

Story Notes and Behind the Scenes at



The West Central story.

Well, this chapter of the series finished with a bang!

I had an lot of fun with the Ninjago West Central series. The nine stories (ten if you include the story in **The Green Lion Winter Special**. What you haven't bought your issue yet? Shame on you), were set in different seasons, starting in spring and finishing in winter. (As shown by the changing flowers in the top right and bottom left corners on the first page of each story).

I also told several stories through the eyes of other characters with The Guard making a short appearance or none at all. For example, issue 60 it was Kymoano / Hinto, the backpacker, issue 61 The Grey Shadow, issue 62 an Emperor Panda and so on.

I also managed to fit in a fair bit of visual humour running in the background to the main story. Issue 61 being a good example.

I must admit that when I started the Guard series of stories set in Ninjago City, West Central, I didn't have a particular story plot in mind. It was more a case of 'jumping into the water' and see what happened.

The two new characters Hinto and Kymoano had been established, but I needed a villain. Thus, Kingfish was born. The series evolved into a struggle between Kingfish's criminal empire and the Watch's battle to defeat him.

It also became apparent that a character would have to die. Either Hinto or Kymoano. But which one? Kymoano I felt was the slightly stronger, more interesting character, so it would be Hinto that would die. But then I thought it should be the other way around. I couldn't make my mind up. (And being a Gemini, didn't help).

Then I thought, why not kill them both? Usually a character in a series dies, but rarely two. So this would be a double blow for the reader. I told several stories about these two characters and hopefully made the reader like them and care about what happened to them. So when they died, there would be some shock on the readers part.

Green Lion Comics is a one man band, that is, me. And at some point the series will have to finish. It makes sense therefore to try complete a character's story. And as far as these two characters are concerned their story has been told. But this doesn't necessarily mean that this is the end of their adventures. Stories could be told of their adventures before they met the Guard. We'll see. Story ideas are already forming in my head...