

PERIL AND PERISH

"PILOT"

(Preview Version)

Written by

Josh Breidbart

10803 Otsego Street, #15
North Hollywood, CA, 91601
C: 516-643 7346
E: JHBreidbart@gmail.com
<http://joshbreidbart.wordpress.com/>
www.unlifecomic.com

TEASER

EXT. WEST BANK WALL - PALESTINIAN SIDE - ISRAEL - NIGHT

Two CAPED ACTION FIGURES slam together.

NAJI (O.S.)
Krrssh! Ka-thwoom!

A PALESTINIAN child named NAJI (8) mimics the sound of explosions as his toys "battle".

He stops when a faint WHISTLE is followed by a muffled CLAP. That explosion was real.

NAJI'S SISTER (17) calls out to him.

NAJI'S SISTER
Naji! Dad said it's time to come in, alright?

Naji ignores her, playing next to a HUGE STEEL WALL not a few feet from his home. In the far corners, the wall is still incomplete.

GRAFFITI on the front reads "I didn't ask to be Palestinian. I just got lucky." He stares at it -

FWP! FWP! FWP! Small gusts of wind in rapid succession, at the pace of running footsteps.

Naji looks up, the wall blocking most of his view. The night sky is empty but for the half moon -

No. Something's moving, SKIPPING across the sky.

Naji puts the two toys together into his pocket and starts running alongside the wall, trying to catch a better look at the figure in the air.

EXT. ISRAEL - SKY - CONTINUOUS

Israel shimmers like gold beneath a floating five-year-old. She is ISRAELI, and wears a makeshift MASK and pink terry cloth CAPE made out of a SECURITY BLANKET. Her name is PEARL.

Pearl has her hands on her hips in the classic superhero pose, the watchful protector. Her eyes scan the ground below.

Behind her, a figure pops up; only his long RED CLOAK can be clearly seen. AXIOM.

AXIOM

Pearl, you're not supposed to be up.

PEARL

Crime never sleeps, and neither do I. Peril watches over Israel now.

AXIOM

"Peril"? I see. Well, maybe you can teach me a few things, Peril.

PEARL

Probably not. You're old.

Axiom laughs.

Pushing forty, the Israeli wears a "classic" black and white outfit. His red cape is long, a royal toga, and an EPAULET rests on one shoulder. He is Pearl's father.

He watches Pearl, lovingly. She surveys the city below, growing frustrated.

AXIOM

What are you looking for?

PEARL

Bad guys, Daddy. Superheroes fight bad guys. Don't you know anything?

AXIOM

Well, you're not a superhero yet -

PEARL

I'm aging as fast as I can!

AXIOM

And superheroes don't fight bad guys. They save people.

PEARL

Did you save everyone already?

AXIOM

No -

PEARL

You did! You left no one for me to save.

AXIOM

That's not -

PEARL
 (pleading)
 Put someone in danger. For me?
 Please?

AXIOM
 Okay. Time for bed, Peril.

EXT. WEST BANK WALL - PALESTINIAN SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Naji stops running after the pair in the sky when he hears SOMETHING from the wall. A WOMAN'S WHISPER, too faint to understand.

He pushes against the wall, listening carefully. His eyes widen and flicker -

Naji's hand PASSES THROUGH THE WALL, as if he were a ghost!

As he yanks his hand back, his sister calls for him again. He turns towards her -

BOOM!

EXT. ISRAEL - SKY - CONTINUOUS

The explosion rips through the night. Pearl and Axiom turn to see the wall bursting on the opposite side.

Axiom is alert, but Pearl looks pleased as punch.

PEARL
 YES! You did leave someone for me
 to save! Thank you, Daddy!

AXIOM
 Pearl, it's time to go.

PEARL
 Okay, I'll see you at home.

Pearl dives through the air towards the explosion.

AXIOM
 PEARL, NO!

Pearl RUNS through the sky as if it were slanted ground! She's SLIDING and SPIRALING like a flimsy paper airplane, coming closer and closer to the wall -

Pearl stops in mid air. She's stuck. Suddenly, she comes plummeting down and is stopped inches from the ground.

EXT. WEST BANK WALL - ISRAELI SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Pearl drops gently as Axiom floats down next to her. Pearl struggles to lift herself, but can't. Axiom is the source.

This side of the wall is nicer, all the commotion and fire coming from the Palestinian territory.

PEARL

Daddy!

AXIOM

We're going home, Pearl. That's their business, not ours.

PEARL

You said superheroes save people.

AXIOM

Not those people.

PEARL

Mommy would have.

Axiom's face drops. He waves his hand, and Pearl picks herself up.

AXIOM

Come on. Go to your room. I'll be there soon.

But Pearl takes advantage of the opportunity. FWP! She leaps into the air and hurtles herself over the wall.

AXIOM (CONT'D)

PEARL!

Below Pearl on the other side of the wall, Naji is crying, screaming for his sister. He appears unharmed, but a BLOODIED ARM protrudes from the rubble...

Axiom takes hold and yanks Pearl back to the other side. The force causes her cape to come off and take to the sky.

Pearl is pulled to the ground as she watches her cape flutter and fall to the far side of the wall.

END TEASER