

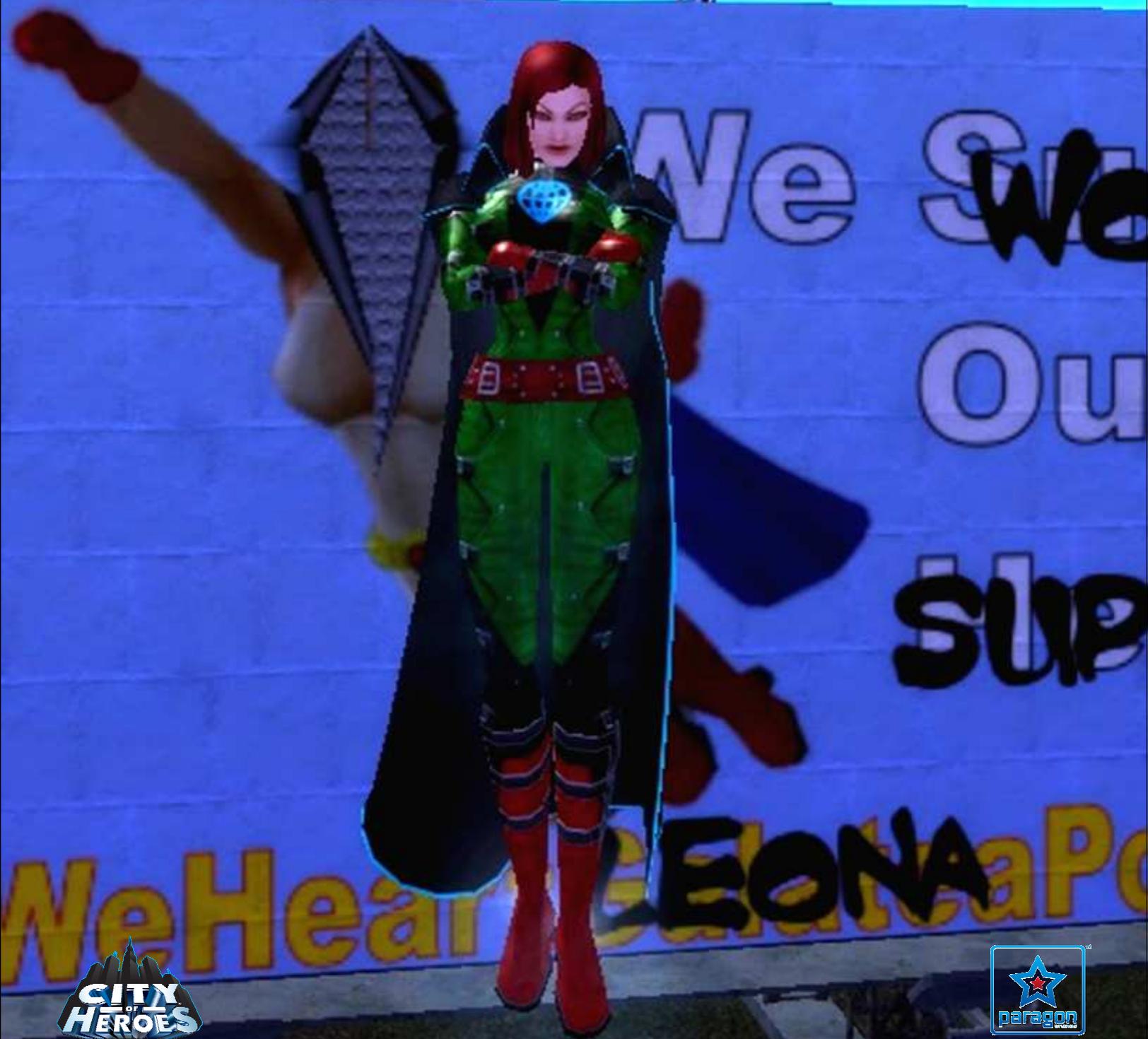
GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



ISSUE 24
2011



SPOTLIGHT ON... **Leona Powers**



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

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

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



NAME:
LEONA POWERS

REAL NAME: **LEONA POWERS**

STATUS: **VIGILANTE**

ARCHETYPE:
TANKER

PRIMARY POWER:
INVULNERABLE

SECONDARY POWER:
SUPER STRENGTH

PARAGON CITY'S BELOVED GALATEA POWERS HAD BEEN UNDERGOING A SERIES OF CHANGES SINCE HER RETURN FROM OUROBOROS, BOTH IN TERMS OF HER APPEARANCE AND IN HER DEMEANOR.

HER FELLOW GUARDIANS NOTICED THE CHANGES BUT MOST OF THEM DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE EXTENT OF THEM UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

HAVING DESTROYED HER CIVILIAN IDENTITY OF KARA HAMILTON AND ABANDONED HER COSTUME AS GALATEA POWERS, SHE HAS RE-INTRODUCED HERSELF TO THE CITY AS LEONA POWERS, THE "TRUE DAUGHTER" OF HER HOME UNIVERSE'S CRIMINAL MASTERMIND.

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PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND

TALOS ISLAND

FROM THE ENCRYPTED DIGITAL DIARY OF LYON POWERS:

OKAY, SO... GALATEA POWERS GOES ON "HOLIDAY" FOR A FEW MONTHS AND THEN COMES BACK ALL GINGER AND WITH A NEW CALLOUS ATTITUDE."

SHE GOES BILLY BONKERS, DESTROYS HER CIVILIAN IDENTITY, TORCHES HER APARTMENT, AND THEN GOES ON THE TELE AND TELLS EVERYONE TO CALL HER "LEONA POWERS".

YOU WITH ME SO FAR?

(AS DETAILED IN ISSUE #23)

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE

GRANTED, ALL OF THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. MOST OF IT TOOK WEEKS TO COME OUT.

"Galatea Dawning" Part 2 "ENTER LEONA POWERS" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

WE THOUGHT MAYBE SHE WAS AWAY FOR SO LONG AND SHE MISSED THE REALLY BIG THINGS LIKE CHRISTMAS AND ALL.

BUT THERE WAS MORE GOING ON WITH HER THAN WE EVER COULD REALIZE.

IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE "LEONA" HERSELF THAT WOULD CLUE THE REST OF US IN AS TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO GALATEA FROM THE INSIDE.



 LYON POWERS

EX GEMINI CREATED BY NATHAN FURIAN. DAWN PATROL TEAM AND LADY JANE CREATED BY NCSOFT/CRYPTIC STUDIOS. OTHER DAWN PATROL CHARACTERS CREATED BY DAVID 2.

"MY FATHER WAS LIONEL POWERS...
A SUPER-GENIUS ON MY WORLD."

"HE WORKED WITH EINSTEIN TO
DEVELOP THE ATOMIC BOMB. HE
DEVELOPED ENGINES FOR THE
MILITARY THAT MADE THEIR
TANKS AND PLANES RUN FASTER
ON A MINUTE FRACTION OF THE
FUEL PREVIOUSLY NEEDED."

"HE EVEN DEVELOPED THE CURE
THAT GOT ROOSEVELT OUT OF
HIS CHAIR LONG ENOUGH TO
SEE THE END OF WORLD WAR II."

"HE SPLIT NOT JUST THE ATOM,
BUT ALSO THE SUBATOMIC
STRUCTURE. HE CREATED FIFTEEN
NEW ELEMENTS. HE MAPPED THE
GENETIC CODE YEARS BEFORE
OTHERS WOULD EVEN TRY!"



"YET FOR ALL OF HIS
ACHIEVEMENTS, HE STILL CAME
UP SHORT IN THE EYES OF THE
WORLD COMPARED TO HIS OLDER
BROTHER JOHN... THE SO-CALLED
'STEELMAN!'"

"MY FATHER SAID THAT EVERY
SOCIETY THAT WORSHIPED THE
WORKER OVER THE THINKER WAS
DOOMED TO FAIL, AND THE
PEOPLE OF MY WORLD PROVED
HIM RIGHT EVERY TIME."

"MY WORLD ADORED 'STEELMAN'
AND HIS SON, WHOM THEY
WOULD LATER DUB 'ICON
POWERS', AND IN THE SAME
BREATH THEY WOULD CONDEMN
MY FATHER'S GENIUS, EVEN
THOUGH IT CAME FROM THE
SAME METEOR SHOWER IN 1938!"



"THEY LOCKED HIM AWAY."



"BUT NOT BEFORE HE
GAVE THE WORLD HIS
GREATEST GIFT EVER... ,"

"MYSELF."



ATLAS PARK

ICON POWERS THOUGHT HE
COULD RAISE ME TO BE
LIKE HIM... JUST LIKE HIS
FATHER ONCE RAISED HIM.

BUT MY FATHER WAS
SMARTER THAN THEM BOTH.
HE BEAT MY SO-CALLED
'COUSIN' TO THE PUNCH BY
ENCODING MY KNOWLEDGE
ON A GENETIC LEVEL.



LEONA POWERS

SO... YOU'RE
ALSO ICON'S
COUSIN.

SO HOW ARE
YOU RELATED
TO GALATEA
POWERS?

ARE YOU HER
SIST...?



PNN EXCLUSIVE · MATT MYERS INTERVIEWS NEW HERO LEONA POWERS

PNN
Paragon News Network

DO NOT INTERRUPT ME OR MENTION "HER" NAME EVER AGAIN.

"GALATEA POWERS" IS A LIE. SHE WAS A FRAUD CREATED BY THE SO-CALLED "HEROES" OF MY WORLD.



PNN EXCLUSIVE · LEONA POWERS



"WHEN I DIDN'T CONFORM TO THEIR STANDARDS, I FOUGHT BACK."



"THEN THEY TRIED TO LOCK ME AWAY, LIKE THEY LOCKED AWAY MY FATHER."



"ONLY THIS TIME THEY USED ALIEN SCIENCE TO IMPRISON ME."

"BUT THEY COULDN'T KEEP ME LOCKED AWAY FOREVER."

"I MADE MY OWN APPEARANCE IN THIS WORLD QUIETLY THANKS TO THE TECHNOLOGY IN THIS TECH-SUIT."



"NOT EVEN ICON POWERS KNEW THAT I HAD RETURNED."



"AT FIRST I 'APPEARED' TO HELP THEM IN THEIR LITTLE OPERATIONS."

← ISSUE #1 →

"BUT THE MORE TIMES THEY RELIED ON ME... AND NOT 'HER'... THE MORE POWERFUL I BECAME."



"SOON I WAS ABLE TO SPEND MORE AND MORE TIME BY MYSELF, WORKING FOR THE DAY WHEN I COULD BE FREE FROM THEIR RESTRAINTS FOREVER."

THAT DAY IS TODAY...

I AM LEONA POWERS... AND SOON THE WORLD WILL FORGET THAT THE LIE CALLED "GALATEA" EVER EXISTED IN THIS CITY.



LEONA POWERS SPEAKS OUT



STEEL CANYON

STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY

"HELLO... PROFESSOR WALLACE SPEAKING."

JASON, I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO BE IN PROVIDENCE TO GET MY TEACHING CREDENTIALS...

NO... I JUST GOT BACK SO I COULDN'T HAVE SEEN THE...

RYDER LIGHTNING

WHAT???

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

JASON, I REMEMBER LEONA! I WAS IN THE LEAGUE WHEN KENT AND PHOTONIS FOUND OUT THAT...

YOU KNOW? HOW DID... OH, RIGHT, FROM DAMIAN*. NO, I'M NOT SURPRISED HE'D CLUE YOU IN ON IT...

** DAMIAN WILSON, THE ORIGINAL MIDKNIGHT **

OKAY, SO HOW ABOUT KENT? DOES HE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RIGHT, STILL RECOVERING FROM HIS BATTLE WITH ALOR... I FORGOT HE'S NOT THE POWERHOUSE HE ONCE WAS IN OUR WORLD.

OKAY, SO WHAT'S THE PLAN? WHAT DO YOU AND MAXIMUS HAVE...?

WHERE? WHY ARE YOU OVER THERE?

NO, NO, I'LL HEAD OVER TO VANGUARD HQ TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS.

I'LL SEE YOU THERE.

JASON KNIGHT, AKA MIDKNIGHT X, IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS HEROES WE HAVE IN THE GROUP... NOT ONLY IS HE A STREET VIGILANTE, BUT HE'S ALSO A BIT OF A TACTICIAN.

AS SOON AS HE STARTED TO PIECE TOGETHER WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO GALATEA, HE WENT RIGHT TO WORK ON DEALING WITH LEONA.

IT'S JUST THAT HE DIDN'T BOTHER TO LET ANYONE ELSE KNOW... EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR MAXIMUS REX, OUR GROUP LEADER... UNTIL AFTER LEONA APPEARED ON PNN.

HELLO-OO!
I'M BACK!

WELCOME
BACK,
PYROGURL.

 PYROGURL

IT'S GOOD TO BE
BACK, CPCU...

SO WHERE IS
EVERYONE?

WHO'S PULLING
WATCH DETAIL
TODAY?

RIGHT NOW
WATCH DETAIL
IS ON HOLD.

THE GUARDIANS
ARE ON
PROTOCOL ONE
ALERT.

OMIGOD!
WHO? ARE
THEY OKAY?
WHAT
HAPPENED?

I AM NOT
PROGRAMMED TO
PROVIDE SUCH
DETAILS WITHOUT
PROPER
AUTHORIZATION.

IN THE MEANTIME,
THERE IS A PRIORITY
MESSAGE FOR YOU.

PLEASE VIEW IT IN
THE INFIRMARY
WAITING AREA.

RECORDED
MESSAGE
COMMENCING...

PYROGURL...
SORRY I
COULDN'T BE
THERE TO
WELCOME YOU
BACK.

HI MISTER
HELLFIGHTER...

LAST NIGHT THERE
WAS AN
EXPLOSION IN
GALATEA POWERS'
HOME, AND WE HAD
TO INVOKE
PROTOCOL ONE.

 JIMMY HELLFIGHTER

AS YOU MAY KNOW, PROTOCOL ONE
MEANS A HERO'S PERSONAL IDENTITY
WAS COMPROMISED AND ATTACKED.

THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER FOR US,
PYROGURL. YOU KNOW FROM YOUR OWN
FAMILY ABOUT THE RISKS THAT WE
HEROES TAKE DOING WHAT WE DO.

OH GOD...

I CAN'T GO INTO TOO MANY DETAILS ABOUT
WHAT IS GOING ON, BUT RIGHT NOW I'M
OVER IN ENGLAND WITH LYON POWERS AND
THE DAWN PATROL.

WE'RE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH YOUR
PARENTS TO SEE IF WE CAN GET YOU HERE,
BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I NEED YOU TO STAY
AT THE BASE UNTIL WE CAN COME GET YOU.



ENGLAND?
I DON'T EVEN THINK I HAVE A PASSPORT!
I'VE NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY, NEVER MIND ACROSS THE OCEAN!

ONE MORE THING, AND THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT...

IF YOU COME ACROSS ANYONE TRYING TO COME INTO OUR BASE CLAIMING TO BE GALATEA POWERS WHILE YOU'RE THERE, DO NOT RESPOND TO THEM.



THAT MEANS DON'T TALK TO THEM AT ALL, DON'T ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE FOR YOU, NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY.

STAY PUT. I'LL CONTACT YOU DIRECTLY SOON.



MESSAGE COMPLETE.

OKAY... GUESS IT'S TIME TO BREAK OUT THE SCHOOL-WORK AND WAIT IT OUT.



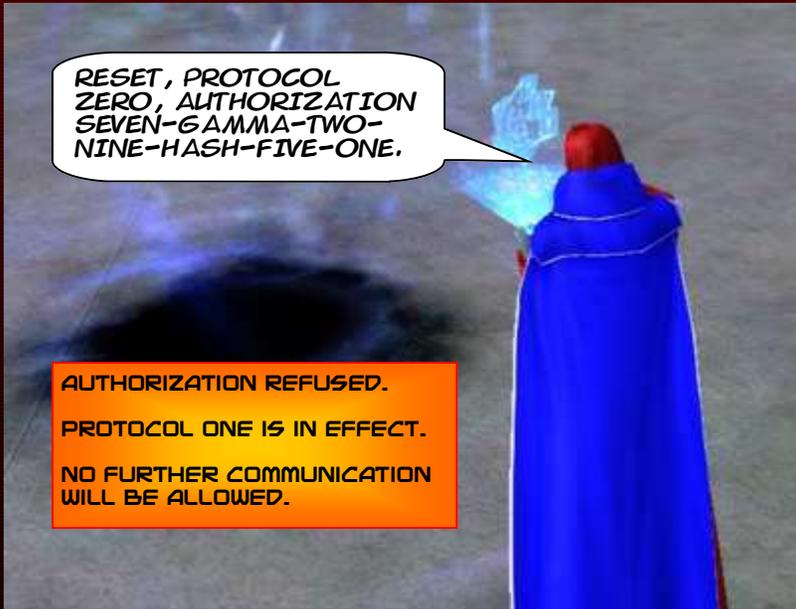
ATLAS PARK SUPERGROUP ACCESS PORTAL

COME ON!
WHY IS IT NOT WORKING?



CPCU, I NEED ACCESS TO THE GUARDIAN BASE.

ACCESS DENIED.
PROTOCOL ONE IS IN EFFECT.



RESET, PROTOCOL ZERO, AUTHORIZATION SEVEN-GAMMA-TWO-NINE-HASH-FIVE-ONE.

AUTHORIZATION REFUSED.
PROTOCOL ONE IS IN EFFECT.
NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION WILL BE ALLOWED.



RRR...
BE CALM LEONA...
TIME TO BE LOGICAL ABOUT THIS...

WENDY, I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION, BUT YOU HAVE TO SEE THINGS FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE. RIGHT NOW WE CAN'T HELP YOU...

MS. MAPLE... MA'AM... MAYBE I DIDN'T MAKE MY SITUATION CLEAR ENOUGH...
I AM IN A SEWER!

MS. MAPLE

I DON'T MEAN FIGURATIVELY, I MEAN LITERALLY IN A SEWER!
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE GOING TO JAIL.

THE POLICE TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD ON ME; MY BLADES, MY SEXY LEATHERS, MY HOT HAIR EXTENSIONS...

BLOODBLADER

... AND MY MASK.
I MEAN, HOW CAN I BE ROCKING THE BOBA-THING WITHOUT MY MASK?

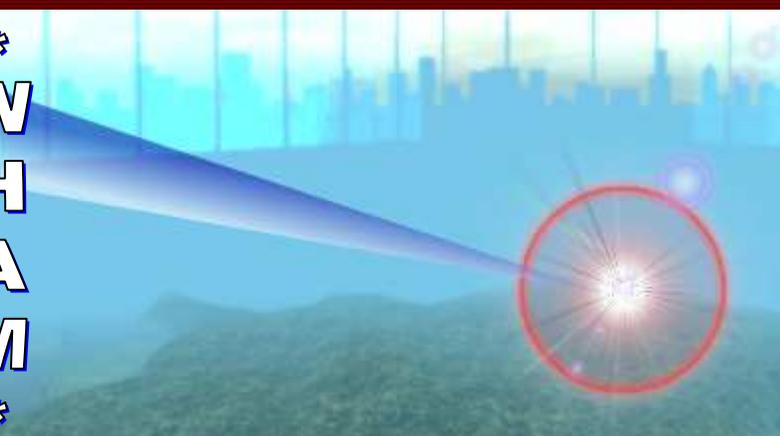
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT I DID JUST TO GET MY HANDS ON THIS CELLPHONE.

NOT EVERYTHING ABOUT ME HEALS QUICKLY.

LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT IF YOU CAN MAKE IT TO PEREZ PARK THROUGH THERE WE CAN LET YOU IN QUIETLY, BUT YOU HAVE TO GET AT LEAST THAT FAR ON YOUR OWN.

...
FINE. I'LL GET THERE...
SOMEHOW...

YEAH, THEY SAY THAT THE GAG REFLEX IS OVERRATED ANYWAY...
I'M GOING TO NEED A TWO-DAY SHOWER TO GET PAST THIS.



 **NOVAPRIMA**

(* NOVAPRIMA WORKED WITH DOC TOR IN ISSUE #10)



NOW... HOW ABOUT YOU AND I SIT DOWN AND WE TALK ABOUT WHATEVER IT IS THAT IS BOTHERING YOU?



YOU FLAUNT YOURSELF LIKE A HARLOT... BETRAYING YOUR INTELLIGENCE TO DISPLAY YOUR FLESH.

EVEN THE DOG COLLAR YOU WEAR IS PROOF OF THEIR OWNERSHIP, AND YET YOU WANT TO PRETEND TO BE MY EQUAL? DELUSIONAL!



EXCUSE ME? NOT TOO LONG AGO YOU WERE WEARING A LITTLE LESS THAN I AM NOW.
AND YOU WANT TO JUDGE ME ON MY ATTIRE, MISS BOUNCY-BOUNCY?
I THINK THAT RED HAIR DYE HAS SERIOUSLY WARPED YOUR BRAIN.



IT'S LONG TIME THAT SOMEONE PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE, HARLOT.



Pop! Pop!

WHAM!

Pop! Pop! Pop!



RRRR...

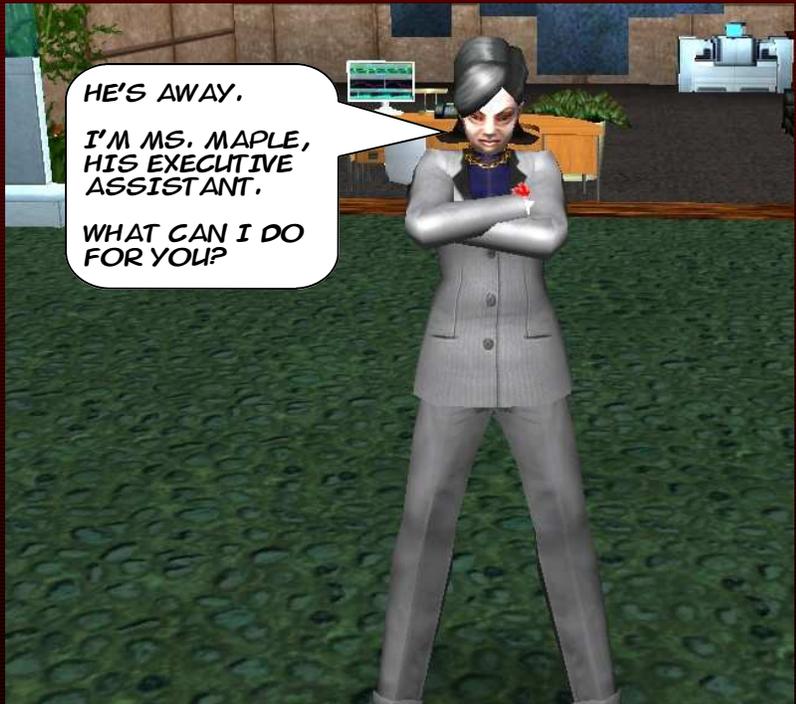
pant pant



BOOOOOOM!



SHATTER!





THEN YOU WILL SUFFICE.

YOU WILL TAKE ME TO DOCTOR ZARUS.



WHO?



DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE YOUR TRAINED DOG JUST MADE ABOUT ME.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT DOCTOR LEN ZARUS AND HIS EXPERTISE IN GENETIC MANIPULATION AND GENE-ENCODING.

I KNOW HE CREATED THE INFERIOR CREATURE THAT WORE A CHEAP IMITATION OF THIS VERY OUTFIT TO TRY TO MURDER CHIEF CLAYTON.*

I ALSO KNOW THAT HE IS STILL ALIVE AND THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN HIDING HIM ALL THIS TIME.

AS FORTUNE WOULD HAVE IT, I HAVE NEED OF HIS EXPERT ASSISTANCE TO FINISH THE GENETIC CHANGES I STARTED, AND IN RETURN, YOU WILL HAVE MY SERVICES AND THE ORIGINAL SUIT TO PERFECT YOUR OWN CREATIONS.

* ISSUES #15 AND 16



PRESUMING FOR A MOMENT THAT WHAT YOU CLAIM IS TRUE, AND ALSO PRESUMING THAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE SINCERE...

WHY COME TO US?

WHY NOT USE THE RESOURCES OF THE GUARDIANS AND VANGUARD AND WHATEVER OTHER AFFILIATIONS YOU HAVE?

THE GUARDIANS DO NOT TRUST ME NOW THAT I'VE ACCEPTED MY TRUE LINEAGE. THEY HAVE LOCKED ME OUT OF THEIR RESOURCES.

I SUSPECT THE SAME APPLIES TO THE VANGUARD.

TURNING TO SHADOWBORN IS THE NEXT LOGICAL CHOICE.

"SHADOWBORN"? I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT NAME.



YOU ARE SPEAKING WITH A SUPER-GENIUS, MS. MAPLE, I PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER MONTHS AGO.



WELL?



COME ALONG.



THE MEDIA HAD NO IDEA HOW TO HANDLE THE TRANSFORMATION FROM GALATEA TO LEONA.

FREEDOM CORPS QUICKLY CLASSIFIED HER AS A "VIGILANTE", THE FREEDOM PHALANX LOCKED HER OUT FROM THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN FORT TRIDENT.

THE INTERNET FANS... WELL, THEY WERE MIXED IN THEIR REACTIONS.

SOME FEMALE FANS ENJOYED SEEING A MORE "CONSERVATIVE" VERSION OF GALATEA. THE BOYS, OF COURSE, HATED SEEING HER CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE ABOUT GALATEA'S NORMAL OUTFITS.



Leona - What Are Your Thoughts?

Fans of the TRUE GUARDIAN of our city were shocked this afternoon to discover that Galatea Powers has been suddenly replaced with "Leona Powers". We want to know what you think of this "new Powers".

Please keep checking back as newer comments come in.

HATE IT HATE IT HATE HATE HATE HATE HATE IT!!!!!!! ~ Ledgesitter545.

What happened to Galatea? Did she disappear again? Is this a Praetorian Galatea? - Jonny5

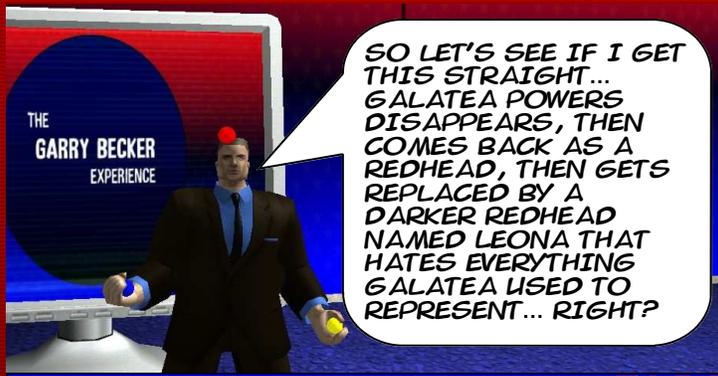
Bring back Galatea! ~ IHARTGP5569

I think it's about time that we have a hero who puts brains above body. Welcome Leona! ~ FemBot11

THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES THAT WERE CONFUSED BY ALL OF THIS...

Go.
Hunt.
Kill
Skuls.
Shop.
Save.

Burma
Save!



SO LET'S SEE IF I GET THIS STRAIGHT... GALATEA POWERS DISAPPEARS, THEN COMES BACK AS A REDHEAD, THEN GETS REPLACED BY A DARKER REDHEAD NAMED LEONA THAT HATES EVERYTHING GALATEA USED TO REPRESENT... RIGHT?

BECKER JUGGLES EXPLANATIONS **PNN**
Paragon News Network



AND MY CRITICS CALL ME LOONY!

AT LEAST MS. LIBERTY AND THE SIDECHEK BRIGADE ARE JUST A LITTLE MORE CONSISTENT.

GARRY BECKER · CLUELESS ON CAPES **PNN**
Paragon News Network

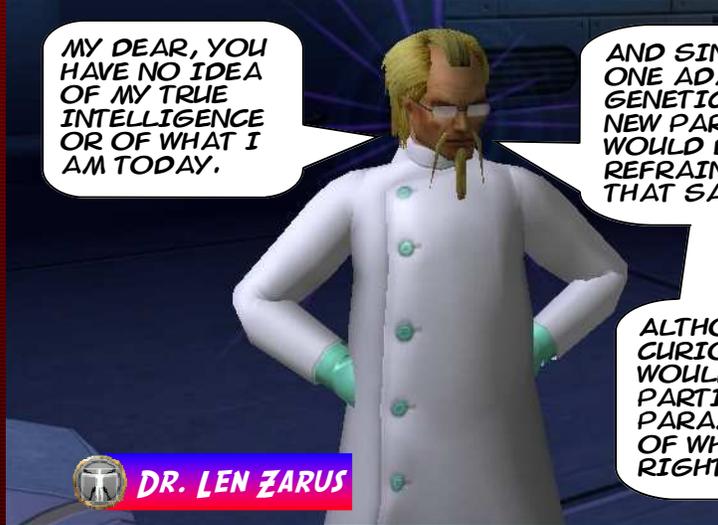


I MUST SAY IT'S REFRESHING TO WORK WITH SOMEONE OF MY UNIQUE INTELLIGENCE AGAIN.



PLEASE! YOU ARE NOWHERE NEAR MY INTELLECTUAL LEVEL.

I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SERVICES BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONLY OTHER PERSON THAT CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO IT.

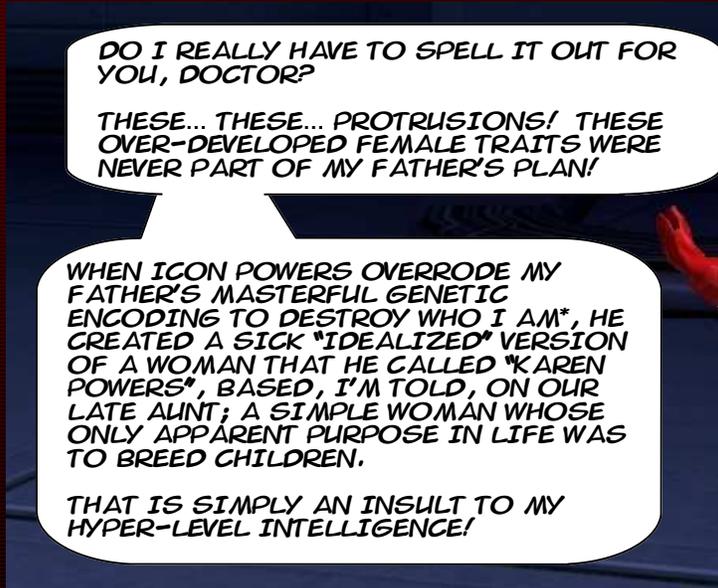


MY DEAR, YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF MY TRUE INTELLIGENCE OR OF WHAT I AM TODAY.

AND SINCE I WILL BE THE ONE ADAPTING YOUR GENETIC CODE TO THEIR NEW PARAMETERS, IT WOULD BEHOVE YOU TO REFRAIN FROM BELITTLING THAT SAME INTELLIGENCE.

ALTHOUGH I AM CURIOUS WHY YOU WOULD CHOOSE THESE PARTICULAR PARAMETERS INSTEAD OF WHAT THEY ARE RIGHT NOW.

 **DR. LEN ZARUS**



DO I REALLY HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU, DOCTOR?

THESE... THESE... PROTRUSIONS! THESE OVER-DEVELOPED FEMALE TRAITS WERE NEVER PART OF MY FATHER'S PLAN!

WHEN ICON POWERS OVERRODE MY FATHER'S MASTERFUL GENETIC ENCODING TO DESTROY WHO I AM*, HE CREATED A SICK "IDEALIZED" VERSION OF A WOMAN THAT HE CALLED "KAREN POWERS", BASED, I'M TOLD, ON OUR LATE AUNT; A SIMPLE WOMAN WHOSE ONLY APPARENT PURPOSE IN LIFE WAS TO BREED CHILDREN.

THAT IS SIMPLY AN INSULT TO MY HYPER-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE!



WHILE I WAS ABLE TO UNDO ICON'S AMATEUR HANDIWORK WHEN IT CAME TO MY MIND, THE REST OF MY BODY IS STILL PATTERNED AFTER HIS INFERIOR IDEAS.

I AM GOING TO REMOVE EVERYTHING THAT ICON CREATED SO THAT ONCE AGAIN THE GENIUS OF LIONEL POWERS IS REFLECTED IN HIS TRUE DAUGHTER.

WELL, YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES.
I THOUGHT YOU'D STILL BE ON THAT PRIVATE ISLAND OF YOURS.

 MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BE ON THAT ISLAND WITH NOTHING BUT A BIKINI AND A SMILE.

SO HOW IS YOUR LITTLE GROUP OF EXILES DOING?

 EXGEMINI

WELL, WE'RE NOT "LITTLE" ANYMORE, AND WE'VE PICKED UP A FEW MORE MEMBERS SINCE YOU TURNED DOWN OUR OFFER TO JOIN SO YOU COULD RETIRE...*

BUT RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT A NEW PROBLEM THAT WE COULD USE YOUR HELP WITH.

← ISSUE #12

JUST AS LONG AS IT INVOLVES WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN... OR GALATEA POWERS.

WELL... IT'S FUNNY THAT YOU SHOULD MENTION HER...

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT...
AND YOU HAVE CONFIRMATION THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED?

JIMMY HELLFIGHTER WAS THERE, SO, YEAH, IT'S PRETTY MUCH CONFIRMED.
CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO HELP US?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK TWICE.
OF COURSE I'M IN. JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED ME TO DO.



THE GENETIC RE-SEQUENCER HAS NOW BEEN RE-PROGRAMMED TO YOUR REQUIRED PARAMETERS.



THEN YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO...

OF COURSE I DO!
STOP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD IN MY OWN LAB!

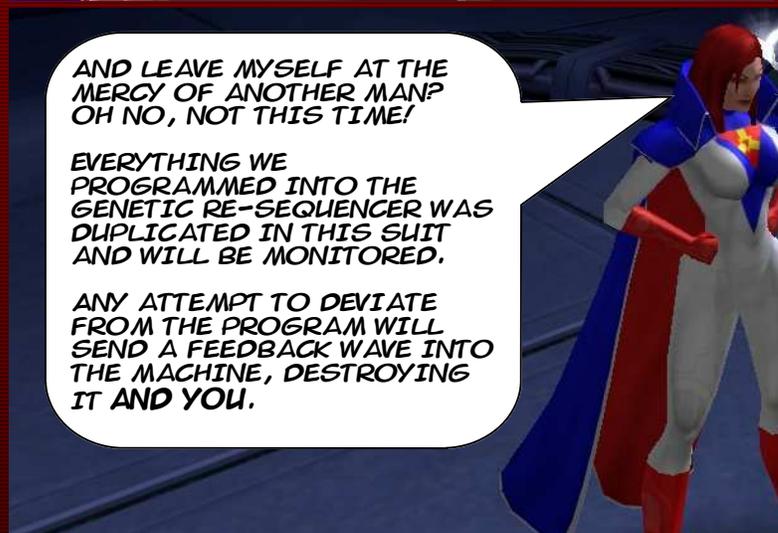


GET ON THE PLATFORM...

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.



YOU SHOULD AT LEAST PUT ON A HOSPITAL GOWN INSTEAD OF WEARING YOUR TECH SUIT.



AND LEAVE MYSELF AT THE MERCY OF ANOTHER MAN? OH NO, NOT THIS TIME!

EVERYTHING WE PROGRAMMED INTO THE GENETIC RE-SEQUENCER WAS DUPLICATED IN THIS SUIT AND WILL BE MONITORED.

ANY ATTEMPT TO DEVIATE FROM THE PROGRAM WILL SEND A FEEDBACK WAVE INTO THE MACHINE, DESTROYING IT AND YOU.

THIS PROGRAM WILL PROCEED ACCORDING TO MY PARAMETERS, DOCTOR ZARUS, AND TO NO-ONE ELSE'S.

FINE, FINE...



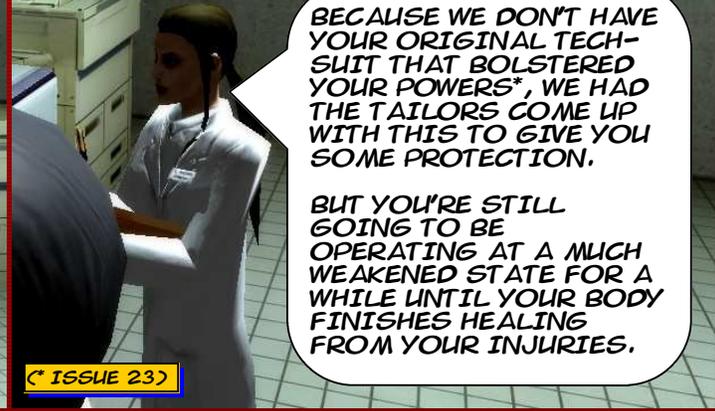
BEGINNING GENETIC RE-SEQUENCING.





WE'RE ALMOST FINISHED, MISTER POWERS... JUST A FEW THINGS LEFT TO COVER QUICKLY.

ICON POWERS



BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE YOUR ORIGINAL TECH-SUIT THAT BOLSTERED YOUR POWERS*, WE HAD THE TAILORS COME UP WITH THIS TO GIVE YOU SOME PROTECTION. BUT YOU'RE STILL GOING TO BE OPERATING AT A MUCH WEAKENED STATE FOR A WHILE UNTIL YOUR BODY FINISHES HEALING FROM YOUR INJURIES.

ISSUE 23



THAT'S OKAY... I'VE BEEN PUSHING THE LIMIT WITH MY ABILITIES FOR A WHILE NOW. I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE INSISTED TO BE RELEASED EARLY IF NOT FOR THE PROBLEMS THE GUARDIANS ARE FACING. AFTER THIS I'LL PROBABLY BE PUT ON RETIRED STATUS.

JUST AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THAT THE NEW BODYSUIT WILL ONLY GIVE MINIMAL PROTECTION... AND PLEASE DON'T TRY TO PICK ANY FIGHTS WITH SELF-APPOINTED GODS ANYTIME SOON.

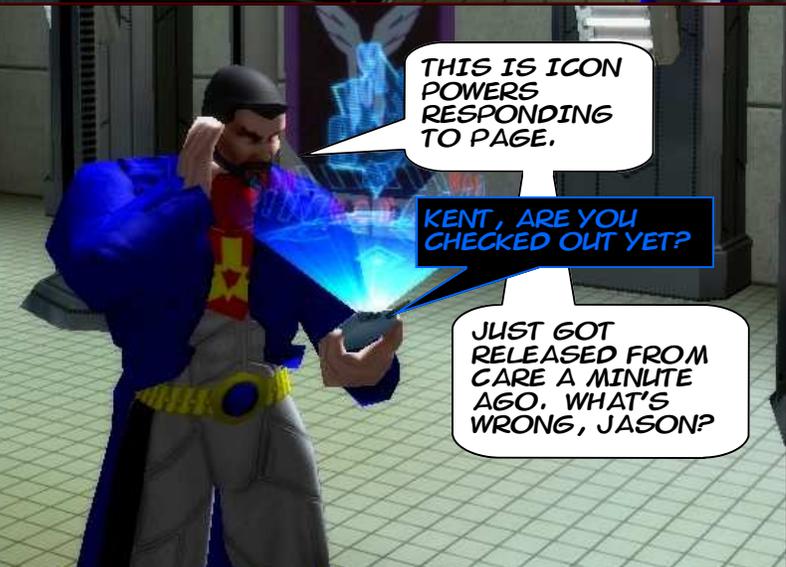


SORRY DOCTOR, NO PROMISES ON THAT ONE. NOT WITH WHAT I'M TOLD IS GOING ON.

GETTING ICON POWERS OUT OF THE RECOVERY CHAMBER WAS ESSENTIAL TO MIDNIGHT X'S PLAN.

KENT POWERS WAS INITIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING LEONA INTO KAREN/GALATEA... WHICH MEANS HE WOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE TARGET FOR LEONA.

AND IF LEONA REALLY WAS SOCIOPATHIC, THE LAST PLACE KENT NEEDED TO BE WAS SOMEPLACE VULNERABLE LIKE AN INFIRMARY.



THIS IS ICON POWERS RESPONDING TO PAGE.

KENT, ARE YOU CHECKED OUT YET?

JUST GOT RELEASED FROM CARE A MINUTE AGO. WHAT'S WRONG, JASON?



WE LOST TRACK OF LEONA. SHE PROBABLY REMOVED THE TRACER IN HER TECH-SUIT.

WE NEED YOU TO EXECUTE PHASE TWO...

THE NEXT MORNING...

YOU KNOW I CAN'T HELP BUT BE CONCERNED, KRY'S... YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THERE ALL-NIGHT.

HERO CORPS · BOSTON

I KNOW MOM... BUT MISTER HELLFIGHTER TOLD ME TO STAY HERE AND THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.

BESIDES, THE WATCH-ROOM HAS A PRETTY COMFORTABLE BED, AND THE FRIDGE HAS NOTHING BUT HEALTH FOOD.

THAT'S STILL NO EXCUSE TO HAVE YOU THERE ALL DAY AND NIGHT, ESPECIALLY AT YOUR AGE! YOU'RE STILL ONLY THIRTEEN!

ALL THE MORE REASON WHY I NEEDED TO BE HERE UNTIL MISTER HELLFIGHTER OR ONE OF THE OTHER GUARDIANS WOULD COME GET ME. THEY'RE REALLY KEEPING ME SAFE HERE.

I MEAN, WHO MEVER ATTACKED GALATEA POWERS COULD ALSO SNATCH ME WAITING AT THE BUS DEPOT IF THEY WANTED TO.

HERE, IT'S LOCKED DOWN WHERE ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS, AND I'M UNDER THE STATUE OF TALOS, SO I'M DOUBLY-PROTECTED.

OKAY... OKAY... LISTEN I HAVE TO GO, BUT YOU CALL US THE MINUTE YOU GET TO ENGLAND... AND MAKE SURE IT'S NOT COLLECT!

AND TELL MISTER HELLFIGHTER THAT HE AND I WILL HAVE A CONVERSATION AFTER THIS IS DONE!

HERO CORPS · BOSTON

LOVE YOU, BABY...

LOVE YOU TOO, MOM.

CONNECTION TERMINATED.

NEW INCOMING COMMUNICATION.

IDENTIFY INCOMING COMMUNICATION.

COMMUNICATION IS FROM A CELLPHONE WITH A BLOCKED CALLER ID.

OPEN CONNECTION... BUT ON MUTE ONLY.

HELLO? PYROGURL? ARE YOU THERE?

IT'S GALATEA POWERS, HONEY... LISTEN, CAN YOU PICK UP THE CONNECTION? I NEED TO TALK WITH YOU.

OHGODOHGODO HGODOHGOD...



CPCU, IS THAT REALLY GALATEA POWERS?

DISCONNECT CALL.

VOCAL PARAMETERS INDICATE ONLY SEVEN OUT OF THE TEN REQUIRED QUALIFIERS MATCHING SUBJECT'S VOICE WITH THOSE ON FILE OF GALATEA POWERS.

CONTACT DISCONNECTED.

INCOMING COMMUNICATION.



IGNORE.

COMMUNICATION IGNORED.

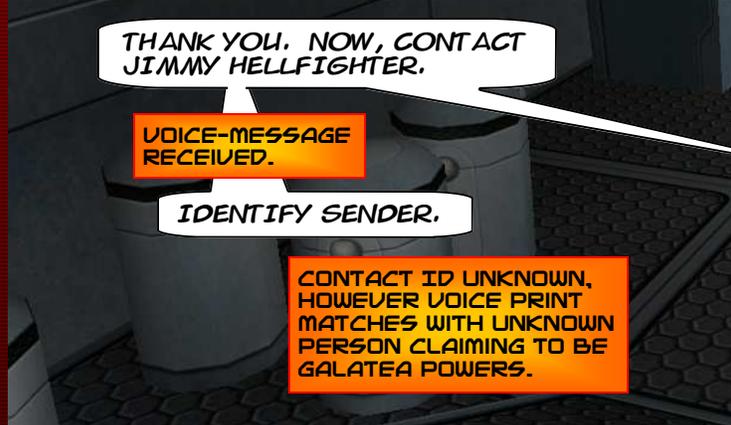
INCOMING COMMUNICATION.



IGNORE. AND CAN YOU IGNORE ALL CALLS THAT ARE UNKNOWN OR HAVE A BLOCKED ID?

COMMUNICATION IGNORED.

CONFIRMED. ALL UNIDENTIFIED COMMUNICATIONS WILL NOT BE RECEIVED.



THANK YOU. NOW, CONTACT JIMMY HELLFIGHTER.

VOICE-MESSAGE RECEIVED.

IDENTIFY SENDER.

CONTACT ID UNKNOWN, HOWEVER VOICE PRINT MATCHES WITH UNKNOWN PERSON CLAIMING TO BE GALATEA POWERS.



I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS BUT... PLAY MESSAGE.

RECORDED MESSAGE COMMENCING...

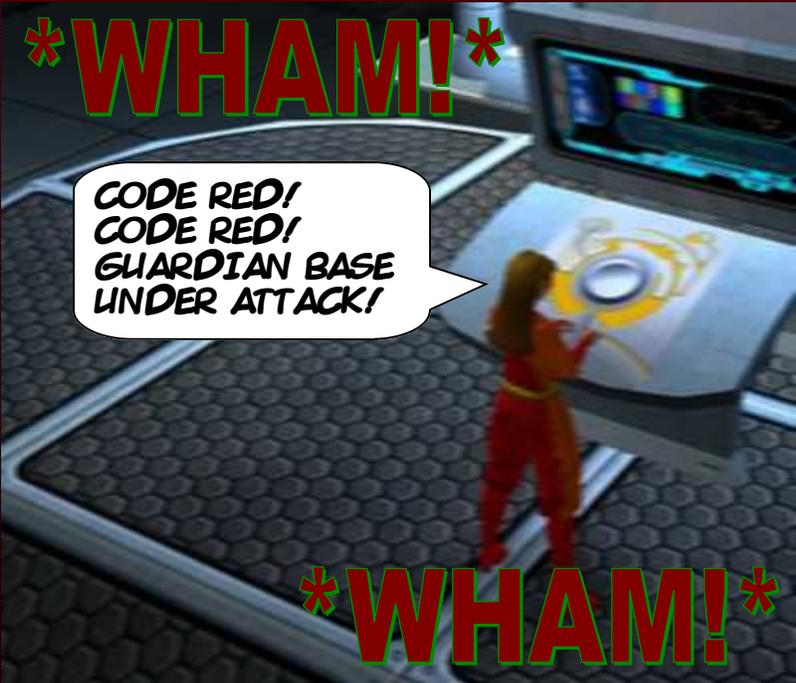
"KNOCK-KNOCK."



WHAM!

IEEEE!!!!

WHAM!



WHAM!

CODE RED!
CODE RED!
GUARDIAN BASE UNDER ATTACK!

WHAM!



IN HINDSIGHT, NOBODY ANTICIPATED LEONA WOULD ATTACK THE BASE. EVEN JASON BELIEVED THAT LEONA'S INTELLIGENCE WOULD KEEP HER TEMPER IN CHECK.



WHAM!



LEONA!



WELL-WELL...
LOOK WHO GOT
LET OUT OF THE
OLD HEROES
RETIREMENT
COMMUNITY.



I'VE WAITED A
LONG TIME FOR
THIS LITTLE
REUNION.



HELLO KENT.

BRINGS BACK
MEMORIES,
DOESN'T IT?

ONLY YOU'RE NOT
AS *ICONIC* AS
YOU ONCE WERE.
AND NOW I'M
TRULY AT MY
PHYSICAL PEAK.



WHERE'S THE HERO
CORPS AGENT
THAT WAS ON THE
STATUE LANDING?

AND WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
PYROGURL?

YOU REALLY HAVE BECOME A
GRUMPY OLD HERO, HAVEN'T
YOU, *COUSIN*?

NO PLEASANTRIES, NO
COURTESY, IT'S ALL
DEMANDING, JUST LIKE WHEN I
WAS A YOUNG TEENAGER.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...
PYROGURL IS FINE. MY
CONCUSSION BLASTS ONLY
RATTLED HER AND SHOOK THE
BASE UP A BIT.

AND THE HERO CORPS AGENT
GOT KNOCKED INTO THE
WATER, BUT OTHERWISE SHE'S
OKAY.

BUT IT'S FUNNY THAT YOU
WOULD CARE ABOUT THE WELL-
INTERESTS OF TEENS NOW.

PYROGURL, ICON IS KEEPING LEONA DISTRACTED.

I NEED YOU TO GET TO CITY HALL IN ATLAS PARK.

BUT MISTER HELLFIGHTER... YOU TOLD ME TO WAIT HERE UNTIL...

I KNOW... AND YOU DID GOOD.

NOW I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME AGAIN.

GO NOW.

OKAY, OKAY...

CPCU, UNLOCK THE TELEPORTER FOR ATLAS PARK.

TELEPORT CHAMBER READY FOR TRANSPORT TO ATLAS PARK.

YOU... YOU TRIED TO KILL ME!

ONLY YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR BARE HANDS, DID YOU? YOU USED TECHNOLOGY FROM PHOTONIS' SHIP TO KILL ME. TO SMOTHER ME WITH EVERYTHING THAT I'M NOT.

TO IMPOSE YOURSELF AND YOUR GENES INTO MY BODY TO KILL EVERYTHING THAT I WAS AND EVERYTHING THAT I WAS MEANT TO BE!

YOU PERVERTED MY FATHER'S PLANS...

YOU PERVERTED ME!

YOU TWISTED ME UP INSIDE THAT SHELL OF A HARLOT BASED ON OUR AUNT AND THEN CALLED THAT YOUR "REAL COUSIN".

I GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO **LIVE**, LEONA!

YOU WERE A DRONE TO YOUR FATHER'S "MASTER PLAN"; AN INSTRUMENT OF HIS BITTER AND TWISTED REVENGE FOR HIS PERCEIVED OFFENSES.

YOUR HEAD WAS FULL OF HIS DIATRIBES AND HIS MANIFESTOS; HIS DREAMS OF MANIFEST DESTINY.

YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE! YOU LOCKED ME AWAY AND THEN VIOLATED MY VERY BEING TO MAKE ME INTO YOUR LITTLE "MINI-ICON"!

YOU WERE OUT OF CONTROL! YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL PEOPLE OUT OF SPITE!

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO EITHER HELP YOU OR KILL YOU!

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE TO, "COUSIN".

BECAUSE NOW THAT I'VE UNDONE EVERYTHING THAT YOU DID, I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOUR VERY LEGACY.

YOUR BUSTY MINI-YOU "KAREN" OR "GALATEA" OR "KARA" OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL HER NOW IS DEAD... GONE... NEVER TO RETURN.

ONCE I DESTROY THE GUARDIANS ONE BY ONE, I'LL TURN TO THE OTHER HEROES AND DO THE SAME TO THEM.

I'M TELLING YOU THIS NOW, OF COURSE, BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE IT. I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME AND USE YOUR CORPSE AS A TROPHY OF MY FATHER'S ULTIMATE TRIUMPH.

YOU KNOW, FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LIONEL'S DNA, YOU SPEND MORE TIME TALKING AND LESS TIME THINKING.

OR DO YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST HOVER HERE AND LET YOU EXACT YOUR REVENGE?



I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU EARN THIS KILL.

COWARD!



WE USED TO PLAY FLYING-TAG ALL THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, LEONA.



LET'S SEE IF YOU REALLY ARE AT YOUR PEAK.



I'M TOLD THAT THE REASON WHY ICON WAS GOADING LEONA WAS TO SEE IF SHE STILL HAD LASER-VISION.

A POWER SHE DEMONSTRATED HAVING EARLIER.*

(* AS RECENT AS LAST ISSUE)

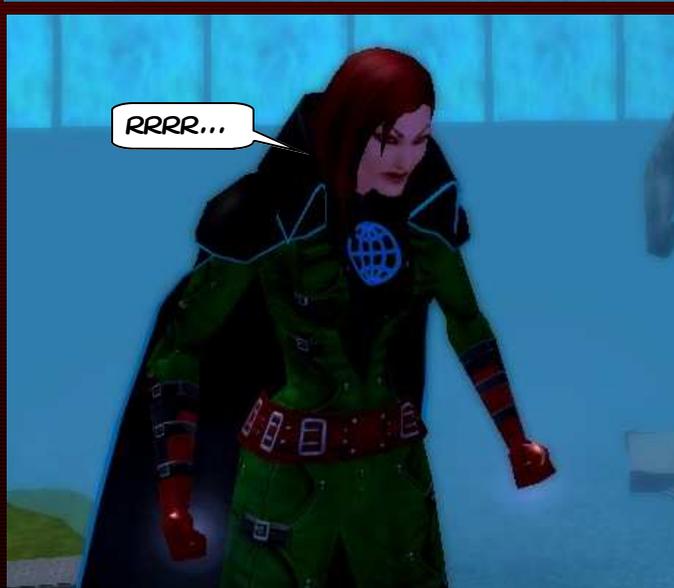


BUT THE FACT THAT SHE WASN'T CATCHING UP TO HIM, EVEN THOUGH SHE CLEARLY HAD SUPERIOR POWER LEVELS TO HIM...

... WHY SHE WAS CONSTANTLY STOPPING AND THEN RESUMING HER PURSUIT...

... PROVED THAT SHE NO LONGER HAD LASER-VISION, AND SHE WAS JUST FINDING THAT OUT HERSELF.

AND THAT GAVE US ALL A GLIMMER OF HOPE, BECAUSE IT MEANT THAT SHE REALLY WASN'T AT HER "PEAK".



RRRR...



CENTRAL, HACK INTO THE GUARDIAN'S CPCU SYSTEM AND TRACK ICON POWERS THROUGH HIS COMMUNICATOR.

UNABLE TO COMPLY. ACCESS TO GUARDIAN CPCU SYSTEM HAS BEEN REMOVED FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF STARCYNUS.*

(* ISSUE 22)

WHY AM I SURROUNDED BY IMBICILES?!?



FINE, I'LL HUNT YOU DOWN THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, OLD MAN.

MY HYPER-SENSES CAN STILL TRACK YOUR FLIGHT TRAIL.



SKYWAY CITY - NORTH STATION

MIDKNIGHT X TO TEAM... LEONA POWERS JUST FOLLOWED ICON'S FLIGHT TRAIL INTO SKYWAY CITY.



MIDKNIGHT X



WE NEED TO BUY ICON TIME TO REACH CITY HALL AND GET PYROGURL TO SAFETY.

RYDER, GET READY.



HMM... HE DARTED THROUGH THE OVERPASSES... LET HIS FLIGHT TRAIL BLEND-IN WITH THE SKYWAY TRAFFIC.

CLEVER.



BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH... THE SKYWAY ISN'T INFINITE, SO I JUST FIND WHERE IT BREAKS AND I FIND WHERE HE'S GOING.



ICON'S SORT OF BUSY RIGHT NOW, LEONA...

HOW ABOUT YOU AND I CATCH UP ON OLD TIMES?



OH!

BZZZT!



RUNNER! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ICON'S PET STUDENT WOULD COME RUNNING TO HIS RESCUE.



GRRRRR!!!!

I GO BY THE NAME RYDER LIGHTNING NOW, LEONA, OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT?

BY THE WAY, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT I JUST TOOK HALF YOUR SPEED AND STRENGTH AWAY SO WE COULD HAVE THIS LITTLE CONVERSATION WITHOUT YOU TRYING TO FLATTEN ME.



I'LL STILL BEAT YOU WITH HALF MY POWERS!



TEMPER-TEMPER, LEONA...

OOOH!



YOUR NEW LOOK STILL DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE SUPERIOR TO ME.

REALLY?

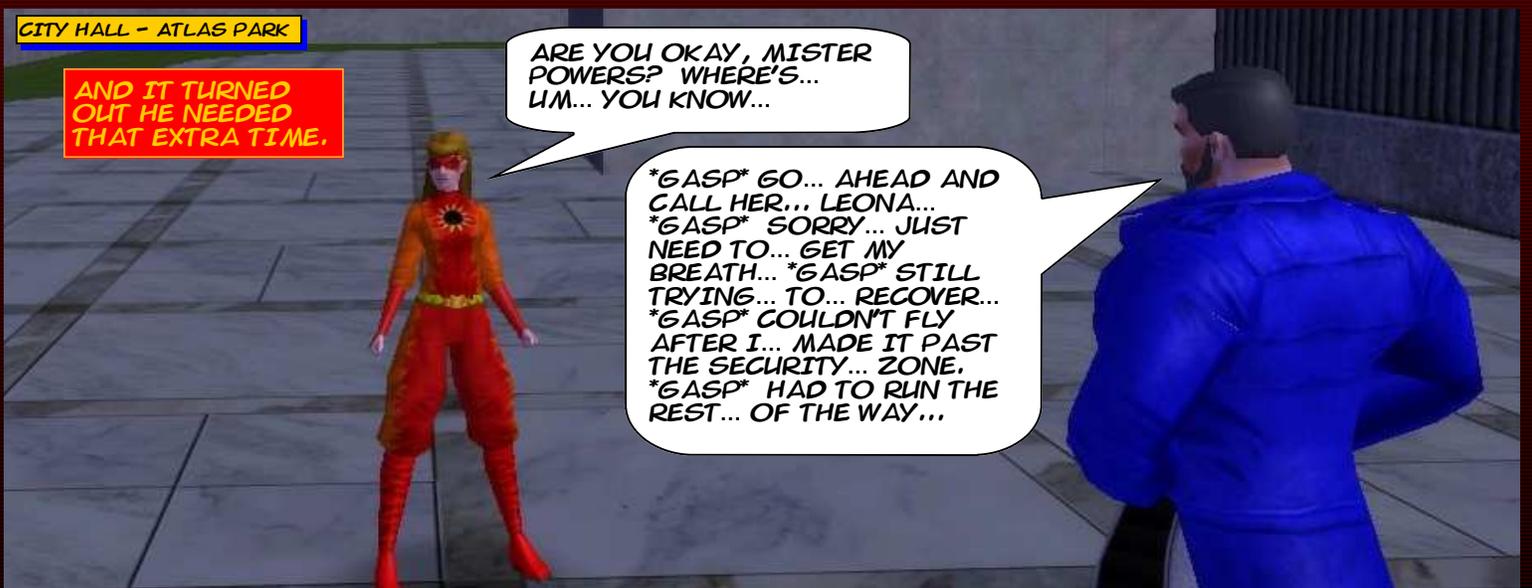


THEN CATCH ME... IF YOU CAN.

WITH RYDER PICKING UP WHERE ICON LEFT OFF IN THE GAME OF 'TAG', IT GAVE ICON TIME TO CATCH UP WITH PYROGURL.

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK

AND IT TURNED OUT HE NEEDED THAT EXTRA TIME.



ARE YOU OKAY, MISTER POWERS? WHERE'S... U.M... YOU KNOW...

GASP GO... AHEAD AND CALL HER... LEONA... *GASP* SORRY... JUST NEED TO... GET MY BREATH... *GASP* STILL TRYING... TO... RECOVER... *GASP* COULDN'T FLY AFTER I... MADE IT PAST THE SECURITY... ZONE. *GASP* HAD TO RUN THE REST... OF THE WAY...

GASP OKAY... ONCE I GET MY SECOND WIND BACK... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HEAD ON OVER TO THE... VANGUARD OFFICE SO WE CAN MAKE IT TO THE DAWN PATROL BASE IN ENGLAND.

VANGUARD? WHY THEM? I THOUGHT WE'D BE GOING TO THE AIRPORT OR SOMETHING...

I MEAN... WE DO HAVE AN AIRPORT IN THIS CITY, DON'T WE?

I KEEP ON HEARING THERE IS ONE BUT I'M NOT SURE...

ANYWAY, THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO REACH THE DAWN PATROL QUICKLY IS THROUGH VANGUARD'S CONNECTING PORTAL.

WELL THEN, COME ON!

LET'S GO BEFORE LEONA FINDS US.

SIGH

NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SAYING THIS BUT...

I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS...

OKAY, JUST TO CLARIFY SOMETHING... THE DAWN PATROL IS EUROPE'S VERSION OF THE FREEDOM PHALANX. THAT'S THE GROUP THAT I BELONG TO AS WELL AS THE GUARDIANS.

THE PATROL WAS ACTUALLY AROUND ABOUT A DECADE LONGER THAN THE PHALANX, BUT THEY GOT ALL THE HEADLINES. THE TWO GROUPS HAVE BEEN HELPING EACH OTHER OUT SINCE WORLD WAR II.

THE DAWN PATROL WORKED SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE HEROES IN PARAGON CITY TO DEFEAT THE RIKTI.

IN FACT IT WAS MY FIRST MENTOR, HERO 1, WHO LED THE FINAL ASSAULT THAT ENDED THE RIKTI INVASION.

THERE'S EVEN A MEMORIAL IN PARAGON CITY DEDICATED TO THE SACRIFICE HERO 1 MADE. I CAN'T HELP BUT CRY EVERY TIME I GO THERE.

ANYWAY, WE HAVE AN ACTIVE PORTAL LINK THROUGH VANGUARD THAT ALLOWS US TO SEND PEOPLE OVER IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES... WHICH THIS CERTAINLY COVERS.

WHEN WE OFFER TO HELP, WE'RE NOT KIDDING AROUND.



**WHERE ARE YOU
"ICON" POWERS?**



NO FLIGHT TRAIL...
HE TRAVELLED ON
FOOT.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO
GET HIS ATTENTION
THE OLD-FASHIONED
WAY... FIND
SOMETHING THAT HE
VALUES AND THEN
BREAK IT.

JUST LIKE MY FATHER
WOULD HAVE DONE IN
HIS DAY.



LET'S SEE...
WHO TO VISIT
FIRST...
OH!



NOW THIS IS RARE!
SHE DOESN'T
NORMALLY LEAVE
HER POST UNDER
THE STATUE...
UNLESS IT'S FOR A
BATHROOM RUN.



SOMETHING I
COULD HELP YOU
WITH, MISS
POWERS?



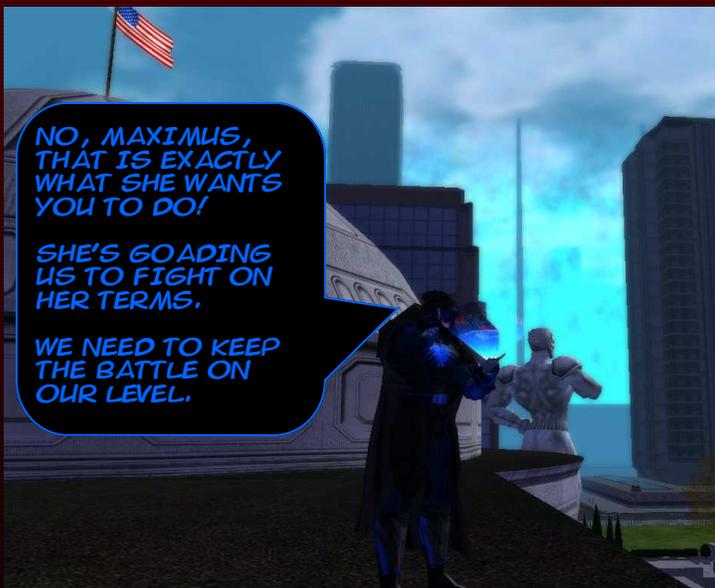
V MS. LIBERTY

WHY YES, YES THERE
IS SOMETHING YOU
CAN HELP ME WITH,
MS. LIBERTY.



I NEED A SACRIFICIAL
LAMB TO BRING OUT
THE GUARDIANS, AND
SINCE MY FORMER
LEADER MAXIMUS REX
IS SO FOND OF YOU,
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO BE
THE ONE TO FALL.









CARDIFF, WALES - UNITED KINGDOM

DAWN PATROL - CARDIFF BASE

"WELCOME TO ENGLAND."

"MISTER HELLFIGHTER!"

I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU, PYROGURL.

I'M SURE IT WAS VERY SCARY WHEN THE BASE WAS UNDER ATTACK, BUT YOU KEPT YOUR COOL AND YOU DID WHAT YOU WERE TOLD.

THANKS... I'M JUST GLAD MISS POWERS WASN'T TRYING TO KILL ME.

THAT WOMAN WASN'T GALATEA POWERS.

WHOMEVER SHE CLAIMS TO BE, SHE'S NOT THE GALATEA POWERS THAT YOU KNOW AND TRY TO EMULATE.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, JIMMY.

I KNOW LEONA... MORE THAN ANYONE HERE, I KNOW WHO SHE IS AND WHAT I TRIED TO MAKE HER TO BE... AND I SHOULD BE THE ONE BACK THERE TRYING TO STOP HER.

WELL I'D BE A PRETTY RUDE HOST IF I JUST LET YOU LEAVE RIGHT AFTER YOU JUST GOT HERE.

THE DAWN PATROL HAS EVERYTHING COVERED, MISTER POWERS.

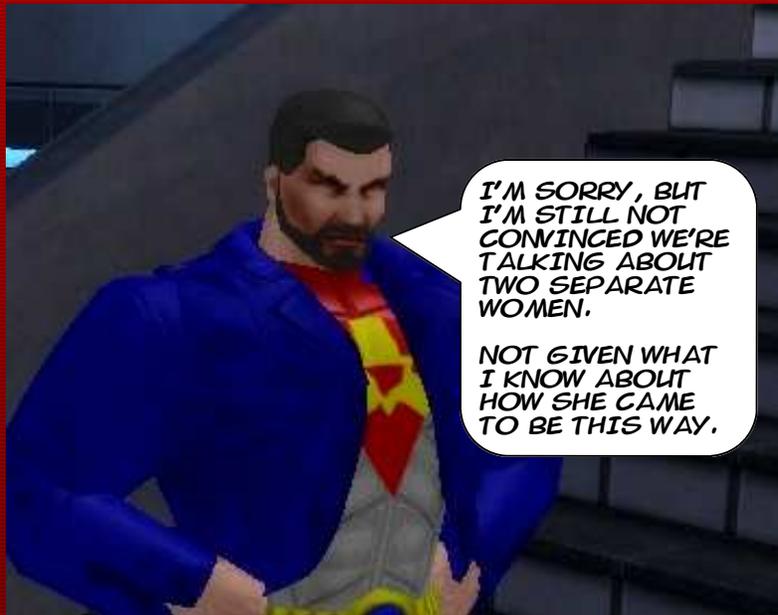
 LADY JANE

PYROGURL, ICON POWERS, THIS IS LADY JANE, LEADER OF THE DAWN PATROL.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU BOTH, LYON'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.

AND I AGREE WITH MISTER HELLFIGHTER WHEN HE SAYS THAT THE WOMAN YOU FACED EARLIER WAS CERTAINLY NOT GALATEA POWERS.

IN FACT WHAT WE GOT BACK FROM THE VANGUARD AGENTS MONITORING THE BATTLE IN ATLAS PARK HAS CONFIRMED IT.



I'M SORRY, BUT I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TWO SEPARATE WOMEN.

NOT GIVEN WHAT I KNOW ABOUT HOW SHE CAME TO BE THIS WAY.



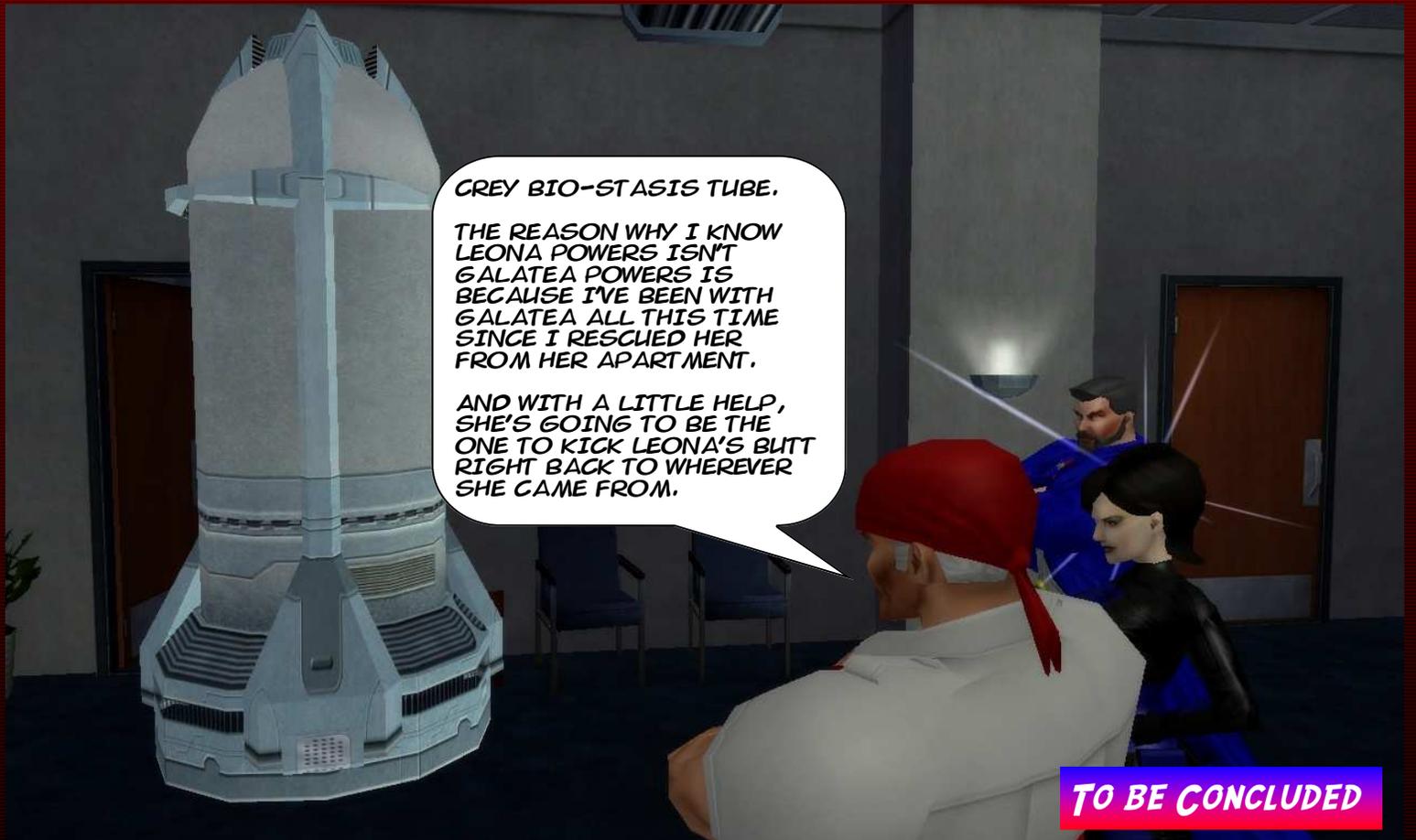
COME ON... I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I KNOW THEY'RE NOT THE SAME.



THIS IS HOW I KNOW.



IS THAT... IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?



CREY BIO-STASIS TUBE.

THE REASON WHY I KNOW LEONA POWERS ISN'T GALATEA POWERS IS BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WITH GALATEA ALL THIS TIME SINCE I RESCUED HER FROM HER APARTMENT.

AND WITH A LITTLE HELP, SHE'S GOING TO BE THE ONE TO KICK LEONA'S BUTT RIGHT BACK TO WHEREVER SHE CAME FROM.

TO BE CONCLUDED



EXGEMINI AND THE DAWN PATROL

Sounds like the title of a comic series, doesn't it?

Well even though this storyline is supposed to be about Galatea Powers and her eventual transformation, there are a lot of other heroes that will play a role in this storyline, and from the moment I came up with "Galatea Dawning", I knew I had to involve not only Lyon Powers, but also the Dawn Patrol.

For those not familiar with the in-game history of the Dawn Patrol, this was one of the first hero groups in the 20th Century, pre-dating the formation of the Freedom Phalanx by twelve years.

The Patrol was started in England by a group of World War I veterans led by Alistair Sutton. Having seen the horrors of war, they each pledged to make sure that such tragedies never happen again. Although they did not have super-powers, they used the best that science and technology and human determination could provide.

Much like Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, the Dawn Patrol wanted "peace in our time", and did whatever they could to fight the growing war machine being constructed. Sadly, though, they failed. And when the second World War became inevitable, they took arms to defend England.

The Dawn Patrol and the Freedom Phalanx stormed the beaches of Normandy in the D-Day invasion, marking the first time the two groups officially worked together. This alliance between the two hero teams would continue through the rest of the 20th Century and into the 21st Century.

One of the first British superheroes was Hero One (the father and predecessor of Hero 1), and eventually took over as leader of the Dawn Patrol from Sutton. His own claim to fame, in addition to helping defend England from the German Blitz as a young man, was in his diplomatic solution in 1976 during the Finland Fiasco.

Very little is really known about the Dawn Patrol in-game in terms of membership, which makes them the perfect group to bring into a story such as this one.

Everyone in the City of Heroes universe knows about Hero 1's sacrifice in the Rikti War of 2002, and in fact the in-game reason why heroes (and villains) could not wear capes initially was in honor of Hero 1. Lady Jane, the current leader of the Dawn Patrol, was introduced along with the Midnight Squad, and heroes working to get access to the Midnight Club have to work with her in one mission in order to get a sample of Hero 1's blood.

(Note: Although it is not revealed "how" Lady Jane would have that sample, Lyon Powers revealed in Issue #2 that it is because Lady Jane and Hero 1 were secretly married. And if you were to read Hero 1's final letter, he starts it off with "To my Lady, Queen, and Country..." which is a direct reference to Lady Jane.)

Continues on next page...

Since the Dawn Patrol is supposed to be a European group instead of strictly a British group, one would certainly expect its roster to be a collection of various heroes and heroines from all across the European continent, which is why there is Lyon Powers (UK Wales), Flash Mob (Italy), Celtic Brawler (Ireland), and Orion Hunter (Greece). Other heroes which you'll see in the next issue will come from Spain, France, and the Netherlands. A future hero you'll see will also be from Germany, and will be essentially the European version of MidKnight X.

Technically, ExGemini COULD become a member of the Dawn Patrol, since his creator is in Italy. Nathan Furian is a 3D graphic artist over at deviantART, and he has been a fan of the comic series since day one. Nathan was involved with the MMO in the early years but eventually dropped out. But interest in the game was revived in part because of this series. Because Galatea is one of his favorite characters, I knew I had to include his signature character in this storyline.

There are some references to what ExGemini was doing during his years away from Paragon City, including a certain "Island". This is actually a reference to Nathan's deviantART project where heroes, heroines, and certain "bad girls" that are "inspired by" various publications are invited to relax and enjoy the company of others.

This also wouldn't be the first time readers have heard of ExGemini or seen some of his creator's other characters. As mentioned in this issue, Ex was referenced in Issue #12, but some of Nathan's other characters were seen in that issue for possible recruitment. I was very thankful that Nathan was able to provide still images of those characters and I got permission to use them in that issue.

For more on Nathan's other creations, check out his website at <http://exgemini.deviantart.com>
(Caution: not all of his works are safe-for-work. Parental guidance is suggested.)

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



What is the secret behind Leona Powers? Can the Guardians, with help from ExGemini and the Dawn Patrol, be able to stop her? And if they can't, then who would?

*Find out as "Galatea Dawning" reaches its startling conclusion in the landmark **ISSUE #25!***



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