

THE UNSEEN ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA

A series of sketches by Chris Neville-Smith

Part 1 – 2001:

Cheesy superhero theme music. Captain America enters with a captive Islamic-looking terrorist in tow, where a cigar-smoking general is waiting for him.

General: Ah, Captain America! Mission accomplished, I see!

Captain America: I have done it, general! I have captured the terrorist you wanted.

Terrorist: I curse you! I spit on you warmongers!

General: Well done, I don't know how you did it.

Captain America *(with half-hearted modesty):* Oh, it was nothing. He made a dun for it but I ran after him with my superhuman speed, and then I threw my mighty shield and-

Terrorist: You offend Allah, you son of a whore! I tell you nothing!

Captain America forces him into a seat and knocks him out with a chloroform rag.

Captain America: That's enough from you!

General: You don't know how grateful we are, Captain! This man was plotting atrocities in multiple terrorist cells.

Captain America: Permission to hunt them down, sir?

General: No need. This man will tell us what we need to know.

Captain America: Do you think he'll talk?

General: Oh, don't worry. He'll talk where he's going.

Captain America: Really?

General: The president's authorised new interrogation techniques.

Captain America *(unsure):* Right, good ... as long as you've got approval from Congress and Senate and-

General: Don't need their approval. We're doing it off American soil. Camp X-ray, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Captain America: Okay ... Um, general, I've heard a bit about this place. Isn't that where-

General: Don't worry, Captain, everything they is perfectly legal.

Captain America: Right?

General: We've got our best lawyers on to it, and they'll god dam find a way to say it's legal ... What you've gotta remember is we're up against brutal terrorists. They'd do the same to us.

Captain America: Yes, right ... And you're absolutely *sure* he's a terrorist.

General: Sure he is. We got our best intel from the CIA and ... well, he's *probably* a terrorist – at least fifty-fifty. *(To terrorist, putting a hood over his head.)* Okay raghead, let's see what a little waterboarding does to your tongue. *(To Captain America.)* You've done a great job for Uncle Sam. Go America go!

Part 2 – 2003:

Cheesy theme. Captain America enters with bedraggled prisoner, where the same cigar-smoking general is waiting.

General: Ah, Captain America! Mission accomplished again?

Captain America: Yes. I have freed this prisoner.

Prisoner: One thousand thanks yous, Captain America.

Captain America: Please, I don't need thanks. *(To General.)* I just used my superhuman strength to bend the bars, and

when the guards came I threw my mighty shield and-

General: I knew you could do it You don't know how important this man is to our country.

Prisoner: May the light of the merciful Allah shine upon you.

Captain America: Yes, fine. *(To general.)* Look, I meant what I said before. I only did this mission because it's humanitarian. After that business with-

General: Of course it was! What could be more humanitarian than freeing an innocent man from Saddam Hussein?

Prisoner: He a monster. He kill my family. He persecute my people.

General: Oh, but that's not half of it. Once more, he's engaged in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

Captain America: My God!

Prisoner: I sorry? ... I do not understand.

General: This man knew too much! He saw Saddam's men stockpiling Sarin! And Anthrax!

Prisoner: But I only imprison because I speak out against-

General: We've had to turn a blind eye to Saddam's atrocities all these years. We thought he could be contained. But if, God forbid, there's WMDs in Iraq, that changes everything.

Captain America: Hey, wait a second ...

General: We'd have to see him off once and for all.

Prisoner: Ah! Yes! I understand. I see he make chemical. He crazy. He want to kill us all!

General: We must inform the President immediately! Just in the nick of time!

Captain America: But I thought-

The General leads away the prisoner.

General: Congratulations again Captain, you've served your country well! Go America go!

Part 3 – 2006:

Cheesy music. Captain America enters with a memory stick, to the waiting General.

General: Captain America! You've done it once more!

Captain America: I have the codes. They're on all this. *(Gives the stick to the General.)*

General: From a maximum security building. I don't know how you did it.

Captain America: Oh, really, it was no trouble ... The terminal was protected by laser beams, but I used my superhuman agility to dodge them, then I used my mighty shield the reflect then-

General: Yes, of course you did. So ... at last we have the codes. Now we've got millions of records to search through.

Captain America: Right, I- ... hey what's that about millions?

General: Captain, that's classified information. I'm not at liberty to discuss it.

An agent enters.

General: This is the gentleman who will brief you. Mr X., from the NSA.

The general gives the memory stick to the agent, who immediately plugs it into a laptop and starts working.

Agent: Thank you Captain. The codes you've given us provide us with a back door to every terrorist network in the world. We can listen to their conversations and stop them in their tracks.

Captain America: How big are these networks?

Agent: They're vast. And there's so many to search through. Facebook ... Hotmail ... Tinder ... Gmail.

General: Skype.

Agent: Especially the video calls.

General: Yes, they're the worst.

Captain America: Just a second-

Agent: Right. Let's see if this works. Locating Bayswater, London. Finding IP, overriding protocols, by-passing firewall, deactivating security, it's worked, we're in! We've got the webcam!

Captain America: Okay, so who are we ... (*Looks at screen*) Hold on, what are you looking at?

The General puts his arm round Captain America and leads him away.

General: Listen Captain. That may *look* like student nurses' home. They may even keep up the pretence of a student nurses' home. But for all we know, this could be a secret terrorist cell!

Agent: Ooh, this looks promising!

Captain America: So how do we know it's a-

General: Eternal vigilance, Captain. / If we don't observe what's out there 24/7 ...

Agent: Come on ... Come on ... it's only a towel.

Captain America: What did he just-

General: But thanks to you, / we can watch anyone, any time, anywhere!

Agent: Come on ... Take it off ... Come on, take off your towel ... Jackpot!

Captain America: What the-

General: The President's indebted to you once again! Go America go!

Part 4 – 2009:

Captain America is sat with an aircraft control, with a Navigator standing by him. The General stands by.

Navigator: Target in T minus 90 seconds.

Captain America: So far, so good. Show me the map again.

Navigator (*showing a military map*): There. North-west quadrant. It's a tight target, there's no room for error.

General: Just like the real thing, ain't it?

Navigator: It sure is. These drones give us the edge, don't they?

General: Remember, if we don't take out them out, thousands of American lives are at risk.

Captain America: I don't like it ... It's quiet – too quiet ... Why is no-one trying to down this plane?

Navigator: I don't know. T minus 60 seconds.

Captain America: It doesn't make sense. Why would they leave their HQ unguarded like- ... Wait a second, there's something you're not telling me, isn't there?

General: No Captain. That building is the HQ of a highly dangerous terrorist network.

Captain America: Oh no, not this time. Count me out. Fly your own drone.

General: Wait! Hear me out, Captain. We know we went too far in the War on Terror. The new President wants to rebuild our reputation. But these guy don't see it that way. They'll always try to destroy us, and you gotta stop them.

Captain America: Okay, but why to you need me?

General: Because you're the best pilot we have. We need your superhuman reflexes to get this bang on target.

Navigator: This base is in densely populated civilian area. If we make the slightest error, innocent lives will be lost and we'll jeopardise our alliances in the Swat valley.

General: Only you can do it, Captain.

Navigator: T minus 30 seconds.

Captain America: And you're sure they're terrorists this time?

Navigator: We've got photos of the building ... arms shipments ... bomb manufacture ... and here's what they do to the

women.

Captain America: My God. They're animals!

Navigator: T minus 20 seconds.

Captain America: You're right. I'm Captain America! Servant of Uncle Sam! I have innocent lives to save and a free world to protect! Show me the map again.

The Navigator shows the map.

General: I knew we could count on you.

Captain America: Manoeuvring into position.

Navigator: T minus 10 seconds.

Captain America: Activating payload, positioning target. Preparing / to fire. We have lock on! Ready to engage!

Navigator: 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 ...

Captain America and Navigator: FIRE!

Pause.

General: Did you get them?

Captain America: Difficult to tell, there's smoke everywhere. I manoeuvring for a better- ... Affirmative! Correct target hit. The base is neutralised!

The General and Navigator whoop.

Captain America: Ascending, switching to autopilot, returning to base!

General: You're the greatest American hero on earth! How can the free world repay you?

Captain America: There is no need to repay me. I have served my country, and that is reward enough.

General: Well said Captain. You're a true patriot. I'll see the president congratulates you personally.

But during this, the Navigator turns the map 180°, the right way up.

Navigator: Oh shit.

Captain America: Hey, what's going on?

Navigator: Err, nothing.

General: Yes, yes, nothing worry about there. Mission accomplished. Go America Go!

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