

THE DED CON NECTION

An on-line Family Newsletter

Featuring

Dedmon Dedman Dedmond Deadman Deadmon Dedmond

And Other Spelling Variations of the Surname

Volume 123

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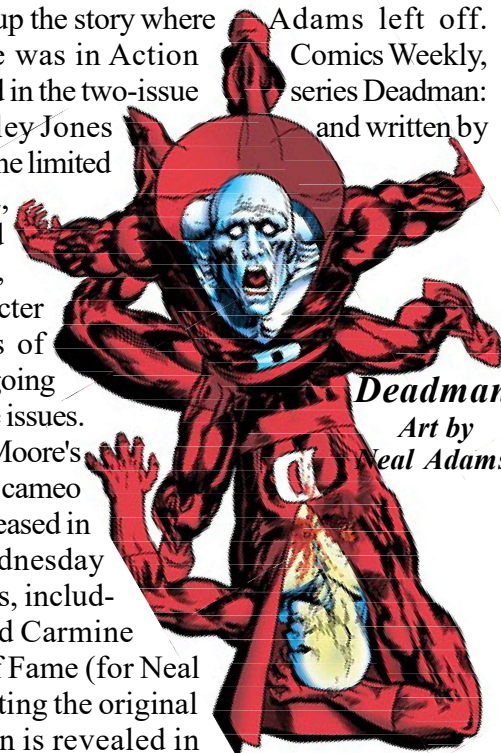
I surely did not know this!!!

After 20 years of family research and publishing almost 125 newsletters about the Deadman/Dedman/Dedmon, etc, etc, family it is unusual for me to find something about the family I do not know. Of course, there are many things that happen within the families such as, deaths, weddings, births and such like that is news to me, but to find something like this is a shocker. I knew about such things as "Deadman Walking", but I never knew we had a comic strip character. Ok, I admit, I have not read the comics in several years, although once my favorites.



Boston Brand's debut as Deadman. Artwork for the cover of *Strange Adventures* 205 (October 1967 DC Comics). Art by Carmine Infantino

Deadman (Boston Brand) is a fictional character, a comic book superhero in the DC Comics universe. He first appeared in *Strange Adventures* #205 (October 1967), and was created by Arnold Drake and Carmine Infantino. The series is most associated with the art and writing of Neal Adams and the writing of Jack Miller, who took over from Infantino and Drake after the first story. The first story and all of the Adams stories were reprinted in 1985 as a seven-issue series. Although he appeared from time to time in the 1970s and 1980s as a supporting character in various comics, including Jack Kirby's *Forever People*, Deadman did not get his own series again until 1986, in a four-issue limited series written by Andrew Helfer and drawn by José Luis García-López, which picked up the story where Adams left off. Deadman's next major storyline was in *Action Comics Weekly*, in 1988-1989. After this, he starred in the two-issue series *Deadman: Love After Death*, drawn by Kelley Jones and written by Mike Baron. This was followed by the limited series *Deadman: Exorcism* in 1992, also written by Mike Baron and drawn by Kelley Jones. Jones' gaunt, zombie-like rendition of the character would later appear in the pages of *Batman*. There was a Deadman ongoing series in 2002, which lasted nine issues, as well as a couple of standalone issues. His cameo appearances also continued, including several issues of Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing*, and Neil Gaiman's *The Books of Magic*. He had a cameo in books two and three of *Batman: Gotham County Line*, which was released in November 2005. In 2009, Deadman was a featured title in the Wednesday Comics. The character and self-titled series have won several awards, including the 1967 Alley Award for Best New Strip (by Arnold Drake and Carmine Infantino in *Strange Adventures*), and the 1968 Alley Award Hall of Fame (for Neal Adams). DC Comics published a slipcased hardcover edition collecting the original Deadman stories in December 2001. Deadman's retconned origin is revealed in *Brightest Day* #14 (2010), written by Geoff Johns and Peter Tomasi.



Deadman
Art by Neal Adams

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Deadman in Strange Adventures #207
(Dec, 1967). Art by Neal Adams.

Deadman is a ghost, formerly a circus trapeze artist named Boston Brand who performed under the name Deadman, a stage person including a red costume and white corpse makeup. When Brand is murdered during a trapeze performance by a mysterious assailant known only as the Hook, his spirit is given the power to possess any living being by a Hindu god named "Rama Kushna," in order to search for his murderer and obtain justice. It is established in Green Arrow Vol. 4, #4, that Deadman believes Rama is the supreme being of the universe. At the end of the Neal Adams story line, Deadman seems to discover the truth behind his murder and the ultimate fate of Hook, who killed Deadman as part of an initiation into a society of contract killers who then kill him to silence him. However, the real Hook is one among many one-handed men who work for an organization known as "The Scavengers." This group steals advanced technology for a profit. Fighting the Scavengers also led to Deadman gaining an artificial body for some time, thanks to the influence of the Forever People. This group had rented rooms from Trixie Magruder, an old circus companion of Deadman.

VARIOUS MISSIONS

Rama also maintained a city for some time, called Nanda Parbat. The most evil people in the world came to live there, where Rama's power kept them sane and good. One of the worst was Darius Caldera, who almost destroyed the world when he left the city. Nanda later fell due to a combined military and mystical force. All the evil people are now back in the real world, still a danger.

Brand's twin brother, Cleveland, is killed while possessed by Boston, while doing Boston's circus act. The killer was out to kill Boston Brand. His "benefactor," Rama Kushna, also dies in order to defeat Jonah, a spirit similar to Deadman. Around this time, Deadman assists the Spectre in defeating a newly formed demonic being and werewolves. Formed from the skeletons of many souls in hell, this blue-eyed, blonde-haired being comes to Earth to foment chaos and death. It manages to actually remove much of the Spectre's substance. Deadman is forced to merge with Spectre until things are stabilized.

Later, Deadman receives a birthday present from his diminutive friend, Max Loomis. Max places himself in a trance so he could "meet" Deadman and the two take a pleasant journey down "memory lane," mainly Deadman's more pleasant memories of Nanda Parbat. Soon after, Loomis meets with old circus friends and Deadman involves himself in a case of suspected murder. Deadman wants to go after the escapees of Nanda Parbat, but Max thinks pursuing the murder is a better course.

Over several years, a mysterious stranger has Deadman travel through time to try to save the souls of deceased heroes from the menace of Caldera. Due to the mental influence of various forces, Deadman is unable to use the knowledge of the timestream to benefit humanity. With the assistance of the spirits of the deceased heroes, Deadman defeats Caldera and the powers behind him. Max Loomis provides vital help on the material plane. After that, the Boston and Loomis decide to hunt down the other Parbat escapees.



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YOUTH AND HELL

In the "Sins of Youth" incident, Deadman is one of the dozens of heroes reduced to a preteen age by Klarion the Witch Boy and an alien machine owned by Doiby Dickles. He is still a spirit, now with a lower-case d on his chest. He assists Secret in confronting Teekl, Klarion's companion, in an effort to restore everyone. He also joins in the fight against mystically created and mystically altered villains. During the "Day of Judgment" incident, Boston Brand travels with a group of heroes to the frozen wastelands of Hell. Their goal is to restart the demonic fires, thus recalling all the demons from the earthly plane. An accident strands Brand and the others under the frozen waters of the River Styx, forcing them to live out what would be, to them, Hell. For Brand, it is that the sharpshooter hits him in the shoulder, thus he survives. Brand feels he needs to die in order to learn 'how to live'.

His battles against the demons would come back to haunt him. In the four part Black Baptism miniseries, Deadman and several other "Sentinels of Magic," the magical group formed out of the "Day of Judgment" incident, are hunted by the Diablos. Partly fueled by revenge, they subdue many of the Sentinels and drain their magic. The JLA eventually rescue them all and destroy all the Diablos.

BLACKEST NIGHT

Boston Brand begins to hear the voices of the dead and his own remains calling for him to protect them.[8] Being a spirit, he is unable to stop his body from being raised as a Black Lantern. He attempts to possess his own body but is ejected after experiencing extreme physical and emotional pain during the attempt. He assists Batman, Robin, and Red Robin in repelling the invasion of the Black Lanterns. Deadman manages to save Commissioner Gordon from the Black Lanterns by possessing the body of his daughter, spiriting them both to safety.



Deadman is later sent by Batman to possess the body of Jason Blood, invoking the power of Etrigan. Deadman uses Etrigan's demon flame to hold back the Black Lanterns, but struggles to maintain control over the demon's body, finally being forced out. Deadman then frees Batman and Red Robin, who had frozen themselves to escape the Black Lanterns' onslaught.

He is later seen inside the Black Lantern Damage's ring, apparently having followed Jean Loring, Mera and the Atom when they shrank down into it. He frees Mera and the Atom from Loring by briefly possessing her, allowing them time to return to normal size. During this incident he says he believes possessing the Black Lanterns causes him damage. He is later seen at Nanda Parbat, attempting to stop the Black Lanterns attempting to pass through the spiritual barrier by taking over their bodies and ripping them apart. He briefly loses himself to a Black Lantern's personality, but is saved by the Phantom

Stranger. The Stranger convinces Deadman to enter his body again, telling them it is his destiny to bring it within Nanda Parbat. With the Stranger's help, Deadman is able to force the black ring off his body, bringing it through the gate of Parbat. The body, which the Stranger states is of "singular importance", is placed under the gatekeeper and Blue Devil's protection, and Deadman heads out, intent on sharing the information he gleaned while inside the Black Lanterns with Hal Jordan. In the aftermath of the final battle, Deadman, wearing a White Lantern ring, is resurrected by power of the white light.

BRIGHTEST DAY

In the 2010-2011 miniseries Brightest Day, Deadman discovers that his white power ring can restore the dead to life, and begins to acclimate to living again, including exercising self-preservational habits, though he expresses reservations about being alive again. As he attempts to learn what his mission on Earth is, he teams up with Hawk and Dove. Deadman learns that he will cross paths with



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the person the Entities chose to guard the Earth. The Entity also instructs Deadman to embrace life and those



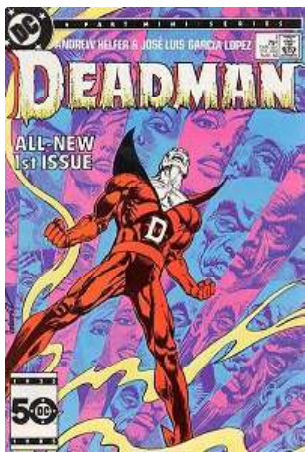
around him, as he led a selfish life in his previous one, realizing the value of others only after he died. In learning to appreciate his new life, Deadman realizes that he and Dove have fallen in love, and reconnects with his grandfather.

The Entity also tells Deadman that when Nekron attacked Earth, the contamination of his presence on the planet manifested itself in the form of a "dark avatar" who will try to destroy the Star City Forest, which is key to saving Earth's soul. The Entity reveals that Earth's savior is Alec Holland, and the "dark avatar" is a corrupted Swamp Thing, which once thought that it was Holland, but now believes itself to be Nekron. In the Forest, Captain Boomerang throws one of his deadly boomerangs at Dove, but it impacts Deadman instead. As his dying act, he gives his white power ring to Holland, transforming him into a new Swamp Thing, who destroys the corrupted, original Swamp Thing. Unable to return to life, Deadman and Dove, heartbroken at being denied a happy life, now that he can never again be resurrected, share an emotional farewell.



THE NEW 52

In DC Universe Presents, a new anthology book from DC Comics, released as part of The New 52



event, Deadman's origins are rebooted in the initial run. After living a selfish life as Boston Brand, he is forced to possess people as Deadman following his assassination, in order to set problems in their lives right, so he can avoid an eternity in Hell.[25] He also features as a member of the Justice League Dark, a new

team of DC's more supernatural characters. Deadman uses his possession talents to help take down various supernatural threats, such as Dr. Mist and Faust Sr. Despite their earlier claim, he and Dove try to rekindle their love. However, their attempt fails miserably as Deadman insists on carrying on their relationship forward using borrowed bodies, while Dove shows disdain and repulsion to the idea. Furthermore, by helping out June Moone, they both gain the enmity of a crazed Enchantress.



POWERS AND ABILITIES

As a disembodied spirit, Deadman could not be seen or heard by most others (certain mystics could still perceive him), was able to pass through objects, and could fly or float. He was able to possess any living



being (human or animal), control their actions, and could communicate with people through another's body. In one storyline,

however, he could not control certain criminal henchmen he possessed due to their minds being under post-hypnotic suggestion (since their minds were not truly theirs in that instance). The people he possessed retained no memory of the experience.

As a living human, he is an Olympic level athlete well-trained in acrobatics. As a wearer of a White Lantern ring he possesses whatever powers the ring confers upon its wielder. These powers, so far include flight, invisibility (or the ability to cloak his presence), teleportation, heal severe wounds, solid energy constructs, and the power to bring beings back to life. However, he had no control over these new powers and the scope and limitations on those powers are as yet undefined. The Black Lantern ring gave his reanimated corpse similar abilities, however it reanimates the dead instead of fully resurrecting them.



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Deadman as he appeared in the Justice League Unlimited series

KINGDOM COME

Deadman appeared twice briefly in Mark Waid and Alex Ross' Elseworlds story Kingdom Come, first as an extra in a metahuman bar (Alongside Rorschach, Obsidian, and the Question) where he offered some words of encouragement to Norman McCay. His appearance is notable because by the time of the story (set 10 years in the future) he has either lost or foregone his normal appearance, and appears as a skeleton wearing the tattered remains of his Deadman uniform. He introduces himself as simply "Boston," and also appears in the sequel The Kingdom as a guide to time-lost, deceased versions of Superman. This version of Deadman was made into an action figure by DC Direct for Series 3 of their Kingdom Come line. Ross states that Brand's more skeletal appearance was a result of Brand accepting his role as a spirit.

THE BOOKS OF MAGIC



Deadman also appears in Neil Gaiman's story The Books of Magic, looking very similar to his appearance in Kingdom Come. He possesses the body of

several people throughout the comic, trying to warn Timothy Hunter about a coming danger.

VERTIGO

In 2006, Vertigo a DC Comics imprint, announced that it would trade some of its trademark characters with others of DC's. Among the swaps was Vertigo's Jonah Hex in exchange for Deadman. The result was a continuing series published later that year.



BIZARRO WORLD

Deadman also had a brief comic in the book Bizarro World where he was interested in meeting girls and dating while in Limbo.

SUPERMAN & BATMAN: GENERATION II

During Superman & Batman: Generations II, Deadman is summoned by Doctor Occult to assist the third Batman- Bruce Junior, the son of Bruce Wayne, to investigate



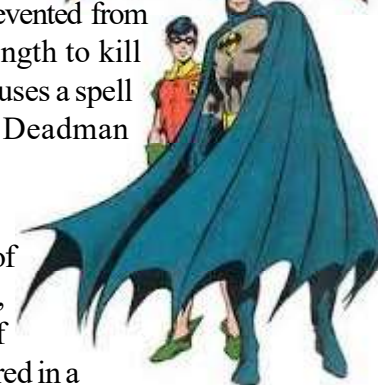
the elderly Joker's apparent delusions that Batman is trying to kill him. By possessing the Joker's body, Deadman is able to discover that the Joker is being haunted by the ghost of Dick Grayson after he killed the second Batman in their last battle (Although the public believe that he actually killed Robin as Bruce Junior switched costumes with his mentor to maintain the illusion of a



single Batman), although his attempt to 'possess' Grayson to make him back off was only a short-term solution, and the chaotic nature of the Joker's mind left him reluctant to go back in.

SUPERMAN/BATMAN

Deadman appeared briefly in Jeph Loeb's "Absolute Power" story arc in Superman/Batman, in which he attempted to possess Superman after he and Batman killed off all the monks of Nanda Parbat (under orders from their adoptive parents, who saw the monks as a threat to their plans in an alternate timeline). Deadman is prevented from using Superman's strength to kill Batman when Batman uses a spell from Zatanna to trap Deadman inside a crystal.



FLASHPOINT

In the alternate timeline of the "Flashpoint" storyline, Boston Brand is a part of the Haly's Circus, featured in a show alongside the Flying

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Graysons. Boston is still as obnoxious and arrogant as he was before he died and does not wish to be a part of the circus. Brand makes fun of the circus' fortune teller Doctor Fate until Fate gives him a vision of Boston himself standing over a dead Dick Grayson. Before the next show, Boston tries to convince Dick to go solo as he himself had. However, Dick tells him that family means too much to him. Dick poses the question that Boston's seeming fearlessness could stem from his insecurity of being alone. Haley Circus is attacked by Amazons who want the Helm of Nabu.



While Boston, along with the circus, is running away from the Amazons, they are rescued by the Resistance member Vertigo. When they are hiding, Boston tells Dick to leave his father since he's fatally wounded, but Dick refuses. Before he dies Dick's father asks Boston to protect his son. Later, Boston and Dick are running around the countryside looking for reinforcements, when they are soon caught in an explosion. It appears that they both survived the explosion, but when Boston tells Dick he is okay, Dick walks through him towards Boston's dead body behind him. Boston realizes that he is now a ghost whose presence cannot be seen or heard. He helps Dick, keeping him safe from the Amazons. Meeting up with the Resistance, Boston aids Dick who has become the new Doctor Fate and lets him know that he is not alone.



BATMAN: GOTHAM ADVENTURES

Deadman was in issue #6 of the comic book *Batman: Gotham Adventures* (based on *Batman: The Animated Series*) where his origin was very much alike to his mainstream comic except he was in the Haly's Circus and Rama Kushna was male. He was friends with Dick Grayson, and he was in an issue before he gained his powers in *The Batman and Robin Adventures* #15.

THE BATMAN & ROBIN ADVENTURES

Deadman previously appeared as a "Haly's Circus" performer in the *Batman & Robin Adventures* comic and meets Dick Grayson for the first time since taking over for The Flying Graysons. Issues of the follow-up series, *Batman: Gotham Adventures*, featured his assassination and transformation to the supernatural Deadman. His killer, Hook, appears as well.

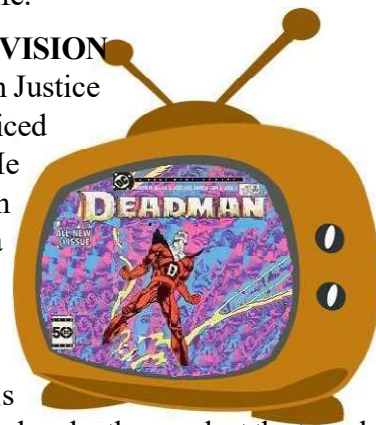


INJUSTICE: GODS AMONG US

Deadman appears in the *Injustice: Gods Among Us* prequel comic as a vision prophesied by Madame Xanadu in the sixth chapter of Year Three. He is later "killed" by the new Spectre. Deadman passes on his role as Deadman to the spirit of Dick Grayson, who was accidentally killed by Damian Wayne, before he moves on to the afterlife.

TELEVISION

Deadman appeared in *Justice League Unlimited* voiced by Raphael Sbarge. He appears as the champion of the Goddess Rama Kushna. It is stated that Batman already knew Deadman having helped him solve his own murder and trained under the monk at the temple where Deadman was residing. In the episode "Dead

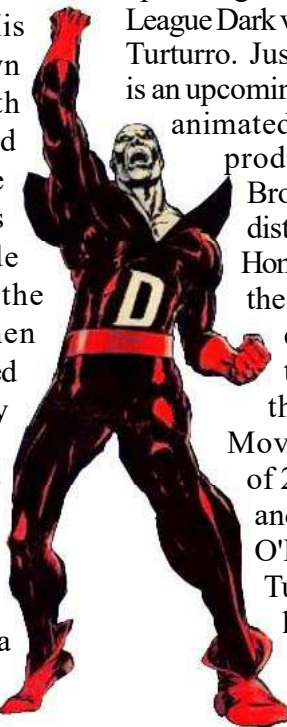


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Reckoning", he resides in a temple in Nanda Parbat that the Legion of Doom invades and robs of a specific artifact. Upon Deadman being enlisted by Rama Kushna to reclaim the artifact, Deadman heads to the Watchtower and possesses Superman to ask for help from the Justice League. This leads to a conflict with the Legion of Doom at Gorilla City where Deadman helps Superman, Wonder Woman, and Batman prevent Gorilla Grodd from using the artifact to turn all humans into gorillas. The conflict ended with some of the Legion of Doom escaping while leaving the defeated members behind. When he saw Devil Ray aiming at Wonder Woman, he possessed Batman and shot Devil Ray with a gun, accidentally killing him when he was sent flying into electric wires. For this mistake causing the scales to become unbalanced, Deadman is required by Rama Kushna to continue his duties and is teleported back to the temple. A live action TV series for TNT was under development in 2000, but was eventually shelved.

Deadman appears in the *Batman: The Brave and the Bold* voiced by Michael Rosenbaum. His origin is almost exactly the same, right down to the hook-handed killer called Hook with the exception that Rama Kushna is not mentioned at all. He does not know how or why he was kept from "crossing over", which fuels his melancholic self-pity. In the episode "Dawn of the Deadman!", Deadman finds the spirit of Batman in London, England when Gentleman Ghost buries him alive. Still depressed because of his condition, he is convinced by Batman to help him stop Gentleman Ghost from raising an army of the undead to destroy London, while Green Arrow and Speedy try to dig out Batman's body. Deadman helps the heroes thwart Craddock, and embraces his destiny as a hero. Also, it's revealed that Batman has been working his case since Brand's demise. In the final scene, Deadman appears where he helps Batman fight the Triad.



A new Deadman television series was being developed by Warner Bros. Television and Supernatural creator Eric Kripke. However, it has failed to resurface since its announcement. In the *Teen Titans Go!* episode "La Larva de Amor", Robin searches Titans Tower for Silkie and looks under Starfire's bed to which he finds

Boston Brand's corpse underneath much to his horror. Deadman appears in his own segment in *DC Nation Shorts* voiced by Matt L. Jones. These three shorts have been produced by *Chowder* creator C.H. Greenblatt. The first short has Deadman possessing various bodies in order to save a falling crow that he has tried to scare.

FILM

Guillermo Del Toro has taken interest in producing a film of the hero, supposedly from the only source. *Bloody-Disgusting* has described it as *Crowesque* and Nikolaj Arcel is set to direct. Deadman will be featured in Doug Liman's upcoming film, based on the *Justice League Dark* comics.

Deadman will appear in the upcoming animated film *Justice League Dark* voiced by Nicholas Turturro. *Justice League Dark* is an upcoming 2016 American animated superhero film produced by Warner Bros. Animation and distributed by Warner Home Video. Featuring



DC Nation Deadman

the DC Comics team *Justice League Dark* created by Peter Milligan and Mikel Janin, the film will be the twenty-seventh film in the *DC Universe Animated Original Movies* series. It is set to be released in fall of 2016. The film is directed by Jay Oliva, and stars the voices of Matt Ryan, Jason O'Mara, Camilla Luddington, Nicholas Turturro, and Ray Chase. A group of occult heroes unite as a new intrepid team to deal with supernatural threats that the *Justice League* wouldn't often handle.

Despite being announced as one of the potential additions to the *DC Extended Universe* several years ago, *Justice League Dark* (known for a time as *Dark Universe*) has had a tough time getting off the ground.

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Its most recent setback was when Guillermo del Toro exited as director following too many delays. Fortunately, it looks like Justice League Dark has finally gotten back on track, as news just broke that Edge of Tomorrow's Doug Liman will helm the movie.

Variety is reporting that Liman has been hired as Justice League Dark's new director, with the movie said to "play a major role in the new D.C. Cinematic Universe." While plot details weren't revealed, the film's lineup will reportedly be composed of "Det." John Constantine, Swamp Thing, Deadman, Zatanna and Etrigan the Demon. Guillermo del Toro is still producing Justice League Dark (with Scott Rudin), while Michael Gilio is listed as the screenwriter. This will mark the big screen debuts of Deadman, Zatanna and Etrigan, while Constantine and Swamp Thing have previously led their own live action movies and TV shows.

BATMAN: THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD

He appears as the main side hero in seventh episode "Dawn of the Dead Man!". He presents to Batman's spirit and offers his help possessing people, since Batman was buried by Gentleman Ghost and only had two hours to run out of oxygen. The heroes made contact with Green Arrow possessing Speedy so they could go to cemetery and help unearth Batman's body.

Gentleman Ghost manages to summon an army of dead criminals in order to destroy London. After Green Arrow disinter Batman's body, Deadman possesses the body and save Batman's spirit. Returning the body to Batman, the heroes fight the undead army, during the battle Deadman Posses Speedy's body. After defeat Gentleman Ghost, Batman thanks him and promises to seek justice in his case. Its shown the light that he was waiting appears and surrounds him. At the end of episode Deadman reappears and help Batman fighting against an Asian gang, telling Batman that he will look to those responsible for his crime.

During this episode a flashback of his murder was shown. He was performing a balancing act when a mystery shadow shot him in air and killed him. He only remembered that the man that shot him had a hook instead of a hand.



COLLECTED EDITIONS

The Deadman Collection (342 pages, collecting Strange Adventures (vol.1) #205-216, Brave and the Bold (vol.1) ##79, 86 and 104, Aquaman (vol.1) #50-52 and Challengers of the Unknown (vol.1) #74) Deadman: Lost Souls (200 pages, collecting Deadman: Lover After Death #1-2, and Deadman: Exorcism #1-2) by Mike Baron and Kelley Jones. Batman/Deadman: Death & Glory (92 page graphic novel) DC Comics Presents: Brightest Day #1 (96 pages, collecting Solo #8, DCU Holiday '09 and Strange Adventures #205)



After being murdered by the League of Assassins during a performance, circus acrobat Boston Brand was turned into a ghost by the Hindu goddess Rama Kushna. Becoming the super hero Deadman, Boston must aid the people he possesses to avoid eternity in Hell. He is currently part of Justice League Dark.

There is a lot of information on this series and can be found by simply searching the internet. I had never encountered this comic figure before and found it very interesting. I hope you did as well. I realize the spelling of Deadman is actually referring to a dead man, but never the less he is a Deadman. The fact he teamed up with Bat Man, Superman and many other super heroes added to the interest of the article.

-Leroy