

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

AND
THE GUARDIANS



Issue 19
2016



Do You Want To Be Just A Hero? Or Do You Want To Be More Than That?

Once upon a time, being a hero was simple.

But, as with every other profession, with time comes maturation and specialization. And in Paragon City, the “City of Heroes”, it is no longer enough to simply have a costume and a hero name and a willingness to do good.

Today’s heroes need to know how to properly make an arrest, how to handle paperwork, utilize various technical and mystical devices, make a credible presence in court, and comprehend complicated jurisdictional boundaries that cross countries and even whole dimensions.

Most heroes will simply “muddle” through these things and hope for the best. It’s just that they don’t have to.

Paragon City University is there for the hero that is looking to be more than “just a hero”. We offer courses that give heroes the needed tools to make their crusades for justice stand up in court and the means to take their heroic causes to the next level without becoming the next Tyrant. And we offer financial services that will fit into any hero’s meager budget; because we know that not everyone is a genius billionaire philanthropist.

You can choose to be “just a hero”.

Or you can choose to be something more.



Paragon City University

Steel Canyon Founders Falls
Croatoa



www.ParagonCityUniversity.para

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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

Without warning, a massive solar storm erupted from the surface of the sun, spitting out a coronal mass ejection millions of kilometers across towards the Earth at tremendous speed.

It was only through the efforts of the superhuman hybrids known as Peacebringers that the Earth was spared the worst of the damage...

...but not without cost.

Now it's up to Galatea Power's, Paragon City's "True Guardian", to fly to the rescue of her friends and allies.

Thankfully, she won't be doing it alone.

"ICARUS - PART 2"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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The "Justice-Knights" are the creation of Sin Stalker. Dr. Frostberg is the creation of Dr. Frostberg. Biosphere is the creation of Aaron Nellis. The Elite Ice Queen is the creation of David 2 and Theresa Setting.



SOLAR STORM

PNN
Paragon News Network



I'M ROBIN STEED, AND THIS IS PARAGON NEWS NETWORK'S CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THE AFTERMATH OF THE SOLAR STORM.

SOLAR STORM

PNN
Paragon News Network



FOR THOSE THAT TUNED IN LATE...

IT HAS BEEN AN HOUR SINCE THE MONSTROUS CORONAL MASS EJECTION RACED TOWARD EARTH, ONLY TO BE PARTIALLY BLOCKED BY A GROUP OF HUMAN-ALIEN HYBRIDS CALLED PEACEBRINGERS.



"BUT THE C-M-E STILL HAD AN IMPACT ON THE PLANET."

ROBIN STEED · PNN ANCHOR

PNN
Paragon News Network

ATLAS PARK · EARLIER TODAY

PNN
Paragon News Network



THE BLINDING LIGHT OF THE SOLAR STORM LASTED FOR A FEW MINUTES.

BUT DURING THAT TIME, THE AIR WAS LITERALLY SATURATED WITH ENERGY.

DEVICES THAT WERE TURNED OFF, EVEN UNPLUGGED, WOULD SUDDENLY TURN ON.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN OVERLOADED POWER TRANSFORMERS AND RELAY STATIONS ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

MAJOR CITIES AROUND THE WORLD ARE EXPERIENCING BLACKOUTS AND BROWNOUTS.

SOLAR STORM · EARTH RECOVERS FROM C-M-E

PNN
Paragon News Network



BUT IF YOU'RE WATCHING THIS, THEN YOU KNOW THAT NOT ALL CITIES ARE AFFECTED BY THE POWER OVERLOADS AND OUTAGES.

PARAGON CITY HAS MANAGED TO BE SPARED MOST OF THE EFFECTS THANKS TO THE HUGE WAR WALLS THAT WERE ERECTED DURING THE RIKTI INVASION OF 2002.

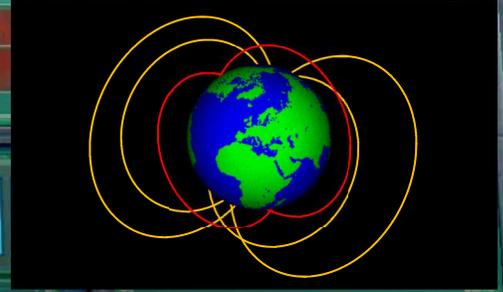
HOWEVER... THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE MANAGED TO GET THROUGH THIS UNSCATHED.

C-M-E · BLACKOUTS IN MAJOR CITIES · RIOTING

PNN
Paragon News Network

ACCORDING TO AN EARLIER STATEMENT MADE BY CITADEL OF THE FREEDOM PHALANX*, A SECOND MAGNETIC FIELD WAS FORMED JUST PRIOR TO THE IMPACT OF THE EJECTED SOLAR MATTER.

IN OTHER WORDS, EARTH BRIEFLY HAD TWO MAGNETIC NORTH POLES.



◀ LAST ISSUE

SECOND MAGNETIC FIELD SAVES EARTH?



WE CAN'T TELL YET WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE THIS WOULD HAVE ON DATA SYSTEMS IN THE CITY.

WE DO KNOW THAT THE POWER IS OUT FOR ALL OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE TALOS ISLAND AREA. CITY WORKERS ARE TRYING TO FIX THIS.

SOLAR STORM



TALOS ISLAND BLACKOUT



RESIDENTS IN THE TALOS ISLAND AREA ARE ASKED TO STAY INDOORS, AS RAMPANT LOOTING IS STILL A PROBLEM UNTIL BOTH ELECTRICITY AND ORDER ARE RESTORED.

ALL AVAILABLE HEROES ARE URGED TO COORDINATE WITH THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HERO GROUP, WHICH HAS TAKEN THE LEAD AS WE ATTEMPT TO RECOVER FROM THIS CRISIS.

HEROES NEEDED · RIOTING · SOLAR STORM

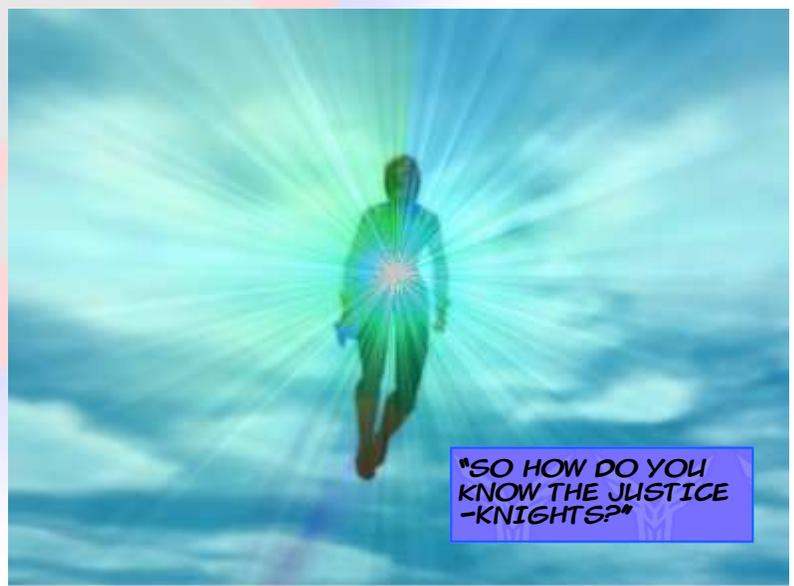
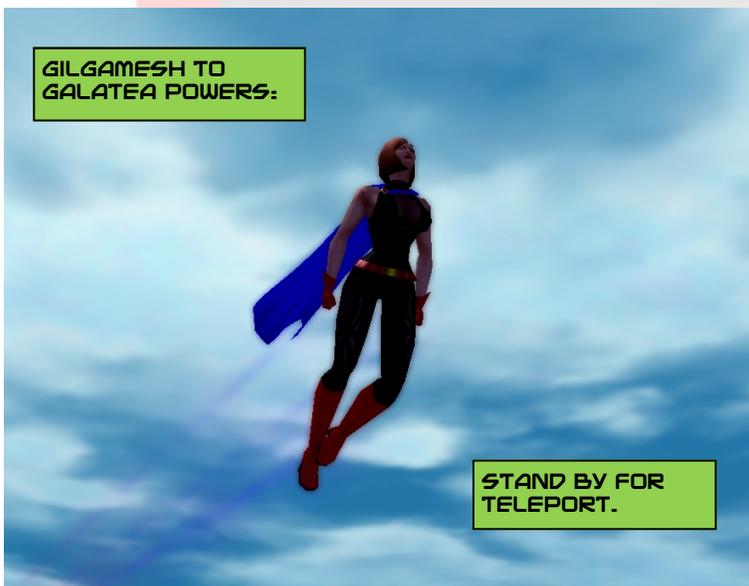
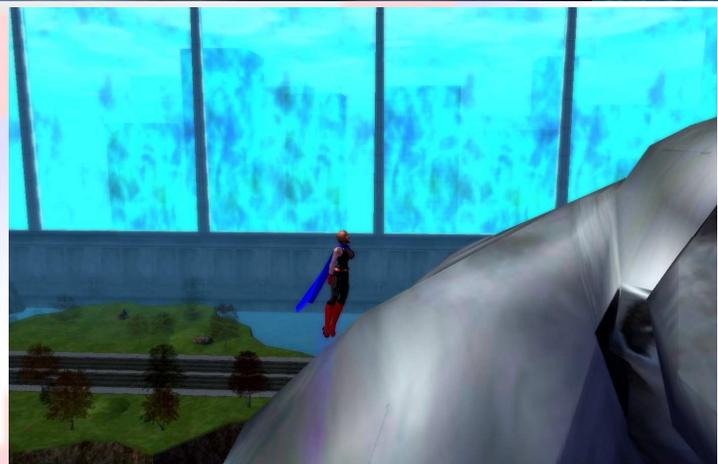


TALOS ISLAND, PARAGON CITY, RI, USA

STATUE OF TALOS (LIFE-SIZE)

MEANWHILE A RESCUE EFFORT IS UNDERWAY TO FIND THE BRAVE KHELDIAN HYBRIDS THAT PUT THEIR MERGED LIVES ON THE LINE TO SAVE THIS PLANET.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON THEIR PROGRESS AS SOON AS WE GET THEM.





I KNOW DAT ABANK HAS BEEN HELPFUL WITH THE GROUP, BUT HOW DID ALL OF THAT GET STARTED?

Carlton Sage
VANGUARD OVERSEER



GALATEA, JASON KNIGHT, AND MYSELF WERE SERVING WITH ZETA SQUAD FOR VANGUARD WHEN WE FIRST CAME ACROSS THE KNIGHTS.

Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)



SO YOU WERE PART OF THE WHOLE ARMSTRONG INCIDENT.*
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. THE MAN SEEMED TO HAVE IDEAS THAT WERE DIFFERENT FROM VANGUARD'S.

BUT, STILL, LADY GREY AND HER PEOPLE BURIED THAT INCIDENT SO DEEP THAT EVEN I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE DETAILS.
SO HOW DID YOU GET THEM TO TRUST YOU NOW AFTER WHAT YOU DID THEN?

* KEEP WATCHING THE PAGES OF "THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS" AT JK COMICS FOR THAT STORY TO BE TOLD IN THE NEAR-FUTURE.*



BECAUSE WE WERE THE ONES THAT SHUT ARMSTRONG DOWN.
THAT'S WHY.



...
HMM...
OKAY.



THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW A GROUP OF D-LISTED HEROES ARE PERFECTLY SUITED TO MOUNT A RESCUE WITH GALATEA.
WHAT DO THEY HAVE THAT WE DON'T?

THE ONE THING THAT NO OTHER SUPER-GROUP HAS, SAGE.
A FUNCTIONING REPURPOSED RIKTI MOTHERSHIP.



PERMISSION TO
COME ABOARD.

OF
COURSE.



WELCOME BACK,
GALATEA.
WE'RE PRETTY LIGHT
TODAY, BUT WE
SHOULD BE IN
POSITION TO BRING
THE OTHER KNIGHTS
ABOARD SOON.

 **Biosphere**
(AARON NELLIS)



I'M SORRY, BUT WE
DON'T HAVE THE
TIME TO BRING
THEM UP HERE.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU
WERE ABLE TO GET
ME WITH ALL THE
AMBIENT ENERGY
IN THE AIR.



YOU SHOULD BE LUCKY WE WERE
EVEN ABLE TO GET YOU AT ALL
AFTER WHAT YOUR GROUP DID.
WE HAD NO WARNING THAT YOU
WERE GOING TO CREATE A
SECOND MAGNETIC FIELD!
WE HAD TO PUT THE SHIP IN
ORBIT BEHIND THE MOON IN
ORDER TO REMAIN FUNCTIONAL.

WHAT WERE YOU
GUYS THINKING
DOING THAT
WITHOUT LETTING
ANYONE KNOW?



UNFORTUNATELY THAT WASN'T
MY CALL TO MAKE.
DAYBRIGHT WAS THE ONE
THAT INVOKED THE OVERRIDE.
SO... IF WE RESCUE HER, YOU
CAN THEN ASK HER WHAT SHE
WAS THINKING.
FAIR ENOUGH?





WELL YOU CAN TAKE THAT UP WITH OUR HELMSMAN.



I LIKE WHAT YOU DID TO THE SHIP.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU RESTORED SOME OF THE RIKTI FEEL TO IT.

THANKS. ACTUALLY WE HAD SOME HELP FROM THE TAOSIANS.



WE WERE ABLE TO RESTORE THE TRUE BRIDGE AND PURGE ALL OF THE OLD MALWARE THAT ACCELERATOR 2.0 PUT IN THAT ALLOWED HIM TO SABOTAGE THE SHIP IN THE FIRST PLACE.*

WAIT, ISN'T THE BRIDGE THE OTHER WAY?

← *JUSTICE-KNIGHTS* #10 →



TURNED OUT THAT WAS THE SECURITY CONTROL ROOM WE WERE USING ALL THAT TIME.

GO FIGURE, RIGHT?
ANYWAY IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER HERE.



HERE WE ARE...
WHAT'S OUR STATUS?



WE ARE APPROACHING
THE APPROXIMATE
LOCATION OF THE
FIRST PLATFORM.



AMBIENT SOLAR ENERGY IS
MAKING SCANNING DIFFICULT.
IN ADDITION, THERE IS
DEBRIS FROM DESTROYED
SATELLITES IN THE AREA.
THIS IS ALSO HINDERING
SCANNING.

GREETINGS FRIEND
GALATEA POWERS.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

Databank
JUSTICE-KNIGHTS MEMBER



IT'S GOOD TO
SEE YOU TOO,
DATABANK.

YOU HEARD WHAT
DATABANK JUST
SAID...

ALL OF THE
SATELLITES THAT
WERE DESTROYED
BY THE EJECTED
SOLAR MATTER
WILL ACT LIKE
RADAR CHAFF
AGAINST EVEN
OUR SENSORS.



THEN DON'T SEARCH FOR MASS.
LET THE SHIP'S SHIELDS
DEFLECT THE SMALL DEBRIS.
CONFIGURE THE SENSORS TO
LOOK FOR BIO-ENERGY.
IF I KNEW OFF THE TOP OF MY
HEAD THE BIO-ENERGY
SIGNATURE FOR KHELDIANS, WE
COULD FINE-TUNE THE SENSORS
TO LOOK FOR THAT.

I THINK WE MAY BE
IN LUCK.
DOCTOR
FROSTBURG: HAVE
YOU BEEN
LISTENING IN?

INFIRMARY

I HAVE, AND WE ALREADY HAVE THE KHELDIAN BIO-ENERGY SIGNATURE THANKS TO DATABANK'S CONSULTING WORK WITH THE GUARDIANS.

 **Dr. Frostburg**
(DR. FREDRICK ROSSBERG)



I'VE BEEN CONFIGURING THE MEDICAL TELEPORTERS TO RECOGNIZE KHELDIAN PHYSIOLOGY TO SPEED UP THE RECOVERY TIME.



GILGAMESH HAS REACHED THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE FIRST PLATFORM.

OH MY GOD...



IS THAT...? SUNSTORM?



WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM.



 **Sunstorm**
PEACEBRINGER COORDINATOR

HELIOS TOWERS - HERO-FRIENDLY CONDOS

TALOS ISLAND

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW SILENT EVERYTHING IS RIGHT NOW.

NO ELECTRICITY.

NO TV.

NO "SMART APARTMENT".

Furia Powers
(FIONA PODERES)

NO POWER MEANS NO REFRIGERATION.

EVERYTHING WILL START TO THAW AND SPOIL EVENTUALLY.

ABOUT THE ONLY THING I CAN DRINK RIGHT NOW IS THIS MEDICATION TO HELP HEAL MY WHACKED-OUT BODY.

EVEN THE SINKS WON'T WORK... SO NO WATER.

UNLESS I WANT TO DRINK FROM THE TOILET. UGH!

BUT... SOMETHING IS STILL RUNNING.

WHAT THE HELL IS IT?

IT'S COMING FROM TAY A'S SECRET HIDEAWAY.

SHE RECENTLY HAD TO TELL ME THAT SHE TURNED PART OF THE BUILDING'S ORIGINAL "HEAVEN AND HELL" EXIT INTO HER PERSONAL DATACENTER.

BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THERE BEFORE.

I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD...

THE ROGINANTE GROUP

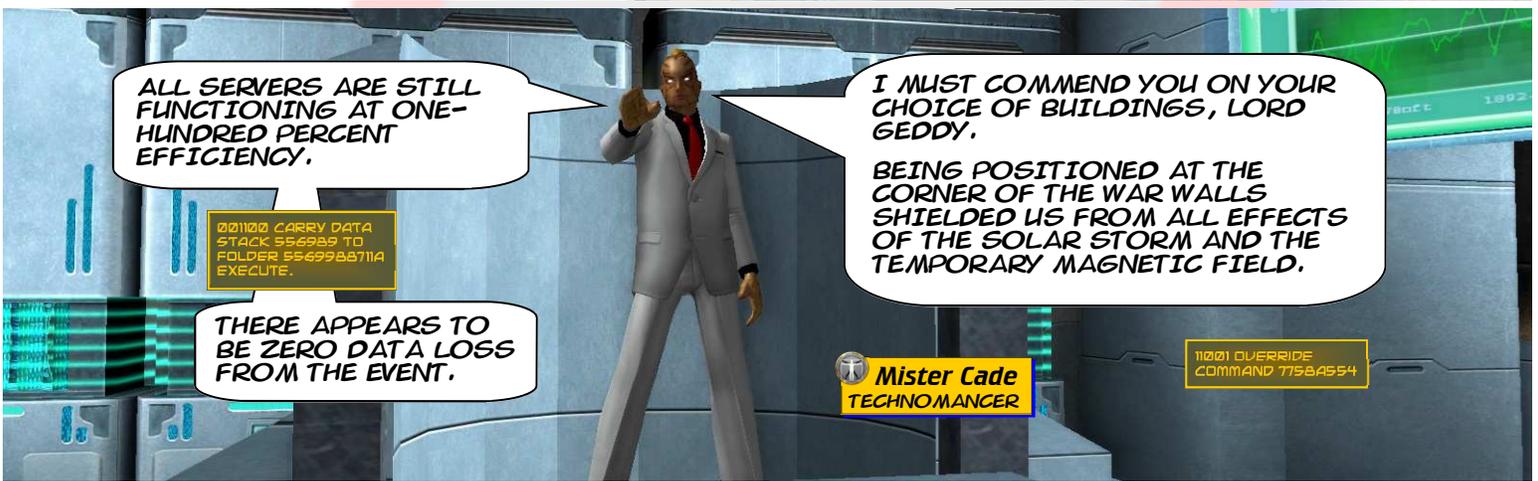
PEREZ PARK



WELL, I CAN SEE YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF QUITE AT HOME HERE, MISTER CADE.

WHAT'S THE STATUS OF OUR SYSTEMS?

Lord Lee Geddy
MARGRAVE OF NIAGARA



ALL SERVERS ARE STILL FUNCTIONING AT ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT EFFICIENCY.

0011000 CARRY DATA STACK 556989 TO FOLDER 556998A8711A EXECUTE.

THERE APPEARS TO BE ZERO DATA LOSS FROM THE EVENT.

I MUST COMMEND YOU ON YOUR CHOICE OF BUILDINGS, LORD GEDDY.

BEING POSITIONED AT THE CORNER OF THE WAR WALLS SHIELDED US FROM ALL EFFECTS OF THE SOLAR STORM AND THE TEMPORARY MAGNETIC FIELD.

Mister Cade
TECHNOMANCER

11001 OVERRIDE COMMAND 7758A554



A BYPRODUCT OF MY DUE DILIGENCE.

NOW, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THAT TEMPORARY MAGNETIC FIELD?



I BELIEVE I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TRIANGULATED ITS APPROXIMATE POINT OF ORIGIN ON TALOS ISLAND.

10010 COMPRESS PACKAGE 002556



IF I AM RIGHT, IT SHOULD ALSO GIVE YOU THE LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

100001 RELEASE DATA STREAM 5569

EXCELLENT. MAKE SURE THAT INFORMATION FINDS ITS WAY TO LEXIE LOTHORA AND HER PEOPLE, PLEASE.

I'M SURE THEY WILL WANT TO CAPITALIZE ON THAT.

0010 BEGIN TRANSMISSION 0010



I'VE MANAGED TO STABILIZE SUNSTORM'S CONDITION FOR NOW.



UNFORTUNATELY HE'S THE BEST-CASE PATIENT HERE.
I HAVE DOZENS OF KHELDIANS IN DIGITAL STASIS BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO BADLY INJURED TO BE RESTORED HERE.



PRETTY MUCH EVERY ORBITAL PLATFORM IN THE PATH OF THE SOLAR MATERIAL WAS OBLITERATED.

BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF THE KHELDIANS THAT TOOK PART IN THE OPERATION.
AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF DAYBRIGHT.



FRIEND GALATEA POWERS, THE SENSORS ARE READING SEVERAL BIO-ENERGY SIGNATURES IDENTIFIED AS KHELDIAN ON THE SOLID MASS AHEAD.



A PLATFORM SURVIVED?

THERE IS AN EIGHTY-EIGHT PERCENT LIKELIHOOD.



TELEPORTING ANY SURVIVING KHELDIANS OFF THE SURFACE OF THAT AREA WILL BE DIFFICULT.

FLOATING IN SPACE IS ONE THING... BUT THAT EXCESS ENERGY MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO GET A STEADY LOCK ON THEM.



THEN I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING I BROUGHT A CERTAIN OUTFIT THAT SERGE DESIGNED FOR ME.



WOW...

IT'S COOL IN HERE.

HOW IS ALL OF THIS BEING POWERED?

I SHOULD STAY HERE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED IN THE BUILDING.

I SHOULD REALLY ASK HER HOW SHE DID IT.



I DON'T EVEN KNOW HALF THE LANGUAGES BEING DISPLAYED.

BUT THIS ONE SCREEN...

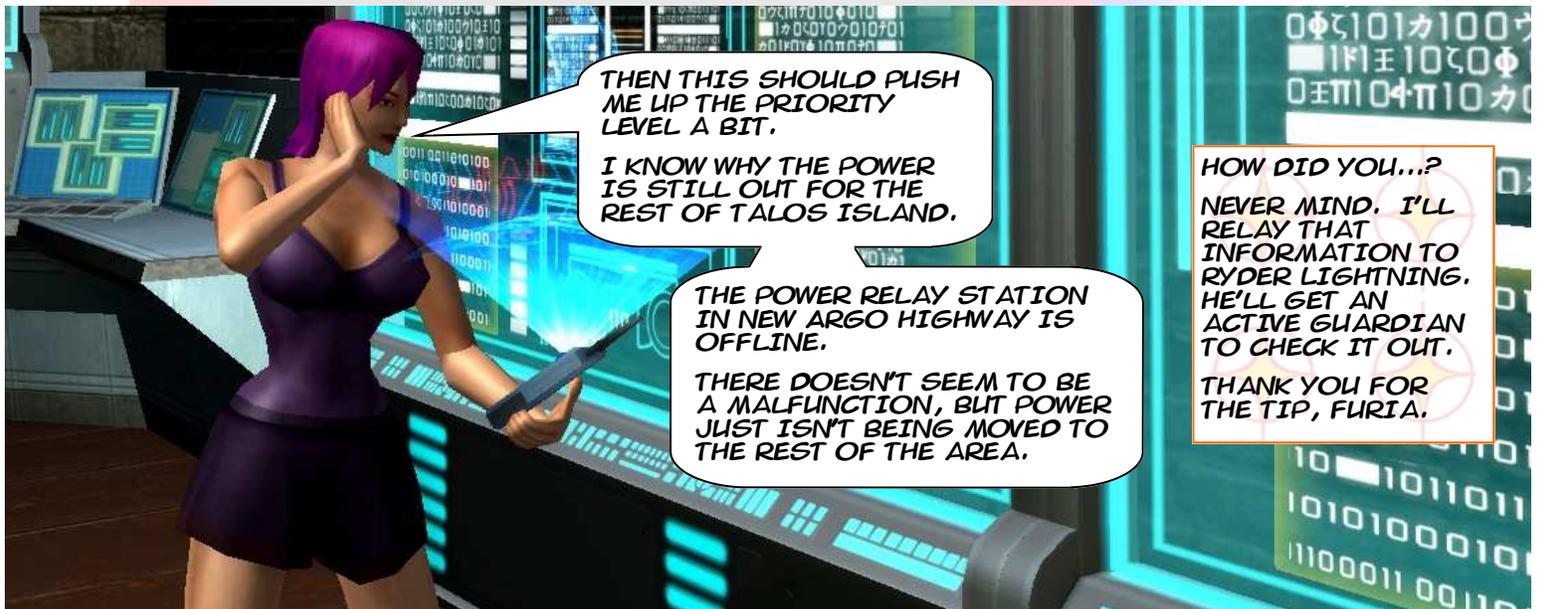
NOW I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE POWER.



GUARDIAN BASE, THIS IS FURIA POWERS.



FURIA, THIS IS IVY AT GUARDIAN BASE. THE OTHER GUARDIANS ARE TIED UP RIGHT NOW.



THEN THIS SHOULD PUSH ME UP THE PRIORITY LEVEL A BIT.

I KNOW WHY THE POWER IS STILL OUT FOR THE REST OF TALOS ISLAND.

THE POWER RELAY STATION IN NEW ARGO HIGHWAY IS OFFLINE.

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A MALFUNCTION, BUT POWER JUST ISN'T BEING MOVED TO THE REST OF THE AREA.

HOW DID YOU...?

NEVER MIND. I'LL RELAY THAT INFORMATION TO RYDER LIGHTNING. HE'LL GET AN ACTIVE GUARDIAN TO CHECK IT OUT.

THANK YOU FOR THE TIP, FURIA.

Base Staffers

Professional Staffing

Safe and Confidential

Don't let mundane monitor duty kill the morale in your hero group!

We provide professional staffing for your supergroup needs, regardless of base size or membership.

All staffing members are professionally screened and have strict confidentiality agreements on file to guarantee your secret identities are safe.

http://www.base_staffers.para

Base Staffers is a fictional business. Not a real-world business. Any similarities to a real-world business is coincidental.

PANDORA'S BOX



MAGIC IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TREATED LIGHTLY. HAVING THE RIGHT CHARMS AND SPELLS ON HAND CAN LITERALLY BE A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH.

WE OFFER THE BEST TOOLS FOR MYSTICS, MAGES, WIZARDS, AND SORCERERS OF ALL FOLLOWINGS AND COLLECTIVES.

WE ALSO OFFER FREE SCREENINGS FOR THOSE BELIEVED TO BE "CHARMED" OR "CURSED".

COME IN TODAY AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

SKYWAY CITY - STEEL CANYON - INDEPENDENCE PORT - TALOS ISLAND

Pandora's Box is a business that only exists in the City of Heroes MMO. Not a real-world business franchise... Any similarities to a real-world business is coincidental, and really should be suspect.

**"MY NAME IS MOLLY RHONE,
AND THIS IS MY STORY..."**

**EXCEPT THAT IT ISN'T HER
STORY!**

There was no police report filed by a
"Molly Rhone" in Paragon City.

There was no testimony made to the
Rhode Island Senate, nor was there
ever a State Senate Subcommittee on Superhero Activities.

In fact, the events described in the "Molly Rhone" ad
could not happen on a September 31st in any year, because
September only has thirty days.

So who is "Molly Rhone"?

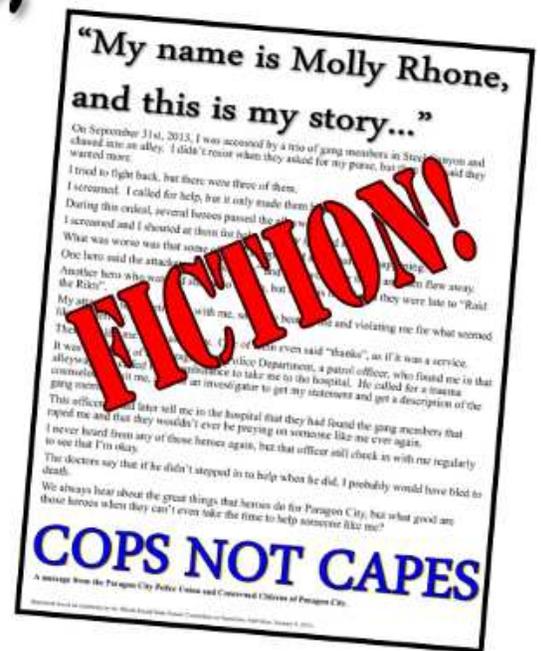
Nobody seems to know other than the Paragon City Police
Union and the "Concerned Citizens of Paragon City". The
only place she seems to exist is in their propaganda
message against heroes.

Paragon City deserves to know who this "Molly Rhone" is
and see if her story is true.

And if it isn't, then we need to know why the police would
create a fictional victim for a crime that did not exist.

WE DESERVE THE TRUTH!

A message from Mighty Marvin. Read his blog at www.parabloger.mightymarvin.para



TALOS ISLAND SUBSTATION

GUARDIAN BASE,
THIS IS THE ELITE
ICE QUEEN
REPORTING IN.

Elite Ice Queen
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)



I'VE FOUND THE
SOURCE OF THE
POWER OUTAGE.



LOOKS LIKE THE
BANISHED PANTHEON
DECIDED TO TURN THE
SUBSTATION INTO
THEIR STORM SHELTER
-SLASH-BONGO CLUB.

WE ADVISE EXTREME
CAUTION WHEN DEALING
WITH THEM.
REMEMBER, THEIR PATRON
GOD IS MOT; THE SAME
GOD THAT CORRUPTED
JASON KNIGHT TWICE.*

* GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GRADUATION #3



OH PLEASE!
THESE WALKING
DEAD REJECTS
CAN'T EVEN TIE
THEIR SHOELACES
WITHOUT SOME
VOODOO PRIEST
CHANTING THE
INSTRUCTIONS.



HEY
DEADHEADS!



PARTY'S
OVER!

* CRACKLE *



OKAY, SO THEY'RE A LITTLE TOUGH...

BZZZZT



OOF! THAT HURT, BITCH!

BZZZZT

SLAM!



IF YOU GUYS WEREN'T DEAD I'D KILL YOU MYSELF JUST FOR THAT!

BZZZZT



OH COME ON GIGANTOR, FALL ALREADY!

BZZZZT



OKAY, THIS SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE...

IF I REMEMBERED EVERYTHING FROM MY BASIC PARAGON 101 CLASS...



THE HELL...?

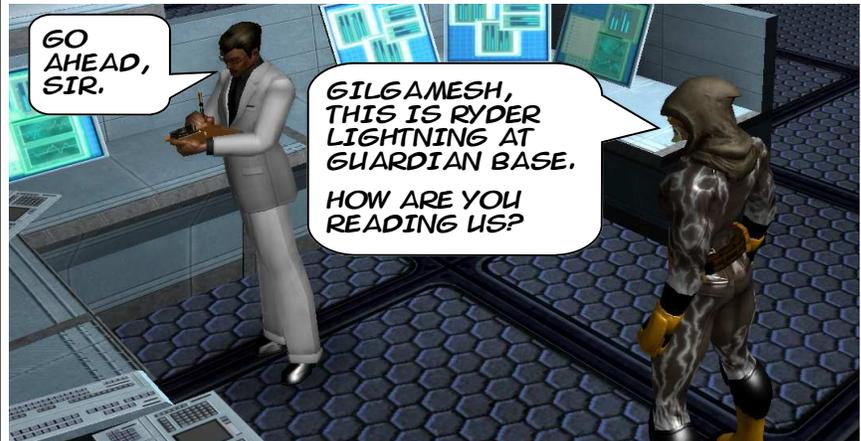
"PLEASE INITIATE REBOOT AT SUB-LEVEL THREE FOR RESTORATION OF SYSTEMS."



SIGH

WHY COULDN'T I BE HELPING GALATEA?

"SIR? WEVE ESTABLISHED A SECURE DATA LINK BETWEEN OUR SYSTEMS AND WITH THE GILGAMESH."



GO AHEAD, SIR.

GILGAMESH, THIS IS RYDER LIGHTNING AT GUARDIAN BASE. HOW ARE YOU READING US?



AUDIO CLARITY IS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE PARAMETERS, FRIEND RYDER LIGHTNING. YOU HAVE ACCESS TO OUR NETWORK AND SENSORY SYSTEMS.



PLEASE BE AWARE THAT FRIEND GALATEA POWERS HAS JUST DEPARTED FROM THE GILGAMESH.

"I PRESUME THERE'S A REASON?"

THE AMBIENT ENERGY SURROUNDING THE SURVIVING DEFENSE PLATFORM IS TOO STRONG FOR THE SHIP'S MEDICAL TELEPORTERS TO FUNCTION PROPERLY.

SHE IS FLYING THERE HERSELF TO DISTRIBUTE EMERGENCY PATCHES TO SERVE AS A BOOSTER. SHE SAID SHE HAS DONE THIS BEFORE.



THE GALAXY CITY MIRACLE...* I HOPE SHE AT LEAST BROUGHT HER SPACESUIT.

(*THE GUARDIAN POWERS* #15)



"YOU KNOW I CAN HEAR YOU TWO TALK IN THIS THING."

THAT WOULD BE AN AFFIRMATIVE, FRIEND RYDER LIGHTNING.



DON'T WORRY, I MADE SURE THE SUIT WAS TIED IN WITH THE GILGAMESH BEFORE I STEPPED OUT.

"YOUR READINGS ARE SOMEWHAT ELEVATED, FRIEND GALATEA POWERS."

WELL I HAVEN'T BEEN IN SPACE SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER IN MY OWN UNIVERSE. BUT I'M FINE! AND YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW IF I WASN'T.

"NEVERTHELESS, IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, I WANT YOUR BUTT BACK ON THE GILGAMESH, ASAP!"

YES MOM.



WHAT THE HELL?



YOU KNOW, FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO, YOU'RE NOT THAT GREAT WHEN IT COMES TO WATCHING YOUR OWN BACK.

I MEAN, SERIOUSLY? A SHAMAN AND ONE OF THE HUSKS WERE ABOUT TO GET THE DROP ON YOU IF I DIDN'T STEP UP TO SAVE YOUR ASS.



BY THE WAY, THE BANISHED PANTHEON WERE TRYING TO UNLOCK THE SEALED WAR WALL GATE TO DARK ASTORIA SO MOT COULD TAKE THE REST OF THE CITY. JUST IN CASE YOU WERE INTERESTED.

NOTHING I COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ON MY OWN. BUT... THANKS FOR THE TIP.

NOW WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?



YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH. DON'T WORRY, WE'LL MEET AGAIN.



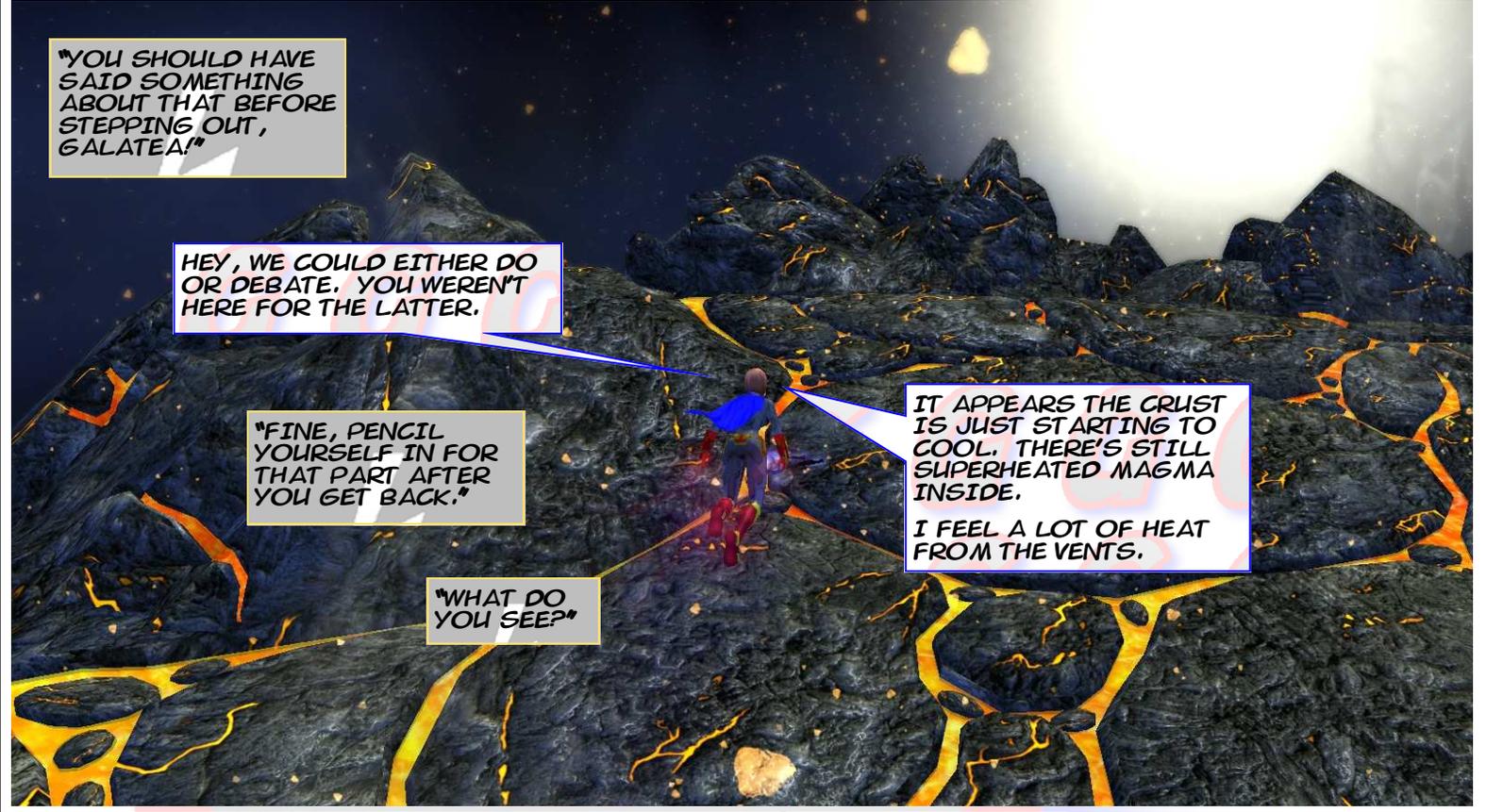


GILGAMESH, I'M OVER THE ORBITING MASS... IT BARELY RESEMBLES THE DEFENSE PLATFORM THAT IT USED TO BE.

CAN'T WEAR IT. IT WAS DESIGNED BEFORE I HAD LASER-VISION.

"THERE IS NO SIGNAL COMING FROM YOUR VISOR."

IF I HAVE TO USE THAT POWER NOW, IT WOULD MELT THE WHOLE HEADPIECE, INCLUDING COMMUNICATION AND MY BREATHER.



"YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THAT BEFORE STEPPING OUT, GALATEA!"

HEY, WE COULD EITHER DO OR DEBATE. YOU WEREN'T HERE FOR THE LATTER.

"FINE, PENCIL YOURSELF IN FOR THAT PART AFTER YOU GET BACK."

"WHAT DO YOU SEE?"

IT APPEARS THE CRUST IS JUST STARTING TO COOL. THERE'S STILL SUPERHEATED MAGMA INSIDE.

I FEEL A LOT OF HEAT FROM THE VENTS.



I CAN FEEL SOME GRAVITY PULLING ME TO THE SURFACE.



I'M STEPPING ONTO THE SURFACE NOW.



NNF!

"FRIEND GALATEA POWERS, WHAT IS WRONG?"

NOTHING... JUST A LITTLE FLUSH RIGHT NOW.



FRIEND BIOSPHERE, THERE IS AN URGENT MATTER THAT REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION.



GILGAMESH, WE'RE READING GALATEA'S POWER LEVELS INCREASING.



THIS IS BIOSPHERE. I'M MONITORING HER READINGS FROM THE INFIRMARY.



I SAID I'M FINE! I JUST SPOTTED ONE OF THE KHELDIANS IN THEIR SQUID FORM.



FRIEND BIOSPHERE, THERE IS ANOTHER URGENT MATTER THAT REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION.



IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR A FEW MINUTES, DATABANK. I'M TRYING TO STABILIZE THE KHELDIANS IN DIGITAL STASIS SO THEY CAN BE RESTORED IN THEIR HYBRID FORM, OTHERWISE WE'LL START RUNNING OUT OF STORAGE SPACE AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TELEPORT THE OTHERS HERE.



ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU RECEIVE MY RADIO SIGNAL?

[I CAN COMMUNICATE THROUGH RADIO. YES.]



WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE ARE THE OTHER KHELDIANS?



[THE OTHERS ARE HERE...]
[THE REDEEMER SAVED US...]
[TOO WEAK TO CHANGE...]



CAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF SOLD ENOUGH TO TAKE HOLD OF THIS EMERGENCY MEDICAL PATCH? WE HAVE A SHIP THAT CAN HELP YOU HEAL.

[I WILL TRY...]



SIR, IF I'M READING THE DATA FROM THE GILGAMESH RIGHT, THAT PLATFORM CONTAINS A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF NEUTRINOS FROM THE SOLAR MASS...



BUT... I'M GETTING FLUCTUATIONS IN THE QUANTUM SIGNATURE. IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE SOLAR MASS THAT HIT IT WASN'T FROM OUR SUN.



I DON'T LIKE THIS.
GILGAMESH, CAN YOU BRING GALATEA BACK?



THAT IS NOT CURRENTLY POSSIBLE, FRIEND RYDER LIGHTNING.



WHOO...
GOT A LITTLE FLUSTERED THERE...



GALATEA, YOUR HEARTRATE IS NOW TWICE YOUR NORMAL AVERAGE.
YOU NEED TO COME IN.



OH MY GOD I FOUND HER!



"I FOUND DAYBRIGHT!"



DAYBRIGHT, CAN YOU HEAR ME? CAN YOU HEAR MY RADIO SIGNAL?

"DON'T WAIT FOR HER TO RESPOND, GALATEA. JUST PUT THE PATCH ON HER SO THE KNIGHTS CAN BEAM HER ABOARD AND YOU CAN GET OUT OF THERE!"



[TAYA? HOW...?]

Daybright
(GRACE FELLOWS)



I TOLD YOU I HAD YOUR BACK.
THE OTHERS SAY YOU SAVED THEM.



[THE STORM... IT WAS WORSE THAN MY KHELDIAN HALF EVER EXPERIENCED...]
[WE WERE DRAWN TO THE PLATFORM... LIKE A BUOY. IT KEPT US ALIVE.]

[I... I KEPT THE MASS STABLE SO WE COULD SURVIVE OFF THE HEAT... BUT I'M SO TIRED...]



GILGAMESH, I'M GOING TO GIVE HER THE PATCH SO YOU CAN TELEPORT HER ABOARD.
BUT YOU HAVE TO GIVE HER A PRIVATE ROOM... APART FROM THE OTHERS!



[TAYA... BY ALL Z'THL PROTECTED... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?]
[I CAN SEE IT FROM THE INSIDE...]



I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, DAYBRIGHT. DON'T FIGHT IT.

GILGAMESH I JUST ACTIVATED THE PATCH. BEAM HER ABOARD, AND MAKE SURE SHE GETS A PRIVATE ROOM!

[TAYA... WAIT... YOU CAN'T STAY HERE!]



DAMMIT LISTEN TO DAYBRIGHT, GALATEA. YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE SHIP!



NOT YET... I SEE TWO MORE KHELDIANS JUST A DOZEN FEET AWAY.



OKAY, FROSTBURG HAS DAYBRIGHT IN A PRIVATE ROOM, SO WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT?

THE GILGAMESH SENSORS HAVE REPORTED A DRAMATIC SHIFT IN THE PLATFORM'S TECTONIC COMPOSITION.



THE WHOLE PLATFORM IS LAYERED WITH NEUTRINOS IN A STATE OF HYPER-FLUX.

ISN'T THAT WHAT GUARDIAN BASE TOLD US?

AFFIRMATIVE, FRIEND BIOSPHERE, BUT THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE DISCOVERY MADE BY GUARDIAN BASE. PLEASE OBSERVE.



HOW... HOW CERTAIN ARE YOU OF THIS, DATABANK?

I PROJECT A ZERO-THREE PERCENT MARGIN OF ERROR.



IT'S OKAY, DAYBRIGHT. I'M A DOCTOR. JUST LET ME STABILIZE YOUR CONDITION.

YOU... YOU CAN'T... I JUST... RRRRH!... I CAN'T KEEP IT FROM HAPPENING!



LOOK, WHATEVER IT IS, LET ME HELP YOU, OKAY? YOU'RE IN A PRIVATE ROOM LIKE GALATEA REQUESTED.

I CAN'T LET THEM SEE THIS... THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. I'M NOT LIKE THE OTHER PEACEBRINGERS.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I MEAN, GRANTED, YOU'RE ORANGE WITH PURPLE HAIR, BUT...

WAIT, YOU'RE NOT TRANSGENDER, ARE YOU? BECAUSE IF YOU ARE, I'M COOL WITH IT.

WELL, WHATEVER YOU NEED TO DO, YOU CAN DO IT HERE.

AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T INVOLVE BLOWING UP OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

I AM A PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER. SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THE MERGING OF A HUMAN AND A KHELDIAN.

AND, YES, MY KHELDIAN HALF IS MALE, IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT, BUT I AM STILL VERY MUCH FEMALE.





AND YOU'RE SURE YOU ARE THE LAST KHELDIAN HERE?



[I CANNOT SENSE ANY OF THE OTHERS HERE.]



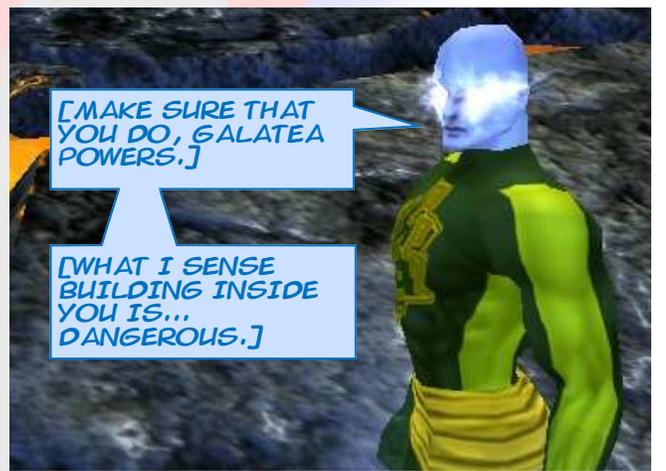
GREAT. JUST ACTIVATE THE PATCH AND YOU'LL BE TELEPORTED TO THE...

... UNNHH...

[ARE YOU OKAY? I CAN SEE A TREMENDOUS SURGE INSIDE YOU..]



I'LL BE FINE. IN FACT, THE SOONER YOU TELEPORT OVER THERE, THE SOONER I CAN FLY BACK TO THE SHIP, OKAY?

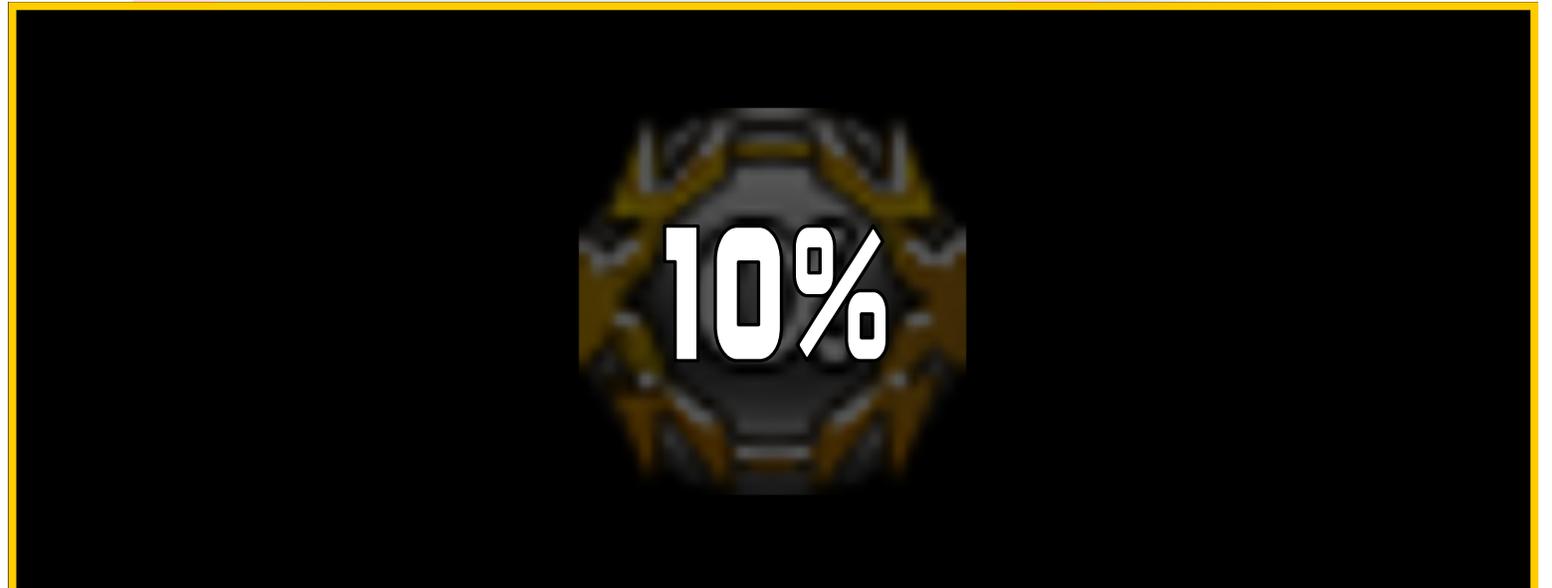
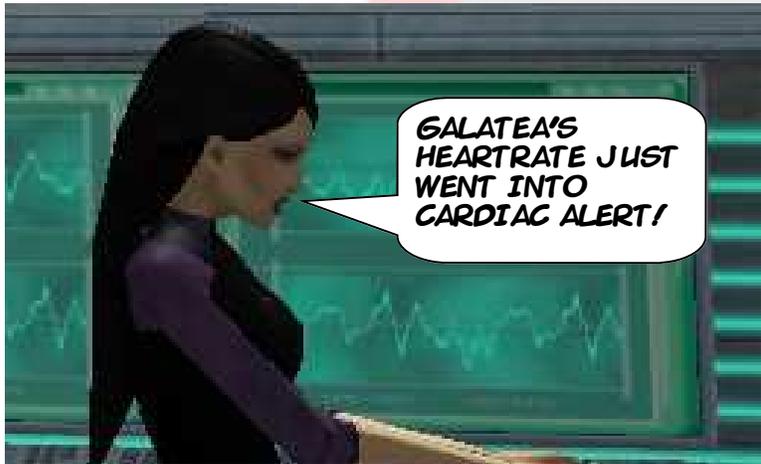


[MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO, GALATEA POWERS.]

[WHAT I SENSE BUILDING INSIDE YOU IS... DANGEROUS.]



OKAY, GALATEA, NOW THAT THE LAST OF THE KHELDIAN HYBRIDS ARE ON THE GILGAMESH, IT'S LONG PAST TIME YOU JOINED THEM. WE DON'T LIKE THE READINGS WE'RE SEEING ABOUT YOUR POWER LEVELS.





SIR, THE GILGAMESH IS DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF SOMETHING IDENTIFIED IN THE VANGUARD FILES AS C-S PARTICLES AROUND GALATEA'S LOCATION.



DID YOU SAY C-S PARTICLES?

YES SIR, THEY DISSIPATED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.



WHAT THE HELL ARE C-S PARTICLES?



THAT'S A LITTLE BIT ABOVE YOUR PAY GRADE RIGHT NOW.

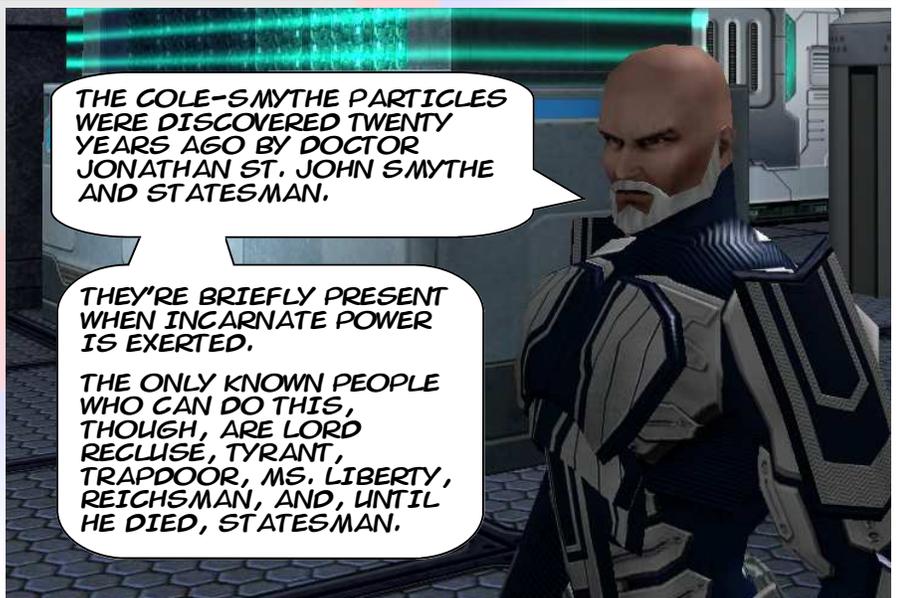


DAMMIT SAGE, YOU DON'T GET TO PULL THAT LINE HERE! NOT NOW!

GALATEA'S MORE THAN JUST A HERO. SHE'S MY FRIEND! I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, AND IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU KNOW THAT EXPLAINS WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HER, THEN YOU WILL EXPLAIN IT TO ME RIGHT HERE AND NOW!



SIGH
OKAY.



THE COLE-SMYTHE PARTICLES WERE DISCOVERED TWENTY YEARS AGO BY DOCTOR JONATHAN ST. JOHN SMYTHE AND STATESMAN.

THEY'RE BRIEFLY PRESENT WHEN INCARNATE POWER IS EXERTED.

THE ONLY KNOWN PEOPLE WHO CAN DO THIS, THOUGH, ARE LORD RECLUSE, TYRANT, TRAPDOOR, MS. LIBERTY, REICHSMAN, AND, UNTIL HE DIED, STATESMAN.



EXERTING C-S PARTICLES DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE'S AN INCARNATE YET.

BUT IT MEANS SHE'S ON THE PATH TO BECOMING ONE. AND WE'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HER HYPER-INTELLIGENCE.



I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT WAS... BUT I'M STILL HERE. CAN... CAN YOU HEAR ME?



'TAYAP? WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY?



FRIEND GALATEA POWERS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU RETURN TO THE GILGAMESH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



I'LL TRY... I'LL...





GUARDIAN BASE,
WE HAVE A NEW
PROBLEM TO DEAL
WITH.



TURNS OUT THAT
DAYBRIGHT AND THE
OTHER KHELDIANS
WERE DOING MORE
THAN JUST DRAWING
GEOTHERMAL ENERGY
FROM THE PLATFORM.
THEY WERE ALSO
KEEPING IT IN A
STABLE ORBIT.



NOW THAT THE KHELDIANS
ARE NO LONGER THERE, THE
PLATFORM ORBIT HAS
DESTABILIZED AND IS
HEADING TOWARDS EARTH.

IS THERE
ANYTHING YOU
CAN DO TO
STOP IT?



WITH THE
KHELDIANS OUT
OF COMMISSION,
OUR ONLY REAL
HOPE OF SAVING
THE PLANET...

... IS LAYING
UNCONSCIOUS
BELOW US.

Next:
*The thrilling
conclusion*

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



United Nations Vanguard Planetary Security And Superhuman Oversight HELM Division



HIGHLY CLASSIFIED

Subject: Incarnates and the Cole-Smythe Particle

CAUTION: The subject matter is considered **highly classified** and should not be shared with those without security level **4** or higher.

Introduction: In 1995, research was conducted at the behest of Marcus Cole, known publicly as the registered superhero Statesman, concerning the level of his abilities as compared to those of other super-powered beings in the world. (Note: at the time, Cole's hero identity was known only to those within the FBSA.)

According to Cole, he received superhuman powers when he drank from the Well of the Furies in the 1930's. He believed that doing so would cure him of the denigrating effects of mustard gas he received during World War I. But he quickly realized that his health was more than just restored; he possessed superhuman strength, speed, and limited invulnerability. He soon decided to use these new powers as a vigilante, taking a stand when ordinary people could not.

After his participation in World War II, Cole discovered that his abilities had grown exponentially. He was soon able to fly, and even had the power to cast bolts of lightning. He also could not age, retaining his mid-twenties appearance over the decades.

During this time, Cole also realized that other heroes did not seem to progress either as fast or to a seemingly infinite degree as him. Most heroes reached a certain plateau for their powers and abilities and then stop progressing.

Wanting to know why, Cole turned to the Scientific Experimentation Research and Application to Paranormal Humans, or S.E.R.A.P.H., a division of the Federal Bureau for Super-Powered Affairs. Doctor Jonathan St. John Smythe, a junior researcher at the time, was put in charge of the research along with Cole.

Dr. Smythe and Cole conducted extensive tests both on Cole and on several other heroes, including those within his own family, especially when it was discovered that they too possessed the same potentially infinite level of power as him. They also included several non-powered humans as a baseline. Their results were made available to the FBSA in December of that year.

Findings: Dr. Smythe and Cole discovered that not all super-powered beings had the same potential power levels. They could develop their powers, but only to a certain level before such advancement would begin to work against them.

Continues on next page...

Several subjects that possess super-speed were able to run faster than previously reported, but only for a limited time, and even then, their bodies would show signs of accelerated cellular failure. Repeated attempts to reach those levels again would further accelerate cellular failure, even after a period of rest and recovery.

The same applied to those with super-strength. Again, they would reach a certain level and proceed no further without risking muscle denigration and injury.

However, Cole and his family members that were studied seemed to possess none of these physical limitations. Cole believed this was because he had initially ingested the waters from the Well of the Furies, since the Well was believed to be a mystical item. Yet even super-powered subject of mystical origins were subject to the same limitation as those with powers from other origins such as mutation.

What Dr. Smythe discovered was that Cole and a limited number of other subjects could exceed previous levels through the presence of unique particles in their bodies. Since the discovery of multiple universes in the late 1980's, both Smythe and Cole speculated that these extra particles were pandimensional in nature. This led them to believe that the Well of the Furies and other certain items were pandimensional as well.

The new particle was dubbed the Cole-Smythe Particle, or "C-S Particle" for short. It was registered as having a half-life of one-half-second, which would not be detectable without the most advanced equipment.

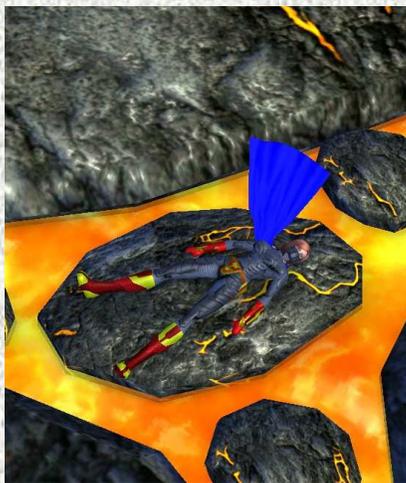
It is unknown how the presence of this new particle is acquired, whether it must come from pandimensional items such as the Well, or if it could be naturally acquired. It is known that not all subjects examined possessed this particle.

Cole rejected referring to those with the C-S particles and the potential to exhibit infinite power levels as "god-like" or even "deus-level". Instead, he accepted the term "incarnate", since he currently believes that he channels the power of the Greek god Zeus through the particles in his body.

It has yet to be determined if there is in fact an upper-limit to an "incarnate".

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



CAN THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS SAVE THE EARTH? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO GALATEA POWERS? AND IS THERE ANYTHING THE HEROES OF EARTH CAN DO TO HELP?

FIND OUT WHEN "ICARUS" COMES TO ITS THRILLING CONCLUSION.



J



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JACK!



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