

I met Noriko when I was riding with Amir bin al-As against the Byzantine Empire.

I'd been *dreaming* her for years, just didn't know where to find her until we rolled into Alexandria and the treaty was signed and there she was.

She was *smart* and *fearless* and a *pit viper* in a fight.

Never saw anyone *quicker* than her. Still haven't.

She went *overboard* off the *Horn*, just never came up again.

All of us knew that was it for her.

Lykon and I hooked up when Alexander conquered Judea.

We'd only been dreaming each other a couple of weeks, just got lucky we were both in pretty much the same place, same time.


We worked together for almost two thousand years.

That much time together, you move past love and hate, you've got something else.

He went down in one of the city-state wars in what everyone now calls Italy, during what everyone now calls the Renaissance.

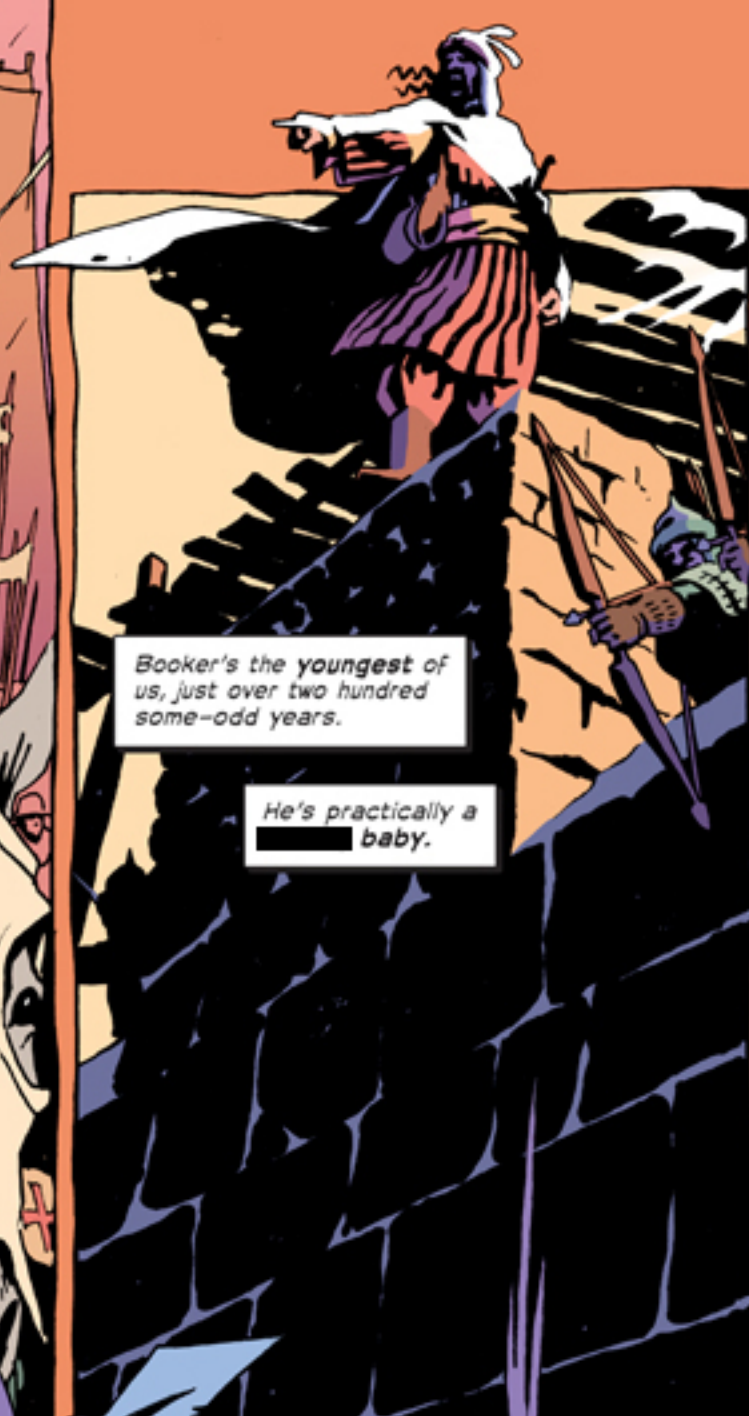
I'd seen him wounded so many times by then and he'd hardly notice and this time he went down and just didn't get up again.

He looked so relieved it was finally over.




There's only four of us left.

*Booker, Nicky,
Joe, and me.*



*Booker's the youngest of
us, just over two hundred
some-odd years.*

*He's practically a
baby.*




*Nicky and Joe, they're just
over a thousand, now.*

*Met during the
First Crusade.*



Nicky was *Nicolo*
back then.

Joe was *Yusuf*.



The rest of us, we've always had to search for each other.

Hell, at the beginning, I didn't even know what the dreams meant...