

[right] PAGE 1: credits page

[left] PAGE 2: vertical split panel

The left panel shows wind chimes vibrating in the breeze, with oasis foliage in the background.

SFX

*JINGLE JINGLE*

The panel fades to black in the center and on the right emerges part of a machine gun dropping bullet casings (several already on the ground) and spinning Apache helicopter blades in the upper corner.

SFX (Helicopter)

THWACK THWACK

SFX (Bullet casings)

CLACK CLACK CLACK

In the black space between the panels is the title: *Blessed are the Peacemakers*

[right] PAGE 3: Black page

Centered in the upper half of the page:

CAPTION

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they  
will be called children of God" -  
Gospel of Matthew 5:9*

A few lines below:

CAPTION

Inspired by True Events

[left] PAGE 4: (1 panel)

EXT - BAGHDAD STREET - DUSK

Aerial view above an Apache helicopter flying over a Baghdad alley and firing its cannon. IMAM ABBAS, 50-year old Sunni cleric in flowing black and white robes and white keffiyeh with gold band, is visible hurrying through the street below. The alley is pockmarked, buildings are crumbling and a poster of Muqtada al-Sadr hangs on an exterior wall, one corner peeling away.

**[right] PAGE 5:** (4 panels)

EXT - BAGHDAD STREET - DUSK

Panel 1: square panel of Imam Abbas hiding in a doorway, looking up at the sky. The helicopter's shadow is cast upon him.

Panel 2: square panel showing Imam Abbas moving along the edge of the street facing the reader, abandoned and looted stores behind him.

Panel 3: square panel of Imam Abbas peering around the corner of a building with a Nokia cell phone at his ear. He faces the reader.

IMAM ABBAS

I'm here.

Panel 4: square panel showing view over Imam Abbas's silhouetted shoulder towards a mosque with a crowd of men in front, some with AK-47s.

**[left] Page 6:** (3 panels)

EXT - MOSQUE - DUSK

Panel 1: horizontal panel of KARIM in ankle-length robe moving away from the crowd on the right side of the panel. He approaches Imam Abbas, who stands on the left side of the panel.

KARIM

Imam Abbas, thank God.

Panel 2: square panel showing the two men exchanging the traditional greeting: a kiss on the cheek.

IMAM ABBAS

I would have been here sooner, but the American roadblocks-

KARIM

They took over the mosque, on Zawahiri's orders. They're recruiting for Al-Qaeda!

Panel 3: square panel of Imam Abbas moving towards the mosque, facing the reader on the right side of the panel, while Karim stands behind him on the left side.

IMAM ABBAS

I will speak to them. They're just boys-

KARIM

With guns!

IMAM ABBAS

They respect Grand Imam Latif - and I represent him.

KARIM

These rebels only respect power.

**[right] Page 7:** (4 panels)

INT - MOSQUE - DUSK

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing a packed mosque over the silhouettes of Imam Abbas and Karim, warmly lit by old chandeliers. The floor is covered with faded, dusty but colorful carpets. A YOUNG JIHADI stands in the pulpit, gesturing wildly.

YOUNG JIHADI

Allah calls you to war against the  
infidels! There is no mercy-

Panel 2: square panel showing a close up of Imam Abbas's face staring  
straight ahead.

Panel 3: square panel showing a close up of the Young Jihadi's face,  
eyes wide as he sees Imam Abbas.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Imam Abbas walking down the center  
aisle towards the Young Jihadi. All eyes are upon him.

YOUNG JIHADI

Jihad is the path to heaven!

IMAM ABBAS

Son, it is time to go home. Darkness  
falls and the streets aren't safe.

YOUNG JIHADI

We do not fear death! And this isn't  
*your* mosque anymore, traitor! Friend  
of the occupiers!

[[left] Page 8: (5 panels)

INT - MOSQUE - DUSK

Panel 1: square panel of Imam Abbas's calm face.

IMAM ABBAS

If I were, would the occupiers have  
imprisoned and interrogated me?

Panel 2: square panel of Imam Abbas's face looking out at the crowd,  
the Young Jihadi partially obscured behind him.

IMAM ABBAS

It is haram to kill civilians.

YOUNG JIHADI

We are Allah's army, we must fight!

IMAM ABBAS

We fight *justly*. The holy Quran says...

Panel 3: square panel showing several young men looking up at Imam Abbas, listening intently.

IMAM ABBAS

...whoever kills an innocent, it is as though he killed all mankind.

Panel 4: close up of Young Jihadi, who has his hand raised to gesture to his GOON SQUAD.

YOUNG JIHADI

There are no innocents in this war!

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Goon Squad manhandling Imam Abbas and Karim through the crowd.

KARIM

Is this how you treat your elders?!

**[right] Page 9**: (6 panels)

EXT - MOSQUE - DUSK

Panel 1: square panel showing Imam Abbas kneeling. Karim kneels behind him, the barrel of a rifle pointing directly at his chest.

GOON 1

Iranian dog!

GOON 2

American scum!

SFX

CLACK CLACK CLACK

Panel 2: square panel close up of Imam Abbas's eyes, full of horror.

IMAM ABBAS

For God's sake, no!

Panel 3: square panel close up of Young Jihadi's snarling face as he raises his rifle, preparing to hit Imam Abbas with the stock.

Panel 4: square panel close up of rifle stock descending.

SFX

SMASH

Panel 5: horizontal panel of Imam Abbas sprawled on the ground facing the reader, his face bloodied. Young Jihadi looms over him, with the Goons in the background. The still dead body of Karim is visible on the ground behind him.

YOUNG JIHADI

Because of who you are, Imam Abbas, we let you live - for now. But keep opposing us and we will kill you - and your family.

Panel 6: [inset] close up of Imam Abbas's closed eyes

**[left] Page 10**: (4 panels)

INT - AIRFORCE C-141 STARLIFTER JET - DAY

Panel 1: square panel close up of CHAPLAIN HOYT's closed eyes.

Panel 2: square panel medium shot of Chaplain Hoyt, early 50s and fit. His Colonel insignia and cross are visible on his uniform. He also wears a helmet and body armor.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Chaplain Hoyt in a sea of body armored-soldiers. All lean to the right as the jet banks.

PILOT (INTERCOM)  
Cockpit speaking. Beginning descent -  
spiral approach to evade ground fire.  
Stay strapped. And if you get sick...

Panel 4: inset close up of Hoyt's face.

HOYT  
Lord help me.

**[right] Page 11**: (4 panels)

EXT - AIRPORT TARMAC - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and LT. COL. ROGERS exchanging a salute, planes and soldiers moving busily behind them.

ROGERS  
Welcome to hell, Chaplain.

Panel 2: square panel close up of the men's hands reaching for one another.

Panel 3: square panel showing the men embracing.

HOYT  
Which circle this time, Bill?

ROGERS  
If Bosnia was the second, this is the fifth.

Panel 4: The men climb into a Humvee, PRIVATE SCHULMAN, early 20s but aged by battle, at the wheel.

HOYT  
That bad?

ROGERS

You'll see.

[left] Page 12: (5 panels)

EXT - IRAQI HIGHWAY - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Humvee zigzagging down a rough desert highway. Pockmarked signs and broken lamp posts line the road.

ROGERS

Speed's our only friend on IED alley.  
Snipers are everywhere.

SCHULMAN

And we're their Goddamned target  
practice.

INT - HUMVEE - DAY

Panel 2: square panel showing Roger's face, eyes narrowed and looking towards the right of the panel.

ROGERS

Careful, Private. This is Colonel  
Hoyt, our military's highest-ranking  
chaplain in Iraq.

Panel 3: square panel showing Sculman's face looking up into the rearview mirror, Hoyt visible in the seat behind him on the left side of panel.

SCHULMAN

My apologies, Sir.

Panel 4: square panel showing Hoyt's face, eyes full of compassion.

HOYT

Apology accepted. How long you been  
here, private?

SCHULMAN

Eight months, sir.

HOYT

Hard tour?

Panel 5: square panel showing Schulman's face in foreground, Hoyt visible behind him on the left side.

SCHULMAN

Yes sir. We fight and we die. Mostly die..

[right] Page 13: (5 panels)

INT - HUMVEE - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Rogers and Schulman in foreground, Hoyt seated behind them and in the center of the panel.

ROGERS

The Chaplain knows all about that.  
Airborne and Ranger qualified. 200  
jumps.

SCHULMAN

Didn't know chaplains fought.

HOYT

They don't. That was another lifetime.

Panel 2: panel covering remainder of page, showing aerial view of Baghdad cityscape, pockets of smoke rising from various neighborhoods. A few helicopters patrol the skies.

CAPTION

BAGHDAD, JUNE 2005

Panel 3: inset showing explosion at Samarra Mosque.

Panel 4: inset showing partially destroyed minaret

Panel 5: inset showing civilians fleeing through a street

TEXT

Iraq has descended into a Sunni-Shia civil war. Yet the Bush administration continues to assert it can bring about a political solution. Prime Minister Maliki, the third prime minister Iraq has seen in as many years, is beholden to-

[left] Page 14: (4 panels)

EXT - GREEN ZONE TEMP HOUSING - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing long rows of shipping containers converted into dorm rooms. Hoyt walks through a row, dwarfed by his surroundings, rucksack in one hand, searching for his assigned door.

CAPTION

Green Zone

HOYT

1473-B

INT - TEMP HOUSING - DAY

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt framed in the doorway of his quarters. In the foreground is a standard army cot, folding table and chair and footlocker. Sterile fluorescent light casts a cold green glow.

HOYT

Home sweet home.

Panel 3: close up of Hoyt's hand placing a photo of he and his wife on their wedding day on the table, next to photos of his kids. A worn Bible sits in front of the photos.

SFX

RAP RAP RAP

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt on one side of the doorway, SERGEANT MAJOR EDDIE BROWN, a young African American female soldier, standing on the opposite side of the doorway.

BROWN

Chaplain Hoyt, Sergeant Major Eddie Brown. Your Chaplain's Assistant. General Casey's waiting.

**[right] Page 15:** (4 panels)

INT - FORMER HUSSEIN PALACE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Brown marching through an opulent hallway of one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces, now jerry-rigged for military use. Signs are duct taped to the walls, wires strung down from the ceiling. The hallway is crowded with men and women in uniform, suits and business casual rushing in different directions. Those in uniform near Chaplain Hoyt salute, which he returns.

HOYT

What's the sit rep?

BROWN

200 chaplains deployed but that's not enough.

Panel 2: square panel showing Rogers stepping in behind Brown and Hoyt, who are now shoulder to shoulder.

ROGERS

Especially since Samarra.

HOYT

The sacred Shi'a mosque, which Al-Qaeda, claiming to be Sunni, blew up.

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt facing Brown and Rogers in front of a door.

ROGERS

Precisely. Local Al-Qaeda kills Shi'a, they retaliate-

BROWN

These groups *for real* hate each other.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt holding door open for Brown and Rodgers.

BROWN

Everybody's killin' everybody. Never changes.

**[left] Page 16**: (2 panels)

INT - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing poorly lit briefing room with several computer workstations and a large map of Iraq projected on the wall opposite the door. Numerous red dots indicate attacks in the past 24 hours. GENERAL GEORGE CASEY, early 60s with rimless glasses and short-cropped salt and pepper hair, stands facing the map. COLONEL MANSOOR, Casey's late 40s chief-of-staff, leads the briefing.

MANSOOR

Al-Qaeda operatives are flooding in from other countries. Colonel Johnson requests permission to enter Sadr City-

CASEY

Negative. Maliki's in charge now and he's forbidden coalition forces to go there. Besides, we don't have the manpower.

MANSOOR

Yes sir.

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, flanked by Brown and Rogers, near Mansoor and Casey.

MANSOOR

Sir, I'd like to introduce Colonel Mike Hoyt. New Command Chaplain.

CASEY

Thank God you're here. When'd you arrive?

HOYT

Just today, sir. I'll do whatever I can to care for our warriors - mentally, physically, spiritually.

CASEY

Thank you Chaplain.

**[right] Page 17:** (5 panels)

Panel 1: square panel showing Casey with his back turned, Hoyt leaning a bit forward.

HOYT

Begging your pardon, sir, but I heard Colonel Mansoor's briefing. Perhaps I could help-

Panel 2: square panel showing Casey facing Hoyt, looking skeptical.

CASEY

You? With all due respect, Chaplain, you can't even carry a gun. Force is all that speaks here.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Casey and Hoyt facing one another.

HOYT

Right about the gun, sir. But we chaplains had some success in Afghanistan and Bosnia, engaging local religious leaders and helping commanders understand the landscape-

CASEY

This ain't the Balkans.

HOYT

No, sir, but I've seen the benefits of working with Muslim leaders to break the cycle of violence. I've built friendships from our shared commitment to faith.

Panel 4: square panel of Casey.

CASEY

Chaplain, what we need is guns. Not prayers. The Iraqi government doesn't exist. No courts. No police. "Security" is run by mafias and militias.

Panel 5: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

Well sir-

CASEY

Iraq is on fire, hanging on by a thread. And that damn thread is burning.

[[left] Page 18: (4 panels)

Panel 1: square panel of Casey.

CASEY

The White House and Rumsfeld don't get it. The situation's devolving.

Panel 2 square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

Sir, if we can find religious leaders brave enough to speak out, they can undercut Al-Qaeda's message-

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Casey and Hoyt facing off.

CASEY

We can't risk getting into this religious stuff-

HOYT

But we already are, whether we like it or not.

CASEY

Maybe. But you haven't been lied to as many times as I have. You take care of our soldiers - pray, preach, whatever. But leave the war fighting to me.

EXT - ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL - DAY

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing exterior of St. George's Cathedral in Baghdad. The tired exterior of the sandstone church is surrounded by concrete T-walls topped with razor wire. Iraqi soldiers patrol outside.

**[right] Page 19**: (2 panels)

INT - ST. GEORGE'S SANCTUARY - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing interior of cathedral sanctuary. The congregation is overwhelmingly female and elderly. CANON ANDREW WHITE, a tall barrel-chested British Anglican priest in his early 40s, stands behind a simple lectern, leaning on a cane in one hand. His cross of

nails dangles from his neck over his vestments.<sup>1</sup> A faded picture of Jesus Christ hangs slightly askew behind him. An Arabic interpreter named Samir stands next to him. Both are sweating in the heat.

WHITE

My children, the Lord is with us. We must persevere. As Saint Paul wrote to a church oppressed in a different time and place, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed. Persecuted, but not forsaken. Cast down but not destroyed.

SFX

BOOM!

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing congregants' faces looking at Canon White. A few look up or to the side in worry.

WHITE

As we prepare to part, let us recite the benediction together-

SFX

BOOM!

WHITE

-Go with peace into the world. Have courage. Love and serve the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

[left] Page 20: (5 panels)

Panel 1: small square panel showing one person crossing themselves in the Catholic tradition.

Panel 2: small square panel showing someone praying in Arabic.

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<sup>1</sup> Note to the artist: the cane and cross of nails are part of Canon White's attire throughout the entire novel.

CAPTION

[Arabic prayer]

Panel 3: small square panel showing one person crossing themselves in Orthodox manner.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Canon White gesturing towards PAUL MATIAS, a young fresh-faced man standing on the floor in front of the lectern, facing the congregation.

WHITE

Before you leave, my children, may I introduce Paul Matias, newly arrived from America.

MATIAS

Hello. Suh-lam.

WHITE

He is here to assist our peacemaking efforts. Please greet him as you go.

EXT - ST. GEORGE'S - DAY

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing exterior of St. George's, White and Samir standing in the courtyard with parishioners. Hung tarps provide dusty shade. Black smoke rises in the distance. Christian women with hair covered exit through the military checkpoint.

WHITE

Food delivery will be delayed again.  
We'll give out what we have.

**[right] Page 21**: (4 panels)

EXT - ST. GEORGE'S - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing White's face and shoulders.

WHITE

And we'd best open the clinic. There will be casualties coming.

Panel 2: square panel showing Samir's face and shoulders.

SAMIR

Yes Canon White, But you should go. You'll need extra time-

Panel 3: square panel showing White turning towards Paul.

WHITE

Quite right. Paul, fancy a visit to the Green Zone?

Panel 4: square panel showing White walking towards the exit, Paul following uncertainly.

WHITE

Samir, please remind the American embassy we are coming. Everyone tends to be too trigger-happy these days..

Panel 5: inset panel showing Samir's confused face.

SAMIR

What is a happy trigger?

**[left] Page 22**: (4 panels)

EXT - GREEN ZONE - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel of aerial view of Green Zone. Concrete T-walls loom 20 feet high and are pock-marked and graffitied. Iraqi army checkpoints surround the walls. Razor wire and barriers are everywhere. White and Paul approach a checkpoint, leaving their Iraqi bodyguards behind.

INT - SECURITY CHECKPOINT - DAY

Panel 2: square panel showing White and Paul just inside the door of a small building - the Blackwater checkpoint. Two bored CONTRACTORS stand on the other side of a metal detector.

CONTRACTOR ONE

Name and business.

PAUL

Paul Matias, with Canon Whi-

CONTRACTOR TWO

CANNON?!?

Panel 3: square panel showing the two contractors with weapons raised. Paul's hands are up in terror, his passport falling from his hand.

PAUL

Reverend! Reverend White. He's a priest-

CONTRACTOR ONE

Hell, you thinking you're some f\*\*\*ing comedian?

CONTRACTOR TWO

Jesus Chri-

WHITE

My dear chap, there's no need for that. My title is "canon", spelled "C-A-N-O-N". I serve the Church of England, headed by her majesty the Queen. You are always welcome at St. George's.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing contractors facing off with Paul and White. Contractor One stares at White, shocked into silence by his explanation.

WHITE

Just let us know you are coming, so  
our guards don't shoot you.

CONTRACTOR ONE

Right, well...

CONTRACTOR TWO

Jacket, watch and belt in the tray,  
along with whatever's in your pockets.

EXT - GREEN ZONE - DAY

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing White and Paul on the other side of  
the checkpoint, met by WILL CASSIDY, a 30s bookish State Department  
diplomat in a rumpled suit.

CASSIDY

Your Reverence, welcome!

WHITE

Thank you Mr. Cassidy. May I introduce  
Paul Matias - an American, I might  
add. He's here to assist our mission.

**[right] Page 23**: (5 panels)

EXT - GREEN ZONE - DUSK

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Cassidy leading White and Paul  
through the Green Zone. They pass an American-style mailbox and a  
Burger King sign. Paul stares.

WHITE

Mr. Cassidy has been here - nearly a  
year now?

CASSIDY

Correct. Canon White's already heard  
my "sermon", but I must advise you to  
leave. Kidnappings have skyrocketed  
and Americans are the primary target.

PAUL

I understand.

Panel 2: square panel showing Cassidy facing White and Paul.

CASSIDY

Respectfully, no you don't. The violence is apocalyptic. You should go home.

Panel 3: square panel showing White, with Paul behind his shoulder.

WHITE

These are dark times but there is always hope.

Panel 4: square panel showing Cassidy's skeptical face.

Panel 5: square panel showing Cassidy leading White and Paul again.

CASSIDY

By the way, the new command chaplain might attend tonight.

**[left] Page 24:** (4 panels)

INT - FORMER SADDAM PALACE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Cassidy, White and Paul coming through a heavy security door into the bustling foyer of a former Saddam palace.

CASSIDY

Rumor has it they're going to assign a chaplain to the political section of the Embassy. Help us diplo-pagans understand religion.

Panel 2: square panel showing Cassidy tossing a grin over his shoulder to White.

WHITE

If you want to understand religion,  
get to know its people.

CASSIDY

I am!

Panel 3: square panel showing Cassidy holding open the door to a makeshift chapel as White and Paul enter.

INT - GREEN ZONE CHAPEL - NIGHT

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing White walking down the center aisle of the chapel. The room holds a few dozen mismatched chairs and is half full.

**[right] Page 25**: (4 panels)

EXT - MOSQUE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing older Iraqi men filing into a mosque, leaving their shoes outside. A busy market hums nearby.

INT - MOSQUE - NIGHT

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Imam Abbas at the front of the crowded mosque, speaking to the crowd.

IMAM ABBAS

This is not the way of Allah. Mob  
violence? Killing other Muslims?

FIRST MAN

But Allah is blessing them with  
success!

IMAM ABBAS

It will only lead to more death!

SECOND MAN

We must fight for ourselves. No one else will!

THIRD MAN

Al-Qaeda is on our side!

Panel 3: square panel showing Imam Abbas's head and shoulders.

IMAM ABBAS

Al-Qaeda is on no one's side but its own!

Panel 4: square panel showing an objector in the crowd.

FOURTH MAN

Al-Qaeda may not be orthodox, but at least they oppose Maliki and the Americans!

[left] Page 26: (4 panels)

INT - MOSQUE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Imam Abbas facing off with the objector, the crowd animated.

IMAM ABBAS

We must trust in Allah. He is greater.

FIRST MAN

But will he save us?!

EXT - MOSQUE - NIGHT

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing two MENACING MEN lurking in the shadows of the market across from the mosque. Each is on a cell phone. Imam Abbas emerges from the mosque.

Panel 3: square panel showing one of the menacing men leaning into the driver's window of a heavily-laden car.

Panel 4: square panel showing the two men jogging around a corner; the car drives off in the opposite direction.

[right] Page 27: (4 panels)

INT - GREEN ZONE CHAPEL - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing congregants exiting the makeshift chapel. Cassidy extends his hand to Hoyt while also gesturing towards White.

CASSIDY

Will Cassidy, Chaplain. Political section chief. And may I introduce Canon Andrew White. He's a regular to Emerald City. The one local celebrity who hasn't killed anyone.

Panel 2: square panel showing White with his hand extended towards Hoyt.

WHITE

Yet still there's a bounty on my head.

Panel 3: square panel of Cassidy.

CASSIDY

He's our window into the world outside the blast walls. Been here 10 years. Knows everyone...

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt.

CASSIDY

...even knew Saddam.

HOYT

Impressive. I have lots of questions-

SFX

BZZZZ.

[left] Page 28: (5 panels)

INT - GREEN ZONE CHAPEL - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Cassidy reading his Blackberry.

CASSIDY

S\*\*t. Suicide bomber in Sadriyah  
market.

Panel 2: square panel of White's ashen face.

WHITE

Lord no!

Panel 3: square panel of Cassidy, all business.

CASSIDY

Chaplain, can you walk and talk?

INT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Panel 4: square panel showing Cassidy leading Hoyt, White and Paul while typing on his Blackberry.

HOYT

How did you survive both Saddam and  
the invasion?

WHITE

By God's grace.

Panel 5: horizontal panel of Hoyt and White side by side.

HOYT

Seems suicidal to stay.

WHITE

Christianity is part of Iraq's  
historic tapestry.

CASSIDY

A tapestry being torn apart.

[right] Page 29 (3 panels)

EXT - GREEN ZONE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Cassidy leading Hoyt, White and Paul away from a side exit of the palace-embassy. A loudspeaker is visible on the corner of the building, another mounted on a pole in front of Cassidy.

WHITE

Indeed. The American liberation only liberated Iraq's demons. Al-Qaeda has perverted Islam to justify unthinkable violence against anyone who challenges their twisted theology.

CASSIDY

When religion goes wrong, it goes *wrong*.

HOYT

But it can be a force for reconciliation.

Panel 2: square panel showing close-up of loudspeaker.

LOUDSPEAKER

Incoming fire. Take cover. Take cover.

SFX

*WHEE-000, WHEE-000, WHEE-000*

Panel 3: square panel showing civilians and military personnel fleeing in various directions. Cassidy, Hoyt, White and Paul are in their midst.

CASSIDY

Follow me!

[left] Page 30: (4 panels)

EXT - PILL BOX - EVENING

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing exterior of pill box, with UNKNOWN SOLDIER and Hoyt peering out through the slit. White is visible behind Hoyt, Cassidy and Paul farther back with an UNKNOWN CIVILIAN.

WHITE

Rockets?

HOYT

No. Mortars.

PAUL

Oh God. Oh God.

INT - PILL BOX - EVENING

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Cassidy, Hoyt, White and Paul with Unknown Soldier and Unknown Civilian hunkered in a pill box. Paul is crumpled against the wall.

CASSIDY

They do this nightly. Keeps us from sleeping.

PAUL

Oh God.

HOYT

Paul, let's move away from the wall. Shock wave could hurt-

Panel 3: square panel showing Cassidy and White.

CASSIDY

I told you-

WHITE

Mr. Cassidy, not now.

CASSIDY

Iraq isn't for tourists.

Panel 4: square panel showing White and Hoyt on either side of Paul, supporting him.

WHITE

Reconciliation is the only way to end this madness.

PAUL

Is it over?

CASSIDY

The voice of God will give us the all-clear when it's safe.

**[right] Page 31**: (1 panel)

INT - PILL BOX - NIGHT

Panel 1: full page showing the men arrayed around the pill box.

WHITE

The Iraqi government claims to be in support, but delays. Tony is interested-

HOYT

Tony?

SFX

SWOOSH!

WHITE

Blair.

SFX

BOOM!

HOYT

So what's the idea?

WHITE

Get the key leaders to England, away from attacks like this. Then they might unite in a fatwa against violence. Say it is un-Islamic.

HOYT

Sunni and Shi'a united against Al-Qaeda on the basis of faith. Not politics.

WHITE

Precisely! By jove, you are the first American to understand.

[left] Page 32: (5 panels)

INT - PILL BOX - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of Hoyt.

SFX

SWOOSH!

HOYT

Stakes couldn't be higher. If Iraq falls, the whole region implodes.

SFX

BOOOMM!

Panel 2: square panel of Cassidy.

CASSIDY

Do you know how risky that is?

Panel 3: square panel of White.

WHITE

If it were safe, it would have been done already. So we must have faith.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

But Iraqis have to own it. How can I help?

LOUDSPEAKER

All clear. Repeat. All clear.

EXT - GREEN ZONE - NIGHT

Panel 5: horizontal panel of the men walking away from the pill box towards the gate.

WHITE

Providentially, I have a meeting later this week with the Prime Minister's national security advisor. Can you join?

HOYT

Not sure. I'm the new kid and General Casey is skeptical of religion. And Iraqis.

HOYT (CONT'D)

Get me the details and I will ask.

**[right] Page 33**: (2 panels)

EXT - GREEN ZONE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing White and Paul outside the last ring of Green Zone security, approaching the church's beat up car. A truck of soldier-bodyguards follows behind. Iraqi soldiers in secondhand American fatigues sleepily stand guard. In the shadows across from the gate the Young Jihadi lurks, his cell phone to his ear.

EXT - PRIME MINISTER'S PALACE - NIGHT

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, Rogers, White and Paul snaking through security towards the gilded doors of what is now the Prime Minister's office. Iraqi soldiers in haphazard uniforms are posted throughout. Hoyt and Rogers are in body armor and wear helmets. White is in his clerical collar and Paul in a suit.

CAPTION

Later that week.

WHITE

These "soldiers" are really Maliki's personal Shi'a militia. These chaps are with Sadr. He's got them all over town. Just keep walking.

[left] Page 34: (4 panels)

EXT - PRIME MINISTER'S PALACE - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing White walking through a crowd of sullen-faced Iraqi "soldiers".

WHITE

I've known Al-Rubaie for years. Smart man. And an Iraqi nationalist.

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt navigating through the "soldiers".

HOYT

Does he always meet at midnight?

WHITE

It's when he meets me.

INT - PRIME MINISTER'S PALACE - NIGHT

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing the men inside a tackily furnished anteroom to the Prime Minister's office. Hoyt and Rogers have removed their helmets. Large couches line the walls. A group of Iraqis smoke

cigarettes and hookah in one corner. An ASSISTANT bursts through the office door.

ASSISTANT

Meester White, welcome. Every bodies,  
welcome, afwan, welcome. Come come!

INT - AL-RUBAIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing men standing inside National Security Advisor AL-RUBAIE'S office, once fit for a king but now a bit tired. Al-Rubaie is an urbane Iraqi in his 60s with glasses, suit and trim beard. He stands to the side of his large desk, greeting White with the traditional kiss on the cheek.

AL-RUBAIE

Andrew, my friend, lovely to see you.

WHITE

And you. You are looking well.

AL-RUBAIE

God helps me.

**[right] Page 35:** (4 panels)

INT - AL-RUBAIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Al-Rubaie facing Hoyt.

AL-RUBAIE

Welcome, sir. This is my first time  
meeting an American cleric.

Panel 2: square panel showing White gesturing to the other men.

WHITE

Colonel Michael Hoyt, Command  
Chaplain. Lt. Colonel Rogers. And my  
new assistant, Paul.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Al-Rubaie behind his desk, motioning (with a cigarette in his hand) to the men to sit. He presses a button with his other hand.

SFX

Click.

AL-RUBAIE

Sit sit!

AL-RUBAIE

What is the urgent business?

Panel 4: square panel showing White.

WHITE

The conference for Iraqi leaders. The United States wants to help.

Panel 4: square panel showing Hoyt.

HOYT

We support bringing Sunnis and Shi'as together to denounce terrorism.

AL-RUBAIE

Easy to say. Harder to do.

**[left] Page 36**: (8 panels)

INT - AL-RUBAIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt.

HOYT

We believe we can convene a conference in London with the support of Prime Minister Blair and President Bush.

Panel 2: square panel showing Al-Rubaie.

AL-RUBAIE

Healing the Sunni-Shi'a schism will take more than their support. This goes back centuries.

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt.

HOYT

We have a saying in English: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend". Al-Qaeda is an enemy to Sunni and Shi'a alike. They just need a safe place to unite against Al-Qaeda.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and White looking at Al-Rubaie across the desk. An assistant places a tray of tea and sweets on the desk.

Panel 5: square panel of Al-Rubaie

AL-RUBAIE

Why London? Why not here?

Panel 6: square panel of White.

WHITE

Baghdad is too easy a target for Al-Qaeda. Or the Sadrists.

Panel 7: square panel of Al-Rubaie, with an angry look.

AL-RUBAIE

Al-Sadr's nothing but a street preacher with a gang. I can keep them in line!

Panel 8: square panel of White's placid face.

WHITE

Speaking against Al-Qaeda could be a death sentence. London is safer.

[right] Page 37: (6 panels)

INT - AL-RUBAIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of Al-Rubaie

AL-RUBAIE

The conference should be here. Baghdad  
is the center of the Islamic world.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

We can't provide adequate security  
here. And a free trip to London might  
be extra incentive.

Panel 3: square panel of Al-Rubaie.

AL-RUBAIE

We won't approve an international  
meeting.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

General Casey won't approve one here.

Panel 5: horizontal panel (next to Panel 4) showing the men facing  
off.

Panel 6: horizontal panel of the three men looking at one another,  
Al-Rubaie holding his cigarette in the air.

AL-RUBAIE

We will support this in London. We  
must show the world, Islam can bring  
peace.

HOYT

Thank you, sir.

[left] Page 38: (5 panels)

INT - AL-RUBAIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of Al-Rubaie, now holding tea in the hand opposite his cigarette.

AL-RUBAIE

You must meet with Sheikh Fatah. If he comes, other Shi'a will attend.

Panel 2: square panel of White, also holding a cup of tea.

WHITE

I know Sheikh Fatah.

Panel 3: square panel of Al-Rubaie, now holding a sweet between his fingers and studying it.

AL-RUBAIE

The Sunnis will resist. Grand Imam Latif is key. He was Saddam's personal iman. Every major Sunni mosque looks to him. He hides in Jordan.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing all three men with tea. Hoyt also has a sweet.

WHITE

I know the man who can help. Imam Abbas. Al-Qaeda hates him.

AL-RUBAIE

The enemy of my enemy...

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Al-Rubaie standing behind his desk, hand extended. Hoyt and White are also standing.

AL-RUBAIE

I wish you luck, gentlemen. Keep me informed.

[right] Page 39: (6 panels)

INT - GREEN ZONE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, Brown, White and Cassidy sitting around a small table with a conference phone and secure phone in the middle. American and Iraqi flags hang limply in the corner.

HOYT

Al-Rubaie is on board. And he gave us the name of a key Shiite cleric. CIA says he's not a terrorist.

CASSIDY

Like they really know.

HOYT

Canon White says he's influential, and Sadr wants him dead.

Panel 2: square panel of Cassidy.

CASSIDY

I trust the Reverend more than the Agency.

Panel 3: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

I'm going to meet him this week.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, Brown, White and Cassidy sitting around a small table, flags in the background.

WHITE

And here is my list of key Sunni clerics.

CASSIDY

Impressive. Will they actually come?

WHITE

Some. The most influential will stay  
in Jordan. Too much hate and fear.

CASSIDY

Hopefully the ones who come will be  
enough.

Panel 5: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

The religious leaders can create space  
for the politicians. We don't need  
everyone, just a critical mass.

Panel 6: horizontal panel (next to Panel 5) showing Hoyt looking at  
Cassidy.

HOYT

And in another miracle, State approved  
the funding request. Thanks for the  
tip. Hopefully General Casey won't  
mind.

[left] Page 40: (7 panels)

INT - GREEN ZONE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Panel 1: square panel of Cassidy.

CASSIDY

He won't if it works. But no second  
chance if this blows up - literally or  
figuratively.

Panel 2: horizontal panel (next to Panel 1) of White looking at  
Cassidy and Hoyt looking at Brown.

WHITE

Ergo, London.

HOYT

How are the arrangements coming,  
Sargent Brown?

Panel 3: square panel of Brown.

BROWN

Block of hotel rooms booked. Plane  
tickets purchased, passenger details  
to be assigned no later than 72 hours  
before takeoff. Everything paid in  
advance.

Panel 4: horizontal panel (next to Panel 3) of the four.

WHITE

Then all is set!

CASSIDY

Chaplain Hoyt, you'll need to brief  
the new deputy ambassador before I  
leave-

Panel 5: square panel of White.

WHITE

Leave?

CASSIDY

Yup. Heading to DC next week - Senior  
Director for Iraq at NSC.

Panel 6: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

Give us your number before you go. I'm  
guessing we'll need it at some point.

Panel 7: square panel of White.

WHITE

I will miss you, Mr. Cassidy. You have been a friend to our work.

[right] Page 41: (6 panels)

INT - GREEN ZONE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing the group standing, Cassidy's hand outstretched to White.

CASSIDY

I may be a skeptic, but God bless you for what you're doing. You sure as hell need his help.

INT - EMBASSY WAITING ROOM - DAY

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt seated in the nicely furnished waiting room of AMBASSADOR SUZANNE SMITH's office.

INT - AMBASSADOR SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 3: horizontal panel (next to Panel 2) showing one of the two SECRETARIES opening the office door for Hoyt. Ambassador Smith sits at her desk inside.

SMITH

Chaplain Hoyt? Ambassador Suzanne Smith. Will has told me about you.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Smith seated across from Hoyt in a small seating area adjacent to her desk. The walls are covered with framed photos of Smith shaking hands with various Arab dignitaries.

SMITH

And about this London conference. Frankly, I'm concerned.

HOYT

We chose London for safety. We have confidence in our security.

Panel 5: square panel of Smith.

SMITH

It's not the location that's an issue. It's the topic.

Panel 6: square panel showing Hoyt's shocked face.

SMITH

We're better off leaving religion alone.

[left] Page 42: (5 panels)

INT - AMBASSADOR SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Smith and Hoyt facing each other.

HOYT

But everything in Iraq is viewed through a religious lens. We can't ignore that-

SMITH

Chaplain, I've spent my career in this region. People talk God but rarely mean it. Religious leaders are just like the politicians - looking for power.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

If faith leaders were irrelevant, Al-Qaeda wouldn't waste bullets on them.

Panel 3: square panel of Smith.

SMITH

You're out of your lane, Chaplain.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

With all due respect, ma'am, religion  
IS my lane. And as a person of faith  
myself, I understand how religion  
frames everything-

Panel 5: square panel of Smith.

SMITH

This is the State Department. We don't  
do religion. And I don't have the  
manpower to spare.

**[right] Page 43**: (4 panels)

INT - AMBASSADOR SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: square panel of Hoyt

HOYT

What, no support?

Panel 2: square panel of Smith.

SMITH

You're playing with fire, Chaplain. We  
won't get burned.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Smith standing over a seated Hoyt.

SMITH

You're on your own.

INT - ST. GEORGE'S MEDICAL CLINIC - DAY

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing a waiting room full with old men, women in hijabs, children and babies. Imam Abbas is in their midst, a YOUNG GIRL with a bandaged head sitting next to him. One fan hangs loosely from the ceiling and two fluorescent bulbs cast an eerie glow. A YOUNG MAN sits in the corner with no apparent medical needs. White, wearing his black shirt and clerical collar, leads Paul through the room.

WHITE

This is the largest medical clinic in Iraq. Here we are the healing hands of Christ.

**[left] Page 44**: (4 panels)

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing White turned towards Imam Abbas, highlighted in the crowd.

WHITE

Imam Abbas?

Panel 2: square panel showing Imam Abbas with his arm around the young girl's shoulder.

IMAM ABBAS

Canon White, my granddaughter - another car bomb. Thanks be to Allah she was not killed.

Panel 3: square panel showing White.

WHITE

Al-Qaeda?

IMAM ABBAS

I am certain. We are pushing back but they are too strong.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing White standing with Imam Abbas next to the young girl. Imam Abbas is looking at the Young Man in the corner, who stares back menacingly.

WHITE

I commend your courage. There is strength in numbers. We are working with the Americans-

IMAM ABBAS

We should not talk here.

[right] Page 45: (4 panels)

INT - ST. GEORGE'S CLINIC - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing White and Imam Abbas standing behind a drawn medical curtain.

IMAM ABBAS

I have heard about your conference. With the Americans? No. They brought this hell upon us.

WHITE

Only they are strong enough to provide the space and security. Your leadership would make the difference. Think about it.

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, Rogers and Brown working late. Maps hang on the walls, with pins representing various bases. Plans for the London conference and invitation lists are scattered about.

ROGERS

I gotta head out.

HOYT

Of course. Good work today, Bill.

ROGERS

See ya, Eddie.

BROWN

Good night, sir.

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt looking across the room at Brown.

HOYT

Eddie, let's set the memorial service for 0900 at Camp Victory. They took a big hit.

BROWN

They sure did.

HOYT

We can brief General Casey tomorrow. About London, as well.

SFX

*Ring ring ring.*

Panel 3: square panel showing Brown holding a phone receiver to her ear.

BROWN

Chaplain's Command Office. Yes, one moment.

BROWN

Canon White for you, sir.

Panel 4: horizontal panel (next to Panel 3) showing Hoyt with a receiver to his ear.

HOYT

Canon White, we were just discussing London! Hard to replace State Department, but we should be fine without it-

HOYT

What?

[[left] Page 46: (5 panels)

INT - WHITE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing White at his desk, a phone receiver to his ear.

WHITE

Prime Minister Maliki has banned meetings on foreign soil.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt with the phone receiver.

HOYT

You're kidding? But he approved this weeks ago!

Panel 3: square panel of White with the phone receiver.

WHITE

I'm sorry. With the uptick in violence, he has changed his mind. And won't budge.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt's darkened face, holding the phone receiver away from his mouth.

HOYT

Eddie, call the airlines and hotels. See if we can get our money back.

SFX

BOOM!

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Hoyt standing with the phone receiver still in his hand, Brown donning a helmet and holding body armor out to Hoyt.

LOUDSPEAKER

Shelter in place. Shelter in place.

WHITE

What was that?

HOYT

Nothing good. Will have to call you back.

WHITE

I will be praying!

**[right] Page 47:** (5 panels)

INT - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: General Casey is receiving a briefing. Hoyt sits in the back of the room. A collection of PowerPoint slides show escalating IEDs, attacks, civilian casualties and deaths.

BRIEFER

At 2135, an Al-Qaeda suicide bomber, with the help of Iraqi soldiers who were on duty, penetrated the outer layer of Green Zone defenses. Six US service members and 15 Iraqis killed.

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt's face, eyes red.

BRIEFER

We're working with Al-Rubaie to re-vet Iraqi soldiers at our perimeter.

Panel 3: horizontal panel (next to Panel 2) showing Casey facing the screen, Hoyt approaching behind him.

HOYT

Sir, may I-

Panel 4: square panel of Casey's face.

CASEY

I am sorry about Rogers, Chaplain.  
That's a tough loss.

Panel 5: square panel of Hoyt's face, eyes filled with tears.

HOYT

Thank you, sir. I just spoke to his  
wife...

**[[left] Page 48**: (5 panels)

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing both men facing the screen.

CASEY

This is damn hard work.

HOYT

Yes, but it matters. May I update you  
on our Sunni-Shi'a peacemaking  
efforts?

Panel 2: square panel of Casey's implacable face.

HOYT

Maliki canceled the meeting. He's  
banned all foreign gatherings.

Panel 3: horizontal panel (next to Panel 2) of Casey speaking over his  
shoulder in Hoyt's direction.

CASEY

Not surprised. I was skeptical from  
the start.

HOYT

Yes sir.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

One more thing, sir. We tapped  
use-or-lose funds from State for the  
reservations. Made before Maliki's  
announcement.

Panel 5: horizontal panel (next to Panel 4) showing Casey and Hoyt  
facing each other.

HOYT

No refunds.

CASEY

S\*\*t. How much?

HOYT

\$160K.

[right] Page 49: (4 panels)

Panel 1: square panel of Casey's frustrated face.

CASEY

The comptroller's going to have  
questions. From here on out, just do  
your G\*d\*\*n job. No side hustles.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

I'll be ready to answer, sir.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and Casey facing one another.

CASEY

We're at war, chaplain. Not vacation  
Bible school.

HOYT

Iraqis are a religious people, sir-

CASEY

They aren't your concern. The troops are. Christmas is coming on the battlefield. You sure as hell better be ready.

EXT - SHIPPING CONTAINER QUARTERS - NIGHT

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing aerial shot of shipping container quarters.

**[left] Page 50:**

INT - HOYT'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt on his knees in prayer, hands clasped above his head, with his arms resting on the bed and his head resting on his arms. Only the desk lamp is on, shining onto an open Bible.

HOYT

Why Bill, God? Of all men! Why?

Panel 2: inset square panel of Hoyt's tear-streaked face looking up.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt lifting his Bible off the desk. An index card falls out.

Panel 4: insert square panel of Hoyt's hand holding the index card.

INDEX CARD

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes. - Romans 8:28*

HOYT

I don't know, Lord. I just don't know.

**[right] Page 51:** (4 panels)

EXT - FORWARD OPERATING BASE CROSSBOW - DUSK

Panel 1: square panel showing aerial view over Forward Operating Base Crossbow. A Blackhawk helicopter is in the foreground. The landscape below is brown and colorless.

CAPTION

Christmas, 2006

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt looking out the open side door of the Blackhawk. He's wearing fatigues, helmet, sunglasses and a flak jacket with a cross velcroed to the front.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing a large tent on the ground at Forward Operating Base Crossbow. A large sign has been installed outside the tent.

SIGN

Memorial Ceremony - 1800.

INT - FOB TENT - DUSK

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing rows of folding chairs inside the tent, sterile fluorescent lights overhead. A sad, fake Christmas tree stands in the corner, half the lights burned out. Four pairs of boots are placed in front of four rifles, nose down with a helmet sitting on each stock. Hoyt stands in the middle of the tent, hand on the shoulder of CAPTAIN VINSON, whose arm is in a sling. Both men have tears on their faces and their heads bowed in prayer.

**[left] Page 52**: (4 panels)

INT - FOB TENT - NIGHT

Panel 1: full page panel showing the tent full of soldiers, Hoyt standing behind a flimsy lectern at the front of the room, behind the boots, stocks and helmets.

HOYT

-to honor four brave, selfless souls,  
willing to pay the ultimate price.

HOYT

We ask God to comfort those left  
behind - spouses, children, parents,  
friends. And as our fallen friends go  
home, we ask God to give us the  
strength to continue faithfully here.

Panel 2: inset panel showing a YOUNG HISPANIC FEMALE ENLISTEE, face showing sorrow and anger.

Panel 3: inset panel showing BLACK MALE OFFICER, eyes brimming with tears.

Panel 4: inset panel showing WHITE MALE ENLISTEE, face impassive.

**[right] Page 53**: (4 panels)

EXT - FOB ONE - DAY<sup>2</sup>

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt knee-to-knee with a SOLDIER, who is gesturing passionately.

HOYT

*These are times that try the soul.*

EXT - FOB TWO - DAY

Panel 2: square panel showing SOLDIER walking away from Hoyt, whose hand is half-raised.

HOYT

*That assail us with doubts.*

EXT - FOB THREE - DAY

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt surrounded by a group of soldiers, all with heads bowed in prayer.

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<sup>2</sup> Note to artist: the FOBs and settings in this sequence should be sufficiently visually distinct that the reader can tell Hoyt is traveling around the country visiting different bases. Maybe add a map of Iraq in the background with stars representing where he has traveled and a dotted line indicating his movements?

HOYT

*But we stand together, as one, and  
remember the sacrifices of those lost  
on the battlefield.*

INT - FOB TENT - NIGHT

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt back in the FOB tent.

HOYT

It's easy to forget Christmas out  
here. It's supposed to be merry and  
bright. But the first Christmas was  
hard too.

[left] Page 54: (5 panels)

INT - FOB TENT - NIGHT

Panel 1: inset panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

A paranoid and jealous King ordered a  
genocide of young Hebrew boys because  
he was afraid of a single newborn.

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing soldiers' faces, focused despite  
mixed emotions.

HOYT

33 years later, that baby, now a man,  
was crucified, and darkness fell  
across the land during the middle of  
the day.

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt no longer behind the lectern but  
standing beside the row of boots, near the first row of soldiers.

HOYT

God understands suffering. He Himself  
suffered and died. But then He rose,  
so that no one would have to die  
again. Evil won for a day. But Good  
triumphed for eternity.

Panel 4: square panel showing a line of soldiers waiting to greet Hoyt.

HOYT

It's Friday in Iraq. But Sunday is  
coming.

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing former Saddam palace with a handpainted "Happy New Year" sign jerryrigged across the front. A Charlie Brown Christmas tree remains at the base of one of the loudspeaker poles. A few soldiers and civilians move through the spaces between buildings.

[right] Page 55: (4 panels)

INT - CONGRESS - NIGHT

Panel 1: half page panel showing PRESIDENT BUSH addressing a full Congress.

PRESIDENT BUSH

-this Surge, at this crucial moment,  
will help Iraqis break the cycle of  
violence and hasten the day our troops  
come home.

Panel 2: inset panel of TV ANCHOR on air.

TV ANCHOR

-civil war rages on the streets of  
Baghdad.

Panel 3: inset panel of newspaper front page.

HEADLINE

*David Petraeus to Replace General  
Casey.*

TV ANCHOR

Democrats and Republicans alike wonder  
if the Surge is too little, too late.

EXT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - NIGHT

Panel 4: half page panel showing exterior of elementary school.  
Parents and their children flock towards the front doors.

CAPTION

WASHINGTON, DC

[left] Page 56: (4 panels)

INT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Panel 1: vertical panel showing school hallway packed with a diversity  
of parents and children. Cassidy and his wife JESSICA and their son  
KYLER are in the middle, wading through the crowd. A GREETER stands at  
the end of the hallway, speaking over the din.

GREETER

Welcome to Haycock Elementary. Please  
find your child's classroom-

JESSICA

I'm so glad you're here. Last year  
without you was rough.

SCHOOL DAD

Hey Will, welcome back!

CASSIDY

Thanks!... Who was that?

KYLER

Hi Gabe!

SFX

BZZ BZZ

Panel 2: square panel showing Cassidy holding up his Blackberry, reading the screen.

CASSIDY

Damn.

KYLER

Here's my room, dad!

Panel 3: square panel showing Kyler pulling Cassidy's free hand as he looks up from the Blackberry. Jessica stands behind him, looking concerned.

KYLER

I wanna show you the picture I made!

CASSIDY

Yea, buddy, just a sec.

Panel 4: square panel showing Jessica leading Kyler into the classroom, throwing a concerned look over her shoulder at Cassidy, who has the Blackberry up to his ear.

CASSIDY

Will Cassidy.

**[right] Page 57:** (5 panels)

INT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Cassidy's face with the Blackberry up to his ear.

HOYT

Will, this is Hoyt.

CASSIDY

Who?

HOYT

Chaplain Hoyt, from-

Panel 2: horizontal panel (next to Panel 1) showing Cassidy surrounded by other families.

CASSIDY

Oh yeah, hey Chaplain. Geez, you're working late. Sorry to hear Maliki killed your London thing.

Panel 3: square panel showing Cassidy through the open door of his son's classroom.

HOYT

I want to resurrect it.

Panel 4: square panel showing Cassidy's shocked face.

CASSIDY

What?!

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Hoyt at his desk, Brown, White and Paul standing nearby, listening hopefully.

HOYT

I - we - want to bring Shi'a and Sunni mullahs together to issue a fatwa against violence and get the Iraqi government to back it. Canon White's still with me.

CASSIDY

You're joking. It'll cost you your career!

[left] Page 58: (5 panels)

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt's determined face.

HOYT

I'll risk it. Petraeus says he wants  
new ideas. I'm taking him up on that.

INT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Panel 2: square panel showing Cassidy in a nearly-empty hallway.

CASSIDY

Your idea's been tried. It'll be DOA.

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt with the others.

HOYT

Maybe not. Think the White House would  
back it?

CASSIDY

Dunno. They're desperate enough...

HOYT

And NSC? Can you provide some cover?

INT - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Panel 4: square panel showing Cassidy's face.

CASSIDY

Send me an email on the high side -  
I'll look into it.

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 5: horizontal panel (next to panel 4) showing Hoyt and the  
others beaming.

HOYT

Roger that!

**[right] Page 59:** (4 panels)

INT - ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Cassidy slipping into the back of a packed classroom. Jessica looks at him with concern masking frustration. Kyler points at the seat next to himself. A picture is visible on the desk.

Panel 2: inset panel of the picture on the desk. At the top: *What My Dad Loves*. The picture shows a second grader's sketch of a man in a suit surrounded by young Iraqi children. The man holds a Blackberry and the children hold boxes, presents and soccer balls. The bottom reads "My dad luvs helping peeples in Iraq".

Panel 3: inset panel showing Cassidy's face in close up, with teary eyes.

INT - PETRAEUS OUTER OFFICE - DAY

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and Brown standing outside General Petraeus's office in a former Saddam palace. Several uniformed service members sit at computers in the outer chamber.

**[left] Page 60:** (5 panels)

Panel 1: square panel showing Mansoor in the open doorway of the office.

MANSOOR

Mike, the General will see you now.

INT - PETRAEUS OFFICE - DAY

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt and Brown over Mansoor's shoulder, following him into the office.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing GENERAL PETRAEUS approaching Hoyt with hand outstretched.

PETRAEUS

Chaplain, how are our troops?

HOYT

Hanging in, sir. Morale is improving. More chaplains are deployed across the country. And your letter helped. "Difficult is not impossible". That preaches.

PETRAEUS

Glad to hear it.

Panel 4: square panel of Petraeus's face, with a slight smile.

PETRAEUS

Now, what's on your mind?

Panel 5: horizontal panel (next to Panel 4) showing Hoyt's face with Brown beside him.

HOYT

The Surge. And how I can contribute. I believe it's missing a key component.

[right] Page 61: (4 panels)

INT - PETRAEUS OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Petraeus looking at Hoyt, with Mansoor and Brown also watching / listening.

PETRAEUS

Which is?

HOYT

A show of Shi'a-Sunni unity. A joint statement against violence.

Panel 2: inset panel showing Petraeus's impassive face.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt's face as Brown and Mansoor watch.

HOYT

As you yourself said, sir, influential voices are key. When imams speak out for peace, it undermines Al-Qaeda's message. And it provides space for politicians to negotiate. There are no silver bullets, but Iraq's religious leaders, united for peace, is one bullet in the ammo belt.

Panel 4: inset panel of Petraeus's face.

PETRAEUS

What are you asking for?

**[left] Page 62**: (5 panels)

INT - PETRAEUS OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

Permission, sir. To approach key Sunni figures in Jordan. And convene them here. They hate America and Shi'a equally but-

Panel 2: square panel of Petraeus's face.

PETRAEUS

Okay.

Panel 3: square panel of Hoyt's surprised face.

HOYT

?

Panel 4: horizontal panel (next to Panel 3) showing Hoyt flanked by Brown and Mansoor, equally surprised.

HOYT

Um, ok. I will write up a formal  
request with expenditures-

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Petraeus, Hoyt, Brown and  
Mansoor.

PETRAEUS

No need. It's too urgent. Just move  
forward, and quickly. Keep Colonel  
Mansoor updated. He'll report to me.

**[right] Page 63:** (4 panels)

EXT - PETRAEUS OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Mansoor, Hoyt and Brown standing  
outside Petraeus's office door.

MANSOOR

Not sure if I should congratulate you.  
Just don't get yourself killed.

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt and Brown looking at each other in  
shock.

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt and Brown entering Hoyt's office.

HOYT

Got the green light.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and Brown approaching White and  
Matias, who have been waiting inside the office for the meeting with  
Petraeus to take place.

WHITE

Brilliant!

HOYT

I'll head to Jordan as soon as everything is set. Can you get me a meeting with Grand Imam Latif?

WHITE

Absolutely.

[left] Page 64: (5 panels)

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - DAY

Panel 1: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

I can't fly commercial or go in uniform.

Panel 2: square panel of White's face.

WHITE

So how will you get there?

Panel 3: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

Mil Air to a private airfield. Brown will send you the coordinates where to pick me up. I'll be in civilian dress.

Panel 4: square panel of White's face.

WHITE

Hmm, as the Occupier's Chaplain, you should look the part.

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and White.

HOYT

Baptists don't wear priestly garments.

WHITE

I'll get you a nice Anglican collar.  
An Ambassador for Christ!

[right] Page 65: (4 panels)

EXT - AIRFIELD - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing a dark airfield. Lights from inside a blocky office building silhouette several V-22 Ospreys and an assortment of helicopters on the tarmac.

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, uncomfortably dressed in a priest's collar, speaking with a CIA CONTROL OFFICER. CIA Officer holds his hand out.

CIA OFFICER

Military ID.

HOYT

What?

CIA OFFICER

This is a black-op, strictly off the record.

HOYT

<sigh>

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt's hand holding out his military ID and dog tags.

CIA OFFICER

If something happens over there, we're not coming after you. No cavalry.

Panel 4: square panel showing Hoyt tugging at the collar, trying to mask worry.

CIA OFFICER

And be back at the rendezvous point by  
0500. We won't wait.

SFX

*VRROOMMM.*

**[left] Page 66:** (3 panels)

INT - V-22 OSPREY - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt standing at the top of the back ramp of the Osprey, looking down at 12 SPECIAL FORCES soldiers in full gear, no names or flags on their uniforms. Many are bearded, looking like insurgents themselves. They stare at the "priest".

HOYT

Men.

SQUAD LEADER

Uh... make room for the padre.

Panel 2: vertical panel showing Hoyt latched in between the burley Squad Leader and equally sizable SOLDIER 1. Everyone wears a headset so they can speak over the engine's roar.

HOYT

Thanks for the ride.

SQUAD LEADER

Not sure you should thank me. What's a priest doing here anyway?

HOYT

I'm an Army chaplain. It's complicated.

SOLDIER 1

No s\*\*t. This whole thing's f\*\*ked up-

SQUAD LEADER

Watch it, soldier.

Panel 3: vertical panel showing a line of Special Forces staring across the aisle at Hoyt.

SOLDIER 2

We're hajji hunting tonight, padre.

SOLDIER 3

These Muslims are all terrorists.

HOYT

Not all. Hundreds have been victims of terrorists. Their own countrymen. Fellow Muslims. They hate this insurgency as much as we do.

SOLDIER 1

*bulls\*\*t.*

**[right] Page 67:** (5 Panels)

INT - V-22 OSPREY - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

You got family, soldier?

Panel 2: square panel of Soldier 1.

SOLDIER 1

Yea. Two boys. Haven't seen 'em much the last few years. Doubt they'd recognize me now.

Panel 3: horizontal panel of Soldier 2 and Soldier 3 (with space for Panel 4 on the right)

SOLDIER 2

War changes people, reverend.

SOLDIER 3

In case you didn't know.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

I've seen combat. Lost friends. You  
can't not be changed.

Panel 5: horizontal panel of Hoyt surrounded by the soldiers, all eyes turned on him.

SOLDIER 1

Our country don't seem to understand  
that. Hell, they barely remember we're  
here!

[left] Page 68: (3 panels)

INT - V-22 OSPREY - NIGHT

Panel 1: inset square panel of Squad Leader.

SQUAD LEADER

Hey padre, how about a prayer?

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and the soldiers.

HOYT

I'm always praying for you.

EXT - LANDING STRIP OUTSIDE AMMAN - NIGHT

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing a dusty, beat-up Toyota Camry sitting alone next to a potholed landing strip. Samir is in the driver's seat, White next to him in the front passenger's seat. Paul is huddled in the back.

[right] Page 69: (4 panels)

EXT - LANDING STRIP OUTSIDE AMMAN - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of White looking straight ahead, through the windshield.

WHITE

Not your usual international arrivals terminal, I dare say.

Panel 2: square panel showing a worried Paul peering through the window.

PAUL

Are you sure this is the place? No airplane can land here!

Panel 3: square panel of White.

WHITE

This is where Mike said.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing aerial view of the car and the landing strip. The silhouette of a V-22 hovers overhead. Samir leans forward over the steering wheel, looking up at the sky.

SAMIR

Canon, look!

**[left] Page 70:** (3 panels)

EXT - LANDING STRIP OUTSIDE AMMAN - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Osprey landing in helicopter mode right in front of the car. From the opposite direction, two trucks barrel towards the car.

PAUL

We gotta get out of here!

Panel 2: vertical panel showing the Special Forces unit rushing out of the Osprey towards the trucks. They run on either side of the Camry as

Samir, White and Paul watch through the windows. Paul is white as a ghost.

Panel 3: vertical panel looking through the Camry windshield, showing a lone figure standing at the top of the Osprey ramp, facing down towards the car. The red light from the helicopter's interior gives him a mysterious glow. Only the priestly collar is visible.

WHITE (PRE-LAP)

That was quite an entrance.

**[right] Page 71**: (6 panels)

INT - CAMRY - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Samir driving, White in the front seat, Paul and Hoyt in the back. Their car is surrounded by dark desert.

WHITE

A real commando for Christ!

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

Had to take what I could get. As far as the US of A is concerned, I don't exist.

Panel 3: square panel of White.

WHITE

Slight change of plans. Samir will drive us to the meeting spot, then we will transfer into our hosts' cars.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt looking worried.

HOYT

So we'll be completely at their mercy?

Panel 5: square panel of White.

WHITE

Grand Imam Latif we can trust. The  
Al-Qaeda cells in Jordan...?

Panel 6: square panel of Hoyt with a grim expression of determination.

HOYT

Let's pray they don't know we're here.

[left] Page 72: (3 panels)

EXT - STREETS OF AMMAN - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel looking through the parked Camry's windshield at a group of men at the other end of the street. They are standing around three SUVs.

SAMIR

There they are.

HOYT

God be with us.

WHITE

Amen.

Panel 2: vertical panel showing a black hood being placed over Hoyt's head as he enters one of the SUVs. Paul, White and Samir are already hooded and seated in the back seat.

Panel 3: vertical panel showing the convoy of SUVs driving through an empty street in a rundown section of Amman. The streets are relatively clean and most streetlights are on.

[right] Page 73: (4 panels)

EXT - AMMAN APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing the convoy driving into the belly of an underground parking garage beneath a large apartment complex. There are men discreetly holding rifles and on cell phones visible in the shadows of multiple balconies overlooking the garage entrance.

INT - PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing a hooded Hoyt, White, Paul and Samir standing outside the SUVs, being patted down.

INT - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Panel 3: vertical panel showing Hoyt, White, Paul and Samir unhooded and squeezed into an elevator with several armed BODYGUARDS. Hoyt is looking at White, White is smiling at one of the Guards.

Panel 4: vertical panel showing three Guards staring back at White, unsmiling.

**[left] Page 74** (5 panels)

INT - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing White, Hoyt, Paul and Samir standing in the doorway of a brightly lit conference room. The room is lined with plush couches and chairs. Sunni sheikhs, imams and tribal leaders are seated throughout the room, some smoking. There is a general buzz of conversation.

SFX

*chatter chatter chatter* - SILENCE

Panel 2: inset panel of a Sunni sheikh with his head turned, eyes narrowed.

Panel 3: inset panel of a Sunni imam staring ahead, a cup of tea half-raised to his lips.

Panel 4: inset panel of a tribal leader looking over his shoulder with a suspicious glance.

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing GRAND IMAM LATIF seated on a throne-like chair on a raised dais at the front of the room. Imam Abbas stands to his side as White approaches with outstretched hands. Hoyt, Paul and Samir follow, Hoyt's eyes fixed on White and Paul

looking nervously to the side. All eyes in the room are focused on them.

IMAM ABBAS

Andrew, my brother.

[right] Page 75: (4 panels)

INT - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Imam Abbas and White exchanging the traditional kiss on the cheek.

WHITE

My dear Imam Abbas, how is your granddaughter?

IMAM ABBAS

Well, thanks be to Allah.

Panel 2: square panel showing Imam Abbas facing Hoyt, a forced smile on his face.

IMAM ABBAS

And you must be the Occupier's Chaplain. Many of us doubted you would come.

Panel 3: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

Understandable. But I hope to prove trustworthy. Thank you for arranging this meeting.

Panel 4: square panel of Imam Abbas.

IMAM ABBAS

These men represent mosques and communities all over Iraq. Peace cannot be won without them.

[left] Page 76: (5 panels)

INT - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Imam Abbas turned towards Grand Imam Latif, one arm held towards him and one towards White and Hoyt.

IMAM ABBAS

May I introduce Grand Imam Latif. No need for your translator, the Sheikh understands English.

Panel 2: square panel showing White looking up at Grand Imam Latif, while Paul and Samir recede in the background against the wall.

IMAM ABBAS

Sheikh, you know Reverend Canon Andrew White. He has been a friend for many years and serves all Iraqis.

WHITE

It is an honor to see you again, Grand Imam Latif.

Panel 3: square panel showing Imam Abbas looking back at Hoyt.

IMAM ABBAS

And this is the Occupier's Chaplain, Reverend...?

HOYT

Michael Hoyt, sir.

Panel 4: square panel showing Imam Abbas looking up at Grand Imam Latif's impassive face.

IMAM ABBAS

Chaplain Hoyt. He works for General Petraeus. He is the senior religious leader for the Americans.

Panel 5: square panel showing Grand Imam Latif looking down at Chaplain Hoyt, studying him, as Imam Abbas speaks.

IMAM ABBAS

Chaplain, the Sheikh wants to know why you are here. It is a great risk to meet like this.

[right] Page 77: (9 panels)

INT - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

Grand Imam Latif, you and your imams are the last legitimate leaders Sunnis in Iraq listen to. Al-Qaeda is killing your people and killing your faith. And their violence pits American soldiers against Sunnis, when we want to help.

Panel 2: square panel of several faces listening with arched eyebrows, frowns, narrowed eyes.

HOYT

The United States invites you to send representatives to Baghdad to work with Shi'a leaders to denounce this violence. Your voice can influence the Sunni response to the insurgency.

Panel 3: square panel showing Imam Abbas leaning forward in his chair, a stern expression on his face.

IMAM ABBAS

Chaplain, you invaded our country. You  
deposed our leader. Grand Imam Latif  
was Saddam's imam. You let Sadr and  
his Shi'a henchmen kill Saddam like a  
dog. And now you want our help?

Panel 4: square panel showing an IMAM jumping out of his seat to  
shout.

IMAM

It is America that should denounce  
violence first. You are the occupiers!

OTHER VOICES

Yes! / That's right!

Panel 5: square panel showing Hoyt with hands half-raised in defense.

HOYT

Occupation was never our intent. But  
we didn't understand how fragile Iraq  
was, how complicated-

Panel 6: square panel of Imam Abbas, his arm outstretched and finger  
pointing at Hoyt.

IMAM ABBAS

You destroyed our country!

Panel 7: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

But we want to make it right-

Panel 8: square panel of Imam Abbas standing with clenched fists,  
facing White.

IMAM ABBAS

America has brought only death and  
destruction! How can you expect us to  
work with the Occupiers?

Panel 9: square panel of White standing next to Hoyt, leaning on his  
cane. Hoyt looks at him with waning hope.

WHITE

Imam Abbas, Grand Imam Latif, please.  
Chaplain Hoyt is a man of peace. Like  
you. We want to help Iraq. Your people  
- my people - are dying daily.

[[left] Page 78: (6 panels)

Panel 1: vertical panel showing Grand Imam Latif's face, emotionless  
but attentive.

WHITE

You don't have to like the Americans,  
but the hard truth is that peace can't  
be achieved without them. I hope you  
understand the gesture Chaplain Hoyt  
has made - the risk he took - to  
travel here, unprotected and unarmed,  
to speak with you.

Panel 2: inset panel of Grand Imam Latif's face, his hand raised for  
silence.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

Chaplain. Your crusaders cannot help  
Iraq.

Panel 3: vertical panel showing Hoyt and Grand Imam Latif facing one  
another.

HOYT

Sir, despite our differences, we do have something in common. We are both sons of Abraham.

Panel 4: inset panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

We share certain stories. Jonah and the Whale.

Panel 5: square panel of Grand Imam Latif.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

Jonah was an Iraqi. He was judged for his disobedience to Allah's call.

Panel 6: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

But as soon as Jonah was willing to lose everything and jump into the sea, the storm stopped.

**[right] Page 79**: (4 panels)

INT - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel of Grand Imam Latif.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

I know what it means to lose everything.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

I have been praying for this meeting,  
and I am praying now that you will  
trust me. We have different views of  
God but prayer is central to both our  
faiths.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt speaking to Grand Imam Latif as  
the entire room watches and listens.

HOYT

Politicians cannot save Iraq. Soldiers  
can't. Terrorists won't. Only if  
leaders of faith come together..

HOYT

I have assurances from General  
Petraeus and Prime Minister Maliki  
that exiled Sunni leaders can reenter  
Iraq without fear of harm.

HOYT

If you come, the Shi'a clerics will  
too.

Panel 4: inset panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

Jesus - Isa - said, "Blessed are the  
peacemakers". You speak peace upon the  
name of your Prophet. Please join us  
in seeking peace. Without Sunni  
partnership, Iraq is lost.

[left] Page 80: (5 panels)

Panel 1: quarter-page panel of Grand Imam Latif.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

Iraq was a mighty Islamic civilization before Europe could even read. It is true there are important Shi'a sites here, but it was the Sunni scholars of the Abbasid Caliphate who brought about the Golden Age of Islam.

Panel 2: quarter-page panel of Grand Imam Latif, with Imam Abbas seated at his side.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

When I was a boy, Iraq had some of the best hospitals in the world.

Panel 3: inset panel of Grand Imam Latif's face in close up.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

But now that is gone.

Panel 4: half-page panel of Grand Imam Latif leaning down towards Hoyt. A few Sunnis, along with White, are visible on the fringes, listening intently.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

Iraq is in ruins, the Shi'a are in power, brother is killing brother, because of America.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

But either we find a way to live together, or we will die together.

Panel 5: inset panel of Hoyt and White looking at each other with a glimmer of hope.

**[right] Page 81:** (4 panels)

Panel 1: half-page panel showing the whole room watching with rapt attention, Grand Imam Latif in the center.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

The holy Qu'ran says, "If your enemies  
incline towards peace, then incline  
toward it also, and trust in God."

HOYT

Amen, sir.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

Tell the general we want peace. We  
will attend your meeting. Imam Abbas  
will be my personal representative and  
will lead our delegation.

Panel 2: inset panel showing Hoyt with his right hand over his heart.

HOYT

Thank you, sir.

Panel 3: inset panel of Grand Imam Latif's face.

GRAND IMAM LATIF

But be warned - if the Shi'a don't  
stop killing our families, no amount  
of American strength will stop us from  
avenging their blood.

Panel 4: half-page panel showing Grand Imam Latif shaking Hoyt's hand  
while they exchange a kiss on the cheek. Everyone in the room is  
standing and more relaxed. One man holds out a cigarette to Paul, who  
looks at him with a nervous smile. Samir and another man raise tea  
glasses to one another. White and Imam Abbas embrace.

**[left] Page 82**: (2 panels)

EXT - STREETS OF AMMAN - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Samir driving through the deserted  
streets towards a dark desert. White is again seated in the front  
passenger seat. Hoyt leans forward excitedly. Paul sits next to him,  
still nervously looking out the window.

HOYT

That went better than I expected.  
Better than I prayed!

WHITE

God be praised. Imam Abbas and I will  
work on the invitation list.

HOYT

And I'll try to figure out what we  
just got ourselves into!

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - DAY

Panel 2: panel taking up remainder of page showing Hoyt and Brown with various SOLDIERS and DIPLOMATS, including a COLONEL in charge of security, standing around a table with a DIY 3d map of Baghdad made from paper cups, plastic utensils and other ready-at-hand items. Two plastic knives stuck in an upside-down bowl mimic the iconic Crossed Swords monument. Duct tape denotes roads, Post-it notes mark security forces, cans for buildings. White and Paul are also present. Hoyt uses a billiard cue to point at three stacked cans.

HOYT

This is the Al Rasheed Hotel, smack in  
the middle of the city.

BROWN

Used to be the nicest in the country..

HOYT

Electricity comes and goes. No air  
conditioning.

PAUL

What?! It's gonna be over 100!

HOYT

Colonel, how's security prep coming?

COLONEL RICHMOND

Getting there. We'll have a standing quick reaction force, with one Iraqi spec ops company, one US Infantry Battalion, a counter battery fire section and four Apache gunships. Plus a hardened perimeter with new checkpoints.

[right] Page 83: (4 panels)

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel of the exterior of AL RASHEED HOTEL, surrounded by a high fence broken in various places. Iraqi and American troops are on guard around the hotel, especially where the fence is broken. Other troops position sandbags and machine guns. Angry looking Iraqi men watch menacingly from the sidewalk outside the fence. Several are on cell phones.

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - DAY

Panel 2: inset panel of Colonel's face, still in planning room.

COLONEL

Medivac route here-

Panel 3: inset panel of Paul's face, still in planning room.

PAUL

Medivac?

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - DAY

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt facing Paul across the table. Colonel is next to Hoyt.

HOYT

This'll be the biggest bullseye in Baghdad. Both AL-Qaeda and Sadr will try to hit it. They've done it before.

COLONEL

We'll have evacuation assets on  
standby.

**[left] Page 84:** (6 panels)

EXT - BAGHDAD AIRPORT - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing Sunni VIPs descending airplane steps.

Panel 2: square panel showing Shi'a VIPs descending airplane steps  
(they should come down in the opposite direction from the Sunni, so  
that the two lines of descending men face each other on the page).

EXT - BAGHDAD - DAY

Panel 3: square panel showing aerial view of convoy speeding away from  
the airport.

Panel 4: square panel showing aerial view of another convoy  
approaching Al Rasheed Hotel from another direction.

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - DAY

Panel 5: inset panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

This has to have an Iraqi face. We  
need to be as invisible as possible.  
I'll be in my 'priestly attire', not  
BDUs.

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 6: horizontal panel showing VIP exiting a helicopter on the roof  
of Al Rasheed. Another helicopter approaches from a distance.

**[right] Page 85:** (2 Panels)

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: half-page panel showing dirt covered SUVs and banged up Japanese cars arrayed outside the hotel. Some delegates are already outside their vehicles and proceeding through various levels of screening.

COLONEL

Iraqis will handle security perimeter and first level screening. Blackwater's got secondary screening at the doors. We'll augment with canine searches every 4 hours. 24/7 drone overwatch.

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and White side by side looking down at the 3d map on the table. Paul is near White, Colonel is across from Hoyt and Brown is visible working in the background. The room has otherwise emptied.

HOYT

We've coaxed, cajoled and begged, and got over fifty religious leaders and tribal reps coming, from every region of the country.

WHITE

I have prayed so long for this day..

**[left] Page 86**: (5 panels)

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt.

HOYT

It's a miracle we've made it this far. A lot of these guys have tried killing each other.

Panel 2: square panel showing Colonel.

COLONEL

Not to mention our guys. Both sides  
have tried to kill them.

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt.

HOYT

There's gonna be a lot of distrust, a  
lot of anger.

Panel 4: square panel showing Colonel.

COLONEL

Your guest list is like America's Most  
Wanted.

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Iraqi troops with ski masks checking  
under cars for bombs, others frisking guests.

COLONEL

Seniority doesn't matter here.  
Everyone must pass a security  
screening and pat down.

HOYT

They'll be offended, but it sure as  
hell beats a bomb going off.

COLONEL

And once in, no one will be allowed to  
leave the hotel.

[right] Page 87: (6 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: square panel of a Sunni man standing in the doorway of his  
hotel room, looking at the sparse furnishings.

WHITE

They will expect nice accommodations,  
but I will try to temper those  
expectations.

Panel 2: square panel of Shi'a man looking up at a ceiling fan with a  
burned out bulb and one blade missing. His finger is on the wall  
switch.

HOYT

There's no sugar coating it - the  
hotel's abysmal. Locking them up  
together will either be a blessing or  
a curse.

INT - GREEN ZONE PLANNING ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, White, Paul, Brown and Colonel  
all standing around the table and 3d map.

MATIAS

And the big wigs will show up on the  
last day? General Petraeus, UN reps,  
Iraqi officials?

HOYT

*If there's good news.*

WHITE

Everyone attending is risking both  
their reputation and their lives.

Panel 4: square panel of Paul.

PAUL

And you think this is going to work?

Panel 5: square panel of White.

WHITE

I don't *think* it will. But I *believe* it could.

Panel 6: square panel of Hoyt.

HOYT

We have to try.

WHITE

Keep praying, Chaplain.

HOYT

I've never stopped.

**[left] Page 88**: (5 Panels)

INT - HOYT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, White, Brown and Paul working late in Hoyt's office.

WHITE

Still no word from the Shi'a?

HOYT

We're hoping any minute. Thanks to you, I've gotten to know Sheikh Fatah pretty well. He's got a huge rolodex and direct access to Grand Ayatollah Sistani.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt's face, illuminated by a computer screen.

HOYT

Even knows some of Sadr's guys, though they want to kill him. I'm seeing him tonight.

Panel 3: horizontal panel (next to Panel 2) of Brown and Paul looking at Hoyt with surprise.

PAUL  
Where?

HOYT  
His house.

BROWN  
How you gettin' there?

HOYT  
I'll drive.

PAUL  
You'll *DRIVE?*!

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt's face, still looking at his screen.

HOYT  
Yeah. Convoy draws too much attention.

Panel 5: horizontal panel (next to Panel 4) showing Hoyt looking up at Brown, Paul and White. White looks somber, Brown is concerned and Paul is beside himself.

HOYT  
I'll be alone and unarmed in an unmarked car in Sadr City at night. What could go wrong?

WHITE  
Makes our Jordan visit look like a garden party. You're becoming a real Iraqi!

[right] Page 89: (4 panels)

EXT - SADR CITY - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt at the wheel of a dusty, beat up Mercedes (missing three of four hubcaps) on a darkened road. There are piles of garbage on the roadside and large potholes. Hoyt wears a

helmet and body armor, barely fitting into the front seat. He holds a map up in his right hand as he steers to avoid a pothole.

HOYT

Good Lord, where is it?

Panel 2: square panel showing two children standing motionless and unsmiling in a doorway.

INT - MERCEDES - NIGHT

Panel 3: square panel showing Hoyt waving feebly with his left hand.

HOYT

Salaam.

EXT - SADR CITY - NIGHT

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt leaning forward over the steering wheel, staring up at a large compound with a white house behind a whitewashed concrete wall. Security men with rifles stare down from neighboring roofs and from elevated stands along the wall.

[left] Page 90: (4 panels)

EXT - SHEIKH FATAH COMPOUND - NIGHT

Panel 1: half-page panel showing Hoyt standing in front of a steel door, hand raised to knock. His car is parked in the foreground. The children and security men all watch him from their various posts.

SFX

*Rap rap rap*

Panel 2: square panel looking over Hoyt's shoulder to a slot opened in the steel door.

HOYT

Salaam. I'm here to see Sheikh Fatah?

Panel 3: square panel looking over Hoyt's shoulder to the closed slot.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt standing in front of half-opened metal doors. His audience still watches.

SFX

*Crrrrreeaaaakkk.*

**[right] Page 91**: (3 panels)

EXT - FATAH'S COURTYARD - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt standing alone in the center of the compound. The metal gates close behind him.

SFX

*Boom!*

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Hoyt standing in the center of the compound as men spill out the front door of the house. Some wear fatigues, some in track suits and sandals, some in clerical robes and some in suits and ties.

Panel 3: inset panel of Hoyt's surprised (and worried) face.

**[left] Page 92**: (3 panels)

EXT - FATAH'S COURTYARD - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing SHEIKH FATAH emerging from the center of the group of men. He wears a black turban and flowing thin robe over a starched white shirt with a high collar. He extends his hand in greeting.

SHEIKH FATAH

Chaplain Hoyt! Welcome.

HOYT

Thank you, sir.

SHEIKH FATAH

Of course, of course. You are welcome as a man of God. Come and eat!

INT - SHEIKH FATAH'S HOME - NIGHT

Panel 2: panel covering remainder of page, showing Hoyt (without body armor) seated on the ground next to Sheikh Fatah. Several other men sit with them around a common table 18 inches off the ground. The pillows and tapestries give an "Arabian Nights" vibe. The table is piled with traditional food.

HOYT

The conference is for Iraqi leaders.  
To discuss peace. America is setting  
the table, but we don't have a seat.

Panel 3: inset panel of Sheikh Fatah's face, with a suspicious look.

HOYT

It won't work without Ayatollah  
Sistani's blessing. He - or his  
representative - must join. Iraq could  
be the first Islamic state to show  
that Sunni and Shi'a can co-exist.

**[right] Page 93:** (5 panels)

INT - SHEIKH FATAH'S HOME - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah.

SHEIKH FATAH

That assumes we want to. We Shi'a  
lived for decades as the Sunnis'  
slaves. Saddam killed so many of us.  
And many fled. Then they destroyed the  
Samarra Mosque!

Panel 2: square panel showing several men looking up from their meal  
at Sheikh Fatah.

Panel 3: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah angrily pointing at an  
image on the wall.

SHEIKH FATAH

Those dogs blew it up while Shi'a  
worshippers were praying!

Panel 4: square panel showing a before and after image of the mosque  
on the wall.

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Hoyt and Sheikh Fatah facing each  
other.

HOYT

I know, sir. But the violence has gone  
too far-

SHEIKH FATAH

How could we not fight back? Did you  
expect President Bush to have tea with  
bin Laden after 9/11?

[left] Page 94: (5 panels)

INT - SHEIKH FATAH'S HOME - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah.

SHEIKH FATAH

Shi'a outnumber Sunnis. So we are taking our rightful place. *WE* rule Iraq.

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt.

HOYT

The United States condemned the Samarra attack. We offered help-

Panel 3: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah and a few men around him.

SHEIKH FATAH

We don't want your help. It was fortunate you rid us of Saddam but we've had only chaos since.

Panel 4: square panel showing Hoyt pleading his case.

HOYT

If the Shi'a don't respond, there will be no end to the bloodshed. Iraq will be stuck in a perpetual state of war.

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Sheikh Fatah facing Hoyt, surrounded by his followers. He wears an enigmatic smile.

SHEIKH FATAH

We know. That is why Grand Ayatollah Sistani has decided I will represent him at the conference. I will sit with *Imam Abbas* to find peace.

[right] Page 95: (5 panels)

INT - SHEIKH FATAH'S HOME - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt's uncertain face. A "?" is positioned over Hoyt's head.

HOYT

Oh. That's wonderful to hear.

HOYT

You know Imam Abbas is coming?

Panel 2: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah's face, again with a cryptic smile.

SHEIKH FATAH

We know many things.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt leaning over his open backpack. Several men around the room stand on alert, some with hands on their weapons.

Panel 4: square panel showing Hoyt's hand giving a folder to Sheikh Fatah.

HOYT

Please share this information with your delegation. The instructions must be followed exactly. Security is of utmost concern.

Panel 5: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah scanning the folder's contents.

SHEIKH FATAH

The Al Rasheed? I will come for the meetings but will sleep in my own home.

[left] Page 96: (5 panels)

INT - SHEIKH FATAH'S HOME - NIGHT

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt's face.

HOYT

I'm sorry but that won't be possible.  
All delegates must stay at the hotel.  
It's the only way we can keep you  
safe.

Panel 2: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah's face.

SHEIKH FATAH

Does it even have running water?

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt facing Sheikh Fatah.

HOYT

Sometimes. I won't lie to you, the  
accommodations aren't great. But  
Sunnis won't come into the Green Zone,  
and neither side wants to meet at our  
embassy.

SHEIKH FATAH

So be it.

Panel 4: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

Thank you, sir. One last request:  
would you be willing to co-chair with  
Imam Abbas? You will be the highest  
ranking Shi'a leader present.

Panel 5: square panel of Sheikh Fatah's incredulous face.

SHEIKH FATAH

That would be a death sentence!

[right] Page 97: (2 panels)

INT - SHEIKH FATAH'S HOME - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Sheikh Fatah with arms outstretched,  
assenting to the request. Everyone in the room looks at him.

HOYT

It would send a powerful message, sir.

SHEIKH FATAH

But I am already a marked man. I  
accept the responsibility.

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 2: panel filling remainder of page, showing male religious leaders filing into and filling a tired conference hall. Brown and a MALE SOLDIER check in attendees. Imam Abbas is at the head of the Sunni group, Sheikh Fatah is across the room with the Shi'a sheikh in black and white turbans. Iraqi Christian clerics in vestments huddle in a corner of the room. There are no smiles. A large rectangle formed of tables covered in green tablecloths is at the center of the room. Hoyt, White and Paul stand against a wall.

HOYT

Remind me who's who?

WHITE

Sunnis are in white or red keffiyehs -  
the checkered scarves. Shi'a are in  
turbans. And the Christians in the  
corner.

[left] Page 98: (7 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: vertical panel showing Sheikh Fatah and his delegates in a row, placed diagonally from the foreground. They face across the page.

SHEIKH FATAH

The Qu'ran says "Help one another in  
righteousness and piety, not  
in sin and aggression." Our religion  
urges us to be at peace with one  
another. Yes?

Panel 2: vertical panel showing Imam Abbas and his contingent similarly seated, facing across the page to the Shi'a.

IMAM ABBAS

I agree with my Shi'a brother. We are all Muslims, seeking to live as Allah instructs.

IMAM ABBAS

But our country has been overrun with infidels who twist our religion to justify their barbarity and bloodshed.

Panel 1:

SHEIKH FATAH

Brothers, we have much to be angry about. But we must seek peace-

Panel 3: inset panel showing ANGRY SUNNI IMAM in a red keffiyeh.

ANGRY SUNNI IMAM

You speak of peace, but the Shi'a take away our jobs, our homes, our neighborhoods! Sadr's militias slaughter us in the streets!

Panel 4: inset panel showing ANGRY SHI'A SHEIKH in a white turban.

ANGRY SHI'A SHEIKH

We Shi'a suffered worse under Saddam. And now your Al-Qaeda butchers attack our mosques, kill us while we pray!

Panel 5: square panel showing Angry Sunni Imam's face.

ANGRY SUNNI IMAM

Baghdad has been the center of Sunni learning for centuries - you can't deny that!

Panel 6: square panel showing Angry Shi'a Sheikh's face.

ANGRY SHI'A SHEIKH  
And YOU can't deny your Al-Qaeda  
brothers blew up our holy Samarra!

Panel 7: square panel showing Angry Sunni Imam's face.

ANGRY SUNNI IMAM  
They are not our brothers - they kill  
us too!

**[right] Page 99**: (3 panels)

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing exterior of Al Rasheed from the balcony of a nearby apartment. The Young Jihadi stands hidden from overhead view in the open doorway. He has a cell phone up to his ear. A helicopter flies over.

INT - BAGHDAD APARTMENT - DAY

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing terrorists assembling a bomb. Two YOUNG MEN carry a wooden box into the apartment. Another YOUNG MAN opens a wooden crate already on the floor inside. It contains mortar rounds.

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Sunni and Shi'a facing off in the conference room. Hoyt and White are visible in the background, against the wall, in the middle of the panel. Both are worried. Various Sunni and Shi'a stand and / or point angrily at one another.

SHI'A CLERGY ONE  
Dog of Saddam!

SUNNI CLERGY ONE  
American snake!

SHI'A CLERGY TWO  
Al Qaeda coward!

SUNNI CLERGY TWO  
Occupier sellout!

[left] Page 100: (6 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing Imam Abbas seated but holding out his arms in an attempt to bring calm.

IMAM ABBAS  
Brothers, surely we can agree that violence is not the answer? That it goes against the teachings of both the Qu'ran and our holy Prophet, peace be upon him?

Panel 2: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah, leaning forward to assert authority.

SHEIKH FATAH  
The government agrees. Prime Minister Maliki is committed to this.

Panel 3: square panel showing Angry Sunni Imam.

ANGRY SUNNI IMAM  
Committed to killing Sunnis maybe! You Shi'a must deal with Sadr's brigades. Stop them from killing our women and children!

Panel 4: square panel showing Angry Shi'a SHEIKH.

ANGRY SHIA SHEIKH

And you Sunni must stop your sons in  
Al-Qaeda from attacking our holy  
sites! After Samarra, how can we trust  
you?!

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing both sides up on their feet,  
arguing, fingers pointing, fists raised, etc.

SHEIKH FATAH

Brothers, we've been at this for hours  
and gotten nowhere. Perhaps some fresh  
air?

HOYT

I'm afraid not. Security requires we  
stay inside, to avoid snipers.

IMAM ABBAS

May we at least take a short break?

Panel 6: inset panel showing Hoyt with his finger raised, speaking  
with Brown behind a raised hand.

**[right] Page 101:** (6 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DUSK

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt's face.

HOYT

Five minutes in the interior  
courtyard. Five at a time.

Panel 2: square panel showing Angry Sunni Imam.

ANGRY SUNNI IMAM

Sunnis first! We've been here longer-

Panel 3: square panel showing Angry Shi'a SHEIKH.

ANGRY SHI'A SHEIKH  
Shi'a run the government now!

Panel 4: square panel showing Imam Abbas.

IMAM ABBAS  
Brothers, please. We are here to join  
together-

Panel 5: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah.

SHEIKH FATAH  
We must be able to at least talk to  
one another, or Iraq is doomed.

Panel 6: remainder of page BLACK.

SFX  
*Gasps*

HOYT  
Don't worry, just a temporary outage.  
Power will be back, soon.

**[left] Page 102**: (2 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DUSK

Panel 1: ¼ page black panel.

SHEIKH FATAH  
In the dark, we all look the same.

IMAM ABBAS  
We have been in darkness for too long.  
Let us ask Allah for his light to  
illuminate our path.

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing the men filing out of the conference room by the light of their various cell phones. The cell phone screens appear in a vertical cascade on the page - first one, then a few, then

an increasing number until the bottom of the page where the men exit in a line.

**[right] Page 103:** (4 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED LOBBY - DUSK

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, White, Paul and Brown clustered around a table in a corner of the lobby. Backup generator lights cast a dim glow.

PAUL

Is this helping?

HOYT

It does feel like a "I hate you more" contest. But it's the first time they've sat together. That's a start.

Panel 2: square panel showing White.

WHITE

The history here is deep. Better they air their grievances here than in the streets. We must be patient.

Panel 3: square panel showing Paul.

PAUL

But we're behind schedule. If they never discuss anything concrete-

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Samir stepping up to the group, an Imam behind him.

SAMIR

He says the water isn't working. His delegation can't do their ritual washing. He says they might leave!

**[left] Page 104:** (4 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED LOBBY - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing Hoyt standing with his hand over his heart.

HOYT

My apologies, sir. We will fix this.

Panel 2: square panel showing Hoyt facing Brown.

HOYT

No time for a plumber, even if we could find one. What are our options?

BROWN

There are pallets of bottled water on the loading dock.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Hoyt exiting the lobby, followed by Brown. Paul trails behind.

HOYT

That'll do. No power, no elevator. We'll take the stairs.

PAUL

You can't carry those pallets up 10 stories!

Panel 4: inset panel showing Brown with an arched eyebrow and a challenging look.

**[right] Page 105**: (4 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL STAIRWELL - DAY

Panel 1: vertical panel showing Hoyt, Brown, Paul and Samir hauling boxes of bottled water up a dark and grimy stairway. Trash litters the corners. The group sweats profusely as they climb.

HOYT

Eddie, you take this floor. Samir,  
next floor up. Paul, 9th floor.

PAUL

*wheez - sure - wheez*

Panel 2: inset panel of Brown's face, with a slight smirk.

BROWN

I'll take the 9th. Paul, you drop off  
here.

INT - AL RASHEED DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Panel 3: vertical panel showing delegates seated uncomfortably close across from each other at a long table. Name cards are positioned in front of each. The once grand dining room is decorated with tacky pictures of landscapes and a chandelier missing pieces. Canon White stands in the center, leaning heavily on his cane. Hoyt sits beside him.

WHITE

Friends, it has been a long day. But  
let us break bread together in  
friendship. It is a holy task you are  
pursuing - together.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing a ragtag group of waiters bringing out plates with sad-looking chicken and vegetables. One waiter places a plate in front of Sheikh Fatah, another in front of Imam Abbas. Paul's plate is already in front of him and he studies it with a worried look.

[left] Page 106: (6 panels)

Panel 1: square panel showing Paul's hand holding a fork as it prods the piece of chicken - it's not fully cooked.

Panel 2: square panel showing Paul leaning towards Hoyt.

PAUL

*Mike, the chicken is raw.*

HOYT

*Oven issues. Just eat it and smile.*

PAUL

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Paul with a piece of chicken on his fork, halfway raised to his mouth. He looks across the table with a weak smile. A SUNNI DELEGATE next to Imam Abbas holds up a piece of chicken on his fork while Imam Abbas puts a small bite in his mouth.

PAUL

Hee, salmonella. Yum.

SUNNI DELEGATE

*Imam Abbas, the chicken...*

IMAM ABBAS

God has protected us this far.

Panel 4: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah taking a bite of chicken.

SHEIKH FATAH

Can the Americans make our *stomachs*  
bullet proof?!

Panel 5: square panel showing Imam Abbas smiling.

IMAM ABBAS

If Sadr doesn't kill us, this chicken  
might!

Panel 6: horizontal panel showing the delegates looking at one another and at Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas, all smiling and laughing.

[right] Page 107: (6 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED LOBBY - NIGHT

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing Hoyt, Brown, COLONEL RICHMOND and several armed US ARMY SOLDIERS clustered in the lobby. White, Paul and Samir are seated in conversation in the background.

COLONEL RICHMOND

We're getting lots of chatter about this meeting. Al-Qaeda knows something's up. We gotta wrap up tomorrow.

HOYT

What? A day early?

COLONEL RICHMOND

Intel says cut it short.

Panel 2: square panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT

But this takes time. We can't create a coalition overnight. How long did the Anbar Awakening take?!

Panel 3: square panel of Colonel Richmond's unsympathetic face.

COLONEL RICHMOND

We can't guarantee security for more than another 24 hours. Noose is tightening.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt with head and shoulders slightly bowed, as Colonel Richmond and the soldiers walk away.

HOYT

Understood.

Panel 5: inset panel of Brown's face.

BROWN

Now what, sir?

Panel 6: inset panel of Hoyt's face.

HOYT  
We push ahead and pray.

[left] Page 108: (2 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - MORNING

Panel 1: ¼ page panel showing a vertical cross-section of the hotel. In one large room, Hoyt, White and several Iraqi Christian clergy are gathered for prayer. One floor above, Sheikh Fatah leads his fellow Shi'a in morning prayer. One floor below, Imam Abbas leads prayer with Sunnis delegates.

SFX  
(اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ)  
(أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ)

\*Translation: *God is the greatest, God is the greatest, I bear witness that there is no god except the One God.*

INT - AL RASHEED CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing delegates filing in and taking their seats. Hoyt and White speak privately with Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas in a corner of the room.

HOYT  
Gentlemen, our window is shrinking.  
New security threats overnight. If an  
announcement is going to be made, it  
must be tomorrow.

WHITE  
The enemy is not across the table. The  
enemy is time. We succeed or fail  
TODAY.

[right] Page 109: (7 panels)

EXT - BAGHDAD - DAY

Panel 1: square panel showing Young Jihadi directing MILITANTS to set up a mortar fire base.

Panel 2: square panel showing WOMEN crying over victims of an attack.

Panel 3: square panel showing TERRORISTS strapping on suicide vests.

INT - AL RASHEED CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Hoyt addressing the room. All delegates listen attentively.

HOYT

Peace doesn't happen overnight, but  
you have made a mighty step forward.  
Each group should select a few men to  
draft a statement against violence.  
The rest will tackle other issues.

INT - AL RASHEED HALLWAY - DAY

Panel 5: square panel showing several delegates from different groups seated in a bay outside the elevators.

INT - AL RASHEED CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Panel 6: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas, with a few others, working on a document.

INT - AL RASHEED DINING ROOM - DAY

Panel 7: square panel showing several delegates from different groups seated around a table in the empty dining room.

**[left] Page 110**: (2 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED LOBBY - NIGHT

Panel 1: full-page panel showing Hoyt, White and Brown seated in a small circle in the center of the lobby. Paul is asleep in a nearby chair. Sunnis, Shi'a and Christians sit in clusters around the lobby, talking, laughing, sipping tea, eating sweets.

WHITE

In all my years here, I never dreamed  
I'd see Sunni and Shi'a join together  
to denounce violence.

HOYT

This is big. The press conference will  
be first thing in the morning.  
Al-Rubiae is coming, with Maliki's  
endorsement. EU ambassadors will  
attend. And Ambassador Smith, from our  
embassy.

WHITE

Ah, your #1 fan.

HOYT

Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas will give  
opening remarks. Let's pray they stay  
on point. I'll hang in the back, but  
Canon White, you'll stand with the  
Christian clergy.

WHITE

It will be my honor.

Panel 2: inset panel of the document, in Arabic.

TRANSLATION

The Iraqi Inter-Religious Accords

[right] Page 111: (3 panels)

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - MORNING

Panel 1: half-page panel showing scores of SUVs parked at and  
approaching the hotel entrance. Heavily armed U.S. soldiers with  
Oakleys and body armor ominously watch the commotion as Iraqi soldiers  
in ski masks direct the security checks. Blackwater contractors frisk  
some attendees, others search bags or use metal detectors. Journalists  
lug microphones and cameras. A few helicopters circle overhead.

EXT - WAREHOUSE - DAY

Panel 2: vertical panel showing YOUNG ARAB MEN entering a rundown warehouse with broken windows and pock-marked walls. A burned-out truck sits near the garage door, a broken heavy machine gun in its flatbed. Two sinister MEN stand on the roof carrying AK-47s. One is on a cell phone. Another MAN with an AK slung over his back holds a small door open for the young men.

INT - WAREHOUSE - DAY

Panel 3: vertical panel showing dimly lit bomb factory. Several tables are lined up in a row with deconstructed rockets, mortar rounds, wires and batteries. Two large delivery trucks are being carefully loaded with crates. The young men take AK-47s and climb into the back of the trucks.

[left] Page 112: (3 panels)

EXT - SAMARRA MOSQUE - MORNING

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing the two trucks parked in the shadows, facing Samarra Mosque. Several IRAQI SOLDIERS slouch in front of a closed iron gate. One looks at a cell phone, the other looks at his watch.

CAPTION

SAMARRA MOSQUE

SOLDIER ONE

(in Arabic)

Where's the next watch?

SOLDIER TWO

(in Arabic)

They're late.

SOLDIER THREE

-not waiting.

SOLDIER FOUR

I'm going home.

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing view from inside one of the trucks, looking through the windshield as four of the soldiers walk off, leaving two behind. The DRIVER has his hand on the key in the ignition.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing the two trucks approaching the gate. One soldier leans against the guardhouse while the other steps in front of the truck, hand raised in a signal to stop.

**[right] Page 113** (4 panels)

Panel 1: square panel showing view from behind the trucks. The windows are down and guns are pointed out of them at the two guards. Bursts of gunfire explode from the guns.

SFX

*BANG BANG BANG BANG*

Panel 2: square panel showing one of the TERRORIST pushing / holding the gate open as the two trucks drive through. The two SOLDIERS lay fallen where they were shot.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing the two trucks inside the mosque compound, each heading to a different minaret. Several terrorists with raised guns fan out across the courtyard, some firing as they go.

SFX

*BANG BANG BANG BANG*

INT - AL RASHEED BALLROOM - MORNING

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing dignitaries, journalists and photographers filling up the ballroom. A podium in front holds multiple news microphones. Television cameras are set up throughout the room. Photographers kneel on the floor in front of the first row. NSA Al-Rubaie stands on one end of the first row, shaking Hoyt's hand and exchanging a cheek kiss. Ambassador Smith, with several European ambassadors, stands on the other end of the first row.

[left] Page 114 (5 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED BALLROOM - MORNING

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing a full ballroom, Hoyt in the back with Brown and Paul, as Sunni and Shi'a imams and Christian leaders, including Canon White leaning on his cane, file in. A few photographer flash bulbs go off.

Panel 2: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas next to each other at the podium.

SHEIKH FATAH

In the Name of God, the All-Merciful,  
the All-Compassionate, we are here --  
Shi'as, Sunnis, and Christians -- to  
announce the road towards peace has  
been opened. Today we issue the Iraqi  
Inter-Religious Accords.

IMAM ABBAS

We stand here with one voice to  
denounce violence. God instructs us in  
the holy Qu'ran to "repel evil with  
the most beautiful goodness."

SFX

BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

Panel 3: square panel showing an aide leaning towards Ambassador Smith, whispering in her ear. Her face wears a dark frown.

Panel 4: horizontal panel showing Ambassador Smith exiting the room, followed by the aide. Several in the room look at cell phones (theirs or another's), including the leaders on stage. Different members of their respective entourages speak to Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas, who are now facing away from each other.

Panel 5: inset panel of Chaplain Hoyt's horrified face as he reads his cell phone screen.

HOYT

Dear God no.

**[right] Page 115** (5 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED BALLROOM - MORNING

Panel 1: square panel of Imam Abbas's livid face.

Panel 2: square panel of Sheikh Fatah's dark countenance.

Panel 3: horizontal panel showing Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas looking at each other from either side of the podium.

Panel 4: square panel showing Sheikh Fatah behind the podium, gripping it on the side with his hand.

SHEIKH FATAH

As we have gathered here in peace, the holy Samarra mosque was just bombed for a second time. Al-Qaeda terrorists destroyed the two remaining minarets.

Panel 5: square panel showing Imam Abbas standing beside Sheikh Fatah, his hand on the Sheikh's shoulder.

IMAM ABBAS

This is wrong. This is haram! I, along my Sunni brothers, denounce this act of terror. Al-Qaeda, you are not our religion! You are apostates!

**[left] Page 116** (5 panels)

INT - AL RASHEED BALLROOM - MORNING

Panel 1: horizontal panel showing the Sunni and Shi'a leaders gathered behind Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas. They are intermingled, with the other religious leaders in their midst, including Canon White.

SHEIKH FATAH

I call on my fellow Shi'as to take no action against Sunnis. Do not return violence with violence! It is not your Sunni neighbors who did this. It is Al-Qaeda. And they will answer to Allah for it!

IMAM ABBAS

Peace is the only way to save our beloved country. We must turn away from the apostasy of violence. We must be reconciled - Shi'a, Sunnis and the other religious minorities in Iraq!

Panel 2: horizontal panel showing Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas shaking hands across the podium with solemn smiles. The leaders behind them do likewise. Hands are up throughout the room to ask questions.

Panel 3: square panel showing Canon White's beaming face.

Panel 4: square panel showing Hoyt's face, wearing a satisfied expression.

Panel 5: horizontal panel showing Sheikh Fatah pointing at a raised hand. Hoyt slips out the back door of the room. A JOURNALIST in the back sees him and follows.

SHEIKH FATAH

Yes please, your question?

[right] Page 117 (2 panels)

INT - BALLROOM LOBBY - DAY

Panel 1: vertical panel showing the journalist holding out his microphone towards Hoyt, whose hands are raised in deference.

JOURNALIST

Chaplain, if I may-

HOYT

No comment. This is a day for Iraqis.

INT - BALLROOM - DAY

Panel 2: vertical panel showing the ballroom full of journalists with hands raised, active photographers and camera operators and attentive diplomats and dignitaries. Sheikh Fatah and Imam Abbas answer questions at the podium.

IMAM ABBAS

What Al-Qaeda has done is evil. They are inciting Muslims against each other.

JOURNALIST

Will these Accords work?

SHEIKH FATAH

We pray they will. Peace is a fragile thing. But we are showing how the best of faith can defeat the worst of religion.

[[left] Page 118(1 panel)

EXT - BAGHDAD - DAY

Panel 1: full page panel showing an aerial view of Baghdad, with the Al Rasheed Hotel in the middle, surrounded by security personnel, dogs, soldiers and defensive works. Smoke rises in the distance.

TEXT

After the Iraqi Inter-Religious Accords and the second Samarra Mosque bombing, Grand Ayatollah Al-Sistani and firebrand Shi'a cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr issued calls against reprisals. Because of this effort, attacks were 80% lower than in previous incidents, saving thousands of lives.

**[right] Page 119** (4 panels)

EXT - AL RASHEED HOTEL - DAY

Panel 1: half-page vertical panel showing a quiet Al Rasheed hotel, with a few security guards lazily patrolling or sitting in front.

Panel 2: half-page vertical panel showing a massive explosion. The hotel is only visible in the corners of the panel.

TEXT

Security threats to the conference proved correct. The day after, a mortar attack hit the hotel entrance, killing several Iraqi security guards.

EXT - SMALL MOSQUE - DAY

Panel 3: half-page vertical panel showing the Angry Sunni Imam entering a small mosque. He is with a group of other imams.

Panel 4: half-page vertical panel showing a massive explosion. The small mosque is only visible in the corners of the panel.

TEXT

One week later, Sunni delegates from the conference gathered with other imams to share about the Accords. Al-Qaeda assassinated 13 with a ceiling bomb.

**[left] Page 120** (1 panel)

Panel 1: full-page panel looking up to a brilliant sunny sky through a broken window pane in a darkened mosque. The interior of the mosque is littered with debris, charred from fire and dust swirls in the air. A tattered Iraqi flag hangs limply on the wall. The hole in the window pane is in the shape of Iraq.

TEXT

The Accords established a fragile peace between Sunni and Shi'a for the next two years. Reconciliation ended when the United States withdrew and Prime Minister Maliki arrested key Sunni leaders in 2011.

TEXT

The rise of ISIS in 2014 and their occupation of much of Iraq destroyed what was left of the Accords.

TEXT

Chaplain Hoyt left Iraq in September 2007 and retired in 2011 as a full colonel.

TEXT

The Archbishop of Canterbury ordered Canon White out of Iraq in 2014. He continued his reconciliation work from the United Kingdom until his retirement.