

THEY'RE OUT THERE... HIDDEN  
AMONG US! YOU'RE ABOUT TO  
DISCOVER...

KEN PENDERS'

THE

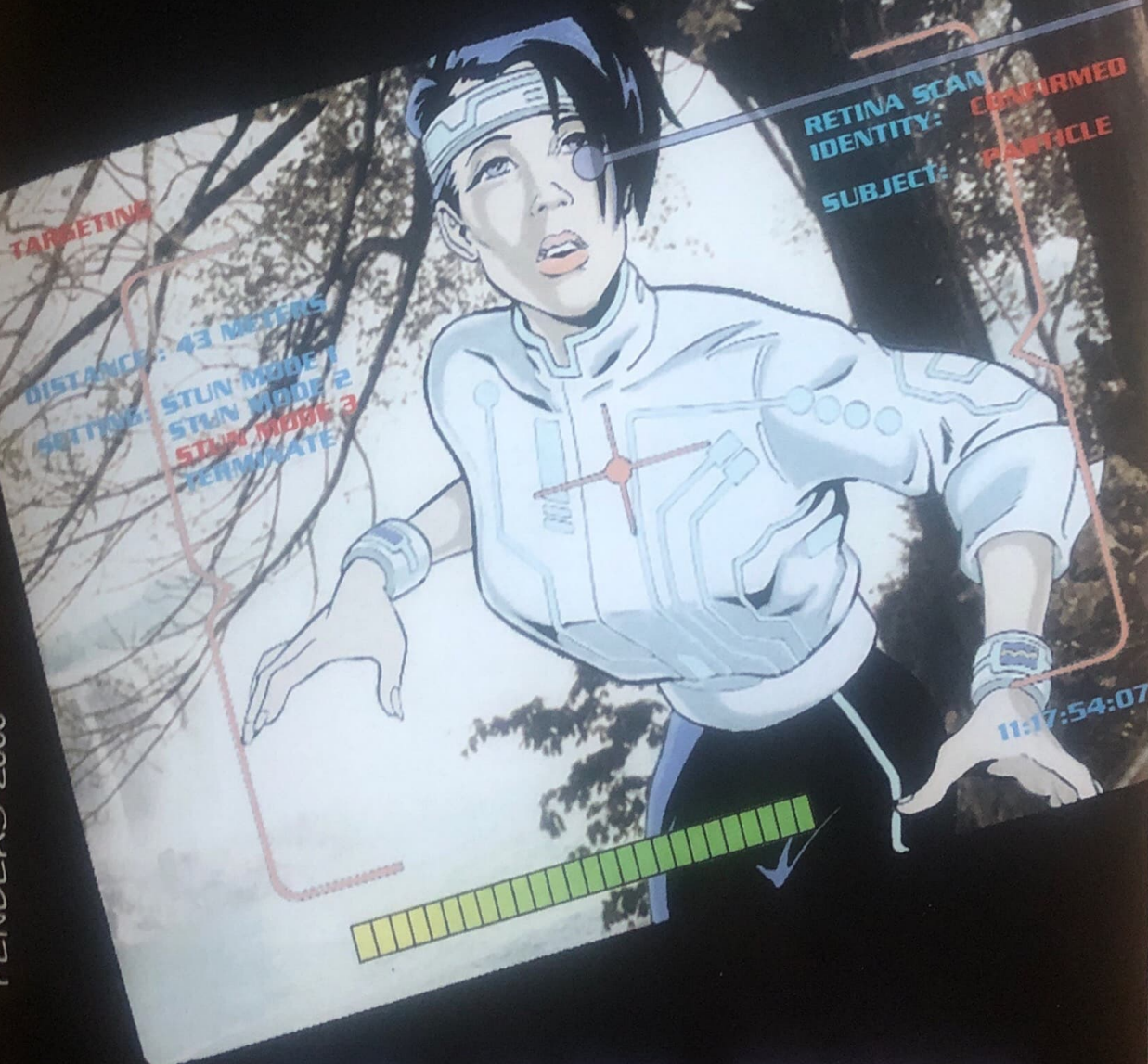
LOST

ONES™

image

1  
MAR

\$2.95  
\$4.75  
CAN



TARGETING

DISTANCE: 43 METERS  
SETTING: STUN MODE 1  
STUN MODE 2  
STUN MODE 3  
TERMINATE

RETINA SCAN  
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED  
SUBJECT: PARTICLE

11:17:54:07

THE HUNT BEGINS...





Image  
IMAGE  
COMICS  
PRESENTS

# THE LOST ONES™

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AN **ΔERO** PRODUCTION

## WELCOME TO THE FUTURE...



...where every home is jacked into the internet with hi-speed transmission, and widescreen is the accepted format for every form of digital video media.

... where a flight from New York to Tokyo is just under four hours, and Boston to Los Angeles is a daily commute.

... where the beaches along the Great Lakes are far more valuable waterfront property than the ocean fronts of either coastline, by virtue of the abundance of fresh water versus the lack thereof.

... where there are only two kinds of people -- those that matter -- and everyone else!

Or, to put it another way, there's THE LOST ONES -- and then there's you!

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PRINTED IN CANADA



今、忘れ去られた人間の世界へ入る

*WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?  
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?*

THESE ARE QUESTIONS  
WE ALL ASK OF OURSELVES  
AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

WHILE SOME CAN TRACE THEIR FAMILY  
LINEAGE BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS,  
THERE ARE THOSE WHO LITERALLY  
HAVEN'T A CLUE WHO THEIR PARENTS ARE.

THEN THERE ARE THOSE BORN TO WEALTH  
AND PRIVELEGE, THEIR LIVES PREDETERMINED,  
WHILE THE MAJORITY STRUGGLE MERELY  
TO SURVIVE ANOTHER DAY.

FOR A SELECT FEW,  
BORN WITHOUT AN AWARENESS OF  
WHERE THEY CAME FROM, BUT WITH  
AN ABILITY TO RESHAPE A WORLD,  
THEY NOW FIND THEMSELVES AT THE  
MOST IMPORTANT CROSSROADS  
OF THEIR LIVES.

*THIS IS THEIR STORY...*






SOME PEOPLE THINK THE **PAST** IS WHATEVER JUST TOOK PLACE, THE **PRESENT** IS WHAT'S HAPPENING, AND THE **FUTURE** ONLY SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO, VERY RARELY IF EVER LINKING **CAUSE** AND **EFFECT**.

I WAS LIKE THAT **MYSELF**.


ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS A **YOUNG PUNK** IN SCHOOL. SPENDING MORE TIME **GOOFING** AROUND WITH MY FRIENDS, **PLAYING** VIDEO GAMES FOR HOURS ON END, OR **MAJORING** IN AFTER-SCHOOL **SPORTS**.

HISTORY SEEMED SO **BORING** BACK THEN.

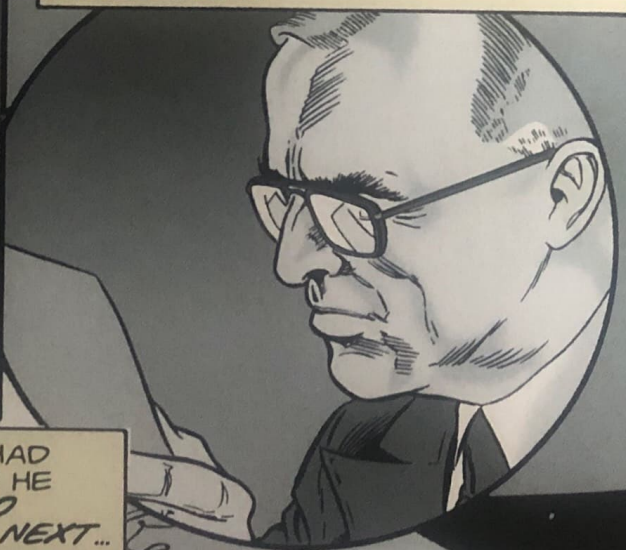
CONSIDER THE MORNING OF **JULY 31, 1945**. MY FATHER HADN'T EVEN BEEN BORN YET, BUT IT WAS BACK THEN THAT **EVENTS** WERE SET IN MOTION THAT WOULD **AFFECT** MY LIFE.



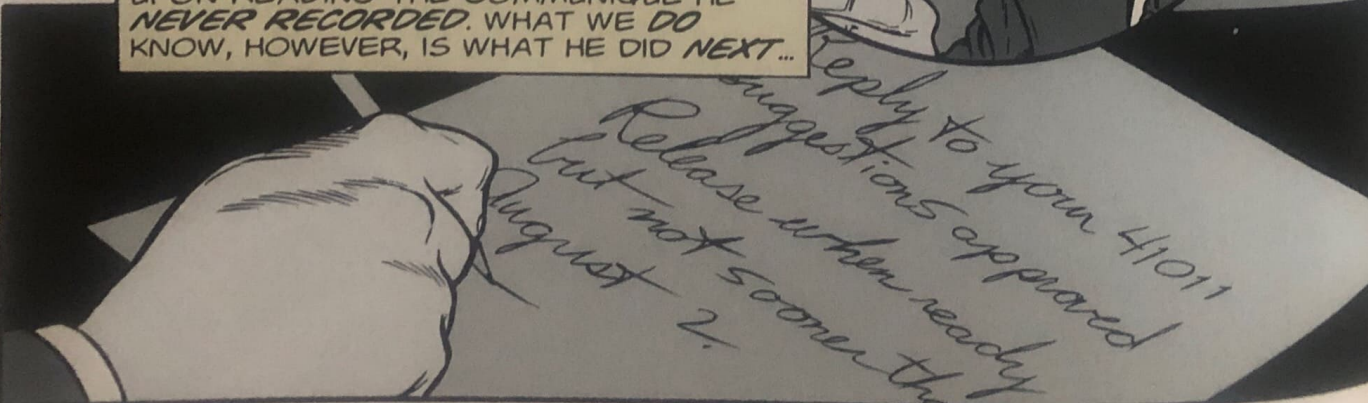
**HARRY S TRUMAN**, OUR RECENTLY SWORN-IN **33RD PRESIDENT**, WAS SITTING AT HIS DESK IN A VILLA HE OCCUPIED WHILE ATTENDING THE **POTSDAM CONFERENCE** WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL AND SOVIET DICTATOR JOSEPH STALIN...



IT WAS HERE THAT TRUMAN RECEIVED WORD THAT THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY HAD ENTERED A **NEW ERA**...



WHATEVER **THOUGHTS** TRUMAN HAD UPON READING THE COMMUNIQUE HE **NEVER RECORDED**. WHAT WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, IS WHAT HE DID **NEXT**...



AND WITH THAT SIGNED ORDER, TRUMAN HAD **DETERMINED** THE FUTURE FOR **EVERYONE**, AT A COST **BEYOND** ANYONE'S WILDEST IMAGINATION...



BUT I'M GETTING A LITTLE  
AHEAD OF MYSELF.

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT IT  
BEGAN WITH A PHONE CALL  
ON A ROUTINE MONDAY...

SIKORSKI!

JUST  
FINISHING  
SOME  
REPORTS!

WHAAAAAT?!!

WITHIN MINUTES, I WAS *SCRAMBLING* WITH A FULL DETACHMENT OF *FIELD AGENTS* TOWARDS *REAGAN INTERNATIONAL*! ALL ALONG THE WAY, I COULDN'T HELP BUT *QUESTION* THE ORDERS WE WERE *GIVEN*...

-- ARREST A  
TWENTY-  
SOMETHING  
*JAPANESE-  
AMERICAN*  
*CITIZEN*  
ARRIVING VIA  
COMMERCIAL  
AIRLINE!

I'D LOVE TO  
KNOW *HOW* SHE  
GOT PAST  
*JAPANESE*  
*CUSTOMS* IF  
SHE'S THIS  
*DANGEROUS*!

WHO  
CARES?

PROBABLY  
SOME *TECHNO-  
TERRORIST*  
WITH  
*CLASSIFIED*  
INFORMATION!

SHE'S IN A *SELF-  
CONTAINED*  
ENVIRONMENT--  
PRACTICALLY A  
*CLAY PIGEON*!

DO WE REALLY  
NEED ALL THIS  
FIREPOWER TO  
BRING HER IN?

I'LL TAKE ANY  
*ADVANTAGE* I CAN  
GET ANY DAY OF  
THE WEEK!

AS LONG AS SHE'S  
ON THAT PLANE--



"... SHE'S AS GOOD AS IN THE BAG!"

UNKNOWN TO ME AT THE TIME, AT THAT *EXACT* SAME MOMENT, THERE WERE OTHERS *NORTH* OF THE *AMERICAN-CANADIAN BORDER* AFTER THE SAME OBJECTIVE...

THE TRACKING BOARD HAS JUST REGISTERED HER FLIGHT AS HAVING ARRIVED, NUMBER SEVEN!

BUT I DON'T *SEE* HER *AMONG* THEM!

IN FACT, THERE'S A *LINE* OF PASSENGERS *WAITING* TO GET THROUGH!

IS THERE ANOTHER WAY SHE COULD EXIT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?

SHE STILL HAS TO CLEAR *CUSTOMS*, SIR!

*HIGHLY* DOUBTFUL, SIR!

THIS IS A *HI-TECH* FACILITY WITH *STATE-OF-THE-ART* SECURITY!

SHE MUST BE SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, SEVEN!

EVEN SHE CAN'T DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR!

AGREED, SIR! BUT *WHERE* SHALL I *START* LOOKING?



WHERE INDEED DO YOU BEGIN A *HUNT* FOR ONE OF THE MOST *UNUSUAL* HUMAN BEINGS EVER TO WALK THE PLANET? A BEING WHOSE ABILITIES NOT ONLY MAKE HER *UNIQUE* AMONG HER OWN KIND, BUT ALSO ONE OF THE *MOST DANGEROUS* AND *ELUSIVE* TO CAPTURE! FOR SHE WIELDS THE POWER TO *CONTROL* THE *ELECTRON*, WHETHER IT OPERATES THE *NERVOUS SYSTEM* OF AN *ORGANIC BEING* OR THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE MOST *ADVANCED MICROCHIP*!

KERI KUROSAWA WAS HER *PAST*! TODAY, SHE IS...

カスサキ

ONE OF THE

LOST ONES™

...AND ALL SHE WANTS IS THE FREEDOM TO *ENJOY* LIFE LIKE ANY OTHER *AVERAGE* PERSON!

WHAT SHE *WANTS* IS ONE THING!  
WHAT SHE HAS IS THE *REALITY*...

THE "*DOGS*" ARE *ALREADY* OUT FOR ME --

-- BUT THIS IS ONE "*FOX*" WHO *WON'T* EASILY BE *CAUGHT*!

Canada Arrival  
Arrivées Cana

THE HUNT BEGINS...



AFTER THIS ONCOMING  
CAR PASSES BY I'LL  
MAKE MY BREAK FOR IT!

CIRCLE THE OUTER  
PERIMETER, SEVEN, AND IF  
STILL NO SIGN OF HER,  
RETURN TO BASE!

"YES, SIR!"

I KNOW I'M  
GOING TO  
REGRET THIS  
LATER--

--BUT I DON'T  
SEE ANY OTHER  
FAST MEANS OF  
ESCAPE!

Ka-  
KLIK!

ANYTHING ELSE  
COULD LEAVE ME  
OPEN TO  
DISCOVERY!

DEPENDING ON HOW  
QUICK THIS CAR IS  
REPORTED *STOLEN*, I  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
REACH THE  
CANADIAN-  
AMERICAN BORDER  
WITHIN A COUPLE OF  
HOURS!

AS FOR THE  
OWNER OF THIS  
CAR--



"--I'LL MAKE  
AMENDS AS  
SOON AS  
POSSIBLE!"

WE HAVE NOW  
ARRIVED AT **REAGAN  
INTERNATIONAL!**

THE **LOCAL** TIME IS  
3:47PM, WITH THE CURRENT  
TEMPERATURE AT SIXTY-  
FOUR DEGREES!

PLEASE **REMAIN** IN  
YOUR SEATS **UNTIL** WE  
HAVE COME TO A  
COMPLETE **STOP!**

LET'S DO THIS BY  
THE NUMBERS,  
PEOPLE!

**YEAH!** WE WOULDN'T  
WANT ANY  
**UNFORTUNATE**  
ACCIDENTS TO  
HAPPEN!

**TOCATA -- FBI!!**  
WE'RE **LOOKING** FOR  
A **PASSENGER!**

NO, WE  
**WOULDN'T!**

GET **READY!** THEY'RE  
OPENING THE DOORS  
**NOW!**

THIS ONE IN  
**PARTICULAR!**  
WE'RE TOLD **SHE'S**  
ONBOARD!

MAY WE SEE THE  
**PASSENGER**  
**MANIFEST, MISS?**

I HAVEN'T SEEN  
**ANYONE** BEARING EVEN  
THE **SLIGHTEST**  
RESEMBLANCE TO THIS  
WOMAN ON THE PLANE,  
AGENT **TOCATA!**

CERTAINLY!

I DIDN'T KNOW  
IT AT THE  
TIME --



" -- BUT THAT WAS WHEN THE WORLD AS I **KNEW** IT HAD CHANGED **FOREVER!**

THE **BOMB** YOU ARE ABOUT TO DROP IS SOMETHING **NEW** IN THE HISTORY OF **WARFARE!**

IT IS THE **MOST** DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON **EVER** PRODUCED! WE THINK IT WILL KNOCK OUT **EVERYTHING** WITHIN A THREE-MILE RADIUS!

August 4, 1945 3:00PM  
North Field, Tinian Island

NOW IF SOMEONE WILL PLEASE **DIM** THE LIGHTS...

SORRY, SIR. THE **FILM** IS GETTING **CHEWED UP** IN THE SPROCKETS!

THE **FLASH** OF THE EXPLOSION WAS SEEN FOR **MORE THAN TEN MILES!** A SOLDIER 10,000 FEET AWAY WAS **KNOCKED OFF HIS FEET!** ANOTHER SOLDIER MORE THAN **FIVE MILES** AWAY WAS **TEMPORARILY BLINDED!** A GIRL IN A TOWN MANY MILES AWAY WHO HAD BEEN **BLIND** ALL HER LIFE **SAW** A FLASH OF LIGHT! THE EXPLOSION WAS HEARD **FIFTY MILES AWAY!**

THE **FILM** YOU ARE **NOT** ABOUT TO SEE WAS MADE OF THE **ONLY** TEST WE HAVE PERFORMED! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED --

FOR THOSE OF US WHO WERE THERE, IT WAS THE **BEGINNING** OF A **NEW AGE!**

NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE **BOMB** IS DROPPED FROM THE AIR. THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE. BUT WE DO EXPECT A CLOUD WILL RISE TO AT LEAST 30,000 FEET AND MAYBE 60,000 FEET, PRECEDED BY A FLASH OF LIGHT MUCH BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN'S.

YOU'RE NOW THE **HOTTEST** CREWS IN THE AIR FORCE. **NO TALKING -- TO ANYONE!** NO TALKING EVEN AMONGST **YOURSELVES!** NO LETTERS! NO WRITING HOME! NO MENTIONING OF THE **SLIGHTEST** POSSIBILITY OF A MISSION!

"**NOTHING** I HAD EVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED COULD **POSSIBLY** PREPARE ME FOR THE EVENTS YET UNFOLDING --





" -- OR THE  
OBJECTIVE OF  
MY LATEST  
ASSIGNMENT... "

ONLY A COUPLE OF  
MINUTES NOW UNTIL  
I HIT *CUSTOMS!*

MY *BIRTH*  
CERTIFICATE MAY  
STATE I'M AN  
*AMERICAN* --

FORTUNATELY, I  
HAVE AN *EDGE!*

PLEASE  
STATE YOUR  
*CITIZENSHIP!*

AMERICAN.

LET'S  
SEE YOUR  
*IDENTITY*  
CARD.

-- BUT DRIVING A  
CAR WITH *CANADIAN*  
PLATES IS STILL GOING  
TO AROUSE SOME  
*QUESTIONS!*

CERTAINLY.

THANK  
YOU,  
MA'AM.

HAYAKU!  
HAYAKU!

THAT CUSTOMS  
OFFICIAL IS TAKING  
*LONGER* THAN  
*USUAL!*

COULD I  
HAVE *FORGOTTEN*  
ANYTHING DURING  
*REPROGRAMMING?*



STATES IDENTIFICATION CARD  
CITIZEN 00792858331



NAME: Anita Katherine Webb  
ADDRESS: 95 Azalea Drive  
CITY/STATE: West Seneca, NY  
ZIP CODE: 14224-3519  
TELEPHONE: 797-635-0077  
HT: 162.56 cm  
WT: 48.98 kg  
HAIR: Black  
EYES: Violet  
SEX: Female  
BIRTH: 09.28.08  
LICENSE NUMBER: 82379Y

PERSONAL  
MEDICAL  
EMPLOYMENT  
FINANCIAL  
POLITICAL

EVERYTHING  
*SEEMS* FINE --

-- EXCEPT  
FOR THE CAR!

DO YOU HAVE A  
REGISTRATION  
CARD?

OH,  
YES!

THE CAR  
BELONGS TO  
MY *UNCLE*!

I'VE BEEN STAYING  
WITH HIM AND MY  
AUNT FLORENCE  
FOR A FEW DAYS!

HE LET ME USE HIS CAR  
TO TAKE CARE OF  
SOME BUSINESS WHILE  
MINE IS IN THE SHOP!

EVERYTHING  
*APPEARS* TO BE IN  
ORDER, MISS WEBB!

HAVE A  
NICE DAY!

HE  
*MAY* HAVE  
BELIEVED  
ME --

-- BUT I'M NOT IN  
THE *CLEAR* YET!

NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH I TRY  
TO *COVER* MY  
TRAIL --



"-- THERE'S NO TELLING  
*WHO ELSE IS AFTER ME!*"

FBI Headquarters, 5:47PM

-- THERE WASN'T  
ANY TRACE OF *MS.  
KUROSAWA* ON  
BOARD AT ALL!

QUESTIONING  
EVERYONE WHO WAS  
ON THAT FLIGHT  
PROVED EQUALLY  
USELESS!

NO ONE HAD EVEN  
*SEEN* HER, LET  
ALONE HAD ANY  
IDEA AS TO *WHO*  
SHE WAS!

AND WHAT DO YOU  
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT  
WHAT TRANSPIRED,  
*AGENT SIKORSKI?*

THAT'S PRETTY  
MUCH HOW  
EVERYTHING WENT  
DOWN, MA'AM!

*AGENT TOCATA*  
WAS *STRICTLY*  
BY THE *BOOK!*

THAT MAY BE,  
BUT THE PEOPLE  
*UPSTAIRS* ARE  
*VERY UNHAPPY*  
OVER THIS!

OUR *INTELLIGENCE*  
ON THIS MATTER  
WAS *BADLY*  
*COMPROMISED!*

YOU'RE TO PRESS  
ON WITH OTHER  
MATTERS UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE,  
*AGENT TOCATA!*  
*DISMISSED!*

AS FOR  
YOU, *AGENT*  
*SIKORSKI* --

-- YOU WILL *REMAIN*  
TO DISCUSS YOUR  
*NEXT* ASSIGNMENT!

YES,  
MA'AM!

SOMETHING *WEIRD* WAS GOING ON,  
AND I COULD TELL FROM *TOCATA'S*  
EXPRESSION HE FELT THE SAME THING,  
BUT AS I WAS LATER TO LEARN --



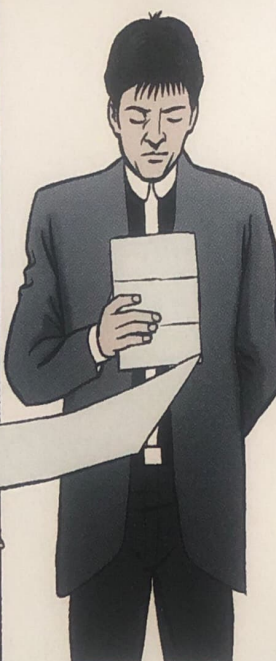
-- THE REASONS HE WAS BEING *BYPASSED* IN REGARDS TO CONTINUING THE ASSIGNMENT --



-- WERE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHY *SOMEONE ELSE* WANTED ME TO RUN WITH THE BALL.



THE *DIRECTORATE* HAS SENT DOWN *NEW ORDERS* FOR YOU, AGENT SIKORSKI.



ARE THEY *SERIOUS*?

THIS *DOESN'T* EVEN BEGIN TO *DEFINE* WHAT I'M TO INVESTIGATE!

APPARENTLY, A HIGHER AUTHORITY BELIEVES *SOMETHING* IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK, IS OF SUFFICIENT *IMPORTANCE* TO WARRANT SENDING AN AGENT!



YOU BETTER GET MOVING. YOUR PLANE LEAVES IN TWO HOURS!

I'LL BE ON IT.

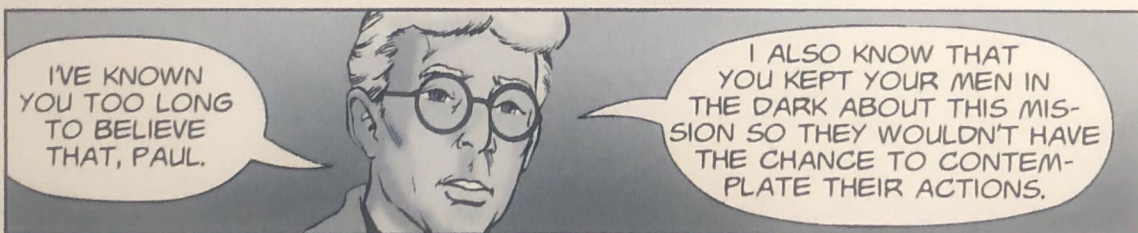
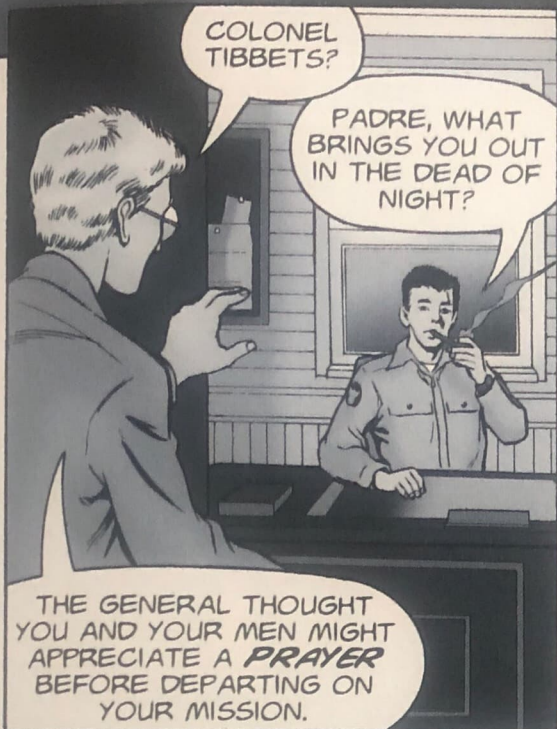


AS I WALKED OUT OF THAT ROOM, I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER ABOUT THE OTHER *POOR SOULS* IN HISTORY WHO WERE GIVEN ORDERS OF *DUBIOUS* MERIT FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT --



"-- AND IF THEY **QUESTIONED** THE RATIONALE OF THOSE ORDERS AS I FELT THE **STRONG** URGE TO..."

August 6, 1945 12:30AM  
509th Composite Group Orderly Room  
Tinian Island





" -- BUT WHO'S TO SAY *WHAT* I'D TURN UP ONCE I STARTED DIGGING AROUND...

252 MIDDLESEX LANE  
Buffalo, NY 8:47PM

KOKONI  
IRUBEKIDEWA  
NAIYOUNA  
KIGASURU.

I WAS ALL  
OF *FOUR*  
YEARS OLD THE  
*LAST* TIME I  
WAS *HERE!*

IF NOT FOR THE  
FACT THAT I WAS  
*BORN* HERE --

" -- I WOULDN'T  
FEEL *ANY* SENSE  
OF *CONNECTION!*"


ANY SIGN OF  
HER, NINE?

POSSIBLY,  
DOCTOR.

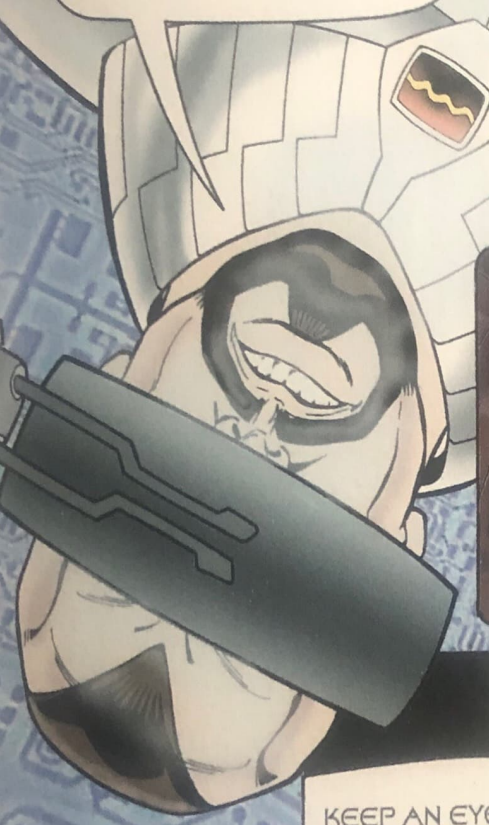
THERE'S *SOMEONE*  
SITTING IN A *CAR*  
ACROSS THE STREET.

MALE OR  
FEMALE?






HARD  
TO TELL!




DOES THIS PERSON BEAR  
EVEN THE SLIGHTEST  
RESEMBLANCE TO THE  
MOST RECENT PHOTO  
BELIEVED TO BE OF ALPHA  
TARGET, NINE?




MAGNIFYING --




-- AND  
COMPARING WITH  
THE JPEG YOU  
UPLOADED!



EVEN ALLOWING FOR AGE  
DIFFERENCE AND HAIR  
STYLES, IT'S HARD TO  
SAY IF WE HAVE A  
POSITIVE MATCH!



KEEP AN EYE ON HER  
ANYWAY! EVEN IF  
SHE ISN'T THE  
ALPHA TARGET --

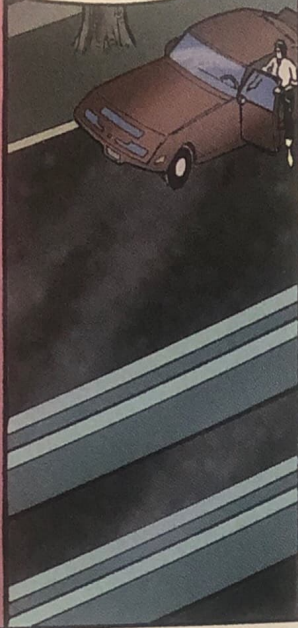


-- IT'S CONCEIVABLE  
THIS ONE KNOWS  
WHERE SHE IS!

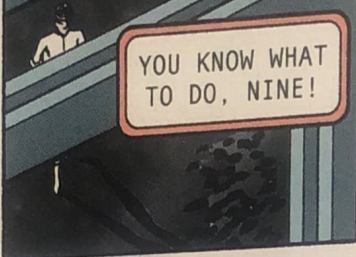
YOUR SUSPICIONS  
MAY PROVE CORRECT,  
DOCTOR --



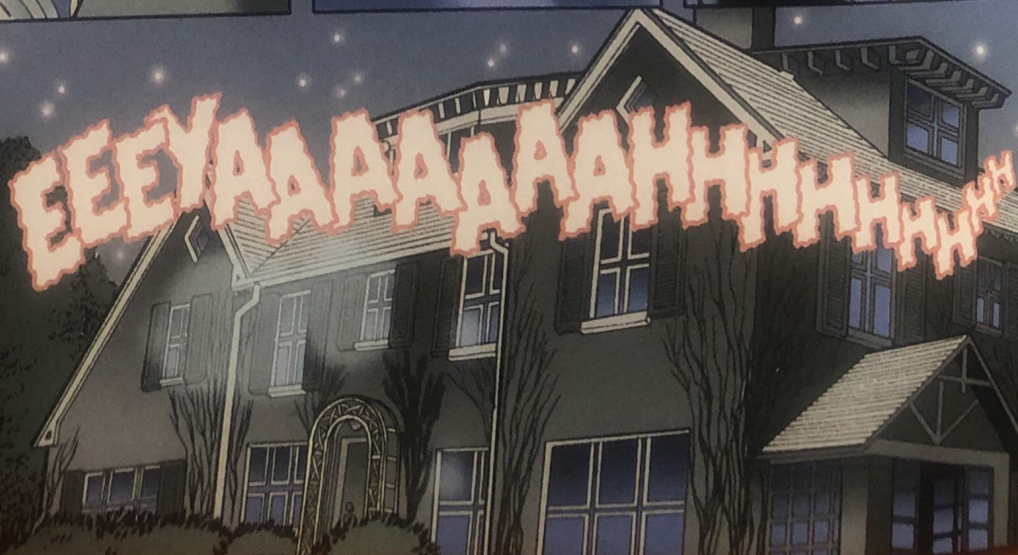
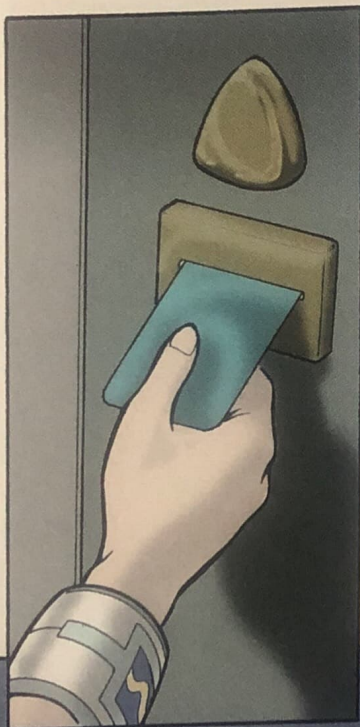
-- AS SHE'S  
GETTING OUT OF  
THE CAR --



-- AND  
HEADING *THIS*  
WAY!



YOU KNOW WHAT  
TO DO, NINE!





AGENT  
**SIKORSKI** IS  
HERE TO SEE  
YOU, SIR!

RIGHT.  
SEND HIM  
IN!

SO WHO'D  
YOU TICK OFF  
TO GET THIS  
DETAIL, SON?

HEADQUARTERS  
USUALLY SENDS ITS'  
MOST **UNWANTED**  
HERE!

FBI BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE  
One FBI Plaza, Buffalo, NY

I'M AFRAID  
I DON'T  
FOLLOW!

WE TEND TO BE  
ON THE RECEIVING  
END OF A LOT OF  
JOKES!

REALLY?  
SEEMS  
RATHER NICE  
AROUND  
HERE!

DIDN'T THEIR  
**FOOTBALL TEAM**  
JUST WIN A  
**SUPER BOWL?**

THEIR **THIRD**  
IN A ROW! THE  
QUARTERBACK  
HAS A GUN FOR  
AN ARM!

SO WHAT  
BRINGS YOU  
HERE?

I'M HERE  
CONCERNING THE  
**KUROSAWA DIS-  
APPEARANCE!**

YOU MEAN  
THEY'VE COME  
UP WITH  
SOMETHING?

WE HAVEN'T  
HAD A **LEAD**  
ON THAT ONE  
IN YEARS!

APPARENTLY,  
THERE'S BEEN  
A **SIGHTING!**

SINCE THE FAMILY'S  
**LAST KNOWN ADDRESS**  
WAS IN THIS AREA, IT'S  
BELIEVED THEY MAY BE  
ATTEMPTING TO  
**RETURN!**

RETURN  
FOR  
**WHAT?**



"THAT WAS THE  
TRILLION DOLLAR  
QUESTION..."

TOWER TO  
DIMPLES EIGHT  
TWO. CLEAR FOR  
TAKE-OFF!

August 6, 1945 2:42AM

"I WAS TAUGHT FROM DAY  
ONE OF MY CAREER THAT  
EVERYTHING IS *ROUTINE*  
UNTIL THE PATTERN IS  
*BROKEN*..."

"ONLY THOSE ABOUT  
TO TAKE *UNEXPECTED*-,  
*DEVASTATING*  
ACTION --

" -- TAKE GREAT PAINS AT PRESERVING  
THE *ILLUSION* OF EVERYDAY NORMALCY --

LITTLE  
BOY IS NOW  
ARMED,  
COLONEL!

" -- UNTIL THE  
*MOMENT OF  
IMPACT!*"

WHEN THE BOMB IS  
*DROPPED*, LIEUTENANT  
BESSER WILL RECORD  
OUR *REACTIONS* TO  
WHAT WE SEE!

WE ARE  
CARRYING  
THE WORLD'S  
*FIRST  
ATOMIC  
BOMB!*

THIS RECORDING IS  
BEING MADE FOR  
*HISTORY!* WATCH  
YOUR LANGUAGE  
AND DON'T CLUTTER  
UP THE INTERCOM!

"MORE OFTEN THAN  
NOT, HOWEVER --

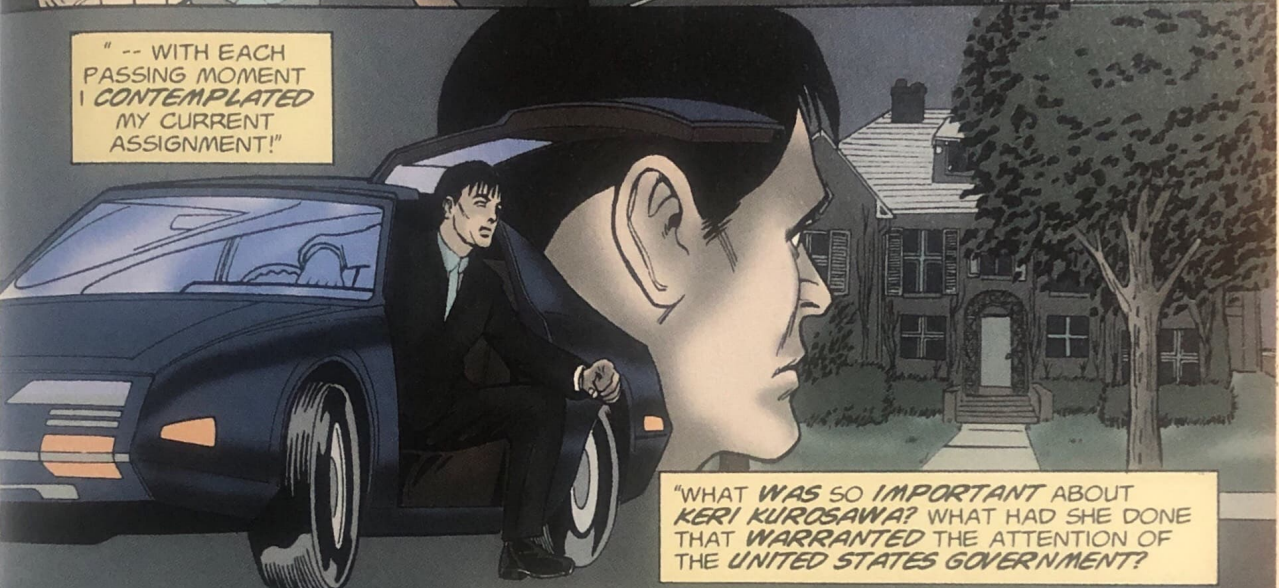


" -- THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED EITHER DIDN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE OR UNDERSTAND THE *RAMIFICATIONS* OF THEIR ACTIONS --

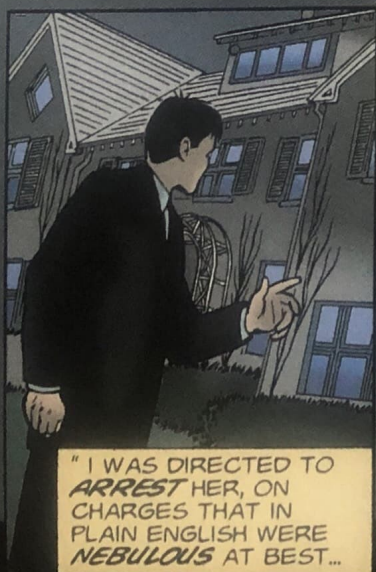
" -- A STATE OF MIND I COULD *RELATE* TO VERY MUCH IN THE HERE AND NOW --



" -- WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT I *CONTEMPLATED* MY CURRENT ASSIGNMENT!"



"WHAT *WAS* SO IMPORTANT ABOUT *KERI KUROSAWA*? WHAT HAD SHE DONE THAT *WARRANTED* THE ATTENTION OF THE *UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT*?"



" I WAS DIRECTED TO *ARREST* HER, ON CHARGES THAT IN PLAIN ENGLISH WERE *NEBULOUS* AT BEST..."



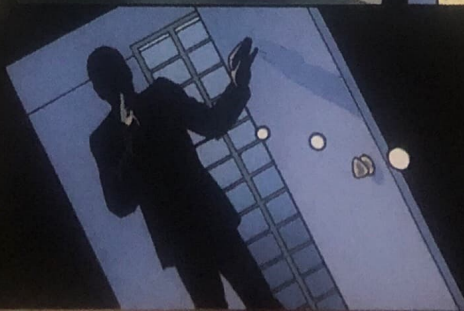
"I WAS *WARNED* TO TAKE ANY AND ALL *NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS*, BUT NOBODY GAVE ME A CLUE AS TO WHAT MADE *HER* SO *DANGEROUS*..."



"BUT MAYBE THAT WAS THE POINT --

"IF WE WERE AFTER HER, DIDN'T IT STAND TO REASON THAT *OTHERS* MIGHT BE AS WELL?"

"AND IF SO, WHAT *SECRETS* WOULD I FIND POSSIBLY *UNLOCKED* IN HERE?"



IT'S ALMOST TOO QUIET!





IT'S *NOT* THE  
ALPHA TARGET,  
SIR!

THERE MUST BE  
NO WITNESSES!

UNDERSTOOD!

OBTAINING  
THIRTEEN!

IN THAT CASE --  
ELIMINATE HIM!

HE TALKS AS IF  
SOMEONE WERE  
COMMUNICATING  
WITH HIM --

-- BUT  
THERE'S *NO*  
ONE ELSE  
AROUND!

STOP!!  
-- OR I'LL  
SHOOT!





IF I HAD FIGURED I WAS GOING TO BE IN A FIGHT FOR MY LIFE, I'D HAVE ARMED MYSELF WITH MORE THAN JUST A *STANDARD ISSUE REVOLVER*.

ON THE PLUS SIDE, HIS *MOVEMENTS* WERE A BIT *SLOW*, AS THOUGH HE WERE *PROGRAMMED*.

IN THE *NEGATIVE COLUMN*, WHEN HE DID *CONNECT*, IT WAS LIKE HITTING A *BRICK WALL*.

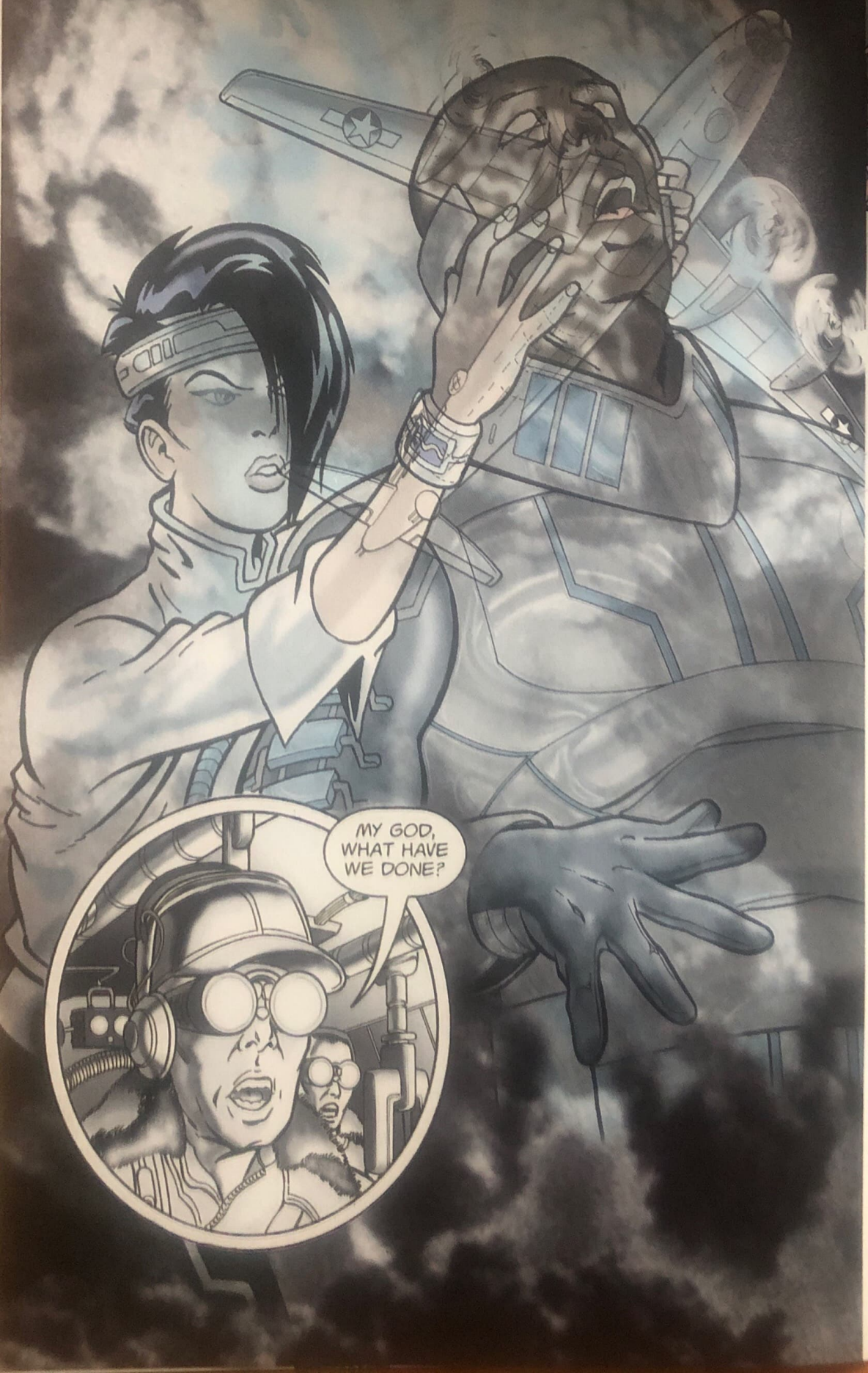
NOW FINISH HIM OFF, THIRTEEN.

GET UP!

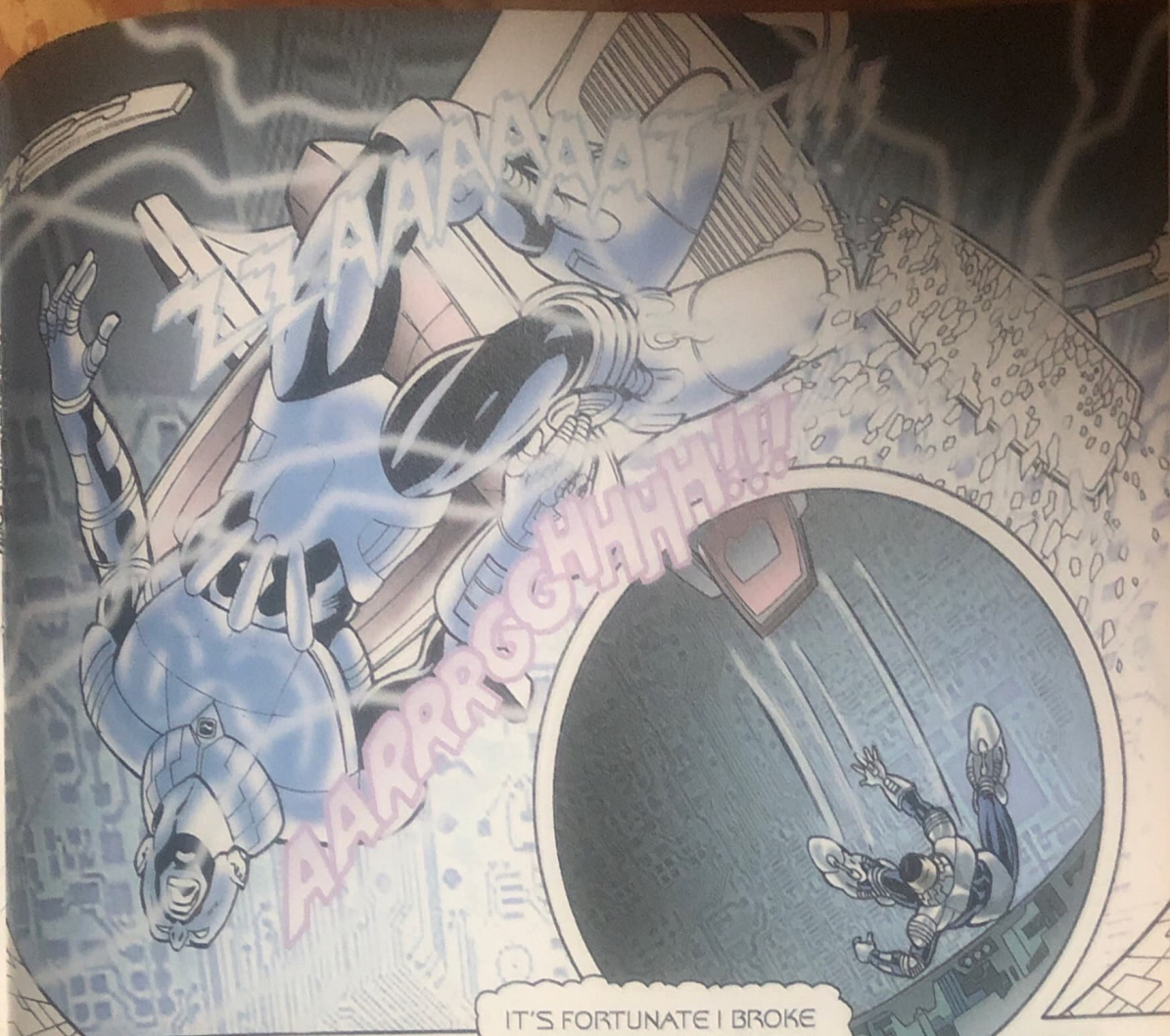
IN MY HAZE, I KEPT THINKING OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO USE *FORCE* TO ACHIEVE THEIR *ENDS* --



-- ONLY TO END UP ENCOUNTERING A **STRONGER** FORCE THAN THEY WERE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH!







IT'S FORTUNATE I BROKE  
THE LINK WITH THIRTEEN  
BEFORE THE FEEDBACK  
HIT MAXIMUM SURGE --

-- OTHERWISE THE  
CONSOLE WOULDN'T  
BE THE ONLY PIECE  
OF EQUIPMENT WITH  
FRIED CIRCUITS!

ASTONISHING!  
THIS COULD BE  
PRELIMINARY  
CONFIRMATION  
THAT ALPHA  
TARGET NOT  
ONLY WAS IN  
THE VICINITY --

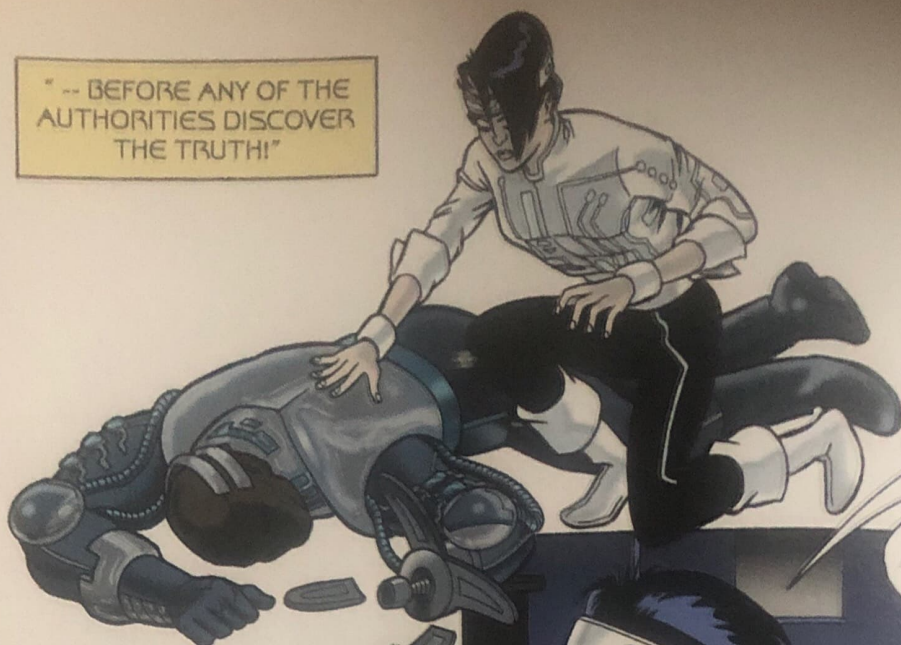
FOR THE  
MOMENT --

-- IT'S MORE  
IMPERATIVE I  
LEARN WHAT'S  
BECOME OF NINE  
AND THIRTEEN --

-- BUT EVEN MORE  
DANGEROUS THAN I  
BELIEVED POSSIBLE!



" -- BEFORE ANY OF THE  
AUTHORITIES DISCOVER  
THE TRUTH!"



ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?

THAT'S A  
NEAT TRICK,  
MISS -- ?

I'M NOT IN  
THE HABIT OF  
IDENTIFYING  
MYSELF TO  
STRANGERS!

I DIDN'T  
EXPECT YOU  
WOULD --



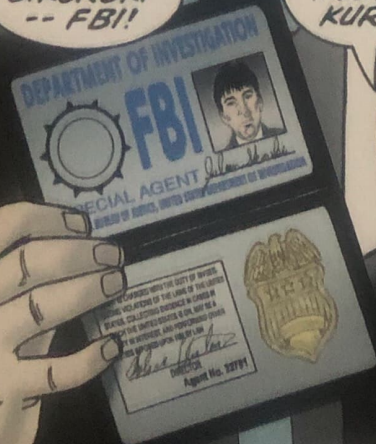
-- IF YOU  
WERE ON THE  
RUN FROM  
SOMEONE,  
PERHAPS?

I WAS SENT TO  
APPREHEND YOU,  
BUT I HAVE A HARD  
TIME TAKING INTO  
CUSTODY SOMEONE  
WHO MAY HAVE  
SAVED MY LIFE!

MAYBE --  
BUT I  
DOUBT IT!

JULIAN  
SIKORSKI  
-- FBI!

AND YOU  
MUST BE KERI  
KUROSAWA!



YOU'RE JUST  
GUESSING!

ESPECIALLY  
WHEN I'M NOT  
TOLD WHY!

CAN YOU  
EXPLAIN THE  
CODE NAME  
PARTICLE?



YOU'RE A  
GOVERNMENT  
AGENT, AND YOU  
DON'T KNOW?



CONTRARY TO  
POPULAR BELIEF,  
NOT ALL OF US  
ARE IN ON THE  
CONSPIRACY!

YOU LOOK  
HONEST! YOU MAY  
EVEN BE TELLING  
THE TRUTH!



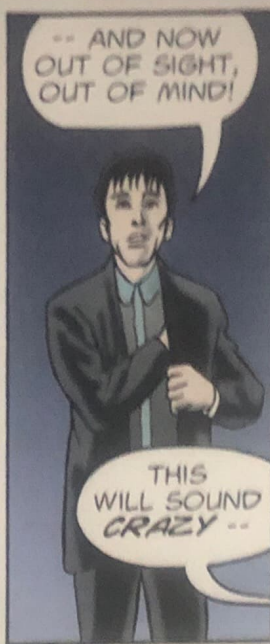
BUT  
HOW CAN I  
KNOW?

TAKE A  
CHANCE!



SEE? THE  
SAFETY IS  
ON --

-- AND NOW  
OUT OF SIGHT,  
OUT OF MIND!



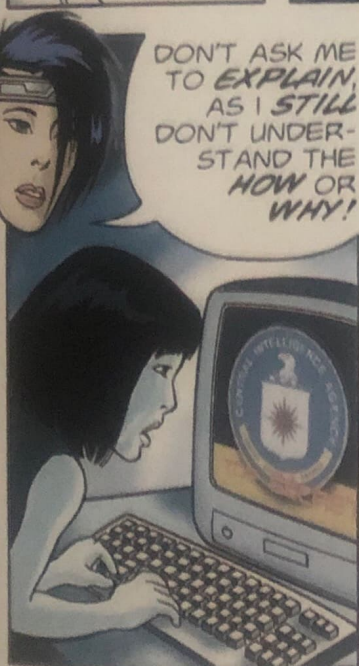
THIS  
WILL SOUND  
CRAZY --

-- BUT WHEN I  
STARTED GOING  
THROUGH  
PUBERTY --



-- I  
DEVELOPED  
THESE  
ABILITIES...

DON'T ASK ME  
TO EXPLAIN,  
AS I STILL  
DON'T UNDER-  
STAND THE  
HOW OR  
WHY!



PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN  
KNOW HAVE BEEN  
AFTER ME EVER SINCE!



MY MOTHER TOOK  
OFF WITH MY  
SISTER ANITA --

-- AND I WAS WITH MY  
FATHER UNTIL WE SEP-  
ARATED OVER TWO  
YEARS AGO!



I'VE BEEN  
SEARCHING  
FOR MY FAMILY  
EVER SINCE!

I PRESUME WHAT  
I WITNESSED  
WAS JUST A  
SMALL SAMPLE?





BARELY  
SCRATCHES THE  
SURFACE!

SO  
WHAT  
NOW?

NOW?

YOU  
BETTER  
GET  
GOING!

I HAVE TO  
CALL IN THE  
MEDICS FOR  
OUR FRIEND  
HERE!

BETTER  
CHECK  
UPSTAIRS!  
THERE'S  
ANOTHER!

I'VE  
NEVER  
KILLED!

NOT  
EVEN IN SELF  
DEFENSE!

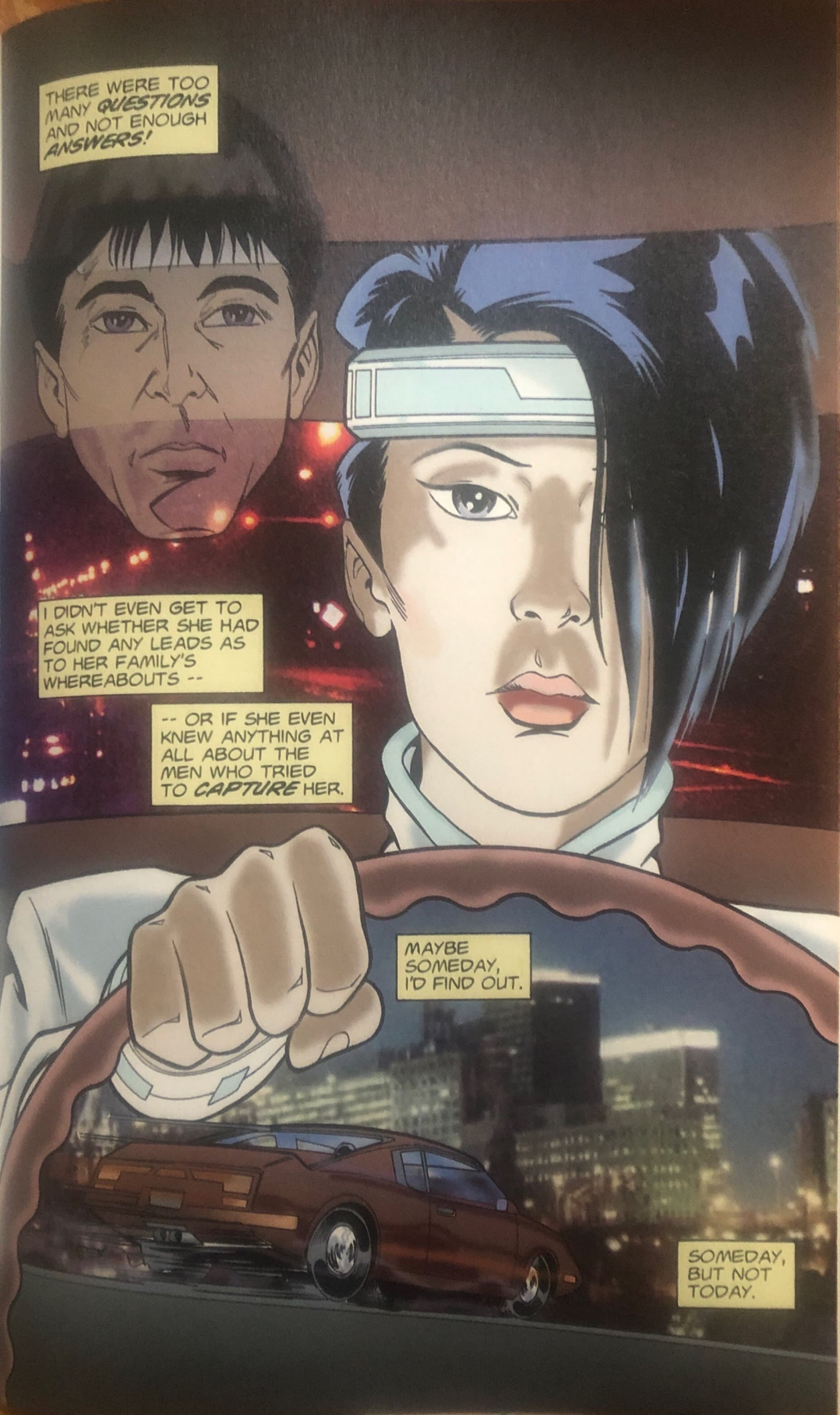
MY ASSIGNMENT WAS  
TO TAKE *KERI KURO-  
SAWA* INTO CUSTODY --

YOU  
DIDN'T --

I SHOULD'VE HANDED  
IN MY *RESIGNATION*  
RIGHT THEN AND THERE.

-- AND I LET HER GO  
JUST LIKE THAT! HOW  
COULD I *JUSTIFY* MY  
ACTIONS?





THERE WERE TOO  
MANY **QUESTIONS**  
AND NOT ENOUGH  
**ANSWERS!**

I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO  
ASK WHETHER SHE HAD  
FOUND ANY LEADS AS  
TO HER FAMILY'S  
WHEREABOUTS --

-- OR IF SHE EVEN  
KNEW ANYTHING AT  
ALL ABOUT THE  
MEN WHO TRIED  
TO **CAPTURE** HER.

MAYBE  
SOMEDAY,  
I'D FIND OUT.

SOMEDAY,  
BUT NOT  
TODAY.





## DATA RETRIEVAL

As a creator, I initially wanted to use Japanese much more extensively than I ended up doing. I decided in the end to simply use it very sparingly at first in order to allow readers to grow comfortable with the concept, giving me a chance to reassure them I wouldn't leave them hanging in the dark.

I can hear you asking already. How come some of the thought balloons are in Japanese when English was doing just fine up until then? What's with the World War II sequences? And who was that weird guy in the hi-tech control room? Fair questions all, and the reason for this page in every issue. This is where you'll come to find the English translation of any caption in a foreign language, most notably Japanese for our purposes, as well as background information of the characters and plots I haven't space for in the current issue, but which has been revealed in previous issues.

Since this is the debut issue, it's hard to have previous information about a series that hasn't existed before. Unless you were one of the fortunate readers to pick up a copy of SONIC SUPERSPECIAL #7 (featuring the now-famous Sonic-Image Crossover classic published by Archie Comics) where Particle and her sister Tsunami, not to mention our mysterious villain this issue, were introduced, or the 16-page THE LOST ONES: FOR YOUR EYES ONLY sneak preview I've been promoting at various conventions, featuring information about the characters and setting of this series, chances are this is your first exposure to the world of THE LOST ONES. With that in mind, it's only fair that some background be provided.

### TRANSLATION

Let's take the easiest question first: the use of the Japanese language. Keri Kurosawa (AKA Particle) and her sister may have been born Japanese-American, but they were raised primarily in Japan, having grown up using Japanese as much as English, and tend to lapse into talking and thinking in Japanese, especially in moments of stress.

Like the culture that spawned it, the Japanese language is a subtle and vague one. In most cases, there are no literal translations on a one-to-one basis. Tone and inflection can alter the very context in which a word is used.

Thus, on page nine, when Keri is impatiently thinking "Hayaku! Hayaku!", which is pronounced ha-ya-koo, it can be interpreted as either "Hurry! Hurry!" or "Quick! Quick!" We Americans might be muttering "C'mon! C'mon!" to ourselves, but it doesn't translate directly as such in Japanese.

The same applies to page 14, panel 2, when Keri is sitting in the car looking upon her family home for the first time in years, and thinks "Kokoni irubekidewa naiyouna kigasuru." In English, Keri would be thinking "I really don't belong here", but in Japanese, pronounced co-co-nee ee-roo-beh-kee-deh-wa nigh-yoy-na kee-ga-soo-roo, the phrase translates to the female form of "I don't think I should be here." (In this case, the male form is the same, but in many expressions there is a difference.)

Thus, one of the main keys for understanding Japanese is how a word or phrase is used. It varies depending on the circumstances and content.

Another example is the fan art page, where Tsunami greets everyone with "kon-nichi wa", pronounced kuh-nee-chee wa, which can be used as either "hello" or "good afternoon".

As for the Japanese characters on page one, the first ten readers who send in the correct translation will each win a free sketch of Particle from yours truly. The winners' names will be printed in next issue's



letters page, as well as displayed on the Lost Ones website ([www.thelostones.com](http://www.thelostones.com)).

## CHARACTERS

Okay, the name of the book is **THE LOST ONES**, so who and what are they?

As you may have guessed, Keri is but one of the many Lost Ones you'll encounter in the upcoming issues. Who and what they are is the big mystery that both you and our characters are on a journey to uncover.

Fortunately for her, though she may not think so at this time, Keri has an unsuspecting ally in the form of FBI Agent Julian Sikorski, a by-the-book agent who's clearly going places within the bureau. In his late 20s and single, it's quite possible his motives for releasing Keri were more than just reciprocal for saving his life.

Our villain, though not yet named, already presents a figure that suggests something more than human or not quite, depending upon one's point-of-view. Though a major player in the events yet to unfold, it remains to be seen where he fits in the overall scheme, and whose interests he's really serving. (Those of you who paid attention during **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7** have a head start as to his identity, whereas those who've read **THE LOST ONES: FOR YOUR EYES ONLY** already know.)

As for his hi-tech soldiers, or drones, there's more than a few secrets waiting to be told about them, and they're not quite so obvious at first glance as you may think.

In regards to Agent Tocata and Julian's superior, for the moment, they are merely background players in the overall tapestry of our narrative, but who's to say they may not play a bigger part at some point in the future?

In the next issue, you'll meet three new key figures, as well as learn a lot more about the ones featured in this issue.

## SETTING

Initially, I thought of establishing the setting of this series as taking place literally tomorrow. What I opted for instead was simply to say to anyone who asked that **THE LOST ONES** perpetually takes place five to fifteen

years from our today, allowing me the luxury of anticipating where we as a society are going and not getting pinned down with any arbitrary date that we'll eventually catch up with at some point.

(One of the most disheartening aspects of any science fiction story I enjoyed while growing up is that those stories which took place during established dates we've long since passed by cannot be reconciled with the reality we currently live in. We haven't experienced the eugenics wars that *Star Trek* informed us about, nor are we on the verge of going to Mars, let alone Alpha Centuri as the *Space Family Robinson* were about to do, any time soon. And I don't even want to think about 2001.)

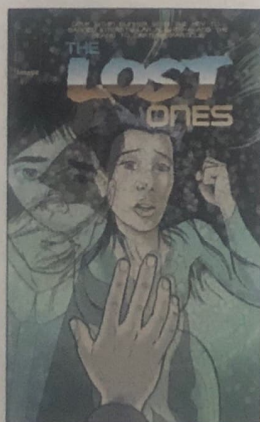
## THEME

In the coming issues, we'll be re-establishing previous plotlines for those who missed what came before, but for now, I'd like to talk about what this book is about.

It's about the journey of discovering who oneself is, where a person fits into the overall scheme of life, and the options one has along the course of his/her life. It's about daring to dream for something better in life, and taking action to make it come true. Standing in the way are those who want everyone to conform of how they see life should be, and they'll do anything they can to ensure everyone falls in line with that vision.

**THE LOST ONES** is also about acceptance, getting along with others regardless of the differences, and maybe, sometimes, because of them.

Join us again next issue, won't you, as we resume the journey...together.



**NOTE:**

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KONNICHI WA! MY NAME IS TSUNAMI -- OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS KERI'S YOUNGER SISTER ANITA -- AND I'D  
LIKE TO PRESENT THE VERY FIRST

# THE LOST ONES

FAN ART PAGE

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ME NEXT  
ISSUE!

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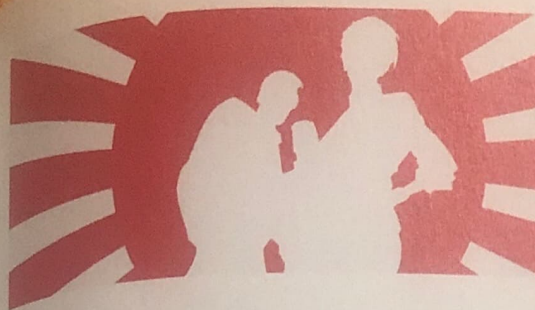
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JULIE MIYAMOTO  
Johnston City, TN





## the lost & found dept.

Welcome to what will become our letters page, currently known as THE LOST AND FOUND DEPT., as of the next issue. Should any of the readers out there come up with a better suggestion for a logo to use on this page, feel free to submit your idea. If I use it, you'll receive acknowledgement, and a piece of Lost Ones original art.

Since I have a page to fill this issue in the meantime, I thought I'd take this opportunity to say a few things I've been wanting to for a long time.

As I write this just before the book is being sent to the printers, I am reminded it's been fourteen years since I landed my first professional assignment as a comic book illustrator.

Since that time I've written and illustrated a number of stories for a variety of series, including STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE, ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, CAPTAIN ATOM, THE JAGUAR, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E., GREEN HORNET, FLARE, SHADOWBLADE, ARCHIE & FRIENDS, and BETTY among many others, for a variety of publishers such as DC, Marvel, Malibu, Now, Eternity and several others.

My most notable accomplishment until now beyond my STAR TREK assignments has been a six year and counting stint with Archie comics, writing and drawing a number of stories featuring SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA, to say nothing of contributing to the company's core cast of characters whenever time has allowed.

It's because of working on SONIC and KNUCKLES -- which originally started out as merely the opportunity to create stories featuring my son's favorite characters -- that the experience has grown and evolved into something more, providing the impetus of why I'm now embarking into uncertain waters with the launch of my own self-created series.

Whatever happens, I'm grateful to have this opportunity, and I'd like to thank the following people who helped me along the way, in one form or another.

I'd like to start with Bob Greenberger, who gave me a shot with my first pro assignment on the WHO'S WHO IN STAR TREK project. Other industry professionals who assisted in my development include Dick Giordano, John Romita, Don Perlin, Elliot S! Maggin, Michael Golden, Jim Owsley, Victor Gorelick, Paul Castiglia, Scott Fulop, Justin Gabriele and Jim Valentino.

Then there's the usual support group consisting of the requisite relatives -- my uncles Norm, Daniel, Stephen and Paul, aunts Lucy, Florence, Belinda and Emily, my grandmother Florence -- and close friends -- Ray, Brad, Demmy, Al, Anita, Laura, Danny, Doug, Tom, Linda, Ron, Jenny and anyone else I may have inadvertently left out.

Among those no longer with us, but who certainly were there for me when I needed them include Kim Yale and Larry Juliano, as well as my father Kenneth, dziadzia Stephen, great-aunts Jean and Frances and surrogate mom Camille Winter.

A special thanks goes to a special group without whom I would have never made it this far -- my mother Rita, my brothers Tim and John, and my other family -- George Sr, George Jr and Tom Winter.

Above all else, however, are the four most special people in my life -- Stephen, Cara, Colin and Bernie, for whom this book is dedicated. There's no way I could have done this without you.

Please send all letters to:  
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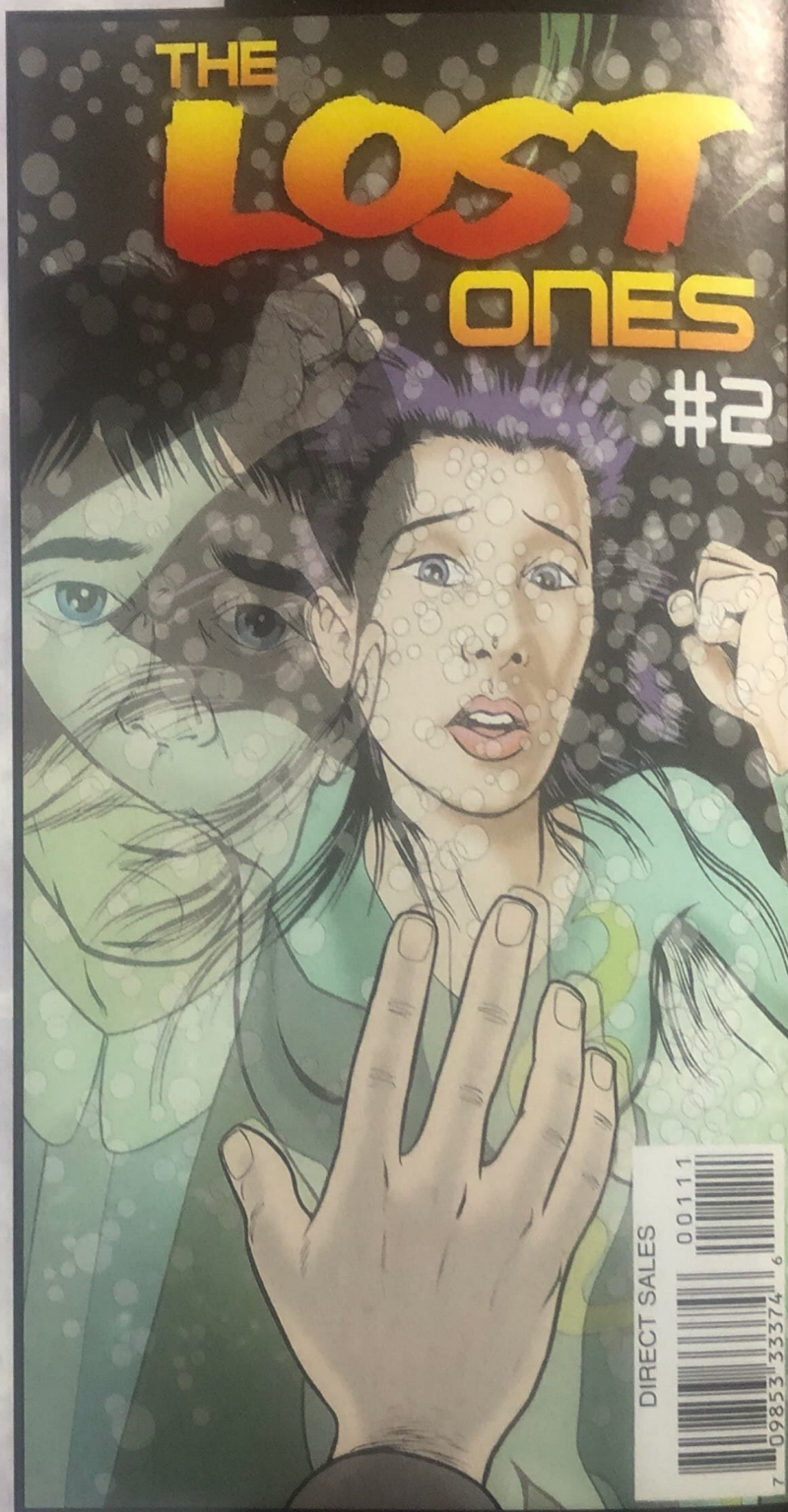
LOYALTY  
TO A  
FRIEND  
VERSUS  
LOYALTY  
TO ONE'S  
COUNTRY...

NOT TOO FAR  
IN THE  
DISTANT  
FUTURE,  
EVERYONE  
WILL HAVE  
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