

FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS



Issue 23
2017



GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN PERSONNEL FILES



Name: Mindy Harrison

Full Name: Melinda Jean Harrison

Birthplace: Paragon C

Current Position: O

Known Relatives:
members.

Education: Han
Advanced Train



CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER

LOBBY 2



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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

For the past few years, Mindy Harrison has served as operations assistant to the Guardians of the Dawn superhero group. But nobody knew who she really was. Equally disturbing is the fact that she seemingly vanished just as the group was being overseen by special Vanguard agent Carlton Sage.

Now the Guardians are asking questions about her, and parts of who she really is are starting to come forward.

Meanwhile, both Cardinal Syn and Furia Powers are trying to enlist the cooperation of Streetangel, a young hero recently accosted by the corrupt members of the Paragon City Police Department's "Blue Dog Squad".

But they have no idea that Streetangel has a few secrets of her own, including the fact that she is working with Mindy to take down the Blue Dogs themselves.

"MINDY'S STORY - PART 2"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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"SO... YOU DID ALL OF THIS YOURSELF?"

"YES MA'AM."

"I AM IMPRESSED."

"THANK YOU MA'AM."

WITHOUT BEING ASKED, YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY SHUT DOWN THE SKY RAIDER BASE THAT HAS BEEN THWARTING OUR OPERATIONS FOR MONTHS. THE CARNAGE ALONE IS... IMPRESSIVE.


THANK YOU MA'AM.

 **Madam Artemis**
KNIGHTS OF ARTEMIS LEADER


SO I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE ASKING...
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE KNIVES OF ARTEMIS...

... MINDY HARRISON?

TO BE ONE OF YOU, OF COURSE.
TO BE A SISTER.




I LOOKED UP YOUR HISTORY BEFORE I ARRIVED HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH ALL THE MAJOR GROUPS.



AFTER YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF FREEDOM CORPS, YOU TRIED HERO CORPS, GREY, CYCORP, EVEN THE DAWN PATROL.

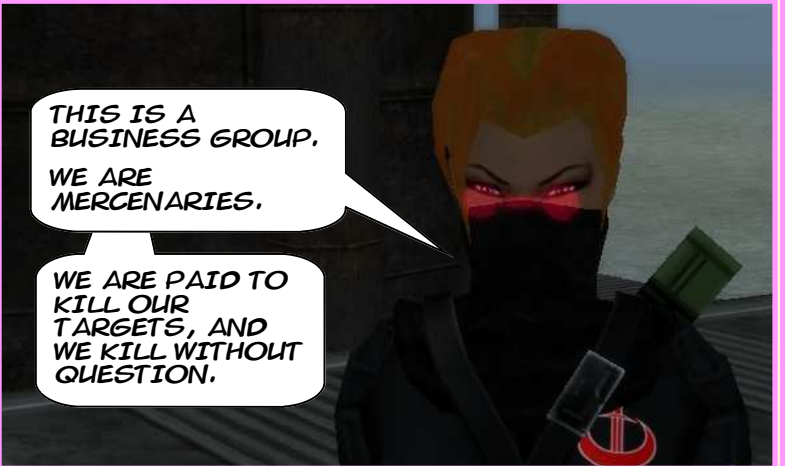
NOBODY WANTS YOU.
SO WHY SHOULD WE WANT YOU?



I THINK I'VE JUST PROVEN MY WORTH TO THE SISTERHOOD.
I USED MY SKILLS TO ELIMINATE YOUR BIGGEST ENEMY HERE.

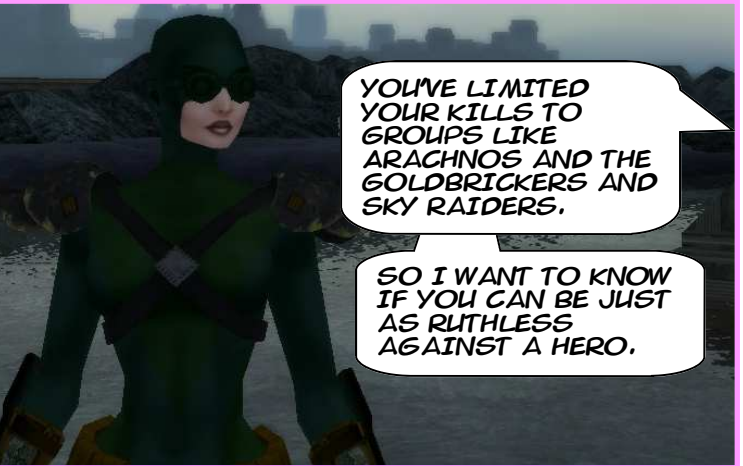


THE KNIVES ARE NOT A SORORITY GROUP, MISS HARRISON.



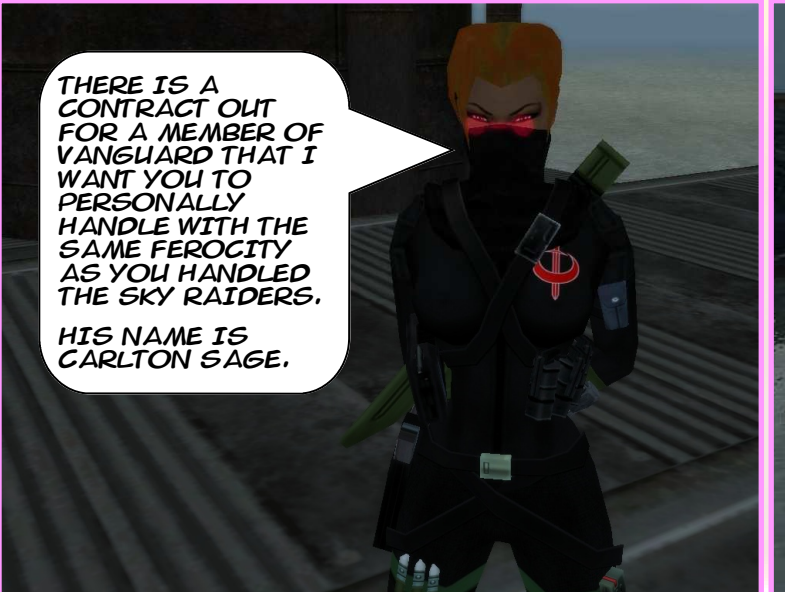
THIS IS A BUSINESS GROUP.
WE ARE MERCENARIES.

WE ARE PAID TO KILL OUR TARGETS, AND WE KILL WITHOUT QUESTION.




YOU'VE LIMITED YOUR KILLS TO GROUPS LIKE ARACHNOS AND THE GOLDBRICKERS AND SKY RAIDERS.

SO I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU CAN BE JUST AS RUTHLESS AGAINST A HERO.



THERE IS A CONTRACT OUT FOR A MEMBER OF VANGUARD THAT I WANT YOU TO PERSONALLY HANDLE WITH THE SAME FEROCITY AS YOU HANDLED THE SKY RAIDERS.
HIS NAME IS CARLTON SAGE.



IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE, MA'AM.

KINGS ROW - PARAGON CITY, RI

2017

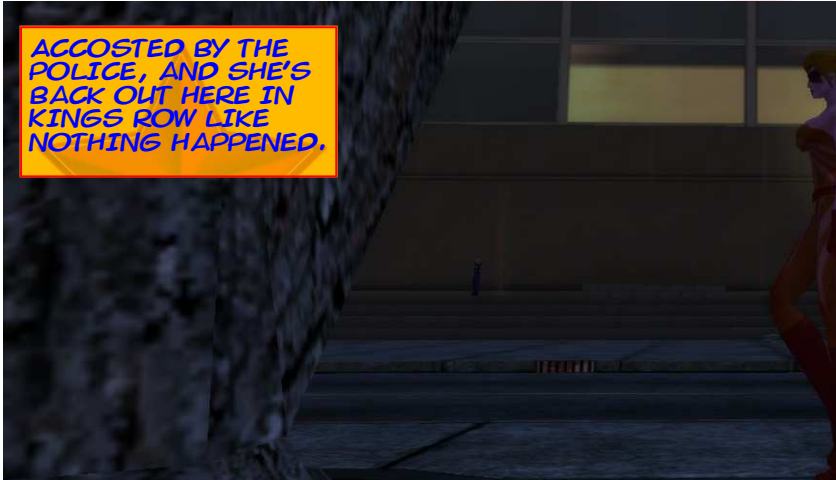


★ **Streetangel**
(KAREN MANNING)



SHE'S BRAVE,
I'LL GIVE HER
THAT.

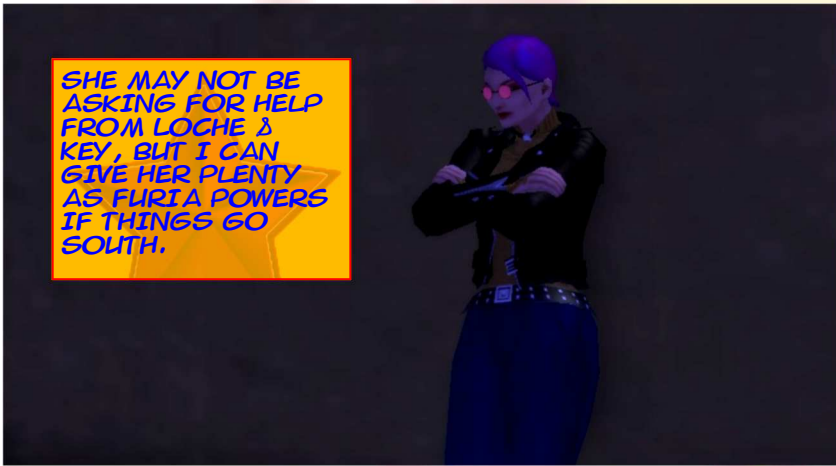
🔍 **Fiona Poderes**
AKA FURIA POWERS



ACCOSTED BY THE
POLICE, AND SHE'S
BACK OUT HERE IN
KINGS ROW LIKE
NOTHING HAPPENED.



IF IT WAS ME, I
THINK I WOULD
PUT ON A JACKET
OR MADE SOME
OTHER KIND OF
COSTUME CHANGE.



SHE MAY NOT BE
ASKING FOR HELP
FROM LOCHE &
KEY, BUT I CAN
GIVE HER PLENTY
AS FURIA POWERS
IF THINGS GO
SOUTH.



BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG ABOUT
ALL THIS.



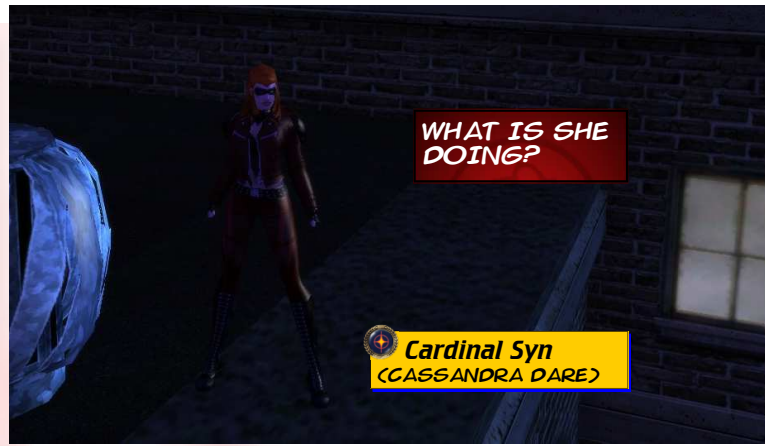
SHE'S NOT WALKING AROUND
LIKE SHE'S ON PATROL.

IT JUST LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S TAKING
A STROLL.

LIKE SHE'S WAITING
FOR SOMEONE TO
SEE HER OUT HERE.



AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WATCHING HER!



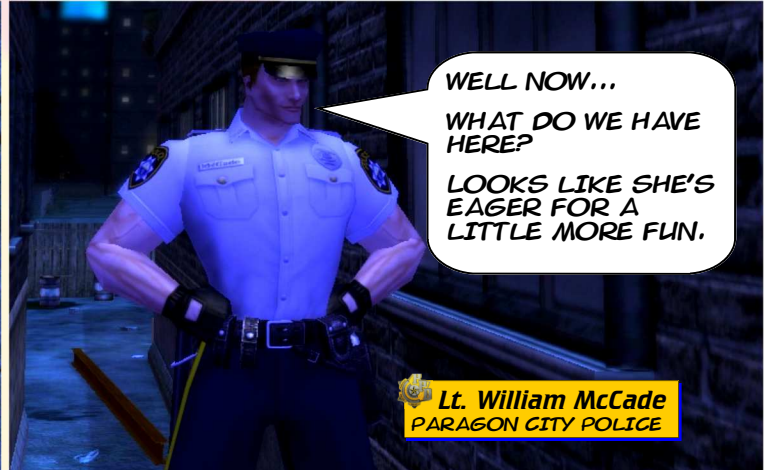
WHAT IS SHE DOING?

Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)



IT DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE SHE'S LOOKING FOR CRIMINALS.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE'S... BAIT.



WELL NOW...
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S EAGER FOR A LITTLE MORE FUN.

Lt. William McCade
PARAGON CITY POLICE



BLAST IT... WHY ARE FURIA AND SYN HERE?

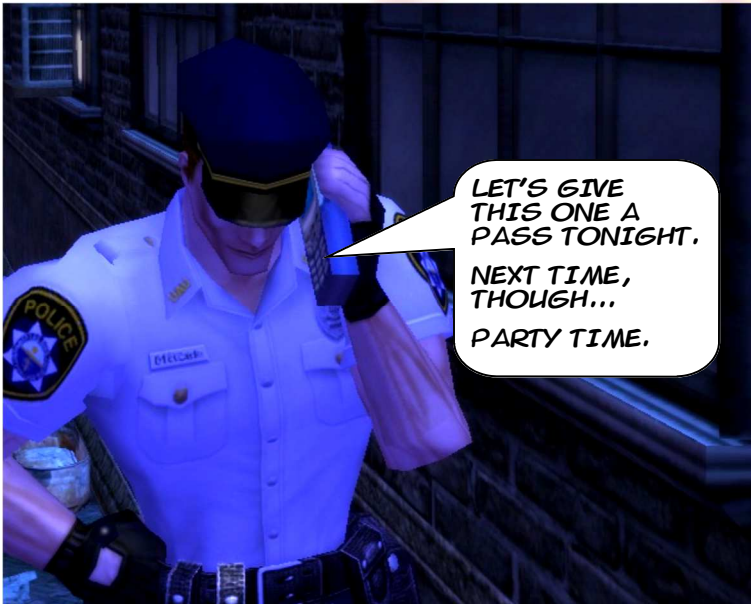
THEY COULD BLOW THE WHOLE THING IF MCCADE SEES THEM!

Mindy Harrison
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



CARDINAL SYN ON THE ROOFTOP...
SOMEONE IN THE ALLEYWAY...
AND A THIRD PLAYER DOWN THE STREET...

EVEN A SHOUT WOULD THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG.



LET'S GIVE THIS ONE A PASS TONIGHT.
NEXT TIME, THOUGH...
PARTY TIME.



KAREN, CALL IT A NIGHT.
I'LL TALK WITH YOU IN THE MORNING.

MONKEY FIGHT CLUB - POCKET D

SHADOW SHARD UNIVERSE

(NOTE: NO EARTH SIMIANS ARE HARMED IN ANY WAY DURING THESE BATTLES. THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID ABOUT MUTATED CREATURES FROM THE RIKTI UNIVERSE.)

THAT ONE WAS JUST... BRUTAL.

LAST TIME I SPEND MY MONEY ON A TIP FROM SOME GUY CALLING HIMSELF BATFOX!

YOU LISTENED TO HIM? YOU DESERVED TO LOSE YOUR MONEY!

MY TIME IS PRECIOUS, MISTER KNIGHT.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WEAR A DISGUISE TO TALK WITH ME, GIVEN WHERE WE ARE.

LET'S JUST SAY I RESPECT THE NEED FOR SECURITY, ESPECIALLY GIVEN WHO JUST GOT SWORN IN AS YOUR NEW BOSS IN WASHINGTON.
SO... KAREN MANNING...

Jason Knight
(DRAKE GREY)

... IS NOT AND NEVER WAS IN THE FEDERAL WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM.
AND THAT INCLUDES TIERS ONE, TWO, AND THREE OF PROTECTION.

HER HERO FILE WAS FORGED WITH SOME OF THE SIGNS OF SOMEONE IN THE PROGRAM.*

BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR PEOPLE COULD SUSPECT SHE WAS.

(* SEE LAST ISSUE)

I'LL LET YOU IN ON A NOT-SO-LITTLE SECRET, MISTER KNIGHT.
LONG BEFORE WE BOTH WERE IN DIAPERS, THE U.S. MARSHALS AND A FEW OTHER AGENCIES OUTSOURCED THE CRAFTING OF NEW IDENTITIES TO AN ELITE GROUP OF SPECIALISTS.

THEY'RE CALLED FACILITATORS.

THESE ARE PEOPLE WITH THE TRAINING AND THE MEANS TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN, NO MATTER THE COST.



I'VE ALREADY COME ACROSS ONE OF THEM.
SIMON BARRISTER.*
HE'S DEAD.

(* BACK IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #28)



YOU KNEW ABOUT HIM...
BUT HE'S NOT THE ONLY FACILITATOR THAT YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED.



AND THAT'S REALLY ALL THAT I'M ALLOWED TO SAY ON THAT.

MAJOR AGENCIES USING A SECRET GROUP OF SPECIALISTS...
I PRESUME THAT INCLUDES VANGUARD, RIGHT?
INCANDESCENT'S GROUP PROBABLY HAS A FEW.
AND ALL TIED INTO THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE.



I WISH I COULD SAY YES OR NO ON THAT, MISTER KNIGHT, BUT I CAN'T.
I ONLY AGREED TO MEET WITH YOU AS A FAVOR FOR CAPTAIN PARAGONNA*.

... BUT, IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO CONTACT ME, MISTER KNIGHT...

(* "SPOTLIGHT" #4)



AND IF YOUR PEOPLE ARE SMART...
YOU WOULD MAKE SURE THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE TO.

TALOS ISLAND

UNDERGROUND BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



"I GOT YOUR CALL, FURIA. WHAT'S UP?"

SO... WAS THAT YOU I SAW IN KINGS ROW LAST NIGHT STALKING STREET ANGEL?

Furia Powers (FIONA PODERES)



WAIT... THAT WAS YOU IN THE GLASSES HOLDING UP THAT BUILDING WALL?

I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR!

SO... WHY ARE YOU STALKING HER?



I WAS DOING MY DAY JOB FOR LOGHE & KEY.

I'D SAY THAT SHE'S A POTENTIAL CLIENT BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF...



I NOTICED IT AS WELL.

JASON ASKED ME TO RECRUIT HER FOR HIS ANTI-BLUE DOG TASK FORCE.

BUT I THINK SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY RECRUITED HER FOR THEIR OWN OPERATION.



WHEN I SAW YOU ON THE ROOFTOP, I THOUGHT SHE WAS ALREADY WORKING FOR YOU AND JASON.

BUT IF WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS TRUE... THEN THAT THIRD PERSON I SAW DOWN THE STREET COULD BE THE ONE SHE'S WORKING FOR.



YOU KNOW HOW TO ACCESS THE STREET CAMERAS?

ONLY IF YOU WILL GO TO THE LOUNGE AND GET US A COUPLE OF CHEF'S HYPER-STRONG COFFEES.

I'M RUNNING ON FOUR HOURS OF SLEEP...

AND, UNLIKE JASON, THAT ISN'T NORMAL FOR ME!



WELL... HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN...

AW COME ON, MARY, THAT ONE WAS WORTH A COMPLIMENT.

AIN'T GOT TIME TO BE PLAYING YOUR GAME, SAGE. SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING WITH SOME GUYS FOR A PICK-UP ROUND, SO SAY WHAT YOU NEED TO SAY AND THEN GO AWAY BEFORE YOU SCARE THEM OFF.

RIGHT, BECAUSE YOU'RE SO "REFORMED" WITHOUT YOUR LITTLE SCAM FRIENDS.

SPEAKING OF... YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CUTE PARTNER-IN-CRIME, MINDY?

"Mighty Marv"
DISGRUNTLED BLOGGER

Carlton Sage
VANGUARD OVERSEER

TRIED A FEW TIMES. WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. SO I MOVED ON.

I DON'T BUY IT, "MIGHTY MARV". JUST LIKE I DON'T BUY THIS "REFORM" BIT OF YOURS. YOU'RE A STILL NOTHING BUT A CON-MAN PRETENDING TO DO GOOD.

PAY ATTENTION TO ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU, BOY!

BACK THE HELL OFF, SAGE!
I PAID MY PENANCE AND I CLEANED UP MY ACT.



YOUR BOSSES SAID MY TWO YEARS WITH VANGUARD CLEARED MY RECORD.

BESIDES, YOU GUYS WERE THE ONES THAT TOLD ME ABOUT THE LOSERVILLE CAMPS AND HOW THEY NEED HELP, SO THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE THEN.

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, I HAVE A LAWYER ON SPEED-DIAL. HE MAKES BIG MONEY SUING PEOPLE LIKE YOU INTO BANKRUPTCY.



RIGHT... AND YOU DONT HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE, RIGHT? LIKE A RUNNING A BLOG HASSLING HEROES?

YOU SAY YOU DONT KNOW WHERE MINDY HAS BEEN... FINE. HERE'S WHERE YOU PAY ME BACK FOR YOUR CRIMES. YOU SEE MINDY, YOU CALL ME. NOBODY ELSE. YOU GOT IT?



BY THE WAY... WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT DOG OF YOURS? MIGHTY MUTT?



YOU BETTER LEAVE NOW, SAGE... BEFORE I MAKE IT MY PERSONAL MISSION IN LIFE TO END YOU!



PFFT! DONT MAKE ME LAUGH, BOY.



IF I THOUGHT YOU COULD EVEN COME CLOSE TO DOING IT, I WOULDVE PUT A BULLET IN YOUR BRAIN LONG AGO.



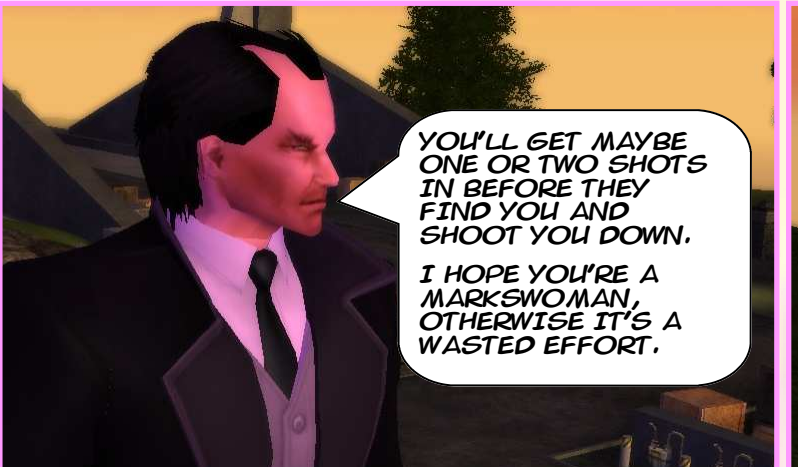
LET ME GUESS...
ANONYMOUS TIP
BRINGS HIM HERE
AND THEN YOU
AMBUSH HIM
BEFORE HE CAN
GET A SHOT OUT.



I'M ONLY GOING
TO TELL YOU
ONCE: GO AWAY.



OH, I'M NOT HERE
TO STOP YOU OR
TO ALERT THEM.
I'M CURIOUS TO
SEE HOW THIS ALL
TURNS OUT.



YOU'LL GET MAYBE
ONE OR TWO SHOTS
IN BEFORE THEY
FIND YOU AND
SHOOT YOU DOWN.
I HOPE YOU'RE A
MARKSWOMAN,
OTHERWISE IT'S A
WASTED EFFORT.



WHAT IF I
AM?
WHAT'S IT
TO YOU?



I THINK IT'S A WASTE OF TALENT FOR
YOU TO BE TOLD TO KILL CARLTON
SAGE JUST TO APPEASE THE KNIVES
OF ARTEMIS.
I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT THERE IS NO
SUCH CONTRACT OUT ON HIM.
THE KNIVES DON'T "AUDITION". THEY
SENT YOU TO KILL SAGE SO YOU'LL
BE ELIMINATED IN THE PROCESS.

THAT'S JUST HOW THEY DEAL
WITH FANGIRL WANNABES.



I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

THEN DON'T.



GO AHEAD AND KILL CARLTON SAGE FOR WHAT HE DID TO YOU, AND DIE IN THE PROCESS.

I JUST HAPPEN TO THINK IT'S A WASTE OF YOUR TALENT AND YOUR POTENTIAL TO BE SO MUCH MORE.



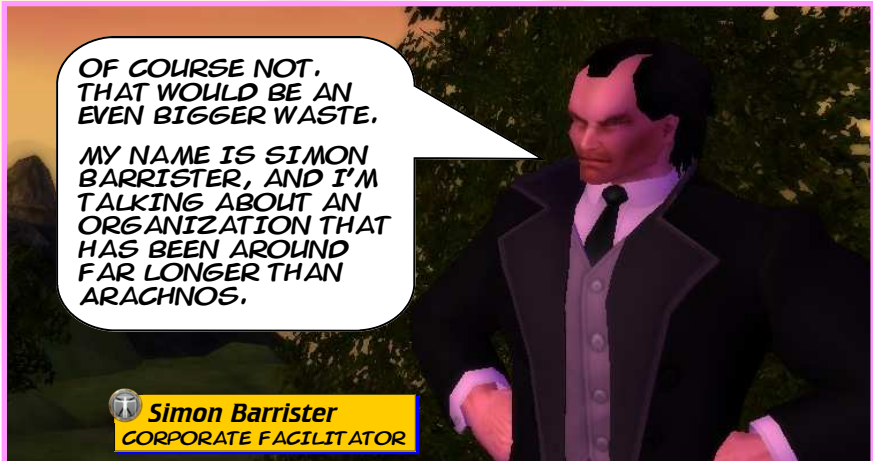
I DON'T HAVE A "POTENTIAL" BECAUSE OF HIM! MY "TALENT" IS BEING WASTED BECAUSE OF HIM!

IF YOU FOLLOW THROUGH WITH YOUR PLAN, THEN IT WILL BE.

BUT WHAT IF I WERE TO TELL YOU THAT THERE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO BE SOMETHING FAR BETTER THAN WHAT FREEDOM CORPS COULD EVER TRAIN YOU TO BE?



I'M NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR ARACHNOS.



OF COURSE NOT. THAT WOULD BE AN EVEN BIGGER WASTE.

MY NAME IS SIMON BARRISTER, AND I'M TALKING ABOUT AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FAR LONGER THAN ARACHNOS.

Simon Barrister
CORPORATE FACILITATOR



NOW... I PRESUME YOU HAVE SOME CIVILIAN CLOTHES NEARBY... SOMETHING TO CHANGE INTO SO YOU CAN BLEND IN WITH THE COMMON FOLK.

I HAPPEN TO KNOW THERE IS A BAR NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE WHERE WE CAN TALK FURTHER.

IF I HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND IN AN HOUR, YOU CAN STILL COME BACK HERE IN TIME TO CARRY OUT YOUR FATAL ACT OF REVENGE.

STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY

SO YOU FOUND MINDY?

Prof. Bart Wallace
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING

YEAH IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S USING A ROOKIE HERO TO TRY TO STING THE BLUE DOGS.

TURNED OUT FURIA AND I WERE LOOKING FOR THE SAME HERO, AND ONCE WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER, WE REALIZED WHAT MINDY WAS DOING WITH STREET ANGEL.

JESUS! WHAT THE HELL IS SHE THINKING DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

OKAY, WE NEED TO PUT AN END TO IT BEFORE SOMEONE LIKE SAGE FINDS OUT WHAT SHE'S BEEN DOING.
OR WORSE... GET THAT HERO KILLED!

FURIA, WHEN YOU SPOT MINDY, YOU TELEPORT HER TO THE BASE.
I'LL HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE SET UP TO KEEP HER OFF THE FIELD.

GOT IT.

I'M ON MONITOR DETAIL, BUT I CAN TRY TO TRACK STREET ANGEL'S MOVEMENTS UNTIL FURIA CAN ASSIST HER.

SOUNDS GOOD, SYN.

ONE MORE THING... UNTIL I CAN PERSONALLY FIGURE ALL THIS OUT, YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT SAGE DOES NOT SEE OR KNOW THAT WE HAVE MINDY.
I NEED ANSWERS AND SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK HE'LL HELP US GET THEM.

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LATER THAT EVENING...

KINGS ROW RAIL STATION

OKAY...

LET'S SEE IF TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT.

DON'T GET TOO ANXIOUS, KAREN. I CAN HEAR YOU FINE WITH MY EARPIECE.

LONG TIME NO SEE, MINDY.

FURIA!?! OH NO...

GUARDIAN BASE: MINDY'S BEEN FOUND AND TAGGED.

AUTO-TELEPORT ENGAGED.

WAIT! NO! I CAN EXPLAIN...

A "FACILITATOR"??
YOU ACTUALLY
CALL YOURSELF
THAT?

IT'S A GENERIC
TERM THAT GIVES
US A LOT OF
LEEWAY WHEN IT
COMES TO WHAT
WE DO.

SO YOU... WHAT?
ORGANIZE
PARTIES? GET THE
DRY CLEANING?
FEED SOMEONE'S
DOG OR CAT?

MORE ALONG THE
LINES OF FIXING
THE KINDS OF
PROBLEMS THAT
NORMALLY
CANNOT BE FIXED.

SO IF SOMEONE
WAS CAUSING
TROUBLE, YOU'D
KILL THEM.

NO, BUT WE
WOULD MAKE THE
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THAT SO
OUR CLIENT
WOULDN'T BE
INVOLVED IN IT.

FACILITATORS
MAKE THINGS
HAPPEN.

LIKE WHEN YOU
MADE EVERYONE
IN THE BAR LEAVE
JUST SO WE
COULD HAVE THIS
TALK IN PRIVATE.


WITH SOME PEOPLE, IT'S A
MATTER OF THROWING THE
RIGHT AMOUNT OF MONEY.
IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW
ABOUT PEOPLE AND USING IT.

THE FACILITATORS WERE ONCE AN
ELITE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS; THE
FINEST IN THE WORLD.


A SUBGROUP WAS FORMED TO
HANDLE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE ONES THAT CARRY OUT THE
MISSIONS. THAT SUBGROUP
SURVIVED AND BECAME WHAT WE
REFER TO TODAY AS FACILITATORS.




SO... WHY ME?
WHAT MAKES ME
SO SPECIAL?



YOU HAVE AN I.Q. OF 165.
YOU CAN DISSEMINATE
INFORMATION FASTER
THAN MOST PEOPLE.
YOU HAVE THE BRAINS OF
A PROGRAMMER AND THE
SKILLS OF A SURGEON.
AND MOST PEOPLE
WOULD NEVER SUSPECT
YOU HAVE THESE THINGS.




IF YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T SIGN
YOU INTO FREEDOM CORP'S
YOUNG PRODIGY PROGRAM, WE
WOULD HAVE SOUGHT YOU OUT
YEARS AGO.
AND NOW YOU HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO DO FAR MORE
THAN WHAT FREEDOM CORP'S
COULD EVER GIVE YOU.




I WON'T LIE TO YOU...
THE TRAINING WILL
BE HARDER THAN
WHAT YOU WERE USED
TO WITH FREEDOM
CORP'S.
BUT IF YOU ARE
DETERMINED ENOUGH,
YOU CAN OVERCOME
AND PERSEVERE.



INTERESTED?



YES, BUT...
I'M JUST
WONDERING WHY
WE COULDN'T SIT
DOWN FOR THIS
TALK?
I MEAN, WE HAVE
THE BAR TO
OURSELVES.

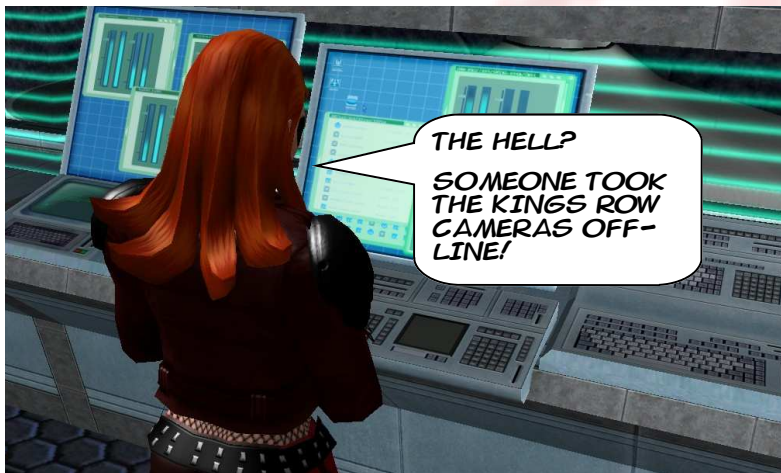


MY DEAR, THERE ARE
SOME THINGS AROUND
HERE THAT DRY
CLEANING CAN NEVER
GET OUT.

PRESENT DAY...



BASE: DO YOU HAVE HER?



THE HELL?
SOMEONE TOOK
THE KINGS ROW
CAMERAS OFF-
LINE!



NOT GOOD!
THIS IS NOT
GOOD!



WE'VE BEEN A
LITTLE BUSY SINCE
YOU LEFT, MINDY.

SORRY IF THE
ACCOMMODATIONS
AREN'T TO YOUR
LIKING.

RYDER! YOU
HAVE TO LET ME
OUT OF HERE!
I NEED TO
CONTACT
STREET ANGEL.



WE HAD TO PUT THIS TOGETHER AFTER I DISCOVERED A POTENTIAL SECURITY PROBLEM SURROUNDING THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF MY OPERATIONS ASSISTANT.

Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)



LOOK I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET AT HOW I LEFT... BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW!
I NEED TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH STREET ANGEL! IT'S URGENT!



WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WORKING WITH HER TO PUT A "STING" ON THE BLUE DOGS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO US WITH THIS? YOU COULD HAVE HAD THE WHOLE TEAM HELPING YOU!



BECAUSE I CAN'T BE HERE AS LONG AS CARLTON SAGE IS STILL AROUND!



TELL ME WHY.
HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU'RE HERE. THIS CELL IS IN A PLACE THAT IS TOTALLY OFF THE MAPS.

IT'S JUST YOU, ME, AND A MYSTICAL-POWERED ENERGY FIELD.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

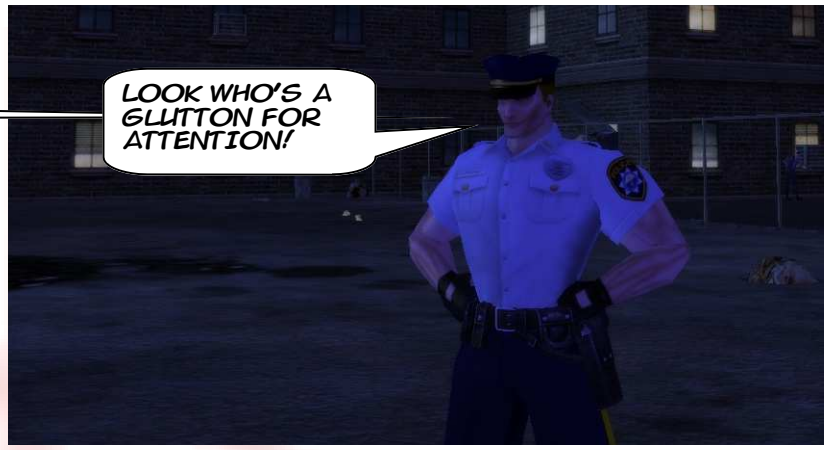


BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO LET ME TALK WITH STREET ANGEL AND GET HER OFF THE STREET.
SHE'LL ONLY LISTEN TO ME. SHE WON'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING ANYONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO SAY.



WELL, WELL...

OH...
SSSSHHHHH...



LOOK WHO'S A
GLUTTON FOR
ATTENTION!



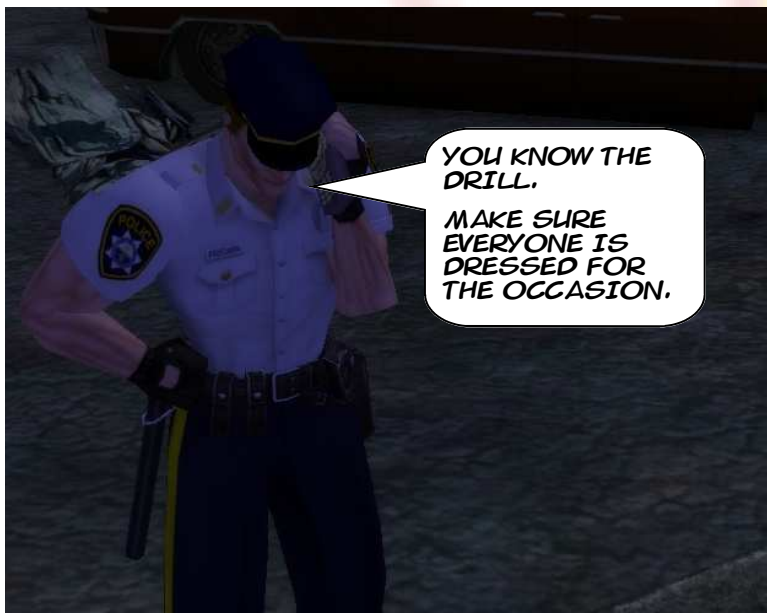
HE'S HERE... HE
SAW ME...
MAKE THE CALL...
MAKE THE CALL...



WE TOLD YOU
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF YOU
CAME BACK HERE!



SHE'S ENTERING
THE OFFICE
BUILDING AT 13
THREADBARE
STREET.



YOU KNOW THE
DRILL.
MAKE SURE
EVERYONE IS
DRESSED FOR
THE OCCASION.



STICK TO THE PLAN.
SHE KEEPS HER
MASK ON WHEN WE
DRAG HER BACK OUT
TO THE STREET.
NOTHING ELSE.



ANYTHING YET, SYN?

THE CAMERAS ARE STILL DOWN.



DAMMIT...



HEY!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING PULLING ME LIKE THAT?!

Lawhawk
PARAGON CITY POLICE



I'VE TOLD BEFORE THAT YOU AND YOUR KIND ARE NOT WELCOME HERE, MISS POWERS.

AND I DON'T GIVE A CRAP WHAT YOU SAY!
THERE'S A HERO AT RISK AND YOU'RE IN THE WAY OF ME HELPING HER!



WE WARNED YOU WHAT WE WOULD DO TO YOU IF YOU SHOWED UP IN KINGS ROW AGAIN.

COME ON MINDY... MAKE THE CALL... HURRY...

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS YOUR OWN FAULT!

"STILL SHE PERSISTED..."



OH SHIT!



WE'RE THE BLUE DOG SQUAD, LITTLE MISS STREET ANGEL AND OUR WORD IS LAW!



YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN STREET ANGEL TO BE BAIT. SHE'S A HERO; SHE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF UNTIL FURIA CAN REACH HER.

NO! YOU DON'T GET IT! THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU!



KAREN MANNING IS NOT A TRAINED HERO! SHE'S A PROFESSIONAL DECOY AGENT!



WHAT?!?



WHOEVER THAT HERO IS, THEY KNOW THE RISKS.
WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM IS THEIR FAULT.



YOU BROUGHT IN AN UNTRAINED CIVILIAN?!



SHE'S A DECOY AGENT FOR LAW FIRMS. SHE'S HAD SOME DEFENSIVE TRAINING.
BUT I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET HER OUT IF THINGS GOT BAD.



FURIA, WE JUST PICKED UP A POLICE MESSAGE ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING AT 13 THREADBARE STREET. THAT MAY BE WHERE STREET ANGEL IS!



I'M TIED UP FOR ANOTHER MINUTE...
CALL THE KNIGHT.
UNDERSTOOD.



I'M GIVING YOU ONE FINAL WARNING: BACK OFF AND LET ME HELP HER OR I WILL GO THROUGH YOU!

YOU JUST THREATENED A POLICE OFFICER...
FEDERAL AUTHORITY OR NOT, I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN OR DIE TRYING!





THIS IS FURIA POWERS TO THE PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT...

YOU HAVE AN OFFICER DOWN BEHIND THE ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING IN KINGS ROW.

PCPD DISPATCH TO FURIA POWERS; WE ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION. DO NOT TOUCH THE OFFICER.

WE ARE ACTIVATING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TELEPORT.

MEANWHILE AT 13 THREADBARE...

EXIT

Jason Knight
(DRAKE GREY)



USE THE NETS!



POP!

POP!

THIS'LL SLOW YOU DOWN!



HE'S NOT SLOWING DOWN!

WHOOSH!

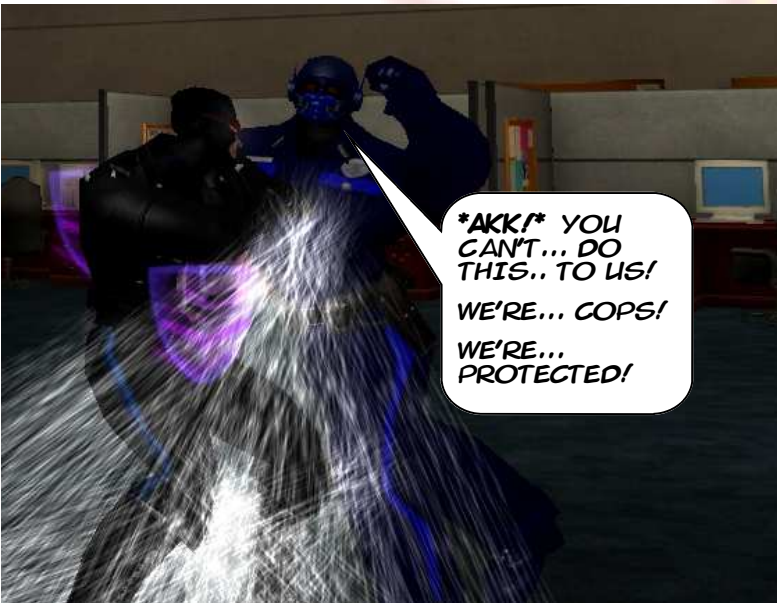


ONE MORE...

WHAM!



WHAM!



AKK! YOU CAN'T... DO THIS... TO US! WE'RE... COPS! WE'RE... PROTECTED!



NOT FROM ME.

WHAM!



COME ON, WE HAVE TO FINISH THIS.

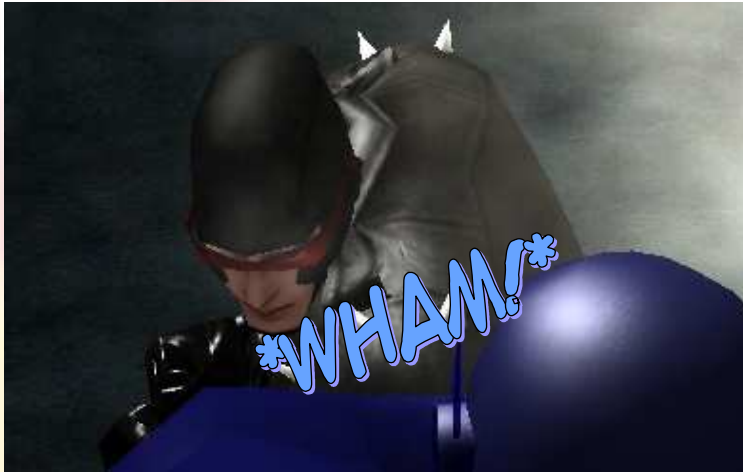


I AIN'T TOUCHING HER! SHE BIT ME!

I KNOW SHE'S GOT FIGHT IN HER, BUT WE HAVE TO FINISH THE JOB AND DRAG HER OUTSIDE.



YOU GODDAMNED BASTARDS...



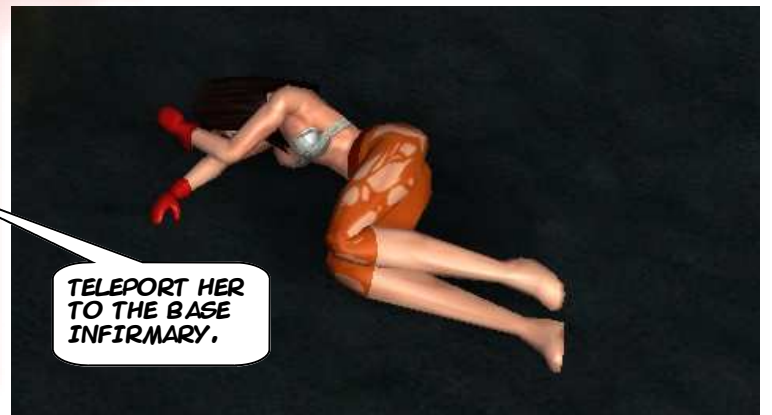
WHAM!



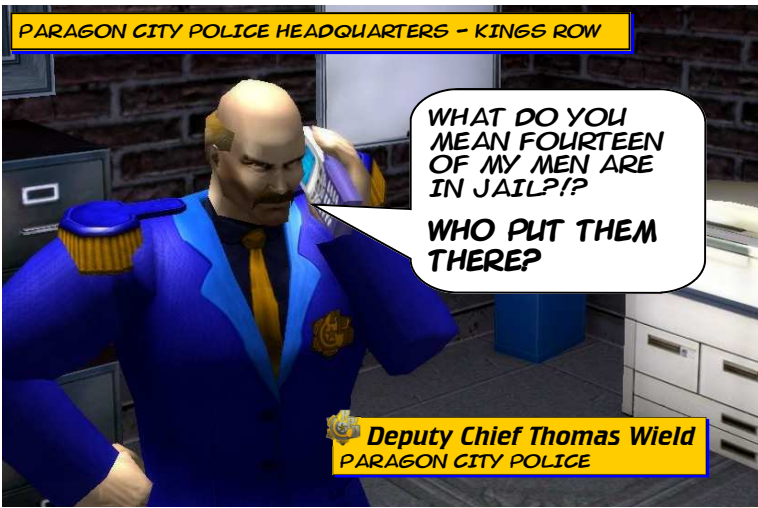
WHAM!



GUARDIAN BASE, THIS IS JASON KNIGHT. I HAVE AN INJURED HERO THAT NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION.



TELEPORT HER TO THE BASE INFIRMARY.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN FOURTEEN OF MY MEN ARE IN JAIL!?! WHO PUT THEM THERE?

Deputy Chief Thomas Wield
PARAGON CITY POLICE



OF COURSE I WANT THEM RELEASED! AND HAVE THE JAIL TELEPORT RECORDS DELETED. THERE SHOULD BE NO RECORD AT ALL OF THEIR ACTIVITY.



I WANT OUR C.S.I.* TEAM GOING THROUGH LAWHAWK'S RIG DOWN TO THE LAST RIVET AND THREAD!

FIND ME SOMETHING... ANYTHING... TO JUSTIFY ARRESTING FURIA POWERS!

AND AS SOON AS YOU FIND MCCADE, GET HIS SORRY ASS UP HERE!

(C.S.I. - CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION)



GODDAMN GUARDIANS!



TIME TO END THEM.



SEND A MESSAGE TO LORD GEDDY. TELL HIM THAT THE PARAGON POLICE WILL NOT WAIT FOR HIS PERMISSION.

I'M CALLING IN A FAVOR FROM A FRIEND I KNOW IN NEW YORK.

IT'S TIME I LET THE "HEROES" OF THIS CITY KNOW DESPAIR!


AN HOUR LATER...

KAREN IS SLEEPING.
SHE'S GOT A FEW BROKEN BONES AND SOME BRUISES BUT SHE'LL PULL THROUGH.

MINDY TOLD ME THAT SHE RECRUITED KAREN BECAUSE SHE WAS THE BEST AT GETTING PEOPLE TO INCRIMINATE THEMSELVES.
HER BELT AND WIG HAD RECORDING DEVICES IN THEM.

NORMALLY I'M SURE YOUR BOSS WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE THAT EVIDENCE TO BRING DOWN THE BLUE DOGS...

BUT, AS A LAWYER, I KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE TOSSED OUT IN COURT AS INADMISSIBLE.

 **William Key**
LOCHE & KEY LAW FIRM

MINDY'S NOT A REGISTERED HERO.
AND MISS MANNING'S HERO CREDENTIALS WERE BASED ON FRAUDULENT INFORMATION.

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A CIVIL RIGHTS LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

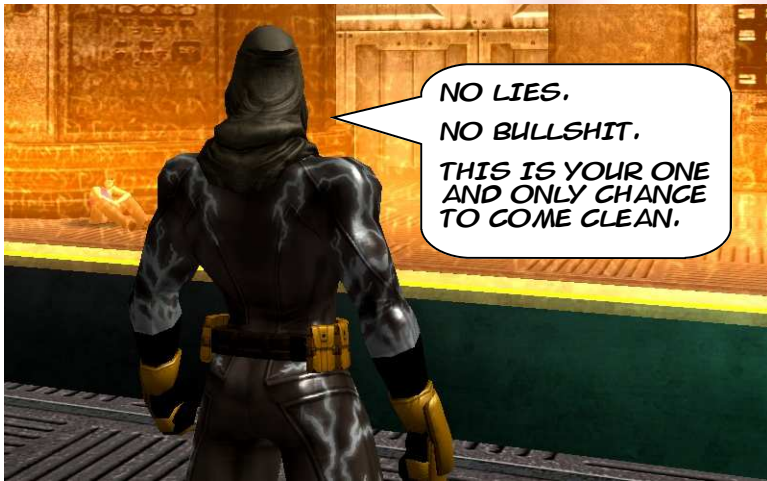
BUT IT WOULD HOLD UP A LOT MORE IF WE COULD SAY ONE OF THEM WAS A GUARDIAN.

HOLD THAT THOUGHT, BILL.
GIVE ME A COUPLE OF MINUTES.

WOOSH!



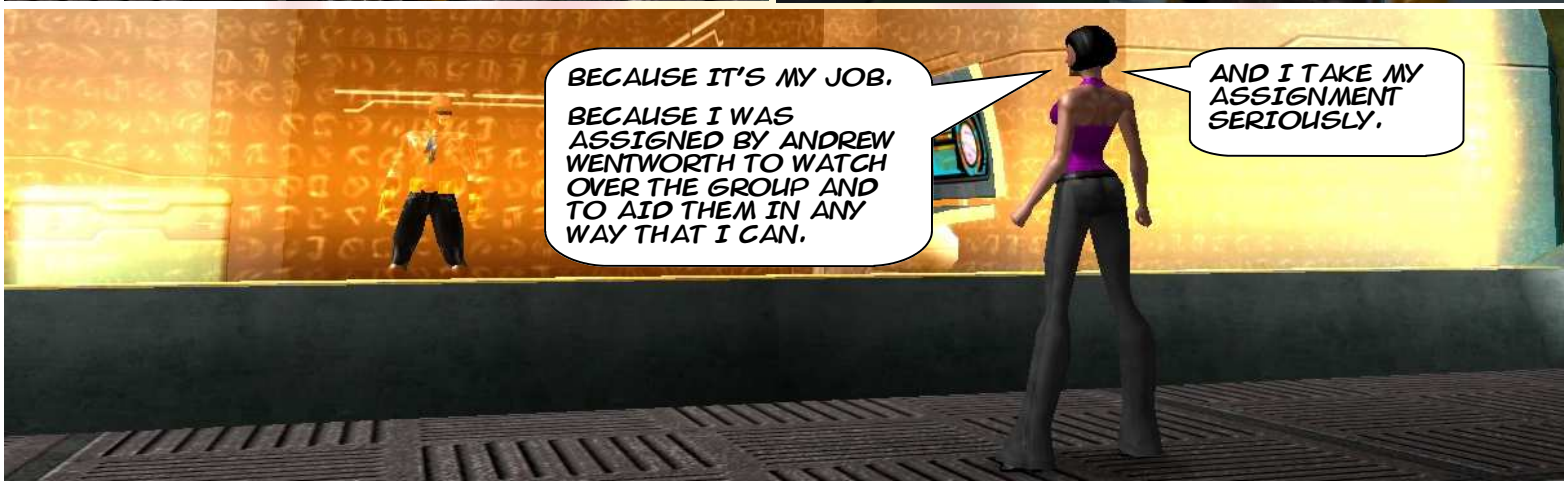
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN HELPING US ALL THESE YEARS?



NO LIES.
NO BULLSHIT.
THIS IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY CHANCE TO COME CLEAN.



WHY HAVE YOU BEEN HELPING THE GUARDIANS?



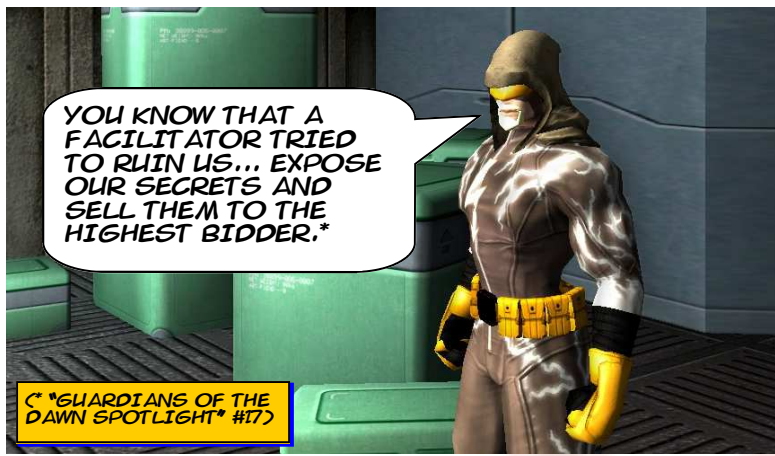
BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB.
BECAUSE I WAS ASSIGNED BY ANDREW WENTWORTH TO WATCH OVER THE GROUP AND TO AID THEM IN ANY WAY THAT I CAN.

AND I TAKE MY ASSIGNMENT SERIOUSLY.



ARE YOU A FACILITATOR?

YES.
BUT THIS CANNOT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE!



YOU KNOW THAT A FACILITATOR TRIED TO RUIN US... EXPOSE OUR SECRETS AND SELL THEM TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.*

< *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #17 >



YES.
BUT THAT WAS HIS ASSIGNMENT.
MINE IS THE OPPOSITE. I'M HERE TO HELP... AND ALSO PROTECT YOU FROM PEOPLE LIKE MY PREDECESSOR.



DOES CARLTON SAGE KNOW THAT YOU'RE A FACILITATOR?
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING AWAY?



I DON'T THINK HE KNOWS...
BUT I DO HAVE A BAD HISTORY WITH HIM.
A HISTORY THAT I'LL MAKE AVAILABLE TO JUST YOU IF IT HELPS PROVE MY INTENTIONS.



HUH... HUH...
MINDY... *HUH...*
MINDY IS A GUARDIAN.

AND IF KAREN WANTS IT... *HUH...*
SHE'LL BE A GUARDIAN IN TRAINING.



WILL THAT... *HUH...* BE ENOUGH?

IT'LL GET THE BALL ROLLING, MY FRIEND.

LATER THAT EVENING...

POLICE HEADQUARTERS



YOU HAVE A HELL OF A LOT OF NERVE SHOWING UP HERE AFTER WHAT YOU PULLED EARLIER.



THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF YOU, MCGADE.

I'M NOT HERE TO KICK YOUR ASS. I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE FINISHED.



FOR WHAT? THE WORD OF SOME BIMBO WHO CAN'T KEEP HER CLOTHES ON? YOU'VE GOT NO PROOF AND YOU KNOW IT!



I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T CHECKED THE INTERNET YET.

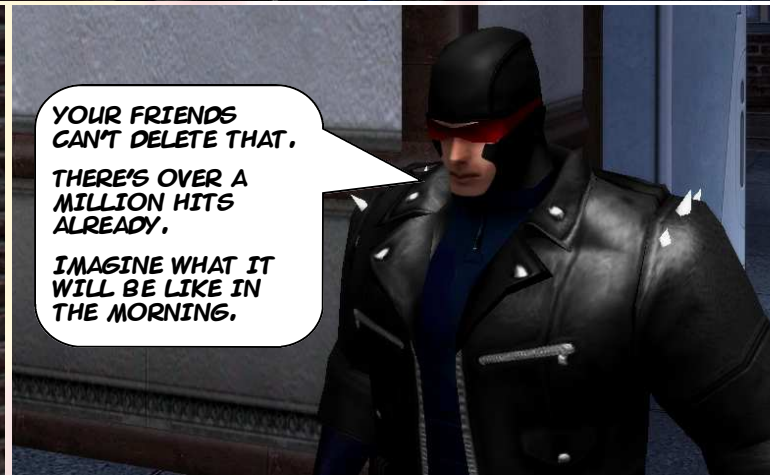
THERE'S AN AUDIO RECORDING OF YOU THREATENING TO STRIP A HERO NAKED... JUST LIKE WHAT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TRIED TO DO EARLIER TONIGHT.



YOUR FRIENDS CAN'T DELETE THAT.

THERE'S OVER A MILLION HITS ALREADY.

IMAGINE WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE IN THE MORNING.



YOU THINK YOU WON, KNIGHT? YOU HAVEN'T! I'M A COP! THE COP ALWAYS WINS IN THIS CITY!

EXCEPT YOU WON'T BE A COP FOR VERY LONG.



NOT AFTER PART 2 OF THAT RECORDING LINKS YOUR VOICE TO THE ACTUAL ASSAULT.

MCGADE! WIELD NEEDS TO SEE YOU AGAIN... RIGHT NOW!



IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW, SIR?

YES...

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE GUARDIANS, ESPECIALLY JASON KNIGHT.

Andrew Wentworth
CEO WENTWORTH'S FINE CONSIGNMENT

YOU MAY BE FORCED TO REVEAL YOURSELF AS A FACILITATOR TO THEM. AND THAT'S FINE AS LONG AS ONLY A FEW OF THEM KNOW. YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR TRAINING TELLS YOU ABOUT THAT SITUATION.

I WOULD SUGGEST FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THAT YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM MENTIONING THAT SIMON WAS YOUR RECRUITER.

THAT COULD UNDERMINE ANY TRUST YOU WOULD BUILD UP WITH THEM.

YOU'LL BE GIVEN A SPECIAL GUARDIAN ID CARD THAT WILL HAVE THE SAME MYSTICAL GLYPH AS THEIRS.

YOU WON'T BE AFFECTED BY THEIR NEW MYSTICAL CLOUD SYSTEM LIKE THE OTHER SUPPORT PERSONNEL.

AND I HAVE ONE MORE TASK FOR YOU TO FULFILL.

SIMON WAS A GOOD FRIEND, TO MYSELF AND TO LORD GEDDY.

HE WAS MURDERED BY SOMEONE IN THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE.

I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS ON WHO, BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.

WHILE YOU ARE WITH THE GUARDIANS, YOU ARE TO USE THEIR RESOURCES TO FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN WHO KILLED SIMON. AND THEN YOU WILL KILL THAT PERSON FOR US.

YES SIR.

Next:
NWNC Again?

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



The Paragon Times



ONLINE EDITION

March 8, 2015

www.ParagonTime.Para

HERO-SHAMING: THE SILENT CAPE-KILLER

Paragon City, RI (PCN) - Sally Visser remembers the last day she was a registered hero.

“I started it like any other day,” she said. “I put on my outfit, my boots, my cape, my mask, and then I made my way to the rail station.”

But Sally wishes she could forget what happened at the end of the day.

“They found me tied to a bus bench, what was left of my outfit in a pile by my feet. But they kept my mask on.”

Sally’s career as the registered hero Viva-La ended that night.

“There is no way that I can ever go back out there,” she said. “Not in outfit. I can’t even wear sunglasses anymore because it reminds me of wearing my mask.”

Sally’s story is just one of many that heroes face in Paragon City and in other major cities across the country. It is a brutal humiliating crime dubbed “hero-shaming” that often leads to the sudden retirement of that hero.

“Hero-shaming is the ultimate humiliation and destruction of a hero,” said Caitlin Murray-Davies of the Federal Bureau for Super-powered Affairs. “We often think that exposing a hero’s secret identity to the world is the worst that could happen to them. But what happens here is the exact opposite and far worse for them.”

Hero-shaming involves stripping a hero of their outfit but leaving certain identifying parts of that outfit, such as a mask or a cape, intact. The victim is then tied down or otherwise displayed somewhere in public and then left there for the world to see.

“We identify a hero through their outfits,” said Murray-Davies. “So to see that hero suddenly naked but still identifiable as a hero is a shock. They’re literally stripped of their ‘protection’, but who they are as heroes are left intact.”

In the case of Viva-La, Sally said that the sudden realization that she was exposed to the world with just her mask on was only the first step of humiliation.

“At first I thought it was just something that could happen to those of us in the hero business. You know, we’ve all heard about the occasional costume malfunction where the armor would fall apart or their tights would tear or their mask would be accidentally torn off. But this was so much worse.”

Continues on next page...

Sally says that incident happened while she was responding to a radio mission. The alleged perpetrators were a trio of seasoned heroes that considered Viva-La “fake”.

“They said that I was not a real hero. That I wasn’t worthy of being in ‘their’ city.”

“Most hero-shaming is done by female heroes against other female heroes,” said Murray-Davies, “but men have also been known to be both perpetrators and victims.”

Sally said that she was found by a Paragon City police officer around 6am in her state of undress. She was taken to the nearby hospital and examined. After giving her statement to the police, she went home to sleep.

“When I woke up,” she said, “another hero was calling me, telling me that naked pictures of me were posted on the Internet. That was it for me. People could see my tattoo, the appendix scar, all the things that could identify me as both myself and as a hero.”

The unauthorized and illegal posting of the hero’s naked pictures on the Internet is considered the final stage of humiliation, explains Murray-Davies.

“Once a hero’s pictures are uploaded to the Internet, they can’t be taken down. Some server somewhere will always have them available. Once that happens, there are groups in the Dark Net that make it their business to link those images to the hero’s real name and address. So even though they may have their masks on when they are assaulted, it’s virtually stripped from them later, and done so in a way that ends their career forever.”

After the incident, Sally moved away from Paragon City and lives on Cape Cod. No disciplinary action was taken against the trio of heroes involved with the incident, and there was no reply to our inquiries to the City Representative’s office.

Sally says she sometimes misses the rush of being a hero and of doing good, but she says the humiliation and the shame of what happened to her was just too much.

“Sometimes I catch myself creating a new costume or toying with a new hero name,” she said. “But then I remember what happened, and I know I can never go there again.”

The staff of the Cape Cod Chronicle contributed to this article.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



THE CONFLICT BETWEEN COPS AND CAPES ESCALATE AS THE CORRUPT POLICE OFFICERS BEGIN TO TAKE THE FALL FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

WILL THEY BE ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH THEIR CRIMES? OR WILL THIS BE THE END OF THE NEW BLUE DOG SQUAD? FIND OUT!



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OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

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