

SLADE WILSON WASN'T A HERO.

HE HATED HIS DAD BUT COULDN'T AFFORD TO RUN AWAY.

SO, AT AGE SEVENTEEN, HE JOINED THE ARMY.



HE LIED ABOUT HIS AGE TO GET IN.

IT WORKED. GOT HIM WHAT HE WANTED--

--GOT HIM AWAY FROM HIS FAMILY.



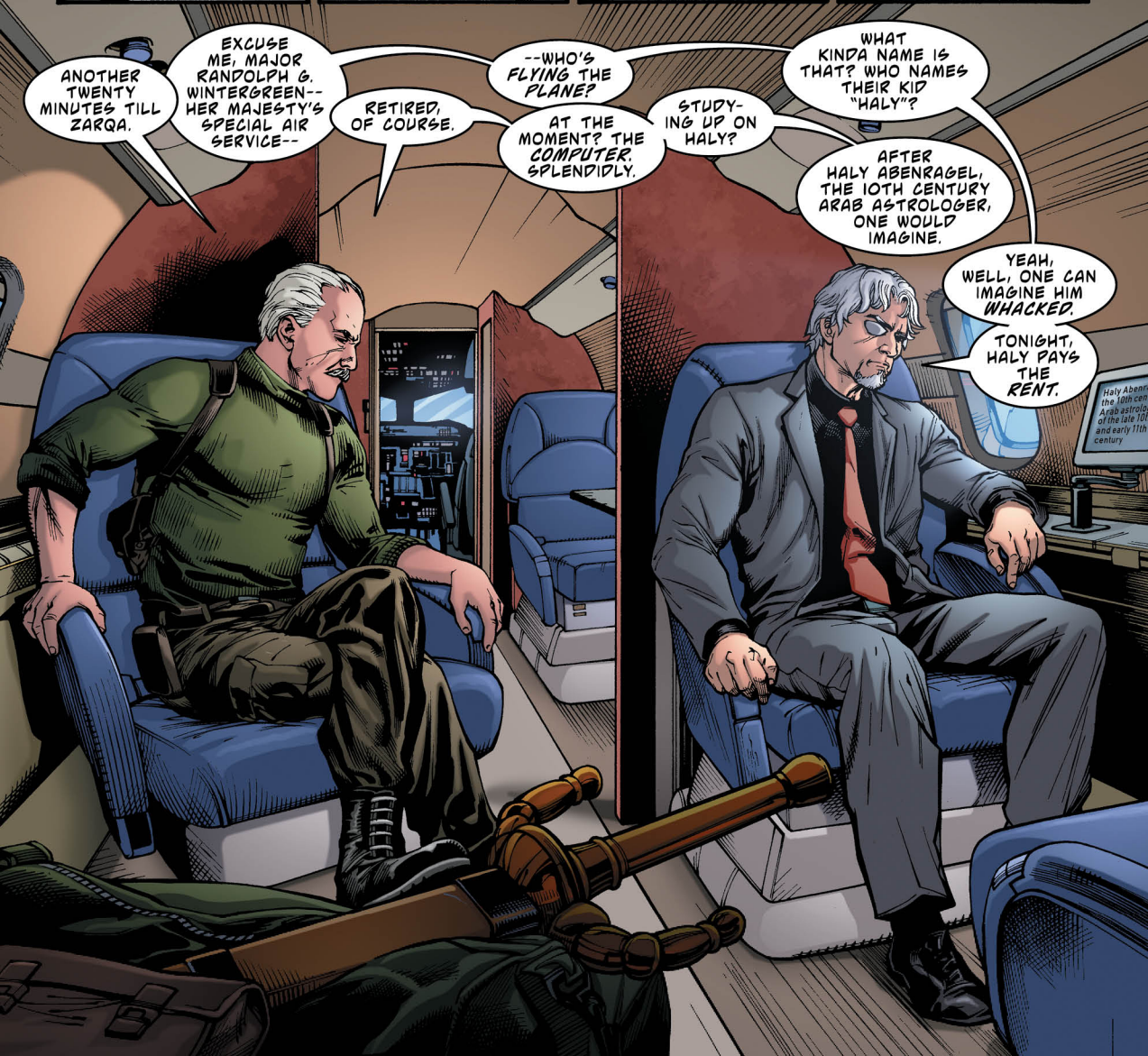
POP ACTUALLY ENJOYED KICKING IN DOORS IN FALLUJAH. DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT GOOD GUYS OR BAD GUYS.

WASN'T HIS PROBLEM.



"JUST TELL ME WHO TO SHOOT."

"GOOD" AND "BAD" WAS FOR SOMEBODY ELSE TO DECIDE.



ANOTHER TWENTY MINUTES TILL ZARQA.

EXCUSE ME, MAJOR RANDOLPH G. WINTERGREEN-- HER MAJESTY'S SPECIAL AIR SERVICE--

RETIRED, OF COURSE.

--WHO'S FLYING THE PLANE?

AT THE MOMENT? THE COMPUTER. SPLENDIDLY.

STUDYING UP ON HALY?

WHAT KINDA NAME IS THAT? WHO NAMES THEIR KID "HALY"?

AFTER HALY ABENRAGEL, THE 10TH CENTURY ARAB ASTROLOGER, ONE WOULD IMAGINE.

YEAH, WELL, ONE CAN IMAGINE HIM WHACKED.

TONIGHT, HALY PAYS THE RENT.

Haly Abenragel the 10th century Arab astrologer of the late 10th and early 11th century



"A Splendid Ambush"

JET ROUTE NINETEEN
NORTHWEST OF AZFAA, SAUDI ARABIA





GOING
BLAZES...
INTO A FLAT
SPIN--!

SLADE,
GET THE IKON
SUIT!



NOT
THE TIME TO
WORRY ABOUT
FASHION,
BILLY--



THE IKON SUIT--
GRAB IT.

WHY?!

BECAUSE,
JACKASS--
--THERE'S ONLY
ONE PARACHUTE!



YOUR ENHANCED
STRENGTH PERMITS
YOU TO OVERCOME THE
G-FORCES AT WORK
NOW!

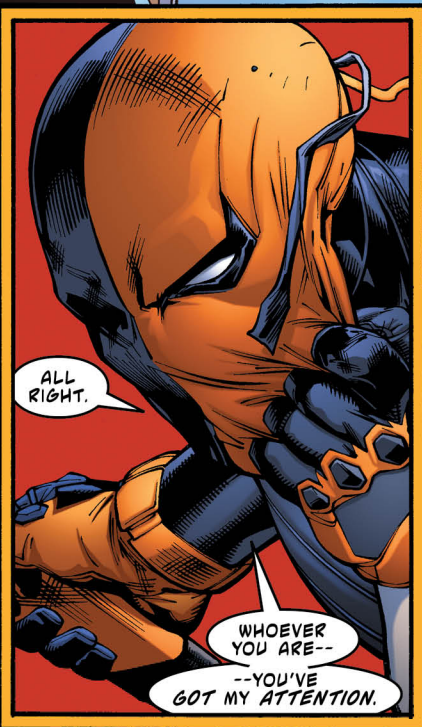
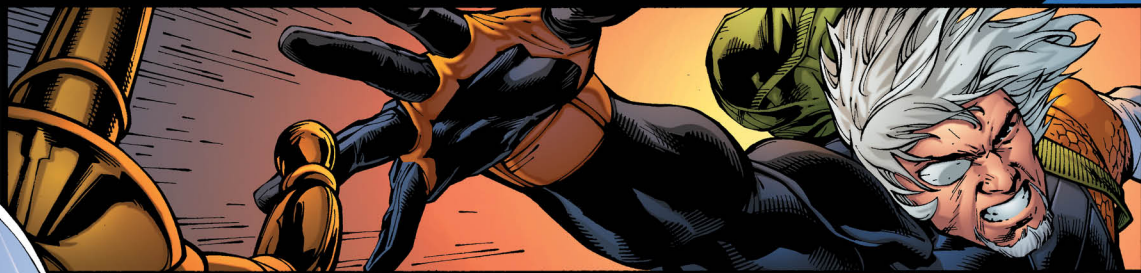
REMAINS TO
BE SEEN IF YOUR
RAPID HEALING CAN
HELP YOU RECOVER
FROM BEING A
PANCAKE.

MY
SWORD.

YOU
CAN ALWAYS
GET ANOTHER
SW--



--BOLLOCKS...



ALL RIGHT.

WHOEVER YOU ARE--
--YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION.



VW ACTIVE-- AUDIO ONLY.

Well, now, Slade--

--certainly made a mess this time.

...GOD I HATE THIS THING...

And yet you ACTIVATE me anyway--



MY SWORD--

--your uniform's point defense system--

--an artificial intelligence designed by your former crew member, DR. IKON--

--and granted Wintergreen's VOICE, mainly to ANNOY you.

Ah, yes--



--an antique Grete war blade. A PRICELESS relic you won in a POKER GAME.

The blade was later re-cast in PROMETHIUM--

--a dangerous mutagen capable of generating and absorbing near-limitless amounts of ENERGY.



Invented and patented by Steve Dayton of Dayton Industries.

THE SWORD, BILLY--ARE YOU TRACKING IT?

WHAT--?!

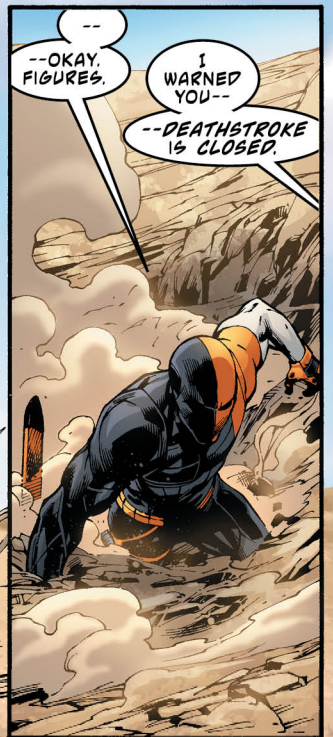
NOT YOU, BILLY--THE ROBOT WINTERGREEN!

WHAT?!

I've established GPS lock on your sword.

You're welcome.

THOOM



--OKAY, FIGURES.

I WARNED YOU--

--DEATHSTROKE IS CLOSED.

DEATHSTROKE

VERSUS

BATMAN

DEATHSTROKE
created by
MARY WOLFMAN &
GEORGE PÉREZ

BATMAN
created by BOB KANE
with BILL FINGER

The Falling Stars

Part
2 of 6



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This story takes place prior to current events in the DC Universe.