



BATTLEROCK
COMICS

Member of
City of
Comic



T FOR TEENS

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 18
2020



CHAMPIONS
ONLINE

PERFECT
WORLD

It does not matter if it drives or flies.
Whether it is old or new.
Your vehicle still has to run on fuel.
Someone has to get that fuel.
Someone has to make it into fuel.
Someone has to bring that fuel to you.
Someone has to make it available and
affordable so you can fuel your vehicle.
Why not us?



ARGENT

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE... FOR EVERYONE!

Argent is a fictional business in the MMO world of Champions Online. Any comparisons to filthy, greedy, money-grubbing, polluting, real-world private corporations that get tax breaks from corrupt politicians in Washington while screwing over the taxpayers and denying the consequences of their actions are just coincidental. It's fiction, okay?



From a Universe of Pure Imagination



MAJOR DEE UNIVERSE

<https://.majordeejuniverse.com>

From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live.

It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Life is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

"BACK TO BASICS"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

AFTER MUCH DRAMA AND A FEW CHALLENGING EVENTS, THE HEROES OF MILLENNIUM CITY ARE ABLE TO ENJOY A LITTLE BIT OF NORMALCY. BUT FOR HEROES LIKE GALATEA FUTURE, "NORMALCY" IS SUBJECTIVE. SOMETIMES IT IS JUST A PAUSE BEFORE THE NEXT CHALLENGE.

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LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW (U.N.T.I.L.)

MILLENNIUM CITY, MI, USA

ATTENTION FLIGHT DECK! PREPARE FOR INCOMING U.N.T.I.L. SHUTTLE!

ATTENTION FLIGHT DECK! PREPARE FOR INCOMING U.N.T.I.L. SHUTTLE!

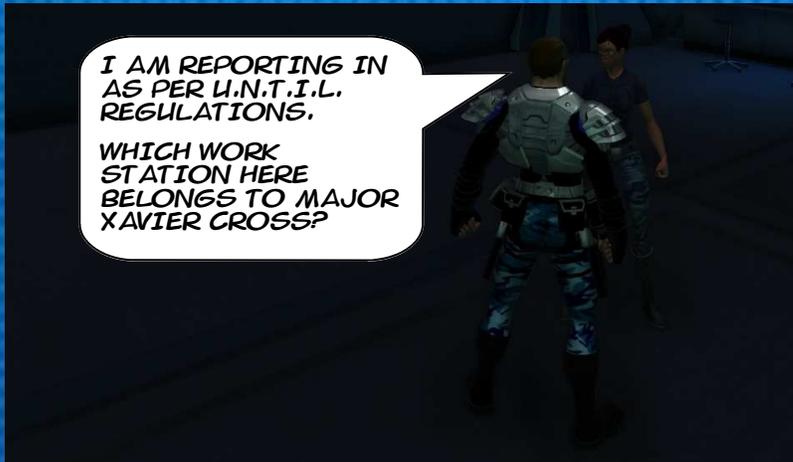




THAT WOULD BE ME.
SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, CAPTAIN?



SIR...
SIR...
YOUR EYE...



I AM REPORTING IN AS PER U.N.I.T.I.L. REGULATIONS.
WHICH WORK STATION HERE BELONGS TO MAJOR XAVIER CROSS?



TH-THE STATION ALL THE WAY AT THE E-END, SIR.



IF ANYONE ASKS FOR ME, I WILL BE IN THE OFFICER'S BARRACKS UNTIL THE MORNING. THEN I WILL BE WAITING FOR MAJOR CROSS TO GET HERE.
I TRUST THERE WILL NOT BE ANY PROBLEMS?

N-N-NO SIR.
OFFICER'S BARRACKS ARE ON THE F-FIFTH FLOOR, S-SIR.



GLAD THAT WAS YOU AND NOT ME... MA'AM.

THE NEXT DAY...

SO THERE ONCE WAS A MOVIE WHERE THE HERO WAS JUST HOVERING IN ORBIT OVER THE EARTH.

AT FIRST YOU THINK HE WAS JUST THERE BECAUSE HE NEEDED TO CLEAR HIS HEAD.

BUT THEN YOU FIND OUT THAT HE WAS LISTENING TO ALL OF THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY BELOW HIM.



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

I TRIED THAT A FEW TIMES. IT DIDN'T WORK.

EVEN WITH MY HYPER-SENSES BACK WHEN I WAS AN INCARNATE, IT DIDN'T WORK.

SOUND NEEDS AIR TO TRAVEL.

WHEN YOU'RE UP AS HIGH AS HE WAS IN THE MOVIE, THERE IS NO AIR FOR YOU TO HEAR SOUND.

STILL, I LIKE THE IDEA. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL SEE SOME HEROES JUST HOVERING OVER THE CITY LIKE I AM NOW.

SOMETIMES WE'LL JUST STAND ON TOP OF ONE OF THE TALLER BUILDINGS, BUT IT DOES GET A LITTLE CROWDED.

THAT'S WHY THIS CITY DOESN'T HAVE A PIGEON PROBLEM LIKE THE OTHER CITIES DO.

IT'S PEACEFUL UP HERE. EVEN WITH THE CACOPHONY OF NOISE, IT'S PEACEFUL.



EVEN FROM HERE
I CAN HEAR THE
WHOLE CITY.

EVERY WORD, EVERY
BROADCAST, EVERY
CAR HORN...



EVERY...

EEEEEEEEEE!!!



OHGODOHGOD... START...
JUST... NNNNGHHH!!!
NOOO... NOT NOW!

A WOMAN IN
TROUBLE. YOUNG.

IN SOME KIND
OF DISTRESS.

GRRRRRR! NO... NOT NOW
BABY! NOT-- EEEEEEEEE!

JUST ANOTHER
SECOND... HANG
IN THERE.



WHY DID I HAVE TO LEAVE
MY CELLPHONE AT HOME!
ARRRRRRGHHHHH!

I HEAR HER TRYING
TO START A CAR.
THE BATTERY IS
DEAD.

NOOO DON'T LOOK THIS
WAY! DON'T... DON'T...
NNGGGGGGHHH!



THERE!
IN THE
SILVER CAR.

WITH VIPER
TROOPS NEARBY.

SHOULD ONLY
TAKE A MINUTE
TO FIX THAT.

MERCY HOSPITAL, THREE MINUTES LATER...



I NEED A
GURNEY AND
ASSISTANCE!



ASIAN FEMALE,
TWENTY-NINE YEARS
OLD, NINE MONTHS
PREGNANT.

BOTH HEARTRATES
ARE STRONG AND
STABLE AND THE
MOTHER IS IN LABOR!



AN HOUR LATER...

AND ANOTHER
GIRL IS BROUGHT
INTO THE WORLD.

I'M JUST GLAD THE
MOTHER DIDN'T
DECIDE TO NAME
HER AFTER ME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY
TIMES I'VE COME ACROSS A
LITTLE GIRL NAMED "GALATEA"
SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE.

I USED TO BE
FLATTERED BY
THE THOUGHT.

BUT LATELY... I
DON'T KNOW.

I CERTAINLY
WOULDN'T WANT
ONE OF MY
ENEMIES TO TAKE
REVENGE ON ME
THROUGH THEM.

THAT'S THE KIND OF
THING THAT WOULD
KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT.

LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE
I CAN DO BEFORE MY
LUNCH DATE WITH
CANDACE.

AT THE SAME TIME AT U.N.T.I.L...

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR USING MY CONSOLE.



MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO, MAJOR.

CAPTAIN LYNCH.

I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF PROJECT CITADEL. LADY ESTHER GAVE ME FULL ACCESS TO YOUR STATION FOR MY INVESTIGATION.

CAPTAIN LYNCH
PROJECT CITADEL

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU FINISHED YOUR INVESTIGATION INTO MY INCIDENT A LONG TIME AGO, CAPTAIN.

I DID, BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU OR HOW YOU GOT YOUR POWERS.

NO, I'M GOING AFTER THE ONE THAT YOU REFUSED TO CHASE DOWN.

THE OPERATIVE CALLED AGENT SIDESTEP.

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAD A QUICK CONVERSATION WITH SIDESTEP BACK IN 2013 AFTER ANOTHER EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL CRIMINAL ESCAPED YOUR CUSTODY.

MISTER BLUE, AS I RECALL.*

A DANGEROUS WOLF-LIKE CREATURE THAT GUTTED A FUTURE OPERATIVE ALONG WITH A FEW OTHERS BEFORE BEING STOPPED BY GALATEA FUTURE.

THEN, AFTER DROPPING OFF A DATA PACKAGE CONTAINING EVERYTHING WE NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT MISTER BLUE, YOU STOPPED YOUR INVESTIGATION ON HIM. FOR SEVEN YEARS!

← ISSUES 4-6 →



I GOT THE INFORMATION THAT I NEEDED TO COMPLETE MY REPORT AND TO SATISFY YOUR PROJECT'S CURIOSITY.

IF YOU WANTED HIM AFTER THAT, I WOULD HAVE STEPPED ASIDE FOR YOU.

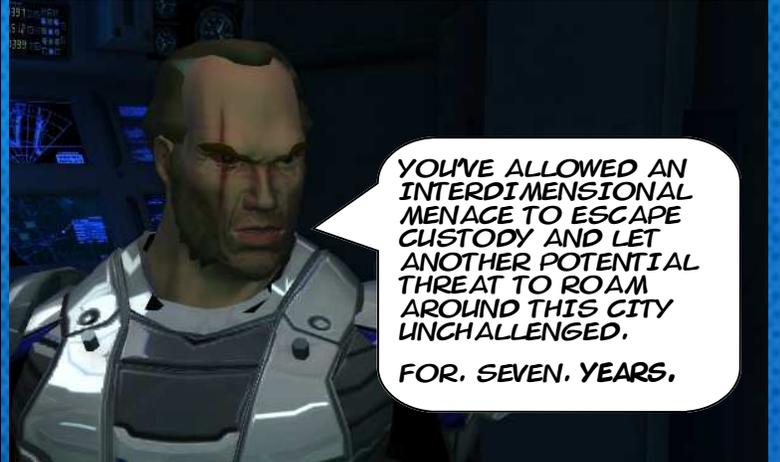
THAT'S NOT HOW THE PROJECTS WORK IN U.N.T.I.L., MAJOR, AND YOU KNOW IT.

THAT INVESTIGATION WAS YOURS AND YOU LET IT SIT!



LADY ESTHER BROUGHT IT TO OUR ATTENTION THAT YOUR INVESTIGATION ON SIDESTEP WAS STILL OPEN.

I WAS GIVEN FULL AUTHORIZATION TO FINISH IT.



YOU'VE ALLOWED AN INTERDIMENSIONAL MENACE TO ESCAPE CUSTODY AND LET ANOTHER POTENTIAL THREAT TO ROAM AROUND THIS CITY UNCHALLENGED.

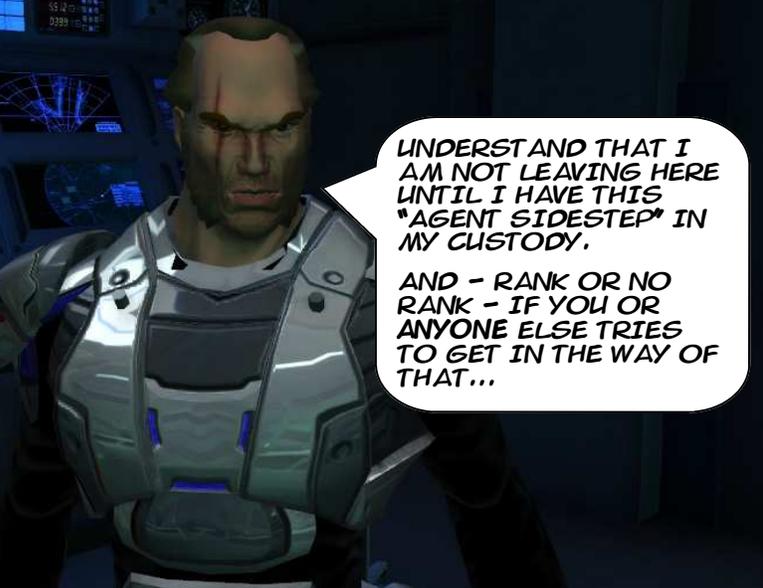
FOR. SEVEN. YEARS.



I'VE HAD MORE IMPORTANT THREATS ON MY HANDS TO DEAL WITH.

YES, YOUR WITCH-HUNT FOR YOUR MYTHICAL "VORTECH" GROUP. I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE IF YOU HUNT DOWN THE GUY IN THE GRASSY KNOLL WHO SHOT JFK.



UNDERSTAND THAT I AM NOT LEAVING HERE UNTIL I HAVE THIS "AGENT SIDESTEP" IN MY CUSTODY.

AND - RANK OR NO RANK - IF YOU OR ANYONE ELSE TRIES TO GET IN THE WAY OF THAT...



... THEN I HAVE THE FULL AUTHORITY UNDER U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 67A TO TAKE THEM DOWN AS WELL.

DOWNTOWN

"I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!"

"IT'S TRUE."

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE INVULNERABLE... AND THEIR SIRACHA BURGER TAKES YOU DOWN?

I NEVER SAID THAT I WAS INVULNERABLE.

OKAY, MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE...

I MEAN, YEAH, BULLETS AND BOMBS AND LASERS, NO PROBLEM. BUT THOSE ARE ON THE OUTSIDE. IT'S LIKE THE REST OF MY SENSES... MY TASTE BUDS CAN BE OVERWHELMED BY THE EXTREMES AS WELL.

I GUESS THAT RULES OUT NEXT WEEK'S GHOST PEPPER WINGS NIGHT.

OKAY... CHANGE OF SUBJECT.

YOUR NEXT BOOK.

SOOO... YOU'RE DONE WITH THE SPACE ADVENTURE STUFF?



ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE
AKA: GALATEA FUTURE



CANDACE SINCLAIR
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

IT WAS A NICE CHANGE OF PACE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS, TO FOCUS ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN JUST SUPERHEROES.

BUT I THINK I'VE RUN OUT OF STEAM ON THE WHOLE "SPACESHIP STARREACH" SERIES.

BESIDES, THE ONLY REASON WHY I WAS EVEN INSPIRED BY IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT WEIRD INCIDENT IN THE DESERT ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.*

SINCE THEN... WELL, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY MORE "INSPIRATIONS".

(* ISSUE #14)

SO IT'S BACK TO THE "TAWDRY TIGHTS", AS THE CRITICS USED TO CALL THEM.

WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT. AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THAT SERIES.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE NEXT BOOK WHEN IT'S READY.

IT'S BEEN CRAZY WITH MY LITTLE ONE-WOMAN LAW PRACTICE OF LATE. I MAY HAVE TO BRING IN SOME MORE LAWYERS TO--

DING-DING
DING-DING



THAT'S THE EMERGENCY LINE.

GO AHEAD.
ANYONE HURT?
UNDERSTOOD.
I'M ON MY WAY.

WHAT HAPPENED?



VIPER JUST
ATTACKED THE
RAVENSWOOD
CAMPUS.



MY GOD...
GO!



ARE YOU A HERO IN NEED OF LEGAL HELP?

Are you being sued for a "wrongful arrest" or "hero brutality"?

Are your hero credentials being held up by bureaucrats?

Are you being denied the legal benefits owed to you as a hero?

Are you wrongly being sued as a hero for copyright or trademark infringement or because your outfit is deemed "indecent"?

Heroes are entitled to the same legal help as anyone else. I've gone up against powerful interests in court and prevailed.

Call my office and let's see if I can come to your rescue.

Candace Sinclair
Attorney-At-Law

888-555-LRYR

Licensed to practice law in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Initial communication does not automatically translate to or to infer in any way that Candace Sinclair will represent you in any legal capacity. You must be a current or formerly registered hero before Candace Sinclair will consider representing you in a legal capacity. A monetary retainer may be required depending on the nature of the case. This is a fictional character in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real lawyer. Not a real ad.

Frankie Stein says...

"ME USE

iron Wax

AND SO YOU TOO!"

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

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

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

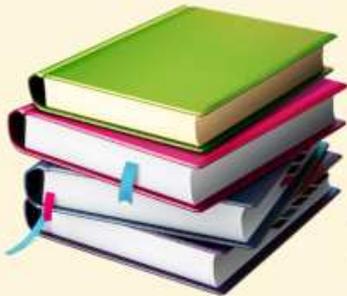
And it's economical. One dab on a cloth and you're good.

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

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

FRANKIE STEIN - RE-ANIMATED MONSTER

BRANSFIELD BOOKS



The latest titles from Rowling, Fairmore, Clancy, King, Woodward, and others.

The newest editions of the best-sellers.

The classics from mythology to science-fiction.

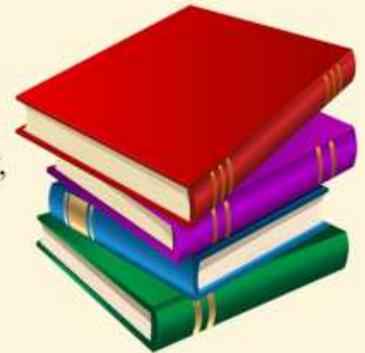
Newspapers from around the world. Magazines and graphic novels. Audio books.

You name it, we have it! And if we don't, we will get it for you!

City Center, Millennium City

333-555-BOOK

Bransfield Books is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real ad.



FOOD SO GOOD... IT SHOULD COME WITH A CAPE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SUPERHERO TO BE SUPER-HUNGRY.

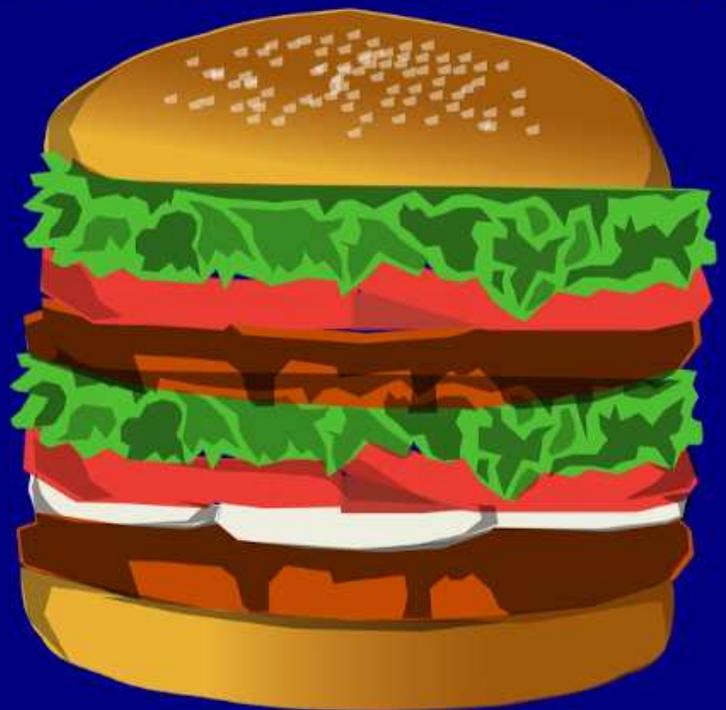
THANKFULLY, WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO THAT KIND OF CRISIS!

TRY OUR EXCLUSIVE ACE-HIGH CHEESEBURGER WITH TWO ALL-BEEF PATTIES WITH THREE KINDS OF CHEESE ON A GLUTEN-FREE BUN. A FULL HOUSE THAT WILL MAKE A FULL STOMACH!

AND REMEMBER, ALL ACE BURGERS ARE COOKED THE MINUTE YOU ORDER THEM. IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT.

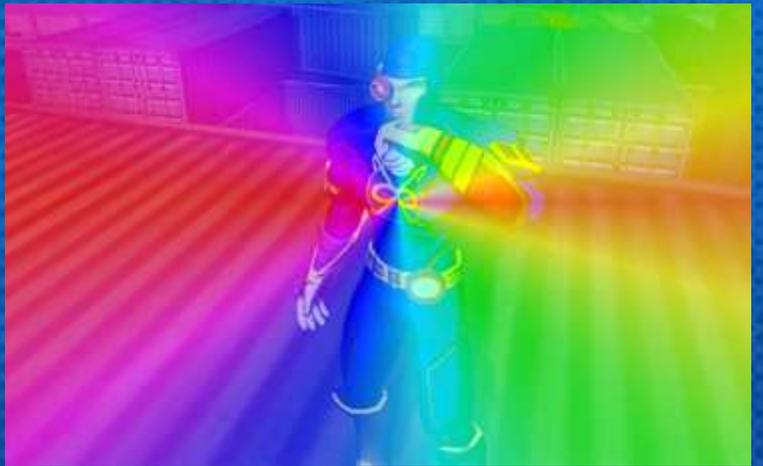
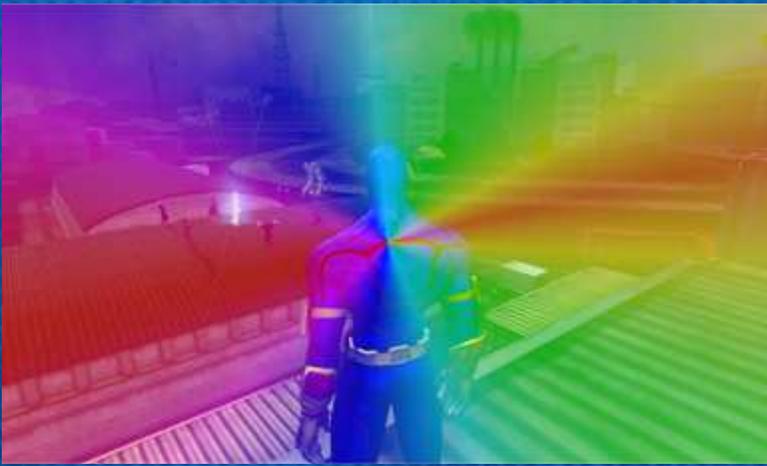
ACE BURGER

City Center, Millennium City



Ace Burger is a fictional restaurant in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real burger. Not a real ad.

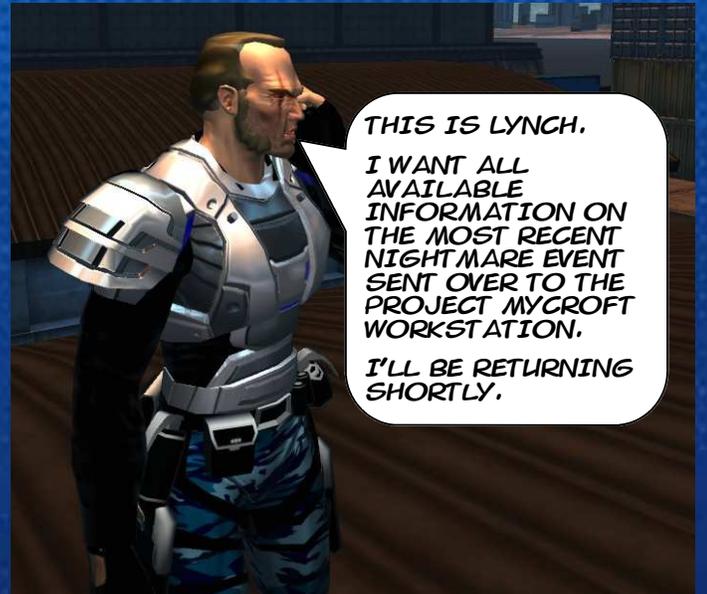
AT THE SAME TIME IN THE WESTSIDE DISTRICT...



I SEE YOU...
WHY WERE YOU WATCHING THEM?*

WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DID THIS PLACE HOLD FOR YOU?

(* YOU MAY WANT TO BRUSH UP ON "BATTLE ROCK COMICS PRESENTS" #2 FOR WHY AGENT SIDESTEP WAS THERE.)



THIS IS LYNCH.
I WANT ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE MOST RECENT NIGHTMARE EVENT SENT OVER TO THE PROJECT MYCROFT WORKSTATION.
I'LL BE RETURNING SHORTLY.

RAVENSWOOD CAMPUS



RIGHT...
HOLD ON
FOR ONE
MOMENT...



I'M SORRY, GALATEA,
BUT I'M ON THE PHONE
WITH EIGHT DIFFERENT
AGENCIES ALL
WANTING TO KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED.



LADYHAWKE
SUPERHERO DETECTIVE

THAT'S OKAY, JUST
TELL ME WHAT YOU
DO KNOW. WAS
ANYONE HURT OR
KILLED?



IT WAS A SMALL
STRIKE SQUAD; THREE
GROUPS OF FIVE.

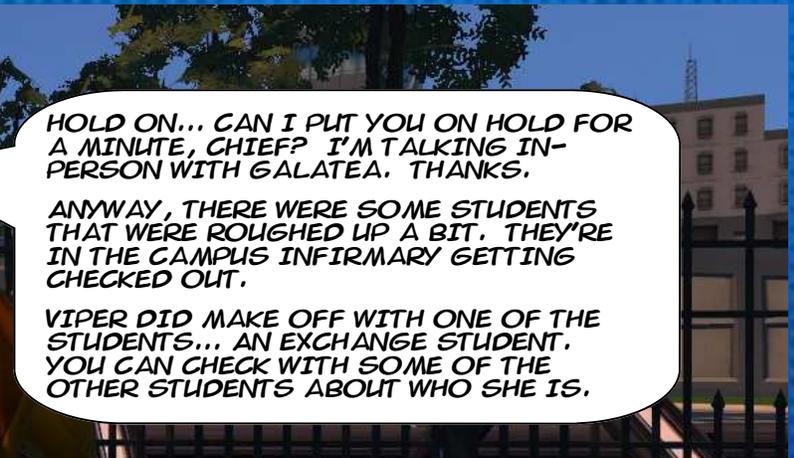
I FOUGHT OFF THE
FIRST TEAM EASILY,
BUT THE SECOND TEAM
KEPT ME BUSY, AND
THEN THE THIRD CAME
AND WENT.



HOLD ON... CAN I PUT YOU ON HOLD FOR
A MINUTE, CHIEF? I'M TALKING IN-
PERSON WITH GALATEA. THANKS.

ANYWAY, THERE WERE SOME STUDENTS
THAT WERE ROUGHED UP A BIT. THEY'RE
IN THE CAMPUS INFIRMARY GETTING
CHECKED OUT.

VIPER DID MAKE OFF WITH ONE OF THE
STUDENTS... AN EXCHANGE STUDENT.
YOU CAN CHECK WITH SOME OF THE
OTHER STUDENTS ABOUT WHO SHE IS.



THINK HER NAME WAS
VESPA. SHE WAS SORT
OF WEIRD, YOU KNOW?

BLOND HAIR, SORT OF
SCALY SKIN. TRIED TO
TALK LIKE SHE WAS A
BIG INFLUENCER.



TOTAL FAKE,
THOUGH.

LIKE SHE DIDN'T
EVEN HAVE AN
ACCOUNT TO
BOAST ABOUT.

NITPIK, OVALINKS,
YIPYIP... NOT ONE
ACCOUNT.

WHO DOES THAT?





SO YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED?



I DID, AND IT WAS **AWESOME!** JUST LIKE OUT OF SOME MOVIE!
AND WATCHING LADYHAWKE IN ACTION... **WOW!**



JEROME IS EXCITED BECAUSE HE TRANSFERRED OVER FROM BOSTON AND HE NEVER GOT TO SEE A HERO IN ACTION UNTIL NOW.

HOW ABOUT YOU TWO? WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE ASSAULT?

WE WERE HIDING BY THE SHRUBS, BUT I COULD SEE A GROUP OF GOONS GRAB VESTA AND THEN HEAD BACK UP TOWARDS CITY HALL.



IT WAS WEIRD, YOU KNOW? SHE WAS YELLING "HELP! HELP!" BUT, YOU KNOW, SHE WASN'T TRYING TO FIGHT THEM WHEN THEY TOOK HER AWAY. SHE JUST WENT ALONG WITH THEM.

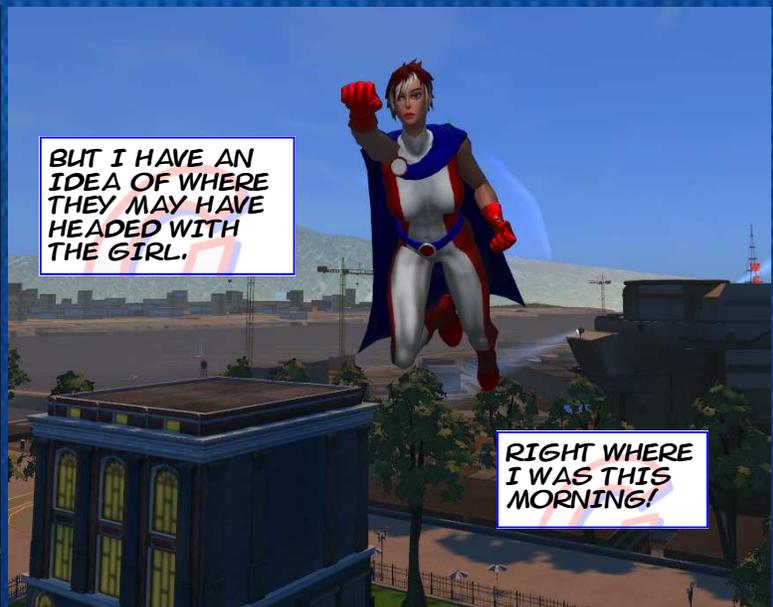
THAT IS WEIRD. BUT IT'S ALSO REALLY HELPFUL. THANK YOU FOR PAYING ATTENTION LIKE THAT.



A STRANGE EXCHANGE STUDENT GETS KIDNAPPED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

A LOT OF "SOMETHING".



BUT I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHERE THEY MAY HAVE HEADED WITH THE GIRL.

RIGHT WHERE I WAS THIS MORNING!

CANDACE SINCLAIR'S APARTMENT

"MAJOR! THIS IS A SURPRISE."

IT'S NOT A SOCIAL CALL, CANDACE.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I HAD TO TELL YOU IN PERSON.

OKAAAY... I WAS ACTUALLY ABOUT TO GO BACK TO THE OFFICE, BUT IT CAN WAIT. IS THIS ABOUT GALATEA?

ACTUALLY IT'S ABOUT YOUR OTHER FRIEND... AGENT SIDESTEP. PROJECT CITADEL IS AFTER HIM.

ONE OF THEIR BEST OPERATIVES, A MAN BY THE NAME OF LYNCH, IS HERE LOOKING FOR SIDESTEP.

I'VE ENCOUNTERED HIM YEARS AGO WHEN HE INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT THAT GAVE ME MY FIRE ABILITIES.

HE IS A FANATIC WHEN IT COMES TO PAN-DIMENSIONAL MATTERS. AND HE USES THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO PROJECT CITADEL BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO ITS EXTREME LIMIT.

I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTACT SIDESTEP MYSELF... BUT IF YOU CAN, YOU NEED TO WARN HIM ABOUT LYNCH.

I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTACT SIDESTEP. HE AND I... WELL, WE HAVEN'T BEEN VERY TALKATIVE FOR A FEW YEARS.

BUT IF LYNCH FIGURES OUT THAT SIDESTEP IS HERE TO WATCH TAYA...

HE MAY GO AFTER HER TO GET TO HIM!

COME ON!

I HAVE TO GET SOMETHING FROM MY OFFICE AND THEN WE NEED TO GET TO U.N.T.I.L. HEADQUARTERS!

MEANWHILE... BACK IN THE CITY CENTER DISTRICT...

I'VE SMACKED ENOUGH VIPER GOONS IN MY TIME TO KNOW THAT THEY'RE SNAKES OF HABIT.

THIS WAREHOUSE IS JUST A BLOCK AWAY FROM WHERE I RESCUED THAT PREGNANT WOMAN.

I DON'T HAVE TO HAVE HYPER-INTELLIGENCE TO GUESS THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY THEIR STAGING AREA.

VESPA?
VESPA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I HEAR ONLY ONE HEARTBEAT IN THE AREA.

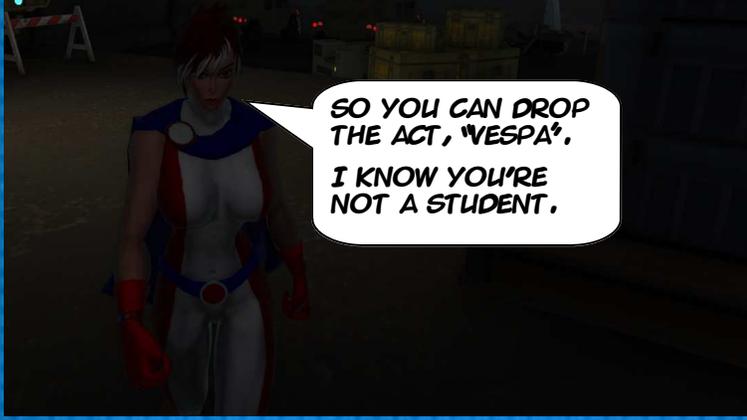
ROBOT MINIONS?
NO, VIPER USES HUMANS.

VESPA, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, I'M HERE TO HELP.
MY NAME IS GALATEA FUTURE.

I HEAR BREATHING... FEMALE.
EXCITED? CERTAINLY NOT STRESSED.

THEY... THEY'RE STILL HERE.

NO, IT'S JUST US.
JUST YOU AND ME.



SO YOU CAN DROP THE ACT, VESPA?
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A STUDENT.



AMMMW... YOU CAUGHT ME.
WHAT GAVE IT AWAY?

YOU TRIED TOO HARD TO BE SOMETHING YOU WERENT.



NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO PRETEND TO BE A SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER, YOU NEED TO AT LEAST HAVE ONE SOCIAL MEDIA TO PRETEND TO INFLUENCE.

THANK YOU FOR THE TIP,
AND SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY INTRODUCED YOURSELF, I SHOULD RETURN THE FAVOR.



MY FIRST NAME REALLY IS VESPA...
BUT I GO BY THE NAME **VIPRA**.



VIPRA
AGENT OF VIPER



SO THIS MORNING'S LITTLE EXERCISE... THAT WAS IN PREPARATION FOR THIS ENCOUNTER?



PRETTY MUCH, YEAH.

YOU SEE, THE VIPER SOLDIERS YOU SMACKED AROUND, THEY GOT A LITTLE ANXIOUS AFTER THEY SAW THAT PREGNANT WOMAN GO INTO LABOR.

THANK YOU FOR THAT. I WAS GOING TO PUNISH THEM FOR SCREWING UP BUT YOU SAVED ME THE TROUBLE.

NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...

YOU'RE THINKING THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO USE YOUR FLIGHT AND SPEED TO BEAT ME TO THE PUNCH AND KNOCK ME OUT.

AND IF I WERE A REGULAR VIPER AGENT, YOU'D BE RIGHT.

BUT I HAVE ONE ADVANTAGE OVER YOUR POWERS.



HEAD SPINNING...
EYES... BURNING...

HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

I THINK I WILL
START A SOCIAL
MEDIA ACCOUNT.
AND THE FIRST
PIC THAT I POST
WILL BE YOUR
BROKEN AND
POISONED
BODY.



HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

HEAD IS ROARING.
PRESSURE BEHIND
MY EYES IS...

... IS...

HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

... BUILDING?

LIKE A POWER I
USED TO HAVE!





KRAKOOOM



YES!

OH BEAM
VISION I AM SO
HAPPY TO HAVE
YOU BACK!

SO MUCH FOR YOUR
"ADVANTAGE", VIPRA.



HERE'S ANOTHER
TASTE OF MINE!



KRAKOOOM



WHOA! TURN IT DOWN!

I DON'T WANT TO VAPORIZE HER!



GUESS THIS IS A DAY OF SURPRISES FOR BOTH OF US.

WHEW! GLAD I DIDN'T BURN HER TO A CRISP.

I ENJOYED OUR LITTLE DUST-UP, BUT I THINK I'LL USE SOME OF MY OTHER VIPER TOYS AND MAKE MY GET AWAY.

NEXT TIME...



WHY DON'T YOU STAY AND WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT OTHER SURPRISES WE CAN REVEAL?

GONE.

MY HYPER-SENSES HEAR A BACK DOOR CLOSING.

STILL...

WHILE I'M GLAD I HAVE MY BEAM POWER BACK, IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE MY OLD POWER FROM MY "ALPHA YEARS".*

I DEFINITELY NEED TO BE CHECKED OUT BY DOCTOR SILVERBACK. MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME FIGURE OUT THIS RENEWED POWER.

AND THEN I HAVE TO REPORT IN WITH U.N.T.I.L. THAT I HAD A RUN-IN WITH A VIPER AGENT.

* "ALPHA YEARS" BEING THE TIME SHE WAS IN THAT CERTAIN "CITY" IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE.)

AN APARTMENT BEHIND THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...

BRRRRING
BRRRRING

THE BASEMENT HOME OF DEE RISK

HELLOP

DEE-JAY RISQUE..
YOU DO NOT KNOW ME,
BUT I KNOW THE MAN
YOU ARE DATING IS NOT
WHO HE CLAIMS TO BE.

YOU AGAIN.

PRETTY BRAVE FOR
SOMEONE HIDING
BEHIND A VOICE
SYNTHESIZER AND
PHONE SPOOFING
SOFTWARE.

 **DEE RISK**
AKA: STARLETT

I HAVE MY REASONS TO KEEP MYSELF
HIDDEN. I LIKE LIVING.
JOHN BATTLE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
HE HAS A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE.
HE HAS HURT WOMEN IN THE PAST.

I'M TIRED OF YOU
CALLING HERE
AND MAKING UP
LIES.

IF WHAT YOU SAY
IS TRUE, THEN
PROVE IT TO ME
IN PERSON.

OTHERWISE,
LEAVE ME ALONE!

BEEP

ALL IN GOOD
TIME, DEE.
ALL IN GOOD
TIME.

... TALK.

THE PHONE TRACE
WORKED.
I'M RIGHT IN FRONT
OF HER PLACE.

 **HOMETOWN HERO**
STREET VIGILANTE

O-O-OF COURSE
IT D-DID.
NOW Y-YOU C-C-
CAN TAKE YOUR P-
PLAN T-T-TO THE
NEXT LEVEL.

JUST R-REMEMBER
T-T-TO SHARE AS
WE A-A-AGREED.

 **VOXPOP 2.0**
FORMERLY VOX POPULII

CAMBRIDGE BIOCHEM BRANCH - RENAISSANCE CENTER

WELL I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO LINGERING DAMAGE DONE TO YOUR BODY FROM THE VENOM THAT VIPRA SPRAYED AT YOU.

THAT IS GOOD TO HEAR, DOCTOR.

I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE HOW VULNERABLE I REALLY AM TO HAVING MY SENSES OVERWHELMED LIKE THAT.

THANKFULLY IT WAS JUST THAT AND NOT A CASE OF BLOOD POISONING.

HOWEVER, I AM CURIOUS ABOUT THIS NEW ABILITY THAT YOU SAY YOU ONCE HAD BUT IN A DIFFERENT FORM.

THIS... "BEAM VISION"... WHEN DID THIS FIRST MANIFEST?

 **DOCTOR SILVERBACK**
SIMIAN SCIENTIST

WELL THAT'S THE COMPLICATED PART.

I HAD IT FOR A WHILE WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER.

THEN I LOST IT.

AND THEN I GOT IT BACK WHEN I WAS IN MY LATE 20'S.

YOU HAD IT... AND THEN YOU LOST IT.

WAS THERE SOME SORT OF TRAUMA ASSOCIATED WITH THAT TIME?

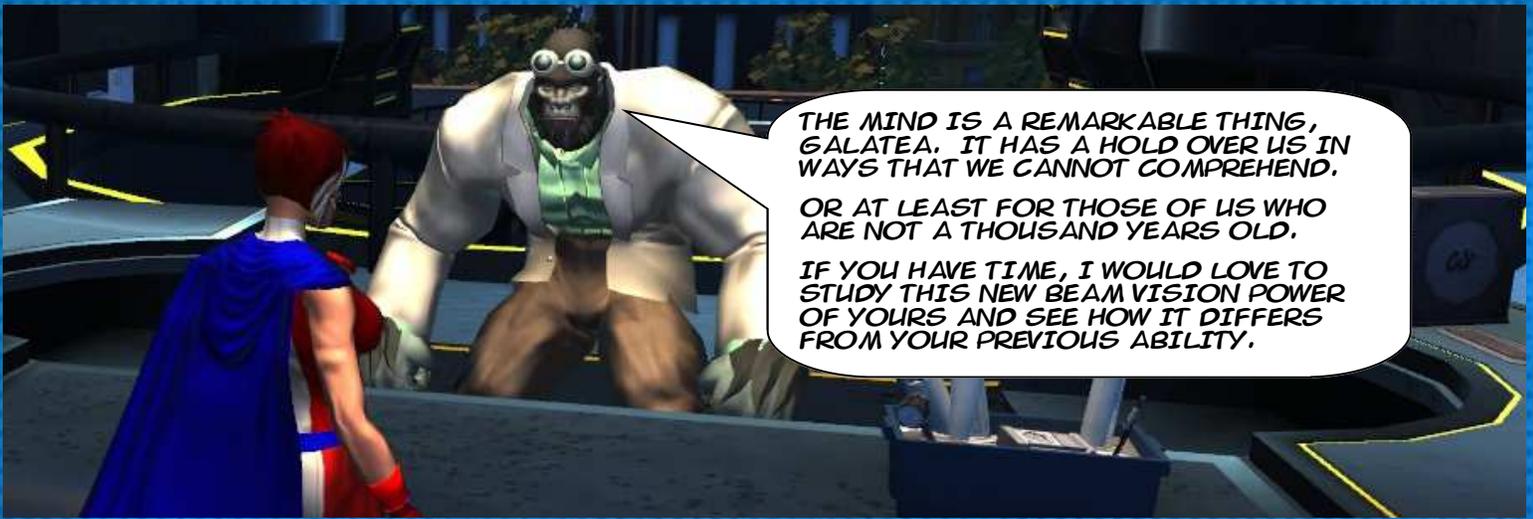
ACTUALLY... YES.

THERE WERE SOME SERIOUS ISSUES GOING ON WITH MY LIFE AT THE TIME.*

I NEVER REALLY CONSIDERED THAT AS BEING A REASON WHY I LOST THAT POWER THE FIRST TIME.

THEN AGAIN, MY WHOLE LIFE AT THAT TIME WAS PRETTY COMPLICATED.

* READ "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #19 TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO GALATEA AS A TEEN.*



THE MIND IS A REMARKABLE THING, GALATEA. IT HAS A HOLD OVER US IN WAYS THAT WE CANNOT COMPREHEND. OR AT LEAST FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE NOT A THOUSAND YEARS OLD. IF YOU HAVE TIME, I WOULD LOVE TO STUDY THIS NEW BEAM VISION POWER OF YOURS AND SEE HOW IT DIFFERS FROM YOUR PREVIOUS ABILITY.



I WOULD LIKE THAT... BUT... I DO HAVE TO REPORT THE INCIDENT WITH U.N.T.I.L. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE... WHICH IS SOMETHING MAJOR CROSS AND LADY ESTHER HAVE BEEN PUSHING.



OH OF COURSE! WHEN YOU'RE ABLE.



AND PLEASE GIVE MY BEST TO LADY ESTHER IF YOU SEE HER!

I CERTAINLY WILL.



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

UNTIL

"THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, MAJOR."

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THIS TO OUR ATTENTION, GALATEA.

MAJOR RASHIDA KWAME
PROJECT SNAKECHARMER

IT'S STRANGE THAT VIPER DECIDED TO TARGET YOU JUST OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT.

I DON'T THINK IT WAS VIPER, PER SE.

I THINK IT WAS VIPRA HERSELF, USING VIPER RESOURCES TO HELP HER GET MY ATTENTION.

INTERESTING. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?

VIPRA WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO SET HERSELF UP AS A VICTIM FOR ME TO RESCUE.

THAT'S A LOT OF WASTED RESOURCES JUST TO, WHAT, TRY TO BLOODY MY NOSE?

THAT'S NOT A TYPICAL VIPER OPERATION.

PLUS I'VE COME ACROSS A FEW OTHER FOLKS THAT CARRIED OUT SIMILAR PLANS TO SUPPOSEDLY "MAKE A STATEMENT".

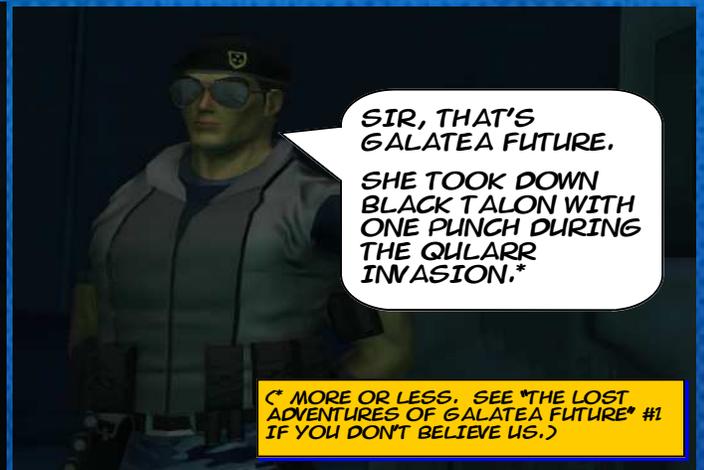
IF VIPRA DIDN'T WEAR A VIPER UNIFORM, I'D ACCUSE HER OF BEING PART OF THAT SAME GROUP.

IT DOES SEEM TO MATCH WHAT OUR INTELLIGENCE FILES HAVE BEEN HINTING AT.

SO VIPRA REALLY IS FREELANCING. THAT MAKES HER EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.



QUARTERMASTER...
THAT WOMAN WITH
THE CAPE.
I NEED HER TO BE
DETAINED.



SIR, THAT'S
GALATEA FUTURE.
SHE TOOK DOWN
BLACK TALON WITH
ONE PUNCH DURING
THE QILARR
INVASION.*

(* MORE OR LESS. SEE "THE LOST
ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #1
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US.)



I DON'T CARE IF YOU
NEED TO BRING IN THE
WHOLE U.N.T.I.L. ARMY!
THAT WOMAN IS GIVING
OFF MULTI-
DIMENSIONAL ENERGY.

UNDER ALL U.N. SECURITY
COUNCIL DIRECTIVES...
I AM ORDERING YOU
TO DETAIN GALATEA
FUTURE!

NEXT:
GALATEA FUTURE...
WANTED?

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW PROJECT SNAKECHARMER



Operative Profile: Vipra

Real Name: Valerie Vespa Miller (unconfirmed)
Other Aliases: Vespa Miller
Birthplace: Eldersburg, Maryland
Hometown: none
Occupation: killer-for-hire/Agent of VIPER
Age: unknown (suspected mid-20's)
Hair Color: green/blond
Family: Wendall Miller (father), Elaine Miller (mother)
Skills: killing, knowledge of poisons and toxins
Equipment: poison claws, VIPER devices

Subject History:

Very little is known about Vipra other than what has been gathered by U.N.T.I.L. operatives in Project Snakecharmer since she made her presence known in 2017.

DNA samples trace her to a Valerie Vespa Miller, born in Eldersburg, Maryland. A single child to Wendall and Elaine Miller, she grew up in the small unincorporated community with no criminal record or complaint. High school records showed that she was highly intelligent but also reserved. She earned a full scholarship to the University of Baltimore for her studies in biochemistry.

It is believed that it was when she was on-campus that she was lured into the super-secret organization called VIPER. She was made aware of the organization through one of her professors, who was a member of the local VIPER hierarchy and was on the search for new talent. Valerie's intelligence and her fascination with serpents made her a logical recruit.

Valerie, now going by her middle name Vespa, was reported missing after her third year at the University of Baltimore. She never returned home after classes ended and she left no notice of where she was going. Her parents filed a missing person's report. It is suspected that she formally joined VIPER.

As a majority of VIPER operatives are male, having a female operative stands out in more ways than one. Former VIPER members say that the rare female recruits are always subject to extreme harassment and assaults, especially during the first year of training and placement. Those that survive the training are often disappointed by how they are placed in the organization. Female VIPER operatives are often limited to menial tasks along traditional gender stereotypes, including housekeeping, cooking, and cleaning. Field work for female operatives is often limited to surveillance and intelligence gathering only. If they are assigned as soldiers, it is to an elite female operative in VIPER and at that operative's discretion only.

At some point early in her placement, Vespa volunteered for genetic enhancements, which gave her reptile-like abilities, including exuding poison through her mouth, and enhanced regeneration. Her skin and eyes also began taking on a more reptilian form. That was when she started calling herself Vipra.

As an agent of VIPER, Vipra proved to be lethal. But inside agents say that she also complained that she was not getting the respect that she deserved. Many VIPER agents would not have anything to do with her. Assignments were limited to intelligence-only.

It is suspected that at this point, Vipra began offering her services to others as

Continues on next page...

**CLASSIFIED
EYES ONLY!**

a contract mercenary. Communications intercepted from VIPER hierarchy show a great deal of anger and resentment, but this was followed by a decision to allow her freelancing as a way to not only promote the organization but to also keep her from complaining about the lack of respect from within VIPER.

Powers and Abilities:

Vipra has genetically-enhanced physical abilities. This gives her greater than normal strength, speed, and physical regeneration. It is suspected that she also has some amphibian traits.

Her VIPER outfit best reflects her serpentine-like abilities, including diamond-tipped claws that can rip and tear metal. Small nozzles just past the tip allow for delivery of poisons or even acid. She also carries several VIPER covert intelligence devices, including a limited cloaking device.

In addition to her enhanced abilities, her body also exudes lethal poisons that can debilitate and even kill people. She can choose which poisons she can exude and how. Her preferred method is a lethal snake venom, which she can project out from her mouth at great distances and affect anyone within range. It can maim, debilitate, and even kill those within range. She can also exude low-level pheromones to influence others in close proximity.

Personality:

Vipra is a sociopath. She does what she wants for herself. She originally joined VIPER because they promised her access to the science she could use to make herself better and to further explore her studies on biochemistry in ways that traditional colleges could not provide.

Vipra is fixated on being respected. As a woman and as a killing machine. She hates being belittled or objectified. She is vicious on those who try to take advantage of her.

She is very intelligent. She is a keen observer of her enemies, which is basically everyone, including those in VIPER. She finds weaknesses in her enemies and she exploits them.

While she recognizes that it was VIPER that "made" her, she also knows that they have no respect for women. Because of that, she freelances her services to gain more respect.

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

NEXT ISSUE...



GALATEA FUTURE...

IS SHE A PRISONER OF U.N.T.I.L. OR A FUGITIVE FROM THEM?

AND WHAT WILL MAJOR CROSS AND CANDACE SINCLAIR DO TO HELP HER?

OR CAN THEY?



Are you special?

Do you have unusual powers or gifts?

Do you suspect that you can do things make you different from others? Read minds, fly, show incredible strength, see or know things that others cannot?

You may be someone with either meta or mystical abilities.

If so, Ravenswood Academy is here to help.

Ravenswood Academy is a fully-accredited secondary-school institution located in Orchardville, MI. The Academy is one of the most highly-regarded independent educational institutions in the United States, and is frequently viewed as one of the top secondary school institutions in the world.

Founded in September of 1989 by Kristina Pelvanen following the tragic death of a young superhero, Ravenswood Academy aims to provide top-quality instruction in both standard academic fields as well as training young meta and mystical humans in the best and proper use of their powers and abilities.

In addition to the first-rate superhuman and mystical training regimens, the faculty at Ravenswood Academy consists of highly-regarded professionals throughout a wide variety of individual fields, and students at the Academy are frequently capable of delving deeply into highly specialized fields of study that would be otherwise impossible for the average high school.

More than seventy-five percent of Ravenswood graduates go on to become registered heroes or move on to a productive career working through prestigious government agencies such as PRIMUS and UNTIL.

In addition to their main campus in Orchardville, Ravenswood Academy also has a branch campus in Millennium City, just one block away from the Renaissance Center and the center for all heroic activity for the city. It is not uncommon to have members of the Champions pay a visit to the campus to meet with and help teach Ravenswood students.

Scholarships are made available to students on both a by-need and an academic basis. There are a number of scholarships exclusively reserved for metahuman and mystical students who are incapable of paying tuition. We believe that if a metahuman or mystical student has a true financial need, they should **never** be denied instruction at Ravenswood.

If you or your child has meta or mystical abilities, contact the administrators at Ravenswood Academy for a free assessment and evaluation.

RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY

www.Ravenswood.edu.mill 888-555-LEARN

This is an advertisement for a fictional educational institution in the world of Champions Online as provided by Cryptic Studios and Hero Games. Any similarities between this and any real-world institution of the same or similar name is merely coincidental. You don't need a diploma to know that this is not a real ad.



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