



THE SPECTACULAR SPARKY

STARRING A.R.G.H.

STARRING A.R.G.H.? WHY DO YOU STILL GET TOP BILLING IF THIS IS A TEAM COMIC NOW?

I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M EVERYONE'S FAVORITE.



HEY! I'M
THE WASP!

AHEM!

AND THIS IS
MY COMPANION
TEE-DEE.

WELCOME TO THE ROGUE
ISLES, OR MERCY ISLAND
TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.
HERE NEW VILLAINS ARRIVE
HOPING ONE DAY TO JOIN
ARACHNOS AND SERVE
LORD RECLUSE, OR TO ONE
DAY TAKE HIS PLACE.

SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY
ASKING YOURSELF HOW I
ENDED UP HERE, AND THE
REST OF YOU MOST LIKELY
WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO SPARKY.

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND
THAT I HAD BEST START AT
THE BEGINNING.

WE'RE GOING TO
DO A FLASHBACK
AREN'T WE?



THIS WOULDN'T BE
NECESSARY IF THE
GUY DOING THIS
COMIC WAS A
BETTER WRITER.

IT WAS A TYPICAL DAY IN PARAGON CITY...

**RAT-TAT
TAT**



STOP THAT! STOP
THE LAUGHING!



WERE *SNORT* TRYING!
HONEST! WERE *SNICKER*
REALLY TRYING!



HAHAHAHA!

OKAY THAT'S IT! WHO WANTS TO
EAT A BULLET? HUH? MAYBE
AFTER I PLUG ONE OF YA YOU'LL
FINALLY SHUT UP!

EXCUSE ME, MR.
TIDEY WHITEY? I'D
LIKE TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING.







AND YET AGAIN
WE SAVE THE
CITY FROM
CERTAIN DOOM.

WE? I DID
ALL THE WORK.

OKAY, NEXT TIME
YOU GET TO BE
THE DISTRACTION.

LIKE I WAS
SAYING, WE.

THUMPI!
THUDI!
SMACK!

MIAMI MIAMI MIAMI
MIAMI MIAMI MIAMI
CHAMPLEEN
YOU COME AND GO

WHAT THE HELL
IS THAT?

YOU COME AND GOOOOO
BEEP

YELLOW?

N-MAN! HOW'S IT GOING? IT
IS? WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

N-MAN SAYS THE
BASE IS UP AND
RUNNING AND WE
CAN MOVE BACK IN.

WELL IT'S ABOUT
TIME OH, AND
SPARKY...

GET A DIFFERENT RING
TONE OR I'LL BEAT YOU
TO DEATH WITH YOUR
OWN SPLEEN!!

MEANWHILE...



A QUICK CHECK REVEALED THAT THERE WAS NO DEPUTY DEADEYE IN OUR RECORDS AND THAT HIS HERO REGISTRATION CARD WAS A FORGERY.

WE ALSO HAVE A WITNESS THAT CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN AN ARACHNOS GOON IN THE SAME ALLEY.



RRRRRIGHT, HE'S A SPY. A REALLY DUMB SPY.

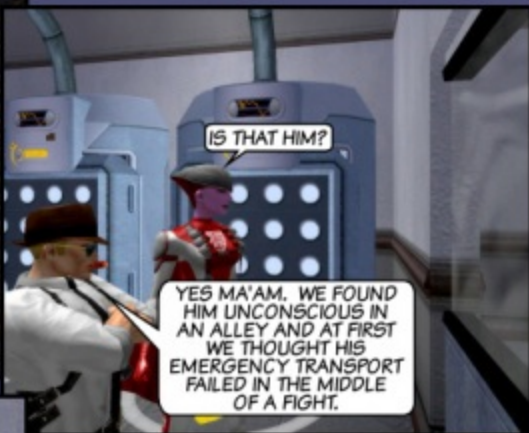
VERY WELL, LONGBOW WILL TAKE CUSTODY OF HIM AND DETERMINE WHAT HE WAS STEALING AND WHY.

BANG BANG BANG



IS THAT HIM?

YES MA'AM, WE FOUND HIM UNCONSCIOUS IN AN ALLEY AND AT FIRST WE THOUGHT HIS EMERGENCY TRANSPORT FAILED IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT.



AND THEN THERE'S THE STOLEN TOP SECRET FILES HE HAD ON HIM.

PRETTY DAMNING EVIDENCE BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE HIM A SPY FOR ARACHNOS.



WHEN WE LOCKED HIM UP HE WAS RAVING ABOUT HOW LORD RECLUSE WAS GOING TO SAVE HIM.

NOW WHAT IS HE DOING?

IT LOOKS LIKE CHARADES. FIRST WORD, SOUNDS LIKE.



SPLATTER



GOOD LORD!
HE WENT SCANNER!

GROSSI AND I
JUST ATE TOO!



I'M SORRY MA'AM, WE HAD NO
IDEA THAT HE HAD A MINIATURE
BOMB IMPLANTED IN HIS HEAD.

IT SEEMS WE'VE LOST OUR
ONLY LEAD IN THIS CASE.



THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT
DETECTIVE. IN FACT I
BELIEVE I'VE THOUGHT
OF A WAY TO LEARN
WHAT THE SPY WAS
AFTER AND WHY.

CLEAN THE FLOORS JOE,
FIX THE TOILET JOE, WASH
THE BRAINS OF THE WALLS
JOE. WORK, WORK, WORK.



AND I KNOW JUST THE
CANDIDATES FOR THIS
LITTLE MISSION.



HOME SWEET
HOME.

TEN BUCKS SAYS N-MAN
SCREWED UP SOMEHOW.




HOLY \$#!+!

WOW, NOW THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.




HEY DOESN'T IT LOOK BIGGER INSIDE THAN IT DOES OUTSIDE?

NAH, THAT'S JUST THE SUBTLE USE OF LIGHT SHADES OF PAINT MAKING THE ROOM APPEAR BIGGER.



YOU MUST BE SPARKY
AND BARBECUE CHICKEN.
I WAS TOLD TO EXPECT YOU.



I'M JANICE JONES
AND I'LL BE YOUR
ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANT.

NICE TO MEET
YOU JANICE.

ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANT? YOU
MEAN A SECRETARY?



HEY!

WHACK!

THAT'S ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANT. GOT IT?



WHY I
OUTTA...

YES MA'AM.

WHY DO WE ALWAYS
END UP ATTRACTING
CRAZY PEOPLE?

OH HEY HYPER, WE
WERE JUST TALKING
ABOUT YOU.

HOW DO YOU LIKE
THE NEW BASE HYPER?

IT'S GREAT! BUT
THERE'S NO POOL!

THOUGH WE DO
HAVE OUR OWN
SUBMARINE.

OH! I LOVE THE
NEW CAPE BBQ!

THANK YOU. AT LEAST
SOMEBODY NOTICED

WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR
SHOULDER HYPER?

WHAT? I THOUGHT
YOU WERE MOLTING.

IT'S A SHOULDER KITTEN!
EVERYONE IS GETTING
THEM. ISN'T IT ADORABLE?

AND THE BEST PART...
IT SHOOTS LASERS!

ZAP!

yargh!

OH NO! SPARKY
I'M SO SORRY!
ARE YOU OKAY?

OH HE'S FINE HYPER.
IT'S JUST A FLESH
WOUND...

YOU GOT HIM
IN THE HEAD.

DURRRR...

GOOD IDEA INSTALLING THE INFIRMARY N-MAN, NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP PICKING SPARKY UP AT THE HOSPITAL.

INFIRMARY? I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE KITCHEN. I WAS USING THAT THING TO WARM UP LEFTOVER PIZZA.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. IF I HADN'T BEEN SUCH A SLAVE TO THE LATEST TREND I WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN SPARKY BRAIN DAMAGE.

I DON'T THINK SPARKY HAS ENOUGH BRAINS TO DAMAGE HYPER.

I'M A HORRIBLE HERO!

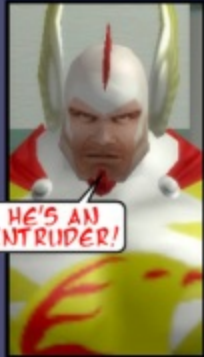
WOW, PRETTY FRIENDLY PEOPLE AROUND HERE.

HUH?

HEYA!

YEEPI!

SLURP



YOU DID WHAT!?!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT YOU RENTED OUT THE EMPTY APARTMENTS TO OTHER HEROES AND GAVE THEM ACCESS TO OUR BASE?

AND YOU DID THIS BECAUSE...

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME! I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO MAKE SOME EXTRA MONEY.

HOW TO BE A HERO FOR DUMMIES?

AND THEY'RE HEROES, WHAT'S THE WORSE THAT CAN HAPPEN?

6RRR

STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!STOMP!

CRASH!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

GRAVITY WORKS!

AND THE HILARITY BEGINS.

SORRY ABOUT THAT, I'LL JUST LET MYSELF OUT.

THUD!

I CAN'T BELIEVE N-MAN TURNED OUR BASE INTO A HOME FOR WAYWARD HEROES. WHAT NEXT, WE START AN OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED VILLAINS?

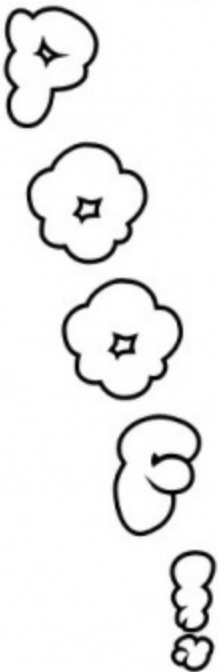
I COULD BE A COUNSELOR WITH TEZ.

SHE'D JUST TRY TO EAT EVERYONE. WHERE IS TEZRIAN ANYWAY?


THE A.R.G.H. OCCULT LIBRARY

YES! THIS IS IT! I WILL FINALLY BE RID OF THIS IDIOTIC SPELL I'M UNDER.


Q2V11▽
Σ+Z3
1XK97



SHAZBOT!




SPARKY AND BARBECUE CHICKEN PLEASE REPORT TO THE MEETING ROOM. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM LONGBOW WISHES TO SPEAK WITH YOU.



GREAT, NOW WHAT COULD THEY WANT?

PROBABLY SOMETHING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR A VERY DANGEROUS MISSION THAT WILL SAVE THE CITY AND WHY DO I HAVE A SUDDEN CRAVING FOR PUMPKIN PIE?




WE REQUIRE TWO VOLUNTEERS FOR A PERILOUS MISSION TO THE ROGUE ISLES. THE RISKS ARE HIGH BUT THE FATE OF THE CITY DEPENDS ON IT.



BOY DID I CALL THAT ONE.

AND JUST EXACTLY WHY SHOULD WE GO IN THIS DANGEROUS MISSION?



IT'S A PERSONAL REQUEST FROM MS. LIBERTY.



WE'LL DO IT!

OH FOR - SHE'S GOT YOU WHIPPED AND YOU STILL DONT EVEN HAVE HER PHONE NUMBER!

SO WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?

SHHH TEE-DEE, I'M TRYING TO LISTEN.

OH NO! SHE'S COMING OUT!

IT'S ME. YOU WERE RIGHT, I JUST HAD TO MENTION HER NAME AND SPARKY COULDN'T AGREE FAST ENOUGH.

AS SOON AS THEY PICK SOME NAMES WE'LL PUT THEM ON THE LIST OF NEW ARRIVALS AT THE ZIG, WHICH WE'LL LET ARACHNOS STEAL AS USUAL. YOU'D THINK THEY'D HAVE FIGURED IT OUT BY NOW THAT WE ONLY PUT THE NAMES OF LOW LEVEL VILLAINS ON THAT LIST.

WHEN THE NEXT BREAKOUT HAPPENS SPARKY AND THE CHICKEN SHOULD GET BUSTED OUT WITH THE OTHER SCUM AND TAKEN TO THE ROGUE ISLES.

AND THAT'S WHERE THEIR ADVENTURE SHOULD END. AS SOON AS THEY RUN ACROSS ONE OF THOSE PSYCHIC WIDOWS THEIR COVER WILL BE BLOWN. THEY GET CAUGHT WHILE REAL AGENTS FIND THE INFORMATION WE'RE AFTER.

OF COURSE IT'LL WORK! WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT SOUNDS LIKE THE PLOT TO AN OLD MOVIE?

WHATEVER, I'M ON MY WAY BACK NOW.

DID YOU HEAR THAT TEE-DEE? WE HAVE TO WARN THEM!

THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN!
WE GET TO DRESS UP AND
BE BAD GUYS!

WASN'T SO MUCH
FUN WHEN I WAS
A BAD GUY!

SPARKY, MR. CHICKEN SIR,
YOU CAN'T DO IT! YOU'RE
A DIVERSION! IT'S A TRAP!

THAT'S TELLIN' EM
ADMIRAL ACKBAR.

AW WELL,
WE TRIED.

I'M NOT GIVING UP,
THERE HAS TO BE
SOMEONE THAT'LL
LISTEN.

SPARKY? IS HE THE
SPIKEY HAIRED BLOND
GUY IN 305?

NO, THAT'S
SPARKS.

I KNOW, HE'S THE HERO
THAT TOOK DOWN BILE
LAST WEEK, SINGLE
HANDED.

I HEARD THAT WAS THE
SPARKINATOR, DOES
HE LIVE HERE TOO?

THIS ISN'T WORKING.
I'M GOING TO HAVE
TO TELL... HER.

BEEN NICE
KNOWING YOU.

MOM! MOM I HAVE TO
TELL YOU SOMETHING!

CAN IT WAIT JOHNNY?
I'M REALLY SWAMPED WITH
WORK. HOW ABOUT YOU
GO PLAY IN THE SUBMARINE?

EXCELLENT! I
GET TO BE
THE CAPTAIN!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE
FOOLING AROUND TEE-DEE.

BUT I WANT TO
FIRE SOME
TORPEDOES!

LATER, RIGHT NOW WE'VE
GOT LOTS OF WORK TO DO.

THE A.R.G.H. WORKSHOP. SERIOUSLY, HOW CAN THIS PLACE NOT HAVE A POOL?

IF NOBODY ELSE IS GOING TO HELP SPARKY AND BARBECUE CHICKEN WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT OURSELVES.

COULDN'T WE JUST DELIVER A TEAR JERKING EULOGY AT THEIR FUNERAL?

THIS IS SERIOUS TEE-DEE. NOW I NEED YOU TO BRING ME THE ITEMS ON THIS LIST.

YOU BET! JUST AS SOON AS YOU GIVE ME A BODY THAT HAS ARMS!

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S A BIG ENOUGH POWER SOURCE FOR THE SUIT?

THIS QUANTUM SINGULARITY COULD WIPE OUT HALF THE CITY IF THE CONTAINMENT FIELD FAILED.

EXACTLY! WHY ONLY SETTLE FOR HALF?

I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD GO WITH THE MALVE, OR AT LEAST SOME SHOULDER PADS WITH MASSIVE SPIKES.

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT HOW IT LOOKS AFTER I GET IT WORKING.

BZZZZZZZT!

THE ZIGGURAT, TWO DAYS LATER, MIDNIGHT. ARACHNOS NEVER SEEMS TO CHANGE ITS TACTICS WHEN ATTACKING THE PRISON AND YET THEY ALWAYS MANAGE TO SUCCEED.



MAKE A SHOW AT FIGHTING OFF LONGBOW..



FREE A BUNCH OF COMMON CRIMINALS TO ADD TO THE CHAOS AND HELP OCCUPY THE GUARDS AND ANY HEROES THAT MAY SHOW UP TO HELP...

WHO ELSE WANTS SOME?!



AND LEISURELY SET FREE THE BIG FISH.

I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY! I HAVE AN EVIL EMPIRE TO RUN!

GET ME OUT OF HERE!

I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE PRISON FOOD! GET ME OUT! GET ME OOOUUUT!

HURRY IT UP ALREADY!

SHADDUP! ALL OF YA! OR WE'LL JUST LEAVE YOU ALL LOCKED UP IN YOUR COZY LITTLE CELLS!

THAT'S BETTER. NOW WHO'S FIRST? BURNT LEATHER?

ARRESTED FOR BURNING DOWN A MIME SCHOOL.

YOU'RE KIDDING! GUY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A MEDAL.

HOSPITALIZED FOUR HEROES, TWO DOZEN COPS, AND A FAST FOOD MASCOT BEFORE BEING TAKEN DOWN.

HE EVEN ATTACKED HIS OWN LAWYER WHILE IN THE COURT ROOM.

DEET-DEET-BADEET


YOU MIGHT WANT TO STEP BACK AFTER LETTING THIS ONE OUT.

WHAM!

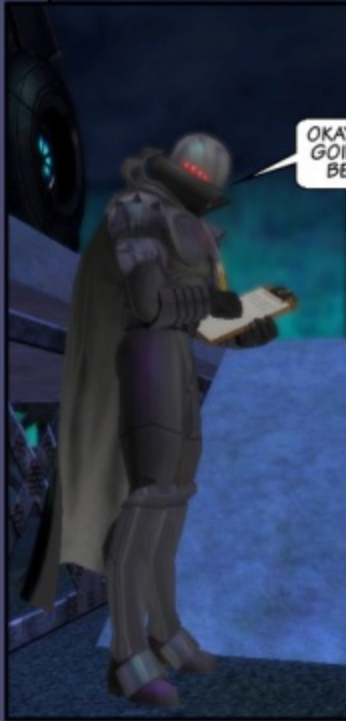
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE!!

I'M UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SMALL PLACES.






ALRIGHT VILLAINS,
GATHER AROUND!



OKAY YOU LOSERS, LISTEN UP! SINCE I'M SUCH A NICE GUY I'M
GOING TO DO A HEAD COUNT TO MAKE SURE NOBODY IS LEFT
BEHIND! SO LINE UP! THAT'S IT, FORM A LINE! SINGLE FILE!



CLOSE
ENOUGH.



THERE THEY ARE. WE'LL HITCH A RIDE ON
THAT THING WHEN THEY'RE ABOUT TO
TAKE OFF. I JUST HOPE THOSE NEURAL
SCRAMBLERS I WHIPPED UP AND YOU
SNUCK INTO THEIR COSTUMES WILL WORK.

UH, YEAH I'M SURE THEY
WILL! I'M MORE WORRIED
ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN
TO US WHEN YOUR MOM
FINDS OUT WE'RE GONE.

I LEFT A NOTE, SHE'LL
UNDERSTAND. MAYBE.

DAMN, ONE SHORT. AND OF COURSE IT HAS TO BE THE ONE THAT GHOST WIDOW SPECIFICALLY ORDERED TO BE BUSTED OUT. WHY ME?

BE AT EASE UNDERLING, THE MIGHTY DARK SPARKY HAS ARRIVED!

HEY, IT'S LAR-

ERF!

KAPOW!

WHAT'D YOU CALL MY MOTHER!?

HEY! YOU TWO KNOCK IT OFF! THERE'LL BE NO FIGHTING ON THIS TRIP! ONCE WE GET TO MERCY ISLAND YOU CAN KILL EACH OTHER FOR ALL I CARE! NOW, DOES ANYBODY NEED TO USE THE LITTLE VILLAIN'S ROOM? BECAUSE I'M NOT STOPPING AFTER WE LEAVE. NOBODY? THEN GET ON BOARD, I HAVE A SCHEDULE TO KEEP.

MERCY ISLAND

WE NOW RETURN YOU TO YOUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMIC, ALREADY IN PROGRESS.



YOU HIT ME.

YOU WERE GOING TO BLOW OUR COVER.

REALLY HARD.

I HAD TO MAKE IT LOOK CONVINCING.

IT HURT TOO.

WILL YOU JUST DROP IT!

NOT UNTIL YOU APOLOGIZE.



NOW WE'LL SEE IF THOSE SCRAMBLERS I MADE WORK.

UM, YOU MIGHT WANT TO COVER YOUR EYES, THIS COULD GET MESSY.



ANGER-RISING-MUST-RESIST-URGE-TO-HIT-MUST-THINK-OF-SOMETHING-ELSE-MMMM, BEER.

DID I LEAVE THE STOVE ON?

THEY WORKED!

THEY DID?

WONDERFUL. TWO MORE GENIUSES TO GO WITH ALL THE OTHERS.



YOU DIDN'T PUT THEM IN THEIR COSTUMES DID YOU?

WELL I DO HAVE THIS PROBLEM OF NOT HAVING ANY HANDS.

WELL THIS IS A TREAT. NONE OTHER THAN THE DREADED GHOST WITCH HERSELF HAS COME TO GREAT ME. HAS LORD RECLUSE FINALLY ADMITTED THAT HE NEEDS ME IF HE WISHES TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD?

OH SURE, FOR A WHILE I WAS OBSESSED WITH DESTROYING SPARKY. SEEING HIM HUMILIATED AND BROKEN BEFORE ME BEFORE ENDING HIS MISERABLE LIFE! BUT I'M PAST THAT NOW. NOW I'M SEEING THE BIG PICTURE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND MAKING PLANS SO INGENUOUS NOBODY WILL EVER SEE THEM COMING!

MY LATEST BRILLIANT IDEA INVOLVES THE CREATION OF AN AIR FORCE COMPLETELY COMPRISED OF ROBOT PIGEONS! THINK ABOUT IT! PIGEONS, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! NOBODY PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO THEM EXCEPT TO FEED THEM IN PARKS! THAT'S WHY THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT IT, THEY'LL BE GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES WHEN SUDDENLY DEATH RAINS ON THEM FROM ABOVE! HAHAHAAAA!

MMHAAAAH!

KAPOW!

THANK YOU WRETCH. NOW STUFF HIM INTO A BODY BAG SO WE CAN GET BACK TO GRANDVILLE BEFORE HE WAKES UP.

AND IT'S GHOST WIDOW. IDIOT.



AREN'T YOU A LITTLE WORRIED NOW THAT DARK SPARKY IS FREE?

NAH, WHAT CAN HE DO TO US NOW THAT HE'S STUCK HERE?

BESIDES, HE'LL PROBABLY END UP PISSING OFF THE WRONG PEOPLE. HE'S NOT MUCH OF A PEOPLE PERSON.

RIGHT, SO WHAT THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

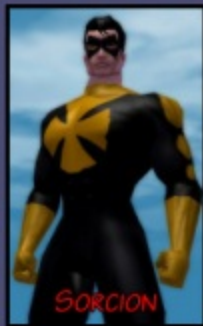
WAIT FOR OUR CONTACT TO CONTACT US I GUESS. IN THE MEANTIME WE CAN TAKE IN THE SIGHTS.

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF VILLAINS BUDDY.

WHAT A SH!+HOLE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

AND NOW...THE CAMEOS!



THE BREAKOUT GROUP WAS A RANDOM SELECTION OF CHARACTERS TAKEN FROM ONE OF MY MANY DEMOS.

