

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

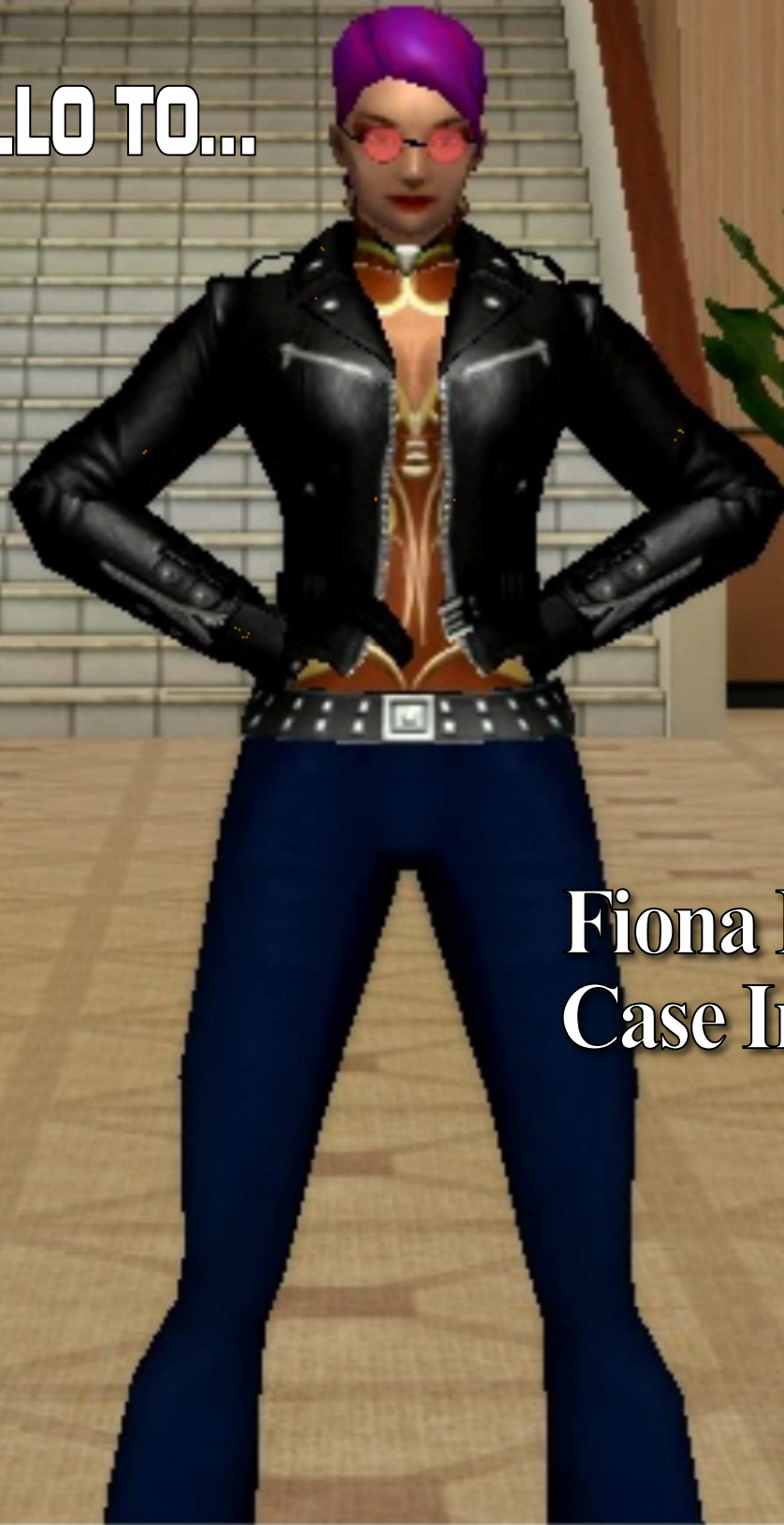
AND
THE GUARDIANS



Issue 10
2015



SAY HELLO TO...



Fiona Poderes:
Case Investigator



WHY SHOULD HEROIC LIVING BE SO MILD-MANNERED?

You're a hero, not a hermit.

So why limit yourself to some meager apartment, scrambling to find someplace to store your costumes and worrying about people discovering your secret identity while you come and go?

Helios Towers is the first and best hero-friendly community in Paragon City. Located on Talos Island, Helios Towers provides the best in civilian living while accommodating for your unique heroic needs.

Our patented "Heaven-or-Hell" access points allow concealed entries and exits that only your fellow heroes will know about, while still keeping away the undesirables and the occasional nosy reporters.

All our living units come with full kitchens, baths, and a laundry room with state-of-the-art washers and dryers designed to clean your costumes as well as your civilian clothing without damaging either. We also provide concierge service to all residents so they don't have to choose between grocery shopping and saving the city.

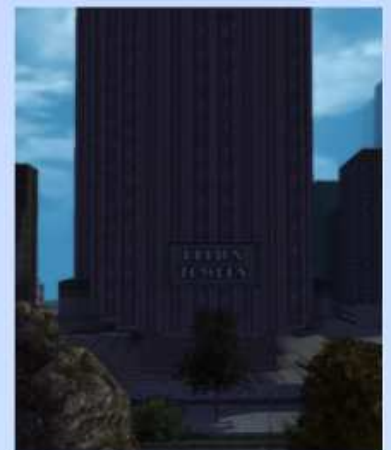
For an additional cost, we offer dry cleaning and housekeeping services, as well as help install and service specialized consoles.

Best of all, all living units are soundproof, so even your non-hero neighbors will never know what is going on behind closed doors.

Our leasing packages go from six months to two years, and we offer discounts to any active members of Vanguard, Freedom Corps, or Hero Corps.

Don't just be a hero. Live like one as well.

Helios Towers
Talos Island, Paragon City, RI
Find us on the web at:
www.heliostowers.para



Born in an alternate world where heroes ruled and humanity was endangered, Faith Powers was the last surviving member of the legendary Powers family. Brought up in the watchful eyes of the Praetors, she became Furia Powers, champion of the weak.

But then she became aware that all was not right in the supposed "Utopian Society". Forced to choose between the Praetors and a chance at a new family, she choose family and left for the Primal Universe.

Now Furia Powers is a member of the Guardians of the Dawn, a superhero team dedicated to helping humanity to that bright future that is always just beyond the horizon. It is a team that is on the brink of becoming legend. They are...

FURIA



AND THE GUARDIANS

Earlier in the year, Paragon City was rocked by a two-stage attack from sonic-based robots and the super-powered menace called "Destitution".

Although Destitution was stopped by Furia Powers, questions still remained about who he really was and where he came from.

And while Furia and the rest of the Guardians of the Dawn continue to seek answers, LexieTech CEO Lexie Lothora is following up on her own end as the true instigator of the attack so she can move forward with her next campaign.

Meanwhile, PNN Reporter April Ramirez's life continues to unravel in ways that she never could expect.

"FOLLOWING-UP"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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LEXIETECH INCORPORATED HOME OFFICE

AEON CITY - CAP AU DIABLE - ROGUE ISLES

PRIVATE POOL AREA

4:30AM ROGUE TIME



GOOD EVENING
MISS LOTHORA.
OR RATHER,
GOOD MORNING.

A PERFECT TIME
TO TAKE A DIP IN
THE EXECUTIVE
POOL.

I'D ASK HOW YOU
MANAGED TO GET PAST
MY GUARDS, BUT I DON'T
THINK I WOULD WANT TO
KNOW THE ANSWER.

YOU'RE HIM, AREN'T YOU?
THE "GIFT" THAT LORD
GEDDY SENT ME.

 **Lexie Lothora**
LEXIETECH CEO



I WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A "GIFT", MISS LOTHORA. MY NAME IS CASH COULSON. I'M IN SALES.

I'VE BEEN HERE FOR A FEW MONTHS AND I FIGURED NOW WOULD BE THE TIME FOR US TO MEET. AND WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN SOMEPLACE EXCLUSIVE?

I AM CURIOUS, THOUGH... WHAT MADE YOU BELIEVE YOU WERE EXPECTING ME?

Cash Coulson
LEXIETECH SALES



LORD GEDDY SAID THAT HE WAS GIVING ME A "GIFT OF FACILITATION." I ASKED HIM WHEN I SHOULD EXPECT THIS "GIFT" AND HE SAID WHEN THE TIME WAS RIGHT, HE WOULD MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN TO ME.*

SO... HOW PRECISELY DOES THIS WORK? DO YOU WORK FOR ME? ARE YOU PART OF A SERVICE? HOW DO I...?

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



I'M IN SALES, MISS LOTHORA. THAT MEANS I WORK FOR YOU. THERE IS NO "SERVICE". THERE'S JUST ME.




WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT IF YOU HAVE A RATHER UNIQUE PROBLEM, YOU BRING IT TO ME. I DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM FOR YOU. THAT WAY YOUR HANDS ARE CLEAN OF ANYTHING "MESSY".




IT SEEMS RATHER REDUNDANT, MISTER COULSON. I HAVE A WHOLE CORPORATION AT MY DISPOSAL FOR THAT TASK.



QUITE THE CONTRARY... THAT IS PRECISELY WHY YOU NEED SOMEONE LIKE ME.

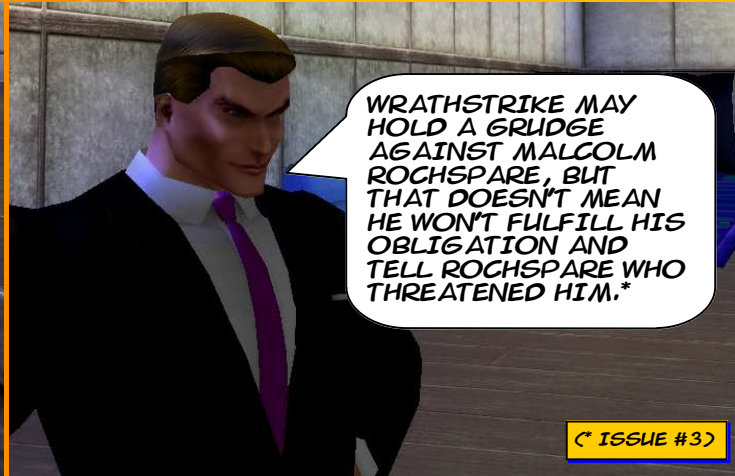


TAKE, FOR INSTANCE, THE MATTER OF THE TRAVEL OFFICE. YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE INCIDENT UNDER CONTROL, WHEN IN FACT THERE ARE TWO VARIABLES STILL IN PLAY.




MY HEAD OF SECURITY ALREADY INTERROGATED MISS WHITEHALL AND FOUND THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO BE NEGLIGIBLE.*

(* ISSUE #6)



WRATHSTRIKE MAY HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST MALCOLM ROCHSPARE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE WON'T FULFILL HIS OBLIGATION AND TELL ROCHSPARE WHO THREATENED HIM.*

(* ISSUE #3)



WRATHSTRIKE IS AN OPERATIVE-FOR-HIRE. HE HAS A CODE, AND THAT CODE OVERRIDES ANY PERSONAL FEELINGS HE MAY HAVE ABOUT HIS CLIENTS.

AT SOME POINT, HE WILL BE OBLIGATED TO STOP STALLING AND TELL MISTER ROCHSPARE THAT YOU WERE THE ONE BEHIND THE WHOLE ORDEAL. THE QUESTION THEN BECOMES WHAT ROCHSPARE WILL DO WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE.



AND I SUPPOSE THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE A WAY TO DEAL WITH THAT EVENTUALITY?



TELL YOU WHAT... LET ME HANDLE THIS AND YOU'LL SEE WHY YOU NEED MY SERVICES.

HELIOS TOWERS

TALOS ISLAND - PARAGON CITY, RI, USA



PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF "FAITH KARL" AND "FIONA PODERES"

7:29 AM EDT

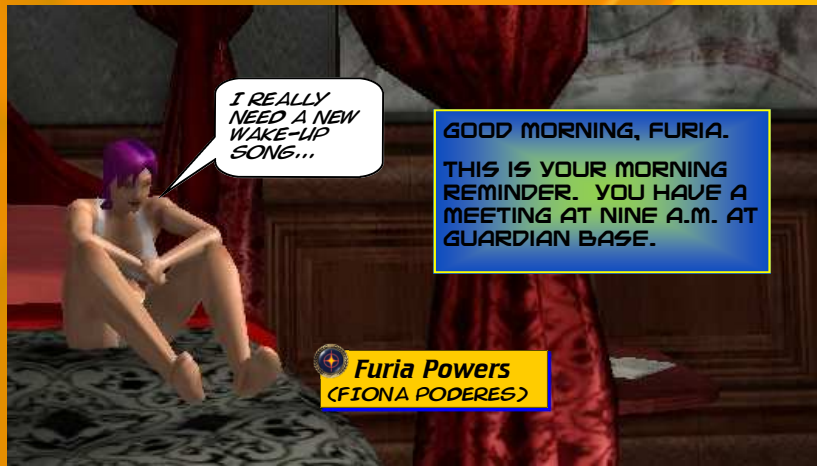


CLICK
CHANGE MY PITCH UP * SMACK MY BITCH UP * CHANGE MY PITCH UP * SMACK MY BITCH UP * CHANGE MY PITCH UP * SMACK MY BITCH UP * CHANGE MY PITCH UP * SMACK MY BITCH UP * CHANGE MY PITCH UP * SMACK MY BITCH UP *

(* FROM THE PRODIGY'S SONG "SMACK MY BITCH UP")



OFF!
I'M UP...
I'M UP...



I REALLY NEED A NEW WAKE-UP SONG...

GOOD MORNING, FURIA. THIS IS YOUR MORNING REMINDER. YOU HAVE A MEETING AT NINE A.M. AT GUARDIAN BASE.

Furia Powers (FIONA PODERES)



MY BODY STILL HURTS FROM MY BATTLE WITH THE SOTHIS.*

I REALLY PUSHED MYSELF THIS TIME AROUND.

(* NOTE: THIS TAKES PLACE AFTER THE "HOUSE OF SOTHIS" STORYLINE IN "THE CRUCIBLE" AT COXCOMICS.COM)



THEN AGAIN, SAVING THE WORLD, YADDA-YADDA...

MAYBE NEXT TIME I'LL BE ASKED TO STOP AN INVASION OF THE MARSHMALLOW PEOPLE.



SHOWER ON, HOT.

A SHOWER SHOULD HELP WORK OUT SOME OF THE SORENESS.



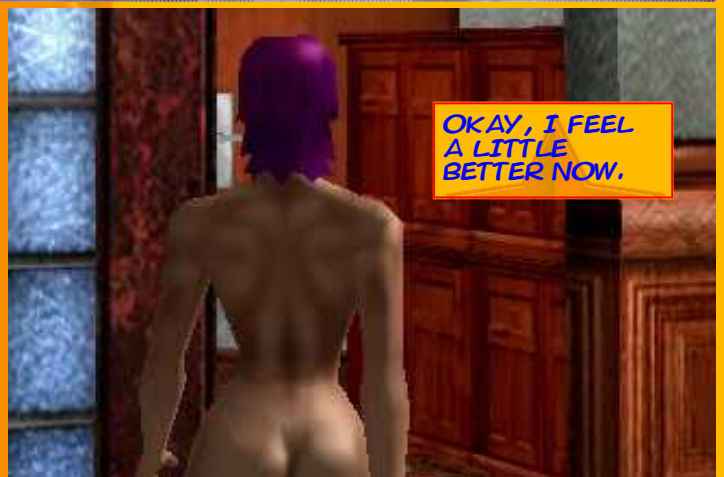
WATER IS AT OPTIMAL TEMPERATURE

STILL TRYING TO GET USED TO ALL THIS.



A "SMART" APARTMENT.

I NEVER HAD THIS IN PRAETORIA.



OKAY, I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW.



WEATHER ON TALOS ISLAND IS SIXTY-FIVE DEGREES WITH CLEAR SKIES.

THEN AGAIN, THERE'S A LOT THAT I STILL NEED TO GET USED TO HERE.

A NEW JOB... A NEW CIVILIAN NAME...
"FIONA..." "FIONA..."
"HI, I'M FIONA PODERES."



HAVING A ROOMMATE...

NEVER MIND ONE THAT IS GENETICALLY MY "SISTER" FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

AND A QUICK GLANCE CONFIRMS GALATEA HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR THE DAY.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HER BED IS EMPTY.

STILL IT'S NOT TOO BAD.

I'M NOT WAKING UP SCREAMING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

AND I'M NOT LIVING IN FEAR OF TELEPATHS FINDING OUT MY SECRET.

MORNING...

PLEASE TELL ME THAT'S COFFEE YOU'RE DRINKING.

I COULD REALLY USE A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE.

STILL CAN'T GET USED TO THIS, THOUGH.

John Cole
AKA GUARDIAN STAR

SORRY, BUT THAT WOULD ENTAIL ACTUALLY GETTING A COFFEE-MAKER. I'M DRINKING A MOCHA SMOOTHIE.

JOHN COLE: MY FRIEND AND TEAMMATE... AND GALATEA'S BOYFRIEND.

YOU KNOW, I REALLY... CARE... ABOUT TAYA... BUT SERIOUSLY THIS SMOOTHIE CRAVE IS JUST...

AHEM

I HOPE WE DIDN'T BOTHER YOU LAST NIGHT WITH OUR... YOU-KNOW-WHAT.

YOU MEAN WHEN THE TWO OF YOU WERE SCREWING LIKE HYPER-POWERED BUNNIES UNTIL MIDNIGHT? NEVER NOTICED.

JUST FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, THOUGH... THE WHOLE "SOUND-PROOF WALLS" FEATURE OF THIS CONDO APPARENTLY ONLY APPLIES TO THE HALLWAY WALLS.



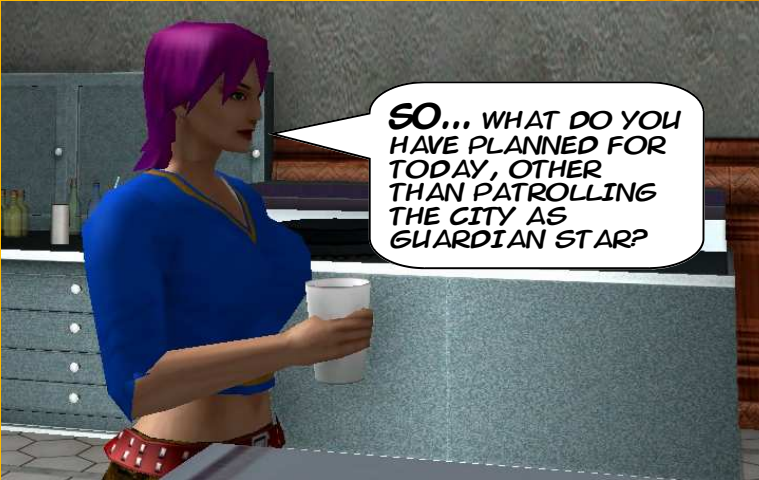
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT, FURIA.

WE'RE TRYING TO BE DISCRETE... OR AT LEAST I AM... BUT IT'S JUST WHEN WE GET GOING...



IT'S OKAY, JOHN.

I'M A BIG GIRL, AND QUITE FRANKLY, I SAW AND HEARD WORSE IN THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.



SO... WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR TODAY, OTHER THAN PATROLLING THE CITY AS GUARDIAN STAR?



THAT'S PRETTY MUCH MY DAY.

I'M STILL GETTING USED TO BEING MORE IN THE PUBLIC EYE AS A HERO, SO I NEED ALL THE PUBLIC TIME I CAN GET.



AT SOME POINT, THOUGH, I'LL HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU DID: FIND A DAY JOB AND A PLACE TO STAY.

THANKFULLY MOST OF THE WORLD DIDN'T KNOW THAT MARCUS COLE WAS STATESMAN, OR THAT I'M HIS SON, SO I WON'T HAVE THAT WHOLE "FAMILY LEGACY" THING TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW.

HOW ABOUT YOU?



MORNING MEETING AT GUARDIAN BASE ABOUT DESTINATION, THEN I'M OFF TO WORK AS "FIONA PODERES: INVESTIGATOR".

THERE'S A CASE THAT MY BOSS WANTS ME TO WORK ON THAT I GUESS IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

LITTLE ADVICE... COMING FROM SOMEONE WITH A WHOLE FAMILY OF HEROES FROM MULTIPLE UNIVERSES.

DON'T KNOCK THE "FAMILY LEGACY" THING ENTIRELY.

I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH I NEEDED MY FAMILY UNTIL THEY WERE TAKEN FROM ME IN MY WORLD.

I'M JUST GLAD I HAVE A NEW POWERS FAMILY NOW. OR... PART OF ONE ANYWAY.

MEANWHILE...

"THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO VIDEO-CHAT WITH ME BETWEEN NEGOTIATIONS IN GRANDVILLE."

WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD FROM VANGUARD AND ARACHNOS?

NOTHING.

WHICH MEANS WHATEVER THEY DO KNOW, THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP IT TO THEMSELVES UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE ADMITS TO IT.

SO...

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THEIR MUTUAL DISTRUST BARS THEM FROM FIGURING OUT WHO IS REALLY BEHIND DESTITUTION.

Lawrence Technis
LEXIETECH LEGAL

MEANWHILE, VANGUARD KEEPS THE BODY IN STATUS, AND THEY'RE NOT SAYING A WORD AS TO WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT HIM, WHERE HE CAME FROM, OR HOW HE ARRIVED IN PARAGON CITY.

IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN CLAIM THE BODY OURSELVES? MAYBE AS AN OFFER TO "HELP" TREAT HIM?

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THAT IDEA, ALEXANDRA.

EVEN UNDER THE MOST BENEVOLENT OF PRETENSES, BOTH SIDES WOULD KNOW THAT YOUR COMPANY WAS BEHIND IT ALL.

IT'S BEST TO LET THEM WALLOW IN WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW FOR NOW.

OF COURSE. I HAD TO ASK ANYWAY.

THANK YOU, LAWRENCE. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO RELY ON YOUR SAGE ADVICE ON THESE MATTERS.

BACK AT TALOS ISLAND...



"THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING."
"I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT."



SOME TIME AGO, WE WERE TASKED WITH FINDING OUT EVERYTHING WE COULD ABOUT DESTITUTION, HIS ROBOTS, AND HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO INFILTRATE THE CITY'S NETWORK SYSTEMS.

Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)

I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR SHARE OF OTHER CASES THAT HAVE POPPED UP BETWEEN THEN AND NOW. THAT'S WHY I CALLED THIS LITTLE MEETING; FOR US TO CATCH-UP ON WHAT WE KNOW SO WE CAN MOVE FORWARD AND FILL IN THE BLANKS.



YOU ALL KNOW WHAT YOU WERE ASKED TO LOOK INTO. JUST STEP UP AND GET US UP TO SPEED AS TO WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED SINCE THEN. JASON?



I WENT THROUGH THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE DESTITUTION SLAMMED INTO ON HIS DESCENT FROM ORBITAL SPACE. OR, AT LEAST WHAT THEY SAID THEY WERE ABLE TO SALVAGE.

Jason Knight
(DRAKE GREY)

WHAT SURPRISED THE FREEDOM CORPS AGENTS WAS WHAT THEY DIDN'T FIND. NAMELY, A BODY.



"THERE WAS NO SIGN THERE EVER WAS A PILOT ON THE PLANE."

"I CHECKED THE WRECKAGE INVENTORY AND I FOUND TWO GLOBAL POSITIONING DEVICES THAT WERE INSTALLED."

"ONE GPS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO GUIDE THE PLANE, EVEN ONE THAT'S AUTOMATED."

"BUT TWO? THAT WOULD BE TO FOLLOW SOMETHING ELSE."





I BELIEVE THE PLANE WASN'T THERE BY ACCIDENT.
I BELIEVE THE PLANE WAS SPECIFICALLY THERE TO BREAK DESTITUTION'S DESCENT.

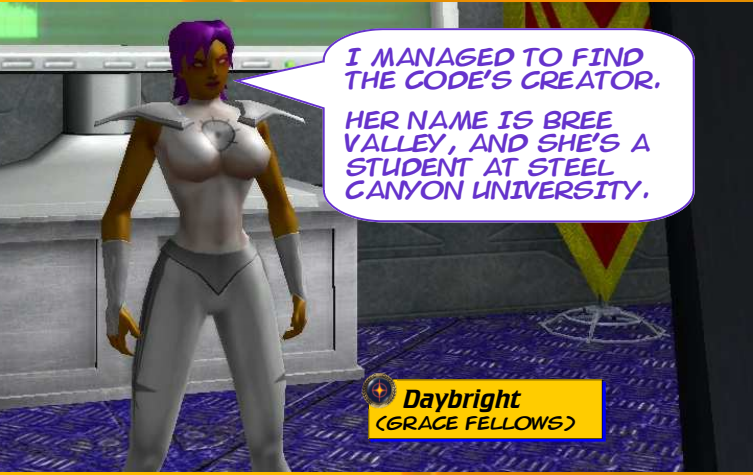


DO WE KNOW WHO OWNED OR HIRED THE PLANE?



THE FLIGHT PLAN SUBMITTED SAID THE PLANE CAME FROM STRIGA ISLE. THE LISTED OWNER WAS A SHELL COMPANY IN PEREGRINE ISLAND.

WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT SOME MORE.
OKAY, DAYBRIGHT, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT ASSEMBLER CODE?

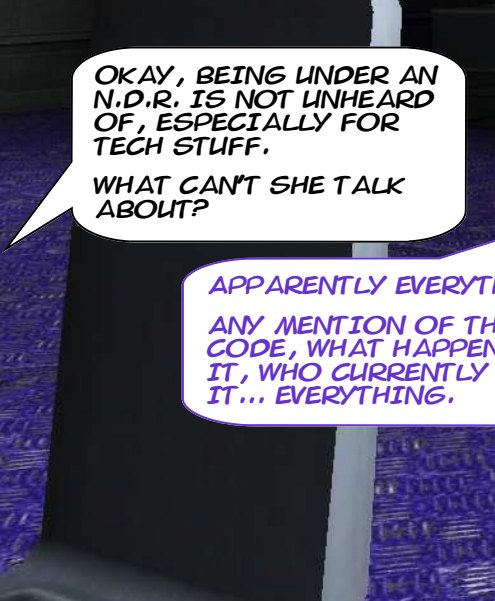


I MANAGED TO FIND THE CODE'S CREATOR. HER NAME IS BREE VALLEY, AND SHE'S A STUDENT AT STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY.

Daybright
(GRACE FELLOWS)



UNFORTUNATELY WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT IT, SHE SAID SHE'S UNDER A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT.



OKAY, BEING UNDER AN N.D.R. IS NOT UNHEARD OF, ESPECIALLY FOR TECH STUFF.
WHAT CAN'T SHE TALK ABOUT?

APPARENTLY EVERYTHING!
ANY MENTION OF THE CODE, WHAT HAPPENED TO IT, WHO CURRENTLY OWNS IT... EVERYTHING.



I'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH ALEX ON THE LEGALITY OF THIS.*
SOMETHING JUST ISN'T RIGHT ABOUT IT.

PLUS, I HAD APPROACHED HER IN MY HUMAN FORM.
I'LL SEE IF SHE'D BE A LITTLE MORE OPEN TO SPEAK WITH A KHELDIAN WITH A WHITE-HAT HACKER AS A HOST.

* ALEX* IS ALEX WENTWORTH, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, A.K.A. THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER



DESTITUTION'S BODY IS IN STASIS OVER AT VANGUARD BASE.

PHYSICALLY, THE DOCTORS SAY HE'S COMPLETELY HEALED FROM THE INJURIES HE SUSTAINED FROM MY COUNTER-ATTACK.*

(* ISSUE #3)



WHICH RESULTED IN HIS HEAD EXPLODING.



THE VANGUARD DOCTORS DID SAY THEY FOUND TRACE EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS IN HIS SKULL, SO THEY REALLY DON'T THINK THAT MY INTERNAL TELEKINETIC POWERS CAUSED IT.

AND... THAT'S NOT ALL. THEY BELIEVE THAT HE'S NOT ALIEN. THAT HE'S AN AUGMENTED HUMAN.

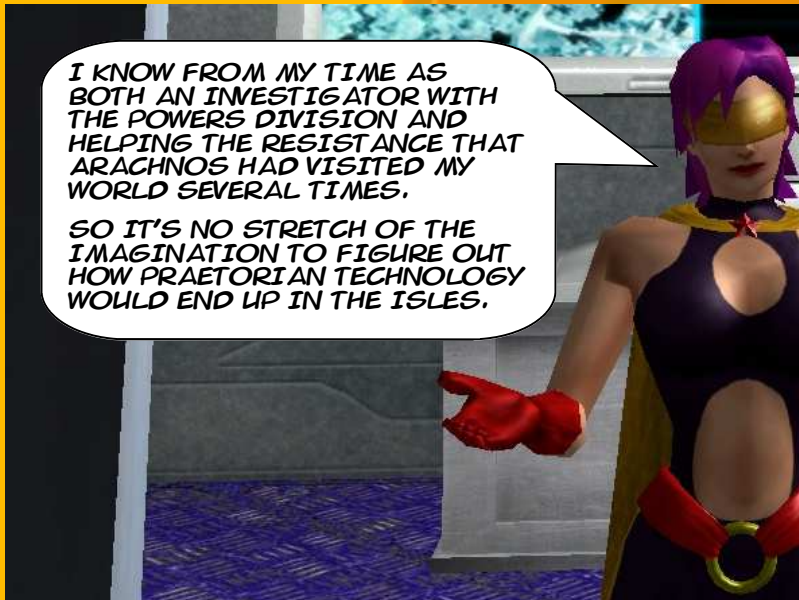
FROM THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE, LIKE YOU?



NO. FROM THIS WORLD. FROM THE ROGUE ISLES.



I KNOW THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE GIVEN HOW HE USED TECH FROM MY UNIVERSE, BUT HEAR ME OUT ON THIS.



I KNOW FROM MY TIME AS BOTH AN INVESTIGATOR WITH THE POWERS DIVISION AND HELPING THE RESISTANCE THAT ARACHNOS HAD VISITED MY WORLD SEVERAL TIMES.

SO IT'S NO STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION TO FIGURE OUT HOW PRAETORIAN TECHNOLOGY WOULD END UP IN THE ISLES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT THIS WAS AN ARACHNOS OPERATION.

THERE IS AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF SUBTERFUGE AND DIVERSION HERE.

A NON-ALIEN *ALIEN INVASION* USING ROBOTS THAT WERE ALREADY HERE, ADAPTIVE CODE FROM HERE, AND NANITES FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE DESIGNED TO GENERATE FEAR?



EVERYTHING THAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT ARACHNOS SAYS THAT THIS IS TOO CONVOLLITED EVEN FOR LORD RECLUSE.



MAYBE IT'S A NEMESIS PLOT.



WHAT'S A "NEMESIS PLOT"?

OH COME ON! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A "NEMESIS PLOT" IS?
YOU KNOW... NEMESIS? PRUSSIAN PRINCE OF AUTOMATION?
BIGGEST PAIN-IN-THE-ASS OF EVERY HERO SINCE THE 1930'S?
THIS KIND OF TWISTED-UP PLAN IS RIGHT UP HIS ALLEY.

Statesman
French
Nazi Stron



I'D LIKE TO AGREE WITH DAYBRIGHT, BUT I DON'T THINK NEMESIS IS BEHIND THIS EITHER.
I SUSPECT THIS IS SOMEONE NEW.



I THINK WE'LL NEED SOMEONE TO GO TO THE ROGUE ISLES TO FIND OUT.



I'M GUESSING YOU ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND FOR THAT TRIP.
FAIR ENOUGH.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU ANYWAY, SO WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE DETAILS IN MY OFFICE.
DAYBRIGHT, KEEP WORKING ON MISS VALLEY. FURIA, FIND OUT WHAT ELSE THERE IS ON THE PRAETORIAN TECH.

CHIRON MEDICAL CENTER - ATLAS PARK



THANK YOU FOR COMING IN AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE, MRS. RAMIREZ.



OF COURSE, BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU JUST WANTED TO SPEAK WITH ME AND NOT WITH MY HUSBAND. HAVING A BABY IS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOINT THING.

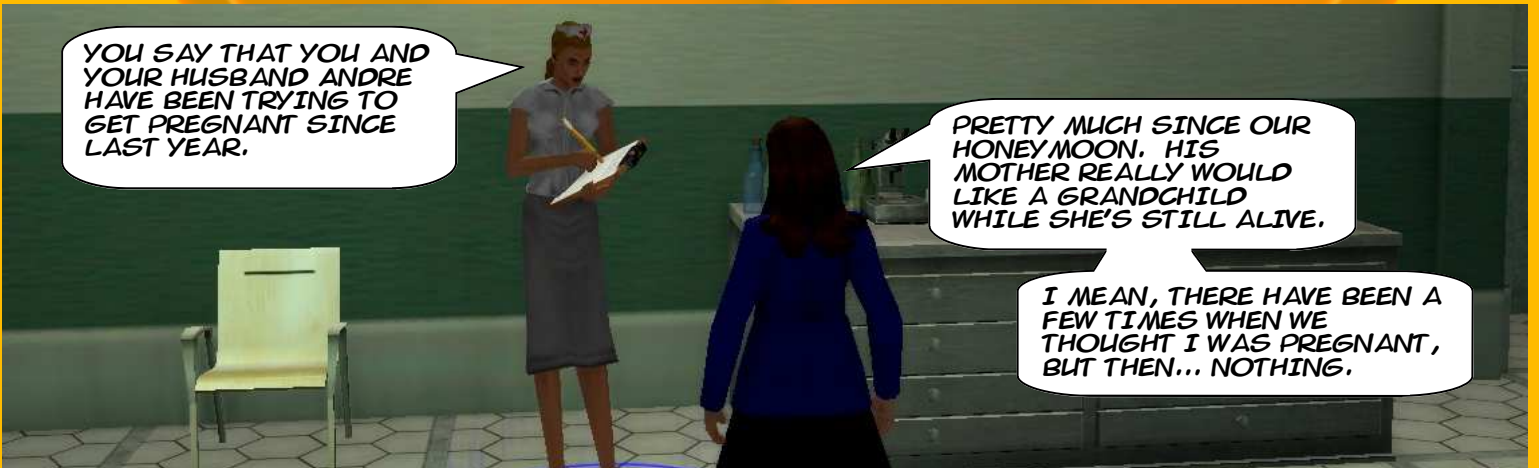
April Ramirez
PNN REPORTER



YES... WELL, WHAT WE FOUND WAS SOMETHING THAT I NEEDED TO TALK WITH YOU ALONE.



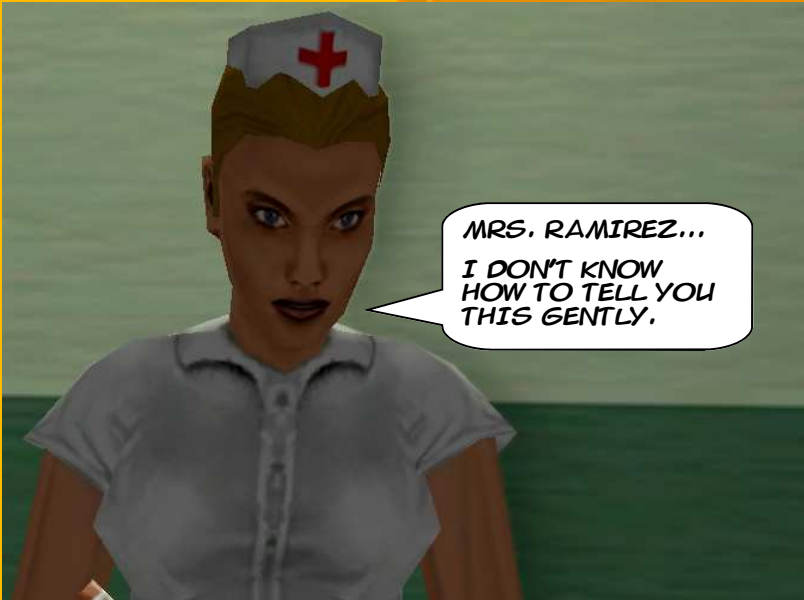
YOU SAY THAT YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND ANDRE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET PREGNANT SINCE LAST YEAR.



PRETTY MUCH SINCE OUR HONEYMOON. HIS MOTHER REALLY WOULD LIKE A GRANDCHILD WHILE SHE'S STILL ALIVE.

I MEAN, THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW TIMES WHEN WE THOUGHT I WAS PREGNANT, BUT THEN... NOTHING.

MRS. RAMIREZ... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS GENTLY.



ACCORDING TO OUR TESTS... YOU'VE BEEN PREGNANT. AT LEAST THREE TIMES, MAYBE MORE.





NO WAY!

NO! I... I DON'T BELIEVE THAT!

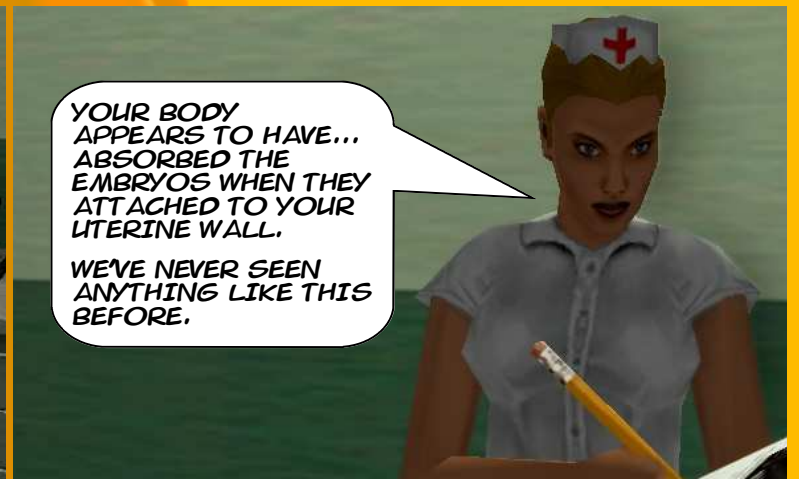
HOW COULD I BE PREGNANT THREE TIMES AND NOT HAVE A BABY?

I MEAN, THAT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT?

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IF THERE WAS A MISCARRIAGE!



THAT'S WHAT WE THOUGHT AS WELL. BUT... IT APPEARS THAT YOUR BODY. WELL...



YOUR BODY APPEARS TO HAVE... ABSORBED THE EMBRYOS WHEN THEY ATTACHED TO YOUR LITERINE WALL.

WE'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.



OH GOD...

WE TRIED TO RUN A GENETIC TEST TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY ABNORMALITIES, BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOUR GENETIC CODE WAS FLAGGED BY FREEDOM CORPS.

DO YOU KNOW ANY REASON WHY THEY WOULD DO THAT?



NO! NO, I WOULDN'T KNOW...

GOD, THIS IS TOO MUCH! I CAN'T TAKE THIS!



MRS. RAMIREZ! WAIT!

SOB



FROM THE CREATOR OF
"NEW ALLIED FIGHTERS"



NEW SERIES PREMIERE

MAJOR DEEJ UNIVERSE

ORIGINS

JANUARY 2016



<http://www.majordeejuniverse.com>



"H-V Casualty"

That's what the police put in their report when a hero battles with a villain and you're caught in the middle of it.

A stray bullet, a missed punch, a blast from an atomic accelerator, even from a mile away, can hurt, maim, cripple, or even kill you.

And all you'll ever be according to the police is just another "H-V Casualty".

We think you're more than that. We think you deserve more than just a notation in a police report.

Call us today and we'll make the heroes and villains pay!

Chris Jenkins - Attorney At Law

1-555-GET-RICH

When did you have good TEXAS food?



If the answer isn't "today", then it might as well be "never".

Why waste your time with posers when you can be shock-and-awed by a REAL-American steakhouse?

Whether it is our rib-sticking-ribs, our Cold War Beer, our Gitmo Enchiladas, our Improvised Edible Deserts, or our new **Four-Alarm FIREHOUSE CHILI**, we guarantee to help you put food on your family, and do it in a compassionate, conservative way that won't require a federal bailout!

DUBYA'S Steakhouse Restaurant



I'VE HAD THE IMAGE DEPARTMENT MONITORING FURIA'S POPULARITY INDEX EVER SINCE YOU REQUESTED A FULL PROFILE ON HER.

LT Kimaliya Wolfe
LEXIETECH ASSOCIATE



A "POPULARITY INDEX"?
YOU MEAN THERE'S SUCH A THING?



OF COURSE THERE IS! I WAS THE ONE THAT INVENTED IT.
IT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO LAUNCH MY CAREER AS A SOCIAL MEDIA ICON BEFORE YOU HIRED MY SERVICES.

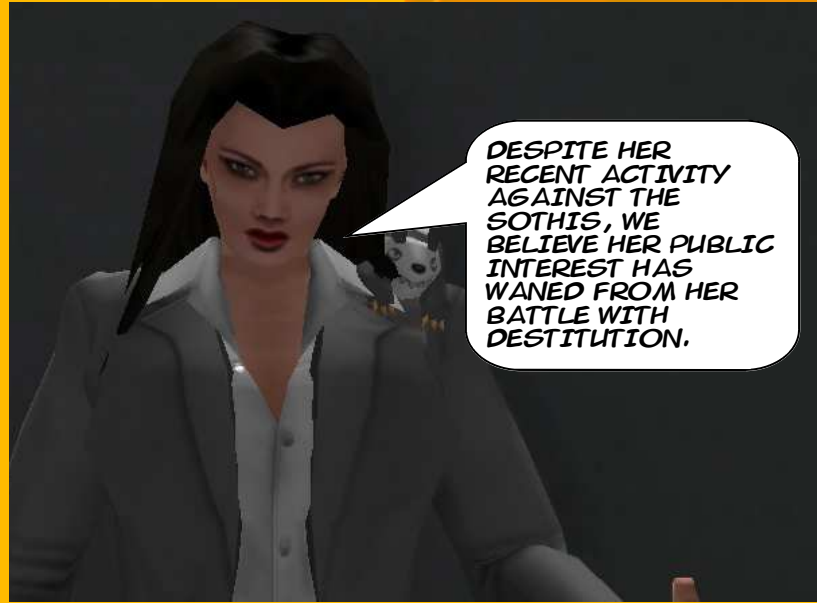
ANYTIME SOMEONE MAKES THE NEWS, BE THEY A MODEL OR A BUSINESSMAN OR EVEN A HERO, THEY GENERATE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE MORE INTEREST THEY GENERATE, THE MORE ADDED VISIBILITY THAT GETS GENERATED BY THE MEDIA.
WE CAN MEASURE THAT INTEREST BASED ON BOTH THE USERS AND THE MEDIA, AND USE IT TO DETERMINE JUST HOW POPULAR THAT PERSON IS FOR ANY GIVEN TIMEFRAME.



OKAY, SO WHAT IS FURIA'S INDEX?

WELL THANKFULLY IT'S NOT AS HIGH AS BALATEA'S.



DESPITE HER RECENT ACTIVITY AGAINST THE SOTHIS, WE BELIEVE HER PUBLIC INTEREST HAS WANED FROM HER BATTLE WITH DESTITUTION.



IN OTHER WORDS, HER FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME ARE ALMOST UP.
THANK YOU MISS WOLFE. YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.



SO... WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO LET ME KNOW ABOUT IT? OR WERE YOU?



BE SPECIFIC.



YOUR BACK-DOOR HACK INTO OUR COMPUTER NETWORK, WHICH YOU DISGUISED AS A "FILMFLIX" APP.*

(* ISSUE #8)



I'LL TAKE YOUR SILENCE AS AN ADMITTANCE OF GUILT.




JASON, I THOUGHT WE WERE PAST ALL THIS SUBTERFUGE CRAP. IF YOU WANTED ACCESS FOR YOUR OWN CPCI, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS TO ASK ME. WHY DID YOU STILL FEEL THE NEED TO HIDE THINGS FROM ME?



HOW'S ANDREW WENTWORTH? STILL HAVING LUNCH MEETINGS WITH HIM?




WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?




I DON'T TRUST THE ELDER WENTWORTH. I DON'T TRUST HIS REASONS FOR BEING THE GROUP'S NEW FINANCIER.

THAT CONNECTION WILL BITE US WHEN WE CAN'T AFFORD IT. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'RE GOING TO NEED SOMETHING SEPARATE FROM WENTWORTH'S MONEY AND INFLUENCE. SOMETHING THAT WENTWORTH DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT OR COULD SHUT DOWN.



WENTWORTH DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE HACK. ONLY MYSELF AND MINDY KNOW.



WHO DO YOU THINK SHE REALLY WORKS FOR?




... WE'LL TABLE THAT DISCUSSION FOR ANOTHER DAY.

I PRESUME YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING YOURSELF TO HEAD OVER TO THE ROGUE ISLES.



AS THE OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT, I HAVE STANDING PERMISSION TO ENTER THE ISLES.



THERE ARE A DOZEN DIFFERENT CORPORATIONS THAT ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE A PRESENCE BOTH HERE AND IN THE ISLES, THANKS TO THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND VANGUARD.

WHILE I'M THERE, I CAN PAY THOSE COMPANIES A "FRIENDLY VISIT" AND SEE WHICH ONES WOULD LIKELY ENGINEER THE ATTACK WITHOUT RAISING TOO MUCH SUSPICION.

"ROSE VEST AP?"

"YES."



YOU ARE THE INVESTIGATOR THAT MY LAWYER SAID WANTED TO SEE ME, RIGHT?

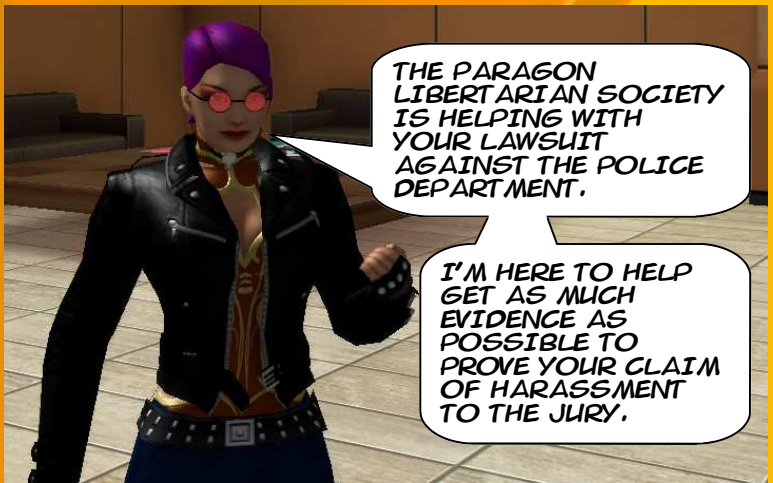


YES MA'AM... MY NAME IS FIONA PODERES, AND I'M AN INVESTIGATOR WITH THE PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY.

Fiona Poderes
AKA FURIA POWERS



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOME THIRD PARTY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SENDING THEIR OWN INVESTIGATOR.



THE PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY IS HELPING WITH YOUR LAWSUIT AGAINST THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

I'M HERE TO HELP GET AS MUCH EVIDENCE AS POSSIBLE TO PROVE YOUR CLAIM OF HARASSMENT TO THE JURY.



I... I APPRECIATE THE OFFER OF HELP, BUT IT WON'T BE NEEDED.

WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?

I WAS GIVEN A SETTLEMENT OFFER FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT I THINK I WILL BE ACCEPTING.

IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT WILL SUPPOSEDLY COVER MY LEGAL FEES AND IT WILL MAKE THIS WHOLE THING GO AWAY.



WHAT DOES YOUR ATTORNEY SAY ABOUT THIS OFFER?



HE... HE SAYS I HAVE A VERY STRONG CASE. THAT THE ONLY REASON WHY THEY'RE MAKING THIS OFFER IS BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARED THEY WILL LOSE.



THEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD WANT TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT IF YOUR LAWYER THINKS YOU CAN WIN.



BECAUSE... BECAUSE I JUST WANT TO PUT THIS NIGHTMARE BEHIND ME!




YOU DON'T KNOW HOW EMBARRASSING THIS HAS BEEN FOR ME, MISS PODERES. MY TEENAGED CHILDREN SAW ME NAKED AND HANDCUFFED, MANHANDLED BY THE POLICE! MY SON WAS BULLIED AND INTIMIDATED BY THOSE OFFICERS!

AND THEN THE VIDEO OF THE WHOLE THING SHOWED UP IN THE NEWS... AND IT WAS LIKE RELIVING IT ALL OVER AGAIN ON EVERY CHANNEL.




THEN... THEN SOMEONE POSTED AN UNCENSORED VERSION OF THE VIDEO ON THE INTERNET. EVERYONE IN THE WORLD HAS SEEN ME NAKED NOW. I GET LOOKS FROM PEOPLE AT WORK... MY NEIGHBORS... EVEN FROM COMPLETE STRANGERS!



MS. VESTA, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW. I WISH I COULD SAY I DO. BUT I DO KNOW THAT WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH IS WRONG, AND IT NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.

THAT IS EASY FOR YOU TO SAY... BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONE EXPERIENCING IT ALL.




YOU'RE NOT THE ONE HAVING TO BEAR WATCHING YOUR CHILDREN COME HOME CRYING BECAUSE THE OTHERS TEASE THEM ABOUT SEEING THEIR NAKED MOTHER ON THE INTERNET.

YOU'RE NOT THE ONE GETTING BEING STOPPED BY EVERY COP IN THE CITY AND BEING TOLD TO SIMPLY "DROP THE CASE".


MY OLDEST IS GETTING HASSLED EVERY DAY BY POLICE OFFICERS WHO CLAIM HE'S CARRYING A WEAPON, OR HOLDING DRUGS.



I JUST... I JUST WANT IT TO END, MISS PODERES. IS THAT SO WRONG?



NO, MS. VESTA, IT'S NOT WRONG TO WANT IT TO END. IT'S JUST THAT IT WON'T.



WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING TO YOU IS NOT JUST WRONG. IT'S CRIMINAL. AND IF YOU DROP THE CASE NOW, IT WON'T THEM FROM DOING IT TO SOME OTHER WOMAN TOMORROW. GIVE ME A CHANCE TO WORK THIS CASE. I CAN AT LEAST GET SOME OF THE PRESSURE OFF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

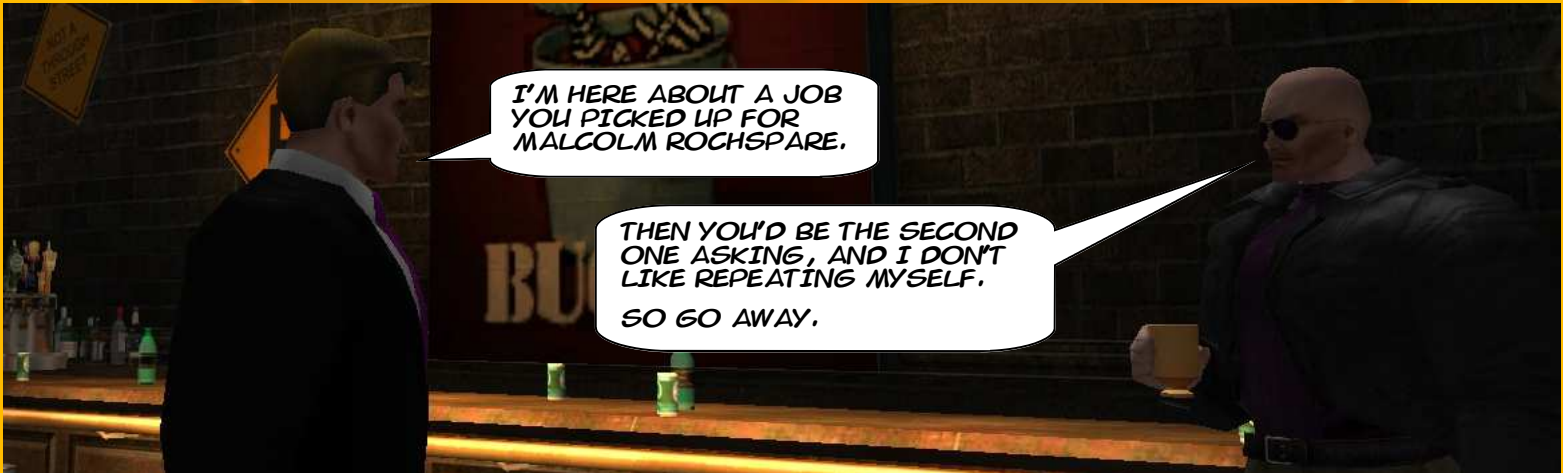
... I... SUPPOSE I CAN HOLD OFF ON MY DECISION FOR A FEW DAYS.



I HAVE TO SAY... YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO FIND.

UNLESS YOU'RE THE NEW BARTENDER, YOU HAVE UNTIL I FINISH MY DRINK BEFORE I MAKE YOU HARD TO FIND AS WELL.

Wrathstrike
AVENGING FORCE




I'M HERE ABOUT A JOB YOU PICKED UP FOR MALCOLM ROCHSPARE.

THEN YOU'D BE THE SECOND ONE ASKING, AND I DON'T LIKE REPEATING MYSELF. SO GO AWAY.



WE'RE BOTH PROFESSIONALS, MISTER STRIKE. HUMOR ME.


HMM... YOU'RE A FACILITATOR.



ACTUALLY I'M IN SALES.
AND, IF YOU THINK ABOUT
IT, WE ALL ARE AT SOME
POINT IN OUR LIVES.

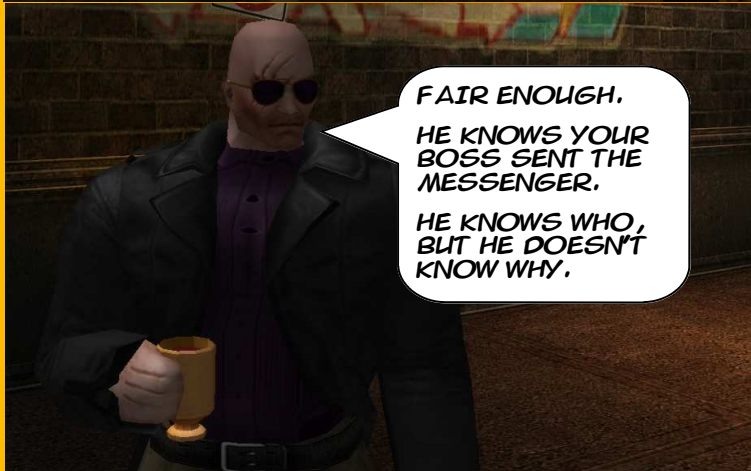
WHAT I'M HERE TO SELL
YOU IS OPPORTUNITY IN
EXCHANGE FOR SOME
SIMPLE INFORMATION.

YOU WANT TO KNOW IF
I TOLD ROCHSPARE
WHAT I KNOW ABOUT
YOUR BOSS.



WHAT IF I HADN'T
SAID ANYTHING
YET? WOULD YOU
WANT ME TO KEEP
QUIET?

THAT'S YOUR CALL TO
MAKE, MISTER STRIKE.
LIKE I SAID, WE'RE
BOTH PROFESSIONALS.
I WOULDN'T ASK YOU TO
GO AGAINST YOUR
PERSONAL CODE.



FAIR ENOUGH.
HE KNOWS YOUR
BOSS SENT THE
MESSENGER.
HE KNOWS WHO,
BUT HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHY.



AND HE NEVER
ASKED ME TO
FILL IN THAT
PARTICULAR
BLANK.



SO, ARE WE
DONE? MY CUP IS
ALMOST EMPTY.

I HAVE WHAT I NEEDED TO
KNOW, MISTER STRIKE.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH
YOU ABOUT THAT FUTURE
OPPORTUNITY.

NO, WHAT I WANT IS FOR THE PARTITIONS TO BE PUT UP AS YOU WERE CONTRACTED TO DO!

I DON'T CARE IF KIRK CAGE OFFERED DOUBLE TO START EARLY! WHAT I CARE ABOUT IS AN INFIRMARY THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A M.A.S.H. UNIT!

AM I PREPARING FOR WAR?
THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU FINISH YOUR JOB!

I HOPE YOU CAUGHT THAT LITTLE PHONE EXCHANGE.
I MAY HAVE TO GIVE LAWRENCE A CALL WHILE YOU PAY MISTER EASTBENDER A VISIT.


TO GIVE HIM A REASON TO FINISH WORK ON THE INFIRMARY?
IF YOU SAY SO.

SO... HE PAID YOU A VISIT LAST NIGHT, DID HE?

LT Helena Goro
LEXIETECH SECURITY

COULSON? HE CAME IN THIS MORNING WHILE I WAS TAKING MY SWIM.

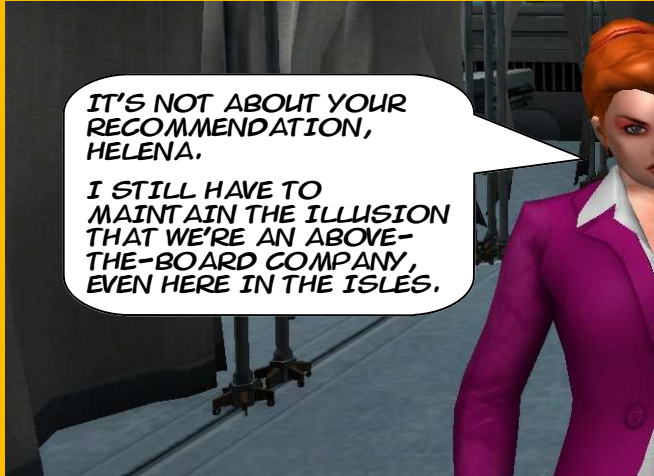
I KNEW IT!
I KNEW THAT WOULD BE HIM!



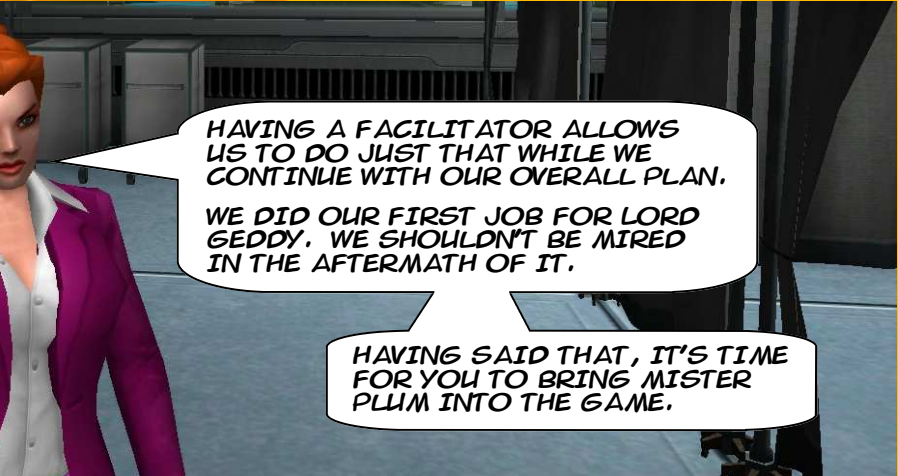
I CALLED IT.
THE ONLY ONE
WHOSE
BACKGROUND
I DIDN'T VET.



AND NOW MAYBE YOU
CAN TELL ME WHY YOU
LET HIM HANDLE THE
MATTER WITH
ROCHSHIPARE.
DO YOU QUESTION MY
RECOMMENDATION?



IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR
RECOMMENDATION,
HELENA.
I STILL HAVE TO
MAINTAIN THE ILLUSION
THAT WE'RE AN ABOVE-
THE-BOARD COMPANY,
EVEN HERE IN THE ISLES.



HAVING A FACILITATOR ALLOWS
US TO DO JUST THAT WHILE WE
CONTINUE WITH OUR OVERALL PLAN.
WE DID OUR FIRST JOB FOR LORD
GEDDY. WE SHOULDN'T BE MIRED
IN THE AFTERMATH OF IT.

HAVING SAID THAT, IT'S TIME
FOR YOU TO BRING MISTER
PLUM INTO THE GAME.



I DON'T KNOW IF
THAT'S A GOOD
IDEA RIGHT NOW.
HE'S STILL
UNDERGOING
FACIAL SURGERY.



IN FACT, HE'S
PRETTY MUCH
WRAPPED UP LIKE
A MUMMY.



EVEN BETTER!

IT'LL ADD A SENSE OF
MYSTERY ABOUT WHO HE
IS UNTIL WE'RE READY
TO SPRING IT.



THIS IS ABOUT PLAYING THE
LONG GAME, HELENA.

THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN
ARE LOOKING FOR THE
VILLAIN BEHIND DESTITUTION.
MISTER PLUM WILL MAKE SURE
THAT THE TRAIL DOESN'T LEAD
THEM BACK TO US.

THAT'S WHAT I KNOW.
THE COPS ARE HASSLING
ROSE PRETTY BAD, TRYING
TO GET HER TO SETTLE.

NOT ALL COPS,
JUST MCGADE AND HIS FRIENDS,
THEY'RE PROBABLY ALSO BEHIND
LEAKING THE VIDEO ONLINE.

I CAN'T STOP THE
INTERNET VIDEO, BUT
SOMETHING NEEDS TO
BE DONE TO STOP THE
HARASSMENT.
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT
AND STILL DO MY JOB
COLLECTING EVIDENCE.

YOU WANT ME TO
BE HER GUARDIAN
ANGEL, TO WATCH
OUT FOR HER AND
HER CHILDREN.

I'LL GET CARDINAL SYN TO HELP
WHILE I'M AWAY... BUT YOU DO
REALIZE THAT YOU'RE GOING UP
AGAINST THE PARAGON POLICE
FORCE AGAIN.

WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST
TIME. I'D JUST HAVE TO
BE CAREFUL THIS TIME
AROUND TO NOT LET THEM
KNOW THAT I'M THE SAME
"GOLDIE" THAT KICKED
THEIR ASSES.*

← ISSUE #1

DON'T EVER
UNDERESTIMATE THEM.
I'VE MADE THAT
MISTAKE ALREADY.*
WE CAN BEAT THEM,
BUT WE HAVE TO BE
CAREFUL.

I WANT TO DO MORE
THAN JUST "BEAT"
THEM, JASON.
WE NEED TO MAKE
SURE THESE COPS
DON'T PREY ON
ANYONE ELSE!

← LAST ISSUE

Next: 'Tis
The Season...

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

The Paragon Times Around The City

LIBERTARIAN GROUP CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF SERVICE

Paragon City RI - (PCN) It was January 2005, and two men stood outside a huge gate blocking off all access to their favorite bar in Siren's Call.

"We used to have a tradition," said Aaron Kessler. "After the election, no matter which party won, we'd go over to this hotel bar that overlooked the ocean. We'd sit there, watch the president take the oath of office, listen to what he'd have to say, and then talk about what we'd want to do next."

But that cold Inauguration Day in 2005 was different for Kessler and his friend.

"That year, we couldn't get near the place. Freedom Corps agents and police were blocking the only gate in. They said the whole area was blocked off because of radiation."

Just a few months earlier, the solar-powered hero Sunburst overloaded his powers and exploded, destroying the southernmost portion of the area, including parts of the War Walls.

The hotel building that was a part of Kessler's January tradition was one of the buildings destroyed in the blast.

So Kessler and his friend, JD Bozworth, otherwise known as "Boz", could only stand at the huge gate in Steel Canyon and stare at the darkened path through to the building that could no longer exist, while the audio of the President's second inaugural speech was heard from a nearby television.

"That's when Boz turned to me, gestured to the wall and said, 'this thing's never coming down now,'" Kessler said. "And he was right."

Kessler is a conservative attorney. His best friend Bozworth was a liberal-leaning political consultant. And even though they traditionally found themselves at odds in the political world, they realized they found more and more common ground after the First Rikti Invasion. And the War Walls were the biggest sign of that common ground.

"I understand that we had to make sacrifices in war," Kessler said. "The heroes certainly did, so why shouldn't we? But when it comes to personal liberty, the catch was always that it was temporary. These walls that divide the city and keep us penned in, they are the opposite of 'temporary'."

The problem, according to Kessler, was that there was nobody standing up for the individual citizen anymore.

"Heroes were rebuilding the city, and then it became about them. They literally took the whole 'City of Heroes' idea into this place being a literal city about them and for them. But what about the ordinary guy and gal? We sorta got lost in all of that."

Kessler and Bozworth decided that the best way to help correct that problem was to create a group that would stand up



One of many billboards supporting the Paragon Libertarian Society located in Steel Canyon. (PCN)

Continues on next page...

for the ordinary individual. And thus, in November of that year, the Paragon Libertarian Society was born.

“Boz pointed out that the word ‘libertarian’ had been badly maligned in politics and the media. We sought to reclaim it to express what it was meant to be: individual freedom.”

The Paragon Libertarian Society started as a political think-tank for like-minded groups seeking help bringing libertarian ideas to the city. But it wasn’t long before they had to get more directly involved with the affairs of Paragon City.

“You had Conrad Bochco’s gang of thugs on the streets,” said Kessler, referring to then-Chief of Police Bochco and his controversial enforcement programs. “A lot of the cops Bochco put on the streets were no different than the criminals they were supposed to protect us from.”

The group gained public attention, though, when they came to the aid of famed “celebutant” Alex Wentworth, who was arrested and jailed for a crime that was ultimately proven he did not commit. Kessler himself provided pro bono representation to clear Wentworth’s name and free him from prosecutorial limbo. In gratitude, Wentworth himself began to work with the group, providing his support and his slowly growing finances to expand the organization’s scope to include legal and investigative services. The most visible sign of Wentworth’s support can be seen in the billboards all around Paragon City saying “Support Libertarians! They Support You!”

With Wentworth’s help, and the help of heroes such as the Libertarian Avenger and the late Jimmy Hellfighter, the Paragon Libertarian Society helped expose the corruption and abuses of the police department and eventually force the resignation of Bochco.

The group’s shining moment, however, was in their support of Wentworth in his successful bid to become Paragon City’s District Attorney in a 2011 special election. To Kessler, the overwhelming support of Wentworth’s libertarian ideas in the position of top prosecutor was personal vindication from that cold Inaugural Day in 2005.

Sadly, though, Kessler’s friend would not live to see that day. Bozworth was killed not long into the Second Rikti Invasion in 2007, when Rikti invaders came through the very War Walls that government officials assured the public would keep such threats out.

“Boz always said that thing will come back to bite us,” Kessler said. “Turned out he was right.”

Today, the Paragon Libertarian Society continue to fight for individual rights and freedoms, be it in the courthouse, or the court of public opinion. And Kessler still looks forward to the day when he will be able to resume his Inauguration Day tradition in Siren’s Call. With or without the War Walls.

James Stark contributed to this report.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR THE GUARDIANS, BUT THE HOLIDAYS ARE FINALLY HERE!

SADLY, THOUGH, NOT EVERYONE IS IN A FESTIVE MOOD.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO GET FURIA POWERS "IN THE SPIRIT"?

FIND OUT ON OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DAY ISSUE.





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And if you're one of those people who are wondering how we could come up with these comics, and maybe even wanting to do one yourself, then we have a "How To" section for you.

Follow this address to the MMO Comic Index and look for the link on "**How To Create A Comic**".

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Image by Van Phillips

But it wouldn't hurt to put on some clothes too...

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