

# G.I. JOE



THE FALL OF G.I. JOE  
VOLUME 2





# G.I. JOE

VOLUME 2

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## THE FALL OF G.I. JOE



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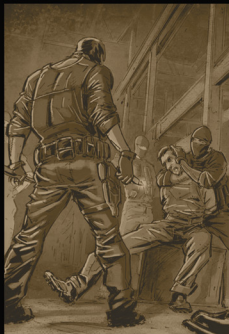
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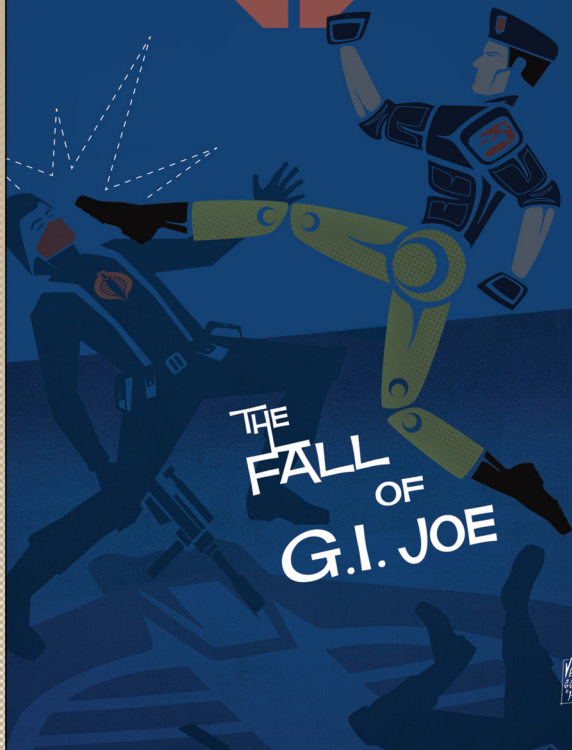
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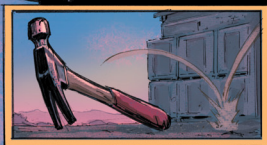
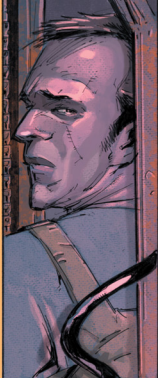
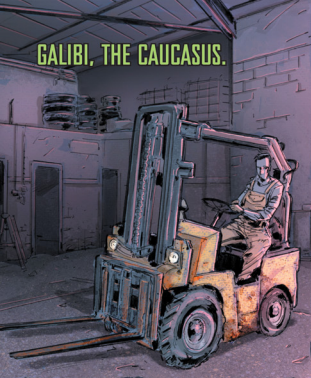
# G.I. JOE



ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**



# GALIBI, THE CAUCASUS.







I DON'T KNOW HIM.

BUT YOU KNOW THE GUY YOU SUPPLY WITH STUFF FOR HIM. LET'S HAVE A NAME AND NUMBER.

HE'LL KILL ME.



YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.



NAAARGGH!

COME ON. HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO KNOW YOU TURNED HIM IN.



HE'LL KNOW.

I'M BETTING HE'S NOT WORTH DYING FOR.




NO, NO—  
AAAAHHH!

TEN MINUTES LATER.



MAKAR... HIS NAME'S MAKAR... HE RUNS THE GARAGE IN POMIURU...

OKAY, WE'RE DONE.



NOTHING IN HIS  
OFFICE, SIR. EXCEPT  
WADS OF CASH.

TAKE IT.

MAKE IT LOOK  
LIKE A BUSINESS  
DISPUTE BETWEEN  
SCUMBAGS.



BETTER  
RADIO-CHECK  
THE BOSS.



WE'VE  
CONFIRMED  
ANOTHER  
ONE, SIR.

WHEN YOU  
FIND THE ONE  
WITH DIRECT  
ACCESS TO  
RASHIDOV, DON'T  
MOVE IN.

JUST  
KEEP TABS  
ON HIM.



THEN  
I'LL TAKE  
OVER.



HELIX, I'VE  
LOST YOU.  
SWITCH  
CHANNELS.

HELIX?



DAMN,  
WE'VE LOST  
HER.

TRY HER  
PHONE,  
FLINT.

WITH THE  
NSA TAPPING  
EVERY CALL  
HERE? MAINS,  
GET THE OTHER  
PICKUP.

MYURETZ, GALIBI.

GI.I. JOE TEAM BRAVO I-O  
SAFE HOUSE, SOUTHERN GALIBI.



DUKE? GOT A VISITOR FOR YOU.

ALIVE?

YEAH, I THOUGHT I'D TRY THAT FOR A CHANGE.

ON MY WAY.



I WOULDN'T USE A PHONE HERE IF I WERE YOU.

YEAH, WE GUESSED THE NSA COMPROMISED THE CELL NETWORK. BUT IT'S NOT MY PHONE...



HELIX? DAMN IT, DON'T USE—

HI, FLINT. HOW ABOUT CATCHING UP ON OLD TIMES?

FIND THE COURT BUILDING AND WAIT IN THE LAY-BY.

ASTAKH ROAD. 20 MINUTES FROM MYURETZ.



HOW MUCH CAN WE TELL HIM?

NO MORE THAN HE TELLS US.



THERE'S THE COURT. I'M PULLING OVER, FLINT.

CAN YOU SEE HIM?

MYURETZ. 20 MINUTES LATER.



LOOK UP AND TO YOUR LEFT.

OKAY, REAR ENTRANCE. WE'RE NUMBER 5.



SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SOCIAL WORK. WHY WERE YOU TAILING US?

WE THOUGHT YOU WERE AFTER THE SAME TARGET. CAN WE TALK?

WELL...





# THE FALL OF G.I. JOE

PART FIVE

VALLE CIMINELLO, NORTHERN ITALY:  
DAY 20 OF THE PROTEST OUTSIDE  
U.S. BASE, CAMP HAYLING.



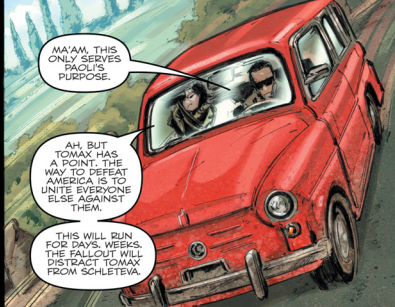






THEN SPECULATION  
HAS BEEN TWEETED,  
FACEBOOKED,  
BLOGGED, AND BELIEVED.  
A TRIGGER-HAPPY  
G.I. SHOT HER.

BY THE TIME  
FORENSICS  
PROVES THAT  
HE DIDN'T,  
THE MYTH'S  
ESTABLISHED.



MA'AM, THIS  
ONLY SERVES  
PAUL'S  
PURPOSE.

AH, BUT  
TOMAX HAS  
A POINT. THE  
WAY TO DEFEAT  
AMERICA IS TO  
UNITE EVERYONE  
ELSE AGAINST  
THEM.

THIS WILL RUN  
FOR DAYS, WEEKS.  
THE FALL-OUT WILL  
DISTRACT TOMAX  
FROM SCHLETEVA.



AND WE  
CAN FOCUS  
ON ISAAC  
CRAFT.



WE CAN'T  
LET HIM PLAY  
SOLDIERS IN  
GALIBI  
INDEFINITELY.

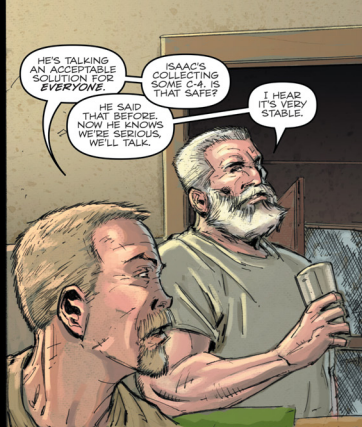


"SO WHEN ARE  
WE PLANNING  
TO EXTRACT  
HIM, MA'AM?"



"NOT YET. I WANT  
HIS EDUCATION TO BE  
MORE COMPLETE."

"I WANT HIM  
READY TO  
DO HIS DUTY  
FOR COBRA."











# EAST RIVER PARK, NYC: NEXT DAY.



OKAY, CAPTAIN O'HARA, LET'S SWAP TRADING CARDS.

RASHIDOV KNEW WE WERE COMING. I NEED TO KNOW WHO LEAKED IT.



DIGGING IS GOING TO BE TRICKY.

IT'S CRIMPING MY OPERATION. WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT MORE KNIVES IN OUR BACKS.



IF I FIND ANYTHING, YOU MIGHT HAVE TO TRUST ME TO FIX THINGS FOR YOU.

DO ANY OF YOUR AGENCIES TRUST EACH OTHER?

I WOULDN'T TELL THOSE BASTARDS THE TIME OF DAY.



SO... LET ME HAVE YOUR COBRA ROGUES' GALLERY.

THE INTEL YOU HAVEN'T SHARED WITH MY COLLEAGUES.

OKAY, AND I NEED HELP WITH I.D.'ING A KID, POSSIBLY COBRA. FOUND HIM DEAD IN RASHIDOV'S CAMP.

DID YOU GET ANY DNA? BALLISTICS?

BLOOD TRACES.



AND NOW WE'VE GOT THE SHOOTING AT CAMP HAYLING.

TOMAX COULDN'T WAIT FOR HIS CALL TO THE BARRICADES TO BE HEADED.

COBRA ALWAYS DID LIKE FALSE FLAGS.

WELL, WE KNOW IT WASN'T OUR GUYS.

NO WEAPON DISCHARGED.



SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS BACK IN THE FIELD.

ONLY SOME-TIMES?

ONE MORE THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...

SURE.

HOW DO YOU AVOID PHONE TAPS?



THAT'S FOR ME TO KNOW AND THEM TO FIND OUT.



## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FIELD OFFICE.

NICK?  
NICK, IT'S  
ME, DOSKEN.  
OPEN THE  
DOOR.

ASTAKH, GALIBI.



OKAY,  
OKAY —  
TAKE IT  
EASY.

YEAH? YOU  
THINK I SHOULD  
BE *CALM*? THEY  
KILLED BOGDAN.  
NEXT, THEY KILL  
*ME*. HE WAS MY  
CONTACT.



LOOK, HE MIGHT  
JUST HAVE PISSED  
SOMEONE OFF.

THEY CUT  
UP HIS FACE.  
THEN THEY CUT  
HIS THROAT.

THEY DO  
NOT BOAST  
OF IT, SO IT  
IS NOT  
*WARNING*.

THEY  
*INTERROGATE*  
HIM.

AND YOU  
THINK IT'S  
RASHIDOV'S  
GUYS?



FIRST THING I'D ASK  
IS *WHY*. THOUGH.  
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO  
TICK THEM OFF?

I DON'T  
KNOW. DO  
I NEED A  
REASON?



YOU SAID  
YOUR COMPANY  
WOULD GET ME  
AND MY FAMILY  
VISAS, A SAFE LIFE  
IN AMERICA, YOU  
*PROMISED*.

I KNOW. SIT  
DOWN. I NEED  
TO CALL MY  
COLLEAGUE.



NEW YORK, 2200 HOURS.



JOSH?  
IT'S ME.

UHHH...  
SORRY, I  
TURNED IN  
EARLY.

GOT A  
PROBLEM?

DOSKEN  
WANTS OUT  
RIGHT AWAY.  
ONE OF HIS  
CONTACTS  
WAS TORTURED  
AND KILLED.  
NASTY KNIFE  
JOB.

HE THINKS  
RASHIDOV  
HAD THE GUY  
INTERVIEWED.

WHY? AND  
WHAT'S DOSKEN  
DONE?

NOTHING.  
IT MIGHT NOT  
EVEN BE RASHIDOV.  
EITHER WAY,  
DOSKEN'S SCARED,  
AND THAT MIGHT  
MAKE HIM TOO  
TALKATIVE.



MAYBE IT'S  
THE JOES  
TRYING TO  
GET TO  
RASHIDOV.

CARVING  
SOMEONE  
ISN'T THEIR  
STYLE.

OKAY, GET  
HIM OUT ANY  
WAY YOU CAN.  
HE'S STILL  
USEFUL, BUT  
I'M GOING TO  
NEED A NEW  
GO-BETWEEN.



SO MUCH FOR AN EARLY  
NIGHT.

MIGHT  
AS WELL CHECK  
WITH THE OFFICE.



HI. FOUND  
ANYTHING NEW  
IN THAT COBRA  
MATERIAL?

NOT A  
LOT, BUT I  
MIGHT HAVE  
A MATCH ON  
YOUR DEAD  
GUY.

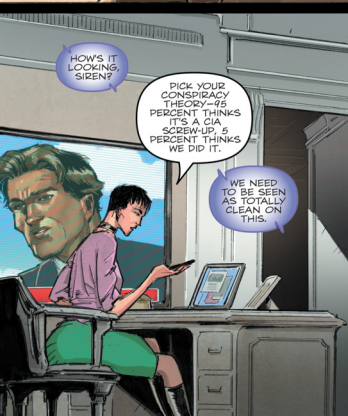
I'M  
IMPRESSED.

ADJUSTING THE  
IMAGE FOR AGE, THE  
SYSTEM COUGHED UP A  
SURVEILLANCE PIC OF  
SOME CHILDREN.



I THINK YOUR  
DEAD GUY STARTED  
HIS GLORIOUS BUT  
SHORT CAREER IN  
COBRA YOUTH.







SIREN,  
BELIEVE ME  
WHEN I SAY  
WE'VE PULLED  
OUT ALL  
THE STOPS  
LOOKING  
FOR HIM.

MAKAR PETROV'S GARAGE, POMIURI, GALIBI.



IT'S ONLY  
A MATTER OF  
TIME  
UNTIL WE  
FIND HIM.



WE JUST WANT  
TO KNOW WHO  
CALLS YOU WHEN  
RASHIDOV NEEDS  
GROCERIES.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
RASHIDOV.  
I SWEAR.



NO NEED.  
I'VE FOUND  
HIS PHONE.  
WE CAN  
RETRIEVE THE  
RECEIVED  
CALLS.



GOOD. THAT'S SAVED  
US ALL A LOT OF  
UNPLEASANTNESS.  
DON'T FORGET  
TO TAKE A FEW  
VALUABLES, TOO.



ARTUR...  
DOSKEN...  
VIKTOR...  
YEAH, THIS  
GUY KEEPS  
EVERYTHING  
ON HIS  
PHONE.

IDIOT.



MYURETZ, GALIBI.

BLOCK, ME OLD MATE, THIS IS DOING MY HEAD IN.

WHY WOULD COBRA WANT TO BACK RASHIDOV?

YEAH, AND WHY SEND JOES AFTER SMALL FRY LIKE HIM?

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR LOCAL FIXER, **VIKTOR**. FOREIGNERS CAN'T JUST STROLL IN AND INVITE RASHIDOV TO TEA.

SO I SAY I'M WORKING FOR SOME GAS COMPANY AND WILLING TO PAY PROTECTION MONEY.

YOU GOT IT.

RIGHT, HE'S NORMALLY HERE BY TWENTY HUNDRED.

TWO HOURS LATER.

IT'S GONE TO VOICEMAIL.

OKAY, LET'S TRY HIS CLUB.

SOUNDS CLASSY.

BRACE FOR DISAPPOINTMENT.

IS IT OPEN?

THINGS DON'T GET GOING UNTIL MIDNIGHT. LET'S WAIT HERE.



HEADS UP, SOME KIND OF ATV APPROACHING.



I DON'T THINK THAT'S VIKTOR'S MOTOR.



SKLERD ROAD, MYURETZ- 2320 HOURS!



(I SWEAR, I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY!)



OH, BLOODY HELL—

SHALL WE?

YEAH, 'COS HELL OWE US ONE.







IS THIS GOING TO WAKE THE NEIGHBORS? GUESS NOT.



LATE WITH YOUR PAYMENTS, VIKTOR?

I DON'T KNOW THEM. THEY WANTED MY COMPUTER. THEY WANTED TO KNOW HOW I CONTACT RASHIDOV.



DID YOU TELL THEM?

NO, BUT EVENTUALLY, I WOULD HAVE...



Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN SPECIAL FORCES LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW MY OWN KIND WHEN I SEE 'EM.

ME TOO, MATE.

I'D BET ON COBRA.

NOW I'M REALLY CURIOUS.



## OPS CENTER, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

AND WE COULDN'T PUT THE NAME **ISAAC** AND **COBRA** TOGETHER? DAMN SLOPPY.

THIS HAS TO BE SIREN'S KID. HE'D BE 16 NOW. WE RISKED OUR LIVES TO **RESCUE** THIS LITTLE BASTARD.

WHAT A PEACH **HE** TURNED OUT TO BE.

ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THIS TO OPERATIONAL SUPPORT?

NO, IT STAYS IN THIS ROOM FOR THE TIME BEING.



I DAMN WELL **TOLD** THEM **COBRA** WOULDN'T CHANGE. IT JUST GOT **SMARTER**.

IT'S A BITCH BEING DESK-BOUND, MA'AM.



I ADDED FIVE YEARS TO **ALL** OF THE KIDS' FACES.

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED.

SOME AREN'T MUCH HELP, BUT IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.



I DO. I **KNOW** THIS KID.

SO ARE YOU WORKING FOR RASHIDOV WITH **COBRA'S** BLESSING, **ISAAC**? THIS IS GOING TO LOOK **TERRIFIC** ON THE NEWS.



"BUT ALL IN GOOD TIME."



# G.I. JOE

## THE FALL OF G.I. JOE




Jeffrey VerEGge





WE'VE NOW  
REACHED A BROAD  
AGREEMENT FOR A  
PERMANENT TREATY  
BETWEEN GALIBI AND  
SCHLETEVA.

## DAGIL, SCHLETEVA: COBRA-NEWS CONFERENCE.




I APPLAUD PRESIDENT  
BULATOV AND PRESIDENT  
SHEFER FOR THEIR  
COURAGE IN ENDING  
YEARS OF CONFLICT.




"A PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND  
JOINT SECURITY INITIATIVES WILL TRANSFORM  
THE LIVES OF SCHLETEVANS AND GALIBS.



"ONE TASK REMAINS, HOWEVER—TO  
BRING THE ETHNIC SCHLETEVANS  
OF SOUTHERN GALIBI ON BOARD.



"PRESIDENTS  
BULATOV AND  
SHEFER ACCEPT  
THAT THE  
SCHLETEVAN  
COMMUNITY  
SHOULD BENEFIT  
MORE FROM  
THE ENERGY  
RESOURCES ON  
THEIR LAND."



THEY'RE  
WILLING TO  
DISCUSS A STAKE IN  
A NEW JOINT ENERGY  
CORPORATION AND  
SEMI-AUTONOMOUS  
STATUS FOR THE  
REGION.

I INVITE  
GRIGOR  
RASHIDOV TO  
MEET WITH  
US SOON.



JOSEPH B. COLTON  
GENERAL U.S. ARMY

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

COME IN.

IT'S HARD TO KNOW  
WHERE TO START,  
GENERAL. MAY I JUST  
BLURT OUT FACTS  
TO YOU?

BLURTING'S  
GOOD FOR  
ME, CAPTAIN.  
I'VE GOT A  
MEETING.

THIS LOOKS  
LIKE THE GUY  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE USHKIRLI  
BOMBING. HIS  
NAME'S ISAAC.  
HE'S 16.

I BELIEVE HIS  
FULL NAME IS  
ISAAC CRAFT, AND  
I GOT THE PICTURE  
FROM DUKE AND A  
BRIT YOU MIGHT  
RECALL. DAVID  
BENNETT.

WELL, WELL. WE DO  
LIVE IN INTERESTING  
TIMES. DON'T WE?

OUT OF MY  
LONG LIST  
OF WHAT-  
THE-HELLS,  
"DUKE"?

THEY'RE WORKING AS  
PRIVATE CONTRACTORS.  
THEY WERE TASKED TO  
FIND ISAAC AND TOLD  
THAT HE WAS WITH  
RASHIDOV'S MILITIA.

THEY DIDN'T  
KNOW WHO  
HE WAS. THEY  
DO NOW.

AND THEY WERE  
CALLED OFF AFTER  
THE BOMBING. NO  
REASON GIVEN.

BUT BEFORE  
YOU ASK, SIR,  
I DON'T PLAN  
TO SHARE THIS  
WITH ANY OTHER  
AGENCY, EVEN  
OPERATIONAL  
SUPPORT.





WE PUT OUR GUYS ON THE LINE TO SAVE THAT KID'S ASS FOR SIREN.

WHY WOULD ANYONE HIRE CONTRACTORS TO FIND HIM, THEN CALL THEM OFF?



PERHAPS THEY KEPT SIREN OUT OF THE LOOP AND SHE BLEW IT BY TRYING TO FIND OUT WHERE HE'D GONE.

SO NOW THEY'VE BEEN FORCED TO TELL HER IT'S ALL FINE—HE'S JUST BEEN SENT TO STOKES UP THE SEPARATISTS.

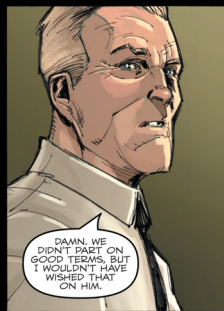


I'D BUY THAT. SHE TOOK A BIG RISK CONTACTING US FOR HELP LAST TIME SHE MISPLACED HIM.

BUT ARE YOU SURE DUKE DIDN'T KNOW WHO WAS PAYING HIM?

WE STILL DON'T KNOW HOW HE BANKROLLS HIS WIFE'S MEDICAL CARE.

AH... SHE DIED, SIR.



DAMN. WE DIDN'T PART ON GOOD TERMS, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE WISHED THAT ON HIM.



TO MAKE THINGS REALLY MESSY—IT LOOKS LIKE COBRA'S KILLING SEPARATIST QUARTERMASTERS.

WHAT THE HELL WOULD PAOLI STAND TO GAIN FROM PEACE TALKS AND STIRRING UP A GUERRILLA WAR?

I DON'T KNOW. SO I'D LIKE TO ASK SIREN A FEW QUESTIONS. IN PERSON.



YOU WANT ME TO SANCTION SOME HALF-ASSED JAUNT TO LONDON? YOU'RE THE COMMANDER NOW, SCARLETT. THE DESK IS A SAD FACT OF LIFE.

COMMANDING A HANDFUL OF TEAMS. ONLY ONE OF WHICH IS NOW DEPLOYED.

THIS HAD BETTER BE CONVINCING.



SIREN'S THE WEAK LINK. HER WEAKNESS IS HER SON. I CAN LEAN ON HER.

BLACKMAIL? THREATS?

YOU BET. LET ME WORK UP A PLAN.

"WE WERE RIGHT ABOUT  
COBRA, SIR. THEY'RE  
JUST REGROUPING. WE  
DIDN'T PUT THEM OUT OF  
BUSINESS AFTER ALL."

I WISH YOU'D  
KNOWN YOUR  
FATHER, ISAAC.  
I REALLY WISH  
HE COULD HAVE  
KNOWN YOU.

# THE FALL OF GI JOE

PART SIX



SIR, WE'VE HAD A SETBACK. THEY WERE READY FOR US.

YOU DIDN'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH, THEN. WHAT HAPPENED?

COBRA BLACK OPS TEAM ECHO,  
SOUTHERN GALIBI.



THE LAST GUY WE GRABBED GOT AWAY. HIS BUDDIES JUMPED US.

WE HAVE TO ASSUME HE'S ALERTED RASHIDOV'S WHOLE SUPPLY NETWORK. BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO WE ARE.



YOU'RE SPECIAL FORCES.

PEASANTS AND GANGSTERS DON'T JUMP YOU.

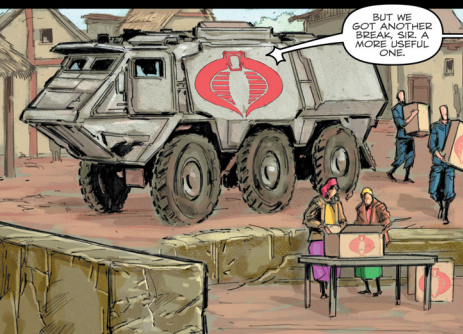
HOTEL CASSIN: COBRA  
REGIONAL HQ, NEAR  
DAGIL, SCHLETEVA!



I DON'T THINK THEY WERE LOCAL POACHERS, SIR. THEY WERE TRAINED.

MILITIA?

I'D SAY REAL PROFESSIONALS.



BUT WE GOT ANOTHER BREAK, SIR. A MORE USEFUL ONE.



I THINK WE'VE LOCATED RASHIDOV'S WIFE.





BAR GLOBAL, SKLERO ROAD,  
NORTH MYURETZ.

SO YOU DON'T THINK  
THE BLOKES WHO  
GRABBED YOU  
WERE DISGRUNTLED  
MEMBERS OF  
THE BUSINESS  
COMMUNITY,  
THEN.



I TOLD YOU.  
THEY WERE  
FOREIGNERS.  
THEY SPOKE WITH  
ACCENTS, BUT  
NOT AMERICAN.  
NOT BRITISH.

WHAT KIND OF  
ACCENTS?

MIXED, BUT  
PROBABLY EAST  
EUROPEAN. ME,  
I BET ON THE  
GALIBS SENDING  
THEM, OR THE  
AMERICANS.



WHY, VIKTOR?  
ARE YOU SURE  
ALL THEY WANTED  
TO KNOW ABOUT  
WAS RASHIDOV?

YES, I KEEP  
TELLING YOU.  
THEY WANTED  
TO KNOW  
HOW I MAKE  
CONTACT.

THERE'S A  
CHAIN, WE'RE  
NOT STUPID.  
I KNOW A MAN  
AND HE KNOWS  
ANOTHER MAN,  
BUT I DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
HE IS.



IT'S SAFER  
THAT WAY.



SO THOSE  
GUYS LAST  
NIGHT—THEY  
FOUND YOU  
VIA THE MAN  
WHO USUALLY  
CALLS *YOU*.



AND WHO  
USUALLY CALLS  
*YOU*?

BECAUSE  
YOU ARE *VERY*  
GOOD WITH GUNS  
FOR MEN WHO  
WORK IN THE  
GAS INDUSTRY.



THAT'S BECAUSE  
ENGINEERS ARE NO  
GOOD AT SECURING  
GAS INSTALLATIONS.  
WHERE DO YOU  
THINK THEY RECRUIT  
BLOKES LIKE US?



WE SAVED  
YOUR ARSE.  
WE COULD HAVE  
BEEN KILLED.



SO, SEEING  
AS YOU'RE  
COMPROMISED, CAN  
WE TALK TO YOUR  
CONTACT AND SEE  
IF HE CAN GET US  
WHAT WE WANT?

NO, I  
CAN'T—



THEY'LL BE BACK  
FOR YOU. MIGHT AS  
WELL DEAL WITH US  
AS WITH THEM.

I MEAN  
THAT MY  
CONTACT'S  
GONE. I CAN'T  
RAISE HIM.  
**DOSKEN.** HIS  
NAME'S  
DOSKEN.



MAYBE THEY GOT TO HIM  
THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE.

STAY HERE,  
STAY OFF THE  
PHONE, AND  
KEEP THE DOORS  
LOCKED UNTIL  
YOU HEAR  
FROM US.

SOMEONE  
NEEDS TO WARN  
RASHIDOV.

HAPPY  
TO HELP.  
GOT HIS  
NUMBER?



HOW DO I  
DO BUSINESS  
IF I'M STUCK  
HERE?

THAT'S  
THE LEAST  
OF YOUR  
PROBLEMS,  
BUDDY.



DID YOU  
MANAGE TO BUG  
HIS PHONE?

YEAH,  
AND THE  
OFFICE...

AT LEAST WE  
KNOW THOSE GUYS  
WEREN'T CIA.

COBRA.  
GOT TO BE.

OKAY, WHAT DO WE HAVE?

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE, NYC.

WE HAVE—OKAY, WE HAD TWO COBRA YOUTH ALUMNI IN RASHIDOV'S CAMP. ONE IS COBRA ROYALTY. ISAAC CRAFT.

WHICH EXPLAINS THE COBRA-STYLE DETONATOR IN THE USHKIRI TRUCK BOMB.

BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE KNOW.

ISAAC CRAFT

COBRA WANTS THE GAS DEAL TO GO THROUGH. RASHIDOV'S IN THE WAY. WHY NOT JUST HUNT HIM DOWN AND SLAP A FEW UCAVS ON HIS ASS?

NOT GOOD FOR THEIR PEACEKEEPING IMAGE.

AND KILLING THE LOCAL ROBIN HOOD IS GOING TO PISS OFF A FEW THOUSAND SCHLETEVANS.

THEY COULD STILL DO IT AND BLAME THE WEST.

IT ALL HINGES ON WHAT COBRA'S TRYING TO DO. DOES IT WANT A QUIET LIFE?

OR DOES IT WANT RASHIDOV BLOWING UP HALF OF GALIBI SO IT'S GOT AN EXCUSE TO STAY?

WHAT DO WE WANT? WHATEVER CRIMPS COBRA'S AMBITIONS IN THE CAUCASUS.

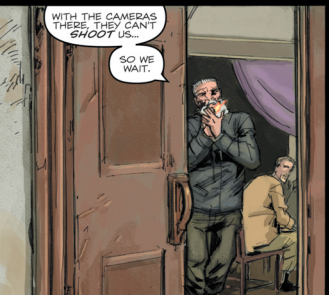
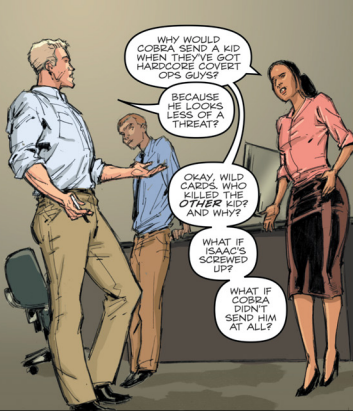
WHICH MEANS GALIBI AND SCHLETEVA KNOCKING THE CRAP OUT OF EACH OTHER INDEFINITELY.

RASHIDOV  
BULATOV?  
SHEFER?  
ISAAC CRAFT  
PAOLI?  
COBRA?

WE NEED TO WORK OUT WHETHER ISAAC IS WORKING UNDERCOVER, OR IF RASHIDOV KNOWS HE'S A COBRA AGENT.

WHAT ABOUT THESE COURIERS? IS IT RASHIDOV SETTLING SCORES, OR SOMEONE ELSE?







WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE TOMAX PAOLI?

FORGET THAT YOU DISAGREE WITH EVERYTHING HE STANDS FOR.

TELL ME HOW COBRA THINKS.



I'D WANT AN EXCUSE TO KEEP TROOPS HERE.

IT WOULD GIVE ME A PHYSICAL BASE IN A STRATEGIC AREA.

AND IT WOULD PROVIDE REVENUE. PEACEKEEPING HAS TO BE PAID FOR.



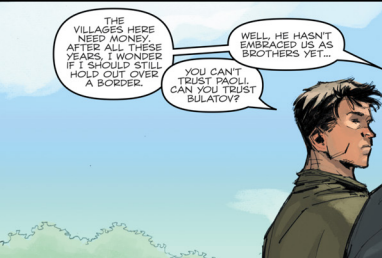
SO I WOULD WANT JUST ENOUGH UNREST TO JUSTIFY COBRA'S CONTINUED PRESENCE, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO DISRUPT THE GAS AND OIL PRODUCTION.



THEY TEACH YOU ALL THIS AT COBRA ACADEMY?

I LEARNED TO LEAD BY TRIAL AND ERROR.

YES, WE WERE GROOMED TO BE TOMORROW'S LEADERS.



THE VILLAGES HERE NEED MONEY. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I WONDER IF I SHOULD STILL HOLD OUT OVER A BORDER.

YOU CAN'T TRUST PAOLI. CAN YOU TRUST BULATOV?

WELL, HE HASN'T EMBRACED US AS BROTHERS YET...



MAY I ASK A QUESTION, SIR?

SURE.

THIS AMERICAN—HOW DID KNOW THE U.S. FORCES WOULD RAID OUR CAMP?

PROBABLY THE SAME WAY HE GETS HIS WEAPONS. HE PAYS AN INSIDER.



AMERICANS SEND SPECIAL FORCES FOR ASSASSINATIONS, SIR. THE HIGHEST SECURITY. THEY DON'T TALK.

SOMEBODY ALWAYS TALKS. CARELESSNESS OR BETRAYAL.



I KNOW.

AND NOW OUR COURIER CHAIN IS BEING TARGETED.

I THINK WE SHOULD LOOK MORE CAREFULLY AT OUR SO-CALLED ALLIES.



"ESPECIALLY THE ONES WHO MAKE USE OF OUR COURIERS."



ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR THE AIR MILES, JOSH?

I JUST LOVE GALILI. GOT A REPLACEMENT FOR DÖSKEN YET?

I'M WORKING ON IT.



NICK...

IT'S ALL GONE DARK. FOLKS ARE NERVOUS NOW.

I NEED TO GET HOLD OF ISAAC.

WOW, YEAH. ISAAC. CRAFT. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT?





DUKE, THERE'S A DOZEN SCENARIOS TO EXPLAIN WHY SIREN'S SON IS HOLED UP WITH RASHIDOV. AND I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THEM.

**MYURETZ.**



WELL, IF COBRA'S  
LOOKING FOR  
RASHIDOV, AND ISAAC  
HASN'T TOLD THEM  
WHERE HE IS, THAT  
MAKES LIFE KIND OF  
INTERESTING.



WE'RE GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES. MY JOB'S DONE. SO IS BEN'S.

ARE YOU  
KEEPING  
COBRA'S  
MONEY?



DAMN STRAIGHT. WE NEED TO PAY OUR BILLS.

AND DON'T  
GET MORALISTIC  
WITH *ME*, FLINT.  
IT'S MONEY THEY  
CAN'T SPEND ON  
KILLING *YOU*.



BEN?

UNLESS  
YOU'RE PICKING  
UP OUR TAB. MY  
MISSUS WANTS A  
NEW KITCHEN AND  
MY DAUGHTER'S  
SAVING UP TO  
GET MARRIED.

BUT HANDING THE CASH BACK IS GOING TO INVITE QUESTIONS.



SCARLETT'S TICKED OFF. APPARENTLY WE SHOULD HAVE MADE THE ISAAC CRAFT CONNECTION.

I THINK SHE NEEDS TO GET OUT MORE.



"I THINK SHE'S DOING THAT. SHE'S NOT IN OPS."

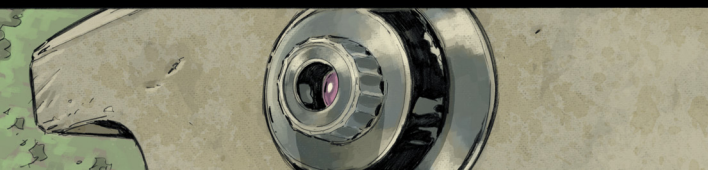
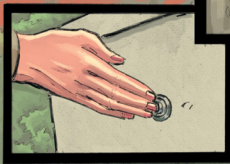


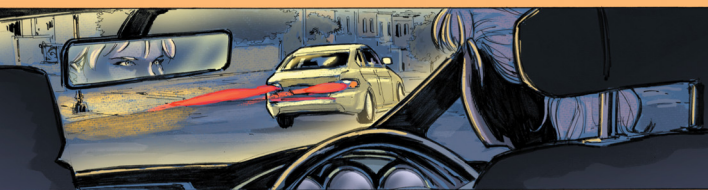
"IN FACT, SHE'S NOT EVEN IN THE STATES."



HAMPSTEAD, NORTH LONDON.

"SHAME WE CAN'T JUST ASK OUR CIA BUDDIES TO SHARE SURVEILLANCE WITH US NOW."





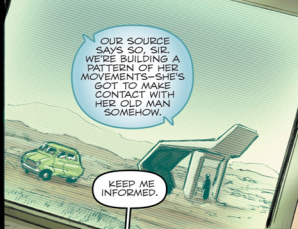






AND YOU'RE SURE THAT'S RASHIDOV'S WIFE, CAPTAIN?

HOTEL CASSIN, COBRA  
REGIONAL HQ:  
NEXT MORNING.



OUR SOURCE SAYS SO, SIR. WE'RE BUILDING A PATTERN OF HER MOVEMENTS—SHE'S GOT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HER OLD MAN SOMEHOW.

KEEP ME INFORMED.



SHE MIGHT BE PASSING SOMETHING ON OR JUST GOING SHOPPING.

UAV READY? SHE'S GOT TO BE WAITING FOR A VEHICLE.

OR A KID ON A BICYCLE...



OF COURSE, SHE REALLY *COULD* BE WAITING FOR A BUS, AND HER CONTACT MIGHT BE ON BOARD...

25 MINUTES LATER.



HEADS UP, VEHICLE APPROACHING.

IT'S STOPPING.

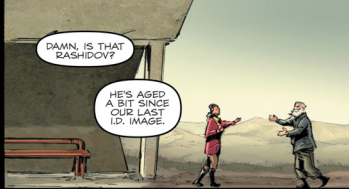


SHE'S MAKING A MOVE.



SOMEONE'S GETTING OUT.

GUY, FIFTIES, BEARD... YOUNG GUY, CLEAN-SHAVEN...



DAMN, IS THAT RASHIDOV?

HE'S AGED A BIT SINCE OUR LAST I.D. IMAGE.

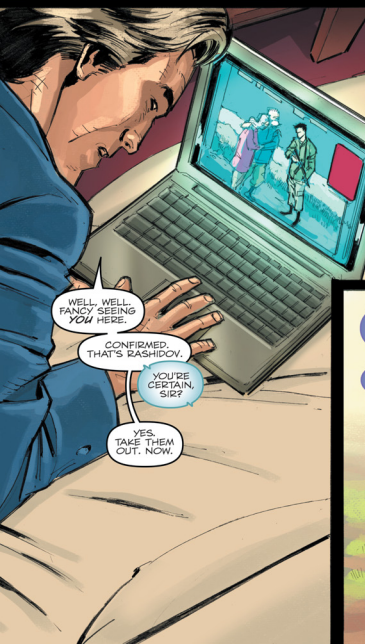


SIR? SIR, WE HAVE EYES ON THE TARGET. CAN YOU IDENTIFY HIM?

RASHIDOV?



PATCHING YOU THROUGH NOW.



WELL, WELL, FANCY SEEING YOU HERE.

CONFIRMED. THAT'S RASHIDOV.

YOU'RE CERTAIN, SIR?

YES, TAKE THEM OUT. NOW.



YOU DEFINITELY WANT US TO PROCEED? NOW?

YES, I DAMN WELL MEAN NOW. IT'S A CHANCE IN A HUNDRED.

AND THE WOMAN AND THE KID, SIR?



TAKE THEM ALL OUT.

NO WITNESSES.











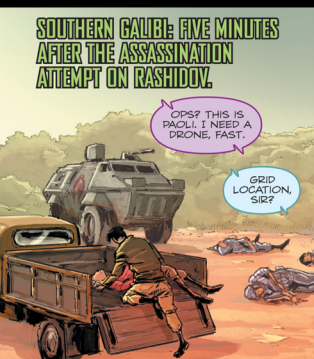
# G.I. JOE



THE FALL OF G.I. JOE

VEREGGE '74

ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**





THOSE  
TROOPS WERE  
COBRA, SIR.

WE NEED  
TO GET  
OFF THE  
ROAD.



IT'S  
GOING  
TO GET  
BUMPY.



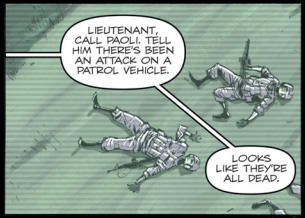
"NOTHING  
OF NOTE  
SO FAR, SIR."



WAIT-  
ZOOM IN.



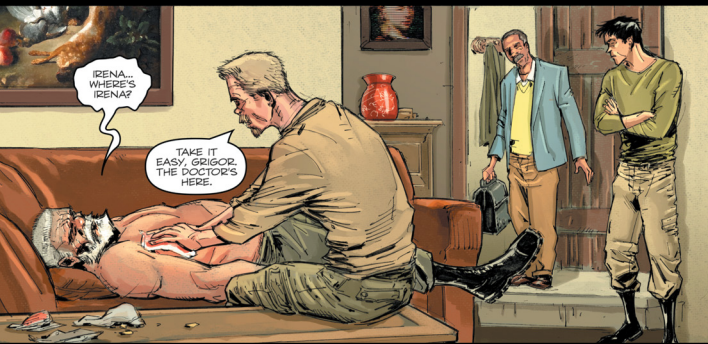
WHAT  
THE HELL  
HAPPENED  
THERE?

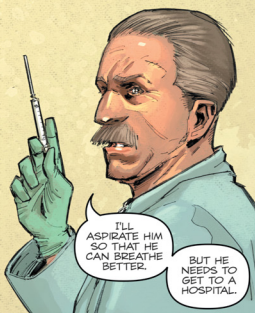


LIEUTENANT,  
CALL PAOLI. TELL  
HIM THERE'S BEEN  
AN ATTACK ON A  
PATROL VEHICLE.

LOOKS  
LIKE THEY'RE  
ALL DEAD.







I'LL  
ASPIRATE HIM  
SO THAT HE  
CAN BREATHE  
BETTER.

BUT HE  
NEEDS TO  
GET TO A  
HOSPITAL.



BUT  
THEY'LL  
TURN  
HIM IN.

UNNNHHH...

YOUR CALL.  
BUT CUT ME A  
15CM SQUARE OF  
PLASTIC AND SOME  
STRIPS OF TAPE  
FOR A CHEST  
SEAL.



I THINK IT'S  
TIME WE ASKED  
OUR AMERICAN  
BENEFACITOR  
FOR A FAVOR.

RISKY.

RASHIDOV'S  
GOING TO DIE  
IF WE DON'T.



CONTACT  
WHELAN. YOU  
MUST HAVE  
HIS NUMBER.

AND WHAT'S  
HE GOING TO  
DO THAT WE  
CAN'T?



IF HE CAN  
GET US ARMS,  
HE CAN GET  
MEDICAL  
TREATMENT.

WE HAVE  
TO TRY.  
RIGHT  
NOW.

MAKE THE  
CALL A LONG  
WAY FROM HERE.  
OTHERWISE WE'LL  
BE TRACED.



YOU DON'T  
NEED TO  
REMAND ME.

FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH OF ASTAKH, GALIBI.

WE BOTH  
NEED RASHIDOV  
ALIVE, MR. WHELAN.  
I'M ASKING FOR  
YOUR HELP.

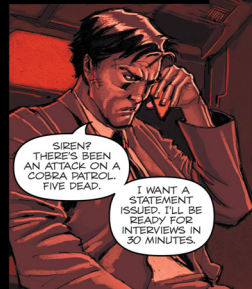
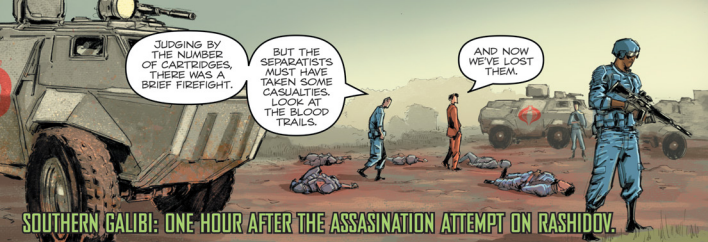
YOU SEEM TO  
HAVE ACCESS TO  
CONSIDERABLE  
RESOURCES.

AND THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ELSE I'D LIKE  
TO DISCUSS  
WITH YOU.



THE FALL OF **GOJOE** PART SEVEN





SKATSILI HOSPITAL:  
ASTAKH, GAUBI.





I ALWAYS SAID  
BIN LADEN WOULD  
HAVE LIVED LONGER  
IF HE HADN'T LOVED  
SEEING HIS VIDEOS  
EVERYWHERE.



BUT NOBODY  
OUTSIDE RASHIDOV'S  
INNER CIRCLE KNOWS  
WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE  
THESE DAYS.

BEST  
DISGUISE  
OF ALL.



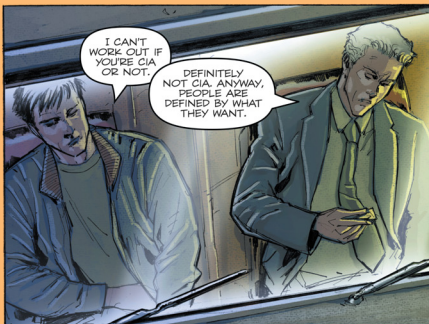
HE'S NOT A  
TERRORIST.

DON'T WORRY,  
I'M NOT  
JUDGMENTAL.



YOU'RE NOT  
SOME FIXER FOR  
A GAS COMPANY,  
EITHER. AND I DON'T  
THINK YOUR NAME  
IS WHELAN.

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK I  
AM, THEN?



I CAN'T  
WORK OUT IF  
YOU'RE CIA  
OR NOT.

DEFINITELY  
NOT CIA. ANYWAY,  
PEOPLE ARE  
DEFINED BY WHAT  
THEY WANT.



OKAY, I'LL  
OPEN. I WANT  
TOMAX PAOLI'S  
HEAD ON A  
SPIKE.



WHAT DO  
YOU WANT,  
ISAAC  
CRAFT?





SO YOU  
KNOW WHO  
I AM.

WHICH TELLS  
ME WHO **YOU**  
ARE. OR AT  
LEAST WHO YOU  
WORK FOR.



BUT IT WAS  
WORTH THE  
RISK TO SAVE  
RASHIDOV.



YOU'RE A  
SMART KID.  
AND YOU'VE  
GOT A LOT  
OF GUTS.

I REALLY DON'T  
WANT TO KILL YOU.  
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD  
HAND YOU BACK TO  
PAOLI PERSONALLY.



SO NOW YOU'RE  
GOING TO NAME  
YOUR PRICE.

CONFIRMING  
WHAT?

I'M A BARGAIN.  
AND THANKS FOR  
CONFIRMING IT.



THAT TOMAX  
PAOLI DIDN'T  
SEND YOU TO  
RASHIDOV.

NO. I DESERTED.  
PAOLI'S TURNED  
COBRA INTO A  
SICK LITTLE  
**AMERICA**.



WE'VE GOT  
A FEW HOURS  
TO WAIT.  
EVERYTHING  
OKAY?

JUST DISCUSSING  
OUR MUTUAL  
FRIENDS.

**SOUTH BANK,  
LONDON:  
1800 HOURS.**



**BZZZZ**

HANG  
ON. I'M  
COMING.











BAR-GLOBAL,  
SKLERO ROAD,  
NORTH MYURETZ.



VIKTOR?  
IT'S YEGOR.

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
CALL ME ON  
THIS LINE.

IT'S  
IMPORTANT.  
I HEAR OUR  
**FRIEND** IS  
IN SKATSILI  
HOSPITAL WITH  
GUNSHOT  
WOUNDS.



THEY  
GOT TO HIM,  
THEN.

I HEAR  
THEY WERE  
**PEACE-  
KEEPERS.**

WHAT?



THEY KILLED  
HIS WIFE. ONE  
OF HIS MEN GOT  
HIM OUT.

WHERE  
DOES THIS  
LEAVE US?

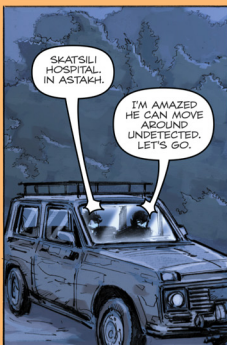
WE WAIT  
AND KEEP OUR  
MOUTHS SHUT.  
I'LL CALL YOU  
LATER.



THEY'VE  
GOT TO BE  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
RASHIDOV.

SO COBRA  
GOT TO HIM.  
BUT HE'S  
NOT DEAD.

WHERE  
IS HE NOW,  
MAINS?



SKATSILI  
HOSPITAL.  
IN ASTAKH.

I'M AMAZED  
HE CAN MOVE  
AROUND  
UNDETECTED.  
LET'S GO.



WELL, NOT  
**ENTIRELY**  
UNDETECTED,  
FLINT. HE'S  
GOT A HOLE  
IN HIM.

OKAY,  
SOMEONE  
TALKED.

OR SOMEONE'S  
TAPPING PHONES...  
HEY, I'VE GOT  
ANOTHER POSTCARD  
FROM SCARLETT.

"AWESOME. SHE'S SHAKING DOWN SIREN. APPARENTLY ISAAC DESERTED AND JOINED THE SEPARATISTS."

"WOW. KIDS, HUH?"

SKATSILI HOSPITAL, ASTAKH.

SO YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT RASHIDOV LOOKS LIKE.

NOPE. JUST VERY OLD IMAGES.

THEN HOW DID COBRA IDENTIFY HIM?

MAYBE THEY JUST TRACKED HIS WIFE.

OR MAYBE THEY POSITIVELY I.D'D YOU.

THEY KILLED IRENA RASHIDOV. SHE WAS JUST AN OLD WOMAN.

I KNOW YOU'RE MY ENEMY, BUT I TRUST TOMAX PAOLI LESS THAN I TRUST YOU.

I TOOK THIS FROM A HELMET CAM.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME?

BECAUSE I NEED A COMPUTER TO READ IT.

IF THAT SHOWED COBRA PEACEKEEPERS KILLING CIVILIANS, WOULD YOU MAKE IT PUBLIC?

THAT WOULD DEPEND ON THE GOOD IT MIGHT DO.



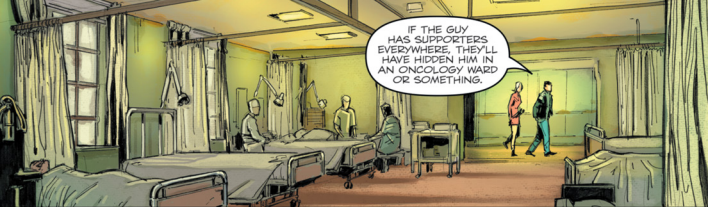


**HOTEL CASSIN, COBRA  
REGIONAL HQ: 2200 HOURS.**

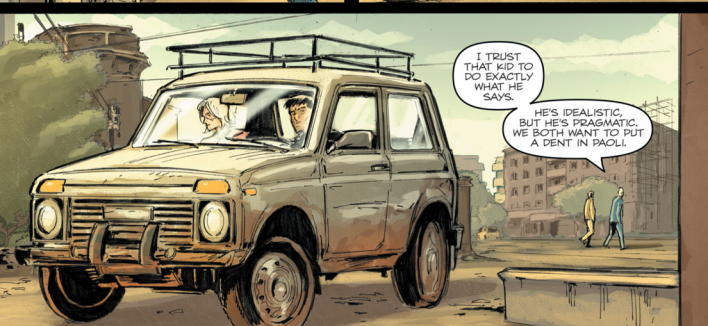


**PRESIDENT BULATOV'S OFFICE:  
DAGIL, SCHLETEVA.**













I ENVY  
YOUR VIEW,  
SIREN.

**SOUTH BANK, LONDON.**



I RARELY  
GET THE  
CHANCE TO  
NOTICE IT.



OKAY, I  
NEED YOU TO  
DO SOMETHING  
FOR ME.



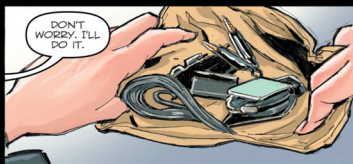
WE WANT TO HEAR  
WHAT YOUR BOSS SAYS  
AND DOES.

I THINK  
YOU KNOW  
HOW TO  
USE THESE  
ITEMS.



YES.  
I DO.

RASHIDOV WAS  
SHOT BY COBRA.  
WHO DO YOU THINK  
ORDERED THAT? AND  
WHAT ARE ISAAC'S  
CHANCES?



DON'T  
WORRY, I'LL  
DO IT.



AND  
THEN I  
WANT OUT.



FIND MY  
SON, AND  
GET US  
**BOTH** OUT  
OF COBRA.







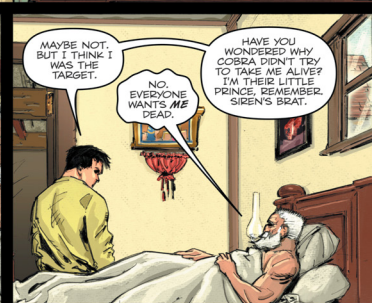
ARTWORK BY  
**JEFFREY VEREGGE**



SOUTHERN GALIBI: ONE DAY AFTER GRIGOR RASHIDOV'S EMERGENCY SURGERY.









NEW ORDERS FROM SCARLETT. SNATCH ISAAC AND GET HIM TO THE NEAREST U.S. EMBASSY.

THAT'S NOT NEW.

READ ON. SHE'S TURNED SIREN.

G.I. JOE SAFE HOUSE, GALIBI:  
NEXT DAY.



THE DEAL IS ASYLUM FOR SIREN AND JUNIOR IN EXCHANGE FOR THE MOTHER OF ALL DEBRIEFS.



WOW. I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE HER WHEN TOMAX HEARS THE NEWS.

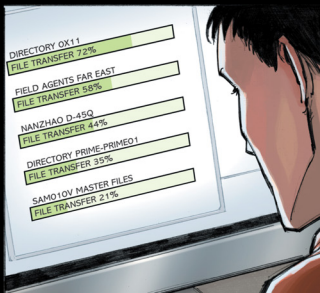
YOU THINK ISAAC WANTS OUT? HE'S OBVIOUSLY PISSED OFF WITH COBRA.



"REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME WE TRIED TO SAVE HIM. HE PREFERRED TO STICK WITH COBRA."



COBRA CONSULATE, LONDON.



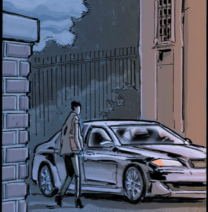
DIRECTORY OX11	FILE TRANSFER 72%
FIELD AGENTS FAR EAST	FILE TRANSFER 58%
NANZHAO D-45Q	FILE TRANSFER 44%
DIRECTORY PRIME-PRIME01	FILE TRANSFER 35%
SAMO10V MASTER FILES	FILE TRANSFER 21%



# THE FALL OF G.I. JOE

CONCLUSION







"BUT HE'S NOT  
LIKELY TO COME  
VOLUNTARILY."



MR. WHELAN? I  
HAVE SOMETHING  
USEFUL. CAN WE  
MEET?

SURE. IN  
ASTAKH. SAME  
PLACE.



ASTAKH,  
SOUTHERN GALIBI:  
ONE HOUR LATER.



WHAT'S  
ON IT?

COBRA  
TROOPS  
OPENING FIRE ON  
THE RASHIDOV'S.  
AND ME.

WITH  
TOMAX'S  
VOICE GIVING  
ORDERS.



JACKPOT. YOU  
SURE YOU WANT  
TO BROADCAST  
THAT?

WITH A  
MESSAGE FROM  
RASHIDOV. I NEED  
TO EDIT IT.



YOU BRING  
ME HERE?  
YOU'RE VERY  
TRUSTING.

IT'S  
TEMPORARY.  
WE MOVE  
A LOT.

BUT FOR  
THE TIME BEING,  
WE'RE ON THE  
SAME SIDE.  
RIGHT?



LET'S SEE  
WHAT YOU'VE  
GOT, THEN.

I JUST NEED TO  
RECORD SOMETHING.  
I'LL EDIT IT ON  
THE PHONE.

THEN YOU  
CAN UPLOAD  
IT TO WHEREVER  
YOU THINK IT'LL  
GET MOST  
ATTENTION.



I ASSUME  
YOU PEOPLE  
KNOW HOW TO  
COVER YOUR  
TRACKS.

YOU BET,  
EVEN FROM  
OUR *OTHER*  
PEOPLE.



YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
SHOW YOUR  
FACE?

THOSE WHO WANT  
ME DEAD KNOW WHO I  
AM. THE REST... THEY  
NEED TO KNOW WHAT  
PAOLI IS.



YOU  
REALIZE  
THAT ONE  
DAY WE'LL BE  
ENEMIES  
AGAIN.

YEAH. IT'S  
A SHAME.

I HOPE  
YOU'LL AVOID  
ME WHEN THAT  
DAY COMES.



BECAUSE  
I DON'T LIKE  
KILLING PEOPLE  
WHO BELIEVE IN  
THEIR CAUSE.



MY NAME IS  
ISAAC CRAFT. IF  
YOU'RE A JOURNALIST,  
YOU MIGHT KNOW MY  
MOTHER—*MARY*  
*CRAFT*.

I WAS A  
COBRA SOLDIER  
BEFORE I  
DEFECTED.



AND I HAVE A  
MESSAGE FOR THE  
PEOPLE OF SCHLETEVA  
FROM GRIGOR  
RASHIDOV.





OH BOY, BEN?

WHAT?

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S ON YOUTUBE.

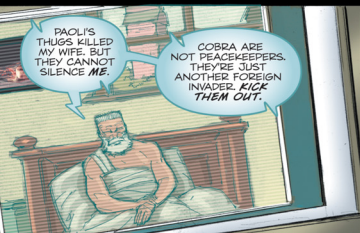
...AND THIS IS HELMET CAM FOOTAGE OF THE ATTACK, ORDERED BY TOMAX PAOLI, WHOSE VOICE CAN BE HEARD...

**MYURETZ, SOUTHERN GALIBI:  
EIGHT HOURS LATER.**



WELL, THERE GOES TOMAX'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE...

YEAH. SHOOTING GRANNIES DISQUALIFIES YOU.



PAOLI'S THUGS KILLED MY WIFE. BUT THEY CANNOT SILENCE *ME*.

COBRA ARE NOT PEACEKEEPERS. THEY'RE JUST ANOTHER FOREIGN INVADER. *KICK THEM OUT.*



BLOCK, SOMETHING JUST HIT THE FAN WITH A BIG WET THUD.



YEAH, WE'RE WATCHING IT NOW. THE NEWS CHANNELS ARE PICKING IT UP.

FLINT'S WORKING OUT WHERE THAT LEAVES THE MISSION.

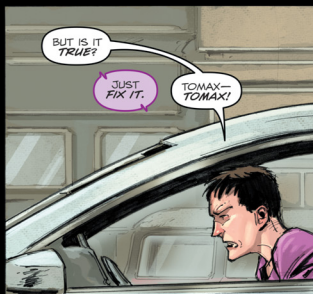


"I EXPECT WE'LL HEAR FROM THE BOSS **REAL** SOON."

**LONDON, 0700 HOURS.**



YOU CERTAINLY PICK YOUR DAWN MOMENTS...









WE'LL BE PUTTING OUT A SHORT STATEMENT IN 15 MINUTES.



REBUTTALS ARE ALWAYS TOUGH, ESPECIALLY WHEN TOMAX IS SLOPPY ENOUGH TO DIRECT THINGS PERSONALLY.



...AND AUDIO EXPERTS SUPPORT CRAFT'S CLAIM THAT THE VOICE IS TOMAX PAOLI'S...



COBRA DISCREDITED—FINE. RIOTS AFFECTING THE GAS INDUSTRY—NOT SO GOOD.

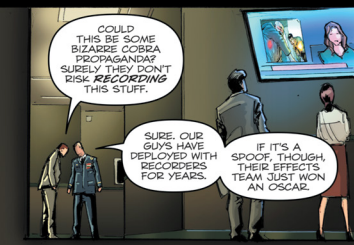
I THOUGHT WE WANTED RASHIDOV DEAD TOO, SENATOR. YOU THINK THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN UP IN OUR FACES?

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON D.C.



THIS COUNTRY NEEDS A STABLE GALIBI, GENERAL.

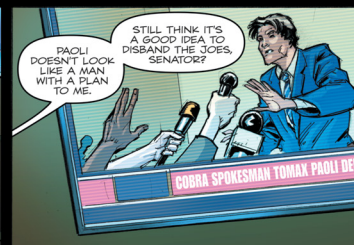
I THOUGHT WE EXPORTED GAS THESE DAYS. OR IS GALIBI ABOUT SCREWING THE RUSSIANS? I GET CONFUSED.



COULD THIS BE SOME BIZARRE COBRA PROPAGANDA? SURELY THEY DON'T RISK RECORDING THIS STUFF.

SURE. OUR GUYS HAVE DEPLOYED WITH RECORDERS FOR YEARS.

IF IT'S A SPOOF, THOUGH, THEIR EFFECTS TEAM JUST WON AN OSCAR.



PAOLI DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A MAN WITH A PLAN TO ME.

STILL THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO DISBAND THE JOES, SENATOR?

COBRA SPOKESMAN TOMAX PAOLI DE



**SOUTHERN GALIBI.**



COBRA  
PEACEKEEPERS HAVE  
COME UNDER ATTACK  
IN TOWNS AROUND THE  
SCHLETEVA-GALIBI BORDER  
FOLLOWING THE ATTEMPTED  
ASSASSINATION OF  
GRIGOR RASHIDOV...



MR. PAOLI, IS  
THAT OR IS THAT  
**NOT** YOUR VOICE  
ORDERING THE  
ATTACK?

THIS IS AN  
APPALLING ACT  
OF VIOLENCE.



COBRA HAD  
NO PART IN IT  
AND THAT'S NOT  
MY VOICE.

THIS IS A  
SET-UP. A VERY  
**GOOD** ONE, BUT  
A SET-UP.



BRAVO, NICE  
TRY, BUT YOU CAN'T  
SHOOT ROBIN HOOD  
WITHOUT SOME  
BLOWBACK.

**OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE, ASTAKH.**



I HOPE IT  
WAS WORTH  
HAVING TO MOVE  
OFFICES.

ISAAC'S  
DOING OUR HOLY  
WORK FOR US.  
SOWING DISCORD  
WITHIN COBRA.

SO WHAT'S  
THE PLAN  
NOW?



"ARM HIM. LET HIM  
LOOSE, AND LET  
NATURE TAKE ITS  
COURSE."

**GIA VIDEO ANALYSIS:  
LOCATION-CLASSIFIED.**



THERE'S NOTHING IN THERE TO LOCATE HIM. AND THE NSA CAN'T TRACE THE I.P. ADDRESS.

HOW ABOUT RASHIDOV?



THE ONLY FEATURE IS THAT STRUCTURE. THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS LIKE THAT IN THE REGION.

THESE GUYS AREN'T A DIRECT THREAT. WASTE OF RESOURCES.

YEAH, BUT WE'D LOVE TO GIVE ISAAC AN ALL-EXPENSES PAID TRIP TO TALK TO US...

**PRESIDENT SEFER'S OFFICE, CALIB: LATER THAT DAY.**



AND YOU HAD NO IDEA THAT YOUR PR CHIEF'S SON HAD JOINED RASHIDOV. NONE AT ALL.



NO, OF COURSE NOT.

HISTORY TURNS ON SMALL THINGS. THE PUBLIC DON'T SEE THE BIG EVENTS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

THEY SEE THE FRAGMENTS THAT RISE TO THE SURFACE. THE HUMAN DETAIL THEY CAN RELATE TO.



PEACEKEEPERS CAN'T SHOOT UNARMED HOUSEWIVES WITHOUT CAUSING OUTRAGE, MR. PAOLI. I WANT YOUR MEN BACK IN THEIR BARRACKS. I'M MOBILIZING OUR OWN TROOPS.



KILLING RASHIDOV WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE—DONE *DISCREETLY*.

SHOW MR. PAOLI OUT, PLEASE.

BUT WE HAVE A *TREATY*, MR. PRESIDENT.



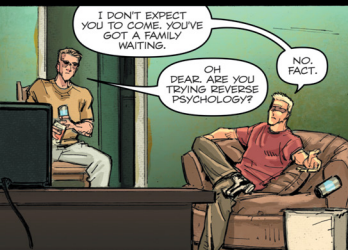


**SOUTHERN GALIBI:  
NEXT DAY.**



I SAY HE'S LONG GONE.  
TURKEY OR RUSSIA.





## SKLERO ROAD, MYURETZ: LUNCHTIME.

ARE YOU  
PLANNING TO  
TELL FLINT?

I'M NOT DOING  
ANYTHING AGAINST  
U.S. INTERESTS.

SO, NO.

CHEER UP,  
MATE. THEY'RE  
NOT COMING  
BACK NOW,  
ARE THEY?

BUT  
YOU ARE  
BACK.

WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
FROM ME?

WE'RE  
NOT AFTER  
YOU-KNOW-WHO. WE  
JUST WANT TO DO  
BUSINESS WITH ONE  
OF HIS BUDDIES.

ANY IDEA  
WHERE THIS IS?  
LOOK AT THE  
LANDSCAPE.

OR YOU'LL  
BANG MY HEAD  
ON THE TABLE,  
RIGHT?

BUDDY, IF WE  
INTENDED TO  
HURT YOU, YOU'D  
BE HOSPITALIZED BY  
NOW. I JUST NEED  
TO FIND A GUY  
WHO WORKS FOR  
RASHIDOV.

FIND, AS  
IN *FIND*. NOT  
BREAK HIS  
LEGS.

I SWEAR  
THIS GUY WILL  
COME TO NO  
HARM.

OKAY, I  
KNOW THE  
PLACE. IT'S A  
LITTLE VILLAGE  
CALLED BERSKA  
AND YOU DIDN'T  
HEAR IT FROM  
ME.

AND  
IF THEY  
CATCH YOU,  
THEY WILL  
KILL YOU.





I'D BETTER  
BE GETTING  
BACK.

I'M SURE  
YOU WON'T TELL  
ME WHERE YOU'RE  
GOING, BUT IF I  
WERE YOU, I'D LIE  
LOW FOR A  
WHILE.

SKIP THE  
COUNTRY.



DON'T  
WORRY, THEY'RE  
NOT TRACKED.  
WANT A RIDE?  
HALFWAY, AT  
LEAST?

SOMETIMES I  
THINK I UNDERSTAND  
WHY YOU'RE DOING  
THIS. BUT THEN I'M  
NOT SO SURE.



BOTH OF US  
WANT TO GET RID  
OF TOMAX FOR OUR  
OWN REASON.

AND I THINK I'D  
PREFER TO FIGHT  
SOMEONE WHO'S CLEAR  
HE WANTS A DIFFERENT  
WORLD THAN SOMEONE  
WHO JUST WANTS TO  
STEP ACROSS INTO  
MINE.



ALL THE  
IDEOLOGY'S GONE  
OUT OF POLITICS  
NOW. NOBODY  
BELIEVES IN  
ANYTHING.



YOU REALIZE  
YOU COULD  
HAVE SHOT ME  
BY NOW.

NO. YOU HAVE  
YOUR PRINCIPLES,  
LIKE RASHIDOV. I  
JUST DON'T AGREE  
WITH THEM.



IT'S A NICE  
CHANGE NOT  
TO BE TOLD  
LIES.



YEAH.  
IT IS.

## HOTEL CASSIN, COBRA REGIONAL HQ.



EMIL, IF THEY COULD PROVE A DAMN THING, I'D BE USING MY DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO AVOID BEING ARRESTED RIGHT NOW. BUT THEY CAN'T.

I NEED TO STAY HERE WHILE THINGS CALM DOWN, THOUGH. I CAN'T BE SEEN TO RUN.



ISN'T MAKING US WITHDRAW TROOPS A VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT, SIR?

I DON'T THINK I'M IN A POSITION TO ARGUE ABOUT THE SMALL PRINT.

THE LOCALS WILL TIRE OF THROWING ROCKS, SHEFER AND BULATOV WILL WANT BUSINESS TO RESUME, AND I'LL WEATHER THE STORM.



LET'S HOPE SO, SIR. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT THE BARONESS?



SHE'S HAD A HAND IN THIS SOMEHOW.

YOU THINK SHE'S IN TOUCH WITH ISAAC? SHE SEEMS TO BE KEEPING AN EYE ON SIREN.



SHE MIGHT JUST WANT SIREN'S LOG-IN ACCESS TO YOUR SYSTEM, SIR. WE WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO KEEP HER OUT.



I REALLY NEED TO MAKE MY PEACE WITH SIREN. THE WOMAN THINKS I TRIED TO KILL HER SON.

YOU DID, SIR.

YES, I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.

BERSKA, SOUTHERN GALIBI: 1155 HOURS.

I STILL  
SAY HE'LL  
COME BACK  
HERE.

IT'S  
BLOODY  
COLD, DUKE.  
I NEED A  
PEE.

AT LEAST  
THERE AREN'T  
MANY PLACES TO  
WATCH. ONE ROAD  
IN, ONE ROAD  
OUT.

REMINDE  
ME TO GET  
SOME THERMAL  
UNDERWEAR.

10 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF BERSKA.

OKAY,  
ISAAC. YOU  
SURE YOU WANT  
TO WALK FROM  
HERE?

YES.

DON'T HANG  
AROUND GALIBI.  
TOMAX DOESN'T  
FORGIVE AND  
FORGET.

NEITHER  
DO I.

I'LL TRY TO  
STAY OUT OF YOUR  
WAY, MR. WHELAN.  
OR WHATEVER YOUR  
REAL NAME IS.

JOSH.  
MY NAME'S  
JOSH.



EN ROUTE TO TBILISI,  
GEORGIA: NEXT MORNING.

ARE  
THESE SEATS  
TAKEN?

HELLO,  
ISAAC. HOW  
ARE YOU,  
MATE?

DON'T WORRY,  
WE'RE NOT  
HITMEN.

LET'S START  
AGAIN. CALL  
ME DUKE.

I'D LIKE  
TO MEET YOUR  
EX-BOSS. WE'VE  
GOT HISTORY.

WHO'S  
PAYING YOU? THE  
AMERICANS?

NOBODY.  
IT'S A LABOR  
OF LOVE.

YEAH, WE  
DO A LOT  
OF CHARITY  
WORK.

YOU COULD  
TRY TELLING  
ME THE TRUTH.  
I RESPOND  
BETTER TO  
THAT.

OKAY,  
TOMAX PAOLI'S  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE DEATHS  
OF PEOPLE I  
CARED ABOUT.

HOW ABOUT  
WE EXPLORE  
OUR MUTUAL  
AIMS?

CARRY ON.  
I'M LISTENING.







ARTWORK BY  
**DHEERAJ VERMA**

COLORS BY  
**SANJAY**





ARTWORK BY  
**DHEERAJ VERMA**

COLORS BY  
**SANJAY**



ARTWORK BY  
**DHEERAJ VERMA**

COLORS BY  
**SANJAY**

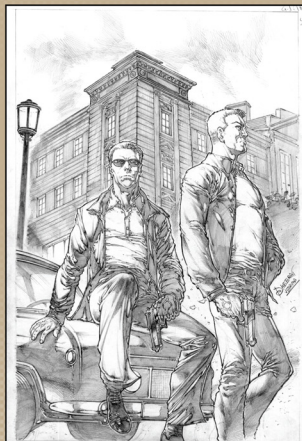


ARTWORK BY  
**DHEERAJ VERMA**

COLORS BY  
**SANJAY**







# THE COMIC SHOP NEWS INTERVIEW

**CLIFF BIGGERS:** Karen, you're a very versatile writer with some pretty impressive credentials—for readers who might not be familiar, can you tell us a little bit about your background as a writer?

**KAREN TRAVISS:** Okay, deep breath, and the entire career history of Karen Traviss in thirty seconds: advertising copywriter (very briefly), newspaper journalist, TV reporter and producer, newspapers again (defense correspondent), spin doctor, and now novelist and scriptwriter. I'm sorry about the spin doc bit, but I'm all better now, and it comes in very handy for fiction.

**CB:** What is it about military-focused fiction in particular that appeals to you as a writer?

**KT:** I come from a naval town, most of my family served at some time or worked in the defense industry, I was a defense correspondent, and I spent a short time in the reserves—doing a very safe, very minor job, I hasten to point out. (I've never put myself in harm's way, unless you count Royal Navy meat pies.) So I'm steeped in the culture, and I sort of fell into it with my first novel, and it stuck.

Military readers said, "Wow, your military characters are real, that's what it's really like," and suddenly I had my mission in life: I could give a voice to the man and woman in uniform so that civilian audiences got an honest view of what it really meant to serve—not so much the hardware side, because that's pretty flexible when you write a lot of SF, but the personal side, like the comradeship, the frustrations, the satisfaction, the fears, and the politics.

**CB:** There was a time when military fiction seemed to be very supportive of the military; then much of the fiction took a naturalistic turn that downplayed any heroic aspects in favor of a harsh view of war and the military. How do you approach military fiction thematically, and what do you hope to accomplish with your work?

**KT:** Well, my fiction is always realistic, because I'm basically an old journo and I can't see the world any other way, but it's also supportive of the armed forces, not because I write propaganda but because I tell it like it is. It's vital to tell the truth in fiction. Trust an old spin doc: fiction gets under people's radar way better than fact, and where the civilian population is more

isolated from a shrinking military than ever, fiction ends up subconsciously shaping opinion instead.

And supporting our armed forces isn't related to supporting war as some sort of concept. It's about people, and they do the toughest job of all. Other people do dangerous work where death is a possible consequence, but no other job on earth requires you to sign up to the certainty that your job is to fundamentally to face people trying to kill you.

**CB:** *G.I. Joe* has walked the military fiction tightrope—while it focuses on soldiers, it has largely pit them against enemies who weren't a part of any real war... sort of a military version of James Bond. The results have allowed *G.I. Joe* writers to avoid complex politics and focus on adventure and heroism. Is your take on *G.I. Joe* more real-world?

**KT:** Yes, I'm real-world. I don't see the divide there, though; the real world is heroism, and it's also politics. I know folks in uniform hate being called heroes, but I often look at the incredible things guys do, the enormous risks they take and the kind of missions they pull off, and I think: if you put that in a novel, exactly as it happened, an editor would throw it back as too far-fetched. It's been true in every war, from the WWII raid on St. Nazaire to Royal Marines in Afghanistan riding into a firefight on the outside of an Apache helicopter to rescue a comrade. I really couldn't make that stuff up.

And the politics, whether it's big P or small p—you can't remove that. The armed forces go where sent, as we say in the UK, and it's the politicians we vote for who make the decisions, from budgets to getting involved in wars, for good or ill. That's where wars are really won and lost.

And in case people don't realize it, I'm English, so I approach things from another perspective. If you look at how British writers have handled American superhero comics, you'll notice it's through a different lens.

**CB:** What is the premise of your *G.I. Joe* series relaunch?

**KT:** It's five or six years from the end of the last series, and the world's changed a bit. COBRA looks like it's given up armed conflict, so the



politicians decide the G.I. Joe team has done its job and they can now spend the budget on other threats. But as we know, it's not a threat's intent that matters—it's the capability. And not only is there a threat inside the tent, it might not even think it's a threat—as Scarlett discovers.

**CB: COBRA is an international peacekeeping force now? How'd that happen?**

KT: Tomax Paoli is a clever lad. COBRA's thrown billions at fighting the West and not really won much; why not try a diplomatic tack? Lots of organizations stop fighting and start talking in the real world, and Tomax can see that it's easier to win if he gets the rest of the world to gang up. The best way to do that is to exploit their worries and also look like the good guys doing good things. And he means it. The Baroness, of course, doesn't. Neither does Isaac, Siren's increasingly dangerous COBRA-indoctrinated son. Let mayhem commence!

**CB: You're moving Scarlett into the lead position in the new series; how does this change the dynamic of the book?**

KT: I honestly don't recall whose idea that was, but I don't think it was mine. It made perfect sense, though, because she's a smart strategic thinker, and that ought to mean she can sail through the inevitable politics at that level of responsibility. She's gone the officer route and become a captain by now, so she's actually not that senior on paper in the real-world scheme of politics, but this is G.I. Joe, and the team punches well above its weight and rank. But however capable Scarlett is, she's a frontline type at heart, and that's going to really test her when she sees a need to be hands-on.

**CB: Will all the G.I. Joe teams be a part of your series? Are there particular characters you'll be focusing on?**

KT: There are a lot of G.I. Joe teams, and I had to pick carefully. The way I write is so tightly focused on the characters and how their actions impact the others that I have to keep the cast tight. That doesn't mean there won't be any cameos of favorites and unexpected names along the way, but there's a main cast we'll follow in detail, not only COBRA and the G.I. Joe team, but also characters who've left the armed forces to become private contractors. There's also a brand-new character because despite the huge toolbox of existing characters, I didn't have a spook, so I built one. I can't write international intrigue without an intel chap or two.

The thing to keep in mind is that every character has their own logical reasons for doing what they do, and they all see themselves as patriots, so readers may well argue about who's right and wrong. I have no answer. Make up your own minds!

**CB: How do real-world politics influence the direction of the series?**

KT: Apart from the general flavor of a world where there are no more tidy power blocs and communication is a weapon, Tomax's trump card in his hearts-and-minds offensive to get the rest of the world to resist the U.S./NATO is a real piece of research. Last year, I saw an American academic talking about the huge numbers of U.S. overseas bases and U.S. personnel based permanently in other countries, and the resentment of their local populations. Then I saw another piece of research that said the Senate (or maybe it was Congress) couldn't get hold of a definitive number for U.S. personnel based overseas or even the actual number of bases. That struck me as fascinating. So when I was trying to think like COBRA and Tomax in particular—that's how I write characters—it seemed obvious that playing on the anxieties of those countries and getting them to protest would unite a lot more nations who wouldn't necessarily sign up with COBRA and roll out their tanks.

**CB: You have a busy career as a novelist, a games writer, and more—how long have you committed to the *G.I. Joe* run? And what sold you on the project to begin with?**

KT: We'll see how it goes and if readers like my stuff. I'm planning ahead for a year at the moment. Comics are going to be a much bigger part of my working life from now on—I've stopped writing franchise novels because I've got to save my energy for my new military techno-thriller series, *Going Grey*, and my other creator-owned novels, but I still need my fix of great IPs and the team approach that goes with it. So what better way to indulge that than comics? When I was asked to do *G.I. Joe*, I couldn't say no. It's a cultural icon—even for the UK, where it's better known as *Action Man*—and it means a lot to many people in the military. I've been struck by how many friends have mailed me to say that they loved *G.I. Joe* as kids and still have a soft spot for the franchise.

# JOIN THE MISSION!



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# DOES THE WORLD

# NEED G.I. JOE ?



What can the G.I. JOE team do to combat a COBRA the world views as heroes? As SCARLETT leads the team, former G.I. JOE agent DUKE searches for answers. Political intrigue collides head-on with military action as the darkest chapter in G.I. JOE history unfolds!

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