

PC
PARAGON
COMICS

THE SPECTACULAR SPARKY

\$1.25 US
\$1.75 CAN

#9



I'M BAAAAACK.



A.R.G.H. ALLIANCE OF REALLY GREAT HEROES

IN

HARD KNOCKS



SPARKY

BORN A HUMAN LIGHTNING ROD MARK WILLIAMS DISCOVERED EARLY IN LIFE THAT HE HAD AN ELECTRIC PERSONALITY. CURRENTLY THE WORLD RECORD HOLDER FOR SURVIVING THE MOST LIGHTNING STRIKES TO THE HEAD SPARKY HAS BECOME A HERO OF PARAGON CITY MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE LOCALS. WITH HIS TENDENCY TO GET INTO MORE TROUBLE THAN HE CAN HANDLE AND FREQUENT TRIPS TO THE LOCAL HOSPITALS SPARKY HAS GATHERED ALLIES IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST EVIL.



BARBECUE CHICKEN

A FORMER MASCOT FOR THE MAJOR FLANDER'S FRIED CHICKEN RESTAURANTS HERBERT THOMPSON QUICKLY FOUND HIMSELF UNEMPLOYED THANKS TO HIS VOLATILE TEMPER. IT WAS THAT SAME TEMPER THAT SERVED HIM WELL WHEN HE FELL IN WITH THE HELLIONS, AT LEAST UNTIL HE RAN ACROSS SPARKY. DECIDING THAT LIFE AS A HERO HAD A BETTER LIFE EXPECTANCY BARBECUE CHICKEN IS NOW SPARKY'S SIDEKICK AND HAS FOUND HIMSELF IN THE SITUATION OF HAVING HIS LIFE FORCE JOINED TO FELLOW TEAM MEMBER AND DEMON, TEZRIAN.



TEZRIAN

'HATCHED' NEARLY THREE THOUSAND YEARS AGO IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, THE DEMON TEZRIAN OPTED TO LEAVE HER HOME AND TRAVEL TO EARTH AS SHE WAS VERY MUCH BORED. FOR DOZENS OF YEARS SHE WENT WHERE SHE WISHED AND DID AS SHE PLEASED UNTIL RUNNING ACROSS A BAND OF POWERFUL MYSTICS WHO SEALED HER INSIDE A CRYSTAL. A THOUSAND YEARS LATER SHE WAS ACCIDENTLY RELEASED BY BARBECUE CHICKEN DURING A CIRCLE OF THORNS RITUAL AND HAS FOUND HERSELF BOUND TO HIM.



THE NEARSIGHTED MAN

THE FINANCIAL BACKER OF THE TEAM THE NEARSIGHTED MAN WAS BORN THEODORE WHITMORE III INTO A FAMILY THAT HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO DO ANYTHING. UNFORTUNATELY ONE THING THEY COULD NOT DO WAS REPAIR TED'S POOR EYESIGHT THANKS TO HIS NEAR INVULNERABILITY, EVEN EXPENSIVE LASER SURGERY WAS UTTERLY INEFFECTIVE. DESPITE THIS TED HAS BECOME A HERO EVEN THOUGH HE IS WEALTHY ENOUGH TO NEVER WORK A DAY IN HIS LIFE.



HYPER

WHEN SARAH MASAMUNE'S POWERS MANIFESTED AFTER DRINKING A SODA THAT HAD BEEN IRRADIATED BY A STRANGE METEORITE SHE SAW THE OPPORTUNITY IT PRESENTED AND BECAME A HERO. THOUGH NEW TO THE HERO SCENE SHE HAS PROVEN HERSELF CAPABLE, AT LEAST WHEN SHE'S NOT TOTALLY WIRED ON CAFFEINE THANKS TO HER BELIEF THAT SODA FUELS HER POWERS.

DARK SPARKY

A NEAR PERFECT CLONE OF SPARKY, DARK SPARKY LACKS HIS COUNTERPART'S SENSE OF HUMOUR BUT MAKES UP FOR IT IN EGO. DETERMINED TO RID THE WORLD OF THE ORIGINAL, AND THEN TAKE OVER SAID WORLD, DARK SPARKY RAGES AT HIS LACK OF SUCCESS. HOWEVER, THINGS MAY SOON CHANGE.



LOOK AT ALL OF THEM DOWN THERE. ALL THE PEOPLE GOING ABOUT THEIR LIVES BUSSFULLY UNAWARE OF JUST HOW FRAGILE THOSE LIVES ARE.

BUT I KNOW. IN A FLASH MY PARENTS WERE SNATCHED AWAY IN A FREAK ACCIDENT. I WARNED THEM NOT TO TAKE THAT TOUR OF THE CARDBOARD BOX FACTORY BUT THEY JUST WOULD NOT LISTEN.


I SPENT THE WEEKS SINCE THAT DAY TRAINING MYSELF INTO THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER. NOW I AM READY TO DEAL OUT MY OWN FORM OF BLOODY JUSTICE.

SOON THE CRIMINALS OF PARAGON CITY WILL LEARN TO FEAR MY NAME.

TAM

SPLASH!

ALL WET!




YOU! I KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE! YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THROWING THAT WATER BALLOON AT ME!



I'M JUST AN ELEVATOR RIDE AWAY FROM KICKING YOUR @\$\$!!




BULL'S EYE!



NICE SHOT SPARKY.

I LOVE MESSING WITH THOSE BROODING DARK HERO TYPES.



A.R.G.H., A NEWLY FORMED RAGTAG TEAM OF ECCENTRIC INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME TO REALIZE A SIMPLE TRUTH. TOGETHER THEY CAN DO HEAPS MORE PROPERTY DAMAGE THAN THEY COULD ON THEIR OWN.

LACKING A PROPER BASE TO CALL THEIR OWN ONE MEMBER, THE NEARSIGHTED MAN, OFFERED TO PROVIDE ONE FOR THEM. THE LOCATION HE SELECTED TURNED OUT TO BE AN APARTMENT BUILDING AND SPARKY'S CURRENT RESIDENCE. NOW AS THEIR BASE IS CONSTRUCTED N-MAN IS ALLOWING THE TEAM TO STAY AT HIS IMPRESSIVE PENTHOUSE.

NOW THEY DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.

TEZRIAN, TEAM MEETING
IN THE LIVING ROOM.

YOU CAN PLAY WITH
YOUR BALLS LATER NOW
GET IN HERE!

NOT NOW, I'M SO CLOSE
TO DISCOVERING A WAY
TO UNBIND MY LIFE FORCE
FROM THE CHICKEN.

THAT MEANS YOU
TOO BBQ.

LATER, MY SOAPS
ARE ABOUT TO START.

OKAY THAT SETTLES IT. WE'VE
BEEN COOPED UP IN THIS
PENTHOUSE FOR TOO LONG
SO WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT
AND HAVE SOME FUN.

GREAT, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO
SMACK SOME PEOPLE AROUND.

NOT THAT KIND OF FUN.

HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA WHERE
WE CAN GO. IT MIGHT BE BEST
IF WE CHANGED INTO CLOTHES
THAT ARE LESS FLASHY THOUGH.

OKAY I'M READY, TEZRIAN,
WHY HAVEN'T YOU
CHANGED YOUR CLOTHES?

THESE ARE THE ONLY
CLOTHES I HAVE.

WELL THAT EXPLAINS
THE SMELL.

WELL YOU DIDN'T
CHANGE EITHER.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT, OF COURSE I DID.

YOU'RE JUST A
LIGHTER BLUE.

I THINK IT BRINGS OUT
THE COLOR OF MY EYES.

STARE

LET'S JUST GET
GOING ALREADY.


WHAT? HAIR MAKES MY
MASK LOOK ALL POOFY
SO I SHAVE IT OFF.

YOU BETTER NOT SAY
ONE WORD SPARKY.

MEH.

SMASH!

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!!



IT'S A GOOD THING I CAN FLY OR ELSE I COULD BEEN REALLY HURT BGG.

YOU CAN FLY?

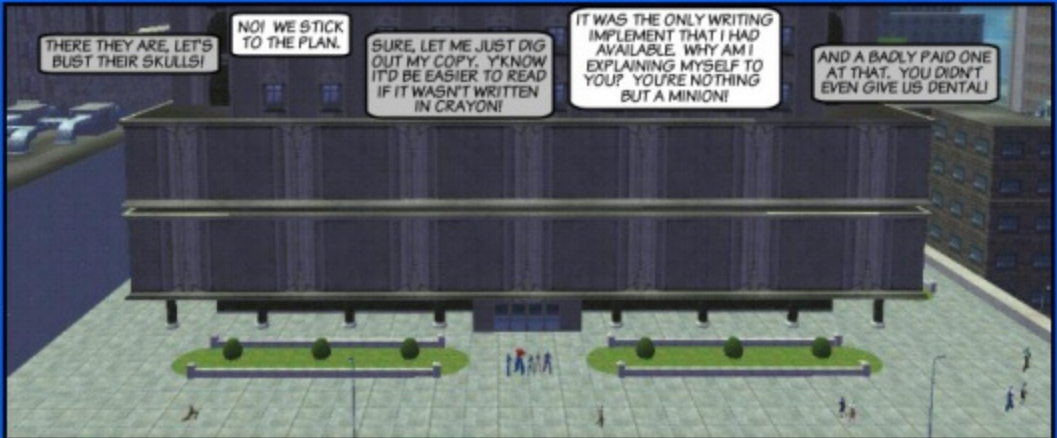
WHERE IS IT WE'RE GOING EXACTLY?

IT'S A SURPRISE.

I LIKE SURPRISES.

I LIKE TO BATHE IN THE BLOOD OF MY ENEMIES AND DRINK CHILLED WINE OUT OF THEIR SKULLS.

WELL THAT'S A BIT UNSETTLING.



THERE THEY ARE, LET'S BUST THEIR SKULLS!

NO! WE STICK TO THE PLAN.

SURE, LET ME JUST DIG OUT MY COPY, Y'KNOW IT'D BE EASIER TO READ IF IT WASN'T WRITTEN IN CRAYON!

IT WAS THE ONLY WRITING IMPLEMENT THAT I HAD AVAILABLE. WHY AM I EXPLAINING MYSELF TO YOU? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MINION!

AND A BADLY PAID ONE AT THAT. YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE US DENTAL!



WELL HERE WE ARE. IS EVERYBODY READY TO HAVE LOTS OF FUN?



THERE IS NO WAY I'M GOING IN THERE.

YOU EVIL BASTARD. WAIT, DOES THAT SAY BAR? GET OUTTA MY WAY!



I'LL GIVE YOU A CHOICE BBQ. YOU CAN GO IN THERE, OR WE CAN GO TO THE PARAGON DANCE PARTY.



SMASH!

BBQ! STOP THROWING THE BOWLING BALLS THROUGH THE BACK WALL!

I HAVE SUPER STRENGTH. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT. AND YOU'RE ONE TO TALK MR. BALL LIGHTNING BOWLER.

AFTER TEN STRAIGHT GUTTER BALLS I WAS GETTING DESPERATE OKAY.

UM, TEZRIAN, DID YOU JUST BLUDGEON THAT MAN WITH YOUR BOWLING BALL?

HE PINCHED MY BUTT!

WELL HE WAS OBVIOUSLY DERANGED THEN. GOOD JOB TAKING HIM DOWN BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE CRAZY AND END UP HURTING SOMEONE.

BONK!



CRASH!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THAT'S YOUR SECOND PERFECT GAME IN A ROW N-MAN. HOW DO YOU DO IT?

I DON'T KNOW HYPER, I'M JUST AIMING AT THAT BIG WHITE BLUR.

BUT THAT'S A LIGHT, ON THE CEILING! YES, WELL, I'M JUST GOING TO STAND OVER HERE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING.




YOU KNOW, THAT WAS ACTUALLY KIND OF FUN!

YEAH, MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE IT A WEEKLY THING.

OVER YOUR DEAD BODY. ANYBODY ELSE KNOW SOMEPLACE WE CAN GO?




SORRY GUYS, I HAVE SOME ERRANDS TO RUN AND THEN I NEED TO CHECK ON HOW THE BASE IS COMING ALONG.



I JUST REMEMBERED THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO. RIGHT TEZ, THAT THING.

WHAT THING?

SHHH, I'LL TELL YOU LATER.




JUST THE TWO OF US NOW BBQ. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO DO?

DRINK BEER.

IT'S ONLY TWO IN THE AFTERNOON.

LOTS OF BEER.

YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE FOR OUR READERS RIGHT?



PERFECT! THEY'RE SPITTING UP. YOU JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW YOUR TARGETS AND VICTORY SHALL BE OURS FOR THE TAKING.

YES BECAUSE SPITTING UP ALWAYS WORKS IF YOU'RE A BAD GUY.

SILENCE CRETINI

AH GO GET YOUR HEAD RUN OVER BY A LAWN MOWER.

ENOUGH, I SHALL TOLERATE NO MORE OF YOUR BUFFONERY.

BUT IT'S MY MOST ENDEARING TRAIT.

NOW WAS THAT A LEFT THEN A RIGHT OR
A RIGHT, LEFT, TWO RIGHTS THEN A LEFT
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST ASK FOR DIRECTIONS.



HEY ISN'T THAT CARCASS, THE
FREAK THAT GOT MESSSED UP
ON BAD SUPERADINE? I
THOUGHT HE WAS LOCKED UP
IN THE ZIG.



WELL I THINK HE
LET HIMSELF OUT.

GEE THANKS GUYS, YOU
JUST TOTALLY RUINED MY
CHANCE AT BEING THE
MYSTERIOUS BAD GUY.

EXCUSE ME, COULD YOU SHOW
ME WHERE THE TRAM STATION IS?



SURE, IT'S RIGHT
OVER THERE.



SHEESH! HE COULD
HAVE JUST POINTED.

SMACK!





THE GNASTLY GIGGLER
AT YOUR SERVICE.
HEEHEE!

AND THIS IS MY COMPANION
MANGLER MUTT.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO
THE NICE GIRL MUTT.

SNARL

ARROOOOO!

YEEK!

SHOPPING AND NOW A FIGHT,
THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A
GREAT DAY! I'VE GOT TO BE
PUMMELED CLOWN!

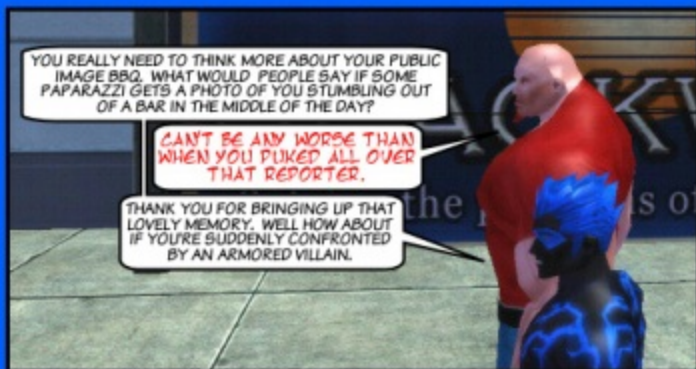
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO
THROUGH HIM FIRST!

ONE ZOMBIE? YOU
MUST BE JOKING.

OF COURSE I'M
JOKING!
HAHAHA!

PWOOSH!







SHOOOOOOM!



WELL THAT WAS UTTERLY POINTLESS. HELLO, FIRE TANK. THIS GUY ISN'T ALL THAT BRIGHT IS HE SPARKY?



SPARKY?



AAAAHH

SSSSSSSSSS...



RIGHT, LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU MYSELF.



C'MERE!



OOPS.

YANK!



PLUG!



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

IT WAS INCINERATOR'S JOB TO SEPERATE YOU AND SPARKY SO I COULD DEAL WITH YOU PERSONALLY.

WHO?

MANSLAUGHTER.



NOW THAT I'M NO LONGER
THE HUMAN TORCH I'D
BETTER GET BACK TO BBQ.



UNCLE LARRY?

AW YES EVER THE JOKER. ALWAYS MAKING
THE FLIP REMARKS WHILE EVERYONE ELSE
DOES THE FIGHTING FOR YOU. YOU'RE
REALLY NOT MUCH OF A HERO ARE YOU.

THERE IS A POINT TO ALL
YOUR YAMMERING RIGHT?

A POINT? OH YES,
I HAVE A POINT.



DON'T INTERRUPT WHEN I'M IN
THE MIDDLE OF A MONOLOGUE!

KZZAK!

REII!
WHOOPS, I MEAN
ARGH!



MUAHAHAHA! LOOK AT YOU
SPARKY. WITHOUT YOUR SUPER
GROUP YOU'RE A PUSHOVER.
A WEAKLING! AND JUST WHERE
ARE YOUR FRIENDS? I'LL TELL
YOU WHERE. RIGHT NOW
THEY'RE BEING DEFEATED.



BATTERED.



BEATEN.



KILLED.





SAY SOMETHING FUNNY NOW SPARKY. MAKE ME LAUGH!



NO MORE JOKES.



YOU WANTED A FIGHT?



FINE.

ZZZZT



YOU'VE GOT ONE.

NEXT: SPARKY VS DARK SPARKY