



BATTLEROCK  
COMICS

Member of  
City of  
Comic



**T** FOR TEENS



ISSUE 22  
2021

# ***FUTURE'S GUARDIAN***

Is *Starlett*  
over her head?



**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**

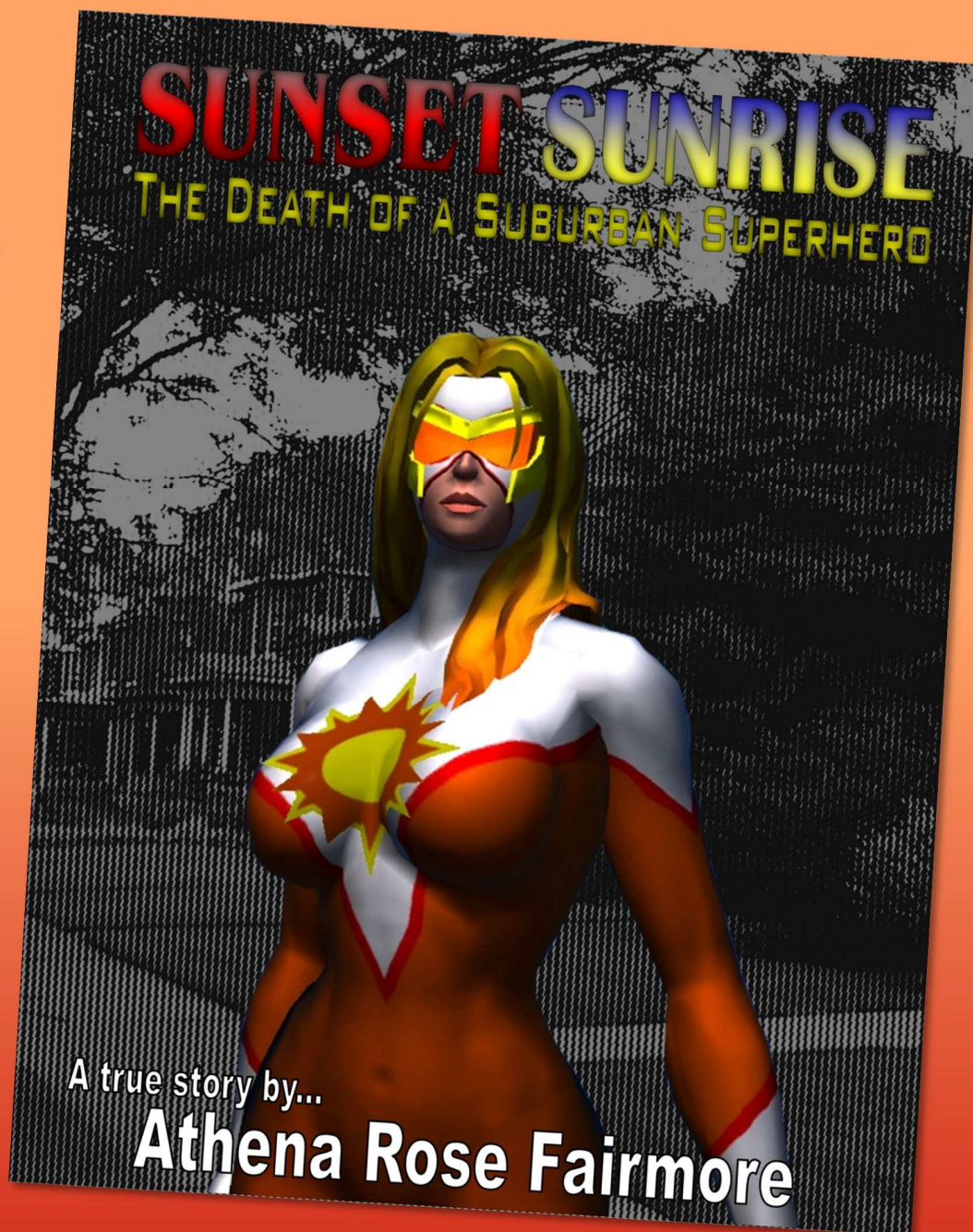
PERFECT  
WORLD



Soccer practice, school recitals, parent-teacher meetings, carpooling, barbeques, supervillain battles...

Just the day in the life of a suburban housewife and superhero... **Until someone discovered her secret.**

"Athena Rose Fairmore has shown that real-life can be just as perilous as her fictional worlds."  
- Books 102



"I didn't want to believe it could happen, but it did."  
- Hero Reader Today

"I cried. I honestly cried when I finished reading."  
- Ella Bransfield

A real-life tragedy from bestselling author Athena Rose Fairmore.  
**Available at bookstores and online now!**



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***

## ***"PUSHING BOUNDARIES"***

***- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2***

FOR YEARS, DEE RISK HAS KEPT HER DUAL LIFE AS A CLUB DEEJAY AND AS STARLETT SEPARATE.

NOW, TWO MEN KNOW WHO SHE IS, AND THEY ARE USING THAT INFORMATION TO BLACKMAIL HER.

SHE'S FORCED TO GO ON PATROL WITH ONE OF HER BLACKMAILERS, WHILE THE OTHER TAUNTS HER VIA PRIVATE CELLPHONE.

SHE HOPES THAT THE VIGILANTE RED SINNER WILL UNCOVER THE OTHER BLACKMAILER SOON SO THEY CAN PUT THIS TWO-MAN TEAM TO AN END.

Future's Guardian #22 is created using original characters in the Champions Online Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2009-2021, Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. This story is an independent not-for-profit derivative work of the Champions Online Game. All original rights are reserved by Cryptic Studios and Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. Perfect World Entertainment is a trademark of Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. Battlerock Comics is a subsidiary of Get Brutal Productions and makes no claim on the intellectual property owned by either Cryptic Studios or Perfect World Entertainment.



"WELCOME BACK TO 'GOOD MORNING MILLENNIUM CITY!'"

# Good Morning MILLENNIUM CITY

"FILLING IN FOR VICTORIA CROWNSTONE IS GLORIA ROOT."

8 WCOG

WELCOME BACK.

WE'RE HERE IN THE POWERHOUSE THEATER TALKING WITH FAMED BESTSELLING AUTHOR ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE.

ATHENA, WELCOME BACK TO G.M.M.C.



**GLORIA ROOT**  
WCOG REPORTER



IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO BE HERE, GLORIA.



**ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE**  
AKA: GALATEA FUTURE



YOUR NEW BOOK, "SUNSET SUNRISE: THE DEATH OF A SUBURBAN SUPERHERO" WAS JUST RELEASED YESTERDAY, AND IT'S ALREADY NUMBER ONE ON THE BEST-SELLING LISTS.



"AND, UNLIKE YOUR OTHER BOOKS, THIS ONE IS ACTUALLY BASED ON REAL EVENTS."



YES, SUNRISE WAS AN ACTUAL SUPERHERO WHO LIVED AND OPERATED IN THE TOWN OF NOVI, NOT TOO FAR FROM MILLENNIUM CITY.

SHE HAD A JOB, A HUSBAND, TWO KIDS, AND SHE WOULD ONLY BE A HERO DURING CERTAIN CRISIS SITUATIONS.



I WAS CONTACTED BY SUNRISE'S FAMILY TO TELL HER STORY, GIVEN MY PAST EXPERIENCES WITH SUPERHEROES.

THEY BELIEVE THAT HER STORY NEEDED TO BE TOLD, GIVEN THE MORE SALACIOUS RUMORS ABOUT HER.






YES, THE BOOK DOES GO INTO  
DETAIL ABOUT SOME OF THE  
THINGS SUNRISE HAD TO DO  
WHEN A NEIGHBOR'S SON  
DISCOVERED HER IDENTITY.


THERE'S MENTION OF VIDEO  
FILES PEERING INTO HER  
BEDROOM WINDOW AND SOME  
ACTIVITY THAT WE CAN'T  
DISCUSS ON THIS PROGRAM.

SOME OF IT WAS  
TRUE, BUT SOME  
OF WHAT WAS  
RUMORED WERE  
JUST THAT...  
RUMORS.



I WAS GIVEN  
PERMISSION TO  
INTERVIEW CHAD  
YOUNG, THE TEENAGER  
WHO BLACKMAILED  
SUNRISE.

HE ADMITTED THAT A  
LOT OF WHAT WAS  
RUMORED ABOUT  
THEIR "RELATIONSHIP"  
WAS EXAGGERATED.



I SHOULD POINT OUT  
THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO  
EXPOSE THE IDENTITY OF  
A SUPERHERO, AND CHAD  
YOUNG WAS CONVICTED  
FOR HIS CRIMES AND  
HE'S STILL IN PRISON  
PAYING FOR THEM.



WELL I HOPE YOU CAN  
CONFIRM ONE RUMOR...

I HEAR THAT THERE IS A  
MOVIE IN THE WORKS  
BASED ON YOUR BOOK.

IS THAT TRUE?

YES, THE HEROIC  
LIFESTYLES CHANNEL WILL  
BE AIRING A MOVIE BASED  
ON THE EVENTS IN "SUNSET  
SUNRISE".

THIS WAS AN AGREEMENT  
MADE WITH SUNRISE'S  
FAMILY, AND PRODUCTION  
SHOULD START SOMETIME  
NEXT MONTH.



WELL THAT I LOOK  
FORWARD TO SEEING.

AND "SUNSET SUNRISE: THE  
DEATH OF A SUBURBAN  
SUPERHERO" IS AVAILABLE  
NOW IN BOOKSTORES  
EVERYWHERE.

ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE,  
AS ALWAYS, GREAT TO  
HAVE YOU HERE AT GMMC.

AND WE'LL BE BACK  
AFTER A LOOK AT  
THE WEATHER AND  
TRAFFIC.



CLUB CAPRICE NIGHTCLUB

RENAISSANCE CENTER  
MILLENNIUM CITY, MI, USA

A CLUB DEDICATED  
TO HEROES, OPEN  
24 HOURS A DAY,  
7 DAYS A WEEK..

WHICH IS HELPFUL IF YOU  
ARE A HERO THAT HAS TO  
BE A HERO AT NIGHT.

DJ RISQUÉ, THE ONE IN THE  
MIDDLE, NORMALLY WORKS NIGHTS.

BUT FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS, SHE  
ASKED TO WORK THE DAY SHIFT.

NOT BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO,  
BUT BECAUSE SHE NEEDED TO  
SPEND HER NIGHTS WORKING  
HER "OTHER" JOB.

VERY FEW PEOPLE  
KNOW THAT SHE IS  
ALSO THE VIGILANTE  
STARLETT.

UNFORTUNATELY,  
ONE OF THOSE FEW  
IS STALKING HER.



DJ RISQUÉ  
AKA: DEE RISK/STARLETT

HE IS CALLED THE "HOMETOWN HERO",  
A SELF-DESCRIBED CONSERVATIVE  
CRIME-FIGHTER WHO TRANSFERRED  
HIS HATE-GRUDGE AGAINST JOHN  
BATTLE TO BATTLE'S GIRLFRIEND.

HE KNOWS DJ RISQUÉ  
IS STARLETT, HAVING  
DISCOVERED IT  
THROUGH BREAKING  
INTO HER APARTMENT.\*

NOW HE IS  
USING THAT  
AS LEVERAGE.



HOMETOWN HERO  
STREET VIGILANTE

(\* ISSUE #19)





HEY RJ, I'M GOING TO GET SOME MORE WATER, OKAY?



JUST DON'T TAKE TOO LONG GETTING IT THIS TIME.



SHE SEEM A LITTLE OFF TO YOU, BOBBY?

IT'S THE DAY SHIFT, RJ.

EVERYONE IS A LITTLE OFF.



CAN YOU GET ME A COUPLE OF BOTTLES OF WATER?



CAN YOU HURRY UP WITH THAT, PLEASE?



FANCY MEETING YOU HERE AGAIN.



I'M BUSY. GO AWAY.









MEANWHILE, BENEATH THE RAVEN TOWER...

... A CERTAIN VIGILANTE WORKS DEEP IN THE RAVEN'S NEST.

"YOU WILL...  
DO... IT OR  
YOUR...  
OTHER LIFE...  
WILL BE...  
EXPOSED."

CONNECTION  
TERMINATED.

<ZA ZHONG!>\*

THEY'RE REALLY  
PUTTING THE SCREWS  
TO STARLETT.

(\* CHINESE CURSE WORD.)

RED SINNER  
(AKA CASSIE DARE)

AND I CAN'T HELP  
HER IF I CAN'T  
TRACE THOSE  
CALLS BACK TO  
HER MYSTERY  
BLACKMAILER.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD  
BE A SIMPLE TRACE,  
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE  
EQUIPMENT NEEDED  
TO BACKTRACK ALL  
OF THE PROXY  
SERVERS.

\*BEEP\*  
CASSIE,  
IT'S SAM.

I'M HERE.  
WHAT'S UP,  
SAM?

WE'VE PICKED UP SOME ACTIVITY  
UPSTAIRS THAT MAY BE  
CONNECTED TO WHAT YOU'RE  
WORKING ON.

I'M FINISHING UP ON A  
MEETING BUT MEET ME IN THE  
STUDY IN A FEW HOURS.

FEW HOURS.  
GOT IT.

\*BEEP\*

I HOPE YOU'RE  
BRINGING DINNER  
AS WELL.



HOURS LATER... BETWEEN THE RENAISSANCE  
CENTER AND MERCY HOSPITAL...



SHE'S NOT HERE.  
PING HER PHONE.



T-THE GPS S-S-  
SAYS SHE I-IS IN  
YOU-YOUR AREA.



WELL SHE BETTER  
BE HERE IN THE  
NEXT THIRTY  
SECONDS OR...

... OR I'LL...







MEANWHILE IN THE UPSTAIRS  
STUDY OF THE RAVEN TOWER...

I WAS REALLY  
HOPING YOU  
BROUGHT  
SOME DINNER.



**CASSIE DARE**  
AKA: RED SINNER

SORRY... PITFALLS  
OF BEING THE CEO.  
I'M SURE MY WIFE  
HAS SOMETHING IN  
THE FRIDGE FOR ME.  
I HEAR YOUR OTHER  
JOB'S BEEN A LITTLE  
CHALLENGING.



**SAMUEL DE RAVEN**  
CEO, MILLENNIUM INSURANCE

YOU COULD SAY THAT.  
I WAS ASKED TO HELP A  
HERO WITH A BLACKMAIL  
PROBLEM.

IT'S A TWO-PERP TEAM.  
WE KNOW THE ONE WHO  
IS IN-PERSON, BUT THE  
OTHER ONE WORKS IN  
CYBERSPACE.

AND THE NEST  
DOESN'T HAVE THE  
TECH YOU NEED TO  
GO THROUGH ALL  
THE PROXY SERVERS  
AND SHADOW  
ACCOUNTS.

YEAH... I KNOW THAT  
PROBLEM.

WHEN MY BROTHER  
WAS DOING THIS AS  
RAVENCLAW, HE WAS,  
AS THE KIDS SAY,  
OLD SCHOOL.

HUNTING DOWN  
FUGITIVES DIDN'T  
REQUIRE MAD TECH  
SKILLS. IT TOOK  
GUTS AND FISTS  
AND CHASING  
PEOPLE ON FOOT.

AND NORMALLY I'D BE OUT  
THERE PUTTING THE FEAR OF  
GOD INTO THESE PUNKS.

BUT WITH ONE OF THEM  
WORKING ONLY ONLINE, I  
CAN'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT  
THAT ONE PULLING THE  
BLACKMAIL TRIGGER.

MAYBE YOU CAN FRONT SOME  
UPGRADES TO THE NEST TECH?

THE PROBLEM ISN'T  
THE TECHNOLOGY.

THE PROBLEM IS  
THE PERSON TRYING  
TO SOLVE THIS.





EXCUSE ME?

THE HERO IN QUESTION  
IS STARLETT, RIGHT?  
FORMER STUNT ACTRESS  
TURNED VIGILANTE?  
AND I PRESUME HER  
SECRET IDENTITY HAS  
BEEN COMPROMISED BY  
THESE BLACKMAILERS.

YES, BUT HOW DID  
YOU KNOW ABOUT  
THIS?

I TRY TO KEEP AN EYE ON ALL  
THE COMINGS AND GOINGS IN  
THIS BUILDING, INCLUDING  
DOWNSTAIRS IN THE NEST.  
AND YOU PUT IN A LOT OF  
CYBER-SEARCHING FOR HER.

AS IT STANDS, ONE OF THE  
PRODUCTS MILLENNIUM  
INSURANCE PROVIDES IS  
SUPERHERO IDENTITY THEFT.  
AND STARLETT IS A CLIENT.

IN OTHER WORDS,  
THIS ISN'T A JOB  
FOR RED SINNER...  
... BUT FOR CASSIE  
DARE, INSURANCE  
INVESTIGATOR.

AND, AS YOUR  
BOSS, I HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
SHOW YOU THAT  
MAY HAVE BEEN  
SKIPPED DURING  
ORIENTATION.

IS THERE DINNER  
INVOLVED?

NO, BUT YOU WILL BE  
ABLE TO ORDER  
SPEED-E-PIZZA  
FROM WHERE YOU'LL  
BE AND HAVE IT  
DELIVERED TO THE  
LOBBY.

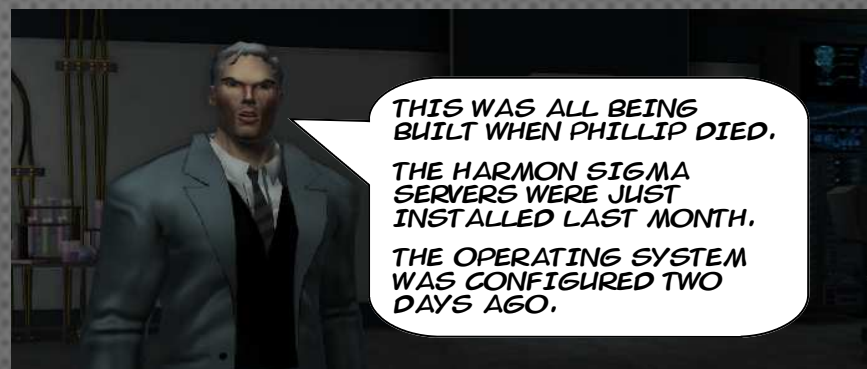
A FEW MINUTES (AND A FEW FLOORS) LATER...



YOU HAD THIS  
ALL THIS TIME  
AND NEVER SAID  
ANYTHING?



THIS WAS ALL BEING  
BUILT WHEN PHILLIP DIED.  
THE HARMON SIGMA  
SERVERS WERE JUST  
INSTALLED LAST MONTH.  
THE OPERATING SYSTEM  
WAS CONFIGURED TWO  
DAYS AGO.



OUR TECH EXPERT  
SAYS IT'S READY  
FOR ANYONE WHO  
IS TRAINED.  
WHAT'S YOUR  
HARMON TECH  
RATING?

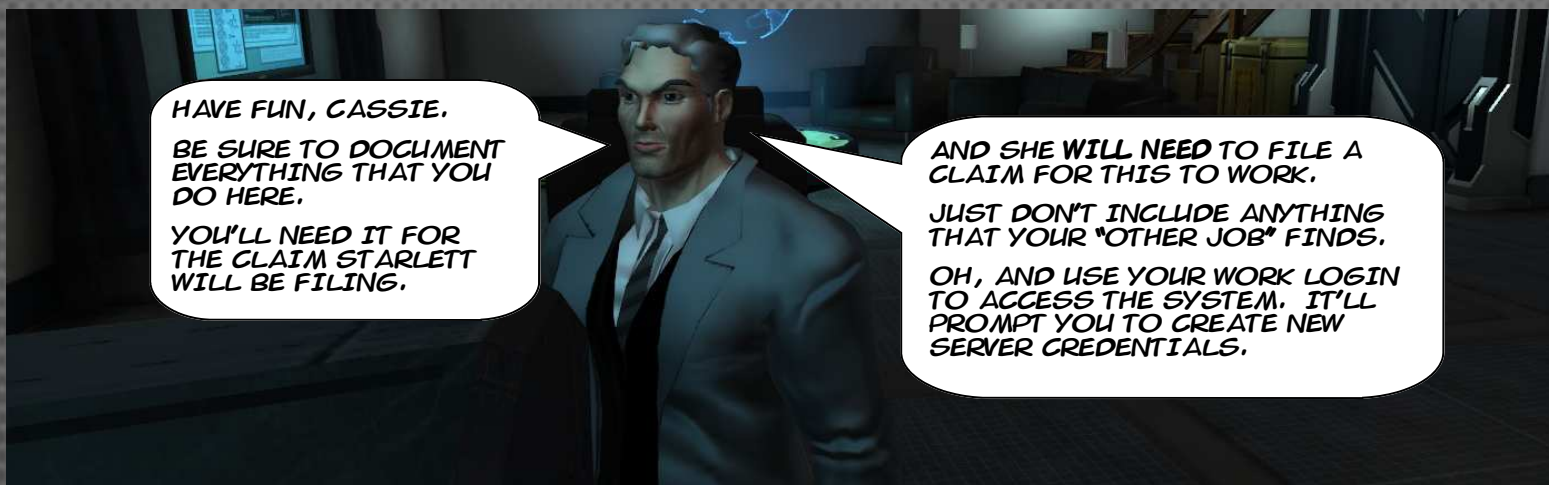


FIVE.  
I THINK.



FIVE SHOULD BE ENOUGH.  
JUST BE SURE TO BRUSH  
UP ON YOUR HEX-LAYER  
SKILLS AT SOME POINT.  
GOING THROUGH THOSE  
BOTS AND PROXY  
SERVERS WILL BE TRICKY.













I'VE TIMED MY  
BLADE TO EXTEND  
AND CHARGE UP  
BEFORE HE COULD  
PULL THE TRIGGER.



AND I HIT HIM WITH  
THE FOCUSED SLASH  
THAT I LEARNED  
FROM ONE OF THE  
BEST SWORDSMAN  
IN THE CITY.



THE STRIKE KNOCKED HIM INTO  
THE BRICK WALL AND THEN  
BOUNCED HIM TO THE CONCRETE.

"BIG LOU" IS  
DOWN BUT  
NOT DEAD.

BUT THIS WAS  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
A "TEAM" EFFORT.





WHAT THE HELL  
WERE YOU DOING  
STANDING THERE  
WATCHING?



HONESTLY?  
I WAS JUST... IN  
AWE... OF YOUR  
FIGHTING SKILL.



"TV..."  
GET THIS IN  
YOUR HEAD...

... THIS IS NOT SOME  
SIDESHOW THAT YOU CAN  
WATCH TO YOUR HEART'S  
CONTENT!  
THIS IS REAL! I COUNTED  
ON YOU TO HAVE MY BACK.  
THAT IS WHAT HEROES DO!



YOU CLEARLY HAD  
HIM. YOU TOOK HIM  
DOWN BEFORE I  
COULD EVEN GET TO  
THE OTHER SIDE OF  
THE ALLEYWAY.

I HAD NOTHING BUT A TARGET  
ON MY BRA-COVERED CHEST!  
I HAD TO IMPROVISE BECAUSE  
YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW THE PLAN.



THAT'S  
ONE.



NOW IF YOU'RE  
DONE GAWKING,  
YOU CALL FOR A  
WAGON TO PICK  
LOU UP BEFORE  
HE WAKES UP.



**Hungry? Need your pizza fast and hot?**

***That's the only way we know how!***

**SPEED-E PIZZA**

**THE ONLY PIZZA MADE AND DELIVERED BY SPEEDSTERS!**

**We promise that if your order isn't delivered to you still piping hot in 5 minutes or less, the next one is on us!**

**313-SPEED-ZA**

**WWW.SPEEDEPIZZA.MILL**

Only applicable to locations within Millennium City. Redeemable order must be of the same or lesser amount. 5-minute guarantee not applicable during alien or multidimensional invasions, giant monsters, or supervillain rampages. Not a real business. This kind of business only exists in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real ad.

# Crump's Costume Shoppe

**Premium Costumes and Costume Pieces  
without paying premium costs!**

Return to the days when heroes didn't deal with expensive designer tailors out in the open, but instead with a neighborhood shop that got you whatever you needed to make your super-suit stand out and functional. You can have all the bells and whistles you want, but without designer names and without the designer costs.

Crump's small team of tailors and tailor apprentices will work with you to make sure you look your best when you are fighting crime or saving the day. Your satisfaction and privacy are guaranteed before you leave our store!

Ask about our costume exchange program! Turn that confiscated armor or weapon into a free upgrade!

**303-555-7463**

**City Center, Millennium City, Mi.**

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



# 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.

## *Harmon Sigma* **The ultimate in business mainframes**

Process data 12 times faster than any other mainframe system!

Next generation cyber-security and firewall protection!

Hex-layer encoding for multi-level storage and hosting!

**PLATO artificial assistance program included!**

*"This is the most powerful computer available to the business world today. Truly Champions-level technology!"*

*- Businessworld Tech Magazine*

**Harmon  
Tech**  
A Subsidiary of Harmon Industries

**Call 1-800-555-8924 to schedule a consultation.**

Harmon Tech is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real product. Not a real ad.



H-HELLO...

M-MARKET RE-  
RESEAR-RESEARCH.

MISTER VOXPOP,  
I HOPE I AM NOT  
INTERRUPTING.

M-MISTER V-VAN  
CLEEF... SIR... W-  
WHAT CAN I-I-I  
DO FOR Y-Y-YOU?

I'LL GET TO THE POINT.  
WE ARE AWARE OF YOUR  
ONGOING ACTIVITY  
CONCERNING STARLETT.  
VARTECH DOES NOT CONDONE  
OR CONDEMN YOUR ACTIVITY.  
WE ARE AWARE OF YOUR...  
PERSONAL... MOTIVATION  
FOR HER DEGRADATION.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE  
YOUR ACTIVITIES ARE BEING TRACED.  
UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOUR BUSINESS  
IS DISCOVERED, VARTECH WILL NOT  
PROTECT YOU OR YOUR ASSOCIATE.

I-I-I UNDER-  
-ST-STAND.

GOOD.  
\*BEEP\*

LATER...

OKAY, SEE THOSE THREE?

THEY CALL IT THE "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" GAME.

THEY SHAKEDOWN PEOPLE WHO WALK BY THEM, SAYING THAT THEY'RE PROTECTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

THE GANGS IN MY HOMETOWN DID THAT TOO. THE HEROES IN MY TOWN DID NOTHING WHEN THEY WENT AFTER MY FATHER'S CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS. THAT'S WHY I BECAME A VIGILANTE.

THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHY WE NEED TO BREAK THIS GAME UP.

HELL, THESE GANG MEMBERS DON'T EVEN LIVE IN THE AREA!

WHAT'S THE PLAN?  
SNEAK AROUND?

NOT AFTER THE LAST TIME.

HEAD-ON RUSH.  
HARD AND FAST  
BEFORE THEY CAN  
GET THEIR  
WEAPONS OUT.

READY?

I GOT THE BLADE  
SO I'LL LEAD.  
YOU BETTER BE  
RIGHT BEHIND ME.







THE THIRD  
ONE FLED.

IF THESE ARE  
THE WORK OF  
THE HOMETOWN  
HERO, I'D BE...



I DON'T  
BELIEVE IT!



ARE YOU OUT  
OF YOUR  
GODDAMNED  
MIND?!



WHAT?  
FOOT CRAMP.  
I WAS ABOUT READY  
TO MOVE WHEN MY  
FOOT JUST CRAMPED  
RIGHT UP.



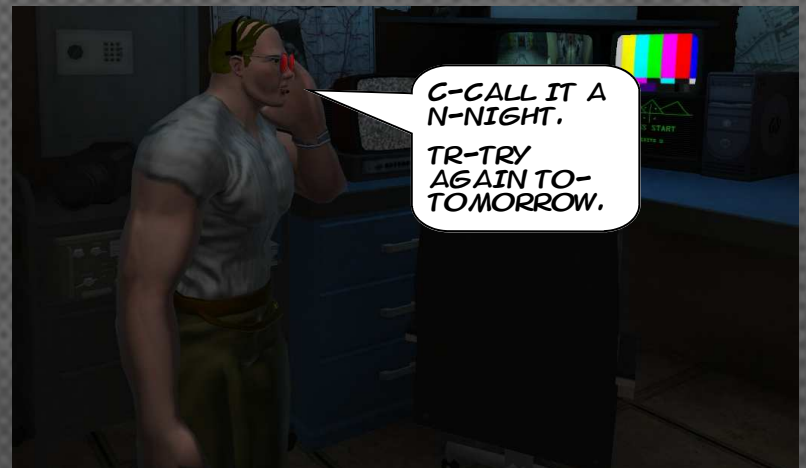
YOU HAD ALREADY  
CHARGED AHEAD,  
SO THE BEST I  
COULD DO WAS TO  
HOLD BACK AND  
WAIT UNTIL THE  
CRAMP WORKED ITS  
WAY OUT.



AND HAS IT  
WORKED ITS  
WAY OUT?

YEAH, I  
THINK  
IT DID.





A FEW HOURS  
(AND PIZZA)  
LATER...



THIS GUY'S GOOD.  
HE'S REALLY GOOD.  
NO WONDER SAM  
ASKED ME ABOUT  
HEX-LAYERING.



WHOEVER THIS GUY IS,  
HE'S GOT BOT RELAYS  
BOUNCING AROUND  
EVERYWHERE.  
HE COULD CAUSE  
SOME SERIOUS  
ONLINE DAMAGE, IF  
HE HASN'T ALREADY.

BUT... I THINK I'M ABOUT ONE  
OR TWO CALLS AWAY FROM  
GETTING TO THE ORIGIN.  
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT  
UNTIL HE CONTACTS  
STARLETT AGAIN.



THE BASEMENT APARTMENT  
OF DEE RISK...



WHERE  
IS SHE?



I... I... I C-CAN'T  
FIND H-HER  
PHONE. IT... IT'S  
LIKE IT VAN-VAN-  
VANISHED.



WHERE THE HELL  
COULD SHE GO  
WHERE YOU CAN'T  
TRACE HER THROUGH  
THAT PHONE?





THE NEXT MORNING...



GOOD MORNING!



DEE RISK  
AKA: STARLETT

MISS LADY  
WOULDN'T BE A  
GOOD TRAVEL CAT  
IF SHE DIDN'T  
WATCH OVER HER  
GUESTS.

HOW WAS  
THE CHAIR?



RONIN OMEGA  
COSMIC TRAVELER

DID YOU WATCH  
OVER ME LAST  
NIGHT, MISS  
LADY?

GRROW?



MISS LADY  
TRAVEL CAT

YOU'RE RIGHT,  
IT'S INCREDIBLY  
COMFORTABLE.  
THANK YOU FOR  
LETTING ME SLEEP  
HERE LAST NIGHT.

THE CHAIR IS  
ALWAYS YOURS IF  
YOU NEED IT, DEE.  
ALTHOUGH I WAS  
CURIOUS WHY YOU  
WOULD CALL ON IT  
NOW.

AREN'T YOU AND  
JOHN...?

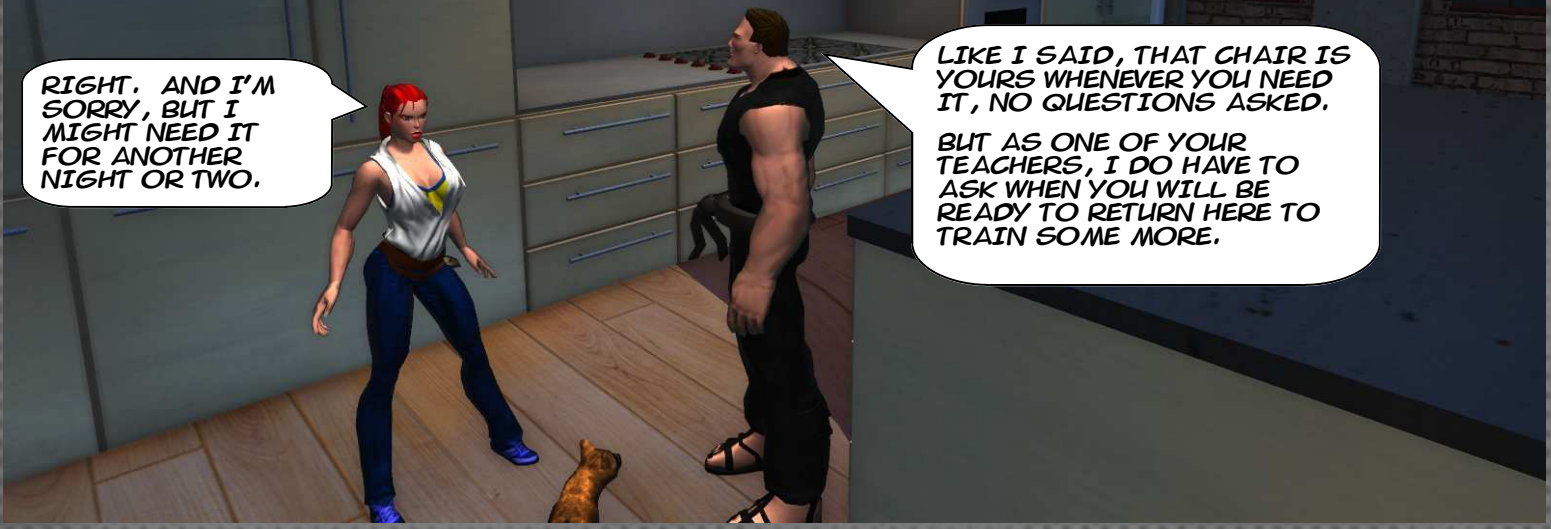
NOT REALLY AN  
OPTION RIGHT NOW.

PLUS, I NEEDED  
SOMEPLACE WHERE  
I COULD JUST...  
VANISH.

YOU KNOW... OFF  
ALL TRACKERS.

AND YOU  
REMEMBERED THAT  
ALL TRAVEL LOFTS  
ARE SHIELDED  
FROM ELECTRONIC  
TRACKING.






RIGHT. AND I'M SORRY, BUT I MIGHT NEED IT FOR ANOTHER NIGHT OR TWO.


LIKE I SAID, THAT CHAIR IS YOURS WHENEVER YOU NEED IT, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

BUT AS ONE OF YOUR TEACHERS, I DO HAVE TO ASK WHEN YOU WILL BE READY TO RETURN HERE TO TRAIN SOME MORE.




I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY TRAINING.

IN FACT IT'S BEEN THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME ALIVE LATELY.




WHEN WHAT I HAVE GOING ON IS DONE... YES, I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE MY TRAINING WITH YOU.



THAT'S GOOD.

WHATEVER TRIALS YOU ARE GOING THROUGH, KNOW THAT YOU WILL GET THROUGH THEM IF YOU ARE MINDFUL OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT AND OF WHAT YOU CAN DO.



I KNOW... IT SOUNDS LIKE A FORTUNE COOKIE SAYING, BUT THAT'S WHAT MY TEACHERS TOLD ME WHEN I WAS ON THE PATH TO BEING A TRAVELER.



AND NOW I'M WONDERING IF THERE'S A PLACE THAT SELLS BREAKFAST NOODLES BETWEEN HERE AND MY APARTMENT.

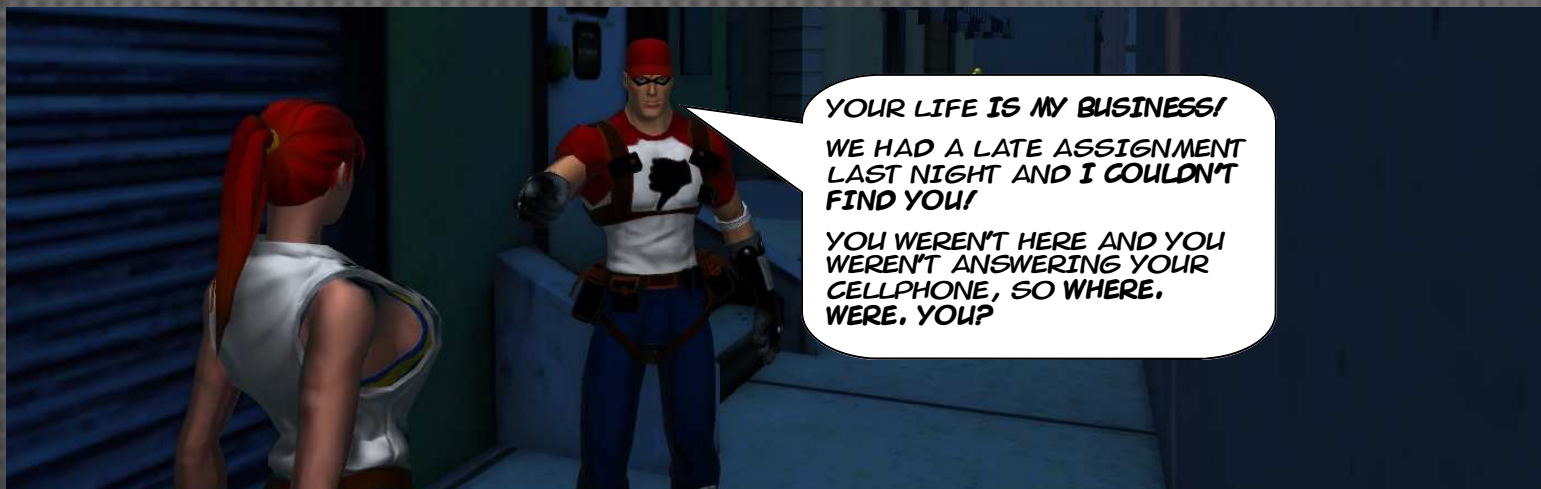




WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?



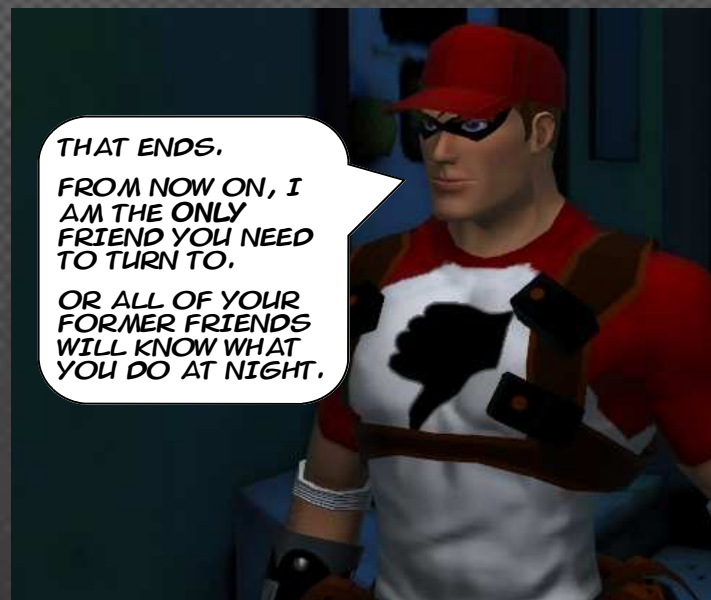
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.



YOUR LIFE IS MY BUSINESS!  
WE HAD A LATE ASSIGNMENT  
LAST NIGHT AND I COULDN'T  
FIND YOU!  
YOU WEREN'T HERE AND YOU  
WEREN'T ANSWERING YOUR  
CELLPHONE, SO WHERE  
WERE, YOU?



A SPENT THE NIGHT  
WITH SOME FRIENDS.  
THEY LET ME CRASH  
ON THEIR CHAIR.



THAT ENDS.  
FROM NOW ON, I  
AM THE ONLY  
FRIEND YOU NEED  
TO TURN TO.  
OR ALL OF YOUR  
FORMER FRIENDS  
WILL KNOW WHAT  
YOU DO AT NIGHT.







EPILOGUE

IN A LEASED LABORATORY...



YES... TAKE IT IN  
MY DEAR...  
TAKE IT ALL IN.



MY SPECIAL  
NANITES WILL  
TRANSFORM YOUR  
METAL FORM INTO  
BIO-MECHANICAL  
FLESH AND ORGANS  
NOT UNLIKE THOSE  
OF THE HUMAN BODY.

 **DR. WILLIAM FOSWELL**  
(SUPER-GENIUS COUSIN OF FOXBAT)



SOON YOU'LL  
DEVELOP SKIN AND  
HAIR AND EYELIDS  
AND FINGERNAILS.  
  
AND THEN MY  
SPECIAL BLOOD  
WILL BE COURSEING  
THROUGH YOUR  
VEINS.



THEN... WHEN I ADD MY  
LATEST INVENTION, YOU  
WILL BE MORE THAN JUST  
A BIO-SYNTHETIC MARVEL  
FOR PEOPLE TO OGLE AT.  
  
YOU WILL BE MY PERFECT  
COMPANION AND  
BODYGUARD.



YOU WILL BE...  
A TRUE GALATEA!



**NEXT:  
THE TAKEDOWN!**



# GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

## “Outing” Heroes

There’s been a lot of talk in the last few years about “outing” heroes, be it their secret identity or of their preferences.

We can blame it on the folks at Marvel for starting the trend. In 2006, Marvel had their big comic crisis story called “Civil War”. A young trendy group of heroes called the New Warriors try to take down a supervillain called Nitro. When cornered, Nitro lived up to his name and blew himself up, killing himself, almost all of the New Warriors, and 600 others, including schoolchildren. And all of this was filmed and livestreamed online. The outcry over the devastation led to more violence and a demand for heroes to be reigned in, unmasked, and regulated by the government. This leads to a federal registration law passed, and it divides the heroes as to whether or not they would comply. One of the pivotal moments was when Iron Man convinced Spider-Man to unmask in front of the media and proudly proclaim that he is Peter Parker. It would be a decision he would later regret and the undoing of it led to one of the most morally compromised story ever told by Marvel.

Two years later, Marvel launched their cinematic universe with the release of “*Iron Man*”, where, at the end of the movie (*spoilers*), Tony Stark openly admits that he is Iron Man. From that point on, the Marvel Cinematic Universe basically did away with secret identities. People knew that Tony Stark was Iron Man, Steve Rodgers was Captain America, Natasha Romanov was Black Widow, Bruce Banner was the Hulk, and so on. Only Spider-Man was allowed to keep his identity secret until the events of “*Spider-Man: Far From Home*” when he was outed by Mysterio. This made the impact of the MCU version of “Civil War” meaningless since the key point of contention was the revealing of secret identities, and, at that time, only Spider-Man was the one that still had a secret identity.

Lately DC has been doing some “outing” of their own. The house that Superman built exposed Clark Kent’s secret identity not once but twice in recent years. In 2015, during the reign of the New 52, Lois Lane revealed Superman’s identity to the world in order to prevent a terrorist group from continuing to blackmail him. This was undone by the events of “Resurgence”, but five years later, Superman revealed himself to the world as Clark Kent. This was supposedly done with the approval of his loved ones, including his wife and son.

But at least this time around he was the one that outed himself.

How many of Batman’s villains know or find out that he is Bruce Wayne? Last year the Joker waged his “Joker War” on the city of Gotham starting with the stealing of Bruce Wayne’s money and resources. He did everything but announce on TV that Bruce Wayne was Batman. He’s long known all of Batman’s allies and extended bat-family, even gloating to Batgirl during “Joker War” on how he was able to shoot her in the spine and to strip her and take pictures to torment her father. Bane, the villain that broke Batman’s back, knew who Batman was. Ra’s al Ghoul, of course, figured it out a long time ago. In the HBO Max series “*Titans*”, Scarecrow knew that Batman was Bruce Wayne, and soon he was moving into the mansion with the help of the Gotham City police. How many corrupt cops knew that Bruce Wayne was Batman?

Nightwing had his identity revealed during the New 52’s “Forever Evil”, but they found a sly way to put that genie back in the bottle without making deals with the devil.

The Flash is another hero that has a problem with his secret identity. Sure, he’s tried to keep it a secret in the comics, but the “*Flash*” series on the CW certainly has a problem with keeping that mask on Barry Allen when he’s working. How many of Flash’s villains discovered his secret? And the comics have a similar problem of late, with Reverse Flash all but telling the rest of the Flash’s villains who he is during their supposed “final” battle. And then Trickster put camera contacts on the Flash’s eyes that allowed villains to see what he sees. Didn’t take long for villains like Doctor Alchemy to discover that Flash is Barry Allen.

Speaking of the Flash, there was a funny scene in “*Justice League Unlimited*” when Lex Luthor took over the Flash’s body. So when he had a moment in a restroom, he took off the mask and saw the face of Wally West and said “I have no idea who this is.”

The Green Lantern Corps are supposedly masked when “on duty”, but John Stewart

*Continues on next page...*



and Guy Gardner did away with their masks a long time ago. Jessica Cruz doesn't have a mask, but she has been a chronic agoraphobic for so long that people don't know who she is. That leaves Hal Jordan, Kyle Rayner, and Simon Baz still the only ones in the Corps wearing masks.

Personally I'm on the side of needing that secret identity to keep a hero's life private. Yes, there is the threat of supervillains targeting everyone a hero loves or cares for, but there's also the problem of just having a life outside of their hero-life. You can't go out with your significant other to take in a movie or go to a restaurant without having fans hounding them everywhere they go. Paparazzi have tormented celebrities for years, but imagine having them targeting superheroes and their loved ones day and night.

Picture being a publicly-known hero, stepping out of your gated community in your civilian clothes, and even if you can somehow avoid the paparazzi, you still get people approaching you with book deals, movie deals, offers to market your name and likeness and whatever symbol you wear. Everyone wants to be your agent and business manager that tell you how much money you could make promoting soda and clothing and airlines.

Imagine being sued constantly by the villains you take down for "abuse of power", or their lawyers finding some questionable activity by you or a loved one and using that to take down your credibility. Or having the family of someone who died because of a tragedy hound you because you didn't save that person, like Tony Stark experienced in "Civil War".

It's not easy living two lives, and maybe it helps when someone close to you knows, but, like Starlett said at the start of this issue, she has to mentally keep that division at all times. "She", being Starlett, cannot be in Club Caprice, because that is where her personal life operates. That's the only way she can mentally keep things together, especially since her boyfriend, John Battle, doesn't have a secret identity, which is why he is hounded even when he goes to get coffee.

Not all heroes can operate 24/7. Those who can, more power to them. But if you need that time to be yourself and not a hero all the time, you certainly need that secret identity.

# ***HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.COM***

## **NEXT ISSUE...**

**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**



***IT'S TIME FOR STARLETT AND  
RED SINNER TO BRING THE  
BLACKMAIL TO AN END AND  
TAKE DOWN THE HOMETOWN  
HERO AND VOXPOP.***

***BUT WILL JUSTICE BE SERVED?  
OR WILL STARLETT'S IDENTITY  
BE EXPOSED TO THE WORLD?***





**Live DJs**

**Streaming Music**

# **DAWN RADIO**

**DawnRadio.org**

**Dawn Radio is a player-run internet radio station. Founded by Sovereign Rayne in Champions Online, it has grown into a multi-DJ station serving the players of Champions Online, Neverwinter, Second Life, Star Trek Online... *and beyond!***

## **Embrace the Dawn!**



**Do you like these comics?  
Ever wanted to do one yourself?  
Find out how!**

The City of Comic Creators is always looking for more talented writers, artists, and overall comic creators. We are a group of amateur creators with one thing in common: turning the stories in our heads into digital comics for others to share and enjoy.

All of us started out as players of Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games as well as fans of comic books, and it was our love of those two things that led us to become comic creators in our own right, taking our characters and our stories out of the MMOPRG and into digitized pages.

And if you're one of those people who are wondering how we could come up with these comics, and maybe even wanting to do one yourself, then we have a "How To" section for you.

Follow this address to the MMO Comic Index and look for the link on "**How To Create A Comic**".

# **<http://mmocomicindex.com>**



# CHAMPIONS ONLINE

## ATTACK OF THE MISFIT TOYS

**'Tis The Season... FOR MAYHEM!**



**"TIS WINTERTIME IN MILLENNIUM CITY,  
AND BLACK HARLEQUIN EXCLAIMS "OH MY WHAT A  
PITY!"**

**"THE HEROES ARE GOOD, THE VILLAINS ARE BAD,  
AND THERE'S STILL MORE CHAOS FOR THERE TO BE HAD!"**

**"I'LL MUST GIVE THEM ALL A SHINY NEW REASON,  
WHY THEY SHOULD FEAR THIS COLD WINTER SEASON!"**

**"SOME FRIENDS I'LL BRING UP FROM MY TRUSTY TOY  
SHOP,  
THAT WILL BRING THE CITY TO SUPER-FAST STOP!"**

**"AND JUST WHEN THEY THINK THEY'VE SEEN THE WORST  
FROM THIS LOUSE,  
I'LL SEND CLARENCE IN TO BRING DOWN THE HOUSE!"**



**STOP BLACK HARLEQUIN!  
UNLOCK HOLIDAY GIFTS!  
BUILD YOUR OWN TOYS!**



**[HTTP://CO.PERFECTWORLD.COM/](http://co.perfectworld.com/)**

CHAMPIONS ONLINE: ATTACK OF THE MISFIT TOYS (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS CHAMPIONS ONLINE: WINTER EVENT) IS AN ONLINE EVENT AVAILABLE TO ALL ACTIVE PLAYERS OF THE CHAMPIONS ONLINE MMO. NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE IS REQUIRED. CHAMPIONS ONLINE IS OWNED BY PERFECT WORLD ENTERTAINMENT INC.



PERFECT  
WORLD