



Battlerock Comics Presents...



ISSUE 01
2019

PENITENCE

T FOR TEENS



CHAMPIONS
ONLINE

PERFECT
WORLD

VISIT VIBORA BAY

And get a taste of good southern charm!



AN IN-GAME AD FOR CHAMPIONS ONLINE

www.visit.vibora.bay

Frankie Stein says...

"ME USE

iron Wax

AND SO YOU TOO!"

It's not easy being an undead monster powered by electricity.

It's okay for your clothes to be tattered and stitched, but the shiny things that keep the electricity going need to be kept clean for them to function.

iron Wax keeps your cybernetic implants polished longer than most leading brands, and can be used on any kind of armor coating or plating.

And it's economical. One dab on a cloth and you're good.

So why waste your time with common wax products? You deserve the best. You deserve **iron Wax**!

Look for **iron Wax** at all hero supply stores.

FRANKIE STEIN - RE-ANIMATED MONSTER

Aaron Nile was an arrogant man. Always right, never wrong. His aggressive behavior led to much misery and death, until one day a wayward shove threw him to his own demise. In the afterlife, his life was judged to have more bad than good. To atone for his evil acts, he would return to the living and purge the evil in others. He would rip the evil from the souls of the living until he could tip the balance of his own worth.

He is the avenging force that is...

PENITENCE

"CURSE OF THE BLOOD MOON" - A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

WHILE EVIL CAN EXIST AT ANY TIME, THERE IS ONE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN IT IS THE STRONGEST.

WHEN ALL THAT IS GOOD IS ECLIPSED AND THE WICKED REIGN SUPREME.

WHEN THE DARK LORD TAKOFANES IS ABLE TO BLOT OUT THE SUN AND SUMMON THE DEAD TO RISE.

THAT TIME IS CALLED THE BLOOD MOON.

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MILLENNIUM CITY, MI, USA

DURING THE BLOOD MOON...

THE BLOOD MOON...

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A RED HAZE OVER THE EARTH AND A BLOOD-RED MOON IN THE SKY.

THERE IS NO DAYLIGHT DURING THE BLOOD MOON. IT IS ALWAYS NIGHT.

IT MEANS THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP THE DARK LORD TAKOFANES FROM COMING TO THIS CITY TO PREY ON THE LIVING.

IT MEANS ALL FORMS OF EVIL ARE FREE TO PREY ON THE INNOCENT.

AMANDA...

GASP!

AMANDA...

MY NAME IS AARON NILE...
I HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED TO
WALK THE EARTH FOR OVER
TWO CENTURIES.

NOT ALIVE YET NOT DEAD.

TAKOFANES HAS NO POWER OVER
ME, YET I FEEL THE SAME PULL
OF EVIL AS THE DEAD.

ONLY HERE, IN MY PURGATORY
LAIR, CAN I CONTROL THE
POWER THAT COARSENS
THROUGH ME DURING THE
BLOOD MOON.

ONLY HERE... CAN I BE HUMAN.

BUT I CAN NEVER STAY HERE
DURING THE BLOOD MOON.

HELLO?

I'M LOOKING
FOR AARON NILE.
I'M TOLD HE
LIVES HERE.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE
A NEED FOR ME TO HELP
THE LIVING.

THERE IS NO ONE LIVING
BY THAT NAME HERE.
WHOEVER TOLD YOU
OTHERWISE WAS WRONG.

WELL YOU DON'T SOUND
LIKE THE DEAD.
NOT LIKE THE DEAD I'VE
SEEN AROUND THE CITY.



I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME COMING DOWN TO TALK WITH YOU.
I DON'T LIKE TALKING FROM A DISTANCE.



HI... MY NAME IS AMANDA ZIGFREE.
YOU ARE AARON NILE, RIGHT?

SOME OF THE TIME.



I NEED YOUR HELP.
I'M BEING STALKED.

TELL IT TO THE POLICE.



I DID. THEY SENT ME TO SOME MAGIC BOOKSTORE. THE WOMAN THERE TOLD ME TO SEE YOU.
MY STALKER IS... NOT LIVING.



HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME SINCE THE BLOOD MOON STARTED.
SHOWING UP EVERYWHERE I GO.
HE FOLLOWS ME... CALLS ME BY MY NAME.



WHAT DOES HE WANT?

I DON'T KNOW.



THE DEAD DON'T JUST SHOW UP STALKING STRANGERS AND CALLING THEM BY THEIR NAME.
HOW DOES HE KNOW YOU?

I... I HAVE FANS AROUND THE WORLD. I'M AN INFLUENCER ON SOCIAL MEDIA.
HE PROBABLY WAS ONE OF MY ONLINE FOLLOWERS.

AN "INFLUENCER"... AN EMPTY TITLE, BUT I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE LIKE THIS BEFORE. THEY USED TO HAVE SOCIAL EVENTS FOR THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE TO DRESS UP AND PRETEND TO BE IMPORTANT. NOW THEY DO IT THROUGH THEIR PHONES AND IN THEIR PAJAMAS.



GO HOME,
AMANDA ZIGFREE.
GO HOME AND
WAIT OUT THE
BLOOD MOON.



I CAN PAY YOU
WHATEVER YOU
WANT.

I HAVE ALL I
EVER NEED.
YOUR MONEY
IS USELESS.



PLEASE... I'M
DESPERATE.
I CAN'T SLEEP.
I CAN'T EAT.



I SEE HIM IN EVERY
DARK ALLEY AND
AROUND EVERY
CORNER.
I'M AFRAID TO TAKE
A SHOWER FOR FEAR
HE'D BE THERE.



I'LL GIVE YOU
ANYTHING YOU WANT.
ANYTHING!



YOU HAVE
NOTHING
THAT I WANT.



LOOK
AT ME.



ANYTHING.



PUT YOUR SHIRT BACK ON, PLEASE.



BUT... I...



IF YOU REALLY WANT MY HELP, THEN YOU NEED TO BE DRESSED FOR US TO CONTINUE. YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE HALF-NAKED FOR WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE.



WHAT YOU SEE OF ME... THIS FORM... THIS IS NOT WHAT I AM NOW. THIS IS JUST A SHADOW OF WHAT I WAS WHEN I WAS ALIVE.



BUT IF I AM TO HELP YOU, I NEED TO DISCARD THIS SHELL AND SHOW A MORE... BASER VERSION.





I AM AARON NILE...
THE CONDEMNED SOUL
THAT WALKS THE
EARTH IN THE QUEST
FOR REDEMPTION.

IF YOU REALLY SEEK MY
HELP, THEN HEED WHAT I
HAVE TO TELL YOU.



LOOK AT ME.

I... I...



I SAID
LOOK AT
ME, WOMAN!



OKAY!
OKAY...



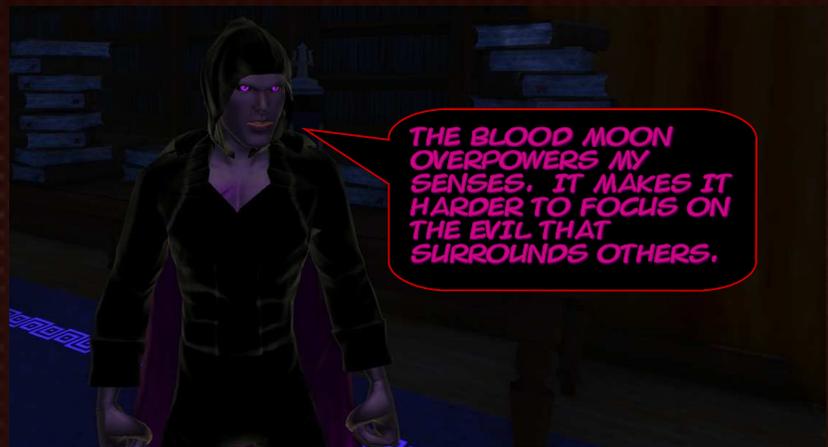
I HAVE BEDDED
WOMEN OF ALL
AGES AND
VIRTUES IN MY
WRETCHED LIFE,
AMANDA ZIGFREE.

DID YOU REALLY
THINK YOU COULD
SOMEHOW SEDUCE
ME NOW THAT I AM
CONDEMNED?

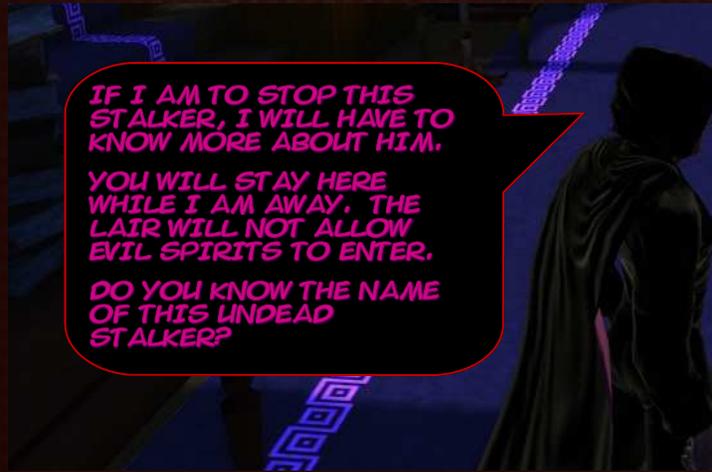
YOU WOULD NOT
SURVIVE THE...
EXPERIENCE.



THERE IS AN EVIL THAT TOUCHES YOUR SOUL.
 BUT I CANNOT TELL WHAT IT IS OR HOW IT TOUCHES YOU.



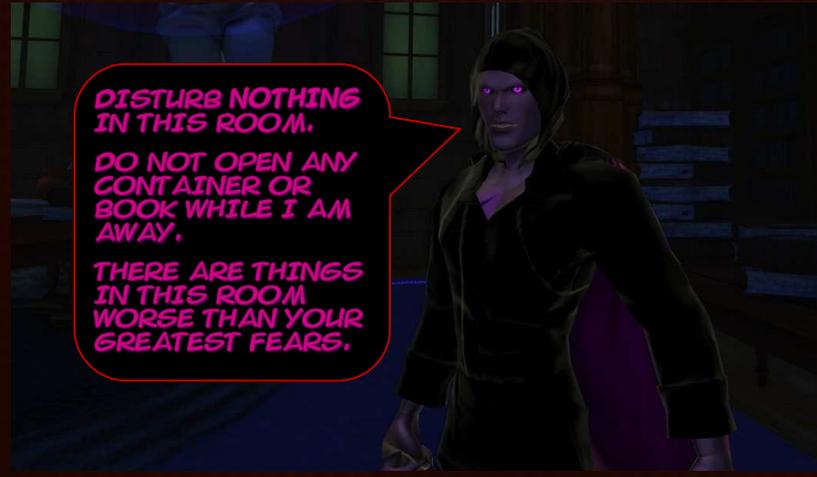
THE BLOOD MOON OVERPOWERS MY SENSES. IT MAKES IT HARDER TO FOCUS ON THE EVIL THAT SURROUNDS OTHERS.



IF I AM TO STOP THIS STALKER, I WILL HAVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM.
 YOU WILL STAY HERE WHILE I AM AWAY. THE LAIR WILL NOT ALLOW EVIL SPIRITS TO ENTER.
 DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THIS UNDEAD STALKER?



A-AUGUST.
 I THINK HIS NAME WAS AUGUST.



DISTURB NOTHING IN THIS ROOM.
 DO NOT OPEN ANY CONTAINER OR BOOK WHILE I AM AWAY.
 THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS ROOM WORSE THAN YOUR GREATEST FEARS.



FOOD WILL ARRIVE SOON.
 I HOPE YOU LIKE FISH STEW.
 I DON'T NEED TO EAT, I JUST ENJOY THE TASTE OF IT.



DOWNTOWN... MINUTES LATER...

THE WOMAN MENTIONED A GIRL AT A MAGIC BOOKSTORE. THERE IS ONLY ONE MAGIC BOOKSTORE IN MILLENNIUM CITY RUN BY A GIRL.

THE MAGIC LANTERN BOOKSTORE, WHOSE GLYPH STANDS OUT AS A SAFE AREA EVEN DURING THE BLOOD MOON.

I'M SORRY, AARON, BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT AMANDA OTHER THAN WHAT SHE TOLD YOU.

AND YET YOU STILL BLINDLY SENT HER TO MY LAIR ASKING FOR HELP.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLOOD MOON.

I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO KEEP THE MYSTICAL FIELD INTACT AND KEEP TAKOFANES AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.

ALICIA BLACKMUN IS A FORMIDABLE WITCH, EVEN IF SHE DRESSES LIKE A COSTUME HARLOT. IF I WAS STILL ALIVE, I'D BE TRYING TO ENTICE HER INTO MY BED.

SHE DIDN'T SEEM DESPERATE... SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME WHO THE STALKER WAS, BUT THE WAY SHE DESCRIBED HIM... IT WAS ALMOST AS THOUGH HE WAS MORE OF AN ANNOYANCE THAN A THREAT.

SHE PLAYED THE HARRIED DAMSEL WITH ME. SHE IS NOT AS INNOCENT AS SHE CLAIMS... OR AS DESPERATE.



STUPID CHILD! SHE KNOWS ONLY A FRACTION OF WHAT MYSTICAL FORCES ARE AND HOW THEY WORK.

BUT HER PRESUMPTIVENESS GAVE ME THE INCENTIVE TO GET OUT HERE, OVER THE CITY.

SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE IS AMANDA'S STALKER, CONNECTED TO HER BY EVIL.



HE IS THINKING ABOUT HER, AS I AM. HE IS DRAWN TO HER AS SHE WANTED ME TO BE DRAWN TO HER.

THIS FORM... THIS VERSION OF MYSELF... IT IS STRONGER... BUT ALSO MORE VILE.



THE VICES... THE URGINGS OF MY FORMER LIFE ARE MAGNIFIED.

THE WANTS... ARE STRONGER.



BUT MY WANT FOR HER ALLOWS ME TO FIND HIS WANT FOR HER.

LIKE A DIVINING ROD LEADING ME TO WATER.



SHE DRESSES FOR BUSINESS, YET I FEEL THE PULL TOWARDS THE POVERTY OF WESTSIDE.

THE DEAD ARE AROUND US.

THE BLOOD MOON HAS PULLED THE DEAD TO THE SURFACE.
THE MULTITUDE KILLED BY DOCTOR DESTROYER A GENERATION AGO.

THEY RISE LIKE A FESTERING SORE,
PREYING ON THE LIVING FOR THE SIN
OF EXISTENCE.

EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD... HEROES AND
VILLAINS, PRINCES AND PAUPERS... THEY ALL
RISE UP TO SERVE TAKOFANES.

THERE IS NO GOOD IN THEM
NOW. THEY ARE ALL EVIL.

THEIR BODIES ARE JUST
PUPPETS TO TAKOFANES.
CONDUITS OF THE EVIL
THAT IS THE BLOOD MOON.

I GAIN NOTHING FROM PURGING
THE EVIL IN THEIR BODIES.
ALL I CAN GIVE THEIR BODIES
IS REST.
THAT IS WHY I CANNOT HELP
THE HEROES IN THIS FIGHT.

BUT I ALSO DO NOT HAVE
TO HOLD BACK WITH THEM.

I CAN SHOW THEM MY TRUE FORM.

PENITENCE

THE REAPER OF EVIL, UNLEASHED.

NOW I AM FREE TO RIP THE EVIL FROM THEM, TO PURGE THEIR BODIES, AND BRING THEM PEACE.



BE GONE!



RETURN TO YOUR SLUMBER!



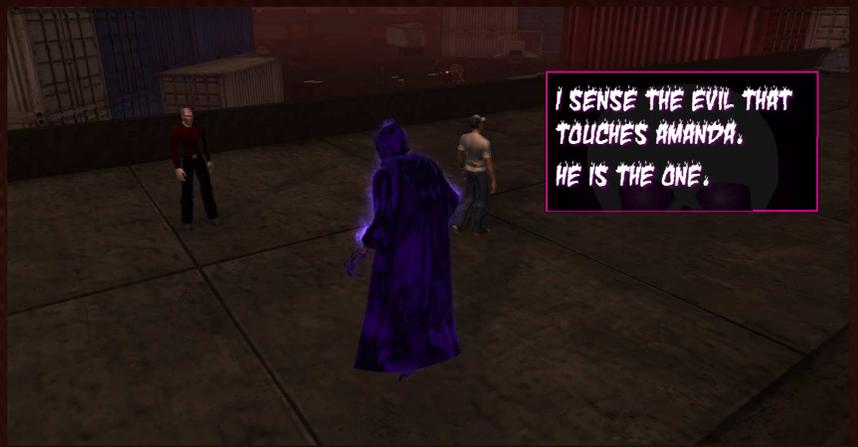
THE DARK STORM: A WHIRLPOOL OF DARKNESS THAT RIPS THE EVIL FROM THEIR BODIES.

AGONIZING FOR THE LIVING.

STILL, EVEN THE DEAD ARE NOT IMMUNE TO IT.



OVER THERE...



I SENSE THE EVIL THAT TOUCHES AMANDA. HE IS THE ONE.



AUGUST...
HAUNT THE
WOMAN NO
MORE!



AMANDA...

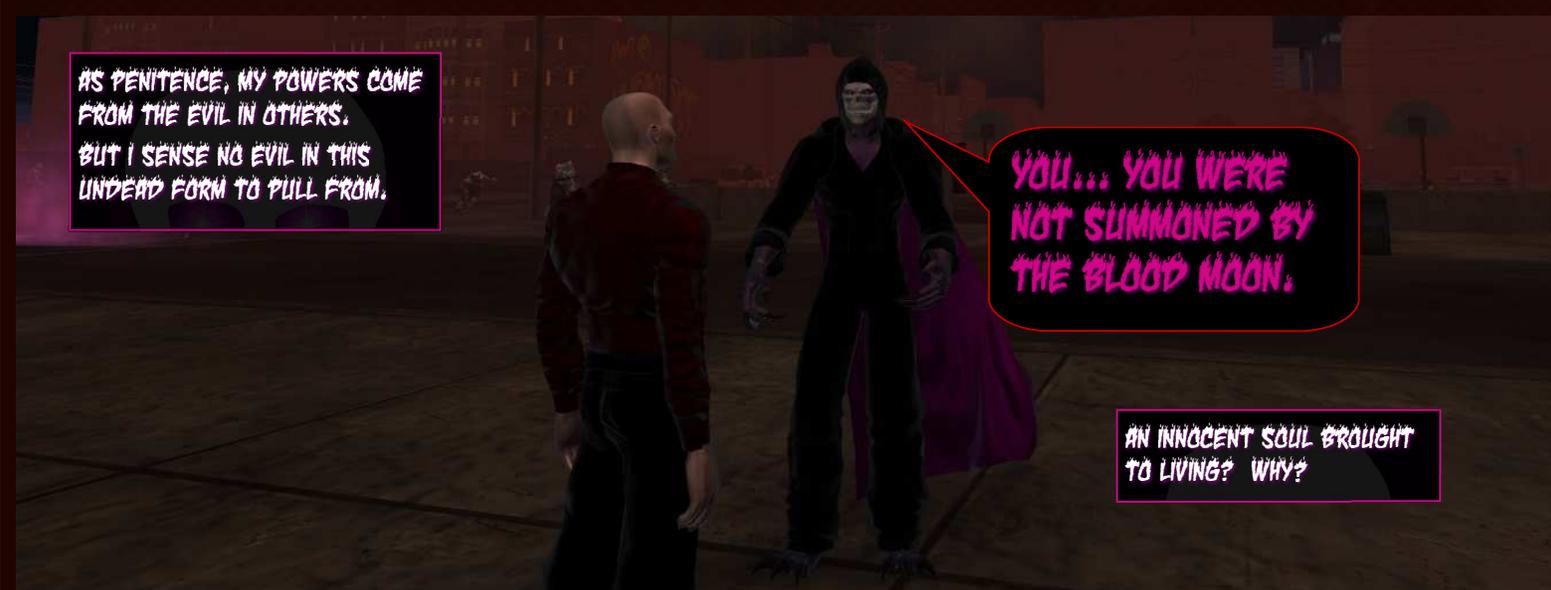
HIS EYES ARE GLASSY.
HIS VOICE IS HOLLOW.

HE IS NOT ALIVE.



BEGONE, AUGUST!

WHAT? I HAVE NO
POWER OVER AUGUST!



AS PENITENCE, MY POWERS COME FROM THE EVIL IN OTHERS. BUT I SENSE NO EVIL IN THIS UNDEAD FORM TO PULL FROM.

YOU... YOU WERE NOT SUMMONED BY THE BLOOD MOON.

AN INNOCENT SOUL BROUGHT TO LIVING? WHY?



I FORGET MY SURROUNDINGS.

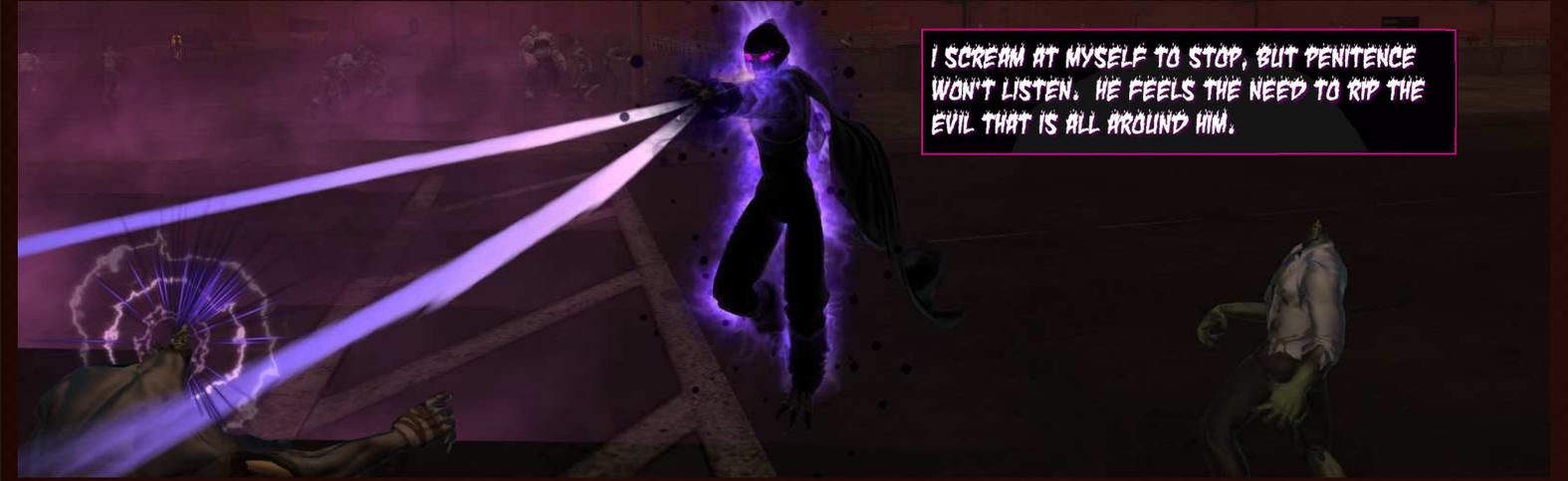
WHACK!

A STRAY ROCK HITS MY HEAD.



THE UNDEAD MINIONS ARE STILL HERE.

AND THE BEAST THAT IS PENITENCE IS UNLEASHED.



I SCREAM AT MYSELF TO STOP, BUT PENITENCE WON'T LISTEN. HE FEELS THE NEED TO RIP THE EVIL THAT IS ALL AROUND HIM.



BUT PENITENCE IS NOT A GOD.

EVEN PENITENCE CAN BE OVERWHELMED, AND THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THE UNDEAD FOR HIM TO STOP.



EVEN PENITENCE CAN BE DEFEATED.

DEFEATED. BUT NOT DEAD.

HOW CAN YOU KILL THE UNDEAD?



OH NO!!!

CAPE'S LOOK GREAT ON HEROES, BUT THEY ARE ALSO GREAT STAIN MAGNETS!

BLOOD, DIRT, RAW SEWAGE, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, HYDRAULIC FLUIDS, EXPLOSIVE RESIDUE, ALIEN GOO... THEY ARE ALL QUICK TO FIND THEIR WAYS ONTO YOUR CAPE AND THEY TAKE FOREVER TO GET OUT!

LAUNDRY SERVICES ARE EXPENSIVE, AND THEY DON'T ALWAYS GET THE TROUBLE STAINS OUT.

Nuke It

NUKEIT IS A CUTTING-EDGE CLEANER DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CAPES.

NUKEIT IS SAFE FOR CLOTH, LEATHER, SOFT-METAL, EVEN CAPES MADE FROM RE-STABILIZED MOLECULES. WHATEVER IT IS, NUKEIT TO CLEAN IT!

NUKEIT COMES IN BOTH ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL SIZES; PERFECT IF YOU HAVE ONE CAPE TO CLEAN OR A HUNDRED.

NUKEIT IS AVAILABLE AT ALL HERO SUPPLY STORES. PICK SOME UP TODAY AND NUKE YOUR CAPE STAINS AWAY!

DO NOT USE NUKEIT IF YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO NEUTRON RADIATION OR IF YOU GET YOUR POWERS FROM GAMMA RADIATION. CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU EXPERIENCE LOSS OF HAIR OR TEETH OR PAINFUL SORES FROM USING CAPES TREATED WITH NUKEIT. DO NOT EXPOSE TO BARE SKIN UNLESS YOU ARE INVULNERABLE. WASH CAPES IN NUKEIT SEPARATE FROM ALL OTHER CLOTHING.



NOT AN ACTUAL PRODUCT. THIS IS A FICTIONAL AD. ANY COMPARISON TO AN ACTUAL PRODUCT IS COINCIDENTAL.



I only come back so I can have a sandwich from Millennium Mike's. Except, I'm a ghost, so now I can't eat it.

I will never again enjoy the smell of their freshly-baked bread, the crispness of the lettuce, the delicious fresh meat and the variety of oils and mayo that make every sandwich delicious and willing to die for.

In my case, very literally.

Don't wait until it's too late! Get a hot and fresh sandwich from Millennium Mike's while you're still able to enjoy it!

Millennium Mike's

7 Days a week! 10am to Midnight

313-555-MIKE

Millennium Mike's is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real business.

Take It From Burt Jackson...

Hey, I know that when you're hauling a bunch of processors through Millennium City, you don't stop for Viper goons, strange looking robots, or Maniacs.

If they're wearing purple, then they're the mob, and you stay away from the guys installing weird electronic stuff on the sidewalks if you don't want to get a migraine.

I also know that the only radio I listen to whenever the Pork Rind Express is in town is The Cape Radio.

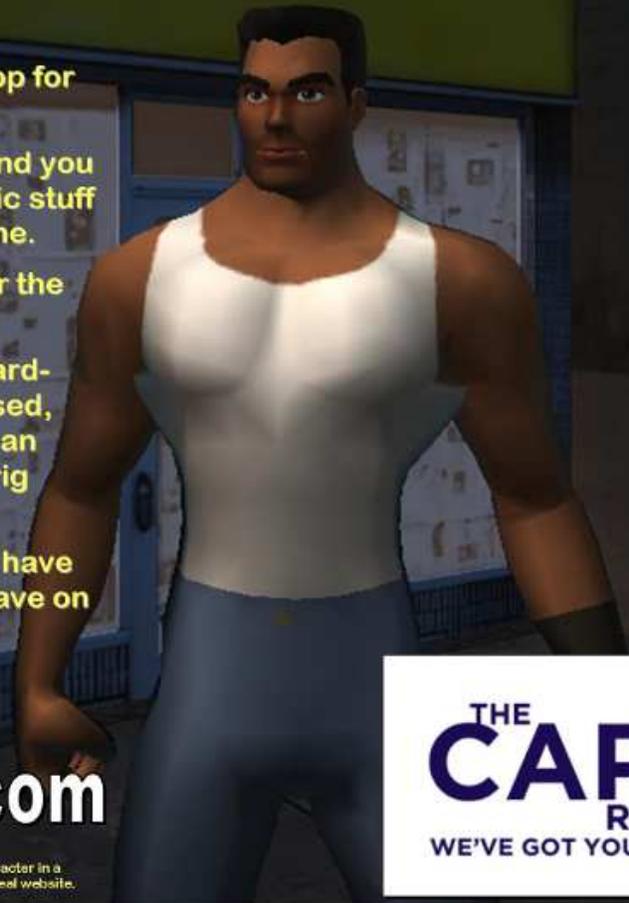
The Cape Radio has the best variety of music a hard-driving man like Burt Jackson needs to stay focused, whether it's to rescue some green-eyed girl from an immortal Chinese warlord or trying to keep your rig from being hijacked by bug-aliens.

Either way, it's gonna get messy, and if you don't have a knife or the reflexes, then you should at least have on The Cape Radio, cuz they got your back, like the feathers on the wings of the American Eagle.

Just ask Burt Jackson.

www.TheCapeRadio.com

Burt Jackson is a fictional character in the MMO world of Champions Online. Any resemblance to a certain character in a certain John Carpenter movie is just coincidental. Just ask Burt Jackson. The Cape Radio, however, is a very real website.



THE
CAPE
RADIO
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

BACK AT THE PURGATORY LAIR...

COFFINS..
WHY AM I NOT
SURPRISED?

HELP US...

HELLO?

HELP US...

FREE US...

IT'S COMING
FROM... THE
BOOKS?

AMANDA...

NO!! GO
AWAY!

LEAVE ME
ALONE!

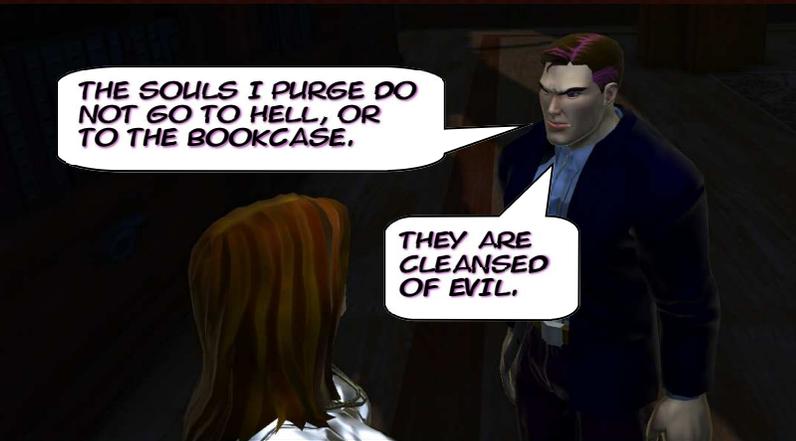
AMANDA!
IT'S OKAY!
JUST STEP AWAY
FROM THE BOOKS!

I'M SORRY! I WAS
JUST CURIOUS... AND
I HEARD VOICES...
AND THE BOOKS... THE
BOOKS THEY WERE...

TALKING.
YES, SOME OF THEM DO.
SOME SOULS ARE TOO
DANGEROUS TO BE SENT
TO HELL, SO THEY'RE
ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE.
IN THIS ROOM, LOCKED
AWAY IN THOSE BOOKS,
THEY CAN NEVER ESCAPE.



IS... IS THAT WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO PUT AUGUST WHEN YOU FIND HIM?



THE SOULS I PURGE DO NOT GO TO HELL, OR TO THE BOOKCASE.

THEY ARE CLEANSED OF EVIL.



I FOUND AUGUST. HE WAS IN THE WESTSIDE DISTRICT AMONG THE OTHER UNDEAD.

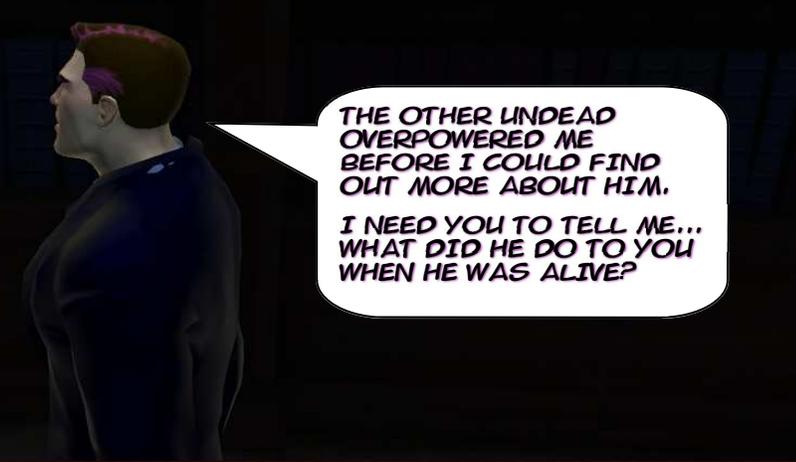


THEN... IT'S DONE. HE'S GONE.

NO. I COULDN'T TOUCH HIM.



BUT... I THOUGHT...



THE OTHER UNDEAD OVERPOWERED ME BEFORE I COULD FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM.

I NEED YOU TO TELL ME... WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU WHEN HE WAS ALIVE?



I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
I BARELY KNEW HIM!
HE WAS... JUST A FAN IN SOCIAL MEDIA.



THAT'S OKAY... I HAVE A FEW MORE PLACES TO LOOK.

JUST... STAY AWAY FROM THE BOOKS, AND THE CRYPTS.

SHE'S LYING. I KNOW SHE IS. BUT I NEED TO FIND THE TRUTH, AND IT WON'T COME FROM HER.

MILLENNIUM CITY POLICE DEPT.

WESTSIDE PRECINCT

POLICE

AMANDA WENT TO THE POLICE BEFORE GOING TO THE MAGIC LANTERN BOOKSTORE.



AMANDA ZIGFREE... SHE CAME TO YOU ABOUT A STALKER.

AMANDA... YEAH, THE BOYS HERE IN THE HOUSE HAD A GOOD LAUGH WHEN SHE CAME TO US.

WE THOUGHT.. KARMA'S A YOU-KNOW-WHAT, YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN?.



EXPLAIN.



WELL, YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW... SHE WAS HERE ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO. SHE WAS WITH SOME VENTURE CAPITALIST NAMED AUGUST MANTON AND HE SUDDENLY "DISAPPEARED".

WE FIGURE... HEY, RICH SUGAR DADDY AND THE EYE-CANDY MODEL. HE MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF MONEY AND THEN STIFFED HER WITH THE HOTEL BILL.



"MODEL"?

"YEAH. DIDN'T YOU KNOW SHE WAS ONE OF THOSE BIKINI MODELS?"

"WE EVEN HAD HER CALENDAR UP IN THE LOCKER ROOM BEFORE THE CHIEF TOOK IT DOWN."



"SHE SAID THEY WERE SCOUTING LOCATIONS FOR A PHOTOSHOOT... BUT, HEY, WHO REALLY SHOOTS DOWN BY THE DOCKS, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"





NOT AS INNOCENT...
AND NOW I KNOW WHY.



THERE! AUGUST.

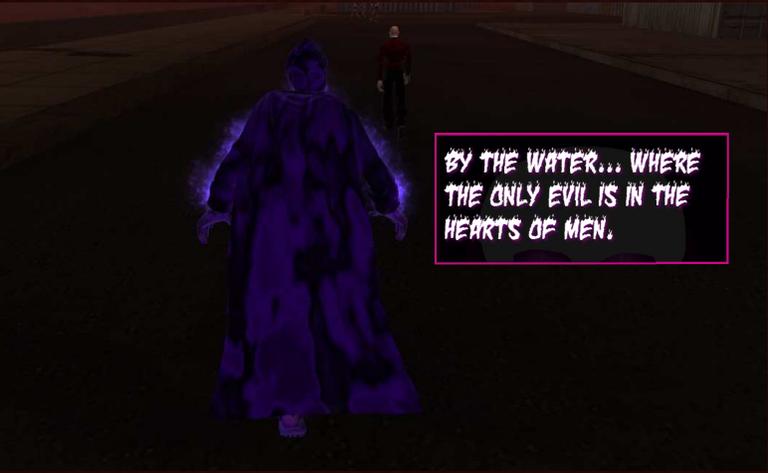
WAITING FOR ME?



AUGUST.
TALK TO ME.



HE JUST WALKS...
TOWARDS THE DOCKS.



BY THE WATER... WHERE
THE ONLY EVIL IS IN THE
HEARTS OF MEN.



HE STOPS. HERE.

THIS PLACE HAS
IMPORTANCE TO HIM.



AMANDA...



NOW I KNOW
THE TRUTH.

AN HOUR LATER...

WHY DID YOU
BRING ME HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU
SAID EVERYTHING
IS OKAY NOW.

IT IS. YOU WILL
NEVER HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT HIM
HURTING YOU.

I MADE A FATAL
ASSUMPTION,
AMANDA
ZIGFREE.
I THOUGHT THE
EVIL TOUCHING
YOU WAS FROM
AUGUST.

BUT WHEN I
ENCOUNTERED
HIM, MY POWERS
HAD NO EFFECT ON
HIM.
HE WAS INNOCENT.
SOMEONE HAD
KILLED HIM.

OH MY GOD...
HOW...? WHO...?

ALL WILL BE
REVEALED IN
THERE.
IN THERE, HE
WILL FIND
PEACE AND
HAUNT YOU
NO MORE.



THERE.
HIS BODY
RESTS IN
THAT CRATE.



BUT YOU
ALREADY
KNEW THAT,
DIDN'T YOU?



POP!
POP!



POP!



BULLETS WITH HOLY WATER
IN THEM.
I DIDN'T GO TO THE MAGIC
BOOKSTORE BECAUSE I WAS
DESPERATE.
I WANTED TO KNOW HOW TO
STOP AN UNDEAD BEING OR
A GHOST.
JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T
DO YOUR PART.



ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS
VANQUISH HIM. SEND HIM TO
HELL WHERE BELONGED, OR
WHATEVER IT IS YOU CALL HELL.
BUT I GUESS YOU WERE JUST
TOO NOBLE.

DID YOU KNOW I HAVE TWO MASTERS DEGREES IN BUSINESS?

I CAN SPEAK FIVE LANGUAGES AND I'VE BEEN AROUND THE WORLD TWICE.

BUT I WILL ALWAYS BE "MANDY JUNE" TO AUGUST.

THAT FIFTY-SOMETHING LETCH ONLY SAW ME AS HIS EYE-CANDY. A PRODUCT FOR HIS GLAMOUR WEBSITE.

WELL THE ONLY REASON WHY I CAME BACK HERE WAS TO FINALIZE THE SALE OF THAT MEDIA SERVICE. A DEAL THAT WOULD SET ME UP FOR LIFE.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POETIC... AFTER ALL THE EFFORT IT TOOK TO CONVINCE AUGUST TO COME HERE.

THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT I MADE TO THE GANG MEMBERS SO THEY WOULD DO THE DEED FOR ME... SO MY OWN HANDS WOULD BE CLEAN.

SO ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS PUT A COUPLE OF ROUNDS IN HIS CORPSE AND THAT'S IT. NO MORE GHOST.

AND THEN ALL HIS EYE CANDY MATERIAL IS SOLD AWAY... MINUS MY OWN, OF COURSE.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M TELLING YOU ANY OF THIS.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

BECAUSE THE DEAD HAVE A WAY OF GETTING THE GUILTY TO CONFESS THEIR SINS.

GASP!

KARAAAAAAHHH!!



AMANDA ZIGFREE...
YOU THOUGHT YOU
COULD SEDUCE ME.
YOU THOUGHT YOU
COULD KILL ME.

I AM PENITENCE!
I CANNOT BE SEDUCED.
I CANNOT BE KILLED.
I AM THE REAPER OF EVIL!



NO! OH
GOD! OH
GOD SAVE
ME!

IEEEE!

TASTE YOUR
OWN EVIL AS IT
IS RIPPED OUT
OF YOU.

AAK!

GASPI!

YOU ORDERED A MAN WHO
LOVED YOU TO HIS DEATH.
A MAN WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS
TO SEE YOU AS A GODDESS.
IS LIFE THAT SHALLOW TO YOU?



GASP!

NO...

THIS IS NOT JUSTICE.



TO PURGE YOU OF YOUR EVIL NOW WOULD BE TOO KIND.



YOU KILLED FOR YOUR "FREEDOM". THAT SHOULD BE YOUR PENANCE.



YOU WILL BE BOUND TO THE LAIR. YOU WILL SERVE HARRON NILE.



YOU WILL HELP HIM TEND TO THE LAIR AND FEED HIS... APPETITES.



NO... I'D RATHER DIE. I'D RATHER GO TO HELL... OR WHEREVER YOU SEND ME... THAN TO BE ANOTHER MAN'S EYE CANDY.

I'LL USE EVERY CHANCE I HAVE TO KILL YOU AND TO ESCAPE. I PROMISE YOU THAT!



FAIR ENOUGH. I KNOW A MUCH BETTER FATE FOR YOU.

MILLENNIUM CITY PRISON

TWO DAYS LATER...

SHE CONFESSED TO EVERYTHING.

SHE SHOWED THE POLICE
WHERE THE BODY WAS.

SHE IDENTIFIED THE GANG
MEMBERS SHE HIRED AND TOLD
THEM HOW SHE PAID THEM.

SHE PROMISED THAT SHE WOULD
PLEAD GUILTY AND ACCEPT A LIFE
SENTENCE AND NOT APPEAL IT.

I'M TOLD
SHE'S
FOUND
RELIGION.
PROBABLY
GOING FOR
GOOD
BEHAVIOR.

SHE WON'T
LEAVE.

SHE'S AFRAID
THAT AUGUST
WILL BE
WAITING FOR
HER IF SHE'S
RELEASED.

THAT PRISON
IS HER ONLY
REFUGE.

SHE'LL NEVER KNOW
THAT HIS SPIRIT WAS
RELEASED WHEN HIS
BODY WAS REVEALED
AND SHE CONFESSED
TO HIS MURDER.

AUGUST MANTON WILL
NEVER RETURN FOR ANY
BLOOD MOON EVENT.

BUT SHE'LL
ALWAYS
BELIEVE THAT
HE WILL.

I ALMOST
FEEL SORRY
FOR HER.

MY BOSS... HE HAS FILES ON JUST ABOUT EVERYONE, AND HE LET ME SEE YOURS.

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN THIS WAY FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS.



TIME... IS IMMATERIAL TO ME. I WAS HERE BEFORE THIS CITY EXISTED. I WILL BE HERE AFTER IT IS GONE.

THE BEST YOU AND YOUR BOSS CAN DO IS TO STAY CLEAR OF MY WORK.



I'M SURE SHE MEANS WELL... BUT I AM NOT HERE TO JOIN A TEAM.



THIS CAUSE IS MINE AND MINE ALONE.

EVERY SOUL I PURGE OF EVIL GETS ME CLOSER TO MY OWN REDEMPTION.



ONLY THEN CAN I TRULY REST.

MY NAME IS AARON NILE... BE MINDFUL AROUND ME.



OR SUFFER THE WRATH OF PENITENCE!



END

"HE WHO CHRONICLES..."

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

The Life and Death of Aaron Nile

From the journal of Horace Longfellow, Cleveland, OH.

October 30, 1803.

Aaron Nile was a vile and repulsive man.

He may have had the face of a gentleman, but he was far from one. Behind those dashing features was a man full of spite and scorn; not only for himself, but also for those that came across his path.

A store owner by trade, Aaron fancied himself the master of all sorts of work. He knew all the verses of the Holy Bible and would often argue with the pastor over several passages used for that Sunday's sermon. He would question poetry and prose with the teachers. He would argue with the newspaper publisher over the articles. He would argue ordinances and rules of procedure with the city leaders.

Some believed that he just liked to argue, but others believed he loved to make other people look foolish and wrong.

Aaron could never be wrong about anything. Even when proven wrong, he would never admit to it. Many a fight would start and end because Aaron Nile could never admit he was wrong.

It was said that Aaron was married one time, but that his wife died in childbirth. We found this hard to believe as we were convinced that no woman would ever want to bear him a child and have that child be raised around such wretchedness. Some of us speculated that maybe it was because of this loss that he became who he was.

To be certain, Aaron did not act like he wanted to be married again. There was always talk about whom he would seduce, or whom he has seduced. Some of this was barroom talk and gossip among ladies. But the behind the hushed whispers and guilty glances, many of us believed the talk to be true.

Aaron faced death several times in his wretched life. He was challenged to duels to defend the honor of two wives, a minister's wife, and a fiancée. He prevailed each time. With regards to the minister's wife, she later took her own life in shame.

And yet, for all his wretchedness, there was some good in him. When the local idiot was hounded by the younger men, Aaron would step up for him and give the youth a good thrashing. He did not tolerate theft by anyone, even in need. He would gladly pay if someone needed food or a shelter for the night.

It was remarkable that someone with such kindness can also be shallow and self-serving and cruel to others.

His death would finally come, not by age, but by murder. A wayward shove in the path of a passing carriage would end his contradictory life. Nobody would ever admit who it was who shoved him, but there were plenty who were glad to see it happen.

I write this of him because I fear nobody else would. His obituary in the local newspaper was simply this:

"It is said that we should only speak good of the dead. Aaron Nile is dead. Good."

Continues on next page...

"HE WHO CHRONICLES..."

Continued from previous page...

A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to a new and different publication.

Once upon a time, I had a idea to come up with my own comic book. I have always loved reading comic books, and when I started playing an MMORPG called "City of Heroes", I was surrounded in an online world that felt like a live-action comic book. I was inspired to create characters, some based on my comic book characters, and others purely out of my imagination. Today we refer to it as being an alt-aholic.

But I didn't stop there. Soon I was creating fake comic book covers with my creations, which led to people leaving me comments like "I can't wait to read this! When will it come out?" Well, of course, the answer would be "never". Because they were just fake covers. However, that did inspire me to take it to the next logical step and actually create comics with material from the MMORPG.

I had launched a regular series called "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight", which would focus on one specific character. It did pretty well and lasted twenty-seven issues before circumstances forced me to leave that MMO. But during that time, I had also created plenty of other characters that were not connected to the series. My alt-aholism was pretty manic then.

So when I was bored, or suffered from writer's block, I created a second infrequent series called "Tales from Paragon City". It only lasted four issues, but it allowed me to feature characters not connected to my regular series.

Well, as loyal fans of Battlerock Comics know, my absence from "City of Heroes" led the world of Champions Online, and to another infrequent series called "The Lost Adventures of Galatea Future". It allowed me to continue to create comics with this newer MMO at the time until I could return to "The City".

Sadly, "City of Heroes" ended, and, not long later, Battlerock Comics was launched, with "Future's Guardian" as the new regular/irregular series. We've had some pauses, but now we are trying to keep the stories going on a more infrequent basis.

Unfortunately, there are times when I'm unable to keep the stories going. The dreaded writer's block often rears its ugly head, or there are times when I cannot work on material for that series. The time of the Blood Moon is one such instance. It's hard to do a comic dealing with daylight when you have to wait a whole month before the sun shines again.

But this time my alt-aholism has allowed me to create a character that is almost perfect for this season of total darkness. So what better way to launch a new infrequent series during the time of Halloween than with a creature from your nightmares?

"Battlerock Comics Presents" will do for Champions what "Tales from Paragon City" did for City of Heroes. It would provide a place for characters whose stories haven't been told yet. Some may be connected to the events in "Future's Guardian". Others may be standalone specials.

This will be an infrequent series, which means there will be new issues when time allows for it. There will be further issues of "Future's Guardian" (*as of this publication*), so this series will not be replacing it anytime soon. It's just that every so often there would be a need for a special issue.

So where do we go from here?

Well, there is a certain sword-and-gun vigilante you may have seen in the pages of "Future's Guardian" whose story I'm dying to tell. While it may not feel right to be showcased in "Future's Guardian", it certainly would be perfect for this series. You may have heard of her... Red Sinner.

In the meantime, please keep checking with the Battlerock Comics website and our page on Facebook and our Twitter feed for more news on this and other Battlerock Comics stories.

- *David 2* (aka Battlerock X)

Editor/Publisher/Writer/Creator, Battlerock Comics.

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