

G.I. JOE: A REAL AMERICAN HERO
"A Shadowy Terror"

By

Carl King

PO Box 803143
Santa Clarita, CA 91380
carl@carlkingcreative.com

EXT. OUTER SPACE - DAY

A monstrous space station, THE WORLD COMMAND CENTER, drifts in orbit above Earth. Two identical cubic structures float tethered together by a bundle of communications cables.

FADE TO:

INT. WORLD COMMAND CENTER - CONTROL ROOM

COBRA COMMANDER holds index cards. He stands at a podium. Behind him, a Cobra logo backdrop.

COBRA COMMANDER
...and with this new World
Command... Cobra Command Center,
Cobra Commander will command the
entire center of the world! From
outer space!

He flips a card.

COBRA COMMANDER (cont'd)
Hmm. A little wabi-sabi?

A COBRA OFFICER places a potted fern next to the logo.

VOICE (O.C.)
A little to the right. Rule of
fifths.

The Cobra Officer slides the fern.

VOICE (O.C.) (cont'd)
Perfect!

Cobra Commander flips his cards and scratches his head.

COBRA COMMANDER
Ahem. Hi, I'm your leader. Cobra...
ahem. Cobra Commander!

A beat.

ON DESTRO

DESTRO stands back, his legs in a wide photographer stance, framing the scene with his fingers.

DESTRO
You're doing great! You've got it!

Cobra Commander shuffles the cards.

(CONTINUED)

COBRA COMMANDER
Are these out of sequence?

BOOM!

The space station shakes. Everything leans sideways. Debris falls from the ceiling. Machinery topples and crashes on the floor.

A red alert siren. Flashing red lights.

STORM SHADOW does cartwheels into the room, flips through the air, and draws two katanas.

STORM SHADOW
Cobra Commander! A bomb has exploded in World Command Center Two. The Cobra Space Station is under attack!

COBRA COMMANDER
Ah, Storm Shadow! I've been looking for you. Which do you think looks better...

Cobra Commander holds up a styrofoam mannequin head from behind his podium. On it, his battle helmet.

COBRA COMMANDER (cont'd)
The hood or the battle helmet? I'm thinking battle helmet. It's more "Mission Accomplished."

The villains all look at each other, then back at Cobra Commander.

Destro plugs his ears. The siren screams.

DESTRO
Can you not hear that?

Cobra Commander snaps his fingers.

COBRA COMMANDER
Oh yes, of course, our fancy new microwave! Baroness, bring me my reheated coffee at once! I'll need some pep to make it through this speech.

The villains look at each other and shrug.

THE BARONESS walks to the microwave.

(CONTINUED)

ZARTAN tears pages from a dot matrix printer and scans them. He speaks in a calm, lethargic monotone.

ZARTAN
World Command Center Two is on
fire, sir.

COBRA COMMANDER
What?!

Another page prints.

ZARTAN
Wait... now it's... crumbling to
dust.

DESTRO
We must be under attack by
terrorists!

COBRA COMMANDER
Terrorists? That's impossible.
Rewind the surveillance tapes!

Cobra Commander steps forward to the helm.

Zartan spins around in his chair. He holds a VHS tape. On the screen, a sitcom.

ZARTAN
Someone has recorded over them with
episodes of Will & Grace.

Dr. Mindbender clears his throat and stands up.

DR. MINDBENDER
Excuse me, I have to check on
something in my lab.

The Baroness pushes a coffee mug in front of Cobra Commander.

COBRA COMMANDER
Fools!

Cobra Commander knocks the mug out of her hands, arches his back and SLAMS his fists on the control panel.

COBRA COMMANDER (cont'd)
No one is going anywhere! Until
someone explains to me how the
greatest terrorist organization in
the world has been attacked by...
terrorists!

The Baroness runs to her station and brings up the Cobra Wikipedia entry.

Keys click. Mouse wheel scrolling.

BARONESS

Hmm. Our intelligence sources indicate that it was a plane, sir.

DR. MINDBENDER

An airplane?

COBRA COMMANDER

What? How could an air--

The roar of jet engines.

BOOM!

The space station shakes. Flames burst into the room from a corridor. The Cobra Officer, carrying another fern, flies through the air.

The villains fall upwards against the ceiling.

The Baroness hangs from her desk, reading her computer screen.

BARONESS

A second plane! Gravity has been...
REVERSED!

DR. MINDMENDER

Remarkable! They've changed the laws of physics!

Cobra Commander sits up, now on the ceiling, and rubs his head. The red alert sirens scream.

COBRA COMMANDER

Can someone check the goddamn microwave?!

The Baroness flips a switch on the wall. The sirens stop.

COBRA COMMANDER (cont'd)

Best Buy, my ass.

Zartan pops open a prescription bottle and gulps a mouthful of caplets.

DESTRO
We're receiving a transmission...

COBRA COMMANDER
On screen!

Cobra Commander leans his head upside down.

ON SCREEN

Five shadowy men in business suits and black hoods. Torches burn on a stone wall. They wear medallions.

Cobra Commander stands up, straightens his shirt, and signals to Zartan to flip the screen right-side-up.

Zartan chews his pills and shrugs.

The SHADOWY LEADER steps forward from the group.

SHADOWY LEADER
Greetings, Cobra Commander.

Cobra Commander whirls back to the screen.

COBRA COMMANDER
Who are YOU?

SHADOWY LEADER
We are The Illuminati. While you weren't looking, we loaded ten tons of Nano-Thermite Explosive onto your space station and--

COBRA COMMANDER
That's impossible. How could you have done that?

The Shadowy Leader looks at his friends.

SHADOWY LEADER
On pallets!

The Shadowy Men laugh.

Destro slams his fist in his hand.

DESTRO
That was a dirty trick!

COBRA COMMANDER
I'm not buying it. What about the planes?

(CONTINUED)

A beat.

STORM SHADOW
Cobra Commander is right. It is not
sound reasoning.

THE BARONESS
Yeah, what were the airplanes for?
And how would they fly in space?

The Shadowy Men lean together and whisper.

Cobra Commander turns to The Baroness, lets out a chuckle
and points to his head.

The Baroness smiles and nods.

Destro rolls his eyes.

The Shadowy Men debate in whispers. The Shadowy Leader turns
back to the screen.

SHADOWY LEADER
Uh... what airplanes?

DESTRO
Mind games!

COBRA COMMANDER
Don't try to--

SHADOWY LEADER
I assure you, there were no
airplanes.

The Baroness brings up CNN's website.

THE BARONESS
Hang on. He's right. There's no
wreckage! It's as if the planes
never existed!

Dr. Mindbender stands with his butt towards the screen, head
between his knees, viewing the screen right-side-up.

DR. MINDBENDER
Even I'm confused at this point.

COBRA COMMANDER
I'm not buying your tricky
conspiracy theories, Mr. Shadow
Man. Now you will experience the
wrath of Cobra Commander!

(CONTINUED)

SHADOWY LEADER

But--

Cobra Commander cues Zartan to cut the transmission.

DESTRO

Yes! We need to launch a counter-attack!

COBRA COMMANDER

Indeed! Storm Shadow, prepare for a full-scale invasion of... Fort Worth, Texas!

THE BARONESS

Sir, there are no targets in--

DESTRO

What the hell is in Forth Worth?

COBRA COMMANDER

The Headquarters of American Airlines, you fool! They will PAY for this!

STORM SHADOW

But sir, we've just lost three quarters of our army! Their Customer Service Defenses are Impenetrable!

DESTRO

No, we must attack The Illuminati!

COBRA COMMANDER

My naive underling... if we are to defeat the terrorists, we must THINK like terrorists! This is the counter-intuitive, asymmetrical warfare of the future!

DR. MINDBENDER

In that case, couldn't we just invade Hawaii, instead?

A beat.

Zartan mumbles in his sleep.

ZARTAN

Banana mango smoothie.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

DESTRO
Revenge for Pearl Harbor!

COBRA COMMANDER
Precisely! That's what I meant!
Prepare for the Invasion of Hawaii!

Storm Shadow sings "Wipe Out" and pretends to surf.

THE BARONESS
Awesome! I'll get to try out my new
bikini!

Destro smiles and grabs The Baroness.

DR. MINDBENDER
Me, too!

They all stop and look at Dr. Mindbender.

G.I. JOE LOGO