

インピリアム IMPERIUM™

OUR STORY SO FAR...

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First Printing



Toyo Harada is the world's most powerful psiot—humans gifted with mental abilities that unlock tremendous powers. With his top-secret Harbinger Foundation, Harada sought out and trained other psiotics, to bring about world peace, cure disease, and end poverty and hunger...by any means necessary. But because Harada was willing to manipulate and kill anyone who stood in his way, a group of psiot renegades exposed him and brought down his global empire. Now, with nothing to hide and nothing to lose, Harada has waged open war to save the world.

And Project Rising Spirit, a covert military contractor led by C.E.O. Morris Kozol, will

be there to fight him—and make money doing it. P.R.S.'s boots on the ground are the paramilitary super-soldiers of H.A.R.D. Corps—ordinary humans with neural implants that allow them to download psiot super-powers via satellite into their brains.

To fight the battle for Utopia, Harada collected a team of monsters:



GRAVEDOG

A former Chechen terrorist and leader of P.R.S.'s anti-Harada H.A.R.D. Corps unit. He betrayed and slaughtered his team to defect to Harada, but got sent back to P.R.S.'s submarine H.Q. as a spy with his neural implant hacked.



MECH MAJOR, a.k.a. SUNLIGHT ON SNOW

The accidental product of Harada's experimentation with artificial intelligence. Mech Major's burgeoning self-awareness filled him with both compassion and sadness. A pacifist, Mech Major would prefer to be called Sunlight on Snow, but Harada refuses his request.



LORD VINE-99

A plant-like alien of the Vine species, genetically engineered just to assassinate Harada. But Harada captured LV-99 in seed form and cultivated him to kill in his service.



BROKEN ANGEL

Chief science officer aboard the P.R.S. sub. Angela Peace Baingana was exploring higher dimensions when her body was taken over by an extra-dimensional intelligence. Now she's the ruthless and amoral Broken Angel, not quite human but eager to vivisect.

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**LEVIATHAN.
RISING SPIRIT'S
ANTI-HARADA BASE
OF OPERATIONS.**

THIS BUCKET HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR WEEKS NOW. AND LET ME JUST SAY...



...I DIDN'T COMPROMISE EVERY DECENT HUMAN VALUE BECOMING C.E.O. OF RISING SPIRIT JUST TO PLAY THE LEAD IN A SCI-FI VERSION OF DAS BOOT.



I APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO SECURITY, SIR, BUT THIS IS THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE CHECKED TODAY. THERE'S STILL NO CHANGE...

LEVIATHAN COMMAND BAY.



... THIS SHIP IS SECURE.

PSIOT DAMPENER FIELDS ARE STABLE?

WE'RE SATURATED IN THEM. NO ONE CAN USE PSIONIC ABILITIES ON BOARD WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION.

SECURITY ALL HAVE THE NEW SIX-POINT-TWO PSIONIC DEFENSE HELMETS?



ABSOLUTELY, DIRECTOR KOZOL.



I WANT YOU TO FEEL SAFE HERE WITH US, SIR.

THESE ██████████ ALL THINK I'M OVERREACTING.

BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY FUBAR WITH OUR LITTLE HARADA RESPONSE FORCE FOR WEEKS NOW AND I CAN SENSE SOMETHING BIG COMING.

NAVY SUBS HAVE WAY BETTER FOOD... BEST ICE CREAM I EVER HAD IN MY LIFE WAS ON THE U.S.S.--

HEY! YAHOOOS!

THIS IS HATCH SECURITY POST B, AM I RIGHT?

YES, SIR, DIRECTOR KOZOL.

SO WHERE THE HELL ARE YOUR ANTI-PSIOT HELMETS?

THEY'RE RESPONSE GEAR ONLY, SIR.

THEY'RE NOT VERY COMFORTABLE TO WEAR FOR A WHOLE WATCH--

GET THEM! WEAR THEM!

YOU--YOU WANT US TO LEAVE OUR POST, OR...

JUST SHUT UP AND DO IT!

I'M NOT USUALLY THIS ON EDGE. GENERALLY SPEAKING I'M A PRETTY HIP CAT.



BUT ALL THE DOUBT AND INSECURITY ARE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.

KOZOL CALLED FOR THE ANGELA PEACE BAINGANA VESSEL?

NO HELMETS ON YOUR GUARDS EITHER? UNBELIEVABLE.

THIS IS MY CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER. OR WAS. THE WHOLE THING WITH THE EYES AND THE...ATTITUDE. THAT'S NEW.



I'M BUSY WITH MY EXPERIMENTS. AND FOR OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY, THIS HUMAN BODY NEEDS MORE SLEEP THAN I'M ACCUSTOMED TO. LET'S KEEP THIS BRIEF, YES.



OKAY, ANGELA. I'VE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANTED, RIGHT? AS A SCIENTIST OR WHATEVER?

YOU HAVE GIVEN ALL THAT YOU CAN.



SO I SHOULD ASSUME I CAN TRUST YOU WHEN YOU CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN GRAVEDOG'S INNOCENCE?

GRAVEDOG... NOW SEE, THAT'S MY REAL PROBLEM.

SUPER FREAK HERE, SHE'S ACTUALLY AN ASSET.



A large panel showing Gravedog, a muscular man with a beard in a red and black tactical suit, holding a large, futuristic handgun. He stands amidst a city of rubble and fire. In the foreground, another man in a similar suit is lying on the ground, and a woman is also on the ground. The background shows destroyed buildings and a bright sun.

GRAVEDOG WAS TEAM LEADER OF OUR FIRST H.A.R.D. CORPS UNIT.

THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED A MASSACRE OF HIS OWN TEAM DURING AN ATTEMPTED AMBUSH ON TOYO HARADA.

AN AMBUSH GRAVEDOG SET UP.

HE WAS CAPTURED BY HARADA'S PSIOTS, YET MANAGED, SOMEHOW, TO ESCAPE, DESPITE HAVING NO POWERS ACTIVATED AT THE TIME.

A panel showing Gravedog training a team of four people in a bay. One woman is kneeling and aiming a large, glowing orange energy shield. Gravedog stands behind her, and another team member is firing a weapon. The scene is filled with energy and action.

NOW HE'S BACK WITH US AND TRAINING A NEW H.A.R.D. CORPS STRIKE TEAM.

LIFELINE! GIVE ME FIRE!

GOOD SHIELD IMPLEMENTATION, SANTO! VERY NICE.

WE'RE ALSO TRAINING NEW OPERATIONS PERSONNEL IN A FRESHLY BUILT LIFELINE BAY.

A panel with a blue color scheme. It features a close-up of Lifeline, a woman with long dark hair, and a portrait of Gravedog. Other team members are visible in the background.

BECAUSE LIFELINE CAN ONLY DOWNLOAD ONE POWER INTO YOUR NEURAL IMPLANT AT A TIME, WE'VE CREATED POWER JUGGLING...

THE ORIGINAL LIFELINE WAS A CASUALTY IN THE MASSACRE OF HIS TEAM, TOO.

SOUND FISHY TO YOU AT ALL?

YEAH, ME TOO.

SO JUST REASON IT OUT WITH ME, ANGELA. COULD HARADA HAVE PLANTED SOME KIND OF PSYCHIC CODE IN GRAVEDOG? SO HE ACTS AGAINST HIS WILL?

REGRETTABLY, I CANNOT READ HUMAN MINDS, KOZOL.

HOW ABOUT THIS—DO YOU BELIEVE FOR A SECOND THAT HARADA DIDN'T SCREW AROUND WITH GRAVEDOG'S BRAIN IMPLANTS?

DOES THAT MAKE EVEN A LITTLE SENSE TO YOU?

I CAN ONLY SAY AGAIN THAT I FOUND NO COMPROMISES IN HIS BIOTECH INTERFACE.

GUESS IT'S ALL HUNKY DORY, THEN. PROBABLY JUST BEING OVERLY CAUTIOUS.

YOU KNOW, I'LL GLADLY LET YOU OUT OF THIS CELL. IF YOU JUST CHANGE YOUR CURRENT PERSONAL RESEARCH AND GO BACK TO THE REACTOR. YOU'RE MAKING MY CREW NERVOUS.

I PREFER MY CELL, HUMAN CALLED KOZOL.

PERHAPS THE DANGER OF TRIGGERING YOUR MICRO-EXPLOSIVE IN GRAVEDOG'S BRAIN STAYED HARADA'S HAND.

WHY THE HELL WOULD HARADA CARE IF HE TRIPPED GRAVEDOG'S BRAIN BOMB? THAT DOESN'T JIVE.

OF COURSE SHE DOES.

THIS IS WHY ANGELA PEACE BAINGANA IS SO VALUABLE TO ME. THIS IS HUMANITY'S FIRST COLD FUSION REACTOR.

ENDLESS ENERGY. NO NUCLEAR BYPRODUCT. POWERED IN PART BY THE SEVERED, LIVING BRAIN OF A PSIOT CALLED CENTER POINT. SHE BUILT IT IN TWO WEEKS.

EVENTUALLY IT'S GOING TO MAKE RISING SPIRIT THE WEALTHIEST COMPANY IN HUMAN HISTORY.

AND IF HARADA KNOWS ABOUT IT, HE'LL COME AFTER IT. DON'T DOUBT THAT FOR A SECOND.