

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

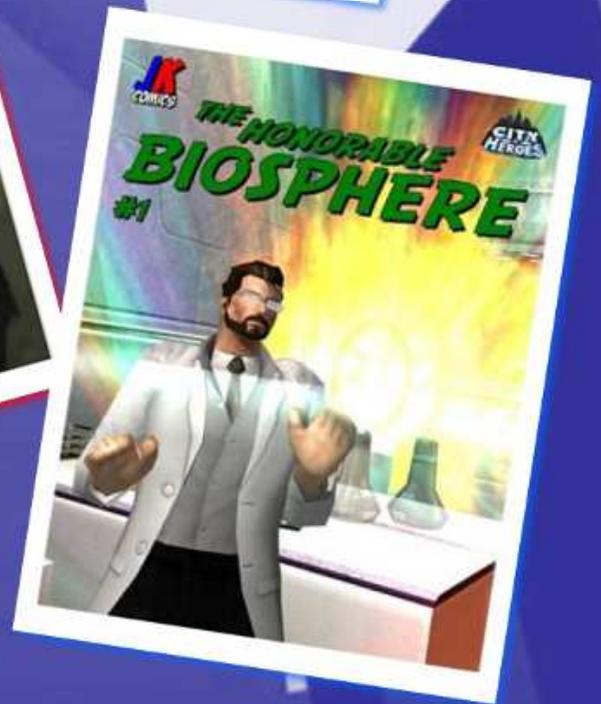
AND
THE GUARDIANS



Issue 09
2015



THE CITY LIVES ON...



JKCOMICS.COM



Born in an alternate world where heroes ruled and humanity was endangered, Faith Powers was the last surviving member of the legendary Powers family. Brought up in the watchful eyes of the Praetors, she became Furia Powers, champion of the weak.

But then she became aware that all was not right in the supposed "Utopian Society". Forced to choose between the Praetors and a chance at a new family, she choose family and left for the Primal Universe.

Now Furia Powers is a member of the Guardians of the Dawn, a superhero team dedicated to helping humanity to that bright future that is always just beyond the horizon. It is a team that is on the brink of becoming legend. They are...

FURIA



AND THE GUARDIANS

Jason Knight has been getting used to his new life as Architect Entertainment executive Drake Grey while still trying to adjust being a street vigilante without the dark mists that once defined "MidKnight X".

But now the two roles have converged, with an AE infirmary worker missing, and Jason Knight hitting the streets looking for her.

Unfortunately, he finds that not everyone fears "The Knight" like they used to.

"A CALL FOR JUSTICE"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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Special thanks to Joseph Cohen for his assistance with this issue



PEREZ PARK - PARAGON CITY, RI

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO...

"I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT HERE, DOCTOR BARBERA."

ALBEIT UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

MMM

MM-MMMMHI!

AS A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE PARALYTIC PROPERTIES OF THE DRUG I JUST GAVE YOU TO ALSO KEEP YOU FIXED IN PLACE.

THIS ADDED MEASURE IS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO DAMAGE THAT BEAUTIFUL MIND OF YOURS DURING THE PROCESS.

YOU SEE, I REALLY NEED YOUR MIND MORE THAN I NEED YOUR BODY.

OF COURSE, YOU ARE RATHER ATTRACTIVE, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE.

Hank Geddy
AKA STARCYNUS

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I COULD HAVE HAD ANY WOMAN I WANTED.

I WAS AN ASTRONAUT! A HERO! I COULD EVEN RUN FOR PRESIDENT!

BUT THEN... I CAME ACROSS SOMETHING THAT DESTROYED ALL THOSE DREAMS AND PLANS.

BUT HE DIDN'T JUST DESTROY MY DREAMS.

HE GAVE ME NEW ONES.

HE SHOWED ME THAT THERE IS A POWER GREATER THAN ANY THAT THIS WORLD COULD EVER GIVE.

A POWER THAT CAN DESTROY THIS UNIVERSE... AND THEN REMAKE IT IN OUR COLLECTIVE IMAGE.



I SHARED POWER WITH A GOD, DOCTOR.
AND THEN I HAD TO WATCH AS IT WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.



BUT I KNOW HE'S STILL OUT THERE, AND HE NEEDS OUR HELP.
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE, DOCTOR BARBERA.



I NEED YOUR KNOWLEDGE; YOUR QUEST TO HELP PEOPLE AND HELP THEM GET WELL.



I'M HOPING THAT DRIVE AND DESIRE IN YOU WILL LET YOU SEEK HIM OUT AND BRING HIM BACK, SO WE CAN BE WHOLE AGAIN.



THE PROCESS WILL BE JARRING. FOR THAT, I AM SORRY.

BUT IN MOMENTS YOU WILL BE WHERE FEW HAVE EVER BEEN BEFORE.
A PLACE THAT I MYSELF CANNOT GO... YET.

I NEED YOU TO FOCUS ON HIM, DOCTOR BARBERA. I NEED YOU TO THINK ABOUT HIM IN YOUR MIND, CALL OUT TO HIM WHILE YOU'RE THERE, SO YOU CAN BRING HIM HERE.

HE IS YOUR PATIENT, DOCTOR. HE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

AND HIS NAME...
... IS ALOR.

ELSEWHERE IN PEREZ PARK...

TODAY

SENTRY ALERTED ME TO THE POLICE CALL.



BY THE TIME I GOT HERE, THE POLICE HAD ALREADY CONTAMINATED THE SCENE.

NO POLICE TAPE. NO CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS.



COPS STANDING AROUND LIKE DUMBASSES.



Jason Knight
(ORAKE GREY)

THE BODY HAD BEEN STRIPPED CLEAN OF IDENTIFICATION. EVEN HER HAIR WAS SHAVED OFF AND FINGERPRINTS BURNED OFF.



BUT I KNEW IT WAS STILL DOCTOR ESME BARBERRA.

AND SHE DESERVED BETTER THAN THIS!

ANONYMOUS CALL CAME IN ABOUT HER, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING.

DEAD BODY, DROPPED OFF. PROBABLY BY ONE OF THE HYDRA MONSTERS.



HER NAME WAS ESME BARBERRA. AND WHY WASN'T THE AREA CORDONED OFF?

THERE COULDVE BEEN TRACE EVIDENCE OF WHERE SHE WAS BEFORE SHE WAS LEFT HERE.

WASTE OF TIME,
THAT'S WHY.

THE ONLY
REASON WHY
WE'RE ALL HERE
IS BECAUSE OF
POLICE
PROCEDURE.

I LET HIM TALK AS I SCAN
THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR
SENTRY TO ASSIMILATE.

MY PERSONAL COMPUTER
ASSISTANT WILL PROCESS
THE INFORMATION AND CAN
EVEN CREATE A 3-D
HOLOGRAM OF THE SCENE
FOR FUTURE INVESTIGATION.

I JUST WISH I COULDN'T
GOTTEN HERE BEFORE
THEY DID.

WHY ARE YOU
EVEN HERE,
KNIGHT?

AREN'T THERE
SOME SEWER
RATS YOU
COULD BE
EATING?

SHE WAS A HUMAN
BEING, DETECTIVE!

SHE DESERVES TO
HAVE HER MURDER
INVESTIGATED
PROPERLY SO WE CAN
STOP THE SCUM THAT
KILLED HER FROM
DOING IT AGAIN!

COLOR ME
UNIMPRESSED,
SEWER-BOY.

LOOK, ANYONE WHO
COMES INTO THE HAZARD
ZONES DESERVE ANYTHING
THAT HAPPENS TO THEM.

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS
AROUND HERE, AND
EVERYONE KNOWS IT.

DO I LOOK
LIKE
"EVERYONE"?

YOU LOOK LIKE SHIT
WITH AN ATTITUDE
JUST WAITING TO BE
FLUSHED.

YOU WERE A BADASS
BEFORE YOU BECAME
MOT'S LITTLE BITCH.

NOW YOU'RE JUST A
BITCH AS FAR AS
ANYONE HERE IS
CONCERNED.

HE'S TAUNTING
ME... TRYING TO
GET ME EITHER
ARRESTED OR
ASSAULTED.
OR BOTH.



YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, KNIGHT? I'M RIGHT HERE.

'COURSE YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE ON HALF THE SQUAD AS WELL.



ALRIGHT, THAT'S ABOUT ENOUGH FROM YOU, HAYES.

LOOK, KNIGHT, WE'RE JUST DOING OUR JOBS HERE.



DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. VAHZILOK TREAT THEIR VICTIMS BETTER THAN YOU'RE TREATING HER!



THE REASON WHY IT SEEMS WE DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT HER RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE HAS ALREADY DONE ALL THE LEG-WORK ON THIS. WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE CORONER.



YOU GOT HERE MAYBE FIVE MINUTES BEFORE I DID. HOW THE HELL COULD ANYONE DO A PROPER INVESTIGATION IN THAT TIME?



BECAUSE IT'S MY CALL, THAT'S WHY.



YOU'RE THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THIS SCENE?



LIEUTENANT MCCADE. I'M THE ONE THAT FIRST ARRIVED AND I'M THE ONE THAT JUST FILED THE CASE WITH THE STATION.

REALLY CUT-AND-DRY.

HELPLESS WOMAN SUCKERED INTO COMING TO THE PARK, CAME ACROSS A GANG PARTY, GOT KILLED, AND THE BODY WAS DUMPED AND THEN DRAGGED HERE BY HYDRA.



DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
GANGS DON'T STRIP THE
BODY OR BURN OFF
THEIR FINGERPRINTS
VAHZILOK WOULD HAVE
USED THE WHOLE BODY
FOR SPARE PARTS.



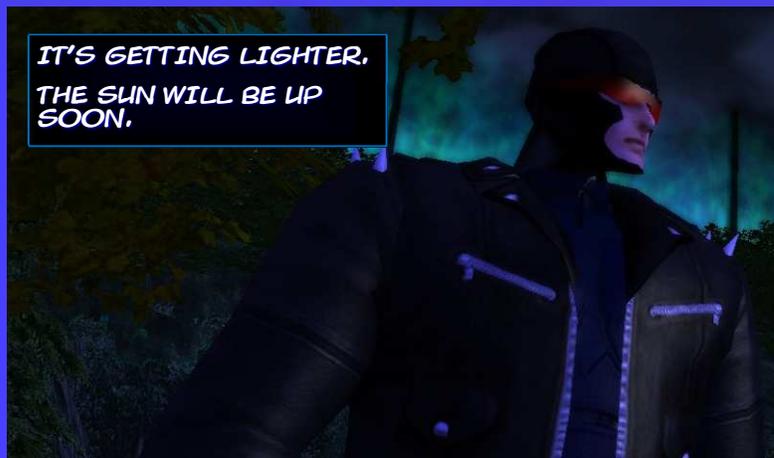
WELL THAT'S TOO
BAD, MISTER KNIGHT,
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT
I'VE ALREADY FILED
IN MY REPORT.



NOW, YOU'RE
WELCOME TO
DISPUTE MY
REPORT ALL
YOU WANT.
MAYBE EVEN
FILE YOUR
OWN REPORT.



GOOD LUCK GETTING
ANYONE TO BELIEVE
YOU, THOUGH.
BECAUSE HERE IN
PARAGON CITY...
THE COP **ALWAYS**
WINS.
ALWAYS.



IT'S GETTING LIGHTER.
THE SUN WILL BE UP
SOON.

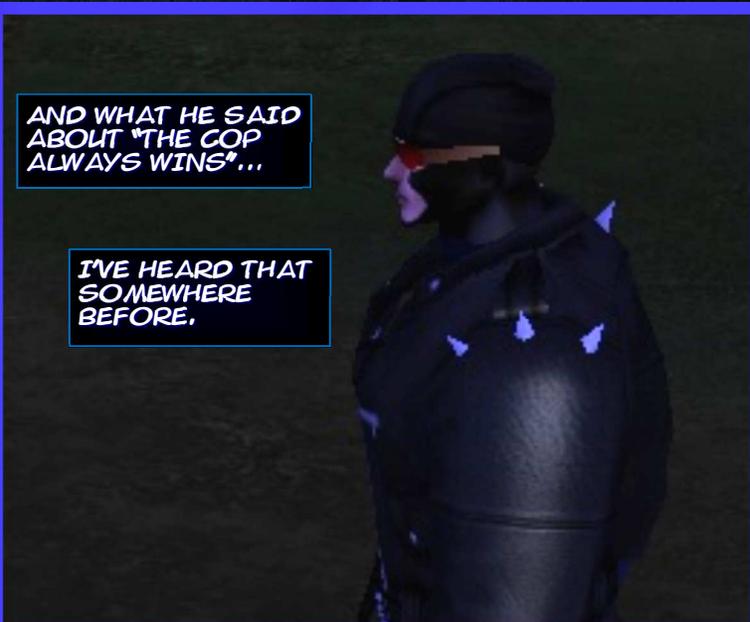
ONCE UPON A TIME I
COULD WORK WITH ONLY
ONE HOUR OF SLEEP.

NOW I NEED FOUR
HOURS A NIGHT, AND
I STILL HAVE A DAY
JOB TO DO, NOW
MORE THAN EVER.



MCCADE.
I'LL HAVE TO
LOOK INTO HIM.

HE'S TOO
QUICK TO
CLOSE OUT
THE CASE.



AND WHAT HE SAID
ABOUT "THE COP
ALWAYS WINS"...

I'VE HEARD THAT
SOMEWHERE
BEFORE.

TALOS ISLAND - HOURS LATER...



HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SUPERHERO GROUP



THAT SHOULDN'T BE THERE.
WHO PUT YOU IN THAT DIRECTORY?



Mindy Harrison
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

YOU'RE SNEAKY, WHOEVER YOU ARE.
NOBODY WOULD'VE SEEN YOU THERE.



IS THERE A PROBLEM, MISS HARRISON?

JUST FOLLOWING UP ON THE RECENT ATTEMPTS TO INSTALL FILMFLIX TO YOUR SYSTEM, CPCI*.
SOMETIMES SOME PIECES OF CODE GET LEFT BEHIND THAT COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.
EXCEPT THIS ISN'T...



OH MY...

(AS MENTIONED IN THE LAST ISSUE.)

RYDER, THIS IS MINDY.



I JUST FOUND SOMETHING IN THE BASE SERVER THAT YOU REALLY NEED TO SEE.



KINGS ROW

I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE FOR THIS.

IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I MUST INFORM YOU OF THE LOSS OF ONE OF OUR BELOVED ASSOCIATES.

MAKING A LIVE VIDEO FOR ALL OF THE ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT EMPLOYEES.

MOST PEOPLE KNEW ESME BARBERA AS "SAINT ESME", A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE OF HELPING OTHERS IN NEED.

SHE WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE NO ONE WENT WITHOUT MEDICAL CARE, EITHER HERE IN ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT, OR OUT THERE, IN THE HAZARD ZONES.

I AM NOT AT LIBERTY TO SAY WHAT HAPPENED TO HER, BUT I WILL SAY THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND HER DEATH.

IT'S NOT REALLY TRUE.

Drake Grey
AKA JASON KNIGHT

I HAVE ORDERED THE KINGS ROW BRANCH CLOSED TODAY SO ESME'S ASSOCIATES CAN BEGIN TO COPE WITH HER LOSS.

I'M ASKING THAT THE OTHER BRANCH OFFICES IN PARAGON CITY WELCOME ANY KINGS ROW CUSTOMERS AS THEY WOULD THEIR OWN REGULARS.

IF ANY BRANCH MANAGER HAS ANY QUESTIONS, THEY CAN CONTACT ME DIRECTLY HERE AT THE KINGS ROW BRANCH.

BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET THESE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE POLICE HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN HER OFF.

WE WILL HAVE COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR ANY ASSOCIATE WHO NEEDS IT.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE INFORMATION ON ESME'S MEMORIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE WHEN WE GET THEM.

THESE ARE TRYING TIMES FOR US ALL, BUT I KNOW WE WILL PERSEVERE AND MOVE FORWARD.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME.

"LEVEL THIRTEEN" - AKA THE KNIGHT'S LAIR

TWO HOURS LATER...

WITH THE BUILDING CLOSED FOR THE DAY, I HAVE TIME TO FOCUS ON ESME'S DEATH,

AND ON THE OFFICER THAT DECIDED TO CLOSE THE CASE TOO QUICKLY.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM MCCADE IS A SEASONED POLICE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE KINGS ROW DISTRICT, REPORTING DIRECTLY TO DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD.

WIELD... WIELD...

I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE. STRANGE THAT MCCADE WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF. IS WIELD IN CHARGE OF SPECIAL PROJECTS?

THE SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAM WAS SHUT DOWN AFTER THE DEATH OF DEPUTY CHIEF McMILLIAN.

EXPLAINS HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO GET CAPTAIN PARAGONNA PROMOTED TO RUN THE AWAKENED DIVISION.*

OKAY, TELL ME MORE ABOUT MCCADE'S PAST. WHERE IS HE FROM? WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DID HE RECEIVE?

THAT SEEMS TO BE DIFFICULT. HIS RECORDS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT DATABASE ONLY GO BACK TO HIS FIVE YEARS WITH THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO THE PARAGON CITY POLICE.

(ISSUE #1)

HE WAS ISSUED FIVE REPRIMANDS FOR EXCESSIVE ABUSE AND FOR HARASSMENT IN NEW YORK CITY, BUT HE ALSO RECEIVED SEVEN COMMENDATIONS FROM HIS SUPERIORS FOR THE HIGH VOLUME OF CLOSED CASES.

LIKewise, HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED TWO COMMENDATIONS HERE IN PARAGON CITY FOR CLOSING CASES.

THE BRASS DON'T SEEM TO CARE IF THE CASES ARE CLOSED RIGHT, JUST THAT THEY ARE. ANY COMPLAINTS SINCE COMING HERE?

NINE COMPLAINTS ON FILE, ONE OF WHICH IS ON THE LIST OF FILES THAT YOU WANTED FLAGGED FOR REVIEW. THIS IS THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT.

SENTRY VIDEO FILE

I MIMAGINE COMING OUT OF YOUR SHOWER AND FINDING THE POLICE IN YOUR HOME!

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THEY ARREST YOU AND HANDCLIFF YOU NAKED, IN YOUR KITCHEN, AND IN FRONT OF YOUR CHILDREN!

AND ALL OF IT, CAPTURED ON VIDEO!

THAT IS THE NIGHTMARE THAT THIRTY-EIGHT YEAR-OLD ROSE VESTA FOUND HERSELF THIS PAST AUGUST.

PNN AFTERNOON NEWS WITH ROBIN STEED



SENTRY VIDEO FILE

MISS VESTA, A DIVORCED MOTHER OF THREE, FOUND HERSELF ON THE WRONG END OF THE LAW WHEN TWO POLICE OFFICERS PAID HER A VISIT AFTER AN ALLEGED ALTERCATION WITH HER EX-HUSBAND EARLIER THAT DAY.

NOW WE'RE GOING TO SHOW YOU PORTIONS OF THE VIDEO THAT WAS TAKEN BY HER FIFTEEN YEAR-OLD SON, BUT WE CAUTION YOU THAT THE CONTENT MAY BE DISTURBING.

SINGLE MOTHER SUES PARAGON POLICE OVER VIDEO ARREST



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

"YOU'RE UNDER ARREST."

"I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!"

"WHAT TH--? ARE YOU NAKED UNDER THAT TOWEL?"

"I JUST GOT OUT OF THE SHOWER-- LET ME GO!!!"

"LET MY MOM GO! SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!"

"SHE DISRESPECTED A POLICE OFFICER, AND SHE'S GOING TO JAIL FOR THAT, AND YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN HER IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP!"

"I THINK WE SHOULD JUST CALL CHILD SERVICES AND GET THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM PUT IN FOSTER CARE."

"NO! NO! DON'T TAKE MY BABIES! JUST... DON'T LET THEM SEE ME LIKE THIS!"

"YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S DOING THIS, MA'AM."

"PLEASE, JUST LET ME PUT SOME CLOTHES ON! DON'T PARADE ME OUT IN... NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!"

SENTRY VIDEO FILE



WE'RE GOING TO UN-ARREST YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO GET AN ATTORNEY, BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED ONE REAL SOON.

SENTRY VIDEO FILE



THE NEXT TIME A POLICE OFFICER SHOWS UP, YOU DON'T HAVE THEM WAIT FOR ANYTHING. WE DON'T CARE IF THIS IS YOUR HOME.

AMATEUR VIDEO 

SENTRY VIDEO FILE



WE'RE PARAGON POLICE. WE GO ANYWHERE WE WANT. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TELLING YOU, MA'AM?

AMATEUR VIDEO 

SENTRY VIDEO FILE



MY NAME IS MCCADE, MA'AM. M-C-C-A-D-E. AND YOU CAN FILE A COMPLAINT ALL YOU LIKE. BUT IN THIS CITY...

AMATEUR VIDEO 

AMATEUR VIDEO 



"THE COP ALWAYS WINS."

"ALWAYS."

NOT WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU.



I'M SORRY, JASON, BUT THE PARAGON NEWS NETWORK HAS A LIVE UPDATE ON THE INCIDENT IN QUESTION.

LET'S SEE IT.



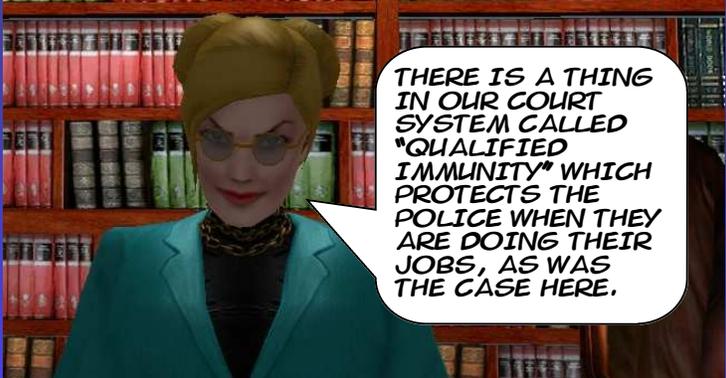
FOR MORE ON THE DECISION OF THE GRAND JURY NOT TO INDICT LIEUTENANT MCCAIDE, LET'S TURN TO PNN'S OWN LEGAL EXPERT, NAN BRACER.

AFTERNOON NEWS



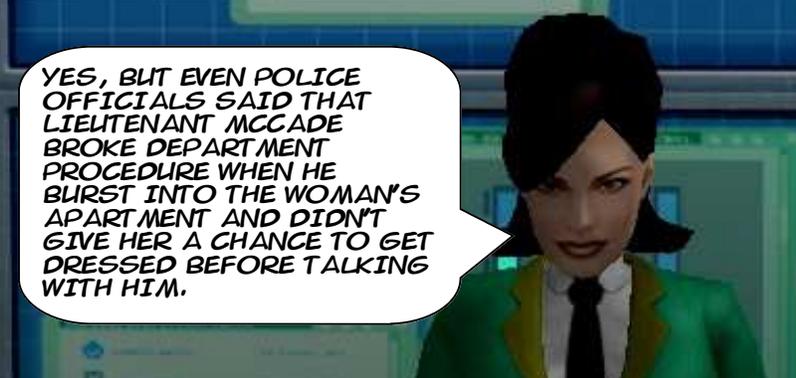
RO-BIN, THE REAAAASON WHY THE GRAND JURY ISSUED A "NO TRUE BILL" FOR INDICTMENT IS BECAUUUUUSE THE POLICE ARE PRESUMED TO BE IN THE RIGHT IN THESE MATTERS.

NAN BRACER · PNN LEGAL EXPERT



THERE IS A THING IN OUR COURT SYSTEM CALLED "QUALIFIED IMMUNITY" WHICH PROTECTS THE POLICE WHEN THEY ARE DOING THEIR JOBS, AS WAS THE CASE HERE.

FORMER PROSECUTOR



YES, BUT EVEN POLICE OFFICIALS SAID THAT LIEUTENANT MCCAIDE BROKE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURE WHEN HE BURST INTO THE WOMAN'S APARTMENT AND DIDN'T GIVE HER A CHANCE TO GET DRESSED BEFORE TALKING WITH HIM.

ROBIN STEED · PNN ANCHOR



AND THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A LETTER OF REPRIMAND, WHICH WAS PRECIIIIIIISELY WHAT THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN. THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN A DISIPLINAAAAAARY MEASURE FROM DAY ONE.

THEN AGAIN, I'M REALLY NOT SURPRISED THAT OUR SO-CALLED "LIBERTARIAN" DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALEX WENTWORTH TRIED TO MAKE THIS INTO A CRIMINAL CASE.

BREAKING NEWS · GRAND JURY FAILS TO INDICT "NAKED BUST" COP



WHO WAS THE PROSECUTOR IN CHARGE OF THE GRAND JURY?

STAND BY...

THE PROSECUTOR IN CHARGE OF THE GRAND JURY WAS DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY EDWARD VANCE.

"Yes, It's Dangerous!"

When I was told we needed a reporter in the Rogue Isles, I jumped at the chance.

Sure it's a dangerous assignment. But that is what makes the job that much more important to what we do.

Because we're here to get the story, not just pad our resume.



Randi Rogues
Rogue Isles Correspondent



Tough As Nails... But Still Needs Help.

Time are getting tough for Paragon City, and your police officers are getting tough as well.

We can give our officers the latest in technology, the most advanced weapons, and the toughest of body armors. We can turn every officer into a walking, talking, super-powered tank.

And all of that will still not be enough.

Because the police still need loyalty and support from you, the public.

They put their lives on the line for you, fighting the worst of the worst.

Heroes in spandex are fleeting. They're here today and gone tomorrow.

The real heroes are the ones that are out there each and every day, fighting the good fight not for glory, but because you're worth it.



Support Your Local Police Officer!

Paid for by the Paragon City Police Union. Support the police and obey the police.





FROM THE CREATOR OF
"NEW ALLIED FIGHTERS"



NEW SERIES PREMIERE

MAJOR DEEJ UNIVERSE

ORIGINS

JANUARY 2016



<http://www.majordeejuniverse.com>



"H-V Casualty"

That's what the police put in their report when a hero battles with a villain and you're caught in the middle of it.

A stray bullet, a missed punch, a blast from an atomic accelerator, even from a mile away, can hurt, maim, cripple, or even kill you.

And all you'll ever be according to the police is just another "H-V Casualty".

We think you're more than that. We think you deserve more than just a notation in a police report.

Call us today and we'll make the heroes and villains pay!

Chris Jenkins - Attorney At Law

1-555-GET-RICH

RIKTI WAR ZONE

UNITED NATIONS VANGUARD BASE



I'M AFRAID I HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE IN LADY GREY'S DECISIONS WHEN IT COMES TO THE ROGUE ISLES.



ACTUALLY THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU. I WANT TO TAKE UP THE DEAL... FOR A NEW CIVILIAN LIFE. IF IT'S STILL ON THE TABLE, THAT IS.

Furia Powers
FORMER PRAETORIAN



IT ALWAYS IS, FURIA. BUT I MUST ASK WHY THE CHANGE OF HEA--

PRIORITY CALL FOR FURIA POWERS.

Dark Watcher
VANGUARD ADVISOR



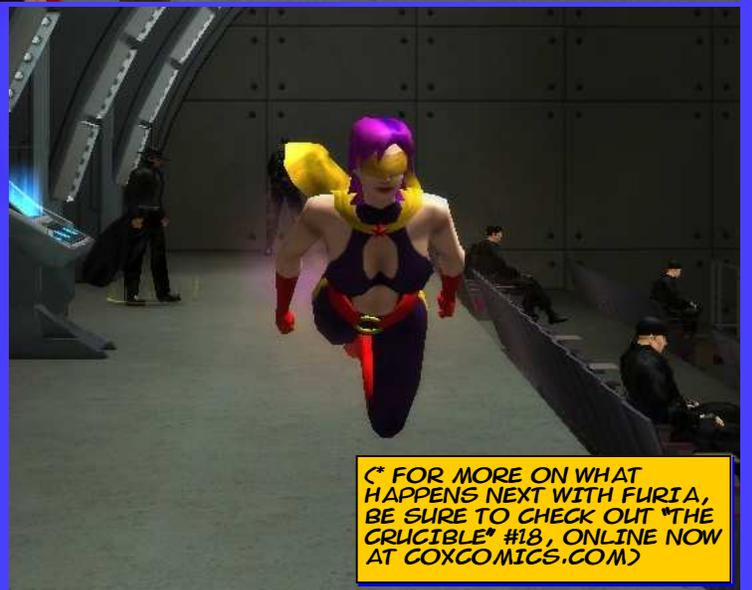
THIS IS FURIA, RESPONDING TO PAGE.

FURIA POWERS, THIS IS THE CPCU SYSTEM.

WE HAVE DETECTED A DISTURBANCE AT THE VANGUARD OFFICE BUILDING IN ATLAS PARK WHICH INVOLVES AN ENERGY SIGNATURE FROM THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.



USE THE PORTAL TO OUR ATLAS OFFICE. OUR DISCUSSION CAN WAIT. GO.



* FOR MORE ON WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WITH FURIA, BE SURE TO CHECK OUT "THE CRUCIBLE" #18, ONLINE NOW AT COXCOMICS.COM

FOUNDERS FALLS

PARAGON CITY JUDICIAL CENTER



I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU IN HERE, JASON.
BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SNEAK IN.



AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH FURIA THE OTHER DAY, I WASN'T IN THE MOOD TO SMACK YOUR TECHNOMANCER AROUND.*
WHY DID YOU PUT VANCE IN CHARGE OF THE GRAND JURY?

(* ISSUE 6)



I HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH THE POLICE UNION SO THEY WOULDN'T GO ON STRIKE EVERY SIX MONTHS SIMPLY BECAUSE I'M THE D.A.

Alex Wentworth
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



THAT'S BULLSHIT AND YOU KNOW IT!
EDWARD VANCE WAS SHADOWBORN. WE BOTH KNEW THAT, AND YET YOU STILL KEEP HIM HERE. AND NOW HE'S LET MCCADE GET AWAY WITH BULLYING AN INNOCENT WOMAN!

VANCE IS ON A TIGHT LEASH HERE, JASON.

EVERY MOMENT IN THAT GRAND JURY WAS MONITORED BY ONE OF MY JUNIOR PROSECUTORS TO MAKE SURE HE DID HIS JOB RIGHT.



COMPLIANCE ACCORDING TO A JUNIOR PROSECUTOR? THAT'S LIKE PUTTING A CUB SCOUT IN CHARGE OF A PEDOPHILE!

GRAND JURIES ARE THE PROSECUTOR'S PLAYGROUND. YOU YOURSELF KNOW THAT FIRST-HAND FROM VANCE.

IF VANCE WANTED MCCADE INDICTED, HE WOULD HAVE IN A HEARTBEAT.

I SAW THE VIDEO. NO JURY IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD HAVE HAD ANY DOUBT THAT MCCADE CROSSED THE LINE WHEN HE HUMILIATED AND BERATED ROSE VESTA IN FRONT OF HER OWN CHILDREN.



YOU DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, JASON?

YOU DON'T THINK THAT I WANT TO DUST OFF MY OLD OUTFIT AND PUT A FEW ARROWS IN MCCADE FOR WHAT HE DID?

LIEUTENANT MCCADE IS EVERYTHING THAT I OPPOSE ABOUT GOVERNMENT!

BUT HERE I'M NOT THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER.

I AM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR PARAGON CITY, AND I HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LAW, EVEN IF MCCADE THINKS IT DOESN'T APPLY TO HIM.



AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FIX THINGS.

OLD SAYING IS TRUE...
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME.



I'D TELL YOU TO BE CAREFUL, BUT I KNOW THAT YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ME. SO KNOW THIS...



MCCADE WAS ON MY LIST LONG BEFORE YOU SHOWED UP IN THIS WORLD.

NOT POSSIBLE.

EVERYTHING I HAVE ON HIM SAYS THAT HE WASN'T IN PARAGON CITY BEFORE 2007.



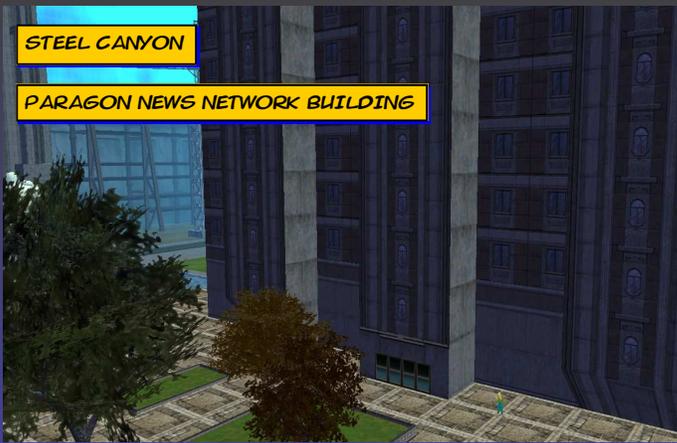
THAT'S BECAUSE HIS NAME WASN'T ALWAYS "WILLIAM MCCADE".

FROM ONE VIGILANTE TO ANOTHER.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER IF HE EVEN KNOWS WHAT THAT WORD MEANS ANYMORE.

STEEL CANYON

PARAGON NEWS NETWORK BUILDING



LET ME SEE IF I GET THIS RIGHT...

YOU WANT ME TO APPROVE OF YOU GOING TO THE ROGUE ISLES?

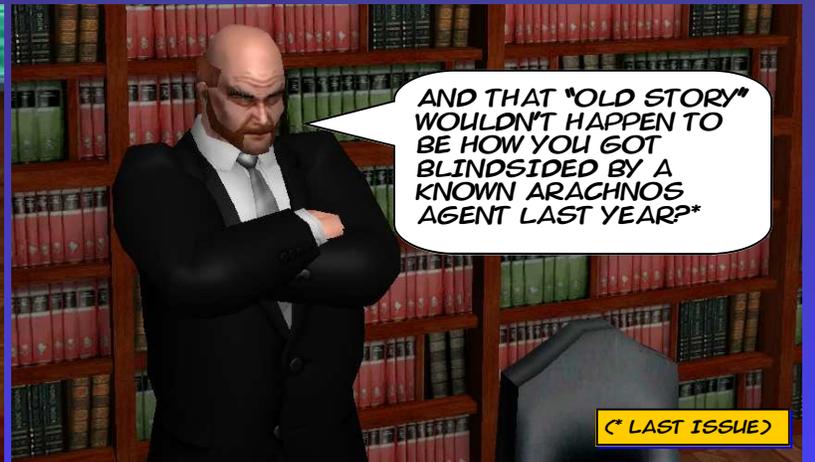
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR GODDAMNED MIND?

Kenny "K.C." Emerson
PNN GENERAL MANAGER



I WOULDN'T ASK IF THERE WASN'T A STORY INVOLVED. I GOT A NEW TIP ON AN OLD STORY, AND I WANT TO FOLLOW UP ON IT.

April Ramirez
PNN REPORTER

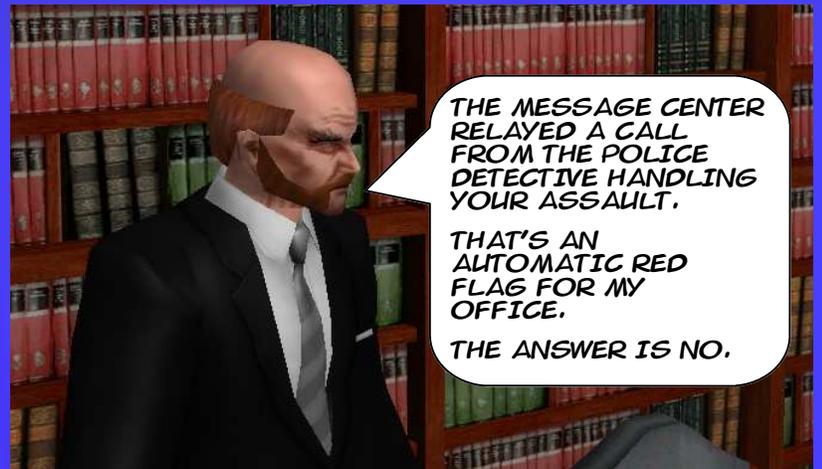


AND THAT "OLD STORY" WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE HOW YOU GOT BLINDSIDED BY A KNOWN ARACHNOS AGENT LAST YEAR?*

(* LAST ISSUE)



UM... YEAH, YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?



THE MESSAGE CENTER RELAYED A CALL FROM THE POLICE DETECTIVE HANDLING YOUR ASSAULT.

THAT'S AN AUTOMATIC RED FLAG FOR MY OFFICE.

THE ANSWER IS NO.



WHAT?!?

MISTER EMERSON, YOU KEEP SAYING WE NEED TO "GET THE STORY".

HELL, IT'S EMBLAZONED EVERYWHERE IN THIS BUILDING!

YES, THIS IS ABOUT THE WOMAN THAT ASSAULTED ME!

YES, I FOUND OUT THAT SHE'S AN AGENT OF ARACHNOS AND THAT SHE'S MOST LIKELY IN THE ROGUE ISLES.

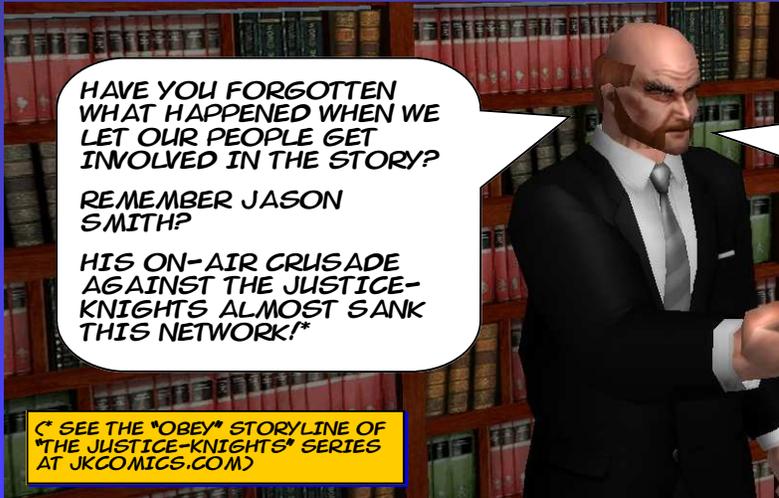
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THIS ALSO ISN'T A STORY.



THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM, APRIL. YOU'RE PART OF THE STORY!



ARE YOU SAYING THAT I CAN'T BE IMPARTIAL WHEN IT COMES TO DOING MY JOB?



HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE LET OUR PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN THE STORY?

REMEMBER JASON SMITH?

HIS ON-AIR CRUSADE AGAINST THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS ALMOST SANK THIS NETWORK!*

NAN BRACER ALMOST FINISHED US OFF WHEN GARRY BECKER EXPOSED HER OWN FRAUD.**

AND THEN THERE'S RONA... AND GOD KNOWS I WANT HER GONE FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE TO US AND OUR REPUTATION OVER THE YEARS.

POINT BEING: WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DRUNK-WALK THE LINE IN BEING IMPARTIAL WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING THE STORY.

(* SEE THE "OBEY" STORYLINE OF "THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS" SERIES AT JKCOMICS.COM)

(** "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #7)



I KNOW YOU WANT TO FIND THE WOMAN THAT HURT YOU, APRIL. HELL, IF I WAS IN YOUR SHOES I'D BE WANTING THE SAME THING.

AND EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T PERSONALLY INVOLVED, I CAN'T AFFORD TO SEND YOU THERE.

BUT I WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH RANDI ROGUES AND HAVE HER DO HER OWN CHECKING IN THE ISLES.



YOU'RE A GOOD REPORTER, APRIL. REMEMBER THAT.

YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING? STICK TO COVERING STORIES IN KINGS ROW. THAT'S YOUR BEAT.

YOU LET US GET THE STORY FOR YOU, OKAY?



HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET HERE?



YOU TRAINED ME, REMEMBER?
I WOULDN'T BE YOUR SIDEKICK IF I COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH WHERE YOU WENT.

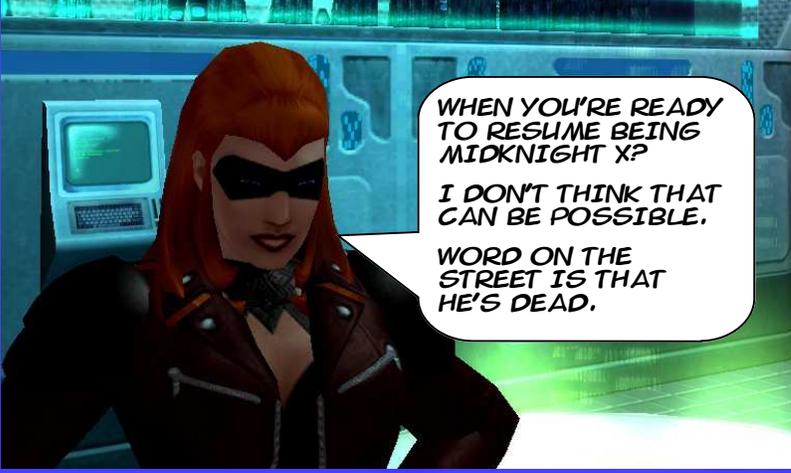
Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)



BESIDES, IF YOU WANTED ME KEPT OUT, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD SENTRY TO GIVE ME PERMISSION.



I WASN'T GOING TO LET YOU SEE THIS JUST YET, CASS.
I WAS PLANNING ON BRINGING YOU HERE LATER ON, WHEN I'M READY TO...



WHEN YOU'RE READY TO RESUME BEING MIDNIGHT X?
I DON'T THINK THAT CAN BE POSSIBLE.
WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT HE'S DEAD.



AND PLEASE DON'T GIVE ME THE OLD "I'VE BEEN DEAD BEFORE" LINE!



"REMEMBER WHEN YOU FIRST MET ME?"

"HOW CAN I FORGET? IT WAS WHEN I CHASED DOWN AARON THIERY."

"YOU WERE READY TO KILL HIM ON THE SPOT FOR HELPING ARACHNOS INVADE ATLAS PARK."

"I ASKED YOU 'IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT TO BE?'"

"AND I SAID THAT I DIDN'T KNOW."

"AND IF YOU WERE IN THAT SPOT TODAY, WOULD YOU?"

"OF COURSE NOT."



THAT'S WHERE I'M AT RIGHT NOW, CASS.



I'M HAVING TO ASK MYSELF IF THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO BE. CAN I BE "MIDKNIGHT" AGAIN? OR AM I JUST "JASON KNIGHT"?



OKAY... I GET IT, I GUESS.

WAIT... "MIDKNIGHT"? NOT "MIDKNIGHT X"?



SORRY TO INTERRUPT, JASON AND CASSANDRA, BUT I HAVE AN UPDATE ON LIEUTENANT MCCAIDE.



AS PER YOUR REQUEST, I DID A FACIAL SEARCH FOR WILLIAM MCCAIDE AND FOUND A MATCH WITH ANOTHER ENTRY BURIED IN THE PARAGON POLICE DATABASE.

IT SEEMS "WILLIAM MCCAIDE" WAS BORN "CADE WILLIAMS" AND WAS AN OFFICER WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOLLOWING THE FIRST RIKTI INVASION.

BACK WHEN CONRAD BOCHCO WAS IN CHARGE WITH HIS VARIOUS SECRET SQUADS.

PUT HIS PREVIOUS RECORD ON THE SCREEN.

ON-SCREEN.

CADE MITCHELL WILLIAMS

STATUS: RETIRED

HIRED: JANUARY 2003

GRADUATED: DEFERRED - EMERGENCY

HIGHEST RANK: SERGEANT

ASSIGNMENTS: 2003 - PEACEKEEPING PATROL, 2003 - PRISONER WATCH, 2004 - UNIFORM DIVISION, 2005 - DRUG PREVENTION DIVISION, 2006 - KINGS ROW SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT.

DISCIPLINE RECORD: 2003 - COMPLAINT OF ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR (DISMISSED), 2003 - COMPLAINT OF THEFT (DISMISSED), 2004 - COMPLAINT OF HARASSMENT (DISMISSED), 2004 - COMPLAINT OF HARASSMENT (DISMISSED), 2004 - COMPLAINT OF EXCESSIVE FORCE



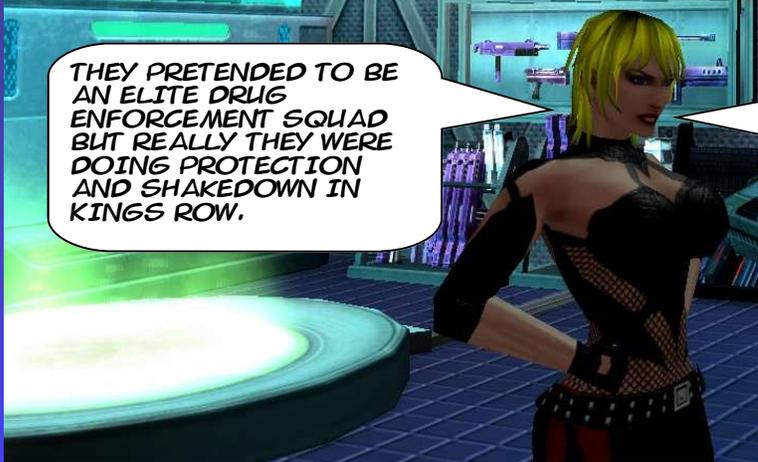


DEFERRED TRAINING... BOCHCO'S WAY OF RUSHING OFFICERS TO THE STREETS.
 KINGS ROW SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT... THAT'S THE BLUE DOG SQUAD!



I REMEMBER READING ABOUT THEM.
 THEY WERE SHUT DOWN BY THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER AND JIMMY HELLFIGHTER.*

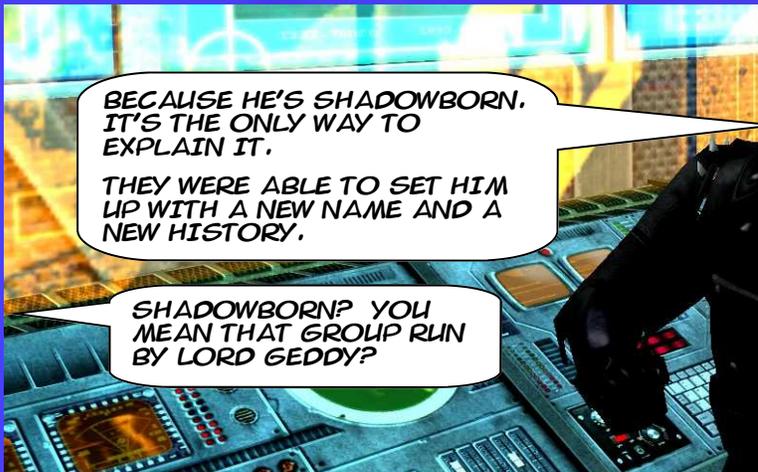
(* BACK IN THE *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN 2012 SPECIAL*.)



THEY PRETENDED TO BE AN ELITE DRUG ENFORCEMENT SQUAD BUT REALLY THEY WERE DOING PROTECTION AND SHAKEDOWN IN KINGS ROW.

BUT I THOUGHT ALL OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED WERE EITHER ARRESTED OR DISMISSED.
 BY ALL RIGHTS, SOMEONE LIKE CADE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET A JOB AS A COP ANYWHERE ELSE!

SO HOW WAS HE ALLOWED TO LEAVE AND THEN COME BACK UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME?



BECAUSE HE'S SHADOWBORN. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN IT.
 THEY WERE ABLE TO SET HIM UP WITH A NEW NAME AND A NEW HISTORY.

THE FIRST INCARNATION WAS A SHADOW NETWORK OF THE GOVERNMENT.
 LORD GEDDY RESTARTED IT AFTER CAPTAIN PARAGONNA FORCED THEM TO ELIMINATE THEIR REMAINING AGENTS.*

SHADOWBORN? YOU MEAN THAT GROUP RUN BY LORD GEDDY?

(* *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #4)



OKAY, SO HE'S DIRTY AND A BULLY.
 SO... WHAT, ARE WE GOING AFTER COPS NOW? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO?



IF THEY'RE LIKE MCCADE, ABSOLUTELY.

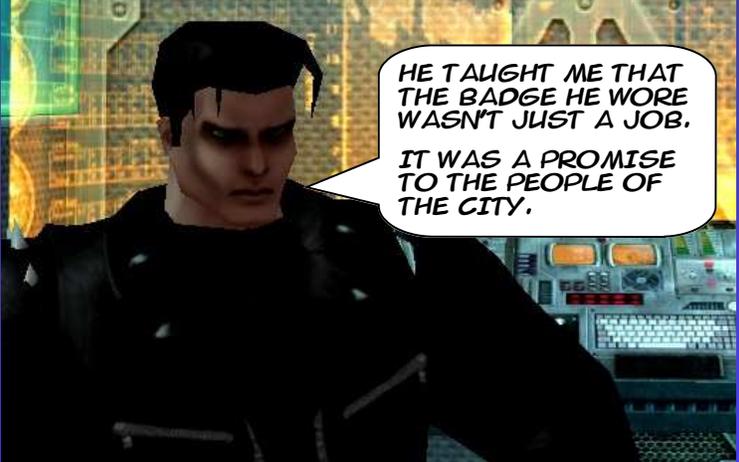


DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, JASON?
YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER SOME GANG-BANGER PUNK OR SOME MOBSTER.
YOU'RE GOING AFTER A POLICE OFFICER!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY ON THE SAME LINE AS THEM.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WORK WITH THEM, NOT SIT IN JUDGEMENT OF THEM!



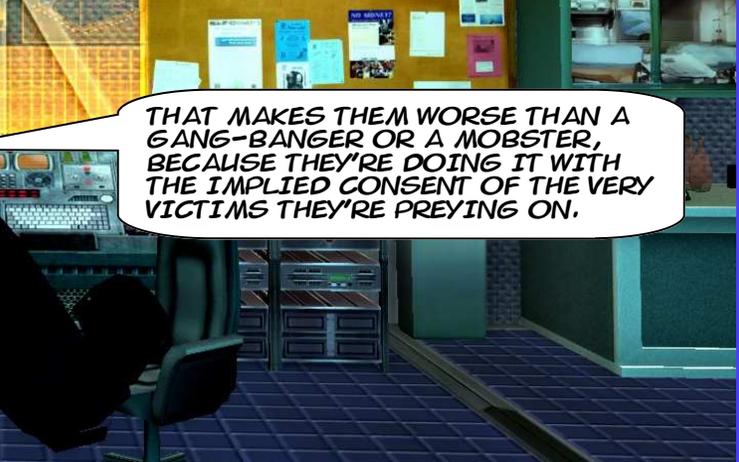
EXCEPT WHEN THEY CROSS THAT LINE!
THE MAN WHO TOOK CARE OF ME ON MY WORLD, THE MAN WHO WAS MORE OF A FATHER THAN ANYONE ELSE, WAS A POLICE OFFICER!



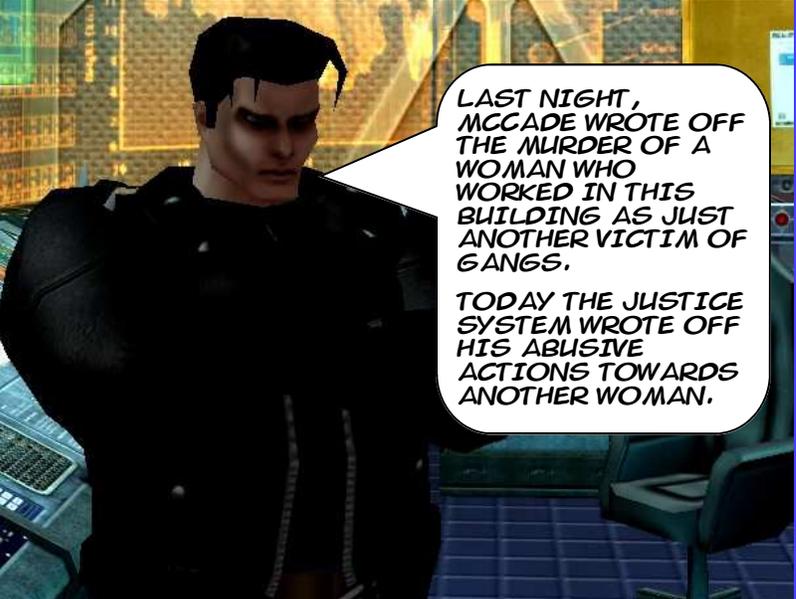
HE TAUGHT ME THAT THE BADGE HE WORE WASN'T JUST A JOB.
IT WAS A PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY.



GUYS LIKE MCCADE DON'T SEE THE BADGE AS A PROMISE.
THEY SEE IT AS PERMISSION TO DO WHAT THEY WANT AND TO TAKE WHAT THEY WANT.



THAT MAKES THEM WORSE THAN A GANG-BANGER OR A MOBSTER, BECAUSE THEY'RE DOING IT WITH THE IMPLIED CONSENT OF THE VERY VICTIMS THEY'RE PREYING ON.



LAST NIGHT, MCCADE WROTE OFF THE MURDER OF A WOMAN WHO WORKED IN THIS BUILDING AS JUST ANOTHER VICTIM OF GANGS.
TODAY THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WROTE OFF HIS ABUSIVE ACTIONS TOWARDS ANOTHER WOMAN.



KINGS ROW DOESN'T JUST NEED LAW AND ORDER.
IT NEEDS JUSTICE.
AND MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I NEED TO BE RIGHT NOW... NOT JUST "THE KNIGHT", BUT AS THE ONE THAT STANDS FOR JUSTICE.



EVEN IF IT MEANS GOING UP AGAINST EVERY COP AND QUITE POSSIBLY EVERY HERO IN THIS CITY?



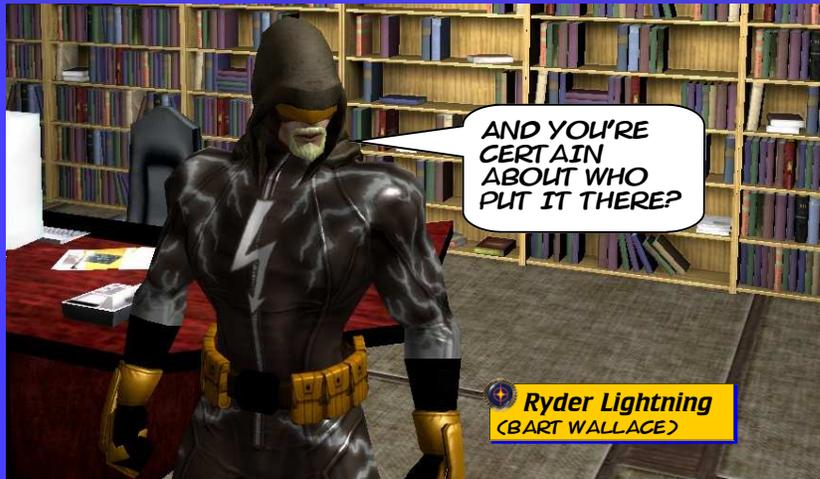
I HOPE NOT "EVERY" HERO. BUT IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, THEN SO BE IT.



AS THE SUN SETS ON PARAGON CITY...

"THAT'S SOME SERIOUSLY DAMNING PROGRAMMING, MINDY."

"YES SIR."



AND YOU'RE CERTAIN ABOUT WHO PUT IT THERE?

Ryder Lightning (BART WALLACE)



THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND WHO COULD'VE DONE IT.



IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS... THEN IT LOOKS LIKE WE OWE THE ELITE ICE QUEEN AN APOLOGY.

KINGS ROW

SO... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I KNOW YOUR SECRET. YOUR NAME CHANGE, YOUR RECORD FROM THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE... EVERYTHING.

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO FRIGHTEN ME, KNIGHT?

AM I SUPPOSED TO BE AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT BLAB WHO I REALLY AM?

GOT A NEWSFLASH FOR YOU, MISTER "MASKED VIGILANTE"...

IT'S NOT A SECRET TO ANYONE IN THE FORCE WHO I AM.

TO THE GUYS AT THE STATIONHOUSE, I'M NEITHER "BILL MCCADE" OR "CADE WILLIAMS". I'M JUST "CADE" TO THEM. THEY KNOW I WAS HERE BEFORE. THEY KNOW WHY I LEFT. THEY KNOW THAT I HAD TO CHANGE MY NAME IN ORDER FOR ME TO COME BACK.

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? THEY DON'T CARE. BECAUSE WE'RE ALL COPS.

A COP?

NO, YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THAT BADGE!

YOU THINK THAT BADGE GIVES YOU A LICENSE TO DO WHAT YOU WANT WITHOUT QUESTION.

ALL IT REALLY DOES IS IT MAKES YOU A THUG...

AND SOONER OR LATER IT MEANS THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME WILL HAVE TO TAKE YOU DOWN!

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES:

YOU CAN RESIGN
TOMORROW MORNING
AND KEEP WHATEVER
PENSION AND PERKS
YOU HAVE WITH THE
FORCE.

OR I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN
MY POWER TO BREAK YOU AND
FORCE YOU OUT.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A
TERRORISTIC THREAT.
AND THAT JUSTIFIES
ME USING FORCE TO
DEFEND MYSELF.

HE WAS READY
FOR THIS!

I LET HIM GET THE
FIRST SHOT.

WHAP!

POPI!

SO I CAN GET
IN RANGE.

POPI!

I DIDN'T HEAR
THE OTHER COPS
UNTIL THEY WERE
ON TOP OF ME.

BANG! *BANG!

I HEAR RUBBER BULLETS
HITTING MY BODY ARMOR.
NOT LETHAL, BUT THEY
STILL HURT LIKE HELL.



HOLD UP, BOYS.



I THINK WE MADE OUR POINT.



THIS IS WHY THE COP ALWAYS WINS, KNIGHT. I'M NOT JUST A COP HERE. I'M THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE PARAGON CITY POLICE UNION; SO I KNOW THESE GLYS HAVE MY BACK AT ALL TIMES.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

BUT IF YOU TRY THAT SHIT AGAIN, THESE GLYS WILL MAKE SURE YOU STAY DEAD.



BETTER GET GOING, KNIGHT.

I TAKE A QUICK LOOK AROUND SO MY VISOR CAN IDENTIFY EVERY OFFICER THERE.



SENTRY WILL HAVE FILES ON ALL OF THEM IN AN HOUR.



YOU SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE? I THINK HE WAS ABOUT TO GRY!

WE SURE SHOWED THAT CAPE!

THIS ONLY SHOWS I'M NOT READY YET.

NOT READY TO BE MIDKNIGHT.

BUT I'M NOT READY TO GIVE UP EITHER.

OKAY GLYS, BEERS ARE ON CADE TONIGHT!

ANYONE KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND SIN STALKER? I WANT TO POUND ON HIS ASS NEXT!

SCREW STALKER, FIND THAT PIECE OF ASS SIDEKICK OF HIS.

THEIR BIGGEST MISTAKE TONIGHT IS THEY DIDN'T KILL ME WHEN THEY COULDE.

BUT THE NEXT TIME THEY SEE ME, THEY'LL WISH THEY DID.

FAR from being the end!



FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

The Knight And The Future...

In the last issue, we talked about Jason Knight's new "life" now that he's been stripped of his "dark mists". Where once he was a part of the "darkness", he's been freed of it and he's been given a new opportunity at a life, a career, and a way to re-approach his lifelong quest for justice, not to mention reclaim his role as protector of Kings Row.

But having a costume and a base of operations and new "toys" and a new "secret identity" doesn't make you a hero, never mind a "knight". He needs a purpose. He needs to stand for something so he's not just hitting bad guys for the sake of hitting bad guys.

For Jason Knight, what he tries to stand for is... justice.

But what happens when "justice" is set aside in the name of "law and order"?

The issue of gross abuses of power by members of law enforcement have been in the news for well over a year. Instances of young men being killed by police officers have led to protests, riots, and calls for criminal convictions against the officers.

The stories are horrendous. One man was shot by a "part-time" officer who said he mistook his firearm with his Taser. A baby is scarred-for-life when a flash-bang grenade was lobbed by police into his crib. A man was shot in the back by an officer who was then allegedly planted evidence to claim that the man "tried to grab" his Taser.

The story of Rose Vesta that was seen in this issue was based on an actual incident in Chandler, Arizona, where a police officer did arrest a single mother who had just gotten out of the shower, and the whole matter was recorded by both the officer's partner and by one of her children. The officer was pompous enough to even lecture the mother after supposedly "un-arresting" her.

However, unlike this issue, where the "arresting" officer was allowed to get away with his criminal activity, the real-world officer retired from the police department, supposedly so he wouldn't face criminal charges, and after the department's internal affairs investigators deemed the incident "improper" and "illegal".

Sadly, though, this is the exception rather than the rule.

In too many instances, police officers are given more than the benefit of the doubt when it comes to their abusive actions. Sometimes they're given out-and-out suspension of disbelief, especially in the case of Eric Garner, who was strangled to death by a New York City police officer right in front of video cameras, but was allowed to get away with it by saying it was a "sleeper hold".

The police are often allowed to get away with these kinds of actions because they are protected by a legal concept called "qualified immunity". As long as they can say they are "doing their jobs", then anything they do can be considered legal and justified.

Continues on next page...

And, until recently, they were able to prevail because quite often it was considered the victim's word against the word of the police officers - plural - and the officers always win out in those situations.

What has changed, though, is the presence of video recording devices through cellphones and tablets, drones, and even the police officer's own dash-cams and body cameras. Even if the local media doesn't show the footage, there is always YouTube and the other Internet services that give anyone an instant forum to expose bad cops. And even though some officers try to illegally stifle citizens from recording their actions, even from a distance on their own front porch, they can't stop the call for more and more accountability for their actions.

But even when there is glaring proof of abuse, there are still plenty of supporters that mindlessly justify anything that the police do simply because of "the badge". They don't think that there should be any discussion of police abuse and think that anything that happens to "bad guys" is warranted. They err to an absolute fault on the side of "Dirty Harry" and proclaim that the ends always justify the means when it comes to the police.

Now let's add to that a city where heroes are given the same legal status as police officers. Where any vigilante or brawler can bust bad guys just like cops simply by putting on a mask or a power suit or channeling some primal power. Do you really think the average cop will somehow not be fazed by this shift? And who will stand up for the people of Paragon City when that "Thin Blue Line" goes rogue to compensate for their feelings of inadequacy?

There used to be a hero that stood up to those kinds of abuses. His name was the Libertarian Avenger. Can Jason Knight follow in Alex Wentworth's place? Time will tell.

Want to see more Furia? Be sure to check out "The Crucible" over at CoXComics.com and find out Furia's role in the "House of Sothis" storyline starting with Issue #18.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



THINGS LOOK A LITTLE BLEAK FOR JASON KNIGHT. MAYBE HE NEEDS SOME HELP GOING AFTER "CADE".

ENTER FIONA PODERES, CASE INVESTIGATOR!

PLUS: APRIL'S LIFE CONTINUES TO GET TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN AND INSIDE-OUT AS SHE GETS ANOTHER DEVASTATING PIECE OF NEWS.





THE CRUCIBLE

THE

THE HOUSE OF SOTHIS

CITY OF HEROES

CHAMPIONS ONLINE

STAR TREK ONLINE

DC Universe Online

**STAR WARS: THE
OLD REPUBLIC**

THE SECRET WORLD

WORLD OF WARCRAFT

AND MANY, MANY MORE!

**OUR "CITY" DIDN'T GO AWAY...
OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

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