



UNFINISHED
STORIES

ZAADII

THE LEGEND OF Z-HAWK



GAIL SIMONE
J. CALAFIORE

This is a story about a true-life hero, who only wants to do good in the world. It's based on a real person, a Navajo child named Zaadii, who was tragically killed by a distracted driver. His greatest joy in life was superheroes, and at three years old he was given a cape, and decided he was a superhero himself.

We agree.

Our hope is that Zaadii's message, and memory, will live on through this book. This is his Unfinished Story.

GREY FALCON

&
SPARROW



FOR ME, THE RIPPLES STARTED WHEN I WAS JUST THREE YEARS OLD, SEEING MY FAVORITE HERO EVERY WEEK ON TV.

IF YOU DIP YOUR FINGERS INTO A POOL OF STILL WATER...

...IT CREATES RIPPLES.

LITTLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES, RADIATING OUTWARD.

CREATING PATTERNS THAT GO ON AND ON, UNTIL THEY HIT THE SHORE AND RETURN, CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER IN BEAUTIFUL SYMMETRY.



THE IMAGES WE SEE AS CHILDREN,
OFTEN LINGER WITH US OUR ENTIRE LIVES.

CAACKLIN' CORROSIVE,
GREY FALCON!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO BE MELTED FOR SURE THIS TIME!

LAST WEEK!

OUR HEROES HAVE BEEN HUNG BY THAT HARROWING HEEL, THE HANGMAN!

WE DIP OUR FINGERS IN...

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION IN CHEMISTRY CLASS, SPARROW!

AS THIS IS INDEED A CAUSTIC CONUNDRUM!

...AND RADIATE OUTWARDS, INTO THE LARGER WORLD.

WELL. IT WAS A PLEASURE FIGHTING CRIME WITH YOU, GREY FALCON!

NOT SO FAST, MY YOUNG CHUM.

FOR YOU SEE, THE HEINOUS HANGMAN FORGOT ONE CRUCIAL DETAIL.

THE FALCON CLAW IN MY COLORFUL GAUNTLET.

WISH ME LUCK, CHUM!

ROLLICKING RICOCHET, GREY FALCON! YOU GOT IT!



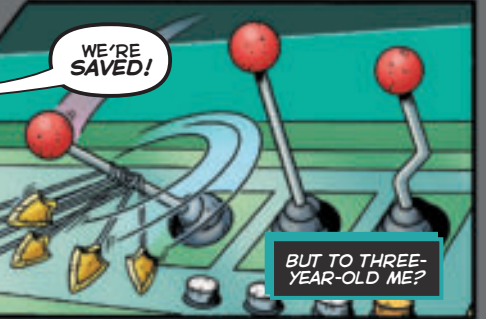
A CHILD WATCHES A STORY ABOUT HEROES, PEOPLE DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD...

...AND VOWS TO BECOME A HERO, HIMSELF.

RIPPLES IN THE STILL WATER.



AND SURE, IT ALL LOOKS A LITTLE CORNY NOW.



BUT TO THREE-YEAR-OLD ME?



"GREY FALCON AND SPARROW" WAS MIND-BLOWING.

LET'S NOT CONGRATULATE OURSELVES YET, CHUM!

NOT UNTIL WE FIND AND FELL OUR NOTORIOUS NEMESIS!

WILL OUR DARING DUO CORRAL AND CAPTURE THE HIDEOUS HANGMAN IN TIME TO SAVE LIBERTY CITY?

THEY DO.



I KNOW BECAUSE I'VE SEEN THIS ONE. I'VE SEEN THEM ALL.

AND CORNY
OR NOT...

...MAN, I WANTED
THAT CAR.



MY NAME IS
ZAADII TOHZON.



IT WAS CHOSEN BY
MY GRANDMOTHER
AND TRIBAL ELDERS,
AFTER MUCH
DISCUSSION.



IN THE NAVAJO LANGUAGE OF MY
FATHER, IT MEANS, "SPEAKS WITH
THE POWER OF GENTLE WATER."

IT'S WHO I AM, WHO
I WAS MEANT TO BE.

HEELLPP!

GOGGLES.

ILLUMINATE.

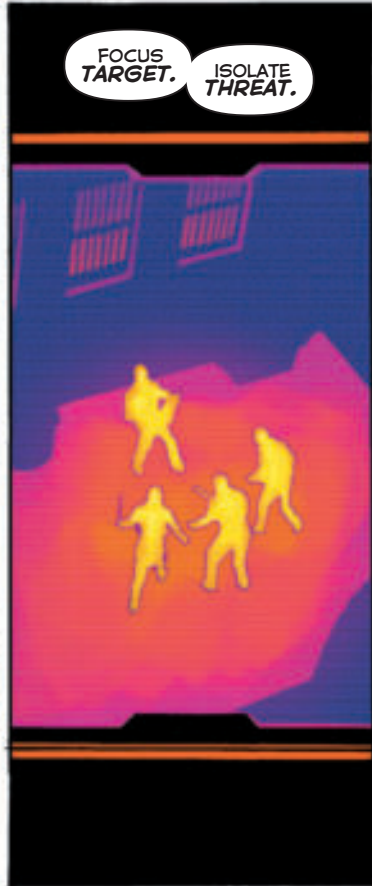
KLIK



BUT IT'S ONLY ONE NAME
I CARRY WITH ME.

FOCUS
TARGET.

ISOLATE
THREAT.



TALON,
EMBED
MODE.

FIRE!

PAFF



TO THE INNOCENTS OF
THIS CITY AND THE BAD GUYS
WHO TRY TO HURT THEM...
I HAVE ANOTHER NAME.

A comic book cover illustration of Z-Hawk, a superhero with large, teal, feathered wings. He is wearing a black and white suit with a teal mask. He is flying through a heavy rainstorm in front of a brick building with several lit windows. A large, glowing teal moon is visible in the dark sky. The overall color palette is dominated by teal, black, and white, with the warm yellow of the window lights providing contrast.

THEY CALL ME

Z-HAWK.

AND I AM A
PROTECTOR!

Z-HAWK UNDER THE SILVERED MOON

WRITER: GAIL SIMONE ARTIST: J. CALAFIORE
ARTIST PGS 1-3: MARK DOS SANTOS.
COLORIST: JASON WRIGHT
LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE
BACK COVER: JEFFERY VEREGGE



PLEASE. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

DON'T WORRY, PAL. THIS ISN'T GONNA TAKE LONG.

WE JUST WANT TO, YOU KNOW, HAVE A LITTLE DISCUSSION.



SEE, THE THING IS, THIS GUY, HE PAID US MONEY.

TO GET YOU PROTESTOR TYPES TO MAYBE RECONSIDER A LITTLE.

YOU FEEL ME?



AND HE SAID, IF YOU DIDN'T WANNA COOPERATE, IF YOU WANNA BE UNFRIENDLY...

... THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD BE UNFRIENDLY RIGHT BACK.

TALON. ENCUMBER. TARGET ONE.



FIRE!

HEY. WAIT. WHAT?

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO HURT ANYONE, NOT EVEN THESE GUYS.

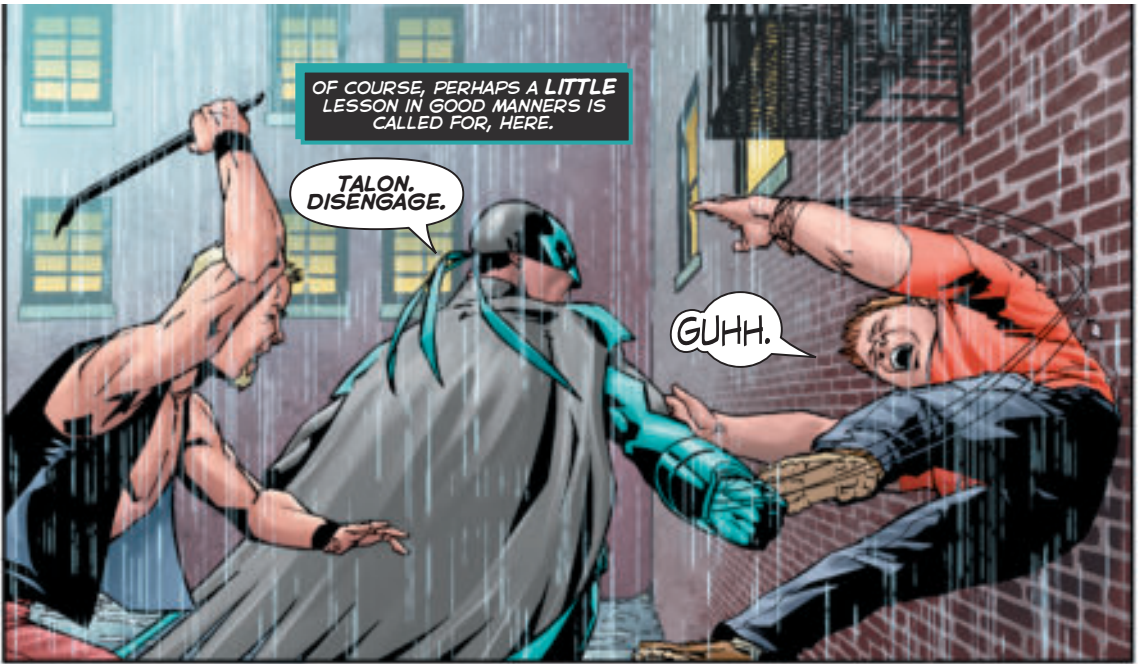
THERE'S ENOUGH PAIN IN THE WORLD ALREADY.

TALON. SNAP RETRACT.



GET THE FREAK!

UUGH!



OF COURSE, PERHAPS A LITTLE LESSON IN GOOD MANNERS IS CALLED FOR, HERE.

TALON. DISENGAGE.

GUHH.



I MEAN...

...IT'S ONLY GOOD CIVICS.

UM.

GET OUT OF THE WAY, I GOT HIM. I GOT HIM!



NO, GOOD SIR.

YOU MOST CERTAINLY DO NOT.

OOOF!



STILL.

NO REASON TO BE MEAN.



YOU OKAY, SIR?

YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

HEY, YOU'RE Z-HAWK, RIGHT? YOU PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!

SOMEONE TRYING TO SHUT DOWN PROTEST. WITH VIOLENT METHODS.

AND I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHO.

TYSON ARVELL GARDNER.

CEO OF MAMMOTH TECHNOLOGY.

YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN? NOTHING BROKEN?

GOOD. BECAUSE I'M GONNA CUFF YOU AND CALL THE POLICE.

LISTEN, I FEEL LIKE I OWE YOU SOMETHING.

YOU NEED A RIDE SOMEWHERE?

THAT'S NICE OF YOU, SIR.

BUT, SEE-

Z-RUNNER. NON-COLLISION HOMING MODE, NOW!

I ALREADY HAVE A CAR.

THE Z-RUNNER. ALL ELECTRIC, SELF-DRIVE.

EVERY HERO'S GOTTA HAVE A GREAT RIDE, RIGHT?

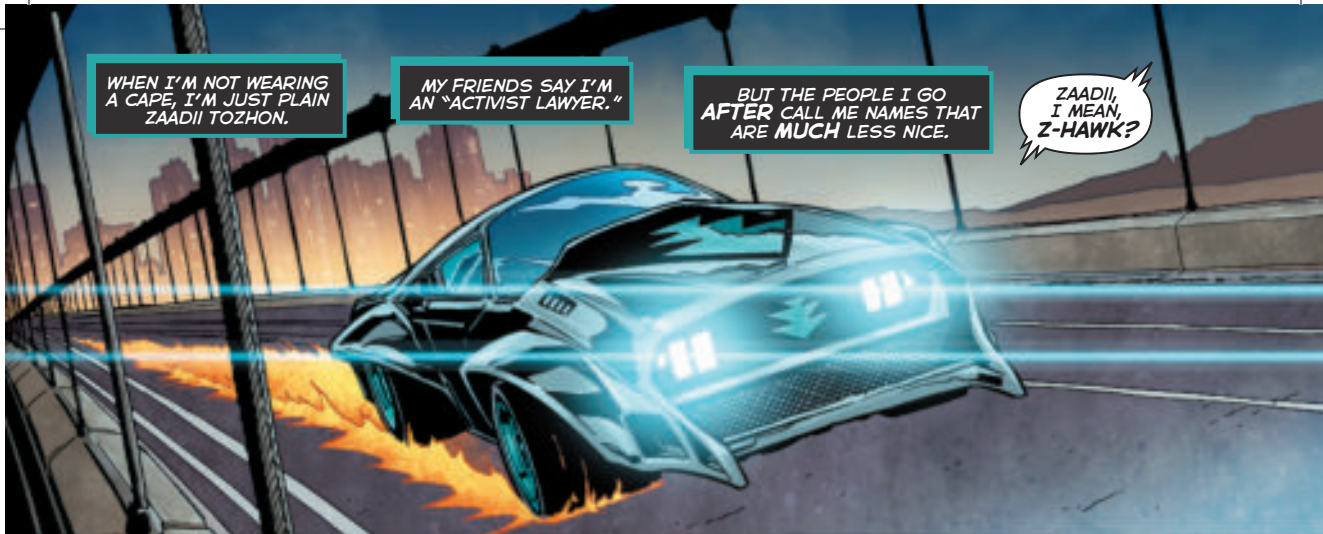


WHEN I'M NOT WEARING A CAPE, I'M JUST PLAIN ZAADII TOZHON.

MY FRIENDS SAY I'M AN "ACTIVIST LAWYER."

BUT THE PEOPLE I GO AFTER CALL ME NAMES THAT ARE MUCH LESS NICE.

ZAADII, I MEAN, Z-HAWK?



THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND TONY REESE.

WE TOOK OVER HIS FATHER'S PRESTIGIOUS LAW PRACTICE.

EVEN WITH A RICH DAD, HE PRACTICALLY LIVED AT MY HOUSE. HE AND HIS DAD, THEY NEVER GOT ALONG, SOMEHOW.

IT'S OKAY, TONY. THE BLOCKER'S ON, NO ONE CAN HEAR US.



OKAY, RIGHT. LISTEN, SHOULDN'T YOU GET SOME REST?

AUTO-PILOT ENGAGED

HE'S RIGHT, Z. TAKE THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF, THAT'S AN ORDER.



NO ONE FIGHTS FOR JUST CAUSES LIKE MARGARET.

AUTO-PILOT ENGAGED

AND HERE'S THE THIRD PARTNER IN OUR PRACTICE, AND THE ONLY PERSON ASIDE FROM TONY TO KNOW MY SECRET ID, MARGARET REEVES.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ALL THIS WITHOUT THEM.

WE GET THE DECISION ON OUR INJUNCTION AGAINST MAMMOTH TOMORROW, REMEMBER?



YOU'RE RIGHT. I'D BETTER HIGHTAIL IT.

Z-RUNNER. JUMP MODE.



ALL RIGHT. GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF US TOMORROW.

AND ZAADII?



MY DAD WOULD'VE BEEN SO PROUD OF YOU.



THANKS, TONY.

BUT IF IT WORKS, **ALL** OUR FAMILIES WILL BE PROUD OF US.

TONY AND MARGARET, THEY KEEP SAYING I'VE GOT TO GET MORE **REST**.

AND FOR A GOOD TWO HOURS?

I TAKE THAT ADVICE.

ZZZZZZZ

AND LIKE ALWAYS I DREAM OF A HAWK.

MY MOTHER SAYS HAWKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN THE SKY DURING MY MOST SIGNIFICANT DAYS.

SO I TOOK THAT AS MY **HERO** NAME.

UNFORTUNATELY, I SLEPT THROUGH THE **ALARM**.

ZAAD!!! DO YOU KNOW HOW **LATE** YOU ARE?

NO, I...

YOU LOOK **TERRIBLE**, DID YOU SLEEP?

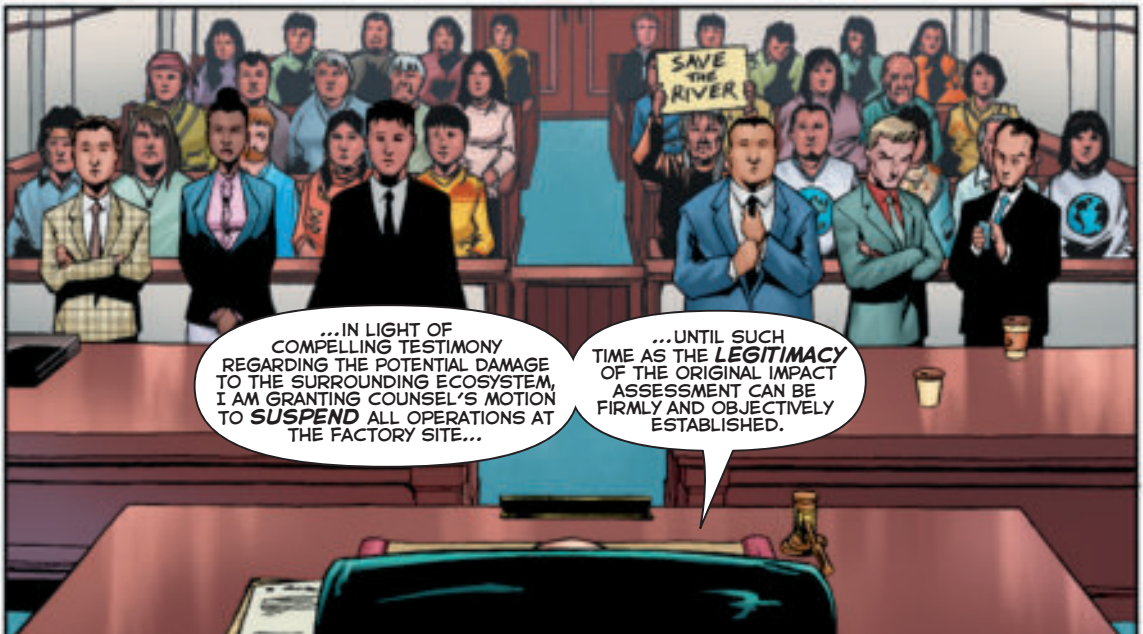
A BIT, SEE...

DID YOU EAT ANYTHING?



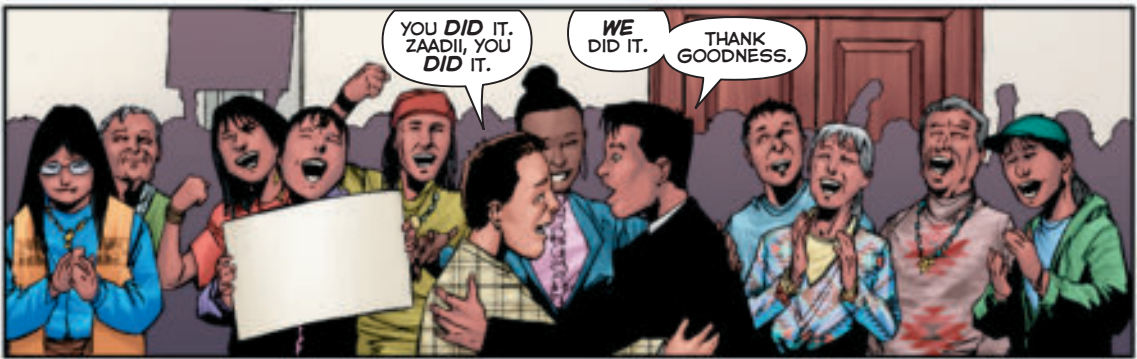
NEVER MIND, EAT THIS.

AND FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, STRAIGHTEN YOUR **TIE**.



...IN LIGHT OF **COMPELLING** TESTIMONY REGARDING THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE SURROUNDING ECOSYSTEM, I AM GRANTING COUNSEL'S MOTION TO **SUSPEND** ALL OPERATIONS AT THE FACTORY SITE...

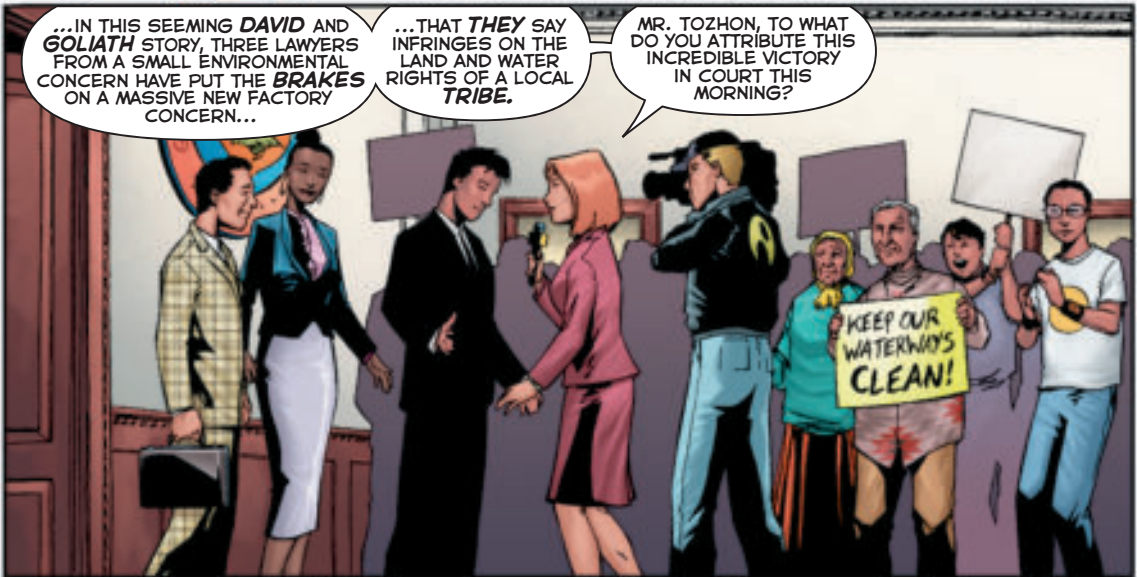
...UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE **LEGITIMACY** OF THE ORIGINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CAN BE FIRMLY AND OBJECTIVELY ESTABLISHED.



YOU DID IT. ZAADI, YOU DID IT.

WE DID IT.

THANK GODNESS.

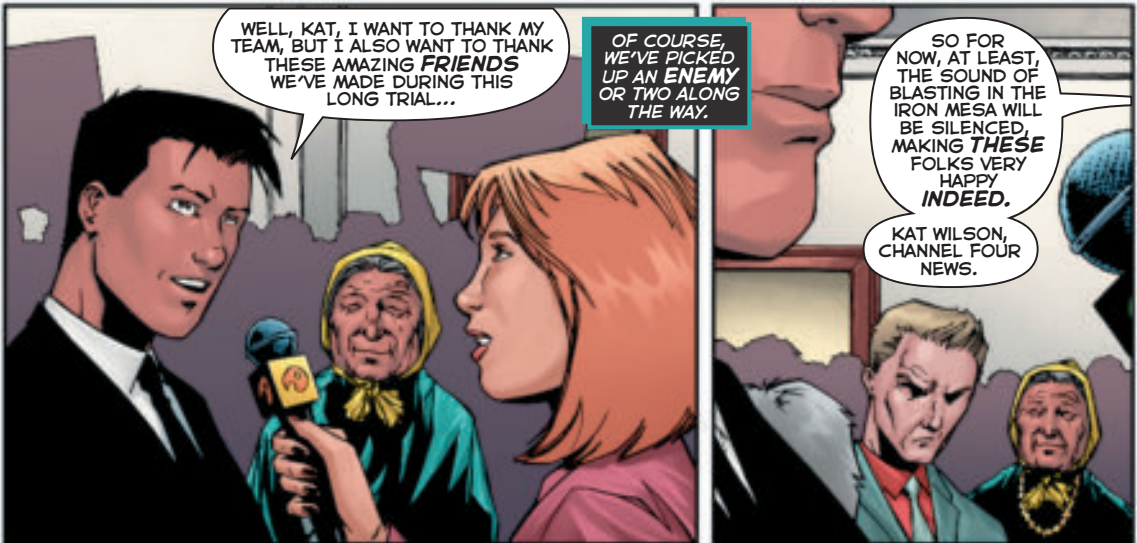


...IN THIS SEEMING DAVID AND GOLIATH STORY, THREE LAWYERS FROM A SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN HAVE PUT THE BRAKES ON A MASSIVE NEW FACTORY CONCERN...

...THAT THEY SAY INFRINGES ON THE LAND AND WATER RIGHTS OF A LOCAL TRIBE.

MR. TOZHON, TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE THIS INCREDIBLE VICTORY IN COURT THIS MORNING?

KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN!



WELL, KAT, I WANT TO THANK MY TEAM, BUT I ALSO WANT TO THANK THESE AMAZING FRIENDS WE'VE MADE DURING THIS LONG TRIAL...

OF COURSE, WE'VE PICKED UP AN ENEMY OR TWO ALONG THE WAY.

SO FOR NOW, AT LEAST, THE SOUND OF BLASTING IN THE IRON MESA WILL BE SILENCED, MAKING THESE FOLKS VERY HAPPY INDEED.

KAT WILSON, CHANNEL FOUR NEWS.

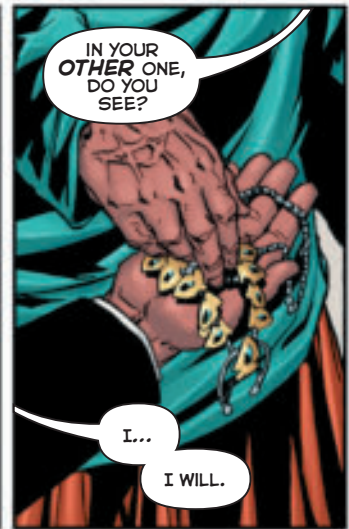
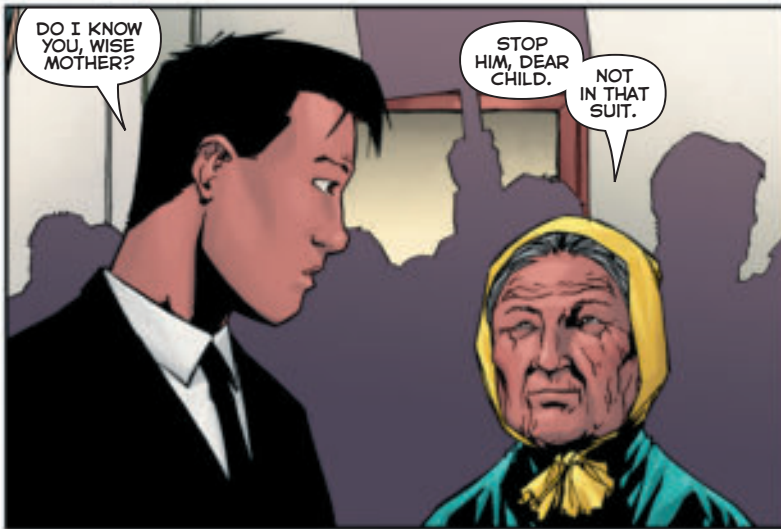


YOU THINK YOU'VE WON, DON'T YOU?

EXCUSE ME?

YOU THINK AN INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE PAPER PUSHER LIKE YOU CAN STOP TYSON GARDNER?

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP PROGRESS?



END CHAPTER ONE!

UNDER THE SILVERED MOON

CHAPTER TWO

THERE'S NO CHOICE, TONY.

WE HAVE TO HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THEY'RE POLLUTING THE WATER BASIN TO STOP THEM NOW.

I UNDERSTAND, BUT ZAADI. BE CAREFUL. GARDNER'S NOT FOOLING AROUND.

IRON MESA RESERVOIR
2 MILES

HE'S MEAN, AND HE'S TRICKY.

YEAH WELL.

I HAVE A FEW TRICKS, TOO.

AUTOPILOT ENGAGED

Z-RUNNER.

HYDROFOIL!

OH, HOW NICE.

OUR GUEST HAS ARRIVED. BEST MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME.

WEEEEE WWWWWW WEEEEE WWWWWW

WHAT THE..?

WARNING. PROXIMITY MINES DETECTED.

WARNING. PROXIMITY--

BOOM.



BOOOOOOMMM



ZAADI!!
WHAT'S
WRONG??

THE
RUNNER'S NOT
RESPONDING.
ZAADI!!

I'M COMING!
I'M ON MY WAY
RIGHT NOW!

SOON...

-TSK
TSK TSK..-
**THIS WON'T
DO.**



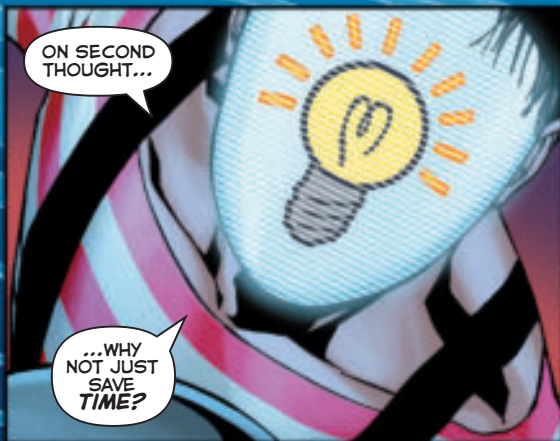
I SUPPOSE
IT FALLS TO THE
DECIMATOR
TO SAVE THIS
LUMP FROM
DROWNING.

I AM SO **UTTERLY
UNAPPRECIATED!**



ON SECOND
THOUGHT...

...WHY
NOT JUST
SAVE
TIME?

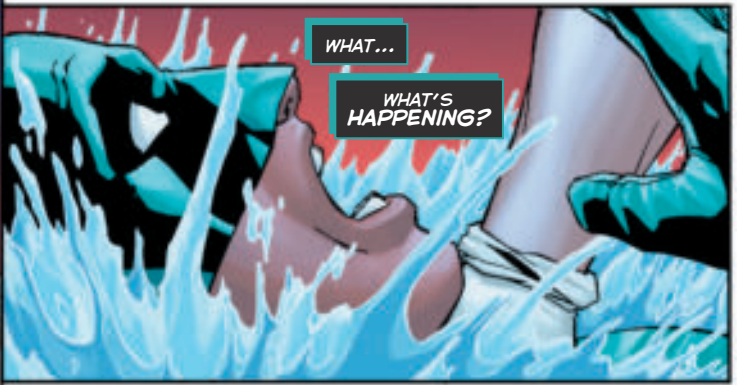




ONE LESS DO-GOODER IN THE WORLD, RIGHT?

OR IS IT TWO LESS, SINCE I'VE TURNED HEEL?

DOESN'T MATTER. THE POINT IS, WE'RE ALL BETTER OFF.



WHAT...

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



WHAT'S THAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO MUMBLE SOMETHING, DO-GOODER?

CAN'T QUITE HEAR YOU, YOU SEE.

STRONGER THAN HE LOOKS!



TALON.

WING TARGET, WOUND MODE!

EH?

PAFF!



WHAT?

OW. THAT STINGS, BIRDBOY!

I KNOW, DECIMATOR. BUT NOT NEARLY AS MUCH--



AS THIS,
I BET.

OKAY, THAT
FELT REWARDING.



YES, YES. DO
YOU KNOW, THE
BAD GUYS ARE
ALWAYS BETTER
WITH THE QUIPS,
DON'T YOU
FIND?



DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHY YOU
BOTHER,
REALLY.

AACKK!

ZZZZZZAAAAATTTTZZZ

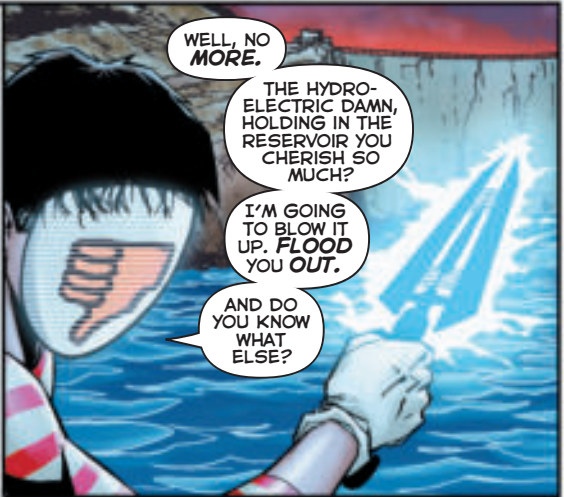


...WHY...

BECAUSE
I DON'T LIKE
YOUR KIND,
HAWKGUY.

I DON'T LIKE
THAT YOU STAND IN
THE WAY OF ALMIGHTY
PROGRESS.

THINKING
EVERYONE
OWES
YOU SOME-
THING.



WELL, NO
MORE.

THE HYDRO-
ELECTRIC DAMN,
HOLDING IN THE
RESERVOIR YOU
CHERISH SO
MUCH?

I'M GOING
TO BLOW IT
UP. FLOOD
YOU OUT.

AND DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT
ELSE?

I'VE GOT MARGARET.
SHE'S GOING TO HAVE SIMPLY THE BEST VIEW.
FROM RIGHT ATOP THE BLAST ZONE.



STOP ME IF YOU CAN, "HERO."



MARGARET? HE'S GOT MARGARET?

HE KNOWS. HE KNOWS WHO I AM.

AND FOR A MINUTE, MAYBE MANY MINUTES...

MY BODY GIVES UP. I LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.



SOON...

DECIMATOR HAS ALL THE CARDS.

AND HE TOOK ME DOWN WITHOUT EVEN TRYING. CAR'S DESTROYED.

I CAN...CAN BARELY STAND AFTER THAT VOLTAGE, AND IT'S STARTING TO RAIN.



DOESN'T MATTER.

DECIMATOR?

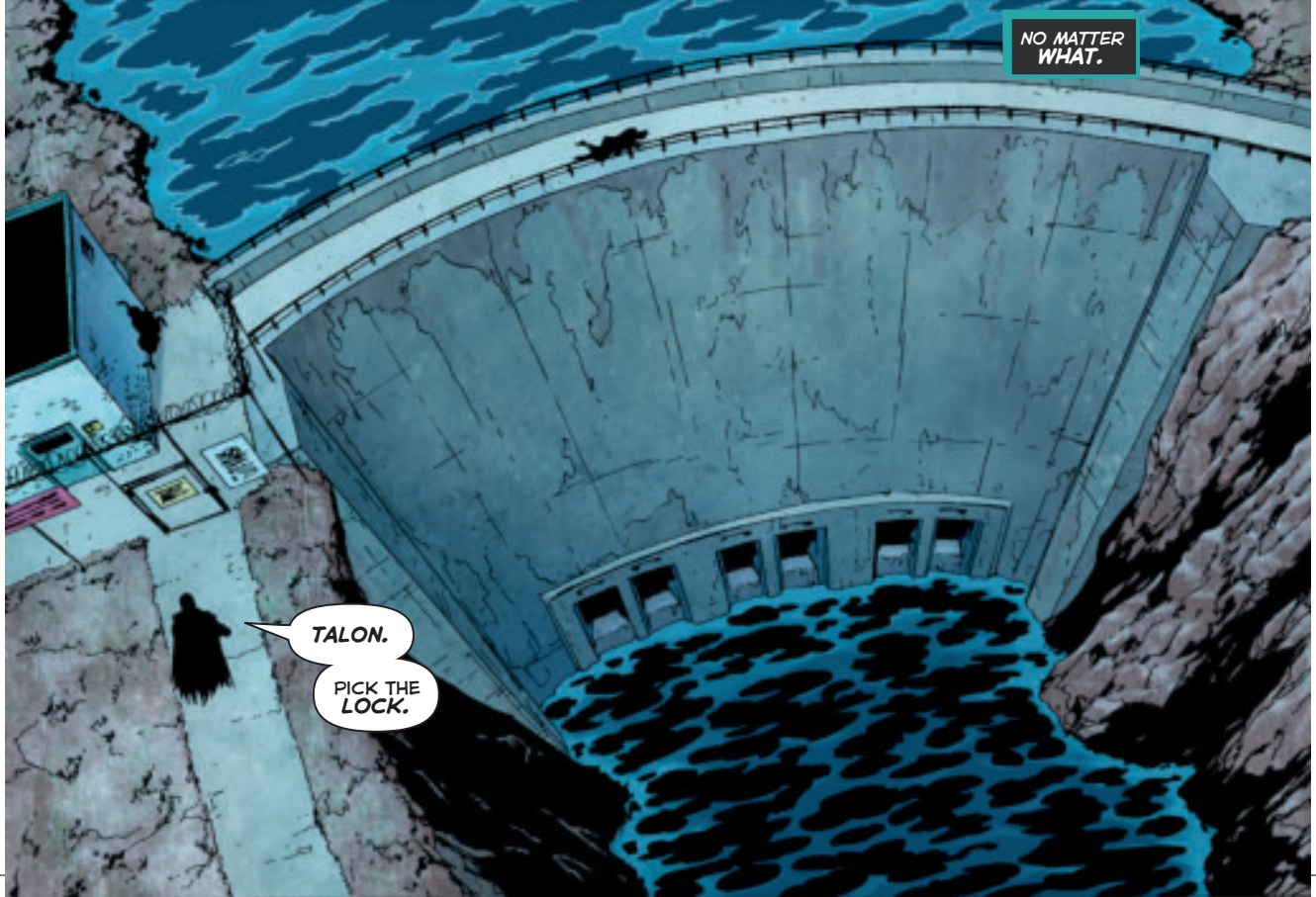


I'M COMING.

NO MATTER WHAT.

TALON.

PICK THE LOCK.





MARGARET?

MARGARET, ARE YOU HERE?

Z-HAWK!



DUDE, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

I WAS MONITORING... THOUGHT YOU COULD USE BACK UP.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME, TONY. THIS GUY...

HE LIKES TO HURT INNOCENT PEOPLE.

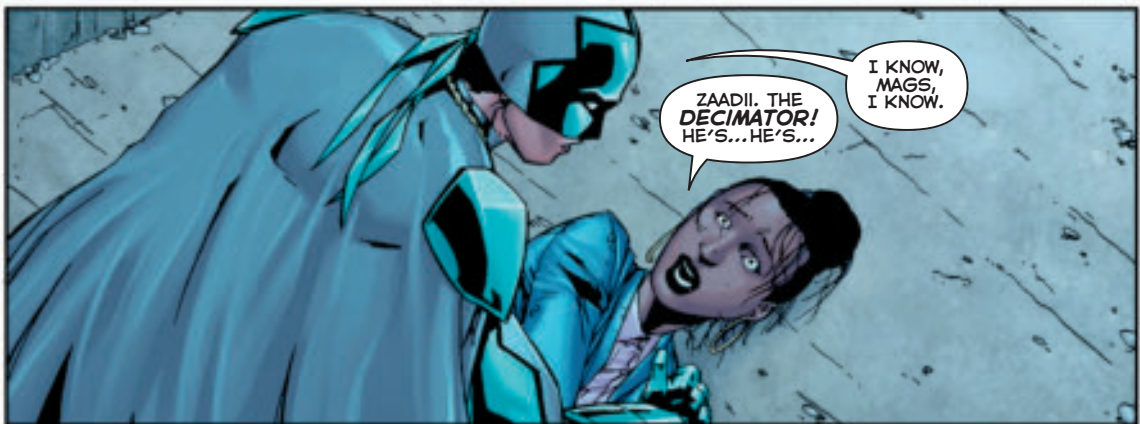


BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE. FIND MARGARET.

I'LL HANDLE THE BAD GUY.

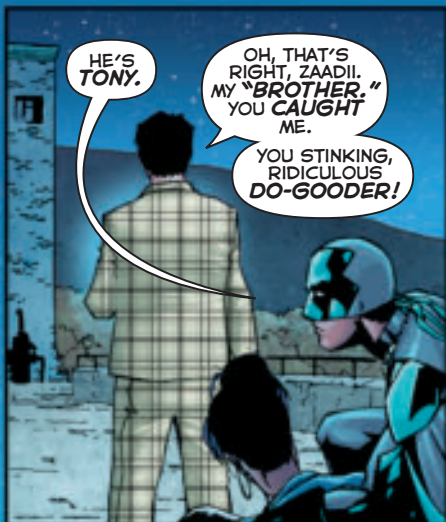


MARGARET!



ZAADII. THE DECIMATOR! HE'S...HE'S...

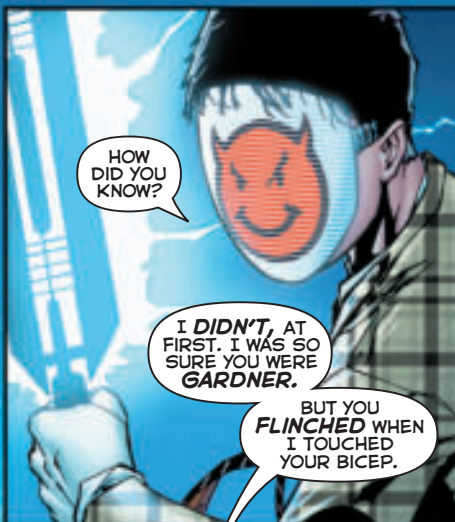
I KNOW, MAGS, I KNOW.



HE'S TONY.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, ZAADI. MY "BROTHER." YOU CAUGHT ME.

YOU STINKING, RIDICULOUS DO-GOODER!



HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I DIDN'T, AT FIRST. I WAS SO SURE YOU WERE GARDNER.

BUT YOU FLINCHED WHEN I TOUCHED YOUR BICEP.

"EXACTLY WHERE MY TALON TAGGED YOUR ARM."

"WHY, TONY?"



ALL MY FATHER CARED ABOUT WAS HIS CAUSES. DEEP INSIDE, HE KNEW I RESENTED THOSE... THOSE COVETOUS, GRASPING PEOPLE HE HELPED. HATED THEM.



YOU MOST OF ALL.

HE WANTED SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO BE HIS SON, NOT HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD.



AND NOW, WHEN I HIT THIS BUTTON, I UNDO HIS WORK, AND DESTROY HIS NAME!

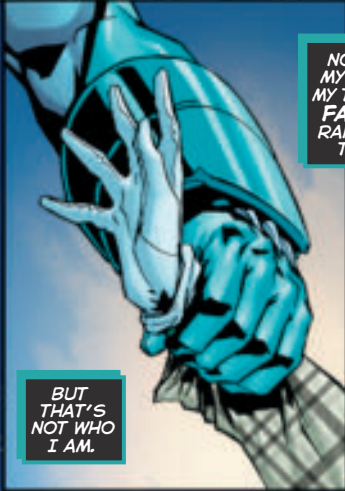
NO, TONY. YOU WON'T.



TALON. TARGET
DETONATOR.



FOR
A MOMENT,
I ALMOST
LET HIM
FALL.



BUT
THAT'S
NOT WHO
I AM.

NOT WHO
MY FAMILY,
MY TRIBE, MY
FATHER,
RAISED ME
TO BE.



NOT WHO
MY HERO
WOULD WANT
ME TO BE.

RIPPLES IN
THE WATER.

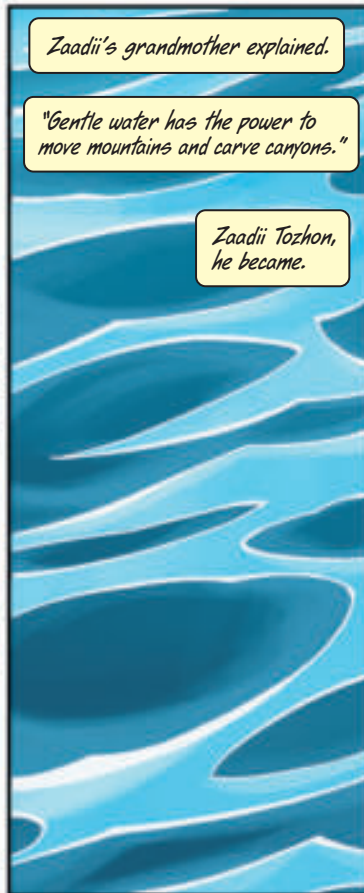
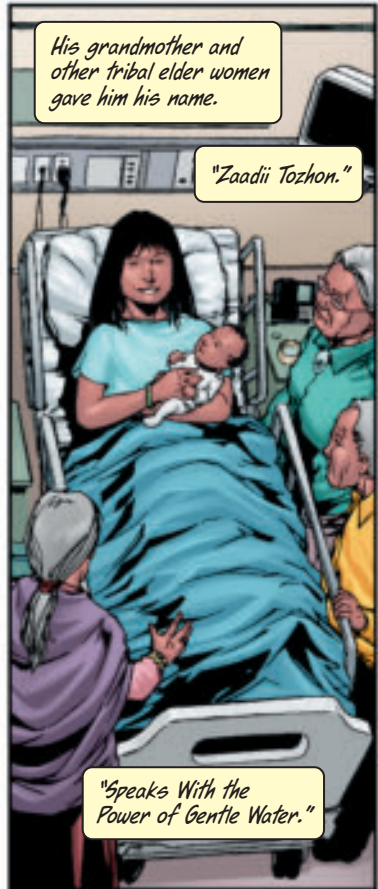


BECAUSE
I'M NOT A
DESTROYER.

I'M A
PROTECTOR.

END

Zaadii always wanted to protect the environment, even at a young age. I know this, because the character you've just been reading about was based on a real person: my son. My name is Rachel, and I am Zaadii's mother.



Zaadii was full of life and joy.

His older sister, Bahazhoni, got a cape from her favorite movie. Zaadii would always take it and run off with it.

This led to some EPIC sibling warfare.



It was time for Zaadii to get a cape of his own.

And we looked.

But ANOTHER costume entirely caught his eye.

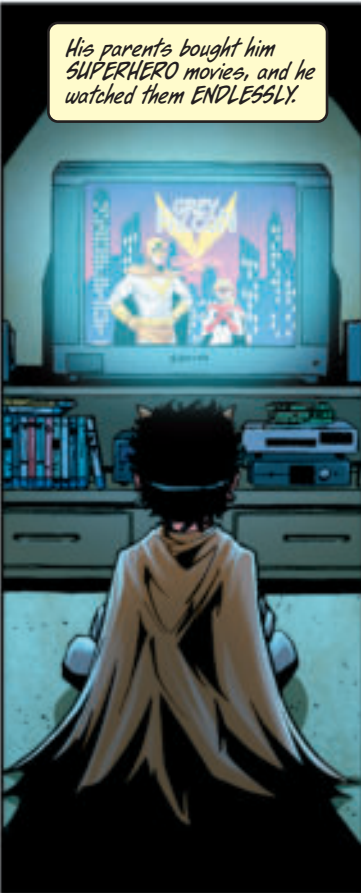


And that changed EVERYTHING.

He'd found his hero.



His parents bought him SUPERHERO movies, and he watched them ENDLESSLY.



Of course, that meant sometimes IMPROVISING when it came to getting the costume CLEAN again.



And even into his dreams.





ZAADII

ON FEBRUARY 22, 2015, ZAADII, HIS 8-YEAR-OLD SISTER AND MYSELF WERE IN A CROSSWALK, WHEN A DISTRACTED DRIVER RAN HER VEHICLE INTO US. SHE HAD BEEN DISTRACTED, HER MIND WASN'T ON THE ROAD AND AS A RESULT, SHE WAS DRIVING THE WRONG WAY.

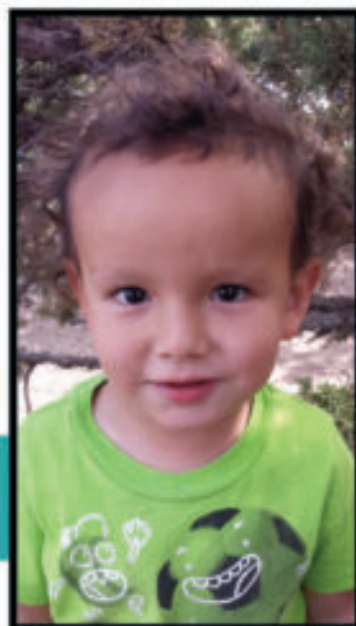
ZAADII PASSED FROM HIS INJURIES AT THE HOSPITAL. I'M TOLD HE FELT NO PAIN. HE WAS THREE YEARS OLD. HE WAS WEARING HIS SUPERHERO CAPE. THIS COMIC ASKS: WHAT COULD LIFE HAVE BEEN FOR MY SON, HAD THE DRIVER NOT BEEN DISTRACTED? HE LOVED HEROES, AND HE LOVED NATURE. I IMAGINE HE WOULD HAVE GONE ON TO FIGHT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.



HE MIGHT HAVE BECOME A HERO. THIS STORY HELPS HIM ACHIEVE THAT PURPOSE. IN IT, HE BECOMES THE HERO HE WANTED TO BE, AND HIS MEMORY LIVES ON. BEYOND THAT, I HOPE YOU'LL THINK OF HIM WHEN YOU DRIVE, AND KEEP YOUR EYES AND MIND ON THE ROAD SO HE REALLY CAN PROTECT US ALL.

THIS STORY WAS NEVER MINE TO TELL. IT WAS ALWAYS ZAADII'S. IT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO HONOR HIM IN THE MEDIUM HE LOVED MOST.

MY FAMILY WANTS TO THANK YOU FOR SHARING ZAADII'S UNFINISHED STORY WITH US. AND THANK YOU FROM ZAADII, WHO SPOKE WITH THE POWER OF GENTLE WATERS.



Let's End Distracted Driving

Each day, seven people are killed by distracted drivers,* their stories left unfinished. What could have been, had the driver not been distracted?

In 2018, Travelers launched the Unfinished Stories campaign. We worked closely with Zaadii's family to imagine what could have been for him, had he not been killed by a distracted driver. His story serves as a powerful reminder of the responsibilities we all have behind the wheel. The Travelers Institute® *Every Second Matters*SM distracted driving initiative recognizes that every driver, passenger, cyclist and pedestrian has a role to play in changing social norms around distraction.

For more information about the Travelers distracted driving efforts, visit travelers.com/distracteddriving



*National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2019, October). *2018 fatal motor vehicle crashes: Overview*. (Traffic Safety Facts Research Note. Report No. DOT HS 812 826). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ZAADI

THE LEGEND OF Z-HAWK



VEREGGE®
GGE

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFERY VEREGGE