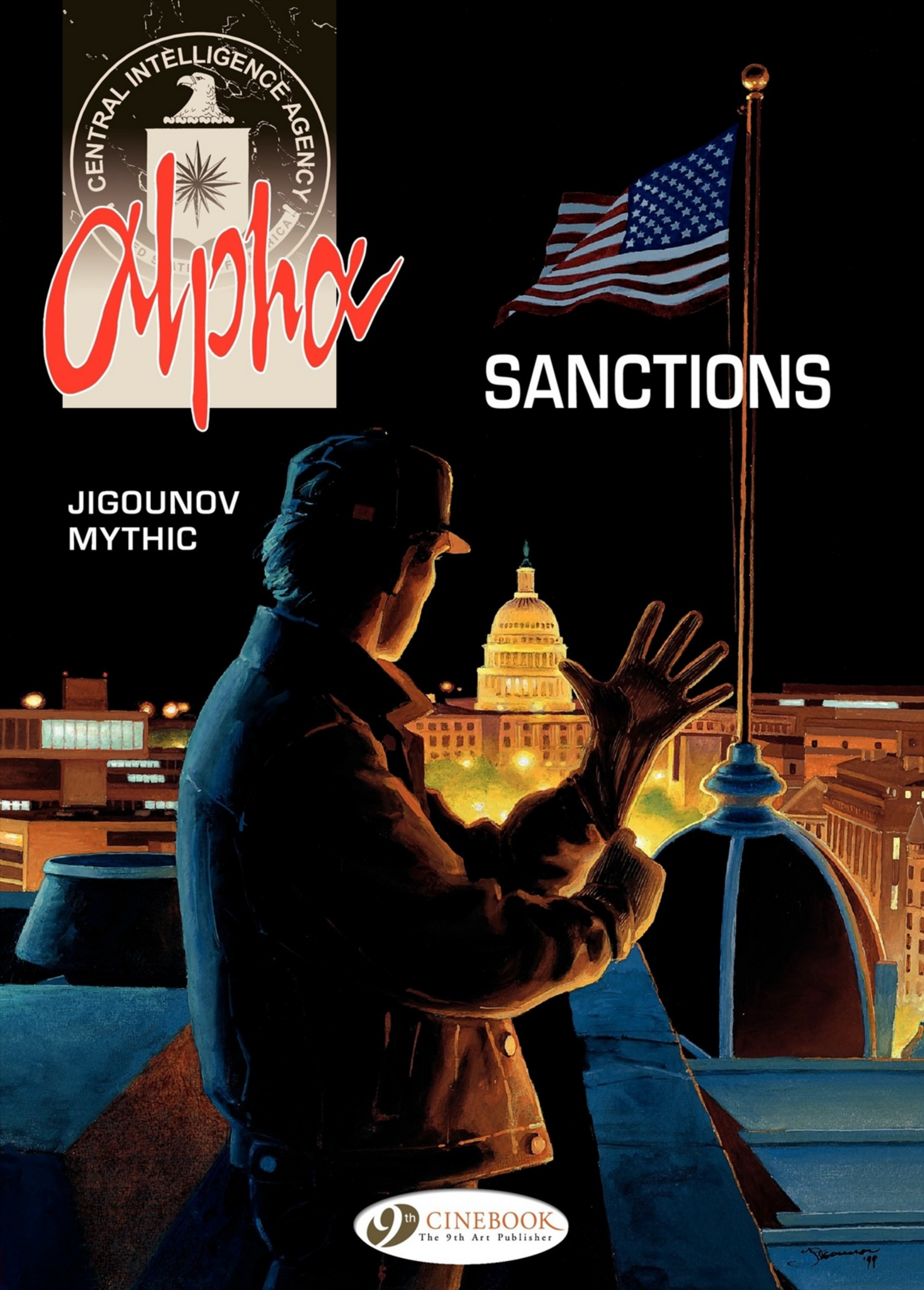




SANCTIONS

JIGOUNOV
MYTHIC



JIGOUNOV

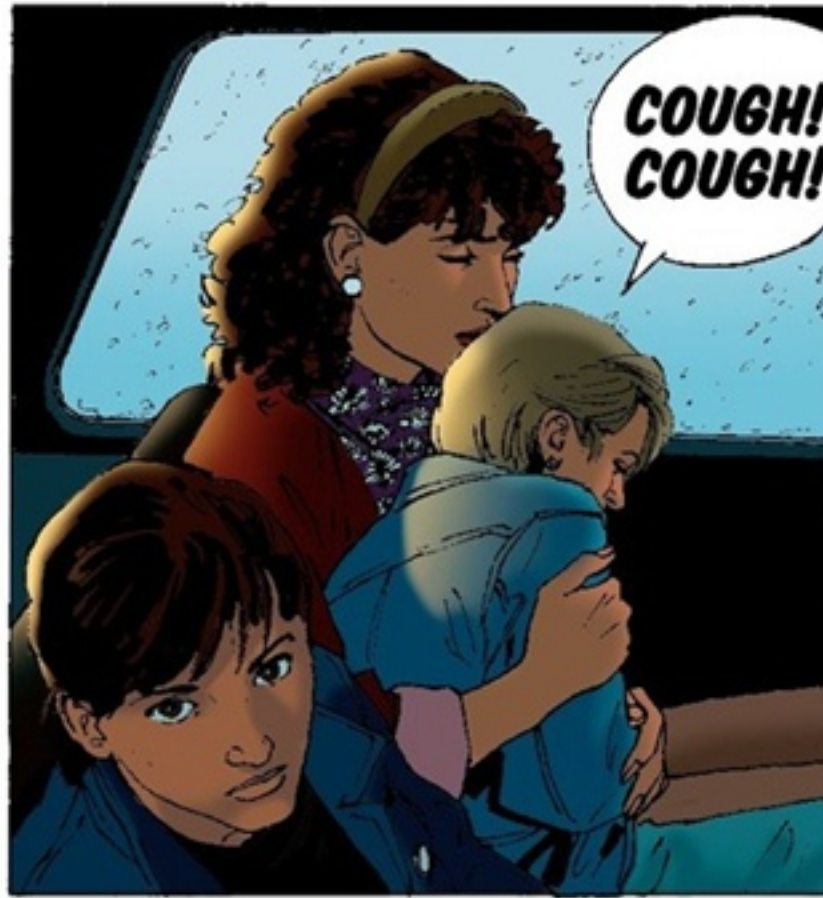
MYTHIC



SANCTIONS



IF THE WEATHER KEEPS GETTING WORSE AND VISIBILITY DECREASES, WE COULD END UP CROSSING THE BORDER WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING.





THE NEXT DAY. A FLORIDA BEACH OPENING ONTO THE GULF OF MEXICO.

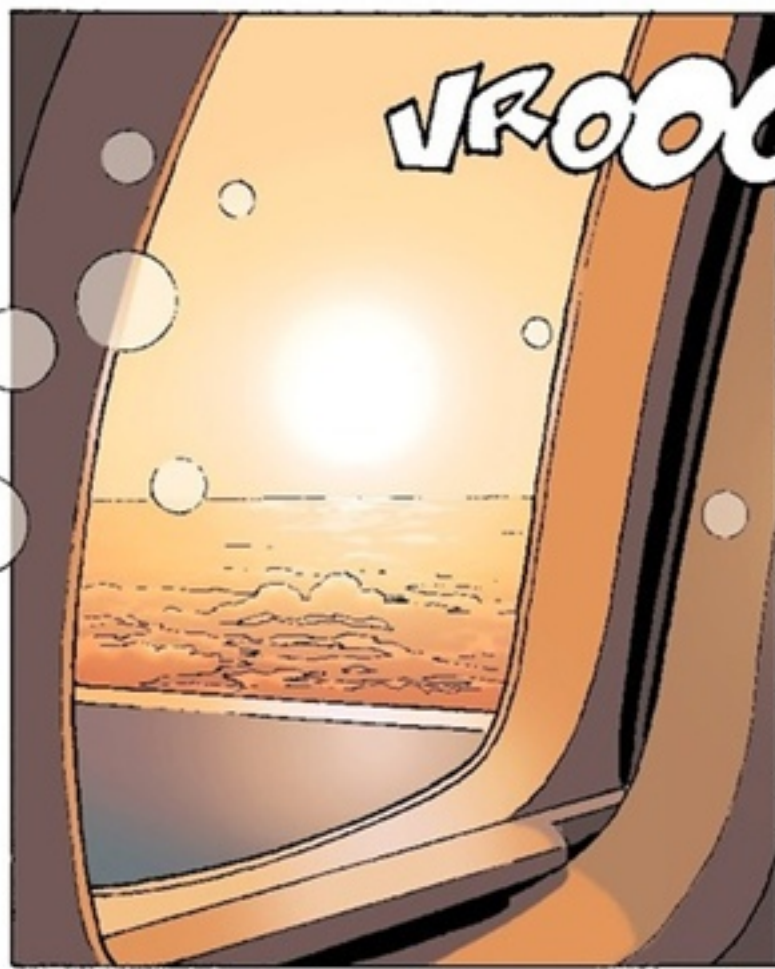
STARING INTO THE EMERALD GREEN OCEAN, A MAN IS WAITING, VAINLY TRYING TO HIDE...



PERFECT! HE'LL BE OUT OF ACTION FOR A WHILE.



MANY HOURS LATER...





*WELCOME TO THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, DEAR COMRADE!

THREE YEARS LATER. NORTH-EASTERN WYOMING, CROWN MOTEL.



WASHINGTON, D.C. TODAY,
FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER.



FOR THE NEXT NINE DAYS, SHEENA AND YOU, ALPHA, WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ACCOMPANYING AN FSB* DELEGATION ARRIVING TOMORROW TO MEET THEIR US COUNTERPARTS...



...WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SOLVING PROBLEMS
COMMON TO BOTH COUNTRIES: TRACKING
DOWN RED ARMY TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARHEADS
LOST DURING THE FALL OF THE USSR...

...REDEFINING RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF
INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD, AS WELL AS
NEUTRAL AREAS...



DAMNED POLITICS! I'LL
NEVER GET USED TO
ALL THESE CHANGES.
EVERYTHING USED TO BE
SIMPLE - WE WERE THE
GOOD GUYS AND THEY
WERE THE BAD GUYS!

AND WHAT
CHANGED?



NOTHING, OR RATHER ONE THING - THE GENERAL
HYPOCRISY OF OUR TIMES! OFFICIALLY, THEY'RE
THE GOOD GUYS TOO, SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE ALL SMILES AND COOPERATE WITH THEM.

ONLY WHEN IT'S
IN OUR INTEREST.



BROADLY SPEAKING,
WE LET THEM SELL SOME
PRESTIGE, HOT AIR AND
A LITTLE IDEOLOGY,
AS LONG AS WE CAN
SELL PLENTY OF
HAMBURGERS,
SODAS AND
SOFTWARE!

WE'RE NOT
INTELLIGENCE
AGENTS ANY
MORE. WE'RE
A BUNCH OF
SALESPEOPLE
SUBSERVIENT TO
LOBBIES.



AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO WEAR TO WELCOME
OUR EX-COMMUNIST GUESTS? I GUESS THE MANUAL OF
THE PERFECT CIA AGENT DOESN'T
COVER THAT?

TRY
SOMETHING
IN THE
BARBIE DOLL
DEPARTMENT!



IN THAT CASE,
THEY'LL HAVE TO
MAKE DO WITH A
'MADE IN SAIGON'
KNOCK-OFF!



*FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE, SUCCESSOR TO THE KGB.

ALPHA (ENGLISH VERSION), TOME 4 : SANCTIONS

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