

BLUE KING



STUDIOS

ISSUE 3

CITY OF HEROES™

HEROES

**DREAD CARNIVALE
PART 1**



CITY OF HEROES™

DELUXE



**“There is
a place we
can all be
Heroes.”**



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YAAAAAAAAH!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH THESE CLOCKWORK KING 'BOTS?

I THINK HORUS JUST HATES THEM BECAUSE THEY SCREWED UP HIS WINDOW REMOTE CONTROL.

YEAH, WELL, I THINK HORUS HAS PROBLEMS WITH HIS LITTLE GADGETS THAT GO WAY BEYOND THESE CLOCKWORK GUYS.



AT LEAST HIS ARMOR DOESN'T MALFUNCTION! AS LONG AS THE POWER FIST AND FLIGHT PACK WORK, I'M HAPPY.

CITY OF HEROES

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THAT FELT REALLY GOOD! WE SURE SHOWED 'EM.

YOU DID MOST OF THE SHOWING THERE, H. GOOD WORK.

AND WE'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO GET READY FOR TONIGHT.



OH YEAH...THE DOCTOR'S ASSOCIATION BENEFIT. I THOUGHT WE MIGHT DO A LITTLE PATROLLING...

ARE YOU KIDDING! THIS IS GOING TO BE A BIG TIME PARTY! I HEAR THE BACK ALLEY BRAWLER HIMSELF WILL BE THERE.



PLUS IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE. THEY'RE RAISING MONEY TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF VAHZILOCK'S ZOMBIE FACTORY THAT WE UNCOVERED. AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, WE'VE GOT TO SHOW UP.

BUT THERE'S GONNA BE A TON OF OTHERS THERE WHO'VE BEEN FIGHTING VAHZILOCK. THEY WON'T EVEN MISS US.



COME ON H! IT'S A PARTY. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO A MAJOR LEAGUE SHINDIG LIKE THIS?

BEFORE THE WAR I WENT TO A FEW OF THEM...THEY WERE SOMEWHAT ENTERTAINING I SUPPOSE.



WELL, IT'S SETTLED THEN! LET'S HIT THE ROAD. I'VE GOT A HAIR APPOINTMENT AND THEN I HAVE TO PICK UP MY TUX.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN TUX? AREN'T YOU GOING TO WEAR YOUR COSTUMES?



WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY? THIS IS A BLACK TIE AFFAIR. I'M NOT WEARING SPANDEX AND KEVLAR.

I EVEN BOUGHT A DRESS - ALTHOUGH I'M GOING TO RETURN IT TOMORROW MORNING.



YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GONNA HAVE TO BEG OFF. I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I WANTED TO MAKE SOME TUNE-UPS ON THOSE PANIC BUTTONS I GAVE YOU GUYS. AND MY TWO'S BEEN ACTING UP, I NEED TO FIX IT.



YOU GUYS GO ON. HAVE A GOOD TIME. I'LL BE FINE.



WELL, THAT WAS WEIRD.

YEAH.

WHATEVER. LET'S GET GOING. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THIS PARTY!

SIS!
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS
WHERE I AM. I JUST WANTED TO
CALL AND LET YOU KNOW THAT I JUST
SAW THAT SINGER YOU LOVE SO MUCH
- DILLON CHASE. BET YOU WISH
YOU WERE HERE HUH?



YOU CAN BRAG TO YOUR
SISTER LATER! COME ON,
LET'S GET INSIDE.

OK SIS, GOTTA GO.
THE *MAYOR* WANTS TO
MEET ME!



YEAH, RIGHT.

OH WOW...HOW'S
MY TIE?

WOW INDEED...I
SHOULD'VE "BORROWED"
A BETTER DRESS...



YOU MIGHT MAKE LESS OF
A SCENE IF YOU DIDN'T
TALK QUITE SO LOW.

OH MY GOD! LOOK!
IT'S THE *BACK ALLEY
BRAWLER*.

AND HE'S TALKING
TO THE *MAYOR*.

I'D HATE TO SEE
WHAT YOU'D DO IF *THE
STATESMAN* SHOWED UP.

AND OVER THERE.
WHO'S *THAT*? ISN'T
HE SOMEBODY?

YOU MEAN *THE
WAITER*?

NO, NO, NEXT
TO HIM...





ARE WE THE *ONLY* PEOPLE HERE WHO AREN'T FAMOUS?

WELL...THE WAITERS DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR.

EXCEPT THAT ONE.

OH, YEAH, I THINK I SAW HIM IN COSTUME IN *PEREZ PARK* ONCE...

AND THAT GIRL OVER THERE - I KNOW I'VE SEEN HER ON TV BEFORE.

OH YEAH! SHE'S THAT MODEL WHO DOES THE WEATHER ON CHANNEL 8.

EXCUSE ME



HI, I'M MICHAEL WHITE. I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO CONGRATULATE...

YOU'RE THE *BACK ALLEY BRAWLER!*

AHEM. YES. AND YOU'RE *APOGEE* RIGHT?

APEX.



SORRY. *APEX*, THAT'S RIGHT. AND *WAR WITCH*. NICE JOB ON THAT *VAHZILOK* CASE.

THANK YOU SIR. IT'S GREAT...IT'S AN HONOR.

AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.

GOOD TO MEET BOTH OF YOU. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. WASN'T THERE A THIRD FELLA?

HORUS. HE COULDN'T MAKE IT. *CRIME NEVER SLEEPS* AND ALL THAT. YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES...

MAN, DO I EVER. ANYWAY, BEST OF LUCK TO ALL THREE OF YOU.

THANK YOU SIR.



THAT WAS *SO COOL!*

YEAH IT WAS. BUT YOU'RE *SUCH A DOOFUS.*

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE RECOGNIZED US!



OK, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUR ACT TOGETHER HERE. THIS IS A CHANCE TO REALLY NETWORK AND MAKE SOME VALUABLE CONTACTS.

RIGHT. YEAH, OF COURSE.

I THINK I NEED A DRINK.



WOULD YOU MIND FETCHING ME ONE AS WELL?

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU MS. ROURKE. I'M...

HELLO THERE DARLING. I'M HILLARY ROURKE.

WHY YOU'RE APEX OF COURSE. I IMAGINE EVERY WOMAN HERE KNOWS EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE.



WELL, I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT...

DON'T BE SO MODEST. YOU'RE THE TOAST OF THE TOWN.

I'M FLATTERED YOU THINK SO. BUT WHAT CAN I GET YOU TO DRINK?



WHY DON'T YOU ESCORT ME ON OVER TO THE BAR AND HELP ME CHOOSE?

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE. I'LL BE THE ENVY OF EVERY MAN IN THE ROOM WITH YOU ON MY ARM.

AND I THE ENVY OF EVERY WOMAN. THAT MAKES US QUITE A COUPLE.

DON'T WORRY... I'LL BE FINE.



IT'S A WONDERFUL THING YOU DID, UNCOVERING THAT RING OF CORRUPT DOCTORS. WHY MY OWN COSMETIC SURGEON WAS ON THE LIST OF THOSE CAPTURED.

I AIM TO PLEASE MAM. ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, I ASSURE YOU.

SO MODEST. BUT PLEASE, DON'T CALL ME MAM. IT'S HILLARY. IF WE'RE GOING TO BE CLOSE, WE SHOULD BE ON A FIRST NAME BASIS.



AND MY NAME IS HERNANDO BARRERA. HERNANDO IF YOU PLEASE.

THIS IS SOME PARTY. REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF THE SCENE BACK IN MIAMI BEACH, ONLY WITH MORE SUPER POWERS.



OH IT'S ALL RIGHT I SUPPOSE. A LITTLE STAID FOR MY TASTES. THE REAL PARTY STARTS LATER...IF YOU KNOW WHO TO ASK FOR AN INVITE.

LUCKILY FOR YOU, NOW YOU DO.



"OOH APEX, YOU'RE SO STRONG! WON'T YOU RESCUE ME FROM THIS **BUTT-UGLY** DRESS I PAID \$5000 FOR."

"OH, MS. ROURKE, I'M A BIG FAMOUS HERO NOW. OF COURSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR LITTLE PROBLEM."



I'M SORRY, WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?

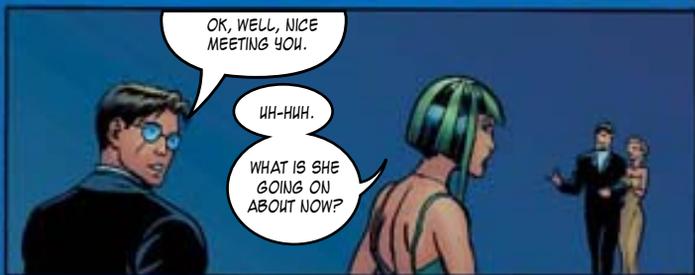
WHAT?!? NO, I'M SORRY. JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.

OH, I SEE, SORRY.



MY NAME'S CLIFF. CAN I GET YOU A DRINK OR ANYTHING?

NO, I'M FINE THANKS.



OK, WELL, NICE MEETING YOU.

UH-HUH.

WHAT IS SHE GOING ON ABOUT NOW?



HEY *CLARISSA*! HILLARY INVITED US TO COME WITH HER TO SOME PRIVATE PARTY SHE KNOWS ABOUT. IT SOUNDS MUCH COOLER THAN THIS PLACE.

DARLING, YOU SIMPLY *MUST* COME. IT'LL BE TREMENDOUS FUN, AND YOUR *ENSEMBLE* WILL FIT IN MUCH BETTER.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY *OUTFIT*?

NOTHING AT ALL DARLING. IT'S VERY *EIGHTIES-PUNK-CHIC*. ESPECIALLY THE TWO-TONE HAIR. I LOVE IT.

YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU LOVE IT...

I'M VERY HARD TO READ. TRUST ME, YOU'LL HAVE A *BLAST*.



WHY DID YOU TELL HER MY NAME?

C'MON CLARISSA, IT'LL BE COOL. HILLARY SAYS WE'LL GET TO SEE HOW HEROES REALLY PARTY IN THIS TOWN.

SORRY ABOUT THAT. DON'T WORRY, SHE'S COOL, AND SHE KNOWS EVERYONE. YOU SAID WE SHOULD MAKE CONTACTS.

FINE, BUT SHE BETTER NOT MAKE ANY MORE COMMENTS ABOUT MY HAIR OR SHE'S GETTING A FLAMING SWORD UP HER *STUCK-UP BUTT*.



COME ON HERNANDO - SHOW ME SOME OF THAT LATIN RHYTHM I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT.

OH, I DOUBT THAT DARLING. COME ON!

OK, BUT BE CAREFUL, IT MIGHT GET TOO HOT FOR YOU.



NO, NO, DON'T MIND ME. I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE.

>TSSK<. "LATIN RHYTHM." PLEASE!



WHATCHOO NEED HOT STUFF?

HOW ABOUT A BOTTLE OF WATER.

SURE THING. EIGHT BUCKS.

YOU'RE KIDDING RIGHT? EIGHT DOLLARS FOR A BOTTLE OF WATER?

FORGET IT.



AT LEAST THE DRINKS WERE FREE AT THE LAST PARTY...

THERE'S GOTTA BE A WATER FOUNTAIN OR BATHROOM AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.



YOU OWE US MONEY *RAWL*. YOU TOOK ON PRODUCT AND YOU'RE THREE DAYS LATE WITH WHAT WE'RE OWED.

I CAN'T SELL IT! YOU'VE FLOODED THE STREETS WITH THE STUFF! NO ONE'S BUYING RIGHT NOW - NOT AT THE RIGHT PRICES ANYWAY.



THAT'S NOT REALLY OUR PROBLEM *RAWL*. YOU OWE THE *7500* MONEY OR BLOOD. YOUR CHOICE.

PLEASE! GIMME ANOTHER DAY, I *SWEAR* I'LL GET THE MONEY.

I'LL NEED SOME COLLATERAL. YOUR EAR LOOKS ABOUT RIGHT.



YOU BOYS DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING MUCH FUN. DON'T YOU KNOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PARTY?

COME ON. LET'S DANCE.



NICE KICK. TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT COUNT. YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANOTHER CHANCE.

YOU GOT A PRETTY VOICE LADY. I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR YA SCREAM.



YOU DO HAVE THE MOVES HERNANDO.

I WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE MEAN STREETS OF SOUTH BEACH. IF YOU CAN'T DANCE AND LOOK BEAUTIFUL, YOU'LL GET NOWHERE IN LIFE.

WELL THEN, I'M SURE YOU'D HAVE NO PROBLEM AT ALL!



WHY DID YOU LEAVE? WHY COME TO PARAGON CITY?

TO DO GOOD I GUESS. LIKE WITH THAT VAHBILOK THING. I WANTED TO BE MORE THAN ANOTHER PRETTY FACE.

DON'T DOWNPLAY THE VIRTUES OF HAVING A PRETTY FACE!

I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT...NOT IN YOUR PRESENCE.



WHAT THE...!

MY, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR FRIEND FOUND SOME PLAYMATES.



I COULD USE A HAND HERE APEX!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH POWERFUL FRIENDS IN THE BUILDING. AND



HEY...WHAT DID YOU DO?

JUST HOLD STILL FOR A MOMENT MY DARLING. AS YOU'LL SEE, I'VE GOT SECURITY ALL TAKEN CARE OF.

MY FRIENDS HAVE BETTER HAIR.





DID YOU GUYS GET LOST ON THE WAY TO THE RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL OR SOMETHING?



MY DEAR CLARISSA. PLEASE SHEATHE...OR DO WHATEVER YOU DO WITH THAT SWORD OF YOURS. MY GIRLS HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.



SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK YOUR "GIRLS" ARE GOING TO TURN THESE DRUG DEALERS OVER TO THE POLICE.

THIS IS MY PARTY DEAR, AND THESE ARE MY RULES. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS. WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE LADIES ROOM AND FRESHEN UP?

NOT GONNA HAPPEN LADY.



WELL THEN, I SUPPOSE THE GIRLS WILL JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AS WELL.



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ARENET



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ONLINE GAMING
WITH NO FEES

ENTER A WORLD OF

DANGER

AND

GLORY

LINEAGE™ II

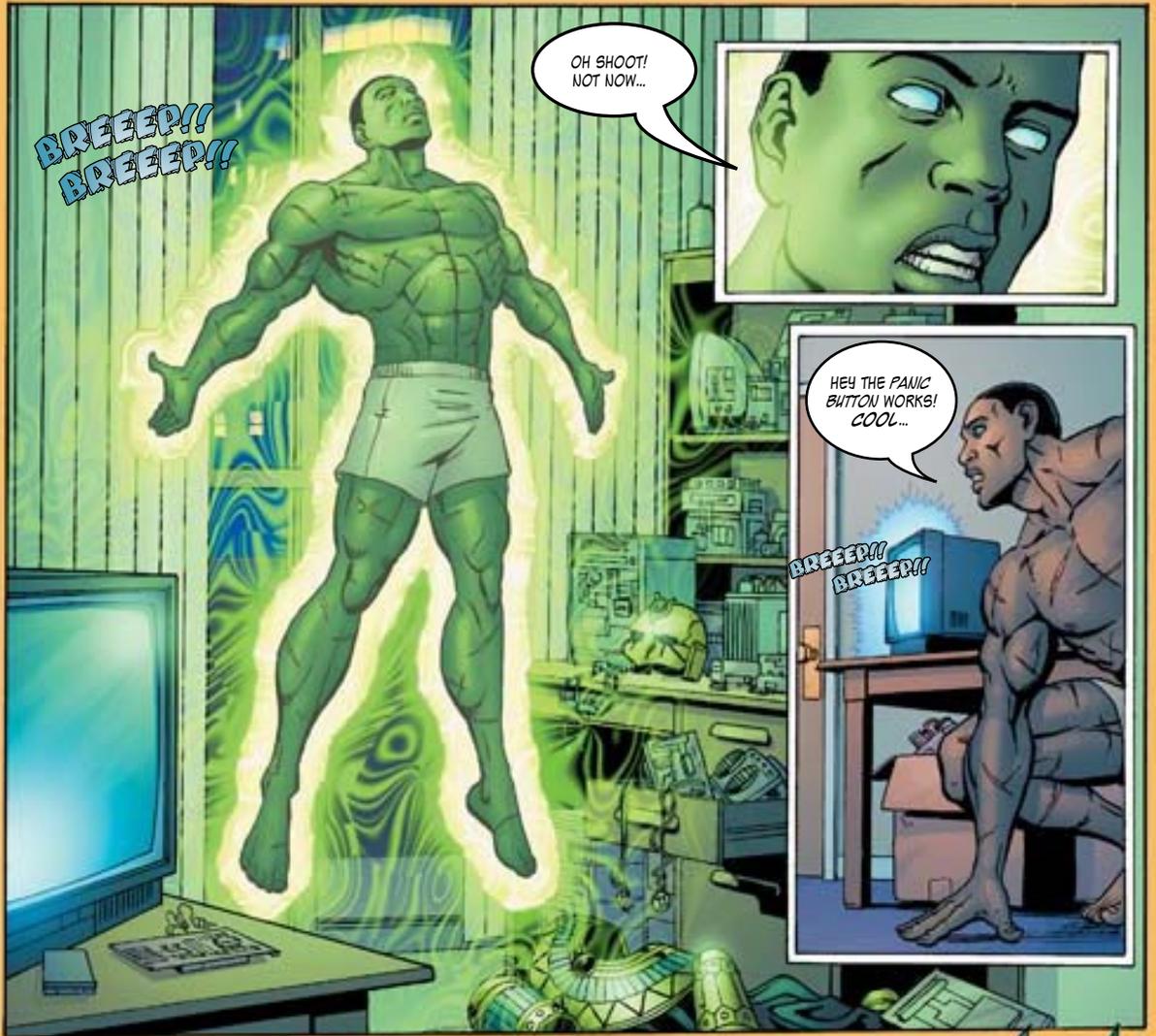
THE CHAOTIC CHRONICLE

Deluxe

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WHICH MEANS THAT APEX AND WAR WITCH ARE IN TROUBLE!

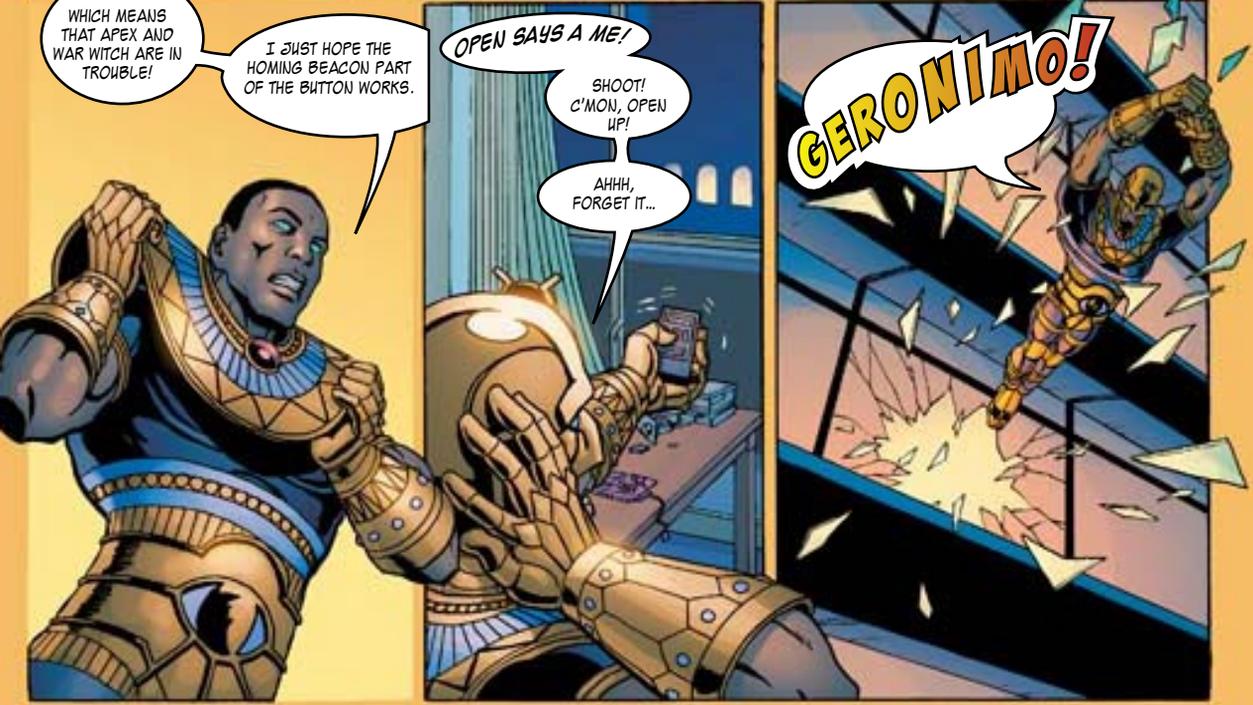
I JUST HOPE THE HOMING BEACON PART OF THE BUTTON WORKS.

OPEN SAYS A ME!

SHOOT! C'MON, OPEN UP!

AHHH, FORGET IT...

GERONIMO!





APEX! I COULD USE SOME BLASTED HELP HERE!



HERNANDO WON'T LEAVE MY SIDE DARLING, NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE WANTS TO, WILL YOU DARLING?

BUT I CAN SEE YOU REALLY DO WANT TO HELP YOUR LITTLE FRIEND.



YOU'D BETTER LET HIM THE HELL GO!

IT'S A SHAME HERNANDO. YOU SHOWED REAL PROMISE. I COULD'VE BEEN HAPPY WITH YOU FOR AT LEAST A FEW DAYS. BUT THIS TACTLESS LITTLE WITCH OF YOURS HAS QUITE SPOILED THE MOOD.



OWWWW!



THANKS!

NO PROB. YOU READY TO KICK SOME REN FAIRE REJECT BUTT?

ALWAYS.





HE IS CUTE.

OW!

IN A RATHER
MINCIBLE MANNER I
SUPPOSE.



MUCH TOO
SLOW, YOU POOR
DEAR.

AND MUCH,
MUCH TOO
CLUMSY.



NICE MOVES
HANDSOME. BUT YOU
BETTER LOOK OUT
BEHIND YOU.

AAAAAAAH!



HAS
ANYONE EVER
TOLD YOU THAT YOU
HAVE A WONDERFULLY
MASCULINE
SCREAM?



DON'T STRUGGLE
SWEETIE, OR
THE CUT WILL BE
UNEVEN



AAAAAH!



WHAT THE HECK HAVE YOU GUYS GOTTEN YOURSELVES INTO HERE?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...YOUR PANIC BUTTON ACTUALLY WORKED.



WELL LITTLE WITCHY-POO, I'M SURE THIS ISN'T THE FIRST PARTY YOU'VE RUINED IN YOUR LIFE.

OK, GUYS, ON THE COUNT OF THREE.

AT LEAST YOUR FRIEND KNOWS HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE.

NO, MAKE IT TWO.

ONE...



BEFORE YOU TEST THE LIMITS OF YOUR COUNTING, YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK AROUND.

YOU'VE MANAGED TO SET THIS WHOLE BUILDING ON FIRE WITH THAT DREADFUL LITTLE TOY SWORD OF YOURS.

DON'T YOU THINK YOU OWE IT TO THESE PEOPLE TO SAVE THEM, NOW THAT YOU'VE RUINED THEIR EVENING?



LET HER GO! WE NEED TO HELP THESE PEOPLE.

THIS ISN'T MY FAULT! WE CAN'T LET HER...

LISTEN! WE NEED TO PUT OUT THIS FIRE - WE NEED YOUR ICE POWERS.

TOODLES.

@#*!\$!\$*#



45 MINUTES LATER

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WERE AT LEAST *NINE* PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THE FIRE - MOST IN THE BASEMENT. THERE WAS NO WAY ANYONE COULD HAVE GOTTEN TO THEM IN TIME.

OK, THANKS.



THIS ISN'T OUR FAULT. WE'RE NOT THE BAD GUYS HERE.

YEAH, BUT I STARTED THAT FIRE. THAT *WAS* MY FAULT.

WE GOT PLAYED - MANIPULATED INTO THIS.



DON'T WALK AWAY! COME ON, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

I NEED TO MEDITATE.



WHAT IS SHE DOING?

APPARENTLY SHE'S MEDITATING.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET? *NOW?*

DON'T ASK ME. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE GOES INTO THOSE TRANCES OF HERS.



I JUST HOPE IT HELPS HER.



WHAT IS IT CHILD? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

I...I MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.
I MADE A MISTAKE AND PEOPLE DIED.

SHOW US CLARISSA.



SHOW US WHAT HAPPENED.



THIS IS INDEED TERRIBLE CLARISSA. ANY DEATH IS A TRAGEDY - BUT SUCH SENSELESS SUFFERING AND PAIN IS MOST HORRIFYING.



THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT MY CHILD.
HOWEVER, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. YOU MUST MAKE IT RIGHT.



THERE ARE GREATER FORCES AT WORK HERE THAN YOU REALIZE. MUCH GREATER.



THE WOMEN YOU FOUGHT TONIGHT WERE PART OF THE CARNIVAL OF SHADOWS - RAVENOUS HEIRS TO A CENTURIES OLD POWER.



THEIR POWER COMES FROM THE DEVOURING OF HUMAN SOULS - A FOOD SOURCE THAT GIVES THEM GREAT POWER INDEED.



THEY HAVE NO CARE OR CAUSE EXCEPT THEIR OWN PLEASURE - AND THE WHIMS OF THEIR MISTRESS, *VANESSA DEVORE*.



YOU MET ONE OF HER CLOSEST SERVANTS TONIGHT - THIS *HILLARY ROHRKE* SITS AT THE MISTRESS' RIGHT HAND, ALTHOUGH WE KNOW A SECRET SHE KEEPS EVEN FROM VANESSA.



YOU MUST FIND HER AND STOP HER AND AVENGE THOSE WHOSE DEATHS SHE CAUSED TONIGHT. TO DO THAT, YOU MUST FIND HER MISTRESS.



FIRST, WE MUST TELL YOU THE TALE OF *SALOME'S RUBY*. THEN FIND HER, AND, WITH OUR HELP, JUSTICE WILL BE DONE



I'LL FIND HER. YOU BET I'LL FIND HER. JUST TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW.



SO, UM, SHOULD WE GO HOME OR TRY AND CHASE THOSE CRAZY LADIES OR WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW MAN. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THEY WERE. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM.

MAYBE WAR WITCH WILL COME UP WITH A PLAN.
INVOLVING EYE OF NEWT AND TOE OF FROG OR SOMETHING. I DUNNO WHAT GOOD THAT'LL DO US.



YOU KNOW I CAN HEAR EVERY WORD YOU SAY.



AND YES, I DO KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT - ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT IN FACT INVOLVE ANY NEWT PARTS.



NINE PEOPLE DIED HERE TONIGHT. PART OF THAT'S MY FAULT. BUT MOSTLY A WOMAN NAMED VANESSA DEVORE IS TO BLAME.

WE'RE GOING TO FIND HER AND KICK HER BUTT.

COOL.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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to
Survive!***



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CITY OF VILLAINS

SOMETHING
WICKED
THIS WAY
COMES

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