



BATTLEROCK  
COMICS



**T** FOR TEENS

# FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 16  
2019

ENTER...  
**Red Sinner**



**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**

PERFECT  
WORLD

Millennium City is more than just a bunch of buildings.

It is about businesses.

It is about homes.

It is about families.

It is about people.

It is about hopes and dreams that could not be destroyed by evil.

My father knew this, and so did my brother.

Together, they founded Millennium Insurance; to be there for people and families and homes and businesses when all the other insurance companies abandoned them after Detroit fell.

Today I am humbled and honored to serve as CEO of Millennium Insurance, continuing the promise that my father and my brother made to the people of Millennium City; to be there for them in both good times and bad.

Be it a new life, a new car, a new home, or a new business, Millennium Insurance will always be there for you.

Because Millennium City is about all of us.

# Millennium Insurance

Millennium Insurance is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real person. Not a real ad.



Samuel de Raven - CEO



**We didn't make the oil...**

But we did get it from the ground.

And then bring it to America.

And then refine it into the cleanest, most fuel-efficient form of gasoline on the market ever.

And then make that gasoline available for you when you need it at any one of our 24-hour service stations all across the country.

We didn't have to do all of that.

But we did it anyway.

Because we care.

Because that's what a good corporate business in America does.

# ARGENT

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE... FOR EVERYONE!



Argent is a fictional business in the MMO world of Champions Online. Any comparisons to filthy, greedy, money-grubbing, polluting, real-world private corporations that get tax breaks from corrupt politicians in Washington while screwing over the taxpayers and denying the consequences of their actions are just coincidental. It's fiction, okay?



From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live.

It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Life is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...

# **FUTURE'S GUARDIAN**

## **"A GGRAVATION"**

**- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2**

FAMED INTERNATIONAL REPORTER PEDRO DUARTE HAS ACCUSED "LEGACY WARRIOR" JOHN BATTLE OF BEING A FRAUD AND A PRIVATEER, SELLING OUT INDIAN NATION LANDS TO PRIVATE BUSINESSES.

NOW BATTLE HAS TO DEFEND HIS NAME AND HIS FAMILY'S LEGACY. BUT IT'S NOT EASY WHEN THE MEDIA SEEMS TO BE HELPING DUARTE.

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"WHEN THE TRUCKS FIRST ARRIVED, WE THOUGHT NOTHING OF THEM. THEY WEREN'T THE FIRST TO COME HERE TO BUILD SOMETHING."

"BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE WE NOTICED THAT THE STRUCTURES THEY WERE PUTTING UP WERE NOT FOR A CULTURAL CENTER."

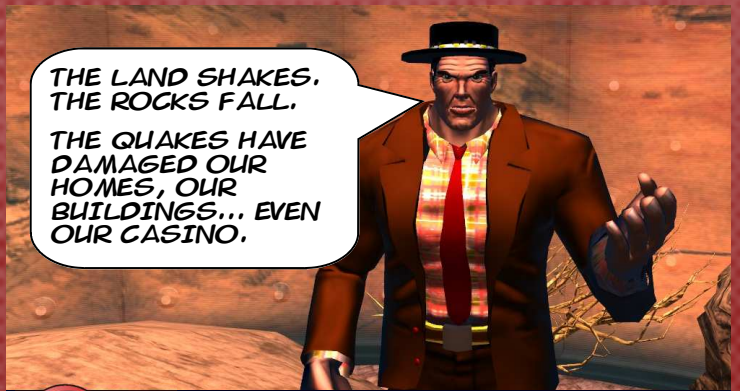
"ARGENT DOES NOT BUILD CULTURAL CENTERS."



**8 WCOG YAVAPAI NATION, ARIZONA - LAND TURNED TO OIL FRACKING**



THEY TAPPED INTO THE VERDE RIVER FOR THEIR FRACKING.  
IT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR WATER AND THEY BLEED IT DRY.



THE LAND SHAKES.  
THE ROCKS FALL.  
THE QUAKES HAVE DAMAGED OUR HOMES, OUR BUILDINGS... EVEN OUR CASINO.

**8 WCOG YAVAPAI NATION, ARIZONA**

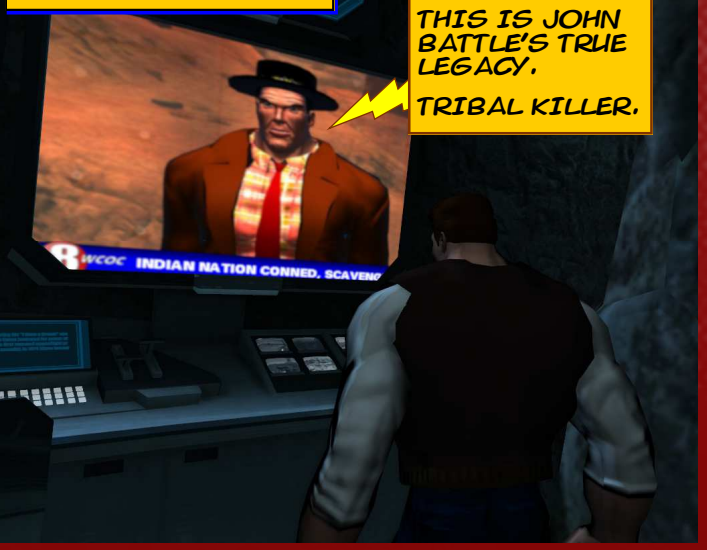
**8 WCOG CHIEF CROW - YAVAPAI NATION**



JOHN BATTLE WAS THE ONE THAT CAME TO US ON THEIR BEHALF.  
HE TOLD US THE LAND WOULD BE USED FOR A CULTURAL CENTER.  
WE TRUSTED HIM, AND HE BETRAYED US.  
NOW... OUR LAND IS CRACKED AND DYING.

**8 WCOG CHIEF CROW - YAVAPAI NATION**

PROJECT MYGROFT HQ  
MILLENNIUM CITY, MI. USA



THIS IS JOHN BATTLE'S TRUE LEGACY.  
TRIBAL KILLER.

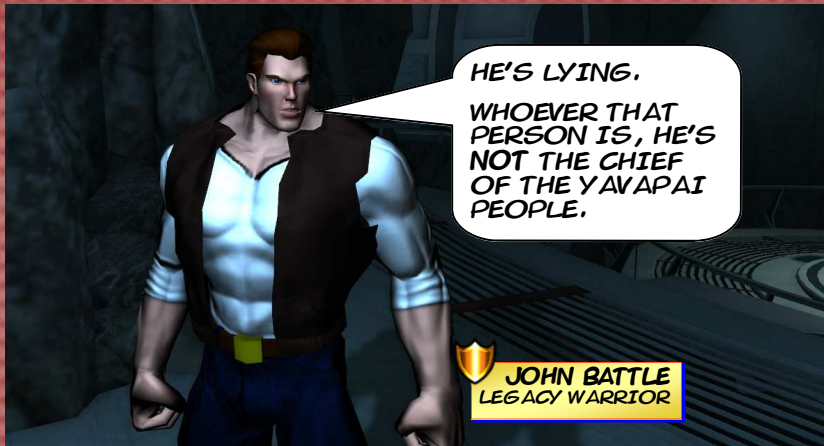
8 WCOG INDIAN NATION CONNED, SCAVENGE





PRETTY DAMNING STUFF.  
TELL ME HE'S LYING.

**MAJOR XAVIER CROSS**  
PROJECT MYCROFT

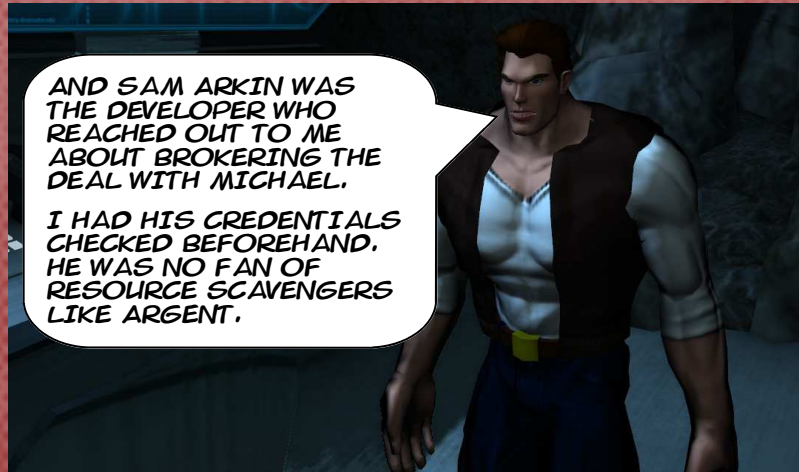


HE'S LYING.  
WHOEVER THAT PERSON IS, HE'S NOT THE CHIEF OF THE YAVAPAI PEOPLE.

**JOHN BATTLE**  
LEGACY WARRIOR



MICHAEL WHITEFEATHER IS THE CHIEF OF THE YAVAPAI.  
HE WELCOMED ME WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, RIGHT AFTER I EARNED MY BLOOD FEATHER.



AND SAM ARKIN WAS THE DEVELOPER WHO REACHED OUT TO ME ABOUT BROKERING THE DEAL WITH MICHAEL.  
I HAD HIS CREDENTIALS CHECKED BEFOREHAND. HE WAS NO FAN OF RESOURCE SCAVENGERS LIKE ARGENT.

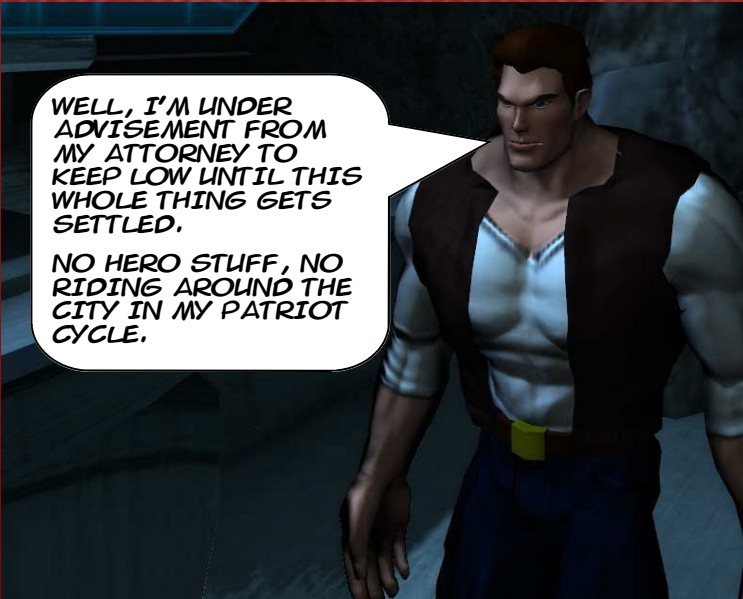


WELL IT SEEMS MISTER ARKIN VANISHED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH JUST BEFORE THE STORY BROKE.  
RATHER CONVENIENT IF YOU ASK ME.

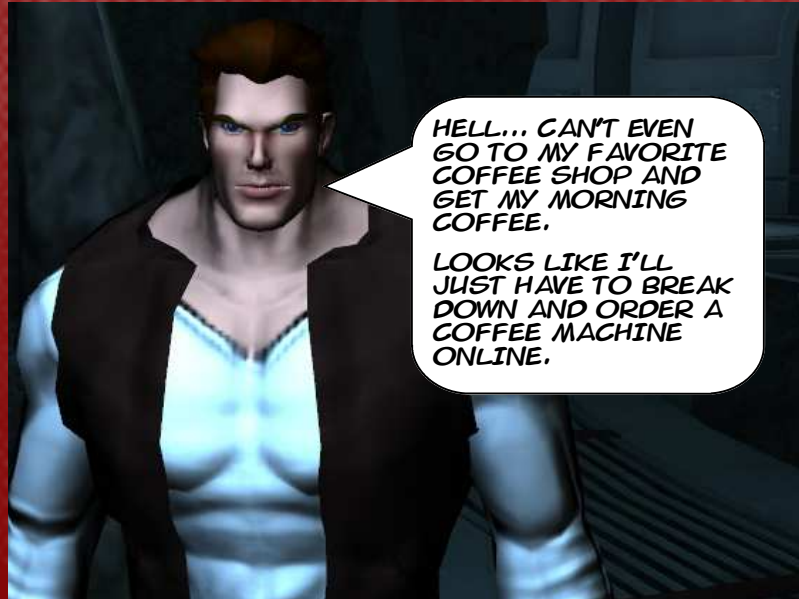
I'VE GOT PEOPLE LOOKING IN ON THIS, BUT THIS COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME.

PROJECT MYCROFT IS NOW UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF LADY ESTHER GLACIA\*. SHE WAS MY MENTOR, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S GOING TO GO EASY ON US.

(\* LAST ISSUE)

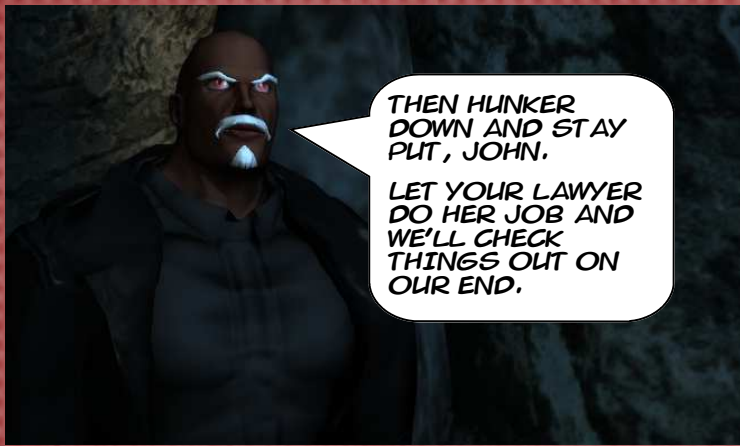


WELL, I'M UNDER ADVISEMENT FROM MY ATTORNEY TO KEEP LOW UNTIL THIS WHOLE THING GETS SETTLED.  
NO HERO STUFF, NO RIDING AROUND THE CITY IN MY PATRIOT CYCLE.

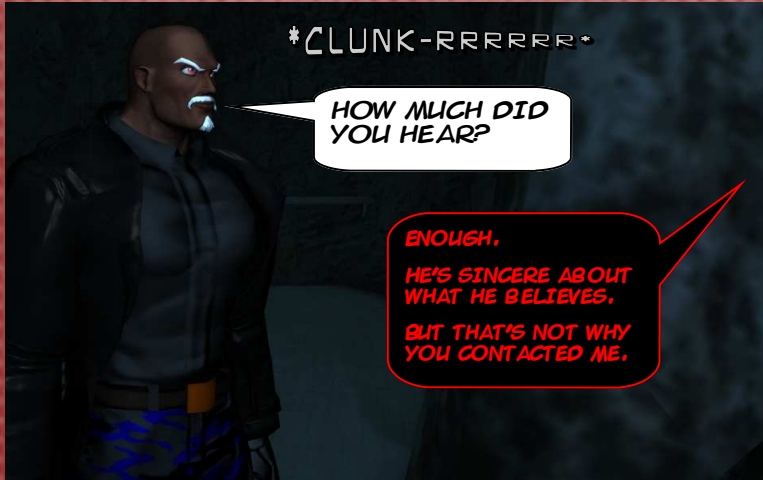


HELL... CAN'T EVEN GO TO MY FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP AND GET MY MORNING COFFEE.  
LOOKS LIKE I'LL JUST HAVE TO BREAK DOWN AND ORDER A COFFEE MACHINE ONLINE.





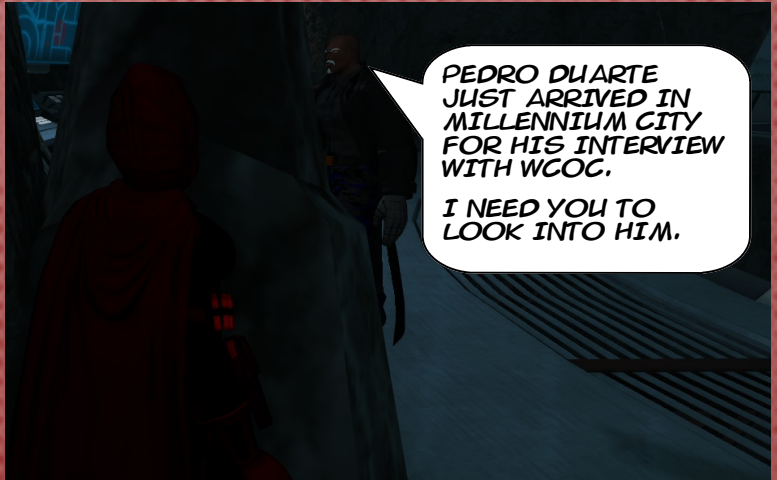
THEN HUNKER  
DOWN AND STAY  
PUT, JOHN.  
LET YOUR LAWYER  
DO HER JOB AND  
WE'LL CHECK  
THINGS OUT ON  
OUR END.



\*CLUNK-RRRRRR\*

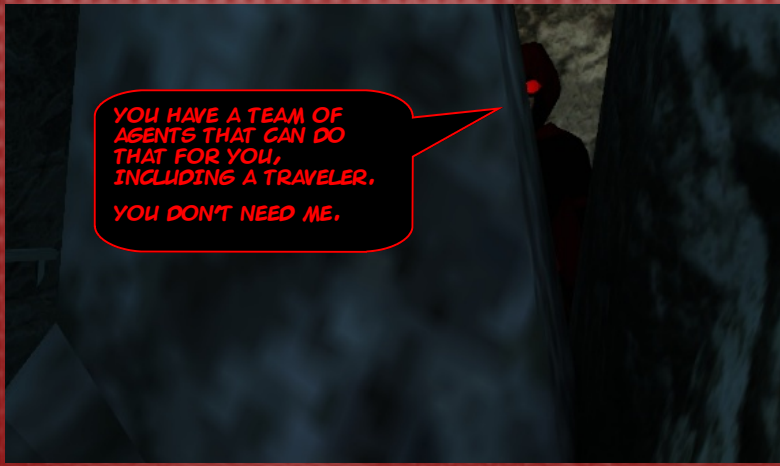
HOW MUCH DID  
YOU HEAR?

ENOUGH.  
HE'S SINCERE ABOUT  
WHAT HE BELIEVES.  
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY  
YOU CONTACTED ME.

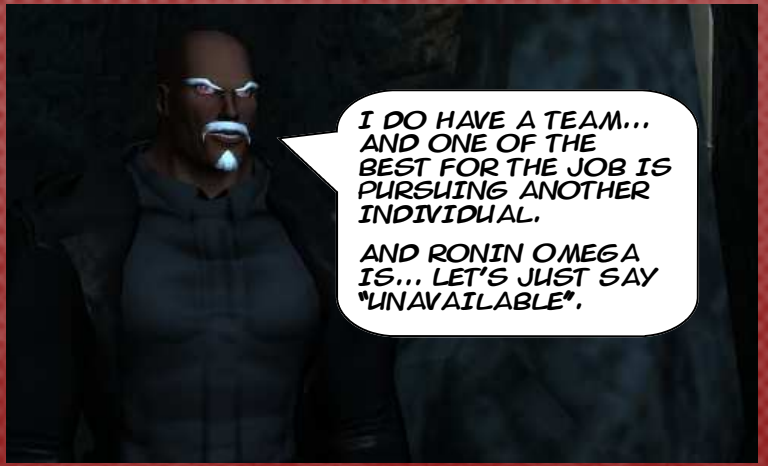


PEDRO DUARTE  
JUST ARRIVED IN  
MILLENNIUM CITY  
FOR HIS INTERVIEW  
WITH WCOC.

I NEED YOU TO  
LOOK INTO HIM.



YOU HAVE A TEAM OF  
AGENTS THAT CAN DO  
THAT FOR YOU,  
INCLUDING A TRAVELER.  
YOU DON'T NEED ME.



I DO HAVE A TEAM...  
AND ONE OF THE  
BEST FOR THE JOB IS  
PURSUING ANOTHER  
INDIVIDUAL.

AND RONIN OMEGA  
IS... LET'S JUST SAY  
"UNAVAILABLE".



YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF THAT  
OF LATE.

WHATEVER WORKING ARRANGEMENT  
YOU HAVE WITH MY MENTOR DOES  
NOT TRANSLATE INTO ONE WITH ME.

I'M NOT REALLY A "TEAM PLAYER".

MY MISSION IS A BIT MORE  
PERSONAL.

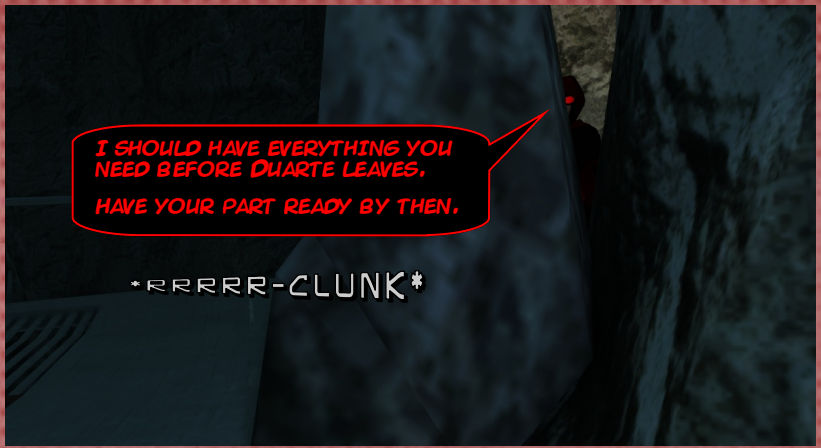
RAVENCLAW SAID THE  
SAME THING FIVE  
YEARS AGO WHEN I  
FIRST ASKED HIM  
FOR HELP.

I RESPECTED HIS  
DECISION THEN AND  
I WOULD RESPECT  
YOURS TODAY.





LOOK INTO DUARTE. FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN.  
AND, IN RETURN, I'LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE ON JACK THE BLADE.



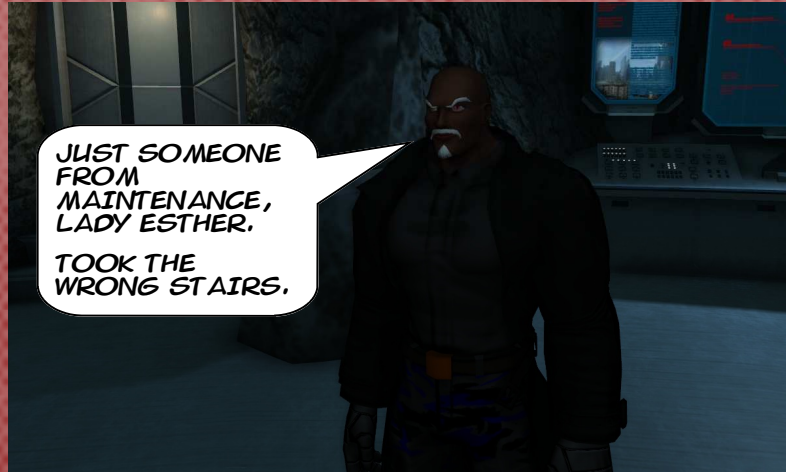
I SHOULD HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED BEFORE DUARTE LEAVES.  
HAVE YOUR PART READY BY THEN.

\*RRRRR-CLUNK\*



XAVIER?  
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE TALKING WITH YOU.

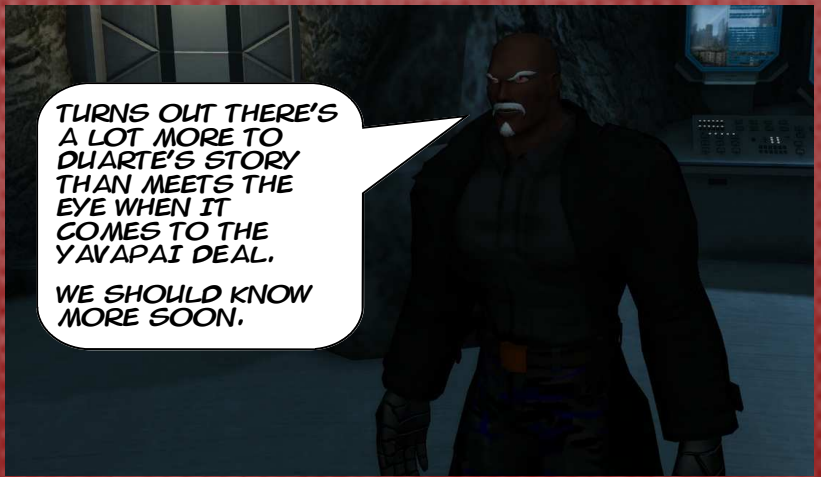
LADY ESTHER GLACIA  
UNITED NATIONS LIAISON



JUST SOMEONE FROM MAINTENANCE, LADY ESTHER.  
TOOK THE WRONG STAIRS.



I SEE...  
AND YOUR TALK WITH JOHN BATTLE?



TURNS OUT THERE'S A LOT MORE TO DUARTE'S STORY THAN MEETS THE EYE WHEN IT COMES TO THE YAVAPAI DEAL.  
WE SHOULD KNOW MORE SOON.

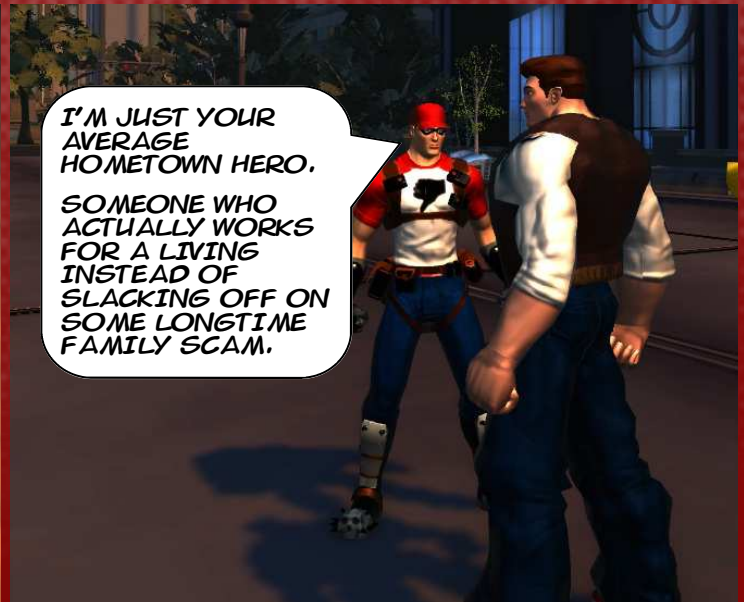


JUST OUTSIDE U.N.T.I.L. HEADQUARTERS

"IN THE MEANTIME, JOHN'S OFF-THE-BOARD."

"AND HOPEFULLY HE'LL STAY THAT WAY."





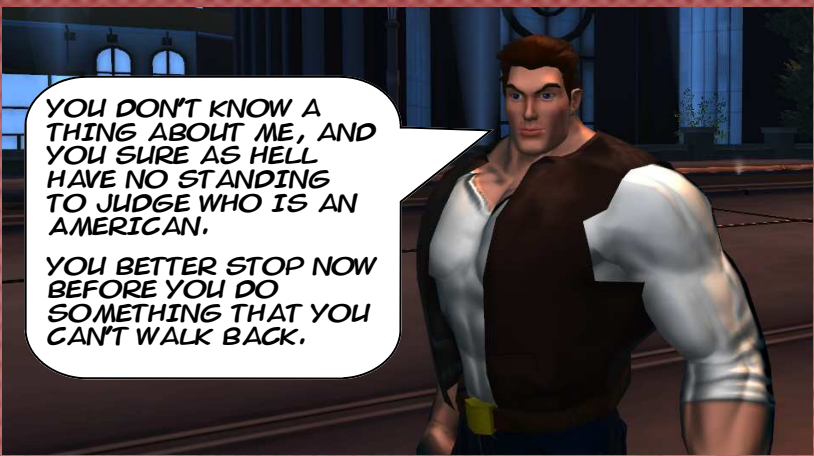




HACKS LIKE YOU GIVE HEROES A BAD NAME.

YOU WEAR THE COLORS OF AMERICA, AND THEN YOU CLAIM TO BE INDIAN.

NOW IT TURNS OUT THAT YOU'RE NEITHER.



YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME, AND YOU SURE AS HELL HAVE NO STANDING TO JUDGE WHO IS AN AMERICAN.

YOU BETTER STOP NOW BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T WALK BACK.



HEY!



I AIN'T DONE WITH YOU!



I'M NOT SOME SQUAW YOU CAN TRICK INTO BED BY CLAIMING TO BE A FAKE WARRIOR.

WHEN I SAY GET OUT OF THIS CITY, I MEAN IT! YOU'RE DONE HERE!



THE NEXT TIME YOU PUT YOUR HANDS ON ME, BOY, I WILL SHATTER EVERY SINGLE BONE IN THEM!

THAT IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY WARNING!



**\*LEAP!\***



WCOG STUDIOS, WESTSIDE



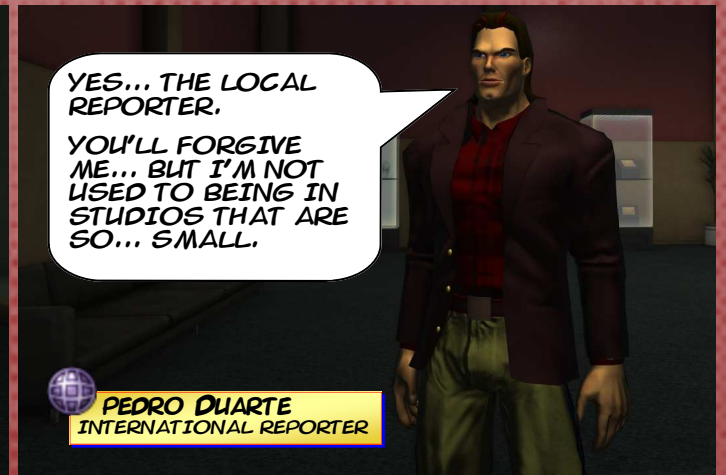
PEDRO DUARTE?  
HI. WE TALKED  
ON THE PHONE.



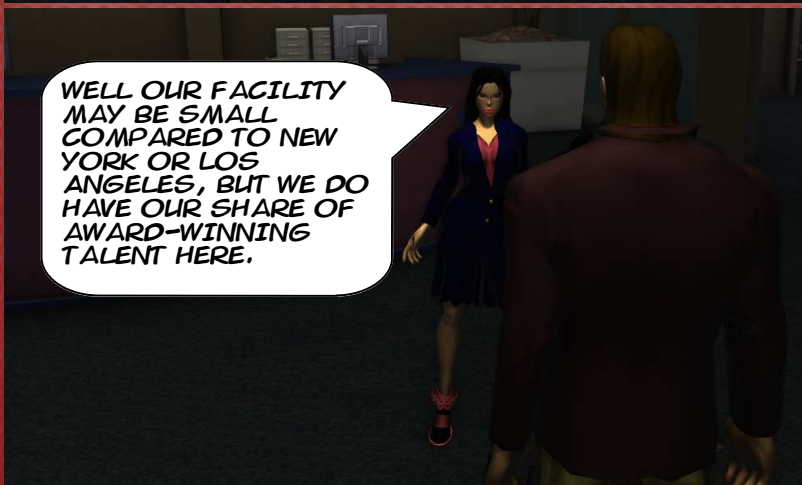
I'M MERCEDES REALE.  
WELCOME TO  
MILLENNIUM CITY.



YES... THE LOCAL  
REPORTER.  
YOU'LL FORGIVE  
ME... BUT I'M NOT  
USED TO BEING IN  
STUDIOS THAT ARE  
SO... SMALL.



WELL OUR FACILITY  
MAY BE SMALL  
COMPARED TO NEW  
YORK OR LOS  
ANGELES, BUT WE DO  
HAVE OUR SHARE OF  
AWARD-WINNING  
TALENT HERE.



YES, I'M SURE YOU  
MAKE YOUR LOCAL  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE VERY  
PROUD.

IF YOU DON'T MIND,  
SEÑORITA, WE  
SHOULD GET RIGHT  
TO THE INTERVIEW.  
I HAVE A VERY BUSY  
SCHEDULE.



O-OF COURSE.  
FOLLOW ME.  
I'LL TAKE YOU  
TO OUR STUDIO.



OH YES...  
LEAD THE  
WAY...








YOU NEVER COULD PASS UP AN OFFER TO EXPLORE A NEW MYSTICAL ARTIFACT, COULD YOU, ELITE?



LADY ESTHER!  
I HAD HEARD YOU WERE HERE!




 **ELITE ICE**  
ELEMENTAL MYSTIC

I ACTUALLY CAME HERE FOR THE BOOKS.  
THE MYSTICAL LIBRARY HAS MORE BOOKS THAN MY OWN FAMILY'S SANCTUM.  
I WAS THINKING OF BORROWING A FEW.  
AND THEN THERE IS THIS ANCIENT RUNE PORTAL.


EVER THE STUDENT, EVEN AFTER YOU'VE GRADUATED.  
I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T BECOME A TEACHER.





I WAS HOPING THAT WHEN I SUGGESTED THAT THE MAJOR RECRUIT YOU ALL THOSE YEARS AGO THAT YOU'D MOVE BEYOND BOOKS AND STUDIES. MAYBE EVEN GET SOME ACTUAL ADVENTURES IN.

OH I HAVE, LADY ESTHER. THE MAJOR HAS BEEN KEEPING ME QUITE BUSY. BUT... I CAN'T HELP BUT KEEP COMING BACK TO MY STUDIES. THE KEY TO MAGIC IS, AFTER ALL, ALWAYS ABOUT LEARNING.




WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE MAJOR? DOES HE SEEM... SINGLE-MINDED TO ANY CAUSE?




LIKE I SAID, HE'S BEEN KEEPING ME BUSY DOING STUFF. MOSTLY RESEARCH, WHICH I DON'T MIND. BUT I DO GET TO STRETCH MY LEGS OUT WITH CERTAIN MISSIONS.



HAS HE MENTIONED ANY KIND OF CONSPIRACIES? ANY KIND OF WEIRD ORGANIZATION THAT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF?



THE ONLY WEIRD ORGANIZATIONS HE TALKS ABOUT ARE THE ONES THAT ARE PRETTY MUCH KNOWN... VIPER, ARGENT, PSI, THE GOLD STANDARD AGENCY.



THERE WAS A TIME WHERE I HAD MY DOUBTS ABOUT MY BEST FRIEND, THOUGH. I MEAN, I BROUGHT KEIRA IN TO HELP ME AGAINST THE NATIONALIST SIX YEARS AGO\*

I KNEW SHE WAS DOING SOME "SHADY" ACTIVITIES AT THE TIME, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF STUFF THEY WERE.

CROSS WAS SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH. BUT... I GUESS HE WAS ABLE TO CLEAR THINGS UP WITH HER, BECAUSE SHE'S STILL ON THE TEAM.





I SEE... AND WHERE IS SHE NOW?

ARIZONA.

SHE WAS SENT OVER THERE LAST NIGHT. SHE DIDN'T SAY WHY.



HAVE YOU... THOUGHT ABOUT VISITING SOME OF THE OTHER U.N.T.I.L. LOCATIONS?

THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS, FOR INSTANCE, WOULD LOVE TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOUR TALENTS HELPING THEM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.




I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

BUT EVERY TIME I MEDITATE ON THE IDEA, I FEEL A TERRIBLE PRESENCE LOOMING OVER THE AREA.

FORCE STATION STEELHEAD

CANADIAN WILDERNESS, CANADA



"IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO DESCRIBE IT TO A NON-MYSTIC, EXCEPT TO SAY IT'S LIKE THAT FEELING YOU GET WHEN SOMEONE IS STARING AT YOU."

"ONLY MULTIPLY THAT BY A HUNDRED TIMES."

"DON'T GET ME WRONG... I STILL WANT TO VISIT THERE."

"JUST... WHEN I HAVE A LITTLE MORE POWER AND EXPERIENCE."



JOHN BATTLE'S LOFT

I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVEN SAID THAT...

"BOY"! I ACTUALLY CALLED SOMEONE "BOY"! LIKE I WAS CHANNELING MY UNCLE.

SOUNDS LIKE HE DESERVED BEING CALLED "BOY". HOW OLD WAS THIS GUY?

DEE RISK  
AKA: STARLETT

EARLY 20'S, IF THAT. BUT THAT'S JUST IT, DEE... I'M ONLY ABOUT A DECADE OLDER THAN HIM AND I'M CALLING HIM "BOY"!

\*SIGH\* CAN YOU COME BY BEFORE YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE CLUB?

CAN'T. SORRY. THE OWNER ASKED ME TO COME IN A FEW HOURS EARLY. I'M TRYING TO GET MY PLAYLIST FINISHED NOW.

OKAY... I GUESS I'LL JUST GO ONLINE SHIPPING FOR A NEW COFFEE MAKER BY MYSELF.

JUST DON'T BUY THE FIRST ONE YOU SEE, OKAY? I'LL COME BY AFTER WORK. LOVE YOU.

LOVE YOU BACK.



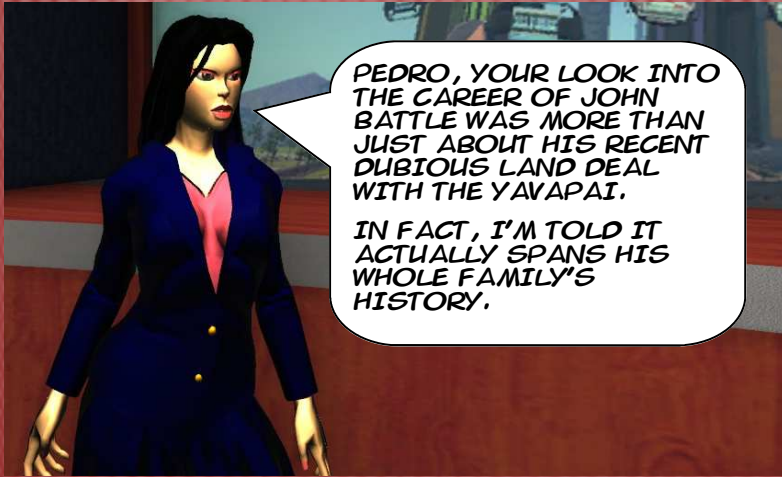


YOU SURE WE CAN'T DO THIS SITTING DOWN?  
WE CAN USE THE CHAIRS IN THE GMMC\* SET.  
NO? OKAY...

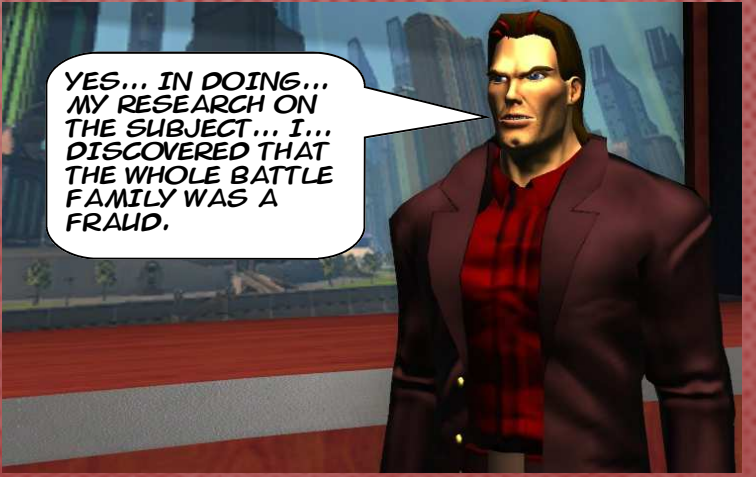
(\*GOOD MORNING MILLENNIUM CITY\*)



I'M HERE WITH THE WORLD-RENOWNED REPORTER PEDRO DUARTE TO TALK ABOUT HIS LATEST SHOCKING STORY.



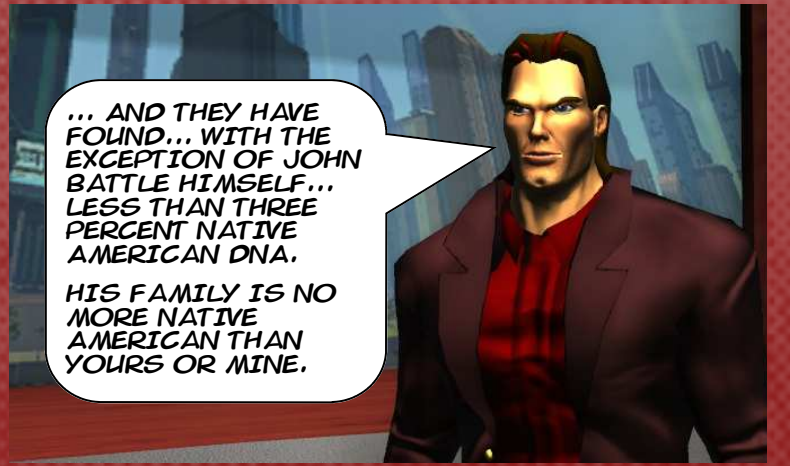
PEDRO, YOUR LOOK INTO THE CAREER OF JOHN BATTLE WAS MORE THAN JUST ABOUT HIS RECENT DUBIOUS LAND DEAL WITH THE YAVAPAI.  
IN FACT, I'M TOLD IT ACTUALLY SPANS HIS WHOLE FAMILY'S HISTORY.



YES... IN DOING... MY RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT... I... DISCOVERED THAT THE WHOLE BATTLE FAMILY WAS A FRAUD.



"MY FRIENDS IN THE MARSH FOUNDATION WERE ABLE TO TRACE THE LINEAGE OF THE BATTLE FAMILY..."



... AND THEY HAVE FOUND... WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JOHN BATTLE HIMSELF... LESS THAN THREE PERCENT NATIVE AMERICAN DNA.  
HIS FAMILY IS NO MORE NATIVE AMERICAN THAN YOURS OR MINE.



THAT... THAT'S SIMPLY SHOCKING!  
HOW WERE THEY ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH THAT KIND OF DECEPTION FOR THAT LONG?

THERE WERE NO GENETIC VERIFICATION TESTS UNTIL RECENTLY.  
THEY WERE ABLE TO SPREAD THAT LIE... FROM GENERATION TO... TO GENERATION... BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY TO VERIFY IT.  
PEOPLE TOOK THEM AT THEIR WORD THAT THEY HAD INDIAN BLOOD.



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE INHERITED TRAITS OF THE BATTLE FAMILY?

THE STRENGTH, THE SENSES, THE FIGHTING SPIRIT?

ALL SUPPOSEDLY FROM THE FAMILY'S BOND WITH THE EARTH.

ER... UH...  
GENETICS.

YOU.. UH... YOU SAID IT YOURSELF...

THEY'RE INHERITED, NOT MYSTICALLY BESTOWED.

I DON'T WANT TO GIVE TOO MUCH AWAY AT THIS POINT.

I HAVE DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF EVERYTHING SURROUNDING THE FRAUD THAT I DISCOVERED ABOUT THE BATTLE FAMILY THAT ARE IN MY NEW BOOK... "LEGACY OF FRAUD"... WHICH YOU CAN PURCHASE THROUGH THE REAL TRUTH WEBSITE.

THE ADDRESS IS REAL-DASH-TRUTH-DOT-M-I-L-L.

OKAY...

THAT'S REAL-DASH-TRUTH-DOT-MILL.

PEDRO DUARTE, IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE INTERVIEWING YOU.

AND... THAT'S A WRAP.

I'M SORRY, BUT WHAT WAS THAT? WHY DID YOU END THE INTERVIEW SO QUICKLY?

LOOK, CHICA, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.

YOU STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT SELLING A STORY.

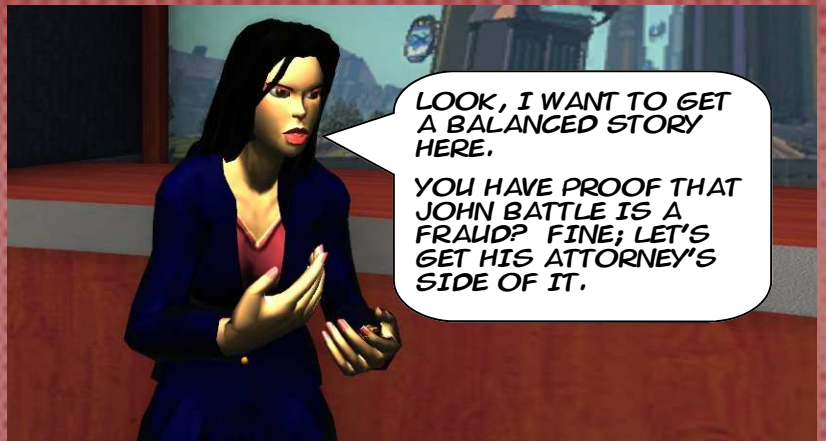
YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY IN ONE INTERVIEW. YOU HAVE TO GIVE LITTLE BITS FOR PEOPLE TO EAT AT AND WANT MORE.

WELL... IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK AND THE PRODUCTION PEOPLE WILL SET UP THE FEED WITH CANDACE SINCLAIR.





WHAT?!?  
NO... NO, THAT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!



LOOK, I WANT TO GET A BALANCED STORY HERE.  
YOU HAVE PROOF THAT JOHN BATTLE IS A FRAUD? FINE; LET'S GET HIS ATTORNEY'S SIDE OF IT.



NO! NO, THIS IS **AMBUSH** JOURNALISM!  
YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME, *CHICA* AND I WILL NOT PLAY YOUR GAME!



BUT... THAT'S NOT...  
MISTER DUARTE?



YOU'RE PRETTY CALM FOR SOMEONE THAT JUST RUSHED OUT OF AN INTERVIEW.



SOMEWHERE IN ARIZONA...

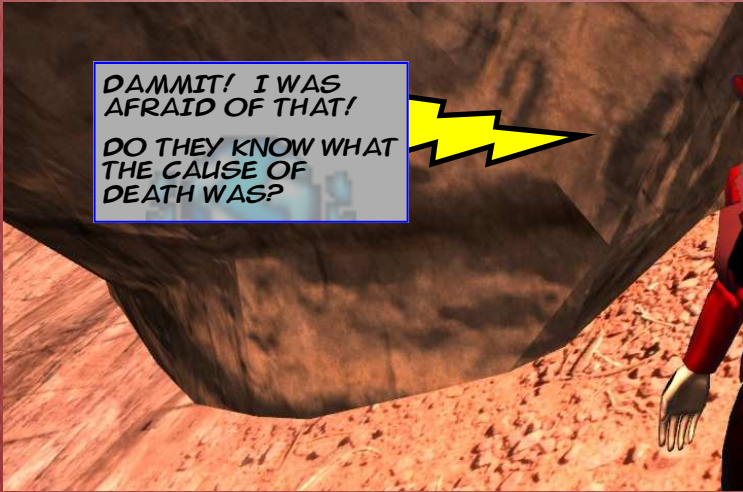


MAJOR, THIS IS KEIRA.  
IT LOOKS LIKE SAM ARKIN WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT HIS LAND DEAL.

KEIRA FYRE  
ELEMENTAL ARCHER

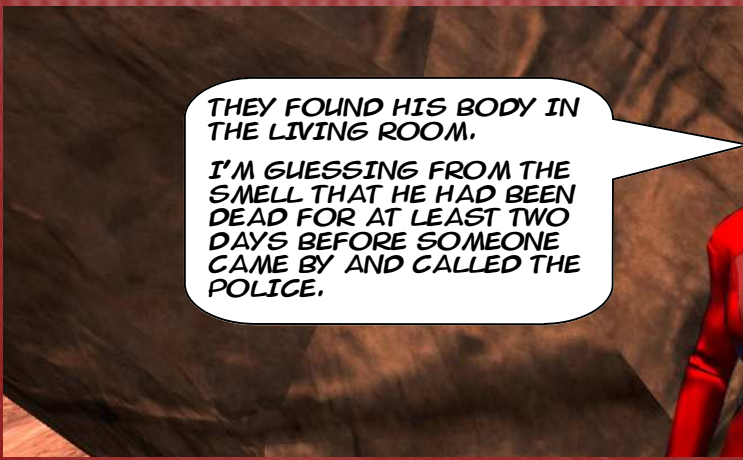


THE STATE PATROL WERE ALREADY HERE WHEN I ARRIVED.  
I HAD TO USE MY UNITED NATIONS ID TO GET PAST THE CRIME SCENE TAPE AND CONFIRM HIS DEATH.  
NOT SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO.



DAMMIT! I WAS AFRAID OF THAT!  
DO THEY KNOW WHAT THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS?

THEY SAID THEY WEREN'T TOO SURE.  
THE LOCAL CORONER ISN'T EXACTLY THE KIND OF GENIUS YOU SEE ON TV.  
I SAW A LOT OF BRUISES AND CUTS ON THE BODY BUT NOT FATAL ONES.  
I THINK HIS WINDPIPE MAY HAVE BEEN CRUSHED.



THEY FOUND HIS BODY IN THE LIVING ROOM.  
I'M GUESSING FROM THE SMELL THAT HE HAD BEEN DEAD FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE SOMEONE CAME BY AND CALLED THE POLICE.

UNDERSTOOD.  
OKAY, KEIRA, YOU CAN'T DO ANY MORE OVER THERE.  
COME ON BACK.







MISS FYRE...

DID YOU SEND ANOTHER OPERATIVE?



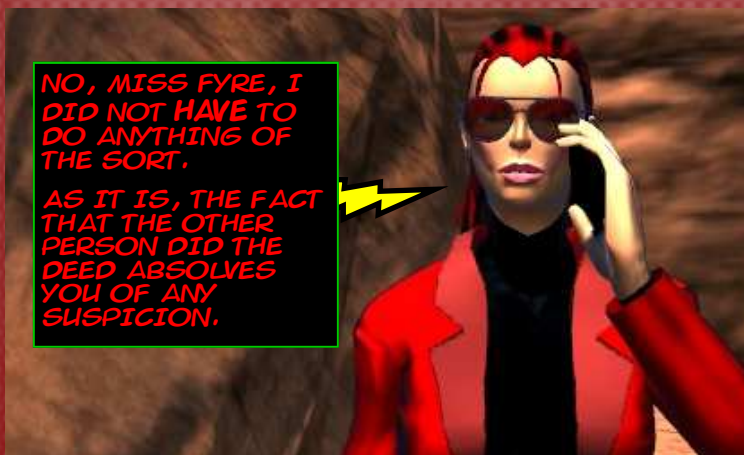
I DO NOT LIKE YOUR TONE, MISS FYRE.

AND I DON'T LIKE BEING SENT TO AN ASSIGNMENT ONLY TO HAVE IT TAKEN BY SOMEONE ELSE, MISTER VAN CLEEF.



I PRESUME THAT YOU HAVE ARRIVED TOO LATE AND MISTER ARKIN IS ALREADY DECEASED.  
THAT WAS NOT ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, BUT IT WAS SOMETHING VARTECH TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION.

"TOOK INTO..."  
MISTER VAN CLEEF, YOU KNOW THAT I AM A PROFESSIONAL IN HOW I DEAL WITH MY TARGETS.  
YOU SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER AGENT IN PLAY.



NO, MISS FYRE, I DID NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING OF THE SORT.  
AS IT IS, THE FACT THAT THE OTHER PERSON DID THE DEED ABSOLVES YOU OF ANY SUSPICION.



ONE MORE THING:  
YOU WILL NEVER QUESTION VARTECH IN YOUR ASSIGNMENTS IN THE FUTURE.  
ACKNOWLEDGE WITH ONE WORD IF YOU UNDERSTAND.

"...  
YES."



\*CLICK\*



WELL IF I DIDN'T DO IT... THEN WHO DID?



corporate exploitation

evil empires

greed

fraud

WHAT IS THE REAL TRUTH?

lies

corrupt politicians

fake heroes

www.Real-Truth.Mill

Not a real website. Not a real ad. Any comparisons to an actual website is coincidental.

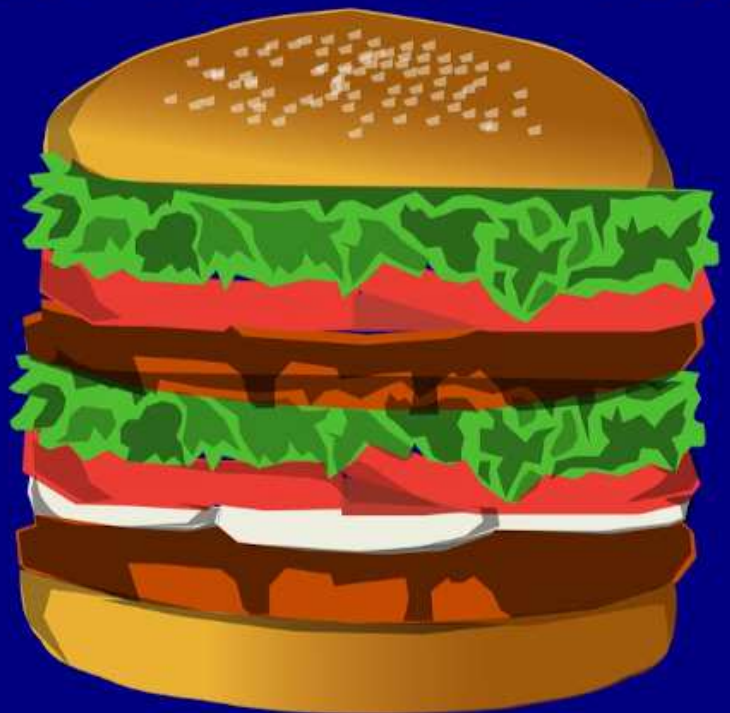
FOOD SO GOOD... IT SHOULD COME WITH A CAPE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SUPERHERO TO BE SUPER-HUNGRY.

THANKFULLY, WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO THAT KIND OF CRISIS!

TRY OUR EXCLUSIVE ACE-HIGH CHEESEBURGER WITH TWO ALL-BEEF PATTIES WITH THREE KINDS OF CHEESE ON A GLUTEN-FREE BUN. A FULL HOUSE THAT WILL MAKE A FULL STOMACH!

AND REMEMBER, ALL ACE BURGERS ARE COOKED THE MINUTE YOU ORDER THEM. IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT.



**ACE BURGER**  
City Center, Millennium City

Ace Burger is a fictional restaurant in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real burger. Not a real ad.



**Hungry? Need your pizza fast and hot?**

**That's the only way we know how!**

**SPEED-E PIZZA**

**THE ONLY PIZZA MADE AND DELIVERED BY SPEEDSTERS!**

**We promise that if your order isn't delivered to you still piping hot in 5 minutes or less, the next one is on us!**

**313-SPEED-ZA**

**WWW.SPEEDEPIZZA.MILL**

Only applicable to locations within Millennium City. Redeemable order must be of the same or lesser amount. 5-minute guarantee not applicable during alien or multidimensional invasions, giant monsters, or supervillain rampages. Not a real business. This kind of business only exists in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real ad.

**Tired of getting annoying calls?  
Wish you could hire your own receptionist?  
Screen your own calls with Call Screen 2.0 from Harmon Tech.**

- Call Screen 2.0 is compatible with all VoIP systems, as well as most major home assistance programs.
- Customize a personal message for callers or use one of several downloadable generic messages.
- Voice-active commands allow you to pick up the call in the middle of the screening, call the person back afterward, or order the system to hang up the caller.
- Harmon Tech's proprietary Block-It software checks all known "blacklisted" numbers and can block all listed numbers from connecting and will automatically report all blocked numbers to the Federal Communications Commission.
- Call Screen 2.0 can also "whitelist" numbers that you do want to answer, such as calls from a family member or friend or business associate.



**Harmon  
Tech**  
A Subsidiary of Harmon Industries

**Available in all electronics stores  
and online at [HarmonTech.htbiz](http://HarmonTech.htbiz)**

Harmon Tech is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real product. Not a real ad.



CLUB CAPRICE: A CLUB CREATED FOR SUPERHEROES; WHERE THE ONLY RULE IS THAT YOU HAVE TO BE IN COSTUME.

OF COURSE NOT EVERYONE THERE IS A HERO... AND SOMETIMES THEY AREN'T EVEN IN COSTUME.

MY FRIENDS... IN THE MARSH FOUNDATION... WERE ABLE TO TRACE THE LINEAGE OF THE WHOLE BATTLE FAMILY...

AND THEY HAVE FOUND... WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JOHN BATTLE HIMSELF... LESS THAN THREE PERCENT NATIVE AMERICAN DNA.



I KNEW IT!  
I KNEW HE WAS A FRAUD ALL ALONG!



CAN I GET A BOTTLE OF WATER?



YOU'RE HER AREN'T YOU?  
YOU'RE ONE DATING JOHN BATTLE.



I DON'T SEE HOW THAT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS... WHOEVER YOU ARE.

**DJ RISQUÉ**  
AKA: DEE RISK/STARLETT

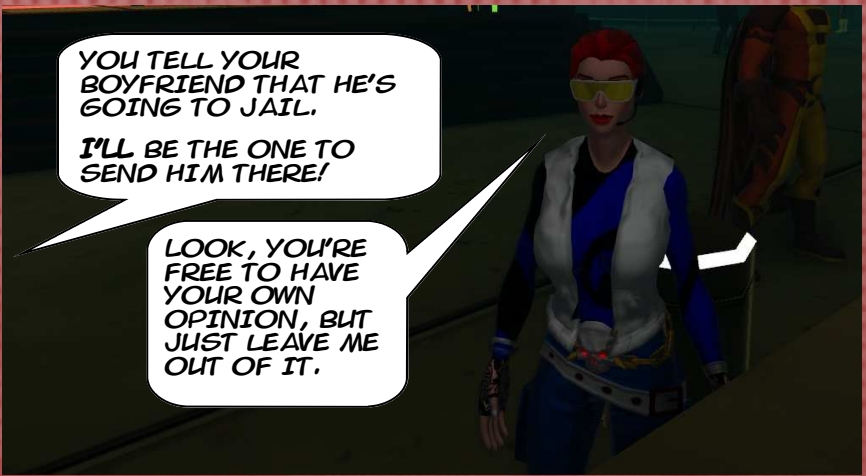




YOU'RE DATING A FRAUD, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

HE'S GOING TO GO TO JAIL FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.

UH... CAN YOU SEND THAT WATER TO THE BOOTH? I SHOULD BE BACK UP THERE.



YOU TELL YOUR BOYFRIEND THAT HE'S GOING TO JAIL. I'LL BE THE ONE TO SEND HIM THERE!

LOOK, YOU'RE FREE TO HAVE YOUR OWN OPINION, BUT JUST LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.



YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT.



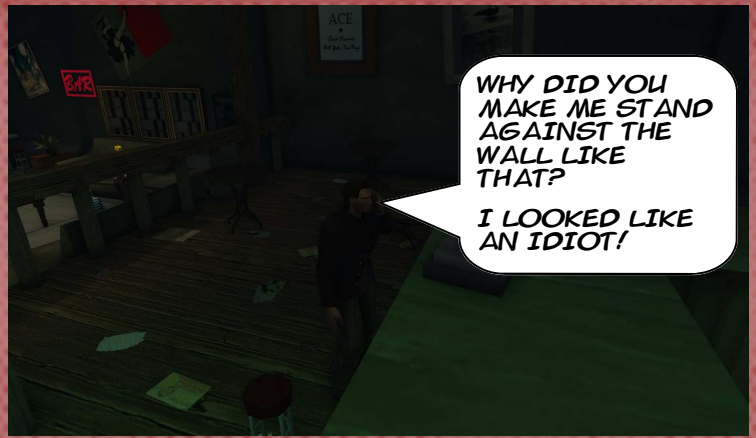
SHE HAPPENS TO BE A FRIEND OF MINE. YOU MESS WITH HER, AND YOU ANSWER TO ME AND TO HALF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM.



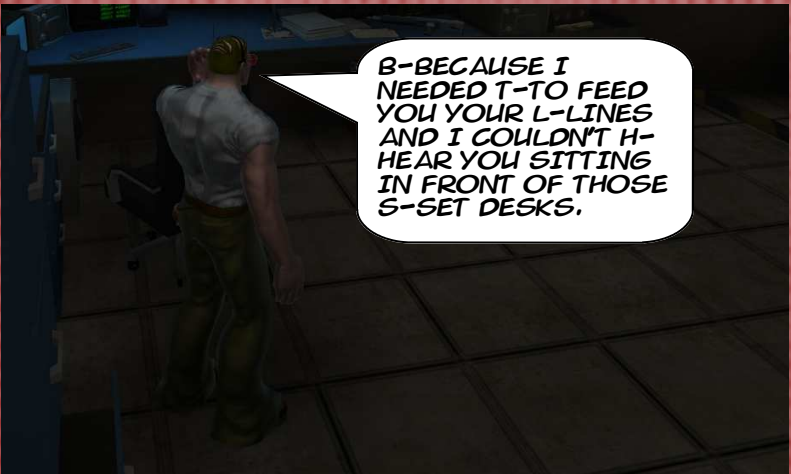
SMART MOVE.



WESTSIDE



WHY DID YOU MAKE ME STAND AGAINST THE WALL LIKE THAT?  
I LOOKED LIKE AN IDIOT!



B-BECAUSE I NEEDED T-TO FEED YOU YOUR L-LINES AND I COULDN'T H-HEAR YOU SITTING IN FRONT OF THOSE S-SET DESKS.



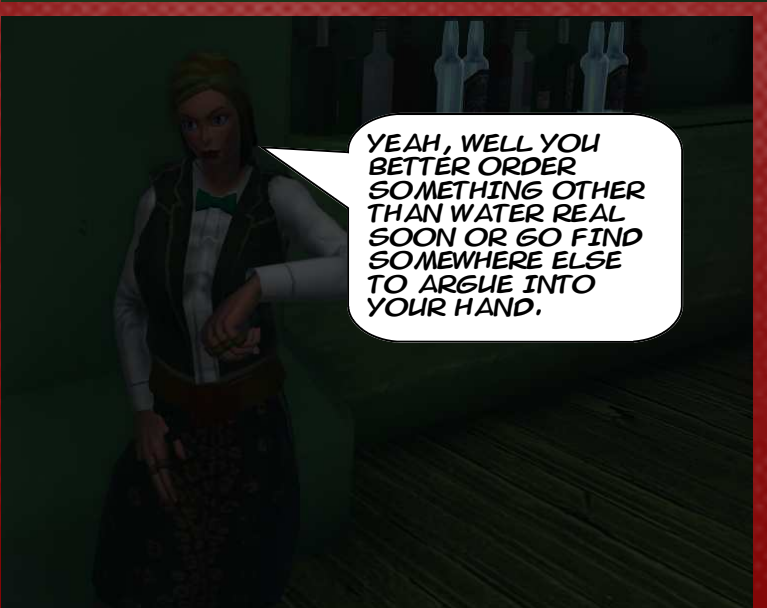
I HAVE DONE HUNDREDS OF INTERVIEWS AND I HAVE NEVER NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN ANY OF THEM!



HEY, YOU GOING TO ACTUALLY ORDER SOMETHING? OR ARE YOU JUST TALKING TO YOURSELF?



I AM TALKING ON THE PHONE!  
I HAVE A HANDS-FREE EARBUD.



YEAH, WELL YOU BETTER ORDER SOMETHING OTHER THAN WATER REAL SOON OR GO FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO ARGUE INTO YOUR HAND.

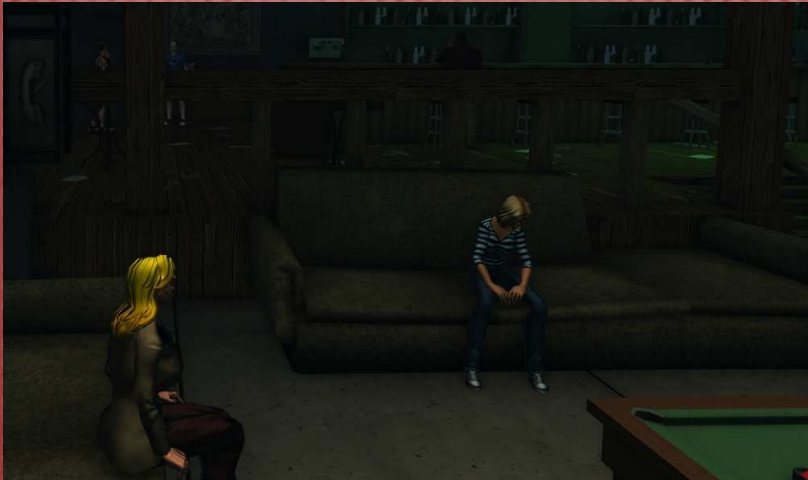


W-WHERE ARE YOU?  
YOU S-SOUND LIKE YOU'RE IN A B-BAR.

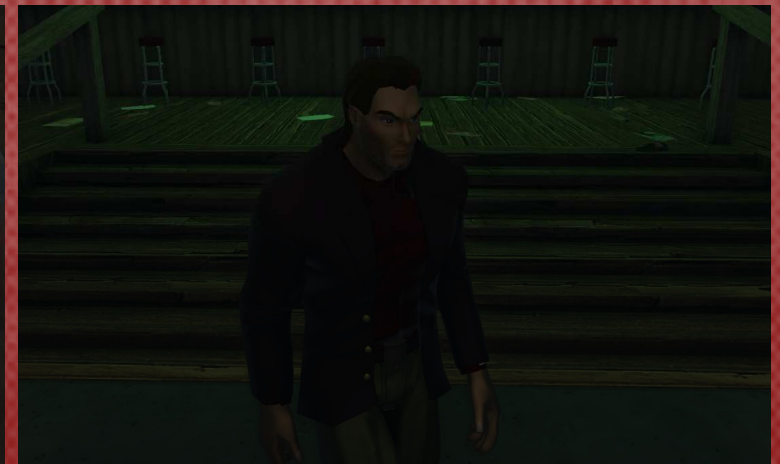




I AM IN A BAR...  
 "SHERRARO'S" OR  
 SOMETHING LIKE THAT.  
 SOMEPLACE WITHOUT A  
 TV RUNNING.  
 I THINK SOMEONE IS  
 FOLLOWING ME.



F-FOLLOW MY DIR-  
 DIRECTIONS AND  
 I'LL-I'LL SHOW  
 YOU HOW T-TO  
 LOSE THEM AND  
 GET T-TO YOUR  
 HOTEL.











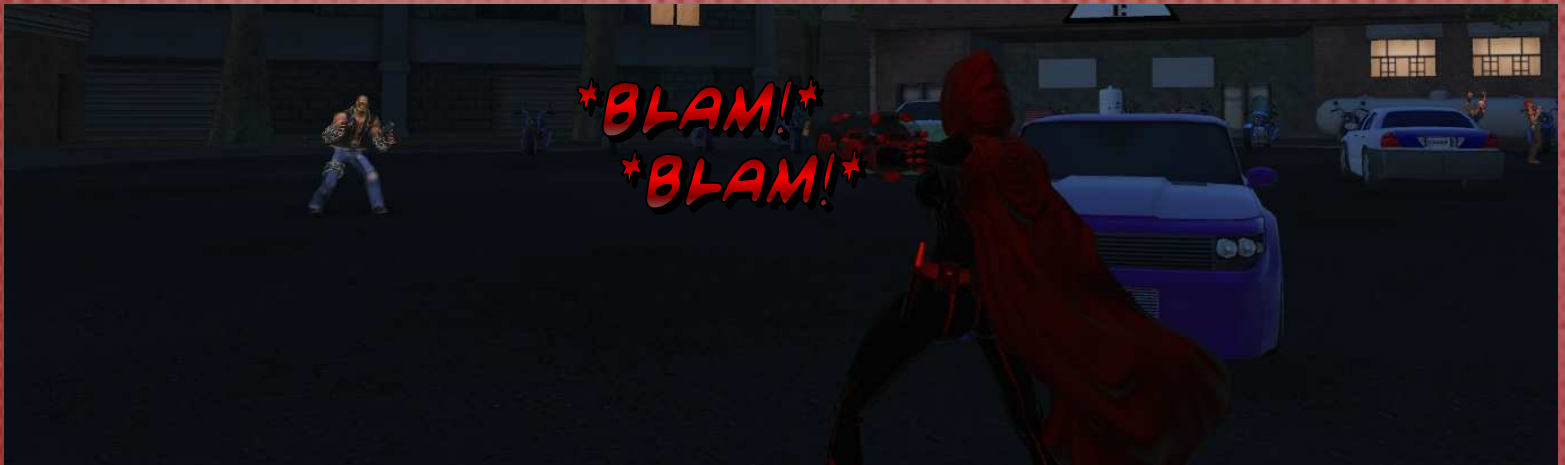




AW CRAP!  
THAT'S HER!  
**Red Sinner**



I GOT  
SOMETHING  
FER HER!  
LET'S SEE  
HER TRY TO  
STICK ME!



**\*BLAM!\***  
**\*BLAM!\***



**\*BLAM!\***  
**\*BLAM!\***  
**\*BLAM!\***  
**\*BLAM!\***  
**\*BLAM!\***



LIIHHH..

**FALL!**



NON-LETHAL ROUNDS...  
YOU'LL LIVE, BUT  
YOU'LL REMEMBER ME.

YOU'LL REMEMBER  
THAT I'M WATCHING.  
AND MAYBE NEXT  
TIME I MIGHT USE  
REAL BULLETS.

**\*THUD!\***

**RED SINNER**  
HOODED VIGILANTE



THE OTHERS FLED,  
THEY CARRIED THE  
INJURED ONES OFF.  
THEY WERENT MY  
TARGET, THOUGH.  
DUARTE GOT AWAY.



I'M STILL NEW TO  
ALL THIS.  
I'M PICKING UP  
WHERE RAVENCLAW  
LEFT THINGS, AND  
I'M MAKING SLOPPY  
MISTAKES.



MAMMOTH: RETURN  
FOR PICKUP.

DID RAVENCLAW  
START THIS WAY?  
DID NIGHTHAWK?



STILL.. THE COBRA  
LORDS KNOW TO  
FEAR ME LIKE THEY  
DO NIGHTHAWK.  
THAT'S A START.

BUT I'LL BE HAPPY  
WHEN THE REST OF  
THE CRIMINAL  
ELEMENT IS AFRAID  
OF ME AS WELL.



AND THEN JACK WON'T  
HAVE ANY FRIENDS  
THAT CAN PROTECT  
HIM FROM ME.



NOT FAR FROM CLUB CAPRICE...

WELCOME TO THE SOCRATES SYSTEM. HOW MAY I ASSIST?

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS:  
JOHN BATTLE.

IT WON'T HELP YOU.

IT'S YOU...

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO HACK INTO SOCRATES LIKE THAT?

THAT I-IS NOT THE RIGHT QUESTION T-TO ASK.

THE REAL QUESTION IS... W-WHY HAVEN'T YOU BR-BROUGHT JOHN BATTLE IN TO ANSWER FOR HIS CR-CRIMES?

I WENT TO HIS GIRLFRIEND'S WORKPLACE, BUT HE WASN'T THERE, AND SHE APPARENTLY HAS FRIENDS.

O-OF COURSE THEY D-DO.  
THEY AL-ALWAYS DO.

BUT SOCRATES W-WON'T GIVE YOU JOHN BATTLE'S H-HOME ADDRESS.

I'LL TELL YOU... WHERE TO FIND JOHN BATTLE.

I'LL SET HIM UP... SO HE'LL COME TO YOU.

BUT... DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE... DOWN THE FRAUD AND TO... GO HOME AS THE HERO THAT YOUR... FATHER WOULD BE PROUD OF?


JUST TELL ME WHERE HE'LL BE AND I'LL DO THE REST.



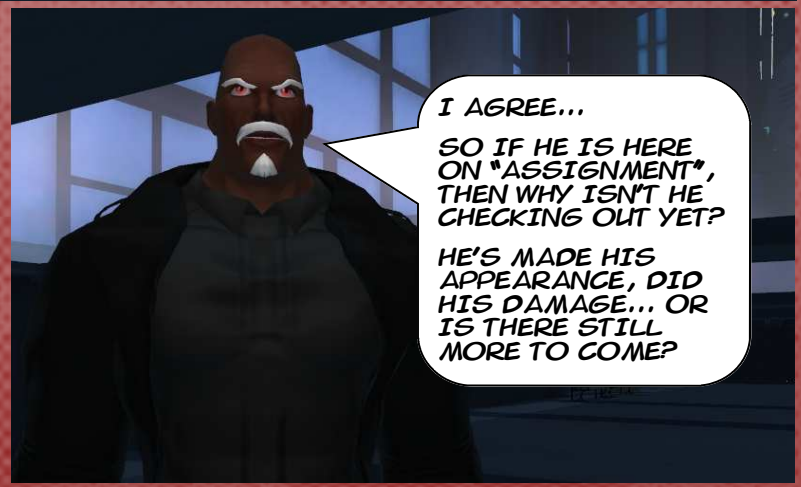


SO HE'S MANAGED TO GET AWAY FROM YOU.

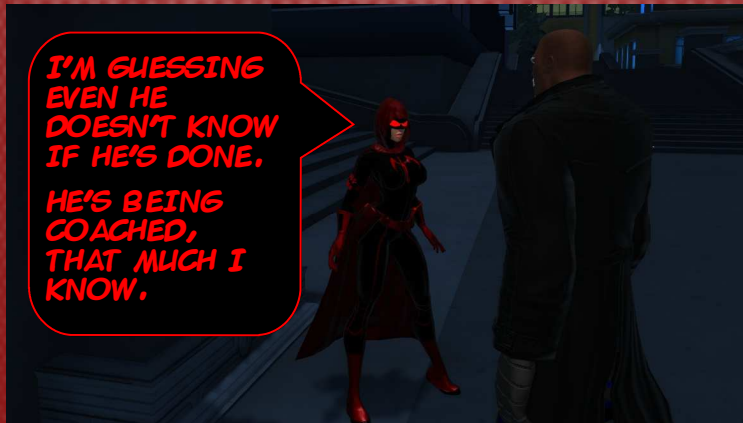
NOT ENTIRELY.  
HE CHECKED INTO HIS HOTEL. HE ORDERED ROOM SERVICE AND PAY-PER-VIEW MOVIES.




HE DOESN'T BEHAVE LIKE A JOURNALIST.  
HE ACTS MORE LIKE A MERCENARY WAITING FOR HIS NEXT JOB.




I AGREE...  
SO IF HE IS HERE ON "ASSIGNMENT", THEN WHY ISN'T HE CHECKING OUT YET?  
HE'S MADE HIS APPEARANCE, DID HIS DAMAGE... OR IS THERE STILL MORE TO COME?



I'M GUESSING EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE'S DONE.  
HE'S BEING COACHED, THAT MUCH I KNOW.



THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS SCATTERED INTERVIEW.  
QUESTION IS: WHO IS THE ONE COACHING HIM?



I HAVE A FEW MORE RESOURCES I CAN USE TO TRY TO PEER INTO HIS BACKGROUND.  
IF YOUR ASSASSIN IS BACK IN THE CITY, I SUGGEST YOU PUT HER ON HIS TRAIL.  
ONE THING A MERCENARY HATES IS TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE OF THEIR KIND AFTER THEM.





JOHN BATTLE'S LOFT

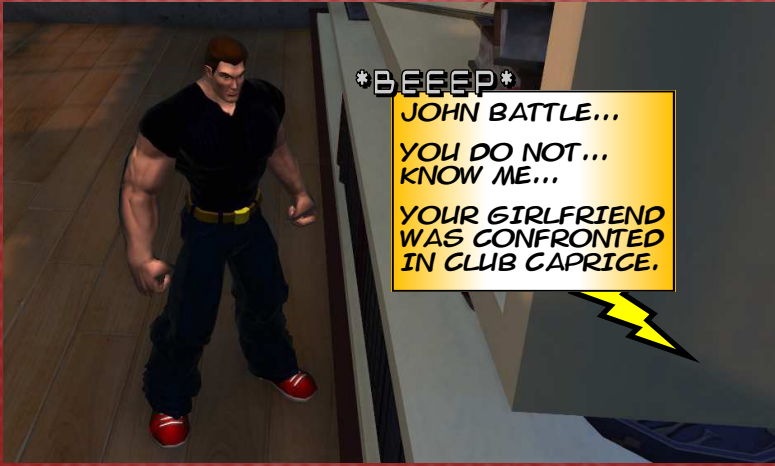
\*RING-RING\*  
\*RING-RING\*



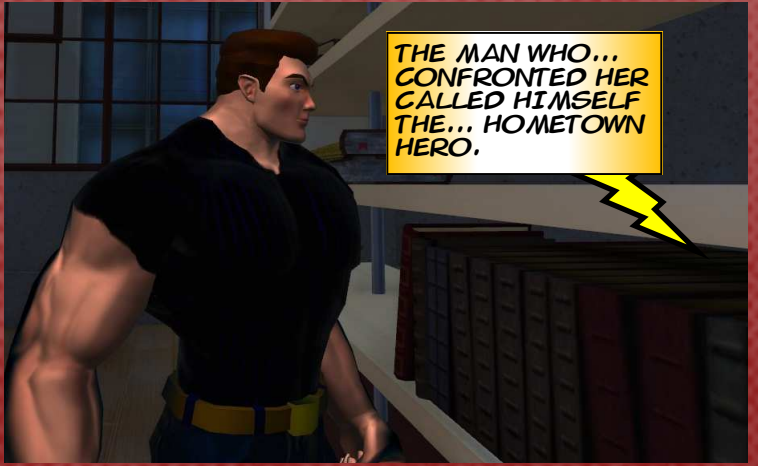
\*RING-RING\*  
\*RING-RING\*

YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO SOON TO BE GREAT BUY. LEAVE A MESSAGE.

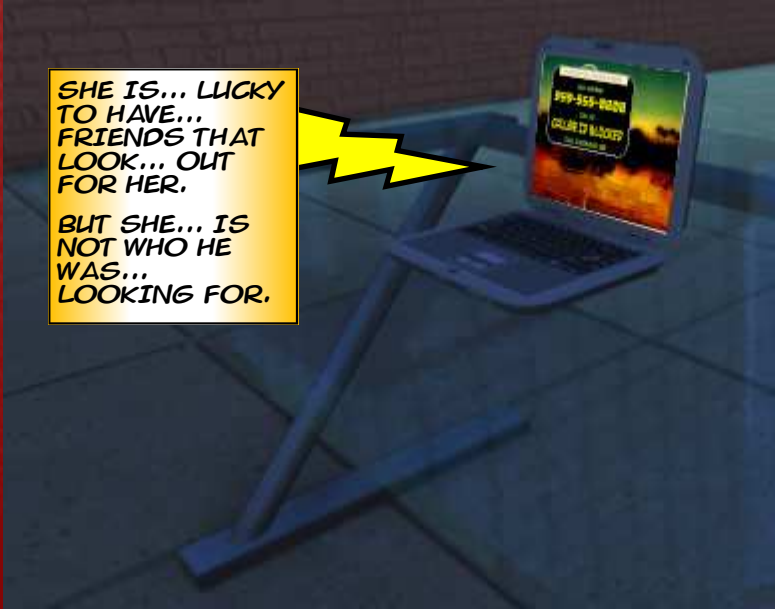
\*CLICK\*  
HI. YOU'VE REACHED JOHN BATTLE.  
I'M CURRENTLY SCREENING ALL CALLS, SO IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL ME, LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE.



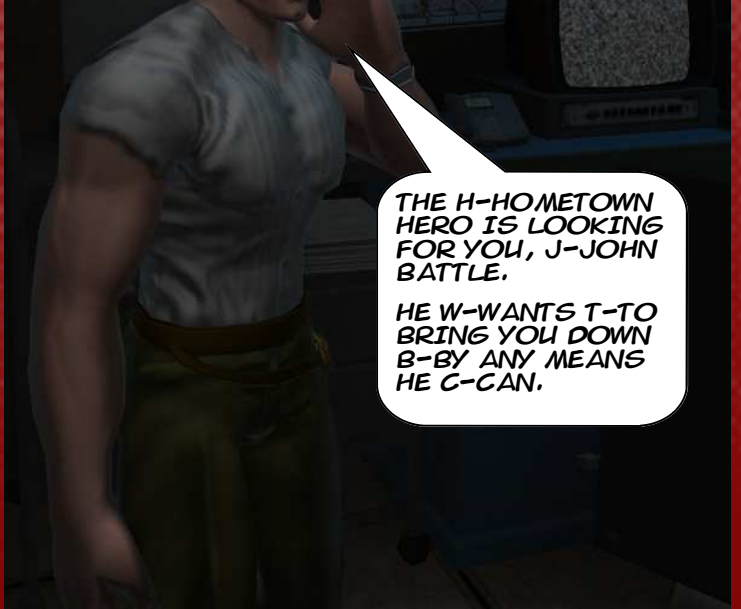
\*BEEP\*  
JOHN BATTLE...  
YOU DO NOT... KNOW ME...  
YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS CONFRONTED IN CLUB CAPRICE.



THE MAN WHO... CONFRONTED HER CALLED HIMSELF THE... HOMETOWN HERO.



SHE IS... LUCKY TO HAVE... FRIENDS THAT LOOK... OUT FOR HER.  
BUT SHE... IS NOT WHO HE WAS... LOOKING FOR.

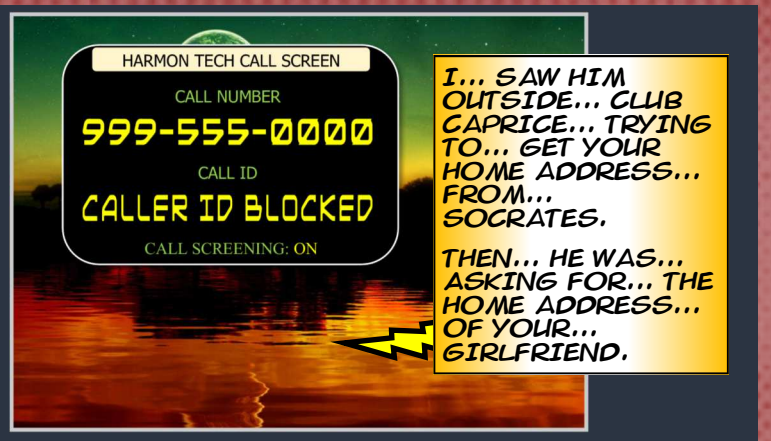


THE H-HOMETOWN HERO IS LOOKING FOR YOU, J-JOHN BATTLE.  
HE W-WANTS T-TO BRING YOU DOWN B-BY ANY MEANS HE C-CAN.





CALL SCREEN:  
PICK UP.  
THIS IS JOHN  
BATTLE. WHO ARE  
YOU? HOW DO  
YOU KNOW ALL  
THIS?

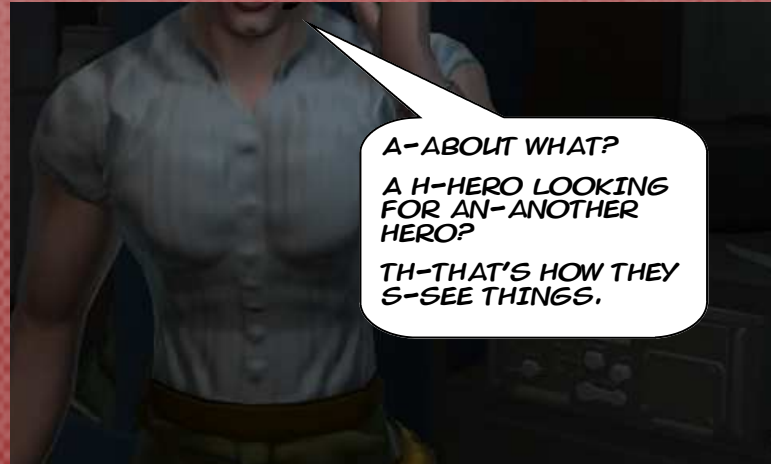


HARMON TECH CALL SCREEN  
CALL NUMBER  
**999-555-0000**  
CALL ID  
**CALLER ID BLOCKED**  
CALL SCREENING: ON

I... SAW HIM  
OUTSIDE... CLUB  
CAPRICE... TRYING  
TO... GET YOUR  
HOME ADDRESS...  
FROM...  
SOCRATES.  
THEN... HE WAS...  
ASKING FOR... THE  
HOME ADDRESS...  
OF YOUR...  
GIRLFRIEND.



SOCRATES  
WOULDN'T GIVE  
OUT PERSONAL  
INFORMATION  
LIKE THAT.  
WHY DIDN'T YOU  
TELL THE POLICE  
ABOUT THIS?



A-ABOUT WHAT?  
A H-HERO LOOKING  
FOR AN-ANOTHER  
HERO?  
TH-THAT'S HOW THEY  
S-SEE THINGS.



I SEE HIM... RIGHT NOW.  
HE IS... STANDING IN  
THE GRASS.. BETWEEN  
THE... REN-CEN... AND  
CHAMPIONS...  
HEADQUARTERS.

HE IS... CALLING  
YOUR... NAME.  
IF YOU... DON'T  
COME OUT... HE  
MAY GO AFTER...  
YOUR GIRLFRIEND  
WHEN SHE LEAVES...  
THE CLUB.





MINUTES LATER... BETWEEN THE RENAISSANCE CENTER AND CHAMPIONS HEADQUARTERS

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED YOUR FACE, COWARD!

WHATEVER PROBLEM YOU HAVE WITH ME, YOU KEEP IT WITH ME. DON'T BRING OTHER PEOPLE INTO THIS!


THE ONLY PROBLEM I HAVE IS A CRIMINAL LIKE YOU OUT AND ABOUT!

AND THAT'S A PROBLEM I'M GONNA FIX RIGHT NOW!

\*KA-THONG!\*

A CONTAINMENT FIELD? YOU'RE EXPECTING ME TO DUAL YOU?





THAT'S SO YOU CAN'T  
RUN AWAY LIKE YOU  
DID THE LAST TIME,  
COWARD.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE  
THAT YOU'RE DONE HERE  
IN MILLENNIUM CITY.  
YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL,  
AND I'M GOING TO BE  
THE ONE TO SEND YOU  
THERE.



BOY, YOU AREN'T  
EVEN NEAR MY  
POWER LEVEL.

YOU TURN THIS  
DEVICE OFF RIGHT  
NOW OR I'LL SMASH  
IT TO PIECES AND  
HAVE THE CITY BILL  
YOU FOR TRASHING  
THE LAWN.







I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU.  
YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME TRYING TO HURT ME.



I'LL COME AFTER YOU... \*HUH\*... EVERY SINGLE DAY... \*HUH\*... EVERY... \*HUH\*... SINGLE HOUR... \*HUH\*... UNTIL I BRING YOU DOWN... \*HUH\*



AND IF... \*HH\*... IF I CAN'T... I'LL GO AFTER YOUR GIRLFRIEND.  
\*HEH\*... THE PRETTY REDHEAD AT THE CLUB.  
AIDING AND ABETTING A KNOWN CRIMINAL.

AND IF SHE HAS ANY REAL FRIENDS... I'LL TAKE THEM DOWN TOO.  
I CAN FIND MANY WAYS TO HURT SCUM LIKE YOU.



WHATEVER IT TAKES, I'M TAKING YOU DOWN!

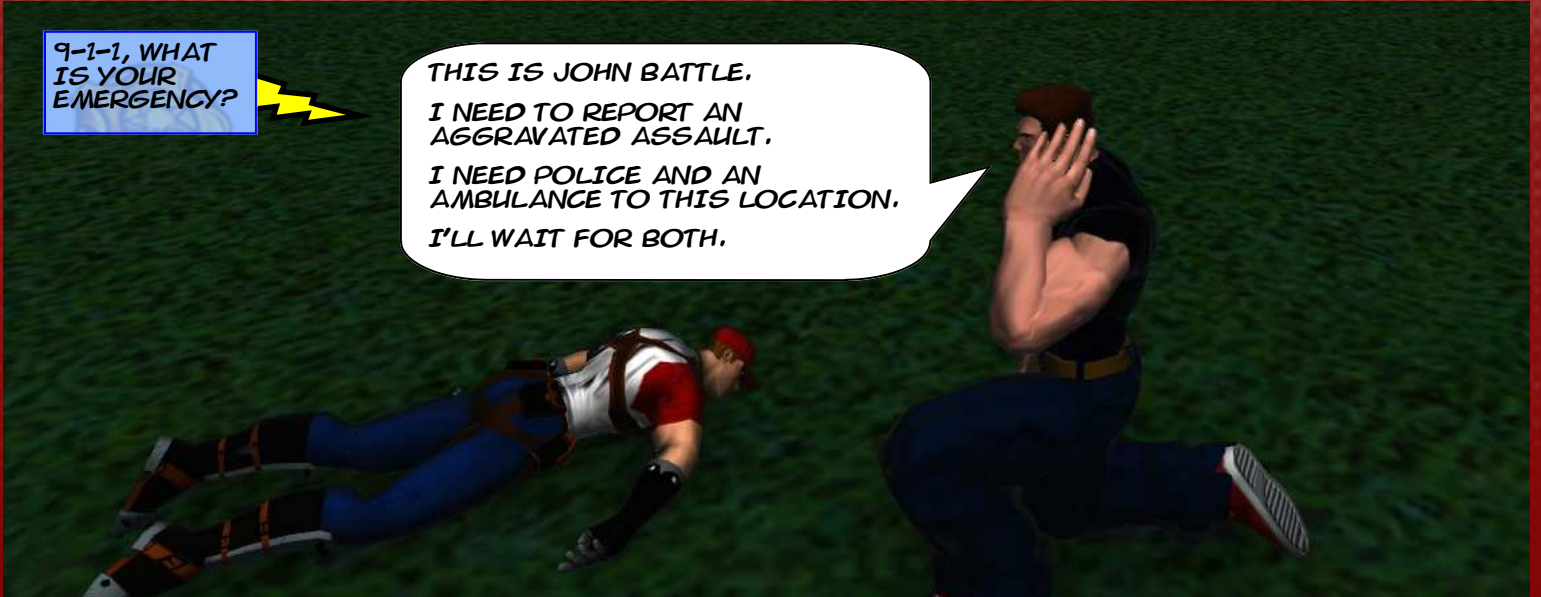
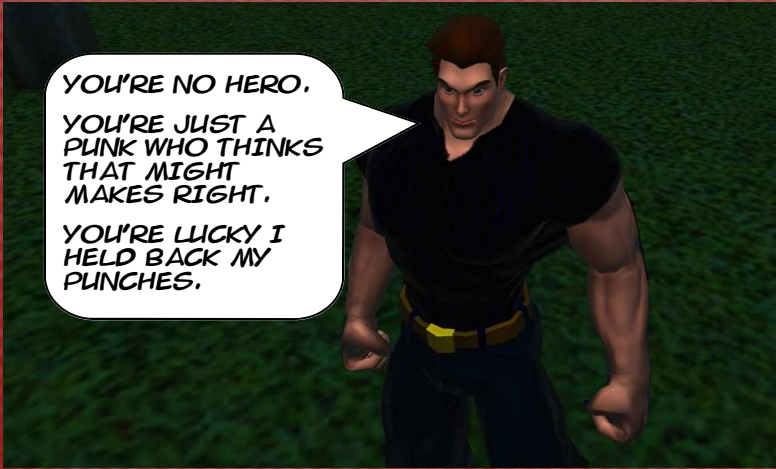


\*PUNCH!\*



\*SOCK!\*







ELSEWHERE IN CITY CENTER...

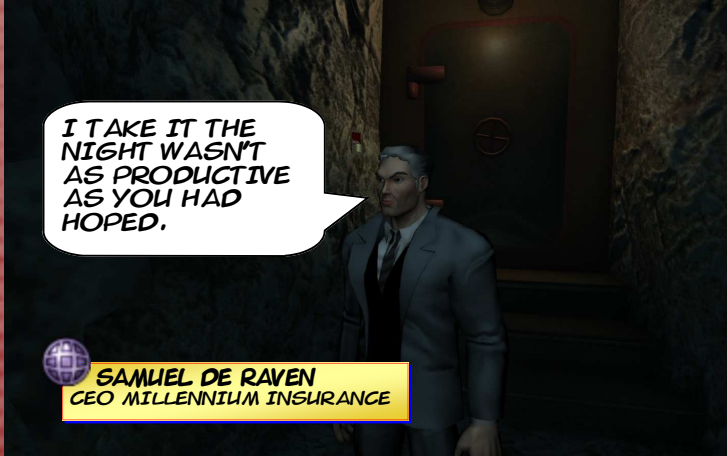


THE "RAVEN CAVE"...



I TAKE IT THE NIGHT WASN'T AS PRODUCTIVE AS YOU HAD HOPED.

**SAMUEL DE RAVEN**  
CEO MILLENNIUM INSURANCE



HE SPOTTED ME, I WAS SLOPPY. RAVENCLAW WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER.

MY BROTHER WAS MANY THINGS, BUT PERFECT WAS NOT ONE OF THEM. HE MADE HIS MISTAKES WHEN HE STARTED OUT AS WELL, CASSIE.




STILL... \*ENF\*

I WASN'T FOLLOWING HIM AS RED SINNER. I WAS FOLLOWING HIM AS CASSIE DARE, YOUR NEW INVESTIGATOR. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO HAVE MY BOSS HELP BAIL ME OUT.

**CASSIE DARE**  
AKA: RED SINNER







THEN IT'S A GOOD THING THAT "I" WASN'T THE ONE THAT BAILED YOU OUT.

EQUALLY GOOD THAT THE MAMMOTH HAS YOUR VOICE CHANGER IN THE PA SYSTEM AND COULD BE REMOTE-OPERATED IN DRONE MODE.



THANK YOU FOR THAT, SAMUEL.


AND THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME ACCESS TO THE HOTEL'S COMPUTER SYSTEM.

IT GAVE ME SOMETHING TO GIVE MAJOR CROSS.



THAT WAS ONE OF PHILLIP'S LITTLE HACKS. ALL I DID WAS PRETEND THAT IT ISN'T THERE.

HE TRACKED DOWN MANY FUGITIVES USING THAT.



I JUST WISH I COULD USE IT TO FIND OUT WHO PEDRO DUARTE IS.

EVERY LEAD I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING HAS COME UP EMPTY.



YOU KNOW... BACK WHEN I WAS IN THE BUREAU, THE FBI\* DID AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO PEDRO DUARTE'S LIFE.

IT WAS AFTER HE HAD EXPOSED SOME CONGRESSMAN'S AFFAIR.


I WASN'T INVOLVED IN THE CASE, BUT I DO KNOW WHO WAS, AND I DO KNOW THE CASE WAS QUICKLY CLOSED BY THE HIGHER-UPS.

(\* FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION)



HMM... I WONDER WHY THEY CLOSED IT.

IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU CAN GET ME THAT CASE FILE? OR MAYBE HAVE IT SENT TO MAJOR CROSS?



THE FEDS AREN'T REALLY FRIENDS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS OF LATE.

HOWEVER... THEY MIGHT FIND A WAY TO TEMPORARILY "LOSE" THE FILE TO A CERTAIN RETIRED AGENT.



THE NEXT MORNING...

"LET'S START WITH THE NEWS... AND, WITH THAT, WE GO TO MERCEDES REALE."  
"MERCEDES?"

"THANK YOU, VICTORIA."

GOOD MORNING  
MILLENNIUM CITY.  
WE START TODAY  
WITH A REPORTED  
ALTERCATION  
BETWEEN JOHN  
BATTLE AND A  
ROOKIE HERO.

THE ALTERCATION  
HAPPENED LAST  
NIGHT JUST OUTSIDE  
OF CHAMPIONS  
HEADQUARTERS.

ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES, THE  
YOUNG REGISTERED HERO, WHO CALLS  
HIMSELF THE "HOMETOWN HERO", WAS  
THE ONE THAT INSTIGATED THE FIGHT  
BETWEEN HIMSELF AND JOHN BATTLE,  
THE "LEGACY HERO" WHO IS ACCUSED  
OF SEVERAL FRAUDS THAT WE'VE BEEN  
REPORTING HERE AT WCOC.

THE FIGHT WAS BRIEF,  
AND IT RESULTED IN  
THE POLICE BEING  
CALLED AND ARRESTING  
THE HOMETOWN HERO  
ON THE CHARGE OF  
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT  
AND MAKING  
TERRORIST THREATS.

THE OFFICERS  
TOOK THE  
HOMETOWN HERO  
INTO CUSTODY  
AFTER  
INTERVIEWING BOTH  
MISTER BATTLE  
AND SEVERAL  
EYEWITNESSES.

**8** WCOC **MCPD CAPTAIN MARTIN**

THE HOMETOWN HERO  
DID RECEIVE SEVERAL  
INJURIES IN THE  
SKIRMISH, INCLUDING  
A BROKEN JAW AND  
SEVERAL SMASHED  
FINGERS.

HE WAS TAKEN TO  
MERCY HOSPITAL  
WHILE STILL IN POLICE  
CUSTODY.

CHARGES WERE EVENTUALLY  
DROPPED BY MISTER BATTLE,  
AND WE HAVE RULED THAT  
THIS WAS A "HERO VERSUS  
HERO" SKIRMISH.

WE HAVE ORDERED THE HOMETOWN  
HERO TO REFRAIN FROM ANY  
FUTURE INTERACTIONS WITH  
MISTER BATTLE.


**8** WCOC **MCPD CAPTAIN MARTIN SPEAKS ABOUT HERO VERSUS HERO FIGHT**






THE HOMETOWN HERO REMAINS IN MERCY HOSPITAL.

DOCTORS SAY THAT HIS INJURIES COULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO MEND.



WE REACHED OUT TO DEFENDER, THE LEADER OF THE CHAMPIONS, WHO HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE INCIDENT.



AFTER REVIEWING THE INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE, I HAVE TO COMMEND JOHN BATTLE ON HOW HE HANDLED THE ALTERCATION. HE CLEARLY DID THINGS THE RIGHT WAY.

I AM EQUALLY DISTURBED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE "HOMETOWN HERO", INCLUDING REPORTS THAT HE THREATENED INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN HIS QUEST TO ARREST JOHN BATTLE. NO HERO IN GOOD STANDING IN THIS CITY BEHAVES LIKE THAT. NOT EVEN NIGHTHAWK.

**8** WCOC DEFENDER SPEAKS OUT ON HERO VERSUS HERO ALTERCATION

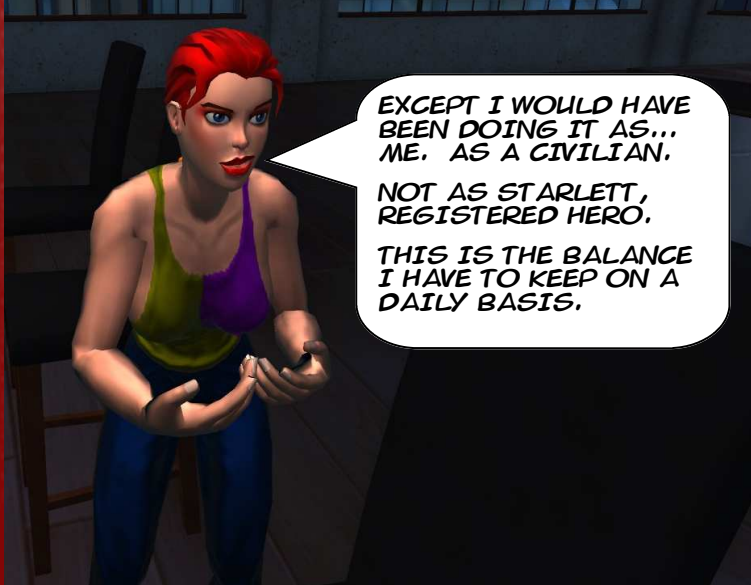


THE POLICE HAD ME THERE FOR HOURS, GOING OVER MY STATEMENT OVER AND OVER AND OVER...

IT'S LIKE THEY DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT I WOULD CALL THE POLICE ON HIM LIKE ANY OTHER CITIZEN WOULD.

IT WASN'T ANY EASIER ON ME, JOHN.

AFTER WHAT ELITE TOLD ME SHE STOPPED HIM FROM DOING, I REALLY WANTED TO HUNT HIM DOWN AND KICK HIS BUTT.



EXCEPT I WOULD HAVE BEEN DOING IT AS... ME. AS A CIVILIAN.

NOT AS STARLETT, REGISTERED HERO.

THIS IS THE BALANCE I HAVE TO KEEP ON A DAILY BASIS.



PEOPLE SEE YOU AS A HERO TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN.

THEY DON'T SEE YOU AS A CIVILIAN WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR WORK CLOTHES.

I COULDN'T DO THAT. I COULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT WITH EVERYONE KNOWING WHO I AM.



I DUNNO...  
MAYBE I SHOULD...

WHAT?

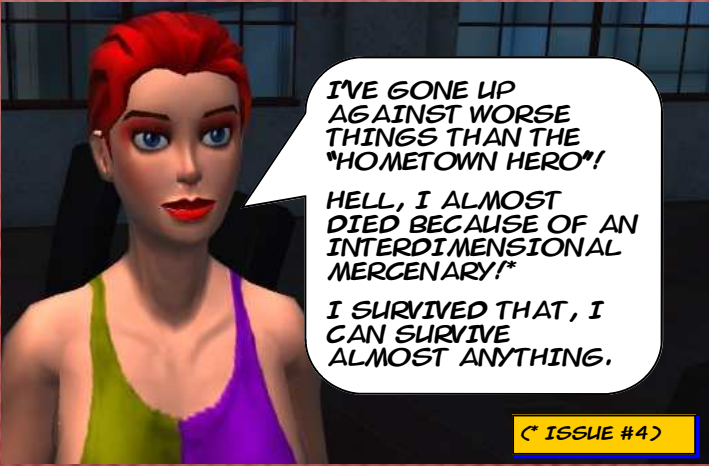
MAYBE I SHOULD GO.  
MAYBE I NEED TO GO TO  
THE YAVAPAI AND GET TO  
THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

AT THE VERY LEAST, IT'LL  
STOP ALL THESE OTHER  
PUNKS FROM TRYING TO  
TAKE ME IN OR TRYING TO  
GET TO ME THROUGH YOU.



JOHN BATTLE,  
DON'T YOU DARE!  
DON'T TRY TO  
PUSH AWAY TO  
PROTECT ME!

\*DING\*



I'VE GONE UP  
AGAINST WORSE  
THINGS THAN THE  
"HOMETOWN HERO"!  
HELL, I ALMOST  
DIED BECAUSE OF AN  
INTERDIMENSIONAL  
MERCENARY!  
I SURVIVED THAT, I  
CAN SURVIVE  
ALMOST ANYTHING.

(\* ISSUE #4)

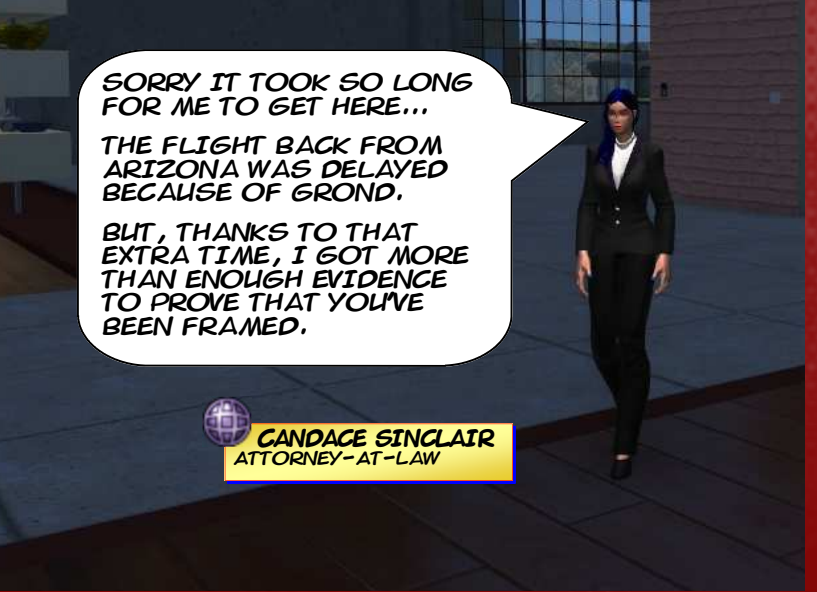


\*SIGH\*... YOU'RE RIGHT.  
OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT.  
OKAY, WE STAY AND WE  
FIGHT THIS.

AND...  
WE WIN.



WELL I'M  
GLAD WE'RE  
ALL IN  
AGREEMENT  
ON THAT.



SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG  
FOR ME TO GET HERE...  
THE FLIGHT BACK FROM  
ARIZONA WAS DELAYED  
BECAUSE OF GROND.  
BUT, THANKS TO THAT  
EXTRA TIME, I GOT MORE  
THAN ENOUGH EVIDENCE  
TO PROVE THAT YOU'VE  
BEEN FRAMED.

 **CANDACE SINCLAIR**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



SO NOW WE'RE  
GOING TO TAKE ON  
PEDRO DUARTE AND  
WCOC TV...  
AND WE'RE GOING  
TO BURN THEM ALL  
TO THE GROUND!

NEXT:  
THE REAL  
"REAL TRUTH"!



# GUARDIAN WORDS

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

## The Nighthawk “Stigma” and “Might Makes Right”

There have been several references in this series to the mysterious vigilante known as Nighthawk. Not all of these references are good. In fact, some are very critical of him.

So who is Nighthawk?



Nighthawk is a vigilante in the world of the Champions.

His name is Mark Whitaker; a very successful software programmer.

For reasons that were never explained, Mark was driven to use his wealth and his genius mind to create weapons that would allow him to disguise himself and fight crime. He created his own fleet of bird-shaped jets that would allow him to travel through the city quickly and to dispense justice from the air.

At first, Nighthawk was an essential member of The Champions, helping the premiere superhero team both as an investigator and in providing technical support. But Nighthawk and Defender did not see eye-to-eye when it came to dealing with the criminal element.

Defender is a true boy scout when it comes to crime. He works with the police and does everything asked of him to detain the bad guys and wait for the police to do the arresting.

Nighthawk doesn't wait for the police, and he doesn't play nice. He rushes in, cracks skulls, and then leaves the bad guys in pain and agony for the police to arrive.

Defender believes that there are lines that you do not cross as a hero. Nighthawk does not see some of those lines. Nighthawk sees a need for justice, and sometimes justice needs to break a few rules.

This led to Nighthawk quitting The Champions and striking out on his own.

And then...?

Well, apparently he vanished. The criminal element still feared him, but there were no sightings of him or any of his custom Hawkwing jets. People wondered if he died or if he just went to another city.

Until there were reports of Nighthawk appearing in Millennium City and going full-villain.

This is the in-game start of the “Nighthawk Event”, which brings Nighthawk back to Millennium City and brings in not only the exclusive “Nighthawk” costume set, but also the “Night Avenger” powerset and the special vehicles. In fact, you can thank the first “Nighthawk Event” for the incorporation of vehicles into the Champions Online game.

But let's get back to the whole criticism of Nighthawk by Defender. Why would Defender be critical of Nighthawk and bring up his name when talking about how a hero should behave?

Simple: because Nighthawk works outside the limitations imposed on the government and on heroes.

Nighthawk doesn't mind inflicting excessive pain. He operates without

*Continues on next page...*



heeding due process. He is willing to take on anyone - even the government, and even the police - if he sees they are engaged in criminal activity.

In the eyes of Defender, Nighthawk is an example of the worst of the hero community. A true vigilante who ignores the rules in order to bring down evil.

Defender fears that Nighthawk will inspire other heroes to go down the same path, or maybe even worse. That they could adopt a "Might Makes Right" mindset that makes heroes no different than the criminal scum they claim to oppose.

And, quite frankly, Defender has already seen that through the actions of his evil counterpart in the Multifaria universe. You know his evil counterpart as the Shadow Destroyer, leader of The Conquerors. Defender sees him as the evil reflection of his nightmares.

Plus, it was six years ago that another so-called "hero" subscribed to the same "Might Makes Right" philosophy. A "hero" whose extremist views not only caused death and destruction, but also an attempted coup of Millennium City itself. You know this so-called "hero" as "The Nationalist", and his rise and fall were shown here in "Future's Guardian" #6-8.

With these ready-made examples, it's easy to see why someone like Defender would be quick to invoke Nighthawk's name when chastising heroes.

It's a good thing, then, that Nighthawk isn't as active in Millennium City as he used to be. He only shows up when someone is trying to truly defame him.

However, just because Nighthawk isn't around as much as he used to, that doesn't mean that he has really left Millennium City. After all, Nighthawk will always come to the rescue of his girlfriend... the nosy reporter you know as Julie Morgan.

Even a vigilante needs a damsel in distress to rescue.

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## **NEXT ISSUE...**

**CHAMPIONS  
ONLINE**



**WHAT IS THE REAL TRUTH  
ABOUT THE "REAL TRUTH"  
REPORTER PEDRO DUARTE?**

**AND WHO IS BEHIND THE FRAUD  
CHARGES AGAINST JOHN BATTLE?**

**IT ALL COMES TO A HEAD IN  
THE NEXT ISSUE!**





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