

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ISSUE 03
2012



GALATEA POWERS: DEAD?



ONCE THEY REPRESENTED THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERHERO TEAMS... THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN! THEY BATTLED CRIME LORDS, CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AGENTS, AND EVEN GODS AND DEMIGODS. THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE WHEN MANY BELIEVED THEY WOULD NOT.

BUT WHILE THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN ARE NO MORE, SEVERAL OF THE HEROES REFUSE TO GIVE UP THE FIGHT TO MAKE THAT BRIGHTER FUTURE POSSIBLE. OPERATING ON THEIR OWN, THEY ARE REFERRED TO COLLECTIVELY AS...

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



CAPTAIN PARAGONNA - PARAGON CITY'S SUPERHERO POLICEWOMAN

THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBER AND FORMER LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN, STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS CONTINUES THE FIGHT FOR LAW AND ORDER, AS WELL AS BRING THAT PROMISE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE.

LYON POWERS - WELSH SUPERHERO

THIRD-GENERATION SUPERHERO FROM ENGLAND, KATIE LEA POWERS IS QUICK TO DEFEND HER FAMILY'S HONOR AND REPUTATION, EVEN WHEN EXTENDING IT TO HER NEW "ADOPTED" SISTER, GALATEA POWERS.

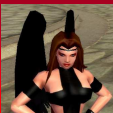


GALATEA POWERS - PARAGON CITY'S "TRUE GUARDIAN"

BORN FROM ANOTHER WORLD, GALATEA CAME TO THIS WORLD WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHO SHE WAS. GIVEN A NEW LIFE AND A NEW NAME, SHE'S NOW ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR HEROES IN PARAGON CITY.

ICON POWERS/KENT PODERES - TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

THE GREATEST HERO OF HIS EARTH, AND FOSTER FATHER OF GALATEA, KENT SACRIFICED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS COUSIN'S TRUST. NOW HE HAS LOST MUCH OF HIS POWERS AND SEEKS TO REBUILD THE TRUST OF HIS TEAMMATES.



TAINTED EVE - LIBRA ORDER FOUNDER AND LEADER

ONCE ONE OF CREATION'S LOYAL CELESTIAL HOSTS, THIS FALLEN ANGEL NOW SPENDS HER MORTAL TIME SERVING THE WISHES OF HER NEW PATRON, THE MYSTERIOUS COSMIC FORCE KNOWN ONLY AS LIBRA.

"INTERIM MEASURE"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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DEATH...

FEW THINGS TO GET STRAIGHTENED OUT ABOUT DEATH...

YOU DON'T HAVE OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES WHEN YOU DIE.

YOU SUPPOSEDLY DON'T SEE LOVED ONES WAITING FOR YOU ON THE "OTHER SIDE" EITHER. IT'S ALL JUST A RAPIDLY-FADING DARKNESS.

THIS, BY THE WAY, COMES FROM MY FRIEND, JASON KNIGHT, WHO ACTUALLY DIED AND WAS RESURRECTED SOON AFTER IN MY BIRTH-UNIVERSE.*

OKAY, SO IF YOU'RE A HERO IN PARAGON CITY OR A VILLAIN IN THE ROGUE ISLES, THEN YOU'VE GONE THROUGH THIS PART BEFORE.

THIS IS THE POINT IN YOUR CAREER RIGHT AFTER YOU'VE HAD YOUR HEAD HANDED TO YOU AND THE RIKTI-BASED TELEPORTER KICKS IN TO RESCUE YOU BY BEAMING YOUR BODY INTO A MEDICAL RECOVERY CHAMBER.

TECHNICALLY YOU'RE "DEAD" FOR THAT BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME.

OR, AS THE OLD JOKE GOES, YOU DIE... AND THEN YOU GET BETTER.

ONLY YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE THIS PART OF THE PROCESS HAPPENING. THIS IS ALL SUPPOSED TO BE ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS.

SO WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE THIS IS TAKING FOREVER FOR ME?

DID SOMETHING GO WRONG? AM I REALLY... DYING?

(* SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #3 FOR DETAILS)

PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND, USA

STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY

"HULLO..."

"PLEASE CONFIRM
VOICE IDENTITY
FOR LYON POWERS."

YES, THIS
IS SHE...

THIS IS FREEDOM
CORPS
COMMUNICATIONS.

GALATEA POWERS
HAS BEEN REPORTED
DEAD IN CROATIA."

 **KATIE LEA POWERS**
AKA LYON POWERS

(* SEE LAST ISSUE)

WHAT?!?!?

WHEN? HOW? WHERE
IS SHE NOW? WHAT
HAPPENED?

WE DO NOT HAVE
ALL THE DETAILS.

HER HERO ID LAST
REPORTED HER IN
CROATIA BUT WE
DO NOT HAVE A
TELEPORT SIGNAL.

BUT THAT'S NOT SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN! I MEAN, NOT
JUST HER BEIN' KILLED AN'
ALL, BUT YOU LOT NOT
HAVIN' A TELEPORT SIGNAL.

WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS
CONFUSING. A FREEDOM
CORPS AGENT IS BEING
DISPATCHED NOW TO
INVESTIGATE.

WHEN WE HAVE MORE
INFORMATION WE WILL
CONTACT YOU...

LIKE BLOODY HELL YOU
ARE! I'M HEADIN' ON
OVER MYSELF...

MISS POWERS, YOUR
SECURITY LEVEL IS
STILL IN THE LOW
TEENS. THE DANGERS
IN CROATIA FAR
EXCEED IT. IT WOULD
BE SUICIDE FOR YOU
TO GO THERE...

"YEH... WOL
SOD OFF!
I'M GOING
ANYWAY!"

TAYA IS MY SIS!

MEBBE SHE AN' I HAD A BIT
O' MISUNDERSTANDING AT
FIRST, BUT SHE'S BEEN THE
SIS THAT I'VE BEEN MISSIN'
SINCE I LOST MY OLDER
SIS IN THE ALPHA-OMEGA
GAMBIT.

IN FACT, TAYA CARRIES SOME
OF FAITH'S BLOOD IN HER,
WHICH MAKES HER ALMOST AS
MUCH MY GENETIC SIS AS
FAITH WAS.* THAT'S EVEN WHY
HER CIVILIAN NAME IS FAITH.

AND AFTER ALL THAT WE DID
TO RESCUE HER, TO BRING
HER BACK TO LIFE, I'M NOT
GOING TO JUST SIT BACK
AND WAIT TO HEAR WHETHER
OR NOT THOSE BLOKES
KNOW ANYTHING MORE
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

(* SEE "SPOTLIGHT" #25)

 **LYON POWERS**
WELSH SUPERHERO

MEDICAL ALERT! GALATEA
POWERS! MEDICAL ALERT!
GALATEA POWERS!

LIFE SIGNS HAVE CEASED!
LIFE SIGNS HAVE CEASED!

NO! NO-
NO-NO-NO!

 **KENT PODERES**
AKA ICON POWERS

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S
GOING ON?

WHATEVER IT WAS
THAT GALATEA
WAS FACING IN
CROATOA... IT WAS
POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO KILL HER.

SOP THE MEDICAL
TELEPORT SYSTEM IN
HER HERO ID BADGE
SHOULD TAKE HER TO
THE CROAOTA CLINIC.
SHE'LL BE FINE.

 **GRACE FELLOWS**
AKA DAYBRIGHT

EXCEPT THAT THE
HERO ID SYSTEM
DID NOT PICK UP
HER SIGNAL.

WE WERE STILL
RUNNING THE NEW
CONFIGURATION
SETTINGS WHEN IT
HAPPENED.

OH... OH!
THEN THAT
MEANS SHE'S...

IT MEANS ALL OF THE HARD WORK
THAT WE'VE BEEN PUTTING INTO
OUR LITTLE "SURPRISE" COULD GO
DOWN THE DRAIN IF WE DON'T
COME UP WITH SOMETHING QUICK.

NOT TO MENTION WE COULD VERY
WELL LOSE GALATEA FOREVER, AND
I DON'T MEAN METAPHORICALLY.

OKAY...

ABOUT TIME
THIS GOT...

WHAT
TH... ?

GOING... ?

ONE: WHERE AM I?
BESIDES UNDER A
WATERFALL...

AND TWO: WHY
AM I NAKED?

THIS
IS NOT
FUNNY!

 **GALATEA POWERS**
OTHERWORLD SUPERHERO

HUMOR WAS
NEVER INTENDED.

INTERIM
MEASURE.

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN BY
"INTERIM
MEASURE"?
AND WHERE
IS THIS
PLACE?

INTERIM
MEASURE.

YOU SAID THAT
ALREADY.
CAN YOU AT LEAST
TELL ME WHERE MY
CLOTHES ARE?

I'M SORRY. THAT ANSWER
IS NOT AVAILABLE YET.

YOUR SITUATION REQUIRED
IMMEDIATE ACTION, BUT IT
WAS NOT YET YOUR TIME TO
BE HERE.

YOU MEAN I WASN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE
DEAD YET?
SO IS THIS HEAVEN?
OR LIMBO? OR...

INTERIM
MEASURE.

RIGHT... "INTERIM MEASURE".
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE?
AND MAYBE GIVE ME A TOWEL? OR
A FEW FIG LEAVES?

THERE ARE NO TOWELS...
OR FIG LEAVES...
ASCEND TO THE TOP AND YOU
WILL FIND ME WAITING FOR YOU.

CROATOA

I FIGURED THAT YOU WOULD MAKE IT HERE...

EVEN THOUGH I HOPED AGAINST HOPE YOU DIDN'T.

 **CAPTAIN PARAGONNA**
PARAGON CITY POLICE

OI... DON'T YE START IN ON ME AS WELL...

'TAYA'S FAMILY, YOU KNOW THAT.

I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO GIT THROUGH A WHOLE RIKTI HORDE T' FIND HER.

LYON, WHATEVER COULD TAKE DOWN 'TAYA IS STILL OUT HERE.

I'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU AT LEAST WAITED OVER AT THE COLLEGE SQUARE.

AN' I'D FEEL BETTER HAVIN' A PINT OVER AT TH' CAMPUS PUB.

NEITHER OF WHICH IS GONNA HAPPEN TONIGHT WITHOUT 'TAYA 'LONGSIDE US.

THIS PLACE IS BRIMMING WITH MAGIC... AND IN CASE YOU HAPPEN T' FORGET, MY POWERS ARE MAGICAL IN NATURE.

SPEAKING O' WHICH... WHY IS IT YELLOWY AND BRIGHT EVERYWHERE? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE NIGHTTIME!

I WAS GOING TO CHECK WITH THE LONGBOW AGENT THAT THE FREEDOM CORPS SENT OVER. I'M HOPING THAT HE WOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

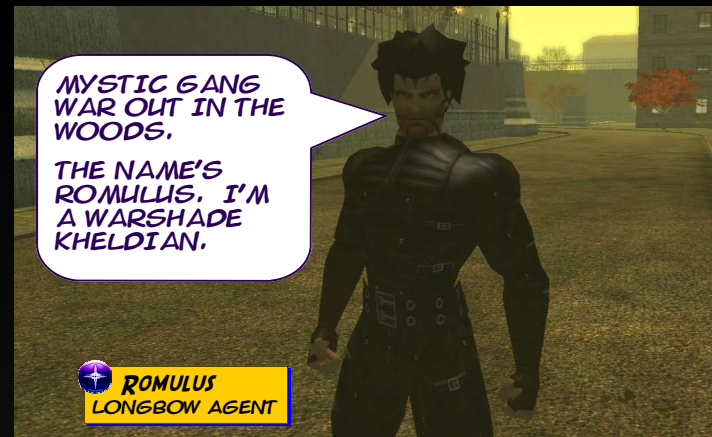
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAG ALONG, FINE...

JUST REMEMBER WE'RE DEALING WITH SOMETHING THAT TOOK OUT OUR MOST POWERFUL MEMBER, AND ALL THE BRITISH BRAVADO IN THE WORLD WON'T SAVE YOU.


WOL THEN IT'S GOOD THAT I'M WELSH AND NOT BRITISH, INNIT? WOULDNT WANT THAT NASTY BRITISH BRAVADO GETTING' IN TH' WAY OF OUR WORK.



SO FREEDOM
CORPS SENT
YOU?
WHERE ARE
THE OTHERS?



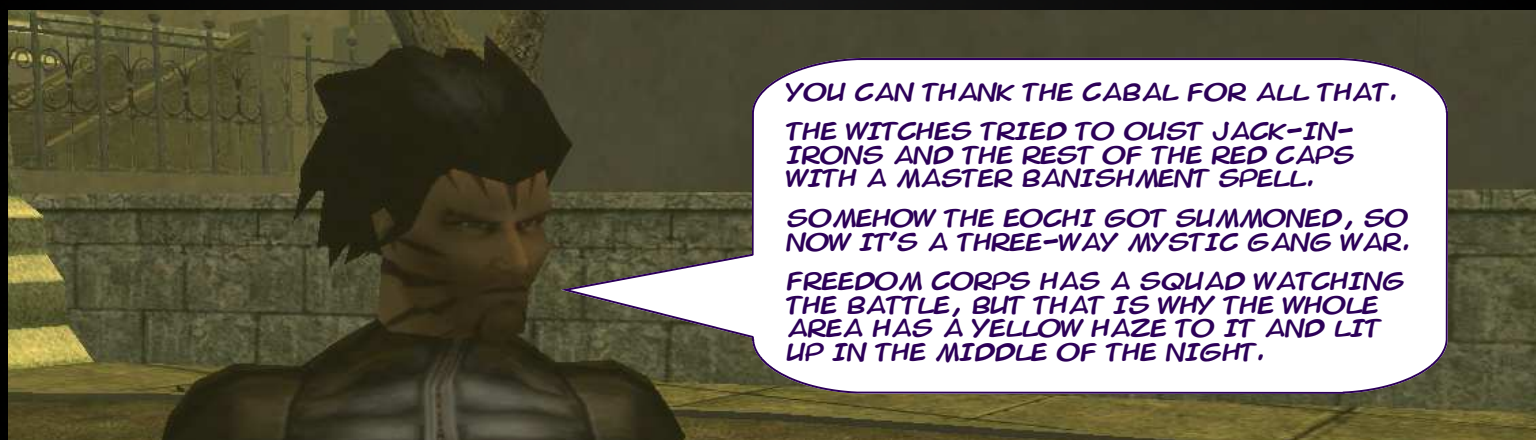
MYSTIC GANG
WAR OUT IN THE
WOODS.
THE NAME'S
ROMULLIS. I'M
A WARSHADE
KHELDIAN.

 **ROMULUS**
LONGBOW AGENT



SO YOU'RE THE
HERO THEY SAID
WAS COMING?

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA,
PARAGON CITY POLICE... THAT'S
LYON POWERS. SHE'S WITH ME.
STRANGE THAT THERE ARE NO
CIVILIANS AROUND... OR
BADDIES FOR THAT MATTER.
NOT TO MENTION THE SKY...



YOU CAN THANK THE CABAL FOR ALL THAT.
THE WITCHES TRIED TO OUST JACK-IN-
IRONS AND THE REST OF THE RED CAPS
WITH A MASTER BANISHMENT SPELL.
SOMEHOW THE EOCHI GOT SUMMONED, SO
NOW IT'S A THREE-WAY MYSTIC GANG WAR.
FREEDOM CORPS HAS A SQUAD WATCHING
THE BATTLE, BUT THAT IS WHY THE WHOLE
AREA HAS A YELLOW HAZE TO IT AND LIT
UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.



WHAT'S
THAT?

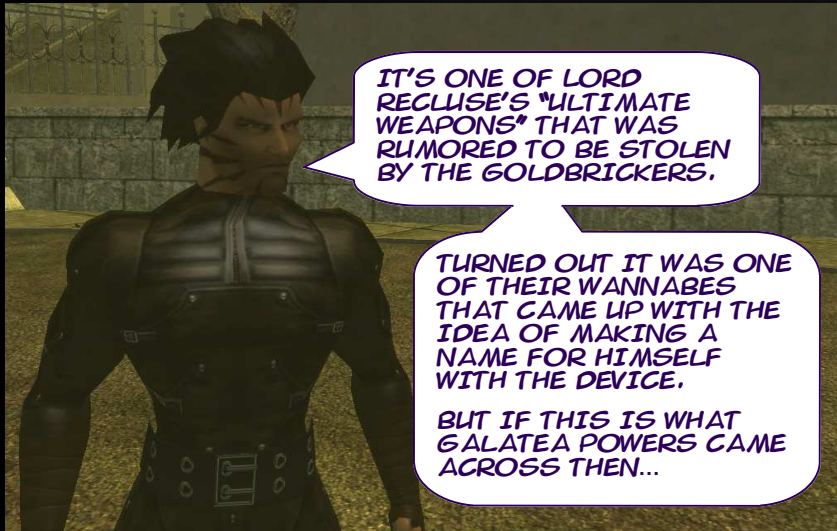
QUANTUM SCANNER. LITTLE
DEVICE WHIPPED UP BY A FRIEND
OF MINE. SHOULD CUT THROUGH
SOME OF THE MYSTICAL HAZE.
ROMULLIS, CAN YOUR KHELDIAN
SENSES IDENTIFY THIS PATTERN
ON THE GROUND?



I FORGOT YOU'VE WORKED WITH KHELDIANS BEFORE...
THAT IS THE ION SIGNATURE OF A DEVICE THAT I'VE BEEN HUNTING FROM THE ROGUE ISLES.



SO YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH?



IT'S ONE OF LORD RECLUSE'S "ULTIMATE WEAPONS" THAT WAS RUMORED TO BE STOLEN BY THE GOLDBRICKERS.

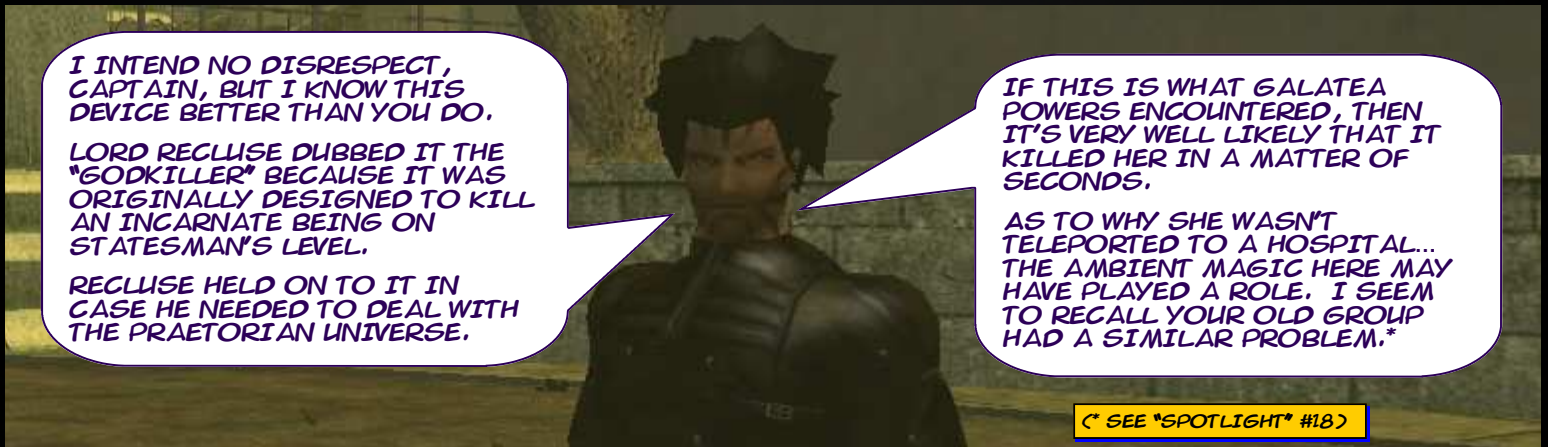
TURNED OUT IT WAS ONE OF THEIR WANNABES THAT CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF WITH THE DEVICE.

BUT IF THIS IS WHAT GALATEA POWERS CAME ACROSS THEN...



DON'T!

DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT SHE'S DEAD!



I INTEND NO DISRESPECT, CAPTAIN, BUT I KNOW THIS DEVICE BETTER THAN YOU DO.

LORD RECLUSE DUBBED IT THE "GODKILLER" BECAUSE IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO KILL AN INCARNATE BEING ON STATESMAN'S LEVEL.

RECLUSE HELD ON TO IT IN CASE HE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.

IF THIS IS WHAT GALATEA POWERS ENCOUNTERED, THEN IT'S VERY WELL LIKELY THAT IT KILLED HER IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.

AS TO WHY SHE WASN'T TELEPORTED TO A HOSPITAL... THE AMBIENT MAGIC HERE MAY HAVE PLAYED A ROLE. I SEEM TO RECALL YOUR OLD GROUP HAD A SIMILAR PROBLEM.*

(* SEE "SPOTLIGHT" #18)



OI, NO DISRESPECT AN' ALL, BUT IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN THAT FALLS ON FREEDOM CORPS' HEAD THIS TIME.

SO HOW'S 'BOULT WE TRY TO FIND HER FIRST 'STEAD OF WRITIN' 'ER OFF?



MY FRIEND, IN HER OWN WELSH WAY, IS RIGHT.

WE DON'T HAVE A BODY, SO UNTIL THEN, WE NEED TO PRESUME THAT GALATEA IS STILL ALIVE AND NEEDS OUR HELP.

SO WHILE WE DO THAT, YOU CAN TELL US MORE ABOUT THIS "GODKILLER".

ELSEWHERE...

OKAY, I'VE
"ASCENDED"
OVER THE
WATERFALLS,
AND ALL I SEE
IS JUST GRASS
AND ROCK.

WHERE ARE YOU?

WHERE I AM IS
IRRELEVANT.
YOUR LOCATION
IS WHAT IS
IMPORTANT.

OKAY, SO
WHERE AM I?
OH, WAIT...
"INTERIM
MEASURE".

WHAT YOU SEE IS
IRRELEVANT.
IT IS THE MIND'S
ATTEMPT TO PUT
SUBSTANCE TO
NOTHING.

SO THE
WATER AND
THE GRASS...
THEY'RE ALL
IN MY HEAD?

SO HOW COME I CAN'T
ENVISION MYSELF
WITH CLOTHES ON IF
THIS IS JUST ALL IN
MY HEAD?

I'M SORRY, THAT
ANSWER IS NOT
AVAILABLE YET.

WHAT TH...?

I COULD HAVE SWORN
YOU WERE NOT THERE
BEFORE!

YOU INSISTED ON
A FIGURE TO
CONVERSE WITH.

THE HEALING PROCESS REQUIRES
AN EXAMINATION OF MIND AND BODY
BEFORE TRANSITION CAN OCCUR.

CONVERSATION WILL MEASURE THE
SOUND RECOLLECTION OF EVENTS
ALONG WITH A DIAGNOSTIC OF YOUR
PHYSICAL FORM.

IF THIS IS
SOMEONE'S SICK
ATTEMPT AT OGGLING
AT ME, I SWEAR I
WILL GO PRAETORIAN
ON THEM!

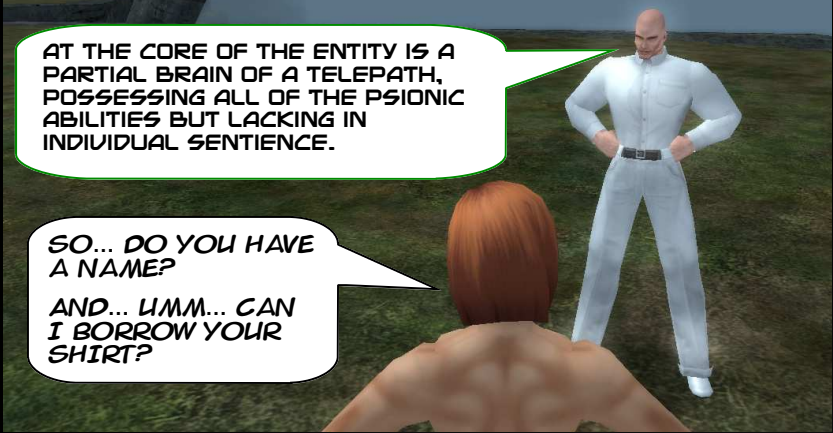
THREATS OF VIOLENCE
ARE NOT PRODUCTIVE.

WE MUST PREPARE YOU
FOR TRANSITION TO THE
NEXT PHASE.

YOU MUST BE
PREPARED FOR THE
NEXT ENCOUNTER.

THE ENTITY KNOWN AS
"GODKILLER" IS A MERGER
OF BIOLOGICAL FEATURES,
CYBERNETIC DEVICES, AND
MYSTICAL ARTIFACTS.


THE ENTITY WAS CREATED
AS PART OF PHASE TWO OF
LORD RECLUSE'S PLAN TO
TAKE OVER PARAGON CITY
AFTER DEPRIVING THE
HEROES OF THEIR ABILITIES.*




AT THE CORE OF THE ENTITY IS A PARTIAL BRAIN OF A TELEPATH, POSSESSING ALL OF THE PSIONIC ABILITIES BUT LACKING IN INDIVIDUAL SENTIENCE.

SO... DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

AND... UMM... CAN I BORROW YOUR SHIRT?



I'M SORRY, THAT ANSWER IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.



LOOK, I AM TRYING REALLY HARD TO GO ALONG WITH WHAT IS A REALLY EMBARRASSING EXPERIENCE FOR ME.

I DON'T LIKE STANDING HERE VERY MUCH NAKED AND VULNERABLE...



IS THAT WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED?

DID YOU FEEL VULNERABLE WHEN YOU FACED THE ENTITY?



YES...

YES, THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I FELT.

I FELT LIKE ALL OF MY POWERS, ALL OF MY ADVANTAGES, THEY WERE USELESS AGAINST IT.

LIKE... LIKE I WAS STANDING THERE NAKED... LIKE I AM RIGHT NOW.



THE ENTITY'S PSIONIC MIND IS INSTINCTIVE, UTILIZING FEAR TO BREAK DOWN THE TARGET'S DEFENSES.

IT IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE RIKTI MONKEYS IN THAT THEY USE PSIONIC PROJECTION AS A DEFENSIVE TACTIC EVEN THOUGH THEY LACK THE INTELLIGENCE TO USE THAT ABILITY FOR MORE FORMAL TELEPATHIC FUNCTIONS.

BUT THAT MIND IS STILL LACKING INDIVIDUAL THOUGHT. IT NEEDS AN OUTSIDE OPERATOR TO THINK FOR IT AND TO CAPITALIZE ON THE FEAR THAT IT PROJECTS.

THE FEAR THAT YOU EXPERIENCED IS STILL PRESENT WITHIN YOU. FEAR OF FAILURE. FEAR OF VULNERABILITY. FEAR OF BEING MANIPULATED.

THIS IS THE FEAR THAT YOU FELT IN BATTLE, ONLY MAGNIFIED BY THE ENTITY.



SO WE'RE BACK TO "IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD"...

AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT I'M NAKED HERE BECAUSE I'M STILL AFRAID?


THIS IS GETTING TOO CONFUSING.

YOUR CURRENT LACK OF ATTIRE IS NOT A MATTER OF YOUR FEAR.

THE ENTITY KNOWN AS "GODKILLER" DOES NOT GENERATE FEAR. IT ONLY MAGNIFIES THE FEAR THAT ALREADY EXISTS. IT IS BUT ONE OF ITS TOOLS.

THE WEAPON IT WIELDS, THE HAMMER, WAS ENCHANTED BY MU MYSTICS.

THE FOREARMS CONTAIN RIKTI CORE GENERATORS NORMALLY USED FOR THEIR PULSE RIFLES, MODIFIED TO GIVE STRENGTH AND POWER ITS DEFENSES.



THE VARIOUS SKULLS CONTAIN PERCEPTION AND DETECTION FILTERS, DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE ONE'S AWARENESS OF THE ENTITY UNTIL IT IS READY TO ATTACK.

THESE ARE IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR YOU TO BE AWARE OF FOR YOUR NEXT ENCOUNTER WITH THE ENTITY.

THIS IS INFORMATION THAT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR YOU OUTSIDE OF THIS INTERIM MEASURE.

WHY?

WHY CAN'T YOU?

WHY ARE YOU EAGER TO PROVIDE ME WITH THIS INFORMATION?

WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY AND WHERE IS THIS "INTERIM MEASURE"?



I'M SORRY, I CANNOT ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS TO YOUR SATISFACTION AT THIS TIME.

I WILL SAY THAT I AM... A FRIEND... OF YOU AND THE OTHERS. I CANNOT SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.

THE KEY TO THE ENTITY IS ITS OPERATOR. THE ENTITY IS BUT A TOOL. WITHOUT THE OPERATOR, THE ENTITY IS USELESS. IT CAN ONLY EXIST. IT CANNOT THINK. IT CANNOT LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE OPERATOR. IT CAN ONLY SERVE THE OPERATOR.

THIS IS WHAT MAKES THE ENTITY SO DESIRED BY OTHERS. IT PROVIDES POWER WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.



SADLY MY TIME WITH YOU IS ENDING.

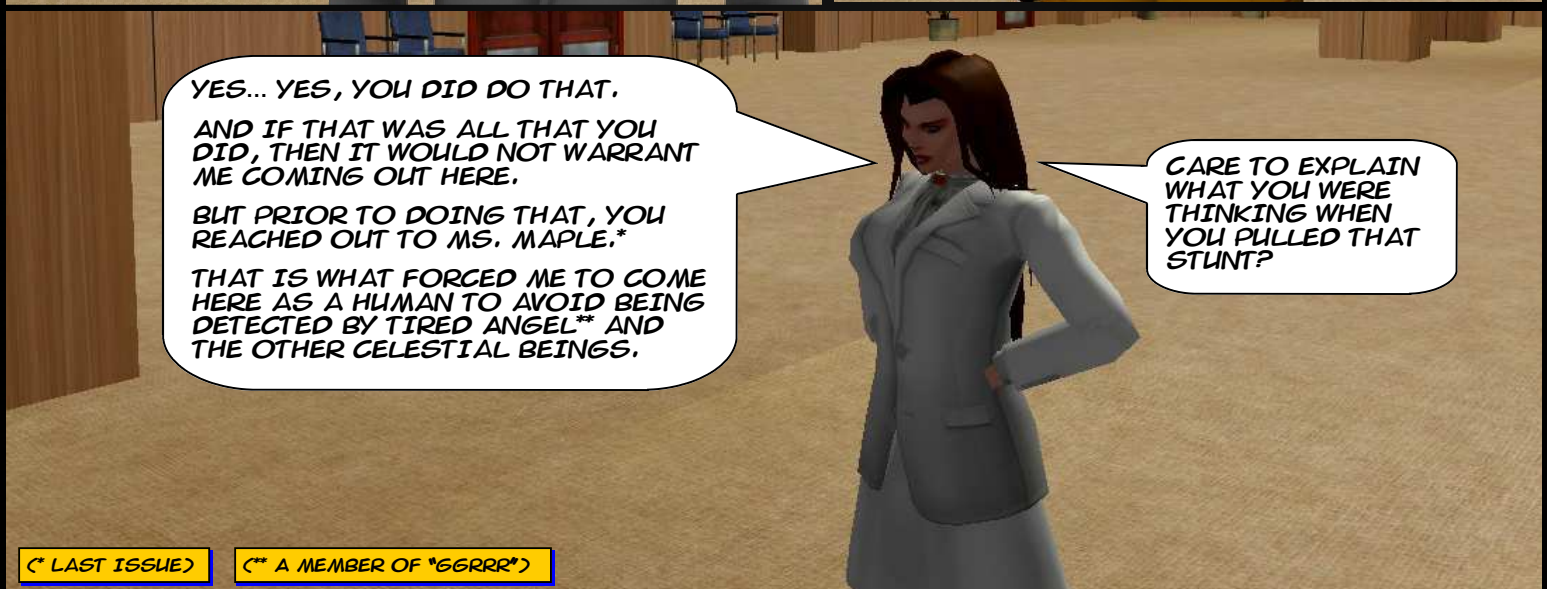
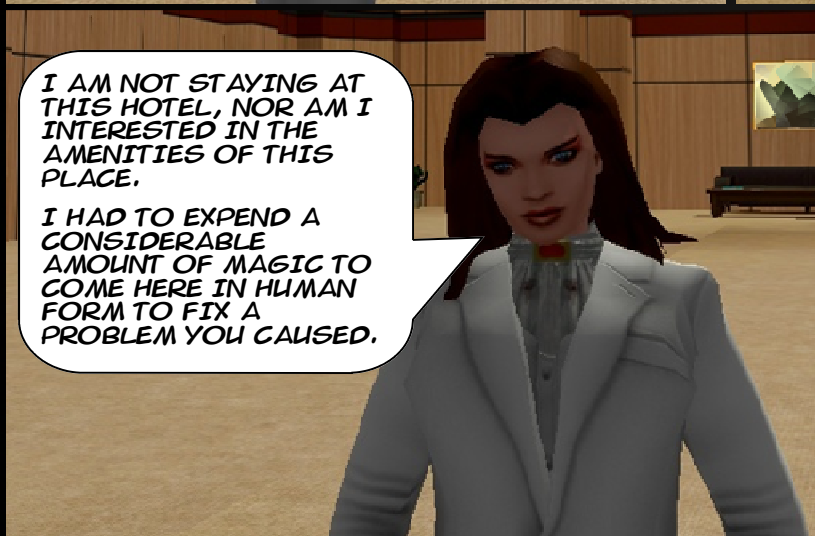
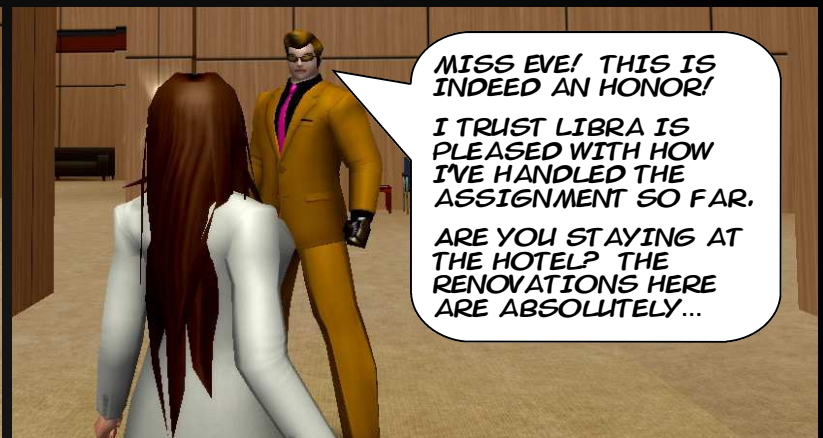
YOU APPEAR TO POSSESS FULL CONTROL OF YOUR SENSES, AND YOUR BODY HAS HEALED WELL FROM YOUR INJURIES.

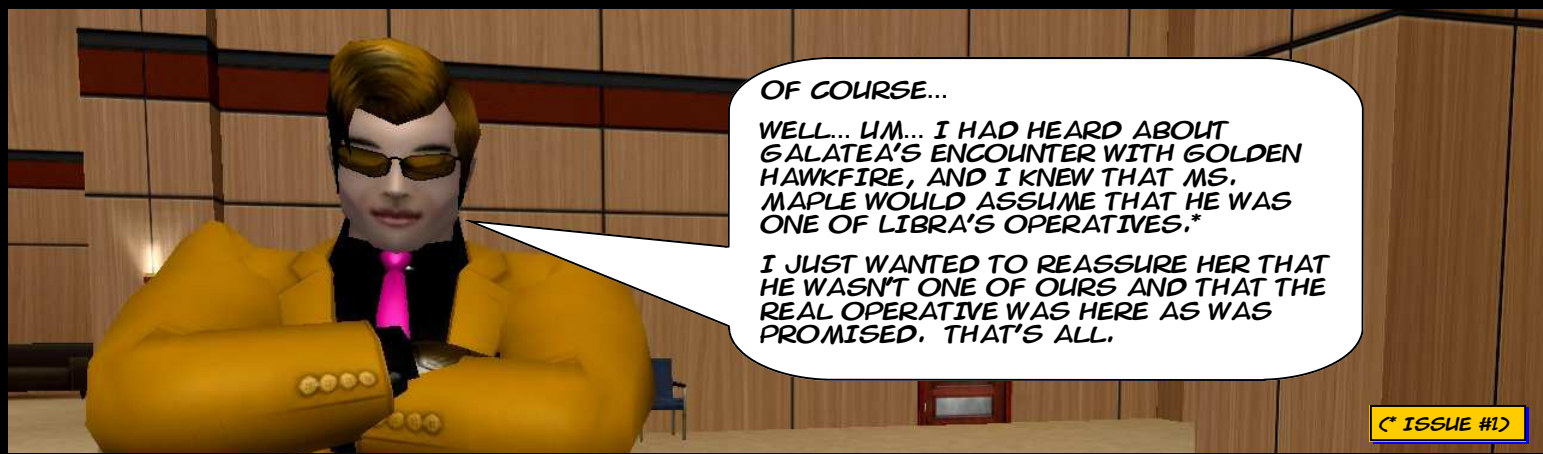
I HOPE THAT'S NOT A CRACK AT THE FACT THAT I'M STILL STANDING HERE NAKED.

SUCH IS NOT THE CASE.

BEHIND YOU IS YOUR TRANSPORT BACK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

WE WILL MEET AGAIN, AND ALL WILL BECOME CLEAR AT THAT POINT.





OF COURSE...

WELL... UH... I HAD HEARD ABOUT GALATEA'S ENCOUNTER WITH GOLDEN HAWKFIRE, AND I KNEW THAT MS. MAPLE WOULD ASSUME THAT HE WAS ONE OF LIBRA'S OPERATIVES.*

I JUST WANTED TO REASSURE HER THAT HE WASN'T ONE OF OURS AND THAT THE REAL OPERATIVE WAS HERE AS WAS PROMISED. THAT'S ALL.

(* ISSUE #1)



REALLY?

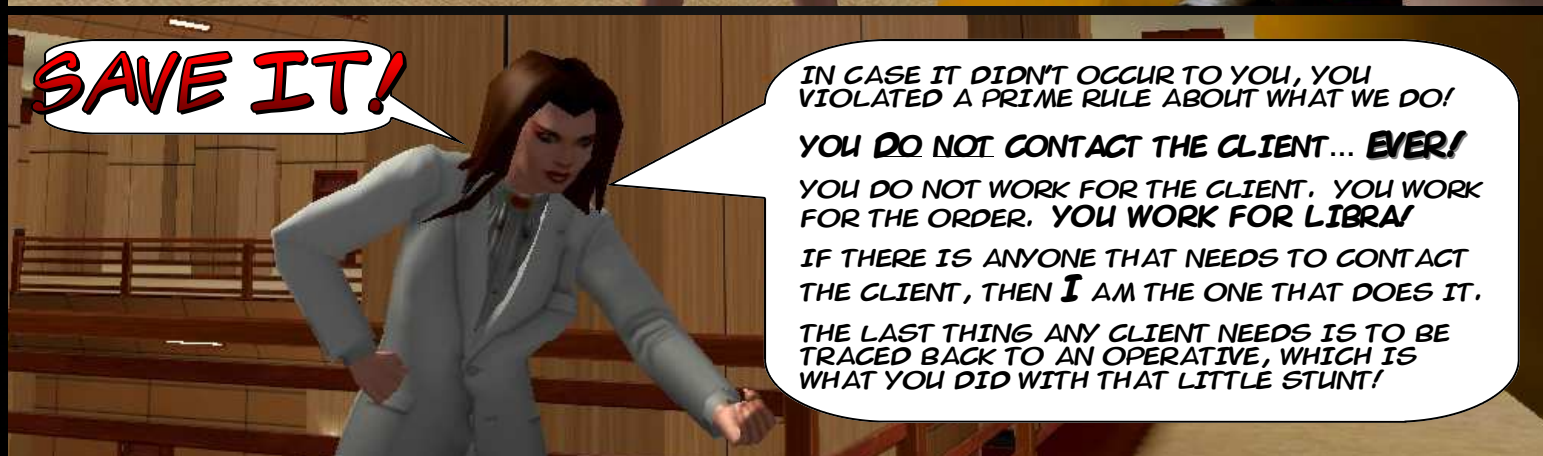
IS THAT REALLY ALL THAT YOU SAID TO HER?

YOU DIDN'T TRY TO SOLICIT MORE JOBS FROM HER? YOU DIDN'T PERSONALLY OFFER YOUR SERVICES TO HER FOR FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS?

UHM...

I THINK I MAY HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT...

BUT IT WAS FOR THE ORDER. I SWEAR IT WAS ALL FOR THE...



SAVE IT!

IN CASE IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO YOU, YOU VIOLATED A PRIME RULE ABOUT WHAT WE DO!

YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE CLIENT... EVER!

YOU DO NOT WORK FOR THE CLIENT. YOU WORK FOR THE ORDER. **YOU WORK FOR LIBRA!**

IF THERE IS ANYONE THAT NEEDS TO CONTACT THE CLIENT, THEN **I** AM THE ONE THAT DOES IT.

THE LAST THING ANY CLIENT NEEDS IS TO BE TRACED BACK TO AN OPERATIVE, WHICH IS WHAT YOU DID WITH THAT LITTLE STUNT!



AND IF I EVEN HEAR SO MUCH AS A RUMOR ABOUT YOU SOLICITING WORK FROM OUR CLIENTS EVER AGAIN, I WILL PERSONALLY BIND YOU, BODY AND SOUL, TO ONE OF MY UNDEAD MINIONS FOREVER!

UH... YES... YES MA'AM...

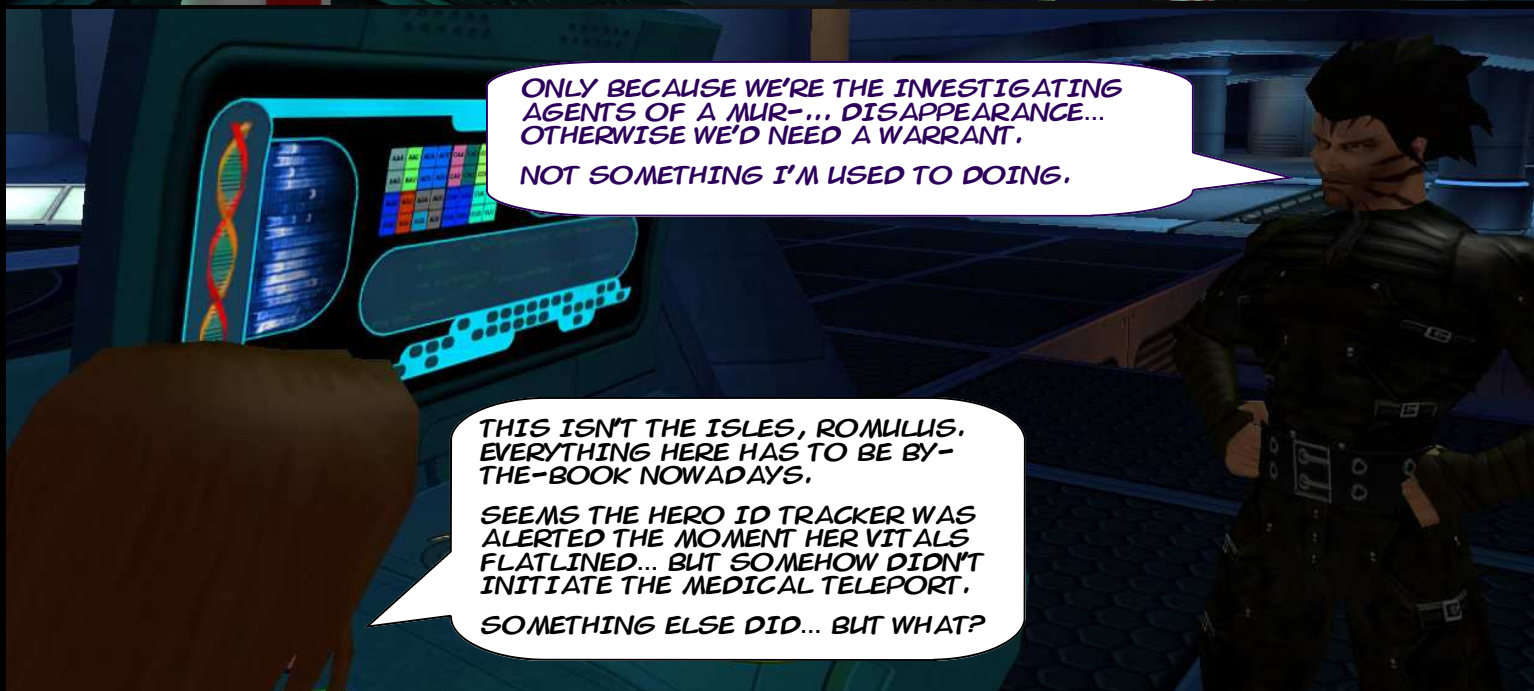
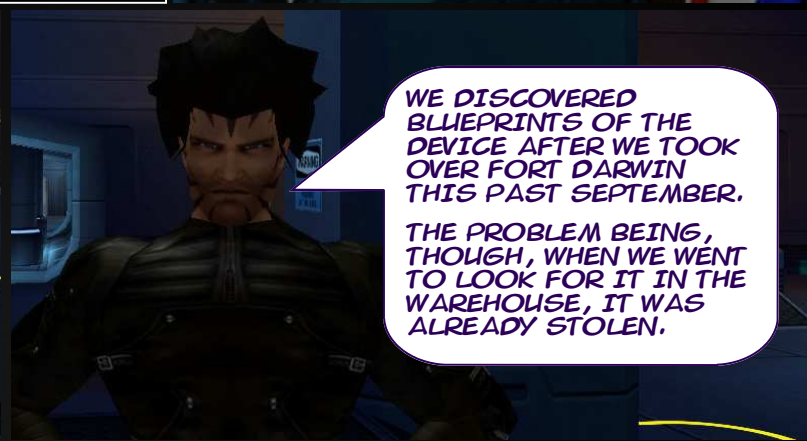
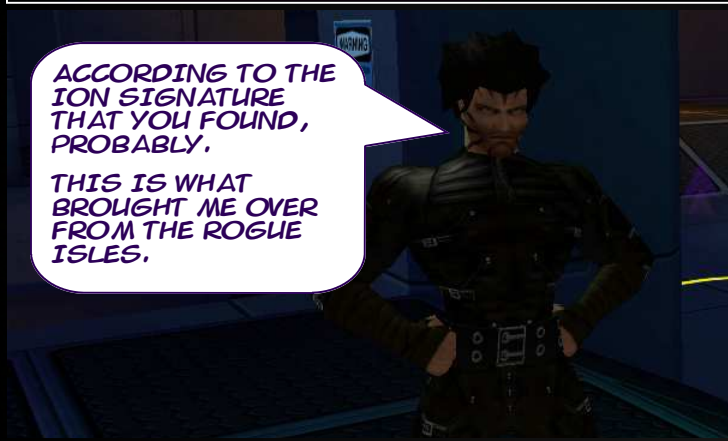
I HAVE TO GO SMOOTH THINGS OVER WITH THE CLIENT NOW.

DO YOUR JOB AND FINISH THE ASSIGNMENT! VERIFY THE KILL!

AND THESE HOTEL COSTS ARE COMING OUT OF YOUR FEE.



FREEDOM CORPS OUTPOST



Is this your idea of a "Withdrawl"?

Every year, there are an estimated 5300 bank robberies in Paragon City alone.

That's over one hundred robberies every week.

Even in the self-professed "City of Heroes", not every robbery is stopped. And the federal government will not cover all of the losses!

That's why banks turn to Sovereign Insurance to supplement their coverage in the likelihood that they will fall victim to crime. Only Sovereign Insurance can bring the peace-of-mind that investors are looking for in these troubled times.

SOVEREIGN INSURANCE

INSURING BANKS SINCE 1934

Not an actual company.

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR NEXT ENHANCEMENT!

Every day, dozens of impressionable heroes end up hideously deformed and de-evolved into repulsive Rikti monkeys that can only run and flagellate.

While the effects are supposed to be "temporary", they can have lasting after-effects for those poor victims. Social shunning, jokes, and bad references to one's body odor, are not uncommon among the many people needlessly affected by substandard enhancements.



The members of the Paragon City Commercial Enhancement Alliance urge all heroes and heroines to only accept ability enhancements from licensed dealers that carry the "Good Powers" Seal of Approval.



This seal ensures that all enhancements sold in that store have been thoroughly tested and approved for use in a crisis.

Be Safe - BUY Safe!

This advertisement has been paid for by the Paragon City Commercial Enhancement Alliance and all its member businesses, including Crey Industries, Cyril Corporation, Orion Labs, Exarch Industries, Future Dynamics, Biotechnix, Demios Innovations, Subgenitcs, and Pandora's Box.

"DADDY, CAN YOU FLY TO HEAVEN?"

WHO WILL DIE?
THE PHALANX BREAKS IN JANUARY

**CITY
HEROES**
FREEDOM

PLAY NOW AT WWW.COH.COM

We're Seeing Red So You Won't Be!

Once upon a time there were three rail lines: Red, Green, and Yellow.

Then came the Rikti Invasion of 2002, and the Red Line and most of the areas that it covered were destroyed. In honor of that monumental loss, all of our trains have since borne the "Red Line" signs.

Now it's time to take things one step further.

To remember our city's loss on the tenth anniversary of those dark times, all of our PTA services have gone "Red" with a special "Red Line Collector's Pass" for \$149.95. This special collector's pass includes a limited-edition "Paragon Red Line" model train as well as a full year's credit for rail access anywhere in Paragon City. All proceeds will go to the Baumton Memorial Fund, helping those still struggling to rebuild their lives from the Rikti Invasion of 2002.

In addition, we've reduced the rates of our normal access to 2002 prices. This includes not only our 10th Anniversary Red Line trains, but also our daily ferry service between Talos Island and Peregrine Island.

We're doing this to show that our commitment to you, the citizens of Paragon City and all outlying areas, has not changed in the past one hundred years.

We will always be here for you, getting you where you're going.




Paragon Transit Authority

Tirelessly serving Paragon City and most outlying areas since 1912.

Visit our website at WWW.PTA.PARA






OKAY... I THINK I CAN SAFELY ELIMINATE THIS BEING HEAVEN OR ANYTHING REMOTELY RESEMBLING AN AFTERLIFE...

UNLESS I NEED TO START ASKING WHAT KIND OF CELESTIAL BEING NEEDS A SUBMARINE.



I'M GUESSING THAT THIS WHOLE ENVIRONMENT IS VIRTUAL...

CORRECT.



SO WHY ALL THE TRAVEL?
WHY NOT JUST PUT ME WHERE I NEED TO BE?



EXAMINATION OF YOUR STATUS TAKES TIME.

ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED TO BE MADE FOR YOUR TRANSITION.


THE PRETENSE OF TRAVEL GIVES TIME FOR THESE THINGS TO BE PERFORMED.

THE SUBMARINE HATCH IS YOUR CONNECTION POINT.



STAND ON THE HATCH AS YOU WOULD A TELEPORT PLATFORM.


WHEN YOU RETURN, REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE TOLD ABOUT THE ENTITY KNOWN AS "GODKILLER".



THE ENTITY IS NOT UNSTOPPABLE.
YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE POWER TO OVERCOME ITS DEFENSES.

THE KEY IS ITS OPERATOR.
IT IS BUT AN EXTENSION OF THE OPERATOR.


OVERCOME ITS DEFENSES,
EXPOSE THE OPERATOR,
DEFEAT THE ENTITY.



OKAY... I'M READY.
AND... THANK YOU.
FOR RESCUING ME
AND FOR GIVING ME
THIS INFORMATION.

IT IS AN HONOR ASSISTING YOU,
GALATEA POWERS.

I CAN SEE WHY THE DOCTORS GAVE
YOU THE NAME "GALATEA", THE MUSE
OF GREEK MYTH, WHEN YOU WERE
THROWN INTO OUR WORLD IN 2007.



THANKS... I THINK...

OUTFIT
RESTORED.



ENGAGE
TRANSIT.



WHAT??
WHERE..



AM... I?

DID I JUST
IMAGINE
THAT?

DID I JUST
SEE THE OLD
GUARDIAN
BASE ON
TALOS?

OR WAS MY
MIND JUST
PLAYING
TRICKS ON
ME?



THINK ABOUT THAT LATER, G.

NO DOUBT THE OTHERS ARE WORRIED SICK ABOUT ME.



GROATOA.

I'M JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE FIGHT.



AND THIS STRANGE "MIDNIGHT SUN" MAGIC JUNK IS STILL IN THE AIR.

WELL... NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW. I HAVE TO GO RALLY THE TROOPS.



THIS IS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA...

I HOPE YOU GALS WEREN'T HAVING A WAKE WITHOUT ME.



YAYA!!!

WELCOME BACK... LYON AND I ARE AT THE FREEDOM CORPS OUTPOST ON TALOS ISLAND ALONG WITH LONGBOW AGENT ROMULLUS.

FREEDOM CORPS SAID YOU WERE KILLED, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND YOU. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

I THINK THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE IT IS "THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS"...

IT'S A LONG STORY AND I WISH I COULD TELL YOU EVERYTHING, BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

ICON, ARE YOU LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS?



I'M HERE. DAYBRIGHT'S HERE AS WELL. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, GALATEA. HOW CAN WE HELP?

<FIRST-STAR GREETINGS, ROMULLUS.>*

<AND TO YOU, PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER.>

WE CAN CHIT-CHAT LATER.

ICON, I NEED YOU TO GET A TRACE READY. WE NEED TO TRACK THE REMOTE SIGNAL THAT GODKILLER'S OPERATOR IS USING TO CONTROL IT.

(* TRANSLATED FROM UNIVERSAL INTER-SPEAK.)



HOW THE PULSE
DID SHE KNOW
ABOUT THAT?

SHE'S THAT
GOOD.
WHAT'S THE
PLAN?



THE PLAN IS I DRAW
GODKILLER OUT, I
KNOCK ENOUGH OF
ITS PERCEPTION
FILTERS FOR ICON
TO TRACE THE
SIGNAL TO THE
SOURCE, THEN YOU
SHUT DOWN THE
OPERATOR.



'AVE YOU GONE
BONKERS?
LAST TIME
'ROUND THAT
THING BEAT YOU
TO A PULP!

YER NOT
FACING THIS
ALONE.
I'M COMING
WITH YOU.



NORMALLY I
WOULDN'T
MIND... BUT
THIS TIME I
THINK I'LL NEED
SOMEONE MORE
POWERFUL.
DAYBRIGHT?



NO.

THIS THING IS A
WAR MACHINE,
AND I AM A
WARSHADE.

GALATEA, I
WOULD BE
HONORED TO
JOIN YOU IN THE
HUNT FOR THIS
DEVICE.



OKAY, I'LL MEET
YOU IN SKYWAY
CITY AND WE'LL
SET THE TRAP.

BUT...

GOOD. DAYBRIGHT
AND I WILL
MONITOR THE
SITUATION FROM
HERE AND GET
READY TO TRACE
THE SIGNAL.
HAPPY HUNTING.



WHAT THE HELL WAS
THAT ABOUT, KENT?

JUST BECAUSE I'M
HUMAN RIGHT NOW
DOESN'T MEAN I
CAN'T TRANSFORM
BACK INTO
DAYBRIGHT AND
HELP OUT GALATEA!



I KNOW THAT, BUT
YOU'RE NEEDED
HERE MORE THAN
OUT IN THE FIELD.

YOU AND I HAVE
TO FINISH
FIXING THAT
LITTLE GLITCH
SO IT WON'T
HAPPEN WHILE
THE TEAM IS OUT
THERE IN BATTLE.

AN HOUR LATER...

SUFFICIENT TO SAY, THE NEWS OF MY DEATH HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED.

WHATTTTT?!?!?!?

NO... NO... THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE!

WE BEAT YOU! WE BROKE YOU! WE DESTROYED YOU!
YOU CAN'T BE ALIVE!

IN FACT, I'M JUST A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED IN MY ALLEGED "EXECUTIONER" FOR NOT COMING OUT TO GLOAT ABOUT THIS SUPPOSED FEAT.

IT'S CALLED BEING A PROFESSIONAL!

HOW THE HELL CAN I GLOAT WHEN MY BOSS SAYS NOT TOP?!

GALATEA POWERS: I'M NOT DEAD! PNN

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT... I'M HERE IN SKYWAY CITY IF MY "KILLER" WANTS A REMATCH.

BUT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN SO FAR...

... THE ONLY THING "ULTIMATE" ABOUT IT IS ITS OWN HYPE.

"GODKILLER"? NO, YOU'RE MORE LIKE A "ONE-HIT WONDER".

GALATEA ISSUES CHALLENGE PNN

POWERS MOCKS "GODKILLER" PNN

OH IT'S ON BEATCH!

WE BEAT YOU BEFORE AND WE'LL BEAT YOU AGAIN!

AND THIS TIME AROUND WE'LL MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS JUST HOW POWERFUL WE ARE!

NOBODY WILL QUESTION OUR SKILLS THIS TIME!

SKYWAY CITY

SHOW YOURSELF!

WITH PLEASURE!

IT'S NOT AS MUCH FUN WHEN YOUR OPPONENT KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE, IS IT?

ACK!

KA-POW!

AND I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I BROUGHT A FRIEND TO OUR DATE.

WHAT?

AND THERE GO YOUR PERCEPTION FILTERS!

BZZZT!

GOT IT.
THE OPERATOR IS IN ATLAS PARK.
SHUT HIM DOWN.

SOMEWHERE IN ATLAS PARK...

HEY, 'OW IS IT THIS GUY GETS ALL THE NEW-TECH AND WE'RE BUMMIN' OFF S.E.R.A.P.H.?

JUST BE THANKFUL WE HAVE THAT MUCH. THE PPD NEEDS TO TURN TO GREY AND CYCORP FOR THEIR TECH, AND THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS.

THAT MUST BE HIM.

CRIPES, HE LOOKS LIKE HE SHOULD BE IN A BLOODY BOY-BAND!

NO! YOU'RE RUINING IT!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO FIND ME!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK!

I'M WARNING YOU RIGHT NOW TO POWER DOWN!

NOW DON'T BE AN IDIOT, MATE. SHE'S A COP, I'M A HERO, AND YOU'RE BUSTED!

WHOA!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
KILL THEM!
KILL THEM!

CAN'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN 'EM FIRST, EHP?





AGAIN, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY ASSOCIATE'S RATHER AMATEUR ACTIONS DURING THIS TASK.

I SUPPOSE WE ALL HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE, MISS EVE.

 **MS. ELLE MAPLE**
ROCINANTE GROUP

ALTHOUGH I AM SURPRISED AT YOUR CHOICE OF MEETING PLACES, GIVEN YOUR NEED TO KEEP A RELATIVE LOW PROFILE.

BELIEVE ME, MS. MAPLE, SECURITY CAMERAS MEAN NOTHING WHEN IT COMES TO A CONCEALMENT SPELL DESIGNED TO HIDE ME FROM CELESTIAL BEINGS.

SECURITY CAMERA 6

STILL, I AM SORRY THAT WE FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK THAT YOU GAVE US.

GALATEA POWERS STILL LIVES, AND HER SURVIVING ASSOCIATES ARE STILL ACTIVE IN PARAGON CITY.

I WOULD UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY IF YOU ASKED FOR A RETURN OF THE MONEY THAT YOU PAID US.

NONSENSE!
YOUR OPERATIVE DID EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO HAVE DONE.

GALATEA POWERS MAY STILL LIVE, BUT NOW SHE HAS SOMETHING SHE NEVER DID BEFORE...
A TASTE OF FEAR.

STILL, IT IS A PITY THAT IT HAD TO COME AT THE COST OF YOUR "GODKILLER" DEVICE.
A RATHER...
FORMIDABLE DEVICE...
IN THE RIGHT HANDS.

YES, IT IS QUITE FORMIDABLE.

BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE CAN STILL RETRIEVE IT AT ANY TIME.

AND BY THEN IT WILL BE EVEN MORE POWERFUL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ROMULLUS GETS THE CREDIT?!

FREEDOM CORPS AND THE FEDS CONSIDER RETRIEVING GODKILLER TO BE A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

THEY GET GODKILLER AND WE GET TO SKIP FILLING OUT ALL THE PAPERWORK. IT'S A WIN-WIN FOR US ALL.

YEH, WOL IT STILL SUCKS.

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT RISKED YOUR OWN BLOODY LIFE OVR IT.
YOU'RE THE ONE EVERYONE THOUGHT WAS DEAD.

AND... AND YOU HAD US ALL WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO GET KILLED AN' ALL.

I LOST ONE SIS... I DON'T WANNA LOSE ANOTHER JUST YET.

... THANKS, KATIE.

IT'S NICE TO KNOW I'D BE MISSED IF I REALLY WERE TO DIE.

YEH, WOL I ALSO WOULDN'T WANT TO BE THE ONE T' BREAK TH' NEWS TO YER FAN-BASE.
PIPPA'S GOT NOTHIN' COMPARED T' YOU.

GIGGLE

TELL YOU WHAT... LAST ONE TO THE RAIL STATION MAKES DINNER TONIGHT.

OKAY, BUT...

'OLD UP! YOU DIDN'T SAY WHEN WE'D BE STARTIN'!

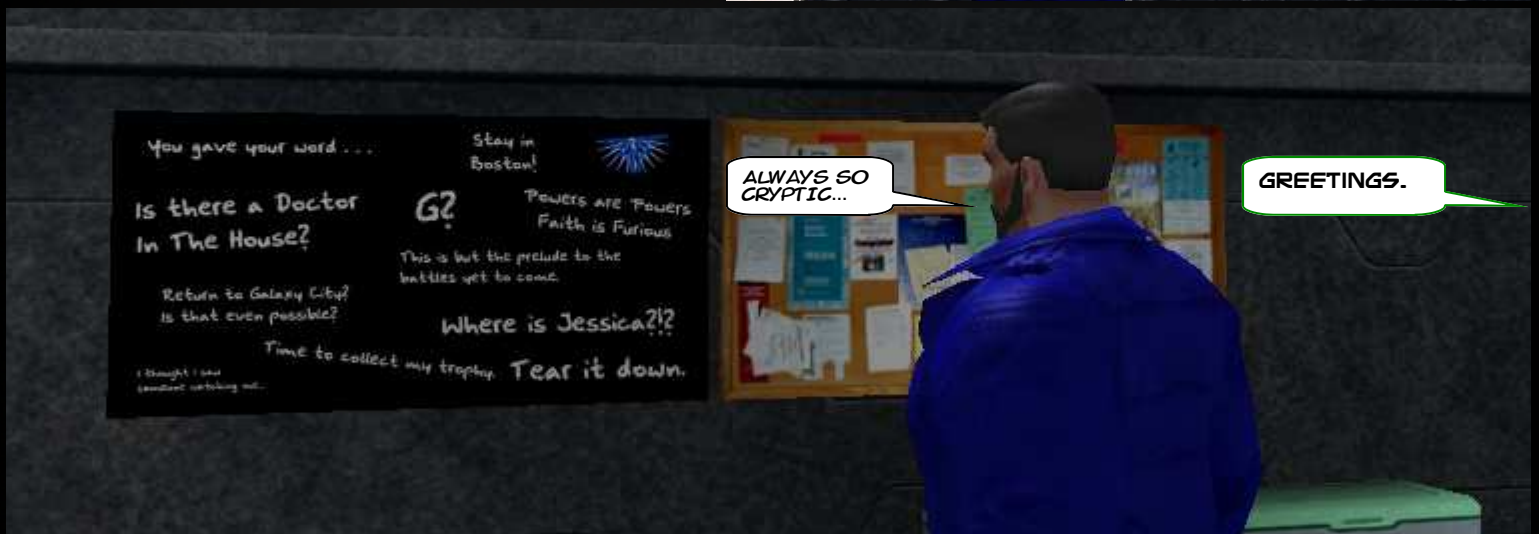
I'M STILL NEW TO THIS FLYING THING!

THINK OF IT AS ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.
BESIDES, I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING TAKE-OUT TONIGHT.



ARE YOU
IN HERE?

ICON POWERS
RETIRED SUPERHERO



You gave your word... Stay in Boston!
Is there a Doctor In The House? G? Powers are Powers Faith is Furious
Return to Galaxy City? Is that even possible? This is but the prelude to the battles yet to come.
Time to collect my trophy. Tear it down. Where is Jessica?!?

ALWAYS SO
CRYPTIC...

GREETINGS.



THERE YOU ARE!
I JUST WANTED TO
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIMELY WORK
LAST NIGHT.



IT WAS JUST
HAPPENSTANCE THAT
I WAS STILL HERE
ANALYZING THE
MAINFRAME WHEN THE
INCIDENT OCCURRED.
I NOTICED THAT THE
FLAW HAS SINCE BEEN
CORRECTED.



YES, DAYBRIGHT AND I
MANAGED TO FIX THE
SUBROUTINE SO THE SYSTEM
SHOULD NOT KICK IN UNTIL
WE'RE READY TO REVEAL IT.
AND, THANKFULLY, GALATEA
SEEMS TO BE NONE THE
WISER ABOUT WHERE SHE
REALLY WAS.
I TAKE IT YOU'VE
CONSIDERED MY OFFER?

YES. I HAVE CONSIDERED
YOUR OFFER, AND GIVEN
RECENT EVENTS, I FEEL
THIS WOULD BE WHERE I
COULD BEST BE OF
ASSISTANCE WITHOUT
DRAWING TOO MUCH NOTICE.
MY SERVICES ARE AT YOUR
DISPOSAL, ICON POWERS.

WHO IS THIS MYSTERY FIGURE?
FIND OUT IN FUTURE ISSUES!

POWER TRIP



Words of wisdom and reference from writer and creator David 2.

FROM THE DESK OF...

Kent Poderes Technical Consultant

Tainted Eve:

In my prolonged existence through several universes, I have come to know that gods, demons, devils, and angels do exist. I have seen both good and evil in all forms, shapes, sounds, and smells. I am proof that a man can fly, and I know that there is such a thing as a "fallen angel".

Tainted Eve proudly claims that she is just such a being, and I have no reason in the world to question her credentials.



In conversations with the Archangel Uriel, otherwise known as Tired Angel of GGRRR, and with our own Peacebringer Redeemer Daybright, I have learned much about Tainted Eve's past to know that I should never take her lightly.

Eve was formerly a celestial host, a position of honor second only to the archangels. Her roles as a host changed over the millennia, first as an avenging angel, a leader of the bull-hosts, to later serve as a guardian angel, watching over the defenseless.

Details are sketchy, but apparently her last assigned guardianship turned out badly, and she began to question her role as a host. It was during this time that she was seduced by a demon disguised as a mortal. Somehow knowledge of that seduction was kept from her superiors until it began to manifest on her "physically". When the corruption was discovered, she was judged and expelled, and her lover was obliterated.

It is said that she could have chosen life as a normal human, free from torment. Instead, she chose being mortal but retaining her angelic features, which she then augmented with dark magic that she learned from her lover's patron, the mysterious entity known only as "Libra". It also marked her for death by all celestial forces.

Since then, Tainted Eve has served Libra, including in setting up an organization based in the Rogue Isles known as the Libra Order. It's Libra that keeps her from being hunted by the other celestials.

We've had some dealings with the Order in the past, including being allowed to impersonate some of their operatives to block the sale of our secrets on the Black Market, and while we have a friend in the organization, we've known better than to completely trust the either the group or their leader.

Don't let her beauty fool you either. Underneath that heavenly beauty is a demonic fury that would bring down creation itself if given the opportunity. And backing that up is a small army of undead minions that she can summon at any time to do her bidding. She may be angelic, but she is certainly no angel when it comes to getting what she wants.

Continues on next page...

Writer's Note:

There have been some references these past two issues to an event in 2005 in Paragon City involving Lord Recluse and the Greek Titan Prometheus. These events were shown in the first three issues of the "City of Heroes" comic book series as published by Top Cow Publishing (a subsidiary of Image Comics).



In that storyline (later titled "*Hard Crash*"), Lord Recluse used his Mu Mystics to enchant the War Walls in Paragon City, which then shut down all superpowers and the medical teleporters. The Freedom Phalanx was forced to disband, along with most heroes and villains inside the city that suddenly found themselves without powers. It took Manticore to bring the team back and to investigate what had happened. This led to a mystical battle between the Freedom Phalanx and Prometheus, with Manticore actually killing Statesman to appease Prometheus.

There's a lot more that goes on in those three issues, and the good news is that you can read those issues for yourself for free thanks to the folks at the City of Heroes MMO.

All of the "City of Heroes" comic series, from the original one-shot from Dark Horse Comics to the two series from Blue King Comics and Top Cow to the fan-made follow-up specials from ChaseArcanum can all be found either by going to the City of Heroes website at **www.CityOfHeroes.com**, or by following the links posted at the official website of the Guardian Powers...

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Got money troubles? Need a job? Let General Income show you how to become a first-rate "Security Consultant" in no time!

That is... if you define "security consultant" as someone that robs banks.

It's time that our heroes find out the real story behind this "growing business" in Paragon City and see if it is "Too Big To Fail".

Plus, Icon Powers searches for his fellow Guardian Exile, MidKnight X. Can the "retired" hero talk the street vigilante out of his quest for revenge against the Rocinante Group?

Find out in Issue #4!



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