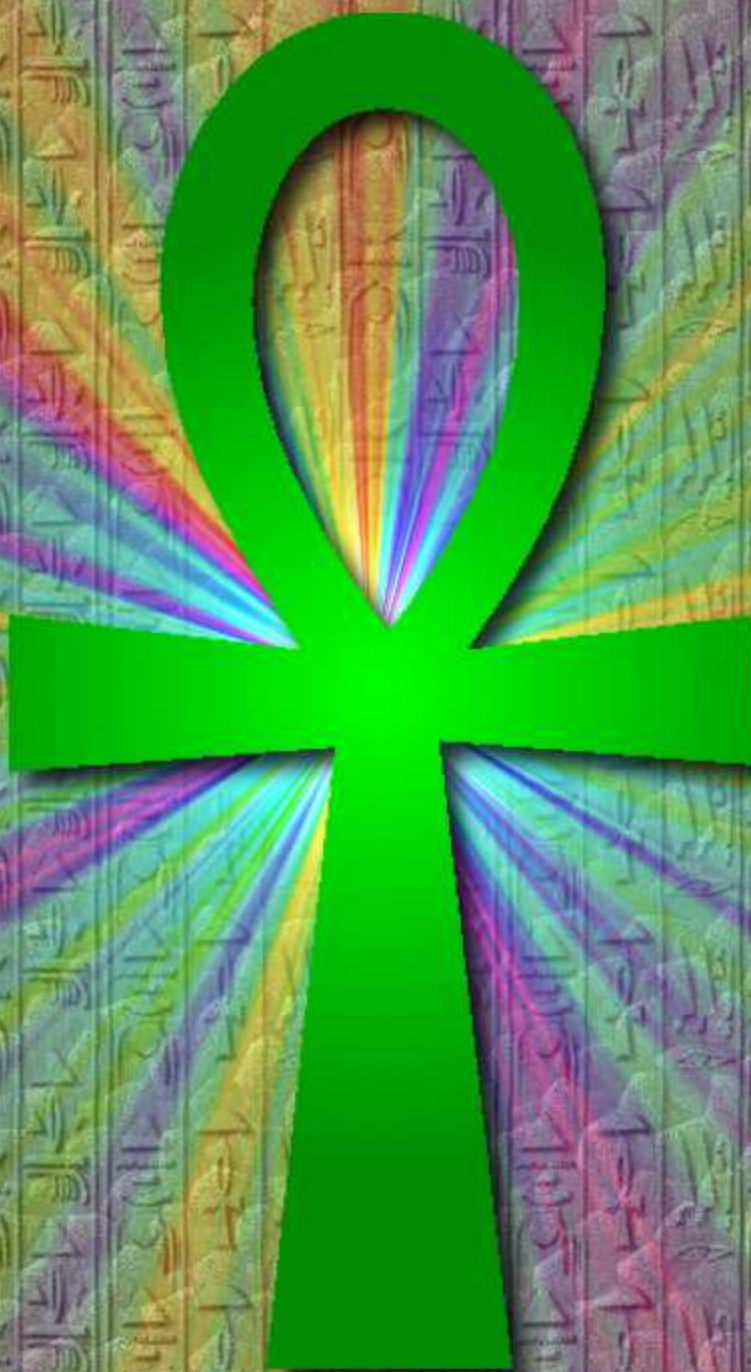


THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ISSUE 11
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



ALEX WENTWORTH - PARAGON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

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.

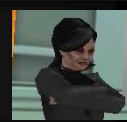


MALCOLM ROCHSPARE - LEGAL "FIXER"

BORN IN ENGLAND, STUDIED IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, MALCOLM KNOWS THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND KNOWS HOW TO MANIPULATE IT TO HIS ADVANTAGE... AND ALSO SOMETIMES FOR HIS CLIENTS.

MS. ELLE MAPLE - SHADOWBORN DEPUTY

AS THE LOYAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO LORD LEE GEDDY OF THE ROGINANTE GROUP, MS. MAPLE SHOULD NEVER BE UNDERESTIMATED IN HER WILLINGNESS TO DO EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO PROTECT HER BOSS AND GET THE JOB DONE.



AND INTRODUCING...



PHARON - PHARAOH'S CHAMPION

RESURRECTED FROM THE DAYS OF EGYPTIAN RULE, THIS ANCIENT WARRIOR LIVES AGAIN THANKS TO KHELDIAN TECHNOLOGY AND THE REINCARNATION OF ITS CREATOR, RAMSEN-SET.

"PHARON ARISE!"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

The Guardian Powers #11 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.



SOMEWHERE IN PEREZ PARK...

OH YEAH!
GO BE-BLADER, IT'S
YOUR BIRTHDAY!
GONNA GET SOME!
SLICE-N-DICE-'EM!

GO BE-BLADER! IT'S
YOUR BIRTHDAY!
GONNA GET SOME!
SLICE-N-DICE-'EM!

 **BLOODBLADER**
ASSASSIN FOR HIRE





I... 'CAN'T'?

BUT... I HAVE THE HOT LEATHERS ON...

AND I HAVE THE MASK SO I CAN DO MY BOBA THING...

AND I'M FEELING REALLY GOOD SO I JUST HAVE TO ASK...



WHAT KIND OF LUNATIC TELLS THE PSYCHO WITH SWORDS SHE 'CAN'T' DO SOMETHING?



MY NAME IS MALCOLM ROCHSPARE...

AND I'M FAR FROM BEING A LUNATIC.

I'M THE MAN TELLING YOU THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO AFTER GALATEA POWERS.

MALCOLM ROCHSPARE
ATTORNEY FOR HIRE



OOOHHH... YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT...

'CUZ NOW I WANT TO KILL YOU EVEN MORE!

GIVE ME A REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T KILL YOU...

AND... CAN YOU DO IT IN LIKE MAYBE A SCOTTISH ACCENT? THIS SORTA-BRITISH THING JUST DOESN'T WORK FOR ME.



SIGH I'LL GIVE YOU THREE REASONS.

ONE: YOU CANNOT GO AFTER GALATEA POWERS BECAUSE YOU STILL WORK FOR SHADOWBORN, AND, AS SUCH, YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO STAY AWAY FROM FORMER GUARDIANS LIKE GALATEA POWERS.*

TWO: IF YOU DID TRY TO KILL HER, YOUR SWORDS WOULD BREAK AND THEN SHE WOULD BREAK YOU.

AND **THREE:** BECAUSE I HAVE NEED OF YOUR UNIQUE SKILLS FOR A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER...

A **PAID** JOB THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO FOR ME IF YOU WERE PATCHING YOURSELF UP IN A PRISON INFIRMARY.

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN AFTERMATH" *)



HMM...



HMM...
HUMMM...

HUM-
HUMMMMM/
BACON!



OKAY,
I'M YOUR
PSYCHO!



YOU DIDN'T DO THE SCOTTISH THING FOR ME, BUT I KIND-OF LIKED HOW YOU REASONED IT ALL OUT.

I'LL TAKE THE ASSIGNMENT, AND MAYBE THE TAPE THAT SELF-DESTRUCTS TOO IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE.

AND IF THE SECRETARY CALLS I'LL DISAVOW EVERYTHING SHE AND I DID THAT WEEKEND. DEAL?

FAIR ENOUGH.

I JUST NEED YOU TO PAY SOMEONE A... FRIENDLY VISIT.

STEEL CANYON - PARAGON CITY, R.I.

STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY



EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU SETH
RAMSES?

IT'S SET RAMSES.
SET. NOT "SETH".
THERE IS NO "H"
IN MY NAME.

SET RAMSES
EGYPTIAN EXPERT



SORRY! SORRY.

I CAN TELL FROM YOUR
TONE THAT YOU'VE BEEN
HEARING PEOPLE MAKE
THAT MISTAKE FOR A WHILE
NOW, AND I'M SORRY THAT
I ADDED TO THAT.

THE NAME'S JONES. I'M THE
GUIDANCE COUNCILOR HERE.
I'M GUESSING THAT THE MEETING
WITH THE FACULTY DEAN DIDN'T
GO SO WELL WITH YOU.

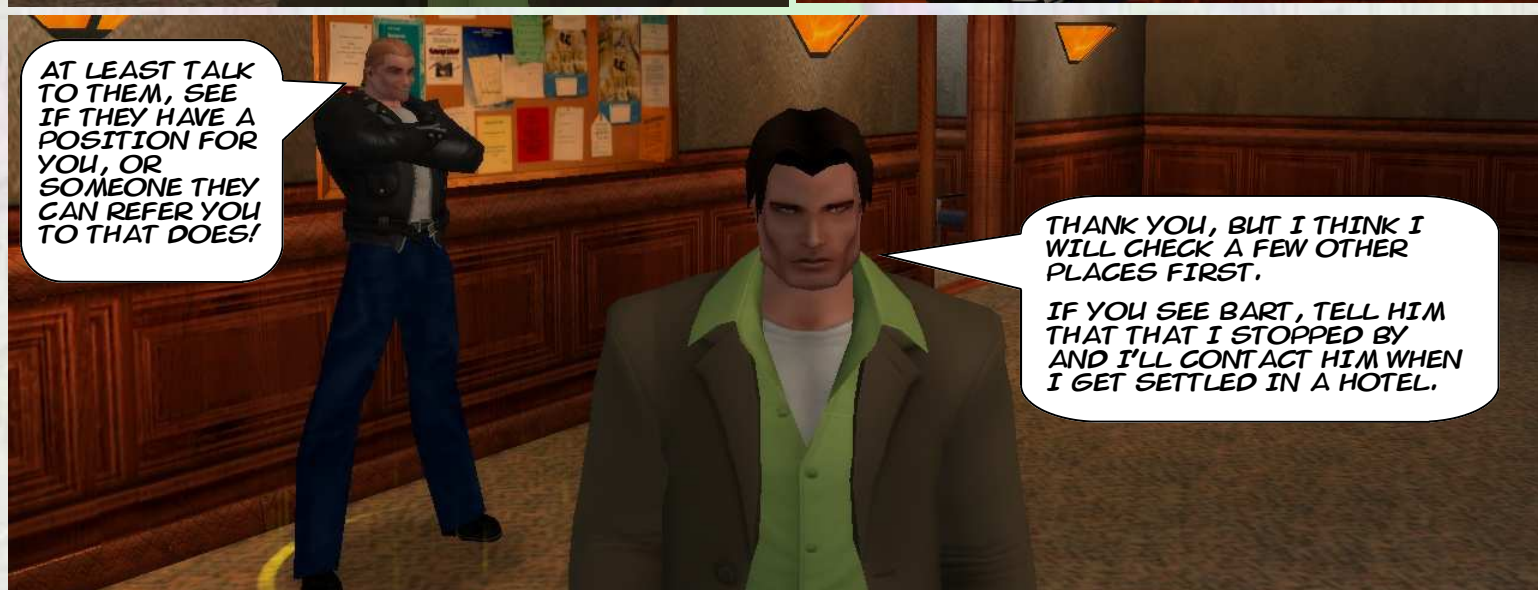
DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG
WAY, BUT I THINK SHE WAS
EXPECTING YOU TO WEAR A
TIE FOR THE INTERVIEW.

COUNCILOR JONES
GUIDANCE COUNCILOR



AND I WOULD NORMALLY
HAVE A TIE, EXCEPT MY
FLIGHT HERE WAS DELAYED
SIX HOURS, AND BY THE TIME
I ARRIVED IN THE CITY, I
DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO STOP IN
A NEARBY STORE TO GET ONE.
NEVER MIND THE FACT THAT
MY LUGGAGE IS STILL LOST
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HERE
AND LONDON.

BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER ANYWAY,
BECAUSE I WAS TOLD THAT
THEIR BUDGET FOR
ARCHEOLOGY WAS JUST CUT,
WHICH MEANS THEY CAN'T
AFFORD TO HIRE A SPECIALIST
IN ANCIENT EGYPT, EVEN IF I
DID LOOK MY BEST FOR THE
INTERVIEW.



CALL #1...

NO, SET... S-E-T.

SET RAMSES.

THE AIRLINE SAID TO CALL YOU ABOUT THE STATUS OF MY LUGGAGE FROM FLIGHT 918.

IMMIGRATION STATUS? WHAT IMMIGRATION STATUS? I AM AN AMERICAN CITIZEN! I ONLY HAVE DUAL-CITIZENSHIP WITH EGYPT BECAUSE OF MY FATHER.

YES I KNOW PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TERRORISM!

NO I DON'T HAVE A NUMBER THAT YOU CAN REACH ME! I DON'T EVEN HAVE A HOTEL ROOM YET!

FINE. I'LL CALL YOU BACK WHEN I DO GET A HOTEL!

CALL #2...

YES, MY NAME IS SET RAMSES...

SET! NOT SETH!

I WAS HOPING THAT I COULD ARRANGE A MEETING WITH YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION TO SEE IF WENTWORTH'S IS IN NEED OF A HISTORICAL APPRAISER FOR SOME OF YOUR EGYPTIAN ARTIFACTS.

CALL #5...

S-E-T. SET!

I KNOW THAT PANDORA'S BOX DEALS IN MYSTICAL ARTIFACTS, BUT SOME OF THEM MAY COME FROM EGYPT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T DEAL IN EGYPTIAN ARTIFACTS?

YOU RECENTLY AUCTIONED OFF THE HEADPIECE OF REGENT MERNEITH OF THE FIRST DYNASTY FOR EIGHTY MILLION!

AFTER CALL #8...

<%&##\$@*>

(* FORBIDDEN TO TRANSLATE FROM ARABIC.)

CALL #9

PARAGON CITY.

I NEED THE NUMBER FOR THE MYSTICAL ARCANE GUILD OF INVESTIGATION, PLEASE.

YES, THEIR MAIN OFFICE.

ELSEWHERE...

ALEX WENTWORTH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ALEX... THIS IS
A SURPRISE.

ICON POWERS
RETIRED SUPERHERO

WE NEED TO TALK, KENT.
I KNOW WE AGREED
THAT YOU SHOULD BE
GIVEN SOME LEeway
WITH THIS PROJECT,
AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANY
REASON TO QUESTION
WHAT YOU WERE DOING
WITH IT... UNTIL NOW.

WHEN WERE YOU GOING
TO TELL ME THAT YOU
STARTED TO RECRUIT
OUTSIDE OF OUR
LITTLE GROUP?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

THE ELITE ICE
QUEEN, FOR
STARTERS.*

(* ISSUE #9)

THEN THERE'S... THAT!
I REMEMBER FROM THE
OLD DAYS WHAT AN
INTERFACE DEVICE LOOKS
LIKE, AND WHO WOULD
NEED ONE.
AND IT BETTER NOT BE
FOR THE PERSON THAT
LAST USED ONE HERE!



NO, THE
INTERFACE IS
NOT FOR HIM.

IT'S FOR THE
CONSULTANT
THAT I BROUGHT
IN THAT'S BEEN
HELPING ME
WITH ALL OF
THESE CHANGES.



I'M NOT EXACTLY
BRIMMING WITH
CONFIDENCE ABOUT
THAT, ESPECIALLY
SINCE WE ALREADY
HAVE DAYBRIGHT
HELPING US.



DAYBRIGHT'S BOTH
A TECH GENIUS AND
A KHELDIAN HYBRID,
BUT SHE'S ALSO
STILL WORKING
UNDERCOVER, SO WE
CAN'T CALL ON HER
ALL THE TIME.

BESIDES, HE
WAS KEY IN
RESOLVING THE
MEDICAL GLITCH
THAT WE HAD
WITH GALATEA.*

OKAY, FAIR
ENOUGH.
WHAT ABOUT
THE ELITE ICE
QUEEN?

← ISSUE #3 →



I AGREED TO MENTOR E.I.Q.
IN MY CIVILIAN ROLE WITH
THE FEDERAL BUREAU FOR
SUPER-POWERED AFFAIRS.

SO, TECHNICALLY, SHE
WORKS FOR KENT PODERES,
NOT ICON POWERS.

I BROUGHT HER IN AS A
FAVOR, JUST LIKE WE WERE
ONCE ASKED TO BRING IN
PYROGURL.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT
WE'RE DOING HERE YET,
AND I DON'T THINK SHE'S
READY TO KNOW THAT
SHE'S REALLY WORKING
FOR OUR LITTLE GROUP.

BUT WHEN SHE **IS** READY,
SHE'LL BE A FORMIDABLE
ASSET TO US.



AND THAT BRINGS UP
SOMETHING THAT WE
NEEDED TO DISCUSS AT
SOME POINT ANYWAY.

EVER SINCE WE STARTED
COVERTLY BRINGING THE
GUARDIANS BACK, WE KNEW
THAT AT SOME POINT WE'D
HAVE TO EXPAND OUR
CIRCLE OF OPERATIVES
BEYOND OUR TRIO OF
GALATEA, CAP, AND LYON.

WE HAVE DAYBRIGHT WHEN
SHE'S ABLE TO BREAK AWAY.

I DON'T REALLY THINK WE CAN
COUNT ON MIDKNIGHT X
OUTSIDE OF WHEN WE BRING
DOWN SHADOWBORN.

WE ONLY HAVE EXGEMINI
UNTIL WE FIND MIDNIGHT
ARACHNIA.

AND WITH HALF THE OLD
GUARDIAN ROSTER EITHER
MISSING, DEAD, OR
RETIRED, I SEE NO OTHER
CHOICE BUT TO START
LOOKING AT BRINGING IN
NEW MEMBERS.



YOU MAKE SOME GOOD POINTS, KENT. AND I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU THAT WE NEED TO START LOOKING AT THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR OVERALL PLAN...

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE READY YET TO DO THAT.

WE AGREED TO GO FORWARD WITH PHASES ONE AND TWO WHEN WE THOUGHT THE ONLY ADVERSARIES WE'D BE UP AGAINST ARE SHADOWBORN AND THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE.



BUT YOUR RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH LIBRA, COMBINED WITH THE RECENT ATTACKS DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT GALATEA... FROM GOLDEN HAWKFIRE TO WHOEVER CREATED THAT IMPERFECT QUICK CLONE OF LIONEL POWERS... LEADS ME TO THINK THAT SOMETHING LARGER IS BEHIND OUR MISERY.

AND IF THAT "SOMETHING" IS LIBRA... WELL, WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH SOMETHING OF THAT MAGNITUDE.

WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT HOW WE PROCEED WITH THIS.

AND YOU REALLY NEED TO KEEP ME IN THE LOOP ON THESE THINGS FROM NOW--

BEEP-BEEP
BEEP-BEEP



THIS IS DISTRICT ATTORNEY WENTWORTH.

YES MADELINE, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

REALLY? NO, I'M AVAILABLE NOW, I'LL MAKE MY WAY THERE.

THANK YOU.

WHAT IS IT?



THAT WAS MY UNCLE'S PERSONAL SECRETARY. HE JUST SUMMONED ME FOR AN IMPORTANT MEETING AT THE WENTWORTH ESTATE.

THE STRANGE PART IS... THE WENTWORTH ESTATE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST PLACES I WAS CUT OFF FROM WHEN I WAS DISINHERITED FROM THE FAMILY ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

AND NOW TO BE SUMMONED THERE... IT'S... DISTURBING.

ANDREW WENTWORTH WOULDN'T SUMMON YOU UNLESS IT WAS FOR SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT. BE CAREFUL, ALEX.

ATLAS PLAZA - ATLAS PARK



HELLO, YOU MUST BE AZURIA.

I'M SET RAMSES. I SPOKE WITH YOU EARLIER ON THE PHONE.



SET RAMSES... SET...

YES, I REMEMBER TALKING TO SOMEONE ON THE PHONE BY THAT NAME...

IF I SEE HIM, I CAN TELL HIM YOU WERE LOOKING FOR HIM.

MS. AZURIA, FORGIVE ME, BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU'RE JUST PUTTING ON AN ACT.

AZURIA
M.A.G.I. DIRECTOR




CHUCKLE VERY PERCEPTIVE OF YOU, MISTER RAMSES.

YES, MANY PEOPLE PRESUME THAT I AM ABSENT-MINDED, SO THEY OFTEN WILL NOT ASK ME TOO MANY QUESTIONS.

I FIND IT HELPS MY WORK TREMENDOUSLY, SINCE I ONLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH THOSE THAT ARE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW IT IS AN ACT.

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T THINK THAT I CAN BE OF MUCH HELP FOR YOU IN WHAT YOU ARE REALLY LOOKING FOR.


A man with dark hair, wearing a brown jacket over a green shirt and dark pants, stands in a room with wood paneling. He is gesturing with his hands while speaking.

WHAT I REALLY **NEED**,
MS. AZURIA, IS A
JOB.


I AM A SPECIALIST
IN ANCIENT EGYPT. I
CAN SPEAK FIVE
ACTIVE LANGUAGES
AND READ SEVEN.

I'VE PUBLISHED SEVERAL
PAPERS SHOWING THE
INFLUENCES OF THE MOON-
GOD IAH ON SEVERAL
SECRET ORGANIZATIONS
AROUND THE WORLD.

I BELIEVE THIS KNOWLEDGE
WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL FOR
YOUR ORGANIZATION.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue strapless top and a purple skirt, stands behind a wooden desk. She is looking towards the man.

MISTER RAMSES,
I AM WELL AWARE
OF YOUR
CREDENTIALS AND
OF YOUR WORK.

A close-up of the woman with her arms crossed, looking directly at the camera.


IN FACT, WE'VE EVEN
USED YOUR WORKS
AS REFERENCES
FOR SOME OF OUR
INVESTIGATIONS.

BUT I'M AFRAID
THAT WE'RE NOT
READY TO HIRE YOU
AT THIS TIME.

A close-up of the man looking slightly to the side.

FORGIVE ME, MISS
AZURIA, BUT I DO
NOT UNDERSTAND.

I WAS TOLD THAT YOU
WERE LOOKING FOR A
SPECIALIST IN EGYPT
FOR AN ARTIFACT
YOU DISCOVERED. I
WOULD BE MORE THAN
WILLING TO HELP--

A close-up of the woman with her arms crossed, looking slightly away from the camera.

OH! I SEE...

YES... THAT
WOULD BE
HELPFUL.

The woman stands in a room with a desk and a glowing green artifact in the background. She is looking towards the camera.

I'M SORRY... I WAS
MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED.
IT'S... NOT SOMETHING I CAN
DISCUSS QUITE YET.

ANYWAY, IF YOU COULD
SPEAK WITH GREGOR
RICHARDSON, OUR DEPUTY
DIRECTOR, HE SHOULD GIVE
YOU DETAILS ON THAT
PROJECT AND SEE HOW YOU
CAN ASSIST US ON THAT.



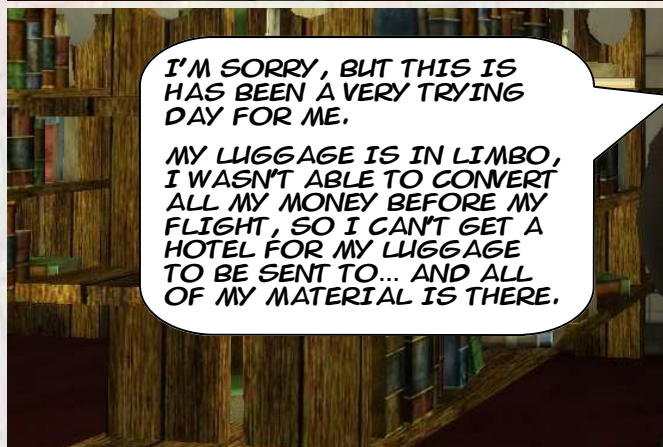
MISTER
RICHARDSON?



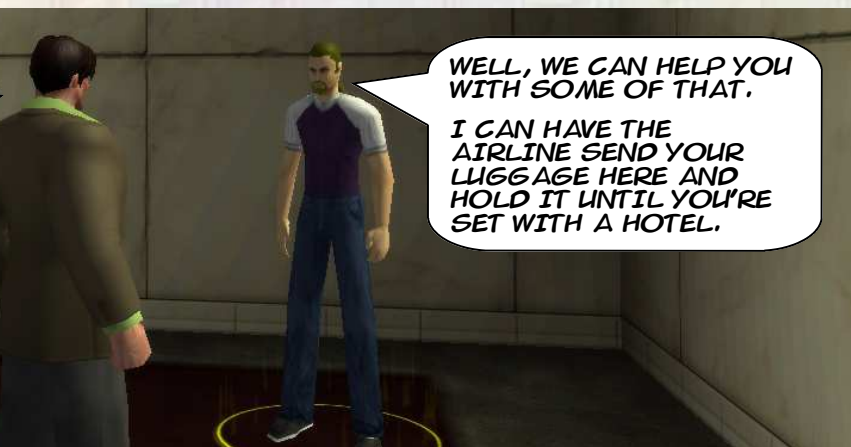
HELLO MISTER
RAMSES.
AND I'M SORRY
ABOUT AZURIA, BUT
SHE **IS** A VERY BUSY
PERSON ON THE
ASTRAL PLANE.



GREGOR RICHARDSON
M.A.G.I. DEPUTY DIRECTOR



I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS
HAS BEEN A VERY TRYING
DAY FOR ME.
MY LUGGAGE IS IN LIMBO,
I WASN'T ABLE TO CONVERT
ALL MY MONEY BEFORE MY
FLIGHT, SO I CAN'T GET A
HOTEL FOR MY LUGGAGE
TO BE SENT TO... AND ALL
OF MY MATERIAL IS THERE.



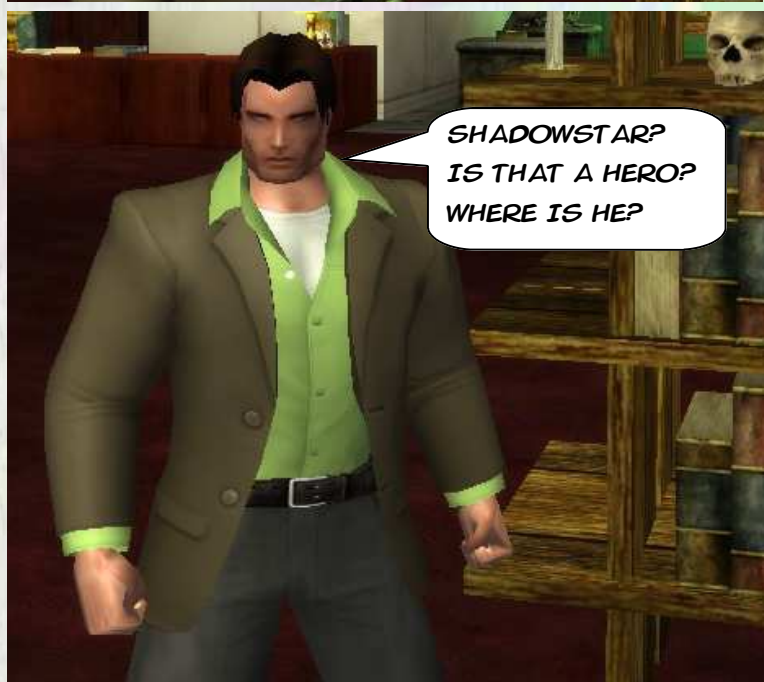
WELL, WE CAN HELP YOU
WITH SOME OF THAT.
I CAN HAVE THE
AIRLINE SEND YOUR
LUGGAGE HERE AND
HOLD IT UNTIL YOU'RE
SET WITH A HOTEL.



THANK YOU. THAT
WOULD TRULY BE
APPRECIATED.
NOW, ABOUT THIS
ARTIFACT--



THAT IS THE REALLY
TRICKY PART.
IN ORDER TO GET TO
THE ARTIFACT, YOU'LL
NEED TO SPEAK WITH
SHADOWSTAR FIRST.



SHADOWSTAR?
IS THAT A HERO?
WHERE IS HE?



SHE, ACTUALLY,
AND SHE'S...
WELL, IT'S ALSO
RATHER TRICKY.

YOU CAN FIND
HER IN THE
S.E.R.A.P.H.
OFFICE.

AND... I SHOULD
WARN YOU THAT
SHE'S VERY OLD
AND A LITTLE
BIT CRYPTIC AT
TIMES.

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!

WENTWORTH ESTATE

"THANK YOU, OSWALD, I THINK I KNOW MY WAY TO THE STUDY."

ALEX. THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE SO QUICKLY.

ANDREW WENTWORTH
CEO WENTWORTH'S FINE CONSIGNMENT

WELL IT'S RARE THAT YOU WOULD ASK TO SEE ME HERE, UNCLE.

THAT IT IS. AND PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE THIS DISCUSSION UP IN THE SITTING AREA.

ALL THESE YEARS AND I'M STILL NOT WORTH HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH YOU BY THE FIREPLACE?

HMM... LET'S JUST SAY THAT THE SOUND "CARRIES" TOO MUCH THERE, AND I DON'T WANT OUR FAMILY CONVERSATION OVERHEARD BY THE... "WRONG PEOPLE".

REALLY? EVEN HERE IN YOUR OWN HOME?

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE NOT TRUSTED.

OLD AND SAD FAMILY SECRET.

PRESIDENT NIXON PICKED UP HIS "RECORDING" HABITS FROM YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER...

AND SOME OF OUR "HABITS" ARE VERY HARD TO BREAK.



SO THEY CAN'T
HEAR US UP HERE?

YES. PRECISELY.
THERE HAVE BEEN
SOME CHANGES
TO OUR LITTLE...
ARRANGEMENT...
THAT YOU NEED
TO BE AWARE OF.

UNCLE, I HAVE HELD
UP TO MY PART OF
THE AGREEMENT.*
THE GUARDIANS ARE
DISBANDED, AND I
CAN'T DRAW A BOW
EVEN IF I WANTED TO.

(* FROM "AFTERMATH"*)



HMPH... THE LATTER PART WE CAN AGREE
ON, BUT THE REST IS A DISCUSSION
FOR ANOTHER TIME.

IT SEEMS THERE ARE THOSE WITHIN THE
ALLIANCE THAT DEEM MY CONNECTION
TO YOU TO BE... SOMETHING OF A
LIABILITY.

THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT I DO ABOUT YOU
AND YOUR... ASSOCIATES, BUT THEY DO
KNOW THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO
WITH THE GUARDIANS DISBANDING.

NOW THEY WANT TO
CAPITALIZE ON
THAT.

I'M WARNING YOU
NOW BECAUSE
ANOTHER MEMBER
OF THE ALLIANCE
HAS ARRIVED TO
DO JUST THAT.



LET ME GUESS...
MALCOLM
ROCHSPARE?

THE SAME.

I KNOW THAT HE'S
ALREADY PAID YOUR
OFFICE A VISIT.*

(* LAST ISSUE)



DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE MISTER
ROCHSPARE, ALEX.

HE GOT TO WHERE HE IS TODAY
PARTIALLY BECAUSE HE IS A
CHILD PRODIGY, AND PARTIALLY
BECAUSE OF HIS FAMILY'S
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALLIANCE.

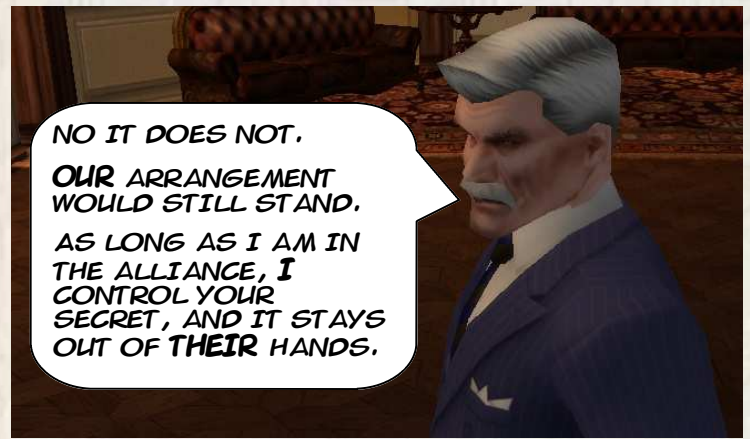
WHAT THE WENTWORTHS ARE TO
BUSINESS, THE ROCHSPARES ARE
TO POWER AND CONTROL.

AS FAR AS THE ALLIANCE
IS CONCERNED, I STILL
HAVE SOME INFLUENCE,
AND, OF COURSE,
CONSIDERABLE RESPECT.

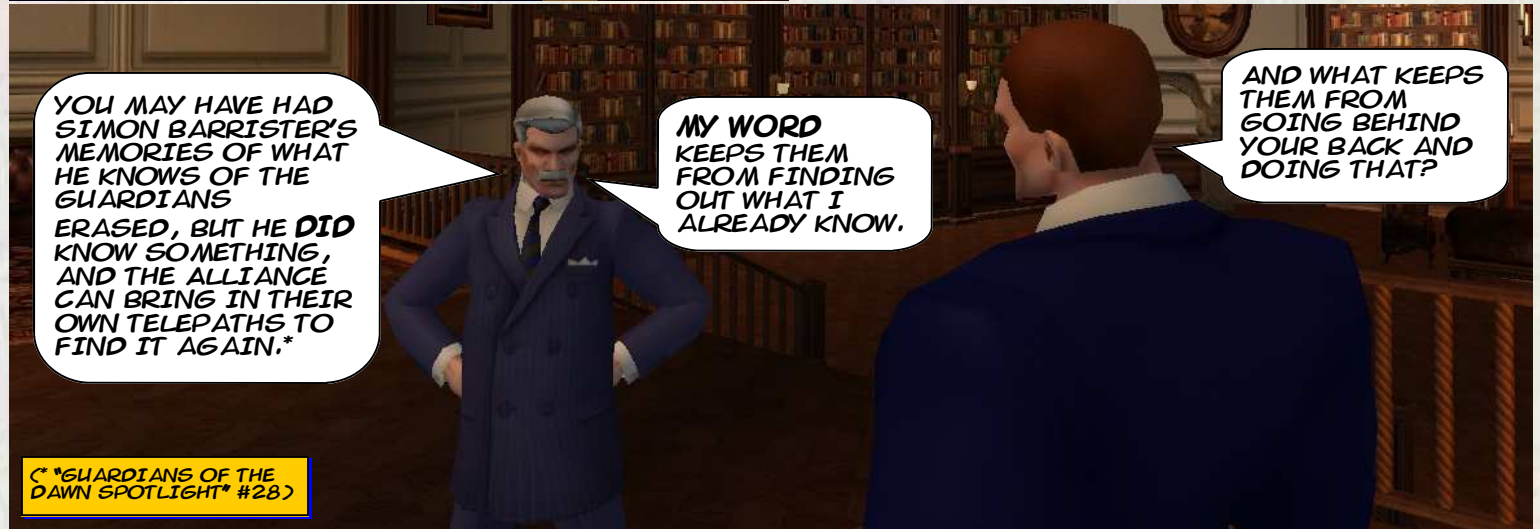
BUT IF HE MAKES A MOVE
AGAINST YOU OR YOUR
ASSOCIATES, I WON'T BE
ABLE TO PROTECT YOU.



SO WOULD THAT
MEAN THAT OUR
"ARRANGEMENT"
IS OVER WITH?



NO IT DOES NOT.
OUR ARRANGEMENT
WOULD STILL STAND.
AS LONG AS I AM IN
THE ALLIANCE, **I**
CONTROL YOUR
SECRET, AND IT STAYS
OUT OF **THEIR** HANDS.

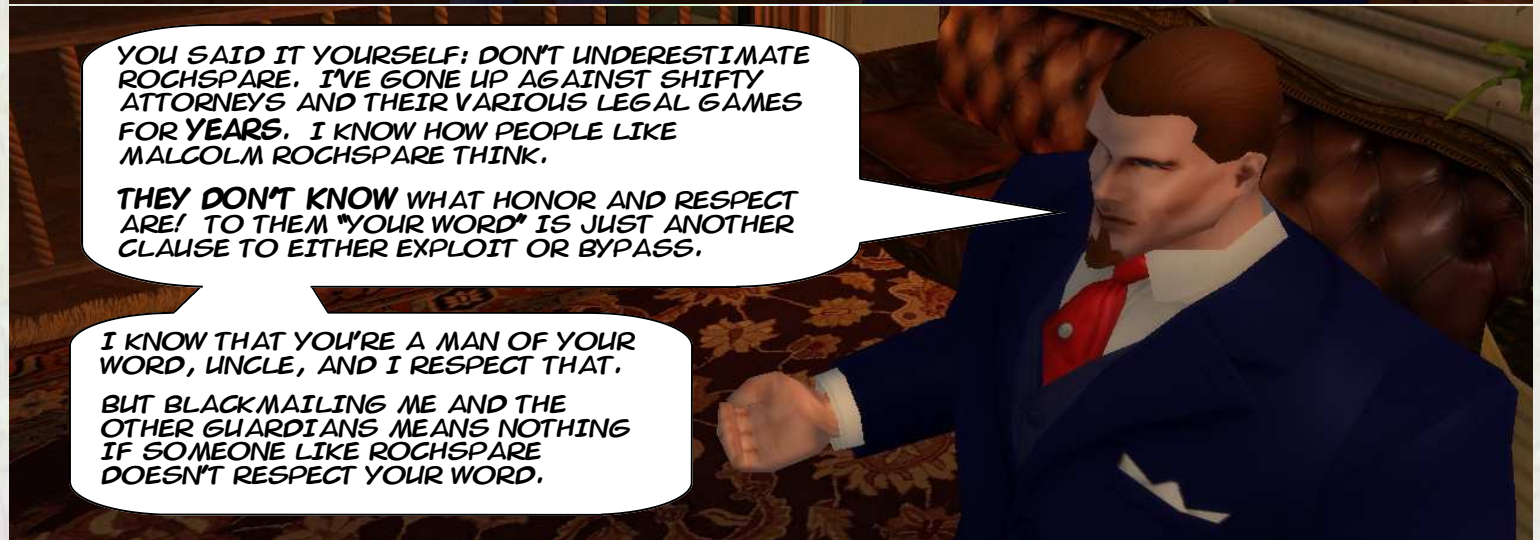


YOU MAY HAVE HAD
SIMON BARRISTER'S
MEMORIES OF WHAT
HE KNOWS OF THE
GUARDIANS
ERASED, BUT HE **DID**
KNOW SOMETHING,
AND THE ALLIANCE
CAN BRING IN THEIR
OWN TELEPATHS TO
FIND IT AGAIN.*

MY WORD
KEEPS THEM
FROM FINDING
OUT WHAT I
ALREADY KNOW.

AND WHAT KEEPS
THEM FROM
GOING BEHIND
YOUR BACK AND
DOING THAT?

C "GUARDIANS OF THE
DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #28)

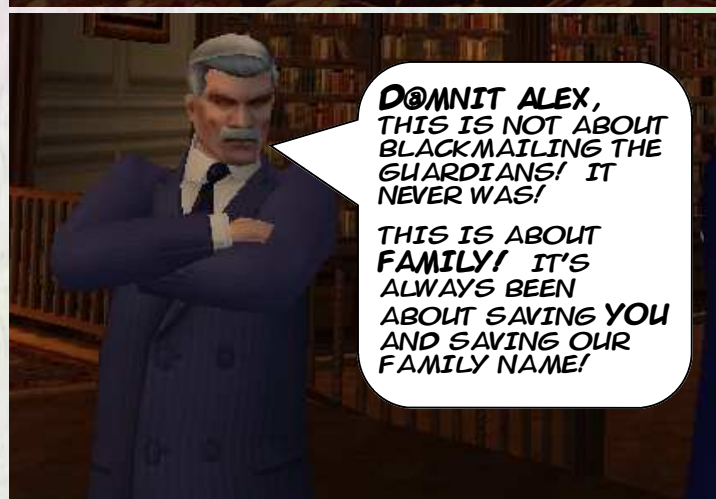


YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: DON'T UNDERESTIMATE
ROCHSPARE. I'VE GONE UP AGAINST SHIFTY
ATTORNEYS AND THEIR VARIOUS LEGAL GAMES
FOR YEARS. I KNOW HOW PEOPLE LIKE
MALCOLM ROCHSPARE THINK.

THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT HONOR AND RESPECT
ARE! TO THEM "YOUR WORD" IS JUST ANOTHER
CLAUSE TO EITHER EXPLOIT OR BYPASS.

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A MAN OF YOUR
WORD, UNCLE, AND I RESPECT THAT.

BUT BLACKMAILING ME AND THE
OTHER GUARDIANS MEANS NOTHING
IF SOMEONE LIKE ROCHSPARE
DOESN'T RESPECT YOUR WORD.



D@MNIT ALEX,
THIS IS NOT ABOUT
BLACKMAILING THE
GUARDIANS! IT
NEVER WAS!

THIS IS ABOUT
FAMILY! IT'S
ALWAYS BEEN
ABOUT SAVING **YOU**
AND SAVING OUR
FAMILY NAME!



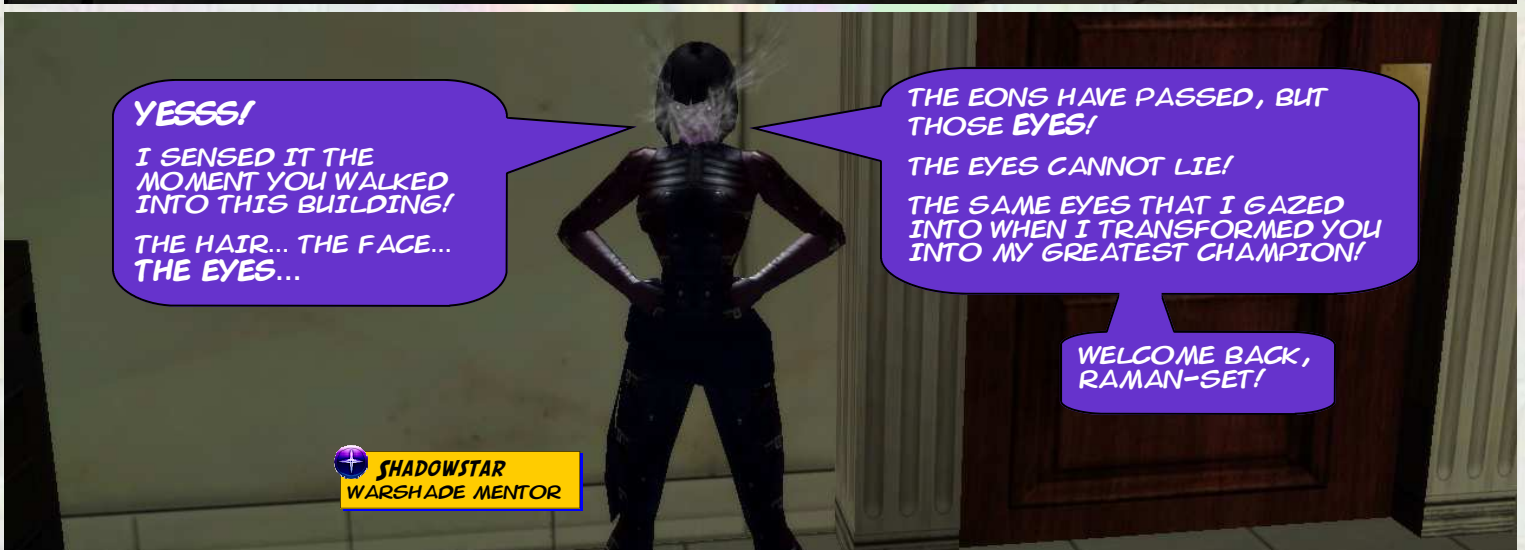
I KNOW, UNCLE.
THAT'S THE ONLY
REASON WHY WE
WENT ALONG IN
THE FIRST PLACE.

THANK YOU FOR
INVITING ME
BACK. I THINK I
CAN SEE MY OWN
WAY OUT.



EXCUSE ME...
YOU ARE...
SHADOWSTAR?

AND YOU ARE
PERCEPTIVE...
FOR A HUMAN.
COME CLOSER...
I DON'T BITE.

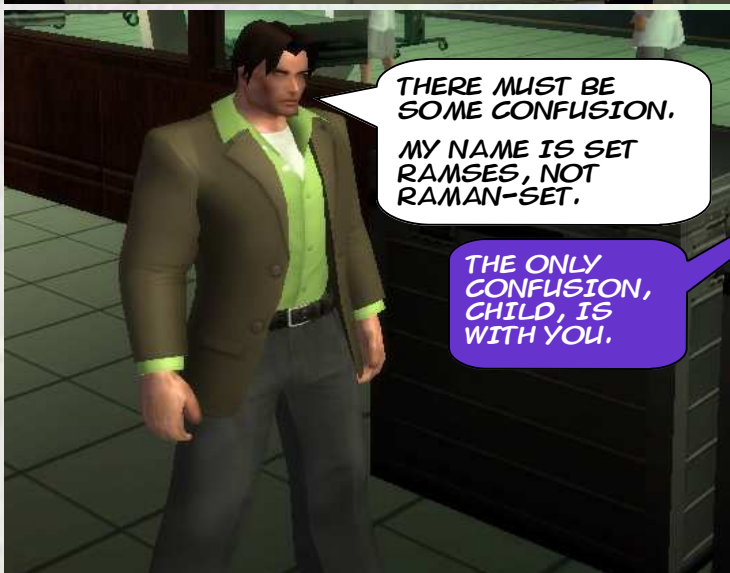


YESSS!
I SENSED IT THE
MOMENT YOU WALKED
INTO THIS BUILDING!
THE HAIR... THE FACE...
THE EYES...

THE EONS HAVE PASSED, BUT
THOSE EYES!
THE EYES CANNOT LIE!
THE SAME EYES THAT I GAZED
INTO WHEN I TRANSFORMED YOU
INTO MY GREATEST CHAMPION!

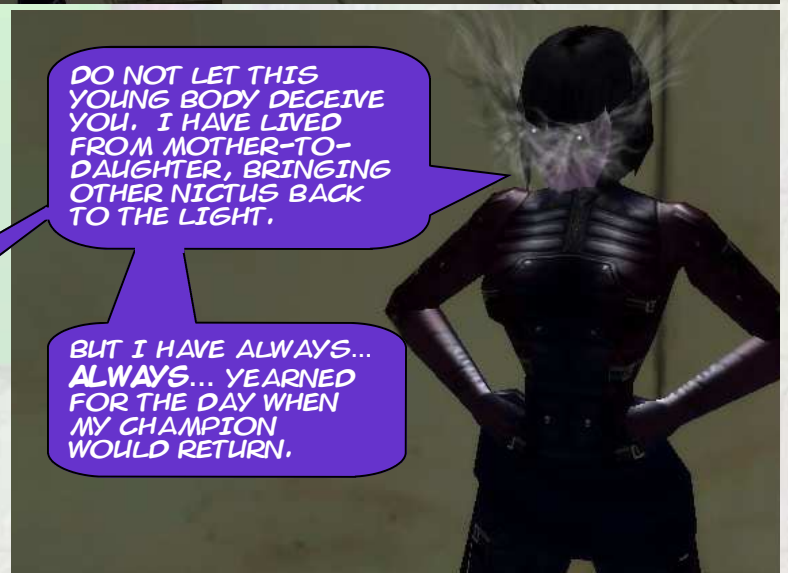
WELCOME BACK,
RAMAN-SET!

 **SHADOWSTAR**
WARSHADE MENTOR



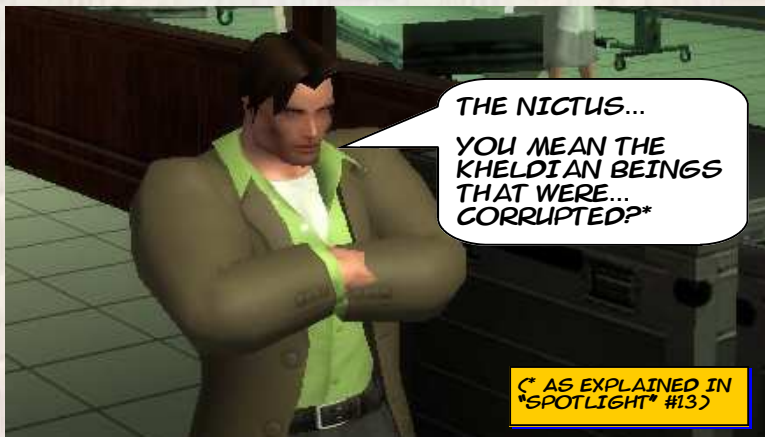
THERE MUST BE
SOME CONFUSION.
MY NAME IS SET
RAMSES, NOT
RAMAN-SET.

THE ONLY
CONFUSION,
CHILD, IS
WITH YOU.



DO NOT LET THIS
YOUNG BODY DECEIVE
YOU. I HAVE LIVED
FROM MOTHER-TO-
DAUGHTER, BRINGING
OTHER NICTUS BACK
TO THE LIGHT.

BUT I HAVE ALWAYS...
ALWAYS... YEARNED
FOR THE DAY WHEN
MY CHAMPION
WOULD RETURN.



THE NICTUS...
YOU MEAN THE
KHELDIAN BEINGS
THAT WERE...
CORRUPTED?*

* AS EXPLAINED IN
"SPOTLIGHT" #13)



FEH! "CORRUPTED".
THE NICTUS TOOK A
DIFFERENT PATH TO
PROLONG THEIR
SHORTENED LIVES.
A PATH THAT I
CHOSE TO NO
LONGER TRAVEL.



"BUT MY REDEMPTION BEGAN HERE...
ON EARTH. CENTURIES BEFORE MY
PEACEBRINGER COUNTERPARTS
WOULD DISCOVER IT."

"HERE, AMIDST THE GODS OF OLD,
I FOUND MY NEW PATH... THE PATH
OF THE WARSHADE."

"YOUR GODS, RA, HORUS, MA'AT, SHU,
ISIS... THEY INTRODUCED ME TO THE
SERVANT OF IAH WHO WAS WILLING TO
FIRST HOST MY RENEWED LIFE."

"AND TO THANK THE GODS
FOR THEIR GENEROSITY, I
GAVE THEM A CHAMPION
FROM MY OWN VESSEL."



YES, I KNOW THE STORY.

"A WARRIOR WAS CHOSEN
FOR HIS STRENGTH, HIS
SPIRIT, AND HIS WILL,
AND HE WAS GIVEN THE
WISDOM AND POWER OF
THE GODS."

THE LEGEND OF RAMAN-SET, THE
MIGHTY PHARON.

BUT I AM NOT HIM!

IN FACT, MY ANCESTOR WAS THE
ONE THAT HAD HIM PUT TO DEATH!

MY ANCESTOR WAS
THE VERY PHARAOH
THAT WAS BETRAYED
BY RAMAN-SET.



HEH! SILLY CHILD!

DO YOU PRESUME ME TO BE
IGNORANT OF THE FACTS OF
THAT TIME? I WAS THERE!

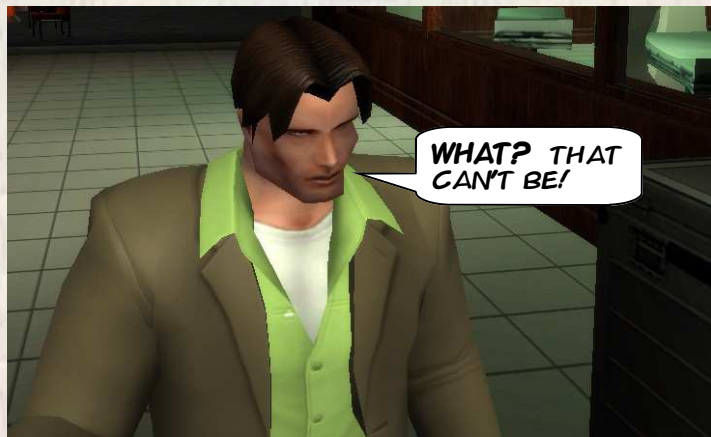
I WAS THE ONE THAT WATCHED
WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AS MY
CHAMPION WENT AGAINST MY
OWN COUNCIL AND PURSUED
HIS LOVE OF THE PHARAOH'S
BRIDE.

I WAS THE ONE THAT SADLY
STRIPPED RAMAN-SET OF HIS
POWER WHEN HE WENT
AGAINST THE PHARAOH.

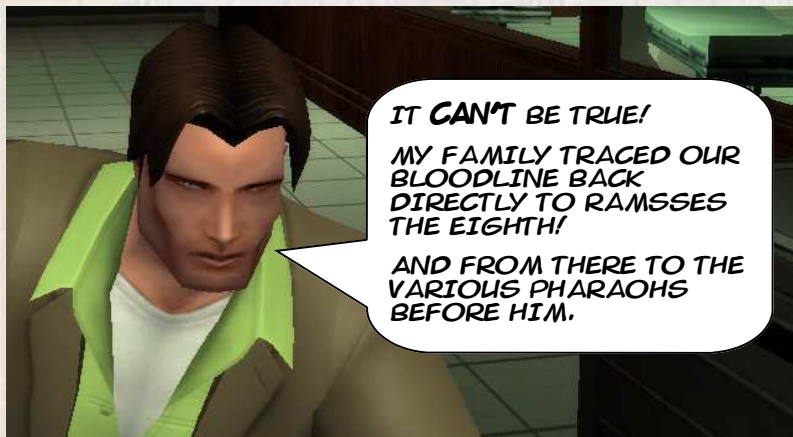
BUT YOU ARE
MISTAKEN ABOUT ONE
KEY DETAIL...

YOU ARE NOT A CHILD
OF THE PHARAOH.

THAT PHARAOH HAD
NO CHILDREN!



WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE!



IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

MY FAMILY TRACED OUR BLOODLINE BACK DIRECTLY TO RAMSSES THE EIGHTH!

AND FROM THERE TO THE VARIOUS PHARAOHS BEFORE HIM.



IF THAT PHARAOH HAD NO CHILDREN THEN HOW... ?

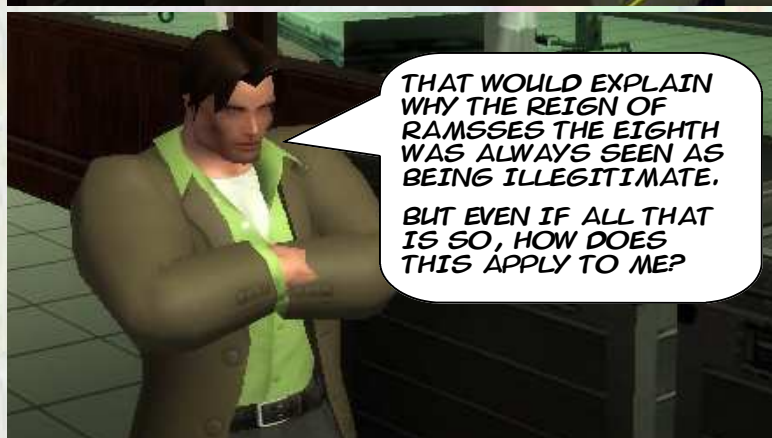
NO...

YES.

BORN OF THE QUEEN, RAISED BY THE PHARAOH AS HIS OWN CHILD, UNAWARE THAT IT WAS FROM RAMAN-SET.

YOUR TRUE BLOODLINE IS THAT OF RAMAN-SET.

YOU, SET RAMSES, ARE THE CHILD OF RAMAN-SET, THE MIGHTY CHAMPION PHARON.



THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THE REIGN OF RAMSSES THE EIGHTH WAS ALWAYS SEEN AS BEING ILLEGITIMATE. BUT EVEN IF ALL THAT IS SO, HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?



YOU WILL RETURN TO M.A.G.I. AND SPEAK WITH AZURIA.



"YOU WILL ASK HER ABOUT THE TOME OF IAH, THE MOON GOD."

"SHE WILL BE HESITANT."

"YOU WILL GIVE HER AN OLD SAYING..."

OHH... THAT'S A **VERY** RESTRICTED BOOK.

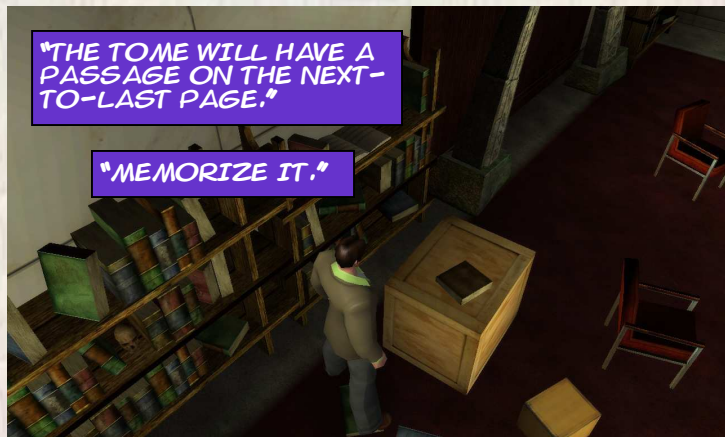
THERE'S TOO MUCH POWER IN SOME OF THOSE WORDS.

I UNDERSTAND.

<"BUT EVEN SAND HAS POWER WHEN TOSSED IN THE WIND.">

OH! OKAY... IT'S ON THE THIRD SHELF ON THE BOOKCASE TO YOUR LEFT.

< TRANSLATED FROM ANCIENT EGYPT >

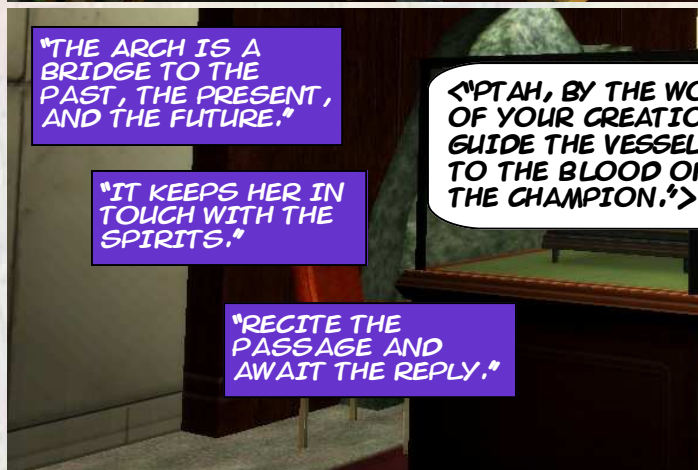


"THE TOME WILL HAVE A PASSAGE ON THE NEXT-TO-LAST PAGE."

"MEMORIZE IT."



"THEN STEP BEFORE AZURIA'S ARCH OF INFINITY."



"THE ARCH IS A BRIDGE TO THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE."

"IT KEEPS HER IN TOUCH WITH THE SPIRITS."

"RECITE THE PASSAGE AND AWAIT THE REPLY."

<PTAH, BY THE WORD OF YOUR CREATION, GUIDE THE VESSEL TO THE BLOOD OF THE CHAMPION.>

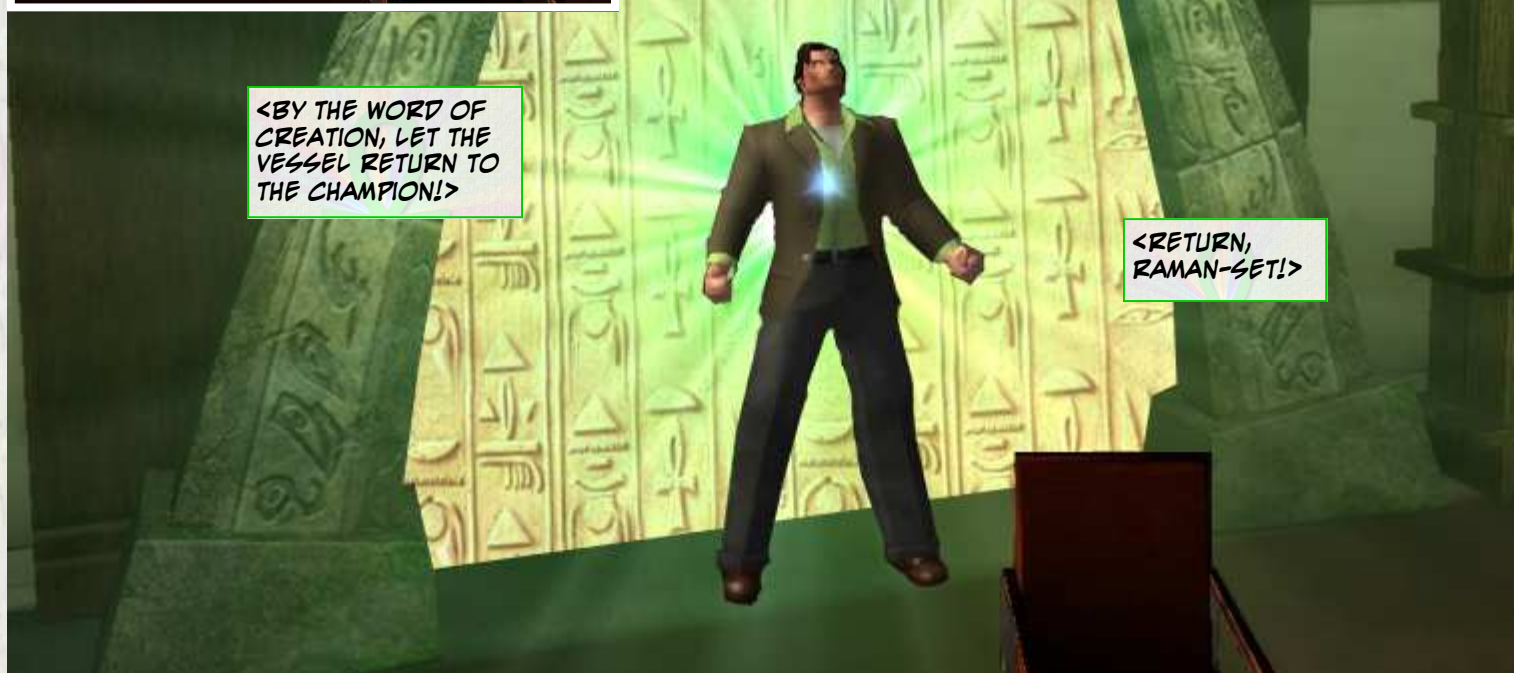
<ATUM, SET, SHU, TEFNUT, OSIRIS, ATUM, NU, SET.>

THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE! HOW IS THAT SU--



UUURHH!

<CODE ACCEPTED>



<BY THE WORD OF CREATION, LET THE VESSEL RETURN TO THE CHAMPION!>

<RETURN, RAMAN-SET!>



<RETURN THROUGH THE
BLOOD OF YOUR
CHILDREN OF TIME!>

<TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS AGAIN.
SERVE HUMANITY AS ITS
GREAT CHAMPION.>



<PHARON,
ARISE!>

PHARON
EGYPTIAN CHAMPION



OF COURSE!
WHEN SHE SAID
"VESSEL", SHE
DIDN'T MEAN
METAPHYSICALLY!

SHE MEANT HER CONTAINMENT
VESSEL, FORGED FROM KHELDIAN
SCIENCE, WHICH WAS USED TO
SUSTAIN HER ESSENCE WHEN NOT
BOUND TO A HOST BODY!

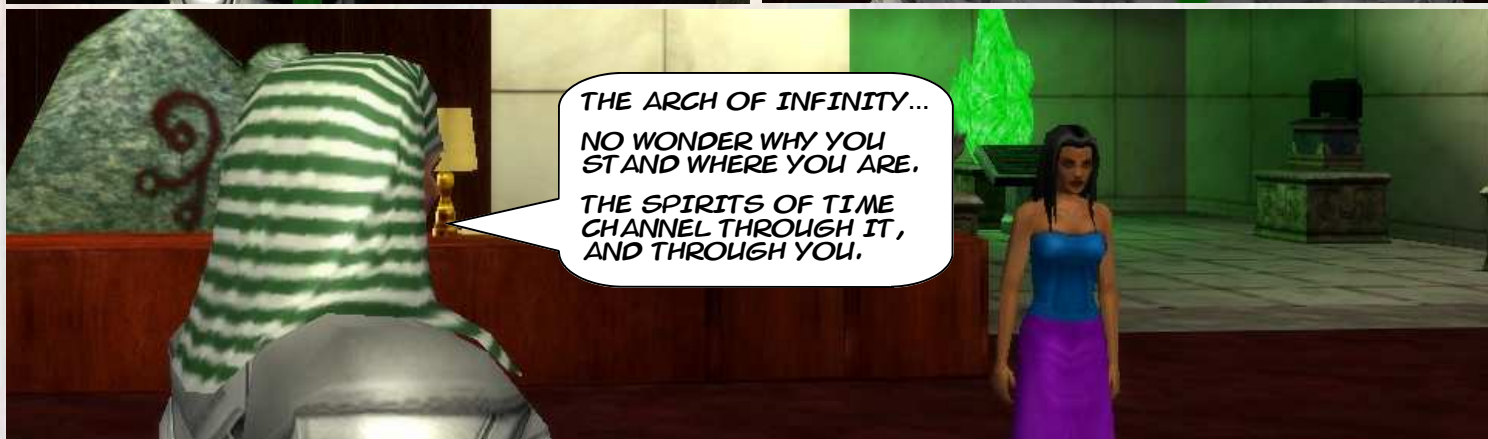
SHE RE-PURPOSED THE DEVICE
TO SERVE RAMAN-SET AND THEN
BOUND IT TO HER CHAMPION
THROUGH A GENETIC CODE, A
KEY THAT WOULD BE PASSED
FROM PARENT TO CHILD!
INGENIOUS!



I CAN HEAR THE TECHNOLOGY... THE ARMOR... ATTUNING ITSELF TO ME.



AND... THAT'S NOT ALL THAT I HEAR...



THE ARCH OF INFINITY... NO WONDER WHY YOU STAND WHERE YOU ARE. THE SPIRITS OF TIME CHANNEL THROUGH IT, AND THROUGH YOU.



I FEEL SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MUST GO THROUGH, AZURIA, CONSTANTLY HEARING THE DEAD WHILE HAVING TO CONVERSE WITH THE LIVING.

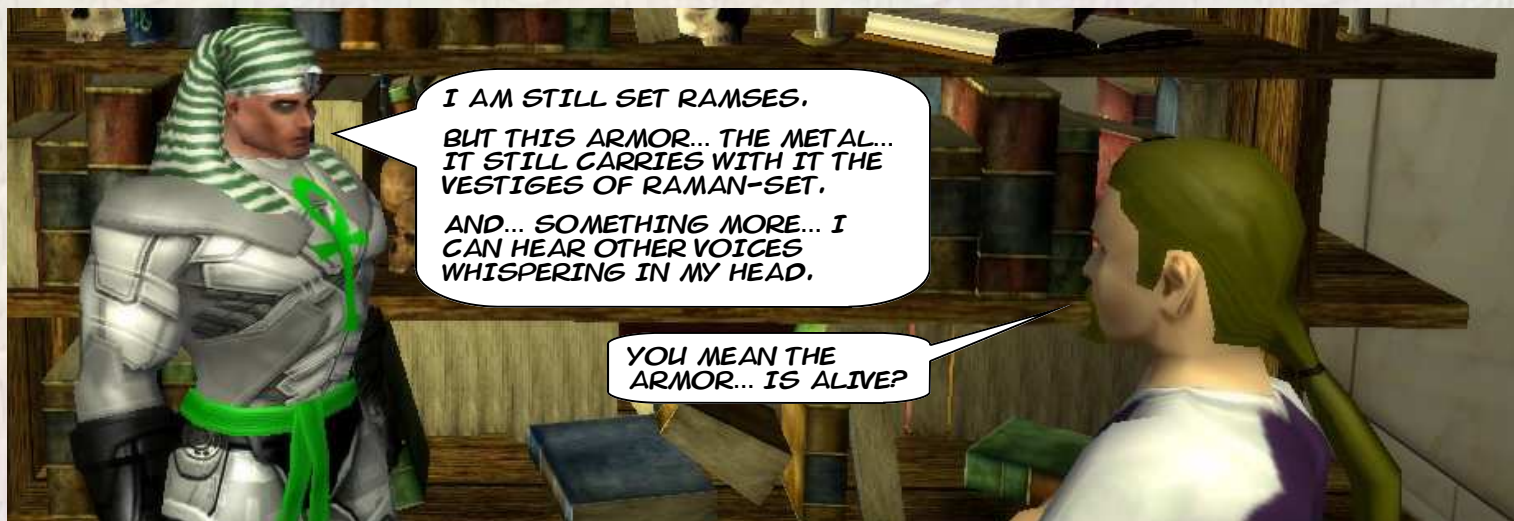


DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR HER TOO MUCH, MATE. THIS IS THE ROLE SHE ACCEPTED FOR HERSELF.

BUT I'M MORE SURPRISED AT WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU!

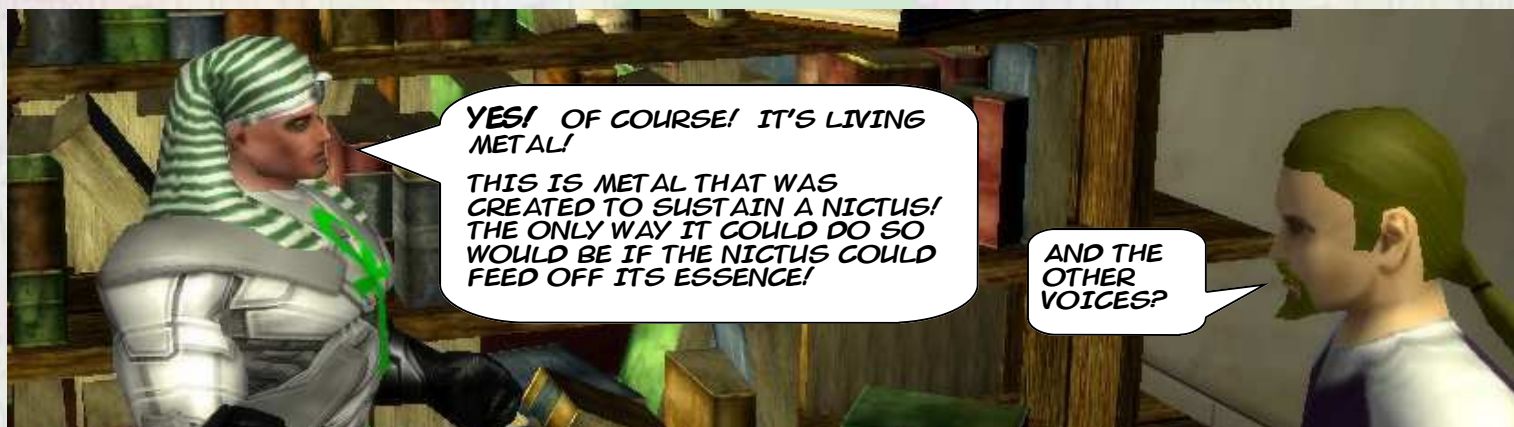
WHERE **DID** THAT ARMOR COME FROM?

AM I TALKING TO SET RAMSES, OR RAMAN-SET, OR... I DON'T KNOW... SOME OTHER BEING?



I AM STILL SET RAMSES.
BUT THIS ARMOR... THE METAL...
IT STILL CARRIES WITH IT THE
VESTIGES OF RAMAN-SET.
AND... SOMETHING MORE... I
CAN HEAR OTHER VOICES
WHISPERING IN MY HEAD.

YOU MEAN THE
ARMOR... IS ALIVE?



YES! OF COURSE! IT'S LIVING
METAL!
THIS IS METAL THAT WAS
CREATED TO SUSTAIN A NICTUS!
THE ONLY WAY IT COULD DO SO
WOULD BE IF THE NICTUS COULD
FEED OFF ITS ESSENCE!

AND THE
OTHER
VOICES?



I... I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S LIKE A RADIO
THAT IS ON SO
SOFTLY, YOU KNOW
THAT IT'S PLAYING,
BUT YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT IT IS
PLAYING.

THEN YOU NEED TO
TALK WITH
SHADOWSTAR
ABOUT THAT.

I WOULD REALLY
BE CONCERNED
ABOUT WHAT IS
BEING WHISPERED.



YES...
YES I WOULD WANT
TO KNOW AS WELL.

THE ROCINANTE GROUP

PEREZ PARK

"LET ME MAKE ONE
THING CLEAR..."

... WHILE THIS MAY BE
LORD LEE GEDDY'S
BUSINESS, I WILL HAVE
THE FIRST AND LAST
SAY ON ANY SUPPOSED
"SHADOWBORN"
ACTIVITY, PAST OR
PRESENT.

IN FACT, I WANT A MEMO
TO GO OUT THAT SAYS
THAT THERE WILL BE NO
MORE REFERENCE TO
SHADOWBORN AT ALL.
FOR ALL INTENTS AND
PURPOSES, SHADOWBORN
IS **DEAD**.

I DON'T BELIEVE THE
DEPARTMENT HEADS
EVER REFERRED TO
THEIR OPERATIONS
AS BEING PART OF
SHADOWBORN.

 **MS. ELLE MAPLE**
ROCINANTE GROUP

THEN IT WILL
MAKE THE
TRANSITION
SMOOTHER.
SEND IT OUT
ANYWAY.

WHAT ABOUT THE
SPECIAL PROJECTS
DEPARTMENT?

MOST OF THESE
PROGRAMS HAD TO
BE SUSPENDED
DURING THE
TRANSITION.

I'LL NEED A SUMMARY OF
EACH OUTSTANDING
PROGRAM; WHAT IS ACTIVE,
WHAT IS IN LIMBO, AND
HOW IT AFFECTS OUR
ORGANIZATION.

GARRY BECKER WAS A MEMBER
OF OUR ORGANIZATION UNTIL
HE FOOLISHLY BET AWAY HIS
TELEVISION CAREER.

AND AS FOR LORD GEDDY,
HE HAD A VERY PERSONAL
REASON TO GO AFTER THE
GUARDIANS.

I'M TOLD THAT LORD GEDDY
SPENT ROUGHLY SEVEN
MILLION DOLLARS ON
PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO
DISGRACE AND DISCREDIT THE
GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

AND YET IT TOOK A FEW TONS
OF SHIVAN METEORS AND AN
ONLINE RADIO HOST TO PUT
THE FINAL NAIL IN THAT
GROUP'S COFFIN.*

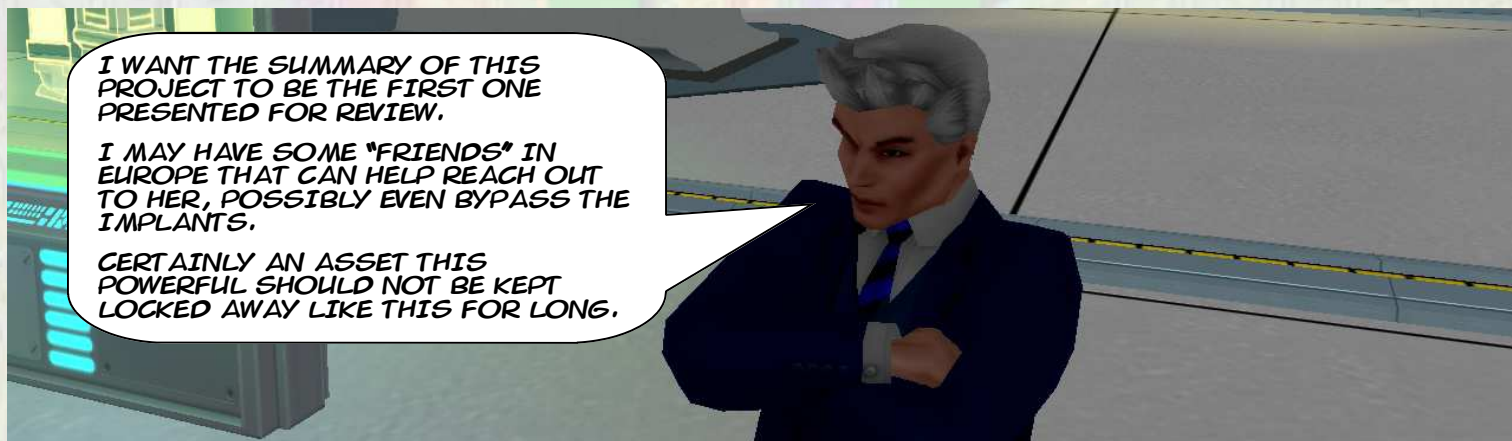
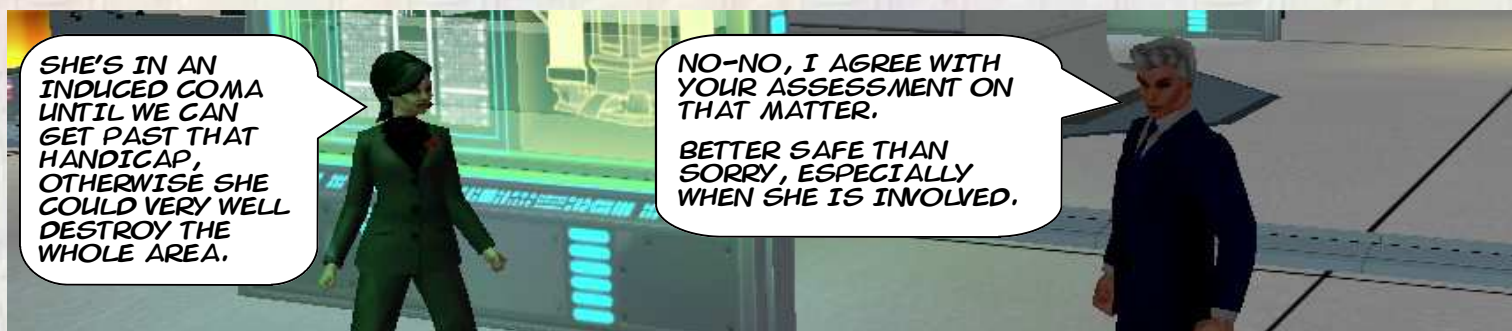
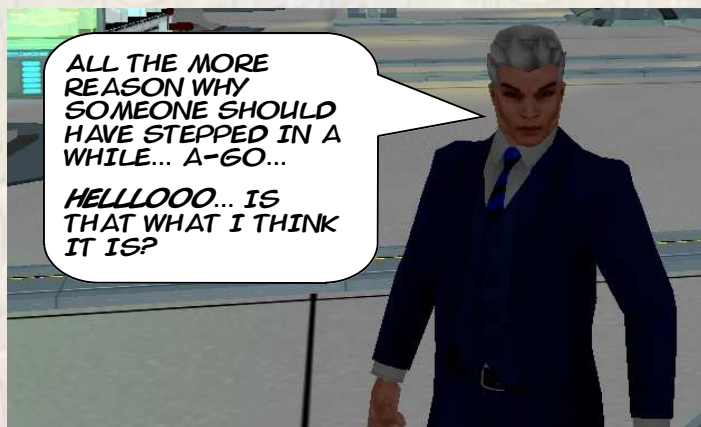
IN MY BOOK, THAT IS A CLEAR
WASTE OF RESOURCES.

LORD GEDDY'S SON, MAJOR
HANK GEDDY, WAS PRESUMED
KILLED WHEN THE SPACE
SHUTTLE CYGNUS WAS
DESTROYED IN 2007, FROM
THE SAME EVENT THAT BROUGHT
GALATEA POWERS, RYDER
LIGHTNING, AND MIDNIGHT X
OVER TO THIS UNIVERSE.

IN MANY WAYS, LORD GEDDY
HOLDS **THEM** RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE SHUTTLE TRAGEDY.**

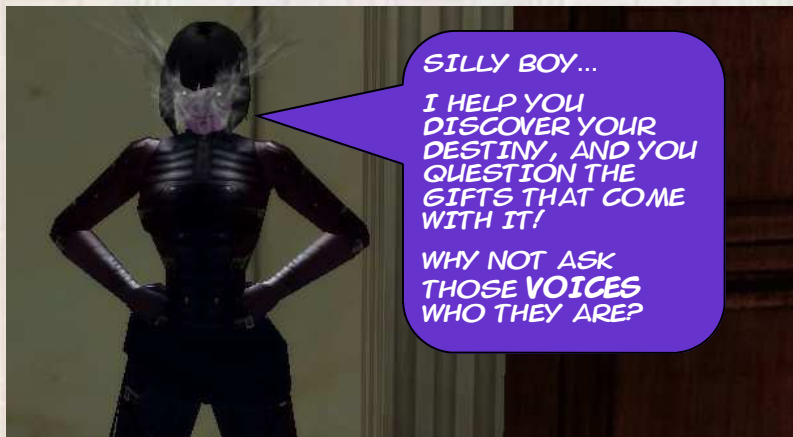
(* AFTERMATH*)

(** GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #14)





I NEED ANSWERS.
WHAT ARE THESE
VOICES I HEAR?
WHY AM I
HEARING THEM?



SILLY BOY...
I HELP YOU
DISCOVER YOUR
DESTINY, AND YOU
QUESTION THE
GIFTS THAT COME
WITH IT!
WHY NOT ASK
THOSE VOICES
WHO THEY ARE?



YOU MEAN THE ARMOR
IS POSSESSED?
HOW? WHY?
AND HOW **DID** IT
CROSS THROUGH
TIME TO REACH ME?

SIGH/ VERY WELL...
YOUR ARMOR COMES
FROM MY CONTAINMENT
VESSEL, THAT MUCH YOU
ALREADY KNOW.
BUT IT WAS RE-MADE BY
THE EGYPTIAN GODS.
THE VOICES THAT YOU
HEAR EVER SO DIMLY...
ARE THEIRS.



"THE GODS GIVE
GUIDANCE TO THEIR
CHAMPION... AS
THEY ONCE DID TO
RAMAN-SET... AND
NOW TO YOU."

"BUT GUIDANCE IS
NOT THE SAME AS
CONTROL, AND YOU
CAN STILL CHOOSE
TO IGNORE THEIR
WORDS."

"RAMAN-SET DID JUST
THAT WHEN HE FELL IN
LOVE WITH THE WOMAN
THAT WOULD BECOME
QUEEN."

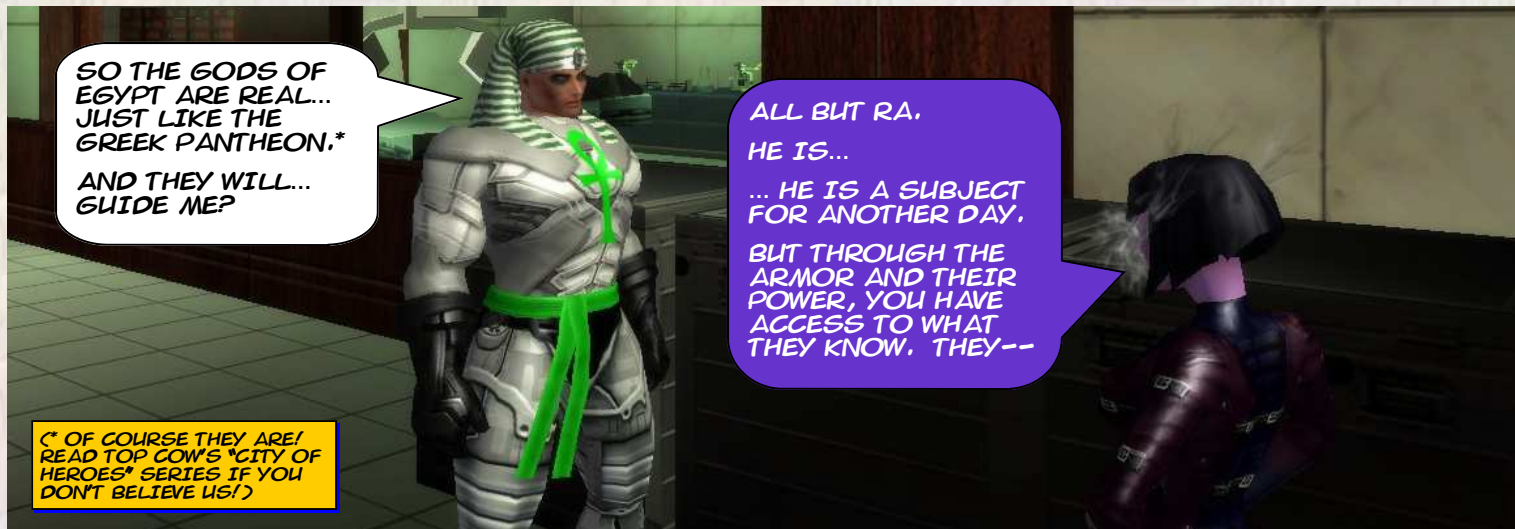
"THE GODS WARNED
HIM AGAINST IT.
I WARNED HIM
AGAINST IT.
HE CHOSE TO
IGNORE US BOTH."

"WHEN HE THEN CHOSE TO
DEFY THE PHARAOH, I
HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO
TAKE ACTION MYSELF."

"I HAD TO USE MY OWN
POWER TO CREATE A
POCKET IN SPACE FOR THE
ARMOR TO BE SENT TO.
TO DEPRIVE RAMAN-SET
OF HIS GIFTS UNTIL HE WAS
AGAIN DEEMED WORTHY."

"SADLY, THE PHARAOH
USED THAT OPPORTUNITY
TO HAVE RAMAN-SET
EXECUTED AS BOTH
REVENGE AND DETERRENCE
FROM REBELLION."

"BUT THE ARMOR
REMAINED IN THAT
POCKET UNTIL THE BLOOD
OF RAMAN-SET COULD
UNLOCK IT; EITHER HIS,
OR HIS CHILDREN."



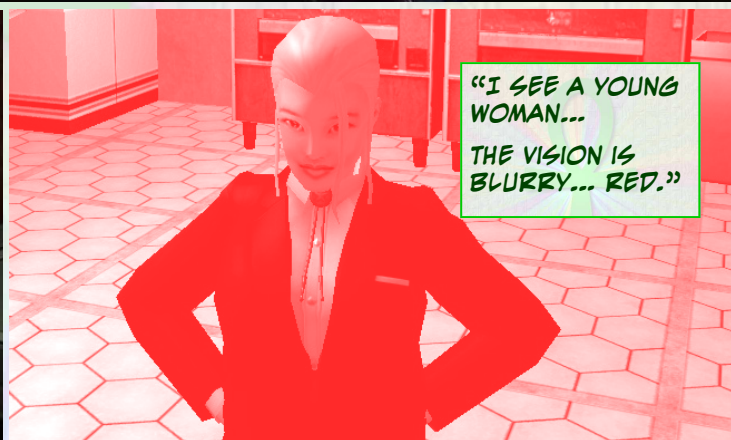
SO THE GODS OF EGYPT ARE REAL...
JUST LIKE THE GREEK PANTHEON.*
AND THEY WILL...
GUIDE ME?

ALL BUT RA.
HE IS...
... HE IS A SUBJECT
FOR ANOTHER DAY.
BUT THROUGH THE
ARMOR AND THEIR
POWER, YOU HAVE
ACCESS TO WHAT
THEY KNOW. THEY--

(* OF COURSE THEY ARE!
READ TOP GUN'S "CITY OF
HEROES" SERIES IF YOU
DON'T BELIEVE US!)



WAIT...
I SEE...
SOMETHING...

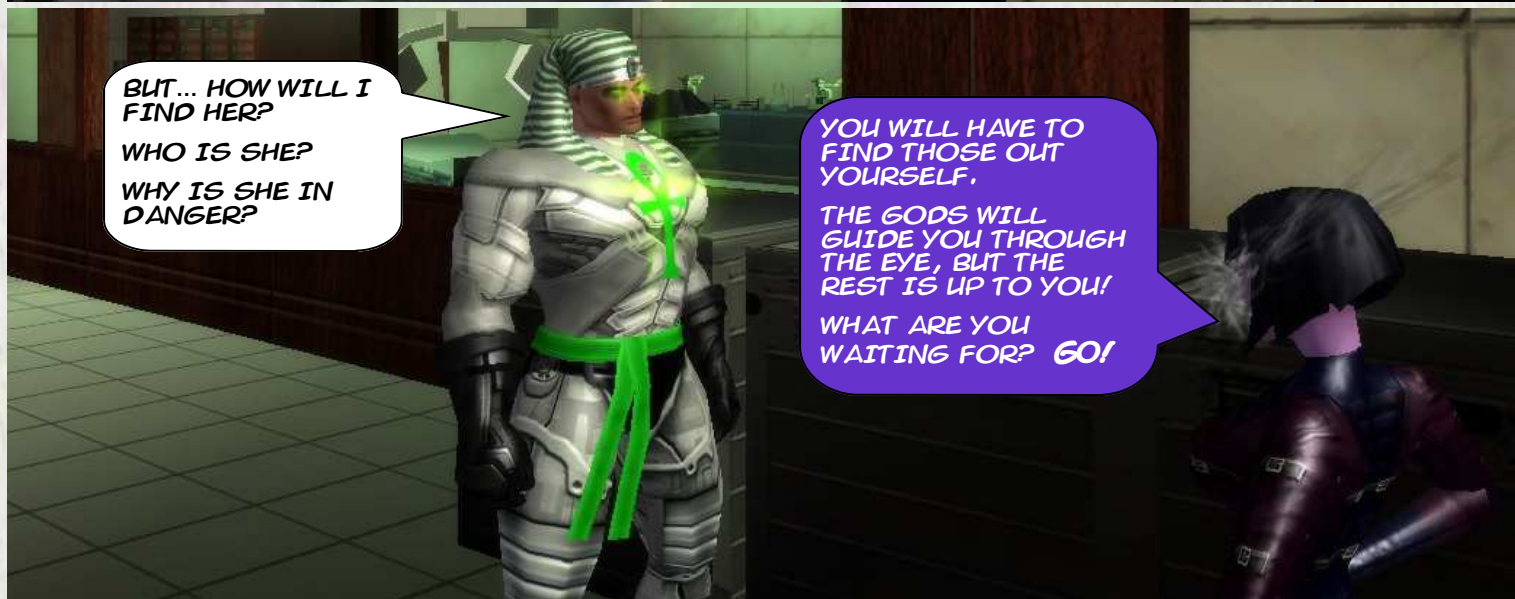


"I SEE A YOUNG
WOMAN...
THE VISION IS
BLURRY... RED."



IT'S THE EYE OF
DESTINY.
ONE OF THEIR
GIFTS.

IT MEANS THAT THE
GODS ARE NOT
WASTING ANY TIME
PUTTING YOU TO TASK.
THAT WOMAN IS IN
DANGER. YOU MUST
FIND HER AND GUARD
HER LIFE.



BUT... HOW WILL I
FIND HER?
WHO IS SHE?
WHY IS SHE IN
DANGER?

YOU WILL HAVE TO
FIND THOSE OUT
YOURSELF.
THE GODS WILL
GUIDE YOU THROUGH
THE EYE, BUT THE
REST IS UP TO YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR? GO!



"SO THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION THAT YOU PICKED UP ABOUT MALCOLM ROCHSPARE?"

"HE'S NOT EXACTLY A RECLUSE, ALEX. BEING A FORMER CHILD PRODIGY MAKES HIM STAND OUT A BIT."



EVERYTHING THAT YOUR UNCLE TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM PRETTY MUCH BALANCES OUT WITH THE INFORMATION MIDKNIGHT X SHARED WITH US FROM SHODDEN FREUD IN EUROPE.*

WELL-CONNECTED FAMILY, PLENTY OF INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS, ALL OF WHICH TRANSLATED INTO A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION AND CONNECTIONS WITH THE BEST LAW FIRMS IN BOTH EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

HIS SPECIALTY IN CONTRACT LAW ALLOWED CLIENTS TO FIND LOOPHOLES OUT OF IRON-CLAD CONTRACTS. PERFECT FOR SCREWING OVER EMPLOYEES IN RUSSIA AND STEALING COPYRIGHT SECRETS IN CHINA.

(*SPOTLIGHT* #28)



BUT THEN HE JUMPS OVER TO CRIMINAL LAW... NOT EXACTLY COMPATIBLE SPECIALTIES. SO THE QUESTION IS... HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE INTO POWER AND CONTROL?

NEW INCOMING SEARCH ENTRY.

HOLD ON... SOMETHING NEW JUST HIT THE SEARCH ENGINE.



The Rocinante Group

Dedicated to peace and knowledge for a safe and secure world.

Washington - New York - Ottawa - Montreal - Paris - London - Moscow - Paragon City - Beijing - Mumbai



Rochspare Assumes CLC Position

Rocinante Group chairman Lord Lee Geddy announced on September 3rd that he has named Malcolm Rochspare as Chief Legal Council, replacing Arnold Lyman, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

"We are obviously saddened to lose Arnold, whose sage advice has kept the Rocinante Group legally right for over 50 years," Geddy said from the Montreal office. "But bringing in someone with a diverse legal experience like Malcolm possesses will ensure that our organization will have the best of both worlds."

Malcolm is a partner in the law offices of Vogel, Stiles, and Linderman, recently established himself as "The Fixer", being able to capitalize on pro bono cases to get a fair trial. Prior to that, though, Rochspare spent five years handling complex litigation for the Rocinante Group.

Born a child prodigy, Malcolm Rochspare graduated from high school at age 12, was accepted into Oxford University, where he received his law degree with honors. After passing the Connecticut Bar Exam, which he said he did just to prove it could be done, he moved to Switzerland, where he apprenticed under some of the best attorneys in Zurich.

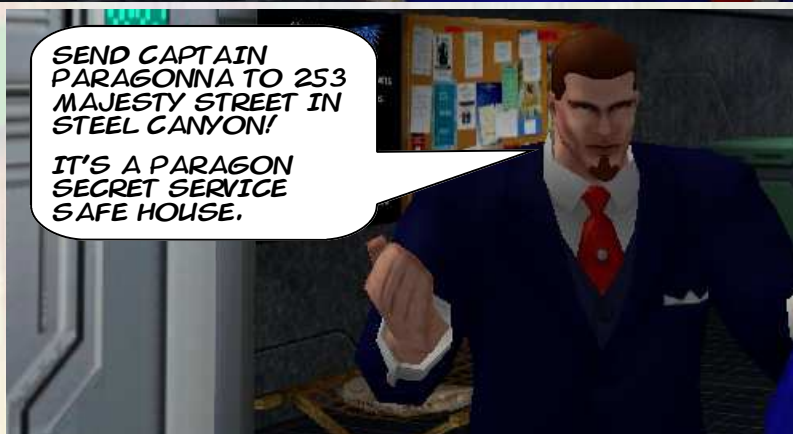


THIS JUST SHOWED UP ON THE ROCINANTE GROUP'S CORPORATE WEBSITE.

CHIEF LEGAL COUNCIL? THIS SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE!

- Late
- Services
- Board of Directors

attended Yale to prove it could be



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 2: The Meteoric Rise

Nothing could divide the Powers brothers more than how to deal with their newfound superhuman abilities.

Both Jonathan and Lionel received superhuman abilities from the strange “War of the Worlds” meteor shower of 1938. And while the changes to everyone affected by them appeared at first to be random mutations, it was soon discovered that those mutations were actually based on the individual’s personal strengths and talents.

Jonathan’s abilities were based on his physical strengths. As a hard worker, his strength, speed, and invulnerability increased. He became the physical “Beyond-Man” archetype that Nietzsche would talk about in his books.

But because Lionel was more of a thinker than a doer, the meteor radiation increased his intelligence to super-genius levels. He became aware of how things worked right down to the smallest component; a talent that he did his best to conceal.

It was easier to do than one would think. At this point in his life, Lionel was already dismissed by many as being aloof and a loner. He believed he was better than others, so having increased intelligence fit right in with the prejudices of him at the time.

.....

The Powers Engine did more than just give Lionel his first taste of financial success. It opened the door for him to meet with others “like” him. Of course, there were few that were on his level of intelligence, so the word “like” is relative.

With many speculating that the war in Europe would soon spread to the United States, the military sought out intelligent and creative minds to come up with ways to bring the war to a quick and decisive end. A think-tank of the best and brightest with unlimited time and ways to bring about victory at any cost. Lionel was being recruited to what would eventually be referred to as the Manhattan Project.

To Lionel, it was like being handed the keys to the candy factory.

.....

The selection of the codename “Shiva” for the first atomic bomb dropped on Berlin was no accident. Following the successful test in New Mexico, Lionel overheard Robert Oppenheimer proclaim “I have become death, the destroyer of worlds.” Lionel would remember that statement and then pass it on to President Roosevelt when he gave his assessment of the bomb’s capacity.

When told that the name of the bomb that would obliterate Berlin was based on his statement, Oppenheimer punched Lionel in the nose, and then proceeded to throw up over the unconscious man before storming out of the building in disgust.

.....

The designs on the drawing table for Powers Enterprises were things that could never be imagined outside of a Jules Verne story. Everything from personal electronic communication devices to bombs that only kill people and not damage buildings. Rockets would do more than just launch weapons in his ideal world; they would take man to other worlds, even to other galaxies.

Lionel Powers was ready to single-handedly bring America into the “Space Race” almost a whole decade before the Soviet Union launched Sputnik. He even designed the suits the “Astral Crew” would wear in space, based partially on Verne’s ideas.

He was unaware that, in just a few short months, all of his designs would come to a screeching halt.

And he would have his own brother to blame for it.

[TO BE CONTINUED...]

Continues on next page...

Important Announcement:

On August 31st, NCSoft, the parent company behind the City of Heroes MMO, announced that they were closing down development on City of Heroes and will be shutting down the MMO itself on November 30th.

Obviously this news has a tremendous impact on this comic series, as well as many of the other comic series done by the City of Comic Creators. As with all of the other players, we have come to consider the City of Heroes to be our second home, a place where our imaginations can grow and flourish. While we continue to hope for a reprieve for the MMO, it will be hard to say good-bye to all of this.

While there are other superhero-themed MMOs out there, none have been as helpful as the City of Heroes has been in its eight years of operation in encouraging in-game activity from the players. There have been websites, artist forums, YouTube videos, Internet radio stations, and, of course, the comics. The end of the MMO will also end all of these creative means.

“**The Guardian Powers**” will obviously end when the MMO does. There is no viable alternative. But those that have visited the Guardian website know that there are “other worlds” to visit and to chronicle, and those stories will once again be told.

In the meantime, please stay with us as we wrap up the last few issues so we can say goodbye in a grand fashion. And for more about those “other worlds”, visit the official website of the Guardians of the Dawn supergroup...

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Will Captain Paragonna show up in time to save Alex's witness from BloodBlader?

And how does Pharon fit in?

Plus: is Welsh Fury, the sister of Lyon Powers, still alive?

Find out next month!



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