



# FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 01  
2013



*From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live. It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Life is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...*

# **FUTURE'S GUARDIAN**

**"RETURN OF THE GUARDIAN"**  
**- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2**

**IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE GALATEA FUTURE WALKED AWAY FROM MILLENNIUM CITY AND INTO THE FROZEN CANADIAN WILDERNESS IN ORDER TO THWART THE DESIGNS OF A MANIPULATIVE "AGENT".**

**IN A WORLD FULL OF HEROES, THE LOSS OF JUST ONE IS OTHERWISE IGNORED. AND YET, EVEN TODAY THERE ARE MANY THAT MISS GALATEA FUTURE, AND NOT ALL OF THEM FOR BENEVOLENT REASONS.**

**BUT THEY EACH EAGERLY AWAIT HER RETURN.**

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THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS

NOT FAR FROM FORCE STATION STEELHEAD

JANUARY 2013

\*RING-RING\*  
\*RING-RING\*  
\*RING-RING\*  
\*CLICK\*

"HELLO?"

IT'S ME.  
IS EVERYTHING  
ALL SET?

"IT MOST  
CERTAINLY  
IS."

"COME ON  
HOME."

MILLENNIUM CITY, MICHIGAN, USA

A THRIVING METROPOLIS BUILT ATOP THE ASHES OF DETROIT.



A CITY REBUILT IN HONOR OF ITS CHAMPIONS!

RENAISSANCE CENTER

POWERHOUSE TRAINING FACILITY.



PROPHET: SCAN SUBJECT.

SCANNING...  
SUBJECT: HUMAN  
NO META-POWERS.



**AGENT SIDESTEP**  
Omniverse Operative

YOU ARE NOT GALEN.

NO, BUT HE HAPPENS TO BE A FRIEND OF MINE. HE ASKED ME TO LOOK IN ON SOMEONE THAT ARRIVED HERE IN LOCAL YEAR 2011.

IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO GALATEA FUTURE, THEN SHE IS ALREADY UNDER MY OBSERVATION. YOUR USE OF AN OMNIVERSE TRANSIT PORTAL IS SUSPECT. EXPLAIN.

I'M A TRAVELER. I GO BY THE NAME RONIN OMEGA. I USE ANY AVAILABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION THAT THE UNIVERSE PROVIDES.

THE OMNIVERSE TRANSIT PORTAL YOU USED IS NOT OF THIS UNIVERSE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I'VE ALSO WORKED WITH A CERTAIN OMNIVERSE AUTHORITY ENOUGH TIMES TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH A GATEWAY KEY THAT GIVES ME ACCESS. NOW IT'S MY TURN TO ASK YOU A QUESTION: WHY WERE YOU SO CONCERNED IF I WAS GALEN?



**RONIN OMEGA**  
Cosmic traveler

THE EXILED TIME MANIPULATOR GALEN IS CONSIDERED A THREAT TO OMNIVERSE ACTIVITY.\*

SHOULD HE APPEAR IN THIS UNIVERSE, I AM UNDER ORDERS TO DETAIN HIM ON SIGHT.

\* FIND OUT WHY BY READING "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN 2012 SPECIAL" AVAILABLE AT [BATTLEROCKCOMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://BATTLEROCKCOMICS.WORDPRESS.COM)

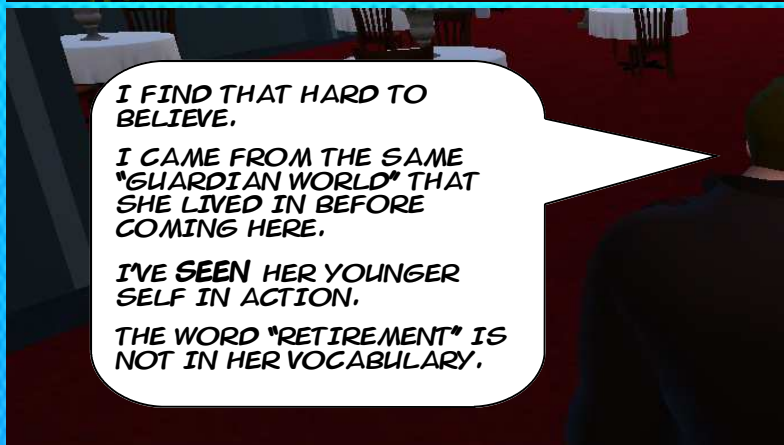


THEN I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT YOU MADE THE EFFORT TO PROVE THAT I WASN'T HIM.  
WHAT ABOUT GALATEA FUTURE?



YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT GALATEA FUTURE.  
SHE HAS RETIRED FROM ACTIVE HERO DUTY.\*

(\*THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE\* #4)



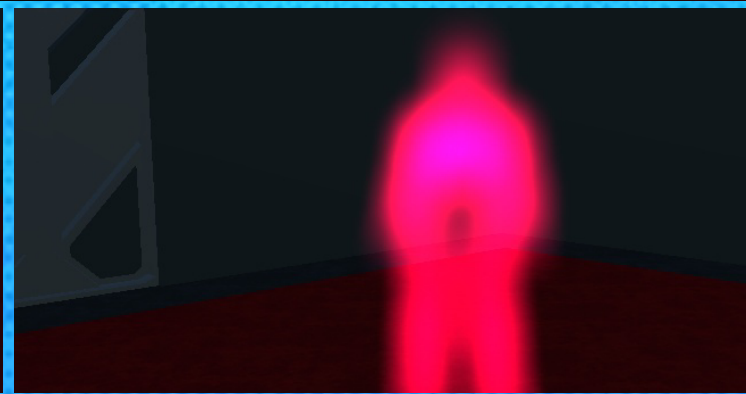
I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE.  
I CAME FROM THE SAME "GUARDIAN WORLD" THAT SHE LIVED IN BEFORE COMING HERE.  
I'VE SEEN HER YOUNGER SELF IN ACTION.  
THE WORD "RETIREMENT" IS NOT IN HER VOCABULARY.



THE WOMAN YOU'VE SEEN IN THAT WORLD IS NOT THE SAME AS THE ONE THAT CAME TO THIS WORLD.  
A LITERAL MILLENNIUM OF EXISTENCE CHANGES THINGS, EVEN FOR HER.



IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL FIND THAT OUT FOR MYSELF.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



I CAN SEE WHY THEY CALL YOU AGENT SIDESTEP.  
I GO WHERE THE UNIVERSE TAKES ME, AGENT.



RIGHT NOW IT'S WHEREVER THESE STAIRS TAKE ME.  
UNLESS YOU PLAN ON STOPPING ME.

HMMM...  
APPARENTLY IT'S  
NOT IN HIS PLAN.

AND WE'RE LIVE IN  
THREE... TWO... ONE...

I'M GLORIA ROOT AND I'M  
HERE IN THE POWERHOUSE  
THEATER IN THE RENAISSANCE  
CENTER WITH FAMED AUTHOR  
ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE.

TONIGHT, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL  
FEMALE AUTHOR SINCE J. K. ROWLING  
WILL BE HOSTING A SPECIAL CHARITY  
EVENT WHERE THE POWERHOUSE  
PLAYERS WILL BE READING FROM  
ATHENA'S LATEST BOOK: "SENTINELS  
OF LOVE: DEPTHS OF DESPAIR".

 **ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE**  
Celebrated Fiction Writer

 **8WCOC Entertainment News - Gloria Root - Renaissance Center**

FIRST OF ALL, I JUST WANT TO SAY  
THAT IT'S AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU  
HERE HOSTING THIS WONDERFUL  
EVENT... WITH THE PROCEEDS, I MIGHT  
ADD, GOING TO THE CHILDREN OF  
DETROIT FUND, A VERY NOBLE  
CHARITY HELPING OUT ORPHANS IN  
MILLENNIUM CITY.


HAVING SAID THAT, YOU'VE ALSO  
BEEN PRETTY RECLUSIVE SINCE  
YOUR METEORIC POPULARITY  
ALMOST A YEAR AGO. YOU USED  
TO ONLY DO INTERVIEWS EITHER  
ONLINE OR OVER THE PHONE.  
WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO COME  
OUT IN PUBLIC NOW?

 **8WCOC Entertainment News - Gloria Root - Renaissance Center**

WELL, IN ADDITION TO HAVING  
THE HONOR OF HOSTING SUCH A  
PRESTIGIOUS EVENT, I HAVE TO  
ADMIT THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF  
VANITY INVOLVED.

I HAVE TO DISPEL SOME OF THE  
RUMORS CONCERNING ME THAT  
HAVE COME UP SINCE MY BOOKS  
BECAME A SUCCESS.

\*GIGGLE\* WELL I  
THINK WE CAN ALL  
SAFELY SAY NOW  
THAT YOU'RE  
CERTAINLY NOT A  
SEVERELY-OBESE  
MALE SHUT-IN AS  
SOME RUMORS  
HAVE CLAIMED.

 **8WCOC Athena Rose Fairmore - "Sentinels of Love" Book Series**

THAT'S FOR CERTAIN.  
AND I HAVE TO THANK MY  
READERS FOR REALLY  
COMING TO MY DEFENSE  
AGAINST SUCH RUMORS.  
THEY HAVE BECOME MY  
PERSONAL CYBER-HEROES.

MAYBE YOU  
COULD  
INCLUDE  
THEM IN  
YOUR NEXT  
BOOK.

SPEAKING  
OF WHICH...

## 8WCOC Gloria Root Interviews Athena Rose Fairmore

WITHOUT GIVING  
ANYTHING AWAY,  
YOUR TWO MAIN  
CHARACTERS,  
ARCHER AND PSI,  
REALLY ARE TESTED  
IN THIS BOOK, BOTH  
AS HEROES AND AS  
A COUPLE.

SO GIVEN WHAT  
HAPPENS IN THE  
END... AND I WON'T  
SPOIL IT... WILL  
THERE BE A SEQUEL?

OR WAS "SENTINELS  
OF LOVE" MEANT TO  
BE JUST A TRILOGY?

### 8WCOC Gloria Root - Entertainment Reporter

### 8WCOC Gloria Root - Entertainment Reporter

NO, THE SERIES WAS MEANT TO BE  
AN ONGOING ONE, SO AS LONG AS  
I HAVE THE INSPIRATION, I'LL  
CONTINUE TO HAVE THE BOOK  
SERIES GOING.

IN FACT, ONE OF THE REASONS WHY  
I RETURNED TO MILLENNIUM CITY  
WAS TO GET MATERIAL FOR THE  
NEXT BOOK IN THE SERIES.

THAT IS  
WONDERFUL  
NEWS!

## 8WCOC Fairmore - Author of "Sentinels Of Love: Depths of Despair"

SO I HOPE ALL YOU  
HEROES OUT THERE IN  
MILLENNIUM CITY ARE  
READY TO GIVE  
ATHENA PLENTY OF  
RESEARCH MATERIAL!

AND THE REST OF US WILL BE ABLE TO  
SEE ATHENA HERE ON STAGE LATER  
TONIGHT, INTRODUCING THE  
POWERHOUSE PLAYERS AS THEY READ  
SELECTED PORTIONS OF HER NEW  
BOOK, WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO  
THE CHILDREN OF DETROIT FUND.

FROM THE POWERHOUSE THEATER IN THE  
RENAISSANCE CENTER, I'M GLORIA  
ROOT, BACK TO YOU IN THE STUDIO.

## 8WCOC Entertainment Reporter Gloria Root - Renaissance Center

"AT THIS TIME DO EITHER PARTIES HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR MOTIONS TO ENTERTAIN?"

"NO, YOUR HONOR."

"NO, YOUR HONOR."

"THEN IN THE MATTER OF GALATEA FUTURE VERSUS MARKMAN GOLD AND THE GOLD STANDARD AGENCY, THE COURT ISSUES ITS FINAL RULING IN FAVOR OF THE PLAINTIFF."

"COURT IS ADJOURNED."

**GAVEL SLAM!**



MISS SINCLAIR...  
A WORD, PLEASE.

**CANDACE SINCLAIR**  
Attorney-At-Law



MISTER GOLD?

I JUST WANTED TO CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR CLIENT ON YOUR LEGAL VICTORY.

**MARKMAN GOLD**  
"Agent to the Super-Legends"



I HOPE YOU AND MS. FUTURE ARE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE.  
YOU'VE SET BACK FIFTY YEARS OF COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARK LAW WITH THIS CASE.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, MY ATTORNEYS WILL BE APPEALING THIS DECISION ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT IF NECESSARY, DESPITE THEM TELLING ME THAT WE DON'T HAVE A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL OF WINNING.  
YOU WOULD THINK THAT YOUR CLIENT WOULD AT LEAST BE WILLING TO BE HERE AT THE LAST DAY TO GLOAT ABOUT IT.



FIRST OF ALL, I DIDN'T SET BACK ANY KIND OF LAW.  
YOU DID THAT ALL ON YOUR OWN WITH YOUR BLATANT ABUSE OF COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARK LAW WHEN YOU TRIED TO CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF MY CLIENT.\*  
THERE'S A LITTLE THING CALLED THE THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION THAT PREVENTS YOU FROM DOING THAT.  
AND THE CONSTITUTION ALWAYS TRUMPS TRADEMARK AND COPYRIGHT LAWS.

BAH! A MERE TECHNICALITY!

**\* THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE #4)**

YEAH... SEE, WITH A MINDSET LIKE THAT, IT SORT OF EXPLAINS WHY YOU LOST.

AS FOR WHY GALATEA COULDN'T APPEAR, WELL, YOU MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO SHOW UP ANYWHERE WITHOUT DEMANDING THAT SHE PAY AN "APPEARANCE FEE" AND THEN TACKLING THAT FEE ONTO YOUR COUNTER-SUIT DEMANDS.

I MEAN, DID YOUR ATTORNEYS EVEN TRY TO STOP YOU FROM MAKING SO MANY BLATANT MISTAKES TO SABOTAGE YOUR CASE?



I WON'T EVEN TRY TO DIGNIFY THAT WITH A RESPONSE.

SUFFICIENT TO SAY, YOUR VICTORY WILL BE SHORT-LIVED.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LEGALLY OWN HER NAME OR LIKENESS, BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM GETTING HER UNDER THE GOLD STANDARD AGENCY'S CONTROL, I PROMI--

\*DEEP-DEEP\*  
\*DEEP-DEEP\*

THAT'S STRANGE.

IT'S JUST MY CELLPHONE.



YES, BUT I'VE HEARD YOUR CELLPHONE GO OFF BEFORE, AND IT NORMALLY USES A CASH REGISTER SOUND FOR A RINGTONE.

THIS TONE IS A LITTLE MORE OMINOUS.

\*DEEP-DEEP\*  
\*DEEP-DEEP\*

DON'T YOU HAVE A CLIENT YOU NEED TO CONGRATULATE?

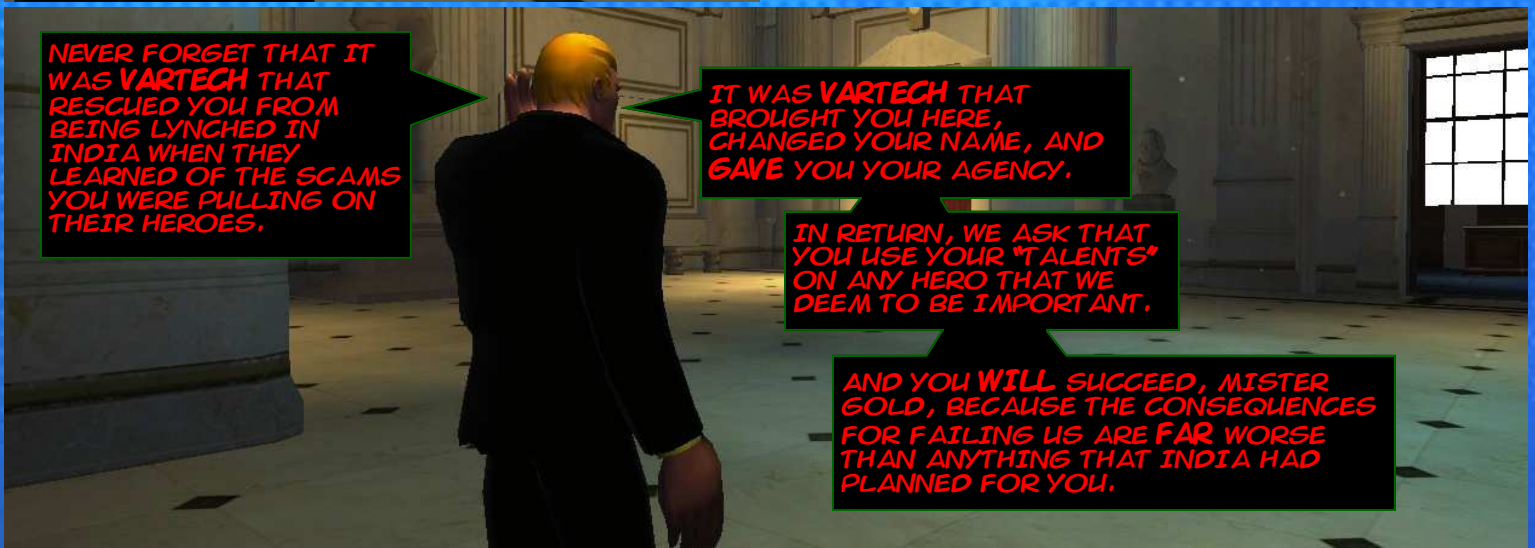
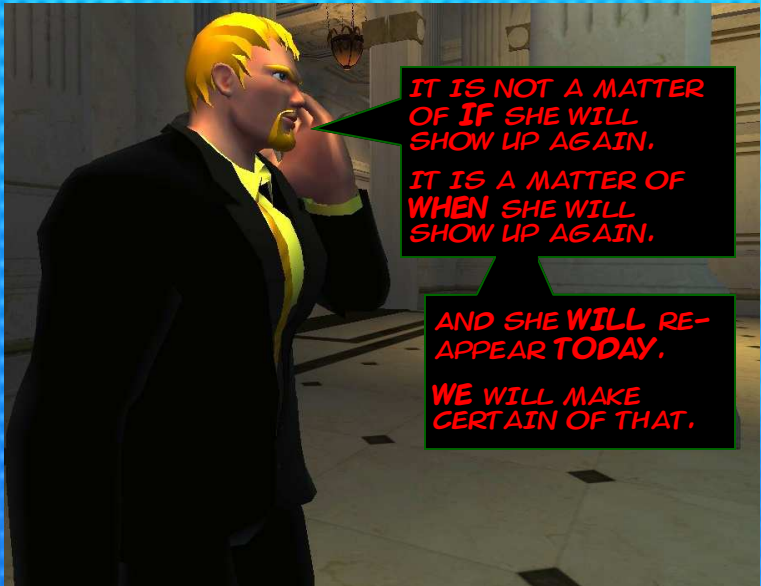


ACTUALLY I HAVE TO MEET UP WITH ANOTHER CLIENT. BUT I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AFTERWARD.

\*DEEP-DEEP\*  
\*DEEP-DEEP\*

I EXPECT GALATEA'S FINANCES RESTORED TO HER BANK ACCOUNT IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AS PER THE JUDGE'S ORDERS.





DOWNTOWN - AN HOUR LATER...

DING!

HERE WE ARE.

OH MY...!

sssslide...

LUXURY PENTHOUSE SUITE SUITABLE FOR A CELEBRITY WRITER.

IT'S... HUGE!  
AND THIS IS ALL FOR MEE!

WELL IT WAS GOING TO GO TO THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI, BUT HE SAID IT WAS JUST A LITTLE TOO SMALL FOR HIS TASTES.  
OF COURSE IT'S FOR YOU!

SORRY, IT'S JUST... FOR THE PAST YEAR I'VE BEEN LIVING IN SMALL SHACKS AND BUNKERS.

I'M NOT USED TO HAVING THIS MUCH SPACE... AND ALL IN MY OWN NAME.  
NOT TO MENTION SO MUCH OPEN SPACE.  
ANYONE HERE BELIEVE IN PRIVACY?

WELL, THANKFULLY THE OUTSIDE GLASS IS BOTH TEMPERED AND TINTED.  
YOU CAN SEE OUT, BUT NOBODY CAN SEE IN, EVEN AT NIGHT.  
YOU CAN HAVE A FULL-SCALE WAR IN HERE AND NOBODY WILL KNOW.

NOT THAT I WOULD EVER ADVOCATE THAT, OF COURSE!

OF COURSE... \*CHUCKLE\*

THIS PENTHOUSE COMES WITH A FULL-SERVICE CONCIERGE SYSTEM. THEY'LL HANDLE CLEANING, LAUNDRY, AND SHOPPING; NO QUESTIONS ASKED. EVER. YOU TELL THEM IN ADVANCE WHAT SORT OF FOOD YOU WANT AND THEY'LL TRY TO HAVE IT IN THE PANTRY FOR YOU THAT DAY.

IT'S BEEN A LIFETIME SINCE I EVER COOKED ANYTHING MORE THAN A CUP OF HOT WATER.

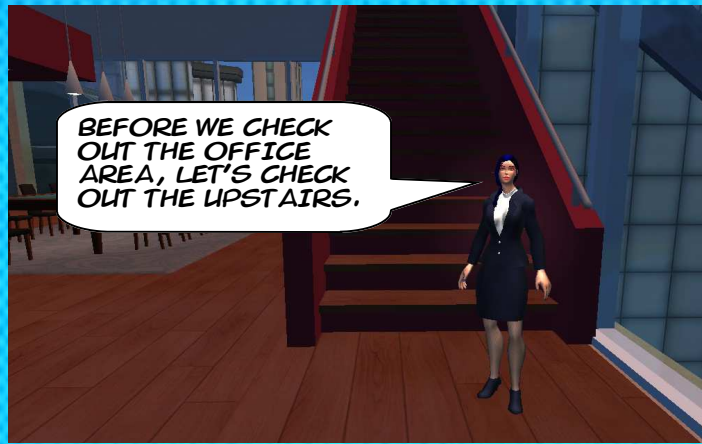
YOU CAN GIVE THE CONCIERGE DESK A CALL AND THEY CAN LET YOU KNOW WHICH KIND OF RESTAURANTS YOU COULD TRY... OR EVEN HAVE IT DELIVERED FOR A SMALL FEE PLUS TIP.

I THINK I MAY HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO COOK AGAIN.

IT'S UP TO YOU. HERE'S THE LIVING ROOM...

THE FURNITURE IS LEASED AND IT AND THE CARPETING ARE ALL STAIN-RESISTANT.

UHM... YOU KNOW... JUST IN CASE.



BEFORE WE CHECK OUT THE OFFICE AREA, LET'S CHECK OUT THE UPSTAIRS.



HERE WE GO...

NICE!



WOW... YOU CAN FIT AN ARMY IN THIS BED.

THEY DON'T MAKE THESE THINGS SMALL IN MILLENNIUM CITY.



THE PATIO DOORS HAVE BIOMETRIC LOCKS.

SO ONLY I CAN OPEN THEM UP?



YOU, ME, AND ANYONE ELSE YOU DECIDE TO INCLUDE.



SO MUCH OPEN SPACE...  
I'M FULLY DRESSED AND I STILL FEEL LIKE I'M STANDING HERE STARK NAKED.

YOU SAY SOMETHING?

NOTHING!



NICE BATHROOM.  
LOTS OF SPACE AGAIN.

I KNOW, ISN'T IT?  
COME ON  
DOWNSTAIRS.



OKAY... IT'S  
MAGIC  
TRICK TIME.  
WHAT DO  
YOU SEE?



A SINGLE  
DESK IN AN  
OTHERWISE  
EMPTY ROOM.



WELL, PRESS  
ONE BUTT  
ON AND...



SECURE ROOM  
ENGAGED.



THE OUTLYING WALLS ARE  
THREE LAYERS OF KENDRIUM  
WITH A FAUX-WOOD LOOK.  
SAME WITH THE CEILING  
AND FLOOR.  
  
THIS ROOM CAN WITHSTAND  
ANYTHING JUST SHORT OF A  
NEARBY NUCLEAR BLAST.

I JUST HOPE  
WE DON'T HAVE  
TO PUT THAT  
TO THE TEST.



THE WEAPONS ARE MOSTLY FOR DECORATION.



THE REST OF THE EQUIPMENT, THOUGH, IS VERY MUCH FUNCTIONAL.



AND THEN THERE'S THIS... CONSOLE. I TAKE IT THIS IS TIED INTO THE SOCRATES NETWORK?

AFFIRMATIVE.

CLOSEST THING TO BUNKING OUT IN THE CHAMPIONS HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT GETTING THAT POLITE LETTER ASKING YOU TO LEAVE.



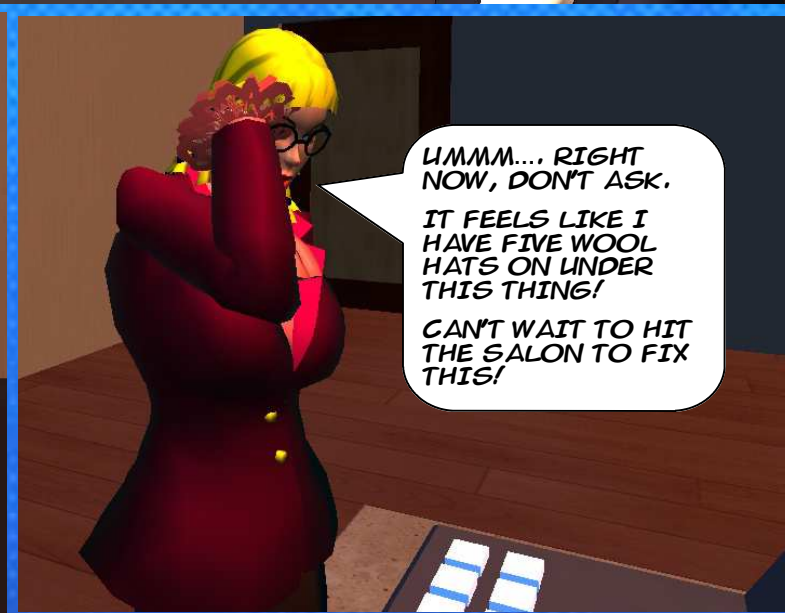
PERFECT! YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME, CANDACE. I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED YOU COULD SET THIS ALL UP FOR ME!



WELL, LIKE I TOLD YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET... WHEN I TAKE ON A CLIENT'S CASE, I SEE IT THROUGH RIGHT TO THE VERY END. BUT WHAT I'M REALLY SURPRISED ABOUT...



... IS HOW THAT WIG FITS SO PERFECTLY ON YOU! HOW DID YOU DO THAT?



UMMM... RIGHT NOW, DON'T ASK. IT FEELS LIKE I HAVE FIVE WOOL HATS ON UNDER THIS THING! CAN'T WAIT TO HIT THE SALON TO FIX THIS!

# Be Heroic By Looking Heroic



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BACK AT CITY HALL...

ATTENTION  
ALL CITY  
EMPLOYEES!

REPORT TO  
YOUR NEAREST  
PANIC ROOM.

THIS BUILDING  
HAS NOW BEEN...  
**FORECLOSED!**

MEANWHILE AT THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...

EXCUSE ME...  
DEFENDER,  
RIGHT?

YES I AM...  
AND YOU ARE?

**DEFENDER**  
Champions Leader

I GO BY THE  
NAME OF RONIN  
OMEGA.

I'M TOLD YOU  
KNEW GALATEA  
FUTURE AND  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO HER.

I CAN SAY THAT I'VE  
HAD THE HONOR OF  
WORKING WITH HER  
FOR THE LIMITED  
TIME THAT SHE WAS  
HERE...

AND SHE IS STILL  
ALIVE, AS FAR AS I  
KNOW ANYWAY.

"SHE ARRIVED HERE  
IN 2011 DURING A  
QLARR INVASION."

"THE QLARR  
NEUTRALIZED MOST  
OF OUR POWERS,  
BUT GALATEA STILL  
INSPIRED HOPE EVEN  
FOR OUR SEASONED  
CHAMPIONS."

"EVEN WITH JUST  
SUPER-STRENGTH,  
SHE HAD NO  
QUALMS TAKING  
THE FIGHT TO  
THEM."

"GALATEA EVEN HELPED ME STOP BLACK T ALON WHEN HE TOOK OVER CHAMPIONS HQ."



"IN GRATITUDE, SHE WAS GIVEN A HERO'S RECEPTION AND A KEY TO THE CITY BY MAYOR BISELLE."



"DURING HER TIME HERE SHE HELPED PUT DOWN A PRISON RIOT."



"AND SHE SINGLE-HANDEDLY TOOK DOWN A TERRORIST BASE IN AFRICA."



SOUNDS LIKE SHE DEVELOPED A PRETTY GOOD REPUTATION HERE.

SHE WAS ONE OF THE BEST.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?



NOT "WHAT", BUT "WHO"...

A SLIMY PIECE OF GARBAGE NAMED MARKMAN GOLD.



"WHILE GALATEA WAS HELPING OUT OUR FRIENDS IN CANADA, MARKMAN GOLD USED TRADEMARK LAW TO ASSUME LEGAL CONTROL OF HER NAME AND LIKENESS."

"THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HIM WAS FOR HER TO GO AWAY UNTIL THE COURTS COULD SORT IT ALL OUT."

"HE CLAIMED THAT GALATEA WAS JUST A FICTIONAL CREATION AND THAT SHE WAS JUST AN ACTRESS PLAYING THE ROLE."

"HE USED THE LAW TO SEIZE HER BANK ACCOUNT AND ALSO USED HIS CLAIM TO MAKE PROMISES IN HER NAME TO THINGS THAT SHE WOULD NEVER DO."



(\* ALL TOLD IN "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #1-4 AVAILABLE THROUGH BATTLEROCK COMICS)



PERSONALLY I THINK IT'S DISGUSTING THAT SOMEONE LIKE GOLD COULD ABUSE THE LAW THE WAY THAT HE DID.

I AGREE, IT'S NOT RIGHT. BUT I HEARD SOMEWHERE THAT SHE JUST WON HER CASE, SO I PRESUME THAT SHE WILL BE BACK.



I'M SURE SHE WILL--

MCPD ALERT!  
MCPD ALERT!

WHAT DO WE HAVE?



PANIC ALARM AT CITY HALL.  
ARMED GUNMAN IN THE BUILDING.



HE USED THE BUILDING'S PA SYSTEM TO HERD THE CITY EMPLOYEES INTO THE PANIC ROOM OUTSIDE THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.  
WAIT... HE'S USING THE POLICE RADIO NOW...

ATTENTION MILLENNIUM CITY POLICE AND ANY HEROES LISTENING IN...  
MY NAME IS FORECLOSURE.



YOUR OVERPAID CITY WORKERS ARE ALL SAFE INSIDE THE MAYOR'S PANIC ROOM.  
BUT THEIR SAFETY IS ONLY AN ILLUSION, FOR I HAD ALREADY RIGGED THE VENTILATION SYSTEM IN THAT ROOM TO BE FILLED WITH CARBON MONOXIDE AT ANY TIME THAT I CHOOSE.

THEY CAN EITHER DIE A SLOW BUT PAINLESS DEATH IN AN HOUR SHOULD MY DEMAND NOT BE MET, OR I CAN HASTEN THAT DEATH BY DETONATING THE C-O CANISTER ITSELF SHOULD ANYONE ATTEMPT TO RESCUE THEM.

MY DEMAND, HOWEVER, IS PAINFULLY SIMPLE.  
I WANT JUST ONE THING:  
GALATEA FUTURE.



HOW CAN WE GET IN TOUCH WITH HER?

GET DEFENDER ON THE PHONE!

GALATEA?  
BUT I THOUGHT SHE RETIRED!

"I KNOW THIS SEEMS LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK..."

**HON. CALVIN BISELLE**  
Mayor of Millennium City



BUT I KNOW THAT SHE IS HERE IN MILLENNIUM CITY.  
SHE MAY EVEN BE LISTENING IN TO THIS TRANSMISSION RIGHT NOW.



YOUR BEST HOPE IS THAT SHE IS.



IN THIRTY MINUTES, I WILL TRIGGER THE GAS TO BE RELEASED INTO THE PANIC ROOM'S VENTILATION SYSTEM.  
THIRTY MINUTES AFTER THAT, THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE PANIC ROOM WILL BE DEAD.

IF ANY OTHER HERO TRIES TO STEP IN, THE EXPLOSIVE IS TRIGGERED, KILLING EVERYONE INSIDE.  
THE ONLY PERSON THAT CAN PREVENT THESE THINGS FROM HAPPENING IS GALATEA FUTURE.  
HER TIME... AND THEIRS... START NOW.





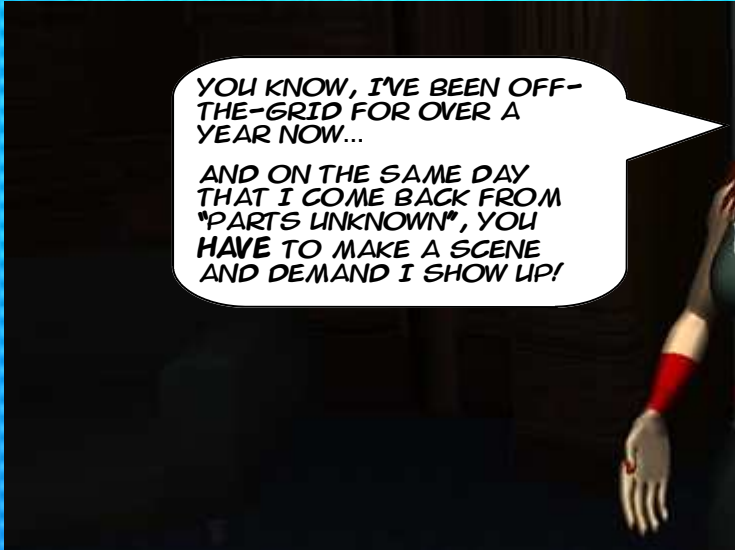


I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE.



*\*LMPH!\**  
AND I REALLY LOVED THIS COAT TOO!

SUBJECT CONFIRMED.



YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN OFF-THE-GRID FOR OVER A YEAR NOW...  
AND ON THE SAME DAY THAT I COME BACK FROM "PARTS UNKNOWN", YOU HAVE TO MAKE A SCENE AND DEMAND I SHOW UP!

I MEAN, LOOK AT ME!  
THERE'S A REASON WHY I HAD ON THAT LONG COAT AND HOOD!

SO NOW THAT YOU'VE DESTROYED MY FAVORITE COAT AND SEEN THAT I AM WHO I AM... HOW ABOUT YOU LET THE HOSTAGES GO SO WE CAN TALK?

 GALATEA FUTURE  
Otherworld Guardian

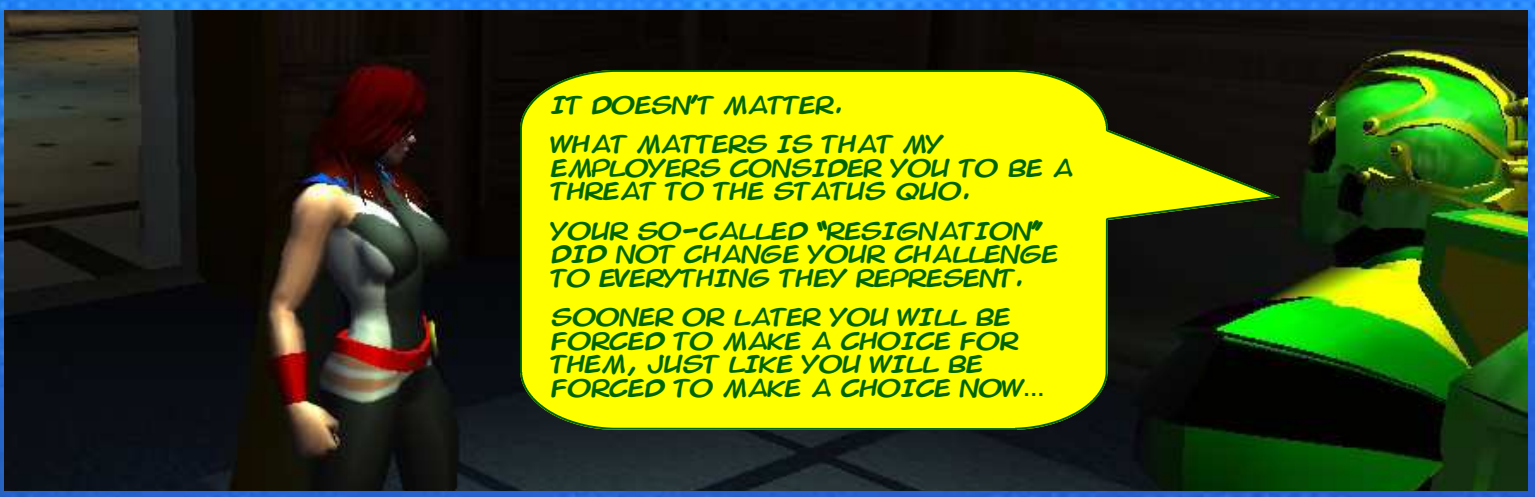


I BROUGHT YOU OUT IN PUBLIC BECAUSE IT WAS PART OF MY MISSION REQUIREMENTS.



WAIT... SOMEONE IS ORDERING YOU TO TAKE PEOPLE HOSTAGE?  
WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

STICK TO THE PLAN. DO NOT REVEAL WHO WE ARE!



IT DOESN'T MATTER.  
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT MY EMPLOYERS CONSIDER YOU TO BE A THREAT TO THE STATUS QUO.  
YOUR SO-CALLED "RESIGNATION" DID NOT CHANGE YOUR CHALLENGE TO EVERYTHING THEY REPRESENT.  
SOONER OR LATER YOU WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE FOR THEM, JUST LIKE YOU WILL BE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE NOW...



KILL ME...  
... OR LET THE  
HOSTAGES DIE.



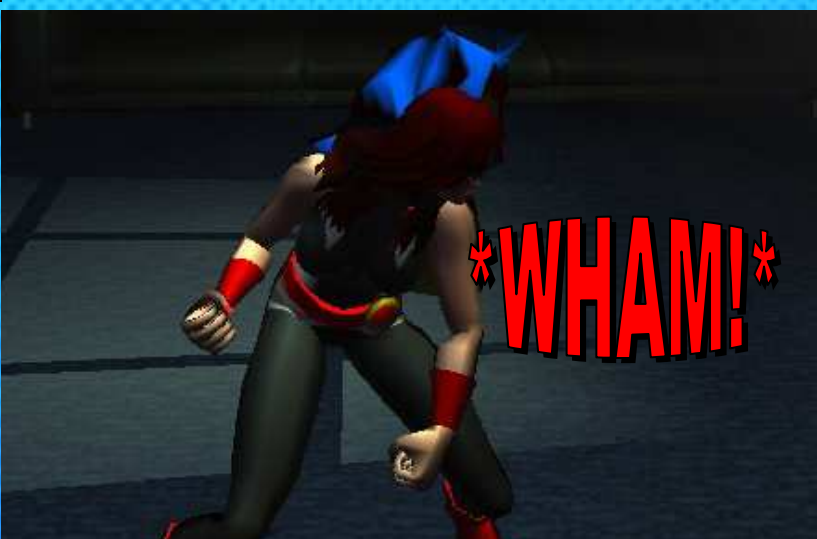
I DON'T KILL.  
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT,  
AND CERTAINLY NOT  
BECAUSE SOMEONE  
DEMANDS IT.



THEN YOU WILL  
HAVE KILLED  
THOSE PEOPLE IN  
THE PANIC ROOM,  
BECAUSE THAT IS  
THE ONLY WAY TO  
STOP ME.



ALL I NEED TO  
DO IS TO PRESS  
THIS BUTTON TO  
TRIGGER THE  
GAS AND--



THEN I GUESS IT'S  
GOOD THAT I'M NOT  
GIVING YOU THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
PRESS THAT BUTTON.



READY FOR ROUND TWO?

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.  
SURRENDER.

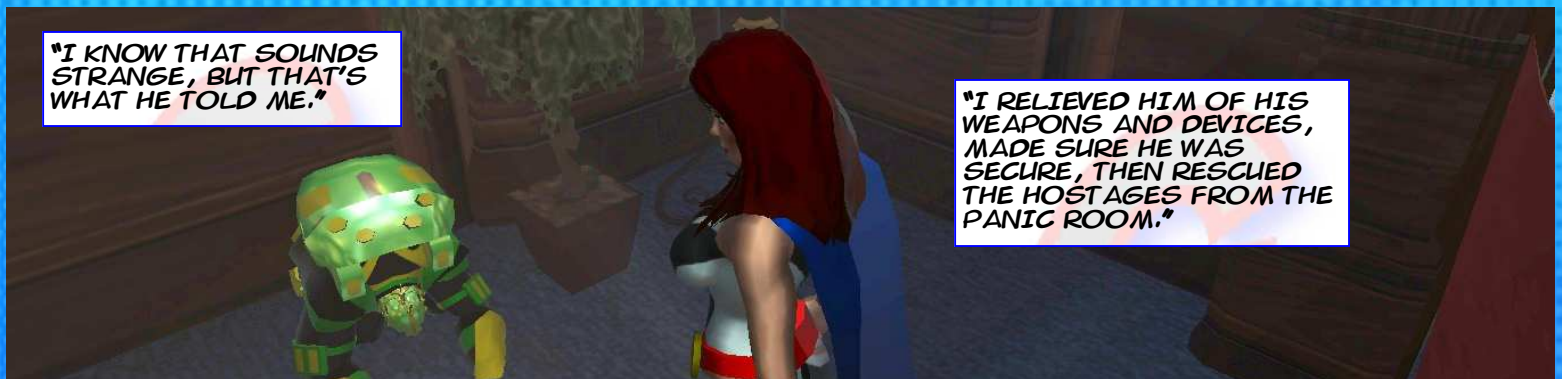


THAT IS NOT NECESSARY,  
I GIVE UP.



IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?  
I HIT YOU TWICE  
AND YOU FOLD  
JUST LIKE THAT?

I GAVE YOU THE NECESSARY  
MOTIVATION TO TAKE  
ACTION... JUST LIKE I GAVE  
YOU THE MOTIVATION TO  
BRING YOU HERE BEFORE  
YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD  
BE READY TO BE IN PUBLIC.  
  
I HAVE FULFILLED MY  
MISSION.  
  
THAT IS HOW \*THEY\* WORK,  
GALATEA. REMEMBER THAT.



"I KNOW THAT SOUNDS  
STRANGE, BUT THAT'S  
WHAT HE TOLD ME."


"I RELIEVED HIM OF HIS  
WEAPONS AND DEVICES,  
MADE SURE HE WAS  
SECURE, THEN RESCUED  
THE HOSTAGES FROM THE  
PANIC ROOM."



WESTSIDE JAIL, WESTSIDE DISTRICT

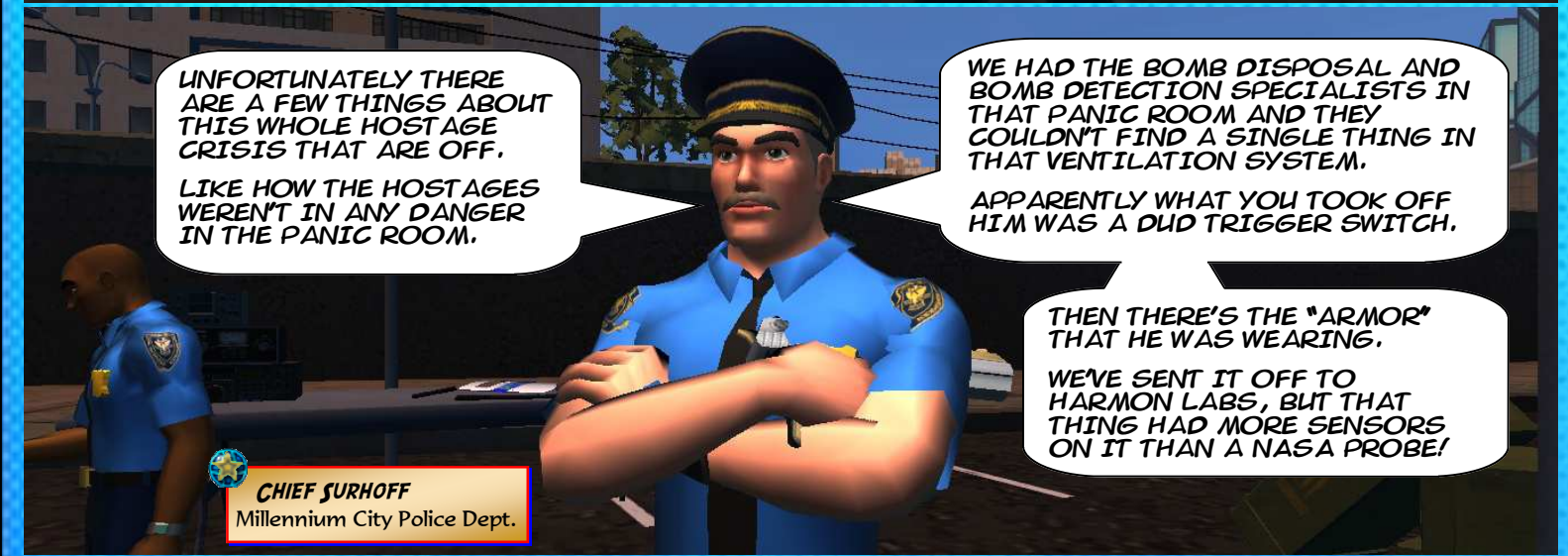
"EVERYTHING WAS DONE  
BY-THE-BOOK, JUST LIKE  
I DID BEFORE I LEFT."

"THANKFULLY NOBODY  
WAS HURT... EXCEPT FOR  
'FORECLOSURE' AND MY  
FAVORITE COAT."



SO I FIGURED NOW THAT THE HOSTAGES ARE ALL OKAY AND THE EVENT IS STILL FRESH IN MY MIND THAT I'D HAVE A FEW MINUTES TO TALK WITH 'FORECLOSURE' ABOUT SOME OF WHAT HE SAID.

AND I'D OTHERWISE BE OPEN TO GIVING YOU THAT TIME...



UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE A FEW THINGS ABOUT THIS WHOLE HOSTAGE CRISIS THAT ARE OFF. LIKE HOW THE HOSTAGES WEREN'T IN ANY DANGER IN THE PANIC ROOM.

WE HAD THE BOMB DISPOSAL AND BOMB DETECTION SPECIALISTS IN THAT PANIC ROOM AND THEY COULDN'T FIND A SINGLE THING IN THAT VENTILATION SYSTEM.

APPARENTLY WHAT YOU TOOK OFF HIM WAS A DUD TRIGGER SWITCH.

THEN THERE'S THE "ARMOR" THAT HE WAS WEARING.

WE'VE SENT IT OFF TO HARMON LABS, BUT THAT THING HAD MORE SENSORS ON IT THAN A NASA PROBE!



**CHIEF SURHOFF**  
Millennium City Police Dept.



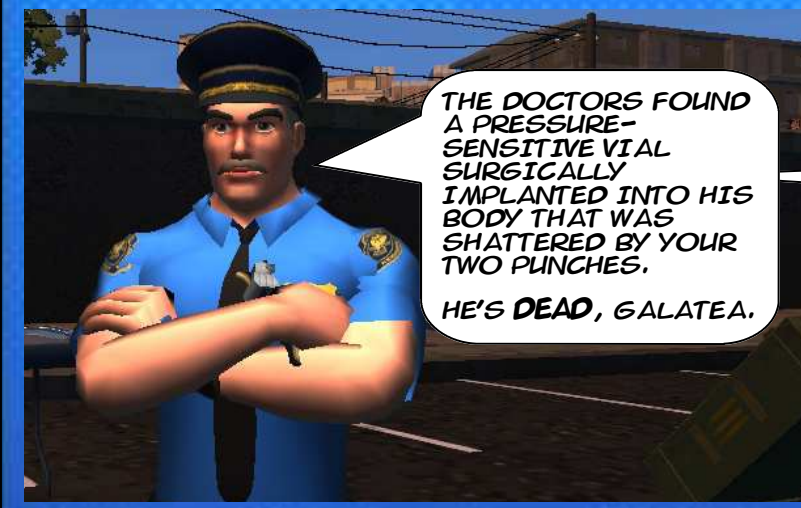
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME HIGH-END SIGNAL IN THERE.

SOMETHING ELSE I CAN TALK TO HIM ABOUT IF YOU'LL--



--THAT'S JUST IT, GALATEA... YOU CAN'T!

NOT LONG AFTER HE ARRIVED IN JAIL HE HAD A SEIZURE.

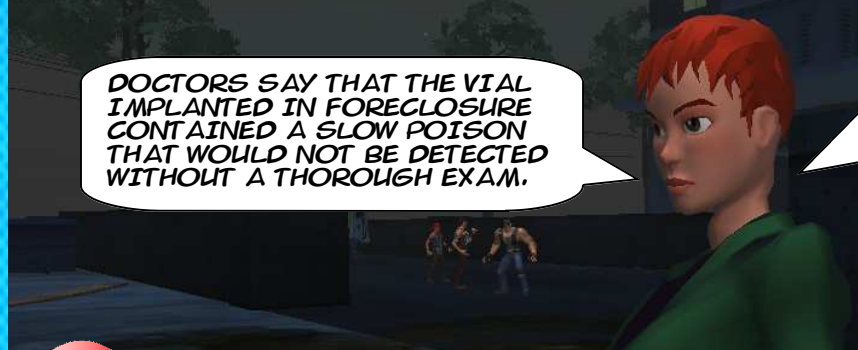


THE DOCTORS FOUND A PRESSURE-SENSITIVE VIAL SURGICALLY IMPLANTED INTO HIS BODY THAT WAS SHATTERED BY YOUR TWO PUNCHES.

HE'S DEAD, GALATEA.



YOUR FISTS KILLED HIM!




DOCTORS SAY THAT THE VIAL IMPLANTED IN FORECLOSURE CONTAINED A SLOW POISON THAT WOULD NOT BE DETECTED WITHOUT A THOROUGH EXAM.

CHIEF SURHOFF'S OFFICE ISSUED A STATEMENT CLEARING GALATEA FUTURE OF ANY WRONGDOING IN FORECLOSURE'S DEATH... ALTHOUGH IT CERTAINLY WAS NOT HOW THE GUARDIAN HERO WANTED TO MARK HER RETURN TO MILLENNIUM CITY.

I'M JULIE MORGAN, WCOC NEWS.

**8 WCOC "Foreclosure" Dead - Julie Morgan - Reporting**



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, CANDACE...  
I MEAN, I'M THE ONE WITH ALL THE EXPERIENCE, AND I END UP MAKING A ROOKIE MOVE!


COME ON TAYA, YOU HEARD SURHOFF!

THERE WAS NO WAY THAT YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN HE HAD A POISON VIAL IMPLANTED IN HIS BODY!




I MAY NOT HAVE X-RAY VISION...

BUT I **STILL** SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THOSE HIGH-FREQUENCY SIGNALS COMING FROM HIS OUTFIT AND REALIZED SOMETHING WAS WRONG!



YOU JUST GOT BACK TO THE CITY AFTER BEING AWAY FOR A YEAR AND YOU'RE SECOND-GUESSING YOURSELF FOR NOT INSTANTLY KNOWING EVERYTHING!



'TAYA, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR NEW-NEW-NEW-NEW LIFE! EVERYTHING YOU AND I SET IN MOTION THIS PAST YEAR WAS NOT ONLY TO GET YOU OUT OF MARKMAN GOLD'S LEGAL TRAP, BUT TO ALSO GIVE YOU A LIFE ALL YOUR OWN.

AND YET, YOU'RE ACTING AS THOUGH YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

OKAY... SO FORECLOSURE SPOILS YOUR EPIC COMEBACK PLANS. YOU KNOW WHAT I DO WHEN I'M HANDED A SETBACK? I GIVE MYSELF A DO-OVER AND START FRESH. I MEAN, SERIOUSLY, DID YOU THINK I WAS BORN WITH BLUE HAIR?



AND SPEAKING OF "DO"... ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU HAVE TO GET READY FOR?



OHMIGOD! YOU'RE RIGHT! I ALMOST FORGOT!



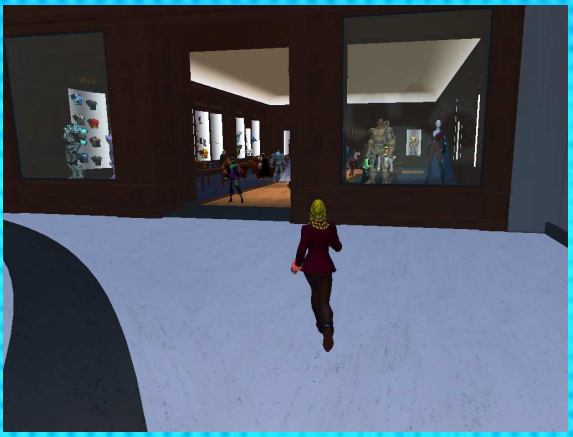
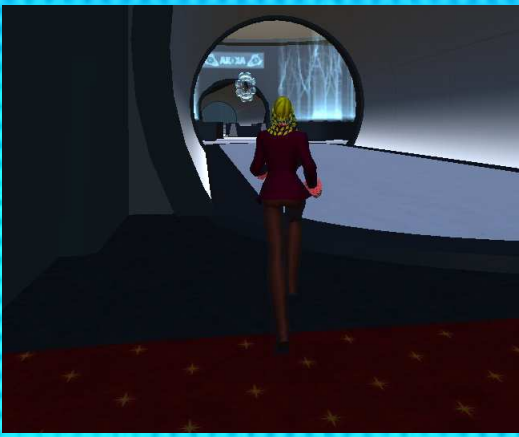
AND YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE REST OF WHAT YOU SAID AS WELL... THANKS FOR THE NUDGE.

HEY, WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR, RIGHT?

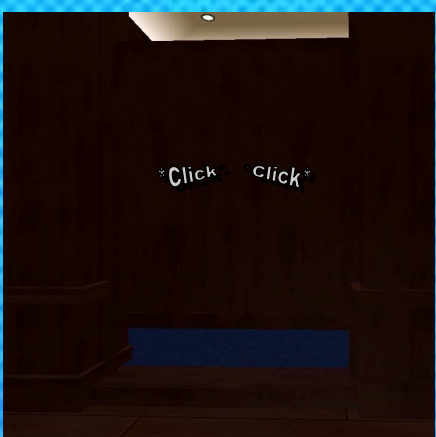




AFTER THE SHOW...



\*SIGH\*...  
LET'S DO THIS...



\*Click click\*



\*Click

click\*



WELCOME TO GREER & HARLICK...  
MY NAME IS RAMIREZ, AND HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU TONIGHT?



I NEED A SERIOUS MAKE-OVER.

THE NEXT MORNING...



WELL I'LL BE...



WELCOME BACK, GALATEA.

GOOD TO BE BACK.



I WISH YOUR RETURN WAS UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES...


STILL, I LIKE THE NEW LOOK. IT MAKES YOU LOOK TEN YEARS YOUNGER.



THANKS. I TOOK UP THE ADVICE OF A FRIEND TO GIVE MYSELF A "DO-OVER". I NEVER REALLY COULD GET USED TO HAVING ALL THAT LONG HAIR ANYWAY.

BUT NOW THAT I HAVE MY HEAD BACK IN THE GAME, IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT "FORECLOSURE" WAS TRYING TO TELL ME.

HAS HARMON LABS COME UP WITH ANYTHING YET ABOUT HIS ARMOR?



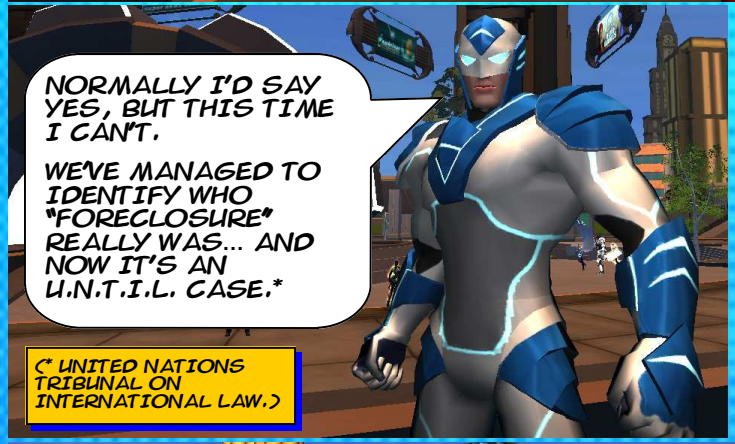
MISTER HARMON'S PEOPLE TELL ME THAT THEY'RE STILL TRYING TO GET BEHIND THE TECHNOLOGY INSIDE THE ARMOR.\*

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S CERTAINLY FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN ANYTHING THEY'VE WORKED WITH.

(\* NOTE: DEFENDER IS REALLY JAMES HARMON IV, CEO OF HARMON INDUSTRIES)

WELL, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'D LIKE A CRACK AT IT.


I AM, AFTER ALL, FROM THE DISTANT FUTURE. MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN PICK UP THAT HARMON'S TECH BOYS HAVEN'T.




NORMALLY I'D SAY YES, BUT THIS TIME I CAN'T.

WE'VE MANAGED TO IDENTIFY WHO "FORECLOSURE" REALLY WAS... AND NOW IT'S AN U.N.T.I.L. CASE.\*

(\* UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW.)



OKAY, MAYBE I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR TOO LONG BUT... SINCE WHEN IS THE DEATH OF A TERRORIST AN AUTOMATIC U.N.T.I.L. INVESTIGATION?



SINCE THE PERSON BEHIND THE "FORECLOSURE" OUTFIT WASN'T A TERRORIST OR CRIMINAL,

THE REASON WHY WE HAD A HARD TIME IDENTIFYING HIM EARLIER WAS BECAUSE WE WERE LOOKING IN THE WRONG DATABASE SYSTEM.

HIS NAME WAS TONY ATWELL; A FORMER SERVICEMAN WHO USED HIS MILITARY TRAINING TO TRY TO CLEAN UP THE STREETS IN THE WESTSIDE DISTRICT UNDER THEN CODENAME OF "GANG-BREAKER".

HE WAS A REGISTERED HERO, GALATEA.

AND THAT MEANS THAT U.N.T.I.L. TREATS THIS AS A MURDER UNTIL THEY BELIEVE OTHERWISE.

AND RIGHT NOW YOU'RE THEIR PRIME SUSPECT.

NEXT ISSUE:  
THE MAN FROM  
U.N.T.I.L.

# GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

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## **“AND NOW... OUR STORY BEGINS... “ (AGAIN...)**

Welcome everyone to the first issue of a new series, and the first issue under the new **Battlerock Comics** imprint.

“**Future’s Guardian**” is a continuation of “**The Lost Adventures of Galatea Future**”, which tells the story of one of the most powerful women in a “certain universe” (*in a now-defunct MMO world*) that suddenly finds herself starting over again in another world (*in another MMO*).

Galatea Future had her beginnings in “**Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight**” as the future version of one of the most popular characters in that series. Her own story unfolded in the five-part “**Time and Changes**” storyline as the last surviving hero from a world rendered inhospitable. She eventually plays a vital role in one of the two climatic battles, and ends up changing history in the process. As a result of her actions, her own history is altered, and her own future is left in question.

“Lost Adventures” took Galatea from that universe, stripped her of her near-god-like powers and her time armor, and transported her into the world of Champions Online with a simple outfit and a fraction of her original abilities. Everything she knew, everything she remembered about Earth and its heroes, are all gone. She had to start back at square one, and she realizes that there are several other changes in store for her.

And just when she thinks she has her life back together again... just when she starts to accept being in a new world with a new concept of “normal”... it’s taken away from her by Markman Gold.

“Future’s Guardian” picks up a year after the end of “Lost Adventures”, with the previous problems resolved and new ones just starting. Galatea has control of her legal name and likeness again, not only getting her “life” back, but she also has a brand new life in the guise of Athena Rose Fairmore. She has a new friend in the form of Candace Sinclair, a new penthouse to call home, and, as we saw in this issue, some new headaches.

And, as you also saw in this issue, her troubles are just beginning.

Markman Gold has a benefactor that we’ll be finding more about in future issues. If you looked carefully, you’d see that “Foreclosure” had a benefactor as well. Are the two

*Continues on next page...*

connected? Are the two “benefactors” one and the same? You’ll have to keep reading and find out.

How about Ronin Omega; the self-described “traveler” and friend of “Galen” who was asked to look in on Galatea Future. Which side is he on? Is he there to help Galatea? How about the equally mysterious Agent Sidestep? Why is he eager to be more than just an Omniverse observer?

Then there’s the world of the Champions itself. There’s much to learn of this world where magic, science, genetics, aliens, and ultra-tech co-exist. For instance, what happened to Detroit to cause it to be replaced with Millennium City? How much of that history affects some of the characters in this series? How about the Champions themselves? What separates them from the other heroes in this world?

There’s so much to learn in “Future’s Guardian”, and right here is where it all begins.

So we’ll leave you with the alternate cover to Issue #1... and for more information you can visit the official website for Battlerock Comics...



[HTTP://BATTLEROCKCOMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://battlerockcomics.wordpress.com)

## NEXT ISSUE...

The logo for 'CHAMPIONS ONLINE' is displayed in a stylized, metallic font.



Ronin Omega investigates the mystery surrounding “Foreclosure” and the “group” he worked for. But he’s not alone, as Galatea Future is questioned by U.N.T.I.L. over Foreclosure’s death.

Plus, we are introduced to another hero in Millennium City. Who is Starlett, and what is her connection to Markman Gold?

Find out in the next issue!



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