

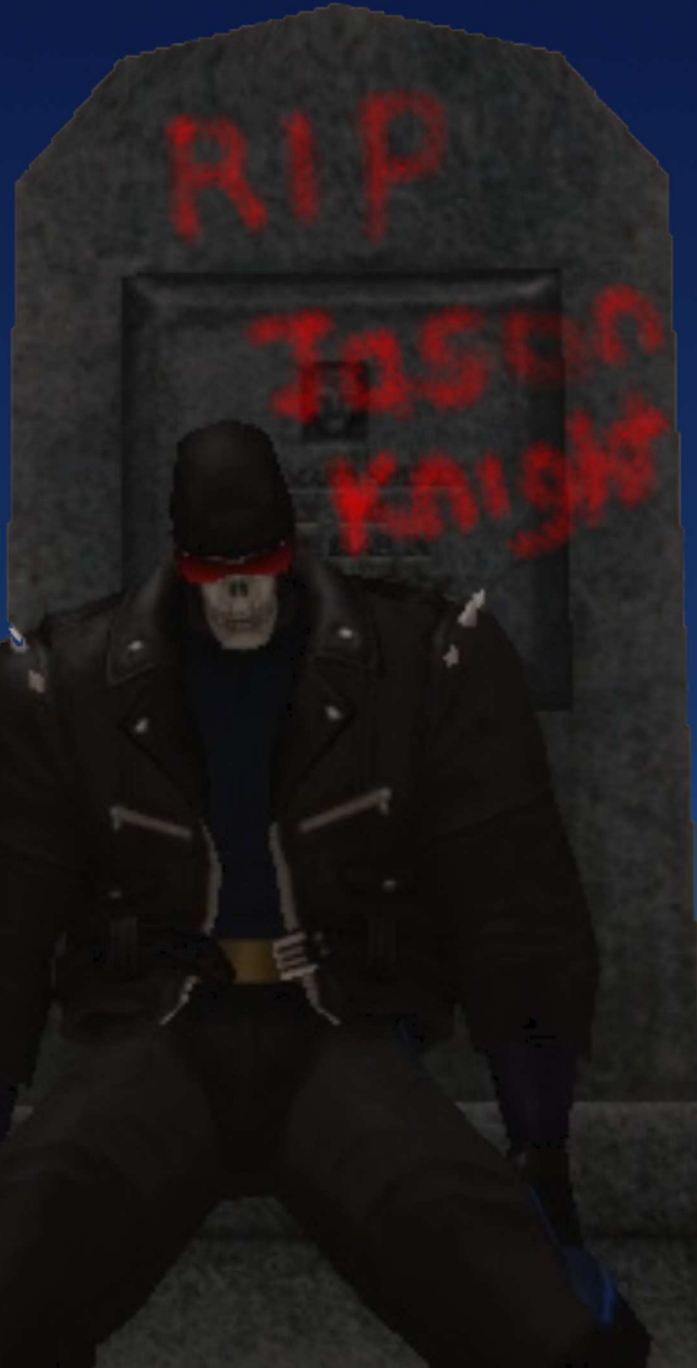
T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

# TASK FORCE

# TWILIGHT



Issue 02  
2018



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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'

For the past few years, the Paragon City Police have quietly brought back the worst of their worst, the infamous "Blue Dog Squad". Operating more like gang members than professional law enforcers, the Blue Dogs have struck fear and terror into the residents of the Kings Row district.

Street vigilantes like Jason Knight have been trying hard to bring the Blue Dogs to justice, but they are stymied at every corner by a not-so-unbiased judicial system and by an ever-decreasing amount of legal resources at their disposal.

Now Deputy Police Chief Thomas Wield has shut down the Architect Entertainment building in Kings Row, one of the two major attractions for heroes in that district. This gives Jason Knight only a few days before he is forced to vacate from his lair, located in the middle of that building.

Then, just when things could not get worse, he is rendered unconscious by the mercenary enforcer known as Despair.

## "HAND OF GOD" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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IT WAS A DIFFERENT  
WORLD AND A  
LIFETIME AGO.

YOU GOT WHAT  
YOU WANTED...  
NOW LET HER GO.

BUT IT STILL  
HAUNTS ME.

FUNNY KID...  
THINKS HE'S A  
HE-RO.  
YOU THINK HE'S  
FUNNY, BIFF?

I THINK HE'S  
CRAZY IF HE  
EXPECTS US TO  
SIMPLY WALK  
AWAY WITH TWO  
WITNESSES STILL  
BREATHING.

THEY CALLED  
THEMSELVES THE  
CLOWN COMMANDOS.

NOTHING SPECIAL  
ABOUT THEM. THEY  
JUST ROBBED BANKS  
DRESSED LIKE CLOWNS.

MY MENTOR AND LEGAL  
GUARDIAN, DAMIAN  
WILSON, WOULD TELL  
ME HOW MANY TIMES HE  
WOULD SHUT THEM  
DOWN AS MIDNIGHT.

BACK THEN I WAS  
JUST A KID NAMED  
JASON RICH.

I WASN'T A HERO  
LIKE HIM, BUT I  
WANTED TO BE ONE.

NORMALLY HE'D  
BE THE ONE  
STARING THEM  
DOWN.

LAST CHANCE.  
LET HER GO.  
NOW.

BUT THE CITY WAS IN  
THE MIDDLE OF CHAOS,  
AND MIDNIGHT COULD  
NOT BE EVERYWHERE AT  
ONCE.



I THINK I'LL JUST WASTE HER WHILE YOU WATCH.

DAMIAN TRAINED ME. HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING HE KNEW ABOUT DEALING WITH CRIMINALS.

BUT NOT SO I COULD WORK WITH HIM, THOUGH. HE MADE THAT CLEAR.

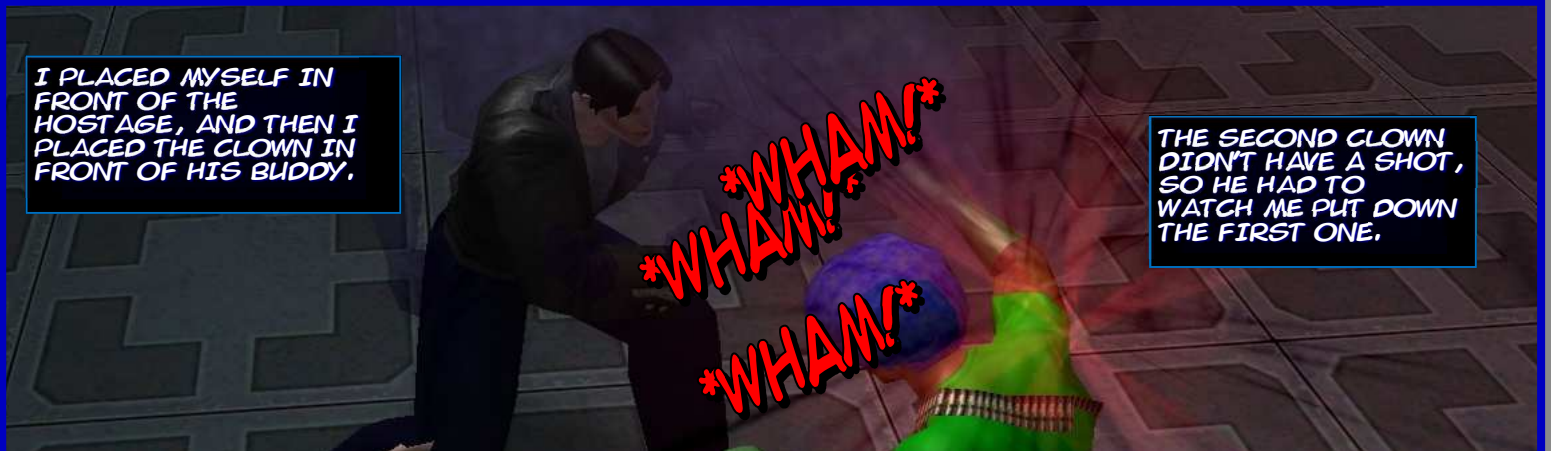


SAY BYE-BYE LITTLE MOMMA!

\*CLICK-CLACK\*



IT WAS FOR WHEN I WOULD HAVE TO REPLACE HIM.



I PLACED MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE HOSTAGE, AND THEN I PLACED THE CLOWN IN FRONT OF HIS BUDDY.

THE SECOND CLOWN DIDN'T HAVE A SHOT, SO HE HAD TO WATCH ME PUT DOWN THE FIRST ONE.



THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM...

THE SECOND CLOWN DIDN'T RUN LIKE HE SHOULD HAVE.

YOU STUPID LITTLE SHIT!

HE JUST WAITED FOR THE FIRST CLOWN TO DROP.

I COULD FEEL THE SHOTGUN SLUG HIT ME LIKE NO FIST EVER COULD. I COULD SMELL THE BITTER SMOKE OF THE BLAST.

AIEEEEE!!!

\*KA-BLAM!\*

AND THEN... NOTHING.

I WAS DEAD.

NO HEAVEN. NO HELL. JUST DEAD.

SOMEWHERE IN PARAGON CITY, RI.

PRIMAL UNIVERSE - NOW

HATE HAVING MY DEATH FLASH BEFORE ME.

NEED TO KNOW WHERE I AM AND WHAT CONDITION I'M IN.

MY HEAD HURTS. MY EYES ARE SWOLLEN.

MY GLOVES ARE GONE, FINGERS STOMPED ON, SOME BROKEN.

I'M NOT IN THE SEWERS, BUT THEY'RE NEARBY.  
STILL UNDERGROUND.

I'M MISSING MY JACKET, MY MASK, AND MY BELT.

 Jason Knight  
(DRAKE GREY)

MY KNEES ARE SMASHED, BUT THEY'RE NOT BROKEN.

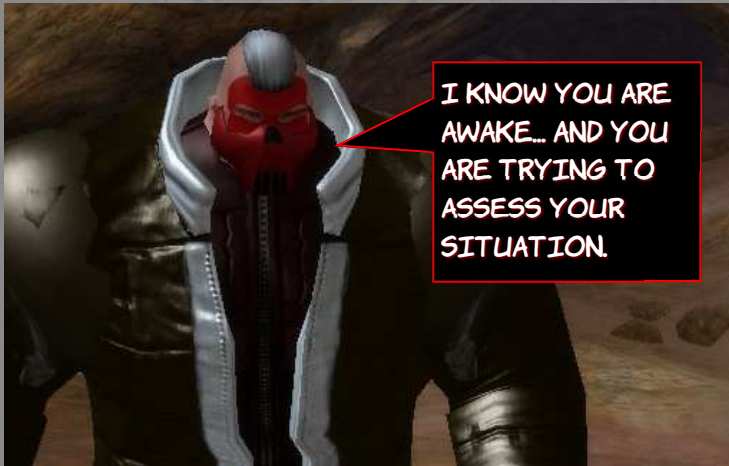


**Despair**  
PROBLEM-SOLVER



MY ATTACKER...  
HE'S STANDING  
IN FRONT OF ME.

I CAN SMELL THE  
STENCH OF THE  
SEWERS ON HIM.



I KNOW YOU ARE  
AWAKE... AND YOU  
ARE TRYING TO  
ASSESS YOUR  
SITUATION.



I... KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE...  
DESPAIR.  
WH.. WHY AM I  
STILL ALIVE?



BECAUSE I PROMISED THAT  
YOU WILL NOT DIE UNTIL  
YOU KNOW DESPAIR.  
I AM A MAN OF MY WORD.

W-WHOP?

YOU'RE A SMART MAN,  
MISTER KNIGHT.  
YOU ALREADY KNOW  
THE ANSWER.



**\*WHAP!\***

\*LNNF\*



**\*WHAP!\***

**\*CRACK!\***

SKYWAY CITY

HOURS LATER...



MM.. WHY..?

\*RING-RING\*  
\*RING-RING\*



YOU HAVE REACHED  
THE SECRETARY OF  
CASSANDRA DARE.  
MS. DARE IS...  
OH, GOOD  
MORNING GRACE.

**Cassandra Dare**  
AKA CARDINAL SYN



NO, I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE ONE OF THE  
FOLKS AT MY DAY  
JOB. WHAT'S UPP?



NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD  
FROM DRAKE SINCE  
THE OTHER DAY.

NO, HE DIDN'T SAY  
ANYTHING ABOUT BEING  
TIED UP ALL NIGHT.

WELL, I'M SURE HE MUST  
HAVE A GOOD REASON TO  
NOT BE THERE FOR YOUR  
BRUNCH DATE.



TELL YOU WHAT...

I'LL TAKE A  
SHOWER, GET  
DRESSED, AND THEN  
HEAD OVER TO THE  
A.E. BUILDING AND  
CHECK WITH DRAKE  
TO SEE WHAT'S UP.

IT'S PROBABLY JUST  
SOMETHING STUPID LIKE  
HE WAS WORKING LATE IN  
THE LAIR AND FORGOT TO  
SET HIS ALARM.

HE'S BEEN DOING THAT A  
LOT LATELY.

RIGHT... I'LL CALL YOU IN  
A LITTLE BIT. BYE.





**DAMN YOU JASON!**

**I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT DAYBRIGHT, BUT YOU CAN'T TREAT HER LIKE THAT!**



**THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH SUPERHERO RELATIONSHIPS. THE MASK BECOMES YOUR OWN MISTRESS.**

**OH WELL.. COFFEE... SHOWER... TRIP TO KINGS ROW...**



**PARAGON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**KINGS ROW**

**"THANKS AGAIN FOR GETTING ME OUT, SIR."**



**I TOLD YOU BEFORE, BEAR... YOUR BROTHERS IN BLUE ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BACK.**



**JUST KEEP LOW UNTIL WE CAN GET THE CHARGES DISMISSED. AND... THANK YOU... FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR US.**

**Deputy Chief Thomas Wield**  
PARAGON CITY POLICE



**HEY, NO PROB. I'LL JUST HANG WITH MY BUDS 'TIL I HEAR BACK.**

**Lawdog**  
(BENJAMIN "BEAR" LAWTON)



**HMM... FUNNY. HE MADE IT SOUND LIKE I WASN'T GONNA COME BACK.**



JUST DOWN THE STREET...



HOPEFULLY I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KNOCK ON THE DOOR...

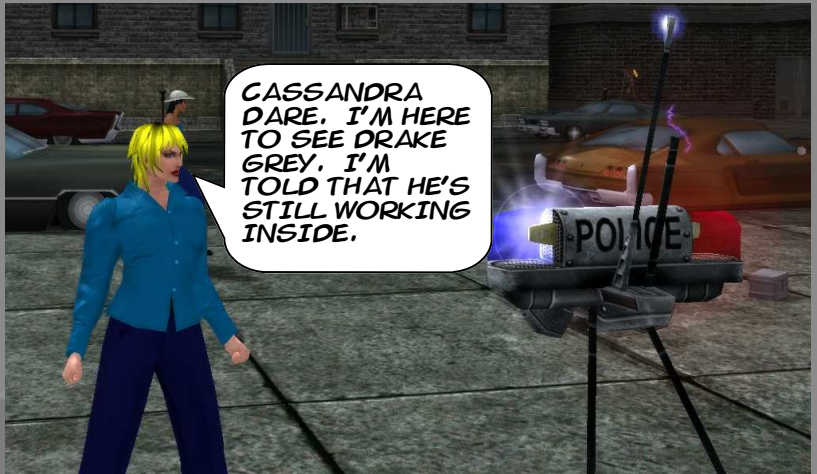


**\*WHOOP-WHOOP\***

THIS IS A SECURE AREA. IDENTIFY YOURSELF.



CASSANDRA DARE, I'M HERE TO SEE DRAKE GREY. I'M TOLD THAT HE'S STILL WORKING INSIDE.



THIS FACILITY WAS CLOSED ON ORDERS OF THE PARAGON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. ACCESS IS NOT PERMITTED.

OKAY, WELL, IS THERE ANY WAY SOMEONE CAN GET DRAKE GREY OUT HERE SO I CAN TALK WITH HIM?



THIS FACILITY IS CLOSED. PLEASE DEPART OR YOU WILL BE TELEPORT-ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING AND FAILURE TO OBEY A POLICE DRONE.

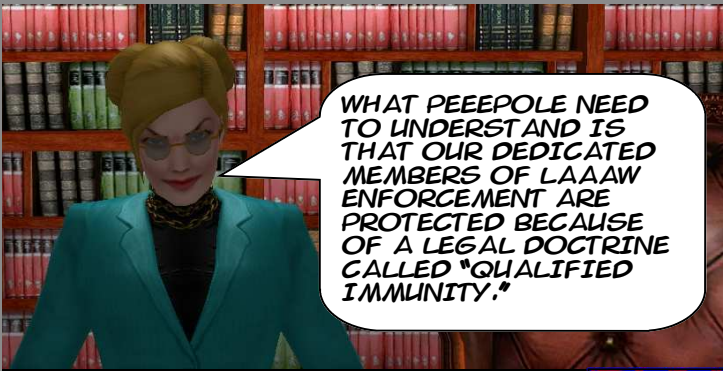
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT COOPERATION. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE.



WELL I CAN'T GET IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.


BUT I HAPPEN TO KNOW AN INDIRECT WAY INSIDE.






WHAT PEEEPOLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT OUR DEDICATED MEMBERS OF LAAAW ENFORCEMENT ARE PROTECTED BECAUSE OF A LEGAL DOCTRINE CALLED "QUALIFIED IMMUNITY."

PNN LEGAL EXPERT · NAN BRACER



UNDER FEEDERAL CRIMINAL CODE 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983, NO MEMBER OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN BE HELD LIABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS WHILE CARRYING OUT THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.

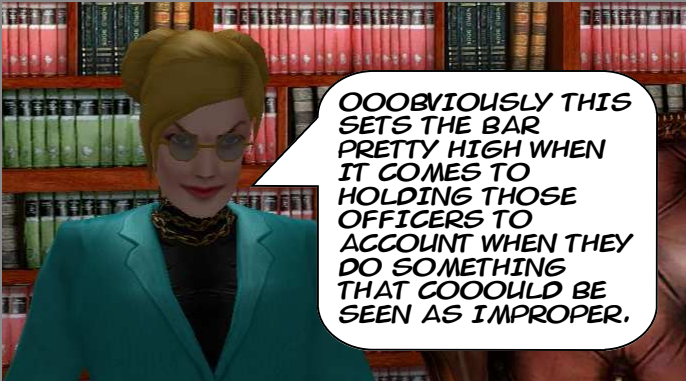
POLICE PROTECTED FROM PROSECUTION




NOW... WHAT THIS MEEEEANS... IS THAT AS LONG AS THE POLICE ARE DOING THEIR JOBS, THEY CAN'T BE CHARRRRGED WITH A CRIME THAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED DURRRING THE COURSE OF THEIR JOBS.

SO IF THEY ACCIDENTALLY KILL SOMEONE IN THEIR COURSE OF THEIR ACTIONS, OR THEY END UP SEIZING SOMETHING THAT WOULD LATER BE DETERMINED TO BE IMPROPER... THEY CAAANT BE CHARGED FOR IT.

SHOULD THE POLICE BE IMMUNE? SOUND OFF AT [PNN.PARA/FORUM](http://PNN.PARA/FORUM)



OOBVIOUSLY THIS SETS THE BAR PRETTY HIGH WHEN IT COMES TO HOLDING THOSE OFFICERS TO ACCOUNT WHEN THEY DO SOMETHING THAT COOOULD BE SEEN AS IMPROPER.




HOWEVER, THE ALTERNAAAATIVE IS FARRRR WORSE!  
A SOCIETY MIRED IN ANARCHY BECAUSE THE POLICE WOULD BE AFRAAAAID TO ENFORCE THE LAW, LEST THEY BE SUED!

PNN LEGAL EXPERT · NAN BRACER



NAN BRACER DEFENDS POLICE ABUSE



THE POLICE ARE QUITE LITERALLY THE OONLY THING THAT SEPARATE US FROM SINKING INTO PURE ANARCHY AND CHAOS.  
AS SUCH... WE SHOULD BE GIVING THEM EEEEEVERY BIT THE BENEFIT OF DOUBT THAT THEY KNOOOOW WHAT IS RIGHT FOR US.

THAT IS, OF COURSE, MY VIEW, AND WE WELCOME YOURS.  
PLEASE JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION AT P-N-N-DOT-PARA-SLASH-FORUM AND LOOK FOR THE POLL WHERE YOU CAN VOTE ON WHICH SIDE YOU SUPPORT BETWEEN THE VIGILANTES AND THE POLICE.

THE VIEWS OF NAN BRACER DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF PNN



"LEVEL 13" OF THE AE BUILDING  
IN KINGS ROW...

\*CLICK-CLUNK\*

\*KA-CLUNK\*

OKAY... NOT THE  
PREFERRED WAY I'D  
WANT TO USE TO GET  
HERE, BUT I'M IN.

HATE USING THE  
SEWERS!

Cardinal Syn  
(CASSANDRA DARE)

JASON?  
ARE YOU  
IN HERE?

JASON KNIGHT  
IS NOT HERE,  
MISS  
CASANDRA.

SENTRY!

WHERE IS HE?  
DAYBRIGHT  
SAID HE DIDN'T  
SHOW UP FOR  
THEIR BRUNCH  
DATE.

THE LAST TIME  
MISTER JASON  
WAS  
HERE, HE WAS  
INFORMED THAT  
OFFICER LAWTON,  
A.K.A. "LAWDOG",  
WAS  
RELEASED ON BAIL.

AND... JASON WENT  
TO CONFRONT HIM,  
OF COURSE.\*  
I'VE NEVER ASKED  
BEFORE, BUT DID  
JASON HAVE A WAY  
FOR YOU TO FIND  
WHERE HE IS?

MISTER JASON WAS  
ADAMANT ABOUT NOT  
HAVING ANY KIND OF  
TRACKING DEVICE ON  
HIS BODY.  
HE WAS CONCERNED  
ABOUT OTHERS USING  
IT AGAINST HIM.

← LAST ISSUE →



HOW ABOUT HIS GUARDIAN ID?

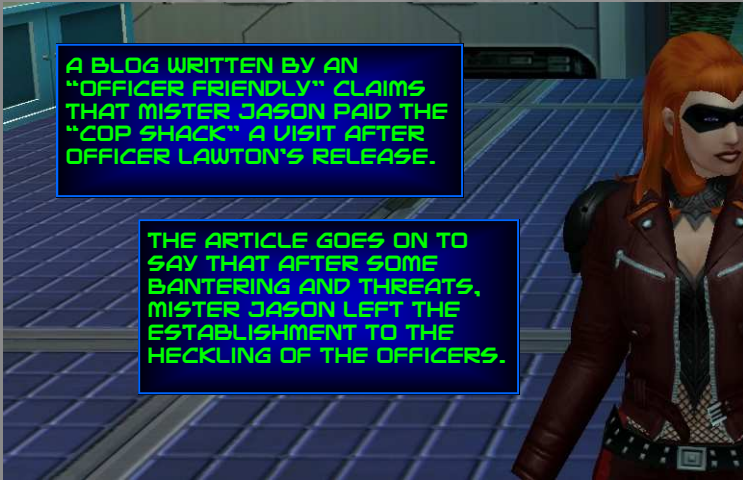
THAT HAS A BUILT-IN TRACKER FOR THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TELEPORT.



MISTER JASON HAD THAT FEATURE DISABLED FROM HIS ID SOON AFTER HE ACTIVATED THE LAIR.

OF COURSE HE DID...

DAMN YOU JASON!



A BLOG WRITTEN BY AN "OFFICER FRIENDLY" CLAIMS THAT MISTER JASON PAID THE "COP SHACK" A VISIT AFTER OFFICER LAWTON'S RELEASE.

THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT AFTER SOME BANTERING AND THREATS, MISTER JASON LEFT THE ESTABLISHMENT TO THE HECKLING OF THE OFFICERS.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAPPEN.

THE COPS WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE TRY TO OFF JASON IN A PLACE LIKE THAT WITH ALL OF THOSE OTHER COPS IN ATTENDANCE.

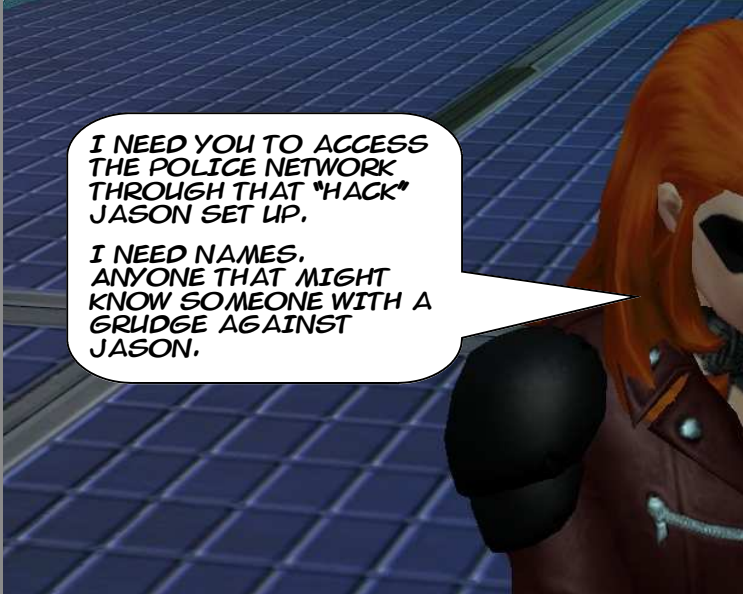


NOT ALL COPS ARE BAD. SOMEONE THERE WOULD HAVE A CONSCIENCE. SOMEONE WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEAK UP.



THAT'S WHY THEY HIDE BEHIND DISGUISES LIKE THEIR "BLUE DOG" OUTFITS WHEN THEY WANT TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY.\*

(\* "FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS" #23)



I NEED YOU TO ACCESS THE POLICE NETWORK THROUGH THAT "HACK" JASON SET UP.

I NEED NAMES. ANYONE THAT MIGHT KNOW SOMEONE WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST JASON.

THAT WILL BE A VERY LONG LIST, MISS CASSANDRA.

CAN'T BE HELPED. HE'S NOT MAKING IT EASY FOR EITHER OF US TO FIND HIM.

AND IF I'M GOING TO DO THIS OLD-SCHOOL, I'LL NEED SOME PLACES TO START.

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UNIVERSE XHT-57

NEW YORK CITY... THEN.



'SCUSE ME...  
YOU OK?



YOU LOOK  
LIKE... YOU  
JUST WALKED  
OUT OF THAT  
CRYPT.



I... ARRRGH!!  
THERE WAS A  
ROBBERY... A  
WOMAN... IS  
SHE OKAY?



I WOULDN'T  
KNOW...

I'M SORRY... I... I'M  
A LITTLE RATTLED.  
WHERE ARE WE? HOW  
DID I GET HERE?



ST. JOHN'S  
CEMETERY... AN' I  
DON'T KNOW HOW  
YOU GOT HERE.

... BUT IT'S  
PROBABLY TH'  
SAFEST PLACE T' BE  
RIGHT NOW.

THINGS ARE CRAZY  
OUT THERE SINCE  
MIDKNIGHT WAS  
KILLED.

OR... 'LEAST THAT'S  
WHAT THEY SAY.



WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN "KILLED"?  
WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
MIDKNIGHT?





NOW...

ENOUGH DREAMS...

HAVE TO TRY TO MOVE...



IGNORE THE PAIN...



IGNORE THE BROKEN BONES...

SLOPPY!

NEED TO REST MORE...

WAIT...

MY HANDS-FREE COMLINK... IT'S STILL IN MY EAR.

\*OOFFFF...\*



DESPAIR NEVER CHECKED... SLOPPY OF HIM.

ELSEWHERE...

IF THERE'S ANYONE THAT WOULD KNOW JASON MORE THAN ME, IT WOULD BE YOU AND GALATEA.



GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE

TALOS ISLAND

AND I KNOW HIM LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME HE'S GONE "OFF THE GRID" ON WHIM AND WITHOUT NOTICE.

Ryder Lightning (BART WALLACE)



THAT DOESN'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT HE'S IN TROUBLE AND NEEDS US.



BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND, SYN.

ALL WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT IS HOPE THAT HE'LL EITHER FINDS SOME WAY TO CONTACT US, OR HE JUST SHOW UP.



THE LONGSHORE BAR (AND ILLEGAL CASINO)

INDEPENDENCE PORT



YO! WHERE IS EVERYONE?  
YOU DON'T NEED TO THROW A SURPRISE PARTY FOR ME!



THEY ARE NOT HERE.  
I SENT THEM AWAY.



WE DO NOT NEED WITNESSES FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.



YOU MEAN WHEN I--

**\*WHAM!\***



**\*THUD\***

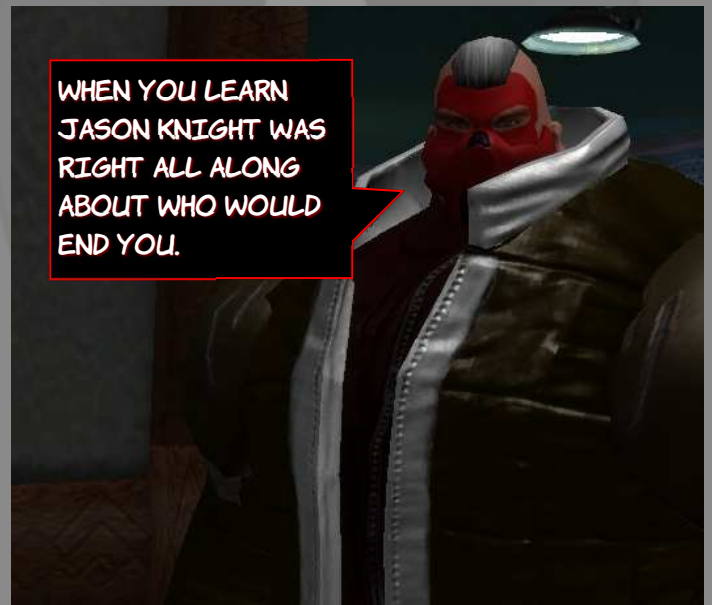


**\*NNF!\***



**\*KE-RUNCH\***

WHEN YOU LEARN JASON KNIGHT WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG ABOUT WHO WOULD END YOU.



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...

#WHOOOP-WHOOP#

WELCOME TO  
PARAGON CITY.  
THIS IS A  
SECURED ENTRY  
FOR RESIDENTS  
AND AUTHORIZED  
PERSONNEL.

PLEASE DISPLAY  
YOUR ID IF YOU ARE  
A RESIDENT.  
IF YOU ARE A  
REGISTERED HERO,  
PLEASE PROVIDE  
YOUR HERO NAME AS  
IT IS DISPLAYED ON  
YOUR HERO ID CARD.

MY NAME IS  
SUNDOWN.  
I AM A REGISTERED  
HERO FROM  
OKLAHOMA CITY.

Sundown  
WARSHADE


DOES THAT...  
SATISFY...  
YOUR  
CURIOSITY?

WELCOME TO PARAGON  
CITY, SUNDOWN.  
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY  
YOUR STAY.  
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL  
POLICE.

NOT LIKELY.

LIEUTENANT, WE  
JUST GOT A  
REPORT THAT  
SUNDOWN HAS  
ENTERED THE  
CITY LIMITS!

SUNDOWN?  
OH CRAP!  
AS IF WE NEED  
THAT KIND OF  
SHITSTORM!

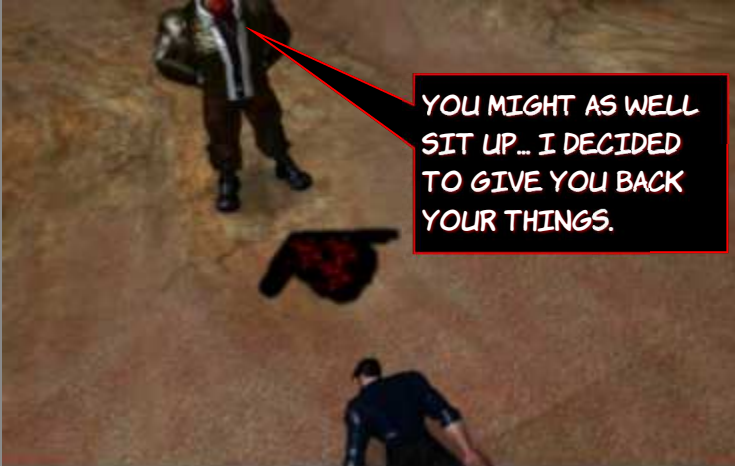


I SEE THAT YOU TRIED TO LEAVE. I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR TRYING.


I EXPECTED YOU TO TRY.

THAT IS WHY I DID NOT RESTRAIN YOU AFTER RENDERING YOU UNCONSCIOUS.

TO GIVE YOU THE ILLUSION OF HOPE.



YOU MIGHT AS WELL SIT UP... I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR THINGS.




HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THE BLOOD. I PAID LAWDOG A VISIT AND I NEEDED SOMETHING TO WIPE OFF THE MESS I MADE WITH MY BOOT.

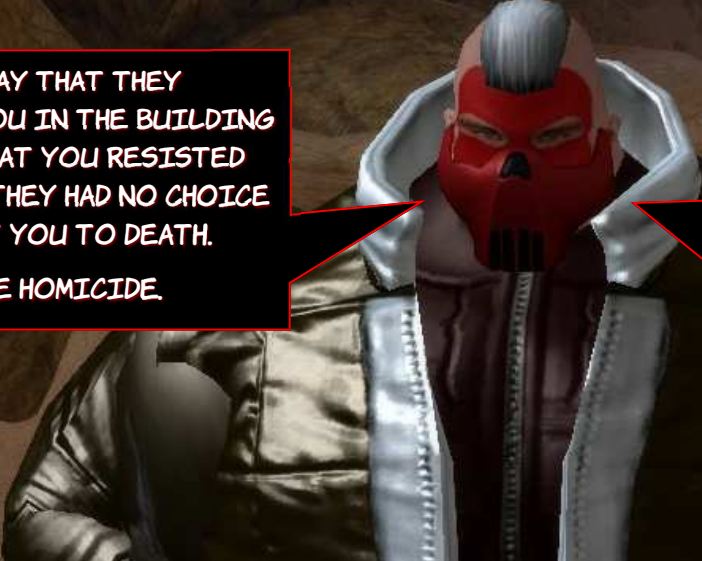


YOU... KILLED HIM?

YOU KNEW I WOULD. BUT THAT IS NOT HOW THE STORY WILL GO.




THE POLICE WILL GET AN ANONYMOUS TIP ABOUT HIS DEATH. THEY WILL FIND YOUR DEAD BODY WITH HIS BLOOD ALL OVER IT.



THEY WILL SAY THAT THEY CORNERED YOU IN THE BUILDING ABOVE US. THAT YOU RESISTED ARREST AND THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH. JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE.


LAWDOG WILL BE A CANONIZED AS A MARTYR, AND YOU WILL BE FOREVER DAMNED AS A COP KILLER. YOU WILL DIE KNOWING THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP WHAT IS ALREADY HAPPENING. THAT... IS... DESPAIR.



SO YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST WALK UP THAT MOUND TO THE BUILDING ABOVE US SO YOU CAN KILL ME AND COMPLETE YOUR PLAN?

WHETHER OR NOT YOU DO IS IRRELEVANT. I CAN KILL YOU HERE AND CARRY YOU UP THERE.

YOU HAVE IT ALL WORKED OUT. YOU WIN, NO MATTER WHAT I DO.



I AM A PROFESSIONAL, MISTER KNIGHT. THAT IS WHY I WAS HIRED.

OF COURSE.



**\*FSSSS\***  
**\*AK!\***

HANDFUL OF SAND AT MY FEET...



BLYS ME ENOUGH TIME TO RUN.

IGNORE THE PAIN SCREAMING AT ME TO STOP.

IGNORE THE BROKEN BONES. FORCE THEM TO OBEY ME!



RUNNING IS POINTLESS, MISTER KNIGHT.

EVEN IF YOU GET AWAY, YOU WILL STILL BE DAMNED AS A COP KILLER.

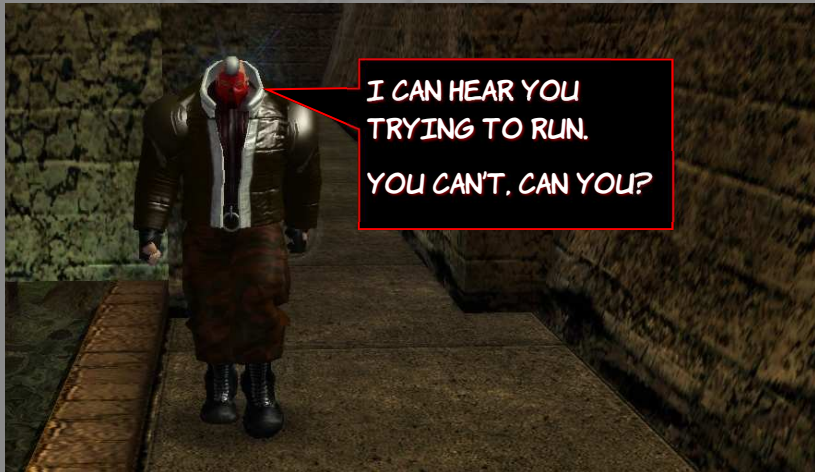


MY KNEES ARE ALREADY STARTING TO BUCKLE...



BACK TO THE SEWERS...

ALMOST THERE...



I CAN HEAR YOU TRYING TO RUN. YOU CAN'T, CAN YOU?



THERE GO THE KNEES...



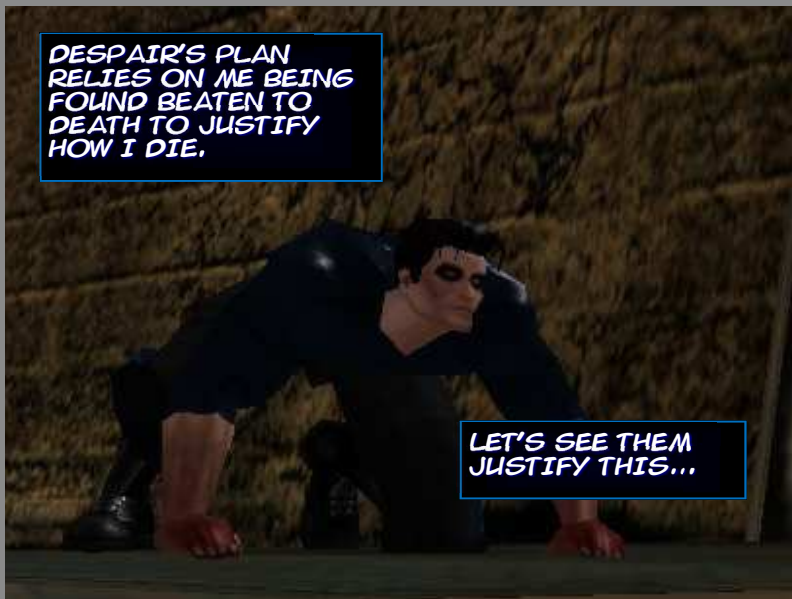
\*KA-KLANK\*

\*CRACKLE\*



THAT'S IT!

GET UP JASON! ONE LAST TIME!



DESPAIR'S PLAN RELIES ON ME BEING FOUND BEATEN TO DEATH TO JUSTIFY HOW I DIE.

LET'S SEE THEM JUSTIFY THIS...



S-S-SENTRY...

\*ZZ\* YES MI-- TER JAS--\*ZZ\*?

"HAND... OF... GOD"



SOME TIME LATER...

JASON! I GOT YOUR CALL!

JASON?  
SENTRY, WHERE IS JASON?

MISTER JASON IS NOT HERE.

THEN HOW...?

JASON KNIGHT DIDN'T SUMMON YOU HERE.

I DID.

 **Sin Stalker**  
(JOSEPH COHEN)

A FEW MONTHS AGO, JASON CONTACTED ME AND ASKED WE MEET.

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

YOU'VE BEEN SENSING IT, WHICH IS WHY YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO STAY AWAY FROM KINGS ROW.

SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN, AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL NEED SOMEONE I CAN TRUST.

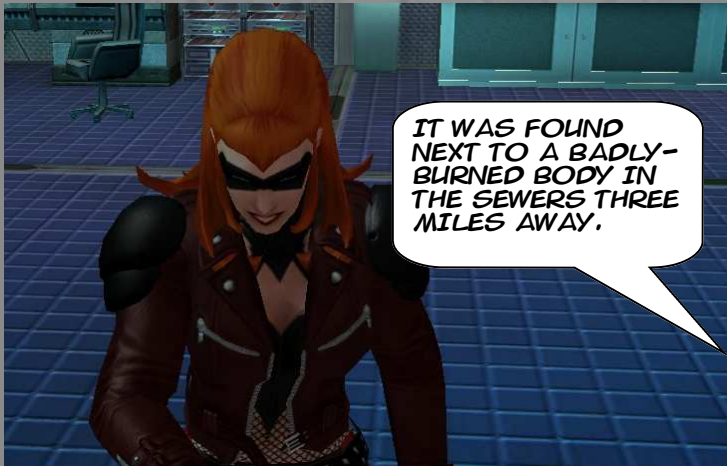




... I'M SORRY.



THIS IS...  
HIS... MASK.



IT WAS FOUND  
NEXT TO A BADLY-  
BURNED BODY IN  
THE SEWERS THREE  
MILES AWAY.



NONONONON  
ONONONONO  
NONONONON  
ONONONONO  
OOAAAAAAAAA...



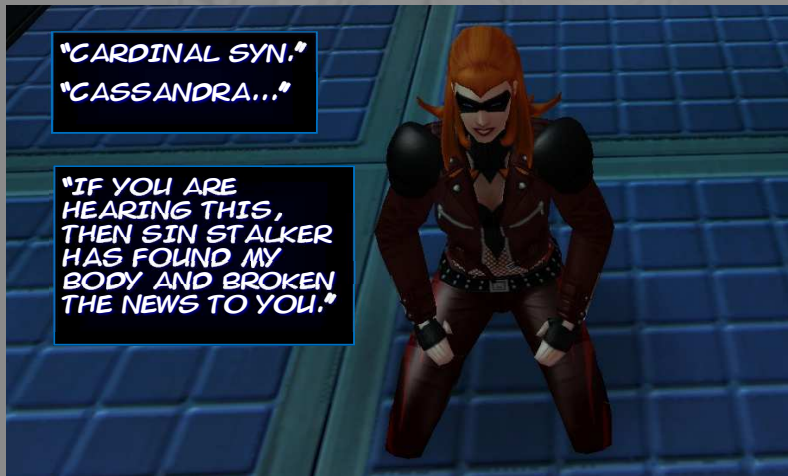


**\*SNIFF\***  
**HELP ME.**

**I CAN'T.**  
**HE ONLY ASKED ME TO DO THIS AND ONE MORE TASK.**

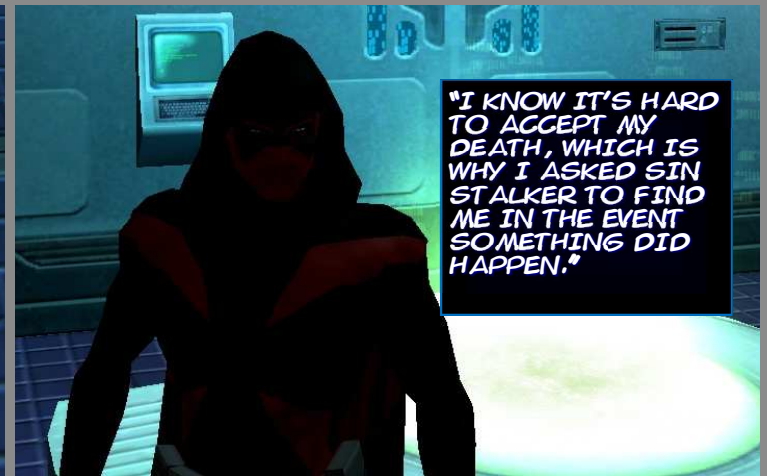


**SENTRY: PLAY HIS MESSAGE.**

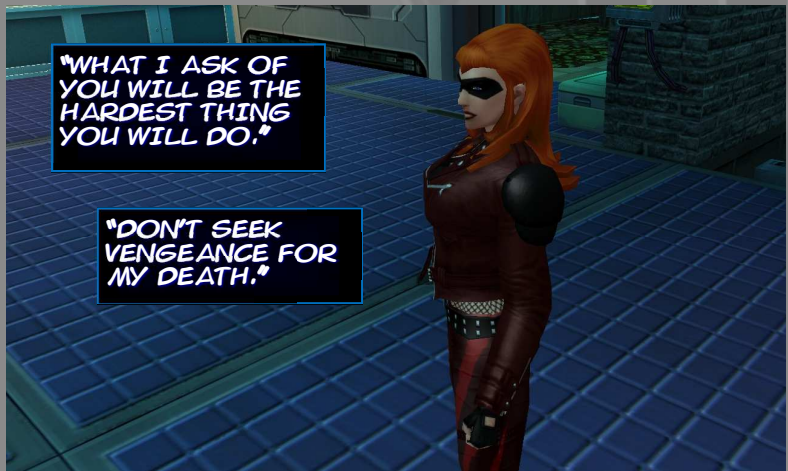


**"CARDINAL SYN."**  
**"CASSANDRA..."**

**"IF YOU ARE HEARING THIS, THEN SIN STALKER HAS FOUND MY BODY AND BROKEN THE NEWS TO YOU."**



**"I KNOW IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT MY DEATH, WHICH IS WHY I ASKED SIN STALKER TO FIND ME IN THE EVENT SOMETHING DID HAPPEN."**



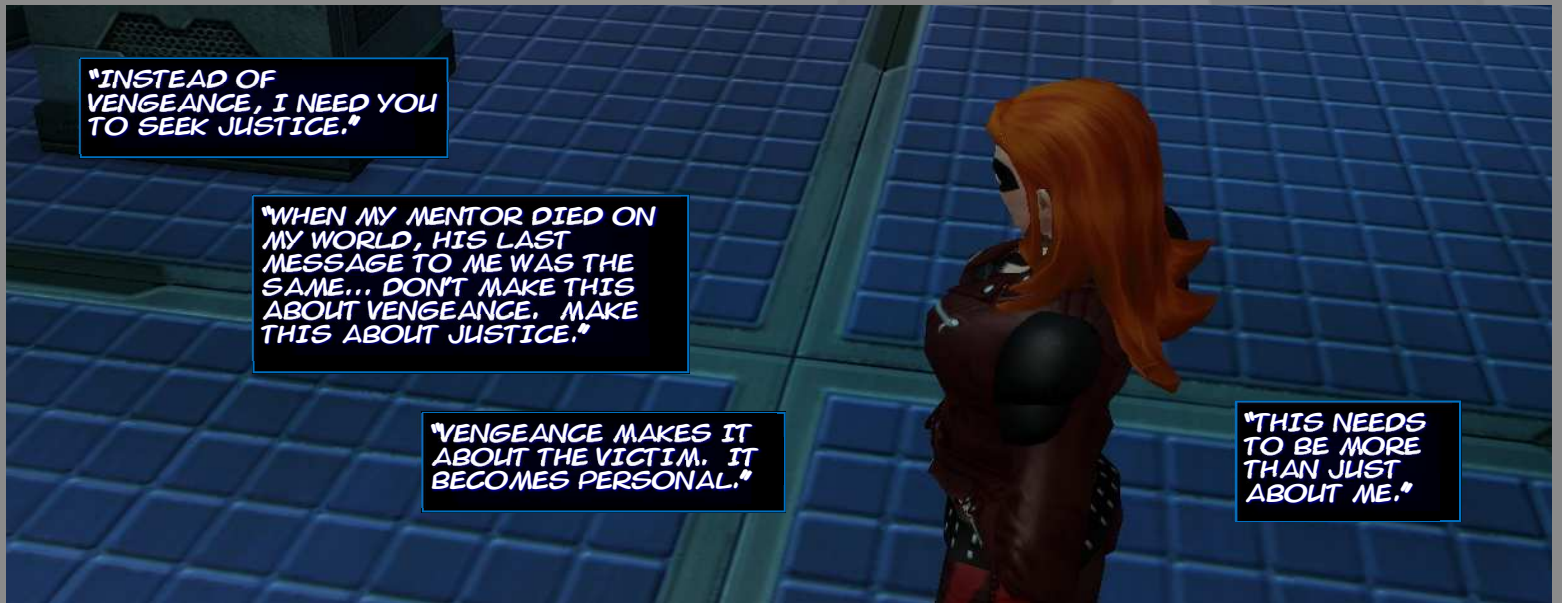
**"WHAT I ASK OF YOU WILL BE THE HARDEST THING YOU WILL DO."**

**"DON'T SEEK VENGEANCE FOR MY DEATH."**



**"DO NOT CONFIRM OR DENY RUMORS OF MY DEATH."**

**"LET THEM BE JUST THAT... RUMORS."**



**"INSTEAD OF VENGEANCE, I NEED YOU TO SEEK JUSTICE."**

**"WHEN MY MENTOR DIED ON MY WORLD, HIS LAST MESSAGE TO ME WAS THE SAME... DON'T MAKE THIS ABOUT VENGEANCE, MAKE THIS ABOUT JUSTICE."**

**"VENGEANCE MAKES IT ABOUT THE VICTIM. IT BECOMES PERSONAL."**

**"THIS NEEDS TO BE MORE THAN JUST ABOUT ME."**



"THIS NEEDS TO BE ABOUT JUSTICE."

"BRING THE PEOPLE BEHIND MY DEATH TO JUSTICE."



"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY NEXT..."

"I CAN'T DO THIS BY MYSELF."

"... AND I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO THIS ON YOUR OWN."



"I HAVE ASKED SENTRY TO ASSEMBLE A LIST OF ACTIVE HEROES THAT WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU AS PART OF A TASK FORCE."

"SOME OF THE NAMES YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH, SOME I EVEN ASKED YOU TO LOOK INTO FOR ME."

"THERE ARE SOME MEMBERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN INCLUDED, BUT IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE A GUARDIAN OPERATION."

"THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN REPRESENT HOPE FOR TOMORROW. THEY SHOULD NOT BE MIRE IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO."



"ONCE THIS RECORDING BEGAN, SENTRY WAS INSTRUCTED TO UNLOCK THE TASK FORCE FILES FOR YOUR EYES ONLY."

"EVERYTHING I KNOW UNTIL THE LAST TIME I WAS IN THE LAIR IS NOW AVAILABLE TO YOU."

"THERE ARE ONLY FIVE PEOPLE ALIVE THAT I TRUST. YOU ARE ONE OF THEM. YOU CAN GUESS THE OTHER FOUR."

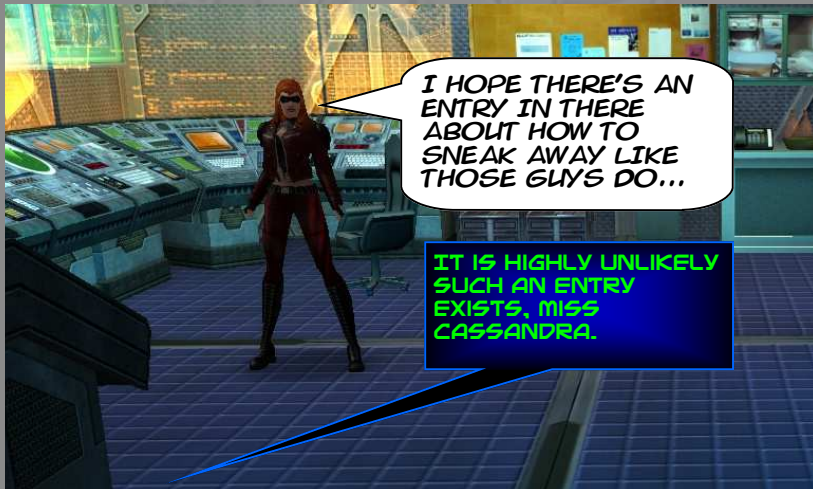
"I KNOW YOU WILL VALIDATE MY TRUST IN YOU TO CONTINUE WHERE I CANNOT GO."



SIN STALKER...  
\*SNIFF\* I...



YEAH... OF  
COURSE...



I HOPE THERE'S AN  
ENTRY IN THERE  
ABOUT HOW TO  
SNEAK AWAY LIKE  
THOSE GUYS DO...

IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY  
SUCH AN ENTRY  
EXISTS, MISS  
CASSANDRA.



ALL FILES  
REGARDING THE  
PARAGON CITY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
AND BLUE DOG  
SQUAD ARE NOW  
ACCESSIBLE.



FINE.  
LET'S START THERE.



OH MY GOD...

\*...R...RRRRRRRR\*



Next:  
Assemble the  
Task Force!

# TASK FORCE NOTES

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

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## **A Sensitive Matter**

“Task Force Twilight” deals with what some people consider to be a very touchy issue: police brutality.

Over the past few years, there has been an increased focus on police abuses and the deaths that have resulted from them. Whether or not those deaths at the hands of the police were justified has been and probably will continue to be a matter of contention for some people. For some others, it’s simply a matter of which “color” matters... Or, to be accurate, which one “matters more”.

To be clear: all lives are supposed to matter. The problem is that they aren’t.

We are also supposed to respect the police and the thankless job that they do. The problem is that sometimes that “respect” is not reciprocated. This is a group that is becoming increasingly militarized, with an increased bunker mentality, and with the increased fear of threats unheard of just two decades ago. That is not a good combination.

Police officers are human beings. They have human feelings and human failings. They are not gods with guns. All the training in the world will not give them the wisdom to behave appropriately and not take the tremendous power they have to their heads.

This is not an issue about race, but of power granted and how it is wielded. And the failure we have is how to deal with that power is when it is abused.

The United States Criminal Code that Nan Bracer mentions in this issue is real. That is the specific code that gives members of law enforcement immunity from prosecution, and it is the real reason why it is next to impossible to prosecute police when they do abuse their power.

We are told over and over again to let “the system” deal with police abuses, but as I just pointed out, “the system” not only fails the public, but does so by design. And then the masses are simply told to “accept it and move on”.

It’s no wonder, then, why you have people protesting this blatant injustice in various ways. Better for them to do it by taking a knee than taking it upon themselves to do what the system fails to do.

*Continues on next page...*

# TASK FORCE NOTES

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*Continued from previous page...*

The scenes of police abuse seen here in this series and also in “Furia and the Guardians” are those abuses taken to the next level, but they still are based on real-life abuses that go and have gone unpunished simply because the criminals have a badge.

Because this series takes place in the fictional world of the now-defunct “City of Heroes” MMORPG, we have a world where heroes and superheroes work with the police, often doing what the police cannot, with similar powers and immunities from prosecution. In certain campy circles, this is seen as having “another layer” of “duly deputized officers of the law”. However, seen from the eyes of the local police, these masks and capes are nothing short of a threat to their own power structure.

Imagine, for instance, an outside group of people who do the same things you do, with the same authority as you, and also have the power to hold you to account when you do wrong. Would you be willing to welcome that with open arms? I’m thinking for most of you, the answer would be “no”.

To be clear: there are plenty of police officers and other law enforcement agents that are decent people and go above and beyond the call of duty and do everything they can to help people. Unfortunately, all of the good deeds and acts of charity are upended when one of their own uses their government-granted power as a third-world thug.

And, unlike the comics, the real world does not have a group of heroes who would be able to step in and fix this problem. This is a real-world issue that we have to address on our own.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

**NEXT ISSUE..**



**WITH JASON KNIGHT GONE,  
CARDINAL SYN MUST NOW ASSEMBLE  
THE TASK FORCE THAT SHE WILL NEED  
TO BRING DOWN THE BLUE DOGS.**

**BUT THINGS ARE JUST ABOUT TO GET  
EVEN MORE COMPLICATED FOR THE  
HEROES.**

**WILL ANOTHER HERO PAY THE PRICE  
FOR THE DEATH OF LAWDOG?**

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**AND MANY, MANY MORE!**

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

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