

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

AND THE GUARDIANS



Issue 22
2017



Who is Mindy Harrison?



(Space Reserved for advertising)

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

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

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

FURIA



AND THE GUARDIANS

On the inaugural day of a new president, Furia Powers starts her new job working for the mysterious law firm of Loche & Key.

She is looking for a potential new client; a witness that could expose the corrupt practices of the Paragon City Police Department's resurrected "Blue Dog Squad". But she is not the only one looking for this witness.

Meanwhile, Ryder Lightning begins his look into the activities of Mindy Harrison, who has, for the past few years, been serving as the unofficial "Girl Friday" to the Guardians of the Dawn.

But with her recent disappearance coinciding with the arrival of Vanguard special operative Carlton Sage, Ryder has to wonder just who Mindy is, why she vanished when Sage arrived, and who does she really work for?

"MINDY'S STORY - PART 1"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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WASHINGTON DC - JANUARY 20TH, 2009*

"I... BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA... DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR... THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES..."

"AND WILL... TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY... PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND... THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."

"SO HELP ME GOD."

(ACTUAL PHOTO TAKEN FROM THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.)

AT THE SAME TIME IN GALAXY CITY...

EXCUSE ME...
PARDON ME...
AGENT HARRISON?

YOU MUST HAVE
ME CONFUSED
WITH SOMEONE
ELSE.
I'M JUST A CADET.

SORRY... SORRY,
I JUST HAD TO
CATCH UP TO YOU
SOMEHOW..

I'M MIGHTY MARV...
I'M NEW TO THIS
WHOLE HERO THING.



WELL, WELCOME TO
PARAGON CITY...

BUT I'M REALLY NOT
THE PERSON YOU
SHOULD BE
SPEAKING WITH TO
GET YOU STARTED
AS A HERO.

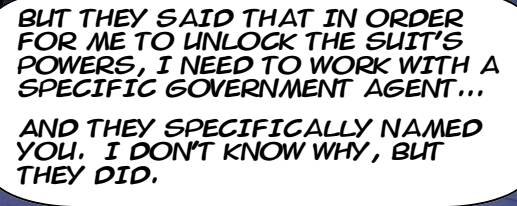


WELL, YOU SEE, THAT'S
THE THING. I WAS
SORT OF... SENT TO
SEEK YOU OUT... TO
HELP ME BE A HERO.

YOU SEE, THESE ALIENS CAME TO
ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
AND THEY GAVE ME THIS OUTFIT,
WHICH THEY SAY IS ONLY MEANT
FOR ME TO WEAR.

BUT THEY SAID THAT IN ORDER
FOR ME TO UNLOCK THE SUIT'S
POWERS, I NEED TO WORK WITH A
SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT AGENT...

AND THEY SPECIFICALLY NAMED
YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT
THEY DID.



DOES THAT
MAKE SENSE?

NO, IT SOUNDS
ABSOLUTELY
RIDICULOUS!

BUT... I PROBABLY
SHOULD HELP YOU
IN SOME WAY, AT
LEAST TO KNOW
WHY I WAS
SINGLED OUT.



GREAT! THIS
SOUNDS LIKE THE
START OF ONE OF
THOSE TV SITCOMS!

LISTEN, DO YOU
HAVE A FIRST NAME,
OR DO I HAVE TO
CALL YOU "CADET"
ALL THE TIME?

WELL, AS LONG
AS IT'S JUST
BETWEEN THE TWO
OF US, YOU CAN
CALL ME BY MY
FIRST NAME.

IT'S MINDY.



WASHINGTON DC - JANUARY 20TH, 2017*

"I... DONALD JOHN TRUMP... DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR... THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES..."

"AND WILL... TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY... PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND... THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."

"SO HELP ME GOD."

(ACTUAL PHOTO TAKEN FROM THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE AS 2009.)

AT THE SAME TIME IN ATLAS PARK...

KEEP IT UP, ROOKIE! THOSE VAHZILOK ARE MORE AFRAID OF US THAN YOU ARE OF THEM!

THAT USED TO BE MY WORLD.

PATROLS AND DRILLS AND KEEPING MY AREA CRIME-FREE...

Mindy Harrison
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



NOW I'M TRYING TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE WHILE STILL TRYING TO DO MY JOB.
AND MOST OF THE GUARDIANS WON'T EVEN KNOW IT.



EXCUSE ME, BUT I HAVE A PROSCRIPTION FOR ZYGALL THAT I'M ALMOST OUT OF.
CAN I GET IT REFILLED HERE TOMORROW?



ZYGALL?
LET ME CHECK...



YES, WE STILL HAVE THAT IN STOCK.
COME BY ANYTIME TO GET IT REFILLED.

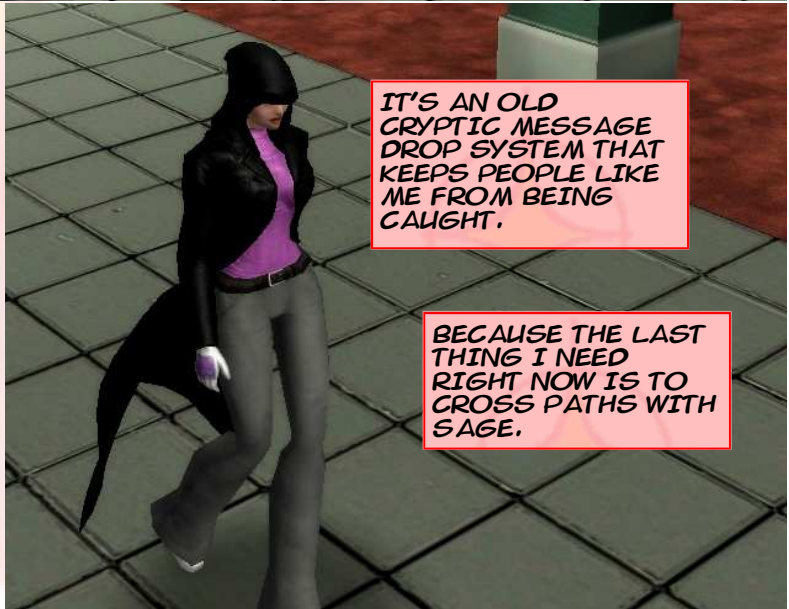


OKAY, THANK YOU.

NUTS.



THAT NURSE DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT SHE JUST INFORMED ME THAT CARLTON SAGE IS STILL POKING AROUND GUARDIAN BASE.



IT'S AN OLD CRYPTIC MESSAGE DROP SYSTEM THAT KEEPS PEOPLE LIKE ME FROM BEING CAUGHT.

BECAUSE THE LAST THING I NEED RIGHT NOW IS TO CROSS PATHS WITH SAGE.

I HOPE TAYA DOESN'T MIND THAT I'VE TURNED OUR KITCHEN AREA INTO MY NEW WORKSPACE.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS ALREADY BEING USED.

NOTHING LIKE STARTING YOUR DAY WITH A BIG BOX OF PAPERS AND A LAPTOP FROM YOUR NEW BOSSES.

ABBEY LOCHE WAS RIGHT WHEN SHE SAID HER PARTNER IS OLD-SCHOOL.

EVERYTHING I EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BLUE DOGS BUT WAS AFRAID TO ASK.

INCLUDING STUFF THAT THE PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW!

AND I THOUGHT THE PRAETORIAN POLICE WERE CORRUPT!

Furia Powers (FIONA PODERES)

AND NOW ALL OF IT HINGES ON ONE FRESHMAN HERO WILLING TO STEP FORWARD AND SAY SHE WAS ACCOSTED BY LT. MCCAIDE.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

Streetangel (one word)
RN - Karen Manning
No listed address

Hero in Hartford CT
before coming to Paragon City
Street skills - not enhanced

Security level 5

AND OF COURSE THERE'S VERY LITTLE ABOUT HER!



THEN AGAIN, IF IT WAS EASY, THEN LOCHE AND KEY WOULDN'T HAVE HIRED ME.

STREET ANGEL IS A LOW-LEVEL HERO. THAT MEANS THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE KIND OF PLACES IN THE CITY SHE CAN GO TO AS A REGISTERED HERO.

SHE WOULDN'T BE GIVEN HERO ASSIGNMENTS IN PLACES LIKE FOUNDERS FALLS OR TALOS ISLAND YET.

THAT MEANS SHE'S HANGING AROUND ATLAS PARK OR KINGS ROW OR THE HOLLOWES. I'LL HAVE TO START THERE.

SPEAKING OF KINGS ROW...



SORRY SYN, BUT I REALLY CAN'T HELP YOU.



Officer Vic Johansson
PARAGON CITY POLICE

COME ON VIC, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO GO AGAINST YOUR FELLOW COPS. I JUST NEED TO KNOW IF YOU KNOW WHERE STREET ANGEL PATROLS.



Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)

NO, YOU DON'T GET IT.

I'M GETTING HEAT FROM UP TOP ABOUT SHARING ANYTHING TO YOU... OR ANY OTHER HERO.



LISTEN, YOU'VE BEEN GREAT HERE ON THE STREETS. I HAVE NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR YOU AND JASON KNIGHT...

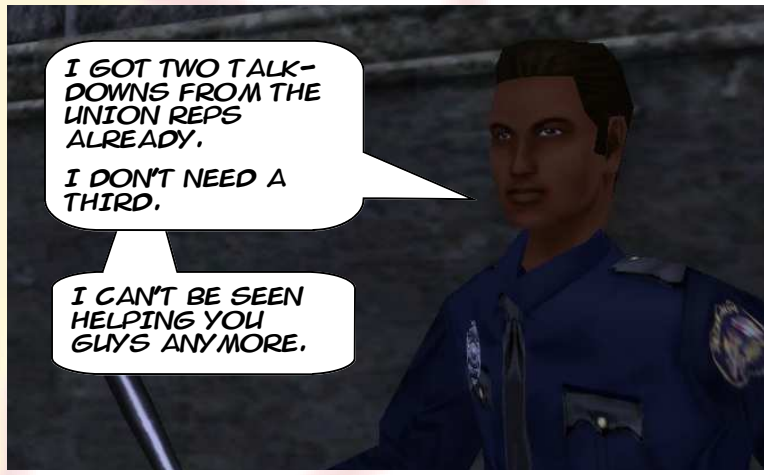
BUT THE BRASS ARE CLOSING RANKS AGAINST HELPING OUT HEROES.



I GOT TWO TALK-DOWNS FROM THE UNION REPS ALREADY.

I DON'T NEED A THIRD.

I CAN'T BE SEEN HELPING YOU GUYS ANYMORE.



IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS... I'M SORRY.

I'LL LET THE OTHERS KNOW AS WELL.



THANKS. AND... JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME... I HOPE STREET ANGEL IS OKAY, WHEREVER SHE IS.

YOU NEVER HEARD ME SAY THIS, BUT MCCADE HAS BEEN TALKING IT UP ABOUT STREET ANGEL THIS MORNING...

AND THE LAST TIME HE WAS THAT WAY WAS WITH ROSE VESTA AND WHAT HE DID TO HER.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
RUN IT AGAIN.

HOW THE HELL CAN YOU SAY YOU CAN ACCESS ANY FILE EXCEPT THAT ONE?

Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)

PROBLEMS?

JUST A LITTLE ISSUE ACCESSING A FILE ON THE SERVER.

I'LL VENTURE A GUESS THAT IT'S A PERSONNEL FILE FOR A CERTAIN 20 -SOMETHING WOMAN THAT HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT EVER SINCE I SHOWED UP.

Carlton Sage
VANGUARD OVERSEER

LET'S SUPPOSE FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT THAT YOU'RE RIGHT, CARLTON.

ANYTHING THAT YOU'D BE WILLING TO SHARE?

REALLY NOT MY ISSUE TO SHARE, PROFESSOR.

BUT I WILL TELL YOU THIS: THERE'S MORE TO MISS HARRISON THAN MEETS THE EYE.

YOU KNOW, I DON'T EVEN ALLOW MY FRIEND JASON KNIGHT TO WALK AWAY WITH A CUTESY TV-DRAMA ONE-LINER.

GIVE ME SOMETHING MORE.



MINDY HARRISON IS A SKILLED COMPUTER ADMINISTRATOR. WOULDNT YOU THINK SHE'D BE ABLE TO PUT A LOCK ON HER OWN PERSONNEL FILE?

I CAN GET DATABANK OVER FROM THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS TO BREAK THROUGH THAT LOCK IN SECONDS. YOU WALK PAST HIS DATA INTERFACE STATION EVERY DAY.



MAYBE. AND MAYBE ALL YOU'LL GET IS A DUMMY FILE WITH JUST ENOUGH INFORMATION TO WITHHOLD HER TAXES.



BUT MAYBE YOU JUST NEED A BETTER BREADCRUMB TO FOLLOW. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE BASE'S MYSTICAL CLOUD?



VAGUELY. IT'S ONE OF THE BASE'S SECURITY SYSTEMS, RIGHT?



YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF HOW THE GUARDIANS COULD HAVE A CIVILIAN SUPPORT STAFF AND NOT HAVE YOUR SECRETS SPILLED ALL OVER THE INTERNET?



GO AHEAD AND TALK A WALK AROUND THE BASE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. THE GUARDIANS HAVE SOME OF THE BEST SECURITY SYSTEMS MONEY CAN BUY, AND ANDREW WENTWORTH HAS PLENTY OF MONEY IN RESERVE FOR YOUR LITTLE SUPERGROUP.

ASK YOURSELF HOW THE GUARDIANS KEEP THEIR SECRETS WITH ALL OF THESE CIVILIANS MILLING AROUND. AND THEN ASK YOURSELF WHY MINDY HARRISON WOULD HAVE A WAY AROUND THAT SECURITY.

BACK IN 2009...

INSIDE THE FREEDOM CORPS BUILDING IN GALAXY CITY...

I'VE ACCESSED THE SERVER WE NEED TO SEARCH.

BUT I STILL HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT DOING THIS.

YOU SAID THAT THE FREEDOM CORPS IS HERE TO HELP HEROES.

WELL, I'M A REGISTERED HERO AND I NEED THE INFORMATION SO I CAN UNLOCK MY SUIT'S POWERS.

REALLY? THEN WHY WAS THE FIRST THING YOU ASKED ME TO LOOK UP IN THE SYSTEM WERE THE DIRECTIONS TO MY DORM ROOM?

VALIDATION, OF COURSE!

BESIDES, IF I NEED TO CONTACT YOU AND I DON'T HAVE MY COMMUNICATOR, I'LL KNOW WHERE TO GO TO FIND YOU.

... THAT'S JUST... CREEPY.

WELL THEN, THE SOONER YOU FIND THAT FILE, THE SOONER WE CAN UNLOCK MY SUIT'S SUPER-POWERS, AND THEN WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

STILL DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER FOR ME TO ACCEPT IT.

BACK IN 2017...

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK

SO A HERO COMES TO YOU, SAYS SHE'S BEEN ACCOSTED BY THE POLICE, AND YOU CAN'T HELP HER?

AS I TOLD YOU, FURIA, I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DIVULGE ANYTHING ABOUT THE HERO-IN-QUESTION CONCERNING THAT INCIDENT.

Brigid Moreira
CITY REPRESENTATIVE

HOW DID YOU COME ACROSS YOUR INFORMATION TO BEGIN WITH?
AND WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT THIS HERO-IN-QUESTION?

I'M HELPING A FRIEND... WHO HAPPENS TO WORK FOR LOCHE & KEY. THEY WANT TO HELP HER.

OH...
THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING.
BUT IT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE MY STANCE ON THE MATTER.

SO YOU CAN'T HELP.

OFFICIALLY I CAN'T.

BUT... *AHEM*
UNOFFICIALLY, ABBEY LOCHE AND BILL KEY ARE THE BEST, AND I REALLY HOPE THEY CAN HELP STREET ANGEL.
SHE NEEDS ALL THE HELP SHE CAN GET RIGHT NOW WITH MCCADE.

BUT YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANY OF THAT FROM ME.

AT THE SUPPORT ENTRANCE OF GUARDIAN BASE...



GOT YOUR MESSAGE. WOT'S UP?

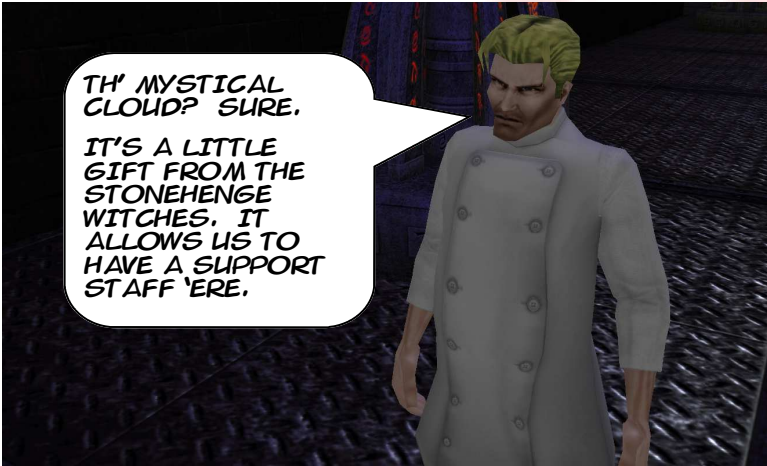
TELL ME ABOUT THIS.

Chef Dramsay
(ELLIOT DRAMSAY)



TH' MYSTICAL CLOUD? SURE.

IT'S A LITTLE GIFT FROM THE STONEHENGE WITCHES. IT ALLOWS US TO HAVE A SUPPORT STAFF 'ERE.



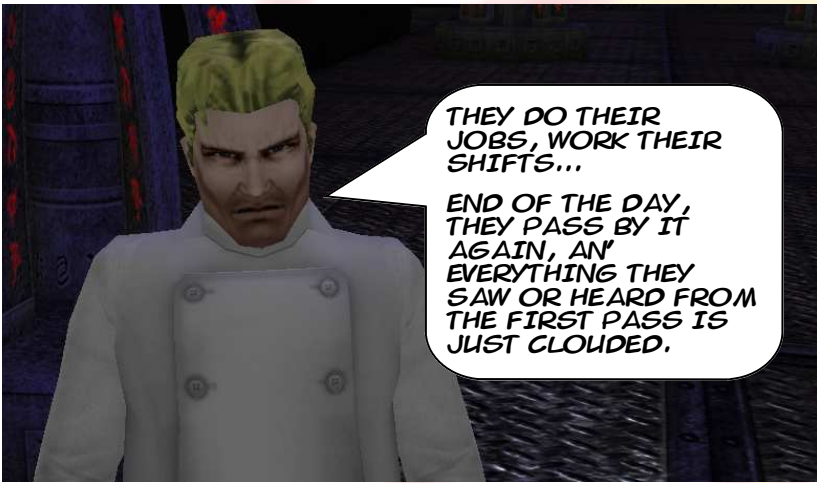
"EVERYONE THAT COMES IN FROM THE BLUE LINE RAIL PASS UNDER THE CLOUD."

"THE FIRST PASS SETS UP A MARKER IN THEIR HEADS, LIKE A MAGICAL BOOKMARK."

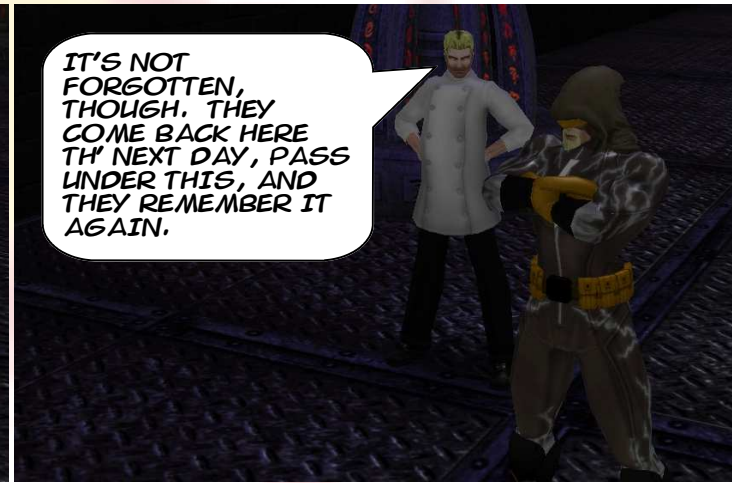


THEY DO THEIR JOBS, WORK THEIR SHIFTS...

END OF THE DAY, THEY PASS BY IT AGAIN, AN' EVERYTHING THEY SAW OR HEARD FROM THE FIRST PASS IS JUST CLOUDED.



IT'S NOT FORGOTTEN, THOUGH. THEY COME BACK HERE TH' NEXT DAY, PASS UNDER THIS, AND THEY REMEMBER IT AGAIN.

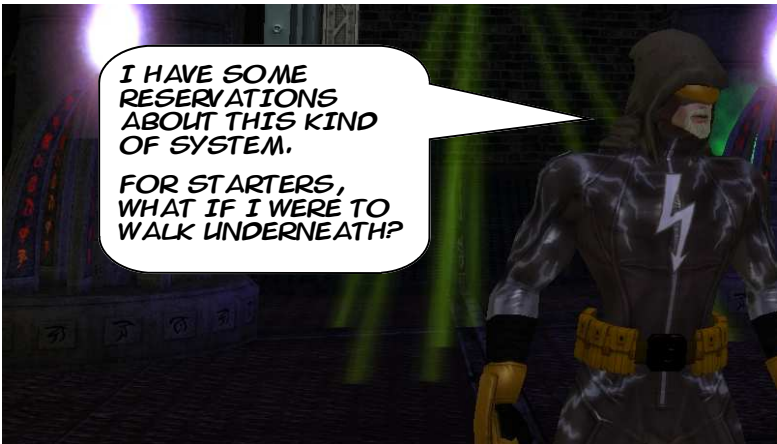


IT AMAZES ME JUST HOW WE PUT SO MUCH TRUST INTO TECHNOLOGY AND MAGIC TO KEEP OUR SECRETS SAFE.


DOESN'T THIS CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH PEOPLE'S MEMORIES? THEIR PSYCHES?

ACCORDING T' THE STONEHENGE COVEN, IT'S PRETTY SAFE.





I HAVE SOME
RESERVATIONS
ABOUT THIS KIND
OF SYSTEM.
FOR STARTERS,
WHAT IF I WERE TO
WALK UNDERNEATH?




YOU? NOTHING.
YOUR GUARDIAN ID
CARD HAS A HIDDEN
GLYPH IN IT SO THAT
THE CLOUD RECOGNIZES
YOU AS "SAFE".




AND IF SOMEONE
MYSTICAL WERE T' TRY T'
BYPASS TH' CLOUD...
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY
THESE BIG THINGS HERE
AREN'T FOR DECORATION.


THESE ARE SOME OF TH'
MOST POWERFUL
MYSTICAL DEFENSE
SYSTEMS WE COULD GET.
AND IF THAT DOESN'T
WORK, THEN WE HAVE TH'
TECH DEFENSES AT TH'
CHECK-IN STATION.




OKAY, SO YOU HAVE
THAT.
BUT WHAT IF
SOMEONE ALREADY
HAS A GUARDIAN ID
GLYPH THAT THEY'RE
NOT SUPPOSED TO
HAVE?



I WOULD HOPE THAT
YOU'RE BEING
HYPOTHETICAL
ABOUT THIS, RYDER.
BE-CUZ IF YOU'RE
NOT, THEN WE'RE
TALKING TH'
BIGGEST BREACH
SINCE BLOODY
STARCYGNUS!



ALL THE MORE
REASON WHY WE
NEED TO NOT BET
EVERYTHING ON TECH
AND MAGIC, CHEF.



RIGHT NOW IT'S
"HYPOTHETICAL".
BUT IF I DON'T LIKE
WHAT I HEAR IN THE
NEXT FEW DAYS...
WELL, LET'S JUST
SAY THING WILL
GET MESSY AT
HYPER-SPEED.

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(Space Reserved for advertising)

BACK IN ATLAS PARK...



GALAXY CITY - 2009



WHAT'S WRONG, MINDY?

I DON'T KNOW MARY...



... IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT. WHY WOULD ALIENS MEET YOU IN A WAREHOUSE?



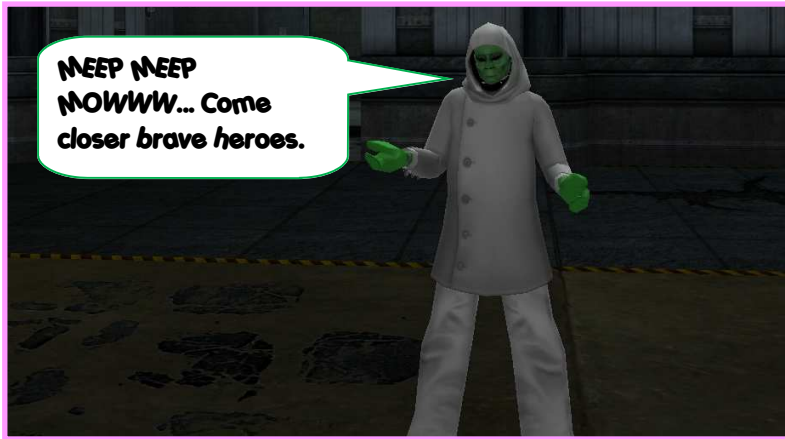
WELL THEY COULDN'T EXACTLY COME DOWN IN THEIR SPACESHIP, COULD THEY? I MEAN, VANGUARD WOULD SHOOT THEM DOWN BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN SAY "WE COME IN PEACE"!



... NNH... I HATE TO SAY IT, MARY, BUT YOU DO HAVE A POINT.

OKAY, LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH. THIS GIVES ME THE CREEPS.





NEEP NEEP
NOWWW... Come
closer brave heroes.



ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME!?



YOU'RE NOT AN
ALIEN!
I'VE SEEN THAT
RUBBER MASK IN
A LOCAL GROCERY
STORE!



SO YA KNOW...
GOOD FOR YOU.
THAT JUST MEANS
YOU'RE SMARTER
THAN YOUR IDIOT
PARTNER.



CLICK! CLICK!

BUT THAT
DOESN'T SAY
MUCH IF YOU
CAME HERE BY
YOURSELVES!



MINDY!
NO!

CLICK! CLICK!

I'M SMART
ENOUGH TO
SHOW UP TO
A GUNFIGHT
WITH GUNS!



AAAH!
WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
BOYS DOING?

BLAM-BLAM

GET ME THE HELL
OUT OF HERE!



HEY, WHERE
DID HE GO?

HE HAD A
TELEPORT
DEVICE!



WHOA!

COME HERE YOU LITTLE BITCH!



MARV! USE YOUR POWERS!



MARV? MIGHTY MARV?



YER BOYFRIEND WON'T HELP YOU, MISSY!



THEN IT SUCKS TO BE YOU!
EAT A TRANQ DART!

BLAM!



MARVIN! WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU HELP ME!
AT THE VERY LEAST YOU COULDVE TRIED!



I'M SORRY MINDY... IT'S JUST...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!



THIS IS A VANGUARD RAID!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

OKAY, MARV, STAY RIGHT HERE AND LET ME DO THE TALKING, OKAY?

BACK OVER IN KINGS ROW, 2017

DISPATCH TO ALL UNITS IN KINGS ROW AREA: ANGRY GIRL SPOTTED IN GISH.

REPEAT: ANGRY GIRL SPOTTED OVER GISH.

DISPATCH, THIS IS HAWK ONE. I'VE GOT EYES ON ANGRY GIRL.

UNDERSTOOD, HAWK ONE.

ALL UNITS STAND READY TO ASSIST.

SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, MISS POWERS?

LAWHAWK, RIGHT? I SAW YOUR DEBUT ON PNN.*

Lawhawk
PARAGON CITY POLICE

(* WHILE FURIA WAS BED-RIDDEN BACK IN ISSUE #17.)

NICE TO KNOW YOU WATCH THE NEWS. BUT THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. IS THERE A REASON WHY YOU'RE IN KINGS ROW, MISS POWERS?

DO I NEED A REASON TO BE IN KINGS ROW? I THOUGHT THIS WAS STILL A SEMI-FREE CITY.



AFTER WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE... YES, YOU NEED ONE.

REALLY?

I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND THE NEXT TIME I TALK TO MY NEW FRIENDS, LOCHE AND KEY.



YOU DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW A *PRESS-THE-BADGE* PLAY?
'CUZ I'VE SEEN IT AND I'VE DONE IT MYSELF WHILE YOU WERE STILL PRETENDING TO BE THE NEXT TOM CRUISE.



THEN I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE IN THIS CITY.

YOU OR THE REST OF YOUR HERO-KIND.

AND AT SOME POINT REAL SOON, I'LL BE TOLD TO BRING YOU IN.



REALLY? WELL THEN YOU BETTER HAVE A NUKE IN THOSE HOLSTERS IF YOU WANT TO TRY.

BECAUSE THE LAST TIME AROUND IT TOOK TWO OF YOUR MOST POWERFUL DIVISIONS TO TAKE ME DOWN AND I WASN'T EVEN AT MY BEST AT THE TIME!*

(* ISSUE #14)



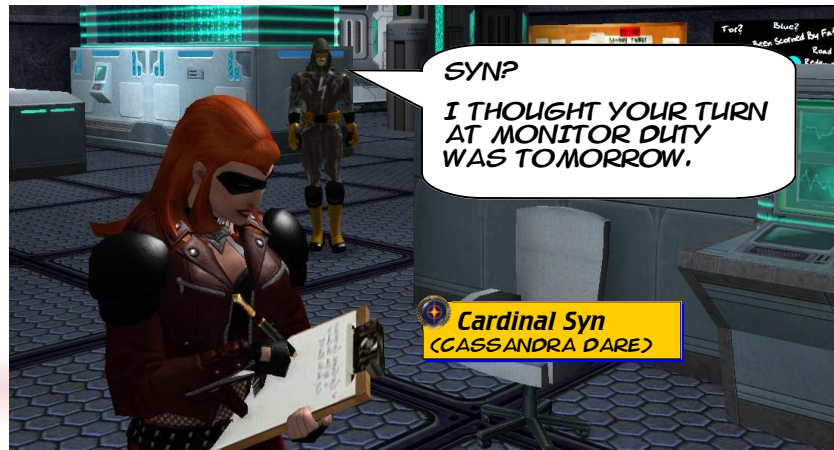
AND SINCE WHATEVER DOESN'T KILL ME MAKES ME STRONGER... WHAT KIND OF A CHANCE DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AGAINST ME NOW?

NEVER MIND GOING UP AGAINST MY SISTER, GALATEA POWERS.

YOU THINK ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU WANNABE PRAETORIANS TRY TO PLAY ANOTHER BITCH MOVE ON ME!

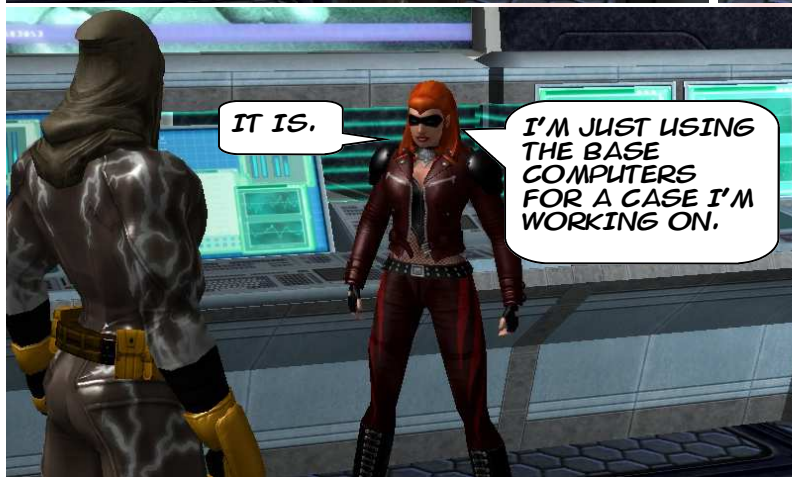


BACK AT GUARDIAN BASE...



SYN?
I THOUGHT YOUR TURN
AT MONITOR DUTY
WAS TOMORROW.

Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)



IT IS.

I'M JUST USING
THE BASE
COMPUTERS
FOR A CASE I'M
WORKING ON.



UH-HUH...
A CASE
FOR YOU...
OR FOR
JASON?



CAN'T IT BE FOR BOTH?
HE'S STILL A GUARDIAN.

WHO'S BEEN HELL-BENT
ON DOING THINGS HIS
OWN WAY, WITH HIS OWN
RESOURCES, AND NOT
LETTING ANY OF US IN ON
WHAT HE'S DOING.

AND, TO BE HONEST,
I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG I CAN LET
THIS GO ON BEFORE
SOMEONE HIGHER UP
TELLS ME TO CUT
HIM LOOSE.



SORRY... I DON'T
MEAN TO DRAG YOU
INTO THIS.
BUT... MAYBE YOU
CAN HELP.
HAVE YOU SEEN
MINDY AROUND?

YOUR ASSISTANT?
NO, NOT IN THE PAST
FEW MONTHS.
I THOUGHT MAYBE
YOU FIRED HER OR
SHE GOT A BETTER
JOB OR SOMETHING.



DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HER?

WELL THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT MYSELF.
THERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS THAT I NEED ANSWERED ABOUT HER.

DID YOU EVER SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT HER WHEN YOU'VE SEE HER AROUND THE BASE?



NOT REALLY.
I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF SNOOPS AND BUSYBODIES, AND NOTHING SHE'S DONE EVER SET OFF A RED FLAG FOR ME.

IF I WASN'T TIED UP WITH MY OWN INQUIRY INTO ANOTHER HERO, I'D JOIN YOU IN TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

TO BE HONEST, SHE'S BLENDED IN RATHER NICELY WITH THE SUPPORT STAFF.



UNDERSTOOD.
WELL THEN... HAPPY HUNTING.
AND THE NEXT TIME YOU DO SEE JASON, HAVE HIM CHECK IN WITH ME ABOUT WHAT HE KNOWS CONCERNING MINDY.

IF THERE'S ANYONE THAT WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS OF HER, AND TRY TO FIND ANY FLAWS IT WOULD BE JASON.

ATLAS PARK TRANSIT STOP

I SWEAR, I HAD TO FIGHT THE URGE TO CRASH HIM WHEN HE SAID THAT.

NO, YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, FURIA. NOW THAT'S ONE MORE PIECE OF LEGAL AMMO ON OUR SIDE.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED YOU. WE HAVE A LEAD ON KAREN MANNING'S HOME ADDRESS.

"WE HAD TO CALL IN A FEW FAVORS, BUT YOU'LL FIND WE HAVE PLENTY OF THOSE IN YOUR CITY."

"IT SEEMS MISS MANNING IS AN AVID READER OF ROMANCE NOVELS."

"WE'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO MEET HER ON THE PRETENSE THAT YOU'RE A COURIER DELIVERING A BOOK THAT WAS SENT TO THE WRONG ADDRESS."

"SHE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN A LOUNGE AREA. DRESS APPROPRIATELY."

WHAT IN BLAZES?

OH NO!

BAD ENOUGH I HAVE TO KEEP KAREN AWAY FROM JASON AND CARDINAL SYN, NOW FURIA'S ON HER TRAIL.

I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME GETTING THIS ALL SET UP, I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE IT ALL BE EXPOSED NOW.

I JUST HOPE KAREN CAN HANDLE HERSELF BETTER THAN I DID THE FIRST TIME I WAS IN A PINCH.

IN A WAREHOUSE IN GALAXY CITY, 2009

"LET ME SEE IF I GOT THIS RIGHT, CADET HARRISON..."

"YOU AND THIS 'MIGHTY MARV' PERSON CAME ALONE TO THIS WAREHOUSE TO MEET WITH WHAT YOU BELIEVED WAS AN 'ALIEN' TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION."

YES SIR.

IT WAS ONLY WHEN I SAW THE "ALIEN" IN QUESTION THAT I REALIZED IT WAS JUST SOMEONE IN A RUBBER MASK.

SIR, THERE WAS NO INFORMATION THAT WAS EXCHANGED. I EXPOSED THE FRAUD FOR WHAT HE WAS BEFORE HE COULD--

ENOUGH!

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU ENGAGED IN SUCH A CLANDESTINE MEETING WITHOUT CHECKING IN WITH YOUR SUPERIORS.

BUT YOU WERE WILLING TO EXCHANGE SENSITIVE INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE FREEDOM CORPS DATABASE THAT YOU ACQUIRED WITHOUT CLEARANCE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT FILES YOU WERE READY TO HAND OFF?

THE LOCATION OF ALL THE SUPERADINE THAT FREEDOM CORPS AND VANGUARD HAVE SEIZED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS!

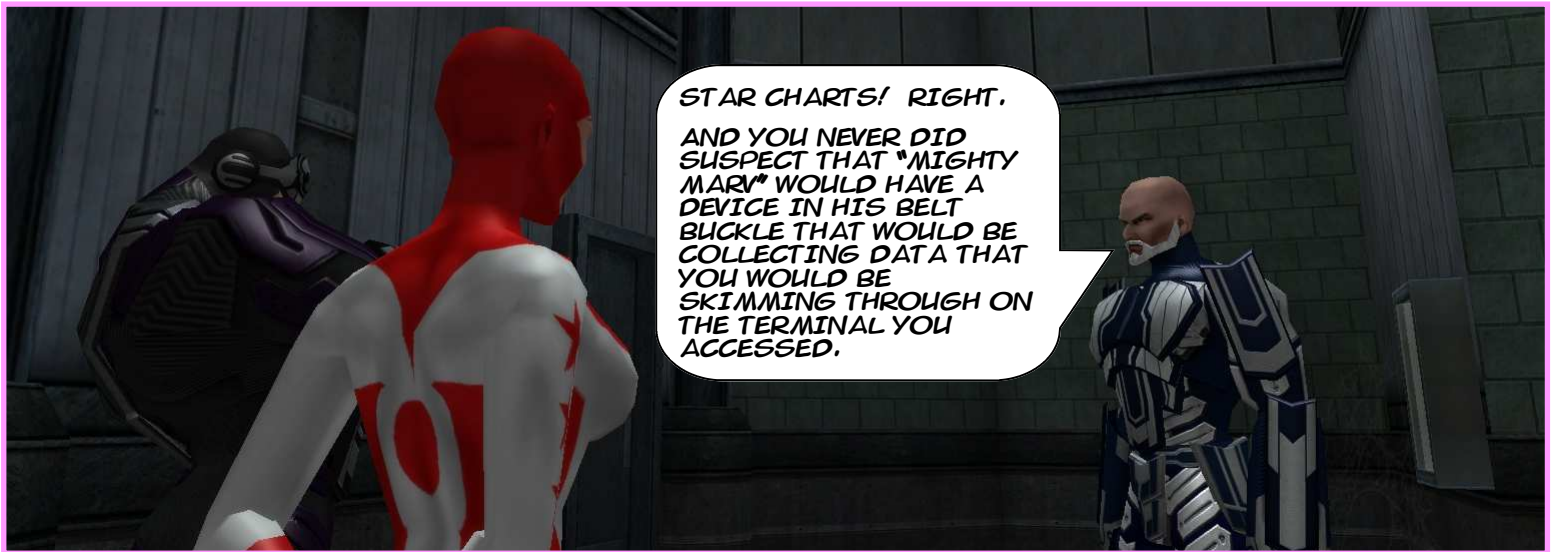
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS TO SEIZE ALL OF THOSE DRUGS AND TO KEEP THE KNOWLEDGE OF IT A SECRET?

THE GUY THAT YOU TOOK DOWN WAS A MEMBER OF THE MOOKS, A SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE FAMILY.

THEY WOULD HAVE PUT THOSE DRUGS RIGHT BACK OUT ON THE STREETS IN A HEARTBEAT!

BUT... INSPECTOR SAGE, I DIDN'T GIVE HIM THAT KIND OF INFORMATION!

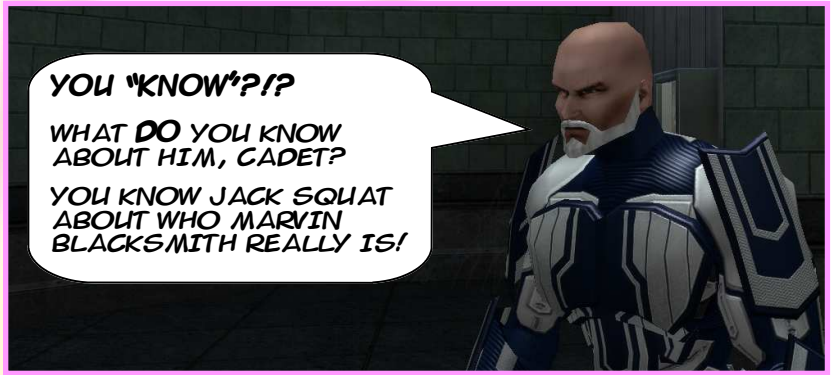
MIGHTY MARV SAID ALL HE NEEDED WAS SOME STAR CHARTS!



STAR CHARTS! RIGHT,
AND YOU NEVER DID
SUSPECT THAT "MIGHTY
MARY" WOULD HAVE A
DEVICE IN HIS BELT
BUCKLE THAT WOULD BE
COLLECTING DATA THAT
YOU WOULD BE
SKIMMING THROUGH ON
THE TERMINAL YOU
ACCESSED.



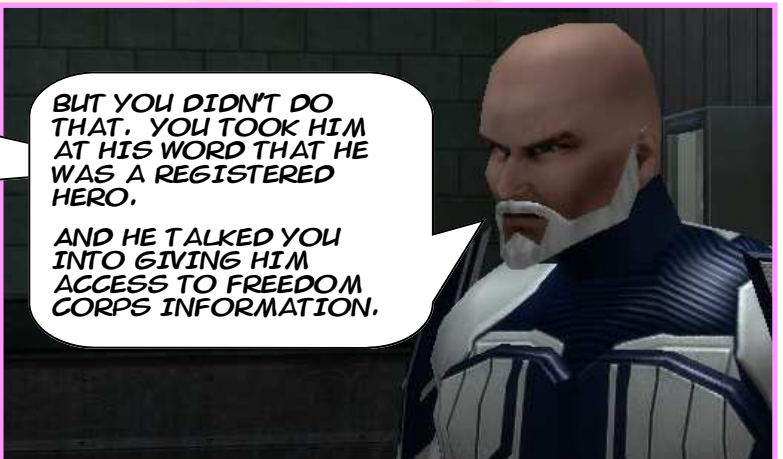
HOLD ON! DATA
SKIMMING?
INSPECTOR
SAGE, I KNOW
MARY IS A BIT OF
A HERO FANBOY,
BUT I DON'T--



YOU "KNOW"?!?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT HIM, CADET?
YOU KNOW JACK SQUAT
ABOUT WHO MARVIN
BLACKSMITH REALLY IS!



IF YOU FIRST
CHECKED WITH YOUR
SUPERIORS, YOU
WOULD HAVE KNOWN
THAT "MIGHT MARY"
WAS JUST ONE OF
SEVERAL WANNABES
THAT WERE CAUGHT
UP IN A "ALIEN
SUPER-SUIT" CON!



BUT YOU DIDN'T DO
THAT. YOU TOOK HIM
AT HIS WORD THAT HE
WAS A REGISTERED
HERO.
AND HE TALKED YOU
INTO GIVING HIM
ACCESS TO FREEDOM
CORPS INFORMATION.



WELL YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT
"MIGHTY MARY".
YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING
ABOUT YOUR OWN FUTURE,
CADET.
BECAUSE AT THE VERY LEAST,
YOUR FUTURE WITH FREEDOM
CORPS OR ANY OTHER HERO
ORGANIZATION IS DONE.

AND YOU SHOULD BE
PRAYING TO WHATEVER
GOD YOU BELIEVE IN
THAT YOU DON'T END UP
GOING TO PRISON FOR
YOUR RECKLESSNESS.

BACK TO 2017...

KAREN MANNING?

YES.

Karen Manning
AKA STREET ANGEL

MY NAME IS FIONA PODERES. I'M SORRY FOR THE BIT OF DECEPTION...

Fiona Poderes
AKA FURIA POWERS

YEAH, YOU DON'T SOUND AT ALL LIKE THE GIRL I SPOKE TO ON THE PHONE.

AND THAT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN MY BOSS... OR... ONE OF THEM.

I'M AN INVESTIGATOR FOR THE LAW FIRM OF LOCHE & KEY.

MY EMPLOYERS KNOW ABOUT YOUR... "NIGHT JOB". AND THEY KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU THE OTHER NIGHT.

THEY'D LIKE TO REPRESENT YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

"NIGHT JOB"? I WORK AT HOME, TRANSCRIBING DOCTOR'S NOTES.

LOOK, I TOTALLY GET IT. WE HAVE A WHOLE CITY FULL OF PEOPLE THAT "TRANSCRIBE DOCTOR'S NOTES", OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT.

I ALSO KNOW WHAT THE POLICE DID TO YOU WAS WRONG.

UH... YOU'RE JUST CRAZY... AND YOU SHOULD GO.



NO, CRAZY IS LETTING SOMEONE LIKE MCCADE GET AWAY WITH WHAT HE'S BEEN DOING!

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU CAN STOP HIM!



MCCADE IS A COP. COPS ALWAYS WIN. THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.

AND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, THEN THEY WILL ALWAYS WIN.



LISTEN, I USED TO BE A COP, OKAY? I KNOW HOW THEY OPERATE. AND I WORKED IN A REALLY BAD PLACE TOO.

SURE IT LOOKED ALL PRETTY AND PRISTINE. BUT IT WAS A FAÇADE. UNDERNEATH IT WAS SOME OF THE HORRIBLE PEOPLE AROUND.

AND SOMETIMES I WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF SOMEONE STOOD UP TO THOSE HORRIBLE PEOPLE WHEN IT MATTERED.

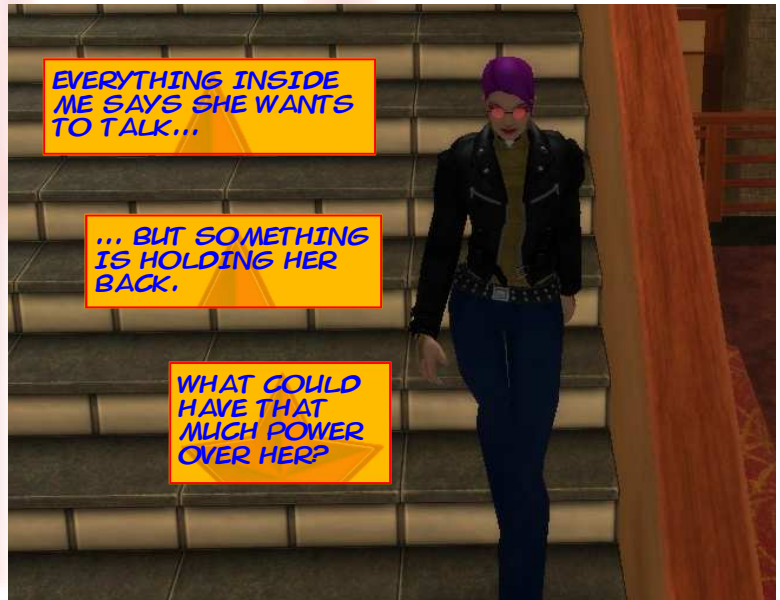


I... I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GO NOW.

OKAY... BUT I'M GOING TO LEAVE MY LAW FIRM'S CARD IN FRONT OF YOUR APARTMENT DOOR. IT'LL ALSO HAVE MY CELL NUMBER IF YOU JUST WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.



BECAUSE EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO MY EMPLOYERS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, YOU CAN TALK TO ME. FROM ONE "TRANSCRIBER" TO ANOTHER.



EVERYTHING INSIDE ME SAYS SHE WANTS TO TALK...

... BUT SOMETHING IS HOLDING HER BACK.

WHAT COULD HAVE THAT MUCH POWER OVER HER?



THERE SHOULD BE MORE TO THIS...



CPCU: IS THIS ALL OF THE INFORMATION FROM THE HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT?

UNFORTUNATELY NOT, CARDINAL SYN.



THE HARTFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MAINFRAME SYSTEM WAS HACKED AND SABOTAGED IN 2014, WITH SOME OF ITS DATA IRRETRIEVABLY DELETED.

A RATHER CONVENIENT EVENT, CONSIDERING ONE OF THE PIECES OF DATA DELETED INVOLVED STREET ANGEL'S HERO FILE WHEN SHE OPERATED THERE.



IN FACT... THE LAST TIME I SAW GAPS LIKE THIS WAS...
... IN CAPTAIN PARAGONNA'S FILE...



OH MY GOD...



CPCU: NOTIFY RYDER LIGHTNING AND LET HIM KNOW HE SHOULD BE EXPECTING A CALL FROM WASHINGTON.

IS IT CONNECTED TO YOUR INQUIRY IN THE HARTFORD DATABASE FOR STREETANGEL?

I MAY BE WRONG...
I HOPE I AM...
BECAUSE OTHERWISE I'VE BEEN POKING INTO THE BACKGROUND OF SOMEONE IN THE FEDERAL WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM!





I THOUGHT I'D ADD A JACKET TO MY OUTFIT WHEN I GO ON PATROL.

★ Streetangel
(KAREN MANNING)



KAREN, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PROVOCATIVE. THAT'S HOW YOU GOT MCCADE'S ATTENTION IN THE FIRST PLACE.



TAKE IT OFF. NOW.



BUT... AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ME... I FELT...

TAKE OFF THE JACKET. NOW!



YOU FEEL NAKED NOW. EXPOSED. VULNERABLE.



THAT'S **EXACTLY** WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO FEEL. THAT'S MCCADE'S GAME. THAT'S WHAT A PREDATOR LIKE HIM DOES!



YOUR WHOLE HERO PERSONA WAS CRAFTED SO THAT IT WOULD GET HIS ATTENTION. NOW THAT YOU HAVE HIS ATTENTION, YOU HAVE TO LET HIM ESCALATE THINGS.

THAT OTHER WOMAN... FROM THE LAW FIRM...

I KNOW WHO SHE IS, AND, BELIEVE ME, WE'RE ACTUALLY DOING HER A FAVOR BY DOING IT THIS WAY.

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SHUT DOWN MCCADE AND HIS BLUE DOGS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

Next:
Mindy's Story
continues!

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



ONLINE EDITION

The Paragon Times

January 18, 2017



www.ParagonTime.Para

Paragon City's "Secret Train" Celebrates Thirty Years of Service

PARAGON CITY, RI (PCN) - For countless generations, the only two things that could be dependable in Paragon City were Statesman and the monorail service.

The color-coded monorail lines of "Green", "Yellow", and "Red" would provide access for people all over the city. "Yellow" would cover the north side of the city, "Green" for the southern side", and "Red" would cover the east and west sides of the city and also bridge the other two lines together.

In theory, one could ride from all four corners of Paragon City through the monorail cars in in two hours and with only one \$3 token.

The Rikti Invasion of 2002 changed all that, though. With the Red Line devastated by war and eventually discontinued during the reconstruction, the dream of continuous corner-to-corner rail service seemed to be lost. When the Yellow and Green lines were merged into a new Red Line in 2010, people believed they had gotten the closest thing to their old service back.

But little known for many people in Paragon City was the existence of a fourth rail service. One that would help ferry heroes and support people as well as keep Paragon City operating even during the worst of disasters.

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Blue Line rail service; a special rail line designed for city personnel and also for heroes and their support staff.

"You can thank a hero named The Conductor for the Blue Line," said Paragon City Representative Brigid Moreira.

"The Conductor was a big train fanatic in the 1980's. He loved riding the rails. One day he discovers that the underground power lines that powered the rail cars were cut because of a cave-in. He helps clear the blockage and he realized the tunnel ran parallel to the rail line itself."

This discovery, according to Moreira, inspired him to come up with the "secret" rail service.

"The idea was to have a way to run electrical and other cable lines through they city and be able to service them without interference from supervillains or terrorists, or, more recently, from alien and extradimensional invaders."

The decision to allow heroes access to the line was initially rejected then limited to only a select few, said Moreira.

"Many of the heroes at the time could fly or run fast or even teleport great distances. In those situations, it would actually be slower for them to use the Blue Line. Of course once the Rikti invaded and the War Walls were put up, dividing the city, then the Blue Line would come in handy for many heroes."

The Blue Line initially consisted of four single monorail cars dubbed "North", "East", "South", and "West" and would be concentrated on the four corners of the city. But unlike the above-ground rail service, the Blue Line is one underground support rail service covering the whole city.

Each car would be automated, another idea from The Conductor, and operate on a card key service.

"Support people would enter the service tunnel," said Moreira. "They'd have a card key that would give them the ability to call the train to their platform, then they would put in their destination and the train would take them there directly"

Continues on next page...

It was because of this underground service that damage to vital infrastructure lines such as water, power, cable, and communications were kept to a minimum during and after the Rikti invasions of 2002 and 2007.

“Unless the whole area was destroyed, such as in the cases with Baumton and Siren’s Call, we could have the lines fixed in a matter of minutes thanks to the Blue Line,” said Moreira. “It’s also the reason why we have vital service lines still running in most hazard zones.”

Ms. Liberty, the granddaughter of Statesman, said that while her iconic grandfather was opposed to the Blue Line’s creation, it was her own mother, Miss Libery, that endorsed the service, especially during her pregnancy.

“My mom was on semi-active duty during the second trimester,” said the Vindicators leader. “She really loved having the Blue Line to ride around in so she wouldn’t have to put too much effort into flying and worrying about how it would affect me.”

In recent years, the Blue Line’s access was expanded to include support staff for certain superhero groups. But, as Moreira says, this access comes with several caveats.

“All access must go through the Supergroup Registrar’s office. They also need to understand that having this access is a huge security risk for them, and we can’t be responsible for people showing up through these access points that are not supposed to be there. It’s up to them to make sure their own base security is capable of dealing with that.”

The Supergroup Registrar’s office said that the list of supergroups with access to the Blue Line is confidential, citing numerous security risks.

The celebration for thirtieth anniversary of the Blue Line is set for April 3rd of this year. It will be held in the Annex Building just south of the Atlas Park rail station. Ms. Liberty, Positron, and Sally Railz, the granddaughter of The Conductor, will be in attendance.

Sadly, the hero responsible for the Blue Line itself will not be in attendance. The electrical-based hero died of cancer in December of 2012. He was 62 years old at the time.

Because the service is mostly underground, most people cannot see the actual cars involved.

However, Ms. Moreira says that if you want to see the proof of his creation, there is an easy way to spot it.

“If you go to Talos Island and look out by the channel lock leading to Independence Port, you’ll see a rail line crossing over the waterways. Look for a single car making the journey instead of the usual Red Line train. That’ll be the Blue Line car. That’s The Conductor’s legacy.”

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



"MINDY'S STORY" CONTINUES.

WHAT IS MINDY HARRISON'S GRAND PLAN? AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE GUARDIANS?

AND HOW DOES HER PAST TIE IN WITH ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CHARACTERS THAT THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN EVER HAD TO DEAL WITH?

FIND OUT!



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DC Universe Online

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OLD REPUBLIC**

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WORLD OF WARCRAFT

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OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

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