

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

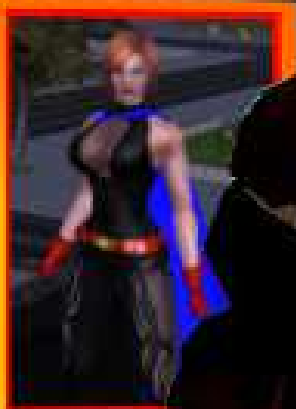
AND
THE GUARDIANS



Issue 04
2015



**GALATEA
POWERS**



STATUS: UNKNOWN



"The check is in the mail..."

"But I don't have a mailbox anymore!"

At Baumton Insurance, we understand that the last thing you need to hear is the slow grind of a bureaucrat keeping you from your needed settlement money.

Whether it is the Rikti, Nemesis, or Arachnos, you don't deserve to be victimized twice for a service you've already paid into.

We know from experience how painful it is to be denied the funds you need to rebuild your life. In fact, we remind ourselves every day with a photo of our former home office.

That's why we will bend over backward to make sure you get everything you deserve as soon as possible, not when some bureaucrat decides is "appropriate".

Because once upon a time, we were the ones that were told that "the check is in the mail."



BAUMTON INSURANCE

"WE KNOW IT HURTS."

MEDICAL * DENTAL * HOME *
LIFE * INVASION *
MEGALOMANIA * GIANT
MONSTER

OFFICES IN STEEL CANYON,
FOUNDER'S FALLS, CROATOA,
AND PEREGRINE ISLAND

Born in an alternate world where heroes ruled and humanity was endangered, Faith Powers was the last surviving member of the legendary Powers family. Brought up in the watchful eyes of the Praetors, she became Furia Powers, champion of the weak.

But then she became aware that all was not right in the supposed "Utopian Society". Forced to choose between the Praetors and a chance at a new family, she choose family and left for the Primal Universe.

Now Furia Powers is a member of the Guardians of the Dawn, a superhero team dedicated to helping humanity to that bright future that is always just beyond the horizon. It is a team that is on the brink of becoming legend. They are...

FURIA



AND THE GUARDIANS

Paragon City just went through a harrowing day, starting with the sudden appearance of strange robots that caused havoc and mayhem.

Then the city's various computer and communication networks were hijacked by a brute calling himself "Destitution". The city watched as Destitution attacked and easily defeated several of the city's heroes, including Galatea Powers, often called the "True Guardian of Paragon City".

When all seemed bleak, Furia Powers, the former Praetorian hero, stepped up and took on Destitution, and somehow she prevailed.

And now comes the truly hard part: cleaning up the mess, taking care of the injured and dead, and getting information as to how this could have happened.

And everybody now asks...

"WHERE IS GALATEA POWERS?"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO, THIS BLOCK OF SIREN'S CALL WAS THE SCENE OF A MASSACRE BY THE SUPER-POWERED BEING NAMED "DESTITUTION".

BUT EVEN THOUGH THE STREETS HAVE BEEN CLEARED AND BOTH THE DEAD AND WOUNDED HAVE BEEN TENDED TO, THE EFFECTS OF DESTITUTION HAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON THOSE THAT ENCOUNTERED HIM.

PNN · APRIL RAMIREZ REPORTING · SIREN'S CALL



IT WAS UNREAL... HE JUST BRUSHED OFF OUR BULLETS AND ATTACKED US WITHOUT MERCY.

Longbow Agent THERESE



HE SEEMED TO PRESS FORWARD AS THOUGH HE WAS TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH A SCHEDULE.

NOTHING WE COULD DO WOULD SLOW HIM DOWN.

Longbow Lieutenant JONZZ



WHEN WE HEARD HE WAS JUST OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL, WE PRAYED HE WOULD JUST KEEP WALKING...

BUT WE ALSO PREPARED FOR THE WORST.

DR. LISE TAMMANY · CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER



THANKFULLY HE JUST IGNORED US AND KEPT ON GOING TOWARDS THE GATE.

DR. LISE TAMMANY · CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER



FOURTEEN LONGBOW SOLDIERS WERE BRUTALLY KILLED BY DESTITUTION AS HE STOMPED A PATH FROM ONE SIDE OF THE HAZARD ZONE TO THE STEEL CANYON SECURITY GATE.

OVER THIRTY OTHER SOLDIERS WERE TREATED HERE IN THE CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER.

THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMED TO STOP THE LOSS OF LIFE AND THE SENSELESS BRUTALITY WAS FINDING STRONGER TARGETS...

OUR HEROES.

DESTITUTION AFTERMATH · CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER





I HAD NO IDEA THAT MY ACTIONS WERE BEING RECORDED.

I WAS JUST IN THE AREA WHEN HE SHOWED UP.

QUALINA · REGISTERED HERO



IN A WAY, IT WAS GOOD SHE WAS HERE, BECAUSE IF TASHATIGER DIDN'T SEE THE NEWS FOOTAGE ON TV, WE'D STILL BE TAKING ON THOSE SHRIEKING 'BOTS.

ELITE ICE QUEEN · GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



OUR HERO COMMUNICATORS WERE NOT WORKING, SO IT WAS JUST LUCK I WAS NEAR AN ELECTRONICS STORE THAT SHOWED THE TV FOOTAGE HERE IN STEEL CANYON.

TASHATIGER · GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



JUST WISH WE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER...

THEN MAYBE MISS GALATEA WOULD STILL BE HERE.

TASHATIGER · GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SAY THAT GALATEA POWERS IS STILL CONSIDERED ALIVE BUT HER WHEREABOUTS ARE NOT YET KNOWN.

MEANWHILE THE SEARCH CONTINUES, NOT ONLY FOR GALATEA POWERS, BUT ALSO FOR ANSWERS AS TO HOW THIS CRISIS WAS ALLOWED TO DEVELOP AS IT DID.

APRIL RAMIREZ · SIREN'S CALL SECURITY GATE



REPORTING FROM THE STEEL CANYON SECURITY GATE IN SIREN'S CALL...

I'M APRIL RAMIREZ.

PNN · APRIL RAMIREZ REPORTING · SIREN'S CALL



ELSEWHERE...

MNNH...

OKAY...
THAT HIT
GOT ME.

BUT NOW
IT'S MY...
... TURN...

 **Galatea Powers**
(FAITH KARL)

WHAT THE HELL?
WHERE THE HELL
AM I?



THERE IS NO WAY THAT ANYONE CAN TELL ME THAT I'M STILL IN STEEL CANYON!

THE WATER ALONE SAYS THAT I'M SOMEWHERE ELSE.

IT LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE BOOMTOWN.

EXCEPT THE OLD "BAUMTON" AREA WAS NEVER FLOODED LIKE THIS.

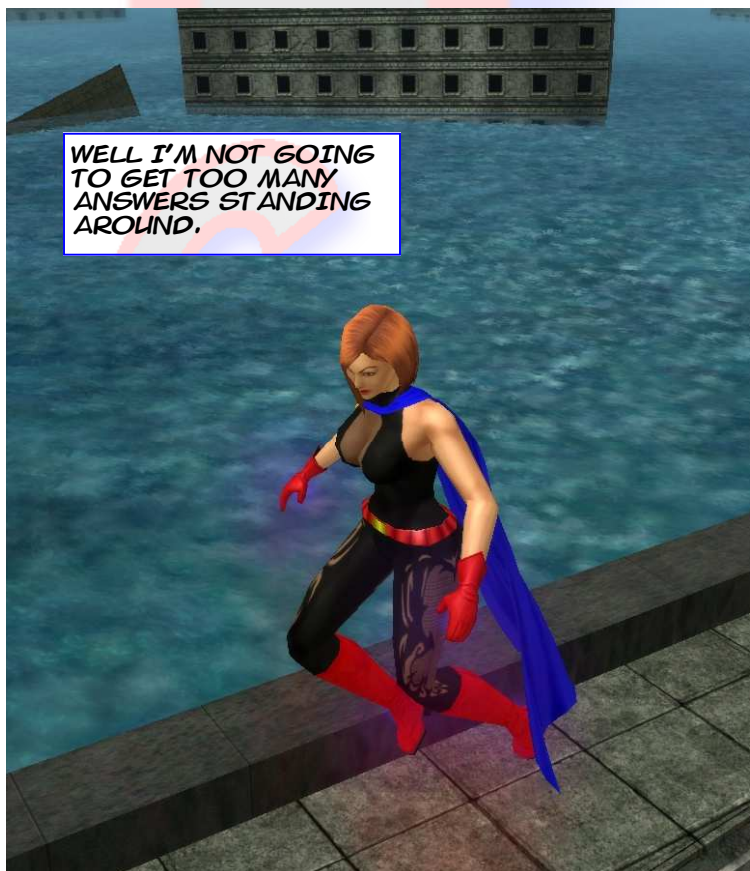


AND THE SMELL...

MY HYPER-SENSES ALMOST MAKE ME PUKE RIGHT NOW.

THERE'S OLD DEATH HERE. BODIES LONG DECOMPOSED.

THIS WASN'T SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED OVERNIGHT.



WELL I'M NOT GOING TO GET TOO MANY ANSWERS STANDING AROUND.



LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIND OUT WHERE I AM...

... AND HOW TO GET BACK HOME.

RIKTI WAR ZONE - PARAGON CITY, RI

UNITED NATIONS VANGUARD BASE

"SO YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR PRAETORIAN HERO OUTFIT, I SEE."

"I DIDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH OF A CHOICE. DESTITUTION DESTROYED MY OUTFIT IN THE BATTLE", AND I CAN'T REALLY GO AROUND NAKED IN THIS CITY."

(* LAST ISSUE)

IN FACT, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH SERGE FOR MY NEW OUTFIT.

 **Furia Powers**
FORMER PRAETORIAN

THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS, FURIA.
AND THE TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER WITH WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

VANGUARD HAS DECIDED TO GREEN-LIGHT YOUR UNSUPERVISED ACCESS TO THE CITY.

YOU WILL NO LONGER NEED TO REPORT IN OR GO THROUGH THESE COUNSELING SESSIONS.

YOU MEAN... I'M NOW A FULL CITIZEN OF PARAGON CITY?

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YES.

YOU'VE BEEN A LEGAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE YOU CAME HERE TWO YEARS AGO, BUT IT WAS CONDITIONAL TO VANGUARD'S APPROVAL; WHICH THEY JUST GAVE.

OUR HELM DIVISION CAN SET YOU UP WITH A CIVILIAN IDENTITY, WHICH I STRONGLY RECOMMEND, AND TO HELP YOU FIND A DAY JOB.

IN FACT, I AM TOLD THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY WENTWORTH MAY ALREADY HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.



THAT'S... THAT'S
REALLY GREAT.

AND IT'S
SOMETHING THAT
I'VE BEEN WAITING
TO HEAR FOR A
LONG TIME NOW.

BUT...

I'M JUST WONDERING IF THIS
IS BECAUSE I EARNED IT, OR
BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED
YESTERDAY WITH DESTITUTION.

AND WITH GALATEA STILL
MISSING.



I'D BE LYING IF I SAID THAT
THOSE TWO THINGS WEREN'T
MAJOR FACTORS IN THE
DECISION BY THE LADY GREY
AND THE OTHERS.

YOU TOOK ON A SUPER-
POWERED VILLAIN WITH THE
WHOLE CITY WATCHING YOU.

YOU'RE THE NEW HERO OF THE
DAY, AND THAT COMES WITH A
LOT OF PUBLIC PRESSURE.

AT THE SAME TIME, MYSELF AND
THE OTHER COUNCILORS HAVE
SEEN HOW YOU'VE PROGRESSED
IN THE TWO YEARS YOU'VE BEEN
WITH US.

YOU'RE NOT THE SAME PERSON
YOU WERE THEN. IT JUST TOOK
THIS CRISIS TO BRING IT OUT.



SO WHAT YOU'RE REALLY
SAYING IS "DON'T LOOK
A GIFT HORSE IN THE
MOUTH".

WELL, I STILL DON'T
KNOW WHAT I WANT TO
DO FOR A DAY JOB.

THEN IT'S A
GOOD THING
THAT MISTER
WENTWORTH WAS
ASKING ABOUT
YOU.



OF COURSE YOU WILL BE
ASKED TO MOVE OUT OF
THE VANGUARD BASE AND
FIND A PLACE OF YOUR
OWN. HAVE YOU PUT ANY
THOUGHT TO THAT?

NOT REALLY...

BUT... THERE IS
SOMEONE I
COULD CALL.

I JUST HOPE THE
ROOM ISN'T
RENTED OUT.

WENTWORTH MANOR

"I TRUST LUNCH WAS TO YOUR SATISFACTION, PROFESSOR."

IT WAS, MISTER WENTWORTH.

GOOD. IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS AFTER A GOOD MEAL.

THIS IS THE SAME SITTING ROOM WHERE I HASHED OUT BILLION-DOLLAR DEALS FOR PARAGON CITY.

NO BETTER PLACE FOR US TO MAP OUT THE FUTURE OF THE GUARDIANS.

YOUR NEPHEW ALEX TOLD ME ABOUT THIS ROOM.

HE SAID THAT THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE HAD LISTENING DEVICES PLACED EVERYWHERE AS A MEASURE OF "CONTROL".

MY ELITE POSITION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WAS BOTH A BLESSING AND A BURDEN.

THE LAST THING MY FELLOW "VOICES" WANTED WAS TO HAVE ME MAKING DEALS TO UNDERCUT THE OTHERS.

SHADES OF NIXON AND J. EDGAR HOOVER.

ACTUALLY YOU CAN THANK MY GRANDFATHER FOR STARTING THAT PARTICULAR TREND IN WASHINGTON.

BUT THAT IS NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.

RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO SEE IF YOU CAN STILL DETECT ANY DEVICES THAT REMAIN.



Andrew Wentworth
CEO WENTWORTH'S FINE CONSIGNMENT



Prof. Bart Wallace
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING



I JUST NEED TO USE A LITTLE ROOM ELECTRICITY.



ENF

STILL STINGS WHEN I DO THIS.

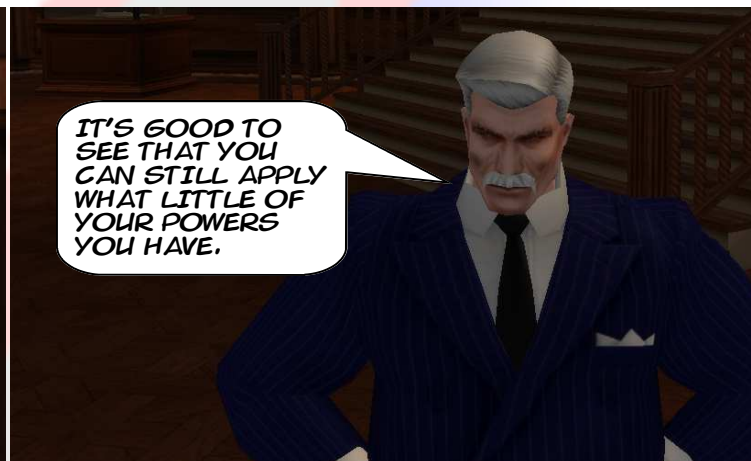


WELL, IF THERE WERE ACTIVE LISTENING DEVICES IN HERE, WE'D HEAR EITHER A "POP" OR A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE.

THE "POP" WOULD BE A CIRCUIT BOARD OVERLOADING. THE WHINE WOULD BE AN AUDIO FEEDBACK FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED MICROPHONE.



UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMEONE STASHED IN THE SUIT OF ARMOR, I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY OUR CONVERSATION IS PRIVATE.



IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU CAN STILL APPLY WHAT LITTLE OF YOUR POWERS YOU HAVE.



GOOD. SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, LET'S GET THE REAL PART OF THIS LITTLE MEETING OUT OF THE WAY.

ELSEWHERE...



I'VE COVERED OVER A
HUNDRED MILES SO FAR...

STILL NO SIGN OF
LIFE ANYWHERE.



JUST THE WIND AND THE
WATER AND THE HORRID
STENCH OF OLD ROT.

MY HYPER-SIGHT IS
SPOTTING SOMETHING
JUST OVER THE HORIZON
THAT LOOKS FAMILIAR.



I'M JUST AFRAID TO
FIND OUT IF I'M RIGHT.



AFTER YESTERDAY'S CRISIS, I REVIEWED THE LIST OF CURRENT GUARDIANS AND I FOUND YOU WERE MISSING SOME KEY ASSETS.

OBTAINING YOU NEED A TELEPATH IN THE GROUP. AND, NO OFFENSE TO YOU, BUT YOU ALSO NEED A NEW SPEEDSTER. SOMEONE WHO CAN SERVE AS A MESSENGER SHOULD THE NORMAL LINES OF COMMUNICATION FAIL LIKE THEY DID THE OTHER DAY.



I'M NOT OFFENDED, MISTER WENTWORTH. IN FACT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT AS WELL.



EXCELLENT. I'VE NOTICED THAT JOHN COLE IS IN A NEW OUTFIT. THE MEDIA EVEN DUBBED HIM "GUARDIAN STAR". THAT'S GOOD. THAT BRINGS A LITTLE BALANCE TO THE GROUP.



ONE OF THE THINGS I'VE NOTICED ABOUT THE GUARDIANS IS THAT THE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN MOSTLY WOMEN. I DON'T MIND A LITTLE GENDER-EQUALITY, BUT, LET'S FACE IT, A FEMALE-DOMINATED GROUP TURNS SOME PEOPLE OFF.

TO THAT END, I BROUGHT IN A NEW MEMBER. HIS NAME IS GEOFF MCDANIELS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "KOLDFRONT". HE'S AN AEROMANCER; A WEATHER-MANIPULATOR.

SINCE THAT HORRID INCIDENT WITH ARKTIC CHILL LAST YEAR, YOU COULD USE SOMEONE WITH KOLDFRONT'S SKILLS. HE COULD EVEN REPLACE ELITE ICE QUEEN AT SOME POINT.



WAIT A MINUTE, MISTER WENTWORTH. FIRST OF ALL, YOU CAN'T JUST ARBITRARILY BRING IN NEW MEMBERS.

SECOND, YOU CAN'T BE SO CAVALIER ABOUT REPLACING A CURRENT GUARDIAN LIKE THE ELITE ICE QUEEN.

PLEASE! THE YOUNG WOMAN IS A GLORY-WHORE; LOOKING FOR THE BIGGEST MEDIA SPOTLIGHT SHE CAN GET.

HER INTERVIEW ON PNN JUST TODAY MADE IT SEEM LIKE SHE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN TAKING ON DESTITUTION THAN IN STOPPING THE EARLIER THREAT FROM THOSE ROBOTS.

STEEL CANYON





ONE OF MY...
A **FRIEND** TOLD
ME RECENTLY
THAT I SHOULD
KEEP IT SIMPLE.
THAT WHAT I DO
SHOULD STAND
OUT MORE.



MY DEAR, I LOVE
IT WHEN PEOPLE
QUOTE BACK
FROM MY BOOK!
AND, IN YOUR
CASE, IT FITS
YOU TO A "T"!



YOU WILL GO WITH
JEANNINE TO THE
CHANGING ROOM.
SHE WILL STRIP YOU
DOWN AND TAKE
MEASUREMENTS.

WHAT I HAVE IN MIND WILL
BE SIMPLE, AND BOLD.
IT WILL BE "YOU" AS YOU
SHOULD BE.
BUT BEFORE THAT... THIS
"FRIEND", DOES HE OR SHE
HAVE A NAME?



GALATEA POWERS.
MY SISTER... OF
SORTS.

REALLY? Hmm...
THOUGHT YOU WERE
GOING TO SAY
SOMEONE ELSE.
OKAY, GO FOLLOW
JEANNINE. GO!



I...
I WANT TO
CRY RIGHT
NOW.

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
BELIEVE IT.

ATLAS PARK - ATLAS PLAZA
(OR WHAT IS LEFT OF IT.)



I'M IN
PARAGON
CITY.

HOW COULD
THIS HAVE
HAPPENED?



SOME PLACES
LOOK LIKE THEY
WERE HIT BY A
NUCLEAR BOMB.

BUT A BLAST LIKE THAT
WOULD OBLITERATE
EVERYTHING WITHIN THE
WAR WALLS.



AND I DON'T FEEL THE
TINGLE OF RADIATION
THAT USUALLY COMES
WITH THAT KIND OF
DESTRUCTIVE POWER.

THIS IS ALMOST
STRAIGHT OUT OF
MY NIGHT MARES.*



(*THE GUARDIAN POWERS* #10)

THE ONLY THINGS
MISSING ARE THE
GHOSTS.



WHAT'S
THAT...?



DESTITUTION...
HE WON?

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.



In-game advertisement. Not an actual product. Professional model. Do not wear Skin 2 in lieu of an actual superhero costume.

PLATOS Book Store

- ★ All the Latest Bestsellers
- ★ All the Latest Magazines
- ★ All the Latest in Audio Books
- ★ Monthly Book Club Meetings
- ★ Buys and Sells Used Books
- ★ Vanguard Discount Rates for Active Servicemen and Women



Located directly on Spanky's Boardwalk, Talos Island

In game store only

MINIONS

No matter how good you are, at some point you are going to need some help to get the job done.

So why put your faith in some blind call for allies that will stab you in the back at the first opportunity?

Be a REAL mastermind and use our 100% confidential service. We are the best in placing loyal minions where they can do what they do best!

99-555-8792

Make the call and you have 30 seconds to leave a return number and method of payment. The call will disconnect automatically after 30 seconds. Contact is does not imply a contract for employment. Not an actual ad. Not a real phone number. Any connection to actual contacts for questionable contractual services is mere coincidence.

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR NEXT ENHANCEMENT!

Every day, dozens of impressionable heroes end up hideously deformed and de-evolved into repulsive Rikti monkeys that can only run and flagellate.

While the effects are supposed to be "temporary", they can have lasting after-effects for those poor victims. Social shunning, jokes, and bad references to one's body odor, are not uncommon among the many people needlessly affected by substandard enhancements.



The members of the Paragon City Commercial Enhancement Alliance urge all heroes and heroines to only accept ability enhancements from licensed dealers that carry the "Good Powers" Seal of Approval.



This seal ensures that all enhancements sold in that store have been thoroughly tested and approved for use in a crisis.

Be Safe - BUY Safe!

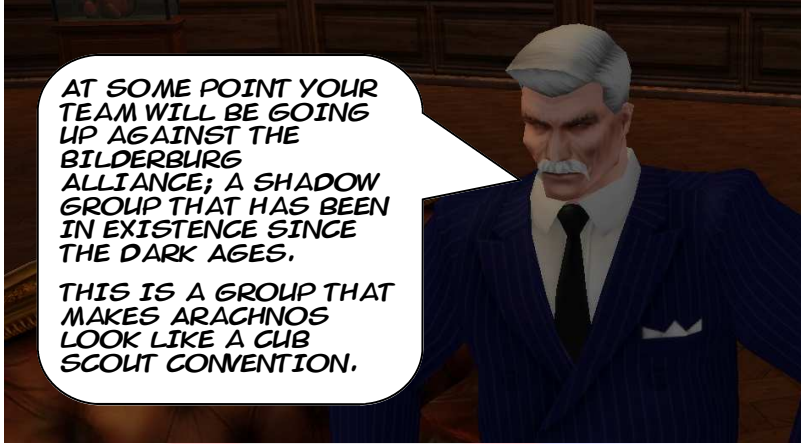
This advertisement has been paid for by the Paragon City Commercial Enhancement Alliance and all its member businesses, including Crey Industries, Cyril Corporation, Orion Labs, Exarch Industries, Future Dynamics, Biotechnix, Demios Innovations, Subgenitcs, and Pandora's Box.



LOOK, I APPRECIATE
WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO
DO WITH THIS TEAM,
PROVIDING THE FUNDING
AND THE ACCESS TO
RESOURCES THAT WE'VE
NEVER HAD BEFORE.

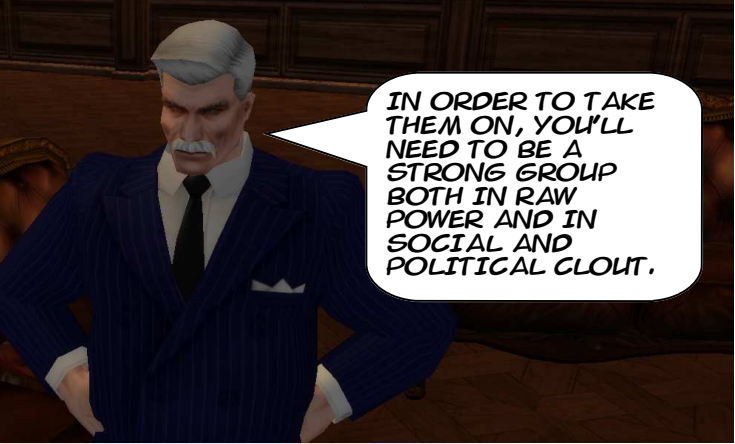
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST
MAKE ARBITRARY
DECISIONS ABOUT
THE GROUP'S
MEMBERSHIP.

WHAT I'M TRYING
TO DO IS GET THE
GUARDIANS READY
FOR THE BATTLES
TO COME.



AT SOME POINT YOUR
TEAM WILL BE GOING
UP AGAINST THE
BILDERBURG
ALLIANCE; A SHADOW
GROUP THAT HAS BEEN
IN EXISTENCE SINCE
THE DARK AGES.

THIS IS A GROUP THAT
MAKES ARACHNOS
LOOK LIKE A CUB
SCOUT CONVENTION.



IN ORDER TO TAKE
THEM ON, YOU'LL
NEED TO BE A
STRONG GROUP
BOTH IN RAW
POWER AND IN
SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL CLOUT.



RIGHT... **MY** GROUP.
NOT **"OUR"** GROUP.

NEVER FORGET THAT I'M AN
ENGLISH PROFESSOR, MISTER
WENTWORTH.

I NOTICED YOUR SECOND-
PERSON REFERENCES WHEN
DISCUSSING THE GUARDIANS
ALMOST FROM THE START.

THERE'S A REASON WHY YOUR
NEPHEW PULLED ME OUT OF
RETIREMENT TO RUN THE
GUARDIANS AS THEIR
OPERATIONS MANAGER...



... AND I THINK I JUST
FOUND OUT WHAT THAT
REASON IS.

IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T
LIKE SITTING BACK AS MY
DECISIONS ARE USURPED
BY AN OUTSIDE MANAGER.

I'M WILLING TO WORK **WITH**
YOU, MISTER WENTWORTH.
NOT WORK **FOR** YOU.

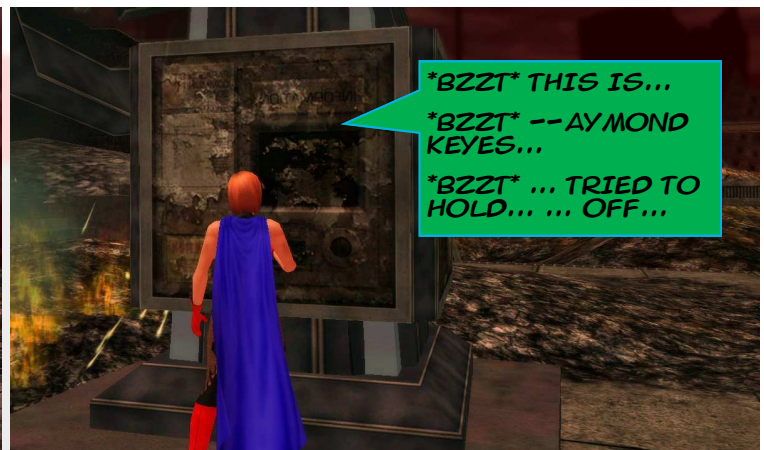
UNDERSTAND, THOUGH,
THAT IF YOU WANT TO
CONTINUE USING THE
SECOND-PERSON WHEN
REFERRING TO THE
GUARDIANS, THEN YOU
NEED TO ACCEPT THAT THIS
IS **MY** GROUP, NOT YOURS.



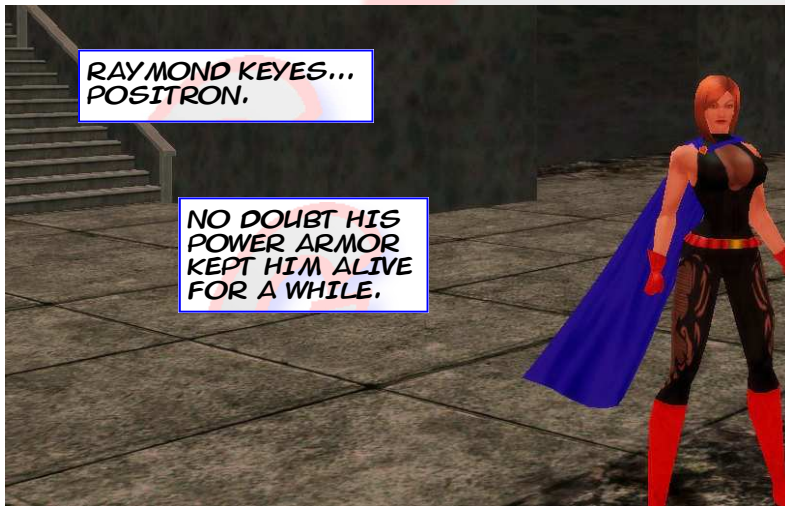


THIS TERMINAL
STILL HAS SOME
INTERNAL POWER.

HOPEFULLY IT
WILL ALSO HAVE
SOME ANSWERS.

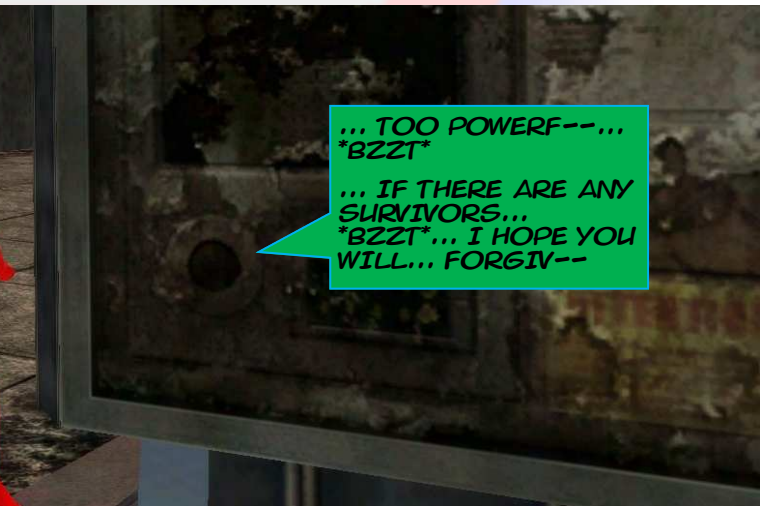


BZZT THIS IS...
BZZT --AYMOND
KEYES...
BZZT ... TRIED TO
HOLD... ... OFF...



RAYMOND KEYES...
POSITRON.

NO DOUBT HIS
POWER ARMOR
KEPT HIM ALIVE
FOR A WHILE.



... TOO POWERF--...
BZZT
... IF THERE ARE ANY
SURVIVORS...
BZZT... I HOPE YOU
WILL... FORGIV--



SAD, ISN'T IT?
I WONDER IF HE
KNEW HIS WOULD
BE THE LAST
VOICE FOR ALL OF
HUMANITY.



YOU WOULD
THINK THAT
HE'D AT LEAST
COME UP WITH
A BETTER
EULOGY.

WHO ARE
YOU?



OH WHERE ARE MY
MANNERS?
MY NAME'S GILL.
GILL GAMMA.
I'M A... TRAVELER OF
SORTS.

I WAS JUST WANDERING
ABOUT, LIKE I ENJOY
DOING, THEN SUDDENLY...
"POOF"!
HERE I AM ON A DEAD
WORLD, JUST LIKE YOU.



MY NAME IS GALATEA,
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW I
GOT HERE.

I WAS FIGHTING SOMEONE
NAMED "DESTITUTION" AND
HE HIT ME WITH SOME
SORT OF ENERGY PUNCH.

NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M
HERE, IN WHAT'S LEFT OF
PARAGON CITY.

I SEE...



IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU
MAY HAVE TIME-
JUMPED.

YOUR BODY MAY HAVE
VIBRATED FROM THE
SHOCK OF THE BLAST
SO FAST THAT IT
SHUNTED YOU AHEAD
INTO THE FUTURE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN IT
MYSELF, BUT I'VE HEARD
ABOUT IT CONCERNING
SUPERHUMAN BEINGS.

TELL ME, DO YOU HAVE
ANY TELEPORTATION
DEVICES ON YOU?



I CARRY A FEW OF
THEM.

THE THING IS, I'VE
TRIED USING THEM
TO GET BACK HOME
AND THEY DON'T
SEEM TO WORK HERE.

WELL, I'M NOT
SURPRISED THAT
THEY DON'T WORK
ANYMORE.

THERE'S NO "HOME"
FOR YOU TO GO
BACK TO.



YOU...
YOU CAN'T
JUST MEAN
THAT!

I NEED TO
GO BACK!
I NEED TO
FIX THIS!



MY DEAR, YOU CAN'T
GO BACK.

THE EVENTS OF THE
PAST ALREADY
HAPPENED.

LIKE IT OR NOT,
YOU'RE STUCK HERE.

STRIGA ISLE

IN ALL HONESTY,
I'M SURPRISED
THAT YOU AGREED
TO MEET WITH ME.

YOU CAN THANK
LIBRA. HE
ORDERED ME TO
MEET WITH YOU.

OTHERWISE, I'D
WANT NOTHING
TO DO WITH YOU
AFTER THE STUNT
YOU PULLED.*

Wrathstrike
AVENGING FORCE

(* SEE "THE LIBRA ORDER: DEBTS
OF HONOR" FOR DETAILS)

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT
MY ACTIONS THEN WERE
PURELY BUSINESS, NOT
PERSONAL.

AND I DID STILL COVER ALL
YOUR EXPENSES FOR THAT
MISSION.

UNFORTUNATELY, MY PERSONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE
CHANGED, AND I AM FORCED
TO RELY ON OUTSIDE HELP.

AND YOU ARE THE BEST AT
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

Malcolm Rochspare
ATTORNEY "FIXER"

START
TALKING.

THE OTHER DAY, MY MEETING
WITH COUNTESS GREY WAS
INTERRUPTED BY A WOMAN
WEARING A HAREM OUTFIT.

SHE KILLED AT LEAST TWO
SECURITY GUARDS TO GET TO
ME, JUST TO INFORM ME THAT
SHE REPRESENTED SOME LARGER
ORGANIZATION, AND THAT
"THEY WERE WATCHING ME".

(* LAST ISSUE)

OF COURSE, THE KINDS
OF BUSINESS THAT I AM
INVOLVE IN ATTRACTS A
CERTAIN KIND OF
ATTENTION.

I UNDERSTAND THAT.

BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW
WHICH OF THOSE
GROUPS WOULD BE SO
BOLD AS TO SEND A HIT
-WOMAN DRESSED AS A
HAREM GIRL.

AS THE OLD SAYING GOINGS,
"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"... AND
I CERTAINLY DON'T LIKE
BEING THE ONE WITHOUT
EITHER OF THOSE THINGS.

SO I WANT TO KNOW WHO SHE
IS, WHO SHE REPRESENTS,
AND WHERE THAT GROUP
STANDS IN THE WORLD.



HOW DO YOU
KNOW SHE
DOESN'T WORK
FOR LIBRA?

BECAUSE LIBRA WOULDN'T
SEND SOMEONE LIKE HER
AFTER ME JUST TO DELIVER
A WARNING.

HE'D SEND SOMEONE LIKE
YOURSELF, OR YOUR TWO
BOSSSES, TAINTED EVE AND
MISTRESS LIBRA.



WHAT I NEED IS
SOMEONE WHO WILL
FIND ALL THIS OUT FOR
ME, AND THEN BE
WILLING TO RELAY MY
OWN "REPLY" TO THEIR
MESSAGE.

SO THIS IS A TWO-
PART DEAL.

INFORMATION FIRST,
THEN AN APPROPRIATE
RESPONSE AFTERWARD.



HERE'S HOW IT WILL WORK:

I'LL DO THE LEG-WORK TO FIND
WHO THIS HAREM GIRL IS AND
WHO SHE WORKS FOR.

I DO THAT PART OF THE JOB,
AND YOU PAY ME FOR THAT
PART OF THE JOB.

THEN WE TALK ABOUT THE
SECOND PART OF THE JOB.

NO INTERRUPTIONS.
NO CANCELLATIONS.

I DON'T STOP UNTIL
I GIVE YOU THAT
INFORMATION.

AND YOU COVER ALL
EXPENSES.



YOU KNOW MY
REPUTATION IN THE
ROGUE ISLES.

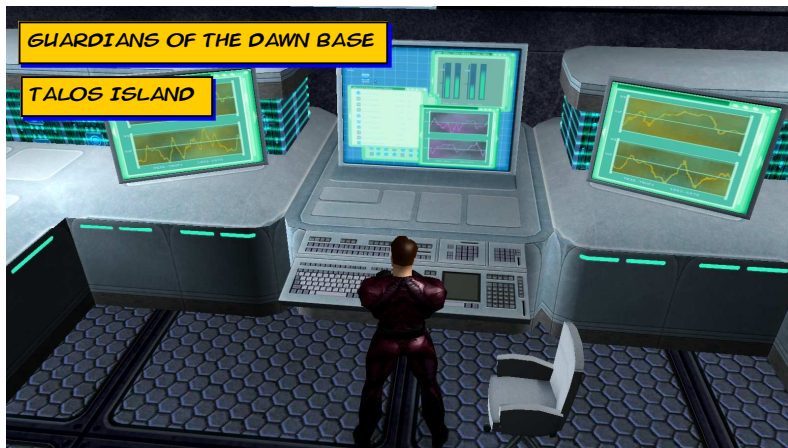
THAT REPUTATION WAS
ESTABLISHED LONG
BEFORE I BECAME PART
OF LIBRA'S ORDER.

SO YOU SCREW ME OVER
AGAIN, AND I WON'T
WAIT FOR LIBRA'S
PERMISSION.

FAIR ENOUGH.

YOUR INFORMATION
AND A SIZABLE
DEPOSIT HAVE
ALREADY BEEN PUT
IN YOUR DROP BOX.

HAPPY HUNTING.



GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE

TALOS ISLAND



UM... SIR?
I THOUGHT
TASHATIGER WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
ON MONITOR
DUTY TODAY.



SHE STILL IS.
BUT I CAN'T JUST
SIT BACK WHILE
GALATEA'S STILL
MISSING.

PLUS TASHA'S STILL
TRYING TO HEAL FROM THE
BEATING DESTITUTION
GAVE HER, SO SHE'S
TAKING A CATNAP IN THE
RESIDENCE ROOM.

 **Guardian Star**
(JOHN COLE)



THERE ARE DOZENS OF PLACES
THAT GALATEA COULDBE BEEN
SENT TO DURING THAT ENERGY
BURST.

OUROBOROS, THE SHADOW
SHARD, PRAETORIA...

HELL, SHE COULD EVEN BE IN
SOUTH KOREA FOR ALL THAT
WE KNOW.



NO MATTER WHERE
SHE IS, I CAN'T
STOP LOOKING
UNTIL I KNOW WHERE
SHE IS AND SHE'S
BACK HOME WITH US.

GOOD LUCK, SIR.
YOU KNOW THE
REST OF US WILL
HELP IF WE CAN.



HOW DOES IT FIT?



IT'S RATHER... SNUG.
AND I'M NOT USED TO HAVING THIS "SKIN 2" UNDERWEAR UNDERNEATH IT.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M NAKED.



MY DEAR, THAT'S THE WHOLE PURPOSE BEHIND THE "SKIN 2" UNDERGARMENTS.
IT'S SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE NAKED UNDERNEATH THE OUTFIT.

NOW I KNOW YOU GOT USED TO HAVING ALL SORTS OF EQUIPMENT WITH YOU.
BUT THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT MY DESIGN IS THAT EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS STILL ON YOU.



THE CAPE IS A REINFORCED ALLOY WEAVE, SO IT WON'T BURN OR TEAR.
THE CLOTH BELT HAS HIDDEN FOLD POCKETS FOR YOUR VARIOUS DEVICES.

THE GLOVES AND YOUR VISOR CONTAIN HANDS-FREE COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND ARE SYNCED TO YOUR BASE'S CPCU SYSTEM.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE, LIKE GALATEA SAID.
THANK YOU. I LOVE IT!
HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?



OH, THIS ONE IS ON ME.

BUT ONLY ON THE PROMISE THAT YOU COME BACK LATER SO I CAN DESIGN A MORE... BATTLE-READY OUTFIT, LIKE I DID FOR GALATEA.



IT'S A DEAL!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN I
CAN'T GO BACK?
I'VE TIME-TRAVELLED IN
THE PAST WITH THE
MENDERS OF OUROBOROS.
I KNOW THAT TIME IS A
TWO-WAY STREET.

ACTUALLY IT'S
A LITTLE MORE
COMPLICATED
THAN THAT.



SOME EVENTS ARE MALLEABLE,
YES.

BUT OTHER EVENTS ARE SO
FIRMLY LOCKED IN THAT THEY
ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE FABRIC
OF SPACE-TIME.

I'M WELL AWARE OF
WHAT FIXED POINTS
IN TIME ARE.

THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW
THAT YOU CANNOT
CHANGE A FIXED POINT
WITHOUT CATASTROPHIC
CONSEQUENCES,
INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE
DESTRUCTION OF THE
UNIVERSE ITSELF.



AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT
FIRST-HAND AS WELL.*
IN FACT I WAS FRIENDS WITH
ANOTHER "TRAVELER" THAT...

WAIT A MINUTE...
I DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE THE
SIMILARITIES
UNTIL NOW.

YOU'RE...
YOU'RE A UTOPIAN,
AREN'T YOU?

(* GALATEA'S EXPERIENCE WITH
THAT SUBJECT GOES ALL THE WAY
BACK TO "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN
SPOTLIGHT" #0 AS WELL AS "THE
GUARDIAN POWERS" #14-15)



GUILTY AS CHARGED.
GILL GAMMA, FROM
THE UTOPIAN UNIVERSE.
OR... MORE PRECISELY,
"LAST OF."

AND I'M GUESSING THE "TRAVELER"
THAT YOU MENTIONED WAS A FELLOW
UTOPIAN WHO GOT INTO THE NASTY
HABIT OF MANIPULATING TIME TO
FIX CERTAIN "PROBLEMS".
SOMETIMES HE WENT BY THE NAME
OF EITHER "QUINN" OR "DOC TOR"?



THAT'S HIM.
OR RATHER, THAT
WAS HIM.
HE SACRIFICED
HIS LIFE A FEW
YEARS AGO TO
SAVE THE PEOPLE
OF GALAXY CITY.*

(* "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #15)



REALLY? DO YOU
KNOW THAT FOR
CERTAIN?*

YOU ACTUALLY
SAW HIS CORPSE?

I... I DON'T...

(* IF YOU READ "GUARDIANS OF
THE DAWN 2012 SPECIAL", THEN
YOU'D KNOW THE ANSWER TO
THAT QUESTION.)



ACTUALLY IT REALLY
DOESN'T MATTER,
BECAUSE IF HE WERE
HERE HE WOULD TELL
YOU THE SAME THING.

AND, LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU CAN'T
DO ANYTHING TO CHANGE IT.

THIS EVENT IS NOW
CONSIDERED A "FIXED
POINT" IN THE
TIMELINE.
PARAGON CITY DIED.
DESTITUTION
PREVAILED.
THE WORLD'S
POPULATION IS IN
THE SINGLE DIGITS.

SO WHAT YOU'RE
REALLY SAYING
IS...
I'M STUCK HERE.



Wibbly-Wobbly...

Let's talk about time.

Time is a great plot device, whether you're talking science fiction stories, TV series, movies, or comics.

One of the greatest stories in the world of comics is Marvel's "Days of Futures Past", where their superhuman beings were in a dystopian future that was on the brink of human extinction. Their only solution was to send someone back in time to change one event so that the future would turn out differently.

It was shocking when it first came out because you actually saw major characters get killed off. Characters that you thought could never die.

In fact 20th Century Fox recently made that story into a major motion picture, albeit with their own unique alterations.

It was so popular that Marvel would continually go back to that storyline... even though it supposedly ceased to exist at the end of it. Different characters from that alternate future would show up in the "mainstream" timeline. Different subjects from that alternate future would be explored.

Going back to that alternate future on a regular basis would also open the doors to other alternate futures and alternate realities. What would happen if "this" were changed? What would be the consequence if "this event" happened instead?

The problem comes when you have all of those alternate realities and alternate futures suddenly becoming part of the "main" timeline so much that there really isn't anything new that you can add, because you keep coming back to those alternate realities and alternate futures.

The other major publication - DC Comics - had a similar problem when it came to time and certain "future" events. One of their most popular comics involved a group of heroes that were operating a thousand years in the future. And yet they would make references to past events that no longer occurred in their "mainstream" timeline. So... how could they still be in existence if their past was radically changed?

DC thought they could fix things with multiple universes. So they essentially said "oh, this event happened, but it happened in an alternate reality". They even went so far as to create a "pocket universe" specifically so they could create the "history" that they needed to validate this group's very existence.

Then they turned around and destroyed everything about this "pocket universe", which only made things worse for the future supergroup, because once again everything that they based their origins on no longer existed... again.

And it wasn't just that particular supergroup. Other time-traveling characters in DC faced similar problems. Certain events would "happen" which would invalidate those characters. And trying to fix things only made matters worse when the "fix" would later be un-done by other writers.

The British Broadcasting Corporation's longest science-fiction TV series "Doctor Who" actually came up with a workaround for this kind of problem. Leave it to British efficiency to settle things.

As the tenth incarnation of "The Doctor" (*played by David Tennant - and whose character inspired our own time manipulator*) explained, time is not linear, even though we think of it as being that way. It's a ball of "wibbly-wobbly timey-wimey stuff" where certain events happen that may or may not have an impact on other events. So history could be "saved" because of one series of events, only to be put at risk by another series of events that are unrelated to the previous events, but the history you know would not be "unmade" because of it.

I know... It's confusing. That's why it's a non-linear ball of "stuff".

In the world of the "City of Heroes", "time" was put under the authority of the Menders of Ouroboros. Their mission was to supposedly prevent a certain disaster called the "Coming Storm" from happening, and to do so, they were allowed to alter certain events in time, knowing that whatever they did would not destroy "time". Except, of course, when they almost did.

Time is malleable in the world of the "City of Heroes". Not only is it malleable, it's actually a superpower in and of itself. Prior to the MMO's dreaded shutdown, users could manipulate time as a purchasable power-set. Of course, it wasn't true "time manipulation", being able to predict future actions or repeating previous ones, or even summon others from the past or future, but it did allow players to speed things up or slow things down, so it gave the illusion of manipulating time.

And to think we're not even getting into the concept of alternate realities!

If you thought time was tricky, wait until we go over the Gordian Knot known as the multiverse!

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



WHO IS GILL GAMMA? WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH GALATEA?

AND WHO IS TRYING TO HELP BRING GALATEA BACK TO THE WORLD SHE KNOWS?

PLUS, WHAT DOES ALEX WENTWORTH HAVE IN MIND FOR FURIA NOW THAT SHE'S FINALLY BEEN GIVEN FULL CITIZENSHIP ALONG WITH HER NEW OUTFIT?

FIND OUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

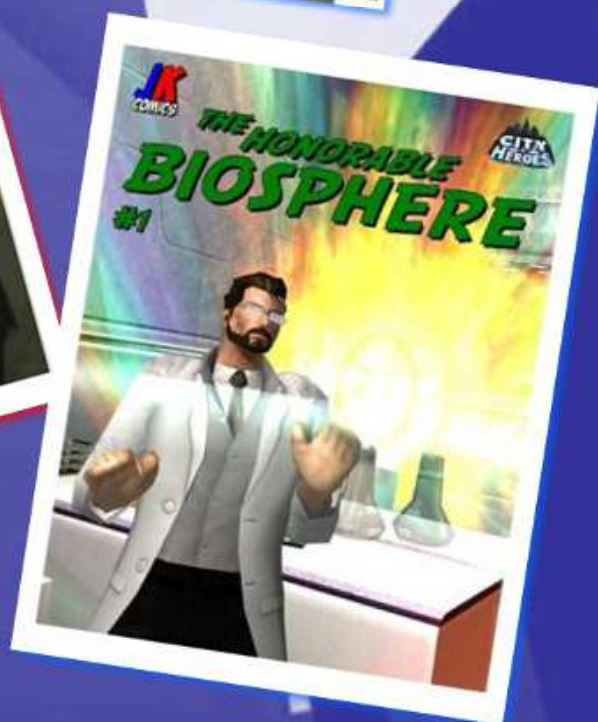


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