

The Sprintress #8 - "Blitzkrieg"

Written by Steven Bland

A few weeks ago, at a survival course in Washington, DC, top military officials were watching a soldier named Calvin Horton test a prototype symbiote costume he was wearing. Also present was the symbiote's creator, a scientist named Dr. Zoltan Zorba, who was clad in a lab coat and wearing special goggles.

"Doctor Zorba," one of the military officials said. "If this prototype symbiote costume of yours succeeds in doing what it's supposed to do, which is to create a new super-soldier, then you can make more of your symbiotes."

"If?" Doctor Zorba asked self-assuredly. "You mean *'When.'*"

During the survival course, Horton demonstrated superhuman strength, durability, leaping, and agility, as well as a flash step, hearing enhanced to the point where he can hear things from far away, and vision enhanced to the point where he can see things from far away and see faster than anyone ever can. With the superhuman abilities that were given to him by the symbiote, Horton easily survived the first few obstacles.

"Impressive," another military official said.

However, upon reaching the final obstacle, which was facing a battalion of soldiers in mech suits, Horton got more aggressive. He smashed the mech suits, but he didn't stop pounding on the soldiers.

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"DOCTOR ZORBA, DO SOMETHING," one of the military officials commanded the scientist.

"HE'S KILLING THE OTHER SOLDIERS!"

"Not to worry," Doctor Zorba said as he immediately pulled a taser gun from his lab coat pocket. "I designed the symbiote to be weakened by electric shocks."

"And this gun fires electric taser bullets, which can stun anyone," he continued.

Immediately, Zorba fired the taser gun, which shot an electric taser bullet at Horton, who was soon rendered unconscious.

"With the symbiote, Horton could move with bursts of superhuman speed," one military official said. "How were you able to shoot at him point blank?"

"It's thanks to the special goggles I'm wearing," Doctor Zorba explained. "They allow me to see and perceive objects moving at accelerated rates of speed."

"That symbiote costume is *too dangerous*," one of the military officials said. "It nearly turned Horton into a *killing machine*!"

"Zorba," one of the military officials said. "I want you to remove the symbiote from Horton! *Now!*"

Doctor Zorba got out another special device out of his lab coat. Before he could use it, however, the symbiote hid within Horton's body.

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"I'm afraid it's too late," Doctor Zorba lamented. "The symbiote has completely bonded to him."

"We can't use your prototype symbiote, Doctor Zorba," another military official said. "Instead, we're going to go with Professor Kay Garrett's Serum Alpha."

"I understand," a disappointed, but understanding Doctor Zorba said. "I will take Mr. Horton with me to my lab and see if I can separate the symbiote from his body there."

"You do that," one of the military officials said.

Doctor Zorba picked up the unconscious Horton and carried him away.

Sometime later, inside his lab, Doctor Zorba had Horton lying on the table so that he could be probed.

Suddenly, Zorba heard a buzzer on his door.

The scientist went to answer. When he opened the door, he saw a group of men standing outside together.

"Doctor Zoltan Zorba?" One of the men asked.

"Yes, this is he," Zorba answered. "How may I help you?"

"We want your test subject, Calvin Horton," one of the men said.

"No! You can't have him," Zorba said. "I'm trying to separate him from a symbiote which has completely bonded itself to his body!"

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"We don't want you to," another of the men said. "Otherwise, he would be of no further use to the lady who hired us to get him."

"What are you talking about?" Zorba asked.

The men didn't answer. They just rendered him unconscious.

With Zorba unconscious, the group of men entered and headed for his lab where they found the unconscious Calvin Horton and got him off the lab table.

One of the men dialed a number on his cell phone and waited for an answer. He soon got one.

"We have him," he said.

"Excellent," said a female voice over the phone. The voice belonged to an executive at HamelCo.

Minutes after the group of men had left with Horton, Zorba regained consciousness. The scientist picked up a nearby phone, dialed a number, and waited for a response.

Someone on the other end of the phone answered.

"This is Dr. Zoltan Zorba," Zorba said. "I must speak with Matthew Steele, the director of S.C.R.E.E.N. It's *urgent!*"

A few days ago, at a government gymnasium, top military officials were testing the newly-enhanced abilities of a few soldiers from each branch of the Armed Forces who had all been dosed with Serum Alpha.

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The first test involved enhanced soldiers testing the limits of their new strength by lifting weights. Starting with eight hundred pounds, which they were able to heft easily, an extra weight of one hundred pounds was gradually added until the weight was two thousand four hundred pounds, the maximum weight that each of the enhanced soldiers was able to lift. However, the two thousand four hundred pounds were the limit as none of the soldiers were able to lift more than that weight.

"Impressive," one military official said.

The second test involved the enhanced soldiers testing their speed at a race track. One scientist started the race. The officials watched the soldiers as they began running along the track. The soldiers ran faster and faster until they each reached a speed of one hundred five miles per hour.

"Amazing," another military official said.

The third test was an obstacle course which tested the agility of the enhanced soldiers. The officials watched as the soldiers each cleared every obstacle.

"Remarkable," another military official said.

The fourth test involved a virtual combat simulation for the enhanced soldiers, which tested their reflexes, mental processing, sight, and hearing. The soldiers passed the simulation with flying colors. Once the simulation was over, the officials shook hands with the enhanced soldiers.

"You new Serum Alpha-enhanced soldiers have definitely exceeded our expectations," another military official said. "We definitely like what we have seen."

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In the present day, at Garrett Laboratories, Nellie North and Kay Garrett were in the middle of an experiment with a three-legged bunny named Harvey. The television was on.

"Is the serum ready?" Professor Garrett asked Nellie.

"It's ready," Nellie answered as she held a hypodermic needle filled with an experimental fluid.

"Then, give it to Harvey," Professor Garrett said.

Nellie injected the bunny with the hypodermic. Then, she and Kay stepped back and waited.

"If this works, Harvey will have regrown a lost limb in a matter of seconds," Professor Garrett said.

Soon, Harvey started regrowing his lost leg.

"It's a success, Kay," a pleased Nellie said. "You've done it again."

"We've done it," a proud Kay said. "Now, we can make more of the serum."

Suddenly, the television screen showed news footage of armed forces attacking all over America. The news footage was aired on other television sets everywhere.

"This is incredible, folks," one newscaster announced. "Soldiers from every branch of our armed forces have suddenly turned against us and our entire nation."

"Fighter jets from Edwards Air Force Base are firing upon and laying waste to downtown Los Angeles, California," a second newscaster reported.

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"The U.S. Army is attacking the Capitol Building in Washington, DC," a third newscaster reported. "But this new superhero, Patriot Prime is on the scene, doing what he can to avert this catastrophe."

"The Marines are attacking the United Nations Building in New York City," a fourth newscaster reported. "And, at the same time, Ellis Island is under attack by the Navy."

In one part of New York, the Techni-Crusader entered a dimensional portal which led to Edwards Air Force base.

In another part of New York, the Blue Mantis, accompanied by Fire Opal flew toward the United Nations Building while their new ally, Leonard Larvan, with his swarm of robotic bees and a modified Mortimer flew toward Ellis Island.

"Patriot Prime might need help in dealing with those Army soldiers," Nellie said as she quickly donned her costume and assumed the identity of the Sprintress.

"So I'd better get to Washington as fast as I can," the Queen of Quickness said as she raced out of the lab at superhuman speed.

"Good luck," Kay called out after her.

At the Capitol Building, Patriot Prime was fighting the corrupted Army soldiers while using his shield to deflect their shells.

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Blast, Patriot Prime thought. I don't want to fight these brave men and women, but I *have* to! *Something* must have happened to cause them to turn against our great country. And since they are each recently dosed with Serum Alpha, they and I are evenly matched.

Suddenly, a gold and red streak whizzed by and, seconds later, the soldiers were all disarmed. The Sprintress, holding armfuls of the weapons she confiscated, revealed her presence to her fellow superhero.

"Thought you could use a hand," she told Patriot Prime.

"Sprintress, your timing couldn't have been better," said a smiling and grateful Patriot Prime.

"Then, let's get to work," said the Queen of Quickness as she dropped the weapons she collected to the ground.

"I'll take one half of this Army, you take the other half," the Sprintress told Patriot Prime.

"Sound plan," Patriot Prime agreed. Soon, he proceeded to take on his half of the Army.

With superhuman speed, the Lady of Locomotion got the attention of every soldier from her half. Then, she positioned herself in the center. The soldiers lunged toward her, but she got out of their way at the last second, causing them to knock themselves out. The Sprintress succeeded in taking out her half of the corrupted Army.

At the same time, Patriot Prime successfully overpowered his half of the corrupted Army as well.

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The battle was watched from afar by Ruby Rage who communicated through an earpiece to Horton.

"BLITZKRIEG, SUMMON YOUR ARMOR AND DISPOSE OF THOSE COSTUMED INTERLOPERS NOW," she said.

Horton, who was nearby and disguised in a hat and overcoat, revealed his presence, summoned the symbiote armor, and attacked.

Blitzkrieg threw a super-strong punch but Patriot Prime countered it with his shield, which delivered a shockwave which knocked the symbiote-empowered individual back.

Blitzkrieg got back on his feet.

"You think *that's* gonna stop me?" he said, getting ready to attack. "THINK AGAIN!"

The Sprintress zoomed toward the symbiote-empowered villain, who, using his own bursts of superhuman speed, countered by grabbing her arm and hurling her to the ground.

"I'M *BLITZKRIEG*," the villain exclaimed.

"AND I AM YOUR DOOM," he added as he moved in, preparing to finish off the Lady of Locomotion.

"SPRINTRESS," Patriot Prime called out as he lunged toward Blitzkrieg and threw his hardest punches at him. Unfortunately, they had no effect.

Blitzkrieg then took out the patriotic superhero, rendering him unconscious.

"UNNHH," moaned the Sprintress as she started to recover and get back on her feet.

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"So, you're back on your feet, eh?" Blitzkrieg asked as he turned his attention toward the Queen of Quickness.

"You got it," replied the Queen of Quickness. "And I'll go down fighting."

"Oh, you'll go down," the symbiote-empowered villain said as he moved toward her. "*Period!*"

Suddenly, Blitzkrieg was attacked from behind by electric taser bullets, which weakened him and his symbiotic armor.

"EEEYAAAAHHH," he screamed.

So Blitzkrieg's vulnerable to electric shocks, thought the Sprintress. Good to know.

Then, she saw Matthew Steele and agents of S.C.R.E.E.N, who had each been carrying the special rifles which fired the electric taser bullets, arriving on the scene.

"Sprintress," Steele said. "Are you all right?"

Looks like the cavalry has arrived, the super-fast heroine thought. It's Matthew Steele and his agents of S.C.R.E.E.N. They must have fired those electric taser bullets at Blitzkrieg that weakened him.

"I am now, Director Steele. Thanks for the assist, but your special bullets might not be enough to incapacitate Blitzkrieg," the Queen of Quickness told the agents. "But I have an idea."

I have to act fast. He's slowly starting to recover, the Sprintress thought as she acted swiftly and grabbed Blitzkrieg. With him in tow, she zoomed off with him. The superheroine's momentum allowed her to easily carry him as she zoomed away at superhuman speed.

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I've got to take Blitzkrieg to where there's more than enough electrical power to put him down for the count, thought the Lady of Locomotion.

The Sprintress arrived at her destination, the Potomac Electric Power Company.

Perfect, she thought as she took the symbiote-empowered villain inside the building. Using the momentum from her superhuman speed, the Queen of Quickness hurled Blitzkrieg into the main generators, subjecting him to millions of volts of electricity. The villain lost consciousness and collapsed.

That's that, the super-fast heroine thought. Blitzkrieg's out of action.

And now that he's harmless, I can take him back to Director Steele, the Sprintress thought as she grabbed the unconscious Blitzkrieg and zoomed off with him out of the building at superhuman speed, again using her momentum to carry him easily.

Soon, the Sprintress returned to the Capitol Building and to Matthew Steele and the agents of S.C.R.E.E.N.

"He shouldn't be any trouble now," the superheroine said as she handed Blitzkrieg to Director Steele. "He's all yours."

"Thank you, Sprintress," Steele said.

"How did you know that Blitzkrieg was vulnerable to electric shocks," asked the Lady of Locomotion.

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"Well, this gentleman told us," Director Steele said as he introduced Zoltan Zorba. "Sprintress, this is Dr. Zoltan Zorba."

"Hello, Sprintress," Zorba said. "Thank you for capturing Calvin Horton. I am the one responsible for giving him his powers."

"Explain," the Queen of Quickness demanded.

"More than a few weeks ago, I had developed a prototype symbiote costume for soldiers to wear," Zorba explained. "The symbiote enhanced the subject's strength, leaping, and agility to superhuman levels and allowed the subject to move with bursts of superhuman speed. The symbiote also enhanced the subject's sight and hearing to the point where he, or she, could see and hear things from far away and see faster than anyone ever can."

"I had Horton, a soldier, test the symbiote for a survival course here," Zorba continued. "But, near the end of that course, he became more aggressive, under the influence of the symbiote."

"However, I designed the symbiote to be vulnerable to electric shocks as a failsafe," he added. "I also developed special bullets that generated electrical shocks as well as special goggles which allowed the wearer to see and perceive objects moving at accelerated rates of speed. I used them to subdue Horton so that I could take him to my lab where I could see about getting the symbiote removed from his body."

"But, before I could do that, I was visited by a group of men who had other plans for Horton," Zorba added further. "They rendered me unconscious and took Horton with them."

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"But once I regained consciousness, I called Director Steele immediately. Together, we mass produced more electric taser bullets for his agents to use in case Horton turned up somewhere," Zorba concluded. "I couldn't, and can't, live with myself if Horton hurt, or even killed someone. Thank you for your help in stopping him, Sprintress."

Soon, the Sprintress and Patriot Prime heard moaning.

"UNNNHHHHH."

The two superheroes turned their attention to the source of the moaning and soon saw the Army soldiers regaining consciousness.

"The Army soldiers. They're recovering," the Sprintress told Patriot Prime.

"Are you people all right?" Patriot Prime asked.

"Yeah, but we're sorry about what we've done, but some strange force somehow took control of our brains and compelled us to attack the Capitol Building," one of the soldiers answered.

"I hope we haven't done any damage," another soldier said.

"If there *was* any, it wasn't serious," the Sprintress told them. "Patriot Prime and I saw to that."

"Thank you," another soldier said. "We're just glad that this nightmare is finally over."

"Yes. Everything's fine now," Patriot Prime assured them.

The Sprintress and Patriot Prime turned toward each other.

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"Thank you again for your help, Sprintress," the patriotic superhero told the Queen of Quickness. "It was a pleasure to fight by your side again."

"You're very welcome, and the feeling is mutual," the Sprintress said. "If you ever need me again, you can count on me."

"The same goes for me," Patriot Prime said as he and the Lady of Locomotion shook hands.

"See you later," the Sprintress said as she zoomed off at superhuman speed. Patriot Prime waved after her.

Minutes later, the Sprintress arrived at Garrett Laboratories, where she quickly changed back into her civilian clothes.

Returning to Kay's lab, Nellie saw her mentor watching the news report on television and soon watched it with her.

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"All of America can rest easy now," the television reporter said. "The Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy are all back to normal. It was revealed that they were all under some strange spell. Thankfully, that spell is now broken. The country is safe, thanks to superheroes like the Techni-Crusader, the Sprintress, Patriot Prime, the Blue Mantis, Fire Opal, the unnamed man with the robot and the robot bees, and Gale-Force, who was accompanied and aided by a hulking green-skinned human-elephant hybrid."

Kay and Nellie smiled.



THE END



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