

# GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN

SPOTLIGHT ON... **DEATH**



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:  
**GHOSTLYNK**

REAL NAME: **SALLY BRIGHT**

STATUS:  
**COMPUTER FORENSIC SPECIALIST**

ARCHETYPE:  
**DEFENDER**

PRIMARY POWER:  
**TRAPS**

SECONDARY POWER:  
**ASSAULT RIFLE**

DEATH COMES TO THOSE WHO WAIT...

AND IT COMES EVEN FASTER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MUCH TO LIVE FOR.

THE HEROES IN PARAGON CITY CAN CHEAT DEATH SOMETIMES... BUT NOT EVERY TIME.

AND THERE ALWAYS COMES A TIME WHEN DEATH WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY.



NAME:  
**TALMYIA**

REAL NAME:  
**TALMYIA**

STATUS:  
**KHELDIAN**

ARCHETYPE:  
**PEACEBRINGER**

PRIMARY POWER:  
**LUMINOUS BLAST**

SECONDARY POWER:  
**LUMINOUS AURA**

Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight #12 is created using original characters in the City of Heroes Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2004-2010 This story is an independent derivative work of the City of Heroes Game. All original rights are reserved by NCsoft and Paragon Studios. NCSoft, the interlocking NC logo, Paragon Studios, City of Heroes, City of Villains, and all associated logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation and Paragon Studios. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.





PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND

FREEDOM CORPS HEADQUARTERS, GALAXY CITY

NOVEMBER, 2007

"OKAY, SO WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM ARKTIC CHILL... HE JUST ACTIVATED HIS SUPERGROUP MODE."

"THAT'S A GOOD START... I HOPE."

"WHAT WAS YOUR IMPRESSION OF HIM?"

"I THINK HE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN MY BODYSUIT AND IN WORKING WITH TWO WOMEN THAN BEING IN A SUPERGROUP."

"CAN'T BE HELPED, JESSICA... WE BOTH WEAR TIGHT BODYSUITS. BESIDES, WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE."

"I KNOW, I KNOW... HEY, DID WE EVER HEAR BACK FROM THAT EXGEMINI GUY?"

"RETIRED."

"WHAT? ALREADY?"

"YEAH, SOMETHING ABOUT BEING BURNED OUT. WISHES US LUCK, THOUGH..."

# DEATH AND REDEMPTION

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

TEMPORARY OFFICE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN

YOU KNOW, STEVIE, IT WOULD REALLY HELP IF WE HAD AN ACTUAL BASE TO WORK OUT OF.

RECRUITS LOVE FULLY-STOCKED BASES.

I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH A BASE DEVELOPER TOMORROW. HE SAYS HE HAS A FEW GOOD LOCATIONS FOR US TO CHOOSE FROM, INCLUDING A DEAL HE WANTS TO RUN BY ME ABOUT TALOS ISLAND.

BUT EVEN THEN, THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'LL BE STOCKED. WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT PART OURSELVES.



MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA



CAPTAIN PARAGONNA

OH, I FORGOT TO MENTION... I RECRUITED A TECH SPECIALIST.

I THOUGHT WE AGREED THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A JOINT EFFORT.

I MEAN, THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF US MEETING TOGETHER LIKE THIS WAS TO HASH OUT THE POTENTIAL RECRUITS BEFORE WE START ASKING THEM TO JOIN UP WITH US.

I KNOW... I'M SORRY JESS...

IT'S JUST THAT THERE WAS A HEADHUNTER FROM GREY INDUSTRIES AROUND AND I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO SNAG HER OUT FROM UNDER US.

WE ALREADY LOST TWO POTENTIALS THAT WAY.

### PARAGON CITY HERO REGISTRATION

Ghostlynk

|                 |                                                                |                          |                       |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Origin:         | Natural                                                        | Super Group Affiliation: | Guardians of the Dawn |
| Archetype:      | Defender                                                       |                          |                       |
| Hitpoints:      | 99                                                             |                          |                       |
| Endurance:      | 100                                                            |                          |                       |
| Security Level: | 1                                                              |                          |                       |
| Total XP:       | 0                                                              |                          |                       |
| XP Needed:      | 106                                                            |                          |                       |
| Known Powers:   | Brawl, Self Destruction, Sprint, Vigilance, Web Grenade, Burst |                          |                       |



Influence: 0

Character Description: (236/1024) Battle Cry: C-Tech Astonomyl

Sally Bright may not look like much, but she is the premiere computer forensic specialist in Paragon City. She holds two doctorates from MIT, was on the W3C Commission twice, and knows more about cyberspace than the best hackers.

HERE'S HER PROFILE... SHE'S NOT MUCH ON THE STREETS, BUT SHE'S AN EXPERT WITH COMPUTERS AND DEVICES.

### PARAGON POLICE STATION, ATLAS PARK

EXCUSE ME... ARE YOU SALLY BRIGHT?

YES. I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE...



DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TAKE TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME.

I'M SPECIAL AGENT SHADOW FROM HOMELAND SECURITY.

THE PROFILE SAID SHE JOINED... BUT HOW COME SHE HASN'T ACTIVATED HER SUPERGROUP MODE YET?

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW SHE'S COMPLETING HER LAST CONSULTING CASE FOR THE PPD. ONCE THAT'S DONE, SHE'S A GUARDIAN FULL-TIME, AND WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT SHE HAS FOR US!

SHE'S GOT A PROTOTYPE CPCU SYSTEM THAT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE CRISIS MONITORING FOR THE CITY, AND WE'LL BE THE FIRST TO FIELD-TEST IT.





I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN IS NOT IN THE LEAST PERSONAL.

IN FACT WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN WILL SAVE LIVES... STARTING WITH MY OWN.



I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

LISTEN, IF YOU GIVE ME JUST TWO MINUTES I'LL HAVE THIS PAPERWORK DONE AND THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK WITH YOU, OKAY?



I'M AFRAID...

...THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.



WHAT ARE...?

Ker-Klack!\*



\*GASP!\*

\*BUDDA \*  
\*BUDDA \*  
\*BUDDA \*  
\*BUDDA \*



\*BLAM!\*



HMM.. ALL TOO EASY.

SHOTS FIRED!



EITHER I'M GETTING USED TO DOING THIS, OR THEY JUST DON'T MAKE HEROES LIKE THEY USED TO.

CODE BLUE!

MAN DOWN!

MEDICAL!





## Lady Glamour

Archetype:  
Defender

Primary Power:  
Empathy

Secondary Power:  
Psychic Blast

Status: Out-of-Country

**"OKAY, HOW ABOUT LADY GLAMOUR?"**

**"VERY DARING. DON'T THINK YOU'D EVER CATCH ME IN MY UNDERWEAR, THOUGH. AND WHAT'S WITH THIS OUT-OF-COUNTRY BIT?"**

**"SHE'S DOING AN EXTENDED PHOTOSHOOT."**

**"I THINK WE NEED SOMEONE LOCAL. SOMEONE WHO WILL BE HERE ALL THE TIME."**

**"NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! WE NEED SOMEONE LIKE HER!"**

**"YEAH, BUT SHE'S STILL COMATOSE FROM THE RIOTI INVASION IN JULY. LET'S KEEP HER IN MIND, THOUGH."**



## Power Lady

Archetype:  
Tanker

Primary Power:  
Invulnerable

Secondary Power:  
Super-Strength

Status: Comatose

**"ARE YOU KIDDING? HE'S WITH ARACHNOS!"**

**"THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT... ARE YOU SURE?"**

**"I GREW UP THERE. I CAN TELL YOU WHERE IN C-A-D HE'S STANDING AND HOW FAR FROM THE FERRY!"**

**"SOUNDS LIKE FREEDOM CORPS GOT THEIR FILES MIXED UP WITH VANGUARD."**



## Elerium-115

Archetype:  
Corruptor

Primary Power:  
Radiation Blast

Secondary Power:  
Radiation Emission

Status: Convicted

THERE'S ALWAYS THAT LIBERTARIAN AVENGER GUY...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM...  
MAYBE KINETIC KITTEN IS...

BEEP-BEEP  
BEEP-BEEP

AGENT RODGERS...

**WHAT?**

OH GOD NO... NO...

STEVIE, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

SHOOTING AT THE ATLAS PARK STATION...  
GHOSTLYNK IS DOWN!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

GRIEF...

I'VE KNOWN TOO MUCH OF IT.

I'VE LOST THE NAME I WAS BORN WITH AND THE LIFE I ONCE BUILT. I LOST MY EX-HUSBAND AND MY TWO CHILDREN...

BUT IT STILL DOESN'T PREPARE YOU FOR THIS.

I KNEW SALLY BRIGHT. I MET HER ON MY FIRST DAY WITH THE FORCE.

I MISTOOK HER FOR BEING A DETECTIVE. SHE SMILED AND SAID THAT SHE WISHED SHE REALLY WAS ONE.

SHE'D TEACH ME THE TRICKS OF THE PPD MAINFRAME AND I WOULD TELL HER ABOUT LIFE AS A "HERO SHIELD" AGENT.

SHE WANTED TO BE A HERO SO BAD... I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK OF HER WHEN WE STARTED UP THE GUARDIANS.

WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT STARTED AND WE'VE ALREADY LOST A MEMBER.

IT'S NOT FAIR... IT'S JUST NOT FAIR!

WHOEVER DID THIS IS GOING TO PAY IF IT'S THE LAST THING THAT I DO!

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN THIS IS NOT OUR CASE???

A REGISTERED HERO WAS KILLED INSIDE A POLICE STATION!

A MEMBER OF MY GROUP NO LESS!

I WANT TO KNOW WHO TOOK THE BODY, I WANT THE SECURITY FOOTAGE FROM THE CAMERAS, AND I WANT TO KNOW HOW FOUR POLICE OFFICERS COULD STAND THERE AND WATCH SOMEONE GET GUNNED DOWN!

FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T CARE FOR YOUR TONE, AGENT RODGERS. I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, YOU DON'T TALK TO ME THAT WAY IN MY STATION-HOUSE.

SECOND, THE VIC'S BODY WAS TAKEN AWAY BY VANGUARD. IT'S THEIR CASE.

THIRD, THERE IS NO SECURITY FOOTAGE. VANGUARD ALREADY ASKED ABOUT THAT.



WELL IF YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT "YOUR HOUSE", CAPTAIN, THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE FINDING OUT HOW THE CAMERAS COULD HAVE NO FOOTAGE AND WHY YOUR OFFICERS STOOD BY AND LET A POLICE CONSULTANT BE KILLED IN COLD BLOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM!

REST ASSURED, CAPTAIN, I WILL HAVE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DOWN HERE AND THEY WILL TURN THIS PLACE INSIDE-OUT UNTIL THEY FIND THAT FOOTAGE!

COMPLAIN ALL YOU WANT TO, AGENT RODGERS, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.

IN CASE YOU FORGOT, WE'RE UNDER-MANNED AND UNDER-FUNDED. OH, AND THERE'S A WAR STILL GOING ON WITH THE RIKTI.

THE POLICE HAVE A LITTLE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DEAL WITH THAN SOME MISSING VIDEOTAPE.

BY THE WAY, DON'T YOU EVER SHOW YOUR FACE IN MY HOUSE AGAIN!

#### STEEL CANYON

IT'S DONE.  
EXACTLY AS YOU ASKED.

TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT.

FOUR ROUNDS USING NORMAL CARTRIDGES, THE FIFTH SHOT USING THE SPECIAL ROUND THAT YOU PROVIDED.

IT GAVE OFF SOME SORT OF WEIRD GLOW, BUT OTHERWISE IT WAS THE KILL-SHOT.

#### VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS

SO... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SEE?

A BULLET.

#### INFIRMARY

OR, TO BE MORE PRECISE, THE BULLET THAT KILLED SALLY BRIGHT.

WE KNOW THAT IT'S THERE. WE CAN FEEL IT. BUT OUR EQUIPMENT CAN'T DETECT IT AT ALL, MUCH LESS EXTRACT IT.

THAT'S WHY LADY GREY ASKED ME TO INVESTIGATE THIS.

ESSENTIALLY WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH IS AN OBJECT THAT IS OUTSIDE OF PRESENT TIME.

I'M READING A QUANTUM SIGNATURE UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE, AND IT'S PUT HER IN A STATE OF TEMPORAL FLUX.

THIS KIND OF TECH IS SOMETHING WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS.

THAT'S WHY THE MEDICAL TELEPORTERS DIDN'T SAVE HER WHEN SHE WAS SHOT.

HER WHOLE BODY IS LOCKED INTO THIS STATE OF... FOR LACK OF A BETTER PHRASE... "NON-LIFE".

★ DOC QUANTUM





SO SHE'S...  
NOT DEAD?

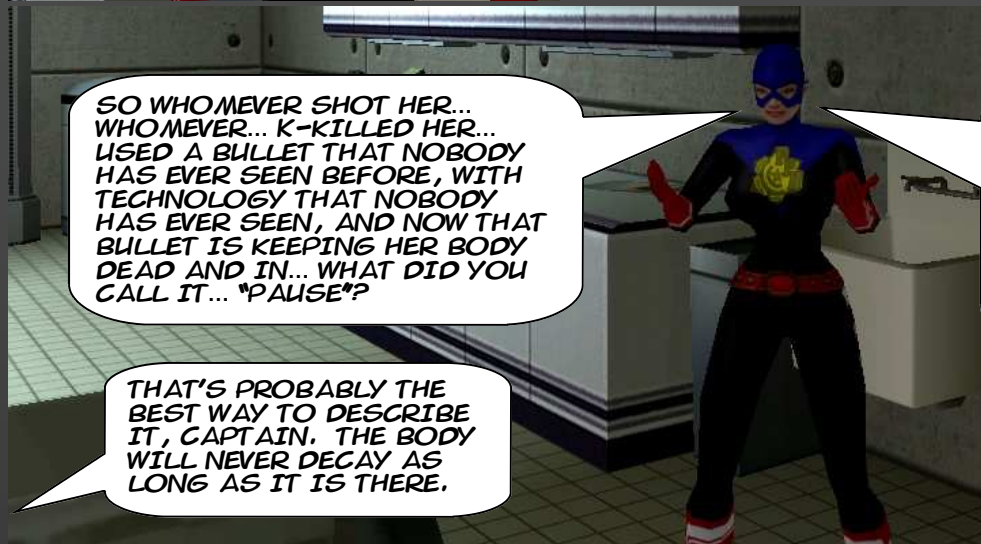


NO, SHE'S  
STILL  
DEAD... SHE  
JUST...  
SHE'S JUST  
FROZEN  
THAT WAY.



IT'S.. A  
LITTLE  
COMPLEX.

IT'S LIKE  
HITTING A  
PAUSE  
BUTTON ON  
YOUR DVD.



SO WHOEVER SHOT HER...  
WHOEVER... K-KILLED HER...  
USED A BULLET THAT NOBODY  
HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE, WITH  
TECHNOLOGY THAT NOBODY  
HAS EVER SEEN, AND NOW THAT  
BULLET IS KEEPING HER BODY  
DEAD AND IN... WHAT DID YOU  
CALL IT... "PAUSE"?

THAT'S PROBABLY THE  
BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE  
IT, CAPTAIN. THE BODY  
WILL NEVER DECAY AS  
LONG AS IT IS THERE.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO  
TELL HER PARENTS?

I'M THE ONE THAT IS  
SUPPOSED TO BREAK THE  
NEWS TO THEM... TO TELL  
THEM WHAT HAPPENED TO  
THEIR LITTLE GIRL. TO  
EXPLAIN WHY THEY HAVE TO  
BURY HER...

ACTUALLY YOU CAN'T BURY  
HER. AS LONG AS THAT  
TECHNOLOGY IS INSIDE  
HER, IT'S CONSIDERED A  
SECURITY RISK.



WHERE'S HER  
BODY?

WHERE,  
D@MNIT!

CAPTAIN...



STASIS CRYPT  
ROOM, NEXT TO  
THE OPERATING  
THEATER. CRYPT  
NUMBER SEVEN.



I DON'T NORMALLY  
ASK THESE  
QUESTIONS BUT...  
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL  
ABOUT THE  
ORDINANCE YOU  
ASKED ME TO USE  
ON HER? WHY ONLY  
THE ONE ROUND?

AND WHY HER?  
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL  
ABOUT HER?

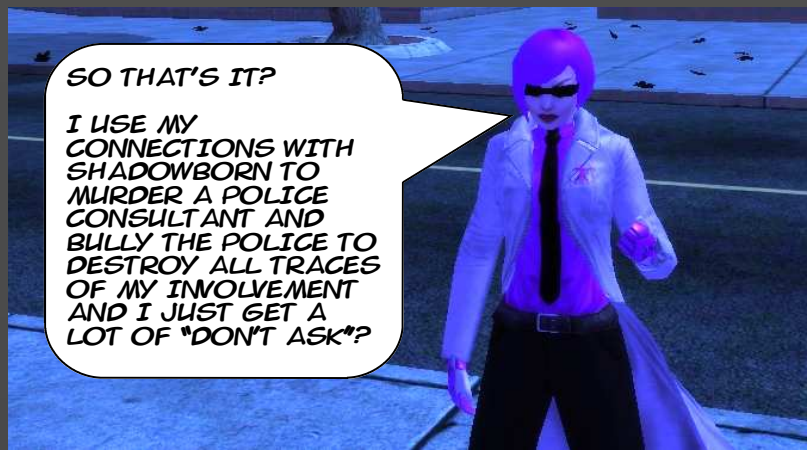
SHE WAS  
REALLY OF NO  
IMPORTANCE  
TO YOU OR  
YOUR GROUP.

SHE ONLY  
SERVES AS  
THE MEANS  
FOR MY  
ONGOING  
PROJECT.

AS FOR THE  
ORDINANCE...  
IT'S NOTHING  
MORE THAN A  
HANDY TOOL  
FOR MY  
EXPERIMENT.

AND, FOR THE  
PRESENT, THE  
LESS THAT YOU  
KNOW ABOUT  
IT, THE BETTER  
OFF THAT YOU  
WILL BE.





SO THAT'S IT?

I USE MY CONNECTIONS WITH SHADOWBORN TO MURDER A POLICE CONSULTANT AND BULLY THE POLICE TO DESTROY ALL TRACES OF MY INVOLVEMENT AND I JUST GET A LOT OF "DON'T ASK"?



YES. THAT IS PRECISELY "IT".

HOWEVER, I WILL STILL HONOR MY PART OF THE AGREEMENT, AGENT SHADOW.

#### STASIS CRYPT CHAMBER



I'M SORRY, SALLY.

THIS ISN'T HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING THINGS FROM CYBERSPACE.

GUIDING US, GIVING US INTEL, WATCHING OUT FOR US.



NOW, WE CAN'T EVEN GIVE YOU A DECENT PLACE TO REST.

IT ISN'T RIGHT. NONE OF THIS IS.



I PROMISE YOU, CAPTAIN, ONCE WE CAN REMOVE THAT DEVICE, VANGUARD WILL GIVE HER A PROPER BURIAL.

I'M GOING TO HOLD YOU TO THAT, DOC.



I'M SORRY IF I SEEM... UPSET... ABOUT ALL THIS.

SHE WAS A FRIEND OF MINE, AND I REALLY DON'T HAVE TOO MANY OF THEM RIGHT NOW.

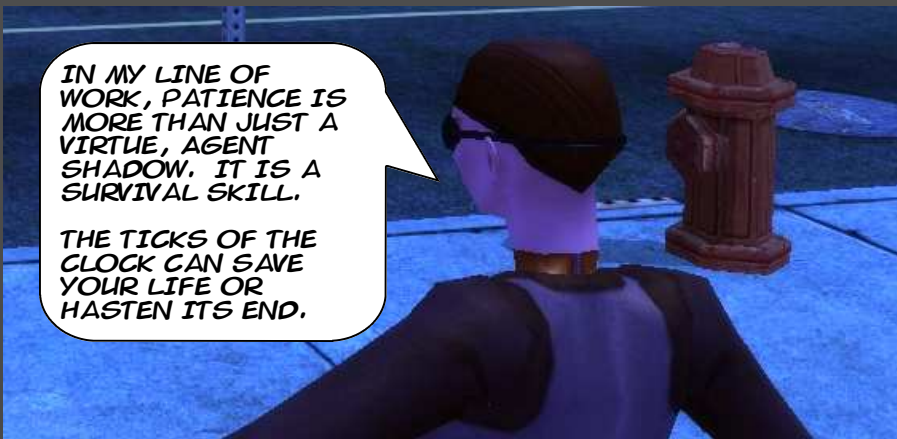
VANGUARD SAYS THIS IS THEIR CASE, AND I CAN'T CONTEST THAT. BUT I DO WANT TO BE IN THE LOOP WHEN THEY FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN THAT PERSON FINALLY FACES JUSTICE.



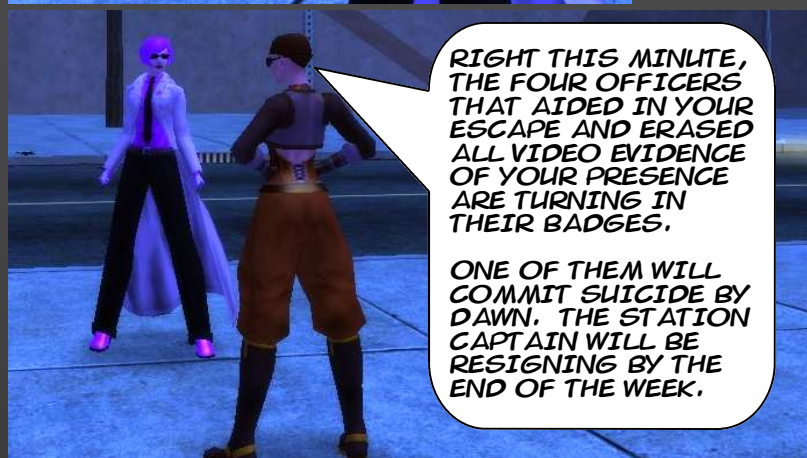


WELL? I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO GIVE ME THE DEEP-DARK SECRET YOU PROMISED.



IN MY LINE OF WORK, PATIENCE IS MORE THAN JUST A VIRTUE, AGENT SHADOW. IT IS A SURVIVAL SKILL.

THE TICKS OF THE CLOCK CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE OR HASTEN ITS END.



RIGHT THIS MINUTE, THE FOUR OFFICERS THAT AIDED IN YOUR ESCAPE AND ERASED ALL VIDEO EVIDENCE OF YOUR PRESENCE ARE TURNING IN THEIR BADGES.

ONE OF THEM WILL COMMIT SUICIDE BY DAWN. THE STATION CAPTAIN WILL BE RESIGNING BY THE END OF THE WEEK.



ENOUGH WITH THE CRYSTAL BALL TALK! TELL ME WHO THE THREAT IS TO ME AND TO SHADOWBORN!

FINE. THE PERSON YOU NEED TO FIND IS STEPHANIE WALTERS.



CAPTAIN...



BEFORE YOU LEAVE THERE'S ONE OTHER MATTER WE'D LIKE YOU TO CONSIDER...



WHY HER? WHO IS SHE? WHY IS SHE SO IMPORTANT TO MY LIFE?



BECAUSE... IF SHE LIVES, YOU DON'T.

I CAN'T MAKE IT ANY SIMPLER FOR YOU, CAN I?



I'M LISTENING...

YOU MAY HAVE REMEMBERED A CERTAIN... "EVENT" THIS PAST APRIL WHEN THE SKIES TURNED RED\*.

THERE ARE THREE PEOPLE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE WHO WE'VE BEEN HELPING TO ASSIMILATE INTO OURS. RIGHT NOW THEY ARE IN NEED OF SOME RELATIVE NORMALCY...

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF... GALATEA POWERS?

C\*SEE GOTD #02





**COMICS**

[www.kk-comics.com](http://www.kk-comics.com)

YO', STATESMAN,  
YOU READ MY NEWEST  
ISSUE YET?

**NOOB!  
/E IGNORE**

# Confessions Of A Teenage Blapper

Join Kinetic Kitten and others  
in semi-regular issues!

© 2004-2008 Cryptic Studios, Inc. and NC Interactive, Inc. All Rights Reserved. City of Heroes, City of Villains, Paragon City, Rogue Isles, Statesman and all associated logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation. NCsoft, the interlocking NC Logo, and all associated NCsoft logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. All other trademarks or registered trademarks are property of their respective owners. Kinetic Kitten is a creation of TechSpoken in the City of Heroes Game.

Created with Comic Book Creator



REAL HERO FANS READ  
FAN-MADE COMICS!

SO WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

THE  
GARRY BECKER  
EXPERIENCE

GARRY BECKER  
HOST OF PNN'S  
"THE GARRY BECKER  
EXPERIENCE"

<http://www.cohcomicindex.com>



NCSOFT™



**Comic Creators**  
Bringing you the BEST  
Fan-Made 'City Of' Comics





FEBRUARY, 2010

Earth?

The local name  
for K'Sol-3

The statement was  
for my surprise.

We know you have been  
preparing for the  
eventual journey, but we  
must hasten the plans.

A...  
vergence?

There was a vergence  
in the space-time  
continuum.

Why? What  
has changed?

Yes. And it focuses  
around you.

MARCH, 2010

I am at a loss  
to explain...

Yes, which is why  
you will investigate.

I shall  
endeavor to  
find the truth.

We ask for nothing  
less than that.

Is that all?

No. You will seek  
out Sunstorm for a  
suitable host.

Is there a  
preference?

Sunstorm will direct you  
to the potential hosts.

I will defer to  
Sunstorm's  
wisdom.



APRIL, 2010

K'sol-3... Earth.

ATLAS PARK

The beauty...

The elegance...

So much like  
our ancient  
home.

Sunstorm  
is there...

My journey  
is almost...

HOLD!

Identify  
yourself.

I was once... a  
Peacebringer.

Now I am...  
something more.

As you must  
now become...

... Talmyia

How do you  
know my name?

I know because I  
must... come...

You have a new  
destiny to fulfill...

ODD... FOR A  
MOMENT I SENSED  
AN APPROACHING  
KHELDIAN... AND  
THEN... SOMEONE I  
HAVEN'T SENSED  
IN A LONG TIME.

COULD IT BE...  
HORUS?

SUNSTORM



RIKTI WAR ZONE

Tired. It has been a long journey...

Do you feel the pull? The call?

Yes...

I feel the calling... the need...

The need for JUSTICE...

VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS

Go to it... follow your destiny...



Here...

The calling leads me to here...

But this cannot be!

There are no living beings in this room to merge with.

We cannot merge with the dead. It is forbidden.

And yet I was once dead.

The calling is upon you, Talmyia... a need to be more...







I HAVE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE! THE FEELINGS, THE SENSATIONS...

THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE INVOLVED IN MY UNION.



I AM MERGED NOT ONLY WITH THE BODY OF THE LATE SALLY BRIGHT AND THE KHELDIAN TALMYIA... BUT ALSO WITH SOMETHING ELSE.

SOMETHING NOT OF THIS TIME.

THAT OBJECT IS NOW A PART OF ME... PART OF THE BEING THAT I AM NOW.



HOW IRONIC THAT I WOULD BECOME THE VERY VERGENCE THAT I WAS SENT TO INVESTIGATE. JUST ANOTHER PART OF MY DESTINY, I SUPPOSE.

Correct.

You are a Redeemer now, more than just a Peacebringer. You are what I used to be. The rest is up to you to discover.



THEN I THANK YOU, OLD ONE, FOR SETTING ME ON MY PATH.

I SUPPOSE THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO FIND THE PEOPLE THAT I SAW IN MY VISION.

THE WOMAN WHO KILLED SALLY BRIGHT IS DEAD\*, BUT SHE WORKED FOR SOMEONE ELSE.

I'LL HAVE TO FIND THAT PERSON. SHE WILL KNOW WHAT THE OBJECT IS THAT WAS INSIDE SALLY BRIGHT THAT IS NOW A PART OF MY BEING.

(\*ISSUE #4)

YOU THERE! FREEZE!

YOU HAVE TRESPASSED IN A UNITED NATIONS SECURITY ZONE! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

CAN'T YOU ALIEN TRASH READ THE BILLBOARDS?

CRIPES, NOT AGAIN BUBBA!

EARTH IS FER HUMANS! AND WE'RE HERE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!

\*OOF!\*

\*THWAP!\*



I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONCE...

I MAY BE HALF-ALIEN...

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ANY OF YOUR BIGOTRY!

\*SCREEEEEEEE\*











STOP!



NOT AN OPTION.



YOU ARE  
MAKING A  
MISTAKE!



TELL THAT TO  
YOUR BIGOTED  
FRIEND WHO  
HITS FIRST.



I HAVE TO  
GET OUT  
OF HERE  
QUICKLY...

... BEFORE  
MORE OF  
THEM  
ARRIVE...

AND WHY AM I  
TALKING TO  
MYSELF? I'M A  
HYBRID, NOT  
TWO SEPARATE  
BEINGS.



THE MAIN  
ENTRANCE  
WOULDN'T HELP.  
EVERYTHING  
SHOULD BE  
LOCKED DOWN  
BY NOW.

WAIT... NOT  
EVERYTHING IS  
LOCKED DOWN.



THE SUPERGROUP  
TESSERACT  
PORTAL IS STILL  
WORKING!

IT'S JUST A PITY  
THAT I DON'T HAVE  
A SUPERGROUP TO  
BE IN.



I DON'T... BUT  
SALLY BRIGHT DID  
AS GHOSTLYNK.

AND IF CAPTAIN  
PARAGONNA  
DIDN'T DELETE HER  
ENTRY FROM THE  
SYSTEM, THEN I  
SHOULD BE  
RECOGNIZED  
SINCE I HAVE HER  
GENETIC TRACE.



IT WORKED! IT  
REALLY WORKED!  
I'M IN!

DANGER! DANGER!

UNKNOWN MEMBER  
USING GHOSTLYNK  
ID! IDENTIFY  
IMMEDIATELY!

UMM... I'M  
SALLY BRIGHT,  
CODENAME  
GHOSTLYNK.

VOCAL  
QUALIFIERS?  
THAT'S MY  
SECURITY  
MEASURE!

Member Ghostlynk is  
listed as deceased.

Vocal stress patterns  
only match for eight  
out of ten qualifiers.

Security system based  
on original code  
written by Guardian  
member Ghostlynk.

Genetic scan  
determines only fifty  
percent match to  
member Ghostlynk.

YEAH, I SORT  
OF GREW A  
LITTLE TALLER...

NOT TO MENTION A  
LITTLE BUSTIER...

WHERE ARE YOU  
LOCATED?

Biological frame does  
not match pattern  
listed in Freedom  
Corps database.

This facility has been  
locked down until  
Guardian members can  
arrive to further assess.

WOW, STEVIE  
REALLY DID IT.

SHE SAID  
THEY'D HAVE AN  
IMPRESSIVE  
BASE TO TEST  
MY CPCU  
SYSTEM.

No further inquiries will  
be allowed until  
verification can be made  
of intruder's identity.

I HOPE YOU DON'T  
MIND I CONTINUE  
TALKING WITH  
YOU, EVEN IF YOU  
DON'T RESPOND.

IT BEATS TALKING  
TO MYSELF, WHICH  
I DON'T FEEL  
COMFORTABLE  
DOING.

O-M-6!  
THAT'S IT!

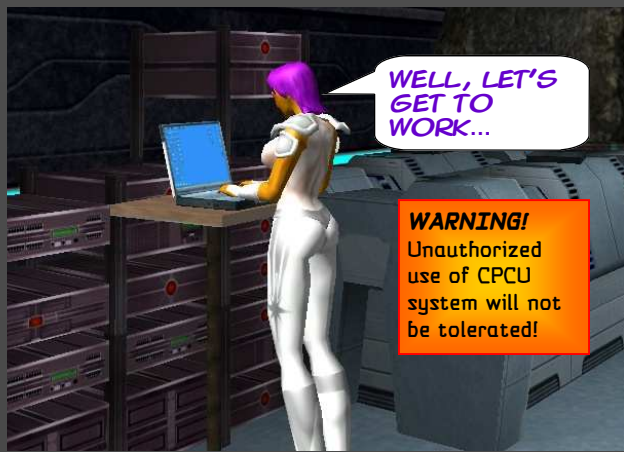
THEY  
ACTUALLY  
DID IT!

THE MODIFIED CPCU  
SYSTEM! RIGHT DOWN  
TO MY FRAMEWORK  
CONFIGURATIONS.

\*SNIFF\* THEY  
ACTUALLY KEPT MY  
LEGACY GOING.

MY BABY LIVES!







THE ONE THING I ALWAYS WRITE IN MY OS CODE IS MY OWN MASTER ADMIN ACCOUNT.


CENTRAL PROCESSOR & COMMAND UTILITY

USER: Br1gHtDay  
PASS: \*\*\*\*\*  
HEX: #####

Powered by  
CySoft 7



PARAGON CITY HERO REGISTRATION



|                 |                                                                |                          |                       |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Origin:         | Natural                                                        | Super Group Affiliation: | Guardians of the Dawn |
| Archetype:      | Defender                                                       |                          |                       |
| Hitpoints:      | 99                                                             |                          |                       |
| Endurance:      | 100                                                            |                          |                       |
| Security Level: | 1                                                              |                          |                       |
| Total XP:       | 0                                                              |                          |                       |
| XP Needed:      | 106                                                            |                          |                       |
| Known Powers:   | Brawl, Self Destruction, Sprint, Vigilance, Web Grenade, Burst |                          |                       |

Character Description: (234/1024) Battle City  
Sally Bright may not look like much, but she is the premiere computer forensic specialist in Paragon City. She holds two doctorates from MIT, was on the WDC Commission before, and knows more about cyberpunks than the best hackers.

C-Tech Autonomy!


WOW. THEY DID DECLARE ME DEAD. THEN AGAIN, FIVE BULLETS USUALLY DOES THE TRICK.

PARAGON CITY HERO REGISTRATION

Unable to reset Hero Registration

Interim Registration can be made using established Hero ID and current genetic profile.

Do you wish to proceed?  
YES / NO  
↑



I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO CREATE A NEW ID ...

NEW NAME... THAT'S GOING TO BE TRICKY. CAN'T USE GHOSTLYNK.

AND I'M A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN JUST A GEEK-GURL ANYWAY.

HMM... HOW ABOUT..




**Interim Registration Complete!**

New HeroID is valid only for twenty-four hours or until permanent registration is filed with City Hall. Failure to register is a felony!

Name: Daybright

Origin: Natural

Archetype: Peacebringer

SO... AM I STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST?

Interim ID listed as **Daybright**. Provisional access granted using Ghostlynk Master ID as per Protocol Zero.

GOOD. THEN RECORD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE...

 DAYBRIGHT



CPCU Message System


From: Daybright (Ghostlynk legacy ID)

To: Captain Paragonna

Stevie, I'm sorry it took so long to activate my Supergroup mode.

I really am alive! This is not a Nemesis Plot!

A lot has changed, but I promise we will catch up soon. I still owe you a Double-Chocolate Soy-Whipped latte. - Sally





SOMEWHERE NEAR THE END OF TIME

The Link has been severed.

WHICH LINK?

The carbon anchor you created before you were recruited has been terminated.

The subject is now reborn.



ASPECT OF PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME

SO SOMEONE RESURRECTED THE BODY OF THE CARBON ANCHOR I SET UP ALL THOSE LIFETIMES AGO...

WHERE IS THE DEVICE NOW?

The carbon anchor has been assimilated by the subject.

THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. ONLY AN INCARNATE, A DEITY, OR A KHELDIAN CAN PULL OFF SUCH A FEAT.

INCARNATES ARE FEW, AND KHELDIANS ARE PROHIBITED FROM RESURRECTING THE DEAD AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH HORUS.

I SMELL THE STENCH OF A TIME VERGENCE.

THAT MEANS THAT EITHER A DEITY OR ANOTHER MENDER IS BEHIND THIS.

IN WHAT YEAR DID THE LINK GET SEVERED?



MENDER TESSERACT

Earth Year: 2010

WHAT???

ONLY THREE YEARS OF TRACEABLE TIME?

THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE!

I AM GOING TO HAVE TO ARRANGE A MISSION FROM OUR POOL OF ACTIVE TIME AGENTS, PREFERABLY ONES FROM THE ROGUE ISLES.

I CAN'T GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS EITHER. NOT WITH THAT D@MNED MANIPULATOR "DOC TOR" STILL ALIVE IN THAT PERIOD.

IT'S A PITY THAT AGENT SHADOW IS DEAD. I COULD HAVE USED HER DETERMINATION.

THEN AGAIN... I AM A MENDER!

I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE UNIVERSE TO RECRUIT HER...

TO BE CONTINUED...





In the world of comics, DEATH is a tricky subject.

People die all the time in comic books. Important people. Not-so-important people. The basic fact of the universe is that EVERYTHING and EVERYONE DIES! It may not happen today or tomorrow, but eventually they do.

The fear of death is a great cliffhanger for comics. Can our hero get out of the inescapable DEATHTRAP and save the day? Can they rescue the damsel-in-distress (or dude-in-distress) in time? Will they diffuse the bomb before it reaches zero? Will they save the city from the falling asteroid? Will they stop the mechanizations of the evil mastermind? TUNE IN NEXT ISSUE!

And they usually do. They usually come in at the last second, or the last moment, or the last micro-moment and make the save. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief and moves forward to the next crisis and the next cliffhanger.

But then the line eventually gets crossed. The hero fails. The hero is just too late to save the day. The deathtrap is sprung. The bomb goes off. The damsel or dude goes splat. The asteroid hits. People die.

If the hero lives through this failure, then death becomes a heavy lesson. Bruce Wayne losing his parents. Clark Kent losing his adopted father. Peter Parker losing his uncle. Frank Castle losing his family. These things motivate the hero to do better and to be better.

But what if the hero dies?

We'd like to think that it is following a monumental battle against their life-long enemy. Superman battling Lex Luthor. Batman duking it out with the Joker. Wolverine facing Sabretooth one last time. A huge prolonged battle where both sides fall. A pyrrhic victory for the villain, and the last hurrah for the hero.

Unfortunately, comic book publishers HATE to make things that neat and simple.

Superman is killed battling a monster named Doomsday. He is resurrected through a series of bizarre coincidences that supposedly could never be duplicated. (Although the writers would later do just that with Superboy.) Batman is killed not once, but twice, but then we find he isn't "dead", just sent into the past. Green Lantern dies and comes back. Spider-Man dies and comes back. Jean Grey dies and comes back. Bucky Barnes dies and comes back. Captain America dies and comes back.

They are mourned, they are missed, they are even replaced with worthy successors, and then they come back and everything is back to "normal".

*Continues on next page...*



Death, then, becomes a cheat. A sales gimmick. A way for publishers to garner quick sales revenue while still retaining the “legendary” figure for their merchandizing schemes.

And it ultimately cheapens the whole concept of death. Why fear death when you know the “title” character will be back anyway? Why spend time getting used to a “successor” when you know that it is just temporary?

And isn’t it interesting that only the MAIN characters have a revolving door to the afterlife? Lesser characters obviously don’t come back.

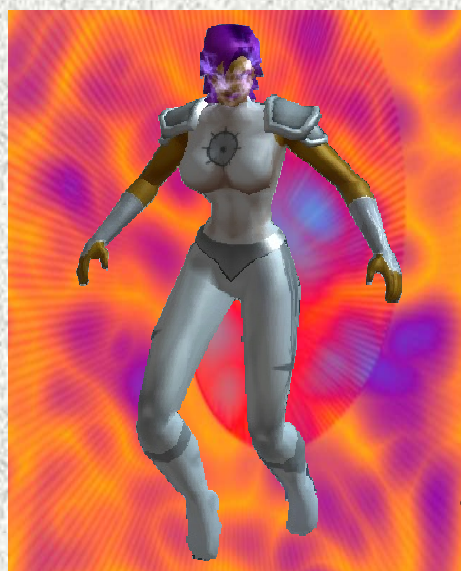
It’s no different in the City of Heroes universe. Heroes and villains don’t really “die”, they get “defeated” and are then teleported away to be restored to health, thanks to miraculous “teleport rings” or through an “Awaken” inspiration or through a “revive” power. They always live to fight another day.

But, then again, it really wouldn’t be much of a subscription-based multiplayer online game if you died and couldn’t come back, especially if it happens early on in the game.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** We wish to thank deviantART artist ~*ExGemini* and his online characters **ExGemini**, **Lady Glamour**, **Power Lady**, and **Elerium-115** for their participation in this issue. Ex has been a regular fan of the comic series from day one and we are glad we were able to incorporate some of his own City of Heroes characters into the story.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

***NEXT ISSUE...***



*Daybright's  
troubles are only  
just starting!*





**Love Gaming ?**

**Love Music ?**

**Why not do both together ?**

# **ROGUES RADIO**

*Rebels of the Airwaves*

**for all your gaming music needs....  
find us at....**

***www.RoguesRadio.com***

**Based in the EU, we aim to bring fun, music and, well,  
more fun to gamers of all kinds,  
but with a special love for those crazy mad people  
who love playing MMO's.**

**Our DJ's have been long time players of these  
games for many years, be it City Of Heroes,  
World Of Warcraft and Guild Wars, through to  
the more recent additions to the genre in  
Aion and Star Trek: Online**

**Look forward to you joining us in our  
FORUMS and our CHAT ROOM!**