

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ISSUE 14
2012



**CITY
HEROES**
FREEDOM



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.

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.

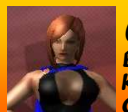
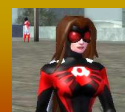


FURIA POWERS - PRAETORIAN SUPERHERO

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.

MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA - MYSTICAL CRIMEFIGHTER

JESSICA DANVERS GREW UP IN THE ROGUE ISLES, UNAWARE THAT SHE WAS DESTINED TO DESTROY GHOST WIDOW. TO SAVE HER LIFE AND THOSE OF THE ISLES, SHE WAS SENT TO PARAGON CITY TO BE A FORCE FOR GOOD.



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.

"DOC" TOR - EXILED TIME MANIPULATOR

ONCE A MEMBER OF EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL TIME OBSERVERS, TOR BECAME AN AGENT OF CHANGE TO MANIPULATE EVENTS TO PREVENT TRAGEDY. FOR HIS "CRIMES", HE WAS EXILED TO OUR WORLD.



"ECHOES IN TIME"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

The Guardian Powers #14 is created using original characters in the City of Heroes Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2004-2012. This story is an independent derivative work of the City of Heroes Game. All original rights are reserved by NCsoft and Paragon Studios. NCSoft, the interlocking NC logo, Paragon Studios, City of Heroes, City of Villains, City of Heroes: Going Rogue, City of Heroes Freedom and all associated logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation and Paragon Studios. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. ExGemini is the creation of Nathan Furian. Richard Cyril and CyCorp are the creations of Aaron Nellis.



GALAXY CITY - PARAGON CITY, RI, USA

SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 - 10:02AM ET

"I REMEMBER
WHAT WENT ON
THAT MORNING."

"I REMEMBER THERE WAS A
PROBLEM WITH THE WAR WALL
GATES TO PEREZ PARK, AND
SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH
THE TRAINS, BUT THEY WERE
BOTH BEING WORKED ON."

"I WAS AT MY
USUAL POST."

"ALWAYS
HELPIN' OUT
THE NEW
BLOOD."

 **BACK ALLEY BRAWLER**
LEGENDARY CRIMEFIGHTER

HOLY \$#!\$!

EVERYONE TAKE
SHELTER...
NOW!

"THAT'S WHEN I
FIRST SAW IT...
COMING DOWN
RIGHT ON MY
HEAD."

"I REMEMBER
TURNING
AROUND TO
RUN INSIDE."

"THEN EVERYTHING AROUND
ME WENT BLACK."

"I THOUGHT
THIS WAS IT.
I THOUGHT I
WAS DEAD."

ATLAS PARK - POLICE STATION

NOVEMBER, 2012

NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS
COMING OUT THE TUNNEL
INTO KINGS ROW, CATCHING
UP WITH STATESMAN AND THE
OTHER FREEDOM PHALANX
MEMBERS THAT JUST ARRIVED
AT THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE.

I HAD **NO IDEA** HOW I WENT
FROM FREEDOM COURT TO THE
KINGS ROW TUNNEL ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE AREA.

AND SOMEHOW I ALSO LOST
THIRTY MINUTES OF TIME.

SISTER PSYCHE MIND-
SCANNED ME TO TRY TO FIND
OUT WHAT HAPPENED, BUT SHE
SAID THERE WAS NOTHING.

NOT A GAP, NOT A BLANK
SPOT... LITERALLY NOTHING!

 **GALATEA POWERS**
OTHERWORLD HERO

I AM SORRY GALATEA; I JUST DO NOT KNOW HOW I ENDED UP IN ATLAS PARK.

IT WAS THE SAME STORY WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

PRINCE KIROS NANDELU
G.I.F.T. DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DOZENS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE IN GALAXY CITY AT THE TIME OF THE SHIVAN METEOR ATTACK ALL SAID THE SAME THING.

THEY EACH REMEMBER THE EVENTS OF THAT TRAUMATIC DAY WITH CRYSTAL CLARITY.

SHADOWSTAR
WARSHADE MENTOR

THREE SHRINKS, TWO TELEPATHS, AND A SHERPA MONK IN A BALL CAP, AND I'M STILL CLUELESS.

EXCEPT FOR THE TIME AFTER THE FIRST METEOR STRIKE.

DEREK AMBERSON
E.L.I.T.E. TACTICIAN

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THAT TIME?

AND THEY ALL DO NOT KNOW HOW THEY MANAGED TO ESCAPE GALAXY CITY!

UH-HUH...
NO, I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU...

YES I'M TALKING ABOUT GREEN POUCH SURVIVAL PACKS. THE COOKING PACKS HAVE A SHELF LIFE OF THREE YEARS, BUT THE REST OF THE FOOD IS SO CAREFULLY PRESERVED IT COULD LAST FOR DECADES!

HOLD ON ONE MOMENT...

I'M SORRY, MISS POWERS, BUT UNLESS YOU HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS, I REALLY HAVE TO TAKE THIS IMPORTANT CALL.

CAITLIN MURRAY-DAVIES
D.A.T.A. DEPUTY DIRECTOR

FOR SOME OF THEM, SURVIVOR'S GUILT HAS BEEN EATING AWAY AT THEM LIKE A CANCER.

YOU... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THIS WHOLE THING HAS HURT ME.

I MEAN, I WAS A FIRST RESPONDER! I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM A DISASTER! I WOULD HAVE BEEN RUNNING TOWARDS IT!

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE AN EMERGENCY CALL SINCE... I CAN'T EVEN BE CLEARED FOR DUTY BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED!

THEY'RE ALIVE, BUT THEY ALL HAVE NAGGING QUESTIONS AS TO HOW AND WHY THEY SURVIVED WHEN OTHERS DIDN'T.

PACO SANCHEZ
E.M.T. RESPONDER


VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS

TOO MANY QUESTIONS...
AND NOT ENOUGH
ANSWERS FOR THEM.

I WAS TASKED BY RICHARD
CYRIL OF CYCORP TO
DELIVER HIS SUPPOSED
"EVIDENCE" OF WHAT HE
SAYS HAPPENED TO GALAXY
CITY TO THE VANGUARD.*

EVIDENCE THAT D@MNS A
FELLOW GUARDIAN, AND THE
REST OF US BY EXTENSION!

I'M SORRY,
GALATEA, BUT
RICHARD CYRIL'S
DATA SUPPORTS
HIS HYPOTHESIS.

 **GAUSSIAN**
VANGUARD TACTICIAN

(* LAST ISSUE)

BUT YOU CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT DOC TOR WOULD BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
SOMEHOW BRINGING THE
SHIVAN METEORS TO
EARTH AND SPECIFICALLY
TARGETING GALAXY CITY!
THAT'S JUST LUDICROUS!

IT'S NOT A MATTER
OF WHAT I **BELIEVE**,
GALATEA.

THE DATA THAT CYRIL
PROVIDED MATCHES
OUR OWN.

FEEL FREE TO CHECK
IT YOURSELF.

SO I DO.

MY STATUS WITHIN
VANGUARD GIVES
ME ACCESS TO ALL
THEIR EQUIPMENT.

I COMPARED CYRIL'S
EVIDENCE WITH WHAT
GAUSSIAN HAD
COLLECTED ABOUT
THAT TIME PERIOD.

ONLY... IT STILL
PROVES THAT
CYRIL IS RIGHT!

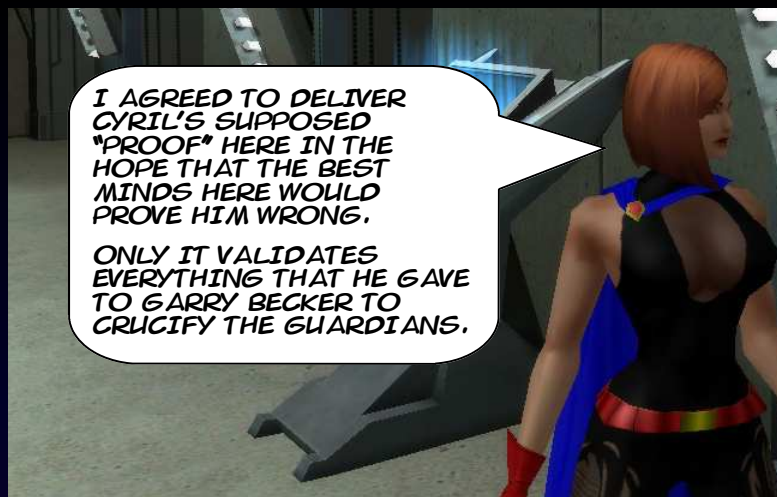
PROBLEMS?

DOC TOR COULD CREATE
A QUANTUM FIELD USING
RIKTI TECHNOLOGY AND
USE IT LIKE A BEACON
JUST LIKE CYRIL SAID.

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE
IT, BUT THE EVIDENCE
SUGGESTS THAT'S WHAT
HE DID. **D@MNIT!!!**

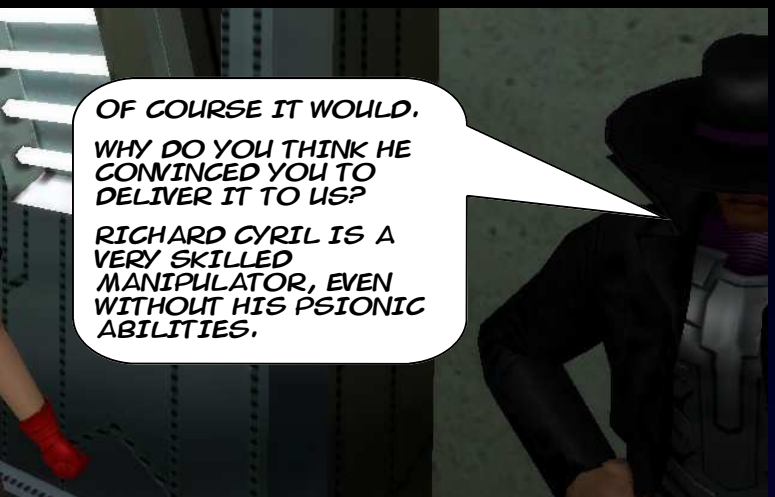
YOU COULD
SAY THAT,
DARK WATCHER.

 **DARK WATCHER**
VANGUARD ADVISOR



I AGREED TO DELIVER CYRIL'S SUPPOSED "PROOF" HERE IN THE HOPE THAT THE BEST MINDS HERE WOULD PROVE HIM WRONG.


ONLY IT VALIDATES EVERYTHING THAT HE GAVE TO GARRY BECKER TO CRUCIFY THE GUARDIANS.



OF COURSE IT WOULD.


WHY DO YOU THINK HE CONVINCED YOU TO DELIVER IT TO US?

RICHARD CYRIL IS A VERY SKILLED MANIPULATOR, EVEN WITHOUT HIS PSIONIC ABILITIES.



HOW CAN YOU BE SO CAVALIER ABOUT THIS?

DOC TOR IS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR FRIEND!

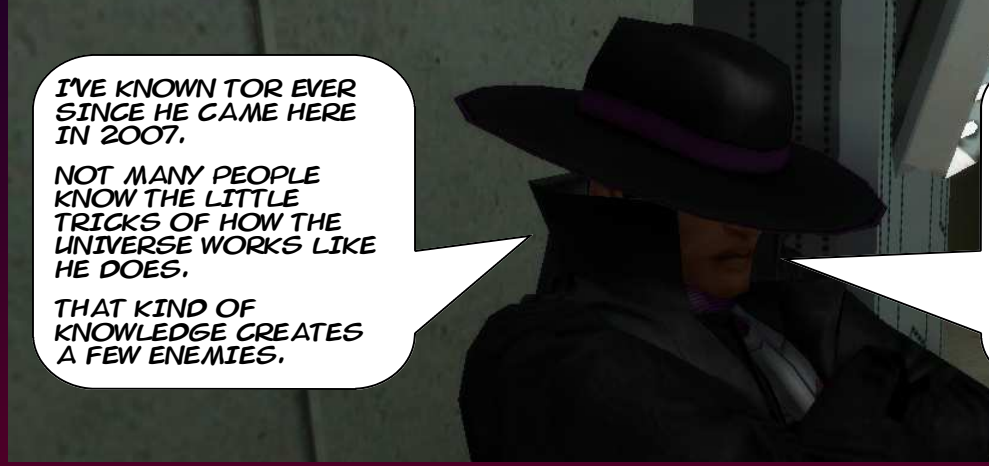


STATESMAN WAS MY FRIEND AS WELL...

BUT THAT DID NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT BOTH HE AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE NOW DEAD.*

FRIENDSHIP DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACTS PRESENTED TO US.

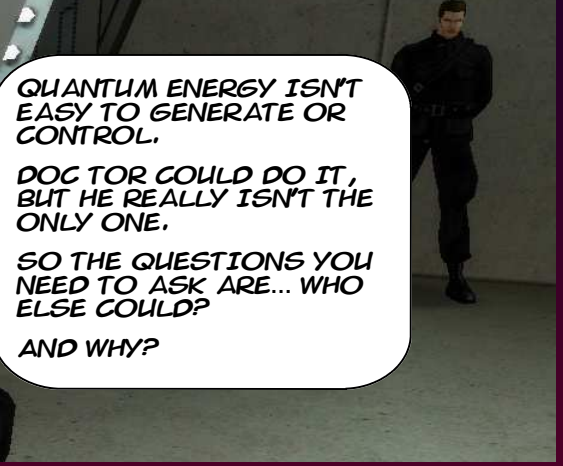
(* BOTH WERE KILLED IN THE "WHO WILL DIE" STORY)



I'VE KNOWN TOR EVER SINCE HE CAME HERE IN 2007.

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THE LITTLE TRICKS OF HOW THE UNIVERSE WORKS LIKE HE DOES.

THAT KIND OF KNOWLEDGE CREATES A FEW ENEMIES.

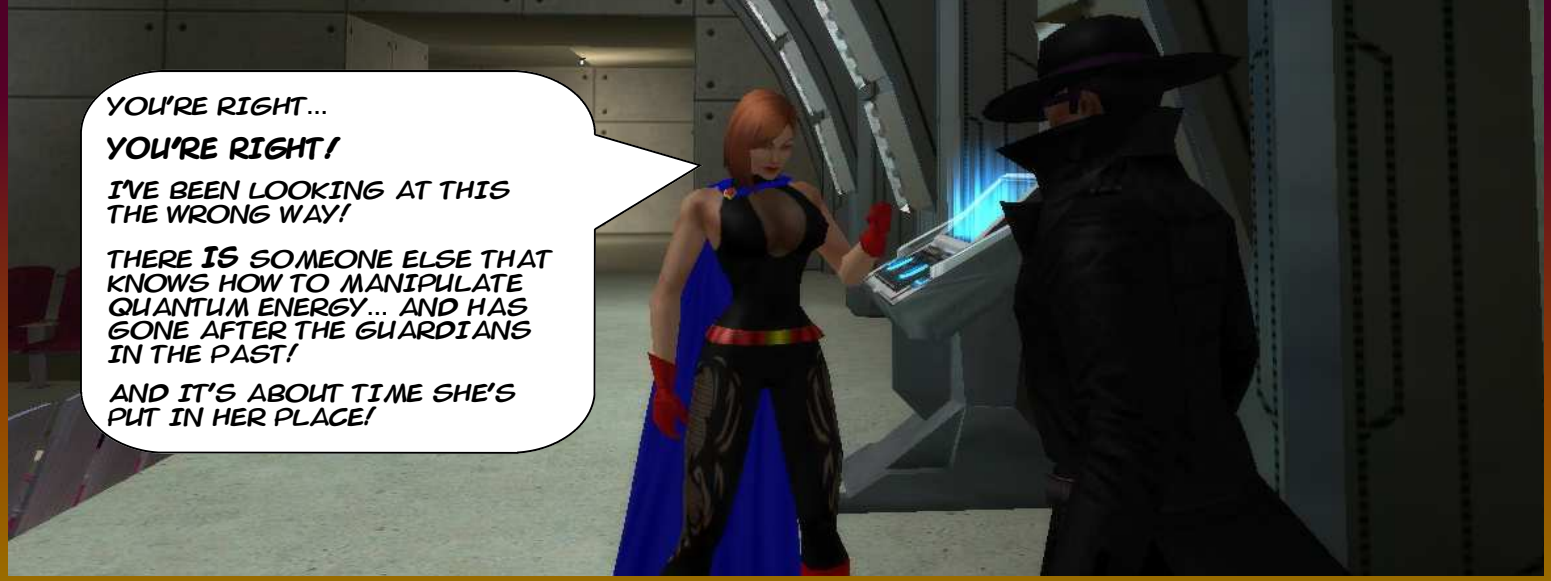


QUANTUM ENERGY ISN'T EASY TO GENERATE OR CONTROL.

DOC TOR COULD DO IT, BUT HE REALLY ISN'T THE ONLY ONE.

SO THE QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK ARE... WHO ELSE COULD?

AND WHY?



YOU'RE RIGHT...

YOU'RE RIGHT!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THIS THE WRONG WAY!

THERE **IS** SOMEONE ELSE THAT KNOWS HOW TO MANIPULATE QUANTUM ENERGY... AND HAS GONE AFTER THE GUARDIANS IN THE PAST!

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME SHE'S PUT IN HER PLACE!

IMPERIAL CITY - PRAETORIA

PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE

GOOD MORNING
PRAETORIA!

THIS IS
THE TOTAL
PRAETORIA
NETWORK

PRAISE BE TO
EMPEROR COLE!

I'M ROBERT STEED
AND THIS IS THE
NEWS FOR THIS
GLORIOUS
MORNING IN THE
EMPEROR'S GRACE...

IMPERIAL FORCES HAVE
REPORTED TAKING
DOWN THE INFAMOUS
TERRORIST KNOWN AS
"LADY MIDNIGHT"
YESTERDAY.

PRAETOR WHITE, DIRECTOR OF THE
POWERS DIVISION, CREDITS THE
APPREHENSION OF LADY MIDNIGHT
TO FORMER EVAC SPECIALIST MATT
BURKE, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE
HONORED AT THE MAGISTERIUM
LATER TODAY.

THE REAL IDENTITY OF LADY
MIDNIGHT IS STILL A
MYSTERY TO THE POWERS
DIVISION, ALTHOUGH SOME
HAVE SPECULATED THAT SHE
COMES FROM THE DREADED
"PRIMAL WORLD".

LADY MIDNIGHT WILL BE
EVALUATED AT THE BEHAVIOR
ADJUSTMENT FACILITY
BEFORE SHE IS BROUGHT TO
TRIAL FOR HER MANY CRIMES
AGAINST PRAETORIA.

MEANWHILE,
PRAETORIA
CONTINUES TO
ENJOY THE
GRACE OF OUR
BELOVED
EMPEROR COLE.

CRIME IS LOW,
UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT
ZERO, POVERTY IS NON-
EXISTENT, AND THE
SIGNS OF OUR SUCCESS
ARE EVERYWHERE!

ALL OF WHICH WE
CAN THANK OUR
SAVIOR AND HIS
PRAETORS.

PRAISE BE TO
EMPEROR COLE;
THE MAN MADE
GOD.

PRAETORIAN DETENTION CELL

SO THE SEERS
SAY THAT YOU
HAVEN'T TOLD
THEM
ANYTHING YET.



MATT BURKE
LOYAL PRAETORIAN



MUST HAVE SOME
SERIOUS SKILLS IN
THAT OTHER WORLD
TO DO THAT. EITHER
THAT OR MAGIC.

DON'T GET TOO CONFIDENT, THOUGH...
THE LADIES HERE ARE UNDER ORDERS
TO GO EASY ON YOU FOR NOW. WE
NEED YOU LUCID FOR YOUR "TRIAL".
IT'S REALLY JUST A FORMALITY, BUT WE
GOTT A KEEP APPEARANCES GOING.

SPEAKING OF, I WAS CURIOUS AS TO
WHAT MY COUNTERPART ON YOUR
WORLD IS TO YOU.

WE'RE NOT FAMILY... BIOLOGICALLY
SPEAKING... SO WHAT AM I TO YOU
THERE? FRIEND? BOSS? LOVER?

NOT... EVEN... IN...
YOUR... DREAMS...



"LADY MIDNIGHT"
AKA MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA

SEE, I KNEW YOU WERE
HOLDING OUT ON US.

ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER, THE SEERS
WILL FIND OUT AFTER
THEY GET THE GREEN
LIGHT TO BREAK YOU.

WON'T...
HAPPEN...

THINK THEY CAN'T DO THAT?
I'VE BEEN IN THE EMPEROR'S
SERVICE LONG ENOUGH TO
WATCH THESE SEERS TURN EVEN
THE TOUGHEST MEN INTO
QUIVERING CRYBABIES.

OH, THEY PUT UP A BRAVE
FRONT, BUT SOON THEY'RE
MESSIN' THEIR PANTS AND
DROOLING AWAY.

JUST LIKE YOUR TWO FRIENDS
WILL BE AFTER I HAVE THE
HONOR OF TAKING THEM DOWN
AND PARADING THEM BEFORE
EMPEROR COLE RIGHT
ALONGSIDE YOU.



WH-WHAT?

OH YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

YEAH, RIGHT AFTER WE ANNOUNCED WE HAD YOU, YOUR FRIENDS REACHED OUT TO US AND OFFERED A TRADE; THEM FOR YOU.

HEH! AND THEY ACTUALLY THINK WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU BACK TO THE RESISTANCE!



WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW IS THAT I'M GOING TO BE THERE ALONG WITH MY FINEST D.U.S.T. TROOPERS... THE SAME ONES THAT HAVE BEEN KICKING HAMIDON ASPECTS IN WHAT'S LEFT OF FIRST WARD SINCE THE EVAC.

THE FUNNY PART IS THAT WE HAVE A TRAITOR IN THE RESISTANCE THAT THINKS SHE'S HELPING TO BRING YOUR FRIENDS IN FOR US.

WHAT'S REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN, THOUGH, IS **SHE'LL** BE ARRESTED.

THEN I GET TO PARADE THE WHOLE LOT IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR, AND **I** GET TO BE THE NEXT PRAETOR!



PRAETOR BURKE.

GET USED TO HEARING THAT.

I'LL GET THE SEERS TO HAVE YOU MUTTER IT IN YOUR SLEEP.



DON'T WORRY, "LADY", I'LL BE BACK TO SEE YOU BROKEN.

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD.

PRAISE BE TO EMPEROR COLE.

SIGH YOU AGAIN?

DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING BETTER TO DO WITH THOSE HAIRLESS PRIMATES OF YOUR OWN TIME?

MENDER TESSERACT
OUROBOROS MENDER

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, BUT ONCE I DID, IT ALL POINTED RIGHT TO YOU.

THERE ARE NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE THAT CAN SPECIFICALLY USE QUANTUM ENERGY AS A WEAPON LIKE YOU CAN.

NOT ONLY HAVE YOU USED QUANTUM ENERGY BEFORE, BUT YOU'RE ALSO NOT ABOVE KILLING PEOPLE FOR YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENTS...

LIKE WHEN YOU HAD SALLY BRIGHT MURDERED WITH A QUANTUM BULLET SO SHE COULD SERVE AS YOUR "TIME ANCHOR."

C "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #12 AND 13)

SO GO AHEAD AND TELL ME THAT I'M WRONG ABOUT THIS...

TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T ORCHESTRATE THE DESTRUCTION OF GALAXY CITY USING QUANTUM ENERGY AS A BEACON AND THEN FRAME DOC TOR FOR IT!

BECAUSE EVERYTHING I'VE SEEN **SCREAMS** OF THIS BEING ONE OF YOUR SICK TIME EXPERIMENTS!

OKAY.

YOU WANT ME TO SAY IT? I WILL.
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT.

YOU KNOW, I HONESTLY LIKED YOU BETTER WHEN YOU WERE A BIG-BREADED BLONDE.

THEN, AT LEAST, YOU HAD AN EXCUSE FOR YOUR STUPIDITY.

I'M NOT GOING TO DENY THAT I HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST "DOC" TOR FOR RUINING MY TIME ANCHOR EXPERIMENT, EVEN IF IT WAS FROM MY DAYS BEFORE I BECAME A MENDER...

BUT **AS** A MENDER, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN ANY NEW EXPERIMENTS.

AND AS MUCH AS I WOULD **LOVE** TO TAKE CREDIT IN THE DEMISE OF YOUR EXILED TIME MANIPULATOR "FRIEND", I'M AFRAID I JUST CAN'T.

PITY. THE OTHER MENDERS THINK **SO** HIGHLY OF YOU. TO SEE YOU GRASPING AT STRAWS LIKE THIS IS JUST PATHETIC.

TRULY YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER APES OF THAT ERA.



SO YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST BELIEVE THAT?



I HONESTLY DON'T CARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE. I'M JUST TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!

JUST ASK ANY MENDER HERE.

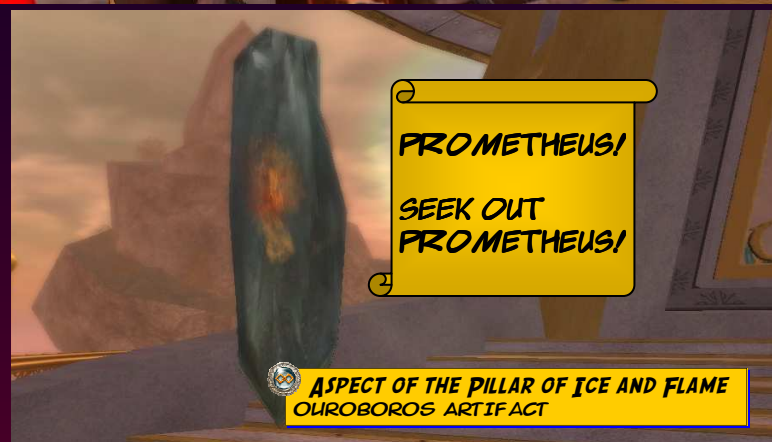


OH I PLAN ON DOING THAT!
I PLAN ON HAVING A LONG TALK WITH THEM ABOUT YOU.
BUT I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH THIS:
REMEMBER WHEN YOU TAUNTED ME ABOUT HOW I DIDN'T HAVE BEAM-VISION YET?*

(**SPOTLIGHT* #14*)



TAKE A WILD GUESS WHICH HYPER-POWER I JUST PICKED UP RECENTLY.
WANT TO SEE--



PROMETHEUS!
SEEK OUT PROMETHEUS!

ASPECT OF THE PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME
OUROBOROS ARTIFACT



BUT THA...

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

MY ASPECT IS SUPPOSED TO ONLY SPEAK TO ME!

AND IT ONLY SPEAKS IN THE FIRST LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSE, NOT IN THE LANGUAGE OF THESE APES!

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR MYSTERY TO SOLVE, AND I HAVE MINE.

BUT THIS THING BETWEEN YOU AND ME... WE'RE NOT DONE.
NOT BY A LONG SHOT!







HUFF* *HUFF

I'M REALLY GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS. PITY MISTER BURKE WASN'T HERE TO SEE HIS OWN MEN FALL.

YES... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD TO SEE HIM OVERCOME BY OUR COMBINED MIGHT.

AND YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED ABOUT, KENT. YOU CAN STILL HOLD YOUR GROUND WITH THE BEST.



ICON POWERS

***RETIRED* SUPERHERO**



EXGEMINI

FORMER ASCENDED

THANKS.

NOW IT'S UP TO FURIA POWERS TO DO HER PART IN THIS.

I AM STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE IDEA OF TRUSTING FURIA WITH JESSICA'S FREEDOM.

NOR AM I, BUT IT'S THE ONLY MOVE THAT THE PRAETORIANS WOULD NOT EXPECT FROM US.

AND, IN A WAY, I GUESS IT'S GOOD THAT PRAETORIAN BURKE WASN'T HERE FOR THEIR FAILED AMBUSH.


THAT MEANS FURIA WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE WHICH SIDE SHE REALLY STANDS WITH.

AND I HOPE SHE MAKES IT TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT ON TIME.

A large, muscular man in a green tactical suit and black sunglasses is shown from the waist up, holding a radio to his mouth.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU JUST LOST CONTACT WITH THE WHOLE D@MN PLATOON?

THERE'S ENOUGH FIREPOWER THERE TO TAKE OUT THREE HAMIDON SEEDS!

A large, muscular man in a green tactical suit and black sunglasses is shown from the waist up, holding a radio to his mouth.

YOU GET OVER TO NEUTROPOLIS AND YOU GET YINDELL ON THE LINE OR THE NEXT CALL I MAKE WILL BE TO HIS WIDOW! DO YOU--

HAVING PROBLEMS, MISTER BURKE?

Furia Powers, a woman with purple hair in a blue and yellow suit with a green cape, stands facing Mister Burke, who is seen from behind.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, POWERS?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LEADING THE OUTSIDERS TO THE AMBUSH LOCATION. I MEAN, THIS THING IS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR PLAN!

Furia Powers, a woman with purple hair in a blue and yellow suit with a green cape, is shown from the waist up.

FURIA POWERS
PRAETORIAN HERO

Mister Burke and Furia Powers are standing in a futuristic corridor. Mister Burke is on the left, and Furia Powers is on the right.

ACTUALLY THAT WAS YOUR PLAN.

MY PLAN IS THE ONE BEING CARRIED OUT RIGHT NOW...

WITH THE SO-CALLED "OUTSIDERS" TAKING OUT YOUR D.U.S.T. FORCES, WHILE I WALTZ ON IN AND TAKE LADY MIDNIGHT OFF YOUR HANDS.

A close-up of Mister Burke's face, showing his green sunglasses and serious expression.

WAIT... WHAT?

Furia Powers is shown in a dynamic pose, attacking Mister Burke with a glowing purple energy blast. The word "WHAM!" is written in large, stylized pink letters with starburst effects.

WHAM!



GOOD NIGHT
"PRAETOR" BURKE!



I'LL LET YOU TELL
THE EMPEROR OF
MY DECISION.

AND DEAL WITH THE
CONSEQUENCES.



WE KNOW WHY
YOU ARE HERE.
WE WILL STOP
YOU FROM
TAKING THE
PRISONER.



YOU CAN
TRY.



LADY MIDNIGHT,
ARE YOU OKAY?
CAN YOU MOVE?

I'M... I'M A BIT
NUMB... PLUS I HAVE
A NASTY MIGRAINE.
JUST LET ME GET A
SPELLWEB SHIELD UP.



YOU'RE DEACON'S
FRIEND, RIGHT?
THE LAST MEMBER
OF THE POWERS
FAMILY?
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE KEEPING UP
WITH PRETENSES
FOR FIRST WARD.



LET'S JUST SAY
I'VE MET SOME
NEW FAMILY
MEMBERS.
COME ON, LET'S
GET YOU OUT
OF HERE.

FROM THE CREATOR OF JUSTICE-KNIGHTS...

STALKTRESS

Vengeance or Justice?
Cruelty or Mercy?
Angel or Monster?



JKComics.com





**Why wait until disaster strikes
to stock up for it?**

It's a FACT:

- ▷ Paragon City is the disaster capital of the world!
- ▷ The first thing cut and the last thing restored in a disaster is civilian electricity.
- ▷ The very last thing that most people think about until it is too late is checking their emergency supplies to ensure freshness!

**Why put your family's mealtime at the mercy of the
villains and alien invaders bent on world domination?**

Your family NEEDS Green Pouch Survival Kits!

**Green
Pouch**

Every Green Pouch kit contains enough to feed a family of four without needed electricity or refrigeration, and with enough selections to ensure that you won't get bored any time soon!

Available at all grocery and supply stores in Paragon City.
Don't wait until the next invasion! Get prepared NOW!



SPEAK.

PROMETHEUS
GREEK TITAN



I'M SORRY... I'VE NEVER MET AN ACTUAL GOD BEFORE... NEVER MIND THE LEGENDARY TITAN THAT GAVE MANKIND PROGRESS.

I TAKE IT YOU WERE THE ONE THAT PLAYED WITH TESSERACT'S PILLAR ASPECT, SO I GUESS YOU SUMMONED ME.



DO NOT BOTHER YOURSELF WITH THESE "MENDERS".

THEY ARE NOT THE SOURCE OF YOUR CURRENT DILEMMA.

THEY BARELY COMPREHEND THE SCOPE OF THEIR OWN ACTIONS AND THE DAMAGE THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE.

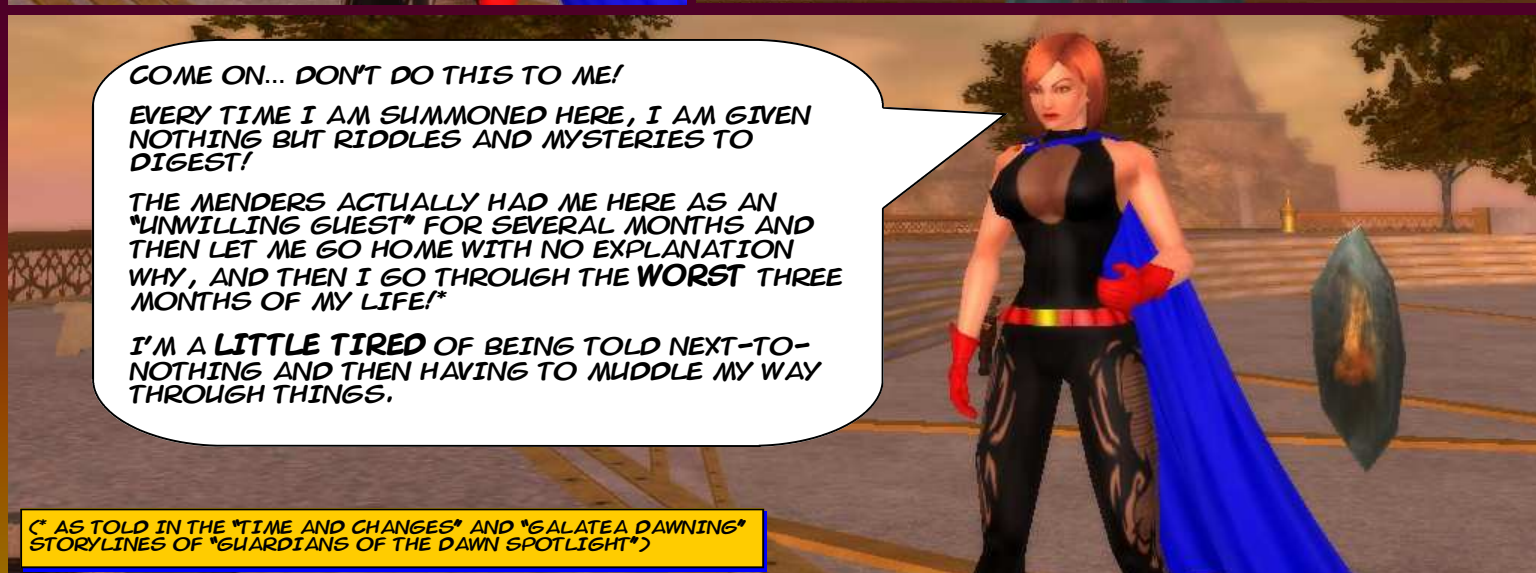
YOU SEEK ANSWERS.

AS WITH ALL OTHER MORTALS, EVEN THOSE AS GIFTED AS YOU, I CAN ONLY POINT YOU THE DIRECTION.

YOU MUST USE YOUR GREATEST OF GIFTS TO DETERMINE THE PATH ITSELF.



OKAY. SO YOU SAY THAT THE MENDERS AREN'T TO BLAME FOR MY "DILEMMA". THEN, WHO IS?



COME ON... DON'T DO THIS TO ME!

EVERY TIME I AM SUMMONED HERE, I AM GIVEN NOTHING BUT RIDDLES AND MYSTERIES TO DIGEST!

THE MENDERS ACTUALLY HAD ME HERE AS AN "UNWILLING GUEST" FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND THEN LET ME GO HOME WITH NO EXPLANATION WHY, AND THEN I GO THROUGH THE WORST THREE MONTHS OF MY LIFE!


I'M A LITTLE TIRED OF BEING TOLD NEXT-TO-NOTHING AND THEN HAVING TO MUDDLE MY WAY THROUGH THINGS.

* AS TOLD IN THE "TIME AND CHANGES" AND "GALATEA DAWNING" STORYLINES OF "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" *



THOSE EVENTS ARE WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE, ALONG WITH THE MANIPULATOR WHOM YOU CALL "DOC TOR".

THOUGH HE IS BARRED FROM BEING HERE, THE MANIPULATOR PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE DILEMMA BEFORE YOU.
A DILEMMA THAT IS BEHIND THE MENDERS.



WAIT... FIRST YOU SAY THAT THE MENDERS ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED, THEN YOU SAY THE "DILEMMA" IS BEHIND THEM? WHICH IS IT?




USE YOUR GREATEST OF GIFTS AND YOU WILL KNOW.



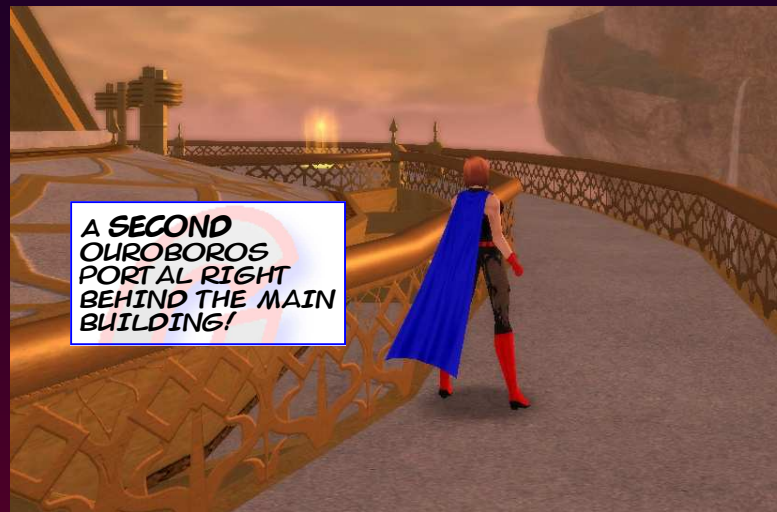
YES...
THAT GIFT!



OF COURSE!
IT MAKES SENSE NOW.



WHEN YOU SAID THE DILEMMA WAS "BEHIND" THE MENDERS, YOU DIDN'T MEAN METAPHYSICALLY.
YOU MEANT LITERALLY!



"JESSICA, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS PART OF THE AREA?"

"YEAH, WE SHOULD BE SAFE FOR A FEW HOURS. THIS IS WHERE THE RESISTANCE SENDS THE FIRST WARD REFUGEES FOR A WHILE UNTIL THEY GET THEIR NEW IDENTITIES SET UP."

"THE SEERS DON'T COME DOWN HERE UNLESS IT'S WITH A FULL IMPERIAL SQUAD. TOO MANY 'UNSTABLE MINDS' FOR THEM TO TOLERATE."

"WHY CAN WE STAY ONLY FOR A FEW HOURS?"

"THAT'S WHEN THE FACTORY WORKERS ARE LET OUT. THEY'RE THE SOURCE OF THE 'UNSTABLE MINDS'."

SO WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, JESSICA? WHY DID YOU RUN OFF WITHOUT LETTING ANYONE KNOW WHERE YOU WERE?

WE THOUGHT MAYBE GHOST WIDOW KILLED YOU... AGAIN!"

(*SPOTLIGHT* #8)

I KNOW... D@MNIT I KNOW!

AND I'M SORRY! BUT IT WAS ALL PART OF LIBRA'S PLAN. HE SAID WE NEEDED TO BE DISCRETE ABOUT THIS.

LAST YEAR, I GOT A CALL FROM MY BROTHER MATT. HE SAID HE HAD A JOB FOR ME AND FOR JOHN COLE THAT WOULDN'T INVOLVE THE ROGUE ISLES AT ALL.

BEAR IN MIND THAT THE GUARDIANS WERE JUST DISBANDED, AND WE BASICALLY HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

TURNED OUT IT WASN'T MATT THAT REALLY CONTACTED ME, THOUGH. IT WAS LIBRA.

LIBRA HAD A SPECIAL TASK FOR BOTH MYSELF AND JOHN THAT INVOLVED COMING HERE, TO PRAETORIA, AND IT HAD TO DO WITH THE WELL OF THE FURIES.

THE WELL IS THE ARTIFACT THAT GAVE BOTH STATESMAN AND LORD RECLUSE THEIR INCARNATE ABILITIES, BASED OFF THE GREEK GODS ZEUS AND TARTARUS.

WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE LEGEND. WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH PRAETORIA?

ACCORDING TO LIBRA, THE WELL IS A PAN-DIMENSIONAL ARTIFACT.

IN OTHER WORDS, JUST LIKE SUPERADINE, IT PRETTY MUCH APPEARS IN EVERY UNIVERSE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

AND... IT'S SENTIENT!



LIBRA SAID THAT WHEN OUR MARCUS COLE DRANK FROM THE WELL, IT AWOKED THE WELL ITSELF.

IT SOUGHT A CHAMPION, SOMEONE WHO WOULD DEFEND IT LIKE THE FURIES ONCE DID.

THE PROBLEM BEING, IT CHOSE MARCUS COLE.

THE MARCUS COLE OF THIS UNIVERSE!



A MEGALOMANIAC WITH THE FULL POWER OF THE GREEK PANTHEON AT HIS DISPOSAL.

NO WONDER LIBRA SAW THIS AS A THREAT.

I WOULD TOO IF I WAS STILL ASCENDED.



RIGHT. SO ANYWAY, LIBRA RECRUITS JOHN AND MYSELF TO COME HERE AND HELP CHALLENGE TYRANT, HOPING TO FORCE THE WELL TO GIVE COLE UP AND CHOOSE OUR MARCUS COLE AS THE NEW CHAMPION.

ONLY SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.



"YOU MEAN STATESMAN'S DEATH AT THE HANDS OF DARRIN WADE."

"YEAH. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT UNTIL AFTER I GOT HERE AND TPN WAS GLOATING ABOUT IT."



"I DEDUCED THAT THIS WAS THE REASON WHY LIBRA CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT SENDING JOHN HERE."

"WITH HIS FATHER DEAD, JOHN WOULD BE THE NEXT SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POWER OF THE WELL."

(* AS SEEN IN THE IN-GAME "WHO WILL DIE" STORY *)

★ STATESMAN
LEGENDARY SUPERHERO

"THAT EXPLAINS WHY WE SAW LIBRA RIPPING OUT ALL OF JOHN'S ARACHNOS IMPLANTS IN LIMBO."

"OHMIGOD, I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT! IS HE OKAY?"



"HE'S FINE, JESSICA. I TOOK HIM TO VANGUARD AND HE MANAGED TO HEAL HIMSELF IN A FEW WEEKS.

HE'S STAYING IN PARAGON CITY NOW AND STARTING HIS LIFE OVER AGAIN."

★ JOHN COLE
FORMER "WIDOWMAKER"

(* AS SEEN IN ISSUE #8 *)



SO NOW THAT WE
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED, THE
QUESTION
BECOMES WHAT
TO DO NEXT.



THAT'S SIMPLE.
I'M STAYING
HERE TO FINISH
THE JOB.
WE CAN'T LET
EMPEROR COLE
BECOME A
LITERAL GOD!



I AGREE WITH
JESSICA.
AND THAT'S WHY
I'M STAYING HERE
TO HELP HER.



IT'LL BE THE FIRST
TIME THAT I'LL
GET TO ACTUALLY
WORK WITH HER,
WHICH IS
SOMETHING WE
BOTH WANTED TO
DO SINCE I'VE MET
HER YEARS AGO.



I HOPE YOU WON'T
TRY TO TALK ME
OUT OF THIS.

I WON'T.
GOOD
LUCK TO
YOU BOTH.

GIVE
TYRANT
HELL.



FURIA, THIS IS ICON
POWERS.

TELL DEACON THAT IT'LL
JUST BE YOU AND ME
GOING BACK TO THE
PRIMAL UNIVERSE.

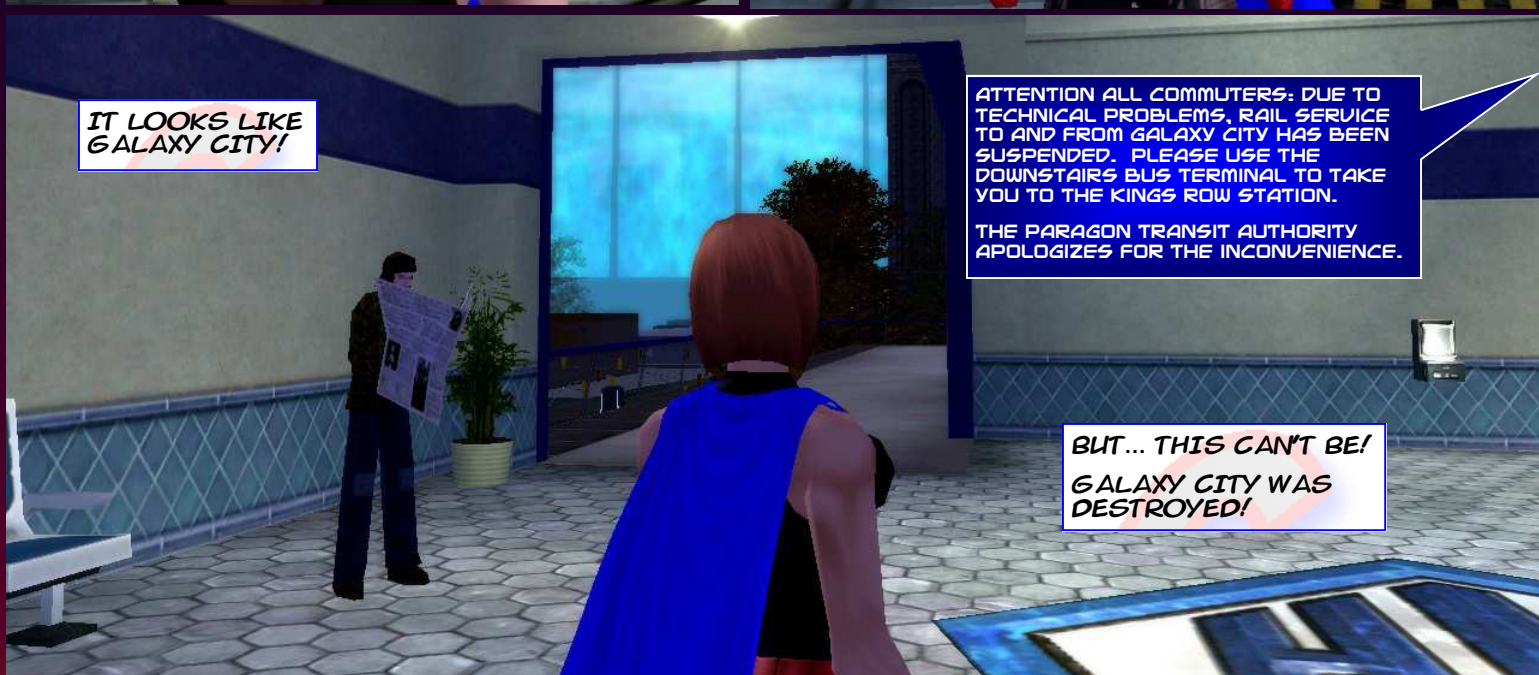


I...



I...
DON'T...

I DON'T
BELIEVE IT!



IT LOOKS LIKE
GALAXY CITY!

ATTENTION ALL COMMUTERS: DUE TO
TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, RAIL SERVICE
TO AND FROM GALAXY CITY HAS BEEN
SUSPENDED. PLEASE USE THE
DOWNSTAIRS BUS TERMINAL TO TAKE
YOU TO THE KINGS ROW STATION.
THE PARAGON TRANSIT AUTHORITY
APOLOGIZES FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

BUT... THIS CAN'T BE!
GALAXY CITY WAS
DESTROYED!



I REMEMBER FIGHTING
THE NEO-SHIVANS
JUST A FEW BLOCKS
AWAY FROM HERE!

THIS WHOLE
AREA WAS A
CRATER OF
TWISTED METAL
AND ROCK!

DID I GO BACK
IN TIME?

DID I GO BACK
TO JUST BEFORE
THE DISASTER?

HE'S READING THE
NEWSPAPER FROM
SEPTEMBER 13TH OF
LAST YEAR.

EXCUSE ME, SIR.
CAN I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

SIR? CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?

HE'S NOT RESPONSIVE.
HE DOESN'T EVEN ACT
LIKE I EXIST.

ALL THE PAPERS SAY
IT'S SEPTEMBER 13TH
OF LAST YEAR.

BUT THIS DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE!

I'VE TRAVELLED BACK
IN TIME BEFORE
THROUGH THE PILLAR
OF ICE AND FLAME,
AND PEOPLE WOULDN'T
BE OBLIVIOUS TO MY
PRESENCE.

GRANTED, THERE'S A
PERCEPTION FIELD THAT
WOULD PREVENT PEOPLE
IN THE PAST FROM
KNOWING WHO I WAS,
BUT THEY STILL WOULD
TALK WITH ME.

WAIT A MINUTE...

THERE'S SOMETHING
GLARINGLY WRONG
WITH THIS SCENE!

IF THIS REALLY WAS
SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR...

THEN WHERE'S
PACO SANCHEZ?

HE WAS ADAMANT ABOUT
BEING AT THE SAME SPOT
EVERY SINGLE DAY!

IF THIS REALLY IS THE PAST,
THEN PACO SHOULD BE
STANDING AT HIS USUAL
MEETING SPOT IN BETWEEN
EMERGENCY CALLS.

UNLESS THERE WAS AN
EMERGENCY CALL THAT HE
HAD TO RESPOND TO.

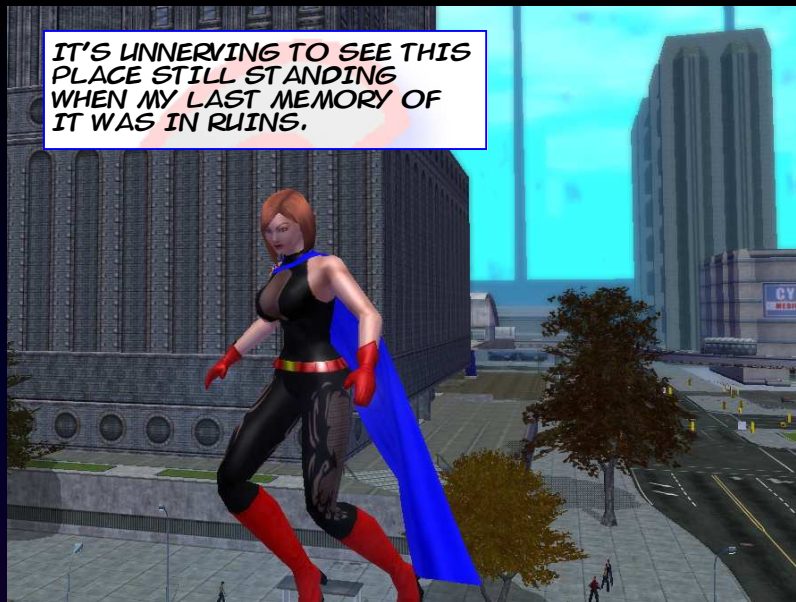
BUT HE TOLD ME THAT HE
DIDN'T HAVE ANY CALLS
THAT MORNING BEFORE
THE METEORS FELL!

FREEDOM SQUARE.
THE HEART OF
GALAXY CITY ITSELF!

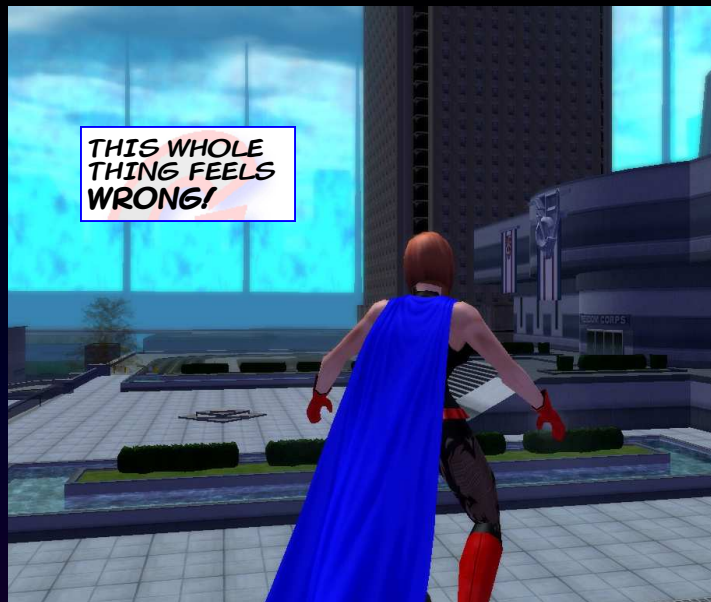
HEADQUARTERS TO THE
FREEDOM CORPS; ONE-TIME
HEADQUARTERS OF THE
FREEDOM PHALANX... *

* THE FREEDOM PHALANX USED THE
BUILDING AS THEIR BASE IN THE
TOP COW INCARNATION OF THE
"CITY OF HEROES" COMIC SERIES.
THEY LATER RELOCATED IN-GAME
TO FORT TRIDENT IN ATLAS PARK. >

AND THE HOME TO
HUNDREDS OF HEROES
AND HERO GROUPS
UNTIL THEY FIND
THEIR OWN PLACES IN
THE CITY.



IT'S UNNERVING TO SEE THIS PLACE STILL STANDING WHEN MY LAST MEMORY OF IT WAS IN RUINS.



THIS WHOLE THING FEELS WRONG!



NO BACK ALLEY BRAWLER.

NO FREEDOM CORPS MERCHANTS HELPING HIM.

AND YET I CAN SEE OTHER FREEDOM CORPS SOLDIERS ON PATROL!



WHY WOULD BRAWLER AND THE TWO MERCHANTS BE AWAY?

BATHROOM RUN, MAYBE.

BUT NOT FOR ALL THREE OF THEM!



LET'S SEE WHO'S INSIDE.



NO SUPERGROUP REGISTRAR, BUT THERE ARE STILL OFFICE WORKERS.

BATHROOM RUN FOR HIM TOO? THAT'S TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE.

NOW, MAN, THAT AIN'T RIGHT. THE "BLUE FLY" WAS JUST A GAME, SEEP

THE UNIONS JUST WANTED TO BUST WENTWORTH'S BOLLS CUZ THEIR BOY LOST.



EXCUSE ME... CAN
EITHER OF YOU
TELL ME WHERE
THE REGISTRAR
IS RIGHT NOW?



ARE YOU KIDDING
ME? LOOK, ALEX
WENTWORTH GOT
ELECTED 'CUZ HE
GOT SHOT. IF HE
DIDN'T GET SHOT
THEN HE WOULDN'T
HAVE WON.

OH MAN, YOU
BE TRIPPIN IF
YOU THINK
THAT!



TWEEEEEEET!

ATTENTION
PLEASE! I AM
ABOUT TO RUN
AROUND NAKED!



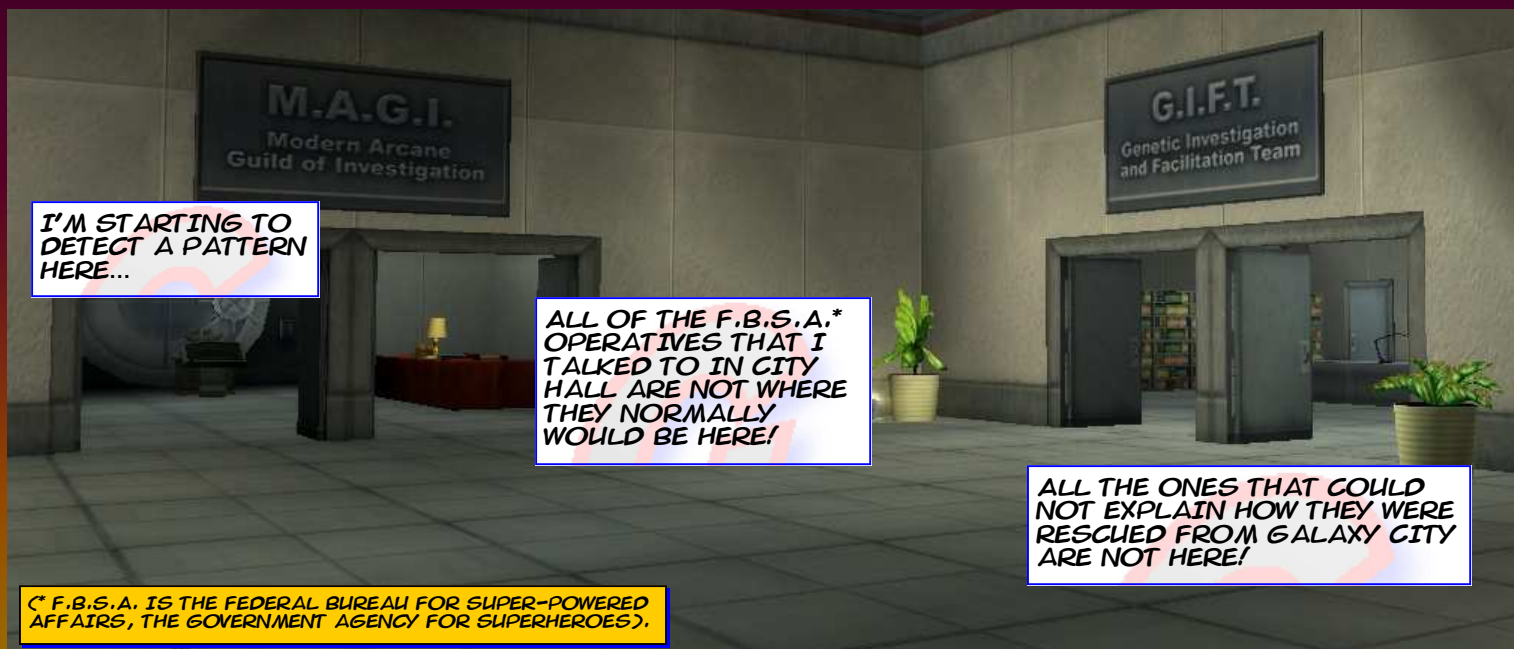
I MEAN, I'D SAY
YOU WERE WATCHIN'
TOO MUCH GARRY
BECKER BUT THAT
CLOWN HASN'T BEEN
ON THE AIR SINCE
THE ELECTION.

THEY DON'T SEE ME.
THEY DON'T HEAR ME.



MY HYPER-SENSES
SAY THEY ARE ALIVE.
I CAN HEAR
HEARTBEATS AND
RESPIRATION.

BUT THEY SEEM TO
BE OBLIVIOUS TO
ANYTHING EXCEPT
THEMSELVES.

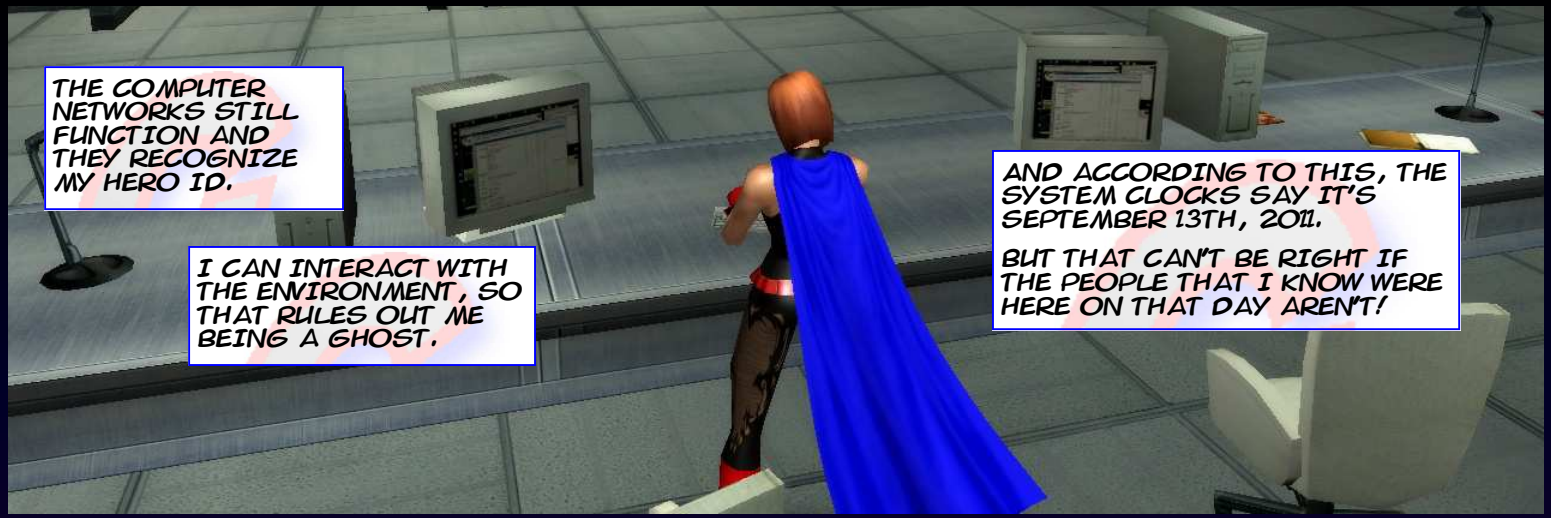


I'M STARTING TO
DETECT A PATTERN
HERE...

ALL OF THE F.B.S.A.*
OPERATIVES THAT I
TALKED TO IN CITY
HALL ARE NOT WHERE
THEY NORMALLY
WOULD BE HERE!

ALL THE ONES THAT COULD
NOT EXPLAIN HOW THEY WERE
RESCUED FROM GALAXY CITY
ARE NOT HERE!

* F.B.S.A. IS THE FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPER-POWERED
AFFAIRS, THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR SUPERHEROES*.



THE COMPUTER NETWORKS STILL FUNCTION AND THEY RECOGNIZE MY HERO ID.

I CAN INTERACT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, SO THAT RULES OUT ME BEING A GHOST.

AND ACCORDING TO THIS, THE SYSTEM CLOCKS SAY IT'S SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2011.

BUT THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT IF THE PEOPLE THAT I KNOW WERE HERE ON THAT DAY AREN'T!

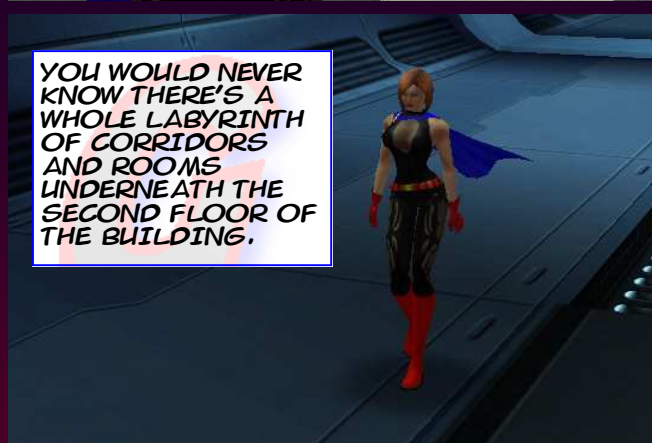


I'M NOT IN THE PAST, AND THE WORLD AROUND ME IS NOT STATIC.

SO WHAT **IS** THIS PLACE?



MAYBE THE LOWER LEVELS WILL SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS MYSTERY.



YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW THERE'S A WHOLE LABYRINTH OF CORRIDORS AND ROOMS UNDERNEATH THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING.



WHERE HEROES AND FREEDOM CORPS AGENTS LIVE AND WORK.



GASP!

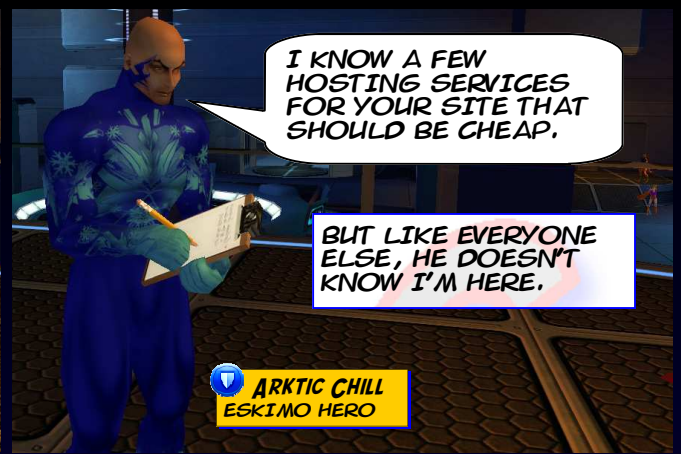


IS THAT... ?
YES, IT'S HIM!



WELL IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO DO.

ARKTIC CHILL,
ONE OF THE
MISSING
GUARDIANS!



I KNOW A FEW
HOSTING SERVICES
FOR YOUR SITE THAT
SHOULD BE CHEAP.

BUT LIKE EVERYONE
ELSE, HE DOESN'T
KNOW I'M HERE.

ARKTIC CHILL
ESKIMO HERO



I WISH YOU COULD HEAR
ME, HUNTER. I REALLY DO.

IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR,
AND THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN
THE SAME WITHOUT YOU
AROUND TO KEEP THE
WEBSITE GOING.

HELL, I'D EVEN GO OUT
WITH YOU IF IT WOULD
BRING EVERYONE HERE
BACK TO PARAGON CITY!



BUT... I GUESS
HUNTER HASN'T
CHANGED TOO
MUCH.

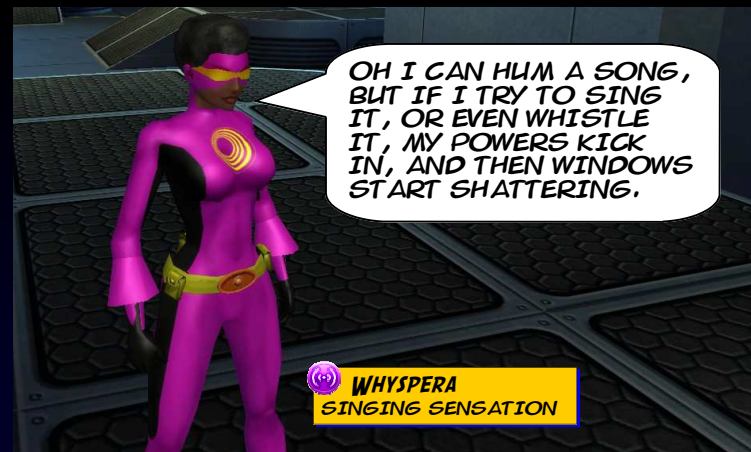
NOW, I DON'T KNOW IF
ANYONE ASKED YOU
THIS BEFORE, BUT
HAVE YOU EVER DONE
ANY MODELING?

I EXPECT A
FACE-SLAP IN
TWO MINUTES.



NOT FAR AWAY, I
SEE WHYSPEA
TALKING WITH
ANOTHER HERO I
HAD NEVER SEEN
BEFORE.

SO YOU CAN'T EVEN
SING A SONG
WITHOUT YOUR
POWERS KICKING IN?
EVEN WHISTLE?



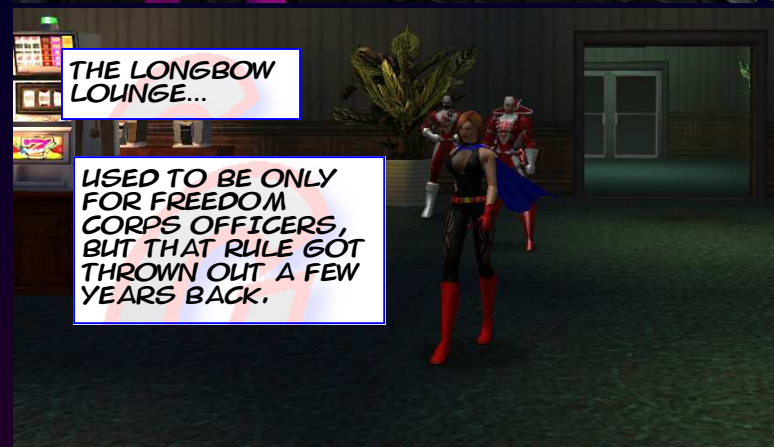
OH I CAN HUM A SONG,
BUT IF I TRY TO SING
IT, OR EVEN WHISTLE
IT, MY POWERS KICK
IN, AND THEN WINDOWS
START SHATTERING.

WHYSPERA
SINGING SENSATION



I MEAN, IT SUCKS,
RIGHT? BUT WHAT
CAN I DO?

IT BREAKS MY HEART
WATCHING THEM.
THEY'RE ALIVE, BUT
IT IS LIKE I'M IN
SOME STRANGE
SIMULATION.



THE LONGBOW
LOUNGE...

USED TO BE ONLY
FOR FREEDOM
CORPS OFFICERS,
BUT THAT RULE GOT
THROWN OUT A FEW
YEARS BACK.



WELL DON JUAN WASN'T
REALLY THAT GREAT.

SURE THE LEGENDS HAD
HIM AS SOME GREAT
LOVER, BUT THE MAN I
MET WASN'T THE LEAST
BIT HANDSOME. JUST
RATHER WEALTHY...



I REALLY HOPED THAT
IT WASN'T HIM...

DOC... D@MNIT...
NOT YOU TOO...

BUT THERE HE IS,
LIKE ALL OF THE
OTHER PEOPLE HERE
IN GALAXY CITY.

AND IF HE'S STUCK
HERE WITH THE
OTHERS, THEN WHO
CREATED THIS
STRANGE PLACE?

... BUT THEN AGAIN, MONEY
COULD BUY YOU THE KIND OF
LEGEND YOU WANTED TO
PRESENT.

SO WHEN I CAME ACROSS
HIM, HE HAD JUST HIRED HIS
FOURTH WRITER TO SPIN THE
TALE OF HIS SO-CALLED
"CONQUESTS".



I'M HUNGRY.
ANYONE WANT TO
GO GET SOME
PIZZA WITH ME?

WAIT A MINUTE...

THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
THIS SCENE.

NOW, HERE'S THE FUNNY
PART...

HE'S TALKING ABOUT HOW
HE WAS DUELING WITH
THE SUITOR OF ONE OF
HIS MANY SUPPOSED
WOMEN, AND HE'S
WORKING HIMSELF UP
WITH HIS WINE GOBBLET,
SLOSHING IT ABOUT AS
HE MOVES AROUND, AND
HE ACTUALLY TRIPS OVER
HIS OWN FEET!

YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY THAT YOU SHOULD MENTION PIZZA...

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THAT IT'S AN ITALIAN CREATION, BUT IT REALLY CAME FROM THE GREEKS.

THE ROMANS WERE GREAT CONQUERORS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT THE TIME, BUT WHAT THEY REALLY LOVED TO DO WAS TO BORROW IDEAS FROM OTHER CULTURES. JUST LIKE THEY BORROWED ARCHITECTURE AND PANTHEISTIC RELIGION FROM THE GREEKS, SO TOO DID THEY BORROW THEIR COOKING TIPS.

YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM PRATTLING ON AND ON LIKE THIS BEFORE.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S BEING REALLY TALKATIVE ON PURPOSE.

 **"DOC" TOR**
EXILED MANIPULATOR

I DON'T KNOW... I STILL HEAR THOSE RUMORS ABOUT PARAGON PIZZA PIE BEING LINKED TO THE FAMILY.

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE MY MONEY TO A BUSINESS THAT SUPPORTS MOBSTERS.

WELL I'M HUNGRY, SO LET'S FIND SOMETHING.

AND NONE OF IT IS MATCHING THE REST OF THE CONVERSATION!

I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT TO WORK...
DON'T YOU THINK SO, GALATEA?

WHAT?
WHAT?
YOU MEAN YOU... YOU CAN SEE ME?

SEE YOU, HEAR YOU...

I ACTUALLY WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE BEFORE YOU REALIZED THAT THE TRIO OF SOLDIERS WERE TAKING PART IN A CONVERSATION THAT WAS MISSING A FOURTH MEMBER.

ONE OF THE DRAWBACKS TO RESCUING PEOPLE ONE AT A TIME.


COME ON MAURY, YOU'LL LIKE IT!
AND WE'LL MAKE UP FOR IT BY TAKING DOWN SOME SKULLS!

A comic book panel showing Galatea, a woman with red hair in a black and blue outfit, standing in a bar. A man in a brown suit and black hat stands with his back to the camera, looking at her. The bar has a dark interior with plants and tables.

YOU CALL **THIS** A "RESCUE EFFORT"?

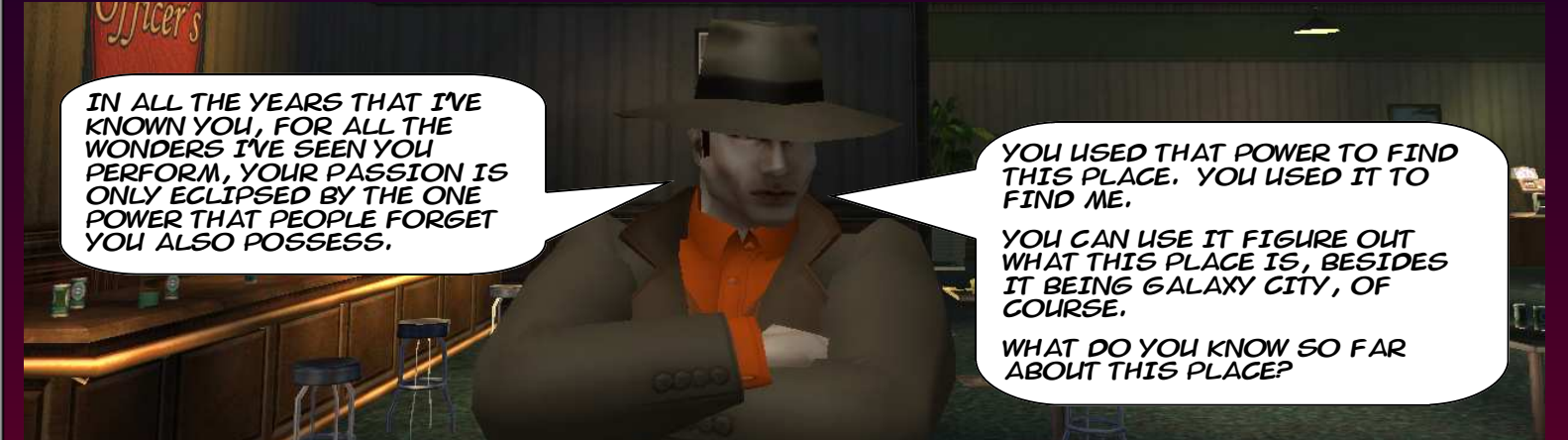
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON OUT THERE?

YOU'RE BEING BLAMED FOR CAUSING THE SHIVAN METEOR ATTACK! RICHARD CYRIL AND GARRY BECKER HAVE BEEN CRUCIFYING BOTH YOU AND THE REST OF THE GUARDIANS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF GALAXY CITY!

A comic book panel showing Galatea and the man in the hat in the same bar setting. Galatea is speaking to the man.

AND NOW... AFTER SEEING ALL OF THE EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU... AFTER FIGHTING EVERY RUMOR AND ACCUSATION AGAINST YOU... AFTER DOING MY BEST TO **DEFEND YOU AND THE GUARDIANS**... I SEE YOU PLAYING "HOUSE" IN THIS... THIS... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS!

GALATEA...


A comic book panel showing a close-up of the man in the hat, now wearing an orange shirt under his brown jacket. He has his arms crossed and is looking slightly to the side.

IN ALL THE YEARS THAT I'VE KNOWN YOU, FOR ALL THE WONDERS I'VE SEEN YOU PERFORM, YOUR PASSION IS ONLY ECLIPSED BY THE ONE POWER THAT PEOPLE FORGET YOU ALSO POSSESS.

YOU USED THAT POWER TO FIND THIS PLACE. YOU USED IT TO FIND ME.

YOU CAN USE IT FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS PLACE IS, BESIDES IT BEING GALAXY CITY, OF COURSE.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW SO FAR ABOUT THIS PLACE?

A comic book panel showing Galatea in the bar. She is looking forward with a serious expression.

EVERYTHING AROUND US SAYS IT'S GALAXY CITY STUCK ON SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2011, THE DAY OF THE SHIVAN METEOR ATTACK.

BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE THAT WERE THERE AT THE TIME ARE NOT HERE.

PEOPLE THAT HAVE NO IDEA HOW THEY WERE RESCUED AND CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR THE HUGE GAPS IN THEIR MEMORIES ABOUT THAT TIME.


THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE THAT WERE MISSING FOR ALMOST A YEAR THAT CAN'T SAY HOW THEY SURVIVED FOR THAT LONG.



UNLESS... THEY
WERE **HERE** FOR
THAT TIME!



NOW YOU'RE
GETTING IT.



BUT I **DON'T** GET IT!
NOW IT SOUNDS LIKE
YOU **CREATED** THE
DISASTER JUST SO YOU
COULD RESCUE PEOPLE!
THAT JUST MAKES THE
ACCUSATIONS EVEN
WORSE!

THAT'S JUST IT, THOUGH.
I DIDN'T **CAUSE** THE SHIVAN
METEORS TO COME TO EARTH.

YOU KNOW FROM YOUR
TIME WITH THE MENDERS
THAT THERE ARE SOME
EVENTS THAT ARE
CONSIDERED "FIXED
POINTS", EVENTS THAT
CANNOT BE CHANGED NO
MATTER WHAT!

TO INTERFERE WITH A
FIXED POINT CAN CAUSE
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE TO
COLLAPSE IN ENTROPY.




*SUCH AS
WHEN ALOR
DESTROYED
YOUR WORLD
BY KILLING
PHOTONIS.*

(~ *SPOTLIGHT* #22)

OKAY, SO YOU'RE
SAYING THAT THE
DESTRUCTION OF
GALAXY CITY IS ONE
OF THESE "FIXED
POINTS" IN TIME.
SO... WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO DO HERE
IF YOU COULDN'T
STOP THE DISASTER?

THE PROBLEM
IS THAT THE
EVENT WASN'T
ORIGINALLY
A "FIXED
POINT".



SOMETHING ALTERED
THIS UNIVERSE'S
TIMELINE, FORCING THE
DESTRUCTION OF GALAXY
CITY TO **BECOME** A FIXED
POINT AND THUS CAUSED
OTHER TRAGEDIES TO
HAPPEN.

BUT I DIDN'T DO ALL THIS TO
TRY TO STOP GALAXY CITY
FROM BEING DESTROYED.
I DID THIS TO SAVE THE
PEOPLE THAT WERE CAUGHT UP
IN THE TRAGEDY.

AND NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE,
WE CAN SAVE THE REST OF
THEM!

**BUT CAN THEY?
FIND OUT!**

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 5: The Final Confrontation

Kent Powers tried to keep the existence of Leona a secret for as long as possible. This was done partially to keep her hidden from the media, but also to prevent Lionel from getting any kind of information about his birth-daughter.

Much to everyone’s surprise, though, Lionel never asked about Leona. Even though the warden at the Ultra-Max prison promised that Lionel would be shut off from any kind of contact with the outside world, it was a foregone conclusion that if Lionel was so determined, he’d find out what was going on. And he demonstrated that capacity by asking about the events of the Iran-Contra scandal and of Manuel Noriega’s arrest in Panama.

But he never asked about anything concerning his own daughter. That made some people nervous.

...

Lionel’s book, “The Millennium Manifesto”, was critically panned by pundits and book critics alike. Most of it was dismissed as being “extreme social and economic Darwinism”. One critic even went so far as to consider it “the ramblings of a psychotic madman”. This led to a call to have Lionel declared mentally insane, but Lionel himself squashed all such pleas, saying that he was right where he needed to be.

...

Hearing Lionel’s words coming from young Leona’s mouth was almost as frightening to Kent as watching her mercilessly attack the bridge bandits before turning her attacks on him. Even worse was when she would say them in Lionel’s own voice.

...

Lionel was not surprised to know that Kent was going to pay him a visit for the first time since being incarcerated. His calmness upon hearing about Leona’s breakdown clinched Kent’s suspicions of Lionel’s “master plan”.

...

Kent managed to keep his composure as he left the facility, but he couldn’t keep it for long. He had lost so much at that point. His parents were gone. His most recent girlfriend, who helped him raise Leona, was gone. And now he’s learned that the little girl that he has raised as his own daughter had become Lionel’s instrument of vengeance on the whole world.

It is said that there is no sound in space, but on that day a huge crystalline cloud of nitrogen and oxygen was found briefly above Earth’s orbit. And when it was pulled back to Earth, some people claimed, even though it was scientifically impossible, that they heard someone faintly yell.

...

What helped carry Kent’s story about Karen was that most of the world did not know that Leona really existed. It was easy to say, then, that she was a victim of Lionel’s brainwashing and that “Karen” was the supposedly “real” personality. However, once the news of a new member of the Powers family was made public, it was impossible to hide her connection to her birth-father. But Karen soon won over much of the media with her sunny personality and disarming beauty.

...

Most people laughed at the so-called “Millennium Bug”, but like all other rumors and myths, there was a grain of truth to the supposed software flaw.

Continues on next page...

The program was called “Revelation” and it was designed to ensure that the Council’s fatalistic belief that civilization would not see the 21st Century.

Hidden inside the so-called “Fail Safe” systems to America’s Cold War nuclear arsenal was a code connected to a clock. At midnight on January 1st, 2000, regardless of world affairs or executive decisions, the command for launch would be given that could not be countermanded.

The part that brought chills to the White House was the realization that nobody would have known this program existed or what it would do if not for a fluke incident with an ICBM silo in Kansas that reset its clocks. Although the ICBM launched automatically, it was thankfully stopped in its ascent by the alien hero Photonis.

...

Kent knew that his uncle had an ulterior motive for offering his “help” in stopping the “Revelation” program. He was never offered a pardon for his past crimes, nor did he ask for one. Lionel seemed content to be able to stop the last vestiges of “The Circle” as part of his ongoing vendetta with them.

But everyone knew that there was nothing “simple” when it concerned Lionel.

...

It was a Kansas City doctor that reported that a bloody and battered Lionel walked into the hospital holding a slip of paper that contained the frequency needed to counteract the program before the midnight deadline.

...

Lionel Powers was pronounced dead on January 2nd, 2000. As per his final instructions, there was no service for him. His body was cremated, as was witnessed to ensure there was no deception. Afterward, his ashes were sealed in a container and handed to Kent Powers, who scattered them on the dark side of the moon before throwing the container into the sun.

Lionel believed that he was destined to change the world. To some extent he did, but not in the way that he wanted to.

[END]

[NOTE: Although all copies of the physical book “My Uncle’s Keeper” were destroyed along with the rest of the XHT-S7 Universe in 2007, a digital copy of the book still resided in a memory drive of the tech-based suit of Icon Powers when he was brought over to the Primal Universe. These data fragments were all that remained after the suit was badly damaged in his final battle with Alor in 2010.]

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



It all comes down to this...

*Can Doc Tor and Galatea Powers
REALLY save the people of Galaxy City?*

*One way or another, the Guardians will
no longer be a “ghost group” at
the end of this final issue.*



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