



VALIANT

インピリアム IMPERIUM™

Peter Cuneo
Chairman

Dinesh Shamdasani
CEO & Chief Creative Officer

Gavin Cuneo
Chief Operating Officer and CFO

Fred Pierce
Publisher

Warren Simons
Editor-in-Chief

Walter Black
VP Operations

Hunter Gorinson
Director of Marketing,
Communications & Digital Media

Atom! Freeman
Matthew Klein
Andy Liegl
Sales Managers

Josh Johns
Digital Sales &
Special Projects Manager

Travis Escarfullery
Jeff Walker
Production & Design Managers

Alejandro Arbona
Editor

Tom Brennan
Kyle Andrukiewicz
Associate Editors

Peter Stern
Publishing and Operations Manager

Chris Daniels
Marketing Coordinator

Russ Brown
President, Consumer Products,
Promotions & Ad Sales

Jason Kothari
Vice Chairman

IMPERIUM™ #3

APRIL 2015

VALIANT ENTERTAINMENT LLC.

Office of publication:

424 West 33rd Street,

New York, NY 10001

Copyright © 2015

Valiant Entertainment LLC.

All rights reserved.

All characters, their distinctive likenesses and related indicia featured in this publication are trademarks of Valiant Entertainment LLC.

The stories, characters, and incidents featured in this publication are entirely fictional.

Printed in the USA.

For more information, please visit
ValiantUniverse.com.

First Printing.

Writer: JOSHUA DYSART
Artist: DOUG BRAITHWAITE
Colorists: BRIAN REBER with
ULISES ARREOLA
Letterer: DAVE SHARPE

Cover Artists: DOUG BRAITHWAITE with
ULISES ARREOLA; RAUL ALLEN; and CARY NORD
Editor: ALEJANDRO ARBONA
Editor-in-Chief: WARREN SIMONS

■ The story so far..



Toyo Harada is the world's most powerful psiot—humans gifted at birth with mental abilities that unlock tremendous powers. Behind the façade of a global industrial conglomerate, Harada ran his top-secret Harbinger Foundation to seek out and train other psiotics. His goal—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.

Harada and what remains of his loyal Foundation—a small army of super-powered devotees and the oddly compassionate robot, Mech Major (who wishes to be called Sunlight on Snow)—hijacked the supercarrier USS George H.W. Bush and conquered a small territory in Somalia, proclaiming it the Foundation Zone.

Project Rising Spirit, a covert military contractor led by Morris Kozol, CEO, has become the front line of the world's anti-Harada initiative, funded by eleven separate nations. Their boots on the ground are H.A.R.D. Corps—ordinary humans with neural implants that allow them to download psiot powers via satellite into their brains. But the leader of Rising Spirit's anti-Harada H.A.R.D. Corps unit, a former Chechen terrorist code-named Gravedog, has just slaughtered his own team, sabotaged Rising Spirit, cut his mental link to their satellites, and surrendered to Harada's forces!



EVERYTHING
IS VOID.

ALL IS
NOTHING.



SUNLIGHT ON SNOW

JOSHUA DYSART WRITER DOUG BRAITHWAITE ART

BRIAN REBER with ULISES ARREOLA COLORS

DAVE SHARPE LETTERS ALEJANDRO ARBONA EDITOR WARREN SIMONS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



THIS IS AIR CARRIER PRIME, APPROACHING FOUNDATION ZONE. REQUESTING CLEARANCE TO LAND.

ROGER, PRIME. ENCRYPTED SIGNATURE RECEIVED. CLEARANCE GRANTED.



KEEP THE DECK READY, OPERATIONS. WE'RE COMING IN WITH A PRISONER.

THAT'S IT, HUH? I'VE ONLY SEEN SAT IMAGES.

THAT'S IT...

OCCUPIED SOMALI COAST. 1.1133° N, 44.0303° E.



...THE FOUNDATION ZONE.

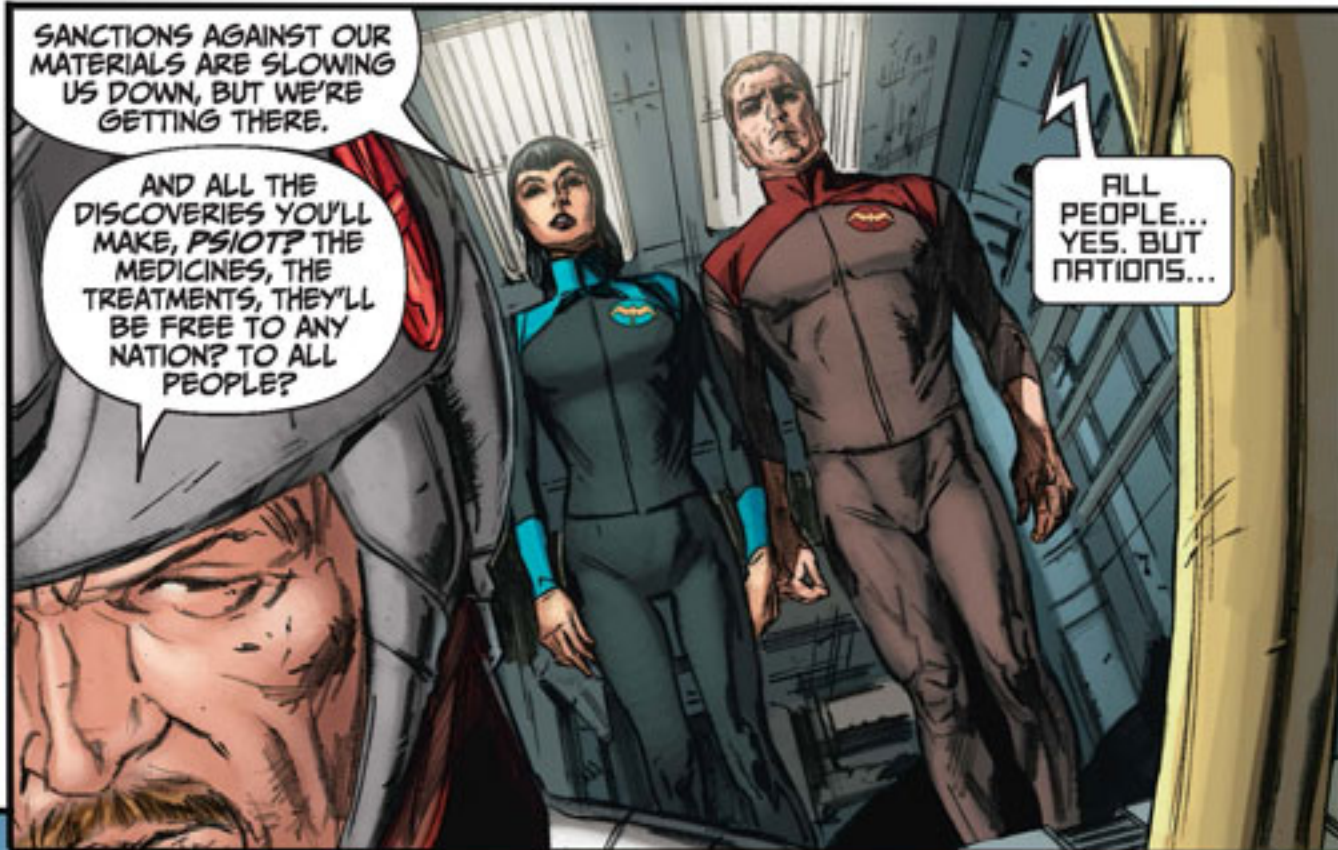
THE ONLY POST-SCARCITY SOCIETY ON THE PLANET.



AND THAT'S THE WORLD HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH CENTER HARADA IS BUILDING?

WE'RE ALL BUILDING IT TOGETHER.

HOW FAR FROM OPERATIONAL IS IT?



SANCTIONS AGAINST OUR MATERIALS ARE SLOWING US DOWN, BUT WE'RE GETTING THERE.

AND ALL THE DISCOVERIES YOU'LL MAKE, PSIOT? THE MEDICINES, THE TREATMENTS, THEY'LL BE FREE TO ANY NATION? TO ALL PEOPLE?

ALL PEOPLE... YES. BUT NATIONS...



...NATIONS ARE AN ANACHRONISM.

HIJACKED SUPERCARRIER U.S.S. BUSH. HARADA'S CURRENT BASE OF OPERATIONS.



TELL INNER SEA NOT TO CLOAK THE BUSH RIGHT WHEN THEY LAND...

I WANT RISING SPIRIT'S STRAT-DRONES TO SEE THAT WE HAVE A H.A.R.D. CORPS SOLDIER ALIVE AND ONBOARD. WE'LL CLOAK WHEN HE'S BELOW DECK.

UNDERSTOOD, HARADA-SAMA.

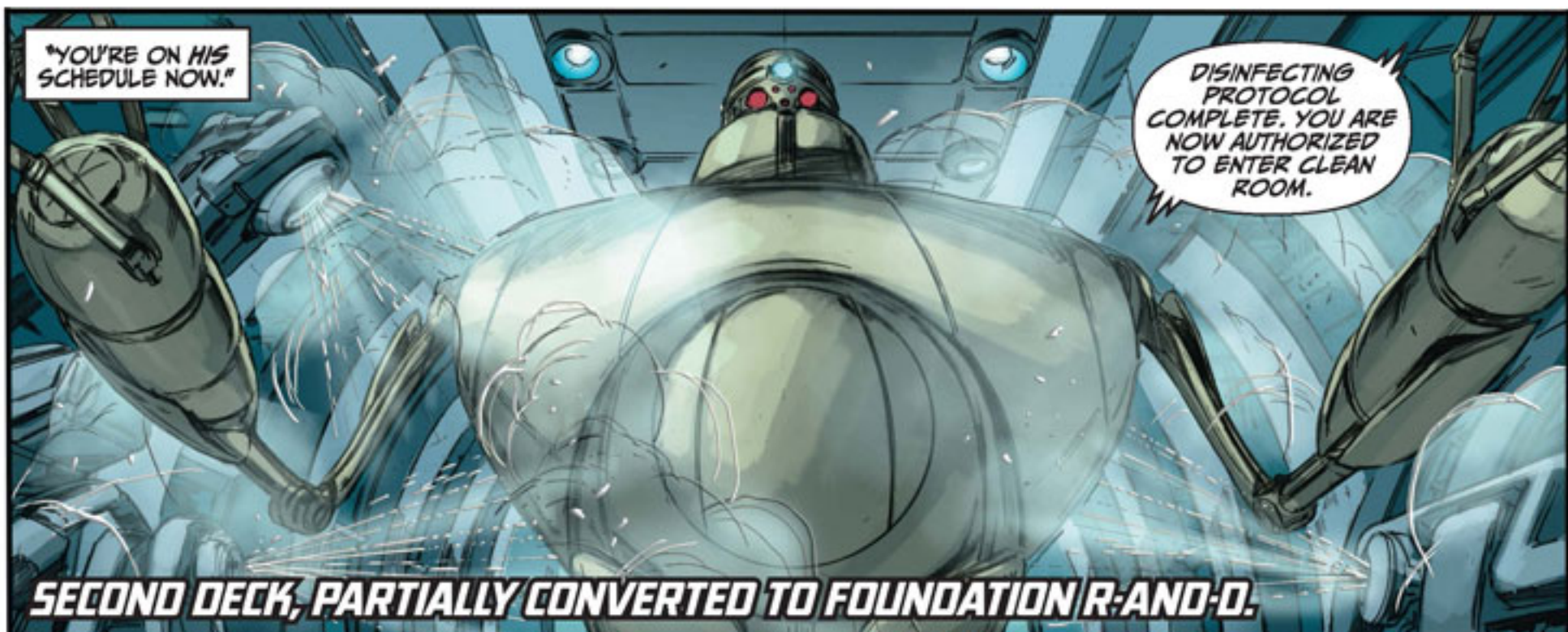


PRISONER. COME WITH US.

WHAT IS THIS? CHILDREN?! DOES HARADA NOT RESPECT THE SACRIFICES I'VE MADE IN ARRANGING MY OWN SURRENDER?!



HARADA IS A BUSY MAN, PSIOT KILLER...



"YOU'RE ON HIS SCHEDULE NOW."

DISINFECTING PROTOCOL COMPLETE. YOU ARE NOW AUTHORIZED TO ENTER CLEAN ROOM.

SECOND DECK, PARTIALLY CONVERTED TO FOUNDATION R-AND-D.



AH, MECH MAJOR.

HARADA. MY NAME IS SUNLIGHT ON SNOW.

SO I'VE HEARD. I'M BEGINNING AN EXPERIMENT. I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.

GOOD. SCIENCE IS MORE FUN THAN KILLING.



WHAT'S THIS? SOME KIND OF SMALL SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK?

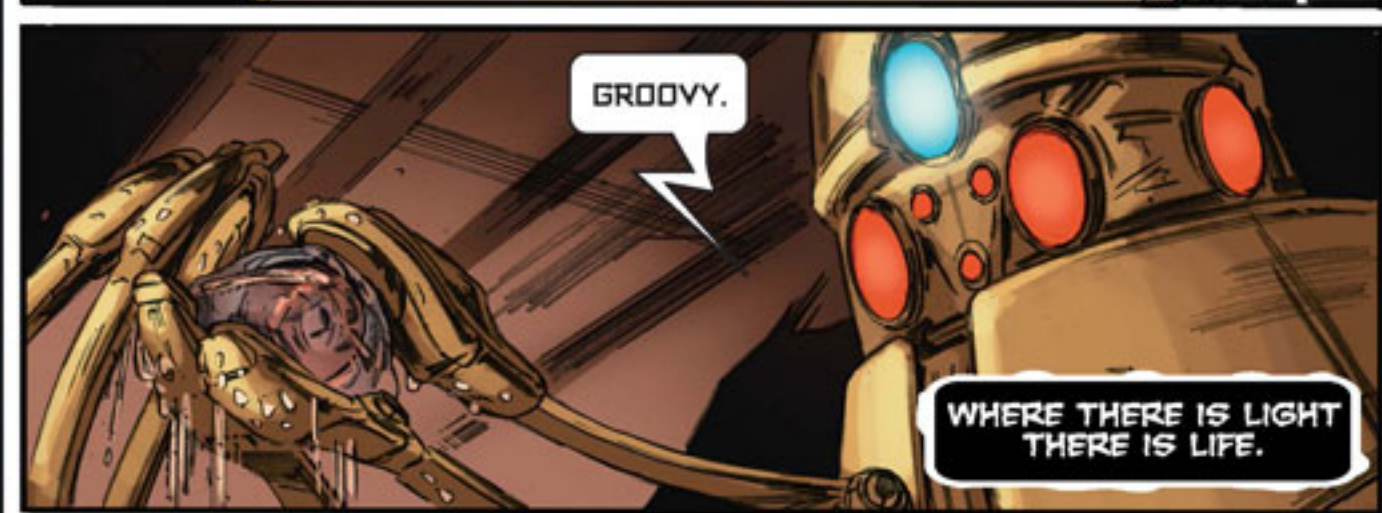
I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FIND WHAT'S INSIDE FASCINATING.

VOID. ALL IS NOTHING.



THEN. SUDDENLY. LIGHT. HEAT.

IT'S A UNIQUELY SIGNED ALIEN SEED. ORGANIC TECHNOLOGY FROM THE VINE SPECIES, TO BE EXACT.



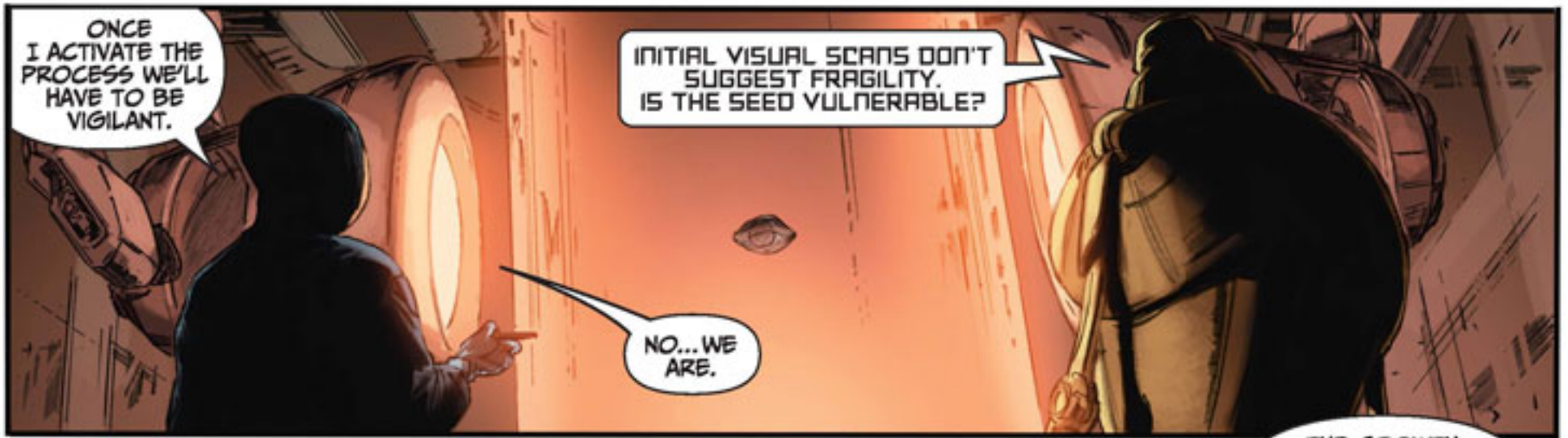
GROOVY.

WHERE THERE IS LIGHT THERE IS LIFE.



I WANT YOU TO SCAN THE SEED WITH YOUR NANITES THROUGHOUT ITS MATURATION. DOCUMENT ITS GROWTH.

WITH PLEASURE.



ONCE I ACTIVATE THE PROCESS WE'LL HAVE TO BE VIGILANT.

INITIAL VISUAL SCANS DON'T SUGGEST FRAGILITY. IS THE SEED VULNERABLE?

NO... WE ARE.



THE GROWTH CHAMBER REGULATES A CYCLE OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC RADIATION, OXYGEN, HYDROGEN, CARBON DIOXIDE, AND NUTRIENTS.

THE SEED CAN GROW IN ALMOST ANY ENVIRONMENT, BUT WE WANT TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESS AND TRY TO DEACTIVATE CERTAIN GENES.



NOW WE NEED ONLY WATCH AND WAIT.

I BEGIN AGAIN.



BRIG OF THE U.S.S. BUSH.

GHA!

NAAAGHHH!