

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ISSUE 06
2012



*VERSUS THE CREY
POLICE FORCE!*



**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



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.

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.



CAPTAIN PARAGONNA - PARAGON CITY'S SUPERHERO POLICEWOMAN

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

LYON POWERS - WELSH SUPERHERO

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



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.

"THE LEAST AMONG US"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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WE DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT.

I MEAN, YEAH, HERE WAS THIS KID, EAGER TO MAKE A NAME FOR HERSELF. WHO WOULDN'T, HUH?

WE GAVE HER RULES TO FOLLOW. WE SET LIMITS. WE KNEW SHE'D OBEY THEM.

THE PROBLEM IS...

SHE GREW UP. AND WE NEVER SAW IT.

MOST OF US DIDN'T.

WE STILL SAW THIS LITTLE GIRL IN A COSTUME.

BUT THEY KNEW.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW: BRONX BOXER



THE GANG MEMBERS AND THE DRUG PUSHERS AND THE SUPER-CRIMINALS.

THEY KNEW SHE WASN'T A LITTLE GIRL ANYMORE.

THEY KNEW WHICH BUTTONS TO PUSH, WHICH EMOTIONS TO USE.

NEW YORK CITY HERO



LEADER · BRONX BUSTERS



I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS HER AT THE BAR THAT NIGHT.

THEY DID THEIR BEST TO DISGUISE HER, COACHED HER ON WHAT TO SAY AND HOW TO ACT.

BUT THE NEXT MORNING, THERE SHE WAS.

AND ALL SHE COULD SAY WAS... "SORRY."

DISGRACED HERO



CONVICTED CRIMINAL



"SORRRRRY".

THIS MISERABLE EXCUSE OF A HUMAN **BEEEEEEING** EXPECTS US TO **BUHLEEEVE** EVEN TO THIS DAY THAT THIS SO-CALLED "HEEEEEERO" WAS THE "VICTIM" OF THAT UNDERAGE GIRL.

A GIRL SEDUCED BY THE WORLD OF HEEEEEEEROES.

MICHAEL YORKTON, THE SO-CALLED "BRONX BOXER", WAS ONE OF THE HEEEEEEEROES BROUGHT TO JUSTICE BY ALICE BANKS WHEN SHE WAS A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR IN THE NINETEEN-NINETIES.

AH CAN ONLY **HOOOPE** THAT WHEN MAH GOOD FRIEND ALICE GETS THAT YOUNG **MISGUIIDED** PYROGURL TO TESTIFY IN THE CITIZEN GRAND JURY THAT WE DON'T HEAR A SIMILAR **NIIIGHTMARE!**

NAN BRACER · PNN LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



FOUNDERS FALLS - PARAGON CITY, RI

PARAGON CITY JUDICIAL CENTER

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TESSA ROMANNA
HERO CORPS

ALEX WENTWORTH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MISSUS ROMANNA...
MY ADMIN TOLD ME
THAT YOU WERE HERE
IN THE LOUNGE.

PLEASE, CALL ME TESSA.

MY LITTLE GIRL IS
HAVING TO RELIVE HER
FIRST AND WORST
OUTING AS A HERO* FOR
A COURT DEPOSITION,
MISTER WENTWORTH.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING I
CAN REALLY STOMACH
AS HER MOTHER.

(* GUARDIANS OF THE
DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #15)

I UNDERSTAND. AND PLEASE
CALL ME ALEX.

AND HAD I KNOWN THAT THIS
WAS NEEDED, I WOULD HAVE
ARRANGED TO HAVE NOBLE
SON DO THE DEPOSITION IN
BOSTON INSTEAD OF
HAVING YOU TWO COME
DOWN TO PARAGON CITY.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

PLEASE, MY
HUSBAND AND I
WERE DOING
THIS BACK WHEN
WE COULD FIT IN
THOSE TIGHTS.
WE'RE USED TO
HAVING TO
TRAVEL TO GIVE
TESTIMONY.

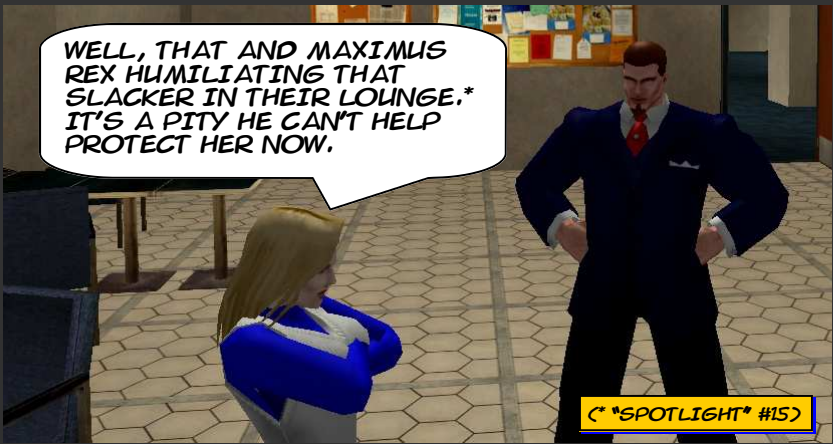
WHAT I HATE IS
WORRYING THAT ALICE
BANKS COULD JUST
STORM IN AND TAKE
MY DAUGHTER AWAY
FOR HER WITCH HUNT
AGAINST SIDEKICKS.

THE CITY WON'T
AUTHORIZE HERO
CORPS TO PROTECT
HER EITHER!


AND THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, GOES TO
THE RIVALRY THAT EXISTS BETWEEN
HERO CORPS AND FREEDOM CORPS
GOING BACK THE LATE 90'S.

FREEDOM CORPS WAS SET UP BY MISS
LIBERTY AND TRAINED BY BOTH HER
DAUGHTER AND THE BACK ALLEY
BRAWLER. SO THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE
ENJOYED THE HOME-CITY ADVANTAGE.

AND SINCE THE PLAINTIFF
CHALLENGING HIS TERMINATION WAS
A FREEDOM CORPS AGENT, YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T ASK THEM
TO WATCH OUT FOR KRYSTALYN.




WELL, THAT AND MAXIMUS REX HUMILIATING THAT SLACKER IN THEIR LOUNGE.* IT'S A PITY HE CAN'T HELP PROTECT HER NOW.



UNFORTUNATELY HE NOW WORKS FOR VANGUARD, AND THEY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THE RIkti.

(*SPOTLIGHT* #15)



WHICH MEANS THAT THERE'S NOBODY LEFT THAT CAN PROTECT KRYS IF BANKS SHOWS UP RIGHT NOW.

THAT'S NOT TRUE, TESSA... ALICE BANKS DOESN'T HAVE ANY LEGAL AUTHORITY TO FORCE YOUR DAUGHTER TO TESTIFY. SHE WOULD HAVE TO GET A COURT ORDER BEFORE SHE CAN--

AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT SOMEONE LIKE HER CAN GET THAT COURT ORDER IN A HEARTBEAT.


I... I KNOW THEY'RE DISBANDED... BUT I THINK THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT CAN KEEP KRYS SAFE RIGHT NOW ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.



WELL, THEY MAY BE DISBANDED, BUT I DO KNOW SOM--

ALEX WENTWORTH...
CALL THREE URGENT.
ALEX WENTWORTH...
CALL THREE URGENT.

WHAT IS IT?
IS SHE HERE?



THIS IS ALEX.
REALLY? NO,
KEEP THEM THERE.
I'LL BE OVER.



WAIT HERE TESSA.
I'LL BE BACK IN A
FEW MINUTES.



KENT?

I COULD HAVE SWORN HE SAID HE'D BE HERE...



 **STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS**
AKA CAPTAIN PARAGONNA

SORRY! SORRY, I WAS...
CHECKING IN WITH THE
F.B.S.A.* ON SOME STUFF.
WHAT'S UP?

 **KENT PODERES**
AKA ICON POWERS

YOU TELL ME.
YOU SAID YOU
HAD SOME
UPDATES ON THE
RESEARCH YOU
DID FOR ME.

(* FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPER-POWERED AFFAIRS)

RIGHT! RIGHT...

WELL, YOUR
LIEUTENANT KEENE
WASN'T ENTIRELY
TRUTHFUL ABOUT WHAT
HE FOUND CONCERNING
THAT BANK ROBBERY
TEAM LEADER.*



HIS INITIAL ARREST REPORT DIDN'T
LIST THE TEMP AGENCY THAT SERVED AS
THE CLEAN-UP CREW AS HIS EMPLOYER.

BUT AFTER HE WAS BAILED OUT BY
GRIZWALD AND CLARK, SUDDENLY THAT
DETAIL APPEARED IN THE DATABASE.

WE'RE TALKING SOME REALLY GOOD
BLACK-HAT EDITING INVOLVED WITH
THAT ADDITION.

(* LAST ISSUE)

SO THE VERY REASON FOR THE BUST... WHICH
ENDED UP BEING LEAKED TO THE MEDIA... CAME
FROM INFORMATION THAT WAS ADDED LATER.

AND GRIZWALD AND CLARK HAS BEEN PRETTY
BUSY LATELY FOR A LAW FIRM THAT CLAIMS
TO HAVE JUST ONE CLIENT.

KENT... YOU SAID THIS IS *BLACK-HAT*
EDITING... YOU MEAN SOMEONE HACKED INTO
THE SYSTEM AND MADE THE CHANGES?


NO, NOT A HACKER. YOU'D NEED
SOMEONE INSIDE THE SYSTEM
ABLE TO MAKE THE CHANGES IN
A WAY THAT WOULDN'T LEAVE A
DIGITAL TRAIL.*




SO EITHER IT'S
SOMEONE WITH DIRECT
ACCESS TO THE
POLICE DATABASE...

OR MAYBE... A
TECHNOMANCER?

(* SOMETHING KENT KNOWS
ABOUT FROM ISSUE #2)



YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, RIGHT? TECHNOMANCERS ARE VERY RARE OUTSIDE OF THE WEST COAST.



AND THE ONLY TECHNOMANCER THAT WE KNOW OF IN THIS CITY WORKS IN THE D.A.'S OFFICE.
YES, I KNOW WHAT THAT COULD MEAN.




BUT IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY MAKES SENSE.

MISTER CADE WASN'T EXACTLY ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS BEFORE ALEX BECAME DISTRICT ATTORNEY. IN FACT HE GAVE OMEGA A SHIFT A PRETTY ROUGH RECEPTION WHEN SHE PAID THEIR OFFICE A VISIT*... SUPPOSEDLY TO "VERIFY" HER ABILITIES.


HE CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE THE SKILL. IT'S A PITY WE DON'T HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT WORKING FOR US. NO OFFENSE, KENT.

(*SPOTLIGHT* #16)



NONE TAKEN, STEVIE. THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES THAT I WISHED WE STILL HAD SOMEONE LIKE ST ARCYGNUS... BUT WITHOUT THE POWER-MAD DEMIGOD OR THE ANGRY SON OF LORD GEDDY THAT WENT WITH IT.*

BUT... I DO HAVE SOMEONE THAT COULD HELP US. I CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS--



THAT SEEMS TO BE PRETTY COMMON WITH YOU RIGHT NOW--

BEEP-BEEP
BEEP-BEEP

(* SEE THE 5-PART "TIME AND CHANGES" STORY IN "SPOTLIGHT" FOR DETAILS)



AGENT RODGERS... UNDERSTOOD.



TROUBLE?

COULD BE.
CALL FAITH AND KATIE.
ALICE BANKS JUST SHOWED UP AT THE D.A.'S OFFICE...

... AND SHE DIDN'T GO THERE ALONE.*

WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE, MISSUS BANKS?

THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, MISTER WENTWORTH.

I'M HERE TO GET THE TESTIMONY OF ONE KRYSTALYN ROMANNA, AKA "PYROGURL".

ALICE BANKS
PRO-FAMILY CRUSADER

AND WHY DID YOU BRING THESE GREY BADGES WITH YOU?

I RETAINED THE SERVICES OF THE GREY PRIVATE POLICE FORCE TO HELP PROVIDE PROTECTION AND SECURITY FOR THE WITNESSES, SINCE I OBVIOUSLY DON'T HAVE THE FULL POWER OF THE CITY BEHIND ME LIKE YOU DO.

THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT I DON'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT MISS ROMANNA IN MY CUSTODY.

FIRST, AS I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE, YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO FORCE PEOPLE TO TESTIFY.

SECOND, THE ONLY WAY PYROGURL WILL BE LEAVING HERE WILL BE WITH HER PARENT, AND THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

THIRD, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE EITHER THE PEOPLE IN MY OFFICE OR ME WITH THIS LITTLE SHOW OF FORCE OF YOURS, THEN YOU ARE **SADLY** MISTAKEN.



I AM NOT HERE TO INTIMIDATE ANYONE, MISTER WENTWORTH. I AM HERE TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DANGERS THESE YOUNG HEROES ARE IN.

MY LEGAL TEAM IS WORKING ON GETTING A COURT ORDER TO PUT "PYROGURL" IN OUR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY UNTIL THE GRAND JURY CONVENES.

GREY IS JUST HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE JUDGE'S ORDER IS THEN CARRIED OUT.



YOU ARE DELUSIONAL, MISSUS BANKS.

NO JUDGE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD EVER GIVE YOU THAT KIND OF ORDER... TO TAKE A CHILD AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS LIKE THAT!

THEY WOULD IF THEY KNEW THE PARENTS WERE ENCOURAGING THEIR CHILD TO ENGAGE IN DANGEROUS ACTS.

THAT IS WHAT MY PEOPLE ARE ARGUING RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE.

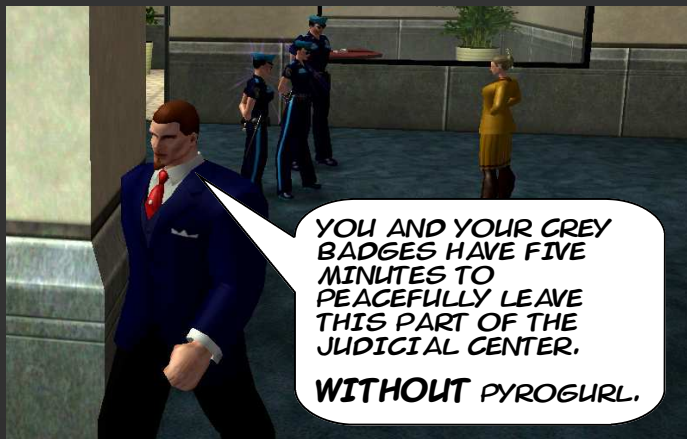


I AM FORMALLY REQUESTING YOU TO ALLOW US TO TAKE PYROGURL INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY UNTIL THE GRAND JURY HEARS HER TESTIMONY.

IF YOU DO SO NOW, BEFORE THAT COURT ORDER COMES IN, THEN I WON'T ADD "WITNESS TAMPERING" TO THE POSSIBLE CHARGES FOR MY GRAND JURY TO CONSIDER.

YOU'VE LIVED IN NEW YORK... SO I KNOW YOU'VE HEARD THIS RESPONSE BEFORE. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...

GO POUND SALT.



YOU AND YOUR GREY BADGES HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO PEACEFULLY LEAVE THIS PART OF THE JUDICIAL CENTER. WITHOUT PYROGURL.



MISSUS BANKS? IF YOU WANT, WE CAN TEACH HIM A LESSON OR TWO ON MANNERS. ON THE HOUSE.



NO... AS MUCH AS I WOULD ENJOY SEEING HIM HUMBLLED LIKE THAT, NOW IS NOT THE TIME.

LET HIM THINK HE STILL HAS THE LEGAL ADVANTAGE. IT WILL MAKE HIS REACTION SWEETER WHEN THE ORDER COMES IN.

MEANWHILE, TELL YOUR COMMANDER TO BE READY TO MOVE ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE.

WE NEED TO HAVE MISS ROMANNA OUTSIDE AND IN THE VAN BEFORE WENTWORTH REALIZES WHAT IS HAPPENING.

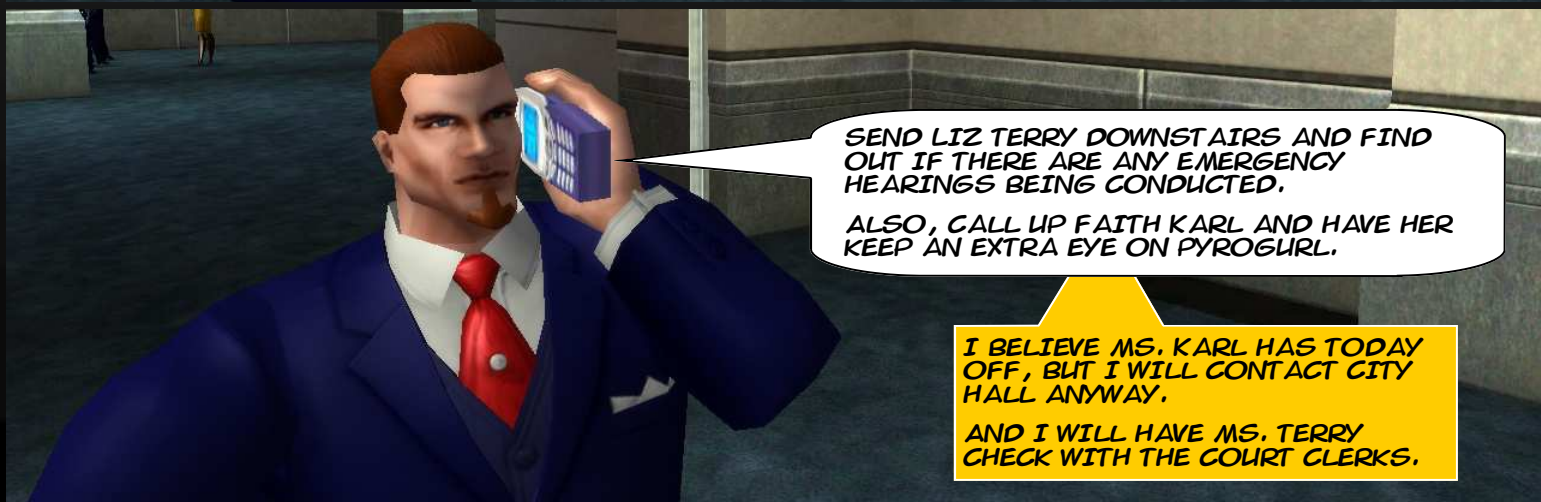


MISTER CADE, I WANT YOU TO PUT THE PARAGON SECRET SERVICE ON ALERT.

ALICE BANKS AND HER GREY POLICE TEAM ARE TO LEAVE THE BUILDING IN FIVE MINUTES OR LESS, OR ELSE I WANT THEM CHARGED WITH TRESPASSING AND FAILURE TO DISPERSE.

I SHALL TEXT-ALERT THE DUTY COMMANDER NOW.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU REQUIRE?



SEND LIZ TERRY DOWNSTAIRS AND FIND OUT IF THERE ARE ANY EMERGENCY HEARINGS BEING CONDUCTED.

ALSO, CALL UP FAITH KARL AND HAVE HER KEEP AN EXTRA EYE ON PYROGURL.

I BELIEVE MS. KARL HAS TODAY OFF, BUT I WILL CONTACT CITY HALL ANYWAY.

AND I WILL HAVE MS. TERRY CHECK WITH THE COURT CLERKS.

MIDNIGHT SQUAD HEADQUARTERS

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HELPING ME WITH THIS.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THE MIDNIGHT SQUAD HAD A LARGER LIBRARY THAN THE COLLEGE!

 **GALATEA POWERS**
OTHERWORLD HERO

OH, IT'S MY PLEASURE, TAYA.

 **PROF. BART WALLACE**
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT MONTAGUE CASTANELLA TOLD ME WHEN HE FIRST RECRUITED ME TO THE MIDNIGHT SQUAD.

PLUS I DON'T GET TOO MANY CHANCES TO TALK WITH THE OLD GANG SINCE... WELL, SINCE WE DISBANDED.

I KNOW... AND I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU'VE BEEN PLUNGING YOURSELF INTO YOUR TEACHING POSITION LATELY AND NOT RUNNING AROUND STEEL CANYON.

HOW MANY DERIVATIONS OF "WANT OF A NAIL" ARE THERE?

AT LEAST TEN.
THE REASON WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN OUT AND ABOUT... IS BECAUSE... I...
I'VE LOST MY ABILITIES.

WHAT?!? NO WAY!
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

IT STARTED WHILE YOU WERE A "GUEST" IN OUROBOROS IN 2010.*
FOR WHATEVER REASON, MY CONNECTION TO THE VORTEX HAS BEEN GETTING WEAKER AND WEAKER.
THE SUIT THAT POSITRON DESIGNED FOR ME HELPED TO BOOST MY SPEED FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
BUT THEN... THE DAY BEFORE GALAXY CITY WAS DESTROYED, I LOST ALL MY POWERS, ALL AT ONCE.

C "TIME AND CHANGES" AGAIN?

THAT'S CRAZY, BART!
WHY DIDN'T YOU
COME TO US ABOUT
THIS?

I MEAN... WELL, I'M
SURE KENT WOULD
HAVE HELPED YOU.

OR AT LEAST THE
FOLKS AT VANGUARD
OR THE FBSA--

THE GUARDIANS WERE DISBANDED,
TAYA. THE BASE WAS SHUT DOWN, DOC
WAS MISSING, KENT WAS DOING...
WHATEVER HE WAS DOING. JASON WAS...
WELL, JASON WAS BEING JASON.

AND I DID TURN TO VANGUARD FOR
HELP, BUT BY THEN THE METEORS FELL
AND GALAXY CITY WAS BEING
DESTROYED, SO MY PROBLEMS TOOK A
BACK SEAT TO ALL THAT.

IT WAS... IT WAS MADDENING FOR
ME AT FIRST.

IT WAS LIKE A SWITCH WAS FLIPPED
AND SUDDENLY EVERYTHING SLOWED
TO A CRAWL.

I COULDN'T SLEEP FOR DAYS. I
COULDN'T EAT AT ALL. I WAS
ANXIOUS, NERVOUS, IMPATIENT.

I WAS BEATING MYSELF UP FOR
SIMPLE THINGS, LIKE NOT BEING
ABLE TO FINISH READING A BOOK
IN TEN MINUTES.

BUT... EVENTUALLY I
ADAPTED.

I SAW WHAT WAS
GOING ON IN GALAXY
CITY WITH THE RESCUE
ATTEMPTS AND I
REALIZED THERE WAS
NOTHING I COULD DO
TO HELP THEM.

I GUESS... I ACCEPTED
THAT I'M... RETIRED.

WELL I'M NOT GOING TO
ACCEPT IT! YOU'RE ONE OF
US, BART.

YOU DIDN'T GIVE UP ON ME,
AND I'M CERTAINLY NOT
GOING TO GIVE UP ON YOU!

I'M GOING TO CALL UP KENT
AND WE'RE GOING TO GET
THIS FIGURED OUT.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE RYDER
LIGHTNING AGAIN. I
PROMISE TH--

BEEP

PRIORITY
MESSAGE

GALATEA, THIS IS
ICON.

ALICE BANKS IS AT THE
JUDICIAL CENTER WITH
THE CREY POLICE BY HER
SIDE.

CAP IS ALREADY ON
HER WAY OVER TO
FOUNDERS FALLS. GET
OVER THERE AND LEND
HER A HAND.

OH NO... NOT
THOSE GUYS
AGAIN!*

C *SPOTLIGHT* #1D

FOUNDERS FALLS

JUDICIAL CENTER

"WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?"

SIR, THIS IS JUST A PROTECTIVE MEASURE.

"PROTECTIVE"? MORE LIKE "CRIMINAL".

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DETAIN EITHER OF US YOU'RE SADLY MISTAKEN.

YOU'RE MESSING WITH A HERO CORPS EXECUTIVE AND A MOTHER.

YOU **DO NOT** WANT TO GET BETWEEN ME AND MY DAUGHTER!

MA'AM, I'M A MOTHER TOO. I'M JUST DOING MY JOB.

OF COURSE IF MISTER "CELEBRITANT" THERE WANTS TO STEP UP, I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SHOW HIM WHY I LEFT THE PARAGON POLICE.

GO AHEAD...

I'LL BE SURE TO PERSONALLY DRAG YOU TO ZIGGURSKY PRISON AFTERWARD.

NO ONE IS DOING ANYTHING!

MISTER WENTWORTH, MISSUS ROMANNA, WE WILL TRY TO BE AS POLITE AS WE CAN, BUT PLEASE... PLEASE... DO NOT TEST US.



WE TOLD YOU
TO LEAVE.



NOW WE'RE
JUSTIFIED
TO USE
FORCE!



YEAH? WELL,
YOU JUST
SAID THAT TO
THE WRONG
PERSON!



NEVER MIND
USING FORCE
AGAINST AN
ACTUAL POLICE
OFFICER!



YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
REMAIN SILENT.
USE IT!



DISPATCH, THIS
IS CAPTAIN
PARAGONNA.
REQUESTING
BACKUP AT THE
JUDICIAL CENTER
IN FOUNDERS
FALLS.

ERROR.
NO SIGNAL.



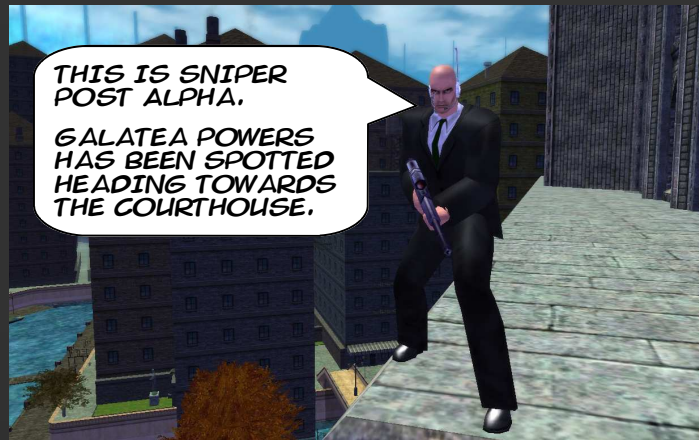
THEY'RE JAMMING
COMMUNICATIONS...
... WHICH MEANS I
DO THIS THE HARD
WAY UNTIL THE
OTHERS GET HERE.

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA
SUPERHERO POLICEWOMAN



GREY UNITS, THIS IS PERSUADER. THE FRONT PERIMETER HAS BEEN BREACHED.

PERSUADER
GREY POLICE FORCE



THIS IS SNIPER POST ALPHA.
GALATEA POWERS HAS BEEN SPOTTED HEADING TOWARDS THE COURTHOUSE.



HER ARRIVAL WAS ANTICIPATED.
GREY HEAVY UNIT, ENGAGE ON SIGHT.
SHE MUST NOT ENTER THE BUILDING.



"GALATEA... I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH CAP, AND I CAN'T REACH ALEX."



THERE SHE IS! OPEN FIRE!




WELL I THINK I JUST FOUND OUT WHY.
I'LL BE THROUGH IT IN FIVE MINUTES.



"GALATEA...
GALATEA!
D@MN..."


"LYON, THIS IS ICON POWERS.
I HAVE LOST COMMUNICATIONS WITH CAPTAIN PARAGONNA AND GALATEA IS TIED UP. WHAT IS YOUR LOCATION?"



JUST GOT OFF TH' TRAM.
SO WHO D' YE WANT ME T' HELP? TAYA OR CAPP?

NEITHER.
I WANT YOU TO HEAD ON OVER TO THE STATIONHOUSE IN LIBERTY TOWN AND FIND DETECTIVE JUNKERS.


 **LYON POWERS**
WELSH SUPERHERO



JUNKERS OWES CAP A FAVOR, SO TELL HIM THAT YOU'RE WORKING WITH CAP AND HE'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING HE CAN.



SO I'M BRINGING IN THE CAVALRY?



NOT ENTIRELY, BUT YOU WILL NEED POLICE AUTHORITY TO KEEP GREY FROM GETTING AWAY IF THE OTHERS FAIL.



WHAT?!?

TRUST ME ON THIS, LYON.



YE BETTER BE RIGHT 'BOUT THIS, KENT.



EXTRACTION TEAM TO
PERSUADER...

WE HAVE PYROGURL. WE HAD
TO SEDATE HER TO PREVENT
HER FROM USING HER FIRE
POWERS ON US.

UNDERSTOOD.

ALL TEAM UNITS, THIS IS
PERSUADER. WE HAVE THE
SUBJECT IN CUSTODY.

PRIORITY NOW IS
TRANSPORTING THE
SUBJECT TO THE VAN.



ARE YOU
OKAY,
TESSA?

NO... NO,
I'M NOT!

ALICE BANKS JUST
PISSED ME OFF!

I WON'T BE "OKAY"
UNTIL I KNOW KRY'S
IS SAFE.

AND THEN I'LL SHOW
BANKS THAT YOU
DON'T MESS WITH A
DEMON SUMMONER!

See The World - Save The World!



HERO CORPS!

Find out more at www.HeroCorps.para

IT'S LIKE SHE'S WEARING NOTHING!

Don't get caught with ugly underwear lines under your skin-tight hero outfit, or risk possible embarrassment by having nothing on underneath.

Our patented Skin 2 lingerie covers you where you need it the most, preventing you from having those embarrassing moments of being "overexposed", as well as providing miracle support even in the most harrowing of deathtraps.

And no matter the intensity of the crisis, nobody will mistake your seriousness for anything else as long as you're wearing Skin 2 under your costume.

Whether defending the world or rescuing kittens, Skin 2 is there for you like it was your own skin.

Skin 2

Available exclusively at your nearest
ICON tailor store.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Paragon Transit Authority

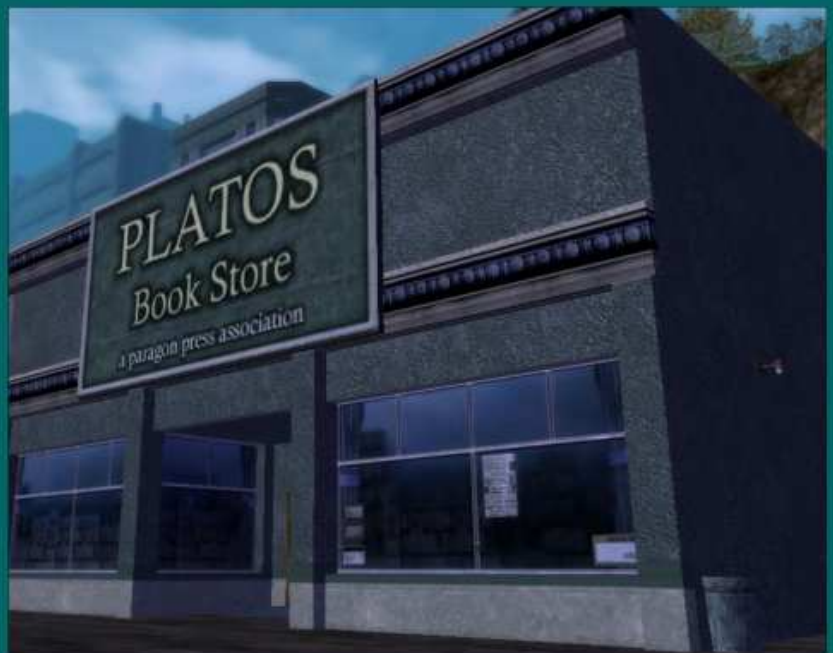
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Located directly on Spanky's Boardwalk, Talos Island

In-game stores only

SO WE'RE EXPECTED TO, LIKE, CARRY HER OUT?

LAST TIME I TRIED DOING THAT, THE LITTLE MUTIE BURNED ME!



LOOK, I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT; JUST DO IT!

USE YOUR SHIELDS AS A STRETCHER IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT WE HAVE TO GET HER TO THE VAN ASAP!



YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH HER.

I'M GIVING YOU A ONE-TIME-ONLY OFFER: WALK AWAY RIGHT NOW, AND I'LL FORGET THAT I SAW YOU HERE.



OR YOU GET TO SPEND ALL YOUR GREY SICK DAYS IN THE ZIGGURSKY INFIRMARY.



GREY DOESN'T ANSWER TO CAPES WITH BADGES!




YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT JUST HOW WRONG YOU ARE!



ALL THIS TROUBLE OVER
A GIRL WHO IS BARELY
INTO HER TEENS.



 **PYROGURL**
THE FIRE NINJA

PYROGURL JOINED US AFTER I
WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE HERO
SHIELD PROGRAM.

IN FACT SHE WAS THE FIRST
"RECRUIT" THAT MAXIMUS REX
MADE WHEN HE BECAME LEADER.*

WHEN I WAS HER AGE, I
USED TO WORRY ABOUT
WHETHER JIMMY
BESTER WOULD LIKE
ME, AND WHETHER OR
NOT I SHOULD STUFF
MY BRA.

(*SPOTLIGHT* #15)



WELL, I SHOULD
HAVE A SPARE
AWAKE PATCH TO
HELP GET HER ON
HER FEET.

GALATEA,
WHAT IS
YOUR
STATUS?

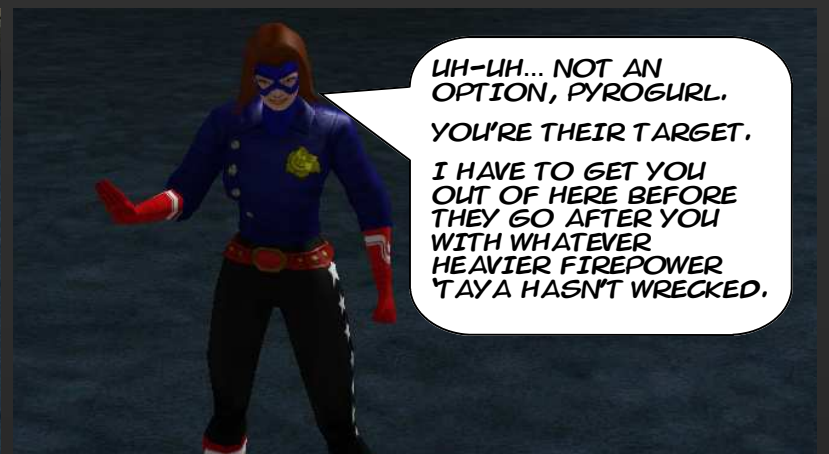
SORRY, CAN'T
HEAR YOU... GOT
AN AUTOMATIC
GUN RINGING
IN MY EAR!

"FIVE MINUTES,"
YOU SAID.

IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN.
YOU GETTING SOFT
ON US, GALATEA?

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARH!

BOOOOOOM!





TEAM UNITS, THIS IS PERSUADER. I WANT A SITREP.

I'M SORRY, YOUR MEN ARE ALL TIED UP RIGHT NOW.



WHO IS THIS? THIS IS A PRIVATE GREY CHANNEL.

OH I'M JUST YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD F.B.S.A. AGENT HERE TO HELP YOU OUT WITH THAT SITREP.

YOUR GROUND TEAMS ARE BEING DEFEATED BY A HERO CORPS EXEC WHO IS LOOKING FOR BOTH HER DAUGHTER AND ALICE BANKS. YOUR BEST HOPE IS THAT SHE FINDS HER DAUGHTER FIRST.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, PYROGURL IS CURRENTLY BEING ESCORTED OUT THE DOOR BY CAPTAIN PARAGONNA OF THE PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

YOUR HEAVY REINFORCEMENT UNITS ARE FALLING LIKE CLAY PIGEONS AGAINST GALATEA POWERS, SO THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU EITHER.



OH, AND ON THE OFF-CHANCE YOU MANAGED TO GET OUT, YOU'D FIND THE ONLY GROUND EXIT OUT OF FOUNDERS FALLS BLOCKED.



WHAT? YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY!

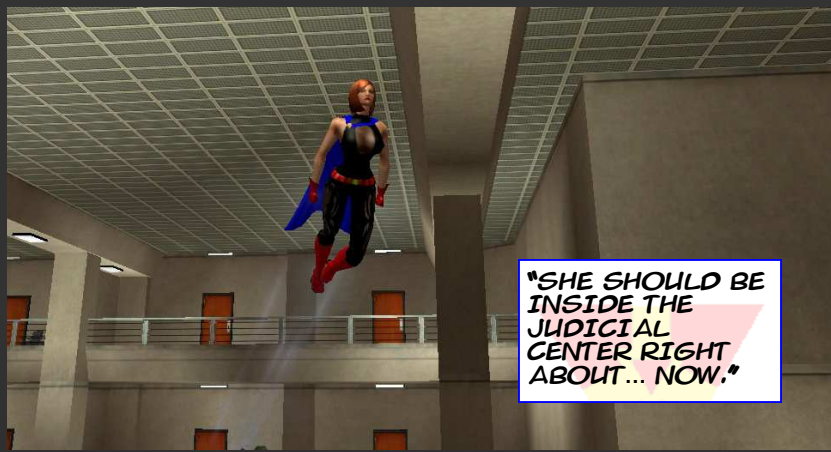
ATTEMPTING TO ABDUCT SOMEONE UNDER THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN? THAT'S CALLED 'AMBER ALERT'.



YOU CAN ALWAYS TRY HIDING IN EDEN, IF THE DEVOURING EARTH DON'T GET YOU.
IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE BY TRAIN YOU'LL FIND SQUAD CARS WAITING THERE AS WELL.
YOUR SITREP IS... YOU'RE SCREWED.

WE'RE WORKING ON BEHALF OF ALICE BANKS, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE CITIZEN GRAND JURY.

AND GOOD LUCK SELLING THAT TO GALATEA POWERS WHEN SHE SHOWS UP THERE TO KNOCK YOU INTO NEXT MONTH.



SHE SHOULD BE INSIDE THE JUDICIAL CENTER RIGHT ABOUT... NOW.



GALATEA POWERS... AT LONG LAST WE MEET IN PERSON.



YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE I SHOULD KNOW YOU SOMEHOW.



IN MANY WAYS, I HAVE YOUR FAMILY TO THANK FOR MY JOB.

GREY PD WAS A JOKE UNTIL YOUR SISTER LEONA BROKE IT UP IN 2009 AND HAD MY PREDECESSOR JAILED.*

(* NOTE: ACTUALLY IT WAS GALATEA IN HER COVERT TECH SUIT, BUT MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT IT WAS LEONA AFTER THE EVENTS IN "GALATEA DAWNING". *)



RATHER THAN DISSOLVE THE DIVISION, I GAVE IT A NEW PURPOSE.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER FOR THE POLICE.

NORMAL CITY RESOURCES ARE AT THEIR BREAKING LEVELS BETWEEN WHAT HAPPENED WITH GALAXY CITY AND THE RECENT CRIME SPREE*.

(* SEE RECENT ISSUES. *)



TRUST IN HEROES IS COLLAPSING.

SOON WHOLE NEIGHBORHOODS WILL BE TURNING TO GREY POLICE FOR BASIC PROTECTION.

AND WE WILL THANK ALICE BANKS AND HER GRAND JURY FOR THE PUBLICITY THAT PAVES THE WAY.



SO YOU GO FROM FALSE ARRESTS AND BLACKMAIL TO GLORIFIED CHILD KIDNAPPING...

AND YOU THINK YOU'RE MOVING UP? YOU'RE SICK!



HISTORY IS ULTIMATELY WRITTEN BY THE VICTOR.

CHECK WITH THE VATICAN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.



HA! MY POWER
SUIT IS NOW
FULLY-CHARGED.

I DESIGNED IT TO
PERSONALLY MATCH
YOUR POWER LEVELS.

I HAVE LONG WANTED
TO TEST IT OUT ONE-
ON-ONE AGAINST
YOU.

ARE YOU UP FOR IT?

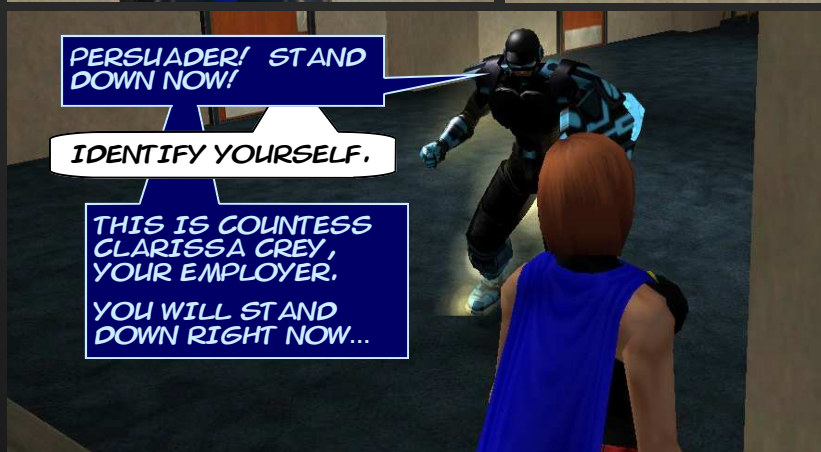
HMMMMMMMM!



CR-CR-CRACK



LET'S GO.



PERSUADER! STAND
DOWN NOW!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF.

THIS IS COUNTESS
CLARISSA GREY,
YOUR EMPLOYER.
YOU WILL STAND
DOWN RIGHT NOW...



OR THE NEXT
ORDER I GIVE
WILL BOTH
DEACTIVATE
YOUR POWER
SUIT AND
SIGN YOUR
TERMINATION
NOTICE.

COUNTESS GREY
GREY INDUSTRIES



AWW... SOUNDS
LIKE MAMA GREY
WON'T LET YOU
PLAY ANYMORE.
WELL MAYBE
AFTER YOUR
TIME-OUT WE
CAN TRY AGAIN.

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER
TIME, GALATEA POWERS.
YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT.

GREY IS THE FUTURE OF
THIS CITY, AND IT WILL BE
MY POLICE FORCE THAT
WILL KEEP IT SECURE.

THIS... IS JUST A PRELUDE
TO THAT GLORIOUS FUTURE.

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

"YOUR HONOR, I ADMIT MY PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN... A LITTLE PREMATURE IN THEIR ACTIONS--"

"PREMATURE? YOUR HONOR, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AN ARMED SIEGE ON THE JUDICIAL CENTER, FALSE DETENTION, ATTEMPTED CHILD KIDNAPPING--"

"ALL OF WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN LEGAL HAD THE EMERGENCY HEARING PROCEEDED AS SCHEDULED! MY PEOPLE WERE SIMPLY FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL TIMELINE--"

"OH, SO YOU EXPECT EVEN THE JUDGES TO RUN ACCORDING TO YOUR SCHEDULE NOW? IS THAT IT?"

"THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, AND YOU KNOW IT! WE WERE NOT ABLE TO NOTIFY GREY POLICE OF THE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE."

"EVEN WITHOUT THE CHILD KIDNAPPING, THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF THE ARMED SIEGE AND THE FALSE DETENTION."

"NONE OF WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED HAD THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COMPLIED WITH MY REQUEST AND TURNED MISS ROMANNA TO US WHEN ASKED."

"PROTOCOL FOURTEEN, YOUR HONOR! EVEN UNDERAGE, PYROGURL IS STILL A REGISTERED HERO IN THIS CITY AND DESERVES THE SAME PROTECTIONS AS ANY OTHER HERO REGARDING THEIR PERSONAL IDENTITY!"

"PLEASE! HER REAL NAME BECAME A PART OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS WEEKS AGO.* YOU CAN'T PUT THE GENIE BACK IN THE BOTTLE."

"ACTUALLY, I CAN, COUNCIL, AND I HEREBY ORDER IT SO."


UNTIL HER STATUS AS A REGISTERED HERO IS OTHERWISE REVOKED, SHE WILL BE REFERRED TO IN ALL LEGAL MATTERS AS PYROGURL."

(* ISSUE #1)

NOW... AS TO THE ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY...


YOUR HONOR, IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, I ASK THAT THE REQUEST BE DENIED.

FURTHERMORE, I'M REQUESTING AN ORDER TO BAR GREY POLICE FROM ANY COURT-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a yellow suit, stands in a courtroom.

YOUR HONOR, I OBJECT. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY KNOWS THAT MY RESOURCES AS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ARE LIMITED UNDER CITY CHARTER.

IF I CAN'T PROTECT MY WITNESSES, THEN I CAN'T ENCOURAGE THEM TO TESTIFY.

A man with a white beard and balding head, wearing a black robe, stands in a courtroom.

MISSUS BANKS, YOU SHOULD BE FORTUNATE THAT I DECIDED TO STAY INSIDE FOR LUNCH THIS AFTERNOON.

OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE HAD TO RECUSE MYSELF ALONG WITH ALL OF THE OTHER JUDGES THAT WERE "DETAINED" WHEN THEY TRIED TO RETURN FROM LUNCH.

 **JUDGE LEWIS CARSON**
PARAGON CITY SUPERIOR COURT

A close-up of Judge Lewis Carson, looking slightly to the side.

AS A PARENT YOURSELF, YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE HERE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO WREST CUSTODY OF A CHILD FROM THEIR PARENTS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN LIGHTLY OR DONE FRIVOLOUSLY.

AND YET, THIS AFTERNOON, YOU DID JUST THAT WITH YOUR LITTLE "STUNT".

PYROGURL MAY BE A REGISTERED HERO, WITH ALL THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GO WITH IT, BUT SHE IS STILL UNDERAGE. A FINE LINE STILL HAS TO BE WALKED IN THAT REGARD.

"WALKED", MISSUS BANKS, NOT TROUNCED.

A close-up of Judge Lewis Carson, looking slightly to the side.


MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY IS DENIED.

I AM STRONGLY URSING, THOUGH, THAT PYROGURL AND HER MOTHER COOPERATE WITH THE CITIZEN GRAND JURY AND PROVIDE WHATEVER TESTIMONY IS PERTINENT, BUT NOTHING MORE.

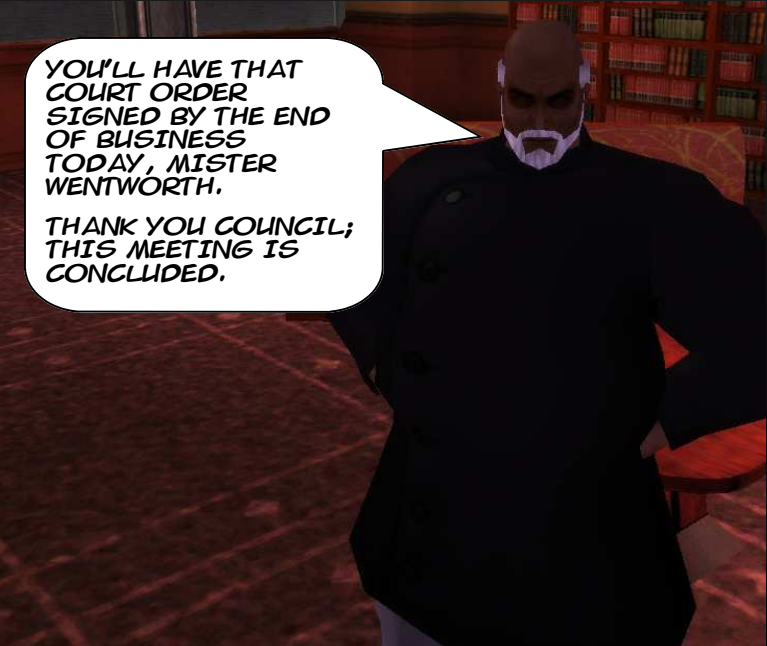
A close-up of Judge Lewis Carson, looking slightly to the side.

DON'T PRESUME THAT YOU'VE WON, THOUGH, MISSUS BANKS.

I AM ORDERING TRANSCRIPTS OF ALL GRAND JURY TESTIMONY BE SENT FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW. ANY SUSPECTED ABUSES ON YOUR PART WILL BE FORWARDED OVER TO THE RHODE ISLAND BAR.

A man with brown hair, wearing a blue suit and red tie, stands in a courtroom.

AND MY MOTION, YOUR HONOR, CONCERNING THE GREY POLICE?

A close-up of Judge Lewis Carson, looking slightly to the side.

YOU'LL HAVE THAT COURT ORDER SIGNED BY THE END OF BUSINESS TODAY, MISTER WENTWORTH.

THANK YOU COUNCIL; THIS MEETING IS CONCLUDED.



FOR MORE ON THE STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS AT THE JUDICIAL CENTER, WE TURN TO PNN'S LEGAL CONSULTANT NAN BRACER.

NAN, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF JUDGE CARSON'S DECISIONS?

AH THINK THIS IS A **CLLLLLEARRR** CASE OF JUDICIAL **ABUUUUUSE**, ROBIN.

NEVER IN MAH **YEEARS** AS A STATE PROSECUTOR DID ANYONE SUGGEST MAH INVESTIGATIONS BE **SUBJ EEEECTED** TO A JUDICIAL REVIEW!



PNN LATE AFTERNOON NEWS



NAN BRACER · LEGAL CONSU



THIS IS THE NEWLY-**EEEEEELECTEED** DISTRICT ATTORNEY FLEXING HIS MUSCLES IN A CASE THAT HE **DID NOT WAAAAAANT** TO PURSUE.

ALICE BANKS IS ALREADY **HAAAAMSTRINGED** IN HER ROLE AS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE CITIZEN GRAND JURY, AND NOW **"TOP COP"** ALEX WENTWORTH HAS FURTHER **SAAABOTAGED** HER CASE.



THIS IS SOMEONE WITH **YEARRRRRS** OF UNCONTEEEESTED SERVICE TO PROTECT **CHIL DREEEEEEN**, AND SUDDENLY HER EVERY MOVE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THIS JUDICIAL REVIEWWWWWW FROM SOME UNKNOWN PANEL OF...

WELL AH DON'T EVEN KNOW **WHOOOO** WILL BE ON THIS PANEL. IT COULD JUST BE **"TOP COP'S"** LAW CLERKS FOR ALL WE KNOW.

NAN BRACER · PNN LEGAL CONSULTANT · FORMER PROSECUTOR



UH... NAN, I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR TO REFER TO ALEX WENTWORTH AS **"TOP COP"**.

HE'S THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, NOT THE POLICE CHIEF.



PUH-LEASE ROBIN!

THIS IS THE BIGGEST CRITIC OF POLICE ABUSE WHO IS NOW IN POSITION TO PROSECUTE COPS. THE TERM **"TOP COP"** FITS HIM MORE THAN IT DOES CHIEF CLAYTON.

ON NEWS · ROBIN STEED



PNN LEGAL CONSULTANT · PNN



AND SPEAKING OF POLICE OFFICERS, I HAVE TO TAKE **EXXXXXCEPTION** TO THIS COURT ORDER **BARRRRRRING** MAH **GOOOOOOD** FRIEND ALICE BANKS FROM USING PRIVATE POLICE SERVICES LIKE THE GREY POLICE TO PROTECT HER WITNESSES!

ONCE AGAIN, **"TOP COP"** ALEX WENTWORTH IS **FORRRRCING** ALICE TO EITHER RELY ON CLEARLY PRO-**HEEEEEERO** GROUPS LIKE FREEDOM CORPS, OR ELSE USE SOME **SUUUB-STANDARD** SECURITY COMPANY.

MEANWHILE, **"TOP COP"** ALEX WENTWORTH ENJOYS NOT ONLY THE PERSONAL PROTECTION OF THE PARAGON SECRET SERVICE, BUT ALSO THE APPARENT SUPPORT OF SEVERAL **HEEEEEEROES** THAT USED TO BELONG TO THAT **DISGRAAAACED** GROUP CALLED THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN!



AFTERNOON NEWS · NAN BRACER CALLS OUT WENTWORTH!



AAAAND WITH THAT I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE ON...

THAT WAS PNN LEGAL CONSULTANT NAN BRACER ON WHAT WILL CERTAINLY BE A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE FOR WEEKS TO COME.

IN RELATED NEWS, MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GREY POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE INCIDENT AT THE JUDICIAL CENTER HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTED FELONY KIDNAPPING AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT.

REPEATED CALLS TO GREY INDUSTRIES FOR A STATEMENT WENT UNANSWERED.

PNN LATE AFTERNOON · ROBIN STEED · PNN LATE



YOU TWO READY TO GO?

I THINK SO.

FAITH KARL
AKA GALATEA POWERS

WE WERE PLANNING ON GOING FROM HERE BACK TO BOSTON, BUT I GUESS THAT PLAN IS OUT THE WINDOW NOW.

I KNOW ALEX SAID THAT THE JUDGE DIDN'T OUT-AND-OUT "ORDER" MY LITTLE GIRL TO TESTIFY, BUT I STILL DON'T WANT THAT WITCH TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR KR... PYROGURL, MUCH LESS HAVE HER TESTIFY IN THAT FAKE GRAND JURY.

IT'S OKAY, MOM...


MISTER WENTWORTH SAID THAT WITH THE WHOLE JUDICIAL REVIEW IN PLACE THAT MISSUS BANKS WON'T BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE ANYTHING I SAY SO IT COULD HURT THE GUARDIANS.

IF I JUST TELL THEM WHAT I KNOW AND WHAT I TELL THEM IS THE TRUTH, THEN SHE'LL DISMISS ME AND THAT WILL BE IT.

I WISH IT WAS THAT SIMPLE, PYROGURL.


SOMEONE LIKE ALICE BANKS DOESN'T GET INTO A POSITION OF POWER AND CONTROL WITHOUT KNOWING HOW TO BEND THE RULES TO THEIR FAVOR.

I'D PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO YOUR ANSWERS BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM, NO MATTER HOW SIMPLE THOSE QUESTIONS MAY BE.




ALEX HAS ARRANGED FOR YOU TWO TO BE STAYING IN A CONDO NEAR THE UNIVERSITY.

I'LL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE CHANNEL TUNNEL ENTRANCE SO YOU CAN AVOID THE MEDIA HANGING OUT AT THE ENTRANCEWAY.



IT'LL PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA FOR YOU TO CHANGE INTO YOUR CIVILIAN CLOTHES BEFORE WE GO DOWNSTAIRS.

DON'T WORRY, AS A CITY HALL ENVOY FOR HEROES, I'M SWORN TO KEEP YOUR REAL IDENTITY A SECRET.




THAT'S GOOD... ALTHOUGH I'M SURPRISED THAT MISTER WENTWORTH ISN'T HERE TO WALK US THROUGH ALL OF THIS.


WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

ACTUALLY, ALEX HAD ME MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS ON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT YOU'D HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS. THAT'S PART OF THE REASON WHY I WASN'T HERE EARLIER TODAY.

AS FOR WHY ALEX ISN'T HERE RIGHT NOW...



HE SAID HE HAD AN ERRAND TO RUN. SOMETHING ABOUT A PROMISE THAT HE SAID YOUR MOM WOULD UNDERSTAND.



OH! RIGHT... I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT PROMISE IS!

BRICKSTOWN



YAAAAA!!!
COME ON!
LET GO OF MY HAIR!!



I PROMISE I'LL WALK THE REST OF THE WAY... PLEASE!!

PLEASE! JUST LET ME GET ON MY FEET! DON'T DRAG ME THROUGH THE DOORS LIKE AN ANIMAL!

EARLY EVENING

NO, I HAVEN'T
TALKED WITH
ALEX YET
ABOUT OUR
SUSPICIONS.

I'LL NEED YOU TO
KEEP AN EYE ON THE
TRAFFIC COMING
OUT OF HIS OFFICE.

YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE THAT DO IT
WITH THE SAME
FREQUENCY AS--

ICON
POWERS.
WE WILL
HAVE
WORDS.

 **EXGEMINI**
FORMER ASCENDED

I'LL HAVE TO CALL
YOU BACK.

GO AHEAD WITH
WHAT WE DISCUSSED.

EXGEMINI... I'M SORRY, BUT
"ICON POWERS" IS RETIRED.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE HAD
TO TAKE A MORE INDIRECT
ROLE IN HERO AFFAIRS.

MAYBE IF YOU CAN STEP
INSIDE WITH ME I CAN MAKE
A FEW CALLS AND--

ENOUGH.

DO NOT PRETEND TO BE
SOME IGNORANT PAPER-
PUSHER WITH ME.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE
STILL SEMI-ACTIVE AS
ICON POWERS.

I KNOW THAT YOU AND
CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE
GUARDIANS ARE STILL
ACTIVE AS A GROUP.

AND I KNOW THAT
YOU CAN ANSWER
THE QUESTION THAT
I CAME HERE FOR...

WHERE IS MIDNIGHT
ARACHNIA?

**WHERE IS
JESSICA?**

**NEXT: SAVED BY...
GARRY BECKER?**

POWER TRIP



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

FROM THE DESK OF...

Kent Poderes Technical Consultant

Protocol Fourteen:

In my original universe, I never had to worry about my secret identity being out. During the House Un-American Committee hearings of the early 1950's, my father bravely exposed his secret identity to the public, which not only ended the McCarthy witch-hunt, but it also ended Senator McCarthy's career.

Of course, it also meant that my life as a young child was made that much more complicated once everyone knew that Kent Powers was the son of Steelman. We had to have a new home created atop Mount Washington in New Hampshire just to maintain some semblance of privacy. Even when I became an adult and people called me "Icon Powers", they still knew that I was Kent Powers.

It was even worse when I took my cousin in as my foster daughter. The media wanted to know everything they could about her then, no different than child movie stars when they would grow up in the public fishbowl. She literally grew up as a "hero celebrity".

Coming to this universe and to Paragon City, we discovered that maintaining a secret identity was a whole lot easier, thanks in large part to organizations such as Vanguard and the Federal Bureau for Super-Powered Affairs, and also because of the laws that were put in place designed to protect heroes.

The FBSA has in place twenty rules or "protocols" when dealing with registered heroes. Most of these involve access to government information and services, but the most important ones deal with protecting a hero's personal life from being made public.

"Protocol Fourteen" is the most powerful of these rules, because it protects the private identity of a registered hero in good standing. It prohibits prosecutors, defense attorneys, government officials, and even members of the media to some extent from divulging that hero's personal identity.

14: No duly registered hero in good standing shall be forced to divulge, in any way, information that would reveal said hero's personal identity should said hero decide to keep such information private. No government agent or agency shall compel through coercion said hero to divulge said information or to make available said information in any way that would become public. It will be the responsibility of the Federal Bureau for Super-Powered Affairs to properly verify the good standing of said hero and to enforce the protections outlined above.

This rule originally came about because attorneys would force heroes to unmask as part of their testimony, and thus their personal lives were subject to retaliation. In addition, this world's version of the McCarthy Trials also attempted to expose many heroes that refused

Continues on next page...

to cooperate with their inquisition. Fortunately those efforts failed thanks to public pressure and an Executive Order issued by President Eisenhower on behalf of heroes like Statesman.

I'm told that the penalties for revealing a registered hero's identity can be pretty harsh. A website operator funded by The Family to create a "burn list" of exposed hero identities was convicted for violating the Federal Secrecy Act and sentenced to thirty years. A gossip photographer took a picture of Ms. Liberty without her mask, and when he threatened to publish it, he was in jail for six months, and then left with his memory wiped about what he saw. I understand he's now sensitive to flashbulbs.

Of course not every hero has a private identity. Some heroes choose to make their identity public. But to those that choose to keep some semblance of a personal life, Protocol Fourteen ends up being their best friend. It also keeps their real names from being wrongfully marred.

In 2010, Midnight Arachnia was falsely accused of being a spy for Arachnos. Deputy District Attorney Edward Vance tried to use the situation to force her to unmask, ignoring the prohibitions of Protocol Fourteen. Fortunately the Guardians of the Dawn had set up some contingency plans that kept her real identity intact and allowed her the opportunity to escape so we could clear her name.

Vance was never held to account for doing that, but it shows just how easily such protections can be circumvented if we are not diligent about them.

In recent months I have come to appreciate what Galatea has been going through in terms of keeping her personal life separate from her hero one. Having taken a private identity myself, I know it's not just a matter of putting on street clothes and a pair of glasses. I'm just glad that there are resources in place to help keep that private identity truly private.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Nan Bracer is whipping the media up against the Guardians... the Citizen Grand Jury is in full swing...

This looks like a job for... Garry Becker?

As strange as it may sound, Paragon City's infamous loudmouth may be exactly what the Guardians need right now.

And where HAS Midnight Arachnia been since the fall of Galaxy City? ExGemini is determined to find out!



When all seems lost...
there will be redemption.

Coming soon to...

**THE GUARDIAN
POWERS**

GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com



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