

# THE SPECTACULAR SPARKY



**HEROES  
GONE  
WILD!**



**BAREBECUE CHICKEN  
ATTACKS PHOTOGRAPHER!**

**AN ALIEN ATE MY  
SIDEKICK!**



SEE PAGE 10

**Plus**



**CULTIST PREDICTS END OF  
THE WORLD SEE PAGE 4**

**Plus**



**HERO BREAKS OWN  
RECORD FOR SURVIVING  
MOST LIGHTNING STRIKES  
TO THE HEAD.**

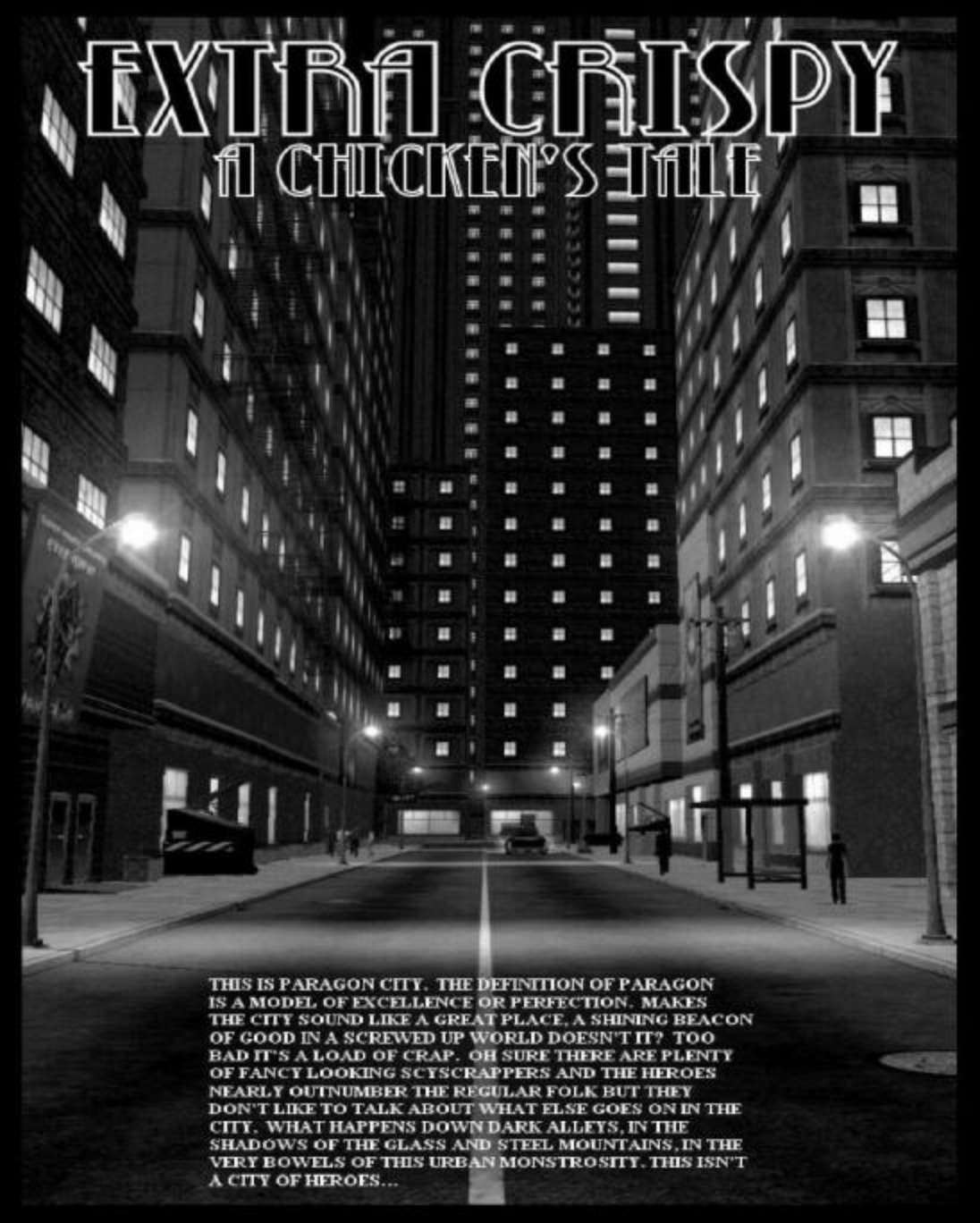
SEE BACK PAGE

**THE DEVIL: PRINCE OF DARKNESS OR DEADBEAT DAD?  
SHOCKING TESTIMONY FROM HIS ILLEGITIMATE  
CHILDREN INSIDE.**



# EXTRA CRISPY

## A CHICKEN'S TALE



THIS IS PARAGON CITY. THE DEFINITION OF PARAGON IS A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE OR PERFECTION. MAKES THE CITY SOUND LIKE A GREAT PLACE, A SHINING BEACON OF GOOD IN A SCREWED UP WORLD DOESN'T IT? TOO BAD IT'S A LOAD OF CRAP. OH SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF FANCY LOOKING SCYSCRAPPERS AND THE HEROES NEARLY OUTNUMBER THE REGULAR FOLK BUT THEY DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT ELSE GOES ON IN THE CITY. WHAT HAPPENS DOWN DARK ALLEYS, IN THE SHADOWS OF THE GLASS AND STEEL MOUNTAINS, IN THE VERY BOWELS OF THIS URBAN MONSTROSITY. THIS ISN'T A CITY OF HEROES...

IT'S A CITY OF VIOLENT GANGS...



CRAZY CULTISTS



THE WALKING DEAD...



CORRUPT MEGA-CORPORATIONS...



ALIEN INVADERS...



AND WHATEVER THE HELL THESE THINGS ARE



JUST WHO AM I TO BE TELLING YOU THIS STUFF? I USED TO BE A BAD MAN THAT DID BAD THINGS MY NAME IS HERBERT THOMPSON. BUT ONLY MY MOTHER AND THOSE LOOKING FOR AN ABRUPT END TO THEIR LIVES CALL ME HERBERT.

ON THE STREETS I GO BY ...



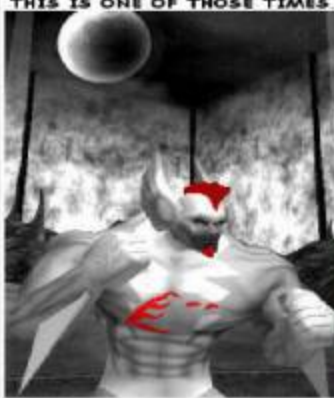
**BARBECUE CHICKEN**



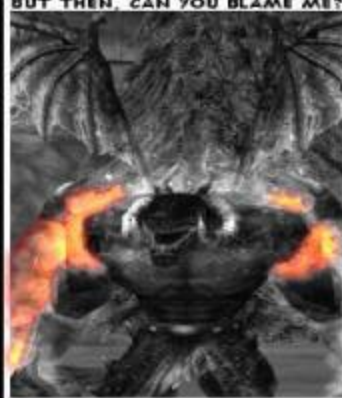
THE HAT WAS TOO MUCH  
WASN'T IT? WELL AT ANY  
RATE I'M NOT A BAD GUY  
ANY LONGER, NOW I FIGHT  
ON THE SIDE OF THE  
SPANDEX BRIGADE. THAT'S  
RIGHT, I'M A HERO. GOT  
THE CARD TO PROVE IT.

THOUGH AT TIMES IT'S A  
CHALLENGE NOT TO GIVE IN  
AND JUST THINK ABOUT  
MYSELF.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

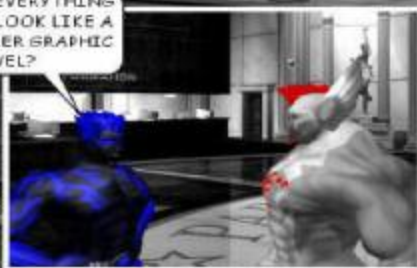


BUT THEN. CAN YOU BLAME ME?



NO DOUBT YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW I WOUND UP  
FACING OFF AGAINST A TEN FOOT DEMON WITH  
DEATH BREATH. WELL IT STARTED OUT SIMPLE ENOUGH.

WHY DOES EVERYTHING  
SUDDENLY LOOK LIKE A  
FRANK MILLER GRAPHIC  
NOVEL?



HELP!

ZOUNDS! MY AVERAGE  
HEARING HAS DETECTED  
A LADY IN DISTRESS!

SOMEBODY  
PLEASE HELP!

M.A.G.I.  
Modern Arcane Guild  
of Investigation



OH THANK YOU FOR COMING HEROES. I JUST HEARD THAT THE MAGI VAULT HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO AND AN ITEM WAS STOLEN.



AGAIN?!

TENTH TIME THIS WEEK.



I COULD USE SOME VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GET IT BACK.

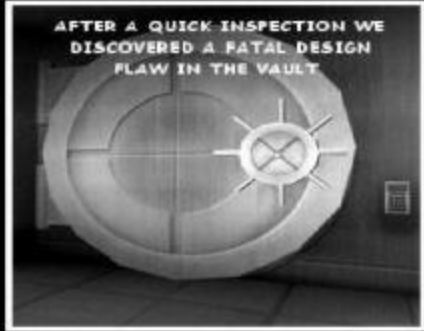


HOW ABOUT YOU TWO?

DAMMIT!!

DON'T LOOK BACK, JUST RUN!

IN HINDSIGHT I GUESS WE COULD HAVE SAID NO, BUT HEROES CAN'T DO THAT. SO WE WENT TO CHECK OUT THE MAGI VAULT AND DIG UP SOME INFO ON WHAT WE WERE DEALING WITH.



AFTER A QUICK INSPECTION WE DISCOVERED A FATAL DESIGN FLAW IN THE VAULT



WELL AT LEAST THEY DON'T HAVE A DRIVE THROUGH WINDOW... YET.



WE DECIDED TO QUESTION THE MAGI EMPLOYEE WHO WAS THE LAST TO SEE THE STOLEN ITEM. FOR THOSE WITH A SHORT ATTENTION SPAN I'LL PARAPHRASE.

WHAT'S IT CALLED?

I DUNNO.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

GREEN, I THINK.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

HELL IF I KNOW. BLOW UP THE WORLD MAYBE.

WHO STOLE IT?

I ISN'T THAT YOUR JOB TO FIND OUT WHO TOOK IT? LOOK ARE WE DONE? I HAVE A SEANCE MEETING TO GET TO AND IT'S MY TURN TO BY THE SNACKS.

HELPFUL WASN'T HE? PERSONALLY I THINK THOSE MAGI PEOPLE NEED SOME NEW BATTERIES FOR THEIR CRYSTAL BALLS.

THERE WE WERE, NO IDEA OF WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR AND NO LEADS AS TO WHO MIGHT HAVE SWIPED IT. RIGHT ABOUT THEN I COULD HAVE GONE FOR A STIFF DRINK BUT SPARKY WANTED TO HIT THE STREET AND GATHER SOME INFORMATION OF COURSE WE HAVE DIFFERENT STYLES ON JUST HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING THAT INFO.

BAR

SPARKY'S WAY



MY WAY



TWO DAYS AND WE HAD NOTHING. I NEEDED A BREAK BEFORE I EXPLODED.



OKAY, THIS IS WHAT I THINK WE SHOULD DO NEXT.

AND SPARKY WASN'T HELPING.



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, YADDA, BLAH, YADDA, MINDLESS BLATHERING, BLAH, YADDA, AND BLAH

AND THEN SHE WALKED BY.



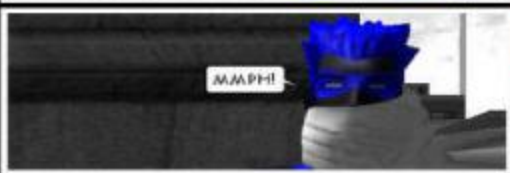
HEY KIDS! IT'S MALIBU SALLY!

OF COURSE AT TIMES LIKE THIS SPARKY KNOWS TO MAKE HIMSELF SCARCE.



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, ECT...

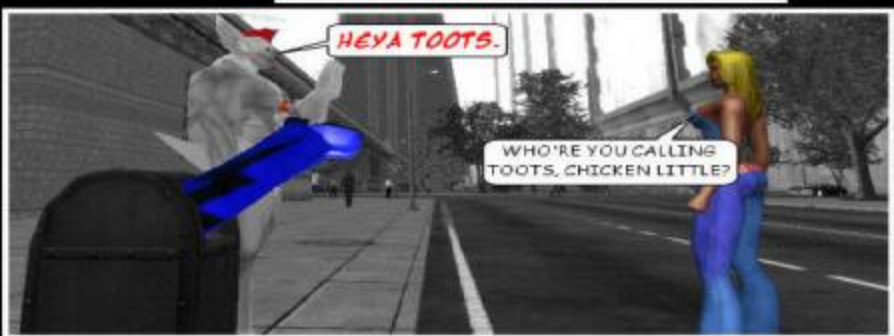
BUT SOMETIMES HE NEEDED A LITTLE REMINDING.



MMPH!

**BONK!**

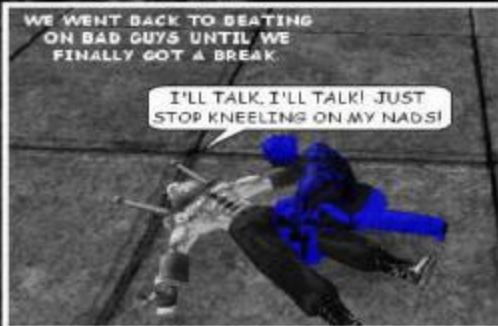
FOLD STUFF STUFF STUFF



HEYA TOOTS.

WHO'RE YOU CALLING TOOTS, CHICKEN LITTLE?

CASANOVA I'M NOT, BUT IT DID MANAGE TO GET HER PHONE NUMBER.



THE INFO WE GOT LED US TO A RATHER UNPLEASANT AREA OF THE HOLLOWES AND WE FINALLY DISCOVERED WHO WAS BEHIND THE THEFT. IT WAS THE **CIRCLE OF THORNS**. TALK ABOUT A MAJOR SHOCK, CAME RIGHT OUT OF NOWHERE... WHO AM I KIDDING? IT WAS PRETTY OBVIOUS FROM THE START THAT THEY WERE BEHIND EVERYTHING.

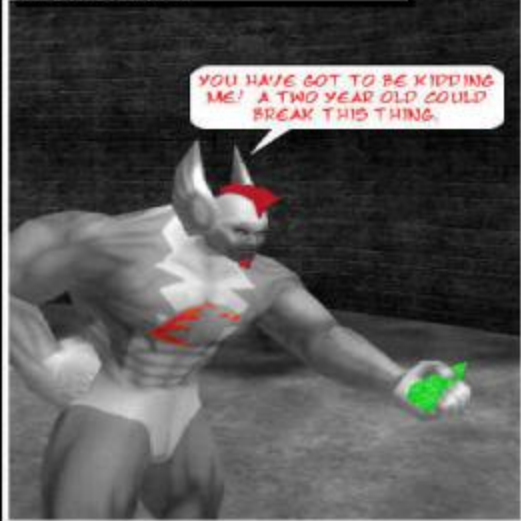
WHEN WE FOUND THEM THEY WERE USING THE MYSTICAL ARTIFACT IN SOME SORT OF RITUAL. BEING HEROES AND ALL WE HAD TO STOP THEM. WOHHOO.







FOR A POWERFUL MYSTICAL ARTIFACT OF DESTRUCTION... I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BIGGER.



IT TURNS OUT I'M SLIGHTLY STRONGER THAN YOUR AVERAGE TWO YEAR OLD.





THAT BLASTED SPARKY, I'LL SHOW HIM. I'LL DEVISE A PLAN SO COMPLEX, SO DEVIUOUS THAT HE WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM. I THINK THIS CALLS FOR AN EVIL LAUGH. \*ahem\*

**TEEHEEHEE**

\*cough\* NOTE TO SELF, EVIL LAUGH NEEDS WORK. EH? WHAT IS THAT INFERNAL NOISE?



AA

SPARKY?

AAAHH!

HE LOOKS DIFFERENT.

THERE HE IS! I THINK MY EYES ARE STILL ADJUSTING TO ALL THIS SUDDEN COLOR.

BUH? WHA? HUM? CURSE YOU SPARKY!

WHO CARES, LET'S JUST KICK HIS @SS.



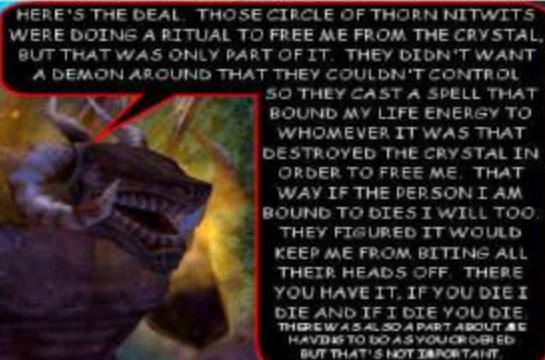
I SUPPOSE WE BATTLE TO THE DEATH NOW RIGHT?

ACTUALLY THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU, BUT FIRST I NEED TO KNOW, ARE YOU A MAN DRESSED AS A CHICKEN? OR ARE YOU A CHICKEN THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED INTO A MAN?


\*SIGH\* MAN DRESSED AS A CHICKEN.

FASHIONS SURE HAVE CHANGED IN A THOUSAND YEARS. AND NOT FOR THE BETTER.





HERE'S THE DEAL. THOSE CIRCLE OF THORN NITWITS WERE DOING A RITUAL TO FREE ME FROM THE CRYSTAL, BUT THAT WAS ONLY PART OF IT. THEY DIDN'T WANT A DEMON AROUND THAT THEY COULDN'T CONTROL, SO THEY CAST A SPELL THAT BOUND MY LIFE ENERGY TO WHOMEVER IT WAS THAT DESTROYED THE CRYSTAL IN ORDER TO FREE ME. THAT WAY IF THE PERSON I AM BOUND TO DIES I WILL TOO. THEY FIGURED IT WOULD KEEP ME FROM BITING ALL THEIR HEADS OFF. THERE YOU HAVE IT, IF YOU DIE I DIE AND IF I DIE YOU DIE. THERE WAS ALSO A PART ABOUT ME HAVING TO DO AS YOU ORDERED, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.



YOU HAVE TO BE <BLEEP>ING KIDDING ME.

YOU HAVE TO BE <BLEEP>ING KIDDING ME.




I THINK WE CAN LOSE THE INTERNAL MONOLOGUE BOXES NOW.




YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME?


ACTUALLY IT'S TOO RIDICULOUS **NOT** TO BELIEVE.




THERE YOU ARE. I MANAGED TO LOSE THOSE CIRCLE GUYS BUT NEXT TIME LET'S USE ONE OF MY PLANS. OKAY? SO DID YOU GET THE CRYSTAL? AND DID YOU NOTICE WE'VE BEEN COLORIZED?



**DEMON!**






HE'S A QUICK ONE  
ISN'T HE. CAN  
I EAT HIM?

...MAYBE LATER.

AFTER A QUICK EXPLANATION.



AW C'MON! BBQ GETS THE COOL  
DEMON AND ALL I GET IS AN  
EVIL CLONE? THAT SUCKS!

I BET IT EVEN HAS  
A BETTER NAME



I...AM...  
**TEZRIAN!**

KRAK-


KABOOM!



TEZRIAN?

KRAK-

KABOOM!



YES, TEZRIAN.


KRAK-

KABOOM!



KNOCK IT  
OFF SPARKY.

AW YOU'RE  
NO FUN.




I SUPPOSE WE'D BETTER  
LET AZURIA KNOW  
WHAT'S HAPPENED.

HERE, YOU CAN USE  
MY CELL PHONE



WHERE DO YOU  
KEEP THAT THING?

NONE OF YOUR  
BUSINESS.




HELLO? YES, THIS IS AZURIA. OH SPARKY! DID YOU FIND THE LOST ARTIFACT YET?


YOU DID? EXCELLENT! WHAT DID YOU SAY? YOU RELEASED A WHAT!?!

OF ALL THE IDIOTIC... THE TWO OF YOU WILL NEVER GET ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT FROM ME!

HELLO?



WHY DO I HEAR MUSIC?




I FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING. HOW ABOUT WE GO GET SOME DRINKS BBQ?

SOUNDS GOOD.




AWWWW, YES IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK TO NORMAL.

THOSE CIRCLE PEOPLE SURE HAD AN ODD IDEA ON HOW A DEMON SHOULD LOOK.



YOU KNOW WHAT, I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO SAY ANYTHING. LET'S JUST GO GET THOSE DRINKS.



I SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU. AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS WITH ONLY MY NAVEL TO LOOK AT I WISH TO EXPLORE THIS NEW BABIES WORLD.



I ALSO HAVE A MASSIVE CRAVING FOR A MUG OF WARM GOAT'S BLOOD.

I DOUBT YOU'RE GOING TO FIND ANY AROUND HERE.



NO GOAT'S BLOOD? FINE, THEN CAN I AT LEAST GET A FEW BABIES TO EAT?

LET ME THINK ABOUT THAT. NO!

KITTENS?

SEVERAL HOURS OF PARTYING LATER.

WOW. LOOK AT THAT SUNRISE  
GUYS! I SHN'T IT BOOTIFUL!

HOW DID YOU GET PLASTERED  
OFF OF TWO NON-ALCOHOLIC  
BEERS?

COME ON EVERYBODY,  
GROUP HUG!

PUSH

IS HE ALWAYS  
LIKE THAT?

ONLY WHEN HE'S  
BREATHING.

I DON'T KNOW HOW SPARKY GOT  
THOSE CIRCLE THUGS TO ATTACK  
ME BUT HE WON'T SURPRISE ME  
AGAIN.

SMASH!

HEY. THANKSH FOR  
BREAKING MY FALL  
BUDDY.

CURSE YOU SPARKY!  
OH MAN. I THINK I  
RUPTURED SOMETHING.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPHYNX FOR THE COVER IDEA,  
AND TO MALIBU SALLY FOR USE OF HER CHARACTER.  
PLUS A BIG THANK YOU TO THE DEVELOPERS OF  
CITY OF HEROES. HERE'S TO A YEAR OF FUN AND  
MANY MORE TO COME!