

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GRADUATION



Sept. 2014
Issue 03



NOT ALL FAN-MADE COMICS ARE FOR THE SAME READERS.

 **E FOR EVERYONE**

 **T FOR TEENS**

 **T+ FOR TEENS PLUS**

 **M FOR MATURE**

Many MMOs are rated “**T for Teens**”, but that doesn't mean that the same applies to fan-made comics.

That's why the City of Comic Creators came up with the **MMO Comic Index Content Ratings System**; a voluntary rating system for comic content that gives the readers a quick glance at what kind of content to expect. This allows readers to choose which kind of general audience suits them, and it gives the comic creators the freedom to provide the kind of stories that they feel comfortable doing.

For more information about the MCICRS, please visit the MMO Comic Index website.

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MMO COMIC INDEX

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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 GRADUATION

PART 3 - "CONFRONTATIONS"

Ryder Lightning has returned to the Guardians of the Dawn in the hopes that he would pick up the task left by his longtime friend and teammate, Icon Powers.

But Ryder quickly learns that this is not the same group that he once was a member of. Things have changed considerably.

One of those changes was the withdrawal of his fellow "Guardian Exile", MidKnight X, from active duties with the group. Searching for answers, Ryder manages to track down the "Knight's" lair in the sewers underneath Kings Row.

But he has also invoked the rage of his one-time friend, and it seems that the dark street vigilante is darker and more powerful than he ever was before.

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IN THE SEWERS UNDERNEATH KINGS ROW

PARAGON CITY, RI, USA

MY NAME IS RYDER LIGHTNING...

... AND I THINK I'M ABOUT TO DIE.

I'VE JOKED ABOUT RUNNING AWAY FROM DEATH ALL MY LIFE.

BUT THIS TIME... IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE FOR REAL.

 **Ryder Lightning**
ELECTRIC SPEEDSTER

AND MY KILLER...

YOU ONLY PROLONG YOUR OWN DEATH!

... WOULD BE A LONG-TIME TEAMMATE.

 **MidKnight X**
STREET VIGILANTE

AND YOU FEED MY WRATH!

I'VE KNOWN JASON KNIGHT SINCE HE WAS AN ORPHAN.

THESE SEWERS ARE MINE! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM MY DOMAIN!

BUT NOW... HE'S CHANGED. EVEN STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN A FAIR FIGHT...

... IF I STILL HAD ALL OF MY POWERS.

RIGHT NOW ALL I CAN DO IS HOPE I CAN GET SOME DISTANCE FROM HIM UNTIL THE "BIG GUNS" CAN GET HERE.

TALOS ISLAND - HELIOS TOWERS

HERO-FRIENDLY CONDOMINIUM

"YOU KNOW, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME..."

...WE NEVER DID GET THAT BURGER.

 **John Cole**
SON OF STATESMAN

AND YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THAT NOW?

 **Galatea Powers**
OTHERWORLD HERO

WELL WE DID JUST HAVE A RATHER HEAVY "WORKOUT".

NOT ALL OF US CAN GET RECHARGED SIMPLY BY SUNBATHING.

YOU KNOW, I REALLY DON'T GET MY POWERS FROM THE SUN.

I ONCE THOUGHT THAT I DID*, BUT IT TURNS OUT IT'S A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED.

(* GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT #3)

OKAY... A LOT MORE COMPLICATED.

WHAT'S THAT?

UH... NOTHING, I WAS JUST MUTTERING SOMETHING.

NO, I MEAN, THERE'S SOMETHING BEEPING IN HERE.



WAIT... I HEAR IT TOO.



IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE YOUR ARMOIRE.



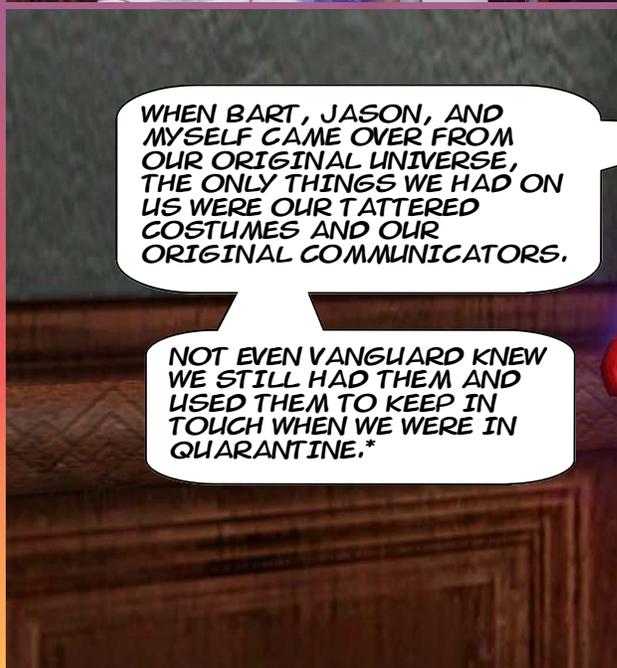
WHAT'S IN THERE?
DO YOU HAVE AN OLD PAGER OR SOMETHING?



THAT'S THE ALERT FROM MY ORIGINAL COMMUNICATOR.



OKAY, SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



WHEN BART, JASON, AND MYSELF CAME OVER FROM OUR ORIGINAL UNIVERSE, THE ONLY THINGS WE HAD ON US WERE OUR TATTERED COSTUMES AND OUR ORIGINAL COMMUNICATORS.

NOT EVEN VANGUARD KNEW WE STILL HAD THEM AND USED THEM TO KEEP IN TOUCH WHEN WE WERE IN QUARANTINE.*



IT'S BEEN SO LONG THAT I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE SOUND OF THE PANIC BUTTON.

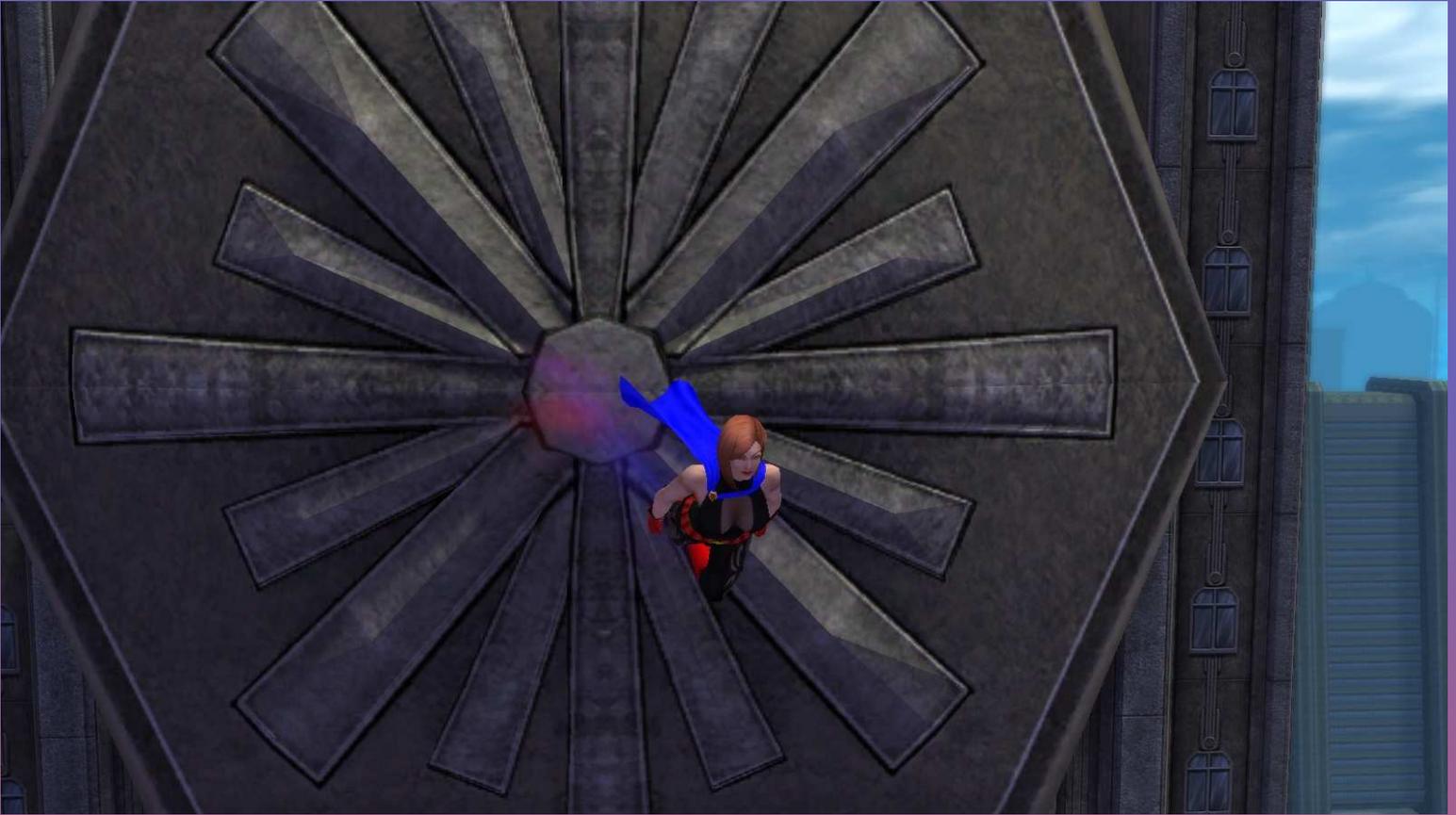
(* TO BE REVEALED IN "THE CITY'S FINEST: GUARDIAN EXILES", KEEP CHECKING THE BATTLEROCK COMICS WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.)



CALL THE BASE.
TELL THEM A
GUARDIAN NEEDS
ASSISTANCE AND
TO FOLLOW MY
COMM SIGNAL.



BING
HERO EXIT
TUBE OPEN.
SUNDIAL EXIT.



GUARDIAN BASE,
THIS IS JOHN COLE.
PROTOCOL FOUR;
GUARDIAN NEEDS
ASSISTANCE.

GUARDIAN BASE

I HEARD THE CALL FOR ASSISTANCE. WHAT'S UP?

Cardinal Syn
STREET VIGILANTE

JOHN COLE SAID TO TRACK GALATEA POWERS FOR THE LOCATION.

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HEADING TO KINGS ROW.

KINGS ROW? WHY?

DON'T KNOW YET, BUT FROM WHAT I'M TOLD, RYDER LIGHTNING WAS LOOKING FOR MIDNIGHT X OVER THERE TOO.

OH NO... DAMMIT!

SHE'LL BRING HIM BACK TO KINGS ROW FOR CERTAIN!

PAGE PHARON!
TELL HIM I NEED HIM IN THE KINGS ROW SEWERS RIGHT NOW!



I'VE BEEN USING WHAT LITTLE POWER I HAVE TO TRY TO ABSORB HIS KINETIC ENERGY.



* CRACK *



AND IT SLOWED HIM DOWN AT FIRST.

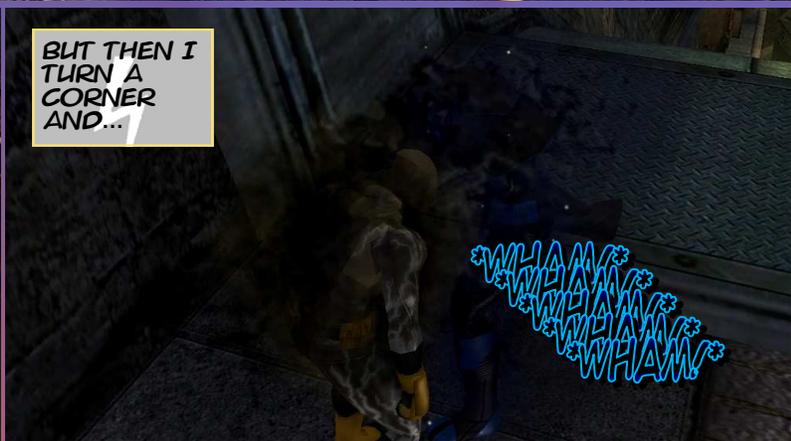


GAAH!

* CRACK *



IT ALSO GIVES ME A LITTLE EXTRA SPEED SO I CAN TRY TO RUN AWAY.



BUT THEN I TURN A CORNER AND...

WHEAAW
WHEAAW
WHEAAW



YOU THINK YOU CAN STEAL MY POWER AND FLEE. YOU ARE WRONG. LIKE THIS ONE WAS WRONG IN TRYING TO HARNESS ME.

YOUR DEATH AT HIS HAND WILL COMPLETE THE CONVERSION. MY NEW APOSTLE WILL RULE THIS LAND IN MY NAME!



NO!

KA-POW!



GLAD YOU GOT MY SIGNAL.

BE THANKFUL I WAS ABLE TO HEAR IT. WHAT HAPPENED? WHY IS JASON-- ?

THAT'S NOT JASON. OR AT LEAST IT'S NOT THE JASON YOU AND I KNOW. JUST THE WAY HE'S TALKING... IT'S LIKE HE'S POSSESSED BY SOMETHING.

WELL, JUST LET ME HANDLE THIS. GO AHEAD AND TELEPORT BACK TO THE BASE.

GREAT IDEA...EXCEPT I'VE BEEN TRYING, AND THE TELEPORT DEVICES AREN'T WORKING.
DOORS HERE ARE ALL SEALED SHUT AS WELL.

NO TELEPORTS... DOORS SEALED...
ALL THE MAKINGS OF A DEUS-LIKE BEING.

OKAY, *KNIGHT*... OUT WITH IT.
WHO'S PULLING YOUR STRINGS AND MAKING YOU TRY TO KILL OUR FRIEND?

GALATEA...
RUN... GET RYDER OUT OF HERE...

RRR!!

MOT... WILL NOT BE DENIED AGAIN!
THIS ONE WILL BE MY APOSTLE, AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE.

THE WATERS WILL RUN RED WITH BLOOD.
THE SKY SHALL BE PITCH.
THIS WORLD WILL WORSHIP AND FEAR ME AGAIN!

NOT EVEN YOU CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF A TRUE GOD!

CRACK

WHIAW
WHIAW
WHIAW
WHIAW



WE ARE TOO LATE...

Pharon
EGYPTIAN CHAMPION



"THEY'RE ALREADY IN BATTLE."



THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE. YOU HAVE TO SUMMON HIM.



I... I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN. THE LAST TIME I DID...



WE ARE OUT OF OPTIONS, PHARON! EITHER GALATEA WILL BE FORCED TO GO ALL-OUT IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS OR MOT WILL.

EITHER WAY, MOT WILL WIN... UNLESS YOU CAN BRING THE ONE FORCE THAT CAN END THIS RIGHT HERE AND NOW!



<HARSIESIS COME FORTH!>*

(* TRANSLATED FROM ANCIENT EGYPT)





**HOLD,
FOUL ONE!**



**YOU HAD BEEN WARNED
BEFORE AGAINST TAKING
THAT WHICH IS NOT YOURS!**

**NOW YOU STAND BEFORE
HORUS, SON OF OSIRIS
AND ISIS, AND GOD OF
WAR, VENGEANCE, AND
PROTECTION!**



**THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU OR
YOUR HOST, EGYPTIAN GOD.**

**THIS ONE IS MINE, AND HE WILL
BE MY APOSTLE SO I CAN SPREAD
MY POWER BEYOND ASTORIA!**

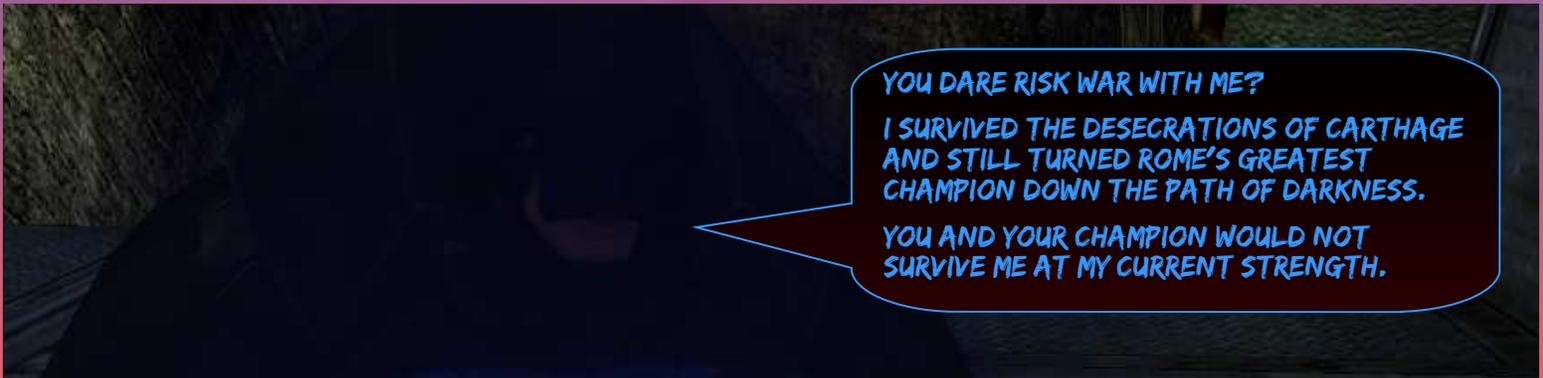


JASON KNIGHT WAS NEVER YOURS TO CLAIM.

JUST AS THE DARK ENERGIES THAT HE WIELDS ARE NOT YOURS TO COVET. THOUGH ASTORIA IS LOST, I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO SPREAD FURTHER INTO THIS CITY.



YOU DARE TELL ME WHAT IS AND IS NOT MINE TO CLAIM? BE WARNED, GOD OF EGYPT, THAT YOU FACE THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE GODS OF PHOENICIA.



YOU DARE RISK WAR WITH ME? I SURVIVED THE DESECRATIONS OF CARTHAGE AND STILL TURNED ROME'S GREATEST CHAMPION DOWN THE PATH OF DARKNESS. YOU AND YOUR CHAMPION WOULD NOT SURVIVE ME AT MY CURRENT STRENGTH.



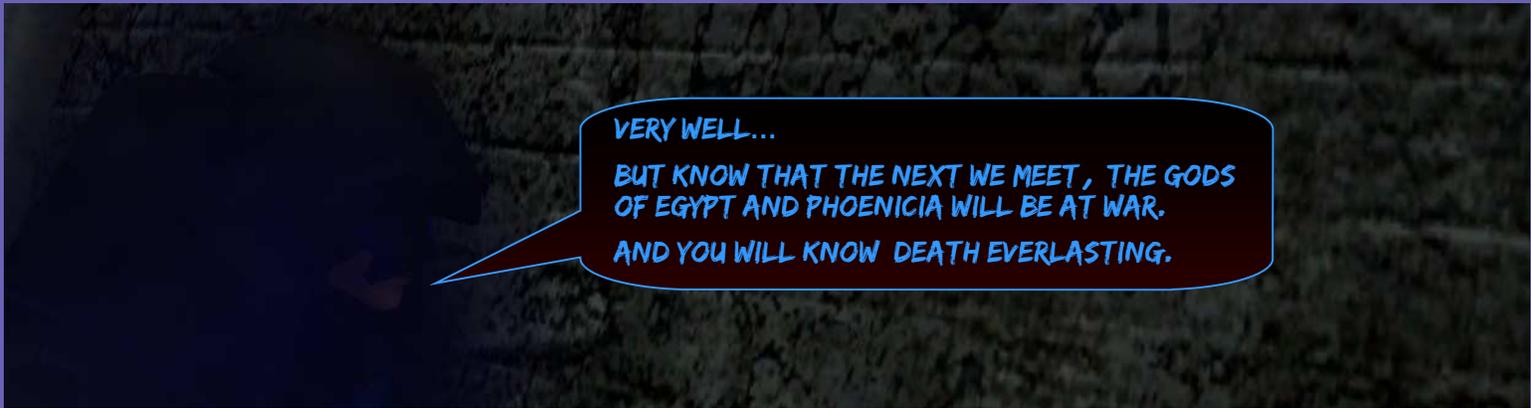
NOR WOULD YOU, FOUL ONE. FOR YOU NOT ONLY RISK WAR AGAINST THE GODS OF EGYPT, BUT ALSO AGAINST THE KHELDIAN WARSHADE KNOWN AS SHADOWSTAR, WHO PLEDGED HER ALLEGIANCE TO EGYPT, AND GAVE HER METAL TO MY CHAMPION TO USE AS HIS ARMOR.*

© *THE GUARDIAN POWERS* #11



IS YOUR LUST FOR POWER WORTH WAR AGAINST BOTH THE MIGHT OF EGYPT AND THE POWER OF THE FULL KHELDIAN SPECIES?

RELEASE JASON KNIGHT... NOW. HE IS UNDER MY PROTECTION.



VERY WELL... BUT KNOW THAT THE NEXT WE MEET, THE GODS OF EGYPT AND PHOENICIA WILL BE AT WAR. AND YOU WILL KNOW DEATH EVERLASTING.



PERHAPS, FOUL ONE. BUT THAT DAY IS NOT TODAY.

UNNNHHH...

Jason Knight
AKA MIDKNIGHT X



YOU KNOW, THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO STEP OUTSIDE, KNOWING THAT YOU'RE WATCHING THEM LIKE THIS.



I DON'T CARE IF THEY STEP OUTSIDE.
I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT THEY DID TO MY FATHER.
I WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT I'M ALWAYS WATCHING THEM; WAITING FOR MY MOMENT TO STRIKE.

WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT, IF YOU ASK ME.



HEY, I DIDN'T DISMISS YOUR REVENGE PLANS WHEN WE WERE WORKING TO GET BACK YOUR COMPANY, LEXIE.
YOU SHOULD AFFORD ME THE SAME PATIENCE.

FAIR ENOUGH.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LORD GEDDY AND THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE?

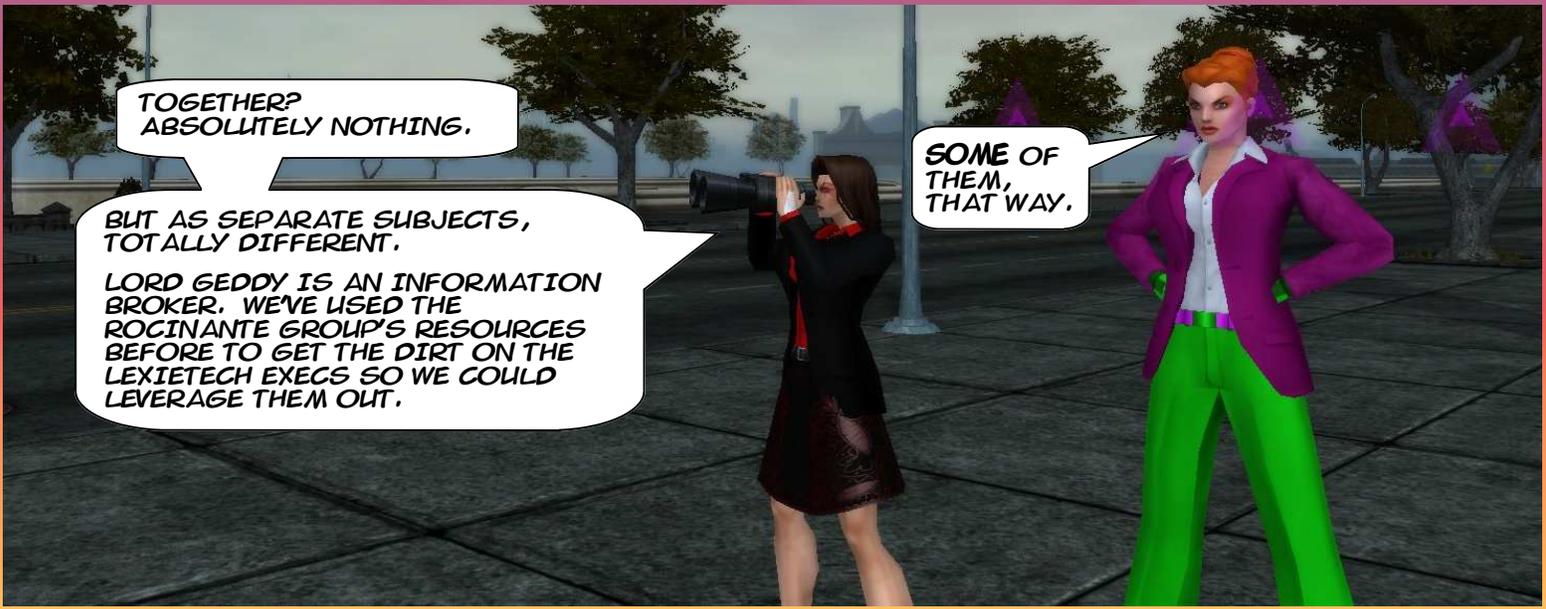
LT Helena Goro
LEXIETECH INC.

LT Lexie Lothora
LEXIETECH CEO



TOGETHER? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
BUT AS SEPARATE SUBJECTS, TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
LORD GEDDY IS AN INFORMATION BROKER. WE'VE USED THE ROCINANTE GROUP'S RESOURCES BEFORE TO GET THE DIRT ON THE LEXIETECH EXECS SO WE COULD LEVERAGE THEM OUT.

SOME OF THEM, THAT WAY.



RIGHT... **SOME** OF THEM.
ANYWAY, GEDDY'S A STRAIGHTFORWARD MAN. HE DELIVERS WHATEVER HE PROMISES.

AND THE ALLIANCE?

CONSPIRACY THEORIES ASIDE, THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE IS THE REAL THING.
IT'S LIKE THE ROGUE ISLES INFRASTRUCTURE, BUT ON A GLOBAL SCALE.
I'M TOLD DOCTOR AEON HAS BEEN A MEMBER FOR YEARS.



GEDDY'S MADE ME AN OFFER.
ONE THAT I AM SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING.
IT WOULD REQUIRE US TO PLAY A VERY DANGEROUS GAME, THOUGH.

IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS, THEN YOU'D BE A FOOL TO TURN IT DOWN.
BUT AS YOUR SECURITY EXPERT, I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHATEVER "GAME" HE WANTS YOU TO PLAY.



YOU DON'T THINK HE WOULD DELIVER WHAT HE PROMISES?

I THINK THAT THERE IS A REASON WHY THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE IS AS FORMIDABLE AS IT IS, AND TO HAVE GEDDY DANGLE THIS JEWEL IN FRONT OF YOU INSTEAD OF JUST OFFERING YOU A MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE QUESTIONED.



DULY NOTED.
I'M STILL GOING TO TAKE LORD GEDDY UP ON HIS OFFER.

BUT I WANT YOU TO STAY IN THE LOOP ON WHAT TRANSPIRES.
IF THINGS GO SOUR...IF I AM BEING PLAYED FOR A PATSY...

THEN I WANT LORD GEDDY TO KNOW JUST WHY THOSE MEN IN THE CASINO ARE AFRAID TO FACE YOU.



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Music Is My Life!

People don't just come here for the view. They also come here because I have the best audio in any dimension. And I can only get that by using the best audio equipment.

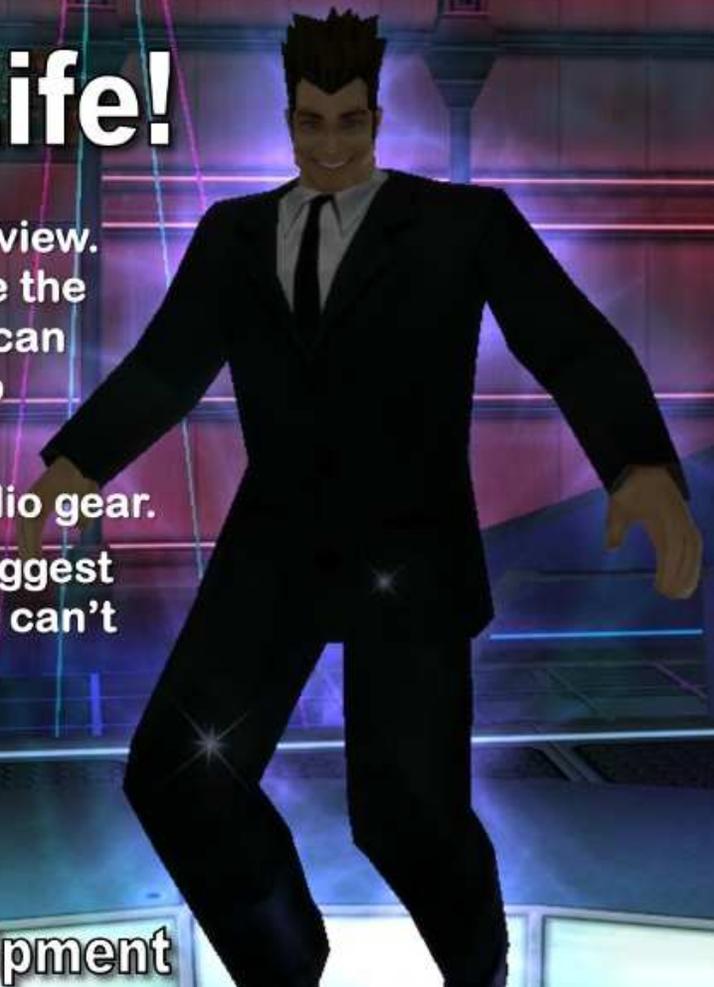
That's why I use the **LT** brand of audio gear. Because when you're hosting the biggest nonstop party in the omniverse, you can't settle for second best.

And neither should you!



LexieTech

Premium Audio Equipment



THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF "MAC"



Hey, leave us alone!

He's the worst!



I'd smash ya', but your too puny! Not worth my time!



Sorry, Kinetic Kitten, I just can't beat him!

Don't worry, I only like tough guys anyway!



So, Serge, you say this Stefan Richter can make me an Incarnate?



Wow, he sure did!

And it only took 50 levels of my time!



Whatcha doin' back here?

Kickin' yer tail, ya' Crum Bum!



My HERO Mac!

You've got such a great 'BUILD'!

HERO OF THE BEACH!

Let Me PROVE I Can Make YOU A NEW MAN!

ARE you "fed up" with seeing 'Knuckles' walk off with all the best girls? Are you tired of feeling BARELY ALIVE? I know how you feel! I was once a 'Puny' weaking myself! I was so ashamed of my 98 lb. frame. I was scared to go outside!

The Secret of How I got My Build

Visiting a Gym took too long, and Inventions took much of my Infamy! I just visited 'Serge'!!! Now I have gotten the power of the Well Of Furies. You too can have this power!

My techniques may be shared with all who bow allegiance to Arachnos!

"Power Up" Build Armies Fast!

Through my patented regime, you too can control minions of great power. As an Incarnate Master-Mind in training you will have the power of the "Greek Gods"

Clip Coupon for My Patented 32-Page Illustrated Book

Mailing this coupon will be your first step into my legions we refer to literally as a 'City of Villains'. Mail coupon to: **STEFAN RICHTER, Overcourt Drive, 115 E, Paragon City, RI**

Stefan Richter, Overcourt Drive 115E
Paragon City, RI, USA

Dear Lord Recluse, please send my your book with info on:

(Check all that apply)

MasterMinding and Minions
Dominating all the surround me
Corrupting Law Enforcement
Stalking that Special Girl

British ways of the world
Arachnos Soldering
Widow and Me - Introspective

Please send me a copy of the Build Guide for the section that I checked. I hereby pledge service to Arachnos for the rest of my life, and understand that I will spend 50 levels of my career serving Lord Recluse and Arachnos until I finally am free from service.

Name.....Age.....

Address.....

City & State..... Zip Code.....

Arachnos Corporation of the Etoile Islands, USA

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www.KK-Comics.com
Home of the Evil Malibu Barbie Series!

ZIGGURSKY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

BRICKSTOWN



HELLO
ELLE.

Lord Lee Geddy
MARGRAVE OF NIAGARA



LORD
GEDDY!

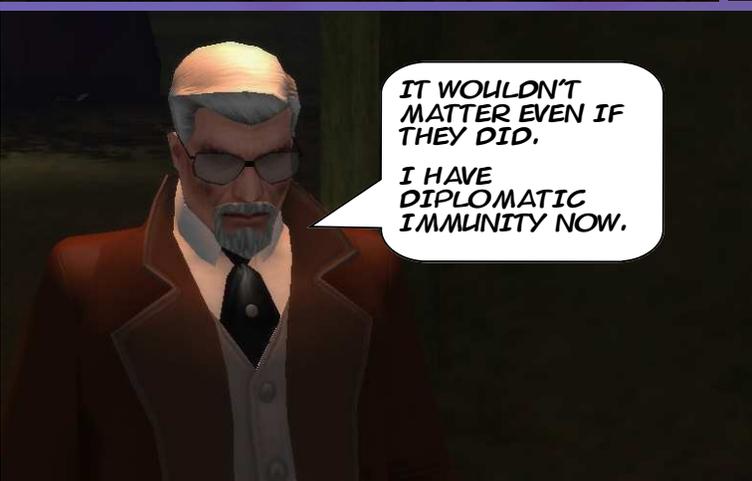
Ms. Elle Maple
ROCINANTE GROUP



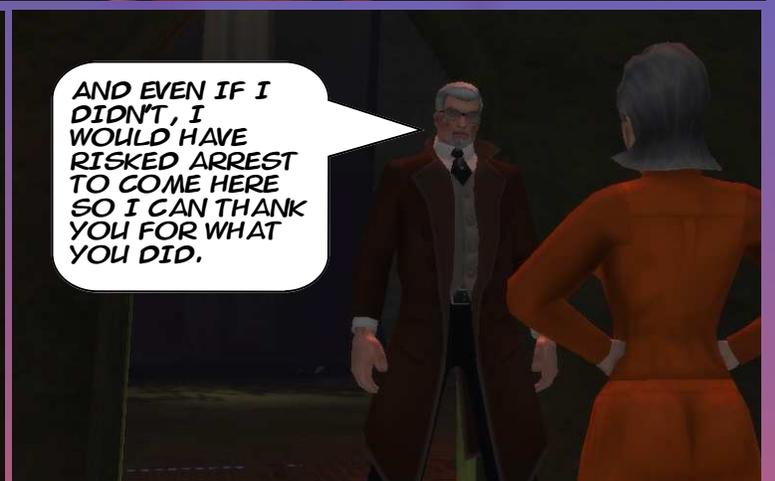
SIR, I'M... I'M
PLEASED TO SEE YOU.
BUT YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
YOU COULD BE
ARRESTED IF
SOMEONE KNEW--



IT WOULDN'T
MATTER EVEN IF
THEY DID.
I HAVE
DIPLOMATIC
IMMUNITY NOW.



AND EVEN IF I
DIDN'T, I
WOULD HAVE
RISKED ARREST
TO COME HERE
SO I CAN THANK
YOU FOR WHAT
YOU DID.

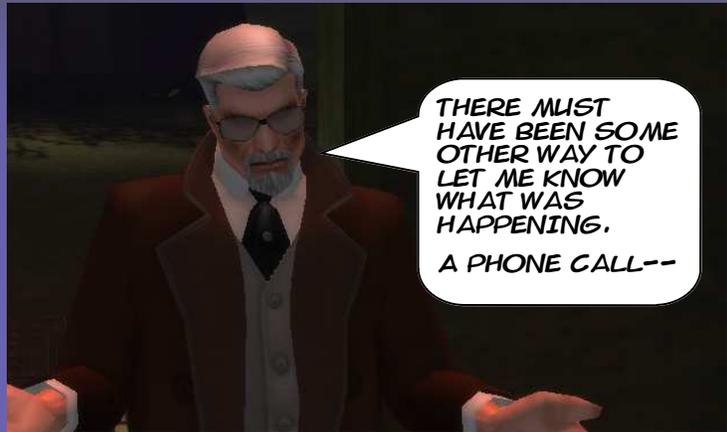


IT WAS A VERY
BRAVE THING
THAT YOU DID,
GOING AFTER
ROCHSPARE
LIKE THAT.



HE LEFT ME NO CHOICE.
HIS PLANS TO TAKE
OVER THE ROCINANTE
GROUP WERE MOVING
SO FAST, I HAD TO DO
SOMETHING SHOCKING
TO STOP THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS FROM
MEETING.





THERE MUST
HAVE BEEN SOME
OTHER WAY TO
LET ME KNOW
WHAT WAS
HAPPENING.
A PHONE CALL--

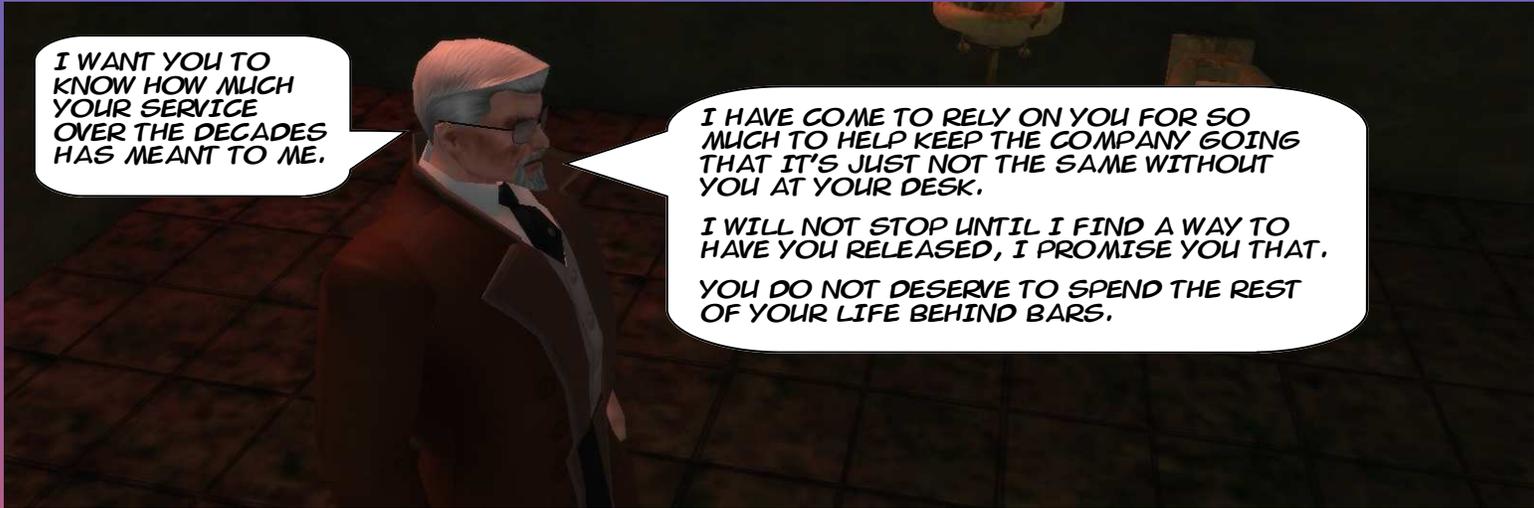


--WOULDN'T HAVE
GONE THROUGH,
SIR.
ROCHSPARE WAS
VERY THOROUGH IN
CO-OPTING THE
COMPANY'S
INFRASTRUCTURE.



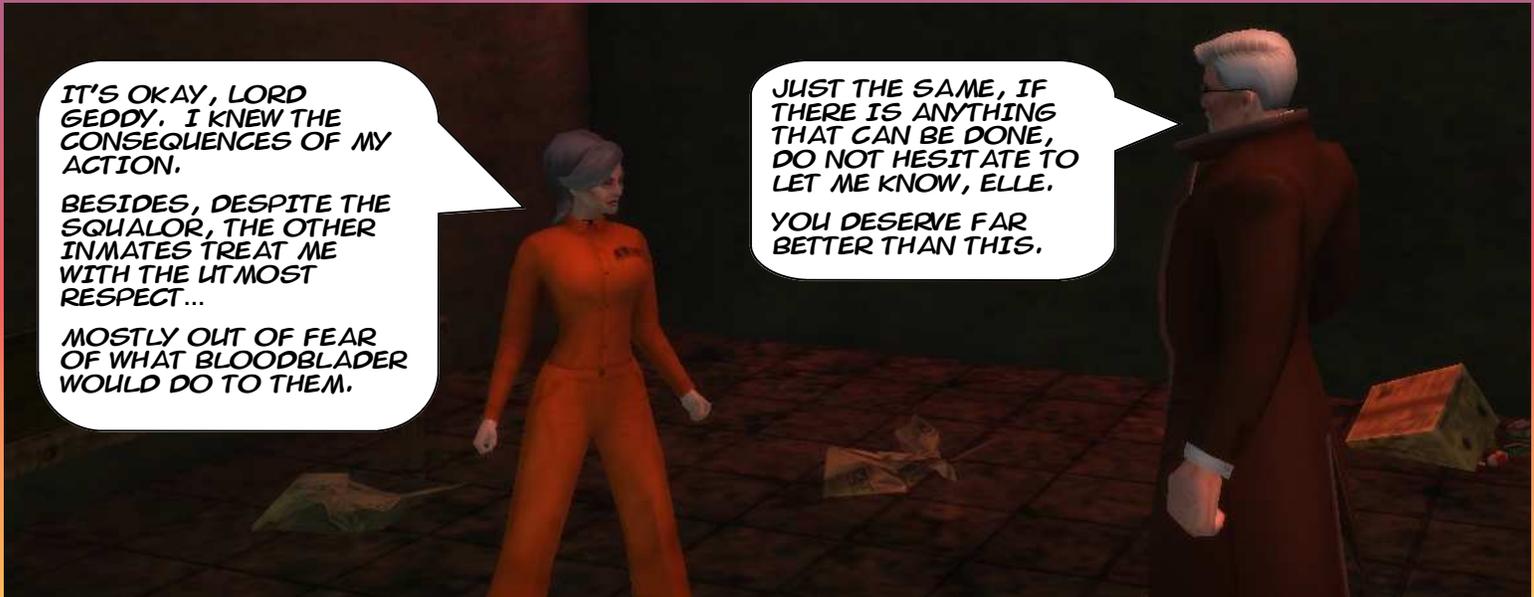
HE HAD ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR
THAT MY BODYGUARD WASN'T
GOING TO BE RELEASED FROM
PRISON.
HE HAD SENT NOVAPRIMA TO THE
BERLIN OFFICE.
HE CUT OFF ALL CONTACT WITH
THE LIBRA ORDER.
IF THAT MEETING WAS ALLOWED
TO HAPPEN, HE WOULD HAVE ALL
THE VOTES TO REPLACE YOU.

I SEE...



I WANT YOU TO
KNOW HOW MUCH
YOUR SERVICE
OVER THE DECADES
HAS MEANT TO ME.

I HAVE COME TO RELY ON YOU FOR SO
MUCH TO HELP KEEP THE COMPANY GOING
THAT IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME WITHOUT
YOU AT YOUR DESK.
I WILL NOT STOP UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO
HAVE YOU RELEASED, I PROMISE YOU THAT.
YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO SPEND THE REST
OF YOUR LIFE BEHIND BARS.



IT'S OKAY, LORD
GEDDY. I KNEW THE
CONSEQUENCES OF MY
ACTION.
BESIDES, DESPITE THE
SQUALOR, THE OTHER
INMATES TREAT ME
WITH THE LIT MOST
RESPECT...
MOSTLY OUT OF FEAR
OF WHAT BLOODBLADER
WOULD DO TO THEM.

JUST THE SAME, IF
THERE IS ANYTHING
THAT CAN BE DONE,
DO NOT HESITATE TO
LET ME KNOW, ELLE.
YOU DESERVE FAR
BETTER THAN THIS.

RIKTI WAR ZONE

VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS



"DOCTORS SAY JASON IS IN AN INDUCED SLEEP."



HE'LL STAY THERE WHILE THE VANGUARD MYSTICS WORK ON PURGING ANY REMNANTS OF MOT FROM HIS BODY.

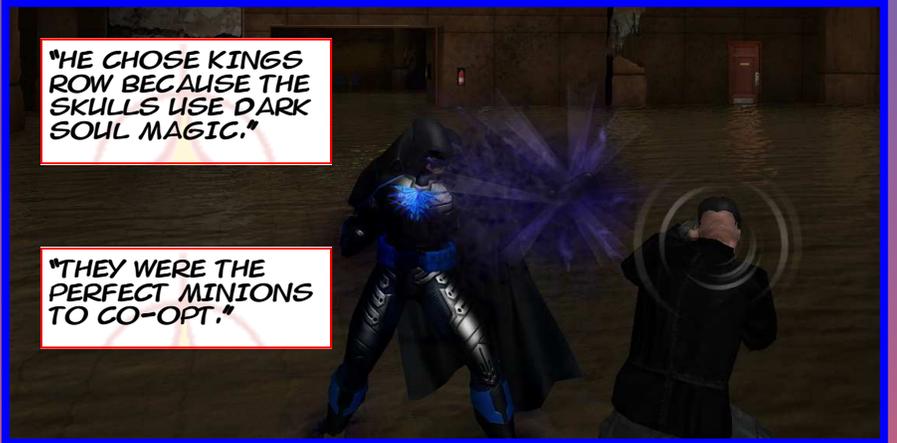
IT'LL PROBABLY BE THE MOST SLEEP HE'S GOTTEN IN A LONG TIME.



SO...WHO WANTS TO START?



LAST OCTOBER, MOT DECIDED TO EXPAND HIS INFLUENCE BEYOND THE WALLS OF DARK ASTORIA.



"HE CHOSE KINGS ROW BECAUSE THE SKULLS USE DARK SOUL MAGIC."

"THEY WERE THE PERFECT MINIONS TO CO-OPT."



"BUT, OF COURSE, JASON USES THE SAME KIND OF DARK ENERGY."

"HE DIDN'T REALIZE JUST HOW MUCH MOT HAD SPREAD INTO THE AREA UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE."



"BEFORE HE KNEW IT, MOT TOOK OVER."



"HE BECAME MOT'S APOSTLE."



SYN WAS JUST STARTING AS JASON'S APPRENTICE WHEN IT HAPPENED. SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS COMPROMISED AT FIRST.



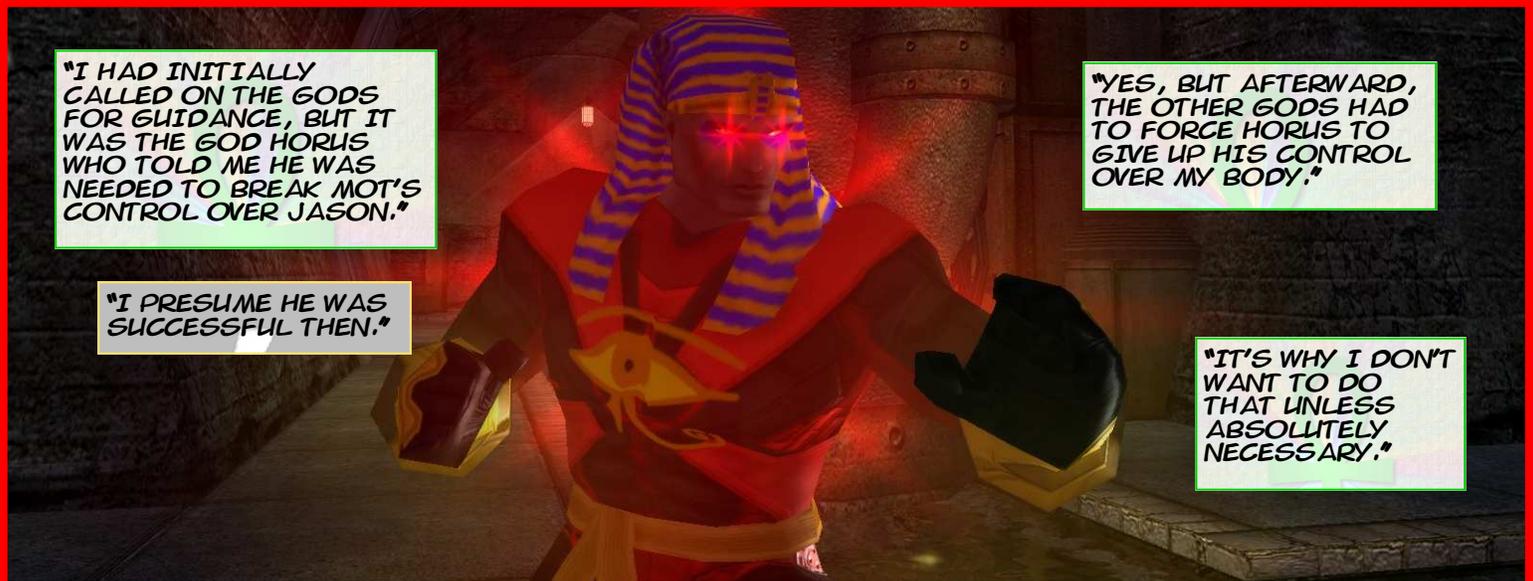
BY THE TIME I WAS CALLED TO THE SCENE, HE WAS FORMING THE SKULLS INTO MOT'S DARK ARMY.



AND... BEING ABLE TO SUMMON EGYPTIAN GODS? WHEN DID YOU LEARN TO DO THAT?



THAT SAME NIGHT.



"I HAD INITIALLY CALLED ON THE GODS FOR GUIDANCE, BUT IT WAS THE GOD HORUS WHO TOLD ME HE WAS NEEDED TO BREAK MOT'S CONTROL OVER JASON."

"YES, BUT AFTERWARD, THE OTHER GODS HAD TO FORCE HORUS TO GIVE UP HIS CONTROL OVER MY BODY."

"I PRESUME HE WAS SUCCESSFUL THEN."

"IT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY."



SO WHY DIDN'T HE TURN TO THE GUARDIANS FOR HELP WITH THIS?
WHY TRY TO STICK IT OUT ON HIS OWN IN THE SEWERS?



ARE YOU KIDDING?
THIS IS JASON KNIGHT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!

HE STILL THINKS THE GUARDIANS WERE SOLD OUT TO ANDREW WENTWORTH.



I KNOW JASON ASKED YOU TO JOIN THE GUARDIANS, SYN, TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE GROUP FOR HIM.

IT WAS AN ARRANGEMENT THAT JASON HAD MADE WITH ICON POWERS.
SUN ZHU'S ADVICE OF "KEEP YOUR FRIENDS CLOSE AND YOUR ENEMIES CLOSER".



AND THAT MAKES YOU... WHAT?



ENOUGH!
THIS IS GOING NOWHERE.



JASON WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL ME, SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE ONE PERSON LEFT WHO CAN.

TELL GUARDIAN BASE THAT I'M TAKING THE VANGUARD PORTAL TO THE DAWN PATROL OFFICE IN CARDIFF.
IT'S TIME THAT I SPEAK WITH ICON POWERS HIMSELF.

ELSEWHERE IN THE VANGUARD BASE...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORT, MISTER COLE.

YES SIR.

WE HAD ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT GALATEA AND THE OTHERS HAD THEIR OWN METHOD OF COMMUNICATING WITH EACH OTHER WHEN THEY WERE IN ISOLATION, AND NOW WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT THEY DID.



Gaussian
VANGUARD TACTICIAN

BUT... I SUSPECT THERE'S MORE THAT WENT ON THAN WHAT YOU JUST TOLD ME.



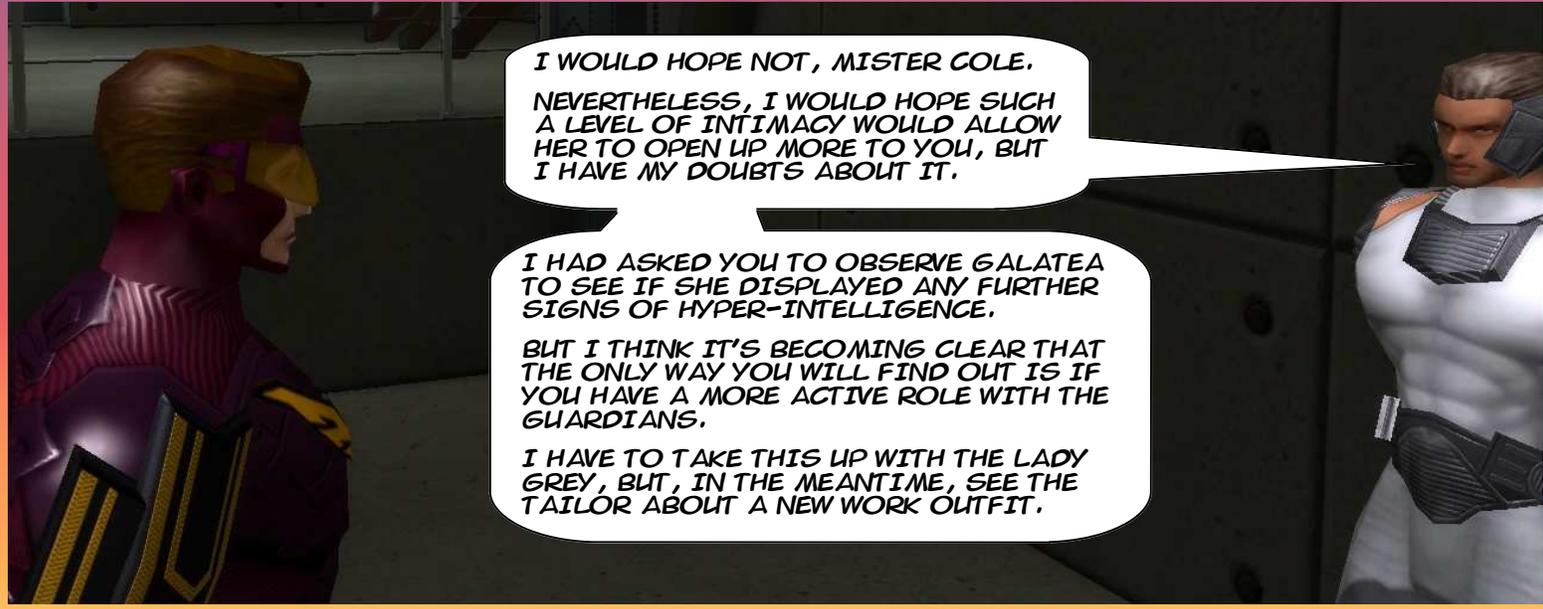
WELL... SIR... I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD...



SO YOU TWO ARE INVOLVED NOW... NOT EXPECTED, BUT ALSO REALLY NOT SURPRISING GIVEN HER LACK OF A PERSONAL LIFE.



SIR, I DIDN'T PLAN ON SEDUCING HER JUST TO GATHER INTEL ON HER.



I WOULD HOPE NOT, MISTER COLE. NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD HOPE SUCH A LEVEL OF INTIMACY WOULD ALLOW HER TO OPEN UP MORE TO YOU, BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT IT.

I HAD ASKED YOU TO OBSERVE GALATEA TO SEE IF SHE DISPLAYED ANY FURTHER SIGNS OF HYPER-INTELLIGENCE. BUT I THINK IT'S BECOMING CLEAR THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU WILL FIND OUT IS IF YOU HAVE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE WITH THE GUARDIANS. I HAVE TO TAKE THIS UP WITH THE LADY GREY, BUT, IN THE MEANTIME, SEE THE TAILOR ABOUT A NEW WORK OUTFIT.

SOMEWHERE IN PEREZ PARK...

BEFORE WE BEGIN, I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW JUST HOW EXCITED I AM THAT YOU WOULD SHOW UP HERE TO BE MY "VOLUNTEER".

Hank Geddy
AKA ST ARCYGENUS



OF COURSE, THE NEURAL PARALYSIS THAT I GAVE YOU PREVENTS YOU FROM MOVING OR TALKING.



BUT, REST ASSURED, YOU WILL NOT BE THE LAST TO VISIT MY VERY HUMBLE ABODE.



AND YOU CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE ALONE FOR LONG.



YESSSS...



ANOMALOUS READING DETECTED.



SIR? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

I MAY HAVE DETECTED A DATA TRANSFER WITHIN DEEP-NET FIVE RESEMBLING A HUMAN NEURO-PATTERN.

HOWEVER THE TRANSFER IN QUESTION HAS DETERIORATED BEFORE REACHING A DESTINATION.

DATA CORRUPTION HAS PREVENTED FURTHER ANALYSIS.

READINGS HAVE BEEN CATALOGED FOR FUTURE INVESTIGATION.

THAT IS ALL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

Databank
JUSTICE-KNIGHTS MEMBER

CAP AU DIABLE - AEON CITY

ROGUE ISLES

"LORD GEDDY,
THIS IS LEXIE
LOTHORA..."

I JUST WANTED TO
LET YOU KNOW
THAT I'VE DECIDED
TO TAKE YOU UP
ON YOUR OFFER.

EXCELLENT.

I ANTICIPATED
YOUR ACCEPTANCE
AND SENT OVER A
COUPLE OF "GIFTS"
TO HELP YOU GET
STARTED.

THAT'S MOST
KIND OF YOU,
LORD GEDDY.
WHAT SORT OF
"GIFTS" SHOULD
I EXPECT?

WELL THE FIRST IS A DATA
PACKAGE THAT YOUR
EXPERTS SHOULD FIND
QUITE USEFUL IN SETTING
THE STAGE FOR YOUR FIRST
ASSIGNMENT.

THE BULK OF THE DATA
COMES COURTESY OF A
CERTAIN "FAMOUS" GENETIC
SCIENTIST UNDER MY CARE.

BUT I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE
GREATER VALUE IN THE
SECOND GIFT.

YEARS AGO I WAS GIVEN THE
GIFT OF A SKILLED
SPECIALIST IN FACILITATION.
IT IS A GIFT THAT I NOW
SHARE WITH YOU.

"HE SHOULD BE ARRIVING
AT YOUR AEON CITY
OFFICE SHORTLY."

"I'LL MAKE SURE
HE GETS A WARM
RECEPTION."

"OH, YOU WON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT MAKING
HIM FEEL AT HOME, MISS
LOTHORA.

"WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT,
HE WILL INTRODUCE
HIMSELF TO YOU."

GOT A LITTLE LOST ON YOUR WAY BACK TO CLASS, PROFESSOR?

FUNNY... AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS THE RUNAWAY IN OUR GROUP.

YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, BART.

I TAKE IT KATIE TOLD YOU WHERE TO FIND ME.

SHE GAVE ME A GENERAL DIRECTION.

I REMEMBERED YOU USED TO TALK ABOUT THE CLIFFS HERE WHEN YOU VISIT THE POWERS FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Kent Poderes
AKA ICON POWERS

ALEX CAME TO ME A FEW DAYS AGO AND TOLD ME THAT YOU UP AND QUIT BACK IN FEBRUARY.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET A GRASP OF WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH THE GUARDIANS SINCE I WAS THERE, BUT IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT IS A COMPLETELY NEW GROUP.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, KENT?

IN ALL OUR YEARS, I'VE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO RUN AWAY FROM A FIGHT, EVEN FROM A LOSING ONE.

SO WHY HAVE YOU?

Prof. Bart Wallace
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING

SIGH

I WISH I COULD SAY THAT I JUST GOT TIRED... BUT IT'S A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.

BACK WHEN WE WERE "DISBANDED ON PAPER", I WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE GUARDIANS GOING AS A "GHOST GROUP" BECAUSE OUR GROUP WAS SMALL, AND THEY RELIED MORE ON MY EXPERIENCE THAN MY PHYSICAL ABILITY.*

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT LEADING A GROUP IS NOT A MATTER OF POWER, BUT MORE ABOUT WILL.

EVEN THOUGH MY POWERS HAVE BEEN DIMINISHING, I WAS ABLE TO RELY ON MY FORCE OF WILL TO MOTIVATE OTHERS.

AT LEAST AT FIRST.

"BUT WHAT NONE OF US REALIZED WAS JUST HOW THINGS HAD CHANGED SINCE DOC TOR AND GALATEA BROUGHT BACK THOSE 2200 PEOPLE FROM THE TIME ECHO OF GALAXY CITY."

◀ "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #15

"SOME OF THE GUARDIANS FELT NO EFFECTS OF BEING TRAPPED IN THERE FOR OVER A YEAR."



"BUT FOR OTHERS..."

TashaTiger
MYSTICAL CATGURL



"...THEY LOST CONTROL OF THEIR ABILITIES."

I KNOW THAT COEUR DU FELU HAD TO SPEND A YEAR WITH THE STONEHENGE COVEN TO MASTER THE CHANGES THAT HAPPENED TO HER.

AND I READ UP ABOUT THE "INCIDENT".

FEH!

◀ PART 1

"READING UP" ABOUT IT DOESN'T COMPARE TO ACTUALLY SEEING IT HAPPEN.

IT'S LIKE READING ABOUT A TRAIN WRECK VERSUS ACTUALLY WATCHING IT AS IT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

I KNEW THE "LOST TIME" WAS HARD ON STREET JUSTICE AND WHYSPERA. HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT SHE WAS GOING THROUGH BEING A MUTANT AND HAVING HER POWERS CHANGED BY THE TIME ECHO.

AND IT WAS NATURAL THAT SHE WOULD TURN TO ANOTHER MUTANT LIKE ARKTIC CHILL.

"I TRIED TO TALK TO MARTIN; TRIED TO GET HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WASN'T HUNTER'S FAULT."



Street Justice
(MARTIN KEYS)



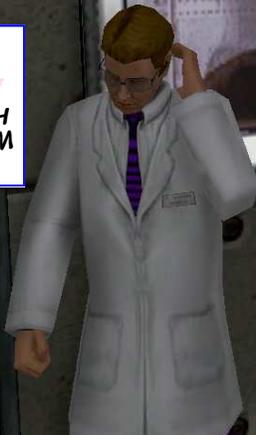
"I HAD HOPED MY FORCE OF WILL WOULD BE ENOUGH TO AVOID THE CONFRONTATION."

"I WAS WRONG."

Arctic Chill
(HUNTER BLOODMOON)



"BECAUSE I UNDERESTIMATED THE SITUATION, MARTIN LOST BOTH OF HIS ARMS FROM FROSTBITE."



"AND ARKTIC WAS LOST TO US."

I TRIED TO REACH OUT TO HUNTER, TO GET HIM TO COME BACK.

BUT HE TOLD ME THAT HUNTER BLOODMOON WAS GONE AND THAT HE WAS SIMPLY "ARKTIC".





OKAY, SO YOU WERE WRONG.

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT USED TO SAY THAT WE HAD TO LEARN FROM THESE THINGS AND TO DO BETTER THE NEXT TIME AROUND.

I DID, AND I TRIED TO LIVE UP TO MY OWN ADVICE.

BUT IT WASN'T THE ONLY THING THAT HAPPENED TO CAUSE ME TO CHANGE MY MIND.



"THERE WAS ALSO WHAT HAPPENED TO JASON."



"WHEN MOT CORRUPTED HIM INTO A MONSTER."



"I WAS THE ONE THAT ORIGINALLY TALKED JASON BACK INTO THE GUARDIANS*... ONLY TO WATCH HIM LEAVE US AGAIN AFTER WE RISKED EVERYTHING TO SAVE HIM."

"AND THIS TIME, NOTHING I COULD SAY WOULD CHANGE THAT."

(* THE GUARDIAN POWERS* #4)



"AND THEN THERE WAS JIMMY HELLFIGHTER AND HIS CANCER."

"YOU COULDN'T SAVE HIM, KENT. NOBODY COULD!"



THAT'S NOT IT.

IT'S HOW HE SPENT HIS LAST FEW YEARS BEFORE THE CANCER DID HIM IN.

HE TRIED TO SPEND THEM ALONE... APART FROM HIS OWN FAMILY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I MEAN HE NEVER LET PYROGURL KNOW THAT HE WAS HER GRANDFATHER UNTIL ALMOST THE VERY END! ALL THAT TIME WITH US, AND SHE NEVER KNEW!

HE DROVE THE WHOLE ROMANNA FAMILY AWAY TO SUPPOSEDLY SPARE THEM THE PAIN OF HIS DEATH.

BUT EVENTUALLY HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS WRONG TO DO THAT.

I TALKED WITH HIM IN THE HOSPITAL... JUST THE DAY BEFORE HE DIED.

HE TOLD ME TO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE HE DID.

THAT GOT ME THINKING ABOUT THE FAMILY THAT I HAVE HERE.



GALATEA IS STILL BITTER OVER WHAT I DID TO SAVE HER FROM MY UNCLE'S MANIPULATIONS.*

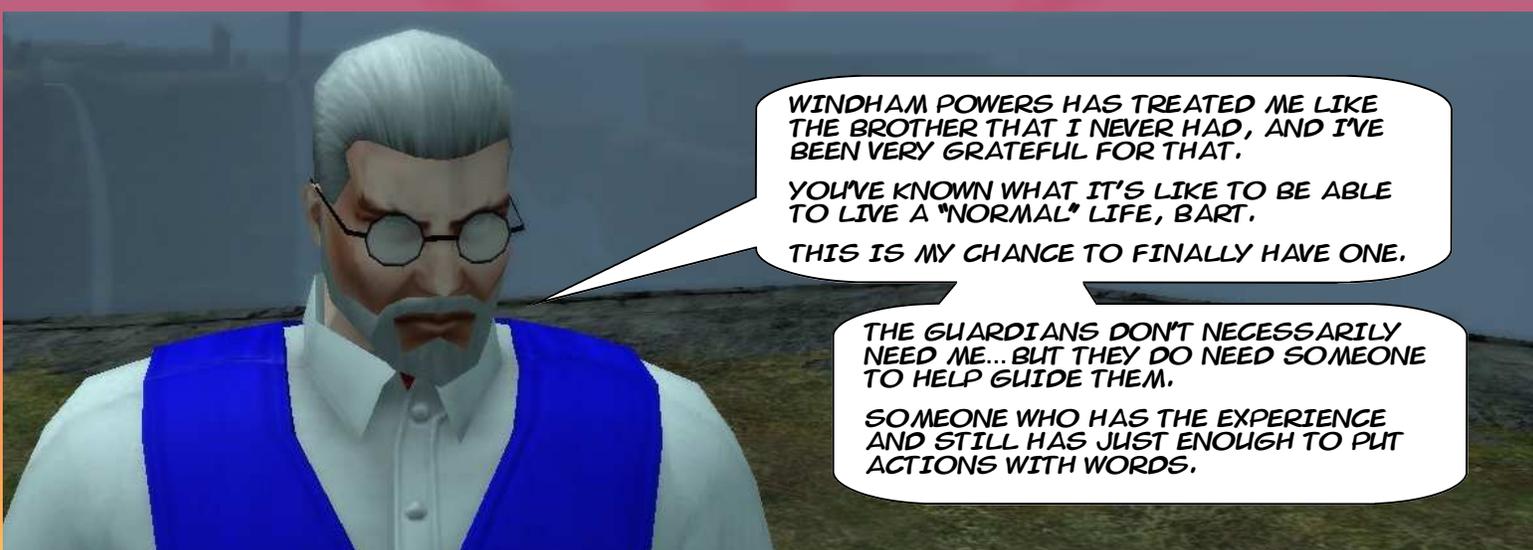
BUT HERE IN WALES, I HAVE AN ADOPTED FAMILY I CAN FINALLY GET TO KNOW.

IT MAKES SENSE.

YOU NEVER REALLY HAD A CHILDHOOD IN OUR WORLD.

YOU EITHER LIVED IN SECLUSION OR IN CONTINUAL LIMELIGHT.

< *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #19 >



WINDHAM POWERS HAS TREATED ME LIKE THE BROTHER THAT I NEVER HAD, AND I'VE BEEN VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

YOU'VE KNOWN WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ABLE TO LIVE A "NORMAL" LIFE, BART.

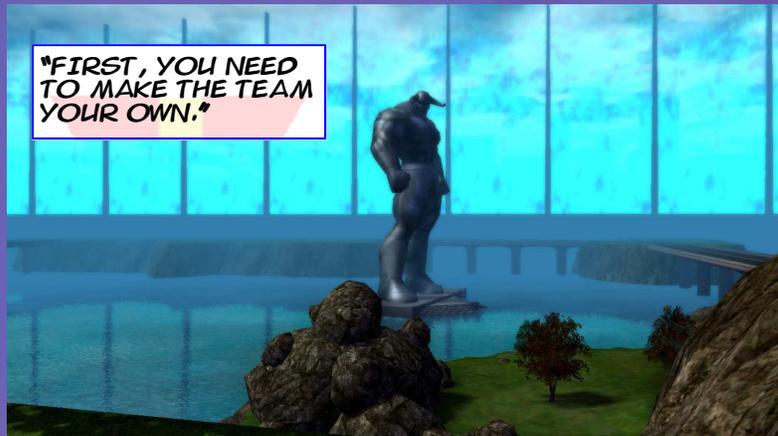
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FINALLY HAVE ONE.

THE GUARDIANS DON'T NECESSARILY NEED ME... BUT THEY DO NEED SOMEONE TO HELP GUIDE THEM.

SOMEONE WHO HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND STILL HAS JUST ENOUGH TO PUT ACTIONS WITH WORDS.



SIGH
OKAY... OKAY.
I GUESS I'M ALL-IN.
ANY ADVICE YOU WANT
TO GIVE ME?



**"FIRST, YOU NEED
TO MAKE THE TEAM
YOUR OWN."**



WELL?
THINK YOU CAN
PICK UP WHERE
ICON LEFT OFF?

Libertarian Avenger
(D. A. ALEX WENTWORTH)



**"NOT MY TEAM...NOT
ALEX'S TEAM...NOT EVEN
HIS UNCLE'S TEAM.

"IT HAS TO BE YOUR
TEAM THROUGH-AND-
THROUGH."**

I DO THIS... IT HAS TO BE ON
MY TERMS, ALEX.
WE WORK TOGETHER ON ANY
NEW RECRUITS. NO MORE OF
YOUR UNCLE'S "BACK DOOR"
RECRUITING.
I KEEP YOU IN THE LOOP ON
ANY ISSUES THAT COME UP,
BUT YOU LET ME HANDLE
THOSE ISSUES AS I SEE FIT.



I DON'T HAVE A
PROBLEM WITH THAT.
ANYTHING ELSE?

YOU DO REALIZE THAT
YOU'RE ASKING A
PROFESSOR TO DO A JOB
THAT NORMALLY
REQUIRES A WHEELCHAIR.

CHUCKLE
I THINK YOU'LL SOMEHOW
MANAGE TO PULL IT OFF
WITHOUT ONE.

ALSO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO SECRETS OR SURPRISES. YOU NEED ALL THE BOOKS OPENED UP FOR YOU.

I GUESS THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO SPEAK WITH ANDREW WENTWORTH AS WELL TO SEE WHAT HE CAN TELL ME ABOUT THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE.

I THINK YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE GETTING INTEL FROM JASON ABOUT THAT ORGANIZATION.

HE WAS THE ONE THAT FIRST MADE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ELDER WENTWORTH AND THE ALLIANCE.*

C* *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #28)

THE TALON ROOM

AND NOW WE WILL HEAR FROM THE NEWEST VOICE IN OUR INNER CIRCLE...

"IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT WHATEVER INFORMATION THE ALLIANCE DEEMS IMPORTANT THAT ANDREW KNEW ABOUT HAS ALREADY BEEN CHANGED.*

THIS IS ELEVEN.

THE VOICES HAVE ALL BEEN GATHERED. WE ARE READY TO BEGIN.

"I WOULD BE MORE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHO TOOK HIS PLACE.*

"AND WHAT HE OR SHE HAS IN STORE FOR YOU.*



I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...

THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE THAT I WANT YOU TO LOOK OUT FOR.

I'LL TRY... WHO ARE THEY?

THEY'RE BOTH FAMILY. THE FIRST ONE IS GALATEA.



<PLAY IT AGAIN>

"EVER SINCE SHE GOT BACK FROM THE TIME ECHO, SHE HAS BEEN EXPLORING NEW THINGS."

"SHE'S BEEN TEACHING HERSELF THE UNIVERSAL INTERGALACTIC LANGUAGE, AND EVEN THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE OF OUROBOROS."

GOD...WHAT A SAD MEMORY.

* TRANSLATED FROM FIRST-SPEAK, THE FIRST LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSE. *



... ALL THAT TIME AND YOU NEVER TOLD HIM THAT YOU LOVED HIM.

WH-WHO?

JOHN COLE, OF COURSE.

ALL THAT TIME WITH HIM, AND HE DIED NOT KNOWING HOW YOU REALLY FELT."

"IF SHE IS DEVELOPING HYPER-INTELLIGENCE, THEN WE NEED TO BE CONCERNED."

"THE LAST THING WE NEED IS FOR HER TO BE AN ALL-POWERFUL VERSION OF HER GENETIC FATHER."

* EXCERPTS FROM "FUTURE'S GUARDIAN" #9, AVAILABLE THROUGH BATTLEROCK COMICS. *

"WHO'S THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBER?"

"FURIA POWERS."

"SHE'S BEEN HAVING A HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN THE PRIMAL UNIVERSE."

"IN PRAETORIA, SHE LIVED A DOUBLE LIFE, SERVING EMPEROR COLE WHILE ALSO HELPING THE RESISTANCE WITH SURVIVORS FROM FIRST WARD."

"HERE, PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE STANDS...
"AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST AS WELL."

KNOCK-KNOCK

Furia Powers
FORMER PRAETORIAN

YES?

"SOUNDS LIKE A CERTAIN BROODING SEWER-DWELLER THAT WE BOTH KNOW."

THEY'RE READY FOR YOU IN THE INTERVIEW ROOM.

"THEN LET'S MAKE SURE THAT SHE DOESN'T END UP LIKE JASON."

SIGH
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

"SHE CAN BE EVERY BIT AS HEROIC AS GALATEA IF SHE IS GIVEN THE RIGHT MOTIVATION."

Find out what happens next in...

FURIA
AND THE **GUARDIANS**



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



Longbow Intelligence Unit

Assessment/Profile Division

A subsidiary of Freedom Corps, Inc.



From: Ms_Liberty (liberty@freedom.corps.para)
To: Icon_Powers (ipowers@gotd.para)
Subject: Incident in Steel Canyon

Icon,

I came across the incident report from two Freedom Corps officers regarding the fight between Arctic Chill and Street Justice in the middle of Steel Canyon. Can you give me more information as to what happened?

- Ms. Liberty

From: Icon_Powers (ipowers@gotd.para)
To: Ms_Liberty (liberty@freedom.corps.para)
Subject: re: Incident in Steel Canyon

Ms. Liberty,

I am still trying to get all of the details, but from what I am able to piece together, the matter was a personal conflict between Arctic and Street that escalated.

I will let you know more when I have all of the details.

- Icon Powers

From: Ms_Liberty (liberty@freedom.corps.para)
To: Icon_Powers (ipowers@gotd.para)
Subject: re: Incident in Steel Canyon

Icon,

I'm afraid that will not suffice. I am getting calls from the Paragon Times and PNN. They want to know what is going on, and I can't keep quiet when they already have pieces of the story from the two Corps officers at the scene.

- Ms. Liberty

From: Icon_Powers (ipowers@gotd.para)
To: Ms_Liberty (liberty@freedom.corps.para)
Subject: re: Incident in Steel Canyon

Ms. Liberty,

I would rather not get into all of the details as long as I am unable to confirm this with Arctic, but from what I understand, it concerned an accident that involved him and Whyspera that triggered their emergency medial teleport devices. The accident left Whyspera in intensive care and Arctic with some

Continues on next page...

temporary hearing loss. Street blamed Arctic for the accident, which led to the confrontation.

Street is currently undergoing surgery to have his amputated arms replaced with cybernetics. Arctic has abandoned his communicators and was last seen heading to the Hollows. There are several hideouts previously used by Frostfire that he can run to and we are trying to locate him there.

I would prefer to keep these details out of the hands of the media at least until I can confirm what has happened. We really do not need the media to blow this situation out of proportion like they did with Doc Tor.

- Icon

From: Ms_Liberty (liberty@freedom.corps.para)

To: Icon_Powers (ipowers@gotd.para)

Subject: re: Incident in Steel Canyon

Icon,

While I respect your desire to keep the Guardians out of another embarrassing incident with the media, I really cannot stay silent about it. At the very least, this is something that should be reviewed by the Oversight Committee.

- Ms. Liberty

But is this the whole story?

Is there more going on?

Find out this October when the focus shifts to the one group that we haven't heard from in "GRADUATION", and see what roles they played in the events that you've just seen.

The LIBRA ORDER

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>



"GRADUATION" MAY BE OVER, BUT OUR STORIES IN THE WORLD OF THE CITY OF HEROES ARE FAR FROM DONE.

FIRST, CHECK OUT THE "OTHER" SIDE OF THE "LOST TIME" WITH THE ONE-SHOT SPECIAL "THE LIBRA ORDER: DEBTS OF HONOR".

THEN FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #1!



ENDGAME!



SEPTEMBER 2014

'THE CRUCIBLE'

www.CodComics.com

"I really don't know what to expect anymore.

"In my world, I was a hero. But being a hero there is not the same as it is here.

"It looks like I will have to start from scratch to find out what it means to be a part of the 'City of Heroes'."

- Furia Powers
former Praetorian



FURIA

AND
THE **GUARDIANS**



[HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://battlerockcomics.wordpress.com)



A PROUD MEMBER
OF THE CITY OF
COMIC CREATORS