



# ***FUTURE'S GUARDIAN***



ISSUE 03  
2013



**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**

PERFECT  
WORLD



*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***

## ***"VOX POPULI"***

***- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2***

**AFTER BEING AWAY FROM SOCIETY FOR OVER A YEAR, GALATEA FUTURE RETURNS TO MILLENNIUM CITY WITH A NEW LOOK AND A NEW PERSONAL LIFE.**

**UNFORTUNATELY SHE'S FINDING THAT SHE'S ALSO MADE SOME NEW ENEMIES, AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN OR HOW THEY ARE GOING TO STRIKE.**

**SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ENEMY YOU FACE IS ONE THAT YOU CAN'T HIT?**

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THE PENTHOUSE OF ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE

(A.K.A. GALATEA FUTURE)

MILLENNIUM CITY, MICHIGAN, USA

ALL RIGHT...  
ALL RIGHT...  
I'M UP...

✱ BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! ✱

**NIEPIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UG-LY!

**NIEPIK**

GF: FAT AND  
UGLY! FUGLY!

**NIEPIK**

MUST BE NICE TO  
NOT WORK OUT  
AND LOOK LIKE A  
STRIPPER!

**NIEPIK**

I HEARD SHE  
SMELLS NASTY!

**NIEPIK**

GF: BAD B.O.!

**NIEPIK**

GF: WHO CUT  
YOUR HAIR? GET  
A REFUND!

**NIEPIK**

WHY IS GF A  
"HERO"?

**NIEPIK**

GF: SAVING THE  
DAY BY BOOBS!

**NIEPIK**

GALATEA: NEW  
STRIPPER NAME!



**GALATEA FUTURE**  
Otherworld Guardian





**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
... REALLY?  
FUTURE?

**NITERIK**

GF: WEAK  
COSTUME  
DESIGN.

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UGLY!

**NITERIK**

DIDN'T GF KILL  
SOMEONE?  
SOME HERO!

**NITERIK**

HEAR GF DOES  
J.HARMON 4.

**NITERIK**

HARMON WILL DO  
ANYONE... LOOK  
AT GALATEA FOR  
PROOF!



**NITERIK**

GALATEA IS  
WORST HERO EVER

**NITERIK**

DID HARMON  
DRESS GF IN  
THAT OUTFIT?

**NITERIK**

CAN'T BELIEVE  
MEDIA LOVES GF!

**NITERIK**

GALATEA: FUGLY  
NAME!

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS FAT, SMELLY.

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UGLY!

**NITERIK**

I WOULDN'T  
TOUCH GF WITH  
HAZMAT GEAR!

**NITERIK**

GF: FUGLY,  
FUGLY, FUGLY!

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
SHOULD JUST GO  
AWAY AGAIN AND  
STAY THERE

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE:  
WORST HERO  
NAME EVER!!

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UGLY!

**NITERIK**

HEY GF: THOSE  
800BS AREN'T  
REAL!

**NITERIK**

GF: FUGLY,  
FUGLY, FUGLY!



**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UGLY!

**NITERIK**

STOP TELLING ME  
ABOUT GF!

**NITERIK**

GF: FAT, UGLY,  
DISGUSTING!

**NITERIK**

GF: FUGLY,  
FUGLY, FUGLY,  
FUGLY, FUGLY!

**NITERIK**

GF: PROOF THE  
CITY WILL CALL  
ANYONE "HERO"!

**NITERIK**

I'D DO GF BUT I  
CAN'T AFFORD  
HER RATE!

**NITERIK**

GALATEA  
FUTURE IS  
UGLY!

**NITERIK**

GF: FUGLY,  
FUGLY, FUGLY!

**NITERIK**

HEY GF: GET THE  
PICTURE! U SUK!

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UGLY!

**NITERIK**

GF: FLY  
AWAY!

**NITERIK**

OH AND GF IS  
FUGLY TOO!!

**NITERIK**

GF: FUGLY,  
FUGLY, FUGLY!

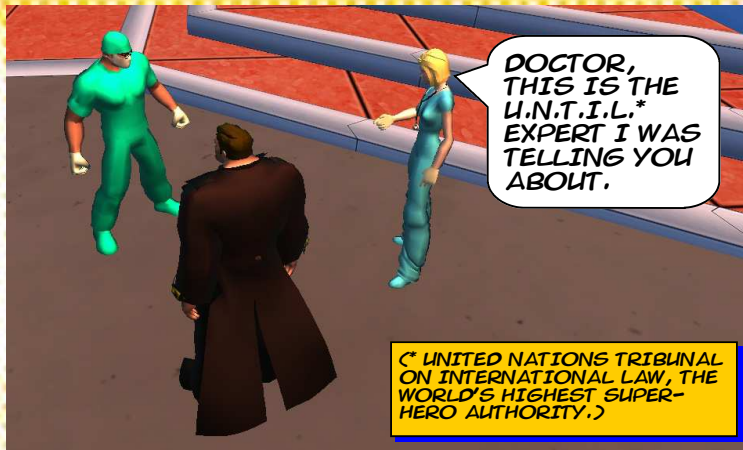
**NITERIK**

I SMELL \$KANK,  
GF MUST BE  
NEARBY.

**NITERIK**

GALATEA FUTURE  
IS UGLY!





DOCTOR,  
THIS IS THE  
U.N.T.I.L.\*  
EXPERT I WAS  
TELLING YOU  
ABOUT.

(\* UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL  
ON INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE  
WORLD'S HIGHEST SUPER-  
HERO AUTHORITY.)



I'M A PRETTY  
BUSY MAN,  
AGENT...?

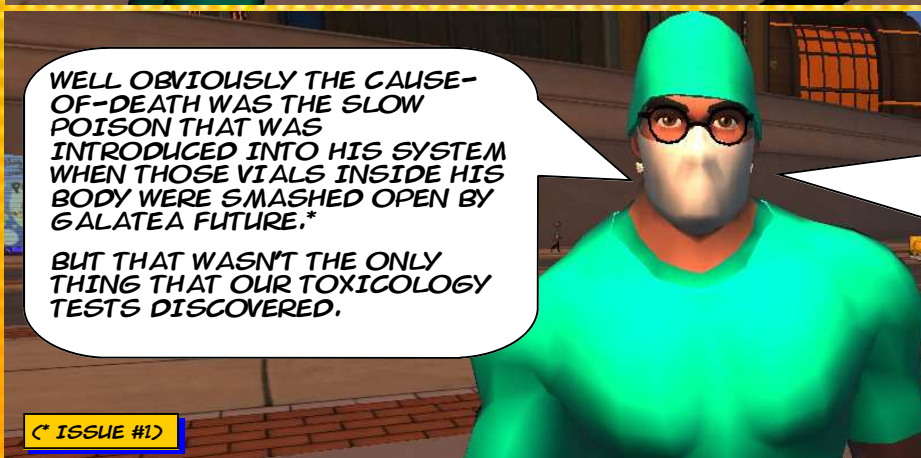
RONIN OMEGA.

I'M NOT AN AGENT... I'M JUST A  
CONSULTANT WITH U.N.T.I.L.  
WORKING WITH MAJOR CROSS.

I'M TOLD THAT YOU'RE  
PERFORMING THE AUTOPSY  
ON TONY ATWELL, AKA  
"FORECLOSURE", AND I  
WAS WONDERING IF YOU  
COULD TELL ME WHAT YOU  
FOUND SO FAR.



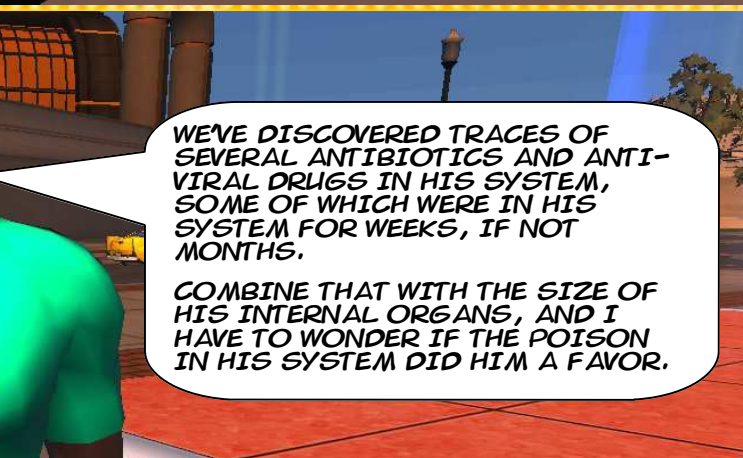
**RONIN OMEGA**  
Cosmic traveler



WELL OBVIOUSLY THE CAUSE-  
OF-DEATH WAS THE SLOW  
POISON THAT WAS  
INTRODUCED INTO HIS SYSTEM  
WHEN THOSE VIALS INSIDE HIS  
BODY WERE SMASHED OPEN BY  
GALATEA FUTURE.\*

BUT THAT WASN'T THE ONLY  
THING THAT OUR TOXICOLOGY  
TESTS DISCOVERED.

(\* ISSUE #1)



WE'VE DISCOVERED TRACES OF  
SEVERAL ANTIBIOTICS AND ANTI-  
VIRAL DRUGS IN HIS SYSTEM,  
SOME OF WHICH WERE IN HIS  
SYSTEM FOR WEEKS, IF NOT  
MONTHS.

COMBINE THAT WITH THE SIZE OF  
HIS INTERNAL ORGANS, AND I  
HAVE TO WONDER IF THE POISON  
IN HIS SYSTEM DID HIM A FAVOR.



IT SOUNDS TO ME  
LIKE FORECLOSURE  
WAS DYING EVEN  
BEFORE THE CITY  
HALL ENCOUNTER.



DYING? MISTER  
OMEGA, I'M  
SURPRISED THIS  
MAN WAS ALIVE  
LONG ENOUGH TO  
BE IN CITY HALL  
THAT DAY.



WELL OF COURSE I FEEL SORRY ABOUT MY ROLE IN THIS UNFORGIVABLE MESS WITH GALATEA FUTURE'S OUTFIT.

I WAS THE ONE THAT WORKED WITH HER REGARDING HER CHANGE\*, AND WE BELIEVED THAT WE DID SO WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM AS EXHIBITED AT ALL GREER & HARLICK ESTABLISHMENTS.

HOWEVER, SHOULD MS. FUTURE NOT BE SATISFIED, IN LIGHT OF THE SCATHING CRITICISM FROM ONE OF OUR HIGHLY-ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE HER A FREE MAKEOVER.\*\*

< ISSUE #1 \*\* ISSUE #2 >

## 8WCOC Ramirez Sanchez - Greer & Harlick Tailor Store

BACK AT THE PENTHOUSE...

AND... THERE IT IS...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I HAVE AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE FOR THE BOOK SERIES!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M OFF TRAVELLING.

WELL, THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR BOOKS.

ERNIE CAME UP WITH THE DESIGN, AND THEN HIS COMPANY HANDLED THE MASS-PROMOTION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA.

THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO WEBSITES: ONE FOR THE BOOK SERIES... AND ONE IS FOR YOU.



CANDACE SINCLAIR  
Attorney-At-Law

AND *WHEN* WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THAT ONE?

WELL... ACTUALLY... THIS MORNING?

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S AN **ACTIVE** WEBSITE ABOUT YOU; YOU KNOW, WHAT YOUR DAY-TO-DAY SCHEDULE IS LIKE.

IT'S JUST A STATIC SITE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE, AND IT GIVES VISITORS A CHANCE TO LEAVE MESSAGES.



ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE  
(aka: Galatea Future)



ACTUALLY YOUR PUBLISHER INSISTED ON IT, MS. FAIRMORE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE RUMORS STARTED COMING OUT ABOUT YOU BEING A SHUT-IN GUY.

WHICH I STILL HAD TO DEBUNK ON TV ANYWAY.\*  
NEXT TIME YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU LET ME KNOW BEFOREHAND, OKAY?

(\* BACK IN ISSUE #1)

NEXT TIME YOU DO  
SOMETHING LIKE THIS,  
YOU LET ME KNOW  
BEFOREHAND. OKAY?

AND THE SAME GOES TO YOU TOO, CANDACE.

UM... HEH-HEH... DULY NOTED.  
ERNIE? WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND SHOW ATHENA WHAT YOU SHOWED ME EARLIER?

ERNIE? WHY DON'T YOU  
GO AHEAD AND SHOW  
ATHENA WHAT YOU  
SHOWED ME EARLIER?

THIS STARTED  
APPEARING ON BOTH  
WEBSITES JUST BEFORE  
MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT.

YES, MA'AM...

THIS STARTED APPEARING ON BOTH WEBSITES JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT.

WHAT THE HELL?

ERNIE'S FILTERING PROGRAMS CAUGHT MOST OF THEM...

**ERNIE'S  
FILTERING  
PROGRAMS  
CAUGHT MOST  
OF THEM...**

AND EVEN THOUGH ERNIE DELETED THEM, ONCE IT REACHES THE INTERNET, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS TRULY ERASING IT."

THOUSANDS OF BOT PROGRAMS POSTING THE SAME MESSAGE FROM DIFFERENT COMPUTERS OVER AND OVER AGAIN."

"RIGHT. THE BOT SWARM DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE WEBSITE, MS. FAIRMORE.

**ALL OF OUR CLIENT WEBSITES GOT THE SAME MESSAGES AROUND THE SAME TIME. FINANCIAL, MEDICAL, YOU NAME IT, THESE BOTS ARE ALL OVER THEM."**



OKAY, SO YOU'RE SAYING  
"BOT PROGRAMS" ARE  
BEHIND THIS... BUT  
SOMEONE HAS TO BE  
BEHIND ALL THOSE.  
IS THERE ANY WAY TO  
BLOCK THEM?

WITH ALL DUE  
RESPECT,  
MA'AM, THAT'S  
NOT THE WAY  
THAT THESE  
THINGS WORK.

"THIS IS HOW A BOT  
SYSTEM IS SET UP..."

"IT THEN GETS  
SHARED THROUGH  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
AND FRIENDS  
SHARING FILES  
WITH OTHER  
FRIENDS."

"A SMALL PROGRAM  
IS SLIPPED INTO  
SOME MAINSTREAM  
APPLICATION."

"MOST PEOPLE DON'T  
EVEN REALIZE THAT  
THEY'VE GOT THE  
PROGRAM ON THEIR  
SYSTEMS."

SO THEY DON'T  
EVEN KNOW THAT  
THEY'RE ONES  
SENDING THE  
MESSAGES.

THERE ARE AGENCIES THAT  
GET PAID TO USE BOTS TO  
BEEF UP A SOCIAL MEDIA  
SITE TO BE MORE POPULAR  
THAN IT REALLY IS.

AND... I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT  
WE USED IT TOO... TO HELP  
PROMOTE THE FIRST BOOK.

IT'S PRETTY MUCH  
COMMONPLACE,  
MS. FAIRMORE.

I GET IT, ERNIE.

I WANT TO THANK  
YOU BOTH FOR  
BRINGING THIS TO  
MY ATTENTION.  
CAN YOU GIVE US A  
FEW MINUTES TO  
TALK PRIVATELY?

OF COURSE,  
MS. FAIRMORE.


JUST CALL  
BACK WHEN YOU  
NEED ME. \*BEEP\*






WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT ME ON NITPIK.



"GALATEA IS FAT."  
"GALATEA FUTURE SMELLS."  
"GALATEA FUTURE IS A..."  
DO... DO THEY **REALLY** THINK THAT I SLEEP AROUND JUST BECAUSE I HAVE BIG BREASTS?  
AND WHAT DOES EIGHT-ZERO-ZERO-EIGHT MEAN?

UM... "BOOBS".  
THAT'S THE DIGITAL SUBSTITUTE.



"BOOBS"?  
THEY **REALLY** HAVE TO BEHAVE LIKE A BUNCH OF TWELVE-YEAR-OLDS ONLINE?

ACTUALLY "THEY" AREN'T THE ONES POSTING THE MESSAGES. IT'S WHOEVER IS CONTROLLING THE BOTS ON THEIR COMPUTERS AND CELLPHONES THAT ARE DOING THAT.



WELL THIS IS ONE JUNIOR HIGH GAME THAT I'M GOING TO PUT TO AN END.

YOU SAY THERE ARE WHOLE AGENCIES THAT EMPLOY THESE TACTICS?

WELL, I CERTAINLY KNOW **ONE** AGENCY THAT HAS A SPECIFIC GRUDGE AGAINST ME!

"PROJECT MYCROFT, MAJOR?"



I TAKE IT YOU'VE HEARD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

I'VE HEARD OF THE CHARACTER FROM SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S BOOKS.  
A BRILLIANT BUT SMUG DETECTIVE.

**MAJOR XAVIER CROSS**  
U.N.T.I.L. Senior Agent

MYCROFT HOLMES WAS SHERLOCK'S OLDER BROTHER. HE HAD THE SAME KIND OF FINELY DETAILED MIND, BUT TO THE POINT TO WHERE HE WAS OFTEN SEEN AS BEING ABSENT-MINDED ABOUT OTHER THINGS...

...LIKE REMEMBERING TO WEAR CLOTHES.

BUT WHAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IS THAT MYCROFT HOLMES WAS REAL, AND HE DID HELP SOLVE CRIMES. BUT COULDN'T TAKE THE CREDIT FOR THEM BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSENESS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY.

SO HE COMMISSIONED DOYLE TO INVENT A YOUNGER BROTHER THAT COULD SOLVE THE MYSTERIES IN HIS PLACE.

THE PURPOSE OF PROJECT MYCROFT IS TO COLLECT INFORMATION, MUCH LIKE MYCROFT HOLMES DID IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND.

WE'LL DESIGNATE THE SUBJECTS AND THEN COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER".

SO I GUESS MY FIRST QUESTION IS... TO WHAT END?

I'M GUESSING THIS INVOLVES GALATEA FUTURE AND MARKMAN GOLD AND HIS AGENCY, BUT WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING ALL OF THIS INFORMATION?

THAT, I'M AFRAID, IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO KEEP TO MYSELF AND DIRECTOR JONES FOR THE TIME BEING.

YOU'RE RIGHT; KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND IF THE WRONG PEOPLE KNEW WHY PROJECT MYCROFT EXISTS, THEN THEY'D BE WORKING TO SHUT IT DOWN.

ONCE WE GET FURTHER IN, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

SO I TAKE IT THAT I'M NOW A PART OF THIS PROJECT.





IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO USE U.N.T.I.L. CREDENTIALS, THEN, YES, YOU ARE NOW A PART OF PROJECT MYCROFT.

AGAIN, OUR PRIMARY ROLE WILL BE INTELLIGENCE, BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED WITH SOME ACTION.

U.N.T.I.L. HAS A WHOLE SERVER RACK DEDICATED JUST FOR PROJECT MYCROFT; SEARCHING FOR AND COLLECTING DATA ON EVERYTHING WE TELL IT TO LOOK--

\*PING!



SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

IT APPEARS THE SERVERS FOUND SOMETHING NEW CONCERNING GALATEA FUTURE.



THAT SOUNDS RATHER OMINOUS, MAJOR.

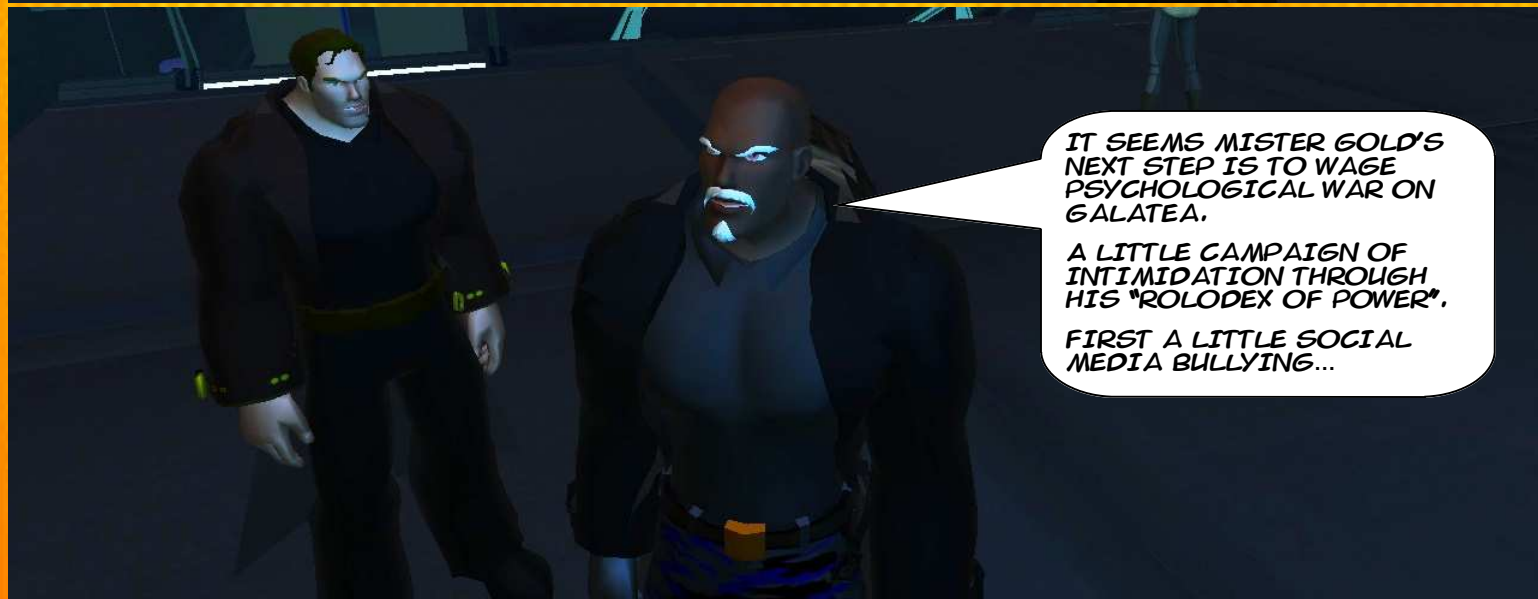


IT'S REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A SEARCH ENGINE THAT LOOKS FOR DATA.

IN THIS CASE, IT FOUND SOME NEW INFORMATION THAT WAS FLAGGED WITH GALATEA'S NAME.

UH OH...

WHAT IS IT?



IT SEEMS MISTER GOLD'S NEXT STEP IS TO WAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR ON GALATEA.

A LITTLE CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION THROUGH HIS "ROLODEX OF POWER".

FIRST A LITTLE SOCIAL MEDIA BULLYING...



"... AND THEN...  
ESCALATION."

BOT SWARM?

YEAH, UNFORTUNATELY I'VE  
HEARD ABOUT IT.

IT HAPPENS HERE IN  
MILLENNIUM CITY A LOT,  
ESPECIALLY HERE WITH THE  
NEWER HEROES.

AND I'M NOT SURPRISED  
THAT IT'S BEING DONE TO  
YOU AFTER WHAT WCOC  
BROADCAST THE OTHER DAY.\*

(\* LAST ISSUE)

OFF-THE-  
RECORD, I DON'T  
THINK IT WAS  
EMILIO VON  
FRERE'S PLACE  
TO SINGLE OUT  
YOUR OUTFIT  
LIKE HE DID.

**JULIE MORGAN**  
WCOC Reporter

BUT YOU  
CAN'T SAY  
THAT ON  
THE AIR.

I REALLY  
WISH I  
COULD...  
BUT MY  
BOSSSES  
SAY THAT I  
CAN'T.

I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON,  
AND I THINK IT'S WRONG.  
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO PUT  
PRESSURE ON YOU, AND  
THEY'RE USING THEIR  
"FRIENDS" TO DO IT.

AND UNFORTUNATELY THE  
STUDIO HAS A "HANDS-  
OFF" POLICY WHEN IT  
COMES TO THESE THINGS.

YOU HEROES HAVE TO PUT UP  
WITH A LOT IN AND OF ITSELF,  
BETWEEN VILLAINS AND THE  
OCCASIONAL DISASTER AND  
THE INVADING ARMIES, AND  
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO HAVE  
SOME PETTY LITTLE MINDS--

**\*GASP!\***

IS THAT **THE** JULIE  
MORGAN?!

SHOCKERS! BE STILL  
MY LITTLE HEART!

**\*NNHHH...\***

AND SPEAKING  
OF WHICH...





LISTEN, WHATEVER YOU DO, DONT ANTAGONIZE HIM, OKAY?

HI JULIE!  
HIIIII!

THOUGHT NEVER  
CROSSED MY  
MIND.



HEY EVERYONE!  
IT'S ME, THE  
VEE-TO-THE-  
PEE, VOX  
POPULII!



HE'S AN  
INTERNET  
GOSSIP  
WRITER.

HEY LOOK  
WHO I'M  
WITH!



NITPIK'S NUMBER ONE  
TREND-SETTER IS HERE  
IN REN-CEN WITH JULIE  
MORGAN...  
AND IT LOOKS LIKE  
SHE'S PUTTING THAT  
SK@NKY GALATEA FUTURE  
IN HER PLACE!

I CAN SEE IT NOW...  
SPAMMING NET-WIDE!  
"GALATEA FUTURE BOOB-  
BLOCKED BY REPORTER!"

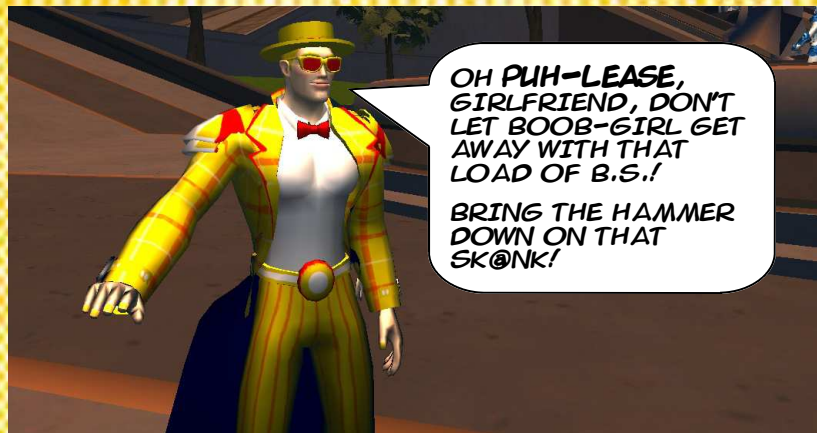


JUST FOR THE  
RECORD, YOU AND--

--I ONLY MET MR.  
HARMON ONCE  
DURING A CRISIS.  
ALL-BUSINESS.\*

(\* NOT ENTIRELY TRUE AS JAMES HARMON IV IS REALLY DEFENDER)





OH PUH-LEASE,  
GIRLFRIEND, DON'T  
LET BOOB-GIRL GET  
AWAY WITH THAT  
LOAD OF B.S.!  
BRING THE HAMMER  
DOWN ON THAT  
SK@NK!



TALK WITH  
YOU LATER  
GALATEA.



YEAH, JUST  
GO. THIS  
PLACE IS FOR  
HEROES, NOT  
SK@NKY  
KILLERS!



EXCUSE ME,  
DID YOU SAY  
SOMETHING?



WHOA... DON'T  
KILL ME, KILLER!  
I'M JUST A  
CIVILIAN!



YEAH, GO...  
AND WHY  
DON'T YOU  
CHANGE YOUR  
OUTFIT WHILE  
YOU'RE  
LEAVING?

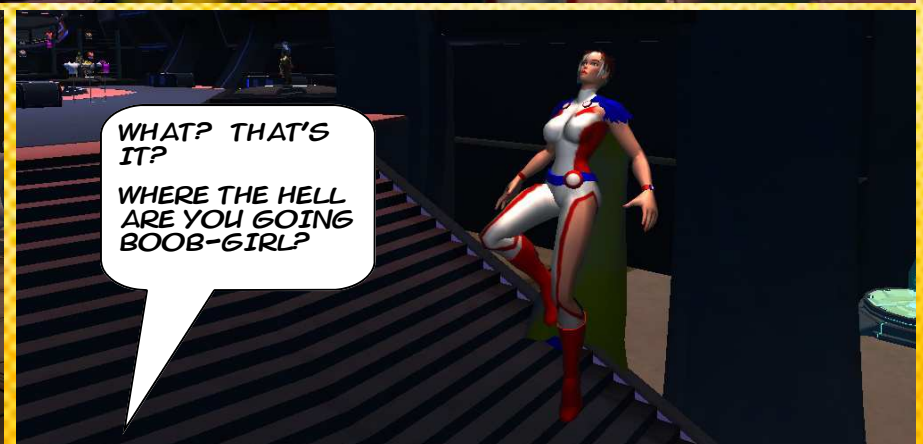


YOU KNOW, YOU'RE  
HEADING THE WRONG  
WAY...  
THE TAILOR SHOPS ARE IN  
THE OTHER DIRECTION.  
HELLOOO? BOOB-GIRL?  
THE TAILOR SHOPS ARE  
BEHIND YOU!













WELL SHE'S NOT GOING TO GET OFF THAT EASILY...

NITPIK: CAME ACROSS GALATEA FUTURE. SK@NK STUNK!

NITPIK: GALATEA FUTURE TRIED TO INTIMIDATE ME. WEAK!



NITPIK: GF RAN OFF TO MEET WITH BOYFRIEND.

EXCUSE ME...



YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE THAT COULD BREAK YOU IN TWO JUST BY SNEEZING ON YOU, RIGHT?

**STARLETT**  
Sword-wielding Vigilante



I MEAN, IF YOU'RE SO EAGER TO GET YOUR @SS KICKED, I'LL HAPPILY DO THAT TO YOU IN HER PLACE.



PUH-LEASE, GIRL! I AM NOT HERE TO BE ANYONE'S PUNCHING BAG!

I HAVE A JOB TO DO JUST LIKE YOU... AND MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST WORRY ABOUT DOING YOURS.



BUT THANK YOU, HONEY, YOU JUST GAVE ME A WHOLE BUNCH OF NITPIK POSTS TO DISH OUT IN HER NAME!



# Be Heroic By Looking Heroic

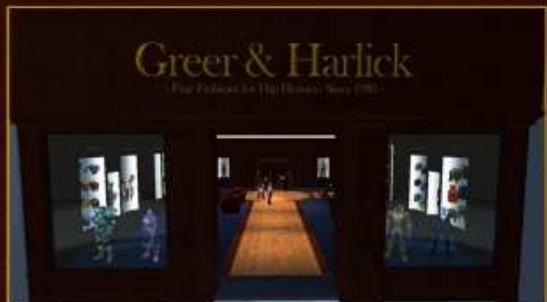


In the world of heroes, image is everything.

The right outfit can not only make you look confident, but it also makes you feel confident.

With so much at stake, it pays to have help from our team of experts that has years of experience coming up with a heroic look that reflects both your powers and your nature.

From the moment you walk in until the time you cash-out, Greer & Harlick will make you look and feel heroic without having to spend money like a millionaire playboy.



## Greer & Harlick

- Fine Fashions for Hip Heroes - Since 1981 -

Available exclusively for heroes inside every Powerhouse training facility. Open 24-hours a day. No appointment necessary.



# SOAR PROUDLY!



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**[WWW.JKCOMICS.COM](http://WWW.JKCOMICS.COM)**



NEARBY...

IT'S JUST SO...  
FRUSTRATING!

I MEAN, THERE'S A LOT  
THAT I WANT TO DO TO  
HELP HER AND I CAN'T!

I...

I SHARE IN YOUR  
SENSE OF...  
FRUSTRATION.



**AGENT SIDESTEP**  
Omniverse Operative

YEAH, BUT CAN'T YOU  
DO SOMETHING TO  
HELP?

YOU HAVE ALL OF  
THOSE ADVANCED  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
DEVICES... AND IT'S  
NOT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T  
HELPED HER BEFORE!

I MEAN, YOU SENT  
HER TO MEET WITH ME!

I WISH I COULD HELP.

AND, YES, I HAVE  
HELPED HER OUT ON  
PRIOR OCCASIONS\*,  
BUT NOT WITHOUT  
REPERCUSSIONS BY  
MY SUPERIORS.

(\* AS SHOWN IN "THE LOST  
ADVENTURES OF GALATEA  
FUTURE #3 & 4")

MY PURPOSE HERE  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
AS AN OBSERVER.

TO WATCH EVENTS  
AND NOT BE A  
PART OF THEM.

I HAD BEEN THROUGH  
SEVEN ASSIGNMENTS  
IN OTHER REALITIES  
BEFORE THIS ONE.

BUT THIS IS THE  
FIRST ONE WHERE I  
AM EXPECTED TO BE  
HERE FOR A LONG-  
TERM OBSERVATION...  
TO ACCLIMATE TO THE  
NATIVE INHABITANTS.  
TO... TO GET...

-- TO GET TO  
KNOW THEM?  
MAYBE EVEN  
HAVE... **FEELINGS**  
FOR THEM?

... YES.

AND I FEAR  
THAT THE NEXT  
INTERACTION I  
MAKE COULD  
RESULT IN MY  
RECALL.

AND I... WOULD  
RATHER NOT  
RISK THAT.



WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?  
YOU MUST BE PSYCHIC  
BECAUSE I WAS ABOUT TO TRY  
TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO  
CONTACT YOU, AND HERE YOU  
ARE CALLING **ME!**

YOU CAN SAVE THE ACT,  
GOLD.  
YOU KNEW I'D BE CALLING  
YOU OVER THIS MEDIA  
CAMPAIGN OF YOURS.

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

I'M AFRAID I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU ARE  
TALKING ABOUT.

**PLEASE!** LIKE I'M  
SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE  
THAT YOU'RE NOT BEHIND  
THE SOCIAL MEDIA  
CAMPAIGN TO SMEAR  
ME?

NITPIK? OVALINKS?  
MYLISTS? VOX POPULII?

I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO  
PLEAD IGNORANCE TO ALL OF THAT,  
MS. FUTURE.

I DO KNOW THAT SOME SPIRITED  
INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN DEMAINEING  
YOUR NAME ONLINE, BUT I CAN  
ASSURE YOU THAT **NOBODY** INSIDE  
MY AGENCY IS BEHIND IT.

AND I'M SUPPOSED  
TO JUST **BELIEVE** YOU  
WHEN YOU SAY THAT  
YOU'RE INNOCENT?

OBVIOUSLY NOT, GIVEN OUR  
HISTORY...

HOWEVER, I AM WILLING TO  
OFFER YOU SOME MODICUM  
OF PROTECTION THROUGH OUR  
AGENCY.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO SIGN A  
CONTRACT WITH US, AND YOU  
CAN RETAIN US AS A VERY  
LIMITED CONSULTING GROUP.

THINK ABOUT IT... FOR JUST  
A MODEST FEE FOR A  
LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME,  
MY TEAM OF ATTORNEYS  
WILL GO AFTER THE  
PERPETRATORS DEMAINEING  
YOU ONLINE



AT THE EXPENSE OF MY OWN ATTORNEY, WHO MANAGED TO BEST YOUR TEAM OF LAWYERS NOT TOO LONG AGO.\*

AND I'M SURE IF I SAID "YES" THAT THOSE "SPIRITED INDIVIDUALS" WOULD JUST "MAGICALLY" GO AWAY.

HA-HA-HA! I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, MS. FUTURE!

BUT OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE THE RESOURCES THAT MISS SINCLAIR WOULD NOT TO FIND THESE PEOPLE AND SERVE THEM WITH COURT PAPERS.

(\* ISSUE #1)

DON'T GET ME WRONG, WE HAVE THE UT MOST RESPECT FOR MISS SINCLAIR IN HER SINGLE LEGAL VICTORY.

I'M SURE YOU DO, MISTER GOLD.

BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A PASS ON YOUR GENEROUS OFFER.

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU WANT TO DO THAT?

I MEAN, IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE FOR YOU. I'VE SEEN HOW THESE THINGS WORK.

WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.  
GOOD-BYE.

JUST LIKE YOU EXPECTED.  
NOW WHAT?

NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO USE A LITTLE SOCIAL MEDIA ENGINEERING.



NOT LONG AFTER...

YOUR CALL,  
GLORIA.

OKAY, ARE  
WE READY?  
THREE-TWO-  
ONE...

**GLORIA ROOT**  
WCOC Reporter

I'M HERE IN THE  
RENAISSANCE  
CENTER WITH AN  
UPDATE ON A  
STORY WE COVERED  
YESTERDAY  
CONCERNING  
FAMED DESIGNER  
EMILIO VON FRERE.

**8WCOC** Gloria Root - Entertainment Reporter

VIEWERS MAY RECALL THAT  
VON FRERE ISSUED TWO  
CRITICISMS OF RECENT  
FASHION TRENDS, WITH ONE  
OF THEM SPECIFICALLY  
DIRECTED AT GALATEA  
FUTURE'S NEW OUTFIT.

MISTER VON FRERE'S  
OFFICE IS NOW SAYING  
THAT THE CRITICISM OF MS.  
FUTURE'S OUTFIT DID NOT  
COME FROM VON FRERE  
HIMSELF, BUT RATHER FROM  
AN ASSISTANT--

EXCUSE ME?/?  
HELLOOOOOP!/?

**8WCOC** Gloria Root - Von Frere Appologies For Critique

HI GLORIA!  
I'M HERE!  
REMEMBER ME?

EXCUSE ME?

WE'RE TRYING TO  
RECORD A NEWS  
SEGMENT HERE.


YES, I KNOW, BUT  
I HAVE A BETTER  
NEWS STORY FOR  
YOU TO COVER.

LISTEN, YOU DON'T NEED TO  
BE DOING A STORY ABOUT  
SOME BROKE-@SS BEATCH  
LIKE GALATEA FUTURE, 'KAY?

SHE'S NOT NEWSWORTHY!

THE INTERNET WIPED THEIR  
BUTTS WITH HER AND SHE'S  
DONE IN THIS CITY, YOU GET  
WHAT I'M SAYING?





SIR, YOU'RE ENTITLED TO YOUR OPINION, BUT THAT DOESN'T ENTITLE YOU TO TELL ME HOW TO DO MY JOB. I HAVE AN ASSIGNMENT TO DO AND I'M DOING IT. AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU KEEP YOUR OPINIONS TO YOURSELF SO I CAN **DO** MY JOB!

\*CHA!\*

OH YOU **DID NOT** JUST SAY THAT!




BURT, YOU BETTER CALL 9-1-1 AND GET SOME OFFICERS HEADED HERE.



YOU JUST DON'T SEEM TO GET IT, DO YOU?

YOUR JOB IS TO REPORT ON WHAT IS HIP AND HOT AND HAPPENING IN THE WORLD. AND THAT, HONEY, IS **ME!**



WHATEVER IT IS THAT I POST ON NITPIK... **BAM!** SIX-POINT-THREE **MILLION** PEOPLE WILL INSTANTLY "OKAY" IT AND THEN RE-POST IT ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

I CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING IN THE WORLD... ANYTHING... AND IT WILL BE "OKAYED" AND RE-POSTED BY SIX-POINT-THREE MILLION!



THAT'S NICE, BUT CAN YOU JUST--

I CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING, HONEY. I CAN TALK ABOUT HOW THAT OUTFIT MAKES YOU LOOK **FAT** AND SIX-POINT-THREE **MILLION** WILL AGREE THAT IT IS.

I HAVE MADE AND BROKEN CAREERS BY WHAT I SAY ON NITPIK!

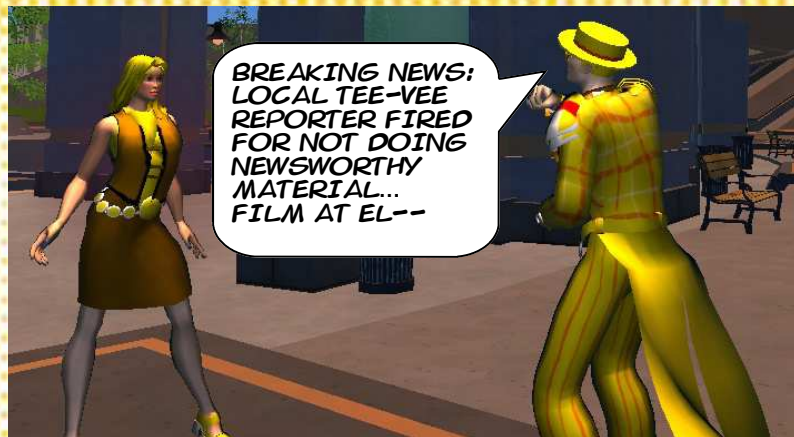
IF I SAY THAT YOUR STORY IS NOT WORTH WATCHING, THEN SIX-POINT-THREE **MILLION** PEOPLE WILL SAY THE SAME THING...

AND THEN YOU'LL BE OUT OF A JOB BEFORE THE SIX-O-CLOCK NEWS.





SOMEONE GET THIS GUY OUT OF MY FACE BEFORE I DO SOMETHING THAT WILL GET ME FIRED!



BREAKING NEWS: LOCAL TEE-VEE REPORTER FIRED FOR NOT DOING NEWSWORTHY MATERIAL... FILM AT EL--



OKAY... WHY DON'T WE JUST STEP ASIDE AND LET THE NICE LADY DO HER JOB?

OH, YOU GOT HIM! GREAT. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL GLORIA THE POLICE WERE ON THEIR WAY.



WHAT YOU HAVE, TALL, DARK, AND SCRUFFY, IS A GUARANTEED LAWSUIT IF YOU PUT YOUR HANDS ON ME AGAIN!



NO, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN THAT ROAD, WILFRED. YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLES AS IS.

EX-EXCUSE ME? HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?






OH YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO KNOW  
WHAT THE FOLKS AT U.N.T.I.L.  
MANAGED TO FIND ABOUT YOU,  
WILFRED.

AND IT'S ALL OUT THERE ON THE  
INTERNET, IF YOU JUST KNOW  
WHERE TO LOOK.


I KNOW, FOR INSTANCE,  
THAT YOUR NAME IS  
WILFRED DOUGLAS, AND  
THAT YOU WERE A HUMBLE  
PROGRAMMER UNTIL ABOUT  
THREE YEARS AGO.




I'M GUESSING YOU WERE  
BULLIED WHEN YOU WERE  
YOUNGER... SHORT, SKINNY,  
SOMEWHAT EFFEMINATE,  
WITH A FIRST NAME THAT  
MATCHES.

EASY TARGET FOR YOUNG  
BULLIES.

THEN YOU FOUND OUT  
HOW TO SPREAD A  
BOT-GENERATING  
VIRUS... OR MAYBE YOU  
JUST FOUND THE BOT  
NETWORK AND CAME UP  
WITH A WAY TO OWN IT.



YOU... YOU DON'T KNOW ME!  
SO WHAT IF I WAS BULLIED?  
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!  
YEAH, I OWN ALL THOSE BOTS!  
I MAY NOT HAVE CREATED THE  
NETWORK, BUT I MADE IT *MINE*  
AND I MADE IT WORK FOR *ME*!



IN FACT I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU  
JUST HOW MUCH POWER I HAVE NOW!  
NITPIK: WCOC SK@NK GLORIA ROOT  
LOOKING LIKE HIGHWAY WORKER.

•BEEP!•  
MESSAGE NOT SENT.



**WHAT?!**

NITPIK: WCOC SK@NK  
GLORIA ROOT LOOKS  
UGLY!

**\*BEEP!\***

MESSAGE NOT SENT.

NITPIK: U.N.T.I.L.  
TRYING TO CENSOR  
ME FROM SPEAKING  
THE TRUTH!

**\*BEEP!\***

MESSAGE NOT SENT.

WHAT THE HELL  
HAVE YOU DONE  
TO ME?!

WHY CAN'T I SEND  
MESSAGES?!

OH DON'T BLAME  
U.N.T.I.L. FOR THAT.  
THAT'S ACTUALLY  
NITPIK'S  
ADMINISTRATORS  
CANCELLING YOUR  
ACCOUNTS.  
ALL OF THEM.

ONCE YOU STARTED  
BOASTING THAT YOU  
OWN SIX-POINT-  
THREE MILLION BOTS,  
YOU VIOLATED  
NITPIK'S TERMS OF  
SERVICE REGARDING  
THEIR MESSAGE  
SYSTEM.

YOU... YOU CAN'T  
DO THAT TO ME!  
I'LL SUE YOU ALL!

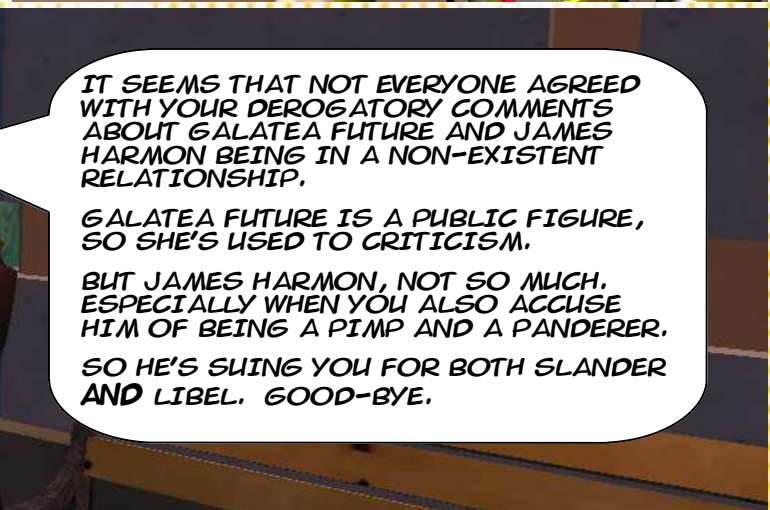
NITPIK CAN'T SHUT ME DOWN!  
I AM THE FACE OF NITPIK!  
I AM IT'S VOICE AND IT'S WILL AND  
IT'S POWER!

SIX-POINT-THREE MILLION PEOPLE  
AGREEING WITH ME AND REPOSTING  
WHATEVER I TELL THEM!

I AM WHAT IS HIP AND HOT AND  
POPULAR IN THE ONLINE WORLD!

ME! I'M THAT! I AM VOX POPULI  
AND I OWN NITPIK!!

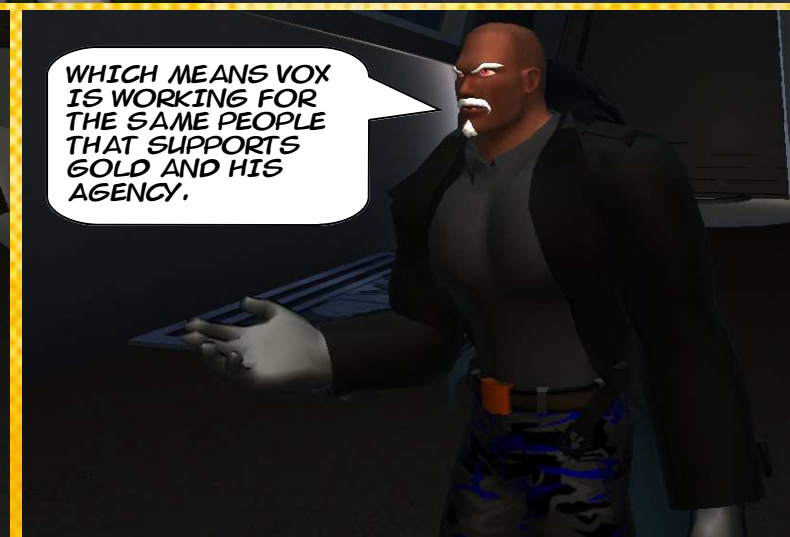
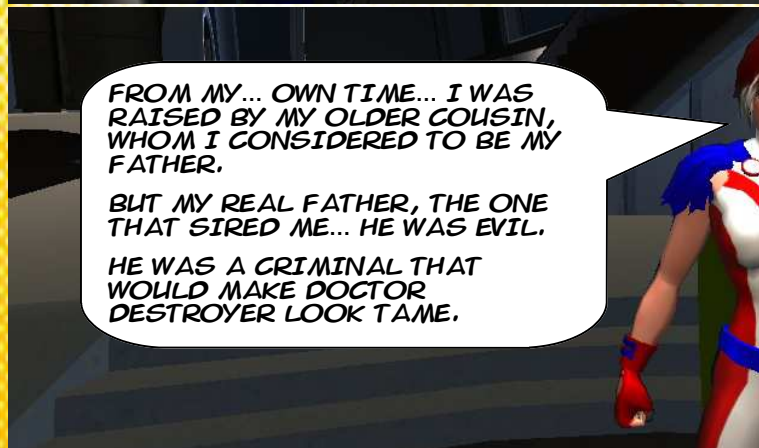
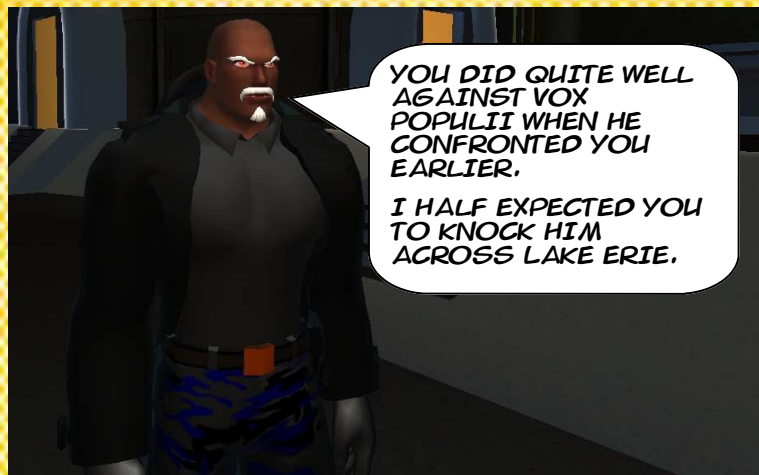














MEANWHILE, JUST BELOW...

"WELL FOR HER  
SAKE, I HOPE SHE  
DOESN'T START  
INQUIRING."

"BECAUSE THE  
PEOPLE BEHIND  
GOLD AND VOX  
POPULI ARE  
VERY POWERFUL."

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

"AND IT'S A POWER  
THAT WE ARE NOT  
YET READY TO  
CONFRONT."

THIS IS  
MARKMAN  
GOLD.

MISTER  
GOLD...

I TRUST YOU WERE  
ABLE TO REACH OUT  
TO GALATEA FUTURE  
AS YOU WERE  
ASSIGNED TO.

I DID, MISTER VAN  
CLEEF... I DID.

BUT... I'M SORRY; SHE  
REJECTED MY OFFER.

I TRIED TO STRESS THE  
IMPORTANCE OF THE  
DEAL, BUT SHE REFUSED.

I'M SORRY THAT I LET  
YOU DOWN, I PROMISE--

YOU'LL PROMISE NOTHING.

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE RELIEVED  
TO KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT  
FAIL US THIS TIME.

WE ANTICIPATED THAT MS.  
FUTURE WOULD REJECT YOUR  
OFFER, NO MATTER HOW WELL  
YOU TRIED TO SELL IT.

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND,  
MISTER VAN CLEEF.

IF YOU KNEW THAT SHE  
WOULD REJECT MY OFFER,  
WHY HAVE ME MAKE IT IN  
THE FIRST PLACE?

IT'S ABOUT GATHERING  
INTELLIGENCE.

WE LEARN SOMETHING FROM  
PEOPLE, EVEN THROUGH REJECTION.

IN THIS CASE, WE'VE LEARNED THAT  
MS. FUTURE HAS SOME HELP THAT  
GOES BEYOND HER ATTORNEY.

TO BREAK MS. FUTURE, WE NEED TO  
BREAK HER TRUST IN HER FRIENDS.

YOU WILL BE CONTACTED WHEN TO  
MAKE YOUR NEXT OFFER.

WHAT WILL THEY DO  
NEXT? FIND OUT IN  
THE NEXT ISSUE!



# **GUARDIAN WORDS**

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

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## **BULLIES AND BULLYING**

This issue is a very special one, dealing with a very special subject that has been in the news recently.

### **Bullying.**

Growing up, I was the subject of bullying on a regular basis. Two different communities in two different states and by two different groups... with one common target: me.

It's not easy having to grow up in that kind of environment, especially when you're in a Roman Catholic family and you are told that you have to "turn the other cheek". That was always my mother's solution: ignore them. Say nothing, do nothing, just take it. To sociopathic kids, "turn the other cheek" translates into "thank you sir may I have another".

Then there was the option of fighting back. Of course once that happens then you become the villain. The bully then cries that he or she was being "attacked". Sociopathic kids know how to manipulate the system so that they turn out to be the innocent victim and you are blamed as being the aggressor.

Then there was the "official" option: reporting it. That only works when you have a system that recognizes bullying for what it is and is willing to stand by you. Two different communities in two different states all said the same thing: our hands are tied. You either have to endure it or you have to fight back, and in either case you don't win.

Bullies find all sorts of ways to assert their superiority over others. Much like a street cartoonist drawing a caricature, any sort of difference on you is singled out and exaggerated. If that doesn't work, they try another tactic. Name-calling, fabricated rumors, psychological intimidation, pranks, destruction of property, and even physical assault are all standard tactics of bullies.

And it's not a "childhood phase" that people "grow out of" either. The bullying continues even as an adult, partially because it's seen as getting results. Adult bullies are credited as being "assertive", "aggressive", "go-getters", "Type 1 personalities", and "Alpha-Males".

Worse yet, victims of bullying can easily become bullies themselves, simply because they believe it is the only way they can avoid being further bullied.

Bullying kills. That is not an exaggeration. Young people have died or have committed suicide because of intense and prolonged bullying.

On March 2nd, 2013, a sixth-grade student by the name of Bailey O'Neill died after being in a medically-induced coma since that January, when he was viciously attacked by two bullies. Amanda Todd, a teenager in Vancouver, committed suicide after years of bullying even after transferring to numerous schools. 13-year old Erin Gallagher committed suicide in Ireland after vicious online bullying, and then later that same year her 15-year old sister Shannon committed suicide.

What doesn't help is that we have movies and television shows that glamorize bullying. MTV has "Bully Beatdown", where victims of bullying get a professional mixed martial-arts fighter to fight their tormentors for a chance to win money. Oxygen has "Bad Girls Club", where admitted "bad

*Continues on next page...*



girls” live in a luxury house and spend time tormenting each other, often to destructive ends, including out-and-out fights. CBS’s “NCIS” has Anthony DiNozo, an arrogant and vain investigator who spends his time bullying his co-workers, even though it was revealed that he himself was once a victim of bullying. Then there are movies like “Swimming with Sharks”, “Mean Girls”, and “Bad Bosses” that not only highlight bullies, but even have the victims of bullying becoming bullies themselves.

The traditional way of dealing with bullies - either ignoring them, fighting back, or reporting them to the “system” - does not work. Too many people have died that should not have because of this. This is not a phase that will simply “go away”. It is systemic, and it must be addressed both as individuals and as a community.

In working on this issue, I reached out to Jennifer Hancock, a public speaker, mother, online columnist, and author of several books including her newest publication called “**The Bully Vaccine**”. In that book she shares her experiences with how to deal with bullies and the steps that need to be taken that will both prevent one from being bullied and also how to deal with someone already being bullied. Some of those insights helped to develop this issue.

You can purchase a copy of “The Bully Vaccine” through Amazon.com or online through Kindle, but the best way is through the official website, where you can not only purchase the book, but also help spread the word about what it offers. There are also numerous links to free online resources that you can turn to that deal with bullying, cyber-bullying, and suicide prevention. These are resources that I wish were around when I was a child.

The address for “The Bully Vaccine Project” is...

**[HTTP://THEBULLYVACCINE.COM](http://THEBULLYVACCINE.COM)**

Or you can visit the official website for Future’s Guardian...

**[HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM)**

**NEXT ISSUE...**

**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**



*Starlett wanted to get someone’s attention...*

*But what she may not survive what happens when she gets the attention of a bounty hunter hired to kill Galatea Future.*





# Bullying is not a "phase".

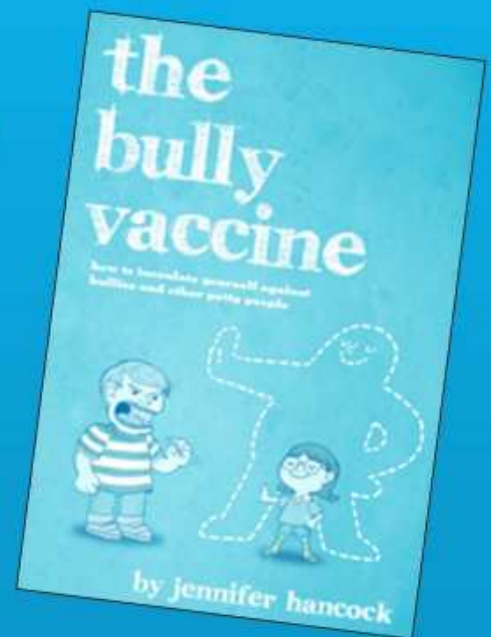
For years, bullying has been seen as a "childish phase"; something that people will simply grow out of, and for victims to simply grin and bear.

But the truth is that bullying is systemic, and it reaches all the way to adulthood. Worse yet, many victims of bullying become bullies themselves.

Children need more than platitudes to deal with bullies. They need practical how-to advice without having to either continue being a victim or resort to being a bully in order to survive.

**"The Bully Vaccine"** by author and mother Jennifer Hancock is a practical way to not only "immunize" a child from bullying but also give them advice on how to deal with someone already bullying them.

In addition to the book, **"The Bully Vaccine Project"** website offers numerous resources to help deal with the issue of bullying.



**Let's END bullying today!**  
**Visit The Bully Vaccine Project**  
**<http://TheBullyVaccine.com>**