NEW BLOOD

"1 OF 5

Years after Overwatch has been disbanded, the world finds itself beset by injustice and vulnerable to self-interested powers. With chaos and devastation rife around the globe, Cole Cassidy receives the call to rejoin Overwatch, but memories of its fall still haunt him…

WRITTEN BY RAY FAWKES    ART BY IRENE KOH    COLORS BY SUZANNE GEARY
LETTERS BY DERON BENNETT    COVER BY IRENE KOH
SUN’S GOING DOWN. YOU BEEN OUT HERE LONG ENOUGH.

THE JOB’S DONE, BUT NOW YOU'RE ACTIN’ LIKE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. SOMETHING TO GO BACK TO.

WHEN YOU COULD BE RIDING OFF INTO THAT SUNSET.
GOT THIS JUST BEFORE RIDING OUT HERE.

“CHARMER, TIME TO TALK,” AND COORDINATES, HALFWAY ACROSS THE GLOBE.

WITH ALL THAT’S HAPPENING THESE DAYS IN THE WORLD...

SOMETHING’S COMIN’—SOMETHING BIG.

ARE YOU THE KIND OF MAN WHO TURNS TAIL WHEN THE THUNDER ROLLS?
NO, SIR.

MAYBE I WILL GO BACK, DO WHAT I DID BEFORE.

BUT I HAVE TO SETTLE THIS FIRST.

WORLD'S GOIN' STRAIGHT TO HELL, AND NOW THIS NOTE.

YOU'LL GET TO THAT SUNSET...
CAIRO, EGYPT.

...but not today.

Thought you were dead and gone.

Guess I was wrong.
 timeframe when you realized it was me?

Soon as I found it.

Ana Amari, one of the few people in this world could ever draw a bead on me.

Klink.

After all these years, I know how you think.

It's nice to see you. It's been far too long.

Yeah, you too.
“Talk to me,” she says.

So we talk, long into the night.

You thought you'd changed so much, had so much news to tell her.

All those cold years after Overwatch came apart, gunnin' as a mercenary, dodgin' the law...

But sittin' here with Ana makes all that feel like a distant dream.

Like you're back with family.

Like it's the most natural thing in the world.

And hell, maybe it is. Maybe it's how things ought to be.

And just as you're thinking about old times...
THE RECALL TO OVERWATCH.

YOU'RE GOING BACK, AREN'T YOU?

MAYBE.

MAYBE NOT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

SINCE THE RECALL, TALON HAS PUT AN ALARMING NUMBER OF AGENTS IN THE FIELD, HUNTING FORMER OVERWATCH OPERATIVES.

THERE'S WORD THAT THE OLD WATCHPOINT GIBRALTAR FACILITY WAS BREACHED AND AGENTS' INFORMATION WAS STOLEN...WHATEVER TALON IS UP TO, THEY DON'T WANT OVERWATCH COMING BACK.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO RETURN.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE FROM THE OLD CREW I'VE SEEN RECENTLY. MEMORIES... PERHAPS IT'S BEST THEY STAY BURIED. IT'S TIME FOR MY GENERATION TO MOVE ON.

OVERWATCH WILL NEED LEADERS. PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO GET BACK INTO THE FRAY.

IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT? TO REPEAT THE PAST?
AND YOU? YOU SOUND LIKE YOU HAVEN'T QUITE MADE UP YOUR MIND.

I KNOW THE ROAD YOU'VE TAKEN. THE DEADLOCK GANG, THE DAYS WITH BLACKWATCH, TAKING ORDERS, RIGHT OR WRONG...

YOU SAID YOU'RE DOING MERCENARY WORK NOW...

WE COULDN'T'VE CAUGHT UP LIKE THIS ONLINE.

WHY DID YOU WANT ME HERE?

I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, IN PERSON. PERHAPS ONE LAST TIME.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, BUT NOT HERE. WE HAVE VISITORS.

I NOTICED.
You know, I still remember the day Reyes brought you in.

You stayed cool under fire. Had great instincts, talent.
BUT ALSO CHARM, ADAPTABILITY, POTENTIAL.

SEVEN O'CLOCK, I'VE GOT HIM.

YOUR SIX.

DESPITE YOUR ACT, I COULD TELL YOU FELT TRAPPED BY THE LIFE YOU'VE BEEN LIVING.

YOU KNOW THIS MARKET, WHICH WAY ARE WE GOING HERE?

THOK

THIS WAY.
BRAAAM!

But joining Blackwatch, you went from one desperate situation to another.

Come on!

Blam! Blam!

When Blackwatch went wrong, it started coming down around you, all over again, and now...

Ana, this isn't the time...

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

How much farther?

Just past that opening there, in the spice shop.

Get through that line, and we're home free.

Stay close...
I see what you mean about Talon—

Wait, you just knocked these guys out? Never knew you to leave an enemy alive.

A lot can change over the years. I've done enough killing, more than enough.

You can change, too. You could use this opportunity to do some good. Assemble a team of your own, on your terms.

This way. Quickly.
Ana's got you thinkin' of the old days. When good people like her were lookin' out for you.

Showin' you how to survive.

The old days went sour.

But what if things could be different?

Maybe you could find a couple of new folks, do for them what she did for you.

If there's one thing you do know...

...it's how to put a gang together.

Where are you taking me?

Here...
MY HIDEOUT. I HAD ANOTHER OUT IN THE DESERT, BUT IT WAS COMPROMISED. THIS IS A BACKUP.

ONE OF SEVERAL, TO BE HONEST.

HA!

YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT TALON.

THIS IS ALL PART OF SOME BIG PICTURE, ISN'T IT?

I DON'T DOUBT IT. BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL WHAT EXACTLY.

CHAOS BREEDS CHAOS. WHETHER THERE'S A GUIDING HAND BEHIND ALL THE TROUBLE OR JUST OPPORTUNISTS SENSING A RISING STORM...

HERE, I HAVE FILES FOR YOU. DETAILS, DATA—ABOUT THE GLOBAL THREATS I'VE BEEN MONITORING, AND MORE.

ALL THIS DANGER, ALL THIS ADVERSITY, IT'S THREATENING TO SWALLOW UP A LOT OF PEOPLE. BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE IT DOES?
It forges heroes.

There are exceptional people out there, fighting hard, but they are disorganized, each in their own corner of the globe, capable of more than they know.

You can show them how to fight a winning battle, together.

I called you here because someone has to lead them, to show them how to save this world, to make it better. I believe that someone is you.
If I do this, I'm leaving behind what Overwatch was, who I was...

Good. Take it from an old soldier. Learn from the past, but leave it there.
Maybe Overwatch is going to need new blood to do this right. People who need to be brought in.

Maybe it is time to put a new crew together.

And maybe...

You are the man for the job.
Smoke on the horizon. A wing of Helix officers respond like angels in formation, ready for anything.

**They'll point the way to the first person on the list.**

Have to say, I was surprised to see Ana included on her. Not because she's wrong for it—she couldn't be more right.

But there's history.

'Scuse me.
WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

TO BE CONTINUED
IN CAIRO, CASSIDY APPROACHES PHARAH FOR OVERWATCH, BUT A COMPLICATED PAST WITH HER MOTHER MAKES PHARAH UNWILLING TO JOIN. CASSIDY ARRANGES A MEETING BETWEEN MOTHER AND DAUGHTER THAT RESURFACES MEMORIES AND UNHEALED WOUNDS, BUT A SURPRISE ATTACK LEAVES NO ROOM FOR VULNERABILITIES.

NEXT ISSUE: