

JSA

OUTLINE PART ONE.

THE WORLD AND THE CHARACTERS

THE WORLD.

I was shocked to realize the other day that this book, set in 1965 takes place 46 years ago. When DC debuted All-Star Squadron in 1981 the attack on Pearl Harbor that began the book was only 40 years prior. And it felt dated at the time. It felt a bit like a history lesson.

I don't want that in this book, I want it to have a contemporary feel and energy while having the style and trappings of the 60s. We're lucky in that the strife that era was going through -- social unrest, youthful rebellion, fear on an unknown foreign agendas, Republicans (I kid), the fear of coming out to your family -- are all things that have a current feel to them also. And that's how I want to play this...as a modern world draped in a past style, suits, cigarettes, martinis, music. And again we're lucky in that so much of this is emulated now in our tastes, far moreso than zoot suits and Cagney films of the '40s. To add to the feeling this is a time past but still fresh and fun, I want there to be that slight Sci-fi feel. As I've said, a kiss (and I stress here just a kiss, just a suggestion...) of the Jetsons, or the 1960s Dick Tracy with their wristwatch communicators and such to the design of telephones and TV and some aspects of the world. It's still the 1960s, but with a slight feel that's fresh and new so people don't see this book as a history lesson.

That's also the reason I had the war in Vietnam go from a hot-zone back to a cold one. Better to have that same conflict as a tense stand-off that could go hot at any moment in a new way our history books can't forewarn us of. It will also make Saigon into a lawless world of spies and intrigue we can have a lot more fun with.

THE CHARACTERS (BEAR IN MIND NOT ALL ARE ACTUAL MEMBERS.)

GREEN LANTERN (ALAN SCOTT).

The most powerful hero on Earth. At the start of the series, he's America's guardian/sentinel with a little too much control. He'll humanize and change as the series unfolds. He appears to be completely in control, but secretly he's scared of losing the love of his children and also fearful that the world he's helping to maintain is a house of cards that is coming down at any moment.

ATOM (AL PRATT).

The second most powerful hero. He's very hawkish and after the attack that killed Ted Knight and apparently Powergirl/Huntress, the Atom wants to attack the USSR. If WW3 ever happens he'll be the first one to go in. Because of this he's disowned his son, Albert (who will be Nuklon later on) whose views the Atom regards as weak and pacifistic. Truthfully the Atom is a bit of an asshole, that the Sandman will wittily keep in line when the team is reunited.

STARMAN (SYLVESTER PEMBERTON).

Type A personality, who runs his empire of businesses, orchestrates Government special interest groups and has hand in a lot of areas, all the while neglecting his daughter Courtney/Stargirl (who feeling unloved is drawn towards the friendship of Pat Dugan who also feels left behind.)

The irony is that Sylvester knows he's neglecting his daughter but feels alienated from her somewhat due to the mysterious death of Courtney's mother, (which will be a plot-point in the future -- maybe involving Brainwave who is his nephew.)

DR. MIDNIGHT (BETH CHAPEL).

She is a Doctor of Forensic Medicine who was blinded by criminals in a manner much like Charles McNider. McNider was able to give Beth his version of night vision, hand over the mantle to her and gracefully retire. Beth is a regarded superhero, yet when she isn't Dr. Midnight and she's simply a black woman in the 1960s, she finds resentment and prejudice towards both her sex and race. This obviously angers her.

HAWKWOMAN (SHEIRA HALL).

She continues the legacy of her dead husband, training her son Hector to take over as Hawkman. However as the time nears for Hector to assume the mantle, he's started to rebel from his mother's wish, fearing he can never be his father. At the same time Shiera is the surrogate mother to Donna/Fury and tries to love them both equally. She's the older, den mother of the JSA, but still kicks ass in action.

FLASH (JAY GARRICK).

Jay surprised everyone by siding against the Government and opting to have Dr. Fate have everyone forget his secret identity like Fate did Hourman, Wildcat and Sandman. Jay is now retired and sad that the JSA has become the government monolith that it is. He recalls with sadness the friendship he used to have with Alan Scott. His return to superheroic and super-speed will be a glorious one.

WILDCAT (TED GRANT).

Ex-heavyweight champion, he's semi-retired into a world of celebrity, with a piece of a stake in a Vegas casino, as well as TV appearances and a line of vitamin drinks and fitness foods that had added to his fortune. He's become a bit lost and lost his moral compass. He's even having an affair with Jade.

SANDMAN (WESLEY DODDS)

The detective of the team. Prior to his reunion with the JSA, he was an anti-establishment figure lurking on the fringes of society, exposing Government wrongdoing. Once he's a part of the team again he'll continue to be the voice of liberal reason counter to the Atom.

FURY (DONNA TROY).

Donna is the last surviving Amazon of E2. She takes pride in preserving that legacy and thanks to the training her adopted mother Hawkwoman gave her, she shows more than enough Amazonian savagery in combat. When she's Donna however, she's a typical early form of the emerging emancipated 1960s female, trying to date and maintain her job as a photographer for a fashion magazine.

SILVER SCARAB (HECTOR HALL).

It was always Hawkwoman's wish that Hector take up the mantle of Hawkman and trained him for the role, side by side with Donna. However, although physically prepared for the role, Hector is overwhelmed by the idea of taking his father's place. This makes him a dark, troubled young man at the start of the series, slowly coming into the light as he becomes his own man/hero in the Silver Scarab identity.

DR. FATE (KENT NELSON).

Kent is slowing losing his sense of reality due to the presence of Nabu in his life for the last 20 years. In this way, he isn't always lucid, talking in riddles and arcane verse. However his love for his wife Inza and his loyalty to his comrades is the anchor that keeps him in the JSA.

HOURLMAN (REX TYLER).

Rex retired from heroics, had the memory of his double-life expunged in 1950 and has since then become a titan of industry. However he still nurses the addiction for Miraclo and the action that goes with it. A secret thrill junkie who is more than keen to get back in the game when Sandman asks him too. He and his son Rick have the most normal, untroubled relationship of any of the parents/children in this book.

NORTHWIND (NORDA CANTRELL).

Feithera (relocated to Vietnam) was discovered by the Halls in the months before Carter's death. However the main human link to the place was Fred Cantrell, a colleague of the Halls, who died on one expedition there leaving his son to be raised by the bird people. Although aware of civilization, having visited Shiera Hall many times, Norda is a solitary figure who prefers life away from the city. He was given Nth metal by Shiera so he could fly, and since then has perfected a fierce and dynamic aerial fighting style.

JADE (JENNIE-LYNN SCOTT).

Young, rebellious and representing the change sweeping the world, Jade is a wild child, getting into all kind of scandals and drama, much to the chagrin of her father. Think Jane Fonda before she went off the deep end and became Hanoi Jane. She's currently sleeping with Ted Grant who is fearful she's doing it just to piss off her dad and will spill the beans at any moment. Jennie-Lynn Scott won't actually be Jade at the start of the series, but rather will become Jade in the course of the first 12 issues, as she realizes how much she loves her dad after all and goes to help in during our big year-end finale.

OBSIDIAN (TODD SCOTT)

Todd appears to be the perfect son for Alan, but he is actually someone with a secret. He's gay and in Earth 2's version of 1960s, the world is starting to come around, but only just. As such he hasn't come out to anyone but his sister. He will of course and will become Obsidian at the same time as his sister becomes Jade. He's darker and more introverted/troubled, something that ultimately coming out will help to ease.

TERRY SLOAN

Terry Sloan has never really been at the forefront of the J.S.A. and I think it would be fun to keep him that way. However, in a way that although he isn't in the book all the time, he's off in the world doing cool espionage stuff that will reflect on the events we do see so every time he shows up it means something. He's kind of the American James Bond/Nick Fury of the C.I.A. (which I may even give a cooler S.H.I.E.L.D. type name to.)