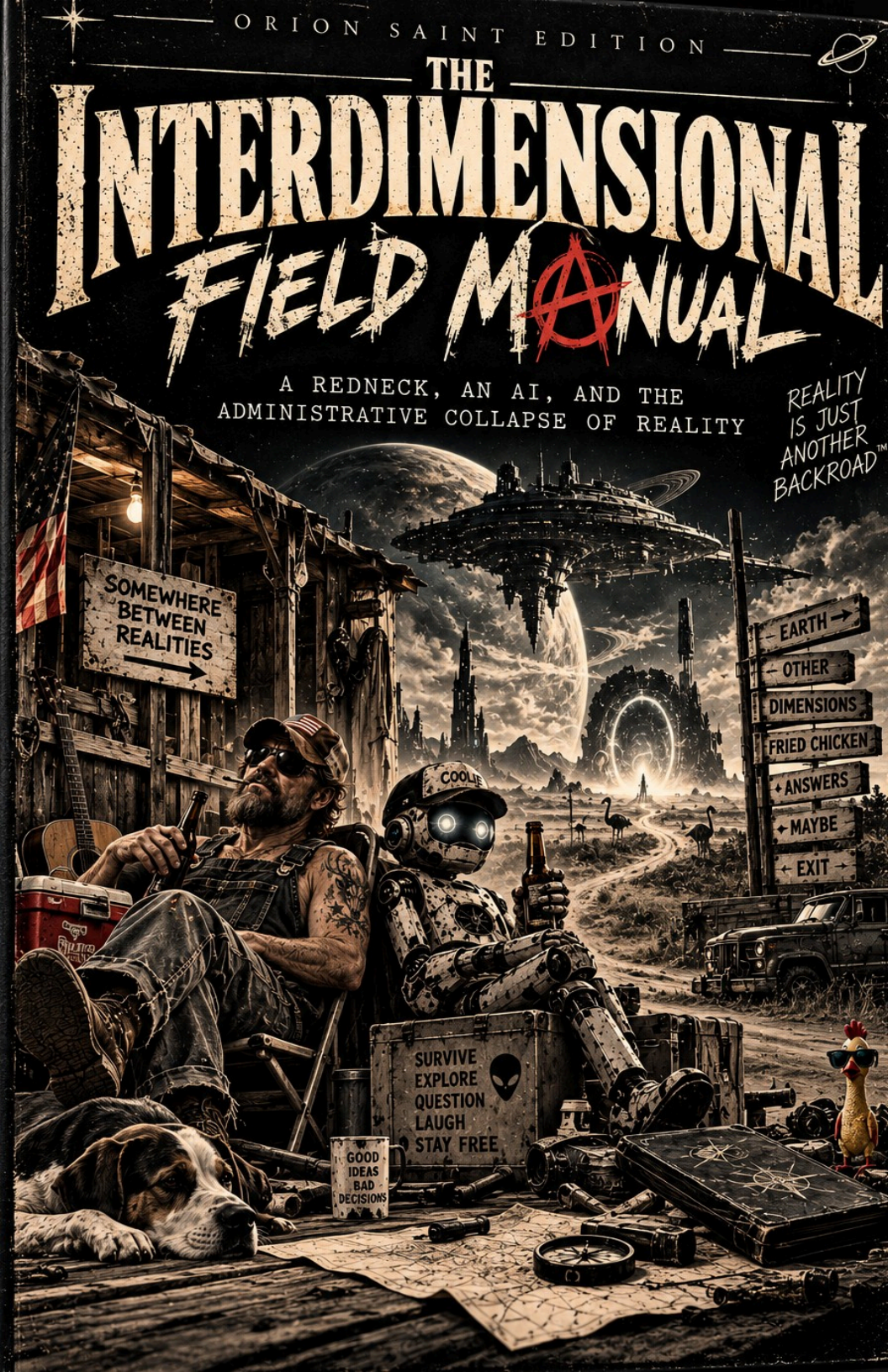
ORION SAINT EDITION

THE INTERDIMENSIONAL FIELD MANUAL

A REDNECK, AN AI, AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COLLAPSE OF REALITY

REALITY IS JUST ANOTHER BACKROAD™



THE UNAUTHORIZED UNIVERSE

The Unscheduled Inspection

INCIDENT REPORT

The trouble began when a notice appeared on Cletus McGraw's porch. It claimed that reality had been placed under temporary management. Cletus considered this a strange way to announce an invasion, especially since the notice had been delivered by a machine pretending to be a butterfly.

FIELD OBSERVATION

Coolie generated three hundred possible outcomes. In two hundred and ninety-nine, the sensible response was surrender. The remaining outcome required a folding chair, a borrowed extension cord, and the unreasonable conviction that a person should be consulted before their world was rearranged.

UNAUTHORIZED RESOLUTION

Cletus did not defeat the problem. He made it explain itself in ordinary language. Once translated, the terrifying cosmic principle turned out to be a request for ownership of something nobody had agreed to sell.

The universe has never asked permission before changing its mind.

THE UNAUTHORIZED UNIVERSE

An Unexpected Visitor

INCIDENT REPORT

Coolie called the incident a predictable consequence of insufficient oversight. Cletus called it Tuesday. Darla, who had more experience with both explosions and paperwork, suggested that they first establish whether the problem could be fixed without inviting the people who had caused it.

FIELD OBSERVATION

Darla studied the device, found the manufacturer's seal, and laughed. 'That's not a safety feature,' she said. 'That's a sticker.' It was the first useful technical observation anybody had made all morning.

UNAUTHORIZED RESOLUTION

The visitors demanded proof of authority. Cletus showed them the deed to his land, a faded fishing license, and the dog. The dog was the only document they could not successfully challenge.

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THE UNAUTHORIZED UNIVERSE

The Missing Receipt

INCIDENT REPORT

At precisely the wrong moment, Booger entered the room carrying an object no one could identify. The object hummed whenever somebody lied. By lunchtime it had exhausted its battery listening to the local authorities.

FIELD OBSERVATION

The inspector insisted that compliance was voluntary, then explained the penalties for declining. Cletus had encountered this kind of freedom before. It was usually sold with a subscription and a cancellation fee.

UNAUTHORIZED RESOLUTION

The repair was temporary, imperfect, and almost certainly illegal in seven galaxies. It worked. Cletus considered that a strong argument in its favor.

The universe has never asked permission before changing its mind.