



ISSUE 05
2013

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

***THE HUNTER
AND THE HUNTED!***



AND INTRODUCING...

Elite Ice



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**

**PERFECT
WORLD**

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Capes

They Make You Stand Out!

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

"THE HUNT"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

WHILE GALATEA FUTURE WAS BUSY SAVING MAYOR BISELLE FROM A VIPER ATTACK, A WOLF-LIKE HITMAN CALLING HIMSELF "MISTER BLUE" BEGAN HIS HUNT OF THE OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN AND ANYONE CLOSE TO HER, ESPECIALLY CANDACE SINCLAIR.

HAVING ALREADY PUT THE SWORD-WIELDING ADVENTURER STARLETT IN THE HOSPITAL, "MISTER BLUE" IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF AN INTENSE MANHUNT BY THE HEROES OF MILLENNIUM CITY, AND SPECIFICALLY BY GALATEA FUTURE.

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MILLENNIUM CITY, MICHIGAN, USA

I AM A WOMAN
ON A MISSION...



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

TO FIND A SUPER-
POWERED HIT MAN NAMED
"MISTER BLUE" AND STOP
HIM BEFORE HE GOES
AFTER ME THROUGH THE
PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT!

HE NEARLY KILLED
ANOTHER HERO WHO
TRIED TO INTERVENE.
A FRIEND THAT I
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
THAT I HAD.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN
ON A HUNT FOR A SEVEN-
FOOT BLUE WOLF-LIKE
HUMANOID THAT
SOMEHOW DISAPPEARED
LIKE THE WIND.

BUT NOBODY, ESPECIALLY
NOT A SEVEN-FOOT WOLF-
LIKE HUMANOID, CAN STAY
GONE FOR THAT LONG.

SOMEONE KNOWS WHERE
HE IS HIDING.

WHERE
IS HE?

I JUST HAVE
TO PRY IT
OUT OF THAT
PERSON.

WHY ARE YOU
HIDING HIM?



S-STAY BACK... I'M WARNING YOU... MY PSI-POWER WILL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T STOP!

I'VE PUT AWAY EIGHT OF YOUR COHORTS TODAY, AND THEY ALL MADE THE SAME CLAIM.



I'M NOT IMPRESSED!

KA-POW!



WE... WE DON'T KNOWWW...

IT WAS THE SAME EVERYWHERE I WENT...



AGENTS FROM PSI, ONE OF THE BIGGEST TELEPATHIC CRIMINAL GROUPS I'VE EVER HEARD OF, ALL HAVE NO IDEA WHERE "BLUE" IS HIDING.

THAT REALLY BOTHERS ME.

THESE GUYS PRIDE THEMSELVES ON KNOWING WHERE EVERYTHING IS.

IF THEY DON'T KNOW... THEN WHO DOES?



I'M SORRY, GALATEA,
BUT ALL OF OUR
SEARCH TEAMS HAVE
COME UP EMPTY.

THEN THERE'S THE MILLENNIUM
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.
THEY'VE BEEN WORKING WITH ME
TO FIND "BLUE"; SOMETIMES
JUST AS HARD AS I HAVE.



AND AS MUCH AS WE'D LIKE
TO HELP YOU MORE, WE'RE
PRETTY BUSY COORDINATING
WITH MAYOR BISELLE'S NEW
ANTI-VIPER TASK FORCE.

WHICH, BY THE WAY, THE
MAYOR HAS SAID HE
STILL WOULD LIKE YOU
TO BE TAKING POINT ON
AFTER YOU TOOK DOWN
THEIR GUNSHIPS.*

WHILE I OTHERWISE
WOULD BE HONORED, I
CAN'T.

NOT WHILE "BLUE" IS OUT
THERE AND THREATENING
PEOPLE I KNOW JUST TO
GET TO ME.

(* LAST ISSUE)



I UNDERSTAND... AND
BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE DOING
YOUR FRIEND A HUGE
SERVICE BY KEEPING HER
UNDER GUARD YOURSELF.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW THE
TASK FORCE WILL BE FUNDED
GIVEN THE BUDGET CUTS
WE'VE HAD TO MAKE!

THE ONE THING I
KNOW ABOUT
POLITICIANS IS
THAT WHEN THEY
HAVE TO, THEY
SOMEHOW KNOW
HOW TO FUND THEIR
PET PROGRAMS.

A LITTLE LEVITY
TO HIDE MY
FRUSTRATION.



BUT I KNOW THAT AT SOME POINT REAL SOON, IT'LL JUST BE ME DOING THIS.



ONE HERO LOOKING FOR ONE MONSTER.



STILL... NO STONE LEFT UNTURNED.
NO SEWER LINE EITHER.



I JUST WISH I COULD TURN OFF MY HYPER-SMELL WHEN I HAVE TO COME DOWN HERE.



POP HER! DON'T LET HER BREAK UP OUR HIDEOUT!

BULLETS JUST BOUNCE OFF HER, MAN!

IF ANYONE WOULD AID "BLUE", IT WOULD BE THE NEW PURPLE GANG, ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL STARLETT HAS BEEN DOING TO SHUT DOWN THEIR OPERATIONS.



I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY STILL TRY TO SHOOT ME, THOUGH.
IT'S LIKE THAT OLD PUNCHLINE..



"YOU ONLY HAD ONE JOB!"

AND SO IT GOES,
AND SO IT GOES...

DAY TURNS INTO
NIGHT, NIGHT
TURNS INTO
TWILIGHT...

I'M NOWHERE CLOSE
TO FINDING "BLUE"
THAN I WAS WHEN I
STARTED THE DAY.

AND I FIND MYSELF
COMING BACK TO THE
RENAISSANCE CENTER
TO END THE DAY.

I MAY BE INVULNERABLE,
BUT EVEN MY BRAIN
SUFFERS FROM A LACK
OF SLEEP EVENTUALLY.

I JUST NEED A
COUPLE OF HOURS
OF DOWNTIME AND
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
AT IT AGAIN.

A FEW HOURS LATER...

DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

"YOUR HONOR, I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS EITHER..."

THE PENTHOUSE OF ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE...

(A.K.A. GALATEA FUTURE)

NO, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE FOR ME.

I HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURITY JUST SO I CAN GO TO THE COURTHOUSE.

YES, I KNOW THE OLD SAYING ABOUT TIME AND TIDES.

I CAN MAKE SOME CALLS, BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT THERE ANY EARLIER THAN THIS AFTERNOON.



CANDACE SINCLAIR
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

YES, YOUR HONOR, I WANT A SPEEDY TRIAL AS WELL. MY CLIENTS DESERVE THAT TOO.

NO, I'M NOT TRYING TO DRAG THINGS OUT.

YES, I WILL TRY TO BE THERE FOR THE HEARING.

YES, YOUR HONOR, I WILL INFORM MAJOR CROSS OF YOUR DISPLEASURE...

... AND I'LL BE SURE TO ADD MY OWN.

YES, YOUR HONOR.

YES, I WILL BE THERE AT 1P.M, YOUR HONOR.

YES, GUARD OR NO GUARD.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

MORNING... COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YOUR HALF OF THE CONVERSATION. EVERYTHING OKAY?

ACTUALLY IT'S CLOSER TO NOONTIME, AND, NO, THINGS ARE NOT OKAY.

JUDGE FAGAN WANTS ME TO BE AT AN IMPROMPTU SIDEBAR HEARING AT 1P.M, WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO GIVE MAJOR CROSS A CALL TO PROVIDE A BODYGUARD AT SHORT NOTICE...

UNLESS YOU'RE ABLE TO GEAR UP AND FLY ME THERE YOURSELF.



WISH I COULD... BUT CROSS WANTS ME TO BRING IN A NEW HERO ON THIS HUNT...

SOMEONE TO PROVIDE "FRESH EYES", OR SO HE SAYS.

DO WE HAVE ANY COFFEE?



ALL OUT. THE CONCIERGE DESK SAYS THEY'LL BE DOING THE SHOPPING LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

I GUESS I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP AT MY APARTMENT BEFOREHAND, THEN. I'LL JUST HAVE TO WEAR ONE OF MY OTHER SUIT JACKETS.

I'M SORRY, CAN. I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO FIND THIS GUY SO HE WON'T TRY TO FIND YOU TO GET TO ME, BUT IT'S NOT EASY.



IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE HE ATTACKED STARLETT.

ISN'T IT POSSIBLE HE JUST... I DON'T KNOW... GAVE UP?



I'VE DEALT WITH CONTRACT KILLERS AND MERCENARIES IN OTHER UNIVERSES.

NONE OF THEM HAVE EVER BACKED DOWN THIS EARLY INTO AN ASSIGNMENT.



WELL MAYBE YOU COULD JUST LET ME GO BACK HOME AND YOU CAN JUST WATCH ME REMOTELY UNTIL HE ARRIVES?

I'M SERIOUS, TAYA... I LOVE YOU LIKE A SISTER, BUT I CAN'T KEEP HIDING HERE AND GOING OUT ONLY UNDER UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION!

I'M GOING **CRAZY** HERE!

I KNOW, CAN... D@MNIT I KNOW...

THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN OUT THERE EVERY SINGLE DAY, DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT, TRYING TO FIND THAT MONSTER.

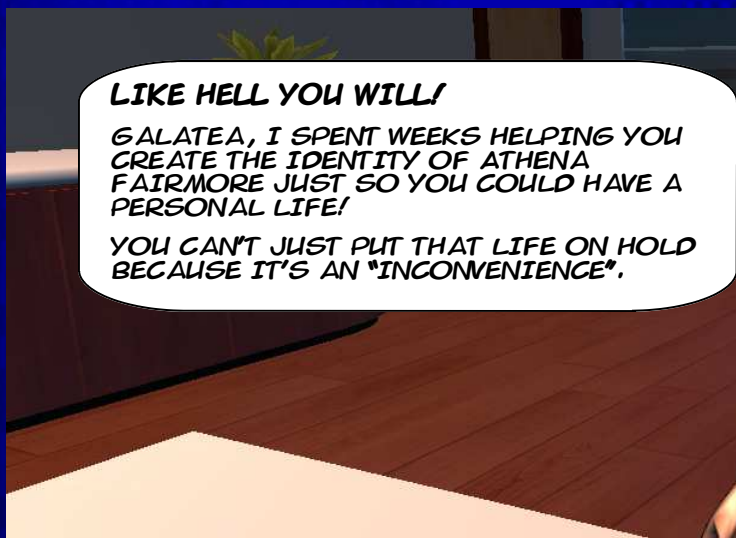
AS LONG AS I'M OUT HUNTING HIM, HE'S NOT HUNTING YOU.



AT THE EXPENSE OF
MY CAREER AND
YOURS.
HOW LONG BEFORE
YOUR BOOK
DEADLINE?



TO HELL WITH THE
PUBLISHERS... I'LL
WORRY ABOUT THE
BOOK AFTER I KNOW
YOU'RE SAFE FROM
"BLUE".



LIKE HELL YOU WILL!

GALATEA, I SPENT WEEKS HELPING YOU
CREATE THE IDENTITY OF ATHENA
FAIRMORE JUST SO YOU COULD HAVE A
PERSONAL LIFE!

YOU CAN'T JUST PUT THAT LIFE ON HOLD
BECAUSE IT'S AN "INCONVENIENCE".



**ALL OF THIS... EVERYTHING
YOU SEE HERE... IS ALL FOR
ATHENA FAIRMORE, NOT FOR
GALATEA FUTURE!**

A YOUNG WOMAN THAT BY
ALL RIGHTS **DIED** IN 1992 AS
A LITTLE GIRL IN THE BATTLE
OF DETROIT!

I HELPED GIVE THAT GIRL
NEW LIFE THROUGH YOU, AND
WILL BE DAMNED IF I LET
YOU JUST CAST IT ASIDE
LIKE AN ANNOYANCE!



YOU'RE RIGHT...
D@MNIT, YOU'RE
RIGHT...

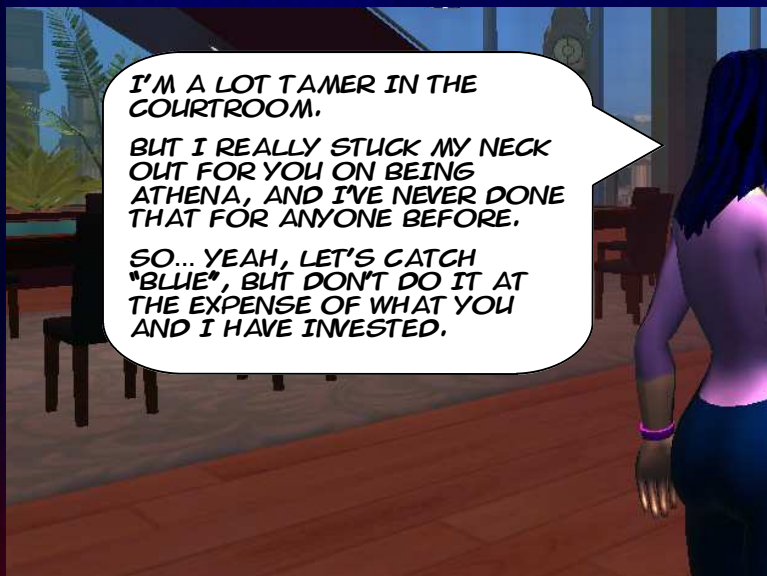
AND YOU DID PUT IN
ALL THIS EFFORT FOR
ME...

I'M SORRY.



I'VE NEVER REALLY
SEEN YOU THIS
DEFENSIVE, THOUGH.

IS THIS WHAT
YOU'RE LIKE IN THE
COURTROOM?



I'M A LOT TAMER IN THE
COURTROOM.

BUT I REALLY STUCK MY NECK
OUT FOR YOU ON BEING
ATHENA, AND I'VE NEVER DONE
THAT FOR ANYONE BEFORE.

SO... YEAH, LET'S CATCH
"BLUE", BUT DON'T DO IT AT
THE EXPENSE OF WHAT YOU
AND I HAVE INVESTED.



OKAY...

AND... I GUESS I SHOULD
GIVE MAJOR CROSS A
CALL TO GET THAT
SECURITY DETAIL FOR
YOUR HEARING BEFORE I
HEAD OUT AGAIN.

AN HOUR LATER...



OKAY, IT SHOULD
BE RIGHT ABOUT...



... HERE.

IT'S ONE THING
TO KNOW THERE'S
A MAGIC FIELD...



SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

... IT'S
ANOTHER TO
ACTUALLY
WALK THROUGH
ONE.

CREEPY.



I HAVE GOOSE
BUMPS ON TOP OF
GOOSE BUMPS.



GREETINGS,
GALATEA
FUTURE.

UM... HI.



WITCHCRAFT TOLD ME TO
EXPECT YOU HERE.*

MISS DEL GELO IS IN THE
ARCANA STORE. YOU CAN
TAKE THE DOOR TO YOUR
LEFT.

IS THERE...
SOMETHING
YOU WANTED
TO ASK ME?



ALICIA BLACKMUN
MAGIC LANTERN BOOKSTORE

* WITCHCRAFT IS A MEMBER OF THE
CHAMPIONS AND KNOWS GALATEA
FROM "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF
GALATEA FUTURE" #1 BACK IN 2011)



WOW... YOU'RE GOOD.
TWO THINGS, ACTUALLY.
FIRST, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF
THIS MAGIC FIELD?
AND SECOND, WHAT CAN YOU
TELL ME ABOUT MISS DEL GELO?



THE FIELD IS HERE TO PROTECT THE
TWO BUILDINGS.

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE OLD
SAYING, "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER",
THAT APPLIES DOUBLY SO FOR THE
WORLD OF MAGIC.

BOTH THE ARCANA STORE AND
MY BOOKSTORE REPRESENT
INCREDIBLE POWER FOR THOSE
WILLING TO USE THE KNOWLEDGE
THEY POSSESS.

THIS FIELD IS A MODEST
FORM OF PROTECTION.

TO THE UN-WELCOMED,
THE FIELD HIDES THE
DOORS TO THE STORE
AND THE BOOKSTORE, SO
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW OR
WHERE TO ENTER.

THE FIELD ALSO INVOKES
FEAR AND PANIC,
CAUSING THEM TO FLEE
FROM THE AREA.



AS FOR MISS DEL GELO...
WELL, IT'S BEST IF YOU
FOUND OUT FOR YOURSELF.
THE DOORWAY IS WAITING.





IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
IN AN OLD
"NEVERWINTER"
KIND OF WAY.



HELLO? ANYONE HERE?
I'M LOOKING FOR
CYNTHIA DEL GELO. I
WAS TOLD TO MEET HER
HERE.



I'M UP HERE.
AND IT'S CYNTHIA
REGINA DEL GELO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO
USE MY NAME, PLEASE
USE IT COMPLETELY.

MY APOLOGIES.
MAJOR CROSS TELLS ME THAT
YOU COME WELL-RECOMMENDED
BY RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY.

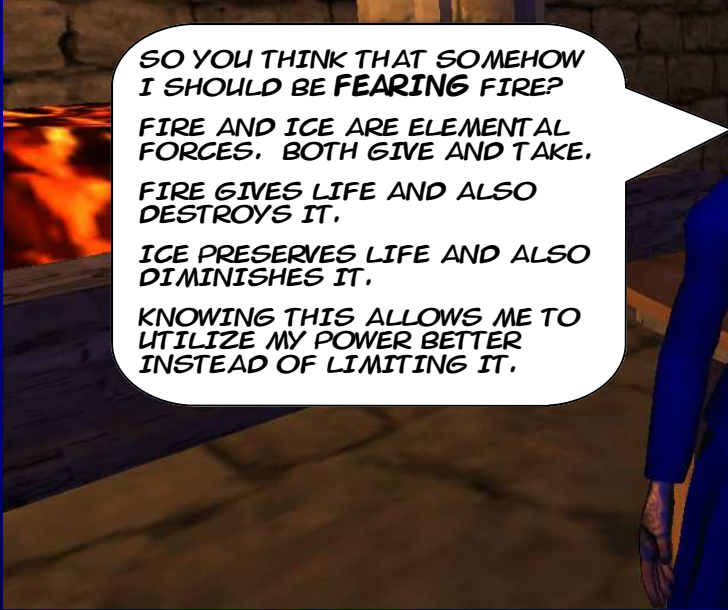
THOUGH I'M SURPRISED YOU'D
WANT TO STAY SO CLOSE TO A
BRIMSTONE FORGE, GIVEN
WHAT I WAS TOLD ABOUT
YOUR ABILITIES.



SO YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
ABOUT MAGIC?



I'VE HAD SOME
EXPERIENCE WITH
PEOPLE WHO USE
MAGIC BEFORE.
I KNOW THAT
FIRE AND ICE
ARE DIAMETRIC
OPPOSITES.



SO YOU THINK THAT SOMEHOW
I SHOULD BE **FEARING** FIRE?
FIRE AND ICE ARE ELEMENTAL
FORCES. BOTH GIVE AND TAKE.
FIRE GIVES LIFE AND ALSO
DESTROYS IT.
ICE PRESERVES LIFE AND ALSO
DIMINISHES IT.
KNOWING THIS ALLOWS ME TO
UTILIZE MY POWER BETTER
INSTEAD OF LIMITING IT.



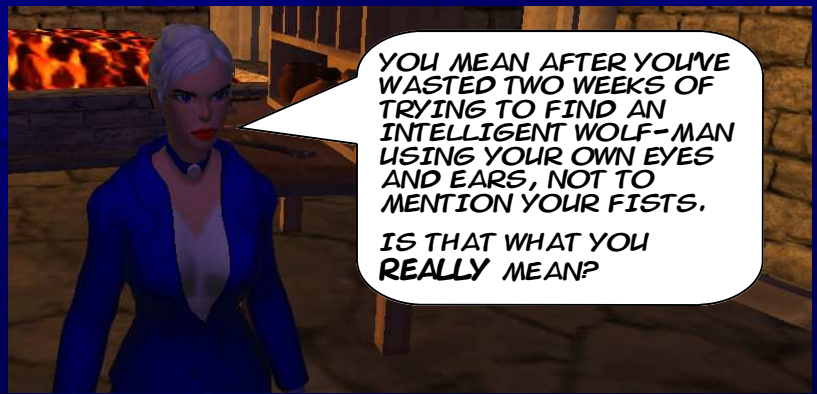
BUT MAJOR CROSS DIDN'T
SEND YOU HERE TO GET A
LESSON IN BASIC
ELEMENTAL MAGIC.
HE SENT YOU HERE
BECAUSE YOU NEED ME TO
FIND YOUR WOLF-MAN.



CYNTHIA REGINA DEL GELO
RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY GRADUATE



YOU SOUND
CONFIDENT
THAT YOU CAN
DO SOMETHING
THAT DOZENS
OF HEROES
COULDN'T.



YOU MEAN AFTER YOU'VE
WASTED TWO WEEKS OF
TRYING TO FIND AN
INTELLIGENT WOLF-MAN
USING YOUR OWN EYES
AND EARS, NOT TO
MENTION YOUR FISTS.
IS THAT WHAT YOU
REALLY MEAN?



AND YOU THINK YOU
CAN DO BETTER?

I DON'T *THINK* IT.
I KNOW IT.

MAJOR CROSS CALLED
ME IN BECAUSE HE
RECOGNIZES THE TALENT
AND THE SKILLS, AND
BECAUSE YOU'RE LOSING
THE EXTRA MANPOWER
FROM THE POLICE.

YOU **NEED** ME... BEFORE
YOU DO SOMETHING
SLOPPY OR STUPID.



SINCE YOU'RE SO SURE OF YOURSELF, HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FINDING HIM?

WATER IS A KEY ELEMENT OF LIFE THAT CREATES ICE. IF "BLUE" IS HIDING ANYPLACE WHERE WATER CROSSES, I CAN FIND HIM USING A LOCATOR SPELL.

THINK OF IT AS A REVERSE DIVINING SPELL; INSTEAD OF A PERSON USING MAGIC TO FIND WATER, I'LL BE USING MAGIC THROUGH WATER TO FIND A PERSON... OR IN THIS CASE A WOLF-LIKE BEING.



OKAYYYY...

I LEAD YOU TO HIM, YOU MAKE THE BUST.

AND WE **BOTH** GET THE CREDIT! I EXPECT NOTHING LESS THAN RECOGNITION FOR THE SKILLS THAT I BRING TO THIS LITTLE WOLF-HUNT.



FAIR ENOUGH. OKAY, YOU DO YOUR THING, THEN LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU FIND HIM.



OH, AND ONE MORE THING...



YES?



WHEN I'M OUT IN THE FIELD, YOU CAN REFER TO ME AS...

Elite Ice



ELITE ICE
ELEMENTAL MYSTIC

ELSEWHERE...

OH GALATEA...
WHAT A
WONDERFUL
QUARRY YOU
ARE!!

YOU THINK THAT
I'M HIDING...
THAT I'M AFRAID
OF YOU...



"MISTER BLUE"
SUPER-POWERED HIT MAN

WHEN, IN TRUTH, YOUR SO-
CALLED "PURSUIT" OF ME
ALLOWS ME TO CALIBRATE
THIS DEVICE TO BETTER
TRACK YOU.

ALL OF THAT VERY VISIBLE
FLYING AROUND MAKES YOU
THE PERFECT TARGET.

AND NOW I CAN USE THIS
DEVICE TO TRACK YOUR
LOCATION THROUGH
YOUR BRAIN WAVES.

AND TO THINK THAT CHILD-LIKE
KEVIN POE BELIEVED HE COULD USE
THIS DEVICE TO "LIQUEFY BRAINS"!

NOT ONLY WOULD IT NOT WORK IN
THE WAY THAT HE WANTED IT TO,
BUT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF ITS
FULLEST POTENTIAL.

WHY TRY TO DESTROY **ALL** MINDS
WHEN YOU CAN USE THIS DEVICE TO
FIND ONE SPECIFIC MIND AMONG
MANY?

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT
AND SEE WHERE YOU GO...

AND ALSO WHERE YOU STAY...

AND I'LL KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU
AND THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
I WILL HAVE MY TARGET.

LATER...

SHE SEEMED A BIT TOO CONFIDENT...
NOT TO MENTION QUITE ARROGANT.

U.N.T.I.L. BASE

THAT MAY BE, BUT ACCORDING TO
RAVENSWOOD,
SHE'S THE BEST AT
WHAT SHE DOES.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

IF YOU MEAN
TO TURN
PEOPLE OFF,
THEN I AGREE.

RIGHT NOW BEGGARS
CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.

SHE IS SOMEONE THAT
I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY
EYES ON...

OBVIOUSLY FOR FUTURE
CONSIDERATION...

BUT "BLUE" FORCED ME
TO SPEED THINGS UP.

PLUS I HAPPEN TO HAVE
THE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF
YOUR STANDOFF WITH
THOSE VIPER GUNSHIPS,
AND YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY
BEING MODEST WHEN YOU
TALKED ABOUT YOUR OWN
CAPABILITIES.*

NOW GRANTED, YOU CAN
BACK UP MOST OF WHAT
YOU CLAIM; BUT TO
SOMEONE LIKE ELITE ICE,
WHO IS JUST STARTING
OUT, SHE SEES WHAT YOU
DO AND SHE THINKS THIS
IS STANDARD PROCEDURE.

(* LAST ISSUE)

OKAY, MAYBE IT'S BETTER
IF I LED BY EXAMPLE.

BUT I STILL HAVE
EXPERIENCE TO RELY ON...
ELITE ICE DOESN'T.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE THIS IS
JUST A GAME TO HER.

THEN IT'S UP TO YOU TO
SHOW HER THAT IT'S NOT.

WHETHER YOU BOTH LIKE IT
OR NOT, YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO BE HER MENTOR
ON HOW TO BE A HERO.

GET SOME REST AND LET
HER GET HER SPELL GOING.
CROSS OUT.



SECURE ROOM
DISENGAGED.

I NEED TO GET OUT
OF THIS OUTFIT!
TIMES LIKE THESE,
IT REALLY SUCKS TO
HAVE HYPER-SMELL!



HEY CANP

I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER TO
TRY TO GET THE STENCH OF
BRIMSTONE OUT OF MY NOSE,
BUT MAYBE AFTERWARD, YOU
AND I CAN GO TO DARREN'S
PIZZA AND SPLURGE ON A
CHICAGO PIE?

WE BOTH COULD USE
THE BREAK, RIGHT?



I MEAN, AFTER **ATHENA**
RETURNS FROM HER ERRANDS,
SINCE THIS **IS** HER
APARTMENT, AND I DON'T
WANT HER TO THINK THAT I'M
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER
HOSPITALITY.

I AM SO **DEAD**
RIGHT NOW! I'M
WALKING AROUND
HALF OUT OF MY
OUTFIT IN FRONT
OF STRANGERS!



WAIT... GALATEA...
THIS ISN'T WHAT
YOU THINK...
THIS IS... UM...



IT'S OKAY,
CANDACE...
GALATEA
KNOWS WHO
I AM...

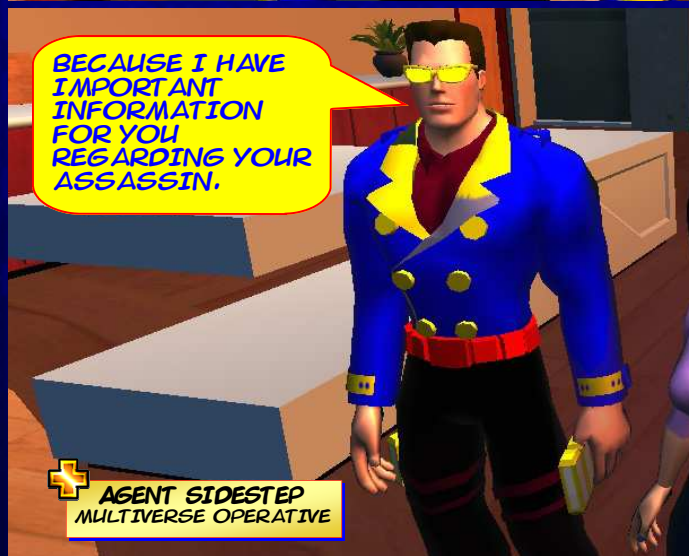


... EVEN IF SHE
DOES NOT
RECOGNIZE
MY CURRENT
APPEARANCE.



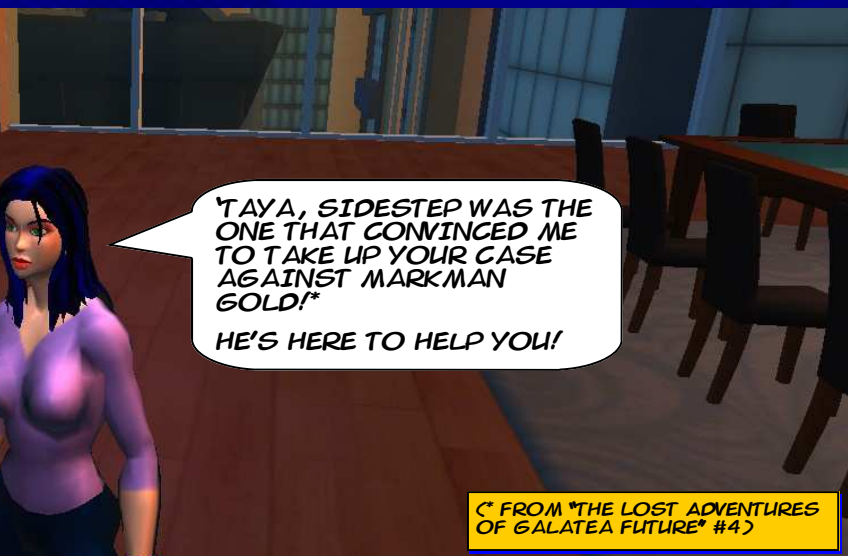
AGENT SIDESTEP!

YOU BETTER HAVE
A D@MN GOOD
REASON WHY
YOU'RE STICKING
YOUR NOSE
AROUND HERE!



BECAUSE I HAVE
IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
FOR YOU
REGARDING YOUR
ASSASSIN.

 **AGENT SIDESTEP**
MULTIVERSE OPERATIVE



'TAYA, SIDESTEP WAS THE
ONE THAT CONVINCED ME
TO TAKE UP YOUR CASE
AGAINST MARKMAN
GOLD!*
HE'S HERE TO HELP YOU!

(* FROM "THE LOST ADVENTURES
OF GALATEA FUTURE" #4)



CANDACE, THE FIRST TIME I ENCOUNTERED
HIM, HE ACCUSED ME OF BEING A
MULTIVERSE THREAT AND ATTACKED ME.
I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I TAKE
WHAT HE HAS TO SAY SUSPICIOUSLY.
ARRGH... I'LL AGREE TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS
TO SAY, BUT IF HE STARTS ATTACKING ME
AGAIN, I'LL KNOCK HIM INTO THE MOON!

AND I GUESS I
BETTER PUT THE
REST OF MY
OUTFIT BACK
ON... IN CASE I
HAVE TO DO
JUST THAT.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

FIRST THINGS FIRST...
WHO ARE YOU AN
"AGENT" FOR?

I'VE KNOWN THEM ONLY AS
THE COUNCIL OF LIGHT.
THEY ARE A GROUP OF
ADVANCED MULTIVERSE
BEINGS DEDICATED TO
MAKING SURE THE
MULTIVERSE ITSELF
CONTINUES TO EXIST.

MY ORIGINAL MISSION
WAS TO ASSESS YOUR
THREAT CAPACITY, NOT
ONLY IN TERMS OF YOUR
POWER-LEVELS BUT ALSO
THE PROBABILITY THAT
YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS
UNIVERSE COULD ATTRACT
OTHER MULTIVERSE
THREATS.

I REMEMBER THAT.
I ALSO REMEMBER THAT
YOUR SUPERIORS TOLD
YOU THAT I WASN'T
THAT "NIGH-OMEGA"
BEING ANYMORE.*

(* THE LOST ADVENTURES
OF GALATEA FUTURE* #2)

THEY DID. BUT THEN MY
ASSIGNMENT WAS
CHANGED TO CONTINUE
TO OBSERVE YOU TO
SEE IF YOU EVENTUALLY
RETURN TO THOSE
POWER LEVELS.

THEY MODIFIED MY
APPEARANCE SO I
COULD BLEND IN
BETTER WITH THIS
WORLD.

SO YOU'RE HERE AS AN
"OBSERVER", RIGHT?
WELL WHAT CHANGED TO
SUDDENLY HELP ME
LIKE YOU DID IN 2012?
AND WHY DECIDE TO
MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN
TO ME NOW?

I HAVE ACTUALLY AIDED
YOU IN TWO PREVIOUS
INSTANCES.

THE FIRST WAS WHEN YOU
HAD YOUR "BLACKOUT"
FOLLOWING YOUR
MISSION IN AFRICA.*

IN THAT INSTANCE AND THE ONE INVOLVING
MISTER GOLD, I OPERATED OUTSIDE OF
THE SANCTION OF THE COUNCIL AND I WAS
DULY CHASTISED FOR THEM.

BUT THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT. THIS TIME I
AM COMING TO YOU WITH THE FULL
SUPPORT OF MY SUPERIORS.

THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES YOUR NEW
STATUS AS ONE OF THIS WORLD'S
GUARDIANS AND FEELS IT IS ONLY
RIGHT TO WARN YOU ABOUT THE
ASSASSIN THAT YOU KNOW AS
"MISTER BLUE".

HIS REAL NAME IS GRIFF, AND HE IS A
GENETICALLY-MODIFIED MULTIVERSE
OPERATIVE DESIGNED TO TRACK DOWN
A TARGET FROM ANY PLACE IN ANY
GIVEN UNIVERSE.

(* THE LOST ADVENTURES
OF GALATEA FUTURE* #3)

THE ONLY WAY GRIFF WOULD
COME AFTER YOU WOULD BE
IF SOMEONE HIRED HIM TO
FIND AND ELIMINATE YOU.

HE IS A METHODICAL HUNTER.
IF ANYTHING, STARLETT DID
YOU A FAVOR BY TIPPING OFF
HIS PRESENCE.

WHO HIRED HIM? WHY?
AND HOW DID HE FIND
ME HERE?

WE DON'T KNOW WHO HIRED
GRIFF OR WHY.

AS TO HOW HE FOUND YOU, I
WOULD SUSPECT THE SAME WAY
THAT I DID; YOUR ORIGINAL
QUANTUM SIGNATURE.

"WHEN YOU WERE SENT HERE IN
2011, YOUR BODY STILL HAD
THE RESIDUAL QUANTUM
ENERGY FROM YOUR PREVIOUS
UNIVERSE. THIS WAS HOW I
WAS ABLE TO TRACK YOU."

"HOWEVER, THE LONGER
YOU STAYED HERE IN THIS
UNIVERSE, THE MORE YOUR
BODY WAS ACCLIMATED
TO IT, THUS IT LOST THAT
UNIQUE QUANTUM
FREQUENCY."

"AS WELL AS CHANGE
MY HAIR COLOR."

"A SIDE EFFECT, BUT,
YES, THAT TOO."

"YOUR ORIGINAL QUANTUM
TRAIL COULD STILL BE
DETECTED IN THE VOID
BETWEEN UNIVERSE, IF
SOMEONE HAD THE RIGHT
DEVICES, BUT THEY WOULD
NOT BE ABLE TO USE IT TO
SPECIFICALLY FIND YOU IN
THIS UNIVERSE."

SO IF HE COULD FIND
GALATEA THROUGH HER
QUANTUM SIGNATURE,
COULDN'T YOU FIND HIM
THROUGH HIS?

GRIFF IS AN EXPERIENCED
MULTIVERSE TRAVELER. HIS BODY
ARMOR IS DESIGNED TO MASK
HIS OWN QUANTUM SIGNATURE
EVEN FROM MY DEVICES.

I HAVE TO LET
MAJOR CROSS
KNOW ABOUT THIS.

OR... AT LEAST THE
PART ABOUT GRIFF
AND WHY HE'S HERE...

CAN I COUNT ON
YOUR HELP IN
STOPPING HIM?

I HAVE PROVIDED
ALL THE AID THAT
THE COUNCIL HAS
ALLOWED ME TO
GIVE TO YOU.

I AM STILL
LIMITED BY MY
ASSIGNMENT AS
AN OBSERVER.

I DON'T BUY THAT!

YOU SAID EARLIER THAT
YOU'VE STEPPED IN BEFORE
TO HELP ME... **TWICE** IN
FACT.

HOW DOES THAT DIFFER
FROM NOW?

YES, I DID HELP YOU
PREVIOUSLY, AND I WAS
CENSURED BY THE
COUNCIL FOR IT.

I RISK BEING RECALLED
IF I DO SO AGAIN.

THEN DON'T HELP
ME... HELP CANDACE!

I WASN'T SEEING
THINGS WHEN I SAW
YOU TWO TOGETHER.
I KNOW YOU CARE
ABOUT HER.

WAIT...
YOU...?

IT'S FOR THAT
REASON WHY I
CANNOT RISK
BEING RECALLED.

SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE
THAT KIND OF RISK.

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT
THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIS
EARTH ARE NOT FRIENDLY TO
PEOPLE FROM OTHER UNIVERSES.

THEY WON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE
SOMEONE LIKE GRIFF.

I STILL WORRY ABOUT HOW
CROSS WILL HANDLE THINGS
WHEN HE REALIZES THAT **I'M**
NOT FROM THIS UNIVERSE.

IF I CAN TAKE GRIFF DOWN,
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU
CAN DO?

THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES
YOU AS BELONGING IN
THIS UNIVERSE NOW.

I COULD CONVINCE THEM
THAT I NEED TO TAKE
CUSTODY OF GRIFF AS A
MULTIVERSE THREAT.

BUT IT MUST BE DONE
WITHOUT QUESTION OR
PRIOR PERMISSION.

I WILL HAVE TO TALK WITH
THEM ABOUT THIS.

"NO. OUT OF THE QUESTION."

"YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN PROPOSED IT WITHOUT CHECKING WITH ME."

"IF AGENT SIDESTEP IS RIGHT, I MAY NOT EVEN BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM, NEVER MIND YOU BEING ABLE TO INCARCERATE HIM."

UNTIL

"DON'T BE SO SURE. GRIFF OR 'BLUE' OR WHATEVER HE GOES BY ISN'T THE FIRST EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL BEING WE'VE ENCOUNTERED."

"I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE BIGFOOT OR THE YETI."

NOR AM I.

AND THEY WEREN'T THE FIRST ONES TO VISIT OUR UNIVERSE EITHER.

MAYBE, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD GRIFF IN CUSTODY?

SEND HIM TO DEVIL'S HEAD MESA IN THE DESERT? HOLD HIM WITH THE WORST THAT THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER?

YES. UNDERSTAND THIS:

THAT MONSTER ATTACKED A REGISTERED HERO IN MILLENNIUM CITY AND ALMOST KILLED HER!

THAT MEANS WE HAVE JURISDICTION!

IF AGENT SIDESTEP WANTS TO CLAIM HIM, HE HAS TO DO SO THROUGH U.N.T.I.L. FIRST.

IF YOU TAKE GRIFF DOWN, YOU ARE TO PUT HIM IN U.N.T.I.L. CUSTODY, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

IS THAT CLEAR?

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I'M NOW A MEMBER OF U.N.T.I.L.

YOU NEVER STOPPED BEING ONE FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED HERE.

THE REAL QUESTION FOR YOU IS TO FIGURE OUT WHERE YOUR LOYALTIES LIE WITH... THIS WORLD, OR ANOTHER?

THE DEL GELO FAMILY SANCTUM



THERE
YOU ARE!



THIS IS U.N.T.I.L.
COMMAND...
STATE YOUR NAME
AND INTENTIONS.



YOU WILL INFORM
MAJOR CROSS
THAT ELITE ICE
HAS FOUND
MISTER BLUE.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

EMPTY...
I'M TOO LATE.

AT FIRST I
THOUGHT THIS
WAS KEVIN POE...

BUT IT TURNS OUT
THIS IS JUST A
MANNEQUIN
DRESSED IN
POE'S CLOTHES.

THEATRICALS...
GRIFF WANTED
ME TO KNOW HE
WAS HERE.

HE DESTROYED THE
EQUIPMENT HE USED,
BUT HE LEFT THIS TO
GIVE ME A HINT OF
WHAT HE USED.

I JUST DON'T KNOW
HOW HE USED IT...
OR WHERE HE WENT.

ELSEWHERE...

THIS IS CANDACE
SINCLAIR... I'M
CALLING AGAIN
ABOUT THE ARMED
ESCORT THAT IS
TO GO WITH ME
TO CITY HALL.

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN HE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN HERE
BY NOW?
I'VE BEEN HERE
FOR FIFTEEN...
HELLO? HELLOO?

THUD

GOOD
AFTERNOON
MISS SINCLAIR.

I REGRET TO
INFORM YOU
THAT YOUR
PLANS HAVE
BEEN CHANGED.

YOU WILL COME
WITH ME NOW.

I PRESUME I
DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE.

OF COURSE
YOU DO.
BUT THE
ALTERNATIVE
IS NOT
PREFERRED.



GREETINGS.

I PRESUME THAT GALATEA FUTURE IS WATCHING THIS VIDEO, SINCE IT IS INTENDED FOR HER.



FIRST, I ASSURE YOU THAT MISS SINCLAIR IS ALIVE AND UNHARMED.

I HAVE NO NEED TO HARM HER SINCE SHE IS NEEDED AS A WITNESS TO THE COMPLETION OF MY ASSIGNMENT.



THAT BRINGS US TO THE MATTER AT HAND... NAMELY YOUR **DEATH** BY MY HAND.

UNLIKE THE ACTIONS OF THE YOUNG MISS STARLETT, WHOSE DEMISE I ASSURE YOU WAS NOT PART OF MY *MODUS OPERANDI*, I BELIEVE IN GIVING YOU A FIGHTING CHANCE TO MEET YOUR END.

WE ARE BOTH, AFTER ALL, INTELLIGENT BEINGS, NOT SOME MINDLESS CREATURES.

I HAVE HAD PLENTY OF TIME HERE TO OBSERVE YOU IN ACTION AND TO GAUGE YOUR POWERS, SO I KNOW THAT PHYSICALLY YOU ARE NO MATCH AGAINST ME.

STILL, YOU ARE WORTH FACING YOUR EXECUTIONER.



WHAT I PROPOSE IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD CONFRONTATION.

NO WEAPONS. JUST YOU VERSUS MY ENHANCED STRENGTH AND BODY ARMOR.



SINCE YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO GIVE YOUR FRIEND A GPS WATCH, I'LL LET YOU USE THAT TO FIND WHERE WE WILL MEET FOR OUR FIRST... AND LAST... ENCOUNTER.



I WANT A TRACE ON GALATEA'S SOCRATES ACCOUNT.

I WANT THAT GPS SIGNAL **YESTERDAY!**

AND GET ELITE ICE ON THE HORN.

IT'S TIME SHE REALLY EARNED HER STRIPES.

WESTSIDE - AN HOUR LATER...



I'M HERE...

MUCH TO MY PLEASURE...
AND TO HERS, I WOULD I Magine.



CANDACE, ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M OKAY...

HUMBLED AND SCARED, AND SITTING ON COLD AND DIRTY CONCRETE, BUT I'M OKAY.



AS PROMISED, SHE IS NOT HARMED.

SHE BROUGHT YOU TO ME, AND NOW SHE WILL BE MY WITNESS TO YOUR DEATH.



BEFORE WE DO THIS, I WANT TO KNOW ONE THING, GRIFF... WHO HIRED YOU?



SO SOMEONE TOLD YOU MY REAL NAME...

I GUESS I SHOULD THANK THEM AFTERWARD... THIS WHOLE "MISTER BLUE" THING WAS GETTING ANNOYING FOR ME.

TO BE HONEST, I NEVER REALLY KNOW WHO HIRES ME... AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHOM THEY ARE EITHER.

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THE MONEY AND THE HUNT.

THE CLIENT PAID WELL FOR MY TRAVEL EXPENSES, AND YOU'VE PROVIDED A SUPERB HUNTING EXPERIENCE FOR ME.



I SHOULD CAUTION YOU
BEFOREHAND THAT I'M
WEARING LEVEL-FIVE
KINETIC DAMPENING BODY
ARMOR.

JUST SO YOU KNOW WHY
YOUR PUNCHES WILL FAIL
TO TRULY HARM ME.

ARE YOU READY?

LET'S DO
THIS.

KA-POW!



MY BRAIN HAS
MENTALLY SHUT
OFF THE SOUNDS
OF OUR BLOWS.

BUT I CAN FEEL
EVERY PUNCH AND
HOW IT AFFECTS
MY BODY.

HIS ARMOR IS
MAKING HIM
MY PHYSICAL
EQUAL.



UNLESS... I CAN
OVERWHELM HIS
ARMOR?



APPARENTLY
SO!



MISS SINCLAIR...
DON'T MAKE A
SOUND.

HUH?



I SAID DON'T
MAKE A SOUND!

I'M FREEZING THE
CHAIN KEEPING
YOU HERE SO WE
CAN MOVE.

WHAM!
WHAM! WHAM!



I'M ELITE ICE. I WORK
WITH GALATEA. I WAS
ORDERED TO MAKE
SURE YOU'RE SAFE.
COME ON... LET'S GET
YOU OUT OF HERE.



BUT WHAT ABOUT
GALATEA?

WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!



COME ON!
GASP *GASP*
IS THAT ALL
YOU GOT?

"SOUNDS LIKE
SHE HAS HIM
RIGHT WHERE SHE
WANTS HIM."



RARRRR!

IT'S NOT ABOUT
STRENGTH...

IT'S NOT ABOUT
TECHNOLOGY...



IT'S ABOUT
ENDURANCE.



IT'S ABOUT
THE HEART.



IT'S ABOUT
FIGHTING WITH
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE.



NOW COMES
THE REALLY
HARD PART.



IT'S DONE.
COME GET HIM
BEFORE I CHANGE
MY MIND.

WHO DID SHE
CALL?
FIND OUT IN
THE NEXT ISSUE!

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
Project Mycroft - Major Xavier Cross, U.N.T.I.L. Commander



CLASSIFIED INFORMATION - EYES ONLY

Subject: United Nations Security Council Resolution 67a

We've suspected for years that ours was not the only universe. The very existence of magic is proof that there are realms that extend beyond our own.

We've hidden the knowledge of some of these places by saying that they're fairy tales or mythological stories, as if by doing so we could somehow make them less real. But that doesn't change the fact that these places do exist. That our "universe" is really a multiverse of different realities and dimensions.

Near the end of World War II, rumors were abound that Adolph Hitler was obsessed with using mystical powers from the Norse gods to bolster his forces and cement his stranglehold on the world. Unearthed German documents never made public showed that Hitler indeed possessed Norn Stones, which would give him the power of Asgard itself. However, there was no mention that he was able to unlock their secrets, although one would suspect that if he did then he would not have committed suicide near the end of the war.

Heaven, Hell, Olympus, Asgard, Azarath, Purgatory, they all exist in one way or another. And that knowledge is terrifying to many people of this world. It's one thing to tell them about mythical gods. It's another to show that these gods and the realms they call home do exist.

In 1949, the United Nations Security Council met in closed-door sessions to discuss the potential threat of extra-dimensional forces. If the "gods" of myth really did exist and were from other realms, then why did they suddenly stop appearing? Why did they stop making contact with mere mortals? What other realms were out there?

The possible answers were staggering to the delegates.

Long before the United Nations Tribunal on International Law was even formed, the Security Council tried to establish rules concerning multiverse travel and visitors. Unfortunately, barring the technological development needed for such a task, the only known sources of travel to other realms involved magic. And given the secretive nature of the mystical orders to begin with, these were the first groups prohibited.

Even while the world was saying "Never Again" over the horrors of Jewish persecution, their leaders were letting history repeat itself over mystical groups, many of them influenced by the same religious voices of previous tragedies.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 67a was the first attempt to regulate extra-dimensional visitors. It declared the United Nations to serve as the only authority entitled to

Continues on next page...

provide residency or sanctuary status for, quote, “any sentient being whose origins are outside of the known universe or dimension.”

While simple enough, it was difficult to enforce, especially when it was revealed that certain mystical beings were born in this universe. Appearances alone were not enough of a determination.

UNSCR 67a became the basis for the eventual creation of the United Nations Tribunal on International Law. While the initial purpose of UNTIL was to assess and determine the status of extra-dimensional beings, it was then expanded to include all threats to Earth’s survival, including threats from outer space and from under the ocean.

With the recent development of dimensional transportation from Harmon Industries, including the accidental creation of a portal to the universe known as Multifaria, attention has once again focused on the possible threat of inter-dimensional invasion. Only this time we know that the threat is not just mystical beings. The threat could very well come from alternate realities; realities similar to our own, maybe even identical in almost every way. The fact that someone like Defender could in an alternate reality become a tyrant far worse than Doctor Destroyer is a scary notion indeed; even before you add the means for that kind of tyrant to invade other worlds.

Currently the responsibility for dealing with extra-dimensional threats falls on Project Citadel, one of the oldest of divisions in UNTIL. Their handling of the possible crossover of people from Multifaria can best be described as something akin to Tomas de Torquemada’s handling of the Spanish Inquisition. Their zealous determination to identify and monitor those that did not come from this universe is something that should be both admired and feared.

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NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



**EVERY ACTION HAS A
CONSEQUENCE.**

**GALATEA FUTURE IS ABOUT TO
DISCOVER THE CONSEQUENCE OF
HER DECISION.**

**AND HOPEFULLY SHE WILL DEAL
WITH IT SOON AS MILLENNIUM CITY
IS VISITED BY...**

THE NATIONALIST!



THE CRUCIBLE



WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE OF...

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WHAT WAS MEANT TO BE A
BREAKTHROUGH IN DIMENSIONAL
TRAVEL HAS OPENED THE DOOR
TO MULTIFARIA: A DYSTOPIAN
WORLD RULED BY CITIZEN HARMON
AND HIS ROBOTIC MINIONS!

JOIN THE RESISTANCE AND BRING
HIS EVIL EMPIRE TO AN END
BEFORE IT CAN CROSS OVER AND
THREATEN TO CONQUER OUR OWN
WORLD!



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