

Immortality

By Manuel Strid

In the year 2115 scientists from ISDA (International Scientific Drug Association) discovered a drug that would make its user immortal. The drug (Isotriphomene) was kept secret from the public and only a select few of the world leaders knew of this advancement. Then in the year 2136 the armies of the New East attacked the United States. The drug was stolen by a group preaching for peace not wanting either army. They hid it in a mythical golden city.

Now twenty years later the world has become an active war zone with the United States and its allies on the brink of total annihilation from the New East communists. Their fate rests on us, a group of well-trained U.S. soldiers with one job—to steal the Drug from the mythic city.

My legs are burning as I trudge through the tropical rainforest of East Kongya. I look down at my location finder and see that the city is only a few steps away. I hold my fist up in a silent signal to stop.

“What is it?” whispers my second in command, Hudson.\

“We are here,” I say to him and tell the rest of my squadron to huddle around.

“All right, so here is the plan. John, Mark, Jim stay here and watch our backs.

The rest of you are with me.” I look up at my men and see pure determination to save our country in each one's eyes. Suddenly, I hear the noise of an enemy aircraft hovering above us. The trees and ground shake as the force pushes apart the surrounding shrubbery almost making us visible.

“Let's go! Let's go!” I yell to my men over the deafening roar of the aircraft. We run forward into the thick vegetation. Suddenly the ground gives way beneath us and we are tumbling down, down, down. I land flat on my face and slowly try to walk, but the ground seems to be shaking and I see stars. I finally regain my senses and look around. The others are slowly getting to their feet and stumbling toward me. I scan the trees and something catches my eye, a faint gold shimmering, like glitter, as if there was

something golden on the other side. Cautiously I walk towards the glittery light. It seems to grow brighter and larger with every step I take. Finally, I reach the edge of what seems to be a vast clearing from where the light is coming from. I part the leaves of the trees and then I see it. A marvelous city sprawling in front of me with gold and silver buildings reaching higher than the sky. In the middle of the city there is a stunning lake that shimmers in the sunlight and right in the center of the lake there is an island with a large golden dome. I stand there petrified. This must be the mythic city where the Drug is kept.

“Everyone alright?” I hear over my radio transmitter, bringing me back to reality.

“Yes,” I say into the transmitter, “but I think I just found what we are looking for.”

The light of the day slowly fades away as we prepare to sneak into the golden city. Finally, when the night has fully draped its darkness around us, we move. We make our way into the city passing a large silver arch that seems to be the entrance of the city. As soon as I step into the city, I realize something is wrong: there is not a single person in the entire city! It seems as if no one has been in the city for a good while, yet it is still in pristine condition.

I nervously check my electric blaster as we make our way towards the beautiful lake at the center of the city. As we arrive at the lake there is the sound of gears churning and water splashing as a metal bridge rises straight out of the water. We jump back surprised but then walk forward skeptically.

“Why would the bridge just come up for us?” asks Hudson as he inspects the bridge with his mine detector.

“I don’t know,” I say, “but we have something to steal so let's go.”

We continue cautiously and walk across the bridge until we reach the golden dome on the island.

“Let's split up and search for some sort of entrance to this place,” I say to my men in a low voice. After a few minutes I find what seems to be a sliding

door.

“I found a door around the back,” I said into my transmitter. As I wait for my comrades I can’t help but smile. The moment I have been waiting, training and preparing is just a door away.

I push the button next to the door. It slides open with ease, I step through cautiously signaling for my companions to follow. It is a large metal walled room with a lab in the middle. It looks just like most labs yet there is something off about the room, something eerie. We walk forward into the room and there it is, the Drug.

“Hey something seems wrong about this,” Mark said. “Don’t you think that this heist has been way too easy?”

Then all of a sudden hundreds of New East army soldiers burst into the room, blasters pointed straight at us. As they surround us, my men look to me for directions. But I just shake my head and smile the brightest, largest smile of my life. My men look at each other quizzically.

“Thank you my comrades,” I say to my men. “With your help you have led me and my New East armies to the Drug. With the Drug we will finish off the United States and its allies. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I have to become immortal.”

With that I walk up to the Drug and take a swig as my New East soldiers drag the men away.