T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

TASK FORCE TWILIGHT

City Of CCC Comic Creators

Issue 02
2018

BATTLEROCK COMICS

CITY of HEROES

paragon STUDIOS

Why settle for just any diamond?

We live in a day and age where we don't have to go to a certain conflicted country and pay overinflated European brokers for the finest diamonds anymore.

Now we can get them from other dimensions.

So why should you settle for just any Earth diamond when you can get the Quantum Eclipse diamond? Denser than any diamond made on Earth, yet light enough to still be mounted on a ring. It is a diamond worthy of heroes, yet still affordable enough for an everyman's salary.

The Quantum Eclipse diamond is only available through Family Jewels stores in Paragon City.

Your loved one will appreciate it! We guarantee it!

FAMILY JEWELS

Prometheus Park, Atlas Park
New Overbrook, Overbrook

"It's Not Fluff!"

When I first started covering stories here in Paragon City, I thought it would be a piece of cake. After all, we're in the "City of Heroes", right?

But I've quickly learned that when you're trying to keep up with heroes, you have to take risks, and you have to put yourself out there with them.

Can I get hurt? Sure! But it's worth it.

Because we're here to report on the greatest stories in the world, not make tabloid fluff.

Faith Nottingham
On-The-Scene Correspondent

PNN
Paragon News Network

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

For the past few years, the Paragon City Police have quietly brought back the worst of their worst, the infamous "Blue Dog Squad". Operating more like gang members than professional law enforcers, the Blue Dogs have struck fear and terror into the residents of the Kings Row district.

Street vigilantes like Jason Knight have been trying hard to bring the Blue Dogs to justice, but they are stymied at every corner by a not-so-unbiased judicial system and by an ever-decreasing amount of legal resources at their disposal.

Now Deputy Police Chief Thomas Wield has shut down the Architect Entertainment building in Kings Row, one of the two major attractions for heroes in that district. This gives Jason Knight only a few days before he may be forced to vacate from his lair, secretly located in the middle of that building.

Then, just when things could not get worse, he is rendered unconscious by the mercenary enforcer known as Despair.

"HAND OF GOD"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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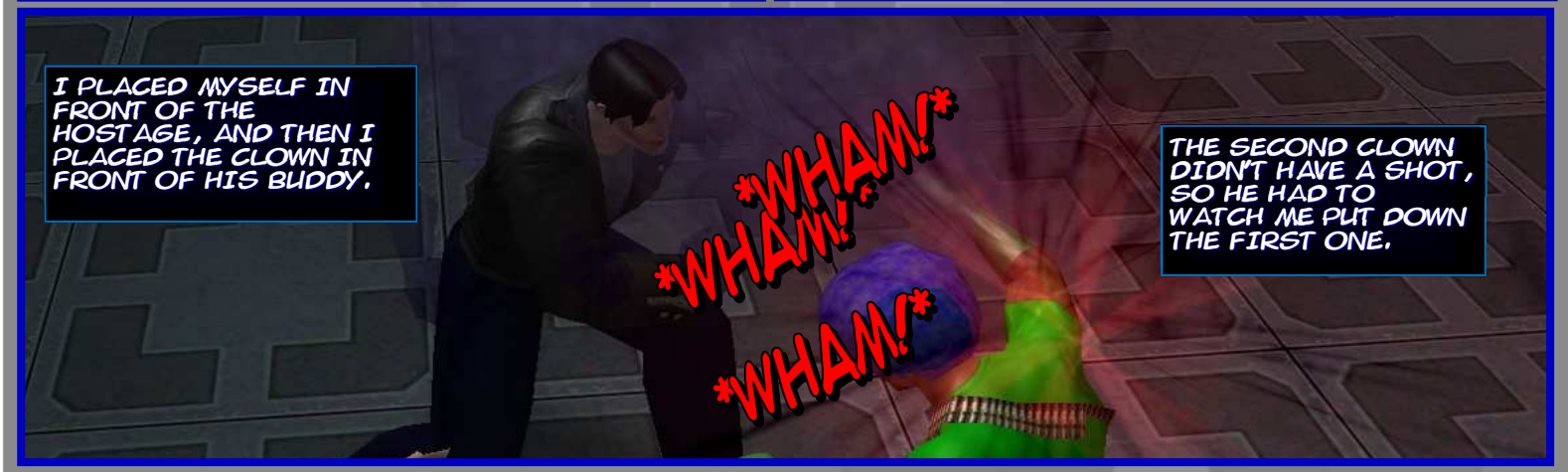
NEW YORK CITY
UNIVERSE XHT-57
1999
IT WAS A DIFFERENT WORLD AND A LIFETIME AGO.
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED...
NOW LET. HER. GO.
BUT IT STILL HAUNTS ME.
FUNNY KID...
THINKS HE'S A HE-RO.
YOU THINK HE'S FUNNY, BIFF?
I THINK HE'S CRAZY IF HE EXPECTS US TO SIMPLY WALK AWAY WITH TWO WITNESSES STILL BREATHING.
THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE CLOWN COMMANDOS.
NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THEM. THEY JUST ROBBED BANKS DRESSED LIKE CLOWNS.
MY MENTOR AND LEGAL GUARDIAN, DAMIAN WILSON, WOULD TELL ME HOW MANY TIMES HE WOULD SHUT THEM DOWN AS MIDKNIGHT.
BACK THEN I WAS JUST A KID NAMED JASON RICH.
I WASN'T A HERO LIKE HIM, BUT I WANTED TO BE ONE.
NORMALLY HE'D BE THE ONE STARING THEM DOWN.
LAST CHANCE.
LET HER GO.
NOW.
BUT THE CITY WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF CHAOS, AND MIDKNIGHT COULD NOT BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.

I THINK I'LL JUST WASTE HER WHILE YOU WATCH.
DAMIAN TRAINED ME. HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING HE KNEW ABOUT DEALING WITH CRIMINALS.
BUT NOT SO I COULD WORK WITH HIM, THOUGH. HE MADE THAT CLEAR.

SAY BYE-BYE LITTLE MOMMA!
CLICK-CLACK

IT WAS FOR WHEN I WOULD HAVE TO REPLACE HIM.
WHAM!


I PLACED MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE HOSTAGE, AND THEN I PLACED THE CLOWN IN FRONT OF HIS BUDDY.
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
THE SECOND CLOWN DIDN'T HAVE A SHOT, SO HE HAD TO WATCH ME PUT DOWN THE FIRST ONE.

THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM...
THE SECOND CLOWN DIDN'T TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN LIKE HE SHOULD HAVE DONE.
YOU STUPID LITTLE SHIT!
HE JUST WAITED FOR THE FIRST CLOWN TO DROP.

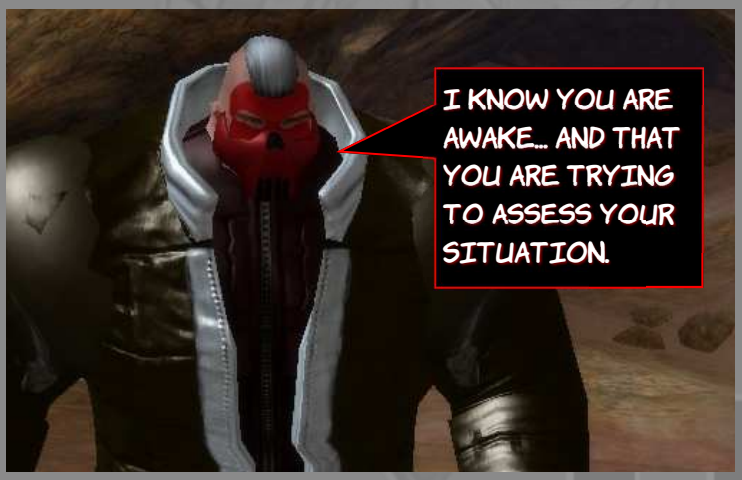
AND THEN... NOTHING.

I WAS DEAD.

NO HEAVEN. NO HELL. JUST DEAD.

Despair
PROBLEM-SOLVER

MY ATTACKER...
HE'S STANDING IN FRONT OF ME.
I CAN SMELL THE STENCH OF THE SEWERS ON HIM.


I KNOW YOU ARE AWAKE... AND THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO ASSESS YOUR SITUATION.

I... KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
DESPAIR.
WH.. WHY AM I STILL ALIVE?

BECAUSE I HAD PROMISED THAT YOU WILL NOT DIE UNTIL YOU KNOW DESPAIR.
I AM A MAN OF MY WORD.
W-WHO?
WHO HIRED...
YOU'RE A SMART MAN, MISTER KNIGHT.
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.

WHAP!
UNNF/

WHAP!
CRACK!

SKYWAY CITY
HOURS LATER...
El Super Mexicano

MN.. WHY..?
RING-RING
RING-RING

YOU HAVE REACHED THE SECRETARY OF CASSANDRA DARE. MS. DARE IS...
OH, GOOD MORNING GRACE.
Cassandra Dare
AKA CARDINAL SYN

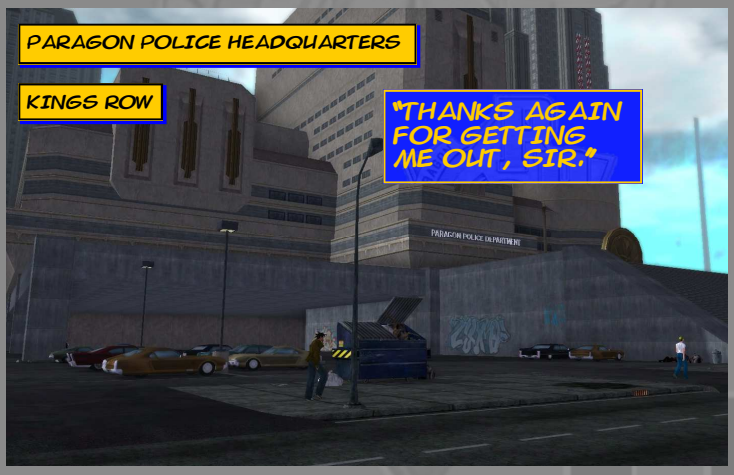
NO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THE FOLKS AT MY DAY JOB. WHAT'S UP?

NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM DRAKE SINCE THE OTHER DAY.
NO, HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT BEING TIED UP ALL NIGHT.
WELL, I'M SURE HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON TO NOT BE THERE FOR YOUR BRUNCH DATE.

TELL YOU WHAT...
I'LL TAKE A SHOWER, GET DRESSED, AND THEN HEAD OVER TO THE A.E. BUILDING AND CHECK WITH DRAKE TO SEE WHAT'S UP.
IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOMETHING STUPID LIKE HE WAS WORKING LATE IN THE LAIR AND FORGOT TO SET HIS ALARM.
WELL... HE'S BEEN DOING THAT A LOT LATELY.
RIGHT... I'LL CALL YOU BACK IN A LITTLE BIT. BYE.

DAMN YOU JASON!
I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT DAYBRIGHT, BUT YOU CAN'T TREAT HER LIKE THAT!

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH SUPERHERO RELATIONSHIPS.
THE MASK BECOMES YOUR OWN MISTRESS.
OH WELL.. COFFEE... SHOWER... TRIP TO KINGS ROW...

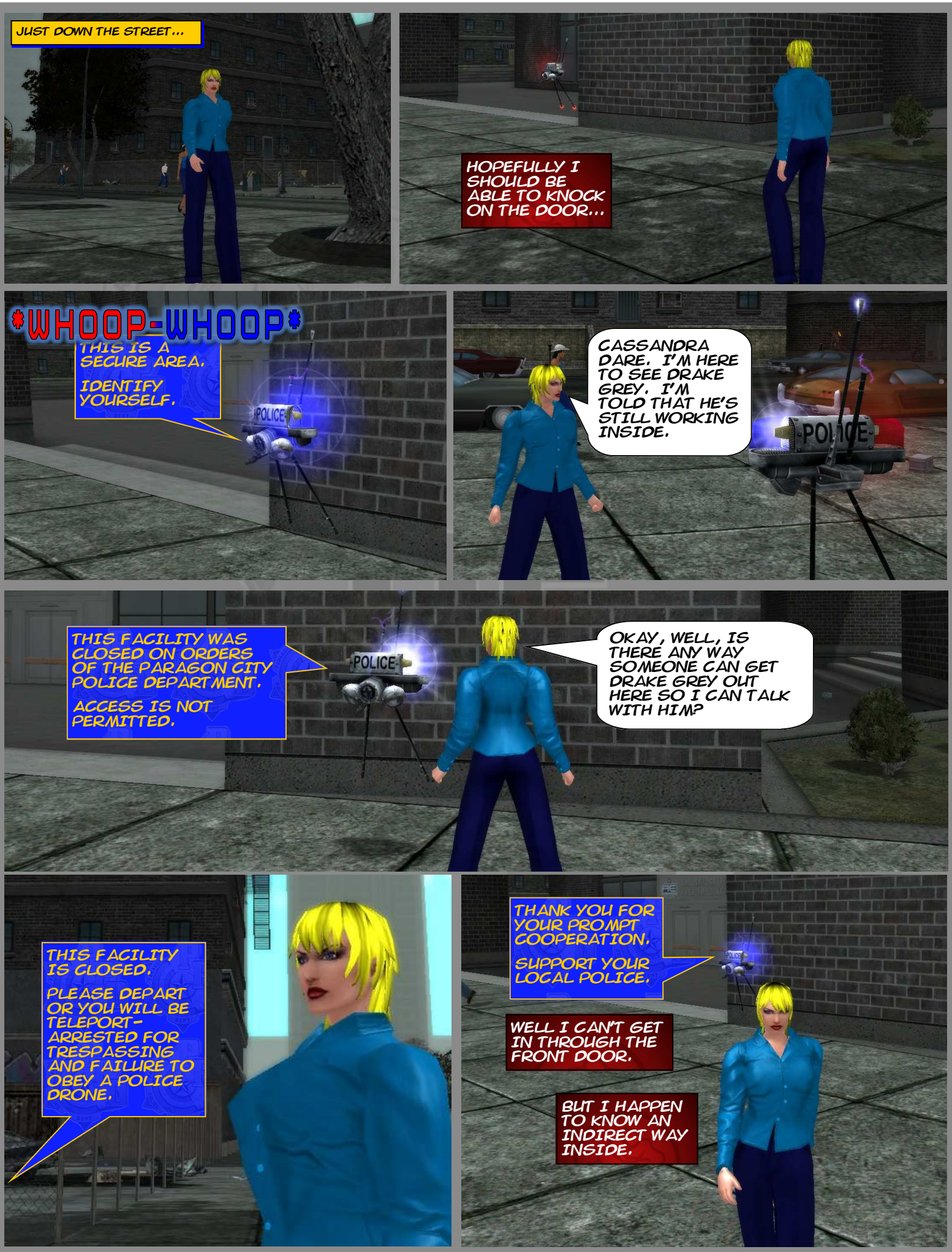

PARAGON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
KINGS ROW
"THANKS AGAIN FOR GETTING ME OUT, SIR."

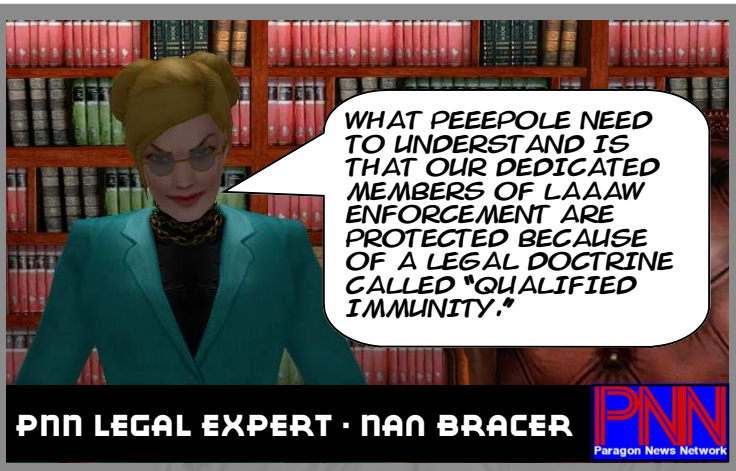
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, BEAR...
YOUR BROTHERS IN BLUE WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK.

JUST KEEP LOW UNTIL WE CAN GET THE CHARGES DISMISSED.
AND... THANK YOU... FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR US.
Deputy Chief Thomas Wield
PARAGON CITY POLICE

HEY, NO PROB.
I'LL JUST HANG WITH MY BUDS 'TIL I HEAR BACK.
Lawdog
(BENJAMIN "BEAR" LAWTON)

HMM... FUNNY. HE MADE IT SOUND LIKE I WASN'T GONNA COME BACK.

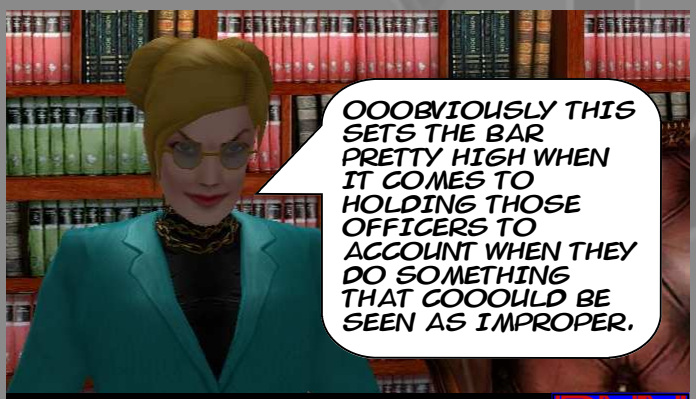

JUST DOWN THE STREET...
HOPEFULLY I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR...
WHOOP-WHOOP
THIS IS A SECURE AREA.
IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
POLICE
CASSANDRA DARE. I'M HERE TO SEE DRAKE GREY. I'M TOLD THAT HE'S STILL WORKING INSIDE.
POLICE
THIS FACILITY WAS CLOSED ON ORDERS OF THE PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.
ACCESS IS NOT PERMITTED.
POLICE
OKAY, WELL, IS THERE ANY WAY SOMEONE CAN GET DRAKE GREY OUT HERE SO I CAN TALK WITH HIM?
THIS FACILITY IS CLOSED.
PLEASE DEPART OR YOU WILL BE TELEPORT-ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING AND FAILURE TO OBEY A POLICE DRONE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT COOPERATION.
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE.
WELL I CAN'T GET IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
BUT I HAPPEN TO KNOW AN INDIRECT WAY INSIDE.



PNN LEGAL EXPERT · NAN BRACER

POLICE PROTECTED FROM PROSECUTION

SHOULD THE POLICE BE IMMUNE? SOUND OFF AT PNN.PARA/FORUM



PNN LEGAL EXPERT · NAN BRACER

NAN BRACER DEFENDS POLICE ABUSE

THE VIEWS OF NAN BRACER DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF PNN

"LEVEL 13" OF THE AE BUILDING IN KINGS ROW...
CLICK-CLUNK
KA-CLUNK
OKAY... NOT THE PREFERRED WAY I'D WANT TO USE TO GET HERE, BUT I'M IN.
HATE USING THE SEWERS!
Cardinal Syn (CASSANDRA DARE)
JASON? ARE YOU IN HERE?
JASON KNIGHT IS NOT HERE, MISS CASANDRA.
SENTRY!
WHERE IS HE?
DAYBRIGHT SAID HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR THEIR BRUNCH DATE.
THE LAST TIME MISTER JASON WAS HERE, HE WAS INFORMED THAT OFFICER LAWTON, A.K.A. "LAWDOG", WAS RELEASED ON BAIL.
AND... JASON WENT TO CONFRONT HIM, OF COURSE.*
I'VE NEVER ASKED BEFORE, BUT DID JASON HAVE A WAY FOR YOU TO TRACK WHERE HE IS?
MISTER JASON WAS ADAMANT ABOUT NOT HAVING ANY KIND OF TRACKING DEVICE ON HIS BODY.
HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT OTHERS USING IT AGAINST HIM.
(* LAST ISSUE)

HOW ABOUT HIS GUARDIAN ID?
THAT HAS A BUILT-IN TRACKER FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TELEPORT.
MISTER JASON HAD THAT FEATURE DISABLED FROM HIS ID SOON AFTER HE ACTIVATED THE LAIR.
OF COURSE HE DID...
DAMN YOU JASON!
A BLOG WRITTEN BY AN "OFFICER FRIENDLY" CLAIMS THAT MISTER JASON PAID THE "COP SHACK" A VISIT AFTER OFFICER LAWTON'S RELEASE.
THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT AFTER SOME BANTERING AND THREATS, MISTER JASON LEFT THE ESTABLISHMENT TO THE HECKLING OF THE OFFICERS.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
THE COPS WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE TRY TO OFF JASON IN A PLACE LIKE THAT WITH ALL OF THOSE OTHER COPS IN ATTENDANCE.
NOT ALL COPS ARE BAD.
SOMEONE THERE WOULD HAVE A CONSCIENCE.
SOMEONE WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEAK UP.
THAT'S WHY THEY HIDE BEHIND DISGUISES LIKE THEIR "BLUE DOG" OUTFITS WHEN THEY WANT TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY.*
(* "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #23)
I NEED YOU TO ACCESS THE POLICE NETWORK THROUGH THAT "HACK" JASON SET UP.
I NEED NAMES. COPS AND CRIMINALS.
ANYONE THAT MIGHT HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST JASON.
THAT WILL BE A VERY LONG LIST, MISS CASSANDRA.
CAN'T BE HELPED. HE'S NOT MAKING IT EASY FOR EITHER OF US TO FIND HIM.
AND IF I'M GOING TO DO THIS OLD-SCHOOL, I'LL NEED SOME PLACES TO START.

DID A HERO DO YOU WRONG?

Heroes are not "gods with capes".

They're not "demonic sentinels lurking in dark corners waiting for bad guys."

They're certainly not "special cops with super-powers." Some of them aren't even trained like the police!

Heroes are people. And people make mistakes all the time. And when a hero makes a mistake, it's our responsibility to call them on it.

That's when you need someone like me in your corner to hold those people accountable.

I'll make them do right by you!

Chris Jenkins - Attorney At Law **1-555-GET-RICH**

THE ONLY THING "DIRTY" IS OUR NAME!

SOME PEOPLE SEE OUR NAME AND THINK THAT WE RUN SOME KIND OF DIVE WHERE THE GLASSES ARE FILTHY AND THE FOOD IS RANCID.

AND NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!

OUR RESTAURANTS ARE INSPECTED EVERY SIX MONTHS AND HAVE REPEATEDLY PASSED WITH A PERFECT SCORE.

AND WE PROMISE YOU THAT IF WE DON'T GET THAT 100% SCORE, WE'LL SHUT THE PLACE DOWN AND CLEAN IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN UNTIL WE GET IT RIGHT.

IT'S JUST EASIER TO SAY THAT WE'RE THE "DIRTY DUCK" INSTEAD OF BEING THE "CLEAN DUCK".

THE DIRTY DUCK BAR AND GRILL

PROMETHEUS PARK, ATLAS PARK - NEW OVERBROOK, OVERBROOK

CHECK OUT OUR MENUS ONLINE AT DIRTYDUCKBAR.PARA

A Letter...
To Our Clients...
And To Our Future Clients...

For thirty years, you've known us as M.C. Louis Investments, and you've trusted us to help you plan your financial freedom.

We've been there for you through strong times and lean, through other-world invasions, global recessions, and all sorts of financial bubbles.

And now we ask for you to be there for us as we go through a period of change.

On February 1st, M.C. Louis Investments will become part of Triumph Financial.

To those currently with M.C. Louis Investments accounts, please be reassured that your accounts will not change one bit during this transition. Your financial plans will remain intact. All scheduled transactions will still go through with perhaps a one-or-two-day delay during the transition itself.

What this will mean for our current clients is that you will soon benefit from our access to even more investment resources to better plan your future financial independence. This will mean greater options and opportunities to better invest your money so it will bring in even greater rewards.

And to those of you already using Triumph Financial, you will enjoy having local access to our dedicated consultants and advisors with a proven record of serving the needs of their clients. You will be able to go to any one of our branches in Paragon City and speak with our team instead of having to contact the offices in New York City.

So please be patient with us and join us as we move to our next stage of providing financial services to secure your future without monetary worry.

888-555-MONY **TRIUMPHFINANCIAL.PARA**

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. This is not a real advertisement.

UNIVERSE XHT-S7
NEW YORK CITY.... THEN.
'SCUSE ME... YOU OK?
YOU LOOK LIKE... YOU JUST WALKED OUT OF THAT CRYPT.
I... ARRRGH!! THERE WAS A ROBBERY... A WOMAN... IS SHE OKAY?
I WOULDN'T KNOW...
I'M SORRY... I... I'M A LITTLE RATTLED. WHERE ARE WE? HOW DID I GET HERE?
ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY... AN' I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT HERE.
... BUT IT'S PROBABLY TH' SAFEST PLACE T' BE RIGHT NOW. THINGS ARE CRAZY OUT THERE SINCE MIDKNIGHT WAS KILLED. OR... 'LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "KILLED"? WHAT HAPPENED TO MIDKNIGHT?

NOW...
ENOUGH DREAMS...
HAVE TO TRY TO MOVE...

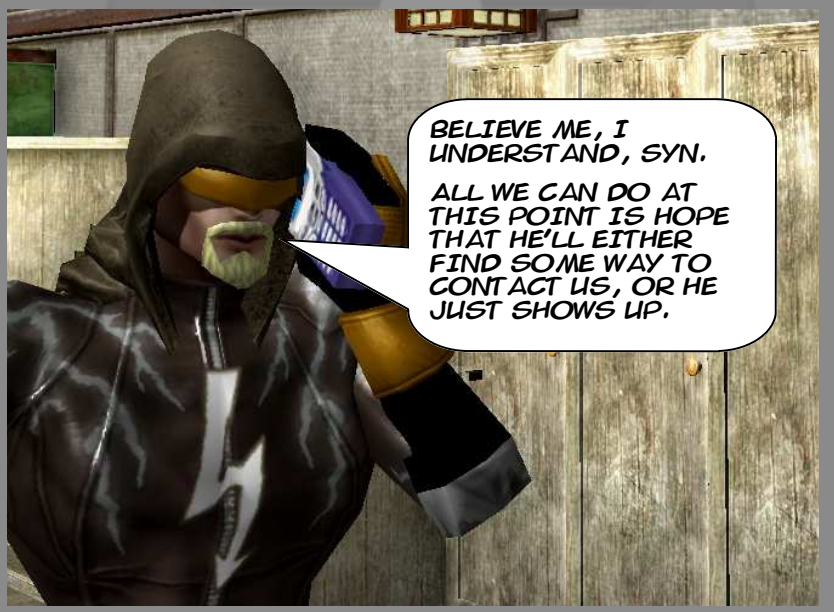
IGNORE THE PAIN...
IGNORE THE BROKEN BONES...

SLOPPY!
NEED TO REST MORE...
WAIT...
MY HANDS-FREE COMLINK... IT'S STILL IN MY EAR.
OOFFFF...
DESPAIR NEVER CHECKED... SLOPPY OF HIM.

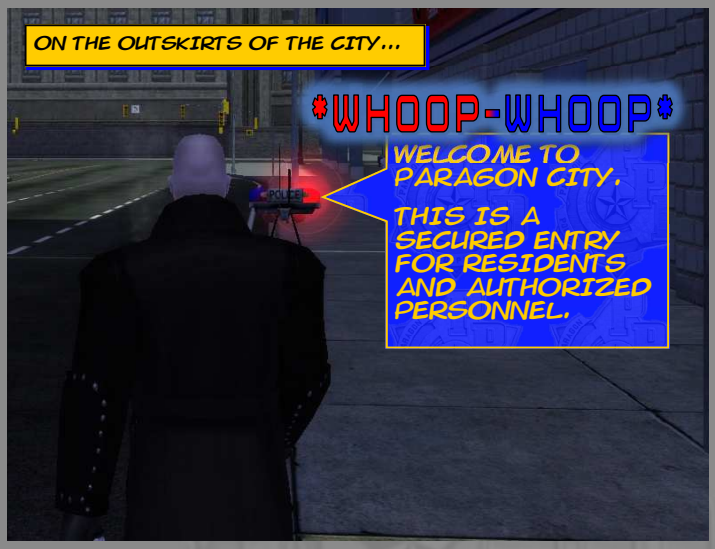
ELSEWHERE...
IF THERE'S ANYONE THAT WOULD KNOW JASON MORE THAN ME, IT WOULD BE YOU AND GALATEA.

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE
TALOS ISLAND
AND I KNOW HIM LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME HE'S GONE "OFF THE GRID" ON A WHIM AND WITHOUT NOTICE.
Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)

THAT DOESN'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT HE'S IN TROUBLE AND NEEDS US.


BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND, SYN.
ALL WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT IS HOPE THAT HE'LL EITHER FIND SOME WAY TO CONTACT US, OR HE JUST SHOWS UP.

HOOK AND ANCHOR BAR (AND ILLEGAL CASINO)
INDEPENDENCE PORT
YO! WHERE IS EVERYONE?
YOU DON'T NEED TO THROW A SURPRISE PARTY FOR ME!
THEY ARE NOT HERE.
I SENT THEM AWAY.
WE DO NOT NEED WITNESSES FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.
YOU MEAN WHEN I-- *AAK!*
WHAM!
THUD
NNF!
STOMP!
KE-RUNCH
WHEN YOU LEARN JASON KNIGHT WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG ABOUT WHO WOULD END YOU.


ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...
WHOOP-WHOOP
WELCOME TO PARAGON CITY.
THIS IS A SECURED ENTRY FOR RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL.

PLEASE DISPLAY YOUR ID IF YOU ARE A RESIDENT.
IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED HERO, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR HERO NAME AS IT IS DISPLAYED ON YOUR HERO ID CARD.
POLICE

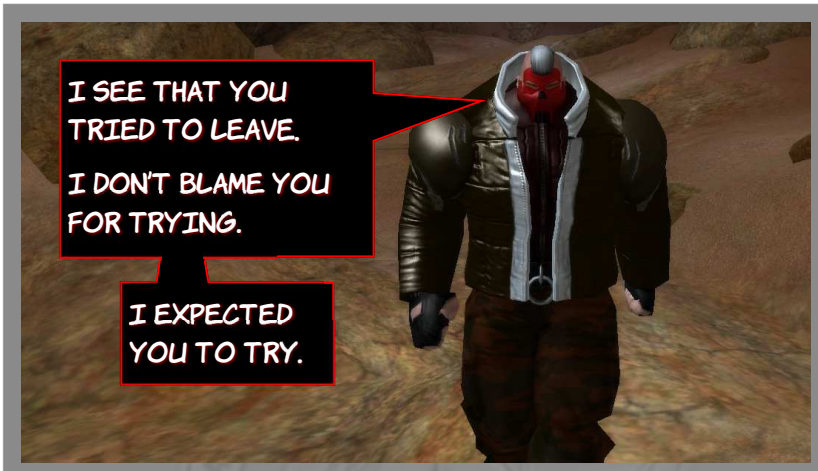
MY NAME IS SUNDOWN.
I AM A REGISTERED HERO FROM OKLAHOMA CITY.
Sundown
WARSHADE

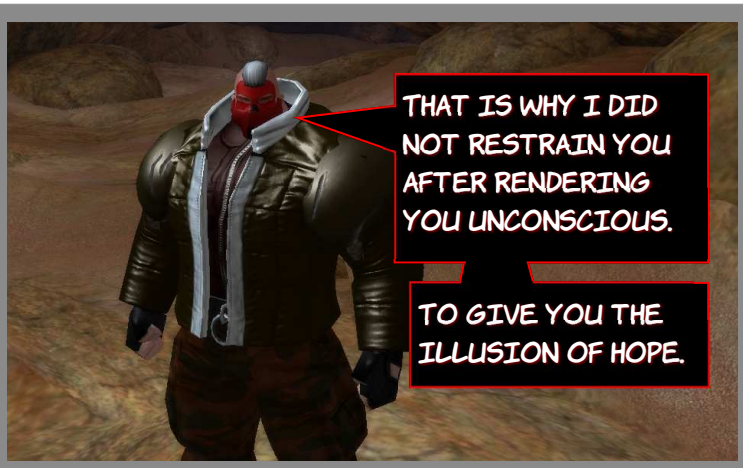
DOES THAT... SATISFY... YOUR CURIOSITY?

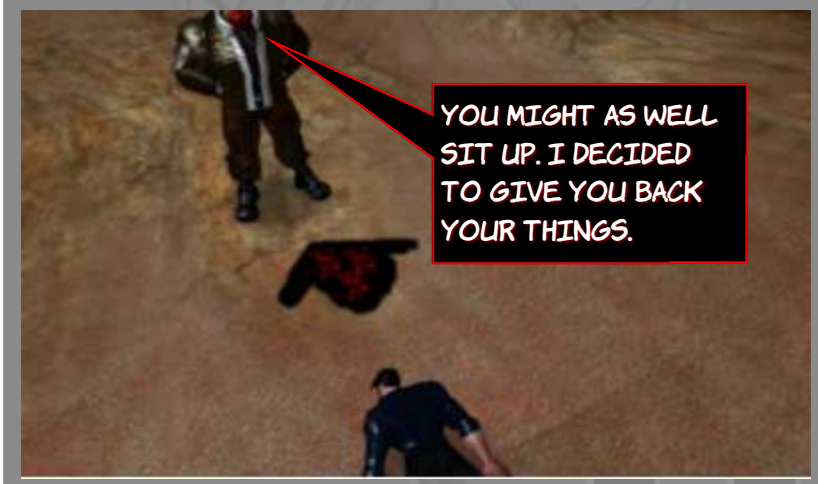
WELCOME TO PARAGON CITY, SUNDOWN.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STAY.
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE.
NOT LIKELY.
POLICE

LIEUTENANT, WE JUST GOT A REPORT THAT SUNDOWN HAS ENTERED THE CITY LIMITS!

SUNDOWN?
OH JEEZ!
AS IF WE NEED THAT KIND OF SHITSTORM!

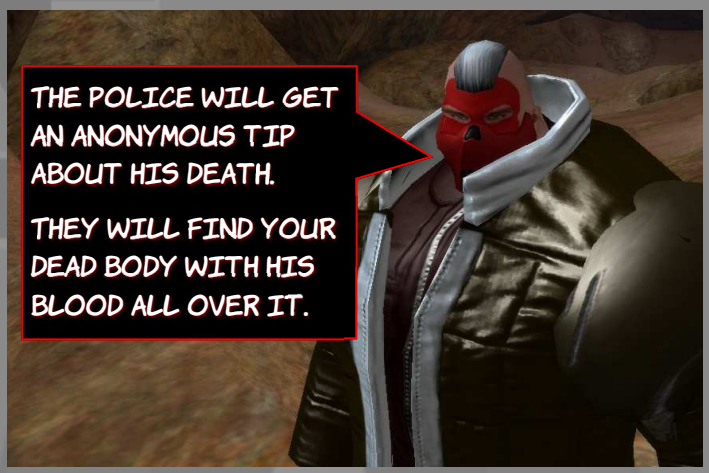

I SEE THAT YOU TRIED TO LEAVE.
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR TRYING.
I EXPECTED YOU TO TRY.

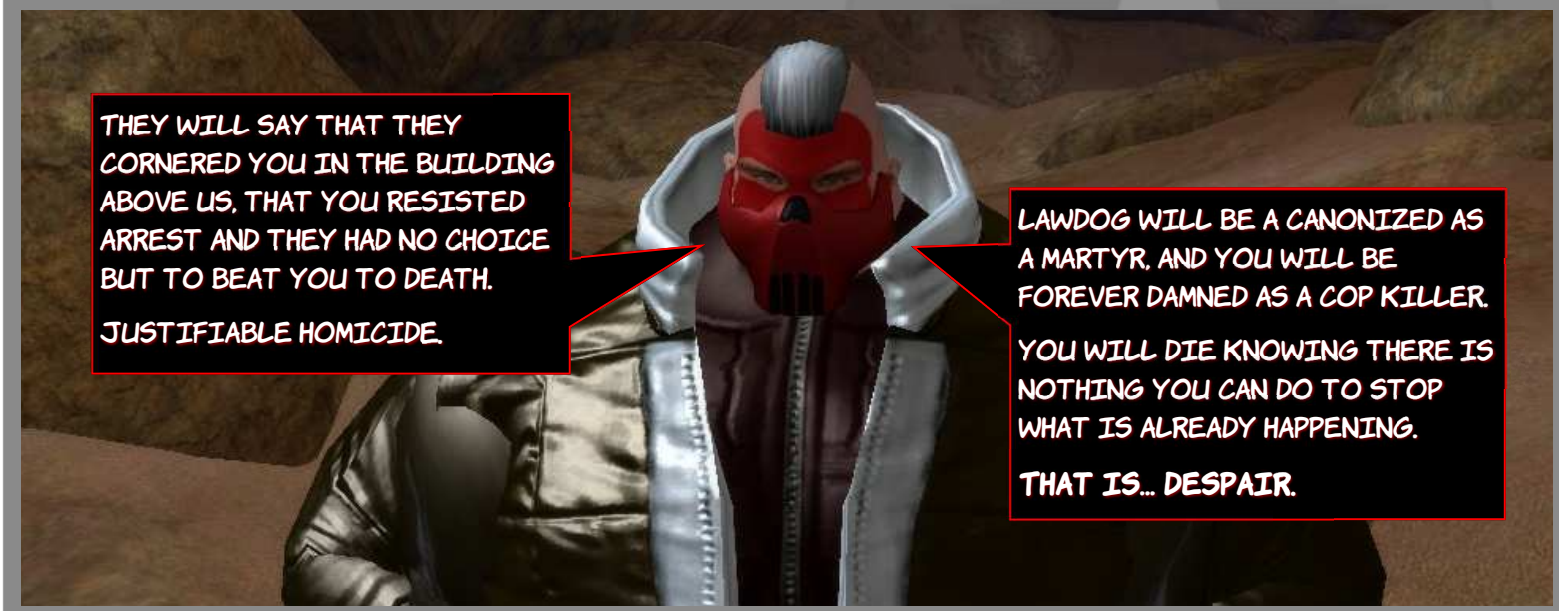

THAT IS WHY I DID NOT RESTRAIN YOU AFTER RENDERING YOU UNCONSCIOUS.
TO GIVE YOU THE ILLUSION OF HOPE.


YOU MIGHT AS WELL SIT UP. I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR THINGS.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE BLOOD.
I PAID LAWDOG A VISIT AND I NEEDED SOMETHING TO WIPE OFF THE MESS THAT I MADE WITH MY BOOT.

YOU... KILLED HIM?
YOU KNEW I WOULD.
BUT THAT IS NOT HOW THE STORY WILL GO.


THE POLICE WILL GET AN ANONYMOUS TIP ABOUT HIS DEATH.
THEY WILL FIND YOUR DEAD BODY WITH HIS BLOOD ALL OVER IT.


THEY WILL SAY THAT THEY CORNERED YOU IN THE BUILDING ABOVE US, THAT YOU RESISTED ARREST AND THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH.
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE.
LAWDOG WILL BE A CANONIZED AS A MARTYR, AND YOU WILL BE FOREVER DAMNED AS A COP KILLER.
YOU WILL DIE KNOWING THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP WHAT IS ALREADY HAPPENING.
THAT IS... DESPAIR.

SO YOU... EXPECT ME TO JUST WALK UP THAT MOUND TO THE BUILDING ABOVE US... SO YOU CAN... KILL ME AND... COMPLETE YOUR PLAN?
WHETHER OR NOT YOU DO IS IRRELEVANT. I CAN KILL YOU HERE AND CARRY YOU UP THERE.
YOU HAVE IT... ALL WORKED OUT.
YOU WIN... NO MATTER WHAT I DO.
I AM A PROFESSIONAL, MISTER KNIGHT.
THAT IS WHY I WAS HIRED TO DO THIS.
OF COURSE.
FSSSS
AK!
HANDFUL OF SAND AT MY FEET...
BUYS ME ENOUGH TIME TO RUN.
NNF!
RUNNING IS POINTLESS, MISTER KNIGHT.
IGNORE THE PAIN SCREAMING AT ME TO STOP.
EVEN IF YOU GET AWAY, YOU WILL STILL BE DAMNED AS A COP KILLER.
IGNORE THE BROKEN BONES.
FORCE THEM TO OBEY ME!
MOVE, JASON! JUST MOVE!

MY KNEES ARE ALREADY STARTING TO BUCKLE...

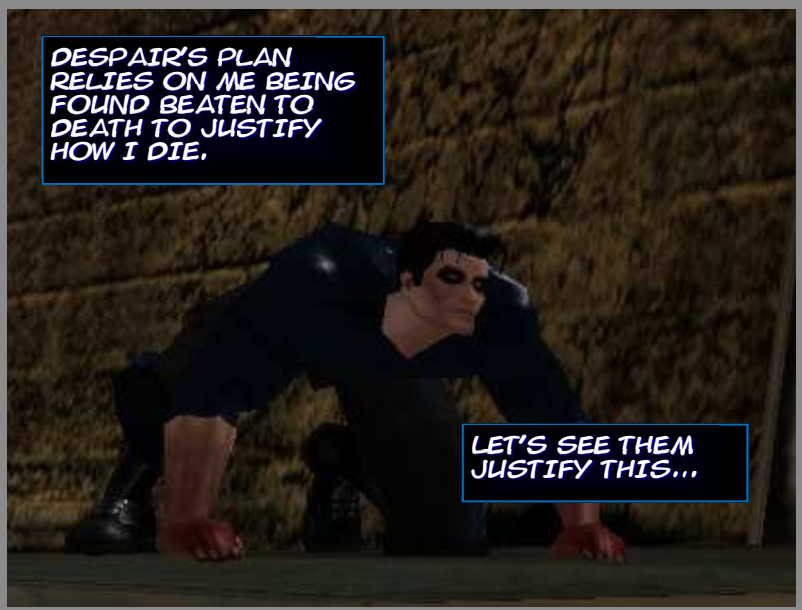
BACK TO THE SEWERS...
ALMOST THERE...

I CAN HEAR YOU TRYING TO RUN.
YOU CAN'T, CAN YOU?

THERE GO THE KNEES...
CRACK
CLUNK

KA-KLANK
CRACKLE

THAT'S IT!
GET UP JASON!
ONE LAST TIME!


DESPAIR'S PLAN RELIES ON ME BEING FOUND BEATEN TO DEATH TO JUSTIFY HOW I DIE.
LET'S SEE THEM JUSTIFY THIS...

S-S-SENTRY...
ZZ YES MI-- TER JAS--*ZZ*?
"HAND... OF... GOD"

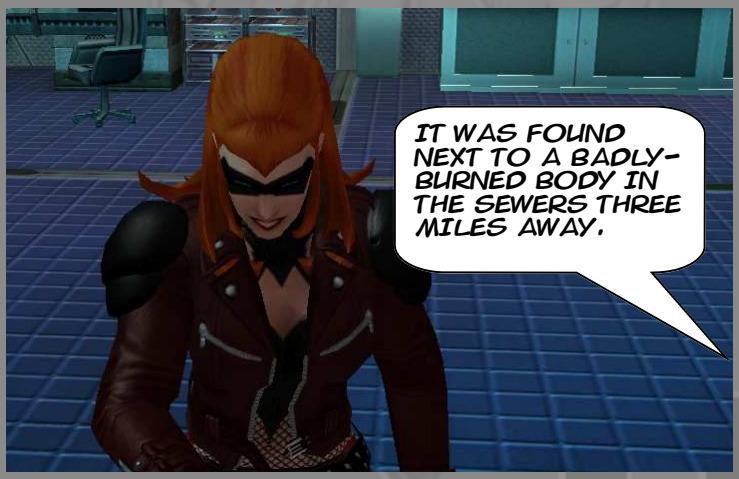
FWWWWWWWWWSSSHHHHH

HMM...
UNEXPECTED.
NO MATTER...
JASON KNIGHT IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM.

SOME TIME LATER...
JASON! I GOT YOUR CALL!
JASON?
SENTRY, WHERE IS JASON?
MISTER JASON IS NOT HERE.
THEN HOW...?
JASON KNIGHT DIDN'T SUMMON YOU HERE.
I DID.
Sin Stalker
JUSTICE-KNIGHTS
A FEW MONTHS AGO, JASON CONTACTED ME AND ASKED WE MEET.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.
THE COPS, THE HOSTILITY, THE BLUE DOGS.
IT'LL COME TO A HEAD SOON.
SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME, AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL NEED SOMEONE THAT I CAN TRUST.

... I'M SORRY.

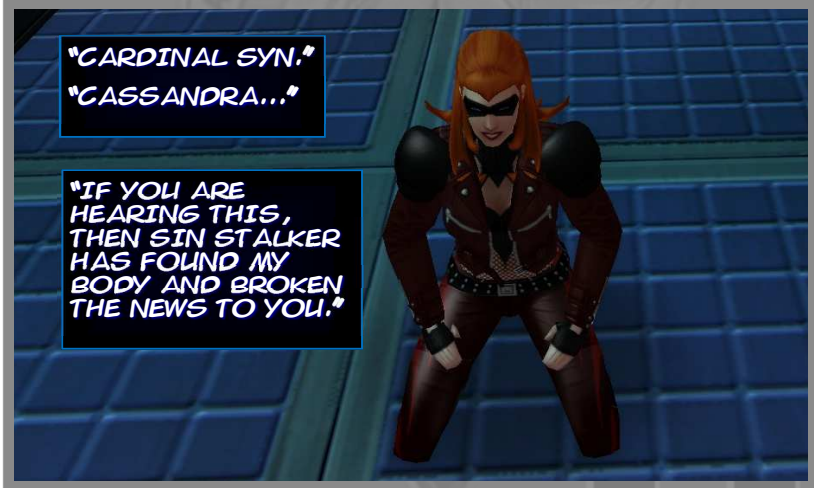
THIS IS...
HIS... MASK.

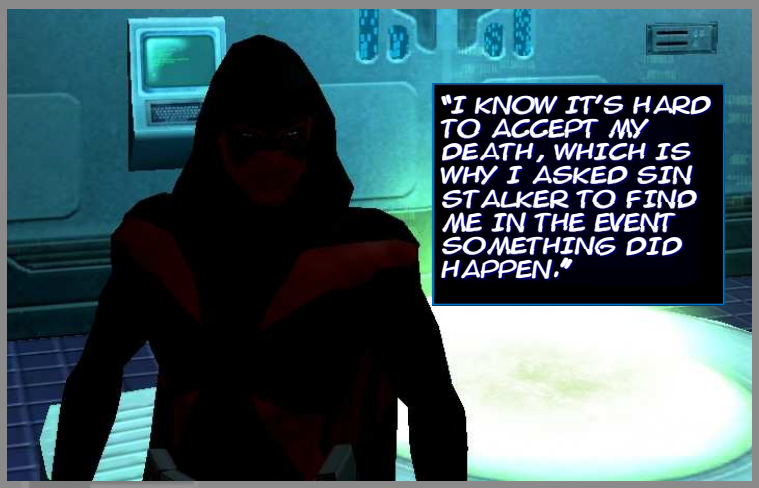

IT WAS FOUND NEXT TO A BADLY-BURNED BODY IN THE SEWERS THREE MILES AWAY.

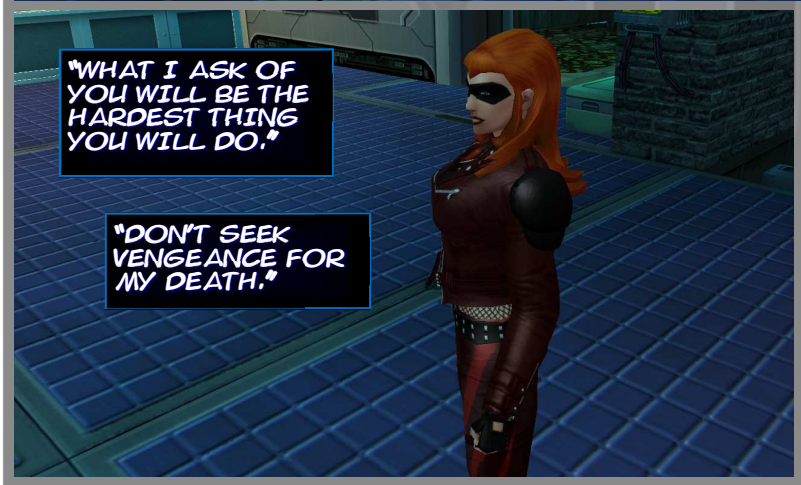
NO...NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NO-NOOOAAAAAAAA...

SNIFF
HELP ME.
I CAN'T.
HE ONLY ASKED ME TO DO THIS AND ONE MORE TASK.

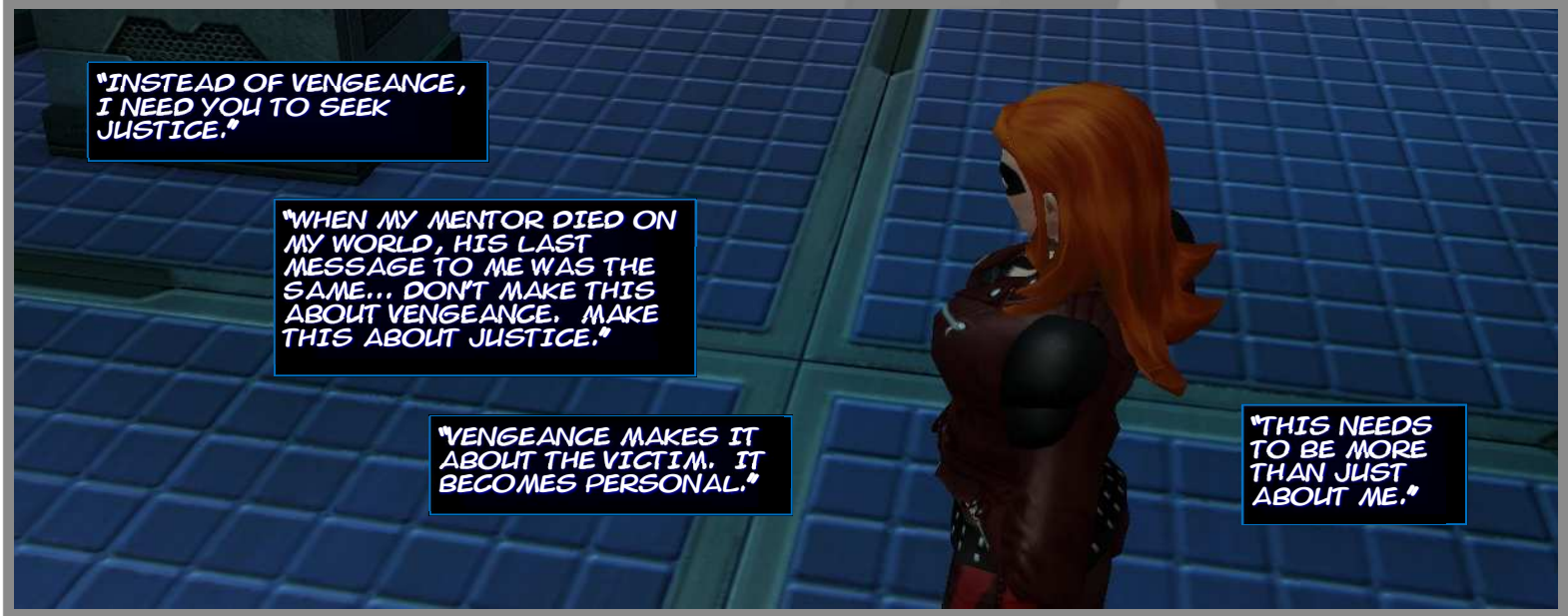
SENTRY: PLAY HIS MESSAGE.


"CARDINAL SYN."
"CASSANDRA..."
"IF YOU ARE HEARING THIS, THEN SIN STALKER HAS FOUND MY BODY AND BROKEN THE NEWS TO YOU."


"I KNOW IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT MY DEATH, WHICH IS WHY I ASKED SIN STALKER TO FIND ME IN THE EVENT SOMETHING DID HAPPEN."


"WHAT I ASK OF YOU WILL BE THE HARDEST THING YOU WILL DO."
"DON'T SEEK VENGEANCE FOR MY DEATH."

"DO NOT CONFIRM OR DENY RUMORS OF MY DEATH."
"LET THEM BE JUST THAT... RUMORS."


"INSTEAD OF VENGEANCE, I NEED YOU TO SEEK JUSTICE."
"WHEN MY MENTOR DIED ON MY WORLD, HIS LAST MESSAGE TO ME WAS THE SAME... DON'T MAKE THIS ABOUT VENGEANCE. MAKE THIS ABOUT JUSTICE."
"VENGEANCE MAKES IT ABOUT THE VICTIM. IT BECOMES PERSONAL."
"THIS NEEDS TO BE MORE THAN JUST ABOUT ME."

"THIS NEEDS TO BE ABOUT JUSTICE."
"BRING THE PEOPLE BEHIND IT ALL TO JUSTICE."

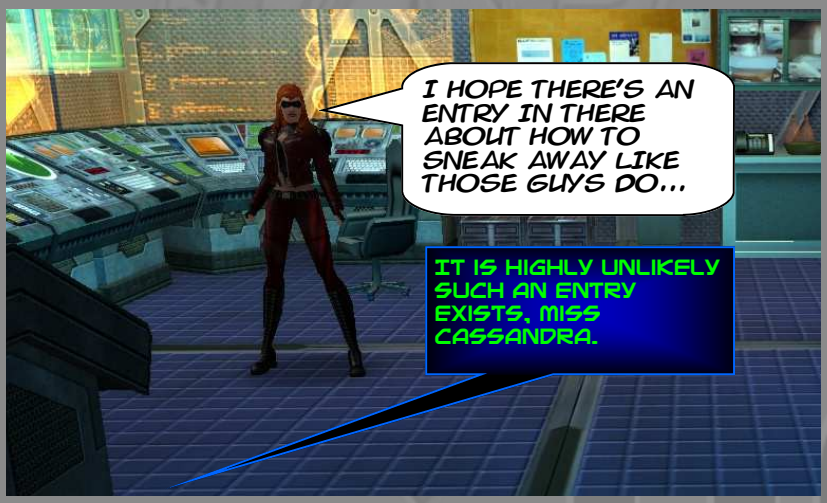
"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY NEXT..."
I CAN'T DO THIS BY MYSELF.
"... AND I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO THIS ON YOUR OWN."

"I HAVE ASKED SENTRY TO ASSEMBLE A LIST OF ACTIVE HEROES THAT WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU AS PART OF A TASK FORCE."
"SOME OF THE NAMES YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH. SOME I EVEN ASKED YOU TO LOOK INTO FOR ME."
"THERE ARE SOME MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN INCLUDED, BUT IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE A GUARDIAN OPERATION."
"THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN REPRESENT HOPE FOR TOMORROW. THEY MUST NOT BE MIRED IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO."

"ONCE THIS RECORDING BEGAN, SENTRY WAS INSTRUCTED TO UNLOCK THE TASK FORCE FILES FOR YOUR EYES ONLY."
"EVERYTHING I KNOW UNTIL THE LAST TIME I WAS IN THE LAIR IS NOW AVAILABLE TO YOU."
"THERE ARE ONLY FIVE PEOPLE ALIVE THAT I TRUST. YOU ARE ONE OF THEM. YOU CAN GUESS THE OTHER FOUR."
"I KNOW YOU WILL VALIDATE MY TRUST IN YOU TO CARRY ON MY FIGHT."

SIN STALKER... *SNIFF* I...

YEAH... OF COURSE...


I HOPE THERE'S AN ENTRY IN THERE ABOUT HOW TO SNEAK AWAY LIKE THOSE GUYS DO...
IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY SUCH AN ENTRY EXISTS, MISS CASSANDRA.

ALL FILES REGARDING THE PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE BLUE DOG SQUAD ARE NOW ACCESSIBLE.

FINE.
LET'S START THERE.

OH MY GOD...
HOW LONG HAVE THEY GOTTEN AWAY WITH THIS?
...R...RRRRRRRRRR

"HAND OF GOD" - Active
Processing...
Next:
Assemble the Task Force!

TASK FORCE NOTES

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

A Sensitive Matter

"Task Force Twilight" deals with what some people consider to be a very touchy issue: police brutality.

Over the past few years, there has been an increased focus on police abuses and the deaths that have resulted from them. Whether or not those deaths at the hands of the police were justified has been and probably will continue to be a matter of contention for some people. For some others, it's simply a matter of which "color" matters... Or, to be accurate, which one "matters more".

To be clear: all lives are supposed to matter. The problem is that they aren't.

We are also supposed to respect the police and the thankless job that they do. The problem is that sometimes that "respect" is not reciprocated. This is a group that is becoming increasingly militarized, with an increased bunker mentality, and with the increased fear of threats unheard of just two decades ago. That is not a good combination, especially when the result is treating everyone else as the enemy.

Police officers are human beings. They have human feelings and human failings. They are not gods with guns. All of the training in the world will not give them the wisdom to behave appropriately in every situation and not take the tremendous power that they are given to their heads.

This is not an issue about race, but of power granted and how it is wielded. And the failure we have to face is how to deal with that power is when it is abused.

The United States Criminal Code that Nan Bracer mentions in this issue is real. That is the specific code that gives members of law enforcement immunity from prosecution, and it is the real reason why it is next to impossible to prosecute police when they do abuse their power.

We are told over and over again to let "the system" deal with police abuses, but as I just pointed out, "the system" not only fails the public, but does so by design. And then the masses are simply told to "accept it and move on". There is no justice in that. That is the hallmark of tyranny.

It's no wonder, then, why you have people protesting this blatant injustice in various non-violent ways. You may hate it, but it is far better for them to act by taking a knee than in taking it upon themselves to do what the system fails to do.

Continues on next page...

TASK FORCE NOTES

Continued from previous page...

The scenes of police abuse seen here in this series and also in "Furia and the Guardians" are those kinds of abuses taken to the next level, but they still are based on real-life abuses that go and have gone unpunished simply because the criminals have a badge.

Because this series takes place in the fictional world of the now-defunct "City of Heroes" MMORPG, we have a world where heroes and superheroes work with the police, often doing what the police cannot, with similar powers and immunities from prosecution. In certain campy circles, this is seen as having "another layer" of "duly deputized officers of the law". However, seen from the eyes of the local police, these masks and capes are nothing short of a threat to their own power structure.

Imagine an outside group of people who do the same things you do, with the same authority as you, and also have the power to hold you to account when you do wrong. Would you be willing to welcome that with open arms? I'm thinking for most of you, the answer would be "no".

To be clear: there are plenty of police officers and other law enforcement agents that are decent people and go above and beyond the call of duty and do everything they can to help people. Unfortunately, all of the good deeds and acts of charity that they do are nullified when one of their own uses their government -granted power as a third-world thug.

And, unlike the comics, the real world does not have a group of heroes who would be able to step in and fix this problem. This is a real-world issue that we have to address on our own.

http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com

NEXT ISSUE...

WITH JASON KNIGHT GONE, CARDINAL SYN MUST NOW ASSEMBLE THE TASK FORCE THAT SHE WILL NEED TO BRING DOWN THE BLUE DOGS.

BUT THINGS ARE JUST ABOUT TO GET EVEN MORE COMPLICATED FOR THE HEROES.

WILL ANOTHER HERO PAY THE PRICE FOR THE DEATH OF LAWDOG?

WWW.COXCOMICS.COM

'The Crucible'

Coming Soon!

The Terror of Tezcatlipoca

THE GAME IS GONE...

...BUT THE STORIES GO ON!

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