

GATCHAMAN FCBD SHORT (6 pages)
“INNER COMPASS”

PAGE 1

PANEL 1

DAY/ WIDE on the tail end of a massive aerial battle. KEN's G-1 jet is soaring through the clouds high above jagged mountain cliffs, shooting down a Galactor fighter-jet. Two more enemy fighters are approaching in the distant background. All of this action is dwarfed by a flying Galactor mecha erupting into flame.

- **TITLE & CREDITS:**
- **SFX:** KATHOOOOM!

PANEL 2

CLOSER on the G1 Jet, speeding past the destroyed fiery mecha plummeting down towards the mountains below. We see now that the G1 has been badly shot-up during this battle. The two pursuing Galactor enemy fighter-jets are hot on our hero's tail and begin firing machine guns. A couple of bullets hit the G1 wing and fuselage, but most narrowly miss.

- **JUN ON RADIO (electric):** You've got two more bogeys on your tail, *Ken!*

PANEL 3

Closer still, on KEN, piloting the G1. We're looking at him through the windscreen, which is cracked. Maybe a couple more bullet holes. More enemy fire whizzes past the cockpit. Ken side-eyes back towards the off-camera pursuing fighters. He's angry and focused, with a thin stream of BLOOD trickling down from the side of his mouth.

- **KEN:** Damn you *Galactor bastards*.
- **BULLET SFX:** ZIP! ZIPP! ZIPP!

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PANEL 1

Focus on the two Galactor fighter jets, machine guns firing wildly at Ken's G1.

- **SFX:** BRAKAKAKAKAKA!

PANEL 2

Bullets whiz past the G1 cockpit: Ken is steering the jet with one hand. The other is clutching his lower-ribcage.

- **JUN ON RADIO (electric):** *Ken--!* They're arming *rockets!*
- **SFX:** zzzip zzip

PANEL 3

Close on Ken's hand, attempting to keep pressure on his terrible wound. He's bleeding a LOT.

- **JUN ON RADIO (electric):** They've got a *lock* on you! Take *evasive action!* *Ken!*

PANEL 4

WIDE on the chase scene (perhaps in profile). The two enemy fighters are moving-in for the kill behind the damaged G1.

PANEL 5

TIGHT on Ken's sweaty face, eyes narrowing and seemingly resigning to his fate.

- **JUN ON RADIO (electric):** *Ken!!*

PANEL 6

The two Galactor jets are suddenly riddled with gunfire raining down from above. They are starting to explode...

- **SFX:** takakakakakataka

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PANEL 1

RED IMPULSE's crimson jet soars in from above and between the two exploding Galactor fighter-jets.

- **SFX:** BWOOM! BOOOM!
- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** I'll take it from here, Jun.

PANEL 2

CLOSE on Ken. He's got just barely enough energy to peer out the side of his cockpit towards the action in the sky outside.

- **KEN:** *Red Impulse!*

PANEL 3

Red Impulse's jet matches speed and flies beside the damaged G1 jet and its weary pilot.

- **RED IMPULSE:** Ken, you need to reduce your speed.
- **RED IMPULSE:** Let's get you *home*.

PANEL 4

Ken responds to his savior, but can only turn his head about half-way at this point. We see past him, out through the damaged cockpit towards Red Impulse slowly flying beside the G1. I'd like to keep the camera distant from Red Impulse. We never get a really clear look at him throughout the story. Instead, we focus on his crimson plane and soothing voice.

- **KEN:** The ejection seat... It was damaged in the battle--
- **RED IMPULSE:** Then you'll have to *fly* back to base.
- **KEN:** Forget it. I'm *finished*--

PANEL 5

WIDE on the two jets, flying side-by-side. Their speed has slowed, and altitude is dropping below many of the tallest mountain peaks.

- **RED IMPULSE:** Get focused, boy. *Stay strong!*
- **RED IMPULSE:** You're not *alone* up here. I've got you.

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PANEL 1

Viewed from above, RED IMPULSE's crimson jet maneuvers into a leader-position, out front of Ken's G1.

- **RED IMPULSE:** The ISO base is *close*, but nearly *impossible* to access from the sky.
- **RED IMPULSE:** For even the *best* of pilots, navigating through the jagged canyons and into the hangar bay is a *treacherous* and nearly *impossible task!*
- **RED IMPULSE:** But you're better than the best, Ken...

PANEL 2

CLOSE on Ken, looking ROUGH. He can barely keep his eyes open.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** All you have to do is follow me...

PANEL 3

Ken's BLURRY POV, looking towards Red Impulse out front, leading the way. (*VFX note: Maybe the line-art is duplicated & off-register as a color or something*)

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** ... And trust your *inner compass*.

PANEL 4

G1 follows Red Impulse's lead. The two jets descend into a narrow canyon of jagged rock. Their cast-shadows speeding by to help indicate how dangerously close they're getting to crashing.

PANEL 5

Ken's bloody hand grabs the throttle off to his side, pulling it back to slow.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** Almost there. Throttle-down...

PANEL 6

Ken's POV on the instrument panel. There's a close destination indicated on the radar/heading indicator at about the 2-o'clock position. Altimeter is dropping. Airspeed dropped to around 80 knots. Turn indicator is wobbly as hell.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** Use your *rudders*, Ken.
- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** *Mind your pitch!*

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PANEL 1

The two jets narrowly dodge a couple jagged stalagmite formations jutting out from the canyon floor. The G's wing just slightly knicks one of them with its wing, creating a thin stream of debris trailing behind.

PANEL 2

CLOSE on Ken, losing consciousness. His head is tilting to the side. Eyes closed to narrow slits. He's delirious.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** Watch your *drift!*
- **KEN:** I can't... Instruments...
- **KEN:** ... Failing.

PANEL 3

We're behind the two jets now, following them into a narrow cavern and towards the ISO base. We can see the distant landing platform and hangar, which has been built into the canyon terrain.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** Flying is in your *blood*, Ken. Trust in your brave inherent skills! Listen to your *heart*, just as I listen to *mine*.

PANEL 4

Ken's POV, fading on the edges. Getting dark. We're drifting down at an awkward angle, behind and slightly below Red Impulse's jet. The ISO base, canyon wall, and landing platform are rapidly approaching in the background.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** *Believe* in yourself, Ken, and let the fire of your inner compass blaze!

PANEL 5

Our one and only clear shot of Red Impulse, in the cockpit of his crimson-fighter. He's looking down and to the side, attempting to get a look at Ken's G1. (*Unknown to many readers at this point, Red Impulse is perhaps about to see his son crash and die.*)

- **RED IMPULSE:** Stay *with* me, Ken...

PANEL 6

Small BLACK panel.

- **RED IMPULSE ON RADIO (electric):** *KEN..!!!*

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PANEL 1

Small black panel.

PANEL 2

We open days later in the ISO medical facility. WIDE on a nice high-tech recovery room. Ken is alive and well, using a cane to assist his slow shuffle from his bed towards the window. An empty chair sits in the corner. Ken is wearing pajama pants, shirtless, with an open robe. He's got various bandages on his wounds, with his entire abdomen taped in gauze.

- **JUN (off):** It's wonderful to see you up and around, Ken.
- **KEN:** I was dreaming...

PANEL 3

Viewed through the glass, we focus on Ken, close to the camera. He leans on the window-pane as gazes outside/off in deep thought. In the background behind him, JUN leans in the recovery room doorway.

- **KEN:** Maybe less of a *dream* and more of a distant *memory*...
- **KEN:** About my deceased father.
- **JUN:** You know, he never left your bedside--

PANEL 4

On KEN in profile, still leaning on the window. His gaze moves upward, as something in the sky catches his attention.

- **JUN (off):** Who?
- **JUN (off):** *Red Impulse*. He sat here and prayed for *two days*, watching over you.

PANEL 5

Behind Ken now, we see what he sees out the window. Up past the canyon walls, we get a glimpse of a crimson jet soaring up into the bright morning sky.

- **CAPTION:** END