

MARVEL LEGACY

CAGED!

168



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LUKE CAGE



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BONUS
DIGITAL
CONTENT
see inside for details

While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

PREVIOUSLY: Returning home after his trip to New Orleans, Luke Cage stopped for lunch in a strange town with a dark secret. Before Luke could figure out what was going on, he was gassed by local law enforcement and thrown in prison. But this was no normal prison...

The prison, and the town itself, was being held under the hypnotic power of the Ringmaster. Having captured Luke Cage, Ringmaster wiped his memories and threw him into a cell. But memories or no, Luke's still Luke, and when fellow mind-wiped prisoner Gonzo Acosta was threatened, Luke intervened. For his heroics, Luke and Gonzo were sent to work in the mysterious and deadly mine...

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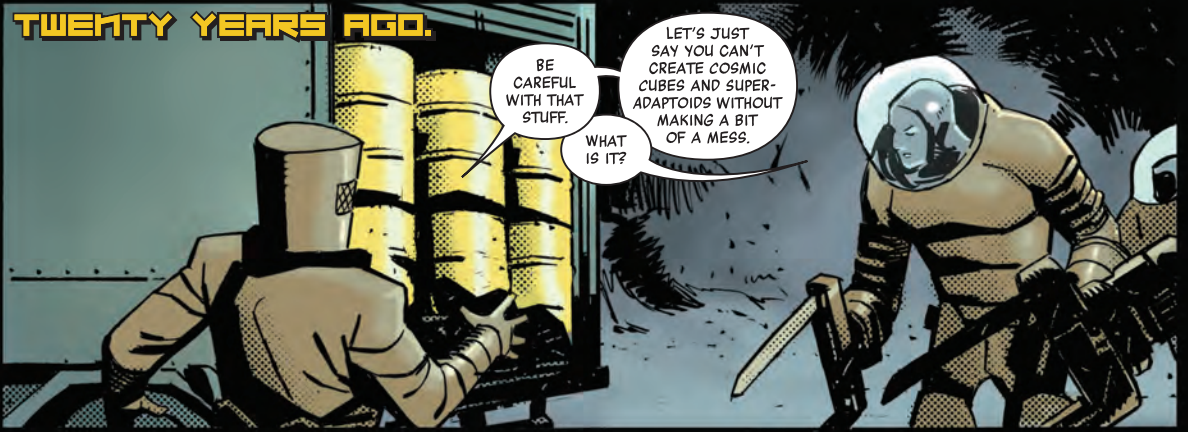
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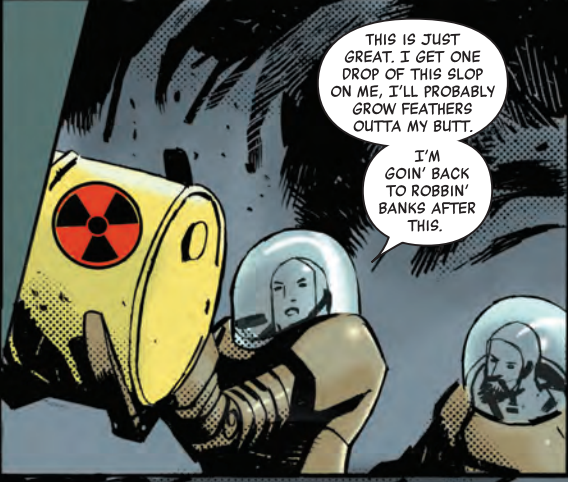
TWENTY YEARS AGO.



BE CAREFUL WITH THAT STUFF.

WHAT IS IT?

LET'S JUST SAY YOU CAN'T CREATE COSMIC CUBES AND SUPER-ADAPTOIDS WITHOUT MAKING A BIT OF A MESS.



THIS IS JUST GREAT. I GET ONE DROP OF THIS SLOP ON ME, I'LL PROBABLY GROW FEATHERS OUTTA MY BUTT.

I'M GOIN' BACK TO ROBBIN' BANKS AFTER THIS.



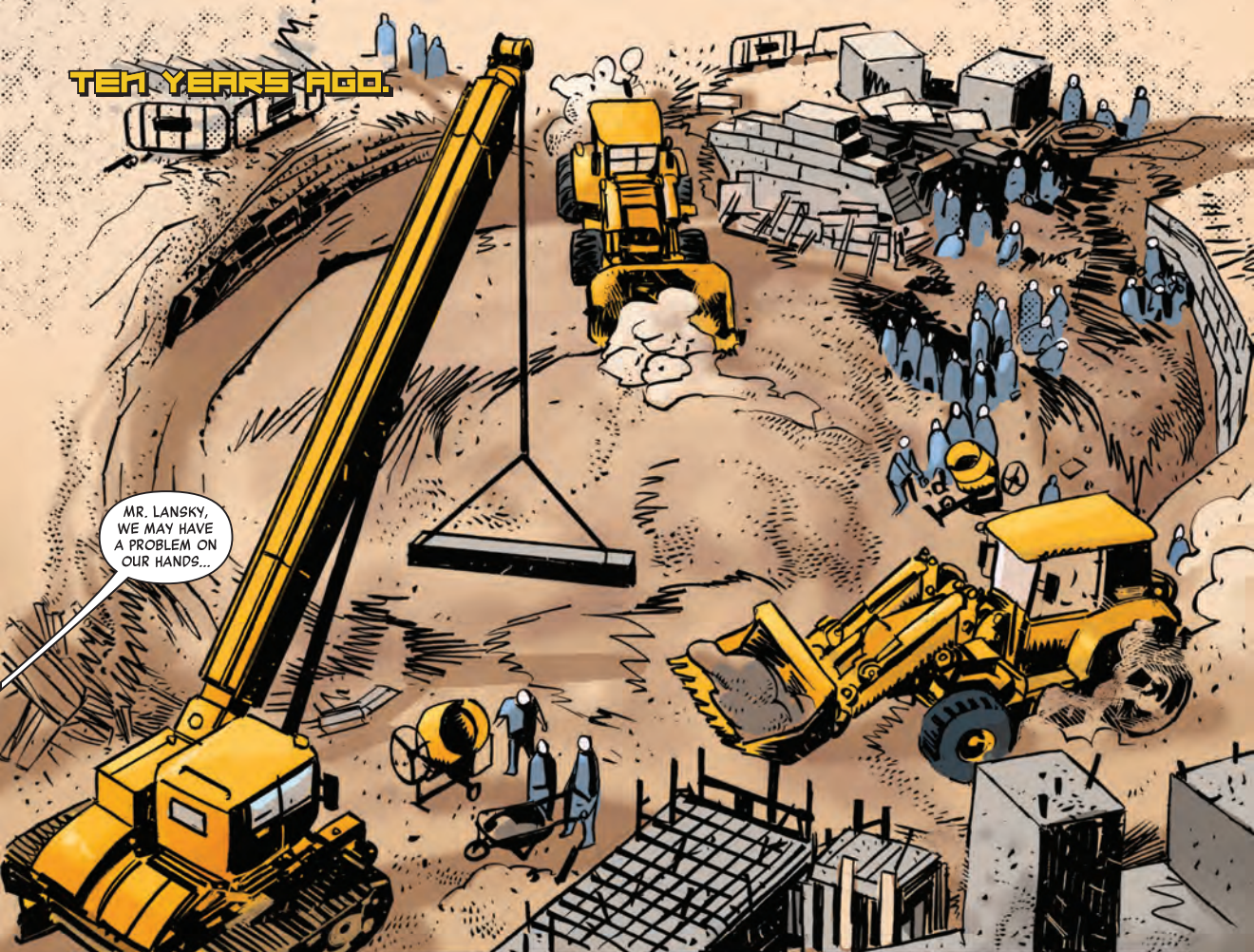
THIS JOB SUCKS.

TELL ME ABOUT IT...



...THIS IS JUST TROUBLE WAITIN' TO HAPPEN.

TEN YEARS AGO.



MR. LANSKY,
WE MAY HAVE
A PROBLEM ON
OUR HANDS...



...THE TEST RESULTS ARE BACK FROM THOSE SOIL SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

THE GROUND IS CONTAMINATED WITH THINGS WE CAN'T EVEN IDENTIFY.

OF COURSE IT IS.



LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO CALL IN THAT FAVOR WITH THE GOVERNOR. GOOD THING WE'RE BUILDING A PRISON AND NOT A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

I MEAN, LET'S BE HONEST...



"...WHO CARES IF SOME CONVICTS GET EXPOSED TO A BIT OF TOXIC WASTE?"

EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS A MISTAKE--THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THIS DUMP.

I APPLIED TO BE IN THE THUNDERBOLTS. THIS IS INEXCUSABLE.

YOU CAN TALK TO THE WARDEN ABOUT THAT.

I AM MAYNARD TIBOLDT--THE RINGMASTER, A MASTER OF HYPNOTISM. I'M THE FOUNDER OF THE CIRCUS OF CRIME.

COOL.

THAT MAKES YOU ALMOST FAMOUS. CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MRS. ACOSTA.

LOUSY SCREW. WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, MOCKING ME LIKE THAT? WHAT A PAIN IN MY...

UNGH...MY... HEAD...

I THINK... SOMETHING... IS WRONG.

now.

I GET IT, MAN, SHOVELING DIRT SUCKS, BUT AIN'T NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE FREAKING OUT LIKE THIS.

NO, YOU *DON'T* GET IT.

EVERY FEW WEEKS SOME NEW PRISONERS GET SENT DOWN HERE, AND AFTER A WHILE THEY JUST STOP COMING BACK.



PRISONERS JUST DISAPPEAR AROUND HERE AND NO ONE SAYS ANYTHING?

NO ONE'S DONE ANY INVESTIGATION?



THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PLACE.

I FEEL LIKE I KNOW, BUT WHEN I TRY TO THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S LIKE...MY BRAIN FOES OVER.



LESS TALK.



MORE WORK.



YOU AND ME BOTH, MAN.



YOU AND ME BOTH.