

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

AND THE GUARDIANS



Issue 07
2015



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G.U. Ru
Important-Sounding Futurist



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

New Guardian Koldfront was given what he thought would be an easy first assignment: investigate the "Horde" and see if they were connected in any way to the sonic-based robots that were associated with the super-powered menace Destitution.

Unfortunately, he wasn't the only one that showed up to the meeting with Aurora Borealis and the mysterious Watcher Twelve.

"HELLO! MY NAME IS..."

**- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2
COVER BY .RA AND DAVID 2**

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STEEL CANYON - PARAGON CITY, RI

STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY

"THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT."

AS YOU ALL KNOW, I HAVE THREE OPENINGS FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS.

CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, THESE WILL NOT BE "EASY-A" POSITIONS.

NOR WILL THEY BE A WAY FOR YOU TO GET OUT OF YOUR REQUIRED COURSES.

THESE ARE CONSIDERED WORK-STUDY POSITIONS, SO YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN YOUR CURRENT ACADEMIC OBLIGATIONS.

YOU WON'T BE ASKED TO GOPHER FOR ME, GET MY DRY-CLEANING, OR RUN ERRANDS ON MY BEHALF.

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING, THOUGH, WILL BE TO HELP YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS WITH PROBLEMS IN THEIR COURSES, AND ALSO HELP ME IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Prof. Bart Wallace
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING

I HAPPEN TO SIT ON A NUMBER OF ADVISORY BOARDS, INCLUDING ONE FOR A CRISIS HOTLINE, AND I MAY BE CALLED AWAY AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE TO DEAL WITH A SITUATION INVOLVING THOSE GROUPS.

IN THOSE INSTANCES, THE TEACHING ASSISTANT'S JOB WILL BE TO PICK UP WHERE I LEFT OFF, BE IT A LECTURE OR A DISCUSSION, OR EVEN ADMINISTERING A TEST.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

I DIDN'T PLAN ON IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE SITUATIONS JUST HAPPENED.

SO... I'LL CHECK ON THIS, AND IN THE MEANTIME, TAKE THE TIME TO WRITE DOWN YOUR NAME, YOUR COURSE SCHEDULE, AND WHY I SHOULD PICK YOU OVER THE OTHER APPLICANTS.



"CALL YOUR MOTHER?"
SERIOUSLY?
WHAT'S THE SITUATION?



SORRY, RYDER, BUT I DIDN'T CHOOSE THE CONTACT MESSAGE.
KOLDFRONT'S UNDER SIEGE FROM BOTH THE FREAKSHOW AND THE CLOCKWORK.

Elite Ice Queen
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)



I SENT HIM TO PORTAL BECAUSE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A MILK RUN.*
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

← ISSUE #5 →



WISH I COULD SAY, BOSS. THINGS THERE ARE STILL FLUID.
FURIA POWERS AND GUARDIAN STAR JUST ARRIVED.



GOOD. WITH ANY LUCK THEY MAY EVEN GET SOME VINDICATOR HELP SINCE AURORA BOREALIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE THERE AS WELL.
OKAY, NOTIFY ME IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES AND I'LL CHECK IN LATER.

OH, AND DON'T THINK ABOUT TRYING TO INSTALL FILMFLIX TO THE BASE SERVERS AGAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET CAUGHT UP ON *CRAFTS OF WAR* ON YOUR OWN TIME.

← ISSUE #5 →



I'LL KEEP YOU POSTED.
AND NO FILMFLIX. GOT IT.

AND IT'S *BLACK IS THE NEW ORANGE* THAT I NEED TO CATCH UP ON.
CRAFTS OF WAR... WHO STILL WATCHES THAT SERIES? THEY JUST KEEP KILLING OFF THE GOOD CHARACTERS!





I TRUST MY DEVICES.
IT'S THE COMBINATION
OF THE FREAKSHOW
AND THE CLOCKWORK
THAT I DON'T TRUST.

Watcher Twelve
STRANGE VISITOR



IT IS STRANGE,
GIVEN WHAT WE
KNOW ABOUT
THE HORDE,
THAT WE'D FACE
TWO DIFFERENT
ADVERSARIES
AT THE SAME
TIME.

Aurora Borealis
VINDICATORS

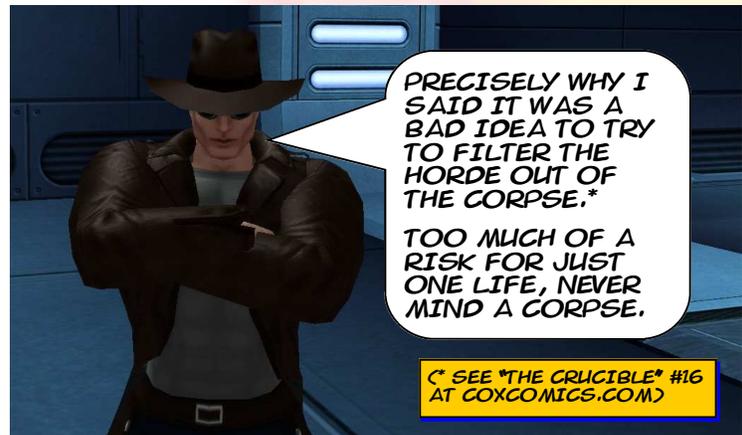


THE MENTAL IMAGES I
GET FROM THE
FREAKSHOW SAYS THAT
THEY WERE HIRED TO
RETRIEVE QUINCY FROM
HIS CHAMBER.

THEY MAKE MENTION OF
THEIR NEW BOSS,
SOMEONE CALLED...
"STEAMPHUNK"?

IT STILL DOESN'T MAKE SENSE,
THOUGH.

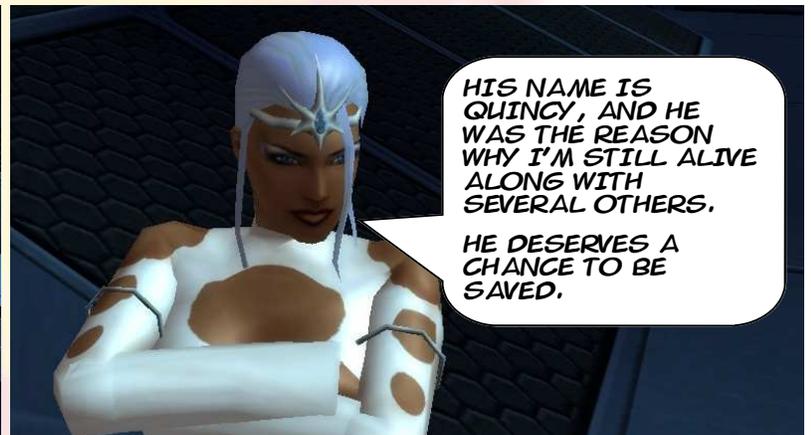
IF THE FREAKSHOW GET QUINCY
OUT OF THE CHAMBER AND ANY
OF THE HORDE IS STILL ACTIVE
WITHIN HIM, THEY WILL SPREAD
TO THEM LIKE A VIRUS AND
CONVERT THEM ALL.



PRECISELY WHY I
SAID IT WAS A
BAD IDEA TO TRY
TO FILTER THE
HORDE OUT OF
THE CORPSE.*

TOO MUCH OF A
RISK FOR JUST
ONE LIFE, NEVER
MIND A CORPSE.

**< SEE "THE CRUCIBLE" #16
AT COXCOMICS.COM >**



HIS NAME IS
QUINCY, AND HE
WAS THE REASON
WHY I'M STILL ALIVE
ALONG WITH
SEVERAL OTHERS.

HE DESERVES A
CHANCE TO BE
SAVED.



YOUR FUNERAL.
JUST DON'T
WANT IT TO BE
MINE TOO.

THE DISCUSSION IS
ACADEMIC AT THIS
POINT.

WE NEED TO KEEP OUR
ADVERSARIES BUSY SO
THEY WON'T MAKE IT TO
THE CHAMBER.

•PING•
INCOMING
TRANSMISSION



THIS IS KOLDFRONT.

KOLDFRONT, THIS IS FURIA POWERS.
I'M HERE WITH GUARDIAN STAR JUST PAST THE ENTRANCEWAY.
WE WERE UPDATED ON YOUR SITUATION ON THE WAY HERE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?



WE ARE CURRENTLY KEEPING THE FREAKSHOW DISTRACTED. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE CLOCKWORK YET.
OTHER THAN THAT, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO DO NEXT.

SIGH
OKAY, SOUNDS LIKE WE'LL FIND THE CLOCKWORK BEFORE YOU DO.
YOU MAKE YOUR WAY BACK TO THE STASIS CHAMBER AND WE'LL MEET YOU THERE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.



ARE WE AGREED ON THE COURSE OF ACTION?



AGREED.



DIDN'T REALIZE DOING THE RIGHT THING NEEDED A COMMITTEE VOTE.

WOOSH!

THEN BE LUCKY YOU NEVER SPENT TIME WITH A MYSTIC COVEN ON THE WEST COAST.



WE BE SCORIN' SOME SERIOUS CRAP, BOSS.

YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S CRAP.
WE NEED TO FIND THE BIG SCORE.

Steamphunk
FREAKSHOW LEADER



YEAH! I FOUND THE 'DYNE! I'M GONNA GET JUICED UP!



HEY, KNOCK THAT SHIT OFF! GET JUICED AFTER WE FIND THAT HORDE STIFF.
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GETTING PAID FOR!



HE'S A CHUMP!

AIN'T METAL!



WHY WE EV'N LISTENIN' TO THIS POSER?
SCORE'S A SCORE!



DRECK'S IN PRISON.
HALF THE OTHER BOSSES ARE EITHER DEAD OR FRAGGED BAD.



STEAMPHUNK MAY BE A POSER, BUT HE'S GOT US WORK SO WE CAN SCORE THIS SHIT.
SO YOU SHUT YOUR HOLE AND YOU WAIT 'TIL THE REAL METAL FREAKS GET BACK.

ELSEWHERE IN THAT BUILDING...

FURIA,
WAIT UP.

Furia Powers
FORMER PRAETORIAN



I DIDN'T GET A
CHANCE TO TALK
WITH YOU ON THE
WAY HERE FROM
THE APARTMENT...

Guardian Star
(JOHN COLE)



A TEAMMATE NEEDS
US, AND YOU WANT
TO TALK ABOUT
YOUR PERSONAL
LIFE WITH TAYA?

IT'LL BE
QUICK.

I JUST WANTED TO
POINT OUT THAT WE
DON'T NORMALLY
FLAUNT OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH
ANYONE, EVEN WITHIN
THE GUARDIANS.



I GET IT. I WON'T
TELL ANYONE UNTIL
YOU GUYS ARE
READY TO COME OUT
ABOUT IT.

IT'S A LITTLE BIT
MORE THAN THAT.



IN OUR TIME TOGETHER,
TAYA HAS BEEN VERY
CAUTIOUS ABOUT
KEEPING HER... PERSONAL
LIFE... TO HERSELF.

BUT TONIGHT... SHE WAS
COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO
OPEN HERSELF UP TO YOU,
EVEN THOUGH SHE DIDN'T
KNOW YOU WERE GOING
TO BE THERE.



I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO
GET AT IS... I THINK SHE WAS
READY TO ACCEPT YOU AS HER
NEW ROOMMATE RIGHT THERE
UNTIL YOU HEDGED ON HAVING A
PERSONAL IDENTITY.*

SO I REALLY HOPE THAT YOU
WILL TAKE VANGUARD'S OFFER
SERIOUSLY, BECAUSE SHE
COULD USE ANOTHER FAMILY
MEMBER OVER THERE IF LYON
ISN'T COMING BACK.

← LAST ISSUE



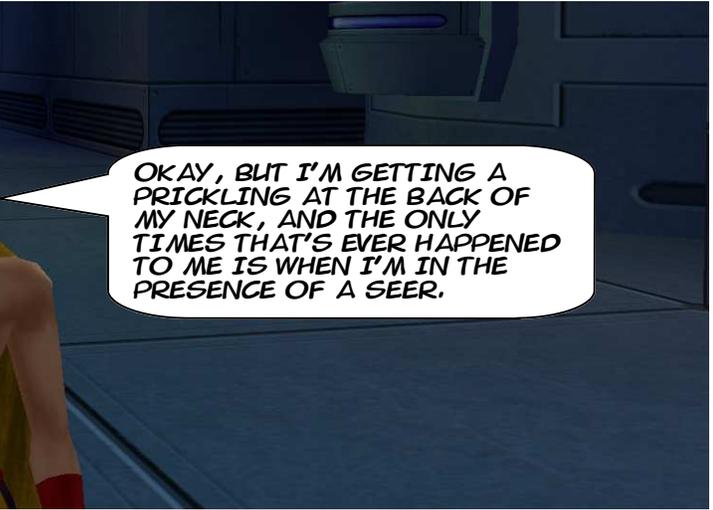
TO BE HONEST, I...
WHAT THE HELL?



THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE CLOCKWORK?



GRANTED, THEY'RE NOT AS ELEGANT AS THE ONES YOU DEALT WITH IN THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE, BUT THEY'RE STILL QUITE FORMIDABLE.



OKAY, BUT I'M GETTING A PRICKLING AT THE BACK OF MY NECK, AND THE ONLY TIMES THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME IS WHEN I'M IN THE PRESENCE OF A SEER.



SUBJECTS IDENTIFIED AS MUTATED HUMANS.



NEUTRALIZE.



CLOCKWORK WITH PSIONIC POWERS?

WHAM!

REMEMBER YOUR VANGUARD BRIEFINGS. THESE ARE CLOCKWORK FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE. ONE WHERE THE CLOCKWORK KING WAS VICTORIOUS.



THESE UNITS HAVE PSIONIC RESONATORS, BUT THEY'RE NOT ALIVE, SO DON'T HOLD BACK.

WHAM!



WASN'T PLANNING ON HOLDING BACK.



WHAM!



SO NOW I'M PISSED, AND I HAVE A KILLER MIGRAINE!
PERFECT! WHAT CAN I TAKE APART NEXT?



ALERT! ALERT!
ATTACK BY MUTATED HUMANS.

HEY, DON'T START THE SMASH-FEST WITHOUT ME!



REMEMB ME TO NOT GET ON YOUR BAD SIDE.

ALERT! ALERT!
AL-**SQUEECH!**

WHAM!

HELIOS TOWERS - TALOS ISLAND

I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU THIS LATE, KATIE... I KEEP FORGETTING ABOUT THE TIME DIFFERENCE.

Galatea Powers
(FAITH KARL)

CARDIFF - WALES, U.K.

OH, NO WORRIES, FAITH. SO... I TAKE IT FURIA PAID YE A VISIT?

Katie Lea Powers
AKA LYON POWERS

THAT OBVIOUS, HUH?

WOL... I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YE EARLIER THAT I LET HER 'AVE ME ROOM THERE. AH JUS' KEPT FERGETTIN' T' CALL.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS?!?
I MEAN, I WAS OVER THERE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS, AND YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
ALL THIS TIME, YOU AND I TALKED, AND YOU NEVER SAID "OH BY THE WAY, I'VE LET FURIA HAVE MY ROOM AT THE TOWERS."

ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE LET ME BELIEVE THAT THINGS WERE GETTING BETTER FOR YOU, AND THAT YOU'D BE STRONG ENOUGH TO COME BACK TO PARAGON CITY.

AN' I WANT TO, FAITH. GOD HELP ME, I REALLY WANT TO COME BACK!
IT'S JUST THAT EV'RY TIME IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GETTING STRONG 'NOUGH, I GET ANOTHER SETBACK.

IT'S NOT LIKE MY SPINE WAS SNAPPED.
ISEA USED AUGMENTED MAGIC SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CRIPPLE ME*, AND EV'N TH' STONEHENGE WITCHES CAN'T FIND A WAY TO REMOVE IT.

(* AS SEEN IN "THE LIBRA ORDER: DEBTS OF HONOR")

I-I'M SORRY, KATIE.
I HAD NO IDEA HOW
PERVERSIVE THAT
ATTACK WAS ON YOU.

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING THAT
WE CAN DO HERE FOR YOU.

COEUR DU FEU IS BACK, AND WE
HAVE A NEW AEROMANCER, AND WE
EVEN HAVE A NEW MYSTIC LIBRARY
AT THE BASE!

AND I CAN DO SOME RESEARCH
MYSELF, SO I'M SURE--

**FAITH, PLEASE,
IT'S ALL RIGHT.**

DAWN PATROL HASN'T
GIV'N UP ON ME
EITHER*. THEY'RE
TRYIN' EVERYTHING
THEY CAN TO GET ME
CURED.

BUT THERE IS
SOMETHING I WANT
YOU TO DO FOR ME.

(* DAWN PATROL IS EUROPE'S
PREMIERE HERO TEAM.)

ANYTHING.

**GIVE FURIA
A CHANCE.**

I KNOW SHE CAN BE A BIT
OF A BOTHER, BUT SHE'S
STILL LEARNING 'BOUT
THINGS ON THIS WORLD,
JUST LIKE YOU DID WHEN
YOU GOT HERE.

YOU'VE ASKED ME BEFORE
WHAT MY OLDER SISTER
WAS LIKE WHEN SHE WAS
ALIVE.

WOL' EVERYTHING FAITH POWERS
WAS... EVERYTHING THAT MAKES
UP HER DNA THAT'S IN YOUR
BODY*... THAT'S FURIA.

I MEAN, YA, SHE'S HAD A
DIFFERENT LIFE. SHE'S HAD TO
GROW UP WITHOUT HER FAMILY,
BUT EVERYTHING SHE WAS IN HER
CORE BEING, THAT REBELLED
AGAINST TYRANT AND THE
PRAETORS AND WORKED WITH
THE RESISTANCE... THAT'S VERY
MUCH MY FIRST OLDER SIS.

(* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #25)

I WANT TO HELP HER,
KATIE... BUT SHE...

LOOK, SHE BALKED AT
GETTING A CIVILIAN
IDENTITY, AND YOU KNOW
THAT I CAN'T HAVE A KNOWN
HERO AS A ROOMMATE TO
MY NON-HERO IDENTITY!

**WELL OF COURSE SHE'D
BALK AT IT, ESPECIALLY IF
EVERYONE IS TELLING HER
THAT SHE NEEDS ONE!
THAT'S PART OF HER
NATURE!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'LL
REFUSE IT OUTRIGHT.

YOU JUST HAVE TO GIVE
HER TIME TO DECIDE FOR
HERSELF TO DO IT.**



Ssss!
HRR...

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

SORRY, MY LEGS ARE
BUCKLING... AND I FEEL
THAT TINGLE IN MY ARMS
LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO
CATCH FIRE AG'N.



OH... RIGHT. YEAH,
AND IT'S STILL THE
MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
FOR YOU OVER THERE.

YEAH, BETTER GO NOW
B'FORE I MELT THE CELL.
TH' ROOM MAY BE
FIREPROOF, BUT I'VE GONE
THROUGH THREE
CELLPHONES THIS MONTH
ALONE AND THEY'RE NOT
CHEAP 'ERE.
JUST BE PATIENT WITH HER,
'KAY? FOR ME?

I WILL. FOR YOU,
KATIE. I WILL BE
PATIENT.
TALK WITH YOU SOON.
LOVE YOU, SIS.



GASP
OH GOD... *SOB*
BLOODY 'ELL IT HURTS...
SOB
P-PLEASE MAKE IT STOP.

Change Your Costume With A Click!



If you're a hero, then you know that embarrassing moment when some big crisis happens and you don't have your hero outfit with you.

Sure, you can try to wear your hero outfit under your clothes, but that gets too uncomfortable really fast. And carrying them around in a purse or knapsack invites you to either leave it behind or to have it stolen by some punk.

Now you don't have to worry about changing into your hero attire thanks to the **icon** costume pack.

The **icon** costume pack allows you to change to and from your hero outfit with just a click of a button. Within seconds, your civilian attire is gone and you are in your hero gear, ready to fight evil. And after the day is saved, another click will restore you to your civilian attire like nothing ever happened.

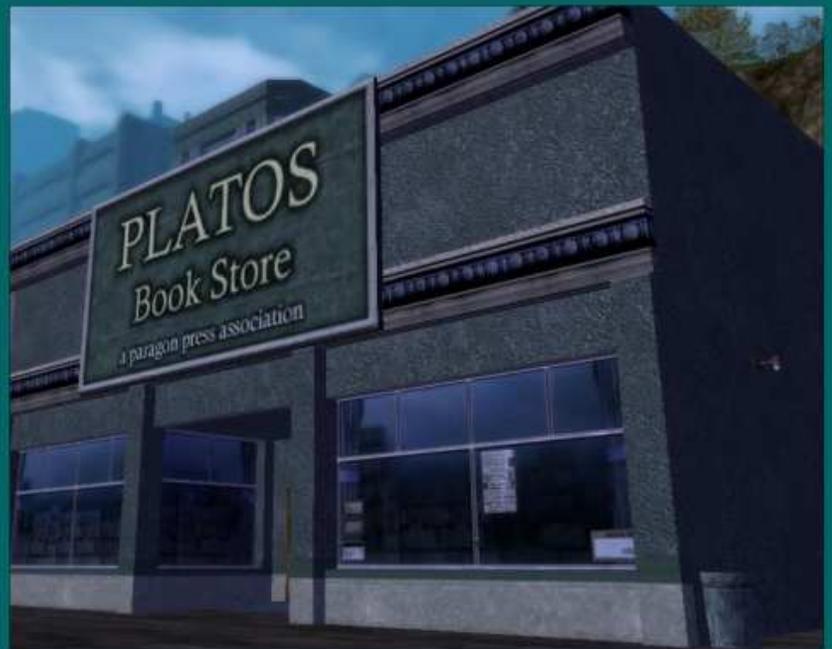
So why worry about whether or not you can change into your hero attire in time? Head on over to your nearest **icon** tailor store today and you can be just one click away from ready.

Atlas Park * Steel Canyon * Independence Port * Founders Falls

i c o n

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Located directly on Spanky's Boardwalk, Talos Island

Music Is My Life!

People don't just come here for the view. They also come here because I have the best audio in any dimension. And I can only get that by using the best audio equipment.

That's why I use the **LT** brand of audio gear.

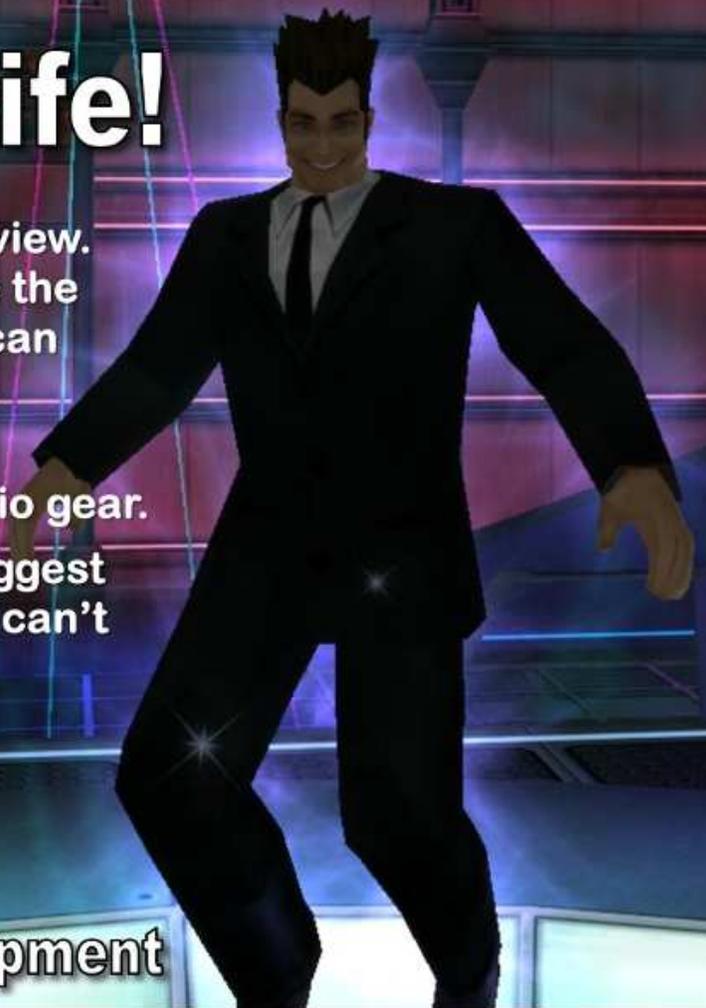
Because when you're hosting the biggest nonstop party in the omniverse, you can't settle for second best.

And neither should you!



LexieTech

Premium Audio Equipment



MINIONS

No matter how good you are, at some point you are going to need some help to get the job done.

So why put your faith in some blind call for allies that will stab you in the back at the first opportunity?

Be a REAL mastermind and use our 100% confidential service. We are the best in placing loyal minions where they can do what they do best!

99-555-8792

Make the call and you have 30 seconds to leave a return number and method of payment. The call will disconnect automatically after 30 seconds. Contact is does not imply a contract for employment. Not an actual ad. Not a real phone number. Any connection to actual contacts for questionable contractual services is mere coincidence.



WHOA!



WHAM!

KIYAH!



NICE FOLLOW-UP.

NOW STAY DOWN!

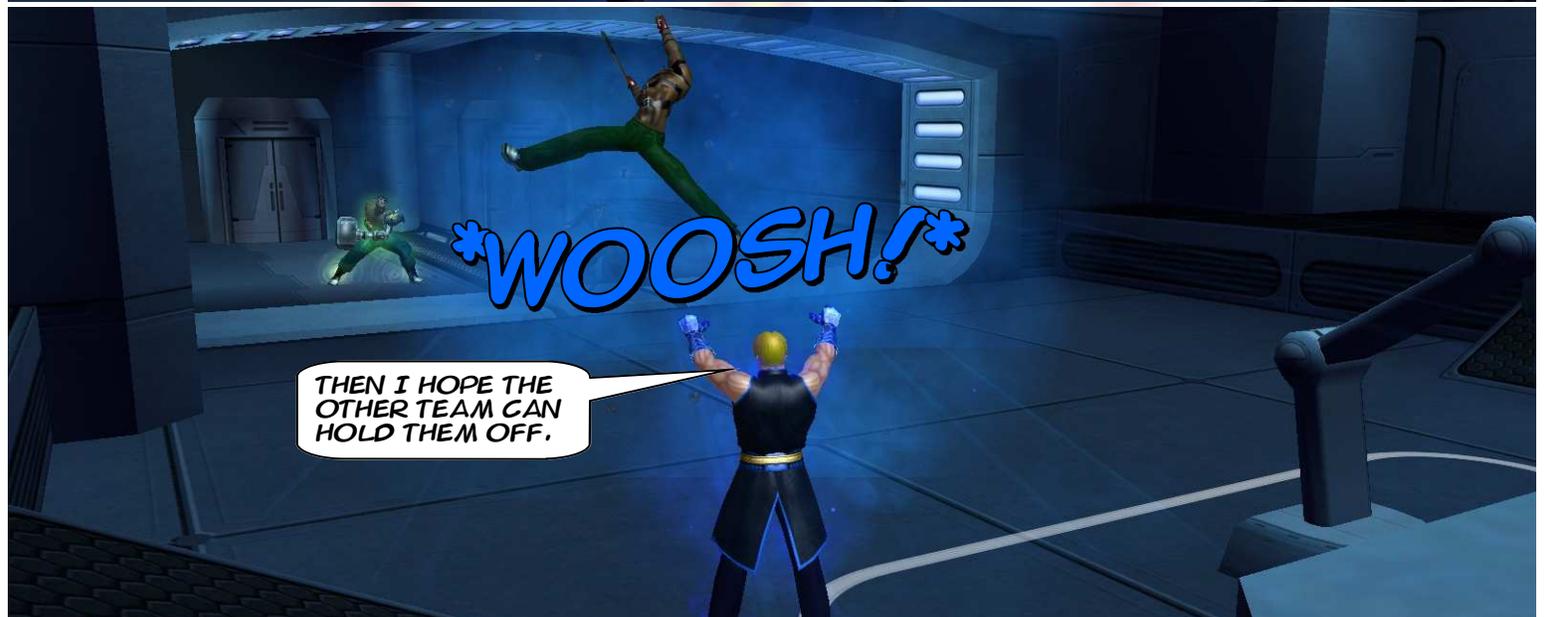
WHAM!



SO WOULD IT BE WORSE IF THE PSYCHIC CLOCKWORK GOT TO QUINCY FIRST?



THE HORDE'S NANOVIRUS WOULDN'T AFFECT THEM. THEY'RE ALREADY ALL-METAL. WORSE, THEY COULD CO-OPT THE HORDE'S COLLECTIVE NETWORK AND TURN EVEN NORMAL PEOPLE INTO CLOCKWORK DRONES.



THEN I HOPE THE OTHER TEAM CAN HOLD THEM OFF.



YOU OKAY? THAT WAS A HARD MIND-SPEAR IT THREW AT US.

I'VE HAD A SEER TRY TO AUDIT ME ONCE*. COMPARED TO HER, THIS IS NOTHING.

* AN "AUDIT" IS AN INTENSIVE PSYCHIC INTERROGATION BY TELEPATHIC AGENTS IN THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.*



COME ON, WE GOT MORE PSYCHIC JUNK-BOTS TO DESTROY.

I HAVE AN IDEA. I'M GOING TO ACCESS THE BUILDING'S INTERCOM.



WE HAVE TWO GROUPS OF BADDIES LOOKING FOR THE HORDE, RIGHT? WELL LET'S GIVE THEM A REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ISN'T HERE ANYMORE.

WHILE I'M AT IT, I CAN ALSO GIVE THEM A BIGGER REASON TO HAUL ASS OUT OF HERE.



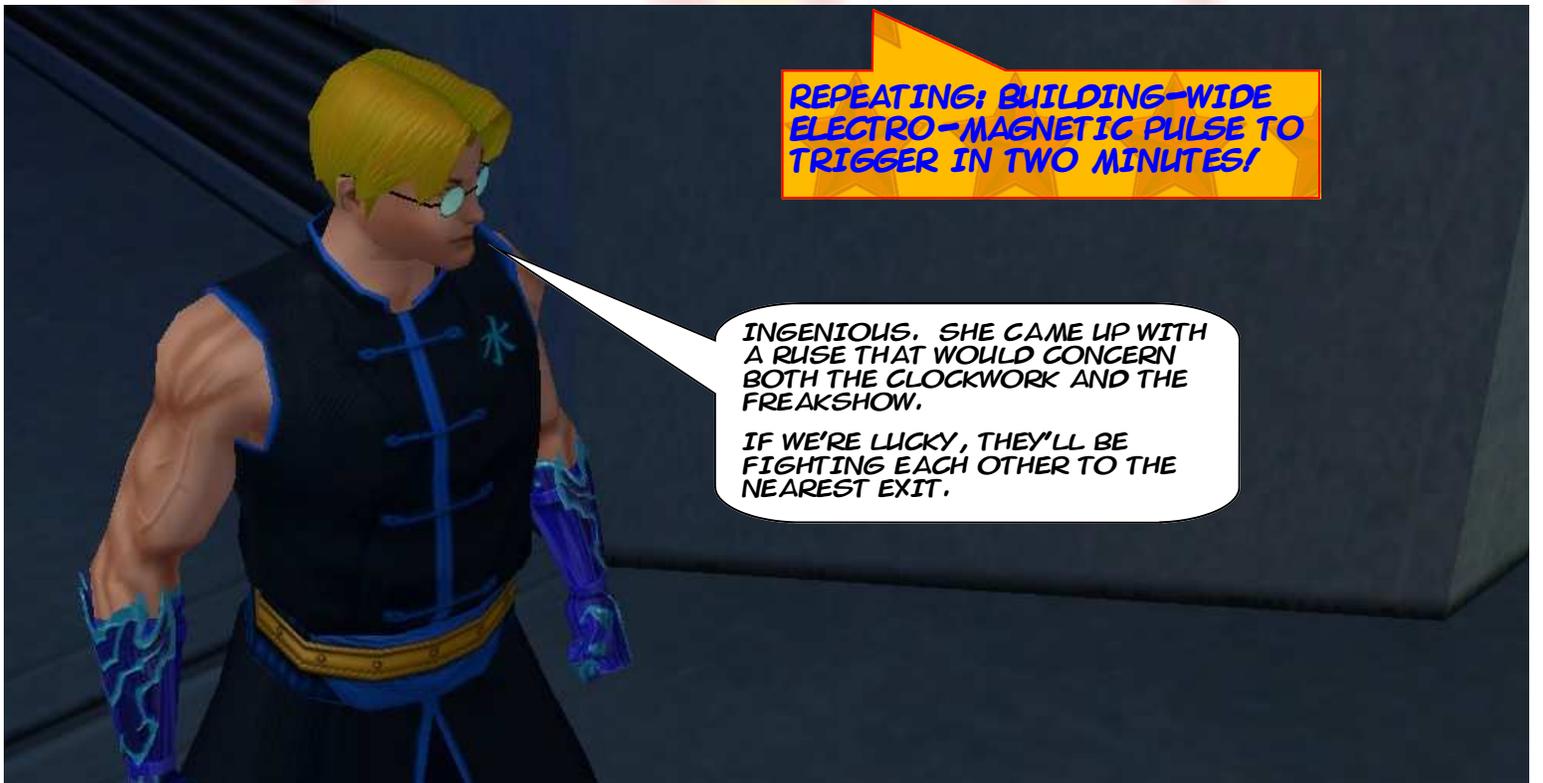
**ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL!
THE HORDE HAVE ESCAPED CONTAINMENT!**

WHY DIDN'T MY DEVICES ALERT ME?

PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S NOT TRUE.
THAT'S FURIA'S VOICE.



I REPEAT: THE HORDE HAVE ESCAPED CONTAINMENT!
STERILIZATION PROTOCOLS ARE IN EFFECT!
BUILDING-WIDE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE TO TRIGGER IN TWO MINUTES.



REPEATING: BUILDING-WIDE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE TO TRIGGER IN TWO MINUTES!

INGENIOUS. SHE CAME UP WITH A RUSE THAT WOULD CONCERN BOTH THE CLOCKWORK AND THE FREAKSHOW.
IF WE'RE LUCKY, THEY'LL BE FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO THE NEAREST EXIT.



SPECULATION:
ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE WOULD NOT
AFFECT HORDE
NANOTECH VIRUS.

NO, BUT IT
WOULD
AFFECT YOU.



WHICH IS WHY I
SUGGEST YOU
AND THE OTHER
UNITS PLAY
ALONG AND
RETREAT.



OUR MISSION HAS NOT
BEEN COMPLETED.

WE WERE SENT TO
RETRIEVE THE HORDE
NANOTECH VIRUS FOR
THE CLOCKWORK KING
AND QUEEN PENELOPE.

WE CANNOT RETURN TO
OUR UNIVERSE WITHOUT
THE NANOTECH VIRUS.

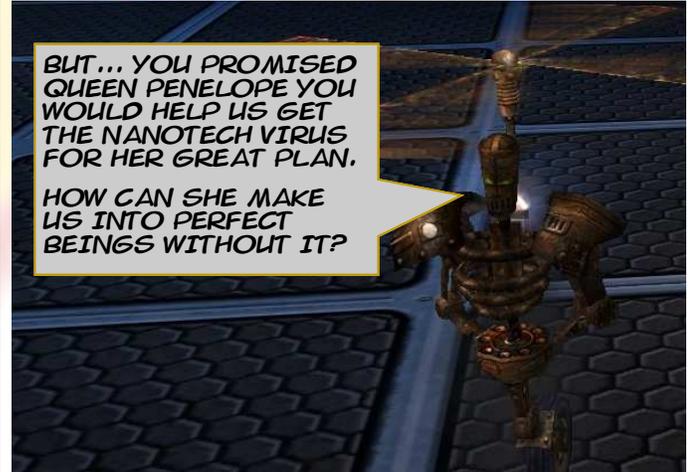
UNFORTUNATELY THOSE
PLANS DID NOT TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT A RIVAL GROUP
BEATING US TO THE AREA.

SOMEONE ACTUALLY SENT
IN THE FREAKSHOW... TALK
ABOUT RECKLESS!



NEEDLESS TO SAY, I
HAD TO MAKE SOME
OTHER ARRANGEMENTS
WHILE YOUR OTHER
UNITS WERE BUSY
TAKING ON THE HEROES.

Gill Gamma
LAST UTOPIAN (?)



BUT... YOU PROMISED
QUEEN PENELOPE YOU
WOULD HELP US GET
THE NANOTECH VIRUS
FOR HER GREAT PLAN.

HOW CAN SHE MAKE
US INTO PERFECT
BEINGS WITHOUT IT?



DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD
LET DOWN YOUR QUEEN AFTER
ALL THAT SHE'S DONE FOR YOU?

SHE'LL STILL GET THE NANOTECH
VIRUS. IT JUST WON'T BE HERE.

FORTUNATELY, THIS WASN'T THE
ONLY UNIVERSE THAT WAS
VISITED BY THE HORDE.

SO SIGNAL THE RETREAT AND
WE'LL GO BACK TO MY PLATFORM
AND GET IT ELSEWHERE.



YO, WE GOTTA GO.
MY LEG WON'T WORK IF THAT EMP BLOWS!

ALRIGHT, GRAB WHAT YOU CAN AND LET'S GET GOING.



I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
YOU CAN SURRENDER AND TELL US WHO HIRED YOU.
AND MAYBE WE'LL PUT YOU SOMEPLACE WHERE THAT EMP WON'T AFFECT YOU.



FREAKSHOW DON'T FINK!
FREAKSHOW SMASH AND DASH!





MINUTES LATER...

KOLDFRONT?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

OWWW...
YES... I
THINK...

WHY DIDN'T I GET
TELEPORTED TO
THE HOSPITAL,
OR MY BASE?

YOU WERE
KNOCKED OUT,
NOT KILLED.

THANKFULLY I
DON'T SENSE
ANY KIND OF
CONCUSSION.

AND FROM THE LOOKS
ON YOUR FACES, I'M
GUESSING THAT THE
FREAKSHOW GOT AWAY.

I'M SORRY... I MADE A
ROOKIE MOVE TRYING TO
TAKE HIM ON DIRECTLY.

CONSIDERING
YOU'RE A ROOKIE
HERO, THAT SORT
OF GOES WITH
THE TERRITORY.

WE ALL WERE ROOKIE HEROES
ONCE, KOLDFRONT.
THAT INCLUDES MISTER TWELVE.
THE IMPORTANT PART IS THAT
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AND YOU'RE
ABLE TO LEARN FROM YOUR
MISTAKES.

NOW, IF YOU'RE ABLE TO
STAND, WE NEED TO MEET
WITH THE OTHERS AT THE
STASIS CHAMBER.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN QUINCY IS GONE!?!?

I'M SORRY. HE WASN'T IN THE CHAMBER WHEN WE GOT HERE.



WE SEARCHED THE WHOLE AREA AND THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY KIND OF DAMAGE TO THE CHAMBER.



AND YET... HE'S GONE. HOW?

WHATEVER IT WAS, IT DIDN'T TRIGGER MY DEVICES.

THERE'S A DRAIN THAT COULDN'T BEEN OPENED FROM THE INSIDE, BUT WE WON'T KNOW FOR SURE IF IT WAS.



WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT LOOKS LIKE HE DIDN'T TAKE THE NANOTECH VIRUS. THE HORDE VIRUS IS STILL IN THE CHAMBER.



THEN THAT'S ONE THING WE CAN BE THANKFUL FOR. THE QUANTUM FILTER WORKED. QUINCY IS FREE OF THE HORDE, WHEREVER HE IS.



I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY SOON, MISTER TWELVE. AFTER ALL, QUINCY ISN'T HERE AND THE HORDE VIRUS IS.

I'LL BE LEAVING WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF THE VIRUS SOON ENOUGH, MISTER KOLDFRONT. JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT WILL BE.*

* FOR MORE ON WHAT WATCHER TWELVE DOES NEXT, CHECK OUT 'THE CRUCIBLE' #17, ALREADY ONLINE AT COXCOMICS.COM

BETWEEN PEREGRINE ISLAND AND PARAGON CITY...

"LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT..."

I HIRE YOU TO GET ONE SIMPLE THING... AND YOU RETURN TO ME WITH... JUNK?

WELL IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... I MEAN, I KNOW WE WERE THERE TO GET THE DEAD GUY, BUT THEN A WHOLE BUNCH A' HEROES CAME IN.

NEXT THING YA KNOW, THEY'RE SETTING OFF EMP'S AND MY GUYS CAN'T HANDLE THAT. SO, YOU KNOW THEY--

SHUT IT!

TRY TO SCORE A LITTLE BONUS FOR MY TROUBLES, SOMETHING RARE, AND THIS IS WHAT I GET IN RETURN!

 **Nox**
ADVANCE AGENT

SO WHAT DID THESE "HEROES" LOOK LIKE?

WELL, ONE WAS A COWBOY. ANOTHER A KUNG-FU GUY, AND THE SKIRT WAS IN--

A... COWBOY? KUNG-WHAT? AND WHAT'S A... SKIRT?



A SKIRT... YOU KNOW...
A WOMAN.
DON'T THEY HAVE
WOMEN IN SPACE?

WE DON'T CALL
THEM "SKIRT".
WE CALL THEM
"WOMEN".

ANYWAY, THE SKIRT... I MEAN
"WOMAN"... WAS IN A SMOKING
HOT WHITE BODYSUIT WHERE
YOU COULD ALMOST SEE HER
GREATEST ASSETS.
ANYWAY, I THINK SHE'S ONE OF
THOSE VINDICATOR HEROES,
"AURRY BORRY" OR SOMETHING.



SO SHE WASN'T
GALATEA POWERS.

GALA-TITTY? NAW, I WISH
IT WAS HER. THEN AT
LEAST I COULDVE HAD A
SHOT AT HER "GREATEST
POWER" WHEN I SPLIT.

YOU... DIVIDED
YOURSELF...?
KASAFO-DRAK!



HEY, I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU SAID,
BUT, YOU KNOW, I'M
SORRY, THESE
THINGS HAPPEN.
I ALREADY GOT
SOME FEELERS OUT
TO SEE WHERE THIS
CORPSE GLY IS--

YOU MEAN THE
DEAD BODY...
ESCAPED?



TOOFA-BRARK PEEZEE-KEM!
I GIVE YOU A SIMPLE TASK
AND NOT ONLY DO YOU FAIL
AND YOU BRING ME JUNK, BUT
THE DEAD BODY... ESCAPES?

I DON'T KNOW HOW
YOU DO THINGS ON
THIS MUD-BALL, BUT
WE HAVE OUR OWN
WAYS OF DEALING
WITH FAILLURE.



"TIMES LIKE THIS MAKE ME REALLY WISH I DIDN'T HAVE HYPER-HEARING."

I CAN HEAR THE ELEVATOR COMING UP...

I DON'T KNOW, JOHN. WILL SHE BE SHOWING UP AS HERSELF AGAIN?

Faith Karl
AKA GALATEA POWERS

HEY, SHE'S THE ONE THAT CALLED ME TO HELP SET THIS UP.

SHE WOULDN'T DO THAT IF SHE WASN'T READY TO TAKE THAT STEP.

John Cole
AKA GUARDIAN STAR

HAVE SOME FAITH IN YOUR SISTER... FAITH.

SHE'S HERE. SHE'S RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

DING-DONNN

HELLO.

HELLO! MY NAME IS FIONA PODERES.

WE TALKED ON THE PHONE.

I HEARD YOU HAVE A ROOM AVAILABLE.

Fiona Poderes
AKA FURIA POWERS

Next Issue:
Who is Drake Grey?

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



Longbow Intelligence Unit

Assessment/Profile Division

A subsidiary of Freedom Corps, Inc.



Subject: Freakshow

Introduction: The Freakshow are an anarchistic gang that operate in various locations in Paragon City, most predominantly on Talos Island, but they've also spent a lot of time in Crey's Folly. They also have gang members operating in the Rogue Isles.

Like most other gangs, the Freakshow started out as your typical gang engaging in "protection" rackets and selling both drugs and weapons. But then a group of them hijacked a Crey Industries truck, thinking it would give them more traditional drugs. Instead, they got their hands on experimental prosthetic devices as well as chemicals that would enhance their minds and help their bodies cope with the technical enhancements.

Afterward, enhancement drugs and tech became their preferred addictions. They would continue to offer "protection", but only so they could get more drugs and tech to further "improve" themselves. And it doesn't matter what kind of tech they got their hands on either. It could be from Crey or CyCorp or even from the Rikti.

You can tell the ranking of a Freakshow member by how much "metal" they have on their bodies. Diehard members are not above hacking off a limb or two so they could get more power. Some will even go for the full-body "tank". Many members will also have internal Inspiration pump that will give them a shot of adrenaline if they feel weak or are near death.

The confirmed leader of the Freakshow is a man named "Dreck", sometimes referred to as "President Dreck". It is said that he is the one that led the attack on the Crey truck that first gave them their addiction to metal and power. As of this report, he is in the Zigursky Correctional Facility along with several of his underbosses.

Freakshow consider themselves to be anarchists. They engage in chaos and destruction because they like it. They tap into rage because it makes them feel alive. They listen to heavy metal music because it's "metal". In fact they judge everything by how "metal" it is.

They also take "survival of the fittest" to an extreme, with leadership being determined by who can survive a beat-down by challengers.

Summary: The Freakshow are more than just annoyances. They are born troublemakers. They will start a riot or break up a party simply because they're bored. They strive to make themselves stronger, faster, more powerful than anyone else, and they should not be taken lightly for any reason.

Continues on next page...



LONGBOW INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Assessment/Profile Division

A subsidiary of Freedom Corps, Inc.



Subject: Psychic Clockwork

Introduction: While they may appear to be the same kind of robotic creations that have plagued Paragon City for years, the Psychic Clockwork are a far more formidable threat because they have added psychic powers to their arsenal of weapons.

The Psychic Clockwork come from the alternate universe designated by the Portal Corporation as Epsilon Tau 27-2. In this world, the Clockwork King's unrequited love for the young psychic Penelope Yin took a destructive turn. When it was clear that she would never love him, he made sure that no other human being would ever love her.

The Clockwork King enacted a crusade of global extermination, using psychic resonators to mimic telepathic powers and installing them in all of the drones. With an army of pseudo-telepaths at his disposal, and more being churned out through his factories, it was a matter of time before he would prevail over the humans, including the superhumans.

Unfortunately, his beloved Penelope was one of the casualties. But just like he was able to save himself by putting his brain inside a Clockwork body, he was able to save Penelope's brain by putting it in another body. The Clockwork King finally had his Clockwork Queen.

Clockwork drones see themselves as being "like-human", but it is just a digital delusion.

Summary: The Psychic Clockwork may be similar to their counterparts in this world, they should not be treated as simple robots. In fact, they should be treated in the same way as one would treat a member of the Praetorian Seers.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



NOW THAT FURIA HAS HER NEW LIFE STARTED, LET'S TURN TO ANOTHER STRANGER FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE. ONE WHOSE PURPOSE WAS LITERALLY RIPPED OUT FROM HIM, AND ALSO HAS TO START ANEW.

NOW PEOPLE ARE ASKING... "WHO IS DRAKE GREY?"

FIND OUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

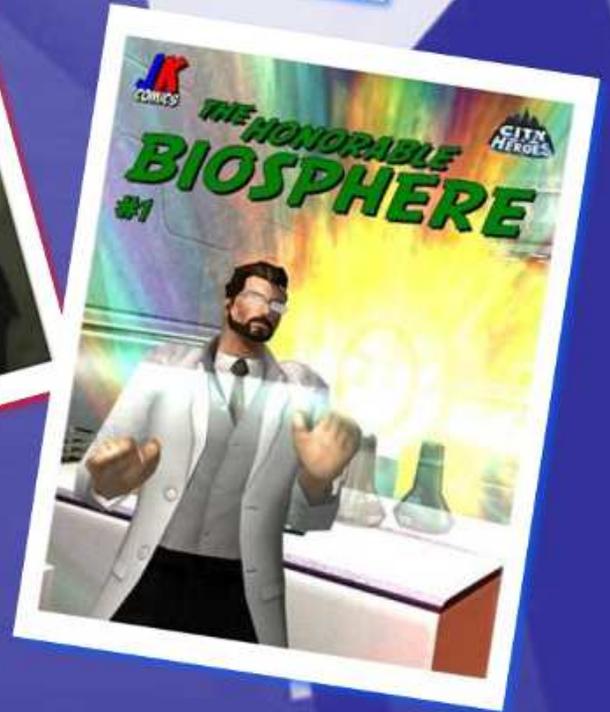




'THE CRUCIBLE'

THE HOUSE OF SOTHIS

THE CITY LIVES ON...



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