

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

# The LIBRA ORDER



## "Debts of Honor"



One-Shot  
Special  
Oct. 2014



# WSPDR

Radio / Television

Providing independent news and entertainment to the Rogue Isles and its people for over sixty years.

Because Lord Recluse is not the only one with a huge "web" overlooking the Isles.

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# MINIONS

**No matter how good you are, at some point you are going to need some help to get the job done.**

**So why put your faith in some blind call for allies that will stab you in the back at the first opportunity?**

**Be a REAL mastermind and use our 100% confidential service. We are the best in placing loyal minions where they can do what they do best!**

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*They live in the so-called "City of Villains", but they are not always so.*

*Some are criminals. Some are renegades. Some are living in exile. Some are living on borrowed time.*

*But they have all been recruited by the cosmic force known as LIBRA to serve as "his" soldiers, to follow "his" orders, and to maintain the balance between good and evil. They are...*

# The LIBRA ORDER

In 2012, a "miracle" happened.

Over 2200 people originally presumed missing or dead in the destruction of Galaxy City suddenly were returned.

The Guardians of the Dawn, the superhero group wrongly blamed for causing the initial tragedy, were vindicated in the eyes of the public.

Support for the group was at an all-time high, and people were starting to see the Guardians as the next "premiere" supergroup for Paragon City.

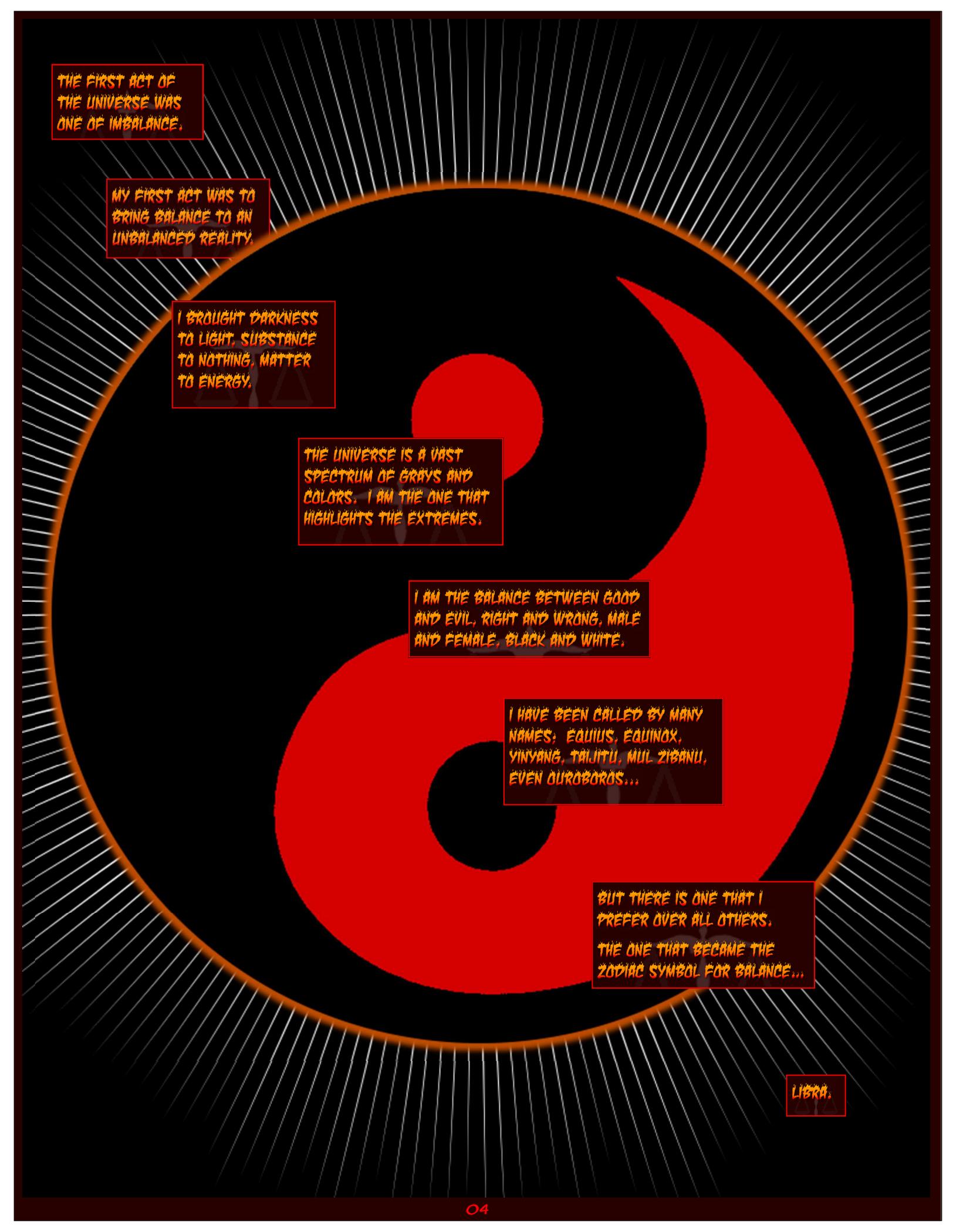
So what would cause the team that was on the verge of becoming legendary to slowly erode to the brink of self-destruction?

Sometimes it would just take a "nudge" from the "wrong" people...

## **"DEBTS OF HONOR"** **- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2**

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THE FIRST ACT OF  
THE UNIVERSE WAS  
ONE OF IMBALANCE.

MY FIRST ACT WAS TO  
BRING BALANCE TO AN  
UNBALANCED REALITY.

I BROUGHT DARKNESS  
TO LIGHT, SUBSTANCE  
TO NOTHING, MATTER  
TO ENERGY.

THE UNIVERSE IS A VAST  
SPECTRUM OF GRAYS AND  
COLORS. I AM THE ONE THAT  
HIGHLIGHTS THE EXTREMES.

I AM THE BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD  
AND EVIL, RIGHT AND WRONG, MALE  
AND FEMALE, BLACK AND WHITE.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY MANY  
NAMES: EQUIUS, EQUINOX,  
YINYANG, TAIJITU, MUL ZIBANU,  
EVEN OUROBOROS...

BUT THERE IS ONE THAT I  
PREFER OVER ALL OTHERS.  
THE ONE THAT BECAME THE  
ZODIAC SYMBOL FOR BALANCE...

LIBRA.

THIS IS LIMBO... A PLACE WHERE COSMIC FORCES CAN INTERACT WITH MORTALS IN A REALM OF THEIR CREATION.

I HAVE CHOSEN, OUT OF NOSTALGIA, AN ANCIENT TEMPLE IN THE ROMAN TOWN OF CIMERORA AS THE THEME OF MY REALM.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS REALM IS OF MY CREATION AND GOVERNED BY MY RULES.

HERE, I AM GOD.



IT IS HERE THAT YOU WILL LEARN WHAT I EXPECT OF MY AGENTS AND APOSTLES.

FOR WHETHER THEY KNOW IT OR NOT, THE TASKS I SEND THEM TO PERFORM EACH PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE GREAT BALANCE.



AND YOU, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, WILL KNOW YOUR ROLE IN THE COMING TRIALS.

BUT BEFORE I SEND YOU FORWARD, YOU MUST SEE WHAT YOUR PEERS HAVE DONE IN MY NAME AND FOR MY CAUSE.



ZIGURSKY CRIMINAL PENITENTIARY

BRICKSTOWN - PARAGON CITY, RI

DECEMBER, 2012

THIS IS WRATHSTRIKE, A BITTER AGENT OF CHAOS WHOSE RAGE KNOWS NO BOUNDS.

**Wrathstrike**  
AVENGING FORCE

THIS WAS HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT WITH MY ORDER.

HE WAS TOLD TO BREAK INTO ZIGURSKY PRISON TO RETRIEVE A FELLOW AGENT OF CHAOS.

HIS ELECTRICAL-BASED POWERS AND HIS FIRE SHIELD, BOTH MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS RAGE, WOULD MAKE QUICK WORK OF THE SOLDIERS STANDING GUARD.

I'M IN THE INFIRMARY. WHICH CELL IS SHE IN?

BUT HIS TRUE TEST IN THE ORDER IS NOT WHETHER HE CAN COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT.

CHANGE IN PLANS. THE MISSION HAS BEEN SCRAPPED.

**Tainted Eve**  
FALLEN ANGEL

HIS TRUE TEST IS WHETHER HE CAN FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

NUH-UH. NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

I SET THIS OPERATION UP; I GOT THE ESCAPE SHIP; I MUSCLED THROUGH THE SECURITY.

I'M HERE AND SHE'S JUST A FEW FEET AWAY FROM FREEDOM.



AND I AM THE ONE TELLING YOU THAT THE CLIENT HAS CHANGED THEIR MIND.

PULL BACK NOW OR I'LL BLOW UP YOUR ESCAPE SHIP BY REMOTE!



YOU ...  
RRR... FINE!  
PULLING OUT NOW.



SORRY BLOODBLADER...

GUESS YOUR BOSSES DON'T LOVE YOU ENOUGH TO WANT YOU FREE.



MY SWEET ELLE WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME!

PLEASE, SOMEONE GET HER OFF OUR HANDS!

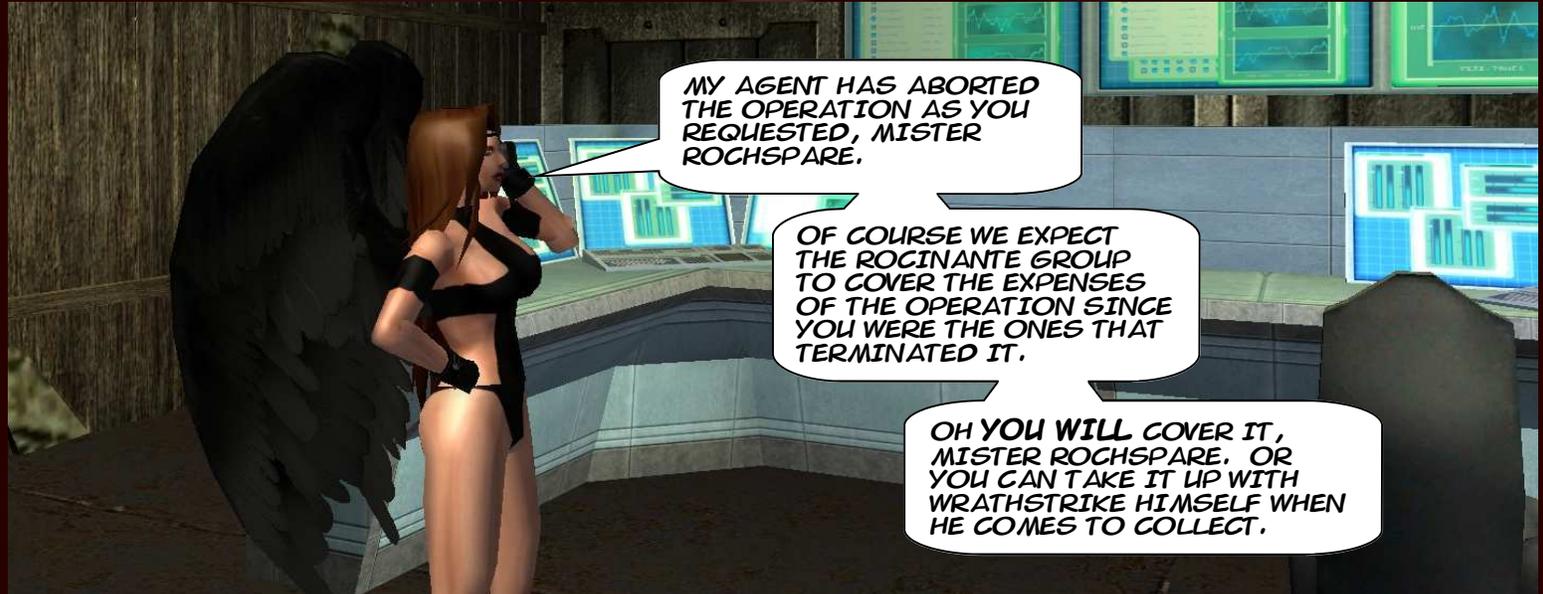
WE'LL PAY YOU TRIPLE!

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, DON'T LEAVE HER WITH US!

MY AGENT HAS ABORTED THE OPERATION AS YOU REQUESTED, MISTER ROCHSPARE.

OF COURSE WE EXPECT THE ROCINANTE GROUP TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF THE OPERATION SINCE YOU WERE THE ONES THAT TERMINATED IT.

OH YOU WILL COVER IT, MISTER ROCHSPARE. OR YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH WRATHSTRIKE HIMSELF WHEN HE COMES TO COLLECT.



SO YOUR ORDER IS REALLY JUST A GLORIFIED MERCENARY ORGANIZATION.

HARDLY.

MY ORDER IS MY EYES AND EARS, MY WILL AND MY FORCE.

AND WHILE THEY MUST TAKE UP OTHER CAUSES ON OCCASION, THEY ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST MY SOLDIERS IN MY QUEST TO MAINTAIN THE GREAT BALANCE.

IN 2010, THE ORDER AIDED THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN.

VITAL SECRETS OF THE GUARDIANS WERE BEING SOLD ON THE BLACK MARKET. THESE SECRETS THREATENED THE GREAT BALANCE.

I AUTHORIZED THE GUARDIANS TO IMPERSONATE SEVERAL OF MY AGENTS TO STOP THE SALE.\*

( \*GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT\* #17)

THEY WERE LED BY JOHN COLE, THEN ONE OF MY NEW AGENTS.

THOUGH THE MISSION SUCCEEDED, IT WAS NOT WITHOUT INCIDENT.

MISTAKES WERE MADE THAT DAMAGED THE REPUTATION OF SOME OF MY AGENTS.

ONCE JOHN COLE WAS RELEASED FROM THE ORDER, MY AGENTS WERE FREE TO SEEK RETRIBUTION.\*

THE DEBTS OF HONOR NEEDED TO BE PAID.

( \*THE GUARDIAN POWERS\* #8)

STEEL CANYON

FEBRUARY 2013



**GALATEA  
POWERS!  
YOUR DAY OF  
RECKONING  
IS HERE!**

**1 UltraaLady  
FORCE OF VENGEANCE**



**OF ALL MY AGENTS, THERE  
WERE NONE THAT WERE MORE  
WRONGED BY THE GUARDIANS  
THAN ULTRAALADY.**

**AN AMERICAN ASTRONAUT BEFORE THE  
FIRST RIKTI INVASION OF 2002, SHE  
WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE THE  
DESTRUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
SPACE STATION, ONLY TO BE LATER  
UNJUSTLY TREATED BY HER OWN  
GOVERNMENT AS A CRIMINAL.**



**IN ORDER TO CONFUSE  
ARACHNOS, THE GUARDIANS  
CONVINCED ULTRAALADY TO  
ACCEPT A "FREE MAKEOVER"  
FROM THE TAILOR IN POCKET D.**

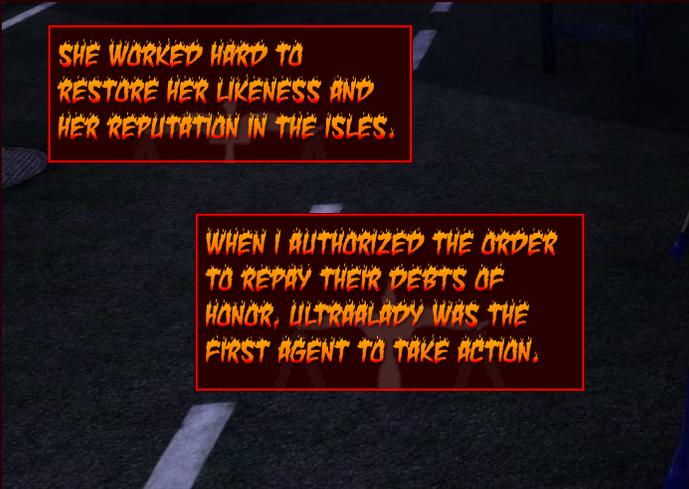
**THE TAILOR REMADE  
ULTRAALADY'S FACE AND  
HAIR SO SHE WOULD BEAR A  
NOTICEABLE RESEMBLANCE  
TO GALATEA POWERS.**



SHE THEN RETURNED TO THE ROGUE ISLES...



... UNAWARE THAT A PARANOID POPULACE WOULD MISTAKE HER FOR GALATEA POWERS AND ATTACK HER ON SIGHT.



SHE WORKED HARD TO RESTORE HER LIKENESS AND HER REPUTATION IN THE ISLES.

WHEN I AUTHORIZED THE ORDER TO REPAY THEIR DEBTS OF HONOR, ULTRALADY WAS THE FIRST AGENT TO TAKE ACTION.

SHE TOOK THE FIRST ARACHNOS TRANSPORT THAT WOULD RISK A TRIP TO PARAGON CITY TO CONFRONT HER NEMESIS.



Galatea Powers (FAITH KARL)

HER TELEKINETIC FIELDS, A SIDE-EFFECT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SPACE STATION, GAVE HER THE POWER TO HOLD HER OWN.



AND, FOR A WHILE, SHE DID JUST THAT.



UNFORTUNATELY FOR HER...

... THE MOMENT WAS FLEETING.

ULTRAALADY'S FIELDS WERE FORMIDABLE, BUT THEY STILL WERE NOT ENOUGH TO OVERCOME GALATEA'S HYPER-STRENGTH.

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE GALATEA WOULD GAUGE HER ATTACKER'S LEVELS AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

**\*KA-POW!\***



IN THE END, ULTRAALADY'S FIXATION ON REVENGE WOULD LEAD TO HER OWN DEFEAT.

SHE REFUSED TO USE THE ROBOT MINIONS AT HER DISPOSAL AND INSTEAD RELIED ONLY ON HER OWN ABILITIES.

IT WOULD HAVE PROLONGED THE CONFRONTATION, EVEN THOUGH IT STILL WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN HER DEFEAT.



I HAD HER TELEPORTED AWAY BEFORE THE POLICE COULD ARRIVE. SHE WOULD BE FREE TO HEAL HER WOUNDED PRIDE.



BUT EVEN THOUGH SHE LOST, HER "DEBT" WAS NOW PAID.

DARK ASTORIA - PARAGON CITY

MARCH 2013

NOT ALL DEBTS WERE PAID SO OPENLY.

SOME WERE SUBTLE.

**Tyrannus 4**  
PRE-STATESMAN CLONE

TYRANNUS 4 IS A CLONE OF STATESMAN, BASED ON A VERSION OF HIM SET IN THE YEARS BEFORE HE BECAME THE LEGENDARY SUPERHERO.

NEMESIS THOUGHT HE COULD USE THE CLONE TO REPLACE STATESMAN. I HAD A BETTER USE FOR HIM.

EVEN WITHOUT INCARNATE POWERS, HE WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE BANISHED PANTHEON THAT STOOD GUARD.

TYRANNUS WOULD NOT KNOW WHY HE WAS SENT TO STEAL AN ARTIFACT OF THE DARK GOD MOT, OR WHY HE WOULD LATER TRANSPORT IT TO THE SEWERS UNDERNEATH KINGS ROW.

ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT IT WOULD FULFILL HIS DEBT OF HONOR AGAINST MIDKNIGHT X FOR THE TROUBLE THAT MIDKNIGHT X CAUSED WHEN POSING AS HIM.

STEEL CANYON

MAY 2013



Lyon Powers  
(KATIE LEA POWERS)





WHERE ARE THE HOSTAGES?

AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVED, I LET THEM LEAVE THROUGH THE SERVICE DOORS. THEY SERVED THEIR PURPOSE AND GOT YOU HERE.

**I** Isea  
FROSTY DIVA



IF YE WANTED T' TALK, ALL YOU 'AD T' DO WAS JUST CALL. I WOULD'VE COME WITHOUT TH' DRAMA.

I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO TALK.

YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU INSULTED ME, AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY THE PRICE FOR IT.



WHAT?  
BECAUSE I HAD TO PRETEND TO BE YOU FOR A MISSION?

YOU DIDN'T "PRETEND" TO BE ME.  
YOU MADE ME LOOK LIKE A RANK AMATEUR IN FRONT OF MY PEERS!



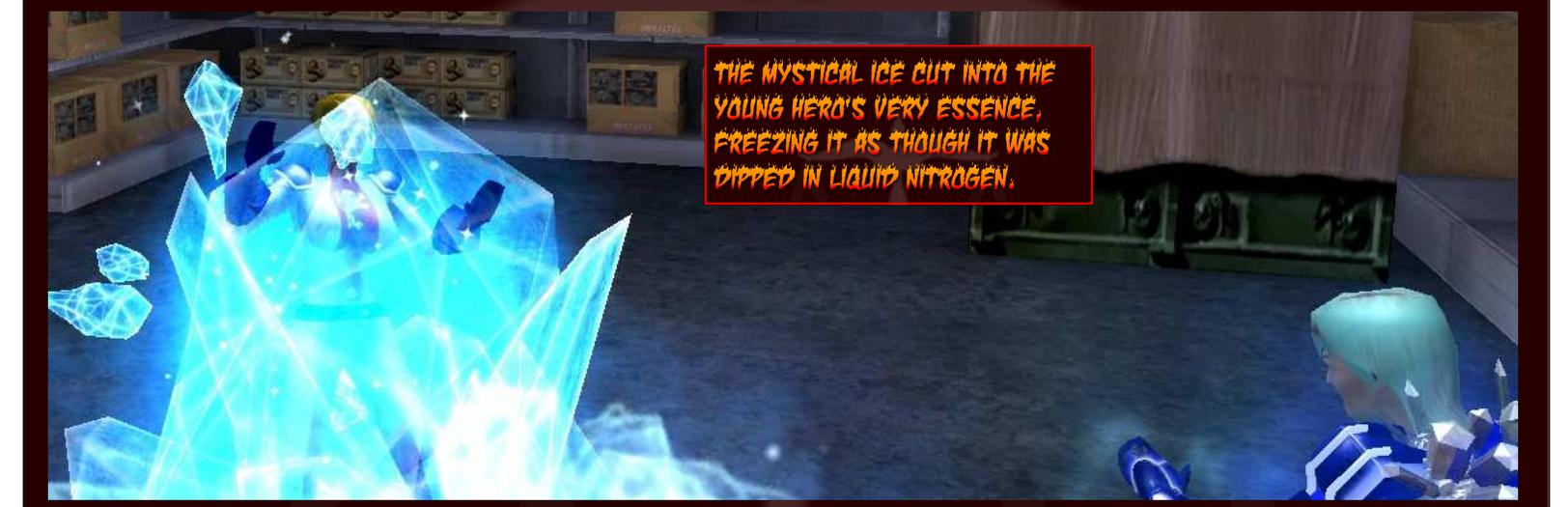
AND YOU WILL FIND THAT I TAKE MY REPUTATION VERY SERIOUSLY!



ISEA DID NOT GLOAT AS SHE  
ATTACKED LYON POWERS.  
IT IS NOT IN HER NATURE.



SO SHE DID NOT TELL THE  
YOUNG WOMAN THAT SHE  
HAD AUGMENTED HER  
MAGIC TO SPECIFICALLY  
NEUTRALIZE LYON POWERS.



THE MYSTICAL ICE CUT INTO THE  
YOUNG HERO'S VERY ESSENCE,  
FREEZING IT AS THOUGH IT WAS  
DIPPED IN LIQUID NITROGEN.



**\*ENF!\***



**\*FWOOSH!\***



THE HERO HAD, AT BEST, ONLY ONE CHANCE  
TO SAVE HER LIFE, NEVER MIND SAVE  
WHAT WAS LEFT OF HER POWERS.



THE GAMBIT WORKED.



THE HERO'S FIRE  
BROKE THE ICE SPELL.



**BUT THE DAMAGE WAS ALREADY DONE.**



**ISEA PREVAILED.**



**FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HER PARENTS DIED, ISEA AFFORDED HERSELF SOME PRIDE OVER HER ACCOMPLISHMENT.**



**BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.**

**\*BZZZZT\***



**GET AWAY FROM HER YOU BITCH!**

**Elite Ice Queen  
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)**



**WHILE HER AUGMENTED MAGIC WAS DESIGNED TO OVERWHELM LYON POWERS, IT COULD NOT STOP THOSE OF THE ELITE ICE QUEEN.**

**ISEA WOULD BE ARRESTED AND BRIEFLY DETAINED BEFORE MY ORDER COULD FREE HER.**

**BUT SHE WENT TO JAIL WITH PRIDE KNOWING THAT SHE REPAID HER DEBT OF HONOR WITH INTEREST.**

**SHE HAD CRIPPLED LYON POWERS.**

LATER...

SO LET'S SEE  
IF I GOT THIS  
RIGHT...

ULTRAALADY GETS HER  
CHANCE AT REVENGE  
AND SHE GETS HER  
SPANDEX BUTT KICKED  
BY GALATEA POWERS.

**Misty Mysery**  
ARACHNOS SOLDIER

ISEA GETS HER CHANCE AND  
SHE KICKS LYON POWERS'S  
BUTT BEFORE GETTING  
CAUGHT AND HAILED OFF  
TO JAIL.

YET THEY BOTH SUPPOSEDLY  
PAID THEIR DEBTS?

AS THEY SAY ON TALK RADIO,  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT  
OPPORTUNITY, NOT OUTCOME.

SO.. WHEN WILL I GET  
MY OPPORTUNITY?

YOU DON'T.

YOU ALREADY HAD  
YOUR CHANCE IN 2011  
AND YOU BLEW IT.\*

OH THAT IS  
BULLSHIT!

I NEVER GOT TO  
REPAY OMEGA  
SHIFT FOR  
WHAT SHE DID  
IN MY NAME!

(\*SPOTLIGHT\* #27)

WHEN I AGREED TO LET HER USE  
MY NAME AND ARMOR, I HAD  
NO IDEA THAT SHE WOULD USE  
MY DNA TO GAIN ACCESS TO  
SENSITIVE PLACES IN THE  
ISLES, OR TO PICK A FIGHT  
WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

I WAS IN THE  
HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK  
AFTERWARD! A WEEK!

AND WHEN LORD RECLUSE  
FOUND OUT WHO SABOTAGED  
HIS SALE OF THE GUARDIANS  
DATA FROM THE BLACK  
MARKET, HE PERSONALLY HAD  
ME DEMOTED TWO LEVELS IN  
RANK AND PUT ME THROUGH A  
BEAT-DOWN GAUNTLET BY THE  
ROUGHEST WOLF SPIDERS  
THEY COULD GET!

I HAD ONLY ONE THOUGHT IN MY MIND AS I LAY THERE IN THE HOSPITAL BED WHILE MY BONES SET...

...TO FIND THAT SO-CALLED "HERO" AND MAKE SURE THAT SHE FEELS EVERYTHING THAT I DID AND THEN SOME!

RIGHT...

WHICH WAS WHY LIBRA GAVE YOU YOUR OPPORTUNITY EVEN BEFORE ULTRAALADY.

AND WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR OPPORTUNITY?

DID YOU GO AFTER OMEGA SHIFT? NO, YOU WASTED RESOURCES, INCLUDING AN IMBEDDED AGENT, TO GO AFTER THE FIRST GUARDIAN THAT YOU CAME ACROSS.

AND NOT ONLY DID YOU GET YOUR BUTT KICKED AGAIN, YOU HELPED THE GUARDIANS GET A NEW MEMBER IN THE FORM OF ROCKY ROCKROCKER!

NOW...EVEN IF LIBRA COULD AUTHORIZE IT, OMEGA SHIFT IS OUT OF THE EQUATION.

BUT HE HAS AUTHORIZED A SPECIAL MISSION THAT INVOLVES GETTING REVENGE AGAINST THE OTHER HERO THAT HURT YOU.

IT WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF STEALTH AND BEING ABLE TO PICK AND CHOOSE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT? DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE MORE THAN JUST A GRUNT SPIDER FOR LORD RECLUSE?

LADY, THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH ALL DAY.

YOU BET I'LL TAKE IT!

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT TAINTED EVE.

ASK

I GET THE FEELING THAT SHE IS NOT MUCH OF A LEADER FOR THE ORDER AS SHE IS A MESSENGER. AM I RIGHT?



EVE IS MY PERFECT APOSTLE.



A FORMER ANGEL WHO BECAME MY FIRST RECRUIT FOR THE MODERN ERA.



ONCE SHE WAS A WARHOST, A GUARDIAN ANGEL, EVEN THE TEMPLATE FOR THE FIRST WOMAN.

BUT THEN, IN A TIME OF WEAKNESS, SHE WAS SEDUCED BY A DEMON.

A DEMON WHO WAS OPERATING UNDER MY ORDERS.



STRIPPED OF HER RANK AND CAST OUT OF HEAVEN, SHE ARRIVED IN THE ROGUE ISLES ONLY WITH WHAT LITTLE MAGIC SHE WAS ABLE TO SUMMON IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND CLOTHE HERSELF.



SHE ACCEPTED MY OFFER OF PROTECTION FOR HER SERVICES, AND SHE HAS PROVEN HERSELF TO BE EVERY BIT MY LOYAL APOSTLE.

BUT WHILE SHE IS MY PERFECT APOSTLE, SHE IS STILL VERY MUCH AN AGENT OF ORDER.



WHICH IS WHY, FROM TIME TO TIME, I HAVE TO RELY ON ONE WHO IS AN EAGER AGENT OF CHAOS.

MY MISTRESS.

IN ALL THINGS, BALANCE.

**1** Mistress Libra  
TROUBLEMAKER

# "Yes, It's Dangerous!"

When I was told we needed a reporter in the Rogue Isles, I jumped at the chance.

Sure it's a dangerous assignment. But that is what makes the job that much more important to what we do.

Because we're here to get the story, not just pad our resume.



Randi Rogues  
Rogue Isles Correspondent



## WHOOMER'S SHRIMP DECK

Enjoy the best in seafood cuisine as only you can get in the Rogue Isles!

Caught Here, Served Here.  
Promise.

We're easy to find. We're right off the Port Oaks East ferry station.

Stop by for a quick bite to eat that won't bite back.



IF IT'S NOT FROM US, THEN IT'S JUST NUTRIPASTE

# Did you know that...

- ◆ Statistically speaking, you have a better chance at getting robbed in Paragon City - the so-called “City of Heroes” - than anywhere in the Rogue Isles? It’s true!
- ◆ Despite an ongoing and hostile boycott of trade by the United States and most European nations, the Rogue Isles continue to thrive and serve as a shipping hub for goods.
- ◆ We have completely solved homelessness, joblessness, and hunger!
- ◆ There is no energy crisis thanks to our advanced energy program bringing free energy through most of the Isles.
- ◆ Our education program has a 99.9% success rate. Almost every single graduate of our Rogue Isles University will find a job immediately! Some find work even before they graduate!
- ◆ Our climates are constant... and comfortable.
- ◆ Despite what you hear from the media, most places in the Isles are still locally-governed, and enjoy the highest and longest-lasting citizen satisfaction rating than any country in the world today.
- ◆ There are no “War Walls” in the Isles - either literally or politically.

So why continue to buy the hype that the Rogue Isles are somehow “evil”?

**COME TO THE ROGUE ISLES**  
**YOU'LL BE BETTER HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE!**

Statistics are not an accurate representation of standards of living or chances of survival. Climate is controlled through volcanic clouds and magic. Most brand goods are not legally available due to ongoing international boycott. Local officials are honorary members of Arachnos or are put to death for treason.

Paid for by the Rogue Isles Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. All hail Lord Recluse and Arachnos!

NERVOUS?

PLEASE! I'M A TRAINED ARACHNOS SOLDIER... GETTING READY TO ENGAGE IN A MISSION WITHOUT MY ARMOR, MY WEAPONS, OR SUPPORT.

I'M NERVOUS AS ALL HELL AND YOU KNOW IT.

I HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE WHILE YOU'RE THERE. THINK OF IT AS AN EXTRA OBJECTIVE.

WHAT? NEED ME TO PICK UP YOUR DRY CLEANING?

GET YOU A NEW "BACK MASSAGER"?

NOTHING THAT MUNDANE... YOU EVER WATCH PNN\*?

ON OCCASION, OPPOSITION RESEARCH, WHY?

I'M TOLD A CERTAIN PNN REPORTER WILL BE IN THE AREA.

FIRST OPPORTUNITY YOU GET, GIVE "YOUR BEST" TO THAT REPORTER.

(PNN: PARAGON NEWS NETWORK, PARAGON CITY'S PREMIERE NEWS CHANNEL.)

FINE. WHATEVER. JUST LET ME GET READY.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY YOU'LL THANK ME LATER FOR THIS.

OH, AND HAVE FUN WHILE YOU'RE THERE.

HOURS LATER...

THIS IS APRIL RAMIREZ, REPORTING BACKSTAGE AT THE ANNUAL TINA BELLO CHARITY CONCERT HERE IN ATLAS PARK.

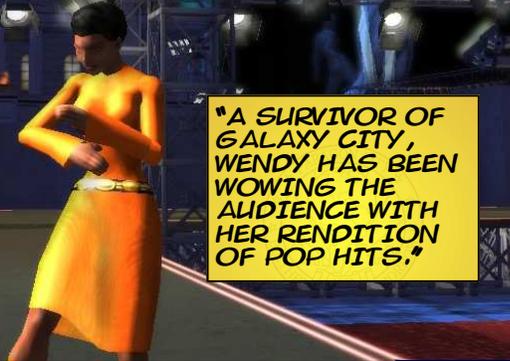
THE CONCERT, WHICH RAISES MONEY FOR REFUGEE AID, CONTINUES THE LEGACY STARTED BY POP STAR TINA BELLO, WHO WAS CALLOUSLY MURDERED ON STAGE BACK IN 2005.\*

(\* TALES FROM PARAGON CITY\* #4)

# TINA BELLO CHARITY CONCERT · ATLAS PARK



"AND ALREADY THE CROWD IS IN AWE AT THE SINGING PERFORMANCE OF 27-YEAR OLD WENDY SPYRE."



"A SURVIVOR OF GALAXY CITY, WENDY HAS BEEN WOWING THE AUDIENCE WITH HER RENDITION OF POP HITS."

HOPEFULLY HER SIGNING WILL ALSO HELP SWAY CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP HERSELF AND THE OTHERS IN NEED.



WENDY SPYRE · EARLIER TONIGHT



APRIL RAMIREZ · ATLAS PARK



WHY DOES SHE... WHY IS SHE SO FAMILIAR?

EXCUSE ME...



I WAS ASKING YOU WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING, MS SUNDAY. YOU KNOW IT'S SORT OF RUDE TO JUST LEAVE SOMEONE HANGING LIKE THIS.



HUH? OH, I'M SORRY. WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? I'M IN THE ADULT VIDEO BUSINESS. SOFTCORE STUFF, STRICTLY GIRL-ON-GIRL. WE SAY IT'S "ARTISTIC", BUT, COME ON, YOU KNOW WHAT THE GUY'S ARE REALLY WATCHING IT FOR.

O-OHHHH. THANK YOU. EXCUSE ME.





IT WOULD TAKE A WHILE FOR MISTY TO REALIZE JUST WHO HER TARGET WAS...

... AND HOW IT CONNECTED TO HER OWN PAST FAILURE.



THE YOUNG WOMAN ON STAGE WAS HER TARGET.

BUT MISTY DID NOT KNOW WHY.

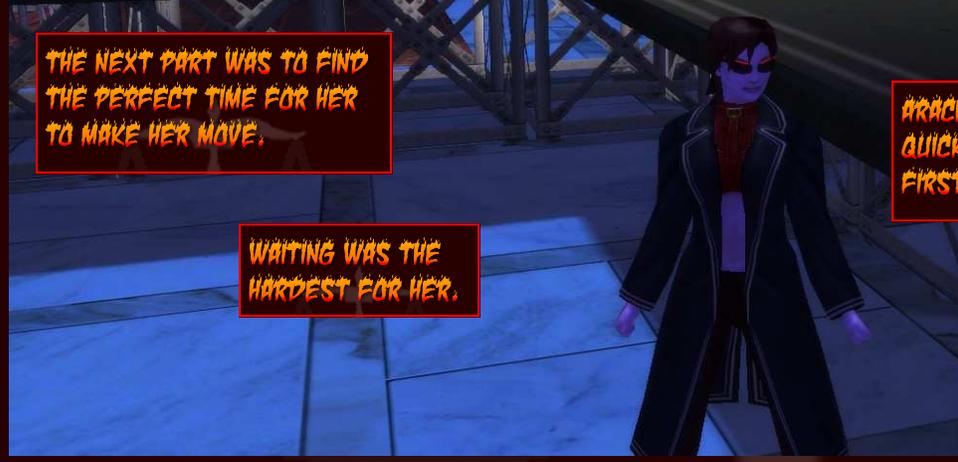


THEN SHE RECOGNIZED THE WOMAN'S DISTINCT SINGING VOICE.

WHYSPERA...

AND WITH THAT, IT ALL BECAME CLEAR.

HER TARGET WAS THE VERY HERO THAT HAD THWARTED HER REVENGE IN 2011.



THE NEXT PART WAS TO FIND THE PERFECT TIME FOR HER TO MAKE HER MOVE.

WAITING WAS THE HARDEST FOR HER.

ARACHNOS TRAINED HER TO ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY; HIT FIRST, HIT HARD, AND GET THE KILL.

BUT SHE WAS NOT THERE FOR ARACHNOS. SHE WAS THERE FOR ME AND FOR THE GREAT BALANCE.

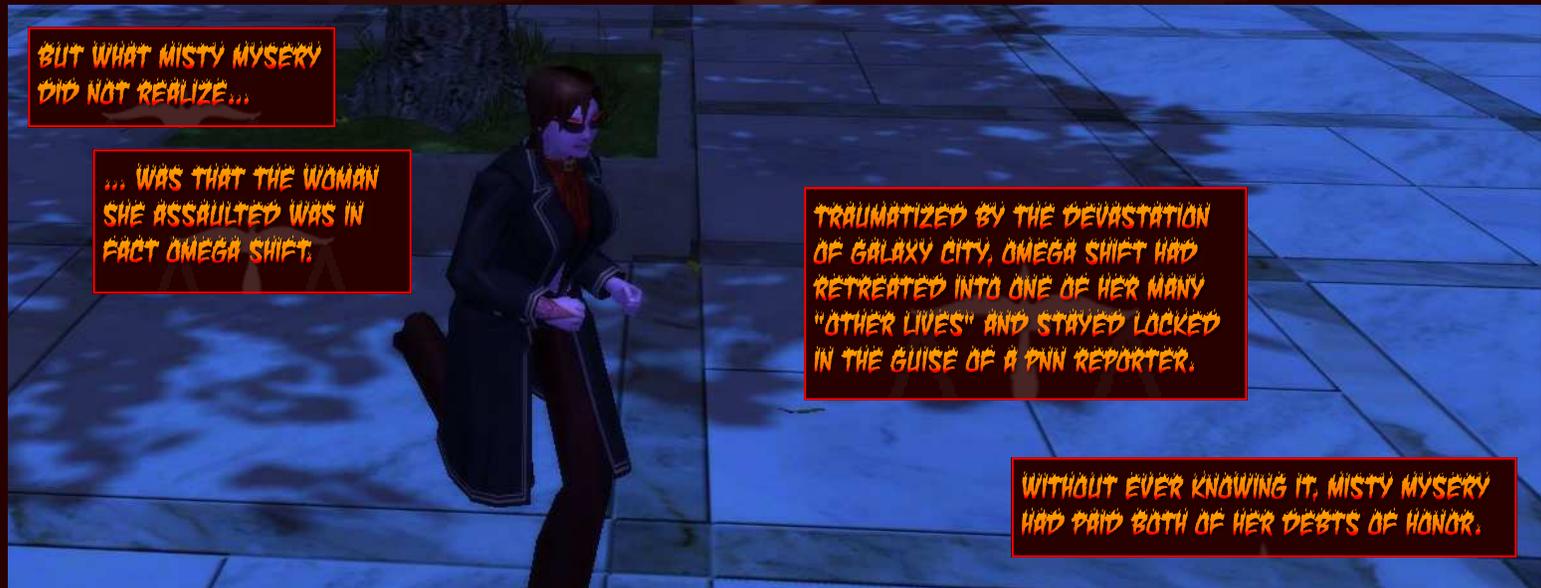
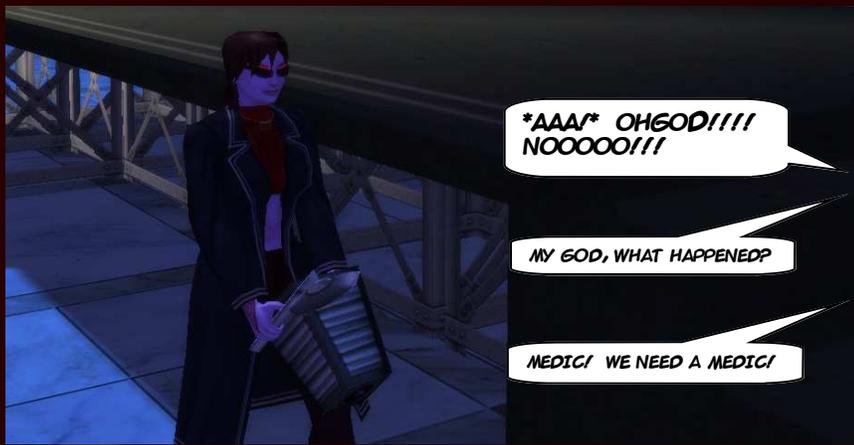


HER WEAPON, DISGUISED AS AN OLD-FASHIONED CAMERA, WAS AN ULTRA-SONIC PROJECTOR.



NEWFOUND FEELINGS SHARED WITH A TEAMMATE...

... BECAME THAT PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR MISTY TO STRIKE.





WHY ALL THE SUBTERFUGE?  
WHY NOT SIMPLY GIVE ALL YOUR AGENTS THE POWER TO REPAY THEIR DEBTS?



YOU THINK TOO SMALL.

COSMIC FORCES CANNOT CASUALLY MEDDLE IN MORTAL AFFAIRS WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE.



MY AGENTS ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE ACTION, BUT THEY MUST LEARN FOR THEMSELVES HOW TO USE THAT CHANCE WISELY.

ISEA LEARNED ON HER OWN HOW TO OVERCOME AND DEFEAT LYON POWERS.

BUT SOME HEROES, SUCH AS GALATEA POWERS, ARE SIMPLY TOO POWERFUL OR TOO EXPERIENCED TO BE DIRECTLY HURT.

IN THOSE CASES, SUBTERFUGE IS NEEDED TO BRING BALANCE.



FROM THE MOMENT HIS POWERS MANIFESTED WHEN HE WAS A TEENAGER, NATHAN QUIRE LEARNED THAT HE COULD GET ANYTHING THAT HE WANTED FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

**N. Quire**  
MASTER TELEPATH

HE ALSO LEARNED QUICKLY TO HIDE THIS POWER FROM OTHERS, ESPECIALLY FROM THOSE JUST LIKE HIM.



TODAY, N. QUIRE IS ONE OF MY BEST AGENTS; ABLE TO DO THE MOST DAMAGE WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING WHO HE IS OR THAT HE IS EVEN DOING IT.

HE CAN GO ANYWHERE HE WISHES TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. HE IS NOT BOUND BY POLITICS OR BUREAUCRATIC OVERSIGHT. HE ANSWERS TO NO ONE... NO ONE EXCEPT MYSELF.



I TOLD YOU I'LL DEAL WITH THIS.

Icon Powers (KENT PODERES)



DEAL WITH IT? HOW? BY TALKING WITH HIM? WENDY'S VOCAL CHORDS ARE FROZEN SOLID, OLD MAN! HUNTER RUINED HER WHOLE LIFE!

Street Justice (MARTIN KEYS)



WEAK. INEFFECTIVE. USELESS.

YOU'RE USELESS, KENT. I'LL DEAL WITH HIM MYSELF!



I SAID LEAVE ME ALONE!

YOU'RE DEAD, CHILL!

Arctic Chill (HUNTER BLOODMOON)



I'M SORRY, BUT THE DAMAGE WAS TOO EXTENSIVE TO SAVE EITHER ARM.



FAILURE. YOU FAILED HIM, YOU'RE TIRED. YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS TOO LONG. YOU'RE USELESS.

AND THAT IS HOW IT BEGINS...



I TOLD YOU BEFORE, KENT... I'M NOT GOING TO SELL OUT TO ANDREW WENTWORTH LIKE THE REST OF THE GUARDIANS.

MidKnight X (JASON KNIGHT)



SO YOU'D RATHER RISK BEING ENSLAVED TO MOT AGAIN?

I'LL KEEP THIS BETWEEN THE FOUR OF US, BUT, PLEASE, LET US HELP YOU! DON'T TRY TO HANDLE THIS ON YOUR OWN!

THE SEED THAT IS PLANTED IN THE MIND OF THE GREAT ICON POWERS.

FEBRUARY 2014 - ATLAS PARK

THE SEED IS NOURISHED BY REPETITION.

EVERY COVERT VISIT BRINGS A LITTLE NUDDGE.

ACTIONS ARE QUESTIONED, ADVICE IS IGNORED, DECISIONS ARE NEGATED.

WEEKS, EVEN MONTHS OF GENTLE NUDDGES.



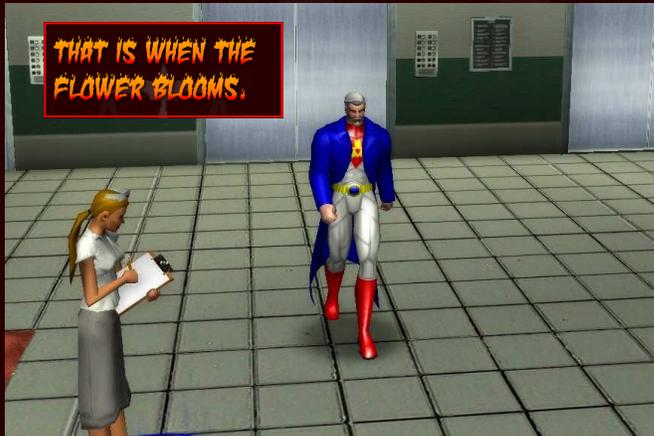
A MOMENT OF SADNESS.

THE LOSS OF A FRIEND AND TEAMMATE.

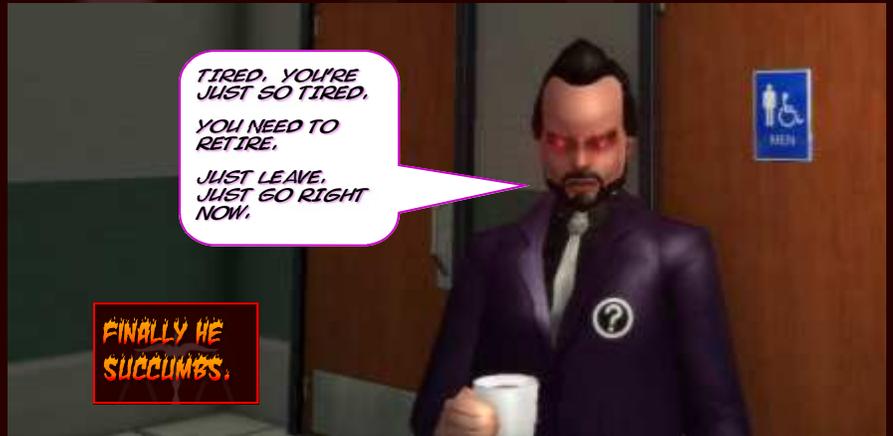
HE'S GONE.

TIME OF DEATH... 2:23PM

A TIME OF PERSONAL WEAKNESS.



THAT IS WHEN THE FLOWER BLOOMS.



TIRED, YOU'RE JUST SO TIRED, YOU NEED TO RETIRE. JUST LEAVE, JUST GO RIGHT NOW.

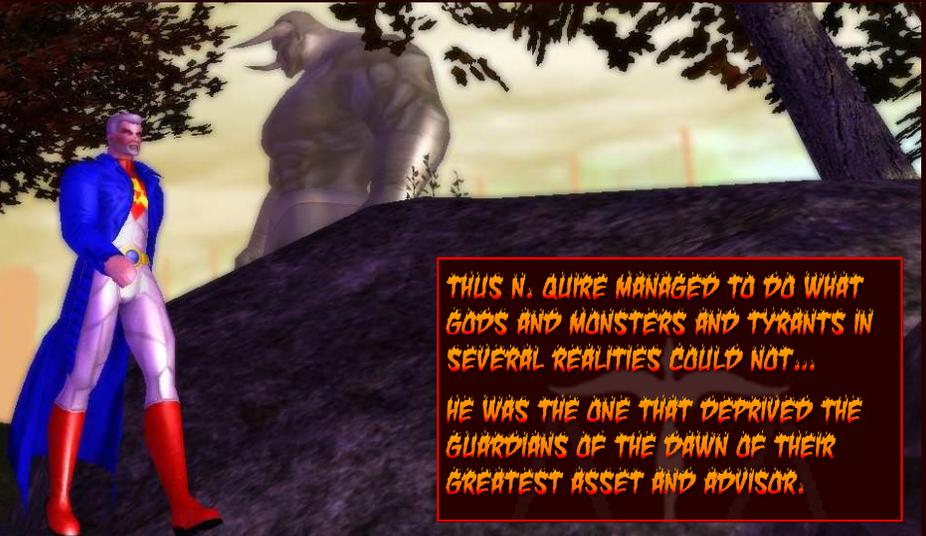
FINALLY HE SUCCUMBS.

TALOS ISLAND - THE NEXT DAY...

FOR YEARS, ICON POWERS WAS MINDFUL OF THOSE TRYING TO SUBVERT HIS WILL.

BUT WHILE N. QUIRE COULD NOT ENTER ICON'S MIND DIRECTLY, HE COULD NUDDGE IT WITH SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTIONS.

THE URGING TO QUIT.



THUS N. QUIRE MANAGED TO DO WHAT GODS AND MONSTERS AND TYRANTS IN SEVERAL REALITIES COULD NOT... HE WAS THE ONE THAT DEPRIVED THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN OF THEIR GREATEST ASSET AND ADVISOR.



WHERE ARE YOU, BITCH? WE NEED TO TALK!



"BITCH"? OH, PLEASE, EVE...

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT YOU CAN CALL ME "LILITH" IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO ADDRESS ME AS "MISTRESS".



I AM NEVER CALLING YOU "MISTRESS". YOU'RE A FRAUD AND YOU DON'T DESERVE ANY CLAIM OF MASTERY OVER ANYONE!

TSK-TSK... IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO THE ONE LIBRA LOVES? SO WHAT IS IT THAT HAS YOU SO UPSET?



WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU TOLD ELLE MAPLE THAT SHE HAD TO TRY TO KILL MALCOLM ROCHSPARE?



SHE CALLED, AND YOU WEREN'T AVAILABLE. SHE NEEDED SOME ADVICE.



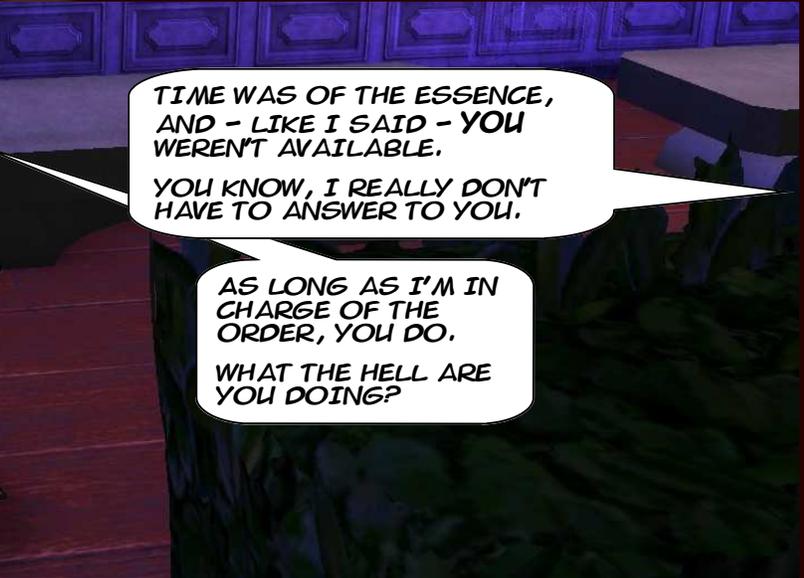
TURNED OUT ROCHSPARE WAS TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY.\*

HE HAD ALL OF THE PIECES IN PLACE, SO IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.

(\* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GRADUATION" #3)



AND YOU DIDN'T BOTHER TO CONSULT WITH ME BEFORE TELLING HER TO PULL OUT HER KNIVES AND ATTACK ROCHSPARE?



TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE, AND - LIKE I SAID - YOU WEREN'T AVAILABLE. YOU KNOW, I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU.

AS LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE OF THE ORDER, YOU DO. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?



STRIPPING DOWN TO TAKE A DIP.  
WHY DO YOU THINK I'M HERE?



OR BETTER YET...  
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME?



UH...NO...  
I DON'T...  
I'M NOT INTO...



I KNOW THAT YOU CAN TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO A HUMAN FORM SO YOUR PRECIOUS WINGS WON'T GET WET.  
AND YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST ANGEL THAT I'VE SHARED MY PERSONAL HEAVEN WITH EITHER.



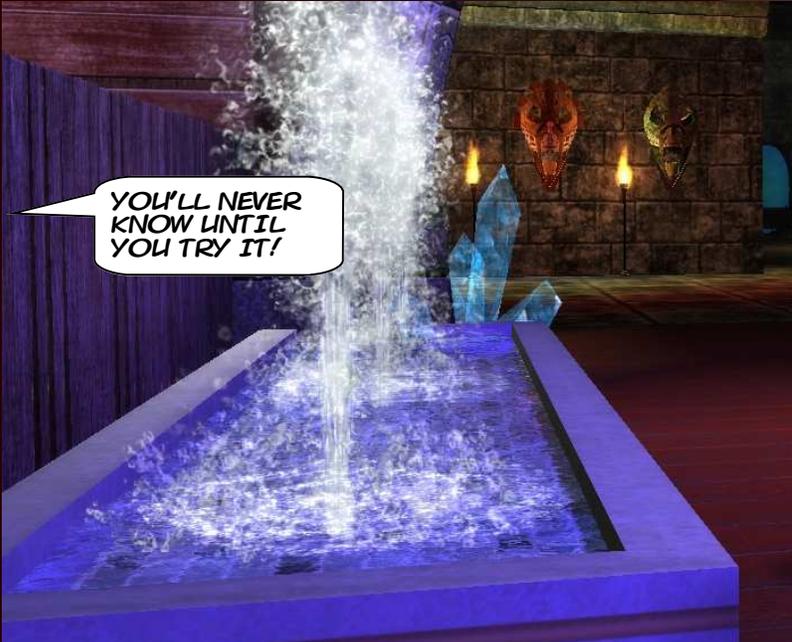
DAMMIT! NO!  
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO SIDESTEP THE ISSUE!

*\*SPLOOSH\**



ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

COME ON IN AND PROVE IT.



YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY IT!



THEN I GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW.

MY MISTRESS IS STRATEGIC.  
SHE IS SO MASTERFUL AT MANIPULATION THAT SHE CAN EVEN TURN THE RAGE OF AN ANGEL INTO A GUILTY BLUSH.



SO THAT'S IT, RIGHT?  
ALL OF THE "DEBTS OF  
HONOR" HAVE BEEN PAID,  
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.  
SO WHY TELL ME THIS?

BECAUSE THERE IS STILL  
ONE MORE DEBT THAT  
NEEDS TO BE PAID.



THE AGENTS THAT WERE  
HARMED BY THE GUARDIANS  
IN THEIR OPERATION WERE  
GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
RETRIBUTION, THAT IS TRUE.

BUT THE ONE PERSON REMAINING WAS  
THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION,  
THE ONE WHOSE DEBT OF HONOR YOU  
WERE CHOSEN TO COLLECT.

JOHN COLE.



BUT JOHN COLE WAS AN  
AGENT OF YOUR ORDER,  
WASN'T HE?

HOW COULD YOU CALL  
FOR A "DEBT OF HONOR"  
WHEN HE WAS A PART OF  
YOUR ORDER?

IN ORDER TO DO THAT, IT IS  
IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHY HE  
BECAME A PART OF MY ORDER.



RAISED IN THE ROGUE ISLES,  
JOHN COLE FIRST GAINED  
NOTORIETY BY BEING THE  
FIRST SUCCESSFUL MALE  
WIDOW AGENT FOR ARACHNOS.

HIS SUPERVISORS SAID HE WAS  
EFFECTIVE AS A WIDOW, BUT  
NOT RUTHLESS.

 **Widowmaker**  
(JOHN COLE)

THEY HAD NO IDEA WHY  
THAT WAS. BUT I DID.



AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER, A FORMER ARACHNOS SPY, JOHN COLE VANISHED FOR THREE DAYS.

WHEN HE RETURNED, HE WAS ALLOWED TO "LEAVE" ARACHNOS, EVEN THOUGH MOST IN THE ISLES REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT WAS EVEN POSSIBLE.

HE LEFT ARACHNOS, BUT HE COULD NOT LEAVE WHAT WAS GIVEN TO HIM. HE WAS STILL A MALE WIDOW AGENT WITH ALL OF THE WEAPONS AND TOOLS INSIDE HIM.



MATTHEW BURKE REQUESTED THAT I RECRUIT COLE TO MY ORDER SPECIFICALLY TO AID THE GUARDIANS IN THEIR COVERT OPERATION.

I AGREED TO THE REQUEST BECAUSE OF WHO JOHN COLE IS... AND OF HIS LINK TO THE COLE FAMILY LEGACY.

I KNEW OF BURKE'S CONNECTION TO THE GUARDIANS THROUGH HIS ADOPTED SISTER, MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA.

THAT KNOWLEDGE ITSELF WAS CERTAINLY WORTH MORE THAN THE TEN MILLION DOLLARS THAT WAS SPENT TO COMPLETE THE ILL-FATED OPERATION.



UNFORTUNATELY, A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE GREAT BALANCE FORCED ME TO RELEASE MY HOLD ON JOHN COLE.\*

BUT NOT BEFORE I RELIEVED HIM OF ALL OF HIS ARACHNOS WIDOW WEAPONS AND DEVICES.

(\* THE DRAMATIC CHANGE IS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL IN "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #15)



WHICH I PRESUME YOU KEPT.

OF COURSE.

WHILE MY PLANS WERE FORCED TO CHANGE, HIS DEBT TO MY ORDER REMAINS.

SOME OF MY OPERATIONS TAKE YEARS TO DEVELOP BEFORE THEY COME TO FRUITION.

CASE IN POINT...

<WELL... I HOPE YOU ARE MY WELCOMING COMMITTEE.>\*

(\* TRANSLATED FROM INTER-SPEAK, THE UNIVERSAL INTERGALACTIC LANGUAGE)

<BE LUCKY I EVEN BOTHERED TO SHOW UP TO MEET YOU.>

<I MET WITH YOUR BOSS SEVEN YEARS AGO!>\*

<I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK IT WAS A WASTED TRIP.>

(\* SPOTLIGHT #22)

<YOU CAN BLAME MY BOSS FOR THAT.>  
<BARTIOK NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS A MARKET FOR THE TREASURE YOU DESCRIBED BEFORE SENDING ME.>

<THE NAME IS NOX.>  
<I'M AN ADVANCE AGENT, HERE TO MAKE SURE THE TREASURE IS AS VALLIABLE AS YOU DESCRIBE.>  
<AFTER BARTIOK'S FAILURE WITH THE KHELDIANS, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERN ABOUT A MARKET FOR SUCH RARE SUPER-HUMAN BEINGS.>

 **Nox**  
ADVANCE AGENT

<THE "GUARDIAN EXILES" ARE REAL, AND YOU WILL SEE THEIR WORTH SOON ENOUGH.>

<PLUS WE NOW HAVE A NEW MARKET OF EXILES FOR YOUR BOSS TO CONSIDER.>

<HOLD ON, SEXY.>  
<FIRST I SEE THESE "GUARDIAN EXILES", THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT OTHERS.>



THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO REVEAL YOURSELF AND ACCEPT THE GIFTS I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

REMOVE THE CLOAKS THAT HAVE KEPT YOU CONCEALED.



THE LIFE YOU ONCE HAD NO LONGER EXISTS.

HIS LIFE IS NOW YOURS.

EVERYTHING HE REMEMBERED, EVERYTHING HE WAS UNTIL 2011 IS NOW A PART OF YOU.

HIS WEAPONS, HIS TOOLS, HIS TRAINING, EVEN HIS FAMILY LEGACY ARE NOW ALL YOURS THROUGH THE BLOOD MEMORY LEFT BEHIND IN HIS DEVICES.



YOU ARE NOW THE WIDOWMAKER.

AND YOU WILL REPAY THE DEBT OF HONOR LEFT BY JOHN COLE... BY BEING WHAT HE ONCE WAS TO DESTROY WHAT HE COULD BECOME.

IN ALL THINGS... BALANCE.

Find out what happens next in...

**FURIA**   
AND THE **GUARDIANS**

 **Widowmaker**  
ARACHNOS WIDOW

# EQUILIBRIUM



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

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## **October...**

The month everyone thinks of when they think of fall.

The season of Halloween.

A time when ghosts and goblins and things that go bump in the night are celebrated.

And traditionally it is also a time when the bad guys take center stage.

I remember once upon a time when the local TV station did a Halloween Marathon and it featured some of the most notorious characters in history. There was Dracula, Frankenstein's Monster, The Bride of Frankenstein, The Wolfman, and Lizzy Bordon.

I know the last one seemed a little strange, but it actually fit in given how the movie itself was somewhat scary and, even though she was never convicted of it, she was allegedly a notoriously brutal double-murderer. Plus the movie showed a rather salacious theory of how Lizzy supposedly carried out her crime, so between the hinted nudity and the blood, it did fit in with the general theme of the night.

The dirty little secret about stories featuring heroes is that quite often the villains are the ones that have the better histories.

Heroes quite often are boring. We already know who they are and why they do what they do. It's the villains that lead the more interesting lives. Or they have the more twisted lives. We want to know why they do what they do. What is their story?

The villains are the ones that take the action that the heroes have to respond to. They're the ones causing the disasters. The devastation is being done in their name and for their purposes.

## **So How Did We Get Here?**

The Libra Order first appeared in "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight" #17 as a different way to show life in the Rogue Isles. Readers were already given a taste of the Rogue Isles in the two-part "Limelight" storyline as Midnight Arachnia tried to survive while in hiding. But with the Order, we exposed something you normally would not see in the "City of Villains"; namely the infrastructure that keeps the Rogue Isles going regardless of who "rules" it.

In order to show this, we needed operatives that were not really evil... or not really in league with Lord Recluse and Arachnos. Operatives that wouldn't object too loudly to working with heroes.

Some of the operatives were a perfect fit for the Guardians, like Isea and Lyon Powers. Some, like Tyrannus 4 and MidKnight X, required a little fudging. And then, of course, there was Omega Shift. Being a shapshifter has its advantages.

Then there needed to be a "control operative", someone within the Order that knew enough about the infrastructure to cause damage. Who better than a real "rogue" operative with rumors of a special "family lineage"?

It was after this one-issue look at the Order that the idea came about for "payback". After all, the operation did not go off as "flawlessly" as was hoped. Mistakes were made. People were hurt.

*Continues on next page...*

The idea was that there would be a multi-part storyline called “Debts of Honor” which would feature one member of the Order getting payback against the Guardian that impersonated them. The very first one would be Misty Mysery, and you could actually see that in “Spotlight” #27.

Sadly, the storyline could not be developed as I was forced to shelve my access to “The City” for a few months. When I was able to return with “The Guardian Powers”, I had hoped to bring that storyline back. Again, you saw references to that in “The Guardian Powers” #8 with Libra releasing John Cole from the Isles and telling Tainted Eve to “Gather my forces”.

But, once again, that was not meant to be as NCSOft began to sunset the MMO. Not all storylines could be cleared up before the shutdown, so “Debts of Honor” was one of many un-realized ideas.

Then came the “gift”... a way for me to resume telling stories thanks to Titan Icon and demorecording. A way for me to return to “The City” and bring you the stories that you have loved for so long.

My “return” came in a three-part miniseries called “Guardians of the Dawn GRADUATION”, which originally was supposed to be a one-shot issue, but there was just too much story to keep in a single issue. “Debts of Honor” was supposed to be included as part of the story, but there just was not enough room to include it and the other storylines. Plus it just didn’t seem to fit with the overall storyline in “GRADUATION”.

On top of it all, there were some events in “GRADUATION” that I’m sure people thought were strange. Certain pieces were missing... “Debts of Honor” would fill those in.

So the decision was made to give the Libra Order their own one-shot special... and the timing could not be better.

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Well the answer to that is simple... onward with the next phase.

The Widowmaker is back. But how will he affect the man who once was him? Who are the other “exiles” that Mistress Libra mentioned to Nox? And what can be done to stop Nox before his boss decides to show up to “collect” the “Guardian Exiles”?

All of these and more will be answered in January of 2015 as we launch...

# **FURIA**

## **AND THE GUARDIANS**

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>



# "WE ARE SOLDIERS OF ARACHNOS!"

We serve a leader who is an actual immortal; not one who thinks he is simply because he won an election.

We fight for a cause that is greater than our own miserable and pathetic lives.

We wear these uniforms because they look cool.

We strive to augment ourselves at every opportunity so we can be even stronger and more ruthless in battle.

Our actions are not second-guessed by armchair quarterbacks sitting in some cushy cable television studio owned by some billionaire egomaniac with a political agenda.

We chose to work in the most depraved and dilapidated of conditions so that every free moment away from them are considered gifts from our immortal leader.

We do not fear torture or death; we fear Ghost Widow using our souls for her personal amusement. Anything else is meaningless.

We serve because we know doing so will give us real food instead of the watery fish paste the civilians eat.

We strive to one day see a Fortunata without her helmet.

## If this sounds like you, then join us!



Arachnos is a recognized terrorist organization. Enlisting in Arachnos is considered a felony in most countries around the world. Please consider whether or not you think this is worth going to prison for the rest of your life if captured. Ghost Widow may or may not eat your soul even if you do nothing wrong. Fortunatas wear those helmets for a reason. You'll still eat watery fish paste, unless you prefer the taste of seagulls and what passes for fish in the Rogue Isles. This is not a real ad.

*"I've spent a long time building up my family's business and made it what it is. And now that I have what I have long sought after, I will not allow anyone to take it away from me."*

- Lord Lee Geddy  
CEO, Rocinante Group



# **FURIA**

AND  
THE **GUARDIANS**



[HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://battlerockcomics.wordpress.com)



A PROUD MEMBER  
OF THE CITY OF  
COMIC CREATORS