

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

TASK FORCE TWILIGHT



Issue 05
2018



WHICH ONE OF THESE HEROES...



... WILL **BETRAY** THE TASK FORCE?



Welcome To The Future Of Financial Success!

On February 1st, M.C. Louis Investments became part of the Triumph Financial family.

While some have expressed concerns about the assimilation, rest assured we could not enter into this merger without first ensuring that all obligations to our new clients under M.C. Louis Investments would continue uninterrupted. If you had an account with M.C. Louis Investments, then you would notice nothing other than a change in names. None of the various offices and services were closed in the transition and no layoffs resulted from this change.

Unlike other financial groups that underwent similar assimilations, no accounts were closed or assimilated in the transition. Even if you had an account with both M.C. Louis Investments and Triumph Financial, they continued to be separate accounts after the transition.

At Triumph Financial, we believe that the needs of the client come before the company. Your satisfaction as a client is more important to us than any kind of short-term profitability. Your satisfaction with us allows us to continue to service you in the years to come. Not many financial investment groups can make that claim and have a success record like ours to back it up.

For those who consider being our future clients, we ask that you talk with those who already have accounts with us. You will find that they have lost nothing in the transition.

To us, Triumph Financial is more than just a name. It is a promise to you, the clients, that your trust in us will result in a triumph for us all.



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Every financial investment contains some kind of risk. Please be sure to research all options and the pros and cons of each option before signing to any agreement. Triumph Financial and MC Louis Investments are fictional companies and any similarities to actual businesses are purely coincidental. That's our story and we are sticking to it. This is not a real advertisement.

In the City of Heroes, masked and caped heroes are seen as the tireless protectors of the helpless. In the eyes of law enforcement, though, they will always be seen as vigilantes and criminals, no different than the evil that they fight.

But when power corrupts the men and women of law enforcement, these vigilantes are all that prevent the city from falling into a fascist police state. Now they must stand together and fight for justice.

TASK FORCE 'TWILIGHT'

Cardinal Syn's task force has finally made its stand against the corrupt officers of the Blue Dog Squad, making it clear to the bad cops that they will not be tolerated anymore.

In addition, the mysterious Warshade known as Sundown has offered his assistance to Cardinal Syn, having revealed his role in helping bring down the first incarnation of the Blue Dogs.

But this incarnation of the Blue Dogs will not go down easily, and Deputy Chief Wield is doing everything he can to make sure that Syn's Task Force is shut down and its members arrested.

At the same time, freelance blogger Mighty Marvin has revealed to the world that the police are secretly keeping the charred body of street vigilante Jason Knight in their morgue.

"THE DARK MESSIAH" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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WELCOME BACK. YOU'RE WATCHING THE P-N-N AFTERNOON NEWS.

I'M ROBIN STEED, AND WE ARE CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THE STORY THAT JUST BROKE A FEW HOURS AGO.

THE SHOCKING ACCUSATION MADE BY FREELANCE BLOGGER MIGHTY MARVIN THAT ACCUSED COP-KILLER AND STREET VIGILANTE JASON KNIGHT IS, IN FACT, DEAD AND IS BEING SECRETLY HELD IN THE POLICE MORGUE.

BREAKING NEWS: JASON KNIGHT REPORTED DEAD



FOR MORE ON THIS, WE ARE BEING JOINED BY RYDER LIGHTNING, THE LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HERO GROUP THAT JASON WAS A MEMBER OF.

GOOD AFTERNOON ROBIN. AND I MUST FIRST CORRECT YOU ON SOMETHING.

JASON KNIGHT DEAD



RYDER LIGHTNING



WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT JASON KNIGHT WAS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS, HE DID TENDER HIS RESIGNATION WITH OUR GROUP SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

HAVING SAID THAT... I HAVE KNOWN JASON FOR A LONG TIME... AND IT PAINS ME TO THINK THAT HE WOULD BE TREATED THIS WAY BY ANY BRANCH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN LEADER



JASON KNIGHT DEAD



SO YOU BELIEVE WHAT MIGHTY MARVIN POSTED IN HIS BLOG... THAT YOUR FRIEND AND FORMER TEAMMATE WAS KILLED AND THAT THE POLICE HAVE HIS BODY?

RIGHT NOW ALL WE HAVE IS A BLOGGER'S WORD AND SOME PHOTOS. WE'VE REQUESTED THAT THE BODY BE TESTED TO SEE IF IN FACT IT IS JASON'S.

JASON KNIGHT DEAD



ACCUSATION BY MIGHTY MARV



ABOVE THE ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING

KINGS ROW, PARAGON CITY, RI

"UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, WE CANNOT GIVE ANY KIND OF STATEMENT CONCERNING JASON KNIGHT'S SITUATION."

"LEVEL THIRTEEN"
(AKA THE KNIGHT'S LAIR)

ALERT! ALERT!
ENERGY SURGE
APPROACHING
THE BUILDING!

DAMNIT...

★FWSSSHHHH!★

Cassandra Dare
AKA CARDINAL SYN



★FWSSSHHHH!★

★FWSSSHHHH!★

I SAID
IS IT
TRUE?

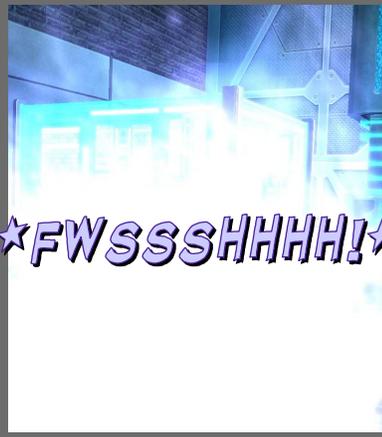
Daybright
(GRACE FELLOWS)



GRACE... YOU NEED
TO POWER DOWN.
THOSE POLICE
DRONES OUT THERE
CAN READ YOUR
ENERGY SIGNATURE
FROM INSIDE THIS
BUILDING... WHICH
IS SUPPOSED TO BE
SHUT DOWN.



IS IT TRUE?



★FWSSSHHHH!★



IS IT TRUE?
IS HE...?

Grace Fellows
AKA DAYBRIGHT



YOU KNOW
THAT I CAN'T
TELL YOU,
EVEN IF HE IS.



SENTRY...
IS IT TRUE?



I AM
INCAPABLE
OF LYING TO
YOU, MISS
GRACE.



I AM SORRY.
JASON KNIGHT
IS DEAD.



NO...
NONONONONO....



GRACE...
GRACE, I'M SORRY.
YOU KNOW JASON
ABOUT AS MUCH
AS I DO.



HE'S ALWAYS
SURROUNDING
HIMSELF IN
MYSTERY, NOT
WANTING US TO
KNOW IF ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM IS REAL.



HE ASKED THAT I
NOT TELL ANYONE
THAT HE'S DEAD,
INCLUDING YOU.

SNIFF

YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH THIS
TEARS ME
UP INSIDE.



I WANT TO RACE UP
THAT HILL AND GO
THROUGH EVERY COP
UNTIL I FIND OUT
WHO KILLED HIM.

BUT I CAN'T.
BECAUSE THEN IT
WOULD BE ABOUT
HIM, AND HE
WOULDN'T WANT IT
TO BE THAT WAY.



I HAVE TO
CONVINCE
MYSELF THAT
HE'S STILL
ALIVE. THAT
HE'S JUST IN
HIDING,
WATCHING
FROM AFAR.

I DON'T KNOW
IF THAT HELPS
YOU ANY...

* DAYBRIGHT'S STORY WAS TOLD IN *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #12 AND 13)



SNIFF... I WISH IT COULD.
JASON AND I HAVE SOMETHING
IN COMMON... WE BOTH DIED AND
CAME BACK TO LIFE CHANGED.*
MINE... *SNIFF*... TO A MORE
EXTREME DEGREE THAN HIS.

I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE
THE FACT THAT I DIED
ALREADY WOULD MAKE
IT HURT LESS... *SNIFF*
BUT IT DOESN'T.



THEN LET'S MAKE
WHAT JASON WAS
MEAN SOMETHING.
I HAVE HIS TASK
FORCE WORKING ON
SHUTTING DOWN THE
BLUE DOGS.
BUT I WILL HAVE
SOMETHING I WILL
NEED YOUR HELP ON.

WHEN THE
TIME IS
RIGHT, CAN
I COUNT ON
YOUR HELP?

FOR JASON...
ABSOLUTELY.

IT AMAZES ME HOW YOU CAN FIND BEAUTY IN SUCH AN EYESORE.



Alison Kane
AKA ALLY KAZAM

SALOME?
WHAT ARE...?
HOW DID...?



WAIT... YOU'RE NOT REALLY HERE, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE USING A MIND-SPELL PROJECTION.



VERY ASTUTE, ALISON.
YES, I'M STILL AT THE ALMENZEL...
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T BE THERE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE IF I HAVE TO.



Salome
ORIGINAL MIND-DANCER

NEVER FORGET THAT I AM ALWAYS WATCHING MY STUDENTS FROM AFAR. ALWAYS.



THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WARNING, SALOME.
I HAVE BEEN CAREFUL WITH HOW I USE MY GIFTS.



HOW IS IT THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY CENTURIES THAT I'VE SHARED WHAT I KNOW, MY STUDENTS ALWAYS SAY THE SAME THING?



MY DEAR, YOU ALL SAY THAT YOU'RE CAREFUL, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE NOT.

DOING MAGIC TRICKS AND THE OCCASIONAL FAVOR FOR A FRIEND IS ONE THING.
BUT THIS TASK FORCE THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH...



I'VE SEEN WHAT THE POLICE
HAVE DONE, SALOME.
THEY TRIED TO KILL A CAT-
GIRL FOR NO OTHER REASON
THAN BECAUSE SHE WENT TO
DEFEND A HELPLESS WOMAN.*
THEY PREY ON THE WEAK AND
HELPLESS LIKE VULTURES.

I REMEMBER THE STORIES
YOU TOLD OF YOUR
YOUNGER YEARS WHEN
YOU WOULD STAND UP TO
MEN LIKE THAT.
ESPECIALLY THE ONES
THAT HATED CATS.

C* *FURIA AND THE
GUARDIANS* #12 AND 13)



AND YOU'LL REMEMBER
THAT I ALSO SAID THAT
I WAS ALMOST BURNED
AT THE STAKE FOR DOING
THAT!
TORQUEMADA STILL
LAUGHS IN HELL OVER
WHAT HE GOT AWAY WITH.



BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN WE CAN'T TRY TO
STOP THE NEXT ONE
FROM GETTING AWAY
WITH HIS CRIMES.



HMMM...



HAVE SOME TRUST
IN ME, SALOME.
LET ME SHOW YOU
HOW WELL YOU'VE
TRAINED ME.



I'LL STILL BE
WATCHING.
AND, UNDERSTAND
THIS, ALISON...



IF I SUSPECT EVEN
FOR AN INSTANT
THESE PEOPLE WILL
THREATEN ME AND
MY STUDENTS, I
WILL NOT HESITATE
TO DO TO THIS
CITY WHAT I ONCE
DID TO ROANOKE.

GARDIFF, WALES, UK

WAS JUST WRAPPING UP A SECURITY CONFERENCE WITH VANGUARD WHEN THE LOCAL NEWS MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN "ALLY" WAS REPORTED DEAD.

SO DO YOU THINK IT'S FOR REAL? DO YOU THINK JASON IS DEAD?

Kent Poderes
AKA Igon Powers (Retired)

WE'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD A FEW TIMES BEFORE, KENT. I WON'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SEE THE BODY AND GET THE DNA CONFIRMATION.

Prof. Bart Wallace
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING

AND I TAKE IT THE POLICE AREN'T GIVING UP THE BODY OR RUNNING GENETIC TESTING TO VERIFY IT'S HIM.

GIVEN THE REPORTED CONDITION OF THE BODY, I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD EVEN WANT IT TO BE RELEASED TO ANYONE. AND IF THEY KNEW FOR CERTAIN IT WAS HIM, I THINK THEY'D BE BOASTING ABOUT IT.

OKAY, THEN MAKE SOME CALLS AND FORCE THE ISSUE. YOU'VE GOT FEDERAL AUTHORITY AS A SUPERGROUP. HAVE YOUR FRIENDS PUSH THE POLICE TO GIVE UP THE BODY FOR TESTS.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. I JUST TOLD THE WORLD THAT JASON WAS A LONE WOLF, SO WE CAN'T CLAIM THE BODY WITHOUT SAYING HE WAS STILL A GUARDIAN.

AND, I HATE TO SAY IT, OLD FRIEND... BUT I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANY MORE. ESPECIALLY GIVEN WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE HEROES HERE.

CITY HALL, ATLAS PARK

"I AM GOING TO MAKE THIS AS PAINFULLY SIMPLE AS I CAN, OKAY?"

"IF YOU SAY SO."

"I AM THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES HERO AUTHORITY, WHICH REPLACED THE FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPERPOWERED AFFAIRS."

"I WAS APPOINTED BY DONALD TRUMP, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND CONFIRMED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE."

"IN OTHER WORDS, I AM IN CHARGE OF ALL SUPERHERO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES."

"IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS."

PARAGON CITY HALL

I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE VARIOUS FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS HERE THAT YOU ARE THE SOLE PERSON IN CHARGE OF ALL OF THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE HEROES AND THE SUPERGROUPS IN THIS CITY.

I AM ORDERING YOU TO MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF IMMEDIATELY.

Director Darren Burgess
DEPARTMENT OF SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES



NO.

Brigid Moreira
CITY REPRESENTATIVE



FINE. YOU'RE FIRED.
PACK YOUR THINGS
AND BE OUT OF HERE
IN FIVE MINUTES OR
I'LL HAVE YOU
ARRESTED.



I DON'T WORK FOR YOU,
MISTER BURGESS, OR
FOR YOUR BOSS IN THE
WHITE HOUSE BY WAY OF
MAR-A-LAGO.
I WORK FOR PARAGON
CITY.
YOU MAY CONTROL THE
PEOPLE IN THOSE
DEPARTMENTS
DOWNSTAIRS...



... BUT, MAKE NO
MISTAKE MISTER
BURGESS...
UP HERE, YOU ARE
IN MY DOMAIN.
AND YOU DON'T GET
TO TELL ME HOW TO
DO MY JOB.



YOU WANT TO PLAY IT
THAT WAY? FINE.
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS
MAKE ONE PHONE CALL
TO THE PRESIDENT AND
HE'LL GET THE MAYOR
TO FIRE YOUR BONY
ASS SO FAST YOUR
HEMORRHOIDS WILL
HAVE BURN MARKS.



AND AS SOON AS YOU'RE
OUT THAT DOOR, I'LL HAVE
YOUR REPLACEMENT FOLLOW
MY ORDERS AND MAKE THAT
INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO ANYONE I CHOOSE.

OH, AND GOOD LUCK
GETTING A NEW JOB OR
FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
BENEFITS AFTERWARD.
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT'S ALL
BLOCKED JUST FOR LAUGHS.



GO AHEAD.
MAKE THAT CALL.

HELL, HAVE THE
PRESIDENT COME
UP HERE HIMSELF
FROM MAR-A-
LAGO.



YOU'LL BOTH FIND
OUT THAT I HAVE
MUCH BETTER
FRIENDS THAN YOU
DO IN THIS CITY.
AND NOT ALL OF
THEM NEED TO WEAR
A MASK AND CAPE
TO RUIN YOUR DAY.

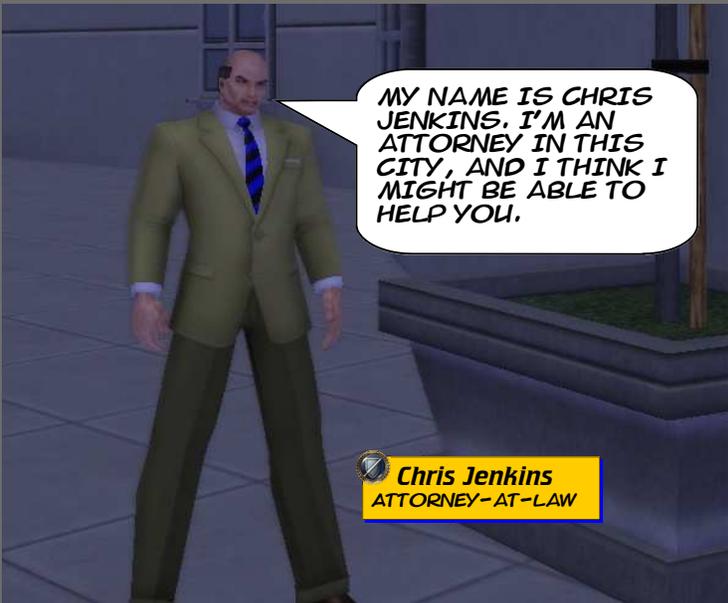


I BELIEVE YOU
KNOW THE WAY
OUT, MISTER
BURGESS.



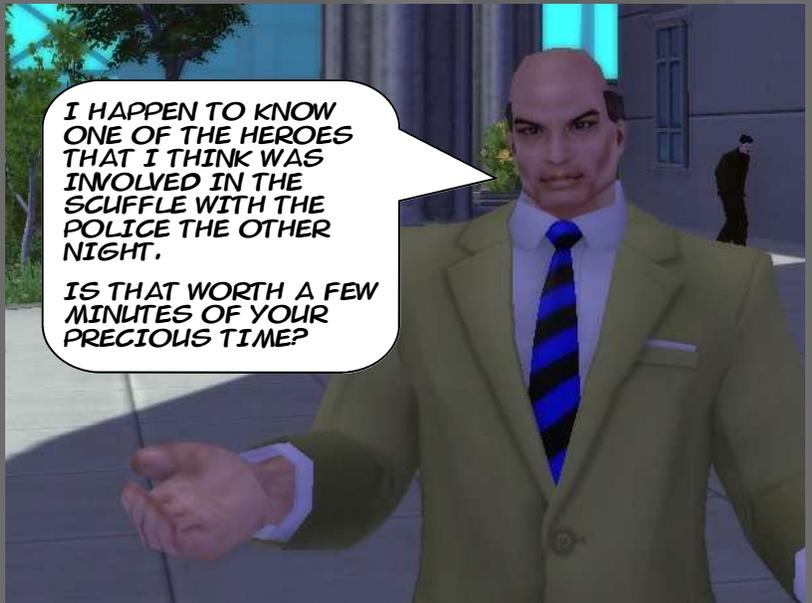
EXCUSE ME...
DIRECTOR
BURGESS?

I'M A LITTLE
BUSY. PLEASE
SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT
WITH MY OFFICE.



MY NAME IS CHRIS
JENKINS. I'M AN
ATTORNEY IN THIS
CITY, AND I THINK I
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
HELP YOU.

 **Chris Jenkins**
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



I HAPPEN TO KNOW
ONE OF THE HEROES
THAT I THINK WAS
INVOLVED IN THE
SCUFFLE WITH THE
POLICE THE OTHER
NIGHT.
IS THAT WORTH A FEW
MINUTES OF YOUR
PRECIOUS TIME?

HOURS LATER...

ANONYMOUS CALL SAID TO CHECK THE PARKING DECK. THAT'S WHEN I FOUND HIM LIKE THIS.

BASTARD'S STILL BREATHING.



HERO ID ON THE WAISTBAND SAYS HE'S HAWKTHORNE. WHOEVER DID THIS TO HIM PRETTY MUCH ENDED HIS CAREER.

HE'S NEVER GOING TO FLY AGAIN. NOT WITH THOSE WINGS.

WELL, I WAS TOLD TO GIVE YOU A CALL, YINDELL. GUESS YOU CAN TELL THE DEPUTY CHIEF THAT OUR BOYS HAVE LIPPED THEIR GAME ON THE VIGILANTES.

"THE COP SHACK" - KINGS ROW

THE BAR JUST DOWN THE STREET FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

Deputy Chief Thomas Wield
PARAGON CITY POLICE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, CADE?

JUST ENJOYING A DRINK WITH MY FRIENDS.

Bill McCade
EX-COP

YOU WERE TOLD TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE. THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE KEEPING A "LOW PROFILE".

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO LAWDOG? SCREW THAT!
I STAY WITH MY FRIENDS AND I GET TO KEEP BREATHING.

WHAT HAPPENED TO LAWDOG WAS... SAD.
BUT IF YOU'RE CAUGHT STILL OPERATING IN THIS CITY...

YOU MEAN FROM CARDINAL SYN AND HER LITTLE GANG OF VIGILANTES?
OH I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN DO...

I HAPPEN KNOW ONE OF THOSE VIGILANTES QUITE WELL.
AND I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR HER AND HER LITTLE FRIENDS LATER TONIGHT THAT THEY WILL NEVER FORGET!

LET ME BE CRYSTAL CLEAR ON THIS MATTER:
NOT ONLY WILL I REVOKE THE HERO CREDENTIALS OF ANY HERO OPERATING IN KINGS ROW...



BURGESS GETS TOUGH ON HEROES



BUT I WILL ALSO MAKE THEIR REAL NAMES AND HOME ADDRESSES A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE LIKE ANY OTHER CRIMINAL.



ATLAS PARK · EARLIER TODAY



LEGAL EXPERTS VARY ON THEIR OPINION ON WHETHER DIRECTOR BURGESS'S THREAT IS LEGAL UNDER CURRENT STATUES, BUT THEY ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT IT WOULD CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO ANY HERO EXPOSED.



BURGESS ACTIONS ILLEGAL?



P-N-N HAS TRIED NUMEROUS TIMES TO REACH CHIEF MORTON CLAYTON TO GET A COMMENT ON THE RECENT EVENTS, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE IS UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.



FAITH NOTTINGHAM · LATE NEWS



IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR DID SHE GO OUT OF HER WAY TO TELL US SOMETHING?



KDave
(PHIL SKI)

TASK FORCE BASE - KINGS ROW

GOOD OBSERVATION, KDAVE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. NOBODY KNOWS WHERE CHIEF CLAYTON IS.



Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)

HE'S BEEN THE BIGGEST ALLY OF THE HERO COMMUNITY SINCE HE TOOK OVER FROM CHIEF BOCHCO IN 2007, AND NOBODY OUTSIDE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN HIM IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

COINCIDENTALLY THAT'S WHEN THE BLUE DOGS STARTED COMING BACK.



I HAVE SOMEONE WORKING ON FINDING CHIEF CLAYTON EVEN AS I SPEAK.

MEANWHILE, WE NEED TO STEP UP OUR OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE BLUE DOGS... AND I MEAN MORE THAN JUST BREAKING UP THEIR SHAKEDOWN RAIDS.



ELITE... I'M TOLD THAT YOU DO GOOD BACKGROUND RESEARCH.

★ Elite Ice Queen
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)



I NEED YOU TO LOOK INTO THE GROUPS AND BUSINESSES THAT THE DOGS HAVE BEEN HITTING.
WHO OWNS THEM AND WHO'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT THEM.



THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO SAY BEFORE WE GO OUT THERE TONIGHT...
YOU'VE ALL HEARD THE NEWS REPORTS OF JASON KNIGHT BEING DEAD.
I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER IT'S TRUE.



BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER.
JASON KNIGHT MAY HAVE SET UP THIS TASK FORCE... BUT IT REALLY ISN'T HIS.
IT'S OURS.

★ Ally Kazam
(ALISON KANE)



"IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE DOWN THE BLUE DOGS AND BRING THEM TO JUSTICE."

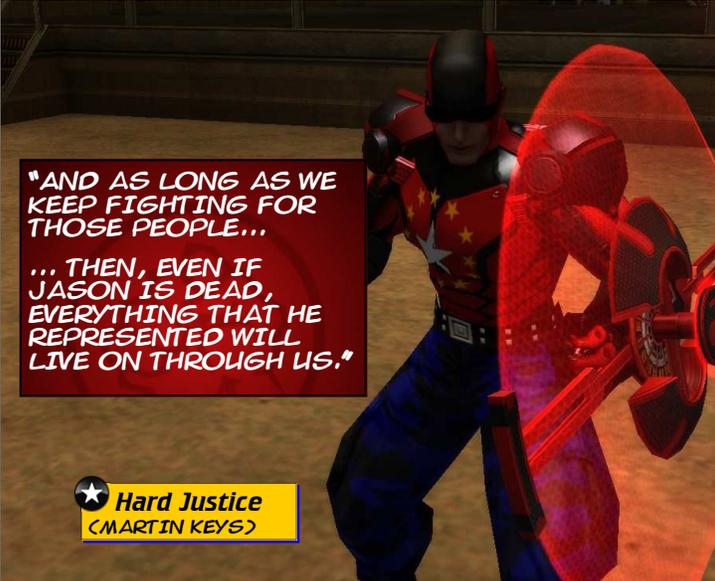
★ Streetangel
(KAREN MANNING)



"NOT FOR US... NOT EVEN FOR JASON..."

"BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY WHO NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM A SYSTEM THAT PREYS ON THEM."

★ Artema
(PERSIA THERON)



"AND AS LONG AS WE KEEP FIGHTING FOR THOSE PEOPLE...
... THEN, EVEN IF JASON IS DEAD, EVERYTHING THAT HE REPRESENTED WILL LIVE ON THROUGH US."

★ Hard Justice
(MARTIN KEYS)



ENOUGH SAID.

LET'S GET OUT THERE AND REMIND THE DOGS WHY THIS IS CALLED THE "CITY OF HEROES"

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 fleeing. 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.



Home base or Home.
Business or Battalion.
Hospital or Hospitality Suite.

Your technology needs to work with you wherever you are and for whatever you need it to do.

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Available for purchase online or at tech stores nationwide.

Discounts available for corporations and registered hero groups.

The Heroes Are Not Our Friends!

When police officers and other government officials break the law and bring harm to the innocent, they are held to account for it. There are legal mechanisms in place that stop abusive officers. The government is required to pay for all the damages incurred. There are even insurance policies set up for just such an unfortunate situation.

The same cannot be said for the so-called “registered heroes” in Paragon City.

Every day, innocent people are assaulted by vigilantes that are registered by our city. Most often these “heroes” have almost none of the required training that law enforcement officers have to spend weeks learning. They often do not follow up their “arrests” with actual reporting of the alleged crimes committed, and they don’t even show up in court to testify under oath why they did what they did.

And there is no accountability for their actions!

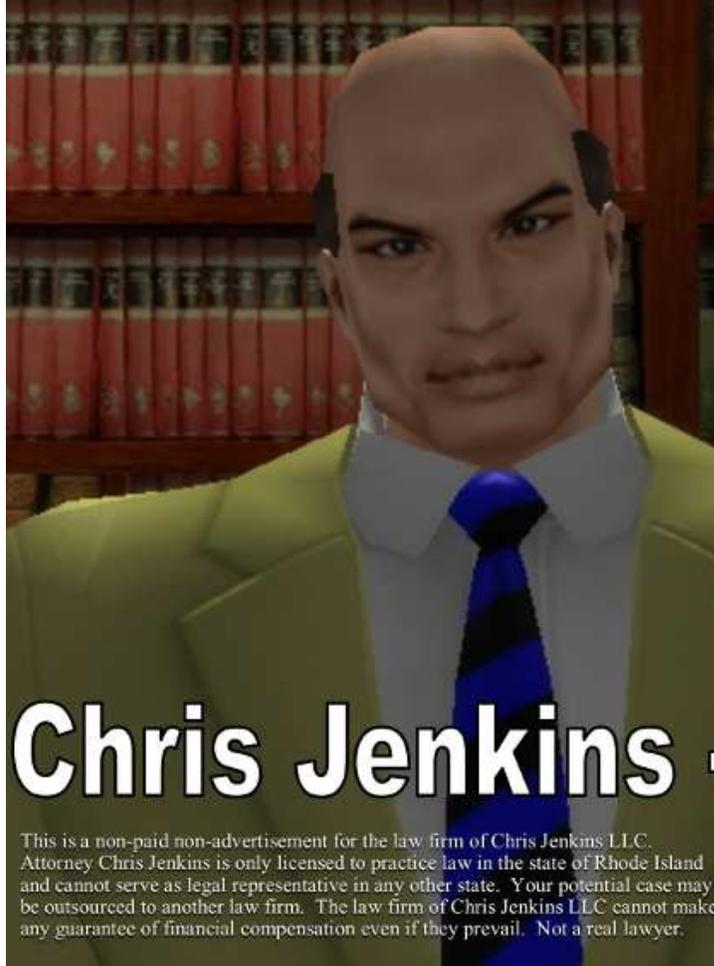
When myself and other dedicated followers of the law try to hold these vigilantes to account when they do harm, quite often there is no way we can serve them legal notices. They hide behind their masks and their “secret identities”. And even if we prevail, there is often no financial restitution. The hero community have no “insurance policy” to compensate for those harmed by their illegal actions.

Quite often I have to tell my clients to expect nothing even if we prevail.

My firm is looking for those who have been legitimately harmed by these so-called “registered heroes” so we can represent them in a comprehensive class-action lawsuit against Paragon City, the State of Rhode Island, and the United States government.

If these institutions will not do something to stop the abusive actions of these lawless vigilantes, then we must hold the institutions themselves to account for them.

Help me bring them all to justice!



Chris Jenkins - Attorney At Law

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1-555-GET-RICH

AN HOUR LATER...



IS IT ME...?



OOF!

... OR DOES IT SEEM LIKE THERE ARE MORE BLUE DOGS THAN BEFORE?

SLAM!



NOT YOUR IMAGINATION.



THESE ARE THE BACKUP DOGS...

WHAP!

WHAP!

GANG MEMBERS DRESSED UP AS BLUE DOGS. THEY'RE KEEPING US BUSY SO THE REAL BAD COPS CAN MAKE THEIR ESCAPE.

WHAP!



THAT DOESN'T MAKE THEM IMMUNE TO MY POWERS.

FWSSH

YAAAA!



OKAY... CUZ I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ME.



WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T LITTLE MISS STREET ANGEL...



ALL DOGS, THIS IS BLACK DOG ONE... YOU CAN PULL BACK NOW.

"Black Dog One"
(BILL MCCADE)



SYN! MCCADE IS HERE! HE'S HERE!



ALLY!
STREET ANGEL IS IN TROUBLE!



YOU THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT DRESSING UP LIKE A HOOKER?

PLEASE... JUST... JUST GO AWAY...



NEWSFLASH, LITTLE MISS STREET ANGEL... THIS IS MY CITY. THESE ARE MY DOGS!



SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME, OR ELSE I'M GOING TO FINISH WHERE WE LAST LEFT OFF.*

I'LL DRAG YOU OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET...

N-NO...

...STRIPPED NAKED LIKE THE SLUT THAT YOU ARE!

© "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #23)



STREET ANGEL!



**ARE YOU
OKAY?
DID HE
HURT YOU?**



STREET ANGEL?

**HE'S...
HE'S...**



**"HE'S"
DISAPPOINTED.
YOU LEFT YOUR
LITTLE GIRL OUT
UNATTENDED.**



**YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT SORT OF
CREEPS ARE OUT
HERE AT NIGHT.**

**GOOD THING I
WAS IN THE AREA.**



**WHY DON'T YOU
COME A LITTLE
CLOSER SO I
CAN SHOW YOU
HOW I DEAL
WITH CREEPS?**



**OH YOU AND I WILL
HAVE OUR DANCE
REAL SOON...
COUNT ON IT.**

**I'M JUST HERE TO
REMIND YOU THAT
I'M STILL HERE,
AND THAT WE
ALWAYS WIN!
ALWAYS!**



"YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE MIDNIGHT NEWS ON P-N-N RADIO..."

"OUR TOP STORY... FIRE CREWS ARE STILL FIGHTING A THREE-ALARM BLAZE IN KINGS ROW."

"IT IS BELIEVED THE FIRE IS CONTAINED TO THE TOP LEVEL OF THE KINGSPORT BUILDING WHICH WAS BEING USED FOR A HOMELESS AID ORGANIZATION."

"THE FIRE REPORTEDLY STARTED AS POLICE WERE BUSY WITH RENEGADE VIGILANTES JUST TWO BLOCKS AWAY."

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, SYN?
WHAT THE HELL IS MCCADE DOING BACK?

I WAS JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU WERE TO HEAR THAT.
I THOUGHT HE WOULD KEEP LOW AFTER HE WAS FORCED OFF THE FORCE.

RIGHT, AND NOW HE'S BACK, AND HE'S WEARING HIS OWN BLUE DOG COSTUME, ALONG WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER PUNKS.

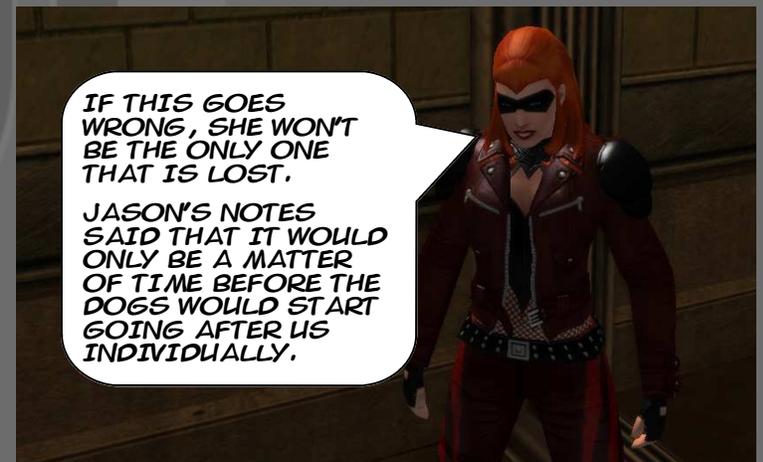
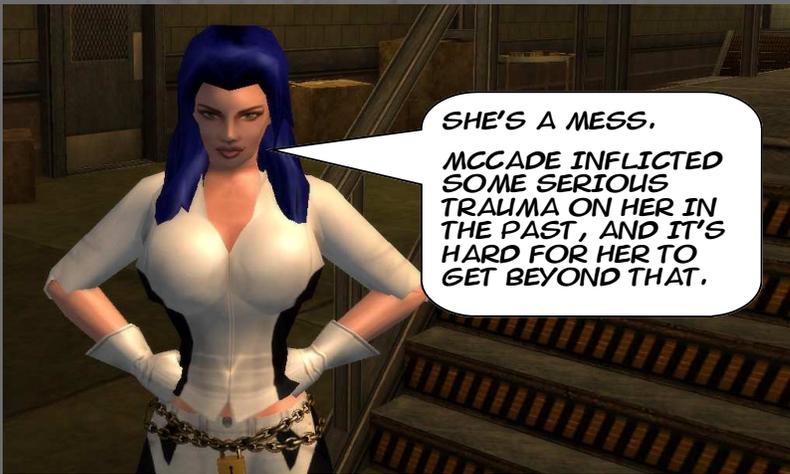
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT WE ESCALATED THIS.

NO! WE'RE NOT THERE YET. THE FACT THAT MCCADE IS TAKING AN ACTIVE PART NOW AND THEY'VE BROUGHT IN THE GANGS AS FODDER MEANS THEY'RE WORRIED.

THEY WANT US TO ACT LIKE THUGS INSTEAD OF HEROES SO THEY CAN JUSTIFY GOING AFTER US.

WHEN WE UP THE TACTICS, IT'LL BE WHEN IT'S RIGHT.
AND, BELIEVE ME, YOU'LL KNOW IT.

YEAH... WELL... IT BETTER BE REAL SOON. THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.



THE NEXT MORNING...

I'M SORRY, SIR...

BUT THERE'S NOTHING THE PSI-DIVISION CAN DO TO UNDO THE DAMAGE.

YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST TELEPATHS IN THE WHOLE CITY.

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T REVERSE THEIR TRAUMA AND AMNESIA?

IF THIS WAS THE WORK OF A REGULAR TELEPATH, THEN IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

BUT... WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT MEMORY BLOCKS... WE'RE TALKING MEMORIES BEING COMPLETELY ERASED.

ERASED? LIKE THOSE OLD MAGNETIC TAPE CASSETTES?

WHAT KIND OF TELEPATH COULD DO THAT?

NOT A NORMAL TELEPATH... ONE THAT WAS BORN A MUTANT.

BUT I'VE HEARD OF A MYSTICAL FORM OF TELEPATHY.

MYSTICAL TELEPATHS?

BEEP-BEEP
BEEP-BEEP

LOOK INTO THAT AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU FIND.

FIVE MORE COPS ARE DISABLED, MCCADE.

CLAUSTROPHOBIC ABOUT WEARING HELMETS AND THEY HAVE NO MEMORY WHATSOEVER OF WHO THOSE HEROES ARE.

WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU--

YOU HAVE...?

AND YOU CAN GUARANTEE IT?

THAT IS THE BEST THING YOU'VE TOLD ME ALL WEEK.



KAREN?

Fiona Poderes
AKA FURIA POWERS



I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, I JUST GOT OUT OF THE SHOWER.



I'D OFFER YOU SOME COFFEE... BUT I THINK THE ONLY STUFF I HAVE IS A LITTLE COLD.

THAT'S OKAY... I'M STILL ON THOSE NEW HEALTH SMOOTHIES FAITH* SUGGESTED.

CRIPES, HOW LONG HAS THAT FOOD BEEN SITTING OUT ON THE TABLE?

(* FAITH KARL, AKA GALATEA POWERS, FIONA'S OTHERWORLD SISTER WHO IS ALSO SERIOUSLY INTO SMOOTHIES.)



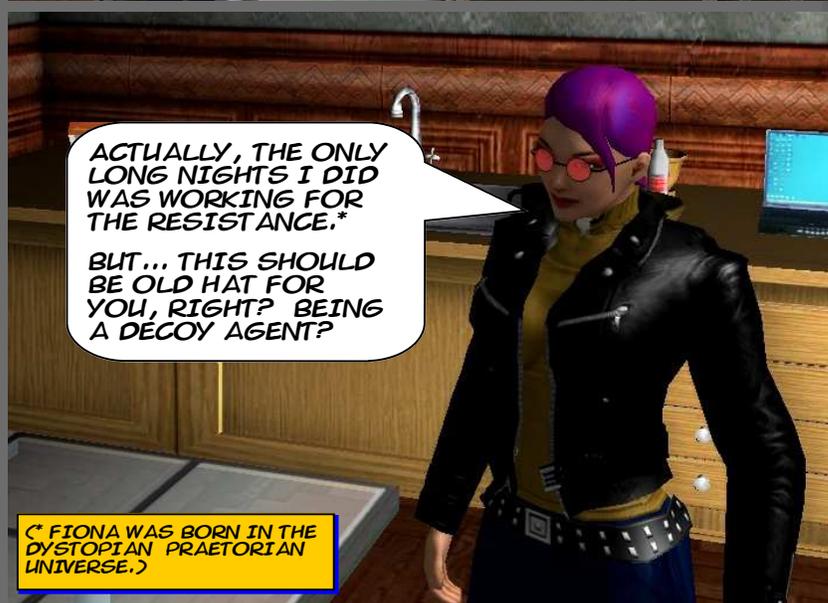
HI, SORRY...

THIS TASK FORCE THING, IT'S REALLY...



... WELL, I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, RIGHT? LONG NIGHTS AND STUFF.

Karen Manning
AKA STREET ANGEL



ACTUALLY, THE ONLY LONG NIGHTS I DID WAS WORKING FOR THE RESISTANCE.*

BUT... THIS SHOULD BE OLD HAT FOR YOU, RIGHT? BEING A DECOY AGENT?

(* FIONA WAS BORN IN THE DYSTOPIAN PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.)



NOT LIKE THIS.
JESUS, EVEN THE WORST OF IT WASN'T LIKE...

KAREN?



FI... DID YOU EVER DO SOMETHING YOU REALLY HATED TO DO BUT... YOU STILL HAD TO DO IT?



ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS IN PRAETORIA. AS A PUBLIC HERO FOR THE POWERS DIVISION, I HAD TO WATCH PEOPLE I KNEW IN THE RESISTANCE BE TAKEN AWAY AND EVEN EXECUTED. AND I COULDN'T DO A THING TO STOP IT.



BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T, FOR FEAR YOU'D BE EXPOSED?

SOMETIMES. AND SOMETIMES IT WAS BECAUSE THEY NEEDED TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE FOR SOMETHING GREATER.



THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO GAVE THEMSELVES UP SO SURVIVORS FROM FIRST WARD COULD BE BROUGHT OVER WITHOUT BEING SHOT.



KAREN, I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE ASKING ME THIS... IS... IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?



GOD I WISH I COULD... NO... I... I JUST NEED A FEW HOURS WITH A FRIEND TO GET MY MIND OFF THIS TASK FORCE STUFF, OKAY? NO CAPES, NO MASKS... JUST... NORMALCY.



BACK AT THE KNIGHT'S LAIR...

RHRRRRR...



STARTING...
STAND BY...
STAND BY...
STAND BY...



LATER...

GET UP, COME ON!



MY PARTNER HAS NEVER SEEN WHAT WE DO IN KINGS ROW AT NIGHT.



GODDAMNED BASTARDS...
THEY'RE DOING IT OUT IN THE OPEN NOW!



HEY!



LEAVE THAT WOMAN ALONE!



YOU'RE MESSING WITH THE WRONG COPS, BOY!



YOU DON'T "BOY" ME, YOU TIN BADGE RACIST!

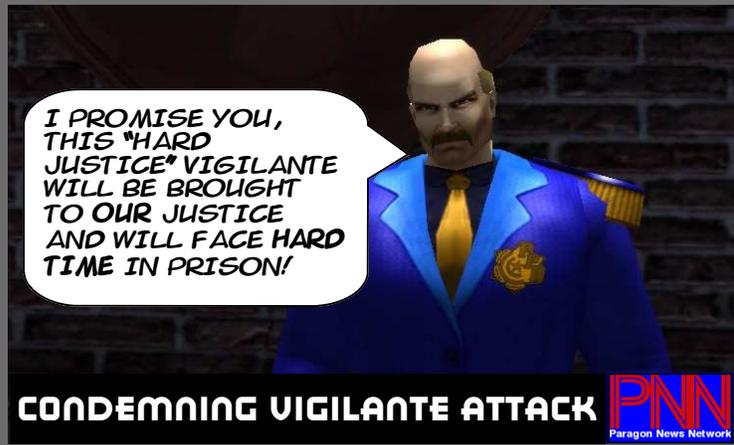
SWAT!





THE BRAZEN ATTACK ON OUR DECORATED AND RESPECTED LAW ENFORCERS BY ANY SO-CALLED "HERO" WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

DEPUTY CHIEF THOMAS WIELD



I PROMISE YOU, THIS "HARD JUSTICE" VIGILANTE WILL BE BROUGHT TO OUR JUSTICE AND WILL FACE HARD TIME IN PRISON!

CONDEMNING VIGILANTE ATTACK



IN OTHER RELATED NEWS, A SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE SUPERGROUP JUSTICE KITTIES HAS ACCUSED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF "HERO-SHAMING" TWO OF THEIR CATGIRL MEMBERS.

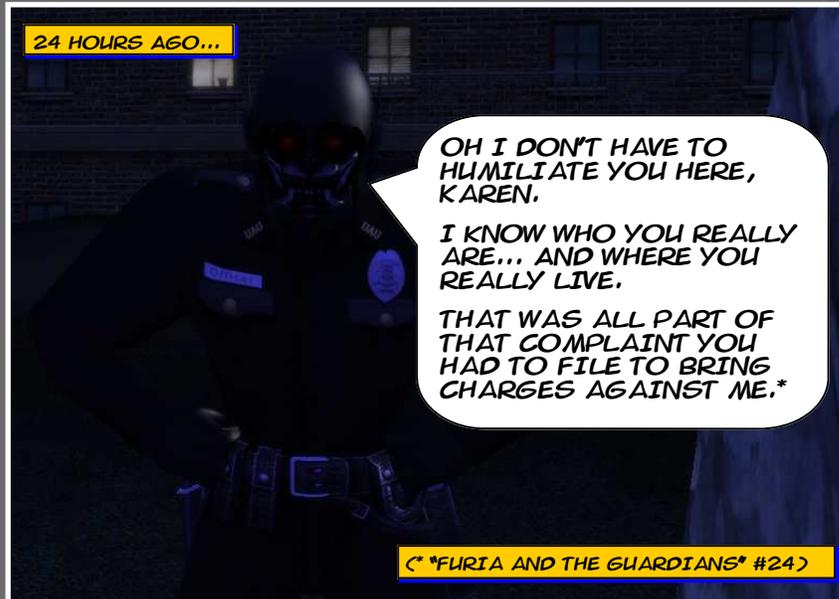
ACCORDING TO THEIR COMPLAINT, THE TWO REGISTERED HEROES WERE OPERATING IN SKYWAY CITY WHEN THEY WERE ACCOSTED BY POLICE OFFICERS WEARING, QUOTE, "DOG-LIKE HELMETS".

PNN LATE NEWS WITH FAITH NOTTINGHAM



LATER THAT NIGHT...

I KNEW YOU'D COME... THOUGH THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WISHES YOU DIDN'T.



24 HOURS AGO...

OH I DON'T HAVE TO HUMILIATE YOU HERE, KAREN.
I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE... AND WHERE YOU REALLY LIVE.
THAT WAS ALL PART OF THAT COMPLAINT YOU HAD TO FILE TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST ME.*

(* "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #24)



442, "THE QUAD" IN ATLAS PARK... BUILDING "D".
I'VE BEEN TO YOUR PLACE. LOOKS REALLY NICE.



OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE TO GET YOU AT YOUR HOME. I CAN JUST SEND THE COPS THERE TO PICK YOU UP AS A WANTED CRIMINAL.

ANY-THING.

NO... PLEASE... NO...

THE COPS HAVE THESE NICE QUIET PLACES WHERE WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT TO GET PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO TALK.



TELL YOU WHAT... I'M GOING TO BE A NICE DOG AND GIVE YOU A CHOICE.

EITHER WAY... I'LL GET WHAT I WANT.

YOU MEET ME BACK HERE IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AND GIVE ME THE REAL NAME OF YOUR LEADER.

OR I'LL HAVE MY BROTHERS IN BLUE PICK YOU UP AND THEN I'LL COME TO VISIT.



WELL?
WHO GETS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION?



THREE... THREE-THIRTEEN AXELROD DRIVE IN SKYWAY CITY...

ASK FOR CASSANDRA DARE.



SEE? WASN'T SO HARD, WAS IT? AND NOW I GET TO BE THE HERO AND YOU GET TO BE LEFT ALONE. FOR NOW, ANYWAY.

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK

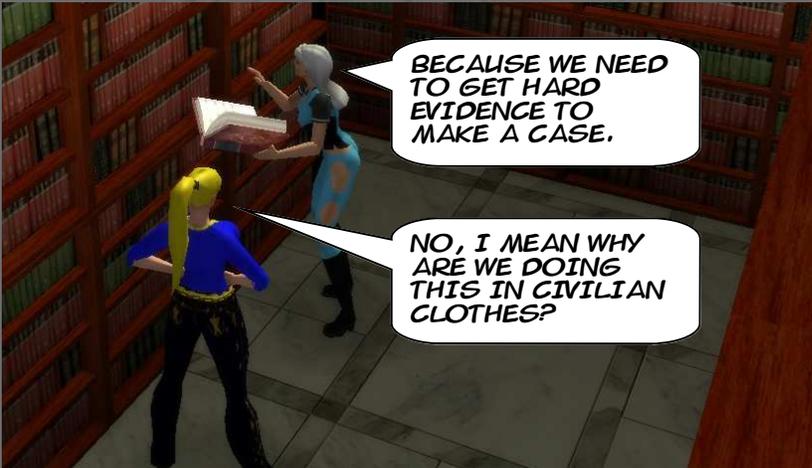
THE NEXT MORNING...



CITY RECORDS OFFICE



REMIND ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE DOING IT THIS WAY.



BECAUSE WE NEED TO GET HARD EVIDENCE TO MAKE A CASE.

NO, I MEAN WHY ARE WE DOING THIS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES?



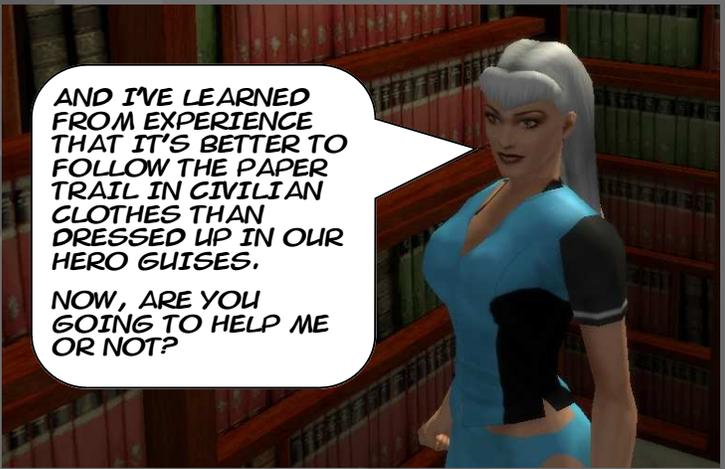
OR, AT LEAST I'M IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. YOU'RE WEARING... WHAT, "SPACE SHUTTLE CHIC"?

Persia Theron
AKA ARTEMA



I SPENT MY FORMATIVE YEARS IN A COVEN-STATE SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. WE DON'T EXACTLY KEEP UP WITH FASHION.

Cynthia Di Ghiaccio
AKA ELITE ICE QUEEN



AND I'VE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IT'S BETTER TO FOLLOW THE PAPER TRAIL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES THAN DRESSED UP IN OUR HERO GUISES. NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME OR NOT?



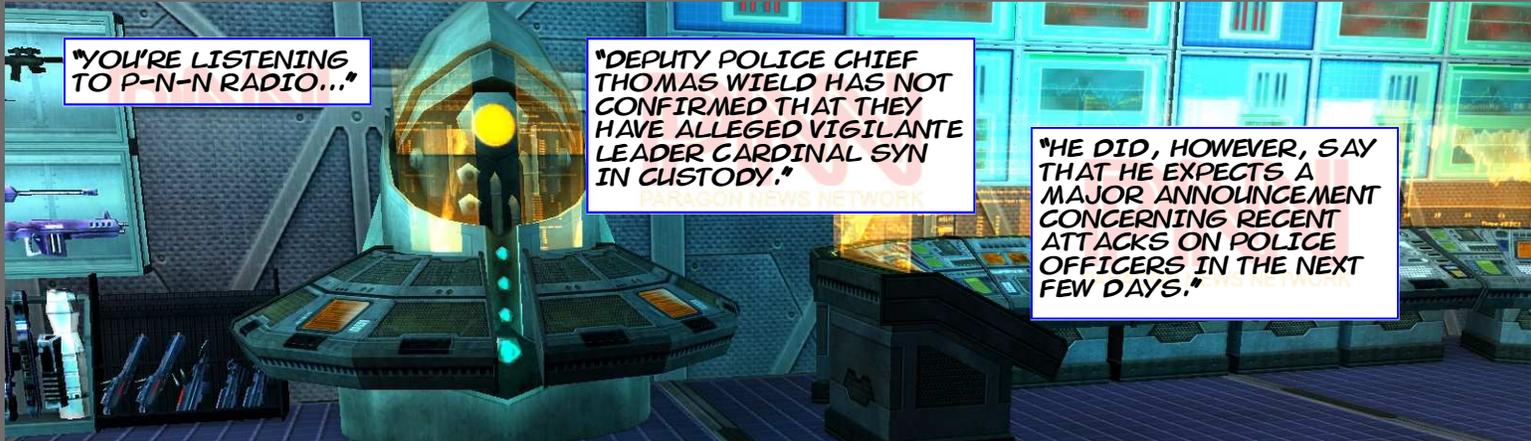
WHY? YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY THE BEST AT EVERYTHING YOU DO. SO, YOU SHOW ME HOW YOU'RE THE BEST AT THIS.

IF YOU WANT TO DO IT THAT WAY, FINE. YOU GET TO PAY FOR LUNCH. MY "SPACE SHUTTLE CHIC" DOESN'T COME WITH POCKETS.

CASSANDRA DARE'S APARTMENT

AXELROD DRIVE - SKYWAY CITY

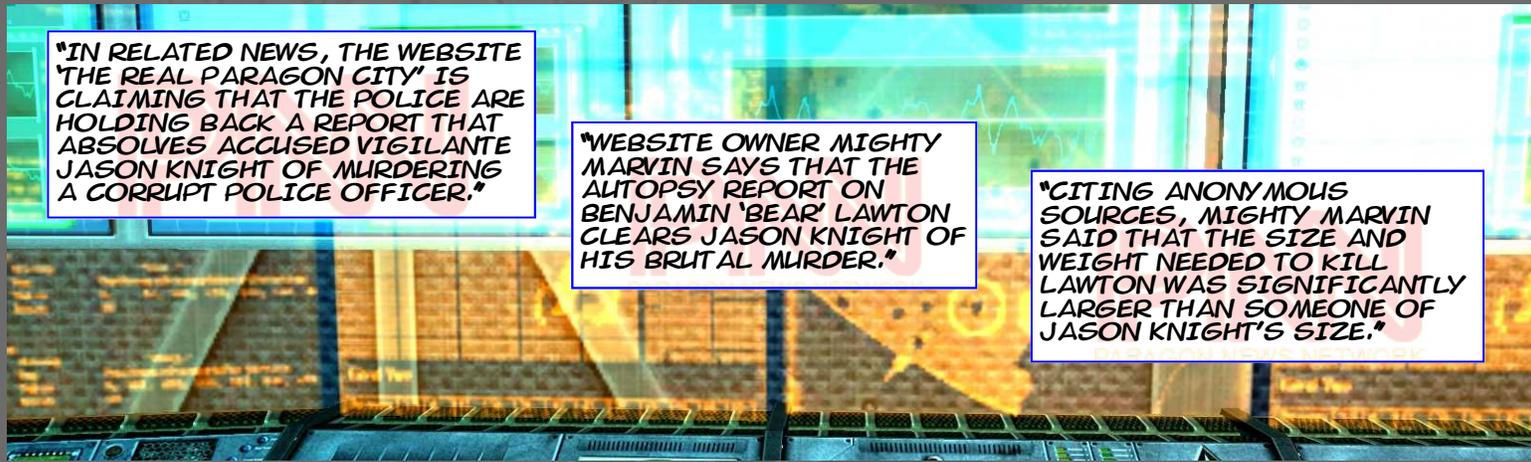




"YOU'RE LISTENING TO P-N-N RADIO..."

"DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF THOMAS WIELD HAS NOT CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE ALLEGED VIGILANTE LEADER CARDINAL SYN IN CUSTODY."

"HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT HE EXPECTS A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING RECENT ATTACKS ON POLICE OFFICERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS."



"IN RELATED NEWS, THE WEBSITE 'THE REAL PARAGON CITY' IS CLAIMING THAT THE POLICE ARE HOLDING BACK A REPORT THAT ABSOLVES ACCUSED VIGILANTE JASON KNIGHT OF MURDERING A CORRUPT POLICE OFFICER."

"WEBSITE OWNER MIGHTY MARVIN SAYS THAT THE AUTOPSY REPORT ON BENJAMIN 'BEAR' LAWTON CLEARS JASON KNIGHT OF HIS BRUTAL MURDER."

"CITING ANONYMOUS SOURCES, MIGHTY MARVIN SAID THAT THE SIZE AND WEIGHT NEEDED TO KILL LAWTON WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN SOMEONE OF JASON KNIGHT'S SIZE."



STAND BY...
STAND BY...
"DARK MESSIAH"
ENGAGED



WELCOME.
THIS UNIT IS CALLED SENTRY.
STANDING READY TO ASSIST.

Next:
It is always darkest...

TASK FORCE NOTES

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



United Nations Vanguard Planetary Security And Superhuman Oversight HELM Division



Subject: Mind-Dancers (Mystical Telepathy)

WARNING: Restricted to high-level clearance!

The ability to read minds is something that is commonly thought of as a form of human mutation. A telepath, or a person possessing the ability to read and/or manipulate the minds of others, is normally born with this ability and spontaneously activates when they are in their early years. This ability is always active, and the telepath has to learn how to filter out or limit themselves in order to stay sane.

However, there is another form of telepathy that has been working in secret for several centuries. One that is based in mysticism instead of mutation.

The practitioners refer to this power as “mind-dancing”, so named after the first known person to perfect the mystical art and teach it to the few that can master it.

According to Azuria, Director of the Mystical Arcane Guild of Investigation (*M.A.G.I.*), mind-dancers are a rare mystical form of telepathy that allows a person to use magic to interact with and adjust the minds of others. While similar in nature to mutant-based telepathy, there are distinct differences between telepaths and mind-dancers.

It is important to note that while mind-dancers and telepaths are both given this ability on birth, telepaths have their ability on at all times, while mind-dancers must learn to “activate” and “deactivate” their power.

The potential mind-dancer is often unaware that they have this “gift”. They first realize that they are somehow able to “convince” people to see or think things a certain way, or they are seemingly “intuitive” about what someone is about to say or do. They mistakenly attribute this to precognition or hypnosis. In truth, what these potential mind-dancers are doing is creating a simple mind spell that links their mind with another.

Azuria says that most people with this “gift” will never develop it further. They will continue to use this simple and inane form of mind spells without ever taking advantage of it or even being aware that they could do more with it.

However, under the instruction of someone skilled in mind-dancing, that potential can learn how to do more with the mind spell than even experienced telepaths can handle.

Mind spells differ from normal telepathy in many ways. Mind spells are not limited in distance. The connections made by the mind spells can last until the mind-dancer consciously severs them. The person subjected to the mind spell doesn't even have to be in the same area as the one casting it. There can be a “connecting mind” that links them together, often through a recent or traumatic memory.

Continues on next page...

TASK FORCE NOTES

Continued from previous page...

Connected minds can communicate with each other, either passively through images or actively through a mental projection sometimes mistaken as a hallucination or delusion. Connected minds can also share experiences, being able to tap into a person's memories. This kind of connection can potentially be used to treat trauma and phobias.

The most dangerous parts of the mind spell, however, make the mind-dancer formidable. Much like telepathy, a mind spell can erase memories or block them. They can introduce phobias and traumatic events into a subject's minds. They can even block or alter memories when done right.

There are ways to block a mind spell or bar against it. Magic is often the best way. A mind-dancer can introduce a block against other mind spells. Strong emotions like hate and anger and rage can also block a mind spell for a very limited time.

Azuria says that mind-dancers have operated for centuries in secret, partially because of the experiences of the first of the mind-dancers, Salome, who was born sometime in the 1300's during the Ottoman Empire, in what would be known today as Syria, and was the one the reportedly perfected the art of mystical telepathy, which she called "mind-dancing".

According to rumors that Azuria can neither confirm or deny, Salome has been able live for centuries through her mind spells in ways that could be considered unethical in the mystical world.

Whether she lives on through other bodies or because she can somehow use her skills to prevent aging or prolong her life, Salome has spent her extensive life finding others with the potential to become mind-dancers and trained them how to properly use their gift. She also trains them to keep what they know a secret, although there have been a few exceptions, which is how Azuria knows of their existence.

Salome should not be taken lightly. She has been reportedly connected to the disappearance of the Roanoke colony in 1587. Considering the time it would take to travel from the Middle East to North America in that era, this should give you some measure of the devastating power that a fully-trained mind-dancer can utilize when necessary.



<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



**CARDINAL SYN IS IN CUSTODY.
HARD JUSTICE HAS GONE ROGUE.
THINGS SEEM PRETTY BLEAK FOR
THE TASK FORCE.**

**WILL THE BLUE DOGS PREVAIL?
AND *WHO* JUST ARRIVED?**

-- ADVERTISEMENT --

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DUBYA'S Steakhouse Restaurant

Not a real ad. Not an actual in-game restaurant in Paragon City.

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