

The Contract

Page 1

Somewhere out near an open grove a hitman relives distant memories in order to focus on his next contract.

Panel 1

The hitman is wearing a pair of black leather gloves, a wool turtleneck, light grey, a long black trench coat, red cotton slacks and a pair of black durable boots begins to gather up some possessions into a small pile. The items seem like the normal amount of apparel packed for an outdoor trip, but weren't outdoor appropriate. In the pile of items are a red cotton long sleeve, a dark blue utility pants, a light blue short sleeved dress shirt. He folds the clothing carefully, and eerily, even gently.

Panel 2/full page

Zero's face becomes twisted, as he diverges into a thick fog of recollection.

ZERO I Must Say, I Do Tip My Hat To This Job. Although, I'm Running Out Of Sweet Precious Time, The Compensation I'll Receive For This One Is More Than Exceptional!

Panel 3

He sits near the fire and recalls a childhood memory which triggers a misty, reimagined "recount of uncertainty" (The day he got paid to clip some kid at school during recess. He focuses on the face of a particularly chubby child, who doesn't seem to be involved, but still seems quite smug, and confident in face of the currently presiding circumstances.)

Page 2

Panel 1

ZERO I Swear... I'm Sure That Face.. That Little Boy, There's Something Important About His Chubby Little Face.

Panel 2

He laughs for a bit, and then makes his way over to a nearby (abandoned) building with a burning object in hand. He tosses the snuff inside of the building as it goes up in flames.

ZERO What Is It About That Face? Hahaha.. This Isn't Sitting Well With Me At All!

Panel 3

The light from the flames casts a shadow off of the wall onto Zero as he stands by it thinking.

Panel 4

Days later, he's reading a novel at a cafe.

Zero receives a contract memo reminding him the deadline for his next job. Going over the details, he becomes intrigued. He describes the details of his next contract, meanwhile images of his next victim come up in the memo.

He lifts up his electronic device to catch a closer look at his new contract's details.

Page 3

Panel 1

Zero's face becomes more miniscule, as he begins to ponder the mysterious identity of the familiar face that has him stumped.

ZERO Wait a minute... Haha

Panel 2

He begins to have a nostalgic laugh, as he puts the final details up to his most recent flashback. The fog of uncertainty begins to clear.

ZERO That face! I think I remember it now!

Panel 3

In his mind, a before and after side-by-side shows up as a memory of the kid who paid him to ruin a schoolyard race next to the picture of his victim.

Panel 4

This memory now becomes more realized when it's revealed the chubby child had other children seek out and bring Zero to him.

Panel 5

In the memory, the child hands over an unidentified amount of money to another child adjacent to him, as he waves over to another group of children.

Panel 6

His signaling finally catches their attention, and they begin to scurry over with Zero in their midst.

Page 4

Panel 1/full page

Zero begins to crack his knuckles as he approaches the chubby young fellow.

Panel 2 The flashback slowly fades out of view, as the focus returns to Zero in modern time.

Panel 3

ZERO Haha yes. Ole Chubby-Cheeks!

Panel 4

Finally, the images of the young boy, and the image of Zero's next contract (A taught and grizzled mug) matches up as the same person. Zero now finds comfort and clarity in his new revelation.

Page 5

Panel 1

Zero begins to relax in his seat as he peacefully takes a healthy sip of his hot beverage.

Panel 2

After two or three sips, Zero finally breaks the stagnancy of relaxation, as he reaches into his pocket for a bill fold.

Panel 3

He retrieves the bill fold, and from it, a few credits to pay for his beverage.

Panel 4

He places the credits under the small, to go, coffee cup, and begins to groom his hair diligently.

ZERO Can't wait to see ya buddy!