

# G.I. JOE



VOLUME 1





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## THE FALL OF G.I. JOE



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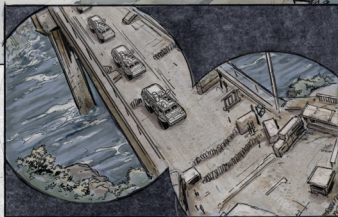




ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**



THE CAUCASUS—  
SCHLETEVA-GALIBI  
BORDER, 48 HOURS  
AFTER THE CEASEFIRE.



HERE THEY  
COME.

THEY'RE  
OUR OWN, AND  
THEY CAN'T DO  
ANY WORSE.

AT LEAST  
THEY'RE NOT IN  
AMERICA'S POCKET.

YOU THINK  
THEY CAN DO ANY  
BETTER THAN THE  
OTHER BUNCH?



WELCOME TO  
SCHLETEVA...

...PEACEKEEPERS.



VERENYA, SCHLETEVA: NEXT DAY.







I'M E-MAILING  
YOUR MEDIA SCHEDULE,  
MR. PAOLI. AL JAZEERA,  
R.T., SKY.

THANKS, SIREN.  
HAS ISAAC CALLED  
YOU YET?

NO, YOU  
KNOW HOW  
BOYS ARE.

I'LL BE VISITING  
THE TROOPS.  
IF I SEE HIM, I'LL  
REMIND HIM.

DAGIL AIRPORT, SCHLETEVA—NEXT DAY.



A PLEASURE  
TO SEE YOU,  
PRESIDENT  
BULATOV.

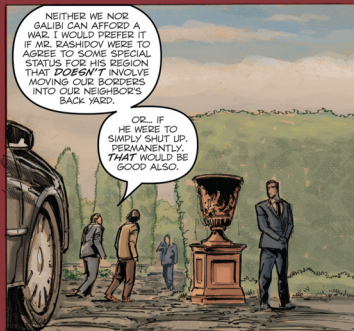
WELCOME,  
MR. PAOLI. ANY  
PROGRESS WITH  
OUR FRIEND?



RASHIDOV'S  
AGREED TO SEND  
SOMEONE TO TALK  
TO ME. WE'RE  
STILL WORKING  
OUT A TIME, AND  
A PLACE.

ONLY YOU  
CAN DO  
THIS. YOU'RE  
THE LEAST  
MISTRUSTED.

AND THAT'S  
HIGH PRAISE  
HERE.



NEITHER WE NOR  
GALIBI CAN AFFORD A  
WAR. I WOULD PREFER IT  
IF MR. RASHIDOV WERE TO  
AGREE TO SOME SPECIAL  
STATUS FOR HIS REGION  
THAT *DOESN'T* INVOLVE  
MOVING OUR BORDERS  
INTO OUR NEIGHBOR'S  
BACK YARD.

OR... IF  
HE WERE TO  
SIMPLY SHUT UP.  
PERMANENTLY.  
THAT WOULD BE  
GOOD ALSO.



I UNDERSTAND THE  
STAKES, MR. PRESIDENT.  
THE ONLY WINNER IN  
A WAR LIKE THIS WILL  
BE AMERICA AND  
ITS ALLIES.

SO WHAT CAN  
WE OFFER HIM?  
WHAT CAN WE  
OFFER GALIBI?

WELL, WE  
MIGHT COOPERATE  
OVER THE GAS  
PIPELINE IF THEY  
WERE TO AGREE TO  
SOME CONCESSIONS  
TO SOOTHE OUR  
SCHLETEVAN  
BROTHERS.



I'M SURE THAT'S  
A PRODUCTIVE  
AREA FOR  
DISCUSSION.

I BELIEVE GALIBI  
MIGHT BE OFFERED  
WESTERN HELP. I  
DON'T THINK THAT  
WOULD END WELL.

I'LL MAKE  
THAT POINT  
TO THE MEDIA  
AND ENSURE  
IT'S HEARD IN  
WASHINGTON.

...AND AS THE  
FRAGILE CEASEFIRE  
ENTERS ITS THIRD  
DAY IN THE DISPUTED  
BORDER REGION OF  
SCHLETEVA...

WASHINGTON, D.C.:  
TWO HOURS BEFORE  
THE CLOSED SENATE  
HEARING INTO THE  
FUTURE STRUCTURE  
OF SPECIAL FORCES.

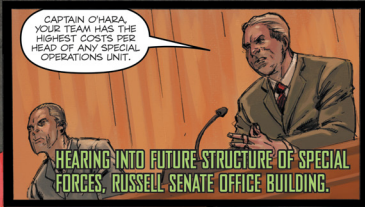


# THE FALL OF G.I. JOE

PART ONE







CAPTAIN O'HARA,  
YOUR TEAM HAS THE  
HIGHEST COSTS PER  
HEAD OF ANY SPECIAL  
OPERATIONS UNIT.

HEARING INTO FUTURE STRUCTURE OF SPECIAL  
FORCES, RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING.



WE'RE A MUCH  
SMALLER FORCE  
THAN FIVE YEARS  
AGO, SENATOR.

WE'RE ALSO  
FIGHTING  
INCREASINGLY  
HIGH-TECH  
WARS. THEY  
COST A LOT.

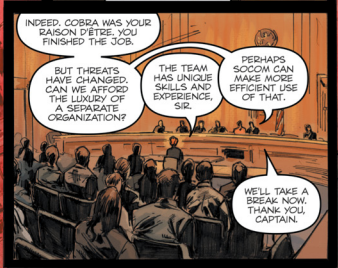


AND WE'VE  
LEFT GAPPED  
POSTS  
UNFILLED.



YES, WE LOOK  
EXPENSIVE FOR A  
SMALL FORCE.

BUT WEIGH THAT  
AGAINST RESULTS.  
COBRA'S PUBLICLY  
RENOUNCED VIOLENCE.



INDEED, COBRA WAS YOUR  
RAISON D'ETRE. YOU  
FINISHED THE JOB.

BUT THREATS  
HAVE CHANGED.  
CAN WE AFFORD  
THE LUXURY OF  
A SEPARATE  
ORGANIZATION?

THE TEAM  
HAS UNIQUE  
SKILLS AND  
EXPERIENCE,  
SIR.

PERHAPS  
SOCOM CAN  
MAKE MORE  
EFFICIENT USE  
OF THAT.

WE'LL TAKE A  
BREAK NOW.  
THANK YOU,  
CAPTAIN.



DAWN...

YOU WERE NEVER GOING TO WIN THAT ONE, CAPTAIN. ANSON MADE UP HIS MIND YEARS AGO.

SORRY, I DIDN'T SEE YOU IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM.

I WASN'T. BUT I HEARD.



MAKES YOU FEEL DIRTY HAVING TO TALK LIKE AN ACCOUNTANT. DOESN'T IT?

BUT THAT'S THE GAME. SHAVE A BUCK HERE AND THERE. SPEND IT ON CYBER-WARFARE. UCAYS.

PAT THEMSELVES ON THE BACK FOR CHAMPIONING BLOODLESS WAR.



I'M SORRY, DO I KNOW YOU?

IF YOU DO, I'M NOT DOING IT RIGHT.



JOSHUA SPINETTI. OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

I SEE.

WE SUPPORT THINGS.

I KNOW. I HEAR EVEN THE G.I.A. WEAR TINFOIL HATS TO AVOID YOU.

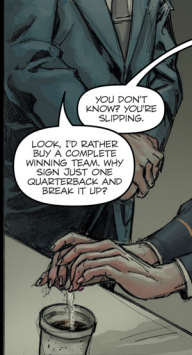


WE'RE LIKE THE JOES.

EXTRA SPECIAL.

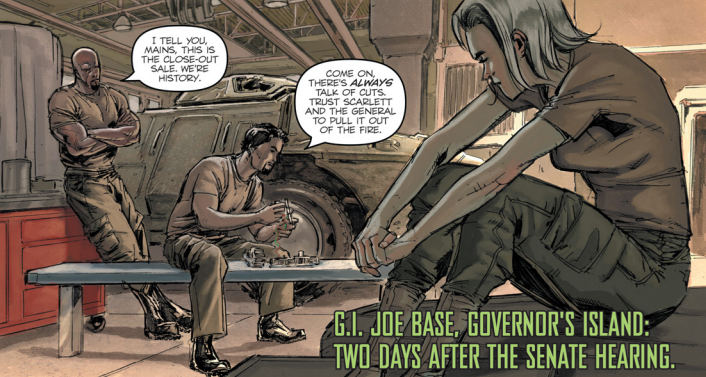
IN FACT, YOU COULD STEP ACROSS INTO OUR YARD AND CARRY ON, BUSINESS AS USUAL.

IF THEY DISBAND THE JOES, I'D LIKE THEM TO GO TO A CARING HOME.









I TELL YOU, MAINS, THIS IS THE CLOSE-OUT SALE. WE'RE HISTORY.

COME ON, THERE'S ALWAYS TALK OF CUTS. TRUST SCARLETT AND THE GENERAL TO PULL IT OUT OF THE FIRE.

G.I. JOE BASE, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND:  
TWO DAYS AFTER THE SENATE HEARING.



ROADBLOCK'S RIGHT, YOU'LL ALL BE REASSIGNED.

YEAH, THANKS, HELIX. BURY US, WHY DON'T YOU?

I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM CYBER COMMAND. AN INVITE.

WHAT, THEY DIDN'T BEAM IT STRAIGHT TO YOUR FILLINGS?

AS YOU WERE...

HOW DID IT GO? DO I NEED TO ASK?



FLINT'S TESTIFYING TODAY.

BUT THEY THINK COBRA'S BACK IN ITS BOX, SO THE UNIT'S REDUNDANT.

YEAH, 'COS NO BAD GUY EVER CAME BACK FOR A REMATCH. THEY JUST FINALLY SEE THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS.

THE COMMITTEE WON'T REPORT FOR MONTHS. THEN THERE'LL BE CONFIRMATION, THE RUN-DOWN PERIOD. MAYBE A YEAR OR TWO.

AND UNTIL THEN, WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO. LET'S SHOW THEM WE'RE STILL IN BUSINESS.



OKAY, MAYBE I COULD HAVE PITCHED THAT BETTER. IS SHE UPSET?

CYBER COMMAND TAPPED HER UP. SHE'S NEVER UPSET ABOUT ANYTHING.

IN HER OWN WAY, I THINK SHE IS.



HAD YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME?

I CAN SEE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET SIREN TO EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF **HEARTS AND MINDS** TO YOU AGAIN, BARONESS.

**COBRA CONSULATE, LONDON.**



NOW CAN WE GET BACK TO TALKING TO THEM IN THE LANGUAGE THEY ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND?

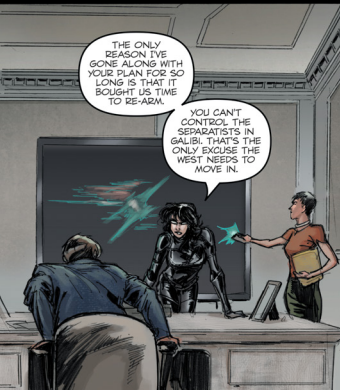
SO MUCH TO UNPICK IN THAT SENTENCE.

**THEM.** THE U.S.A.? NATO? THE EUROPEAN UNION?



THEY'RE NOT IN LOCKSTEP OVER SCHLETEVA, OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER INTERNALLY OR EXTERNALLY.

AH, SIREN. COME IN.



THE ONLY REASON I'VE GONE ALONG WITH YOUR PLAN FOR SO LONG IS THAT IT BOUGHT US TIME TO RE-ARM.

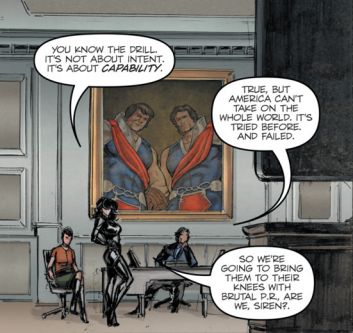
YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE SEPARATISTS IN GALIBI. THAT'S THE ONLY EXCUSE THE WEST NEEDS TO MOVE IN.



WHICH IS WHY I'M NEGOTIATING THE PEACE DEAL. ALL WITHIN INTERNATIONAL LAW.

NOBODY HAS AN EXCUSE TO INTERVENE. AND NOBODY WANTS THE REGION DESTABILIZED.





YOU KNOW THE DRILL. IT'S NOT ABOUT INTENT. IT'S ABOUT *CAPABILITY*.

TRUE, BUT AMERICA CAN'T TAKE ON THE WHOLE WORLD. IT'S TRIED BEFORE. AND FAILED.

SO WE'RE GOING TO BRING THEM TO THEIR KNEES WITH BRUTAL P.R. ARE WE, SIREN?



WE CAN'T TAKE ON AMERICA OR ITS ALLIES ALONE. *DIRECT ACTION* IS *EXPENSIVE* AND IT *LOSES US FRIENDS* WHEN CIVILIANS GET HURT.

WE DON'T FRANCHISE *COBRA* AND TEACH DISSIDENTS TO MAKE BOMBS. WE GIVE THE REST OF THE WORLD A *FOCUS*.



YOU'RE TOO BINARY, BARONESS. IT'S NOT ABOUT US VERSUS THEM.

WE NEED AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE TO REJECT THEM. THEY DON'T EVEN NEED TO BE *OUR* ALLIES. JUST NOT *THEIRS*.



WE'VE DEMONSTRATED STATESMANSHIP. WHEN WE SPEAK, WE'RE NOW TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

WE WERE TAKEN SERIOUSLY WHEN WE TOOK *DIRECT ACTION*.



DID ISAAC GET IN TOUCH? I TOLD HIM TO.

IT MUST HAVE SLIPPED HIS MIND. HE'S BUSY.

I'M SORRY. I KNOW YOU'RE ONLY WORKING FOR US BECAUSE YOU'RE DEVOTED TO HIM.



THAT'S TEENAGERS FOR YOU. LOOK, I NEED TO FINALIZE YOUR SPEECH. HAVE YOU WARNED THE BARONESS?

ABOUT MY LITTLE APPEAL TO WORLD LEADERS? NO. SHE'D ONLY MOCK.

SHE CAN WATCH IT ON THE NEWS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.



I MET AN OLD  
GUY TODAY WHO  
SAVS HE RUNS  
GUNS ACROSS THE  
BORDER TO THE  
SEPARATISTS.

**VERENYA, SCHLETEVA.**

AT LEAST  
HE'S DOING  
SOMETHING,  
JON.

YEAH,  
WAVING  
FARM TRUCKS  
THROUGH  
CHECKPOINTS  
WASN'T HOW  
I SAW MY  
ARMY CAREER  
PLAYING  
OUT.

DOES  
THIS GUY  
KNOW  
RASHIDOV,  
THEN?

WHAT, THE  
SEPARATIST  
LEADER?

YEAH.



I'M CALLING  
ELENA. DON'T  
EAVESDROP,  
OKAY?

YOU THINK HE'D  
INTRODUCE ME  
TO RASHIDOV?

MAYBE, BUT  
WE CAN'T  
CROSS THE  
BORDER. SO  
FORGET IT.



YOU'RE TALKING LIKE  
PAOLI. OBEY THE  
RULES SO THAT THE  
AMERICANS APPROVE  
OF YOU.

HEY, I JUST  
DON'T WANT TO  
GET BUSTED BY  
THE SARGE.

PAOLI  
SOLD US OUT.  
THEY'RE ALL THE  
SAME. EVEN MY  
MOTHER.



THEY ALL  
WANT TO BE  
RESPECTABLE  
AND ADMIRER  
IN THE END.



IF WE DON'T  
TAKE COBRA  
BACK FROM  
THESE TRAITORS,  
IT'S ALL BEEN  
FOR NOTHING.







YOU SHOULD  
BE USED TO  
WAVING  
GOODBYE TO  
US BY NOW.

WANT TO  
TALK?

WHAT'S  
TO SAY?



IT'S LIKE LOSING A GUY  
A WEEK BEFORE THE END  
OF TOUR. IT FEELS WORSE.  
I'M SENDING JOES INTO  
THIS WHEN I KNOW  
WE'RE LIKELY TO BE  
DISBANDED.

FLINT'S RIGHT.  
WE'LL BE POURING  
GAS ON THE FIRE  
IN SCHLETEVA.

WE'RE NOT  
PAID TO  
AGREE WITH  
FOREIGN  
POLICY.

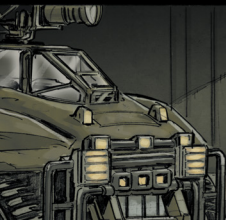
OURS NOT TO  
REASON WHY.  
ETCETERA.



WAS THAT JUST  
HUMORING THE  
OTHERS IN THERE?  
TAKE OUT RASHIDOV  
AND SAVE THE  
JOES?

NO. IT'D  
MEAN WE  
COULD CALL  
IN BIG  
FAVORS.

THAT SOUNDS  
LIKE POLITICS.



IT IS. THEY SAY COMMAND'S  
LONELY, BUT ACTUALLY  
IT'S JUST DIRTY.

YES, YOU'RE COMING  
BACK. THAT'S  
AN ORDER.

WHEN I GET BACK,  
WE CAN TAKE SOME  
LEAVE WE'RE OWED.

VERENYA, SCHLETEVA.



ISAAC?  
COME ON!  
WE'LL MISS  
OUR RIDE.



YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
COME, JON.

I CAN'T  
PULL OUT NOW,  
CAN I?



THEY'LL  
SHOOT US  
IF THEY  
CATCH US.

NO THEY  
WON'T, AND  
THEY WON'T  
CATCH US.

HERE'S THE  
TRANSPORT.



I  
MUST BE  
CRAZY.

NO, JUST  
DOING WHAT'S  
RIGHT.



SO YOU'RE JON. CAN YOU VOUCH FOR HIM?



SURE, HE'S *ISAAC CRAFT*. HIS MOM WORKS FOR TOMAX PAOLI. HIS P.R. FLAK.

AND THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF RECOMMENDATION.



IT SHOULD BE. IT'LL TELL YOU WHY I THINK COBRA'S BEEN BETRAYED BY A BUNCH OF ASS-KISSING AMATEURS WHO JUST WANT A SEAT AT THE U.N. OR A DIPLOMATIC POSTING.



OH, I GET IT. YOU BELIEVE IN THE ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM, RIGHT?

HOW OLD ARE YOU? FIFTEEN?



SIXTEEN. I WAS AN OFFICER CADET. I'M TRAINED.

AND NOW I'M GOING TO UNDO THE DAMAGE MY MOTHER AND HER KIND DID BY SURRENDERING TO THE WEST.



AND I'LL NEED TO POST A LETTER ON THE WAY.

I NEED TO LET MY MOTHER KNOW I'VE DESERTED. I DON'T WANT HER TO THINK I GOT KILLED PEACEKEEPING.





DON'T THEY EVER DAMN  
WELL LEARN?

MORRIS'S BAR,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



A  
NICE, STEADY,  
RUMBLING WAR  
BETWEEN SCHLETEVA  
AND GALIBI MEANS  
COBRA'S GOT ITS  
HANDS FULL FOR  
YEARS.

WHY THE HELL  
ARE WE TRYING  
TO STOP IT? I  
EXPECTED YOU GUYS  
TO BE SMARTER,  
AT LEAST.

THE C.I.A. CAN'T  
DO MIRACLES.  
BELIEVE IT OR NOT,  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
WANTS TO SCORE  
POINTS WITH GALIBI  
FOR SOME  
PIPELINE DEAL.



ALL FOR A  
FEW DAMN  
BUCKS.

REALPOLITIK,  
BUDDY.

GALIBI'S JUST  
PLAYING US  
OFF AGAINST  
COBRA.

COBRA ISN'T  
IN THE ENERGY  
MARKET.

THEY'RE  
NOT FUNDING  
THEMSELVES  
BY SELLING  
COOKIES,  
EITHER.



WHATEVER  
YOU'RE WORKING UP—  
DON'T TELL ME.

DON'T WORRY.  
I WASN'T  
PLANNING TO.



TONY? WHO  
HAVE WE GOT  
NEAREST TO  
SCHLETEVA?

OKAY,  
TELL HIM TO  
STAND BY.

# GALIBI AIRSPACE: THREE DAYS LATER.



HEY, LOOK, IT'S  
KISSINGER-LITE. LIVE  
FROM SCHLETEVA.  
WITH THE PREZ.



I REMIND THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY THAT THIS  
MUST BE RESOLVED  
WITHOUT WESTERN  
INTERVENTION.

EVEN AS I SPEAK,  
FOREIGN FORCES  
ARE PREPARING  
TO MEDDLE IN THE  
REGION'S AFFAIRS.



THIS  
INTERFERENCE  
WILL DESTABILIZE  
THE WHOLE REGION,  
SO I MUST RAISE  
AN ISSUE THAT'S  
THE FOCUS OF  
COBRA'S WIDER  
CONCERN.

AN ISSUE  
THAT UNDERPINS  
INSTABILITY  
ALL OVER THE  
WORLD.

## OPS CENTER, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.



THERE ARE  
MORE THAN  
A THOUSAND  
OVERSEAS U.S.  
BASES.

HUNDREDS  
OF THOUSANDS  
OF PERSONNEL  
STATIONED ON  
OTHER NATIONS'  
SOIL.

A PRESENCE  
OFTEN OPPOSED  
BY THE  
POPULATION.

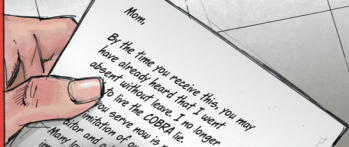
"SO COBRA ASKS THE U.S.A. TO MEET US HALFWAY IN BUILDING A SAFER WORLD."

"WE APPEAL TO YOU TO CLOSE THOSE BASES, WITHDRAW TROOPS, AND END THESE AD HOC OCCUPATIONS."

## SIREN'S APARTMENT, CENTRAL LONDON.



"AND WE CALL ON THOSE OCCUPIED NATIONS—EVEN THOSE YOU REGARD AS ALLIES—TO STAGE PEACEFUL PROTESTS IN SUPPORT OF THIS."



DID THAT JERK JUST DECLARE WAR ON US?

YES.

BUT VERY POLITELY.



IN YOU GO, KID. HE'S WAITING.

## SCHLETEVA-GALIBI BORDER.



SO YOU'RE OUR LITTLE *INSIDER*. ARE YOU? WELCOME TO OUR CAMP.



MR. RASHIDOV.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME JOIN YOU.







# G.I. JOE



ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**

0200 HOURS, DAY 6 OF OPERATION AXIOM—  
ELIMINATION OF SEPARATIST LEADER GRIGOR RASHIDOV.







NOBODY HOME, THEN.



BEEN GONE SOME TIME.



A WEEK, AT LEAST.

OKAY, PEOPLE, BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD.



REMINDE ME WHY WE AGREED TO DO THIS THE MEDIEVAL WAY AND NOT LOS SOME DRONES AT THIS.

HOW ELSE IS THE GALIBI GOVERNMENT GOING TO DENY THEY ASKED US TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK?

OR OUR OWN GOVERNMENT...

AND I DON'T RECALL AGREEING.



AND WE CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONES AFTER RASHIDOV.

WHY CAN'T HE USE A PHONE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

BECAUSE CLEVER BAD GUYS GAVE UP PHONES AND THE INTERNET YEARS AGO.



BUT HE HAS TO MOVE PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT. WE'LL PICK HIM UP ON SAT IMAGING SOONER OR LATER.

WE COULD BE HERE FOR MONTHS, MAINS.

"NO, I THINK RASHIDOV'S  
GOING TO SHOW HIS  
HAND PRETTY SOON..."

"HE'LL MISS BEING  
IN THE HEADLINES.  
SO HE'LL NEED  
AN AMBUSH, AN  
ASSASSINATION,  
SOME BIG GESTURE.  
AND THAT'S WHEN  
WE'LL GET HIM."



"I NEVER BELIEVED  
ISAAC WOULD DESERT.  
WORD'S GOING TO  
GET AROUND FAST."

# THE FALL OF **G.I. JOE**

PART TWO

TOMAX  
PAOLI'S  
OFFICE.  
COBRA  
EUROPEAN  
CONSULATE,  
LONDON.

DON'T WORRY, SIREN. HIS UNIT'S BEEN TOLD THAT HE AND HIS FRIEND HAVE BEEN RECALLED FOR A SPECIAL TRAINING MISSION.

I REALIZE DESERTION'S SERIOUS—

OH, WE WON'T SHOOT HIM.

EVEN IF HE *HAS* CALLED ME A TRAITOR AND A LACKEY OF THE WEST...

HE SAYS SOME TERRIBLE THINGS. BUT HE NEVER MEANS THEM.

JUST TEENAGE HORMONES. IT'S A TURBULENT PHASE.

DID HE HINT WHERE HE WAS HEADING?

NO. BUT MY BET IS THAT HE'S JOINED THE SEPARATISTS.

HE WAS IN SCHLETEVA. IT WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST THING ON HIS MIND.

NO SPECIAL PLEADING, TOMAX. I JUST WANT HIM BACK ALIVE. HE CAN FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION LATER.

JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, MY DEAR. AT LEAST WE KNOW ROUGHLY WHERE RASHIDOV IS.

EMIL? I NEED YOU TO FIX SOMETHING. *VERY* DISCREETLY. A LAUNDRY JOB.





ON A  
SCALE OF  
ONE TO  
TEN, SIR?

TEN. SIREN'S  
SON ISAAC.  
HE'S DESERTED.  
PROBABLY TO  
JOIN RASHIDOV'S  
MILITIA.

ELEVEN, THEN.  
COULD BE  
EMBARRASSING.



EXACTLY. THE  
LAST THING I NEED  
IS SOMEONE FROM MY  
INNER CIRCLE PLASTERED  
ACROSS THE NEWS  
WITH **INSURGENT OR  
TERRORIST** IN  
THE HEADLINE.

I CAN SEE  
HOW THAT WOULD  
THROW A WRENCH IN  
YOUR PEACE  
NEGOTIATIONS.



DANIEL PARTOUCHE



GET SOMEONE TO  
FIND HIM. A TEAM  
THAT CAN KEEP ITS  
MOUTH SHUT.

GOT IT, SIR.  
OUR BLACK  
OPS UNIT—

NO.

NO COBRA  
PERSONNEL.



FIND  
SOMEONE  
OUTSIDE.

PROVIDE A  
PICTURE AND  
SAY HE'S CALLED  
ISAAC. NOTHING  
MORE.

WON'T HE TELL  
THEM WHO HE  
REALLY IS, SIR?

WE PAY  
ENOUGH TO BUY  
SILENCE.

SAY HE'S  
DELUSIONAL  
AND THAT IF  
HE RESISTS, DO  
WHATEVER'S  
NECESSARY TO  
BRING HIM  
BACK.



NOW LET'S  
SEE HOW THIS  
SPREADS.

NOTHING  
PERSONAL,  
ISAAC.

JUST REPUTATION  
MANAGEMENT. AND  
I DON'T WANT THE  
BARONESS GETTING  
WIND OF THIS.

ITALIAN PROTEST AT U.S. BASE



THIS ISAAC SEEMS VERY SERIOUS. HIS FRIEND, NOT SO MUCH.

ISAAC HAS A *MISSION*, STASIK. HIS FRIEND JUST WANTS AN ADVENTURE.

SEPARATIST CAMP, SOUTHERN GALIBI.



HE HAS A POSTER OF THE COBRA COMMANDER ABOVE HIS BUNK LIKE A RELIGIOUS ICON. HE'S SIXTEEN. HE SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT GIRLS, NOT POLITICS.

HE'S VERY COMPETENT. HE LEARNS FAST.

HE WANTS TO FIGHT.

HE'S LITTLE COBRA PRINCE.

HIS MAMA WILL WANT HIM BACK.

EXACTLY. HE'S A USEFUL HOSTAGE.

DOES HE *KNOW* HE'S A HOSTAGE?

NOT AT ALL. THAT'S THE BEST KIND TO HAVE.



AND WHAT IF HE'S A PLANT, SOME TROJAN HORSE THAT COBRA'S SENT TO STOP YOU MESSING UP THEIR TIDY PLANS FOR PEACE?

YES, TOMAX PAOLI MAY WELL WANT ME TO SHUT UP.

BUT HE DIDN'T SEND ISAAC CRAFT.



JUST LOOK INTO HIS EYES, STASIK. THE BOY IS ON A *CRUSADE*.



I THOUGHT WE'D  
HAVE STORMED  
ASTAKH BY NOW.

IF YOU'RE  
BORED, PRACTICE  
STRIPPING  
DOWN YOUR RIFLE  
IN THE DARK.



ELENA'S  
GOING  
TO THINK  
I'M DEAD.

SHE'LL  
KNOW YOU'VE  
DESERTED BY  
NOW.

DOESN'T  
MEAN SHE  
WON'T  
THINK I'M  
DEAD...



DON'T  
EVEN *THINK*  
ABOUT IT.

COME ON,  
NOBODY'S  
GOING TO  
DETECT  
ONE CALL.

THEY CAN,  
THEY WILL,  
AND YOU'LL  
GET US ALL  
KILLED.



DAMN, ISAAC,  
LIGHTEN UP.

THIS ISN'T  
BOOT CAMP. IT'S  
NOT SOME RULE  
TO TEACH YOU  
SELF-DISCIPLINE.  
THIS IS *REAL*.

IF WE USE  
PHONES,  
THEY CAN  
FIND US.



I'M NOT SCHLETEVAN.  
I JUST WANT TO  
DO WHAT I TRAINED  
FOR. SINCE WHEN  
IS THIS *US*?

SINCE WE  
DESERTED  
FROM  
COBRA.

BECAUSE  
THERE'S NO  
GOING BACK  
UNTIL COBRA  
CHANGES.

BUT I  
MISS HER.  
AND MY  
FOLKS.

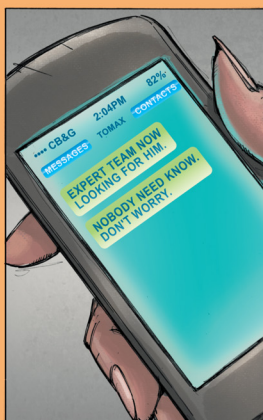


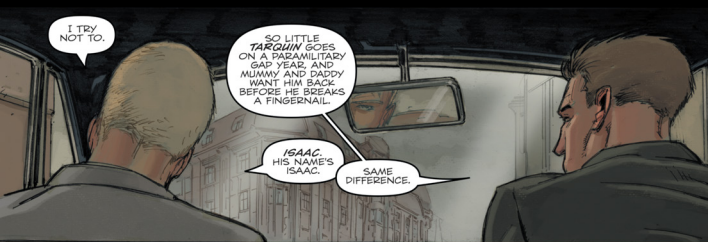
DON'T YOU  
EVER MISS YOUR  
MOTHER?

NEVER.

THEN  
WHY DID  
YOU WRITE  
TO HER?





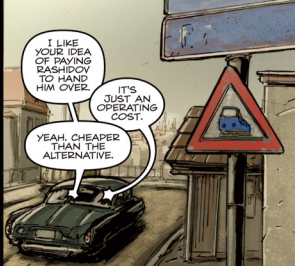


# TOWER HOTEL, DAGIL.





# MYURETZ, SOUTHERN GALILI: NEXT DAY.





I LOVE  
THIS GAME.  
SPOT THE  
SPIV.

I BET HE  
CAN FIX YOU  
UP WITH  
ANYTHING  
YOU CAN PAY  
CASH FOR.

GIVE  
HIM TIME  
HE'LL COME  
OVER AND  
INTRODUCE  
HIMSELF...



BETTER  
CHECK FOR  
MAIL.



THAT'S  
WEIRD.

WHAT IS?

I GOT A  
"WELCOME  
TO OUR  
NETWORK"  
MESSAGE IN  
ARABIC.



MAYBE IT'S  
THE ENCRYPTION  
SERVICE BOUNCING  
STUFF AROUND.

MAYBE. NOW  
IT'S PICKED UP  
THE LOCAL CELL  
NETWORK AGAIN.  
STAND DOWN.



GENTLEMEN,  
YOU ARE NEW  
TO MYURETZ?  
I CAN HELP.  
I KNOW MANY  
BUSINESSES.

THAT'S REAL  
KIND OF YOU.  
WE COULD DO  
WITH SOME  
ASSISTANCE.

WHEN YOU STOPPED CALLING, I WAS SCARED YOU'D BEEN KILLED.

I'M SORRY, ELENA. I COULDN'T CALL.

ARE YOU OKAY? YOUR MOTHER SAID YOU'D BEEN RECALLED FOR SOME MISSION.

SOUTHERN GALIBI,  
LOCATION UNDISCLOSED.

WELL... LOOK, YOU MUSTN'T TELL ANYONE, BUT...

JON? ARE YOU STILL THERE?

I DESERTED. WITH ISAAC.

OH GOD. THEY'LL SHOOT YOU.

DON'T TELL MY MOTHER. DON'T TELL ANYBODY.

WHERE ARE YOU?

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW. BUT I'M FINE.

WHERE?

OKAY, WE JOINED RASHIDOV. HEY, I'VE GOT TO GO. LOVE YOU.

I WANTED TO BE WRONG.

DON'T YOU EVER LISTEN? NO DAMN CALLS.

HOW MANY HAVE YOU MADE?

JUST ONE.

JUST THIS ONE.

I OUGHT TO REPORT YOU TO RASHIDOV.

I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

NO, YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND?





STILL NO  
LEAD ON  
RASHIDOV.

TELL THE  
N.S.A. THAT  
WE'RE A TAD  
DISAPPOINTED,  
SCARLETT.  
WE THOUGHT  
THEY WERE  
OMNISCENT.

**SAFE HOUSE.  
50 KILOMETERS  
FROM ASTAKH,  
SOUTHERN GALIBI:  
DAY 8 OF  
OPERATION AXIOM.**

THEY'VE SET  
UP A BOGUS BASE  
STATION FOR CELL  
CALLS. LOCALS THINK  
THEY'RE CONNECTING  
VIA A GALIBI CELL  
NETWORK, BUT IT'S  
ROUTED THROUGH  
THE N.S.A.

NOT MUCH USE  
IF THE TARGET'S  
USING PAPER  
MESSAGERS,  
AND SHORT-  
RANGE RADIO.

RASHIDOV'S  
STILL GOT TO  
MOVE PEOPLE  
AND SUPPLIES  
SOONER OR  
LATER.

OKAY.  
NEXT RADIO  
CHECK-1400  
ZULU. OUT.

RASHIDOV NEEDS  
SOMEWHERE HE  
CAN DEFEND.

AND STORE  
VEHICLES AND  
WEAPONS.

NOT IF  
HE'S GOT  
ARMED  
BUDDIES  
IN EVERY  
VILLAGE.

THREE  
POSSIBILITIES.  
INTEL COMES UP  
WITH A LOCATION.  
OR WE START  
OVER AND TRACK  
HIM ON THE  
GROUND.

OR HE  
MAKES A  
MISTAKE.

NO, MAKE  
THAT FOUR. THERE  
MIGHT BE SOMEONE  
WILLING TO SELL  
HIM OUT.

**WELCOME TO GALIBI**

"IT'S JUST A  
MATTER OF  
FINDING HIM  
AND GETTING  
TO HIM FIRST."

ASTAKH, GALIBI, NEAR THE  
SCHLETEVAN BORDER:  
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT  
FIELD OFFICE.





**NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY:  
LOCATION CLASSIFIED.**



THAT'S  
GOT TO  
BE HIM.

SOMEBODY  
CONFIRM THE  
LOCATION  
FOR THIS CALL.  
PLEASE, MADE  
34 HOURS  
AGO.

GET HOLD OF  
CAPTAIN O'HARA  
AND TELL HER WE  
HAVE A POSSIBLE  
LOCATION FOR  
RASHIDOV.



FLINT, I  
THINK WE'VE  
GOT HIM.  
STAND BY.



IN CASE  
YOU'RE WHERE  
I *THINK* YOU  
ARE—THE JOES  
HAVE RASHIDOV'S  
LOCATION  
AND THEY'RE  
GOING IN.

DAMN—  
HOW?

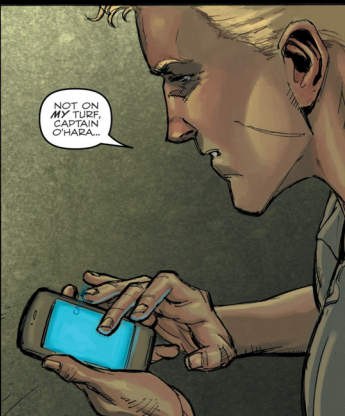


SOME GUY  
COULDN'T  
RESIST  
PHONING HIS  
GIRLFRIEND.

MUCH AS I  
HATE BEING  
IN LANGLEY'S  
DEBT, I OWE  
YOU.

JUST  
STAY  
CLEAR.

IT'S GOING  
TO GET  
KINETIC.



NOT ON  
MY TURF,  
CAPTAIN  
O'HARA...





DOSKEN?  
IT'S ME. GET  
A MESSAGE TO  
RASHIDOV,  
FAST.

YOU MUST  
WAIT FOR THE  
CALL—

FORGET  
THE DELIVERY.  
***LISTEN.*** GET  
A MESSAGE TO  
RASHIDOV. TELL  
HIM TO MOVE  
NOW.

WHY?

"BECAUSE THERE'S  
AN ASSASSINATION  
SQUAD HEADING  
HIS WAY. SOMEONE  
TRACED A CELL CALL.

"SO NO MORE  
QUESTIONS.  
JUST DO IT.



LOOKS LIKE  
THIS PLACE IS  
FIFTY KILKS  
FROM THE  
HOUSE WE HIT  
LAST TIME.



THERE'S A  
LAYING-UP POINT  
WITH COVER SIX  
HUNDRED METERS  
FROM THE CAMP.

WE'VE GOT  
TIME FOR  
A RECON  
BEFORE IT  
GETS DARK.

WE'LL BE  
THERE IN 65  
MINUTES.



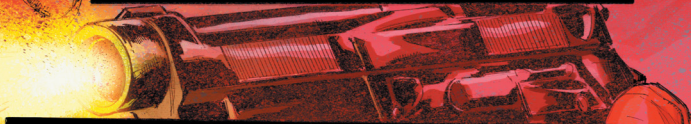
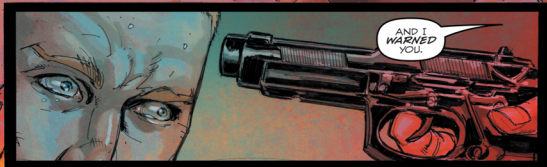
SHAME  
WE HAVEN'T  
GOT A SAT IN  
POSITION.

WE'LL MANAGE.  
AS LONG AS  
RASHIDOV ISN'T  
HIDING IN A  
VILLAGE FULL OF  
CIVILIANS...



## SEPARATIST CAMP, SOUTHERN GALILI.









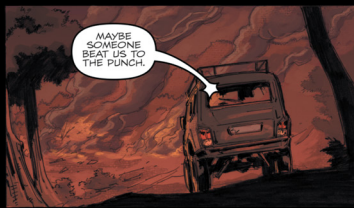
OKAY,  
ANYTHING  
THAT'S LEFT  
NOW, WE  
BURN IT.

BURN  
IT ALL.



THAT DOESN'T  
LOOK GOOD,  
FLINT.

40 MINUTES LATER.



MAYBE  
SOMEONE  
BEAT US TO  
THE PUNCH.



SO WHAT  
THE HELL  
HAPPENED  
HERE?



THEY KNEW  
WE WERE  
COMING.

SOMEBODY  
MUST HAVE  
WARNED THEM.



WHICH  
MEANS WE'VE  
GOT A LEAK,  
PEOPLE.





ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**





RASHIDOV'S ABANDONED  
CAMP, GALIBI BORDER.  
OPERATION AXIOM, DAY 10.



TIME TO  
BUG OUT.  
FLINT, THEY  
KNOW WE'RE  
HERE NOW.



LET'S SEE  
IF THIS GUY'S  
IN LANGLEY'S  
FAMILY ALBUM.  
MIGHT GIVE US  
A LEAD ON  
WHO BLEW OUR  
COVER.



HE'S NOT  
LOOKING  
HIS BEST  
RIGHT NOW.

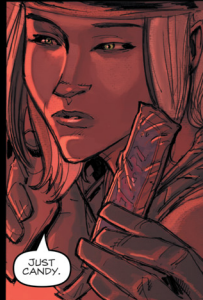


DAMN.  
HE'S JUST A  
TEENAGER.

THAT SHOT  
WAS POINT BLANK.  
EXECUTION STYLE.  
RASHIDOV MUST  
HAVE BEEN REALLY  
PISSED AT HIM.



NO  
CELL.  
NO  
I.D.



JUST  
CANDY.



BUT COBRA-  
ISSUE BOOTS.  
CHECK OUT  
THE SOLES.

DON'T  
YOU?

YOU  
MEMORIZE  
EVERY  
PATTERN?



MAINS, IF WE'VE  
GOT A LEAK, THEN  
OUR COMMS ARE  
COMPROMISED.

BUT WHICH  
END? THE  
GALIBI GUYS  
WEREN'T IN  
THE LOOP.

ALL WE CAN  
DO IS CALL  
IT IN. THE REST  
IS DOWN TO  
SCARLETT.

COLTON'S  
GOING TO GO  
BALLISTIC.

## SOUTHERN GALIBI HILLS: GRIGOR RASHIDOV'S TERRITORY.





"VERY WELL. LET'S  
MEET OUR GIFT  
HORSE AND LOOK  
VERY CAREFULLY  
IN HIS MOUTH."

# THE FALL OF G.I. JOE

PART THREE



# HANDSWORTH CLUB, NEW YORK: MEMBERS ONLY.

BILL, ARE WE ON THE SAME DAMN SIDE OR WHAT? JUST TELL ME HOW THAT INTEL GETS ROUTED. THERE'S A LEAK.

IT CAN'T BE AT THE GALIBI END. NOT THIS TIME.

LIKE I SAID, NSA SENT IT DIRECT TO YOU. CIA WAS COPIED IN. HAD TO, THEY'VE GOT PEOPLE IN THE REGION.

I WANT A LIST.

NO CAN DO, JOE.

WE HAVE TO TRUST EACH OTHER.

IT'S NOT ABOUT TRUST. IT'S ABOUT GETTING SLACK.

EVER CONSIDERED THAT **YOUR** PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE SCREWED UP?

BEING DISBANDED CAN'T DO MUCH FOR THEIR CONCENTRATION.

WE'RE NOT THE ONES WITH A SPECTACULAR RECORD IN LETTING CLASSIFIED DATA WALK OUT THE DOOR.

JACK?

DON'T EXPECT MUCH COOPERATION FROM THE JOES NOW. THEY'VE TAKEN THEIR BALL HOME.

I'VE HIT A SPOOK-SHAPED BRICK WALL, CAPTAIN. ASSUME ALL COMMS ARE VULNERABLE UNTIL WE CONFIRM OTHERWISE.

MAYBE I CAN CALL IN A FAVOR YOU CAN'T, SIR.

DO I WANT TO KNOW HOW?

NOT YET.

## OPS CENTER, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

JUST GOING OUT TO BUY A NEW CELL.

THERE'S ALWAYS A WORK-AROUND, SIR.

TWO HOURS LATER.

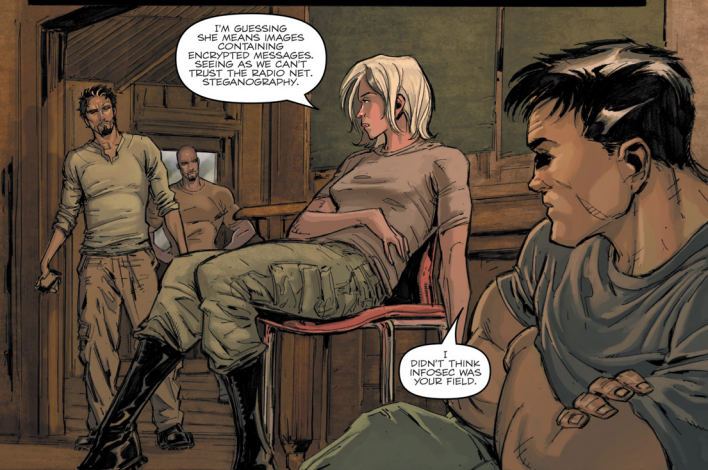
TECH  
WORLD

OKAY, JOSH,  
NOW YOU CAN  
PROVE HOW MUCH  
YOU CARE ABOUT  
THE JOES.





THAT WAS  
SCARLETT. SHE SAYS  
SHE'S GOING TO SEND  
ME SOME VACATION  
PICTURES.



I'M GUESSING  
SHE MEANS IMAGES  
CONTAINING  
ENCRYPTED MESSAGES.  
SEEING AS WE CAN'T  
TRUST THE RADIO NET,  
STEGANOGRAPHY.

I  
DIDN'T THINK  
INFOSEC WAS  
YOUR FIELD.



NO, BUT  
DATASETS  
ARE.

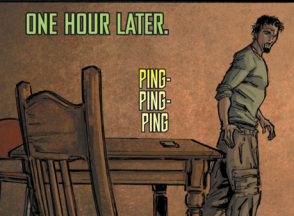
YOU GOT THE  
DECRYPTION,  
THEN?

LEAVE IT TO  
ME. IT'S NO USE  
FOR LARGE FILES,  
BUT MESSAGES  
WORK JUST FINE.



GOOD,  
BECAUSE  
IT'S GOING  
TO BE TOUGH  
COMMUNICATING  
BY SEMAPHORE...

ONE HOUR LATER.



PING-  
PING-  
PING



VENICE.  
NICE.  
HELIX?

I'LL  
NEED THE  
CELL.



FIVE MINUTES LATER.

SCARLETT  
SAYS THEY  
CAN'T I.D. THE  
LEAK, SO THIS  
IS THE MOST  
SECURE  
ROUTE.

AND SHE  
SAYS IT'S TIME  
TO EXFIL AND  
START OVER.



HELL, NO.  
YOU TELL HER.  
RASHIDOV KNOWS  
WE'RE HERE EITHER  
WAY. MIGHT AS WELL  
STAY FOR THE LONG  
HAUL AND GATHER  
BETTER INTEL.



HOW ABOUT  
SUPPLIES?  
AIRDROPS ARE  
GOING TO GET  
NOTICED NOW.

WE CAN'T  
TRUST  
GALIBI  
LIAISON,  
EITHER.



THEY HAVE  
GROCERY  
STORES HERE,  
YOU KNOW.  
HIDE IN PLAIN  
SIGHT.

YOU  
OFFERING?

YOU THINK  
I COULDN'T  
BLEND IN?

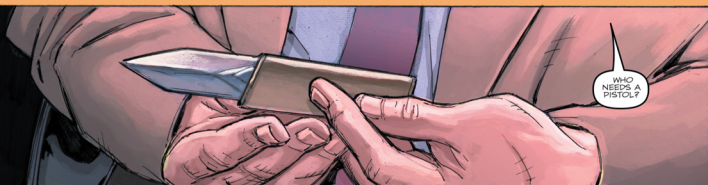
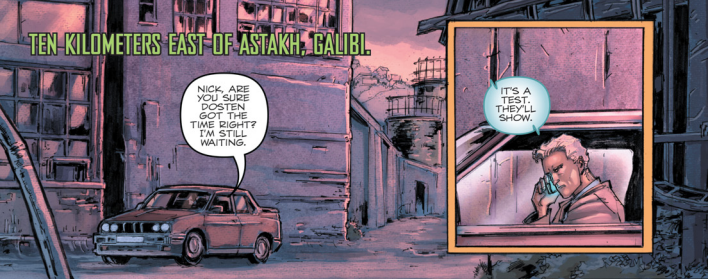


A WOMAN'S  
GOING TO DRAW  
LESS ATTENTION.  
I CAN STICK  
TO PLACES LIKE  
MYURETZ. THEY'RE  
FULL OF  
FOREIGNERS.



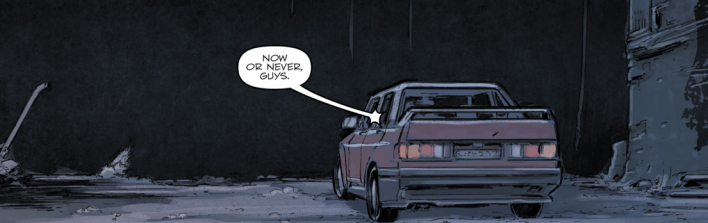
YOU JUST  
WORRY  
ABOUT US  
USING A SAFE  
HOUSE THAT  
GALIBI SPEC  
OPS KNOWS  
ABOUT...

TEN KILOMETERS EAST OF ASTAKH, GALIBI.



THREE HOURS LATER.





NOW  
OR NEVER,  
GUYS.



YOU LOVE A  
LITTLE THEATER,  
DON'T YOU?



OUT!  
GET  
OUT!

YOU COME  
WITH US!

OKAY,  
OKAY,  
TAKE IT  
EASY.



YES, MR. RASHIDOV'S  
SAMPLES ARE IN THE  
BACK. YOU ONLY  
HAD TO ASK.



WE ARE  
CAREFUL WITH  
SALESMEN.  
EVEN THE  
AVON LADY.



VERY  
WISE.

NOTHING  
PERSONAL.



NOW WE  
DRIVE.



**SCHLETEVAN SEPARATIST  
SAFE HOUSE, SOUTHERN  
GALIBI.**



MR. RASHIDOV?



NO. I SPEAK  
FOR HIM.

HE  
CHECKS  
OUT.



MR. WHELAN.  
YOU TOOK A BIG  
RISK TIPPING  
US OFF ABOUT  
THE RAID.

WHY WOULD A  
NICE AMERICAN  
LIKE YOU WANT  
TO SELL US  
ARMS WHEN  
YOUR COUNTRY  
WANTS US TO  
GO AWAY?



I DON'T WANT  
TO SELL. I WANT  
TO DONATE.

LET'S JUST  
SAY THAT IF  
GALIBI DOES ITS  
GAS DEAL WITH  
WESGAZ, THEN  
SOME COMPANIES  
WILL LOSE OUT.  
MY INTERESTS  
ARE YOUR  
INTERESTS.



AH, BUT  
ALL WE WANT  
IS TO BE  
JOINED WITH  
OUR MOTHER  
COUNTRY AND  
GET A FAIR  
SHARE OF THE  
PROFIT MADE  
FROM OUR  
LAND.



YOU'RE  
MORE LIKELY  
TO GET THAT  
WITH A FEW  
RPGS TO BACK  
UP YOUR  
CLAIM.



HOW MANY OF THESE CAN YOU GET?

HOW MANY DO YOU WANT?



THIS IS NICE. VERY CONVENIENT YOU SHOW UP NOW.

THAT'S BECAUSE MY ASSOCIATES DON'T WANT COBRA STITCHING UP A NICE TIDY DEAL WITHOUT THEM. IT'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.



(DMITRI, YOU SURE YOU SEARCHED HIM PROPERLY?)

(YEAH. PHONE, GLOCK, WALLET, PAPERS, USUAL CRAP. NO WIRE. I CHECKED THE PHONE, TOO. HE REALLY IS JUST IN IT FOR MONEY.)



OKAY, WE KEEP THESE SAMPLES AND TEST THEM. HOW ABOUT AMMUNITION?

AS MUCH AS YOU NEED.



TOO MANY TRUCKS MOVING AROUND—THE SATELLITES NOTICE. WE NEED SMALL CONSIGNMENTS.



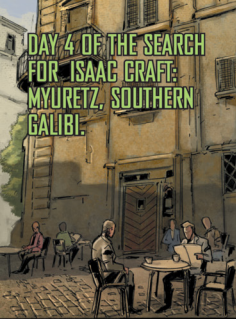
I UNDERSTAND. NO PROBLEM. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

WE TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR CAR. YOU GET US ENOUGH GUNS FOR A THOUSAND MEN, AND SEND US A MESSAGE.



AND THEN WE TELL YOU WHERE TO DELIVER.

DAY 4 OF THE SEARCH  
FOR ISAAC CRAFT:  
MYURETZ, SOUTHERN  
GALIBI.



IT'S OKAY TO  
TALK ABOUT IT,  
YOU KNOW.

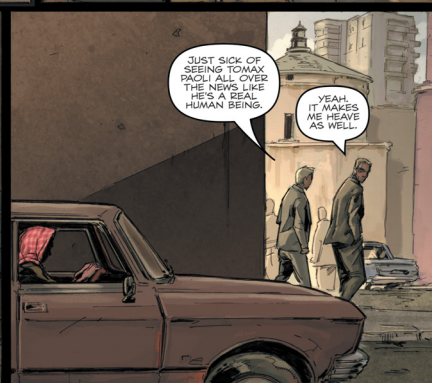


WHAT?  
STOP  
BEATING  
YOURSELF  
UP.  
I WASN'T  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
AISHA.  
OKAY.  
SORRY.



I SHOULD HAVE  
QUIT THE JOB  
AND LOOKED  
AFTER HER  
MYSELF.  
YOU GAVE HER  
THE BEST CARE  
MONEY COULD  
BUY. INFECTIONS  
HAPPEN.  
SHE SURVIVED  
AN I.E.D. BUT IT  
STILL GOT HER  
IN THE END.







JOSH COLTON'S BEEN CHEWING THE NSA'S EARS AS WELL AS OURS. I CAN'T HELP YOU AGAIN.

UNDERSTOOD.

I NEVER ASK WHAT YOU'RE UP TO. BUT I CAN WORK IT OUT. YOU'RE ON THIN ICE, BUDDY.

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE, ASTAKH, GALIBI.

CIA DRAMA QUEENS. LIKE THEY NEVER ARMED ANYBODY OFF THE BOOKS.

LET'S HOPE HE KEEPS HIS MOUTH SHUT.

HE WILL. HE KNOWS THAT I KNOW WHAT HE DID IN SUDAN.

ANYWAY, TIME TO MEET RASHIDOV'S MESSENGER BOY.

YOU'RE TWO HOURS EARLY.

"YEAH. IN CASE HE'S AN HOUR EARLY."







MR. WHELAN?

YES.

ISAAC?



ONE TRUCK TO BE AT THIS GRID LOCATION AT 2130 ON TUESDAY. YOU'LL RECEIVE YOUR NEXT R.V. POINT THEN.



I LIKE MILITARY EFFICIENCY. YOU'RE A LITTLE YOUNG FOR THE ARMY, THOUGH.

WHO SAYS I'M ARMY?

I'VE BEEN AROUND SOLDIERS A LONG TIME.

MAYBE I HAVE, TOO.



ANYTHING ELSE?

CAN YOU SOURCE HIGH EXPLOSIVES?

TELL YOUR BOSS I NEED TO DISCUSS THAT WITH HIM. THE SERIOUS STUFF IS TRACEABLE.



I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE TROUBLE, KID.



OKAY, TELL ME IF I'M HALLUCINATING. RECOGNIZE ANYONE?



DAMN. IS THAT DUKE?



AND HE SHOWS UP NEXT DOOR AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

WHO'S THE GUY WITH HIM?



RINGS A BELL...



GOT IT, DAVID SOMETHING. HE'S SAS. CALLSIGN **BIG BEN**.

HE WAS ATTACHED TO THE JOES YEARS AGO.

OKAY, THE SAS GETS EVERYWHERE, BUT WHAT'S **DUKE** DOING HERE WITH HIM?

GOT TO BE A PRIVATE JOB. AND I'M BETTING IT'S NOT ESCORTING FUEL TRUCKS.



WE CAN'T JUST TAP HIM ON THE SHOULDER AND SAY, "HI, BUDDY. ARE YOU IN TOWN TO ASSASSINATE RASHIDOV, TOO?"

THAT'S KIND OF JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS. MIGHT JUST BE INTEL WORK. WHAT WITH COBRA GUYS EVERYWHERE.



SO STORMING BUILDINGS—NO PROBLEM. TALKING TO EX-JOES—TOO SCARY. OKAY.

HE WAS PRETTY PISSED THAT WE DIDN'T TRUST HIM ABOUT HIS WIFE.



WE NEED TO KEEP TABS ON BOTH OF THEM AND FIND OUT WHY THEY'RE HERE, WITH OR WITHOUT **DUKE**'S COOPERATION.

"BECAUSE I'D HATE  
FOR US TO TRIP  
OVER EACH OTHER  
IN A FIREFIGHT."



I'VE BEEN  
STARING AT  
YOU TOO LONG.  
I'M STARTING  
TO THINK I  
RECOGNIZE  
YOU.



YOU THINK  
THIS IS A GAME.  
DO YOU? A BIT  
OF ADVENTURE?  
GLAMOUR?



IT WASN'T  
AN ADVENTURE  
FOR *HER*.



AND IT  
SURE AS  
HELL WASN'T  
FUN FOR  
*THEM*.



YOU MURDERING  
BASTARD. I'D KILL  
YOU FOR FREE.



I HOPE  
NOBODY  
ELSE GETS  
TO YOU  
BEFORE  
I DO.





YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW UP THE WHOLE DAMN VILLAGE.

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

DID GRIGOR SAY YOU COULD DO THAT?



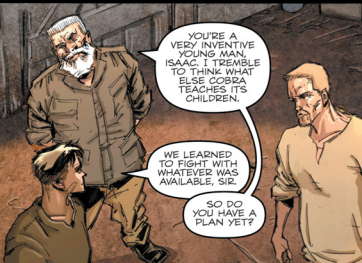
I SAID I'D SHOW HIM SOME OF THE THINGS I WAS TRAINED TO DO.

LOTS OF FERTILIZER. LOTS OF CONTAINERS. WHO NEEDS SEMTEX?



YOU WON'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR TOMAX PAOLI WITH THAT.

I WASN'T PLANNING TO.



YOU'RE A VERY INVENTIVE YOUNG MAN, ISAAC. I TREMBLE TO THINK WHAT ELSE COBRA TEACHES ITS CHILDREN.

WE LEARNED TO FIGHT WITH WHATEVER WAS AVAILABLE, SIR.

SO DO YOU HAVE A PLAN YET?



WE SHOULD TARGET THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AT USHKIRLI.

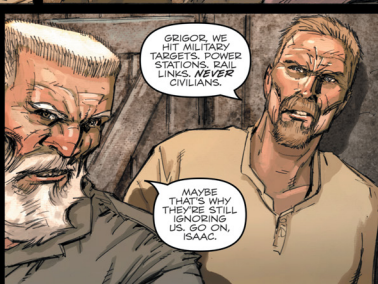
WE DON'T BOMB PEOPLE. WE'RE NOT TERRORISTS.

IT'S THE GOVERNMENT. IT'S A LEGITIMATE TARGET.



IT WON'T CAUSE MASS CASUALTIES.

BUT IT *WILL* SHOW THE GALIBI AND SCHLETEVAN GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY CAN'T LEAVE YOU OUT OF PAOLI'S TREATY.

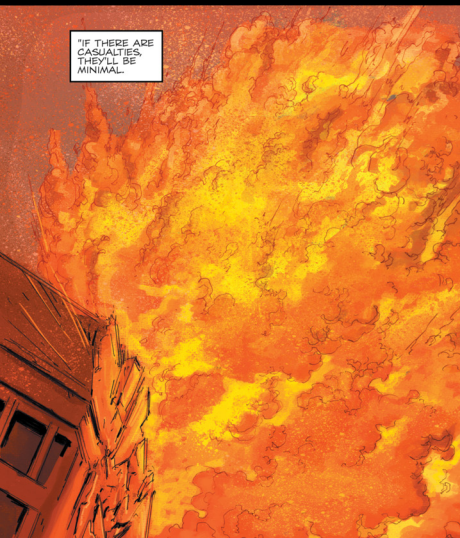


GRIGOR, WE HIT MILITARY TARGETS. POWER STATIONS. RAIL LINKS. *NEVER* CIVILIANS.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE STILL IGNORING US. GO ON, ISAAC.



USHKIRLI, TWO DAYS LATER.







# THE FALL OF G.I. JOE



ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**



"I PROMISE THE  
PEOPLE OF GALIBI  
THAT ISOLATED  
TERRORIST ACTS...

## GALIBI, 5 HOURS AFTER VBIED ATTACK ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, USHKIRLI.



"... WILL NOT  
BE ALLOWED  
TO DERAIL THE  
PEACE PROCESS  
WITH SCHLETEVA.



"TALKS WITH  
PRESIDENT  
BULATOV WILL  
GO AHEAD  
AS PLANNED.



"WE ALREADY  
KNOW WHO IS  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THIS..."




PRESIDENT  
SHEFER ARE THE  
SEPARATISTS—

...AND OUR  
SECURITY  
FORCES *WILL*  
FIND THEM.



WELL, IS ANY  
OF THAT TRUE,  
LIEUTENANT? HAS  
RASHIDOV CLAIMED  
RESPONSIBILITY  
YET?

NOT  
YET, SIR.  
BUT WHO  
ELSE  
WOULD  
IT BE?



RASHIDOV  
AVOIDS CIVILIANS.  
HE ATTACKS RAIL  
LINKS, PIPELINES,  
MILITARY CONVOYS.  
HE IMAGINES  
HIMSELF A  
*SOLDIER.*

GET ME  
THE AMERICAN  
AMBASSADOR.

"TELL HIM WE'D LIKE THEIR EXPERT  
HELP TO EXAMINE THE DEBRIS."

"INSTEAD OF  
OUR PEOPLE?"

"AS WELL AS OURS."

## SOUTHERN GALIBI HILLS: RASHIDOV'S TEMPORARY COMMAND BASE.

...AND  
ROADS  
AROUND  
THE  
REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENT  
BUILDING  
IN USHKIRLI  
ARE STILL  
CLOSED...

SECURITY  
SERVICES ARE  
LOOKING FOR A  
MAN IN HIS EARLY  
TWENTIES, CAUGHT  
ON CCTV AS HE  
WALKED AWAY  
FROM THE  
BUILDING.

SO YOU  
WERE CAUGHT  
ON SECURITY  
CAMERAS.

AND NOW WE  
KILL UNARMED  
**PEN-PUSHERS.**  
VERY STRATEGIC.

...FOLLOWING THE  
TRUCK BOMB THAT  
KILLED FIVE STAFF  
AND INJURED TWO  
REPRESENTATIVES...





THEY WERE PROBABLY GALIBS. ETHNIC SCHLETEVANS DON'T WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

AND MY IDENTITY DOESN'T MATTER. EVEN IF THEY RECOGNIZE ME.



YOU'RE A PIECE OF WORK. DID COBRA MAKE YOU THIS WAY, OR YOUR MOTHER?



I DON'T ENJOY KILLING.

IT'S JUST A NECESSITY.



YEAH, YOU SHOT YOUR FRIEND IN COLD BLOOD. DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE SCARRED YOU MUCH.



LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT. IF IT WAS UP TO ME, I'D TURN YOU OVER TO COBRA RIGHT NOW.

BECAUSE YOU'RE A PSYCHOTIC LITTLE BASTARD WHO'S GOING TO CAUSE US A LOT OF TROUBLE.



I HOPE RASHIDOV WORKS THAT OUT BEFORE YOU DRAG US ALL DOWN.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING FOR YOUR OWN STATE, MR. STASKI? FORTY YEARS?

# THE FALL OF G.I. JOE

PART FOUR

"THAT'S BECAUSE YOU CARE WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU. NOBODY WINS A WAR BY BEING LIKEABLE."

SIR? YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.





HERE YOU GO, MA'AM. THE FBI THINKS THE BOMB'S GOT SOME COBRA DESIGN SIGNATURES. THEY'RE GETTING SAMPLES SENT OVER TO THE LAB.

SO MAYBE WE'RE *NOT* JUST CHASING A FEW BANDITS TO PROTECT GAS PRICES. WHO ELSE KNOWS SO FAR?

OPS ROOM, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.



GALIBI SECURITY, FBI, CIA, AND US.

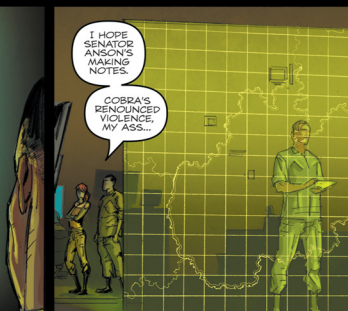
BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THAT LEAKS TO THE MEDIA.

FINE BY ME. LET'S SEE PAOLI SLIME HIS WAY OUT OF THAT.



KIND OF SMALL-SCALE TROOP STUFF FOR COBRA, THOUGH. EX-SCHLEDEVAN ARMY GUY? THEY'RE COBRA-TRAINED.

I CAN'T SEE WHAT COBRA WOULD GET OUT OF A BOMBING, BUT I'M NOT RULING THEM OUT.



I HOPE SENATOR ANSON'S MAKING NOTES.

COBRA'S RENOUNCED VIOLENCE, MY ASS...



# SAFE HOUSE, GALIBI.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT I HATE  
MOST?

MAINS, I NEVER  
KNEW YOU WERE SUCH  
A ROMANTIC...

HAVING YOU GUYS  
READING MY PERSONAL  
CORRESPONDENCE WITH  
SCARLETT.

I HOPE  
THIS LOOKS  
GENUINE.

I'D HATE OUR  
YAPPY SPOOK  
COLLEAGUES  
TO THINK  
WE'RE HIDING  
SOMETHING.

THEY CAN'T  
DECRYPT IT.  
THEY WON'T  
EVEN SEE  
THE PIXELS.

ANYWAY,  
WHY WOULD  
THEY SNOOP IF  
IT WAS THEIR  
SCREW-UP?

BECAUSE  
THEY'RE WIRED  
THAT WAY.

OR BECAUSE  
THE LEAK WAS  
DELIBERATE.

YOU WANT  
TO BOOK  
ROOM HERE?  
EXPENSE  
PAID FOR  
GIRL...

**POSS COMPLICATION.  
DUKE SPOTTED IN  
MYURETZ WITH DAVID  
BENNETT, CALLSIGN  
BIG BEN. REMEMBER  
HIM? ORDERS? STAND  
DOWN ON RASHIDOV?**

Y'KNOW, I  
HAVE NO IDEA  
WHICH SIDE  
DUKE COULD  
BE WORKING  
FOR NOW.

KINDA  
HARSH,  
MAN.

WOOSH

"C'MON, WE STILL DON'T  
KNOW HOW HE PAYS HIS  
WIFE'S HOSPITAL BILLS..."

"YEAH, BUT WHAT  
ABOUT BEN?"

"ROADBLOCK, NEVER  
ASSUME BRITISH  
INTERESTS ARE  
THE SAME AS OURS.

"AND IT DEPENDS  
IF BEN'S HERE ON  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
OR NOT."

CHECK OUT DUKE & BEN.  
STAND DOWN ON  
RASHIDOV UNTIL  
WE KNOW IF  
COBRA'S INVOLVED.

WELL, HERE'S  
OUR ANSWER.  
FLINT?

DUKE MIGHT  
RECOGNIZE  
US, BUT BEN  
DOESN'T  
KNOW HELIX.

JUST LOCATE  
AND OBSERVE.  
HELIX. OKAY?



YES.

YES, THAT'S HIM IN THE VIDEO, TOMAX.

COBRA CONSULATE, LONDON.



THAT MAKES THINGS A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED.

I NEED TO BE SURE HE DID IT.

AND I NEED TO EXPLAIN WHY IT LOOKS LIKE A COBRA-BUILT IED KILLED GALILI CITIZENS WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PEACE-KEEPING.



ARE YOU SAYING WHAT I THINK YOU ARE?

I CAN'T HAVE HIM RUNNING RIOT.

YOU SAID YOU HAD PEOPLE WHO'D FIND HIM.



THEY WILL.

BUT WE HAVE TO ACCEPT HE'S A DANGER TO HIMSELF. AND OTHERS.



TOMAX, WAIT—

I'LL CALL YOU LATER.



IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

YES. JUST FINALIZING DETAILS FOR THE TALKS.



I DO HOPE THAT BOMBING HASN'T DISRUPTED TOMAX'S PLANS.

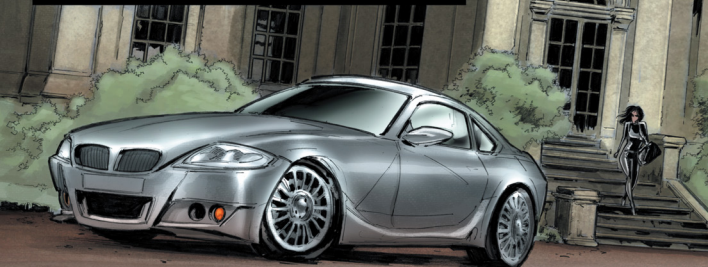
NO. EVERYTHING'S FINE.

GOOD. HE'S WORKED SO HARD ON THIS...





"KEEP ME POSTED. I'LL BE CHECKING MY E-MAIL."





YEAH, THAT'S ISAAC. SO HE'S MORE THAN THE MESSAGE BOY.

**OPERATIONAL  
SUPPORT BUREAU,  
ASTAKH. GALIBI:  
NEXT DAY.**



HOW'S PAOLI EXPLAINING THE COBRA-STYLE DETONATOR TO SHEFER?

I'D LOVE TO BE A FLY ON THAT WALL.



IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THEM.

MAYBE NOT, BUT I BET IT'S SOWN SOME DOUBT.



WHAT'S YOUR THEORY?

A COBRA-TRAINED SCHLETEVAN VET IN THE TEAM. MAKES NO SENSE FOR PAOLI TO PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT.



ANYWAY, I NEED TO SHOW MY FACE IN D.C. I'LL BE BACK BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

YOU WANT ME TO GET THIS C-4 DELIVERED TO RASHIDOV?



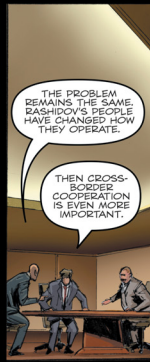
NOT YET.

FIND OUT WHAT DOSKEN KNOWS ABOUT ISAAC.

THAT KID'S INTERESTING IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS.



PEACE TALKS,  
SCHLETEVA-  
GALIBI BORDER.









# OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BUREAU, NEW YORK.

SOME WOMAN  
CALLED QUARTERBACK  
CALLED A COUPLE OF  
TIMES. COULDN'T TRACE  
THE NUMBER.

IT'S OKAY,  
I KNOW WHO  
SHE IS.

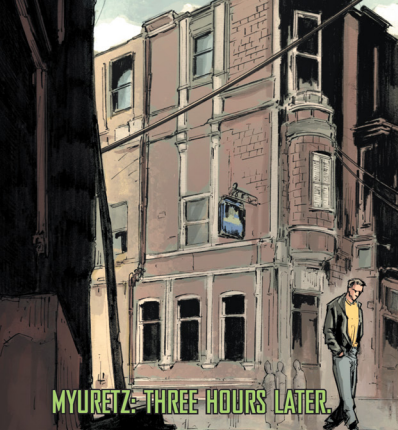
AND WIPE  
THAT SMIRK OFF  
YOUR FACE.

ME,  
SMIRK?  
NEVER.









MYURETZ: THREE HOURS LATER.



AT LAST, IT'S BENNETT. NO SIGN OF DUKE.

STAY WITH HIM.



HI, VIKTOR. SO HOW'S THIS STUFF IN USHKIRLI GOING TO AFFECT US?

AH, DON'T WORRY.



YOU GAS PEOPLE CAN STILL BUY PEACE AND QUIET. RASHIDOV ALWAYS NEEDS MONEY.

YEAH, BUT THAT KID ON THE NEWS...



HE'S TALKING TO ONE OF THE LOCAL HUSTLERS. I CAN'T HEAR.

BE CAREFUL. DON'T FORGET WHAT HE IS.

I'LL BE FINE.











YOUR  
TRANSPORT  
AND PAPERS  
ARE READY. DO  
YOU WANT TO  
TALK TO THIS  
GUY FIRST?

YES.

WHAT'S  
MADE HIM  
TALK?

THERE'S SOME  
BITTERNESS IN  
THE RANKS.

**COBRA SAFE HOUSE,  
MARSEILLES, FRANCE.**



ISAAC AND  
HIS FRIEND WENT  
AWOL. NOBODY  
BUYS THE SECRET  
MISSION STORY.

THEY THINK  
HIS MOTHER'S  
INTERVENED  
TO SAVE HIM  
FROM A COURT  
MARTIAL.



WELL, TOMAX COULDN'T  
KEEP HIS ABSENCE  
QUIET FOREVER.

YOU THINK  
IT'S HIM IN  
THE VIDEO?

PIECES ARE  
CERTAINLY  
FITTING  
TOGETHER,  
OLIVER.



NO NEED TO STAND,  
CORPORAL.

I UNDERSTAND  
YOU HAVE SOMETHING  
TO TELL ME ABOUT  
ISAAC CRAFT.

WE WERE  
SWORN TO  
SECRECY,  
MA'AM.

I DON'T  
LIKE IT.



IF A  
PRIVILEGED  
CADET GOES  
AWOL AND GETS  
AWAY WITH IT,  
IT'S BAD FOR  
MORALE. GUYS  
TALK.



INDEED  
THEY DO.  
PEOPLE  
ALWAYS  
TALK.

TELL ME  
MORE.

To Be Continued  
in VOLUME 2.





ARTWORK BY  
**CLIFF CHANG**



ARTWORK BY  
**ROBERT ATHINS**

COLORS BY  
**JOANA LAFUENTE**



ARTWORK BY  
**STEVE HURTH**

COLORS BY  
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ARTWORK BY  
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COLORS BY  
**JOANA LAFUENTE**



ARTWORK BY  
**DHEERAJ VERMA**

COLORS BY  
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ARTWORK BY  
**DAVID WILLIAMS**

COLORS BY  
**KELSEY SHANNON**







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**DAVID WILLIAMS**

COLORS BY  
**KELSEY SHANNON**





## ARTISTIC PROCESS

STEVE KURTH: My original intent for this new *G.I. Joe* book was to ink all of the figures myself and pencil the backgrounds. I do my fair share of inked commissions and figured I could handle all the character work and things would truck right along.

This turns out was a lie my brain was telling me right to my face. The two inked pages not only took much longer than I'd anticipated but I just didn't think the ink work was up to snuff. I think doing an issue or two of pages this way would have got me to where I wanted to be with the quality and speed, but I didn't want to use a #1 issue, a relaunch of a book, as a place to start teaching myself how to not suck at something.

Also, I wasn't in love with the storytelling of the two pages either.

With page one, I very much liked the guy in the first panel, and thought the storytelling was okay in the following panels, but when we get to the last panel, and the big reveal is that COBRA is back, and they're pulling a UN deal, it felt kind of blah to me. A nice enough panel but it wasn't hitting me. That's why in the second version of the page I ended the page with a big COBRA logo. I wanted it to have a little more weight and impact.

With the second page the storytelling was okay, but I wasn't finding our introduction to the older Isaac to be all that interesting. Every time we see a character for the first time in a book I want to give them some room to breathe. I want them to have a beat where we let them soak in. Sometimes I don't have the room to do that, but with Isaac I really wanted that shot because in a cool twisty way, he's the hero of this particular story. He's not the good guy but he's the center of attention and you want to feel that when you see him for the first time. With the second version I think it's more successful that way. In the original he's just kind of a dude plopped on a page who looks sour the last two panels.





**DOES  
THE  
WORLD**

**NEED  
GI★JOE  
?**



**I WANT YOU**

Cobra has become an international peacekeeping force... and the future of G.I. JOE looks bleak. Scarlett leads what's left of America's ultimate fighting force—but will she be able to keep the team together? Real-world action and politics collide... and nothing will be the same. By writer Karen Traviss and artist Steve Kurth.



**SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS**