
Episode 509 – John has spoken

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.

Rick, Dan, Tsuneo and Rebecca were sitting on the couches around the coffee table, which was covered in an assortment of books, pieces of paper, dice and miniatures. "Welcome again to Elmer Play," Rick began to an unseen audience. "I'm your host and game master, Rick R., and today we're playing the horribly broken early release version of the United Carolina Republic RPG. I'd like my players to introduce themselves and their characters."

"My name is Tsuneo, and I'm playing Harold, the Secretary for a bunch of stuff," Tsuneo said. "I think he's a Ghoul, but it's not terribly clear."

"I'm Rebecca, and I'm playing Rebecca because that's not going to get confusing in the slightest," Rebecca continued. "Mostly because she's the only female character who does anything even remotely relevant to anything."

"And I'm Dan, and I'm playing Father," Dan finished. "I am deeply concerned about Son, but also I need to balance my concerns over the life of Mother."

"Okay, so now that we're all introduced, we can get started," Rick nodded. "You're all in the nonspecific capitol city of the United Carolina Republic. It's a lovely day out in the wasteland; the people are going about their business in their ramshackle huts and reclaimed ruins are and the sky is just the nicest shade of green."

"Well, that seems entirely nice," Tsuneo considered. "As Secretary for a bunch of stuff, I'll be doing my governmental duties in the bombed-out ruins of the capitol building."

"As you are busy filling in forms, a messenger arrives at the door," Rick explained. "He says that there are a group of people at the city gate demanding to speak to somebody in charge."

"I'll go on down there to see who they are and what they want," Tsuneo replied.

"I'll join you," Rebecca considered. "As I may or may not be a Brotherhood Paladin, it is my duty to protect the city."

"And I've got nothing better going on," Dan finished.

"At the gate is a large collection of heavily armed men," Rick explained. "They say that they are from the Lugoff Autonomous People's Collective, and that they are here to negotiate with the Republic."

"Hm," Tsuneo nodded. "As the Secretary for a bunch of stuff, this seems like it should be up my alley. I'm going to negotiate with them to see if we can open talks."

"And what are you going to use for that?"

He looked over his sheet. "I'm going to use my Hardened Long Ported Marksman's Hunting Rifle," Tsuneo finally said.

"Okay, sounds good to me," Rick nodded.

"I'll assist with my Sturdy Brotherhood of Steel BioCommesh Combat Armour Chest," Rebecca added.

"Oh, and I'll throw in with my Reinforced Deep Pocketed Mantis Leather Left Leg," Dan finished.

"Good choices all around," Rick nodded. "John shows up and says that Lugoff can be a part of the UCR if they send delegates to the city and allow him to show up, issue arbitrary orders to their leaders and send troops to fight in his wars. He then designs a new postage stamp."

"Well okay then," Tsuneo noted. "Not what I was expecting, but there you go."

"I suppose it's an outcome," Rebecca shrugged.

"Do I even have a name?" Dan added.

"Before you can get an answer to that, another messenger runs up to you, Harold," Rick narrated. "He says that because of the growth of the city, they need more water to support the population. However, the city's old sewer system is badly decayed and is not only leaking contaminated sludge but also is infested with mirelurks."

"As a possibly former member of the Brotherhood, I think I'm well qualified to handle this situation," Rebecca spoke up. "I'm going to head down there and deal with the Mirelurks while also making a technical assessment of any surviving filtration or purification systems that we can use."

"A solid plan," Rick nodded. "What approach are you using?"

Rebecca looked over her character sheet. "I was thinking my Long Barrel Gamma Wave Recoil Compensating Focused Laser Rifle."

"Well, as Secretary of a bunch of stuff, this sounds like it falls under my responsibility as well," Tsuneo added. "I'll assist with an Alloyed Metal Aerodynamic Robot Armour Right Arm."

"Uh, I might as well go ahead with my Weighted Indigo Chain-Wrapped Baseball Bat," Dan finished. "Because you never know."

"Okay then," Rick replied. "You head on down to the sewers and wade through the waist-deep murky water. After a long and painful slog, you discover the rusting hulk of an advanced pre-war water purification system. Rebecca, you think that this could be used to ensure a steady supply to the city. So John immediately fixes it and puts himself in charge of water supply."

"Fine, I guess," Rebecca shrugged.

"I didn't even roll any dice," Dan said forlornly.

"Once the water situation has been resolved, John announces that the UCR is now at war with the Poop Shovel Gun Bear Raiders in Orangeburg. The raiders are a massive threat to the entire region and threaten the growth of the UCR. Also John has announced that they are evil, hateful, mean, awful, dirty, filthy and disgusting."

"Well as a defector from some nonspecific evil faction, I think I'm well suited to this," Dan considered. "I have considerable experience with this sort of thing and I know how they think, what they want and what drives them; the combination of desperation, greed, violence, chem addiction and so many other factors all coming together to push raiders to such extremes."

"Cool," Rick nodded. "How do you want to do that?"

"Mm, I'm thinking Long Shielded Armour Piercing Automatic Marksman's Quick Eject Night Vision Compensated Combat Shotgun."

"I'll assist him," Rebecca added. "As I may or may not have considerable experience as a soldier and Paladin with the Brotherhood." She looked over her sheet. "I'll use my BoS IV Medic Pump T-60c Torso."

"While I'll use my position as Secretary for a bunch of stuff to help coordinate the forces and their leadership," Tsuneo finished. "With a Long Ported Light-Frame Marksman's Scoped Lever-Action Rifle." He paused and added. "With the Pioneer Scout paint job."

"That's a really solid plan," Rick considered. "So, John swoops down in a Vertibird and gives orders to completely exterminate the raiders down to the last man, taking no prisoners and leaving no survivors at all. Everyone around him automatically agrees with this plan and gets ready to take part in an organised mass killing. He then reminds everyone that he hates raiders, that they wiped out his home and that they should be slaughtered en-masse without mercy."

"Well okay then," Dan finished. "Glad my experiences paid off." He paused, then added "I hope Son is okay."

"John orders all forces to get ready for the battle of Orangeburg," Rick continued. "Which will start in the next session of Elmer Play. So remember to please, please, for the love of god hit that Like and Subscribe and as always go to our Patreon for bonus episodes, solo sessions, behind the scenes content and other things for subscribers. We're just a small struggling actual play group and if you give us money we can continue to make content like this and you need it to feed your parasocial relationships."

"Good morning everyone," The Voice crashed into the conversation.

"And speaking of our puddle-deep social media following, good morning to you too, Voice," Tsuneo replied.

"Hey Voice, have you considered supporting our Patreon?" Rick asked. "At the five dollar tier you get bonus episodes where we create purely hypothetical characters for games we will never play."

"I'm not sure what that has to do with anything," the Voice commented.

"I made a character for the Avatar role-playing game," Rebecca spoke up. "I figure I can get ahead of the queue and make my own disappointing spin-off."

"Not sure that helps," the Voice considered. "Anyway, today we're going to be reading the last chapters of Fallout: The United Carolina Republic."

"You sure we can't have a backer exclusive episode where we try and test play kickstarter games that never delivered a finished product instead?" Rick asked. "Because there are a lot of those."

"No," the Voice stated.

"Or my statistical measurement of dice rolling mechanics?" Rebecca offered.

"No."

"It was worth a shot," Dan admitted. "No fault there."

"So I will assume this is another case of the fic being abandoned without resolving anything," Tsuneo spoke up.

"I'll be interested to get your reviews when the fic is done," the Voice finished.

"That's a yes," he replied.

"Look at the upside," Rick offered as he took his place on the couch. "I can steal material from this fic to use in future Elmer Play sessions."

"That's what you do with everything else you do anyway," Dan shot back as he and the others joined him.

"This is also true," Rick admitted.

"Now while I have no idea what will happen in these final chapters," Rebecca spoke up. "Personally, I expect that John will issue a bunch of orders, kill some guys and list weapon mods."

"I think you might be on to something there," Tsuneo finished as the big screen turned on, converting the world over to script format.

> Chapter 9

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

Dan: Stop promising and start delivering!

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

Rick: I'm still broken up over Glen LaBelle

> If you want to know what happened before,

Rebecca: Snape killed John Snow.

Rick: Dude, spoiler alert!

> I recommend you

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

> The Day was April 12th, 2313,

Tsuneo: The time was just after lunch

> The U.S.A. had begun Sieging the Raider City of Colbia in March of that year.

Rebecca: John promised that it would be a two-week operation and the raiders' military was already obliterated.

> Artillery shells reigned down on the City of Colbia. Artillery emplacements were built to fire
> into the fortifications,

Dan: Is that what artillery does? I did wonder.

> trenches were dug using repurposed and fixed pre-War Excavators.

Rebecca: My, isn't that convenient?

Tsuneo: Basically everything in this fic.

> UCR

> Vertibirds flew over the City and took small arms fire while avoiding the Missiles launched at them.

Tsuneo: If the raiders have a plentiful supply of missiles, I'm not sure we can still call them raiders.

> The Raiders tried shooting down the Vertibirds over the City to get hostages, but the pilots were
> able to avoid such attempts.

Rebecca: Heaven forbid that John and his buddies suffer even the most minor setback.

> Smith, "The Human Yao Guai", Robinson

Tsuneo: So named for his patchy back hair.

- > was on the Rampart of a wall as he watched the United
- > forces siege the City. He growled as the city was completely cut off. But he knew he had enough
- > supplies to keep his army fed, and those who were killed, well more food for the others.

Rick: What's for dinner?

Dan: Long pig.

- > Outside the
- > City, John stood beside his X-01 Power Armor as he witnessed Colbia being besieged by his men
- > and allies. That was when he was approached by Zoey and she asked him if he's calmed down.

Rebecca: It's been at least two weeks, so you'd hope so.

- > "I am Zoey darling."

Tsuneo: He's very calmly directing this massive military operation

- > John told her before kissing her cheek. Zoey then held him close

Rebecca: Zoey's entire character there and then

- > to her before they saw one of the towers of Colbia fall..

Rebecca: Reminding Zoey of John in bed last night.

- > John got onto the radio and shouted, "RUSH THE
- > BREACH! VERTIBIRDS! GET THE MEN IN THERE! ALL ALLIED FORCE ADVANCE!"

Dan: We did a thing!

Rick: Yay a thing!

- > The Alliance
- > Armies charged forward with Power Armor Units leading the charge in with miniguns as the New
- > Spartans held their Ripper Spears as they charged behind the Power Armor units. The Athenians
- > provided defense on the flanks with their Riot Shields.

Tsuneo: They have remarkably organised force for this post-apocalyptic scavenger wasteland

- > Raiders tried to get at them from above on higher floors and shot at them with Pipe Rifles, hand-
- > Made Rifles, hunting rifles, combat shotguns, and combat rifles.

Rick: But only those guns. All other guns are forbidden.

- > Some even had hold of Molotov Cocktails and threw them at the Allied Forces.

Tsuneo: Their arsenal consists of makeshift weapons and missile launchers.

- > But Athenian Range units shot many of the cocktails
- > either in the arms of the throwers or in mid air to make sure none landed on the front units.

Dan: That's remarkably precise and consistent shooting

Rick: It's okay, they all had VATS.

- > The
- > Athenian APCs slowly rode through the streets and fired at any Raider they saw that put up
- > resistance.

Tsuneo: Wow what a gripping fight.

Rebecca: So much

> That was when Raiders came charging around a corner and Athenian soldiers were
> about to stop them,

Dan: Peacefully with a reasonable use of force, of course.

Rebecca: Of course.

> but they then got gunned down from a nearby building.

> The men were confused until 10 armed men, not dressed as raiders, walked out of the building
> armed with a LMG,

Dan: All of them were carrying a single LMG between them.

> one had a China Lake Grenade Launcher,

Tsuneo: I will pretend I know what that is.

> two had what had high ranks on their sleeves and one had a Radio on his back.

Rick: So they ganked him for a nuclear code fragment.

> One of the Soldiers with an Assault Rifle, a Laser Pistol, and a Ripper on his hip,

Rebecca: His most defining character trait

> walked to them and said, "I am Captain Gates

Rick: But where's his beloved ride armour?

> of the Fort Mill Militia, these are my men.

Dan: You're not the boss of me!

> We wish to join in helping to clear out the Raiders of Colbia."

Tsuneo: [Soldier] What are you doing here?

Dan: [Gates] Saving your candy arses.

> The Athens looked at

> each other before a UCR Colonel in Power Armor armed with a Laser rifle replied,

Rick: That's his name; Colonel in Power Armour armed with a Laser Rifle.

Dan: Long name. I'd have thought it would be hyphenated.

> "Good to have

> you Captain Gates, I'm Colonel Shepard of the United Carolina Republic, we could use the help, is

> this all of your squad?"

Rebecca: [Shepard] I trust you implicitly, heavily armed person I just met.

> "No, we got another squad downtown."

Tsuneo: We just randomly walked into the warzone and assumed that everyone would be okay with it

> Gates Said to Shepard. Shepard nodded his head and told

> them to join their lines as they pushed through the City building by building.

Tsuneo: They want to make sure they get to the Sanrio store.

> Gates nodded his head
> and told his squad, "Ok team, CQC, No grenades we don't want to do damage to the buildings as
> the floors could Collapse, sorry Reginald."

Rebecca: It's okay to bombard the city with artillery and then stomp around in power armour and shoot it from helicopters and all that but grenades are too much

> "It's ok sir." Reginald, the Soldier with the China Lake Grenade Launcher said to his commanding
> officer.

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

> Then the Squad of Fort Mill Militia soldiers cleared one building after another as they helped
> the Allied armies of the South to take Colbia from the Raiders.

Tsuneo: Well, that sure did add to the narrative.

Rick: Yep, now they're clearing out the city... with... more men, I guess.

> Across the City, the Allied Forces
> were taking their time and clearing every building, it may have been a grind,

Tsuneo: It certainly is one to read

> but John wanted to make sure no raiders were left unaccounted for.

Dan [Jeff Garryn]: No witnesses!

> John led a squad of Power Armor wearing Soldiers when one was hit by a Missile.

Rick: But did it have the homing mod? Come on fic, don't leave us hanging.

> Looking where the missile came from, he saw that it was the State Capital Building

Rick: Look out! That building has a missile launcher!

> and The Human Yao Guai was standing at the doorway holding a Rocket Launcher.
> He had the Pelt of a Yao Guai over his Marine Combat Armor.

> "You must be The Human Yao Guai!" John shouted.

Tsuneo: There are some subtle cues

> The man he was talking to put the Missile
> Launcher down and pulled out two Yao Guai Gauntlets ready to fight

Dan: So they shot him with their own missile launchers.

> as he said, "That I am, and you're my next meal."

Rebecca: Yep, he's a bear. Take that how you will.

> John placed his Gauss Rifle down and cracked his knuckles before telling the
> men to move on as he dealt with the Human Yao Guai.

Rebecca: Yes, fighting him in a power armour will definitely be fair.

Dan: John prevails because somehow everyone is dumber than him.

> "Are you sure that is wise Mr. President? He looks like a dangerous foe."

Dan: I mean, there are hundreds of us and we have tanks and helicopters and crap. We could just gun him down on the spot and it'd be done and all.

- > One of his men asked
- > John. He told the men that he's dealt with tougher foes in his tenure as President and Mayor of New
- > Charleston.

Rick: Just last week he had to fight a Deathclaw in the senate chambers

- > The men with John nodded their heads and two soldiers helped the one who took the
- > Missile hit back to the medical tent since he was still alive.

Tsuneo: He was only lightly exploded

- > John looked back at the Human Yao Guai.

Rick: There's got to be a way we can streamline that name.

- > With a roar that sounded like a Yao Guai, the Human Yao Guai

Dan: The Human Yao Guai sounded like a Yao Guai

Rebecca: And yet, he's the best realised character so far

- > charged forward down the stairs and
- > attempted to attack John, but John dodged the first attempt and slammed his first into the ground.
- > As the Raider leader got up, he was pissed as no one ever laid a hand on him

Tsuneo: He's wearing a Power Armour and you're a dude wearing a pelt. What did you think was going to happen?

- > and swung at John
- > again, who dodge it again and punched him in the gut, causing him to lose his breath. He then
- > kicked the Human Yao Guai into a Pre-War Car, causing it to slide a little.

Rebecca: And inevitably explode.

- > He coughed up some
- > blood and groaned, John knew that he had the battle already in the bag so walking towards the
- > Soon to be defeated foe. To make it a fairer fight,

Tsuneo: Only after he'd already won, of course.

- > he even got out of his Power Armor.

Dan: Since he knew he was winning, John deliberately handicapped himself and put himself directly at risk of harm.

Rick: John was also very stupid.

- > As soon as
- > he did though, he took out the Power Core to make sure no Raider would Steal it or use it against
- > him.

Rebecca: And the other guy presumably just stood there and let him do all this

- > Pulling out a knife, John walked forward as the Human Yao Guai began to get scared

Tsuneo: 'Look out, he's got a knife,' says the guy wielding paired bear skulls.

- > as he looked at John, he had no life in his eyes, and it terrified him.

Dan: Wait, he's just wearing sunglasses. Never mind.

- > The Human Yao Guai began swinging
- > frantically, but John dodged every swing and made small cuts along his opponent's body.

Tsuneo: Straight through his marine combat armour, I guess.

- > They weren't too deep and avoided major Arteries.

Dan: He's really bad at knife fighting.

- > The man was swinging frantically at John, who kept dodging him.

Tsuneo: This fight is so thrilling because we know John runs a real risk of dying.

Rick: Really?

Tsuneo: No.

- > "You seem to be slowing down, Human Yao Guai. What ever could the matter be?"

Rick: Cholesterol. He really needs to watch his diet

- > John said as he
- > stepped to the side as the man he was fighting swung at him, missing, stumbling forward, and put
- > his face through a Car window.

Tsuneo: Unforced error.

- > He took the Yao Guai fur off the man's back and tossed it to the ground, stomping on it

Dan: Okay, now he's just making it weird

- > as he got his head out of the window to show that his opponent's name had
- > no effect on him.

Rick: I mean really, it's a bit of a mouthful.

- > The man was bleeding from every cut John inflicted on him, the sun beating down
- > on him, making the wounds sting from sweat.

Rebecca: Our hero, the sadistic jackarse

- > "You.... will not... live to see... tomorrow!" the Human Yao Guai shouted as he charged again. John
- > did a spin dodge and even disarmed him of one of the Yao Guai Gauntlets

Rick: You have the right to bear arms!

- > before using the same
- > Gauntlet to slam him into the ground and the claws through his back and into his lungs.

Rick: How's that for your random critical hit tables?

- > John
- > watched the man drag himself to a nearby Assault Rifle that was near a Dead Raider. The Human
- > Yao Guai groaned and coughed up more blood as he reached for the gun, but it got kicked away
- > from him by John.

Tsuneo: Remind me why I'm meant to cheer for this guy?

Rebecca: He... actually, you know what? I can't even think of a jokey reason.

- > "Once you die, the Raiders here will most likely fight amongst each other.

Dan: [John] Which is a shame, because then I won't get to kill them myself.

> It's over Human Yao Guai."

Rick: Look, can we just call him Trevor to make it easier?

> John said as the Human Yao Guai's lungs slowly filled with Blood.

Tsuneo: Being the noble warrior that he is, John then laughed as his opponent choked on his own blood.

> He coughed more blood as he glared at John and said, "The Human Yao Guai... is just a title,

Dan: He pulled it off the season's score board.

> someone else..." he coughed

> more blood as he got closer. "Someone else will... take... up the... name."

Dan [John]: Not if we exterminate every last person here

Rick: Wait, what?

> and he stopped

> moving, he was dead. John sighed as he was glad that the Human Yao Guai was dealt with.

Tsuneo: Just saying that he made this a lot harder than it needed to be.

> As the Sun set on the day, the Fighting in Colbia went on through the night.

Rebecca: I half expected an unironic 'Mission Accomplished' banner.

> John moved his command post into the State Capital building to coordinate the battle better.

Rick: That and they have fresh linens.

> Walking Through the South Carolina State House was an experience for John

Dan: He paid for the audio tour

> as he explored the old building, shocked

> that much of the old building was still standing after over 200 years. Walking into the Governor's

> room, he was shocked to see it.

Rick: He was shocked and he was shocked

> The man he fought and killed turned the Office into his personal

> eating area and in a cage was a dead female slave. Her arms were gone up to her elbows and her

> legs were gone up to her knees.

Rebecca: Her career as a professional hand and foot model was ruined

> He couldn't hold back his puke and puked in a nearby trash can.

Tsuneo: Not even the worst thing in that trash can.

> "Mr. President?" said a UCR soldier as he ran to him. John said nothing as he pointed to the room.

> The soldier looked in and was horrified.

Tsuneo: Don't bother easing him in there or anything.

> The sight of the office made him close the door and marked it with a Black X for later.

Dan: That means it contains pirate treasure

> The Soldier then shivered before he said, "That man was a monster, no human could be that cruel." John agreed and felt glad he killed the man.

Rebecca: John further justifies his genocidal stance towards raiders.

> Then another UCR trooper approached him and said that they found slaves in the basement.

Tsuneo: Clearly Human Yao Guai was just celebrating South Carolina's cultural heritage

> John stood up and nodded his head and walked down to the State House Basement.

> Meanwhile, Captain Gates kept his Fort Mill Militia under control as they cleared out buildings

Rebecca: Good thing they just showed up out of nowhere to help

Rick: I feel lucky

> and Colonel Shepard had his men provide a defense to allow the building to be cleared.

Rebecca: Gates is now Shepard's life partner.

> That was when

> a Raider wearing Raider Power Armor came running around a corner, but Colonel Shepard used his Minigun to stop him, causing the Raider to duck behind a Pre-war truck, which wasn't a smart move

Rebecca: Is anything in this fic a smart move? Be honest here.

> as Colonel Shepard just shot into the truck's engine and blew it up, making the Raider get sent flying forward.

Rebecca: At any point I expect him to high-five another soldier then teabag the raider.

> "Grr... You'll pay for that!" shouted the Raider as he got up and when he tried to fire his Combat Rifle, his head blew into Chunks from a Athenian Sharpshooter with using a hunting Rifle that was modified with a .50 Caliber Receiver, a Long Ported Barrel, a Markman's stock, a Large quick eject mag, a Long recon scope, and a Compensator.

Dan: Imagine if the gun had a different magazine mod. It'd make such a change to the story.

> The Raider's Body dropped to the ground as other Raiders had to hold up in the buildings and just wear the Alliance forces down.

Tsuneo: Not that it matters what they do. I mean, I guy just walked off a missile.

> Back at the State Capital Building, John was shown several Slaves being treated for Malnourishment and Dehydration.

Rick: And other debuff effects

> One freed Slave, a Man about his age, asked if they had seen his sister. He said that she was recently taken to the head Raider's Quarters and described the girl that John saw dead in a cage.

Dan [John]: I mean she's totally fine and all. Totally not dead and dismembered in the slightest. Why would you even think that?

> He looked down at the ground before he told the man, "I'm sorry..." The

> freed slave teared up and sat down as he put his hands to his face.

> "If it helps... I killed him before I saw what he did in his office." John said to the freed slave.

Tsuneo: [John] I mean, I was going to kill him anyway...

> The

> man stood up and gave John a glare before saying, "Show me the body." John nodded and led him

> out. He showed the Body of the Human Yao Guai. The Male slave then began kicking the body

> repeatedly over and over again, screaming how he tore the slave's family apart. He then took John's

> knife, flipped the body over and repeatedly stabbed the man's face with it as he cried hard. John

> didn't stop the man, he knew how much raiders have tormented Wastelanders.

Dan [John]: This is fine

> Half an hour later, John was introduced to Captain Gates of the Fort Mills Militia.

Rebecca: His name and title are his entire character

> The two shook hands and sat down at the negotiation table.

Tsuneo: The Human Yao Guai had this set up already. He was seeking a peaceful solution before John challenged him.

> John started off by saying, "I heard from my allies that

> your squads have helped our forces in clearing many buildings, taking down Raiders and helping

> the wounded."

Dan: [Gates] Also that we were amazingly cool and awesome while doing it.

Rick: [John] Don't push it.

> Gates nodded his head and said, "We were taught to make sure our comrades make

> it through the battle, don't kill non-combatants, make sure prisoners are treated right, especially if

> they're Raiders."

Tsuneo: And certainly not sadistically bleeding them to death at all.

Rick: Not at all.

> "I see... personally I do not like Raiders." John said to Gates,

Rick: But how does he feel about Zabanya?

> who said a response.

Tsuneo: I too did say a response.

> "We heard of you Mr. President and your United Carolina Republic. Your deeds have shown our

> leaders that the Fort Mills Militia has allies out there." was Captain Gate's response.

Rebecca: John immediately annexes their territory.

> John asked if

> the Fort Mills Militia would join the USA, but was told that they would like to remain independent

Rick: [John] Nope! Not allowed! All must be subsumed!

> as their loyalty was to the people of the Wasteland.

Rebecca: They serve the people of the wasteland as long as those people aren't aligned with any larger political movement

> John nodded his head and said, "I understand, a
> mutual Defense pact then. We help you, you help us."

Rick: I scratch your back, you stick a knife in mine.

> "I will have to talk to the general, but I think that would work." Gates told his host. John nodded his
> head before realizing something, "Was your Headquarters the Old Fort Mill?"

Tsuneo: Were the Fort Mill Militia based at Fort Mill?

Rick: You may be onto something there

> Gates nodded his
> head before telling him that they had to move HQs due to Feral Ghouls overrunning the old base.

> "Well I'll be damned. The Soldiers at the Old Fort said they found remnants of a flag of what looked
> like someone being there before they wiped out the ferals.

Rick [John]: Remember how you lost your home? Yeah, we reclaimed it ages ago.

Dan [Gates]: My life is a lie

> So as a Gesture of Good Faith, how about we give you back control of the Fort." John said with a
smile.

Rebecca: John 'generously' cedes their own territory to them.

> Captain Gates smiled back and
> said the gift would be taken gratefully and that his General would be glad to have their old
> Headquarters back.

Rick: He's still got his collection of Hummel figurines there.

> Two weeks after the meeting between John and Captain Gates, John looked over Casualty reports
> from the U.S.A. forces

Rebecca: One guy got a boo-boo on his pinky.

> when Harold walked in and said, "Guess who decided to come say hi."

Rick: Um, X-86. Star Paladin Cross. Lucky the dog. Vault Boy. The Komodo Man.

Tsuneo: Okay, that's enough Tactics for you.

> he
> then stepped to the side to see a Familiar female Newspaper reporter from up North. John smiled
> and said, "It's been a while Mrs. Kingston."

Rick: Not Mrs. Kingston!

Dan: Depends, who is she?

Rick: I have no idea at all

> ----

> Chapter 10

> I do not own Fallout at all. As for the characters, they can die at any moment in this story. So don't
> be mad if a character you love dies. If you want to know what happened before, I recommend you
> read Fallout: South Carolina. This story is the sequel story to that one.

> "It's been a while, Mrs. Kingston." John said as he saw the wife of the Commonwealth Republic's
> President

Rebecca: I'm sure that there's a less awkward way to introduce her

> walk in and sit across from him and she said, "Indeed it has Mr. Bertrand. Your Republic
> has grown quite a lot.

Dan: It grew out of its baby clothes

> Nate would say this so I'll say it for him, you are doing much better than expected."

Tsuneo: They expected he'd be dead in a ditch within a week, so that's not a high bar.

> John chuckled at her comment but not at the last remark. He then asked her what she
> was doing this far South

Rebecca: Propping up John's ego

> and she told him that her Article about John's United Carolina Republic got
> a lot of people reading about it and some wanted an interview.

> "An Interview... with me?" John asked,

Dan: [John] I mean, I've got a cabinet meeting in five, but no reason I can't blow it off for someone
who just walked in the door.

> making sure he heard her correctly and saw Piper nod her head.

Tsuneo: So she's Piper. Obviously. Why not lead with that first?

Rebecca: To make her husband the important one.

> She then got her notepad out and asked, "So people are curious about your sheer Hatred of
> raiders.

Tsuneo: They are not.

> We all get it, everyone hates Raiders, but you specifically hate them. The People up north
> want to know why?"

Rebecca: Especially given that it's your only defining character trait

> She put her pencil on the notepad. John leaned forward and told her, "I despise
> them. They attacked my home without Provocation and wiped out my friends, and my parents, no
> one was spared, no children, no elderly.

Rick: [John] Even I wasn't spared.

> Raiders are in my mind, monsters that deserve to be put down if they offer any more resistance."

Dan: In case you missed it before, here it is again

Tsuneo: And this certainly isn't the author justifying the character's actions at all. No sir.

> Piper nodded and wrote that answer down before she asked, "I heard that those of the Charlotte
> Imperium fled north to the pre-war Border of what was called North Carolina and Virginia and
> reorganized into the Carolina Empire.

Rick: That was all but an 'as you know.'

> What do you plan on doing about them?"

Dan: [John] Well, they're living freely on their own terms, so obviously that's not allowed.

> John leaned in the
> seat he was in and said that he would handle them but would send spies into the Empire to keep an
> eye on them.

Rebecca: Definitely the sort of thing that you tell to a random reporter.

> He then asked her to not add that last part, and Piper nodded her head as she said, "Of course."

Tsuneo: Nat pushed it to the front page headline.

> "Thank you Piper." John said to the First Lady of the Commonwealth Republic. Piper smiled and
> nodded her head before there was a Explosion nearby.

Rick: Aaaah, boom

> That was when a UCR Soldier rushed in and
> shouted, "Mr. President! The Raiders are beginning a counter attack through the Subway tunnels!"

Tsuneo: Oh yeah, I forgot we were doing this interview in an active war zone.

> John slammed his fist onto the table and cursed.

Rick: [John] Expletive!

> "We need to pull back! Take the Subway entrances that are behind our lines and block them from
> getting more Raiders behind our lines!"

Dan: Take away their subway tokens. That will fox them.

> The Soldier nodded his head and ran out. John grumbled as
> he completely forgot about the Subway tunnels. Piper was worried

Rebecca: [Piper] I suppose I'll sit here and fret, or something.

> before John stood up and ran to his Power Armor, Put the Fusion Core inside its port

Rick: Nothing makes for a gripping action scene more than proper procedure.

> and hopped into the Armor.

> Meanwhile, In Charlotte, the UCR Occupying forces didn't treat the citizens there with malice,

Tsuneo: Only light war crimes.

> but with respect. As a patrol walked through the streets, they came across an old Charlotte
> imperium body and it led to another body

Dan: Well this is kind of concerning

> and eventually led to a makeshift wall with the brotherhood of Steel Logo and a Lion in front of it.

Rick: The Brotherhood of... lion, I guess

> The whole patrol looked around before one of them said, "Excuse
> me... is there anyone..." he didn't finish as Turrets popped up and aimed at them as one man in T-
> 45D Power Armor held a Assault Rifle pointed at them as what looked like Brotherhood Scribes
> aimed pistols at them.

Tsuneo: I didn't spot the heavily armed encampment in the middle of the city.

> "Who's asking?" the man asked them. The person who spoke said, "I'm Captain Hernandez, United Carolina Republic Occupying forces."

Dan: [Hernandez] Do you mind not pointing like, everything at me?

> The man in the Power Armor looked at the people in Scribes' clothes

Rebecca: Given that it's a Brotherhood outpost and they're dressed as Brotherhood scribes, might they actually be Brotherhood scribes?

> before looking back at the patrol and he said, "The United Carolina Republic? So the Charlotte Imperium is no more?"

Rebecca: Things you might have noticed from being in their city and all that.

> Captain Hernandez nodded his head and got backed up by the other men. He then asked, "Are you Brotherhood?"

Tsuneo: You know, there are subtle signs.

> "We are not with those traitors anymore. We are the Legion of Steel.

Rick: Ah, nothing the Brotherhood of Steel loves more than factionalism.

> We follow the ideals of our former elder, Elder Lyons." the man in Power Armor said to the patrol.

Dan: [Hernandez] He's going to give me a pamphlet, isn't he?

> Captain Hernandez nodded his head and said, "Well... those in the Southeastern chapter of the Brotherhood of Steel are allies to us now and are helping make the Wasteland a Safe place.

Tsuneo: Peace through superior firepower

> So I hope there will be no issues there." again the Man in Power armor looked at the people in Scribes' Clothes before he said that he would be right down and walked away.

Dan: Be right there!

Rick: Be right there!

> Moments later he came out of the gates with another Man in T-51E Power Armor,

Rebecca: Everyone took time to see what variant it was

> both of them had the symbol that was on the gates on their chest plates.

Rick: Okay, so one of them was drawn in crayon.

> The Man in the T-51E Power Armor took his helmet off and introduced himself as Kodiak,

Rick: Kodiak, the lion guy

Dan: Obviously

> High Elder for the Legion of Steel.

Tsuneo: [Hernandez] High Elder, uh-huh. Just being an Elder wasn't enough?

Rick: [Kodiak] I mean...

Tsuneo: [Hernandez] And how many people are there in your Legion of Steel?

Rick: [Kodiak] Um, four.

Tsuneo: [Hernandez] No kidding.

> Captain Hernandez introduced himself again to High Elder Kodiak

Dan: [Hernandez] In case you've forgotten, here I am again.

> and introduced his squad to the two. Kodiak then offered them refreshments and food

Tsuneo [Kodiak]: Welcome to our post-apocalyptic holdout. Care for tea and cakes?

> as they were welcomed inside the defenses seeing as the UCR defeated the Charlotte Imperium.

Rick: [Kodiak] I trust you implicitly, random soldier.

Rebecca: [Hernandez] I mean, I did introduce myself twice.

Rick: [Kodiak] No, that's fair.

> Behind the wall, Captain Hernandez and his patrol team saw that the neighborhood was thriving
> there.

Dan: In the middle of... a formerly hostile city... somehow...

> High Elder Kodiak told them about when Arthur Maxson took over the commonwealth, he and
> those who followed Elder Lyon's principles came south from the Capital Wasteland.

Dan: Isn't it amazing that everything has gravitated towards this one place?

Rick: It's mighty convenient

> He added that

> many members were killed on their track down there. Captain Hernandez nodded his head and

> said, "I understand. In fact, if you were not aware, the President of the UCR is former Brotherhood."

Tsuneo: He's also a concert pianist, but nobody ever seems to bring that up

> "We did hear a rumor about that. But what caused HIM to leave?"

Rebecca: He felt that his career was at a dead end and wanted to pursue other options.

> High Elder Kodiak asked Hernandez,

Rebecca: [Hernandez] But you're not asking about me, huh. I have feelings too, you know.

> who told him that he heard a rumor that there was a crime that John got framed for.

Tsuneo: Because John couldn't possibly have done anything wrong.

> He then said, "Instead of waiting for the crooked punishment that the former Elder wanted to give
> him,

Dan: He was forced to write 'I will not give old world technology to wastelanders' on the board a hundred times

> he left and never looked back until he had to bump into the Southeastern Brotherhood when he and
> his group were heading to New Charleston.

Rebecca: Yeah, a whole group left because John was framed. Don't ask, it happened.

> But after they got away there was a Civil War in the

> Brotherhood to fight the Elder at the time, then John and New Charleston joined in the war with

> other settlements and won it. The new Elder put the Brotherhood in with the founding of the UCR."

Rick: Thanks for that, Mister Block Exposition

> "I see... where is the president right now?" High Elder Kodiak asked him.

Tsuneo: [Hernandez] How would I know? I'm just a grunt.

> Captain Hernandez told

> those around him that John was leading the army in taking Colbia. High Elder Kodiak nodded his

> head and said, "I see. He's doing well, it seems."

Tsuneo: He violently tortured a raider boss to death but otherwise he's fine.

> Captain Hernandez nodded his head and told him

> that he would send John a message to let him know about the Legion of Steel. High Elder Kodiak

> nodded his head back and thanked him.

Rebecca: Oh hey. A bunch of people show up out of nowhere to join forces with John for no real reason at all. What a shocking twist

> Back in Colbia, the Allied forces pulled back to attack the Subway tunnels and John had to make

> sure Piper was safe as he didn't want Nate to get on his ass.

Dan: Hey, if Piper's into that then who are we to judge?

> John was in his X-01 Power Armor

> and punched Raider after Raider in their faces, some heads even bursting with how hard John was

> punching it.

Tsuneo: President Facepunch!

> A Raider was about to attack him from behind when a Combat Shotgun when Auto

> mode went off and the Raider got sent flying.

Dan: I mean, not that he was in any real danger or anything.

> John looked behind him and saw the Raider on the

> ground and looked where the shots came from and smiled before he said thanks to the operator of

> the Shotgun.

Rick: Operator of the Shotgun sounds like a song from a seventies experimental band

> "No worries Mr. President." said the former Slave that he let his frustration out on the Dead Human

> Yao Guai.

Rebecca: That's as awkward way to refer to a character as possible. And in this fic, that takes doing.

> He was carrying a Combat Shotgun that was modified with a Powerful automatic receiver,

> a Long ported and shielded barrel, a Recoil compensating stock, a Medium Quick Eject Mag, and a

> Medium Scope.

Rick: The most important part of all of this

> He reloaded another magazine into his Combat Shotgun and shot the dead Raider one more time,

Tsuneo: I mean sure, there's live raiders to shoot, but you do you man.

> he had a hatred for Raiders, John respected that

Rebecca: John approves of his trauma-fuelled rage.

> as he and the man who he found out was named Mark Scott

Rick: He worked on the Severed floor at Lumon

> both had a hatred of Raiders as they both lost family to them.

Tsuneo: Really? Does John hate raiders because they killed his family? I never knew that! This comes out of nowhere.

> "Mark, secure the Left flank with your hatred for Raiders

Dan: He said like it's some kind of weapon.

> and your recoil compensated powerful automatic combat shotgun."

Tsuneo: Vitally important that you give its full descriptive name

> John said to him. The man smirked evilly

Rebecca: John still approves.

> and obliged and went to the

> left flank of the line and opened fire on the charging Raiders.

Tsuneo: Any reason we gave the recently freed prisoner a gun and put him on the front lines?

Dan: John thought he looked okay.

> John sweatdropped as Harold pulled his knife out of a dead Raider and said to John,

Dan: [Harold] I'm still in this? Where did I come from?

> "I think giving him that recoil compensated powerful

> automatic combat shotgun was a bad idea Mr. President."

Rick: But what if it was a marksman's ported hardened combat shotgun instead?

Dan: Oh that would be fine

> John looked at him and said, "I'm Starting

> to think the same thing Harold. But I do admire his dedication."

Rebecca: John admires his bloodlust

> "His dedication... or is it his quest for Vengeance?" Harold said to John. He then said that he

> unloads at least 3 rounds into each Raider and was starting to show recklessness.

Dan: He's killing raiders, so John doesn't care.

> John looked and saw that Mark was starting to be a little Reckless so he walked over to Mark

Tsuneo: Wait, aren't we still in a firefight?

Dan: Yes, and?

> and pulled him back by the shirt he had on.

Rick: You didn't identify what shirt it was! I need to know these things.

> Mark looked at him with anger and asked him, "WHAT THE HELL MR.

> PRESIDENT?! I HAD IT!" John then told him about how he lost his family to Raiders and wanted

> Revenge,

Rebecca: [Mark] It's always about you, isn't it?

> but it took someone to show him that Revenge isn't always the answer.

Tsuneo: Please ignore his earlier actions

> "THEN WHY THE HELL DID YOU RECRUIT ME INTO THE ARMY SIR?!"

Dan: Logistical support. He hoped you'd do inventory

> Mark shouted as he shot another shotgun shell into an incoming Raider.

Rick: Just casually blow him away in the middle of your chat.

> John told him in a whisper, "All honesty go to fucking town,

Rebecca: John is a psychopath

> but my advisor thinks you're going too hard in pushing them out and you could leave an
> opening in the line."

Rick: And Harold hates having to do casualty reports.

> Mark looked at Harold and then back at John as he said, "He's paranoid."

Rebecca: Of course. It's not that John's wrong or being hypocritical, it's all Harold's fault.

> "And he's also a man I trust with my life.

Tsuneo: Because he's contributed so much to the story so far.

> So please, try to stay back just a tad bit." John said to

> Mark, who sighed and he agreed to John's request.

Rick: Kill raiders less, for Harold's sake.

> John thanked him and walked back to Harold

Dan: [John] Put two in the back of his head for me.

> and told him that he was able to convince Mark to take it easy.

Dan: John is a very hands-on kind of president... as in he seems to do every single thing himself.

> Harold nodded his head before Colonel Shepard and Captain Gates walked up to them.

Rick: This is a really spacious sewer tunnel.

> Captain Gates told John that the General

> was informed about the Situation with the Old Fort Mill and was coming to talk to him directly.

Tsuneo: Still in the middle of a raging gunfight here.

> John was speechless at that, and he said, "W... Wow... I would be grateful to talk to your commander."

> "Thank you Mr. President." Captain Gates said to him.

Rebecca: [Gates] That means so much to my husband and I.

Dan: [John] Wait, what?

> As the Sun went down, John had to go to the
> nearby recently taken over Columbia Metropolitan Airport and watched a Vertibird land

Rebecca: Naturally after a nuclear war, two hundred years of decay and being ruled by raiders, the airport is fully operational.

> with the symbol of the Fort Mill Militia on the side.

Tsuneo: A symbol we all immediately recognise and thus there is no need to describe

> Out stepped a man who looked like he was an Old veteran with lots of wisdom to share.

Rick: And by that we mean he's your racist uncle on Facebook.

> He wore a trench coat over his uniform while he had an Eye patch over his right Eye.

Rebecca: The first piece of wisdom he had to share was to always wear safety goggles

> The man was being escorted by a Radio Operator and another Fort Mill Militia Soldier.

Tsuneo: Radio Operator doesn't know why he's on escort duty. He's got important Radio Operating to do.

> John and Harold walked over to the three after getting out of their Power Armor

Dan: Ooh, good thing too. Holding meetings in your Power Armour is a major faux pas.

Rebecca: Which is precisely why everyone does it in this fic.

> and the first to speak was John.

> "General Andrew Hickins, I'm President Bertrand, it's a pleasure to meet you" he said to his elder as

> he extended his hand to him, he recognized the man as he was shown a picture of him before the

> general arrived.

Dan: He'd recognise that eyepatch anywhere

> General Hickins took John's hand and said, "The pleasure's all mine, Bertrand. How

> may I and my boys help you on this fine day?"

Dan: One fine day in the radioactive wasteland

> He was getting right down to business and John respected that.

Rick [John]: I respect that he says words

> He told him "Right now the Raiders of Colbia took us by surprise because of my

> foolish thinking that the Subway Tunnels were no good, but I was wrong

Tsuneo: Well maybe if you'd taken some of the raiders prisoner you'd know about this

> and they came up behind

> our lines. the Fort Mill Militia can help resecure the lines so we will be able to go into the tunnels

> and clear them out"

Dan: Weren't you just down there doing that?

> The General nodded his head and said, "I can spare few units to deal with those raiders, our urban

> warfare specialists will be happy to help

Rebecca: Clearly they got over losing their home pretty quickly
Tsuneo: Makes you wonder why they didn't take it back themselves

> and for the subway tunnels we can force the raiders out
> with tear gas if you wish to be merciful or we can just send in some flamethrowers to burn out those
> rats den."

Dan: And these are the good guys, right?

> One could hear the hatred for the Raiders in his voice.

Rebecca: John immediately tells Hickins that he hates raiders because they killed his family.

> John nodded his head and wanted to use flamethrowers too,

Rick: John's bloodlust could not be easily sated

> but that could cause issues to the supports of the Subway runners. So he
> said, "Personally I would exterminate those Rats... but my advisors say that if we did that we'd be
> no better than the Raiders.

Tsuneo: Not that it stopped him before

Dan: Details!

> So use tear gas.

Rebecca: [John] Then flamethrowers.

> Oh, and I'm sure Gates has informed you that I am
> willing to return your old headquarters to your group."

> "And I'm thankful for it, without the old HQ, coordination of the militias got hard.

Rebecca: But given that you had Vertibirds and organised specialty squads with heavy weapons it clearly didn't bother you too much

> Losing our radio
> center and main command post, but with them back I can assure you that the Militia will once again
> defend the people of Carolina from the scum of this wasteland."

Dan [Hickins]: And by that, I mean indiscriminate use of incendiary weapons.

Rick [John]: You really are wise

> General Hickins assured John, who replied, "And I'm grateful to hear that.

Dan: [Hickins] And I am grateful that you are grateful to hear that.

Rick: [John] And I am grateful that you are grateful that I am grateful to hear that.

Dan: [Hickins] And I –

Rebecca: Okay, that's enough.

> But My guess is that you would confirm what Gates told me
> about not joining the United Southern Alliance but would agree to a mutual defense pact."

Rebecca: That random army captain decides policy for them.

> "I'm more than willing to work with you and so are my men, but my men... they got used to our
> independence.

Tsuneo: The hobo life

Dan: Given that they had flamethrowers, I suppose that makes them murder hobos

> It will take time and effort to unite our two groups, but for now cooperation is more than welcomed."

Rebecca: They are united by their love of killing raiders

Rick: A love story for our time

> John nodded his head after Hickins finished saying that

Dan: [John] Not allowed. You will be subsumed.

> and mentioned that he

> hoped it would be useful before asking Hickins if he had any squads near the old border of North

> Carolina and Virginia The General looked at the map in the center of the command tent upon

> arriving there and he said, "Well we have the 1st Recon Scouts

Dan: Also known as the finding stuff guys

> there, looking for any pre war national guard facilities"

> "Good, we got reports that remnants of the Charlotte Imperium that didn't surrender fled to the

> counties along the border to form the Carolina Empire. I would like constant updates on their military

> strength. I fear they are biding their time before they launch an attack." John informed the Veteran

> General, who nodded his head and looked at the Radio Operator and said,"Radio operator, contact

> the 1st Recon Scouts and inform them about their new task" The general orders the radio operator.

> The radio operator would reply with "Yes, sir" before contacting the unit.

Tsuneo: Well that was all entirely necessary

> John smiled and looked back at the Militia General.

Dan: [John] I like you, Hickins. You can be my new Harold.

Rick: [Hickins] What does that even mean?

> "I have to say General Hickins, your men have proven you are all top notch in military tactics. Even

> when I was a Knight in the Brotherhood, I heard the tales."

Dan [Hickins]: Really?

Rick [John]: No.

> Hickins nodded his head as he said,

> "Harsh drills and constant training ensures that the militiamen are ready for a fight once it comes.

Tsuneo: Yes, definitely a militia and not a full-time army.

> High morale and discipline is the cornerstone of any real military force"

Rebecca: John's relationship with Hickins has more depth and emotion than his one with Zoey. Just saying it

> John nodded his head as that was the same back in his Brotherhood days,

Rebecca: Along with all the towel-flicking in the locker rooms.

> despite the Corruption. He then saw the Militiaman

> who was with the general admiring his X-01 power Armor. "Is he a new member? He seems...

> green."

Tsuneo: That's because he's a Super Mutant

Dan: I did wonder

> The general chuckles and nods "Yeah his new around here" The new guy then speaks "I
> never seen a suit of power armor like this"

> John smiled and walked over to him, "Well this here..." he patted the shoulder plate of his Power
> Armor, "Is X-01 Power Armor.

Rick: A suit that exists to give grognards aneurysms

> Back when I was in the brotherhood I was gifted this when I reached Paladin."

Dan: [John] I must have the bestest things at all times because I am John.

> "It's quite different to what the Legion of Steel uses" the rookie replies as he inspects the armor to
> confirm his suspicion. John nodded his head and said, "Ah yes, I was just informed about the
> Legion of Steel. They wished to meet as well.

Tsuneo: John's schedule is packed full with people wanting to join him.

> But tell you what. I got some T-45s with a new stealth mod that you won't need to crouch to use.

Rick: Hey remember that plot point?

Rebecca: No, and neither do you

Rick: This is also true

> If you want to look at them, I can have a soldier show you
> to them." The Rookie nodded his head fast and Harold showed him.

Tsuneo: Luckily, they had it on hand in his command tent in the middle of this war zone.

> John looked back at General Hickins and said, "Let's take back this City."

> ----

> Chapter 11

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

Dan: So hurry up with it already!

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

Rick: As long as it's not Father or Son. I'd hate it if anything happened to them.

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

> As the Summer of 2313 rolled in, The Battle of Colbia was still going,

Tsuneo: It was dragging on forever, much like this fic

> with the Fort Mill Militia joining
> the Coalition to take the City, the raiders initial counter attack was pushed back. The USA and Fort
> Mill Militia Forces slowly whittled down the Raider numbers as a New Human Yoa Guai was trying to
> stop them.

Rick: Just assume that this all happened and move on

> John and General Hickins coordinated with the soldiers near the front lines.

Tsuneo: So who was running the Republic while John was busy throwing himself into danger?

Rebecca: In his absence, Claire had deposed the government in a bloody coup and now rules with

an iron hand

- > John used a
- > Pump Action Shotgun modified with a Refined receiver, a Aligned long barrel, a Forceful stock, a
- > Standard Sights, and No Muzzle

Dan: It's important to mention that it doesn't have a muzzle

- > to take down Raiders

Tsuneo: Slumming it from his gauss rifle, I see.

- > as General Hickins used his Service rifle
- > found in a old Military warehouse that he modified with a Marksman stock, comfort grip, combat
- > scope, twin barrel mag and extended barrel.

Tsuneo: Okay, so how can it have a marksman stock and a comfort grip at the same time?

Rick: I mean, it's from New Vegas so it shouldn't have those mods anyway.

Tsuneo: Thanks. That helps.

- > "Hickins! The right Flank is going to fall! Send men there to reinforce it!" John shouted to the Fort
- > Mills Militia General. He nodded and sent a squad to reinforce the right flank.

Rick: And so he did.

- > John then saw that the
- > Raiders were bringing in Power Armor units so he called for Vertibird support. Rebecca came back

Rebecca: I am here now

- > and said Vertibird support had arrived as two Vertibirds flew overhead and opened fire on the
- > Raiders as the Minigun Operators opened fire on Raiders

Tsuneo: They opened fire on the Raiders and they opened fire on the Raiders

- > as they passed over and they even took out the Power Armor wearing Raiders.

Rebecca: Yes, it was really worth including those.

- > "They're pulling back Mr. President!" Shouted an Athenian Soldier.

Dan: [Soldier] Also, I am so lost.

- > John nodded his head and pulled out a Katana that he took as a trophy after he killed Onimaru.

Tsuneo: Just assume he had this all along

- > He waved it to get the men's attention before pointing it forward and shouted to charge.

Dan: Into the Vertibirds' kill zone.

- > He ran Athenians. barricade with the UCR soldiers
- > following him and then the New Spartans, next was the Athenians.

Rick: Followed by Dick Dastardly and Muttley in the Double Zero

- > "COME ON MEN! CHARGE!" Shouted General Hickins as he led the charge too.

Dan: It's a collaborative military advance

> The Raiders tried
> to hide in buildings but the Fort Mill Militia went to work clearing the buildings and killing Raiders
> who resisted.

Rick: So. Killing raiders, huh.

Dan: Yup, killing raiders.

Rick: And uh, what were we doing before?

Dan: Also killing raiders, I guess.

Rick: So... Now we're killing more raiders?

Dan: That's about it.

> John sliced more Raiders down as General Hickins covered his back.

Rebecca: He doesn't even need to use that sword, he's just farming achievements.

> That push was
> just what the USA-FMM alliance needed and soon, the Raiders Surrendered after Slaves close to
> the fighting rose up and also joined in on the fight. The Battle of Colbia was a bloody one, John was
> told that of all the raiders that were in the city to begin with, 5% of them surrendered.

Tsuneo: Gee, John, I wonder why so few of them were willing to surrender

> "What's more is that we suffered heavier Casualties than the War of the Carolinas. The numbers are
> almost 100 dead, 115 wounded, and a Vertibird crashed, killing the occupants which were included
> in the killed count. New Sparta Lost 250 men due to brashness and moving without cover.

Tsuneo: [Harold] The New Spartans are stupid, is what I'm saying.

> The
> Athenians were mostly the defense units and they lost 25 men and had 30 wounded from Molotov
> Cocktails being thrown in the initial street to street fighting."

Rebecca: But only that. No Athenians were injured in any other way

> Harold said as he read over the
> Casualty reports for the United Southern Alliance when General Hickins stood up and said, "The
> Fort Mill Militia also took hits, we lost 13 brave men... including Captain Gates when he was trying
> to save one of our men."

Rebecca: Shepard and their kids will be devastated.

> John nodded as he sat in his seat, the battle was over, they had won, but at a heavy price.

Dan: His X-01 Mk VI with EMP coating and medic pump was slightly scuffed. He's inconsolable.

> "Now comes the job of rebuilding. And how the city will be divided between the four armies."

Tsuneo: Do the people of Colbia get a say in this?

> John
> said as they looked at an old map of Colbia. Leonidas of New Sparta stood up and asked, "If I may
> ask, may we take the 1250 raiders back to New Sparta."

Rebecca: Which means that there were some 25,000 raiders living in the ruins. That seems a little wild

> John looked at him and asked why, to which he got his answer, and he did not like it.

> "Seeing as we lost the most men, we want to make the captured Raiders into slaves." was his
> response. John quickly stood up and asked, "Please tell me you're joking. You practice Slavery?"

Tsuneo: You entered into an alliance with them and directly addressed their government. You probably should know this.

> Leonidas then explained that slavery in New Sparta would only be for the criminals and those who
> put themselves into it.

Rebecca: And people he just doesn't like.

> The Raiders were no better than a common criminal.

Rick [John]: I can't accept that you practice slavery

Dan: We only enslave people we don't like

Rick [John]: Well that makes it perfectly okay then

> That was when the

> Athenian representative told John. "It has been their custom since they followed the Spartans of
> old."

Rebecca: Read up some day on how the historical Sparta worked out and you'll see how stupid an idea this is

> John sighed before he looked at Leonidas and said, "If that is your custom, fine,

Rick: John stands by his cultural heritage.

> but I must

> make this proposal first. That the top 100 Raiders there be turned over to the UCR and executed by
> us."

Tsuneo: How do they determine who are the top hundred raiders anyway?

Dan: Maybe they hold a popularity contest

> "That is acceptable." Leonidas said to John, who nodded his head back. Walking out of the meeting
> tent, John had his soldiers gather the top one-hundred Raiders of the 1250 prisoners to be shot.

Rebecca: Thrill as our hero orders a mass killing

> John turned his back and walked off as a United Carolina Republic Soldier armed with a Minigun
> walked to the 100 and with it, mowed them all down, quick and painless.

Tsuneo: Yes, I am absolutely certain every single one of them died instantly.

> John kept his back turned as he heard a voice speak.

> "That... that was just horrible." It was Piper's voice

Tsuneo: John had forgotten that there was a journalist present when he engaged in a war crime

Rick: The little things that slip your mind

> and John told her that he needed to set an

> example to all would be raiders as they did much worse. He then looked at her and reminded her
> that he lost his family to Raiders and the entire town, they did the same thing he did.

Rebecca: John, that's your excuse for literally everything

Rick [John]: I'd love to go to dinner with your mother, Zoey, but Raiders killed everyone in my home town

> Piper pointed

> out that it was a different raider group who killed his hometown. John then pointed out that The

> leader of the raiders was from the North, pointing out that those who become raiders are all guilty.

Tsuneo: We know what John really means when he says 'Raiders.'

> "Is this what the UCR will do to all prisoners? Execute a good handful of them?" Piper said as she
> wrote what she saw. John walked to her and said, "No, I'm always a man of Mercy,

Rebecca: As he just demonstrated.

> I even offered them to surrender before the battle even happened.

Tsuneo: Given what happened after they surrendered, is it any wonder they refused?

> They were the ones who didn't take it. Not to
> mention that the alliance forces losses, 100 lives taken isn't even a third of the losses we took. We
> had 375 killed casualties alone. About 100 for the UCR, 250 for New Sparta, and 25 for New
> Athens.

Rick: And you killed over twenty thousand of them. Your point?

> The 100 raiders we executed were top rank Raiders, meaning they had to give out commands.

Dan: Say, how do you spot a Raider boss anyway?

Rick: He has a unique name

Dan: Seems fair to me

> Killing them will save lives. And you can quote me on this, "Raiders are not human after
> they take lives for the enjoyment of killing, Raping, and the high off their drugs.""

Tsuneo: And the fact that few chose to be Raiders and many are driven by desperation?

Rebecca: Didn't once enter his mind

> John then walked off to help coordinate the rebuilding of Colbia.

Tsuneo: John was left to wonder why the Commonwealth broke off all diplomatic ties with him.

> The next week, John asked the UCR Congress if they wanted to switch capitals from New
> Charleston to Colbia and on June 24th, 2313, in a vote of 81% to 19%, The UCR's Congress voted
> to move the Capital to Colbia.

Rick [John]: I propose that we move our capital from this rebuilt city with functioning infrastructure, a viable population and all the existing governmental functions to a decrepit, bombed-out warzone whose entire population we just slaughtered. Any objections?

> As they prepared to move capitals, John then proposed that they fix
> the name by changing it from Colbia to Columbia.

Dan: Are you sure? That means repainting a lot of signs.

> Congress thought about it as the city's name held
> some historic information for their allies and voiced their concerns.

Tsuneo: Do you think that will matter anyway?

Dan: I suspect the thought never entered into his head.

> "In that case I will ask the representatives to speak to their respective groups about it and get their
> opinions. If they don't want the name changed then we'll stick with Colbia." John said to Congress
> before the day's session ended. That night, John was in his office as Zoey walked in carrying Claire
> with Mason the Dog following behind them.

Rick: Mason the Dog, recently rescued from the void of abandoned plot points like Fawkes and the entire Enclave.

> "She wanted to see her daddy." Zoey said as she passed Claire to John.

Rebecca: [Zoey] So where's Harold?

> John smiled and held his
> adopted Daughter close to his chest as she said, "With what you've been through recently daddy,
> you could use some loving."

Tsuneo: Well, that came out wrong in every conceivable way.

> John smiled more and held both her and pulled Zoey into his arms too.
> John then told the girls that he did need it as the Raiders of Colbia took a lot out of him and thanked
> them for what they were doing.

Rebecca [Zoey]: I love you John

Dan [Claire]: I love you, fake dad

Rick [John]: Well gee I don't feel so bad about ordering the mass execution of those prisoners now

Rebecca [Zoey]: Wait, what?

> The next day, John oversaw the transport of the government documents to Colbia

Tsuneo: Where they would be placed in a special container inside a burned-out ruined building
decorated with skulls on spikes

Rebecca: The congress will be held in a former drug den, and the president's office is in a lean-to
shack decorated with rusty barrels

Dan: Remember, they voted for this

> and he thanked the people of New Charleston for letting the UCR have their home as their Capital

Rick: Thank god. I thought he never would leave

> and he hoped that they would keep on good terms with the Super Mutants and keep them safe.

Tsuneo: And he knew that there was no way that simmering racial tensions would boil over the
moment his back was turned

> The People nodded their heads

All: [Flat] We have no opinions.

> and John smiled as the military and Government prepared to fully move to
> Colbia. Afterwards he got on Eagle Force One and flew it to New Sparta where he was greeted with
> cheers and an escort. Arriving at the New Sparta Senate, John told them what he wished to do for
> Colbia.

Rick [John]: I'm going to bulldoze it and replace it with a Wal-Mart

> Leonidas of New Sparta asked him why he was asking for permission since Colbia was
> under UCR Control.

Tsuneo: Didn't they divide it –

Dan: Under UCR control!

> "It's not just UCR Control. All of us UCR, New Sparta, and Athens fought to take the City that has
> historical value to you.

Rebecca: I'd say he's proud of their cultural heritage, but again, South Carolina

> So that is why I am asking you, the New Spartan Senate,

Tsuneo: Who apparently forgot the terms they signed

> to let me rename it to what it was called before the Great War, Columbia. Athens is next I assure you."

Rick [John]: I'm going to rename that to Columbia too.

> John said to

> them. The room fell silent as the representatives looked at each other before Lycurgus stood up. He

> pointed out that John helped reveal the truth about a deception and rooted out all the enemy spies.

> They had made peace with Athens and formed an alliance. John could have just renamed the city

> without permission

Rebecca: As a conqueror, he obviously has that right.

> but he came to them, the Senate, to ask for permission.

> "This shows that President Bertrand is an honorable man

Dan: Spoken like somebody who doesn't actually know him.

> and I say we allow him to rename it."

Rick: [John] I mean, I'm going to do it anyway...

> Lycurgus finished with. Soon Leonidas said that he even gave the raiders they took prisoner during

> the battle as they lost the most men.

Tsuneo [Lycrgus]: You can tell that John is a good man because he's okay with slavery.

> He too also agreed with letting John change the name of the

> City back. After time passed, John watched as the senate of New Sparta stood in agreement to

> allow John to change the name.

Dan: Estaban Shop-Vac of New Gibraltar stands in agreement with the name change.

Rick: Kale Cassel of the New Zabanya Republic stands in agreement with the name change.

Tsuneo: Tom Dyron of the Hell Yeah Alliance stands in agreement with the name change.

Rebecca: Jack of ambiguous future Canada stands in agreement with the name change while stewing in his own resentment.

> He thanked them all and after a small party,

Tsuneo: Where he ate the food and drank the drinks.

> he got back into Eagle

> Force One and flew over to Athen. Along the way, John made sure his speech for the Athenians was

> perfect.

Rick [John]: So in short, I think we should change the name back to Columbia because raiders wiped out my hometown and I had sex with Zoey.

> Soon they crossed into Athen's Airspace and landed at the Athen controlled Airport,

Dan: The Athens airport which, to John's surprise, was in Athens

> where they were greeted and escorted to the Athenian senate.

Rick: John wants to know if there will be snacks.

- > Along the way, John spotted some people
- > wearing white cloaks hanging a Ghoul. That made John worry about that as they rolled into the City

Rick [John]: This public lynching is slightly off-putting.

- > At the Quarters John had been given by the people of Athens, he walked back and forth as he
- > practiced the speech he would give to the Athenian Senate when there was a knock on the door.

Rick: Room service!

Dan: [John] I didn't order anything.

Rick: Housekeeping!

Dan: [John] My room's freshly made up.

- > After giving the person permission to enter, John saw the door open to reveal someone wearing a
- > cloak. That person then took his hood off and John saw a nearly identical version of himself but with
- > a Scar across the left side of his face.

Tsuneo: It's his mirror universe counterpart

- > "Hello... Cousin."

Dan: The old identical cousin cliché. It's so over-used.

- > the man said. John took a step backwards as he saw that his look alike was
- > wearing an Enclave officer's uniform.

Tsuneo: A true master of subtlety.

- > He looked at the man who claimed to be his cousin and said
- > to him, "I thought my dad was an only child..."

Rick: And that his whole family was wiped out by raiders.

- > the Enclave Officer told John, "We're long distant
- > cousins actually. Our roots go back to Vault 76. Our ancestor was one of the original dwellers."

Rick: He emerged from the Vault and spent his days constructing pirate ships and spiral staircases made from bear-skin rugs while occasionally taking part in Fasnacht Day parades and launching nuclear missiles. It's the Vault 76 way.

- > "My dad did say his father told him about a brother leaving my Ancestor to join another group..."

Tsuneo: So long ago that any relation is essentially meaningless.

- > it was the Enclave wasn't it."

Rebecca: [John's Cousin] Take a wild guess.

- > John's Cousin nodded his head and said that he himself was also called John.

Tsuneo: John's identical cousin who is also called John. This fic is just so creative and imaginative.

- > John glared more at his Enclave Cousin as he said that the Enclave was no more.

Dan: [John] Also, how did you get in here?

Rick: [John's Cousin] They left the entire parliament building unlocked and everyone took an early lunch at the same time.

> "They got wiped out on the West Coast when their Oil Rig blew up, and they got wiped out here on
> the East Coast when they lost their Mobile base crawler."

Tsuneo: The Enclave dies a lot is what he's saying

> John added on, but Enclave John scoffed

Dan: Wow. Uh, we're really going with 'Enclave John,' are we?

> before saying, "The Enclave is never gone.

Dan: [Enclave John] We're like the regular-sized, non-mutated cockroaches of the wasteland.

> We're buying time for our great return to power. Your
> rebel government and her allies will be subjugated. We true, pure humans will take back the United
> States."

Tsuneo: [Enclave John] Not sure why I stopped by to tell you this.

> John clenched his fists before telling his cousin to leave before he called for him to be
> arrested as a Prisoner of War.

Rick: [John] Not sure why I haven't had you arrested already either.

> Enclave John said nothing as he scoffed and walked out.

Dan: Yep, I guess we really are going with Enclave John.

Rebecca: If that is the case, then this would be the stupidest thing I have ever read in one of these
fics. And that takes some doing

Rick: Smoothie?

> John sat down in his seat and sighed.
> Later, He was in front of the Athenian Senate and explained things to them and like the New
> Spartan Senate they all agreed to allow John to change the name of the City.

Tsuneo: Control-C. Control-V.

> That made him smile and he thanked them for it.

Rebecca: Having apparently forgotten all about the public lynching

> Afterwards John was greeted by members of the Athenian Senate who
> had allied themselves with the UCR and he told them about what happened in his room.

Tsuneo: Afterwards. Like "plenty of time for him to get away" after the fact.

> "The Enclave Remnant is a dangerous threat." Said one of the Athenians. John nodded his head
> and said, "Indeed, we have their location. They're in what was once called Tennessee and after
> we're done moving things to Columbia, we're going to attack their base.

Dan: Shouldn't we prioritise eliminating them first? It's just that moving the capitol seems like a
needless expense when you have a functioning capitol at the moment, especially given the presence
of this powerful threat.

Rick [John]: Look, who's in charge here?

Dan: You are, sir

Rick [John]: Who's hometown was wiped out by Raiders?

Dan: Yours was, sir

Rick [John]: Who wields an Aristocrat's Bone Club?

Dan: You do, sir.

Rick [John]: So belt up

- > As far as I know, they don't
- > know we have their location. So we can use the element of Surprise to attack."

Tsuneo: Our entire army is going to sneak up on them at once.

- > The Athenian leaders with John nodded their heads in agreement.

All: [Flat] John is always right.

- > John thanked them for their support and soon
- > was on his way back to the UCR. Getting in Eagle Force One, John got a call from General Hickins
- > and he said that his scouts have reported back about the Carolina Empire and they're getting ready
- > to move on a UCR settlement.

Tsuneo: No specific one. Just any old UCR settlement

- > When John asked the destination, what General Hickins said in
- > response shocked him. The Carolina Empire was moving on Charlotte to take back the old
- > Imperium's capital.

Rick [John]: You could have told me that first
Dan [Hickins]: I wanted to surprise you, sir

> -----

- > Chapter 12
- > I do not own Fallout at all. As for the characters, they can die at any moment in this story. So don't
- > be mad if a character you love dies.

Rick: If Enclave John died then I would be devastated

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

> THE EMPIRE MAKES DANGEROUS MOVES!

Rebecca: Pawn to King Four

- > After a hard fought battle in the city of Colbia,

Dan: John almost strained his wrist from shooting so much.

- > now being called Columbia, President Bertrand had
- > the UCR's Capital moved to the liberated City

Rick: The previous capital told him not to let the door hit him on the way out.

- > which was the old State Capital of the Pre-war South Carolina.

Tsuneo: Thank you for that, meaningless footnote

- > During the Battle the Fort Mill Militia made themselves known and based on what this Reporter's heard,

Rebecca: [Reporter] Dogmeat was the true hero of the battle when he single-handedly stormed the capital building.

- > they made an alliance with the United Southern Alliance and together took the City.

Rick: This reporter's not very good at their job, are they?

> Afterwards, reports had come in from up north that a new Carolina Empire is moving south to
> take on the United Carolina Republic.

Tsuneo: The Carolina Empire, consisting of remnants of the last people John stomped on, are going to
take on the UCR who have artillery and jet fighters. Sounds good to me.

> This News Reporter says that the UCR will be dealing with the threat head on.

Dan: John will personally fly into the situation and list everyone's weapon modifications. That's how seriously he's taking the situation

> John sat in his Power Armor as Eagle Force One flew towards Charlotte. He sighed as he heard
> about the Carolina Empire.

Dan: Even John can only do so much killing in one day.

> He would make a call to the Senate at Columbia when he arrived at Charlotte.

Rebecca: And ask them to take Mason for a walk and tell a bedtime story to Claire. It's not like they're doing anything else

> The Pilot told his president that they would arrive at the Charlotte Airport where the
> occupying forces leader greeted them.

Rick: A nonspecific entity who exists in time and space.

> The Commander saluted John and informed him that his
> men were prepared to defend the city with the Legion of Steel to help them.

Tsuneo: Sorry, remind me. Who are the Legion of Steel?

Rebecca: They're the guys who came out of nowhere and arbitrarily joined John with on prior contact.

Tsuneo: Thanks. That helps a lot.

> "Where is the leader of this Legion of Steel?" John asked, and a voice came back to say behind
> him. When John turned, High Elder Kodiak was standing in his Power Armor.

Rick: You can tell it's him because his Power Armour helmet has fuzzy little bear ears.

> John walked over and took his helmet off before shaking Kodiak's hand.

Dan: If this results in a Power Armour bro-fist, it will all have been worth it.

> He then said, "When I was a knight I heard about
> how your old Elder, Elder Lyons, wanted to do good for the Capital Wasteland,

Dan: He wanted it to be colours other than green and brown

> its because of him
> and the men under him the Capital Wasteland and the surrounding area has clean purified Water.

Tsuneo: And the Lone Wanderer not being a jerk.

> It's an honor to meet you, High Elder Kodiak."

> "The honor is mine, Mr. President. Captain Hernandez told me about you.

Dan [Kodiak]: You suck

> We know you helped liberate the City. The Legion of Steel is here to help you in whatever you need."

Rick: [John] And I, what, call you with a flare gun?

> High Elder Kodiak

> tol him. John nodded his head and asked that the Legion of Steel men secure the front line around
> the City with their laser weapons. Then another voice said, "Does that include me?" when John and
> Kodiak looked at where the voice came from and they saw a woman wearing T-51f Power armor
> holding her helmet. John and Kodiak recognized her.

Dan: Madam Z? The hell?

Tsuneo [Madam Z]: What did you expect? I spent my time chasing up my granddaughter and keeping her out of trouble and this is what it gets me. Now I'm stuck in this wasteland centuries after the world's most oil reserves ran out and the only places left for her to sing are filthy raider-filled hellholes. So who wants some stew?

Dan: What sort of stew is it?

Tsuneo [Madam Z]: Best you don't know, toots.

> "SARAH LYONS?!" they both shouted. Kodiak quickly walked to her and hugged her closely, to
> which she returned the hug. John walked over to them and he said that they thought she was killed.

Rick: It's kind of the basis for the Brotherhood's situation in Fallout 4, but who cares?

> Sarah told them that when the explosion happened, she got sent flying backwards and was knocked
> out. She added that when she came to, she was alone.

Rebecca: Nobody bothered to check, did they?

> So for the past Decade, she's been alone.

Rebecca: And she didn't think to go back or anything?

> She had been surviving alone for all those years.

Tsuneo: She was alone and she was alone

> "Sarah... we in the Legion of Steel would welcome you as our leader. And... if you were wanting
> to..." Kodiak said before kneeling and holding her hand. "Be my wife... I fell for you the moment I
> saw you. When you were lost I was...I was worried sick. So now that you're back... I" Sarah didn't
> let him finish when she kissed his cheek. Kodiak blushed as he looked at Sarah.

Rebecca [Sarah]: I mean I haven't seen you for decades and both of our lives have been upended and a lot has changed since then, but sure, why not? It's not like I'm going to contribute to this story in any meaningful way otherwise

> "I hate to be that guy...

Rick: No John, you are that guy.

> but we need to discuss the Defense of Charlotte." John said

Dan: John's just annoyed that somebody other than him is getting some loving

> after he cleared

> his throat. Kodiak and Sarah both blushed and nodded their heads. John chuckled and said, "Talk
> more later is all I'm saying."

Rick: Other people don't matter. This is John's fic and you're just along for the ride

- > Sarah and Kodiak nodded their heads and they followed John as he got
- > led to the meeting point for the city defense.

Tsuneo: It's almost like that was a pointless aside that didn't add anything to the fic, or something.

- > Outside the City, Legion of Steel members along with the UCR army placed hidden mines and
- > explosives

Rick: Scavengers immediately scrapped them for springs and steel.

- > to make sure to take as many of the Carolina Empire's army before they got close

Tsuneo: [John] Hey, what's another war crime while I'm at it?

- > when a Fort Mill Militia scout arrived on his Lone Wanderer Motorcycle

Rick: It replaced the Chosen One model in production

- > and asked them, "Where are the leaders of the defense meeting up?!"

Dan: Can't be my place. I'm in the middle of renovations and everything's a mess.

- > a UCR Private told him that they were meeting in Charlotte's City Hall.

Rick: Meeting locations are the kind of drama I come to Fallout fics for.

- > the rider thanked him and headed inside as he shouted, "MAKE SURE THE MINEFIELD
- > IS WIDE! WE'LL NEED IT!"

Rick: And he walked right into the minefield.

- > "As far as we know the Carolina Empire will try to take the city and surrounding area. No doubt
- > they'll take no prisoners because of how we dealt them a crippling blow."

Rebecca: How do you like it now, John?

- > Said one of the commanders in charge of the defense

Rick: Colonel Nonspecific Entity

- > as Sarah, John, Kodiak, and others

Tsuneo: Other memorable characters from this fic such as... um...

- > sat at a conference table.
- > John looked at the UCR officers and asked them about the chance of enemy Air units.

Rebecca: They've probably only got ground forces. It's not like they're raiders or anything.

- > One Commander, Colonel William Ladson,

Dan: His dad could never decide whether to call him 'Son' or 'Lad.'

- > stood up and told him, "Well Mr. President, when the
- > Charlotte Imperium military depots were taken by us, we acquired some .50 Caliber Heavy Machine
- > guns,

Tsuneo: As opposed to the seemingly limitless supply of miniguns and rocket launchers you seem to

already have

> and we placed them along the higher floors of the taller buildings. We also found that there
> was something called a Self propelled Anti-Air Gun with treads on it."

Dan: A sort of gun thing with things on it.

> "We were able to repair some and put them in key locations, if they don't have Air units, then they
> can be used against the infantry."

Tsuneo: And if they do have air units?

Rick: Well then I've got nothing

> said Colonel Ladson as he finished up

Rebecca: He will never be seen again.

> and the doors bursted open, it was the Fort Mill Militia who rode in on the motorcycle.

Rick: The entire militia on a single motorcycle. That takes talent.

> The FMM was followed by UCR

> soldiers who tried to grab him as he shouted that the Carolina Empire had an ally. John stopped
> them and asked the Soldier to repeat himself.

> "The Carolina Empire... They have an ally!" Shouted the Soldier.

Dan: Thanks. I missed it the first time

> John and the other commanders looked at the FMM Soldier before John asked him who was their
Ally.

Rick: [Soldier] They've allied with the Beaufort Collective who are supplying them with artisan bath
salts.

Rebecca: [John] Good to know!

> The Soldier walked to the map of North Carolina as he explained.

Tsuneo: This is a map. Any questions?

Rick [John]: What an amazing idea!

> "We were near the old city of Raleigh when we saw a caravan flying the Carolina Empire flag enter
> the City. The Raiders there greeted them and from what we gathered, they were talking about
> joining forces."

Rebecca: You slaughter people without mercy and then sell the survivors into slavery and this
happens. Who could have thought?

> The FMM Scout reported as he pointed to the map.

Tsuneo: INTENSE MAP POINTING ACTION!

> He then said that he spotted a nearby encampment near an Old Military checkpoint into the City.

Dan: Turns out it was just some Mothman cultists.

Rebecca: What are they doing outside of Appalachia?

Dan: Very lost Mothman cultists.

> John nodded his head and had

> Harold send scouts to check the location. He then looked back at the FMM rider.

Tsuneo: [John] Did you have to ride your motorcycle in here?

> "You lead them there, I want detailed reports." he told the Scout. The FMM Scout nodded his head
> and walked out with Harold.

Rick: [Harold] I'm here too! Oh wait, never mind.

> John began planning a new Defense to counteract the enemy now that
> he knows about their ally Raider City.

Dan: Raider City sounds like a nice place to live

> He knew that he would have to take out the Raider Leader

Dan: [John] How many Human Yao Guais do I have to kill anyway?

> and a good number of Raiders since he assumed the number of Raiders would be just like the
> Raiders of Colbia.

Tsuneo: Demographics are not his strongpoint

> A half hour later, the FMM scout showed the location of the Raider controlled checkpoint to the two
> UCR scouts. The head scout, Scout Sergeant Jackson Briggs,

Dan: Jax is here to smoke cigars and do Fatalities, and he's all out of cigars.

> looked through Binoculars to scan the checkpoint.

Dan: Just as I thought, it's a checkpoint. Honestly I was hoping for something more

> Scout Sergeant Briggs said that he saw Raiders, some with Power Armor, and even
> Carolina Empire guards near an old world APC before he saw the turret rotate.

Rick: He was surprised because he thought it was a static scenery object

> He ducked down
> quickly and said, "Shit." The other UCR scout and the FMM Scout looked at him and asked what
> was the matter

Rebecca: [Briggs] Keep your heads down or you'll find out.

> before Scout Sergeant Briggs told them that command needed to know something.

Dan: They were all out of soft cheese.

> "They have a Working APC?!" John asked in shock.

Dan: Oh yeah, that too.

> Scout Sergeant Briggs nodded his head and
> reaffirmed what he saw. John slammed his hand onto the table and shouted, "DAMN IT!" The FMM
> Scout asked what the issue was and Scout Sergeant Briggs told him, "If they have a working APC
> then that means that they have Engineers that know how to fix them up, meaning we could possibly
> see Pre-War tanks in the upcoming battle.

Tsuneo: That is a big pile of assumptions right there.

> Right now all we have are APCs and no working tanks around."

Rick: Didn't you have jet fighters?

Dan: It seems to have slipped their mind

> "So meaning... we may lose a lot more men than the commanders anticipated." the FMM scout
> said. John nodded his head and sat down.

Rebecca: [John] I'm just going to have to contrive something bigger.

> Kodiak asked if there was a way to turn some AA into
> Anti-Tank, but John shook his head and said, "Calibers aren't large enough...

Tsuneo: [John] We'll just have to resort to our previously-established man-portable nuclear weapons.

> I think I need to make a call."

Rick [John]: I'm going to order a pizza! What topping do you all want?

> That was when John got onto the Radio and set it to a specific transmission.

Dan: He needs to catch up on the Silver Shroud.

> "Commonwealth Republic, this is the United Carolina Republic, please respond." was what John
> said into the ham Radio. Meanwhile, some ghouls were minding their own business when they
> suddenly had ropes around their necks and got dragged to some Trees. One of the Ghouls
> happened to have been Frank.

Dan: Hold on, am I supposed to know who that is?

Rick: I presume so.

Rebecca: The question is, do we care?

> He demanded to know what they were doing. The group of
> wastelanders were clad in white clothes with cone-like hats that were bent down to the ground.

Tsuneo: If only John hadn't brushed this off without a thought earlier

> One
> man, presumably the leader, stepped forward and said, "We, members of The Superior Order of the
> White Rose, find you two guilty of being abominations!"

Dan: [Frank] But I washed this morning!

> "Wait... are you guys seriously what's now that Domestic terrorist group that like to lynch people?!"

Tsuneo: Yes, when someone's hanging me, my first instinct is to exposit too.

> The leader gagged Frank as others bound their hands behind them as he said, "Silence Freak! The
> sentence is death! HANG THEM!" The men holding the ropes nodded and pulled Frank and the
> other non-Feral ghoul up. The two tried to hold out, but soon, their lifeless bodies were the only
> things there

Rebecca: Well there you go. We had our character death

Tsuneo: It would probably mean more if we had any idea who Frank was or cared at all.

> before the leader of the group pinned the flag of their group onto their bodies. Then
> they left before anyone saw them. (A.N.: If you people think I put this in here cause I support them,
> stop reading and rethink your life. Domestic Terrorism is no joke nor do I support it. I added it cause
> there could be groups who go around lynching people in the Fallout Universe.)

Rebecca: Author, for the first and probably last time ever, I actually agree with you.

> Back in Charlotte, Harold was going over the preparations for the upcoming battle by having power

> armored units push cars into barriers and prepared tripwires on Shotgun traps,

Rick: What mods were on the shotguns thought?

> Grenades,

> Homemade bombs, the works when he heard the sound of vehicles and that was when he saw a

> Convoy of technicals and transports flying the flag of the Fort Mill Militia.

Rebecca: Well, never mind the horrific racism, have some southerners with guns.

> The lead truck stopped at him and asked to see John.

> "He's at City Hall!" Harold Shouted as he gave instructions.

Rick: [Shouting] Do you have an appointment?

> The driver nodded his head and led the convoy into the City.

Dan: That exchange added so much

Tsuneo: I feel enriched

> Afterwards, the UCR Sappers finished digging trenches, preparing traps, and making dugouts.

Tsuneo: Which I'm sure will be more effective against the tanks you're anticipating than your own air support.

> John stood near one as he hoped the plan he created with the new intel would work.

Rick: He personally planted the sign saying 'free bird seed.'

> That was when he saw them, the Flags of the Carolina Empire and the Raleigh Raiders.

> Harold ran to the city and shouted to his men to get into their defensive positions.

Rick: They switched to Defensive Stance to reduce the damage they took.

> The men rushed to get into their dugouts and trench lines to man defenses. The Towers also got

> ready too. The Guns on the walls were aimed and ready and the UCR Alliance Jet Fighters were in

> the middle of prepping for take off as Vertibirds were loaded up with Ammunition for their guns. On

> the other side, The Emperor and the Leader of the Raleigh Raiders stood on a flatbed of a old Pre-

> War truck

Tsuneo: This doesn't seem like the smartest move when you know that your enemy has helicopters and aircraft

> looking at Charlotte as it waved the Flags of different Post-War Factions; that of the UCR,

> the Fort Mills Militia, New Sparta, Athens, and that of the Legion of Steel.

Dan: The coalition of the very stupid

> "Just by looking, they're not gonna give up the city that easily." The Emperor said as he stood in his

> power Armor. The raider Leader looked at him

Rebecca: These are two fantastically defined and well-realised characters

> and said, "Just make sure we get enough to make enough profits off the slaves we capture."

Tsuneo: Raiders. Well known as strong military allies.

> The Emperor nodded his head as a member of his Army

> ran up to them and saluted them before speaking.

> "Sire, we just received word that they are expecting reinforcements." was what the soldier told them.
> The Emperor looked at the soldier and thanked him with the info before dismissing him.

Rebecca: Random soldier just did more for this fic than Sarah Lyons.

> The Raider
> Leader pulled out his Machete and said that they needed to move fast, and the Emperor agreed.
> Pulling out his own Machete, he pointed it at Charlotte and said, "Attack!" Signaling the battle of
> Charlotte.

> -----

> Chapter 13
> I do not own Fallout at all. As for the characters, they can die at any moment in this story. So don't
> be mad if a character you love dies.

Dan: You had your moment and you blew it, fic.

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

> The Battle of Charlotte was a carbon copy of Colbia,

Tsuneo: The author literally copy-pasted it.

> but the roles were switched.

Rebecca: Also, the defenders had helicopters and aircraft while the attackers did not. Nor did they have artillery. And it was a different city. Come to think of it, they were very different battles.

> John was leading the army in the DEFENSE of the City.

Rick: Now remember that. It'll be on the test.

> The Carolina Empire and the Raiders sieged the City. The
> Siege Started on August 3rd, 2313. The Empire and Raider forces would charge the Defense lines
> of the UCR and her allies. But they tripped the mines and explosives Harold had put down earlier.

Tsuneo: John's greatest asset is that his opponents are very dumb.

> Soldiers in the Empire's Army armed with Missile Launchers got close to the wall to fire but were
> headshot by members of the Legion of Steel and Fort Mill Militia.

Dan: Every single one of them had VATS.

> Kodiak fired his Laser Rifle that he
> modified to have an Overcharged capacitor, Improved long barrel, Recoil compensating stock, Long
> recon scope, and a Fine-tuned beam focuser. Sarah fired alongside him with her Laser rifle modded
> the same way

Rick: And thank you for not describing it again in detail.

> and she smiled at her old friend.

Dan [Kodiak]: It's great to be killing people alongside you
Rebecca [Sarah]: This is the best date I've ever been on

> "Just like the Capital Wasteland huh Kodiak?" Sarah said to him.

Tsuneo: In as far as it isn't.

> Kodiak smiled and agreed with her. He then said he wished he knew Sarah was still alive.

Rick: [Sarah] I'm right here!

Rebecca: [Kodiak] Sometimes, it's like I can still hear her voice...

> He would have searched for her. Sarah told him that it was fine,

Rebecca [Sarah]: I was left on my own with everybody thinking I was dead and control of the Brotherhood passed to somebody else, but it's fine

> she needed to find herself since her father was killed. Kodiak offered her

> his sympathies before a Rocket hit near where they were crouched.

Tsuneo: [Kodiak] Oh yeah, I almost forgot we're in the middle of a war.

> Sarah nearly fell off if not for

> Kodiak who grabbed her hand and pulled her up, only for her to land on top of him and he went onto

> his back. the

> The two blushed

Tsuneo: Given that they're both in Power Armour it's not as sexy as you think

Rebecca: Wouldn't be the worst meet-cute ever

> as one soldier chuckled before he fired at the person who held the Rocket Launcher.

Dan: That's funny. Back to killing.

> In the Trenches, UCR Soldiers were firing at the Imperial army and Raiders with all they

> had on them; Laser Weapons, Combat Rifles, Shotguns, Heavy Weapons: Miniguns, Rocket

> Launchers, Grenade Launchers, and .50 Caliber Machine Guns.

Rick: Anyone who had any other weapon had to hold the fire so as not to mess things up.

> The Carolina Empire soldiers

> made multiple attempts to breach the walls, but Legion of Steel forces, wearing their T-51d Power

> Armor met them armed with Laser Rifles and miniguns.

Rebecca: Yes, men! March straight into the deadly hail of fire!

> One Raider tried to use a Ripper to tear the

> armor of one Legion of Steel, all it did was scratch the paint.

Tsuneo: I mean really, what did you think was going to happen?

> In response, the Legion of Steel Knight grabbed the Raider's head and crushed it like an Apple

Rick: Red dead-licious!

> before firing his laser rifle at a Carolina Imperial Army soldier. Right as the LoS Knight was

> reloading, an imperial Rocketeer was about to hit him when his head got a laser blast and he turned

> to Ash.

Rebecca: Wow, good thing nobody was imperilled in the middle of this pitched battle.

> The Knight turned and looked to see Rebecca clad in her own Power Armor leading her men

> into battle alongside the Legion of Steel.

Rebecca: I continue to exist!

- > "Never thought I'd be happy to be saved by a Brotherhood member!" Shouted the Knight as
- > Rebecca stopped by him.

Tsuneo: The 'girl' part remains unspoken.

- > She told him that she understood how he felt as Elder Torres was a
- > corrupt man who was also into selling slaves.

Tsuneo: A quick pause in the action for some exposition and we're good

- > The Legion of Steel Knight nodded his head and fired more lasers at the enemy.

Dan: [Knight] It's crazy, I'm not even looking where I'm shooting.

- > That was when an APC of the Carolina Empire quickly rolled onto the
- > battlefield and its turret opened fire, killing UCR soldiers and hitting a Legion of Steel Knight.
- > But soon a round struck the APC, knocking it onto its side as UCR Tanks were fixed up and brought
- > into service.

Dan: By the way, we have these now

- > Many Brotherhood Scribes were trained to operate them along with UCR servicemen to
- > become Tank Crews.

Rebecca: Apparently, they did all their training overnight

- > The Carolina Imperial Army and Raleigh Raiders were scared by the sight of
- > the UCR Tanks rolling in along with the Vertibirds and Jet fighters,

Dan: And their ornithopters and autogyros and flying saucers.

- > and soon many began running, only to get shot in the back.

Tsuneo: John is fine with shooting fleeing enemies in the back as it spares him the trouble of executing them later

- > Units close to the wall were surrounded and taken prisoner. New
- > Spartans used their Rippers to tear into Raiders as Athenian sharpshooters kept them covered.

Tsuneo: But a few UCR soldiers were killed by one APC, so the battle is tense and dramatic and stuff.

- > Across the front line, many medical personnel were tending to the wounded as fast as they could.
- > The Goodwill Association provided medical stations, equipment, and personnel to the UCR's fight to
- > defend the city.

Rebecca: They provided the city's defenders with second-hand clothes and old books

- > However, when the tanks came into play,

Dan: The other side gave up and went home.

- > the battle shifted in favor of the UCR and her allies on August 5th, 2313.

Rick: They will always remember the battle of National Underwear Day.

- > The Emperor and Raider Leaders were pissed at the new situation
- > and saw the battle was now... unwinnable and ordered a withdrawal.

Tsuneo: It turned out that attacking an opponent with vastly superior equipment in a well defended location is not a good idea.

> As the Sun rose to high noon,
> the Carolina Empire and the Raleigh Raiders attempted to take the City of Charlotte,

Dan: We already left!

> but the UCR and her allies held strong and won the day, though at a high price.

Rebecca: John had smudged his paint job. Also, some people might have died, but that's what's important here

> "Forty dead in the trenches, almost triple in wounded. We have a squad unaccounted for, it's safe to
> say that they were captured." Harold told John and the other leaders of the city's defenders.

Rick: Such as Moira Brown Rex the Cyberdog.

> John
> then asked Harold about the enemy numbers, and he said, "Well from what I was gathering... a
> combined total of 619 dead, and they just surged forward, like they didn't care if they were gonna
> die."

Tsuneo: Fic, giving hard numbers on how stupidly one-sided the battle was is not helping your case.

> John dragged his hand down his face and breathed a sigh.

Dan: [John] I was hoping for a nice, round number of dead.

> Harold asked if he was ok, John told him that the battle was rough and they were hit hard.

Rebecca: John's mostly upset that he didn't get to gut the raider leader himself.

> He then said, "I care about the lives of my men...
> we made the enemy run. Have the men rest up." Harold nodded his head and walked out. John
> walked to the window and looked out at his men. After that Zoey and Claire came in with a cup of
> Hot tea for him.

Rebecca: By the way, we are here now

> John took the cup and sipped it, thanking the girls.

Dan: [John] You're... Rebecca, right?

Rick: [Zoey] No.

Dan: [John] Sarah Lyons?

Rick: [Zoey] NO!

> "No worries honey," Zoey said while rubbing his back. Claire asked her adopted dad what the plan
> was now.

Tsuneo: She's a key military advisor

> John told her that the military had to take on the Empire and the Raiders. Which meant
> they would have to march north and northeast from Charlotte.

Dan: Claire is a walking, talking security risk.

> He then said, "The Emperor and the leader of the Raiders need to die,

Tsuneo: [John] And remember Claire all raiders are evil and must die.

Rebecca: [Claire] I'm going to hate raiders unconditionally like daddy does.

Tsuneo: [John] That's my girl.

> which is why..." He said as he stood up and walked to the
> window before pointing outside to the newly arrived Commonwealth Republic Special Forces before
> he continued, "... I called for backup." he had managed to get through to Nate and asked him for
> the Commonwealth Republic Special Forces.

Dan: Whoever the hell they are. And no fic, we don't care either.

> The Battle of Charlotte was just the first battle in the Second War of the Carolinas.

Rick: Or the second battle in the first war. Whatever you like, I don't care.

> Later, on August 12th, 2313,

Rick: In commemoration of World Elephant Day.

> John was reading a report when some soldiers came into his
> temporary office and asked to speak to him. John put the report in a file

Dan: [John] Pretty dull read anyway.

> and asked the men what
> they wanted. The lead soldier told him, "We worked hard to get this done... and we wanted to know
> if this was good for the UCR'S Anthem.

Tsuneo: John didn't write it himself, so of course it isn't.

> John sat up in his seat and said, "Ok men, let's hear it." The
> men nodded their heads, stood at attention, and began singing.

> In the land of Carolina
> New Charleston stands so tall

Dan: We moved the capitol

Rick: Damn it!

> A republic rising from the ashes
> Answering democracy's call

Rebecca: Your president wields absolute power and micromanages every aspect of government and military, your legislature is clearly a rubber-stamp that almost unanimously supports everything he does and there's not even the slightest hint of an opposition. I don't think 'democracy' really applies here

> With the Brotherhood we are united
> Steel and heart in our hand

Tsuneo: Until John pisses them off.

> Fighting for a brighter future
> To bring peace across the land

Tsuneo: Peace through slaughtering your opponents and executing the prisoners

Rebecca: I mean, technically that's peace...

> United Carolina Republic
> Side by side we stand so strong

- > For democracy and freedom
- > Together we belong

Rick: Please don't mind the slavers, but we're fine with that.

- > From the wasteland, we have risen
- > To unite and heal the scars
- > With the power of our vision

Rebecca: And a good Perception stat

- > Hope and peace is never far
- > Onward march to a new horizon

Dan: Or until you reach the boundaries of the map

- > Together we build and mend

Rebecca: This song just keeps going. It will never end.

- > With the Brotherhood beside us
- > A brighter dawn we will defend
- > United Carolina Republic
- > Side by side we stand so strong
- > For democracy and freedom
- > Together we belong

Tsuneo: I never thought I'd say this, but I miss the copy-pasted song lyrics from Girl on Fire.

- > From the wasteland, we have risen
- > To unite and heal the scars
- > For democracy and freedom
- > Together we belong.

Rick [Thumbs Up]: It stinks!

- > At the end of the singing,

Tsuneo: What a charming song. Has anyone tried putting it to music?

- > John put his elbows on the desk as he took in what was just sung.

Dan: [John] I killed untold thousands for this?

- > The
- > Soldiers were worried that he would reject it, but John smiled and said, "That is perfect for us."

Dan: Really?

Tsuneo: No.

- > The UCR Soldiers smiled at John's approval.

Tsuneo: [Shaky] John means everything to me.

- > That was when Harold walked in and said, "The Army is
- > ready to march." He nodded his head and stood up, "Alright men, gear up and get in line."
- > Outside, John got into his X-02 Power Armor

Rick: Upgrade or typo? You be the judge

> and walked to the front of the army. Harold joined him

Dan: Pssst! Harold! Not in front of the actors.

> along with the leaders of the allied forces. John looked at Kodiak and told him that his people didn't
> need to join them.

Dan: [John] We can slaughter them on our own.

> Kodiak shook his head and said, "We do, My people won't be safe until the
> remnants of the Charlotte Imperium in this New Carolina Empire are wiped out.

Rick: Your people who... live where?

Tsuneo: I dunno.

Rick: And they're what, threatened by the empire?

Tsuneo: Maybe?

> We're coming." John smiled as the Fort Mill Militia also prepared to go,

Dan: They had nothing better to do this weekend.

> Along with the New Spartans, Athenians, the Goodwill Association,

Rebecca: Who have apparently been there all along

> and other allies.

Dan: Any of the other random groups that have joined John that we forgot about.

> "Everyone... This attack that we suffered from the Carolina Empire and their Raider Ally started a
> second War of the Carolinas. They threw their men at our defenses and failed.

Tsuneo: It was really dumb of them.

> Now we're going to

> take the fight to their turf. I know we've been in battle after battle and many of you are tired of it...

Rebecca: I know I am

> I ask you all to hold on for just a bit longer. Will you all fight for our Republic?"

> The men of the UCR were silent for moments

Dan: Then one guy farted

> before John began hearing, "Long live the UCR, FOR
> THE UCR! FOR OUR PRESIDENT!" He then heard the UCR men Chant,

Rebecca: And now... Our glorious national anthem!

Tsuneo: Oh dear god, no.

> "President John! President John! President John! President John!"

Rick: The mythical king of Ethiopia?

Rebecca: You really went out of your way for that one. Well done.

Rick: I try.

- > John smiled before he shouted, "UNITED
- > SOUTHERN ALLIANCE AND ALLIES! MOVE OUT!" And led the men to battle against the Carolina
- > Empire and their Raider Ally.

Dan: [John] Uh... It'll be a bit to get there though... So u, be patient, I guess.

- > Meanwhile, In Tennessee, Fort Mill Militia members were running as armored Soldiers fired at them.
- > One turned and aimed his Combat rifle at their pursuers and fired, but it just bounced off them. He
- > then got shot in the leg. The other Militia members ran to help him get to their functioning ride, but
- > right as they got close, a rocket hit the car and blew it up,

Tsuneo: It's a car in a Fallout game. Its exploding was a given.

- > catching several in the explosion.
- > Shrapnel cut through them and killed some, those who survived were executed,

Tsuneo: Unfortunately, they weren't UCR soldiers, so they were allowed to die.

- > all but one, a Fresh new Member of the Militia, he hid in bushes and kept quiet.

Rick: Also, how I used to play Nuclear Winter

- > When it was time for him to leave, he
- > snuck back across the border and got to the closest Friendly outpost. After arriving, he collapsed
- > and fellow Fort Mill Militia members brought him in as he was the Outpost commander's son.

Rebecca: And not because he was a friendly soldier or anything.

- > "SIMON!" Shouted the commander of the Outpost

Tsuneo: Outpost Commander Simon's Dad.

Dan: My new favourite character

- > as he checked on his son as he sat on the bed.
- > When asked what happened, Simon said, "We were near the City of Gatlinburg... when we got
- > ambushed and we had to run. We were hunted down, our car destroyed, I... I was the only one who
- > got away."

Tsuneo: Yeah, we uh, got that in the narration. Can you hurry up with the obvious reveal already?

- > Simon's dad held his son close as he shook and teared up.

Rebecca: This scene is touching because of how much we care for these characters

- > "Alert UCR command.

Dan: Make it their problem.

- > Tell them that the City of Gatlinburg is a threat to the United Carolina
- > Republic." The outpost commander said to his subordinates. The men nodded their heads and got
- > to work. Back with the Main Army, John and Harold were leading the army north when a Radio
- > operator ran to them and said, "Sirs. President Kingston is on his way with the Airship to provide
- > more air support from the north."

Dan: Clearly, he has nothing better to do with his time.

- > John smiled before he said,

Tsuneo: [John] Why don't I have an airship? Get me an airship!

> "Contact President Kingston, we'll
> smash into the foe from the north and south, obliterating the Carolina Empire." Harold noticed how
> hollow John's Voice was and began to worry for his mental Health.

Rebecca: The fic's just saying what we've been thinking all along

> He remembered when John told him about his hatred of Raiders.

Tsuneo: His sole defining character trait

> Soon there was fighting heard ahead and John ordered scouts to find out. After some time, they ran
> back and said that Carolina Empire Forces had a settlement surrounded and they were flying the
> flag of the Fort Mill Militia.

Rick: [John] Wait, the Carolina Empire are –

Dan: [Scout] No, the settlement!

Rick: [John] Oh, right...

> John nodded his head and said to his men, "WE'RE GOING TO HELP
> OUR ALLIES! ALL FORCES ATTACK!"

> ----

> Chapter 14

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

Dan: Last chapter fic and you're yet to deliver.

Rick: What about Frank?

Dan: Doesn't count and we both know it.

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

Tsuneo: Well, you've got one chapter left to do in Enclave John. Better snap to it.

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

> The date was August 14th, 2313, in an old Red Rocket Gas Station, Fort Mill Militia forces were

Rick: Getting geared up for National Creamsicle Day.

> surrounded by the Carolina Empire on all sides. Many of the men were injured, with 4 dead.

Rebecca: Four out of a nonspecific number. Are these severe losses or minor? We may never know.

> The

> commander of the Group was down to his last pistol clip when he saw the heads of Carolina Empire
> soldiers blow.

Tsuneo: Blow their noses, that is.

> He then heard a Jet pack and watched as a Power armor-wearing soldier landed on
> enemy soldiers before opening fire and mowing down the Carolina Imperial soldiers.

Rick: My, what an effortless solution to the situation

Dan: Can't have a hint of tension here

> The leader of

> the Fort Mill Militia soldiers in the Red Rocket Gas Station stood up and looked as the United
> Carolina Republic army arrived at the site.

Rebecca: The entire army arrived at once

> "President Bertrand, area secured. Ally forces rescued." Said one of the Soldiers in Power Armor to John.

Tsuneo: John must be in all places at all times.

> He nodded his head and looked at the Fort Mill Militia members in the Red Rocket. "You ok?"
> The Fort Mill Militia commander nodded his head and thanked him for their assistance.

Dan: I mean, we had some casualties and...

Rick [John]: Don't care.

> John nodded his head back before saying, "No worries, we're allies after all.

Rebecca: [John] Right up until I annex your territories.

> We're going to take the fight
> to the Carolina Empire." The Fort Mill Militia soldiers smiled and nodded their heads.

Rebecca [Bored]: We are in agreement

> The UCR Medics got to work tending to the wounded as engineers dug graves for the four dead.

Dan: Like, can you not do it right out front of the Red Rocket?

> Afterwards, John and his army crossed into Carolina Empire territory and soon came under attack
> by Carolina Imperial Sharpshooters that were left to buy the main army some time.

Dan: Making you wonder why he didn't fly in there given that he seems to have infinite number of Vertibirds

> John had his
> men take cover as he and Harold took out their heavy weapons and opened fire on the
> Sharpshooters. John Gauss's rifle and Harold's Minigun made quick work of the sharpshooters.

Tsuneo: One pointless interlude later.

> After doing a headcount, John saw that only one was killed while the other UCR soldiers were
> wounded.

Rebecca: [John] Huh... Looks bad in the press. Kill a few more.

> John had the wounded taken away on Vertibirds along with the Dead UCR trooper so he
> could be properly buried.

> "Sir..." Harold said as he pointed to an Eyebot floating towards them. Once the Eyebot stopped, a
> voice came through its speaker.

Rick: It was advertising for a job at Cambridge Polymer Labs.

> "President Bertrand, you are coming up on the North Carolina town of Lexington.

Rick: Known for its barbeque and textile industry.

Dan: Clearly what's important here

> Carolina Empire Soldiers and allied Raiders fortified the town as it was a stop from Greensboro,"

Dan: And if you're not familiar with the geography of the Carolinas, well, that's your problem

> The voice said.
> John nodded his head and asked who was speaking. The voice told him, "Colonel Lee, sir. Fort Mill
> Militia.

Tsuneo: It's the last chapter but sure, introduce more characters. It's not like they matter anyway.

> We are stationed in the Town, so we can help you take it from the inside." John smiled and
> thanked the men before handing a laser targeting device to some men and told them their mission.

Dan: [John] And this will call in the airstrike...

Rick: Didn't they just say their men were in there?

Dan: [John] Acceptable losses.

> In Lexington, the UCR soldiers who had the Laser targeting Device snuck through the Defenses,
> following the Eyebot as it led them back to the Fort Mill Militia squad. Arriving at a Pre-War DMV
> Office,

Dan: They stood in queue for hours only to be sent to another window

> they met up with the small 7-man team. The squad leader of the UCR soldiers asked for
> Colonel Lee and saw a man wearing a Beret

Rebecca: And nothing else.

> and armed with a Combat rifle that was modified with a
> .308 Receiver, a Long ported barrel, a Recoil compensating stock, a Large quick eject mag, a Short
> recon scope, and a Suppressor.

Rick: But what paint did it have? That's the really important issue.

> He introduced himself as Captain Lee and asked who they were.

> "Sergeant First Class Jacob O'Brian, United Carolina Republic." The SFC said to Captain Lee
> before the two shook hands. He then said to the Captain, "The United Southern Alliance Army's on
> their way here to attack the City, but we need to know if there are going to be any issues for the
> army. Things like Machine gun emplacements, Mortar pits, and Artillery pieces."

Rick: Or keep off the grass signs and traffic cones.

> Afterwards, he
> showed Captain Lee the Targeting gun and was led to where the Carolina Empire had placed some
> Howitzers.

Tsuneo: Which they had apparently left undefended and unmanned.

Dan: Isn't that convenient?

> SFC O'Brian nodded his head and handed explosives to his men and the Fort Mill Militia men.

> "If there are any more Artillery pieces, place the explosives on them and blow them, that will give
me
> the signal to laser those for the Jet fighters,"

Tsuneo: At this point it's basically just Call of Duty fanfic.

Rebecca: Only without the engaging plot or characters

> O'Brian said to his team and the Fort Mill Militia people.
> The people nodded their heads and went off to different locations. SFC O'Brian pulled out his Radio
> that was given to him by Athen Soldiers and a piece of Paper that had a message on it.

Dan: John eats boogers, pass it on.

> Holding it close and he began pressing the button in sequence.

Rick: Bop it, twist it, pull it...

> Back with John, he was on a pre-war bed looking at the city when a radio operator approached him
> and said, "Sir, we're receiving the coded message from O'Brian.

Rebecca: He worries that Keiko doesn't love him any more

> He says his team made contact
> with the Fort Mill Militia members. He and his team are moving to take out the enemy defenses, and
> he has the targeting laser ready to hit a nearby artillery section for the Jets."

Rick: The Sharks are getting serious with their artillery.

> John nodded his head
> and told the Radio operator, "Tell O'Brian we're ready to attack when he gives the signal."

Dan: They didn't need laser designators before.

Rick: But now he's being tacticoool and stuff!

> "Yes sir." Replied the Radio Operator before sending the coded message to O'Brian. John and
> Harold looked at Lexington through binoculars. Harold told John, "These Imperium wannabes are
> not going to go down easy John."

Tsuneo: I mean, why not? Everyone else has.

> John sighed and said that he knew that, he added that rebuilding
> the US Would take years, decades even, but he told Harold that if they did it right, the future
> Generations would make sure things would not repeat.

Rebecca: Just ask the NCR how that worked out for them

> "I hope you're right about this, John, cause the factions may change, the technology may change,
> the Ideologies may change, War... war never changes," Harold said to John,

Dan [Harold]: I said the thing

Rick [John]: Don't care!

> who nodded his head
> right as Explosions were heard from Lexington. John shouted, "LAUNCH THE VERTIBIRDS!" The
> Radio operator nodded his head and radioed the Vertibirds to take off as Jet fighters flew overhead,
> and with the Laser guide being used by O'Brian and after dropping their bombs, flew over Lexington
> and turned away.

Tsuneo: [John] This will be a hard-fought battle.

Dan: [Harold] Our air support obliterated their defences in seconds.

Tsuneo: [John] A hard-fought battle!

> The Battle of Lexington, North Carolina, had begun.

> Meanwhile, in the old state of Georgia, deep within an Old Mine cavern, the door to a Vault slid
> open, and out stepped a man wearing a Vault Suit with the number 120 marked on the back.
> Though he may look normal to the naked eye,

Dan: What does he look like?

Rick: I imagine he has default sliders

Dan: Fair

> he was anything but. He was the sole survivor of the vault,

Rebecca: But what about the crate of puppets?

> as he had murdered everyone else on the inside.

Dan: Interrupt my skincare routine, will you?

> He had the eyes of a madman, and he

> walked into the wasteland, where his legacy as a serial Killer would take flight. *

Tsuneo: Or rather it would have if this wasn't the last chapter.

> Back North,

Rick: In a relevant scene.

Tsuneo: Is it, though?

> John and Harold were the ones leading the charge into Lexington

Rebecca: Endangering their entire command structure.

> as the USA

> combined forces surged through breakthroughs in the walls. Harold kept John covered while John

> used his Gauss Rifle to take out any resistance from the enemy fighters. The Carolina Imperials

> kept trying to put up a stiff resistance.

Tsuneo: 'Trying' is doing a lot of heavy lifting here.

> One of them had a Missile Launcher and fired at John. Harold

> saw the soldier and shouted, "LOOK OUT, JOHN!" and he pushed him out of the way and took the

> Missile meant for John.

Dan: You keep leading from the front and this will happen.

> "HAROLD!" Shouted John as he got out of his power armor and ran over.

Rebecca: Guy lined up another missile...

> He got Harold's helmet off as UCR Soldiers ran to cover them.

Rick: [Harold] It's okay, I have plenty of DR.

> John shouted, "WE NEED A MEDIC OVER HERE NOW!"

> Athenian medics ran over and checked on Harold as John held Harold's hand.

Dan: [Harold] Hold me... Like you did by the lake...

> Harold coughed some before smiling at John, "I... did my job..."

Rick: Forensic accountancy. Yeah, he didn't think it would turn out like this either.

> I kept you... safe." John looked at the medics as they shook their heads.

> "Harold... you will be remembered, old friend," John said to his dying companion.

Dan: We will never forget Harold and all the things he did

Rick: Like what?

Dan: Well he, uh, you know did that thing once. Yeah.

> Harold smiled and
> thanked him before closing his eyes. John teared up and said to keep Harold in his Power Armor,

Rebecca: Yeah, real mess in there.

> before he got back in his own Power Armor and called for artillery support. He threw a flare towards
> an entrenched Carolina Empire Machine Gun Emplacement, and a Shell landed smack dab on the
> emplacement.

Tsuneo: Didn't do anything about missile launcher guy, though.

> John unloaded a clip of bullets from a Submachine gun into an Imperial Commanding officer

Dan: John seems to have about a dozen weapons on him at all times

> as he led the men in shock and Awe. The Artillery and Jet fighters, with help from the UCR
> Vertibirds, kept the Imperials pinned as the U.S.A. forces rushed them and took many prisoners.

Tsuneo: They were shipped off to New Sparta for... Reasons.

> By August 16th, 2313,

Rick: Since it was National Roller Coaster Day...

> Lexington had been taken by the United Southern Alliance and John sat in
> what used to be the City Hall.

Rick: But had been turned into an over-decorated McDonalds

> a UCR Colonel approached him and gave him the Casualty numbers,
> the UCR lost 14 men, including Harold, the New Spartans lost 30, Athens lost 3. The Fort Mill Militia
> lost 12 and the Legion of steel lost 2 knights. The Commonwealth republic Special Forces report
> minor injuries. John ran his hand through his hair, 61 dead.

Rebecca: He had to count on his fingers to be sure.

> "The results would have been worse if not for the Artillery being taken out by our advance forces,
sir,
> not to mention the Fort Mill Militia already in the city."

Dan: Really, there was no reason for Harold to buy the farm is what he's saying.

> The Colonel said to John. He nodded his
> head, and the man stood up. That was when Kodiak and Sarah walked in. They had heard about
> Harold's death and wanted to make sure John was ok.

Rebecca: [Sarah] Did I even meet Harold? I don't know.

> "I'm ok. Just... I'm going to lead the world into peace, even if I have to kill every stinking imperial,
> Raider, Enclave Member, to do so."

Tsuneo: I see that Harold's death hasn't affected him in the slightest

Rick: If anything, he seems calmer now

> John said as he walked to the door before his legs gave out and
> he fell to his knees. The three ran over to check on him. They saw that John was shedding tears like
> crazy, and he screamed as he punched the floor.

Dan: This is a Tommy Weisau quality reaction

> They all knew that if the men saw him like this, they would lose some morale,

Tsuneo: Their meter would go down.

> so they closed the door as Sarah Lyons pulled John into a caring embrace.

Rick: She was wearing her Power Armour so it was really awkward.

> That night, John was lying on the roof of the old City hall, looking up at the stars while the sound of
> Jet Fighters, Vertibirds, and commotion came from around the City.

Dan: Massive celebrations for Harold's passing.

Tsuneo: And maybe for winning the war?

Dan: Eh, that too.

> Zoe joined him on the rooftop.

> She took John's hand and said, "They told me what happened... Claire wanted to be up here with
> you, but I doubt you'd be ok with it.

Dan: He flew her into an active warzone, so what difference does climbing up on the roof make?

> I'm so sorry, honey." John leaned on her as she held his head to her chest.

Rebecca: [Zoey] I loved Harold more than I loved you.

Dan: [John] That's okay, honey. So did I.

> "He had been with us since the UCR first formed...

Rick: [John] Harold was like part of the furniture.

> it was painful to let him go, Zoe," John told her.

Dan: [John] But he was beginning to stink up the place.

> Zoe nodded her head, and she said, "I know John... I know."

Rebecca: Harold was like family. Like an uncle you barely see and can't remember the name of his kids.

> John sighed as he looked up at the

> stars. The next morning, Harold's body and Power Armor were buried deep in Concrete so that no
> one would think to dig his armor up,

Rick [John]: It's what he would have wanted

Rebecca [Zoey]: In his will he wanted to be cremated with his ashes cast onto the wind

Rick [John]: I said it's what he would have wanted!

> buried at Lexington, which was renamed to Haroldington in his honor..

Rick: Do the people of Lexington get a say in this?

Rebecca: I'd object, mostly because of how dumb it sounds

> John made sure all the wounded were evacuated before he turned his attention back
> towards the Carolina Empire, where he now had a renewed hatred for

Tsuneo: [John] They shall all pay for the death of Robert.

[Pause]

Dan: Uh, Harold.

Tsuneo: [John] Harold!

> as the Empire caused his friend and closest advisor to be killed.

Tsuneo: Because Harold had done so much for him so far

Dan: To be fair, he could have done a lot in the previous fic

Tsuneo: Possible. But do we care?

Dan: Well, no.

> The United Southern Alliance forces marched out of

> Haroldington and on to Greensboro, capital of the Carolina Empire.

> After a few days' march, the United Southern Alliance was in sight of Greensboro, capital of the

> Carolina Empire, and from the north, was the Prydwen.

Dan: By the way, we have this now.

> Reinforcements had arrived.

Rick: They brought an APC full of engineers and an MCV.

> John kept a

> stoic Face as the Radio Operator walked up to him and told him that Nate was on the other end of
> it.

> "We're ready to begin the attack on your go, John. We also heard about Harold, You have my

> condolences." Nate told John,

Dan: [Nate] I'm sure Harold was... a person who... I might have met.

> who nodded his head and told them to begin the attack. Nate

> acknowledged him, and John watched as Vertibirds from the Prydwen detached and attacked as he

> ordered the Jetfighters to drop bombs in Key locations of the Carolina Empire.

Tsuneo: Fortunately, the entire Empire was in this one place.

> John then walked

> down from his spot to coordinate mortar Fire to hit Enemy Soldiers. As the Battle went underway,

> more and more Carolina Empire Soldiers surrendered, as the Jet Fighters, Air Support, and the

> Prydwen helped turn the tide of the battle.

Tsuneo: That vaguely implies the Empire was ever winning.

> The Carolina Empire's Emperor fought hard until John

> took his Gauss Rifle, aimed and fired at his head, it blew up, and then the body dropped dead.

Rebecca: Well, that was an epic battle. Completely worth all the build-up

> The

> imperial soldiers saw that and got so demoralized, many were killed as they were looking at their
> emperor's body.

> Soon, news spread fast and many of the Emperor's death. The Carolina Imperial Soldiers

> surrendered.

Rebecca: And the fic just gives up. The Empire, I mean.

> Greensboro was taken by the United Southern Alliance. John signed the Treaty of

> Haroldington, which stated that

Tsuneo: -laughing at the name Haroldington would be punishable by death

- > all territory of the Carolina Empire was to be integrated into the
- > United Carolina Republic; all territory in the occupied zones were to pay UCR taxes and use the
- > UCR Dollar.

Rick: And the other signatories agreed to this?

Dan: What other signatories?

Rick: That explains so much.

- > About 250 Prisoners were put into slavery for New Sparta.

Rebecca: He was entirely okay with their pseudo-historical justification for their practices

- > John sighed as he sat down
- > and hoped that his people could finally relax when he got told about New Gatlinburg.

Dan: Hey John! We just made up a new place for you to conquer.

- > Groaning, he
- > was about to scream when the commanders of Athens and New Sparta were used to war and could
- > act as his forward armies for New Gatlinburg. John smiled and thanked them,

Rick [John]: They can be the cannon fodder.

- > and they began preparing plans for the war against New Gatlinburg.

Tsuneo: So John can maintain his perpetual war footing. The end.

On that final comment, the big screen turned off and converted the world back to prose format. "And that was the list of weapon modifications that consisted of the last portion of Fallout: United Carolina Republic," Tsuneo commented. "In which our designated protagonist just does stuff and everyone is okay with it."

"I'm just glad I didn't choose to play Zoey," Rebecca commented. "Because of all the non-entity prop characters in this fic, she might be the most prop."

"There is a lot of that," Rick agreed. "And I think in many ways, Harold's death might be the most telling part of just how prop the non-John parts of the cast are."

"In as far as it had no emotional weight whatsoever, right?" Dan asked.

"Exactly," Rick nodded. "Harold had barely done anything to justify his existence beyond having a purely informed relationship with John. Killing him off really didn't add anything to the story."

"And it's not even like Glen LaBelle where we had created an entire world around him," Tsuneo noted. "Because Harold didn't even have the minor but easily satirised traits that LaBelle managed."

"I'd also go so far as to add that Harold, who was supposed to be John's best buddies, may have been one of the most under-developed of the incredibly under-developed cast," Rebecca offered. "Simply because he had the most airtime of anyone except John and I can't think of a single personality trait that he had whatsoever."

"As shallow as she was, Zoey at least was defined as 'prop girlfriend'," Dan nodded. "Which is more than Harold had."

"Tell you what though, the unwillingness to name minor characters became something I latched onto," Rick spoke up. "Having characters like 'Father', 'Son' and the like was sure as hell more amusing than if they had generic names like everyone else."

"I'm just saying that Enclave John might be the best dumbest thing we never saw developed," Dan offered.

"And it isn't even the first time that we've seen a fic abandoned when the protagonists long-lost evil twin suddenly showed up," Rebecca added. "Which is a very niche qualification, and yet here we are."

"Oh yes, it was well worth introducing him," Tsuneo replied, his voice dripping with sarcasm.

"But here's the thing," Rick noted. "Harold's death also stands out because otherwise it's the only part of this fic that's not the same sequence of John effortlessly squashing everything before him."

"Nor is it a random Fallout character showing up to congratulate John for no reason, so I'll take that," Dan added.

"Well, I can tell you all got really engaged with this fic," the Voice spoke up.

"I mean, I made an entire parody role-playing game about it, so take that how you will," Rick shrugged.

"That's great," The Voice beamed. "In that case, I'd be interested in hearing your reviews."

"Well, I might as well start with John since that's what the entire fic is about," Rebecca began. "John is in that strange position where he is the centre of all things and the single reason for the fic's entire existence. The entire narrative is there for John to be constantly rewarded for simply existing. What makes it strange is that he has no personality at all. He's a complete non-entity who is largely defined by being the centre of the universe, with his hatred of raiders being the closest thing he has to an actual character trait."

"What makes this even more stark is how the rest of the universe reacts to this," she continued. "In as far as they just blindly accept every single thing he does and every decision he makes without the slightest hesitation. He is always right in everything he does and his morality is above reproach. On those few occasions that he is challenged, such as his order to execute every raider in Colbia, the individuals that challenge him are immediately browbeaten into submission and back down without any further questions."

"And the thing is that John is making a lot of unambiguously bad choices. There's the aforesaid decision to execute every raider, as well as his blatantly torturing the Human Yao Guai to death. In both cases, these are justified with the idea that they're raiders, but at no point does John try to rise above that and prove he's the better man. Instead, he's applauded for being a merciless psychopath." She paused and nodded. "And let's not forget that he was perfectly fine with selling the surviving raiders into slavery, on the grounds that it was a part of his allies' cultural heritage. Which is a pretty loaded statement coming from somebody in South Carolina."

"Well, I'd talk about the rest of the characters, but there aren't any," Dan said. Without elaborating further, he sat back in his seat and folded his arms across his chest. When the others glared at him, Dan responded by asking "Really? Fine."

He sat forward once more and continued. "But I mean it. There aren't any other characters. John only barely counts because he's the focus, but nobody else has a distinct identity or personality. They're assigned an arbitrary position – usually representative of a new faction that's just joined John – but they don't exist beyond that role. And the cast is just so huge, with new characters stepping in all the time, that with their blandness it's almost impossible to remember who's meant to be who."

"Thing is, these aren't characters. They're props. They don't have their own lives, their own goals, dreams or motivations. They exist solely to enable John, to let him do stuff and give him more toys or soldiers to fling at his enemies. By the time the fic stopped, the President of the Commonwealth showed up. That should be a big thing, with the leader of another major power here to contrast and conflict with John's way of doing things. But instead, he's just there to bring the Prydwen so John can

blow more stuff up. Look at it this way: we don't mourn the loss of Harold simply because we didn't lose anything notable."

Tsuneo gave a low sigh before he took over. "I don't know how many times I've had to say this, but without genuine stakes and conflict, there is no tension and no investment in a fic. Unfortunately, this may be one of the worst examples to prove my case. John is never challenged. He's never really threatened. He's always right, successful and victorious which makes him boring, and with him, the whole fic.

"In many ways, every conflict in the fic plays out the same, whether it's a massed battle or a political meeting. The situation is introduced, John executes everything flawlessly, there's a token resistance which is easily thwarted, then John is congratulated. It doesn't matter if the loss is a few of his soldiers or one objector who is brow-beaten into submission, it's really not significant. And it's not as if John struggles or earns his victories in any way. He's always in the superior position, whether it's because he has the most war machines, the best equipment or is universally loved and respected. John wins because it can't be otherwise.

"The worst part is that this is invariably the case. Every time the same pattern occurs. You know as soon as any kind of opposition is presented, John's just going to steamroll it. I quickly lost any anticipation of any kind of challenge and wound up just waiting for it to be over rather than anticipating their climax. That's how you lose reader interest."

"Finally, I want to touch on the writing," Rick bought up. "In as far as it is incredibly dry, repetitive and dull. As much as we joked about the obsessive list of weapons and their modifications, the truth is that the fic's like that. Nothing is given any sort of flavour or description and instead every part of it is just a dry recounting of events like we were reading a very uninspired history textbook. This happened, then this happened, then John said this, then somebody showed up with a Recoil-Compensated Piercing Automatic Bashing Handmade Rifle and so on."

"The other thing that needs to be said is that due to its relative brevity, nothing in the fic has any weight," Rick continued. "Moments that are meant to be impactful are instead quickly breezed over and not given any chance to develop. Instead we move on to the next point before we really have a chance to explore or develop it any further. In many ways, Harold's death is the best example, as we focus entirely on John's essentially forcing a community to rename itself in his honour-

"Something that nobody objects to," Rebecca noted.

"Rather than the actual emotional impact of it on Harold's resumed friends and such." Rick agreed. "Finally, as much as I know you all wish I didn't, I have to bring up the sex scene. I only mention it because it might be the most clinical, passionless and mechanical writing in the entire fic, and that is saying a lot. Also, I want to die now."

"So there you have it, Voice," Tsuneo finished. "The fic was shallow, dull, dry and repetitive. But above all else, it really wasn't a Fallout fic at all. Rather, it was some bizarre empire-building fantasy with a vague Fallout theme."

"Thank you very much for that," the Voice finished. "As always, your reviews and insights are appreciated and help in the selection of future review subjects."

"Sure, let's go with that," Dan shot back.

"But we are done, right?" Rebecca asked.

"That we are," the Voice confirmed. "I will see you all next time for a new review."

"You know, that's the worst part about finishing a fic?" Tsuneo considered. "We have no idea what we'll be up against next time."

"I'd say that it won't have any John and that's a plus," Rebecca added. "But the truth is that it could be anything."

"This is true," Rick admitted. "But on the other hand, I have a lot more material for the next session already."

"Let me guess," Dan spoke up. "There's going to be raiders, then John will effortlessly slaughter them and then everyone will congratulate him for it."

"How'd you figure it out?" Rick asked, looking at his notes.

"Inspired guess," Dan finished.

Author's notes:

Way back in Fallout: South Carolina I had a joke set up for Zoey. I never got to use it, simply because she never did anything even remotely interesting that would justify the long setup needed. So yeah.

That speaks to what I think might be the most telling part of the fic. Usually in these sorts of cases, we will find a character we'll latch onto, no matter how minor they may be. However, this fic didn't even give us that much. None of the characters had those strange, indefinable qualities that we find so strangely fascinating or that we could even build a nonsense running joke over. Instead, there was nothing at all for us to work with.

But really, Haroldington?

Next time: Please send entire cast

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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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> "Mark, secure the Left flank with your hatred for Raiders
> and your recoil compensated powerful automatic combat shotgun."