

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



GO TO PRAETORIA!

IN THE NAME OF
EMPEROR COLE,
YOU WILL ALL BE
PUT TO **DEATH!**



ISSUE 13
2012



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. CONTINUING TO OPERATE COVERTLY AS A "GHOST GROUP", THEY ARE KNOWN COLLECTIVELY AS...

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



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.

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.



ALEX WENTWORTH - PARAGON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FORMERLY THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER, THIS ONE-TIME "CELEBUTANT" BECAME THE WORST NIGHT MARE FOR CROOKED COPS AND ABUSIVE PROSECUTORS. NOW HE WORKS FROM WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO BRING IT IN LINE.

EXGEMINI - FORMER ASCENDED

THERE IS MUCH ABOUT NATHAN FURIAN THAT IS A SECRET. HE ONCE WAS A COSMIC POWER, BUT SUPPOSEDLY GAVE IT UP BECAUSE OF A NEWFOUND LOVE FOR HUMANITY. ONE FEARS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THAT FAD FADES AWAY.



FURIA POWERS - PRAETORIAN SUPERHERO

IN ANOTHER REALITY, SHE'S THE LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF THE LEGENDARY POWERS FAMILY. SHE'S MADE A VOW TO SEE JUSTICE DONE, AND TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF HER YOUNGER SISTER.

"PRAETORIA"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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NEW TROY DISTRICT - TALOS ISLAND

PARAGON CITY, R.I. USA - "PRIMAL UNIVERSE"

HELIOS TOWERS - HERO-FRIENDLY CONDOMINIUM

INCOMING PHONE
CALL FOR GALATEA
POWERS.

"TAKE A
MESSAGE."

INCOMING PHONE
CALL FOR GALATEA
POWERS.

"I SAID TAKE
A MESSAGE!"

THIS IS A SEPARATE
PHONE CALL FROM
THE SAME CALLER.

THEY CAN WAIT
UNTIL I'M DONE
WITH MY SHOWER.
TAKE A MESSAGE.

INCOMING PHONE
CALL FOR GALATEA
POWERS.

WHY DID I AGREE
TO HAVE THE CPCU
SYSTEM TIED INTO
MY HOME SYSTEM?

PLEASE TAKE A
MESSAGE!

CALLER IS
NOT LEAVING
MESSAGES.

INCOMING PHONE
CALL FOR GALATEA
POWERS.

D@MN IT!
SEND IT TO THE
BATHROOM
PHONE.

THIS IS
GALATEA
POWERS.

MISS POWERS,
MY NAME IS
BRADY AND I'M
RICHARD CYRIL'S
SCHEDULER.

MISTER CYRIL HAS
PENCILED YOU IN FOR
FIFTEEN MINUTES OF
TIME TO DISCUSS THE
MATTER OF GALAXY CITY.
EIGHT A.M., CYCORP
FACILITY SEVEN IN
ATLAS PARK.

EIGHT AM,
WHAT DAY?
TOMORROW?

ACTUALLY... IT'S
EIGHT A.M. TODAY.
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO CALL YOU.

WHAT?!

BUT THAT'S IN
TWENTY MINUTES!



I'M SORRY, BUT I WAS TOLD THAT'S THE ONLY TIME HE WILL BE WILLING TO TALK WITH YOU.

AARRGH!
OKAY, TELL HIM I'LL BE THERE.



HATE HAVING TO SPIN-DRY AFTER TAKING MY SHOWER!

 GALATEA POWERS
OTHERWORLD HERO

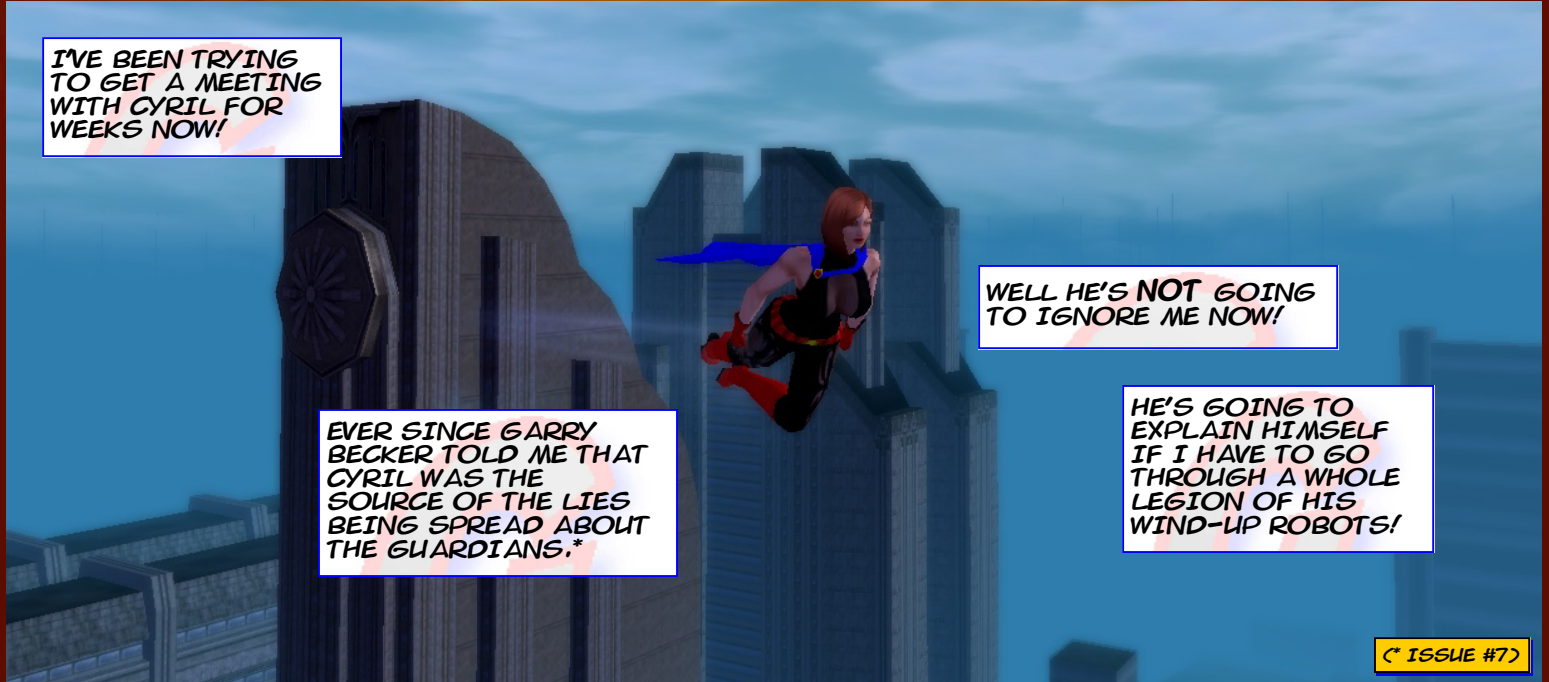


OPEN THE SECRET EXIT FOR HEROES...

*TYPE
*TYPE
*TYPE
CLICK



AND I'M OUT WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING THAT I LIVE THERE!



I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET A MEETING WITH CYRIL FOR WEEKS NOW!

EVER SINCE GARRY BECKER TOLD ME THAT CYRIL WAS THE SOURCE OF THE LIES BEING SPREAD ABOUT THE GUARDIANS.*

WELL HE'S NOT GOING TO IGNORE ME NOW!

HE'S GOING TO EXPLAIN HIMSELF IF I HAVE TO GO THROUGH A WHOLE LEGION OF HIS WIND-UP ROBOTS!

(* ISSUE #7)



I'M NOT ENTIRELY SUPPORTIVE OF THIS PLAN, MISTER POWERS.

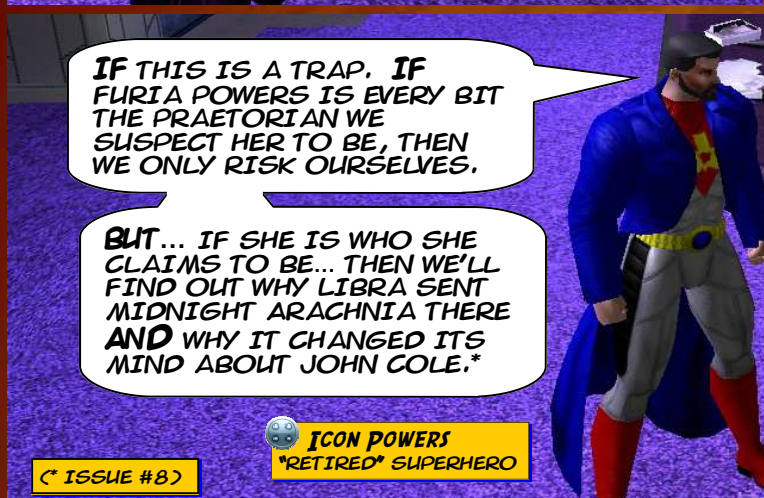


THE LADY GREY
VANGUARD DIRECTOR



VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS

THAT'S WHY ONLY MYSELF AND EXGEMINI ARE GOING.



IF THIS IS A TRAP. IF FURIA POWERS IS EVERY BIT THE PRAETORIAN WE SUSPECT HER TO BE, THEN WE ONLY RISK OURSELVES.

BUT... IF SHE IS WHO SHE CLAIMS TO BE... THEN WE'LL FIND OUT WHY LIBRA SENT MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA THERE AND WHY IT CHANGED ITS MIND ABOUT JOHN COLE.*



ICON POWERS
"RETIRED" SUPERHERO

(* ISSUE #8)



OKAY, AND THEN WHAT? YOU JUST CHECK IN AND THEN HEAD BACK HOME?



I AGREE THAT WE NEED TO FIND HER AND MAKE SURE THAT SHE'S OKAY...



ALEX WENTWORTH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

... BUT THERE WAS A REASON WHY SHE WAS SENT THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND IF THAT REASON HAS NOT BEEN FULFILLED YET, THEN LIBRA WILL DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE SURE THAT SHE DOES NOT RETURN.

REMEMBER THAT LIBRA SEES ITSELF AS A STRATEGIST. EVERYTHING IT HAS DONE HAS BEEN FOR SOME ULTERIOR PURPOSE, INCLUDING ARRANGING FURIA TO MEET WITH LYON IN POCKET D.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT LYON WOULD SIT THIS OUT AFTER MEETING HER PRAETORIAN SISTER.*

(* LAST ISSUE)



I AGREE WITH ALEX. AT THE VERY LEAST, LYON WOULD WANT FURIA TO COME TO OUR UNIVERSE, AND I CAN'T SEE THAT RIGHT NOW WITH EMPEROR COLE THREATENING US WITH INVASION.



THEN THIS WILL BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO FIND OUT WHERE THIS FAITH POWERS STANDS.

GHOST FALCON SAYS THAT THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE RESISTANCE THAT HAVE TAKEN UP HIGH-RANKING POSITIONS IN COLE'S REGIME TO HELP FACILITATE HIS OUSTER.

IF FURIA IS ONE OF THOSE KINDS OF PRAETORIANS, THEN SHE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE US TO WHERE MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA IS HIDING.

AND IF IT IS A TRAP...

WELL IF IT IS, THEN I WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE LYON AROUND WHEN EXGEMINI GETS ANGRY.

EVEN I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND A ST ARCHILD'S WRATH.



I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE IMPRESSED OR CONCERNED BY THAT.

ALL RIGHT... PROVIDED SHE PROVES TO BE THE KIND OF PERSON SHE CLAIMS, I'LL START THE PROCESS OF ALLOW HER GUARDED ACCESS WITHIN PARAGON CITY.



EX, YOU CAN TELL FURIA THAT VANGUARD WILL HOLD UP TO THEIR END OF THE DEAL, PROVIDED SHE DOES THE SAME.

UNDERSTOOD.
WE'LL MEET YOU IN POCKET D.



GOOD LUCK, KENT.

I HOPE YOU CAN FIND JESSICA.

YES, GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH.

GOOD LUCK AND GODSPEED.

ATLAS PARK

7:51AM



7:58AM

MISTER CYRIL,
YOUR SECRETARY
SAID I WOULD
FIND YOU HERE.



SHE'S TWO
MINUTES
EARLY.

RICHARD CYRIL
CYRIL CORPORATION



MISTER CYRIL
WILL SEE YOU
WHEN HE IS
READY.



EXCUSE ME, BUT
HE CALLED ME.

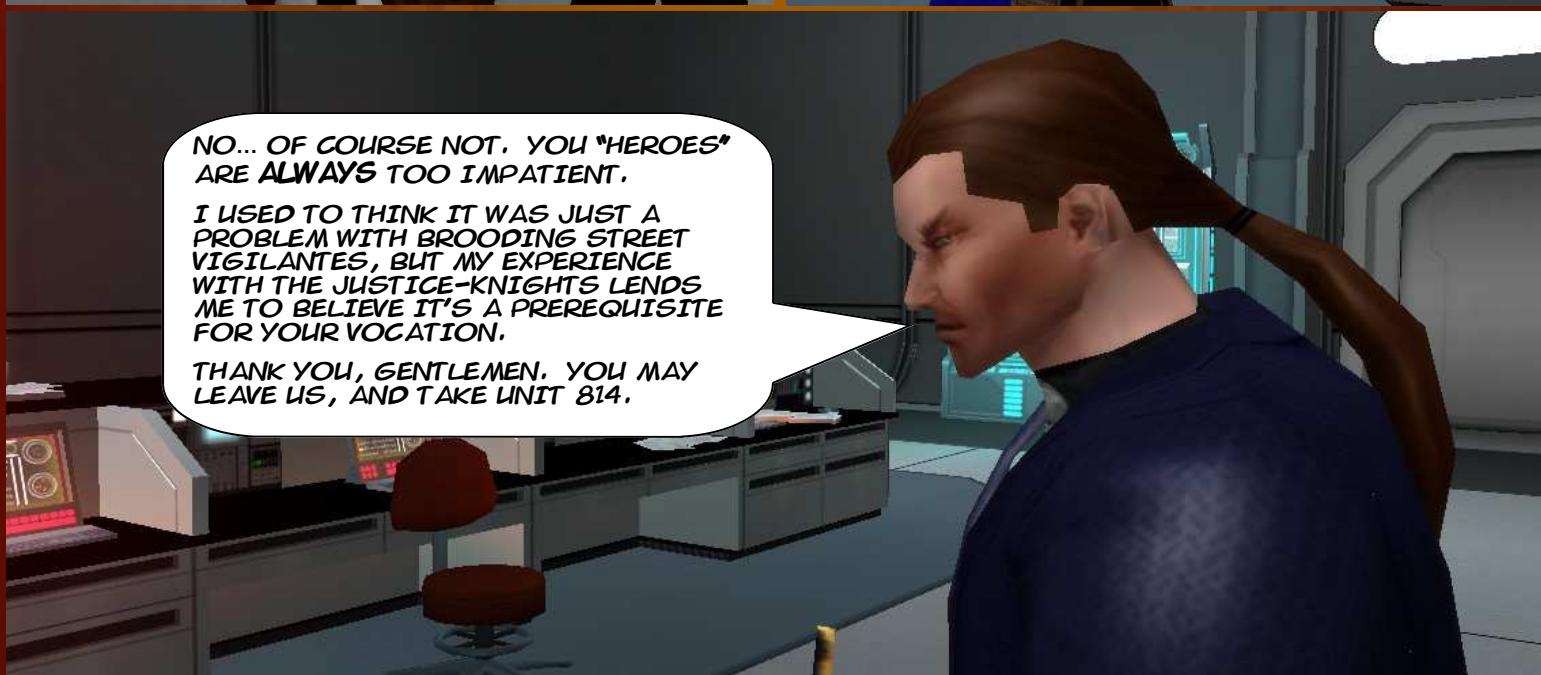
AND I'M IN NO
MOOD TO PLAY
"TOSS-THE-
MINION".



NO... OF COURSE NOT. YOU "HEROES"
ARE ALWAYS TOO IMPATIENT.

I USED TO THINK IT WAS JUST A
PROBLEM WITH BROODING STREET
VIGILANTES, BUT MY EXPERIENCE
WITH THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS LENDS
ME TO BELIEVE IT'S A PREREQUISITE
FOR YOUR VOCATION.

THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN. YOU MAY
LEAVE US, AND TAKE UNIT 814.



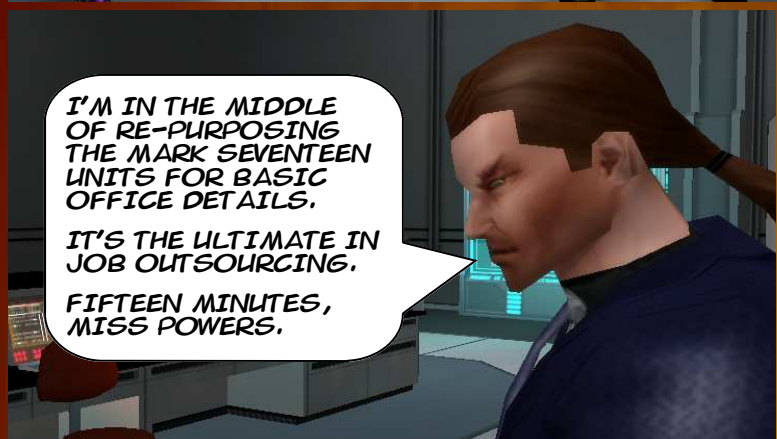


GO ON.

U-UN-UN-UN-
UNDERSTOOD.



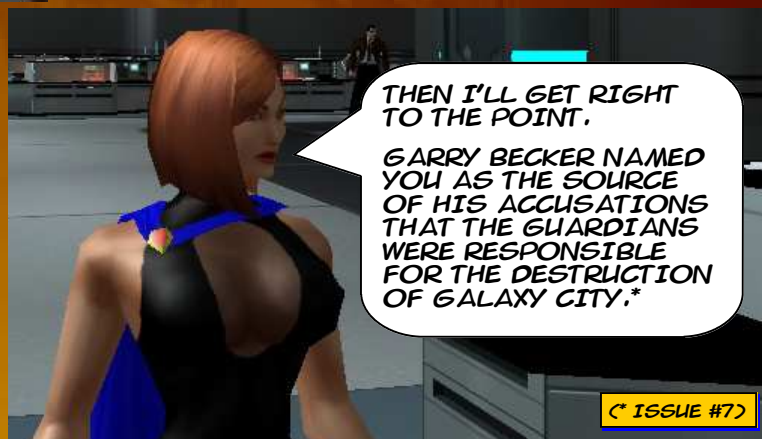
I WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT YOUR
CYTRON UNITS
WOULD HAVE BEEN A
LITTLE MORE
ADVANCED BY NOW.
IT'S BEEN, WHAT,
FIVE YEARS?



I'M IN THE MIDDLE
OF RE-PURPOSING
THE MARK SEVENTEEN
UNITS FOR BASIC
OFFICE DETAILS.

IT'S THE ULTIMATE IN
JOB OUTSOURCING.

FIFTEEN MINUTES,
MISS POWERS.



THEN I'LL GET RIGHT
TO THE POINT.

GARRY BECKER NAMED
YOU AS THE SOURCE
OF HIS ACCUSATIONS
THAT THE GUARDIANS
WERE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DESTRUCTION
OF GALAXY CITY.*

(* ISSUE #7)

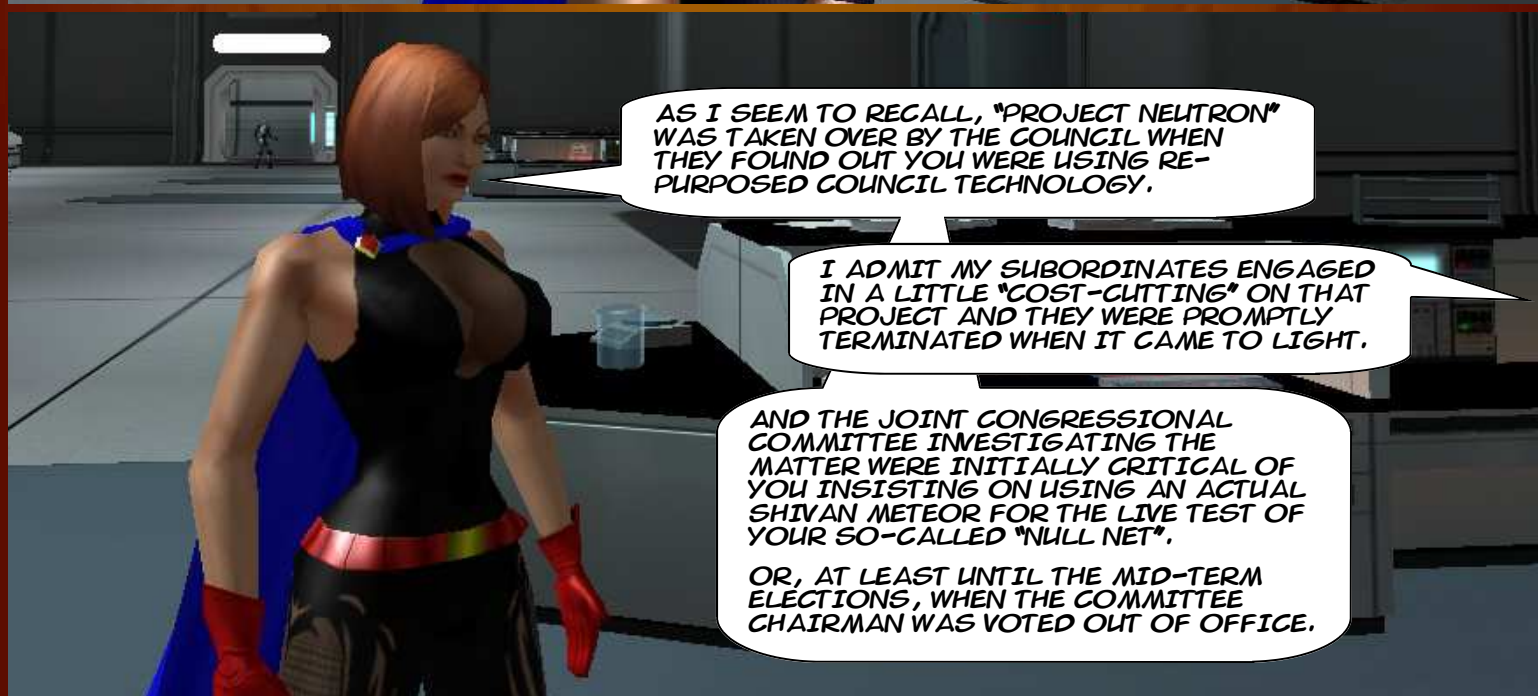


IS THAT TRUE?
AND IF SO, WHAT
PROOF DO YOU
HAVE?

YES, IT IS TRUE. I PROVIDED THE
INFORMATION THAT MISTER
BECKER USED ON THE INTERNET,
AND I STAND BY MY CLAIMS.

DOC TOR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
BRINGING THE SHIVAN METEORS
TO EARTH, AS WELL AS
SABOTAGING THE DEFENSE
SYSTEM CODE-NAMED "PROJECT
NEUTRON" TWO YEARS AGO.*

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #10)



AS I SEEM TO RECALL, "PROJECT NEUTRON"
WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE COUNCIL WHEN
THEY FOUND OUT YOU WERE USING RE-
PURPOSED COUNCIL TECHNOLOGY.

I ADMIT MY SUBORDINATES ENGAGED
IN A LITTLE "COST-CUTTING" ON THAT
PROJECT AND THEY WERE PROMPTLY
TERMINATED WHEN IT CAME TO LIGHT.

AND THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE
MATTER WERE INITIALLY CRITICAL OF
YOU INSISTING ON USING AN ACTUAL
SHIVAN METEOR FOR THE LIVE TEST OF
YOUR SO-CALLED "NULL NET".

OR, AT LEAST UNTIL THE MID-TERM
ELECTIONS, WHEN THE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN WAS VOTED OUT OF OFFICE.



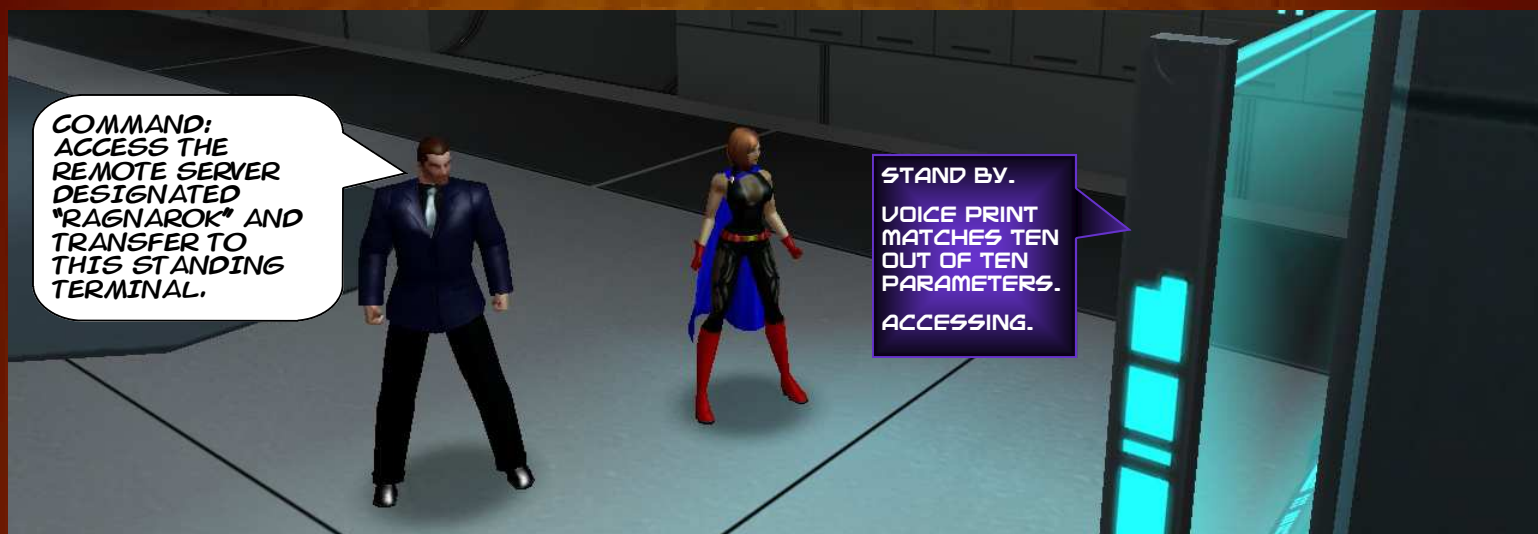
SUCH IS THE NATURE OF POLITICS, OF COURSE.

BUT THAT DOES NOT DETRACT FROM THE EVIDENCE THAT I HAVE GATHERED.



BUT RATHER THAN BANTER ABOUT, I'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND LET YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF.

I CAN PULL IT UP FROM THE REMOTE SERVER TO ANY TERMINAL HERE.



COMMAND: ACCESS THE REMOTE SERVER DESIGNATED "RAGNAROK" AND TRANSFER TO THIS STANDING TERMINAL.

STAND BY.

VOICE PRINT MATCHES TEN OUT OF TEN PARAMETERS.
ACCESSING.



HAVE TO GIVE CREDIT TO THE LATE SALLY BRIGHT FOR THE VOICE SECURITY.*

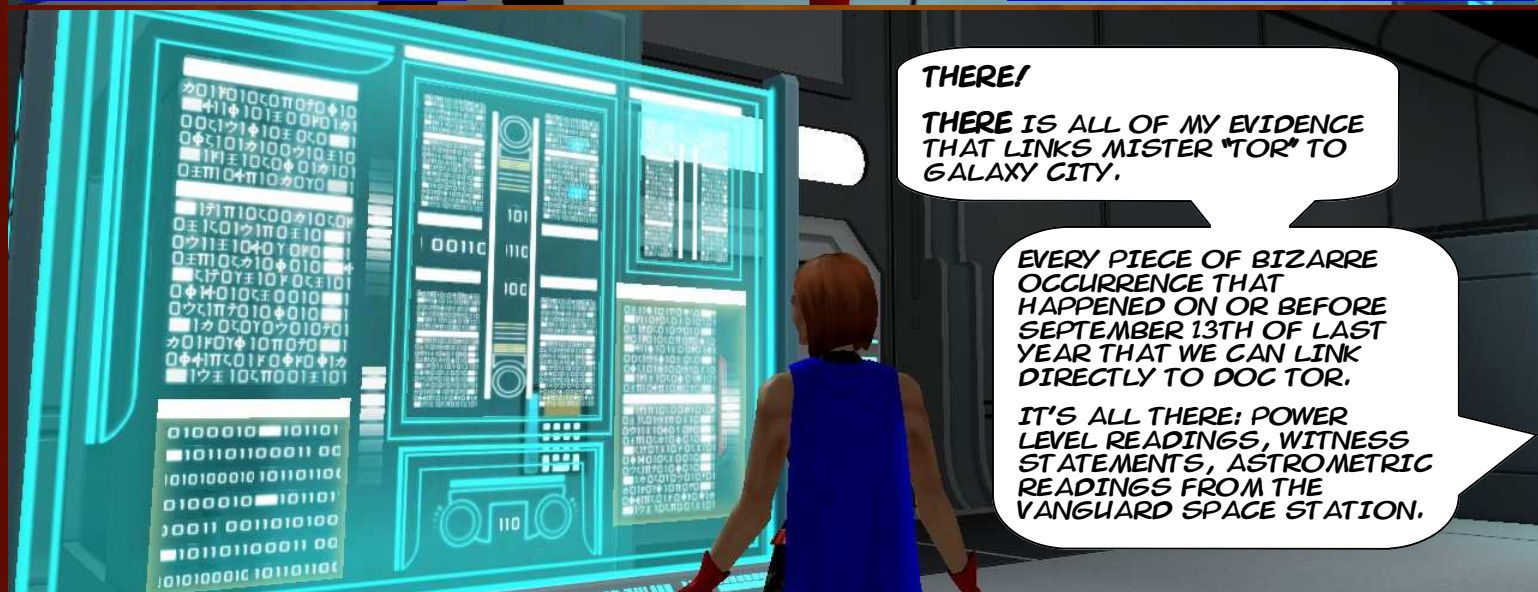
HER IDEAS, BUT MY TECHNOLOGY.

DON'T BE TOO FLIPPANT ABOUT INVOKING HER NAME. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS IN THE EARLY YEARS BEFORE SHE WAS MURDERED.**

COMPLETE.
FILE ACCESS GRANTED.

(* SALLY BRIGHT IS THE HUMAN HALF OF THE KHELDIAN HYBRID DAYBRIGHT)

(** AND THEN GOT BETTER IN "SPOTLIGHT" #12)

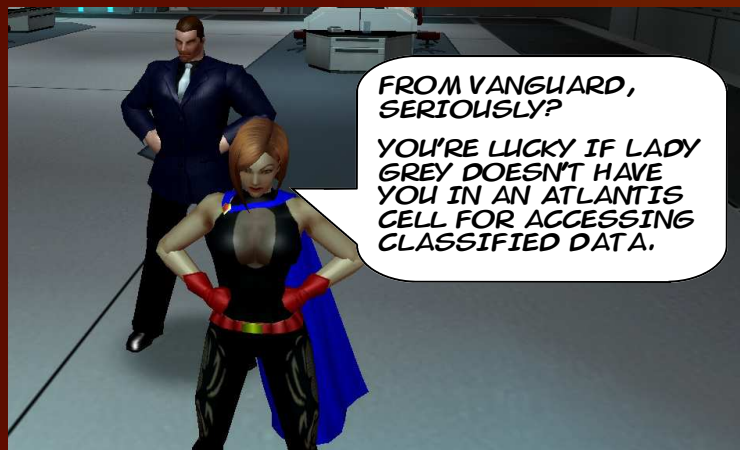


THERE!

THERE IS ALL OF MY EVIDENCE THAT LINKS MISTER "TOR" TO GALAXY CITY.

EVERY PIECE OF BIZARRE OCCURRENCE THAT HAPPENED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 13TH OF LAST YEAR THAT WE CAN LINK DIRECTLY TO DOC TOR.

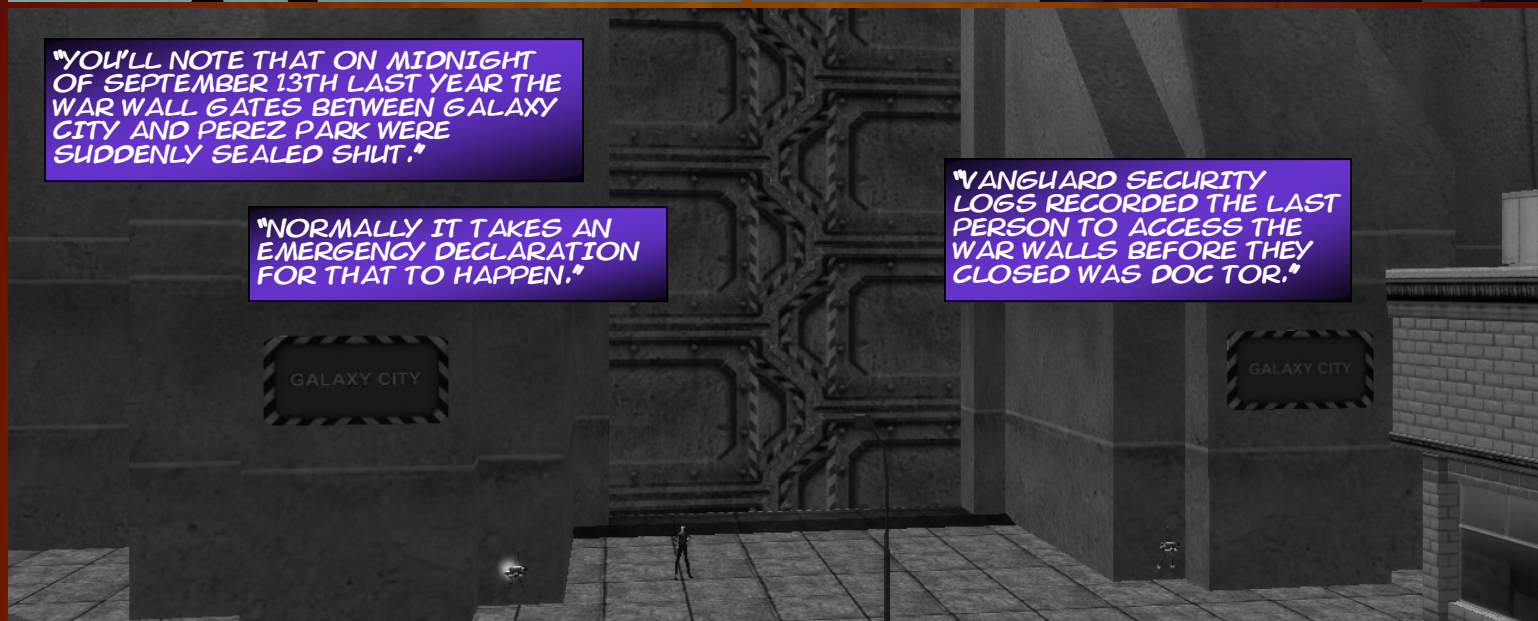
IT'S ALL THERE: POWER LEVEL READINGS, WITNESS STATEMENTS, ASTROMETRIC READINGS FROM THE VANGUARD SPACE STATION.



FROM VANGUARD,
SERIOUSLY?
YOU'RE LUCKY IF LADY
GREY DOESN'T HAVE
YOU IN AN ATLANTIS
CELL FOR ACCESSING
CLASSIFIED DATA.



YOU MUST KNOW BY
NOW THAT I CAN HAVE
ACCESS TO ANYTHING
MY TECH TOUCHES.
AND IT'S ALL LEGAL.
CHECK WITH MY
ATTORNEYS IF YOU
DON'T BELIEVE ME.



"YOU'LL NOTE THAT ON MIDNIGHT
OF SEPTEMBER 13TH LAST YEAR THE
WAR WALL GATES BETWEEN GALAXY
CITY AND PEREZ PARK WERE
SUDDENLY SEALED SHUT."

"NORMALLY IT TAKES AN
EMERGENCY DECLARATION
FOR THAT TO HAPPEN."

"VANGUARD SECURITY
LOGS RECORDED THE LAST
PERSON TO ACCESS THE
WAR WALLS BEFORE THEY
CLOSED WAS DOC TOR."



THEN THERE'S THE PARAGON
TRANSIT SERVICE'S RAIL
SYSTEM.

AT MIDNIGHT, THE SAME
TIME THAT THE WAR WALL
GATES SEALED SHUT, THE
RAIL SWITCHES WERE
CHANGED, RE-ROUTING
ALL TRAINS AROUND
GALAXY CITY THROUGH THE
WAR WALL TUNNELS.

MY TECH HANDLES THOSE
SWITCHES, MISS POWERS.

I KNOW THAT IT REQUIRES
SEVEN MINUTES TO MAKE
ALL OF THE CHANGES, AND
THAT IS **IF** THE TRAINS
ARE NOT MOVING.

THIS WAS DONE IN A
MATTER OF **SECONDS**,
WITH ALL BUT ONE TRAIN
IN ACTIVE SERVICE.

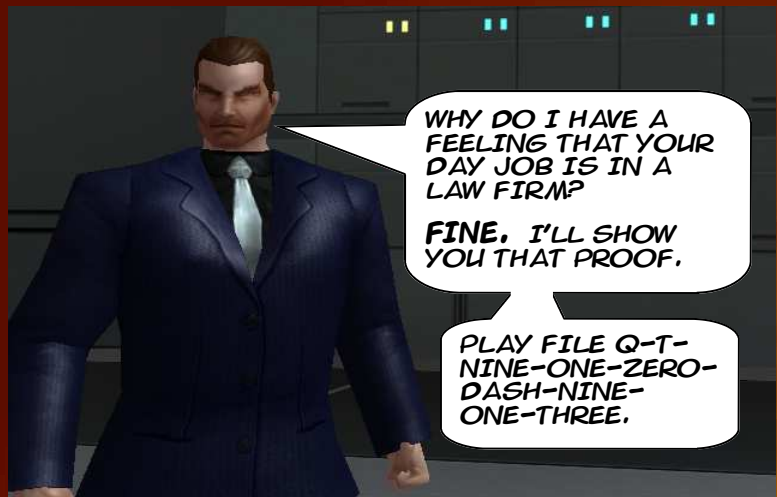


THE ONLY PERSON
THAT I KNOW OF
WITH THAT KIND OF
SKILL, BESIDES THE
LATE MS. BRIGHT,
IS DOC TOR.

EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE,
THAT STILL DOES NOT MEAN
THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DESTRUCTION.

MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE
ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO
PEREZ PARK, EVEN DURING AN
EPSILON EMERGENCY.

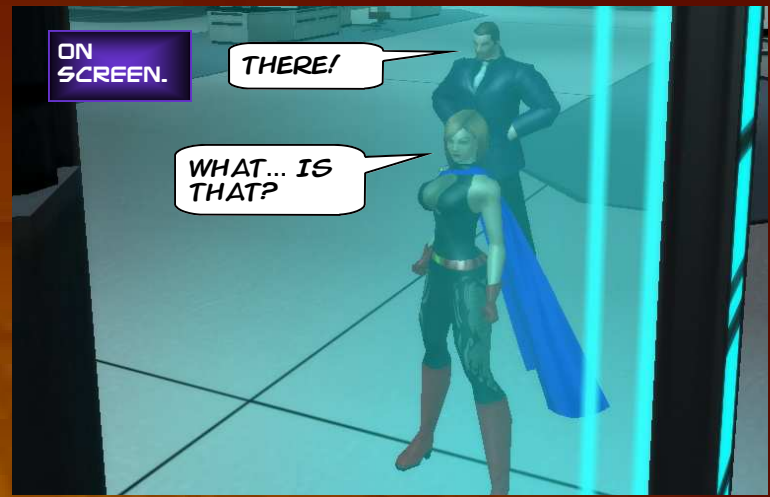
AND THE RAIL LINES WOULD
BE THE FIRST THINGS SHUT
DOWN FOR SAFETY REASONS.



WHY DO I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOUR DAY JOB IS IN A LAW FIRM?

FINE. I'LL SHOW YOU THAT PROOF.

PLAY FILE Q-T-NINE-ONE-ZERO-DASH-NINE-ONE-THREE.



ON SCREEN.

THERE!

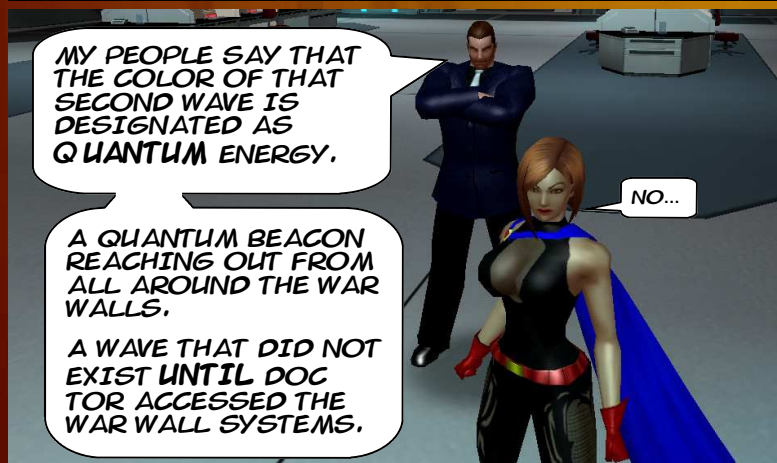
WHAT... IS THAT?

THAT IS A WAVE GRAPH OF THE WAR WALLS THAT WERE AROUND GALAXY CITY FROM SEPTEMBER TENTH UNTIL THE MOMENT OF THE FIRST IMPACT ON THE THIRTEENTH.

THE GOLD SIGNAL YOU SEE ON TOP OF IT IS A SEPARATE ENERGY WAVE THAT DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL THE TENTH.

THE BLUE WAVE IS THE NORMAL ENERGY FREQUENCY OF THE WAR WALLS THEMSELVES.

NOTE THE CIRCULAR PATTERN. I AM TOLD THAT IT'S THE SAME WAVE PATTERN AS A TELEPORT LOCATION BEACON.

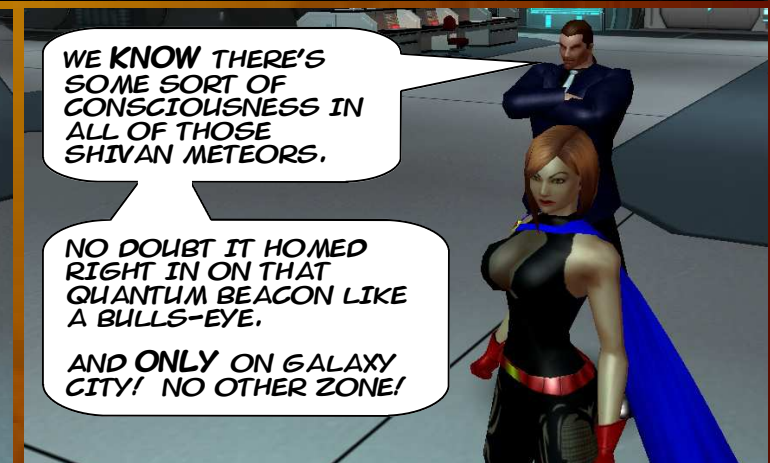


MY PEOPLE SAY THAT THE COLOR OF THAT SECOND WAVE IS DESIGNATED AS QUANTUM ENERGY.

NO...

A QUANTUM BEACON REACHING OUT FROM ALL AROUND THE WAR WALLS.

A WAVE THAT DID NOT EXIST UNTIL DOC TOR ACCESSED THE WAR WALL SYSTEMS.



WE KNOW THERE'S SOME SORT OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN ALL OF THOSE SHIVAN METEORS.

NO DOUBT IT HOMED RIGHT IN ON THAT QUANTUM BEACON LIKE A BULLS-EYE.

AND ONLY ON GALAXY CITY! NO OTHER ZONE!



NO! NO, I DON'T BUY INTO THIS!

I REFUSE TO ACCEPT YOUR CONCLUSION!

YOU'VE HAD THIS INFORMATION FOR OVER A YEAR NOW!

WHY HAVEN'T YOU PRESENTED THIS SOONER?



THAT SHOULD BE PAINFULLY OBVIOUS GIVEN MY TRACK RECORD WITH HEROES.*

EVEN THOUGH I PAID FOR MY OWN FAULTS, I'M STILL NOT TRUSTED. NOT ENTIRELY, ANYWAY.

* SEE THE "JUSTICE-KNIGHTS" SERIES AT JKCOMICS.COM)

PLUS, I COULDN'T EXACTLY REVEAL EVERYTHING WE HAD UNTIL I COULD VERIFY IT WITH MY OWN EXPERTS.

UNLIKE SOMEONE IN MISTER BECKER'S VOCATION, I DO HAVE TO HAVE MY WORK FACT-CHECKED.

PART OF THE REASON WHY I AGREED TO THIS MEETING WAS SO I COULD GIVE YOU THIS INFORMATION TO DELIVER TO VANGUARD, SO THEY CAN CONFIRM IT THEMSELVES WITHOUT ANY PRESUMPTIVE BIAS.

I TRUST THAT YOU ARE NOBLE ENOUGH TO DO THAT.

I'LL DELIVER THE INFORMATION TO THEM ...

... BUT ONLY BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THEY'LL USE IT TO PROVE DOC'S INNOCENCE AND CLEAR THE GUARDIANS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I WILL BE COMING BACK HERE AND EXPECTING A FULL AND PUBLIC APOLOGY FROM YOU... PERSONALLY!

IF YOU ARE RIGHT, MISS POWERS.

IF.

BUT I'M RARELY WRONG.

PNN

Paragon News Network

BREAKING NEWS

I'M ROBIN STEED, HERE IN THE PNN NEWS CENTER WITH SOME BREAKING NEWS THAT JUST CAME TO OUR DESK THREE MINUTES AGO.

RESCUE WORKERS IN THE RUINS OF GALAXY CITY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE RETRIEVED THE BODY OF ONE OF THE HEROES THAT DIED IN THE DEVASTATING METEOR ATTACK ON THAT AREA LAST YEAR.

HE HAS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AS **ROCKY ROCKROCKER**, A STONE-BASED HERO WHO SERVED BRIEFLY AS A MEMBER OF THE **GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN** SUPERHERO GROUP PRIOR TO THEIR DISBANDING.

PNN BREAKING NEWS · ROBIN STEED

PNN
Paragon News Network

ACCORDING TO FREEDOM CORPS RECORDS, ROCKY ROCKROCKER GREW UP ORPHANED IN THE RUINS OF EASTGATE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE HOLLOW".

HIS STONE NATURE ALLOWED HIM TO SURVIVE THROUGH THE GROUND, BUT IT ALSO HINDERED HIS MOBILITY, MAKING TRAVEL FOR HIM EXTREMELY SLOW AT TIMES.



PNN BREAKING NEWS · HERO REMAINS CONFIRMED



AND... OKAY...

I'M BEING TOLD BY MY PRODUCER THAT WE WILL BE SWITCHING OVER TO A LIVE PRESS CONFERENCE BY JIMMY HELLFIGHTER, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE RESCUE AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS IN GALAXY CITY.

AND I AM TOLD THAT HE IS ALSO A FORMER MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

CONFIRMED · STONE HERO ROCKY ROCKROCKER REMAINS



... WE FOUND ROCKY'S BODY ABOUT A BLOCK AWAY FROM THE FREEDOM CORPS HEADQUARTERS, WHICH IS THE CLOSEST WE'VE COME TO DATE TO REACHING THE FACILITY ITSELF.

JIMMY HELLFIGHTER
JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES

WE HAVE YET TO GET AN OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE BUT WE BELIEVE HIS BODY WAS TORN APART BY THE NEO-SHIVANS.

PRESS CONFERENCE · GALAXY CITY



RECOVERY LEADER · JIMMY



SOME PEOPLE KNOW THAT I WORKED WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN FOR A WHILE. SO DID ROCKY.

I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO KNOW HIM DURING MY TIME THERE. BUT WHAT I DO KNOW ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE WAS, IN EVERY WAY, A TRUE HERO.

IN ADDITION TO HIS BODY, WE DISCOVERED THE REMAINS OF TWO OTHER PEOPLE A FEW FEET AWAY.

WE BELIEVE THAT ROCKY TRIED TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM THE NEO-SHIVANS BUT WAS APPARENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL.

WE ARE WORKING ON IDENTIFYING THE REMAINS OF THE CIVILIANS AT THIS TIME.

ROCKY ROCKROCKER REMAINS FOUND IN GALAXY CITY RUINS



FROM CROATOA TO FOUNDERS FALLS

FROM PORT OAKS TO BLOODY BAY

FROM NOVA PRAETORIA TO FIRST WARD

AND ALL DIMENSIONS IN BETWEEN!



CAPE RADIO IS VIRTUE'S NUMBER ONE PLAYER-ORIENTED INTERNET RADIO STATION.

FROM BULLETIN BOARDS TO PODCASTS, CAPE RADIO PROVIDES A VARIETY OF MUSIC PERFECT FOR HEROES, VILLAINS, AND EVEN PRAETORIANS.

YOU'RE NOT SUPER UNTIL YOU PUT ON THE CAPE!

WWW.THECAPERADIO.COM

"HOW LONG
WILL WE HAVE
TO WAIT?"

"HOPEFULLY NOT FOR
LONG. FURIA NEEDED
TO CHECK IN WITH HER
SUPERIORS TO
ACCOUNT FOR HER
DISAPPEARANCE."

"THIS WAITING
AROUND IS
GETTING ON
MY NERVES."

"THAT MAKES
TWO OF US,
NATHAN..."

(← LAST ISSUE)

BUT I SUSPECT
THERE'S MORE TO
YOUR IMPATIENCE
THAN JUST A
CASE OF JITTERS.

CAN'T YOU FEEL IT,
KENT?

THAT NUDGE AT THE
BACK OF YOUR MIND?

WE'RE BEING **SCANNED!**

EXGEMINI
FORMER ASCENDED

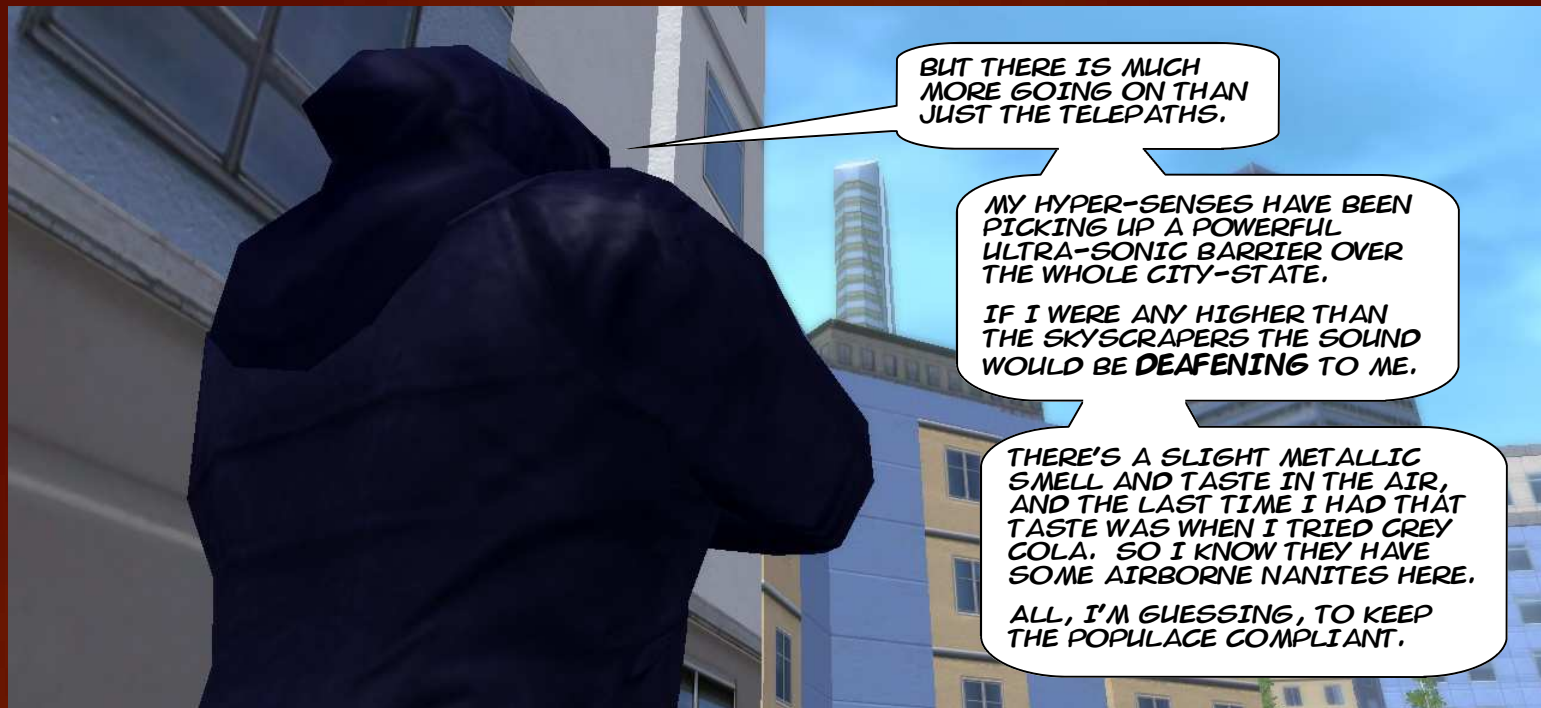
I KNOW WE'RE BEING
SCANNED, NATHAN.

I'VE FELT IT EVER SINCE
WE ARRIVED HERE.

THAT'S WHY I INSISTED WE COME
HERE IN STEALTH OUTFITS INSTEAD
OF OUR NORMAL GEAR.

FURIA TOLD LYON THAT PRAETOR
TILMAN, THEIR WORLD'S VERSION
OF THE LATE SISTER PSYCHE, HAD
NETWORKED ALL OF THE TELEPATHS
TO HER MIND, JUST LOOKING FOR
ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

THANKFULLY, THE HOODS WE HAVE
ON WILL SCREEN OUT OUR
THOUGHTS FROM THE SEERS... OR AT
LEAST FROM THE PASSIVE SCANS
THAT WOULD GET THEIR ATTENTION.



BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE GOING ON THAN JUST THE TELEPATHS.

MY HYPER-SENSES HAVE BEEN PICKING UP A POWERFUL ULTRA-SONIC BARRIER OVER THE WHOLE CITY-STATE.

IF I WERE ANY HIGHER THAN THE SKYSCRAPERS THE SOUND WOULD BE DEAFENING TO ME.

THERE'S A SLIGHT METALLIC SMELL AND TASTE IN THE AIR, AND THE LAST TIME I HAD THAT TASTE WAS WHEN I TRIED GREY COLA. SO I KNOW THEY HAVE SOME AIRBORNE NANITES HERE.

ALL, I'M GUESSING, TO KEEP THE POPULACE COMPLIANT.



AND YET...

TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

ALL OF THIS BEAUTY, ALL OF THIS CONSTRUCTION AND CRAFTSMANSHIP. THERE WAS NOTHING HERE BEFORE THIS! IT'S NOT LIKE ATLAS PARK, WHICH WAS REBUILT OVER ITS FORMER INFRASTRUCTURE.

ALL OF THESE BUILDINGS ARE BRAND NEW. I CAN SEE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONCRETE AND STEEL AS PROOF.

ALL THIS BEAUTY... AND YET THE PEOPLE ARE BEING STIFLED.

EVEN GEORGE ORWELL WOULD BE BAFFLED BY THIS. HIS VIEW OF DYSTOPIA WAS ALWAYS THAT OF A CITY ROTTING AWAY.



YOU DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW ABOUT DYSTOPIA, KENT?

I REMEMBER MUSSOLINI MADE THE ITALIAN TRAINS RUN ON TIME.

I REMEMBER HITLER HAD PLANS TO REBUILD BERLIN INTO SOME GRAND SUPER-GERMAN STATE.

AND I KNOW THAT ALL OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE CONCRETE AND STEEL AND HOW NEW IT ALL IS WILL NOT GET US CLOSER TO FINDING JESSICA.



I AGREE.

AND THE LONGER WE WAIT AROUND, THE LONGER I WORRY THAT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO OUR "GUIDE".

NOT FAR AWAY...

HOW AM I GOING TO
EXPLAIN IT TO THEM

 **FURIA POWERS**
PRAETORIAN HERO

THE TRUTH?

THAT I WAS
BLACKMAILED BY
A COSMIC
ENTITY TO VISIT
ANOTHER REALM?

MOTHER
WOULD HAVE ME
AUDITED FOR
EVEN JOKING
ABOUT THAT!

I NEED TO BE
SUBTLE. JUST
LEAVE OUT
ENOUGH TO--

FURIA POWERS!
DOWN HERE!

YES, WATCH
COMMANDER?

POWERS, I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP
TO, BUT YOU'VE BEEN
ORDERED TO REPORT
TO THE MAGISTERIUM
IMMEDIATELY.

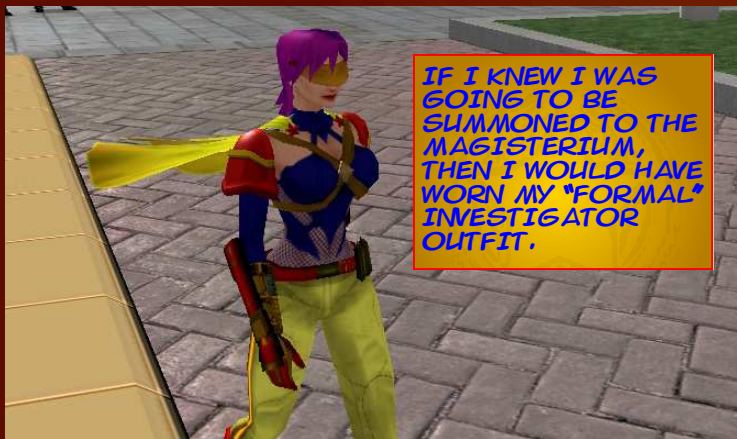
D@MNIT!
NOT NOW!
NOT NOW!

UM, COMMANDER,
WITH ALL RESPECT IN
THE EMPEROR'S NAME,
DO YOU KNOW WHO
MADE THAT REQUEST,
OR WHY THEY
SUMMONED ME THERE?

I'VE BEEN IN YOUR
FATHER'S DIVISION
LONG ENOUGH TO
KNOW THAT YOU DON'T
ASK QUESTIONS WHEN
IT COMES FROM THE
EMPEROR'S BUILDING.
JUST GET OVER THERE.

YES SIR.

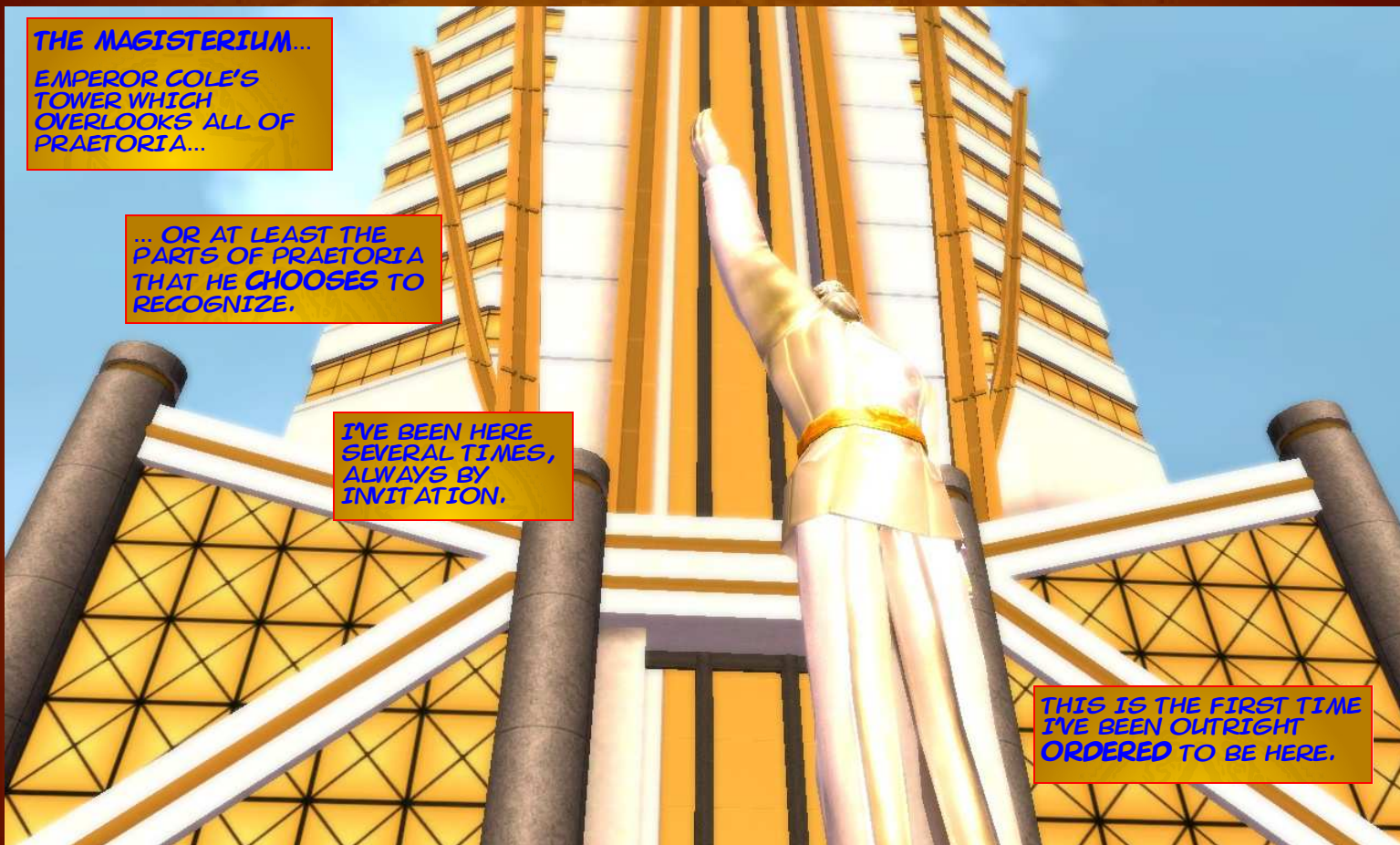
HAVE TO SHOW
RESPECT...
EVEN IF HE NEVER
SHOWED ANY TO
ME OR TO MY
FAMILY.



IF I KNEW I WAS GOING TO BE SUMMONED TO THE MAGISTERIUM, THEN I WOULD HAVE WORN MY "FORMAL" INVESTIGATOR OUTFIT.



STILL, I WAS TOLD TO BE THERE "IMMEDIATELY."



THE MAGISTERIUM...

EMPEROR COLE'S TOWER WHICH OVERLOOKS ALL OF PRAETORIA...

... OR AT LEAST THE PARTS OF PRAETORIA THAT HE **CHOOSES** TO RECOGNIZE.

I'VE BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES, ALWAYS BY INVITATION.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN OUTRIGHT ORDERED TO BE HERE.



OKAY, FURIA. THIS ISN'T YOUR FIRST TIME HERE!

KEEP IT TOGETHER, KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS IN CHECK, AND DON'T LET ANYONE KNOW YOU'RE WORKING WITH TWO SUPERHUMANS FROM THE "PRIMAL" UNIVERSE TO FIND THEIR FRIEND WORKING WITH THE RESISTANCE.

PIECE OF CAKE.



EXCUSE ME. I'M
FURIA POWERS.
I WAS TOLD TO
REPORT HERE.

YES, I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.
WE'VE BEEN
EXPECTING YOU.



PLEASE WAIT IN
THE WAITING
AREA DOWN THE
HALL FOR YOUR
ESCORT.

PRAISE BE TO
EMPEROR COLE.



DON'T GET
WORKED UP...

IT COULD BE
FOR ANYTHING.



FURIA POWERS?



I'M HELENA, AND
I'M ONE OF THE
EMPEROR'S AIDES.
I'LL BE YOUR
ESCORT TODAY.

OKAAAAAY...
I DIDN'T EXPECT
THIS!



BEFORE WE GO ANY
FURTHER, CAN YOU TELL ME
WHO I AM HERE TO SEE AT
SUCH A SHORT NOTICE?

I MEAN, IF I KNEW I'D BE
COMING HERE I'D HAVE
DRESSED A LITTLE MORE
FORMALLY.

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT
ALLOWED TO ANSWER THAT
QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

I WAS ONLY ASSIGNED TO
ESCORT YOU THROUGH THE
MAGISTERIUM TO WHERE
YOU NEED TO BE.

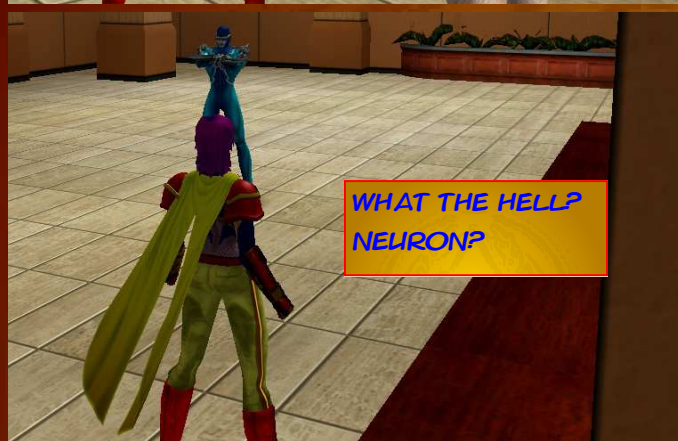


HERE YOU GO, MA'AM.



I'LL BE WAITING
HERE FOR YOU WHEN
YOU ARE FINISHED.

PRAISE BE TO
EMPEROR COLE.




WHAT THE HELL?
NEURON?



PRAETOR BERRY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU WOULD
SUMMON ME HERE
INSTEAD OF TO YOUR
OWN FACILITY OVER
IN NEUROPOLIS.



HAVE YOU LOST
YOUR SENSE OF
DECORUM,
MISS POWERS?

 **PRAETOR BERRY**
AKA A NEURON




OF-OF COURSE.
I'M SORRY,
PRAETOR BERRY.



ALWAYS SHOW
RESPECT TO YOUR
PRAETORS IN
THIS BUILDING.


THE **GOOD** NEWS
IS THAT, ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER, YOU
WILL NEVER HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
BOWING TO A
PRAETOR AGAIN.



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL ME WHERE YOU HID YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE PRIMAL UNIVERSE.




I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT, SIR.



DON'T PRESUME ME TO BE AS IGNORANT AS SOME OF THE OTHER PRAETORS THAT YOU'VE DEALT WITH!

MY BRAIN WORKS A THOUSAND TIMES FASTER THAN ANTI-MATTER'S. I PROCESS THINGS FASTER THAN SIEGE'S CPU. MY INTELLIGENCE NETWORK IS ALMOST AS KNOWLEDGEABLE AS MOTHER MAYHEM'S SEERS.



I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE DIMENSIONAL LINK BETWEEN STUDIO 55 AND THE POCKET D NIGHTCLUB.

THERE'S A **REASON** WHY I ALLOW BOBCAT TO STAY IN 55 LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE.

I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT COME BACK ALONE.

YOU HAD FRIENDS WITH YOU. FRIENDS THAT SOMEHOW CANNOT BE DETECTED THROUGH MY TECH.



PRAETOR BERRY... I... DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN...



YOU ARE NOT HERE FOR AN EXPLANATION.

I CAN FIGURE OUT A THOUSAND DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS BEFORE YOU CAN UTTER ONE COMPLETE SENTENCE.

WHAT I WANT ARE YOUR "PRIMAL" FRIENDS... AND THE SECRET OF THEIR STEALTH.

YOU GIVE THEM TO ME AND YOU BECOME THE NEXT PRAETOR.

BEING A PRAETOR GIVES YOU ALL SORTS OF STROKE HERE.
I KNOW YOU STILL THINK OF FIRST WARD.

YOU GIVE ME YOUR FRIENDS AND YOU'LL HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE THOSE STILL THERE.

EVER SINCE I CAME HERE, I'VE WANTED TO SAVE THE REST OF THE PEOPLE OF FIRST WARD.

BEING A PRAETOR WOULD GIVE ME THAT POWER.

I ALSO KNOW YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING BUSY FIGHTING EVERY THREAT IN PRAETORIA...

EVERY THREAT EXCEPT FOR THE RESISTANCE.

PUT THAT TOGETHER WITH FIRST WARD AND I KNOW WHY YOU WOULD RISK YOUR FAMILY'S LEGACY HELPING THEM OUT.

YOU HELP ME, AND THAT LITTLE "DISCOVERY" GETS ERASED.

BUT IF YOU SAY "NO", THEN I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HAVE YOU BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING.

IT'S UP TO YOU, FURIA POWERS. WE CAN EITHER GO UPSTAIRS TO SEE EMPEROR COLE AND MAKE YOU A PRAETOR...

OR I TAKE YOU OVER TO NEUROPOLIS AND SHOW YOU MY OWN WAY OF "EXTRACTING" INFORMATION FROM TRAITORS.

I CAN SEE YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE YOUR CHOICE.

IT BETTER BE THE SMART ONE.

YOU CLAIM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT ME.

BUT I'VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW SOME THINGS ABOUT YOU AS WELL, PRAETOR BERRY.

INCLUDING HOW YOU SCREW OVER OTHER PEOPLE WITH FALSE PROMISES.

SO BE IT, TRAITOR. THE "LEGENDARY POWERS BLOODLINE" ENDS WITH YOU!

UNNNH!/

I SHOULD HAVE LET THE
HAMIDON TAKE YOU LIKE IT
DID YOUR SISTER.

BUT NOOOOO... YOU WERE
SUPPOSEDLY "TOO IMPORTANT"
TO COLE'S PLANS!

WELL I WAS RIGHT AND KEYES
WAS WRONG... YET AGAIN!

WHAT... DID...
YOU... JUST...
SAY...?

crackle

YOU...
BASTARD!

crackle

WHAM!

*CRASHING
CRASHING
CRASHING*

crackle

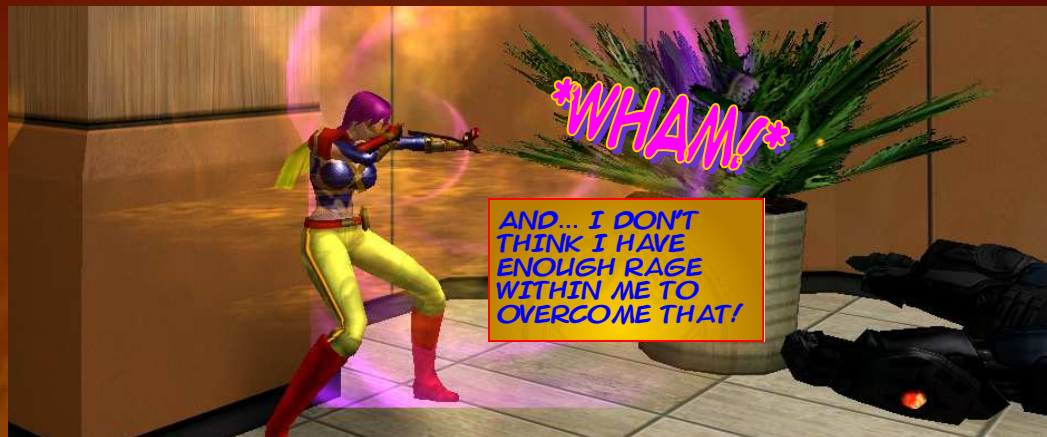
ENFF!

YOU **DARE** TRY TO TAKE ME
ON, LITTLE GIRL?

I'VE DEFEATED YOU A
HUNDRED TIMES IN MY HEAD
BEFORE YOU CAN LAND EVEN
ONE OF YOUR TK BLOWS!

*CRASHING
CRASHING
CRASHING*
BZZZZT







I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM EMPEROR COLE.

WHAT THE HELL?
SHE KEPT UP WITH ME?
EVEN AFTER ALL THAT I DID?



FROM THE EMPEROR?
REALLY?

BETTER MAKE IT QUICK.



EMPEROR COLE REGRETS THAT YOU TURNED DOWN PRAETOR BERRY'S OFFER.

BUT, BEING MADE AWARE OF THE EVENTS IN FIRST WARD, HE UNDERSTANDS YOUR RAGE AT PRAETOR BERRY FOR HIS ACTIONS.

THE EMPEROR'S SEERS ARE RELAYING THIS MESSAGE FROM HIM TO ME.

PRAETOR BERRY'S OFFER STILL STANDS. TURN OVER THE OTHERWORLD INTRUDERS TO US AND YOU WILL BE HONORED AS A PRAETOR IN YOUR OWN RIGHT.

WE WILL NOT STOP YOU FROM LEAVING THE MAGISTERIUM.

HOWEVER, IF YOU DECLINE THIS OFFER YOU WILL NO LONGER BE WELCOMED IN PRAETORIA.

CHOOSE WISELY, FURIA POWERS.



REALLY? JUST LIKE THAT?

EMPEROR COLE IS A JUST AND FAIR GOD, FURIA POWERS.

SURELY YOU'VE SEEN THAT FOR YOURSELF THROUGH YOUR TIME IN HIS GRACE.



OHMIGOD...

YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT, DON'T YOU?

THE ADS... THE MESSAGES...

ALL OF IT.



OF COURSE I DO!

PRAISE BE TO EMPEROR COLE, THE MAN MADE GOD. MAY HIS GOODNESS SHINE ON YOU FOR VISITING HIS MAGISTERIUM.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE... THAT COLE WAS MAKING HIMSELF INTO A RELIGION.

JUST A RESISTANCE TALKING POINT...

NOW I SEE THEY WEREN'T KIDDING!

LOVE YOUR EMPEROR · HONOR YOUR EMPEROR OBEY YOUR EMPEROR

Emperor Cole has done so much for humanity.

He stepped in when our leaders were leading us down the path to nuclear extermination.

He freed us from the terrors of the Hamidon and the Devouring Earth.

He rebuilt society from the ground-up, sharing his glorious vision of how we all can be as great as he sees us.

He gives us hope. He gives us love.

And he asks so little in return.

All he asks of us is our cooperation.

Enemies of our new world are everywhere.

They hide in plain sight. They hide among our friends and family members. They live in our neighborhoods and may even work next to you.

They try to convince us that Emperor Cole is not as grand or as generous as he has been to us. They spread lies and misinformation about Emperor Cole's vision.

It is our job to be vigilant of these people and to report them immediately so they can be shown the error of their ways.

Praetoria is a precious gift to all of us from Emperor Cole. He gives us so much and asks so little of us in return. Let us show that this gift was not given in vain.

Praise be to Emperor Cole and all his Praetors!

This message is brought to you by the **Society for the Peace and Security of Praetoria**, dedicated to helping make Emperor Cole's glorious dream a reality for all of humanity.

SEERS ARE OUR FRIENDS!



They may look strange.

They hover and talk to seemingly nobody.

They may suddenly surround someone you know and subject them to pain.

But Seers have an important role in Emperor Cole's vision of a safe and prosperous Praetoria.

Seers keep us safe from dangerous things.

They keep us from thinking the thoughts that could be used to aid our enemies.

Seers dedicate their lives to keep ours safe from the dangerous thoughts that we all have sometimes.

We can help them by not interfering with their activities.

Do not try to talk to a Seer. Do not try to question them when they engage in important activities.

And when approached by a Seer, do not resist.

Remember, Seers are here for us, to keep us safe from the things that could threaten us all!

Praise be to Emperor Cole and all his Praetors!

This message is brought to you by the **Society for the Peace and Security of Praetoria**, dedicated to helping make Emperor Cole's glorious dream a reality for all of humanity.





HERE...



THIS WILL
TAKE US TO
THE SERVICE
TUNNELS.

SSSSS...



I DON'T THINK I'VE
EVER SEEN SERVICE
TUNNELS THIS LARGE!

MOST OF
PRAETORIA
WAS BUILT BY
CLOCKWORK
DRONES.



THE DRONES
DON'T EVEN TRY
TO COME DOWN
HERE UNLESS...
OH NO...



GHOULS!



DE-EVOLVED HUMAN
BEINGS. THEY'RE MORE
ANIMAL THAN MAN.

DON'T HOLD BACK ON
THEM, NO MATTER WHAT!
THEY'RE MOSTLY BRAIN-
DEAD, WORKING OFF
NOTHING BUT INSTINCT.




HOW DO YOU KNOW
FOR CERTAIN?

NOW IS NOT THE
TIME TO ASK!


FOR ONCE, I
AGREE WITH
HER!



A character with long dark hair, a beard, and blue-tinted sunglasses, wearing a black tactical suit with blue glowing lines.


SOON AS THOSE
GHOULS SHOWED
UP, THE CELL
SCATTERED...

I STAYED
BEHIND, HOPING
TO MEET UP WITH
THE TEAM WE
SENT UP TOP
EARLIER.

A character with purple hair, wearing a blue and yellow suit with a yellow cape and a yellow visor.

DEACON, YOU KNOW
HOW DANGEROUS IT
IS TO BE ANYWHERE
NEAR THE GHOULS.

YOU TOLD ME THAT
ANY TEAM SENT OUT
WOULD BE AWARE OF
THE RISKS WHEN THEY
RETURN.

A close-up of Deacon, looking slightly to the right.

YEAH... YEAH... I KNOW, BUT
JUST BEFORE THE GHOULS
APPEARED WE GOT WORD
THAT LADY MIDNIGHT WAS
BRINGING BACK SOMEONE
IMPORTANT. SOMEONE
THAT MOTHER MAYHEM HAS
BEEN KEEPING IN HER SO-
CALLED "HOSPITAL" ALL
THIS TIME.

MATTER OF FACT, WHEN
I HEARD YOU THREE
CAME DOWN, I FIRST
THOUGHT THAT MAYBE
THAT WAS HER.

Lady Midnight is on the left, looking towards Deacon on the right.

"LADY MIDNIGHT", YOU
SAID HER NAME WAS?

DOES SHE GO BY
ANOTHER NAME?

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US
ABOUT HER?

WELL,
OBVIOUSLY
I CAN'T TELL
YOU WHAT
SHE LOOKS
LIKE...

BUT I CAN SAY
SHE'S NOT FROM
AROUND EITHER
PRAETORIA OR
FIRST WARD...

... EVEN THOUGH
THAT'S WHERE
WE FOUND HER.

A close-up of Deacon, looking slightly to the left.

SHE JOINED US ABOUT A YEAR AGO.
MOST OF THE TIME SHE WAS AROUND
CALVIN SCOTT, THE RESISTANCE LEADER.

NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY WOULD BE
TALKING ABOUT, BUT WE KNOW IT WASN'T
ROMANTIC, CUZ HE STILL CARRIES A
TORCH FOR HIS WIFE... WHOSE BODY
"MOTHER" STILL USES.*

I CAN TELL YOU SHE'S A LOOKER
FROM WHAT I HEAR FROM OTHERS...
BUT SAD. VERY SAD.

SHE KEEPS ON WAITING FOR
SOMEONE ELSE TO SHOW UP. MAYBE
IT'S ONE OF YOU... I DON'T KNOW.

ALL I KNOW IS
THAT SHE'S LATE
GETTING BACK,
AND I'M STARING
TO GET NERVOUS.

* IN THIS WORLD, SHALICE
TILMAN NEVER GAVE UP THE
BODY OF AURORA SCOTT,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AURORA
BOREALIS, AND STILL
OPERATES IN THIS FORM. >

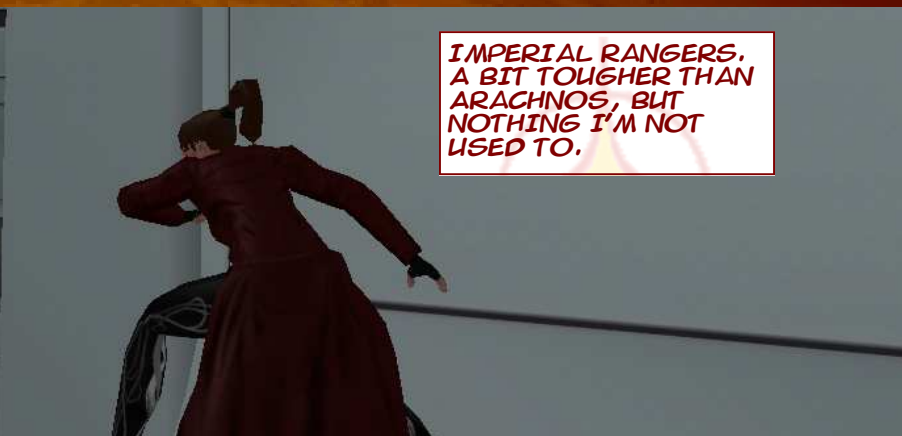
MEANWHILE...



SO FAR
SO GOOD.



IMPERIAL RANGERS,
A BIT TOUGHER THAN
ARACHNOS, BUT
NOTHING I'M NOT
USED TO.



*UNNNH!
A SEER!



SHE MUST'VE
BEEN AROUND
THE BEND.

GETTING
SLOPPY!



GHOST WIDOW
WOULD LAUGH IF
SHE SAW ME MAKE
THIS MISTAKE.



THIS IS
THE PLACE.



AND THERE
HE IS...

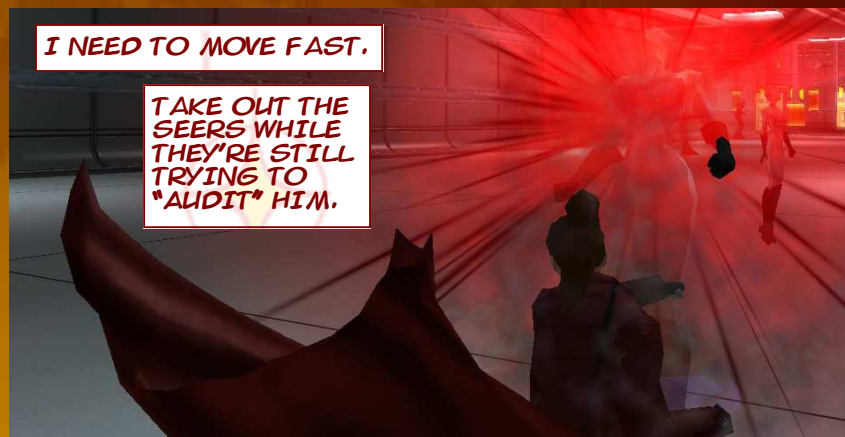
RIGHT WHERE
THE INFORMANT
SAID HE'D BE.



MATTHEW
BURKE.

THE PRAETORIAN
VERSION OF MY
OLDER BROTHER.

"LADY MIDNIGHT"
AKA MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA



I NEED TO MOVE FAST.

TAKE OUT THE
SEERS WHILE
THEY'RE STILL
TRYING TO
"AUDIT" HIM.



ARE YOU
OKAY?
CAN YOU
MOVE?

YEAH. SURE.
WHO ARE
YOU?



LOOK, IT'S A
RATHER LONG
STORY, BUT
SHORT VERSION
IS I'M A FRIEND
OF YOUR FAMILY
AND I'M HERE TO
HELP GET YOU
OUT OF HERE.



COME ON, WE
HAVE TO GO
BEFORE THE
OTHERS ARE
ALERTED.



YEAH, I
REALLY DON'T
THINK SO.



WHAT?

NO, COME ON WE
HAVE TO GO NOW.



YOU KNOW I ACTUALLY
HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT
YOU.

I THOUGHT THERE WAS
SOME OTHER REASON
WHY YOU WERE ASKING
AROUND ABOUT ME.

I MEAN, WHY WOULD THE
MYSTERIOUS "LADY
MIDNIGHT" BE CURIOUS
ABOUT FINDING ME?

BUT PRAETOR TILMAN
WAS RIGHT...

YOU'RE FROM THAT OTHER
REALITY... AND RELATED
SOMEHOW TO MY
COUNTERPART THERE.



OH \$%&!/
YOU'RE A
LOYALIST!



YEAH, THAT'S THE
FIRST THING YOU
GOT RIGHT 'BOUT
ME, 'SIDES THE
NAME, OF COURSE.



POWER TRIP



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

Selected excerpts from the book...

“My Uncle’s Keeper: The Story of Lionel Powers” - by Icon Powers

Part 4: Millennium

Gregory Williamson, Lionel’s assistant in the early years of Millennium, was in the hotel room with Lionel when Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968. He would tell investigators that Lionel was beside himself to see the presumptive Democratic nominee killed by the shooter, later identified as Sirhan Sirhan. Lionel knew that at that point that “The Circle” would have their own champion, Richard Nixon, in the White House that following January.

Williamson said that Lionel went into a rage, destroying anything he could get his hands on. He smashed the television screen, cutting his hands on the glass. He destroyed the table and left jagged holes in the walls. He even meticulously tore apart the pillows and the mattresses.

By the time the police arrived, Lionel was in the middle of the destroyed room, disheveled, bloody, and exhausted... but, surprisingly to police, not intoxicated

“They did it,” he reportedly said over and over again. “They killed him.”

Williamson said that Lionel was detained over night before being released. No charges were filed and Lionel personally paid for all of the damages. But he was clearly not the same person as before.

...

The Munich Olympic attack was the first deathtrap that Lionel engineered, and it was one of his finest creations. He marveled at the ease of which he was able to go through the ranks of the Legion of Champions, taking advantage of their weaknesses and using those weaknesses to their doom.

Williamson would later tell authorities about how even Lionel was scared over what he had become after the first Legionnaire was killed. After the fifth deathtrap was sprung, Lionel accepted his new role as “Criminal Mastermind”.

What he did not anticipate, though, was the courage of his nephew in stepping forward. Although not even eighteen, Kent Powers, left the safety of his Mount Washington home to come to the aid of the Legion in their darkest hour.

Up until this point, Kent’s abilities were never measured, although geneticists speculated that as a second-generation “meteor subject”, his powers would be less than his father’s. Nobody, not even Lionel himself, could ever imagine that Kent’s abilities would actually be stronger. This was demonstrated when Kent literally flew on his own power, something that John could never do himself.

Kent’s unexpected first appearance as a super-powered hero changed the game fundamentally for not only Lionel, but also for Millennium as a group. 1972 wouldn’t be seen as the “twilight” of the Superhero Era as Lionel originally envisioned.

It would be the dawn of what the media would later dub the “Iconic Era”.

...

Woodward and Bernstein’s work on Watergate did more than just expose the abuse of power in the White House. It also exposed the operations of “The Circle” in the American political system.

But the great mystery of the time was the identity of “Mister X”, the person that linked the information Woodward and Bernstein collected from “Deep Throat” with “The Circle”. There was plenty of speculation of whom “Mister X” was, including being a fictional creation of either Woodward or Bernstein, a high-ranking member of the Pentagon, or even President Nixon himself.

Either way “The Circle” was exposed, and their control over society was brought to an end.

Unfortunately the repercussions of this scandal would hurt America in ways far worse than anything that Lionel and Millennium could come up with.

Continues on next page...

It would be almost thirty years before it was revealed that it was Williamson that was “Mister X”. And the motivation for his exposing the connection between Nixon, Watergate, and “The Circle” was not to aid Lionel or Millennium, but rather it was done in a vain attempt to prevent another Munich disaster.

...

As the 1970’s became the 1980’s, it started to become obvious to Lionel that he had fewer years left in him.

Lionel had been a fugitive for over a decade. Spending his time enacting his vengeance on what was left of “The Circle” and also in neutralizing Kent began to take its toll on him. Kent’s very existence was a reminder that his older brother somehow managed to have a life that Lionel could not. That did not sit well with him. The world favored John over him, and by the time the “new millennium” would become reality, the future would belong to John’s children and eventual grandchildren, not to Lionel. He believed it was yet another injustice that needed to be rectified.

Lionel believed that the best way to ensure that the “right” bloodline would continue would be if he “stole” his brother’s.

How he would pull this off would be his masterpiece. His hyper-intelligence worked out all of the details, using various agents within Millennium to get the necessary materials.

All that was left to finalize the plan was to eliminate his brother, even if it meant his own downfall.

...

Lionel cried for the first time in almost twenty years at seeing his older brother finally succumb to his deathtrap. He didn’t mourn when he heard that their middle sister Karen was killed, even if it was on orders of “The Circle”. He showed no emotion over the deaths of their parents.

But here, at this moment, the one person that was the thorn in his side all these years, whose life eclipsed his own, was finally dead. The “better brother” was no more. He, Lionel Powers, was finally the victor.

...

Lionel knew that he would spend the rest of his life behind bars. But by then it didn’t matter to him. “Steelman” was dead and “Icon” was burdened by Lionel’s “gift”. A “gift” that he would enjoy hearing about in the years to come. And he would be safe from all reciprocity when that “gift” would come to full maturation and be revealed for what it truly is.

A “gift” that went by the name of Leona Powers.

[TO BE CONCLUDED...]

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>
NEXT ISSUE...



Midnight Arachnia is DOWN! Will Icon Powers and ExGemini be able to come to her rescue?

And whose side is Furia Powers really on?

PLUS: Galatea Powers continues her investigation into the Galaxy City disaster, which leads her to... GALAXY CITY?

Find out what happens next in the penultimate issue!



REAL HERO FANS READ
FAN-MADE COMICS!

SO WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

THE
GARRY BECKER
EXPERIENCE

GARRY BECKER
HOST OF PNN'S
"THE GARRY BECKER
EXPERIENCE"

<http://www.cohcomicindex.com>



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