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Episode 507 – The unexpected return of an old fic

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It was a nice apartment, well-lit, spacious and well furnished. A pair of nice, plush leather couches set the scene, arranged in a neat L-shape, with a small coffee table between them. What dominated the room, however, was the massive flat-screen against one wall, so big as to loom over all else around it. By comparison, the broad windows with views out over a strangely futuristic metropolis and the other doorways leading away to gods alone knew where seemed like afterthoughts.

“Well, my newest project is well underway,” Rick beamed as he stepped into the apartment with Tsuneo.

“I know these things always end badly, but yet I feel the need to ask,” Tsuneo commented.

“This one is another TTRPG book that I'm doing art and design for,” Rick noted. “We've started on a semi-public test phase.”

“And how's that going?” Rebecca asked as she and Dan followed him.

“We got a large body of volunteers who were eager to test it, so we sent out the NDAs to them.”

“And after that?”

“I think three of them signed?” Rick admitted. “Maybe?”

“Does that include you?” Dan asked.

“Yes,” he admitted. “Which is about as many as I expected.”

“Set your sights high,” Tsuneo sighed.

“I admit I've been distracted from my work by thinking about the last thing we read,” Rick said. “And it’s been bothering me.”

“The thing we read is a good description of Genesis Breakers,” Rebecca nodded. “But what in specific was it that was on your mind?”

“Genesis Breakers is, to date, the only modern revival of any of the dormant Artmic properties,” Rick explained. “However, the more I look at it, the more I realise that it is the sum total of all of them.”

“How so?” Tsuneo asked.

“So the thing about Artmic is that they would gladly recycle concepts and elements wholesale between shows,” he continued. “This is most obvious in visual and stylistic elements, such as the transforming motorcycle that originated with Genesis Climber MOSPEADA and then reappeared in MegaZone 23, Gal Force and Bubblegum Crisis. Or stylistic elements from the Invid mecha that reappear in the Dezalg from MZ23 or the Paranoids from Gal Force. The Paranoids in turn influenced the Boomers from BGC, and so on. Hell, there was a MASK vehicle was based on an unused GCM concept. But it goes beyond that.”

“He's going on a deep-dive, isn't he?” Rebecca asked.

“Well so far it's on-point, but we'll see where it goes,” Tsuneo sighed.

“However, it goes further with wholesale recycling of themes and ideas across different shows,” he continued. “Bubblegum Crisis was developed from ideas that were originally planned for what became Genesis Climber MOSPEADA. MegaZone 23 would have also featured unrealised ideas from GCM

had it continued as planned. In many ways, Rhea Gal Force is a retelling of GCM's basic concepts, with resistance fighters on an occupied Earth and a liberation force coming from Mars. And so you could argue that Genesis Breakers was continuing that tradition. But it goes further then that."

"And here it comes," Dan sighed.

"The convoluted mess of a backstory for MegaZone 23 features an apocalyptic war between Earth and Mars," Rick noted. "Where the Martians are not only fighting for full independence, but are transhumansits who have adapted themselves for life on Mars. Their plan is not just to achieve independence from Earth, but to destroy it so it can never be a threat again."

"Okay, I can see the connection there," Rebecca nodded. "Also once again, god-damn Transhumanists ruin everything."

"Rhea Gal Force features Martian forces coming to liberate Earth from occupation, but they are also willing to destroy it if needs be," Rick continued. "Added to that, the Martian forces are secretly controlled by a transhumanist conspiracy, in the form of Catty Nebulard. Furthermore, the sequel, Gal Force New Era, features Earth being effectively colonised by and subordinate to Mars, which was the plan of the Ismea Foundation in Genesis Breakers."

"Taking it further, Gal Force Stardust again features a Transhumanist conspiracy, one that considers mutually assured destruction to be an acceptable outcome," Rick said. "Not only that, but said conspiracy is made up of duplicates of the same person being again, Catty Nebulard. It's a clear precursor to the Patterson Clones."

"I'd say he's reaching, but no, he's got a point," Tsuneo admitted.

"Genesis Breakers makes a point about the use of robots in warfare, from drone fighters to infantry," Rick considered. "Not only was this a point in GCM, one which would have been expanded on if the show had gone further, but this was a key point in the world of Bubblegum Crisis. Added to that, you have the powerful megacorporations of Genesis Breakers with their massive influence, such as the Ismea foundation effectively controlling Martian intelligence, which is clearly a callback to Gemom from BCG."

"Going further, the AD Police series featured Cyberpunk style human augmentation, another element that is in Genesis Breakers that seemed out of place when put into GCM," he offered. "I mean, ADP features a case of a 'dead' officer being resurrected as a Cyborg, an element that's again recycled with Simmons."

"Assuming that anyone paid any attention to Simmons, that is," Rebecca noted. "Because Genesis Breakers certainly didn't."

"And finally, let's not forget the pointless flashback chapter of Genesis Breakers in which we saw that the pre-war world was managed by an AI system that had a female-presenting avatar," Rick offered. "A clear nod to MegaZone 23 with EVE."

"Okay, I'll give you all of that," Dan nodded. "And you managed to make it coherent and not lose it in the weeds for once."

"So, there you have it," Rick finished. "Genesis Breakers is not only an attempt at a relaunch of Genesis Climber MOSPEADA but the broader Artmic universe. It stays on theme by recycling themes and elements from across their productions into its own story and world. However, it does so without any thoughts for the overall cohesion of the story or if they are even suitable for it to begin with."

"What about Genesis Survivor Gariath?" Tsuneo asked.

"What about it?"

There was a pause. "Good point. Let's move on."

“Good morning, everyone,” the bland, functional and very vaguely masculine voice of the Voice cut into the conversation.”

“And good morning to you, Screaming Skull,” Dan shot back.

“Hey Voice,” Rick added. “What's your favourite Artmic production that had plot elements crudely forced into Genesis Breakers?”

“He's just mad because he forgot Wannabees,” Dan shook his head. “Though to be fair, so does everyone else.”

“Um, okay,” the Voice managed. “I'm not sure what that has to do with anything.”

“Although some of Wannabees elements were then used to inform Bubblegum Crisis so...” Rick trailed off.

“Before we completely lose this in the weeds, what are you going to force feed us today?” Tsuneo asked.

“But then I have to consider Captain Power...” Rick muttered to himself.

“Well today I have something very interesting for you,” the Voice began.

“Lies,” Rebecca shot back.

“Today's review subject is called Fallout: the United Carolina Republic,” the Voice continued regardless. “What makes it interesting is that it's a sequel to another review subject we covered some time ago, being Fallout: South Carolina.”

“That would be interesting if I remembered anything about the first fic or if I cared,” Tsuneo noted.

“So, what's it about?” Rick asked.

“It's a very interesting story about the process of creating a nation,” The Voice offered.

“I refute that claim,” Tsuneo quickly interjected.

The Voice continued as if it had not heard. “With extensive worldbuilding as well,” It finished.

“Which means long lists of things of things we don't care about,” Rebecca noted.

“Almost certainly,” Tsuneo nodded.

“The review is broken up into three parts, and we will be covering the first of those today,” the Voice finished.

“I'm thrilled,” Rebecca sighed.

“You know,” Dan considered as he took his place on the couch, “I don't actually remember a thing about the previous fic either.”

“Same here,” Rebecca admitted as she and the others joined him. “Characters, story, setting, everything. They're all a complete blank.”

“I remember it had fruit smoothies,” Rick suggested.

“That is at the same time helpful and utterly meaningless,” Tsuneo finished as the big screen turned on, converting the world over to script format.

> Fallout: The United Carolina Republic (UCR) By Crusherboy931

Tsuneo: The thought of someone going through 930 iterations of his username before it's finally accepted is going to get me through this fic. I can just tell.

> Chapter 1
> I do not own Fallout at all. As for characters, they can die at any moment in this story.

Rebecca: In fact, one died just as he wrote this.

> So don't be mad if a character you love dies.

Rick: Oh no! Not Third Raider on the Left!
Dan: He was my favourite.

> If you want to know what happened before all this, I recommend you read Fallout: South Carolina.

Tsuneo: Counter argument: Don't. Seriously.

> This story is the sequel story to that one.

Dan: But will there be smoothies in this one?

> It had been 4 months since the South Carolina Republic was born.

Tsuneo: Presumably this happened in a part of the previous fic we didn't read
Rebecca: The next question is, do we care?
Tsuneo: Not really, no

> John sat in his office looking over official papers when Harold Moore walked in.

Dan: We all remember Harold from the previous fic. I see no reason to recap who he is and why he's relevant to anything.

> John smiled at him and said, "How goes the defense build up, General Moore?"

Rick: They added more turrets and dogs to their settlements.

> Harold sat across from John and said, "The Recruits are working hard but I got them trained."

Rebecca: [Harold] A few fatal beatings picked them right up

> John smiled and said, "Good to hear. Once we get the land
> sorted internally, we can start expanding outwards."

Tsuneo: Well that doesn't sound ominous at all
Rebecca: God no

> Harold nodded when a man rushed in and said,
> "Mr. President! Our science boys have a new request!" John was handed the paper he had and
> read it.

Rick [John]: Secret Martian clone cabal? Polar shift missile? What even is this crap?

> John was shocked and he sighed at what they wanted and he sighed.

Tsuneo: After that he sighed, and then he sighed.

> Harold took the paper and read it.

> "They want us to capture a Radcoon to be tested on?" Harold said in shock.

Tsuneo: A radcoon is like a racoon, but somehow worse.

> John nodded his head
> and said, "According to Nate they were a lot smaller and scrawnier than what we see today.

Dan: Giant mutant raccoons skip the middleman and just hijack garbage trucks

> My guess is that the Radiation did it to them when the bombs fell."

Rebecca: The long list of other mutated animals he lives with was a clue.

> He leaned back in his seat as he thought back to when he first got a look at a Radcoon.

Dan: He was blasted off his face on Daytripper and screamed like a goat at it.

> It stood on its hind legs, Patches of fur
> missing from parts of its body,the claws on the front looked like it could tear through a Protectron.
> The head had five scars across its snout

Rebecca: A feature found on every single radcoon. Evolution is strange like that

> and over one eye, it tanked bullets like they were nothing.

Rick: But insult its academic achievements and it will collapse into a blubbering heap

> And a Howl form a Radcoon was so loud, if a person was roared at and at Point Blank Range, his
> eardrums would be destroyed.

Tsuneo: However, they were mostly peaceful herbivores. Go figure.

> John looked it over as they explained the potential benefits of researching a Radcoon.

Rebecca: The alternative is researching life-saving medicine, so he figured he'd go for the radcoons.

> "What do you wanna do?" Harold asked John. John looked at him and said, "I have no clue

Rebecca: [Harold] I mean, you're the self-appointed president here

> honestly. I mean they say we could potentially bring them to taming, but I've seen what Radcoons
> are capable of close hand. Not to mention where would they find a Radcoon?"

Dan: Leave a garbage bin with an unsecured lid and you'll be fine.

> That was when
> Harold said, "didn't you seal a cave filled with them near Old Port Royal?" John looked at him and
> said, "No, I am not blowing the work we did, besides the cave collapsed, the Radcoons were all
> crushed by the rubble."

Tsuneo: That was a worthy aside.
Rick: Oh, you just wait until the cave full of radcoons comes back to save them in the third act.
Tsuneo: If that actually happens, it will be the greatest fic we have ever read.

> Harold nodded his head and said, "I see… this is tricky." John nodded his
> head when a messenger arrived.

Tsuneo: It strikes me that this is also the sort of work that should be below the President's attention, especially at the point when he's trying to build a new nation out of a radioactive wasteland
Rebecca: I imagine he's intent on micromanaging every single part of it

> "Mr. President, the envoy is here," he told John. John smiled and said, "Good. Let's go meet them."

Dan: Having immediately forgotten about the radcoon issue.

> Harold stood up and asked, "Envoy?"

Rick: Somebody dispatched on an errand or mission. Usually it’s used to refer to someone engaged in official business like negotiating a treaty or to engage in business, but that’s not important right now.

> John looked at him and said, "From a settlement that just
> opened up for traders, New Sparta I think it's called."

Dan [Shouting]: This is New Sparta!

> Harold Nodded his head and followed John to where the Envoy was.

Rebecca: The septic tank, oddly enough.

> Seeing the Envoy, he was wearing Marine Armor on him with a cape attached.

Tsuneo: The Envoy feels vaguely offended that John didn’t dress up for the occasion.
Rick: I just assumed he was wearing the Covert Sweater Vest, welding goggles and a Mr Fuzzy hard hat everywhere.
Tsuneo: You know what? Let’s go with that.

> He held a spear with what looked like a Ripper on the end of it

Rebecca: A device that is not only horribly impractical but also very stupid

> and a Round Shield with a
> V like shape on it. John bowed his head and said, "Welcome Envoy of New Sparta,

Tsuneo: Aren’t you going to at least address him by name?
Rick: That is his name, Envoy of New Sparta, the envoy of New Sparta.

> I trust the trip wasn't too harsh for you?"

Dan: It was a pleasant stroll through the irradiated wastelands.

> The Envoy looked around before he said,

Rick: [Envoy] Wow, what is this dump?

> "New-Spartans are warriors all, there is little left in Dixie that could phase us."

Rebecca: Spoken like somebody who doesn’t know anything about the actual historical Sparta beyond pop culture
Tsuneo: Do you mean the character or the author?
Rebecca: Either. Both, really.

> John stood up as Harold crossed his arms.

Rick: Harold is his official undersecretary of standoffishness.

> John then
> said, "I see, well if you are hungry and thirsty we set up some refreshments for you and your party."
> The Envoy said nothing, but he walked over and took some bread and a cup of wine.

Dan: Didn’t even bother asking him if he had any dietary requirements

> (A.N.: New
> Sparta was made by a Reddit user named Ryousan82. I got permission to use the settlement in my
> Story.)

Rick: Pls send OC settlements

> Back in John's office, he sat down as the Envoy sat across from him and John handed him the trade
> deal.

Dan: He didn't know the Envoy was coming, so the trade deal is for some place called Fleabag.

> The Envoy looked it over, he knew it was beneficial for both New Sparta and the South
> Carolina Republic.

Rebecca: New Sparta gets the lion's share of the SCR's crops, and the SCR gets to not be burnt to the ground. Mutually beneficial.

> He looked at John and said, "Surely you can increase the amount of Supplies you can give us."

Dan: They want more doll arms, toasters, battered clipboards and burnt Grognak comics

> John knew the Envoy was trying to make the Deal more favorable for New Sparta.

Tsuneo: [Gasps] Really? Is that what that means?

> John sat up and said, "I know you're trying to get more goods from us since your settlement has
> been on the Decline.

Tsuneo: John here is not the most masterful of diplomats

> But we can't give you any more goods… but I may be able to send more if you
> join in a MIlitary alliance with the South Carolina Republic."

Dan: [Envoy] I see. And what military aid can you offer us?
Rick: [John] Well, we're looking into taming Radcoons...

> "I'm not sure, as you know we are a proud and mighty people. We do not fully trust outsiders since
> the battle of Colbia."

Rebecca: As you know

> the Envoy said. John leaned back and remembered hearing about that battle

Dan: And losing a bundle on the betting.

> as a scribe, A coalition that New Sparta was a part of held off an attack of Super Mutants.

Rick: Which was followed by an attack of the Super Monsters.

> John then asked if there was anything he could do that could help solidify their choice.

Tsuneo: Have you tried not being a condescending jerk?
Rebecca: I imagine that the thought never once entered his mind.

> The Envoy looked and
> said, "There may be a way you can help us, our former ally, the Athenians, have turned against us."

Rebecca: I'd say this is lazy worldbuilding, but then you look at an actual map of South Carolina.

> "I see… well would you like us to talk to them?" John asked him.

Tsuneo: [Envoy] Oh yes. Then they'll hate you much more than us.

> The Envoy nodded his head. John and Harold looked at each other before looking back at the
> Envoy.

Dan: [John] And you're from Fleabag, right?

> John then said, "We'll talk to them, and if so we will take them down."

Rebecca: [Envoy] I do not have enough popcorn for what's coming.

> The Envoy nodded his head and stood up. He then said,
> "We will await for you afterwards in New Sparta." The Envoy then walked out.

Rick: This has been two idiots negotiating.

> John looked at Harold and after the Envoy left, he said,

Tsuneo: [John] Who was that guy?
Rick: [Harold] I have no idea.

> "What's the status of the South Carolina Intelligence Network?"
> Harold looked at John and told him, "Our Intelligence Network is Finally up and running,

Dan: We threw together a state intelligence apparatus in the tool shed

> we can have them in Athens in a few days."

Rick: How many spies do you have anyway?
Rebecca: It's a work in progress

> John nodded his head and said, "Good, and when we get an embassy set up in New Sparta,

Rick: [John] I think they've got a spare outhouse we can use.

> I want all the intel I can get.

Tsuneo: If he doesn't know the leader's shoe size by this time next week then heads will roll.

> I feel like the Envoy didn't tell us the whole truth."

> "You think he held something back?"

Rick: Wait, a diplomat didn't give the whole truth in order to better sell his case? That's unheard of!

> Harold asked John. John nodded his head and said, "He just
> asks us to help his people with dealing with another group that betrayed them and he wants us to
> try and talk it out.

Rebecca: [John] You think he'd pay us for it or something.

> I feel like there's more to this story."

Tsuneo: You think?
Dan: Turns out the envoy had his fingers crossed behind his back.

> Harold nodded his head and walked out. John
> then stood up and walked to a window as he said, "Thoughts Rebecca?"

Rebecca: Well, this fic's off to a terrible start and I get the feeling that the author has no idea of what the actual duties of a head of state would be. I'm not optimistic about it so far.

> Soon a side door opened up and Elder Smith walked in.

Dan: She was hiding in the filing cabinet all along.

> She sat down and said, "Hard to tell what he was thinking.

Rick: Mostly it was about bunnies

> But Elder
> Torres said not to engage New Sparta at all. So we did our best to avoid them at the time."

Dan: Maybe they just didn't like them

> John nodded his head and said, "Yeah, I remember when I was a knight.

Dan: [John] I wanted a horsie!

> I just have a bad feeling about New Sparta."

Tsuneo: He's worried that the state reception dinner might not have a vegan option

> Elder Smith nodded her head and walked to john.

> She then told John, "I'll try to see what I can do, maybe we could get some of the old stealth boys
> working and infiltrate New Sparta?" John shook his head no to that and said, "No Stealth boys, they
> may see that as an act of aggression,

Dan: [Smith] They won't see them. They're Stealth Boys. That's the point.

[Pause]

Rick: [John] You're really a Spaceball. You know that, don't you?

> but let's get those stealth boys ready just to be on the safe side of a war.

Dan: He's just looking for an excuse, isn't he?

> What about the brotherhood branch of the Military?" Elder Smith smiled and said, "the
> men are questioning why we're helping,

Tsuneo: [Smith] I mean, have you met you?

> but then they compare how better we are now than back then with him."

Rebecca: Don't bother filling us in on any of this. We'll just assume.

> "That's good to hear… Rebecca, I am proud of the woman you've become.

Rick: [John] From the radcoon you used to be.

> You've surpassed all my expectations of you…

Dan: Given that this is John, his expectations were probably limited to 'she doesn't die in the first random encounter they come across.'

> You made me… so so proud." John said to her with a smile. Rebecca returned the smile

Tsuneo: [Smith] Don’t you dare touch me.

> and they two shared a hug. Rebecca was happy she made her mentor proud and
> John was happy with what they've done.

Tsuneo: Which was?
Rick: You know... stuff.

> Soon they looked at each other and blushed. Rebecca
> simply leaned on John and put a hand on his chest. John blushed as a girl he trained since she was
> a scribe was leaning on him.

Rebecca: Well this isn’t creepy in the slightest
Tsuneo: Got no

> That was when Zoey walked in and the two separated.

> "Did i… Interrupt something?" Zoey asked the two. John told her,

Dan: [John] Nothing happened!
Rick: [Smith] Boy howdy.

> "I was just telling Rebecca here how proud I am of her at where she is in the brotherhood.

Rebecca: I would ask if she was a character in the previous fic, but I don’t care.

> She's come a long way since she joined us."

Rick: She’s achieved so many nonspecific things in that time

> Rebecca smiled and nodded her head." Zoey smiled before handing John a stack of papers as
> she said,

Rebecca: [Zoey] I want a divorce.

> "The defenses of the City are coming along nicely, the local Garrisons are also training well."

Dan: And by that he means he recruited a bunch of Settlers, gave them random guns and assigned them to guard posts

> John smiled and thanked Zoey with a kiss on her cheek. Zoey smiled and blushed at what he did.

Rebecca: I can tell she’s going to be a deep and well-developed character and not a prop for him at all.

> The next day, John watched the Envoy board a Vertibird that took him back to New Sparta

Rick: The Envoy had stuck around for happy hour.

> after getting the location of where the Athenians supposedly betrayed them.

Dan: Given that this is South Carolina, I can only assume that it was out the back of a Waffle House

> As the Vertibird left New
> Charleston, John did a patrol around the City where he waved to the citizens of the city

Dan: [John] Morning, neighbour.
Tsuneo: I didn’t vote for you!
Dan: [John] Howdy there.
Rick: Who died and made you President?

Dan: [John] Well hey, folks.
Rebecca: Down with the bourgeoisie!

> when a newly formed South Carolina Republican Army Sergeant approached him

Rick: He approached him while he was in the Vertibird. This man has talent

> and said, "Orders now sir?" John looked at the sergeant and said,

Tsuneo: Why is a sergeant reporting to the President?
Rebecca: Because the entire population consists of whoever he could summon with a settlement recruitment beacon.

> "get a vertibird ready for me. I feel something off about this." The S.C.R.A

Rick: Small Cardboard Rotating Aardwolf

> Sergeant nodded his head and walked off as John looked at Harold and said to
> him, "I need specialists, and I need a Synth."

Dan: He also needs a tandem bicycle, a llama costume and a jar of blueberry jam. It's complicated.

> Later, John sat in the Vertibird as it flew over what the Envoy called Colbia.

Tsuneo: But was actually a peat bog.

> It was a massive city with buildings leaning on each other in some places.

Rebecca: Literal lazy architecture.

> A Wall was built around the City and it was Eerie quiet.

Rick: And then somebody farted and ruined the mood

> John then said, "According to the Envoy the Betrayal happened North under an
> underpass of the old I77 Freeway."

Dan: This was a hobo fight, wasn't it? It certainly sounds like one

> The Pilot nodded his head and flew north as the Synth asked,
> "Why do you need me?" John looked at him and said,

Rebecca: [John] Well, Zoey's been distant lately...

> "Cause I want to see if you can scan the area
> and find something that the New Spartans may have overlooked."

Tsuneo [Synth]: Is that all I am to you? A handy set of eyeballs? Did you ever think that I might have my own thoughts and feelings and hopes and dreams?
Rick [John]: Well, I…
Tsuneo [Synth]: I am a sentient being, one with a life of my own. I am not just a tool for your use. I fought for my freedom and I am not about to let you walk all over me like this
Rick [John]: I am sorry. I should have thought of all that before I asked this of you
Tsuneo [Synth]: Next time be more considerate, beep boop

> The Synth nodded his head as
> the Vertibird flew along the I77 Freeway. Soon arriving at the location, the Vertibird landed so John,
> the two Specialists,

Dan: Okay, so they're specialists, but what do they specialise in?

Rick: Artisan bakery.
Dan: I did wonder.

> and the Synth could get off. John walked under the highway where he saw
> them. The rotting corpses of the New Spartan patrol that was killed.

Rebecca: Wait, is that what happened? I thought this was a disagreement about zoning regulations.

> "Ok, start scanning." John said to his men. The Synth nodded and used his robotic implants to scan
> for anything not natural

Tsuneo: He kept looking back at John for some reason.

> as the Specialists kept an eye out. The Synth then found a shell casing and
> picked it up before saying, "Mr. President, I found this." John walked over and was handed the shell
> casing. Looking it over, John noted that it was a 5mm round casing, and the only type of gun he
> knows uses 5mm rounds is a minigun. John thought about how it got there

Rick [John]: Wait, I've got it. This was fired from a gun!
Rebecca: Brilliant

> as the latest intel he had on the Athenians was that they had no miniguns.

Tsuneo: Good thing he had an accurate accounting of every single weapon that they had in this lawless wasteland.

> He spun the shell around before he stopped and got a good look at the firing Pin of the shell

Tsuneo: And wondered why it wasn't in the gun.

> and was shocked at what he saw.

Dan: Inspected by Glen LaBelle? What the hell?

> Back in New Charleston, John sat in his office when Harold walked in with Rebecca.

Rick: Harold and Rebecca walked into an office? Wow, fic, dial back on the action here.

> John put the
> shell casing on his desk and asked the two, "Without picking it, what does that look like to you
> guys?"

Dan: [Harold] Tuna melt.
Tsuneo: [Smith] A frost-free fridge. [Ding!]

> Rebecca and Harold were confused

Rebecca: A typical state of being around John.

> and both agreed it was a 5mm Shell casing.

Tsuneo: After hours of debate.

> John nodded his head, picked it up and handed it to Harold as he said, "Now look at the firing Pin."

Dan: Turns out somebody has been licking them.

> Harold and Rebecca looked at the firing pin and were soon shocked at what they saw.

Rick: [Harold] On the one hand, that is awfully obscene, but on the other hand it's impressive that they

carved it so finely.

> Rebecca looked at John and asked, "Please tell me you're pulling our legs?"

Tsuneo: The fic's efforts to build suspense are undercut by the fact that we don't care.

> John shook his head and said,
> "I'm not." Harold looked at him and said, "Where did you find this?"

Dan: [John] In the dryer. Must have left it in my pocket.

> "At the Ambush site where "Athenians" ambushed the New Spartan patrol." John told the two.
> Harold sat down as Rebecca asked John, "What does this mean John?" John sighed before he
> said, "It means, somehow… they're back."

Rick: Paul Sondheim and his army of killer robots. Should have known.

> Rebecca shook her head and asked, "How?! They were
> wiped out in the Capital Wasteland!" John looked at her and said, "That was just the Capital
> Wasteland, there might have been more than we thought."

Dan: We're talking about Kyoshi Dawn-Chan alliance here, right?

> The three of them were worried at the symbol on the firing pin of the shell.

> "Rebecca, we'll need the Brotherhood ready for things to come. Tell your second in command

Tsuneo: Senior Knight Nonspecific Entity

> and
> have them ready their men. Harold, alert the army officials, we may need to make moves soon to
> protect the Carolina Republic." Harold and Rebecca nodded their heads and ran out as John picked
> up the shell casing and looked at the symbol on the firing pin, the symbol of the Enclave, a long
> defeated faction that was formed from the old United States Government.

Rebecca: The Enclave comes back, the most basic Fallout fanfic premise

> John said to himself, "If they're here, all ghouls in the Carolina Republic are in danger."

Dan: [John] Wait, are either of you two ghouls?
Rick: [Harold] Nope.
Rebecca: [Smith] Don't think so.
Dan: [John] Oh, good. Nothing to worry about.

> That was when a guard ran in and said, "SIR! SUPER MUTANTS ARE APPROACHING!"

Rick: Oh no if it isn't drunken Brick!
Dan: You okay there?
Rick: Sorry. I saw the shouted all caps and panicked

> -----

> Chapter 2
> I do not own Fallout at all.

Rebecca: But none the less he will rant about how the people who actually own it don't 'understand' the series unlike 'true fans.'

> As for the characters, they can die at any moment in this story.

Tsuneo: And if John actually suffers any sort of loss or setback I will be genuinely surprised

> So don't be mad if a character you love dies.

Dan: No chance of that happening

> If you want to know what happened before all this, I
> recommend you read Fallout: South Carolina. This story is the sequel story to that one.

Rebecca: And maybe some other stuff in between.

> John ran to the wall with the soldier who told him about the Super Mutants. Getting to the wall, he
> looked and saw a group of 20 Super Mutants.

Rebecca: The situation was urgent, but not so urgent that he didn't stop to count them first

> The Main cannons and turrets turned to fire, but John
> said, "WAIT!" All the Men looked at him as John saw that none of the Super mutants were armed.

Dan: What are they supposed to use, harsh language?

> John then said, "Stay here." The men nodded as John walked down and walked to the lead Super
> Mutant. John looked at the Super Mutant and said, "I am John Bertrand, President of the Carolina
> Republic." The Super Mutant told him,

Rick: Super Mutant are not recognise state and territories of Carolina Republic.

> "My name is… Killian Newman. Heard this was place for safety… that true?"

Tsuneo: [John] Heck, no. We couldn't defend ourselves from a sleepy bloatfly.

> John looked at the wall before looking back at Killian and said to him, "Are you
> all looking for a place to live peacefully?"

Dan: Save for their all-night rages, sure.

> "Yes… we want place to call home." Killian told him. John nodded his head and said, "Well we have
> been having trouble clearing out feral ghouls of a Suburban town on the other side of the Arthur
> Ravenel Jr. Bridge. If you are willing to clear them out then you can have all of that for yourselves."

Tsuneo [Killian]: We come in peace and want to integrate into your society
Dan [John]: Go kill a bunch of monsters for us and we'll let you have their territory as your own Isolated enclave
Tsuneo [Killian]: Wow you're a dick

> Killian looked at his fellow Super mutants and they discussed it among themselves.

Rick: [Killian] Yeah, we could have done that without you, you know.

> Then they all
> nodded their heads, Killian then looked at John and said to him, "It is deal." John smiled and shook
> Killian's hand.

Dan: Snap! Crunch!

> John looked back at the wall and shouted, "IT'S OK! THEY'RE GOING TO HELP US!"

Rebecca: No way that this will come back on us at all.
Tsuneo: God no.

> Later, the Super Mutants were loaned Miniguns, Rocket Launchers, Laser rifles, Hunting rifles, and
> some Pipe rifles.

Rick: They had to all fill in forms and got appropriate receipts

> John and Harold even got into their Power armor as John handed Killian a Super Sledge.

Rebecca: John is multitasking.

> John then told Killian, "The Miniguns, Rocket Launchers, Laser Rifles, we want them back
> after this is done."

Dan: Hey giant killer mutants, we need you to return all the highly destructive weapons we lent you when you're done slaughtering our enemies for us
Rick: Well if you ask nicely...

> Killian nodded his head and led the other Super Mutants with John and Harold as
> other members of the Carolina Republican Army in their own Power Armor.

Tsuneo: [John] Good thing we had all these heavy weapons and power armours available to use at a moment's notice. Some people would think it's implausibly convenient, but that's just how things are in the Carolina Republic.

> It was confiscated from
> the Brotherhood of Steel in their several attempts to storm the city before the Carolina Republic
> formed.

Dan: Just assume this happened and move on

> John was confused by them being there and asked them, "What are you men doing?"

Rick: People's revolution, sir.

> The lead soldier stepped forward and said, "We're ready to help clear Mt. Pleasant of the Feral
> Ghouls." John and Harold both smiled

Tsuneo: [Harold] My face is stuck.

> and John said, "Very well, alright men, are your wrist blades ready?"

Rick: [John] Never mind the rest of your kit, what about your wrist blades?

> The soldiers nodded their heads and some even showed their Wrist blades in an expanded
> form ready.

Dan: Men, form ranks and shank a bitch.

> John smiled and said, "Let's go." The men and Super Mutants nodded their heads and
> walked to the wall that blocked off the Feral Ghouls from crossing the bridge. Zoey and Claire

Dan: Wait, have we met Claire?
Tsuneo: I –
Dan: Never mind, I don't care.

> wished them good luck before Zoey kissed John's cheek.

Rebecca: I suspect this is her entire character

> Smiling, John kissed Zoey back, but on her lips before he walked out.

Rick: I like to think he had his power armour helmet on there.

> Zoey blushed as Claire giggled. Claire then said, "Looks like dad
> loves you a lot," Zoey blushed more and said, "Zip it." Claire giggled.

Dan: A banter.
Rick: Fun.

> On the other side of the wall on the bridge, John and Harold, along with Killian Newman, led the
> Carolina Republic/Super Mutant team across the bridge.

Rebecca: [John] Really, we could have done this at any time. But we didn't.

> There were Feral Ghouls on the bridge so
> as they walked, two Super Mutants opened fire with their miniguns and took the Ferals down on the
> bridge. John smiled as he used his Gauss Rifle to help take Ferals out too.

Tsuneo [John]: Killing things is fun

> Harold used his Hunting Rifle

Dan: [Harold] So how come you get a Power Armour and a minigun, and I just get this old rifle?
Rick: [John] Because I'm the president, duh.

> which was modified with a Calibrated Powerful Receiver, a Long Ported Barrel, a Marksman's
> Stock, a Medium Quick Eject Mag, a Reflex Sight (Circle), and a Muzzle Brake,

Rick: And a Nuka-Cola paint job

> to take out Feral Ghouls with headshots.

Tsuneo: Thanks for getting to the point there
Dan: Really snappy narration here

> Some soldiers used their Laser Rifles to help as well, as did the Super Mutants with Killian.

Rebecca: Some soldiers hung back and played bridge, but they'd get a talking to.

> Arriving at the edge of the Bridge, several Carolina Republican army soldiers with combat Rifles
> with Hardened Piercing Auto Receivers, Short Ported Barrels, Recoil Compensating Stocks, Large
> Magazines, circle Reflex Sights, and Muzzle Brakes,

Rick: That soldier has a Medium Quick Eject Magazine
Rebecca: The entire scene is ruined now

> opened fire on Feral Ghouls as the Super
> Mutants with Rocket Launchers, modified with Quad Barrels, Targeting computers, and stabilizers,

Tsuneo: I never realised how much I wanted a fic to tell me what weapon mods a background character had. I feel lucky.

> shot at glowing ones to make sure none of them revive their fellow ferals. When some Feral Ghouls
> got too close, the soldiers punched them in their irradiated faces

Dan: Your face is irradiated!

> as their wrist blades went into
> them, killing the ferals. John looked at them and shouted, "Stick together! Keep each other
> covered!" Super Mutants with Miniguns that were modded with Accelerated barrels, Gunner sights,
> and Shredders

Rick: Although some had Krang or Lord Dregg

> mowed down Ferals that rounded corners and smashed the ones who got too close away.

Rebecca: Do you think that John feels any remorse for killing these poor unfortunates who were once human?
Dan [John]: Hey, that one had a Desk Fan. I can scrap it for screws
Rebecca: Thought so

> "Harold, take some of the men and head to the left. Krillian and I will lead the rest down the right.
> We'll leave some…" was what John said before they heard a massive roar coming from down the
> road. John, Harold, and Krillian all looked as a deathclaw-sized monster walked into view.

Rick: Wait, that's not on the spawn table for feral ghouls.

> Looking
> at the group, it had two red eyes and a row of sharp teeth. It stood on its back legs and let out
> another mighty roar. One of the Carolina Republican Army soldiers shouted, "LIZARD MAN!"

Dan: Aaaah! Legally distinct giant killer reptile monster!

> The Lizard Man roared again and charged at them.

Tsuneo: Oh no, how will the literal army equipped with heavy weapons deal with this?
Rick: Heavily modified heavy weapons.
Tsuneo: Sure. Thanks. That helps.

> Two Super Mutants with Miniguns got in front and
> opened fire at the monster. The Lizard Man took the shots but it charged to the two.

> John heard the legends of the Lizard men from his father,

Rebecca: About how they controlled world banking. His father was a deeply disturbed man.

> but he never thought he'd see one in real
> life as it jumped up and slammed one of the Super Mutants into the ground and slashed at the other
> one. He had to act fast to save the Super Mutants.

Rick: So he set up a committee.

> Handing his Gauss rifle to Harold, John ran into the Lizard Man and punched it in the shout.

Tsuneo: He has a powerful long-range gun, but no, punching it in the face also works.

> Getting the Lizard Man to turn around, he grabbed the
> Lizard Man by its tail and swung it around before sending it into a Pre-War house.

Rebecca: He's fighting it using cartoon physics

> As the Lizard
> Man got up and roared again, John pulled out his knife and charged in, slamming into the
> Wasteland Monster and repeatedly stabbing it in its back, its side, and through one eye.

Tsuneo: [Bored] Wow. What a terror.
Rick: Lizard Man got paid to throw the fight.

> Harold, the
> Carolina Republican Army soldiers, Killian, and his Super Mutants were in shock at how hard John
> was going.

Dan: So much so that they all stood there and didn't even try to help

> Soon the Lizard Man was dead

Rick: Killed by second-hand smoke. Nothing to do with John here.

> and John walked out, his combat knife broken off in the
> monster, his Power Armor suit covered in the monster's blood.

> "Mr. President…" said one of the Carolina Republican Army soldiers. When John looked at them, he
> saw them saluting him. He had their trust before, but now those with him would die for him.

Rebecca: Yep. Stabbing a Lizard Man will do that for you.

> John smiled under his helmet as Krillian walked over and said, "You saved Toby and Keith,

Dan: Where Toby and Keith are...
Tsuneo: People he saved, obviously
Dan: Of course.

> you are good person." John smiled

Rebecca: He always does the right thing
Tsuneo: Him and Kevin

> and said, "It wouldn't be right if I let them die when I offered you all a chance to live in peace.

Dan: [John] Besides, I've never shanked a Lizard Man before. It was kinda fun.

> Come on, let's clear up a good spot for you and your friends." Killian nodded and
> they all resumed the task they set out to do.

Rebecca: [John] More killing for everyone!

> Meanwhile, in a fallout Bunker, Enclave Remnant Soldiers walked inside it as their leader, a General
> was sitting in his office when a man clad in X0-1 Power Armor walked in

Rick: Was he one of the other people who walked in or was that a different person walking in?
Tsuneo: We have that sentence structure and that's what bothers you?
Rick: I need to know these things

> and said, "General, Enclave Squad Epsilon reporting back from the mission You gave us."

Dan: You remember, down in the Gleaming Depths nearly 200 years ago?

> The General didn't look at him and asked the soldier,

Rebecca: [General] Will you take that thing off?

> "How did it go, Squad leader?" The man in the X0-1 Power Armor told
> the General that the mission to sow distrust between New Sparta and Athens had been a success.

Tsuneo: Their squad made the bare minimum effort possible, but fortunately the New Spartans were really dumb.

> He then said, "Soon the two tainted factions will tear each other apart."

> "The evidence has been planted then?"

Dan [Soldier]: Didn't I just say that?

> The General asked his subordinate, to which he said, "Yes
> sir General, the gun runner we paid has given the Athenians the minigun used.

Rebecca: Once they run it through their ballistics lab… oh…

> Once New Sparta finds that out, they will declare war, the plan is going smoothly Father."

Rebecca: It's a solid plan as long as you don't do anything stupid like leave behind evidence that literally has your name on it. But that would be stupid.

> The General looked at him and said, "Very good son. You do your ancestors well."

Rick [General]: So let's go shoot some hoops

> The Soldier smiled with pride and bowed his head before saluting his father and walking out.

Rebecca: [General] Should have had a vasectomy.

> The General then looked at a photo of his family,
> which included his estranged brother who he had not heard from in years.

Tsuneo: Well, that seems healthy
Rebecca: Entirely wholesome and above water

> Back in Charleston, John, Harold, and the group that went with the Super Mutants were resting after
> taking out a good portion of the Feral Ghouls

Dan: Taking a time out from the slaughter

> with Killian and his Super Mutants. John took a sip of boiled Water

Rick: I feel like I'm going to have to start counting everyone's rads or something.

> as Harold said, "You did well today John." John smiled and said, "Thanks, Harold.

Rebecca: [John] Praise me more, Harold. Your President commands it.

> It was a hard fight,

Tsuneo: Demonstrably not true.

> but we got a good amount of the town for the Super Mutants, not to mention that
> Killian told me that they could eat the Ferals for food.

Rebecca: There is so much to unpack here that I don't even know where to start.

> Killian walked up to the two and said, "Toby and Keith want to join army."

Rick: You go, Toby and Keith. Whoever the hell you are.

> John and Harold both looked at each other before looking back at Killian.

> "Are they sure? I know there are wastelanders who have lost loved ones to Super Mutants,

Rick: What, like if their husband ran off with a younger Super Mutant they met in Vegas?

> and they may see my choice of letting your group into the republic be controversial.

Tsuneo: How about if they promise only to eat people they don't like?

> But are they sure they want to be in the army?"

Dan: [John] Like, have you seen the uniform?

> Killian nodded his head. John looked at Harold who looked at John before they nodded their heads.

Rick: [John] I have declared this to be so. No need to consult the cabinet.
Tsuneo: [Harold] I am the cabinet.

> Looking back at Killian, John said, "Of course, we welcome all who want to help our republic."

Dan: Hi there, I'm a chem-addled Raider who likes to kick puppies and steal from old grannies. But I want to contribute to your Republic with my awful spoken-word poetry and use that to fuel my chem habit
Rick [John]: You're in
Tsuneo: Hey, I'm a scavenger who goes around pillaging ruins to build robots to help me pillage ruins. I want to set up a workshop in the republic to support my robot pillaging habit while hoarding whatever I find.
Rick [John]: Great to meet you!
Rebecca: Um, hi. I'm a Vault Dweller who has a whole bunch of technical and medical skills combined with practical experience and the ability to impart them to others. But I have some questions about your leadership and governmental structure
Rick [John]: Get the hell out

> Killian smiled and thanked John. Soon, John, Harold, the men that went
> with them, Toby, and Keith

Rick: Isaac, Zephyr, Charles, Charles, Misspelled Saphire, Madam Z, the Spicy Trio, Intelligent on Plants Girl, Glen LaBelle, Agent Seizure and a random Patterson clone.

> returned to Charleston where some of the citizens were frightened by the
> Super Mutants. John saw this and gathered them. John told them, "These Super Mutants put their
> lives on the line to make sure we didn't lose men.

Tsuneo: He sent them to die in his place. There, he out and said it.

> They asked to join the army and I am willing to let
> them. Before you object, listen to what some of the men who went with us say about them."

Dan: Death to the greenskins! I mean –

> The first to step up was one of the men from the group that went across the bridge. He said, "I saw
> these Super Mutants save a private that went with us from a bloated glowing one.

Dan: Wow, that sounds really exciting and certainly something that would be cool to see and not just being recounted after the fact

> They even engaged a Lizard Man before the President took the monster down.

Rebecca: Real 'I'm helping' energy there.

> They earned their place here."

Tsuneo: They earned their place in our society by killing stuff
Rick: Yay killing, I guess

> Then a civilian stepped forward and she said, "My daughter's favorite toy was thrown onto a place I
> couldn't reach, one of the Super Mutants got it down for her and she was happy.

Dan: True he was planning to eat it, but that's beside the point

> I am for them being a part of our republic."

Rick: I'll take 'things that definitely happened' for 500.
Rebecca: And then everybody clapped

> Then those who lost family to the Super Mutants spoke up about how Super
> Mutants killed people they cared about, how they could still kill them all.

Rebecca: But since they didn't agree with John, we don't get to hear about them

> "If Killian and the others had wanted us dead, they would have come here with weapons. They
> came here unarmed and even returned all the heavy weapons we had them use.

Tsuneo: And got back their damage deposit

> They genuinely want peace among us."

Rick: [John] And as a peace offering, they gave us this giant wooden horse.

> Harold said to those who were against the peace with Killian and his Super
> Mutants. Those who were against it looked at each other and thought about it. The next day, those
> who refused to change left the City.

Tsuneo: No room for dissenters in John's post-nuclear utopia.

> John sighed at those who left, hoping they changed their minds after the evidence he showed them.

Rick [John]: I can't believe that anyone would be opposed to giant cannibal mutants

> Harold patted his back as he said, "It was an attempt at least.

Tsuneo: My review of the fic so far

> Not to mention that a good few did change their minds."

> "Yeah, but I fear they could try to do something later to the Super Mutants," John said to him. Harold
> then patted John's Shoulder again and said,

Dan: [Harold] You feel good, man. You been working out?

> "I know man. We just have to make sure we protect the
> Super Mutants." John nodded his head and got an idea.

Rick [John]: I'm going to make a sandwich with three different cheeses in it

> John then looked at Harold and said, "How are we in terms of AA guns?"

Rebecca: Given that there are almost no aircraft left in the world, why are you even asking?

> Harold put his hand on his chin before he said, "Well the guns around
> the City are all pointed around for defending the Capital.

Dan: He just stuck some turrets wherever he had a flat surface, didn't he?
Rick: You just know the settlement's wiring is a nightmare.

> We can make more, why?"

> "I think we should make sure the Super Mutants stay safe in case they try to launch an airstrike,"

Tsuneo: Why is this even something you're concerned about?
Dan: When neighbourhood disputes spiral out of all proportion

> John said to him. Harold nodded his head and said, "Got it, we'll get things underway to start the AA
> guns." John nodded his head and thanked him. John then stood up and said, "Now we also need to
> make farms for the City to make sure our stocks don't run out."

Rick [John]: Food is important, but not as important as guns.

> Harold nodded his head and walked off.

Rebecca: John has spoken and so it shall be done.
Tsuneo: But I'm not sure we have enough suitable land or –
Rebecca: John has spoken!

> Claire and Zoey then joined John.

Dan: [Zoey] We are also here now.

> John picked up Claire and held her in his arms as Zoey asked how it went, and John told her,

Rick: [John] I stabbed a Lizard Man!

> "We were able to get some people to change, but there were people
> that still hated Super Mutants. They left the city, though I fear they may try something to take the
> Super Mutants out."

Rick: In case you missed that last point, here it is again

> Zoey nodded her head and took his hand.

Rebecca: Her character is so deep and well-realised

> The Next day, John was given the report that his envoys arrived in New Sparta and Athens.

Tsuneo: Hold on a moment… Envoys have been ejected from Athens for indecent public acts involving Pork n' Beans.

> He was told that Athens recently got a minigun from a gun Runner

Dan: They bought the overpowered weapons DLC pack

> and New Spartans are sending an envoy to Athens to demand a look at their inventory.

Tsuneo: Inventory action!

> John groaned and said, "That's just perfect, we don't
> have enough proof to say the Athenians weren't behind the attack.

Rebecca: Please ignore the detailed proof they previously uncovered.

> Not to mention with the Minigun
> there is no doubt they'll see that it was recently used and go to war."

Dan: You have no proof we attacked you!
Rick [John]: Yes, but a minigun exists at some point in space and time
Dan: Damn, he's got us there

> Harold and Rebecca sat in
> their seats and had their arms crossed as Harold said, "The Enclave Remnants are going to be a
> pain." Then Rebecca said,

Tsuneo: [Smith] Do I have to be here for this?

> "Yeah, but on the good side, we were able to start giving every
> Republican Squad a radio. Meaning our Army's coordination is getting better."

Rebecca: Have they also assembled the necessary communications infrastructure to support it?
Tsuneo: He's not going to sweat the details

> "That's good to hear. With the Radios in each squad, we'll be able to make sure wars go more
> effectively in combat."

Rick: You only want the most effective wars when you're in a fight

> John said with a smile. Then Rebecca's second in command, Henry Smith, walked in.

Tsuneo: People walking into rooms and saying things makes up ninety percent of this fic

> John smiled and said, "That looks good on you, Paladin Smith."

Dan: I thought Rebecca was Paladin Smith.
Rebecca: No, she’s Elder Smith. I think.
Dan: Yeah, this isn’t going to be confusing at all.

> Henry smiled and said,
> "Thank you, Mr. President. Anyway, we uploaded our Power Armor Schematics to Charleston's
> Power armor making Facility."

Rebecca: At this point the fic is less Fallout as it's somebody's Civilization playthough with some set dressing

> John smiled and thanked Henry for the update.

Tsuneo: Does he have any expression aside from smiling?
Dan: Well, he has to be doing something else so he can start smiling.
Tsuneo: I… guess?

> Afterward, he stood
> up and said, "Still, we need to get the army up to training. The Volunteers from the settlements
> around us are still in desperate need of training."

Tsuneo: They need training and they need training

> Harold and Rebecca nodded their heads and stood up as well.

> In the Charleston Power Plant, the workers made sure to get the plant up and running as one man
> walked behind a generator, and after making sure he was not being watched,

Rebecca: Let me guess, he’s vaping on the job.

> he knelt and planted explosives on one of the large Generators

Rebecca: Oh, never mind. That’s so much better.

> when he was stopped by a guard who was secretly watching him.

Tsuneo: Sentence!

> The man kicked the guard away and shot him with a 10mm Pistol in the chest.

Rick: But what kind of receiver did it have?

> That
> lured the rest of the guards and workers there. The Saboteur ran out to try and get away when a
> Paladin rounded the corner and punched the attempted Saboteur in his face.

Rick: TOGG!

> The guards arrived as the Paladin knelt and looked the Saboteur over.

Tsuneo: Good thing John's grand republic of John wasn't endangered in any way. I'd hate to think of John facing any kind of inconvenience.

> As a guard helped the Paladin, medics ran to the injured Guard as the bullet missed any Vital
> Organs.

Dan: So hows the state of their medical technology?
Tsuneo: I'll get the leeches

> The guard who was helping search the Saboteur's body and found Enclave holotags on it.

Rebecca: This guy is not very good at being discrete and covering his tracks

> Everyone was horrified at the presence of the Enclave Spy

Rick: Brick Hactar, Tridosk, Lynx, Smartmind, Stank, Akira from Programming, Bruno Demonski the Man on Fire that you cannot stop and another random Patterson clone. Everyone.

> and the Paladin called for the President.

Rebecca: Sadly, John was busy trying to teach Radcoons to use plasma weapons, so the Paladin had to report to the next person in the chain of command.
Tsuneo: Who's that?
Rebecca: Claire, who's his daughter. I think.

> When John got the call and heard about the Enclave Holotags, He knew that he couldn't keep the
> truth hidden now.

Rebecca: He was hoping to blame it all on BookTok influencers

> He arrived at the Power Plant with Harold and Rebecca as the Paladin who
> punched the Saboteur

Tsuneo: Paladin who punched the Saboteur is my favourite character

> walked up to him with the man in question tied up.

Dan: Fortunately the paladin wasn't in their Power Armour or the scene would be a whole lot messier.

> The Paladin told John,
> "He was attempting to plant explosives on one of the Generators and he wounded a guard."

Rebecca: To recap the scene that just happened...

> John nodded his head and noticed that the workers and guards were looking at them.

Tsuneo: Did nobody close off the crime scene?

> So he cleared his throat and walked to them.

> "It seems the Enclave is back, yes. Before anyone asks if I knew, yes I did. An Envoy from a
> potential trade Partner that members of their settlement were gunned down by another settlement
> when it was in reality the Enclave trying to sow chaos.

Rick [John]: We know this based entirely on a single shell casing
Dan: Well, I'm convinced

> This would be the first attempt on our Republic. This will not go unanswered.

Tsuneo: [John] We shall send the Enclave a strongly-worded letter.

> The Enclave Remnant will be dealt with here and peace brought to the Carolina Republic."

Rebecca: Honestly these guys seem a bit beneath the Enclave's attention.

> John said in an inspirational speech. The people gathered there
> clapped for John, they would follow him to the ends of the earth if they had to.

> Later, John was working on an old T-45 Power Armor suit

Rick: Can we assume it has the Core Assembly mod?
Tsuneo: If it makes you feel better.

> when an idea popped into his head.

Rick [John]: I turn my underpants inside out and wear them two days in a row

> He
> called Harold and asked him if they had any spare Stealth Boys in storage. Harold looked and said,
> "Looks like we got a few and we have the components to make more."

Tsuneo: Of course they do.
Rebecca: John has everything John needs at all times.

> John smiled and said,

Tsuneo: [John] Now we are on a plane.
Dan: [Harold] We are flying now.

> "Deliver those parts to me at the Power Armor Stations."

Dan: So he's running the nation from the workshop now?
Tsuneo: Apparently so.

> Harold nodded his head and had some
> men help him deliver the parts for John's potential plans for the T-45 Power Armor.

Rebecca: No, taping a Stealth Boy to its back and painting 'Stealth Power Armour' on it does not make it stealthy, so stop trying.

> -----

> Chapter 3
> I do not own Fallout at all. As for the characters, they can die at any moment in this story.

Dan: You keep promising but you are yet to deliver

> So don't be mad if a character you love dies.

Tsuneo: I'd be okay with a grievous injury.

> If you want to know what happened before,

Rick: John did stuff, there were smoothies.

> I recommend you
> read Fallout: South Carolina. This story is the sequel story to that one.

> As John worked on the T-45 Power Armor, Harold Moore came in with men carrying supplies.

Rebecca: He said that he would do something and then he did it. What a shocking twist!

> John thanked Harold for the supplies to make Stealth Boys.

Rick: [Harold] So where do you want this nuclear material?

> Harold knelt as John looked over the plans
> and asked, "How will you make it work? Also isn't there a mod for stealth anyway?"

Dan: Yeah, but he hasn't unlocked those plans so he'll have to improvise.

> John told Harold that the mod would only work if a person was crouching.

Tsuneo: You can only turn invisible if you crouch. Game logic at its finest

> He was going to modify the armor to make
> it possible to be standing for about a minute and it still worked. Harold asked John if he needed any
> help, but John told him, "No I'm good Harold,

Tsuneo: Don't you know, John can do anything.

> I appreciate the offer though. Plus I plan on making
> the Power armor be as quiet as possible with my idea."

Rick: It will be several hundred pounds of clanking metal, but it will be very quiet.

> "That… seems like it may noy be possible Mr. President," Harold told him,

Rebecca: Harold has learned it's best not to question John in his... moods.

> but John told Harold that
> he had worked on Power Armor suits when he was a part of the Brotherhood so he was able to find
> a way to make them quieter.

Tsuneo: John is the reason bad guys in Power Armour keep sneaking up on them.

> John then looked at him and said, "How else did you think I made my X0-1 as quiet as it is."

Tsuneo [Harold]: Sir, we can all hear you. We were just humouring you

> Harold thought about it, John's Power Armor was in fact quiet so it might work.

Rebecca: Also, the department of education wants to speak with you about establishing a reading curriculum, while we need to review food production figures and public works needs funding to ensure a steady supply of clean water
Rick [John]: It can wait while I mess with my Power Armour

> That was when a soldier came in, saluted them, and said, "Mr. President, General Moore.

Dan: [John] What's the report?
Rick: [Soldier] Nothing, I just wanted to say hi.

> A Group of survivors have made contact with us at the East entry point of the city."

Rebecca: [Soldier] Per standard instructions, I set the mole rats on them.

> John and Harold
> looked at each other before John stood up and said, "Looks like my personal project has been put
> on hold.

Dan: [John] Fine, I'll have to go and be a president or something, I guess.

> Outside the East Entry Point,

Dan: Visit scenic East Entry Point, home of the famous East Entry Point valley

> John and Harold walked out and saw the group waiting in front of the checkpoint.

Rick: It was a pack of 2d4 Orcs. Roll for initiative.

> John walked to the small group of ten people and he told them that he apologized for
> the hold-up, mentioning that they had had issues with infiltrators from a hostile group to the republic.

Tsuneo: They did not.

> One man stood up, dressed in a Pre War Policeman's uniform and cap but it was a blue shirt with
> red pocket flaps, epaulets, a black tie, a police badge, black pants with red stripes, and a black
> leather belt with metal buckle.

Rebecca: He is now the best described character in the fic

> The shirt also sported an unfamiliar logo on the right shoulder

Rick: It was the M-Tron logo, so I can understand why you might not recognise it

> and a U.S. flag on the left.

> "Are you the Main man in charge here?" the Man in the police uniform asked.

Rebecca: [Harold] We're just waiting on the people's revolution.

> John nodded his head
> and said, "I am. President John Bertrand of the Carolina Republic, pleased to meet you."

Tsuneo: As the President, his job is to personally greet random strangers who walk up to him.

> The policeman stood at attention and saluted him before apologizing for his blatant disrespect.

Dan: He disrespected John by... introducing himself?

> John put
> his hand up and said, "It's ok, you didn't know. What's your name?" The Policeman, still at attention
> introduced himself as

Dan: Albert Razzmatazz Quasimodo Fentingtentingtontington. He's a hovertank pilot.

> Senior Responder Preston Montgomery. John saluted the man back and said,

> "The Responders, who are they?"

Rick: Very, very lost.

> "The Responders is a volunteer disaster relief organization that originated in Appalachia. Formed
> shortly after the Great War by local first responder units,

Rebecca: Who then died.

> we're dedicated to helping local
> communities survive. To this end, we instituted a variety of programs that range from basic outdoor
> survival training to a specialized combat division called the Fire Breathers."

Rebecca: He said in a way that looked suspiciously like it was copy-pasted from somewhere else.

> Responder Montgomery started with before he introduced the other members of his party.

Rick: [John] Uh-huh. Yeah. That's swell. Am I going to have to get everyone's life stories now?

> There was a woman named Beatrice Pickett, a descendant of Civil War general George Pickett.

Dan: That's not the sort of thing you want to admit to
Tsuneo: And in a fic set in South Carolina, it's a real red flag

> Beatrice was the group's Medic,
> she wore a Responder Paramedic Jumpsuit; a navy blue jumpsuit with the Responders logo above
> the left pocket. It has a band of red and white stripes on both arms near the elbow, as well as the
> symbol of the "Star of Life" on both upper arms. On the back is the word "paramedic" with a large
> Responders logo.

Tsuneo: Intense jumpsuit description action!

> Then there was Matt Sully, the firefighter of the group. He wore a black coat with white and blue
> bands on the sleeves and bottom, held closed by three belts across the waist. There's also a
> Responders emblem on the right coat sleeve, a white firefighter's helmet with a full-face gas mask
> hanging off his neck.

Rick: Matt also has a bright purple mohawk, but that's obviously far less interesting.

> Next to be introduced was Shane Varguson, the other Paramedic as he also
> wore a Responder Paramedic Jumpsuit.

Tsuneo: We have blessedly been spared a repeat of the description.

> Next up was Timothy Dinozzo, he was wearing a normal Police uniform.

Rebecca: I assume that all of these characters will be vital to the narrative, because I can't think of a single sane reason to introduce them individually otherwise

> Then there were some Civilians where one of them was called McDonough. John
> leaned in to get a closer look at McDonough and said,

Dan: [John] Sick gains, bruh.

> "Aren't you the Synth that was once Diamond
> City's mayor?" McDonough panicked and was worried he would be killed, but John calmed him
> down. "Relax, relax, we're friendly to synths here." John assured him.

Dan [McDonough]: So the fact that I was an active Institute agent and used my position to deliberately fuel discord among the population, cover up their activities and instituted an anti-Ghoul purge is fine?

Rick [John]: Oh sure. We're all cool with that here.

> John then said, "We have many
> citizens here who are in fact Synths. Synths are a main part of our population."

Dan: If John was a Synth – and I mean one of the early creepy robot models – that would explain a lot

> Harold nodded his
> head as McDonough looked at him before he said, "Yeah, the Mayor before John took charge and
> made it friendly to Synths.

Rebecca: He also liked to lick radtoads, so take that how you will

> In fact, most recently we allowed some Super Mutants to settle across a bridge."

Tsuneo: [John] But not in our actual town, of course.
Dan: [Preston] Uh... Yeah. Of course.

> McDonough was shocked as John confirmed what Harold told him.

Rebecca: Harold is inherently untrustworthy.

> McDonough sighed a
> sigh of relief as the rest of the group, a woman and her young son, a Ex-Gunner corporal armed
> with a Laser rifle modified with a Overcharged capacitor, Improved sniper barrel, a Recoil
> compensating stock, a Short recon scope, and a Fine-tuned beam focuser.

Dan: His gun is the most important thing about him

> After the group was welcomed in, John had the Responders assigned to the city's main emergency
> response units.

Tsuneo: He didn't try to figure out why they were there or what they wanted, but hey. They're drafted now

> McDonough was given a temporary house until he found a job.

Rick: As a corrupt and inept former local politician, I'm sure he'll easily find work.
Rebecca: I'm not sure if you're joking or sincere
Rick: Me either and it scares me

> John even had a
> newly rebuilt and Refurbished apartment room made for the mother and son to sleep in.

Rebecca: As the president, he personally sees to each individual's housing needs

> All that was left was the Ex-Gunner Corporal.

Dan: The man attached to the laser rifle.

> John looked at him and asked the former Gunner, "Where did you
> come from?" The gunner told John, "the Wasteland north of the Most Northern outpost you have."

Dan: Well that really narrows it down

> John nodded his head and said, "Ok, why did you leave the gunners?"

Rebecca: Their benefits package sucked.

> The Ex-Gunner told him,

> "Well… we were ordered to raze a settlement that did nothing wrong to us. I was one of few who
> didn't want to do it. Those who were more vocal… were shot."

> John was horrified at what the Ex-gunner was saying.

Tsuneo: [John] You refused orders?

> The Ex-Gunner then told John, "My Brother
> was with me in the disagreement. The night he and I left, a sergeant saw us and when he opened
> fire with his laser rifle that was modified to be a sniper laser rifle,

Dan: Oh good, I was worried we might not get important detail.

> he hit my brother… turned him to
> ashes after he tossed me this rifle." John could tell that seeing his brother get turned to ashes was
> the first time.

Rick: He'd never seen his brother being turned into ashes before.

> John put a hand on the man's shoulder and told him, "I'll tell you this, it won't get any
> easier, but you learn to dull the pain."

Tsuneo: [John] Your feelings are wrong. Push them down and crush them.

> The Ex-Gunner looked at him and asked, "How many?"

> "Too many." John said to him.

Rick: Too many of his brothers have been turned to ashes.

> John then sat to him and said to the man,

Tsuneo: The curiously nameless ex-gunner with a tragic backstory.
Dan: And a modified laser rifle.
Tsuneo: Oh good, that's what's important.

> "Back before I was President of the Carolina Republic, I was a Paladin in the Brotherhood of Steel.

Rebecca: John's biography is mandatory reading in the Carolina Republic.

> When I first held a
> Laser rifle and I killed a Raider with it, he turned to ashes like your brother did.

Rick: [John] I couldn't stop laughing... Ah, still makes me chuckle to this day.

> When I saw that… I puked.

Tsuneo: [John] I was wearing my Power Armour helmet at the time. Yeah... It was messy.

> Every time I saw a body turn to ashes I puked, I puked until I just couldn't feel it anymore. It
> never gets any easier."

Dan: And then he puked on the Gunner to prove the point

> John then pulled out a canteen that had whiskey in it

Rebecca: [John] Presidenting is a lot easier with this baby.

> before handing it to the former gunner as he asked for his name.

> "William Jackson." The Gunner said before taking the canteen and taking a swig of it.

Rick: [William] Notes of dirty water and foot medicine.

> Then he
> coughed before John took it back. John asked William if he ever drank alcohol before, and William
> said, "No sir, that was my first time drinking alcohol."

Tsuneo: [William] You gave me a canteen, I thought it was water.

> John looked at him and asked, "How old are you?"

> "Um…. 17, sir."

Rick: John is the model of responsibility

> WIlliam told him. John was shocked. He then asked where his parents were,

Rebecca: Questions he should have asked before giving him the booze.

> William told him, "Last I heard… with the gunners still. Guess you can say the gunners ran in the
> family

Dan: They run a Gunners franchise in Marlborough

> until I left. So as far as I'm concerned, my parents consider me dead

Rick: [John] Just like your brother, am I right?

> since I left the gunner's
> life behind." John nodded his head and said, "Well for certain you have a new family here with us in
> the Carolina Republic."

Rebecca: [John] Report to Harold to be assigned a wife and a white picket fence.

> William smiled and thanked John.

Dan: [William] All I did was show up.

> John patted his back and said, "No
> worries." John then offered William a spot in the army to help him with getting settled in. William
> nodded his head and took it.

Tsuneo: We're never going to see him again, are we?

> Later, John was in his office

Tsuneo: Did he ever go back and finish that Stealth Boy mod?
Rick: Already forgot it.

> when one of his Secret Service guards walked in

Rebecca: I wonder what kind of a population they must have to create a functioning Secret Service.
Rick: I wonder where they got all the suits and dark glasses.

> and said, "Mr. President, there is a man who wishes to speak to you."

Dan: Somebody walking into a place and saying that somebody else wants to talk to John! Drink!
Rick: I didn't know we're playing a drinking game
Dan: Drinking game?

> John put the papers he had in his hands down and said to him to let the man in.

Rebecca: [John] Doesn’t anyone make an appointment?

> The guard nodded and stepped to the side and a man
> walked in wearing a pinstripe suit and glasses walked in and said, "Mr. President. My name is
> Mason Prescott Sr."

Tsuneo: Yes, but what outfit is he wearing and what weapon is he carrying and most importantly, what mods does it have? Without know all this, I'm lost
Rebecca: Truly, those are what most defines a character

> John stood up and shook his hand as he said, "Welcome to the current Capital Mr. Prescott."

Dan: Current capital?
Rick: The last one sank

> Prescott Sr. smiled and when he sat down after John, he said, "I am from one of the
> outer Settlements in your new Carolina Republic up along the old state border.

Rebecca: But is it north of their northernmost outpost?

> Which borders a
> new Government that wants more land. With your Republic in place… it causes problems for them."

Rick: It makes them feel kind of awkward and uncomfortable

> "I've been getting reports. The Charlotte imperium."

Rick: Okay, new game. We make up wasteland states by attaching a form of government to a pre-existing location. Go!
Rebecca: The People’s Democratic Republic of Rutland.
Dan: The Chattanooga Coalition.
Tsuneo: Uh... The Truth or Consequences Free States.
Rebecca: The Fort Worth Anarcho-Syndicalist Commune.
Dan: The Arkansas Protectorate.
Rick: Bzzt! Already in use.
Dan: Dammit.

> John said as he leaned backwards in his seat.
> Prescott Sr. nodded his head and said that they have been harassing his settlement dressed as
> Raiders but there was always one distinct way to tell them apart from normal Raiders, a Branding
> on their arms that have a C over an I.

Dan: We're going to give you all a distinctive permanent mark. Then we're going to disguise you to conceal our involvement
Tsuneo: I see a flaw in this plan

> John nodded his head and called Harold.

Rebecca: Sorry, Harold’s busy juggling the last half-dozen things you abandoned midway.

> When he came in,
> John told him, "Get me in contact with the men near… where did you say your settlement was?"

Tsuneo: He said it was an outer settlement up near the old state border. He can't be any more specific.

> "Clover, sir." Prescott Sr. answered with. John resumed by telling Harold, "Get me in contact with

> the men at Old Fort Mill." Harold nodded his head and smiled, old Fort Mill was where a good
> number of men would be serving a rotation for a few months and it just got up and running.

Dan [Harold]: Did you want me to tell them anything?
Rick [John]: Naw. I just wanted to say hello.

> Leaving the room, John looked at Prescott Sr. and told him, "Don't worry Mr. Prescott Sr.

Rebecca: He has to say the ‘senior' each time because he doesn’t want people to be confused.

> we'll make sure
> that your settlement is protected." Prescott Sr. smiled and thanked John and if there was anything
> he wanted he was happy to ask for it.

Rick: A wheelbarrow, pack of stodgy Eastern European cigarettes, tub of lard, an AMC Pacer... anything

> John nodded his head and said, "I will remember that."
> Prescott Sr. stood up after John did, the two shook hands and he left the office.

Dan: The conversation ended on this

> The next day, John finished working on the prototype left Arm mod for T-45 Power Armor and he
> needed a volunteer to test the suit.

Dan: The ‘volunteer’ was worried about the large amount of hazard pay.

> William volunteered, but there were some who were against him
> going into Power Armor with a new Mod installed.

Rick [John]: It's fine, I'm okay with him testing it
Tsuneo: Do you trust him?
Rick [John]: Well, that and there's every chance the mod fries him with radiation, so what do I have to lose?

> John got their attention and said, "That's enough. He is an Ex-Gunner, EX.

Dan: [John] He only razed one peaceful settlement. One!

> He wants to show that we can trust him. I trust him,

Rebecca: Because you shared a drink once.

> so you all should too."

Tsuneo: Since John is infallible and always right.

> John looked at William and said, "Get in it, just follow what I say."

Rick: [John] And don’t mind the warning lights, they’re meant to be on.

> William nodded his head and got
> into the armor. John asked William how the Power Armor felt and he said, "Feels fine Mr. President."
> John told William,

Dan [William]: Though it smells suspiciously like burning rubber

> "Ok, now push the Red Button on your left arm."

Rick: [William] Wait, does it say ‘self-destruct’ on it?
Tsuneo: [John] Look, just do it already.

> William did and when he pushed it, the whole Power Armor suit went invisible.

> The crowd was shocked,

Rebecca: They wanted blood.

> John then said, "You still there William?" and William said, "Yes Sir Mr. President."

Dan: [John] Good. Commence firing.
Rick: [William] Wait, what?

> John then told Mason to walk to a person in the crowd then turn off the invisibility by
> pushing the button again."

Tsuneo: [William] I can’t find the button. [Pause] It’s invisible.

> After a while, the Power Armor appeared in front of one of the onlookers.
> Everyone was shocked at how quiet it moved while cloaked. John then said, "Yes I know there's a
> cloaking mod for the chest component

Tsuneo: Well yeah. Everyone knows that.

> however that only works if you're crouching. My mod allows
> the user to be standing while cloaked, though it only lasts a minute."

Rebecca: Next he will pull a rabbit out of his hat and turn a lady into a tiger

> The crowd was amazed by the mod their president made.

Dan [Bored]: We are amazed.

> William got out of the Power Armor and
> smiled at John. John patted his back and said, "Good job William, you did good." William smiled and
> thanked John for the opportunity.

Dan [William]: Also, I have this strange burning feeling all over my body...
Rick [John]: Not my problem

> John nodded his head and patted William's back.

Tsuneo: Then gave him a belly rub for good measure

> After making sure the mod was off the Power Armor, to make sure no one stole it,

Rick: I’m looking at you, Trashcan Carla

> John told them, "I'm the only one who knows how to make this mod.

Dan: Only John can duct tape a Stealth Boy to a Power Armour.

> So even if the mod was taken, they wouldn't be able to
> reverse engineer it since I have a specific way to do it." William nodded his head in agreement.

Rebecca: I see many flaws in this plan

> That night, John took Zoey to a Cafe where they had a wonderful time eating Grilled radstag with
> Nuka-Cola,

Tsuneo: Just that. No greens, no sides, nothing.

> John smiled at her in the Pre-War Yellow Dress he bought for her.

Dan: You can barely see the bloodstains

> Zoey smiled and asked, "So what's the occasion John darling?"

Rick: [John] My impending declaration of war on the Charlotte Imperium.

> John smiled and took her hand. Since forming the
> Carolina Republic Zoey has been by John's side and he's been grateful to her.

Rick: She's living the shallow prop love interest dream

> John told her, "I'm grateful that you've been by my side since my last girlfriend died.

Rebecca: That is the most romantic thing he has ever said
Rick: I'm so moved

> I don't think I could ever make it this far without you."

Tsuneo: [John] Somebody had to muck out the pig pens.

> John then pulled out a ring for Zoey. Zoey was speechless as John said, "Zoey,
> I want you to be with me for the rest of our lives, will you marry me?"

> "Oh my God John… Yes, I will marry you." Zoey said as she held her hand out.

Tsuneo: This moment is so touching because we're so emotionally invested in these characters
Dan: So much

> John smiled and put
> the ring onto her hand before kissing her. Claire then popped out and hugged them as she said,
> "Way to go!"

Rebecca [Claire]: I've been shipping you
Rick [John]: Awww, that's so cute
Rebecca [Claire, strained]: I've written so much fanfic about both of you...

> John and Zoey laughed as before John said, "So how long were you following us?"

Dan: She's been stalking them for hours

> Claire smirked and said, "Since you left the presidential building."

Rebecca: [Claire] You didn’t get me a babysitter, you bum!

> John chuckled and patted Claire's
> head. John held both girls closely and smiled as a guard walked up to him

Rick: A person walking up to John! [They all cheer]

> and said, "Sir, we just got reports from the forces from Old Fort Mill,

Rick: And now they're talking to him! [They all cheer]

> they arrived at Clover before another attack by the
> Charlotte Imperium and we took prisoners." John nodded his head and said, "That's good. Now we

> have prisoners, we can talk to the leader of this Charlotte Imperium.

Tsuneo: [John] Diplomacy is impossible otherwise.

> Prepare a Vertibird, we're going to the Charlotte Imperium."

Rebecca: Zoey must be so happy
Tsuneo: Because he's leaving?
Rebecca: Exactly.

> -----

> Chapter 4
> I do not own Fallout at all. As for the characters, they can die at any moment in this story.

Dan: I've been thinking about forming a death pool. Any takers?

> So don't be mad if a character you love dies. If you want to know what happened before,

Tsuneo: Seek help.

> I recommend you read Fallout: South Carolina. This story is the sequel story to that one.

> John stood in his X0-1 Power Armor as Harold walked up to him in his brand-new T-60 Power
> Armor.

Dan: John's is better. That's the law, by the way.
Rick: And who made that law?
Dan: John.
Rick: No kidding.

> John looked at him and said, "Got an upgrade I see." Harold looked at him and said, "Well if
> we're going to war with another Post War Country, we need all the protection we can get, Mr.
> President."

Tsuneo: No... questions as to where he got it from, or... never mind, I guess.

> John nodded his head as Zoey walked up to them and told Harold, "You keep his ass
> safe, cause if you let my fiance die, I'll kill you."

Rebecca: This is the closest we've had so far to character conflict. Treasure it.

> Harold sweatdropped

Tsuneo: Anime conventions do not work in text form. Doubly so when it's not anime fanfic.

> as John said, "I'm sure she didn't mean that Harold."

Rebecca [Zoey]: Oh I definitely did. I have killed and I will kill again.

> Zoey looked at John and said, "Yes I did. I don't want you to die on me just after you proposed to
me."

Rebecca: [Zoey] Then I can't take you for everything in the divorce.

> John sweatdropped before Zoey kissed him.

Rick: Comedy!
Tsuneo: Is it? Is it really?

> Harold chuckled as John
> looked at the Engineers of the Republic and told them, "While I'm gone, I want you to try and get the
> Armored personnel carriers and trucks up and running, we'll need them. The Busses too if possible."

Dan: Things you probably should have thought of before you launched a military campaign

> The Engineers nodded their heads and got to work as the Vertibird landed.

Tsuneo: No APCs or trucks, but we do have a Vertibird.

> John and Harold got in it
> and took off to Clover with other Vertibirds to provide the Old Fort Mill Garrison some much-needed
> reinforcements.

Dan: One Vertibird crash could cripple their entire government.
Rebecca: Claire is the designated survivor.

> At Clover, The soldiers from Old Fort Mill

Rick: Were the Old Fort Mill soldiers at the Old Fort Mill Garrison?
Tsuneo: You might be on to something there

> were in hard built trenches and held off
> constant attacks from "Raiders". They had taken over a Carolina Republic Red Rocket Outpost

Dan: They now have a militarised gas station, complete with a filthy bathroom and a machine that makes searing hot acidic coffee

> near the old North Carolina/South Carolina State border.

Rebecca: It’s demarked by a Mexican fireworks stand.

> The Enemy pulled back again and the Old Fort
> Mill Garrison soldiers relaxed. The Leader of the Garrison, Captain Howard Allen

Tsuneo: I imagine he will be another well developed and deeply realised character.

> looked to his men
> and said, "Move the Wounded into the settlement, gather what ammo you can and make sure we
> have enough ammo for the .50 cal machine gun.

Dan: The one with the heavy barrel mod.

> His men nodded their heads and got the wounded into the settlement. Captain Allen sighed as he
> walked into a dug out and looked at two tied up "Raider" Prisoners. He told them, "Your friends
> failed to get in, again.

Dan [Soldier]: Jokes on you. I don't have any friends!

> So how about you tell us what your Imperium has planned now?"

Rick: The ascension of a psionic elite ruling class, followed by a devastating plague that triggers a galactic collapse and rise of successor states. Odds are that a lot of people will take a d6 fire damage.

> The Two
> men, Members of the Charlotte Imperium Imperial Army glared at him and said nothing. Captain
> Allen sighed and said, "Look, you two "Raiders" are members of the Charlotte Imperium Imperial
> Army.

Tsuneo: Told you these brands were a bad idea.
Dan: Not now, Steve!

> Yeah we know that,

Tsuneo: And yes, he felt stupid saying that too.

> so drop the Raider act and tell us what we need to know." One of the
> prisoners spat at him and said, "Go to hell you republic dog, they'll take this settlement and wipe
> you all out."

Rebecca: No worries, I'm sure John can do that on his own.

> "They haven't been able to yet." Captain Allen said before walking out and looked down the old
> world Highway 321. The Charlotte Imperium had been putting pressure on them for hours and since
> they just got there they didn't have their usual amount of ammo.

Dan [Harrison]: Why didn't you bring our ammunition?
Rick [John]: I replaced it with Grognak comics so we'd have something to read.

> Soon a rocket struck the Defense line

Rick: Huh. Well, what do you know.
Tsuneo: I guess you'll get some of that.

> and Captain Allen shouted, "GET TO YOUR POSITIONS!" The Carolina Republican Army ran
> and jumped into their positions as rockets flew over them and hit the settlement and caused Civilian
> Casualties.

Tsuneo: It probably would have been more useful to fire them at the defences but what do I know?

> That was when he and his men heard a familiar sound. Looking down the highway,
> Captain Allen's face lost color before he shouted, "SENTRY BOTS!" His men began to panic as 2
> Sentry Bots rolled forward as they said,

Dan: [Sentry Bot] Why is nobody ever happy to see us?

> "Alert: hostile detected. Lethal force authorized for all units."
> with Regular men behind them. Captain Allen was about to order a withdrawal when he heard
> another familiar sound.

Rick: The soldier next to him farted. He hoped that with all the explosions nobody would notice.

> Soon rockets flew overhead again, but this time into the Sentry bots as Republican Vertibirds flew
> overhead. Captain Allen saw them and shouted, "WE GOT REINFORCEMENTS BOYS!" The men
> cheered as they were renewed to fight on.

Dan: John is my president! I would take a rocket to the face for him!

> In one Vertibird, John and Harold watched the battle and
> John ordered the pilot to land behind the trenches.

Rebecca: Ironically that puts them closer to the danger zone.

> The Pilot acknowledged John's orders and
> landed as the other Vertibirds provided Soldiers in T-45, T-51, and T-60 Power Armor Suits landed
> armed with Assault Rifles, Combat Rifles, Miniguns, Laser Rifles, and some Gatling Lasers

Rick: And one spiked weaponised Paddle Ball. Totally real Fallout weapon, look it up

> while
> those who stayed in the Vertibirds fired MIssile Launchers modded with Quad barrels, Targeting
> computers, and Stabilizers

Tsuneo: But only those specific modifications.

> at the Sentry Bots.

Dan: Do you think it’s odd that he always has the top tier modifications?
Tsuneo: John has everything he could ever need at all times ever. Anything else would be unpatriotic.

> "Thank god for the Reinforcements." was all Captain Allen said before one of his men tapped his
> shoulder and said,

Rick: [Soldier] Uh, the Vertibirds are firing on us, sir.

> "Sir… isn't that…" When Captain Allen looked where the soldier was looking, he
> was shocked to see that John was getting off the Vertibird.

Tsuneo: He’s just here for a quick photo op, then it’s back to playing golf.

> He then said, "President Bertrand… he's here?" Captain Allen then cleaned himself up a bit

Dan: [Allen] Quick, how’s my hair? Do I have anything in my teeth?

> as John and Harold walked up to them. John stopped and asked,

Rick: Hey, what happened with the Sentry Bots anyway?

> "Do we need to give you a moment, Captain?" Captain Allen Saluted John and
> he nervously said, "N-N-No Sir! Mr. President sir! It's just um… we weren't expecting you as part of
> the Reinforcements."

Rebecca: Primarily because it would be really stupid for the President to be fighting on the frontlines

> John smiled under his helmet and saluted back before saying, "Well I like to keep things interesting.

Rebecca: You’re doing a terrible job of it so far

> Report Captain Allen."

> "Yes Sir! They attacked us with a big force. Apparently the Settlement here fought against them and
> forced them back. Meaning their leader was pissed and sent a larger force right after we arrived.
> We didn't have time to get all our equipment sir so we are low on ammo.

Tsuneo: Nice of the battle to take a time out so he can give his report.

> We suffered moderate
> casualties, mostly wounded. We lost three Soldiers though, Private Benjamin Harris, Corporal
> Heather Miller, and Private Danny Valendez."

Tsuneo: Also, a bunch of civilians were killed but everyone seems to be entirely okay with this.

> Captain Allen told John, who nodded his head and
> sighed at the lost lives. John then said to the Captain, "I'll make sure their families know. Thank you
> for their names.

Dan: He forgot them immediately, didn't he?

> I also heard you were able to take prisoners, I would like to see them."

Rick: [Allen] Uh, sure, but we are in the middle of a huge attack right now…
Rebecca: Are they, though?

> Captain
> Allen nodded his head and led John to the two prisoners. John had to get out of his Power Armor

Dan: Really worth bringing that along.

> and walk into the dugout bunker and look at the two prisoners.

Tsuneo: They were indeed prisoners. Admittedly he was hoping for more

> "Have they talked yet?" John asked the Captain. Captain Allen shook his head and said, "No they
> have not. In fact they're just being stubbornly quiet" John nodded his head before looking at the two
> prisoners. John pulled a seat up and sat in front of them. The Prisoners stared at him and he stared
> back.

Rick: And I looked at him
Dan: And he looked at me
Rick: And I looked at him
Dan: And he looked at me
Rick: And I looked at him
Dan: And he said 'I'm sorry, what did you want again?'

> John looked them over and noticed that the branding on their arms looked recent. John then
> said to them, "Was your settlement recently taken over?" The two prisoners looked at each other
> before looking at the ground.

Rick: [Prisoner] Uh… Go to hell, republic dog?

> One Prisoner, a Man in his 50s, looked at John and said, "What's it to you?"

> "At least your home is still around, I lost my home." John told the two, shock coated their faces.

Dan: Great, he's making their capture all about him.

> Even Captain Allen was shocked, he heard of how John became the leader after Mason's passing,

Rebecca: Well yeah, everybody knows that.

> but he never knew his leader's full past.

Tsuneo: But now he was going to get it in excruciating detail

> The first man sat up and said, "I'm sorry to hear that, Must have been rough."

Rick: Really?
Dan: No.

> John nodded his head and said, "Yeah, it was rough, Raiders did it. They
> attacked my home with heavy weapons and numbers,

Rebecca: They used math on him. He was powerless.

> I was the only survivor, at least that I know of.

Tsuneo: The truth is that he didn't really bother checking

> But what drove you two into joining the army?" The two prisoners looked at each other before the

> older man looked at John and said, "The Emperor, he has his mother, my wife, enslaved."

> "So you're father and son. I see." John said as he pulled out a bottle of water.

Rick: [John] No, wait, hang on, that’s the whiskey again.

> Untying them, he
> gave them some much needed water as the Carolina Republic men shouted, "SIR DO YOU THINK
> THAT'S WISE?!" John looked at them and asked, "Did you give them anything to drink at all before I
> arrived?" Then the Carolina Republic soldiers went quiet.

Rebecca: All of them had assumed that the other guy had taken care of it for them.

> John then said, "As I thought.

Rick: [John] I am the only one capable of doing anything anywhere.

> They may
> be dressed as Raiders, but they are still human beings. We have to treat them with respect or else
> the enemy paints us as monsters."

Rick: And remember, this was the guy who was all ‘oh the Super Mutants can eat the dead ghouls.'

> John's words hit home and the men found a new level of respect for their President.

Dan: He made the minimum of effort. Truly, he is a great humanitarian.

> "MR. PRESIDENT! WE GOT COMPANY!"

Rick: All caps company, the worst kind

> A man shouted from outside. John stood up and told the prisoners that he would be back.

Dan: They were hung within the hour.

> He then ordered Captain Allen to keep an eye on them as he
> walked back out.

Tsuneo: [Allen] Sir, maybe I should be leading our troops?
Rick: [John] Prisoner duty it is!

> Reaching the trench, he saw that a man was waving a white flag with others behind him.

Dan: [John] The white flag makes him a target.

> John raised an eyebrow as he and the Carolina Republican Army heard the man with
> the white flag shout, "OUR EMPEROR WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOUR LEADERS!"

Tsuneo: He’ll change his mind when he actually meets John.

> John looked
> behind the man and at a man wearing Armor that he had never seen before outside of old
> Museums,

Rebecca: I can only assume that he's been to a lot of museums in this post-apocalyptic hellscape

> Samurai Armor he believed it was called.

Rick: Well I did not expect to see an Iron Master from Ne-Issan here

> By his feet sat a Gatling Laser and some
> swords strapped to his side. Taking a megaphone a soldier handed him, John shouted, "HAVE HIM
> LEAVE THE GATLING LASER AND SWORDS AND WE'LL TALK!" The Man with the flag looked at
> his leader, who shook his head.

Tsuneo: The Gattling Laser is an important part of his culture, you insensitive jerk!

> "THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!" The man shouted to John. John tapped the Megaphone before
> shouting, "OK! I'LL COME THERE! BUT KNOW THAT SNIPERS ARE AIMED TO KILL TO
> PROTECT MY LIFE!"

Rebecca: If John is trying to look like a paranoid jackarse then he's doing a great job of it.

> The men looked at him with some worrying looks as John got back into his
> X0-1 Power Armor and walked out of the trench before he looked at his men and said, "It'll be ok.
> Stock up on Ammo for all men and keep your fingers off the triggers." His men nodded their heads
> as a Bodyguard walked with John, armed with a Laser Rifle, modified with a Maximized capacitor, a
> Improved short barrel, a Recoil compensating stock, Reflex sights, and a Fine-tuned beam focuser.

Tsuneo: Nothing makes for a tense negotiation scene more than listing somebody’s weapon mods.

> John kept his Gauss Rifle on his back as he walked to the enemy force. Arriving at the attacking
> army side, John saw the man wearing Samurai armor pick up the Gatling Laser and walked forward.

> "I am Onimaru, Emperor of the Charlotte Imperium."

Tsuneo: Their two nations are unified by their leaders' shared love of throwing themselves into danger.

> The Man wearing Samurai Armor said to John.
> John looked at his Gatling Laser and saw that it was modded with charging barrels, a reflex sight
> and a beam focuser.

Dan: His most important character traits
Rick: You can tell a lot about his man by his weapon mods

> Onimaru then said, "Your Settlement is now going to be under the control of
> the Charlotte Imperium." John crossed his arms and said, "Too late, the Settlement is already under
> my protection, and my Carolina Republic."

Tsuneo: Maybe they can figure out a timeshare arrangement.

> Onimaru glared at John and said, "I think you
> misunderstand me, I'm not giving the settlement the choice." John pulled out his Gauss rifle

Rebecca: Diplomacy is dead.

> and
> said, "No you are the one who's misunderstanding, You attacked my people, Killed Civilians,
> wounded many others. This is considered an act of War."

Dan: No you
Rick: Nuh-uh
Rebecca: This is truly one of the great political debates of our time

> Onimaru said nothing as he looked at John before telling his men, "Pull back men, we're done for
> the day."

Tsuneo: [Sam the Dog] It’s uh, too close to quitting time, Ralph. We’ll pick this up tomorrow.

> Onimaru's men nodded their heads and as they left, Onimaru looked at John and said,

> "You're gonna wish you didn't say those words."

Rebecca: And John retaliates with a devastating ‘No, you.’

> John watched Onimaru walk with his men. John
> walked back to the trenches and said, "Get me in contact with congress."

Tsuneo: Wait, they have a congress? I thought it was just John handing out arbitrary orders to whoever walked in his door that day

> The Radio man nodded
> his head and got to work. John looked at the men and told them, "go out there and gather the ammo
> off the dead and bring those Sentry bots here too,

Dan: Uh sir? Should we bury the dead too?
Rick [John]: Eh, leave them. It'll be fine

> we may be able to use them."

Tsuneo: Don’t they usually explode?
Rebecca: John doesn’t sweat the details.

> The men nodded their heads and went to work following his orders.

> After an hour, John was in contact with the Carolina Republican Senate and stated that since the
> Charlotte Imperium was the cause of settlers going missing and the death of many civilians, he
> asked that the Senate and House of Representatives

Tsuneo: I can only imagine that each consists of no more than three people.

> declare that a State of war has been
> established. After a while, The Speaker of the House, Jonathan Keller, contacted John and told him,
> "The Senate and House are both in agreement, we are at war."

Rebecca: Truly the minutiae of government functionality is the most gripping part of this fic
Tsuneo: I can't tell if you're being serious or not and it scares me

> John smiled and thanked him, he
> then said, "Send the call for soldiers Keller, we'll need all the help we can get." Speaker Keller told
> John, "Yes sir Mr. President." before he walked off. John smiled, looked at Harold and told him,
> "Let's fortify this settlement and get the non combatants out of here on Vertibirds,

Rebecca: The last Vertibird out of Saigon is an iconic image

> the War of the Carolinas has Just begun."

Dan: [John] Do you like that, Harold?
Rick: [Harold] Yes, sir.
Dan: [John] I came up with that name, you know.
Rick: [Harold] Very good, sir.

> Harold nodded his head and began to order the civilians to evacuate. The Children were gathered
> to be evacuated, but most of the adults stayed, armed with Pipe guns, Combat Rifles, or Pistols.

Dan: But only those. All other weapons were forbidden by law.

> John looked at them and was about to speak when Mason Prescott Sr. and his son, Mason Prescott
> Jr.,

Rick: Mason Prescott Junior's most defining trait is his being the son of Mason Prescott Senior.

> walked up to him

Rebecca: Sparing the volunteers.

> and Mason Prescott Sr. told him, "We're going to fight for our homes. The
> children are safe, let us do this."

Tsuneo: [John] Yeah, I was just about to.

> John smiled and sighed before he said, "Fine, but don't go fighting
> danger alone, that goes for all of you!"

Rebecca: Especially you, Billy. Don't be a hero; don’t be a fool with your life.

> The volunteers all nodded their heads as an Engineer who
> was there walked to them and said, "Mr. President, I got a Sentry bot back up and running,

Dan: Stupid thing had a clogged outflow pipe. That will be two hundred bucks.

> wiped its
> memory clean of the Emperor so it needs a new owner." John nodded his head and walked to the
> Sentry Bot and said, "Sentry Bot, Serial Number."

Rick: [Sentry Bot] That’s a bit of a personal question, isn’t it?

> "Serial Number SB-1998, Siege breaker sentry bot Reporting for duty." was the Automatic response.
> John smiled and said, "SB-1998, my name is President John Bertrand of the Carolina Republic,

Dan: [Sentry Bot] Kill. Kill. Kill.

> you
> are under my command." SB-1998 did some beeps and boops before saying, "New commanding
> Officer registered, President John Bertrand of the Carolina Republic. SB-1998 reporting for Duty."
> John smiled more

Tsuneo: The term ‘rictus’ keeps coming to mind.

> before telling the Sentry Bot that those who have the brand of the Charlotte
> Imperium on their arm and he does not say to spare them are to be killed swiftly."

Tsuneo: Sure, order the heavily armed war robot to engage in indiscriminate killing. Nothing can possibly go wrong with this.

> SB-1998

Rick: Kevin to his friends.

> acknowledged the command before John added, "We'll register who are allies here but anyone who
> comes at us is the enemy unless I say otherwise."

Dan: SB-1998 immediately gunned down Harold.

> "Acknowledged." SB-1998 said to his new commander.

Rebecca: SB-1998 has now gotten more lines than Zoey.

> John smiled more

Tsuneo: [John, strained] It hurts…

> as Captain Allen said,
> "Wow, we got a sentry bot on our side." John looked at him and said, "Yeah and with the robots in
> Charleston, we're going to have a good robot division."

Rick: Not that they’re here or anything.

> The men nodded their heads and when the runners who went out to the dead enemies came back,

Tsuneo: The Charlotte Imperium politely did not pick them off in no-man’s land.

> there was enough Ammo for them right as the extra Ammo from Old Fort Mill arrived.

Dan: That's what's bothering John the most. He's otherwise fine with all the casualties.

> Back with the Charlotte Imperium army, Onimaru sat in his seat

Rick: Until demonstrated otherwise, I’m going to assume his seat is a park bench.
Tsuneo: Sure, let’s go with that.

> and said, "How many men did we lose before the declaration?"

> "About 50 my Emperor." One soldier said. Onimaru nodded his head and said, "Where is the
> commander who sent the men into those lines?" The commander was pushed to his knees after
> soldiers had beaten him up.

Dan: Not at the Emperor’s orders. They just don’t like him.

> The man was on his hands and knees as he shouted, "I Beg you my
> emperor! Grant me mercy and I shall be the instrument of your revenge!" Onimaru said nothing as
> he walked to the man. He then pulled out his Katana and said, "Since you asked for mercy, I shall
> give you Mercy."

Rebecca: [Onimaru] Specifically, the BlizzCon Mercy skin. I’ve got an old Overwatch account with it.
Rick: [Commander] Oh thank you, my Emperor.
Rebecca: [Onimaru] Then I’ll cut your head off.

> The Man smiled before Onimaru quickly sliced his katana down before Wiping the
> blade and right after he put it back in its Scabbard, the man's head slid down and fell onto the
> ground.

Tsuneo [Onimaru]: Crap, did I do that? I just meant to trim his hair a bit

> Onimaru then walked back to his seat and sat down before he said, "it is his own fault."

Dan: [Onimaru] Guy shouldn’t have cut his own head off, that’s all there is to it.

> "Orders my emperor?" One of Onimaru's subordinates asked.

Rebecca: [Onimaru] I mean, a cleaner would be a great start.

> Onimaru looked at him and said, "First of all I want a map of their settlement.

Rick: Probably should have gotten that first.

> Then I'm going to make sure that settlement is obliterated. Send the Assaultron units."

Rick: Probably should have done that already too.

> The men nodded their heads and walked off. Onimaru

> closed his eyes as he thought of John's face.

Rebecca: His soft eyes, those kissable lips…

> He then said to himself, "I will kill that pathetic man." That was when a Man walked in and said,

Tsuneo: You can tell Onimaru is the leader because people walk up to him and start talking

> "Emperor Onimaru, I think we have a common Foe."

Rick: Big the Cat. It's complicated.

> Emperor Onimaru opened his eyes and was shocked at the man. He asked how he got into his
> camp and the man said, "That is a secret.

Dan: Okay so you left the door unlocked.

> But I can tell you have a foe in common with us.

Rebecca: As you just said.

> President John Bertrand I believe."

> "That's right, what's it to you?" Emperor Onimaru asked the man. He sat down and said, "I feel your
> empire and my father's forces could work wonderfully against this Carolina Republic." Onimaru
> smiled and humored the man by saying, "I'm listening."

Tsuneo: Fic, you've already said it's the Enclave. Stop trying to act like this is some big twist.

On that final comment the big screen switched off, converting the world back to script format. "And that was the long list of weapons modifications that comprised the first four chapters of Fallout: United Carolina Republic," Tsuneo noted. "A fic that is a sequel to another fic and that's the most I can say about it."

"I'm eagerly looking forward to the next part where we find out what junk components each weapon mod is made from," Dan offered.

"This is definitely one of those fics that seems to mistake volume for depth," Rebecca considered. "Because a lot of the time it spends listing things doesn't add anything at all to the narrative. However, the world and everything in it is poorly realised and has no substance at all."

"I mean, I get that we're probably meant to know who these people are and all but there's just nothing," Rick added. "None of the characters have any personality or depth or anything going on besides being talking heads. And that includes our alleged protagonist."

"Who's personality can be best summarised as 'I'm the boss' and 'my authority is unquestioned,'" Rebecca offered.

"None of which sets a good precedent for what the rest of it will be like," Tsuneo concluded.

"It does not," Dan agreed. "Now I could be wrong, mind you. This could be entirely about Radcoons after all. But I sincerely doubt it."

"And if it was?" Rick asked.

"In that case it would be one of the best fanfics we've ever done," Dan confidently nodded.

"On top of all that, it's clear that we missed something along the way," Rebecca noted. "Given that my vague recollections of the first fic was that John stumbled from place to place without any sort of plot or direction, that does seem to be the case."

“But you don’t care, do you?” Tsuneo asked.

“I do not,” she admitted. “Added to that, even knowing about that missing chunk of fanfic would not do anything for the many, many problems that this one has so far.”

“And you know it’s going to keep going like this too,” Dan added.

“Exactly,” Rebecca agreed. “It’s set its pace and tone, and past experience has told me that it’s not likely to deviate from that. Now while it could possibly pull a surprise twist and go in an entirely unexpected direction, I sincerely doubt it.”

“I’ll add that I don’t have high hopes for Onimaru here either,” Rick noted. “I just get the feeling that he won’t be in our collection of all time great villains.”

“He's no Ghost Flame or Black Flame,” Dan agreed. “Hell, he's barely an Isaac or Zephyr.”

“I can tell you’re all getting really engaged with the fic so far,” the Voice crashed into the conversation.

“We’re giving it more thought than it gave itself,” Tsuneo considered. “Make of that what you will.”

“Fantastic,” the Voice continued. “Which means that you’ll be pleased to know that we’ll be continuing with it next time.”

“Thrilling,” Rebecca sighed.

“At least we’re done here, right?” Rick asked.

“We are, yes,” the Voice confirmed. “I’ll see you all next time.”

“Well, I need to get back to the feedback process,” Rick admitted as he stood. “Maybe one of the testers might be paying attention and not just using this as a way to scam a free TTRPG book.”

“Good luck with that,” Dan nodded as he and the others joined him. “Because that's what I'd do.”

Rick shot him a glance. “I can't con any of you into doing testing for me? I'm sure you'd completely break it if you gave it a try.”

“Do I get anything for it?”

Rick shrugged. “You'll get a mention in the thanks to section of the credits. Well, unless they forget.”

“I've done more for less,” Dan finished. “I'm in.”

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Author’s notes:

While there clearly is a missing part of the fic, I have not been able to find it so far. I can only assume that, based on what’s in this one, it consists of John being handed an effortless series of victories while everybody congratulates him and he lists weapon modifications. I know that might seem like a spoiler for this fic but, really, what did you expect at this point?

Aside from John, Harold, Rebecca, Zoey and Claire were all characters in the previous iteration of the fic. They are, in order, the designated protagonist, his best friend, a Brotherhood Knight, his girlfriend and his adopted daughter. I’d say more about them but there really isn’t much to add. They’re that poorly realised as characters and exist largely as props for John’s story.

As a random side-note, one of the plans for the original Fallout featured the S'Lanter, a group of intelligent, bipedal mutant racoons. They were cut due to a combination of scope and not fitting the emergent tone of the game.

Next time, more listing weapon modifications. I'm not even joking.

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Fallout: The United Carolina Republic written by Crusherboy931

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch)
Tsuneo Tateo and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Weapon attachments? Email us at elmerstudios00 (at) gmail.com and register your Jeff.

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> John told her, "I'm grateful that you've been by my side since my last girlfriend died.