



BATTLEROCK
COMICS

Member of
City of
Comic



Creators

T FOR TEENS



ISSUE 18
2020

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**

PERFECT
WORLD

It does not matter if it drives or flies.
Whether it is old or new.
Your vehicle still has to run on fuel.
Someone has to get that fuel.
Someone has to make it into fuel.
Someone has to bring that fuel to you.
Someone has to make it available and
affordable so you can fuel your vehicle.
Why not us?



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 a Universe of Pure Imagination



MAJOR DEEJ UNIVERSE

<https://.majordeejuniverse.com>

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

"BACK TO BASICS" ***- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2***

AFTER MUCH DRAMA AND A FEW CHALLENGING EVENTS, THE HEROES OF MILLENNIUM CITY ARE ABLE TO ENJOY A LITTLE BIT OF NORMALCY. BUT FOR HEROES LIKE GALATEA FUTURE, "NORMALCY" IS SUBJECTIVE. SOMETIMES IT IS JUST A PAUSE BEFORE THE NEXT CHALLENGE.

Future's Guardian #18 is created using original characters in the Champions Online Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2009-2020, Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. This story is an independent not-for-profit derivative work of the Champions Online Game. All original rights are reserved by Cryptic Studios and Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. Perfect World Entertainment is a trademark of Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. Battlerock Comics is a subsidiary of Get Brutal Productions and makes no claim on the intellectual property owned by either Cryptic Studios or Perfect World Entertainment.



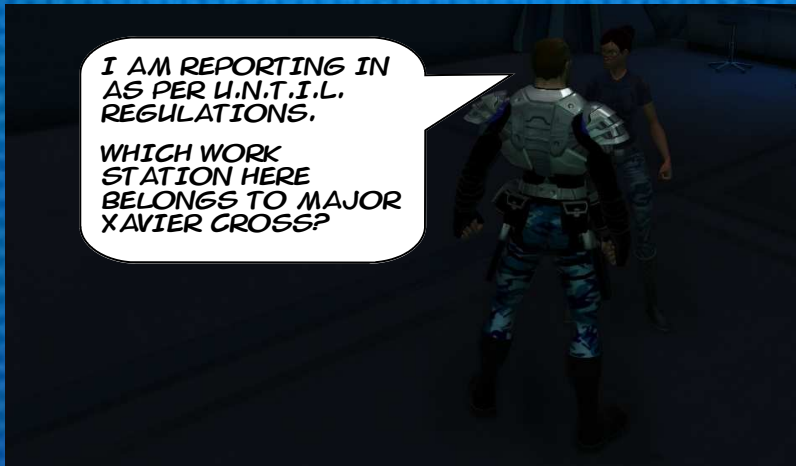
LOCAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON
INTERNATIONAL LAW (U.N.T.I.L.)

MILLENNIUM CITY, MI, USA

ATTENTION FLIGHT
DECK! PREPARE
FOR INCOMING
U.N.T.I.L. SHUTTLE!

ATTENTION FLIGHT
DECK! PREPARE
FOR INCOMING
U.N.T.I.L. SHUTTLE!





THE NEXT DAY...

SO THERE ONCE WAS A MOVIE WHERE THE HERO WAS JUST HOVERING IN ORBIT OVER THE EARTH.

AT FIRST YOU THINK HE WAS JUST THERE BECAUSE HE NEEDED TO CLEAR HIS HEAD.

BUT THEN YOU FIND OUT THAT HE WAS LISTENING TO ALL OF THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY BELOW HIM.



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

I TRIED THAT A FEW TIMES.
IT DIDN'T WORK.

EVEN WITH MY HYPER-SENSES BACK WHEN I WAS AN INCARNATE, IT DIDN'T WORK.

SOUND NEEDS AIR TO TRAVEL.

WHEN YOU'RE UP AS HIGH AS HE WAS IN THE MOVIE, THERE IS NO AIR FOR YOU TO HEAR SOUND.

STILL, I LIKE THE IDEA.
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL SEE SOME HEROES JUST HOVERING OVER THE CITY LIKE I AM NOW.

SOMETIMES WE'LL JUST STAND ON TOP OF ONE OF THE TALLER BUILDINGS, BUT IT DOES GET A LITTLE CROWDED.

THAT'S WHY THIS CITY DOESN'T HAVE A PIGEON PROBLEM LIKE THE OTHER CITIES DO.

IT'S PEACEFUL UP HERE.
EVEN WITH THE CACOPHONY OF NOISE, IT'S PEACEFUL.



EVEN FROM HERE
I CAN HEAR THE
WHOLE CITY.

EVERY WORD, EVERY
BROADCAST, EVERY
CAR HORN...



EVERY...

EEEEEEEEEE!!!



OHGODOH6OD... START...
JUST... NNNNNHHH!!!
NOOO... NOT NOW!

A WOMAN IN
TROUBLE. YOUNG.

IN SOME KIND
OF DISTRESS.

GRRRRRR! NO... NOT NOW
BABY! NOT-- EEEEEEEEEEE!


JUST ANOTHER
SECOND... HANG
IN THERE.



WHY DID I HAVE TO LEAVE
MY CELLPHONE AT HOME!
ARRRRRRHHHHH!

I HEAR HER TRYING
TO START A CAR.
THE BATTERY IS
DEAD.

NOOO DON'T LOOK THIS
WAY! DON'T... DON'T...
NNNNNNHHH!



THERE!
IN THE
SILVER CAR.

WITH VIPER
TROOPS NEARBY.

SHOULD ONLY
TAKE A MINUTE
TO FIX THAT.

MERCY HOSPITAL, THREE MINUTES LATER...



I NEED A
GURNEY AND
ASSISTANCE!



ASIAN FEMALE,
TWENTY-NINE YEARS
OLD, NINE MONTHS
PREGNANT.

BOTH HEARTRATES
ARE STRONG AND
STABLE AND THE
MOTHER IS IN LABOR!



AN HOUR LATER...

AND ANOTHER
GIRL IS BROUGHT
INTO THE WORLD.

I'M JUST GLAD THE
MOTHER DIDN'T
DECIDE TO NAME
HER AFTER ME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY
TIMES I'VE COME ACROSS A
LITTLE GIRL NAMED "GALATEA"
SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE.

I USED TO BE
FLATTERED BY
THE THOUGHT.

BUT LATELY... I
DON'T KNOW.

I CERTAINLY
WOULDN'T WANT
ONE OF MY
ENEMIES TO TAKE
REVENGE ON ME
THROUGH THEM.

THAT'S THE KIND OF
THING THAT WOULD
KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT.

LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE
I CAN DO BEFORE MY
LUNCH DATE WITH
CANDACE.

AT THE SAME TIME AT U.N.T.I.L...

I HOPE YOU
HAVE A GOOD
REASON FOR
USING MY
CONSOLE.



MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

GOOD TO SEE
YOU TOO,
MAJOR.

CAPTAIN
LYNCH.

I'M HERE ON
BEHALF OF
PROJECT CITADEL.
LADY ESTHER
GAVE ME FULL
ACCESS TO YOUR
STATION FOR MY
INVESTIGATION.



CAPTAIN LYNCH
PROJECT CITADEL

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY,
YOU FINISHED YOUR
INVESTIGATION INTO MY
INCIDENT A LONG TIME
AGO, CAPTAIN.

I DID, BUT THIS ISN'T
ABOUT YOU OR HOW YOU
GOT YOUR POWERS.

NO, I'M GOING AFTER
THE ONE THAT YOU
REFUSED TO CHASE
DOWN.

THE OPERATIVE CALLED
AGENT SIDESTEP.

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAD A QUICK
CONVERSATION WITH SIDESTEP
BACK IN 2013 AFTER ANOTHER
EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL CRIMINAL
ESCAPED YOUR CUSTODY.

"MISTER BLUE", AS I RECALL.*

A DANGEROUS WOLF-LIKE
CREATURE THAT GUTTED A FUTURE
OPERATIVE ALONG WITH A FEW
OTHERS BEFORE BEING STOPPED BY
GALATEA FUTURE.

THEN, AFTER DROPPING
OFF A DATA PACKAGE
CONTAINING EVERYTHING
WE NEEDED TO KNOW
ABOUT MISTER BLUE, YOU
JUST STOPPED YOUR
INVESTIGATION ON HIM.

FOR SEVEN YEARS!

← ISSUES 4-6 →




I GOT THE INFORMATION
THAT I NEEDED TO
COMPLETE MY REPORT AND
TO SATISFY YOUR
PROJECT'S CURIOSITY.

IF YOU WANTED HIM AFTER
THAT, I WOULD HAVE
STEPPED ASIDE FOR YOU.

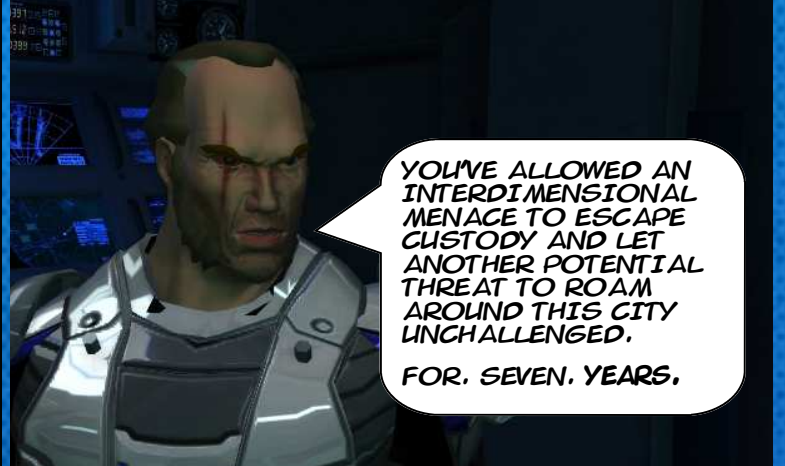
THAT'S NOT HOW THE
PROJECTS WORK IN U.N.T.I.L.,
MAJOR, AND YOU KNOW IT.

THAT INVESTIGATION WAS
YOURS AND YOU LET IT SIT!



LADY ESTHER
BROUGHT IT TO OUR
ATTENTION THAT
YOUR INVESTIGATION
ON SIDESTEP WAS
STILL OPEN.

I WAS GIVEN FULL
AUTHORIZATION TO
FINISH IT.



YOU'VE ALLOWED AN
INTERDIMENSIONAL
MENACE TO ESCAPE
CUSTODY AND LET
ANOTHER POTENTIAL
THREAT TO ROAM
AROUND THIS CITY
UNCHALLENGED.

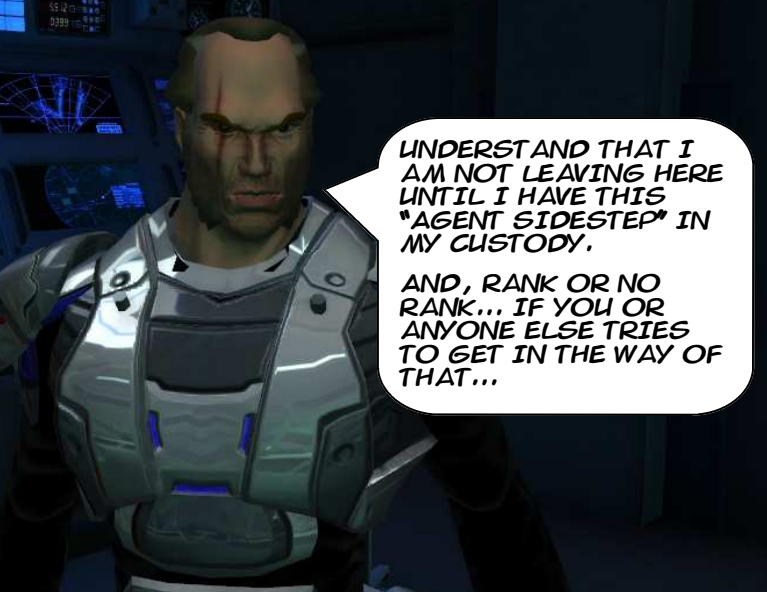
FOR. SEVEN. YEARS.



I'VE HAD MORE
IMPORTANT
THREATS ON MY
HANDS TO
DEAL WITH.


YES, YOUR WITCH-HUNT FOR
YOUR MYTHICAL "VARTECH"
GROUP. I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE IF
YOU HUNT DOWN THE GUY IN THE
GRASSY KNOLL WHO SHOT JFK.



UNDERSTAND THAT I
AM NOT LEAVING HERE
UNTIL I HAVE THIS
"AGENT SIDESTEP" IN
MY CUSTODY.

AND, RANK OR NO
RANK... IF YOU OR
ANYONE ELSE TRIES
TO GET IN THE WAY OF
THAT...



... THEN I HAVE THE
FULL AUTHORITY
UNDER U.N.
SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 67A
TO TAKE THEM
DOWN AS WELL.

DOWNTOWN

"I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!"

"IT'S TRUE."

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE INVULNERABLE... AND THEIR SIRACHA BURGER TAKES YOU DOWN?

I NEVER SAID THAT I WAS INVULNERABLE.

OKAY, MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE...

I MEAN, YEAH, BULLETS AND BOMBS AND LASERS, NO PROBLEM. BUT THOSE ARE ON THE OUTSIDE. IT'S LIKE THE REST OF MY SENSES... MY TASTE BUDS CAN BE OVERWHELMED BY THE EXTREMES AS WELL.

I GUESS THAT RULES OUT NEXT WEEK'S GHOST PEPPER WINGS NIGHT.

OKAY... CHANGE OF SUBJECT.

YOUR NEXT BOOK.

SOOO... YOU'RE DONE WITH THE SPACE ADVENTURE STUFF?



ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE
AKA: GALATEA FUTURE



CANDACE SINCLAIR
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

IT WAS A NICE CHANGE OF PACE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS, TO FOCUS ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN JUST SUPERHEROES.

BUT I THINK I'VE RUN OUT OF STEAM ON THE WHOLE "SPACESHIP STARREACH" SERIES.

BESIDES, THE ONLY REASON WHY I WAS EVEN INSPIRED BY IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT WEIRD INCIDENT IN THE DESERT ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.*

SINCE THEN... WELL, I HAVEN'T HAD ANY MORE "INSPIRATIONS".

(* ISSUE #14)

SO IT'S BACK TO THE "TAWDRY TIGHTS", AS THE CRITICS USED TO CALL THEM.

WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT. AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING BACK TO THAT SERIES.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE NEXT BOOK WHEN IT'S READY.

IT'S BEEN CRAZY WITH MY LITTLE ONE-WOMAN LAW PRACTICE OF LATE. I MAY HAVE TO BRING IN SOME MORE LAWYERS TO--

DING-DING
DING-DING



ARE YOU A HERO IN NEED OF LEGAL HELP?

Are you being sued for a "wrongful arrest" or "hero brutality"?

Are your hero credentials being held up by bureaucrats?

Are you being denied the legal benefits owed to you as a hero?

Are you wrongly being sued as a hero for copyright or trademark infringement or because your outfit is deemed "indecent"?

Heroes are entitled to the same legal help as anyone else. I've gone up against powerful interests in court and prevailed.

Call my office and let's see if I can come to your rescue.

Candace Sinclair
Attorney-At-Law

888-555-LRYR

Licensed to practice law in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Initial communication does not automatically translate to or to infer in any way that Candace Sinclair will represent you in any legal capacity. You must be a current or formerly registered hero before Candace Sinclair will consider representing you in a legal capacity. A monetary retainer may be required depending on the nature of the case. This is a fictional character in the world of Champions Online MMO. Not a real lawyer. Not a real ad.

Frankie Stein says...

"ME USE

iron Wax

AND SO YOU TOO!"

It's not easy being an undead monster powered by electricity.

It's okay for your clothes to be tattered and stitched, but the shiny things that keep the electricity going need to be kept clean for them to function.

iron Wax keeps your cybernetic implants polished longer than most leading brands, and can be used on any kind of armor coating or plating.

And it's economical. One dab on a cloth and you're good.

So why waste your time with common wax products? You deserve the best. You deserve iron Wax!

Look for **iron Wax** at all hero supply stores.

FRANKIE STEIN - RE-ANIMATED MONSTER

BRANSFIELD BOOKS



The latest titles from Rowling, Fairmore, Clancy, King, Woodward, and others.

The newest editions of the best-sellers.



The classics from mythology to science-fiction.

Newspapers from around the world. Magazines and graphic novels. Audio books.

You name it, we have it! And if we don't, we will get it for you!

City Center, Millennium City

333-555-BOOK

Bransfield Books is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Not a real ad.

Food So Good... It Should Come With A Cape!

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

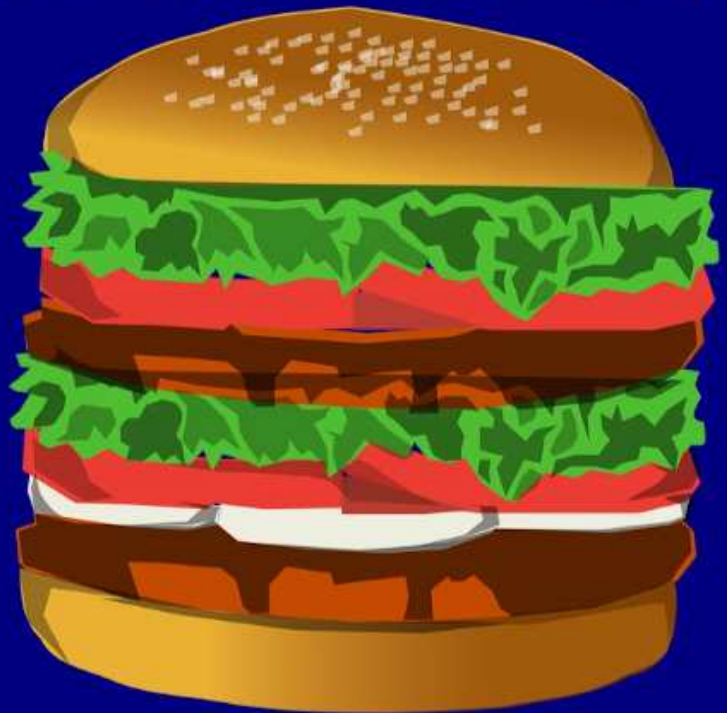
THANKFULLY, WE HAVE THE SOLUTION TO THAT KIND OF CRISIS!

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.

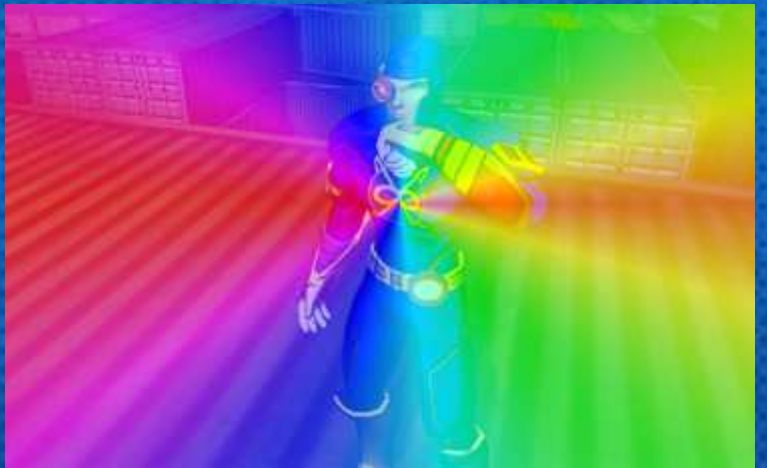
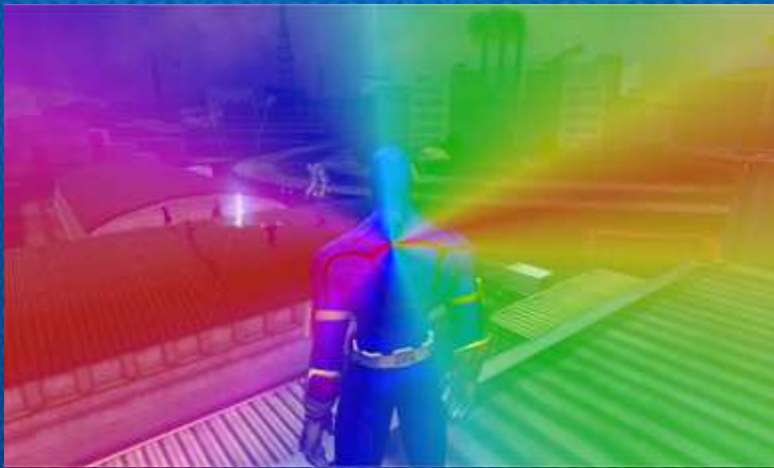
ACE Burger

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.

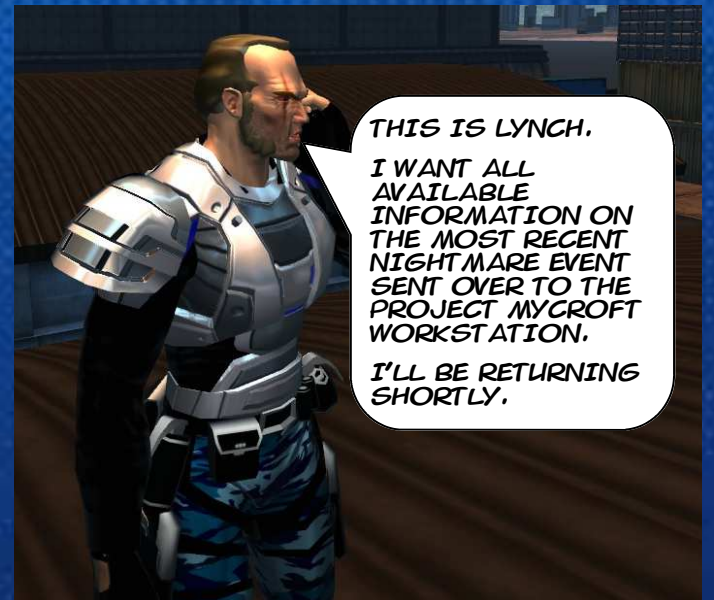
AT THE SAME TIME IN THE
WESTSIDE DISTRICT...



I SEE YOU...
WHY WHERE YOU
WATCHING THEM?*

WHAT SIGNIFICANCE
DID THIS PLACE
HOLD FOR YOU?

(* YOU MAY WANT TO BRUSH UP
ON "BATTLEROCK COMICS
PRESENTS" #2 FOR WHY AGENT
SIDESTEP WAS THERE.)



THIS IS LYNCH.
I WANT ALL
AVAILABLE
INFORMATION ON
THE MOST RECENT
NIGHT MARE EVENT
SENT OVER TO THE
PROJECT MYCROFT
WORKSTATION.
I'LL BE RETURNING
SHORTLY.

RAVENSWOOD CAMPUS



RIGHT...
HOLD ON
FOR ONE
MOMENT...



I'M SORRY, GALATEA,
BUT I'M ON THE PHONE
WITH EIGHT DIFFERENT
AGENCIES ALL
WANTING TO KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED.



LADYHAWKE
SUPERHERO DETECTIVE



THAT'S OKAY, JUST
TELL ME WHAT YOU
DO KNOW. WAS
ANYONE HURT OR
KILLED?



IT WAS A SMALL
STRIKE SQUAD; THREE
GROUPS OF FIVE.

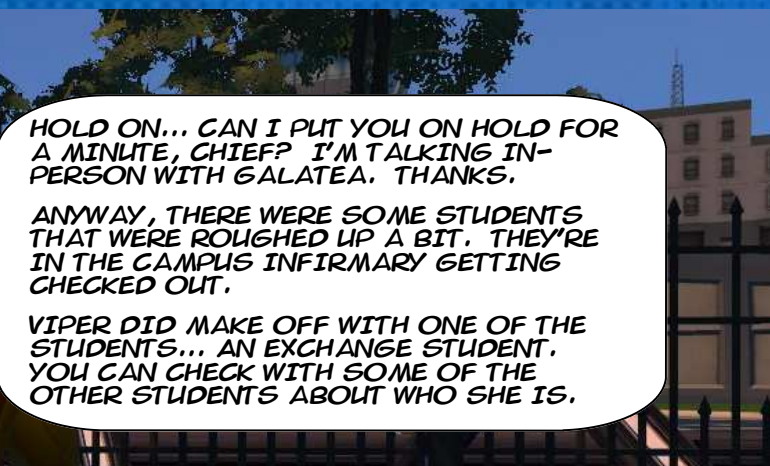
I FOUGHT OFF THE
FIRST TEAM EASILY,
BUT THE SECOND TEAM
KEPT ME BUSY, AND
THEN THE THIRD CAME
AND WENT.



HOLD ON... CAN I PUT YOU ON HOLD FOR
A MINUTE, CHIEF? I'M TALKING IN-
PERSON WITH GALATEA. THANKS.

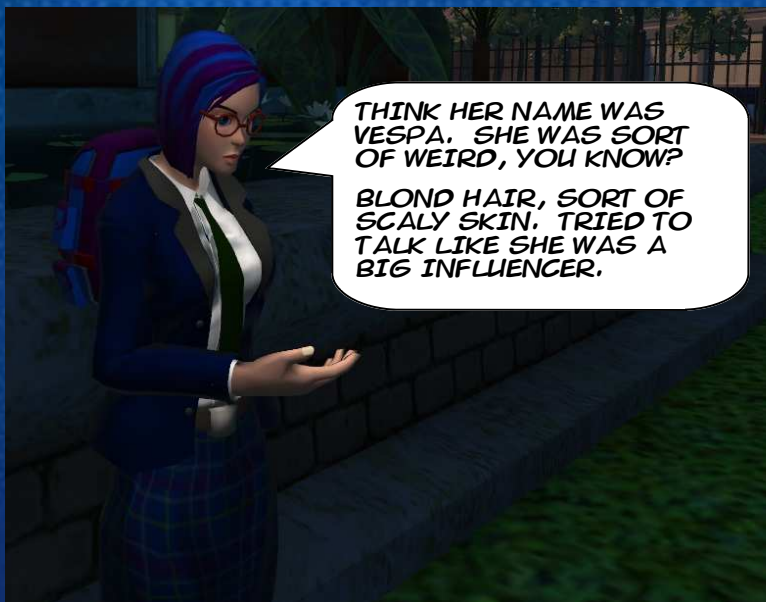
ANYWAY, THERE WERE SOME STUDENTS
THAT WERE ROUGHED UP A BIT. THEY'RE
IN THE CAMPUS INFIRMARY GETTING
CHECKED OUT.

VIPER DID MAKE OFF WITH ONE OF THE
STUDENTS... AN EXCHANGE STUDENT.
YOU CAN CHECK WITH SOME OF THE
OTHER STUDENTS ABOUT WHO SHE IS.



THINK HER NAME WAS
VESPA. SHE WAS SORT
OF WEIRD, YOU KNOW?

BLOND HAIR, SORT OF
SCALY SKIN. TRIED TO
TALK LIKE SHE WAS A
BIG INFLUENCER.



TOTAL FAKE,
THOUGH.

LIKE SHE DIDN'T
EVEN HAVE AN
ACCOUNT TO
BOAST ABOUT.

NITPIK, OVALINKS,
YIPYIP... NOT ONE
ACCOUNT.

WHO DOES THAT?





SO YOU
SAW WHAT
HAPPENED?



I DID, AND IT
WAS **AWESOME!**
JUST LIKE OUT OF
SOME MOVIE!

AND WATCHING
LADYHAWKE IN
ACTION... **WOW!**



JEROME IS
EXCITED
BECAUSE HE
TRANSFERRED
OVER FROM
BOSTON AND
HE NEVER GOT
TO SEE A HERO
IN ACTION
UNTIL NOW.

HOW ABOUT YOU
TWO? WHAT CAN
YOU TELL ME
ABOUT THE
ASSAULT?

WE WERE HIDING
BY THE SHRUBS,
BUT I COULD SEE A
GROUP OF GOONS
GRAB VESTA AND
THEN HEAD BACK
UP TOWARDS CITY
CENTER.

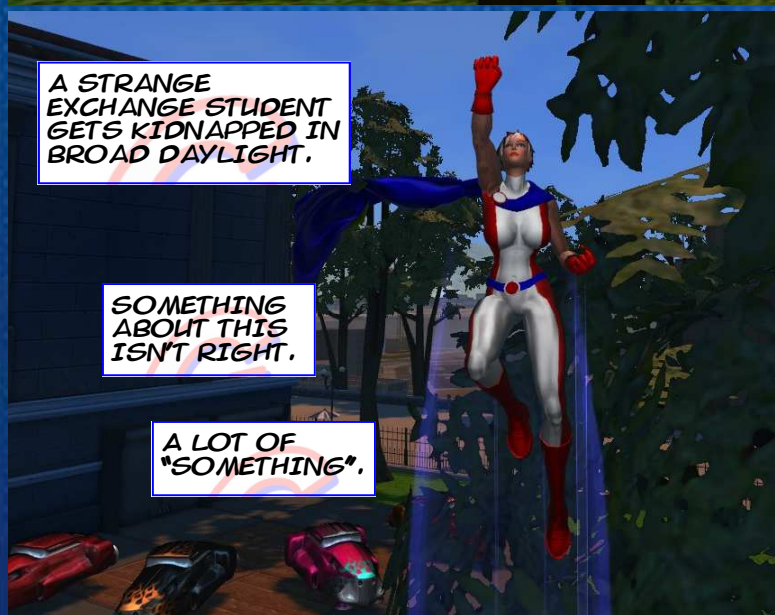


IT WAS WEIRD, YOU
KNOW? SHE WAS
YELLING "HELP!
HELP!" BUT, YOU
KNOW, SHE WASN'T
TRYING TO FIGHT
THEM WHEN THEY
TOOK HER AWAY.

SHE JUST WENT
ALONG WITH THEM.

THAT IS WEIRD.
BUT IT'S ALSO
REALLY HELPFUL.

THANK YOU FOR
PAYING ATTENTION
LIKE THAT.



A STRANGE
EXCHANGE STUDENT
GETS KIDNAPPED IN
BROAD DAYLIGHT.

SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS
ISN'T RIGHT.

A LOT OF
"SOMETHING".



BUT I HAVE AN
IDEA OF WHERE
THEY MAY HAVE
HEADED WITH
THE GIRL.

RIGHT WHERE
I WAS THIS
MORNING!

CANDACE SINCLAIR'S APARTMENT

"MAJOR! THIS IS A SURPRISE."

IT'S NOT A SOCIAL CALL, CANDACE.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I HAD TO TELL YOU IN PERSON.

OKAAAY... I WAS ACTUALLY ABOUT TO GO BACK TO THE OFFICE, BUT IT CAN WAIT.
IS THIS ABOUT GALATEAP?

ACTUALLY IT'S ABOUT YOUR OTHER FRIEND...
AGENT SIDESTEP.
PROJECT CITADEL IS AFTER HIM.

ONE OF THEIR BEST OPERATIVES, A MAN BY THE NAME OF LYNCH, IS HERE LOOKING FOR SIDESTEP.

I'VE ENCOUNTERED HIM YEARS AGO WHEN HE INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT THAT GAVE ME MY FIRE ABILITIES.

HE IS A FANATIC WHEN IT COMES TO PAN-DIMENSIONAL MATTERS. AND HE USES THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO PROJECT CITADEL BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO ITS EXTREME LIMIT.

I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTACT SIDESTEP MYSELF... BUT IF YOU CAN, YOU NEED TO WARN HIM ABOUT LYNCH.

I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTACT SIDESTEP. HE AND I... WELL, WE HAVEN'T BEEN VERY TALKATIVE FOR A FEW YEARS.

BUT IF LYNCH FIGURES OUT THAT SIDESTEP IS HERE TO WATCH TAYA...
HE MAY GO AFTER HER TO GET TO HIM!

COME ON!

I HAVE TO GET SOMETHING FROM MY OFFICE AND THEN WE NEED TO GET TO U.N.T.I.L. HEADQUARTERS!

MEANWHILE... BACK IN THE CITY CENTER DISTRICT...

I'VE SMACKED ENOUGH
VIPER GOONS IN MY TIME
TO KNOW THAT THEY'RE
SNAKES OF HABIT.

THIS WAREHOUSE IS JUST
A BLOCK AWAY FROM
WHERE I RESCUED THAT
PREGNANT WOMAN.

I DON'T HAVE TO HAVE
HYPER-INTELLIGENCE
TO GUESS THAT THIS
WAS PROBABLY THEIR
STAGING AREA.

VESPA?
VESPA, CAN
YOU HEAR ME?

I HEAR ONLY
ONE HEARTBEAT
IN THE AREA.

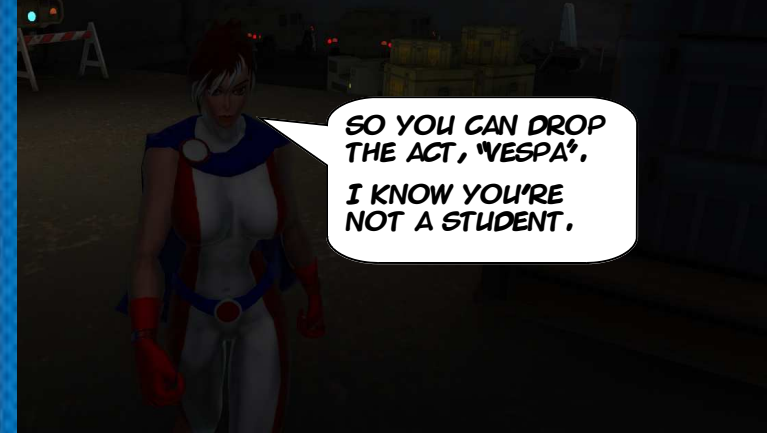
ROBOT MINIONS?
NO, VIPER USES
HUMANS.

VESPA, IF YOU CAN HEAR
ME, I'M HERE TO HELP.
MY NAME IS GALATEA
FUTURE.

I HEAR BREATHING...
FEMALE.
EXCITED? CERTAINLY
NOT STRESSED.

THEY... THEY'RE
STILL HERE.

NO, IT'S
JUST US.
JUST YOU
AND ME.



SO YOU CAN DROP
THE ACT, 'VESPA'.
I KNOW YOU'RE
NOT A STUDENT.




AMMMW... YOU
CAUGHT ME.
WHAT GAVE
IT AWAY?


YOU TRIED TOO
HARD TO BE
SOMETHING
YOU WEREN'T.



NEXT TIME YOU WANT
TO PRETEND TO BE A
SOCIAL MEDIA
INFLUENCER, YOU NEED
TO AT LEAST HAVE ONE
SOCIAL MEDIA TO
PRETEND TO INFLUENCE.




THANK YOU FOR THE TIP,
AND SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY
INTRODUCED YOURSELF, I
SHOULD RETURN THE FAVOR.



MY FIRST NAME
REALLY IS VESPA...
BUT I GO BY THE
NAME **VIPRA**.



VIPRA
AGENT OF VIPER




SO THIS MORNING'S
LITTLE EXERCISE...
THAT WAS IN
PREPARATION FOR
THIS ENCOUNTER?



PRETTY MUCH, YEAH.

YOU SEE, THE VIPER SOLDIERS
YOU SMACKED AROUND, THEY
GOT A LITTLE ANXIOUS AFTER
THEY SAW THAT PREGNANT
WOMAN GO INTO LABOR.

THANK YOU FOR THAT. I WAS
GOING TO PUNISH THEM FOR
SCREWING UP BUT YOU SAVED
ME THE TROUBLE.

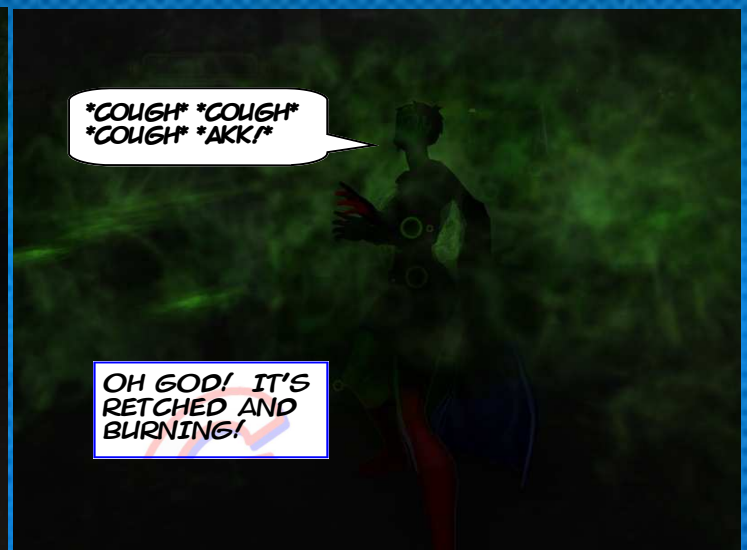


NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING...

YOU'RE THINKING THAT YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO USE YOUR FLIGHT
AND SPEED TO BEAT ME TO THE
PUNCH AND KNOCK ME OUT.

AND IF I WERE A REGULAR
VIPER AGENT, YOU'D BE RIGHT.

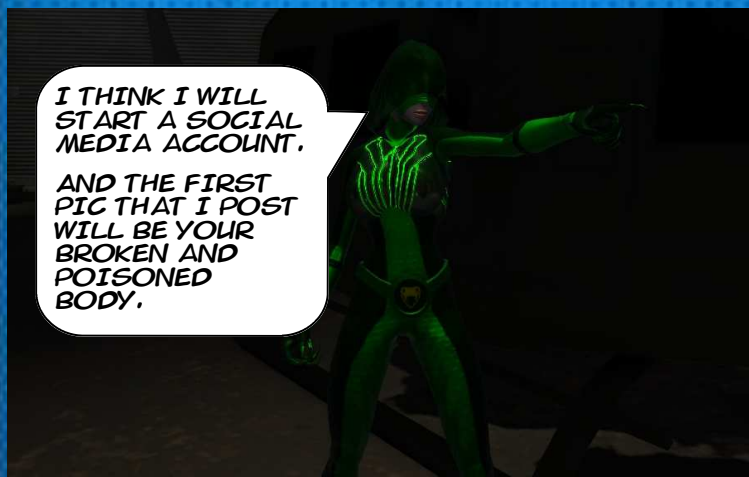
BUT I HAVE ONE
ADVANTAGE OVER
YOUR POWERS.





HEAD SPINNING...
EYES... BURNING...

HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS



I THINK I WILL
START A SOCIAL
MEDIA ACCOUNT.
AND THE FIRST
PIC THAT I POST
WILL BE YOUR
BROKEN AND
POISONED
BODY.



HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS



HEAD IS ROARING.
PRESSURE BEHIND
MY EYES IS...

... IS...

HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

... BUILDING?



LIKE A POWER I
USED TO HAVE!



YES!

OH BEAM
VISION I AM SO
HAPPY TO HAVE
YOU BACK!

SO MUCH FOR YOUR
"ADVANTAGE", VIPRA.




HERE'S ANOTHER
TASTE OF MINE!





KRAKOOOM



WHOA! TURN
IT DOWN!
I DON'T WANT
TO VAPORIZE
HER!




GUESS THIS IS A
DAY OF SURPRISES
FOR BOTH OF US.

WHEW! I DIDN'T
BURN HER TO A
CRISP.

I ENJOYED OUR
LITTLE DUST-UP, BUT
I THINK I'LL USE
SOME OF MY OTHER
VIPER TOYS AND
MAKE MY GET AWAY.

NEXT TIME...



WHY DON'T YOU
STAY AND WE CAN
FIND OUT WHAT
OTHER SURPRISES
WE CAN REVEAL?

GONE.

MY HYPER-SENSES
HEAR A BACK DOOR
CLOSING.



STILL...

WHILE I'M GLAD I HAVE
MY BEAM POWER BACK,
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE
MY OLD POWER FROM
MY "ALPHA YEARS".*

I DEFINITELY NEED TO BE
CHECKED OUT BY DOCTOR
SILVERBACK. MAYBE HE
CAN HELP ME FIGURE OUT
THIS RENEWED POWER.

AND THEN I HAVE TO
REPORT IN WITH
U.N.T.I.L. THAT I
HAD A RUN-IN WITH
A VIPER AGENT.

(* "ALPHA YEARS" BEING THE TIME SHE WAS IN
THAT CERTAIN "CITY" IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE.)

AN APARTMENT BEHIND THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...

BRRRRING
BRRRRING

THE BASEMENT HOME OF DEE RISK

HELLOP

DEE-JAY RISQUE..

YOU DO NOT KNOW ME,
BUT I KNOW THE MAN
YOU ARE DATING IS NOT
WHO HE CLAIMS TO BE.

YOU AGAIN.

PRETTY BRAVE FOR
SOMEONE HIDING
BEHIND A VOICE
SYNTHESIZER AND
PHONE SPOOFING
SOFTWARE.



DEE RISK
AKA: STARLETT

I HAVE MY REASONS TO KEEP MYSELF
HIDDEN. I LIKE LIVING.

JOHN BATTLE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.
HE HAS A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE.
HE HAS HURT WOMEN IN THE PAST.

I'M TIRED OF YOU
CALLING HERE
AND MAKING UP
LIES.

IF WHAT YOU SAY
IS TRUE, THEN
PROVE IT TO ME
IN PERSON.

OTHERWISE,
LEAVE ME ALONE!

BEEP

ALL IN GOOD
TIME, DEE.

ALL IN GOOD
TIME.

... TALK.

THE PHONE TRACE
WORKED.
I'M RIGHT IN FRONT
OF HER PLACE.



HOMETOWN HERO
STREET VIGILANTE

O-O-OF COURSE
IT D-DID.

NOW Y-YOU C-C-
CAN TAKE YOUR P-
PLAN T-T-TO THE
NEXT LEVEL.

JUST R-REMEMBER
T-T-TO SHARE AS
WE A-A-AGREED.



VOXPOP 2.0
FORMERLY VOX POPULII

CAMBRIDGE BIOCHEM BRANCH -
RENAISSANCE CENTER

WELL I AM PLEASED TO
INFORM YOU THAT
THERE APPEARS TO BE
NO LINGERING DAMAGE
DONE TO YOUR BODY
FROM THE VENOM THAT
VIPRA SPEWED AT YOU.

THAT IS GOOD TO HEAR,
DOCTOR.

I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE
HOW VULNERABLE I REALLY
AM TO HAVING MY SENSES
OVERWHELMED LIKE THAT.

THANKFULLY IT WAS JUST
THAT AND NOT A CASE
OF BLOOD POISONING.

 **DOCTOR SILVERBACK**
SIMIAN SCIENTIST

HOWEVER, I AM CURIOUS
ABOUT THIS NEW ABILITY THAT
YOU SAY YOU ONCE HAD BUT IN
A DIFFERENT FORM.

THIS... "BEAM VISION"... WHEN
DID THIS FIRST MANIFEST?

WELL THAT'S THE
COMPLICATED
PART.

I HAD IT FOR A
WHILE WHEN I WAS
A TEENAGER.

THEN I LOST IT.

AND THEN I GOT IT
BACK WHEN I WAS
IN MY LATE 20'S.

YOU HAD IT...
AND THEN YOU
LOST IT.

WAS THERE SOME
SORT OF TRAUMA
ASSOCIATED
WITH THAT TIME?

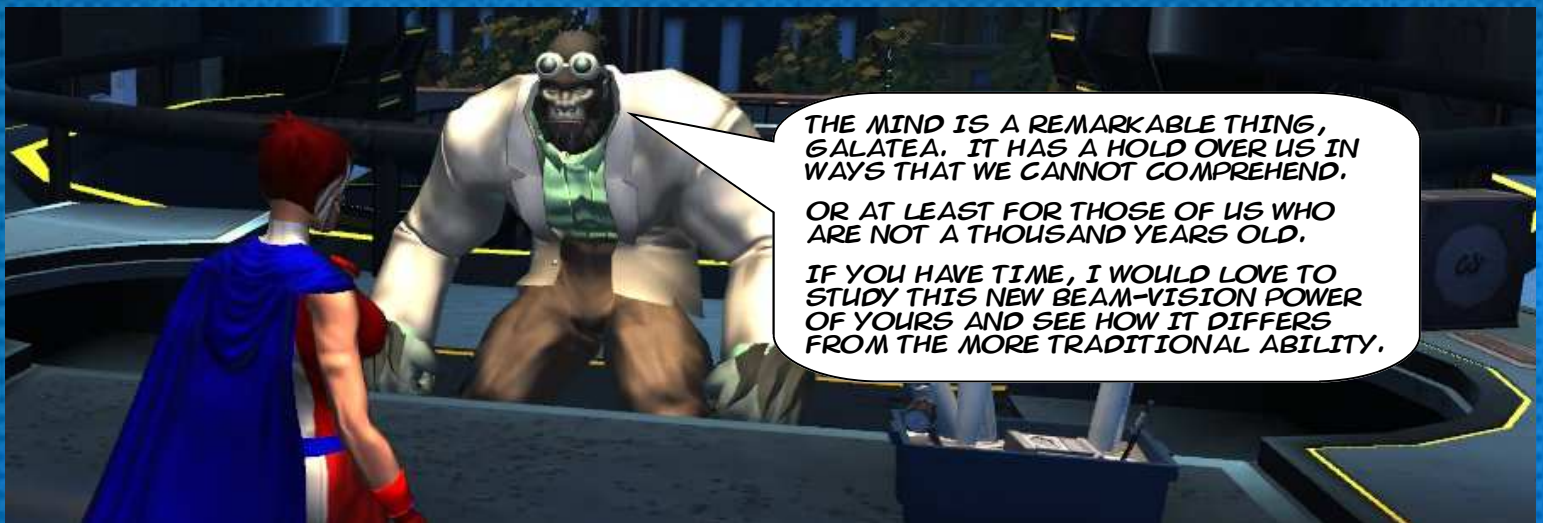
ACTUALLY... YES.

THERE WERE SOME
SERIOUS ISSUES
GOING ON WITH MY
LIFE AT THE TIME.*

I NEVER REALLY
CONSIDERED THAT AS
BEING A REASON WHY
I LOST THAT POWER
THE FIRST TIME.

THEN AGAIN, MY
WHOLE LIFE AT THAT
TIME WAS PRETTY
COMPLICATED.

C* READ "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN
SPOTLIGHT" #19 TO FIND OUT WHAT
HAPPENED TO GALATEA AS A TEEN. >



THE MIND IS A REMARKABLE THING, GALATEA. IT HAS A HOLD OVER US IN WAYS THAT WE CANNOT COMPREHEND. OR AT LEAST FOR THOSE OF US WHO ARE NOT A THOUSAND YEARS OLD. IF YOU HAVE TIME, I WOULD LOVE TO STUDY THIS NEW BEAM-VISION POWER OF YOURS AND SEE HOW IT DIFFERS FROM THE MORE TRADITIONAL ABILITY.



I WOULD LIKE THAT... BUT... I DO HAVE TO REPORT THE INCIDENT WITH U.N.T.I.L. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE... WHICH IS SOMETHING MAJOR CROSS AND LADY ESTHER HAVE BEEN PUSHING.



OH OF COURSE! WHEN YOU'RE ABLE.



AND PLEASE GIVE MY BEST TO LADY ESTHER IF YOU SEE HER!

I CERTAINLY WILL.



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

UNTIL

"THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENED,
MAJOR."

THANK YOU FOR
BRINGING THIS TO
OUR ATTENTION,
GALATEA.



MAJOR RASHIDA KWAME
PROJECT SNAKECHARMER

IT'S STRANGE THAT
VIPER DECIDED TO
TARGET YOU JUST
OUT OF THE BLUE
LIKE THAT.

I DON'T THINK IT WAS
VIPER, PER SE.

I THINK IT WAS VIPRA
HERSELF, USING
VIPER RESOURCES TO
HELP HER GET MY
ATTENTION.

INTERESTING.
WHY DO YOU
THINK THAT?

VIPRA WENT TO GREAT
LENGTHS TO SET
HERSELF UP AS A VICTIM
FOR ME TO RESCUE.

THAT'S A LOT OF
WASTED RESOURCES
JUST TO, WHAT, TRY TO
BLOODY MY NOSE?

THAT'S NOT A TYPICAL
VIPER OPERATION.

PLUS I'VE COME
ACROSS A FEW OTHER
FOLKS THAT CARRIED
OUT SIMILAR PLANS
TO SUPPOSEDLY
"MAKE A STATEMENT".*

IF VIPRA DIDN'T WEAR
A VIPER UNIFORM, I'D
ACCUSE HER OF
BEING PART OF THAT
SAME GROUP.

IT DOES SEEM TO
MATCH WHAT OUR
INTELLIGENCE FILES
HAVE BEEN HINTING AT.

SO VIPRA REALLY IS
FREELANCING. THAT
MAKES HER EVEN MORE
DANGEROUS.

(* ISSUES 1, 2, AND 9)



QUARTERMASTER...
THAT WOMAN WITH
THE CAPE.
I NEED HER TO BE
DETAINED.

SIR, THAT'S
GALATEA FUTURE.
SHE TOOK DOWN
BLACK TALON WITH
ONE PUNCH DURING
THE QILARR
INVASION.*

(* MORE OR LESS. SEE "THE LOST
ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #1
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US.)

I DON'T CARE IF YOU
NEED TO BRING IN THE
WHOLE U.N.T.I.L. ARMY!
THAT WOMAN IS GIVING
OFF MULTI-
DIMENSIONAL ENERGY.

UNDER ALL U.N. SECURITY
COUNCIL DIRECTIVES...
I AM ORDERING YOU
TO DETAIN GALATEA
FUTURE!

NEXT:
GALATEA FUTURE...
WANTED?

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW PROJECT SNAKECHARMER



Operative Profile: Vipra

Real Name: Valerie Vespa Miller (unconfirmed)
Other Aliases: Vespa Miller
Birthplace: Eldersburg, Maryland
Hometown: none
Occupation: killer-for-hire/Agent of VIPER
Age: unknown (suspected mid-20's)
Hair Color: green/blond
Family: Wendall Miller (father), Elaine Miller (mother)
Skills: killing, knowledge of poisons and toxins
Equipment: poison claws, VIPER devices

**CLASSIFIED
EYES ONLY!**

Subject History:

Very little is known about Vipra other than what has been gathered by U.N.T.I.L. operatives in Project Snakecharmer since she made her presence known in 2017.

DNA samples trace her to a Valerie Vespa Miller, born in Eldersburg, Maryland. A single child to Wendall and Elaine Miller, she grew up in the small unincorporated community with no criminal record or complaint. High school records showed that she was highly intelligent but also reserved. She earned a full scholarship to the University of Baltimore for her studies in biochemistry.

It is believed that it was when she was on-campus that she was lured into the super-secret organization called VIPER. She was made aware of the organization through one of her professors, who was a member of the local VIPER hierarchy and was on the search for new talent. Valerie's intelligence and her fascination with serpents made her a logical recruit.

Valerie, now going by her middle name Vespa, was reported missing after her third year at the University of Baltimore. She never returned home after classes ended and she left no notice of where she was going. Her parents filed a missing person's report. It is suspected that she formally joined VIPER.

As a majority of VIPER operatives are male, having a female operative stands out in more ways than one. Former VIPER members say that the rare female recruits are always subject to extreme harassment and assaults, especially during the first year of training and placement. Those that survive the training are often disappointed by how they are placed in the organization. Female VIPER operatives are often limited to menial tasks along traditional gender stereotypes, including housekeeping, cooking, and cleaning. Field work for female operatives is often limited to surveillance and intelligence gathering only. If they are assigned as soldiers, it is to an elite female operative in VIPER and at that operative's discretion only.

At some point early in her placement, Vespa volunteered for genetic enhancements, which gave her reptile-like abilities, including exuding poison through her mouth, and enhanced regeneration. Her skin and eyes also began taking on a more reptilian form. That was when she started calling herself Vipra.

As an agent of VIPER, Vipra proved to be lethal. But inside agents say that she also complained that she was not getting the respect that she deserved. Many VIPER agents would not have anything to do with her. Assignments were limited to intelligence-only.

It is suspected that at this point, Vipra began offering her services to others as

Continues on next page...

a contract mercenary. Communications intercepted from VIPER hierarchy show a great deal of anger and resentment, but this was followed by a decision to allow her freelancing as a way to not only promote the organization but to also keep her from complaining about the lack of respect from within VIPER.

Powers and Abilities:

Vipra has genetically-enhanced physical abilities. This gives her greater than normal strength, speed, and physical regeneration. It is suspected that she also has some amphibian traits.

Her VIPER outfit best reflects her serpentine-like abilities, including diamond-tipped claws that can rip and tear metal. Small nozzles just past the tip allow for delivery of poisons or even acid. She also carries several VIPER covert intelligence devices, including a limited cloaking device.

In addition to her enhanced abilities, her body also exudes lethal poisons that can debilitate and even kill people. She can choose which poisons she can exude and how. Her preferred method is a lethal snake venom, which she can project out from her mouth at great distances and affect anyone within range. It can maim, debilitate, and even kill those within range. She can also exude low-level pheromones to influence others in close proximity.

Personality:

Vipra is a sociopath. She does what she wants for herself. She originally joined VIPER because they promised her access to the science she could use to make herself better and to further explore her studies on biochemistry in ways that traditional colleges could not provide.

Vipra is fixated on being respected. As a woman and as a killing machine. She hates being belittled or objectified. She is vicious on those who try to take advantage of her.

She is very intelligent. She is a keen observer of her enemies, which is basically everyone, including those in VIPER. She finds weaknesses in her enemies and she exploits them.

While she recognizes that it was VIPER that "made" her, she also knows that they have no respect for women. Because of that, she freelances her services to gain more respect.

HTTP://BATTLEROCKCOMICS.WORDPRESS.COM

NEXT ISSUE...



GALATEA FUTURE...

IS SHE A PRISONER OF U.N.T.I.L. OR A FUGITIVE FROM THEM?

AND WHAT WILL MAJOR CROSS AND CANDACE SINCLAIR DO TO HELP HER?

OR CAN THEY?



Are you special?

Do you have unusual powers or gifts?

Do you suspect that you can do things make you different from others? Read minds, fly, show incredible strength, see or know things that others cannot?

You may be someone with either meta or mystical abilities.

If so, Ravenswood Academy is here to help.

Ravenswood Academy is a fully-accredited secondary-school institution located in Orchardville, MI. The Academy is one of the most highly-regarded independent educational institutions in the United States, and is frequently viewed as one of the top secondary school institutions in the world.

Founded in September of 1989 by Kristina Pelvanen following the tragic death of a young superhero, Ravenswood Academy aims to provide top-quality instruction in both standard academic fields as well as training young meta and mystical humans in the best and proper use of their powers and abilities.

In addition to the first-rate superhuman and mystical training regimens, the faculty at Ravenswood Academy consists of highly-regarded professionals throughout a wide variety of individual fields, and students at the Academy are frequently capable of delving deeply into highly specialized fields of study that would be otherwise impossible for the average high school.

More than seventy-five percent of Ravenswood graduates go on to become registered heroes or move on to a productive career working through prestigious government agencies such as PRIMUS and UNTIL.

In addition to their main campus in Orchardville, Ravenswood Academy also has a branch campus in Millennium City, just one block away from the Renaissance Center and the center for all heroic activity for the city. It is not uncommon to have members of the Champions pay a visit to the campus to meet with and help teach Ravenswood students.

Scholarships are made available to students on both a by-need and an academic basis. There are a number of scholarships exclusively reserved for metahuman and mystical students who are incapable of paying tuition. We believe that if a metahuman or mystical student has a true financial need, they should **never** be denied instruction at Ravenswood.

If you or your child has meta or mystical abilities, contact the administrators at Ravenswood Academy for a free assessment and evaluation.

RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY

www.Ravenswood.edu.mill 888-555-LEARN

This is an advertisement for a fictional educational institution in the world of Champions Online as provided by Cryptic Studios and Hero Games. Any similarities between this and any real-world institution of the same or similar name is merely coincidental. You don't need a diploma to know that this is not a real ad.



CHAMPIONS ONLINE FREE FOR ALL

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY CHAMPIONS!



AFTER A YEAR OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, IT'S TIME FOR CHAMPIONS ONE AND ALL TO CELEBRATE!

COME TO THE RENAISSANCE CENTER IN MILLENNIUM CITY TO ENJOY SOME FREE CAKE, SOME GOODIES, AND A FREE CONCERT BY CELEBRITY SUPERHERO SAPPHIRE!

THERE WILL BE SURPRISES FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING FROM SOME YOU MAY NOT EXPECT.



WWW.ARCGAMES.COM/EN/GAMES/CHAMPIONS-ONLINE

CHAMPIONS ONLINE ANNIVERSARY IS AN ONLINE EVENT AVAILABLE TO ALL ACTIVE PLAYERS OF THE CHAMPIONS ONLINE MMO. ANNIVERSARY EVENT OCCURS ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME IN SEPTEMBER. PLEASE SEE THE CHAMPIONS ONLINE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS. NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE IS REQUIRED. CHAMPIONS ONLINE IS OWNED BY PERFECT WORLD ENTERTAINMENT INC. THIS IS A FAN-MADE ADVERTISEMENT FOR CHAMPIONS ONLINE BY SET BRUTAL PRODUCTIONS AND BATTLEROCK COMICS. NEITHER SET BRUTAL PRODUCTIONS NOR BATTLEROCK COMICS MAKE ANY CLAIM ON THE CONTENT PROVIDED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT.



**PERFECT
WORLD**