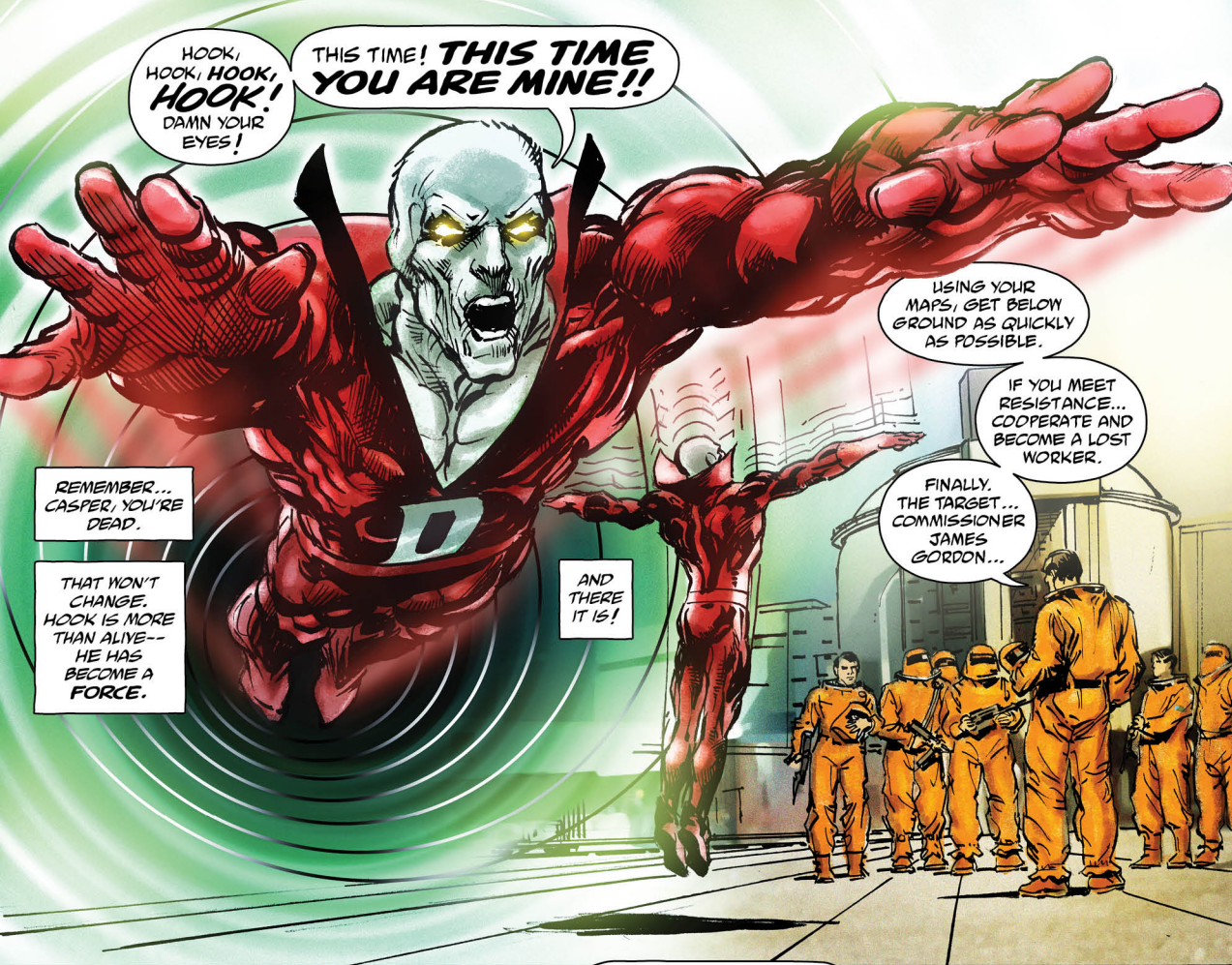
DANGER...? HERE? WHA...? WHO'RE YOU--?

YOUR GUARDIAN DEVIL, MY BROTHER.

DAMN YOU... BROTH--

BE CALM, JAMES.

FLOAT GENTLY TO THE FLOOR.



HOOK, HOOK, HOOK, HOOK! DAMN YOUR EYES!

THIS TIME! THIS TIME YOU ARE MINE!!

USING YOUR MAPS, GET BELOW GROUND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

IF YOU MEET RESISTANCE... COOPERATE AND BECOME A LOST WORKER.

FINALLY. THE TARGET... COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON...

REMEMBER... CASPER, YOU'RE DEAD.

THAT WON'T CHANGE. HOOK IS MORE THAN ALIVE-- HE HAS BECOME A FORCE.

AND THERE IT IS!



...COMMISSIONER GORDON IS MINE!

THOSE ARE NOT LIKELY THE WORDS THAT SENT YOU TO YOUR DDDM... BUT... LIKELY VERY SIMILAR WORDS.

I... I COULD KILL YOU RIGHT NOW... WITH ONE OF THESE SIMPLE WEAPONS THESE MEN CARRY.

IT WOULD BE... SO EASY. SO VERY EASY.

I... LOST THE SHOT... ONCE I CAN'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE... AGAIN.

REMEMBER?

I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

YOUR MIND SPIRALS BACKWARD IN TIME, DOESN'T IT, BOSTON BRAND?

BACK, BACK IN TIME WHEN YOU FOUND THE HOOK, FOUND HIM... HERE IN JAPAN, AS CLOSE AS HE IS HERE TODAY.



WE... YOU AND I... ARE GONE. IT--THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS-- WILL GO ON.

BUT...WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN? HOW DID YOU FAIL?

A TRUST THAT NO ONE FAILED IN OUR SACRED CALLING...

THE SUBLINE ART. DEATH...DEATH BY THE HAND OF THE ASSASSIN.

AND NOW, YOU...HOOK... YOU HAVE FAILED.

YES... YES.



YES, I FAILED MISERABLY.

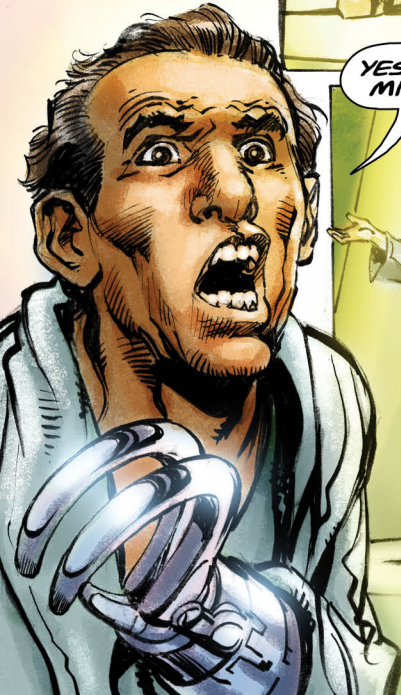
DID YOU CHOOSE SO HARD A VICTIM THAT YOU...?

NO! YOU KNOW I DID NOT. NONE OF IT. I CHOSE HIM RANDOMLY. I SAW HIS NAME...ON A CIRCUS POSTER. I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE THE PERFECT TEST... OF MARKSMANSHIP...

NERVE... SURROUNDED BY A THOUSAND PEOPLE.

IF YOU HAD A SOUL INSTEAD OF NOTHING, THIS WOULD HAVE RIPPED IT OUT OF YOU, BOSTON BRAND.

FROM A POSTER!! HE KILLED ME FOR A PERVERTED GRADUATION TEST! IT...JUST...CAN'T...BE!



OH...YES, IT CAN BE...AND IT WAS. SAD DEADMAN!



YES, A PERFECT TEST...FOR OUR KIND... AND AN EASY TEST...AND YOU FAILED!

BOSTON BRAND STILL LIVES!

AND...

...THAT'S WHEN YOUR HEAD EXPLODED.

DIDN'T IT?

BUT THE HOOK HAD SUCCEEDED IN THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY.

AARRRRRRRRGH!

YOU WERE DEAD...AND YOUR TWIN BROTHER HAD TAKEN YOUR PLACE, AS DID TINY, THE CIRCUS STRONGMAN.

THE HOOK'S ONLY ERROR IS THAT HE SHOT...BUT DID NOT KILL...TINY.

YOU, BOSTON BRAND, PULLED TINY BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH.

THEN BACK INTO THE WORLD.

BUT...NOW IN A TWISTED TRICK OF FATE, CLEVELAND BRAND...YOUR TWIN OFFICIALLY TOOK YOUR NAME AND IDENTITY AS DEADMAN.

WAS ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE. DEADMAN LIVED!

AND NOW, FOR FAILING TO KILL HIM...FOR A SECOND TIME...

...AND BY THE HAND OF THE SENSEI...THE HOOK WOULD DIE.

TWICE...YOU FAILED YOUR CALLING, STUDENT. YOU KNOW YOUR FATE.

BUT HE SUCCEEDED, YOU FOOLS! I'M DEAD. THAT'S WHY HE MUST BE PUNISHED!

BECAUSE HE SUCCEEDED!

AND SO, FOOL IN A GREEK TRAGEDY...

YES... I KNOW TOO WELL.

HOOK...

MOVE IT, MAN. WE'RE BLASTING OUT OF HERE.

PITIFUL.

SILENCE HIM.

