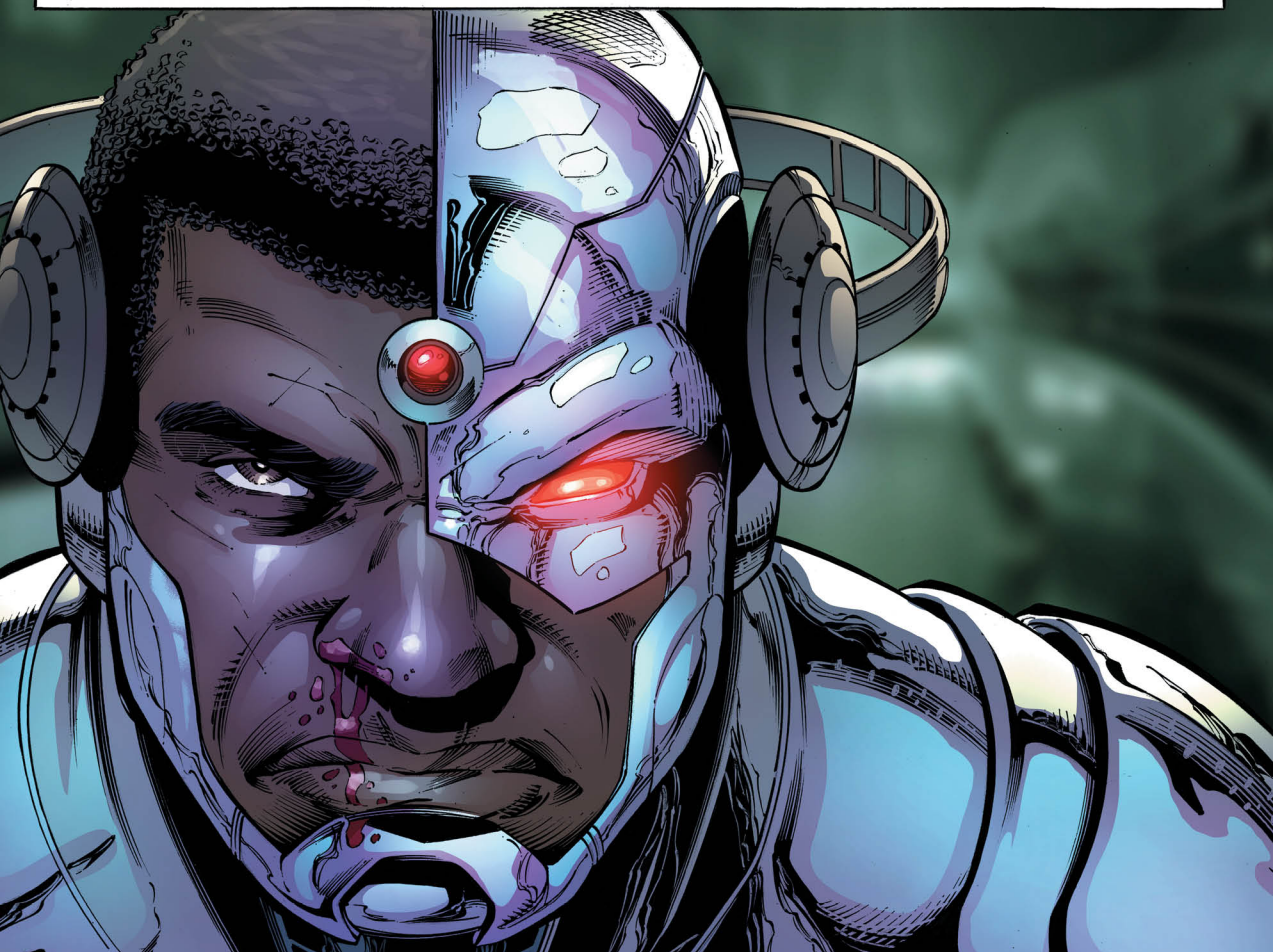




SCARLETT, HOW
COULD YOU BETRAY
ME LIKE THIS?

BECAUSE I'M NO LONGER
A HUMAN NAMED SCARLETT TAYLOR.
I'M A CYBERNETIC SPY, CODE-NAMED
"VARIANT." AND THE FIRST RULE OF THE
SPY BUSINESS IS THAT YOU **CAN'T TRUST**
ANYBODY. SORRY, VICTOR.

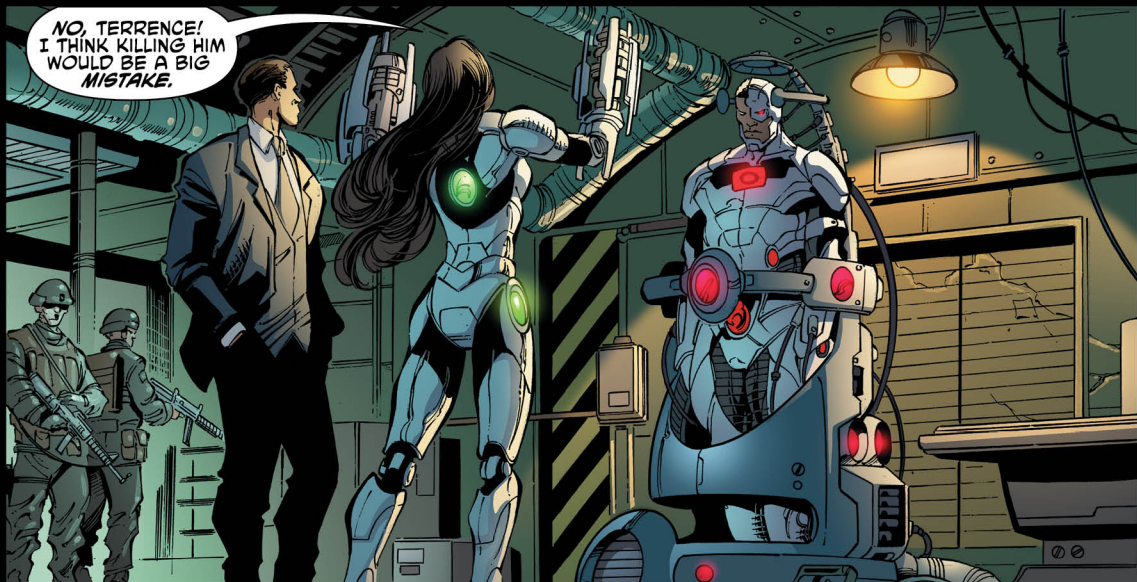
WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR, SCARLETT?
WHILE WE'VE GOT HIM COMPLETELY
IMMOBILIZED AND HELPLESS,
I WANT YOU TO **KILL CYBORG!**



The IMITATION of **LIFE**

PART SEVEN: **BIONIC BETRAYAL**

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CYBORG *created by* Marv Wolfman & George Pérez.



NO, TERRENCE!
I THINK KILLING HIM
WOULD BE A BIG
MISTAKE.

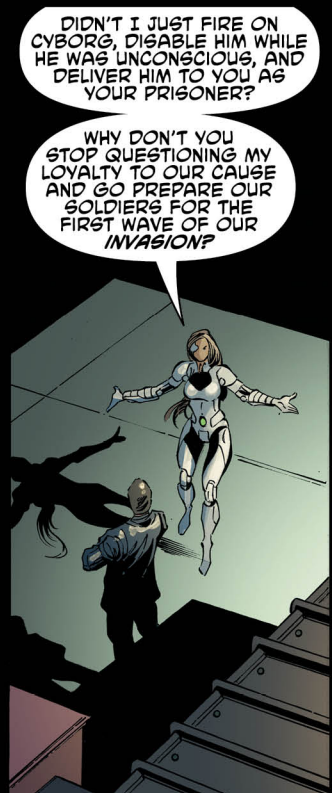


THINK ABOUT IT.
IF I CAN SOMEHOW
SIPHON HIS TECHNOLOGY
AND CHANNEL IT THROUGH
MY OWN BODY, IT WILL GIVE
US EVEN *GREATER*
CAPABILITY.



ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE
NOT LETTING YOUR
FEELINGS CLOUD YOUR
JUDGMENT?

IS THERE
MORE BETWEEN
YOU AND CYBORG
THAN I WAS
AWARE OF?



DIDN'T I JUST FIRE ON
CYBORG, DISABLE HIM WHILE
HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS, AND
DELIVER HIM TO YOU AS
YOUR PRISONER?

WHY DON'T YOU
STOP QUESTIONING MY
LOYALTY TO OUR CAUSE
AND GO PREPARE OUR
SOLDIERS FOR THE
FIRST WAVE OF OUR
INVASION?



FORGIVE ME, MY DEAR.
I SHALL DO AS YOU
SUGGEST, BUT AS YOU
SAID, THE FIRST RULE OF
THE SPY BUSINESS IS TO
TRUST NO ONE.

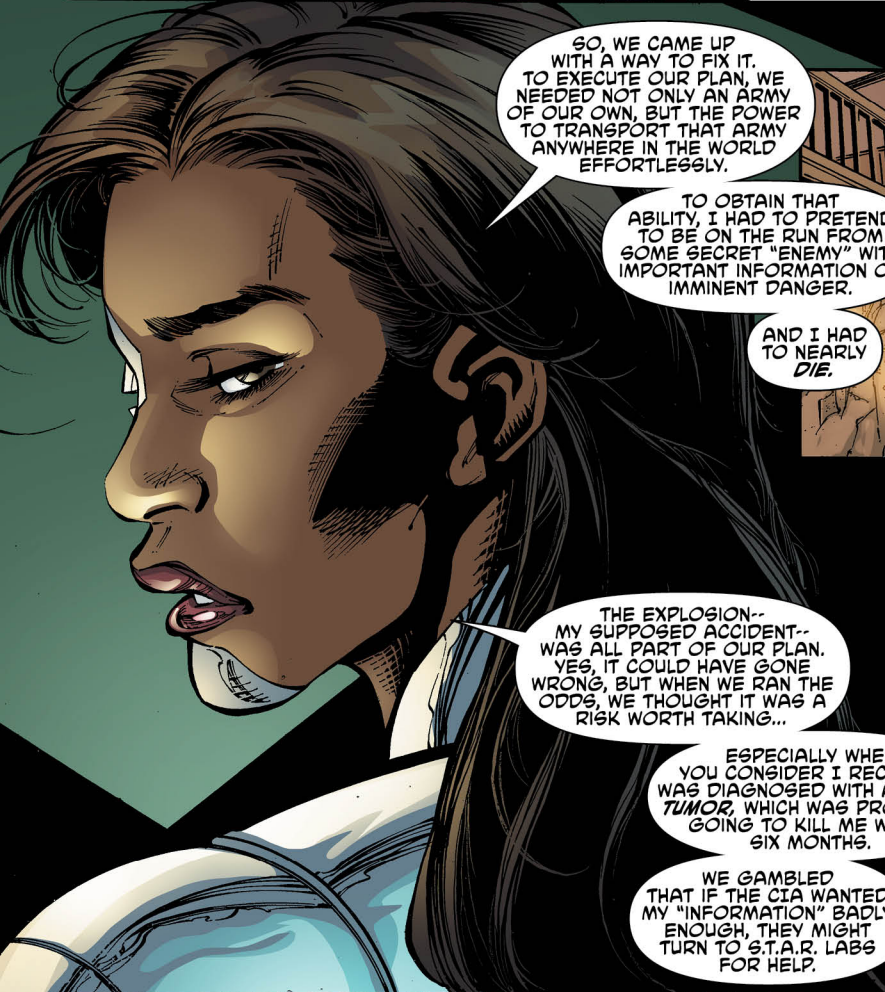
WHAT DID YOU
MEAN BY YOUR
"INVASION"?



IN THIS COMPLEX, HIDDEN UNDER SADR CITY, FISHER AND I HAVE CREATED OUR OWN SECRET ARMY BASE.

WHO EXACTLY IS HE?

TERRENCE FISHER IS EX-CIA. WE WERE FIELD AGENTS TOGETHER, STATIONED HERE IN THIS HELLHOLE. ONE DAY WE GOT TIRED OF THE CHAOTIC MESS THE WORLD HAS BECOME.



SO, WE CAME UP WITH A WAY TO FIX IT. TO EXECUTE OUR PLAN, WE NEEDED NOT ONLY AN ARMY OF OUR OWN, BUT THE POWER TO TRANSPORT THAT ARMY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD EFFORTLESSLY.

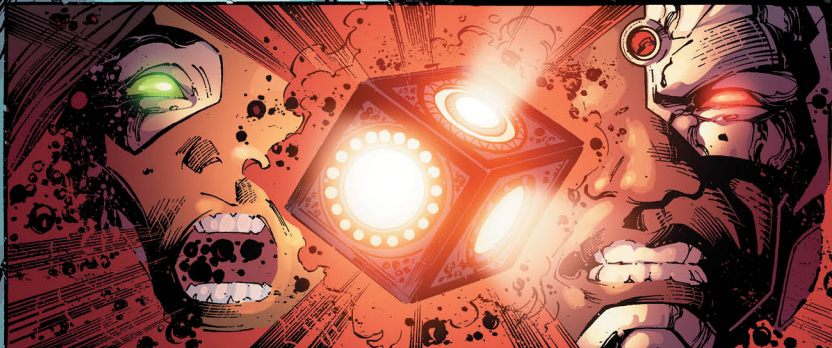
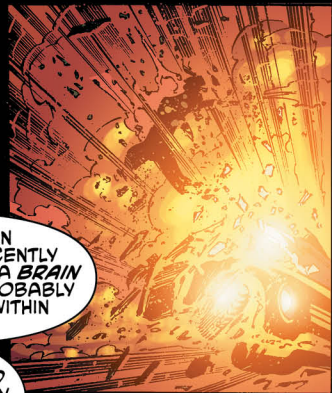
TO OBTAIN THAT ABILITY, I HAD TO PRETEND TO BE ON THE RUN FROM SOME SECRET "ENEMY" WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION OF IMMINENT DANGER.

AND I HAD TO NEARLY DIE.

THE EXPLOSION-- MY SUPPOSED ACCIDENT-- WAS ALL PART OF OUR PLAN. YES, IT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG, BUT WHEN WE RAN THE ODDS, WE THOUGHT IT WAS A RISK WORTH TAKING...

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER I RECENTLY WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A **BRAIN TUMOR**, WHICH WAS PROBABLY GOING TO KILL ME WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

WE GAMBLERD THAT IF THE CIA WANTED MY "INFORMATION" BADLY ENOUGH, THEY MIGHT TURN TO S.T.A.R. LABS FOR HELP.



"I KNEW THE CIA SECRETLY HAD A MOTHER BOX AND THAT THEY MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO USE IT. AND, OF COURSE, YOU ALL PLAYED RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS."

"YOU TRANSFORMED ME INTO A FEMALE CYBORG, EVERY BIT AS POWERFUL AS YOU ARE!"

"EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT I NOW HAVE THE ABILITY TO OPEN **BOOM TUBES!**"



"**THAT IS THE MAIN THING WE WERE AFTER—THE ABILITY TO TRANSPORT OUR INVADING ARMY IN THE WINK OF AN EYE TO ANY LOCATION WE CHOOSE.**"

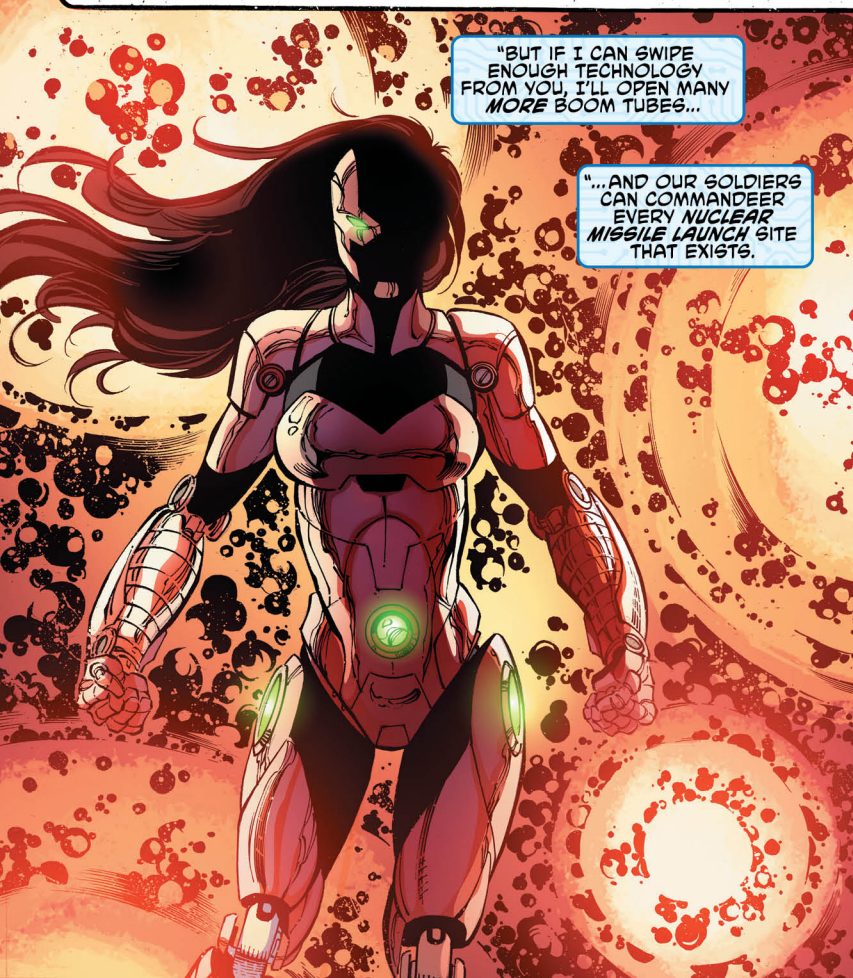


"OUR ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO KIDNAP THE HEADS OF ALL THE MAJOR POWERS AND HOLD THEM HOSTAGE UNTIL OUR DEMANDS WERE MET."

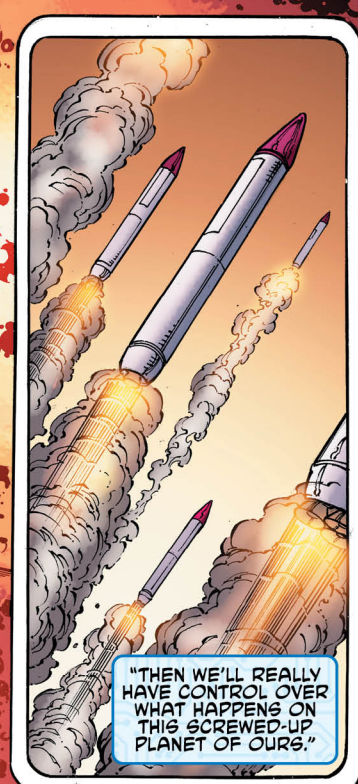


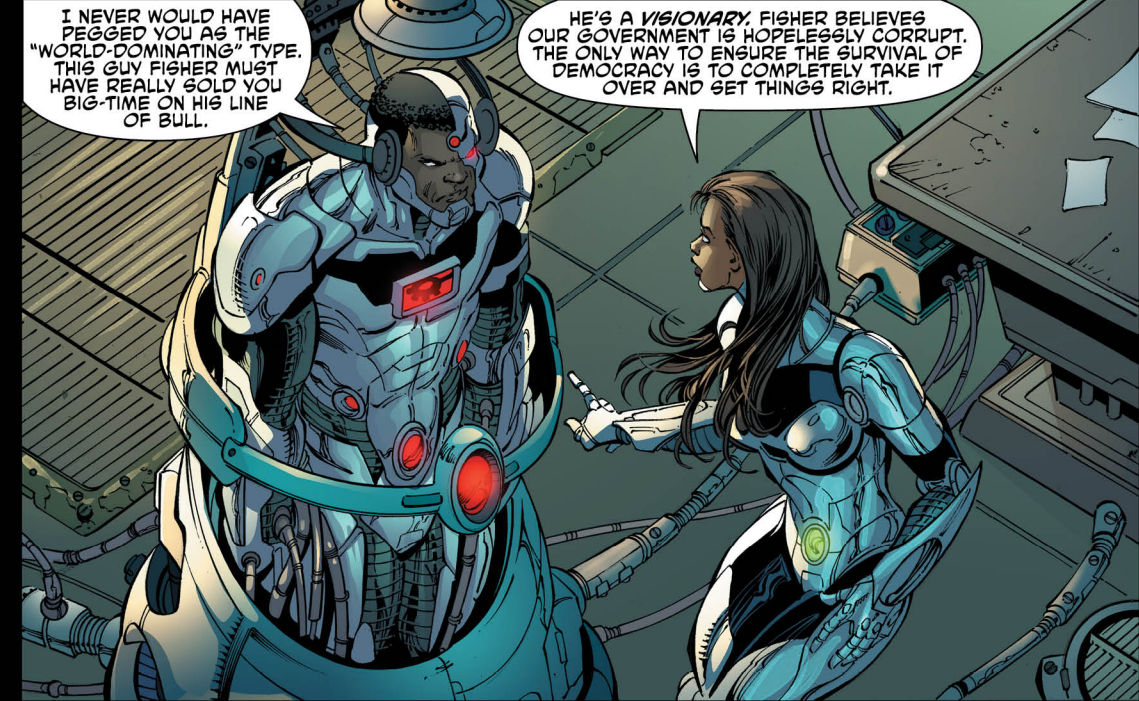
"BUT IF I CAN SWIPE ENOUGH TECHNOLOGY FROM YOU, I'LL OPEN MANY **MORE BOOM TUBES...**"

"...AND OUR SOLDIERS CAN COMMANDEER EVERY **NUCLEAR MISSILE LAUNCH SITE** THAT EXISTS."



"THEN WE'LL REALLY HAVE CONTROL OVER WHAT HAPPENS ON THIS SCREWED-UP PLANET OF OURS."






I NEVER WOULD HAVE PEGGED YOU AS THE "WORLD-DOMINATING" TYPE. THIS GUY FISHER MUST HAVE REALLY SOLD YOU BIG-TIME ON HIS LINE OF BULL.

HE'S A *VISIONARY*. FISHER BELIEVES OUR GOVERNMENT IS HOPELESSLY CORRUPT. THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY IS TO COMPLETELY TAKE IT OVER AND SET THINGS RIGHT.



ONCE FISHER IS IN CONTROL, HE'LL FIX WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS WORLD AND RESTORE AMERICA'S GREATNESS.

ONLY PROBLEM IS, WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING ISN'T A DEMOCRACY.



IT'S CALLED "*FASCISM*." IT ISN'T FREEDOM OR EVEN REMOTELY CONNECTED TO "GREATNESS." FASCISM'S BEEN TRIED BEFORE, AND IT USUALLY ENDS IN *DISASTER* FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.



THEN I GUESS ASKING YOU TO JOIN ME WOULD BE A--

WASTE OF TIME.