



FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 04
2013



CHAMPIONS
ONLINE

PERFECT
WORLD

From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live.

It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Live is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

"BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS"
- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

IN THE MONTHS SINCE GALATEA FUTURE RETURNED TO MILLENNIUM CITY, HER PROGRESS WAS SHADOWED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE.

ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE IS STARLETT, A SWORD-WIELDING STREET VIGILANTE EAGER TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE CITY'S GUARDIAN BUT SOMEHOW ISN'T ABLE TO.

SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE GETS THE WRONG KIND OF ATTENTION?

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OH GOD
IT HURTS!

IT HURTS
WORSE THAN
ANYTHING
I'VE EVER
FELT BEFORE!



OH I'VE BEEN
BEATEN BEFORE...
PLENTY OF TIMES!

BUT I'M AFRAID THAT
THIS TIME I MAY NOT
BE ABLE TO WALK
AWAY FROM IT.

AND I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S WORSE...

DYING? OR DYING
KNOWING THAT I
FAILED?

WESTSIDE - MILLENNIUM CITY, MI.

EARLIER THAT DAY...

CARLS GYM

UGH...

I HATE WAKING UP ON THE COUCH...

NEVER MIND THE COUCH OF A CONFERENCE ROOM.

I'VE DONE WORSE, THOUGH.

IT'S ACTUALLY SAFER HERE THAN WHEN I STAYED AT SOME OF THE HOTELS IN HOLLYWOOD!

I REALLY NEED TO GET MY OWN PLACE INSTEAD OF SLEEPING IN THE GYM.

BUT I SPENT MOST OF MY INITIAL MONEY ON A PERSONAL JETPACK.

AND BEING A REGISTERED HERO DOESN'T PAY MUCH.

STARLETT STREET VIGILANTE

PLUS I GET A LOCKER FOR MY SPARE CLOTHES, HOT SHOWERS, AND LAUNDRY SERVICE.

AND FREE FOOD... ALBEIT LEFTOVERS FROM YESTERDAY.

HUMMUS WRAPS? SERIOUSLY?

A QUICK SHOWER, A CHANGE OF LINGERIE, RECHARGE MY JETPACK AND ELECTRO-BLADE, AND I'M READY TO START THE DAY AGAIN.

THE GLAMOROUS LIFE OF A STREET VIGILANTE!



HI MARY!



I ROTATED OUT THE TARGET DUMMIES AND THE LAUNDRY LAST NIGHT.



OH THANK YOU, DEAR. THAT'S SO KIND OF YOU TO DO THAT.
SO WHEN SHOULD WE EXPECT YOU TONIGHT?



WELL, DEPENDING ON THE PATROL, I SHOULD BE IN AROUND TWO OR THREE IN THE MORNING.



OH LOOK... HERO-HOOKER CHIC.



HEY, IF SHE DRESSES LIKE THAT FOR ME, I'D LET HER SLEEP ANYWHERE SHE WANTED TOO!



NICE TO KNOW THAT.
BUT I WEAR THIS OUTFIT FOR TACTICAL REASONS.
'CUZ IF YOU'RE STARING AT MY BODY, THEN YOU'RE NOT NOTICING WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH MY HANDS.

OH, AND BY THE WAY...
THE ONLY REASON WHY I'M ALLOWED TO STAY HERE OVERNIGHT IS BECAUSE CARL'S A HUGE SAPPHIRE FAN, AND I HAPPEN TO GET HIM AN EXCLUSIVE PHOTO OF HER FROM KEY WEST.



TCHA
WHATEVERRRR...

DOWNTOWN

"I WANT TO HEAR IT..."

"COME ON CANDACE... EVERY WRITER GOES THROUGH IT AT SOME POINT..."

THE PENTHOUSE OF ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE

YES, BUT NOT EVERY BEST-SELLING WRITER CAN FLY AND BEND STEEL WITH HER BARE HANDS.

COME ON, SAY IT...

YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO SAY IT...

***SIGH!* FINE!**

I'M A SUPERHERO AND I HAVE WRITER'S CRAMP! HAPPY?

VERY.

SO WHEN'S THE DEADLINE FOR THIS BOOK?

I HAVE ANOTHER MONTH BEFORE THE PUBLISHERS START CALLING, BUT GIVEN THE SALES OF "DEPTHS OF DESPAIR", I DON'T THINK THEY'D BE BROKE IF "SHATTERED LIVES" IS A LITTLE LATE.



ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE
AKA: GALATEA FUTURE

THEY'RE PUBLISHERS, TAYA. THEY ALWAYS LIVE FOR THE NEXT BOOK.

OKAY, SO PRESUMING THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME, WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY DO TO GET UN-CRAMPED?

WHEN I WAS IN THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS, I USED TO DO A WALKABOUT TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

OF COURSE THERE WASN'T MUCH UP THERE OTHER THAN SNOW, TREES, AND THE OCCASIONAL YETI.

THERE'S A LOT MORE THINGS GOING ON HERE IN MILLENNIUM CITY TO INSPIRE ME.

I UNDERSTAND THAT MAYOR BISELLE IS HAVING A POLITICAL RALLY LATER TODAY.

MAYBE I SHOULD HEAD ON OVER THERE... YOU KNOW, AS ATHENA... AND HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

***UGH!* TAYA, CALVIN BISELLE HAS A POLITICAL RALLY PRACTICALLY EVERY OTHER WEEK!**

IT'S LIKE HE'S ALWAYS RUNNING FOR HIS JOB!

SERIOUSLY, IT'S JUST NOT WORTH SHOWING UP FOR!

I DON'T KNOW, CAN... HE **DID** GIVE ME A HERO'S WELCOME WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED HERE AFTER THE QULARR INVASION. HE EVEN GAVE ME THE KEY TO THE CITY.*
THAT SORT OF STUFF IS HARD TO IGNORE.

HEY, HOW ABOUT YOU MEET ME THERE AND WE'LL DO LUNCH?

OHhhh... WOULD LOVE TO...
IN FACT I'LL BE NOT FAR FROM THE RALLY...

(* HE REALLY DID, BACK IN "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #1, AVAILABLE THROUGH BATTLEROCK COMICS!)


CITY HALL - CITY CENTER

BUT I'LL BE BUSY ALL DAY TODAY.
I HAVE THREE CASES GOING TO TRIAL.

THREE?!?

WELL THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU'VE BEEN BUSY IN THE OFFICE!

EXACTLY, AND YOU KNOW FIRST-HAND HOW INVOLVED I GET IN THESE CASES, SO IT'S GOING TO BE A LOOOONG DAY!

 **GANDACE SINCLAIR**
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

BUT PROMISE ME THIS, OKAY?
PROMISE ME THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT MAKES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENDORSING BISELLE'S CAMPAIGN.
I MEAN AS EITHER GALATEA FUTURE OR ATHENA!
TRUST ME, YOU DON'T NEED THAT KIND OF ATTENTION RIGHT NOW.

I TRY NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH POLITICS ANYWAY, AS A HERO OR A CIVILIAN.
BELIEVE ME, I'VE SEEN POLITICAL SYSTEMS ON OTHER WORLDS THAT MAKE THE ONES HERE LOOK TAME!

JUST PROMISE ME THAT, OKAY?
FOR MY SAKE AND SANITY?

I PROMISE.
GIVE 'EM HELL IN THE COURTROOM, CAN.

THANKS.
AND TRY TO ENJOY YOUR WALKABOUT TODAY.

A FEW HOURS LATER...



LOVE THIS JETPACK!

OKAY... I'M EARLY THIS TIME, SO I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH HER DOING HER MID-DAY PATROL.



UNLESS... SHE DID IT EARLY?



HEY! YOU HEARD HIM!

HOLD ON THAT...



YOU PAY US OR WE'LL GOUGE YER EYES OUT!



SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE TAKEN DOWN A FEW NOTCHES.

THE "NEW PURPLE GANG"...



HIYA BOYS...

THEY'RE WESTSIDE'S "MAFIA" GROUP.

PROTECTION RACKETS, LOAN SHARKING, ARSON, THEFT, PROSTITUTION, MURDER-FOR-HIRE... EVERYTHING EXCEPT DRUG-DEALING.

OF COURSE NOBODY ASKS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "OLD PURPLE GANG", OR IF THERE EVEN WAS SUCH A GROUP.



I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE BAD, BUT THIS TAKES THE CAKE!

YOU REALLY EXPECT PEOPLE TO PAY YOU JUST SO THEY CAN LOOK TOWARDS WESTSIDE?

WE DON'T EXPECT ANYONE TO LIKE WHAT WE DO...

... JUST SO LONG AS THEY PAY US.




THE NEW PURPLE GANG OWNS WESTSIDE.

AND WHEN WE OWN SOMETHING, WE OWN **EVERYTHING** ABOUT IT, INCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT PEOPLE GET TO SEE IT!


THINK OF IT AS A "TOURISM TAX".

BUT WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING IN LITTLE ITALY, STEPPING IN ON OUR PROTECTION BUSINESS THERE.*

(* ISSUE #2)



THIS IS YOUR ONLY WARNING. YOU BACK DOWN OR WE BUST UP THAT SEXY BODY OF YOURS.




I GUESS THIS IS THE PART WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED FOR MY LIFE.

I MEAN, YOU SOUND SO SERIOUS WHEN YOU THREATEN MY "SEXY BODY" LIKE YOU DID!



BUT SINCE THERE'S ONLY FOUR OF YOU, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA...



HOW ABOUT WE SKIP THE WHOLE WAITING-UNTIL-LATER PART AND I JUST KICK YOUR PURPLE @SSES RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW?



I CAN ALREADY HEAR THE POLICE RUNNING OVER TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE INCIDENT.

I GIVE MY CREDENTIALS, MAKE MY STATEMENT, AND OFF THEY GO TO JAIL.



AND I STILL HAVE A FEW MINUTES BEFORE GALATEA FUTURE MAKES HER MID-DAY PATROL HERE.



AND YET, FOR ALL THAT WE'VE DONE WHILE I'VE BEEN YOUR MAYOR, THERE IS STILL MUCH MORE THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

WE CANNOT EXPECT THIS CITY TO PROSPER IF IT IS HINDERED BY THE FEAR AND THE THREAT OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS.

WHICH IS WHY I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE LAUNCHING A BOLD NEW STEP IN CLEANING UP OUR STREETS OF CRIME!


WORKING IN CONNECTION WITH OUR TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUPS AND WITH THE CHAMPIONS AND OTHER SUPERHERO GROUPS, WE WILL LAUNCH A BOLD NEW TASK FORCE THAT WILL SPECIFICALLY TARGET THE WORST OF THE CRIMINAL GROUPS OPERATING IN MILLENNIUM CITY.

FOR FAR TOO LONG, CRIMINAL GROUPS LIKE ARGENT, VIPER, AND THE NEW PURPLE GANG HAVE BEEN USING THEIR NUMBERS TO OVERWHELM AND INTIMIDATE EVEN OUR POLICE OFFICERS.


THIS TASK FORCE WILL SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE WORST OF THOSE CRIMINAL GROUPS, AND THEREBY TO THE OTHERS THAT WILL FOLLOW...

THEIR DAYS ARE HEREBY NUMBERED!

**MAYOR CALVIN BISELLE!
YOU LIKE TO TALK TOUGH ABOUT CRIME...**



**BUT HOW BRAVE
ARE YOU WHEN
YOU HAVE TWO
FULLY-ARMED
VIPER GUNSHIPS
TRAINED ON
YOU?**



**ARE YOU WILLING TO
SACRIFICE YOUR OWN
LIFE FOR YOUR SO-
CALLED 'WAR ON CRIME'?**
**ARE YOU WILLING TO
SACRIFICE YOUR LOYAL
VOTERS TO THAT WAR?**



**PEOPLE PLEASE I URGE YOU
TO REMAIN CALM!
YOU WILL BE PROTECTED,
THIS I PROMISE YOU!**



**BRAVE WORDS,
MAYOR...**



**ESPECIALLY SINCE
YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE WITH POLICE
PROTECTION!
BUT WHO WILL
PROTECT YOUR
CONSTITUENTS?**

MEANWHILE...



EXCUSE ME...
I WAS HOPING
YOU COULD
ASSIST ME.



SURE I...
WHOA!
I-I'M SORRY, IT'S
JUST THAT--



I ASSURE YOU, MY
DEAR, MY LUPINE
APPEARANCE IS
QUITE REAL.

ALTHOUGH, AS YOU
CAN SURMISE, IT IS
NOT REFLECTIVE OF
MY NATURE.



I AM NEW TO THIS
CITY, AND I SAW YOUR
ACTIONS EARLIER
WITH THE HOOLIGANS.
I WAS HOPING YOU
COULD ASSIST ME IN
LOCATING AN
ASSOCIATE OF MINE...
HER NAME IS GALATEA
FUTURE.



SURE!
I WAS KIND OF
LOOKING FOR HER
AS WELL, SO WE
CAN CHECK WITH
THE SOCRATES
TERMINAL
ACROSS THE
STREET.
I'M STARLETT.



I'M... BLUE.
YOU CAN CALL ME MISTER
BLUE.
YES, THAT SOUNDS LIKE
AN EXCELLENT IDEA!
PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS,
LEAD THE WAY.



**GALATEA FUTURE...
ARE YOU TRULY THAT RECKLESS?**

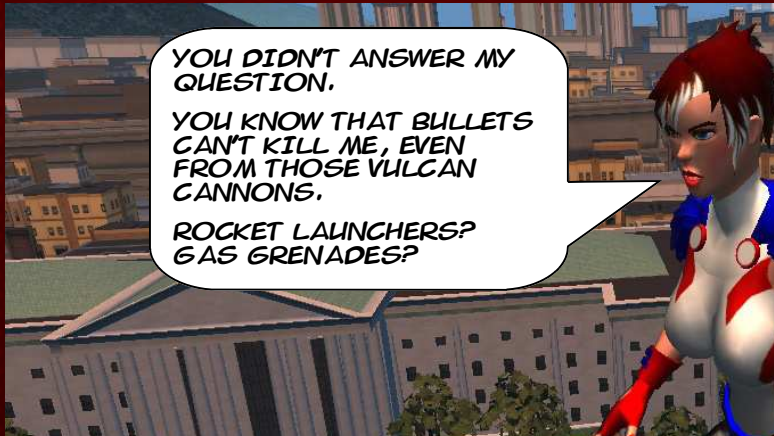


PERHAPS A BETTER QUESTION IS TO ASK WHY ARE YOU?
YOU COULDVE OPEN FIRE ON THOSE PEOPLE AT ANY TIME BEFORE I ARRIVED.
WHY WAIT FOR THIS STANDOFF?

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU COULD SURVIVE OUR ASSAULT?

OR STOP BOTH SHIPS FROM ATTACKING THE CROWD?

 **GALATEA FUTURE**
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN



YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION.
YOU KNOW THAT BULLETS CAN'T KILL ME, EVEN FROM THOSE VULCAN CANNONS.
ROCKET LAUNCHERS? GAS GRENADES?

FIRE ONE AND I'LL SHOVE IT RIGHT BACK UP THE SLOT BEFORE YOU CAN FINISH SQUEEZING THE TRIGGER.
YOU KNOW HOW POWERFUL I AM. I'M THE ONE THAT TOOK DOWN RIPPER, YOUR "BIG BAD MONSTER", WITH JUST ONE PUNCH!*

*THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE #3, AVAILABLE THROUGH BATTLEROCK COMICS.



...
NOTHING?



OKAY, SOCRATES SAYS THAT GALATEA FUTURE WAS JUST SPOTTED NEAR CITY HALL ENGAGING SOME VIPER FORCES THAT WERE ATTACKING THE MAYOR.

HMM... I SEE...



I'VE NEVER GONE UP AGAINST THEM MYSELF, BUT VIPER IS A PRETTY NASTY GROUP, SO GALATEA COULD PROBABLY USE AN EXTRA HAND OR TWO.

CITY HALL IS ABOUT A GOOD QUARTER-MILE AWAY. I'VE GOT A JET PACK, BUT IT'S DESIGNED FOR ONE PERSON. HOW ARE YOU SET FOR TRAVEL?



OH I CAN MANAGE ON MY OWN, THANK YOU FOR ASKING.

HOWEVER, THIS SOCRATES TERMINAL... CAN IT TELL ME WHERE GALATEA LIVES? OR MAYBE POINT ME TO SOME OF HER ASSOCIATES?

I... WOULD NOT WANT TO BURDEN HER WITH MY BUSINESS IF SHE IS ALREADY INDISPOSED.

THAT'S NOT REALLY HOW THE SOCRATES DATABASE WORKS.



THE DATABASE ONLY HAS BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT A HERO.


IT DOESN'T GIVE OUT PERSONAL DATA ABOUT WHERE THEY LIVE.



I MEAN, I SUPPOSE IF YOU WANTED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HER, YOU COULD FIND HER ATTORNEY...

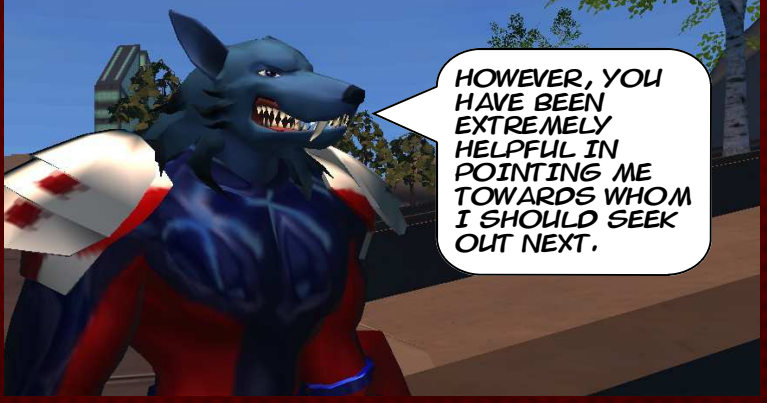
I THINK HER NAME IS... CANDACE SINCLAIR?

BUT, HEY, I'M SURE GALATEA COULD USE SOME HELP WITH VIPER!



THANK YOU, BUT I MUST DECLINE YOUR SUGGESTION OF ASSISTANCE.

I CANNOT GET INVOLVED WITH LOCAL MATTERS AT THIS TIME.



HOWEVER, YOU HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN POINTING ME TOWARDS WHOM I SHOULD SEEK OUT NEXT.



YES, THIS CANDACE SINCLAIR... I'LL HAVE TO PAY HER A VISIT.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE...

AND I WISH YOU AND MS. FUTURE LUCK IN GOING AFTER THIS... VIPER.



KA-CHUNK!



INTERESTING...



I PRESUME THIS IS SOME SORT OF CONTAINMENT FIELD, DESIGNED TO PREVENT ME FROM LEAVING.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM, BUT AROUND HERE, HEROES DON'T WALK AWAY FROM HELP WHEN ASKED.

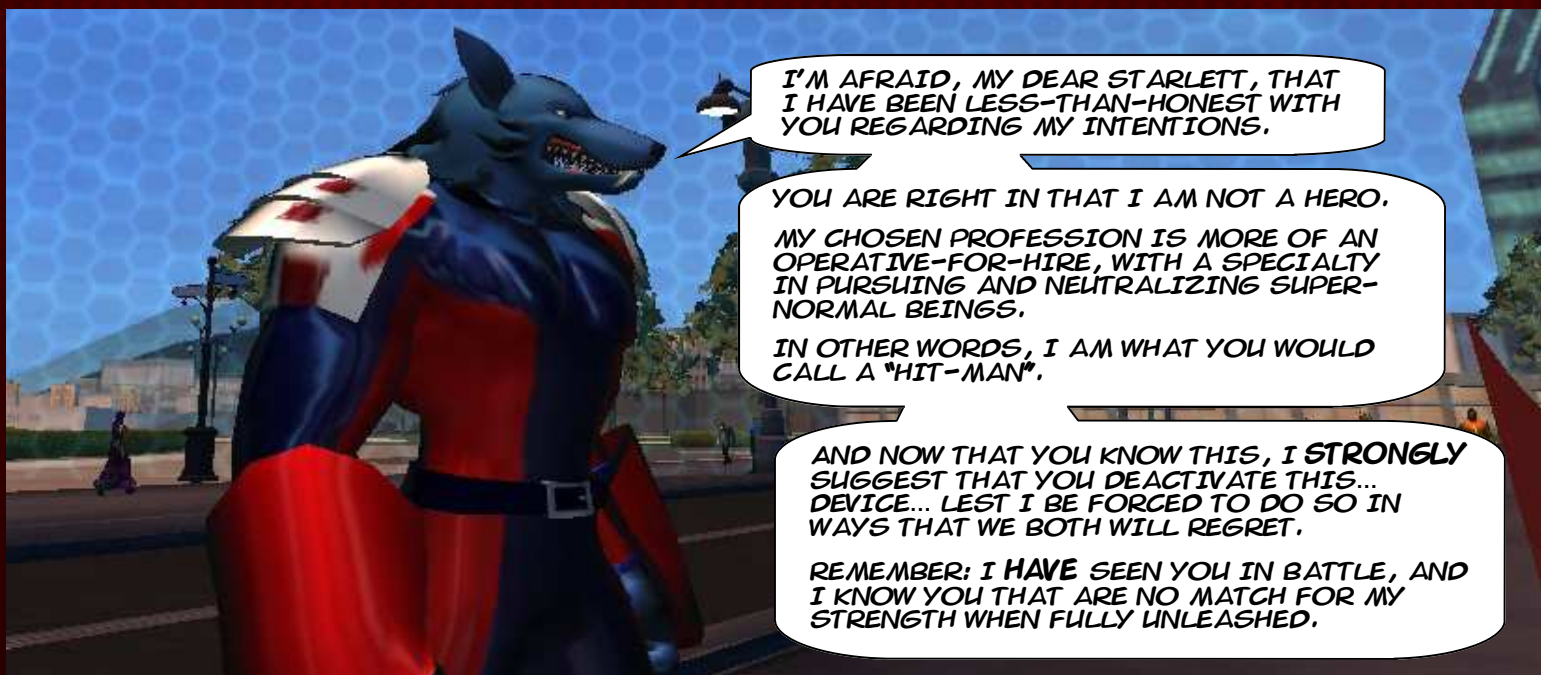


THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING OFF ABOUT YOU EVER SINCE YOU APPROACHED ME FOR HELP.

YOU KEPT YOUR DISTANCE FROM THE SOCRATES TERMINAL WHEN MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE CURIOUS ABOUT IT.

YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GALATEA FUTURE BUT THEN TURNED DOWN A FACE-TO-FACE OPPORTUNITY AND INSTEAD WANTED TO KNOW WHO HER ASSOCIATES ARE.

YOU'RE NOT A HERO, ARE YOU?



I'M AFRAID, MY DEAR STARLETT, THAT I HAVE BEEN LESS-THAN-HONEST WITH YOU REGARDING MY INTENTIONS.

YOU ARE RIGHT IN THAT I AM NOT A HERO. MY CHOSEN PROFESSION IS MORE OF AN OPERATIVE-FOR-HIRE, WITH A SPECIALTY IN PURSUING AND NEUTRALIZING SUPER-NORMAL BEINGS.

IN OTHER WORDS, I AM WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A "HIT-MAN".

AND NOW THAT YOU KNOW THIS, I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DEACTIVATE THIS... DEVICE... LEST I BE FORCED TO DO SO IN WAYS THAT WE BOTH WILL REGRET.

REMEMBER: I HAVE SEEN YOU IN BATTLE, AND I KNOW YOU THAT ARE NO MATCH FOR MY STRENGTH WHEN FULLY UNLEASHED.



RRRRAAAARH!!!

*SWISH!

OH CR...

SSLLSH!

RRRRR...

THUD

HUFF* *HUFF

**YOU... YOU SHOULD NOT
HAVE THROWN YOUR LIFE
AWAY LIKE THAT!**

**YOU FOUGHT HARD... BUT
YOU LACK THE TRAINING
TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE
OUTMATCHED.**

**IT'S A PITY THAT YOU
WILL NOT LIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO LEARN
FROM THIS ENCOUNTER.**

**MAYBE IF THIS WORLD
HAS REINCARNATION YOU
WILL NOT BE SO RECKLESS
IN YOUR NEXT LIFE.**

**OH GOD
IT HURTS!**

**IT HURTS
WORSE THAN
ANYTHING
I'VE EVER
FELT BEFORE!**

LIVE

"AND WE'RE CONTINUING OUR BREAKING NEWS FROM CITY HALL ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF MAYOR CALVIN BISELLE."

"THE SMOKE YOU CAN SEE FROM THOSE BUILDINGS ARE FROM THE TWO VIPER AIRCRAFT THAT WERE FORCED DOWN BY GALATEA FUTURE."

8 WCOG BREAKING NEWS - VIPER ASSASINATION THWARTED - MAYOR AND CROWD SAFE



"AFTERWARD, GALATEA WAS SEEN GOING FROM ROOFTOP-TO-ROOFTOP..."



"... GOING AFTER THE REMAINING VIPER GROUND FORCES."



"BY LAST COUNT THE NUMBER OF THOSE ARRESTED WAS AT FORTY-EIGHT."



"BUT THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO RISE."



"AND NOW WE ARE GETTING WORD THAT SHE HAS TAKEN THE FIGHT TO THE GROUND TO FINISH MOPING UP THE VIPER FORCES."

"STAY TUNED TO WCOG FOR MORE INFORMATION AS IT DEVELOPS."



ANSWER ME THIS...
HOW DID THEY SQUEEZE YOU INTO A GUNSHIP?



IT DOESN'T MATTER!



UNNH!

WHAT... MATTERS...



... IS THAT WE... ALREADY... WONNN...



ALREADY WON?

THUD



WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

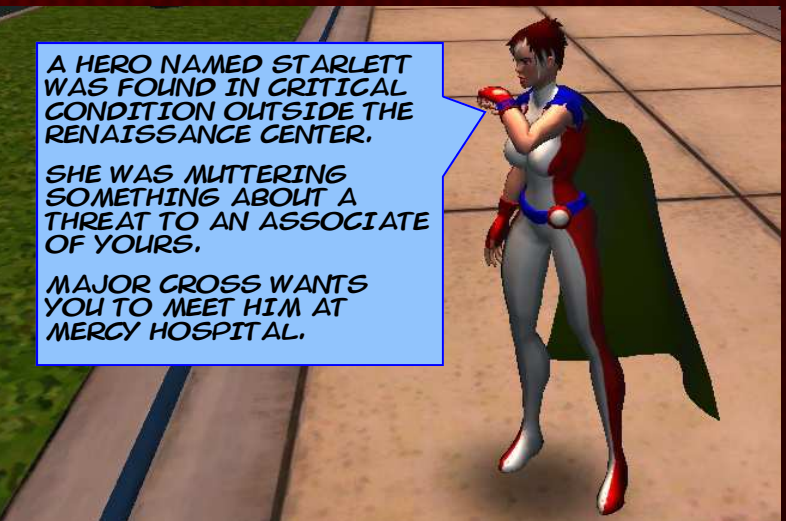
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP




THIS IS GALATEA FUTURE RESPONDING TO PAGE.

GALATEA FUTURE, THIS IS U.N.T.I.L. COMMAND.*

* UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW. >



A HERO NAMED STARLETT WAS FOUND IN CRITICAL CONDITION OUTSIDE THE RENAISSANCE CENTER. SHE WAS MUTTERING SOMETHING ABOUT A THREAT TO AN ASSOCIATE OF YOURS. MAJOR CROSS WANTS YOU TO MEET HIM AT MERCY HOSPITAL.




MY FRIENDS, I CANNOT COME UP WITH ANY STRONGER REASON FOR THE NEED OF THIS NEW TASK FORCE THAN TO POINT THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED EARLIER TODAY.

WE CANNOT LIVE IN CONTINUAL FEAR OF THESE ORGANIZED SUPERVILLAIN GROUPS LIKE VIPER!

AND WITH THIS NEW TASK FORCE IN PLACE, WE WILL NOT HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT FEAR FOR VERY LONG!


8 WCOC MAYOR CALVIN BISELLE SPEAKS OUT ON FAILED VIPER ASSASSINATION



IN A WAY, THE ACTIONS OF VIPER ANSWERED A KEY QUESTION AS TO WHICH SUPERVILLAIN GROUP OUR NEW TASK FORCE SHOULD FOCUS ON FIRST.

ANY SUPERVILLAIN GROUP BRAZEN ENOUGH TO LAUNCH AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT USING LARGE-SCALE MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER TO MILLENNIUM CITY, NOT TO MENTION THE SAFETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!


8 WCOC MAYOR BISELLE VOWS TO MAKE VIPER PAY FOR ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE



FOLLOWING THIS PRESS CONFERENCE, I WILL BE IN A TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY, WHERE I WILL BE REQUESTING ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING MILITARY SUPPORT, TO WORK WITH THE TASK FORCE.

WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL EVERY MEMBER OF VIPER IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!

8 WCOC MAYOR BISELLE TO SPEAK WITH WHITE HOUSE ABOUT TERRORISM AID



OF COURSE I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT GIVE THANKS TO ONE OF MILLENNIUM CITY'S MOST SELFLESS GUARDIANS, GALATEA FUTURE.

WITHOUT HER TIMELY ASSISTANCE, THIS DAY COULD HAVE VERY WELL BEEN A MONUMENTAL TRAGEDY FOR THIS CITY.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, GALATEA FUTURE, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A CITY THAT IS EVER-GRATEFUL KNOWING THAT YOU ARE LOOKING OUT FOR THEM.

8 WCOC MAYOR BISELLE THANKS GALATEA FUTURE FOR THWARTING VIPER

"... LUCKY HE FOUND HER WHEN HE DID..."

"... YOU'RE SAYING A SEVEN-FOOT BLUE WOLF DID THIS?"

"... PERFORATED HER SMALL INTESTINES...
... CUT HER ABDOMINAL MUSCLES..."

"... WOLF-MAN MAYBE... THE WITNESS SAID HE WAS WEARING SOME SORT OF BODYSUIT."

"... WHAT ABOUT GANDACE?"

"WE'LL HAVE HER UNDER GUARD AT ALL TIMES."

"NO, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT. LET'S NOT TIP OUR ENEMY OFF THAT WE KNOW WHO HE'S GOING AFTER. WHAT ABOUT... HER?"

"SPEAKING OF WHICH... THERE IS A LITTLE MATTER THAT WE NEED TO DISCUSS ABOUT THE PATIENT."

"WHAT SORT OF PROBLEM, DOCTOR?"

"I CAN KEEP THE MEDIA QUIET ABOUT THIS, SO THIS 'BLUE' PERSON WILL THINK SHE'S DEAD."

"IT HAS TO DO WITH THE RECORDS THAT WE HAVE ON HER."



"I'M... ALIVE?"



"I HURT... BUT I'M ALIVE."

"AND I SHOULDN'T BE."



I FELT THOSE
CLAWS CUT
INTO MY
STOMACH.

I COULD FEEL
MY GUTS
TRYING TO
SLIDE OUT
ONTO THE
CONCRETE.



AND YET...
I'M ALIVE.
I HURT, BUT
I'M ALIVE!




WHERE
AM I?


HOW LONG
WAS I OUT?



THIS IS
NOT A
HOSPITAL.



GOOD MORNING...
OR RATHER GOOD
EVENING.



TO ANSWER YOUR FIRST
QUESTION, YOU WERE
OUT FOR FIVE DAYS.
YOU'VE BEEN IN AND OUT
OF CONSCIOUSNESS
SINCE THE SURGERY TO
HEAL YOUR WOUNDS.

TO ANSWER YOUR
SECOND QUESTION, WE
BROUGHT YOU HERE
BECAUSE THE HOSPITAL
WILL NOT RELEASE YOU
TO A GYMNASIUM AND
WE NEEDED TO KEEP
YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.

YES, YOU'VE BEEN IN THAT BED ALL THIS TIME. NO, I WASN'T THE ONE WHO DRESSED YOU OR CHANGED YOUR BANDAGES.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU'LL NEED TO KEEP YOUR ABDOMEN WRAPPED FOR A FEW MORE DAYS, BUT ONCE WE REMOVE THEM THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY SCARS.

RONIN OMEGA
COSMIC TRAVELER

WHO ARE YOU, AND HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THIS?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WOULD ASK?



I GO BY THE NAME OF RONIN OMEGA. AND IF I WERE IN YOUR SITUATION, I WOULD WANT TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS AS WELL.



THE PROCEDURE USED TO SAVE YOUR LIFE WAS BASED ON DORVALAN TECHNOLOGY; THE SAME WORLD THAT IRONCLAD CAME FROM. THEY'RE PRETTY EFFICIENT IN HEALING SOLDIERS SO THEY CAN GO BACK INTO BATTLE.

I'M... SURE IT'S PRETTY EXPENSIVE... BUT--

THE UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW PICKED UP THE TAB FOR YOUR BRIEF HOSPITAL STAY. IT WAS THE LEAST THEY COULD DO, GIVEN THE LENGTHS YOU WENT TO IN TRYING TO SAVE GALATEA FUTURE'S FRIEND.



SO YOU'VE... STOPPED HIM?
IS MISS SINCLAIR SAFE?



"SAFE" IS A RELATIVE TERM. NO, MISTER BLUE IS STILL ON THE LOOSE, WHICH IS ALSO WHY YOU'RE HERE.





OKAY... SOOOOO...
WHERE IS THIS
PLACE?



YOU'RE IN A TRAVEL
HOUSE.

I LIVE HERE, BUT I
DON'T OWN IT.

SOME TRAVELERS
HAVE PLACES THEY
LEND OUT TO OTHER
TRAVELERS ANYTIME
THEY HAVE A NEED FOR
A PLACE TO STAY.



SO I WAS
SLEEPING IN
YOUR BED?

FOR THE
TIME BEING,
IT'S YOURS.

I'VE SLEPT IN THE CHAIR ALL
THIS TIME.

IT'S RATHER COMFORTABLE.

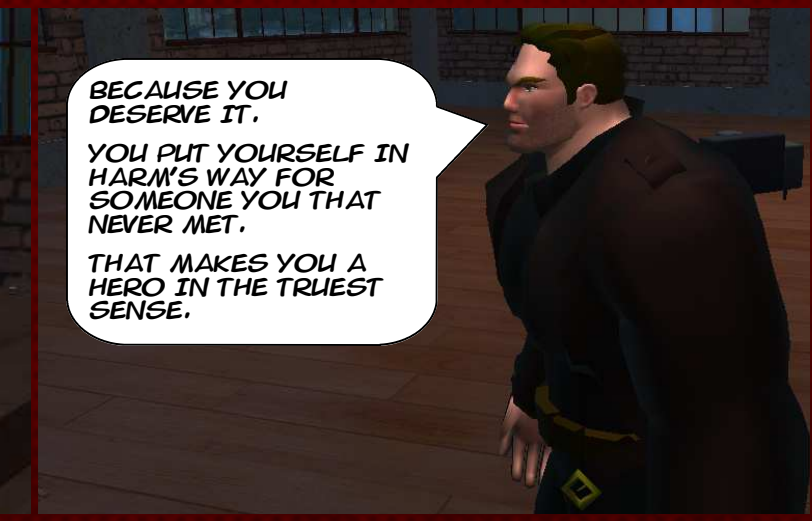
GALATEA FUTURE HAS BEEN
HERE EVERY DAY TO TEND TO
YOUR INJURIES.

SHE KEPT YOUR MASK ON
OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR
PERSONAL IDENTITY.



WHY?

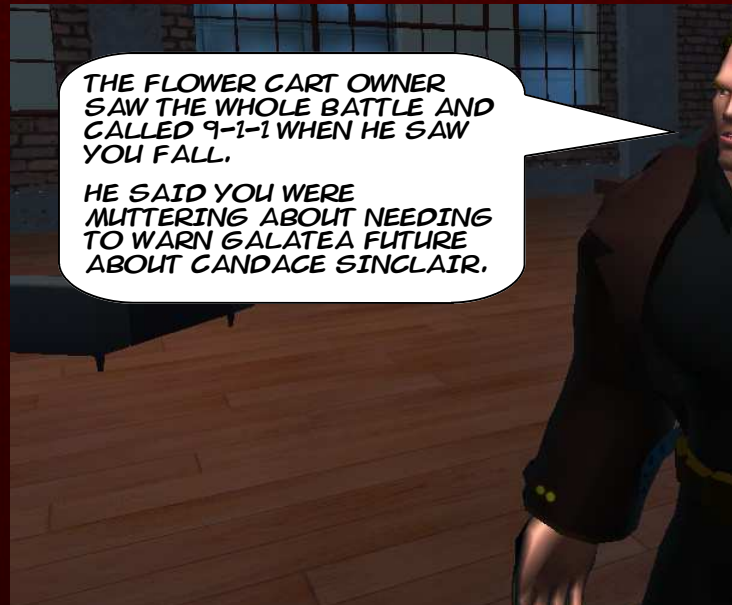
WHY ARE YOU
ALL BEING SO...
NICE?



BECAUSE YOU
DESERVE IT.

YOU PUT YOURSELF IN
HARM'S WAY FOR
SOMEONE YOU THAT
NEVER MET.

THAT MAKES YOU A
HERO IN THE TRUEST
SENSE.



THE FLOWER CART OWNER
SAW THE WHOLE BATTLE AND
CALLED 9-1-1 WHEN HE SAW
YOU FALL.

HE SAID YOU WERE
MUTTERING ABOUT NEEDING
TO WARN GALATEA FUTURE
ABOUT CANDACE SINCLAIR.



I MANAGED TO LOOK UP
YOUR FILE IN THE
SOCRATES DATABASE AND
SAW WHAT YOU DID IN
HOLLYWOOD WITH X-AMPLE
FILMS AND THEIR ILLEGAL
VIDEOTAPING AND
PROSTITUTION RACKET.

YOU'RE GOOD. BUT YOU
COULD BE BETTER.



FOR THE TIME BEING, YOUR PRIORITY IS TO REST AND HEAL.

YOU'RE FREE TO STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU WISH UNTIL YOU CAN GET SET UP WITH YOUR OWN PLACE INSTEAD OF STAYING AT CARL'S GYM.

WE CAN DISCUSS TRAINING WHEN YOU'RE STRONGER.

AND... WHAT WILL YOU EXPECT FROM ME FOR ALL THIS GENEROSITY?

COOKING?
CLEANING?
"PILLOW TIME"?



I EXPECT YOU TO REST AND TO HEAL. NOTHING MORE.

THERE'S YOGURT IN THE REFRIGERATOR. IT'S THE ONLY THING YOUR BODY CAN DIGEST RIGHT NOW BESIDES TEA AND WATER.



I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW HOURS.

GALATEA LEFT A NOTE FOR YOU ON THE ISLAND COUNTERTOP.



"STARLETT,

I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO TRY TO SAVE CANDACE SINCLAIR.

CANDACE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE AND I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE HEROES LIKE YOU WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING TO SAVE A COMPLETE STRANGER.

SHE IS SAFE, AND I WILL MAKE SURE THAT 'MISTER BLUE' IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR WHAT HE DID TO YOU.

THE PEOPLE FROM U.N.T.I.L. HAVE BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO HELP ME FIND 'BLUE', AND THEY WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE SAFE AS WELL."

"I WILL CHECK IN WHEN I HAVE THE TIME TO THANK YOU IN PERSON, BUT FOR NOW IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THERE IS SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND.

YOUR NEW FRIEND,
GALATEA*

D@MNIT!
D@MNIT!
D@MNIT!

WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO BE SO NICE TO ME?



YES?

IT'S ME.
WELL, I DID IT.
I GOT INTO HER GOOD GRACES.

IT ONLY MAKES THIS PART HURT EVEN MORE.



WELCOME BACK FROM THE DEAD!

IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT YOU MANAGED TO PULL IT OFF EVEN AT THE RISK OF YOUR OWN LIFE.

MARKMAN GOLD
AGENT TO THE SUPER-LEGENDS



YEAH, WELL YOU DIDN'T NEED TO SEND A HIT MAN TO DO IT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT.

YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T SEND "MISTER BLUE" TO GUT ME?



REST ASSURED IF WE DID, YOU WOULD NOT BE AROUND TO TALK ABOUT IT.

ALTHOUGH YOUR ESTATE WOULD HAVE BEEN WELL-FINANCED THROUGH THE MEMORIAL PICTORIAL IN "CAPES AND BOOTS".

BUT NOW THAT I KNOW YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...



... IT'LL BE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THROUGH WITH YOUR GOAL OF LEARNING EVERYTHING YOU CAN ON YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.

AND I EXPECT TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON ON THAT.

CLICK



"BEST FRIEND" ... RIGHT ...

LIKE I DESERVE ONE FOR WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO HER.



NEXT ISSUE:
THE HUNT IS ON!

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

HOLLYWOOD NEWS JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 3, 2011

X-AMPLE STUDIO EXECS BURNED IN SCANDALOUS BLACKMAIL/PROSTITUTION RACKET

(Hero Press) Hollywood, CA - Hollywood Police along with the California Bureau of Investigation raided the home of controversial filmmaker and producer Richard "Dick" Digger as part of a scathing blackmail and prostitution ring that involved as many as over three hundred young actresses and exposed a seedy underground empire of human trafficking whose client lists include some of the biggest movers-and-shakers in the film industry.

Police officials credit Sapphire of the Millennium City superhero group The Champions along with a new hero named "Starlett" for bringing the criminal operation to light.

"We are always grateful for heroes like Sapphire and Starlett stepping up to expose something this heinous," said police spokesman Troy Hunker.

According to police affidavits, Digger would recruit eager young actresses through auditions, which he would secretly videotape. He would then select certain actresses to show up for a "meet and greet" party at his Beverly Hills residence. The women would be drugged and then left to his male clients for what he referred to as "Pillow Time", which would also be secretly recorded.

"The women in these parties would later be shown the videos and be told to be quiet if they wanted to succeed in the movie industry," said Hunker. "They would also be given the option of filming adult-style videos to go with their secret audition interviews or attending more parties as full-on 'escorts'."

The blackmail and forced prostitution ring came to light after Starlett claimed a friend was invited to take part in one of these parties.

"My friend did not know what would happen at these parties," Starlett told reporters. "She believed she was going there to meet studio executives and begin her career as an actress. Everyone there thought the same thing. What they got instead was a nightmare."

The "parties" came to an end after Starlett, in her own debut of sorts, raided Digger's home and discovered the videotapes and drugs allegedly used to make the victims "eager".

Police now say that the drugs found on the compound were a combination of sedatives and mild hallucinogens that would leave the user in a giddy and "stupor-like" state.

Hunker says that ten women so far have come forward and acknowledged they were victims of Digger's "Pillow Time" blackmail and have admitted being forced to take part in his "Interview" videos, even though they are filmed reading a disclaimer denying such coercion.

"It's standard for actresses in the adult industry to be seen on-camera

Continues on next page...

making such disclaimers,” Hunker said. “But that doesn’t mean that every instance is true. In fact, in this particular case, the victims were told they had to pretend to be doing this out of their own free will in order to prevent the more damaging material from being released.”

Hunker also said that more victims are stepping forward.

Even armed with this evidence, though, the police still refused to take action until Sapphire’s insistence.

“I can understand the police being cautious,” said Sapphire. “But thankfully they stepped up once the extent of this criminal operation became clear.”

Even more damaging to the film industry is the extent of the client-base for Digger’s underground prostitution market, which prosecutors say includes some of Tinseltown’s biggest movers-and-shakers, as well as local politicians and influential actors. Prosecutors have confirmed a special grand jury is evaluating the evidence now for future indictments.

Attorneys for Digger say that the charges are nothing more than an orchestrated witch-hunt by vindictive women looking to make a name for themselves.

Digger is best known for his “Extreme Life” brand of videos, which focused on “Extreme Sports, Extreme Stunts, and Extreme Women”. Most of his videos featured dangerous stunts and R-rated videos of young women and were sold through late night infomercials.

Digger’s X-Ample Studios was purchased by Diamond Media Entertainment Inc. in 2006. Calls to the parent company for a statement were not returned at the time of printing.

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

NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



THE HUNT IS ON FOR "MISTER BLUE", BUT WILL THEY FIND HIM BEFORE HE FINDS EITHER GALATEA FUTURE OR CANDACE SINCLAIR?

AND ONE OF GALATEA'S ASSOCIATES WILL KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT "MISTER BLUE" THAT WILL CHANGE THE STAKES CONSIDERABLY!



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