



BATTLE ROCK
COMICS

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Battlerock Comics Presents...

Red Sinner



ISSUE 02
2020

 FOR TEENS

From the pages of

***FUTURE'S
GUARDIAN***



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**

PERFECT
WORLD

Insert Inside Cover Ad here

Not all heroes are brought up to be good and noble. The most fearsome heroes are often born from tragedy. A crime committed against them or those they love. For one Millennium City's vigilantes, that crime was committed based on a sin from their past. A sin they can never forgive.

Thus was born...

Red Sinner

"THE UNFORGIVEN SIN"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

"DEARLY BELOVED...

"WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO JOIN TOGETHER THESE TWO PEOPLE INTO THE BONDS OF HOLY MATRIMONY. THIS UNION IS CONSIDERED SACRED BOTH IN SOCIETY AND IN THIS HOUSE OF GOD AND SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN LIGHTLY OR DONE IN HASTE.

"IF ANYONE GIVES JUST REASON WHY THESE TO SHOULD NOT BE WED, LET THEM SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD THEIR PEACE..."

"I OBJECT!"

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A CATHEDRAL IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, USA

JUNE 7TH, 2014

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE START OF AUBREY DARNELL'S LIFE.

THE PERFECT JOB. THE PERFECT MAN. THE PERFECT FUTURE FOR THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO HAD EVERYTHING SHE NEEDED.

BUT A MAN NAMED JACK CHANGED ALL THAT.

A MAN NAMED JACK, WHO WOULD NOT LEAVE AUBREY ALONE. A MAN NAMED JACK WHO SHOWED UP AT HER WEDDING WITH GUNS AND KNIVES, AND USED THEM TO KILL THE GUESTS, BOTH FAMILIES, THE PRIEST, AND THE MAN SHE LOVED.

OH GOD...
SOMEONE H-
HELP...
SOME... ONE...

... HELP...

I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY...

BECAUSE THIS WAS THE DAY WHEN AUBREY DARNELL DIED.





I WAS IN A HAZE FOR MONTHS IN SOME HOSPITAL THAT NOBODY WOULD TELL ME ABOUT.

I WAS LISTED AS "JANE DOE", BECAUSE ALIBREY DARNELL WAS DECLARED DEAD ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE IN THAT CHURCH.

I FELT DEAD, INSIDE AND OUT.



THE DOCTORS TOLD ME THAT IN ORDER TO SAVE MY LIFE, THEY HAD TO REMOVE SOME OF MY REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS.

I WILL NEVER HAVE CHILDREN.



I SPENT WEEKS AFTER THAT GETTING STRONGER, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

THEN A DOCTOR SHOWED UP AND TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD BE DISCHARGING ME TO A NEW FACILITY IN A REMOTE LOCATION.

I ASKED WHO WAS PAYING FOR ALL OF THIS. THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT, THAT IT WAS ALL COVERED.



I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS OR WHERE I WAS GOING.

ALL I KNEW WAS THAT I WANTED TO DIE.

I WISHED THAT I WAS DEAD. WHY DIDN'T THEY LET ME DIE?

MILLENNIUM CITY, MI, USA

2017



MILLENNIUM INSURANCE CEO PHILLIP DE RAVEN HAS MADE A TWO MILLION DOLLAR DONATION TO MERCY HOSPITAL TO HELP COVER MEDICAL DEBTS.



THIS IS THE THIRD TIME IN THE PAST YEAR THAT DE RAVEN HAS DONATED TO THE FACILITY.

OUR OWN JULIE MORGAN CAUGHT UP WITH DE RAVEN AS HE LEFT THE HOSPITAL EARLIER TODAY.



8 WCOC AFTERNOON NEWS BREAK

8 WCOC WITH VICTORIA CROWNSTONE

AS CO-FOUNDERS OF MILLENNIUM INSURANCE, MY FATHER AND I BOTH SAW THE NEED TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD IT.

WE KNOW THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD A SUDDEN HEALTH CRISIS.



8 WCOC PHILLIP DE RAVEN - CEO - MILLENNIUM INSURANCE

TWO MILLION DOLLARS MAY NOT SEEM MUCH GIVEN THE INSURMOUNTABLE DEBT THAT IS OUT THERE, BUT EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS THOSE WHO NEED IT.

IN ADDITION TO THIS DONATION, MILLENNIUM INSURANCE WILL BE WORKING WITH THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO COVER THOSE COSTS SO THEY WILL NOT BE FOREVER INDEBTED TO THEM.



8 WCOC DE RAVEN MAKES GENEROUS DONATION TO MERCY HOSPITAL

THE RAVEN TOWER...



FAR BE IT FOR ME
TO QUESTION
YOUR SENSE OF
PHILANTHROPY,
PHILLIP...



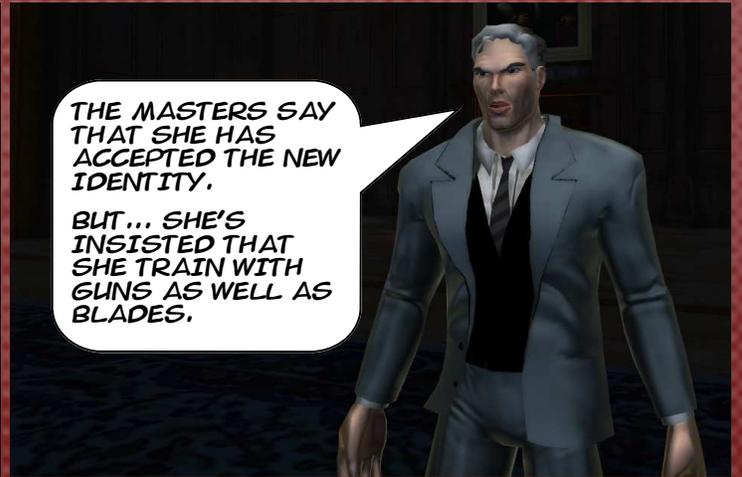
... BUT AT SOME
POINT PEOPLE WILL
BEGIN TO REALIZE
THAT YOU'RE NOT
JUST GOING TO THE
HOSPITAL TO MAKE
DONATIONS.



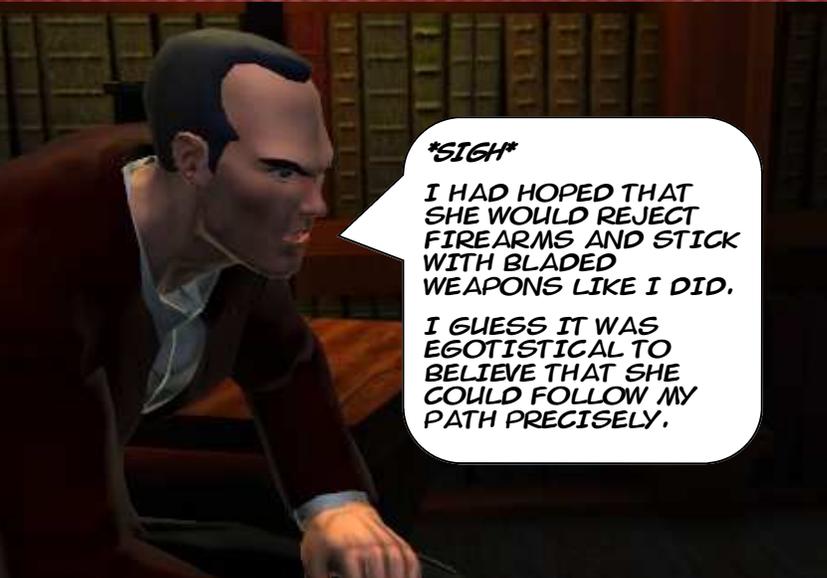
I KNOW, SAM...
BUT RIGHT NOW WE
HAVE TO KEEP UP
APPEARANCES UNTIL
SHE'S READY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
I PRESUME YOU HAVE
SOME NEWS?



THE MASTERS SAY
THAT SHE HAS
ACCEPTED THE NEW
IDENTITY.
BUT... SHE'S
INSISTED THAT
SHE TRAIN WITH
GUNS AS WELL AS
BLADES.

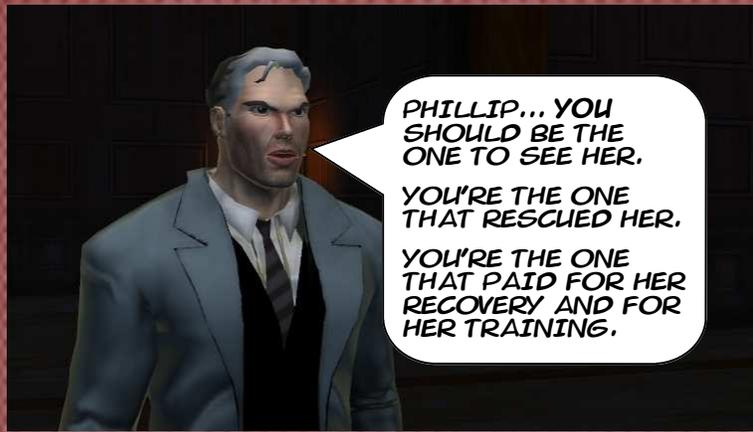


SIGH
I HAD HOPED THAT
SHE WOULD REJECT
FIREARMS AND STICK
WITH BLADED
WEAPONS LIKE I DID.
I GUESS IT WAS
EGOTISTICAL TO
BELIEVE THAT SHE
COULD FOLLOW MY
PATH PRECISELY.



I NEED YOU TO
SPEAK WITH THE
MASTERS.
WE NEED TO MOVE
UP THE SCHEDULE.





PHILLIP... YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO SEE HER.
 YOU'RE THE ONE THAT RESCUED HER.
 YOU'RE THE ONE THAT PAID FOR HER RECOVERY AND FOR HER TRAINING.



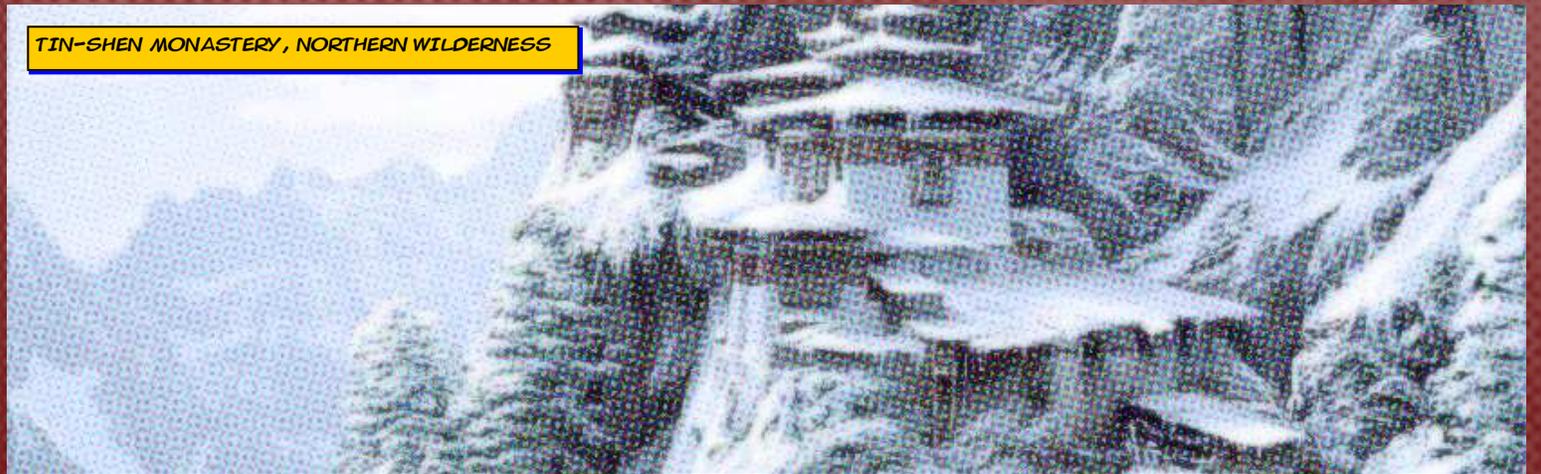
SHE DESERVES TO KNOW WHO SAVED HER... AND WHY!
 ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE EXPECTING HER TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS AFTERWARD.



AND SHE WILL KNOW, SAM... I WILL BE THE ONE TO TELL HER THE TRUTH.
 BUT I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO GET HER. NOT NOW.
 I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN HERE JUST TO KEEP UP WITH THE PRETENSES.

I'VE ASKED FAR TOO MUCH OF YOU ALREADY... I KNOW THAT.
 BUT I'M ASKING YOU, BROTHER, FOR THIS ONE MORE THING.
 PLEASE...

TIN-SHEN MONASTERY, NORTHERN WILDERNESS



MY NAME IS CASSANDRA DARE.
 I WAS BORN IN KINGSTON, OHIO.



CASSANDRA DARE.

CASSANDRA DARE.



CASSANDRA DARE.



CASSANDRA DARE.



CASSANDRA DARE.
CASSIE... MY FRIENDS
CALL ME CASSIE.



I GRADUATED
FROM ZANE
TRACE HIGH.

ZANE TRACE
HIGH...



CASSANDRA
DARE.

CASSIE...
CASSIE DARE.



CASSIE
DARE...

FROM
KINGSTON,
OHIO...





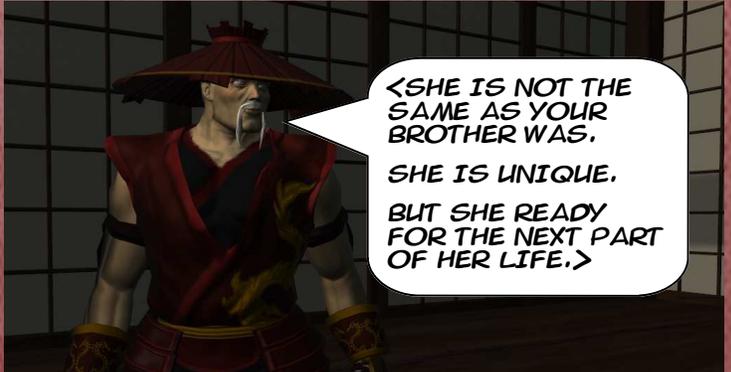
<IT IS TIME.>*

<IS SHE READY?>

< TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN >



<YOU GAVE US A SWORD THAT WAS BROKEN AND ASKED US TO MAKE IT NEW. WE HAVE RE-FORGED HER, SHARPENED HER, AS WE ONCE DID YOUR BROTHER.>



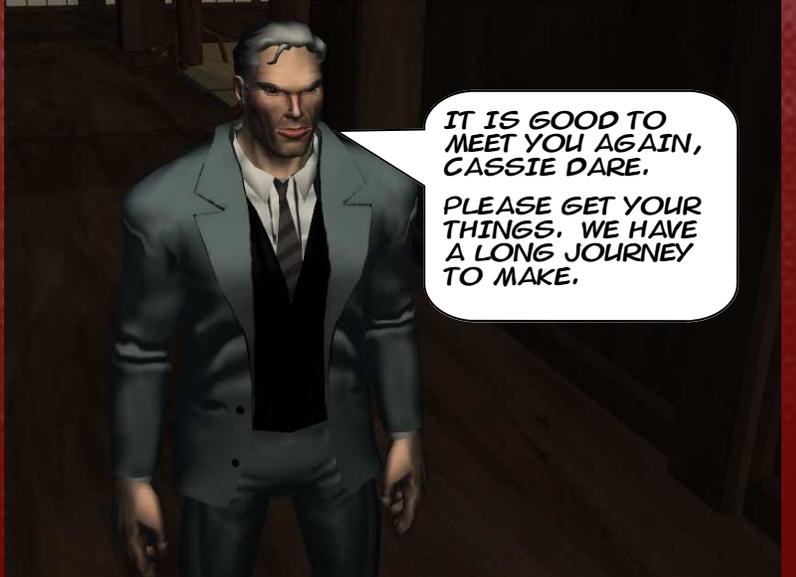
<SHE IS NOT THE SAME AS YOUR BROTHER WAS. SHE IS UNIQUE. BUT SHE READY FOR THE NEXT PART OF HER LIFE.>



CASSANDRA DARE.
MY NAME IS CASSIE... CASSIE DARE.
MY NAME IS CASSIE DARE.



HELLO MISTER DE RAVEN.
MY NAME IS CASSIE DARE.



IT IS GOOD TO MEET YOU AGAIN, CASSIE DARE.
PLEASE GET YOUR THINGS. WE HAVE A LONG JOURNEY TO MAKE.

A DAY LATER... BACK IN
MILLENNIUM CITY...



THIS IS
YOUR HOME.



THE TOP HALF OF THIS
BUILDING IS PERSONALLY
OWNED BY MY BROTHER.
THIS IS THE TOP PENTHOUSE.
PHILLIP WAS NEVER REALLY
COMFORTABLE BEING HERE,
SO HE LIVES THREE FLOORS
DOWN AND HAS BEEN USING
THIS FOR VISITING GUESTS.

IT'S FULLY FURNISHED.
THE KITCHEN PANTRY
IS FULLY STOCKED
AND YOU CAN ORDER
WHATEVER ELSE YOU
WANT OR NEED.



IT FEELS...

... VERY EXPENSIVE.

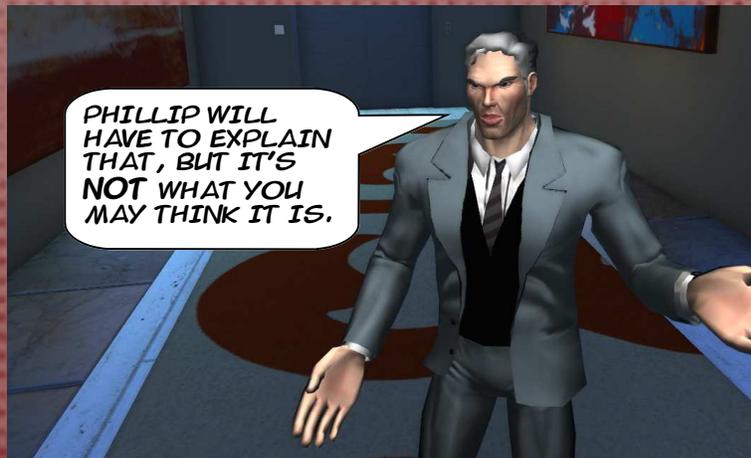


THE LAST APPRAISAL FOR THE PENTHOUSE WAS AT TWO-POINT-FIVE MILLION.

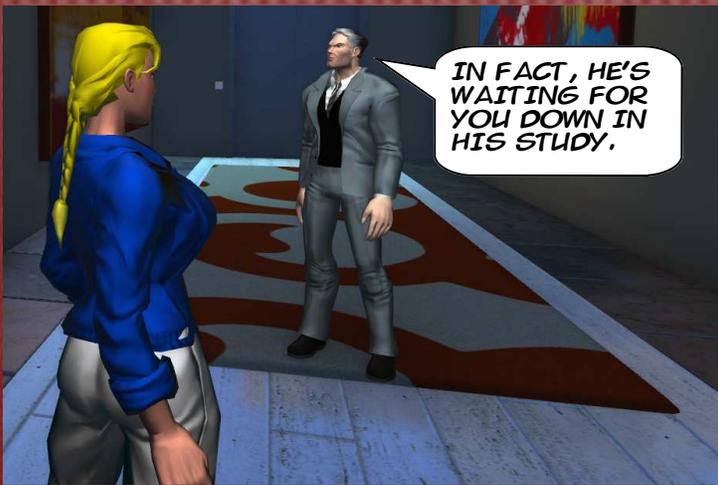


"TWO POINT..."

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO DO WHAT TO STAY HERE?



PHILLIP WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU MAY THINK IT IS.



IN FACT, HE'S WAITING FOR YOU DOWN IN HIS STUDY.



I SEE... AND... WHERE IS THAT EXACTLY?



THROUGH THIS DOOR, DOWN THE STAIRS, AND IT'S ON THE FIRST LANDING.

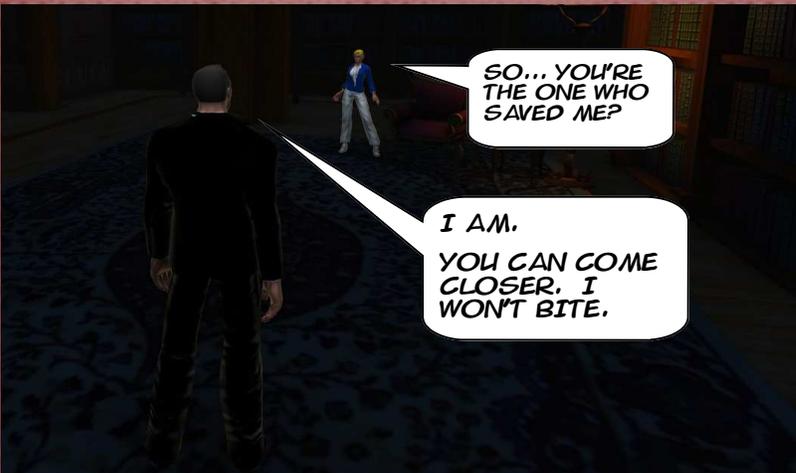




HELLO?

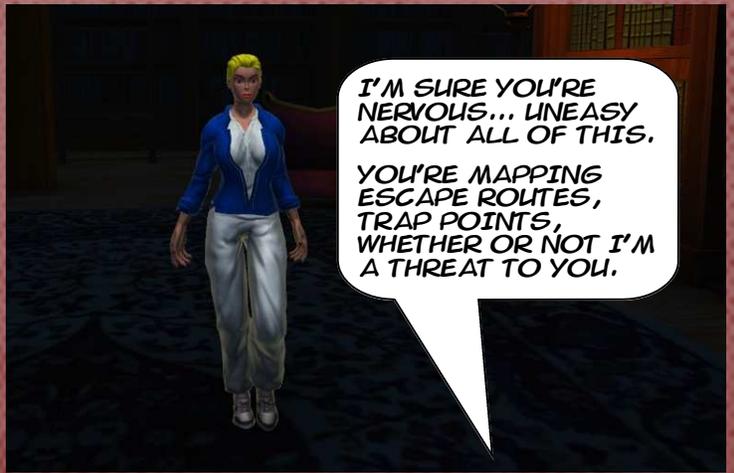


COME DOWN BY THE FIREPLACE.

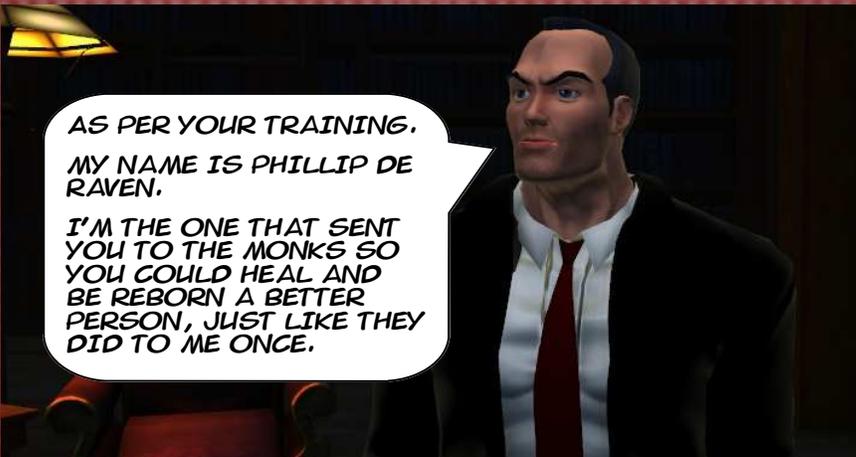


SO... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME?

I AM.
YOU CAN COME CLOSER. I WON'T BITE.



I'M SURE YOU'RE NERVOUS... UNEASY ABOUT ALL OF THIS.
YOU'RE MAPPING ESCAPE ROUTES, TRAP POINTS, WHETHER OR NOT I'M A THREAT TO YOU.



AS PER YOUR TRAINING, MY NAME IS PHILLIP DE RAVEN.
I'M THE ONE THAT SENT YOU TO THE MONKS SO YOU COULD HEAL AND BE REBORN A BETTER PERSON, JUST LIKE THEY DID TO ME ONCE.



WHY? WHY DO ALL THIS FOR ME? I DON'T DESERVE IT.



ACTUALLY YOU DESERVE IT MORE THAN ANYONE.

WHILE THE DOCTORS WERE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE, I HAD MY BROTHER RUN A FULL INVESTIGATION ON YOU.
BEFORE HE RETIRED TO HELP ME, SAMUEL WAS AN FBI AGENT. ONE OF THE BEST.

HE FOUND THAT YOU LIVED AN IDEAL LIFE. ALMOST PERFECT. TOO PERFECT.
HE DUG DEEPER... DEEPER THAN MOST INVESTIGATORS WOULD GO. HE FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR MORE "ADVENTUROUS" SIDE.



IF YOU MEAN
MY... MY
NIGHTS OUT...

THOSE INFREQUENT TIMES
WHEN THE "PERFECT" AUBREY
DARNELL WOULD GO FAR AWAY
FROM HER LITTLE WORLD TO
MEET WITH GUYS FAR FROM HER
SOCIAL CIRCLE FOR A LITTLE
"FUN", WHICH USUALLY ENDED
IN A MOTEL ROOM.
YES, THOSE "NIGHTS OUT".



WHERE AUBREY
FIRST MET JACK
BLASDEL...
A.K.A. "JACK THE
BLADE"



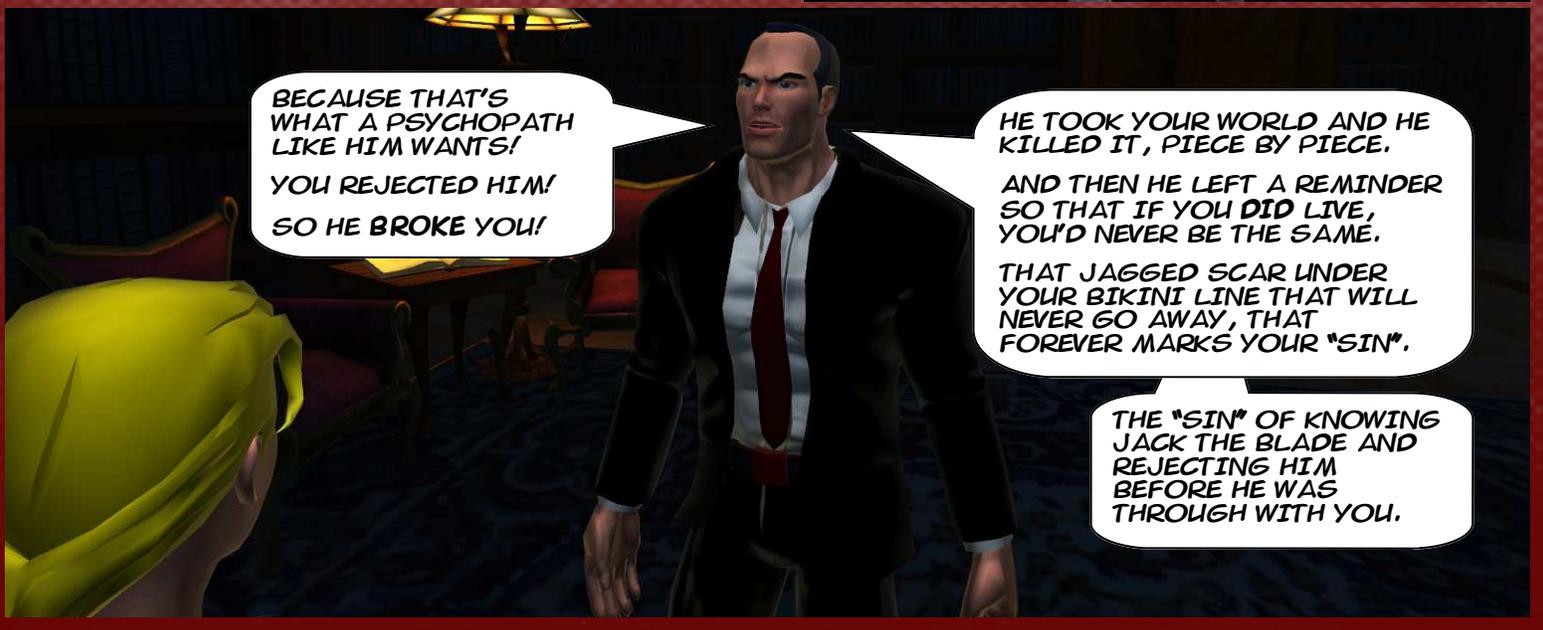
W-WHERE DID
YOU...? WHAT
DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT HIM?



MORE THAN YOU
DO, APPARENTLY.
ENOUGH TO KNOW
WHY HE WAS SO
FIXATED ON YOU...
WHY HE CRASHED
YOUR WEDDING AND
KILLED EVERYONE...
EXCEPT FOR YOU.



THEN
WHY DID
I LIVE?



BECAUSE THAT'S
WHAT A PSYCHOPATH
LIKE HIM WANTS!
YOU REJECTED HIM!
SO HE BROKE YOU!

HE TOOK YOUR WORLD AND HE
KILLED IT, PIECE BY PIECE.
AND THEN HE LEFT A REMINDER
SO THAT IF YOU **DID** LIVE,
YOU'D NEVER BE THE SAME.
THAT JAGGED SCAR UNDER
YOUR BIKINI LINE THAT WILL
NEVER GO AWAY, THAT
FOREVER MARKS YOUR "SIN".

THE "SIN" OF KNOWING
JACK THE BLADE AND
REJECTING HIM
BEFORE HE WAS
THROUGH WITH YOU.



YOU'RE ANGRY.
SCARED, BUT ANGRY.
GOOD.

THAT IS WHY YOU'RE STILL
ALIVE.
THAT IS WHY I SENT YOU TO
THE MONKS TO HEAL AND
TO RETRAIN YOURSELF.
BECAUSE, MORE THAN
ANYTHING, YOU WANT TO
FIND JACK AND STOP HIM.

NO... NOT TO
STOP HIM.



TO KILL HIM.
KILL HIM BEFORE
HE CAN DESTROY
ANYONE ELSE
LIKE HE DID ME.



GO BACK TO
THE STAIRWELL
AND KEEP
GOING DOWN.



"BELOW THE LOBBY."

"PAST THE SUB-BASEMENT."



"THROUGH THE
WOODEN DOOR
THAT SAYS 'DO
NOT ENTER'."







SO YOU WANT TO KILL...

ONLY IF IT'S JACK.



WHAT MAKES HIM SO SPECIAL?

HE'S EVIL!



HE'S NOT THE ONLY EVIL PERSON IN THE WORLD. WHAT ABOUT HIS ACCOMPLICES?

I...

YOU... WHAT?



HUNT THEM DOWN, KILL THEM TOO? THEY COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM FROM KILLING YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FIANCÉE.



GO AHEAD, KILL THEM, AND THEN WHAT MAKES YOU ANY DIFFERENT THAN THEM?

ANY DIFFERENT FROM JACK THE BLADE?

BECAUSE THEY HURT YOU? BECAUSE THEY BROKE YOU?

YES!

THAT'S NOT JUSTICE...
THAT'S MURDER.
THEN YOU HAVE THE LAW
LOOKING FOR YOU.
WILL YOU KILL THEM TOO?

I... I...
DON'T
KNOW...

THAT PATH LEADS TO
A NEVER-ENDING
RIVER OF BLOOD
AND REVENGE, AND
IT MAKES YOU NO
DIFFERENT THAN THE
PEOPLE THAT FIRST
HURT YOU.

BUT THERE IS
ANOTHER WAY...
THE PATH OF
JUSTICE.

HOW... HOW
DID YOU
DO THAT?

THE MAN WHO RUINED
YOUR WORLD... JACK
THE BLADE... HAS A
LONG HISTORY OF
BROKEN HEARTS AND
BLOODY MURDERS.
HE KILLED A COP HERE
IN MILLENNIUM CITY
WHEN HE WAS JUST 18.

HE FLED MILLENNIUM CITY
AND MOVED EASTWARD,
SEDUCING WOMEN FOR
COMPANY AND HIDING
AMONG THE VARIOUS
CRIMINAL GROUPS FOR
PROTECTION.

I HAD TRACKED HIM TO THE
CHURCH IN RHODE ISLAND,
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE, HE
HAD FLED AND YOU WERE
LEFT TO DIE.

THEN WHY DIDN'T
YOU GO AFTER
HIM? WHY DID
YOU WASTE YOUR
TIME SAVING ME?



BECAUSE... WHEN I WAS AROUND YOUR AGE, I HAD MY WORLD TAKEN FROM ME AS WELL.
HER NAME WAS ANNABELLE.

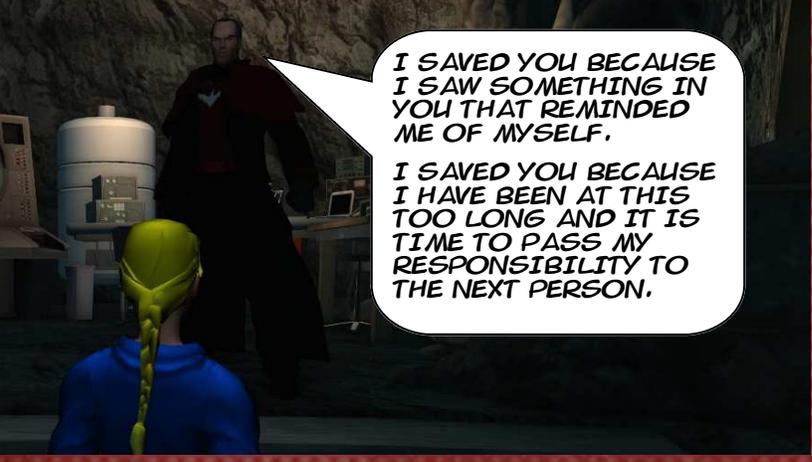


SHE WAS MY SOULMATE.
WE WERE JUST A FEW DAYS FROM BEING MARRIED WHEN SHE WAS KILLED BY AN ESCAPED FELON.



I PAID ANY PRICE TO TRACK THAT MAN DOWN. I WENT TO A HERO-FOR-HIRE TO HELP ME FIND HIM SO I COULD AVENGE MY LOVE.
AND I GOT MY REVENGE... BUT AT THE COST OF THE HERO HIMSELF.
BUT BEFORE HE DIED, HE TOLD ME THAT I NEEDED TO DO MORE. HE TOLD ME THAT I NEEDED TO CARRY ON IN HIS PLACE.

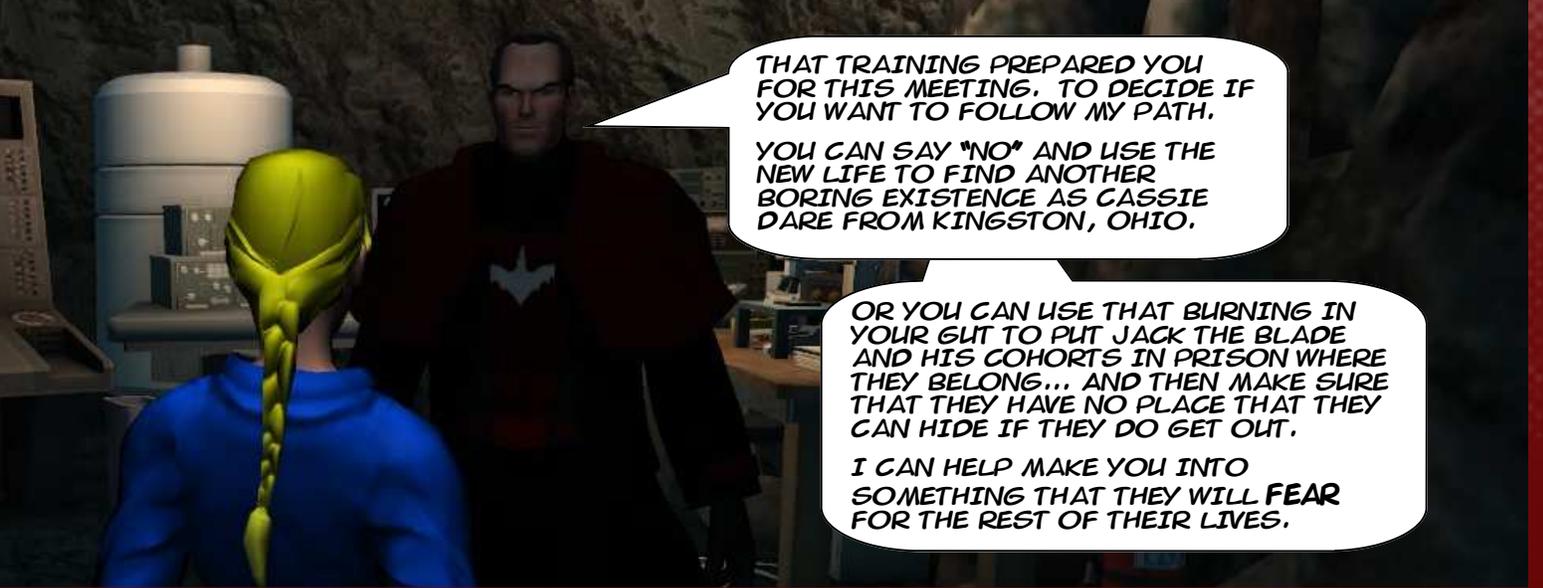
I FOUND THE LOCATION OF THE MONASTERY IN HIS JOURNAL.
THEY TRAINED ME LIKE THEY TRAINED HIM, AND I TOOK ON THE NAME **RAVENCLAW**.



I SAVED YOU BECAUSE I SAW SOMETHING IN YOU THAT REMINDED ME OF MYSELF.
I SAVED YOU BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN AT THIS TOO LONG AND IT IS TIME TO PASS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NEXT PERSON.



I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BE YOU.
I DID WHAT YOU ASKED... I TRAINED... I ADAPTED TO THE NEW IDENTITY...



THAT TRAINING PREPARED YOU FOR THIS MEETING. TO DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW MY PATH.
YOU CAN SAY "NO" AND USE THE NEW LIFE TO FIND ANOTHER BORING EXISTENCE AS CASSIE DARE FROM KINGSTON, OHIO.

OR YOU CAN USE THAT BURNING IN YOUR GUT TO PUT JACK THE BLADE AND HIS COHORTS IN PRISON WHERE THEY BELONG... AND THEN MAKE SURE THAT THEY HAVE NO PLACE THAT THEY CAN HIDE IF THEY DO GET OUT.
I CAN HELP MAKE YOU INTO SOMETHING THAT THEY WILL FEAR FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.



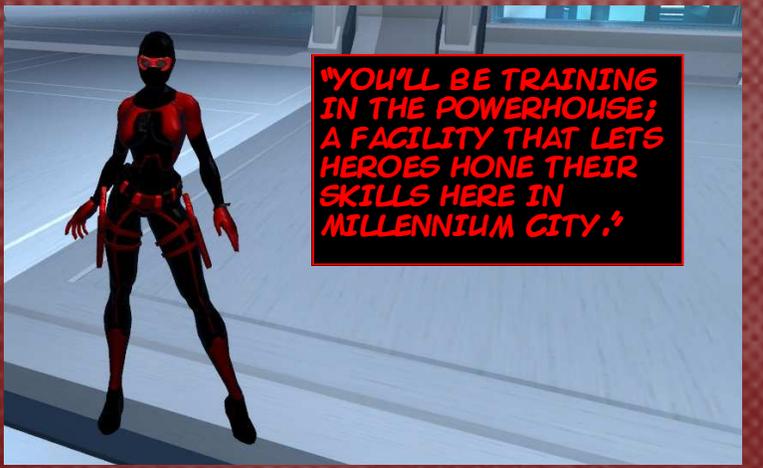
SOMETHING THEY WILL FEAR...
LIKE HE ONCE HAD ME LIVING IN FEAR.



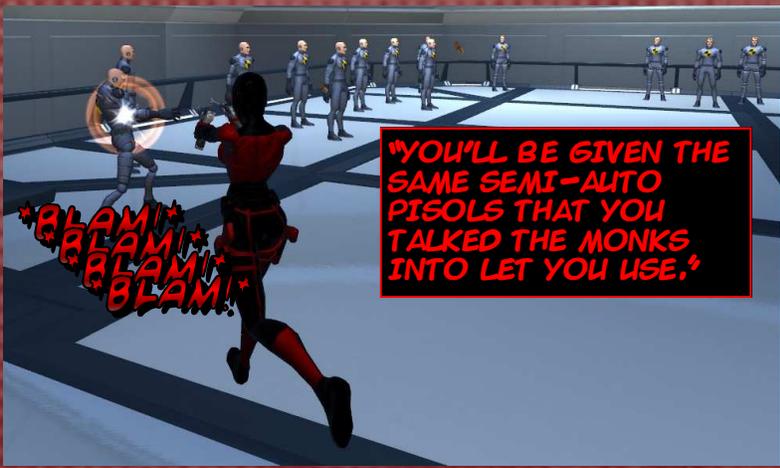
WHERE DO WE BEGIN?



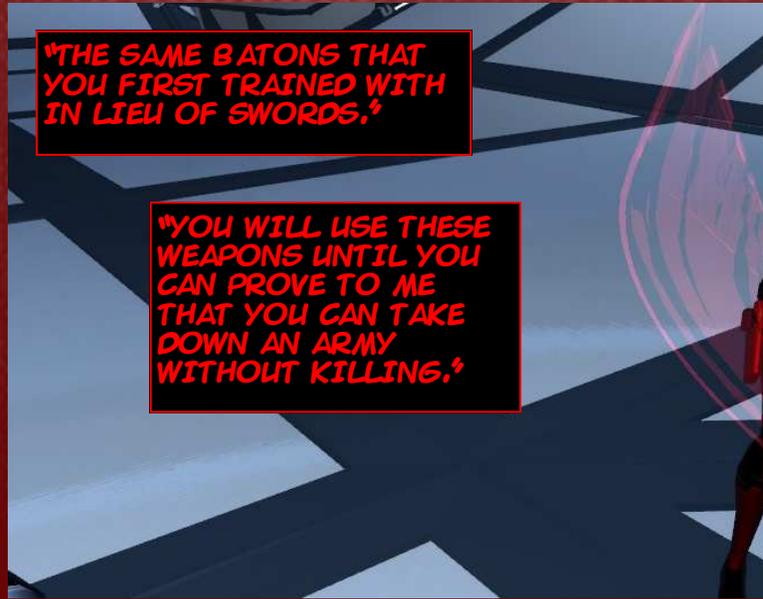
TO MORROW YOU'LL BEGIN YOUR NEW TRAINING.
SAM WILL TRAIN YOU ON BEING A CASE INVESTIGATOR FOR MILLENNIUM INSURANCE.
WHEN YOU'RE NOT LEARNING THE ROPES FROM HIM, YOU'RE WORKING WITH ME.
I'LL HAVE A NEW TRAINING OUTFIT FOR YOU TO WEAR WHEN YOU'RE OUT THERE.
I'LL NEED TO SEE WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW BEFORE I CAN BUILD FROM IT.



"YOU'LL BE TRAINING IN THE POWERHOUSE; A FACILITY THAT LETS HEROES HONE THEIR SKILLS HERE IN MILLENNIUM CITY."



"YOU'LL BE GIVEN THE SAME SEMI-AUTO PISOLS THAT YOU TALKED THE MONKS INTO LET YOU USE."



"THE SAME BATONS THAT YOU FIRST TRAINED WITH IN LIEU OF SWORDS."

"YOU WILL USE THESE WEAPONS UNTIL YOU CAN PROVE TO ME THAT YOU CAN TAKE DOWN AN ARMY WITHOUT KILLING."

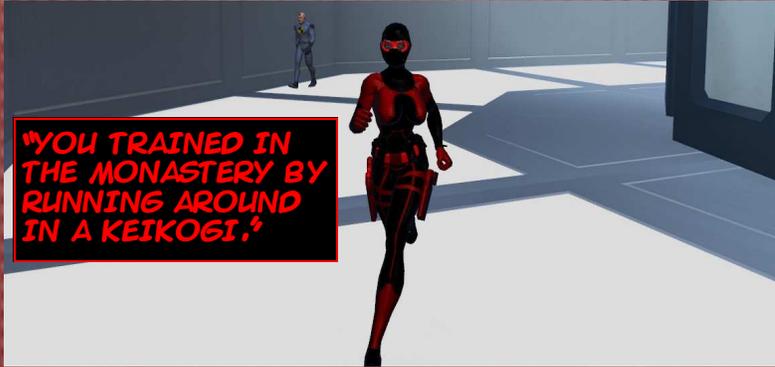
"YOU WON'T HAVE A FIELD NAME YET."

"IF ANYONE ASKS, TELL THEM YOU'RE JUST A TRAINEE."

"YOUR NAME WILL COME TO YOU WHEN YOU ARE READY, AND NOT A MOMENT BEFORE THAT."



"YOU TRAINED IN THE MONASTERY BY RUNNING AROUND IN A KEIKOGI."



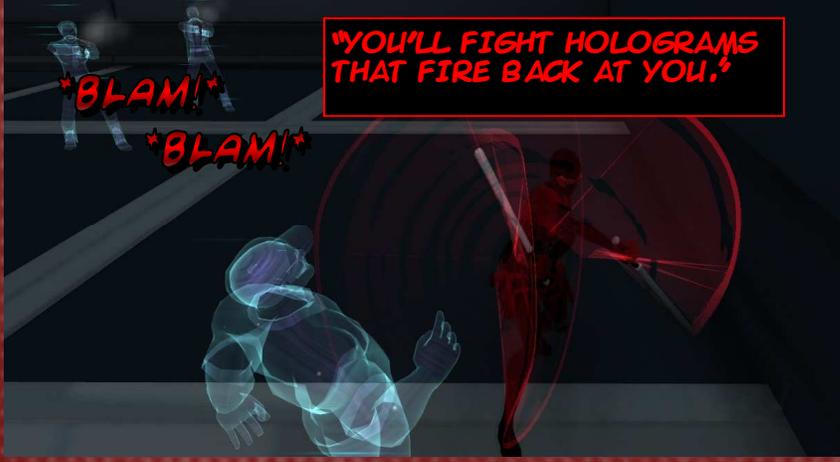
"NOW YOU'LL BE TRAINING TO RUN WHILE WEARING BODY ARMOR AND A FULL HOOD AND CARRYING WEAPONS."



"YOU'LL FIGHT HOLOGRAMS THAT FIRE BACK AT YOU."

BLAM!

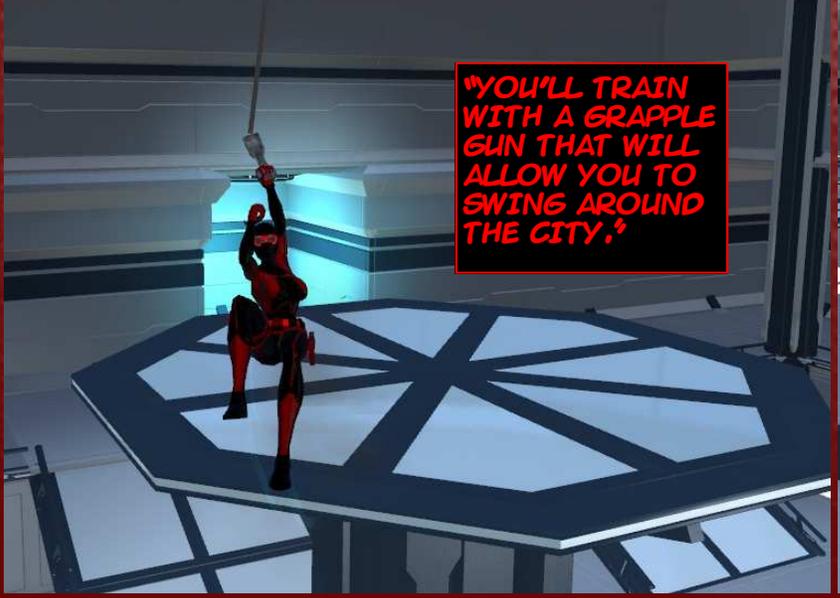
BLAM!



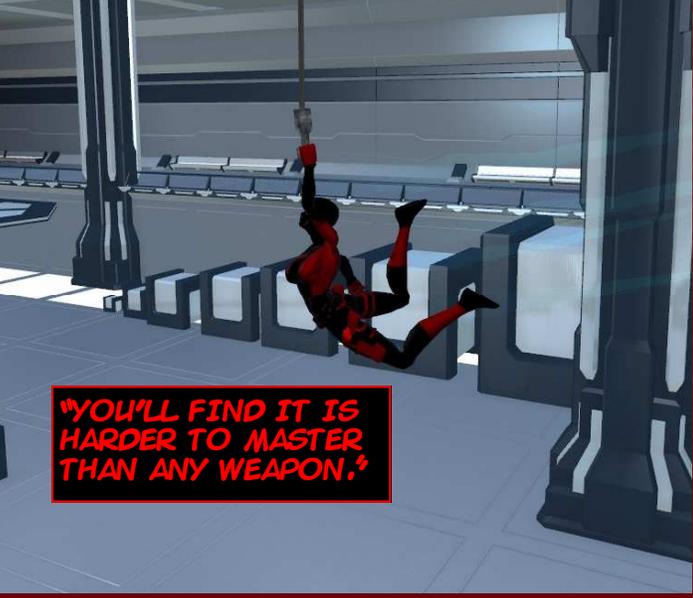
"YOU WON'T ALWAYS WIN AGAINST THEM."



"YOU'LL TRAIN WITH A GRAPPLE GUN THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO SWING AROUND THE CITY."



"YOU'LL FIND IT IS HARDER TO MASTER THAN ANY WEAPON."



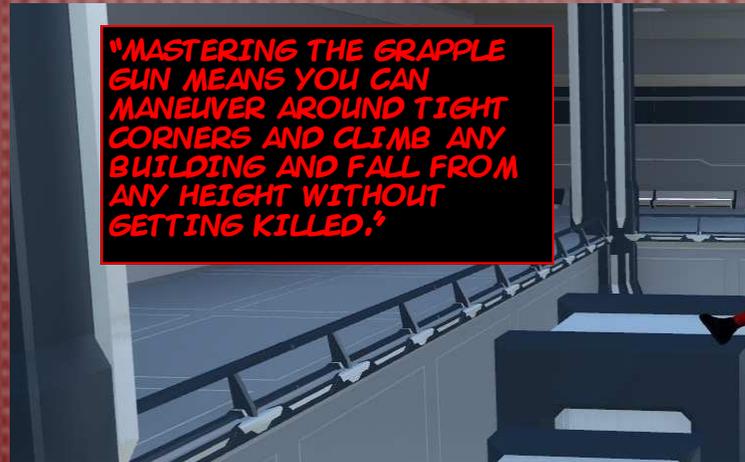


NOOOO!

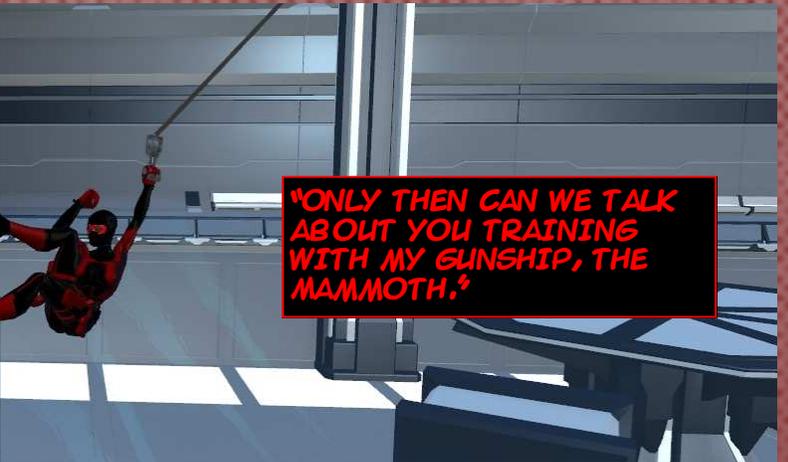
"YOU'LL GET HURT A LOT. YOU'LL SLAM INTO THE WALLS A LOT."



"THE POWERHOUSE WILL FIX YOU UP SO YOU CAN GO BACK OUT THERE AND DO BETTER."



"MASTERING THE GRAPPLE GUN MEANS YOU CAN MANEUVER AROUND TIGHT CORNERS AND CLIMB ANY BUILDING AND FALL FROM ANY HEIGHT WITHOUT GETTING KILLED."



"ONLY THEN CAN WE TALK ABOUT YOU TRAINING WITH MY GUNSHIP, THE MAMMOTH."



"YOU'LL HURT... IN WAYS THAT YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD HURT."



"BUT THAT SCAR ON YOUR BODY WILL REMIND YOU OF WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS."



"AND JUST WHEN YOU ARE GETTING SOME MUCH-NEEDED SLEEP..."

DING-DING
DING-DING
DING-DING

"... IT'LL BE TOMORROW ALREADY."

Insert Inside Cover Ad here

Insert Inside Cover Ad here

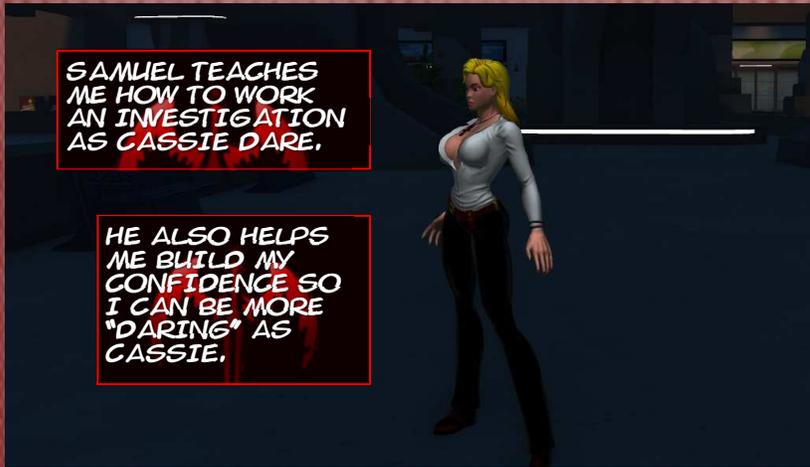


DAYS TURN INTO WEEKS AND THEN INTO MONTHS.

I MASTER THE PISTOLS AND THE BATONS.



I BEGIN USING THE GRAPPLE GUN LIKE A TRAPEZE ARTIST.



SAMUEL TEACHES ME HOW TO WORK AN INVESTIGATION AS CASSIE DARE.

HE ALSO HELPS ME BUILD MY CONFIDENCE SO I CAN BE MORE "DARING" AS CASSIE.



IT'S THE PERFECT DISGUISE FOR ME SINCE I'M COVERED-UP AND SECRETIVE AT NIGHT.



THEN NEWS GETS OUT OF A GANG WAR BETWEEN THE NEW PURPLE GANG AND THE MANIACS IN THE WESTSIDE DISTRICT.

THE FIGHTING IS SO BAD THAT BOTH SIDES ARE GOING AT IT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.



NORMAL POLICE METHODS FAIL TO STOP THE FIGHTING. EVEN THE HEROES CAN'T STOP IT.

THE POLICE THINK THAT SOMEONE IS PUMPING UP THE GANG MEMBERS AND GIVING THEM REASONS TO FIGHT.

THEY CALLED IN A FAVOR TO RAVENCLAW TO HELP FIND THE AGITATORS.

WESTSIDE DOCKS

THEY GET ME
INSTEAD.

THE "TRAINEE".

MY JOB IS STRICT
RECONNAISSANCE.

FOLLOW THE WEAPON
CACHES TO THEIR
DISTRIBUTION AND
POSSIBLY CATCH THE
ONES AGITATING THE
GANGS TO FIGHT.

I'M JUST SAYING IT
WOULD BE EASIER DOING
THIS IN THE MAMMOTH.

EASIER,
YES.
BUT NOT
AS QUIET.

AS ITS NAME
IMPLIES, IT
WOULD SOUND
LIKE A HERD OF
ELEPHANTS
JUST HOVERING
IN THE SKY.

THE MAMMOTH IS MEANT
TO INTIMIDATE.

THAT'S WHY I ONLY USE
IT WHEN I NEED IT AND
RELY ON MY STEALTH AND
MY GRAPPLE GUN TO GET
ME AROUND PLACES.

AND YOU HAVE YET
TO TEACH ME HOW
TO BE INVISIBLE.

YOU GET THROUGH THIS
MISSION AND THAT'LL
BE ON THE NEXT
TRAINING COURSE.

BELIEVE ME, I HAD A
HARD TIME GETTING
THE MONKS TO TEACH
ME HOW TO DO IT.

I SEE MOVEMENT.
THERE'S A GROUP OF
MANIACS GATHERING
AROUND THE CARGO
CONTAINERS.
I'M GOING IN FOR A
CLOSER LOOK.



I'M HERE.



I'M ENHANCING THE AUDIO ON YOUR HOOD MICROPHONE. YOU'LL HEAR EVERY CONVERSATION IN THE AREA.



--AVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN SINCE I KICKED MY DAD'S HEAD IN.

SO I TOLD HIM JUST 'CUZ I LIKE TO WEAR FISHNET DOESN'T MEAN I PUT OUT!

HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING BUZZHEAD!

***Screee*
*Screee***

THOSE FAKE IT ALIAN PURPLE POZERS ARE WIMPS!

I POPPED THAT GUIDO BEFORE HE COULD POP ME.

THIS'LL POP THOSE PIZANOS GOOD!

CHARLIE APPLE ONE, CHARLIE APPLE ONE, SEE THE MAN...

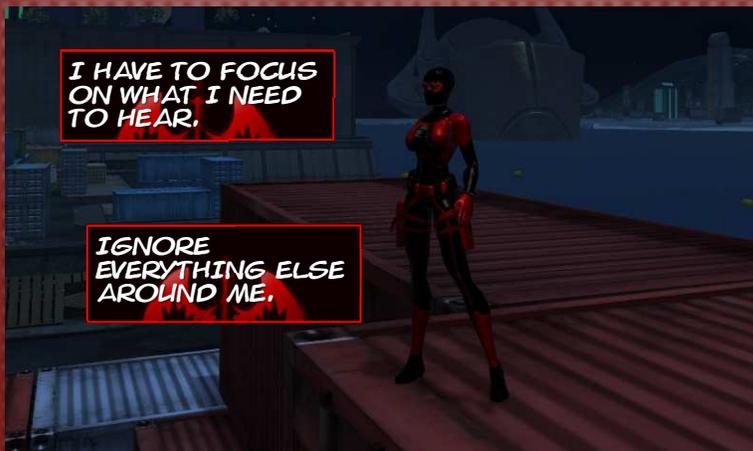
IT WAS MADDENING.

I SAID "NO", THEN I KICKED HIM DOWN THERE AND THEN SET HIS JUNK ON FIRE.!

EVERY SOUND IN THE AREA SCREAMING IN MY EARS.

***T O O O O O O O O O O O T ! ***

OOO-GIRL YOU A BAD @SS BEOTCH!



I HAVE TO FOCUS ON WHAT I NEED TO HEAR.

IGNORE EVERYTHING ELSE AROUND ME.



***COUGH COUGH*
*COUGH COUGH COUGH***



GANG CONVERSATIONS, EGO BANTER, BOASTING ABOUT FIGHTS.

ONE GIRL GETTING HIT ON TOO MUCH, ANOTHER GIRL TELLING THE GUY TO KNOCK IT OFF.

FOCUS, LISTEN FOR KEY WORDS, THE CAWING OF THE SEAGULLS ARE AN ANNOYANCE, THE SHIP HORN IS A DULL ROAR.

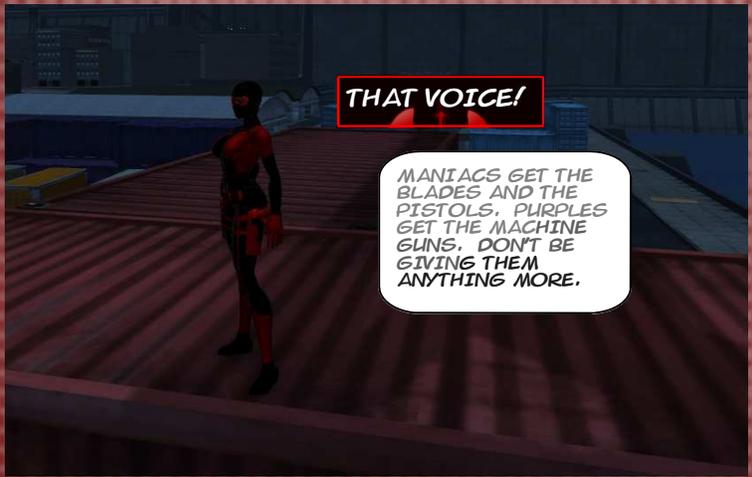


***COUGH COUGH
COUGH COUGH
COUGH* *AAK***



**SOMEONE IS
GETTING SICK.
PROBABLY DRUNK.**

**NAW, I TOLD YOU
TO KEEP IT SIMPLE.**



THAT VOICE!

**MANIACS GET THE
BLADES AND THE
PISTOLS. PURPLES
GET THE MACHINE
GUNS. DON'T BE
GIVING THEM
ANYTHING MORE.**



***AAK..*
C-*COUGH
COUGH
COUGH***



**IF WE GIVE THEM TOO
MUCH OF AN EDGE,
THEN WE CAN'T MOVE
AGAINST THEIR
LEADERS.**

**THAT'S HIS
VOICE!**

**RAVENCLAW... HE'S
HERE, I HEAR HIS
VOICE IN THE AREA!**

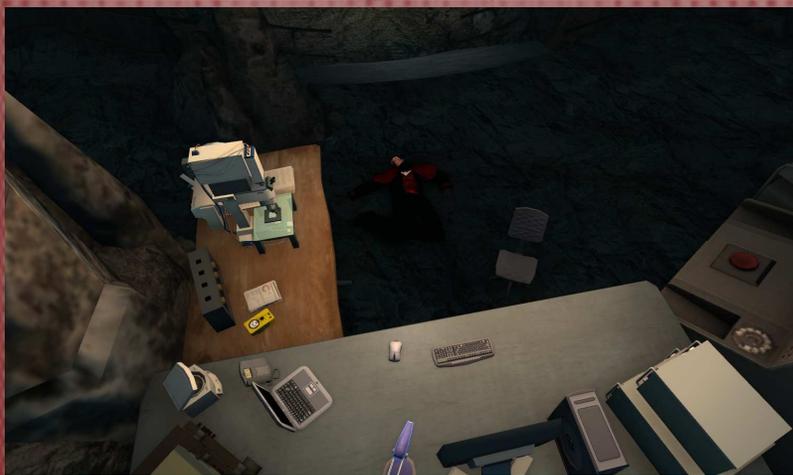
**THE WHOLE POINT IS TO
CLEAR THE PAWNS, THEN
MY BROTHERS CAN TAKE
THE BIG PIECES OFF
THE BOARD.**



C-CASS...

**CAN YOU
HEAR ME?
I'M GOING
IN!**







PHILLIP! ARE YOU THERE?



LOOKEE HERE... A NOSY NEIGHBOR.

HIS VOICE IS BOOMING IN MY HEAD.

THE AUDIO... STILL IN ENHANCED MODE.



I'M NO NEIGHBOR. I'M THE ONE THAT WILL END YOU!



PHIL! TALK TO ME! CAN YOU HEAR ME?



I STILL ONLY HAVE MY TRAINING WEAPONS.



CASSIE! IT'S SAM! RAVENCLAW IS DOWN!



SAMP

I'M SENDING THE MAMMOTH TO PICK YOU UP AT YOUR LOCATION!



AND JUST LIKE THAT...

JACK THE BLADE ESCAPES AGAIN.

SAM AND I RUSHED PHILLIP TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER REMOVING HIS RAVENCLAW OUTFIT.

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

Millennium City Free Press

Millennium City, Michigan

ONLINE EDITION

MSFP.mill

MILLENNIUM INSURANCE CEO DIES FROM LONG-TERM DISEASE



Article by Tyree Jones

(MCFP) Millennium City, II - Phillip de Raven, millionaire philanthropist and CEO of Millennium Insurance, was pronounced dead early Tuesday morning.

Doctors say that the co-founder of the city's most prosperous insurance business was suffering from a long-term illness related to the Qularr Invasion of 2011. His condition was not made public as a request by de Raven until after his death.

Phillip de Raven, along with his father Robert, founded Millennium Insurance following the founding of the city, after all of the insurance providers in the area had either

SAMUEL DE RAVEN NAMED CEO AFTER DEATH OF BROTHER

Article by Julie Morgan

(MCFP) Millennium City, Mi - Millennium City's Board of Executives have unanimously voted Samuel de Raven to assume the position of Chief Executive Officer following the death of his brother and co-founder Phillip de Raven.

In a statement issued by company's public relations office, the decision for Samuel to succeed his brother was put in place for several years; with the former federal investigator assuming many of the responsibilities of the office as a prelude to his ascension.

"While the nature of Phillip's death was not made known to us until recently," said the board in the prepared statement, "we knew that he had a plan of ascension in place to ensure that the company would continue to thrive even after his passing."

"We have full faith and trust in Samuel de Raven in that he will continue to provide the same top-level management of Millennium Insurance as there was from his brother."

Phillip de Raven was pronounced dead early Tuesday morning from a long-term disease

SAMUEL TOLD ME THAT HE KNEW THAT PHILLIP WAS DYING. THAT IT WAS SOME ALIEN DISEASE THAT HE HAD CONTRACTED DURING THE QULARR INVASION OF 2011.*

PHILLIP KNEW THERE WAS NO CURE, WHICH WAS WHY HE NEEDED SOMEONE TO "CARRY ON" HIS MISSION.

THAT STILL DIDN'T SUBTRACT FROM THE PAIN AND GUILT THAT I FEEL OVER THIS. IF ONLY I COULDVE HEARD HIS CALL FOR HELP.

* SEE "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #1 FOR DETAILS.)

DAYS LATER...

IT WAS A NICE FUNERAL.

PHILLIP MADE AN IMPACT ON MOST OF THE CITY. IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THEY TURNED OUT TO SAY THEIR FAREWELLS.

THE MAYOR... GOVERNOR, EVEN THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

AND YET NOBODY WILL KNOW THAT RAVENCLAW IS GONE AS WELL. HE'LL JUST... BE FORGOTTEN.

WELL IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS NIGHTHAWK OR ONE OF THOSE OTHER VIGILANTES. PEOPLE WILL THINK THAT HE MOVED TO SOME OTHER CITY... OR MAYBE THAT HE JUST... RETIRED.

"RETIRED". HEH... JAPANESE EUPHEMISM FOR BEING KILLED. LITTLE NUGGET YOU TAUGHT ME.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD START PACKING...

PACKING? YOU PLANNING ON LEAVING?

I FAILED HIM, SAM. I DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO HIS CRIES FOR HELP BECAUSE I WAS SO FIXATED ON HUNTING DOWN JACK!

IF I HEARD HIS COUGHING... IF I HEARD HIM CALL MY NAME, I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RACE OVER THERE AND GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL!

HE COULD BE ALIVE RIGHT NOW IF ONLY I KNEW TO IDENTIFY HIS VOICE THROUGH THE CACOPHONY OF AMPLIFIED NOISES IN MY EARS THAT NIGHT... AND IF I DIDN'T TRY TO GO AFTER JACK ON MY OWN BEFORE I WAS READY!



THAT'S NOT ON YOU, CASSIE.

YEAH? WELL IT SHOULD BE!
SO NOW PHILLIP IS DEAD. RAVENCLAW IS DEAD OR "RETIRED" OR WHATEVER. AND SINCE PHILLIP OWNED THIS WHOLE PLACE, I GUESS THE NEW OWNER WILL BE PUTTING IT UP FOR SALE, SO I'LL NEED TO FIND A NEW PLACE TO LIVE.



THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM... YOU'RE THE NEW OWNER.



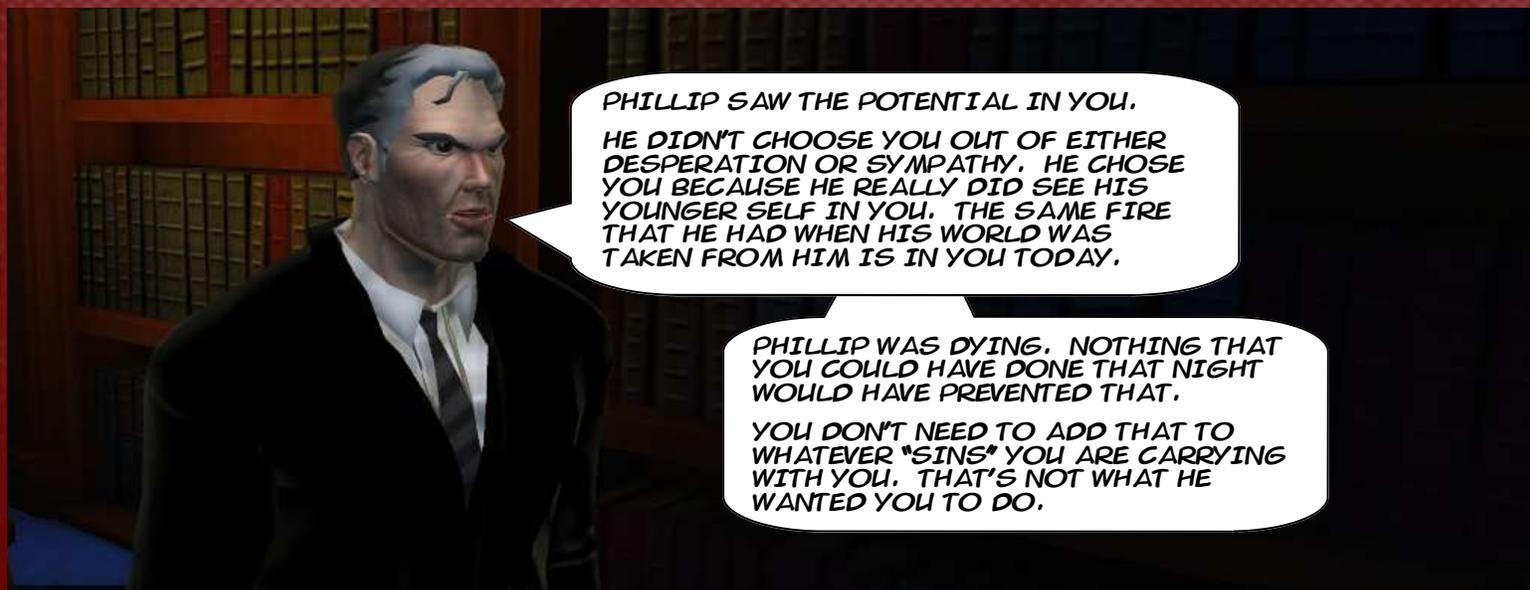
WHAT?

IT WAS ALL SPELLED OUT IN HIS WILL. MILLENNIUM INSURANCE MAY OWN THE BUILDING, BUT THE TOP TEN FLOORS ARE NOW YOURS.



I AM THE EXECUTOR OF PHILLIP'S WILL, AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HIS INTENTIONS WERE. HE MODIFIED THE WILL TWO MONTHS AGO, WHICH I WITNESSED. HE STATED THAT YOU, CASSANDRA DARE, WILL INHERIT THIS HALF OF THE BUILDING UPON HIS DEATH.

THE ONE STIPULATION IS THAT YOU CONTINUE THE PATH HE SET FOR YOU. THE TERMS OF OWNERSHIP ALSO INCLUDE THE LAND UNDERNEATH THE RAVEN BUILDING, WHICH INCLUDES THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN. THAT MEANS THAT RAVENCLAW'S LEGACY IS IN YOUR HANDS, CASSIE.



PHILLIP SAW THE POTENTIAL IN YOU. HE DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU OUT OF EITHER DESPERATION OR SYMPATHY. HE CHOSE YOU BECAUSE HE REALLY DID SEE HIS YOUNGER SELF IN YOU. THE SAME FIRE THAT HE HAD WHEN HIS WORLD WAS TAKEN FROM HIM IS IN YOU TODAY.

PHILLIP WAS DYING. NOTHING THAT YOU COULD HAVE DONE THAT NIGHT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THAT. YOU DON'T NEED TO ADD THAT TO WHATEVER "SINS" YOU ARE CARRYING WITH YOU. THAT'S NOT WHAT HE WANTED YOU TO DO.



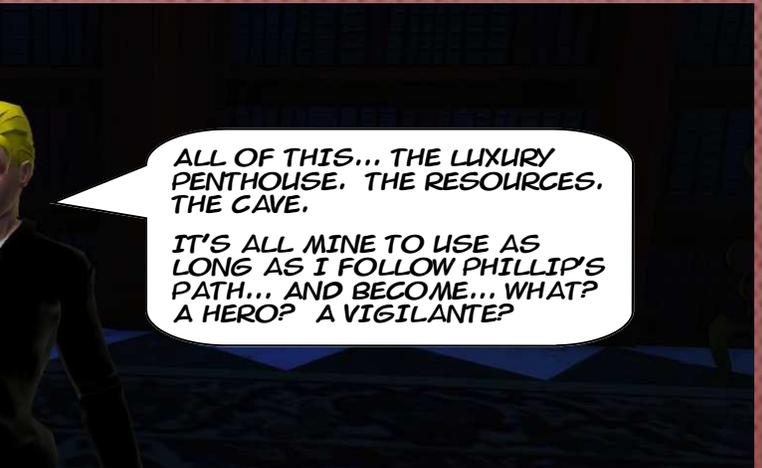
I... I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.



JUST SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW.

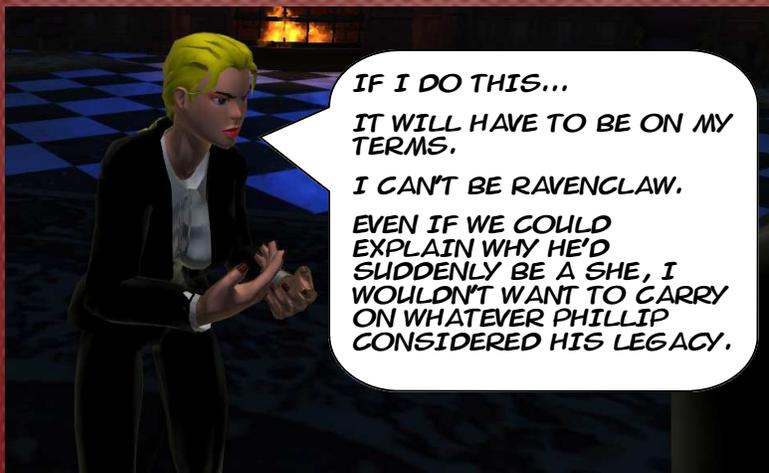


WHAT EVER CHOICE YOU MAKE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE.



ALL OF THIS... THE LUXURY PENTHOUSE. THE RESOURCES. THE CAVE.

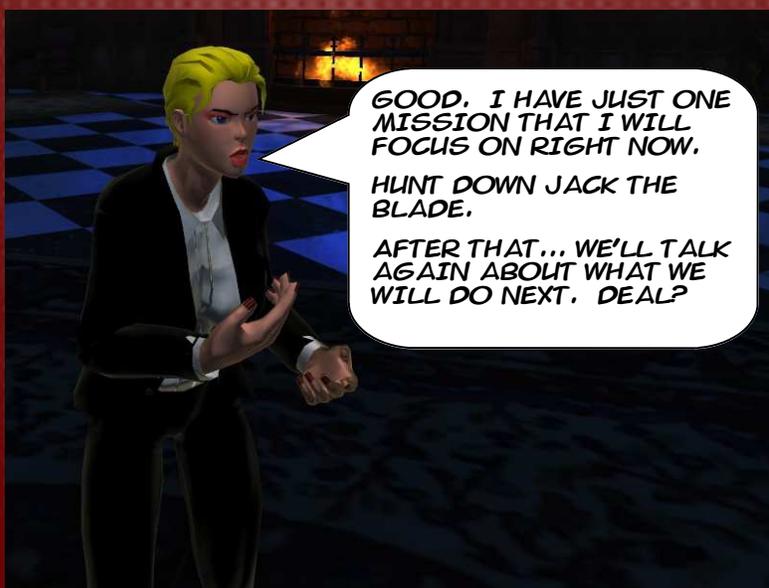
IT'S ALL MINE TO USE AS LONG AS I FOLLOW PHILLIP'S PATH... AND BECOME... WHAT? A HERO? A VIGILANTE?



IF I DO THIS... IT WILL HAVE TO BE ON MY TERMS. I CAN'T BE RAVENCLAW. EVEN IF WE COULD EXPLAIN WHY HE'D SUDDENLY BE A SHE, I WOULDN'T WANT TO CARRY ON WHATEVER PHILLIP CONSIDERED HIS LEGACY.



I'LL LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET... THE MAMMOTH WASN'T HIS CREATION. HE INHERITED THAT FROM HIS PREDECESSOR.



GOOD. I HAVE JUST ONE MISSION THAT I WILL FOCUS ON RIGHT NOW. HUNT DOWN JACK THE BLADE. AFTER THAT... WE'LL TALK AGAIN ABOUT WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT. DEAL?



FINE BY ME. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO START?

A FEW WEEKS LATER...

PHILLIP WAS RIGHT...

THE MAMMOTH DOES SOUND LIKE A HERD OF ELEPHANTS.



RRRRROOOOOOOOAAAARRRRR



BUT I'M NOT HERE TO BE SILENT.



WHERE IS HE?





WHERE IS JACK THE BLADE?

LIGHT KEVLAR FOR THE OUTER HOOD AND CAPE, AND TWO WEEKS OF EXTRA TRAINING WORKING WITH THEM.

SAME PADDED KEVLAR BODYSUIT WITH SOME DECORATIVE CHANGES.

ENHANCED VISION GOGGLES IN THE HEAVY KEVLAR MASK.

VOICE CHANGER IN THE COWL.

AND A SYMBOL ALL MY OWN TO SHOW THAT I AM NOT RAVENCLAW.



NO MORE
TRAINING
WEAPONS.

MY BLADES ARE
BLOOD RED.



FROM THE
BLOOD
SHED FOR
MY SINS.

IBBBE!!



SHE'LL
LIVE.



BUT SHE'LL
SPORT SOME
NEW SCARS
FOR THE
TROUBLE.

*COUGH
COUGH
COUGH*



JACK THE BLADE...
TELL ME WHERE HE IS
BEFORE YOU HAVE THE SAME
BREATHING PROBLEMS AS
YOUR FRIEND.



SHEET... YOU
THINK ANY OF
US KNOW WHERE
JACK IS?

WE'RE JUST
CONTRACTORS.
MAN PAYS US
TO BE HERE
AND THAT'S IT.



MATTER OF FACT,
WE'RE JUST FIXIN'
T' LEAVE.

JACK HASN'T PAID
US JACK SQUAT
THE PAST WEEK,
AN' WE DON'T
WORK FOR FREE.



HE WON'T STAY GONE FOR LONG. HE WILL BE BACK TO SETTLE UP.



AND WHEN HE DOES, YOU TELL HIM THAT I'M COMING... TO SETTLE HIM.



YEAH? AN' WHO DO I SAY IS LOOKING FOR HIM?



JUST TELL HIM... **Red Sinner**



PHILLIP WAS RIGHT... THE NAME JUST CAME TO ME.



THE GANG WAR BETWEEN THE NEW PURPLE GANG AND THE MANIACS HAD COME TO AN END JUST AS FAST AS IT STARTED.

APPARENTLY WHEN JACK WENT TO GROUND, THE GANGS STOPPED FIGHTING.

SO THE QUESTION IS... JUST WHO IS JACK WORKING FOR AND WHY WAS HE PROVOKING THE WAR?

RRRRROOOOOOAAAARRRRR

A FEW HOURS LATER...

"RED SINNER"?

THAT'S WHAT
BIGGS SAID HER
NAME WAS.

WHEEZ WASN'T
TOO TALKATIVE.

WHEEZ SMOKED TWENTY PACKS
A DAY AND NOW VAPES TEN.

I'M SURPRISED HE'S STILL
BREATHING, NEVER MIND
TRYING TO GET A COHERENT
WORD OUT WITHOUT COUGHING
UP WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS LUNGS.

I GIVE THESE
GUYS A SIMPLE
JOB. JUST
HAND OUT THE
GUNS, TELL A
LITTLE STORY,
AND WATCH THE
FIREWORKS.

NOW SOME BABE IN
RED WITH SOME BIG
GUNS AND BLADES
AND FLYING
RAVENCLAW'S CRAFT
IS SUPPOSEDLY
COMING FOR ME?

BIGGS SAID THAT
SHE ACTED LIKE
SHE KNEW YOU.

KNEW ME? HELL, I'VE
SLEPT WITH ALMOST
HALF THE WOMEN ON
THE EAST COAST
AND CUT UP THE
OTHER HALF!

GET THE WORD
OUT TO THE
OTHERS.

YOU SEE HER,
YOU TAKE HER
DOWN.

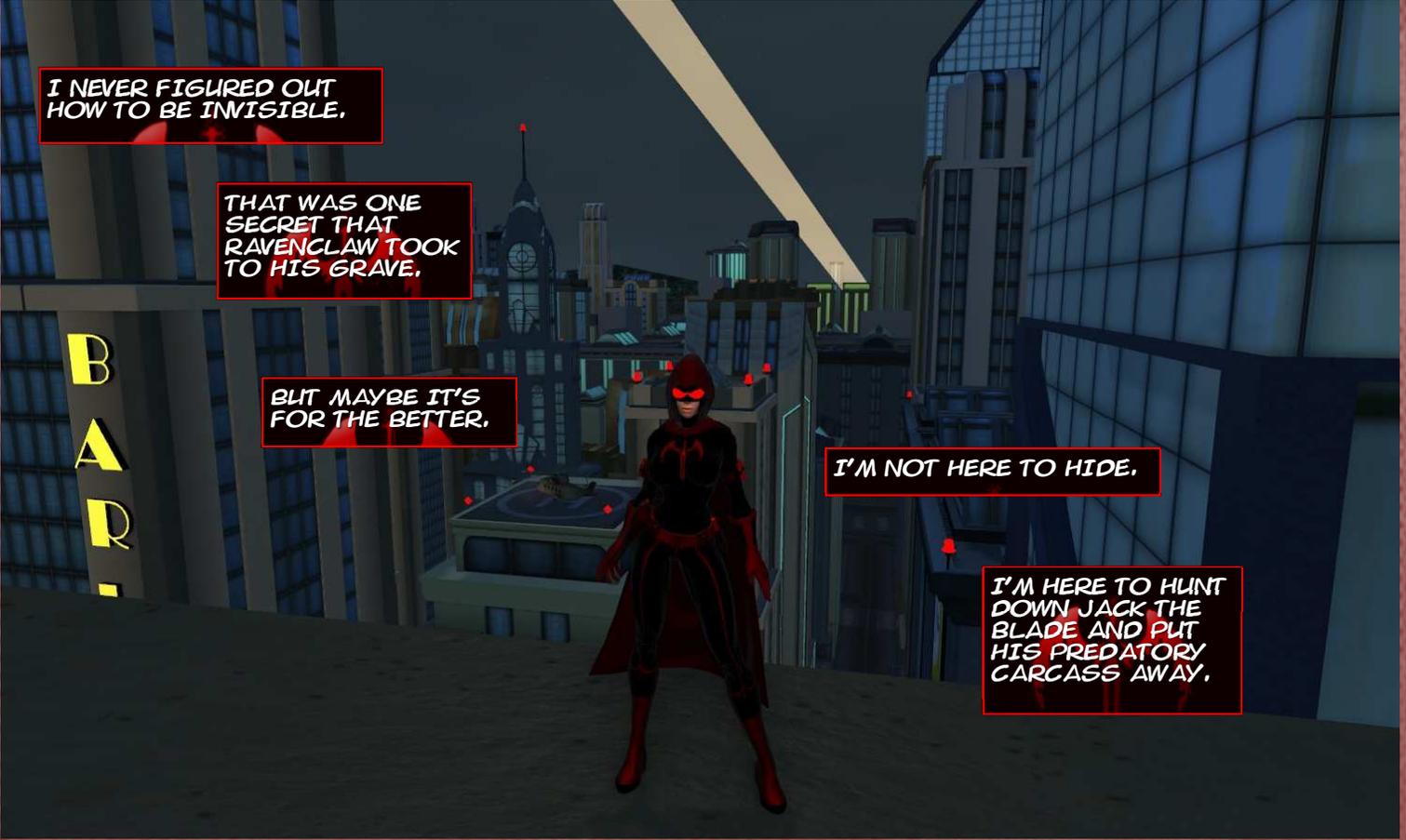
DON'T WAIT
FOR ME TO
DO IT.

AND YOU TELL BIGGS
AND WHEEZ AND THE
REST OF THE
SUPPLIERS TO START
UP THE CAMPAIGN
AGAIN.

WE ARE THIS CLOSE
TO GETTING RID OF
TWO OF THE GANGS
IN THIS CITY, AND
WE'RE NOT STOPPING
'CUZ OF SOME NEW
VIGILANTE B*TCH.

STILL... HAVE TO
WONDER WHICH
OF THOSE
HUSSIES IN MY
PAST GOT THE
STONES TO
COME AFTER ME.

WHO IS MY
LITTLE SINNER?



I NEVER FIGURED OUT
HOW TO BE INVISIBLE.

THAT WAS ONE
SECRET THAT
RAVENCLAW TOOK
TO HIS GRAVE.

B
A
R
I

BUT MAYBE IT'S
FOR THE BETTER.

I'M NOT HERE TO HIDE.

I'M HERE TO HUNT
DOWN JACK THE
BLADE AND PUT
HIS PREDATORY
CARCASS AWAY.

AND AFTER THAT?

THE LONGER I'VE BEEN
IN THIS CITY, THE
MORE I'M STARTING
TO REALIZE THAT
THERE ARE OTHERS
JUST LIKE JACK OUT
THERE.

PREDATORS,
SOCIAL
TERRORISTS,
MONSTERS.

MAYBE IT SHOULD BE
MY JOB TO MAKE THEM
FEEL THE WEIGHT OF
THEIR SINS...

... JUST LIKE I
HAVE TO FOREVER
CARRY MY OWN.

ONE HELL OF A VIEW... I CAN SEE WHY YOU ENJOY COMING UP HERE.

BUT... IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU...

* AS SEEN AT THE END OF "FUTURE'S GUARDIAN" #17)

I'LL GO DOWN THE SAME WAY I CAME UP.





YOU KNOW, I JUST CAME FROM ONE CONVERSATION ON A ROOFTOP AND HERE I AM ON ANOTHER ONE. DO YOU HERO TYPES HAVE A SANTA KICK?



YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME KNOW.



I REALLY APPRECIATE THE DATA YOU SENT ME ABOUT PEDRO DUARTE.

TOO BAD YOUR ASSASSIN FAILED TO BRING HIM IN.



OH BELIEVE ME, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LENGTHY CONVERSATION ABOUT THAT REAL SOON. HAVING SAID THAT...



... HERE IS EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT JACK THE BLADE FROM OUR OWN SERVERS. AS WE AGREED.



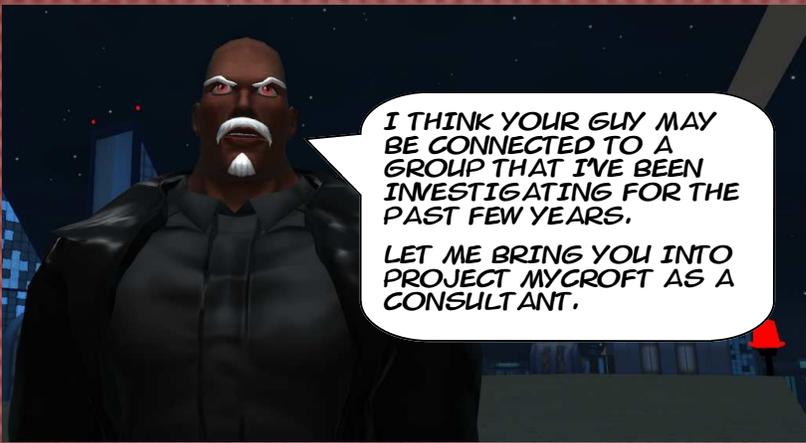
THANK YOU. HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE AS DETAILED AS YOUR GROUP IS KNOWN FOR BEING.



YOU MAY NOT LIKE WHAT YOU READ IN THERE.

JACK'S BEEN PLAYING THE FIELD SINCE HE CAME BACK HOME. AND I DON'T MEAN "BEDROOM PREFERENCES".

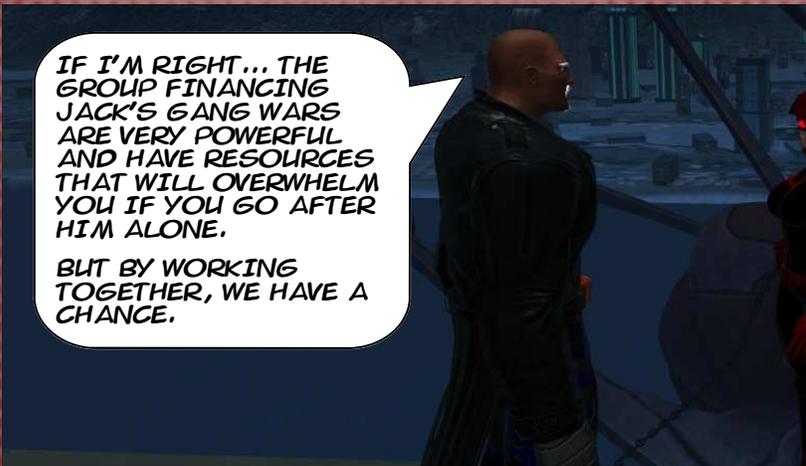
THAT GANG WAR THAT HE WAS RILING UP LAST YEAR HAD SOME SERIOUS FINANCES BEHIND IT. FINANCES THAT A WANTED FUGITIVE ON THE FBI'S TOP TEN LIST WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO.



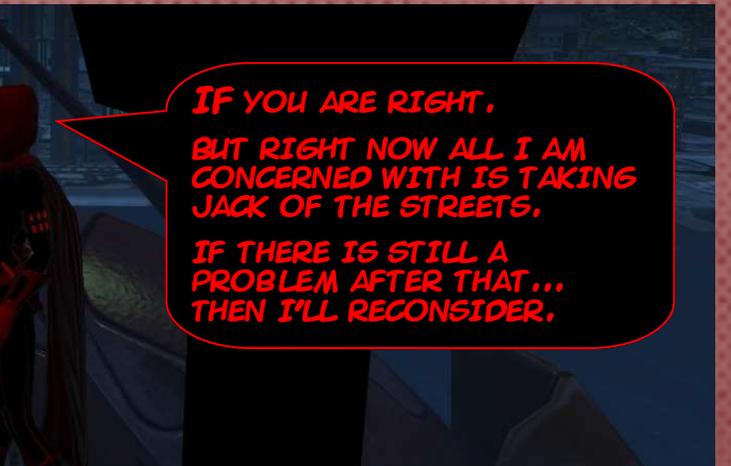
I THINK YOUR GUY MAY BE CONNECTED TO A GROUP THAT I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.
LET ME BRING YOU INTO PROJECT MYCROFT AS A CONSULTANT.



NO.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A JOINER.
THIS WAS A ONE-TIME THING.



IF I'M RIGHT... THE GROUP FINANCING JACK'S GANG WARS ARE VERY POWERFUL AND HAVE RESOURCES THAT WILL OVERWHELM YOU IF YOU GO AFTER HIM ALONE.
BUT BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE HAVE A CHANCE.



IF YOU ARE RIGHT, BUT RIGHT NOW ALL I AM CONCERNED WITH IS TAKING JACK OF THE STREETS.
IF THERE IS STILL A PROBLEM AFTER THAT... THEN I'LL RECONSIDER.



JUST LIKE RAVENCLAW...



EPILOGUE #2... MONTHS LATER...

IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXTRADIMENSIONAL NIGHTMARE EVENT....



THIS IS AGENT SIDESTEP.
I HAVE CONFIRMED MY READINGS.
THE ELDER WORMS ARE INVESTIGATING THE BLEED.
RETURNING TO BASE.



PROPHET: TRANSMIT DATA TO CONSOLE AND ACTIVATE TELEPORT PORTAL.

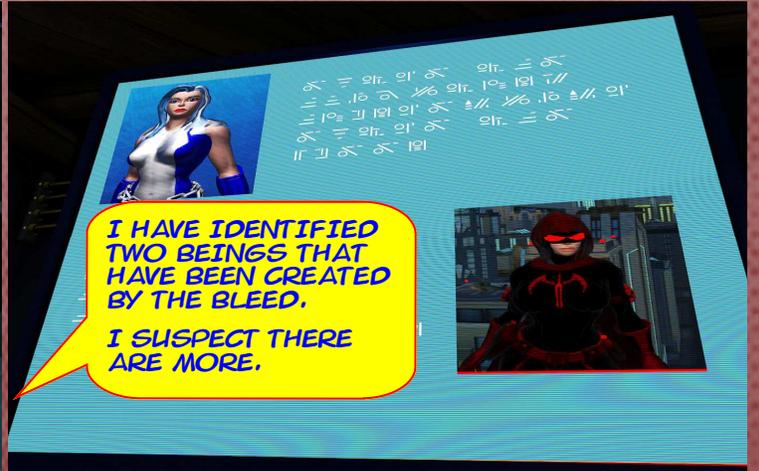
DATA RECEIVED.
PORTAL TO BASE ACTIVATED.



**DIMENSIONAL FIELD TO MAXIMUM.
PREPARE A MESSAGE TO THE COUNCIL.**



**MESSAGE TO THE COUNCIL OF LIGHT...
I HAVE CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF CROSS-DIMENSIONAL BLEED INTO THIS UNIVERSE.
THE PRESENCE IS ENOUGH TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE ELDER WORMS.**



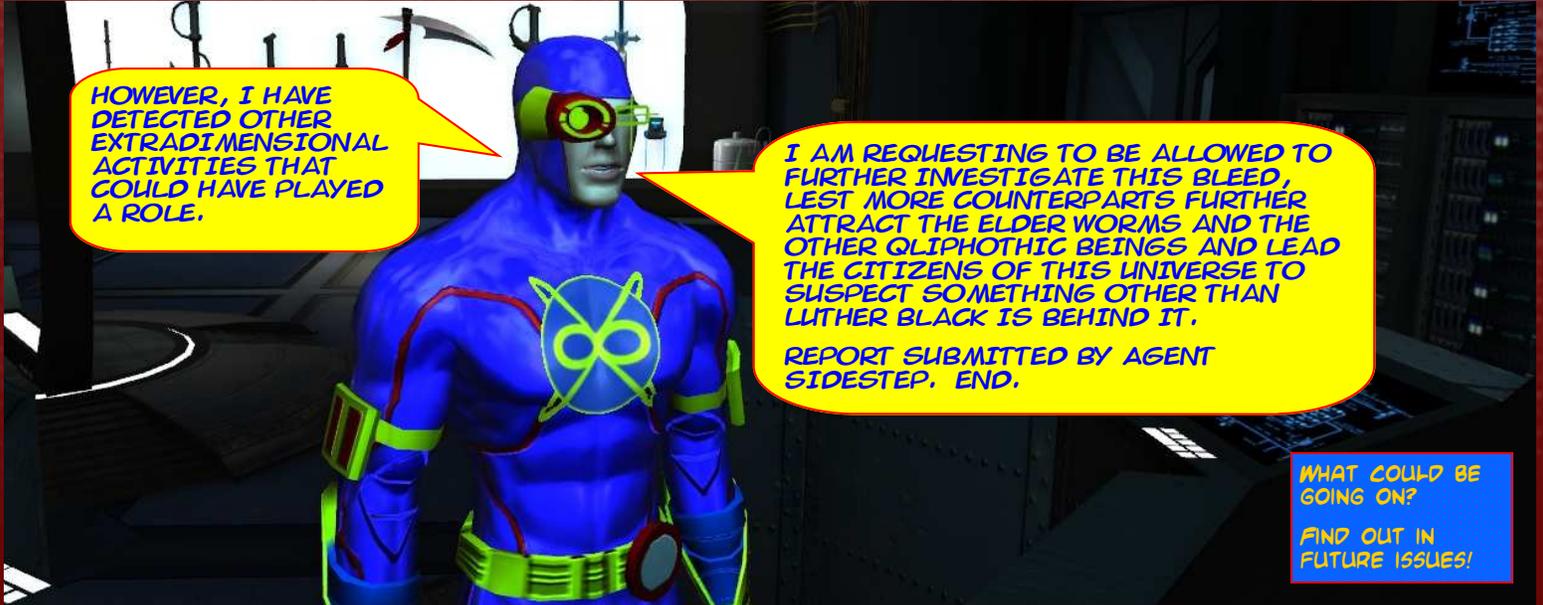
**I HAVE IDENTIFIED TWO BEINGS THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THE BLEED.
I SUSPECT THERE ARE MORE.**



IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT PRIOR TO THE INCREASED BLEED, THIS UNIVERSE HAD NO COUNTERPARTS FROM UNIVERSE TWO-ZERO-ZERO-FOUR-ZERO-FOUR-TWO-SEVEN ASIDE FROM SUBJECT DESIGNATED GALATEA FUTURE.*

**I UNDERSTAND SOME IN THE COUNCIL SUSPECT THAT GALATEA FUTURE MAY PLAY A ROLE IN THIS BLEED.
THAT REMAINS TO BE INVESTIGATED.**

(* LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE #2)



HOWEVER, I HAVE DETECTED OTHER EXTRADIMENSIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT COULD HAVE PLAYED A ROLE.

**I AM REQUESTING TO BE ALLOWED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE THIS BLEED, LEST MORE COUNTERPARTS FURTHER ATTRACT THE ELDER WORMS AND THE OTHER OLIPHOTHIC BEINGS AND LEAD THE CITIZENS OF THIS UNIVERSE TO SUSPECT SOMETHING OTHER THAN LUTHER BLACK IS BEHIND IT.
REPORT SUBMITTED BY AGENT SIDESTEP. END.**

**WHAT COULD BE GOING ON?
FIND OUT IN FUTURE ISSUES!**

"HE WHO CHRONICLES..."

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

"Title Here"

Whatever you want to discuss

Continues on next page...

"HE WHO CHRONICLES..."

Continued from previous page...

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NEXT ISSUE...



**WHAT IS COMING
UP NEXT?**

FIND OUT HERE



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