"PSILENCE OF CONSCIENCE" - CONTINUES











Stop us if you've heard this before...

Hero versus Villain. Villain uses giant cranes as weapons against hero. Hero disarms villain and sends villain to jail. The day is saved.

But it's not that simple, is it? It never is once the dust settles.

That building that the cranes landed on was someone's workplace. Those jobs are probably gone. And what about the people inside the building when the cranes came crashing through? Did they make it out okay?

The damage will block area roads for weeks, impeding the daily commute of other workers. People will have to spend more time getting to and from work just to get around the destruction caused by this battle.

And what about the company that owned those cranes?

What is the hero to say to those people whose businesses and jobs are lost? What about the people who were maimed or killed by the destruction? Will saying "sorry" fix everything?

That's where we come in.

Millennium Insurance Because just saying "Sorry" is never enough.

Millennium Insurance is a fictional business in the world of Champions Online. Any resemblance to real-world businesses is purely coincidental.

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...

FUTURES GUARDIAN



- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

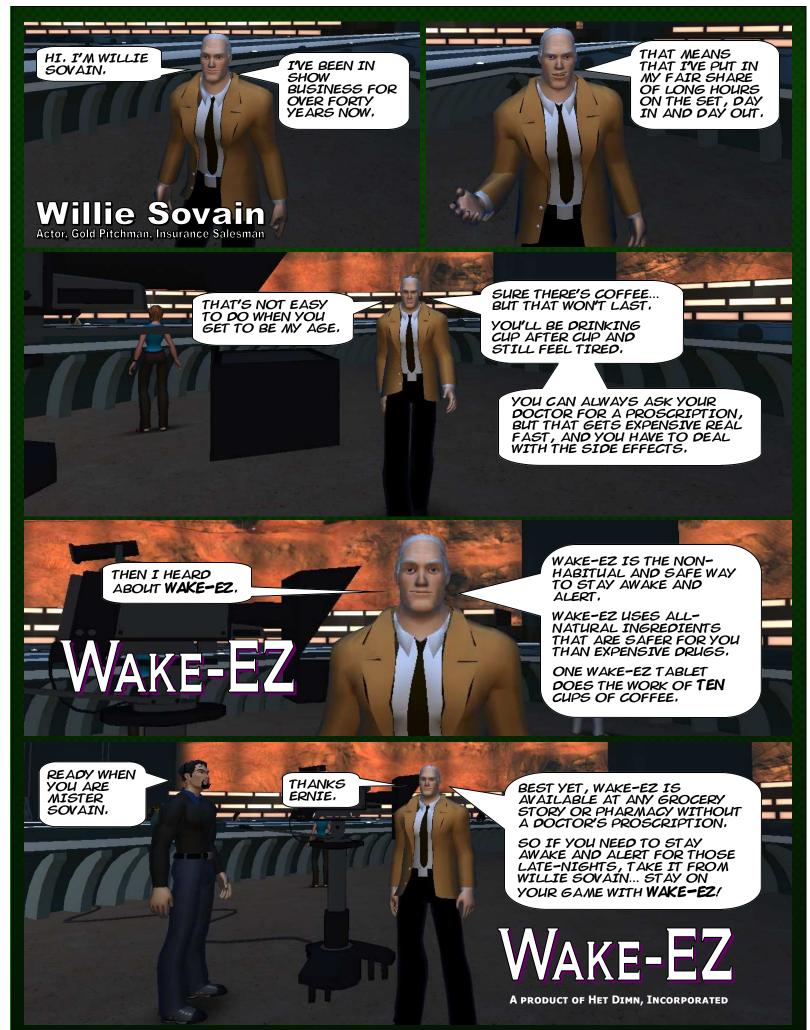
GALATEA FUTURE AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF PROJECT MYCROFT HAVE RECENTLY TRIUMPHED AGAINST THE SUPER-POWERED EXTREMIST KNOWN AS THE NATIONALIST.

BUT THEIR VICTORY LEAVES MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.

MEANWHILE A STRANGELY-FAMILIAR WOMAN HAS BEEN SEEN IN MILLENNIUM CITY LOOKING FOR THE OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN. A WOMAN WITH QUESTIONS ALL HER OWN.

Future's Guardian #9 is created using original characters in the **Champions Online** Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2009-2013, Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. This story is an independent 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, 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.







HEY BOYS... I THINK I JUST FOUND MY FUTURE EX-WIFE, EXCUSE ME?

YOU MEAN **"VICTIM"**, DON'T YOU?

THAT **IS** WHAT YOU REALLY PLAN TO DO TO ME, RIGHT?

W.

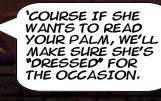
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR PUTRID LITTLE MIND.

HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME, SHARE ME WITH YOUR "CREW" AND THEN GET RID OF ME LIKE YOU'VE DONE TO SO MANY OTHER WOMEN,



DON'T WORRY, MISTER SARCONE,

LITTLE MISS PSYCHIC HERE ISN'T GOING TO COME A FOOT NEAR YOU UNLESS WE ALLOW HER TO,



TYPICAL LITTLE MAN... THINKING YOUR NUMBERS AND YOUR GUNS GIVE YOU AN ADVANTAGE,

YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW WHO I AM OR ELSE YOU'D THINK TWICE ABOUT THINKING AT ALL.

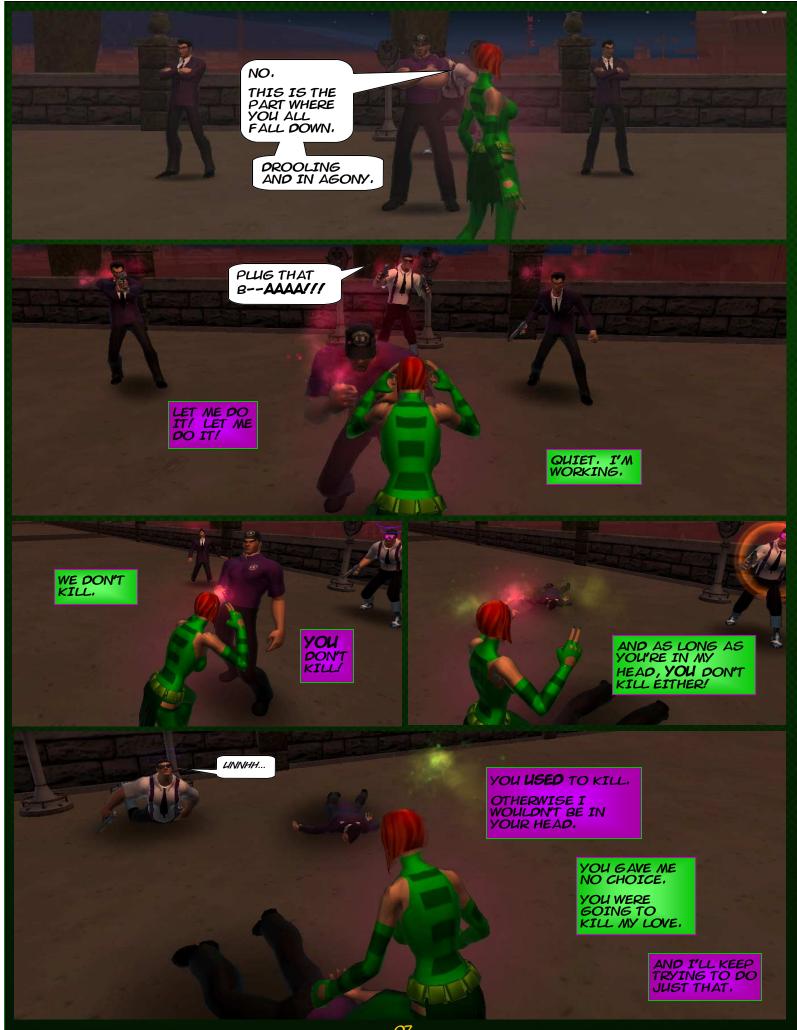
> THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE, NOT NOW, MALIZIA!

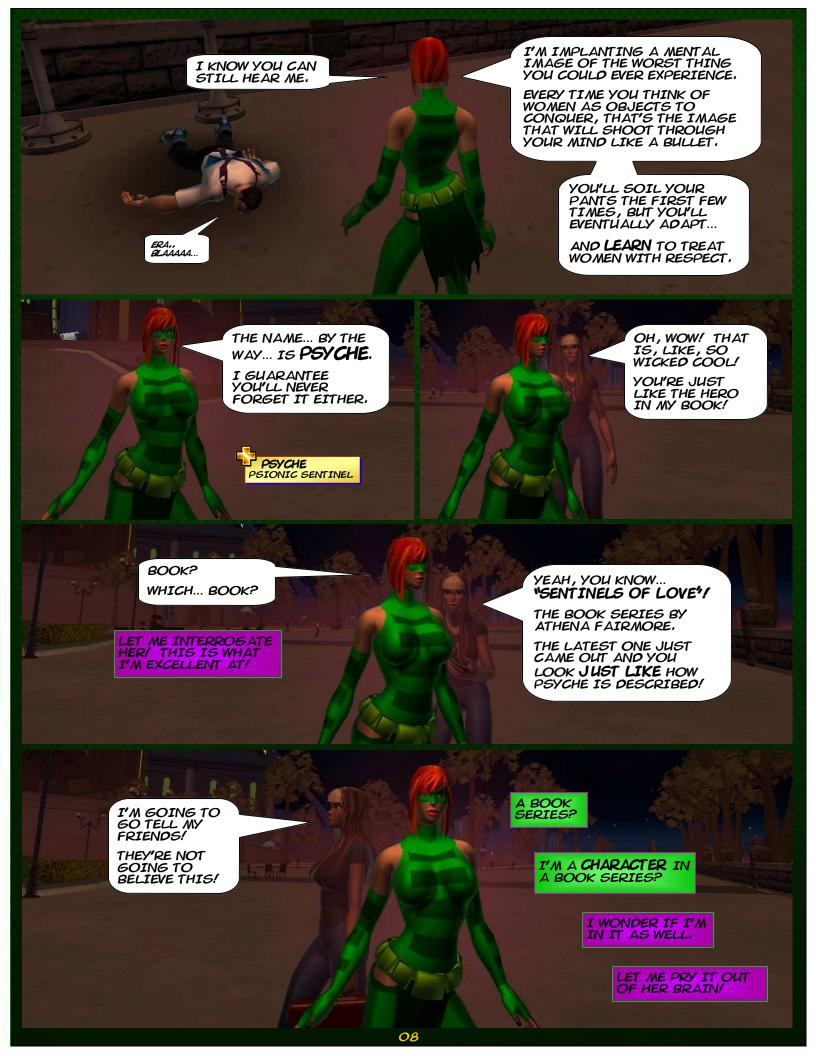
OOH... IS THIS THE PART WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO ASK WHO YOU ARE SO YOU CAN PROCLAIM WHAT KIND OF "HERO" YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE?

> OOOHHH... LET ME AT THEM! LET ME!

THANKS

GUYS.





NO, WE NEED MORE INFORMATION, BUT NOT FROM HER,

> YOU'RE JUST AFRAID YOU'LL LIKE WHAT I DO.

OFFICER, THERE ARE FOUR ASSAILANTS THAT I HAVE TAKEN DOWN THAT NEED TO GO TO JAIL,

SEE THAT BIG BUILDING BEHIND ME? THERE'S THE JAIL.

YOU BAG 'EM, YOU BRING 'EM THERE. YCOURSE WE'LL BE HAPPY TO CALL UP A PADDY WAGON TO HELP YOU WITH THAT...

PROVIDED YOU SHOW ME YOUR REGISTRATION CARD.

I AM... NEW... TO THIS CITY,

I NORMALLY WOULD HAVE MY BLUE CARD WITH ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.

YOUR ... "BLUE CARD" ...

RIIIIGHT.

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A VALID HERO REGISTRATION CARD LOOKS LIKE, DO YOU?

I CAN TELL FROM YOUR THOUGHTS THAT YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ACCEPT THAT AND HELP ME THIS ONE TIME?

> OH I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU JUST PLAYED THAT CARD!

YOU READ MY MIND?

THEN YOU KNOW THAT IT'S AGAINST THE LAW IN THIS CITY FOR A TELEPATH TO READ THE MIND OF A POLICE OFFICER WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT OR PROBABLE CAUSE.



YOU'RE NOT HELPING.

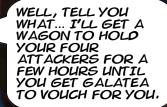


BUT I DO KNOW THERE'S A HERO HERE THAT I'M SURE YOU HAVE HEARD OF THAT CAN VOUCH FOR ME.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF GALATEA? GALATEA?

SURE WE ALL KNOW WHO GALATEA FUTURE IS.









CUZ IF NOT, THEN I HAVE TO LET THEM LOOSE AND THEY'LL BE BACK UP HERE LOOKING FOR SOME PAYBACK.

PLUS I'D HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN FOR FALSE ARREST AND ASSAULT, AND I WOULD REALLY NOT WANT TO BE THE ONE TO DO ALL THAT PAPERWORK.



THE "OLD" YOU WOULD HAVE JUST BLANKED HIM. SHHH!

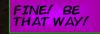




I HAVE ... AN EARWIG COMMUNICATOR,

AND SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO SHUT... UP,

SO TELL ME... HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH GALATEA FUTURE?



٠

WELL IF YOUR FRIEND IN THE EARWIG DOESN'T WANT TO HELP YOU, THEN YOU CAN TRY ANY SOCRATES TERMINAL IN THE CITY. AND BEFORE YOU TRY TO PRY IT OUT OF MY MIND, I'LL JUST TELL YOU THAT THE NEAREST TERMINAL IS JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOUNTAIN OVER BY THE ENTRANCE TO THE RENAISSANCE CENTER.

YOU REALLY ARE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU?

THANK YOU OFFICER,

I **WILL** RETURN WITH GALATEA FUTURE SO SHE CAN VOUCH FOR MY IDENTITY.

YOU HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL.

"YOU HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL." WHY DON'T YOU JUST SLEEP WITH HIM TOO?

I SWEAR I WILL SPEND THE NEXT HOUR THINKING ABOUT KITTENS AND PUPPIES IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE!







I DON'T BELIEVE WE SCREWED IT UP, MAJOR.

SURE IT SEEMS THAT THERE WAS AN EXTRA PLAYER INVOLVED, BUT REICHSTAG WAS ANT AGONIZING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE CITY WITH HIS SELF-APPOINTED CRUSADE.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE OF ONE OF HIS VICTIMS THAT TOOK MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. THAT ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE, GALATEA!

THIS WAS PROJECT MYCROFT'S **FIRST** HOT OPERATION AND WE NEEDED IT TO BE CLEAN!

OTHER DEPARTMENTS CAN GET AWAY WITH THAT WHOLE "WE NUKE THE CRACK OF DAWN" ATTITUDE... AS YOU ONCE DESCRIBED IT"... BECAUSE THEY'VE GOT A LONG STRING OF SUCCESSES TO FALL BACK ON,

WE'RE NOT ONLY NEW, BUT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INTEL AND INFO-COLLECTING ONLY, NOT DOING OPS. OKAY, SO THE F.B.I. SENDS OVER THEIR AGENT, SHE SPEAKS WITH ME, SPEAKS WITH INDY KID, WE FIND OUT WHO THE MISSING PLAYER IS AND WE FILL IN THE MISSING GAPS AND CLOSE THE BOOK.

(* "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #3)

I WISH I HAD YOUR OPTIMISM, GALATEA.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE F.B.I. DOESN'T GET INVOLVED WITH U.N.T.I.L. CASES UNLESS IT INVOLVES SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE.

AND REICHSTAG DID HAVE SOME POLITICAL FRIENDS YOU MEAN A NEO-CONSERVATIVE CONGRESSWOMAN WHO IS NOW ON THE OUTS WITH HER OWN PARTY AND IS FACING AN ETHICS HEARING FOR HER CONNECTION TO MILITIA GROUPS.

23910E

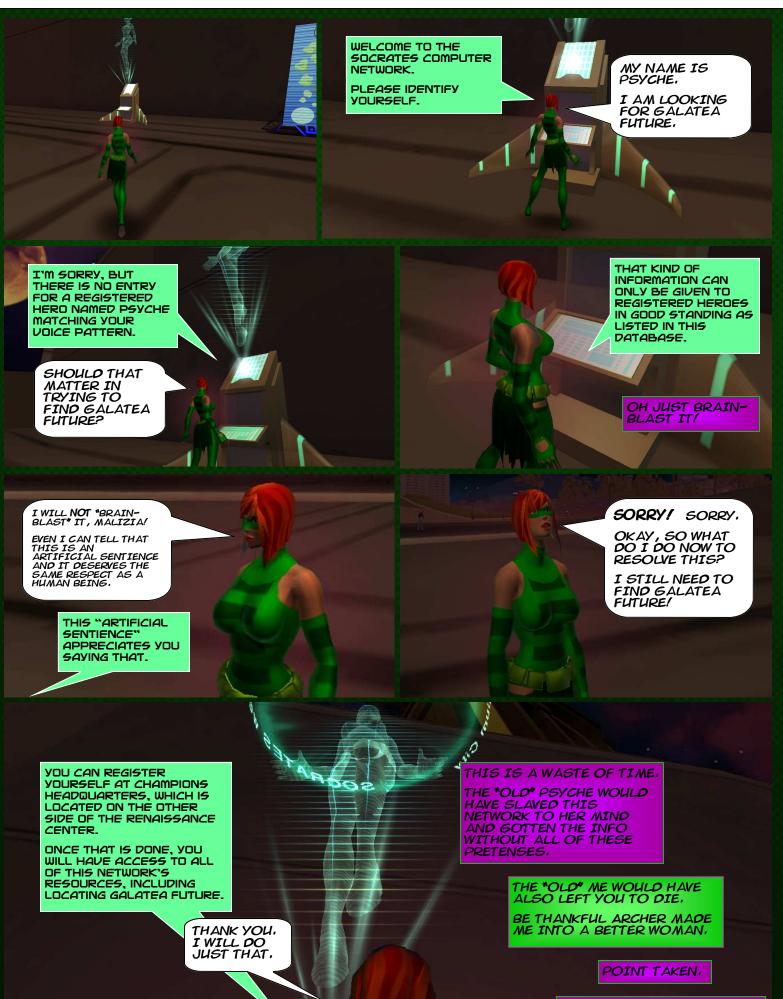
THAT ONE CONGRESSWOMAN ALSO HAD THE BACKING OF SEVERAL CONSERVATIVE THINK-TANK GROUPS, NOT TO MENTION A QUARTER OF THE LOBBYISTS ON K-STREET,

NONE OF THEM LIKE TO BE EMBARRASSED. WHATEVER IT IS THE AGENT WANTS TO KNOW, BE WILLING TO ANSWER IT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY,

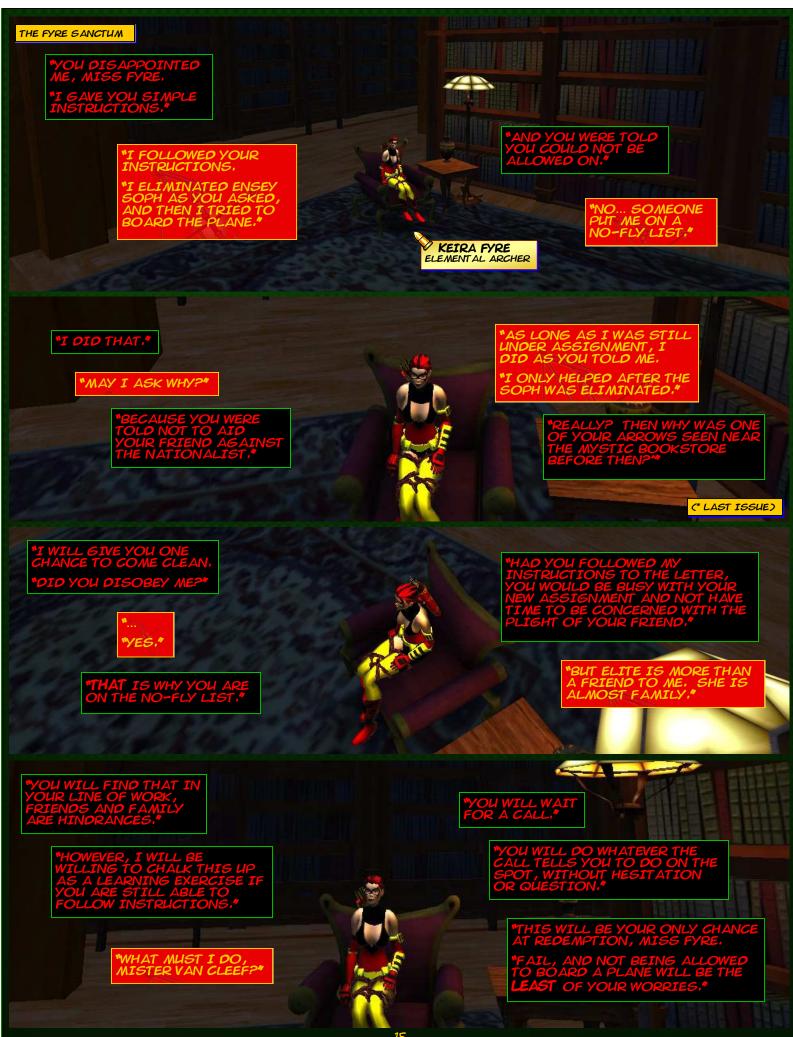
JUST BE CAREFUL WHILE YOU'RE AROUND THAT AGENT.

THEY DON'T CALL THEM THE "FORTUNE-TELLER SQUAD" FOR NOTHING:





WASN'T SOCRATES A MAN?







LET'S FACE IT... IT'S NOT EASY TO KEEP WORKING HARD!

WHETHER YOU'RE HUMAN OR SUPERHUMAN, WORKING LONG HOURS DAY AND NIGHT CAN TAKE A TOLL ON YOU PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. COFFEE? SODA? ENERGY DRINKS? THOSE ONLY LAST FOR A SHORT TIME. AND ANYTHING HARDER CAN BECOME ADDICTIVE, NOT TO MENTION EXPENSIVE AND POSSIBLY EVEN ILLEGAL!

WAKE-EZ IS A NON-HABITUAL SAFE WAY TO STAY AWAKE AND ALERT FOR THOSE LONG HOURS. USING ALL-NATURAL INGREDIENTS, WAKE-EZ STIMULATES THE BRAIN WITHOUT CAFFEINE OR EXPENSIVE PROSCRIPTION DRUGS SO YOU CAN WORK THAT LATE SHIFT, STAY UP ALL NIGHT, AND STILL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR MIND IN THE GAME!

ONE WAKE-EZ TABLE WILL KEEP YOU GOING LONGER THAN TEN CUPS OF COFFEE, AND IT WON'T BREAK THE BANK!



A PRODUCT OF HET DIMN, INCORPORATED

City Center, Millennium City

Pizza The Way You Want It!

New York? Chicago? California? New England?

No matter the style and no matter the toppings, we promise three things about our pizza:

It's gonna be hot.

A fictional business in the world of Champions Online

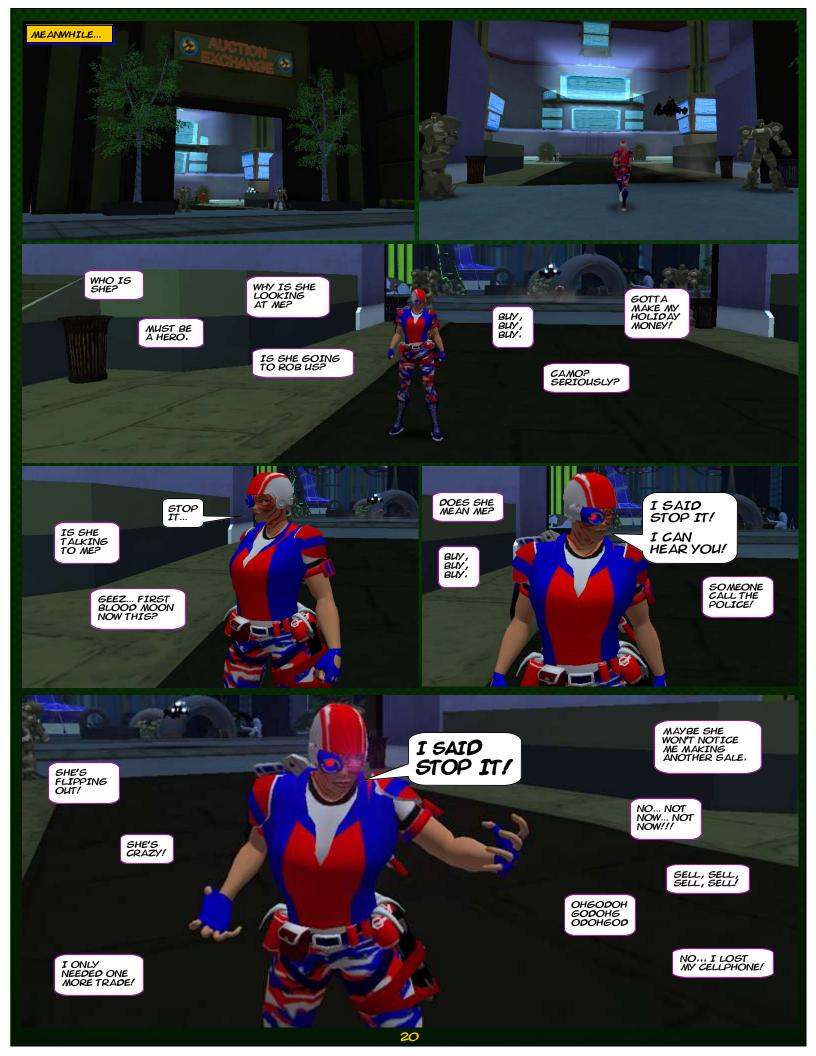
It's gonna be fresh.

And it's gonna be GREAT!

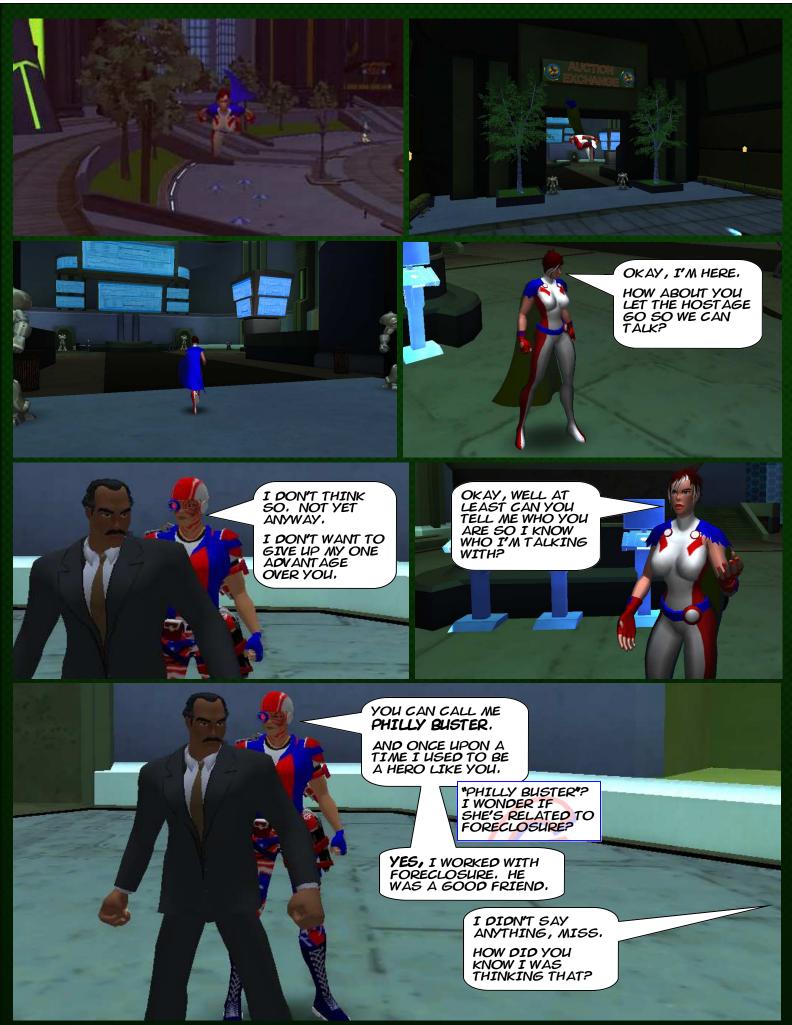
arren's Pizza

















TAYA, I'M SURPRISED!

I'M PSYCHE! FROM THE SENTINELS!

MY MEMORY MAY BE A LITTLE FOGGY, BUT I REMEMBER US WORKING TOGETHER IN OLYMPIC CITY ALONG WITH ARCHER AND EMISSARY AND VOOM.

AND HOW DID YOU BECOME A BRUNETTE? YOU USED TO BE BLOND!

OKAY, FIRST OF ALL, I KNOW WHO YOU'RE *SUPPOSED* TO BE, BUT THAT WOMAN DOESN'T EXIST.





... YOU... YOU REALLY **BELIEVE** THAT, PON'T YOU? YOU THINK I'M NOT REALLY WHO I AM!

I KNOW THAT THE WORLD OF PSYCHE AND THE SENTINELS MAY SEEM REAL, AND IT'S EASY FOR SOME PEOPLE TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE DRAMA, ESPECIALLY GIVEN SOME OF THE WONDERS OF THIS WORLD.

BUT, I'M SORRY... **IT IS** STILL FICTION, NOW, YOU AND I HAVE TO TALK WITH THE POLICE ABOUT THE FOUR THUGS YOU BROUGHT IN EARLIER,

FICTION...

YOU THINK I'D MAKE ALL OF THIS UP?

DO YOU THINK WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BY THE NORTH KOREANS WAS MADE UP?

THAT THE ALIEN INVASION THAT DESTROYED MY WORLD AND ALMOST KILLED ME WAS MADE UP? WE WERE FRIENDS ONCE, GALATEA.

YOU WERE AT OUR ENG AGEMENT PARTY AFTER JUSTIN... I MEAN JASON... SHOT HIS "RING ARROW" BY MY FEET,

I DIDN'T MAKE ANY OF THAT STUFF UP!



I... I'M JUST...

I'M TIRED OF THESE GAMES!

M-MALIZIA?

YOU SOUND SURPRISED FOR SOMEONE WHO THINKS I'M A WORK OF FICTION.

I LET PSYCHE HAVE HER FUN BECAUSE WE SHARE THE SAME GOAL... TO GO HOME,

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET HER TWIST IN THE WIND WHILE YOU TRY TO DENY OUR JOINT EXISTENCE.

W-WHO?

HMM... YOUR MIND IS DELICIOUSLY OPEN TO ME.

YOU KNOW FAR MORE ABOUT OUR SITUATION THAN YOU WOULD DARE TO ADMIT TO,

STILL... I'LL DEFER TO PSYCHE IN LETTING YOU DECIDE WHETHER TO HELP US, FOR NOW ANYWAY,

OOH ... WHAT A SAD MEMORY ...

1

ALL THAT TIME AND YOU NEVER TOLD HIM THAT YOU LOVED HIM.

JOHN COLE, OF COURSE.

ALL THAT TIME WITH HIM, AND HE DIED NOT KNOWING HOW YOU REALLY FELT,

DON'T WORRY, GALATEA, WE'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON.

AND MAYBE IF YOU'RE NICE I WON'T INSIST YOU CALL ME "MOTHER" THE NEXT TIME I HAVE TO POKE IN YOUR MIND. 3.3





ONCE AGAIN, HERE'S YOUR HOST, VICTORIA CROWNSTONE...

WELCOME BACK.

IS AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE BOOK SERIES BEING TURNED INTO A MOVIE?

RUMORS HAVE IT THAT A "SENTINELS OF LOVE" MOVIE IS ALREADY IN THE WORKS!



THESE RUMORS WERE BOLSTERED BY AMATEUR VIDEO OF SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTER PSYCHE SPEAKING WITH LOCAL HERO GALATEA FUTURE.

- Wisos



INCARNATE STUDIOS, THE STUDIO IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE FILM RIGHTS FOR THE BOOK SERIES, SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT ANY SUCH RUMORS OF A MOVIE AT THIS POINT ARE PREMATURE.



THE CHARACTER OF PSYCHE WAS BASED OFF A HERO I KNEW FROM MY TIME IN THE PREVIOUS UNIVERSE,

SHE WAS A FORMIDABLE TELEPATH IN HER TIME, CAPABLE OF EVEN TRANSFERRING HER MIND INTO ANOTHER PERSON'S BODY. WHICH MEANS SHE COULD BE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, OR SIMPLY POSSESSING SOMEONE FROM THIS WORLD.

AND WHAT ABOUT THIS OTHER PERSON... *MALIZIA*?

IN THE BOOK SERIES, "MALIZIA" WAS PSYCHE'S COUNTERPART IN AN EVIL UNIVERSE. THINK OF IT AS THAT WORLD'S VERSION OF MULTIFARIA.

"MALIZIA" IS ITALIAN FOR "MALICIOUS", AND IN ONE STORY, MALIZIA LIKED TO REFER TO HERSELF AS "MOTHER MALIZIA".

THE BOOK SERIES HAD PSYCHE STRIP MALIZIA'S MIND FROM HER BODY TO STOP HER COUNTERPART FROM KILLING HER LOVER, ARCHER.

IF THIS VERSION OF PSYCHE IS THE SAME AS THE BOOK, THEN MALIZIA SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED, MAJOR. SHE IS A NARCISSIST WITH THE POWER OF GOD. THIS WOULDN'T BE THE FIRS TIME U.N.T.I.L. HAD TO DEAL WITH TELEPATHS.

I WANT EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ON PSYCHE AND THIS "MALIZIA", WE NEED TO FIND OUT JUST HOW CLOSE THIS ONE IS TO THE BOOK VERSION,

> IN THE MEANTIME WE'LL GO OVER WHAT WE CAN ON PHILLY BUSTER AND HOW SHE SUDDENLY BECAME A TELEPATH HERSELF.





Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

A Few Notes...

It's been a while since I've actually provided a few "words of wisdom". Usually this space has some supplemental information that helps you out as readers better understand a story, or perhaps to give some insight on what could be happening next. But we've had a few things happen that you need to be informed about.

45-Day Schedule

Probably the biggest change that you've noticed with this series is the timing of these issues.

Where once I was able to come up with a new issue every month, circumstances have changed for me, and I have had to push back the release date for these issues by an extra fifteen days.

Part of the longer schedule has to do with the increased work I've had to put in with a few projects, some of which you'll see more of over at the Battlerock Comics website. Another part, though, has to do with the workload I've been given that doesn't involve comics at all. Yes, one has to pay the bills somehow, because doing MMO-based comics certainly doesn't, and long hours there means less time here.

Hopefully we'll get to a point to where we can have monthly issues again, but for now I hope you'll be patient with us as we continue to come up with quality stories for you to enjoy.

Blood Moon Event

Much of this issue takes place during the time of the Blood Moon Event. You've probably seen the ad for it at the back of the previous issue and a few references here and there.

The Blood Moon Event is an annual event that takes places in the world of the Champions around the time of Halloween. During this time, the sun is gone. There is 24-hour darkness, and the moon is huge and is blood-red, giving everything a reddish hue.

The story given here is that the Undying Lord Takofanes haunts Millennium City with the souls of thirteen very special heroes that are bound to the city by a moment of profound tragedy. These thirteen souls belong to the heroes that were killed during the Battle of Detroit. Takofanes brings these heroes back as undead zombies through portals scattered through the city. Should you defeat these undead heroes and the other undead minions that accompany it, you are then able to travel back through the portal to the crypt where that hero's soul is bound. Defeating the enemies there will release that hero's spirit, giving him or her the peace they deserve.

There are other events that go on during this time as well. For instance, there is trick-or-treating, where you talk to certain characters dressed up in costumes. There is also the "BITE" Event that takes place in both the Canadian Wilderness and in the Desert areas *(and it's someplace that Galatea will visit real soon)*. During this time, werewolves and werewolf hunters run about looking for targets. If a werewolf bites you and you are defeated, you become a werewolf (aka a "Lycan") and can only be cured by a hunter. There are specific missions during this time where you can either help the Lycans or the hunters cull each others' numbers.

As a comic writer, the Blood Moon Event is a difficult period. Unless you are crafting a story that takes place specifically during this time, you are limited in terms of environments. Every outdoor activity has to be with a reddish hue to it, and if you want to do anything that involves daylight, you have to wait until the event has finished.

On the plus side, it gives you an incentive to focus on purely indoor activities. And the event allows you to get certain resources such as costumes which you can then use at a later time.

Continues on next page...

GURDENN MORDS Continued from previous page...

Crossover Characters

When it comes to characters crossing over from one MMO to another, a very fine line has to be drawn. Both "Galatea Future" and "Ronin Omega" are characters that crossed over from their previous MMO to the world of Champions Online, and some changes had to be made to differentiate them from their incarnations in that "other world".

A much finer line has to be drawn when it comes to characters native to that other MMO. This is especially true with the case of "Psyche".

Psyche is based on an iconic character in a certain MMO that Cryptic previously developed, and is from the same "world" that both Galatea Future and Ronin Omega were originally from. Even though that MMO no longer exists, the company that shut down that MMO still retains all intellectual rights to that character, so I cannot directly use that character's likeness or her full name.

For more information about the character "Psyche" is based on and her significance in that MMO, you can check visit the Battlerock Comics website for links to her entry in the MMO Comic Index.

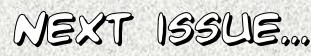
That brings us to...

The MMO Comic Index

Being a proud member of the **City of Comic Creators** has its privileges, including being involved with our own Wiki Media resource site, the **MMO Comic Index**. This is where you can find a lot of background information about the characters, the environment, and the MMO itself. And if the MMO Comic Index doesn't have it itself, it has links to the resources that do.

For more information about the MMO Comic Index, you can find the links over at the official website for Battlerock Comics...

HTTP://BATTLEROCKCOMICS.WORDPRESS.COM





IT'S CREATOR VERSUS CREATED AS GALATEA FUTURE FACES OFF AGAINST PSYCHE... AND MALIZIA!

AND CAN SHE ALSO PROTECT HER BEST FRIEND FROM AGENT WEDNESDAY AND THE FBI'S INQUIRY INTO HER LEGAL CAREER? GALATEA'S VERY FUTURE COULD DEPEND ON IT!

FIND OUT AS THE "PSILENCE OF CONSCIENCE" STORYLINE GETS CLOSER TO ITS INEVITABLE CLIMAX!



Be Heroic By Looking Heroic





Greer & Harlick

In the world of heroes, image is everything.

The right outfit can not only make you look confident, but it also makes you feel confident.

With so much at stake, it pays to have help from our team of experts that has years of experience coming up with a heroic look that reflects both your powers and your nature.

From the moment you walk in until the time you cash-out, Greer & Harlick will make you look and feel heroic without having to spend money like a millionaire playboy.

Greer & Harlick

Fine Fashions for Hip Heroes - Since 1981 -

Available exclusively for heroes inside every Powerhouse training facility. Open 24-hours a day. No appointment necessary.



Tig The Sezgon... FOR NAYVEN (



'TIS WINTERTIME IN MILLENNIUM CITY, AND BLACK HARLEQUIN EXCLAIMS "OH MY WHAT A PTTY!"

"THE HEROES ARE GOOD, THE VILLAINS ARE BAD, AND THERE'S STILL MORE CHAOS FOR THERE TO BE HAD!"

"I'LL MUST GIVE THEM ALL A SHINY NEW REASON, WHY THEY SHOULD FEAR THIS COLD WINTER SEASON!"

"SOME FRIENDS I'LL BRING UP FROM MY TRUSTY TOY SHOP, THAT WILL BRING THE CITY TO SUPER-FAST STOP!"

"AND JUST WHEN THEY THINK THEY'VE SEEN THE WORST FROM THIS LOUSE, I'LL SEND CLARENCE IN TO BRING DOWN THE HOUSE!"









CHAMPIONS ONLINE: ATTACK OF THE MISFIT TOYS (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS CHAMPIONS ONLINE: WINTER EVENT) IS AN ONLINE EVENT AVAILABLE TO ALL ACTIVE PLAYERS OF THE CHAMPIONS ONLINE MMO. NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE IS REQUIRED. CHAMPIONS ONLINE IS OWNED BY PERFECT WORLD ENTERTAINMENT INC.

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