

★ **ROBERTO DA COSTA.**
THE LEADER.

I REMEMBER
THE EXACT MOMENT
I WANTED TO BE
AN AMERICAN.

DID YOU
SEE THE SUN
RISE THIS
MORNING?

IT WASN'T
THE TV SHOW.
IT WAS...

SOMEONE I LOVED
VERY MUCH HAD DIED
IN MY ARMS. **MURDERED.**
AND I WAS COMING TO
TERMS WITH BEING A
MUTANT--HATED AND
FEARED.

I WAS
TERRIFIED OF
AN UNCERTAIN
FUTURE.

"BUT THERE WAS
SO MUCH LOVE
IN THAT ROOM.

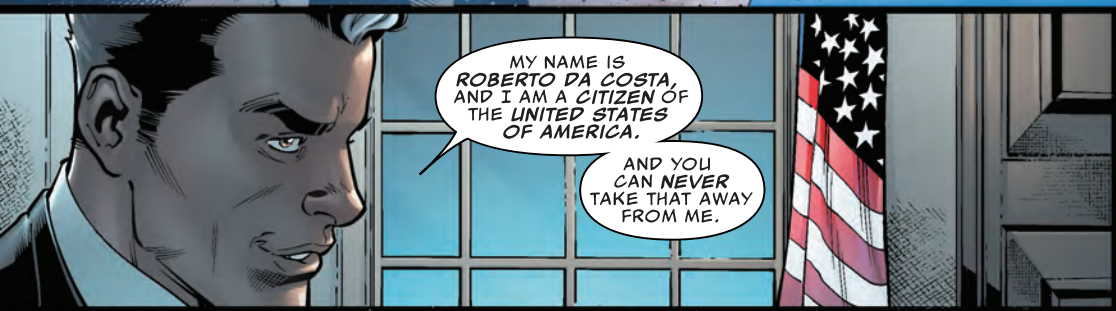
"SAM, OF COURSE,
AND DANI, AND XI'AN,
AND RAHNE. ALL OF US
NEW MUTANTS FROM SUCH
DIFFERENT PLACES,
SUCH DIFFERENT
WORLDS.

"AND IN THAT
MOMENT...I
REALIZED THAT
THESE WERE MY
FRIENDS..."

NO MATTER WHERE WE WERE
ALL FROM--NO MATTER OUR RACE
OR RELIGION OR LANGUAGE OR
ANY OTHER THING--WE WERE
FRIENDS.

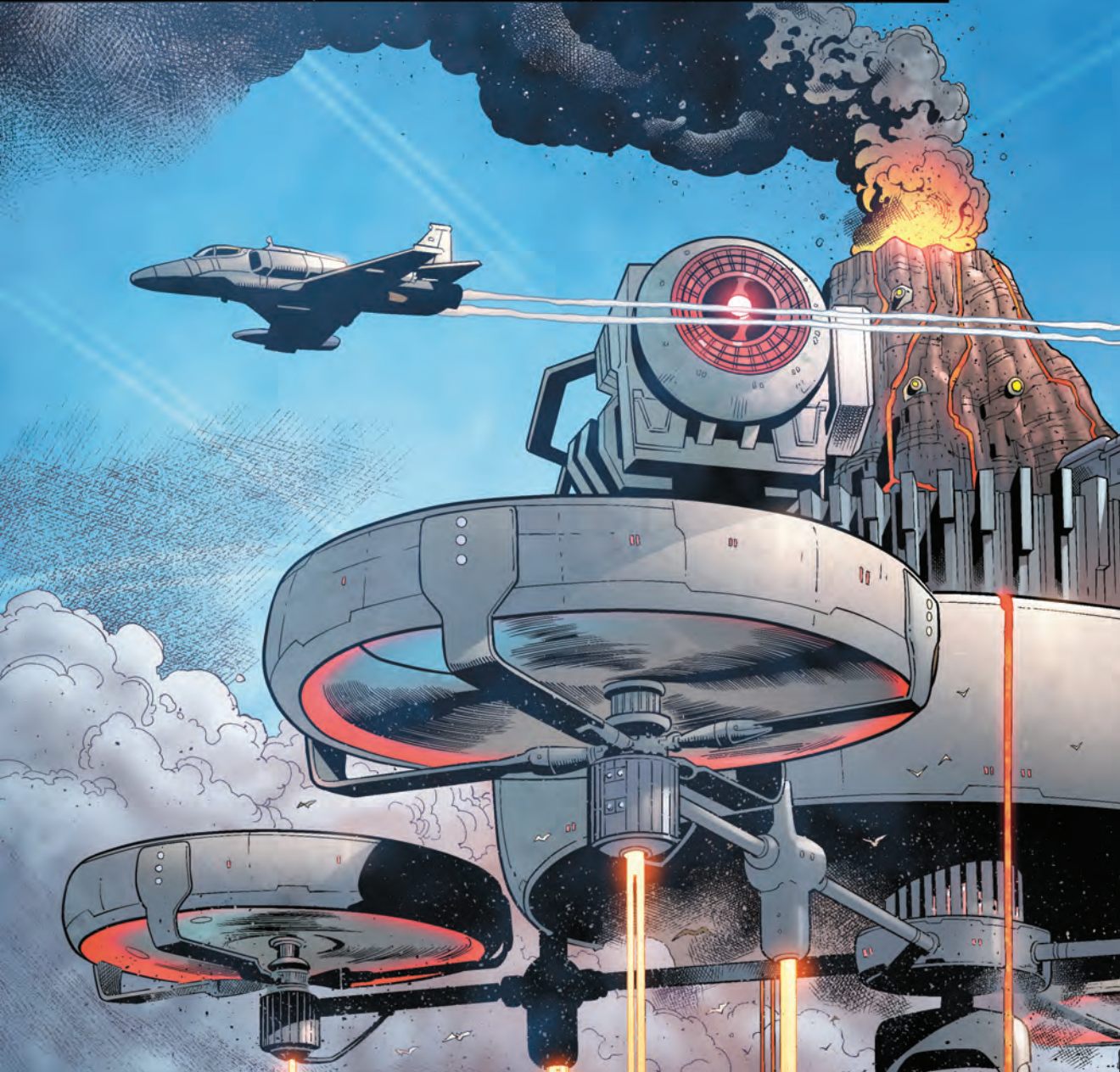
WE ACCEPTED
EACH OTHER. WE WERE
ACCEPTED BY EACH OTHER,
NOT ONLY AS WHAT WE
WERE, BUT AS WHO
WE WERE.

WE BELONGED
THERE. WE COULD
BELONG THERE.



MY NAME IS
ROBERTO DA COSTA,
AND I AM A CITIZEN OF
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA.

AND YOU
CAN NEVER
TAKE THAT AWAY
FROM ME.



\$KULLOCRACY

AL
EWING
WRITER

PACO
MEDINA
PENCILER

JUAN
VLASCO
INKER

JESUS
ABURTOV
COLORIST

VC'S CHRIS
ELIPOULOS
LETTERER

PART ONE



★ **ELSEWHERE.**

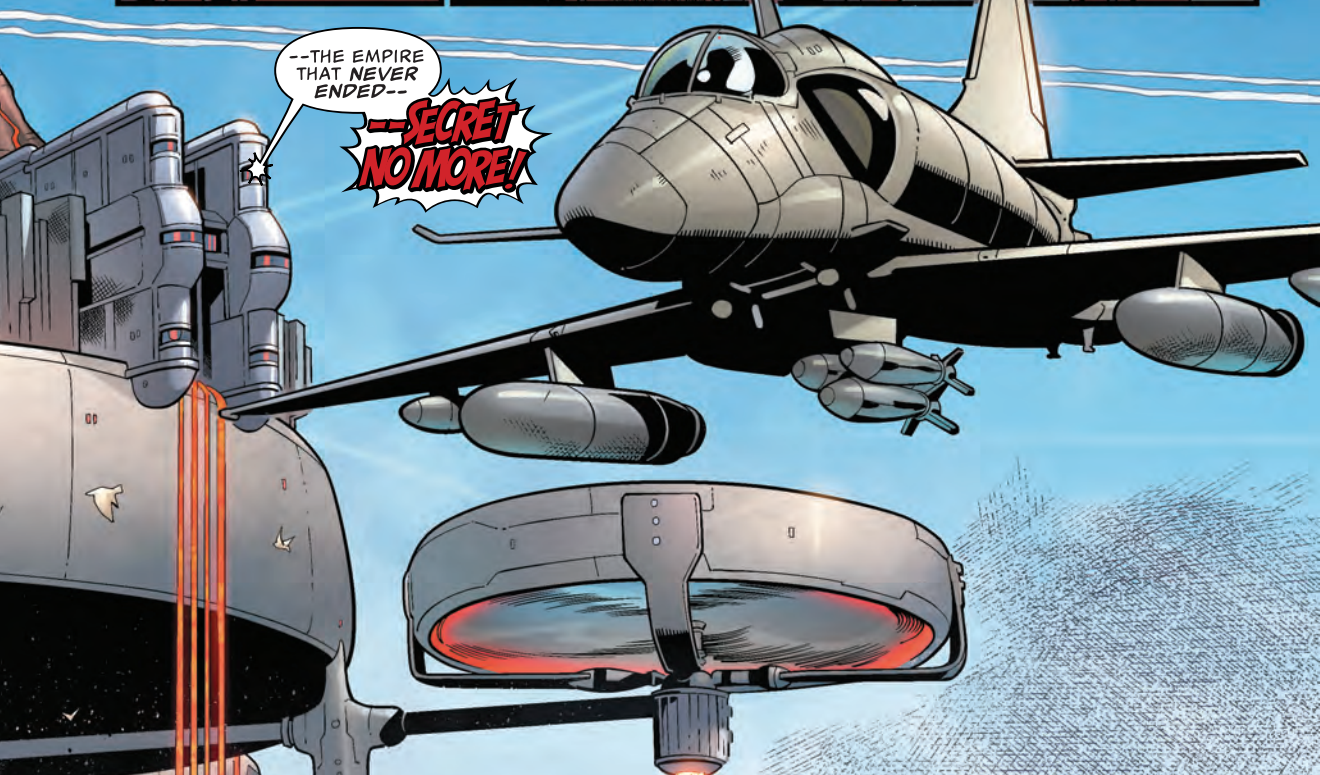
WE CAN DO ANYTHING NOW.



ANY LIE CAN BE ACCEPTED AS TRUTH--ANY TRUTH CAN BE MADE INTO FICTION.

LEGALITIES NO LONGER CONSTRAIN US. THERE IS NO CRIME THAT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN. NO CHECKS. NO BALANCES.

THERE IS ONLY OUR EMPIRE--



--THE EMPIRE THAT NEVER ENDED--

--SECRET NO MORE!

★ **TWO MILES OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA. AND CLOSING.**

PACO MEDINA, JUAN VLASCO & JESUS ABURTOV
COVER

**ROD REIS; OMAR CASANOVA & WIL QUINTANA; JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER; DANIEL ACUÑA;
RYAN STEGMAN & DAVID CURIEL; MIKE PERKINS & ANDY TROY; SKOTTIE YOUNG**
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THIS IS DA COSTA AT A.I.M. MISSION CONTROL--

USE THE DANG CODENAME!

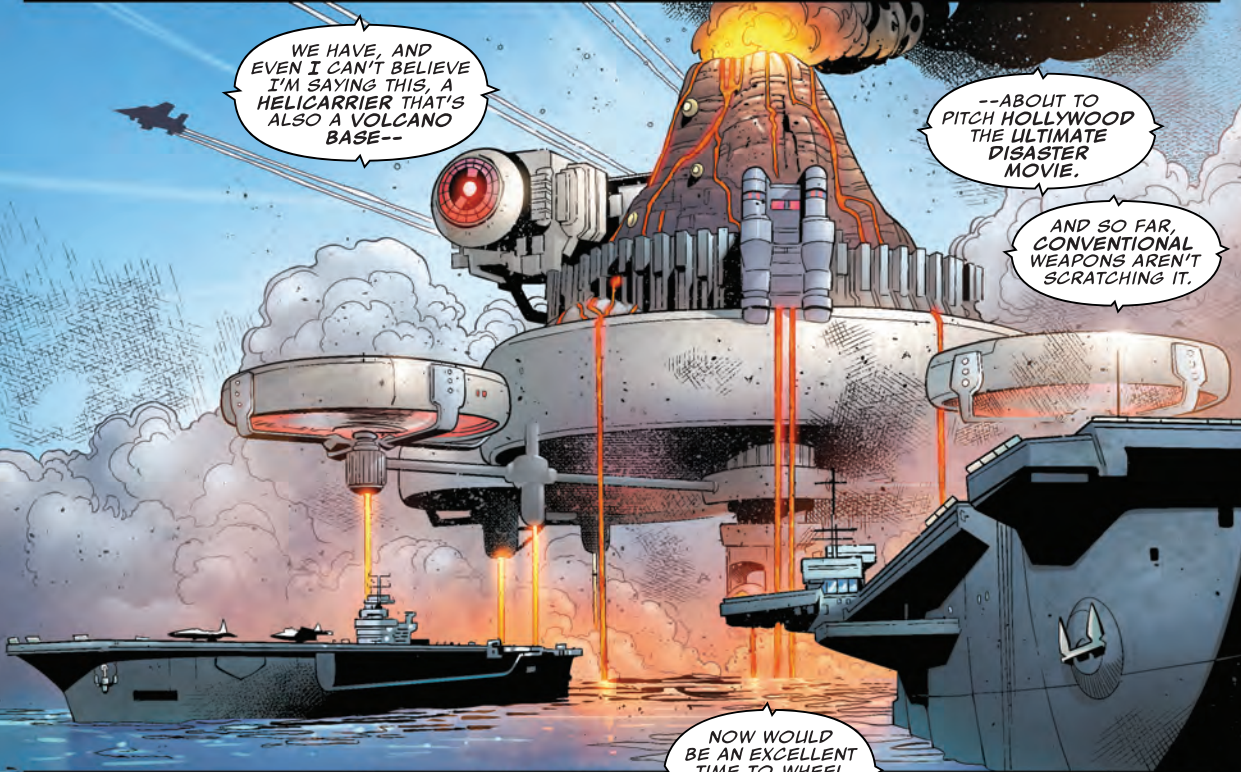
I LIKED MY OLD CODENAME.

GENERAL-- THIS IS CITIZEN V.

WE HAVE, AND EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, A HELICARRIER THAT'S ALSO A VOLCANO BASE--

--ABOUT TO PITCH HOLLYWOOD THE ULTIMATE DISASTER MOVIE.

AND SO FAR, CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AREN'T SCRATCHING IT.



NOW WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT TIME TO WHEEL OUT THE BIG GUY, GENERAL MAVERICK.

TELL ME IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH--

SORRY, DA COSTA. THE SAFETY LOCK IS STILL ENGAGED FOR ANOTHER FOUR MINUTES.



WELL, THAT'S A PROBLEM, GENERAL, BECAUSE WE HAVE A LITTLE LINDER UNDER TWO.

SOMEONE GIVE ME SOME GOOD NEWS...