

"THE *AMERICAN STAR* IS THE CULMINATION OF MY CAREER DEVELOPING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE OF MY COUNTRY.

"THIS SHIP - AND THE MANUFACTURED TOWN IT CARRIES ON ITS BACK - WAS INTENDED AS A MEANS OF HELPING FUTURE PLANETARY COLONISTS ADAPT TO LIFE AMONG THE STARS.

"MY PEERS AT *NASA* AND *NORAD* WERE VISIONARY GENIUSES ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL...

"...BUT THEIR SENSE OF *HUMANISM* WAS TOO NARROW. THEY COULDN'T CONCEIVE OF USING THIS VESSEL FOR ANYTHING BEYOND ITS SOLE, STATED PURPOSE."

I WASN'T GOING TO LET THE SHIP'S POTENTIAL GO TO WASTE, SO I SPENT THE LAST TWO YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT MAKING A PLAN TO STEAL IT.

WHEN THE PROJECT WAS MOTHBALLLED SIX MONTHS BEFORE LAUNCH TESTS WERE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN, I KNEW I'D HAVE MY CHANCE. HOW'S THAT FOR IRONY?

I'D BUILT UP A SMALL CADRE OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS IN THE MEANTIME. WITHOUT THE HELP OF TRUE PATRIOTS LIKE *WHITNEY* HERE, I'D STILL BE DRIVING A DESK IN THE HEART OF *CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN*.

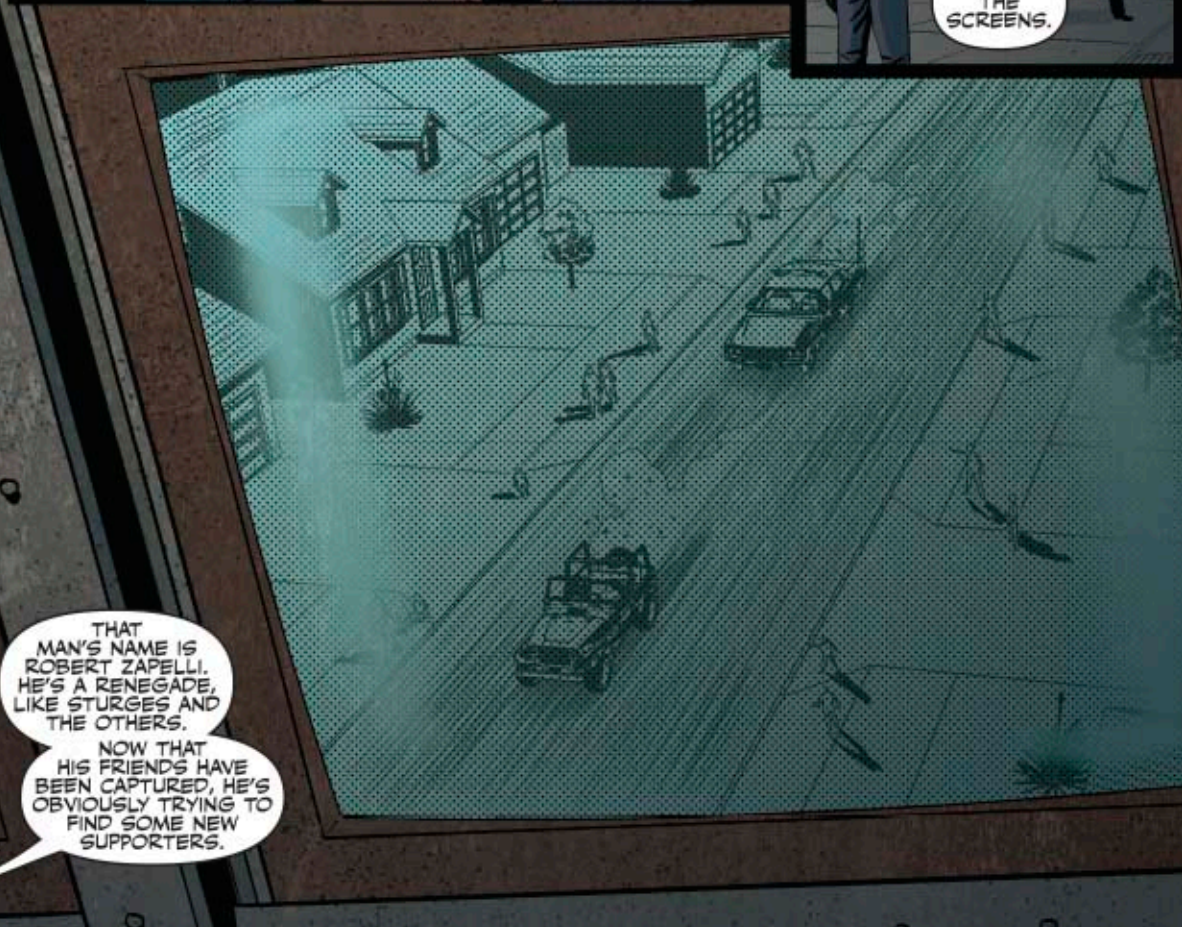
DID YOU KNOW YOUR FRIEND *STEVE AUSTIN* TURNED DOWN MY RECRUITMENT OFFER, *MISS SOMMERS*? I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT YOU'D DO THE SAME.

IT'S A SHAME THAT THE TWO OF YOU CAN'T SEEM TO CUT YOURSELVES LOOSE FROM THE O.S.I. LEASH.















PEOPLE OF  
NORTH EDEN!  
IT'S TIME TO  
STAND UP AND  
TAKE BACK OUR  
FREEDOM!


PATHETIC!  
DESPERATE!



MISTER  
WHITNEY, TAKE HER  
TO DETENTION WITH THE  
OTHERS. WHEN ZAPPELLI  
IS BROUGHT IN, WE'LL  
RID OURSELVES OF THE  
ENTIRE PROBLEM AT  
ONCE.



YOU GO  
FIRST.



WE BOTH  
KNOW THAT  
YOU COULD  
OVERWHELM  
ME WITH  
EASE...

...BUT  
IF I SUSPECT FOR  
A SECOND THAT YOU  
MIGHT BE TRYING  
SOMETHING, I'LL PUT A  
KILL ORDER OUT ON  
YOUR FRIENDS IN  
DETENTION.



I'M NOT  
WILLING TO  
RISK THEIR  
LIVES.

SMART  
GIRL. PICK  
UP THE  
PACE.



