

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



SPOTLIGHT ON... **Icon Powers**



PARAGON CITY: THE CITY OF HEROES! THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE HERO-TO-PROBLEM RATIO IS ALMOST ONE-TO-ONE. IF YOU NEED A HERO IN THIS CITY, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND THE CORNER.

BUT NOT ALL HEROES ARE THE SAME. SOME ARE MORE MERCENARY THAN THE OTHERS. BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO SEE THE CALLING AS A SIGN OF BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD FOR ALL MANKIND. THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY ARE THE...

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



NAME:
ICON POWERS

REAL NAME: **KENT POWERS**

STATUS: **SEMI-RETIRED**

ARCHETYPE:
TANKER

PRIMARY POWER:
INVULNERABLE

SECONDARY POWER: **SUPER-STRENGTH**

DAYBRIGHT, THE KHELDIAN PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER, WAS ATTACKED BY STARCYGNUS AFTER CONFRONTING HIM FOR BEING A SPY FOR SHADOWBORN. USING HIS ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY, STARCYGNUS TRIGGERS ALL OF DAYBRIGHT'S VARIOUS TELEPORTATION DEVICES, AND SHE IS SEEMINGLY TORN APART.

AS RECOUNTED BY A FUTURE INCARNATION OF GALATEA POWERS, DAYBRIGHT'S DEATH PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT LEAD TO THE EARTH BEING FOREVER DECIMATED BY RULARUU AND RENDERED UNINHABITABLE IN A GENERATION.

MEANWHILE, THE FORMER TIME MANIPULATOR "DOC" TOR IS SUMMONED TO A PLACE THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE.

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THE WHITE HALLWAY

THE HALLWAY EXISTS
"OUTSIDE" OF REALITY.

A GATEWAY TO HEAVEN,
IF YOU BELIEVE IN IT.

YOU ENTER IT THROUGH A DOOR IN
POCKET D, NEXT TO THE BLUE-SIDE
MEDICAL TELEPORTERS, AND
THAT'S ONLY IF YOU HAVE THE KEY.

ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE KNOW
THAT IT EVEN EXISTS, AND THOSE
PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF, ARE
SWORN TO ABSOLUTE SECRECY.

THE KEY ALSO OPENS ONE OF
THE DOORS IN THE HALLWAY...

YOU CALLED?

AND LEADS YOU
RIGHT INTO AN
"EDITOR'S" OFFICE.



DOC TOR

WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A
PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS
WITH THE "GUARDIAN
EXILES", GALEN.

APPARENTLY THE CHANGES
ALREADY MADE* WERE NOT
ENOUGH.

C* ISSUE #0

IS IT THE
BROTHERS?

HAVE THEY SENT
ASHER?

Main frames are full of trolls! Nerf the trolls!

Going
out P...ound!



What is this?

Too many in Guardian!

CCC -
• Jam5
• Story
• Issue 4 or 5?
• Wiki fix?

THANKFULLY IT ISN'T
AGENT ASHER OR THE
BROTHERS... NOT YET
ANYWAY.

THIS IS COMING FROM SOME
OF THE OTHER EDITORS.

THEY'RE SEEING MORE OF THE
SIMILARITIES THAN THE
DIFFERENCES, ESPECIALLY IN
GALATEA POWERS.

SOME OF THEM HAVE
THREATENED TO SUMMON
AGENT ASHER UNLESS WE
MAKE SOME MORE CHANGES.

Main forums are full of trolls! Most are trolls!

BUT WE'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME TRYING TO KEEP THEM HERE... BUILDING THEIR NEW IDENTITIES, THEIR NEW HISTORIES, INCORPORATING THEM INTO THE PARaverse...

THEY'RE CLEARLY NOT THE SAME AS WHEN YOU FOUND THEM!

DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT, GALEN? THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THE OTHER EDITORS AS WELL.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.

THESE EDITORS HAVE THE SAME KIND OF VETO POWER AS ASHER, AND IF THEY SAY STOP THEN I HAVE TO STOP, PERIOD.

THANKFULLY THEY HAVE GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME MORE CHANGES TO FIX THIS.

SOME OF THOSE CHANGES ARE ALREADY TAKING PLACE THANKS TO THE PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME IN OUROBOROS.*

(* ISSUE #18)

GALATEA'S SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE*...

IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.

(* ISSUES #17-18)

EXACTLY. I HAD SOME OF THE CHANGES ALREADY IN THE WORKS, BUT THE MEETING WITH THE OTHER EDITORS FORCED ME TO MOVE THINGS UP.

I KNOW YOU WERE PRETTY TORN UP OVER WHAT HAPPENED WITH DAYBRIGHT, BUT REST ASSURED SHE'S FINE, AND SHE'S ALSO PLAYING A ROLE IN THE COMING CHANGES.

YOU KNOW, YOU COULD HAVE LET ME KNOW THAT BEFOREHAND!

YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE A PART OF THE PARaverse AS WELL. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND THAT'S THE OTHER REASON WHY I CALLED YOU HERE... BECAUSE YOU DO HAVE AS MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE EXILES AS YOU ORIGINALLY CLAIMED.*

(* ISSUE #0)

WAIT... HOLD ON... IF I'M RIGHT ABOUT WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS...

I JUST GOT USED TO THIS LOOK!

IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO GET RID OF THE BRITISH ACCENT!

AT LEAST LET ME KEEP THE HAT! AND THE JACKET... AND MAYBE THE SCARF...

ELSEWHERE

MY NAME IS DAYBRIGHT.
I AM A PEACEBRINGER
REDEEMER.

AND I'M TALKING TO AN
ACTUAL ANGEL.



DAYBRIGHT

WAIT... YOU SAID I'M
DEAD, BUT NOT
REALLY, THAT I'M IN
LIMBO, AND THAT
YOU WANT ME TO
KILL A GOD? WHAT
SORT OF ANGEL ARE
YOU?

THAT WOULD BE
THE "FALLEN"
VARIETY...

OR "TAINTED",
HENCE THE
NAME.



TAINTED EVE

LISTEN, DO YOU
THINK WE CAN
CONTINUE THIS
DISCUSSION ON
THE GROUND?

MY WINGS GET
REALLY TIRED
AFTER A WHILE.



MUCH, MUCH BETTER!

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE A
CELESTIAL HOST, YOU
REALLY DON'T APPRECIATE
THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOU
SPEND WHEN YOU FLY UNTIL
YOU TURN MORTAL.

BY THE WAY, FEEL FREE TO
TAKE A BREAK FROM FLYING
AT ANY TIME. THIS IS A
REALLY NICE RECREATION OF
ANCIENT CIMERORA.



I'M A KHELDIAN
HYBRID. FLYING IS
ALMOST SECOND-
NATURE TO ME.

WHILE I APPRECIATE
YOUR "EMPLOYER"
SAVING ME FROM
BEING TELEPORTED
INTO NOTHINGNESS*,
I'M A LITTLE
APPREHENSIVE ABOUT
THIS WHOLE "KILL A
GOD" BIT.

(* END OF ISSUE 17)

WELL, MAYBE "GOD" WOULD BE TOO MUCH
OF AN EXAGGERATION RIGHT NOW, BUT HE
CERTAINLY SEES HIMSELF AS ONE.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO
NOTICE THIS, BUT THE PERSON YOU
CONFRONTED... ST ARCYGNUS... HE HAD TWO
SEPARATE PERSONALITIES TO HIM.

IT'S THAT SEPARATE PERSONALITY THAT
YOU HAVE TO CONFRONT. THE ONE THAT
TOOK OVER ST ARCYGNUS AND HAS BEEN
HELPING HIM ALL THIS TIME.

THAT'S THE PART OF HIM THAT TRIED TO
KILL YOU.



"Time and Changes" Phase 2

"FAMILY SECRETS"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

MY NAME IS KENT POWERS.

BUT EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG MAN, THE MEDIA HAD DUBBED ME "ICON POWERS".

I GUESS THE NAME STUCK, BECAUSE WHEN I CAME HERE TO THIS UNIVERSE, THAT IS THE NAME THAT I SET MYSELF UP AS HERE IN PARAGON CITY.

I'M GIVING YOU ONE CHANCE AND ONE CHANCE ONLY...

RELEASE THE GIRL... NOW.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT, I'M NOT ORIGINALLY FROM THIS UNIVERSE. I'M FROM THE SAME UNIVERSE AS MY COUSIN, WHOM YOU KNOW AS GALATEA POWERS.



ICON POWERS

FATAL ERROR... GOLEM IS UNSTOPPABLE.

I'VE BEEN ON THE SIDELINES FOR YEARS.

I'VE ALSO BEEN HELPING THE GUARDIANS GET STARTED, GIVING MAXIMUS REX ADVICE, AND CONSULTING THE MIDNIGHT SQUAD ON COVERT MISSIONS.

WHRR ERROR...

WATCHING GALATEA AND THE OTHERS FROM MY UNIVERSE ADAPT TO THEIR NEW LIVES HERE.

CLANK!

BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO STAY ON THE SIDELINES ANYMORE, WE'VE LOST TOO MUCH ALREADY.

Whrrrrr...

BOOM!

HOLD ON, MISS. I'LL BE THERE IN A FEW SECONDS.

CRUSH... KILL... DESTROY...

OHGODOHGOHGOH...

THESE ROBOTS ARE CALLED "CLOCKWORK". THEY TOOK OVER AN AUTO SHOP AND KIDNAPPED THE MECHANIC'S WIFE AND TEEN DAUGHTER TO FORCE HIM TO WORK FOR THEM.

I CALL THESE TINKER-TOYS "PRACTICE".

THEY'RE NOT LIVING CREATURES, SO I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.

Bzzz.. zz-t..

THE PROBLEM IS THAT I'M NOT AS STRONG AS I USED TO BE.

AGE HAS ALSO KEPT ME ON THE SIDELINES.

KaKLANK!

KaPOW!

FORTUNATELY I'M JUST STRONG ENOUGH TO SEND THESE STEAMPUNK BOTS BACK TO THE SCRAPYARD.

THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.

THEY'RE FINE, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THEM.

WHERE ARE MY PARENTS? DID YOU SAVE THEM TOO?

THANK YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISTER!

STEEL CANYON

I'M NOT BOTHERED THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.

WHY SHOULD ANYONE RECOGNIZE ME HERE AFTER STAYING HIDDEN ALL THIS TIME?

IN A WAY I WAS SORT OF RELIEVED.

IN MY UNIVERSE, I WAS THE BIGGEST CELEBRITY OUTSIDE OF HOLLYWOOD OR WASHINGTON.

I HAD NO SECRET IDENTITY. MY LIFE WAS LITERALLY AN OPEN BOOK TO THE PUBLIC.

MY FATHER HAD MY MOTHER AND I MOVED TO MOUNT WASHINGTON FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS, BUT AFTER THAT I WAS PRETTY MUCH THE FACE OF THE BABY BOOMER GENERATION.

I WAS THE AMERICAN ÜBERMENSCH, THE ULTIMATE HUMAN ACCORDING TO NIETZSCHE. MORE POWERFUL THAN MY FATHER EVER COULD BE. MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYONE BEFORE KAREN CAME ABOUT.

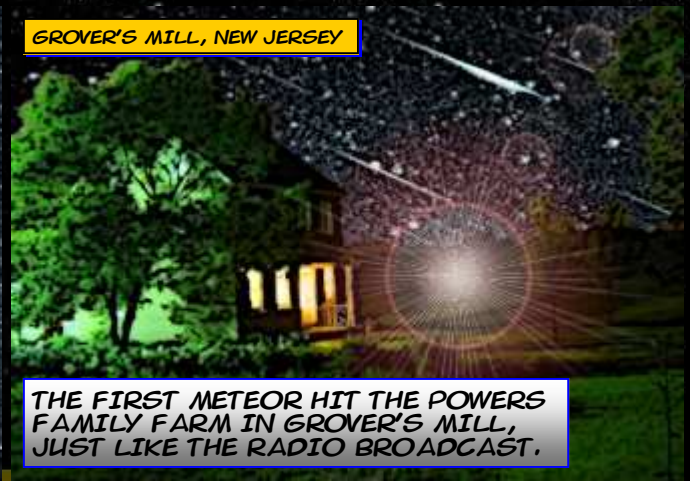
UNIVERSE XHT-57

ON OCTOBER 30TH, 1938,
THERE WAS A METEOR SHOWER
THAT PELTED MY EARTH*.

THIS HAPPENED DURING THE
BROADCAST OF ORSON
WELLS' "WAR OF THE WORLDS",
SO IT LED SOME CREDIBILITY
TO HIS STORY ABOUT
MARTIANS INVADING EARTH
IN FALLING METEOR ROCKS.

(* SEE ISSUE #10 FOR THE FULL ORIGIN OF THE METEOR SHOWER)

GROVER'S MILL, NEW JERSEY



THE FIRST METEOR HIT THE POWERS
FAMILY FARM IN GROVER'S MILL,
JUST LIKE THE RADIO BROADCAST.

THE METEOR WAS PULVERIZED
ON IMPACT, BUT THE DAMAGE
DESTROYED HALF OF THE FIELD.



WHEN MY FATHER, JOHN POWERS, AND MY UNCLE
LIONEL BOTH WENT TO EXPLORE THE DAMAGE,
THEY WERE CHANGED FROM THE IMMEDIATE
RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT OF THE IMPACT.

MY FATHER BECAME STRONGER,
FASTER, ABLE TO WITHSTAND
EXPLODING SHELLS AND COULD
LEAP OVER SMALL BUILDINGS.



HE PUT ON A MASK AND A
COSTUME FROM WORK CLOTHES
AND STARTED FIGHTING CRIME.

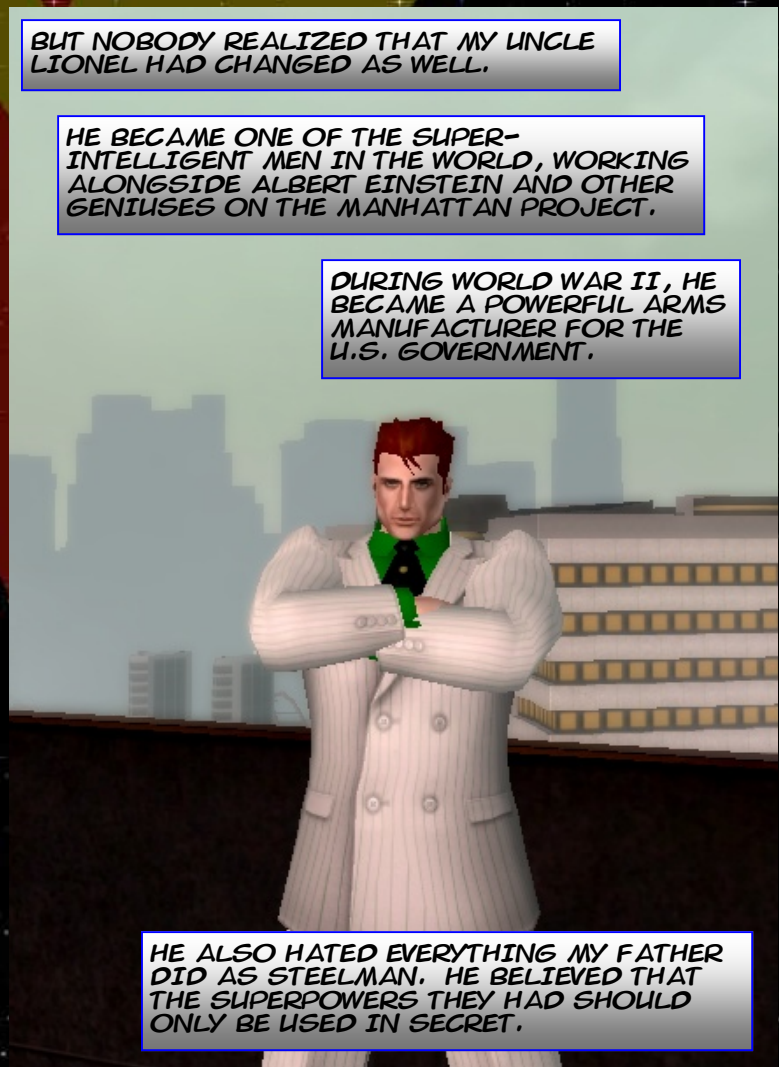
THE MEDIA DUBBED HIM...

STEELMAN

BUT NOBODY REALIZED THAT MY UNCLE
LIONEL HAD CHANGED AS WELL.

HE BECAME ONE OF THE SUPER-
INTELLIGENT MEN IN THE WORLD, WORKING
ALONGSIDE ALBERT EINSTEIN AND OTHER
GENIUSES ON THE MANHATTAN PROJECT.

DURING WORLD WAR II, HE
BECAME A POWERFUL ARMS
MANUFACTURER FOR THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT.



HE ALSO HATED EVERYTHING MY FATHER
DID AS STEELMAN. HE BELIEVED THAT
THE SUPERPOWERS THEY HAD SHOULD
ONLY BE USED IN SECRET.

BUT THAT ALL CHANGED IN 1955...

WHEN SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY ORDERED MY FATHER TO TESTIFY AT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES.



GOING PUBLIC STOPPED MCCARTHY'S WITCH HUNTS COLD.

The Daily Journal Special Edition

STEELMAN UNMASKS!

Condemns McCarthy For "Orwellian" Persecution of American Citizens

Cooperation
Victory Key:
Glenhouse
Tells DAR
President's
Special Unit

BUT IT TURNED OUT MY UNCLE WAS BEHIND MCCARTHY'S CAMPAIGNS, AND THE BACKLASH BANKRUPTED HIM.

BUT BY THEN MY FATHER WAS PRETTY BUSY...



IN ADDITION TO PROTECTING MY MOTHER AND I, HE WAS LEADING A GROUP OF SUPERHEROES CALLED "THE LEGION OF CHAMPIONS".

WHAT THE HECK... ?

STUPID ME! I WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN MY HISTORY THAT I ALMOST DIDN'T SEE IT...

WHAT IS THAT PERSON DOING OUT ON THE LEDGE OF THE AE BUILDING?

DOES HE STILL THINK HE'S IN A SIMULATION?

(* ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT)

EXCUSE ME... MAY I ASK WHAT YOU ARE DOING ?

YUP...


WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THAT LEDGE?

I'M WAITING FOR GALATEA POWERS.

NORMALLY SHE FLIES BY HERE EVERY DAY.

SHE LIKES THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FOR SOME REASON.

FANBOY STALKER... FIGURES.



THAT'S FINE, BUT YOU PROBABLY SHOULD BE WATCHING FROM THE BALCONY ON THE FLOOR BELOW YOU.

ACTUALLY THAT'S NOT "FINE"... AT LEAST BY ME.

THAT'S THE CONDOMINIUM WHERE MY COUSIN LIVES AS "KARA HAMILTON". I GUESS SHE'S BEEN A LITTLE SLOPPY ABOUT BEING SEEN THERE.

THE CROSSWINDS HERE COULD...

THE RIKTI WAR WALLS HAVE BEEN PROTECTING US FROM CROSSWINDS FOR YEARS. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

LISTEN, I'VE BEEN UP HERE ON THIS LEDGE FOR ABOUT A YEAR NOW. SO HAVE OTHER PEOPLE. THERE'S NO LAW THAT SAYS WE CAN'T BE HERE IF WE'RE NOT TRYING TO KILL OURSELVES.



HOW ABOUT BEING A PUBLIC NUISANCE?

POSITRON TRIED THAT LAST MARCH. GOT TOSSED OUT OF COURT.



LISTEN, I DON'T MEAN TO GET OFF THE SUBJECT HERE, BUT WHAT'S IT TO YOU ANYWAY? I MEAN YOUR EMBLEM LOOKS A LITTLE FAMILIAR.

ARE YOU HER TEAMMATE OR SOMETHING?



SHE'S MY...
SHE'S FAMILY.

CAREFUL KENT... DON'T GIVE HIM TOO MUCH INFO.




YOU MEAN LIKE HOW LYON POWERS IS HER SISTER EVEN THOUGH SHE'S REALLY NOT? COOL.

BY THE WAY, THERE'S A FIRE A FEW BLOCKS AWAY THAT YOU SHOULD HELP PUT OUT.

I'LL HAVE TO SPEAK WITH CITY HALL ABOUT THAT SHELF-SITTER. IN MY DAY SOMEONE WALKING A LEDGE WAS EITHER SUICIDAL OR TRYING TO TALK SOMEONE DOWN FROM A LEDGE.

MEANTIME, THERE IS A BURNING BUILDING THAT NEEDS TO BE EXTINGUISHED, AND THAT'S A LITTLE MORE IMPORTANT.



IT AMAZES ME HOW WE COULD HAVE SO MANY HEROES HERE AND STILL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CRIME.

***OUTBREAK* QUARANTINE ZONE.**

EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU
OFFICER FLINT?

THE FREEDOM
CORPS
REGISTRATION
DESK SAID I HAD
TO SEE YOU
FIRST.

THE NAME IS
STREET JUSTICE.



STREET JUSTICE

YEAH, I REMEMBER
YOU FROM THE
NEWS. WANTED TO
PICK UP WHERE
CAPTAIN
PARAGONNA LEFT
OFF AND ALL...

WELL, THIS IS
WHERE YOU START.



OFFICER FLINT

ONE OF THE
HEROES
DROPPED OFF A
BLOOD SAMPLE,
BUT I CAN'T
LEAVE MY POST.
GET IT TO
DOCTOR MILLER
UP THE STREET.

WELCOME TO
LIFE AS A HERO.

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE, TALOS ISLAND

THE DATA LOGS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY
CORRECTED. ALL DIGITAL EVIDENCE OF
MY INVOLVEMENT WITH SHADOWBORN
HAVE BEEN DELETED.

WHY DID YOU TAKE
OVER MY BODY?

BECAUSE YOU WERE
UNWILLING TO DO
WHAT WAS NEEDED.

THIS COURSE OF ACTION WAS
INEVITABLE. THE ENCOUNTER WITH
DAYBRIGHT ONLY ACCELERATED
THE PROJECTED TIMELINE.



STARCYGNUS

GIVE ME CONTROL
AGAIN.

NO.

WE WILL SOON REACH
A POINT WHERE WE
CAN DISPENSE WITH
THIS FLAWED IDENTITY
OF A SUPERHERO.


DAYBRIGHT IS DEAD.
GALATEA POWERS IS
MISSING. THE
GUARDIANS ARE
DEMORALIZED.

ONLY THREE BEINGS
REMAIN THAT CAN
POSE A THREAT TO
MY PLANS.

DOC TOR, ICON POWERS,
AND CITADEL OF THE
FREEDOM PHALANX.

OUR NEXT TARGET
IS THE ANDROID.

WE WILL SAVE THE
TIME MANIPULATOR
FOR LAST.




LOOK, LIONEL, I'M SORRY YOU LOST YOUR CONTRACTS, BUT YOU WERE THE ONE THAT CHOSE TO BACK A MONSTER LIKE MCCARTHY.

"LOST MY CONTRACTS?"

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU REALLY COST ME WITH THAT STUNT OF YOURS!

FOR YEARS I TRIED TO TELL YOU THAT I HAD PLANS IN PLACE... A GREATER ROLE FOR US BOTH IN HUMAN EVOLUTION! BUT YOU, YOU JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN!



SOMETHING BIG IS COMING, JOHN. AND YOU'RE EITHER WITH IT OR YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM.



"IT?" WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LIONEL?

I'M TALKING ABOUT A GROUP OF INTELLECTUALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS THAT DON'T LIKE BEING USED AS PUPPETS.

A GROUP THAT USED TO SEE YOU AND I AS PEONS TO MANIPULATE.

A GROUP THAT I MANAGED TO WORM MY WAY INTO WITH MY BUSINESS.



YOU THINK THE KOREAN WAR JUST "HAPPENED"? OR THAT WE NATURALLY WENT FROM FIGHTING NAZIS TO HATING SOVIETS?


IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN, JOHN. A PLAN THAT I HELPED TO PUT IN PLACE... AND NOW THANKS TO YOU, A PLAN THAT I WAS JUST SHUT OUT OF.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT... IT'S ALL ON YOUR HEAD, JOHN. YOURS... AND YOUR FAMILY.

THIS WAS THE LAST TIME THEY SPOKE PEACEFULLY.



I WAS ONLY A COUPLE OF YEARS OLD WHEN THIS HAPPENED, AND LIVING IN SECLUSION ON MOUNT WASHINGTON IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.



MY UNCLE THEN WENT UNDERGROUND, HELPING OUT DOMESTIC TERRORIST GROUPS.

A FEW DECADES LATER, HE WOULD HEAD HIS OWN TERRORIST GROUP CALLED "MILLENNIUM".

YEAR: 1984

I WENT PUBLIC IN 1974 DURING THE TERRORIST ATTACK AT THE MUNICH OLYMPIC GAMES.

AN ATTACK THAT WAS LED BY MILLENNIUM.

WE LOST SO MANY HEROES THEN... THE LEGION JUST WASN'T THE SAME AFTERWARD, AND YET... PEOPLE SAW MORE HOPE THAN EVER BEFORE WITH ME ON THE SCENE.



I WAS CLEARLY MORE POWERFUL THAN MY FATHER WAS THEN... I COULD EVEN FLY!

IT WAS THEN THAT THE MEDIA DUBBED ME "THE ICON". SO I WORE AN OUTFIT TO REFLECT IT.

IT WAS SIMPLE, REALLY...



AS LONG AS THE PUBLIC HAD SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO, THEY HAD HOPE TO GO ON.

RECESSIONS, OIL SHORTAGES, TERRORISM... EVEN THE FEAR OF NUCLEAR WAR.



AS LONG AS THEY SAW MYSELF AND THE OTHER HEROES... THEY FELT SAFE.

EVEN IN THE FACE OF ARMAGEDDON...

"WE'RE NOW GETTING THIS BREAKING STORY FROM OUR NEWS DESK IN NEW YORK CITY..."



OH NO...

"THE TERRORIST GROUP CALLED MILLENNIUM HAS ISSUED AN ULTIMATUM TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THREATENING TO DETONATE SOMETHING CALLED A SUBATOMIC SUPERCOLLIDER UNLESS THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION DISBANDS COMPLETELY."

"AND... HOLD ON... WE'RE GETTING WORD THAT JOHN POWERS, THE LEGENDARY STEELMAN HIMSELF, IS ON HIS WAY TO THE REPORTED MILLENNIUM BASE."

MY UNCLE HAD REACHED OUT TO MY FATHER... ONE LAST TIME... AND CHALLENGED HIM TO A FINAL BATTLE.



"WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT HIS SON ICON WILL JOIN HIM AND CAN SAVE US FROM WHAT COULD BE CERTAIN DOOM... STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE UPDATES WHEN THEY ARE..."

MILLENNIUM BASE

MY FATHER GOT HERE
AHEAD OF ME.

HE POWERED PAST MOST
OF THE TERRORISTS.

LEAVING THEM
FOR THE NEXT
PERSON THAT
ARRIVED... ME.

THIS IS MY
BATTLE, SON.

IT'S *OUR* BATTLE,
DAD, AND WE'LL
FINISH THIS
TOGETHER AS WE
PROMISED.

THAT WAS THE
PROMISE WE MADE IN
MUNICH IN '72. WE
WOULD BOTH TAKE
HIM DOWN FOR THE
ONES WE LOST.

HOW VERY TOUCHING...
FATHER AND SON... TRYING
TO PUT DOWN THEIR CRAZY
UNCLE...

THE PROBLEM IS THAT
ONLY ONE OF YOU WILL
HAVE THE TIME TO DO
THAT, AND ONLY ONE OF
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STOP
THE COLLIDER FROM
ACTIVATING AND
STARTING THE FATAL
CHAIN REACTION.

HE'S RIGHT, KENT.
YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE THAT CAN
WITHSTAND THE
ENERGY.

GO, SON. GO
SAVE THE WORLD.
IT'S WHY YOU'RE
HERE.

HE WAS RIGHT... AS
ALWAYS. BUT I STILL
DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT.

MY UNCLE LIONEL WAS A SUPER-GENIUS. HE WAS THE ONE THAT HELPED CREATE BOTH THE ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS WHEN HE WAS MY AGE.

A SUBATOMIC COLLIDER WOULD BE A HOBBY TO HIM.

COLLIDE TWO PARTICLE STREAMS TOGETHER AND YOU CREATE ANTIMATTER.

MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DESTROY THIS PLANET.



YOU CAN TELL HE'S BUSY, SO WHY DO YOU TELL ME THE OTHER HALF OF THE GRAND SCHEME?

YOU'RE NOT EVEN HERE, ARE YOU?

BUT I FORGOT ABOUT LIONEL'S OTHER FORTE... CREATING DEATHTRAPS.

YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL, BIG BROTHER.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M ALREADY ON THE WAY OUT. BUT NOT BEFORE I LEFT MORE TWO PRESENTS FOR YOU AND MY NEPHEW.

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE FIRST PRESENT, AND THEN YOU'LL ONLY HAVE A MINUTE TO STOP IT.



THERE WAS A SECOND DEVICE SET TO GO OFF WHEN THE COLLIDER FAILED.

MY FATHER KNEW I WOULDN'T BE FAST ENOUGH TO REACH IT IN TIME.



JOHN POWERS SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF EVERYONE HERE.



IT WAS ONLY AFTER THAT DID I FIND OUT THE OTHER SURPRISE.

LIONEL HAD IT STORED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COMPOUND.



LIONEL'S SECOND "PRESENT"...



A SURVIVAL POD CONTAINING A FOUR-YEAR OLD GIRL.

ATLAS PARK

PRESENT DAY

EXCUSE ME,
MAXIMUS REX?



MAXIMUS REX

LORD LEE
GEDDY... I'M IN
CHARGE OF THE
ROCINANTE
GROUP. I JUST
WANTED TO
EXTEND MY
CONDOLENCES
FOR YOUR
GROUP'S LOSS.



SHADOWBORN LORD

I ALSO WANTED TO
OFFER MY
ORGANIZATION'S
SERVICES TO YOU IN
REGARDS TO THE
INVESTIGATION. MY
PEOPLE ARE SOME
OF THE BEST IN
INFORMATION
COLLECTION AND
INVESTIGATIONS.

LORD GEDDY...
IT HAS BEEN A
WHILE SINCE I
CONVERSED
WITH ANYONE
OF NOBILITY.

NO DOUBT. AMERICA
FROWNS ON TITLES OF
NOBILITY, EVEN WHILE
PROPPING UP THEIR OWN
SUCH AS "SENATORS" AND
"JUDGES". BUT THANKFULLY
CANADA STILL HOLDS ON
TO A FEW OF THEM. AND
THAT'S WHY I REACHED OUT
TO YOU... NOBLEMAN TO
NOBLEMAN.

OF COURSE.

IN REGARDS TO THE
INVESTIGATION, I JUST
FINISHED A MEETING WITH
CITY HALL AND THEY HAVE
ASKED POSITRON OF THE
FREEDOM PHALANX TO BE IN
CHARGE OF THE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE
TELEPORTER INCIDENT.

AN OBVIOUS CHOICE, KING
MAXIMUS.

BUT WHILE POSITRON MAY
HAVE THE TECHNICAL
EXPERIENCE FOR THE
INVESTIGATION, I ASSURE
YOU MY PEOPLE IN THE
ROCINANTE GROUP ARE THE
BEST IN FERRETING OUT
INFORMATION FROM ALL
SOURCES, INCLUDING
THOSE RESTRICTED BY...
SECURITY FIREWALLS.

WE COULD EVEN WORK WITH
POSITRON ON THE
INVESTIGATION AND IT
WOULD MOVE THINGS A
LOT FASTER FOR US ALL.

I'M SURE YOU WOULD LIKE
THIS WHOLE THING TO BE
RESOLVED QUICKLY.

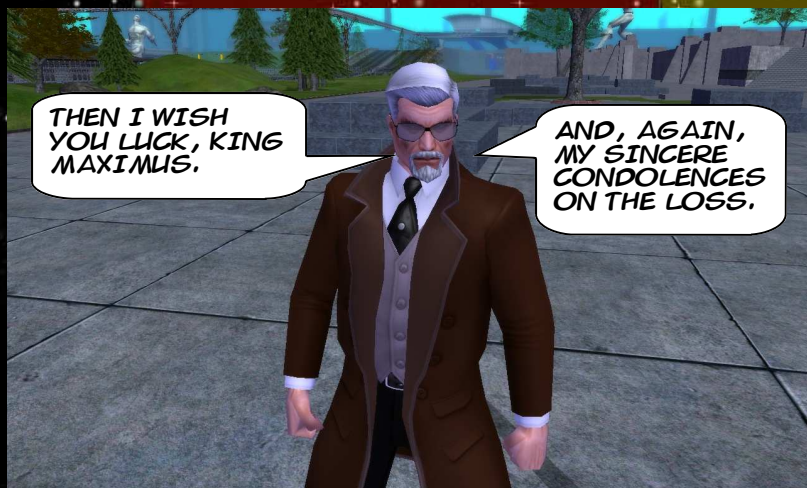
I'M OFFERING THIS TO
YOU AS ONE NOBLEMAN
TO ANOTHER.



I APPRECIATE THE GESTURE, LORD GEDDYS...

BUT I MUST KINDLY DECLINE YOUR OFFER.

POSITRON IS INVESTIGATING THE MATTER, BUT HE WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO DO SO. I ALSO HAVE MY OWN PEOPLE LOOKING IN, AND THEY WILL FIND THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE. AND I'M AFRAID WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS NOT BE SOMETHING DISCUSSED POLITELY BETWEEN NOBLE-BORN.



THEN I WISH YOU LUCK, KING MAXIMUS.

AND, AGAIN, MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS.



CONTACT MIDNIGHT X.

CONNECTING...

GO AHEAD.



JASON, I WANT YOU TO LOOK INTO LORD LEE GEDDY AND THE ROGINANTE GROUP.

THAT GROUP HAS BEEN POPPING UP A FEW TIMES RECENTLY. DO YOU THINK THEY'RE INVOLVED?

I KNOW THEY ARE. LORD GEDDY PRACTICALLY ADMITTED TO IT IN OUR "POLITE" CONVERSATION FROM ONE NOBLE-BORN TO ANOTHER.

BUT KNOWING IT AND PROVING IT ARE TWO SEPARATE THINGS.

HER NAME WAS
LEONA POWERS.

OKAY, REMEMBER
WHAT I TAUGHT YOU.
ATTACK ONLY IF
ATTACKED, AND THEN
ONLY JUST ENOUGH
TO RENDER THEM
UNCONSCIOUS.

THIRTEEN YEARS OLD AND
SHE ALREADY WAS ALMOST
AT MY POWER LEVEL.

GOT IT.



THE "BRIDGE BANDITS" WERE
A TERROR FOR COMMUTERS
IN CONNECTICUT.



UNNH!

BUT THEY WERE ALSO A
GOOD TEST OF LEONA'S
CONTROL OF HER POWERS.

NICELY DONE.



I WAS PROUD OF HER. SO WERE
THE OTHER MEMBERS OF MY OWN
SUPERGROUP, THE LEAGUE OF
CHAMPIONS, THAT SERVED AS
HER SURROGATE PARENTS FOR
THE PAST TEN YEARS.

WE FELT SHE WAS ALMOST
READY TO BE ANNOUNCED
TO THE PUBLIC.



NOW...

NOW LET'S PUT
THESE PEONS
IN THEIR PLACE.

LEONA STOP!

YAAAAAHHH!!



YOU CRIMINAL
VERMIN DON'T
DESERVE TO LIVE!

AFTER THEY'VE
STOPPED
BREATHING!

LEONA! STAND
DOWN NOW!

LEONA NO!!!

YAAAAA!!!!

I HAD TO GET HER OUT
OF THERE FAST BEFORE
SHE KILLED HIM!

TEN SECONDS AND FIFTY MILES LATER...

OKAY, HE'S ALIVE,
AND PHOTONIS IS
TAKING CARE OF
THE REST.

WHAT THE HELL IS
WRONG WITH YOU
LEONA? YOU
ALMOST KILLED
THAT MAN!

I'M ONLY DOING
WHAT WE'RE MEANT
TO DO, "COUSIN".

WE'RE WASTING OUR
TIME WITH SCUM
LIKE THOSE BRIDGE
BANDITS. THE OLD
SYSTEM WON'T GIVE
THEM THE JUSTICE
THEY DESERVE, SO
SOMEONE HAS TO
PICK UP THE SLACK.

MY HEART SANK AS I RECOGNIZED THE
WORDS OF MY UNCLE'S MANIFESTO
COMING FROM HER MOUTH.

UNTIL THIS POINT I
THOUGHT IT WAS JUST YOUR
ANGER GETTING THE BETTER
OF YOU. NOW I SEE IT'S
SOMETHING A LITTLE DEEPER
THAN THAT.

WE'RE GOING BACK TO
MOUNT WASHINGTON. NOW.

I DIDN'T SEE THE RAGE BUILDING
INSIDE HER UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

BOOM!

NO!

KAPOW!

THIS IS MY TIME,
KENT! MY TIME TO
BE THE PERSON
THIS WORLD NEEDS
FOR THE FUTURE!



THE BASEMENT, ULTRA-MAXIMUM FEDERAL PENITENTIARY

NOT EVERYONE EXPOSED TO THE METEOR ROCKS OF 1938 WERE GOOD PEOPLE.

THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE AFTER THE NUCLEAR TEST DETONATIONS OF THE 1950'S SCATTERED SOME OF THE RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT ACROSS WHOLE PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

THE LEGION, AND LATER MY LEAGUE, TRIED TO STEER MOST INTO BEING PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, BUT SOME JUST WERE LOST TO US.

THE WORST OF THE WORST, THE SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS, HAD TO BE STORED IN THE HIGHEST MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN THE WORLD.



SO... YOU
FINALLY
FOUND MY
SECOND
PRESENT...

MY GIFT TO
THE WORLD.



WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
HER, UNCLE
LIONEL?



HEH... LEONA... MY PRIDE
AND JOY.

I'M CURIOUS... ALL THIS
TIME, DID YOU EVER
WONDER WHO HER MOTHER
WAS, KENT? HOW SHE EVEN
CAME ABOUT?

GLOBAL TERRORISM AND
PARENTING DON'T EXACTLY
WORK TOGETHER.

I HAD TWO BIG HOBBIES DURING
MY YEARS ON THE RUN.
SUBATOMIC REACTORS WAS ONE...
GENETIC CLONING THE OTHER.

THE NEW MILLENNIUM
WOULD NEED A NEW FACE,
A NEW CHAMPION, AND IT
OBVIOUSLY COULDN'T BE
MYSELF.

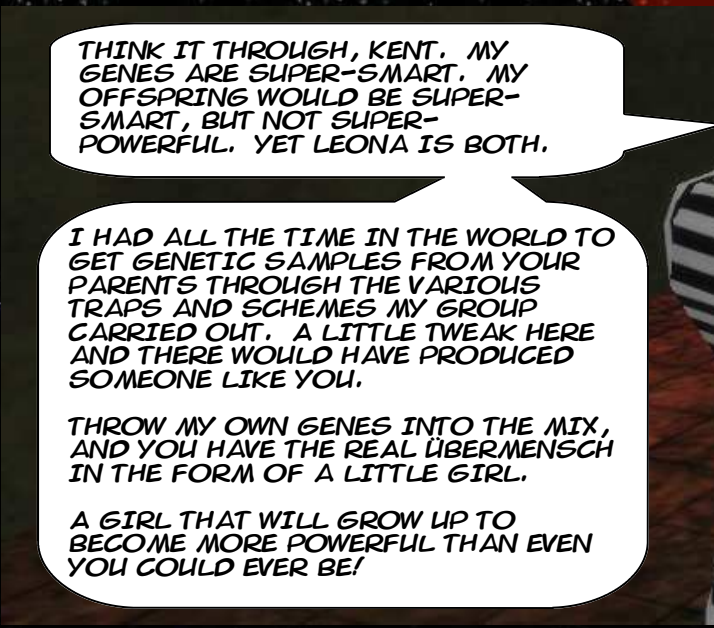
MY DAUGHTER, CULLED
FROM THE GENETIC
MATERIAL FROM MYSELF...
AND FROM YOUR PARENTS.



WAIT... ARE YOU
SAYING THAT
LEONA IS...



SHE'S MORE YOUR
SISTER THAN SHE
IS YOUR COUSIN.



THINK IT THROUGH, KENT. MY
GENES ARE SUPER-SMART. MY
OFFSPRING WOULD BE SUPER-
SMART, BUT NOT SUPER-
POWERFUL. YET LEONA IS BOTH.

I HAD ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO
GET GENETIC SAMPLES FROM YOUR
PARENTS THROUGH THE VARIOUS
TRAPS AND SCHEMES MY GROUP
CARRIED OUT. A LITTLE TWEAK HERE
AND THERE WOULD HAVE PRODUCED
SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

THROW MY OWN GENES INTO THE MIX,
AND YOU HAVE THE REAL ÜBERMENSCH
IN THE FORM OF A LITTLE GIRL.

A GIRL THAT WILL GROW UP TO
BECOME MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN
YOU COULD EVER BE!



NO... NONONONONO...



LOOK, UNCLE LIONEL, EVEN IF I BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT HOW SHE CAME TO BE, SHE IS IN A LOT MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

EARLIER TODAY SHE ATTACKED A MAN USING BEAM-VISION, A POWER I DIDN'T HAVE UNTIL JUST RECENTLY. SHE EVEN ATTACKED ME BEFORE SUDDENLY COLLAPSING. SHE'S IN A STASIS COMA RIGHT NOW, BUT HER VITALS ARE FLUCTUATING. HER BRAIN IS SHOWING SIGNS OF INSTABILITY, AND I FEAR SHE'S DEVELOPING A PSYCHOSIS.



HMM... INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT...

OF COURSE I'D BE MORE THAN WILLING TO HELP WITH THAT...

PROVIDED I'M RELEASED WITH A FULL PARDON.

YOU KNOW I CAN'T APPROVE THAT!

THIS IS YOUR DAUGHTER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, LIONEL. YOURS. EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE THAT RAISED HER, SHE IS STILL YOUR FLESH AND BLOOD.



AND THAT KILLS YOU, DOESN'T IT, KENT?

YOU RAISED HER, HOPING THAT SHE WOULD BE SOMEONE MORE FROM YOUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY.

ONLY NOW SHE'S SOMETHING FAR WORSE.

THAT "PSYCHOSIS" YOU FEAR IS REALLY THE LAST PART OF MY GENETIC TWEAKING. CALL IT "GENE PROGRAMMING".

AS LONG AS SHE HAS MY GENES, SHE WILL ALWAYS REVERT TO MY MINDSET. ALWAYS WANTING TO TAKE OVER. MY FINAL GIFT TO A WORLD THAT CHOSE YOUR FATHER OVER ME.



DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND PUT HER OUT OF YOUR MISERY.

IT WAS ALMOST A WASTE OF TIME...

PLEASANT TALK, NEPHEW.

STOP BY AGAIN.

EXCEPT HE HAD TOLD ME HOW TO SAVE LEONA.

IN ORBIT OVER EARTH



NOT ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF MY GROUP WERE HUMANS.

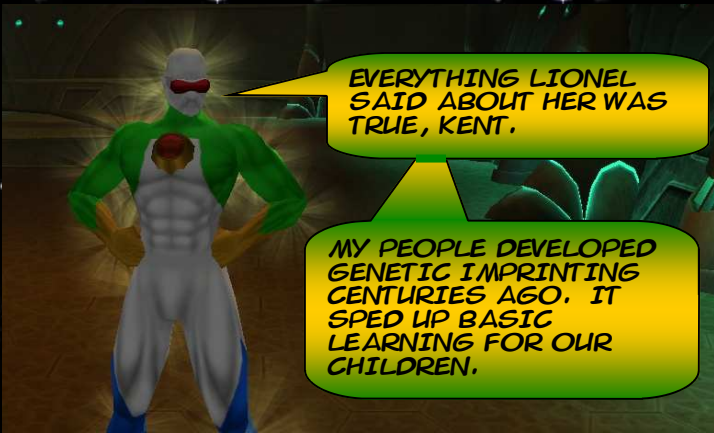
SOME REALLY WERE ALIENS.

PHOTONIS WAS ONE OF THEM.



LEONA...

I HAD TO BRING HER TO HIS SHIP TO FIX HER.



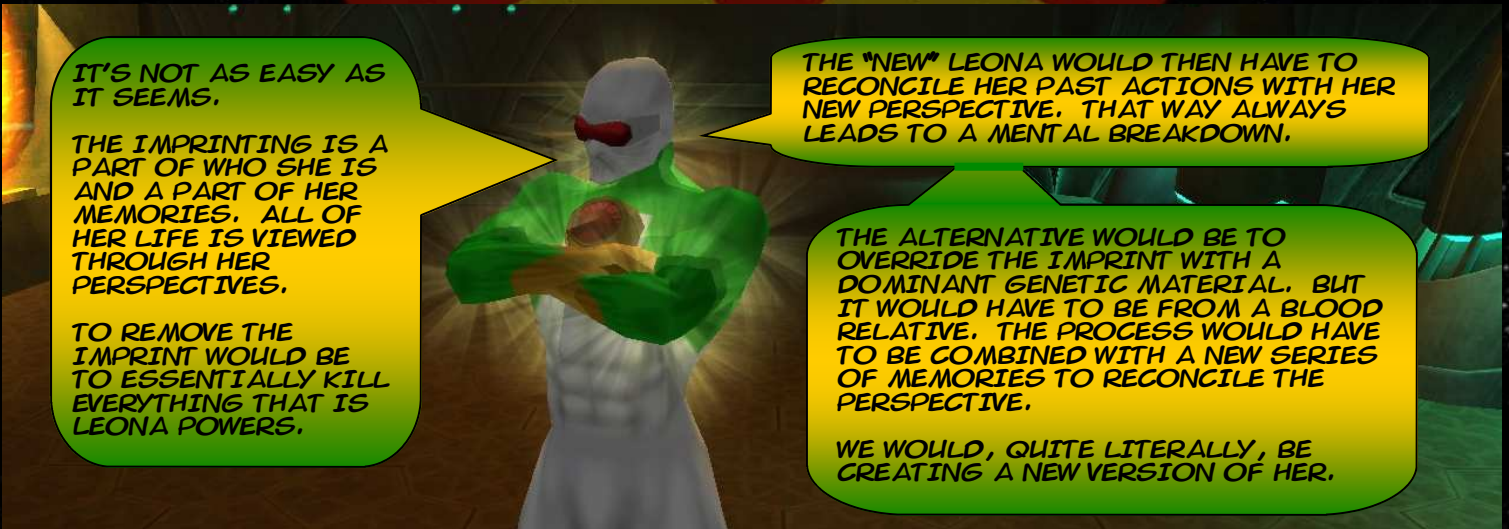
EVERYTHING LIONEL SAID ABOUT HER WAS TRUE, KENT.

MY PEOPLE DEVELOPED GENETIC IMPRINTING CENTURIES AGO. IT SPED UP BASIC LEARNING FOR OUR CHILDREN.



LIONEL PROBABLY USED A VERSION OF THIS DEVICE TO IMPRINT HIS KNOWLEDGE INTO LEONA'S GENOME.

SO CAN YOU...?



IT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT SEEMS.

THE IMPRINTING IS A PART OF WHO SHE IS AND A PART OF HER MEMORIES. ALL OF HER LIFE IS VIEWED THROUGH HER PERSPECTIVES.

TO REMOVE THE IMPRINT WOULD BE TO ESSENTIALLY KILL EVERYTHING THAT IS LEONA POWERS.

THE "NEW" LEONA WOULD THEN HAVE TO RECONCILE HER PAST ACTIONS WITH HER NEW PERSPECTIVE. THAT WAY ALWAYS LEADS TO A MENTAL BREAKDOWN.

THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO OVERRIDE THE IMPRINT WITH A DOMINANT GENETIC MATERIAL. BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE FROM A BLOOD RELATIVE. THE PROCESS WOULD HAVE TO BE COMBINED WITH A NEW SERIES OF MEMORIES TO RECONCILE THE PERSPECTIVE.

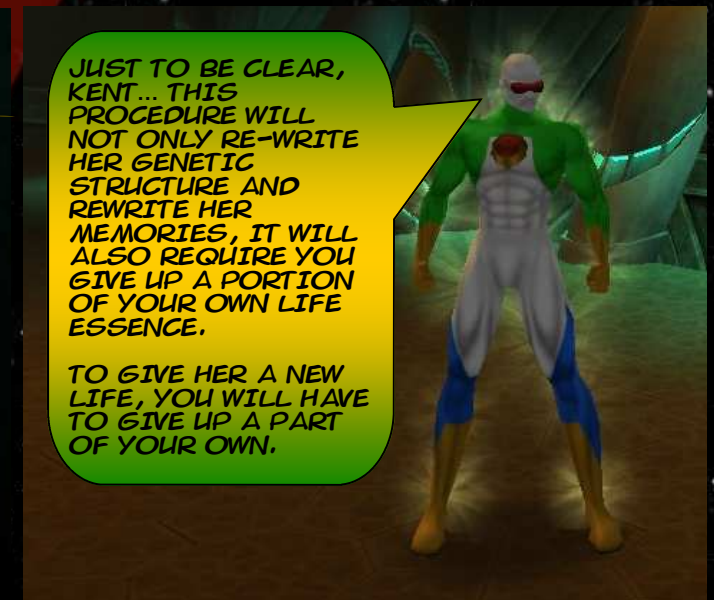
WE WOULD, QUITE LITERALLY, BE CREATING A NEW VERSION OF HER.



TAKE MINE.

WHAT?

WITHOUT LIONEL'S PROGRAMMED GENES, SHE'S ESSENTIALLY MY SISTER. MY PARENTS ARE DEAD. THAT MAKES ME THE ONLY LIVING BLOOD RELATIVE THAT CAN SAVE HER.



JUST TO BE CLEAR, KENT... THIS PROCEDURE WILL NOT ONLY RE-WRITE HER GENETIC STRUCTURE AND REWRITE HER MEMORIES, IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE YOU GIVE UP A PORTION OF YOUR OWN LIFE ESSENCE.

TO GIVE HER A NEW LIFE, YOU WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP A PART OF YOUR OWN.



IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR HER TO LIVE ANEW.



THE MACHINE WOULD DRAW OUT MY DNA AND RECOMBINE IT WITH HERS.



HRRRR!/

IT HURT. IT PHYSICALLY HURT ME, AND IT'S RARE THAT ANYTHING DOES.



TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS, AND SEVER HER TIES TO HER PAST LIFE, SHE WILL NEED TO BE GIVEN A NEW NAME. HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ONE YET?

ACTUALLY, I DID.



A MONTH LATER...

HEY KENT! WAIT UP!



JUST WAITING ON YOU, SLOWPOKE.



HER NAME WAS KAREN POWERS.

NAMED AFTER LIONEL'S AND JOHN'S SISTER.

MY MOTHER USED TO TELL ME THAT IF THEY WERE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER CHILD AND IT WAS A GIRL, KAREN WOULD HAVE BEEN HER NAME.

VERY FUNNY, COUSIN... SOME OF US STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO FLYING YET.

IT WASN'T EASY GETTING USED TO CALLING HER KAREN INSTEAD OF LEONA, SO WE MADE LEONA HER MIDDLE NAME.

WHAT PHOTONIS DIDN'T MENTION WAS THAT THIS WASN'T A ONE-TIME DEAL.

TO ENSURE SHE WOULDN'T REVERT BACK TO LEONA, WE HAD TO REPEAT THE PROCESS SEVERAL TIMES.

EVERY TIME TAKING A LITTLE BIT MORE OUT OF MY LIFE, AGING ME A LITTLE FASTER.

EVERY TIME REVISING HER HISTORY AND CHANGING IT.

THOSE REPORTS OF HER HISTORY BEING MESSED WITH?*

I'M NOT PROUD OF HAVING TO DO THAT TO HER.

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE "ICONIC" THING TO DO.

THOSE WERE PHOTONIS AND MYSELF.

BUT THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE.

(* SEE ISSUE #1)

BECAUSE IF THOSE GENETIC IMPRINTS SOMEHOW COME BACK FORTH, THEN "KAREN"... WHOM YOU NOW KNOW AS GALATEA POWERS... WILL CEASE TO BE, AND "LEONA" WILL COME BACK.

THE BLONDE HAIR WAS OUR SIGN THAT MY FATHER'S GENES WERE DOMINANT IN HER SYSTEM INSTEAD OF LIONEL'S.

IF LEONA WERE TO RE-APPEAR, SHE WOULD BE FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN KAREN EVER WAS, NOT TO MENTION AMORAL AND SOCIOPATHIC.

AND I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT PARAGON CITY CAN HANDLE A MIND LIKE LEONA'S IN THE BODY OF GALATEA POWERS.

"LIMBO"

LOOK, EVEN IF I BELIEVE WHAT YOU TELL ME IS TRUE... I AM HONOR-BOUND BY THE KHELDIAN LIFE BOND. I CAN'T TAKE A LIFE... EVEN THAT OF A GOD.

PLEASE! KHELDIANS HAVE KILLED PEOPLE BEFORE!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT DREADLAW WAS JUST GOING TO LECTURE YOU A FEW MONTHS BACK?*

(* ISSUE #13)

THAT WAS DIFFERENT.

DREADLAW WAS AN EXTREMIST AND HE WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS ABUSES.

I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON...

BUT I DO KNOW THERE'S MORE AT STAKE THAN JUST YOUR JOINT BOND BETWEEN HUMANS AND KHELDIANS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

YOU MAY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL OF 2007... WHEN THE SKIES TURNED BLOOD RED AND THREE HEROES CAME ACROSS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.*

THE BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT... THE MONSTER RESPONSIBLE... DECIMATED WHOLE UNIVERSES.

YOUR TEAMMATES... GALATEA POWERS, MIDKNIGHT X, AND RYDER LIGHTNING... TRIED TO STOP IT FROM HAPPENING TO THEIR OWN UNIVERSE, BUT THEY COULDN'T... AND BY CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, THEY ENDED UP IN OUR UNIVERSE.

(* ISSUE #0)

YES, I KNOW THEIR STORY...

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW?

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW... WHAT THEY NEVER KNEW... WAS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THEIR HOME UNIVERSE WAS OBLITERATED.

THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FINAL BATTLE THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THAT DESTROYER AND ICON POWERS...

AND AIDED BY A PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER.

LOOK, EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, WHY DON'T WE HEAD UP THERE AND WE CAN HAVE MY EMPLOYER SHOW YOU AND THEN YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR MIND AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO HELP?

YOUR... BOSS... IS UP THERE?

ARE YOU SURE THIS ISN'T THE AFTERLIFE?

I'M CERTAIN.

THERE IS NO GRASS IN THE HEREAFTER, ONLY CLOUDS AND THE SICKLY SWEET SMELL OF HONEYSUCKLE.

WORD TO THE WISE... IF A DIVINE BEING ASKS YOU WHAT SORT OF SCENT WOULD BE GREAT FOR THE HEREAFTER, DON'T SUGGEST HONEYSUCKLE!

OKAY... SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE PLAY EVERYONE'S BEST AND WORST GAME... WE WAIT.

LIBRA WILL TELL YOU WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT. MUCH LIKE THE SPINSTERS OF FATE IN THE OLD GREEK LEGENDS, HE CAN ONLY ACT AT THE RIGHT POINT, AND NOT BEFORE.

BUT LIBRA CAN SHOW YOU THE FACE OF YOUR ENEMY...

BEHOLD, PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER...

THE DESTROYER OF REALITY...

ALOR

NEXT: ALOR!



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS VANGUARD PROGRAM



CONFIDENTIAL - ULTRA-SECRET EYES ONLY

FROM THE DESK OF: DOCTOR EMILY ZEN

The following is the confidential transcript of my session with Vanguard subject "Galatea Powers". These sessions were recorded following a series of exhaustive nightmares where the subject would wake up in a panic. Although no personal harm would come from these nocturnal panic attacks, the subject would on occasion cause physical damage to her quarters immediately upon waking.

This session was recorded as required under United Nations Directive 665 on September 5th of 2007.

Z: Doctor Emily Zen

G: Galatea Powers

Z: Good afternoon Galatea. How did you sleep last night?

G: Awful. I had another nightmare.

Z: So I'm told. Did you try the meditation technique I taught you?

G: Some. But it really didn't stop the nightmares from happening.

Z: It's not supposed to. Or at least not immediately. The technique is to help you get a greater control over your subconscious when you have your nightmares, therefore eventually lessening their impact.

So do you remember anything about this nightmare?

G: A little. I remember... I was with some group of people. I want to say they were like the ones Ryder (Lightning) and Jason (MidKnight X) were in, but they weren't. Something connected to a... to a coffee house, I want to say?

Z: Were the two comedians in blue and gold in that group? You frequently talked about them in other nightmares you experienced.

G: No, they weren't. And they weren't in the other group I remember... in the building that looked like a museum and had that ointment smell everywhere. But... that wasn't what frightened me.

Z: What was it that scared you, Galatea?

**OLD PEOPLE?
VA GROUP?**

Continues on next page...

**NEED TO KEEP
AN EYE ON!**

G: It was the last part of the nightmare... when I was trapped in some sort of glass coffin. There were two people looking at me from outside of the coffin. I want to say I know them... but I don't. One of them... he had a symbol... something I've seen before. It was in a triangle... something sort of iconic. I wanted to say something, to get them to let me out, but I couldn't. I was trapped there. And then I saw my reflection in the glass...

Z: And that's what terrified you?

G: It looked... I dunno, it looked like me when I was younger... except for the red hair.

Z: Red?

RED?

G: Bright red hair.

Z: Interesting.

G: And her face... she was angry. She was screaming at me.

Z: At you? Why you? Why not at the people on the other side?

**DEMONIC POSSESSION?
PSYCHIC MESSAGE?
IS SHE A SECRET TELEPATH?**

G: I don't know. But it seemed she was angry at me. And then when I woke up... I could swear...

Z: What?

G: When I looked in the mirror, I could swear my hair had changed color! It was only for a moment... but I thought my hair color turned red!

Z: Interesting.

NEED FURTHER EVALUATION!!

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



You've heard of him... you've seen his handiwork...

And now the destroyer of universes is here.

As "Time and Changes" continues... witness the story of ALOR!



"Emperor Cole calls us outlaws. But make no mistake...
We're the good guys here!"



CITY OF HEROES GOING ROGUE

goingrogue.cityofheroes.com

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