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A large, faint watermark logo for 'COH COMICS' is visible in the background. It consists of the letters 'COH' in a stylized font above the word 'COMICS' in a similar font, all enclosed within a thin oval border.

THE ADVENTURES OF PIOUS HUNTER

PRIEST

ISSUE # 1 - ORIGINS OF DAMSEL

November 29th 2007



I stand for all things good and oppose all things evil. I support the weak and defend the innocent.

I am the judge, jury and executioner. I am the hope of the people. I am the Priest.

A skilled mutant, born with three abilities - cell regeneration, duplication and absorption. This means I can't really die, unless every cell is destroyed. I can also clone myself, but most useful is my power to absorb and utilize the molecular structure of anything.

Last week, I caused a young lady injury, but I found her and healed her wounds. Doctors say the accident triggered a mutation inside.

Now she is super-powered and interested in helping people. I've accepted her safety as my responsibility and tonight, I have agreed to coach her at Pocket D's battle terminals.



God, I'm so excited. The Priest! Of all heroes, I get to meet one of the most powerful, the most handsome, the most... oh God, here he comes!

Her name is Rachel Grey and I once had a crush on her, way back in early adolescence. Funny how life is sometimes. Coincidences.

If I told her my name, she might actually remember me, even after 10 years. I still do.

We lived in New York, same neighbourhood. Even went to the same elementary school. I was 14, she was 12. Always the girl next door.

Doctor said her mutant genes laid dormant until the accident, where my mask fell off during an airborne battle with *Pistol, an old nemesis, and struck Rachel's head. Knock-out.

Coincidentally, she became morphogenetic like me. Her ability, to analyse and imitate the molecular structure of anything. Tonight we will identify her potential and limitations.

Priest... hi!



Good evening Rachel. You're wearing clothes similar to mine!

On the phone, you said to dress appropriately so I thought, why not.

Okay, well. Shall we get started then?

Already? I was hoping to get to know you a little more.

BATTLE TERMINAL



We'll talk once we're inside. Now come quickly, we haven't much time

The aim of this training is to test the extent of your unique ability as much as we can.

Now you've only had your powers for a week so I don't expect a great deal of control. But after training, we shall engage in combat and see how well you perform. You ready?

He looks kinda cute when he's talking. He's so serious!

Sorry, what? Ready for what?

Oh my God!

Aahh!




You alright?

Yeah, I'm fine.
Wasn't prepared that's all.
Never actually used one of
these arenas before.

The matrix transported us into a virtual environment where only senses are affected, no physical injury can actually be sustained.

It loaded us a derelict office. Perfect for training: good space with plenty objects .



Lets get started.

How much do you already know, about your new powers.

I think it started four years ago, with photographic memory. I learnt all the heroes of Paragon City by name, face and ability. Heroes get alot of written medial


Then thanks to you, the mutation was taken further; I can actually morph my molecular structure like you do. We're both advanced shape shifters, but unlike you Priest, I don't need physical contact.

I don't need to acquire or absorb molecular information. I just analyze with extrasensory visions and adopt what I see. That's pretty much all I know. I did some background research, scientific analysis, experiments. I even changed my hair.

Impressive. In just a short time, you have learnt and understood your body's new abilities. Clearly you're a fast learner. You've experimented with your hair. Lets try something bigger. Morph into me, as I am.


Oh, with pleasure!
With or without your clothes?

No, k-keep some clothes on, err, please.



Very good. That is a flawless copy.

Shapeshifting is easy. Power mimicking is what takes more concentration.




Experimented with any yet?

I saw the Britanic using energy flight, I can sort of levitate but I don't like doing it, almost fell to my death first time round. Bulletshield's density control is my favourite. That's all so far.

You can do alot with density control. Increase density for near invulnerability and super strength or decrease density for phaseshifting through walls and objects. You could even run across the ocean at great speed, or become as light as air for superb leaping. Keep density control.




Okay.




Rachel, I'm glad you have decided to help people with your abilities. An astonishing amount of evolved humans, aliens and mad scientists chose to use power for selfish or extreme ends. Also, I'm partly responsible for what happened to you, so I promise to teach you and guide you through your heroing career. If you'll let me.

Woo-whooll




Good. Then its safe to proceed with the next lesson. I will teach you what I think has to be the most powerful ability known to man. It was the first power I acquired and it almost killed me - telepathy. After three years of familiarity I have reached the advanced level of telekenesis, good for shielding yourself from attack or hurling objects at the foe. It can develop to mind control, psychic illusions, precognition, clairvoyence; good for mental assassinations or finding missing people and clairsentience; great for looking into crime scenes. Try it.

Okay.




Free your mind.



Yup. Got it.
Wow! I can see and hear
through my mind!



Good.
Well done.



Wait, something's
wrong! I'm losing sense of
colour. People are fighting in here!
Ouch, my head hurts! Priest,
what's happening?!

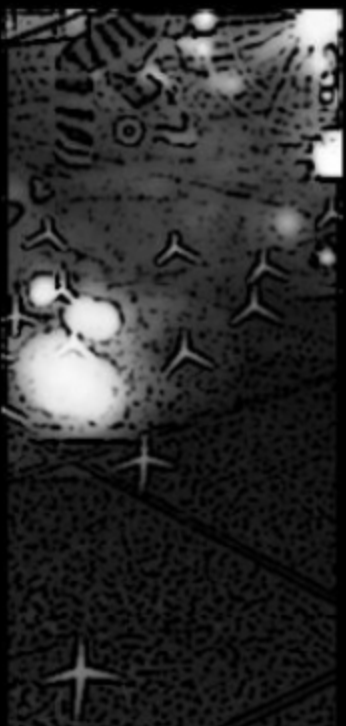


Where am I?
Oh my God is that
Powerstone?!

Who's that with the gun,
is that... oh its only Big Game.
Ha-ah! He's getting his arse
kicked by Powerstone!

Wonder if they're
sparring for fun or actually
trying to kill each other.

I'm guessing this
is the combat simulation
matrix's recent past.





Okay new favourite power, clairsentience! Wish I was psychic sooner, reading this machine's past is even better than freeview!

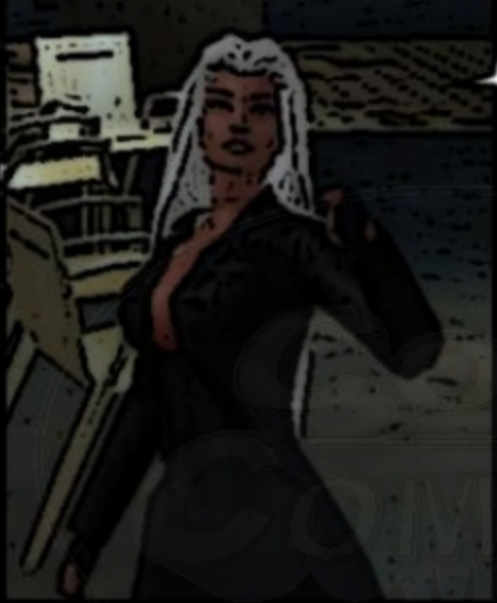


Everything is rich in detail the smell of burning cotton, the sound of energy exploding, I can even feel Powerstone's earthquakes, If only it wasn't black and white!

Rachel! I can hear you talking. Funs over, wake up!

Priest, don't be a spoil-sport! I'm watching Powerstone kick ass, come in and see for yourself.

Come on Rachel, we have work to do!



Fine, I'm out!
Now what?

You'll need a
ranged offensive
ability. Lets see...



Actually, what's
your name?

You do have a
name, don't you?

...

...

Rachel, we can get better acquainted later. But right now...

If she finds out I am Pious Hunter, she'll remember everything! I shan't risk having emotions distract us.

Right now, you need to learn to fight, okay?

PIOUS HUNTER?!

from Junior High School?
Oh my God, you had a crush on me when I was in 7th grade.
You are the Priest?!

Yes.

The first rule of telepathy - always keep your thoughts guarded. I have to admit, she was good and I was careless.



Wow!
You got hott!

Come here, I wanna
give you a hug!



Pyrokinesis

What?!

I'll teach you to
throw fire. Then we're
done for today.

Oh, right.



Watch and learn.

Really increase your body temperature, burn it outwards with more concentration, you can adjust intensity, volume and size according to the level of damage or harm you need to cause. Usually, you only need to singe the foe, the pain on human skin is enough to make them pass out.

Alright, I got it.
So, can I call you Pious?

If you must, We'll start
with a still target; throw
the fire at me.

So you're what, 24?
You were only two years
older than me.

Rachel, just
throw the fire.

Aww, you still
like me don't you?

Can we please
focus on the task?



I don't want to fight you.

It is a dangerous world out there. Especially for mutants.



So if you want to help people, you need to be able to DEFEND YOURSELF!

Ahhhh!



Oh my God!
HELP!



Oh God! He's killed me!
He's killed me!



Good.

You phaseshifted through those attacks. Just as I was starting to have my doubts.

PIOUS! You just tried to KILL ME!

Get used to it.



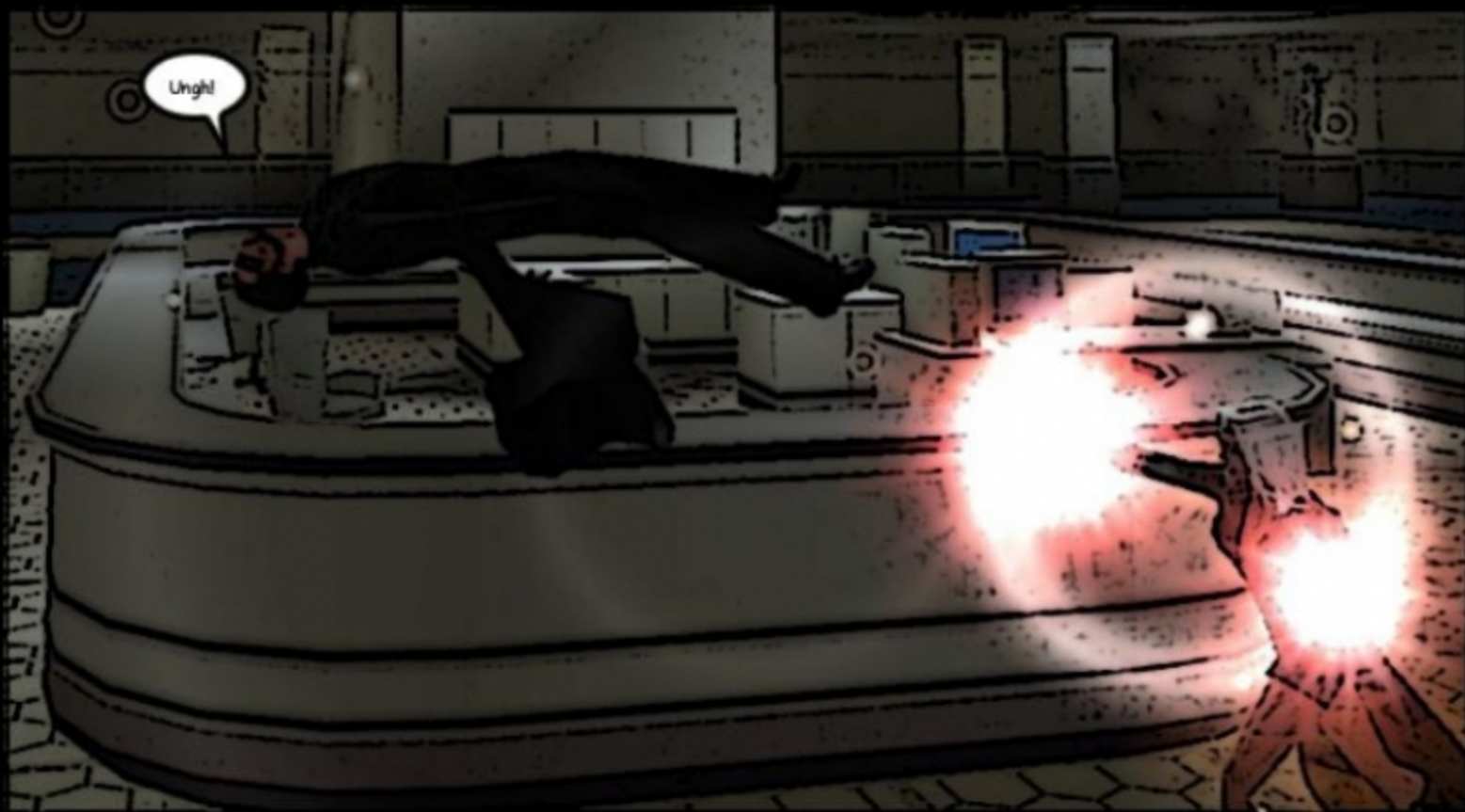
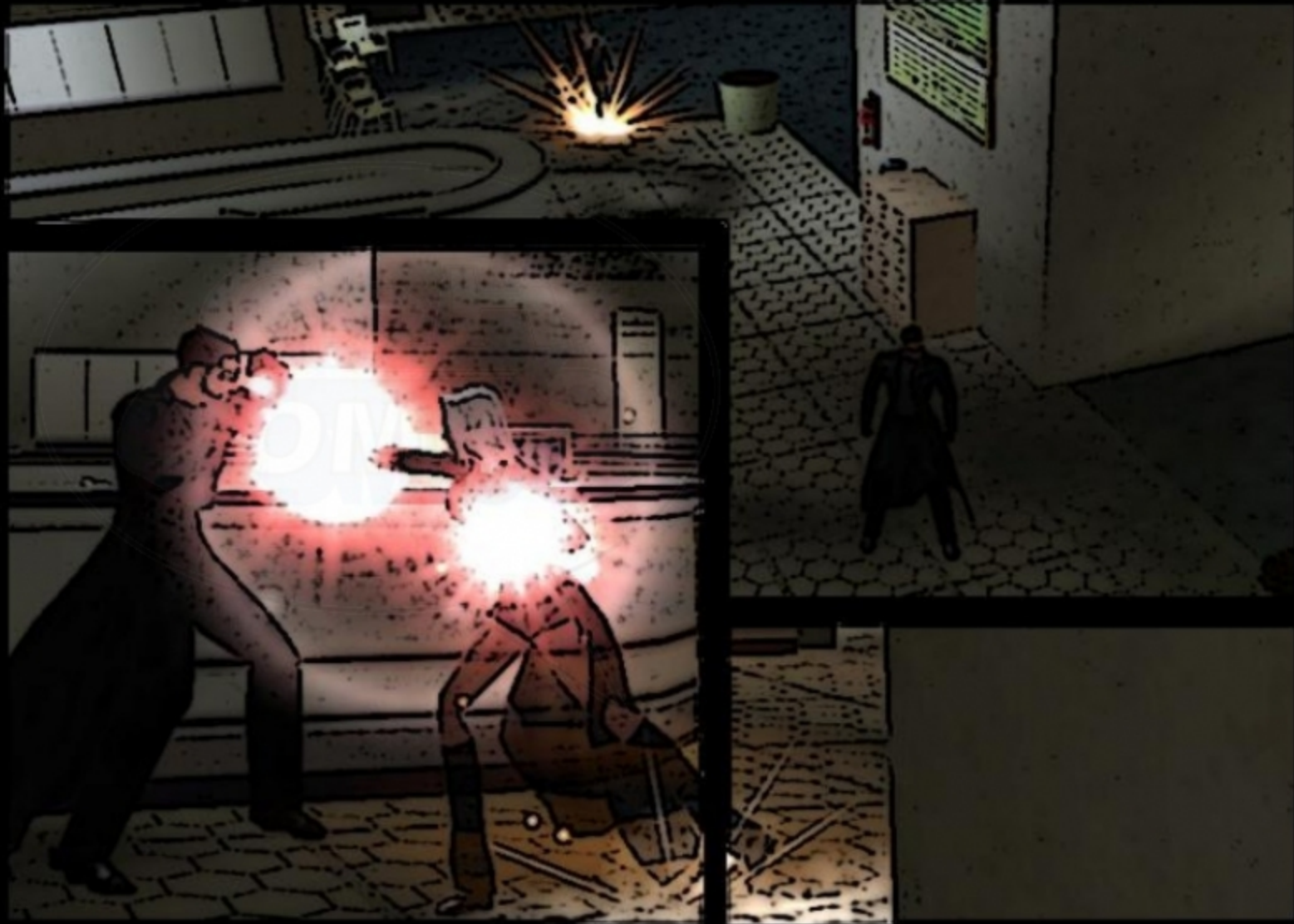
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How dare you
do that to me.

I had tol Thought you
needed to get used to fighting.
Guess I was wrong.

There are people
out there who kill mutants just
for fun. I want you to be able
to protect yourself, Rachel.
That's all, okay?

Okay.


Good.

Can we go now?

Yeah. You've
outperformed here today.
I'm proud of you.

Aww. Thank you.

December 6th 2007



The next week, I met up with Rachel on the Boardwalk. We had been training a lot, so I agreed to some time off. But of course, she saw it as a date. She always does.

I should have known you'd become a priest. You were always the Jehovah's Witness type.

I remember the time you were handing out bibles in the school cafeteria. Man, you got your ass kicked!



It was worth it.
I gave out a hundred bibles that
day and out of all those, I know one
person whose life was changed
for the better.



What was that?

What was what?





Over the phone
you said you'd decided
on an identity.

Fitting.

Damsel.

You know something,
this Catholic costume is too
old-fashioned for you, Pious, you are
a global hero. You need something
more modern, more iconic
more... spandex!

But I prefer cotton.

Too late, I had Serge
the Tailor make us both a
new costume. We'll try them
on at my place.




END




Somewhere on the Etoile Isles (Rogue)

January 10th 2008



So the rumours were true. The infamous Pistol is back from the dead.



I can't say you were missed, but I admire your new approach. You're not the same woman I once despised. Death has focused you Alicia, I like it.

Your plan is irresistible.
A work of Genius. Death, Destruction
and the Fall of Civilisation. Together,
no one can stop us! Not even...



TO BE CONTINUED...

#2 RISE OF THE GANG

COMIC
BOOKS

... The Priest!



