

# THE GUARDIAN POWERS



ISSUE 02  
2011



CITY  
HEROES  
FREEDOM



ONCE THEY REPRESENTED THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERHERO TEAMS... THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN! THEY BATTLED CRIME LORDS, CORRUPT GOVERNMENT AGENTS, AND EVEN GODS AND DEMIGODS. THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE WHEN MANY BELIEVED THEY WOULD NOT.

BUT WHILE THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN ARE NO MORE, SEVERAL OF THE HEROES REFUSE TO GIVE UP THE FIGHT TO MAKE THAT BRIGHTER FUTURE POSSIBLE. OPERATING ON THEIR OWN, THEY ARE REFERRED TO COLLECTIVELY AS...

# THE GUARDIAN POWERS



## ALEX WENTWORTH - PARAGON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FORMERLY THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER, THIS ONE-TIME "CELEBRITANT" BECAME THE WORST NIGHTMARE FOR CROOKED COPS AND ABUSIVE PROSECUTORS. NOW HE WORKS FROM WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO BRING IT IN LINE.

## CAPTAIN PARAGONNA - PARAGON CITY'S SUPERHERO POLICEWOMAN

THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBER AND FORMER LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN, STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS CONTINUES THE FIGHT FOR LAW AND ORDER, AS WELL AS BRING THAT PROMISE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE.



## ICON POWERS/KENT PODERES - TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

THE GREATEST HERO OF HIS EARTH, AND FOSTER FATHER OF GALATEA, KENT SACRIFICED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS COUSIN'S TRUST. NOW HE HAS LOST MUCH OF HIS POWERS AND SEEKS TO REBUILD THE TRUST OF HIS TEAMMATES.

## GALATEA POWERS - PARAGON CITY'S "TRUE GUARDIAN"

BORN FROM ANOTHER WORLD, GALATEA CAME TO THIS WORLD WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHO SHE WAS. GIVEN A NEW LIFE AND A NEW NAME, SHE'S NOW ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR HEROES IN PARAGON CITY.



## MS. ELLE MAPLE - INTERIM SHADOWBORN LEADER

AS THE LOYAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO LORD LEE GEDDY OF THE ROGINANTE GROUP, MS. MAPLE SHOULD NEVER BE UNDERESTIMATED IN HER WILLINGNESS TO DO EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO PROTECT HER BOSS AND GET THE JOB DONE.


# "SETTING THE STAGE"

## - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS HOW SHE FOUND OUT PYROGURL'S REAL NAME. I'M TOLD THERE ARE FEDERAL LAWS THAT PREVENT THAT INFORMATION FROM BEING MADE PUBLIC.

**MAXIMUS REX**  
VANGUARD TACTICIAN  
AND FORMER LEADER  
OF THE GUARDIANS



YOU CAN THANK PYROGURL'S OWN GRANDMOTHER FOR THAT. SHE BELONGS TO THAT SAME PRO-FAMILY GROUP.

THE F.B.S.A.\* IS PAYING HER A VISIT, BUT THE DAMAGE IS DONE.

(\* FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPER-POWERED AFFAIRS)



WHAT BOTHERS ME ARE THE SOCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF ALLOWING THIS WITCH-HUNT TO GO ON UNCHECKED LIKE MISSUS BANKS DID IN NEW YORK.

YOU TWO HAVEN'T LIVED AS LONG AS I HAVE. I'VE SEEN FIRST-HAND THE DESTRUCTION THIS KIND OF HYSTERIA CAN CAUSE ON PEOPLE, VALID OR NOT.

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA WOULD BE SAFE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE SHE WAS REMOVED FROM THE GUARDIANS WHEN SHE WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE POLICE FORCE.\*

THE OTHERS, THOUGH, MAXIMUS, GALATEA, LYON, ICON... EVEN YOU WITH YOUR "FORMER IDENTITY", SHOULD IT BE MADE PUBLIC... COULD VERY WELL FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES OVER THIS.

(\* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #14)




IF IT MAKES IT THAT FAR, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO.

YOU ARE THE CITY'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY. YOU CAN PUT A STOP TO THIS BY TAKING OVER THE GRAND JURY YOURSELF.



AND THEN I WOULD BE THE VERY THING THAT I PROMISED I WOULD NEVER BE...

EITHER IN RUNNING A PUBLICITY TRIAL OR TO BE SEEN AS WHITEWASHING THE WHOLE MATTER ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP.



IF NOBODY KNOWS THAT YOU'RE A GUARDIAN, THEN NOBODY CAN ACCUSE YOU OF "WHITEWASHING".

I DON'T SEE WHAT THE PROBLEM IS.

I WOULD KNOW, MAXIMUS! I WOULD KNOW!

WE'VE ALREADY COMPROMISED SO MUCH FOR ME TO BE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.\*

I'M NOT GOING TO COMPROMISE THE VERY REASON WHY I'M EVEN HERE!

(\* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN AFTERMATH")



NOBODY IS SUGGESTING THAT YOU DO THAT, ALEX. WHAT WE NEED IS TO FIND SOME WAY TO DEFUSE THIS MESS BEFORE IT BECOMES A WITCH-HUNT.



BAH... JUST LET ME HAVE FIVE MINUTES WITH HER AND I'LL PUT HER IN HER PLACE...

NO, MAXIMUS.



THE LADY IS RIGHT. WE NEED TO DEFUSE THE ISSUE, BUT WE ALSO NEED TO DEFUSE IT RIGHT.

IF MISSUS BANKS HAS LEGITIMATE CASES OF ABUSE, THEN WE NEED TO BRING THOSE TO THE FOREFRONT. THEN WE CAN NEUTRALIZE THE SHOW-TRIAL BEING SET UP ON THE GUARDIANS.

BUT BEFORE WE GO THAT ROUTE, THERE'S ONE PLACE LEFT FOR ME TO CHECK...



AND WHERE WOULD THAT BE, MAY I ASK?

TO SEE THE ONE PERSON WHO'S HAD THE RESOURCES TO SET THIS WHOLE THING UP IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MAYBE HE CAN TURN IT OFF FOR US AS WELL.

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK

"MISSUS ROMANNA...  
I UNDERSTAND YOUR  
ANGER OVER THIS."

"NO, ACTUALLY I DO,  
BECAUSE MY FATHER  
WENT THROUGH THE  
MCCARTHY HEARINGS."

D.A.T.A.  
Department of  
Advanced Technology  
Application

I HAD TO GROW UP ON  
MY WORLD WITH  
EVERYONE KNOWING  
THAT MY FATHER WAS A  
SUPERHERO BECAUSE OF  
THOSE HEARINGS.

THERE WAS NO TIME IN  
MY CHILDHOOD WHEN I  
COULD BE TREATED AS  
JUST ANOTHER CHILD. I  
WAS ALWAYS SEEN AS  
"STEELMAN'S SON".

SO BELIEVE ME, IF THERE IS ANY WAY  
WE CAN PREVENT YOUR DAUGHTER FROM  
HAVING TO TAKE PART IN THIS FARCE,  
WE'LL DO IT.

RIGHT... WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE  
LAW, OF COURSE.

IN THE MEANTIME, IT'S IMPORTANT  
THAT YOU KEEP HER THERE IN BOSTON.

YES... I'LL BE SURE TO TELL THE OTHERS  
THAT KRY'S SAYS "HI". OF COURSE.

YES... GOOD-BYE.

KENT PODERES  
AKA ICON POWERS

RECOGNIZED:  
PODERES, KENT...

SILENT MODE,  
PLEASE,  
KEYBOARD  
INTERFACE  
ONLY.

## PARAGON CITY INTERFACE

ADMINISTRATION ACCESS

PLEASE ENTER IDENTIFICATION AND  
SECURITY CLEARANCE NUMBER:

ID: \*\*\*\*\*

SCN: \*\*\*\*\* - \*\*\* - \*\*\*\*\*



18754

## PARAGON CITY INTERFACE

ADMINISTRATION ACCESS

AUTHORIZATION APPROVED.

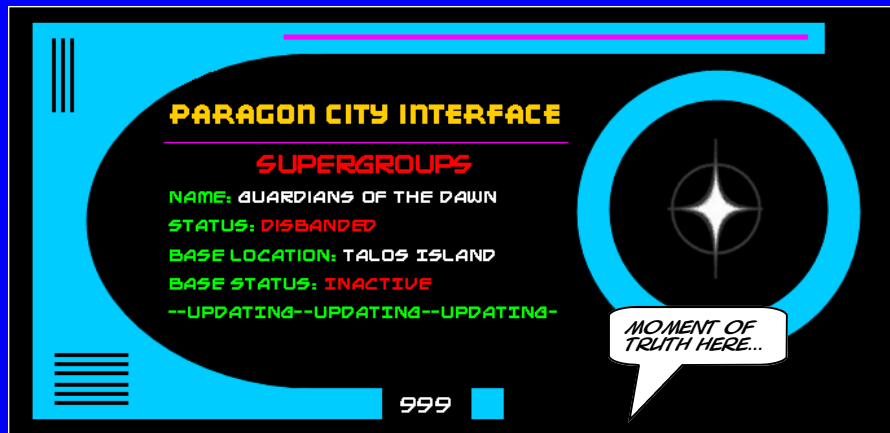
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WELCOME: STEELMANSON

99652

\*BEEP-BEEP\*  
\*BEEP-BEEP\*







KINGS ROW

SO... LET'S  
SEE HERE...

YOU AND YOUR FIVE  
ASSOCIATES, WHOM  
YOU'VE NEVER MET BEFORE  
LAST NIGHT, ALL GET A  
PHONE CALL AND YOU  
DECIDE TO JUST ROB THE  
KINGS ROW BANK?  
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO  
BOWLING NIGHT AT  
SUPER LANES?

 CAPTAIN PARAGONNA  
PARAGON CITY POLICE

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BANKS  
RISING AND FALLING ON THEIR  
OWN MERITS?

"TOO BIG TO FAIL" MY @\$\$...

IT'S LIKE THE GENERAL SAYS...  
"BANKS GET THE GOLDMINE, WE  
ALL GET THE SHAFT."

GENERAL?

OH I HOPE YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO TELL ME THAT  
YOU'RE ANOTHER ONE OF  
THOSE WYVERN AGENTS ON  
A "TRAINING MISSION"!

I ALMOST LOST A GOOD  
FRIEND BECAUSE OF THAT  
LINE OF BULL!

(<sup>c</sup> SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN  
SPOTLIGHT" ISSUES #7 AND 8)

WYVERN?

NAH, I WORK FOR A  
LIVING... OR AT LEAST I  
DID... BEFORE THE MILLS  
SHUT DOWN AND A LOT OF  
US LOST OUR JOBS.

THE GENERAL SAID HE  
WAS LIKE US... USED TO BE  
SCREWED OVER, AND NOW  
HE'S SUPPOSEDLY  
HELPING GUYS LIKE US  
GET NEW LIVES.

REALLY?

WELL HOW ABOUT  
YOU TELL ME  
MORE ABOUT THIS  
"GENERAL" OF  
YOURS AND WHY  
HE'S CONTENT TO  
HAVE YOU TAKE  
THE FALL FOR HIS  
PLANS?

NO, NO, YOU GOT IT  
ALL WRONG...

WE DON'T WORK FOR  
THE GENERAL.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO  
BE PRIVATE  
CONTRACTORS.

SEE, WE ALL WENT TO THIS TRAINING  
SEMINAR HE RUNS FOR PEOPLE LIKE US...  
"GENERAL INCOME'S RECOVERY SEMINAR".

HE SHOWED US HOW TO SET OURSELVES UP AS  
"SECURITY CONSULTANTS", HOW THE BANKS  
WOULD BE CALLING US COVERTLY TO TEST  
THEIR SECURITY SYSTEMS, AND WHAT TO  
EXPECT WHEN WE SHOW UP AT NIGHT.

ONLY... HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT US  
GETTING ARRESTED BY THE POLICE.

I LISTENED TO HIM TALK ABOUT THE "PROGRAM", AND SUDDENLY A LOT OF THINGS STARTED MAKING SENSE FOR ME.



ALL THOSE BANK ROBBERS I HAD TO TAKE DOWN AS LADY TEMPLAR... \*

THEY WERE JUST AS SURPRISED AS THIS GUY WAS THAT THEY'D GET CAUGHT.

( SEE "SPOTLIGHT" #26 )

BACK THEN I COULDN'T REALLY QUESTION THE ROBBERS, BECAUSE I WAS STILL OFFICIALLY SUSPENDED FROM THE POLICE FORCE AND WAS WORKING USING MY FICTIONAL "SISTER'S" HERO ID. IT HAD TO BE BUST-AND-RUN FOR ME.



BESIDES, THOSE ROBBERS ALL PLED GUILTY AFTERWARD.

BUT NOW THAT I'M OFFICIALLY A POLICE OFFICER AGAIN, I WONDER HOW MANY OF THEM WOULD ALSO SAY THEY WENT TO THIS "GENERAL INCOME" TRAINING COURSE?

IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT YOU COULD INTRODUCE ME TO THE GENERAL?

MAYBE A PHONE NUMBER...



ARE YOU KIDDING?

THAT'S THE FIRST THING THAT HE TEACHES US!

NO TRACEABLE CONTACT INFORMATION.



HE RECRUITED US ALL OUTSIDE THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE... TOLD TO MEET AT A CERTAIN ADDRESS AT A CERTAIN TIME, THEN SOMEONE ELSE GAVE US THROW-AWAY CELLPHONES.

DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO IT WAS THAT CALLED US ALL LAST NIGHT.

I'M ONLY TELLING YOU THIS 'CUZ I'M NOT READY TO GO TO JAIL FOR THEM.

I KEPT ON THINKING THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE... THAT THERE HAD TO BE A CATCH...

SOON AS YOU SHOWED UP, I KNEW THAT IT WAS JUST ANOTHER SCAM.



FAMILY JEWELS

ATLAS PARK

YOU'RE LATE.

I HOPE THAT YOU  
ASKED ME HERE SO  
I CAN HELP YOU  
PICK OUT A WATCH.

 **ANDREW WENTWORTH**  
CEO, WENTWORTH'S  
FINE CONSIGNMENTS

GOOD TO SEE YOU  
TOO, UNCLE.

I FIGURED THIS  
WOULD BE A NEUTRAL  
PLACE FOR US TO  
MEET AND DISCUSS  
SOME BUSINESS.

THEN IT WILL MAKE  
FOR A VERY SHORT  
CONVERSATION,  
NEPHEW.

BESIDES I THOUGHT  
YOU HAD TO GIVE UP  
YOUR STAKE IN  
ARCHITECT  
ENTERTAINMENT  
WHEN YOU WON THE  
ELECTION.

THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF  
BUSINESS THAT I WANTED  
TO DISCUSS.

I THOUGHT WE HAD AN  
AGREEMENT ABOUT YOUR  
FRIENDS IN THE  
BILDERBURG ALLIANCE.

I'M SORRY, CAN  
YOU SPEAK A  
LITTLE LOUDER? I  
DON'T THINK THE  
JANITOR IN THE  
BACK ROOM HEARD  
WHAT YOU WERE  
SAYING ABOUT A  
GROUP THAT DOES  
NOT EXIST.

DON'T GIVE ME  
THAT, UNCLE.

WE HELD UP OUR  
PART OF THE  
AGREEMENT, AND  
NOW WE'RE  
GETTING HIT FROM  
ALL SIDES.

WHAT IN  
BLAZES ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT, BOY?

I'M TALKING ABOUT A  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
ASSAULT FROM GARRY  
BECKER AND THE CYRIL  
CORPORATION OVER THE  
GALAXY CITY DISASTER\*,  
FOLLOWED BY THE WILD  
ACCUSATIONS OF CHILD  
ABUSE FROM ALICE  
BANKS AND HER PRO-  
FAMILY ORGANIZATION.

LAST I CHECKED,  
BECKER AND  
CYCOPR WERE  
MEMBERS OF  
SHADOWBORN,  
AND YOU HAD  
ASSURED ME THAT  
THEY WOULD NOT  
INTERFERE IN THE  
OPERATIONS OF  
MY OFFICE.

C\* \*AFTERMATH\*



YES, I DID  
MAKE THAT  
PROMISE...

AND IF MEMORY SERVES,  
ALEX, THAT CLOWN BECKER  
DESTROYED HIS OWN CAREER  
WHEN HE BET IT ON THE  
ELECTION TURNOUT.

AS FOR MISTER CYRIL AND  
HIS BUSINESS, YOU'LL HAVE  
TO DISCUSS THAT WITH HIM  
TO SEE IF HIS CLAIMS ARE  
VALID.

BUT I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT  
THE AGREEMENT UP...



I SEEM TO RECALL THAT OUR  
AGREEMENT ALSO INVOLVED  
YOUR FRIEND, MIDNIGHT X,  
AND HIS FIXATION ON REVENGE  
FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.\*

AND IF THE GUARDIANS  
WEREN'T DISBANDED AS  
PART OF OUR AGREEMENT  
WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO STOP HIM. AS IT IS  
NOW, HE'S A FREE AGENT.

I DISAGREE. MISTER X'S  
ACTIONS COULD BE SEEN AS  
THOSE OF A CRAZED STALKER.

IN FACT, ONE MIGHT SUGGEST  
THAT AS LONG AS LORD GEDDY  
IS HIDING IN FEAR OF  
RETRIBUTION THAT HIS FORMER  
ASSOCIATES ARE FREE AND  
CLEAR TO CONTINUE THEIR OWN  
CRUSADES AGAINST THE NOW-  
FORMER SUPERGROUP.

(\* AFTERMATH \*)



FINE. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN  
DO TO GET MIDNIGHT X  
TO BACK DOWN.

AND ALICE BANKS? WHAT  
ABOUT HER AND HER PRO-  
FAMILY GROUP AND HER  
LEGAL CRUSADE?

ARE YOUR PEOPLE BEHIND  
THEM AS WELL?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE  
YOU GET YOUR IDEAS  
ABOUT THE ALLIANCE,  
BUT IT IS REALLY  
STARTING TO ANNOY  
ME, NEPHEW.

FOR THE RECORD, WE  
HAVE NO INTEREST IN  
MISSUS BANKS'  
CRUSADE. THE IDEA OF  
USING CHILDREN AS  
POLITICAL PAWNS IS...  
VERY DISTASTEFUL.



THANK YOU,  
UNCLE.

IF YOU DON'T  
MIND, ALEX, I  
STILL HAVE A  
BUSINESS TO  
RUN... UNLESS  
YOU HAVE  
SOME OTHER  
MYTHS YOU  
WOULD LIKE  
CORRECTED.

PLEASANT  
TALK, NEPHEW.  
BUT NEXT TIME  
LET'S KEEP THE  
DISCUSSION  
TO FAMILY.

TALOS ISLAND



ACCORDING TO LEGEND, TALOS STILL WATCHES OVER THE ISLAND THROUGH ITS LIFE-SIZED STATUE.



I NEVER REALLY PUT STOCK IN GODS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

THEN ALOR DESTROYED MY WHOLE UNIVERSE... AND DID IT OUT OF SPITE.

SINCE THEN I'VE TAKEN STORIES OF GODS AND MONSTERS SERIOUSLY.

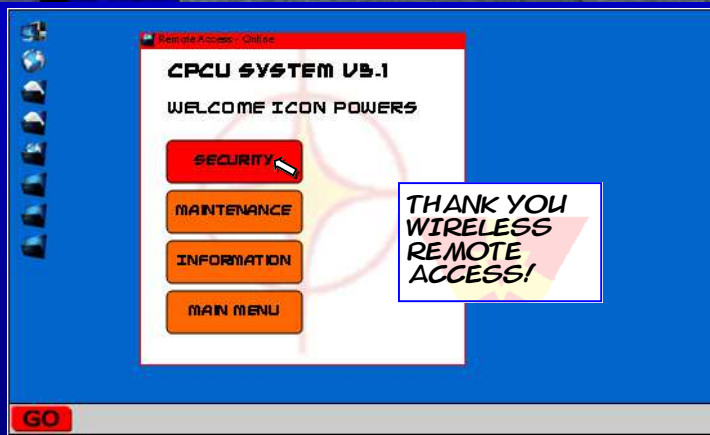
I JUST HOPE THAT TALOS HAS BEEN WATCHING OVER OUR OLD BASE DURING OUR ABSENCE.

IT WOULD CERTAINLY COMPLICATE THINGS TO FIND THAT SOME OTHER TEAM IS USING THE AREA.

ICON POWERS  
"RETIRED" SUPERHERO



SO LET'S SEE IF OUR INTERNAL SECURITY SYSTEM SPOTS ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...



THANKFULLY THE SECURITY CAMERAS I INSTALLED BEFORE THE LOCKDOWN STILL WORK. AND THEY SHOW THE BASE IS STILL THERE AND STILL EMPTY.

AND NOW COMES THE REALLY HARD PART...

IT'S ONE THING TO USE A BUREAUCRATIC TRICK TO UNLOCK THE CPCU SYSTEM.

IT'S ANOTHER TO BRING A FUSION REACTOR ONLINE REMOTELY SO WE CAN TAKE THE CPCU SYSTEM OFF CITY POWER BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES THE SPIKE IN POWER USAGE.

ADVERTISEMENT

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IF YOU FEEL SUPER  
WHY NOT LOOK SUPER

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KINGS ROW

HELLOOO  
NURSE!

*\*TSCH!\**

YOUNG MAN, IF  
THAT WAS YOUR  
PITIFUL ATTEMPT AT  
TRYING TO FLATTER  
ME, IT WAS AS  
PATHETIC AS YOUR  
TASTE IN CLOTHES.



**MS. ELLE MAPLE**  
INTERIM SHADOWBORN LEADER

BELIEVE ME, MS.  
MAPLE, I WOULDN'T  
ATTEMPT ANYTHING  
AGAINST CANADA'S  
MOST LETHAL  
IMPORT SINCE THE  
DARK CANLUCK.

MISS EVE SAYS  
HELLO.

I SERIOUSLY DOUBT  
THAT SHE WOULD  
ASK YOU TO RELAY  
SUCH A MESSAGE,  
NEVER MIND  
CONSIDER SENDING  
SOMEONE LIKE YOU  
AS AN OPERATIVE.

WELLLLL YOU'RE  
PARTIALLY RIGHT.

I'M NOT "THE  
OPERATIVE". I'M  
MERELY ITS AGENT.

CAN'T EXACTLY HAVE  
"THE OPERATIVE"  
JUST BE OUT AND  
ABOUT IN THE CITY,  
CAN WE?

YOU CAN CALL ME...  
MISTER GOLD.

A D@MNED FOOL  
IS WHAT I'LL CALL  
YOU.

HAVE YOU NO  
SENSE OF  
PROTOCOL FOR  
THIS SORT OF  
STUFF, CHILD?

YOU'RE NOT  
SUPPOSED TO  
CONTACT ME... AT  
ALL!

HEY, DESPITE MY  
BOYISH LOOKS, I'M  
NOT A TOTAL NOOB.

I'M ONLY  
CONTACTING YOU  
TO REASSURE YOU  
THAT WE'RE HERE, AS  
PROMISED, AND  
THAT WE'D BE OPEN  
TO SOME BETTER  
OFFERS AFTERWARD.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE, OR THAT YOU'RE  
EVEN REPRESENTING  
WHO MEVER THIS  
"OPERATIVE" IS.

QUITE FRANKLY, I'M  
UNDERWHELMED BY ALL OF  
THIS SO FAR. IF THIS IS  
THE BEST THAT THE  
"ORDER" HAS TO OFFER...

WHOA-WHOA... HEY... HOLD UP  
NOW MA'AM... I DON'T MESS  
WITH THE "ORDER". I OWE  
LIBRA A LOT FOR GIVING ME  
MY LIFE BACK!

I USED TO BE WITH THE  
GOLDBRICKERS... OR RATHER I  
WAS DOING ALL THEIR CLEAN-  
UP WORK.

THEN LIBRA OFFERED ME A  
CHANCE TO BE SOMEBODY BY  
RETRIEVING THE "OPERATIVE".

THIS THING USED TO BE ONE OF  
LORD RECLUSE'S "ULTIMATE  
WEAPONS", BACK IN '05 WHEN HE  
USED THE WAR WALLS TO TAKE AWAY  
EVERYONE'S SUPERPOWERS.\*

IT GOT SHELVED WHEN PROMETHEUS  
TURNED THE POWERS BACK ON, BUT  
LIBRA SAW ITS POTENTIAL AND HAD  
ME GET IT FROM ARACHNOS AND  
BRING IT HERE TO BE PERFECTED.

\*TOP GUN'S "CITY OF HEROES" #1-3)

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO  
BE IMPRESSED BY THAT  
CLAIM?

MISTER "GOLD", WE ARE  
WELL AWARE OF ALL OF  
THE "ULTIMATE  
WEAPONS" THAT LORD  
RECLUSE TRIED TO  
CREATE OVER THE  
YEARS. MY  
ORGANIZATION HAS  
CATALOGUED MOST OF  
THE ONES THAT COULD  
HAVE WORKED.

RIGHT. "MOST".

THIS IS THE ONE  
THAT GOT AWAY.

AND NOW THERE'S  
NOTHING "COULD  
HAVE" ABOUT  
WHAT IT WILL DO!

AGAIN, I'M NOT  
IMPRESSED.

IF YOU CAME TO ME  
AFTER THE DEED WAS  
DONE, THEN I'D BE  
MORE INCLINED TO  
TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY.

AS IT IS, THIS IS  
NOTHING MORE THAN  
AMATEUR BOASTING.

BUT...  
BUT...

IN FACT, I'LL BE  
SURE TO LET MISS  
EVE KNOW AS MUCH  
WHEN I RETURN TO  
MY OFFICE.

GOOD DAY.

YOU WON'T BE  
DISAPPOINTED!  
YOU'LL SEE!

THE NERVE OF  
THAT CHILD!

THE WHOLE BIT ABOUT  
"PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY"  
JUST GOT THROWN OUT THE  
WINDOW BECAUSE OF HIM!

THINGS WOULD HAVE  
BEEN A WHOLE LOT  
BETTER IF I WAS  
ALLOWED TO USE  
BLOODBLADER FOR  
THIS OPERATION.

ELSEWHERE IN KINGS ROW...

THIS IS THE ADDRESS HE  
GAVE ME OF WHERE THEY  
HAD THE "TRAINING  
SEMINAR"...

SOUNDS LIKE THERE ARE  
STILL PEOPLE HERE.  
MAYBE THEY'RE HAVING  
ANOTHER "TRAINING  
COURSE"?

MAYBE IF I'M LUCKY I  
CAN FIND OUT WHO THIS  
"GENERAL INCOME"  
REALLY IS AND WHY HE'S  
TEACHING PEOPLE TO  
ROB BANKS.

TRAINING  
COURSE?  
NONE HERE  
I'M AFRAID.

TEMP AGENCY HIRED  
US TO CLEAN UP THE  
PLACE.

BEST JOB SOME OF  
US HAVE HAD SINCE  
THE SHIVANS TOOK  
OUR HOMES IN  
GALAXY CITY.

YEAH, JUST  
WALK ON BY  
MISS HIGH-  
AND-MIGHTY.

YOU SHOULD  
BE OUT THERE  
ARRESTING  
THE BANKERS.

JUST LET IT  
SLIDE, STEVIE...

THEY'RE ANGRY AT  
THE ECONOMY,  
NOT AT YOU OR  
THE BADGE ON  
YOUR CHEST.

IT LOOKS LIKE  
THERE WAS A  
GATHERING  
HERE NOT TOO  
LONG AGO.

SOME RECENTLY-  
DISCARDED COFFEE CLIPS  
AND VENDING MACHINE  
CHIP WRAPPERS IN THE  
TRASH SHOW SOMEONE  
USED THIS PLACE IN THE  
PAST WEEK.


PLUS, WHY HIRE A TEMP  
AGENCY TO CLEAN UP AN  
ABANDONED WAREHOUSE?  
FIX-UP, YES. BUT CLEAN-  
UP? THAT DOESN'T MAKE  
SENSE AT ALL FOR A LEGIT  
BUSINESS REQUEST.

A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS  
GATHERING WOULD USE  
ONE OF THE ACTIVE  
WAREHOUSES, OR EVEN AN  
OFFICE COMPLEX. NOT  
SOMEPLACE THAT HASN'T  
BEEN USED IN TEN YEARS.



ON THE OTHER HAND, LEGIT WAREHOUSES HAVE RECORDS TO KEEP OF WHO USES THEIR SERVICES. RECORDS THAT CAN BE TRACED LATER ON.

YOU'D THINK THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THAT... BUT THEN AGAIN, GIVEN THIS ECONOMY, I'M SURE ANY KIND OF WORK BEATS NOTHING.



HEY, WHAT'S THIS?  
LOOKS LIKE SOME LEFTOVER MATERIAL GOT LEFT BEHIND.



A "SHOPPING LIST" FOR BANK ROBBERS... HOW TO GET A GUN? IS THIS STUFF FOR REAL?



I'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH ALEX ON THIS, BUT LEGALLY THIS SHOULD FALL UNDER "PLAIN SIGHT" EVIDENCE.

BUT TO BE SAFE, I PROBABLY SHOULD GET A WARRANT STARTED ANYWAY.

THEN I CAN GET A FORENSIC TEAM HERE AND GET SOME PRINTS. IF WE'RE LUCKY WE MAY EVEN GET A NAME...

**HEY!** WHO THE HELL LET SOME COSTUMED FREAK JUST WALK IN ON MY JOB SITE!? WHERE'S MY SECURITY?



I AM CAPTAIN  
PARAGONNA OF THE  
PARAGON CITY POLICE  
DEPARTMENT... I'M  
ASKING YOU TO PUT  
DOWN THE GUN...

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE  
CAPTAIN CEREAL OF THE  
MILK BRIGADE, I'M NOT  
GOING TO HAVE SOME  
JOB-STEALER COME IN  
HERE AND RUIN THINGS  
FOR THESE PEOPLE! THEY  
WORK HARD FOR WHAT  
LITTLE MONEY THEY GET,  
AND I'M NOT GOING TO  
LET YOU TAKE THAT AWAY  
FROM THEM!



\*KERACK!\*



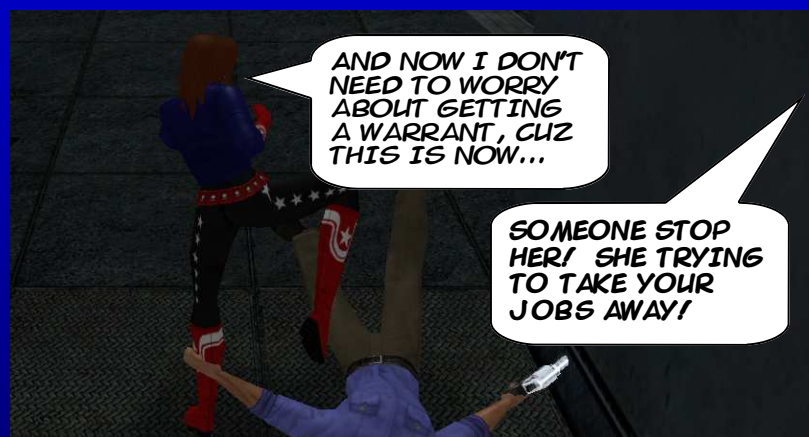
OH THAT DID  
IT, PAL...  
YOU ARE SO  
BUSTED!

\*KA-POW!\*



ASSAULT WITH A  
DEADLY WEAPON,  
AND ASSAULTING  
A POLICE OFFICER  
FOR STARTERS!

\*WHAM!\*



AND NOW I DON'T  
NEED TO WORRY  
ABOUT GETTING  
A WARRANT, CUZ  
THIS IS NOW...

SOMEONE STOP  
HER! SHE TRYING  
TO TAKE YOUR  
JOBS AWAY!



COME ON PEOPLE!  
DON'T LET HER TAKE  
YOUR JOBS AWAY!

\*BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA



YOU'RE SICK!  
YOU KNOW  
THAT, LADY?

\*KA-POW!\*



AND NOW I  
CAN ADD  
INCITING A  
RIOT TO THE  
CHARGES.

THERE SHE IS/  
SOMEONE  
STOP HER!



YOU AGAIN?



\*OOF!\*



NOW STAY  
DOWN!



THESE AREN'T  
STRUGGLING  
CIVILIANS  
LOOKING FOR  
WORK.

THEY MAY DRESS  
BUSINESS CASUAL AND  
USE ALL THE LINGO OF  
THE STRUGGLING  
MASSES, BUT THEY'RE  
CLEARLY NOT WHO THEY  
PRETEND TO BE!

IN FACT, IF I HAVE TO  
VENTURE A GUESS, I'D  
HAVE TO SAY THESE GUYS  
ARE A PROFESSIONAL  
CLEAN-UP CREW.

THE U.S. MARSHALS USE  
THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE  
IN WITNESS PROTECTION  
WHEN THEY HAVE TO ERASE  
A WITNESS'S LIFE.

THAT MEANS SOMEONE  
WITH SERIOUS MONEY IS  
BEHIND THIS!



OH PLEASE LET IT  
BE SHADOWBORN!  
PLEASE LET IT BE  
SHADOWBORN!



\*UNNH\*

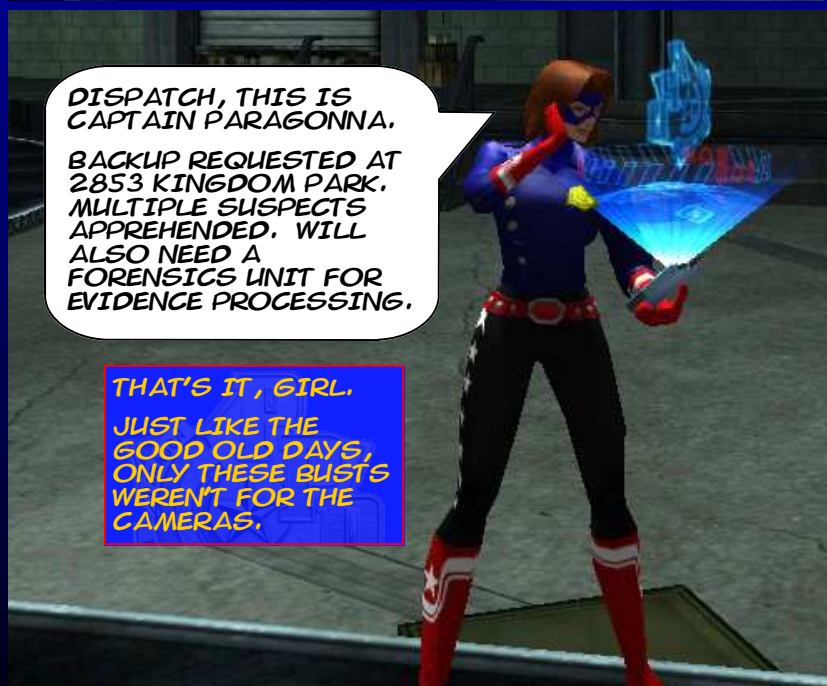


YOU STUPID  
SONOFA...

CAREFUL STEVIE!  
YOU'RE A COP!  
DON'T MAKE IT  
PERSONAL!

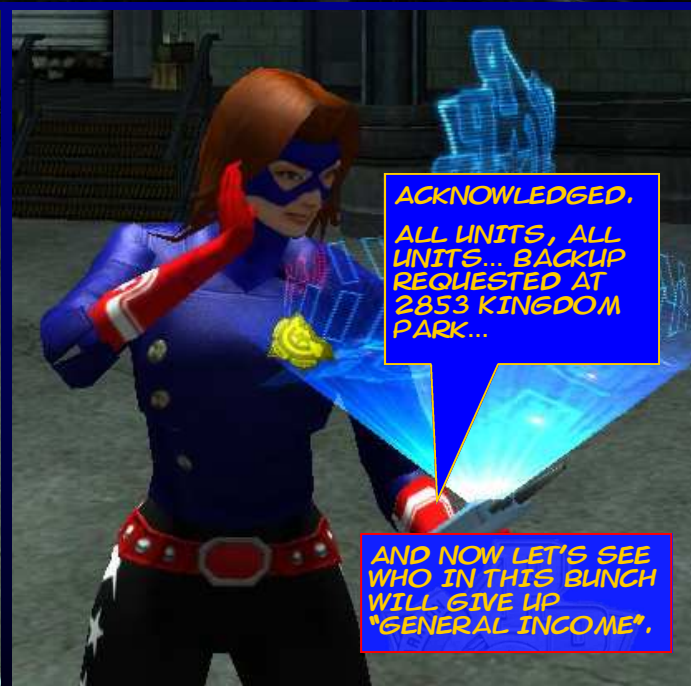


\*KA-POW!\*



DISPATCH, THIS IS  
CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.  
BACKUP REQUESTED AT  
2853 KINGDOM PARK.  
MULTIPLE SUSPECTS  
APPREHENDED. WILL  
ALSO NEED A  
FORENSICS UNIT FOR  
EVIDENCE PROCESSING.

THAT'S IT, GIRL.  
JUST LIKE THE  
GOOD OLD DAYS,  
ONLY THESE BUSTS  
WEREN'T FOR THE  
CAMERAS.



ACKNOWLEDGED.  
ALL UNITS, ALL  
UNITS... BACKUP  
REQUESTED AT  
2853 KINGDOM  
PARK...

AND NOW LET'S SEE  
WHO IN THIS BUNCH  
WILL GIVE UP  
\*GENERAL INCOME\*.

SO THE JUDGE SAYS SHE WON'T ISSUE A WARRANT FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR IF YOU SHOW UP TOMORROW MORNING AT NINE AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU COULDN'T BE THERE TODAY TO GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY.

I JUST DON'T SEE WHY WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS NOW. THESE GUYS USED TO JUST PLEAD GUILTY AND GET IT OVER WITH.

**ELECTRORUSH**  
REGISTERED HERO

AND THAT WAS BACK WHEN ARACHNOS WOULD JUST BREAK THEM OUT OF PRISON THE NEXT DAY.

THOSE DAYS ARE OVER WITH. NOW WHEN THEY GO TO THE ZIG, THEY TEND TO STAY THERE.

**FAITH KARL**  
AKA GALATEA POWERS

RIGHT, SO NOW THEY'RE FIGHTING TO STAY OUT OF IT... I GET IT...

I'M... JUST NOT USED TO HAVING TO TESTIFY IN COURT.

TELL YOU WHAT... I'LL GIVE NOBLE SON A CALL AND HE CAN WALK YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS AS WELL AS...

\*BEEP-BEEP\*  
\*BEEP-BEEP\*

CAN YOU EXCUSE ME? I'VE GOT TO GET THIS.

HELLO? YES...  
WHERE? CROATOA?  
NO, NO, I'LL BE THERE IN A BIT.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY, MISS KARL?  
YOU SEEM... A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT SOMETHING.

NO... IT WAS JUST SOMEONE ASKING ABOUT A FRIEND OF MINE THAT WAS MISSING FROM GALAXY CITY.

I'LL GO AHEAD AND CALL UP NOBLE SON AND THE TWO OF YOU CAN WORK UP SOMETHING TO TELL THE JUDGE TOMORROW.

SO...

... THIS IS HOW YOU HANDLE BEING "RETIRED"!

HELLO GRACE.

GRACE FELLOWS  
AKA DAYBRIGHT

AND YOUR LITTLE TRIO OF "ANGELS" THINK YOU REALLY RUN EVERYTHING FROM HERE?

AND THEY'LL STILL THINK THAT'S THE CASE. FOR NOW, ANYWAY.

I DON'T WANT TO SPRING THE BIG SURPRISE ON THEM UNTIL AFTER ALL OF THE PIECES ARE IN PLACE.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'M ALMOST DONE JOTTING DOWN THE PROGRAM YOU WROTE FOR FUTURE USE.

MY MEMORY TENDS TO BE LESS "PHOTOGRAPHIC" AFTER A WHILE.

NOT A PROBLEM.

HOW GOES LIFE AS A PURE HUMAN?

WELL THE PART OF ME THAT WAS TALMYIA STILL NEEDS TO COME OUT EVERY SO OFTEN IN SQUID FORM TO COUNTER MY BEING ALL-HUMAN FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT OTHERWISE I THINK I'VE GOT THE HANG OF THIS NOW.

THAT'S GOOD. WE SHOULD CONSIDER OURSELVES LUCKY THAT SHADOWBORN DID NOT COUNT ON US HAVING NOT ONLY A PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER, BUT ALSO THE ONLY KHELDIAN THAT CAN TRANSFORM INTO A TOTAL HUMAN FOR A LIMITED TIME.

SOMETHING I ALMOST RUINED FOR US WHEN I RACED OUT TO SAVE ALEX FROM BEING KILLED THAT DAY.\*

YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT. I CAN'T FAULT YOU FOR THAT. GOD KNOWS I'D PROBABLY DO THE SAME THING IN YOUR POSITION.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS YOUR COVER IS STILL SECURE AND YOU ARE WHERE WE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON THE ROCINANTE GROUP AND SHADOWBORN.



I GET THE FEELING THAT'S NOT ALL THAT YOU WANT ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON WHILE I'M OVER THERE.



YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S JASON.

ALEX SAYS THAT JASON NEEDS TO STAND DOWN FROM HIS VENDETTA.



KENT... JASON SCARES ME SOMETIMES.

ME! I MEAN, I'VE BEEN SHOT DEAD IN COLD BLOOD,\* SURVIVED A GAMMA RAY BURST FROM A NEWBORN QUASAR, AND GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH ALOR BACK WHEN HE WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY YOUR UNIVERSE\*\*... AND I'D STILL DO THOSE THINGS AGAIN RATHER THAN GET IN JASON'S WAY!

I THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING THINGS A BIT, GRACE.

YES, I WAS THERE WITH YOU AGAINST ALOR, EVEN IF I DIDN'T KNOW BACK THEN WHO YOU WERE...

KENT, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SCARED THOSE PEOPLE IN THE ROCINANTE BUILDING ARE OF JASON. THEY ACTUALLY RUN \*KNIGHT-WATCH\* DRILLS INSTEAD OF RIKTI INVASION DRILLS.

< \*SPOTLIGHT\* #12, \*\* \*SPOTLIGHT\* #21 >



I'VE PERSONALLY KNOWN JASON KNIGHT SINCE HIS PREDECESSOR DIED. HE'S BEEN A BIT... FIXATED... SINCE HE CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD\*, BUT I ALSO KNOW HE'S DRIVEN TO DO RIGHT. HE KNOWS THAT THERE'S STILL A LINE...

... \*THAT WE DON'T CROSS\*?

HONESTLY, KENT... THAT'S SO... SATURDAY MORNING!

MAYBE SO, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT DOESN'T EXIST.

GRACE, I WAS A HERO ON MY WORLD SINCE THE 1970'S. MY FATHER WAS A HERO BACK IN THE 1930'S AND 40'S.

< \*SPOTLIGHT\* #3 >



WE BOTH HAD TO MAKE SACRIFICES TO KEEP THAT KIND OF LINE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG INTACT.

MY FATHER SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS.

I GAVE UP PIECES OF MY OWN LIFE TO SAVE GALATEA\*, NOT TO MENTION SACRIFICE HER TRUST IN ME AS HER FOSTER FATHER.

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN I REGRETTED DOING WHAT I DID.

BUT THEN YOU SEE LEONA. YOU SEE WHAT GALATEA WOULD HAVE BEEN IF I DIDN'T STEP IN. SUPER-POWERED AND PSYCHOTIC, THANKS MOSTLY TO HER BIRTH-FATHER.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I DO LOVE TAYA AS A DAUGHTER. AND IF IT MEANS GIVING UP THE REST OF MY LIFE TO KEEP HER ON THIS SIDE OF THE LINE, THEN I'LL GLADLY DO IT.

< \*SPOTLIGHT\* #19 >



WOW... THAT'S... PRETTY INTENSE, KENT.  
I MEAN... WE KNEW THAT YOU  
MANIPULATED TAYA'S DNA. BUT I  
GUESS WE DIDN'T THINK TOO MUCH  
ABOUT THE REASONS WHY YOU DID IT.

BUT... THAT'S YOU. I'VE  
WORKED WITH YOU BEFORE.  
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LIKE.

WHEN I WORKED WITH  
JASON... BRRR... I DUNNO...  
IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE...



THERE'S A... IT'S  
LIKE A "DARKNESS"  
AROUND HIM ALL  
THE TIME.

IF YOU WERE A  
KHELDIAN LIKE ME,  
YOU'D BE ABLE TO  
SENSE IT. IT'S LIKE  
A BEAST CURLED UP,  
READY TO STRIKE.



WE ALL HAVE THAT  
TO SOME EXTENT.

BUT I HOPE YOU  
DIDN'T THINK THAT  
I WAS ASKING YOU  
TO FACE JASON  
OVER THIS MATTER.



OH! BUT I THOUGHT THAT...  
THE WAY THAT YOU PHRASED...

I WANTED TO KEEP YOU IN  
THE LOOP ON THAT IN CASE  
ANYTHING HAPPENED.  
YOU'RE STILL A VITAL PART  
OF THIS OPERATION, EVEN..

**CPCU ALERT!**  
TRACE NOTIFICATION.

SUBJECT: GALATEA  
POWERS



UH, WHAT WAS  
THAT ABOUT?

THE GUARDIAN  
COMMUNICATORS RE-  
ROUTE ALL INCOMING  
CALLS TO CELLPHONES  
WHEN MEMBERS ARE IN  
CIVILIAN ATTIRE.

THE CPCU FLAGS  
THOSE MESSAGES IN  
CASE I NEED TO CALL  
UP THE OTHERS.



LET'S SEE WHAT TAYA  
PUT IN THE STATUS  
MESSAGE FOR THE  
CPCU...

"CHECKING ON TIP,  
DOC TOR SPOTTED IN  
CROATOA..."?

WHAT THE HELL?

CROATOA

OKAY... THIS  
IS WEIRD.  
EVEN FOR  
THIS PLACE.

 GALATEA POWERS  
OTHERWORLD SUPERHERO

DOC TOR WAS  
SUPPOSEDLY  
SPOTTED HERE.

BUT THAT  
DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE!

IT'S NO BIG  
SECRET THAT HE'S  
FRIENDS WITH  
WAR WITCH...

BUT THAT WAR  
WITCH IS IN  
POCKET D... AND  
SHE'S FROM  
ANOTHER WORLD  
HERSELF!

THE WAR WITCH  
OF THIS WORLD,  
THE ONE THAT IS  
IN CROATOA, IS  
JUST A GHOST.

SO THERE'S NO  
REASON WHY  
DOC WOULD BE  
SEEN HERE.

THIS HAS ALL  
THE EARMARKS  
OF A TRAP.

BUT THIS IS THE  
SECOND TIME THAT I'VE  
BEEN COAXED INTO  
MEETING SOMEONE.

THE LAST TIME IT WAS A  
FORMER HERO WHO WAS  
AMPED UP ON MAGIC AND  
TRIED TO GOAD ME INTO  
KILLING HIM IN A FIGHT.\*

AND NOW OUR MYSTERY  
PROVOCATEUR HAS DRAGGED  
ME OUT HERE USING THE NAME  
OF A TEAMMATE THAT VANISHED  
IN THE DESTRUCTION OF  
GALAXY CITY. SOMEONE WHO  
IS NOW BEING BLAMED FOR  
CAUSING THAT DESTRUCTION.

WELL, WHOEVER IS BEHIND  
THIS TRAP, I'M NOT  
GOING TO LEAVE UNTIL I  
FIND OUT WHO IS BEHIND  
THESE GAMES.

I'M GOING TO  
GET SOME  
ANSWERS...

(← LAST ISSUE)



EVEN...

... IF...

... IT...



I DIDN'T EVEN  
SEE HIM!



HE'S SO F..

**\*SOCK!\***



NO... DO NOT BLACK OUT YET!  
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF  
YOUR END AT THE HANDS OF...

**GODKILLER!**





IS IT REALLY  
THE END?

# POWER TRIP



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

FROM THE DESK OF...

## Kent Poderes Technical Consultant

### Daybright:

*Originally two beings: Talmyia, a Kheldian space traveler, and Sally Bright, a computer programmer that invented the CPCU operating system. Bright was also good friends with Stevie Walker-Rodgers when she started out as Captain Paragonna. Bright was murdered in 2007 after being recruited by the Guardians, but her body was in "temporal stasis" due to the means of her death. Three years later, Talmyia was compelled to inhabit Bright's body and merge to become the newest Peacebringer Redeemer, a special kind of hybrid human-Kheldian.*



*As a hybrid being, she possesses the power of energy manipulation, allowing her to fly, project energy bolts, and sense things on a "cosmic" level. She can even revert to an energy-based squid-like star creature, the preferred form for Kheldians, for a limited period of time, which multiplies the level of her energy projections.*

*Recently she was given a "gift" that also allowed her to become fully human for a limited period of time. Taking advantage of that ability, she worked with Stevie to create a new cover identity as Grace Fellows. Grace "works" for City Hall, reviewing the Rocinante Group's activities to discover their involvement with the Shadowborn organization. Only Stevie and myself know that Grace is really Daybright.*

### Lady Templar:



*When Stevie was suspended from being Captain Paragonna by her superiors, some of which were suspected of being associated with Shadowborn, she was forced to work desk positions until her body was purged of all of the enhancement drugs needed for the Hero Shield Program.*

*Her friends in the Guardians, though, came up with a way for her to continue to operate as a hero without the police department knowing. Omega Shift used her shape-shifting ability to become a genetic "sister" to Stevie and create a new Hero ID under the name of Stevie's fictional sister, Melissa Walker. Galatea Powers then designed a new outfit for*

*Stevie that used a light exo-skeleton underneath heavy body armor to duplicate much of her old abilities. But it was Sin Stalker's patron that came up with the name "Lady Templar", as well as the resources for her to function as an independent hero.*

*But despite her new hero identity, she continued to work within the police department, determined to expose Shadowborn's involvement, while fighting crime covertly as Lady Templar. She pledged that she would not return to the Guardians until it was as Captain Paragonna again.*

*Sadly, it took the destruction of Galaxy City to restore her original hero persona. Since then, she has put away the Lady Templar outfit, but will be ready to bring it back if necessary.*

Continues on next page...



**IT'S LIKE SHE'S WEARING NOTHING!**

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**Skin 2**

Available exclusively at your nearest ICOnTailor store.

Katie Lee says she lost hers in Freedom Corps HQ...

Maybe Stevie knows where to find some new ones for her?

Nice Model... wasn't she in a magazine?

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

## ***NEXT ISSUE...***



*Is Galatea Powers dead?*

*What is the "GodKiller", and what is its connection to "Mister Gold"?*

*And how can the other Guardians defeat it if their most powerful member just fell?*

*Find out in the next issue!*





# COMICS



[www.kkcomics.com](http://www.kkcomics.com)

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