

Captain America

FIRST ISSUE OUTLINE:

PROLOGUE(first three or four pages)

Five years ago – a secret Russian bunker. A once powerful Soviet General – **Aleksander Lukin** – is meeting with the Red Skull.

Lukin is selling-off artifacts from the USSR, black market weapons, and plans for things they could never afford to actually make. He and the Skull have become grudging allies for a time, each using the other for their own benefit, but their views aren't all that far apart – Stalin's Socialism was sadly close to Fascism, after all.

Now the Skull is looking through the remaining items at a recently discovered underground facility, as General Lukin looks on, sneering. Skull spots something in the shadows, but we can't see what it is – It's a human form floating in a stasis tube, someone on ice, and all we can make out is part of a mechanical arm in the foreground. The Skull wipes away a layer of dust to look closer at the man inside (who we never see), amazed. "Is this what it looks like?"

And Lukin replies, "Indeed, it is. I've been going over the paperwork my predecessor, General Karpov, left on this one. He was apparently very useful during the Cold War. Karpov called it his secret weapon against the US."

"How much for this?"

"No, I think not, Comrade Skull. I've got my own plans for that item, unless of course, you'd be willing to exchange it for the Cosmic Cube?"

And they begin to argue about the cube, which the Skull assures him will be in his possession soon, but he'd never hand it over, because after he gets it, Captain America will fall and then the world... It's the usual Red Skull rant, and we play it very straight...

MAIN STORY

And then we're five years later, in real time, with the Skull finally getting his hands on the Cosmic Cube. But the cube has almost no power, it needs to be charged up, and the Skull is plotting how to go about powering it in the most horrifying way possible, killing as many Americans as possible in the process.

We follow the Skull as he lays out his evil plan, and we get the lay of the land as far as Captain America's life is concerned. We show Cap doing some heroing, and show him out of costume, all the while not realizing his world is about to fall apart because the Skull has him in his sights. The Skull narrates the main story, really showing us his hatred of Cap and everything he stands for. Mocking him for giving his secret identity away, for making it so easy to go after him. And through the Skull's words and surveillance, we learn all we need to know about Cap and about Steve Rogers – we see Rogers playing old 78s and tapping his toe, listening to old Shadow radio plays on CD – we get the idea of this man out of time, and we get the back-story of his tragedy, too – we see Bucky perish, we see Cap frozen in ice until all his childhood friends are old men. We see the world age around him, and move farther away.

Then we focus on the Skull in a penthouse apartment in New York, about to put the final pieces of his scheme in motion. He gets a call from Lukin, and they begin to argue again. Apparently they've had a major falling out in the past five years. Lukin still wants to negotiate for the Cube,