

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

The LIBRA ORDER "Debts of Honor"



WSPDR

Radio / Television

Providing independent news and entertainment to the Rogue Isles and its people for over sixty years.

Because Lord Recluse is not the only one with a huge "web" overlooking the Isles.

www.wspdr.risles

MINIONS

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

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

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

99-555-8792

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

They live in the so-called “City of Villains”, but they are not always so.

Some are criminals. Some are renegades. Some are living in exile. Some are living on borrowed time.

But they have all been recruited by the cosmic force known as LIBRA to serve as “his” soldiers, to follow “his” orders, and to maintain the balance between good and evil. They are...

The LIBRA ORDER

In 2012, a “miracle” happened.

Over 2200 people originally presumed missing or dead in the destruction of Galaxy City suddenly were returned.

The Guardians of the Dawn, the superhero group wrongly blamed for causing the initial tragedy, were vindicated in the eyes of the public.

Support for the group was at an all-time high, and people were starting to see the Guardians as the next “premiere” supergroup for Paragon City.

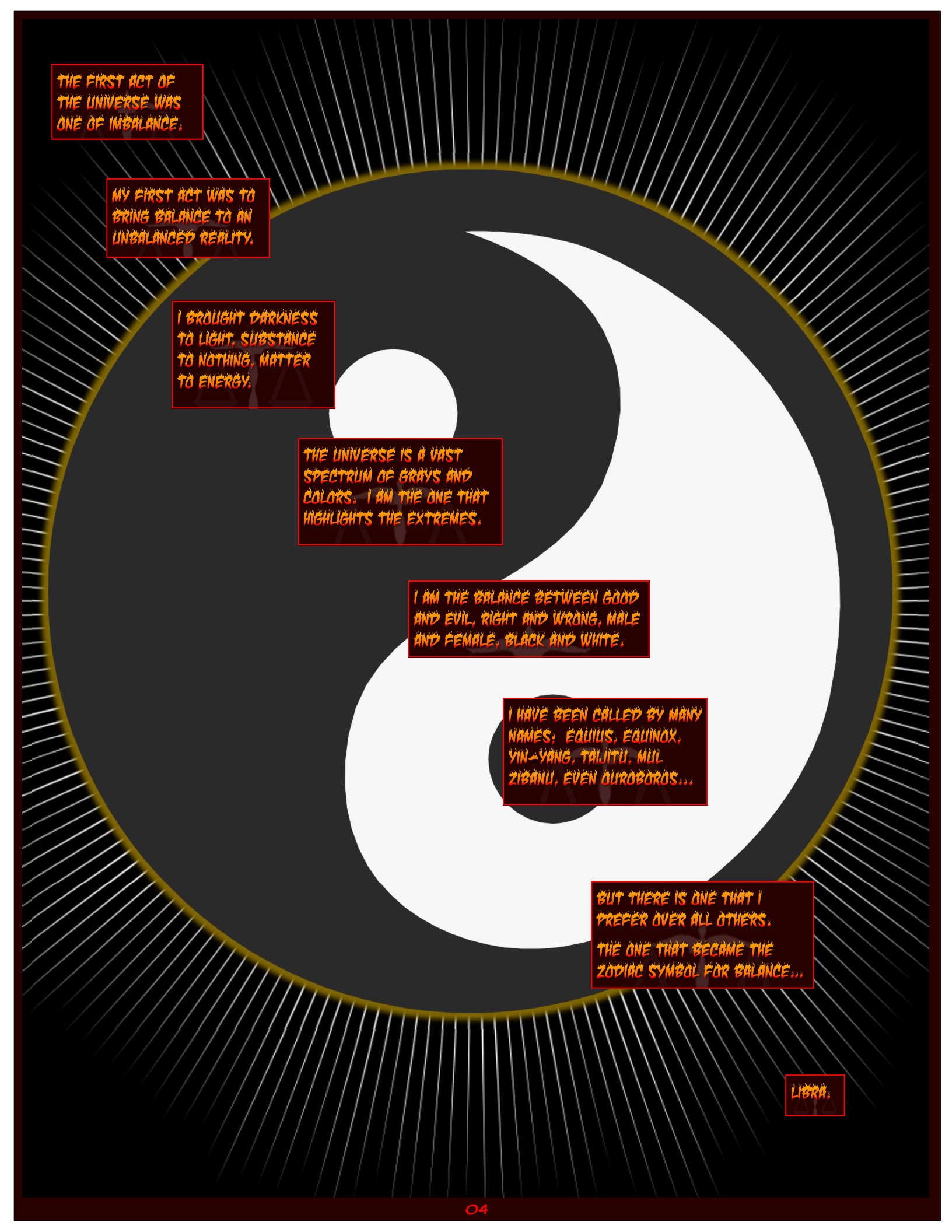
So what would cause the team that was on the verge of becoming legendary to slowly erode to the brink of self-destruction?

Sometimes it would just take a “nudge” from the “wrong” people...

“DEBTS OF HONOR” ***- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2***

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THE FIRST ACT OF
THE UNIVERSE WAS
ONE OF IMBALANCE.

MY FIRST ACT WAS TO
BRING BALANCE TO AN
UNBALANCED REALITY.

I BROUGHT DARKNESS
TO LIGHT, SUBSTANCE
TO NOTHING, MATTER
TO ENERGY.

THE UNIVERSE IS A VAST
SPECTRUM OF GRAYS AND
COLORS. I AM THE ONE THAT
HIGHLIGHTS THE EXTREMES.

I AM THE BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD
AND EVIL, RIGHT AND WRONG, MALE
AND FEMALE, BLACK AND WHITE.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY MANY
NAMES: EQUIUS, EQUINOX,
YIN-YANG, TAIJITU, MUL
ZIBANU, EVEN OUROBOROS...

BUT THERE IS ONE THAT I
PREFER OVER ALL OTHERS.
THE ONE THAT BECAME THE
ZODIAC SYMBOL FOR BALANCE...

LIBRA.

THIS IS LIMBO... A PLACE
WHERE COSMIC FORCES CAN
INTERACT WITH MORTALS IN A
REALM OF THEIR CREATION.

I HAVE CHOSEN, OUT OF
NOSTALGIA, AN ANCIENT TEMPLE
IN THE ROMAN TOWN OF CIMERORA
AS THE THEME OF MY REALM.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS
REALM IS OF MY CREATION.
HERE I AM GOD.



IT IS HERE THAT YOU WILL
LEARN WHAT I EXPECT OF
MY AGENTS AND APOSTLES.

FOR WHETHER THEY KNOW IT
OR NOT, THE TASKS I SEND
THEM TO PERFORM EACH PLAY
AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE
GREAT BALANCE.



AND YOU, ABOVE ALL OTHERS,
WILL KNOW YOUR ROLE IN THE
COMING TRIALS.

BUT BEFORE I SEND YOU
FORWARD, YOU MUST SEE WHAT
YOUR PEERS HAVE DONE IN MY
NAME AND FOR MY CAUSE.



ZIGURSKY CRIMINAL PENITENTIARY

BRICKSTOWN - PARAGON CITY, RI

DECEMBER, 2012

THIS IS WRATHSTRIKE,
A BITTER AGENT OF
CHAOS WHOSE RAGE
KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

Wrathstrike
AVENGING FORCE

THIS WAS HIS FIRST
ASSIGNMENT WITH
MY ORDER.

HE WAS TOLD TO BREAK INTO
ZIGURSKY PRISON TO RETRIEVE
A FELLOW AGENT OF CHAOS.

HIS ELECTRICAL-BASED POWERS
AND HIS FIRE SHIELD, BOTH
MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS RAGE,
WOULD MAKE QUICK WORK OF
THE SOLDIERS STANDING GUARD.

I'M IN THE
INFIRMARY.
WHICH CELL
IS SHE IN?

BUT HIS TRUE TEST
IN THE ORDER IS NOT
WHETHER HE CAN
COMPLETE THE
ASSIGNMENT.

CHANGE IN
PLANS.
THE MISSION HAS
BEEN SCRAPPED.

Tainted Eve
FALLEN ANGEL

HIS TRUE TEST IS
WHETHER HE CAN FOLLOW
INSTRUCTIONS.



NUH-UH. NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

I SET THIS OPERATION UP; I GOT THE ESCAPE SHIP; I MUSCLED THROUGH THE SECURITY.

I'M HERE AND SHE'S JUST A FEW FEET AWAY FROM FREEDOM.



AND **I** AM THE ONE TELLING YOU THAT THE CLIENT HAS CHANGED THEIR MIND.

PULL BACK NOW OR I'LL BLOW UP YOUR ESCAPE SHIP BY REMOTE!



YOU ...
RRR... FINE!
PULLING OUT NOW.



SORRY BLOODBLADER...

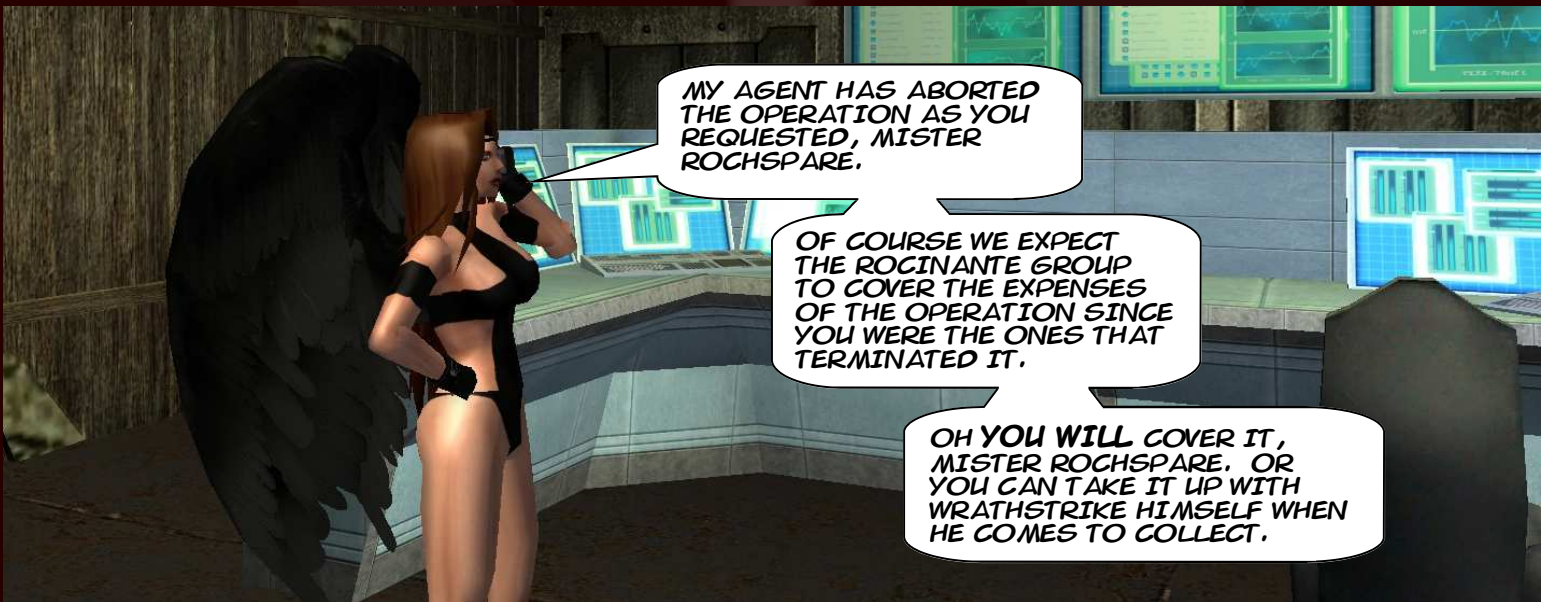
GUESS YOUR BOSSES DON'T LOVE YOU ENOUGH TO WANT YOU FREE.

MY SWEET ELLE WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME!

PLEASE, SOMEONE GET HER OFF OUR HANDS!

WE'LL PAY YOU TRIPLE!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, DON'T LEAVE HER WITH US!



MY AGENT HAS ABORTED THE OPERATION AS YOU REQUESTED, MISTER ROCHSPARE.

OF COURSE WE EXPECT THE ROCINANTE GROUP TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF THE OPERATION SINCE YOU WERE THE ONES THAT TERMINATED IT.

OH YOU WILL COVER IT, MISTER ROCHSPARE. OR YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH WRATHSTRIKE HIMSELF WHEN HE COMES TO COLLECT.

SO YOUR ORDER IS REALLY
JUST A GLORIFIED
MERCENARY ORGANIZATION.

HARDLY.

MY ORDER IS MY EYES AND
EARS, MY WILL AND MY FORCE.

AND WHILE THEY MUST TAKE UP
OTHER CAUSES FOR MONEY,
THEY ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST
MY SOLDIERS IN MY QUEST TO
MAINTAIN THE GREAT BALANCE.

IN 2010, THE ORDER
AIDED THE GUARDIANS
OF THE DAWN.

VITAL SECRETS OF THE
GUARDIANS WERE BEING
SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET.
THESE SECRETS THREATENED
THE GREAT BALANCE.

I AUTHORIZED THE
GUARDIANS TO IMPERSONATE
SEVERAL OF MY AGENTS TO
STOP THE SALE.*

C *GUARDIANS OF THE
DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #17)

THEY WERE LED BY
JOHN COLE, THEN ONE
OF MY NEW AGENTS.

THOUGH THE MISSION
SUCCEEDED, IT WAS
NOT WITHOUT INCIDENT.

MISTAKES WERE MADE
THAT DAMAGED THE
REPUTATION OF SOME
OF MY AGENTS.

ONCE JOHN COLE WAS
RELEASED FROM THE ORDER,
MY AGENTS WERE FREE TO
SEEK RETRIBUTION.*

THE DEBTS OF HONOR
NEEDED TO BE PAID.

C *THE GUARDIAN POWERS* #8)

STEEL CANYON

FEBRUARY 2013

**GALATEA
POWERS!
YOUR DAY OF
RECKONING
IS HERE!**

UltraaLady
FORCE OF VENGEANCE

OF ALL MY AGENTS, THERE
WERE NONE THAT WERE MORE
WRONGED BY THE GUARDIANS
THAN ULTRAALADY.

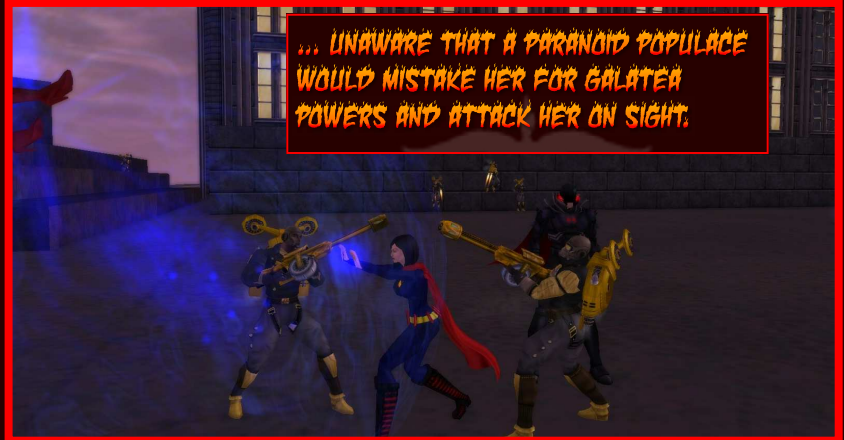
AN AMERICAN ASTRONAUT BEFORE THE
FIRST RIkti INVASION OF 2002, SHE
WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SPACE STATION, ONLY TO BE LATER
UNJUSTLY TREATED BY HER OWN
GOVERNMENT AS A CRIMINAL.

IN ORDER TO CONFUSE
ARACHNOS, THE GUARDIANS
CONVINCED ULTRAALADY TO
ACCEPT A "FREE MAKEOVER"
FROM THE TAILOR IN POCKET D.

THE TAILOR REMADE
ULTRAALADY'S FACE AND
HAIR SO SHE WOULD BEAR A
NOTICEABLE RESEMBLANCE
TO GALATEA POWERS.



SHE THEN RETURNED
TO THE ROGUE ISLES...



... UNAWARE THAT A PARANOID POPULACE
WOULD MISTAKE HER FOR GALATEA
POWERS AND ATTACK HER ON SIGHT.

SHE WORKED HARD TO
RESTORE HER LIKENESS AND
HER REPUTATION IN THE ISLES.

WHEN I AUTHORIZED THE ORDER
TO REPAY THEIR DEBTS OF
HONOR, ULTRA-LADY WAS THE
FIRST AGENT TO TAKE ACTION.

SHE TOOK THE FIRST
ARACHNOS TRANSPORT
THAT WOULD RISK A TRIP
TO PARAGON CITY TO
CONFRONT HER NEMESIS.

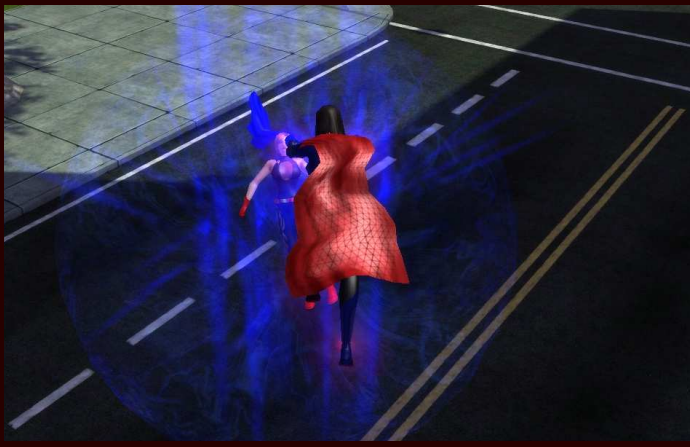


Galatea Powers
(FAITH KARL)

HER TELEKINETIC FIELDS, A
SIDE-EFFECT OF THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE SPACE
STATION, GAVE HER THE
POWER TO HOLD HER OWN.



AND, FOR A WHILE,
SHE DID JUST THAT.



UNFORTUNATELY
FOR HER...

... THE MOMENT WAS FLEETING.

ULTRAALADY'S FIELDS WERE
FORMIDABLE, BUT THEY STILL
WERE NOT ENOUGH TO OVERCOME
GALATEA'S HYPER-STRENGTH.

KA-POW!

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE GALATEA WOULD GAUGE
HER ATTACKER'S LEVELS AND
RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.



IN THE END, ULTRAALADY'S
FIXATION ON REVENGE WOULD
LEAD TO HER OWN DEFEAT.

SHE REFUSED TO USE THE ROBOT
MINIONS AT HER DISPOSAL AND INSTEAD
RELIED ONLY ON HER OWN ABILITIES.

IT WOULD HAVE PROLONGED THE
CONFRONTATION, EVEN THOUGH IT STILL
WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN HER DEFEAT.



I HAD HER TELEPORTED AWAY BEFORE THE
POLICE COULD ARRIVE. SHE WOULD BE
FREE TO HEAL HER WOUNDED PRIDE.



BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE LOST,
HER "DEBT" WAS NOW PAID.

DARK ASTORIA - PARAGON CITY

MARCH 2013

NOT ALL DEBTS WERE
PAID SO OPENLY.

SOME WERE
SUBTLE.

 **Tyrannus 4**
PRE-STATESMAN CLONE

TYRANNUS 4 IS A CLONE OF
STATESMAN, BASED ON A VERSION OF
HIM SET IN THE YEARS BEFORE HE
BECAME THE LEGENDARY SUPERHERO.

NEMESIS THOUGHT HE COULD USE
THE CLONE TO REPLACE STATESMAN.
I HAD A BETTER USE FOR HIM.

EVEN WITHOUT INCARNATE
POWERS, HE WAS MORE
THAN A MATCH FOR THE
BANISHED PANTHEON THAT
STOOD GUARD.

TYRANNUS WOULD NOT KNOW WHY HE
WAS SENT TO STEAL AN ARTIFACT OF
THE DARK GOD MOT, OR WHY HE
WOULD LATER TRANSPORT IT TO
KINGS ROW.

ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT IT WOULD
FULFILL HIS DEBT OF HONOR
AGAINST MIDKNIGHT X FOR THE
TROUBLE THAT MIDKNIGHT X
CAUSED WHEN POSING AS HIM.

STEEL CANYON

MAY 2013

EVERYBODY!
PRICE GO

'LOP
ANYONE
HERE?

THIS IS
SUPPOSED T'
BE AN ARMED
ROBBERY WITH
HOSTAGES.

SO...
WHERE ARE TH'
HOSTAGES?

Lyon Powers
(KATIE LEA POWERS)

I'M GOING TO
GET REALLY
PISSED IF
THIS IS JUST
A BUNCH O'
BOLLOCKS.

HELLO LYON
POWERS.

ISEA!



WHERE ARE THE HOSTAGES?



AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVED, I LET THEM LEAVE THROUGH THE SERVICE DOORS. THEY SERVED THEIR PURPOSE AND GOT YOU HERE.

I Isea
FROSTY DIVA



IF YE WANTED T' TALK, ALL YOU 'AD T' DO WAS JUST CALL.
I WOULD'VE COME WITHOUT TH' DRAMA.



I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO TALK.

YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU INSULTED ME, AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY THE PRICE FOR IT.



WHAT?
BECAUSE I HAD TO PRETEND TO BE YOU FOR A MISSION?



YOU DIDN'T "PRETEND" TO BE ME.
YOU MADE ME LOOK LIKE A RANK AMATEUR IN FRONT OF MY PEERS!

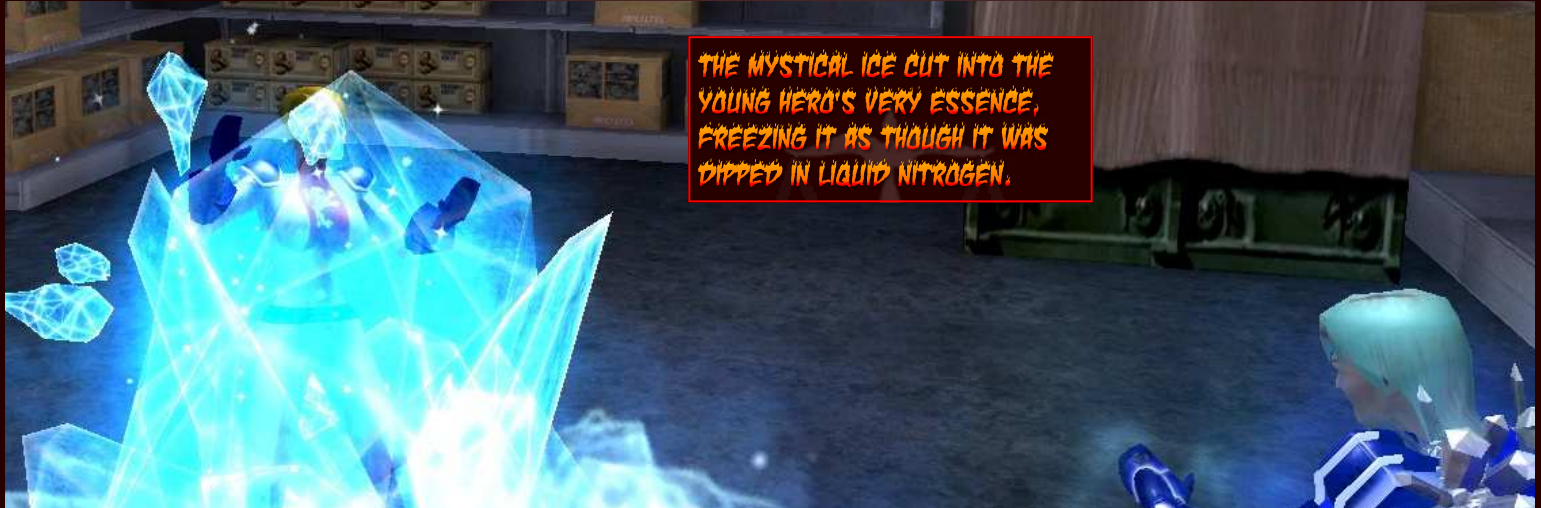


AND YOU WILL FIND THAT I TAKE MY REPUTATION VERY SERIOUSLY!

A character in a blue and white suit is attacking a figure encased in a large, translucent blue ice cube. The scene is set in a warehouse with cardboard boxes in the background. The character is surrounded by a blue, sparkling magical aura.

ISEA DID NOT GLOAT AS SHE
ATTACKED LYON POWERS.
IT IS NOT IN HER NATURE.

SO SHE DID NOT TELL THE
YOUNG WOMAN THAT SHE
HAD AUGMENTED HER
MAGICS TO SPECIFICALLY
NEUTRALIZE LYON POWERS.

The figure is now completely encased in the large blue ice cube. The character in the blue and white suit is standing to the right, looking at the frozen figure. The ice is glowing with a blue light.

THE MYSTICAL ICE CUT INTO THE
YOUNG HERO'S VERY ESSENCE,
FREEZING IT AS THOUGH IT WAS
DIPPED IN LIQUID NITROGEN.

The character in the blue and white suit is firing a powerful fire attack at the ice cube. A large, bright orange and yellow fireball is hitting the ice, causing it to crack and shatter. The character is surrounded by a blue, sparkling magical aura.

ENF!

THE HERO HAD, AT BEST, ONLY ONE CHANCE
TO SAVE HER LIFE, NEVER MIND SAVE
WHAT WAS LEFT OF HER POWERS.

FWOOSH!

The ice cube is shattering into many smaller pieces. The figure is now free from the ice, surrounded by a large, bright orange and yellow fireball. The character in the blue and white suit is standing to the left, looking at the fire.

THE GAMBIT WORKED.

THE HERO'S FIRE
BROKE THE ICE SPELL.



**BUT THE DAMAGE
WAS ALREADY DONE.**



ISEA PREVAILED.



**FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HER PARENTS
DIED, ISEA AFFORDED HERSELF SOME
PRIDE OVER HER ACCOMPLISHMENT.**



**BUT ONLY FOR
A MOMENT.**



**GET AWAY
FROM HER
YOU BITCH!**

**Elite Ice Queen
ELEMENTAL MYSTIC**



**WHILE HER AUGMENTED MAGIC WAS
DESIGNED TO OVERWHELM LYON
POWERS, IT COULD NOT STOP
THOSE OF THE ELITE ICE QUEEN.**

**ISEA WOULD BE
ARRESTED AND BRIEFLY
DETAINED BEFORE MY
ORDER COULD FREE HER.**

**BUT SHE WENT TO JAIL WITH PRIDE
KNOWING THAT SHE REPAID HER
DEBT OF HONOR WITH INTEREST.**

**SHE HAD CRIPPLED
LYON POWERS.**



SO LET'S SEE
IF I GOT THIS
RIGHT...



ULTRAALADY GETS HER
CHANCE AT REVENGE
AND SHE GETS HER
SPANDEX BUTT KICKED
BY GALATEA POWERS.

Misty Mysery
ARACHNOS SOLDIER



ISEA GETS HER CHANCE AND
SHE KICKS LYON POWERS'S
BUTT BEFORE GETTING
CAUGHT AND HAILED OFF
TO JAIL.

YET THEY BOTH SUPPOSEDLY
PAID THEIR DEBTS?

AS THEY SAY ON TALK RADIO,
THIS IS ALL ABOUT
OPPORTUNITY, NOT OUTCOME.

SO.. WHEN WILL I GET
MY OPPORTUNITY?



YOU DON'T.
YOU ALREADY HAD
YOUR CHANCE IN 2011
AND YOU BLEW IT.*

(*SPOTLIGHT* #27)



OH THAT IS
BULLSHIT!

I NEVER GOT TO
REPAY OMEGA
SHIFT FOR
WHAT SHE DID
IN MY NAME!



WHEN I AGREED TO LET HER USE
MY NAME AND ARMOR, I HAD
NO IDEA THAT SHE WOULD USE
MY DNA TO GAIN ACCESS TO
SENSITIVE PLACES IN THE
ISLES, OR TO PICK A FIGHT
WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

AND WHEN LORD RECLUSE
FOUND OUT WHO SABOTAGED
HIS SALE OF THE GUARDIANS
DATA FROM THE BLACK
MARKET, HE PERSONALLY HAD
ME DEMOTED TWO LEVELS IN
RANK AND PUT ME THROUGH A
BEAT-DOWN GAUNTLET BY THE
ROUGHEST WOLF SPIDERS
THEY COULD GET!

I WAS IN THE
HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK
AFTERWARD! A WEEK!



I HAD ONLY ONE THOUGHT IN MY MIND AS I LAY THERE IN THE HOSPITAL BED WHILE MY BONES SET...

...TO FIND THAT SO-CALLED "HERO" AND MAKE SURE THAT SHE FEELS EVERYTHING THAT I DID AND THEN SOME!

RIGHT...

WHICH WAS WHY LIBRA GAVE YOU YOUR OPPORTUNITY EVEN BEFORE ULTRAALADY.



AND WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR OPPORTUNITY?

DID YOU GO AFTER OMEGA SHIFT? NO. YOU WASTED RESOURCES, INCLUDING AN IMBEDDED AGENT, TO GO AFTER THE FIRST GUARDIAN THAT YOU CAME ACROSS.

AND NOT ONLY DID YOU GET YOUR BUTT KICKED AGAIN, YOU HELPED THE GUARDIANS GET A NEW MEMBER IN THE FORM OF ROCKY ROCKROCKER!



NOW...EVEN IF LIBRA COULD AUTHORIZE IT, OMEGA SHIFT IS OUT OF THE EQUATION.

BUT HE HAS AUTHORIZED A SPECIAL MISSION THAT INVOLVES GETTING REVENGE AGAINST THE OTHER HERO THAT HURT YOU.

IT WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF STEALTH AND BEING ABLE TO PICK AND CHOOSE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT? DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE MORE THAN JUST A GRUNT SPIDER FOR LORD RECLUSE?



LADY, THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH ALL DAY.

YOU BET I'LL TAKE IT!

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT TAINTED EVE.

ASK.

I GET THE FEELING THAT SHE IS NOT MUCH OF A LEADER FOR THE ORDER AS AS SHE IS A MESSENGER.
AM I RIGHT?



EVE IS MY PERFECT APOSTLE.



A FORMER ANGEL WHO BECAME MY FIRST RECRUIT FOR THE MODERN ERA.



ONCE SHE WAS A WARHOST, A GUARDIAN ANGEL, EVEN THE TEMPLATE FOR THE FIRST WOMAN.

BUT THEN, IN A TIME OF WEAKNESS, SHE WAS SEDUCED BY A DEMON.

A DEMON WHO WAS OPERATING UNDER MY ORDERS.



STRIPPED OF HER RANK AND CAST OUT OF HEAVEN, SHE ARRIVED IN THE ROGUE ISLES ONLY WITH WHAT LITTLE MAGIC SHE WAS ABLE TO SUMMON IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND CLOTHE HERSELF.



SHE ACCEPTED MY OFFER OF PROTECTION FOR HER SERVICES, AND SHE HAS PROVEN HERSELF TO BE EVERY BIT MY LOYAL APOSTLE.

BUT WHILE SHE IS MY PERFECT APOSTLE, SHE IS STILL VERY MUCH AN AGENT OF ORDER.



WHICH IS WHY, FROM TIME TO TIME, I HAVE TO RELY ON ONE WHO IS AN EAGER AGENT OF CHAOS.

MY MISTRESS.

IN ALL THINGS, BALANCE.

① Mistress Libra
TROUBLEMAKER

"Yes, It's Dangerous!"

When I was told we needed a reporter in the Rogue Isles, I jumped at the chance.

Sure it's a dangerous assignment. But that is what makes the job that much more important to what we do.

Because we're here to get the story, not just pad our resume.



Randi Rogues
Rogue Isles Correspondent



WHOOMER'S SHRIMP DECK

Enjoy the best in seafood cuisine as only you can get in the Rogue Isles!

Caught Here, Served Here.
Promise.

We're easy to find. We're right off the Port Oaks East ferry station.

Stop by for a quick bite to eat that won't bite back.



IF IT'S NOT FROM US, THEN IT'S JUST NUTRIPASTE

Did you know that...

- ◆ Statistically speaking, you have a better chance at getting robbed in Paragon City - the so-called “City of Heroes” - than anywhere in the Rogue Isles? It’s true!
- ◆ Despite an ongoing and hostile boycott of trade by the United States and most European nations, the Rogue Isles continue to thrive and serve as a shipping hub for goods.
- ◆ We have completely solved homelessness, joblessness, and hunger!
- ◆ There is no energy crisis thanks to our advanced energy program bringing free energy through most of the Isles.
- ◆ Our education program has a 99.9% success rate. Almost every single graduate of our Rogue Isles University will find a job immediately! Some find work even before they graduate!
- ◆ Our climates are constant... and comfortable.
- ◆ Despite what you hear from the media, most places in the Isles are still locally-governed, and enjoy the highest and longest-lasting citizen satisfaction rating than any country in the world today.
- ◆ There are no “War Walls” in the Isles - either literally or politically.

So why continue to buy the hype that the Rogue Isles are somehow “evil”?

COME TO THE ROGUE ISLES YOU'LL BE BETTER HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE!

Statistics are not an accurate representation of standards of living or chances of survival. Climate is controlled through volcanic clouds and magic. Most brand goods are not legally available due to ongoing international boycott. Local officials are honorary members of Arachnos or are put to death for treason.

Paid for by the Rogue Isles Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. All hail Lord Recluse and Arachnos!

JUNE, 2013

NERVOUS?

PLEASE! I'M A
TRAINED ARACHNOS
SOLDIER... GETTING
READY TO ENGAGE IN A
MISSION WITHOUT MY
ARMOR, MY WEAPONS,
OR SUPPORT.

I'M NERVOUS AS
ALL HELL AND
YOU KNOW IT.

I HAVE A REQUEST
TO MAKE WHILE
YOU'RE THERE.
THINK OF IT AS AN
EXTRA OBJECTIVE.

WHAT? NEED ME TO
PICK UP YOUR DRY
CLEANING?

GET YOU A NEW
"BACK MASSAGER"?

NOTHING THAT
MUNDANE...
YOU EVER
WATCH PNN*?

ON OCCASION. OPPOSITION
RESEARCH. WHY?

I'M TOLD A CERTAIN PNN
REPORTER WILL BE IN
THE AREA.

FIRST OPPORTUNITY YOU
GET, GIVE "YOUR BEST"
TO THAT REPORTER.

(PNN: PARAGON NEWS NETWORK,
PARAGON CITY'S PREMIERE
NEWS CHANNEL.)

FINE.
WHATEVER.
JUST LET ME
GET READY.

BELIEVE ME WHEN
I SAY YOU'LL
THANK ME LATER
FOR THIS.

OH, AND HAVE
FUN WHILE
YOU'RE THERE.

HOURS LATER...

THIS IS APRIL RAMIREZ, REPORTING BACKSTAGE AT THE ANNUAL TINA BELLO CHARITY CONCERT HERE IN ATLAS PARK.

THE CONCERT, WHICH RAISES MONEY FOR REFUGEE AID, CONTINUES THE LEGACY STARTED BY POP STAR TINA BELLO, WHO WAS CALLOUSLY MURDERED ON STAGE BACK IN 2005.*

(* TALES FROM PARAGON CITY* #4)

TINA BELLO CHARITY CONCERT · ATLAS PARK



"AND ALREADY THE CROWD IS IN AWE AT THE SINGING PERFORMANCE OF 27-YEAR OLD WENDY SPYRE."

"A SURVIVOR OF GALAXY CITY, WENDY HAS BEEN WOWING THE AUDIENCE WITH HER RENDITION OF POP HITS."

HOPEFULLY HER SIGNING WILL ALSO HELP SWAY CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP HERSELF AND THE OTHERS IN NEED.

WENDY SPYRE · EARLIER TONIGHT



APRIL RAMIREZ · ATLAS PARK



WHY DOES SHE...
WHY IS SHE SO FAMILIAR?

EXCUSE ME...

I WAS ASKING YOU WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING, *MS* SUNDAY. YOU KNOW IT'S SORT OF RUDE TO JUST LEAVE SOMEONE HANGING LIKE THIS.

HUH? OH, I'M SORRY. WHERE ARE MY MANNERS?

I'M IN THE ADULT VIDEO BUSINESS. SOFTCORE STUFF, STRICTLY GIRL-ON-GIRL.

WE SAY IT'S "ARTISTIC", BUT, COME ON, YOU KNOW WHAT THE GUYS ARE REALLY WATCHING IT FOR.

O-OHHHH.
THANK YOU.
EXCUSE ME.



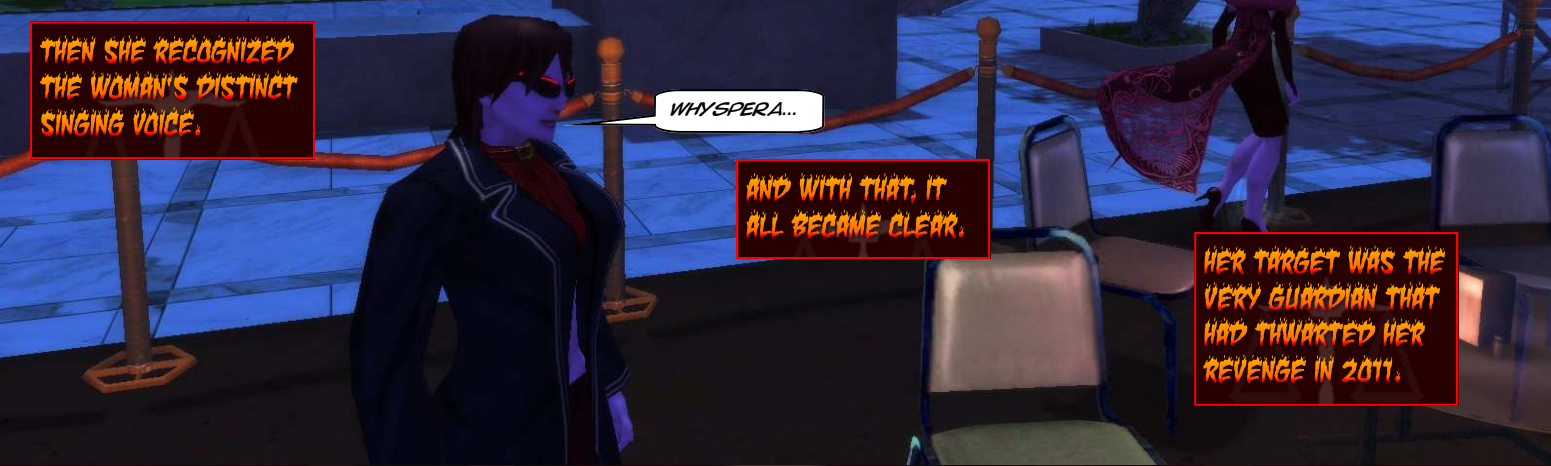
IT WOULD TAKE A WHILE FOR MISTY TO REALIZE JUST WHO HER TARGET WAS...

... AND HOW IT CONNECTED TO HER OWN PAST FAILURE.



THE YOUNG WOMAN ON STAGE WAS HER TARGET.

BUT MISTY DID NOT KNOW WHY.

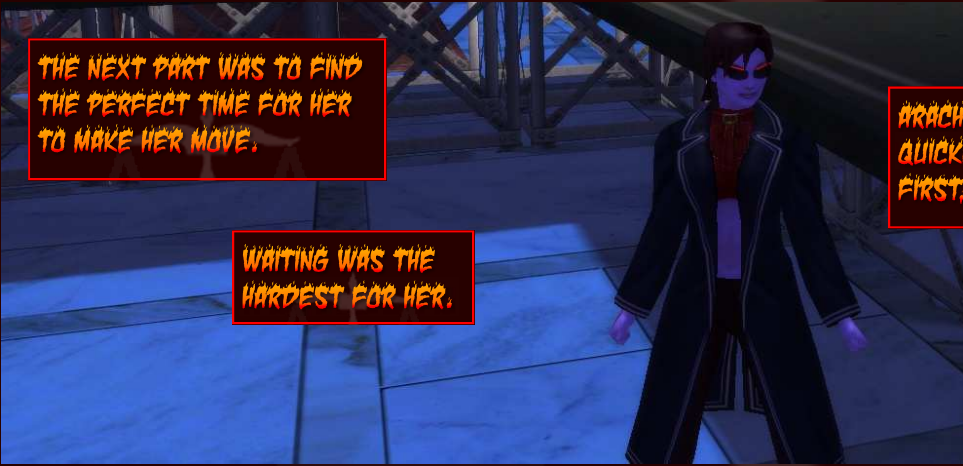


THEN SHE RECOGNIZED THE WOMAN'S DISTINCT SINGING VOICE.

WHYSPERA...

AND WITH THAT, IT ALL BECAME CLEAR.

HER TARGET WAS THE VERY GUARDIAN THAT HAD THWARTED HER REVENGE IN 2011.



THE NEXT PART WAS TO FIND THE PERFECT TIME FOR HER TO MAKE HER MOVE.

WAITING WAS THE HARDEST FOR HER.

ARACHNOS TRAINED HER TO ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY; HIT FIRST, HIT HARD, AND GET THE KILL.

BUT SHE WAS NOT THERE FOR ARACHNOS. SHE WAS THERE FOR ME AND FOR THE GREAT BALANCE.

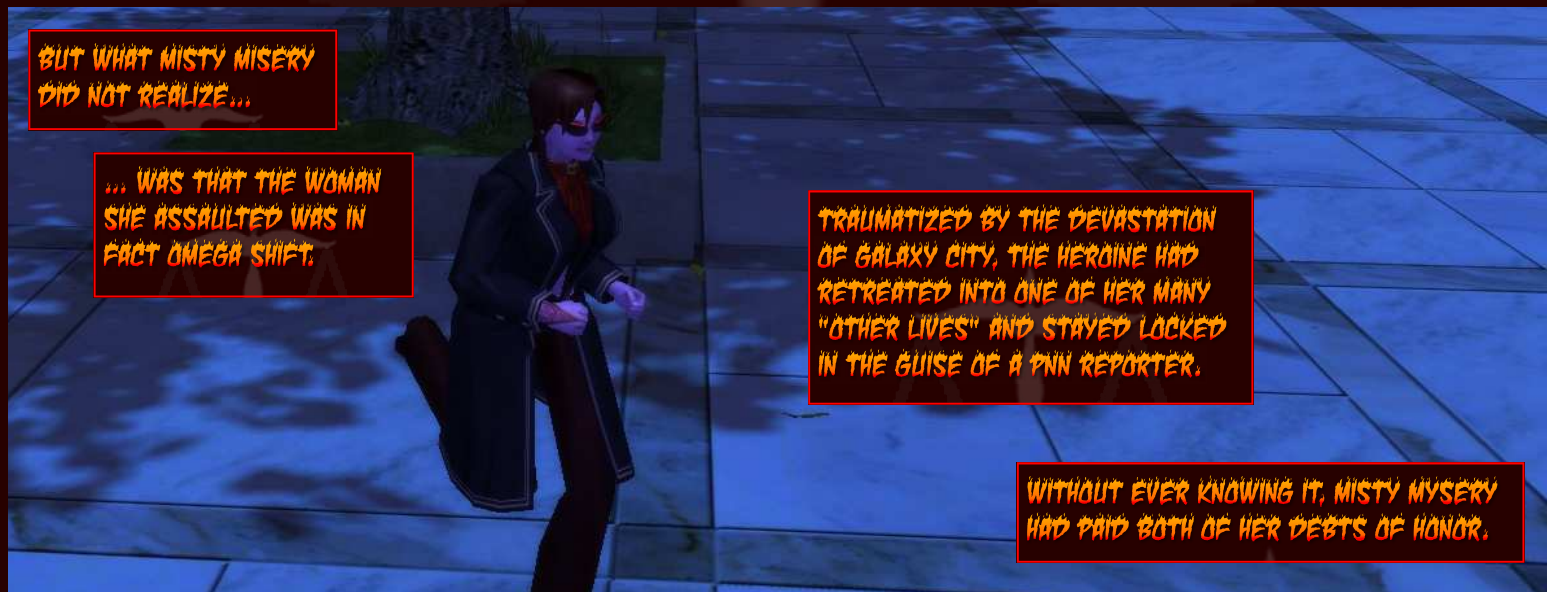


HER WEAPON, DISGUISED AS AN OLD-FASHIONED CAMERA, WAS AN ULTRA-SONIC PROJECTOR.



NEWFOUND FEELINGS SHARED WITH A TEAMMATE...

... BECAME THAT PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR MISTY TO STRIKE.





WHY ALL THE
SUBTERFUGE?
WHY NOT SIMPLY
GIVE ALL YOUR
AGENTS THE
POWER TO REPAY
THEIR DEBTS?



YOU THINK TOO SMALL.

COSMIC FORCES CANNOT
CASUALLY MEDDLE IN
MORTAL AFFAIRS
WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.



MY AGENTS ARE GIVEN
OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE
ACTION, BUT THEY MUST
LEARN FOR THEMSELVES HOW
TO USE THAT CHANCE WISELY.

ISEA LEARNED ON HER OWN
HOW TO DO OVERCOME AND
DEFEAT LYON POWERS.

BUT SOME HEROES, SUCH AS GALATEA
POWERS, ARE SIMPLY TOO POWERFUL OR
TOO EXPERIENCED TO BE DIRECTLY HURT.

IN THOSE CASES,
SUBTERFUGE IS NEEDED
TO BRING BALANCE.



FROM THE MOMENT HIS POWERS
MANIFESTED WHEN HE WAS A
TEENAGER, NATHAN QUIRE
LEARNED THAT HE COULD GET
ANYTHING THAT HE WANTED
FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

 **N. Quire**
MASTER TELEPATH

HE ALSO LEARNED QUICKLY
TO HIDE THIS POWER FROM
OTHERS, ESPECIALLY FROM
THOSE JUST LIKE HIM.



TODAY, N. QUIRE IS ONE OF
MY BEST AGENTS; ABLE TO
DO THE MOST DAMAGE
WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING
WHO HE IS OR THAT HE IS
EVEN DOING IT.

HE CAN GO ANYWHERE HE WISHES
TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
HE IS NOT BOUND BY POLITICS OR
BUREAUCRATIC OVERSIGHT.
HE ANSWERS TO NO ONE... NO ONE
EXCEPT MYSELF.

JUNE, 2013 - VANGUARD INFIRMARY - AFTER THE EVENT



I TOLD YOU
I'LL DEAL
WITH THIS.

Icon Powers
(KENT PODERES)



DEAL WITH IT? HOW?
BY TALKING WITH
HIM?

WENDY'S VOCAL
CHORDS ARE FROZEN
SOLID, OLD MAN!
HUNTER RUINED HER
WHOLE LIFE!

Street Justice
(MARTIN KEYS)



WEAK.
INEFFECTIVE.
USELESS.

YOU'RE
USELESS,
KENT. I'LL
DEAL WITH
HIM MYSELF!



I SAID
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

YOU'RE
DEAD,
CHILL!

Arctic Chill
(HUNTER BLOODMOON)



I'M SORRY,
BUT THE
DAMAGE
WAS TOO
EXTENSIVE
TO SAVE
EITHER ARM.



FAILURE. YOU
FAILED HIM.
YOU'RE TIRED.
YOU'VE BEEN AT
THIS TOO LONG.
YOU'RE USELESS.

AND THAT IS HOW
IT BEGINS...

OCTOBER, 2013 - KINGS ROW - AFTER MOT'S INVASION



I TOLD YOU BEFORE,
KENT... I'M NOT
GOING TO SELL OUT
TO ANDREW
WENTWORTH!

MidKnight X
(JASON KNIGHT)



SO YOU'D RATHER BE
ENSLAVED TO MOT
AGAIN?

WE CAN HELP YOU,
JASON. PHARON CAN
KEEP MOT IN CHECK.

THE SEED THAT IS
PLANTED IN THE MIND OF
THE GREAT ICON POWERS.

FEBRUARY 2014 - ATLAS PARK

EVERY ACTION IS NEGATED
WITH A LITTLE NUDGE.

THAT SEED IS NOURISHED
BY REPETITION

ACTIONS ARE QUESTIONED,
ADVICE IS IGNORED,
DECISIONS ARE NEGATED.

WEEKS, EVEN MONTHS
OF GENTLE NUDGES.

A MOMENT OF SADNESS.

THE LOSS OF A FRIEND
AND TEAMMATE.

HE'S GONE.

TIME OF
DEATH...
2:23PM

A TIME OF PERSONAL
WEAKNESS.

THAT IS WHEN THE
FLOWER BLOOMS.

TIRED, YOU'RE
JUST SO TIRED,
YOU NEED TO
RETIRE.
JUST LEAVE,
JUST GO RIGHT
NOW.

FINALLY HE
SUCCUMBS.

TALOS ISLAND - THE NEXT DAY...

FOR YEARS, ICON POWERS WAS
MINDFUL OF THOSE TRYING TO
SUBVERT HIS WILL.

BUT WHILE N. QUIRE COULD NOT
ENTER ICON'S MIND DIRECTLY, HE
COULD NUDGE IT WITH SUBLIMINAL
SUGGESTIONS.

THE URGING TO QUIT.

THUS N. QUIRE MANAGED TO DO WHAT
GODS AND MONSTERS AND TYRANTS IN
SEVERAL REALITIES COULD NOT...

HE WAS THE ONE THAT DEPRIVED THE
GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN OF THEIR
GREATEST ASSET AND ADVISOR.

APRIL, 2014

WHERE ARE YOU, BITCH? WE NEED TO TALK!

"BITCH"? OH, PLEASE, EVE...

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT YOU CAN CALL ME "LILITH" IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO ADDRESS ME AS "MISTRESS".

I AM NEVER CALLING YOU "MISTRESS". YOU'RE A FRAUD AND YOU DON'T DESERVE ANY CLAIM OF MASTERY OVER ANYONE!

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU TOLD ELLE MAPLE THAT SHE HAD TO TRY TO KILL MALCOLM ROCHSPARE?

TSK-TSK... IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO THE ONE LIBRA LOVES?

SO WHAT IS IT THAT HAS YOU SO UPSET?

SHE CALLED, AND YOU WEREN'T AVAILABLE. SHE NEEDED SOME ADVICE.

TURNED OUT ROCHSPARE WAS TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY.*

HE HAD ALL OF THE PIECES IN PLACE, SO IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GRADUATION" #3)

AND YOU DIDN'T BOTHER TO CONSULT WITH ME BEFORE TELLING HER TO PULL OUT HER KNIVES AND ATTACK ROCHSPARE?

TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE, AND - LIKE I SAID - YOU WEREN'T AVAILABLE.

YOU KNOW, I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU.

AS LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE OF THE ORDER, YOU DO.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?



STRIPPING DOWN
TO TAKE A DIP.
WHY DO YOU
THINK I'M HERE?



OR BETTER YET...
WHY DON'T YOU
JOIN ME?



UH...NO...
I DON'T...
I'M NOT INTO...



I KNOW THAT YOU CAN
TRANSFORM YOURSELF
INTO A HUMAN FORM SO
YOUR PRECIOUS WINGS
WON'T GET WET.

AND YOU WOULDN'T BE THE
FIRST ANGEL THAT I'VE
SHARED MY PERSONAL
HEAVEN WITH EITHER.



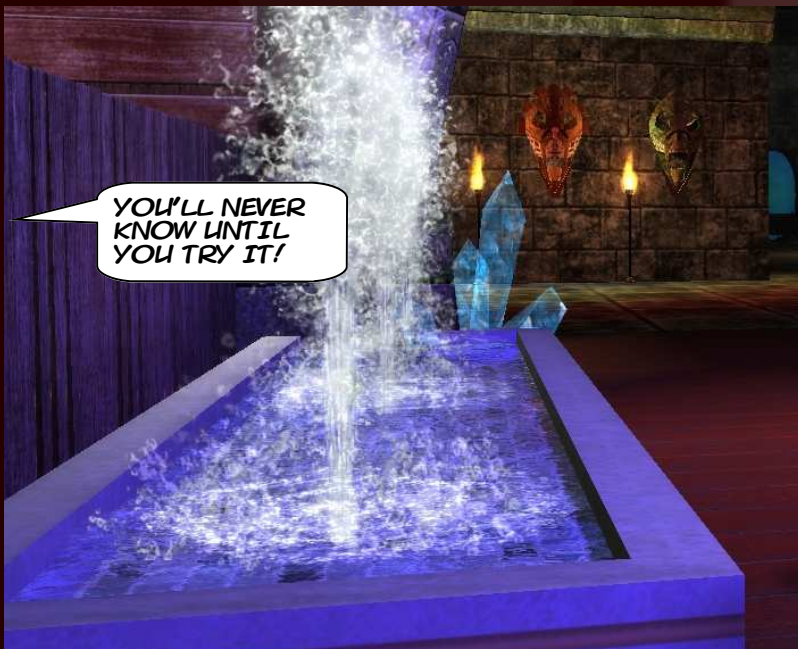
DAMMIT! NO!
YOU'RE TRYING TO
SIDESTEP THE
ISSUE!

SPLOOSH



ARE YOU SURE
ABOUT THAT?

COME ON IN
AND PROVE IT.



YOU'LL NEVER
KNOW UNTIL
YOU TRY IT!



THEN I GUESS
I'LL NEVER KNOW.

MY MISTRESS IS STRATEGIC.
SHE IS SO MASTERFUL AT MANIPULATION
THAT SHE CAN EVEN TURN THE RAGE OF
AN ANGEL INTO A MODEST BLUSH.



SO THAT'S IT, RIGHT?
ALL OF THE "DEBTS OF
HONOR" HAVE BEEN PAID,
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
SO WHY TELL ME THIS?

BECAUSE THERE IS STILL
ONE MORE DEBT THAT
NEEDS TO BE PAID.



THE AGENTS THAT WERE
HARMED BY THE GUARDIANS
IN THEIR OPERATION WERE
GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR
RETRIBUTION, THAT IS TRUE.

BUT THE ONE PERSON REMAINING WAS
THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION.
THE ONE WHOSE DEBT OF HONOR YOU
WERE CHOSEN TO COLLECT.

JOHN COLE.



BUT JOHN COLE WAS AN
AGENT OF YOUR ORDER,
WASN'T HE?

HOW COULD YOU CALL
FOR A "DEBT OF HONOR"
WHEN HE WAS A PART OF
YOUR ORDER?

IN ORDER TO DO THAT, IT IS
IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHY HE
BECAME A PART OF MY ORDER.



RAISED IN THE ROGUE ISLES,
JOHN COLE FIRST GAINED
NOTORIETY BY BEING THE
FIRST SUCCESSFUL MALE
WIDOW AGENT FOR ARACHNOS.

HIS SUPERVISORS SAID HE WAS
EFFECTIVE AS A WIDOW, BUT
NOT RUTHLESS.

 **Widowmaker**
(JOHN COLE)

THEY HAD NO IDEA WHY
THAT WAS. BUT I DID.

AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER, A FORMER ARACHNOS SPY, JOHN COLE VANISHED FOR THREE DAYS.

WHEN HE RETURNED, HE WAS ALLOWED TO "LEAVE" ARACHNOS, EVEN THOUGH MOST IN THE ISLES REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT WAS EVEN POSSIBLE.

HE LEFT ARACHNOS, BUT HE COULD NOT LEAVE WHAT WAS GIVEN TO HIM. HE WAS STILL A MALE WIDOW AGENT WITH ALL OF THE WEAPONS AND TOOLS INSIDE HIM.

MATTHEW BURKE REQUESTED THAT I RECRUIT COLE TO MY ORDER SPECIFICALLY TO AID THE GUARDIANS IN THEIR COVERT OPERATION.

I AGREED TO THE REQUEST BECAUSE OF WHO JOHN COLE IS... AND HIS LINK TO THE COLE FAMILY LEGACY.

I KNEW OF BURKE'S CONNECTION TO THE GUARDIANS THROUGH HIS ADOPTED SISTER, MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA.

THAT KNOWLEDGE ITSELF WAS CERTAINLY WORTH MORE THAN THE TEN MILLION DOLLARS THAT WAS SPENT TO COMPLETE THE ILL-FATED OPERATION.

UNFORTUNATELY, A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE GREAT BALANCE FORCED ME TO RELEASE MY HOLD ON JOHN COLE.*

BUT NOT BEFORE I RELIEVED HIM OF ALL OF HIS ARACHNOS WIDOW WEAPONS AND DEVICES.

(* THE DRAMATIC CHANGE IS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #15)

WHICH I PRESUME YOU KEPT.

OF COURSE.

WHILE MY PLANS WERE FORCED TO CHANGE, HIS DEBT TO MY ORDER REMAINS.

SOME OF MY OPERATIONS TAKE YEARS TO DEVELOP BEFORE THEY COME TO FRUITION.

CASE IN POINT...

<WELL... I HOPE YOU ARE MY WELCOMING COMMITTEE.>*

(* TRANSLATED FROM INTER-SPEAK, THE UNIVERSAL INTERGALACTIC LANGUAGE)

<BE LUCKY I EVEN BOTHERED TO SHOW UP TO MEET YOU.>

<I MET WITH YOUR BOSS SEVEN YEARS AGO!>*

<I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK IT WAS A WASTED TRIP.>

(* SPOTLIGHT #22)

<YOU CAN BLAME MY BOSS FOR THAT.>

<BARTIOK NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS A MARKET FOR THE TREASURE YOU DESCRIBED BEFORE SENDING ME.>

<THE NAME IS NOX.>

<I'M AN ADVANCE AGENT, HERE TO MAKE SURE THE TREASURE IS AS VALLIABLE AS YOU DESCRIBE.>

<AFTER BARTIOK'S FAILURE WITH THE KHELDIANS, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERN ABOUT A MARKET FOR SUCH RARE SUPER-HUMAN BEINGS.>



Nox
ADVANCE AGENT

<THE "GUARDIAN EXILES" ARE REAL, AND YOU WILL SEE THEIR WORTH SOON ENOUGH.>

<PLUS WE NOW HAVE A NEW MARKET OF EXILES FOR YOUR BOSS TO CONSIDER.>

<HOLD ON, SEXY.>

<FIRST I SEE THESE "GUARDIAN EXILES", THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT OTHERS.>



THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO
REVEAL YOURSELF AND ACCEPT
THE GIFTS I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

REMOVE THE CLOAKS THAT HAVE
KEPT YOU CONCEALED.



THE LIFE YOU ONCE HAD
NO LONGER EXISTS.

HIS LIFE IS NOW YOURS.

EVERYTHING HE REMEMBERED,
EVERYTHING HE WAS UNTIL 2011
IS NOW A PART OF YOU.

HIS WEAPONS, HIS TOOLS, HIS TRAINING,
EVEN HIS FAMILY LEGACY ARE NOW ALL
YOURS THROUGH THE BLOOD MEMORY
LEFT BEHIND IN HIS DEVICES.



YOU ARE NOW THE
WIDOWMAKER.

AND YOU WILL REPAY THE DEBT OF
HONOR LEFT BY JOHN COLE...

BY BEING WHAT HE ONCE WAS TO
DESTROY WHAT HE COULD BECOME.

IN ALL THINGS...
BALANCE.

 **Widowmaker**
ARACHNOS WIDOW

Find out what happens next in...

FURIA 
AND
THE **GUARDIANS**

EQUILIBRIUM



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

October...

The month everyone thinks of when they think of fall.

The season of Halloween.

A time when ghosts and goblins and things that go bump in the night are celebrated.

And traditionally it is also a time when the bad guys take center stage.

I remember once upon a time when the local TV station did a Halloween Marathon and it featured some of the most notorious characters in history. There was Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster, The Bride of Frankenstein, The Wolfman, and Lizzy Bordon.

I know the last one seemed a little strange, but it actually fit in given how the movie itself was somewhat scary and, even though she was never convicted of it, she was allegedly a notoriously brutal double-murderer. Plus the movie showed a rather salacious theory of how Lizzy supposedly carried out her crime, so between the hinted nudity and the blood, it did fit in with the general theme of the night.

The dirty little secret about stories featuring heroes is that quite often the villains are the ones that have the better histories.

Heroes quite often are boring. We already know who they are and why they do what they do. It's the villains that lead the more interesting lives. Or they have the more twisted lives. We want to know why they do what they do. What is their story?

The villains are the ones that take the action that the heroes have to respond to. They're the ones causing the disasters. The devastation is being done in their name and for their purposes.

So How Did We Get Here?

The Libra Order first appeared in "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight" #17 as a different way to show life in the Rogue Isles. Readers were already given a taste of the Rogue Isles in the two-part "Limelight" storyline as Midnight Arachnia tried to survive while in hiding. But with the Order, we exposed something you normally would not see in the "City of Villains"; namely the infrastructure that keeps the Rogue Isles going regardless of who "rules" it.

In order to show this, we needed operatives that were not really evil... or not really in league with Lord Recluse and Arachnos. Operatives that wouldn't object too loudly to working with heroes.

Some of the operatives were a perfect fit for the Guardians, like Isea and Lyon Powers. Some, like Tyrannus 4 and MidKnight X, required a little fudging. And then, of course, there was Omega Shift. Being a shapeshifter has its advantages.

Then there needed to be a "control operative", someone within the Order that knew enough about the infrastructure to cause damage. Who better than a real "rogue" operative with rumors of a special "family lineage"?

It was after this one-issue look at the Order that the idea came about for "payback". After all, the operation did not go off as "flawlessly" as was hoped. Mistakes were made. People were hurt.

Continues on next page...

The idea was that there would be a multi-part storyline called “Debts of Honor” which would feature one member of the Order getting payback against the Guardian that impersonated them. The very first one would be Misty Mysery, and you could actually see that in “Spotlight” #27.

Sadly, the storyline could not be developed as I was forced to shelve my access to “The City” for a few months. When I was able to return with “The Guardian Powers”, I had hoped to bring that storyline back. Again, you saw references to that in “The Guardian Powers” #8 with Libra releasing John Cole from the Isles and telling Tainted Eve to “Gather my forces”.

But, once again, that was not meant to be as NCSoft began to sunset the MMO. Not all storylines could be cleared up before the shutdown, so “Debts of Honor” was one of many un-realized ideas.

Then came the “gift”... a way for me to resume telling stories thanks to Titan Icon and demorecording. A way for me to return to “The City” and bring you the stories you loved for so long.

My “return” came in a three-part miniseries called “Guardians of the Dawn GRADUATION”, which originally was supposed to be a one-shot issue, but there was just too much story to keep in a single issue. “Debts of Honor” was supposed to be included as part of the story, but there just was not enough room to include it and the other storylines. Plus it just didn’t seem to fit with the overall storyline in “GRADUATION”.

On top of it all, there were some events in “GRADUATION” that I’m sure people thought were strange. Certain pieces were missing... “Debts of Honor” would fill those in.

So the decision was made to give the Libra Order their own one-shot special... and the timing could not be better.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Well the answer to that is simple... onward with the next phase.

The Widowmaker is back. But how will he affect the man who once was him? Who are the other “exiles” that Mistress Libra mentioned to Nox? And what can be done to stop Nox before his boss decides to show up to “collect” the “Guardian Exiles”?

All of these and more will be answered in January of 2015 as we launch...

FURIA

**AND
THE GUARDIANS**



<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>



"WE ARE SOLDIERS OF ARACHNOS!"

We serve a leader who is an actual immortal; not one who thinks he is simply because he won an election.

We fight for a cause that is greater than our own miserable and pathetic lives.

We wear these uniforms because they look cool.

We strive to augment ourselves at every opportunity so we can be even stronger and more ruthless in battle.

Our actions are not second-guessed by armchair quarterbacks sitting in some cushy cable television studio owned by some billionaire egomaniac with a political agenda.

We chose to work in the most depraved and dilapidated of conditions so that every free moment away from them are considered gifts from our immortal leader.

We do not fear torture or death; we fear Ghost Widow using our souls for her personal amusement. Anything else is meaningless.

We serve because we know doing so will give us real food instead of the watery fish paste the civilians eat.

We strive to one day see a Fortunata without her helmet.

If this sounds like you, then join us!



Arachnos is a recognized terrorist organization. Enlisting in Arachnos is considered a felony in most countries around the world. Please consider whether or not you think this is worth going to prison for the rest of your life if captured. Ghost Widow may or may not eat your soul even if you do nothing wrong. Fortunatas wear those helmets for a reason. You'll still eat watery fish paste, unless you prefer the taste of seagulls and what passes for fish in the Rogue Isles. This is not a real ad.

"I've spent a long time building up my family's business and made it what it is. And now that I have what I have long sought after, I will not allow anyone to take it away from me."

- Lord Lee Geddy
CEO, Rocinante Group



FURIA

AND
THE **GUARDIANS**



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



A PROUD MEMBER
OF THE CITY OF
COMIC CREATORS