

THE GUARDIAN POWERS



1ST
ISSUE



ISSUE 01
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

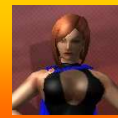


ALEX WENTWORTH - PARAGON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

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.



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.

LYON POWERS - WELSH SUPERHERO

THIRD-GENERATION SUPERHERO FROM ENGLAND, KATIE LEA POWERS IS QUICK TO DEFEND HER FAMILY'S HONOR AND REPUTATION, EVEN WHEN EXTENDING IT TO HER NEW "ADOPTED" SISTER, GALATEA POWERS.



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.

"BAPTISM BY GOLDEN FIRE"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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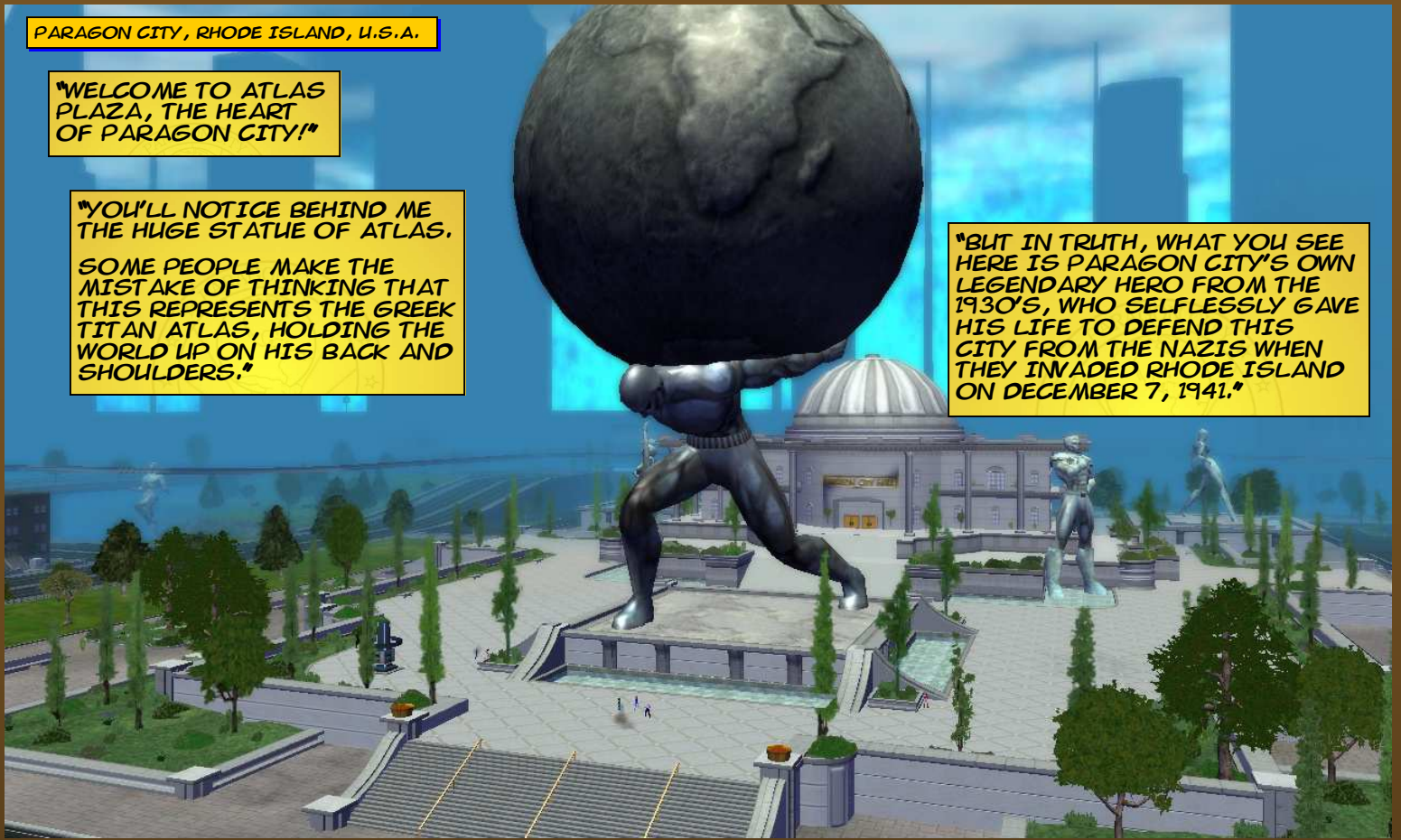
PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND, U.S.A.

"WELCOME TO ATLAS PLAZA, THE HEART OF PARAGON CITY!"

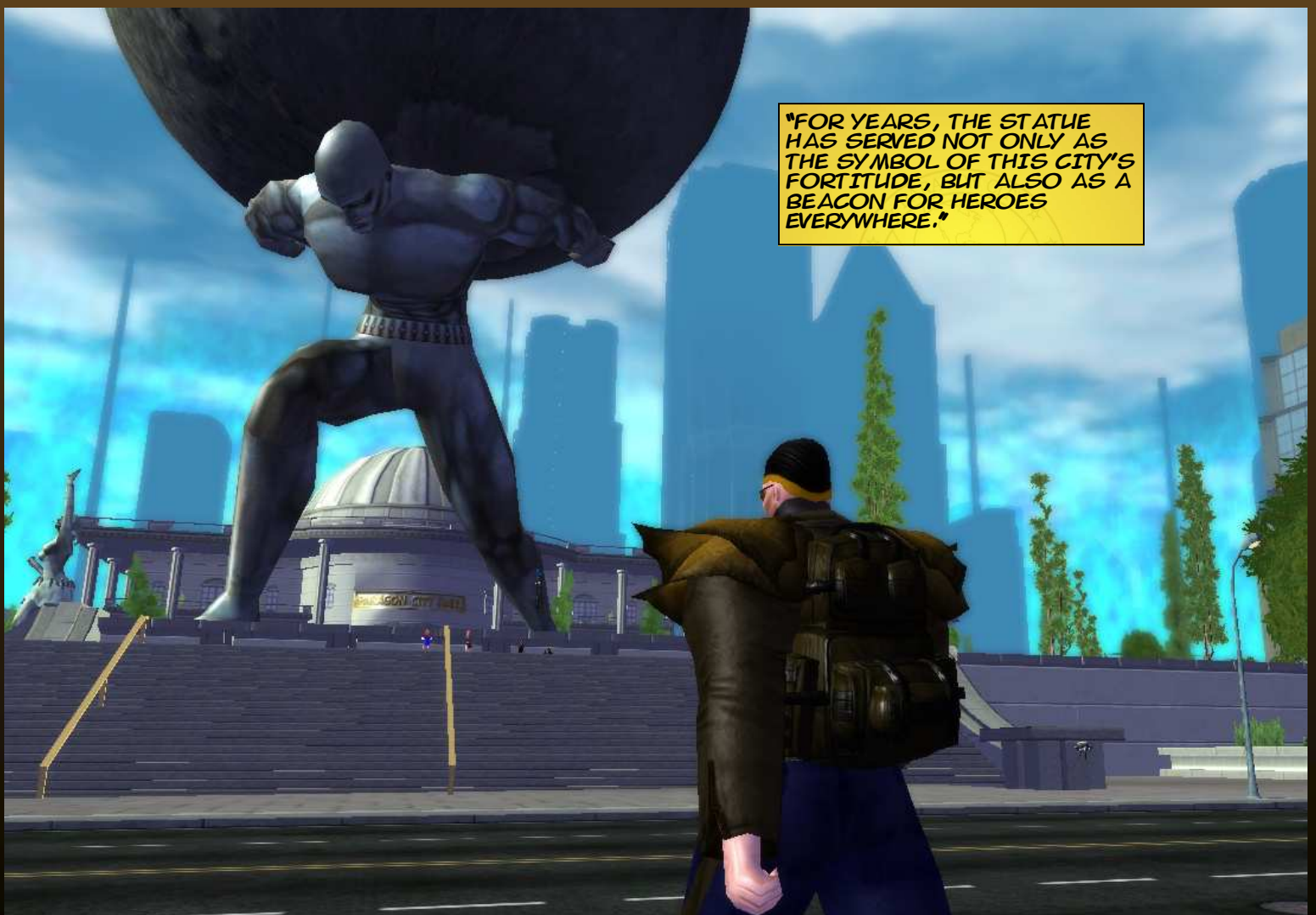
"YOU'LL NOTICE BEHIND ME THE HUGE STATUE OF ATLAS.

SOME PEOPLE MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT THIS REPRESENTS THE GREEK TITAN ATLAS, HOLDING THE WORLD UP ON HIS BACK AND SHOULDERS."

"BUT IN TRUTH, WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS PARAGON CITY'S OWN LEGENDARY HERO FROM THE 1930'S, WHO SELFLESSLY GAVE HIS LIFE TO DEFEND THIS CITY FROM THE NAZIS WHEN THEY INVADED RHODE ISLAND ON DECEMBER 7, 1941."



"FOR YEARS, THE STATUE HAS SERVED NOT ONLY AS THE SYMBOL OF THIS CITY'S FORTITUDE, BUT ALSO AS A BEACON FOR HEROES EVERYWHERE."



"YOU WILL SEE
HEROES FROM ALL
AROUND THE WORLD
COME HERE."

"IN FACT MORE
HEROES VISIT
ATLAS PLAZA EVERY
YEAR THAN DO
CIVILIANS VISITING
THE STATUE OF
LIBERTY."

"THE PLAZA SERVES
AS THE PERFECT
RALLYING POINT
FOR HEROES, WHICH
IS WHY THEY GATHER
AROUND IT."

"YOU'LL ALSO NOTICE
SEVERAL FREEDOM
CORPS AGENTS
STANDING GUARD
AND ON PATROL
AROUND THE PLAZA."

THAT GOES BACK TO WHEN ATLAS PLAZA
WAS REBUILT FOLLOWING THE RIPTI
INVASION ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO. THEY
KEPT THE AREA SAFE SO POLICE COULD
FOCUS ON RESTORING ORDER IN THE CITY.

NOW, BEFORE YOUR
TOUR GUIDE TAKES
YOU INTO CITY HALL,
ARE THERE ANY
QUESTIONS I CAN
ANSWER FOR YOU?

HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH?

THE NEW PLAZA,
TOURS... YOU SHOULD
SEE THE SOUVENIR SHOP
THEY'RE PUTTING IN!

NO, I CANNOT
BELIEVE ANY OF
THIS.

THIS IS NOT THE
ATLAS PLAZA
THAT I REMEMBER.

YEAH, A LOT OF
HEROES HAVE BEEN
SAYING THAT LATELY.

I KNOW I USED TO
HAVE A POST TWENTY-
FEET OVER THERE, AND
NOW...

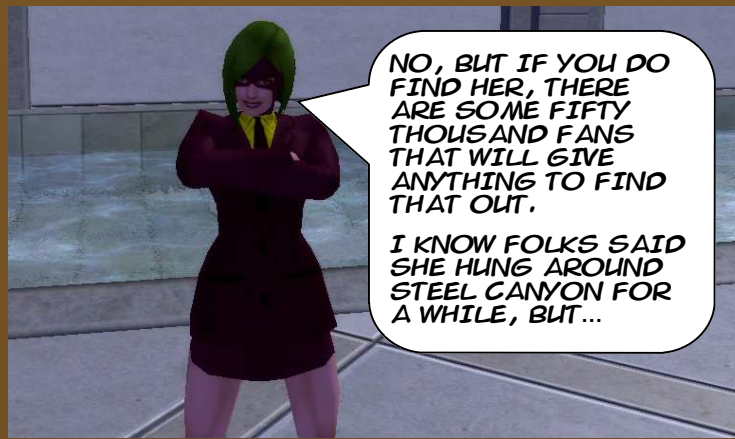
BY THE WAY, I'M
GREEN GAMMA. I
USED TO BE A HERO
BACK IN THE DAY.



GREEN GAMMA
MERIT AGENT

I AM... LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE.

DO YOU KNOW
WHERE I CAN
FIND... GALATEA
POWERS?



I KNOW THE GUARDIANS ARE DISBANDED AND THE BASE IS SUSPENDED, AND I'M NOT ASKIN' THAT YOU REACTIVATE TH' GROUP.

ALL I'M ASKING IS THAT YOU LET ME GO IN THE BASE JUST THIS ONE TIME AN' GET SOME OF ME PERSONAL BELONGINGS I ACCIDENTALLY LEFT THERE.

I HAVE A TERM PAPER DUE SOON AN' I LEFT SOME OF ME NOTES AND RESEARCH IN THE BASE... SO IT WOULD REALLY JUST TAKE ME A SECOND TO GET IT.

LYON POWERS
WELSH SUPERHERO

NO. SORRY.

BUT IT'LL JUST TAKE A SEC!
YOU CAN EVEN COME WITH T' MAKE SURE I'M THERE AN' OUT. C'MON... PLEASE?

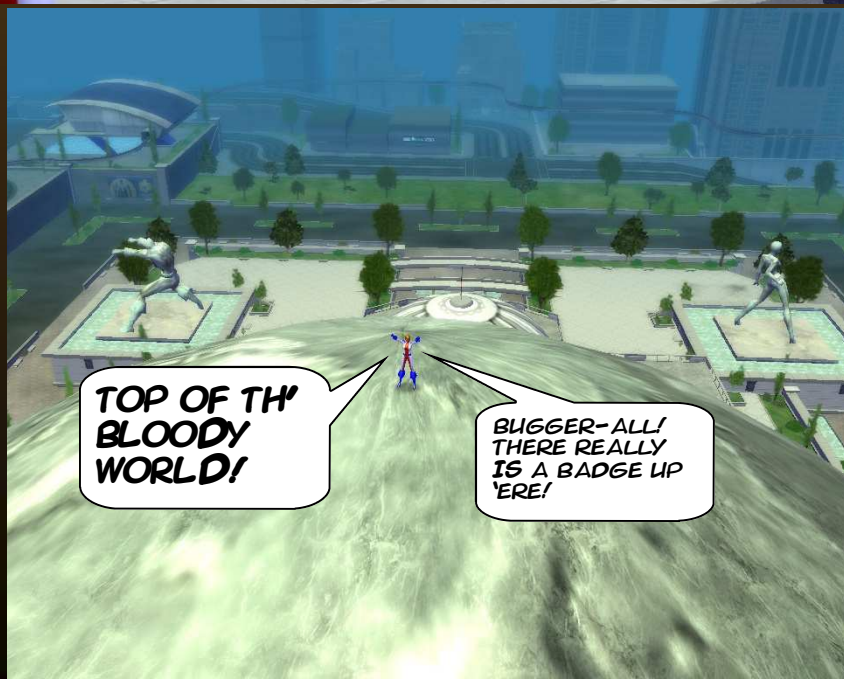
OOOHH... OKAY... IT'S NOT ABOUT A TERM PAPER.
IT'S MY CLOTHES. I LEFT SOME OF ME... ME KNICKERS IN THE BASE.

TH' REST OF ME STUFF WUZ IN THE FREEDOM CORPS BARRACKS IN GALAXY CITY WHEN IT WAS NUKED BY THE SHIVANS.*

I'VE BEEN STAYIN' WITH ME SISTER AT HER FLAT, BUT SHE'S LIKE A BLOODY AMAZON, AND I'M... WELL... NOT.

DO YOU KNOW HOW 'ARD IT'IZ T' GET TH' KIND OF KNICKERS WE 'AVE T' WEAR UNDER THESE OUTFITS? THEY'RE NOT CHEAP.

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN AFTERMATH")



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

HAVE EVERYTHING
SET UP IN YOUR
OFFICE?

YEAH, THANKS.
BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
THAT'S BEEN
BOTHERING ME...

NO, I FIGURED
YOU'D HAVE SOME
QUESTIONS
ABOUT THIS JOB,
FAITH. GO
AHEAD AND ASK
ME WHAT YOU
WANT TO KNOW.

IS THIS A
REAL JOB?
I MEAN, ME AS
A LIAISON
FOR CITY HALL.

WHAT? I THOUGHT KENT EXPLAINED IT
ALL TO YOU THE OTHER DAY.*

FAITH, THIS JOB IS FOR REAL.
YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH MY OFFICE
TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CASES
INVOLVING HEROES ARE SOLID
BEFORE GOING TO COURT AND THAT
THE HEROES ARE MAKING THEIR
APPEARANCES WHEN REQUIRED TO.

 **ALEX WENTWORTH**
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

(* SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN AFTERMATH")

I GUESS I JUST
NEEDED TO HEAR IT
FROM YOU BEFORE I
COULD BELIEVE IT.

SO HOW DOES THIS
WORK? I MEAN,
WHEN A CRISIS
HAPPENS?

 **FAITH KARL**
AKA GALATEA POWERS


WELL HOPEFULLY
THAT WON'T BE
HAPPENING
ANYTIME SOON.

BUT GIVEN THE LIVES WE LIVE... OR, IN MY CASE,
PAST TENSE... IT'S INEVITABLE THAT "DUTY"
WOULD CALL WHILE YOU'RE HERE. AND WHEN
THAT HAPPENS, I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, THE CANDIDATES WERE
ALLOWED TO VISIT THE BUILDING AS OFTEN AS WE
WANTED TO GET USED TO THE POSITION.

WHILE I WAS HERE, I SPOTTED SEVERAL PLACES THAT
SEEMED TO BE PERFECTLY DESIGNED FOR A HERO TO
CHANGE CLOTHES AND LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT
BEING NOTICED BY OTHERS.

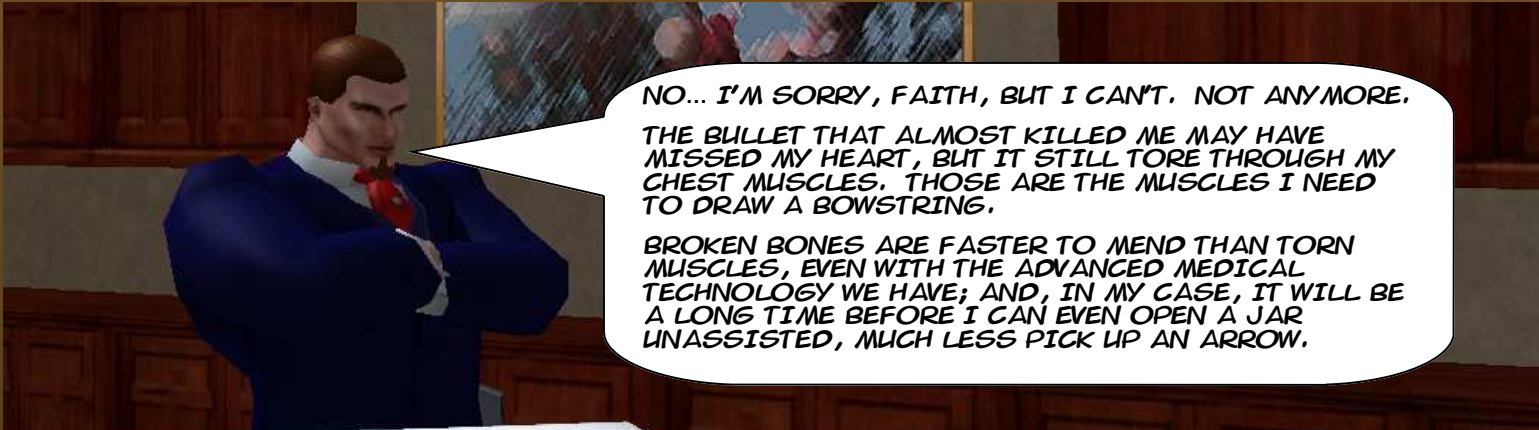
I SUPPOSE IN A CITY FULL OF SUPERHEROES, IT'S
INEVITABLE THAT WE'D HAVE SOME PROSECUTORS
THAT HAD CAPES WITH THEIR BRIEFS.

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a white shirt and a yellow vest, stands in a library with tall bookshelves filled with books. She has her hands outstretched in a questioning gesture.

WAIT... WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
PAST TENSE?

I MEAN, I KNOW THE DETAILS
OF YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH
YOUR UNCLE* BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN ONCE WE GET THROUGH
THIS THAT YOU CAN'T PICK UP
A BOW AGAIN AND DO WHAT
YOU DO BEST.

C *AFTERMATH*

A man in a dark blue suit and red tie stands in a study with wood-paneled walls. He has his arms crossed and a serious expression.

NO... I'M SORRY, FAITH, BUT I CAN'T. NOT ANYMORE.
THE BULLET THAT ALMOST KILLED ME MAY HAVE
MISSED MY HEART, BUT IT STILL TORE THROUGH MY
CHEST MUSCLES. THOSE ARE THE MUSCLES I NEED
TO DRAW A BOWSTRING.

BROKEN BONES ARE FASTER TO MEND THAN TORN
MUSCLES, EVEN WITH THE ADVANCED MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY WE HAVE; AND, IN MY CASE, IT WILL BE
A LONG TIME BEFORE I CAN EVEN OPEN A JAR
UNASSISTED, MUCH LESS PICK UP AN ARROW.

Faith stands in the library, looking thoughtful with her hand near her chin.

WOW... I'M SORRY,
ALEX. I DIDN'T
REALIZE THAT.

I GUESS BEING
ALMOST-
INVULNERABLE
MADE ME
OBLIVIOUS TO
HOW THINGS ARE
FOR THE REST...

Beep-Beep
Beep-Beep

Alex stands behind a large wooden desk with a computer monitor. Faith is on the other side of the desk, looking at her phone.

YES? WHERE?
OKAY, I'LL BE
ON MY WAY.

Alex is at the computer desk, looking towards Faith who is standing with her back to the camera.

FIRST FLIGHT
DOWN THE STAIRS,
BREAK-ROOM
STORAGE.

THERE'S A FALSE
WALL ACCESS TO
THE ROOF VENT.
HURRY.

Faith is running towards the camera with a determined expression.

THANKS
ALEX.

SKYWAY CITY

... AND THAT'S THE LATEST FROM SKYWAY CITY.

I'M APRIL HERNANDEZ, PNN AFTERNOON NEWS.

BACK TO YOU, ROBIN.

 **APRIL HERNANDEZ**
PNN REPORTER

OKAY, WE'RE OFF. THANKS LADIES.

 **CAPTAIN PARAGONNA**
PARAGON CITY POLICE

LISTEN, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME AWAY FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO DO THIS INTERVIEW.

I'M SURE THE BRASS IS KEEPING YOU BUSY BETWEEN KINGS ROW AND ALL OF THE OTHER PROJECTS... BUT IT REALLY IS GREAT TO SEE YOU BACK ON DUTY.

THANKS, APRIL.

BUT I WAS THE ONE THAT ASKED YOU BE SENT FOR THIS INTERVIEW.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU AND I TALKED AND I WANTED TO SEE WHY YOU'VE CUT YOURSELF OFF FROM THE REST OF US.

THAT'S...

THAT'S NICE TO BE SO CONCERNED.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT WITH ME.

I MEAN, YEAH, I WAS KIDNAPPED ONCE, BUT THAT WAS YEARS AGO!*

* AS EXPLAINED IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #16)

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T REMEMBER SOME OF THE OTHER THINGS YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT REPORTING THE NEWS? MAYBE... LIVING ANOTHER KIND OF LIFE?

NO! I MEAN, SURE, I DREAM ABOUT DOING THE KINDS OF THINGS THAT YOU DO. WHO DOESN'T LIVE HERE IN THIS CITY AND NOT THINK OF IT?

BUT LIVING ANOTHER LIFE? I'M PRETTY HAPPY WITH WHAT I HAVE NOW.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A SUPERHERO NAMED OMEGA SHIFT? SHE WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

SURE, I REMEMBER HER.

I REMEMBER SEEING VIDEO FOOTAGE OF HER. SHE WAS AN ELEMENTAL-BASED BLASTER, I THINK.

SHE'S ALSO A SHAPE-SHIFTER.

SHE HAS IT IN HERSELF THE DNA TEMPLATES OF DOZENS OF PEOPLE THAT SHE CAN DRAW UPON FOR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

SHE CAN ALSO DIVE INTO THOSE LIVES AND BE THOSE PEOPLE.



I DON'T THINK I LIKE WHERE THIS IS HEADING, CAPTAIN.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MEAN THAT I'M ACTUALLY THIS "OMEGA SHIFT" SHAPE-SHIFTER.

I KNOW WHO I AM! I REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT I'VE DONE SINCE I WAS KIDNAPPED.

I HAVE A LIFE OUTSIDE OF WORK. I HAVE FRIENDS. I HAVE A BOYFRIEND! WE GO BOWLING EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT OVER AT SUPER LANES!

AND I'M SURE YOU WOULD SAY THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL LIFE.

BUT... I WANT YOU TO CONSIDER THIS...

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE RESCUED FROM THAT KIDNAPPING?

DOZENS OF PEOPLE WERE KIDNAPPED AND KILLED BY DOCTOR VAHZILOK AND HIS MINIONS AT THE BEHEST OF DOCTOR ZARUS.

ONLY SOME OF THE MISSING WERE IDENTIFIED FROM THEIR CORPSES.

HOW DO YOU THINK A SHAPE-SHIFTER WOULD HIDE IF SHE REALLY WANTED TO?



I REALLY DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE YOU ASKING ME THIS.

I'M NOT OMEGA SHIFT. I'M NOT A SHAPE-SHIFTER. I AM APRIL HERNANDEZ, THE DAUGHTER OF RODRIGO AND GLORIA HERNANDEZ.

YOU'RE A REPORTER. THINK IT THROUGH. HOW WOULD A SHAPE-SHIFTER HIDE?

NNH!

I... SUPPOSE IF SHE REALLY WANTED TO HIDE, SHE WOULD... DELVE INTO ONE OF THOSE LIVES AND JUST CARRY ON AS THOUGH NOTHING HAPPENED.

BUT THAT'S NOT ME! I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I'M NOT OMEGA SHIFT BEFORE YOU CAN ACCEPT THAT IT'S THE TRUTH!



YOU'RE RIGHT... I'M SORRY FOR DOING THAT TO YOU.

BUT IF YOU DO MANAGE TO COME ACROSS OMEGA SHIFT... I WOULD HOPE YOU LET HER KNOW THAT SHE STILL HAS FRIENDS THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HER.

CAN YOU LET HER KNOW THAT... IF YOU COME ACROSS HER?

UM... YEAH, SURE.



WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

HEY APRIL... WE JUST GOT A CALL! SOMEONE IS CALLING OUT GALATEA POWERS OVER IN STEEL CANYON!

STEEL CANYON



GALATEA POWERS
OTHERWORLD SUPERHERO

OKAY, WHERE IS
THE GUY WHO'S
SUPPOSEDLY
CALLING ME OUT
IN THE STREET?

GUESS IT'S TIME
TO LISTEN FOR
THE DAMAGE
THAT HE'S
SUPPOSEDLY...

FOUND HIM!

JUST... STANDING
THERE IN THE
STREET?

YOU KNOW, YOU
ARE PROBABLY
THE QUIETEST
TROUBLEMAKER
THAT I'VE EVER
COME ACROSS.

YOU DON'T
DESTROY THINGS.
YOU DON'T KILL
ANYONE. YOU
JUST STAND THERE
LIKE A FLYING
MONKEY AND CALL
OUT MY NAME.

I AM NOT YOUR
AVERAGE VILLAIN.

I AM A
PROFESSIONAL.
I TREAT YOU WITH
THE RESPECT THAT
YOU DESERVE, AND I
EXPECT NOTHING
LESS IN RETURN.

GOOD. THEN I
APOLOGIZE ABOUT
THE "FLYING
MONKEY" QUIP.

LET'S TALK ABOUT
WHO YOU ARE AND
WHY YOU WANT TO
CALL ME OUT IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
STREET.



I AM CALLED GOLDEN HAWKFIRE.
I HAVE CALLED YOU OUT RATHER
THAN RESORT TO "VILLAINOUS"
TACTICS BECAUSE THAT IS NOT
WHO I AM, AND THAT IS NOT
HOW I EXPECT YOU TO TREAT
ME DURING THIS ENCOUNTER.

I HAVE THE UT MOST PERSONAL
RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO PROVE
THEMSEVES HEROES IN THIS CITY.
BUT THIS IS NOT PERSONAL. THIS IS
BUSINESS.
I AM CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF
ENDING YOUR CAREER IN RETALIATION
FOR THE ROLE OF YOUR ASSOCIATES
IN THE DESTRUCTION OF GALAXY CITY.*

< "AFTERMATH" >



I DON'T KNOW WHERE
YOU GOT YOUR
INFORMATION BUT...

HEY!

FWOOSH!

I FELT THAT!



I HAVE ANSWERED YOUR
QUESTIONS. THE TIME
FOR TALK IS OVER!



HE'S USING...

"WINNH!"
MAGICAL...
FIRE...?

FWOOSH!



YES, I WAS TOLD THAT YOU
WERE VULNERABLE TO
MAGIC. THAT WAS WHY I
WAS PERFECTLY SUITED
FOR THIS TASK.

GREAT!
SO SOMEONE
OUT THERE WIKI'D
MY WEAKNESS!



LET'S TRY THIS
LITTLE TRICK...
FIRST GET HIM
IN CLOSE.




A FATAL
MISTAKE!





WHAT TH-?
WHERE DID
HE GO?

GREAT...
INSTEAD OF
KNOCKING
HIM OUT, I
GAVE HIM
COVER TO
RUN AWAY.




CPCU, I NEED
YOU TO TRACK A
MYSTICAL SHIFT
FROM MY
LOCATION THAT
HAPPENED THIRTY
SECONDS AGO.

THANKFULLY I
HAVE SOME
PRETTY POWERFUL
RESOURCES.

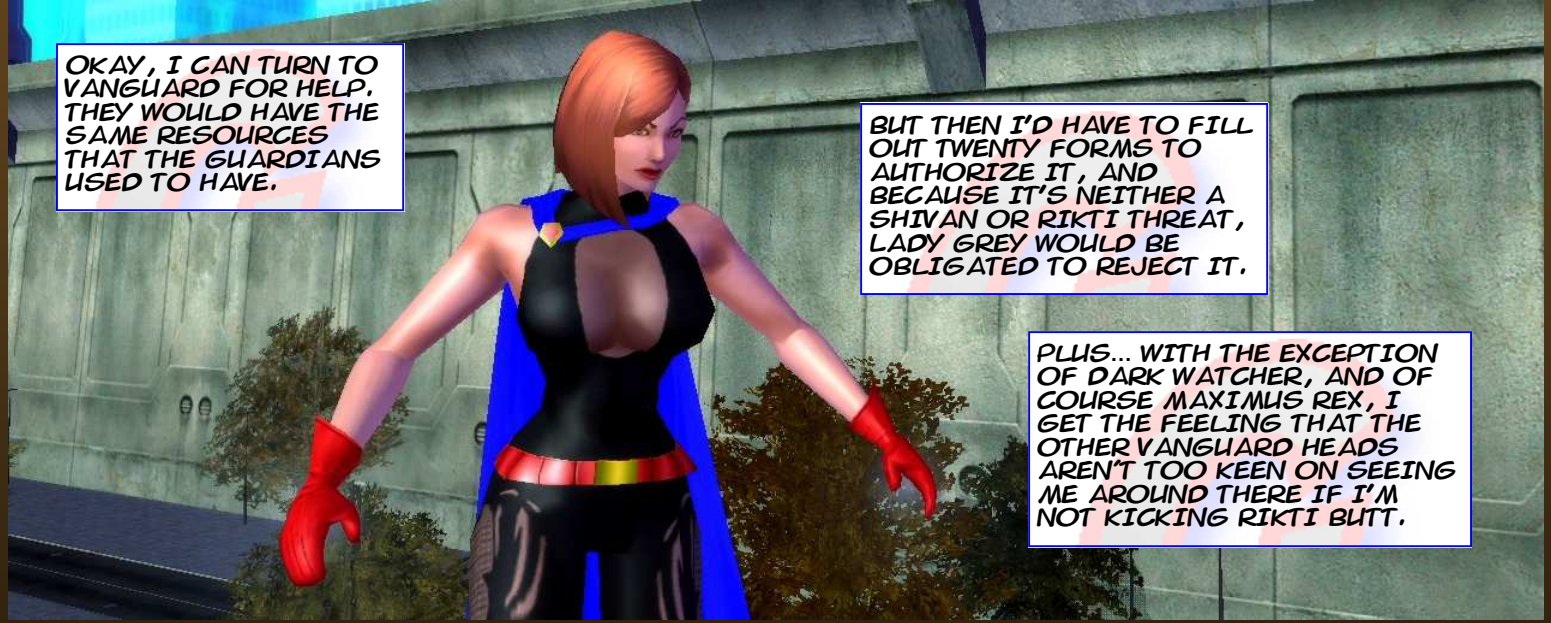


REQUEST FAILED.
CPCU SERVICES
SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.

OR RATHER... I
HAD POWERFUL
RESOURCES.



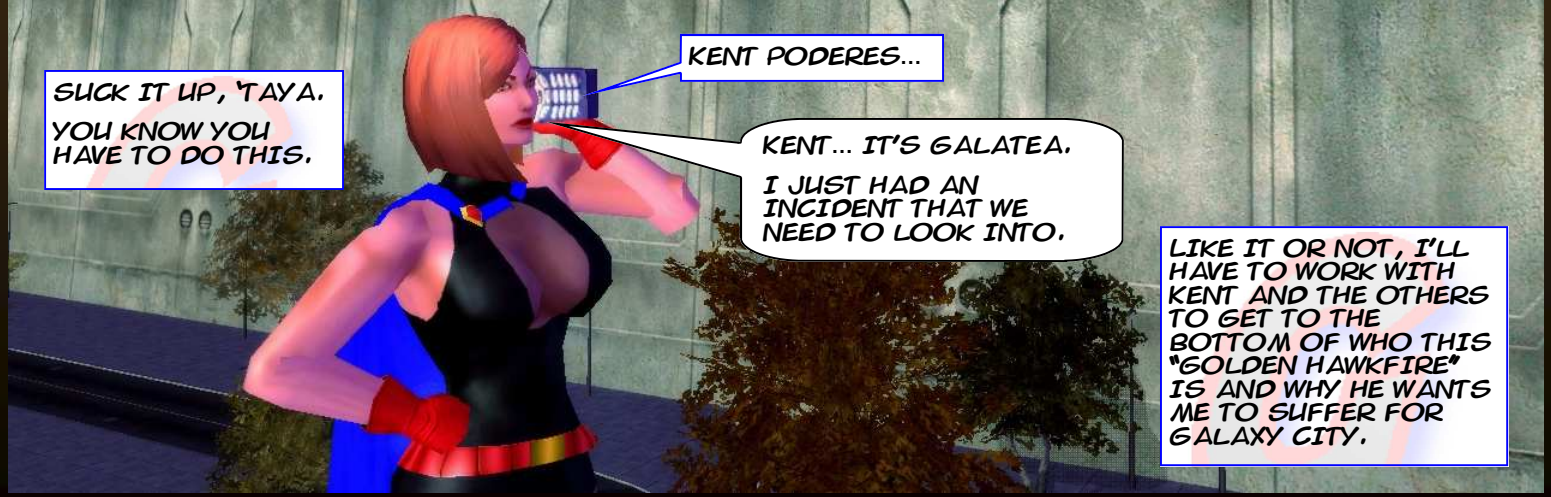
IDIOT! HOW
CAN YOU
FORGET THAT
THE CPCU ONLY
WORKS WHEN THE
GUARDIANS ARE
ACTIVE?



OKAY, I CAN TURN TO
VANGUARD FOR HELP.
THEY WOULD HAVE THE
SAME RESOURCES
THAT THE GUARDIANS
USED TO HAVE.

BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO FILL
OUT TWENTY FORMS TO
AUTHORIZE IT, AND
BECAUSE IT'S NEITHER A
SHIVAN OR RIKTI THREAT,
LADY GREY WOULD BE
OBLIGATED TO REJECT IT.

PLUS... WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF DARK WATCHER, AND OF
COURSE MAXIMUS REX, I
GET THE FEELING THAT THE
OTHER VANGUARD HEADS
AREN'T TOO KEEN ON SEEING
ME AROUND THERE IF I'M
NOT KICKING RIKTI BUTT.



SUCK IT UP, TAYA.
YOU KNOW YOU
HAVE TO DO THIS.

KENT PODERES...

KENT... IT'S GALATEA.
I JUST HAD AN
INCIDENT THAT WE
NEED TO LOOK INTO.

LIKE IT OR NOT, I'LL
HAVE TO WORK WITH
KENT AND THE OTHERS
TO GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF WHO THIS
"GOLDEN HAWKFIRE"
IS AND WHY HE WANTS
ME TO SUFFER FOR
GALAXY CITY.

MEANWHILE...

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, MISTER WENTWORTH.

NOBLE SON
HERO AND ATTORNEY

PLEASE, CALL ME ALEX.
YOU'RE A PART OF THE TEAM NOW.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ON SOME OF THESE CASES.

I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT I HAVE TO MEET, BUT IF YOU'LL SEE MISTER CADE DOWN THE HALL HE'LL GET YOU SET UP WITH AN OFFICE AND EQUIPMENT, AND THEN GET YOU UP TO SPEED ON OUR WORKLOAD.

THANK YOU, ALEX.
I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

MISSUS BANKS...
I HOPE I DIDN'T KEEP YOU WAITING LONG.

ALICE BANKS
PRO-FAMILY CRUSADER

PLEASE... CALL ME ALICE. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE THE CAMPAIGNS, SO WE'RE NOT EXACTLY STRANGERS.
WAS THAT NOBLE SON I JUST SAW EARLIER?

YES. I JUST HIRED HIM AS A JUNIOR PROSECUTOR.
HE SHOWED TREMENDOUS SPIRIT IN THE CAMPAIGNS EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A POLITICAL NOBODY.
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HE'LL MAKE A GREAT ATTORNEY SOMEDAY.

OH, OF THAT YOU AND I ARE IN AGREEMENT, ALEX.
I HOPE I CAN CALL YOU ALEX...
AND IT'S OF FUTURES WHY I ASKED TO MEET WITH YOU, ALEX.
NAMELY THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY'S CHILDREN.



YOU KNOW THAT BEFORE I BECAME A MOTHER, I WAS A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR.

I WAS A PART OF THE U.S. TASKFORCE ON CHILD PROTECTION IN NEW YORK, WHERE I HAD MY EYES OPENED TO THE GROSS ABUSES BEING IMPOSED ON THE YOUNG CHILDREN THAT CALLED THEMSELVES "JUNIOR SUPERHEROES".

THREE PRESTIGIOUS HERO GROUPS IN NEW YORK HAD TO BE SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF THE RAMPANT ABUSES CONCERNING THE CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

ABUSES THAT, I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE, ARE BEING DUPLICATED HERE IN PARAGON CITY.

MY GROUP HAS IDENTIFIED SIX SUCH INCIDENTS, AND WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN...



AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STOP YOU RIGHT THERE, ALICE.


I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT YOU DID IN NEW YORK CITY IN THE 90'S.

YOU CREATED A WITCH-HUNT THAT MADE THE MCCARTHY HEARINGS LOOK LIKE A REALLY BAD COMEDY ROUTINE.

AND IF THE RIKTI DIDN'T INVADE IN 2002 AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE A COMPLICATED PREGNANCY, THEN YOU WOULD HAVE BROUGHT THAT SAME WITCH HUNT TO THIS CITY.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY ARE TIRED OF PUBLICITY CRUSADES, ALICE. THAT'S WHY THEY VOTED FOR ME INSTEAD OF EDWARD VANCE.*

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN AFTERMATH"*)




AND, BY EXTENSION, YOU IMPLY THEY ALSO VOTED AGAINST ME SINCE YOU THINK I'M ALSO DOING THIS FOR PUBLICITY.

I WAS FIGHTING FOR CHILDREN BACK WHEN YOU WERE ACTING LIKE ONE IN THE MEDIA. I'VE SEEN THE ABUSE DONE ON FORMER CHILD SIDEKICKS.

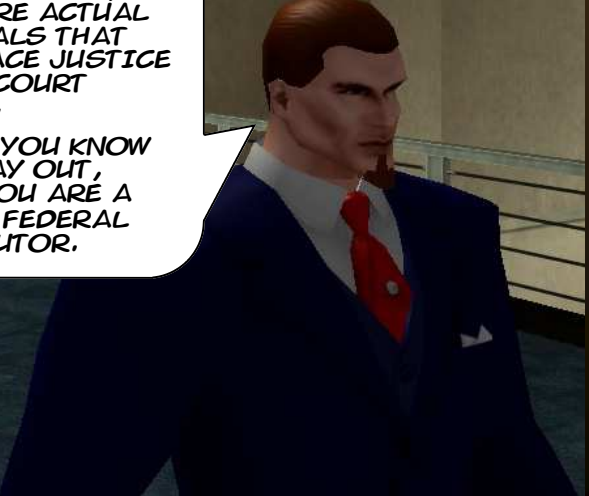


YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, MISTER WENTWORTH.

WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN TO BE FREE FROM ABUSE AND TORTURE?



IF YOU HAVE VERIFIABLE CASES OF ABUSE OR TORTURE, BRING THEM TO ME AND I PROMISE THEY WILL BE PROSECUTED.



IN THE MEANTIME, MISSUS BANKS, THERE ARE ACTUAL CRIMINALS THAT MUST FACE JUSTICE IN OUR COURT SYSTEM.

I TRUST YOU KNOW YOUR WAY OUT, SINCE YOU ARE A FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTOR.

STEEL CANYON - SEVERAL HOURS LATER

WHEN ALEX AND I STARTED UP THIS COVERT TEAM, WE KNEW THAT WE WOULD NEED A BASE OF OPERATIONS. SOMEPLACE WHERE WE COULD USE THE ADVANCED COMPUTER RESOURCES WE WERE USED TO HAVING.

TRYING TO SNEAK INTO THE GUARDIAN BASE UNDERNEATH THE TALOS STATUE WAS NOT AN OPTION.

THAT'S WHERE MY ROLE AS A TECH CONSULTANT COMES IN.

THANKS TO THE VANGUARD AND CITY HALL, I HAVE TOTAL ACCESS TO THE BEST FACILITIES IN THE WHOLE CITY.

SO I THOUGHT... "WHY DON'T WE USE THE S.E.R.A.P.H. OFFICES?"

THE ONLY CONDITION I WAS GIVEN WAS THAT IF WE WERE GOING TO USE IT TO MEET, IT HAD TO BE AS CIVILIANS.

NO CAPES. NO MASKS.

IF ANYONE WERE TO STOP IN, THEY WOULDN'T SEE FOUR SUPERHEROES...


... THEY'D SEE FOUR CIVILIANS.

OBSVIOUSLY ALEX CAN'T BE HERE IN PERSON, BUT HE IS LISTENING IN, AND HE'LL CONTRIBUTE WHEN HE CAN.


I'M ALSO GLAD TO SAY THAT WE GOT A LITTLE GIFT FROM DAYBRIGHT IN THE FORM OF A NEW MINI-CPCU INTERFACE, WHICH YOU CAN NOW ACCESS THROUGH YOUR COMMUNICATORS.

SHE CAN'T JOIN YOU EITHER, BUT SHE STILL SAYS "HELLO".


 **KENT PODERES/ICON POWERS**
TECHNICAL CONSULTANT



I WISH THE SAME
COULD BE SAID OF
OMEGA SHIFT.
SHE DIDN'T EVEN
WANT TO ADMIT SHE
WAS ANYTHING
OTHER THAN APRIL
HERNANDEZ.



I SHARE IN YOUR
CONCERN FOR HER,
STEVIE, BUT WE
HAVE A LITTLE MORE
PRESSING MATTER
TO DEAL WITH.
NAMELY, GALATEA'S
NEW "FRIEND".



I RAN THE NAME
"GOLDEN HAWKFIRE"
THROUGH THE CPCU
AND THIS IS WHAT IT
CAME UP WITH...

IT TURNS OUT HE'S A
REGISTERED HERO.

PARAGON CITY HERO REGISTRATION

Golden Hawkfire

Origin: Magic
Archetype: Scrapper


Real Name: Kemper Hollander
Status: Inactive

History:
Hollander claimed his powers came from mystic
artifacts which gave him the "fury of the ancient
gods".

Left Paragon City in 2005 to return the artifacts to
their "rightful owners".



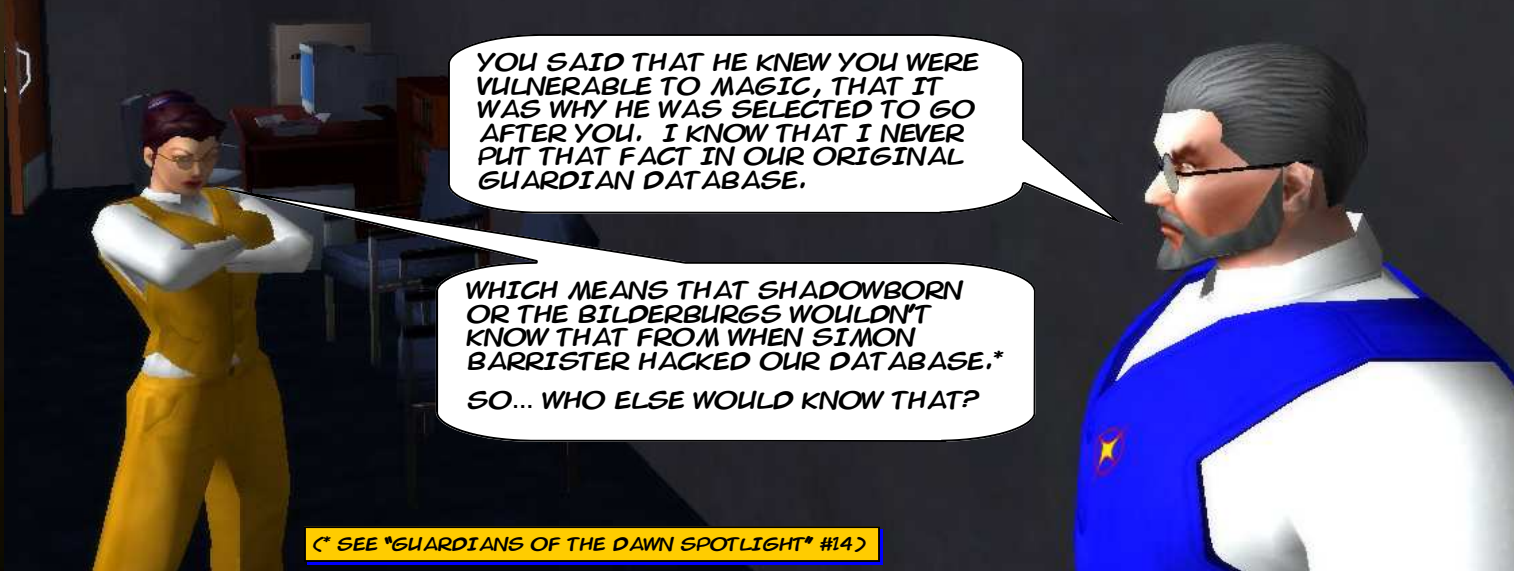
CLASS: H H4- R
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WELL THE NAME AND THE FACE
LOOK RIGHT, BUT THOSE WERE
MORE THAN TIGHTS HE HAD ON
WHEN HE TRIED TO BARBEQUE
ME BY HIS OWN HANDS.

APPARENTLY IN THOSE
MISSING SIX YEARS HE WENT
FROM TRYING TO RETURN THE
ARTIFACTS TO GOING EXTREME
ON WEARING THEM.

KNEW HE SOUNDED
FAMILIAR...



YOU SAID THAT HE KNEW YOU WERE
VULNERABLE TO MAGIC, THAT IT
WAS WHY HE WAS SELECTED TO GO
AFTER YOU. I KNOW THAT I NEVER
PUT THAT FACT IN OUR ORIGINAL
GUARDIAN DATABASE.

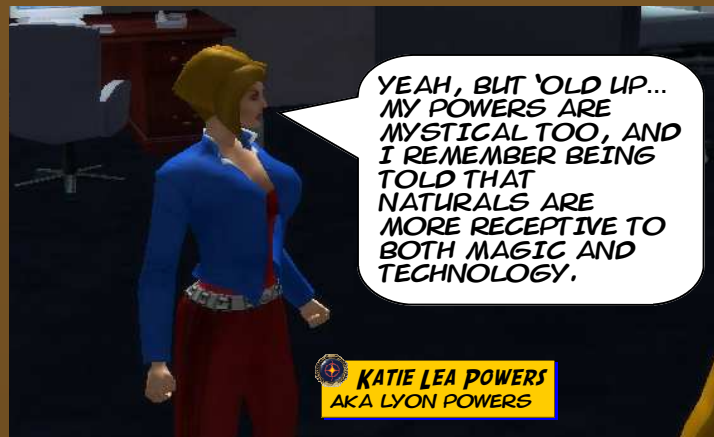
WHICH MEANS THAT SHADOWBORN
OR THE BILDERBURGS WOULDN'T
KNOW THAT FROM WHEN SIMON
BARRISTER HACKED OUR DATABASE.*
SO... WHO ELSE WOULD KNOW THAT?

* SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #14 >



MAYBE YOU'RE READING MORE INTO THIS THAN IT BEING FROM OUR TWO BIG CONSPIRACY GROUPS.

COULDN'T SOMEONE FIGURE OUT THAT YOU'RE VULNERABLE TO MAGIC? I MEAN, WE ALL ARE TO SOME EXTENT.



YEAH, BUT 'OLD UP... MY POWERS ARE MYSTICAL TOO, AND I REMEMBER BEING TOLD THAT NATURALS ARE MORE RECEPTIVE TO BOTH MAGIC AND TECHNOLOGY.



KATIE LEA POWERS
AKA LYON POWERS



YOU FORGET THAT FAITH AND I AREN'T FROM THIS UNIVERSE ORIGINALLY.

IN OUR WORLD, MAGIC WAS ALWAYS OUR BIG WEAKNESS.



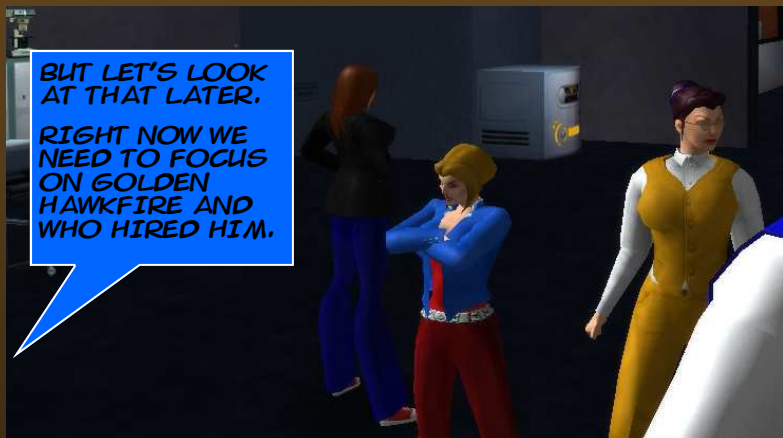
YOU FORGET AS WELL, KENT, THAT FAITH WAS RE-MADE HERE.*

(*SPOTLIGHT* #25)



SO... BECAUSE MY BASE DNA IS NOW FROM SOMEONE OF THIS PLANET... I MAY REALLY NOT BE THAT VULNERABLE TO MAGIC? THAT IT'S ALL... IN MY HEAD?

IT'S POSSIBLE.



BUT LET'S LOOK AT THAT LATER.

RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO FOCUS ON GOLDEN HAWKFIRE AND WHO HIRED HIM.



THAT'S ACTUALLY A GOOD IDEA, ALEX.

KENT, CAN YOU GET OUR MINI-CPCU TO CROSS-REFERENCE GOLDEN HAWKFIRE WITH THE OTHER DATABASES?

RIGHT NOW IT'S ONLY CONNECTED TO THE FREEDOM CORPS DATABASE. THE OTHERS WILL BE LINKED SOON.

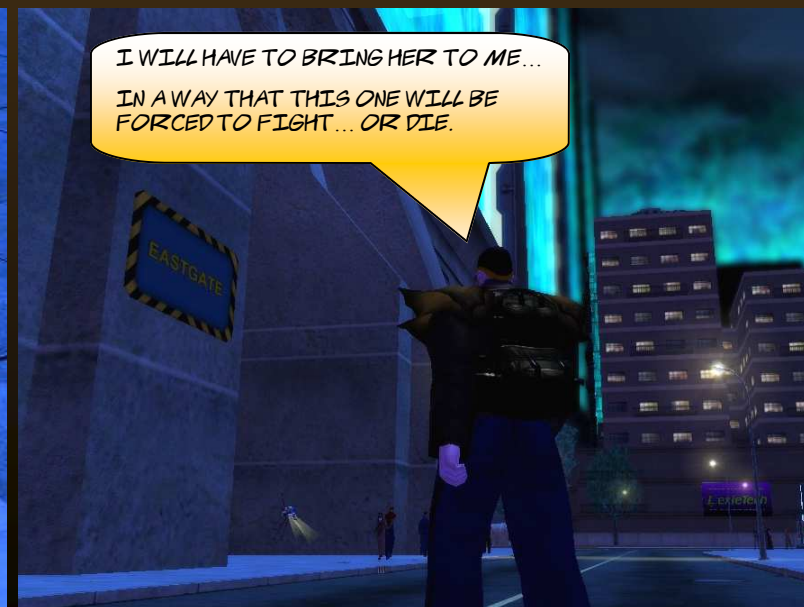


STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS
AKA CAPTAIN PARAGONNA

I SUGGEST DAWN PATROL, INTERPOL, VANGUARD, THEN THE LOCAL F.B.S.A.* BRANCHES.

MAYBE BETWEEN AZURIA AND GREGOR RICHARDSON THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER WHERE HE'S BEEN FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS. THAT MAY LEAD US TO FINDING WHO CONTACTED HIM TO COME HOME AND PREY ON OUR OWN.

(*FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPER-POWERED AFFAIRS)



CITY HALL, THE NEXT DAY

GOLDEN HAWKFIRE?

YES, I REMEMBER HIM FROM THE EARLY YEARS OF M.A.G.I.*

* M.A.G.I.: MYSTICAL ARCANIC GUILD OF INVESTIGATION

A TROUBLED SOUL HE WAS... TORN BY THE CURSE HE WAS BOUND BY.

A CURSE HOLDING THE SOUL OF A DEMIGOD.

AZURIA
M.A.G.I. DIRECTOR

SEE, THIS IS WHY I WISH I HAD COEUR DU FEU WITH ME.

SHE KNOWS 'BOUT THESE SORTS OF THINGS MORE THAN I EVER COULD.

EXCUSE ME... DID YOU SAY YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT GOLDEN HAWKFIRE?

YEAH... WOT KIN Y' TELL ME 'BOUT HIM? WHY HAS HE GONE ALL-TERMINATOR?

WELL... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY GOING "ALL-TERMINATOR", BUT I WAS THE ONE THAT RESEARCHED THE ARTIFACTS FOR HIM, ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HE FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE MU MYSTICS.

GREGOR RICHARDSON
M.A.G.I. DEPUTY DIRECTOR

WAIT, YOU MEAN THOSE HOVERING RED-CLOAKED ARACHNOS BLOKES WITH TH' LIGHTNING AN' ALL?

THOSE WERE THE ONES, YES.

WHEN HE FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE MU MYSTICS, HE SAID THE BEING THAT GAVE HIM HIS POWER HAD "AWAKENED", AND THAT HE WAS NO LONGER IN CONTROL OF HIMSELF.

AFTER DISCOVERING WHAT SORT OF DEMIGOD THE BEING WAS, I CONVINCED HIM THAT HE NEEDED TO FIND WHERE THE CURSED ITEMS NEEDED TO GO SO HE WOULD BE FREE OF THE DEMIGOD.

BUT... IF YOU SAY HE IS STILL USING IT... AND HE'S EVEN MORE ARMORED... THEN THE DEMIGOD MAY HAVE FULLY CONSUMED HIM.



I DON'T THINK I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

THEN YOU WON'T LIKE WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE DEMIGOD IN QUESTION.

FIVE MINUTES LATER...



ACCORDIN' TO WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, OUR BURNING EX-HERO IS POSSESSED BY A DEMIGOD NAMED PYRIX.



PYRIX WAS ONE OF THOSE LESSER BEINGS DEFEATED AND BANISHED BY HEQUAT.

WHEN GOLDEN HAWKFIRE ENCOUNTERED ONE OF HER MU AGENTS, PYRIX FORCED HIM TO HUNT DOWN THE GODDESS FOR A REMATCH.

KINGS ROW STATIONHOUSE



THAT MATCHES WHAT I PICKED UP FROM INTERPOL.

HE'S BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD, SIGNING UP WITH WHATEVER WOULD GIVE HIM THE BIGGER CHALLENGE.

AND HE ONLY GETS STRONGER WITH EVERY ENCOUNTER.



THIS IS GOING TO SOUND STRANGE... BUT IT SEEMS LIKE HE ALMOST HAS A DEATH-WISH.

LIKE HE'S WANTING SOMEONE MORE POWERFUL TO TAKE HIM DOWN SO HE WON'T HAVE TO GO ON PYRIX'S CRUSADE ANYMORE.

THE HOLLOWES (FORMERLY EASTGATE)



WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE...

... THEN IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S MAKING HIS FINAL STAND HERE.

I HAVE A MAJOR BRUSH FIRE IN THE RED RIVER AREA, AND EVEN THE CIRCLE OF THORNS AND THE HYDRA ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM IT, WHICH MEANS IT'S MAGICAL IN ORIGIN.

"SHOULDN'T THAT
BE CALLED A
FORREST FIRE?"

"I'M A NEW
ENGLANDER FROM
TWO WORLDS.
THEY'RE ALL
BRUSH FIRES."

"IN EITHER CASE,
BE CAREFUL, TAYA,
AND WE'LL BE READY
TO BACK YOU UP IF
YOU NEED US."

IT ACTUALLY LOOKS
WORSE FROM A
DISTANCE...
PROBABLY JUST
PART OF THE MAGIC.

WHAT THE
HELL ARE
THOSE
THINGS?

BETTER PLAY
IT SAFE...

HE'S NOT THE
ONLY ONE
WITH ARMOR
TO CALL ON.

LOOKS LIKE PYRIX
DECIDED TO HELP
OUT HAWKFIRE
WITH SOME FIRE-
MINIONS.

VANGUARD BATTLE
ARMOR...

... WITH A LITTLE MAGIC
PROTECTION BUILT IN!



GOOD FOR KNOCKING
AROUND RIKTI WARSHIPS...



... OR THE MYSTICAL
MINIONS OF A DEMIGOD.



WHAM!



BUT I'M NOT GOING
TO WASTE MY TIME
WITH THESE LITTLE
HATCHLINGS.



THERE HE IS!

STRANGE, THOUGH,
THAT HE'D BE SO
FAR AWAY FROM THE
CENTER OF IT ALL



WHY ISN'T HE
FUELING THE
BLAZE?

IT'S ALMOST
LIKE HE
DIDN'T WANT
TO START
THE FIRE.



GOLDEN
HAWKFIRE!
EXPLAIN
YOURSELF!



YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT
A VILLAIN... AND YET
YOU'RE ENGAGING
IN THE VERY THINGS
THAT WOULD BRAND
YOU AS ONE.



GALATEA POWERS...



YOU HONOR THIS ONE BY ARRIVING PREPARED FOR THIS ENCOUNTER.

THESE LESSER ASPECTS OF ME WILL ENSURE THAT THIS ONE WILL NOT FLEE.

OUR QUEST WILL BE FULFILLED AND YOU WILL ATONE FOR GALAXY CITY.



G... GALATEA...



IT'S PYRIX... THAT WANTS THIS...

BE SILENT!

HE WANTS... TO DIE... IN BATTLE... THAN TO BE... CONTAINED AGAIN.



RRR... BOUND TO A SHELL OR BOUND TO METAL, IT DOES NOT MATTER TO ME.

A PRISON IS STILL A PRISON, AND HEQUAT WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO LEAVE EITHER. BETTER TO DIE IN BATTLE THAN TO SPEND ETERNITY BOUND IN ANY PRISON.



SO RATHER THAN CONFRONT HEQUAT HERSELF, YOU WOULD SACRIFICE YOUR HUMAN HOST?

QUITE THE CONTRARY!

THIS ONE CONFRONTED HEQUAT. SHE VOWED TO NEVER RELEASE ME, EITHER IN DEATH OR BY WORD. I CAN ONLY SUFFER AND DIE TO GAIN MY FREEDOM.



SO THE ONLY WAY YOU WILL BE FREE OF THAT BODY IS IF YOU DIE IN BATTLE?

FINE.

BUT ONLY UNDER ONE CONDITION: BEFORE YOU DIE, YOU REVEAL TO ME WHO HIRED YOU AND TOLD YOU THAT THE GUARDIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO GALAXY CITY.

YOU TELL ME THAT AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE PEACE YOU CRAVE.

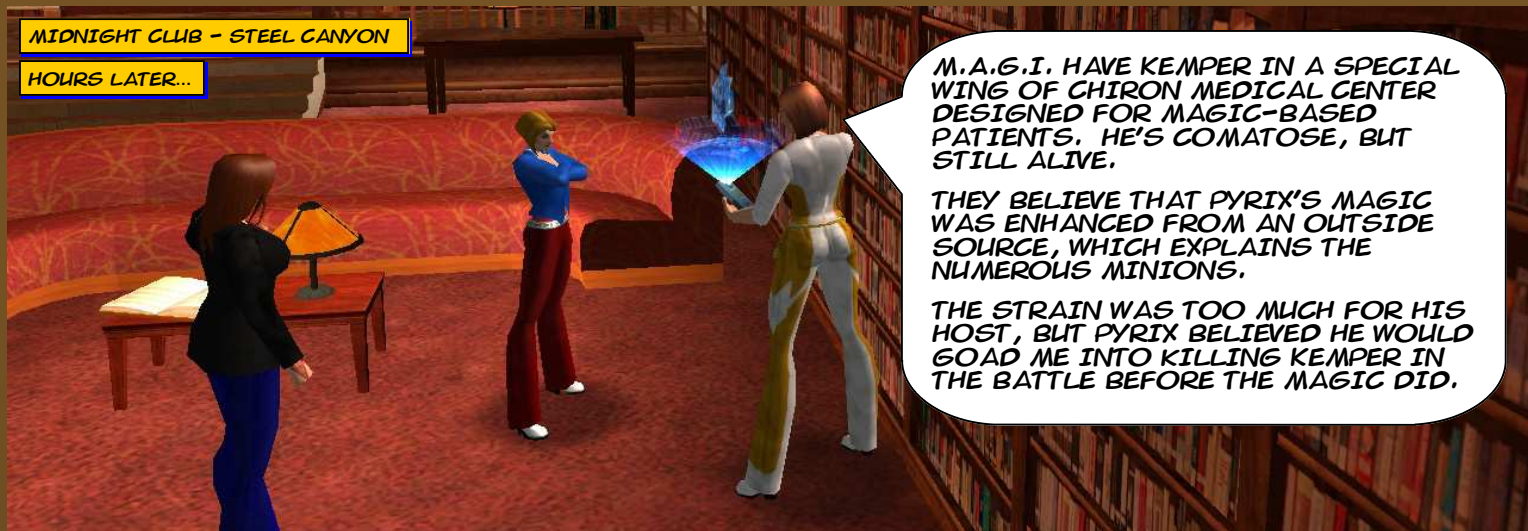






MIDNIGHT CLUB - STEEL CANYON

HOURS LATER...



M.A.G.I. HAVE KEMPER IN A SPECIAL WING OF CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER DESIGNED FOR MAGIC-BASED PATIENTS. HE'S COMATOSE, BUT STILL ALIVE.

THEY BELIEVE THAT PYRIX'S MAGIC WAS ENHANCED FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE, WHICH EXPLAINS THE NUMEROUS MINIONS.

THE STRAIN WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIS HOST, BUT PYRIX BELIEVED HE WOULD GOAD ME INTO KILLING KEMPER IN THE BATTLE BEFORE THE MAGIC DID.



I TAKE IT, THEN, THAT HE DIDN'T REVEAL WHO HAD HIRED HIM.

NO.



EVEN IF HE DID, THERE WAS NO WAY THAT I WAS GOING TO FACILITATE HIS DEATH. THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY TO BREAK PYRIX OF HIS CURSE.

AGREED. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.



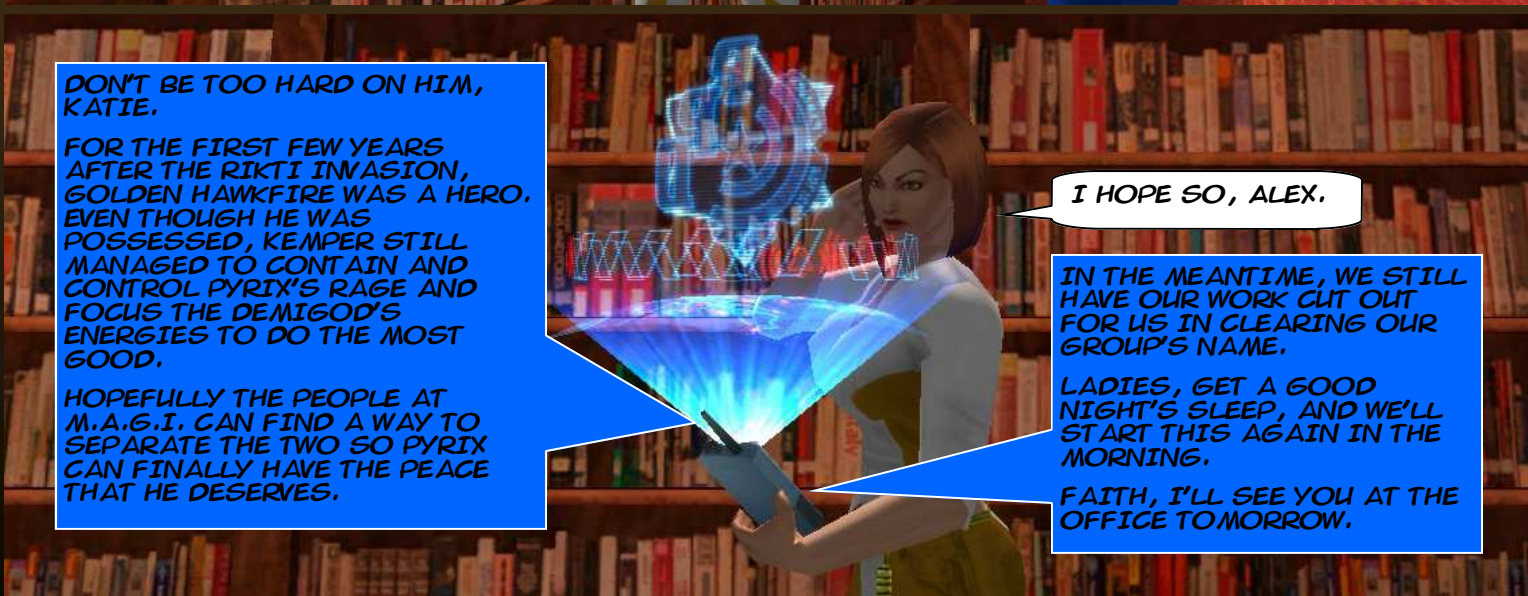
UNFORTUNATELY IT DOESN'T GET US ANY CLOSER TO WHO HIRED GOLDEN HAWKFIRE AND AUGMENTED HIS ABILITIES, OTHER THAN IT IS SUPPOSEDLY A MALE.

AND THANKFULLY HE KEPT HIS FOCUS ON YOU AND NOT IN CAUSING ANY KIND OF REAL DAMAGE TO THE CITY.

YEH...

'LESS YOU COUNT ALL OF THE BIRDS AN' STUFF THAT WERE CHASED OUT BY THE FIRE.

HE'S A REAL ANTI-VILLAIN, THAT ONE...



DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM, KATIE.

FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS AFTER THE RIKTI INVASION, GOLDEN HAWKFIRE WAS A HERO. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS POSSESSED, KEMPER STILL MANAGED TO CONTAIN AND CONTROL PYRIX'S RAGE AND FOCUS THE DEMIGOD'S ENERGIES TO DO THE MOST GOOD.

HOPEFULLY THE PEOPLE AT M.A.G.I. CAN FIND A WAY TO SEPARATE THE TWO SO PYRIX CAN FINALLY HAVE THE PEACE THAT HE DESERVES.

I HOPE SO, ALEX.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE STILL HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US IN CLEARING OUR GROUP'S NAME.

LADIES, GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, AND WE'LL START THIS AGAIN IN THE MORNING.

FAITH, I'LL SEE YOU AT THE OFFICE TOMORROW.

THANKS ALEX.

OKAY, DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, BUT WHY ARE WE MEETING HERE AND NOT WITH KENT OVER AT THE S.E.R.A.P.H. OFFICE?

YEH, DON'T GIT ME WRONG, TAYA, I LIKE SEEIN' YOU WITHOUT TH' FAKE HAIR AN' ALL, BUT WE STILL COULD'VE DONE THIS WITH KENT AT HIS OFFICE.

I MEAN, YEH I STILL 'AVE A RESEARCH PAPER TO DO, BUT...

BUT KENT IS THE PROBLEM!

I'M SORRY, BUT HE IS. AND I DON'T LIKE IT THAT HE'S SERVING AS OUR "GO-BETWEEN" WITH ALEX.

I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH, TAYA*, BUT WE NEED KENT.

HE'S BEEN WORKING BEHIND-THE-SCENES FOR US SO WE CAN GET THINGS LIKE OUR CPCU ACCESS BACK, TO KEEP SOME SEMBLANCE OF THE GUARDIANS TOGETHER.

(* AFTERMATH*)

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE NEED TO KEEP ON RELYING ON HIM. I WORK WITH ALEX DAILY. WHY CAN'T I JUST SERVE AS THE GO-BETWEEN?

TAYA, MUCH AS I LUV YOU AS ME SIS, I'M WITH STEVIE ON THIS. YOU CAN'T JUS SHUT I'M OUT. I MEAN, HE'S MORE OR LESS YER...

DON'T REMIND ME!

ALTHOUGH... *GRRR*... YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT.

WE NEED HIM... FOR NOW ANYWAY... BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT.

THERE! SEE? NOT SO BAD. NOW... ANY OF YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN GIT SOME "SKIN 2" KNICKERS IN ME SIZE?

MINE ARE POLICE ISSUE, SORRY.

TELL YOU WHAT, KATIE... TOMORROW I'LL CHECK WITH VANGUARD.

WORSE COMES TO WORSE WE CAN USE THE DAWN PATROL PORTAL AND YOU CAN GET SOME FROM THE HOUSE IN CARDIFF.

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH? YOU REALLY LEFT THEM IN THE BASE?

ROCINANTE GROUP, PEREZ PARK

I HAVE TO ADMIT I WAS
SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED
BY YOUR CHOICE OF
OPERATIVES, MY DEAR.
I EXPECTED SOMEONE A
LITTLE MORE... STABLE.

MS. MAPLE
INTERIM SHADOWBORN LEADER

LIBRA ORDER HEADQUARTERS

I SUPPOSE I WOULD BE
IN AGREEMENT WITH
YOU, MS. MAPLE...
ONLY GOLDEN
HAWKFIRE WASN'T ONE
OF OURS.
GIVEN HIS HISTORY, I
THOUGHT THAT MAYBE
HE WAS ONE OF YOURS.

TAINED EVE
LIBRA ORDER LEADER

MISS EVE, IF WE
STILL HAD SUCH
RESOURCES, I
WOULD NOT HAVE
CONTACTED YOU IN
THE FIRST PLACE.*

(* EXPLAINED IN *AFTERMATH* >)

YOU HAVE A POINT.
BUT REST ASSURED, MY
OPERATIVE SHOULD BE
ARRIVING SHORTLY.
AND YOU WILL SEE FOR
YOURSELF HOW EFFECTIVE
MY RESOURCES ARE
AGAINST MS. POWERS.

I EXPECT NOTHING
LESS FROM YOUR
ORGANIZATION.
GOOD-BYE.

SO IF SHE DIDN'T
RECRUIT GOLDEN
HAWKFIRE, THEN
WHO DID?

CURIOUSER AND
CURIOUSER...

LIBRA... ONLY
YOU COULD GIVE
SUCH POWER TO
A DEMIGOD.
WAS IT YOU?

WERE YOU THE
ONE BEHIND
GOLDEN
HAWKFIRE'S
RETURN?

ARE YOU
THERE?
PLEASE
TELL ME...



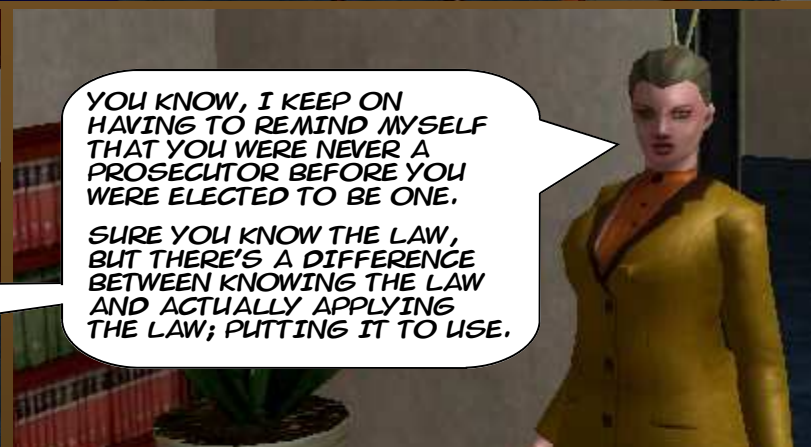
MISSUS
BANKS...

MISTER
WENTWORTH...



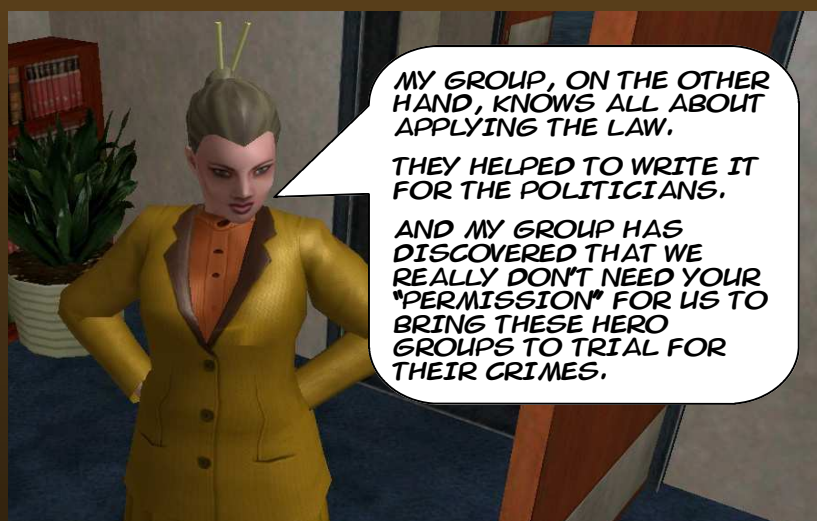
IF YOU ARE
PLANNING ON
TRYING TO
CHANGE MY MIND
ABOUT YOUR
LITTLE CRUSADE...

OH WE'VE GONE
WAY BEYOND THAT
PARTICULAR
CONVERSATION.



YOU KNOW, I KEEP ON
HAVING TO REMIND MYSELF
THAT YOU WERE NEVER A
PROSECUTOR BEFORE YOU
WERE ELECTED TO BE ONE.

SURE YOU KNOW THE LAW,
BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN KNOWING THE LAW
AND ACTUALLY APPLYING
THE LAW; PUTTING IT TO USE.



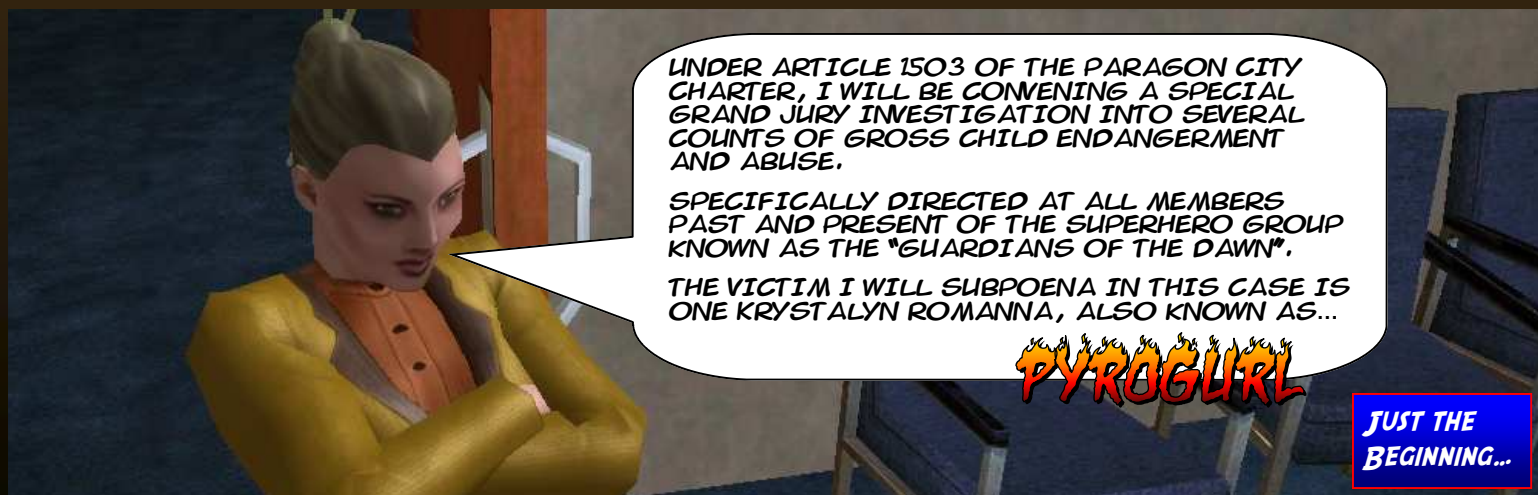
MY GROUP, ON THE OTHER
HAND, KNOWS ALL ABOUT
APPLYING THE LAW.

THEY HELPED TO WRITE IT
FOR THE POLITICIANS.

AND MY GROUP HAS
DISCOVERED THAT WE
REALLY DON'T NEED YOUR
"PERMISSION" FOR US TO
BRING THESE HERO
GROUPS TO TRIAL FOR
THEIR CRIMES.



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



UNDER ARTICLE 1503 OF THE PARAGON CITY
CHARTER, I WILL BE CONVENING A SPECIAL
GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION INTO SEVERAL
COUNTS OF GROSS CHILD ENDANGERMENT
AND ABUSE.

SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT ALL MEMBERS
PAST AND PRESENT OF THE SUPERHERO GROUP
KNOWN AS THE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN".

THE VICTIM I WILL SUBPOENA IN THIS CASE IS
ONE KRYSTALYN ROMANNA, ALSO KNOWN AS...

PYROGLRL

JUST THE
BEGINNING...

POWER TRIP



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

A NEW DAWN FOR THE GUARDIANS

And welcome to the dawning of the new comic series.

“The Guardian Powers” is a follow-up to the **“Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight”** series which ran from October of 2009 until October 2011. Thirty issues in all, from the text-only **Issue #0** to the crossover special **“Guardians of the Dawn AFTERMATH”**. Two years full of stories of heroes and heroines, villains, and even deities (*or at least powerful entities that believed themselves to be deities*).

To those who are new to this series, the **“Guardians of the Dawn”** were a superhero group in Paragon City, otherwise known without much exaggeration as the **“City of Heroes”**. This is a city where superheroes are not only accepted and respected, but also have become an essential part of the city’s culture. It is not uncommon to have stores and restaurants not only paying homage to heroes and superheroes with hero-themed products, but also catering to them as customers.

The Guardians were not THE PREMIERE superhero group in the city. That distinction still goes to the Freedom Phalanx; the first and still the best hero group around. Nor were the Guardians ranked as the number two or number three or even anywhere near the top ten hero groups for the city. But they did get plenty of media attention, partially because of the huge fan support for one of their key members: **Galatea Powers**.

As the survivor of an alternate Earth that no longer exists, Galatea was flung into the “Primal Universe” with no memory of who she was or how she got there. Eventually with help from her cousin, **Icon Powers**, she was able to fill in a lot of the missing pieces of her life, including parts that were supposed to be kept secret. During that time, she was “adopted” by the Powers family of this world, even though her first encounter with the young Welsh heroine **Lyon Powers** was far from friendly.

Rounding out our quintet of principal characters are **Captain Paragonna**, the original leader and founding member of the Guardians, and **Alex Wentworth**, formerly the **Libertarian Avenger** and now serving as the newly-elected District Attorney for Paragon City.

Much of what happened to the Guardians was covered in “AFTERMATH”, including how and why the group was disbanded. What you’ll see now is a small team of those five heroes struggling to restore their team’s status in the

Continues on next page...

community after what happened to Galaxy City, a zone in Paragon City that was destroyed by an alien race called the Shivans. Unable to officially defend the group, these five must clear their group's reputation through concrete evidence and by locating some of their missing teammates, including those now being accused of playing a part in that disaster.

In future issues, you will see more of the Guardians, but the series won't be focusing too much time on those other members as "Spotlight" did. You probably will not see all five main characters in every issue. Some characters you'll see more often than others. Some issues could very well be about only one or two of the main characters.

And just like in "Spotlight", you'll see plenty of guest appearances; not only of the legendary heroes of Paragon City like Statesman, but also heroes and villains from other comic series. Some that have been mentioned in "Spotlight", and others that have been seen in other "City of Heroes" comics. You'll also see more than just Paragon City and the Rogue Isles. A whole new universe is out there ready to be seen, including a certain character that will make an impression both on the readers and on our quintet of heroes.

There's a lot to go over, and it all starts with this first issue. And if it seems too much for the readers, don't worry. You can always check with the official website for more information about this series, as well as to catch up on those other comics.

The address is...

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Tainted Eve's "operative" arrives in Paragon City; Captain Paragonna makes a startling discovery about a case from those renegade "Lady Templar" days; and what is Kent Poderes up to that is so secretive that he has to break out his Icon Powers outfit again, and how does this involve the other Guardians? Find out in Issue #2!



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