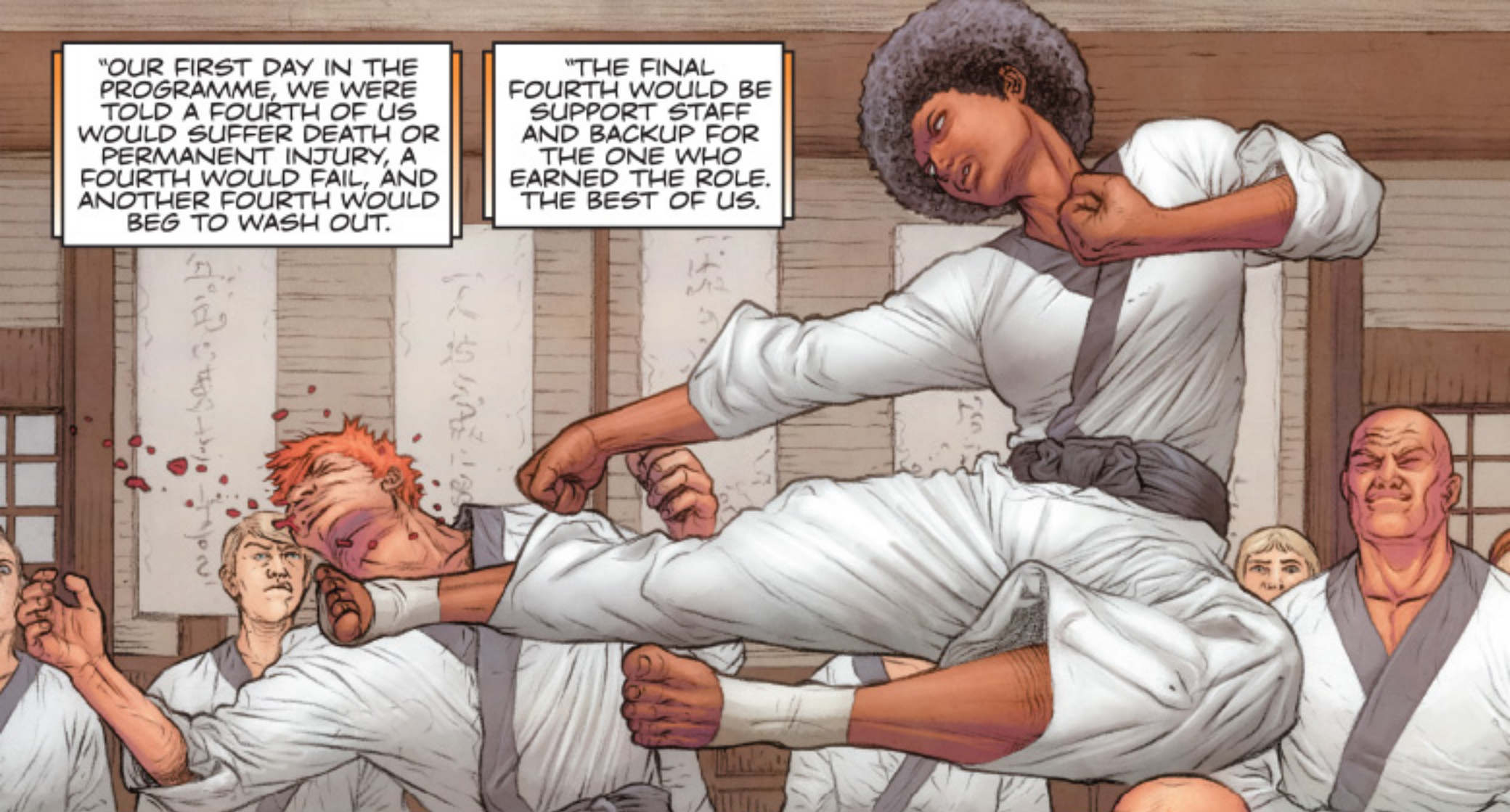


"OUR FIRST DAY IN THE PROGRAMME, WE WERE TOLD A FOURTH OF US WOULD SUFFER DEATH OR PERMANENT INJURY, A FOURTH WOULD FAIL, AND ANOTHER FOURTH WOULD BEG TO WASH OUT.

"THE FINAL FOURTH WOULD BE SUPPORT STAFF AND BACKUP FOR THE ONE WHO EARNED THE ROLE. THE BEST OF US.



"ME. NINJA-G.

"BOTH THE FIRST WOMAN AND THE FIRST BLACK NINJA AGENT.



"OF COURSE, THOSE WHO FELL SHORT WHISPERED I'D CHEATED. RECEIVED SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM THE JONIN BY SHAGGING HIM, WHEN IN FACT THE OPPOSITE WAS TRUE.

"BUT THEY NEVER DARED SAY IT AROUND ME.

"I'D PROVEN I WAS THE BEST. AND I'D DONE IT ON MY TERMS."





"AND I CONTINUED
TO DO IT MY WAY.
OR SO I BELIEVED."

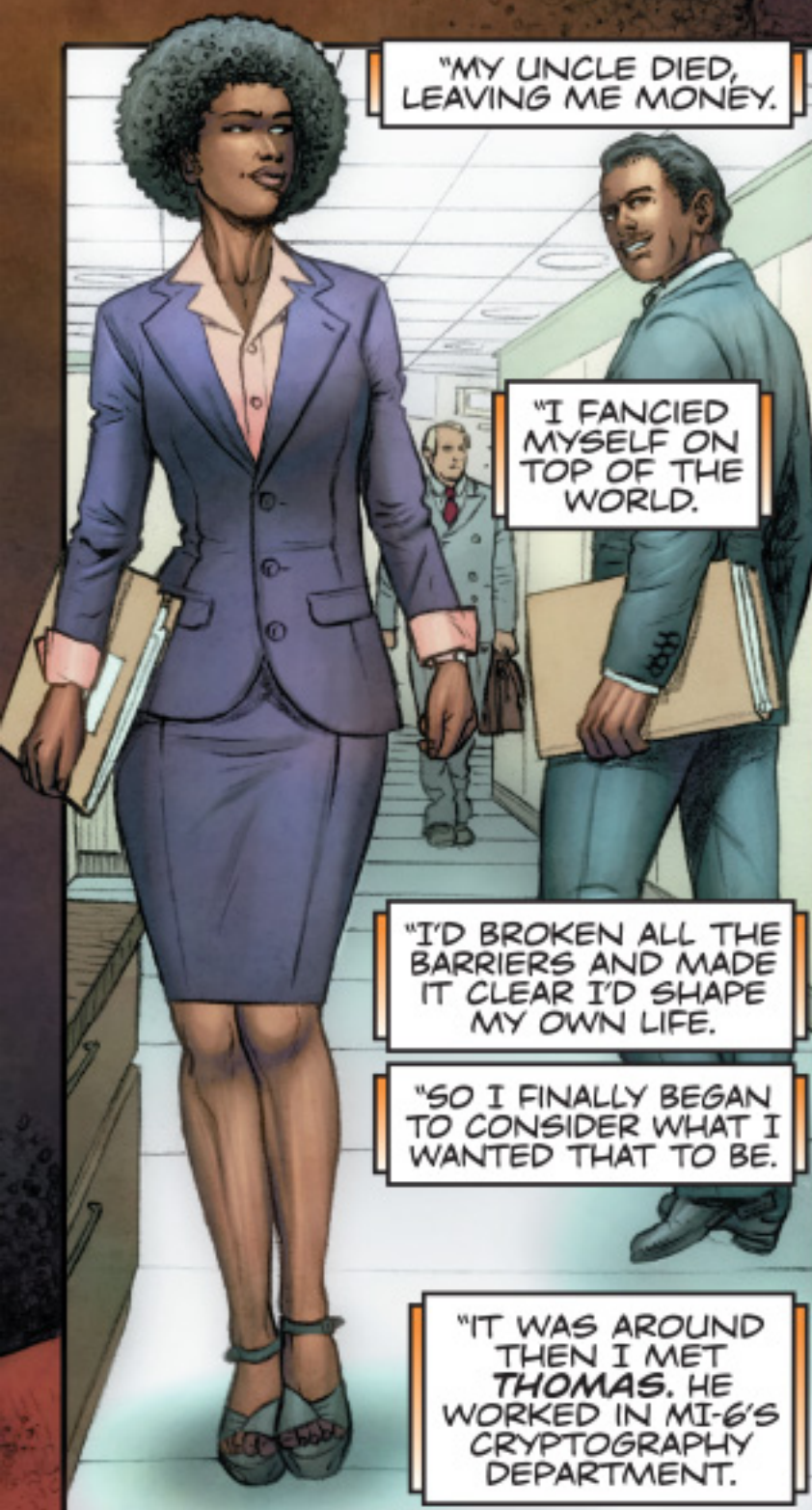
"MUCH TO MI-6'S CONSTERNATION,
I WOULD ONLY TARGET IRA CELLS THAT
WERE A DANGER TO CIVILIANS. ALTHOUGH
THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF THOSE."

"I LET MYSELF THINK I WAS TOO
GOOD FOR THEM TO PUSH
AROUND. THAT I WAS THE ONLY
ONE WHO COULD COUNTER
RUSSIA'S TOP AGENT, DEVOTCHKA."

"THAT'S WHAT THEY
CALLED HER--'THE GIRL.'
I'D THOUGHT A
SOCIALIST NATION,
WHOSE WOMEN HAD
FOUGHT THE NAZIS,
WOULD BE LESS SEXIST."

"OF COURSE, I WAS
WRONG. WE WERE THEIR
BEST AGENTS, AND WE
WERE ODDITIES FOR IT.
LIKE TWO SIDES OF THE
SAME COIN."

"WE NEARLY KILLED
EACH OTHER
COUNTLESS TIMES."



"MY UNCLE DIED, LEAVING ME MONEY."

"I FANCIED MYSELF ON TOP OF THE WORLD."

"I'D BROKEN ALL THE BARRIERS AND MADE IT CLEAR I'D SHAPE MY OWN LIFE."

"SO I FINALLY BEGAN TO CONSIDER WHAT I WANTED THAT TO BE."

"IT WAS AROUND THEN I MET **THOMAS**. HE WORKED IN MI-6'S CRYPTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT."

"HE KNEW I WAS MI-6, THOUGH NOT IN WHAT CAPACITY. HE UNDERSTOOD MY LIFE, AND THAT I COULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT."

"HE WAS KIND. CLEVER. CULTURED. TREATED ME AS AN EQUAL, WHICH WAS RARE FOR THOSE DAYS."

"WE WERE VERY MUCH IN LOVE."



"MY HANDLER, **CHARLOTTE**, DISCOURAGED THE RELATIONSHIP. SAID IT WAS A WEAKNESS OUR ENEMIES COULD EXPLOIT."

"I REACTED AS I DID EVERY OTHER TIME THEY'D TRIED TO CONTROL ME. SAID I HAD IT HANDLED. AND THEY COULD BACK OFF, OR I'D WALK."



"THEY DID. BUT **CHARLOTTE** TURNED OUT TO BE RIGHT."

"I'D BEEN PLANNING TO RETIRE. PERHAPS MARRY **THOMAS**. I HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING THE JOB UNTIL IT BROKE ME, AND **NINJA-H** WAS NEARLY FIELD-READY."

"**THOMAS'S** MURDER ENDED ANY SUCH THOUGHTS. I WANTED **REVENGE**. AND MI-6 GAVE ME A TARGET, THE ONE THEY SAID KILLED HIM: **DEVOTCHKA**."

"I FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HER IN '79, TRYING TO STOW AWAY ON A CONCORDE MEANT TO CARRY SEVERAL SPECIALISTS IN BIO-WEAPONS TO A CONFERENCE.

"SHE WAS TO HIJACK IT, POSING AS A TERRORIST. THE PASSENGERS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SCIENTISTS.

"I COULD HAVE CALLED IT IN. BUT I WANTED HER BLOOD. SO WHEN SHE TRIED TO SNEAK ABOARD, BEFORE THE PASSENGERS OR CREW, I WAS WAITING.

"THE FIGHT WAS BRUTAL. I WANTED HER TO SUFFER. AND I WANTED HER TO KNOW WHY."

THIS IS FOR
THOMAS,
YOU BITCH!

WHO...
THE HELL...

...IS
THOMAS?