

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

# TASK FORCE 'TWILIGHT'



Issue 04  
2018



## Sundown

"you better  
take care..."



# Tough As Nails... But Still Needs Help.

Time are getting tough for Paragon City, and your police officers are getting tough as well.

We can give our officers the latest in technology, the most advanced weapons, and the toughest of body armors. We can turn every officer into a walking, talking, super-powered tank.

And all of that will still not be enough.

Because the police still need loyalty and support from you, the public.

They put their lives on the line for you, fighting the worst of the worst.

Heroes in spandex are fleeting. They're here today and gone tomorrow.

The real heroes are the ones that are out there each and every day, fighting the good fight not for glory, but because you're worth it.



## Support Your Local Police Officer!

Paid for by the Paragon City Police Union. Support the police and obey the police.



# THE ONLY THING "DIRTY" IS OUR NAME!

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

AND NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!

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

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

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



# THE DIRTY DUCK BAR AND GRILL

PROMETHEUS PARK, ATLAS PARK - NEW OVERBROOK, OVERBROOK

CHECK OUT OUR MENUS ONLINE AT [DIRTYDUCKBAR.PARA](http://DIRTYDUCKBAR.PARA)

*In the City of Heroes, masked and caped heroes are seen as the tireless protectors of the helpless. In the eyes of law enforcement, though, they will always be seen as vigilantes and criminals, no different than the evil that they fight.*

*But when power corrupts the men and women of law enforcement, these vigilantes are all that prevent the city from falling into a fascist police state. Now they must stand together and fight for justice.*

# TASK FORCE

# 'TWILIGHT'

Where once the corrupt police officers of the Blue Dog Squad were shunned by their superiors in the Paragon City Police Department, they now roam through the streets of Kings Row with impunity.

Before, there were heroes that stood up and took on the Blue Dogs and brought them to justice when nobody else would.

But now, one of those heroes is retired, another is dead, and the most recent hero known to stand up to the Blue Dogs is missing and branded a cop-killer.

It's time for a new group of heroes to stand up for what is right.

But how can they do that when it is not longer "legal" to be a hero in the Blue Dog Squad's own yard?

# "STANDING UP TO DOGS"

*- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2*

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PNN CENTER - STEEL CANYON, PARAGON CITY, R.I.

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PARAGON NEWS NETWORK, THE SOURCE OF ALL LOCAL NEWS MEDIA FOR TELEVISION, RADIO, AND PRINT.



THE NEWSROOM

MORNING EVERYONE!

HI APRIL!

SO...  
WHAT DID I MISS?

ARE YOU KIDDING, APRIL?

HEY, IT WASN'T MY CHOICE TO GO TO A MARRIAGE COUNSELING SEMINAR THAT HAD NO ACCESS TO TV, RADIO, OR THE INTERNET, OR EVEN A CELL SIGNAL FOR A WEEK!  
SO GET ME UP TO SPEED. WHAT HAPPENED?

 April Ramirez  
PNN REPORTER

OKAY... YOU ASKED FOR IT.

THE CORRUPT COP KNOWN AS LAWDOG WAS RELEASED ON BAIL.


THE NEXT DAY THEY FIND HIM IN A BAR AND ILLEGAL CASINO WITH HIS SKULL COMPLETELY STOMPED IN.

THE DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF SAYS THAT JASON KNIGHT KILLED LAWDOG AND HAS BANNED ALL HEROES FROM BEING IN KINGS ROW.

OKAY...  
WHAT?!?

I'M IN FULL SUPPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD'S BAN AND I URGE THE OTHER HEROES TO HONOR IT.



POLICE BAN ON HEROES IN KINGS ROW 

WHAT JASON KNIGHT DID WAS WRONG... AND IF HE'S INNOCENT, THEN WHY ISN'T HE TURNING HIMSELF IN AND PROVING IT?



CASHOUT · REGISTERED HERO 

I'VE BEEN IN KINGS ROW FOR A LONG TIME, AND, IF YOU ASK ME, THIS KIND OF SITUATION WAS LONG OVERDUE.



FREEDOM CORPS AGENT VERTA 


I HAVEN'T HAD A NEED TO BE THERE SINCE... FOREVER. SO IT DOESN'T AFFECT ME EITHER WAY. BUT... NO, I DON'T AGREE WITH IT.



THE INVINCIBLE AXIOS · REGISTERED HERO 

WELL, NO, THERE IS NO SPECIIIIIFIC MENTION OF IT IN THE CITY'S CHARTER.



PNN LEGAL ANALYST · NAN BRACER 

BUT DEPUTY CHIEF WIELD IS EXERCISING WHAT I LIKE TO CALL IMPLIIIIIIED AUTHORITY.



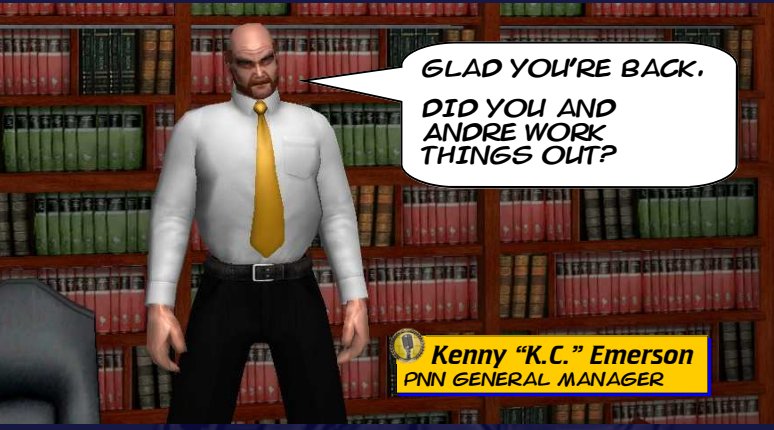
NAN BRACER EXPLAINS POLICE AUTHORITY 

THAT MEANS THAT, IN CERRRRTAIN SITUATIONS, IN TIMES OF EMERRRRGENCY, THE POLICE HAVE UNILAAAATERAL AUTHORITY TO MAKE RULES TO KEEP THE PEACE AND TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT.



AND... HAVING COPS BRUTALLY MURDERRRRR BY RENEGADE VIGILAAAAANTIES CERTAINLY QUALIFIES AS AN EMERRRRGENCY IN MY BOOK.

BRACER DECLARES POLICE BAN ON HEROES LEGAL · COMMENT IN OUR FORUM 

A bald man with a beard, wearing a white shirt and a yellow tie, stands in a library filled with bookshelves.

GLAD YOU'RE BACK.  
DID YOU AND ANDRE WORK  
THINGS OUT?

**Kenny "K.C." Emerson**  
PNN GENERAL MANAGER

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue blazer, stands in a control room with computer monitors in the background.


NO... WE'RE...  
SEPARATING.

KENNY, I WANT TO  
COVER THE JASON  
KNIGHT STORY,  
AND I'M BEING  
TOLD THAT YOU  
WON'T LET ANYONE  
TOUCH IT.

A close-up of Kenny Emerson in the library.


I'M SORRY TO  
HEAR IT DIDN'T  
WORK... YOU  
SEEMED TO BE  
HAPPY WITH HIM.

LISTEN, IF THERE  
IS ANYTHING I  
CAN DO TO HELP,  
IF YOU NEED  
MORE TIME OFF...

A close-up of Rona Cosell in the control room.

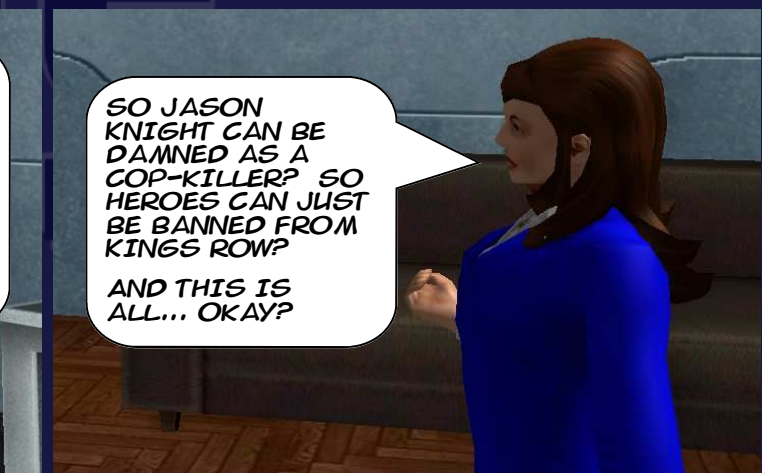
WHAT I NEED IS TO  
GET BACK OUT  
THERE AND COVER  
WHAT IS GOING ON  
IN KINGS ROW.

IT'S MY HOME.  
OR... RIGHT NOW  
IT'S MY HOME. IT'S  
GOING ON RIGHT  
IN MY BACK YARD.

A close-up of Kenny Emerson in the library.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR  
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE  
STAYING... BUT THAT  
STILL DOESN'T CHANGE  
MY DIRECTIVE.

THERE ARE... THINGS  
GOING ON THAT HAVE TO  
PLAY OUT. AND THOSE  
THINGS ARE BEST LEFT  
OFF THE MEDIA.

A close-up of Rona Cosell in the control room.

SO JASON  
KNIGHT CAN BE  
DAMNED AS A  
COP-KILLER? SO  
HEROES CAN JUST  
BE BANNED FROM  
KINGS ROW?

AND THIS IS  
ALL... OKAY?

A close-up of Kenny Emerson in the library.

IT'S NOT ABOUT  
WHAT IS "OKAY".

IT'S NEVER ABOUT  
WHAT IS "OKAY"!


I HAVE TO LOOK AT  
THE BIGGER  
PICTURE... FOR THE  
SAKE OF THIS  
BUSINESS AND FOR  
THE MEDIA IN  
GENERAL HERE.

A close-up of Kenny Emerson in the library.

WHY THE HELL DO YOU  
THINK I STILL KEEP  
RONA COSELL ON THE  
AIR?

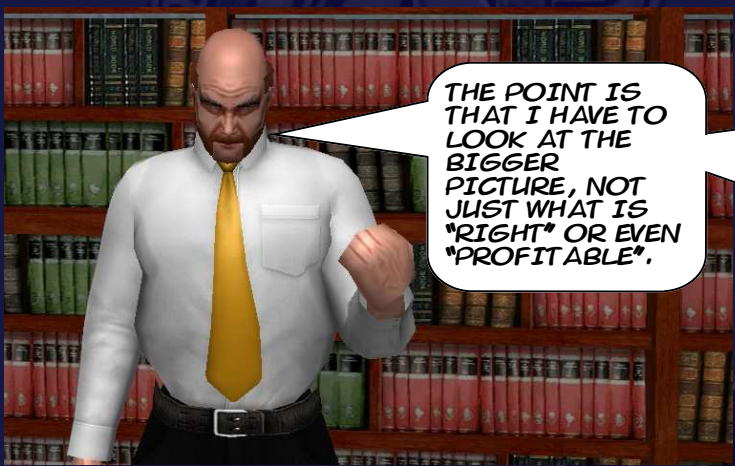
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF  
SOME "SEX TAPE" THAT  
SHE SUPPOSEDLY HAS.

RONA'S PRESENCE IS  
PART OF THE BIGGER  
PICTURE FOR THE  
COMPANY.




IT'S THE SAME WAY WITH GARRY BECKER AND THE REVEREND NEO-CON. YOU THINK I WANTED TO BRING THOSE TWO MEDIA HACKS BACK? BECKER AT LEAST DEVELOPED SOME SENSE OF RESPECT AFTER HE QUIT.

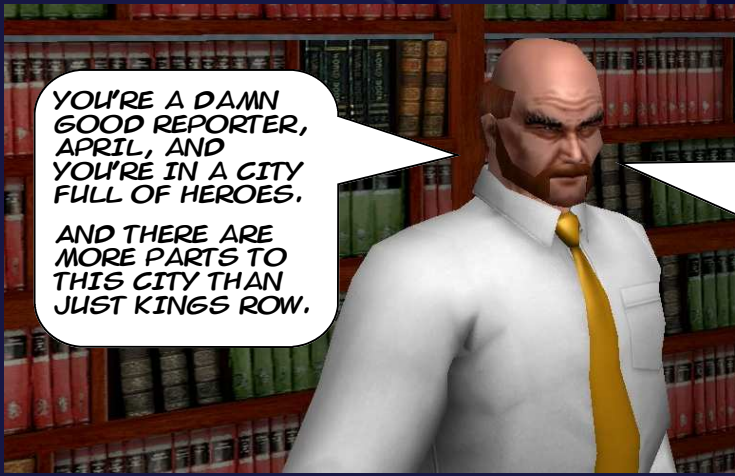
SEAN RUSH... THAT NEUROTIC OXY-ADDICT... WE HAD TO COAX HIM TO COME BACK TO AMERICA! WE SURE AS HELL DIDN'T WANT HIM BACK HERE, NEVER MIND BACK ON MY AIRWAVES.



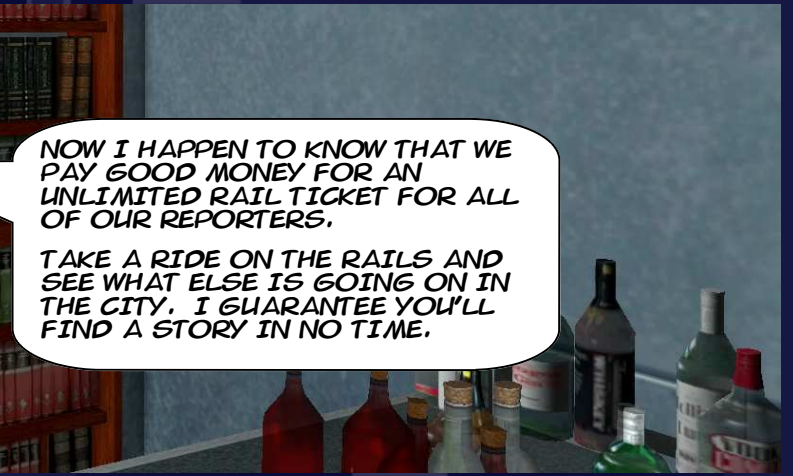
THE POINT IS THAT I HAVE TO LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE, NOT JUST WHAT IS "RIGHT" OR EVEN "PROFITABLE".



AND THAT MEANS THAT SOMETIMES I HAVE TO TELL MY PEOPLE TO STEP BACK FROM A SITUATION... NOT BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT BECAUSE IT HAS TO PLAY OUT WITHOUT US LOOKING DEEPER.




YOU'RE A DAMN GOOD REPORTER, APRIL, AND YOU'RE IN A CITY FULL OF HEROES. AND THERE ARE MORE PARTS TO THIS CITY THAN JUST KINGS ROW.



NOW I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT WE PAY GOOD MONEY FOR AN UNLIMITED RAIL TICKET FOR ALL OF OUR REPORTERS. TAKE A RIDE ON THE RAILS AND SEE WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON IN THE CITY. I GUARANTEE YOU'LL FIND A STORY IN NO TIME.



DAMNIT... THE VERMOUTH IS GONE.



APRIL, ON YOUR WAY OUT, TELL JASMINE THAT SHE NEEDS TO CALL UP CRAFT SERVICES AND HAVE THEM RESTOCK THE BAR. THANK YOU.

TALOS ISLAND

THE LIFE-SIZED STATUE OF TALOS AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SUPERHERO GROUP.



I MUST RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT....

**KDave**  
(PHIL SKI)



... MY RESIGNATION...

**Elite Ice Queen**  
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)

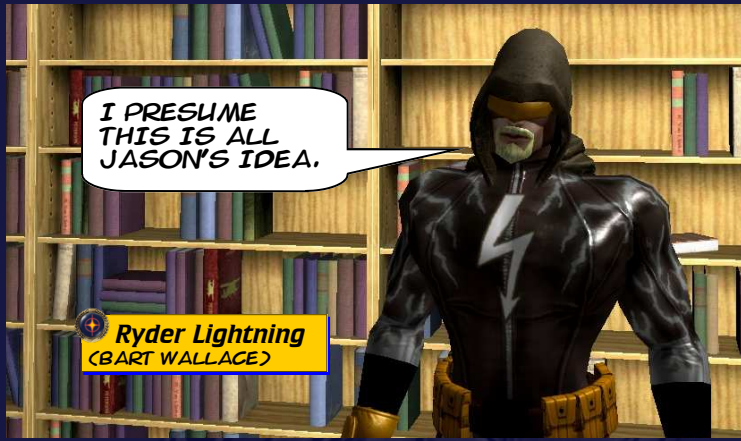


... FROM THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

**Streetangel**  
(KAREN MANNING)







I PRESUME THIS IS ALL JASON'S IDEA.

**Ryder Lightning**  
(BART WALLACE)

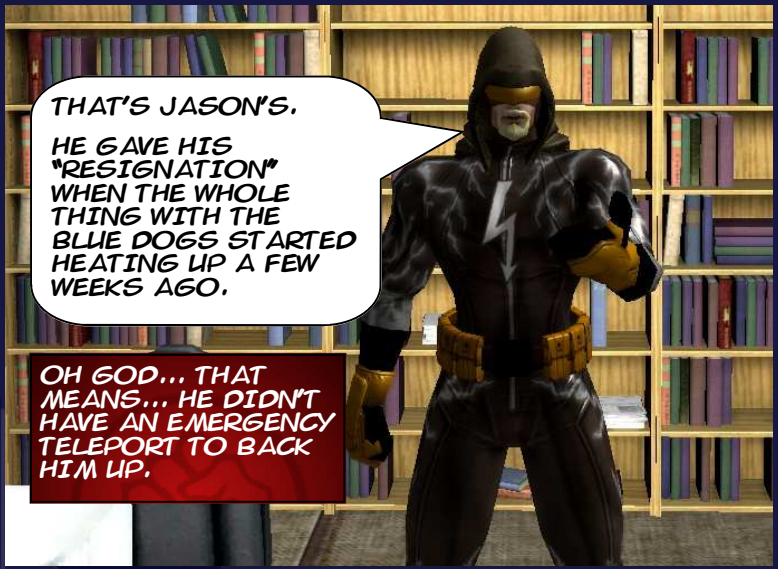


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

**Cardinal Syn**  
(CASSANDRA DARE)



IS THAT...?



THAT'S JASON'S. HE GAVE HIS "RESIGNATION" WHEN THE WHOLE THING WITH THE BLUE DOGS STARTED HEATING UP A FEW WEEKS AGO.

OH GOD... THAT MEANS... HE DIDN'T HAVE AN EMERGENCY TELEPORT TO BACK HIM UP.



OF COURSE I NEVER SUBMITTED IT TO CITY HALL, JUST LIKE I WON'T SUBMIT ALL THESE OTHERS. THEY'LL BE KEPT IN MY DESK DRAWER FOR NOW.

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME JASON HAD TO "GO ROGUE". YOU MIGHT SAY THAT HE PRACTICALLY INVENTED THE WHOLE IDEA. HE SAYS IT "PROTECTS" THE IMAGE OF THE GROUP.



PERSONALLY, I DON'T BLY INTO THAT CONCEPT. SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE ACTION THAT STEPS ON A FEW TOES. WE ALMOST STARTED A WAR WITH THE KHELDIANS OVER DAYBRIGHT\*.

AND I GUESS... KNOWING JASON FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE, I EXPECTED HIM TO DO THIS. BUT TO BRING YOURSELF AND THE OTHERS IN ON IT... I HAVE TO WONDER WHY THE GUARDIANS ARE BEING LEFT ON THE SIDELINES.

(\* GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT #13)

REMEMBER WHAT JASON TOLD YOU. DON'T LET ANYONE KNOW HE'S DEAD!

I WISH I COULD TELL YOU. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IT'S JASON'S IDEA.

YOU'RE USING YOUR WORDS VERY CAREFULLY... YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.

ENGLISH PROFESSOR, REMEMBER?

SYN, I KNOW JASON AND I KNEW HIS MENTOR ON OUR WORLD.

I WAS JUST A TEENAGER BACK THEN, BUT THE FIRST MIDNIGHT WAS JUST AS SECRETIVE AS JASON.

HIS OBSESSION TO "PROTECT" THOSE HE CARED ABOUT FORCED HIM TO PUSH US ALL AWAY INSTEAD OF REACHING OUT TO US FOR HELP.

AND ULTIMATELY IT KILLED HIM.\*

(\*SPOTLIGHT\* # 3)

LET'S JUST SAY THAT THE REASON WHY I'M....

WHY WE'RE... BRINGING IN THESE OTHERS IS SO THAT HISTORY WILL NOT REPEAT ITSELF.

I HOPE THAT EXPLANATION WILL SUFFICE.

I SUPPOSE IT WILL HAVE TO FOR NOW.

JUST REMEMBER THAT IF YOUR TEAM NEEDS HELP, YOU CAN STILL COUNT ON US TO BACK YOU UP.

AND YOUR ID BADGES WILL BE WAITING FOR ALL OF YOU WHEN THIS IS DONE.

GOOD LUCK, SYN.

**\*"LOSERVILLE" - A FORGOTTEN AREA FOR THE DESPERATE**

SEEP THAT'S THE ERROR.

THE SOFTWARE IS NOT FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE SCANNERS. I'LL HAVE TO FIND AN OLDER VERSION SOMEWHERE.

**"Mighty Marv"**  
DISGRUNTLED BLOGGER

THE HOSPITALS ARE GETTING STRICT ON THEIR INVENTORY, BUT I THINK I CAN GET MORE FROM A FEW OF THE VANGUARD WAREHOUSES.

SHOULD TAKE A DAY TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS.

WE'LL TAKE ANYTHING YOU CAN GET, MARVIN. THANK YOU.

HEY JERRY...

YEAH, I NEED A COPY OF CYSOFT VERSION SIX.

NO, NOT A HACKED VERSION.

THIS HAS TO HAVE A FULL LICENSE WITH KEY CODES.

**\*BEEP-BEEP\***

LISTEN, I HAVE ANOTHER CALL COMING IN.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU GET IT AND HOW MUCH I'LL OWE YOU.

THIS IS MARV.

YES, I REMEMBER YOU...

YOUR LAST TIP IS STILL BEING TALKED ABOUT ON MY BLOG.

WHAT?

YOU'RE SHITTING ME!

NO, NO, I'LL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH IT.

IT BETTER PAN OUT, THOUGH.

PARAGON CITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS

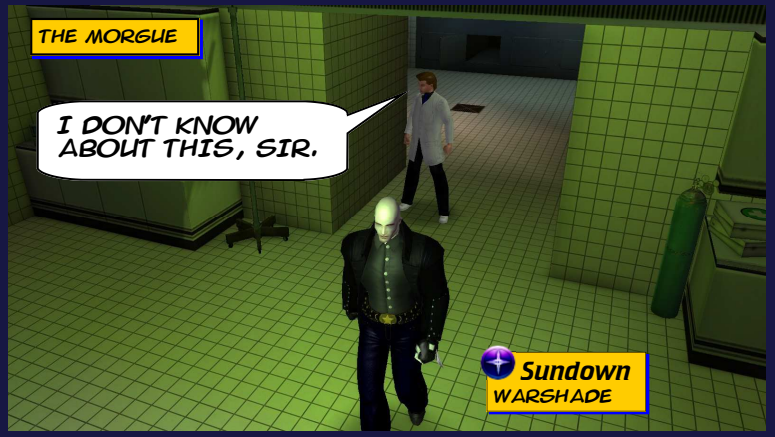
KINGS ROW



THE MORGUE

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, SIR.

Sundown  
WARSHADE

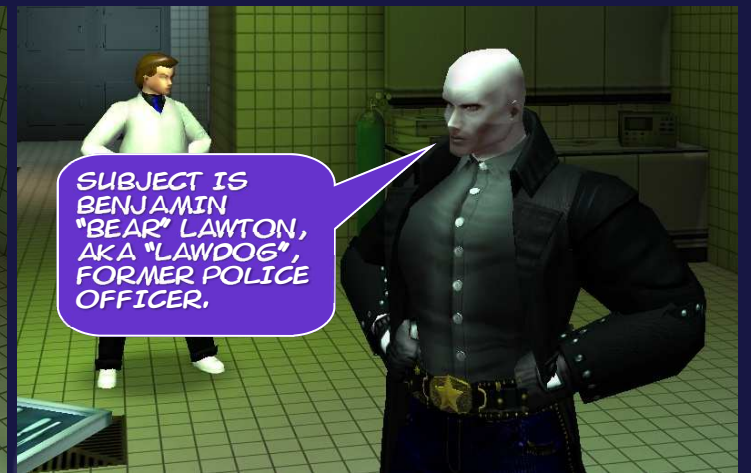


IF MY BOSSES HEAR ABOUT THIS...

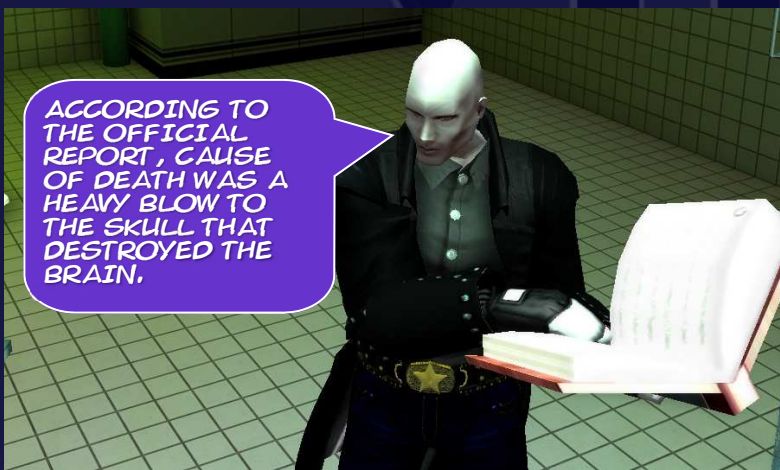
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, CSI CUBB.  
I HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY I NEED TO EXAMINE THE BODY.  
BEGIN AUDIO RECORDING.



SUBJECT IS BENJAMIN "BEAR" LAWTON, AKA "LAWDOG", FORMER POLICE OFFICER.



ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL REPORT, CAUSE OF DEATH WAS A HEAVY BLOW TO THE SKULL THAT DESTROYED THE BRAIN.

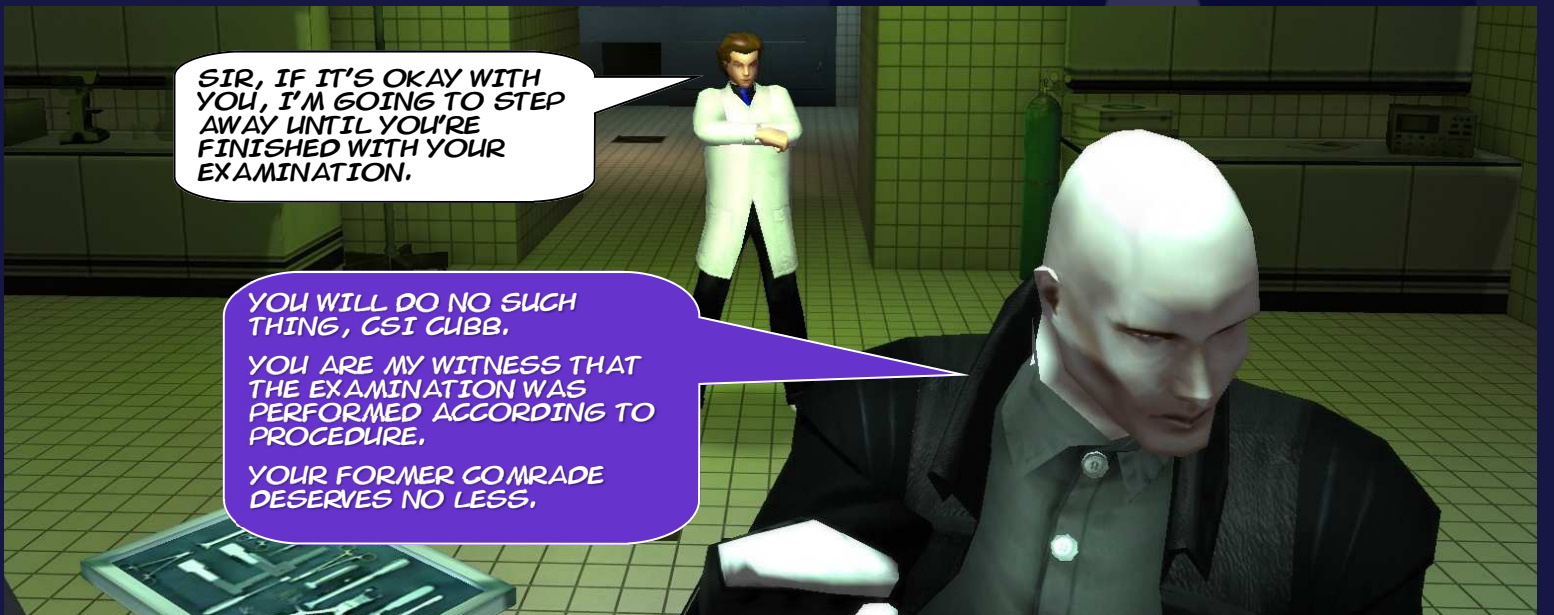


IMPACT OF THE ASSAULT CLEARLY SEEN IN THE BISECTED HALVES OF THE SUBJECT'S CRANIUM, ALONG WITH THE MISSING CEREBRAL MASS.



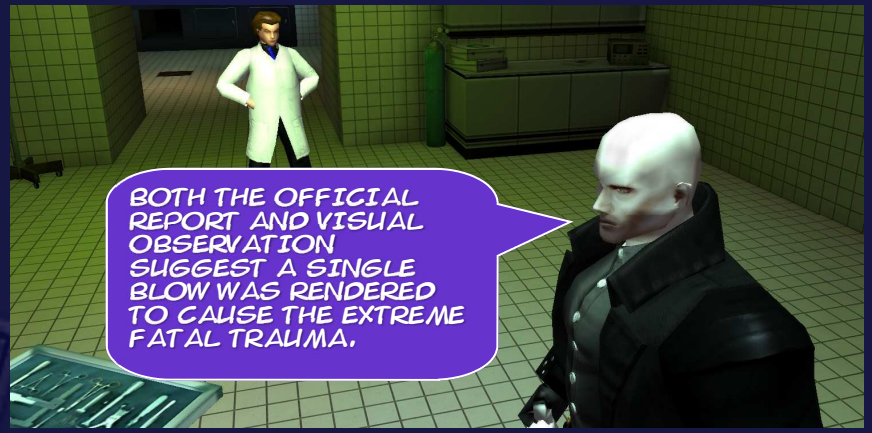
SIR, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'M GOING TO STEP AWAY UNTIL YOU'RE FINISHED WITH YOUR EXAMINATION.

YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING, CSI CUBB.  
YOU ARE MY WITNESS THAT THE EXAMINATION WAS PERFORMED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE.  
YOUR FORMER COMRADE DESERVES NO LESS.

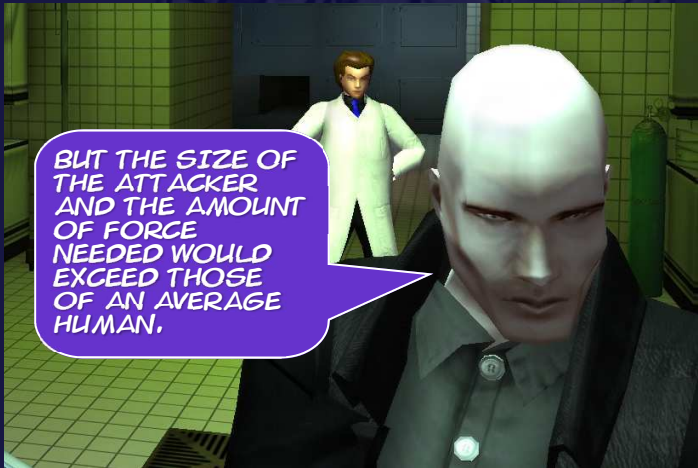




WAIT,  
THIS PART  
IS WRONG.



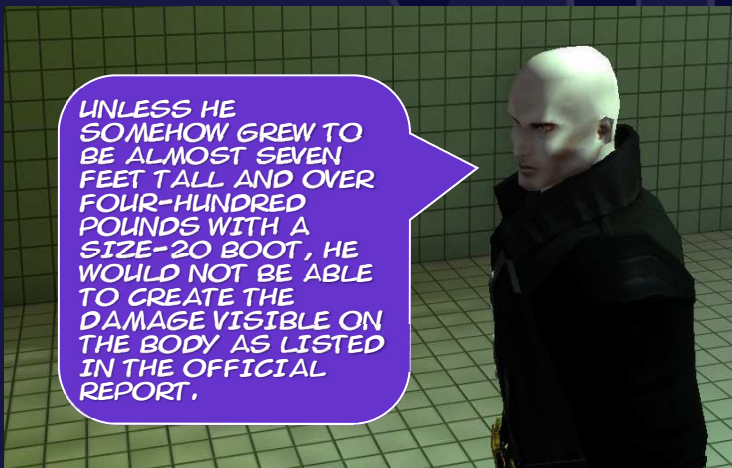
BOTH THE OFFICIAL  
REPORT AND VISUAL  
OBSERVATION  
SUGGEST A SINGLE  
BLOW WAS RENDERED  
TO CAUSE THE EXTREME  
FATAL TRAUMA.



BUT THE SIZE OF  
THE ATTACKER  
AND THE AMOUNT  
OF FORCE  
NEEDED WOULD  
EXCEED THOSE  
OF AN AVERAGE  
HUMAN.



THE... UH... WORKING  
THEORY IS THAT  
JASON KNIGHT USED  
DARK MISTS AGAIN.  
LIKE HE DID BEFORE...  
WHEN HE WAS  
MIDNIGHT X.  
THAT'S WHAT'S IN THE  
REPORT, SIR.



UNLESS HE  
SOMEHOW GREW TO  
BE ALMOST SEVEN  
FEET TALL AND OVER  
FOUR-HUNDRED  
POUNDS WITH A  
SIZE-20 BOOT, HE  
WOULD NOT BE ABLE  
TO CREATE THE  
DAMAGE VISIBLE ON  
THE BODY AS LISTED  
IN THE OFFICIAL  
REPORT.



JASON KNIGHT  
DID NOT KILL  
MISTER LAWTON.  
THE SCIENCE WILL  
NOT SUPPORT THE  
CONCLUSION.  
END RECORDING.



E-EVEN IF IT  
DOESN'T...  
THERE'S NOTHING  
YOU CAN DO TO  
CHANGE THE  
OFFICIAL REPORT.  
AND THE BODY IS  
SCHEDULED TO BE  
CREMATED TONIGHT.

I HAVE NO NEED FOR  
THE BODY ANYMORE.  
THE OFFICIAL REPORT  
WILL HAVE EVERYTHING I  
NEED TO VINDICATE  
JASON KNIGHT AND  
POINT ME TO THE REAL  
KILLER.  
I WILL TAKE THE AUDIO  
RECORDING WITH ME.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
COOPERATION.

HOURS LATER....

"OKAY, TEAM, THIS IS HOW IT'LL GO..."

THE BLUE DOGS ARE PREDATORS AND BULLIES. EVEN IF A STORE OWNER GIVES THEM PROTECTION MONEY, THEY ALWAYS GO FOR MORE. THEY WILL BLEED THESE BUSINESSES DRY ONE AT A TIME.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. YOU BLEED THE BUSINESSES DRY, THEY CLOSE, AND THAT CUTS OFF THE REVENUE TO THE DOGS.

UNLESS THAT IS THE PLAN ALL ALONG. DRIVE THE BUSINESSES OUT, MAKE ROOM FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

BUT THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO DO... FIND OUT WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON WITH THE DOGS. THE FIRST STEP IS TO GET THEIR ATTENTION. LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE RUNNING AROUND LIKE THE THUGS THEY ARE.

YOU'RE EACH GOING TO TAKE A BUSINESS IN THE AREA. WHEN THE DOGS GO TO HASSLE THEM, YOU STEP IN AND SHOW THEM THE DOOR. YOU LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT WELCOMED ANYMORE.



STREET ANGEL WILL SERVE AS THE LOOKOUT.

SHE HAS ACCESS TO THE POLICE NETWORK AND WILL LET US KNOW WHEN THE DOGS CALL FOR BACKUP.



IF SHE SEES THE UNIFORMED COPS COMING, YOU DROP EVERYTHING AND YOU LEAVE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ARRESTING THE DOGS. JUST LEAVE THEM THERE.



WHAT?  
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

SHE'S RIGHT. I THOUGHT WE'RE HERE TO TAKE DOWN THE BLUE DOGS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

★ Artema  
(PERSIA THERON)

★ Ally Kazam  
(CALISON KANE)



AND WE WILL! WE WILL.  
BUT WE ALSO NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS BATTLE IS WITH THE BLUE DOG SQUAD, NOT WITH THE WHOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT!

SO YOUR IDEA IS TO TAKE DOWN THE DOGS AND... WHAT? LEAVE THEM TIED UP LIKE OLD SCHOOL HEROES DID TO BANK ROBBERS?



EXACTLY.  
TRUSS THEM UP AND LEAVE THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET SO EVERYONE KNOWS THEY'RE NOT THE APEX PREDATORS THEY THINK THEY ARE.

OF COURSE, WE EVENTUALLY WON'T STOP THERE WITH THEM.



DAMN STRAIGHT!

★ Hard Justice  
(MARTIN KEYS)

# DID A HERO DO YOU WRONG?

**Heroes are not “gods with capes”.**

**They’re not “demonic sentinels lurking in dark corners waiting for bad guys.”**

**They’re certainly not “special cops with super-powers.”  
Some of them aren’t even trained like the police!**

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

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

**I’ll make them do right by you!**

**Chris Jenkins - Attorney At Law**

**1-555-GET-RICH**

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Business or Battalion.  
Hospital or Hospitality Suite.

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Discounts available for corporations and registered hero groups.



**"The check is in the mail..."**

**"But I don't have a mailbox anymore!"**

At Baumton Insurance, we understand that the last thing you need to hear is the slow grind of a bureaucrat keeping you from your needed settlement money.

Whether it is the Rikti, Nemesis, or Arachnos, you don't deserve to be victimized twice for a service you've already paid into.

We know from experience how painful it is to be denied the funds you need to rebuild your life. In fact, we remind ourselves every day with a photo of our former home office.

That's why we will bend over backward to make sure you get everything you deserve as soon as possible, not when some bureaucrat decides is "appropriate".

Because once upon a time, we were the ones that were told that "the check is in the mail."



**BAUMTON INSURANCE**

"WE KNOW IT HURTS."

MEDICAL \* DENTAL \* HOME \*  
LIFE \* INVASION \*  
MEGALOMANIA \* GIANT  
MONSTER

OFFICES IN STEEL CANYON,  
FOUNDER'S FALLS, CROATOA,  
AND PEREGRINE ISLAND

TWO HOURS LATER...



HEY FIDO!  
DIDN'T YOU  
SEE THE SIGN  
AT THE DOOR?



"NO DOGS  
ALLOWED."  
THAT MEANS  
YOU AND YOUR  
MUTT GANG  
TOO, FIDO.



YOU'RE NOT  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
HERE, HERO.  
I GUESS THAT  
MEANS WE'LL HAVE  
TO TAKE YOU TO  
THE POUND.



HEEL, FIDO!

**\*WHAM!\***



ROLL  
OVER!

**\*WHAM!\***



HAVE SOME  
CLAUSTROPHOBIA.

AAAAAAAHHHH!!!!



YOU'LL NEVER  
WEAR THAT  
HELMET EVER  
AGAIN!

GAAHHH!  
I CAN'T!  
I CAN'T WEAR  
THIS!





HOW YOU HOLDING UP, ARTEMA?



THESE TWO THINK THEY CAN HANDLE ME.

OH I KNOW WE CAN HANDLE YOU, YOU LITTLE PUTA.



I MAY BE GREEK, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SPEAK SPANISH.  
AND MAYBE YOUR MAMA SHOULD'VE TAUGHT YOU BETTER MANNERS, PERRITO.



YOU'RE DONE PREYING ON THESE PEOPLE, \*OFFICER\*.  
YOUR GENERIC BADGE MEANS NOTHING!

MY BADGE STILL MEANS I'M PART OF THE SYSTEM, HERO.  
YOU CAN'T TOUCH US!  
YOU CAN'T ARREST US!  
YOU CAN'T STOP US!



\*NRF!\*

\*NRG!\*



THAT SEEMED TO TOUCH YOU REAL GOOD.  
STOPPED YOU TOO.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU KNOW THIS WILL NEVER STICK RIGHT? WE'LL BE OUT FASTER THAN IT TAKES FOR YOU TO FILL OUT THE PAPERWORK.

YOU TELL HER, BARNEY!

SHUT YOUR GODDAMNED MOUTH DOG TWO!

YOU CAN'T ARREST US. NOT HERE. NOT EVER. WE'RE COPS.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT ARRESTING YOU. WE'RE JUST LETTING YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

EVERY NIGHT THAT YOU'RE OUT HERE PREYING ON THE PEOPLE OF KINGS ROW, WE'LL BE HERE, WAITING FOR YOU.

EVERY STORE YOU TRY TO STRONG-ARM, EVERY FAMILY YOU TRY TO INTIMIDATE, EVERY WOMAN YOU TRY TO HUMILIATE TO FEED YOUR SICK MISOGYNISTIC DREAMS, WE'LL BE HERE, WAITING FOR YOU. AND THEN WE'LL DO THIS ALL OVER AGAIN THE NEXT NIGHT.

PATROL UNITS ARE ONE MINUTE AWAY. GET OUT OF THERE.

ONE MORE THING... YOU TELL YOUR BOSS JASON KNIGHT SENDS HIS REGARDS.

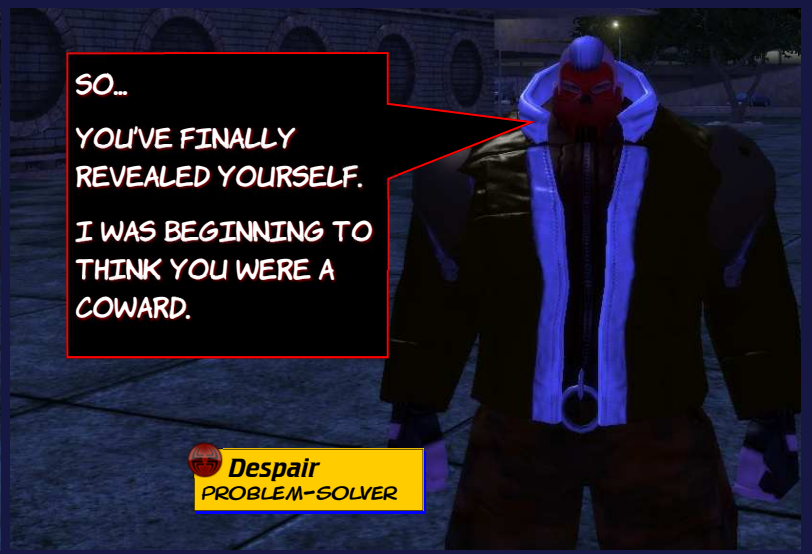
BACK AT THE POLICE MORGUE...





SO...  
YOU'VE FINALLY  
REVEALED YOURSELF.  
I WAS BEGINNING TO  
THINK YOU WERE A  
COWARD.

**Despair**  
PROBLEM-SOLVER



I'M NO COWARD,  
DESPAIR.  
AND I'LL PROVE IT  
BY ENDING YOU.

★ "New Avenger"  
(??)



YOU WILL TRY...

\*CRICK\*

... AND YOU  
WILL FAIL.



\*FWIP\*  
\*BAT!\*



\*FWIP\*  
\*FWIP\*  
\*FWIP\*

YOU HAVE  
ALREADY  
LOST.

**\*WHAM!\***

**\*WHUMP\***

**\*SOCK!  
\*SOCK!  
\*SOCK!  
\*CRACK\***

**\*FWSSSSSHHH\***

**\*FWIP\***

HRMPH...  
I EXPECTED  
BETTER  
FROM HIM.

ELSEWHERE...

I WAS EXPECTING TO MEET WITH JASON.

HE'S... NOT ABLE TO BE HERE.

I'VE BEEN RUNNING THE TASK FORCE IN HIS ABSENCE.

JASON DID NOT KILL LAWDOG.

I HAVE DOCUMENTED PROOF THAT HE WAS INCAPABLE OF BEING THE KILLER AS THE POLICE ALLEGE.

THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.

SO... HAVE YOU TAKEN THIS OVER TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE YET?

I HAVE, BUT SINCE FORMAL CHARGES HAVE NOT YET BEEN FILED WITH THEIR OFFICE, I CANNOT SUBMIT MY PROOF THAT WOULD RULE OUT JASON AS THE MURDERER.

CONVENIENT. WIELD KNOWS HOW TO STYMIE THE LEGAL SYSTEM SO HE CAN KEEP JASON A WANTED MAN.

IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN STILL GIVE YOUR PROOF TO THE D.A.'S OFFICE?

I WOULD BE HESITANT TO TRY.

I HAVE... SOME BAD EXPERIENCE WITH EVIDENCE DISAPPEARING.

I'M REALLY NOT SURPRISED.

JASON'S FILE ON YOU WAS VERY SPARSE.

HOW DID HE COME TO FIND YOU?





HE DIDN'T.  
I WAS A  
FRIEND OF  
JIMMY  
HELLFIGHTER.



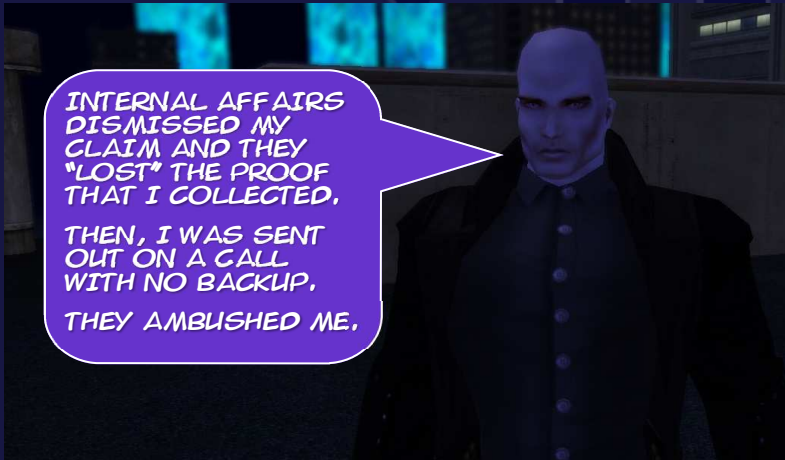
TWELVE YEARS  
AGO, I WAS A  
PATROLMAN HERE  
IN KINGS ROW.  
I KNEW FIRST-  
HAND WHAT THE  
BLUE DOGS WERE  
DOING THEN.



YOU WERE A  
WITNESS.  
YOU WERE  
JIMMY'S INSIDE  
MAN IN THE  
POLICE FORCE.



NOT WITHOUT  
GOING THROUGH  
THE NORMAL  
PROCEDURES  
FIRST.



INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DISMISSED MY  
CLAIM AND THEY  
"LOST" THE PROOF  
THAT I COLLECTED.  
THEN, I WAS SENT  
OUT ON A CALL  
WITH NO BACKUP.  
THEY AMBUSHED ME.



I WOULD HAVE  
DIED... IF NOT FOR  
A NICTUS GIVING  
ME A NEW LEASE  
ON LIFE AS A  
WARSHADE.

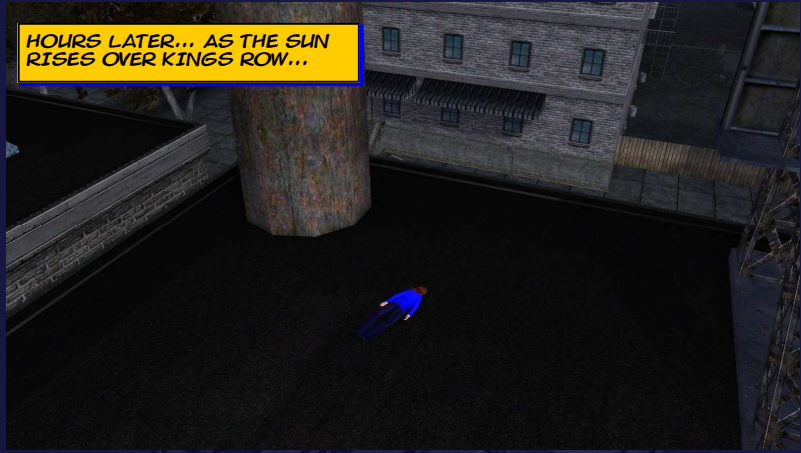


NICTUS... THE  
RENEGADE FACTION  
OF THE KHELDIANS.  
SO YOU BECAME A  
HYBRID.

I COULD NOT BE IN THE  
POLICE FORCE ANYMORE.  
WARSHADES ARE NOT  
WELCOMED IN THEIR  
"AWAKENED DIVISION".

BUT THE CITY GAVE ME  
AUTHORITY LIKE JIMMY'S TO  
HELP BRING DOWN THE COPS  
THAT ALMOST KILLED ME.  
AUTHORITY THAT I CAN  
STILL PUT TO USE TO HELP  
YOU BRING THESE NEW BLUE  
DOGS TO JUSTICE.

HOURS LATER... AS THE SUN RISES OVER KINGS ROW...



\*SSS...\*  
AAHH!!



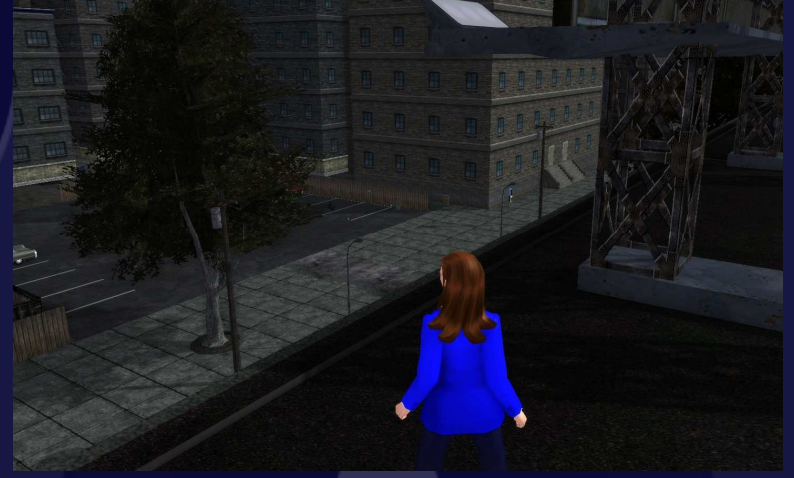
OH GOD...  
OH GOD...  
OMMM...



WHERE AM I?  
WHY DOES  
EVERYTHING  
HURT?



OH GOD... IT'S  
DAYLIGHT!  
I DON'T EVEN  
REMEMBER  
GOING TO SLEEP!



AND... HOW THE  
HELL DID I END  
UP HERE?  
I JUST HOPE I  
CAN FIND A WAY  
BACK DOWN.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS

NO, I AM CLEARLY NOT "HAVING A GOOD DAY", DIRECTOR BURGESS.

**Deputy Chief Thomas Wield**  
PARAGON CITY POLICE

MY MEN WERE ACCOSTED LAST NIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR ASSIGNED DUTIES.

ACCOSTED BY REGISTERED HEROES.

I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE WHEN I EXPLAINED OUR VISION TO YOU, I HAD YOUR ASSURANCE THAT THE HEROES WOULD FOLLOW YOUR DIRECTIVES TO THE LETTER!

NOW I HAVE THIRTEEN MEN ON SICK LEAVE WITH BROKEN BONES AND THREE MEN WITH SEVERE CASES OF CLAUSTROPHOBIA THAT NOT EVEN MY OWN TELEPATHS CAN REVERSE.

WHAT I WANT ARE THE REAL NAMES OF THOSE REGISTERED HEROES SO I CAN HAVE THEM ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING MY POLICE OFFICERS!

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D BE CALLING YOU IF I COULD JUST GET THEM FROM CITY HALL?

THEY TOLD ME TO TAKE IT UP WITH YOUR OFFICE!

WHAT I NEED FROM YOU, DIRECTOR BURGESS - IN ADDITION TO THE REAL NAMES OF THOSE HEROES INVOLVED WITH THE ASSAULT ON MY MEN - IS YOUR GUARANTEE THAT THE HEROES WILL STAY OUT OF KINGS ROW.

BECAUSE WHAT I WOULD HAVE TO DO NEXT IS NOT SOMETHING YOU WOULD WANT TO HEAR ABOUT FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR CAREER.

THE OUTSKIRTS OF TALOS ISLAND

PRIVATE MESSAGE TO:  
RYDER LIGHTNING,  
GUARDIANS OF THE  
DAWN BASE

BART,  
I JUST WANTED TO  
LET YOU KNOW THAT  
I'M "OKAY" AND  
THAT I CHECKED  
MYSELF OUT OF THE  
HOSPITAL OF MY  
OWN FREE WILL.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU OR  
THE OTHER GUARDIANS  
TO THINK THAT I WAS  
ABDUCTED OR  
"SILENCED" AFTER WHAT  
HAPPENED TO ME.

BUT I COULDN'T STAY  
THERE ONE MORE DAY.

A FRIEND OF MINE,  
SIN STALKER'S  
PATRON JULIAN,  
MADE ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR ME TO STAY  
SOMEWHERE OUT OF  
THE WAY SO I CAN  
FIGURE THINGS OUT.

THEY CALL THESE THINGS  
"O-HOMES", BUILT IN  
THE NOW-SEALED  
CAVERNS TO ORANBEGA.

THE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS  
ARE SIMPLE. BASIC RUNNING  
WATER, VENTED FIREPLACE, NO  
TV OR INTERNET, AND PLENTY  
OF QUICK-MAKE FOOD TO  
LAST FOR WEEKS.

I SHOULD BE FINE.  
I'M SURE YOU'D SAY  
THAT "FINE" IS A  
RELATIVE TERM.  
BEING AN ENGLISH  
PROFESSOR, OF  
COURSE.

 **Stevie Walker-Rodgers**  
FORMERLY CAPTAIN PARAGONNA



BUT THE TRUTH IS...  
I'M NOT "FINE".  
I'M NOT "OKAY".

EVERYTHING I SPENT MY "NEW"  
LIFE DOING SINCE I BECAME  
"STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS"  
WAS RIPPED FROM ME.

MY CAREER, MY LIFE AS A  
RECOGNIZED SUPERHERO, MY  
JOB AS A POLICE OFFICER...  
I WASN'T EVEN GIVEN A  
CHANCE TO DEFEND MYSELF!



I WAS VIOLATED DOWN TO MY  
CORE, AND THE DEPARTMENT  
SIMPLY WROTE ME OFF.

ANY KIND OF TRUST I HAD IN  
"THE SYSTEM" IS GONE NOW.

AND NOW I HAVE  
TO FIGURE OUT  
WHAT I'M GOING  
TO DO NEXT.



I COULD TURN TO THE U.S. MARSHALS.  
I'M STILL IN THE WITNESS PROTECTION  
PROGRAM UNDER TIER TWO.\*

BUT THEY WERE NEVER  
HAPPY WITH MY  
DECISION TO  
BECOME A HERO COP.

AND IF I CALL THEM,  
THEY'LL NEVER LET ME  
BE A HERO AGAIN.

(\*GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT #4\*)



THEY'D MOVE ME TO A NEW LOCATION,  
WITH A NEW NAME AND A NEW HISTORY  
AND A QUIET, BORING CAREER.

AND THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE  
FOR DOING THIS TO ME WILL  
GET AWAY WITH IT.

SO "STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS" IS DEAD.  
JUST LIKE "STEPHANIE WALTERS" DIED.

PLEASE TELL THE OTHER  
GUARDIANS NOT TO FIND ME.  
I LOVE YOU ALL, BUT I NEED  
TO FIGURE OUT WHO I WILL BE  
NEXT AND WHAT I WILL DO.  
I'LL REACH OUT TO YOU WHEN  
I'M READY.

ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT

(TEMPORARILY CLOSED)



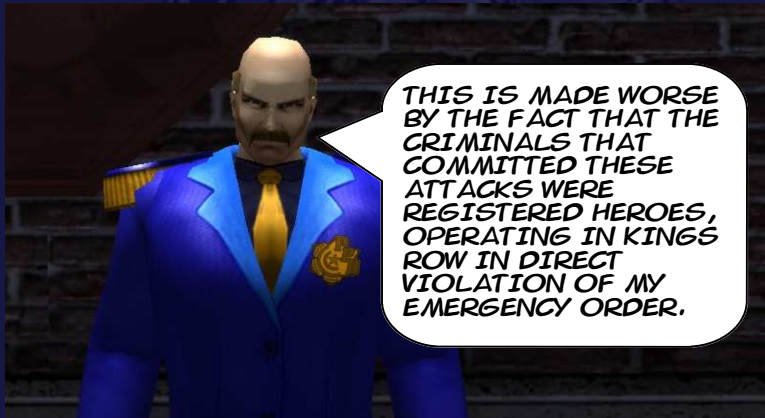
"LEVEL THIRTEEN" (KNIGHT'S LAIR)

THE ATTACK LAST NIGHT ON OUR POLICE OFFICERS WAS INEXCUSABLE.

Cassandra Dare  
AKA CARDINAL SYN



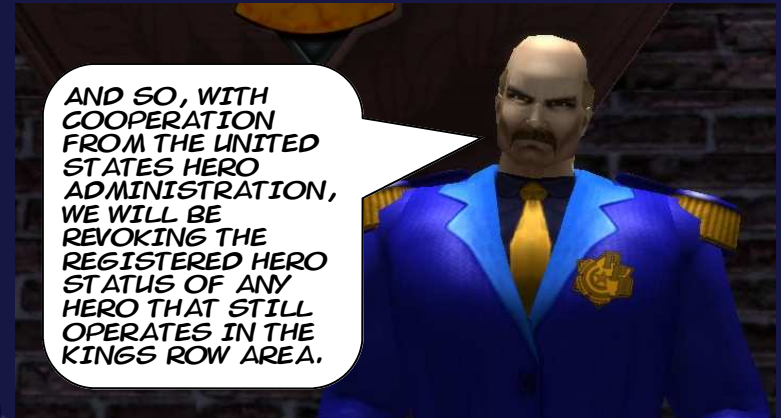
THIS IS MADE WORSE BY THE FACT THAT THE CRIMINALS THAT COMMITTED THESE ATTACKS WERE REGISTERED HEROES, OPERATING IN KINGS ROW IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF MY EMERGENCY ORDER.



DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF THOMAS WIELD



AND SO, WITH COOPERATION FROM THE UNITED STATES HERO ADMINISTRATION, WE WILL BE REVOKING THE REGISTERED HERO STATUS OF ANY HERO THAT STILL OPERATES IN THE KINGS ROW AREA.



HEROES TO LOSE STATUS IN KINGS ROW



WELL, WE SAW THAT COMING, SENTRY. IT'S A GOOD THING WE HAVE SUNDOWN ON OUR SIDE.

YES, BECAUSE A WARSHADE HAS ALWAYS BEEN--- ONE MOMENT...



WHAT IS IT, SENTRY?

A NEW BLOG ARTICLE HAS BEEN POSTED BY MIGHTY MARVIN REGARDING JASON KNIGHT.



# THE REAL PARAGON CITY

KINGS ROW GUARDIAN JASON KNIGHT DEAD  
PHOTO PROOF BODY KEPT IN POLICE MORGUE IN SECRET

THE ARTICLE INCLUDES PHOTOS OF MISTER JASON'S REMAINS.

THE NEWS SERVICES HAVE ALREADY PICKED UP THE STORY.



I WAS AFRAID OF THIS... NOW IT'S ALL GOING TO HIT THE FAN.



Next:  
The Dark Messiah.

# TASK FORCE NOTES

*Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.*



ONLINE EDITION

## The Paragon Times

May 2, 2018

www.ParagonTime.Para



### “Loserville” Becomes Conservative Campaign Target

(PCN) Paragon City, RI - Speaking at a campaign rally in Atlas Park, conservative U.S. Senator Thon Stronghold (R-RI) focused his attention on eliminating what many consider to be a hidden area of shame for Paragon City.

“I pledge to you, the good people of Paragon City, that I will do everything in my power when I start my new term in the Senate to forever end the blight that is Loserville.”

“Loserville” is the unofficial name of the various hidden spaces in Paragon City constructed during the Rikti Invasion of 2002 now being used as shelter zones for the homeless, the destitute, and the refugees. Unlike the “official” zones like “Outbreak”, which were rapidly constructed by the Rikti as a way to further segment the citizens of the city during their brief occupation, the “unofficial” zones were created by the heroes and members of the United Nations global defense force Vanguard as a way to warehouse needed supplies.

Over the years, those same spaces were taken over by the homeless and the refugees, especially during the Second Rikti Invasion of 2007, and again during the Neo-Shivan meteor attack on Galaxy City in 2011 and the “Miracle of 2012”, when over 2000 former Galaxy City residents were rescued only to find their homes were forever lost.

“Most of these people have no place to go,” said Dr. Raj Patilla, one of the many volunteers of the makeshift hospital in Zone 667. “They’ve lost their homes, they’ve lost their jobs, and some of them never could recover from the Great Recession, so what little money they had is gone.”

Stronghold dismissed claims of destitution from the residents in the hidden camps.

“Our economy is the strongest it has ever been under President Trump,” said the one-term senator. “Anyone looking for work can get one if they want to work. Housing is exploding in this city thanks to the jobs market. We will be opening up Kallisti Warf and the other new zones soon. There are plenty of opportunities for people to start anew. There is no reason for these Loserville zones to continue to exist and further drain our precious resources.”

“Loservilles” have been a recent target of conservative scorn. Presidential candidates in the 2016 campaign each promised to do something about ending the hidden spaces. Then-candidate Donald Trump promised to not only tear down the hidden areas brick-by-brick, but he would even use those bricks to build his infamous border wall with Mexico.

It was a promise that now-President Trump reiterated in a videotaped message to the assembled supporters.

“If we can build a wall to keep out extra-dimensional aliens bent on destroying humanity,” said President Trump, “then we can do the same to the criminals that are coming to our country. And with Thon Stronghold in the Senate, we will do just that.”

Supporters of the hidden “Loserville” spaces say that eliminating the areas would only make matters worse for the citizens of Paragon City.

“These are people trying to survive,” said Patilla. “Kick them out from here and they’ll show up on the streets of Atlas Park, or Kings Row, or Steel Canyon. And then you will have to deal with them because they’ll be in your neighborhoods.”



Sen. Thon Stronghold (R-RI) speaking at a campaign rally in Atlas Park (PCN)

*Continues on next page...*

# TASK FORCE NOTES

Continued from previous page...

## Task Force Evaluation Notes

(Submitted by Jason Knight)

**Mighty Marvin** (aka "Mighty Marv")

**Real Name:** Marvin Blacksmith

Former con-artist, blogger, social worker

**Powers:** Normal human. Vanguard training.



"Mighty Marv" wanted to be a hero so bad he was convinced to take part in a con game. He put on a generic superhero outfit and convinced Mindy Harrison, then a Freedom Corps trainee, to turn over confidential information to members of The Mooks pretending to be "aliens". Thankfully the exchange was never made, as the meeting was raided by Vanguard agent Carlton Sage.

In exchange for his cooperation, Marvin worked with Vanguard for two years and his record was cleared. But his time with the UN security force had jaded him and his views of heroes.

Marvin found two new passions in the transition. The first is with helping the disenfranchised and the refugees that live in a pocket of Paragon City referred to by some as "Loserville". Often this involves him providing needed supplies, equipment, and medicine to their makeshift hospital

The second passion, and more noteworthy, is as an independent journalist and blogger. As the owner and publisher of "The Real Paragon City", Marvin has been relentless in getting news of abusive actions by both heroes and police alike on the Internet. Often these articles have gotten the attention of the more traditional news services like the Paragon News Network and the Paragon Times.

**Evaluation:** While he has some Vanguard training, obviously Marvin would not be a suitable member of the task force. However, his access to alternative news is a valuable resource for the task force in releasing information that could otherwise be barred from traditional media. We've used his resources before against the Blue Dogs, and we should not be hesitant to use it again.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



PARAGON CITY NOW KNOWS  
JASON KNIGHT IS DEAD.  
HOW DOES THAT AFFECT THE  
TASK FORCE?

AND WITH THE NEWS OF  
JASON'S DEATH, SOMEONE  
ELSE IS BACK ON THE SCENE.



LIES!

**HEROES LIE!**

LIES!

LIES!

**MEDIA LIES!**

LIES!

**LIES!**

LIES!

**Corporations lie!**

# **THE REAL PARAGON CITY**

LIES!

[www.RealParagonCity.para](http://www.RealParagonCity.para)

LIES!

**Governments LIE! POLICE LIE!**

WHO CAN YOU TRUST WHEN THE INSTITUTIONS HAVE EVERY REASON TO LIE?

ONLY THOSE WHO GAIN NOTHING. **TRUTH**

## Why settle for just any diamond?



WE LIVE IN A DAY AND AGE WHERE WE DON'T HAVE TO GO TO A CERTAIN CONFLICTED COUNTRY AND PAY OVERINFLATED EUROPEAN BROKERS FOR THE FINEST DIAMONDS ANYMORE.

NOW WE CAN GET THEM FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS.

SO WHY SHOULD YOU SETTLE FOR JUST ANY EARTH DIAMOND WHEN YOU CAN GET THE QUANTUM ECLIPSE DIAMOND? DENSER THAN ANY DIAMOND MADE ON EARTH, YET LIGHT ENOUGH TO STILL BE MOUNTED ON A RING. IT IS A DIAMOND WORTHY OF HEROES, YET STILL AFFORDABLE ENOUGH FOR AN EVERYMAN'S SALARY.

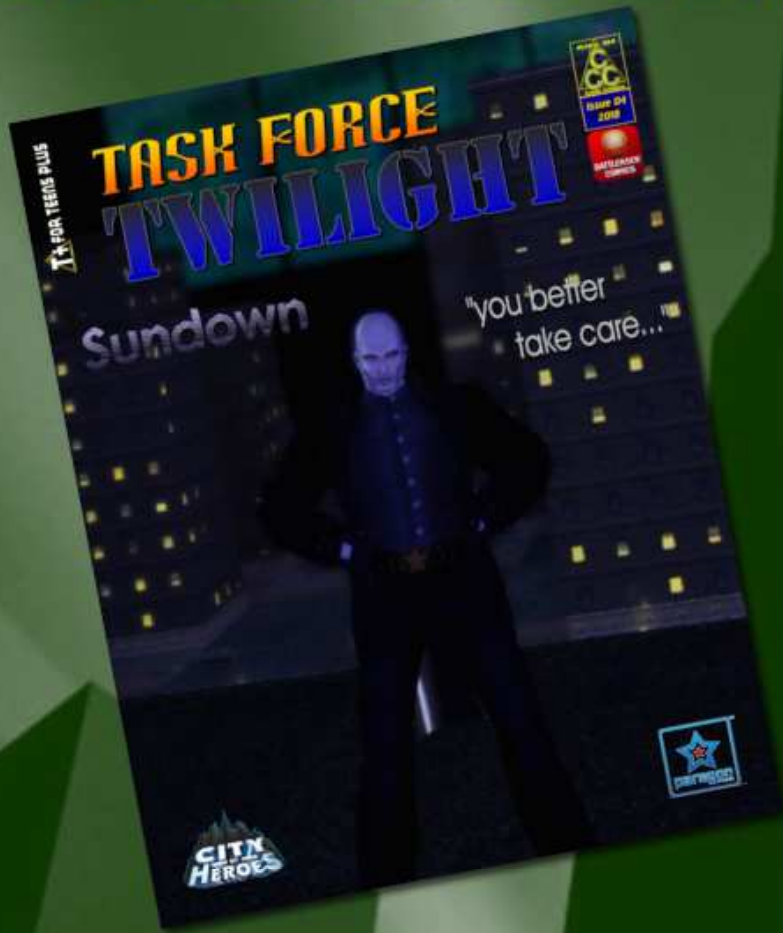
THE QUANTUM ECLIPSE DIAMOND IS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH FAMILY JEWELS STORES IN PARAGON CITY.

YOUR LOVED ONE WILL APPRECIATE IT! WE GUARANTEE IT!

**FAMILY JEWELS**

PROMETHEUS PARK, ATLAS PARK  
NEW OVERBROOK, OVERBROOK

# THE GAME IS GONE...



## ...BUT THE STORIES GO ON!

### [MMOComicIndex.com](http://MMOComicIndex.com)

THE NEW HOME FOR THE CITY OF COMIC CREATORS