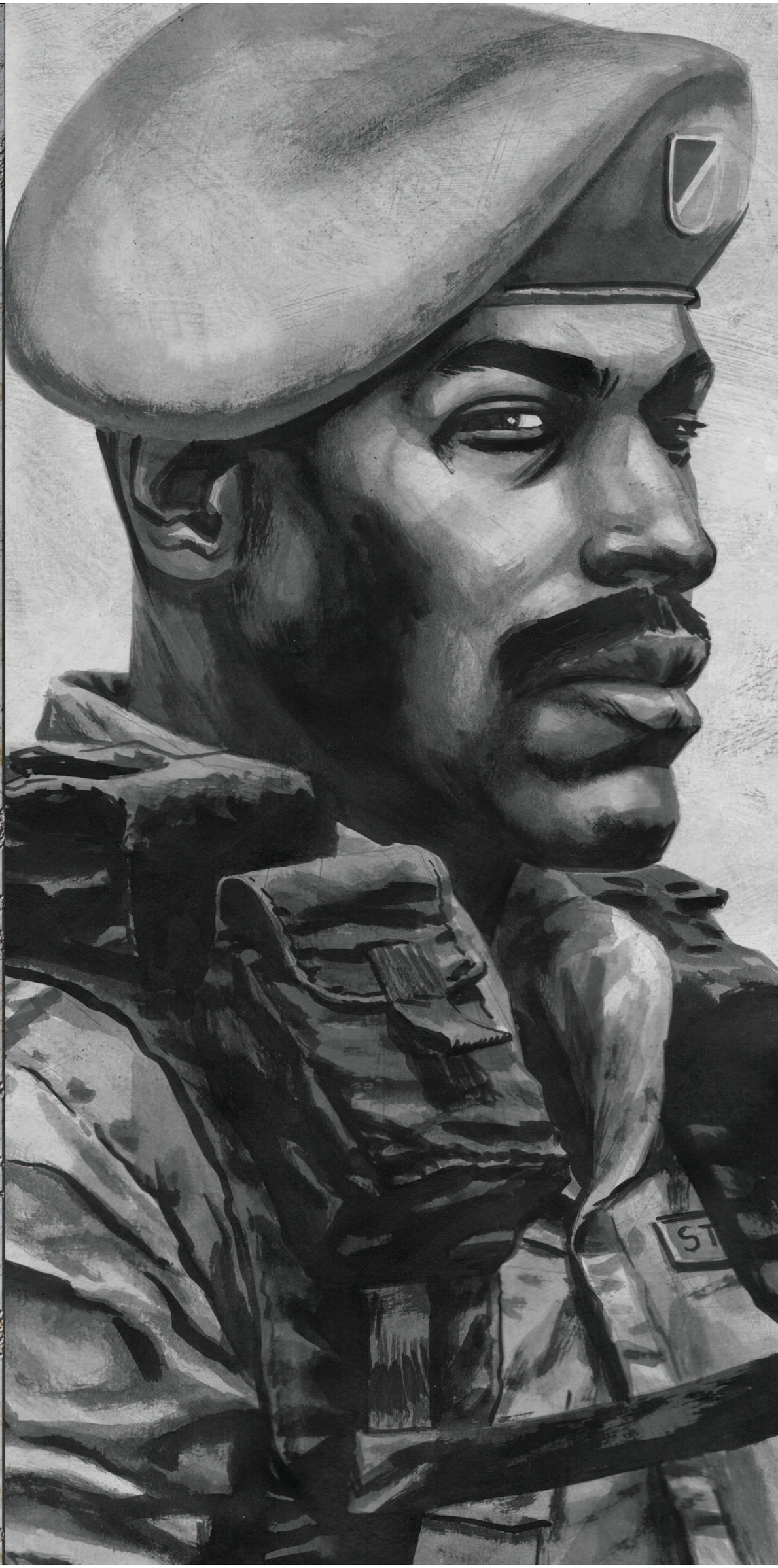
G.I. JOE

THE IDW COLLECTION





THE IDW COLLECTION

COLLECTION COVER BY **ADAM GORHAM**

SERIES EDITS BY **ANDY SCHMIDT**, **CARLOS GUZMAN**, AND **TOM WALTZ**

COLLECTION EDITS BY **JUSTIN EISINGER** AND **ALONZO SIMON**

COLLECTION DESIGN BY **SHAWN LEE**

Special thanks to Hasbro's Ed Lane, Heather Hopkins, Mark Weber, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

For international rights, contact **licensing@idwpublishing.com**

ISBN: 978-1-63140-533-4

19 18 17 16 1 2 3 4

IDW® Licensed By: Hasbro

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Ted Adams, CEO & Publisher
Greg Goldstein, President & COO
Robbie Robbins, EVP/Sr. Graphic Artist
Chris Ryall, Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Matthew Ruzicka, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
Dirk Wood, VP of Marketing
Lorelei Bunjes, VP of Digital Services
Jeff Webber, VP of Licensing, Digital and Subsidiary Rights
Jerry Bennington, VP of New Product Development

Facebook: **facebook.com/idwpublishing**
Twitter: **@idwpublishing**
YouTube: **youtube.com/idwpublishing**
Tumblr: **tumblr.idwpublishing.com**
Instagram: **instagram.com/idwpublishing**

G.I. JOE: THE IDW COLLECTION, VOLUME 6. FEBRUARY 2016. FIRST PRINTING. HASBRO and its logo, G.I. JOE, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2016 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Printed in Korea. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Originally published as G.I. JOE SERIES TWO #0–4, COBRA #1–4, and SNAKE EYES #1–4.

G.I. JOE
WRITTEN BY **CHUCK DIXON**
PENCILS BY **JAVIER SALTARES**
INKS BY **CHRISTOPHER IVY**
COLORS BY **ROMULO FAJARDO, JR.**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE** AND **CHRIS MOWRY**

COBRA
WRITTEN BY **MIKE COSTA**
PENCILS BY **ANTONIO FUSO**
ADDITIONAL PENCILS BY **CHEE** (ISSUE #4)
INKS BY **ANTONIO FUSO** AND **ARIANNA FLOREAN**
COLORS BY **ARIANNA FLOREAN** (ISSUES #1 & 3),
ROMULO FAJARDO, JR. (ISSUE #2), & **ESTHER SANZ** (ISSUE #4)
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE** AND **CHRIS MOWRY**

SNAKE EYES
WRITTEN BY **CHUCK DIXON**
PENCILS BY **ROBERT ATKINS**
ADDITIONAL PENCILS BY **AGUSTIN PADILLA** (ISSUES #1 & 3)
INKS BY **JUAN CASTRO**
COLORS BY **SIMON GOUGH**
ADDITIONAL COLORS BY **J. BROWN** (ISSUE #0)
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**



G.I. JOE: SERIES 2 #0A BY **TOM FEISTER**


1
CLOSING
GO!
TEAM MIKE—DOMESTIC RECON.
RATRACE.
SO THIS IS SPRINGFIELD.
HAVE TO ADMIT—IT'S A LETDOWN.
DEADCHECK.


WHAT WERE YOU *EXPECTING*, DEADCHECK?
BARBEQUE.
THIS PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE *COBRAVILLE*, RIGHT? I JUST EXPECTED *MORE*, BARBEQUE.
MARCHING GOONS? BLACK HELICOPTERS? A MOUNTAIN OF SKULLS?
FLAKJACK.
BINA'S

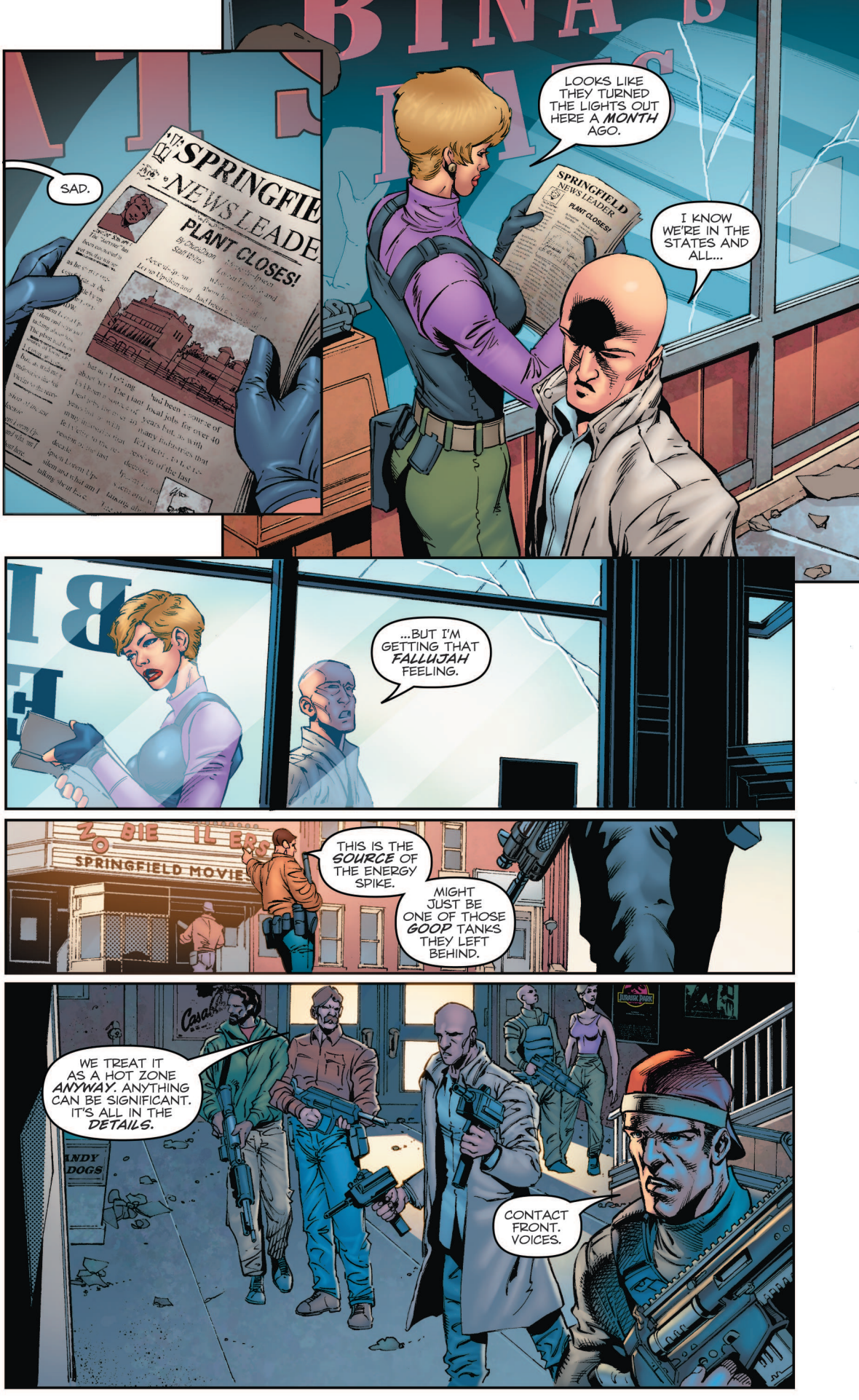

I DUNNO, FLAKJACK. JUST NOT MAYBERRY.
COBRA DOESN'T ROLL THAT WAY. THEY STAY IN THE SHADOWS. THEY HIDE UNDER THE ORDINARY WORLD.
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. SNAKE EYES ALMOST BOUGHT IT HERE. WALK SOFT AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
SO, ARE WE CONFIRMED THIS TOWN IS DEPOPULATED, HALFSTEP?
GHOST TOWN. BUT THERE'S STILL THAT ENERGY SPIKE WE WERE SENT TO CHECK OUT.
HALFSTEP.
SOMEONE LEAVE THE TV ON?
SANDCRAB.
NO LOCALS IN THE AO?*
THEN NO REASON WE CAN'T GO IN HEAVY.
*AO=AREA OF OPERATIONS


SALLY'S MEXICAN
ROB
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE? WHERE IS EVERYONE?
THE RECESSION, SANDCRAB. LOCAL CAR PLANT CLOSED AND EVERYTHING WENT WITH IT.
THAT'S ONE PLUS FOR BEING A JOE. JOB SECURITY.


TRUE THAT.
BUT THAT'S THE OFFICIAL STORY. MORE LIKELY COBRA WANTED THIS PLACE EMPTY AFTER WE UNCOVERED IT.


BUT MAYBE THEY LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND.
AND SO WE CHECK IT OUT.
LIKE I SAID. JOB SECURITY.


SANDCRAB, ANY LUCK RAISING THE PIT?
NOPE. WE'RE NON-COMMUNICADO, BARBEQUE. MUST BE OUR UPLINK—


SAD.
SPRINGFIELD NEWS LEADER
PLANT CLOSES!
LOOKS LIKE THEY TURNED THE LIGHTS OUT HERE A MONTH AGO.
SPRINGFIELD NEWS LEADER
PLANT CLOSES!
I KNOW WE'RE IN THE STATES AND ALL...
...BUT I'M GETTING THAT FALLUJAH FEELING.
SPRINGFIELD MOVIE
THIS IS THE SOURCE OF THE ENERGY SPIKE.
MIGHT JUST BE ONE OF THOSE GOOD TANKS THEY LEFT BEHIND.
WE TREAT IT AS A HOT ZONE ANYWAY. ANYTHING CAN BE SIGNIFICANT. IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS.
CONTACT FRONT. VOICES.

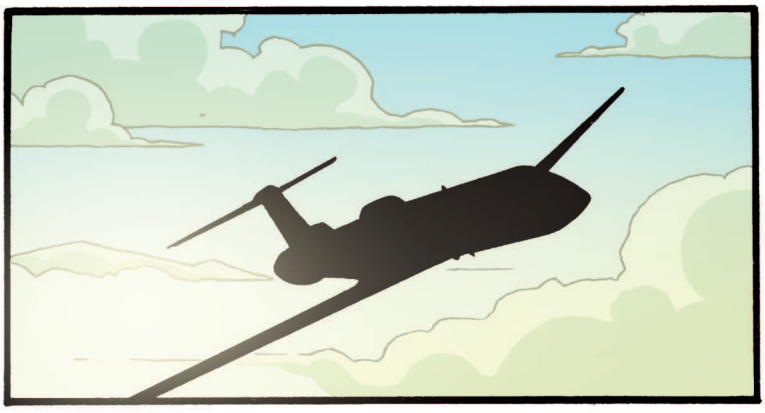

LET'S HOPE IT'S JUST SQUATTERS.
RATRACE. HALFSTEP. TAKE THE HIGH GROUND.
WE'RE ON IT, BARBECUE!
LOOK OUT!
DAMN.
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM!
SOMEONE LEFT THE SYSTEM ON.
THIS MOVIE'S PROBABLY BEEN PLAYING AT THE ASSIGNED SHOWTIMES FOR MONTHS.
WORK BACK TO FRONT AND MAKE SURE THAT'S THE CASE.
THERE COULD STILL BE SOMEONE HERE.


HOW MANY TIMES CAN THEY DIE?
YEAH. I ALREADY SAW THIS ONE.
LIKE THIS WHOLE DEAL WASN'T CREEPY ENOUGH. WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE THIS MOVIE?
FALSE ALARM. EVERYONE STAND DOWN.
RATRACE, CAN YOU SHUT THE SHOW OFF?
KILL THE MOVIE.
ROGER THAT, BARBECUE,
SNIK


POWER'S CUT!
SWITCH TO NIGHT VISION!
SANDCRAB!
WHAT?
CONTACT!
WHERE?
WHERE ARE THEY? CAN YOU SEE?
SEE 'EM?
NAW. YOU?
WAIT...
UNNH!

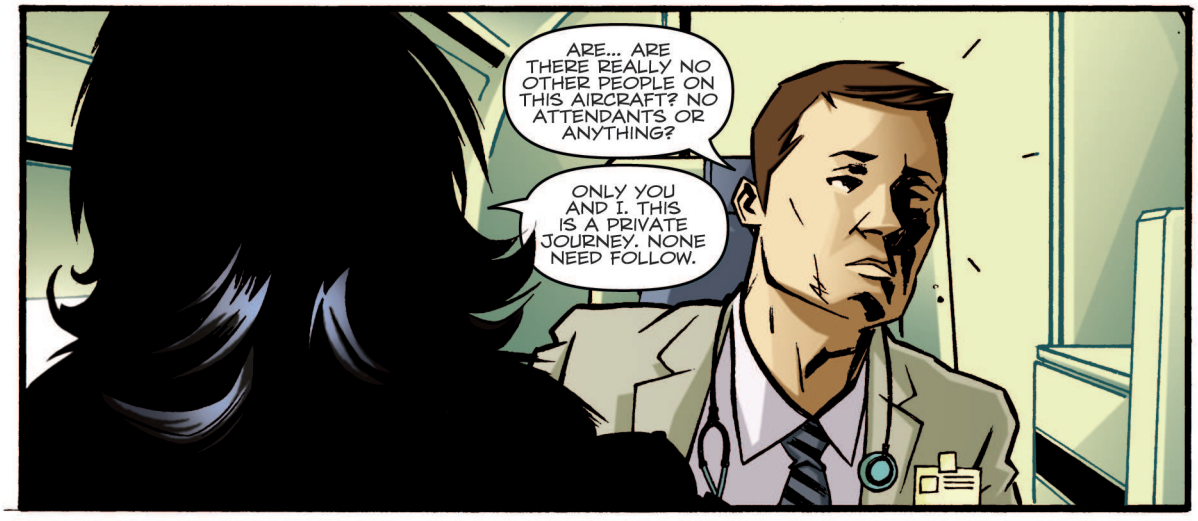

YOU...YOU... WHO...
TEAM MIKE, REST IN PEACE.
SIX SOLDIERS IN AS MANY SECONDS. AN IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT.
KRAKE.
SOLDIERS. WHAT ARE *SOLDIERS?*
YOU DON'T WASTE GOOD IRON TO MAKE NAILS.

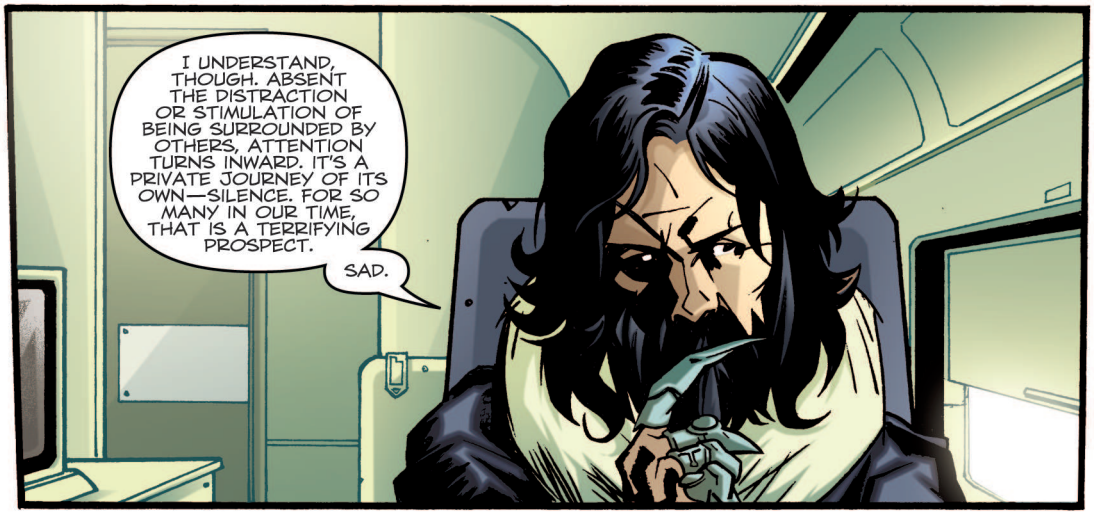

AND YOU DON'T WASTE GOOD MEN TO MAKE SOLDIERS.
IS THAT *YOURS* OR SOMETHING YOU *READ*, KRAKE?
I HEARD IT ONCE. STUCK WITH ME.
I MUST CONGRATULATE YOU ON *BOTH* YOUR EXECUTION AND PRESENTATION OF THIS LITTLE ENTERTAINMENT.
I'M CERTAIN THE *REST* OF THE COBRA COUNCIL WILL VIEW IT AS FAVORABLY AS I DO.
ANY *MORON* WITH A GUN CAN ACHIEVE A BODY COUNT. BUT *STYLE*—
"—WELL, STYLE MUST COUNT FOR *SOME*THING."
SPRINGFIELD MOVIES

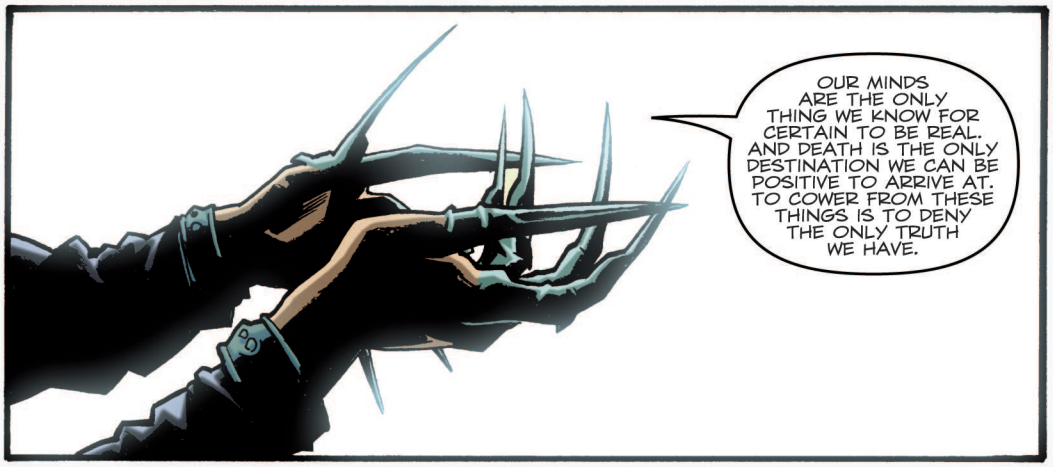


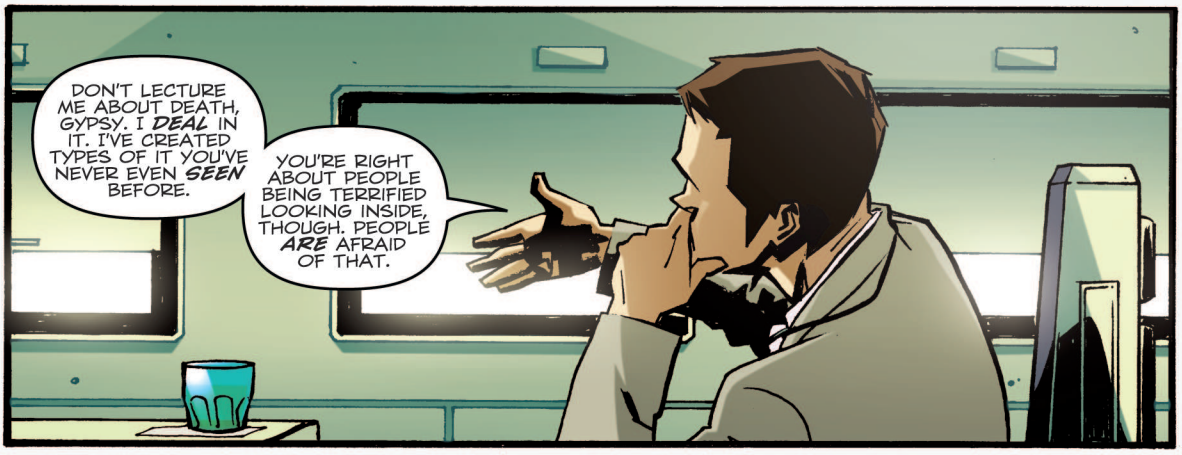

DEATH COMES TO US ALL. GREAT MEN KNOW TO INVITE IT AS A FRIEND.
CRYSTAL BALL.

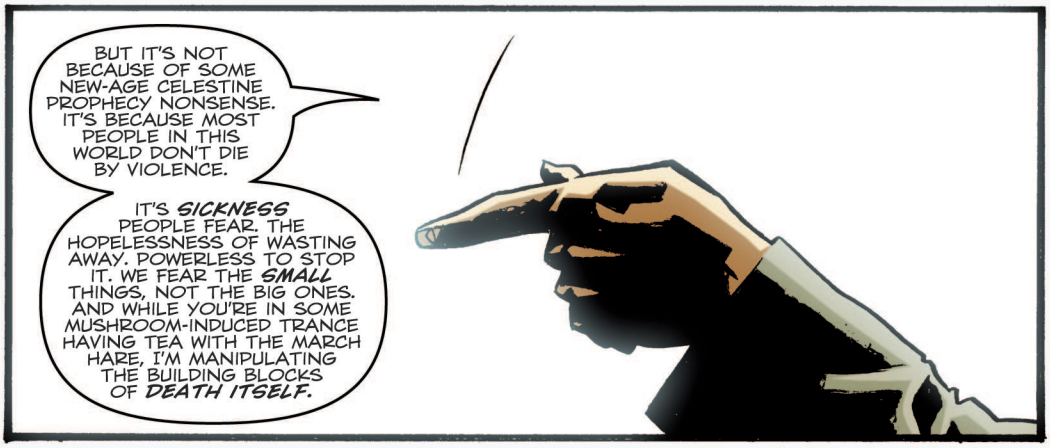

ERM... INDEED. THAT IS A FASCINATING WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
VARGAS.


ARE... ARE THERE REALLY NO OTHER PEOPLE ON THIS AIRCRAFT? NO ATTENDANTS OR ANYTHING?
ONLY YOU AND I. THIS IS A PRIVATE JOURNEY. NONE NEED FOLLOW.


I UNDERSTAND, THOUGH. ABSENT THE DISTRACTION OR STIMULATION OF BEING SURROUNDED BY OTHERS, ATTENTION TURNS INWARD. IT'S A PRIVATE JOURNEY OF ITS OWN—SILENCE. FOR SO MANY IN OUR TIME, THAT IS A TERRIFYING PROSPECT.
SAD.


OUR MINDS ARE THE ONLY THING WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN TO BE REAL. AND DEATH IS THE ONLY DESTINATION WE CAN BE POSITIVE TO ARRIVE AT. TO COWER FROM THESE THINGS IS TO DENY THE ONLY TRUTH WE HAVE.


DON'T LECTURE ME ABOUT DEATH, GYPSY. I *DEAL* IN IT. I'VE CREATED TYPES OF IT YOU'VE NEVER EVEN *SEEN* BEFORE.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT PEOPLE BEING TERRIFIED LOOKING INSIDE, THOUGH. PEOPLE *ARE* AFRAID OF THAT.


BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF SOME NEW-AGE CELESTINE PROPHECY NONSENSE. IT'S BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD DON'T DIE BY VIOLENCE.
IT'S *SICKNESS* PEOPLE FEAR. THE HOPELESSNESS OF WASTING AWAY. POWERLESS TO STOP IT. WE FEAR THE *SMALL* THINGS, NOT THE BIG ONES. AND WHILE YOU'RE IN SOME MUSHROOM-INDUCED TRANCE HAVING TEA WITH THE MARCH HARE, I'M MANIPULATING THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF *DEATH ITSELF.*

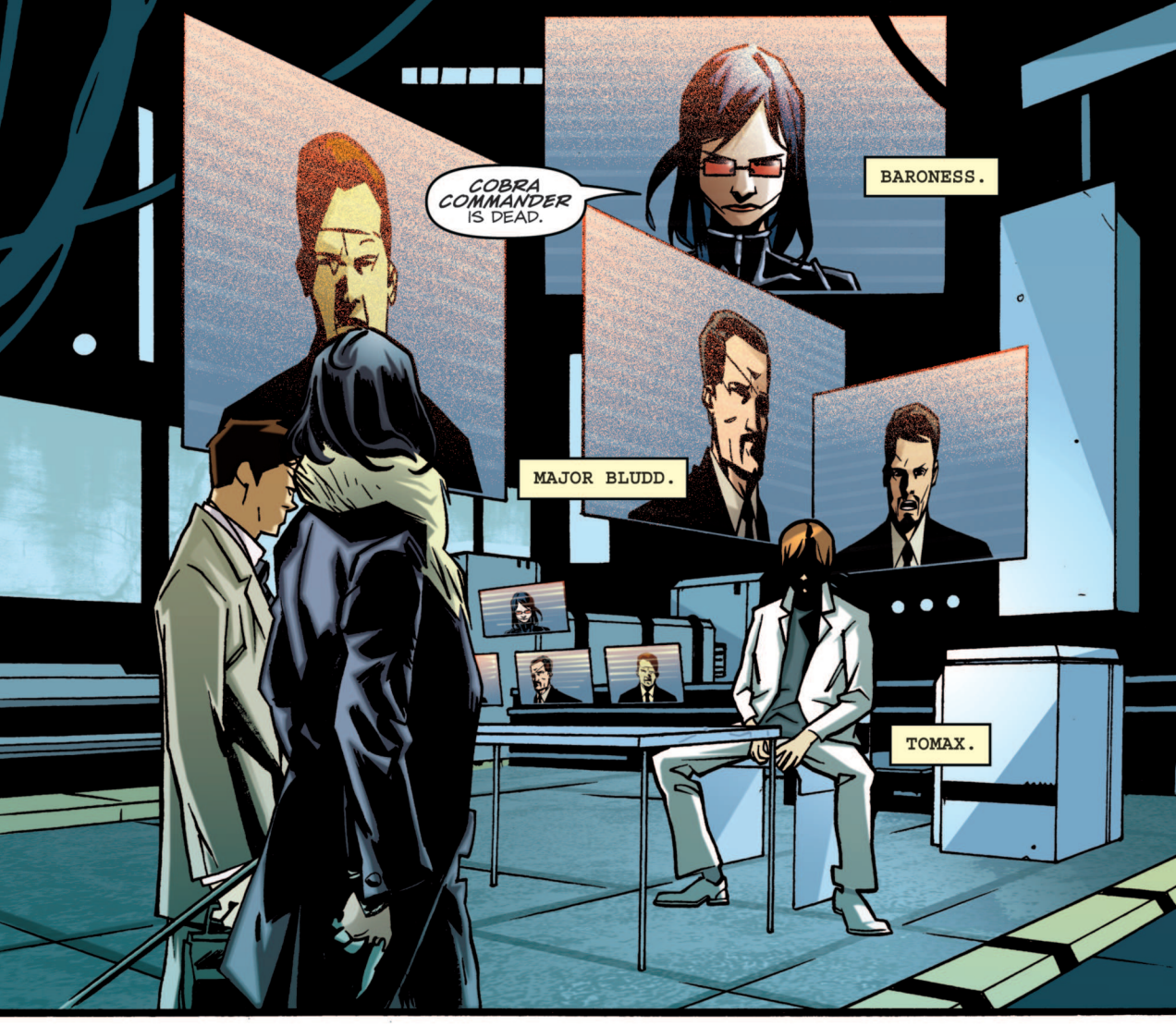

YES, DOCTOR. YOU'VE SEEN AMAZING THINGS THROUGH YOUR MICROSCOPE, I'M SURE.
BUT I'VE SEEN MORE FROM THE SCATTERED BOWELS OF A GOAT THAN YOU CAN IN YOUR LAB. AND THAT'S WHY *YOU* ARE AFRAID NOW, AND *I* AM NOT.

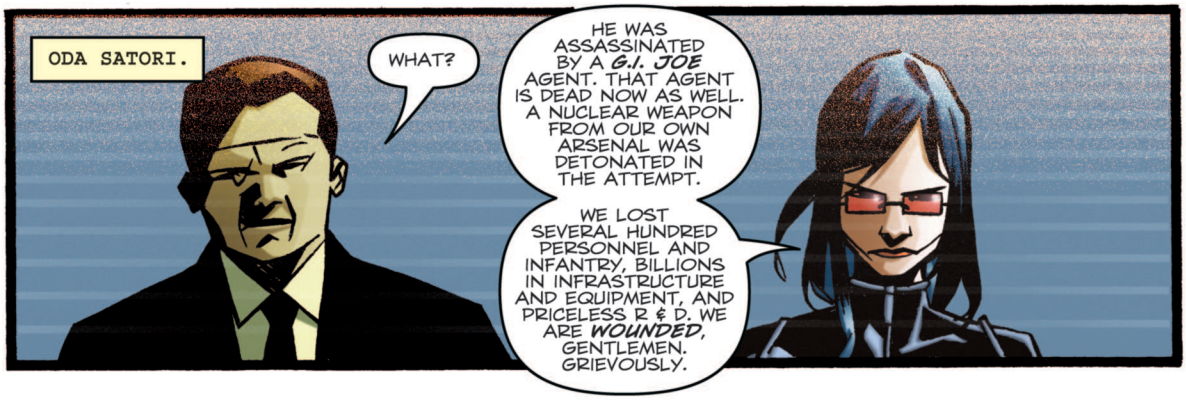

YOU ARE A RIDICULOUS PERSON. IF YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE WE'RE GOING OR WHAT YOU NEED ME FOR, I'M NOT GOING TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION.

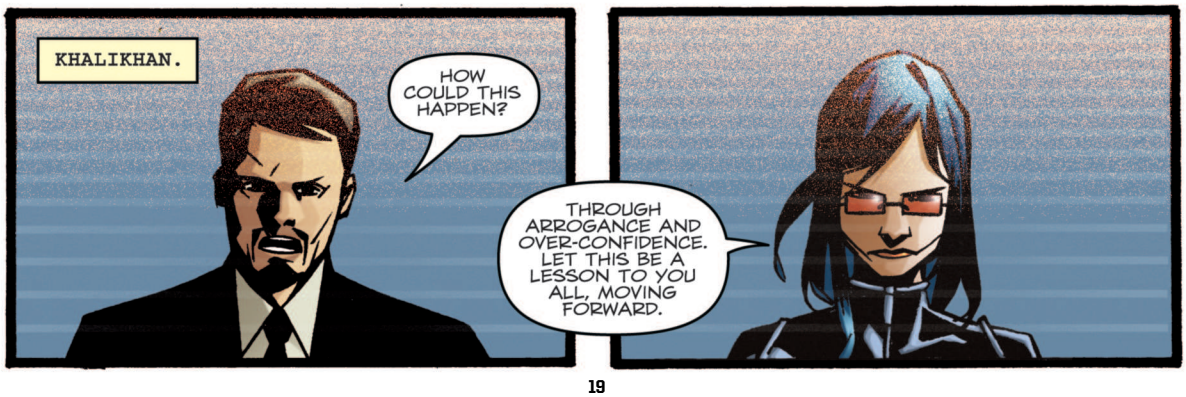

HEH HEH. YES. GIRD YOURSELF, GOOD DOCTOR. WHAT'S COMING NEXT DEPENDS ON DESTINY MORE SO THAN MICROBIOTICS.





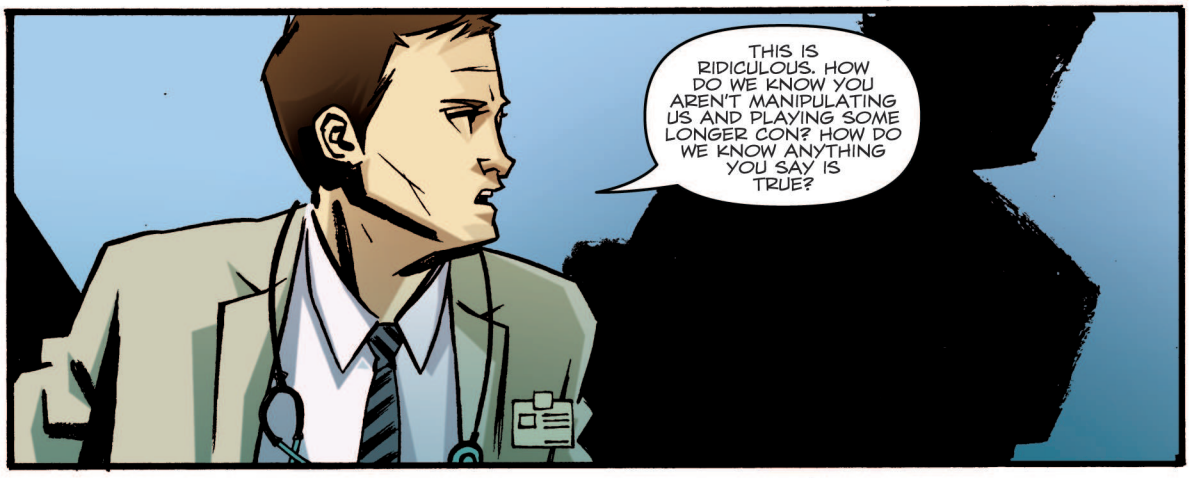

COBRA COMMANDER IS DEAD.
BARONESS.
MAJOR BLUDD.
TOMAX.

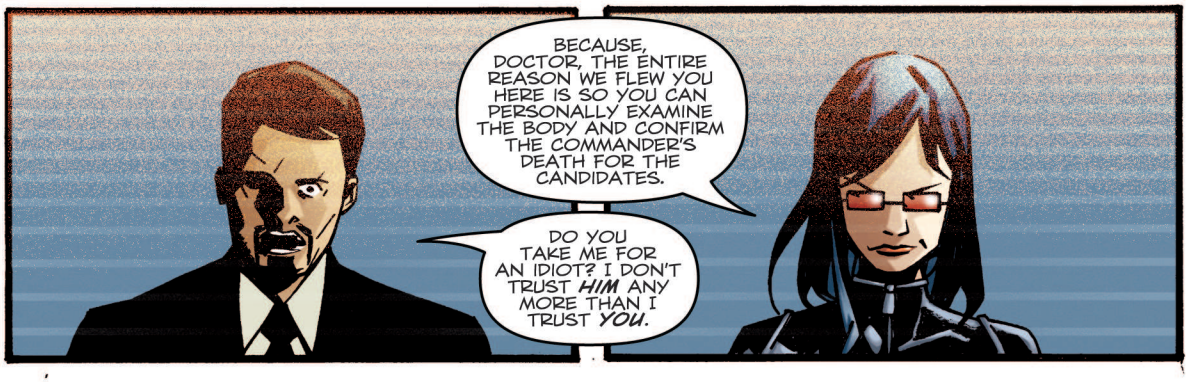

ODA SATORI.
WHAT?
HE WAS ASSASSINATED BY A G.I. JOE AGENT. THAT AGENT IS DEAD NOW AS WELL. A NUCLEAR WEAPON FROM OUR OWN ARSENAL WAS DETONATED IN THE ATTEMPT.
WE LOST SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONNEL AND INFANTRY, BILLIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT, AND PRICELESS R & D. WE ARE WOUNDED, GENTLEMEN. GRIEVOUSLY.


KHALIKHAN.
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
THROUGH ARROGANCE AND OVER-CONFIDENCE. LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU ALL, MOVING FORWARD.


WHAT IS THIS? WHY WAS I JUST FLOWN ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN TO WATCH A TELEVISION SCREEN AND BE LECTURED TO? MY ESCORT'S HYGIENE IS APPALLING!
BECAUSE, YOU OAF, AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED, NONE OF US WILL EVER ALL BE IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME AGAIN.
SO, WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? AND WHY GATHER ALL OF US AT ALL? WHY NOT TELL US INDIVIDUALLY?
WE'VE NEVER LOST A COMMANDER IN THIS WAY BEFORE. IN LIGHT OF THIS, THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO CREATE A... WELL, A "CONTEST," IF YOU WILL.
WHOEVER ELIMINATES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF OUR ENEMIES, OR DEALS THEM THE MOST CRIPPLING BLOWS, WILL BE MADE OUR NEW COMMANDER.
OUR ENEMIES BEING G.I. JOE.
OF COURSE. MYSELF AND THE MEN YOU SEE BEFORE YOU—SAVE OUR TRUSTED CRYSTAL BALL—ARE ALL CANDIDATES AS SELECTED BY THE COUNCIL. PLUS A MAN NAMED KRAKE.
WHERE IS THIS "KRAKE"? WHY ISN'T HE HERE?

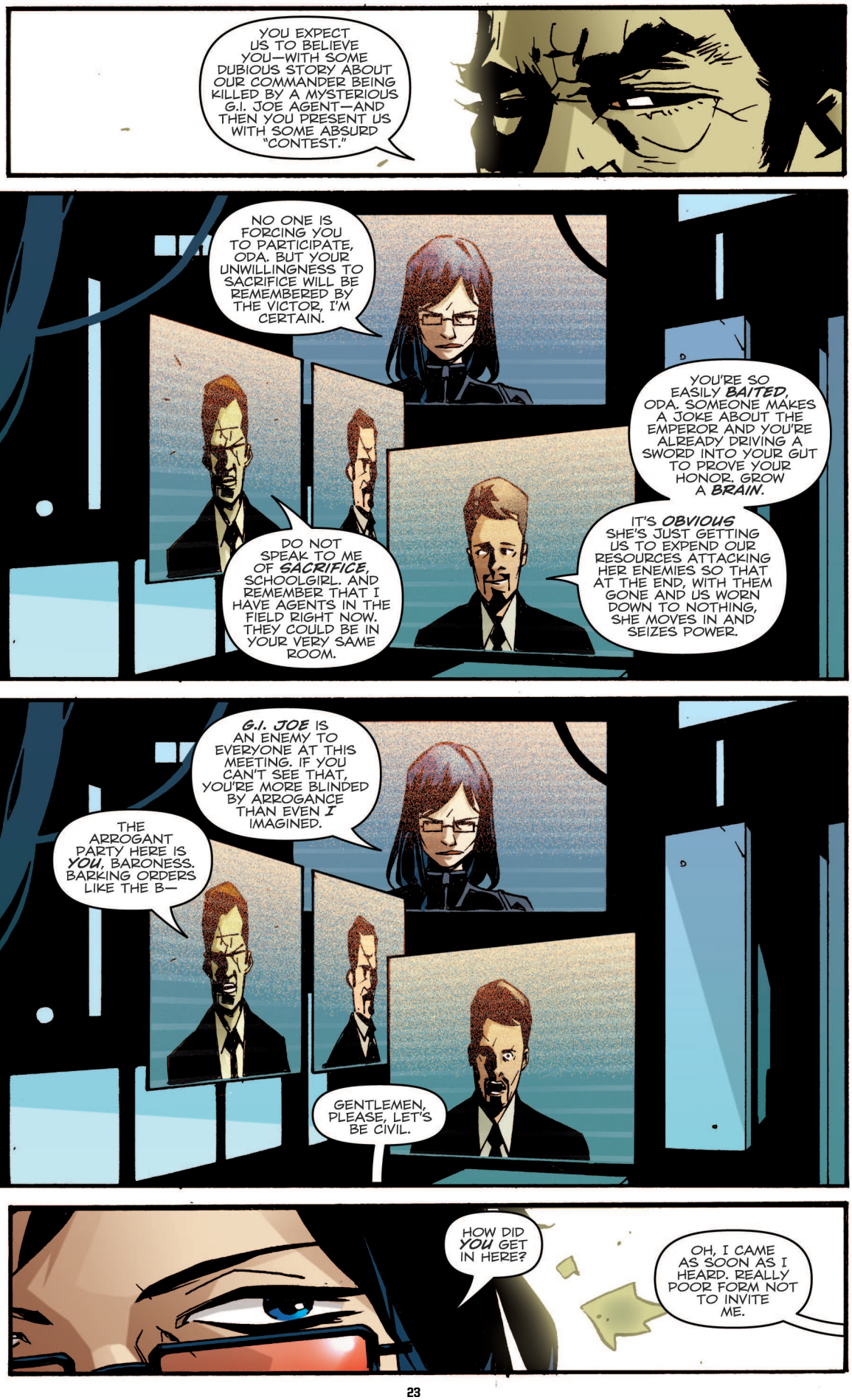

BECAUSE KRAKE ALREADY ELIMINATED A JOE TEAM EARLIER TODAY. THAT'S WHAT INSPIRED THE COUNCIL TO HOST THIS LITTLE RACE.
HE'S ALREADY AHEAD.
WHY TELL US THIS AT ALL? WHY NOT KEEP US IN THE DARK FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE TO PRESS YOUR OWN ADVANTAGE?
THE COUNCIL HAS RULES, AND I FOLLOW THEM.
WHY DIDN'T THEY TELL US THEMSELVES?
BECAUSE THEY DO NOT DEAL WITH YOU. I AM THEIR MOUTHPIECE ON THIS.
SO THEN, IT SEEMS YOU ALREADY DO HAVE AN ADVANTAGE OVER THE REST OF US, DOESN'T IT?

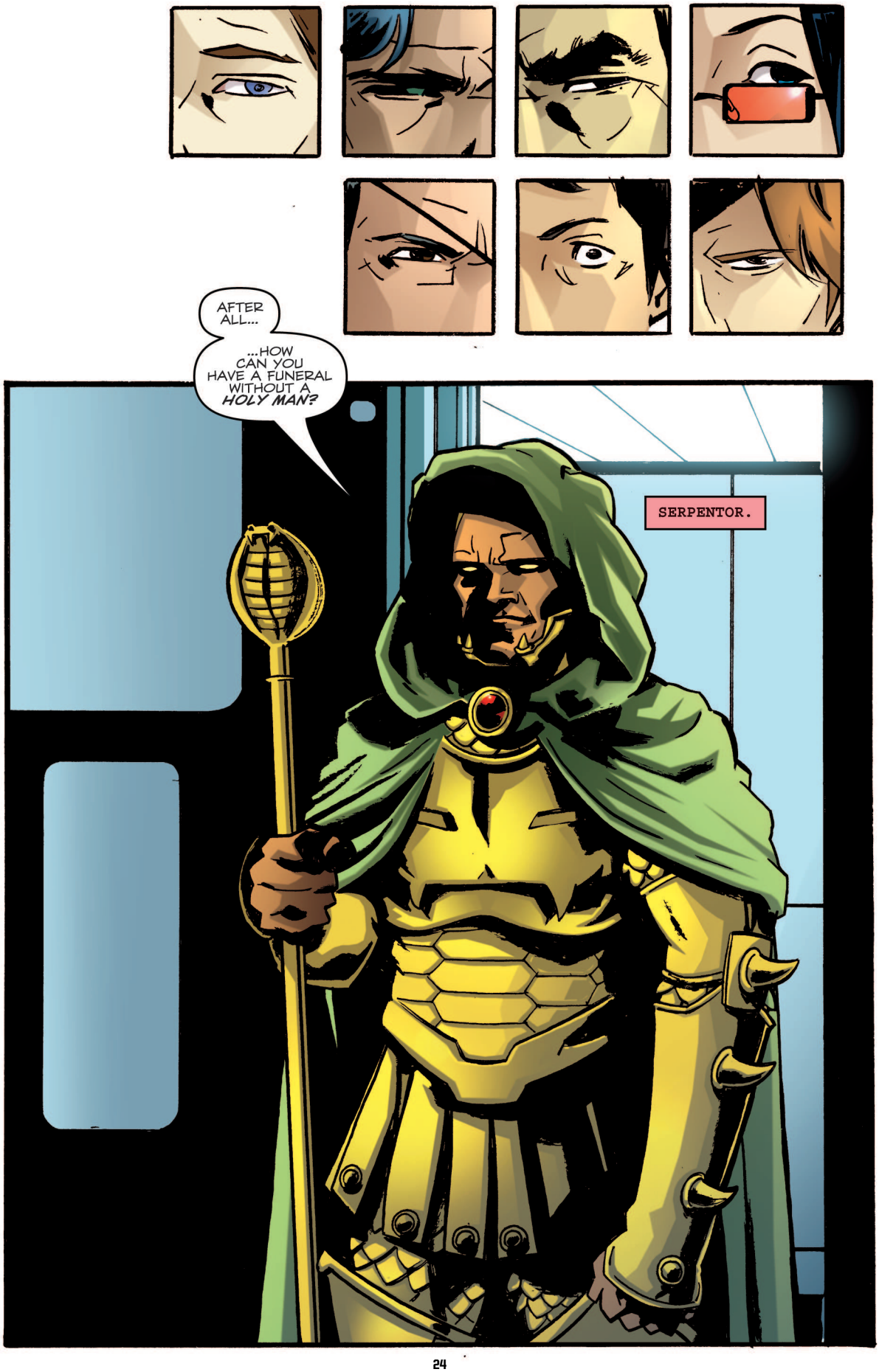

THIS IS RIDICULOUS. HOW DO WE KNOW YOU AREN'T MANIPULATING US AND PLAYING SOME LONGER CON? HOW DO WE KNOW ANYTHING YOU SAY IS TRUE?


BECAUSE, DOCTOR, THE ENTIRE REASON WE FLEW YOU HERE IS SO YOU CAN PERSONALLY EXAMINE THE BODY AND CONFIRM THE COMMANDER'S DEATH FOR THE CANDIDATES.
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT? I DON'T TRUST *HIM* ANY MORE THAN I TRUST *YOU*.


THERE, THERE...


...HIS BROTHER WAS KILLED AS WELL.


YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE YOU—WITH SOME DUBIOUS STORY ABOUT OUR COMMANDER BEING KILLED BY A MYSTERIOUS G.I. JOE AGENT—AND THEN YOU PRESENT US WITH SOME ABSURD "CONTEST."
NO ONE IS FORCING YOU TO PARTICIPATE, ODA. BUT YOUR UNWILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE WILL BE REMEMBERED BY THE VICTOR, I'M CERTAIN.
YOU'RE SO EASILY BAITED, ODA. SOMEONE MAKES A JOKE ABOUT THE EMPEROR AND YOU'RE ALREADY DRIVING A SWORD INTO YOUR GUT TO PROVE YOUR HONOR. GROW A BRAIN.
DO NOT SPEAK TO ME OF SACRIFICE, SCHOOLGIRL. AND REMEMBER THAT I HAVE AGENTS IN THE FIELD RIGHT NOW. THEY COULD BE IN YOUR VERY SAME ROOM.
IT'S OBVIOUS SHE'S JUST GETTING US TO EXPEND OUR RESOURCES ATTACKING HER ENEMIES SO THAT AT THE END, WITH THEM GONE AND US WORN DOWN TO NOTHING, SHE MOVES IN AND SEIZES POWER.
G.I. JOE IS AN ENEMY TO EVERYONE AT THIS MEETING. IF YOU CAN'T SEE THAT, YOU'RE MORE BLINDED BY ARROGANCE THAN EVEN I IMAGINED.
THE ARROGANT PARTY HERE IS YOU, BARONESS. BARKING ORDERS LIKE THE B—
GENTLEMEN, PLEASE, LET'S BE CIVIL.
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
OH, I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD. REALLY POOR FORM NOT TO INVITE ME.


AFTER ALL...
...HOW CAN YOU HAVE A FUNERAL WITHOUT A HOLY MAN?
SERPENTOR.


NORTH DAKOTA.
BOTTINEAU COUNTY.
DOJO.
BANZAI.
AND NUNCHUK.


WE SHOULD CALL IN A CRIME INVESTIGATION UNIT, SCARLETT.
LAWHOUND.
WHO FOUND THE BODIES, LAWHOUND?
COUPLE OF KIDS HIKING. WE'RE QUESTIONING THEM NOW. BUT WHAT I'M SAYING IS—
THIS WAS SNAKE EYES' UNIT. WE LET HIM FIGURE THIS OUT.
SCARLETT.
SNAKE EYES.


WHAT'S *THAT* MEAN?
THERE WAS *ONE* ATTACKER.
ANY IDEA WHAT THEY'RE DOING HERE?
THEY TOLD THE JOES BACK AT THE PIT THAT THEY WERE GIVEN ORDERS TO DEPLOY HERE.
IT WASN'T AUTHORIZED—
—BUT IT WAS *SNAKE EYES'* GUYS, SO NO ONE *QUESTIONED* IT.
YEAH.
HAVE YOUR UNIT SECURE THE PERIMETER AND KEEP THE HELO RUNNING.
WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK?
WHEN WE HAVE *ANSWERS*.
YO.
T'JBANG?


WHAT *HAPPENED* HERE? WHO *DREW* THESE JOES INTO AN AMBUSH?
HOW DID THEY GET INTO OUR COMMAND PROTOCOL?


ONE ATTACKER DID ALL OF THIS?
THESE JOES WERE OUR BEST FIGHTERS NEXT TO YOU.
NO...
...IT'S T'GIN ZU.
HE FOUGHT TO THE END.


TWO ATTACKERS?


HE'S STILL WARM.
HE HASN'T BEEN LYING HERE LONG.

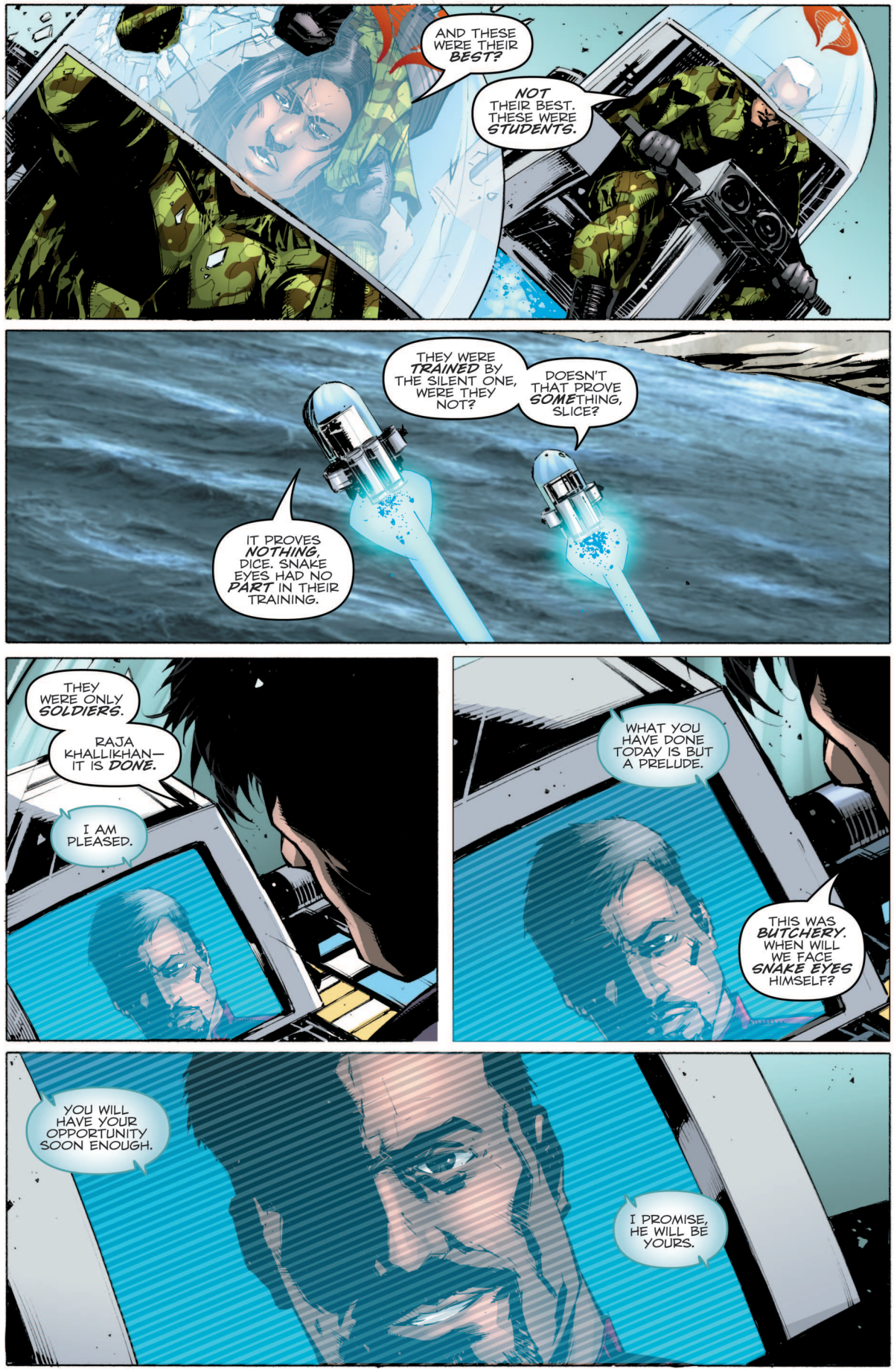

THEY COULD STILL BE IN THE AREA.


SNAKE EYES...
...BEHIND THAT DEADFALL...


HE'S STILL ALIVE!
BUSHIDO!
WHO DID THIS? ARE THEY STILL HERE? WHAT ARE WE UP AGAINST?
TWO... OF THEM...
WHO WERE THEY? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THEM?
SNAKE EYES... THEY LOOKED LIKE SNAKE EYES...
SCARLETT TO LAWHOUND. I NEED A MEDICAL TEAM ON MY TWENTY. NOW.
ON OUR WAY, RED.
FOLLOW US DOWNHILL. AND KEEP YOUR GUNS UP. WE'RE NOT ALONE.
HOW'RE WE GONNA FIND YOU PRONTO? THIS IS A BIG FOREST.


BRRRRAAP
FOLLOW THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE!
SNAKE!
WAIT FOR THE TEAM!


BRRRRAAP
HE'S HERE! WE CAN TAKE HIM NOW!
TURN AND PUMP HIM FULL OF BULLETS!
NO, DICE!
WE HAVE OUR ORDERS! WE FOLLOW THE PLANS OF THE RAJA!
INSANITY! THIS IS WAR! YOU KILL WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF!
WE ARE PLAYERS IN A GREATER GAME, DICE.
KHALIKHAN WISHES TO DRAW SNAKE EYES INTO HIS WEB.

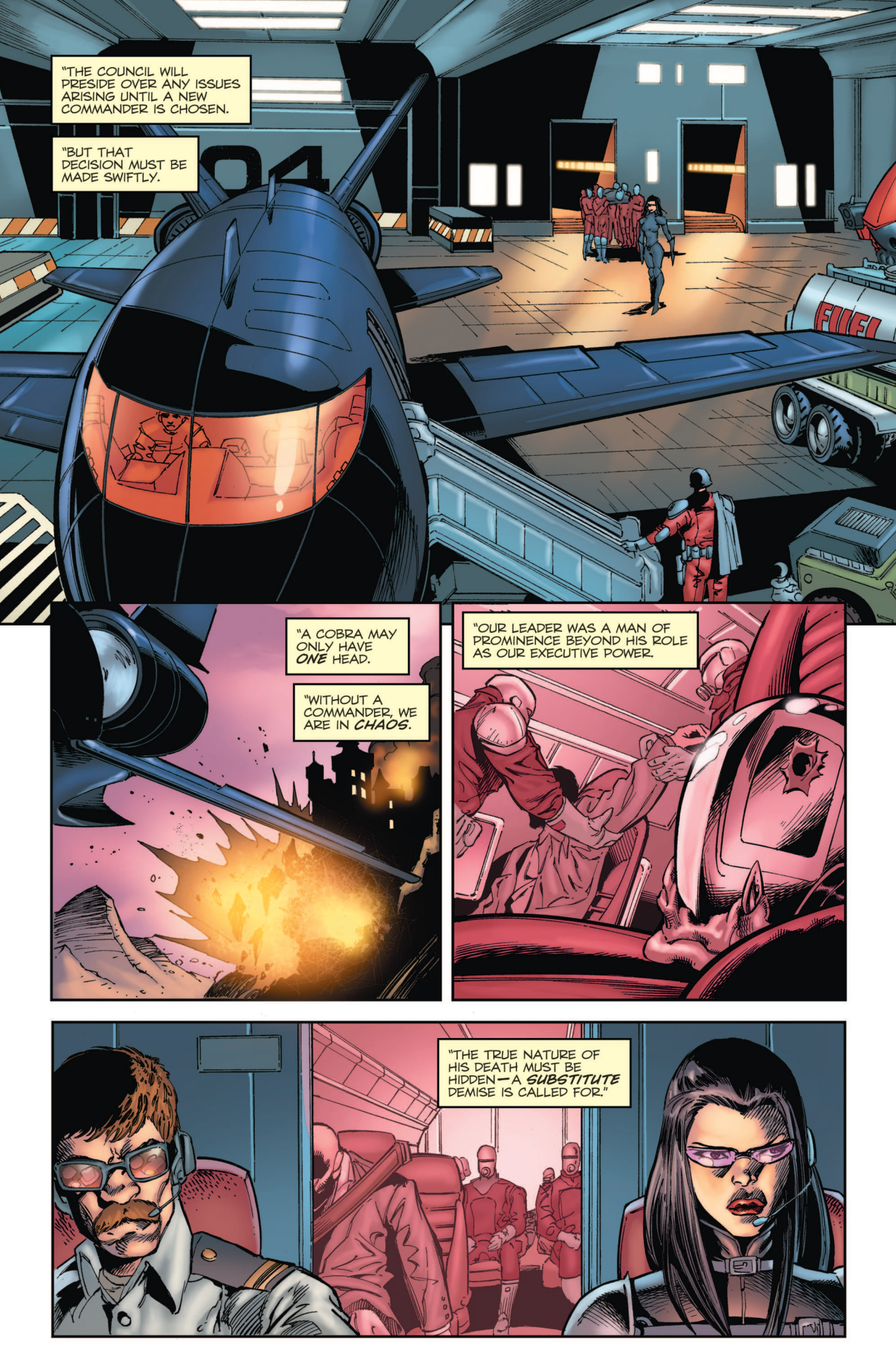

AND THESE WERE THEIR BEST?
NOT THEIR BEST. THESE WERE STUDENTS.
THEY WERE TRAINED BY THE SILENT ONE, WERE THEY NOT?
DOESN'T THAT PROVE SOMETHING, SLICE?
IT PROVES NOTHING, DICE. SNAKE EYES HAD NO PART IN THEIR TRAINING.
THEY WERE ONLY SOLDIERS.
RAJA KHALLIKHAN— IT IS DONE.
I AM PLEASED.
WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TODAY IS BUT A PRELUDE.
THIS WAS BUTCHERY. WHEN WILL WE FACE SNAKE EYES HIMSELF?
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR OPPORTUNITY SOON ENOUGH.
I PROMISE, HE WILL BE YOURS.





G.I. JOE: SERIES 2 #1A BY **ZACH HOWARD** COLORS BY **NELSON DANIEL**

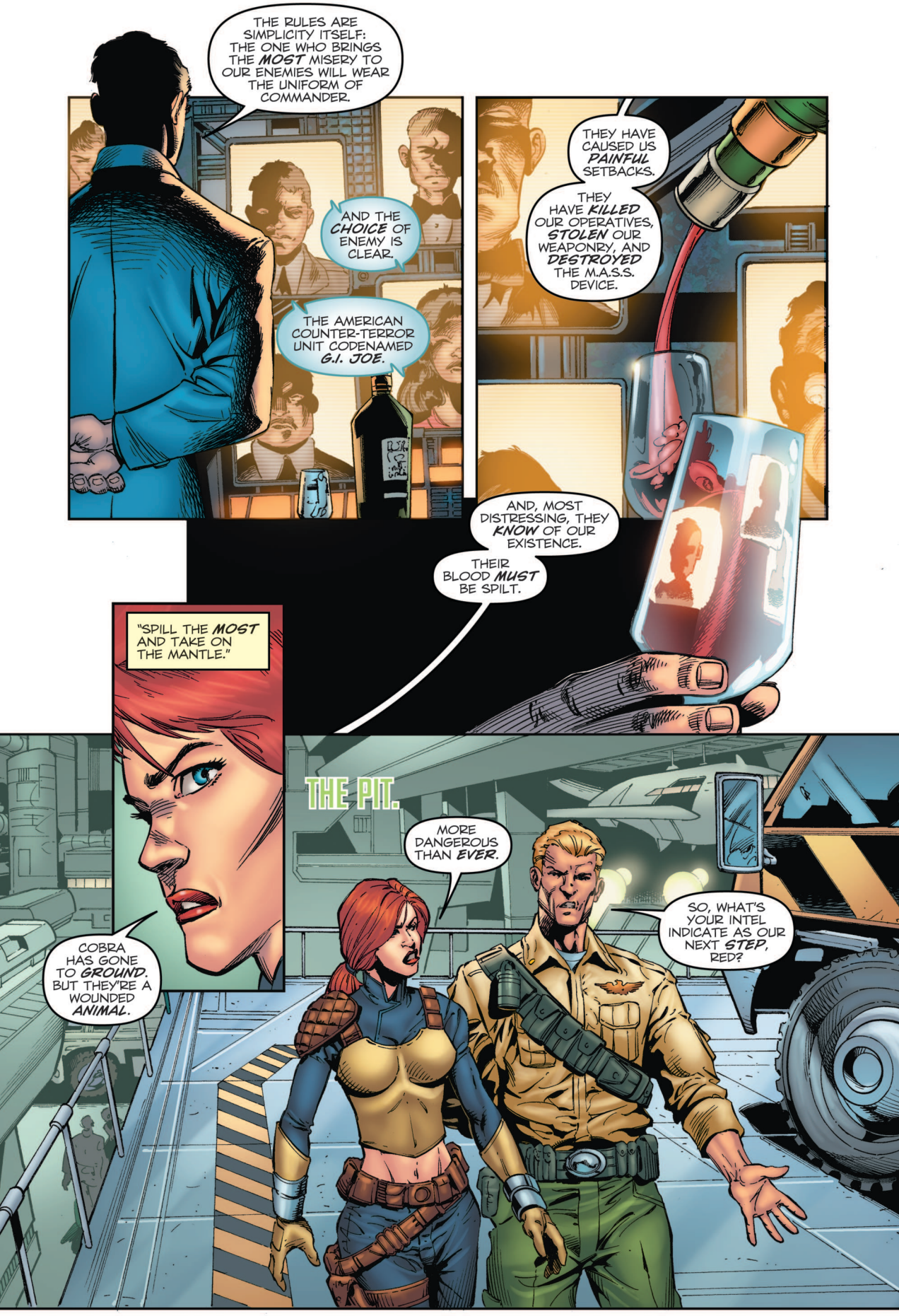

"THE COMMANDER IS DEAD.
"HE WAS MURDERED BY A TRAITOR FROM WITHIN.
"HOW THIS WAS ALLOWED TO HAPPEN—AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE—IS OUR SECONDARY CONCERN.
"COBRA IS WITHOUT A SUPREME LEADER... AND *THAT* IS INTOLERABLE."


"THE COUNCIL WILL PRESIDE OVER ANY ISSUES ARISING UNTIL A NEW COMMANDER IS CHOSEN.
"BUT THAT DECISION MUST BE MADE SWIFTLY.
"A COBRA MAY ONLY HAVE ONE HEAD.
"WITHOUT A COMMANDER, WE ARE IN CHAOS.
"OUR LEADER WAS A MAN OF PROMINENCE BEYOND HIS ROLE AS OUR EXECUTIVE POWER.
"THE TRUE NATURE OF HIS DEATH MUST BE HIDDEN—A SUBSTITUTE DEMISE IS CALLED FOR."


"THE WORLD WILL MOURN HIS PASSING.
"BUT OUR GRIEF WILL REMAIN A SECRET SADNESS.
"HISTORY WILL NEVER KNOW THE ROLE HE PLAYED IN SHAPING THE EVENTS OF OUR TIME."
AND SO IT MUST REMAIN.
ON TO OUR MORE URGENT BUSINESS—THE CHOOSING OF A NEW COMMANDER.


MANY OF YOU HAVE NEVER *EXPERIENCED* A CHANGE OF COMMAND. PERHAPS YOU HAVE HEARD THE RULES BUT ASSUMED THEY DID NOT *APPLY* TO YOU.
THE NEW COMMANDER WILL BE REVEALED THROUGH A TRIAL. IT IS A TRIAL THAT *SOME* OF YOU MAY NOT SURVIVE.
THE COUNCIL AND I HAVE *CAREFULLY* CHOSEN THE CANDIDATES WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRIAL.

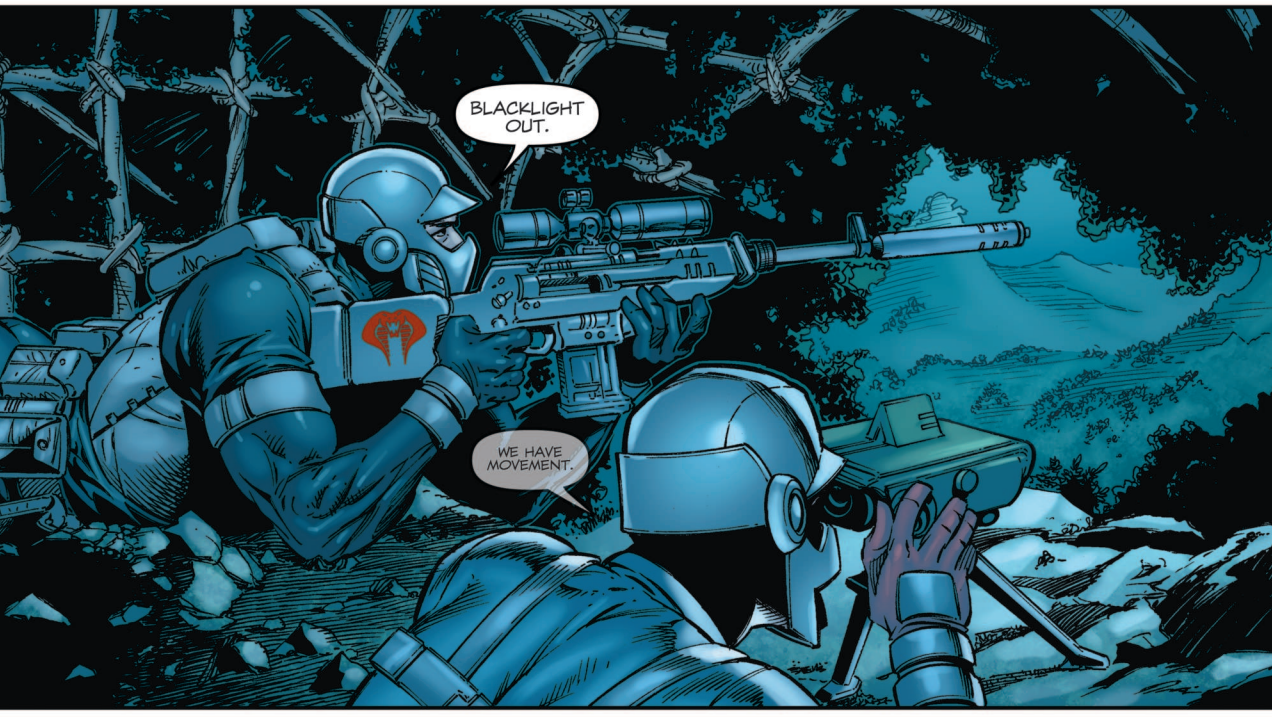

MAJOR BLUDD.
VIKRIM KHALIKHAN.
BARONESS ANASTASIA DECOBRAY.
TOMAX.
ODA SATORI.
KRAKE.
RODRIGO VARGAS.


THE RULES ARE SIMPLICITY ITSELF: THE ONE WHO BRINGS THE MOST MISERY TO OUR ENEMIES WILL WEAR THE UNIFORM OF COMMANDER.
AND THE CHOICE OF ENEMY IS CLEAR.
THE AMERICAN COUNTER-TERROR UNIT CODENAMED G.I. JOE.
THEY HAVE CAUSED US PAINFUL SETBACKS.
THEY HAVE KILLED OUR OPERATIVES, STOLEN OUR WEAPONRY, AND DESTROYED THE M.A.S.S. DEVICE.
AND, MOST DISTRESSING, THEY KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE.
THEIR BLOOD MUST BE SPILT.
"SPILL THE MOST AND TAKE ON THE MANTLE."
THE PIT.
COBRA HAS GONE TO GROUND. BUT THEY'RE A WOUNDED ANIMAL.
MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR INTEL INDICATE AS OUR NEXT STEP, RED?


MAINFRAME'S SNAKEHUNTER PROGRAM IS STILL OUR BEST ASSET AGAINST THEM. WE HAVE BRAVO OUT ON THE HUNT RIGHT NOW.
REALLY? SO, I'M LIKE A HERO.
IT'S STILL THE GRUNTS WHO GET IN THE MUD, GEEK. YOU JUST MAKE A CIRCLE ON THE MAP.
HASH'S SPECIAL
IT'S A CIRCLE WE CAN'T MAKE WITHOUT HIM, DUKE.
AND IF COBRA DRAWS ITS HEAD IN, WE'LL RELY ON IT MORE THAN EVER TO KEEP TRACK OF THEM.
LIGHT ON THE OLIVE OIL, LIKE YOU ASKED.
THANKS, HASH.
SO... UM... SCARLETT.
WHAT ABOUT HER?
YOU TWO USED TO BE...
NOT LATELY, MAINS. NOT FOR A LONG TIME.
...SO, WHO'S SHE...
SHE'S INTO NINJAS, BRO. ARE YOU A NINJA?
SURE. I'M A NINJA.
ONLINE.


ANY OF THESE "JOES" ARE HIGH LEVEL TARGETS. THEY ARE THE ONES WE HAVE IDENTIFIED.
BUT APPARENTLY THERE ARE HUNDREDS— POSSIBLY MORE.
DIAL TONE
TRIP WIRE
BRAINSTORM
SCARLETT
I HAVE THE INSIDE TRACK TO THE COMMANDER'S SEAT.
I ALSO HAVE INTELLIGENCE I HAVE KEPT TO MYSELF FOR JUST SUCH A CONTINGENCY.
AND WHEN I TAKE ON THE MANTLE, I WILL HAVE THE POWER TO REWARD THOSE LOYAL TO ME.
KEEP THAT IN MIND, DARLING.
DON'T FAIL ME, BLACKLIGHT.
HAVE I EVER?

PANAMA, THE PROVINCE OF BOCAS DEL TORO.










VISUAL OR AUDIBLE?
PSYCHIC.


FEEL THAT?
WHAT?
I DUNNO.


MOVING AGAIN.


TOTAL FORCE— SEVEN.
WHEN THEY ARE ALL IN THE FIELD—


—THE BLEEDING BEGINS.

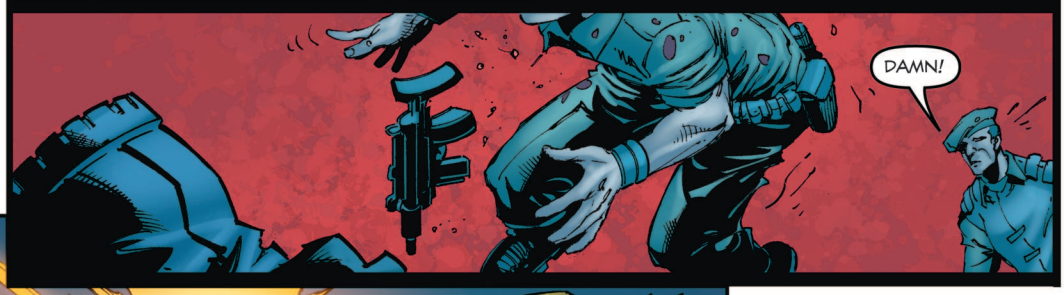

TARGET ONE—WALKING DRAG.


UH?
CONTACT REAR!
HAMMERLOCK IS DOWN!
EYES, PEOPLE!


TO HIDE TWO.
SET UP QUICKLY ON THE LAST TARGET.


HAMMERLOCK!
HE MIGHT JUST BE UNCONSCIOUS, STALKER.
WE NEED TO KNOW.


TARGET TWO MOVING TO TARGET EX-ONE.


DAMN!


UPHILL! RIGHT OF TRAIL!
MOVE OUT OF RANGE! NOW!


TARGETS THREE AND FOUR.
LOCKED.

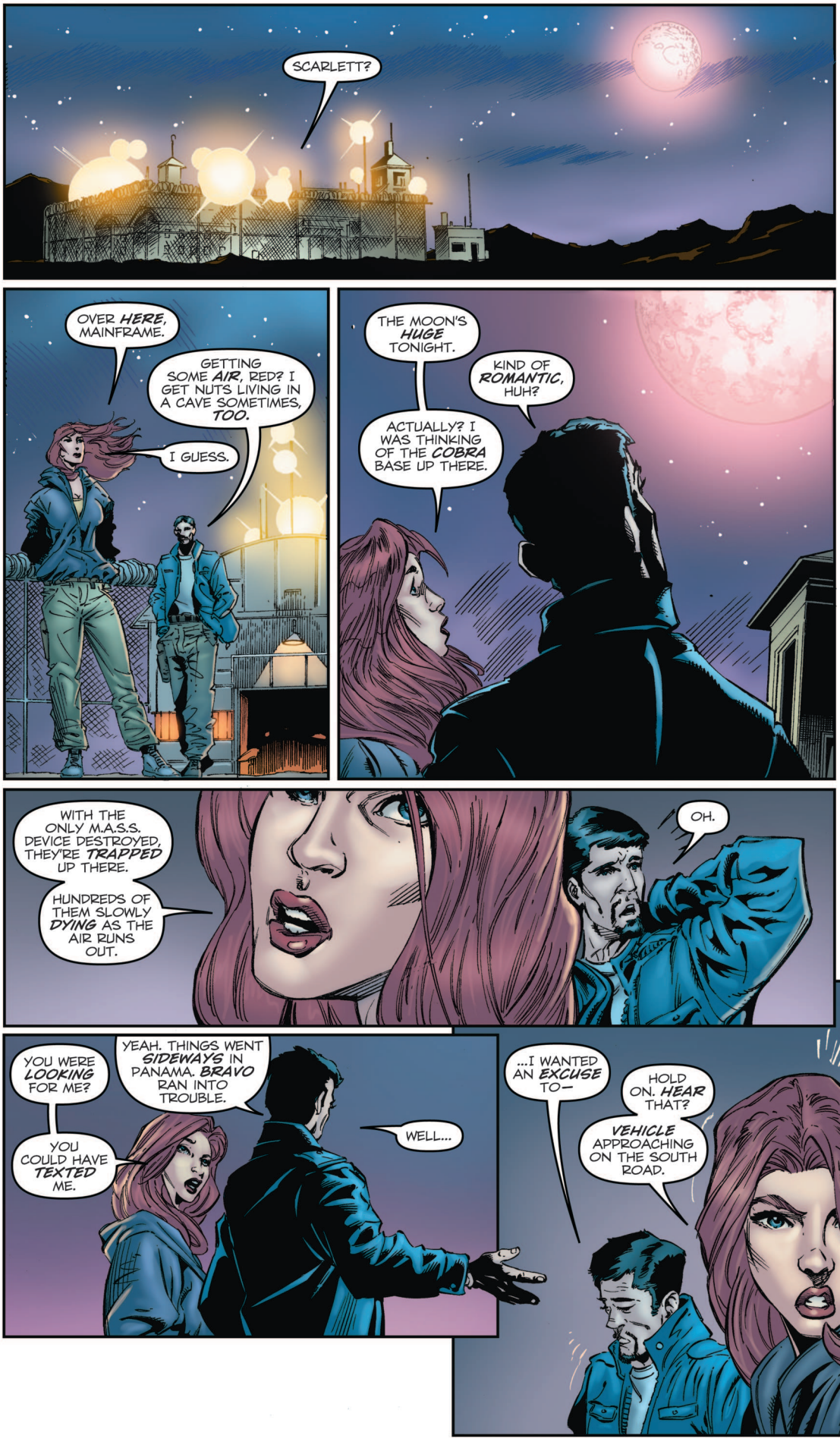

APEFACE AND MOJO ARE WASTED.
WE ARE NAILED AND NAKED HERE, LEATHERNECK.
TIME FOR A LITTLE KENTUCKY WINDAGE, BRO.
WE MOVE TO HIDE THREE!
WE NEED TO WITHDRAW, BLACKLIGHT!
NO!
CAN YOU GET US SOME EYES ON THESE GUYS?
YOU KEEP 'EM HOPPIN'. I'LL GET BUZZ IN THE AIR.

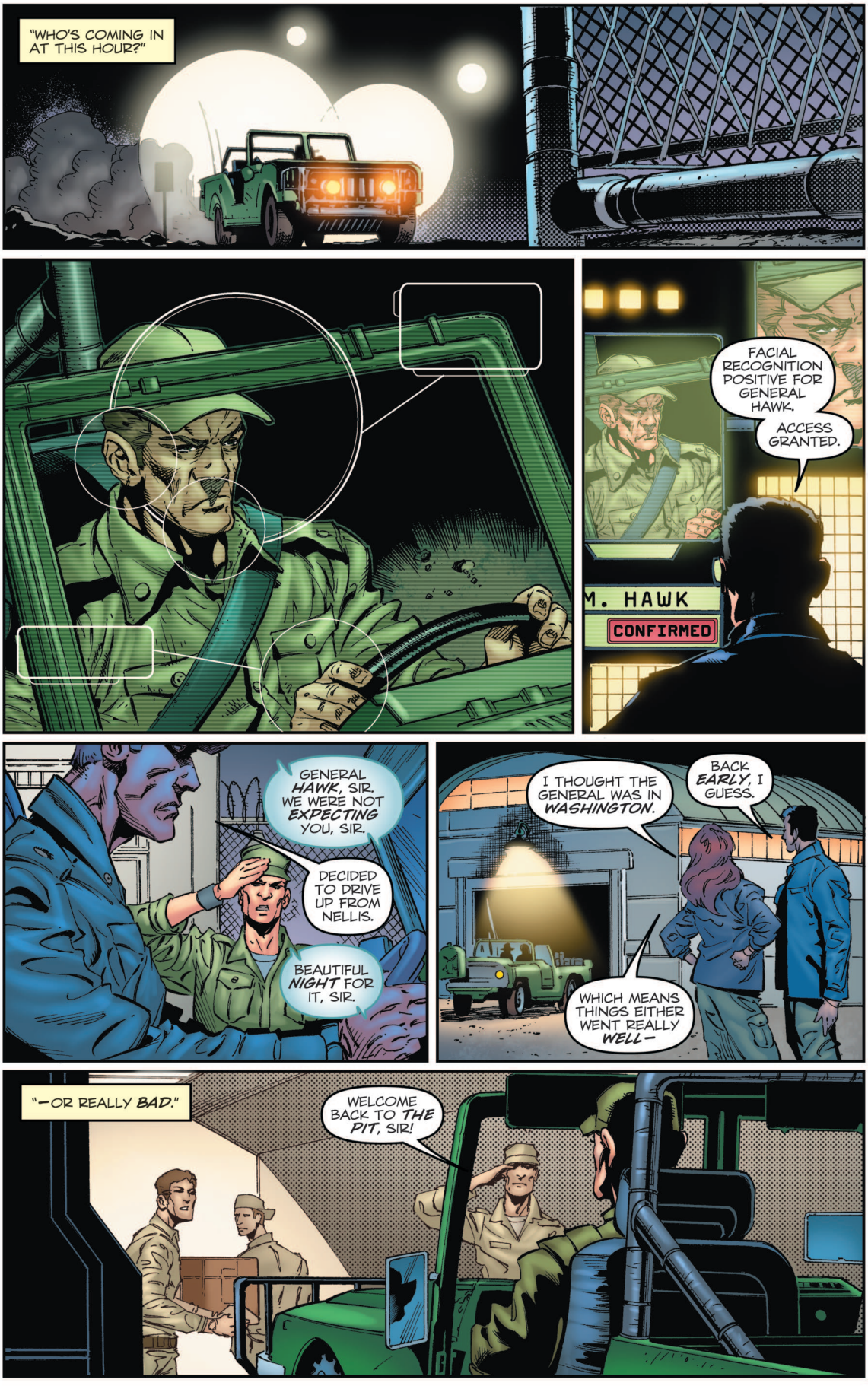

GIVE HIM SOME COVER.
YO!
UNNH!
KAKKED ONE, BRO. ONE STILL STANDING. UPHILL.
TWENTY?
RIGHT OF YOUR LAST HIT. TWENTY FEET.


HUNNH!
KNOCKED HIM ON HIS *SIX*, LEATHERNECK!
CLOSE IN! *TAKE* THIS SUCKER!
BUZZ IS *KIA*.
DON'T MATTER. I CAN *SMELL* HIM.
BLOOD TRAIL.
WE WANT THIS GUY ALIVE?
I SAY WE SEE HOW IT PLAYS.
CONTACT LEFT!

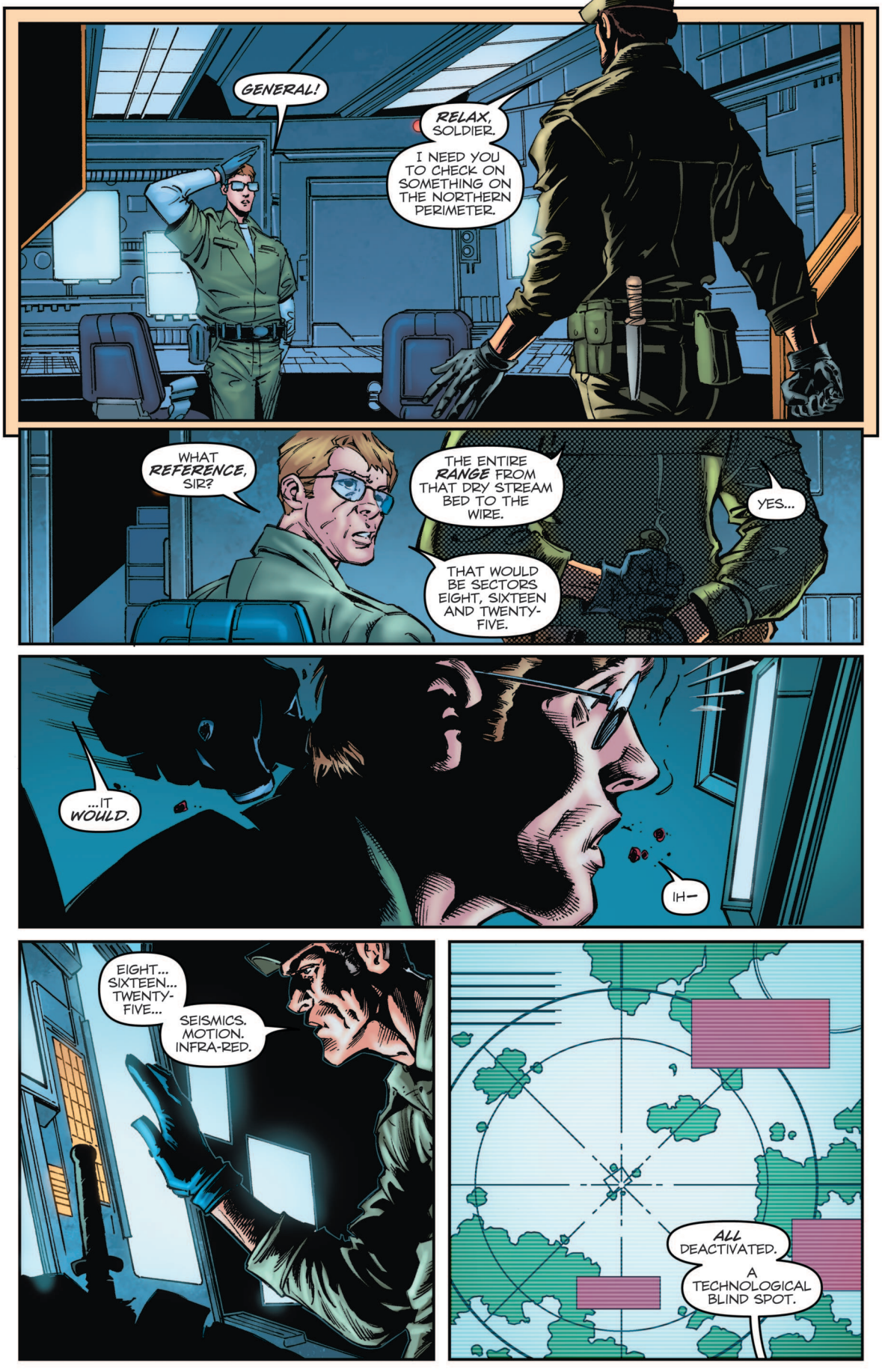

WHAT THE HELL *IS* THAT?!
WHO CARES?! SMOKE IT!
HUNH!
IT'S OUR *COBRA!* THAT THING'S HIS *EVAC!*
YOU AIN'T GOIN' *NOWHERE,* COBRA!
NOWHERE!


—HE'S GONE.
THAT THING'S GOT NO RANGE. HE'S GOTTA LAND IN OUR SAT IMAGE FOOTPRINT.
SON OF A—
RECONDO'S IN A BAD WAY.
I'LL RADIO FOR EVAC. CAN YOU STABILIZE HIM?
SLOWIN' THE BLEED, STALKER. GONNA TAKE MORE THAN I CAN DO TO STOP IT.
GRIPES ME THAT SUCKER GOT AWAY.
THERE'LL BE ANOTHER DAY.
NOT FOR HAMMERLOCK.
OR MOJO.
OR APEFACE AND DRAGON.


SCARLETT?
OVER HERE, MAINFRAME.
GETTING SOME AIR, RED? I GET NUTS LIVING IN A CAVE SOMETIMES, TOO.
I GUESS.
THE MOON'S HUGE TONIGHT.
KIND OF ROMANTIC, HUH?
ACTUALLY? I WAS THINKING OF THE COBRA BASE UP THERE.
WITH THE ONLY M.A.S.S. DEVICE DESTROYED, THEY'RE TRAPPED UP THERE.
HUNDREDS OF THEM SLOWLY DYING AS THE AIR RUNS OUT.
OH.
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME?
YEAH. THINGS WENT SIDEWAYS IN PANAMA. BRAVO RAN INTO TROUBLE.
YOU COULD HAVE TEXTED ME.
WELL...
...I WANTED AN EXCUSE TO—
HOLD ON. HEAR THAT?
VEHICLE APPROACHING ON THE SOUTH ROAD.


"WHO'S COMING IN AT THIS HOUR?"
FACIAL RECOGNITION POSITIVE FOR GENERAL HAWK.
ACCESS GRANTED.
M. HAWK
CONFIRMED
GENERAL HAWK, SIR. WE WERE NOT EXPECTING YOU, SIR.
DECIDED TO DRIVE UP FROM NELLIS.
BEAUTIFUL NIGHT FOR IT, SIR.
I THOUGHT THE GENERAL WAS IN WASHINGTON.
BACK EARLY, I GUESS.
WHICH MEANS THINGS EITHER WENT REALLY WELL—
"—OR REALLY BAD."
WELCOME BACK TO THE PIT, SIR!


20
AT EASE, PEOPLE.
YES, SIR!
I'LL BE AT THE PERIMETER SECURITY CENTER AND I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED.
SIR!
YOU THERE—
—YOU DON'T KNOW TO SALUTE A SUPERIOR OFFICER, SOLDIER?
SOLDIER?
THERE IS SUCH A THING AS PROTOCOL.
WHO WAS THAT JERK?
YOU OUGHTA KNOW, HELIX. YOU WORK FOR HIM.
THAT WAS HAWK?
WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.


GENERAL!
RELAX, SOLDIER.
I NEED YOU TO CHECK ON SOMETHING ON THE NORTHERN PERIMETER.
WHAT REFERENCE, SIR?
THE ENTIRE RANGE FROM THAT DRY STREAM BED TO THE WIRE.
YES...
THAT WOULD BE SECTORS EIGHT, SIXTEEN AND TWENTY-FIVE.
...IT WOULD.
IH—
EIGHT... SIXTEEN... TWENTY-FIVE...
SEISMICS. MOTION. INFRA-RED.
ALL DEACTIVATED.
A TECHNOLOGICAL BLIND SPOT.


VIRTUAL BLINDNESS.
"THE PERFECT MEDIUM—
"—FOR MAYHEM."

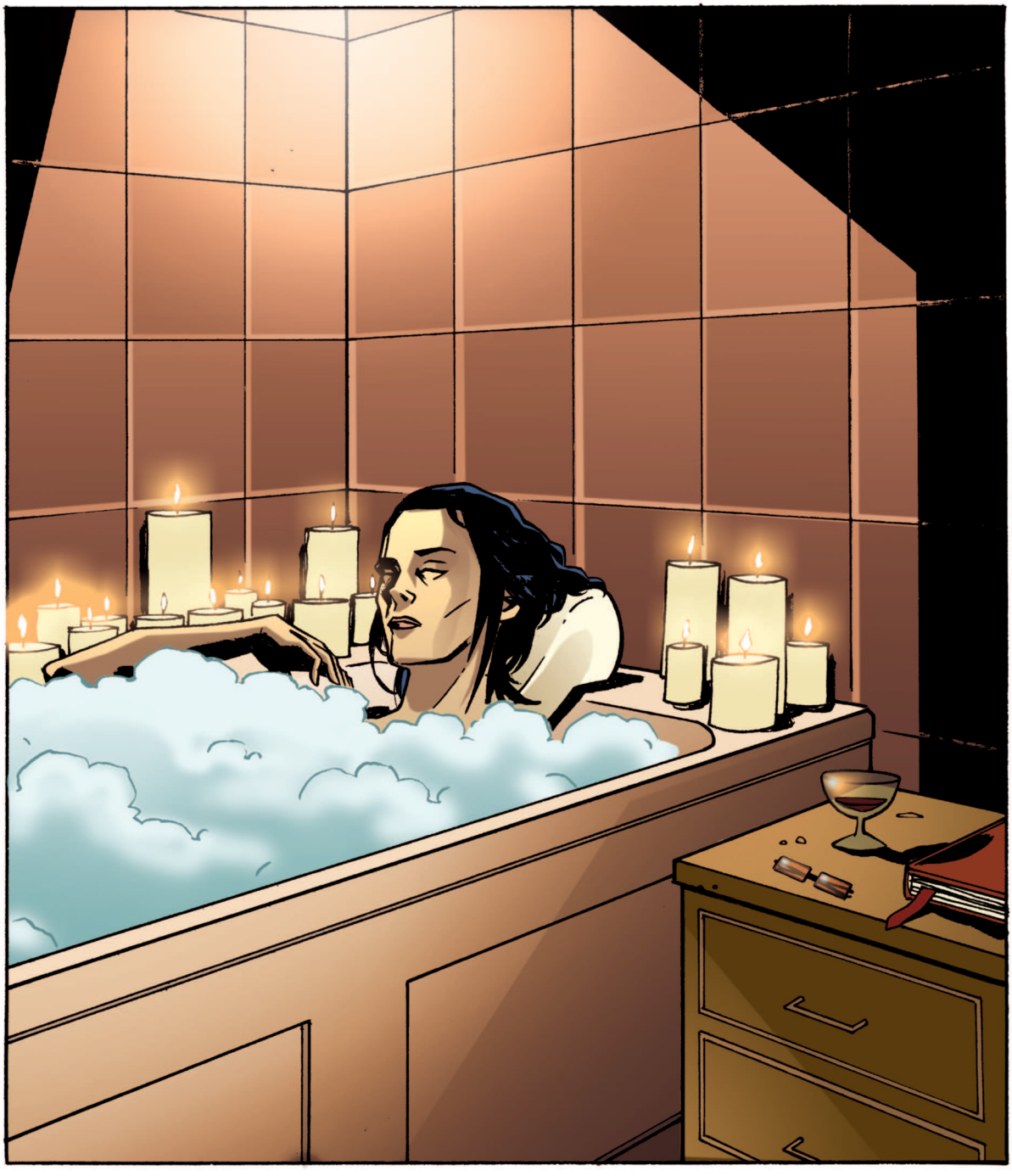




COBRA: SERIES 2 #1 BY **ZACH HOWARD** COLORS BY **NELSON DANIEL**

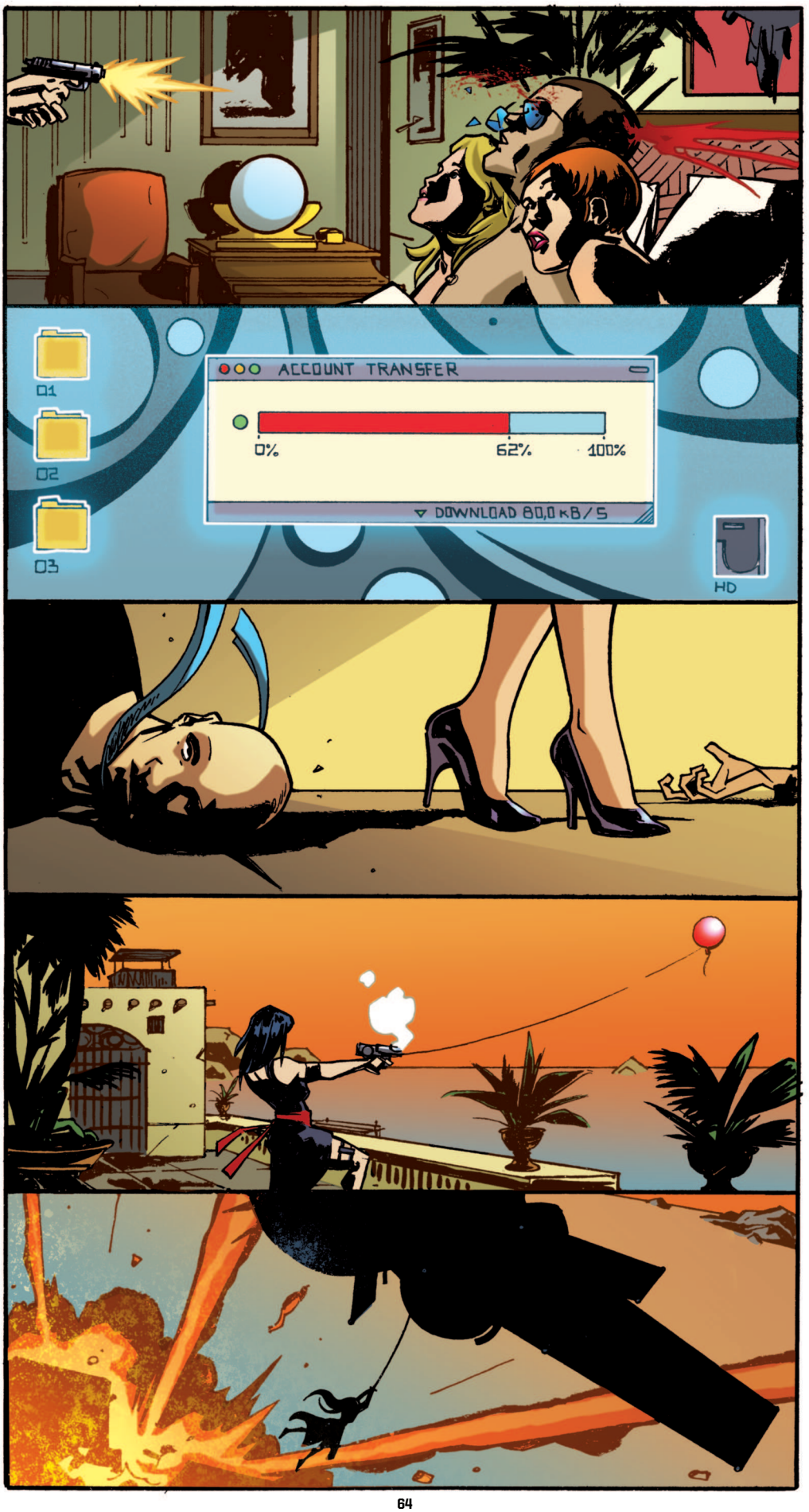


I WILL NEVER BECOME COBRA COMMANDER.

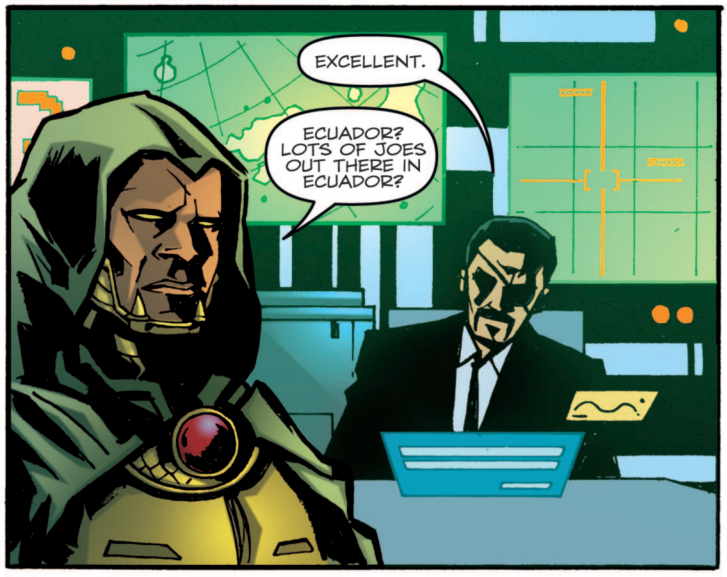


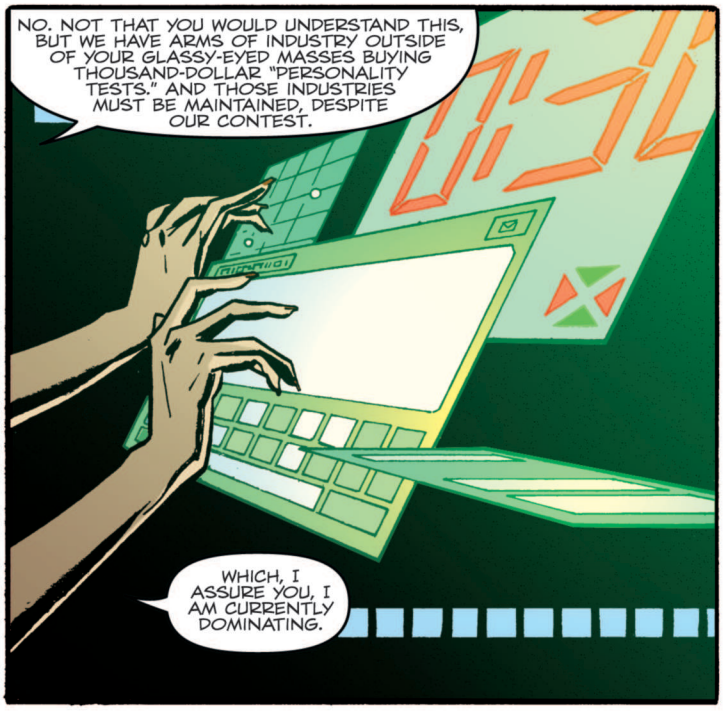

COBRA IS AN OLD ORGANIZATION. IT IS ENSCONCED IN ITS OWN TRADITIONS, AND IT IS RUTHLESS.
THIS MEANS, BY ITS VERY NATURE, IT IS MISOGYNIST. IT WILL NEVER ACCEPT A FEMALE RULER.
OF COURSE, I KNOW THIS.
OF COURSE, I'LL PRETEND I DON'T.
IT AVAILS ME NOTHING TO COMPLAIN. COBRA DOES NOT SUFFER DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES.
COBRA REWARDS LOYALTY. AND IT REWARDS TALENT.
AND MY TALENTS HAVE NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY... ADMINISTRATIVE.

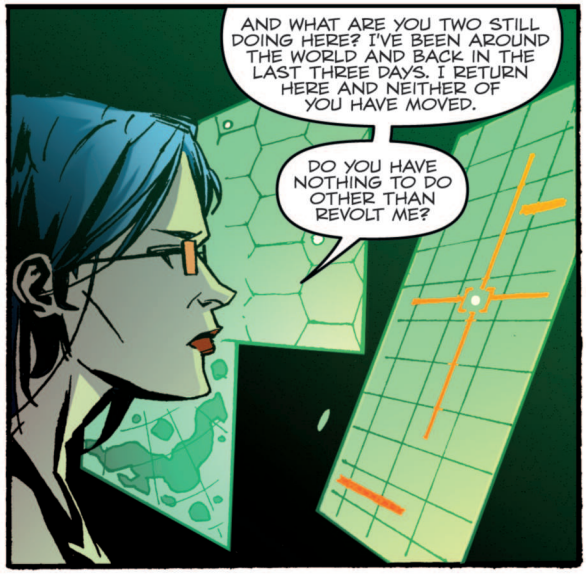



01
02
03
ACCOUNT TRANSFER
0%
62%
100%
DOWNLOAD 80,0 KB/S
HD

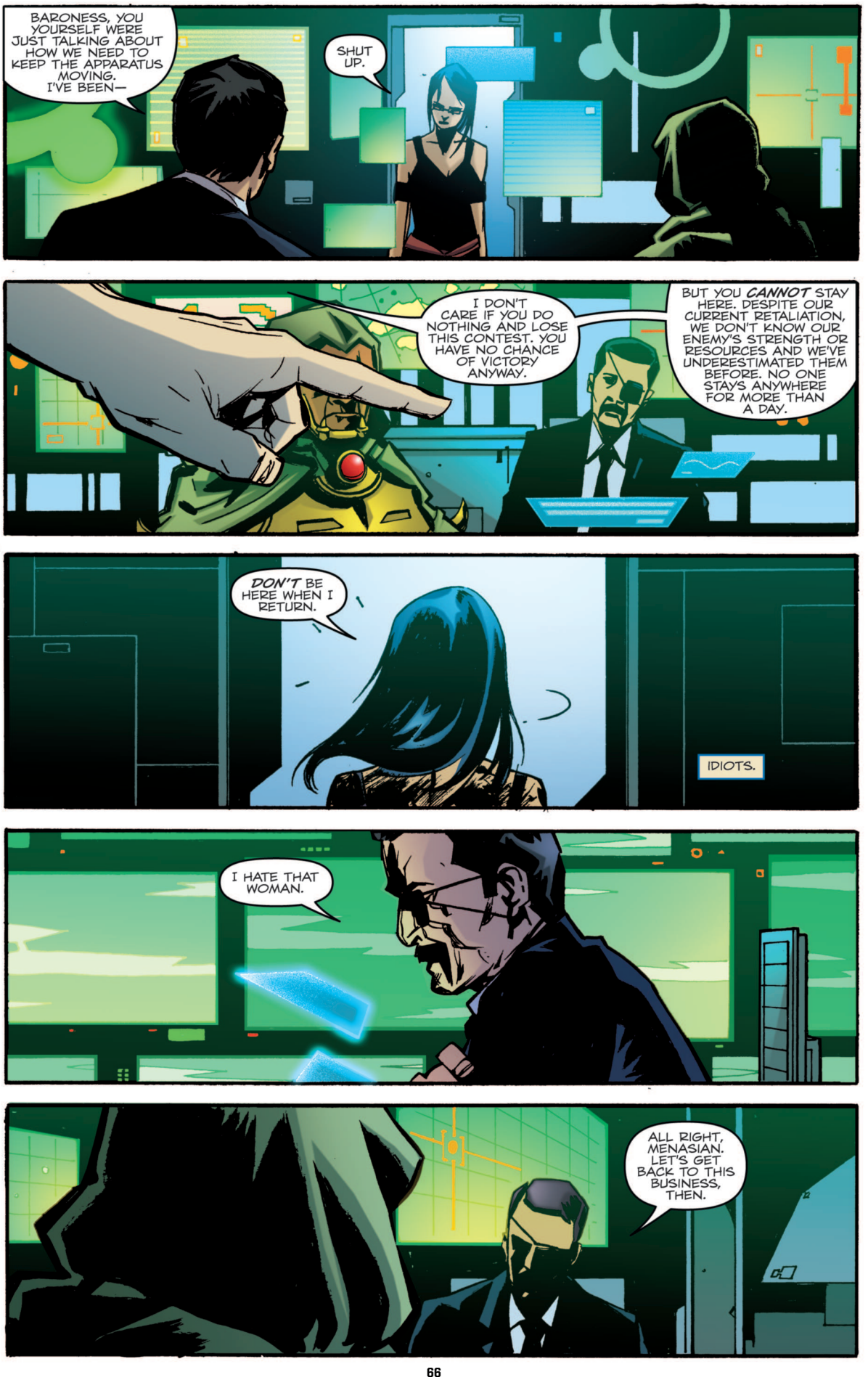

OUR PROBLEM IN ECUADOR IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE.


EXCELLENT.
ECUADOR? LOTS OF JOES OUT THERE IN ECUADOR?


NO. NOT THAT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT WE HAVE ARMS OF INDUSTRY OUTSIDE OF YOUR GLASSY-EYED MASSES BUYING THOUSAND-DOLLAR "PERSONALITY TESTS." AND THOSE INDUSTRIES MUST BE MAINTAINED, DESPITE OUR CONTEST.
WHICH, I ASSURE YOU, I AM CURRENTLY DOMINATING.


AND WHAT ARE YOU TWO STILL DOING HERE? I'VE BEEN AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK IN THE LAST THREE DAYS. I RETURN HERE AND NEITHER OF YOU HAVE MOVED.
DO YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO OTHER THAN REVOLT ME?


YOU, I UNDERSTAND, MENASIAN. YOU'RE USELESS.
BUT *YOU*, BLUDD, YOU'RE A *CANDIDATE*. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BE *DOING* SOMETHING.


BARONESS, YOU YOURSELF WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW WE NEED TO KEEP THE APPARATUS MOVING. I'VE BEEN—
SHUT UP.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DO NOTHING AND LOSE THIS CONTEST. YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF VICTORY ANYWAY.
BUT YOU CANNOT STAY HERE. DESPITE OUR CURRENT RETALIATION, WE DON'T KNOW OUR ENEMY'S STRENGTH OR RESOURCES AND WE'VE UNDERESTIMATED THEM BEFORE. NO ONE STAYS ANYWHERE FOR MORE THAN A DAY.
DON'T BE HERE WHEN I RETURN.
IDIOTS.
I HATE THAT WOMAN.
ALL RIGHT, MENASIAN. LET'S GET BACK TO THIS BUSINESS, THEN.

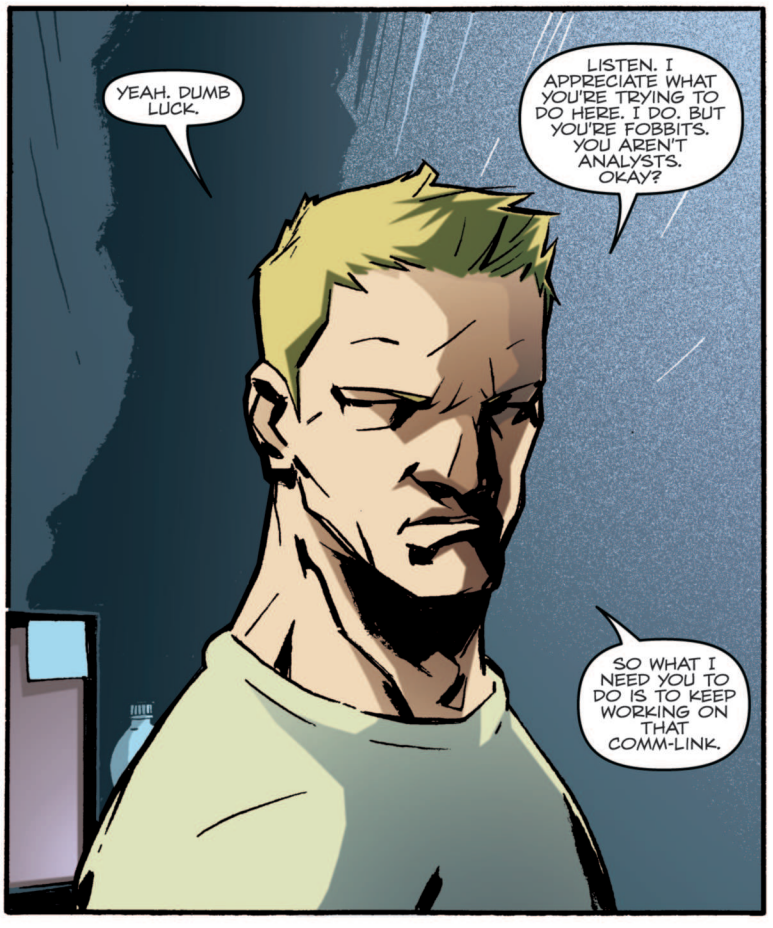

"WHOA, THAT'S NOT NORMAL."
SEE, YOU'VE GOT A PLANE UNDER 500 FEET, COMING IN AT LESS THAN 200KPH—I'M THINKING SKYHOOK, RIGHT?
LOOKS LIKE.
EXACTLY. AND YOU SEE HERE HOW IT ACCELERATES AFTER A FEW MINUTES? I MEAN IT REALLY TAKES OFF.
WHAT'VE YOU FOBBITS GOT THERE? NEW ISSUE OF EGM?
NO. WHAT—STEELER, HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
LOOK AT THIS HERE...


...THIS DATA CAME OFF A SATELLITE. SIXTEEN HOURS AGO ON AN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR. BUNCH OF EXPLOSIONS GO OFF ON AN ESTATE THERE. WE'RE TALKING HIGH EXPLOSIVE, WITH ACCELERANTS USED IN THE FIRE. YOU CAN TELL FROM THE TEMPERATURE.
ANYWAY. BUNCHA EXPLOSIONS? ESTATE? ECUADOR? WHATEVER. DRUGS, RIGHT? RIGHT.
EXCEPT, LOOK AT THIS.
THIS SHOWS AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT COMING IN LOW AND SLOW. WE'RE TALKING LOW ENOUGH AND SLOW ENOUGH FOR A SURFACE-TO-AIR RECOVERY.
SEE? IT CREEPS OVER THE EAST SIDE OF THE ISLAND, RIGHT OVER THE HOUSE, THEN AFTER A FEW MORE MILES, ACCELERATES. SERIOUSLY ACCELERATES. THING HITS MACH 1 BEFORE WE LOSE IT.
INSANE, RIGHT? BECAUSE HERE'S THE THING: EVEN IF SOME CARTEL HAD THAT KIND OF EXPERTISE OR EQUIPMENT... WHY? YOU KNOW? WHY GO TO SUCH CRAZY LENGTHS TO BURN OUT ONE GUY? THEY USE MILITARY TACTICS, SURE, BUT THIS? NO CARTEL CAN DO THIS.
SO... DO WE GOT SOMETHING HERE, OR DO WE GOT SOMETHING HERE?


SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.

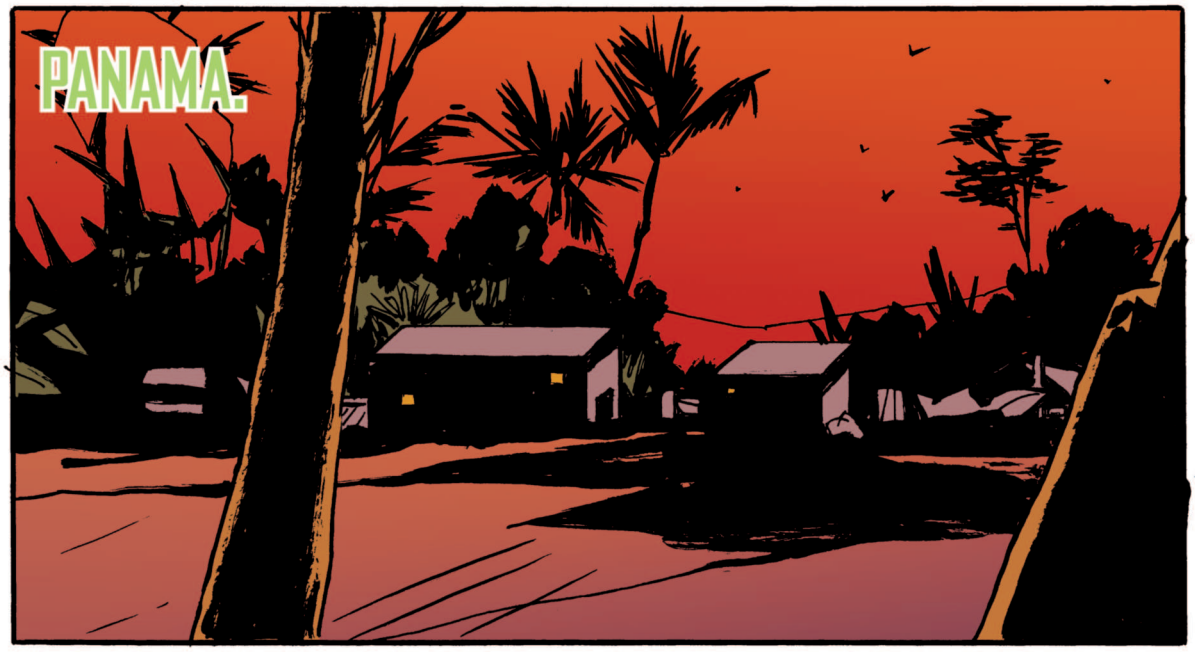

A DRUG KINGPIN'S HOUSE CAUGHT FIRE, YOU SAW A PLANE FLY OVER IT, AND THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COMM-UPLINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ESTABLISHING?

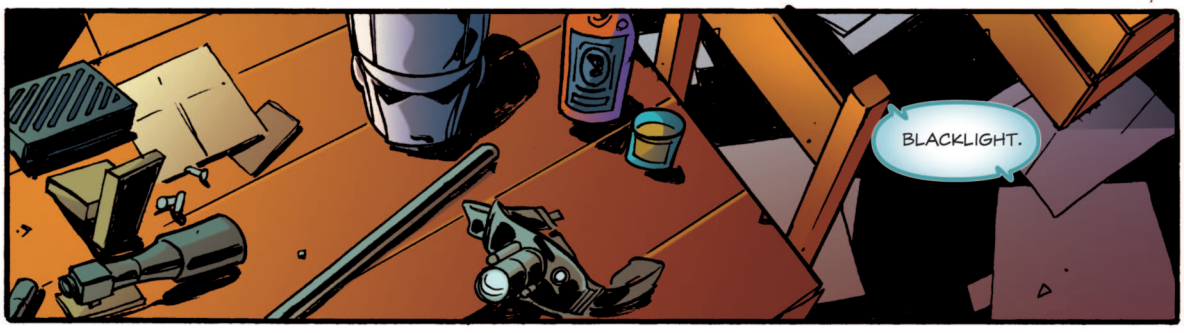

WELL, *THAT'S* HOW I CAME ACROSS THIS. WE'RE REQUISITIONING A FEW SURVEILLANCE UNITS. THIS WAS THE LAST THING ON THE RECORD BEFORE IT SWITCHED OVER. IT'S JUST DUMB LUCK, REALLY.


YEAH. DUMB LUCK.
LISTEN. I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO HERE. I DO. BUT YOU'RE FOBBITS. YOU AREN'T ANALYSTS. OKAY?
SO WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO IS TO KEEP WORKING ON THAT COMM-LINK.


WELL, OF COURSE WE'RE GOING TO KEEP WORKING, BUT DO YOU SEE—


GUYS, PLEASE. WE HAVE JOES UNDER FIRE IN PANAMA RIGHT NOW. PANAMA. NOT ECUADOR. AND I'M UP HERE, WAITING TO GET LINKED IN.
FIRST, I'M UP IN BEAR LAKE WHEN WE'VE GOT JOES OUT IN ANTARCTICA, AND NOW I'M UP HERE WHILE THEY'RE IN PANAMA. THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS GET ME MY LINK—LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO. WE GOTTA GET THIS PLACE OPERATIONAL.
STEELER, I GET THAT. BUT THIS THING... IT'S TOO WEIRD NOT TO—
BREAKER. ENOUGH.
NOT ANOTHER WORD ABOUT ECUADOR. IT'S OVER.


PANAMA.


BLACKLIGHT.

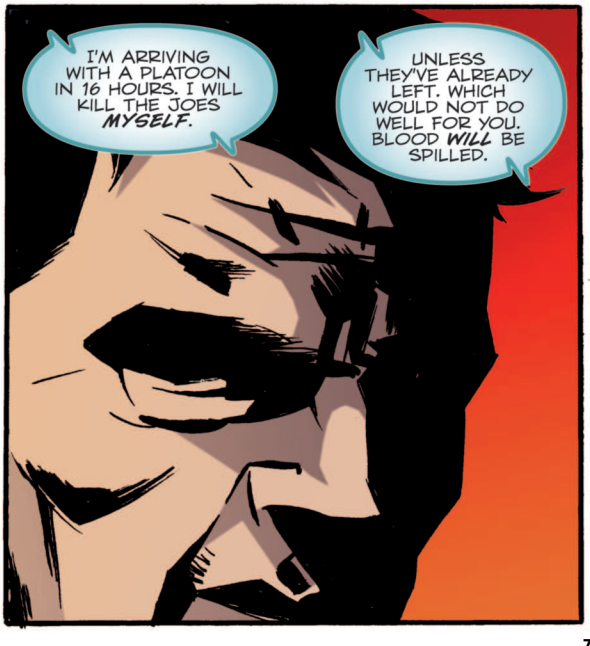

YOU ARE SEVEN HOURS PAST DUE ON YOUR LAST CHECK-IN.
YES, BARONESS. THERE HAS BEEN A SETBACK.

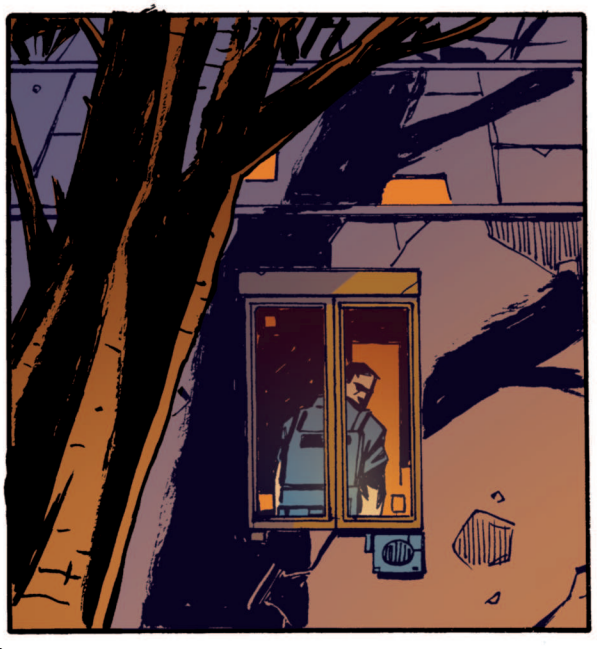

MY SPOTTER IS DEAD. I WAS WOUNDED AND FORCED TO RETREAT.
WOUNDED?!

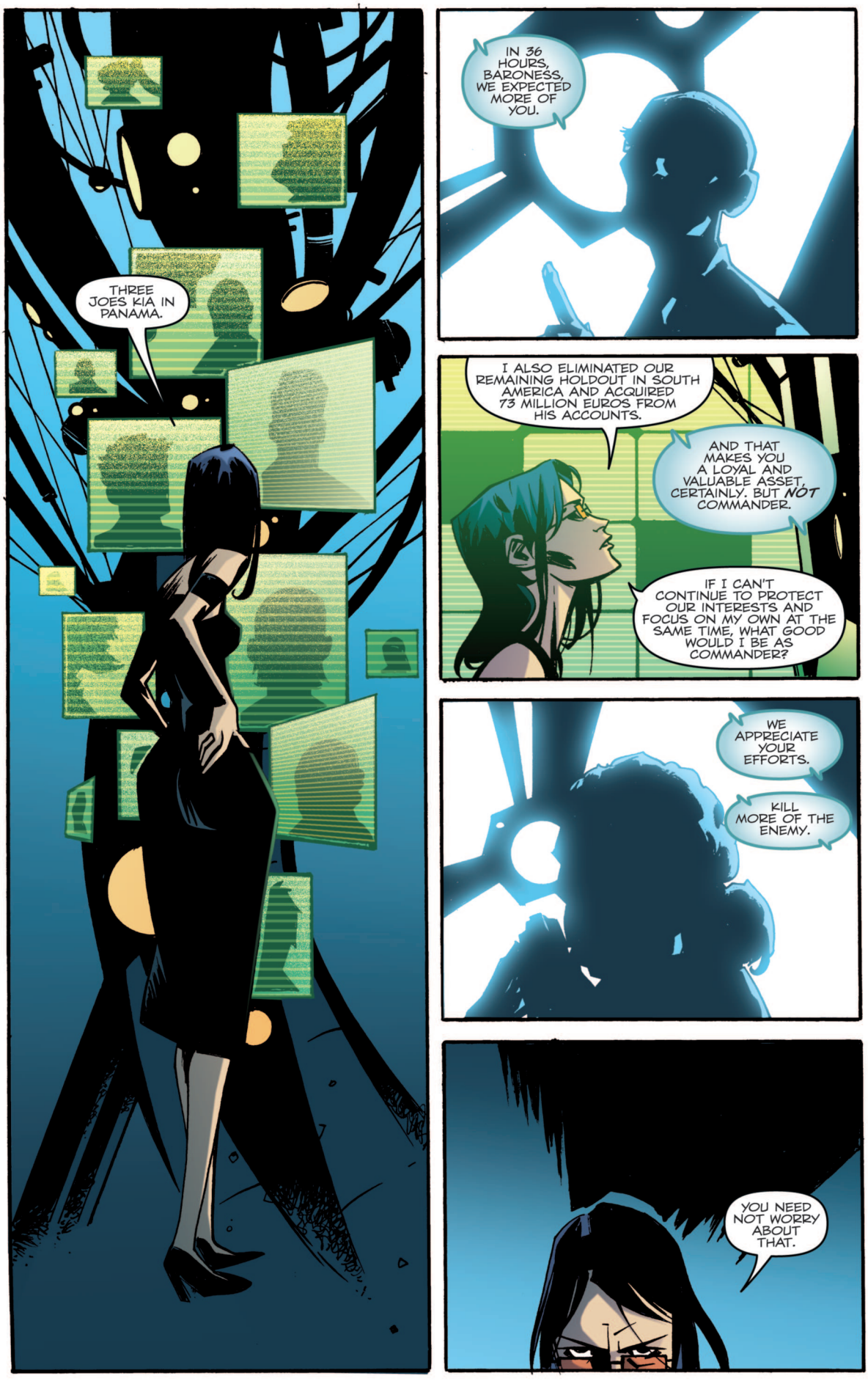

IT'S NOTHING.
YOU LOST PERSONNEL AND WERE DRIVEN FROM THE BATTLEFIELD. THAT IS NOT NOTHING! THERE SHOULD BE NO ONE LEFT ALIVE TO SHOOT AT YOU.

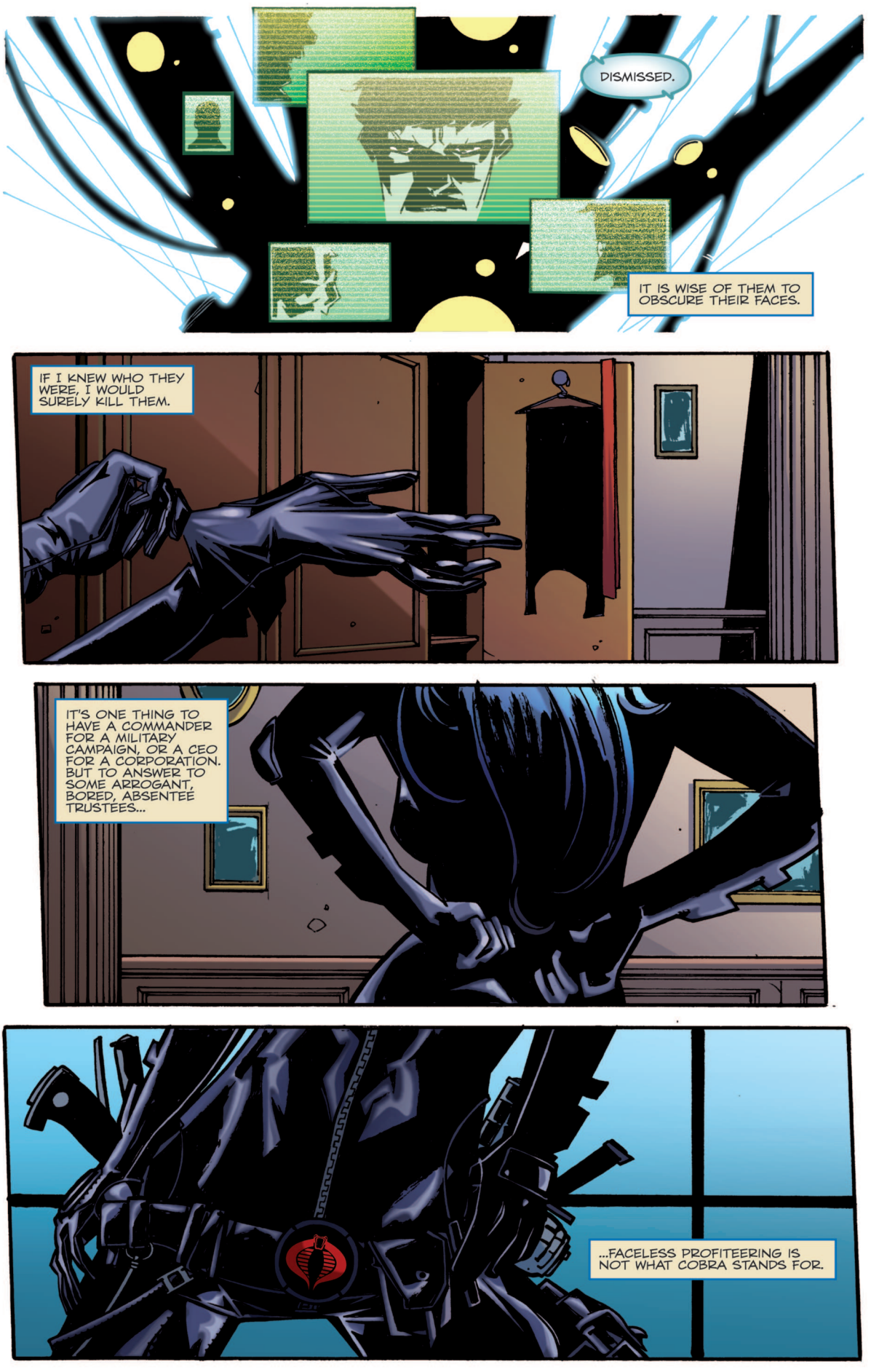

THE JOES ARE STILL HERE. I CAN TRACK THEM. EVEN WITHOUT A SPOTTER.
I LEFT THIS TO YOU, SO THAT I COULD ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS. I DO NOT LIKE TO BE MADE A FOOL.

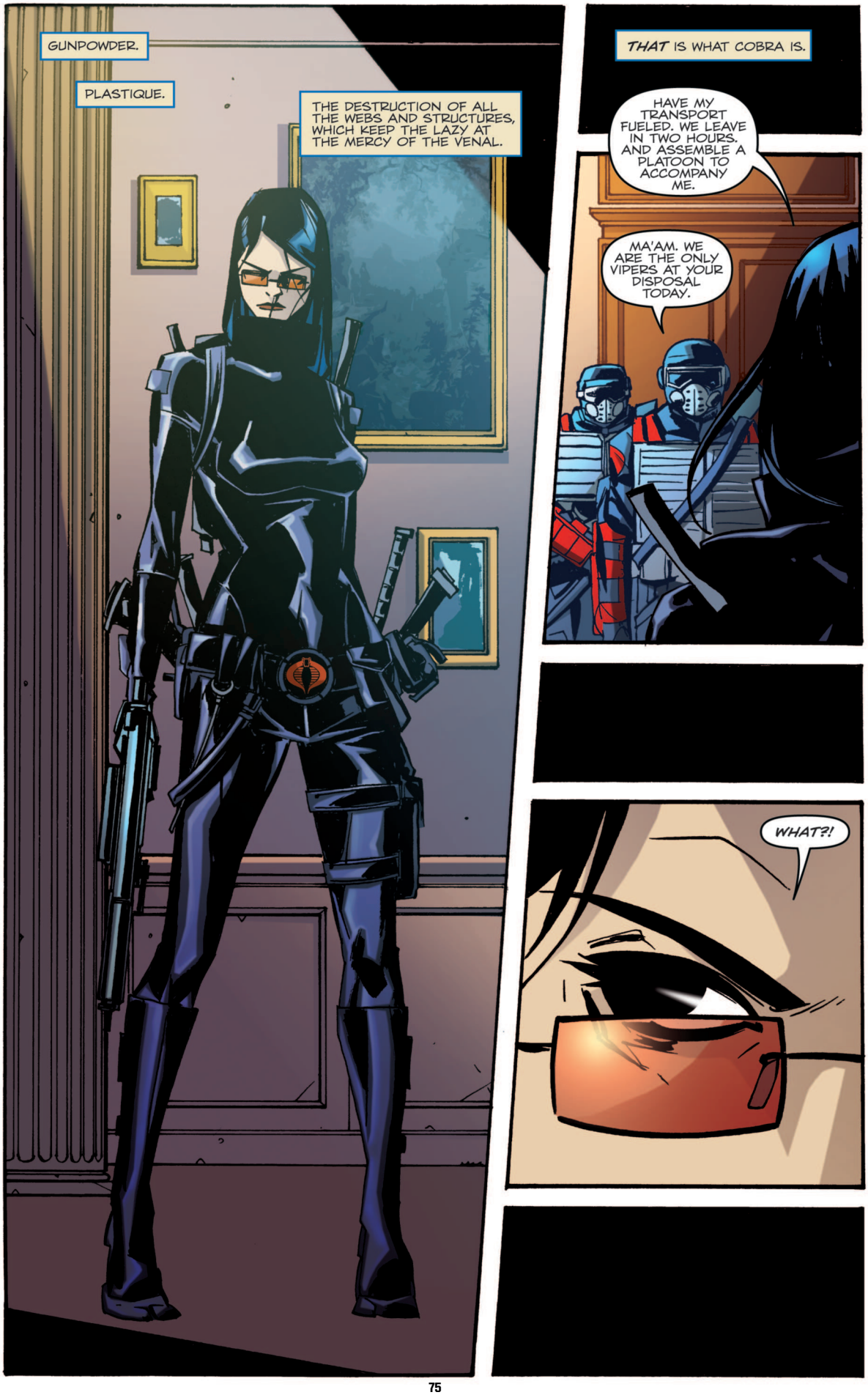

THEY WILL BE DEAD BEFORE MORNING.
NO. NOW THAT YOU HAVE REVEALED YOURSELF TO THEM, YOUR GREATEST ASSET IS GONE. THEY WILL KILL YOU, AND THAT SECOND FAILURE WILL BE WORSE TO EXPLAIN TO HIGH COMMAND THAN THIS FIRST.


I'M ARRIVING WITH A PLATOON IN 16 HOURS. I WILL KILL THE JOES MYSELF.
UNLESS THEY'VE ALREADY LEFT. WHICH WOULD NOT DO WELL FOR YOU. BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED.




THREE JOES KIA IN PANAMA.
IN 36 HOURS, BARONESS, WE EXPECTED MORE OF YOU.
I ALSO ELIMINATED OUR REMAINING HOLDOUT IN SOUTH AMERICA AND ACQUIRED 73 MILLION EUROS FROM HIS ACCOUNTS.
AND THAT MAKES YOU A LOYAL AND VALUABLE ASSET, CERTAINLY. BUT NOT COMMANDER.
IF I CAN'T CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS AND FOCUS ON MY OWN AT THE SAME TIME, WHAT GOOD WOULD I BE AS COMMANDER?
WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS.
KILL MORE OF THE ENEMY.
YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT.


DISMISSED.
IT IS WISE OF THEM TO OBSCURE THEIR FACES.
IF I KNEW WHO THEY WERE, I WOULD SURELY KILL THEM.
IT'S ONE THING TO HAVE A COMMANDER FOR A MILITARY CAMPAIGN, OR A CEO FOR A CORPORATION. BUT TO ANSWER TO SOME ARROGANT, BORED, ABSENTEE TRUSTEES...
...FACELESS PROFITEERING IS NOT WHAT COBRA STANDS FOR.

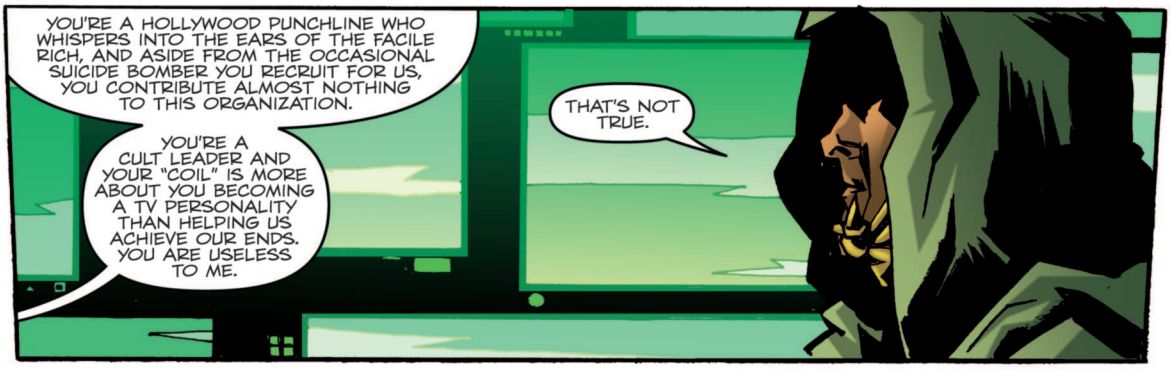

GUNPOWDER.
PLASTIQUE.
THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THE WEBS AND STRUCTURES, WHICH KEEP THE LAZY AT THE MERCY OF THE VENAL.
THAT IS WHAT COBRA IS.
HAVE MY TRANSPORT FUELED. WE LEAVE IN TWO HOURS. AND ASSEMBLE A PLATOON TO ACCOMPANY ME.
MA'AM. WE ARE THE ONLY VIPERS AT YOUR DISPOSAL TODAY.
WHAT?!

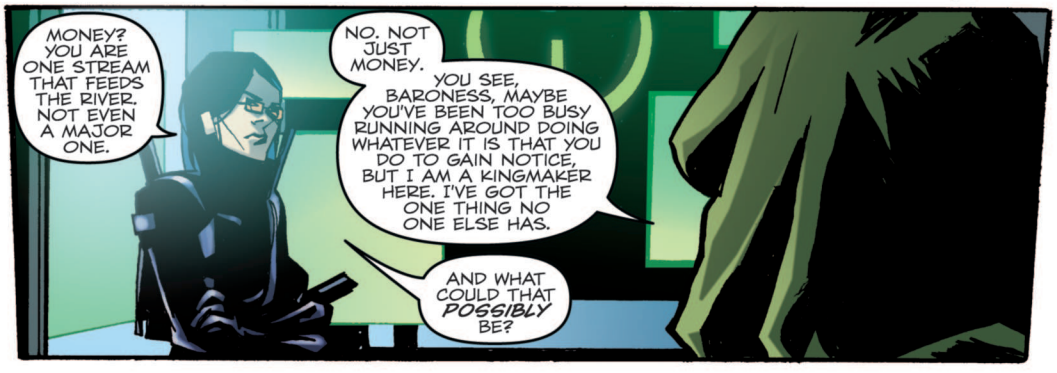

WHERE ARE THE VIPERS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE STAFFING THIS INSTALLATION? WE ARE ALREADY DESPERATELY UNDERMANNED FROM THAT COMPLETE DEBACLE ON THE ISLAND!
MAJOR BLUDD TOOK SEVERAL WITH HIM TO RUSSIA, OPERATING ON SOME INTELLIGENCE. HE WAS APPARENTLY INSPIRED BY YOUR PEP TALK.
WHAT INTELLIGENCE?
I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO SAY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE'S A WEAKLING. MOST LIKELY HE TOOK THOSE MEN JUST TO UNDERMINE ME.
I'LL TAKE THOSE MEN. FIVE WILL BE ENOUGH.
-:AHEM:- THOSE ARE MY PERSONAL GUARD, BARONESS.

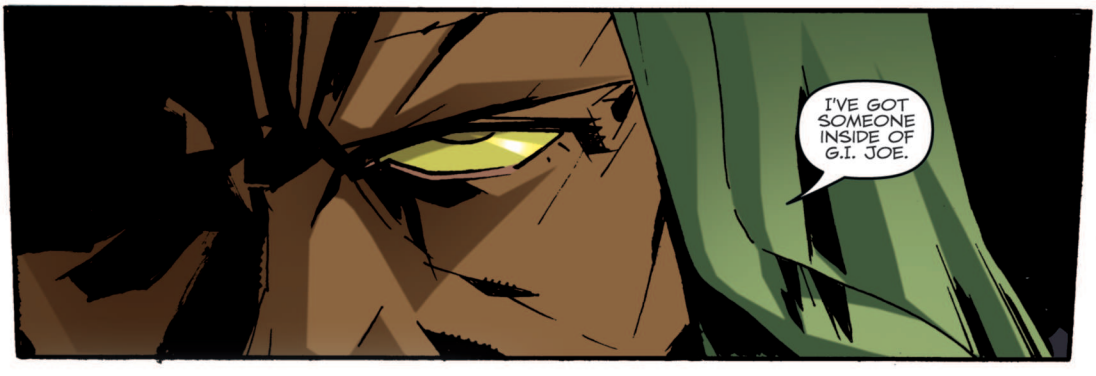

YOURS? WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE, VARGAS? YOU DON'T HAVE A GUARD.
THEY WERE GIFTED TO ME BY TOMAX PAOLI. AND I AM HERE TO SPEAK WITH SERPENTOR. NONE OF THIS CONCERNS YOU.
AH. I SEE IT NOW.
YOU. TOMAX. BLUDD. ALL WORKING IN CONCERT AGAINST ME. CONSPIRING.
BARONESS. THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS.
ARE YOU HAVING A PSYCHOTIC BREAK? HOW FASCINATING.
LEAVE THIS INSTALLATION NOW, VARGAS. YOU WERE INVITED HERE ONCE, AND THAT INVITATION IS NOW REVOKED.
AND LEAVE "YOUR" GUARD WITH ME. YOU DO NOT NEED THEM.

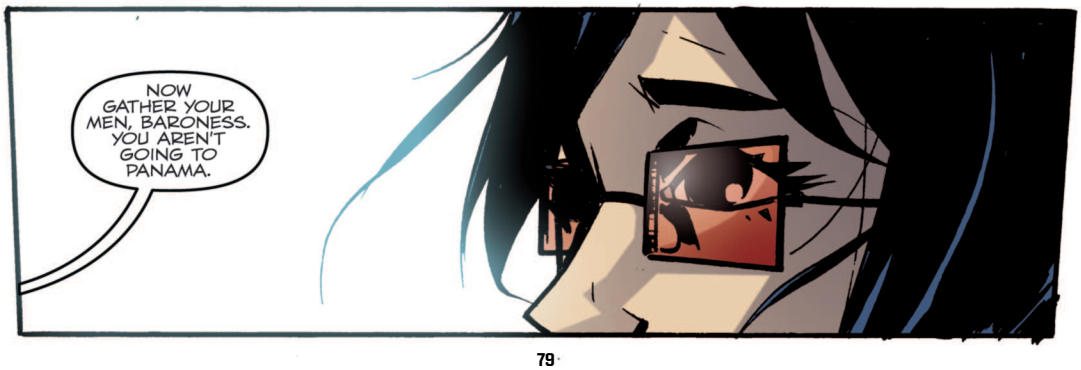

BARONESS, THIS IS ABSURD. THIS IS A COBRA BASE, NOT YOUR PRIVATE CHALET. BY THE RULES OF OUR CONTEST, I'M FULLY ALLOWED—
BLAM
THERE ARE NO RULES. YOU ARE LEAVING. AND NO MATTER WHAT, YOU ARE NOT BRINGING YOUR GUARD, EVEN IF I HAVE TO SHOOT THEM ALL.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO DISRESPECTED IN MY LIFE...
NOW. YOU.

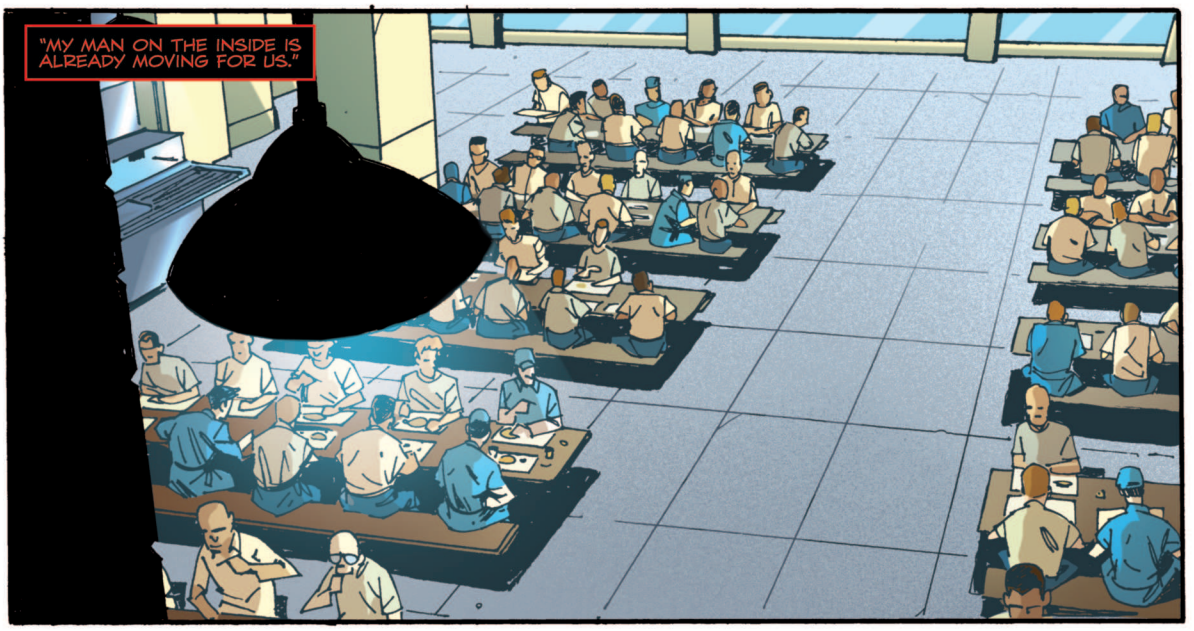

EVER SINCE YOU SWEPT IN HERE THREE DAYS AGO, YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING COURT AS IF YOU WERE SOME GRAND VIZIER.
WEAKLINGS AND WASHOUTS LIKE BLUDD AND VARGAS MIGHT BE STUPID ENOUGH TO BE IMPRESSED BY YOU, BUT I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.


YOU'RE A HOLLYWOOD PUNCHLINE WHO WHISPERS INTO THE EARS OF THE FACILE RICH, AND ASIDE FROM THE OCCASIONAL SUICIDE BOMBER YOU RECRUIT FOR US, YOU CONTRIBUTE ALMOST NOTHING TO THIS ORGANIZATION.
YOU'RE A CULT LEADER AND YOUR "COIL" IS MORE ABOUT YOU BECOMING A TV PERSONALITY THAN HELPING US ACHIEVE OUR ENDS. YOU ARE USELESS TO ME.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

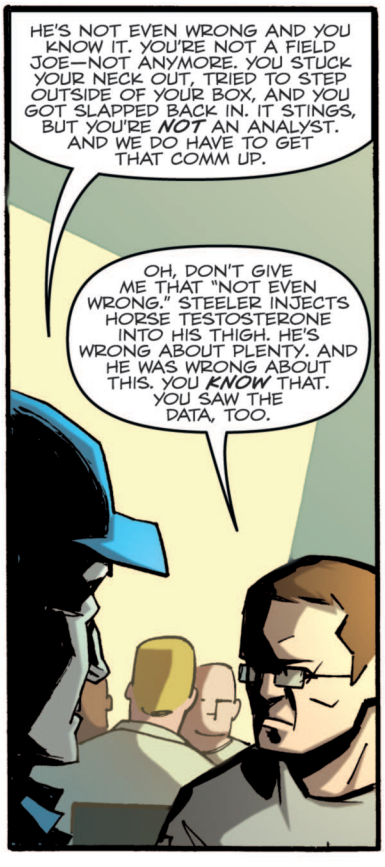

MONEY? YOU ARE ONE STREAM THAT FEEDS THE RIVER. NOT EVEN A MAJOR ONE.
NO. NOT JUST MONEY.
YOU SEE, BARONESS, MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN TOO BUSY RUNNING AROUND DOING WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU DO TO GAIN NOTICE, BUT I AM A KINGMAKER HERE. I'VE GOT THE ONE THING NO ONE ELSE HAS.
AND WHAT COULD THAT *POSSIBLY* BE?


I'VE GOT SOMEONE INSIDE OF G.I. JOE.


NOW GATHER YOUR MEN, BARONESS. YOU AREN'T GOING TO PANAMA.


"MY MAN ON THE INSIDE IS ALREADY MOVING FOR US."


WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS UP WITH STEELER TODAY?
COME ON, BREAKER. YOU KNOW HOW THESE COMBAT PERSONNEL GET WHEN THEY SIT ON THEIR HANDS ALL DAY. HE'S JUST BEEN BENCHED FOR TOO LONG. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONAL.


HE'S NOT EVEN WRONG AND YOU KNOW IT. YOU'RE NOT A FIELD JOE—NOT ANYMORE. YOU STUCK YOUR NECK OUT, TRIED TO STEP OUTSIDE OF YOUR BOX, AND YOU GOT SLAPPED BACK IN. IT STINGS, BUT YOU'RE NOT AN ANALYST. AND WE DO HAVE TO GET THAT COMM UP.
OH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT "NOT EVEN WRONG." STEELER INJECTS HORSE TESTOSTERONE INTO HIS THIGH. HE'S WRONG ABOUT PLENTY. AND HE WAS WRONG ABOUT THIS. YOU KNOW THAT. YOU SAW THE DATA, TOO.


I'M NOT AN ANALYST, EITHER, MAN. MAYBE I SAW WHAT YOU SAW, BUT AFTER YOU SAW IT. THESE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING. STEELER KICKED IT UPSTAIRS TO A PRO. IF THERE'S SOMETHING THERE, THEY'LL FIND IT.


YEAH, MAYBE. I'M GONNA GO GRAB SOME RACK TIME. I'LL SEE YOU DOWN THERE.


WELL, IS IT TRUE? DID HE SEND IT UPSTAIRS?
WELL HE SAID HE DID.
WELL, THERE YOU GO, THEN.
I DON'T KNOW... IT'S JUST, THE WAY HE WAS ARGUING. IT JUST DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT.
WELL, OKAY, THEN. YOU GOTTA TRUST YOUR FEELINGS. WHAT DO THEY TELL YOU?
THEY TELL ME... THEY TELL ME THERE'S SOMETHING SQUIRRELY ABOUT THIS. ABOUT BOTH THE DATA, AND THE WAY HE REACTED TO IT.
TOO EMPHATIC?
YES! EXACTLY!
BREAKER
I DON'T KNOW... THIS DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT, TALKING LIKE THIS ABOUT A SUPERIOR OFFICER. A FELLOW JOE, YOU KNOW? THIS IS A FAMILY.
NO. YOU HAVE A FAMILY. AND WE'RE PEOPLE THAT NEVER MAKE YOU DOUBT. YOU KNOW THE BOOK. LISTEN TO YOUR REPTILE BRAIN.
BREAKER
THAT'S WHERE YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS IS DOING ALL THE CODEBREAKING. THAT'S WHERE INTUITION COMES FROM. WHAT DOES IT SAY?
IT SAYS STEELER IS ACTING SUSPICIOUS. IT'S SAYING WE SHOULD BE GOING TO ECUADOR.
EXACTLY. SO THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.


THANKS. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GLAD I AM TO HAVE YOU IN MY LIFE. YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO CENTER ME AND GET ME SEEING CLEARLY.
WELL OF COURSE. THAT'S WHAT YOUR NEST SPONSOR IS FOR.
SO WE'RE DECIDED, THEN.
MENASIAN YOUR SECOND SKIN
MENASIAN SHEDDING YOUR SKIN
ECUADOR IT IS.

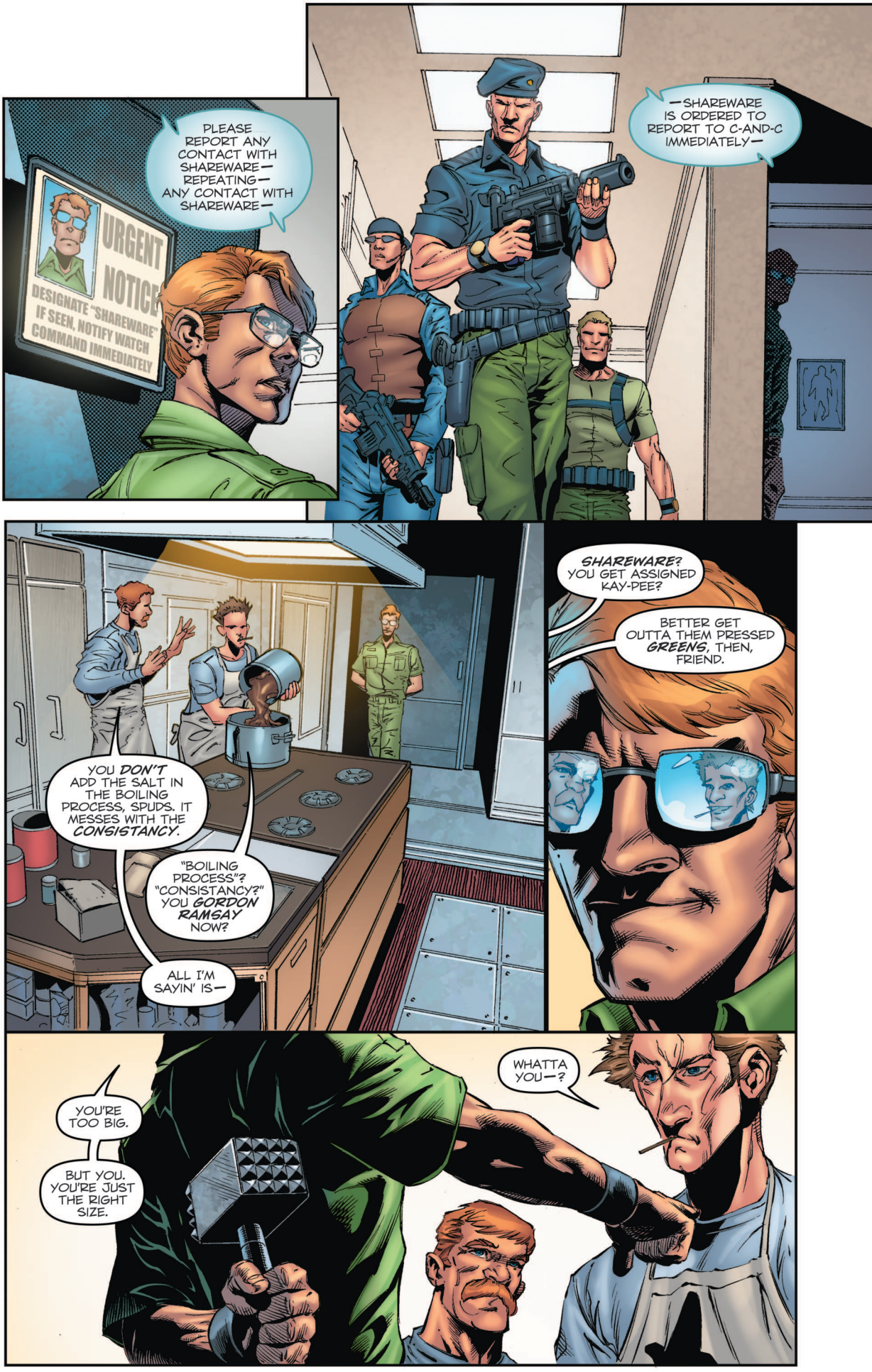


G.I. JOE: SERIES 2 #2A BY **TOM FEISTER**


SOMEWHERE IN THE
NEVADA DESERT.
THE PIT.

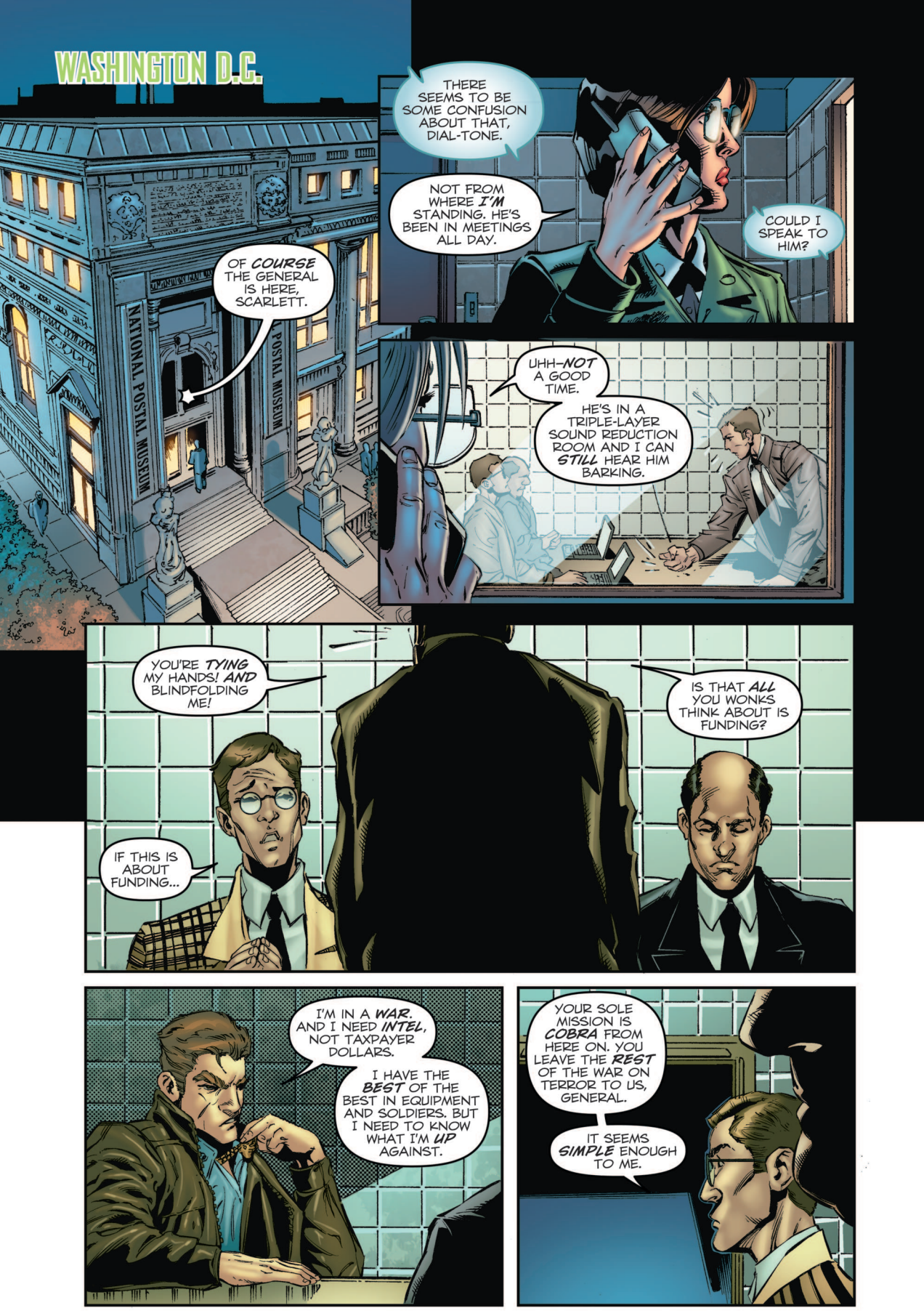

ADVANCE AND BE RECOG—>SKIIK<—OGNIZED. SEMPER-PER-PER-PER FI.
HAVE YOUR IDEN—DEN—DEN—TIFICATION READY FOR INSPECTION...
THERE'S AN OPENING IN THE FLOOR OF THE HANGAR BUILDING.
SHUTTING DOWN ALL DETECTORS AND ALARMS INTO THE PIT, STORM SHADOW.
YOU ARE CLEAR ALL THE WAY DOWN.
I WILL BE MOVING TOWARD MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.


SHAREWARE?
HELIX TO INTEL.
GO AHEAD FOR INTEL.
PERIMETER SECURITY IS UNMANNED. NO ONE'S MONITORING HERE.
AND SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT ON THIS ARRAY.
WHAT'S NOT RIGHT, EXACTLY?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? NOT RIGHT. AS IN, WRONG.
AND SHAREWARE'S AWAY FROM HIS POST?
WELL, HE'S NOT HERE.
GET A SECURITY TEAM DOWN HERE ASAP, AND POST AN ALERT ON THE JOENET—
"—HE HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE."
ATTENTION— ALL-JOE ALERT—ALL-JOE ALERT—


PLEASE REPORT ANY CONTACT WITH SHAREWARE— REPEATING— ANY CONTACT WITH SHAREWARE—
URGENT NOTICE
DESIGNATE "SHAREWARE" IF SEEN, NOTIFY WATCH COMMAND IMMEDIATELY
—SHAREWARE IS ORDERED TO REPORT TO C-AND-C IMMEDIATELY—
YOU DON'T ADD THE SALT IN THE BOILING PROCESS, SPUDS. IT MESSES WITH THE CONSISTANCY.
"BOILING PROCESS"? "CONSISTANCY?" YOU GORDON RAMSAY NOW?
ALL I'M SAYIN' IS—
SHAREWARE? YOU GET ASSIGNED KAY-PEE?
BETTER GET OUTTA THEM PRESSED GREENS, THEN, FRIEND.
YOU'RE TOO BIG.
BUT YOU. YOU'RE JUST THE RIGHT SIZE.
WHATTA YOU—?


HUNH!
AW, A FOOD CRITIC, HUH?
GUH!
GAKK!
THANK YOU AND GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN.


IT'S NOT LIKE SHAREWARE TO LEAVE HIS POST. AND WHY ARE THE MONITORS IN THIS SECTOR DEACTIVATED?
WELL, HE'S NOT *HERE*, FLINT.
I WAS LOOKING FOR GENERAL HAWK, AND—
BUT HAWK'S OFF BASE. NOT EXPECTED BACK UNTIL TOMORROW.
FLINT, WHAT IS GOING ON DOWN THERE?
WE HAVE *MISSING* PERSONNEL?
LOOKS LIKE IT, SCARLETT. HELIX SAID THAT GENERAL HAWK CAME IN TO SEE SHAREWARE AT PERIMETER SECURITY AND—
I SAW GENERAL HAWK DRIVE ONTO THE BASE, TOO.
THAT'S NOT *POSSIBLE*—
—THE GENERAL'S *STILL* IN WASHINGTON.
SHE *SAYS* SHE SAW HIM.
THAT IS *NOT* WHAT I SAID.
MY CONDITION *PREVENTS* ME FROM RECOGNIZING FACES RELIABLY.
OTHER PEOPLE WERE SALUTING *SOMEONE* THEY SAID WAS HAWK. BUT SOMETHING WAS OFF—THE WAY HE *MOVED*.
NO WAY THAT WAS THE GENERAL.
WE HAVE A *SITUATION* HERE.
LOCK DOWN THE PIT WHILE I RAISE HAWK.


WASHINGTON D.C.
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM
POSTAL MUSEUM
OF COURSE THE GENERAL IS HERE, SCARLETT.
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THAT, DIAL-TONE.
NOT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING. HE'S BEEN IN MEETINGS ALL DAY.
COULD I SPEAK TO HIM?
UHH–NOT A GOOD TIME.
HE'S IN A TRIPLE-LAYER SOUND REDUCTION ROOM AND I CAN STILL HEAR HIM BARKING.
YOU'RE TYING MY HANDS! AND BLINDFOLDING ME!
IS THAT ALL YOU WONKS THINK ABOUT IS FUNDING?
IF THIS IS ABOUT FUNDING...
I'M IN A WAR. AND I NEED INTEL, NOT TAXPAYER DOLLARS.
I HAVE THE BEST OF THE BEST IN EQUIPMENT AND SOLDIERS. BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST.
YOUR SOLE MISSION IS COBRA FROM HERE ON. YOU LEAVE THE REST OF THE WAR ON TERROR TO US, GENERAL.
IT SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH TO ME.


WELL, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, SIR. WE ALL KNOW THERE'S A TERROR UNDERWORLD. THEY COOPERATE ON A GLOBAL SCALE, EVEN WHEN THEIR GOALS CONFLICT.
COBRA IS A PART OF THAT. HELL, FOR ALL WE KNOW, COBRA IS BEHIND IT ALL.
OUR UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE DIED TO GIVE US THE BIGGER PICTURE OF WHAT THEY'RE ABOUT.
THEY HAVE A SECRET BASE ON THE MOON, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
SOLITAIRE
AND THEY'VE GONE TO GROUND AFTER THE HURT WE LAID ON THEM RECENTLY.
THE ONLY WAY TO GET AT THEM IS THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS IN THE OTHER TERROR OUTFITS.
I NEED FULL ACCESS TO NSA, CIA, AND NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DATA.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, GENERAL.
AT LEAST GET ME A LIAISON. SOMEONE TO BRIDGE TO THE AGENCIES FROM THE JOES.
WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.
SOON, GENERAL.
WHEN?
I TAKE IT YOU DIDN'T GET WHAT YOU NEED, SIR?
I NEED A DRINK.
THERE'S A PUB IN UNION STATION, SIR.
JOIN ME IN A BEER, DEE-TEE. MY TREAT. THAT'S AN ORDER.


ABERNATHY NEVER WAS A POLITICAL GENERAL. A SOLDIER ALL THE WAY.
HE'LL GET WHAT WE GIVE HIM AND BE HAPPY WITH THAT.
BUT WHAT IF THIS THREAT IS AS BIG AS HE SAYS?
MY OPINION? THIS COBRA IS FINISHED. HE'S PUFFING THEM UP TO KEEP HIS BUDGET.
THEY TOLD ME HE'D BE HERE.
WELL, WE'RE CLOSED FOR THE EVENING.
WERE YOU MEETING SOMEONE HERE, SIR?
OH, I'M MEETING SOMEONE, ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE ALL GONNA MEET HIM!
SOME-BUDDY
BOOM BOOM BOOM
THAT WAS—
TWELVE GAUGE. THREE SHOTS.

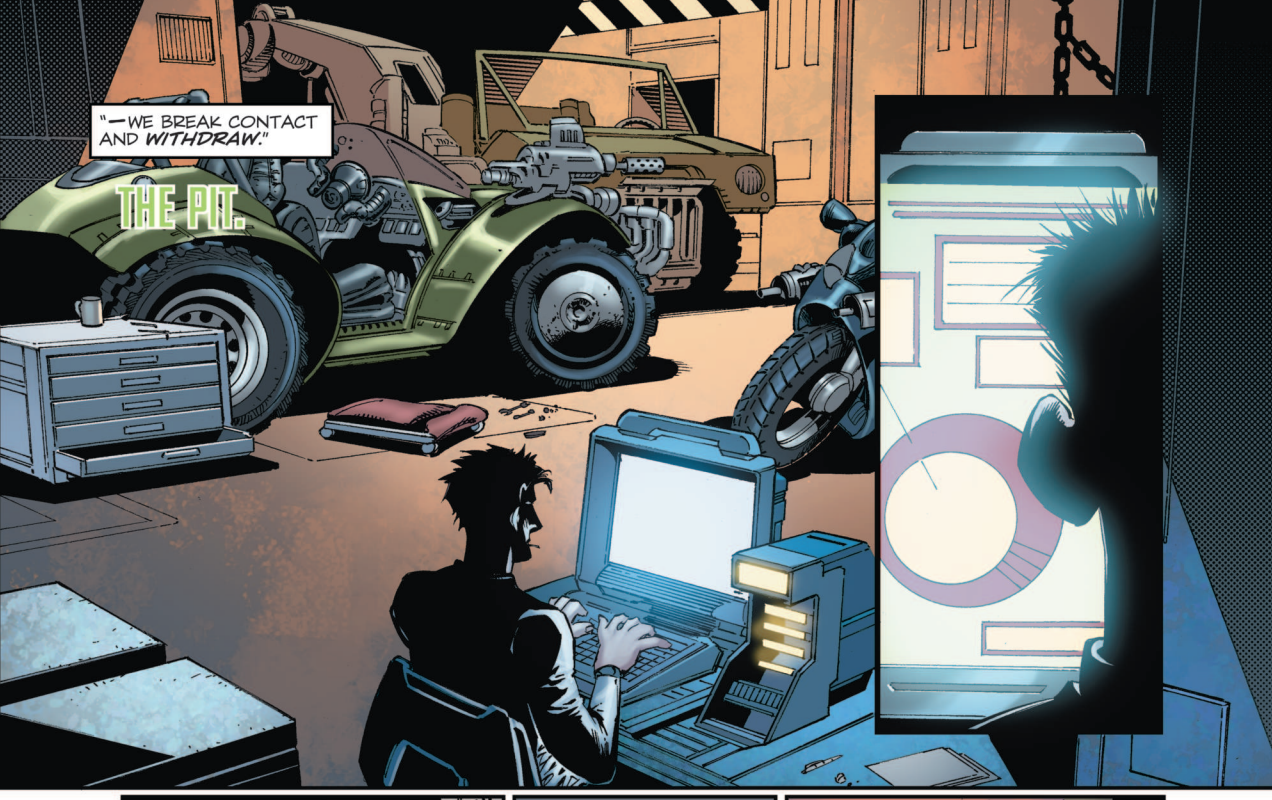

I KNOW YOU'RE HERE! THEY TOLD ME SO!
MIGHT AS WELL— UH?
BING
YEAH!
YOU ASKED FOR THIS! BEGGED FOR THIS!
BOOM
WHUH?
SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, FRIEND?
WHO ARE Y—?


GOOD IDEA GETTING OFF ON *TWO*, DEE-TEE.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S ACTING *ALONE*, SIR.
OH.
WE NEED TO CALL NINE-ONE-ONE, SIR.
NO NEED FOR THAT.
HANDS!
SHOW ME HANDS!

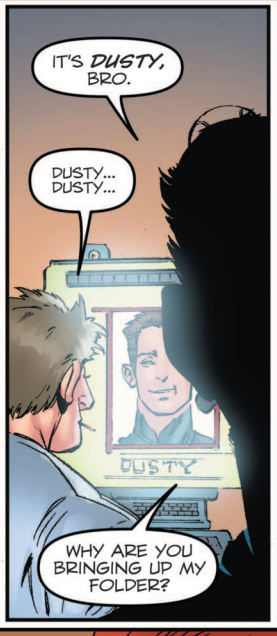

THE ONE YOU WANT IS ON THE FLOOR.
I'LL DECIDE WHO I WANT, CHIEF.
GUARDS ARE DEAD. THIS GUY'S ONLY UNCONSCIOUS.
HE'S YOUR SHOOTER. I TOOK HIM DOWN.
YEAH? QUICK WORK.
YOU GUYS MOVE FAST, TOO. YOU GOT HERE BEFORE THE SMOKE CLEARED.
IT'S THE CAPITAL. WE'RE WIRED SO TIGHT, WE SQUEAK.
SORRY. WE LIVE OR DIE ON SNAP JUDGMENTS.
SO, WE'RE NOT UNDER ARREST?
NAW. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS PAPERWORK, RIGHT?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO MAKE A STATEMENT, GENERAL HAWK.
YOU CALLED ME HAWK.

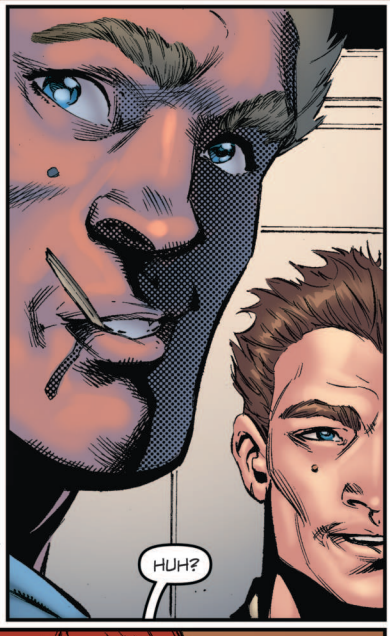

SWAT
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
WE WANT TO TALK WITH YOU.
REMEMBER PARA SCHOOL AT BENNING?
9·MM
TUCK AND ROLL...

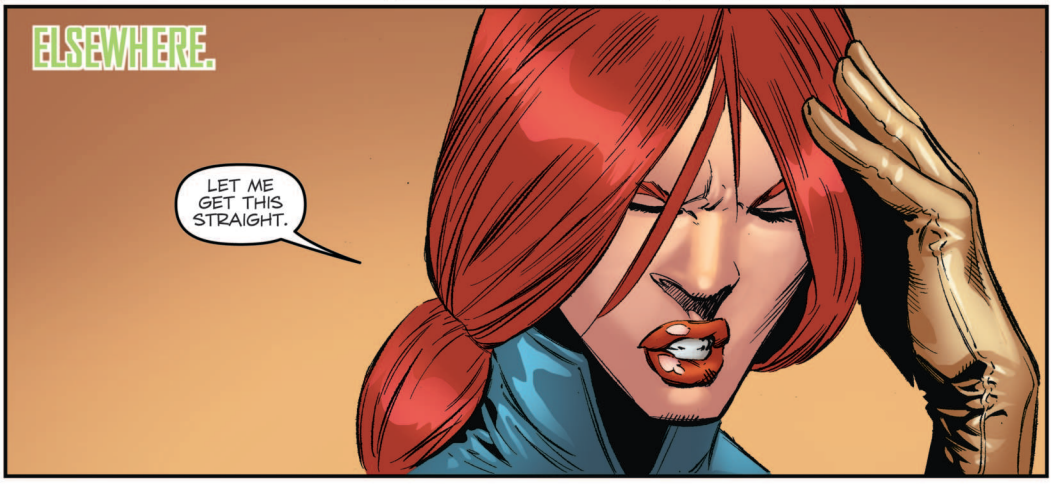

YOU FOUND ME, COBRA.
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF D.C. ALIVE, HAWK.
WE'RE EVERYWHERE. WE CAN BE ANYONE.
YOU'RE NO ONE.
WE'RE ON OUR OWN ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE PIT, DEE-TEE.
SHOULD WE CALL IN THE JOES?
NO. I'M NOT DRAWING MORE OF OUR PEOPLE INTO A BUSHWACK—


"—WE BREAK CONTACT AND WITHDRAW."
THE PIT.

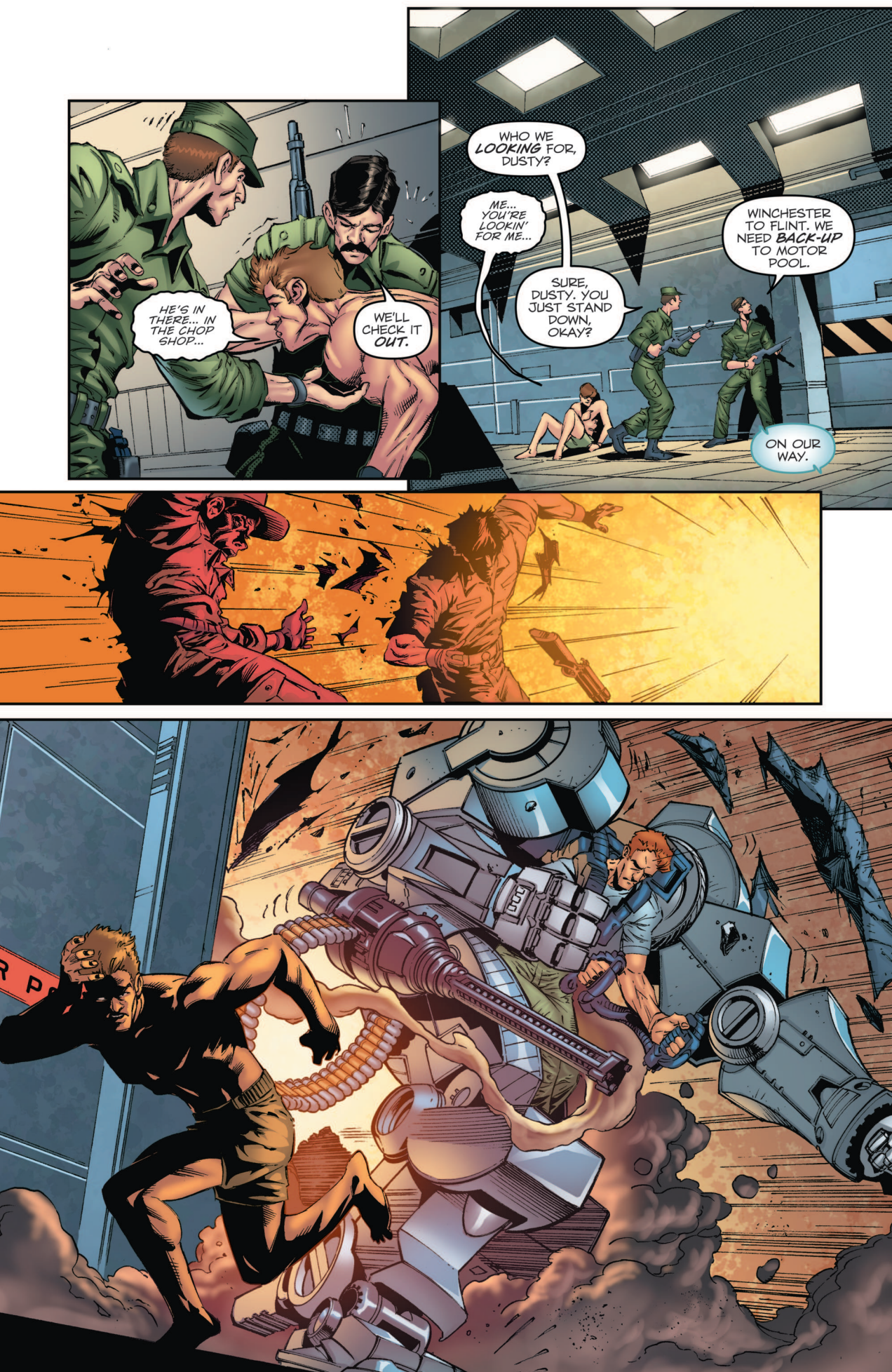

WHAT'S UP, SPUDS? NO NET ACCESS IN THE KITCHEN?
WHO'S THAT?


IT'S DUSTY, BRO.
DUSTY... DUSTY...
DUSTY
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING UP MY FOLDER?


HUH?

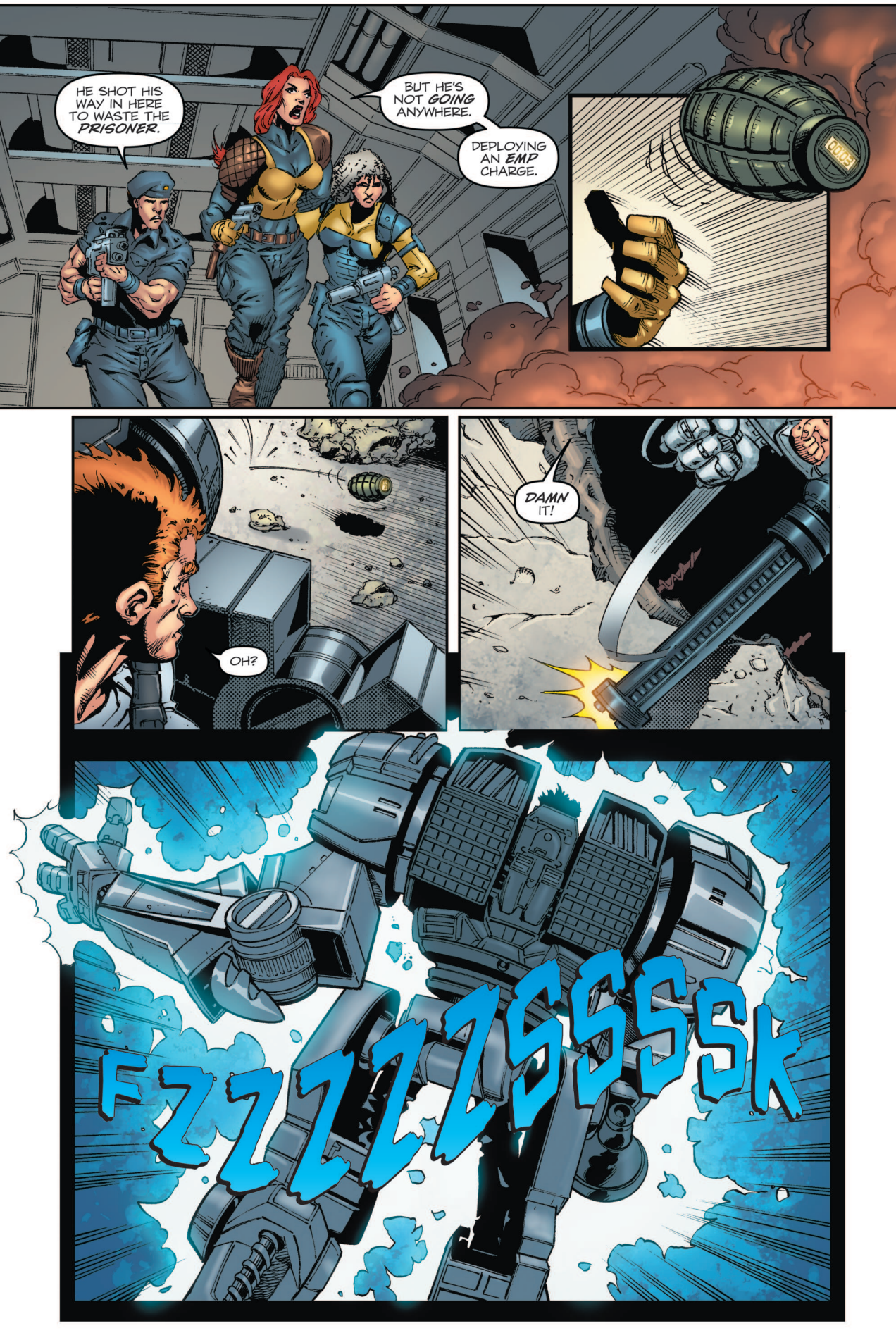

ELSEWHERE.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.


HAWK IS IN WASHINGTON. BUT WE SAW HAWK ARRIVING HERE TWENTY MINUTES AGO.
YOU DID SEE HIM. THE JOES AT THE ENTRY BAY THOUGHT IT WAS HAWK, TOO.
BUT YOU DIDN'T BECAUSE OF...
I DON'T REGISTER FACES. PART OF MY "THING." I KNEW IT WASN'T THE GENERAL.
SO IT WAS SOMEONE WITH HAWK'S FACE. A DISGUISE?
...
GO FOR FLINT.
WE FOUND SHAREWARE. SOMEONE KAKKED HIM, STUFFED HIM IN AN AIR VENT OVER HIS POST, AND TOOK HIS UNIFORM.
SECURE THE SCENE. I'LL BE DOWN THERE.
HOLD ON, FLINT. TWO JOES IN THE MESS SAY SHAREWARE ATTACKED THEM.
WHEN WAS THAT?
WAS JUST AFTER OH-NINE HUNDRED.
WE WERE IN PERIMETER SEC THEN.
WHAT'S GOING ON, FLINT?
I WISH I KNEW.
HEY, BROS... LITTLE HAND HERE?
DUSTY?


HE'S IN THERE... IN THE CHOP SHOP...
WE'LL CHECK IT OUT.
WHO WE LOOKING FOR, DUSTY?
ME... YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR ME...
SURE, DUSTY. YOU JUST STAND DOWN, OKAY?
WINCHESTER TO FLINT. WE NEED BACK-UP TO MOTOR POOL.
ON OUR WAY.


WASHINGTON D.C.
NATIONAL MUSEUM
NATIONAL POSTA
LOT OF COPS, SIR.
IF THEY'RE ALL REALLY COPS.
SIR?
WE CAN'T GO SHOOTING EVERYONE WHO LOOKS SHIFTY. AND WE CAN'T COUNT ON THE NEXT BATCH OF COBRAS MAKING A MISTAKE.
AND WE'RE ON SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS WASTING D.C. COPS.
BEST THING IS TO LEAVE THE FIELD INCOGNITO.
HAVE ANY CASH ON YOU, DEE-TEE?
THAT MEANS WE HAVE A WINDOW, SIR.
THE PIT.
ISOLATION CELL.
BUM BUM POM BUM
SCREEEEEE
SPING


HEY!
IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE.
KAFF! KAFF!
DOES EVERYONE GET ONE OF THEM IN THE FUTURE?
VVVVRRRRRRRRRRRRR


HE SHOT HIS WAY IN HERE TO WASTE THE PRISONER.
BUT HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
DEPLOYING AN EMP CHARGE.
OH?
DAMN IT!
FZZZZZSSSSK

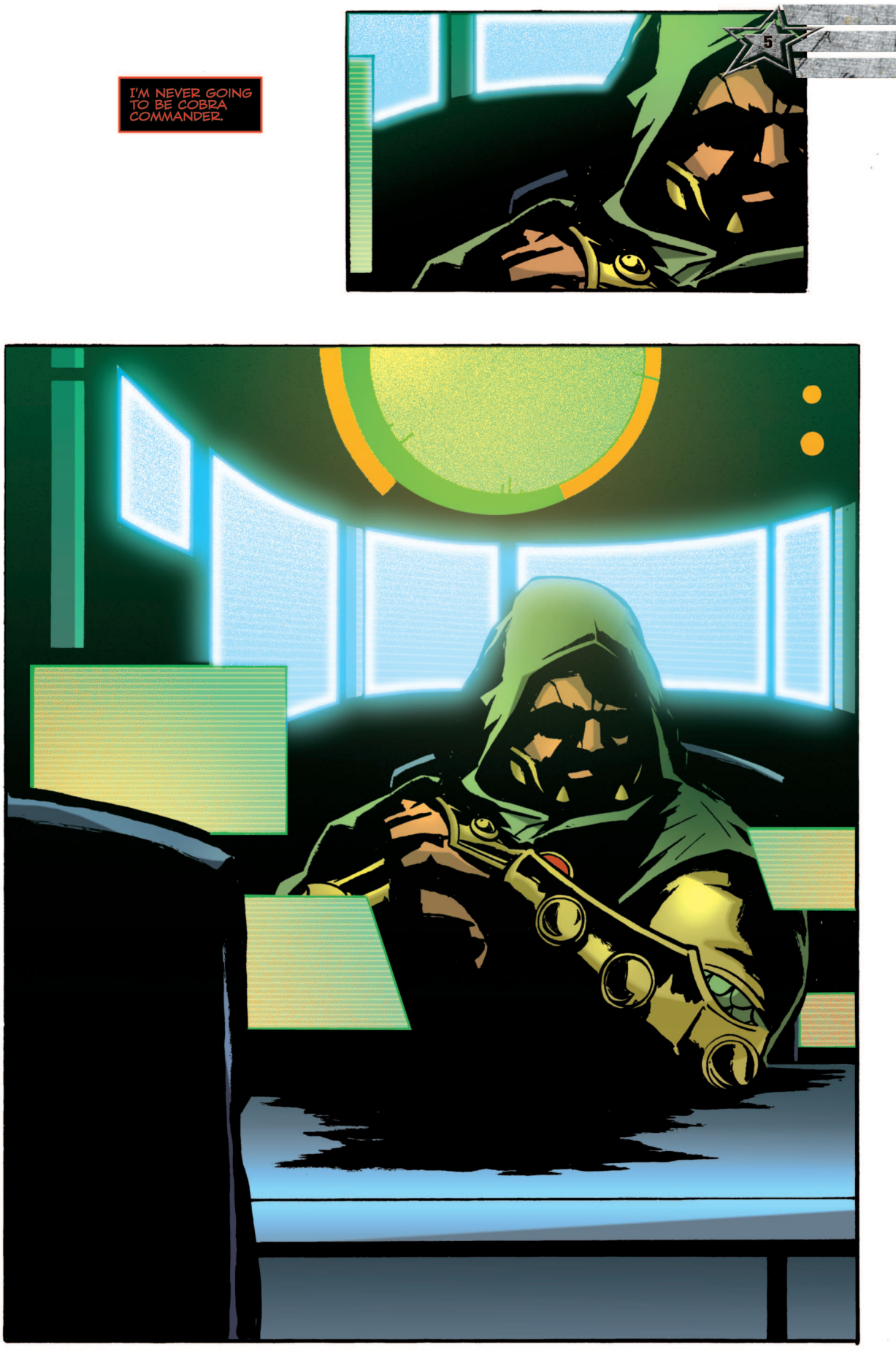

IT'S DUSTY!
IT'S NOT DUSTY. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT THIS GUY CAN BE ANYONE.
GET HIM OUT OF THERE!
HE'S GOT A STORY TO TELL!
WHAT'S THIS ACCOMPLISH, LOSER?
WE TRADE ONE PRISONER FOR ANOTHER. AND I HAVE A FEELING WE TRADED UP.
YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT?
YOU THINK I'M YOUR PRISONER?
WHY DID YOU DROP THE PERIMETER ALARMS?
HE WAS ALREADY IN, SCARLETT.
THAT MEANS HE DROPPED THEM TO LET SOMEONE ELSE INTO THE PIT...


"...SOMEONE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN THIS FREAK."





COBRA: SERIES 2 #2B BY **ANTONIO FUSO** COLORS BY **ARIANNA FLOREAN**


I'M NEVER GOING TO BE COBRA COMMANDER.
5


OF COURSE, I'M NOT EVEN A CANDIDATE.
AND THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT.


LOOK AT THESE POOR PEOPLE. SKITTERING AROUND LIKE ANTS.
TERRIFIED. OR ENRAGED.
THEY ARE SO LOST.
THEY NEED GUIDANCE.


DR. MENASIAN
CNM
NEWS




AND SO, I GUIDE THEM. THAT IS, AFTER ALL, THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF A PRIEST.
I'M SURE THIS WHOLE "CONTEST" THING MUST JUST SEEM LIKE AN ABSURD JOKE TO YOU AFTER WHAT YOU'VE LOST.
BUT I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO SERVE BOTH COBRA AND YOUR GRIEF.
NOT JUST A SPIRITUAL GUIDE, BUT ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE.
GRIEF COUNSELOR FOR THE BEREAVED...
THIS MAN. HE'S THE ONE THAT ORDERED THAT JOE UNDERCOVER. HE'S THE ONE THAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH.
COACH TO THE AMBITIOUS...
ALL RIGHT, MENASIAN. LET'S GET BACK TO THIS BUSINESS THEN.
HOW MUCH?
AND ALWAYS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TEACHER TO THE IGNORANT.
HOW MUCH WHAT? MONEY? BLUDD, PLEASE. DON'T MAKE ME REGRET HELPING YOU. OUR FUTURE COMMANDER NEEDS TO BE A MAN OF IMAGINATION.
I JUST WANT YOU TO MAKE ME PROUD.

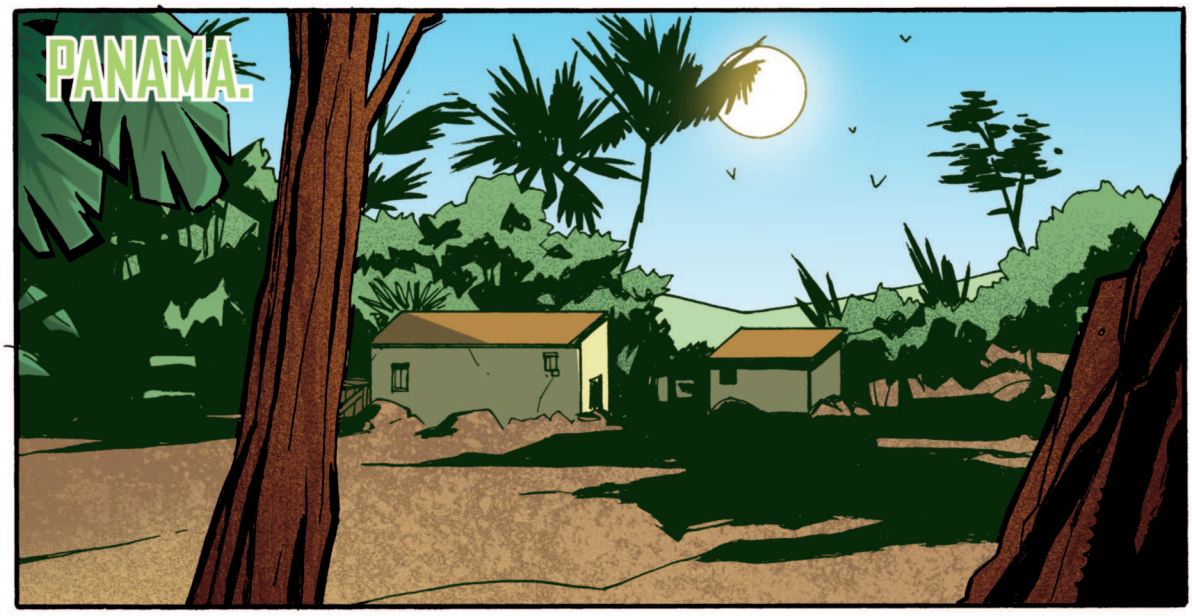

BREAKER.
FIREWALL.
THIS INTELLIGENCE IS VERY COMPELLING. WE'RE MOVING OUT A TEAM IN TWO HOURS. SAWED-OFF, IT'S YOUR SHOW.
STEELER.
SAWED-OFF.
SLAMMER.
LEADFOOT.
KNUCKLES.

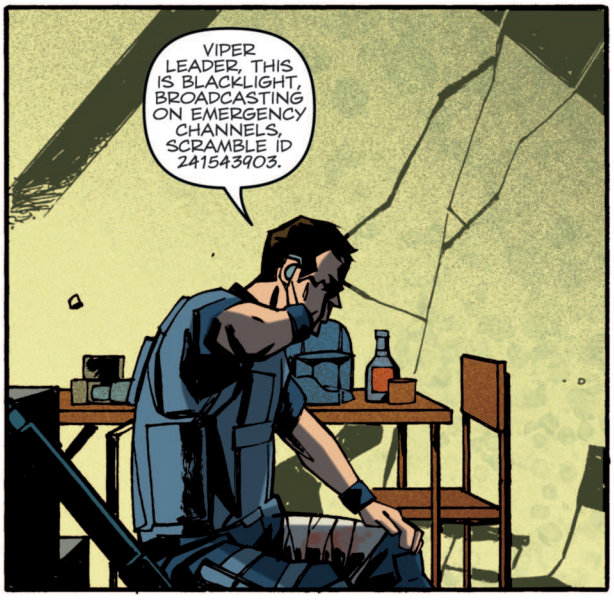

PANAMA—
THERE HASN'T BEEN ACTIVITY IN PANAMA IN NEARLY 24 HOURS. I'VE CARVED US DOWN TO JUST THREE ACTIVES THERE, LOOKING FOR THE SNIPER WHO AT THIS POINT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. NOT A PRIORITY.


WE'VE GOT *DEAD JOES!**
AND WE'VE GOT AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION OF UNKNOWN SCOPE AND STRENGTH, WITH OPERATIONS ALL OVER THE GLOBE, WHICH WE CAN'T IGNORE FOR A SITUATION WHICH IS ALREADY IN HAND.
*SEE RECENT ISSUES OF G.I. JOE FOR DETAILS. —COL. SCHMIDT


LOOK AT IT THIS WAY—THIS LEADS US TO ANY COBRA, YOU'LL GET YOUR PAYBACK. SUIT UP.




PANAMA.


VIPER LEADER, THIS IS BLACKLIGHT, BROADCASTING ON EMERGENCY CHANNELS. SCRAMBLE ID 241543903.

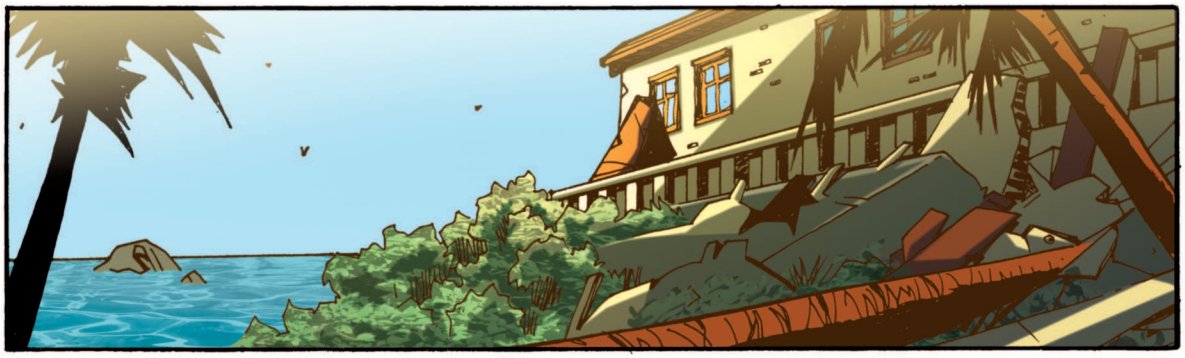

GONE TO GROUND. 30 HOURS OF INACTIVITY. 17 HOURS PAST EXTRACTION PROTOCOLS. THIS IS MY FIFTH BROADCAST. AWAITING CONTACT AND ORDERS.
KZZZRRT


KZZZRRT


OKAY. NOT COMING.



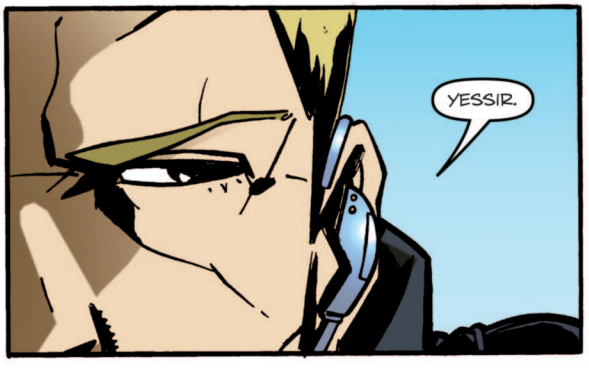

(EXCUSE ME, SIR. I COULD USE A RIDE.)
(YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME, GRINGO. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THAT NICE PACK THERE?)
(THIS IS PANAMA. RIDES AREN'T FREE, AND YOU AREN'T IN MUCH POSITION TO SET TERMS.)
(THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN. I NEED A RIDE, NOT QUESTIONS.)
(VERY WELL.)




OKAY. KNUCKLES AND SLAMMER WEST, STEELER AND I ARE EAST.


THIS IS RIDICULOUS
STOW IT, STEELER.


WE SECURE THE AREA, THEN CHARBROIL AND HIS TECH BOYS COME DOWN AND SIFT AROUND. COBRA LEAVES A TRAIL, WE FOLLOW IT, AND THE BEST PART IS, WHILE ALL THAT IS HAPPENING, I'M NOT HEARING YOU COMPLAIN ANYMORE.


YESSIR.


LEADFOOT. HOW'S THE DOCK LOOKING.
QUIET, SAWED-OFF. ANY SNAKES HERE BOOGIED LONG AGO.
COPY.


BBRRAAP
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
CONTACT!
AMBUSH! GET TO COVER!


THEY'RE PUSHING US TOWARD THE WATER!


DOCK'S CLEAR!


BAM
ARG!


WE'VE GOT TO WADE OUT FAR ENOUGH TO GET AROUND THIS FIRE AND BACK TO THE EXTRACTION POINT.

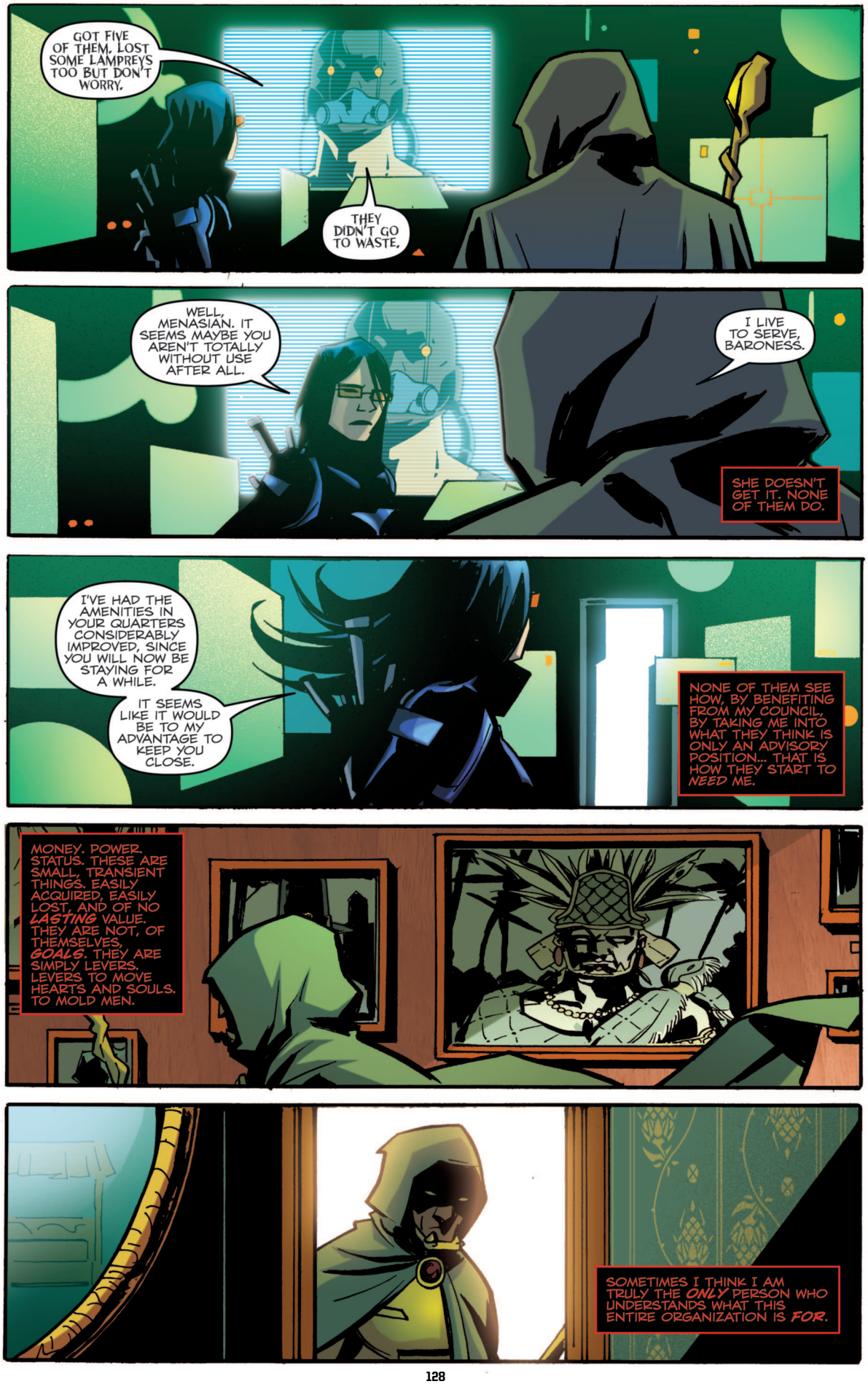

WHY HAVE WE STOPPED?
NOTHING. JUST A LOG.


AAH! GOD!


NO! NO!
NAAAA!
HEH HEH HEH.


CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK


BREAKER TO HQ. MISSION'S TOTALLY FRAGGED.
NEED EMERGENCY EVAC, IMMEDIATELY.


GOT FIVE OF THEM. LOST SOME LAMPREYS TOO BUT DON'T WORRY.
THEY DIDN'T GO TO WASTE.
WELL, MENASIAN. IT SEEMS MAYBE YOU AREN'T TOTALLY WITHOUT USE AFTER ALL.
I LIVE TO SERVE, BARONESS.
SHE DOESN'T GET IT. NONE OF THEM DO.
I'VE HAD THE AMENITIES IN YOUR QUARTERS CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED, SINCE YOU WILL NOW BE STAYING FOR A WHILE.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WOULD BE TO MY ADVANTAGE TO KEEP YOU CLOSE.
NONE OF THEM SEE HOW, BY BENEFITING FROM MY COUNCIL, BY TAKING ME INTO WHAT THEY THINK IS ONLY AN ADVISORY POSITION... THAT IS HOW THEY START TO NEED ME.
MONEY. POWER. STATUS. THESE ARE SMALL, TRANSIENT THINGS. EASILY ACQUIRED, EASILY LOST, AND OF NO LASTING VALUE. THEY ARE NOT, OF THEMSELVES, GOALS. THEY ARE SIMPLY LEVERS. LEVERS TO MOVE HEARTS AND SOULS. TO MOLD MEN.
SOMETIMES I THINK I AM TRULY THE ONLY PERSON WHO UNDERSTANDS WHAT THIS ENTIRE ORGANIZATION IS FOR.


TO BE WORSHIPED.
THAT IS WHAT COBRA IS.


PYTHONA. HAS OUR JOE CHECKED IN YET?
NO, GREAT SERPENTOR.
HE WILL. THE MISSION HE PUSHED FOR RESULTED IN TOTAL CASUALTIES. HE WILL BE DISTRESSED. HE WILL NEED YOU. OF COURSE, YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS.


STICK TO THE SCRIPT. THERE WON'T BE ANY WRINKLES IN THE PLAN.


THEY WERE WAITING FOR US THERE. THAT PLACE WAS JUST A HONEYPOT.
OKAY, SOLDIER. YOU GOTTA REST NOW. YOU CAN GET YOUR PAYBACK TOMORROW.
YEAH. YEAH, I WILL.





SNAKE EYES #1RI BY **ROBERT ATKINS** COLORS BY **SIMON GOUGH**


XIXABANGMA IN THE HIMAL RANGE, THE THIRTEENTH HIGHEST POINT ON THE PLANET.


TWO THOUSAND FEET SHY OF EVEREST.
THE SHANG DEFILE ON THE SOUTH FACE.
WE CLIMB UP. THEN AROUND. THEN DOWN.
ONLY WAY TO APPROACH THIS LEDGE.
TAKE MY HAND.
HOO!


I THOUGHT CLIMBING *UP* A MOUNTAIN WAS THE TOUGH PART.
CLIMBING *DOWN* IS A STITCH TOO, ALPINE.
ALMOST TO ME, HELIX. JUST LEAN INTO IT.
YEAH. YEAH. LEAN.
MOST CLIMBERS CONSIDER THIS PEAK TO BE AN *EASY* CLIMB.
EVEN *THIS* PART?
NO, THEY THINK THIS PART IS *IMPOSSIBLE*. TAKE MY *HAND*, SNAKE.
OR... *DON'T*.


SHOW-OFF.
RUCK UP, EVERYONE. WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS LAST LEG BEFORE DARK.
OTHERWISE WE'LL HAVE TOO MUCH EXPOSURE NEAR THE TARGET.
WE'RE GOING UP AGAIN.
THIS TRAIL LEADS WHERE WE NEED TO BE.
BUT NOT DIRECTLY, RIGHT?
NOW YOU'RE GETTING IT, HELIX.
COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL KHALIKHAN WENT TO OAHU.
YOU HAVE TO DO IT THE HARD WAY.
WHY IS THAT, Y'THINK?


WHAT WAS THIS ABOUT, SNAKE EYES?*
SIX JOES FROM DIFFERENT TEAMS.
THE ONLY THING THEY HAD IN COMMON IS THAT YOU TRAINED THEM.
A REVIEW OF THEIR JOE-NET ACCOUNTS REVEALED THEY ALL GOT A TEXT FROM YOU TO MEET HERE.
THE TEXTS WERE PHONY. WE KNEW COBRA WAS INTO OUR NET.
NO SHELLCASINGS.
THEY ALL DIED OF STAB WOUNDS AND BLUNT TRAUMA. AND BUSHIDO IS HANGING BY A THREAD.
WHO TOOK THEM DOWN? AND HOW?
WAS ALL OF THIS A MESSAGE FROM SOMEONE IN YOUR PAST?


THIS CAN'T BE JUST ABOUT *YOU*, SNAKE. JOES ARE *DEAD*.
WHAT *IS* THAT?


THAT'S *HINDI* ALPHABET.
THE SYMBOL FOR "KHA."

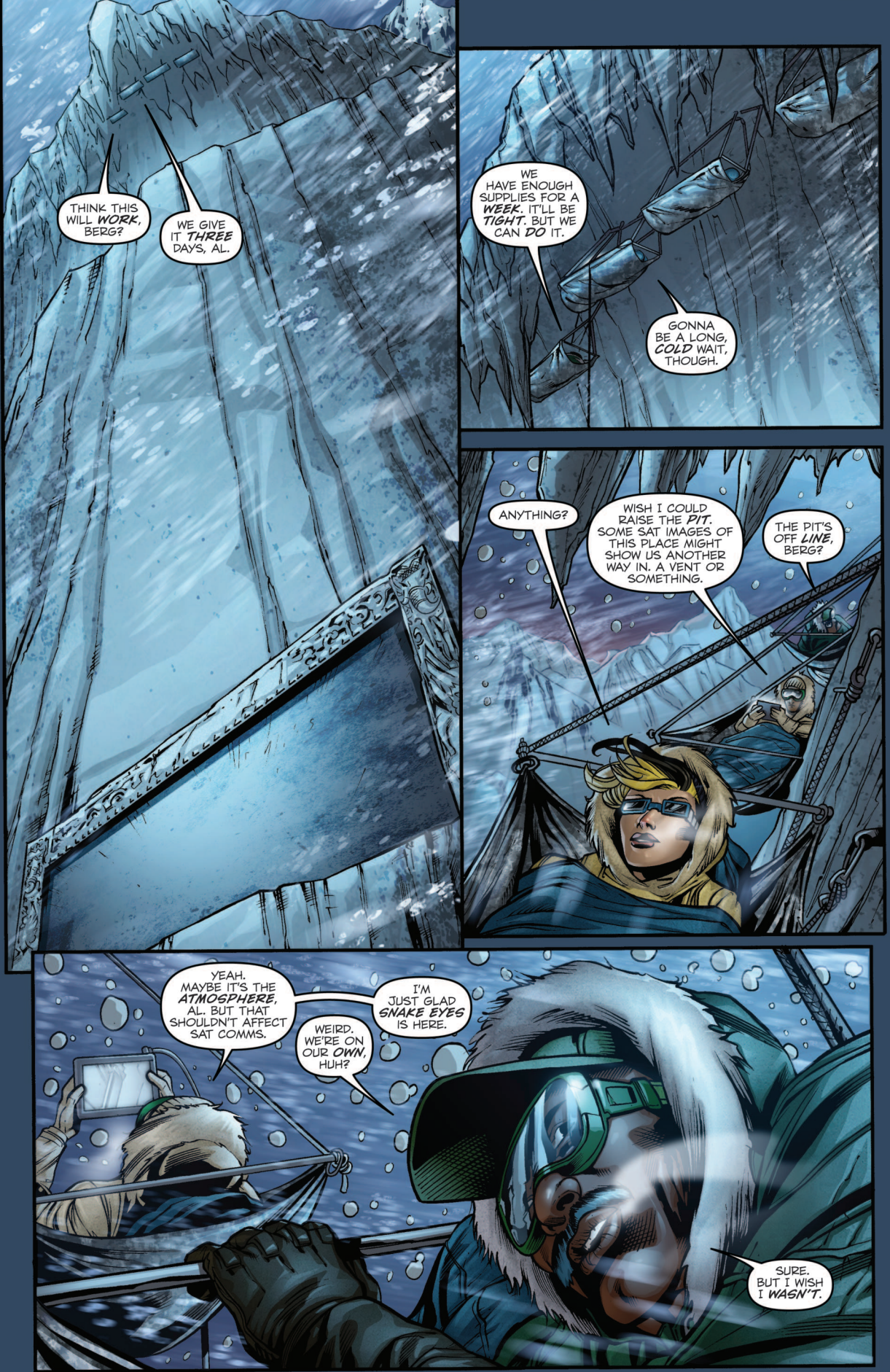

DOES IT *MEAN* ANYTHING TO YOU?


YOU CAN'T DO THIS *ALONE*.


WE'RE HERE.


WHO HAS A GARAGE EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL?
GARAGE? YOU COULD PULL A CH-47 THROUGH THAT OPENING.
SOMEBODY'S GOT PRIVACY ISSUES. YOU'D HAVE TO KNOW THIS WAS HERE TO FIND IT.
AND IT'S BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.
YOU KNOW THIS IS COBRA.
WE NEED A LOOK-SEE.
SENSORS OR CAMERAS. WE NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR THEM.
THIS HIGH? MAYBE CLOSER TO THE DOOR. BUT SNAKE'LL KEEP HIS DISTANCE.
HEAR THAT, SNAKE EYES?


THE MECHANICS FOR OPENING IT ARE INSIDE. THERE'S NO LOCK, NO KEYPAD, NO NOTHIN' WE CAN TOUCH.
AND THERE'S NO TELLIN' HOW THICK THAT BAD BOY IS. ENOUGH SEMTEX TO BLOW A HOLE IN IT WOULD BRING DOWN ALL THE ICE ABOVE US.
SO WE WAIT UNTIL THEY OPEN IT, BERG?
THAT COULD BE WEEKS.
OR NEVER. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THERE'S ANYONE HOME.
UH?
TOK TOK TOK TOK
TOK TOK TOK TOK
IS HE SAYING WE SHOULD JUST KNOCK ON THE DOOR?
NO, STUPID.
HE'S GOING TO BRING THEM TO US.


THINK THIS WILL WORK, BERG?
WE GIVE IT THREE DAYS, AL.
WE HAVE ENOUGH SUPPLIES FOR A WEEK. IT'LL BE TIGHT. BUT WE CAN DO IT.
GONNA BE A LONG, COLD WAIT, THOUGH.
ANYTHING?
WISH I COULD RAISE THE PIT. SOME SAT IMAGES OF THIS PLACE MIGHT SHOW US ANOTHER WAY IN. A VENT OR SOMETHING.
THE PIT'S OFF LINE, BERG?
YEAH. MAYBE IT'S THE ATMOSPHERE, AL. BUT THAT SHOULDN'T AFFECT SAT COMMS.
WEIRD. WE'RE ON OUR OWN, HUH?
I'M JUST GLAD SNAKE EYES IS HERE.
SURE. BUT I WISH I WASN'T.


SO, I COULD BE IN A NICE WARM BUNK IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU.
HOW'D YOU GET ONTO THIS KHALIKHAN GUY?
HE'S NOT EVEN ON OUR RADAR. NO COBRA CONNECTIONS.
SNAKE?
YOU CANNOT EXPECT TO LEAVE THIS ROOM ALIVE.
ONE MAN INFILTRATING THE NOORAI SYNDICATE?
YOU ARE BRAVE.
AND STUPID.

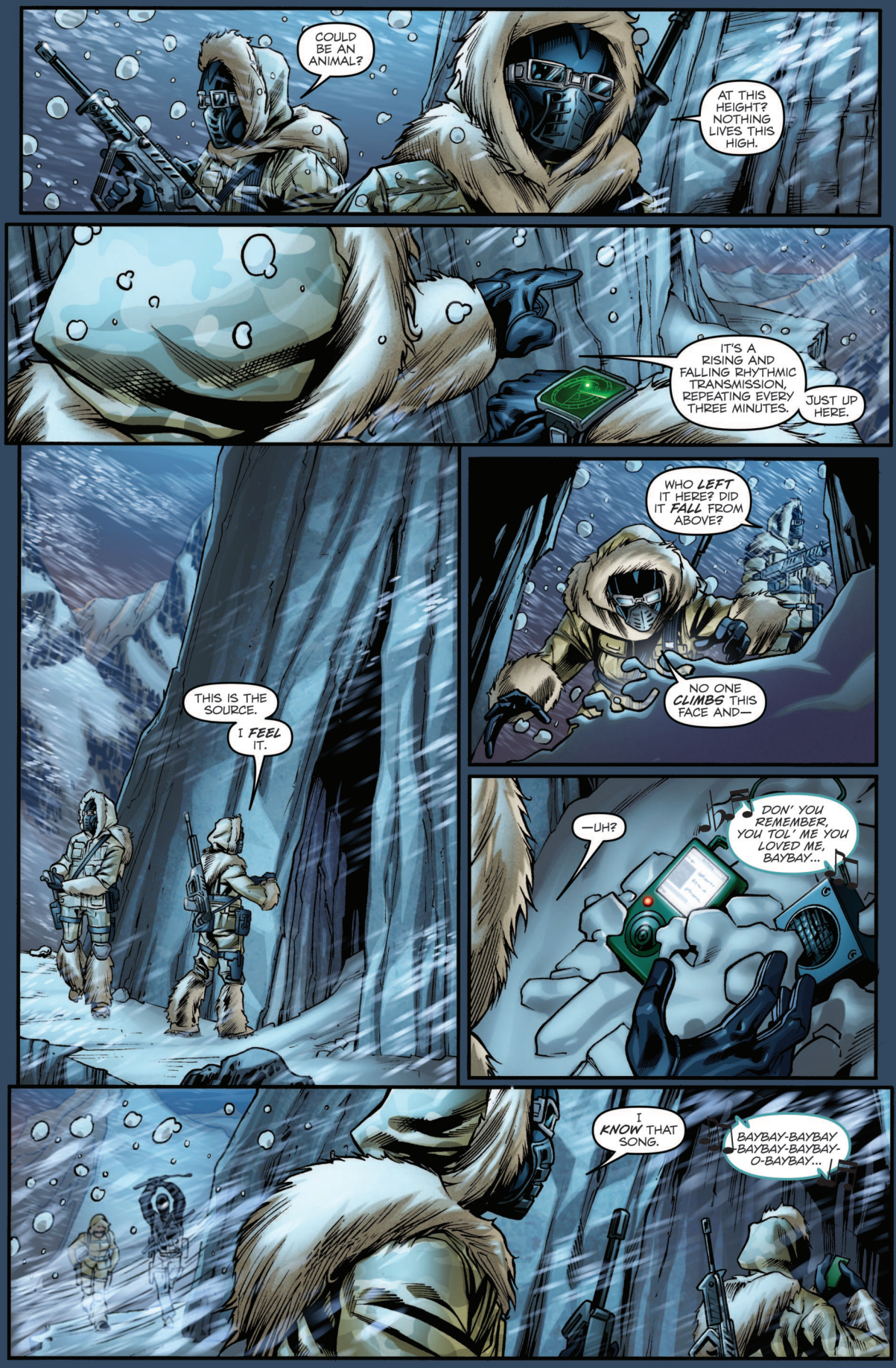

KILL HIM!
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
JUST— UNNH!— —ASK!
KHALIKHAN? HE WOULD KILL ME!
AS WOULD YOU.
NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM IN WEEKS—THAT CAN ONLY MEAN RAJAHISTAN ON—
—XIXABANGMA.


THE PIT.
NORMALLY? THIS WOULD BE A NEEDLE-IN-THE-HAYSTACK PROBLEM.
BUT SOMETIMES AN ANOMALY CAN JUST JUMP OUT AND SAY "HI, THERE."
BREAK IT DOWN FOR US, MAINFRAME.
THIS GUY'S HIDING ON XIXABANGMA, RIGHT? SO HOW'S HE GET SUPPLIES?
ASSUMING HE SHARES HIS CRIB WITH AN EVIL ENTOURAGE, HE'D NEED REGULAR PIZZA RUNS. AND THEY'D HAVE TO BE DONE BY AIR.
SO A SEARCH PROGRAM ON FLIGHTS IN THE AREA TURNS UP THIS—
—ONCE A MONTH A CARGO CHOPPER FLIGHT OUT OF KATMANDU LANDS AT XINJIANG IN CHINA. A MONTH LATER IT FLIES BACK.
AND EVERY MONTH THE FLIGHT DROPS OFF RADAR FOR THIRTY MINUTES.
ALWAYS ON ITS APPROACH TO THE GYIRONG DEFILE PAST XIXABANGMA.
AND...?
AND THAT'S WHERE THIS KING KONG—
KHALIKHAN.
—SWITCHES CHOPPERS.

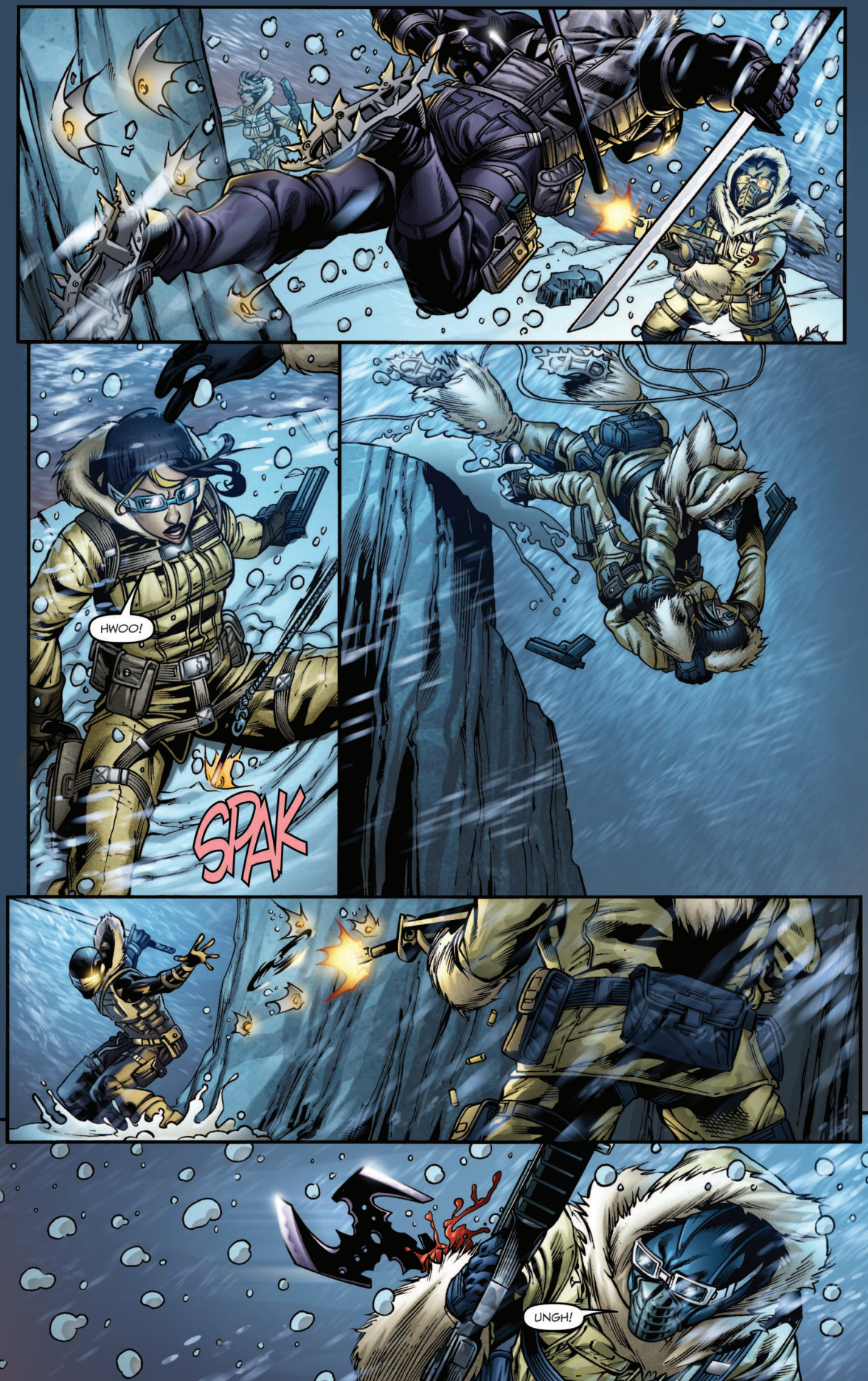

IT'S SIMPLE, RED. TWO CHOPPERS WITH THE SAME CALL SIGN AND MARKINGS.
ONE GOES STEALTH AND LANDS, AND THE SECOND CHOPPER TAKES ITS PLACE AND CONTINUES ON.
AND I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO RUN OFF AND MAKE TOMATO SALAD OUT OF THIS GUY.
WELL, NOT WITHOUT ME THIS TIME.
NEGATIVE ON THAT.
YOU WON'T AUTHORIZE THIS, GENERAL HAWK?
I WON'T SIGN OFF ON YOU GOING, SCARLETT.
THINGS ARE HEATING UP ON THE COBRA FRONT AND I NEED YOU HERE IN INTEL.
AND SNAKE EYES HAS ALREADY CHOSEN HIS TEAM.
HELIX?
NOTHING PERSONAL, SCARLETT.
THAT'S KIND OF THE PROBLEM, SIR—
—IT NEVER IS.


SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH YOU AND SNAKE EYES, HELIX?
Y'KNOW, HE'S NOT ASLEEP.
IF HE'D ANSWER ME, I'D ASK HIM.
THERE IS NO DEAL, ALPINE.
THEN WHY DOES HE PICK TO TEAM WITH YOU ALL THE TIME?
I HAVE WEIRD SKILLS.
A HALF-SECOND ADVANTAGE.
AND YOU'RE ASKING, WHEN HE PICKS ME, WHY DO I FOLLOW HIM INTO HELL?
BECAUSE HE ALWAYS COMES BACK.
AND HE PICKED US—
—BECAUSE YOU'RE CRAZY ENOUGH TO CLIMB AROUND UP HERE.
MUM.
I GOT MOVEMENT.


WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
COMMAND PICKED UP A SIGNAL. PROBABLY NOTHING.
HOW FAR?
JUST AHEAD. LESS THAN A HUNDRED METERS.

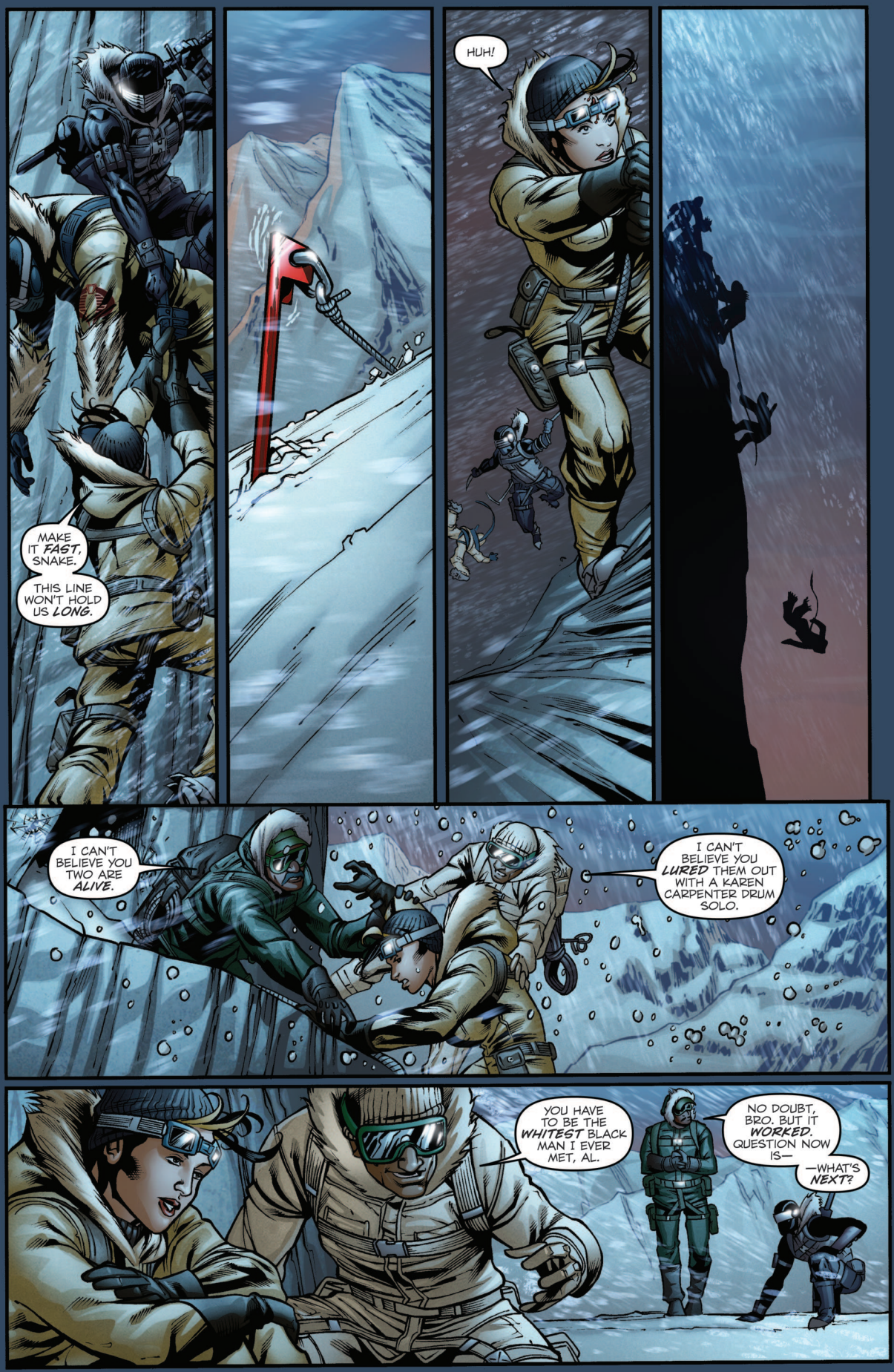

COULD BE AN ANIMAL?
AT THIS HEIGHT? NOTHING LIVES THIS HIGH.
IT'S A RISING AND FALLING RHYTHMIC TRANSMISSION, REPEATING EVERY THREE MINUTES.
JUST UP HERE.
WHO *LEFT* IT HERE? DID IT *FALL* FROM ABOVE?
NO ONE *CLIMBS* THIS FACE AND—
THIS IS THE SOURCE.
I *FEEL* IT.
—UH?
DON' YOU REMEMBER, YOU TOL' ME YOU LOVED ME, BAYBAY...
I *KNOW* THAT SONG.
BAYBAY-BAYBAY-BAYBAY-BAYBAY-O-BAYBAY...


WHA—?
PAF


HWOO!
SPAK
UNGH!

HANH!
UH!
WOOF...
HEY!


WHO ARE YOU? WHO SENT YOU?
WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU?
OR I'LL KILL YOU!
UH-HUH.
I MEAN IT!
I BELIEVE YOU.
I BELIEVE HIM MORE.
GAGHK!

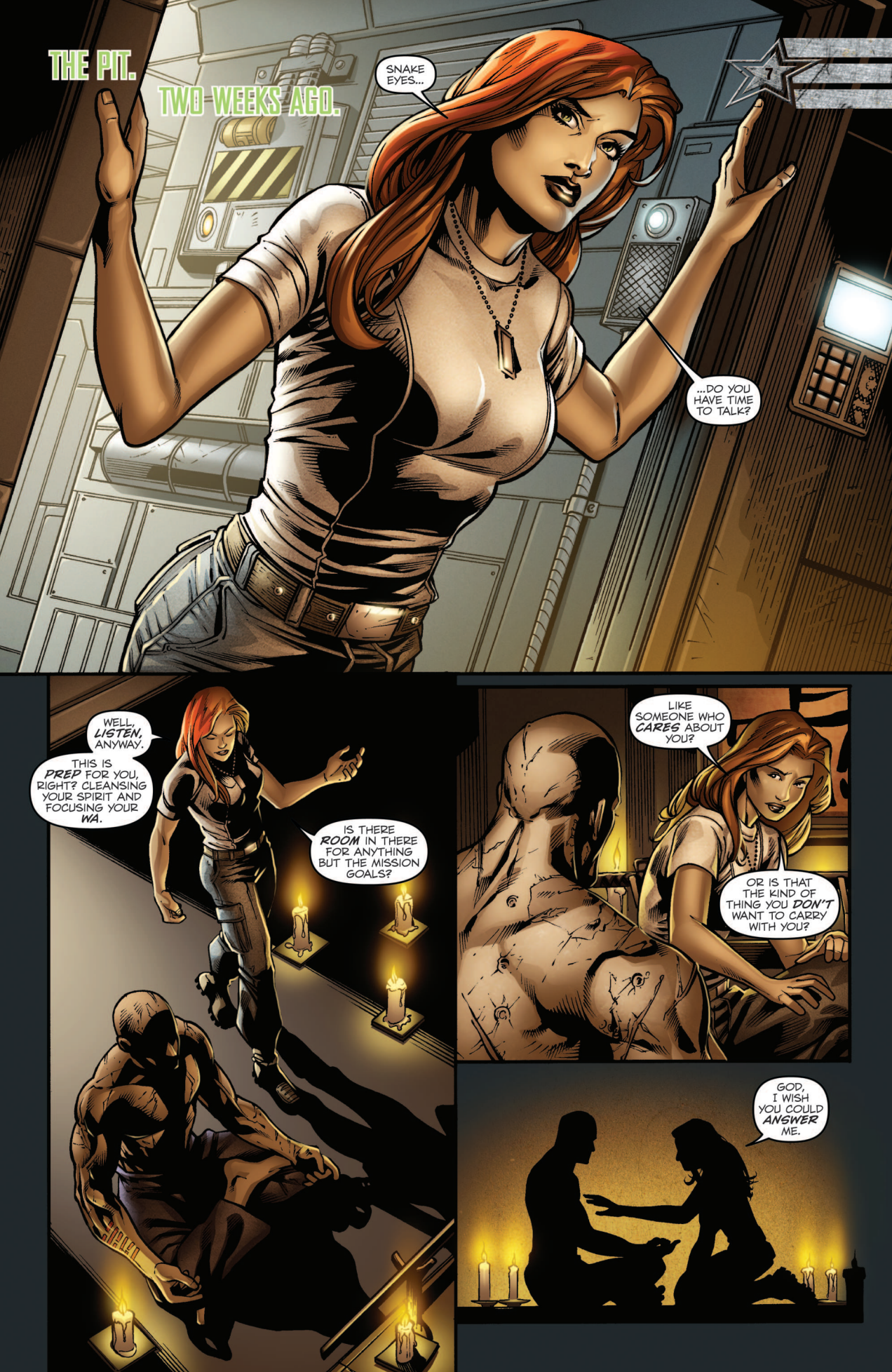

MAKE IT FAST, SNAKE.
THIS LINE WON'T HOLD US LONG.
HUH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TWO ARE ALIVE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LURED THEM OUT WITH A KAREN CARPENTER DRUM SOLO.
YOU HAVE TO BE THE WHITEST BLACK MAN I EVER MET, AL.
NO DOUBT, BRO. BUT IT WORKED. QUESTION NOW IS—
—WHAT'S NEXT?


BRUM BRUM BRUM
PATROL'S BACK. ONE OF THEM, ANYWAY.
WHY DIDN'T HE RADIO?
AT THIS ALTITUDE? SIGNAL GOES WONKY ALL THE TIME.
WHERE'S MUELLER? WHO IS THIS?
ANSWER HIM, KLAUS!
THIS IS INSANE.
HOW'D WE LET A GUY WHO NEVER SAYS A WORD TALK US INTO THIS?





SNAKE EYES #2A BY **ROBERT ATKINS** COLORS BY **SIMON GOUGH**

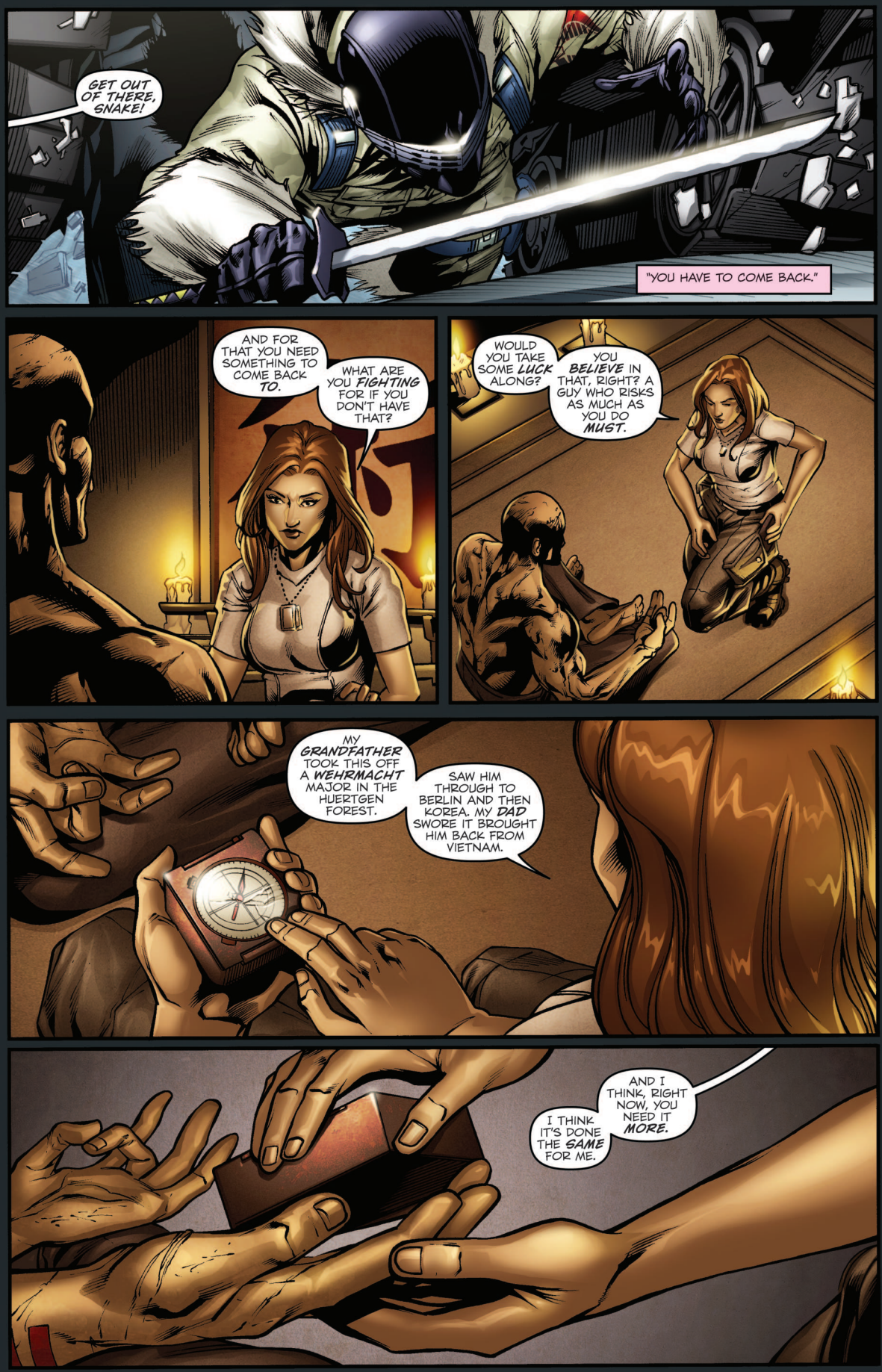

THE PIT.
TWO WEEKS AGO.
SNAKE EYES...
...DO YOU HAVE TIME TO TALK?
WELL, LISTEN, ANYWAY.
THIS IS PREP FOR YOU, RIGHT? CLEANSING YOUR SPIRIT AND FOCUSING YOUR WA.
IS THERE ROOM IN THERE FOR ANYTHING BUT THE MISSION GOALS?
LIKE SOMEONE WHO CARES ABOUT YOU?
OR IS THAT THE KIND OF THING YOU DON'T WANT TO CARRY WITH YOU?
GOD, I WISH YOU COULD ANSWER ME.


NOW.
ANSWER ME! WHO IS YOUR PRISONER?
HOLD ON...
KLAUS! RESPOND NOW!
RAJAHISTAN—THE FORTRESS OF KHALIKHAN WITHIN THE SOUTH FACE OF XIXABANGMA IN THE HIMAL RANGE.


...THAT IS NOT KLAUS.
UNNH!
UFF!


SNAKE EYES!
WE CAN'T LET THEM CLOSE THAT DOOR!
WE HAVE TO FIND THE CONTROLS!
AND I THOUGHT NINJAS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE QUIET!
LUCKY ME— I KNOW THE ONLY NOISY ONE.


WELL, THAT'S A DIRECT SOLUTION.
CRAZY. BUT DIRECT.
GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE, SNAKE!
YOU ARE NOT LEAVING ME ALONE IN HERE, BRO!


GET OUT OF THERE, SNAKE!
"YOU HAVE TO COME BACK."
AND FOR THAT YOU NEED SOMETHING TO COME BACK TO.
WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT?
WOULD YOU TAKE SOME LUCK ALONG?
YOU BELIEVE IN THAT, RIGHT? A GUY WHO RISKS AS MUCH AS YOU DO MUST.
MY GRANDFATHER TOOK THIS OFF A WEHRMACHT MAJOR IN THE HUERTGEN FOREST.
SAW HIM THROUGH TO BERLIN AND THEN KOREA. MY DAD SWORE IT BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM VIETNAM.
I THINK IT'S DONE THE SAME FOR ME.
AND I THINK, RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED IT MORE.


JUST BRING IT BACK TO ME, OKAY?
MAN, YOU CUT IT CLOSE!
NOW WE WITHDRAW, RIGHT?
RIGHT, SNAKE?
"OF COURSE NOT, ALPINE."
"WE'RE GONNA DIVE IN OVER OUR HEADS AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS, ALPINE."
THEN WE'LL BOTH GET FUNERALS—AGAIN.


WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?
YOU THINK SNAKE SHARES HIS PLANS WITH ME?
THOUGHT YOU WERE TELEPATHIC, HELIX.
NOT QUITE, ICEBERG.
I USE THE WRONG PART OF MY BRAIN. BUT I DON'T READ MINDS.
PAF
YOU'RE COMING, RIGHT?
YEAH. I USE THE WRONG PART OF MY BRAIN, TOO.
LOOKS LIKE KHALIKHAN'S COBRA CONNECTION IS CONFIRMED.
HEY, TRY SAYING THAT THREE TIMES—
—FAST.


IT'S ONE OF MAINFRAME'S THEORETICAL CHOPPERS. IT'S HOW THEY RE-SUPPLY THIS BARN.
SEEN ENOUGH?
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH.
THE INTRUDERS! KILL THEM!
¡IDIOTA!
UH!
ONE TRACER ROUND THROUGH THAT AVIATION FUEL—
—AND WE HAVE AN INFERNO!
THEY STOPPED SHOOTING BUT THEY'RE STILL CLOSING IN.
I'M DOWN TO MY LAST MAGAZINE. ANY IDEAS?


MAYBE ONES WHERE WE GET TO LIVE?
OH... KAY...
...GOTCHA.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A TACTICAL RETREAT—
—NOT THE CHARGE INTO THE LITTLE BIG HORN.

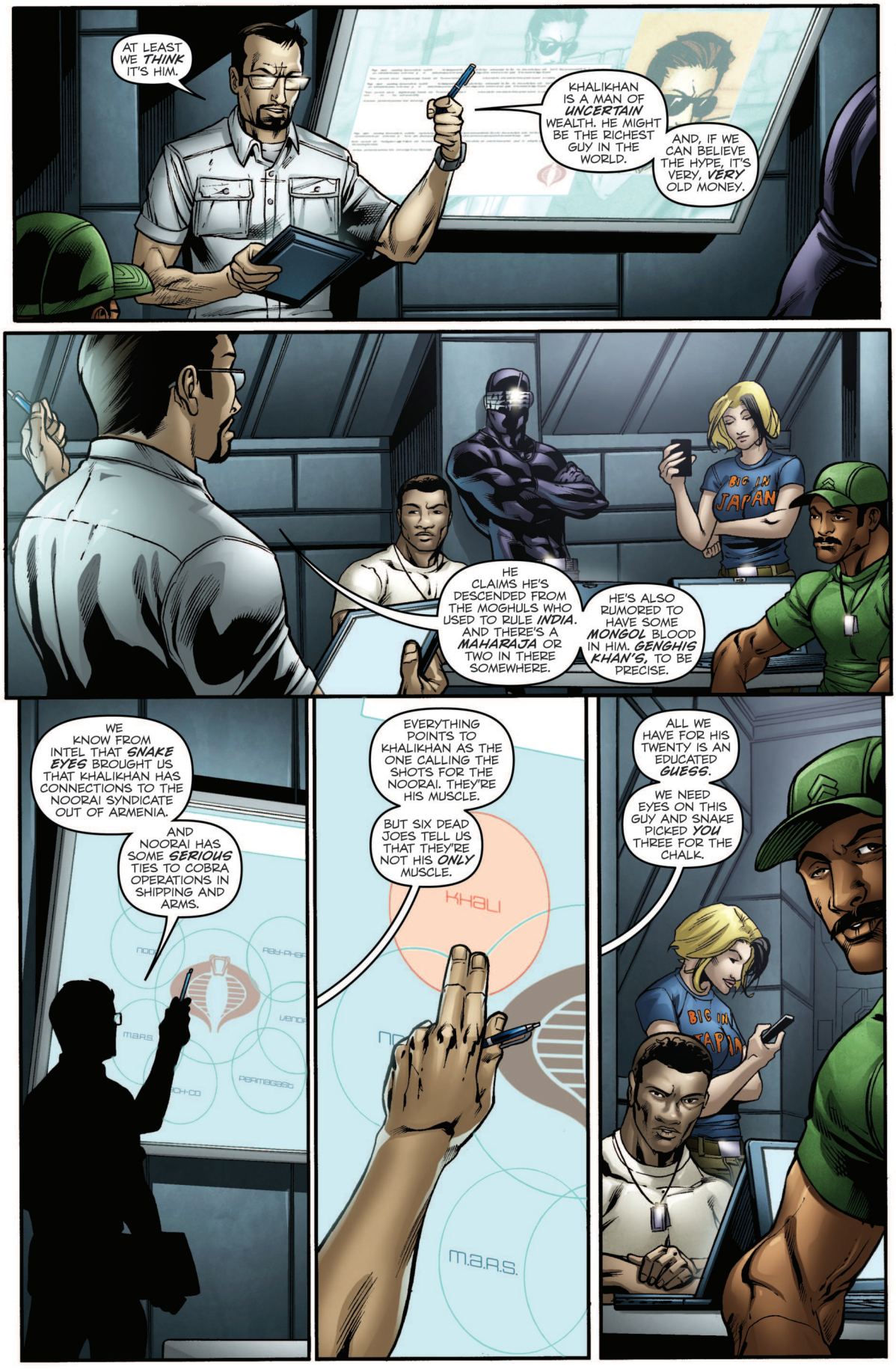

THAT'S MISSISSIPPI ONE...
...MISSISSIPPI TWO...
...MISSISSIPPI...
...HUNH!


"YOU KNOW THE WORST PART OF BEING DEAD?"
THE WORST PART IS LEAVING BEHIND ANYONE WHO CARES.


KNOWING THAT YOU'RE A MEMORY. THAT NO ONE IS THINKING OF YOU IN THE PRESENT.
THEY DON'T EVER EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SO YOU FADE AWAY.
WHEN YOU'RE OUT THERE, NO ONE'S WORRYING FOR YOU—PRAYING FOR YOU.
WE CAN ALL CROW THAT WE'RE HARD CHARGERS AND LIE THAT IT'S BETTER NOW WITH NO ONE LEFT BEHIND THAT'S THINKING OF US.
IT'S A LIE WE TELL OURSELVES.
AND I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ALONE A LONG TIME. BUT YOU STILL NEED THAT, DON'T YOU? I KNOW I NEED IT.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS, THAT AT LEAST YOU KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE OR HOW BAD IT GETS—
—SOMEONE IS THINKING OF YOU.
THAT'S ALL.
SNAKE EYES!
SNAKE EYES!


SNAKE EYES! GIVE US A SIGN!
WE'RE OUT, HELIX!
BERG—
THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH TO HIM—IF HE'S ALIVE!
ALPINE NEEDS US! BOTH OF US!
CLOCK'S TICKIN'! DOOR'S CLOSIN'!
STAY ALIVE, SNAKE.
YOU ALWAYS COME BACK.
AND SO YOU FOUND ME, SNAKE EYES. FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF CRUMBS I LEFT TO MY DOOR.
OUT OF REVENGE OR CURIOSITY? I WILL KNOW BEFORE WE ARE THROUGH.
IS HE ALIVE, RAJA KHALIKHAN?


OF COURSE, HE IS ALIVE.
HE DID NOT COME ALL THIS WAY TO DIE IN AN EXPLOSION.
CALL THE OTHER HELICOPTER IN FROM KATMANDU.
AND I NEED THE DOOR RE-SECURED AND A PATROL OF THE MOUNTAIN FACE FOR ANY OF THIS ONE'S FRIENDS.
GIVE HIM THE BEST OF CARE.
AND WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH HIM?
AND PUT THIS FIRE OUT.
IT'S BEGINNING TO MAKE ME PERSPIRE.
VIKRIM HALLA KHALIKHAN.
THE ONLY KNOWN IMAGE OF HIM.


AT LEAST WE *THINK* IT'S HIM.
KHALIKHAN IS A MAN OF *UNCERTAIN* WEALTH. HE MIGHT BE THE RICHEST GUY IN THE WORLD.
AND, IF WE CAN BELIEVE THE HYPE, IT'S VERY, *VERY* OLD MONEY.
HE CLAIMS HE'S DESCENDED FROM THE MOGHULS WHO USED TO RULE *INDIA*. AND THERE'S A *MAHARAJA* OR TWO IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
HE'S ALSO RUMORED TO HAVE SOME *MONGOL* BLOOD IN HIM. *GENGHIS KHAN'S*, TO BE PRECISE.
WE KNOW FROM INTEL THAT *SNAKE EYES* BROUGHT US THAT KHALIKHAN HAS CONNECTIONS TO THE NOORAI SYNDICATE OUT OF ARMENIA.
AND NOORAI HAS SOME *SERIOUS* TIES TO COBRA OPERATIONS IN SHIPPING AND ARMS.
EVERYTHING POINTS TO KHALIKHAN AS THE ONE CALLING THE SHOTS FOR THE NOORAI. THEY'RE HIS MUSCLE.
BUT SIX DEAD JOES TELL US THAT THEY'RE NOT HIS *ONLY* MUSCLE.
KHALI
M.A.R.S.
ALL WE HAVE FOR HIS TWENTY IS AN EDUCATED *GUESS*.
WE NEED EYES ON THIS GUY AND SNAKE PICKED *YOU* THREE FOR THE CHALK.
BIG IN JAPAN


"JUST DON'T TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES. GET EYES ON HIM, THAT'S IT."
LET US SEE HIS FACE.
NOT MUCH OF A FACE, RAJA.
A CHILD OF WAR. LOOK AT THOSE SCARS. THE MAN IS COVERED IN SKIN NOT HIS OWN.
HOW MANY BLADES AND BULLETS FAILED TO END THIS LIFE ONLY TO BRING HIM TO MY HANDS?
THESE ARE HIS BELONGINGS.
DISPOSE OF ANY FIREARMS OR EXPLOSIVES BUT SAVE THE REST.
THIS DETRITUS TELLS A TALE AS COMPELLING AS HIS FLESH.
A MIKIMOTO BLADE.
A LEGENDARY BLADE. AS UNBREAKABLE AS ITS OWNER.
HIS HEART RATE IS FALLING ALONG WITH HIS BLOOD PRESSURE.
ONE MILLIGRAM OF ATROPINE...


WHUH?
GUNH!
GIH—
GIHGHA—
GIH—
YOU ARE EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD AND MORE.
YOU *WILLED* YOUR HEART TO SLOW SIMPLY TO GAIN A WEAPON.
ALL YOU REQUIRE IS A *BLADE* TO RESCUE YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.


I ADMIRE THAT DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE. I TRULY DO.
AS MUCH AS I WOULD ENJOY WITNESSING YOU AT WORK—I HAVE OTHER GAMES FOR YOU.
EVEN THAT FACE CAN REGISTER EMOTION.
DISBELIEF.
EVEN SURPRISE.
DO YOU WANT HIM DEAD, RAJA?
I HAVE NEVER SO STRONGLY DESIRED THAT ANY CREATURE LIVE.
EVEN IN HIS WEAKENED STATE, HE VERY NEARLY KILLED ME.
THIS SUCKS.
THEY'RE CLOSING THAT BIG NASTY DOOR.


HE COULD STILL BE FIGHTING IN THERE.
WELL, ALPINE IS FIGHTIN' RIGHT HERE.
IF IT WEREN'T SO DAMNED COLD, HE'D HAVE BLED TO DEATH BY NOW.
WE CAN'T LEAVE SNAKE EYES BEHIND. HE WOULDN'T LEAVE US BEHIND!
HE DID LEAVE US BEHIND, HELIX. HE RAN OFF TO TAKE ON COBRA ALL BY HIMSELF!
NOW YOU AND ME HAVE TO START THINKING ABOUT GETTING ALPINE OFF THIS MOUNTAIN BEFORE HE DIES.
YOU'RE LEAVING WITHOUT ME, BERG!
THIS IS A TWO-JOE JOB. EVEN THEN, IT'S GONNA BE A STITCH.
WE SAVE ALPINE. YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.
WE JUST LEAVE HIM HERE?
THAT'S IT?
"THAT'S ALL."


THAT'S ALL.
OH?
MAN AS ANIMAL.


MAN AS A PRIMAL BEING FOCUSED ONLY ON SURVIVAL.
HE BEARS THE MARK OF THE ARASHIKAGE CLAN.
RAISED FROM BIRTH IN THE DISCIPLINES AND DECEITS OF THE NINJA.
CERTAINLY HE IS THE FINEST EXAMPLE OF THEIR TUTELAGE.
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU REGRET HAVING HIM AS AN ENEMY, KHALIKHAN.
HE COULD NEVER BE A FRIEND TO ANY MAN. NO MORE THAN A TIGER COULD BE A PET, SLICE.
YOU PROMISED US A CONTEST. RAJA. WHEN CAN WE FACE HIM?
WHEN HE HAS RECOVERED, DICE. THEN YOU WILL HAVE YOUR REWARD FOR LEADING THIS ANIMAL INTO MY TRAP.



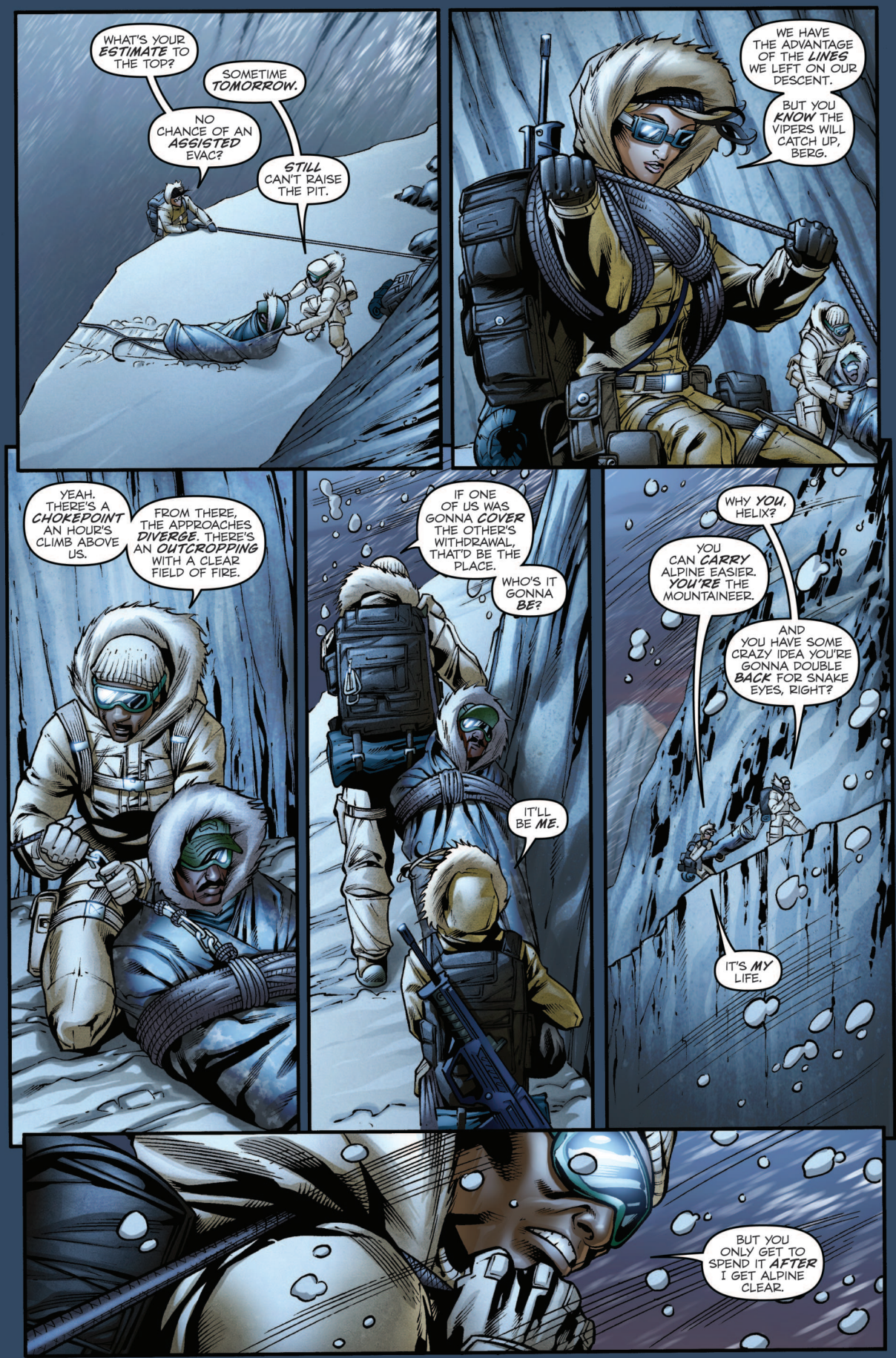


SNAKE EYES #3A BY **ROBERT ATKINS** COLORS BY **SIMON GOUGH**


THE SOUTH FACE OF XIXABANGMA IN THE HIMAL RANGE.
WE HAVE PURSUIT, ICEBERG.
HOW MANY, HOW FAST, AND HOW CLOSE?
TEN OR MORE. ON FOOT AND MOVING LIKE THEY MEAN IT.


TWO HUNDRED METERS BACK ON THE LOWER LEDGE.
THEY HAVE TO STAY ON OUR SIX, RIGHT?
UNLESS THEY KNOW ANOTHER APPROACH TO THE TOP. ONE THAT WOULD LET THEM GET AHEAD OF US.
THEY FLANK US ON AN OPEN FACE AND WE'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE, HELIX.
I STILL DON'T GET WHY WE'RE CLIMBING UP. WOULDN'T DOWN BE FASTER?
ALL ABOUT THE HIGH GROUND. THIS IS THE WAY WE CAME DOWN. WE CAN CONTROL CONDITIONS.
WE NEED TO BUY EVERY SECOND WE CAN IF WE'RE GONNA GET ALPINE OUTTA HERE.
WE'RE STILL LEAVING SNAKE EYES BEHIND.


HE'S RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS TO BE.
STILL FEELS WRONG, BERG.
SOMETIMES A SOLDIER HAS TO GO AGAINST WHAT HE FEELS.
I'M NO SOLDIER.
I'M A GUNFIGHTER.
HOW YOU HANGIN', ALPINE?
FUNNY GUY.
YOU GOTTA LAUGH AT MY JOKES, BRO. I'M DOIN' ALL THE WORK HERE.
CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS, BERG.
THAT'S THE COLD.
NAW. IT'S DIFFERENT.
LOOK, LET'S WORRY ABOUT ONE THING AT A TIME, OKAY?
YO JOE.
MAN— UH!—I THINK YOU'RE GETTIN' HEAVIER.


WHAT'S YOUR ESTIMATE TO THE TOP?
SOMETIME TOMORROW.
NO CHANCE OF AN ASSISTED EVAC?
STILL CAN'T RAISE THE PIT.
WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF THE LINES WE LEFT ON OUR DESCENT.
BUT YOU KNOW THE VIPERS WILL CATCH UP, BERG.
YEAH. THERE'S A CHOKEPOINT AN HOUR'S CLIMB ABOVE US.
FROM THERE, THE APPROACHES DIVERGE. THERE'S AN OUTCROPPING WITH A CLEAR FIELD OF FIRE.
IF ONE OF US WAS GONNA COVER THE OTHER'S WITHDRAWAL, THAT'D BE THE PLACE.
WHO'S IT GONNA BE?
IT'LL BE ME.
WHY YOU, HELIX?
YOU CAN CARRY ALPINE EASIER. YOU'RE THE MOUNTAINEER.
AND YOU HAVE SOME CRAZY IDEA YOU'RE GONNA DOUBLE BACK FOR SNAKE EYES, RIGHT?
IT'S MY LIFE.
BUT YOU ONLY GET TO SPEND IT AFTER I GET ALPINE CLEAR.


"THEN YOU AND SNAKE EYES CAN GO TO VALHALLA HOLDIN' HANDS."
YOUR ARMAMENT FASCINATES ME.
A MIX OF THE MEDIEVAL AND MODERN.
YOU ARE A MAN OF DEEP CONVICTIONS AND DEVOTION TO TRADITION. SWORDS... EVEN THE ANTIQUATED HANDGUN LONG ABANDONED BY YOUR ARMY.
DO THEY FILL THE *VOID* THAT'S LEFT TO A MAN WITH NO PAST, SNAKE EYES?
THE PAST YOU HIDE FROM THE WORLD. PERHAPS FROM YOURSELF?
YOU WERE *ARASHIKAGE*. ARE YOU *STILL*?
CAN A LIFETIME OF TRAINING BE DISCARDED, SNAKE EYES? OR ARE YOU A MAN OF DIVIDED LOYALTIES?
ALL OF THAT IS ACADEMIC. MY CONCERN IS WITH YOUR SKILLS. OF ALL OF THE JOES, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS PROVEN A REAL CHALLENGE FOR COBRA.
I WANT TO *WITNESS* THOSE SKILLS.


THIS ITEM IS CURIOUS. A WEHRMACHT COMPASS. 1939.
UNLIKE YOUR OTHER BELONGINGS, ANTIQUATED BUT OBSOLETE. IT IS NOT FROM YOUR PAST.
AH. SOMETHING PERSONAL.
A HANDWRITTEN NOTE.
A FEMININE HAND.
"S— I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM BY YOU AT EVERY STEP. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO CARES. STRENGTH AND LOVE—RED"

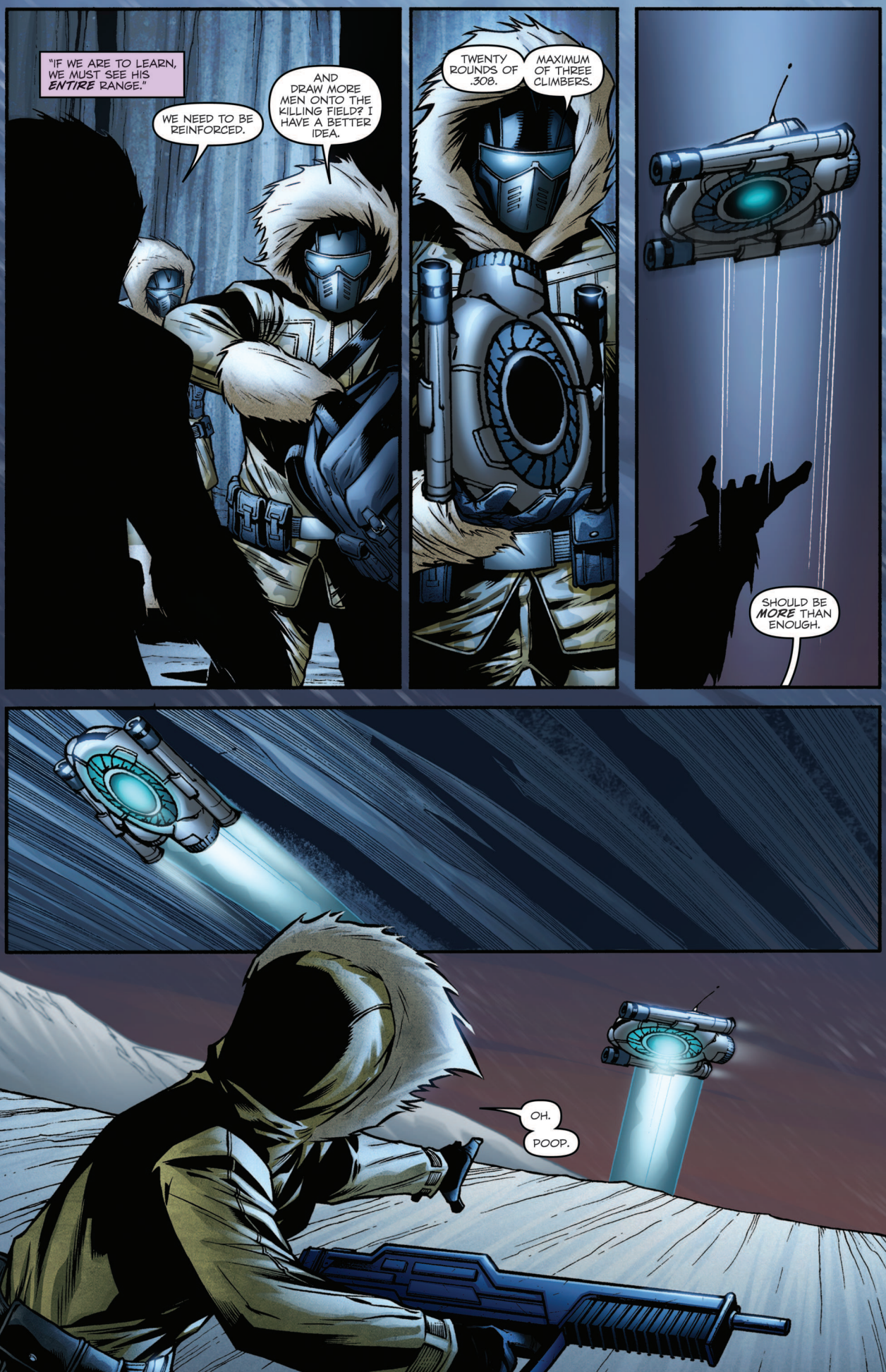

A DEVOTION.
EVEN A PRAYER, EH?
WHO IS SHE?
DOES THE STOIC WARRIOR HAVE A HEART? A PULSE? IN THE END, IS THE KILLING MACHINE A MAN?
FRANKLY, YOU DISAPPOINT ME. YOU MAY BE HUMAN AFTER ALL.
HAVE I FOUND A WAY INTO YOUR MIND? A MOTIVATION FOR WHAT IS TO COME?
WE WILL SPEAK AGAIN SOON.
SEDATE AND CONFINE HIM.
YES, RAJA KHALIKHAN.


CAN YOU SEE THEM?
NO. BUT THEY CANNOT BE FAR ABOVE.
FROM THE BLOODY SNOW WE FOUND BELOW THEY ARE CARRYING A WOUNDED MAN.
THE LINES THEY LEFT PROVIDE SOME ADVANTAGE, BUT WE WILL—
—UNNH!
HUNH!
SNIPER!
TWO...
THREE...


SUCKS TO BE YOU, VIPERS.
ONE— SCOOBY DOOBY, TWO—SCOOBY DOOBY—
—GRAVITY, DO YOUR THING.
THE OVERHANG'S IN THE WAY! WE NEED AIR COVER!
IN *THIS* WEATHER?! THAT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN!
CANNOT GO UP! CANNOT GO *BACK!*


IS HE UNCONSCIOUS?
THE RAJA SAID NOT TO TAKE CHANCES. COVER ME.
COME OUT OF IT!
WE'RE MOVING YOU AGAIN!


WUNH!
THE ECONOMY.
THE SPEED.
WHY ARE YOU ALLOWING HIM TO ESCAPE, KHALIKHAN?
TO WITNESS HIM IN HIS ELEMENT. SNAKE EYES' MARTIAL-ARTS SKILLS ARE ONLY A PORTION OF HIS TALENTS.
HE IS NINJA. ESCAPE AND EVASION ARE FACETS OF HIS TRAINING.


"IF WE ARE TO LEARN, WE MUST SEE HIS ENTIRE RANGE."
WE NEED TO BE REINFORCED.
AND DRAW MORE MEN ONTO THE KILLING FIELD? I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
TWENTY ROUNDS OF .308.
MAXIMUM OF THREE CLIMBERS.
SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
OH.
POOP.


ONE SHOOTER. A WOMAN. SHE'S FAST.
OUT OF AMMO BUT I CAN SHOVE HER OFF.
A MACHINE.
BUT NOT PROGRAMMED. SOMEONE'S FLYING YOU REMOTE.
THAT MEANS THERE'S A MIND BEHIND YOU.
A HUMAN MIND.


NASTY... LITTLE... BEAST...
YOU GET HER?
DIDN'T SEE HER FALL.
LOST VISUAL. SOMETHING'S COVERING THE LENS.
BRINGING IT BACK DOWN?
I'M NOT DOING THAT. EITHER IT'S MALFUNCTIONING—
YOU'RE MY DOG NOW.
—OR WEIGHTED DOWN!


ALL OUTTA VIPERS.
THAT'S MY END OF THIS, ICEBERG. PROMISE MADE. PROMISE MET.
HELIX?
YOUR BACKTRAIL'S CLEAR.
CAN I CHANGE YOUR MIND?
NO.
I'M GOING BACK FOR SNAKE EYES...


"...BECAUSE HE'D COME BACK FOR ME."
YOU'VE DONE WELL SO FAR, SNAKE EYES.

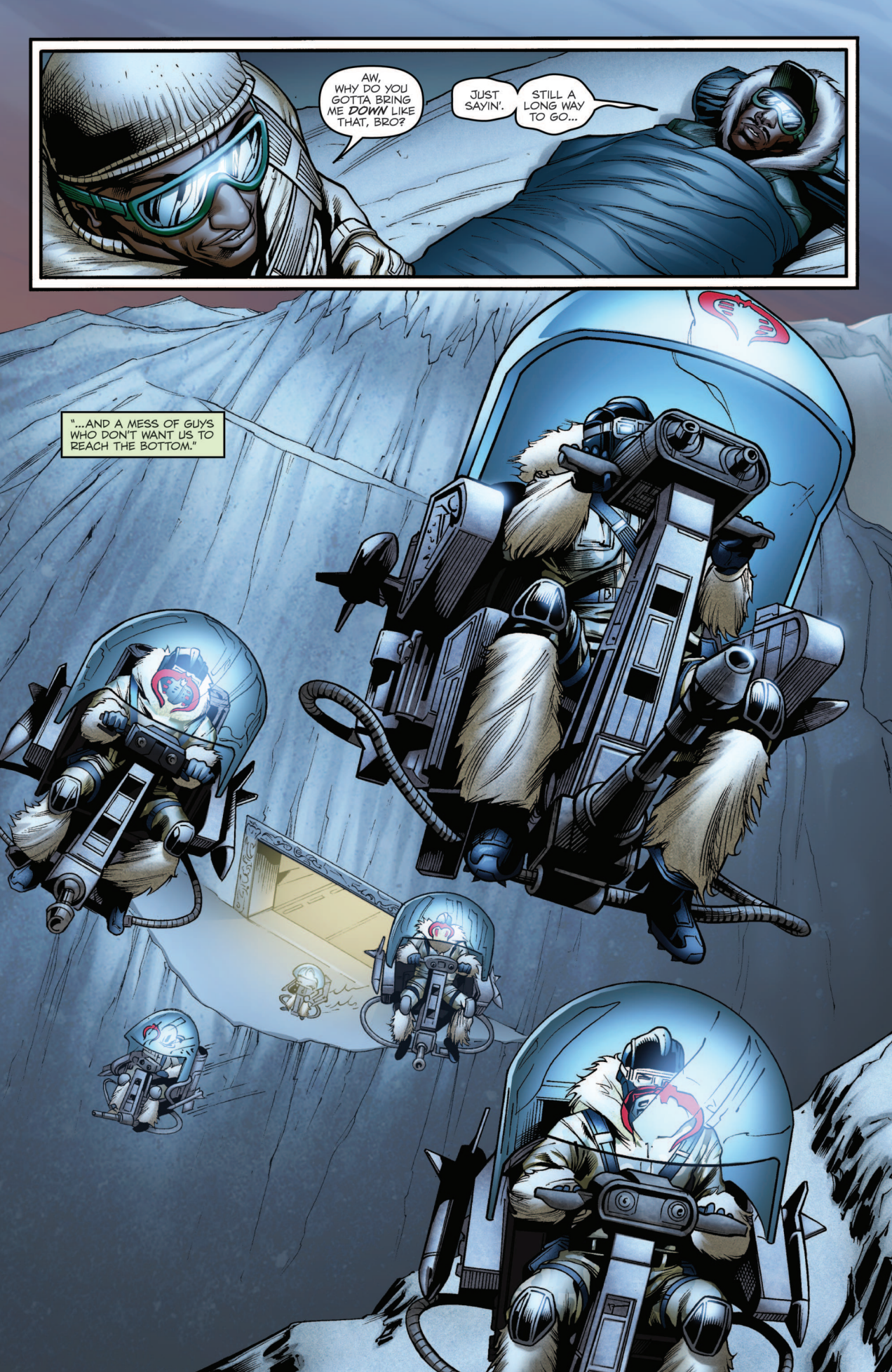

YOU HAVE SATISFIED MY EXPECTATIONS.
NOW YOU MUST EXCEED THEM.
I INSIST THAT THIS BE AN ACCURATE TEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.
NOT A COLD, CALCULATED GAME.
DID YOU COME HERE FOR SIMPLE REVENGE? TO EVEN THE SCALE FOR THE MEN I COST YOU?
IS IT A QUESTION OF PRIDE?
HONOR?
OR IS IT DUTY? ARE YOU A SOLDIER FIRST AND ARASHIKAGE SECOND?
WHAT REALLY BRINGS YOU HERE? WHAT WOULD DRIVE YOU TO FIND ME AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD?
LET US EXPLORE IT TOGETHER, SHALL WE?


MAY I INTRODUCE SLICE AND DICE.
WE KILLED YOUR STUDENTS, NINJA.
THEY DIED BELIEVING THAT YOU HAD BETRAYED THEM.
THEY SHOWED US YOUR GAME.
AND IT IS WEAK.
SILENCE. THE BOTH OF YOU.
YOUR OPPONENT DOES NOT NEED TO PUFF HIMSELF UP WITH DIRE THREATS AND BRAGGING.
HE HOLDS HIS THOUGHTS WITHIN. HE FOCUSES ONLY ON THE FIGHT AHEAD. COLD AND CALCULATED. WITHOUT FEAR OR EMOTION.
BUT IF THE STAKES WERE MORE THAN YOUR OWN LIFE, SNAKE EYES?
WOULD THE OUTCOME CHANGE IF YOU KNEW THAT—WERE YOU TO DIE IN THAT CHAMBER—IT WOULD NOT BE THE END OF IT?


YOUR SECRETS ARE YOUR OWN. THE SILENCE YOU HIDE BEHIND IS IMPENETRABLE.
YOUR COMRADES ARE NOT SO INSULATED.
YOU AND YOUR JOES HAVE HARMED COBRA. THAT IS TRUE.
ONLY, COBRA STILL HAS AN ADVANTAGE IN THE REALM OF INTELLIGENCE.
WE KNOW SO MUCH MORE OF YOU THAN YOU DO OF US.
THE SECRETS OF THE JOES ARE OPEN TO US. LOCATION OF BASES. THE NATURE OF YOUR WEAPONRY. YOUR CODES AND COUNTERSIGNS.
YOUR PERSONNEL.
IT WAS A MATTER OF MOMENTS BEFORE THE IDENTITY OF "RED" WAS KNOWN TO ME.


ICEBERG TO PIT—SKIIK—ICEBERG TO PIT.
YOU'VE REACHED THE PIT. GO FOR SCARLETT.
WELL, FIND HIM! IT CAN'T BE THAT HARD!
SITUATION HERE'S GONE SIDEWAYS. WE RECONNED THE BASE AND IT IS ACTIVE WITH COBRA.
SKEEE—WHAT'S YOUR TEAM'S STATUS?
ONE WOUNDED AND TWO OFF ON DUTY ELSEWHERE.
SNAKE EYES AND HELIX.
ROGER THAT.
I AM EVACING WITH ALPINE. HE'S IN BAD SHAPE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THEM BEHIND BUT—
YEAH. I KNOW, ICEBERG.
JUST GET OUT OF THERE. SNAKE EYES AND HELIX ARE ON THEIR OWN.
I KNEW THE EVENTUALITIES WHEN I APPROVED THIS MISSION.
FLINT'S SAYING WE HAVE TWO INTRUDERS!


HUNH!
WUHH! LAST LEDGE, ALPINE.
WE CLIMBED THIS SUCKER TWICE, BRO!
FIND THE GEAR WE STASHED UP HERE THREE DAYS AGO AND START FOR BASECAMP.
AND WE HAVE CLEAR SKIES FOR THE DESCENT DOWN THE NORTH FACE.
YOU'RE IGNORING A TACTICAL REALITY, SUNSHINE.
NO WEATHER FOR US MEANS NO WEATHER FOR THEM.

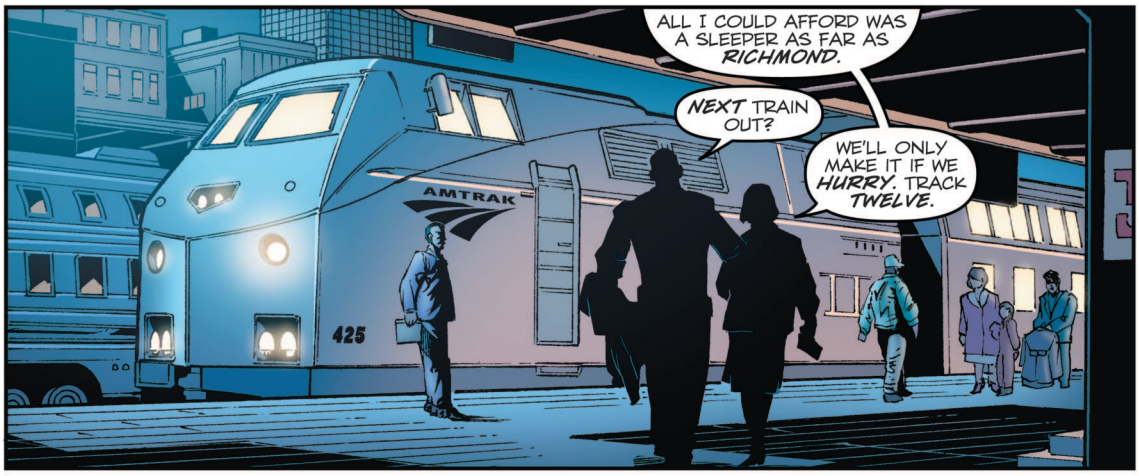

AW, WHY DO YOU GOTTA BRING ME DOWN LIKE THAT, BRO?
JUST SAYIN'.
STILL A LONG WAY TO GO...
"...AND A MESS OF GUYS WHO DON'T WANT US TO REACH THE BOTTOM."

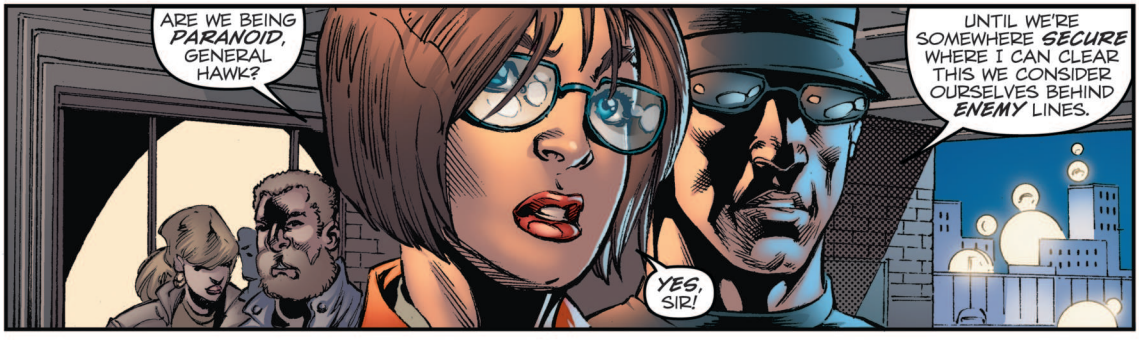




G.I. JOE: SERIES 2 #3A BY **TOM FEISTER**

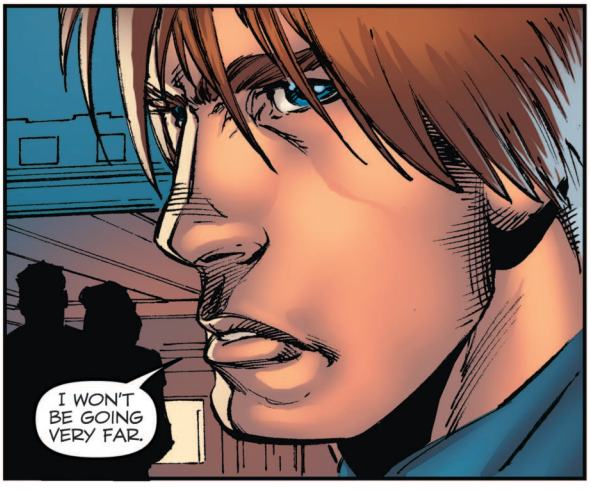

WASHINGTON, D.C., UNION STATION.
YOU MADE SOME... INTERESTING CHOICES, SIR.
I ♥ WASHINGTON
WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CASH, DIAL-TONE. I HAD TO SHOP THE CLEARANCE RACKS.
YOU HAVE THE TICKETS?
SOU


ALL I COULD AFFORD WAS A SLEEPER AS FAR AS *RICHMOND*.
NEXT TRAIN OUT?
WE'LL ONLY MAKE IT IF WE *HURRY*. TRACK *TWELVE*.
AMTRAK
425


ARE WE BEING *PARANOID*, GENERAL HAWK?
UNTIL WE'RE SOMEWHERE *SECURE* WHERE I CAN CLEAR THIS WE CONSIDER OURSELVES BEHIND *ENEMY* LINES.
YES, SIR!


NUMBER THREE. DOWN AND TO YOUR LEFT.
THANK YOU.
DC
I ♥
WASHING

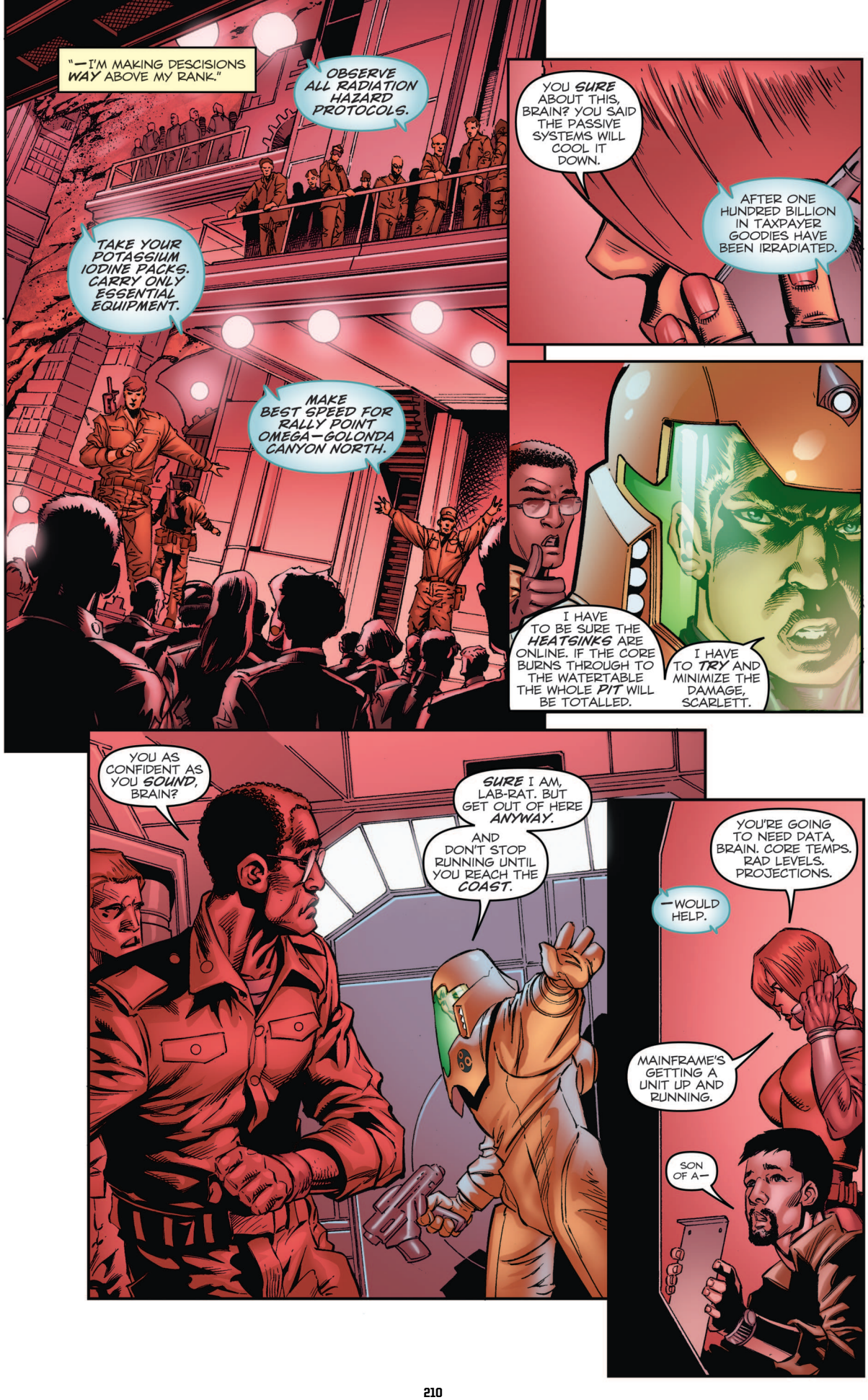

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.
ANY *LUGGAGE*, SIR?
AMTRA


I WON'T BE GOING VERY FAR.


WHAT?
OUR COMMUNICATIONS ARE DOWN.
THE PIT.
WE HAVE A HALF-DOZEN TEAMS OUT AND NO LINK TO ANY OF THEM.
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE, MAINFRAME?
THE SATELLITES ARE STILL IN PLACE, SCARLETT. THE PROBLEM HAS TO BE HERE.
POWER'S DOWN.
NOW THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. THERE'S A GLITCH IN OUR GRID.
UH HUH.
OR A REACTOR FAILURE.
SCARLETT TO BRAINSTORM. IS THIS A GENERAL BLACKOUT?
WE'RE ON EMERGENCY POWER, RED. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS ONLY.
COULD IT BE THE NUKE GENERATOR?


I'M HEADING THERE NOW.
SO I WAS RIGHT THAT WE HAVE A SECOND "VISITOR."
LOOKS LIKE. CAN I GET SOME BACKUP?
FLINT HERE. HEADING DOWN TO THE REACTOR LEVEL NOW, BRAIN.
OUR INTRUDER COULD STILL BE THERE.
WE'LL BE THERE INSIDE SIXTY SECONDS.
REACTOR
THERE'S OUR CONFIRMATION. THE REACTOR'S COMPROMISED.
WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENING?
SCARLETT: WE HAVE A SERIOUS SITUATION HERE.
COBRA GOT BOOTS INSIDE OUR WIRE. WE DEAL WITH IT.
BRAIN, I NEED YOU FOCUSED.


SOMEONE DRAINED THE COOLANT.
AND THAT'S BAD.
YES. THERE'S PASSIVE SYSTEMS IN PLACE.
AND THE PIT'S REACTOR IS A BABY COMPARED TO A COMMERCIAL JOB.
NO THREAT OF A MELTDOWN?
BUT EVEN WITH LUCK WE'RE LOOKING AT DANGEROUS LEVELS OF CONTAMINATION. AND WHOEVER DID THIS LOCKED ME OUT OF THE REACTOR CORE CENTER.
WE NEED TO EVACUATE THE PIT WHILE I RESTORE COOLANT FUNCTIONS.
A COUPLE OF HOURS UNTIL I CAN BRING THE TEMPERATURES BACK WITHIN SAFE MARGINS.
AN EVAC, HUH?
A FULL EVAC, SCARLETT.
I WISH GENERAL HAWK WAS HERE TO MAKE THIS CALL—

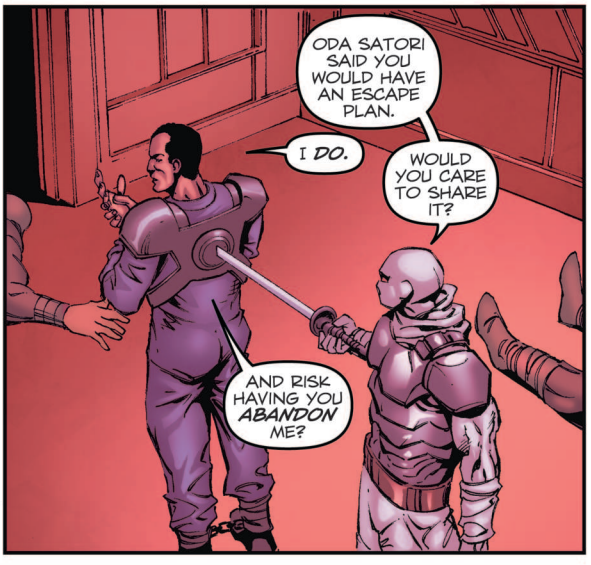

"—I'M MAKING DESCISIONS WAY ABOVE MY RANK."
OBSERVE ALL RADIATION HAZARD PROTOCOLS.
TAKE YOUR POTASSIUM IODINE PACKS. CARRY ONLY ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT.
MAKE BEST SPEED FOR RALLY POINT OMEGA—GOLONDA CANYON NORTH.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, BRAIN? YOU SAID THE PASSIVE SYSTEMS WILL COOL IT DOWN.
AFTER ONE HUNDRED BILLION IN TAXPAYER GOODIES HAVE BEEN IRRADIATED.
I HAVE TO BE SURE THE HEATSINKS ARE ONLINE. IF THE CORE BURNS THROUGH TO THE WATERTABLE THE WHOLE PIT WILL BE TOTALLED.
I HAVE TO TRY AND MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE, SCARLETT.
YOU AS CONFIDENT AS YOU SOUND, BRAIN?
SURE I AM, LAB-RAT. BUT GET OUT OF HERE ANYWAY.
AND DON'T STOP RUNNING UNTIL YOU REACH THE COAST.
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED DATA, BRAIN. CORE TEMPS. RAD LEVELS. PROJECTIONS.
—WOULD HELP.
MAINFRAME'S GETTING A UNIT UP AND RUNNING.
SON OF A—
CLANG


SCARLETT, WE'RE MOVING TO ASSIST THE EVAC OF THE PRISONER.
WE STILL HAVE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF UNFRIENDLIES IN THE PIT.
THEY ALREADY WAXED ONE OF THEIR OWN.
AND THEY MIGHT NOT WANT TO LEAVE THIS FREAK BEHIND.
MY THINKING EXACTLY.
SCARLETT TO LAWHOUND.
GO FOR LAWHOUND.
FLINT IS HEADING FOR YOUR TWENTY TO HELP ESCORT YOUR PRISONER FOR EVAC.
ROGER THAT, RED.
WE'RE MOVING FROM THE DETENTION AREA NOW. THIS HUMAN XEROX AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE WITHOUT US.

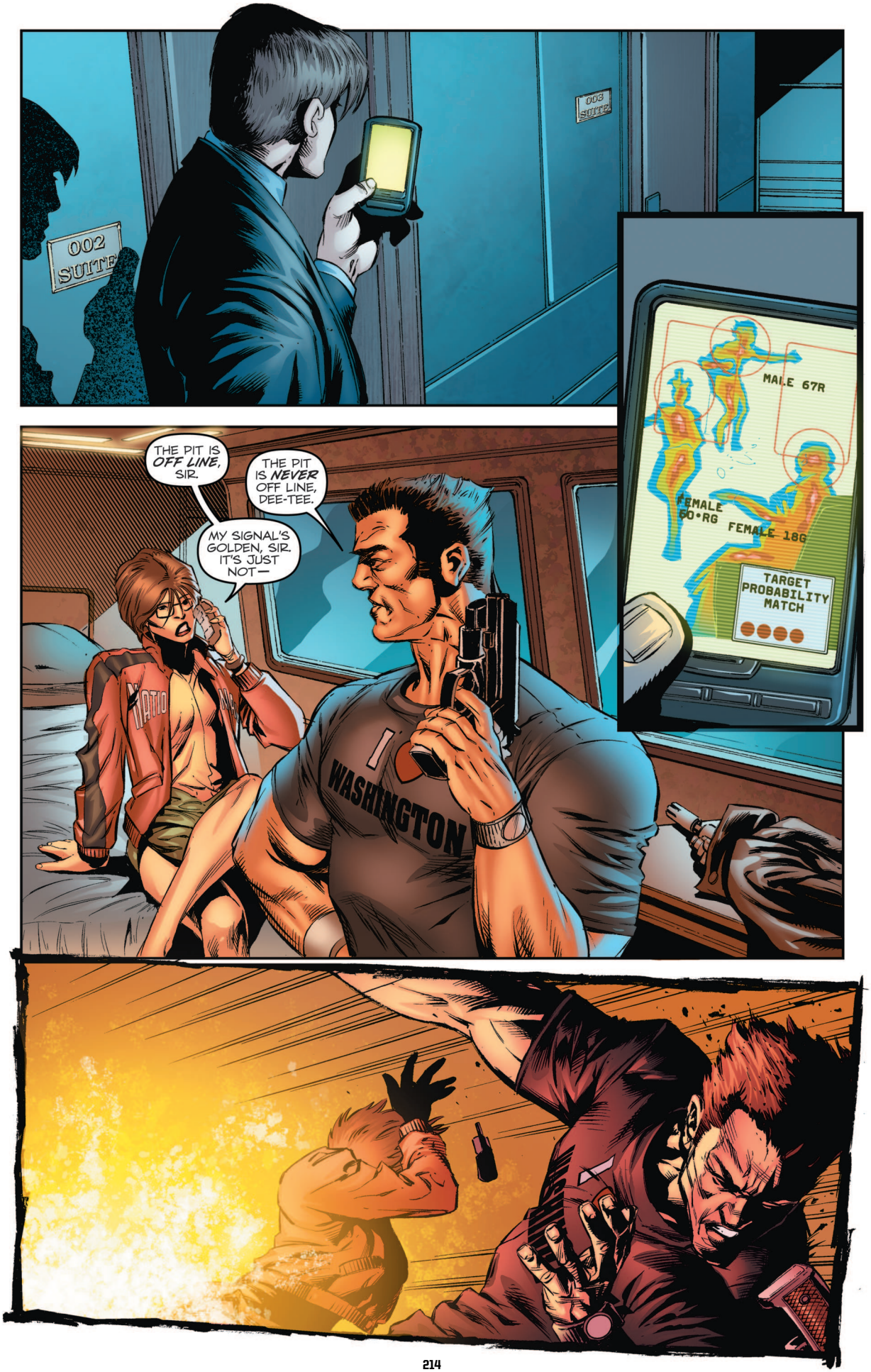

OUR SITUATION IS STILL FLUID, LAWHOUND.
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER STAY LOCKED DOWN UNTIL FLINT GETS THERE.
—PRISONER'S SECURED. NO ONE'S TAKIN' HIM AWAY FROM US.
THAT'S AN INTERESTING DIALECT. ALABAMA?
CLOSE. FLORIDA PANHANDLE.
REALLY?
IT'S A FLATTER INFLECTION, AIN'T IT? WITH AN INSISTANT LILT IN THE PHRASING, HUH?
I DON'T APPRECIATE THAT, FRIEND.
I MEAN IT, GUMBY!
YOU'RE ONLY ENCOURAGING HIM, LAWHOUND.
BRING HIM ALONG AND—
UNH!




SO, YOU'RE STORM SHADOW.
AND YOU ARE ZARTAN.
I WAS CONCERNED YOU'D LEFT ME BEHIND.


ODA SATORI SAID YOU WOULD HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN.
I DO.
WOULD YOU CARE TO SHARE IT?
AND RISK HAVING YOU ABANDON ME?

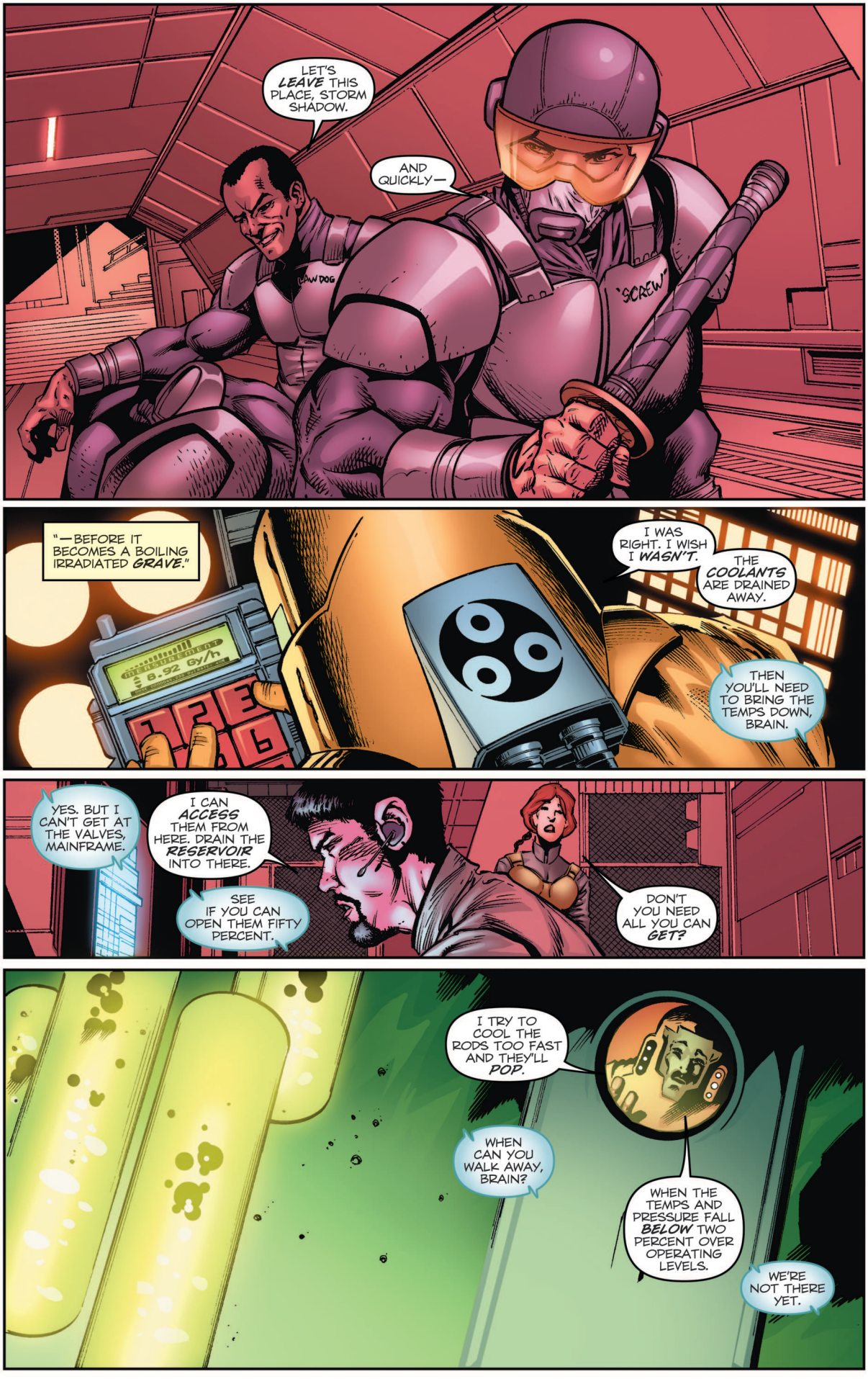

IN HIS WISDOM, SATORI KEPT US COMPARTMENTALIZED. IT ENCOURAGES COOPERATION.
FREE ME AND THEN DO PRECISELY AS I SAY.

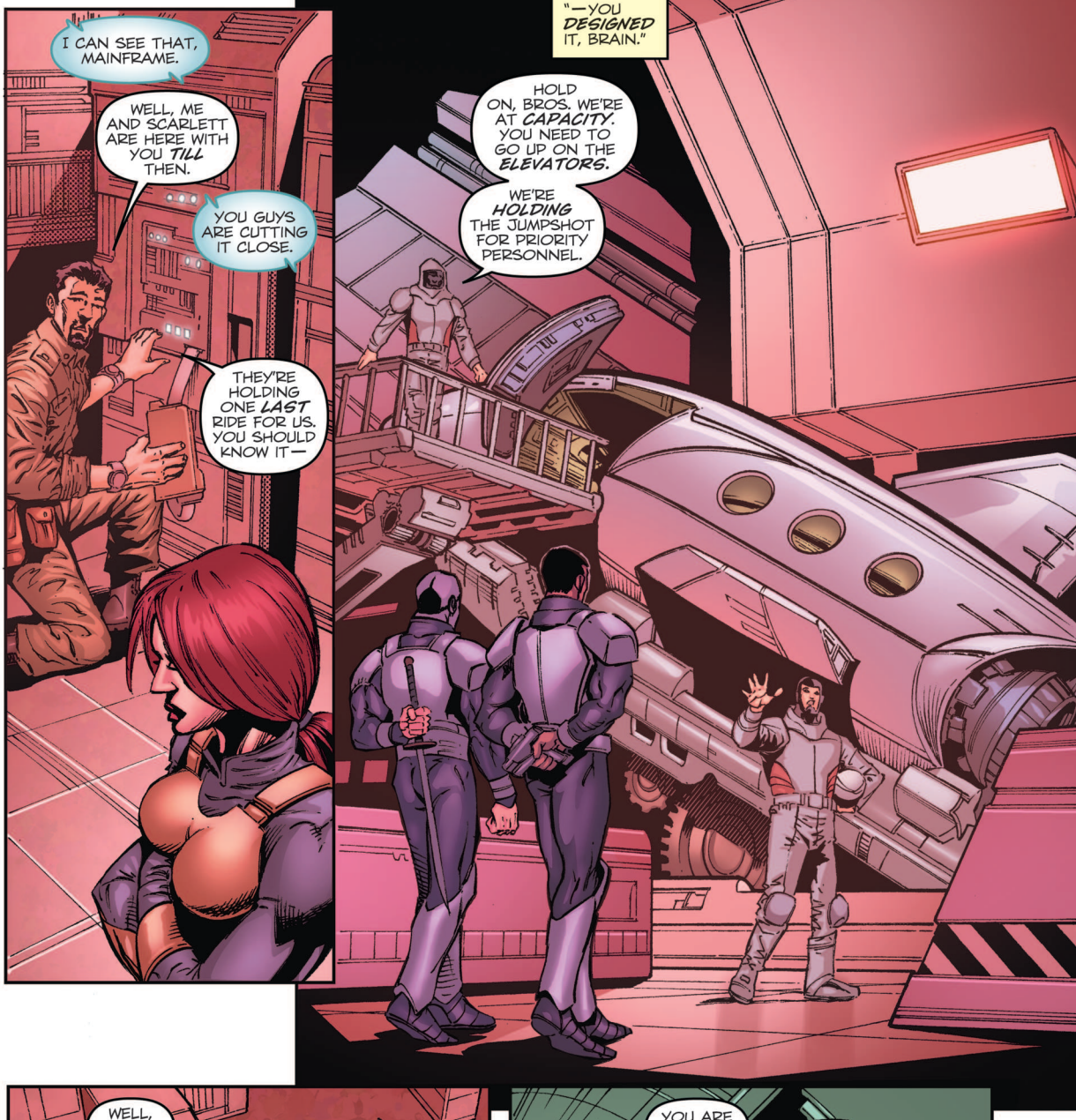

002 SUITE
003 SUITE
MALE 67R
FEMALE 60•RG
FEMALE 18G
TARGET PROBABILITY MATCH
THE PIT IS OFF LINE, SIR.
THE PIT IS NEVER OFF LINE, DEE-TEE.
MY SIGNAL'S GOLDEN, SIR. IT'S JUST NOT—
WASHINGTON


GENERAL HAWK.
DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME? DO YOU KNOW THE FACE OF THE MAN YOU ORDERED KILLED?
THE FACE OF THE MAN YOU MURDERED?
TOMAX?
GIVE MY REGARDS TO CHUCKLES WHEN YOU GET TO HELL.
HUNH!
AGHK!


CHUCKLES?
I ♥ WASHINGTON
LONG STORY.
CLASSIFIED STORY.
SPECIAL AGENTS BRIER AND KOLMANSKI.
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF THE ORDNANCE.
LOOK, I CAN EXPLAIN.
OH, YOU'LL BE EXPLAINING ALL RIGHT.
HE'LL BE ARMORED SO YOU'D BETTER RESTRAIN HIM.
WE KNOW YOU'RE A GENERAL AND ALL, BUT WE KNOW HOW TO DO OUR JOBS.


I AM TIRED OF BEING A STEP BEHIND THESE MOTHERS.
TALK TO ME, LAWHOUND.
SOME KINDA NINJA GUY, FLINT—
DID THEY SAY ANYTHING?
VENT SHAFT—GONNA MAKE FOR THE SURFACE—
HANG IN THERE, LAWHOUND.
MAIN COOLING ARRAY! THEY'RE BREAKING FOR THE TOP! LET'S MOVE!
HEH HEH HEH.
IDIOTS.

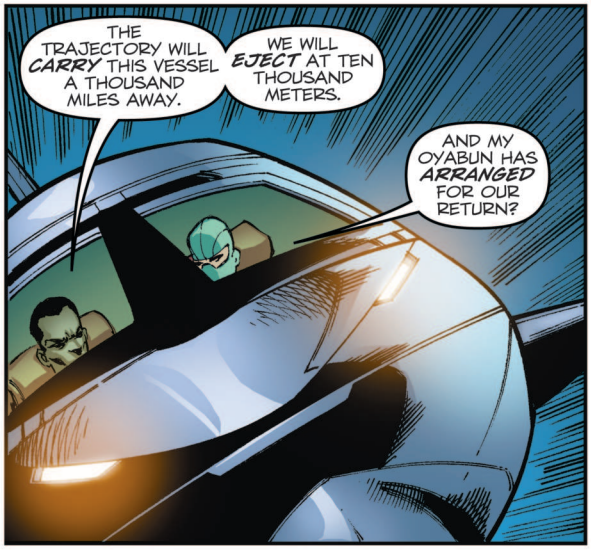

LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE, STORM SHADOW.
AND QUICKLY—
LOW DOG
"SCREW"
"—BEFORE IT BECOMES A BOILING IRRADIATED GRAVE."
8.92 Gy/h
I WAS RIGHT. I WISH I WASN'T.
THE COOLANTS ARE DRAINED AWAY.
THEN YOU'LL NEED TO BRING THE TEMPS DOWN, BRAIN.
YES. BUT I CAN'T GET AT THE VALVES, MAINFRAME.
I CAN ACCESS THEM FROM HERE. DRAIN THE RESERVOIR INTO THERE.
SEE IF YOU CAN OPEN THEM FIFTY PERCENT.
DON'T YOU NEED ALL YOU CAN GET?
I TRY TO COOL THE RODS TOO FAST AND THEY'LL POP.
WHEN CAN YOU WALK AWAY, BRAIN?
WHEN THE TEMPS AND PRESSURE FALL BELOW TWO PERCENT OVER OPERATING LEVELS.
WE'RE NOT THERE YET.


I CAN SEE THAT, MAINFRAME.
WELL, ME AND SCARLETT ARE HERE WITH YOU TILL THEN.
YOU GUYS ARE CUTTING IT CLOSE.
THEY'RE HOLDING ONE LAST RIDE FOR US. YOU SHOULD KNOW IT—
"—YOU DESIGNED IT, BRAIN."
HOLD ON, BROS. WE'RE AT CAPACITY. YOU NEED TO GO UP ON THE ELEVATORS.
WE'RE HOLDING THE JUMPSHOT FOR PRIORITY PERSONNEL.


WELL, WE'RE PRIORITY NOW.


YOU ARE A TRAINED PILOT.
"SCREW"
NO. FORTUNATELY YOU DO NOT SO MUCH FLY THIS CRAFT—


—AS ENDURE IT.


THE TRAJECTORY WILL CARRY THIS VESSEL A THOUSAND MILES AWAY.
WE WILL EJECT AT TEN THOUSAND METERS.
AND MY OYABUN HAS ARRANGED FOR OUR RETURN?


OH, YES.
ODA SATORI HAS ANTICIPATED EVERY CONTINGENCY.

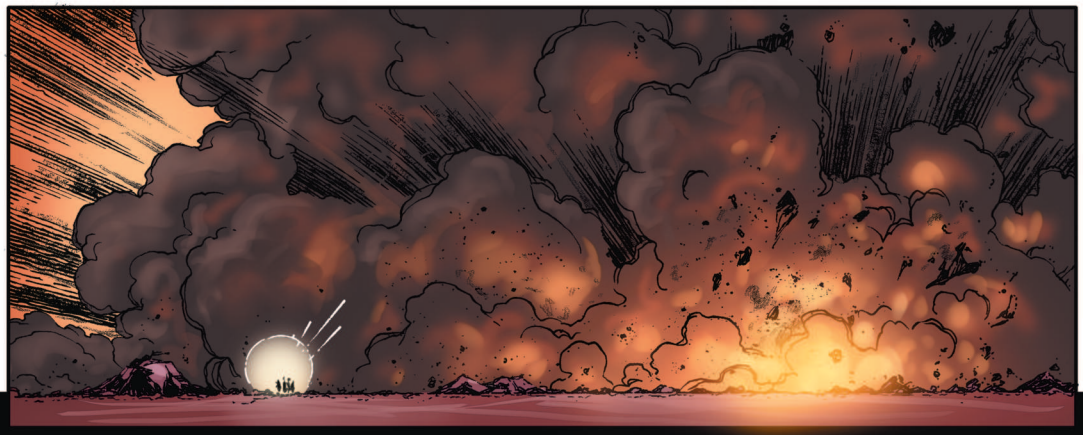

FLINT TO THE PIT.
THAT YOU ABOARD THAT POCKET ROCKET, RED?
NEGATIVE ON THAT, FLINT.


WE'RE GETTING BRAINSTORM AND LEAVING.
BUT... THAT WAS THE LAST RIDE OUT.
THEN IT'S DOWN TO HOW FAR WE CAN RUN, MAINFRAME.
BRAIN—IT'S SCARLETT. DID YOU COOL DOWN THE CORE?
DID MY BEST---NOT ENOUGH---
GIVE ME YOUR TWENTY.
THERE, RED!
LEAVE ME—NO TIME—
BRAIN!
UNNH!
LEAVE ME—I'M TOXIC—
SHUT UP, BRAIN. THAT'S AN ORDER.

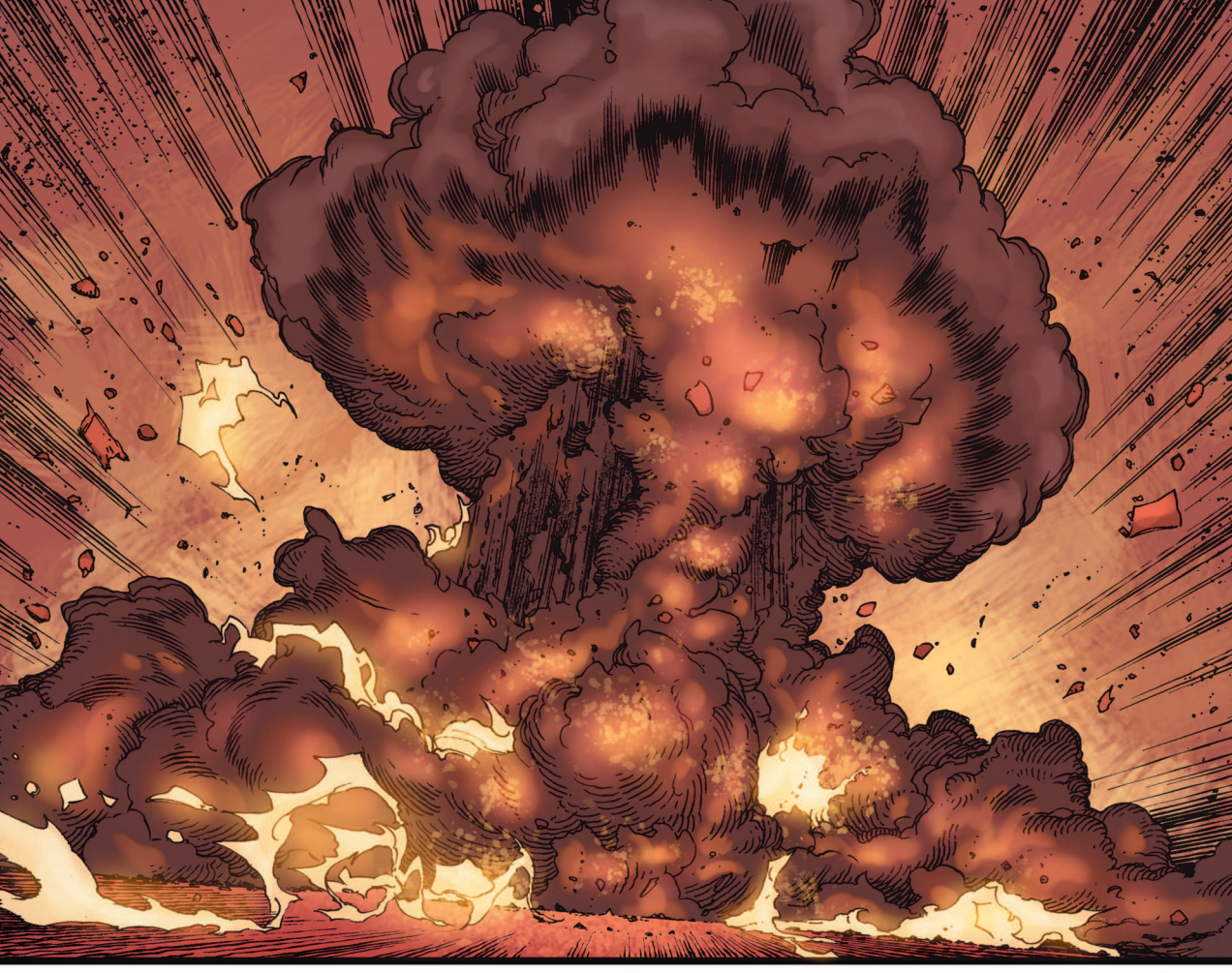

HE CAN'T WALK.
WE CARRY HIM. AFTER I GET SOME IODINE IN HIM.
NO TIME... NO TIME...
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT HERE? FIRE? NUKE BLAST?
WHEN THE CORE MELTS THROUGH TO THE WATERTABLE IT'LL SUPERHEAT THE AQUIFER FOR A MILE AROUND.
MILLIONS OF CUBIC FEET OF INSTANT STEAM LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.
SO WE DIE LIKE LOBSTERS.
NO. LOBSTERS GO INTO THE POT ALIVE.
THE CONCUSSIVE WAVE WILL SQUASH US FLAT LONG BEFORE THEN.
SWEET.

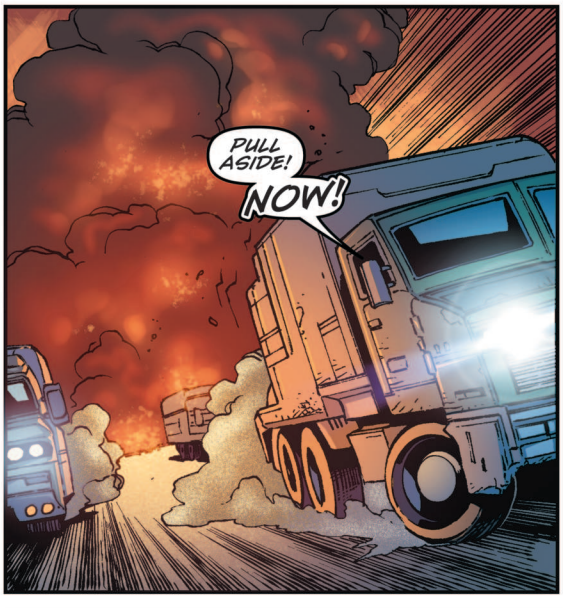

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE, RED?
NO WAY TO TELL! TEN SECONDS. TEN HOURS. MAYBE NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
RESTRICTED AREA NO TRESPASSING


"BUT I'D GO ALL-IN ON THE WORST CASE."



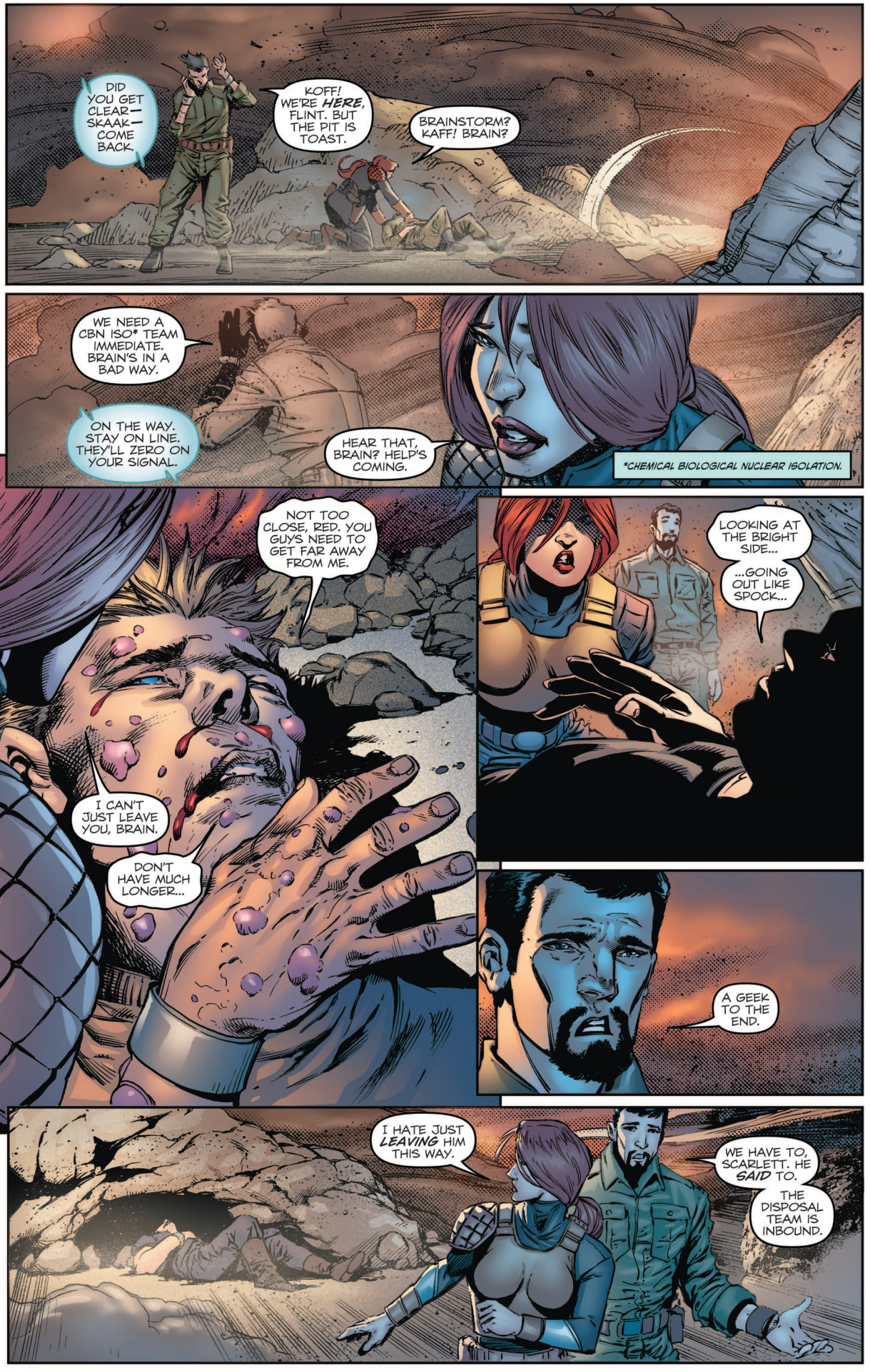





PULL ASIDE!
NOW!


FLINT TO SCARLETT! FLINT TO SCARLETT!
DAMN IT, RED. GIVE ME A SIGN.


FLINT TO SCARLETT— SKIIIKKK— FLINT TO—
UHHH...


DID YOU GET CLEAR— SKAAK— COME BACK.
KOFF! WE'RE HERE, FLINT. BUT THE PIT IS TOAST.
BRAINSTORM? KAFF! BRAIN?
WE NEED A CBN ISO* TEAM IMMEDIATE. BRAIN'S IN A BAD WAY.
ON THE WAY. STAY ON LINE. THEY'LL ZERO ON YOUR SIGNAL.
HEAR THAT, BRAIN? HELP'S COMING.
*CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL NUCLEAR ISOLATION.
NOT TOO CLOSE, RED. YOU GUYS NEED TO GET FAR AWAY FROM ME.
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU, BRAIN.
DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER...
LOOKING AT THE BRIGHT SIDE...
...GOING OUT LIKE SPOCK...
A GEEK TO THE END.
I HATE JUST LEAVING HIM THIS WAY.
WE HAVE TO, SCARLETT. HE SAID TO.
THE DISPOSAL TEAM IS INBOUND.


DISPOSAL!
BRAINSTORM SAVED OUR LIVES AND WE'RE THROWING HIM AWAY!
HEY...
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. HE'LL BE BURIED WITH ALL HONORS.
BUT HE'S RAD TOXIC. IT HAS TO BE DONE BY THE BOOK AND HE WROTE THE BOOK.
SORRY, MAINS. I LOST IT THERE FOR A SECOND.
IT'S FORGIVABLE. YOU'RE HUMAN.
YEAH. BUT I'M A JOE FIRST.
AND THE ONE THING A JOE CAN NEVER DO IS LOOK BACK.

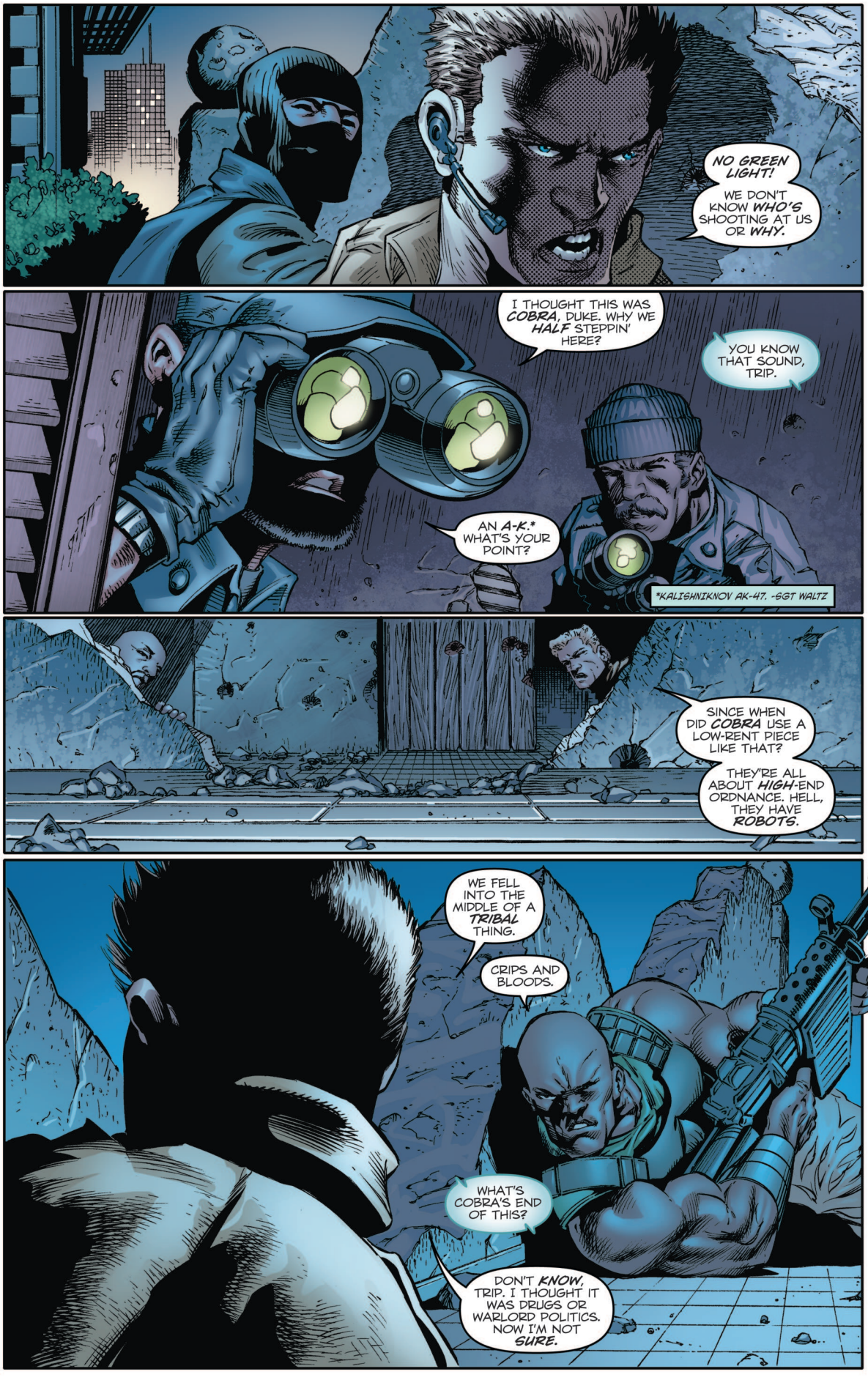




G.I. JOE: SERIES 2 #4A BY **TOM FEISTER**


KARIBA, ZIMBABWE.
COBRA PRESENCE SUSPECTED IN INTER-TRIBAL TENSIONS.
TEAM ALPHA TO RESPOND ON EXTRA-DIPLOMATIC STATUS.
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A TURKEY PEEK, DUKE!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT MISSION CREEP, ROADBLOCK.
I DON'T SEE ANY MISSION. ALL I SEE IS CREEPS.

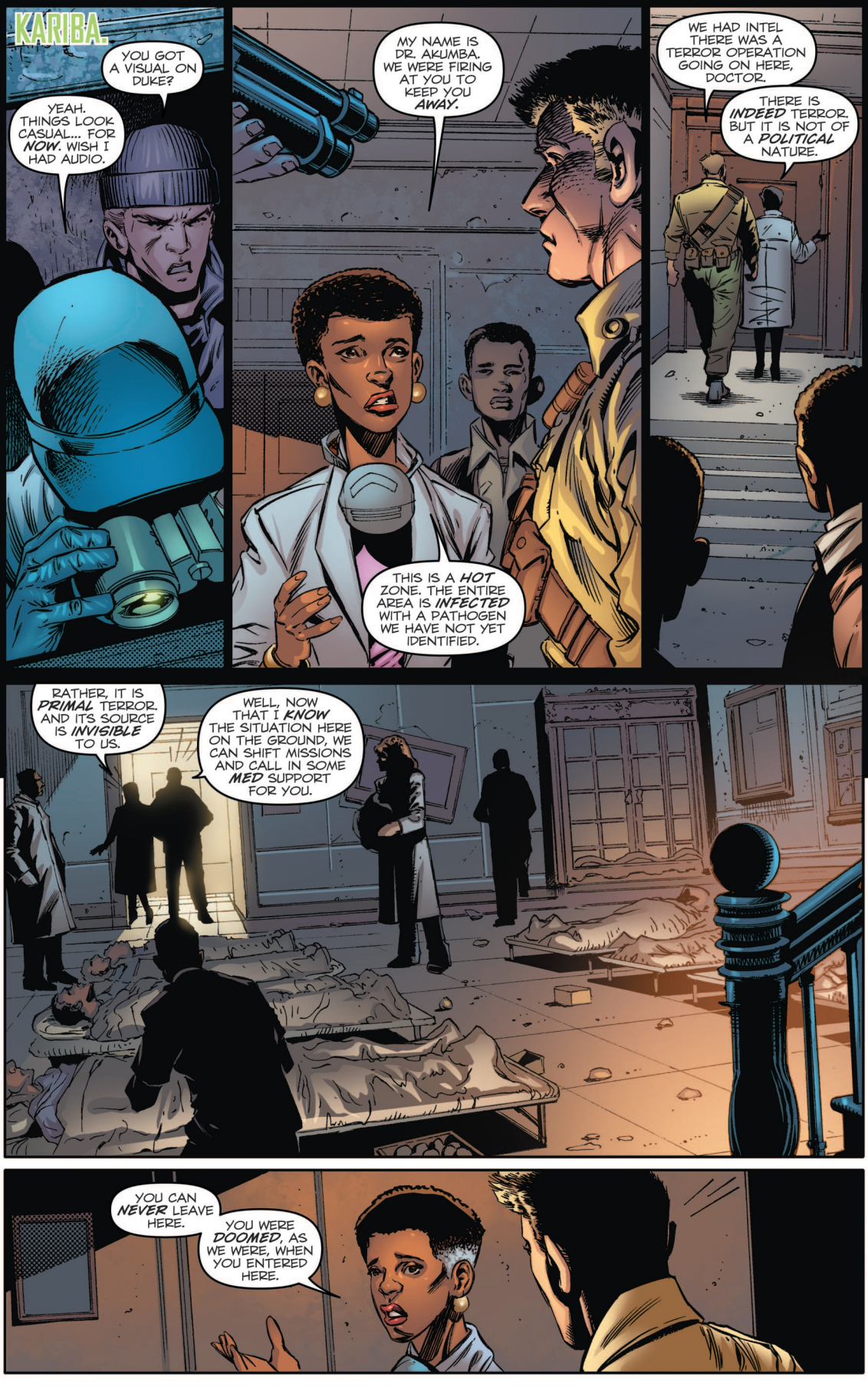

ROAD'S RIGHT. WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?
WE LOOK FOR COBRA, BEACH. INTEL SAYS THEY HAVE A FOOTPRINT HERE.
SNEAK PEEK, DO YOU HAVE EYES ON OUR SHOOTER?
MAKING SURE OF YOUR TWENTY FIRST, DUKE.
WE GOT A FREE FIRE ZONE HERE.
TRACERS COMING FROM THAT HOTEL ACROSS THE WAY.
SHOOTER'S IN A THIRD FLOOR WINDOW.
GOT HIM ZEROED, BIG AS LIFE.
YOUR CALL, DUKE.

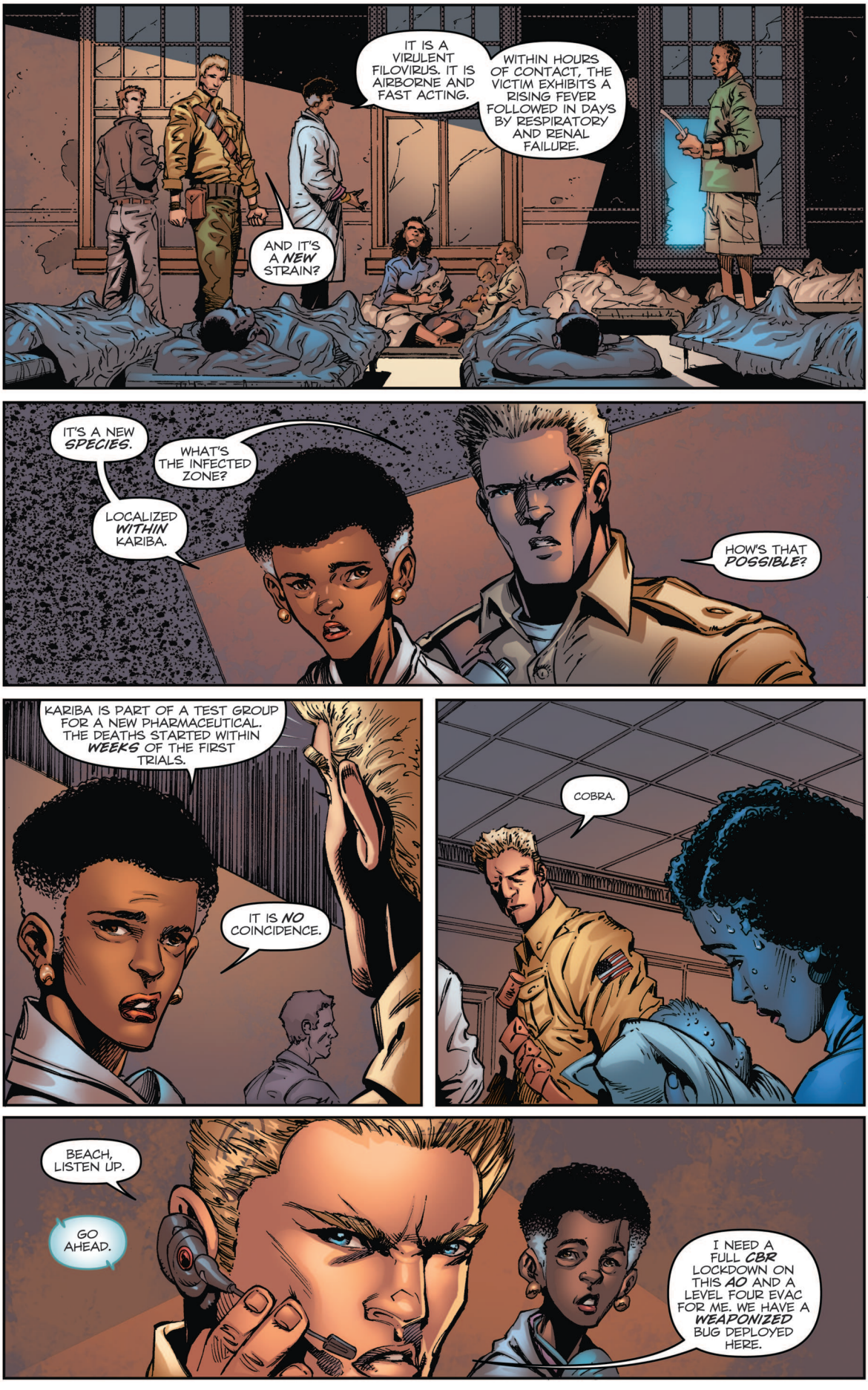

NO GREEN LIGHT!
WE DON'T KNOW WHO'S SHOOTING AT US OR WHY.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS COBRA, DUKE. WHY WE HALF STEPPIN' HERE?
YOU KNOW THAT SOUND, TRIP.
AN A-K.* WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
*KALISHNIKNOV AK-47. -SGT WALTZ
SINCE WHEN DID COBRA USE A LOW-RENT PIECE LIKE THAT?
THEY'RE ALL ABOUT HIGH-END ORDNANCE. HELL, THEY HAVE ROBOTS.
WE FELL INTO THE MIDDLE OF A TRIBAL THING.
CRIPS AND BLOODS.
WHAT'S COBRA'S END OF THIS?
DON'T KNOW, TRIP. I THOUGHT IT WAS DRUGS OR WARLORD POLITICS. NOW I'M NOT SURE.

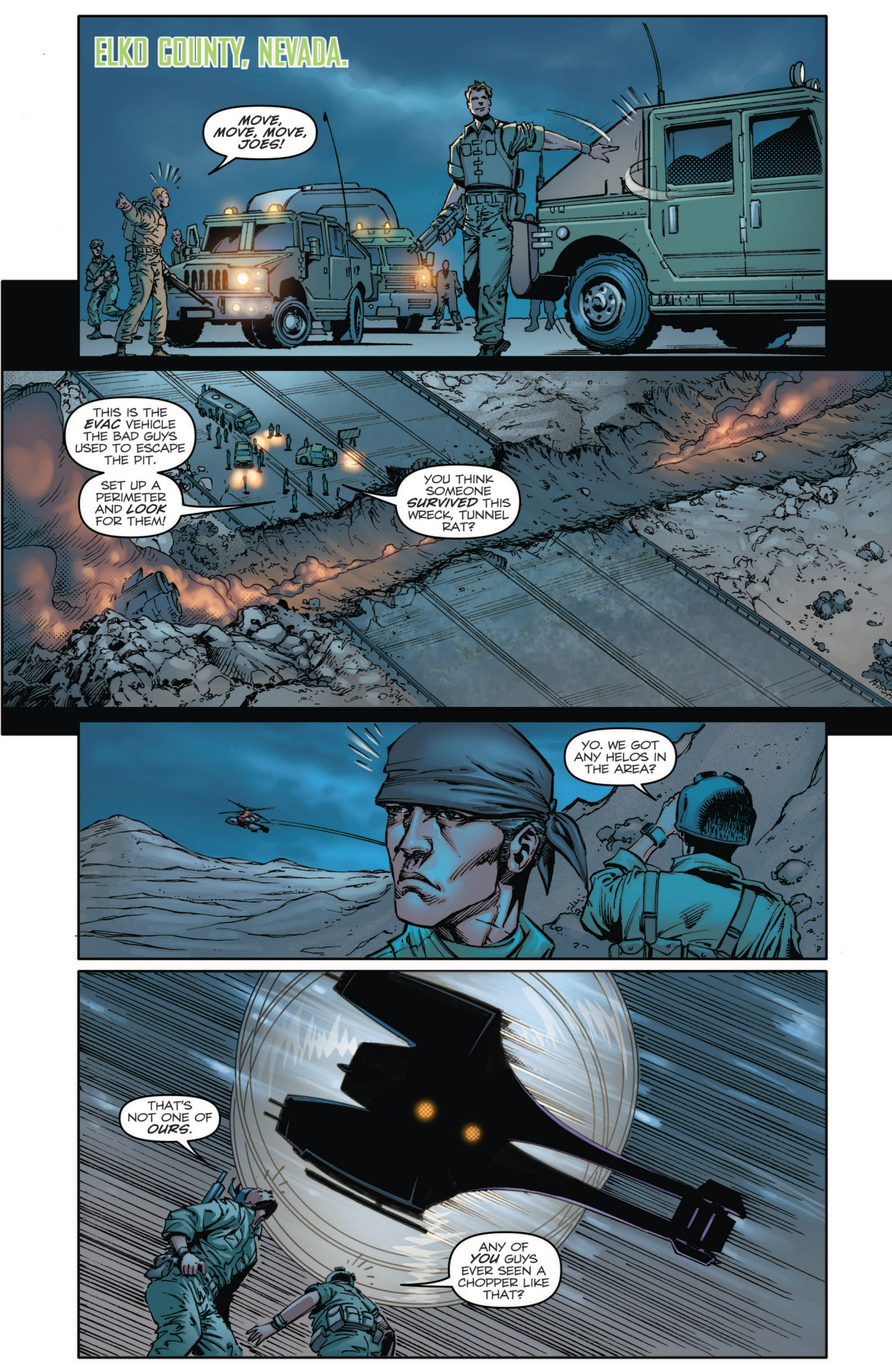

WE NEED MORE INTEL.
I TRIED TO RAISE THE PIT. THEY'RE OFFLINE.
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
IT IS WHAT IT IS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAN?
NOT A CLUE.
BUT I'M NOT SHOOTING UNTIL I KNOW WHAT SIDE WE'RE ON.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, DUKE?
NOPE. BUT IF THIS GOES SOUTH, YOU LIGHT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD UP.
GOT YOUR BACK.
¡QUIERO HABLAR!
¡NO DISPAREN! ¡QUIERO HABLAR CON SU LIDER!
DUKE... REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO TEAM MIKE.
HOLD YOUR MUD, SNEAK PEEK.
¿QUIEN ES RESPONSABLE AQUÍ? VENGO DESARMADO.
TENEMOS QUE HABLAR.


YOUR SWAHILI IS PATHETIC, FRIEND.
NOT AS BAD AS MY FRENCH.
SPARE US THAT, SIL VOUS PLAIT.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
LOOK, GENERAL...
...I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARRESTED YOU.
TRAVELLING ARMED WITH NO I.D.... NO AGENCY AFFILIATIONS.
INSIDE THE BELTWAY.


JUST DOING YOUR JOB. I GET THAT. WE GOT IT SORTED OUT IN THE END.
RE-POST TO FORT BAXTER. WE'LL SET UP THERE UNTIL WE GET FURTHER WORD.
'TIL THEN, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. THE TUNA WILL BE YOUR CONTACT FOR FURTHER ORDERS.
YOU BOYS HAVE A PROBLEM SINCE THEY BROUGHT YOU ALL UNDER ONE TENT. A DAMNED ALPHABET SOUP OF SPOOKS AND GUNHANDS WITH TOO MANY BOSSES AND TOO MUCH POLITICS.
MAKES ME GLAD I HAVE A FREE STANDING UNIT.
OUR RIDE IS INBOUND, SIR.
THANKS, DIAL-TONE.
WE'RE HERE, GENERAL.
THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING, SIR. AND THANKS FOR INTERCEDING WITH OUR SECTION CHIEF.
YOU SPARED US A TRIP TO THE WOODSHED, SIR.
HAPPY TO DO IT, GENTLEMEN.
MAKE SURE YOU HOLD ONTO TOMAX. SUPERMAX HIS BUTT, PRONTO.


KARIBA.
YOU GOT A VISUAL ON DUKE?
YEAH. THINGS LOOK CASUAL... FOR NOW. WISH I HAD AUDIO.
MY NAME IS DR. AKUMBA. WE WERE FIRING AT YOU TO KEEP YOU AWAY.
THIS IS A HOT ZONE. THE ENTIRE AREA IS INFECTED WITH A PATHOGEN WE HAVE NOT YET IDENTIFIED.
WE HAD INTEL THERE WAS A TERROR OPERATION GOING ON HERE, DOCTOR.
THERE IS INDEED TERROR. BUT IT IS NOT OF A POLITICAL NATURE.
RATHER, IT IS PRIMAL TERROR. AND ITS SOURCE IS INVISIBLE TO US.
WELL, NOW THAT I KNOW THE SITUATION HERE ON THE GROUND, WE CAN SHIFT MISSIONS AND CALL IN SOME MED SUPPORT FOR YOU.
YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE HERE.
YOU WERE DOOMED, AS WE WERE, WHEN YOU ENTERED HERE.


IT IS A VIRULENT FILOVIRUS. IT IS AIRBORNE AND FAST ACTING.
WITHIN HOURS OF CONTACT, THE VICTIM EXHIBITS A RISING FEVER FOLLOWED IN DAYS BY RESPIRATORY AND RENAL FAILURE.
AND IT'S A NEW STRAIN?
IT'S A NEW SPECIES.
WHAT'S THE INFECTED ZONE?
LOCALIZED WITHIN KARIBA.
HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE?
KARIBA IS PART OF A TEST GROUP FOR A NEW PHARMACEUTICAL. THE DEATHS STARTED WITHIN WEEKS OF THE FIRST TRIALS.
IT IS NO COINCIDENCE.
COBRA.
BEACH, LISTEN UP.
GO AHEAD.
I NEED A FULL CBR LOCKDOWN ON THIS AO AND A LEVEL FOUR EVAC FOR ME. WE HAVE A WEAPONIZED BUG DEPLOYED HERE.


ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA.
MOVE, MOVE, MOVE, JOES!
THIS IS THE EVAC VEHICLE THE BAD GUYS USED TO ESCAPE THE PIT.
SET UP A PERIMETER AND LOOK FOR THEM!
YOU THINK SOMEONE SURVIVED THIS WRECK, TUNNEL RAT?
YO. WE GOT ANY HELOS IN THE AREA?
THAT'S NOT ONE OF OURS.
ANY OF YOU GUYS EVER SEEN A CHOPPER LIKE THAT?

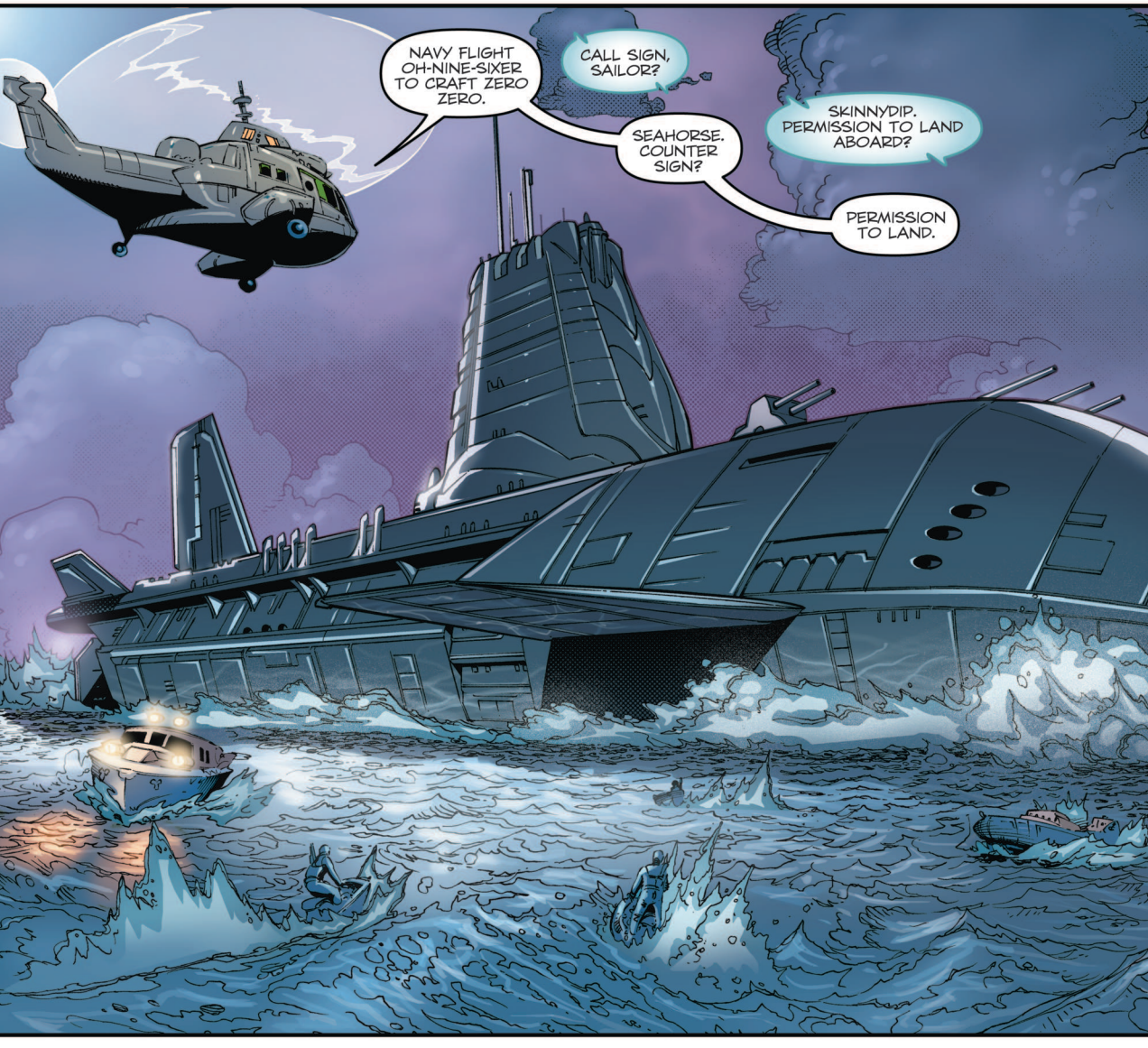

PILOT, WHAT IS OUR ETA FOR RENDEZVOUS?
AN HOUR OR MORE AT THIS SPEED, ZARTAN.
OUR COURSE IS PLOTTED TO AVOID AVIAN RADAR AND SATELLITE DETECTION.
THOSE SOLDIERS ON THE GROUND WITNESSED OUR TAKE-OFF, ZARTAN.
THEN THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO REPORT US, STORM SHADOW.
THAT BIRD'S COMING BACK!
BUTTS DOWN AND GUNS UP!

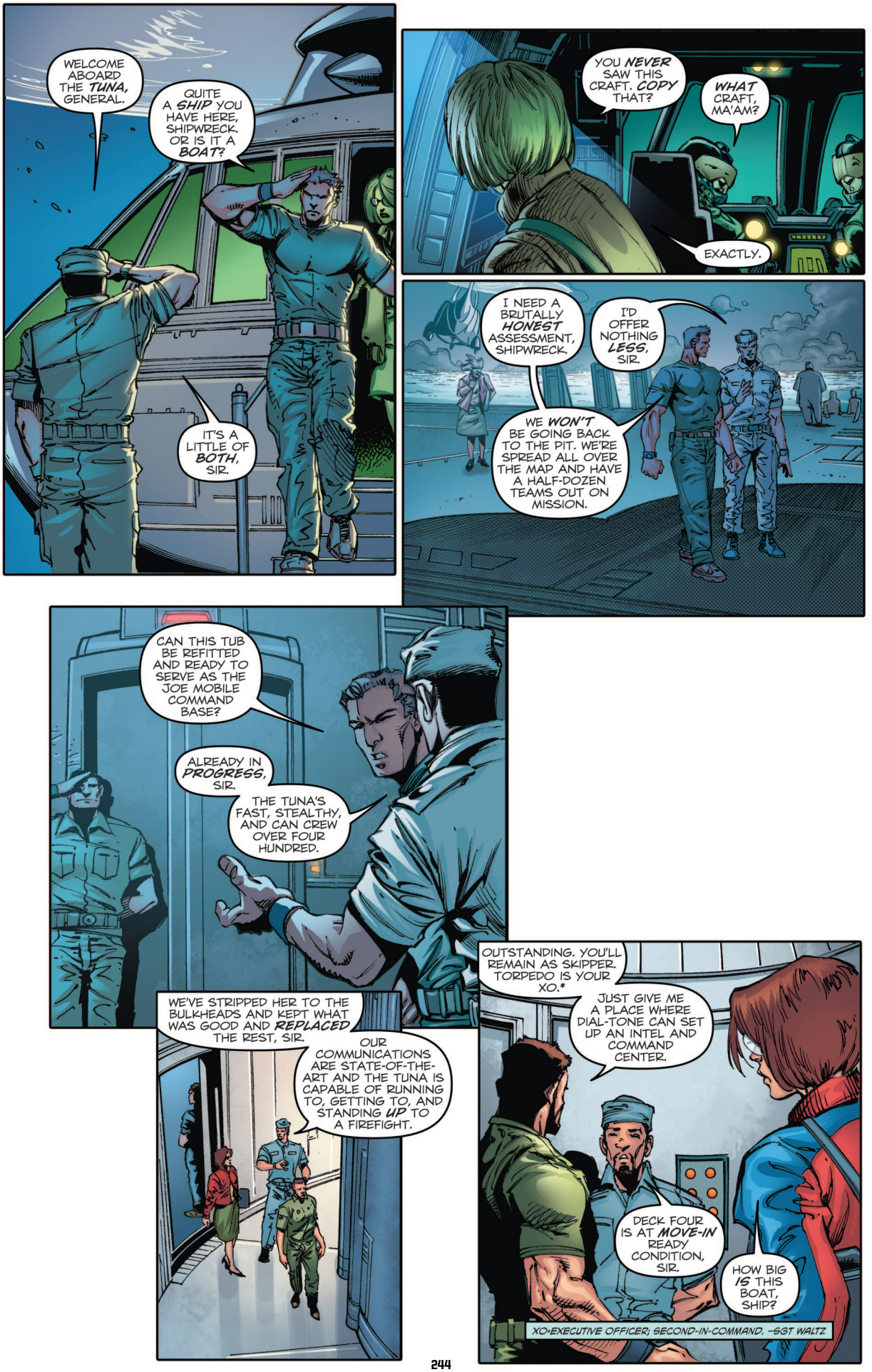

MY TUNES WERE IN THERE!
THAT PREGNANT GOONY BIRD SHOT MY CDs TO HELL!
MIGHT AS WELL THROW CANDY AT IT, ROCKER.
YEAH. BUT IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER, RAT.
WELL, THERE'S THAT. BUT LET'S DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL.

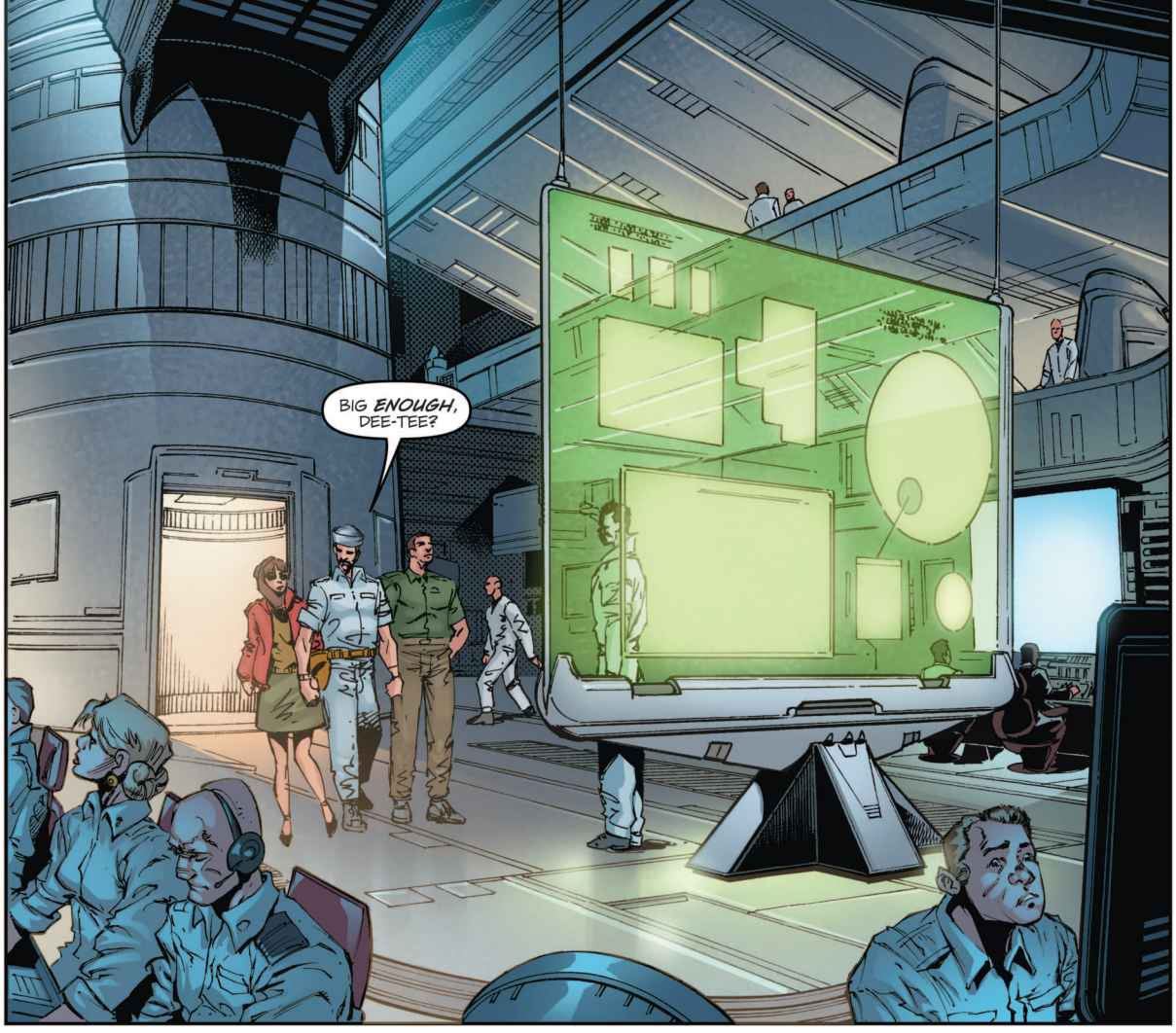

TEAM CHARLIE TO SCARLETT.
I HAVE A CODE SNAKEHEAD BEARING WEST FROM NORTH 400 21' WEST ONE-ONE-FIVE 0 35'
GO FOR SCARLETT.
"CAN WE GET A HEADS-UP TO NELLIS?"
NELLIS TOWER TO FLIGHT PAYDAY.
GO AHEAD, TOWER.
PRIORITY STONEWALL. UNFRIENDLY HELO ON WESTERLY MAP-OF-EARTH COURSE THROUGH YOUR BACKYARD.
LINKING TO SAT FOOTPRINT.
WE *HAVE* YOUR BOGEY, TOWER. WAS THAT PRIORITY *STONEWALL?*
STONEWALL CONFIRMED.
LOCKING ON.
U.S.
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.

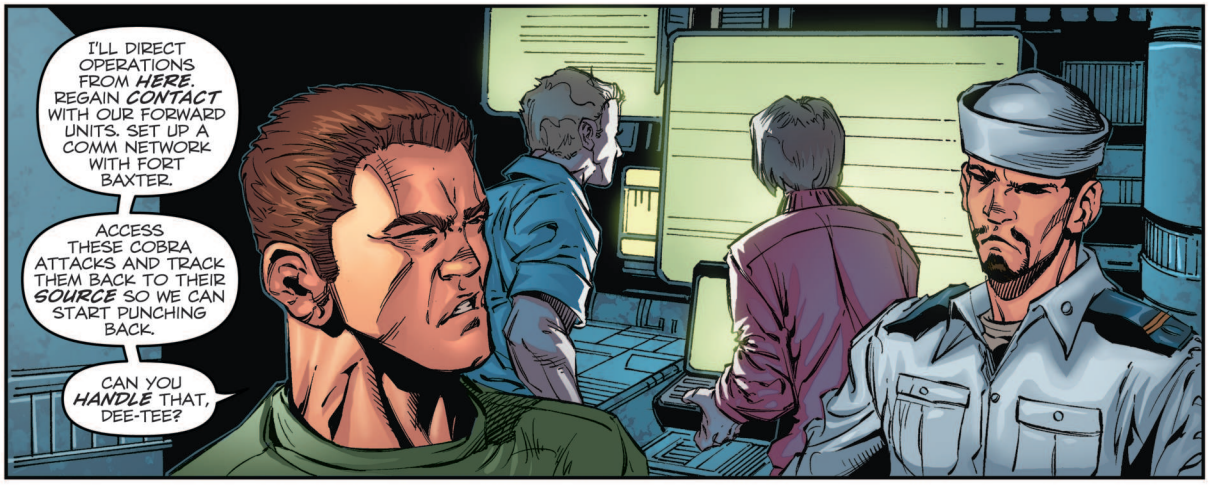

TWO A2A MISSILES CLOSING IN ON US FROM OUR SIX.
WELL, EVADE THEM!
NOT ENOUGH SPEED. THEY HAVE US NAILED. DEPLOYING CHAFF.
LOCKED ON US. IMPACT IN EIGHT...
YOU WILL EJECT OUR PODS, PILOT!
SEVEN... SIX...
HOLD UNTIL TWO—
—BEFORE EJECTION—
FIVE... FOUR...
HOLD...
THREE...
TWO...
NOW!

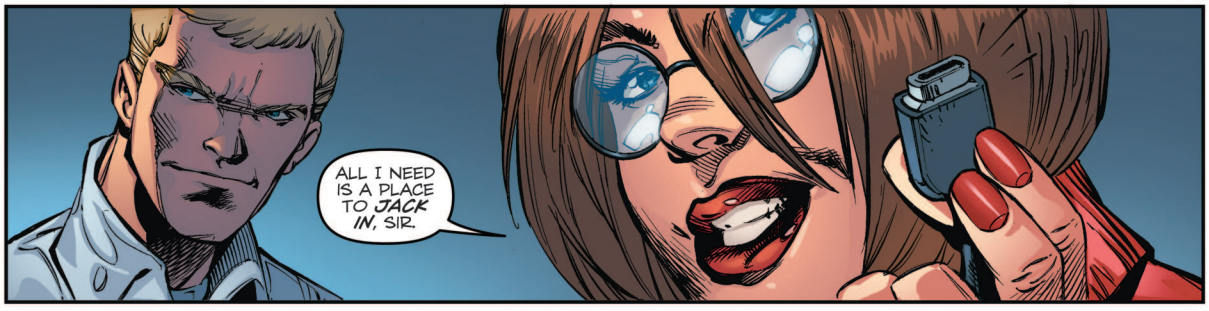

HA-HA HA HA HA HA!
PAYDAY TO NELLIS TOWER. METEORS DEPLOYED. TARGET IS ZULU.
ACKNOWLEDGED. RETURN TO BASE FOR DEBRIEF.
PAYDAY ONE TO PAYDAY TWO. THINK WE'LL EVER KNOW WHAT THIS WAS ABOUT?
WHAT PART OF DEBRIEF DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, BRO?


NAVY FLIGHT OH-NINE-SIXER TO CRAFT ZERO ZERO.
CALL SIGN, SAILOR?
SEAHORSE. COUNTER SIGN?
SKINNYDIP. PERMISSION TO LAND ABOARD?
PERMISSION TO LAND.


WELCOME ABOARD THE TUNA, GENERAL.
QUITE A SHIP YOU HAVE HERE, SHIPWRECK. OR IS IT A BOAT?
IT'S A LITTLE OF BOTH, SIR.
YOU NEVER SAW THIS CRAFT. COPY THAT?
WHAT CRAFT, MA'AM?
EXACTLY.
I NEED A BRUTALLY HONEST ASSESSMENT, SHIPWRECK.
I'D OFFER NOTHING LESS, SIR.
WE WON'T BE GOING BACK TO THE PIT. WE'RE SPREAD ALL OVER THE MAP AND HAVE A HALF-DOZEN TEAMS OUT ON MISSION.
CAN THIS TUB BE REFITTED AND READY TO SERVE AS THE JOE MOBILE COMMAND BASE?
ALREADY IN PROGRESS, SIR.
THE TUNA'S FAST, STEALTHY, AND CAN CREW OVER FOUR HUNDRED.
WE'VE STRIPPED HER TO THE BULKHEADS AND KEPT WHAT WAS GOOD AND REPLACED THE REST, SIR.
OUR COMMUNICATIONS ARE STATE-OF-THE-ART AND THE TUNA IS CAPABLE OF RUNNING TO, GETTING TO, AND STANDING UP TO A FIREFIGHT.
OUTSTANDING. YOU'LL REMAIN AS SKIPPER. TORPEDO IS YOUR XO.*
JUST GIVE ME A PLACE WHERE DIAL-TONE CAN SET UP AN INTEL AND COMMAND CENTER.
DECK FOUR IS AT MOVE-IN READY CONDITION, SIR.
HOW BIG IS THIS BOAT, SHIP?
XO-EXECUTIVE OFFICER; SECOND-IN-COMMAND. -SGT WALTZ

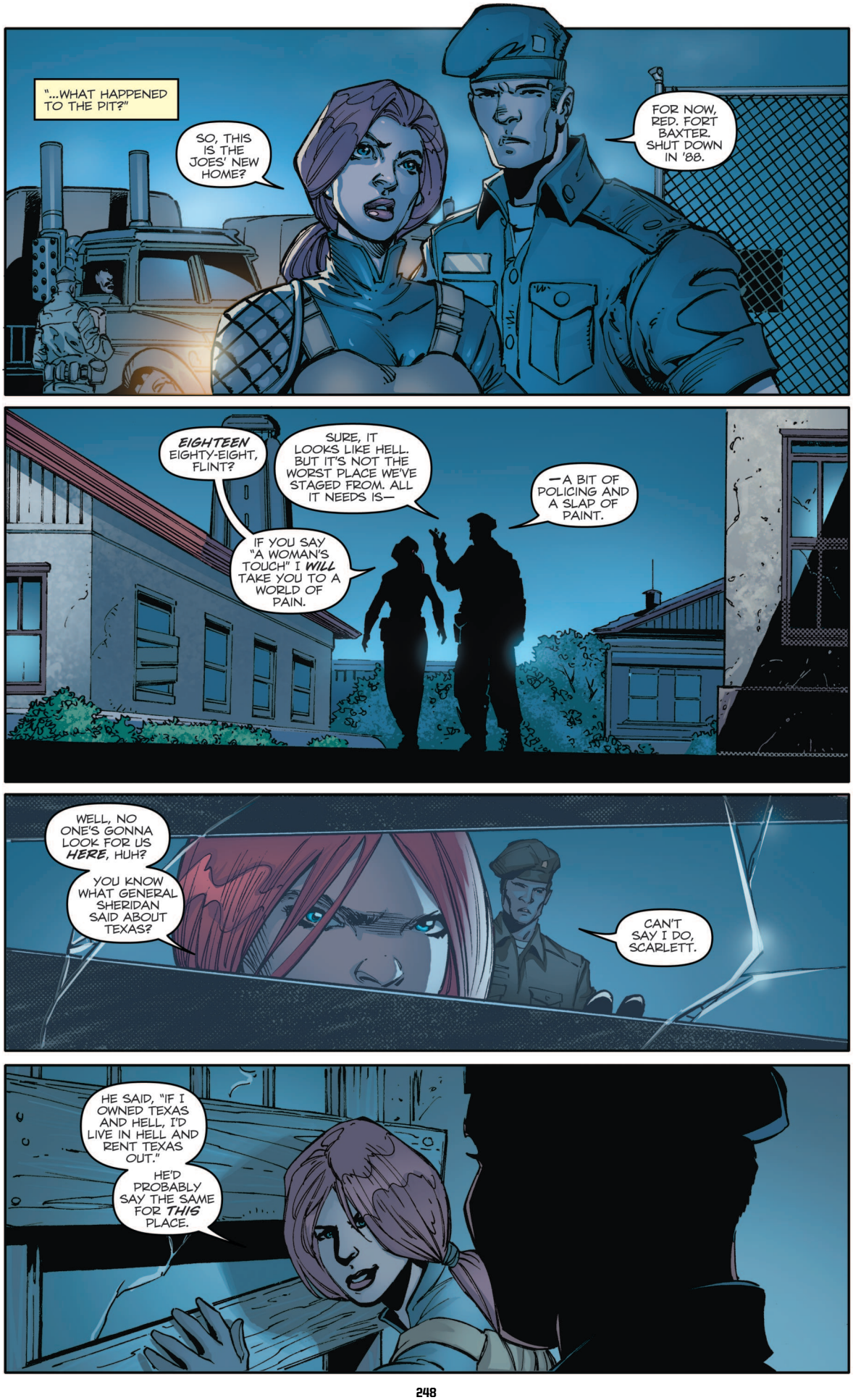

BIG ENOUGH, DEE-TEE?

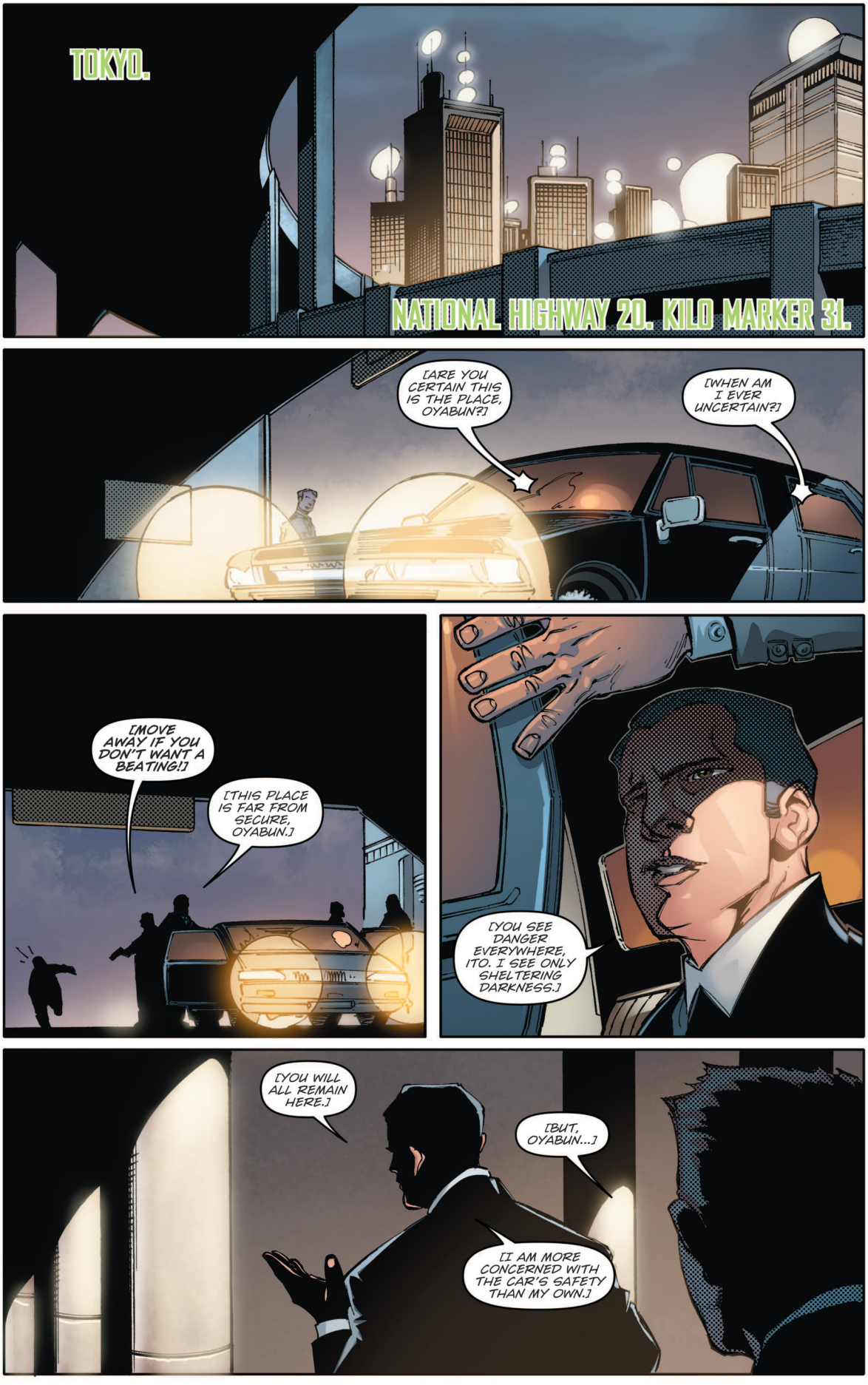

I'LL DIRECT OPERATIONS FROM HERE. REGAIN CONTACT WITH OUR FORWARD UNITS. SET UP A COMM NETWORK WITH FORT BAXTER.
ACCESS THESE COBRA ATTACKS AND TRACK THEM BACK TO THEIR SOURCE SO WE CAN START PUNCHING BACK.
CAN YOU HANDLE THAT, DEE-TEE?


ALL I NEED IS A PLACE TO JACK IN, SIR.


KARIBA.
YOU AMBULATORY, DUKE?
STILL STANDING, LIFELINE. NICE TO SEE THE CAVALRY HERE.
THE MEDICAL DIVISION, ANYWAY.
WE'RE JUST THE FIRST RESPONSE. WHO* IS ON ITS WAY. SOME PRIVATE RELIEF AGENCIES TOO.
BUT WE HAVE TO BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEN, DUKE. THE GOVERNMENT IN HARARE HAS NOT GIVEN ITS PERMISSION.
* WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.–SGT WALTZ
WE'RE TAKING YOU TO RAMSTEIN.* WE HAVE A LEVEL FOUR FACILITY SET UP, AND DOC IS EXPECTING YOU THERE.
WHY NOT THE PIT?
LONG STORY.
*RAMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE IN GERMANY.—SGT WALTZ

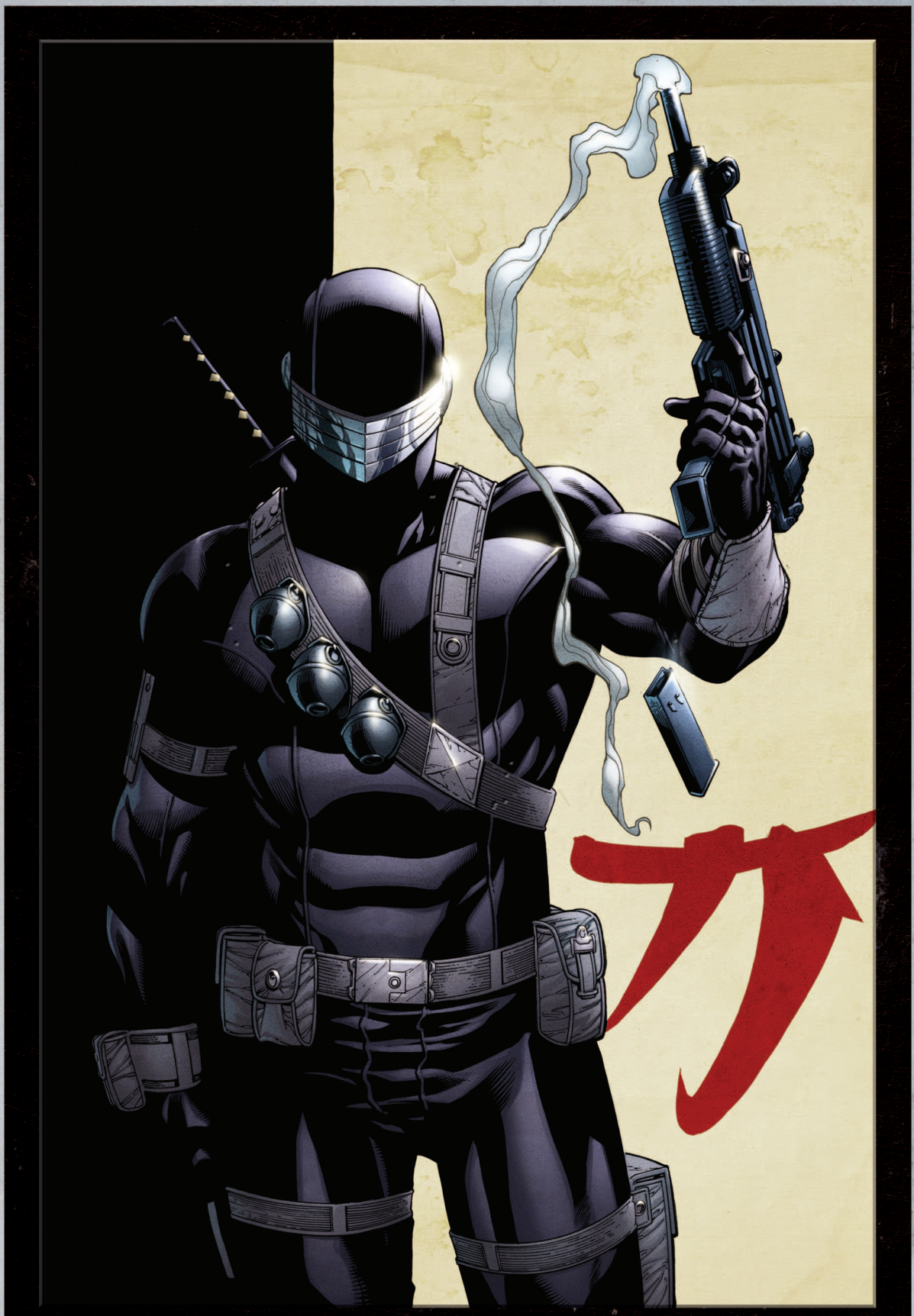

TEMPERATURE'S ELEVATED.
PULSE RATE NINETY.
YEAH. I'M STARTIN' TO FEEL IT.
WE'RE LEAVING YOU BOTTLED WATER, CLEAN IV EQUIPMENT, PAIN MEDS, AND MREs. A BUNCH OF OTHER STUFF.
NO CURE. BUT IT'LL MAKE YOUR PATIENTS MORE COMFORTABLE FOR NOW.
THANK YOU. THANK ALL OF YOU.
WE'LL BE WORKIN' ON THIS, DOCTOR. WITH ME AS THE GUINEA PIG.
I WISH YOU THE BEST. FOR ALL OUR SAKES.
THIS IS COBRA, LIFELINE. THEY WERE HERE AS PART OF A DRUG PROGRAM.
YOU THINK THIS IS A BIO-ENGINEERED BUG?
YOU TELL ME. BUT ANYTHING WITH THIS LOCALIZED OF AN EFFECT HAS TO BE TACTICAL.
SO, TELL ME...


"...WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PIT?"
SO, THIS IS THE JOES' NEW HOME?
FOR NOW, RED. FORT BAXTER. SHUT DOWN IN '88.
EIGHTEEN EIGHTY-EIGHT, FLINT?
SURE, IT LOOKS LIKE HELL. BUT IT'S NOT THE WORST PLACE WE'VE STAGED FROM. ALL IT NEEDS IS—
IF YOU SAY "A WOMAN'S TOUCH" I WILL TAKE YOU TO A WORLD OF PAIN.
—A BIT OF POLICING AND A SLAP OF PAINT.
WELL, NO ONE'S GONNA LOOK FOR US HERE, HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT GENERAL SHERIDAN SAID ABOUT TEXAS?
CAN'T SAY I DO, SCARLETT.
HE SAID, "IF I OWNED TEXAS AND HELL, I'D LIVE IN HELL AND RENT TEXAS OUT."
HE'D PROBABLY SAY THE SAME FOR THIS PLACE.


TOKYO.
NATIONAL HIGHWAY 20. KILO MARKER 31.
[ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS IS THE PLACE, OYABUN?]
[WHEN AM I EVER UNCERTAIN?]
[MOVE AWAY IF YOU DON'T WANT A BEATING!]
[THIS PLACE IS FAR FROM SECURE, OYABUN.]
[YOU SEE DANGER EVERYWHERE, ITO. I SEE ONLY SHELTERING DARKNESS.]
[YOU WILL ALL REMAIN HERE.]
[BUT, OYABUN...]
[I AM MORE CONCERNED WITH THE CAR'S SAFETY THAN MY OWN.]


STORM SHADOW?
[I AM HERE, ODA SATORI.]
[I ACCOMPLISHED THE GOALS YOU SET FOR ME.]
[AND ZARTAN? WAS HE OF AID TO YOU?]
[HE WAS... USEFUL.]
[AS I KNEW HE WOULD BE. YOU MUST NOT RESENT HIS PLACE IN MY ORGANIZATION.]
[I TRUST ZARTAN AS I TRUST YOU, LOYAL WARRIOR.]
IN TRUTH, AS MUCH AS I TRUST MYSELF.





SNAKE EYES #4A BY **ROBERT ATKINS** COLORS BY **SIMON GOUGH**


RAJAHISTAN, THE MOUNTAIN FORTRESS OF VIKRIM KHALIKHAN.
HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN XIXABANGMA IN THE HIMAL RANGE.
THE LAST OF SNAKE EYES.
A PITY THAT SLICE AND DICE WILL SO ABRUPTLY END SO LEGENDARY A CAREER.


MY EAGERNESS TO WITNESS YOU IN COMBAT IS TINGED WITH REGRET.
A REGRET I AM CERTAIN WE SHARE.
WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN *COMRADES*, YOU AND I.
AND THAT IS NOT A WISH *EASILY* ENTERTAINED BY ONE SUCH AS VIKRIM KHALIKHAN.
BUT YOU CHOSE A DIFFERENT *PATH*.


YOU LEFT THE ARASHIKAGE CLAN.
YOU CHOSE TO BECOME A SOLDIER— A FACELESS PAWN.
WHY WAS THAT, SNAKE EYES?
DID YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF THE ARASHIKAGE? THE WAR THAT WOULD DIVIDE THEM?
YOU ARE THE MOST SKILLED OF THE AMERICANS.
YOU ARE THE GREATEST LIVING THREAT TO COBRA.
YOU DESTROYED SECTION ZERO. YOU HAVE INVADED MY DOMAIN.
YOU ARE OUR ONLY WORTHY OPPONENT AND FOR THAT YOU MUST DIE.
BUT I CANNOT HELP BUT TOY WITH THE IDEA OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAD YOU REMAINED WITH YOUR NINJA BROTHERS AND BECOME AN INSTRUMENT OF COBRA.


WITH SOMEONE AS SKILLED AS YOURSELF IN MY ORGANIZATION, I WOULD EASILY CLAIM THE HELMET OF COMMANDER.
JUST AS WELL THAT YOUR DEATH WILL ASSURE ME THAT POSITION.
OF ALL YOUR NATION'S TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT AND MILITARY MIGHT, IT IS YOU WHO ARE THEIR GREATEST WEAPON.
INVISIBLE. RUTHLESS. DEADLY.
YOUR ONLY WEAKNESS IS YOUR BRITTLE SENSE OF HONOR.
STUPID, IS IT NOT? YOU CLING TO A CODE THAT YOU HAVE NEVER EXPRESSED TO ANOTHER.
AND SO YOU DIE FORGOTTEN. UNMOURNED.
AND ALONE.


ALL DOWNHILL FROM *HERE*, ALPINE.
AND *I'LL* DO ALL THE WORK.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND, ICEBERG—
THIS IS NO BEGINNER'S SLALOM.
YOU DISSIN' MY MAD *SKIING* SKILLS? THIS A *RACE* THING, BRO?
I'M NO NEVER-EVER GOIN' DOWN THE *BUNNY* SLOPE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
YOU GOTTA LEAVE ME...
WOULD YOU LEAVE ME, AL? IF THE BOOT WAS ON THE *OTHER* FOOT?
IN A HEARTBEAT.
WORST LIAR I EVER *HEARD*!
NOW, I'M GONNA *DRAG* YOUR LYIN' BUTT DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN.
HOT COFFEE AND PRETTY NURSES FOR *YOU*, BRO. ALL THANKS TO *ME*.


YOU CAN'T MAKE IT BY YOURSELF.
WELL, I AIN'T GOIN' BY MYSELF.
WE'RE GETTING TO THE BOTTOM. TOGETHER.
SO RELAX AND ENJOY THE RIDE.
YOU MIGHT EVEN LEARN SOMETHING. AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT...
"...KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SIX."


WELL PLAYED, SNAKE EYES.
YOU CHOOSE THE GROUND EASIEST TO DEFEND.
A DISADVANTAGE TO YOUR OPPONENTS UNDER USUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
BUT SLICE AND DICE ARE MOST UNUSUAL. THEY MOVE AS ONE. HOW LONG CAN YOU STAND AGAINST A COORDINATED ATTACK SUCH AS THEIRS?
YOU WILL SUCCUMB TO CHAIN OR LANCE.
AND DIE BY THEIR HAND.
AND THE STORY TOLD TO THE WOMAN CALLED SCARLETT, AS SHE HERSELF DIES...
...WHEN SLICE AND DICE FIND HER.


UH?
NO...
UNNH!
DICE!


DAMN!
I BLAME YOU FOR THIS, AL.
ALL YOUR NEGATIVE THINKING. WELL, NOBODY RIDES FOR FREE. WORK THAT GRENADE LAUNCHER.
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE SLOPE...
...I'LL WORK THE ARTILLERY.


HOW MANY DID YOU GET?
TWO...
GOTTA DO BETTER THAN THAT, AL.
BRING THE ODDS DOWN FOR US, BRO.
WE STILL GOT A LOT OF SNOW TO COVER!


DICE?
DICE!


OH!


I HAVE YOU, BROTHER!
WE'LL SOON RAISE A GLASS TO THE END OF—


—SNAKE EYES?

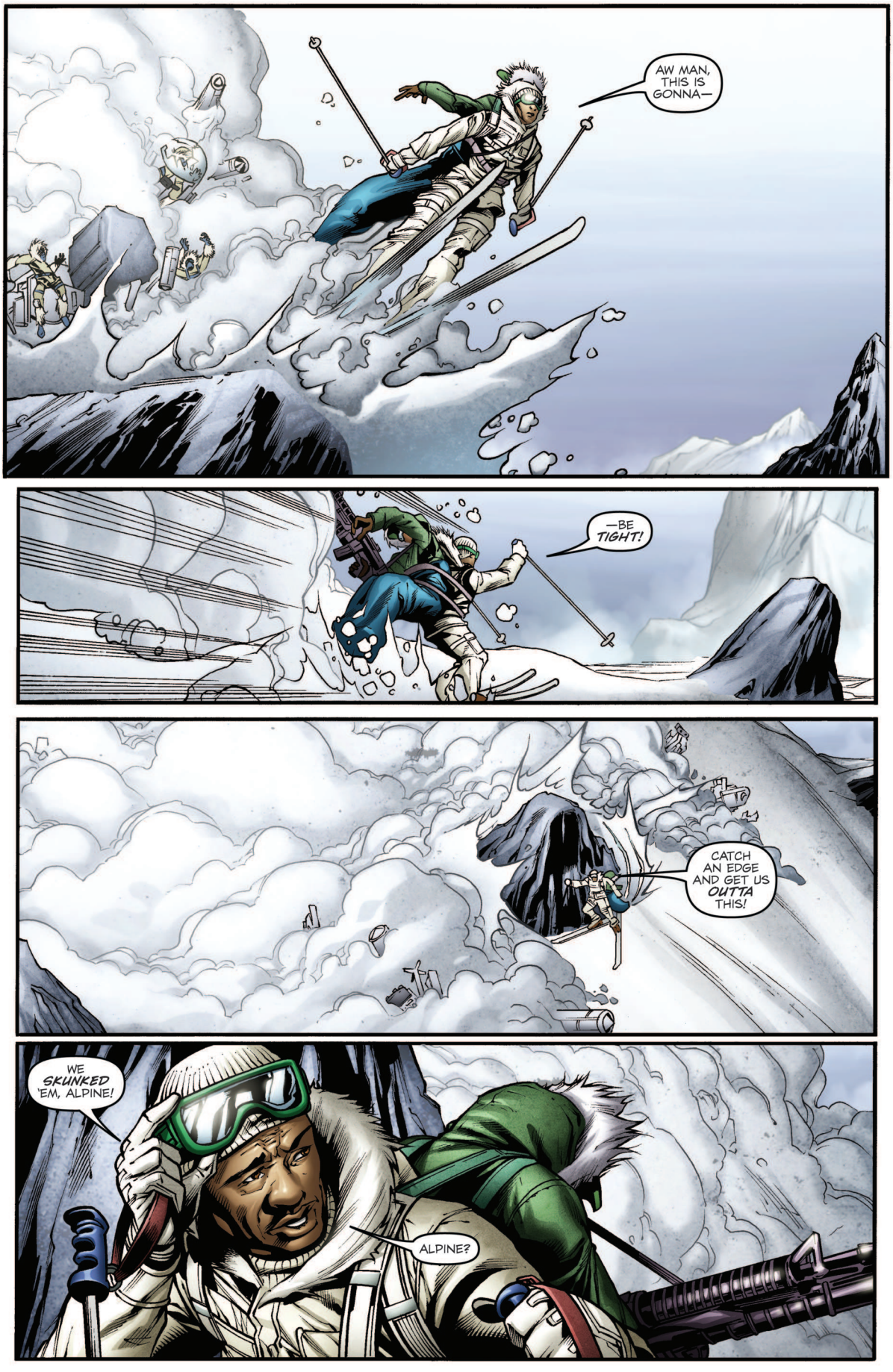

NO...




NO ONE IS THAT LUCKY... OR THAT SKILLED...
...NO ONE.
YOU HAVE WON, BUT IT IS A FLEETING VICTORY, NINJA!
I WILL HAVE THE ENTIRE FORCE OF RAJAHISTAN DOWN ON YOU! YOU WILL DIE IN A STORM OF BULLETS! AND DIE KNOWING THAT YOUR BELOVED WILL SHARE YOUR FATE WITHIN DAYS!
EH?
ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU...
...YOU TALK TOO MUCH?


LISTEN UP, SNAKE EYES.
HELIX IN THE HOUSE.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HELL YOU ARE IN THIS RAT NEST...
...BUT WORK YOUR WAY BACK TO THE FRONT DOOR.
I'LL MEET YOU AND WE'LL ADIOS.
WE HAVE A FIVE MINUTE WINDOW BEFORE OUR RIDE GETS HERE. SO PICK THE FASTEST ROUTE...
...AND KILL YOUR WAY THERE.

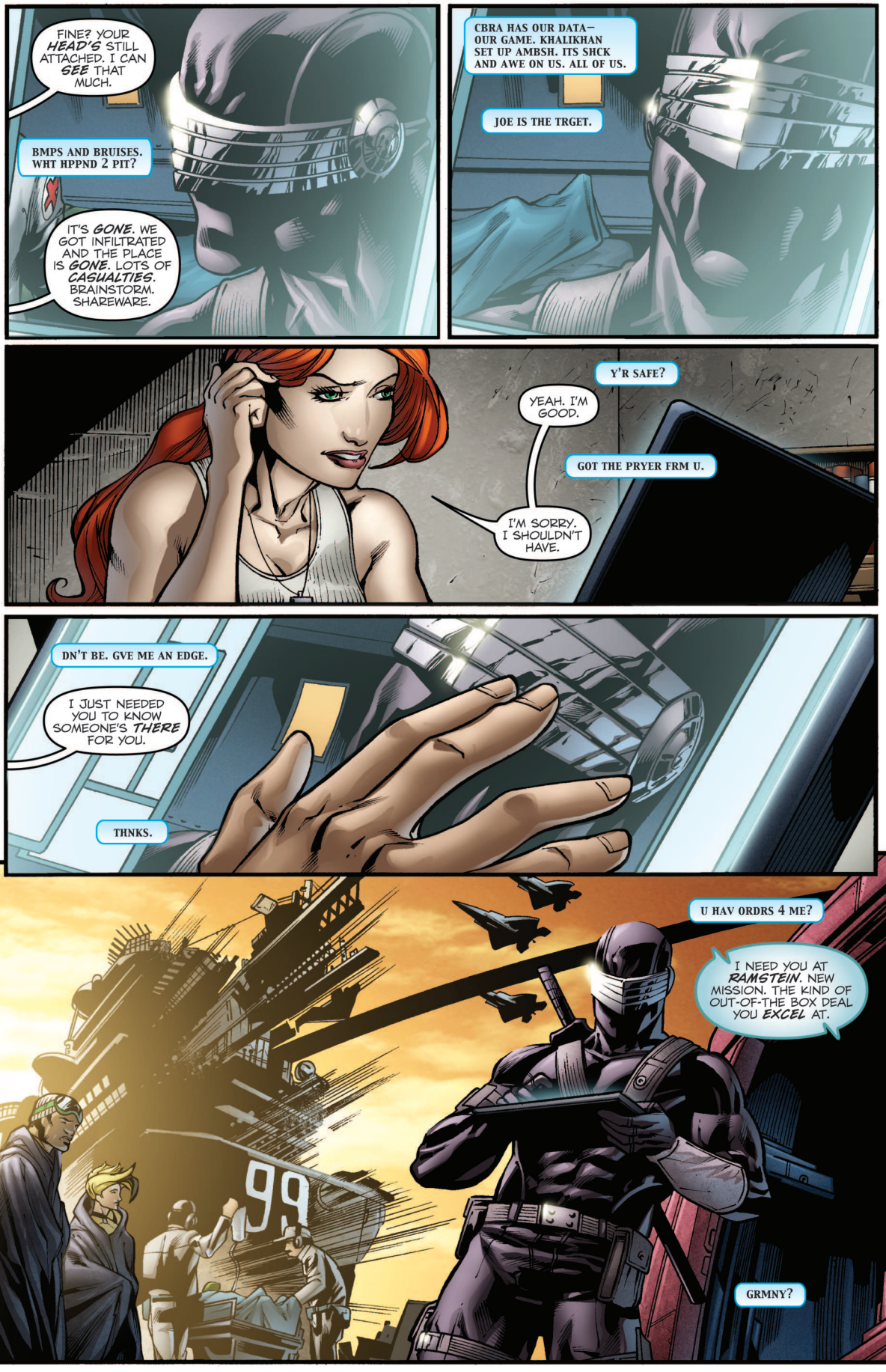

FIND US SOME COVER, ICEBERG!
I'M GOIN' ZULU ON THESE GUYS!
MISSED!
ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?
OH, NO.
YOU BROUGHT THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN DOWN ON US, AL!
GONNA HAVE TO KNEIVAL US OFF THIS KICKER.

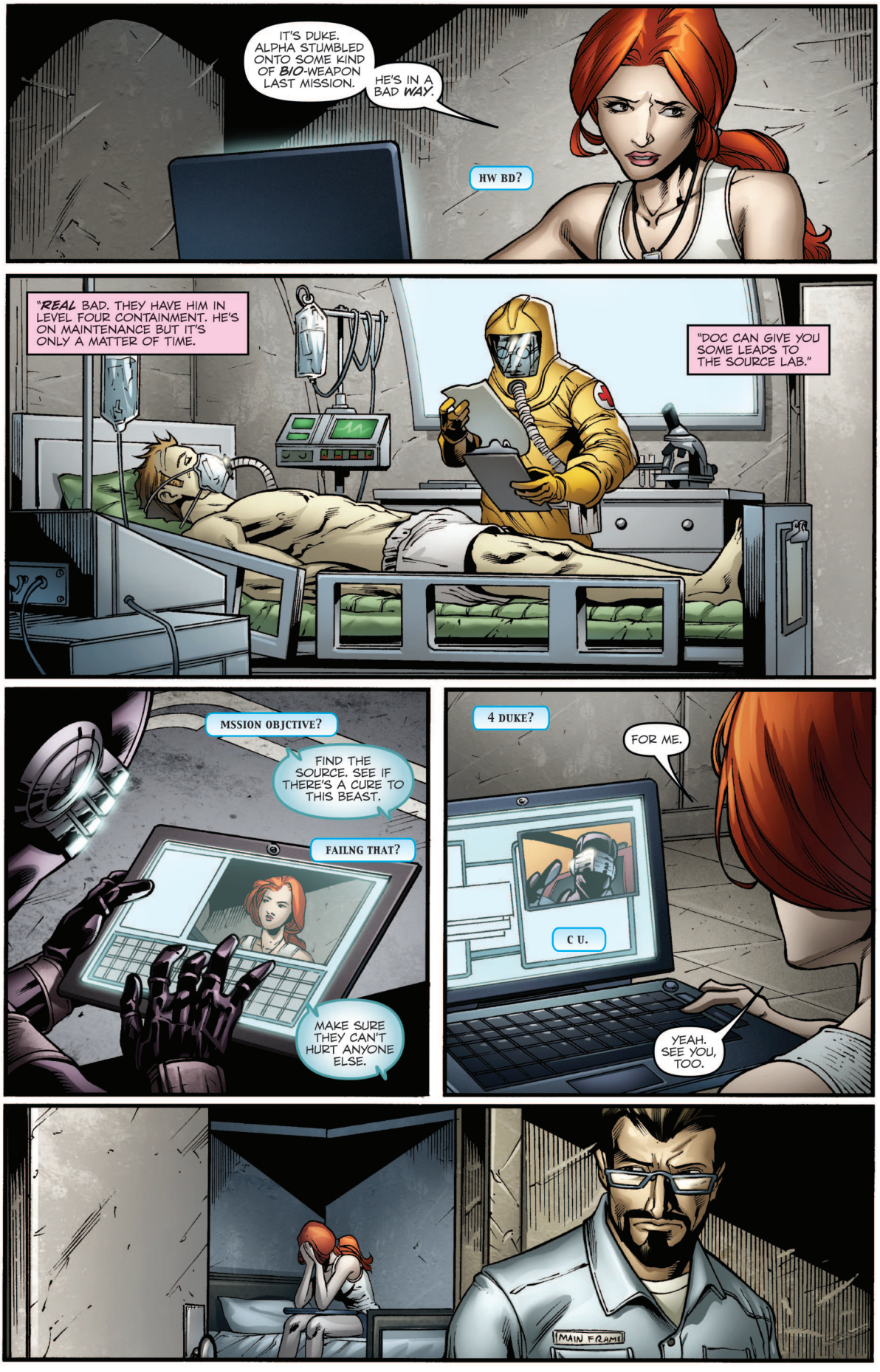

AW MAN, THIS IS GONNA—
—BE TIGHT!
CATCH AN EDGE AND GET US OUTTA THIS!
WE SKUNKED 'EM, ALPINE!
ALPINE?


BLACK SKY ONE TO RAJAHISTAN CONTROL. REQUESTING CLEARANCE.
CLEAR FOR LANDING BLACK SKY. DOOR'S OPEN AND HANGAR'S CLEAR.
WHAT ABOUT THE CALL SIGN, RAJ?
GO AHEAD WITH CALL SIGN.
CALL SIGN BERLIN TIGER THREE-SEVEN.
COUNTER SIGN, RAJ?
AWAITING COUNTER, CONTROL.
THIS IS ALL WRONG.
COUNTER SIGN, RAJ CONTROL? RESPOND!
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
SHANGHAI PENGUIN ZERO-ZERO.
HUH?
SET THAT BIRD DOWN EASY. IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN MISS FROM HERE.


I SAID—WE'RE COMIN'—OFF THIS MOUNTAIN—TOGETHER!
YOU HEAR ME, ALPINE?!
NEED YOU TO BACK ME UP, BRO.
NOBODY'S GONNA BELIEVE THIS STORY IF—
KAFF! HYUK KAF!
ALL RIGHT—SHUT UP, OKAY?
WELL, YOU GUYS WERE EASY TO FIND.
WHA—?
LEFT A TRAIL OF DEAD VIPERS BEHIND YOU.


THERE'S A LEDGE A HUNDRED KLIKS DOWNSLOPE. WE'LL LAND THERE AND HELP YOU ON BOARD.
ROGER THAT, HELIX.
FORT BAXTER, KANSAS.
TEMPORARY QUARTERS FOR G.I. JOE.
SCARLETT?
WE REGAINED CONTACT WITH TEAM FOXTROT.
THEY'RE ON THE STENNIS.
SNAKE EYES?
HE'S ONLINE NOW. HE'S ASKING FOR YOU. WELL, TEXTING FOR YOU.
THANKS, MAINFRAME.
WHAT'S YOUR SITUATION?
KHLLIKHN 86'D. ALPNE WIA
I'M FINE.
DON'T MAKE ME BEG, SNAKE.


FINE? YOUR HEAD'S STILL ATTACHED. I CAN SEE THAT MUCH.
BMPS AND BRUISES. WHT HPPND 2 PIT?
IT'S GONE. WE GOT INFILTRATED AND THE PLACE IS GONE. LOTS OF CASUALTIES. BRAINSTORM. SHAREWARE.
CBRA HAS OUR DATA— OUR GAME. KHALIKHAN SET UP AMBSH. ITS SHCK AND AWE ON US. ALL OF US.
JOE IS THE TRGET.
Y'R SAFE?
YEAH. I'M GOOD.
GOT THE PRYER FRM U.
I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE.
DN'T BE. GVE ME AN EDGE.
I JUST NEEDED YOU TO KNOW SOMEONE'S THERE FOR YOU.
THNKS.
U HAV ORDRS 4 ME?
I NEED YOU AT RAMSTEIN. NEW MISSION. THE KIND OF OUT-OF-THE BOX DEAL YOU EXCEL AT.
GRMNY?


IT'S DUKE. ALPHA STUMBLED ONTO SOME KIND OF BIO-WEAPON LAST MISSION.
HE'S IN A BAD WAY.
HW BD?
"REAL BAD. THEY HAVE HIM IN LEVEL FOUR CONTAINMENT. HE'S ON MAINTENANCE BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
"DOC CAN GIVE YOU SOME LEADS TO THE SOURCE LAB."
MSSION OBJCTIVE?
FIND THE SOURCE. SEE IF THERE'S A CURE TO THIS BEAST.
FAILNG THAT?
MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T HURT ANYONE ELSE.
4 DUKE?
FOR ME.
C U.
YEAH. SEE YOU, TOO.
MAIN FRAME

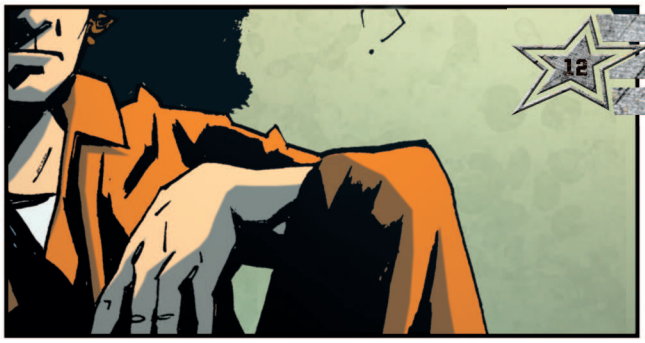

DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF XIXABANGMA.
GUHHHH!
HUNH!


"THE IMPERIAL SWORD OF EMPEROR FATIAN QIYUN SHENGWU—
"—GENGHIS KHAN."





COBRA: SERIES 2 #3B BY **ANTONIO FUSO** COLORS BY **ARIANNA FLOREAN**



I'M NEVER GOING TO BE COBRA COMMANDER.




HALF OF THEM THINK I'M BROKEN. THE OTHER HALF THINK THAT, ABSENT MY BROTHER, I'M IMPOTENT.
AND NOW I'M IN HERE. THE FIRST OF HIGH COMMAND TO BE INCARCERATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORGANIZATION. THEY WILL NOT FORGET THIS.
MY OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.
THE MIRROR IS ACTUALLY A SLAB OF POLISHED STEEL. IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK INTO ANYTHING SHARP.
THE SINK ISN'T REAL PORCELAIN. AND IT'S WELDED TO THE WALL, SO IT CAN'T BE REMOVED FOR ANY SIMILAR PURPOSE.
THE MATTRESS HAS NO SPRINGS TO REMOVE. NOTHING SHARP, OR EVEN RUSTY.
UNACCEPTABLE.



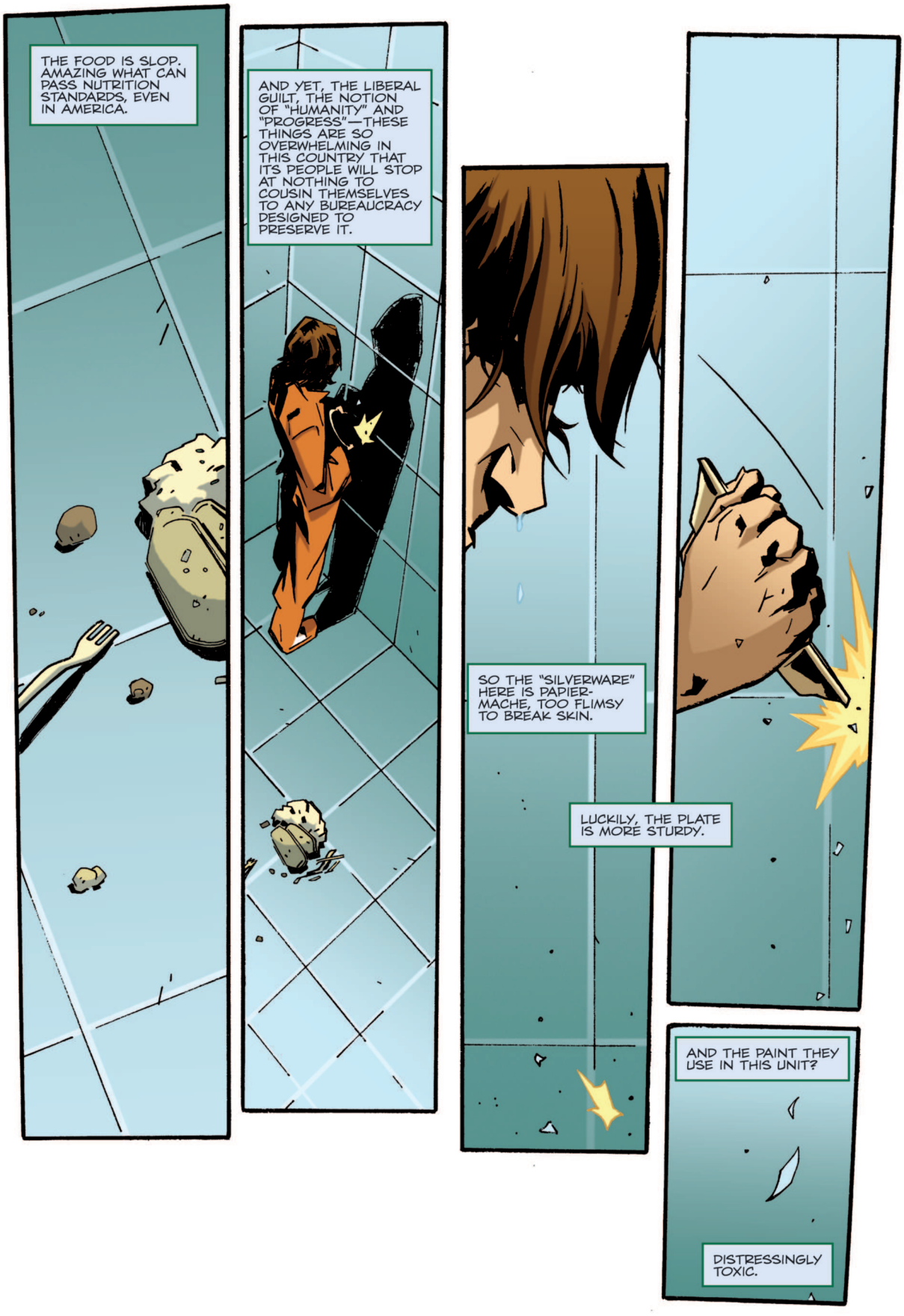


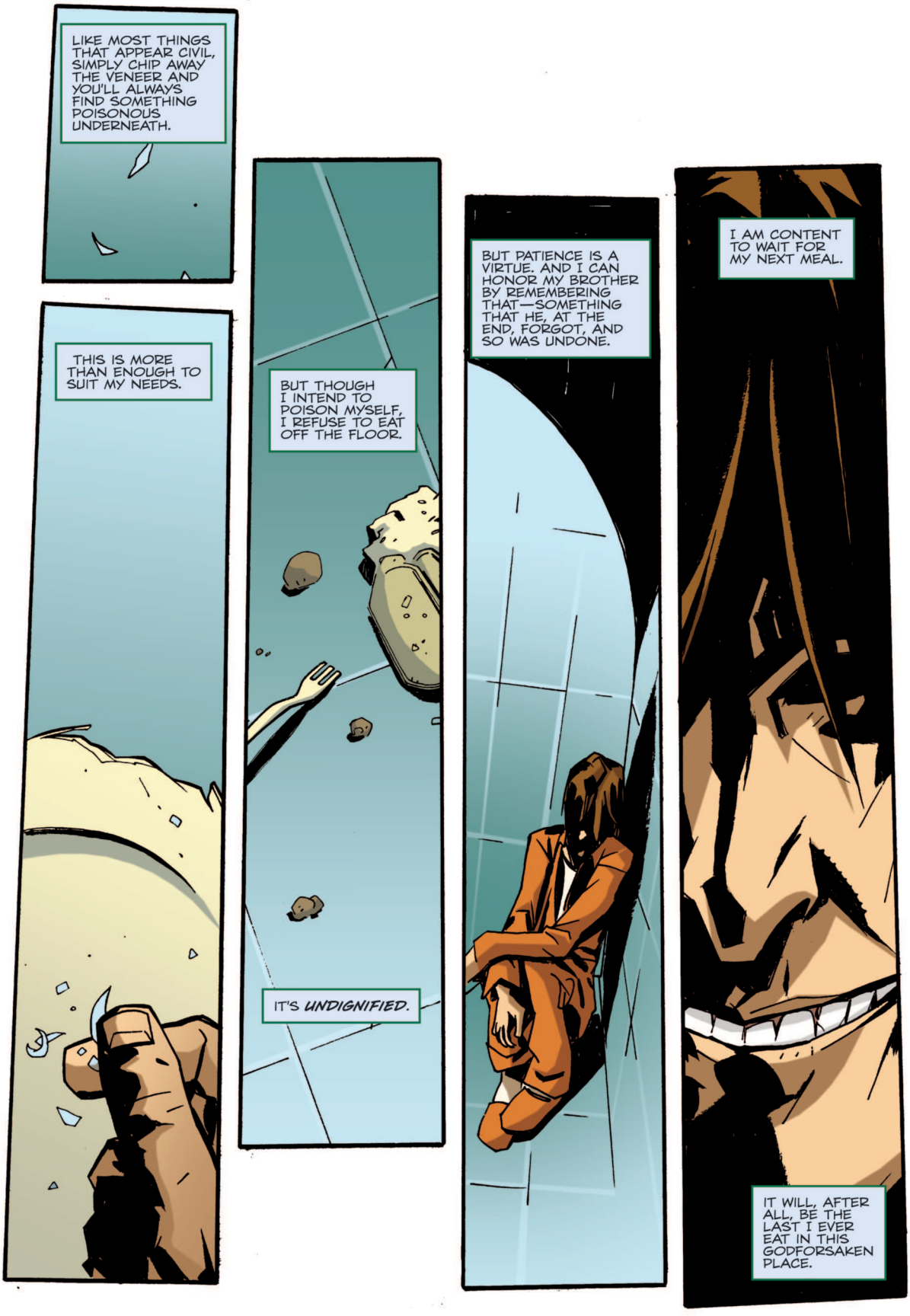

YOU.
YOU SETTLING INTO YOUR ROUTINE? THEY'VE GOT YOU MOPPING UP IN THE MESS, RIGHT?
UH-HUH.
SO THEY BRING YOU IN HERE THREE DAYS AGO. COUPLE MILITARY GUYS. NO OFFICIAL ADMISSION. EVERYTHING TOTALLY UNORTHODOX. I'M GUESSING YOU NEVER EVEN SAW A JUDGE. WHY YOU'RE NOT IN GITMO, OR AT LEAST A MILITARY PRISON, I HAVE NO CLUE.
HEY, WHATEVER HAPPENS OUT THERE, I DON'T CARE. THE POINT IS, YOU'RE HERE NOW. AND THEY TELL ME YOU'RE DANGEROUS, AND I SAY, "HEY, I'VE GOT A GUY HERE, KILLER FOR THE RUSSIAN MAFIA, KILLED AT LEAST FORTY PEOPLE AND GOUGED OUT A COP'S EYE WHEN THEY FINALLY BROUGHT HIM IN." BUT THEY TELL ME YOU'RE WORSE.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PAPERS. I GOT NO SENTENCE FROM NO JUDGE. THIS IS MY PRISON, AND I RUN IT MY WAY. SO I PUT YOU OUT HERE TO SEE IF YOU START TALKING.
BUT YOU DON'T TALK TO ANYBODY. IN THREE DAYS.
THEN, YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS?


I GET A CALL. FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND HE TELLS ME THAT WE HAVE TO SIT ON YOU FOR NOW. ACTS LIKE IT'S A PERSONAL FAVOR I NEED TO DO FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. AND HE TELLS ME YOU CAN'T BE OUT HERE, IN THE POPULATION.
CONVICT, YOU GOT THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION.
AND FAR BE IT FOR ME TO DENY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WHEN HE ASKS SOMETHING OF MY PRISON. SO, WE'RE MOVING YOU TO SOLITARY FOR THE TIME BEING.
BUT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL. BECAUSE, FRANKLY, YOU LOOK SOFT TO ME.
SO, HERE YOU ARE. YOU WON'T BE SEEING ANYBODY ANYMORE. OTHER THAN THE PEOPLE I SEND BY TO ASK YOU QUESTIONS. AND MAYBE YOU THINK THIS STRONG, SILENT ACT IS IMPRESSING PEOPLE AROUND HERE, BUT I'M TELLING YOU...
...MAYBE YOU GOT THE WHITE HOUSE CALLING ABOUT YOU, SURE, BUT THEY JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE. AS IN, "ALIVE." I BET THEY DON'T MIND ALL THAT MUCH IF YOU GET YOUR HAIR MUSSED.
SO I'LL GIVE YOU SOME FREE ADVICE, PAL. MY FRIENDS COME AROUND TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS...
...I SUGGEST YOU ANSWER THEM.
FINALLY.
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.


HOSTAL
HEY, KID. THERE'S SOME EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY FROM THE SLUMS OUT BACK SPRAY PAINTING SOME KIND OF GANG SYMBOL ON YOUR WALL.
WHAT?!
TAL
EUROPEAN UNION
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
GIBRALTAR
PASSPORT


HEY! THERE WAS NO KID OUT THERE!
GET OUT FROM BEHIND THERE! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK—?
I'M TAKING THIS. AND WHATEVER MONEY'S IN THE LOCKBOX, AND WHATEVER'S ON YOU.
S-SURE.


THE FOOD IS SLOP. AMAZING WHAT CAN PASS NUTRITION STANDARDS, EVEN IN AMERICA.
AND YET, THE LIBERAL GUILT, THE NOTION OF "HUMANITY" AND "PROGRESS"—THESE THINGS ARE SO OVERWHELMING IN THIS COUNTRY THAT ITS PEOPLE WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO COUSIN THEMSELVES TO ANY BUREAUCRACY DESIGNED TO PRESERVE IT.
SO THE "SILVERWARE" HERE IS PAPIER-MACHE, TOO FLIMSY TO BREAK SKIN.
LUCKILY, THE PLATE IS MORE STURDY.
AND THE PAINT THEY USE IN THIS UNIT?
DISTRESSINGLY TOXIC.


LIKE MOST THINGS THAT APPEAR CIVIL, SIMPLY CHIP AWAY THE VENEER AND YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING POISONOUS UNDERNEATH.
THIS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SUIT MY NEEDS.
BUT THOUGH I INTEND TO POISON MYSELF, I REFUSE TO EAT OFF THE FLOOR.
IT'S *UNDIGNIFIED.*
BUT PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE. AND I CAN HONOR MY BROTHER BY REMEMBERING THAT—SOMETHING THAT HE, AT THE END, FORGOT, AND SO WAS UNDONE.
I AM CONTENT TO WAIT FOR MY NEXT MEAL.
IT WILL, AFTER ALL, BE THE LAST I EVER EAT IN THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE.


MRRR...
GOOD TO SEE YOU UP AND AROUND, SOLDIER. YOU'VE GOT SECOND-DEGREE BURNS OVER FORTY PERCENT OF YOUR BODY, AND IT TOOK A WHILE FOR US TO PULL YOU OUT SO YOU ALSO HAVE SOME KIND OF WICKED JUNGLE INFECTION, BUT THE DOC SAYS WE CAN KNOCK THAT OUT, NO PROBLEM.
YOU'RE PROBABLY HURTING, THOUGH.
I'VE FELT BETTER, YEAH.
SO, WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE?

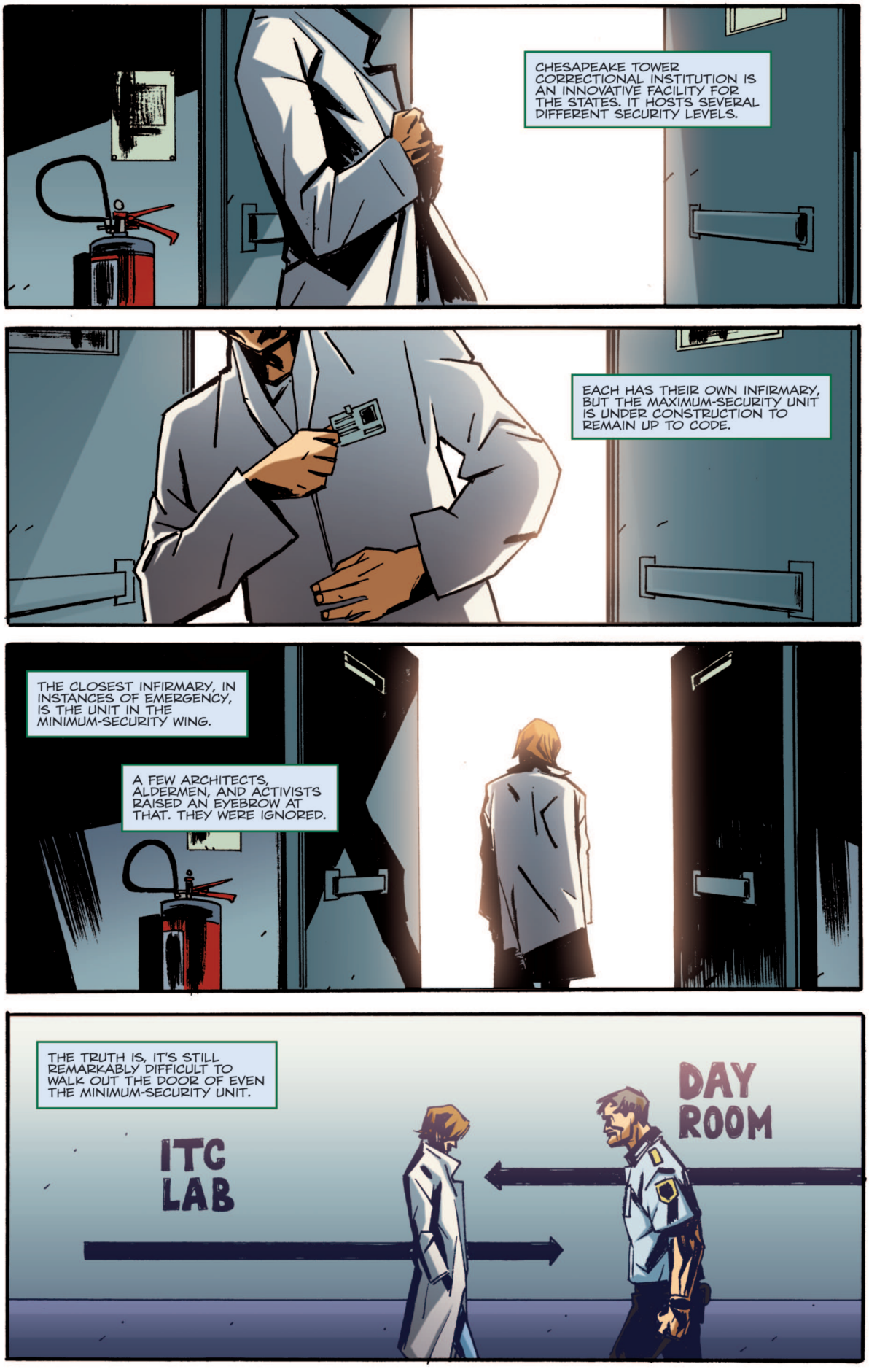

WE WERE SET UP.
EVEN IF COBRA INTENDED TO SET A TRAP, THEY COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN EXACTLY WHERE OR WHEN WE'D ARRIVE.
THEY CAN IF WE HAVE A LEAK.
IMPOSSIBLE. THIS ISN'T THE CIA. WE DON'T HAVE 400 CLERKS MOVING AROUND REAMS OF PAPER. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNEW ABOUT THAT MISSION WERE IN THE BRIEFING ROOM. EVEN HAWK DIDN'T KNOW—I COULDN'T RAISE HIM.
THEN IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE IN THAT ROOM! I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD FEELING ABOUT—
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, SOLDIER. WE LOST JOES IN AN ATTACK OUT THERE, AND I KNOW YOU'LL FEEL BETTER LATER IF I STOP YOU BEFORE YOU START FORMALLY ATTACKING JOES IN HERE.
WE'RE DOING AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY, LIKE WE ALWAYS DO WHEN THIS HAPPENS. YOU CAN PARTICIPATE WHEN YOU'RE UP AND AROUND.
"OFFICIAL INQUIRY"... YEAH, RIGHT.


THE INFIRMARY.
CADMIUM POISONING, BEFORE CAUSING RENAL FAILURE, CAN LOOK A LOT LIKE SEVERE FLU SYMPTOMS.
I MUST HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS AND WEAK AS A KITTEN WHEN THEY DRAGGED ME IN HERE.

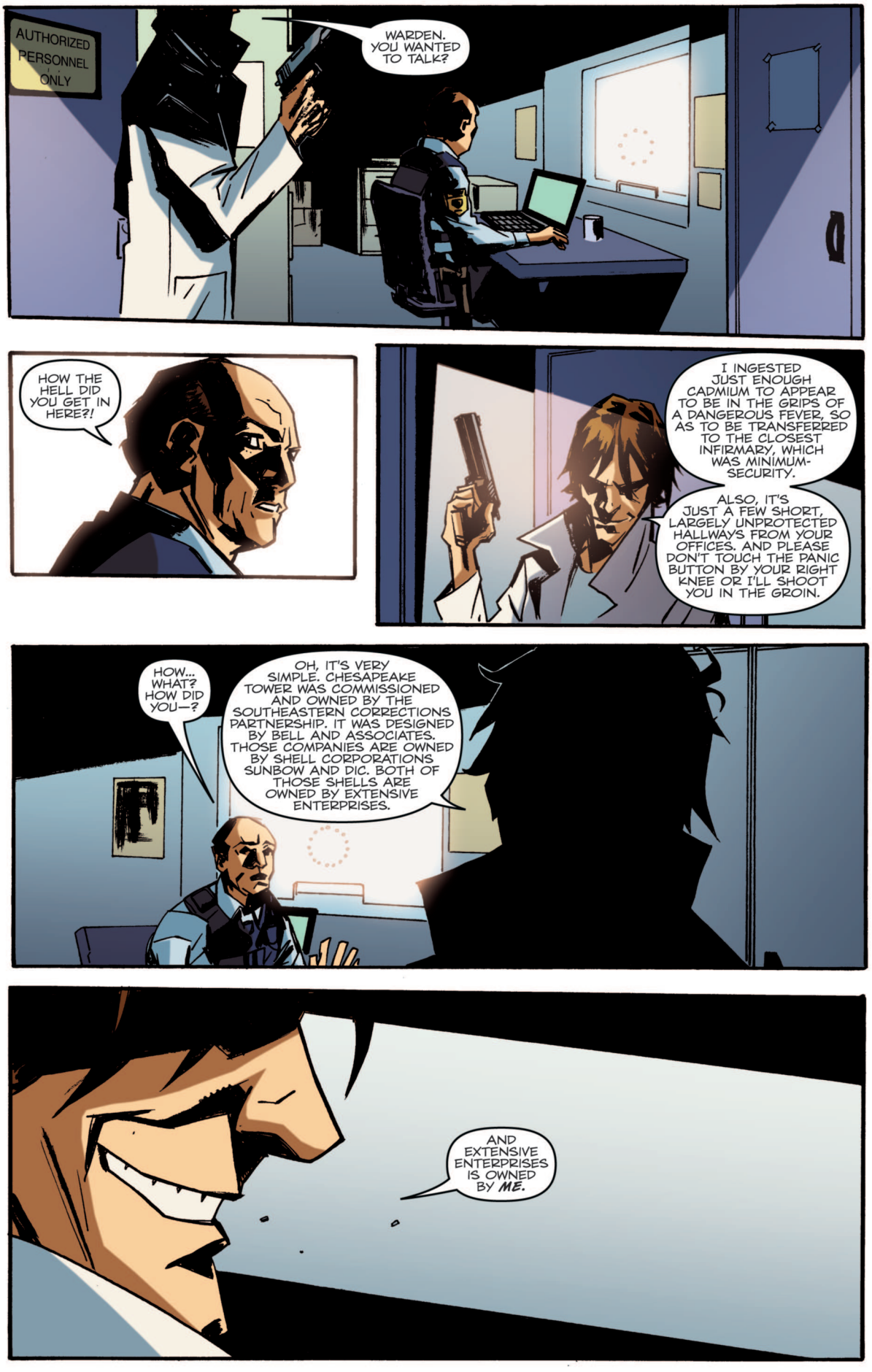

HAVE... HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION?

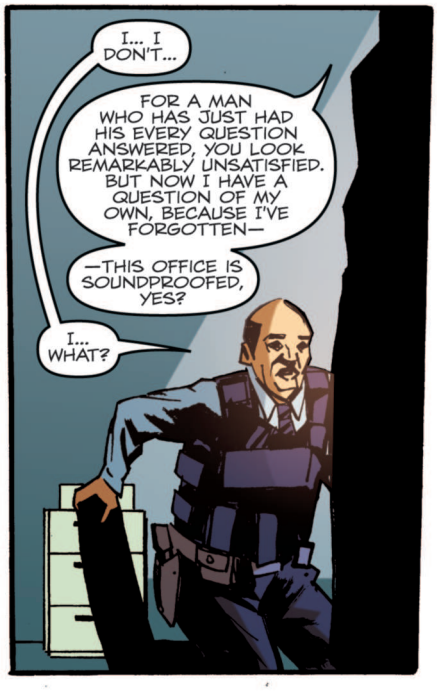

WUZZAT? SOME KINDA HIP-HOP CREW?


PERFECT.
THEY WON'T SUSPECT A THING.
WHAT IN THE HELL...?
THIS MAN IS DEAD!
YES. TRAGIC.


CHESAPEAKE TOWER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION IS AN INNOVATIVE FACILITY FOR THE STATES. IT HOSTS SEVERAL DIFFERENT SECURITY LEVELS.
EACH HAS THEIR OWN INFIRMARY, BUT THE MAXIMUM-SECURITY UNIT IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO REMAIN UP TO CODE.
THE CLOSEST INFIRMARY, IN INSTANCES OF EMERGENCY, IS THE UNIT IN THE MINIMUM-SECURITY WING.
A FEW ARCHITECTS, ALDERMEN, AND ACTIVISTS RAISED AN EYEBROW AT THAT. THEY WERE IGNORED.
THE TRUTH IS, IT'S STILL REMARKABLY DIFFICULT TO WALK OUT THE DOOR OF EVEN THE MINIMUM-SECURITY UNIT.
ITC LAB
DAY ROOM


IT WOULD POSE AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE FOR A MAN WEAK WITH SELF-ADMINISTERED POISON.
IF THAT WERE THE DIRECTION I WAS GOING.
SIR.
I'M DR. BURTON FROM JOHNS HOPKINS. I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE A GRIEVOUSLY WOUNDED MAN HERE YOU'RE UNABLE TO TRANSPORT, AND I'M HERE TO SEE HIM. THE WARDEN IS EXPECTING ME.
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP RIGHT THERE. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
ALSO, WHERE IS YOUR ESCORT?
YES, THE RUSE IS RATHER TRANSPARENT, ISN'T IT?
UK!


AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
WARDEN. YOU WANTED TO TALK?
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
I INGESTED JUST ENOUGH CADMIUM TO APPEAR TO BE IN THE GRIPS OF A DANGEROUS FEVER, SO AS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CLOSEST INFIRMARY, WHICH WAS MINIMUM-SECURITY.
ALSO, IT'S JUST A FEW SHORT, LARGELY UNPROTECTED HALLWAYS FROM YOUR OFFICES. AND PLEASE DON'T TOUCH THE PANIC BUTTON BY YOUR RIGHT KNEE OR I'LL SHOOT YOU IN THE GROIN.
HOW... WHAT? HOW DID YOU—?
OH, IT'S VERY SIMPLE. CHESAPEAKE TOWER WAS COMMISSIONED AND OWNED BY THE SOUTHEASTERN CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP. IT WAS DESIGNED BY BELL AND ASSOCIATES. THOSE COMPANIES ARE OWNED BY SHELL CORPORATIONS SUNBOW AND DIC. BOTH OF THOSE SHELLS ARE OWNED BY EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES.
AND EXTENSIVE ENTERPRISES IS OWNED BY ME.


I... I DON'T...
FOR A MAN WHO HAS JUST HAD HIS EVERY QUESTION ANSWERED, YOU LOOK REMARKABLY UNSATISFIED. BUT NOW I HAVE A QUESTION OF MY OWN, BECAUSE I'VE FORGOTTEN—
—THIS OFFICE IS SOUNDPROOFED, YES?
I... WHAT?


BLAM


FOR YOU, I'LL RISK IT.


SO FEW IN MY ORGANIZATION UNDERSTAND. IT IS NOT THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION OF INSTITUTIONS THAT WE GAIN POWER.
IT IS THROUGH THEIR *ACQUISITION.*


MARAUDING LIKE A BUNCH OF WILD-EYED JIHADISTS ASSAULTING THE PILLARS OF CIVILIZATION, THIS IS FINE FOR RECRUITMENT OF A CERTAIN KIND OF ENTHUSIASTIC LUNATIC. BUT IT IS ANATHEMA TO OUR TRUE GOAL.


CONTROL.
THAT IS WHAT COBRA IS.


THIS SUIT IS APPALLING.


THIS IS MR. PAOLI.
CLEAN UP THE MESS AT CHESAPEAKE TOWER. WHATEVER IT COSTS US IN PR, KEEP IT OPEN AND OPERATIONAL. THEN, IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, I WANT YOU TO CUT THE HEALTHCARE BENEFITS OF THE PERSONNEL BY SEVENTY PERCENT. AND KEEP THEM UNDER-EQUIPPED.
HAVE A HELICOPTER MEET ME ON THE ROOF IN TEN MINUTES. AND HAVE ONE OF MY SUITS IN THERE. PRESSED.


THERE IS A SWITCHBOARD THAT OPERATES EVERY DOOR IN THIS PRISON. OF COURSE THERE HAS TO BE, IN CASE OF A FIRE. REGULATION AGAIN.
BUT, TO AVOID ANY KIND OF AN INTERNAL BREECH, NO-ONE ON THE PREMISES, NOT EVEN THE WARDEN, HAS THE ABILITY TO OPERATE THIS BOARD.
THEY HAVE TO PLACE A CALL AND, THROUGH REDUNDANT CHANNELS AND CLEARANCES, GET OFF-SITE ACTIVATION FROM THE COMPANY THAT INSTALLED IT.
FORTUNATELY, I OWN THAT COMPANY, TOO.


THEY UNDERESTIMATED ME. I KNEW THEY WOULD. IT WAS THE ONE THING I COULD COUNT ON ALL OF THEM TO DO.
IT'S UNLIKELY THAT G.I. JOE WILL BE DEPLOYED TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION, REGARDLESS OF THE SEVERITY OF THE CHAOS.
NO JOES WILL DIE BECAUSE OF THIS ACTION.
BUT I HAVE HUMILIATED THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER IN THE FACE OF THE PRESIDENT. I HAVE SHOWN MY FACE TO THEM BRAZENLY, AND THEN DEMONSTRATED MY POWER. I HAVE HARMED THEM WITH THIS. AND WITH XAMOT GONE, HARMING THEM IS MY ONLY FOCUS.
THERE IS NO MORE CONFLICT, NO MORE REGULATION TO KEEP ME IN CHECK. HALF OF ME—THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER LOVE—IS GONE.
AND NOW, AT LAST, THERE IS ONLY HATE.


IT WAS A DISASTER. A TOTAL MESS FROM THE FIRST FEET ON THE GROUND.
YOUR SECOND SKIN
I... I APPRECIATE YOU SAYING THAT, BUT...
...WE'VE GOT FIVE MEN DEAD. ONE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. YOU KNOW, YOU REMEMBER—I WAS AN ACTIVE ONCE. IT'S NOT JUST THE LOSS. I KNOW WHAT THAT KIND OF OP IS LIKE, AND...
...NO. I KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT. IT ISN'T. BUT, IT'S JUST LIKE THAT THING WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT. THE EMPATHY IMPULSE. AND HOW IT—
HOLY CRAP.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING TO?
BREAKER

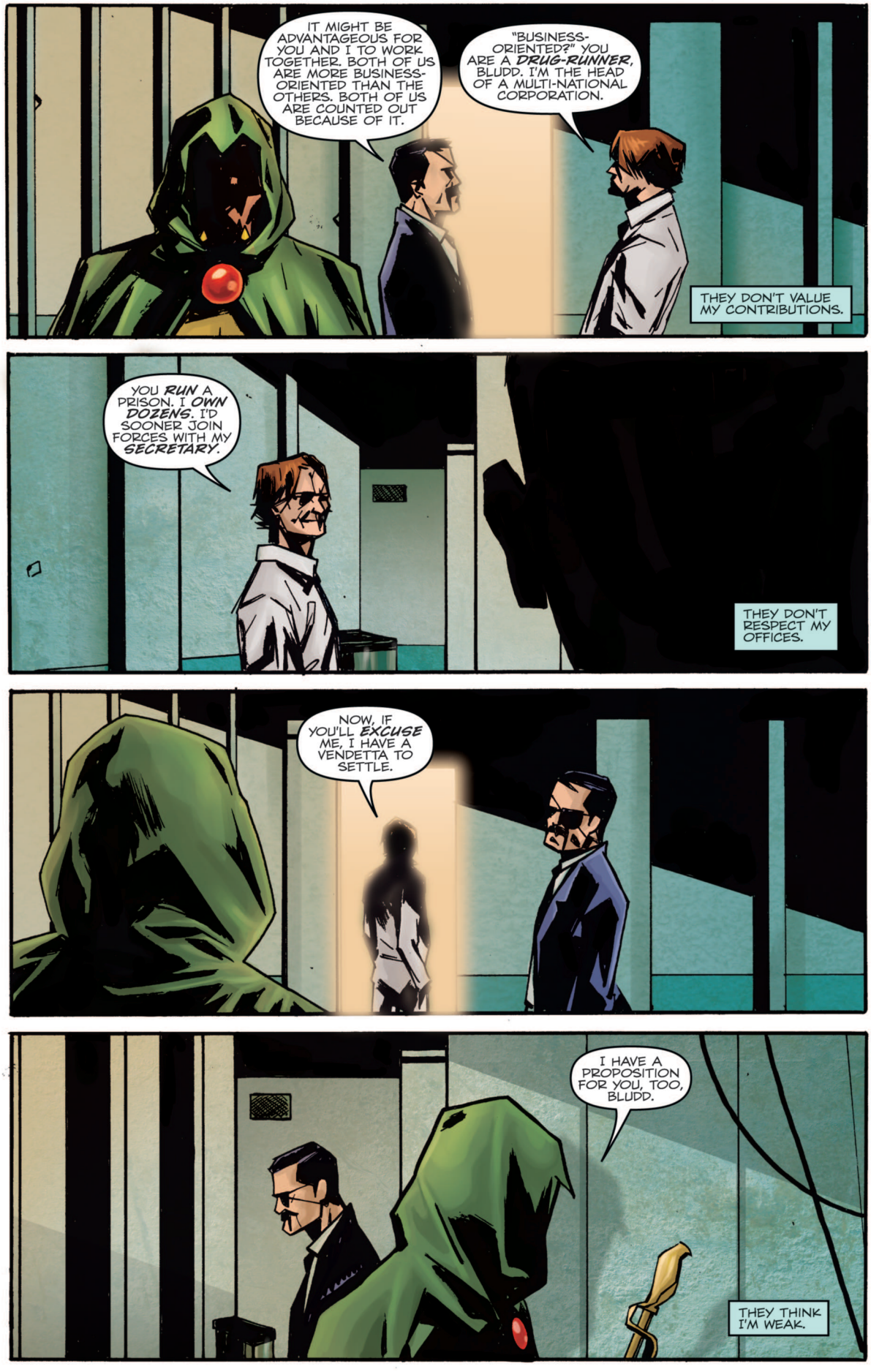




COBRA: SERIES 2 #4B BY **ANTONIO FUSO** COLORS BY **ARIANNA FLOREAN**

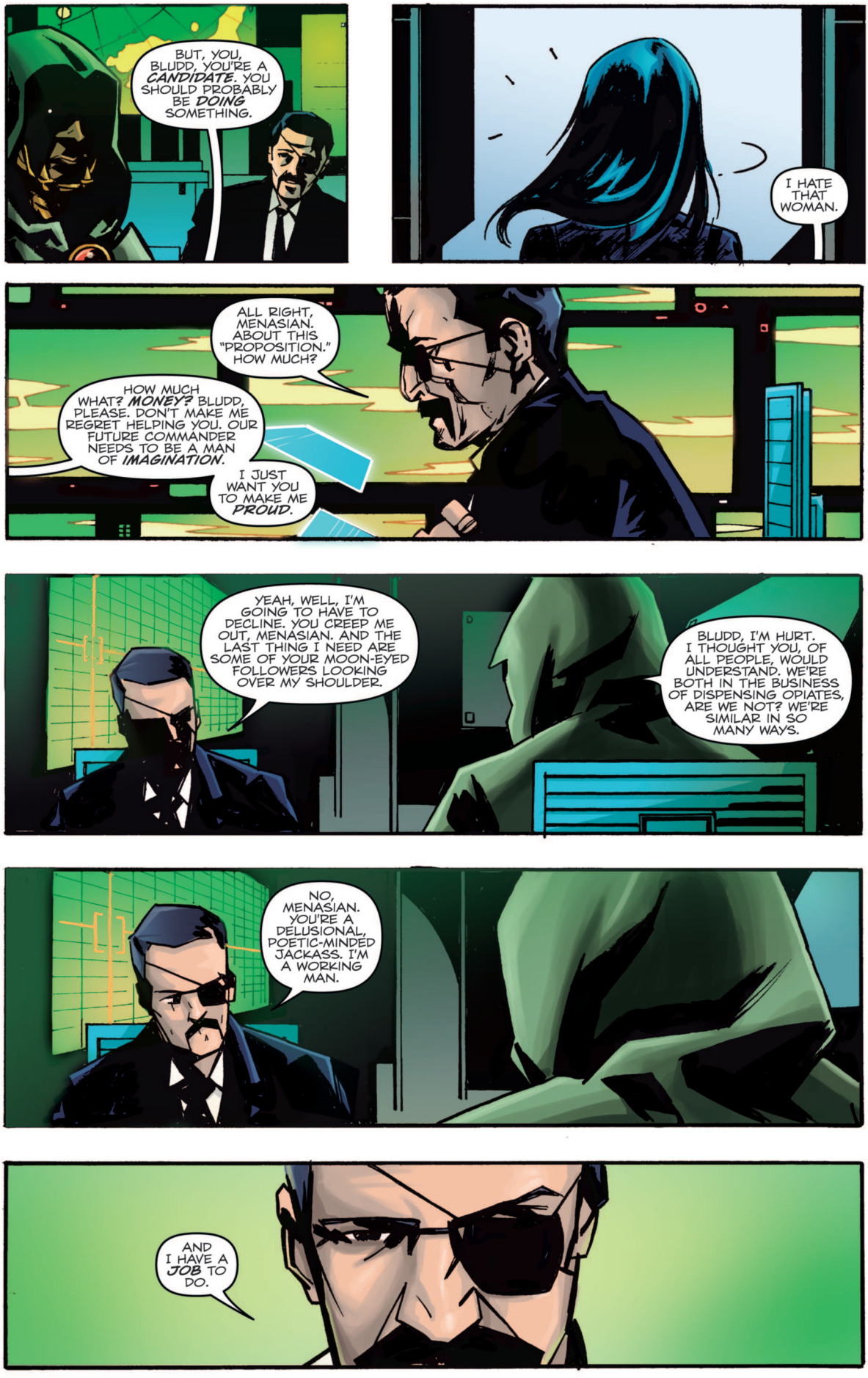

13


I'M NEVER GOING TO BE COBRA COMMANDER.


IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR YOU AND I TO WORK TOGETHER. BOTH OF US ARE MORE BUSINESS-ORIENTED THAN THE OTHERS. BOTH OF US ARE COUNTED OUT BECAUSE OF IT.
"BUSINESS-ORIENTED?" YOU ARE A DRUG-RUNNER, BLUDD. I'M THE HEAD OF A MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION.
THEY DON'T VALUE MY CONTRIBUTIONS.
YOU RUN A PRISON. I OWN DOZENS. I'D SOONER JOIN FORCES WITH MY SECRETARY.
THEY DON'T RESPECT MY OFFICES.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A VENDETTA TO SETTLE.
I HAVE A PROPOSITION FOR YOU, TOO, BLUDD.
THEY THINK I'M WEAK.






BUT, YOU, BLUDD, YOU'RE A *CANDIDATE*. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BE *DOING* SOMETHING.
I HATE THAT WOMAN.
ALL RIGHT, MENASIAN. ABOUT THIS "PROPOSITION." HOW MUCH?
HOW MUCH WHAT? *MONEY?* BLUDD, PLEASE. DON'T MAKE ME REGRET HELPING YOU. OUR FUTURE COMMANDER NEEDS TO BE A MAN OF *IMAGINATION*.
I JUST WANT YOU TO MAKE ME *PROUD*.
YEAH, WELL, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DECLINE. YOU CREEP ME OUT, MENASIAN. AND THE LAST THING I NEED ARE SOME OF YOUR MOON-EYED FOLLOWERS LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER.
BLUDD, I'M HURT. I THOUGHT YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOULD UNDERSTAND. WE'RE BOTH IN THE BUSINESS OF DISPENSING OPIATES, ARE WE NOT? WE'RE SIMILAR IN SO MANY WAYS.
NO, MENASIAN. YOU'RE A DELUSIONAL, POETIC-MINDED JACKASS. I'M A WORKING MAN.
AND I HAVE A *JOB* TO DO.


I NEED YOU TO GET WORD TO ANYONE WE HAVE INSIDE. SPECIFICALLY IN ANY PRISONS THE PAOLIS HAD AN INTEREST IN. I THINK THE ONE REMAINING BROTHER IS GOING TO PULL SOMETHING.
I'M ON IT. ALSO, SOUTH AMERICA IS WRAPPED UP TIGHT. OUR INTERESTS THERE ARE CURRENTLY UNCHALLENGED.
FANTASTIC.
HOW DID YOU GET THE BARONESS TO TAKE OUT OUR MAIN COMPETITION?
A GOOD MANAGER KNOWS HOW TO MOTIVATE HIS WORKFORCE. THE BARONESS IS INSANE. AND LIKE ALL INSANE PEOPLE, YOU ONLY NEED TO DETERMINE THE POINT OF HER FIXATION.
I MOCKED UP INFORMATION THAT MELENDEZ WAS FUNNELING HIS MONEY TO THE ENTRENCHED COLONIAL-SPANISH ARISTOCRACY AND GAINING CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE REST WAS HER DECISION.
I'LL BE ARRIVING IN MYANMAR IN THE MORNING.
I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
I NEED A PLANE.
GET ME WHICHEVER ONE IS THE BARONESS'S FAVORITE.


EL DORADO
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT


GRACIAS.
TAXI

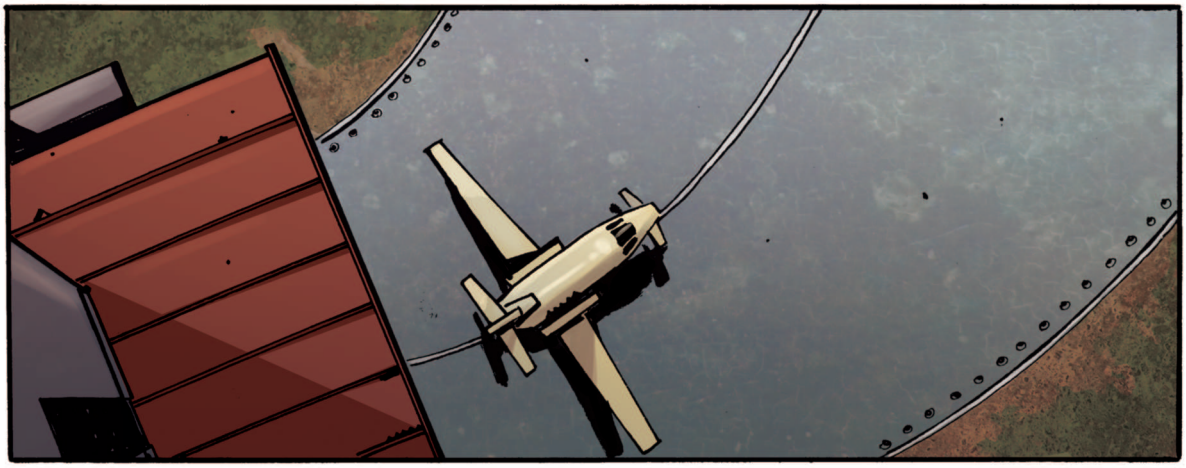


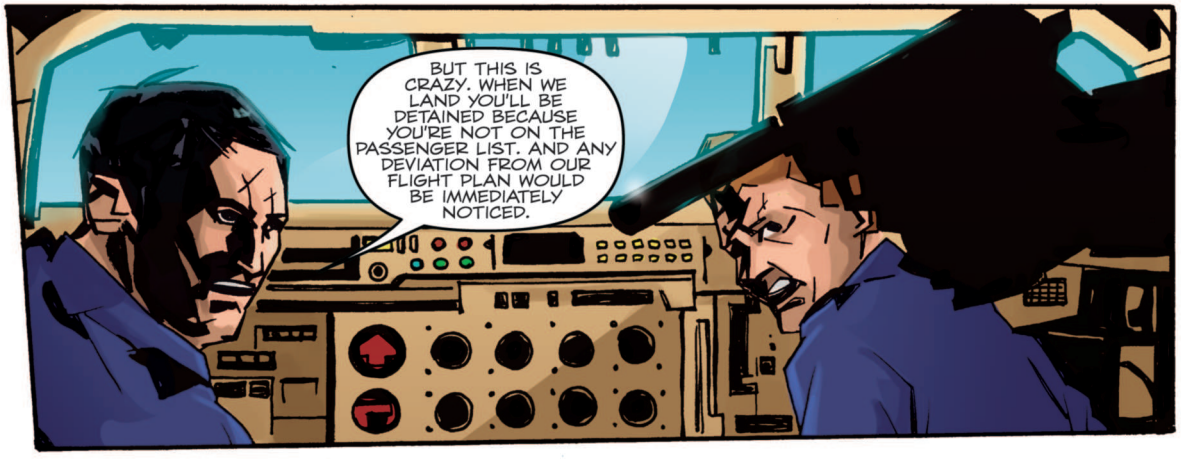





KRACK
SPEAK ENGLISH?
YUP.
WHAT'S YOUR FUEL SITUATION?
WHO'S ASKING?
OH.
WHO OWNS THIS PLANE?


NO! NO, ELEVEN THOUSAND IS TOO MUCH. LOOK, JUST TELL THEM TO ACT LIKE HUMAN BEINGS. I MEAN, SERIOUSLY.
GET OFF THE PHONE.
YOU CAN'T STEAL MY JET, DUDE. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SHOOT ME? THEY FIND ME DEAD AND THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEREVER YOU LAND.
IF THEY FIND YOU. YOU'RE ASSUMING I DON'T HAVE YOUR BODY DRAGGED ONTO THE JET WITH US.




BUT THIS IS CRAZY. WHEN WE LAND YOU'LL BE DETAINED BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ON THE PASSENGER LIST. AND ANY DEVIATION FROM OUR FLIGHT PLAN WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY NOTICED.

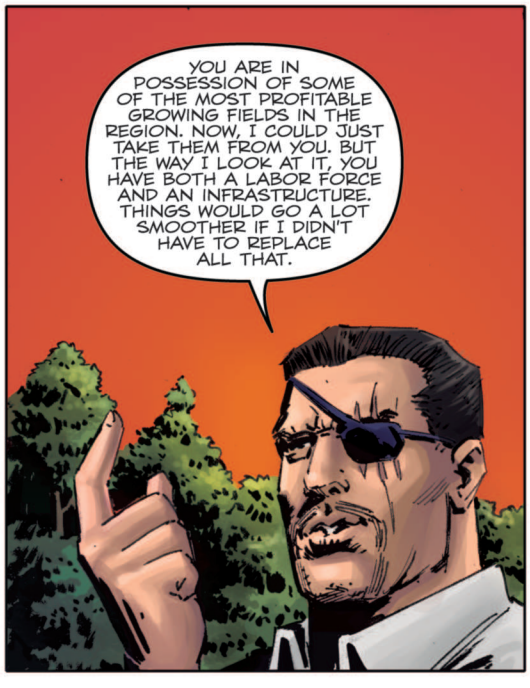

JUST DO YOUR JOB AND FLY THE PLANE.
YOU START DOING ANYTHING OTHER THAN *YOUR* JOB, THEN YOU IMPEDE *MY* JOB. AND THEN I SHOOT YOU.






GENTLEMEN. A MOMENT.


NOW, HOLD ON. I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY.


YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF SOME OF THE MOST PROFITABLE GROWING FIELDS IN THE REGION. NOW, I COULD JUST TAKE THEM FROM YOU. BUT THE WAY I LOOK AT IT, YOU HAVE BOTH A LABOR FORCE AND AN INFRASTRUCTURE. THINGS WOULD GO A LOT SMOOTHER IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO REPLACE ALL THAT.


SO WE CUT YOU IN ON 20%, YOU KEEP RUNNING THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE, AND YOU GET TO LIVE. WHAT DO YOU SAY?


HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I DIDN'T EXACTLY PRESENT YOU WITH A SCENARIO YOU COULD AGREE TO.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, THOUGH. I'D HAVE TAKEN THE FULL 100% EVENTUALLY, ANYWAY.
BLAM

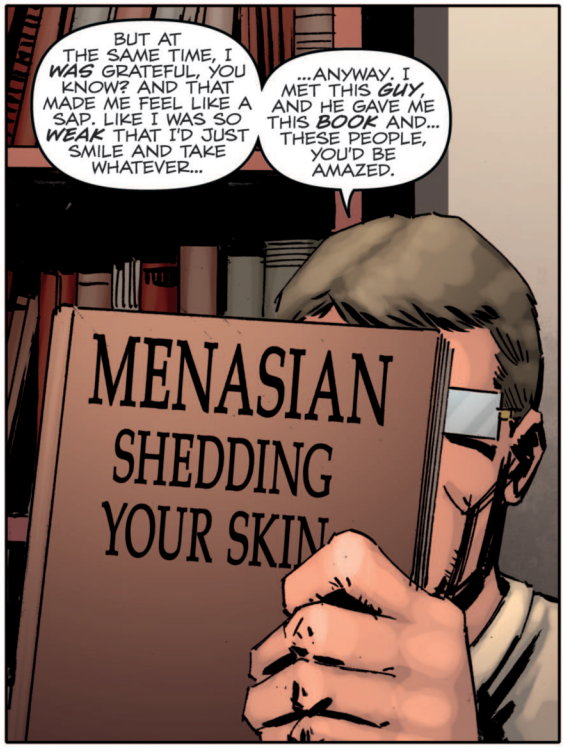

THIS IS MY LIEUTENANT. HE RUNS THE, AH, "IMPORTED GOODS" PART OF MY OPERATION.
THEY CALL HIM THE HEADMAN.
HE'LL SHOW YOU WHY RIGHT NOW.
CHOC
DON'T WORRY. ONE OF YOU WILL BE LEFT ALIVE TO TELL EVERYONE ELSE ABOUT IT.


I DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE.
THIS WOULD ALL GO SMOOTHLY WITHOUT ME. THE HEADMAN KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.
I KNOW THAT THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING THAT HIGH COMMAND LOOKS DOWN ON ME FOR. THEY THINK IT MAKES ME BENEATH THEM THAT I ACTUALLY WANT TO BE DOWN HERE, WHERE THE SAUSAGE IS MADE.
THAT I *LIKE* THE FEELING OF THE SUN ON MY NECK AND DIRT ON MY HANDS.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO *BUILD* ANYTHING. THEY DON'T SEE THE VALUE IN WHAT THEY HAVE.
COBRA ISN'T SOME IDEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT. IT WASN'T FOUNDED TO PROVE SOME ABSTRACT POINT.
PROFIT. ENTERPRISE.

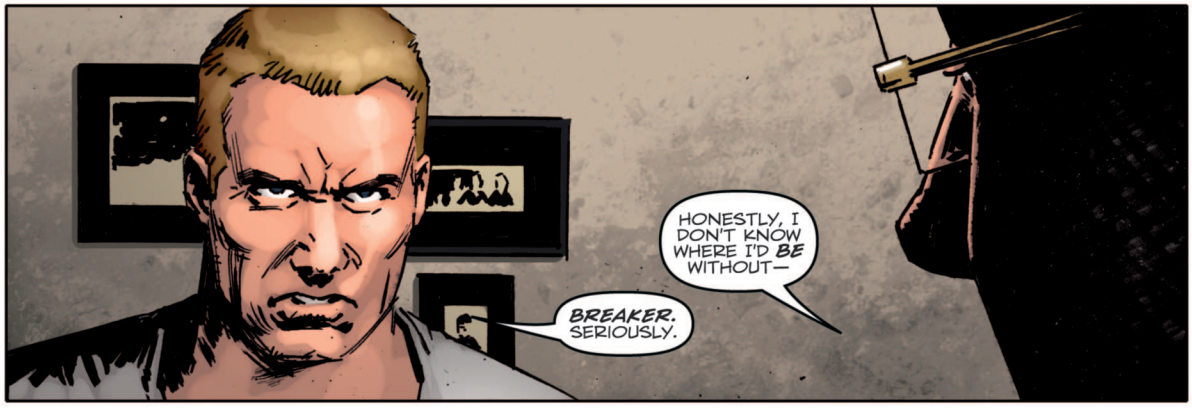

BUSINESS.
THAT IS WHAT COBRA IS.
WE ARE DONE HERE, MAJOR.
GOOD WORK.
MAJOR... ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE HERE?
ARE YOU TELLING ME WHERE I CAN AND CAN'T GO?
NO! IT'S JUST... I KNOW OF THE CONTEST.
I'D HATE FOR YOUR NEED TO SUPERVISE MY ACTIONS TO BE THE REASON YOU FALL BEHIND.
DON'T WORRY. I'M A BUSINESSMAN.
WE ALWAYS HAVE INSURANCE.


LOOK. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN LAOS. THAT WAS... THAT WAS HARD TO GET PAST.
SO... BUT THEN I DID GET PAST IT. I GOT PAST IT.
MENASIAN
YOUR SECOND SKIN


BUT... I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED. SIX MONTHS IN PSYCHE, DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU HAVE A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AFTER THAT OR NOT. YOU CAN'T GO BACK ON ACTIVE DUTY. SO THEY PUT ME DOWN IN THE FOBBIT HOLE.
LIKE I'D BE GRATEFUL, YOU KNOW? LIKE I DIDN'T SEE EVERYONE AVERTING THEIR EYES WHEN I'D WALK INTO A ROOM. LIKE I DIDN'T NOTICE HOW OVERLY NICE EVERYONE WAS TO ME.


BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I WAS GRATEFUL, YOU KNOW? AND THAT MADE ME FEEL LIKE A SAP. LIKE I WAS SO WEAK THAT I'D JUST SMILE AND TAKE WHATEVER...
...ANYWAY. I MET THIS GUY, AND HE GAVE ME THIS BOOK AND... THESE PEOPLE, YOU'D BE AMAZED.
MENASIAN
SHEDDING
YOUR SKIN


THEY GOT ME OUTSIDE OF MYSELF. WHERE HEALING CAN BEGIN, YOU KNOW? IT REALLY IS—IT'S LIKE THEY SAY IN THE BOOK. IT'S LIKE SHEDDING A SKIN.


HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE WITHOUT—
BREAKER. SERIOUSLY.


YOU KNOW THIS IS A CULT, RIGHT? I MEAN... COME ON.
BUT THAT'S JUST IGNORANCE! WOULD YOU CALL CHRISTIANITY A CULT?! WOULD YOU—
BREAKER, ARE YOU CRAZY? THEY HAVE CONNECTIONS TO COBRA!
THAT'S... WHAT? THAT'S CRAZY. WHY WOULD YOU EVEN SAY THAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE ON A DISCREET COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. YOU ARE IN TOTAL BREACH OF SECURITY PROTOCOL HERE. SERIOUSLY, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
I... I GUESS I LET THINGS GET A LITTLE OUT OF CONTROL...
...GOD. YOU'RE RIGHT. IT JUST SEEMED OKAY AT THE TIME, YOU KNOW? I ONLY USE IT TO TALK TO MY NEST MOTHER. BUT...
...OH, GOD. WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING? I... I HAVE TO TURN MYSELF IN.


I'VE COMPROMISED US, HAVEN'T I?
HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID? I HAD NO IDEA...
I KNOW.
BAM
BAM


MENAGIAN
SHEDDING
YOUR SKIN
ARG!
SHOTS FIRED!


"SO, COBRA HAD A MAN ON THE INSIDE HERE, AND THE GUY, HE DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT."
"I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, EITHER."
YOU OKAY HERE, STEELER?
"WELL, I'D HOPE NOT. IT BLEW BACK ON ME. BAD."
"THIS WAS SERPENTOR MAKING HIS MOVE. WITH HIS ASSET OUT OF PLAY, HE'S JUST LOST MOST OF HIS VALUE TO HIGH COMMAND."
YEAH, I'M JUST... SHOOK UP, YOU KNOW? I SAW HIM THERE, TALKING TO SOMEONE, AND I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO GO FOR MY WEAPON. IF ONLY MY ARM WASN'T...
"GOOD. GUY ALMOST KILLED ME."
"YOU WANT TO WHINE ABOUT IT SOME MORE?"
SIT TIGHT. YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THIS.
"ONE GOOD THING: WITH BREAKER DEAD, ANY SUSPICION THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD ABOUT AN INSIDE MAN SEALS OFF WITH HIM."


"THAT DOES WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
MP
"OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE QUESTIONS. YOU CAN HANDLE YOURSELF?"
"OF COURSE I CAN. I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, HAVEN'T I?"
YES. YES, YOU HAVE. I HAVE THE UTMOST FAITH IN YOU.
YOU SHOULD. I NEED TO GET BACK BEFORE THEY GET SUSPICIOUS. JUST WANTED TO KEEP YOU INFORMED.


CODENAME: BLACK-OUT, SIGNING OFF.





THE IDW COLLECTION