

DC
TM

4
SEP '06

GREG RUCKA
JESUS SAIZ

CHECK MATE



**THE CASTLE,
CHECKMATE
H.Q..**

...OUT OF
CONTACT WITH
THE BLACK QUEEN'S
TEAM FOR THE LAST
FOUR HOURS
OR SO...

...PRESUMABLY,
THEY'VE INFILTRATED
THE HEBEI
FACILITY.

MAYBE SHE CAN
KEEP HER PISTOLS
HOLSTERED THIS
TIME.

SASHA'S
NOT AS BLOOD-
THIRSTY AS YOU
THINK, ALAN...

**WHITE KING--
ALAN SCOTT--
"GREEN LANTERN"**

...YOU
SHOULD CUT
HER SOME
SLACK.

IT'S NOT A QUESTION
OF SLACK, MICHAEL,
YOU KNOW THAT. IT'S
A QUESTION OF
RIGHT.

I DON'T WANT
CHECKMATE
BECOMING AN
ORGANIZATION
THAT FAVORS
EXPEDIENCY
OVER
ETHICS.

**WHITE KING'S
BISHOP--MICHAEL
HOLT--"MISTER
TERRIFIC"**

WE DO
THAT, WE BECOME
JUST LIKE THIS GUY
HERE. WE BECOME
LIKE KOBRA.

A GROUP OF
ZEALOTS WHO BELIEVE
THAT ANYTHING THEY DO
IS JUSTIFIED, NO MATTER
HOW VILE THE ACT...

...BECAUSE
THEY'RE SERVING
SOMETHING
GREATER THAN
THE REST
OF--

WE'VE
GOT AN
INTERCEPT
OUT OF
HEBEI...

**BLACK
QUEEN'S
BISHOP--
JESSICA
MIDNIGHT**

...SHEN
WAS RIGHT,
THE CHINESE
ARE SANITIZING
THE WHOLE
LOCATION...

"...AND OUR
PEOPLE ARE
SMACK IN THE
MIDDLE OF IT."

2 HERE!
PROVINCE,
CHINA.

2 WHITE QUEEN'S KNIGHT--
COUNT WERNER VERTIGO

2 BLACK KING'S KNIGHT--BEATRIZ
D'ACOSTA--"FIRE"

(--ENEMIES
OF CHINA! STAND
DOWN OR YOU WILL
BE KILLED!)

VERTIGO!
GO FOR THE
PILOT! FIRE.
GIVE HIM
COVER!

TOMMY,
TAKE THE FIFTY/
SUPPRESSION
FIRE!

2 WHITE KING'S KNIGHT--
THOMAS JAGGER

2 BLACK QUEEN--
GASHA BORDEAUX

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The Game of Kings Part 4





THAT DID IT!

ALIEN OR NOT, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO FLY WHEN YOU CAN'T TELL UP FROM DO--



WUWUWU

MY FLAMES--
--THEY'RE DYING!



A SIMPLE CORRECTION MADE WITH THE JUDICIOUS APPLICATION OF SOUND.

PLEASE, I NOW REQUIRE YOU TO CEASE ALL MOVEMENT.

Gnhnn

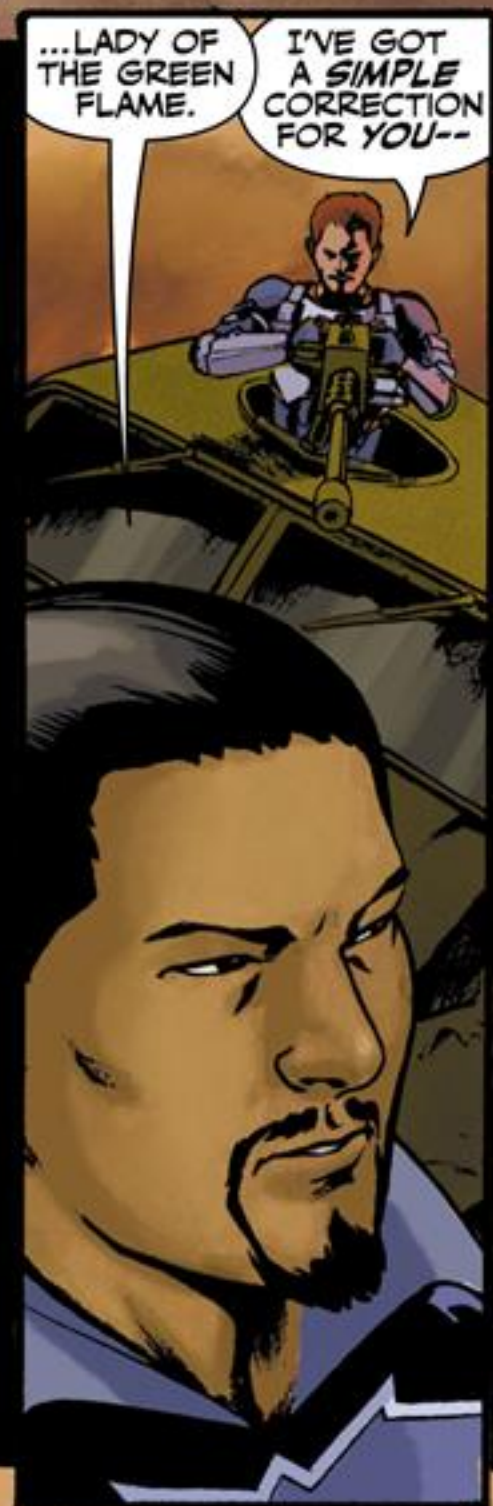


REQUIRE ALL YOU--

YUHUWU

--Hnn

THANK YOU...



...LADY OF THE GREEN FLAME.

I'VE GOT A SIMPLE CORRECTION FOR YOU--



THWACK



YOU HAVE COMMITTED AN UNLAWFUL INCURSION INTO SOVEREIGN CHINESE TERRITORY!

EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE HERE IMMEDIATELY!



WHO'S HE?

THE AUGUST GENERAL IN IRON.

SO... HE'S YOUR BOSS, THEN?

THE PARTY LIKES TO THINK SO.



IT'S A SNAKE HUNT, AUGUST GENERAL...



...WE'VE COME TO GET THE KOBRA OUT OF YOUR GARDEN.

CHINA DOES NOT REQUIRE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING MATTERS OF INTERNAL SECURITY.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS AN OVERT ACT OF ESPIONAGE. YOU WILL LEAVE AT ONCE.



THAT'S YOUR CHOICE, GENERAL...



...I'M SURE THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE IN HEBEI.



⟨THE BLACK QUEEN.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.⟩

⟨PHYSICIAN!
RELEASE THE GREEN
FLAME, THEN TEND TO
THE IMMORTAL MAN-IN-
DARKNESS!⟩



⟨AS
YOU ORDER,
GENERAL.⟩ OOUHHAHNN

--LIKE!

What
the hell just
happened?



I UNDERSTAND THE
SECURITY COUNCIL WILL
NOT BE LISTENING
TO YOU FOR MUCH
LONGER.

THEY'LL LISTEN LONG
ENOUGH FOR ME TO TELL
THEM WHAT I'VE SEEN
HERE TODAY.

YOU HAVE
SEEN NOTHING,
BLACK QUEEN.

YOU'RE
SURE ABOUT
THAT?



USE OF DURLAN
TECHNOLOGY WAS
BANNED BY RESOLUTION
622 DUE TO ITS
AGGRESSIVE AND
INHERENTLY UNSTABLE
NATURE.

HOW MANY PILOTS
HAVE LOST CELLULAR
COHERENCE FLYING
THOSE THINGS FOR
THE PEOPLE,
GENERAL?

AND SINCE
WE'RE ON THE
SUBJECT...



...I'M WILLING TO
BET THE ARMOR YOU'RE
WEARING ISN'T ARMOR
AT ALL, THAT RUST ISN'T
REALLY RUST.

SEE, I KNOW A
LITTLE SOMETHING
ABOUT HAVING YOUR
BODY INVADDED
AND REMADE BY
AN OUTSIDE
FORCE.

YOU'VE
BEEN REWRITTEN
BY DURLAN DNA,
GENERAL.



I MUST
CONSULT MY
SUPERIORS.

TAKE
YOUR
TIME.



BRIEF ME.

SCOTT BROUGHT THE PRISONER IN JUST AFTER DAWN, PUT HIM IN DUNGEON FOUR.

HOLT, SHEN, AND MIDNIGHT HAVE BEEN TAG-TEAMING THE INTERROGATION SINCE TH--

AND WHY THE HELL AREN'T YOU THERE WITH THEM, KING?

WHITE QUEEN--
AMANDA WALLER

WHITE QUEEN'S BISHOP--
KING FARADAY



THERE'S A COMPLICATION.

I'M WAITING.

"MISTER TERRIFIC" FIGURED IT OUT. HE KNOWS THE HEBEI FACILITY IS CHINA'S KEY META FACTORY...



...AND HE KNOWS THAT WE KNEW IT AND DIDN'T SHARE THE INTEL.

THAT MAN'S TOO DAMN SMART FOR HIS OWN GOOD.

HOW BAD ARE WE BURNT?

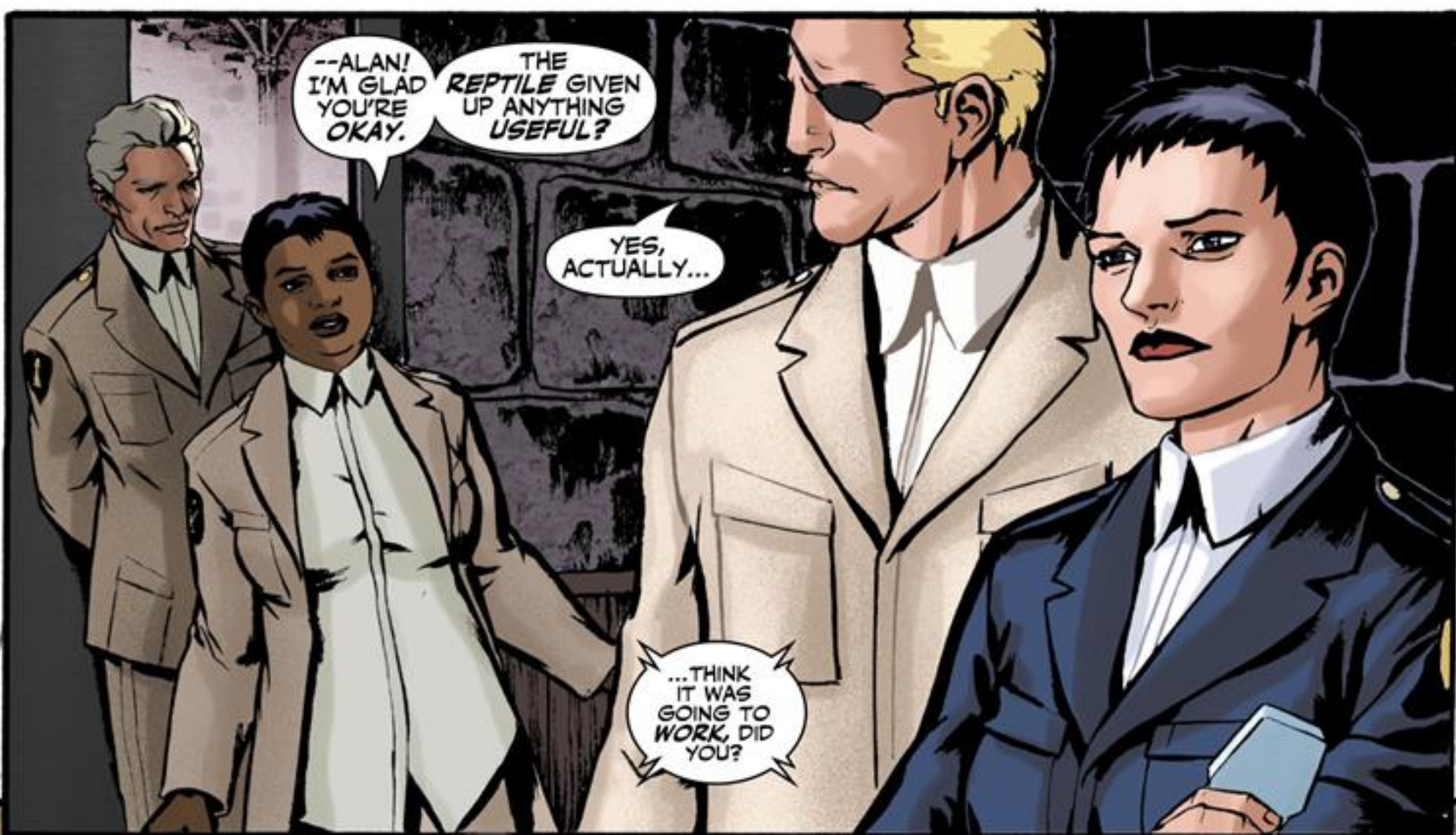
PRETTY CRISPY...



ALL THE BISHOPS AND THE BLACK KING KNOW, AND THERE'S NO WAY THAT HOLT HASN'T TOLD THE WHITE KING, AS WELL.

AND MIDNIGHT'S TOLD THE BLACK QUEEN.

ACTUALLY, NO...





THE *DISREGARD* FOR HUMAN *LIFE* IN THIS ORGANIZATION IS *GROTESQUE*.

--MY FAITH IS PERFECT, I WILL BE REWARDED IN THE WORLD TO COME.

TAKE IT UP WITH BORDEAUX--

NOT BORDEAUX.



YOU'RE A LANCEHEAD, AREN'T YOU? HOPING TO GROW UP TO BE A NAGA SOME DAY?

YOU KNOW *NOTHING* OF KOBRA, ALL YOU KNOW IS *LIES*--



I'LL *SPEAK* TO THE WHITE QUEEN *ALONE*.

YES, SIR.



MA'AM?

GO.



NEW SCOTLAND YARD FOUND THE *BODY* OF A LANCEHEAD, DEAD, IN YOUR *HOTEL* ROOM THIS MORNING. YOU DID THAT?

YOU GOING TO GIVE ME A *SPANKING*, ALAN? SHE WAS TRYING TO *ASSASSINATE* ME. I DID WHAT I HAD TO.



I FIND IT *INTERESTING* THAT PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY CAN *LIE* TO ME.

I KNOW WHEN PEOPLE ARE *LYING* TO ME, AMANDA. THE *RING* TELLS ME SO.



YOU DIDN'T *FIGHT* THE NAZIS WITH *HUGS* AND *NICE* WORDS, ALAN. DON'T PRETEND THERE'S NO *BLOOD* ON YOUR *HANDS*.

WE ALSO DIDN'T KILL THEM *AFTER* THEY'D *SURRENDERED*.

WHY'D YOU DO IT?



TO *SEND* A MESSAGE.





<SO...>

<...YOU ALWAYS BEEN A *CELESTIAL ARCHER*, OR IS THIS JUST YOUR *HOBBY*?>

<ARE YOU ASKING OUT OF CURIOSITY OR BECAUSE YOU ARE *GATHERING INTELLIGENCE*?>

<...WE'VE BEEN *STANDING AROUND* FOR OVER TWO HOURS NOW.>

<WHAT'RE WE *WAITING FOR AGAIN*?>

<THE GENERAL WILL NOT PROCEED WITHOUT *ORDERS* FROM THE GREAT TEN.>

<I'M ASKING OUT OF *BOREDOM*, FRANKLY...>

<THOSE ORDERS, IN TURN, MUST COME FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE...>

<...AS YOU MIGHT *IMAGINE*, IT COULD BE A WHILE *LONGER* BEFORE HE KNOWS IF WE'RE TO CONTINUE OUR *BATTLE* OR NOT.>

<PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE *INTERESTED* IN A *CONTEST* OF SOME SORT, TO PASS THE TIME? TARGET-SHOOTING, MAYBE?>

<HOW ABOUT *HIDE AND SEEK*...>



<...LET'S
FIND OUT WHERE
COUNT VERTIGO AND
THE ACCOMPLISHED
PERFECT PHYSICIAN
WENT.>

(A GOOD
GAME.)

HI. NICE, UH...
PLANE.



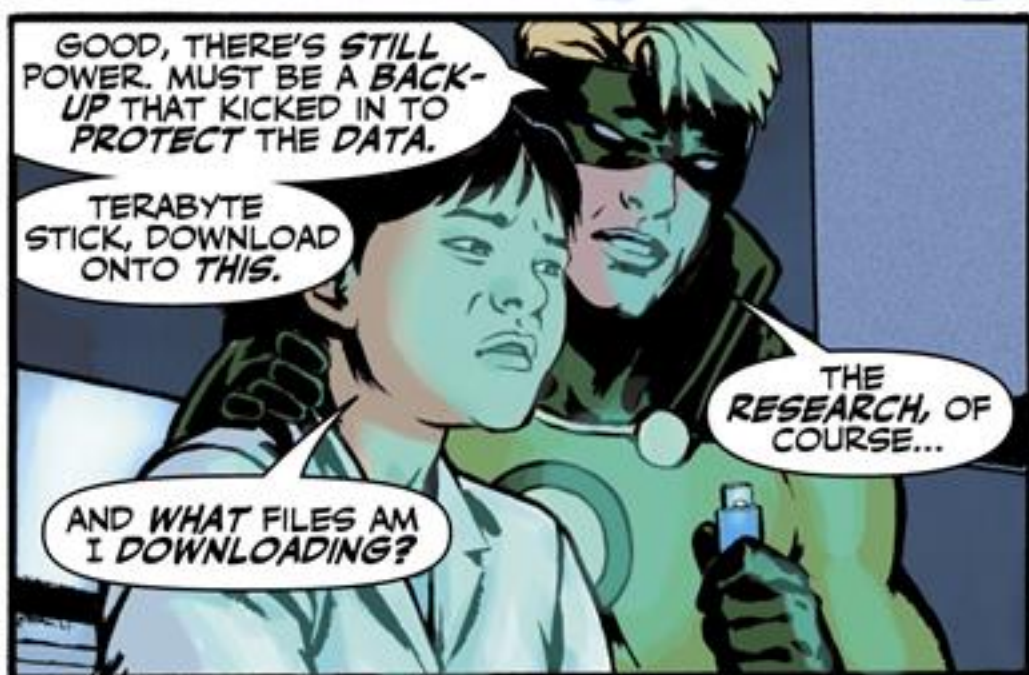
IT
REALLY IS
ALIVE.
I'M SORRY,
I DIDN'T MEAN
TO HURT IT...



IT'S
WARM...



...I THINK
IT *LIKES*
ME.





DAMMIT, VERTIGO!
KNOCK IT OFF!!!

⟨I AM A
FOOL--⟩



⟨--YOUR AGENT
TAKES HOSTAGES
TO STEAL FROM US?
I OFFERED YOU
FRIENDSHIP--⟩

⟨THIS
ISN'T MY DOING,
ARCHER! THINK
ABOUT IT--⟩



⟨--AND
YOU SPAT
UPON IT!⟩

⟨--IF
I KNEW WHAT
HE WAS UP TO,
WHY WOULD
I--⟩



⟨I KNEW
CHECKMATE WAS
NOT TO BE TRUSTED!
YOU ARE AMERICAN
PUPPETS, NOTHING
MORE!⟩

⟨GENERAL,
THIS ISN'T WHAT
IT LOOKS--⟩

⟨THE
GREAT TEN WILL
NOT FAULT US FOR
DEFENDING WHAT
IS OURS!⟩





NICELY DONE, WERNER.
IS THIS WHAT WALLER WANTED,
TO *START AN INTERNATIONAL
INCIDENT?*

IT *WASN'T*
SUPPOSED TO
GO *DOWN THIS*
WAY.

THOSE
WORDS ARE
GOING TO LOOK
GREAT ON YOUR
HEADSTONE.



*<YOU ARE
ALL UNDER
ARREST.>*

*<DROP YOUR
WEAPONS, BLACK
QUEEN, OR I WILL
DROP Y-->*

DON'T
YOU *POINT*
THAT AT
HER!



SHE
MAY BE A *BITCH*
ON *WHEELS*, SHE MAY
EVEN BE BORDERLINE
PSYCHOTIC--



--BUT SHE'S STILL
THE *BLACK QUEEN*
OF CHECKMATE, AND
I'M STILL A *BLACK
KNIGHT*.

YOU'LL LAY A
HAND ON HER OVER
MY *DEAD BODY*,
GENERAL.



THE
BORDERLINE
PSYCHOTIC PART
I COULD DO
WITHOUT, BUT
THE REST WAS
PRETTY
COOL.

YEAH, WELL,
DON'T SAY I *NEVER*
DID ANYTHING FOR
YOU.



*<KILL
THEM.>*

*<BELAY
THAT
ORDER!>*



⟨YOU
WILL **STAND
DOWN**, GENERAL,
AS WILL YOUR
COMRADES.⟩

LOWER
YOUR **WEAPONS**,
BLACK QUEEN...



...THERE'LL
BE **NO KILLING**
HERE **TODAY**.



WITH
PLEASURE,
SIR.

⟨COMRADE
PHYSICIAN, PLEASE
GATHER THE REMAINING
BASE PERSONNEL
ABOVE GROUND AT
ONCE.⟩

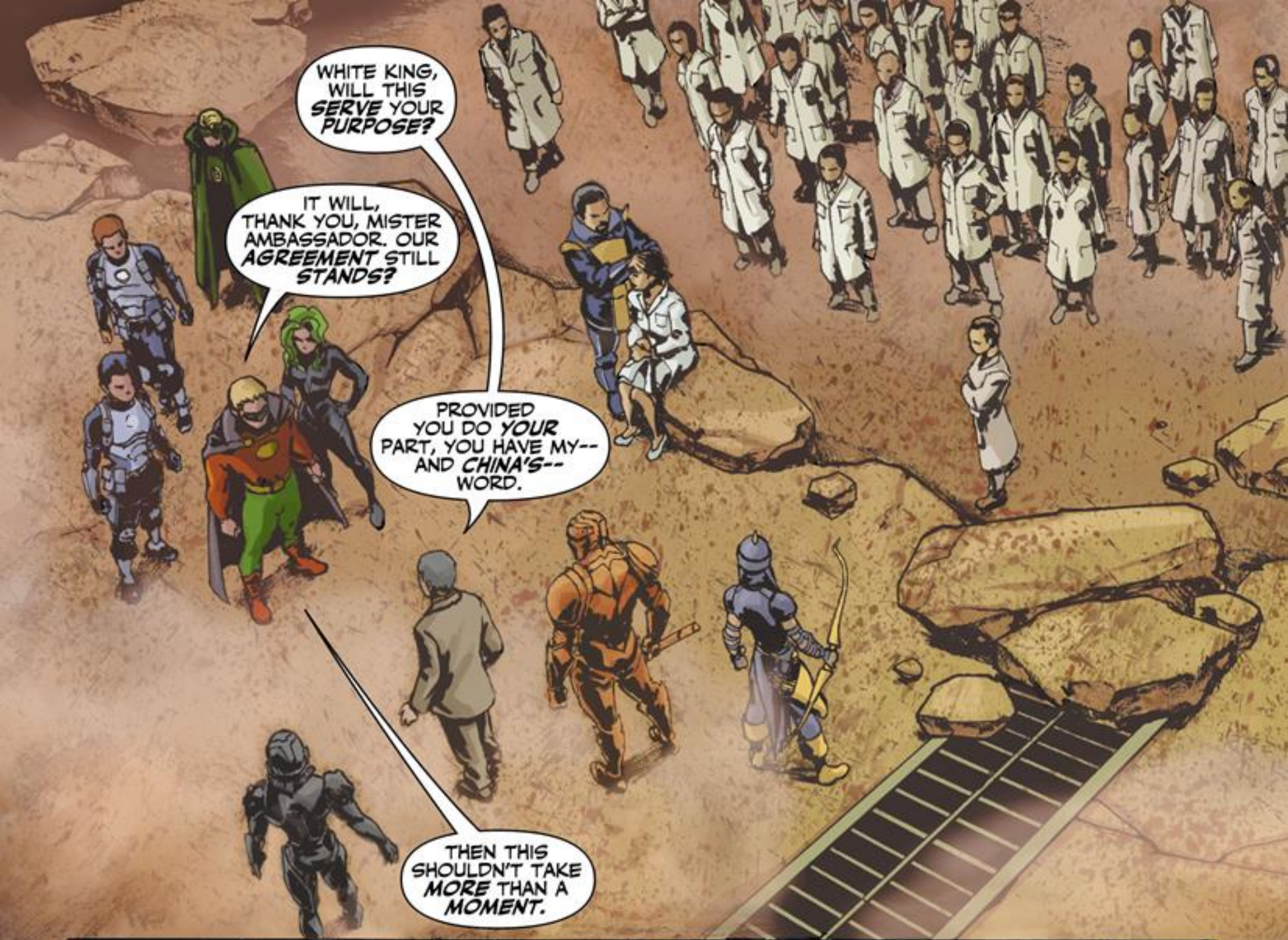
⟨AT ONCE,
AMBASSADOR
SHI.⟩



⟨AMBASSADOR,
I MUST
PROTEST--⟩

⟨THEN DO SO, BUT
DO SO **LATER.**⟩

⟨FOR NOW, ASSIST
IN **GATHERING EVERYONE**
ON THE **SURFACE.**⟩







MISTER
AMBASSADOR,
I TRUST THIS
SATISFIES
YOU?

WITHOUT *PROOF* OF THIS
FACILITY'S *PURPOSE*, THE AMERICANS
CANNOT *EXPLOIT* THE FACT THAT
KOBRA HAD *INFILTRATED* IT.

I AM
SATISFIED, WHITE
KING. YOU ARE,
INDEED, A MAN OF
YOUR *WORD*...



...AND I SHALL *PROVE*
TO YOU THAT I AM A MAN
OF *MINE*.

THE *NEW* RESOLUTION
WILL BE *FORWARDED*
IMMEDIATELY, AND YOU CAN
RELY ON CHINA'S *SUPPORT*
IN ITS *PASSING*.

THANK
YOU, MISTER
AMBASSADOR.



I TAKE FULL
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR VERTIGO'S
ACTIONS.

HE'S
A *KNIGHT*
ACTING UNDER
HIS *QUEEN'S*
ORDERS,
SASHA.

WALLER
WAS PLAYING
HER *OWN* GAME,
THE COUNT WAS
JUST ANOTHER
PAWN IN IT.



IT DOESN'T
MATTER *WHOSE*
KNIGHT HE IS. I'M BLACK
QUEEN, HIS *ACTIONS*
IN THE *FIELD* ARE MY
RESPONSIBILITY.

NO
WONDER YOU
AND MICHAEL
HAVE FALLEN
FOR EACH
OTHER.



I COMMEND YOUR SENSE
OF *RESPONSIBILITY*, EVEN IF
I STILL HAVE PROBLEMS WITH
YOUR *METHODOLOGY*.

...HOW
LONG HAVE YOU
KNOWN?

SINCE
IT *STARTED*,
SO...*EIGHT*
MONTHS
NOW?



I THINK I'M
BLUSHING.

YOU
ARE.



THE *AMERICANS*
ARE GOING TO *ROAST*
YOU FOR THIS, YOU KNOW
THAT? THEY *STILL* THINK
OF CHECKMATE AS
THEIRS.

IT COULD
COST YOU YOUR
JOB.

THE
JOB MATTERS
LESS THAN
THE *LESSON*,
SASHA...

"...I'VE SHOWN THAT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY FOR CHECKMATE TO DO BUSINESS."

UNITED NATIONS,
NEW YORK CITY.

CHECKMATE CONTINUANCE (REVISION) RESOLUTION 1802-B

YEA

CHINA (P)
UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA (P)
JAPAN

ABSTAINS

ARGENTINA

NAY

UMED
QATAR

...DESIGNATED SC-DASH-
EIGHTEEN-OH-TWO-DASH-B, THE
RESOLUTION PASSES ON A VOTE
OF TWELVE TO TWO, WITH
ARGENTINA ABSTAINING...

...MOVING ON, I DIRECT THE
MEMBERS TO THEIR AGENDAS,
ITEM EIGHTEEN-OH-TWO-DASH-C,
PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR
TRAUTMANN OF THE UNITED
STATES...

...RECONFIRMATION OF
THE CHECKMATE "ROYALS"
AS DIRECTED BY THE
RULE OF TWO...

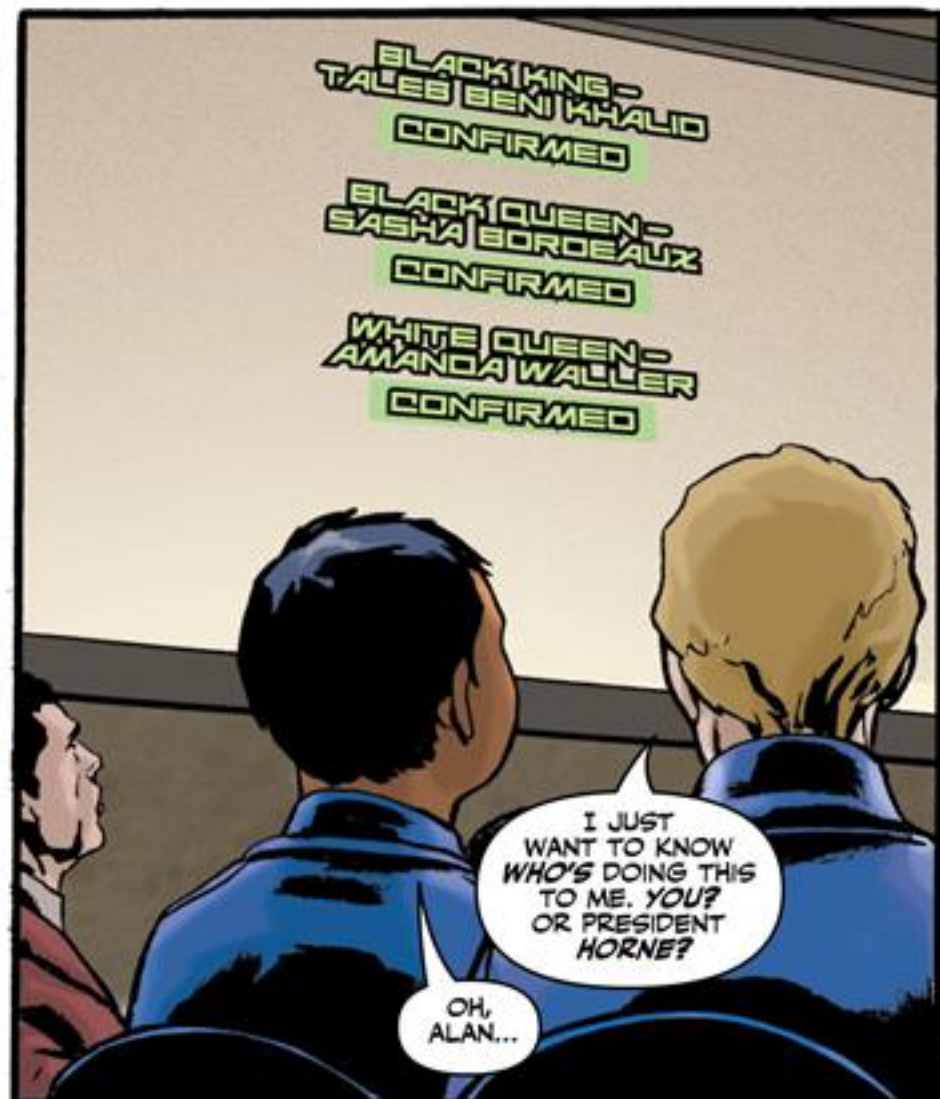


...THIS IS A
SUBSTANTIVE MATTER,
AND PERMANENT MEMBER
VETO IS IN EFFECT...

...THE COUNCIL WILL
CAST THEIR BALLOTS
NOW...

SO TELL
ME, AMANDA,
IS THIS YOUR
REVENGE OR THE
PRESIDENT'S?

IT'S NOT
REVENGE, ALAN.
IT'S CALLED
POLITICS.



BLACK KING -
TALES BENI KHALID
CONFIRMED

BLACK QUEEN -
SASHA BORDEAUX
CONFIRMED

WHITE QUEEN -
AMANDA WALLER
CONFIRMED

I JUST
WANT TO KNOW
WHO'S DOING THIS
TO ME. YOU?
OR PRESIDENT
HORNE?

OH,
ALAN...

WHITE KING - ALAN SCOTT

VETO (U.S.A.)

...YOU DID IT TO
YOURSELF.

NEXT ISSUE:
SELECTION