

GI JOE

SIREN'S SONG



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IDW



Special thanks to Hasbro's Mike Ballog, Ed Lane, Joe Furfaro, Heather Hopkins, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

ISBN: 9781623025816

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Originally published as G.I. JOE VOLUME 3 issues #12-15.



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CHAPTER ONE



PENCILS BY **STEVE KURTZ**
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OUR ASSOCIATES
SPEAK VERY HIGHLY
OF YOU. YOUR
AMORALITY IS
BREATHTAKING.

YOU'VE
WORKED FOR
ONE PRESIDENT,
THREE DICTATORS,
AND A FEW DOZEN
FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES—

AND I CAN USE
THOSE SKILLS TO
HELP YOU DEVELOP
AND LAUNCH A
COMMUNICATIONS
STRATEGY.

TELL THE
WHOLE WORLD
WHERE **COBRA**
COMMAND IS
GOING.

IN EXCHANGE,
WE TAKE DOWN
THIS HUMAN-
TRAFFICKING RING.
THESE SLAVE-
TRADERS THAT
KIDNAPPED
YOUR SON.

YOU WOULD
WORK OUT
OF OUR NEW
YORK BRANCH.
OVERSEE OUR
PUBLIC
RELATIONS.

THAT'S *NOT*
WHAT I'M
OFFERING. THIS
WOULD BE A
SHORT TERM,
CONTRACTUAL—



NO. WE
CAN DISCUSS
THE TERMS
AFTER YOUR
CHILD IS
SAFE.

BUT IF I'M
EXPENDING
COBRA
RESOURCES
ON THIS, I'LL
NEED A MUCH
LARGER
COMMITMENT.

OR DO YOU
SEE A BETTER
OPTION FOR
KEEPING HIM
ALIVE?

NO. I... I
JUST WANT
MY SON.



GOOD. THEN
THERE'S JUST
TWO MORE
CONDITIONS TO
DISCUSS.

FIRST:
YOU'RE GOING
TO *HELP* US
TAKE DOWN THIS
TRAFFICKING
RING.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
PUT YOUR
SKILLS TO
USE
ALONG THE WAY,
SO MY PEOPLE
CAN SEE THEM
IN ACTION.

FINE.
AND
SECOND?



SECOND: I
DON'T WANT TO
TELL THE WORLD
WHERE WE'RE
GOING.

I WANT TO
TELL THEM
WHERE WE'VE
BEEN.



OFF THE COAST
OF SOMALIA.



ONE WEEK LATER.



(I DON'T
LIKE THIS. WE
FIND A YACHT
JUST SITTING
HERE, RIGHT NEXT
TO OUR TOWN.
OUR HAVEN.
IT'S LIKE—)



(THEY WANT TO BE ATTACKED? YES, IT'S A LOT LIKE THAT.)



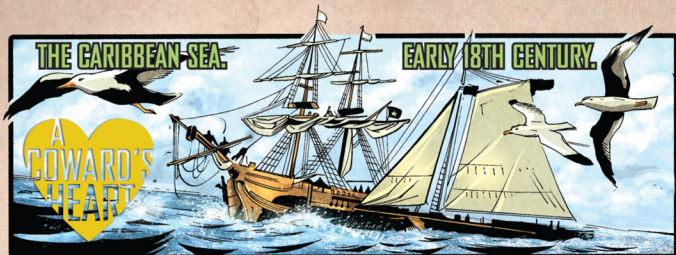
(ONE OF YOU IS NAMED **ABDI ZAKARIA**. MR. ZAKARIA USED TO WORK ON A CARGO SHIP IN EAST ASIA.)



(NO? NO ONE ADMITS TO BEING **ABDI ZAKARIA**?)



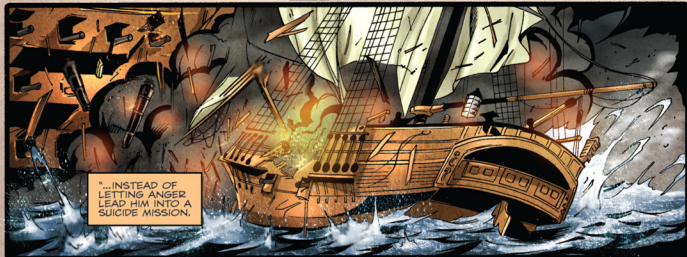
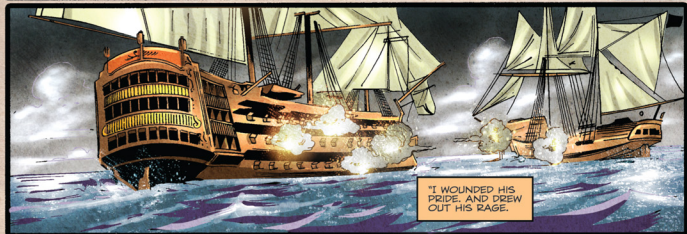
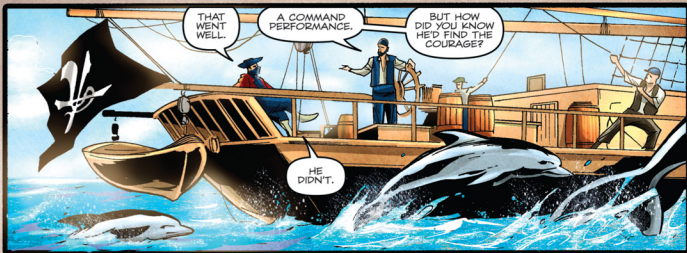
(VERY WELL. LET ME TELL YOU HOW COBRA HAS DEALT WITH YOUR KIND BEFORE. AND THEN? YOU HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE.)













"WHAT WAS THE MASTER GUNNER'S REACTION TO YOUR MESSAGE?"

"I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE IT AS ENTHUSIASTIC BUT HE'S LOYAL. HE'LL GET IT DONE."



"I HAVE NO DOUBT."

"ALL THOSE DIPLOMATS, COLONIAL GOVERNORS, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, THE KING'S NEPHEW. ALL ON ONE MAN-O-WAR."



"STUPIDITY IS A GLORIOUS THING."





(YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW UP OUR SPEEDBOAT? WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE.)

(PLEASE. WE'VE ADVANCED A *BIT* SINCE THE 18TH CENTURY.)



(I WOULD REMIND YOU ALL THAT YOU HAVE OTHER VILLAGES, AND WE HAVE MORE DYNAMITE.)

(NOW... WHICH ONE OF YOU IS ABDI ZAKARIA?)



I-I-I TOLD
YOU ON DECK—
EVEN IF I DID
KNOW SOMETHING,
I WOULDN'T
TELL YOU.

THE CAPTAIN
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR—THAT MAN
PUT HIS OWN LIFE
ON THE LINE TO
SAVE MINE. MORE
THAN ONCE.

THE TYPE
OF WORK WE
DO, OUT THERE
ON THE OPEN
SEA, ALL WE
CAN COUNT
ON IS—



TAKE
A SEAT,
ABDI.



I WANT YOU
TO READ
THIS.

WHAT IS
THIS?

IT'S A JOURNAL. A
STORY. I LIKE
STORIES, IN
CASE YOU
COULDN'T
TELL.



NOW...
READ.



APRIL 13, 1915

RUHLEBEN CIVILIAN
PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
PERSONAL JOURNAL
OF THOM LAUREL

MY DEAR VICTORIA
ALWAYS SAID I WAS
TOO WITHDRAWN.
TOO ISOLATED
FROM OTHER MEN.



SO IMAGINE MY
SURPRISE WHEN I
REALIZED THAT I
HAD MADE A FRIEND.
EVEN HERE. EVEN
NOW. EVEN IN THIS
PECULIAR PRISON.

HE IS, TO BE
CERTAIN, A STRANGE
MAN. A STUDY IN
CONTRADICTION.



HE'S A NATURAL
LEADER, BUT HE
SHUNS FOLLOWERS.



HE CARES NOTHING
ABOUT POSSESSIONS,
BUT WILL ACCEPT
NOTHING FOR FREE.



HE'S POSSESSED
BY AN EERIE CALM,
AS IF TOTALLY
AT PEACE.



BUT HE HIDES HIS FACE.
HE HOLDS BACK, AS IF
TO PROTECT HIMSELF
FROM THE WORLD.



OR TO PROTECT
THE WORLD
FROM HIMSELF.

WE DIDN'T SPEAK AT FIRST, BUT THE GUARDS DON'T ALLOW US TO WALK THE GROUNDS ALONE.

AND SO HE ASKED ME TO ACCOMPANY HIM, AS HE CIRCLED THE PERIMETER, FOR HOURS, CHARTING CIRCLES AND ANGLES IN HIS NOTEBOOK.

ARE YOU A MATHEMATICIAN?

I'M A TACTICIAN.

HIS INTENT WAS OBVIOUS; TO TRACK THE GUARDS' MOVEMENTS, TO "SOLVE" MATHEMATICALLY, THE RIDDLE OF WHERE THEY WOULD BE, AND WHEN.

I WAS THERE FOR HIM, TO WALK BY HIS SIDE AND PRETEND I WAS OBLIVIOUS.

AND IN RETURN, HE WAS THERE FOR ME.

HE WAS THERE IN THE LIGHT HOURS, WHEN WE COULD PRETEND, FOR A MOMENT, THAT ALL WAS WELL.

AND THOSE DARK, YAWNING MOMENTS WHEN THE HORROR OF OUR SITUATION WAS FULLY EXPOSED.



I'M DONE.
I HAVE WHAT
I NEED,
THOM.

YOU'RE
LEAVING?

TONIGHT.



WELL,
THAT'S
THAT. AND
THIS—

—A
LETTER.
TO MY SON,
THOMAS,
BACK IN
CAMBRIDGE.



HE'S A YOUNG MAN, NOW, AND
HE'S GOING DOWN A BAD PATH.
THE **SAME** BAD PATH I TRAVELED.
I'M SORRY TO ASK THIS OF YOU,
MY FRIEND, BUT I HAVE
NO CHOICE.

I NEED YOU
TO **GIVE** HIM
THIS LETTER.
AND I NEED
YOU TO
MAKE SURE
HE DOESN'T
TURN TO
ROT, LIKE
MINE DID.

THAT
HIS LIFE
DOESN'T
TURN TO
ROT, LIKE
MINE DID.



NO. NO, I
CAN'T COMMIT
TO THAT.

WE OWE
EACH OTHER
NOTHING. I
PREFER IT
THAT WAY.



BUT—YOU
MUST.
YOU SIMPLY
MUST.



I'M
GOING TO
PUT THIS
HERE.

I'LL
THROW
IT AWAY.

NO. YOU
SAY THAT,
BUT I KNOW
YOU WON'T.

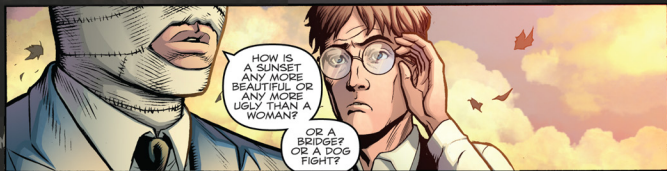


MY GOD,
WHAT A SUNSET
TODAY. HAVE YOU
EVER SEEN
ANYTHING SO
BEAUTIFUL?



I'VE NEVER
UNDERSTOOD
THAT. VIEWING
THE WORLD IN
TERMS OF BEAUTY
AND HORROR.

IT'S ALL
THE SAME
LINES, THE
SAME SHAPES
AND COLORS.

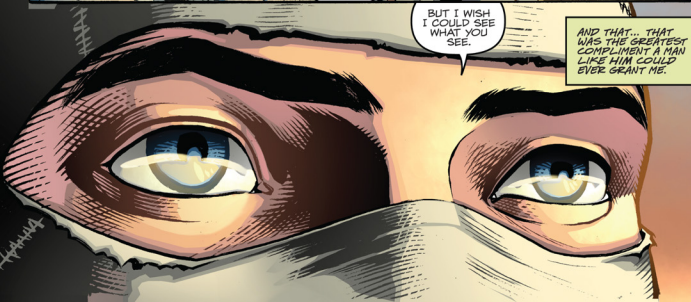


HOW IS
A SUNSET
ANY MORE
BEAUTIFUL OR
ANY MORE
UGLY THAN A
WOMAN?

OR A
BRIDGE?
OR A DOG
FIGHT?

BUT I WISH
I COULD SEE
WHAT YOU
SEE.

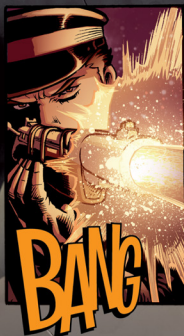
AND THAT... THAT
WAS THE GREATEST
COMPLIMENT A MAN
LIKE HIM COULD
EVER GRANT ME.







STOP!
STOP!



BANG

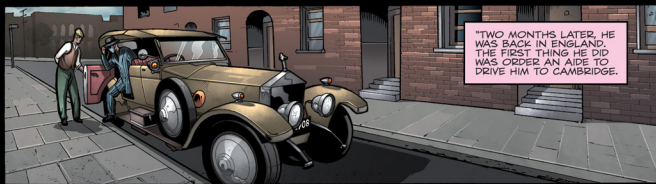


"THOM DISTRACTED
THE GUARDS."



"AND ALLOWED
THE COMMANDER
TO ESCAPE."

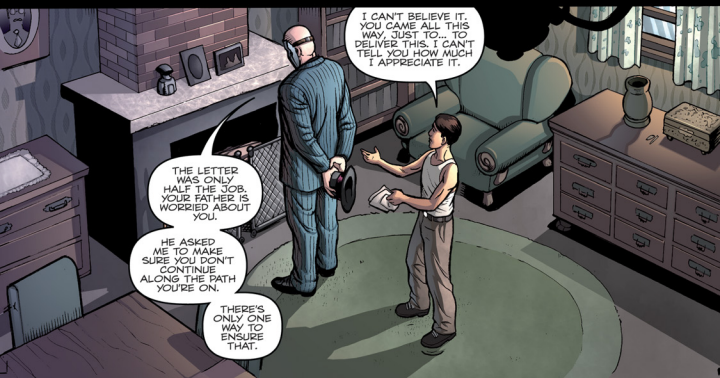




"TWO MONTHS LATER, HE WAS BACK IN ENGLAND. THE FIRST THING HE DID WAS ORDER AN AIDE TO DRIVE HIM TO CAMBRIDGE."



"HE HAD A DEBT TO FULFILL."



"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, JUST TO... TO DELIVER THIS. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE IT."

"THE LETTER WAS ONLY HALF THE JOB. YOUR FATHER IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU."

"HE ASKED ME TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CONTINUE ALONG THE PATH YOU'RE ON."

"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ENSURE THAT."



"WHEN HE RETURNED
TO THE CAR, HE
TAUGHT HIS AIDE A
VALUABLE LESSON."

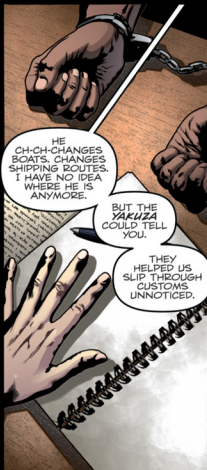
NEVER LET
YOURSELF FALL
INTO A MAN'S
DEBT. NEVER LET
SOMEONE HAVE
THAT POWER
OVER YOU.



DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU'RE LOYAL TO YOUR FORMER CAPTAIN. I UNDERSTAND THE INSTINCT. BUT WHEN YOU'RE LOYAL TO SOMEONE, THEY ARE IN YOUR **DEBT**.

THAT'S A **DAANGEROUS** PLACE TO BE. IT MAKES MEN UNPREDICTABLE.

CAN YOU TRULY PREDICT WHAT HE'LL DO TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR DEBT? WHAT MEASURES HE'LL TAKE? LET US TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROBLEM.



HE CH-CH-CHANGES BOATS, CHANGES SHIPPING ROUTES. I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS ANYMORE.

BUT THE **YAKUZA** COULD TELL YOU.

THEY HELPED US SLIP THROUGH CUSTOMS UNNOTICED.



HERE'S THE NAME OF OUR **YAKUZA** CONTACT. IT'S ALL I HAVE.



WAIT!
DON'T—



HE GAVE US WHAT WE NEEDED. HE GAVE US WHAT HE KNEW.

YES, HE DID.



AND WE WERE IN HIS DEBT.

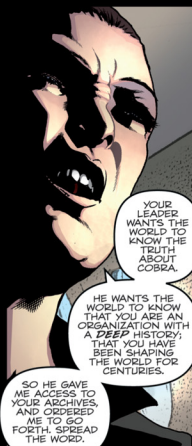


WORD-OF-MOUTH
MARKETING
DOESN'T WORK IF
YOU KILL THE
MOUTH.

DO
YOU
NOT
UNDERSTAND
THAT?

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
ANY OF
THIS.

WHY THE
COMMANDER IS
WASTING HIS TIME
ON THIS. WHY HE
WANTS YOU FOR *NEW
YORK*. WHY HE MAKES
ME PUT UP WITH ALL
THIS RIDICULOUS
STORYTELLING.



YOUR
LEADER
WANTS THE
WORLD TO
KNOW THE
TRUTH
ABOUT
COBRA.

HE WANTS THE
WORLD TO KNOW
THAT YOU ARE AN
ORGANIZATION WITH
A *DEEP* HISTORY;
THAT YOU HAVE
BEEN SHAPING
THE WORLD FOR
CENTURIES.

SO HE GAVE
ME ACCESS TO
YOUR ARCHIVES,
AND ORDERED
ME TO GO
FORTH. SPREAD
THE WORD.



BY
TELLING
PIRATES
AND PETTY
THUGS.

THE
LEGITIMATE
WORLD HAS
ACCEPTED
COBRA AS
A GEO-
POLITICAL
FORCE.

OUR
MESSAGE
IS AIMED AT
THE CRIMINAL
UNDERWORLD.

AND FOR THAT YOU
DON'T WRITE PRESS
RELEASES. INSTEAD YOU
TELL STORIES. PLANT
DOCUMENTS. SEED
EVIDENCE. AND WAIT FOR
THOSE SEEDS TO GROW.



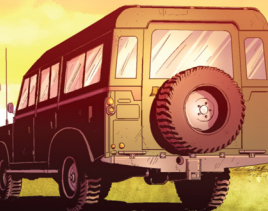
TRUST ME,
WHEN PEOPLE
KNOW THE TRUTH
OF COBRA'S
LONGEVITY AND
BRUTALITY, NO
ONE WILL *DARE*
CROSS YOU.
EVER AGAIN.

LET ME
TELL YOU
A STORY.

OH, YOU
MUST BE
KIDDING.

THE GARDENER

"IT'S ABOUT A MAN NAMED CHARLES PYKE, A RISING STAR OF COBRA IN THE 1960S. HE WAS BROUGHT TO COBRA ISLAND."



THE COMMANDER WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU BEFORE TONIGHT'S MEETING. HE'S IN THE GARDEN. WEEDING.



THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ON THE PLANET SPENDS HIS TIME WEEDING? ARE YOU—IS THAT A JOKE?



"YOU'VE WORKED FOR TWO COMMANDERS, BARONESS, YOU KNOW THEY HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING FIERCE. FIERY, VISIONARY MASTERMINDS."

"CHARLES EXPECTED BRILLIANCE, HE EXPECTED PASSION AND VIOLENCE."

THANKS FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, CHARLIE.

WE HAVE SOME EXTRA GLOVES IF YOU WANT TO DIVE IN, CHARLIE.

CHARLES.



NO THANKS, MY GRANDFATHER WAS A GARDENER. I NEVER SAW THE APPEAL.

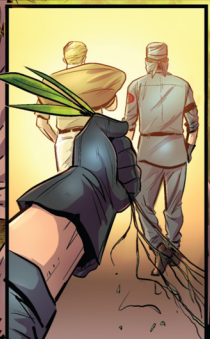
COMMANDER, MR. CHARLES PYKE, THE OPERATIVE WE BROUGHT IN TO DISCUSS THE EXPANSION IN SOUTH AFRICA?



I FIND IT WORTHWHILE. ON THE SURFACE IT'S SO SIMPLE. PLANT SEEDS. WATER THE GROUND. CROPS GROW.

BUT IN TRUTH, THERE'S WEEDS, INSECTS, DISEASE, PESTICIDES, EROSION, LOUSY WEATHER, LOUSY LUCK, LIFE IS ABOUT THE VARIABLES.

OKAY, THEN, I WANTED TO MEET. WE MET. THAT'S IT FOR NOW.



"SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER, CHARLIE HAD BEEN APPROACHED, BY THE ENEMIES OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

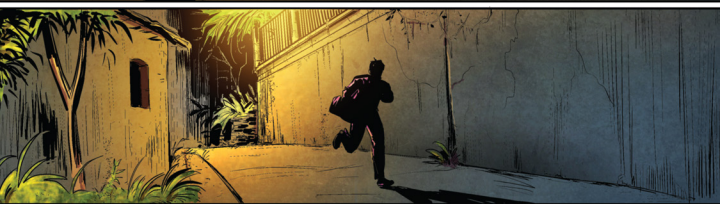
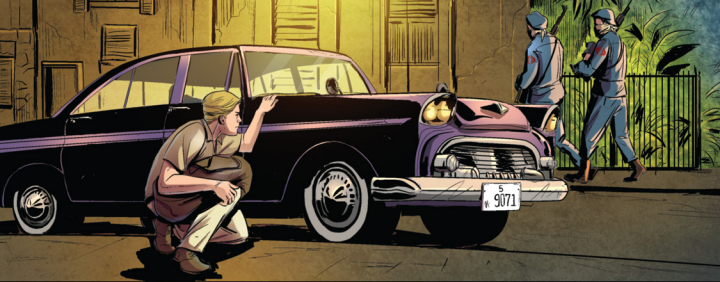
"THEY WANTED HIM TO STEAL FROM COBRA. INSTEAD, HE PLANNED TO EXPOSE THESE ENEMIES, TO TURN THE INFORMATION OVER TO COBRA."

"THEN HE MET OUR LEADER."



"WHY *NOT* BETRAY SUCH A COMMON, BORING MAN?"





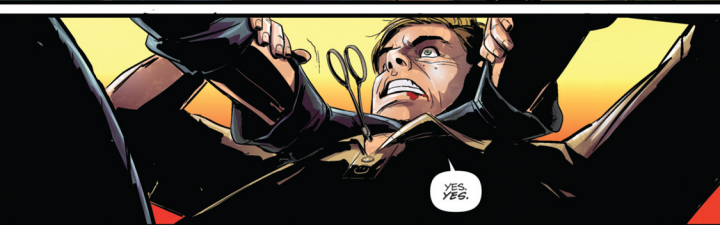


I'M A
GARDENER.
SO, WHAT?
YOU MISTAKE
ME FOR THE
HELP?

THINK I
DON'T HAVE
OUR SEAS
MONITORED?
THINK I DON'T
KNOW THERE'S A
BOAT THIRTY
MILES OUT?



THEN YOU
SHOW UP, SLIMY
L'I'L STINKBUG.
DON'T WANT TO GET
DIRTY. CORRECT
ME—CORRECT
ME—WHEN I CALL
YOU CHARLIE.



YES.
YES.



THAT'S
WHO I WAS
LOOKING
FOR!



WHAT WAS
THE POINT
OF THIS?

THAT
PEOPLE WILL
TREAT YOU
THE WAY THEY
PERCEIVE YOU.
AND THAT'S
WHERE I COME
IN. I'M HERE TO
CHANGE THEIR
PERCEPTION.



YOU DON'T KNOW
ME VERY WELL, SO
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO
TAKE MY WORD ON THIS:
PEOPLE PERCEIVE ME
EXACTLY AS I WANT
THEM TO.

AND IT SOUNDS LIKE
THE SAME CAN BE SAID
OF OUR OLD COMMANDER.
IT'S A POWERFUL THING,
WHEN YOUR ENEMIES
UNDERESTIMATE YOU.

STILL, HE COULD HAVE
HANDLED THE SITUATION
BETTER. FOR ONE THING, IF
I HAD BEEN HOLDING THOSE
GARDEN SHEARS?



I WOULD HAVE
STABBED HIM
IN THE
BACK.



SEE YOU
ON THE
GROUND IN
TOKYO.

CHAPTER TWO



PENCILS BY **STEVE KURTH**
INKS BY **ALLEN MARTINEZ**
COLORS BY **JOANA LAFUENTE**



TOKYO.

ON THE OUTSIDE OF THIS BUILDING THERE HANGS A SIGN. IT PROCLAIMS TO ALL THE WORLD: WE ARE **YAKUZA!**

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW EXTRAORDINARY THAT IS? I DOUBT IT. I THINK INSTEAD, YOU TAKE IT FOR GRANTED.



THE YAKUZA ARE ONE OF THE MOST OPEN CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES IN THE WORLD. FOR CENTURIES, **COBRA** HID DEEP IN THE SHADOWS, WHILE YOU STOOD IN THE LIGHT.

ONLY RECENTLY HAVE WE JOINED YOU THERE.

HMM. YOU TRAVELED ALL THIS WAY TO TELL ME THINGS I ALREADY KNOW?

HE HAS A POINT...



...WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS INFORMATION—

BUT FIRST I WANT TO GAIN YOUR TRUST.



BY SHOWING YOU HOW MUCH OUR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE IN COMMON.

SO LET ME TELL YOU A STORY.

TRUST ME—

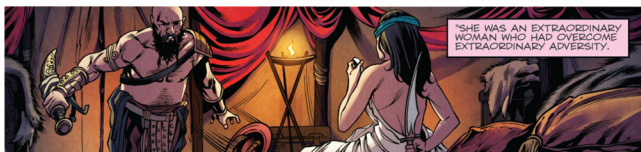


—YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HER.

SHADOWS AND LIGHT

JAPAN. MID-19TH CENTURY.









I KNOW YOU.
I WAS YOU.
THERE'S A
BETTER WAY
TO LIVE.

POWER
COMES NOT
FROM A SINGLE,
LOUD STRUGGLING
VOICE, BUT FROM A
SILENT, UNIFIED
FORCE.



THAT'S WHAT
I'M HERE TO
OFFER YOU. THE
ORGANIZATION I
LEAD IS DETACHED
FROM SOCIETY. WE
SEEK CONTRAST, BUT
NOT RECOGNITION.
WE STRIKE FROM
DARKNESS.

AN
ANONYMOUS
FRATERNITY
OF—

I NEED TO
REST, AND
THANKS TO
THESE DEAD
BODIES, IT
SHOULDN'T BE
HERE.

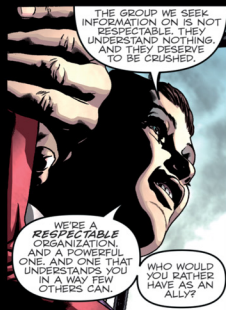


"THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
THE COMMANDER HAD DELIVERED HER
MESSAGE AROUND THE WORLD. IN
THAT TIME SHE HAD FACED VIOLENCE,
CURIOSITY, FASCINATION, HOSTILITY,
BEGRIDDING RESPECT.

"BUT NEVER INDIFFERENCE."







WE'RE A **RESPECTABLE** ORGANIZATION, AND A POWERFUL ONE, AND ONE THAT UNDERSTANDS YOU IN A WAY FEW OTHERS CAN.

WHO WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE AS AN ALLY?



YOU'RE STARTING TO ENJOY THIS.

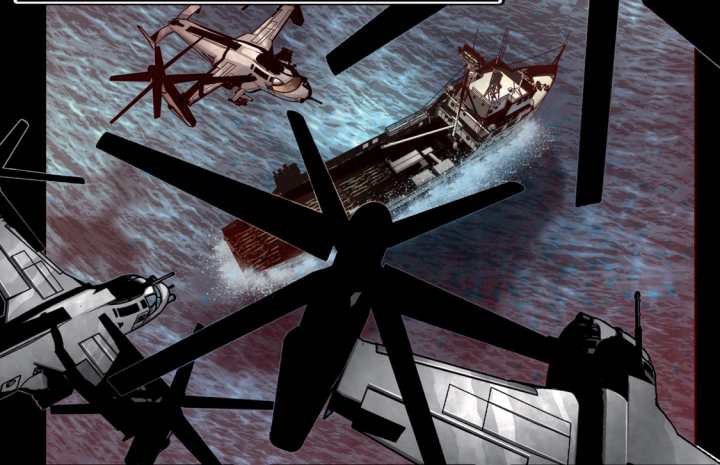
WHAT?

TROTTERING THE GLOBE IN A PRIVATE JET, MEETING DANGEROUS MEN, AND STANDING UP TO THEM, BEING IMPORTANT, BEING **COBRA**.

I'M GOOD AT MY **JOB**, BARONESS. IT REQUIRES ME TO ACT A CERTAIN WAY, BUT DON'T MISTAKE THAT FOR SINCERITY.



NOW LET'S GO GET MY **SON**.

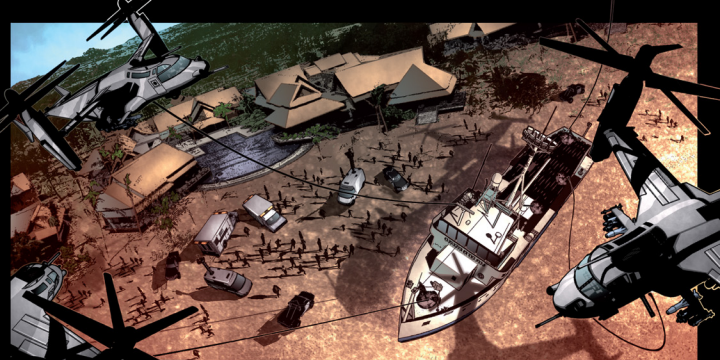






NO ONE
ESCAPES!
NO ONE
SURVIVES!

DISPOSE
OF THEM ALL
BEFORE WE
REACH OUR
DESTINATION.







YOUR SON
CLEARLY NEEDS
MEDICAL ATTENTION,
PHYSICALLY AND
PSYCHOLOGICALLY.
AFTER THAT HE'LL
NEED A GOOD
EDUCATION.

DON'T
WORRY, *SIREN*.
WE'LL GET HIM
THE HELP HE
NEEDS. BEHAVE
YOURSELF, AND
YOU'LL SEE HIM
AGAIN.



SIREN?

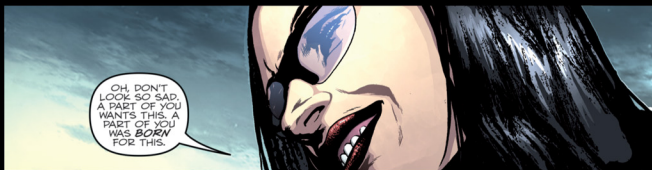
YOUR NEW
CODENAME.
I HOPE YOU
LIKE IT.



ALL THIS... I
DID ALL THIS TO
GET HIM BACK.
WATCHED YOU *KILL*
FOR IT. OUR
ARRANGEMENT...

THE
COMMANDER
TOLD YOU THAT
ONCE YOUR SON
WAS SAFE, WE
WOULD COME TO
TERMS. SO
HERE'S THE
TERMS:

YOU'RE
OURS. AND
SO IS HE.



OH, DON'T
LOOK SO SAD.
A PART OF YOU
WANTS THIS. A
PART OF YOU
WAS *BORN*
FOR THIS.



I HAVE TO
ADMIT, I WAS
DISAPPOINTED
WHEN THE
COMMANDER
WOULDN'T LET
ME KILL YOU.
BUT THIS?

THIS IS
SO MUCH
BETTER.



INFERNO

"THIS BOOK—*THE DIVINE COMEDY*—WAS WRITTEN BY A MAN WHO SAW COBRA'S TRUE POTENTIAL, WHO BELIEVED IN THIS ORGANIZATION LIKE NO ONE ELSE."

SIGNORE ALIGHIERI, YOU LOOK FRIGHTENED.

I WOULD SAY I'M... CONCERNED FOR THE STATE OF MY MORTALITY.

SUCH POETRY, SO SCARED YOUR BOWELS MUST BE LOOSENING, BUT YOU'RE STILL ELOQUENT ABOUT IT.

I ORDERED YOUR DEATH HOURS AGO. I HATED TO DO IT. YOU'VE BEEN A LOYAL OPERATIVE, FOUGHT FOR US, BEEN BANISHED FROM YOUR HOME FOR US, THEN YOU TOSSED IT AWAY.

FOR THIS—THIS POEM YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON.

WHAT WE'VE BUILT HERE, IT **THRIVES** ON SECRECY AND SILENCE, ON OUR ABILITY TO EXIST AND NOT EXIST SIMULTANEOUSLY.

AND YOU WRITE A POEM ABOUT IT.


NO ONE WOULD KNOW. NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW. IT'S STRUCTURED AS A JOURNEY, THROUGH HEAVEN AND HELL. IT'S AN ALLEGORY—

ABOUT US!






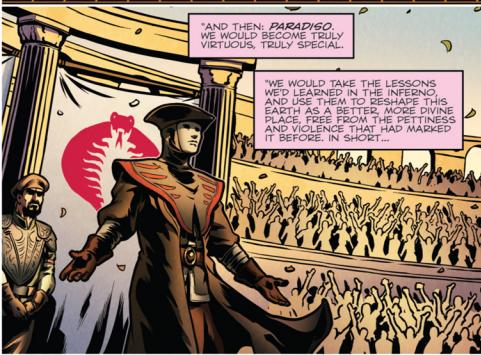
"DANTE HAD A VISION FOR OUR ORGANIZATION, UNLIKE ANYTHING BEFORE, AND THE *DIVINE COMEDY* REFLECTED THIS.



"HE BELIEVED THAT WE BEGAN IN AN *INFERNO*. IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND CRIMINAL ACTS. AN ORGANIZATION RULED BY INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE.




"BUT AS THE ORGANIZATION EVOLVED, WE WOULD ASCEND INTO *PURGATORIO*, A TRANSITIVE STATE WHERE WE WOULD LEAVE OUR WICKED WAYS BEHIND, MOVING EVER CLOSER TO REDEMPTION.



"AND THEN, *PARADISO*. WE WOULD BECOME TRULY VIRTUOUS, TRULY SPECIAL.


"WE WOULD TAKE THE LESSONS WE'D LEARNED IN THE *INFERNO* AND USE THEM TO RESHAPE THIS EARTH AS A BETTER, MORE DIVINE PLACE, FREE FROM THE PETTINESS AND VIOLENCE THAT HAD MARKED IT BEFORE. IN SHORT...




"...COBRA WOULD SAVE THE WORLD.




"THIS VISION HAUNTED THE COMMANDER. DANTE UNDERSTOOD SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE HAD:




"THAT THE ORGANIZATION HOLDS NO POLITICAL, RACIAL, OR RELIGIOUS LEANINGS.




"THAT IT IS NOT BASED ON EXCLUSION, NOR ON THE NARROW PATH THAT MARKS SO MANY PHILOSOPHIES.



"THAT AT ITS HEART, COBRA IS SIMPLY A FORCE FOR CHANGE.



"AND CHANGE, BY ITSELF, IS NEITHER EVIL NOR GOOD.



"THIS SPURRED THE COMMANDER TO NEW HEIGHTS.

"IT WAS A TIME OF EXTRAORDINARY EXPANSION FOR THE ORGANIZATION. WE HAD BEEN GROWING, GRADUALLY, FOR SO LONG, BUT NOW WE MOVED INTO NEW AREAS."



"NEW NATIONS."



"NEW DISCIPLINES."



"NEW IDEAS."



"AND THEN, FINALLY..."

"IT WAS DONE."



THIS... THIS IS
EXTRAORDINARY,
MY OLD FRIEND.
IT'S...

...IT'S THE
GREATEST
THING OUR
ORGANIZATION
HAS EVER
DONE.



AND JUST AS
I'VE COMPLETED
IT, I GROW
DEATHLY ILL.

THAT'S NOT A
COINCIDENCE,
IS IT?

I TOLD
YOU—ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO—THAT
I HAD ORDERED
YOUR DEATH.

I NEVER SAID
I RESCINDED
THE ORDER.



I GUESS
WE'RE STILL IN
THE INFERNO.



AND WE
ALWAYS
WILL BE.

BUT IT WAS
A WONDERFUL
THOUGHT.



CHAPTER THREE



PENCILS BY **STEVE KURTH**
INKS BY **ALLEN MARTINEZ**
COLORS BY **JOANA LAFUENTE**



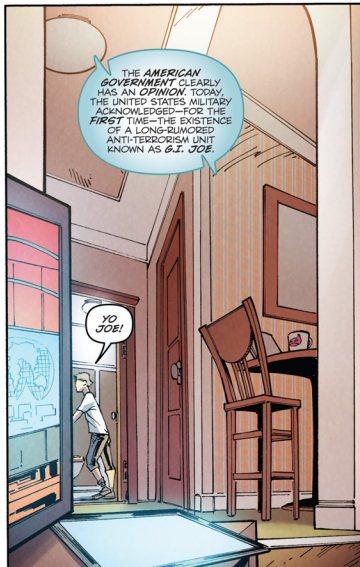
—JUST A WEEK AGO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS **COBRA** MOUNTED A DARING RESCUE, SAVING **DOZENS** OF CHILDREN FROM A SLAVERY RING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.



THE **CONTROVERSIAL** FACTION HAS **CONFUSED** AND **CONFOUNDED** WORLD LEADERS FOR MONTHS.

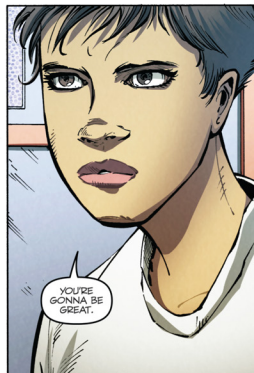


ARE THEY A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION? A HUMANITARIAN GROUP? A NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT?



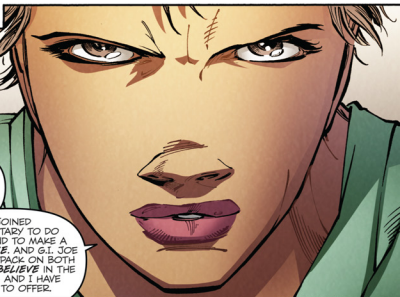
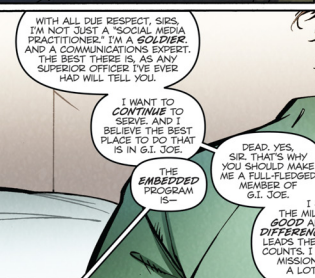
THE **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT** CLEARLY HAS AN **OPINION**. TODAY, THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACKNOWLEDGED—FOR THE **FIRST TIME**—THE EXISTENCE OF A LONG-RUMORED ANTI-TERRORISM UNIT KNOWN AS **G.I. JOE**.

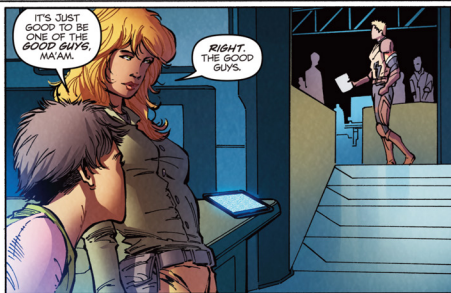
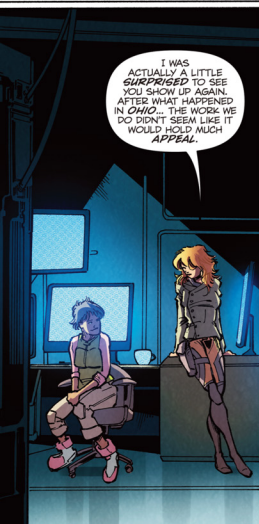
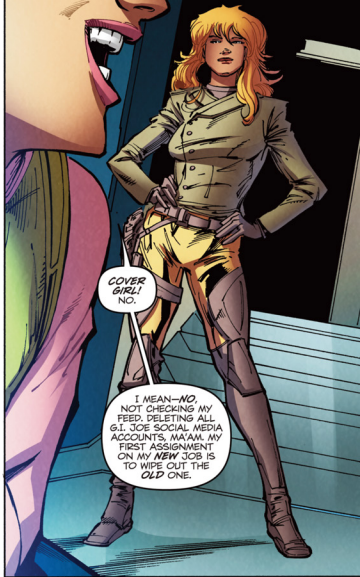
YO JOE!

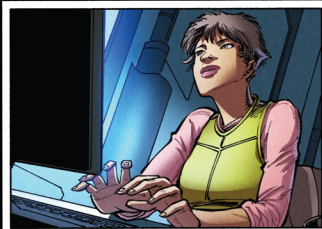
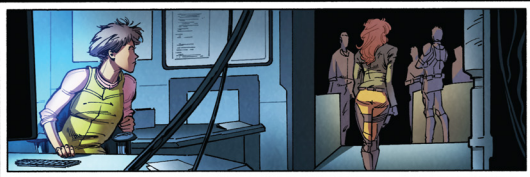


THE FIRST DAY.

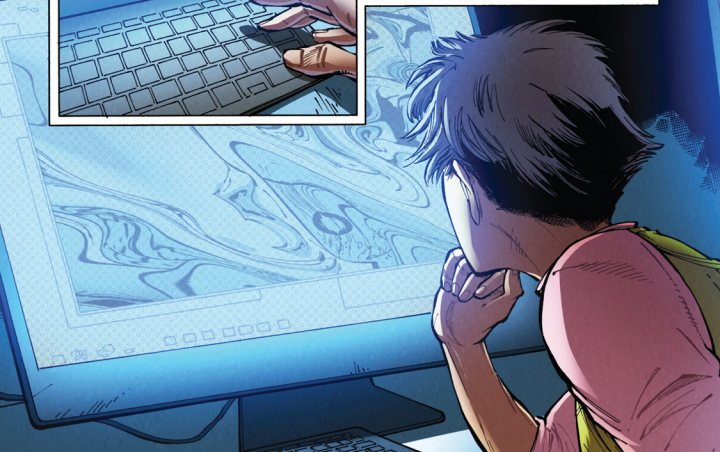


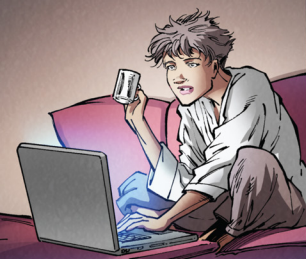






NEW DIRECT MESSAGE FROM SINGER'S SON



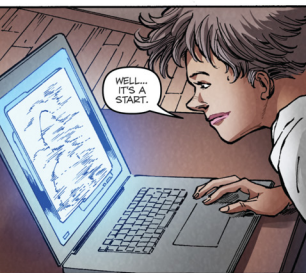
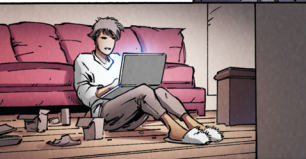


I KNOW YOU SAID AN **ANONYMOUS MESSAGE** SHOULDN'T BE OUR **PRIORITY**. THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT IN MY **OWN TIME**. I'VE MADE **GOOD PROGRESS** ON THE ENCRYPTION, BUT I'M NOT THERE YET.

AND ON TOP OF **THAT**, THE FILE IS **BADLY DAMAGED**. I'D LIKE TO DEVOTE **MORE MILITARY RESOURCES** TO—

IT'S A **PRIVATE MESSAGE** SENT THROUGH **SOCIAL MEDIA**, HASHTAG. IT'S PROBABLY AN **AD** FOR **WEIGHT-LOSS MEDICATION**.

I'M SORRY, BUT **NO**. ALL OUR **COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES** ARE DEDICATED TO THE **THREAT MATRIX**, AND IT'S GOING TO **STAY** THAT WAY.



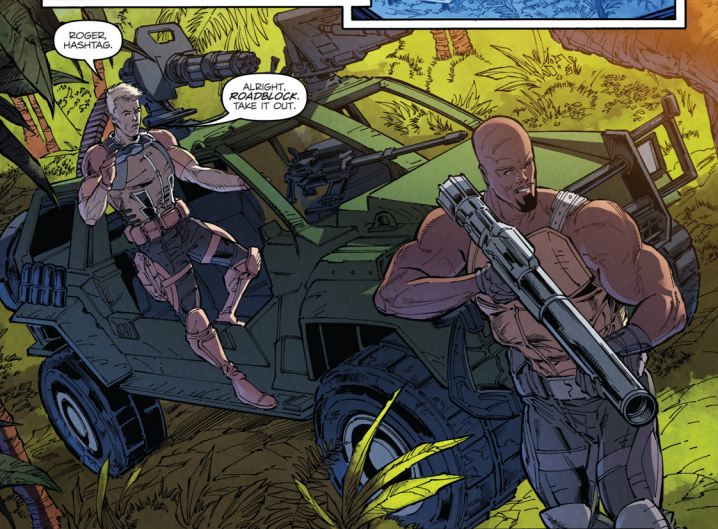
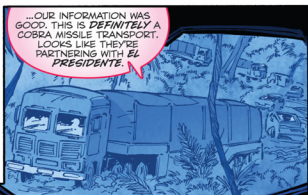
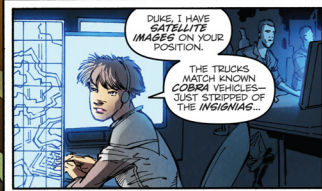
WELL.... IT'S A **START**.



NOT ENOUGH, HASHTAG. WE CAN'T CHASE EVERY **GHOST**.

AND FRANKLY, I DON'T LIKE YOU SPENDING SO MUCH TIME ON THIS, ON **OR** OFF THE JOB. I NEED YOU FOCUSED ON **REAL PRIORITIES**, LIKE THIS **MISSILE TRANSPORT**.

I WANT US TO HAVE **BOOTS** ON THE **GROUND** IN **SOUTH AMERICA** BY **TOMORROW**.





DUKE, WE HAVE EYES ON ONE OF THESE **TRANSPORT** TRUCKS. IT'S CRASHED TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, AND ITS **CARGO**—

IT'S NOT WEAPONS. IT'S **MEDICINE**.

COPY THAT, **DOC**.

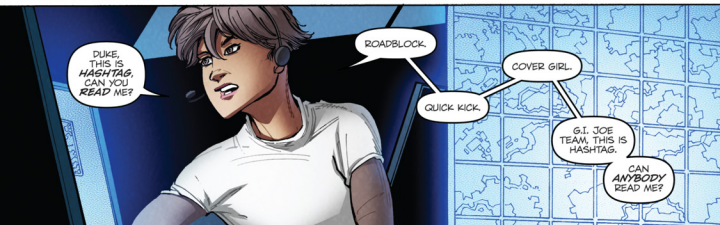
QUICK KICK HAS TAKEN OUT THE DRIVERS AND THE GUARDS. LET'S MOVE IN CLOSER.



APPROACHING THE CONVOY NOW...

...SIR, ONE OF THE—NO, **TWO** OF THE TRUCKS—**MORE**—ARE OPENING.

SIR, IT'S **VIPERS!** THE TRUCKS ARE FULL OF **VIPERS!** WE—



DUKE, THIS IS **HASHTAG**. CAN YOU READ ME?

ROADBLOCK.

QUICK KICK.

COVER GIRL.

G.I. JOE TEAM, THIS IS **HASHTAG**.

CAN **ANYBODY** READ ME?



SPECIAL MISSIONS TEAM, THIS IS **HASHTAG**. WE NEED AN EXTRACTION TEAM IMMEDIATELY. OUR SQUAD, THEIR **COMMUNICATIONS** ARE BEING **JAMMED**. THEY—WE—

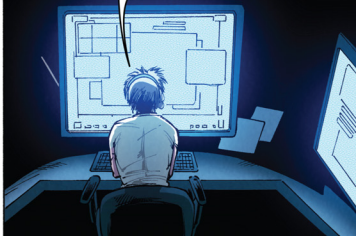
WE WALKED INTO AN **AMBUSH**.

ROGER THAT, **HASHTAG**. SEND OVER THE **COORDINATES**. WE'LL BE IN THE AIR IN LESS THAN FIVE.

HOURS LATER.



COME ON...
STUPID
SATELLITE
IMAGES...



HASHTAG-
THIS IS DUKE.

EVERYONE'S
FINE ON OUR
SIDE. IT WAS JUST...
ONE HELL OF
A BATTLE.

DUKE! ARE
YOU—



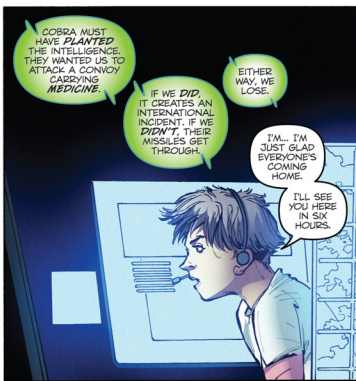
COBRA MUST
HAVE *PLANTED*
THE INTELLIGENCE.
THEY WANTED US TO
ATTACK A CONVOY
CARRYING
MEDICINE.

IF WE *DID*,
IT CREATES AN
INTERNATIONAL
INCIDENT. IF WE
DIDN'T, THEIR
MISSILES GET
THROUGH.

EITHER
WAY, WE
LOSE.

I'M... I'M
JUST GLAD
EVERYONE'S
COMING
HOME.

I'LL SEE
YOU HERE
IN SIX
HOURS.





IF YOU
CAN'T ACCEPT
THE RISKS,
THEN WHY—

I'M NOT
SAYING I
CAN'T ACCEPT
THE RISKS.

I'M SAYING
THAT MAYBE IT'S
TIME WE HAD A
SERIOUS DISCUSSION
ABOUT WHY OUR
INTELLIGENCE ISN'T
WORTH A DAMN.



AND WHY OUR
LEADERSHIP ISN'T
MORE CONCERNED
WITH PROTECTING
OUR PEOPLE
THAN—

WAY
OVER THE
LINE, COVER
GIRL!

DAMN RIGHT IT
WAS. GO TO YOUR
QUARTERS AND
COOL YOUR HEELS.
THEN WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE ONE *HELL*
OF A "SERIOUS
DISCUSSION."

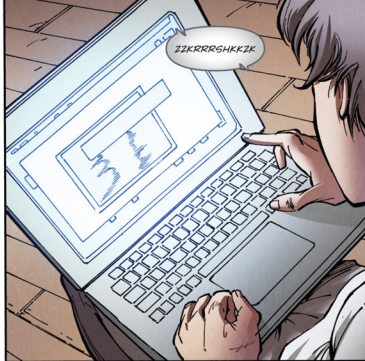
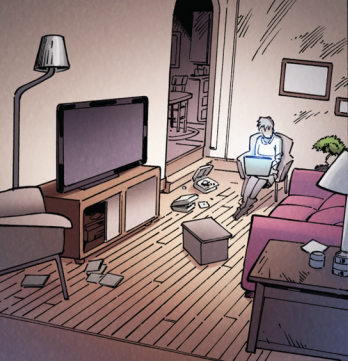
ANOTHER
GREAT DAY
FOR THE GOOD
GUYS.

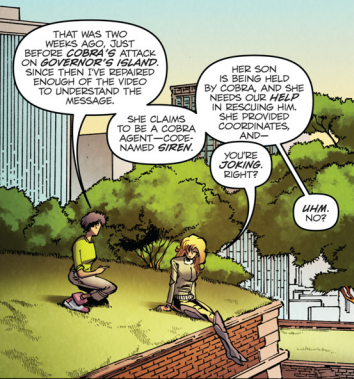


YOU HAVE
SOMETHING
TO SAY,
HASHTAG?



NO, SIR.
NOTHING
AT ALL.





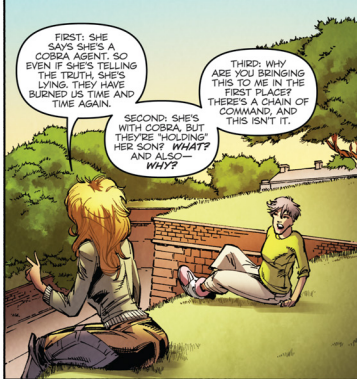
THAT WAS TWO WEEKS AGO, JUST BEFORE COBRA'S ATTACK ON GOVERNOR'S ISLAND. SINCE THEN I'VE REPAIRED ENOUGH OF THE VIDEO TO UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE.

SHE CLAIMS TO BE A COBRA AGENT—CODE-NAMED SIREN.

HER SON IS BEING HELD BY COBRA, AND SHE NEEDS OUR HELP IN RESCUING HIM. SHE PROVIDED COORDINATES, AND—

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

UHM. NO?



FIRST: SHE SAYS SHE'S A COBRA AGENT. SO EVEN IF SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, SHE'S LYING. THEY HAVE BURNED US TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

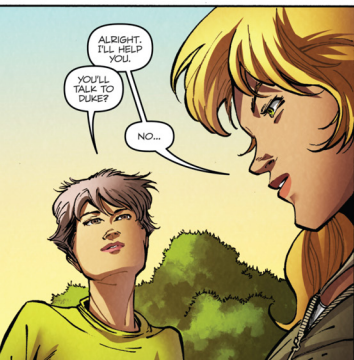
THIRD: WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS TO ME IN THE FIRST PLACE? THERE'S A CHAIN OF COMMAND, AND THIS ISN'T IT.

SECOND: SHE'S WITH COBRA, BUT THEY'RE "HOLDING" HER SON? WHAT? AND ALSO—WHY?



I'VE GONE TO DUKE. HE DOESN'T VIEW IT AS A PRIORITY. IT'S LIKE HE JUST WANTS TO BURY IT.

REALLY?



ALRIGHT. I'LL HELP YOU.

YOU'LL TALK TO DUKE?

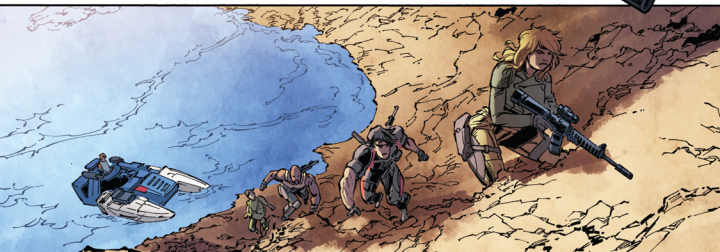
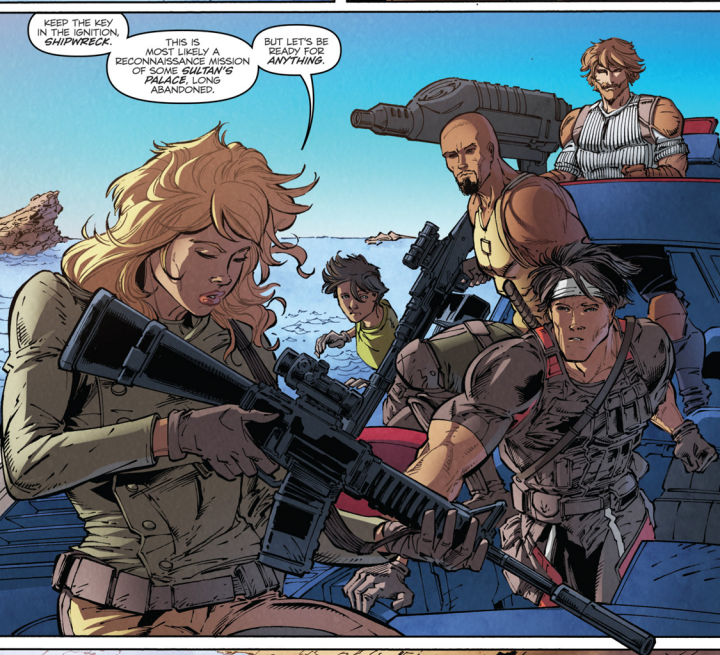
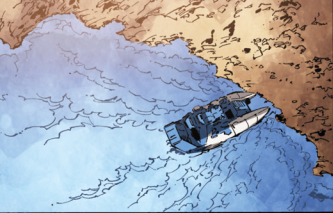
NO...



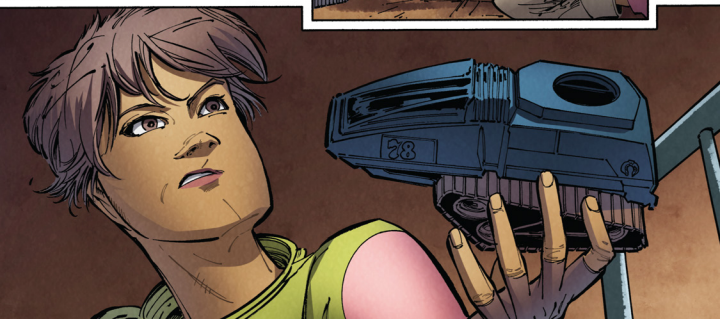
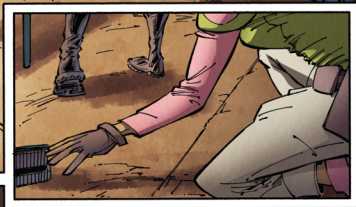
...I'LL TALK TO GENERAL COLTON.

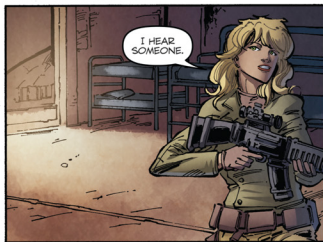
OFF THE COAST OF NORTH AFRICA.













I KNOW
I'M NOT IN
A POSITION
TO MAKE
DEMANDS...



...BUT I
WOULD **REALLY**
LIKE TO KNOW
WHO THE HELL
YOU PEOPLE
ARE.



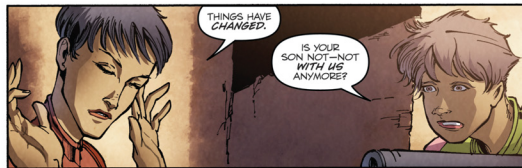
WE'RE
G.I. JOE,
NA'AM.

WE
GOT YOUR
MESSAGE. AND
WE'RE HERE TO
RESCUE YOUR
SON.



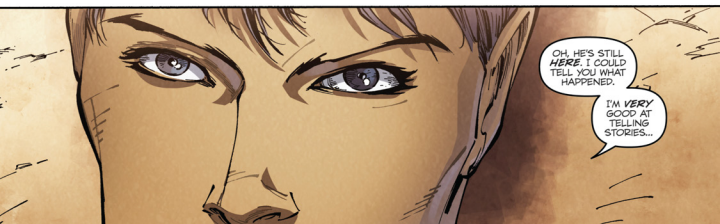
YOU...
YOU GOT
MY...

THAT
MESSAGE
WAS SENT
MONTHS
AGO.



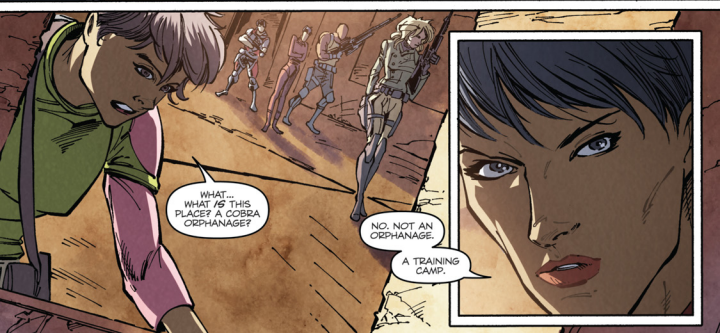
THINGS HAVE
CHANGED.

IS YOUR
SON NOT--NOT
WITH US
ANYMORE?



OH, HE'S STILL
HERE. I COULD
TELL YOU WHAT
HAPPENED.

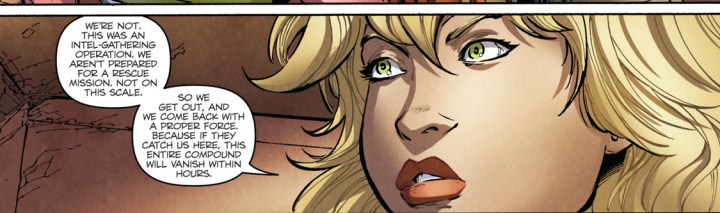
I'M **VERY**
GOOD AT
TELLING
STORIES...

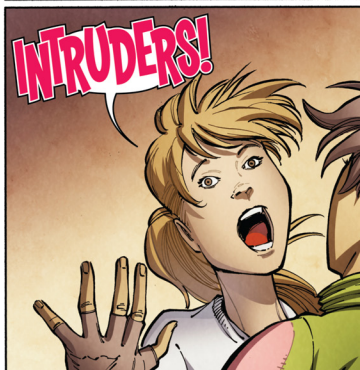
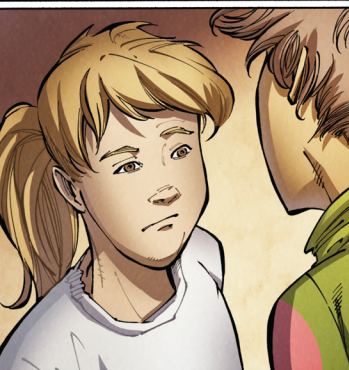
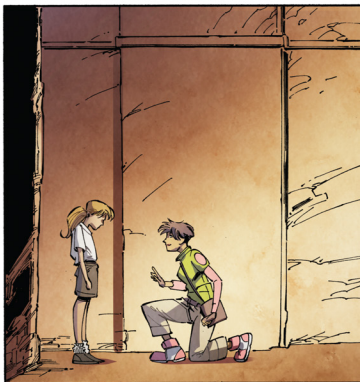


CHAPTER FOUR

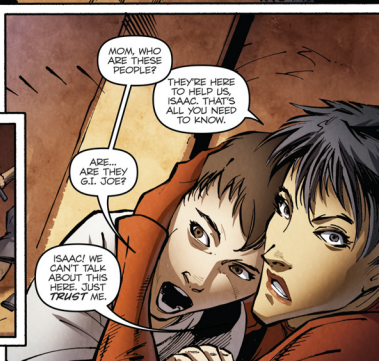


PENCILS BY **STEVE KURTZ**
INKS BY **ALLEN MARTINEZ**
COLORS BY **JOANA LAFUENTE**









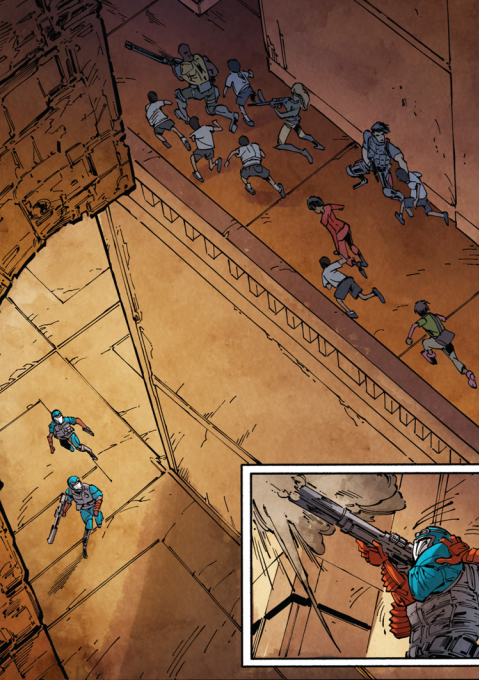


HELP ME.

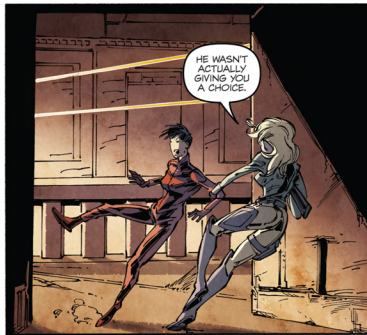


WE'RE HERE TO HELP ANY A' YOU KIDS THAT WANT OUR HELP! SO SPEAK UP, GRAB ON AND FOLLOW US.



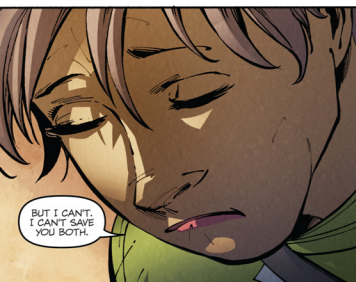
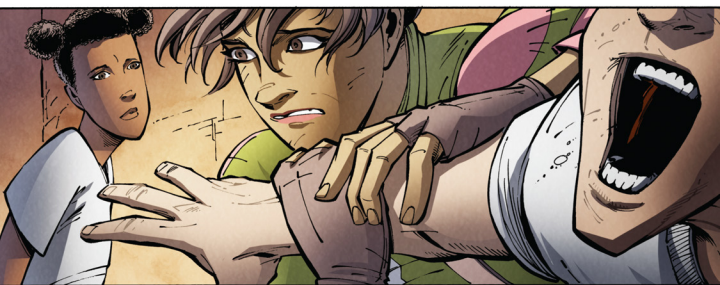
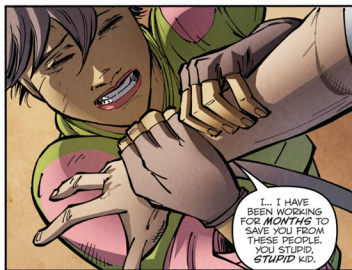






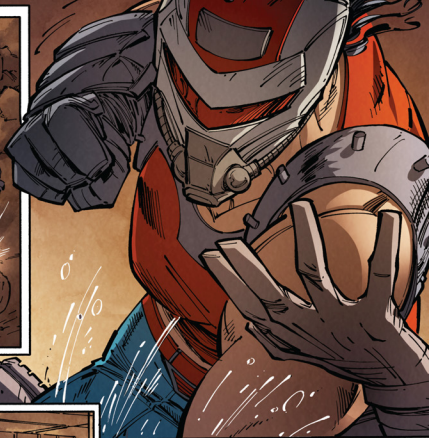












ROADBLOCK?

UUUUHHH...

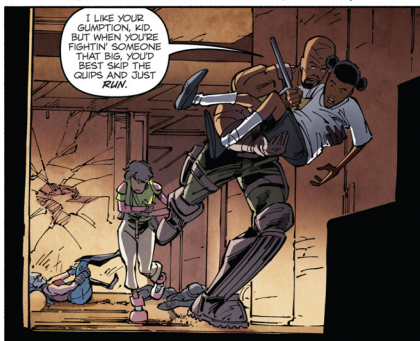


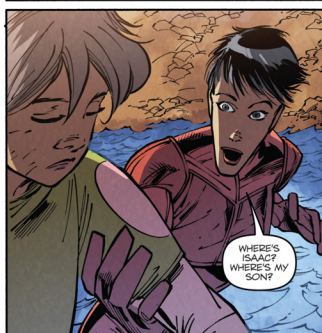
AND BIG BOA.

TOO BAD, I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA BE A CHALLENGE.

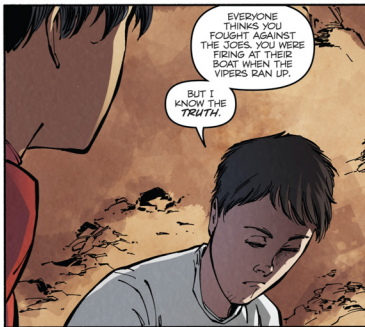


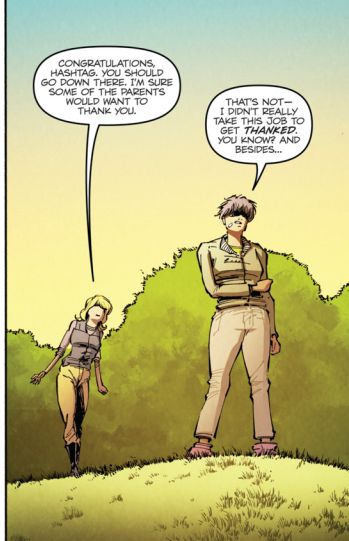
BUT I'VE TRAINED TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRLS WHO ARE TOUGHER THAN YOU.











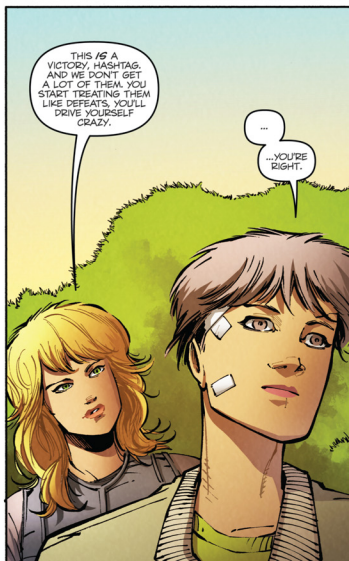
CONGRATULATIONS, HASHTAG. YOU SHOULD GO DOWN THERE. I'M SURE SOME OF THE PARENTS WOULD WANT TO THANK YOU.

THAT'S NOT—I DIDN'T REALLY TAKE THIS JOB TO GET **THANKED**. YOU KNOW? AND BESIDES...



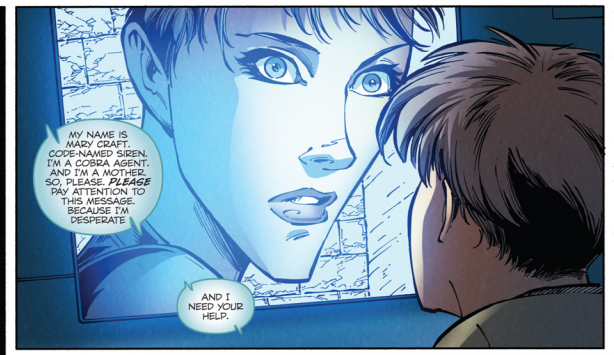
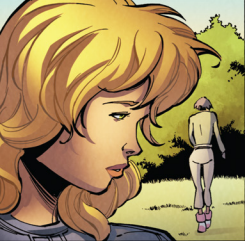
WE DID THE BEST WE COULD DO, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. I KNOW THAT. IN MY HEAD, I KNOW THAT. IT'S JUST... IF WE'D GONE IN SOONER, GONE IN BIGGER...

...THERE WERE A LOT OF OTHER KIDS IN THAT COMPOUND. I JUST WANTED ONE CLEAN VICTORY. THAT'S ALL.



THIS **IS** A VICTORY, HASHTAG. AND WE DON'T GET A LOT OF THEM. YOU START TREATING THEM LIKE DEFEATS, YOU'LL DRIVE YOURSELF CRAZY.

...
...YOU'RE RIGHT.





COVER GALLERY



FREDDIE E.
WILLIAMS II
Priscilla

ART BY **FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II**
COLORS BY **PRISCILLA TRAMONTANO**



FREDDIE E.
WILLIAMS II
DP

ART BY **FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II**
COLORS BY **DAVID GARCIA CRUZ**



ART BY **FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II**
COLORS BY **DAVID GARCIA CRUZ**

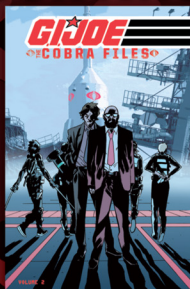


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