

Hard-Traveling

HERO

PART
6

ROGUE

BENJAMIN PERCY Story

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Superman co-created by
Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.
By special arrangement with
the Jerry Siegel family.

200 MILES ABOVE
STAR CITY.

I GREW UP ON
PUGET SOUND,
WHERE YOU'RE
REQUIRED TO
HAVE A HEALTHY
FEAR OF THE
WATER.

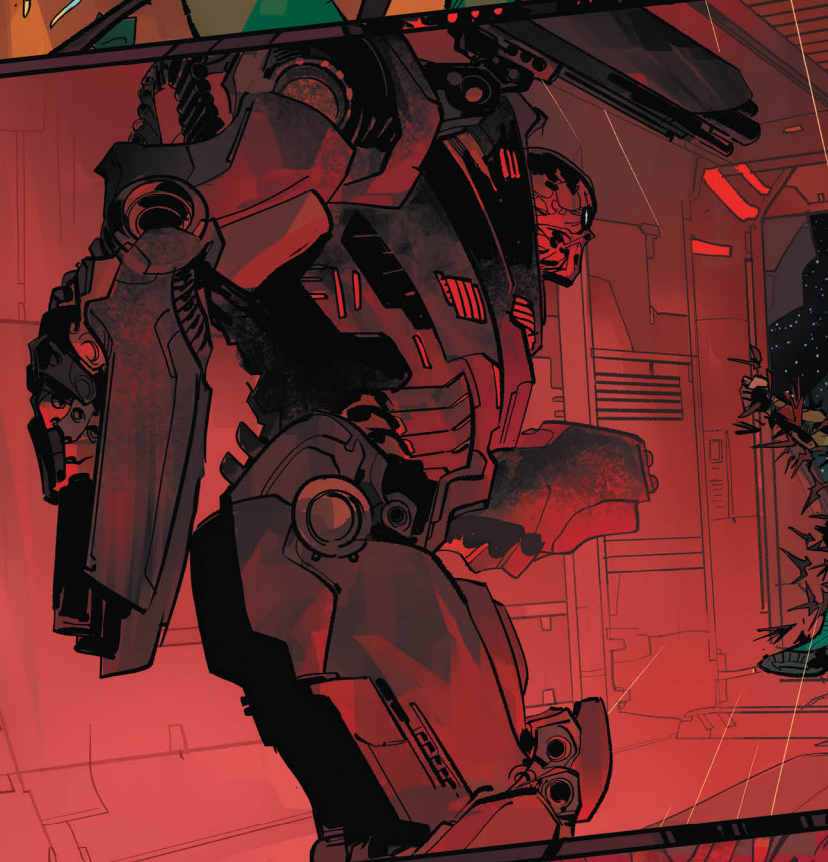
MY FATHER USED
TO THROW AN
AGATE--THE
YELLOW-ORANGE
OF THE SUN--INTO
THE WAVES, AND I
WOULD HAVE TO
RETRIEVE IT.

TEN FEET OFFSHORE,
TWENTY, FORTY,
EIGHTY. EVERY TIME
A BIT MORE, UNTIL
HE COULDN'T THROW
IT ANY FARTHER.

THIS IS HOW I
LEARNED TO SWIM, TO
FIGHT THE COLD AND
THE RIPTIDE AND
HOLD MY BREATH FOR
MINUTES AT A TIME.



THIS FEELS A
LITTLE BIT LIKE
THAT. A LITTLE LIKE
DROWNING.



SPACE IS THE
SEA AND THE NINTH
CIRCLE DRONES
ARE THE CRABS
THAT WILL PINNER
ME DOWN TO THE
BONE.



MORE THAN A
MINUTE AGO,
GREEN LANTERN
WAS BLOWN OFF
THIS SPACE STATION
BY SOME SORT OF
RPG ON STEROIDS.



HE HAD BEEN
PROTECTING ME,
SHIELDING ME WITH
AN ASTRO-SUIT
GENERATED BY HIS
POWER RING.

MY SUIT
DISSOLVED AT
THE SAME
INSTANT AS THE
DETONATION...

...SO I CAN ONLY ASSUME THE WORST FOR HAL.



IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO JOIN MY FRIEND...

...TO GIVE UP AND LET THE DARKNESS SWEEP ME AWAY.

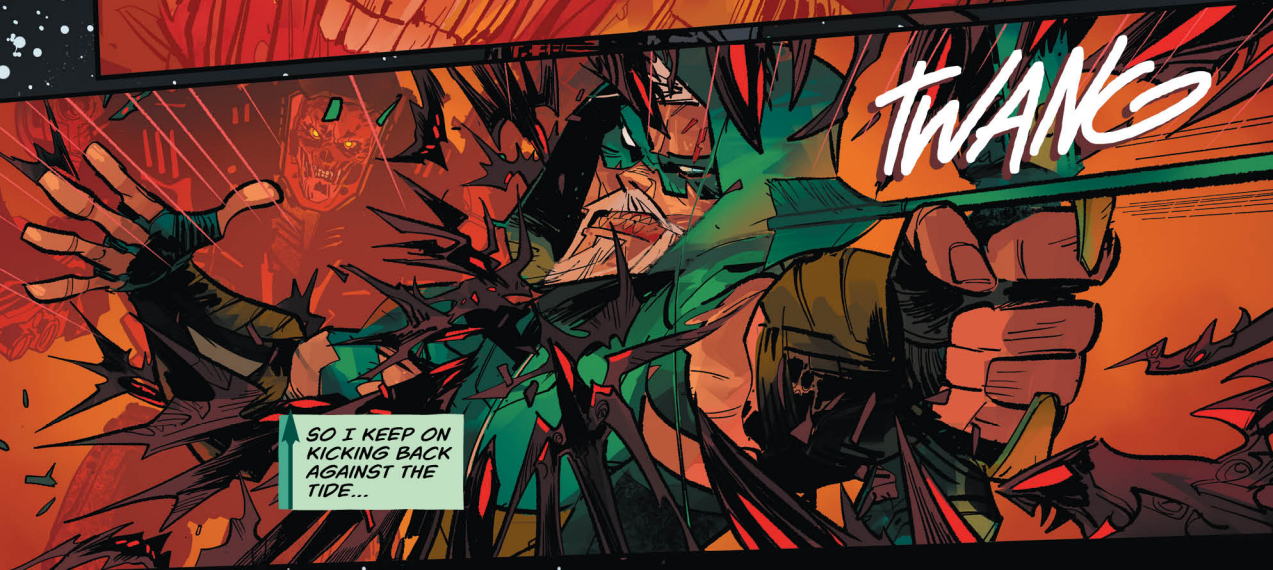


MY LUNGS ACHES AND MY VISION PULSES BLACK AT THE EDGES.

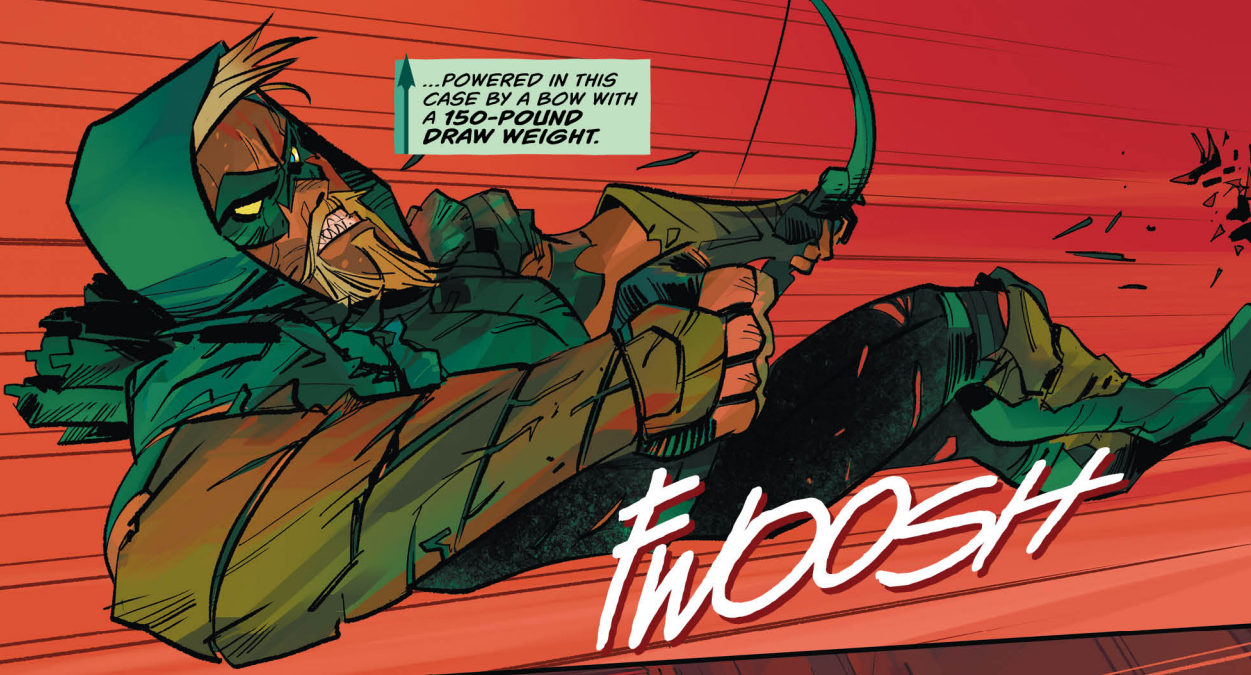
BUT I KNOW MY FATHER IS WAITING FOR ME ON SOME FARTHER SHORE.

TWANK

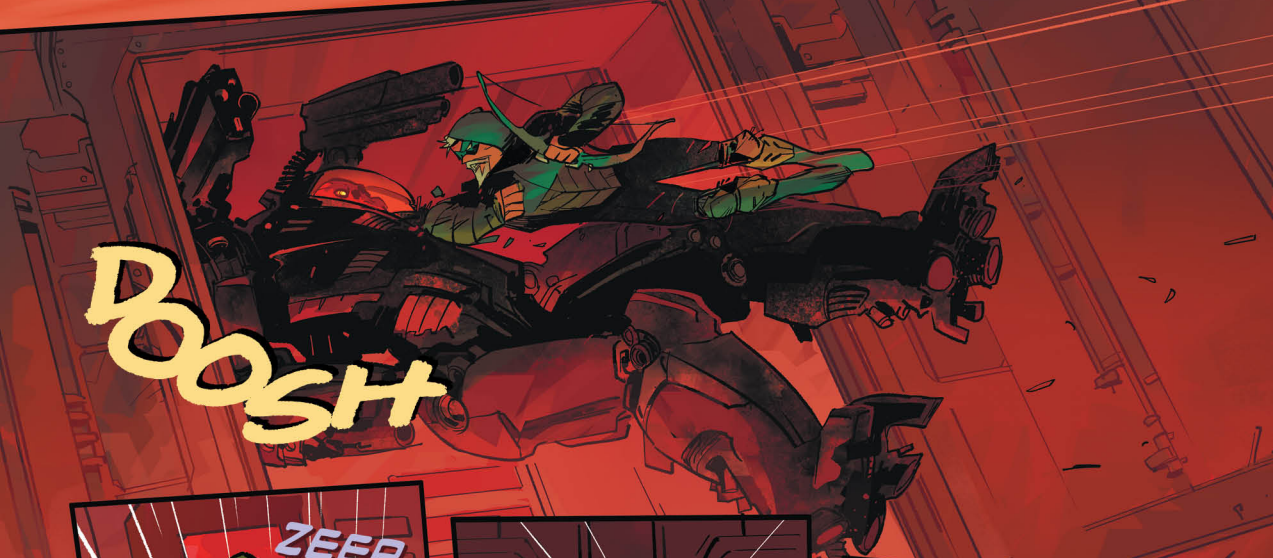
SO I KEEP ON KICKING BACK AGAINST THE TIDE...



...POWERED IN THIS CASE BY A BOW WITH A 150-POUND DRAW WEIGHT.



FWOOSH



BOOSH



ZEEP



SHOOM



KRASH



EVERYWHERE I GO, EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND, YOU'RE THERE.

WHO ARE YOU?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I WAS.



THE NINTH CIRCLE BURNS YOU SO THAT YOUR NERVE ENDINGS NEVER STOP SCREAMING.

FWOom



I'M NOW THE CHILD WHIMPERING IN THE CLOSET...

SHOOM

...AND THE HAND TYING THE NOOSE AND THE BLOOD POOLING AROUND THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT.

GAH!



I AM PAIN!

FWAM

UNNGH!



AND
THE MORE A
THING IS HIT AND
KICKED AND CUT
AND SCALDED,
THE MORE IT TAKES
PLEASURE IN
PAIN.

UNNGGH...

THE
MORE IT
WANTS TO
SHARE THE
PAIN WITH
OTHERS.