

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

AND THE GUARDIANS



Issue 14
2016



Get Ready To
Be Dazzled By...



ALLY KAZAM!



“My name is Molly Rhone, and this is my story...”

On September 31st, 2013, I was accosted by a trio of gang members in Steel Canyon and chased into an alley. I didn't resist when they asked for my purse, but then they said they wanted more.

I tried to fight back, but there were three of them.

I screamed. I called for help, but it only made them bolder.

During this ordeal, several heroes passed the alleyway.

I screamed and I shouted at them for help, but they ignored me.

What was worse was that some of them stopped and saw what was happening.

One hero said the attackers were “lowbies” and “not worth her time” and then flew away.

Another hero who watched started to step in, but then his friend said they were late to “Raid the Rikti”.

My attackers took their turns with me, savagely beating me and violating me for what seemed like an eternity.

Then they left me in the alleyway. One of them even said “thanks”, as if it was a service.

It was a member of the Paragon City Police Department, a patrol officer, who found me in that alleyway. He called for an ambulance to take me to the hospital. He called for a trauma counselor to visit me, and for an investigator to get my statement and get a description of the gang members.

This officer would later tell me in the hospital that they had found the gang members that raped me and that they wouldn't ever be preying on someone like me ever again.

I never heard from any of those heroes again, but that officer still check in with me regularly to see that I'm okay.

The doctors say that if he didn't stepped in to help when he did, I probably would have bled to death.

We always hear about the great things that heroes do for Paragon City, but what good are those heroes when they can't even take the time to help someone like me?

COPS NOT CAPES

A message from the Paragon City Police Union and Concerned Citizens of Paragon City.

Born in an alternate world where heroes ruled and humanity was endangered, Faith Powers was the last surviving member of the legendary Powers family. Brought up in the watchful eyes of the Praetors, she became Furia Powers, champion of the weak.

But then she became aware that all was not right in the supposed "Utopian Society". Forced to choose between the Praetors and a chance at a new family, she choose family and left for the Primal Universe.

Now Furia Powers is a member of the Guardians of the Dawn, a superhero team dedicated to helping humanity to that bright future that is always just beyond the horizon. It is a team that is on the brink of becoming legend. They are...

FURIA



AND THE GUARDIANS

Ever since she returned from the "time echo" of Galaxy City, TashaTiger has been experiencing some serious changes.

One of those changes involves her transforming into a huge cat-beast.

Now the corrupt "Blue Dog Squad" of the Paragon City Police want to hunt down and kill this "beast" for attacking them. And they've brought out their fellow cops in the Heavy Armor and Psi Divisions to back them up.

The only thing stopping them, though, is Furia Powers.

"N-W-N-C"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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THIS IS APRIL RAMIREZ, REPORTING LIVE FROM KINGS ROW, WHERE THE PARAGON CITY POLICE ARE ENGAGING IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS THE WORST BEAT-DOWN SINCE THE RODNEY KING INCIDENT IN THE 1990'S.



DETAILS ARE SKETCHY AT THIS TIME, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT FURIA POWERS, A HERO WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GROUP, CHALLENGED A GROUP OF POLICE OFFICERS WHO ATTEMPTED TO BLOCK HER WAY TOWARDS A NEARBY BUILDING.

LIVE: POLICE ASSAULTING HERO IN KINGS ROW



MINUTES EARLIER



ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, SHE WAS ATTACKED BY SPECIAL POLICE FORCES FROM BOTH THE PSI-DIVISION AND THE HEAVY-ARMOR DIVISION.

POLICE ASSAULTING HERO IN KINGS ROW



MINUTES EARLIER



AND WHILE SHE'S BEEN ABLE TO BEAT BACK A FEW OF THE HEAVY-ARMOR OFFICERS, THE TELEPATH-POWERED OFFICERS HAVE BEEN UNRELENTING IN THEIR RANGED ASSAULT.

FURIA POWERS ATTACKED BY POLICE!



FURIA HAS MANAGED TO PUSH THE BATTLE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS CEMETERY, BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT SHE'S---



ROBIN, WE'RE BEING TOLD BY A MEMBER OF THE POLICE TO STOP BROADCASTING. HE'S THREATENING OUR CAM---

OBZZT

APRIL RAMIREZ · KINGS ROW



APRIL RAMIREZ · KINGS ROW



FURIA'S LIFE SIGNS ARE FLUCTUATING INTO DANGEROUS LEVELS.

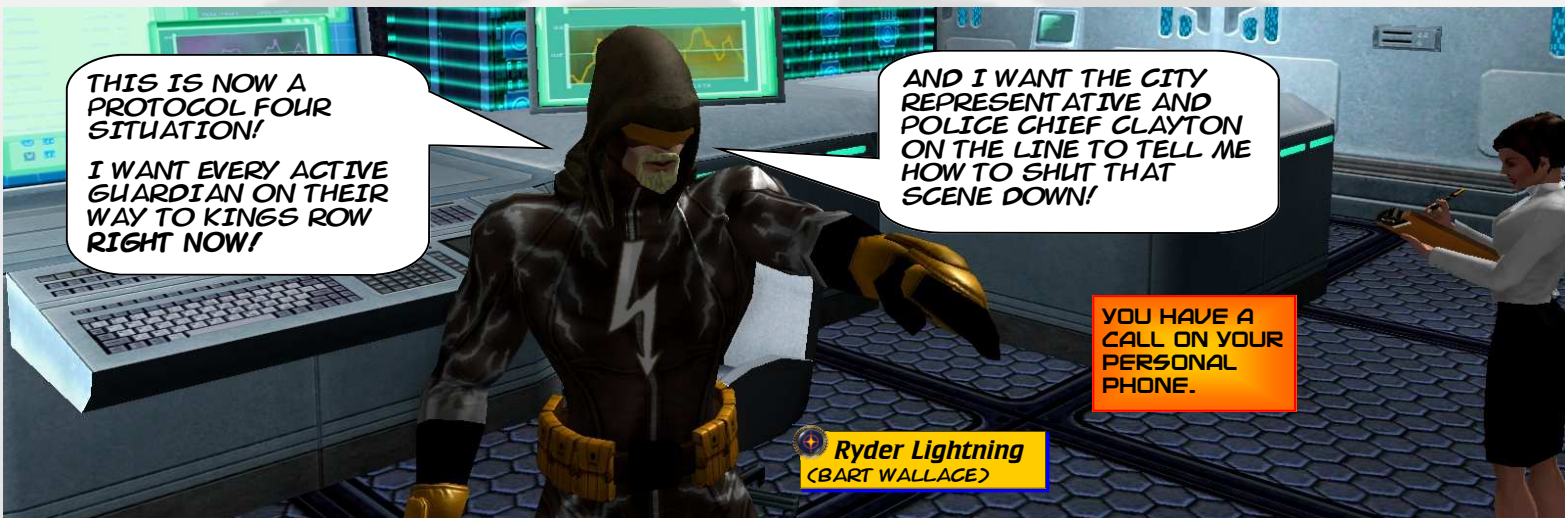


THIS IS NOW A PROTOCOL FOUR SITUATION!
I WANT EVERY ACTIVE GUARDIAN ON THEIR WAY TO KINGS ROW RIGHT NOW!

AND I WANT THE CITY REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICE CHIEF CLAYTON ON THE LINE TO TELL ME HOW TO SHUT THAT SCENE DOWN!

YOU HAVE A CALL ON YOUR PERSONAL PHONE.

Ryder Lightning (BART WALLACE)



LISTEN, CAN I CALL YOU BACK?
I HAVE--

YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
OKAY, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET IT DONE FASTER, THEN DO IT!



PROTOCOL FOUR IS ON HOLD.
HAVE ALL ACTIVE HEROES ON STANDBY.

WE HAVE A HERO ON THE WAY THAT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHUT DOWN THE POLICE.
HAVE THE INFIRMARY STANDBY FOR AN EMERGENCY TELEPORT FROM FURIA.





HELLO.



THIS IS A SECURED POLICE AREA.
PLEASE VACATE IMMEDIATELY.



DO I LOOK LIKE A CIVILIAN?
VERIFY AND CONFIRM MY VOICE.

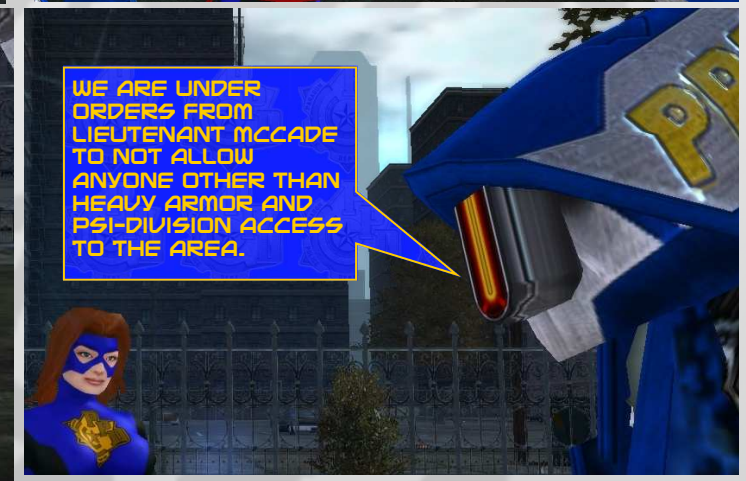
Captain Paragonna
(STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS)



VOICE-PRINT ANALYZED.
CAPTAIN STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS,
PARAGON POLICE AWAKENED DIVISION.



GOOD.
AWAKENED DIVISION IS TAKING CONTROL OF THE SCENE.
YOU WILL DISENGAGE AND RELEASE YOUR PRISONER TO MY CUSTODY.



WE ARE UNDER ORDERS FROM LIEUTENANT MCCADE TO NOT ALLOW ANYONE OTHER THAN HEAVY ARMOR AND PSI-DIVISION ACCESS TO THE AREA.



WHICH PART OF "CAPTAIN" DO YOU NOT COMPREHEND?
MY RANK OVERRIDES THAT OF A LIEUTENANT.
YOU WILL DISENGAGE AND RELEASE CUSTODY OF THE PRISONER TO ME. NOW!
CONFIRM!

BZZT
CONFIRMED.

BZZT
CONFIRMED.



YOU LOOK LIKE HELL, FURIA. CAN YOU MOVE? ARE YOU FEELING DIZZY?

I HURT... MY HANDS... MY EYES... IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE ON FIRE. I'M A LITTLE DIZZY, BUT I CAN STILL MOVE OKAY.

Furia Powers
(FIONA PODERES)



HEH... SERGE WAS RIGHT; THIS NEW CAPE IS PRETTY DURABLE, EVEN IF MY OUTFIT ISN'T. BUT I'M OKAY. LET'S GO GIVE CARDINAL SYN A HAND.



NUH-UH! NOT AN OPTION FOR YOU! YOU'RE GOING TO THE INFIRMARY TO GET CHECKED OUT.



"I'VE BROUGHT A WHOLE UNIT OF KHELDIAN PEACEBRINGERS WITH ME TO CONTAIN THE AREA AND RELIEVE MCGADE'S OFFICERS."

"SO WE'VE GOT THIS FOR YOU. YOU GO GET CHECKED OUT."

"OKAY... IF YOU SAY SO."

"EACH ONE OF THEM ARE AS POWERFUL AS DAYBRIGHT."

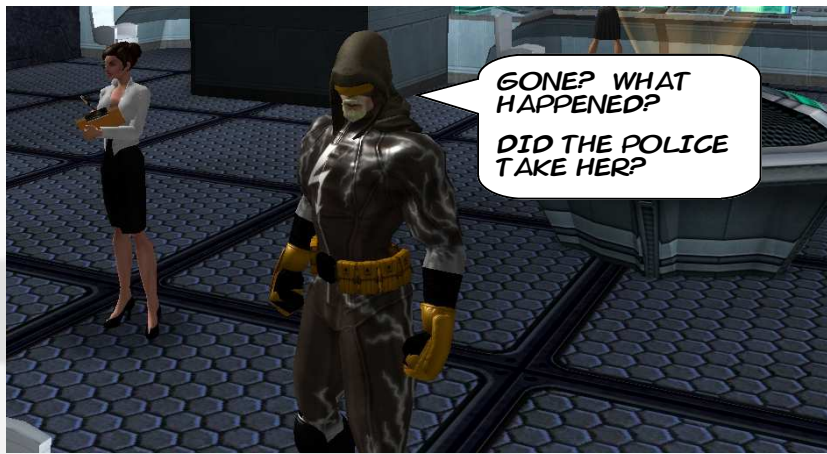


GODDAMN RIGHT I DO. GUARDIAN BASE, THIS IS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA.

I HAVE THE AREA CONTAINED UNDER MY AUTHORITY. REQUESTING IMMEDIATE MEDICAL TELEPORT FOR FURIA POWERS.



BASE, THIS IS CARDINAL SYN.
YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT SENDING HELP, BECAUSE TASHATIGER IS GONE.



GONE? WHAT HAPPENED?
DID THE POLICE TAKE HER?



PFT LIKE THEY EVEN HAD A CHANCE AGAINST HER!
AS SOON AS SHE HEARD THEM COMING, TASHA STARTED ATTACKING THEM.

ONCE WE DISABLED THEM AND KNOCKED THEM OUT, SHE CHANGED. SHE BECAME A HUGE CAT-BEAST.
WITH CLAWS TOO... REALLY... HUGE CLAWS.

ARE YOU OKAY?
DID SHE ATTACK YOU AFTER SHE CHANGED?

Cardinal Syn
(CASSANDRA DARE)



SHE SEEMED CONFUSED.
I TRIED TO TALK HER DOWN, BUT SHE SAW THE DOWNED OFFICERS AND SHE FLED UPWARD.
SHE ESCAPED THROUGH THE ROOF, THE SAME WAY THAT I GOT IN.

RYDER, THOSE COPS WEREN'T TRYING TO STOP TASHATIGER. THEY WERE TRYING TO KILL HER!
I HEARD ONE OF THEM SAY "NO WITNESSES".



THAT'S WHY THEY DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE IN THE AREA.
THE BLUE DOGS WERE TRYING TO SILENCE TASHA FOR WHAT SHE WITNESSED.*

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA IS IN CHARGE OF THE SCENE NOW, SO SHE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE DOWNED OFFICERS.
STAY WHERE YOU ARE. KOLDFRONT IS BRINGING SOMEONE IN THAT SHOULD HELP YOU FIND TASHA.

(* ISSUE #12)

ELSEWHERE IN KINGS ROW...

HERR DIETRICH...
THIS IS
COUNTESS VON
STRONG.

Countess Von Strong
COUNCIL TEMPTRESS

BE SILENT AND LISTEN!
UR-BAST HAS FLED,
BUT I HAVE LOCATED
HIM. HE IS CONFUSED
AND TERRIFIED.
THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR
HIM TO BE LED TO US.

YOU WILL SEND A DETAIL
TO KINGS ROW IN THE
TWIN PRINCES COMPLEX
AND THEY WILL COAX UR-
BAST INTO THE OPEN
AND OVER TO ME.

NO, YOU FOOL! DO
NOT ARGUE WITH ME!
SEND ME THE MEN AND
I WILL TELL THEM
WHERE TO FIND HIM!

POLICE HEADQUARTERS - KINGS ROW

"SO YOU ARRIVED ON THE
SCENE, ASSUMED CONTROL
OF THE SITUATION, AND
NEUTRALIZED CONFLICT
WITH THE HEROES. IS THAT
CORRECT, CAPTAIN?"

"YES, DEPUTY CHIEF
WIELD, THAT'S
PRECISELY WHAT I DID."

SO WHY DID YOU RELEASE
FURIA POWERS FROM
YOUR CUSTODY? SHE
WAS, AFTER ALL,
RESISTING ARREST AND
ASSAULTING OFFICERS.

SHE WAS ALSO BADLY INJURED.
SHE HAD VISIBLE META-WOUNDS
THAT COULD NOT BE TREATED IN
OUR HOLDING FACILITY.
PLUS THERE WAS A LEGAL ISSUE
OF JURISDICTION WITH A
REGISTERED HERO RESPONDING
TO A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE.



AND WHAT ABOUT THE INJURIES SUSTAINED BY THE OFFICERS INSIDE THE BUILDING? DID YOU HAVE ANY CONCERN ABOUT YOUR FELLOW OFFICERS?

Deputy Chief Thomas Wield
PARAGON CITY POLICE



ABSOLUTELY. WHICH WAS WHY I NEEDED TO NEGATE ALL HOSTILITIES OUTSIDE BEFORE I COULD GET TO THEM.



IF I DIDN'T RESPOND IN THE WAY THAT I DID, THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE HEROES AND THE POLICE WOULD HAVE QUICKLY ESCALATED INTO AN ALL-OUT "BADGE WAR". SOMETHING THAT I'M SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR WITH, AS YOU KNOW.*

IF THERE'S NOTHING MORE, SIR, I STILL NEED TO GET BACK TO THE SCENE TO FINISH THE FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION.

(* SEE "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #13 FOR DETAILS.)



OF COURSE. THANK YOU FOR COMING IN SO SOON TO GIVE ME YOUR PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

CHIEF CLAYTON AND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAVE BEEN DEMANDING ANSWERS, SO I'M SURE WHAT YOU TOLD ME WILL KEEP THEM QUIET UNTIL YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR OFFICIAL REPORT.

OF COURSE, SIR. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.



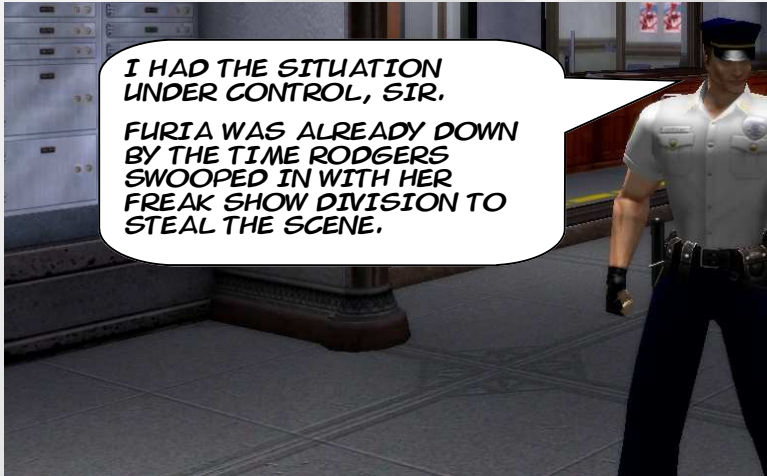


FOR A FAKE COP, SHE SURE KNOWS HOW TO WORK THAT SPANDEX.

Lt. William McCade
PARAGON CITY POLICE



SHE JUST SAVED YOUR BUTT, CADE!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?



I HAD THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, SIR.
FURIA WAS ALREADY DOWN BY THE TIME RODGERS SWOOPED IN WITH HER FREAK SHOW DIVISION TO STEAL THE SCENE.

"UNDER CONTROL" MY ASS!
IT WAS ALL BEING BROADCAST LIVE ON PNN!



YOU KNOW WHAT THE ORDERS WERE FROM THE "POWERS-THAT-BE".
WE WERE NOT GIVEN THE SANCTION FOR A BADGE WAR WITH THE GUARDIANS, AND YET THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT YOU ALMOST STARTED OUT THERE!


I DID NOT BRING YOU BACK TO THIS CITY AND MAKE YOU UNION VICE-PRESIDENT FOR YOU TO PISS IT ALL AWAY JUST TO SATISFY YOUR GODDAMNED EGO!

(* LAST ISSUE)



WE HAVE AN N-W-N-C PROBLEM, CADE.
WE NEED THIS MESS TO GO AWAY BEFORE IT GETS ANY WORSE.

YOU KNOW WHO TO SEE ABOUT MAKING THAT HAPPEN.



SO... LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT:
YOU'RE A TELEPATH... BUT ONE THAT USES MAGIC INSTEAD OF BEING BORN WITH "THE GIFT".

IT'S STILL A GIFT, BUT NOT ONE BORN FROM MUTATION.

THE RULES ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FOR MAGIC AS OPPOSED TO MUTATION.

MY POWERS AREN'T ALWAYS ON. I HAVE TO CONSCIOUSLY TRIGGER THEM FIRST.

★ Ally Kazam
(ALISON KANE)

AND YOU DRESS LIKE AN OLD STRIP CLUB CIGARETTE GIRL BECAUSE...?

PRESENTATION, MS. SYN.

ACTUALLY MY STAGE CLOTHES ARE A LITTLE MORE TRADITIONAL THAN THIS.

AND BY STAGE, I MEAN THEATER, NOT STRIP CLUB.

THE LATTER IS **YOUR** AREA.

I WAS WORKING UNDERCOVER, AND I NEVER...

WAIT... I SEE WHAT YOU JUST DID.

I WAS SHOWING YOU HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO TURN MY POWER OFF AND ON.

YOU HAD DOUBTS ABOUT ME AND WHAT I COULD DO. I CAN TELL I JUST ALLAYED THEM.

IN ORDER FOR ME TO FIND TASHATIGER, I'LL NEED TO LINK YOUR MIND TO MINE.

I'LL NEED TO GET A PSYCHIC "FEEL" FOR HER FROM YOUR MEMORIES. THEN I CAN USE THAT TO SEARCH FOR HER.

CAN YOU THINK ABOUT TASHATIGER FOR ME?

NOT GOING TO BE HARD TO DO...

I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T MIND SEEING HOW SHE LOOKED THE LAST TIME I SAW HER.

THAT FORM STILL FREAKS ME OUT!



JUST THINK ABOUT HER...
I'LL DO THE REST.



I HAVE HER.
ACTUALLY I HAVE THEM BOTH.

I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "BOTH"?
YOU MEAN UR-BAST?

IT'S COMPLICATED.
THE TWO ARE LINKED,
BUT, YES, I FOUND THEM BOTH.
THEY'RE A FEW BLOCKS FROM HERE. LET'S GO!

Change Your Costume With A Click!



If you're a hero, then you know that embarrassing moment when some big crisis happens and you don't have your hero outfit with you.

Sure, you can try to wear your hero outfit under your clothes, but that gets too uncomfortable really fast. And carrying them around in a purse or knapsack invites you to either leave it behind or to have it stolen by some punk.

Now you don't have to worry about changing into your hero attire thanks to the **icon** costume pack.

The **icon** costume pack allows you to change to and from your hero outfit with just a click of a button. Within seconds, your civilian attire is gone and you are in your hero gear, ready to fight evil. And after the day is saved, another click will restore you to your civilian attire like nothing ever happened.

So why worry about whether or not you can change into your hero attire in time? Head on over to your nearest **icon** tailor store today and you can be just one click away from ready.

Atlas Park * Steel Canyon * Independence Port * Founders Falls

i c o n

"Get The Story!"

That is what I tell my people to do every single day.

Because what we do is not about collecting awards or turning people into mega-stars.

It's about finding out what the story is, and then telling it to the public.

That is what the public is looking for, and that is why we are the number one media service in Paragon City.

Because we get the story when others don't.

K.C. Emerson
PNN General Manager

PNN
Paragon News Network

When did you have good **TEXAS** food?



If the answer isn't "today", then it might as well be "never".

Why waste your time with posers when you can be shock-and-awed by a REAL-American steakhouse?

Whether it is our rib-sticking-ribs, our Cold War Beer, our Gitmo Enchiladas, our Improvised Edible Deserts, or our new **Four-Alarm FIREHOUSE CHILI**, we guarantee to help you put food on your family, and do it in a compassionate, conservative way that won't require a federal bailout!

DUBYA'S Steakhouse Restaurant



RYDER!
HOW IS SHE?
IS FURIA...?

Galatea Powers
(FAITH KARL)


SHE'S SLEEPING.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY
HER BODY CAN TRY
TO HEAL ITSELF
RIGHT NOW.

IT SEEMS HER ENCOUNTERS WITH THE SIRIANS TOOK A GREATER TOLL ON HER BODY THAN ANYONE THOUGHT.*
THE TECH GIVEN TO HER BY FENNEC ENTERPRISES DURING THAT CONFLICT DIDN'T HELP EITHER.
SO WHEN THE HEAVY ARMOR AND PSI COPS GANGED UP ON HER, HER BODY WAS SO OVERWHELMED WITH KINETIC ENERGY THAT IT WAS LITERALLY BLEEDING OUT HER SKIN AND EYES.


(* SEE THE "HOUSE OF SOTHIS" STORYLINE IN "THE CRUCIBLE" AT COXCOMICS.COM FOR MORE.)



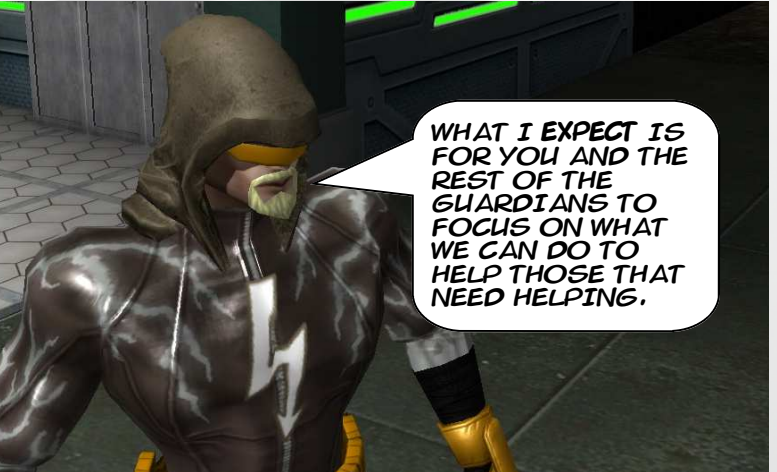
YOU TELL ME WHICH COPS WERE INVOLVED, AND I SWEAR I WILL END THEM




NO, YOU WON'T. BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S REALLY NOT YOU. YOU'RE NOT LIONEL POWERS. KENT RAISED YOU TO BE BETTER THAN YOUR FATHER!



SO... WHAT? WE'RE JUST EXPECTED TO WAIT UNTIL JASON GETS BACK FROM THE ROGUE ISLES SO HE CAN KICK THEIR ASSES?




WHAT I EXPECT IS FOR YOU AND THE REST OF THE GUARDIANS TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP THOSE THAT NEED HELPING.



ACCORDING TO THE DOCTORS THAT CONSULTED WITH OUR INFIRMARY STAFF, YOUR ADOPTED SISTER COULD BE DOWN FOR A SEVERAL WEEKS. ANY ATTEMPT TO USE HER POWERS DURING THAT TIME COULD RESULT IN EXTREME, EVEN DEBILITATING PAIN.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, TAYA, THEN HELP HER. SHE'LL NEED HER SISTER MORE THAN SOME EMPTY GESTURE OF PAYBACK.



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO SEE IF I CAN GET SOME ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO FURIA...

AND FIND A WAY TO KEEP TASHATIGER OUT OF A CAGE.

... NOT TO MENTION FIND WHERE I LEFT THAT EXTRA BOTTLE OF INDUSTRIAL-STRENGTH ASPIRIN.

AT THE TWIN PRINCES COMPLEX...

"OKAY, I'LL ADMIT I WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD FIND HER."

"I HAD A CAT WHEN I WAS LITTLE. I KNOW THESE THINGS LOVE TO HIDE IN PLACES WHERE THEY FEEL SAFE."

YEAH BUT... SERIOUSLY?

ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT IT BETTER NOT BE JUST A HUGE LITTER BOX.

OKAY, NOT A LITTER BOX, BUT IT'S STILL FULL OF CRAP.
GERMAN CRAP!

"LOOKS LIKE THE COUNCIL HAS TASHA."

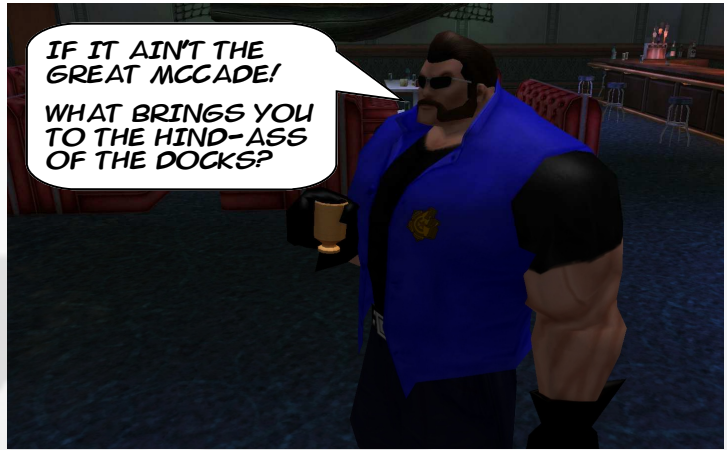
CONSUME!

YAAAAHH!!





WELL -
WELL!



IF IT AIN'T THE
GREAT MCCADE!
WHAT BRINGS YOU
TO THE HIND-ASS
OF THE DOCKS?



HELLO BEAR.
I THOUGHT MAYBE
THE OL' LAWDOG
COULD USE SOME
FRESH AIR TONIGHT.



FUNNY... LAST
TIME YOU SAID
THAT TO ME, I
ENDED UP HERE
WITH ALL MY
NEW DRINKING
BUDDIES.



WE HAVE A LITTLE
"N-W-N-C"
PROBLEM THAT
NEEDS FIXING IN
KINGS ROW.



WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM'S
NAME?

ROSE VESTA.

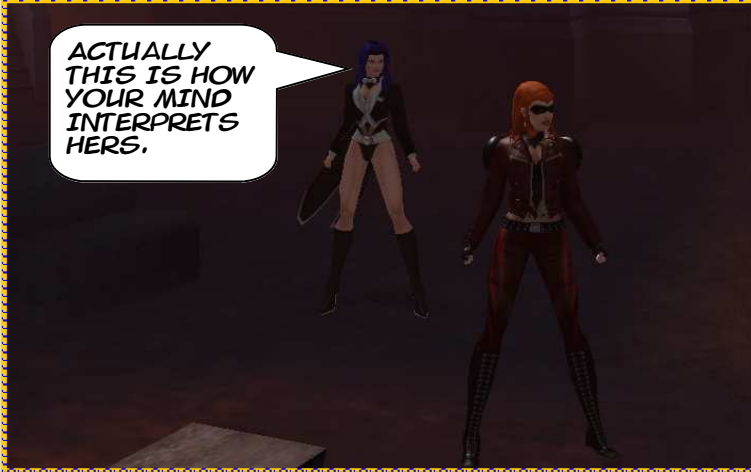


YOUR LITTLE AMATEUR
PORN STAR?
AND HERE I THOUGHT
YOU LIKED THE LATINA.

TELL YOU WHAT... YOU
STAY HERE AND BUY
MY FRIENDS A FEW
ROUNDS, AND I'LL...
... I'LL TAKE A REALLY
LONG LEAK.



SO... THIS IS TASHA'S MIND?
A HELLION RAVE?



ACTUALLY THIS IS HOW YOUR MIND INTERPRETS HERS.



OVER HERE... HURRY!

THERE! WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?



WHAP! WHAP! WHAP! WHAP!

BACK OFF, CUJO!

HEY, A LITTLE HELP, PLEASE ALLY?



BEGONE ILL BEAST!

AROooo!

MANY THANKS,
MISS SYN.
IT'S GOOD TO
FINALLY MEET
YOU... IN A
MANNER OF
SPEAKING,
THAT IS.



CARDINAL SYN,
THIS IS UR-BAST.
OR... THE PSYCHIC
REPRESENTATION
OF HIM.



YOU'RE
UR-BAST?



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE THIS HUGE HULKING
TIGER-BEAST WITH
SUPER-LONG CLAWS.



I'M SORRY ABOUT
THE CONFUSION,
BUT I'M REALLY
JUST A MILD
TEMPLE CAT.
OR... ONE THAT'S
MERGED WITH THE
BODY OF A TWENTY-
EIGHT YEAR OLD
WOMAN.



THEN... WHO'S
THE BEAST
THAT'S TAKEN
OVER TASHA'S
BODY?



AT THE SAME TIME AT
THE GUARDIAN BASE...

LET ME SEE IF I GOT
THIS RIGHT...
YOU'RE TELLING ME
THAT UR-BAST IS
NOT THE BEAST...
... BUT A LITTLE CAT?



THAT'S WHAT THE
RECORDS HERE AT
M.A.G.I.* TELL ME,
RYDER.

(* MYSTICAL ARCANE
GUILD OF INVESTIGATION)

ACCORDING TO AZURIA'S RECORDS, UR-BAST WAS A TEMPLE CAT IN EGYPT.

Elite Ice Queen
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)

HE WAS A RARE ALBINO CAT, WHICH MADE HIM VERY SPECIAL. HE WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE A GIFT FROM THE GODS.

HIS OWNER WAS A YOUNG SORCERESS, VERY POWERFUL AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, KIND OF LIKE I WAS.

SHE WAS AFRAID THAT HER ENEMIES WOULD HURT HER THROUGH HER PET, SO SHE DID THE ONE THING SHE KNEW WOULD KEEP HIM SAFE.

SHE CAST A PROTECTION SPELL ON HER CAT.

I'VE LOOKED UP THE SPELL HERE IN THE GUARDIAN MYSTICAL ARCHIVE.

Coeur du Feu
(COURTNEY HART)

EGYPTIAN PROTECTION SPELLS WERE PRETTY SIMPLE THEN.
IN THE EVENT OF ONE'S DEATH, THE SPIRIT WOULD BE STORED IN A CHARM OR AMULET, TO BE RESTORED IN A NEW BODY LATER.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO UR-BAST, HIS SPIRIT WOULD BE SAVED SO HIS OWNER COULD BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE IN THE BODY OF ANOTHER CAT.



ONLY... NOTHING HAPPENED TO UR-BAST, OTHER THAN HE GOT OLD AND DIED LIKE ANY OTHER CAT.



SO WHY DIDN'T HIS OWNER JUST BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE AGAIN? OH NO...



YOU GOT IT. SHE GOT OLDER AND SHE FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE PROTECTION SPELL.



SHE ABANDONED THE CHARM AND MOVED ON WITH HER LIFE WITH A NEW CAT.



THEN... WHO IS THE BEAST?


TASHATIGER!

TASHATIGER!

WHEN MISS TASHA FIRST APPROACHED THE CHARM, I SENSED THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER CAT, WHICH IS WHY SHE FELT ATTRACTED TO IT. IT WASN'T UNTIL COUNTLESS VON STRONG CAST HER SPELL TO TRY TO "LIBERATE" ME THAT I BECAME AWARE OF WHAT MISS TASHA REALLY IS.



WHAT SHE THOUGHT WERE HER "MILD" CAT-LIKE REFLEXES AND SENSES WERE REALLY LATENT APPLICATIONS OF HER TRUE MUTATION.




VON STRONG'S SPELL ACTUALLY DID MISS TASHA A FAVOR BY MERGING MY SPRIT WITH HERS.


SO... YOU'VE BEEN MERGED WITH HER ALL THIS TIME. AND THEN YOUR TIME IN THE "TIME ECHO" OF GALAXY CITY CHANGED THE ARRANGEMENT. AND NOW... SHE'S BECOME THIS BEAST.



SHE WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BECOME A BEAST. I JUST KEPT IT IN CHECK ALL THIS TIME. BUT WHAT HAPPENED IN GALAXY CITY CHANGED IT ALL.




THE CHAOS YOU SEE... THE FIRE, THE SPIRIT HOUNDS... THEY'RE ALL MENTAL MANIFESTATIONS OF HER RAGE AND ANGER. WE HAVE TO NEUTRALIZE THE BEAST SPIRIT TO FIND HER TRUE SELF.




ONCE WE REACH HER TRUE SELF, THEN UR-BAST CAN RETURN HER TO NORMALCY.

CAN YOU DO THAT? MAKE HER... MORE.. NORMAL?



I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN, MISS SYN. EVERY TIME SHE CHANGES... I LOSE MORE OF HER TO THE BEAST.



WELL, I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY, NOT TO MENTION GET INSIDE SOMEONE'S HEAD, JUST TO WALK AWAY.

I'M GOING TO FIND THIS BEAST... KICK HER ASS... AND GET TO TASHA'S "TRUE SELF". YOU CAN FOLLOW ME OR JUST STAY BACK HERE AND MOPE. YOUR CALL.



NICE SPEECH.

WASNT KIDDING.
NOT EXACTLY IN
THE MOOD TO BE
PLAYING AROUND
IN SOMEONE
ELSE'S MIND.



MOWRRR!

WHAP!

NOT WHEN THESE
THINGS STILL
FREAK THE SHIT
OUT OF ME!



WHAP!

WHAP!

WHAP!

WHAP!

WHAP!



NO... STOP...

THAT'S TASHA'S
VOICE!
SHE'S CLOSE!



RAWWR!!

OH SHIT!
WE FOUND
THE BEAST!





RESTRAIN!



WHAP! WHAP!



STOP... PLEASE...

TASHA!
STAY
WITH US!



DIE YOU BITCH!

BEGONE!



IS IT... IS SHE...?
AM I DREAMING
THIS?

THE BEAST INSIDE
YOU IS GONE.
FOR NOW ANYWAY.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU DID...
BUT THANK YOU.

Natasha Priss
AKA TASHATIGER



IT'S TIME FOR SYN
AND I TO LEAVE.
I'LL LEAVE ENOUGH
OF A CONNECTION
BETWEEN YOU AND
UR-BAST TO SORT
THINGS OUT.
WE WILL WAIT
UPSTAIRS WHEN
YOU RETURN TO
CONSCIOUSNESS.

IN A NEARBY WAREHOUSE
RUN BY THE COUNCIL...

JUST SO WE ARE
CLEAR, HERR
DIETRICH...

I GAVE YOUR
MEN SIMPLE
INSTRUCTIONS.
BRING THE
BEAST TO ME.

MY MEN HAD THE
BEAST CONTAINED.
WE DID NOT EXPECT
TO ENCOUNTER A
TELEPATH.

YOUR MEN WORK
WITH WARWOLVES
AND ARE TRAINED
TO FIGHT AGAINST
KHELDIANS...

AND YET YOU RUN
FROM A SIMPLE
TELEPATH?

<DEVOUR THIS
WEAKLING,
MY PETS!>

(** TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN*)

NO! NO!

GRRRRR!
GRRRRR!

NEVER LET A MAN
DO A WOMAN'S
JOB FOR HER.
I KNOW THAT NOW.

STILL, ALL IS NOT LOST.
THE BEAST IS OUT. WE WILL
HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO
BRING HIM UNDER MY CONTROL.
AND THAT OF THE COUNCIL.

A LITTLE WHILE LATER...

WELCOME BACK.
SO... I TAKE IT
YOU'VE FIGURED
IT ALL OUT?

I HAVE. THANKS.
OH, AND THANK YOU
FOR LEAVING ME A
SPARE COSTUME
CHANGE PACK!

AS YOU COULD
IMAGINE, MY OTHER
OUTFIT WAS
COMPLETELY SHREDDED
WHEN I HAD CHANGED
INTO THE BEAST.

I CAN SENSE THAT
THE TWO OF YOU
HAVE... COME TO
SOME SORT OF
UNDERSTANDING.

WE HAVE, ACTUALLY.
MY TRUE MUTATION
IS STILL INSIDE
ME, BUT UR-BAST
NOW CONTROLS IT.

HE KNOWS WHEN I'LL
NEED TO TAP INTO IT,
AND HOW MUCH OF IT.
HE KNOWS THAT
WHenever MY LIFE IS
THREATENED, HE CAN
LET THE BEAST OUT.

BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT, FOR THE
MOST PART, I CAN STAY MORE-OR-
LESS HUMAN WHENEVER I'M NOT IN
ANY DANGER.

AND... I REMEMBER EVERYTHING
THAT'S HAPPENED NOW. EVEN ALL
THE TIMES WHEN THE BEAST WAS IN
CONTROL.

THAT'S GREAT
NEWS, TASHA.
GUARDIAN BASE,
THIS IS
CARDINAL SYN.

SYN... THIS
IS RYDER.
I HAVE SOME
BAD NEWS
FOR YOU.

IN AN ALLEY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

THE POLICE WERE ALREADY HERE.

ANY TRACE EVIDENCE WAS ALREADY REMOVED.

ROSE VESTA.

I FAILED TO PROTECT HER.

IT'S REALLY CUT-AND-DRY.

WE HAVE WITNESSES THAT SAY THE SKULLS FOUND MS. VESTA, DRAGGED HER INTO THE ALLEY, ROBBED HER, AND THEN KILLED HER.

I CAN HEAR IT IN HIS VOICE.

IT'S NOT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. AND HE DAMN WELL KNOWS IT.

THE REPORT HAS ALREADY BEEN FILED WITH THE STATION.

WE EVEN HAVE A SUSPECT IN CUSTODY READY TO CONFESS.

OF COURSE, HER DEATH NEGATES HER LAWSUIT AGAINST THE POLICE, AND ALL OTHER INVESTIGATIONS SURROUNDING IT.

AS WE SAY IN THE SQUAD ROOM... IT'S N-W-N-C. "NO WITNESS, NO CASE."

I WANT TO HIT HIM. I WANT TO KNOCK HIM ON HIS ASS!

BUT I CAN'T. AND HE KNOWS THAT.

THE COP ALWAYS WINS. ALWAYS. MAKE SURE YOU REMIND THE KNIGHT OF THAT.

Next Issue:
A Guardian to the Guardians?

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

FROM THE ARCHIVED NOTES OF ...

Kent Poderes Technical Advisor Federal Bureau for Super-powered Affairs

Superheroes and Police - An Abrasive Relationship:

For countless generations, there has been a conflict between maintaining "law and order" and dispensing justice. Sometimes, one has to be sacrificed for the other. The result of this sacrifice can lead to chaos, either through vigilantism, rioting, or even revolution.

Long before Statesman and the Freedom Phalanx made their first costumed appearance in the 1930's, self-appointed champions of justice took up the call to fill the void left by those that pledge themselves to "law and order". Whether it was England's Sherwood Forest, the American Colonies under British occupation, the "anarchistic" Atlantic Ocean, or the so-called "Wild-Wild West", vigilantes attempted to right the wrongs that were ignored for the sake of "preserving order".

But while these heroic deeds were stories of legend, they also came with incredible risk, not to mention swift condemnation from those in power.

So it should come to no surprise that when Statesman first appeared in Paragon City, his "help" was not welcomed by city officials. Even though his first acts were to stop bank robbers and organized mobsters that preyed on the local businesses, the police quickly condemned his actions as those of a criminal, no better than those he stopped.

The matter only got worse when other heroes followed Statesman's lead. While the masses approved of the heroes in cleaning up the streets and making neighborhoods and businesses safe again, the District Attorney's office refused to bring charges against anyone "illegally detained" by vigilantes. While honest cops were quietly thanking the new wave of heroes, their bosses were publicly condemning them and issuing orders to have these heroes arrested on sight.

20th Century history books say that Paragon City "embraced" heroes with the passage of the Citizen Crime-Fighting Act of 1937, which followed a wave of pro-hero politicians being elected the previous November. But even though heroes were given "legal authority" on paper, police and prosecutors still refused to work with the heroes.

Police Captain Edmond Edmonds of Independence Port considered the CCFA a "political surrender" and announced that any hero that tried to operate on "his turf" would find themselves on the "other side" of the jail cell.

It was ironic, given that just a few years later, it was the noble sacrifice of Atlas in Independence Port that would hold off the Nazi invasion and deny Adolf Hitler a foothold on American soil. Captain Edwards would later apologize for his rhetoric, saying that he failed to recognize just

Continues on next page...

how anyone like Atlas could have a heart that was bigger than his titanic body.

Even when a police officer like Blue Steel began working as a superhero, police officials were still hostile to the idea of sharing authority with the hero community. They bristled at the concept that what they saw as "ordinary people in costumes" could somehow mirror the men and women that trained for months for positions they considered to be the best in the world.

The animosity between heroes and police intensified after the First Rikti Invasion, when newly-appointed Police Chief Conrad Bochco began rebuilding the police force to include several divisions designed to overcome super-powered beings, including those that are registered heroes. Even his "Hero Shield" project was a way to create super-cops instead of super-heroes that would compete with the police.

Bochco made it clear on several occasions that he envisioned a day when heroes would no longer be needed in Paragon City, and therefore not welcomed. Several of his projects seemed to be dedicated to that very goal, including some of his more notorious "off-the-record" programs, including the brutal Blind Division and the "redirected" Blue Dog Squad.

Unfortunately for him, it was these latter divisions that would bring Bochco's tenure as police chief to an end. And it would come thanks to the unlikely cooperation of two heroes: the Libertarian Avenger, and Jimmy Hellfighter.

But, as with generations past, even though the current head of the Paragon City Police Department is more receptive to hero activity, the same cannot be said for every officer in the force. Even though the streetwise patrol officer will welcome the help, his superior will more likely than not regard even the most well-trained hero as a usurper.

At the core of vigilantism is the belief that society's institutions have failed. As representatives of those institutions, the police community must inherently reject any suggestion that they have failed the public. In that regard, the animosity between hero and police is not only natural, but conflict between them at some point is almost inevitable.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



THE EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE GUARDIANS AS THEY TRY TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THE CORRUPT BLUE DOG SQUAD BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DIES.

PLUS, WITH FURIA INJURED, IT'S TIME FOR HER ADOPTED SISTER TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AGAIN AS PARAGON CITY'S "TRUE GUARDIAN".

AND DO THE GUARDIANS HAVE A GUARDIAN OF THEIR OWN? FIND OUT WHO HE IS AND JUST HOW LONG HE'S BEEN WATCHING THE HERO GROUP.



EVEN HEROES NEED HELP!

Paragon City has a long history of being a “City of Heroes”...

But it also is a city that actively supports its heroes.

Even the most noble, most powerful hero will not be afraid to admit that they also need help saving the day, even if it entails rescuing a cat out of a tree.

Since the 1940’s, the men and women of the Freedom Corps have put their lives on the line to help the heroes keep Paragon City safe from all sorts of threats. They help to patrol the streets, rescue the fallen, and ensure that the criminals that are captured are properly processed through the criminal justice system.

It’s not always glamorous work, but it rewards itself with the gratitude of the hero community as well as the ordinary citizens of Paragon City. And if that is not enough, Freedom Corps also provides full insurance coverage and retirement benefits for all recruits after one year of dedicated service.

Do you have what it takes to be a true hero to heroes?

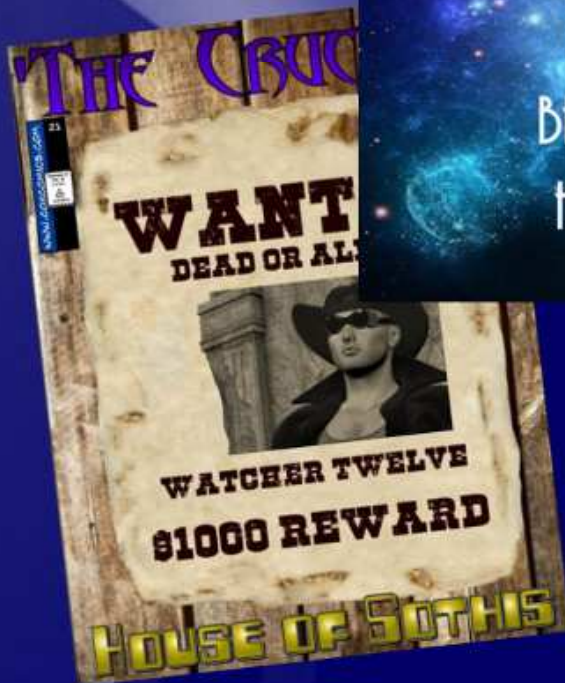
JOIN THE FREEDOM CORPS!

[HTTP://WWW.FREEDOMCORPS.PARA](http://www.freedomcorps.para)



Freedom Corps is a private organization and not a part of any government agency. All Freedom Corps operatives must still adhere to the same requirements under the Revised Citizens Crime Fighting act of 2003 as registered heroes. Recruits that serve from zero-to-one year are given limited insurance benefits as provided under the Affordable Care Act. Service with the Freedom Corps can come with some potential life-threatening hazards.

THE GAME IS GONE...



...BUT THE STORIES GO ON!

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