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ISSUE
246
COVER A
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HAMA • DIAZ • GOMES • PARVANOV

GIJONES

A REAL AMERICAN HERO!



COUNTDOWN TO 250

DAWN OF THE ARASHIKAGE PART ONE

GI JOE

A REAL AMERICAN HERO DAWN OF THE ARASHIKAGE PART ONE

G.I. JOE: A REAL AMERICAN HERO #246

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SITREP

Dawn Moreno was once a gifted high-school athlete, whose unique physical abilities drew the attention of Cobra Commander. Recruited as a Cobra soldier, Dawn was immediately put under intense experimentation by the Cobra elite in order to see just how valuable she could be to their nefarious plans.

It was during one of these experiments that Dr. Mindbender, utilizing his Brainwave Scanner, accidentally implanted the memories of the original (and now-deceased) Snake-Eyes into Dawn's fragile teenage mind, pushing the girl to her mental limits, and driving her to flee on her own.

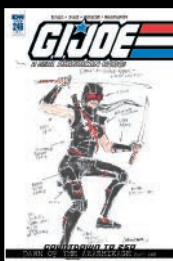
Now, as a haunted Dawn struggles against visions of a dark past that does not truly belong to her, Snake-Eyes' longtime ninja comrades from the Arashikage Clan, led by Granny Demon, have joined together to help Dawn overcome the waking nightmare her young life has become...



Cover A
Art by Netho Diaz
Colors by Milen Parvanov



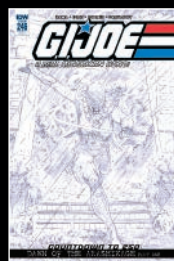
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Cover RI-A
Sketch by Larry Hama



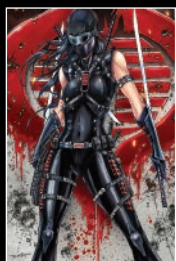
Cover RI-B
Art by Mateus Santolouco



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Pencils by Netho Diaz



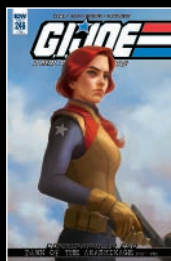
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Special thanks to Hasbro's Derryl DePriest, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly for their invaluable assistance.

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AN AMUSEMENT
PARK IN TOKYO.

THIS IS THE
WORST CRIME
SCENE I'VE SEEN,
LT. KONDO...

...WORSE THAN
THAT YAKUZA
GANG WAR A FEW
YEARS BACK.

AND WHAT EXACTLY
HAPPENED HERE?
COSTUMED CHARACTERS
DECIDING TO FIGHT
FOR REAL?

I DON'T THINK
SO, SGT. IMAI.
THESE SWORDS AREN'T
BLUNT PROPS,
THEY'RE SHIN-TO—LIVE
BLADES WITH RAZOR
EDGES.





SHARP ISN'T THE WORD. THOSE THREE MEN OVER THERE HAVE BEEN **LATERALLY BISECTED** WITH **SURGICAL PRECISION!**

BUT WHY CUT THEM ALL THE **SAME WAY**, AND THEN **PILE** THEM ON TOP OF EACH OTHER—?



THEY WEREN'T **PILED** THERE. THEY WERE CUT IN PLACE AND **FELL** INTO THAT PILE BY THEMSELVES.

WHO ARE YOU? THIS IS A **CRIME SCENE** AND—



I AM **SENIOR ADVISOR HARADA** FROM THE **MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**.

I AM NOW **OVERSEEING** THIS CASE FOR **NATIONAL SECURITY** REASONS. **ARMY FORENSICS** UNITS AND **CLEAN-UP CREWS** WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY TO **RELIEVE** THE LOCAL POLICE.

AS A **COURTESY**, **LT. KONDO** AND **SGT. IMAI** WILL BE ALLOWED TO **OBSERVE**, BUT WILL HAVE TO SIGN **SECURITY DOCUMENTS**.



MAY I ASSUME THAT **YOU TWO** ARE **KONDO** AND **IMAI**?

HAI! WE ARE AT YOUR **SERVICE**, **HARADA-SAN!**



SIR—NO **DISRESPECT**, BUT **HOW** CAN YOU TELL THAT THE **THREE BODIES** FELL INTO THE **PILE** BY THEMSELVES?

AND WHY WERE THEY SO **NEATLY CHOPPED** IN **HALF**?



SEE THE BLOODY FOOTPRINT?



IT WOULD INDICATE A YOUNG GIRL. LITHE AND SLIGHT OF STATURE...



"...BUT POSSESSED OF GREAT SKILL IN ARCANES MYSTIC MARTIAL ARTS."



"SHE MUST HAVE BEEN FORMIDABLE INDEED, TO HAVE FACED OFF WITH THREE NINJAS PROFICIENT ENOUGH TO ASSUME THE FORM OF THE CATERPILLAR."



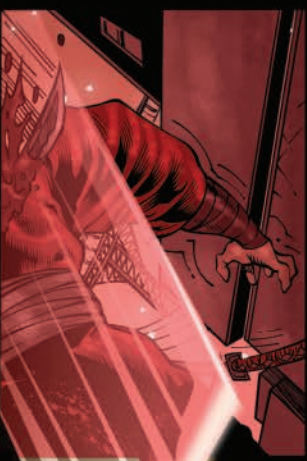
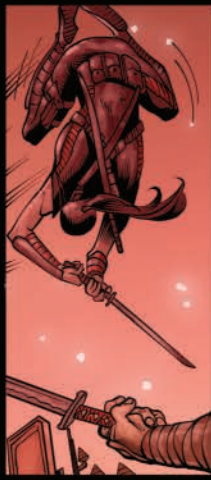
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING, SIR?

YOU'RE NOT SAYING THAT SOME KID SLICED THROUGH ALL THREE WITH ONE STROKE, ARE YOU?

EXACTLY...



"BUT THIS IS A FEAT NOT EASILY ACCOMPLISHED WITH AN ORDINARY BLADE."



"I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT THIS CUT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE LEGENDARY MORNING LIGHT."



THAT CATERPILLAR FORM IS UTTER NONSENSE! AND NOBODY CAN CUT THROUGH THREE BODIES IN ONE STROKE—NOT EVEN MUGASHI COULD DO THAT.

AND WHAT'S THIS MORNING LIGHT IDIocy?!



I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR CREDENTIALS AGAIN! SOMETHING IS—

BRRING

EXCUSE ME...

