

# **GI Joe: The Return of Cobra-La**

## *A Graphic Novel to be written by Jocelyn Potter*

### **25 Years Earlier:**

We open as a dying Golobulus returns to the ruins that were once Cobra-La. As before, he seeks to preserve Cobra-La and ensure that his people will one day be the dominant species of Earth. To this end, at the cost of his own life, he embeds his psyche within the Cobra-La DNA (cDNA) of an embryo, which rapidly develops into a female emissary named **Vypress**. Vypress is designed to be the temporary cDNA vessel. Following Golobulus' posthumous orders, she sets out to find Serpentor and transfer the cDNA to him.

Only after a long journey from the Himalayas to Cobra headquarters will she find out Serpentor has been killed during the COBRA civil war. Serpentor's body was preserved in cold storage by Dr. Mindbender. Stealing a sample of DNA from the body, Vypress retreats to a mountainous terrain south of Cobra headquarters. Beneath these mountains, she resurrects Serpentor and transfers the cDNA to him. Serpentor decides to remain in the mountains where he will begin rebuilding Cobra-La. They will remain a bio-technologically advanced civilization living in symbiosis with nature.

### **Present Day:**

After decades of bio-technological experimentation, Serpentor's top scientists discover a way to enslave humans. The process entails brainwashing, reconditioning, and grafting mutated insectoid armor. For test subjects they kidnap local soldiers. With much success, and an exotic citadel called Anacondria, Serpentor feels confident enough to take on his two biggest adversaries, GI Joe and Cobra.

Rather than engaging in battle with both GI Joe and Cobra at once, Serpentor plans to trick both his enemies into fighting one another. At the same time, Serpentor aims to fulfill several personal vendettas. The first step is the secret kidnapping of **Zanya** (Cobra operative and daughter of Zartan) and new GI Joe recruit **Mayhem** (son of Sgt. Slaughter). During their captivity, both are subjected to the enslavement process. The newly enslaved **Zanya** and **Mayhem** are instructed to fight each other and then afterwards are secretly returned to their home bases. When questioned by her infuriated father, **Zanya** can only recall her fight against a member of G.I. Joe. **Mayhem**, under close medical observation can only remember his fight against a Cobra operative. Both however, have no recollections of being under the influence of Cobra-La. Thus tricked, Zartan rallies the Dreadnoks, Major Bludd, Firefly, and other members of Cobra in a declaration of war. Believing that Cobra is responsible for Mayhem's condition, the Joes (Duke, Snake Eyes, Jinx, and Sgt. Slaughter) prepare for battle.

The inevitable battle between GI Joe and Cobra takes place at Anacondria. With both sides evenly matched, it becomes virtually impossible for either side to gain the upper hand. As the battle rages on, so does the frustration and exhaustion amongst the troops. Taking advantage of their weakened state, Serpentor sends Ultimate Enforcer and his Royal Guards to finish off any soldiers left standing. Ultimate Enforcer is quick to notice Sgt. Slaughter, who killed his predecessor, Nemesis Enforcer. Consumed with an irrepressible rage, Ultimate Enforcer savagely beats into Sgt. Slaughter. Jinx, running to aid Slaughter, is thrown to the ground by Vypress' "blacksnake" whip. Serpentor is left free to deal with Zartan personally and without interruptions. Serpentor grabs one of the snakes from his collar, straightens it, and raises his "Snake Spear". Zartan jams an explosive bolt into his wrist-mounted crossbow. At the distinctive click, Vypress abandons her fight with Jinx and leaps towards Serpentor. She arrives just in time to shield Serpentor. Vypress' body is jolted backwards, caught by Serpentor before hitting the ground. With a mournful look mixed with both anger and sadness, he cradles her in his arms. Stricken with grief Serpentor lifts her up, dismissively turns from Zartan and walks away. Serpentor calls for Ultimate Enforcer and the Royal Guards to retreat. The Joes, seeing that the battle has come to a standstill, withdraw from the scene. Zartan jumps into a Cobra F.A.N.G. and shoots all four missiles at Anacondria, quickly reducing the citadel to a pile of rubble.

Safe underground in Cobra-La's true headquarters, Serpentor places Vypress in a life-sustaining cocoon. Brooding yet still confident, Serpentor immediately begins making plans for revenge.

## **Characters:**

**Serpentor:** The previous Serpentor who was slightly unstable due to the lacking Sun Tzu's DNA due was egotistical, temperamental, stubborn and impatient. The new Serpentor is confident, patient, discerning, and levelheaded, all due to his receiving the soul of Golobulus. His physical appearance and costume will remain the same as his counterpart from the 80's.

**Vypress:** Created by Golobulus to serve as Cobra-La's emissary and femme fatale assassin. Her implacable loyalty for Serpentor makes her his most valuable subject. She lives entirely to please him.

**Ultimate Enforcer:** A hybrid of genetic material created by Serpentor to serve as his bodyguard. Like Nemesis Enforcer, the Ultimate Enforcer is a mute, bat-winged creature with immense strength.

**Royal Guards:** Cobra-La citizens who had living insect body parts permanently bonded to their bodies and then lobotomized to ensure complete loyalty. Now soldiers of Cobra-La they live for one purpose and that is to protect and serve Serpentor.

**Mayhem:** Son of top Drill Instructor, Sgt. Slaughter, he is G.I. Joes newest recruit.