



GARTH ENNIS • SIMON COLEBY

#2
of 6

Dreaming Eagles



JOHN KALISZ
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2: SUNWARD I'VE CLIMBED

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*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds--and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of--wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew--
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*



THAT'S
THE REASON
WE WANTED
TO FLY.



I DIDN'T READ
THAT 'TIL AFTER THE
WAR. TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
UNTIL I READ IT I DIDN'T
THINK IT WAS EVEN A
MATTER OF WORDS.

BUT THAT'S
MAN'S INSTINCT FOR
FLIGHT PUT BETTER
THAN ANYONE
EVER HAS.



HIGH FLIGHT,
BY JOHN GILLESPIE
MAGEE. FIGHTER
PILOT.

IS HE
STILL...?

HE DIDN'T
MAKE IT.

"NOW, HOW WE GOT
TO FLY, THAT'S ANOTHER
QUESTION ALTOGETHER."



"BLACKS COULD QUALIFY AS PILOTS, BUT NOT FOR THE ARMY AIR FORCE. EXCUSE WAS THAT EVEN IF THEY FINISHED TRAINING, THERE WERE NO COLORED SQUADRONS TO SEND THEM TO.

"PEOPLE HAD TO PUSH."

"FDR NEEDED BLACK VOTES IN 1940, SO HE APPROVED US SERVING IN COMBAT-- INCLUDING AVIATION. HIS WIFE TOOK A RIDE IN A STEARMAN A YEAR LATER, WITH A BLACK CIVILIAN INSTRUCTOR, AT TUSKEGEE.

"EVEN THEN, ONE STUDENT HAD TO SUE THE ARMY TO BE ALLOWED TO SERVE AS A PILOT..."

"IT WAS THINGS LIKE THAT KICKED DOWN THE DOOR."

OKAY, BOY, LET'S SEE YOU GET OUTTA THIS!

YESSIR!





LET ME
TELL YOU
HOW TO GET
OUT OF A SPIN.
USEFUL THING
FOR A YOUNG
MAN TO
KNOW.

YOU
CENTER THE
STICK...

"THEN SHOVE IT HARD FORWARD.
WEIGHT OF THE ENGINE MEANS
SHE'D RATHER DIVE THAN SPIN.

"THEN ALL YOU DO IS LET THE AIRFLOW
BUILD UP OVER THE WINGS UNTIL YOU
HAVE CONTROL AGAIN--THEN YOU CAN
MAKE THE PULL-OUT.



"JUST MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A FEW
THOUSAND FEET UNDER YOU WHEN IT HAPPENS,
SO YOU HAVE TIME FOR ALL THIS..."



WHAT HAPPENS
IF YOU DON'T HAVE
THE FEW THOUSAND
FEET?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

"OUR FIRST
COMMANDING
OFFICER WAS
TOLD HE HAD
EPILEPSY WHEN
HE TOOK THE
FLIGHT PHYSICAL,
SO HE WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
START TRAINING.



"SECOND PHYSICAL
REVERSED THAT.
AND SO ON.


"THEY SET UP THE HURDLES
AND WE JUMPED 'EM."



SO YOU HAD...
YOU KIND OF HAD
FRIENDS IN HIGH
PLACES...

WE DID. I THINK YOU
COULD SAY THERE WERE
ESTABLISHMENT PEOPLE, WHITE AS
THEY WERE, THAT SAW OPPOSING
US WOULD PUT 'EM ON THE
WRONG SIDE OF HISTORY.

LATER ON,
I OVERHEARD
SOMETHING...WELL,
I'LL GET TO THAT.



BUT WE WERE
GOOD, MAKE NO MISTAKE
ABOUT IT. EITHER QUALIFIED
PILOTS TO BEGIN WITH OR
COLLEGE-EDUCATED--
WE HAD TO BE THE BEST
AND THE BRIGHTEST.

MY
FRIEND FATS,
HE WAS--



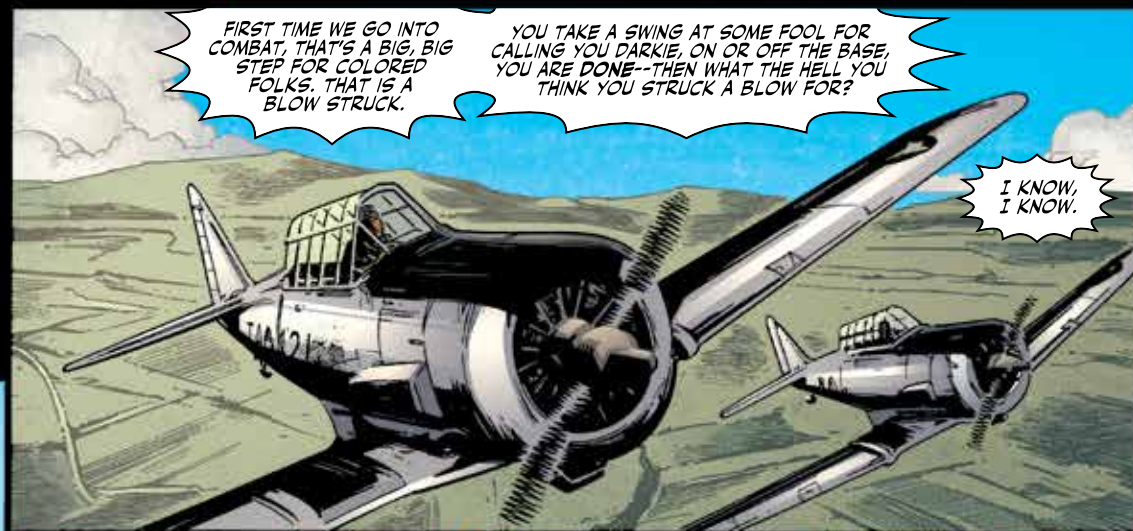
HMM.
FATS.

"HE WAS HALFWAY THROUGH TRAINING
TO BE A DOCTOR, BUT THEN THE WAR
CAME ALONG INSTEAD.

"ONE OF THOSE CHARACTERS SAW
THINGS THAT LITTLE BIT SOONER
THAN EVERYONE ELSE..."



MISSING
THE POINT,
REGGIE.



FIRST TIME WE GO INTO COMBAT, THAT'S A BIG, BIG STEP FOR COLORED FOLKS. THAT IS A BLOW STRUCK.

YOU TAKE A SWING AT SOME FOOL FOR CALLING YOU DARKIE, ON OR OFF THE BASE, YOU ARE DONE--THEN WHAT THE HELL YOU THINK YOU STRUCK A BLOW FOR?

I KNOW, I KNOW.



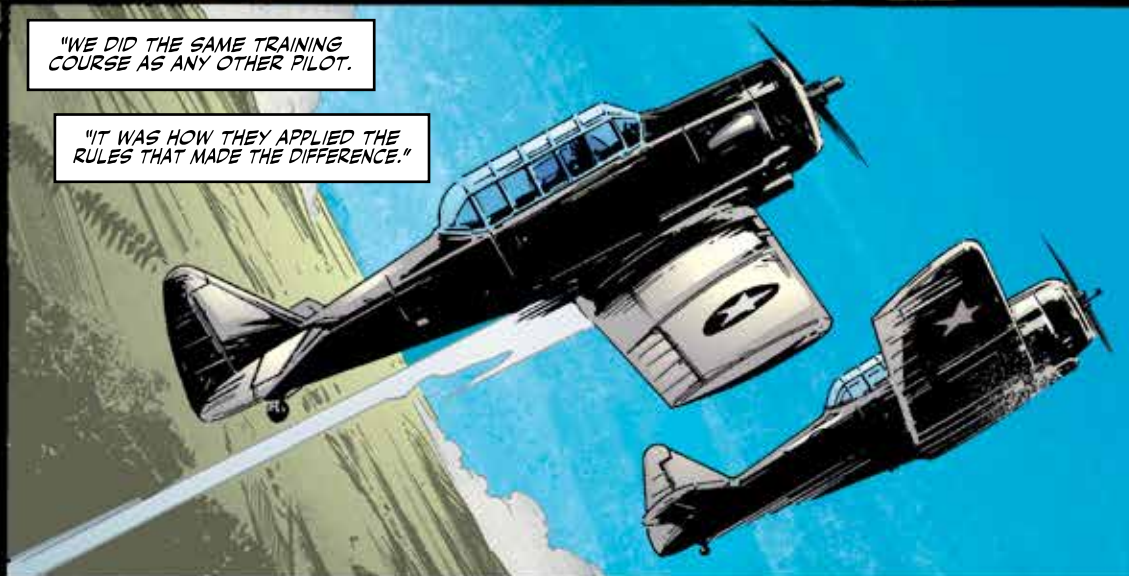
WOULDN'T FELT GOOD, THAT'S ALL.

WOULDN'T BEEN FUN.

OH, YOU WANT FUN?

"WE DID THE SAME TRAINING COURSE AS ANY OTHER PILOT.

"IT WAS HOW THEY APPLIED THE RULES THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE."



"DEMERIT FOR A WHITE CADET
WOULD GET US CONFINED TO BASE.

"ONE SERIOUS MISTAKE IN
THE AIR AND WE'D BE FAILED."

SOMETHING IN
THE SUN.



YOU SURE?

CERTAIN.

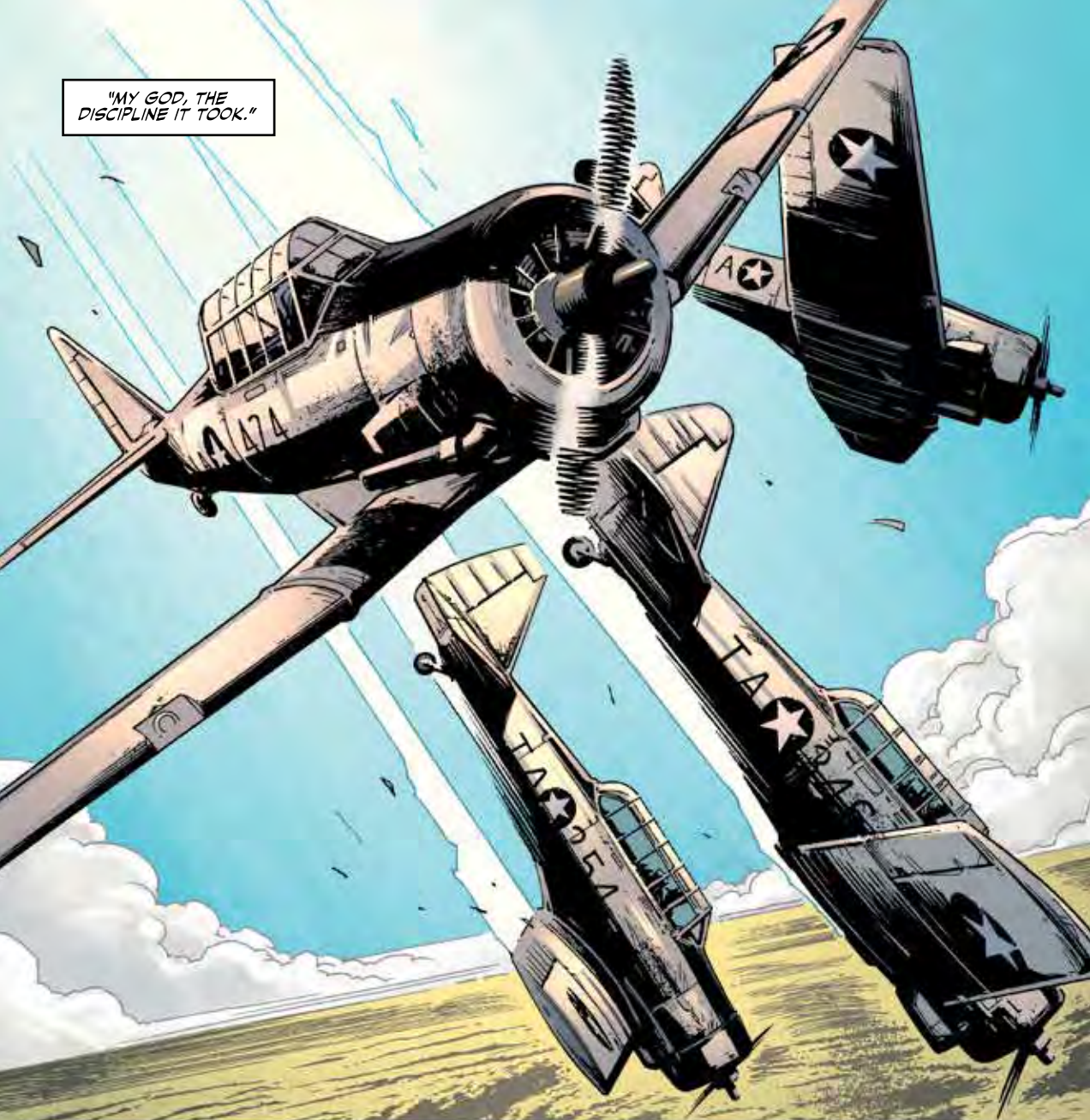
EARL AND
JOHNNY, SETTING UP
TO JUMP US.



DON'T LET
ON, REGGIE.

NOT...YET...

"MY GOD, THE
DISCIPLINE IT TOOK."



NICE TRY,
BOYS.

"TIGHT. EXACT.
NO MARGIN FOR
ERROR."

"AND WE WERE GIVEN
EVERY CHANCE TO FAIL."

