

future imperfect

In Dystopia, the heroes of old are mere legends and the inhabitants of the domain live under the strict rule of their lord and master, Baron MAESTRO... but not for long. A small group of rebels seek to overthrow his authority.

Maestro captured rebel leader Major Thaddeus Ross and held him prisoner. When the remaining rebels, led by mutant Ruby Summers and aided by Layla Miller, infiltrated Maestro's palace to break Ross out, they found him allied with the Baron against their true overlord, Doom!

To have any hope against Doom, the two factions formed a shaky union and ventured to a domain of myth and legend, Norseheim, seeking the weapon known as 'the Destroyer.' But *who* they uncovered was far more shocking than a mere weapon...

**PETER
DAVID**
WRITER

**GREG
LAND**
ARTIST

**JAY
LEISTEN**
INKER

**NOLAN
WOODARD**
COLORS

**VC'S JOE
SABINO**
LETTERS

**CHRIS
ROBINSON**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

**MARK
PANICCIA**
EDITOR

**AXEL
ALONSO**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**JOE
QUESADA**
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

**DAN
BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

**ALAN
FINE**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

LAND & WOODARD COVER



BATTLEWORLD



GRANDPA?!

Hey, little girl. Been a while.

JONES. YOU'RE THE "ANCIENT ONE" GUARDING THE DESTROYER?

Got a problem with the name? "Ancient One" just seemed kinda better than, y'know, "Rick." "Rick the Guardian." Doesn't really fly.



SO WHAT WILL IT BE, JONES? DO YOU PLAN TO SPRING SOME TRAP ON ME?

OR PERHAPS YOU WILL ENDEAVOR TO APPEAL TO THE MAN YOU ONCE KNEW THAT YOU STILL BELIEVE DWELLS WITHIN ME.

OR MAYBE YOU'LL--



Jeez, Bruce, you just *never* shut up.

You want the Destroyer? C'mon. I'll show you where it is.



ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GIVE HIM THE DESTROYER, GRAMPS?

AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

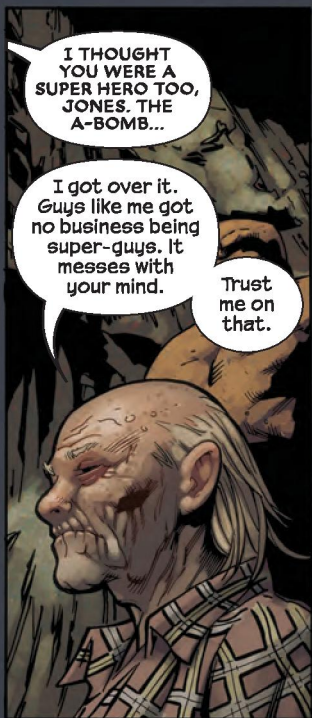
Janis...

YES?



I'm over a hundred years old. I can't hear you when you whisper.

I can barely hear you when you speak normally.



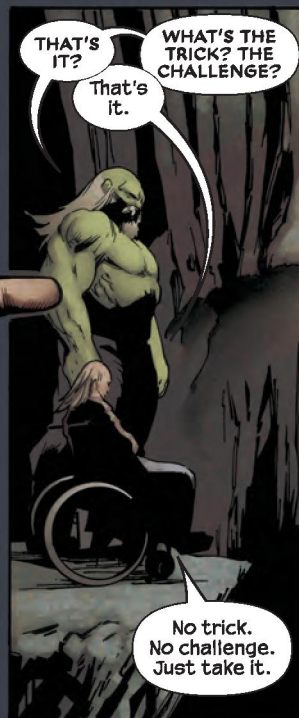
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SUPER HERO TOO, JONES. THE A-BOMB...

I got over it. Guys like me got no business being super-guys. It messes with your mind.

Trust me on that.



There y'go. All yours.



THAT'S IT?

That's it.

WHAT'S THE TRICK? THE CHALLENGE?

No trick. No challenge. Just take it.



YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS.



Boy, you really can't just handle something when it's handed to you, can you, Bruce?

There's no trick, it's just what I'm telling you. The Destroyer is right there.

All you have to do is touch it and it will obey you.

OR TRY TO DESTROY ME.

Well, it *is* called the Destroyer, so that's an issue, I guess.

