

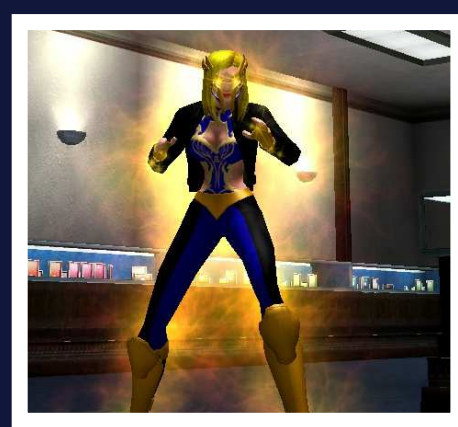
# TASK FORCE TWILIGHT



Issue 05  
2018



WHICH ONE OF THESE HEROES...



... WILL **BETRAY** THE TASK FORCE?



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

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

# TASK FORCE 'TWILIGHT'

Cardinal Syn's task force has finally made their stand against the corrupt officers of the Blue Dog Squad, making it clear to the bad cops that they will not be tolerated anymore.

In addition, the mysterious Warshade known as Sundown has offered his assistance to Cardinal Syn, having revealed his role in helping bring down the first incarnation of the Blue Dogs.

But this incarnation of the Blue Dogs will not go down easily, and Deputy Chief Wield is doing everything he can to make sure that Syn's Task Force is shut down and its members arrested.

At the same time, freelance blogger Mighty Marvin has revealed to the world that the police are secretly keeping the charred body of street vigilante Jason Knight in their morgue.

## "THE DARK MESSIAH" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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WELCOME BACK. YOU'RE WATCHING P-N-N AFTERNOON NEWS. I'M ROBIN STEED, AND WE ARE CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THE STORY THAT JUST BROKE A FEW HOURS AGO.

THE SHOCKING ACCUSATION MADE BY FREELANCE BLOGGER MIGHTY MARVIN THAT ACCUSED COP-KILLER AND STREET VIGILANTE JASON KNIGHT IS, IN FACT, DEAD AND IS BEING HELD IN THE POLICE MORGUE.

## BREAKING NEWS: JASON KNIGHT REPORTED DEAD



FOR MORE ON THIS, WE ARE BEING JOINED BY RYDER LIGHTNING, THE LEADER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HERO GROUP THAT JASON WAS A MEMBER OF.

GOOD AFTERNOON ROBIN. AND I MUST FIRST CORRECT YOU ON SOMETHING.

## JASON KNIGHT DEAD



## RYDER LIGHTNING



WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT JASON KNIGHT WAS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS, HE DID TENDER HIS RESIGNATION WITH OUR GROUP SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

HAVING SAID THAT... I HAVE KNOWN JASON FOR A LONG TIME... AND IT PAINS ME TO THINK THAT HE WOULD BE TREATED THIS WAY BY ANY BRANCH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

## GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN LEADER



## JASON KNIGHT DEAD



SO YOU BELIEVE WHAT MIGHTY MARVIN POSTED IN HIS BLOG... THAT YOUR FRIEND AND FORMER TEAMMATE WAS KILLED AND THAT THE POLICE HAVE HIS BODY?

RIGHT NOW ALL WE HAVE IS A BLOGGER'S WORD AND SOME PHOTOS. WE'VE REQUESTED THAT THE BODY BE TESTED TO SEE IF IN FACT IT IS JASON'S.

## JASON KNIGHT DEAD



## ACCUSATION BY MIGHTY MARV



ABOVE THE ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT BUILDING

KINGS ROW, PARAGON CITY, RI

"UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, WE CANNOT GIVE ANY KIND OF STATEMENT CONCERNING JASON KNIGHT'S SITUATION."

"LEVEL THIRTEEN"  
(AKA THE KNIGHT'S LAIR)

ALERT! ALERT!  
ENERGY SURGE  
APPROACHING  
THE BUILDING!

DAMNIT...

★FWSSSHHHH!★

Cassandra Dare  
AKA CARDINAL SYN

IS IT  
TRUE?

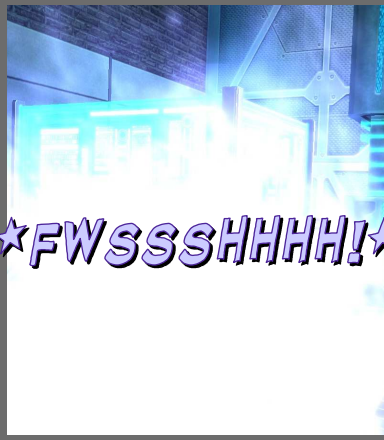
★FWSSSHHHH!★

I SAID  
IS IT  
TRUE?

Daybright  
(GRACE FELLOWS)

GRACE... YOU NEED TO POWER DOWN. THOSE POLICE DRONES OUT THERE CAN READ YOUR ENERGY SIGNATURE FROM INSIDE THIS BUILDING... WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE SHUT DOWN.

IS IT TRUE?



★FWSSSHHHH!★



IS IT TRUE?  
IS HE...?

Grace Fellows  
AKA DAYBRIGHT



YOU KNOW  
THAT I CAN'T  
TELL YOU,  
EVEN IF HE IS.



SENTRY...  
IS IT TRUE?



I AM  
INCAPABLE  
OF LYING TO  
YOU, MISS  
GRACE.



I AM SORRY.  
JASON KNIGHT  
IS DEAD.



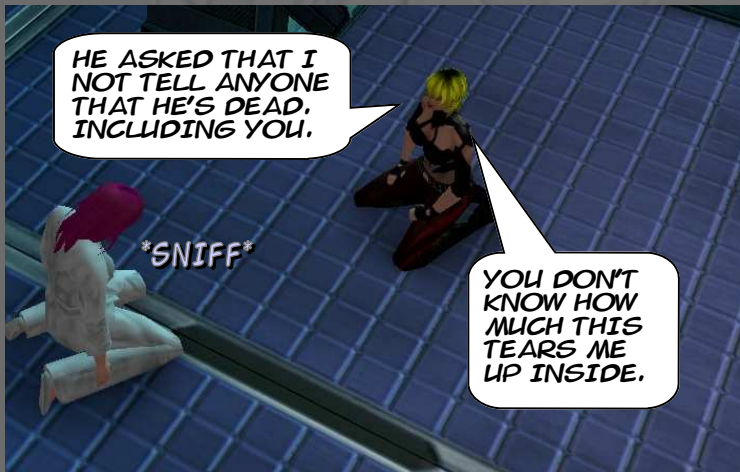
NO...  
NONONONONO....



GRACE...  
GRACE, I'M SORRY.  
YOU KNOW JASON  
ABOUT AS MUCH  
AS I DO.



HE'S ALWAYS  
SURROUNDING  
HIMSELF IN  
MYSTERY, NOT  
WANTING US TO  
KNOW IF ANYTHING  
ABOUT HIM IS REAL.



HE ASKED THAT I  
NOT TELL ANYONE  
THAT HE'S DEAD,  
INCLUDING YOU.

\*SNIFF\*

YOU DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
MUCH THIS  
TEARS ME  
UP INSIDE.



I WANT TO RACE UP  
THAT HILL AND GO  
THROUGH EVERY COP  
UNTIL I FIND OUT  
WHO KILLED HIM.

BUT I CAN'T.  
BECAUSE THEN IT  
WOULD BE ABOUT  
HIM, AND HE  
WOULDN'T WANT IT  
TO BE THAT WAY.



I HAVE TO  
CONVINCE  
MYSELF THAT  
HE'S STILL  
ALIVE. THAT  
HE'S JUST IN  
HIDING,  
WATCHING  
FROM AFAR.

I DON'T KNOW  
IF THAT HELPS  
YOU ANY...

\* DAYBRIGHT'S STORY WAS TOLD IN \*GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT\* #12 AND 13)



\*SNIFF\*... I WISH IT COULD.  
JASON AND I HAVE SOMETHING  
IN COMMON... WE BOTH DIED AND  
CAME BACK TO LIFE CHANGED.\*  
MINE... \*SNIFF\*... TO A MORE  
EXTREME DEGREE THAN HIS.

I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE  
THE FACT THAT I DIED  
ALREADY WOULD MAKE  
IT HURT LESS... \*SNIFF\*  
BUT IT DOESN'T.



THEN LET'S MAKE  
WHAT JASON WAS  
MEAN SOMETHING.  
I HAVE HIS TASK  
FORCE WORKING ON  
SHUTTING DOWN THE  
BLUE DOGS.  
BUT I WILL HAVE  
SOMETHING I WILL  
NEED YOUR HELP ON.

WHEN THE  
TIME IS  
RIGHT, CAN  
I COUNT ON  
YOUR HELP?

FOR JASON...  
ABSOLUTELY.

IT AMAZES ME HOW YOU CAN FIND BEAUTY IN SUCH AN EYESORE.



**Alison Kane**  
AKA ALLY KAZAM

SALOME?  
WHAT ARE...?  
HOW DID...?



WAIT... YOU'RE NOT REALLY HERE, ARE YOU?  
YOU'RE USING A MIND-SPELL PROJECTION.



VERY ASTUTE, ALISON.  
YES, I'M STILL AT THE ALMENZEL...  
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T BE THERE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE IF I HAVE TO.



**Salome**  
ORIGINAL MIND-DANCER

NEVER FORGET THAT I AM ALWAYS WATCHING MY STUDENTS FROM AFAR. ALWAYS.



THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WARNING, SALOME.  
I HAVE BEEN CAREFUL WITH HOW I USE MY GIFTS.



HOW IS IT THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY CENTURIES THAT I'VE SHARED WHAT I KNOW, MY STUDENTS ALWAYS SAY THE SAME THING?




MY DEAR, YOU ALL SAY THAT YOU'RE CAREFUL, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT.

**ESPECIALLY** WHEN YOU'RE NOT.

DOING MAGIC TRICKS AND THE OCCASIONAL FAVOR FOR A FRIEND IS ONE THING.

BUT THIS TASK FORCE THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH...






I'VE SEEN WHAT THE POLICE  
HAVE DONE, SALOME.  
THEY TRIED TO KILL A CAT-  
GIRL FOR NO OTHER REASON  
THAN BECAUSE SHE WENT TO  
DEFEND A HELPLESS WOMAN.\*  
THEY PREY ON THE WEAK AND  
HELPLESS LIKE VULTURES.

I REMEMBER THE STORIES  
YOU TOLD OF YOUR  
YOUNGER YEARS WHEN  
YOU WOULD STAND UP TO  
MEN LIKE THAT.  
ESPECIALLY THE ONES  
THAT HATED CATS.

C\* \*FURIA AND THE  
GUARDIANS\* #12 AND 13)




AND YOU'LL REMEMBER  
THAT I ALSO SAID THAT  
I WAS ALMOST BURNED  
AT THE STAKE FOR DOING  
THAT!  
TORQUEMADA STILL  
LAUGHS IN HELL OVER  
WHAT HE GOT AWAY WITH.




BUT THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN WE CAN'T TRY TO  
STOP THE NEXT ONE  
FROM GETTING AWAY  
WITH HIS CRIMES.




HMMM...



HAVE SOME TRUST  
IN ME, SALOME.  
LET ME SHOW YOU  
HOW WELL YOU'VE  
TRAINED ME.



I'LL STILL BE  
WATCHING.  
AND, UNDERSTAND  
THIS, ALISON...



IF I SUSPECT EVEN  
FOR AN INSTANT  
THESE PEOPLE WILL  
THREATEN ME AND  
MY STUDENTS, I  
WILL NOT HESITATE  
TO DO TO THIS  
CITY WHAT I ONCE  
DID TO ROANOKE.

GARDIFF, WALES, UK

WAS JUST WRAPPING UP A SECURITY CONFERENCE WITH VANGUARD WHEN THE LOCAL NEWS MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN "ALLY" WAS REPORTED DEAD.

SO DO YOU THINK IT'S FOR REAL?  
DO YOU THINK JASON IS DEAD?

**Kent Poderes**  
AKA Igon Powers (Retired)

WE'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD A FEW TIMES BEFORE, KENT. I WON'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SEE THE BODY AND GET THE DNA CONFIRMATION.

**Prof. Bart Wallace**  
AKA RYDER LIGHTNING

AND I TAKE IT THE POLICE AREN'T GIVING UP THE BODY OR RUNNING GENETIC TESTING TO VERIFY IT'S HIM.

GIVEN THE REPORTED CONDITION OF THE BODY, I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD EVEN WANT IT TO BE RELEASED TO ANYONE. AND IF THEY KNEW FOR CERTAIN IT WAS HIM, I THINK THEY'D BE BOASTING ABOUT IT.

OKAY, THEN MAKE SOME CALLS AND FORCE THE ISSUE. YOU'VE GOT FEDERAL AUTHORITY AS A SUPERGROUP. HAVE YOUR FRIENDS PUSH THE POLICE TO GIVE UP THE BODY FOR TESTS.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. I JUST TOLD THE WORLD THAT JASON WAS A LONE WOLF, SO WE CAN'T CLAIM THE BODY WITHOUT SAYING HE WAS STILL A GUARDIAN.

AND, I HATE TO SAY IT, OLD FRIEND... BUT I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANY MORE. ESPECIALLY GIVEN WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE HEROES HERE.

CITY HALL, ATLAS PARK

"I AM GOING TO MAKE THIS A PAINFULLY SIMPLE AS I CAN, OKAY?"

"IF YOU SAY SO."

"I AM THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES HERO AUTHORITY, WHICH REPLACED THE FEDERAL BUREAU FOR SUPERPOWERED AFFAIRS."

"I WAS APPOINTED BY DONALD TRUMP, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND CONFIRMED BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE."

"IN OTHER WORDS, I AM IN CHARGE OF ALL SUPERHERO ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES."

"IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS."

PARAGON CITY HALL

I HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE VARIOUS FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS HERE THAT YOU ARE THE SOLE PERSON IN CHARGE OF ALL OF THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR THE HEROES AND THE SUPERGROUPS IN THIS CITY.

I AM ORDERING YOU TO MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF IMMEDIATELY.

**Director Darren Burgess**  
DEPARTMENT OF SUPERHUMAN ACTIVITIES



NO.

**Brigid Moreira**  
CITY REPRESENTATIVE



FINE. YOU'RE FIRED.  
PACK YOUR THINGS  
AND BE OUT OF HERE  
IN FIVE MINUTES OR  
I'LL HAVE YOU  
ARRESTED.



I DON'T WORK FOR YOU,  
MISTER BURGESS, OR  
FOR YOUR BOSS IN THE  
WHITE HOUSE BY WAY OF  
MAR-A-LAGO.  
I WORK FOR PARAGON  
CITY.  
YOU MAY CONTROL THE  
PEOPLE IN THOSE  
DEPARTMENTS  
DOWNSTAIRS...



... BUT, MAKE NO  
MISTAKE MISTER  
BURGESS...  
UP HERE, YOU ARE  
IN MY DOMAIN.  
AND YOU DON'T GET  
TO TELL ME HOW TO  
DO MY JOB.



YOU WANT TO PLAY IT  
THAT WAY? FINE.  
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS  
MAKE ONE PHONE CALL  
TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
HE'LL GET THE MAYOR  
TO FIRE YOUR BONY  
ASS SO FAST YOUR  
HEMORRHOIDS WILL  
HAVE BURN MARKS.



AND AS SOON AS YOU'RE  
OUT THAT DOOR, I'LL HAVE  
YOUR REPLACEMENT FOLLOW  
MY ORDERS AND MAKE THAT  
INFORMATION AVAILABLE  
TO ANYONE I CHOOSE.

OH, AND GOOD LUCK  
GETTING A NEW JOB OR  
FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT  
BENEFITS AFTERWARD.  
I'LL SEE TO IT THAT'S ALL  
BLOCKED JUST FOR LAUGHS.



GO AHEAD.  
MAKE THAT CALL.  
HELL, HAVE THE  
PRESIDENT COME  
UP HERE HIMSELF  
FROM MAR-A-  
LAGO.



YOU'LL BOTH FIND  
OUT THAT I HAVE  
MUCH BETTER  
FRIENDS THAN YOU  
DO IN THIS CITY.  
AND NOT ALL OF  
THEM NEED TO WEAR  
A MASK AND CAPE  
TO RUIN YOUR DAY.

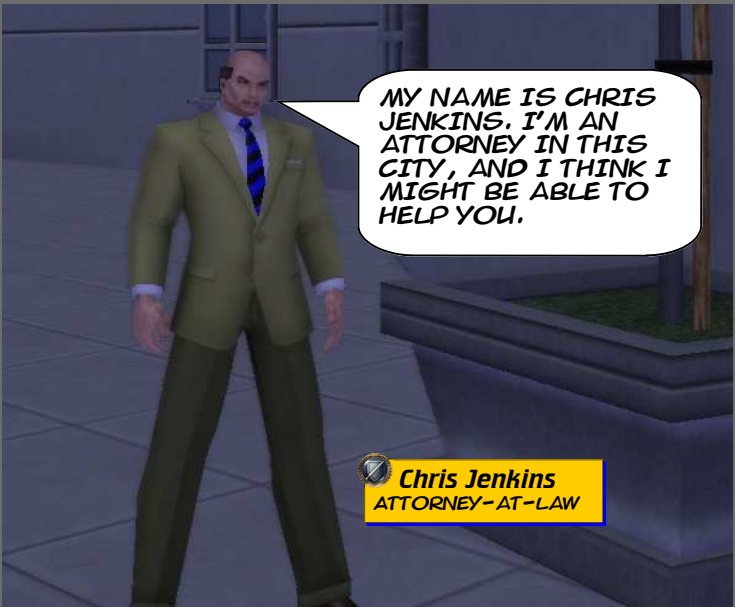


I BELIEVE YOU  
KNOW THE WAY  
OUT, MISTER  
BURGESS.



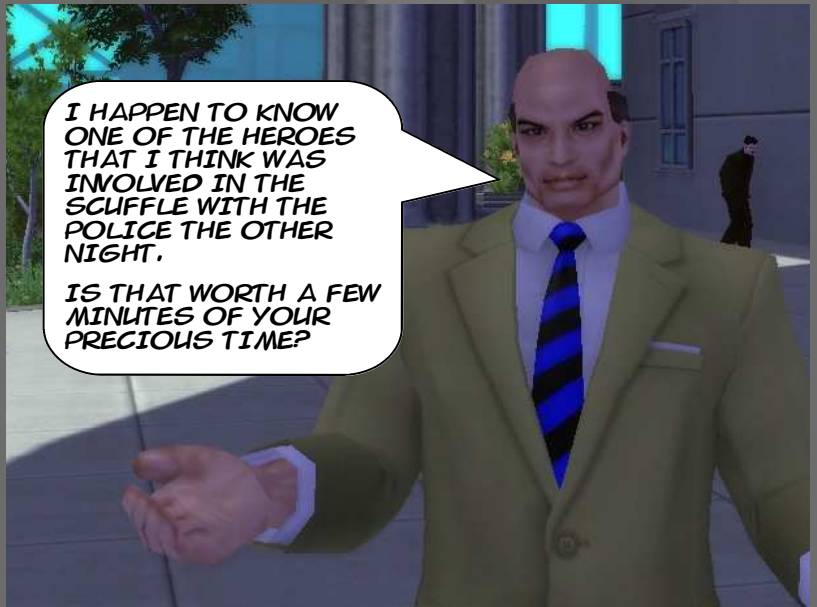
EXCUSE ME...  
DIRECTOR  
BURGESS?

I'M A LITTLE  
BUSY. PLEASE  
SCHEDULE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
WITH MY OFFICE.



MY NAME IS CHRIS  
JENKINS. I'M AN  
ATTORNEY IN THIS  
CITY, AND I THINK I  
MIGHT BE ABLE TO  
HELP YOU.

 **Chris Jenkins**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



I HAPPEN TO KNOW  
ONE OF THE HEROES  
THAT I THINK WAS  
INVOLVED IN THE  
SCUFFLE WITH THE  
POLICE THE OTHER  
NIGHT.  
IS THAT WORTH A FEW  
MINUTES OF YOUR  
PRECIOUS TIME?

HOURS LATER...

ANONYMOUS CALL SAID TO CHECK THE PARKING DECK. THAT'S WHEN I FOUND HIM LIKE THIS.

BASTARD'S STILL BREATHING.



HERO ID ON THE WAISTBAND SAYS HE'S HAWKTHORNE. WHOEVER DID THIS TO HIM DID A REAL NUMBER ON HIM.

HE'S NEVER GOING TO FLY AGAIN. NOT WITH THOSE WINGS.

WELL, I WAS TOLD TO GIVE YOU A CALL, YINDELL. GUESS YOU CAN TELL THE DEPUTY CHIEF THAT OUR BOYS HAVE LIPPED THEIR GAME ON THE VIGILANTES.

"THE COP SHACK" - KINGS ROW

THE BAR JUST DOWN THE STREET FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

**Deputy Chief Thomas Wield**  
PARAGON CITY POLICE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, CADE?

JUST ENJOYING A DRINK WITH MY FRIENDS.

**Bill McCade**  
EX-COP

YOU WERE TOLD TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE. THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE KEEPING A "LOW PROFILE".

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO LAWDOG? SCREW THAT!  
I STAY WITH MY FRIENDS AND I GET TO KEEP BREATHING.

WHAT HAPPENED TO LAWDOG WAS... SAD.  
BUT IF YOU'RE CAUGHT STILL OPERATING IN THIS CITY...

YOU MEAN FROM CARDINAL SYN AND HER LITTLE GANG OF VIGILANTES?  
OH I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT THEY CAN DO...

I HAPPEN KNOW ONE OF THOSE VIGILANTES QUITE WELL.  
AND I HAPPEN TO HAVE A SURPRISE FOR HER AND HER FRIENDS LATER TONIGHT THAT THEY WILL NEVER FORGET!

LET ME BE CRYSTAL CLEAR ON THIS MATTER:  
NOT ONLY WILL I REVOKE THE HERO CREDENTIALS OF ANY HERO OPERATING IN KINGS ROW...



**BURGESS GETS TOUGH ON HEROES**



BUT I WILL ALSO MAKE THEIR REAL NAMES AND HOME ADDRESSES A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE LIKE ANY OTHER CRIMINAL.



**ATLAS PARK · EARLIER TODAY**



LEGAL EXPERTS VARY ON THEIR OPINION ON WHETHER DIRECTOR BURGESS'S THREAT IS LEGAL UNDER CURRENT STATUES, BUT THEY ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT IT WOULD CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO ANY HERO EXPOSED.



**BURGESS ACTIONS ILLEGAL?**



P-N-N HAS TRIED NUMEROUS TIMES TO REACH CHIEF MORTON CLAYTON TO GET A COMMENT ON THE RECENT EVENTS, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT HE IS UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.



**FAITH NOTTINGHAM · LATE NEWS**



IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR DID SHE GO OUT OF HER WAY TO TELL US SOMETHING?



**KDave**  
(PHIL SKI)

**TASK FORCE BASE - KINGS ROW**

GOOD OBSERVATION, KDAVE.  
YOU'RE RIGHT. NOBODY KNOWS WHERE CHIEF CLAYTON IS.



**Cardinal Syn**  
(CASSANDRA DARE)

HE'S BEEN THE BIGGEST ALLY OF THE HERO COMMUNITY SINCE HE TOOK OVER FROM CHIEF BOCHCO IN 2007, AND NOBODY OUTSIDE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN HIM IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.

COINCIDENTALLY THAT'S WHEN THE BLUE DOGS STARTED COMING BACK.



I HAVE SOMEONE WORKING ON FINDING CHIEF CLAYTON EVEN AS I SPEAK.  
MEANWHILE, WE NEED TO STEP UP OUR OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE BLUE DOGS... AND I MEAN MORE THAN JUST BREAKING UP THEIR SHAKEDOWN RAIDS.





ELITE... I'M TOLD THAT YOU DO GOOD BACKGROUND RESEARCH.

★ Elite Ice Queen  
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)



I NEED YOU TO LOOK INTO THE GROUPS AND BUSINESSES THAT THE DOGS HAVE BEEN HITTING.  
WHO OWNS THEM AND WHO'S BEEN ASKING ABOUT THEM.



THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO SAY BEFORE WE GO OUT THERE TONIGHT...  
YOU'VE ALL HEARD THE NEWS REPORTS OF JASON KNIGHT BEING DEAD.  
I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER IT'S TRUE.



BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER.  
JASON KNIGHT MAY HAVE SET UP THIS TASK FORCE... BUT IT REALLY ISN'T HIS.  
IT'S OURS.

★ Ally Kazam  
(ALISON KANE)



"IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE DOWN THE BLUE DOGS AND BRING THEM TO JUSTICE."

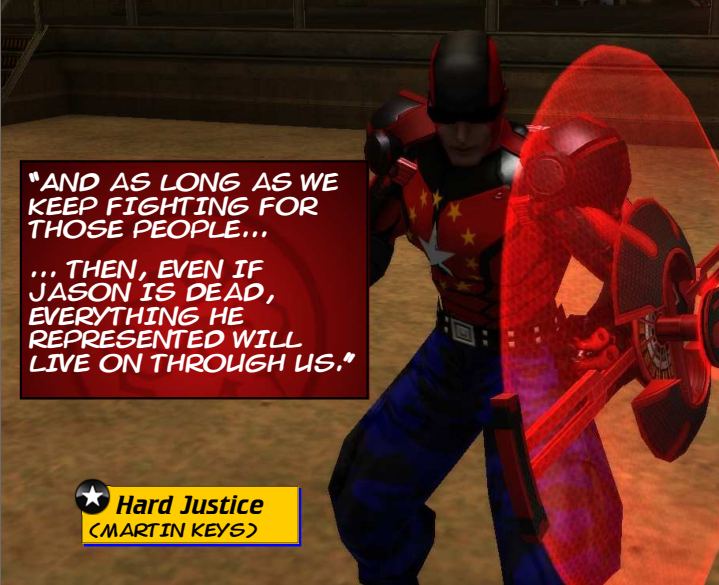
★ Streetangel  
(KAREN MANNING)



"NOT FOR US... NOT EVEN FOR JASON..."

"BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY WHO NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM A SYSTEM THAT PREYS ON THEM."

★ Artema  
(PERSIA THERON)



"AND AS LONG AS WE KEEP FIGHTING FOR THOSE PEOPLE...  
... THEN, EVEN IF JASON IS DEAD, EVERYTHING HE REPRESENTED WILL LIVE ON THROUGH US."

★ Hard Justice  
(MARTIN KEYS)



ENOUGH SAID.

LET'S GET OUT THERE AND REMIND THE DOGS WHY THIS IS CALLED THE "CITY OF HEROES"

(Space Reserved for advertising)

(Space Reserved for advertising)

AN HOUR LATER...



IS IT ME...?



\*OOF!\*

... OR DOES IT SEEM LIKE THERE ARE MORE BLUE DOGS THAN BEFORE?

\*SLAM!\*



NOT YOUR IMAGINATION.



THESE ARE THE BACKUP DOGS...

\*WHAP!\*

\*WHAP!\*

\*WHAP!\*

\*WHAP!\*

\*WHAP!\*

\*WHAP!\*

GANG MEMBERS DRESSED UP AS BLUE DOGS, SO THE REAL BAD COPS CAN KEEP US BUSY WHILE THEY GET AWAY.



DOESN'T MAKE THEM ANY MORE IMMUNE TO MY POWERS.

\*FWSSH\*



OKAY... CUZ I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ME.



WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T LITTLE MISS STREET ANGEL...



ALL DOGS, THIS IS BLACK DOG ONE... YOU CAN PULL BACK NOW.

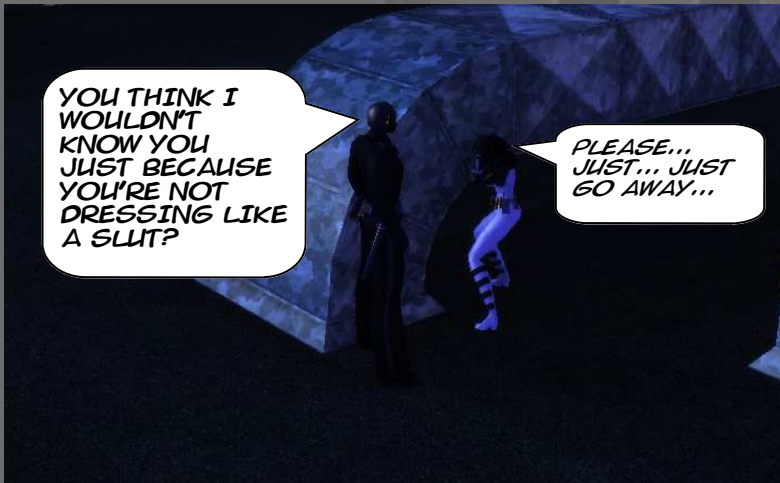
**"Black Dog One"**  
(BILL MCCADE)



SYN! MCCADE IS HERE! HE'S HERE!



ALLY!  
STREET ANGEL IS IN TROUBLE!



YOU THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT DRESSING LIKE A SLUT?

PLEASE... JUST... JUST GO AWAY...



NEWSFLASH, LITTLE MISS STREET ANGEL... THIS IS MY CITY. THESE ARE MY DOGS!



SO NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW... YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME, OR ELSE I'M GOING TO FINISH WHERE WE LAST LEFT OFF.

I'LL DRAG YOU OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET... STRIPPED NAKED LIKE THE SLUT THAT YOU ARE!

N-NO...



**STREET ANGEL!**



**ARE YOU  
OKAY?  
DID HE  
HURT YOU?**



**STREET ANGEL?**

**HE'S...  
HE'S...**



**"HE'S"  
DISAPPOINTED.  
YOU LEFT YOUR  
LITTLE GIRL OUT  
IN PUBLIC  
UNATTENDED.**



**YOU NEVER KNOW  
WHAT SORT OF  
CREEPS ARE OUT  
HERE AT NIGHT.  
GOOD THING I  
WAS IN THE AREA.**



**WHY DON'T YOU  
COME A LITTLE  
CLOSER SO I  
CAN SHOW YOU  
HOW I DEAL  
WITH CREEPS?**



**OH YOU AND I WILL  
HAVE OUR DANCE  
REAL SOON...  
COUNT ON IT.  
I'M JUST HERE TO  
REMINDE YOU THAT  
I'M STILL HERE,  
AND THAT THE LAW  
ALWAYS WINS!  
ALWAYS!**



"YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE MIDNIGHT NEWS ON P-N-N RADIO..."

"OUR TOP STORY... FIRE CREWS ARE STILL FIGHTING A THREE-ALARM BLAZE IN KINGS ROW."

"IT IS BELIEVED THE FIRE IS CONTAINED TO THE TOP LEVEL OF THE KINGSPORT BUILDING WHICH WAS BEING USED FOR A HOMELESS AID ORGANIZATION."

"THE FIRE REPORTEDLY STARTED AS POLICE WERE BUSY WITH RENEGADE VIGILANTES JUST TWO BLOCKS AWAY."

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, SYN?  
WHAT THE HELL IS MCCADE DOING BACK?

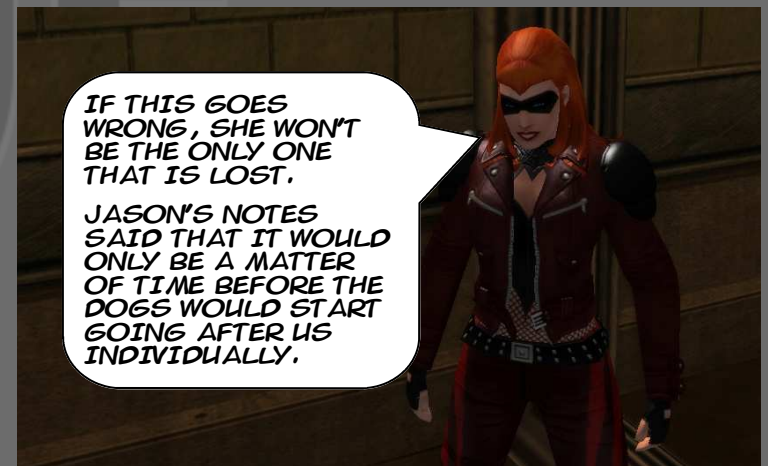
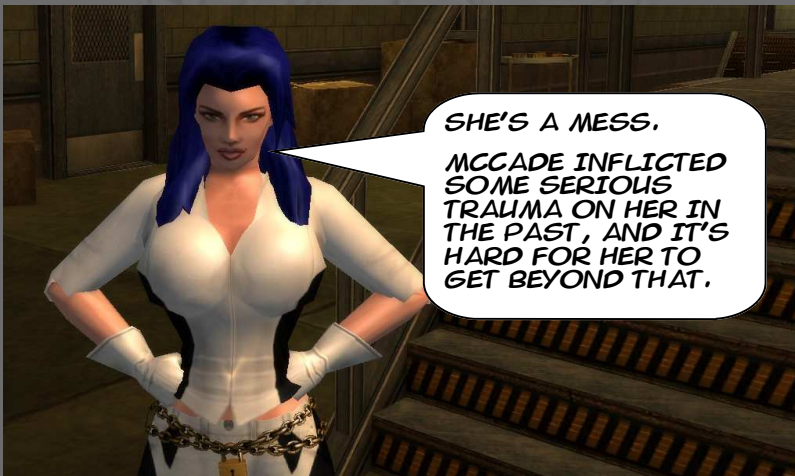
I WAS JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU WERE TO HEAR THAT.  
I THOUGHT HE WOULD KEEP LOW AFTER HE WAS FORCED OFF THE FORCE.

RIGHT, AND NOW HE'S BACK, AND HE'S WEARING HIS OWN BLUE DOG COSTUME, ALONG WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER PUNKS.  
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE ESCALATED THIS.

NO! WE'RE NOT THERE YET.  
THE FACT THAT MCCADE IS TAKING AN ACTIVE PART NOW AND THEY'VE BROUGHT IN THE GANGS AS FODDER MEANS THEY'RE WORRIED.

THEY WANT US TO ACT LIKE THUGS INSTEAD OF HEROES SO THEY CAN JUSTIFY GOING AFTER US.  
WHEN WE UP THE TACTICS, IT'LL BE WHEN IT'S RIGHT.  
AND, BELIEVE ME, YOU'LL KNOW IT.

YEAH... WELL...  
IT BETTER BE REAL SOON.  
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.





THE NEXT MORNING...

I'M SORRY, SIR...

BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO UNDO THE DAMAGE.

YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST TELEPATHS IN THE CITY.  
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T REVERSE THEIR TRAUMA AND AMNESIA?

IF THIS WAS THE WORK OF A REGULAR TELEPATH, THEN IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.  
BUT... WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT MEMORY BLOCKS... WE'RE TALKING MEMORIES BEING COMPLETELY ERASED.

ERASED? LIKE THOSE OLD MAGNETIC TAPE CASSETTES?  
WHAT KIND OF TELEPATH COULD DO THAT?

NOT A NORMAL TELEPATH... ONE THAT WAS BORN A MUTANT.  
BUT I'VE HEARD OF A MYSTICAL FORM OF TELEPATHY.

MYSTICAL TELEPATHS?

\*BEEP-BEEP\*  
\*BEEP-BEEP\*

LOOK INTO THAT AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU FIND.

FIVE MORE COPS ARE DISABLED, MCCADE.  
CLAUSTROPHOBIC ABOUT WEARING HELMETS AND THEY HAVE NO MEMORY WHATSOEVER OF WHO THOSE HEROES ARE.

WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU--

YOU HAVE...?  
AND YOU CAN GUARANTEE IT?  
THAT IS THE BEST THING YOU'VE TOLD ME ALL WEEK.



KAREN?

**Fiona Poderes**  
AKA FURIA POWERS



I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, I JUST GOT OUT OF THE SHOWER.



I'D OFFER YOU SOME COFFEE... BUT I THINK THE ONLY STUFF I HAVE IS A LITTLE COLD.

THAT'S OKAY... I'M STILL ON THOSE NEW HEALTH SMOOTHIES FAITH\* SUGGESTED.

CRIPES, HOW LONG HAS THAT FOOD BEEN SITTING OUT ON THE TABLE?

(\* FAITH KARL, AKA GALATEA POWERS, FIONA'S OTHERWORLD SISTER WHO IS ALSO SERIOUSLY INTO SMOOTHIES.)



HI, SORRY...

THIS TASK FORCE THING, IT'S REALLY...



... WELL, I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, RIGHT? LONG NIGHTS AND STUFF.

**Karen Manning**  
AKA STREET ANGEL



ACTUALLY, THE ONLY LONG NIGHTS I DID WAS WORKING FOR THE RESISTANCE.\*

BUT... THIS SHOULD BE OLD HAT FOR YOU, RIGHT? BEING A DECOY AGENT?

(\* FIONA WAS BORN IN THE DYSTOPIAN PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.)



NOT LIKE THIS.  
JESUS, EVEN THE WORST OF IT WASN'T LIKE...

KAREN?



FI... DID YOU EVER DO SOMETHING YOU REALLY HATED TO DO BUT... YOU STILL HAD TO DO IT?



ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS IN PRAETORIA. AS A PUBLIC HERO FOR THE POWERS DIVISION, I HAD TO WATCH PEOPLE I KNEW IN THE RESISTANCE BE TAKEN AWAY AND EVEN EXECUTED. AND I HAD TO DO NOTHING TO STOP IT.



BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T, FOR FEAR YOU'D BE EXPOSED?

SOMETIMES. AND SOMETIMES IT'S BECAUSE THEY NEEDED TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE FOR SOMETHING GREATER.



THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO GAVE THEMSELVES UP SO SURVIVORS FROM FIRST WARD COULD BE BROUGHT OVER WITHOUT BEING SHOT.



KAREN, I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE ASKING ME THIS... IS... IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?



GOD I WISH I COULD... NO... I... I JUST NEED A FEW HOURS WITH A FRIEND TO GET MY MIND OFF THIS TASK FORCE STUFF, OKAY? NO CAPES, NO MASKS... JUST... NORMALCY.



BACK AT THE KNIGHT'S LAIR...

\*RHRRRRR...\*



STARTING...  
STAND BY...  
STAND BY...  
STAND BY...



LATER...

GET UP, COME ON!



MY PARTNER HAS NEVER SEEN WHAT WE DO IN KINGS ROW AT NIGHT.



GODDAMNED BASTARDS...  
THEY'RE DOING IT OUT IN THE OPEN NOW!



HEY!



LEAVE THAT WOMAN ALONE!



YOU'RE MESSING WITH THE WRONG COPS, BOY!



YOU DON'T BOY ME, YOU TIN BADGE RACIST!

\*SWAT!\*





THE BRAZEN ATTACK ON OUR DECORATED AND RESPECTED LAW ENFORCERS BY ANY SO-CALLED "HERO" WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

DEPUTY CHIEF THOMAS WIELD



I PROMISE YOU, THIS "HARD JUSTICE" VIGILANTE WILL BE BROUGHT TO OUR JUSTICE AND WILL FACE HARD TIME IN PRISON!

CONDEMNING VIGILANTE ATTACK



IN OTHER RELATED NEWS, A SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE SUPERGROUP JUSTICE KITTIES HAS ACCUSED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF "HERO-SHAMING" TWO OF THEIR CATGIRL MEMBERS.

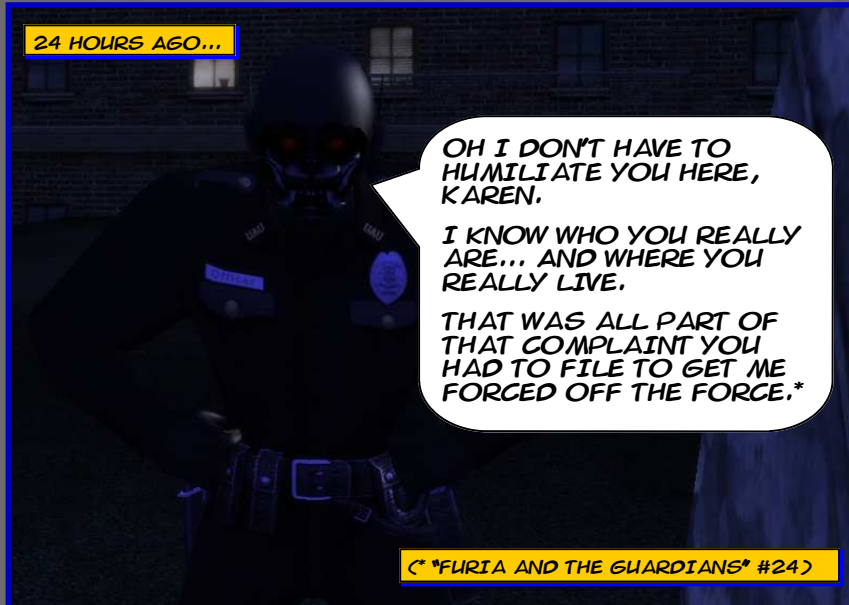
ACCORDING TO THEIR COMPLAINT, THE TWO CATGIRLS WERE REGISTERED HEROES WHO WERE OPERATING IN SKYWAY CITY WHEN THEY WERE ACCOSTED BY POLICE OFFICERS WEARING, QUOTE, "DOG-LIKE HELMETS".

PNN LATE NEWS WITH FAITH NOTTINGHAM



LATER THAT NIGHT...

I KNEW YOU'D COME... THOUGH THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT WISHES YOU DIDN'T.




24 HOURS AGO...

OH I DON'T HAVE TO HUMILIATE YOU HERE, KAREN.  
I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE... AND WHERE YOU REALLY LIVE.  
THAT WAS ALL PART OF THAT COMPLAINT YOU HAD TO FILE TO GET ME FORCED OFF THE FORCE.\*



442, "THE QUAD" IN ATLAS PARK... BUILDING "D".  
I'VE BEEN TO YOUR PLACE. LOOKS REALLY NICE.

(\* "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #24)



OF COURSE, I DON'T HAVE TO GET YOU AT YOUR HOME. I CAN JUST SEND THE COPS THERE TO PICK YOU UP AS A WANTED CRIMINAL.

ANY-THING.

NO... PLEASE... NO...

THE COPS HAVE THESE NICE QUIET PLACES WHERE WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT TO GET PEOPLE LIKE YOU TO TALK.



TELL YOU WHAT... I'M GOING TO BE A NICE DOG AND GIVE YOU A CHOICE.

YOU MEET ME BACK HERE IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AND GIVE ME THE REAL NAME OF YOUR LEADER.

OR I'LL HAVE MY BROTHERS IN BLUE PICK YOU UP AND THEN I'LL COME TO VISIT.

EITHER WAY... I'LL GET WHAT I WANT.



WELL?

WHO GETS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION?



THREE... THREE-THIRTEEN AXELROD DRIVE IN SKYWAY CITY...

ASK FOR CASSANDRA DARE.



SEE? WASN'T SO HARD, WAS IT?

AND NOW I GET TO BE THE HERO AND YOU GET TO BE LEFT ALONE.

FOR NOW, ANYWAY.

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK

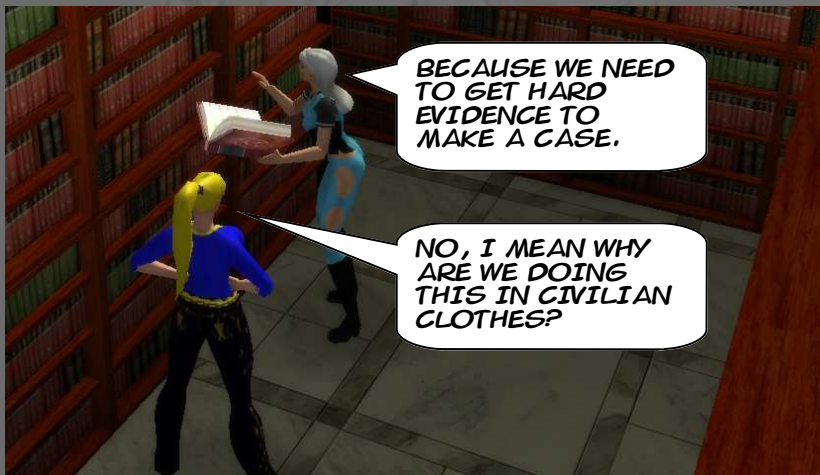
THE NEXT MORNING...



CITY RECORDS OFFICE



REMIND ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE DOING IT THIS WAY.



BECAUSE WE NEED TO GET HARD EVIDENCE TO MAKE A CASE.

NO, I MEAN WHY ARE WE DOING THIS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES?



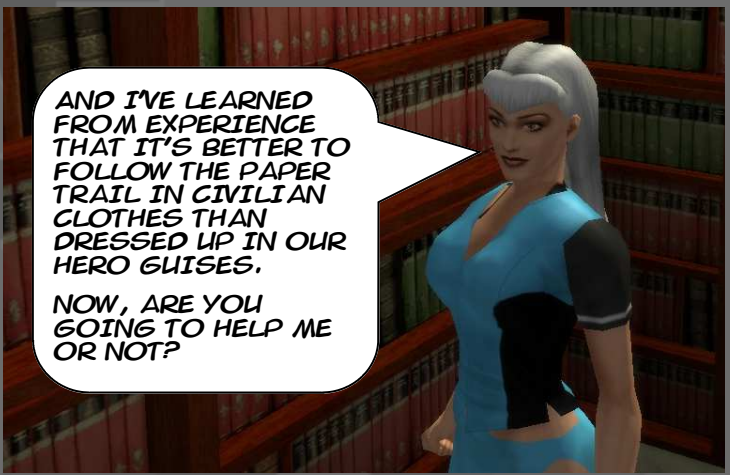
OR, AT LEAST I'M IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES. YOU'RE WEARING... WHAT, "SPACE SHUTTLE CHIC"?

Persia Theron  
AKA ARTEMA

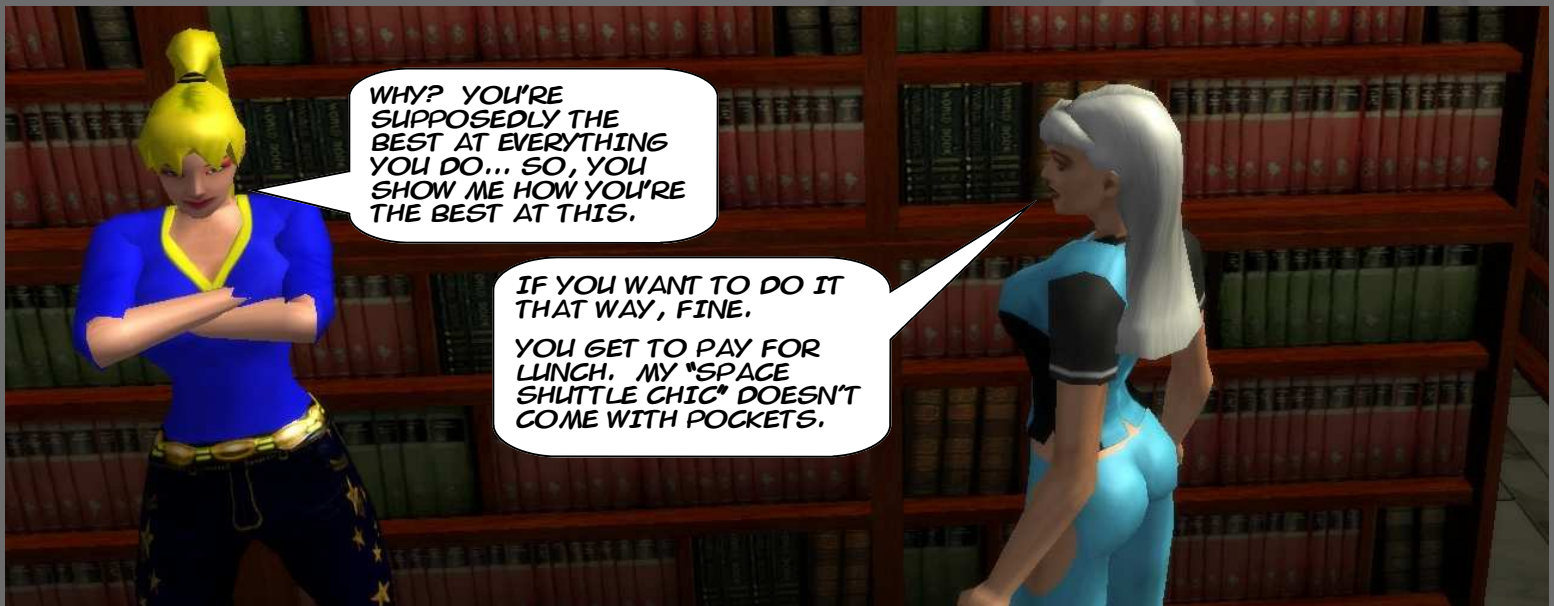


I SPENT MY FORMATIVE YEARS IN A COVEN SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. WE DON'T EXACTLY KEEP UP WITH FASHION.

Cynthia Di Ghiaccio  
AKA ELITE ICE QUEEN



AND I'VE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IT'S BETTER TO FOLLOW THE PAPER TRAIL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES THAN DRESSED UP IN OUR HERO GUISES. NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME OR NOT?



WHY? YOU'RE SUPPOSEDLY THE BEST AT EVERYTHING YOU DO... SO, YOU SHOW ME HOW YOU'RE THE BEST AT THIS.

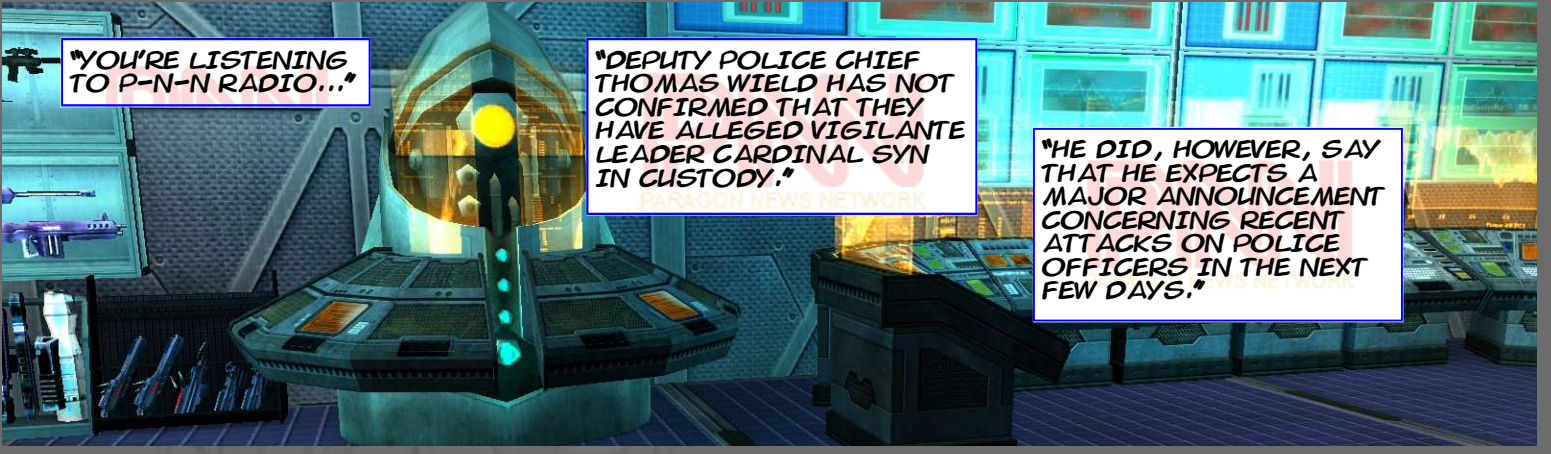
IF YOU WANT TO DO IT THAT WAY, FINE. YOU GET TO PAY FOR LUNCH. MY "SPACE SHUTTLE CHIC" DOESN'T COME WITH POCKETS.



CASSANDRA DARE'S APARTMENT

AXELROD DRIVE - SKYWAY CITY

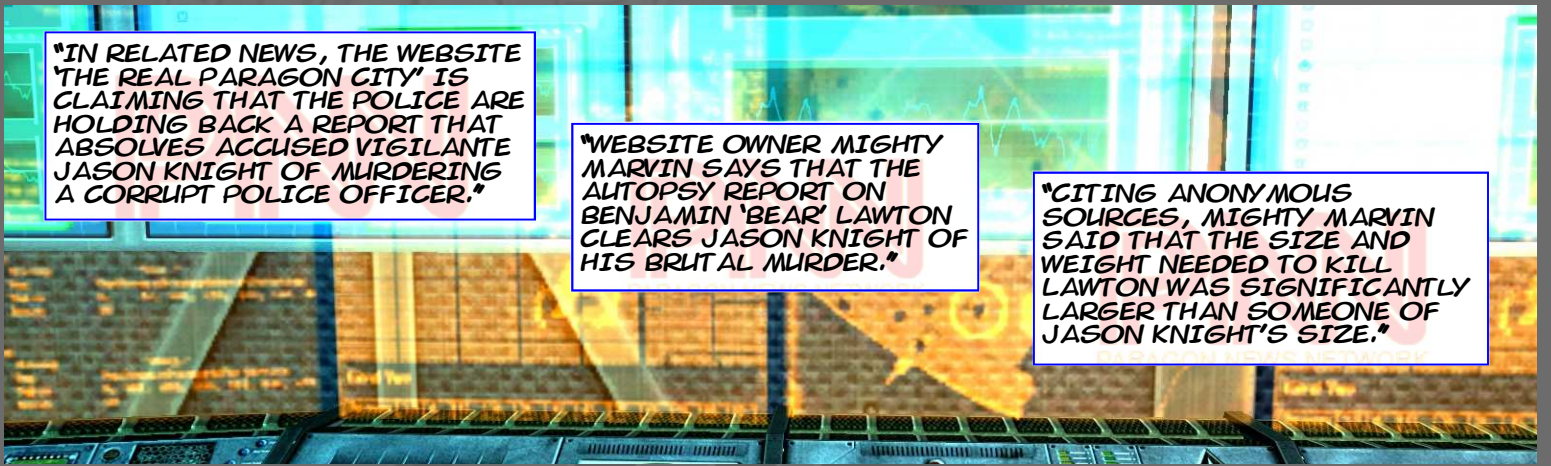




"YOU'RE LISTENING TO P-N-N RADIO..."

"DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF THOMAS WIELD HAS NOT CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE ALLEGED VIGILANTE LEADER CARDINAL SYN IN CUSTODY."

"HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT HE EXPECTS A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING RECENT ATTACKS ON POLICE OFFICERS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS."



"IN RELATED NEWS, THE WEBSITE 'THE REAL PARAGON CITY' IS CLAIMING THAT THE POLICE ARE HOLDING BACK A REPORT THAT ABSOLVES ACCUSED VIGILANTE JASON KNIGHT OF MURDERING A CORRUPT POLICE OFFICER."

"WEBSITE OWNER MIGHTY MARVIN SAYS THAT THE AUTOPSY REPORT ON BENJAMIN 'BEAR' LAWTON CLEARS JASON KNIGHT OF HIS BRUTAL MURDER."

"CITING ANONYMOUS SOURCES, MIGHTY MARVIN SAID THAT THE SIZE AND WEIGHT NEEDED TO KILL LAWTON WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN SOMEONE OF JASON KNIGHT'S SIZE."



STAND BY...  
STAND BY...  
"DARK MESSIAH"  
ENGAGED



WELCOME.  
THIS UNIT IS CALLED SENTRY.  
STANDING READY TO ASSIST.

Next:  
It is always darkest...

# TASK FORCE NOTES

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

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## **Title (if any)**

What needs to be said here?

*Continues on next page...*

# TASK FORCE NOTES

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*Continued from previous page...*

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

**NEXT ISSUE...**



**CARDINAL SYN IS IN CUSTODY,  
HARD JUSTICE HAS GONE ROGUE,  
THINGS SEEM PRETTY BLEAK FOR  
THE TASK FORCE.**

**WILL THE BLUE DOGS PREVAIL?  
AND \*WHO\* JUST ARRIVED?**

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**WORLD OF WARCRAFT**

**AND MANY, MANY MORE!**

**OUR "CITY" DIDN'T GO AWAY...  
OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

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