

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GRADUATION



Aug 2014
Issue 02



"Get The Story!"

That is what I tell my people to do every single day.

Because what we do is not about collecting awards or turning people into mega-stars.

It's about finding out what the story is, and then telling it to the public.

That is what the public is looking for, and that is why we are the number one media service in Paragon City.

Because we get the story when others don't.

K.C. Emerson
PNN General Manager

PNN
Paragon News Network

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR NEXT ENHANCEMENT!

Every day, dozens of impressionable heroes end up hideously deformed and de-evolved into repulsive Rikti monkeys that can only run and flagellate.

While the effects are supposed to be "temporary", they can have lasting after-effects for those poor victims. Social shunning, jokes, and bad references to one's body odor, are not uncommon among the many people needlessly affected by substandard enhancements.



The members of the Paragon City Commercial Enhancement Alliance urge all heroes and heroines to only accept ability enhancements from licensed dealers that carry the "Good Powers" Seal of Approval.



This seal ensures that all enhancements sold in that store have been thoroughly tested and approved for use in a crisis.

Be Safe - BUY Safe!

Paragon City: the City of Heroes! The only place in the world where the hero-to-problem ratio is almost one-to-one. If you need a hero in this city, you just have to look around the corner.

But not all heroes are the same. Some are more mercenary than the others. But there are some who see the calling as a sign of brighter days ahead for all mankind. These are the heroes who fight for something better. They are the...

GUARDIANS

OF THE DAWN

GRADUATION

PART 2 - "CHOICES"

In another time and on another world... a young runaway named Bart Allan Wallace was hit by the spirit of a super-powered speedster. Calling himself "The Runner", he became a respected hero on his world.

Then his world was destroyed in 2007 and he and several other heroes found themselves in the world of the City of Heroes. Given new lives and new identities, Bart started again as Ryder Lightning, a proud and early member of the Guardians of the Dawn superhero group.

But eventually he discovered he was gradually losing his powers, until suddenly they were completely shut off.

Bart carried on without his powers, seemingly accepting the fact that his life as a superhero was over. Even when those powers began to return, he continued to accept the idea that he would never be Ryder Lightning again.

Then he was approached by District Attorney Alex Wentworth, the former archer known as the Libertarian Avenger and secret leader of the Guardians. The Guardians needed Ryder Lightning again.

But he wasn't the only one returning to action in Paragon City.

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PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND, USA

STEEL CANYON - BLYDE SQUARE

"FOR YEARS I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A HERO."

"I WANTED TO BE THE ONE TO HAVE A GIANT STATUE IN THE CITY."

"WHEN YOU'RE JUST A 'NORMAL' KID IN THE 'CITY OF HEROES', YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S REALLY SEEN AS THE FREAK."

"AND I WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING AT ALL TO CHANGE THAT."

"THEN, ONE DAY, MY WISH CAME TRUE."

"I GOT HUGE.
"I GOT SUPER-MUSCLES.
"I GOT SUPER-STRENGTH."

"I BECAME LARGE-AND-IN-CHARGE."

"I BECAME AN ACTUAL SUPERHERO."



KDave
SUPER-STRONG-GUY



HEADS UP, OUTCAST!

WHAM!



MEAT MOUNTAIN COMING DOWN ON YA LOSERS!

WHAM!

"I WAS LIVING THE DREAM."



THANKS, BUDDY... GUESS YA REALLY SHOWED THEM!

"BEATING UP BAD GUYS.
"SAVING THE 'NORMS'.
"BEING THE HERO."



IT'S WHAT I DO.

IT WAS GREAT!



I'M SURE IT WAS... BUT THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE REALLY HERE, IS IT?



NO... I'M HERE BECAUSE THE VERY FIRST DAMSEL IN DISTRESS I SAVED ENDED UP BEING A POP-STAR FLAKE.*

(SEE "TALES FROM PARAGON CITY" #1 IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE HIM!)

WENDY WOHAN OUT OF REHAB, DATES FORMER KIDNAPPER

New York City, NY (PCN) Pop Superstar Wendy Wohan, aka DJ Starlet, is doing her "DJ Starlet" title, changing her hair color, and she was accused of orchestrating her kidnapping. Evangelist, said that the actress-turned-model-turned-dee-jay-turned-singer's recent stay at a substance abuse rehabilitation center opened her eyes to the circumstances that led to her kidnapping, which Wohan claims was really a desperate cry for attention. "Wendy was being pressured from all sides," said Evangelist. "There was the pressure for the TV series, there was pressure from her recording label, there was pressure from the movie studios, pressure from her fans, and of course

"I MEAN, YEAH, I KNEW SHE WASN'T THAT TIGHTLY WOUND TO BEGIN WITH..."

out of rehab, and she wasn't being given it. So she did what she normally does in that situation, she did something extreme." Following her rescue by the then-rookie superhero KDave, Wohan finished her work with "The Bathing Nun", which she then went on a marathon singing and performing in stadiums as herself and KDave. During that time, Evangelist says that she dated Chad Stugard, aka "Chad Star", 19-year-old at the time of Wohan's kidnapping and was serving time at the Zigursky Correctional Facility in Paragon City. Although Wohan refused to read the messages from Stugard at first, she later began going over them when the strain of her

"BUT TO GO INTO REHAB FOR THE UMPTENTH TIME AND THEN COME OUT AND DATE THE LOSER THAT KIDNAPPED HER?"

CONVICTION REVERSED ON WOHAN KIDNAPPING AFTER STARLET RECANTS

Paragon City, RI (PCN) A Rhode Island appeals court has thrown out the conviction of thirty-three men and women who kidnapped pop superstar Wendy Wohan. The group, known as "The DeBags", along with thirty-two other group members were convicted in Paragon City after calls came in of the pop superstar's kidnapping in Paragon City. Wohan was freed and Stugard and the other group members were taken into custody by the newly-registered superhero KDave. Wohan has since recanted her account of the incident, claiming that her "kidnapping" was really a cry for help and that the incident was really just an

"WORSE YET, SHE DECIDES TO RECANT ABOUT BEING KIDNAPPED SO THAT PUNK -ASS PENCIL COULD BE RELEASED!"

impromptu meeting that was blown out of proportion. Stugard's attorney, Chris Jenkins attorney-at-law, says that his client is overjoyed to know that he describes as a grave "We have long maintained this is a travesty. This inexperienced attorney with no prior training on how to attempt to even determine if a crime was even committed. His reckless acts not only caused my client to be falsely accused, but also to be socially humiliated by an overbearing bully."

"HE'S FREE... AND HIS SHYSTER, 'CHRIS JENKINS ATTORNEY-AT-LAW', SHES ME FOR ASSAULT AND FALSE ARREST!"

VANGUARD COUNSELING SESSION

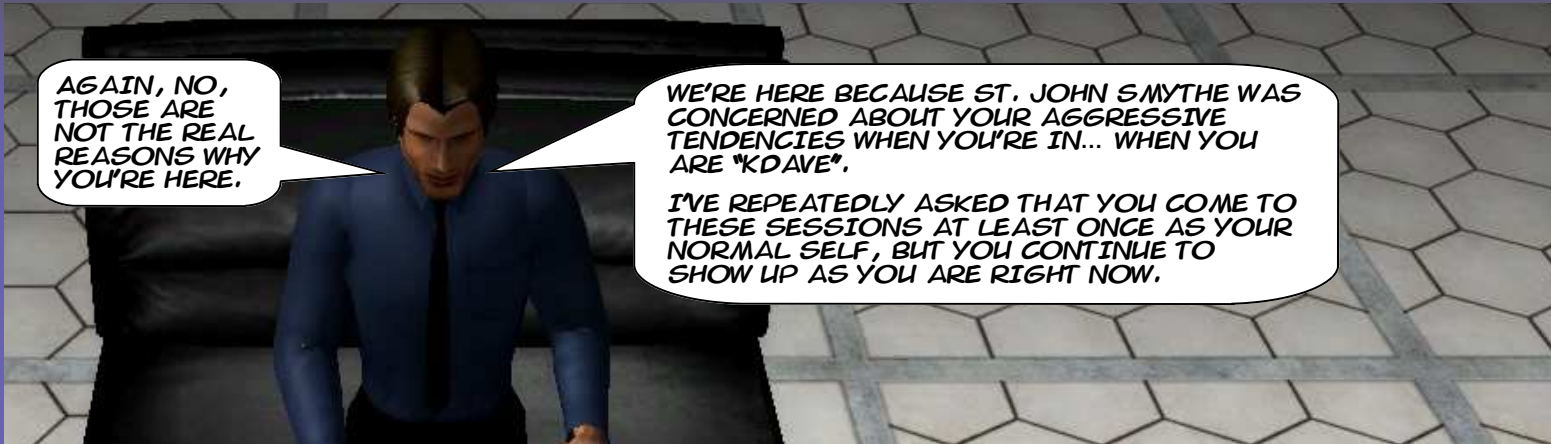


AGAIN, YOU'RE NOT DELVING INTO THE REAL REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE.

YOU MEAN HOW THE SHYSTER CLAIMED I WAS A "STEROID-RAGING BULLY WITH INSECURITY ISSUES AND A TINY DICK?"

OR THAT THE DEBAG "PRINCESS" OF THE GROUP REALLY WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE CEO OF A GENETIC AUGMENTATION FACTORY IN NEW JERSEY WHO HAD A FETISH FOR ORANGE SPRAY-TANNED LOSERS?

OR THAT HER DADDY'S SHYSTER TEAMED UP WITH THE OTHER SHYSTER TO RUIN MY HERO CAREER AND DRIVE ME INTO BANKRUPTCY?



AGAIN, NO, THOSE ARE NOT THE REAL REASONS WHY YOU'RE HERE.

WE'RE HERE BECAUSE ST. JOHN SMYTHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES WHEN YOU'RE IN... WHEN YOU ARE "KDAVE".

I'VE REPEATEDLY ASKED THAT YOU COME TO THESE SESSIONS AT LEAST ONCE AS YOUR NORMAL SELF, BUT YOU CONTINUE TO SHOW UP AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.



I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DOC, I DON'T LIKE BEING MY SUPPOSED "NORMAL SELF".

I SPENT THIRTY YEARS AS PHIL SKI, A LESS-THAN-NORMAL LOSER.

I WAS WORKING DEAD-END GOVERNMENT JOBS. MY ONLY FRIENDS WERE OTHER LOSERS. I COULDN'T GET A DATE UNLESS I PAID FOR ONE!

AND THERE WERE TIMES I WANTED TO!



BEING THIS... BEING "KDAVE"... IT GIVES ME CONTROL OVER MY LIFE FOR ONCE!

I WASN'T A NOBODY ANYMORE.

AT LEAST UNTIL THOSE SHYSTERS TOOK IT ALL AWAY FROM ME!

THOSE ATTORNEYS DIDN'T CAUSE YOU TO GET KICKED OUT OF YOUR OLD HERO GROUP WHEN YOU PUT ONE OF THEM IN THE HOSPITAL.

AND I SAID BEFORE THAT I DIDN'T DO THAT!

I DIDN'T EVEN LAY A FINGER ON HIM.

I JUST... SNEEZED.



AND WE KNOW HOW DANGEROUS YOUR "SNEEZES" CAN BE.

HOW ABOUT YOUR TIME WITH YOUR CURRENT HERO GROUP... THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN?

THE GUARDIANS? THEY'RE GREAT! THEY HAVE A GREAT BASE OF OPERATIONS, AND OF COURSE THE WOMEN THERE ARE ALL SUPER-HOT BABES, SPECIALLY GALATEA POWERS!

SO... YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY KIND OF PERSONALITY CONFLICTS WITH THEM?

NOPE. IT'S ALL BEEN GOOD WITH THEM.

SPEAKING OF... I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ON CALL WITH THEM SOON.

YOU KNOW, IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS... WHICH USUALLY DOES.

STEEL CANYON

THE ICON, INC., HERO TAILOR STORE

SOP? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Serge
FAMOUS DESIGNER



IT'S...
IT'S PERFECT!
IT'S ALMOST EXACTLY
WHAT I WAS LOOKING
FOR IN AN OUTFIT!

Ryder Lightning
ELECTRIC SPEEDSTER



"ALMOST"? NO,
NO, NO...
IT IS THE KIND
OF ATTIRE YOU
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN WEARING
FROM THE START!

I DON'T KNOW,
THOUGH...
HOODIES AND
SUPER-SPEED?

TUT-TUT!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT YOUR
OUTFIT IS MADE WITH KINETO-
MESH FIBERS, ONE OF MY
PATENTED CREATIONS.
PERFECT FOR A SPEEDSTER LIKE
YOU.
AND IT HAS THE SAME KIND OF
STATIC HOOD THAT I GAVE TO
BOTH MIDNIGHT X AND THE
LIBERTARIAN AVENGER.

NO MATTER HOW FAST
YOU RUN, NO MATTER
WHAT YOU ENCOUNTER,
THAT HOOD WILL NOT BE
REMOVED FROM YOUR
HEAD UNLESS YOU DO
SO BY YOUR OWN HANDS.

AND I REALLY
APPRECIATE THIS,
SERGE. I DO.
BUT THIS WILL MOSTLY
BE FOR SHOW.
I'M ONLY BACK AS AN
ADMINISTRATOR FOR
THE GUARDIANS.

YOU CAN LIE TO ALL OF THE
OTHERS, BUT YOU CAN'T LIE TO
ME, RYDER LIGHTNING.
I KNOW THAT LOOK YOU HAD
WHEN YOU FIRST GLANCED IN
THE MIRROR IN YOUR NEW SUIT.

THAT WASN'T THE LOOK OF
SOMEONE WHO WAS READY
TO STAY ON THE SIDELINES.
THAT WAS THE LOOK OF
SOMEONE WHO HAS IN THEM
AT LEAST ONE MORE RACE
TO RUN.



THE NEXT DAY...

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK

"I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU BEING WITH ME HERE, TAYA."

HERO 1 MEMORIAL

BELIEVE ME, THE PLEASURE'S ALL MINE, JOHN.

I ENJOY SPENDING MY FREE TIME WITH YOU.

WELL I WISH I HAD MORE FREE TIME TO SHARE.

BUT VANGUARD HAS BEEN PUTTING ME ON A VERY TIGHT LEASH SINCE I WAS PURGED OF EVERYTHING ARACHNOS.*

EVEN TWO YEARS LATER, THEY STILL WON'T LET ME FREELANCE.

I'M SURPRISED THEY EVEN LET ME JOIN THE GUARDIANS.

Galatea Powers
OTHERWORLD HERO

John Cole
SON OF STATESMAN

(* THE GUARDIAN POWERS #8)

THAT'S JUST HOW VANGUARD DOES THINGS.

BELIEVE ME, MY FIRST TIME WITH THEM WAS FAR WORSE.*

(* WHICH WILL BE TOLD SOON. KEEP CHECKING THE BATTLEROCK COMICS WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.)

AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T BAR YOU FROM TAKING A CODENAME OR FROM WEARING A COSTUME.

UH...NO. THAT WAS ALL THAT I HAD BACK THEN.


JUST AN OUTFIT AND "GALATEA".

I WAS A HERO TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN.

WELL, WITH ME IT'S TESTING AND TRAINING.

EVERYTHING TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH OF THE COLE FAMILY MAGIC I INHERITED FROM THE LATE-GREAT STATESMAN.

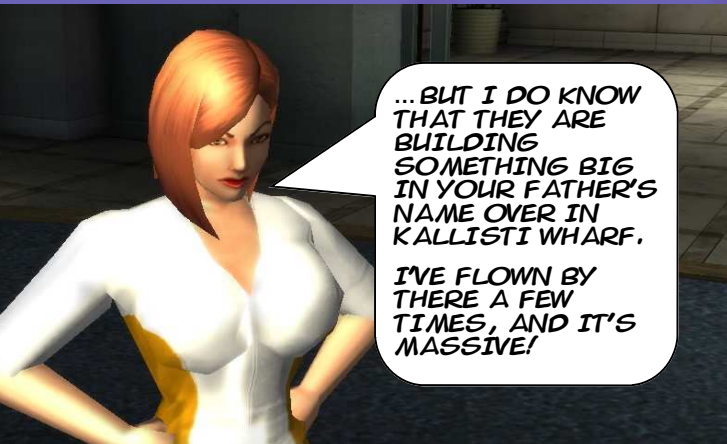
YOU KNOW...IT'S FUNNY...



PARAGON CITY HAS HAD THIS MEMORIAL UP FOR HERO 1 EVER SINCE THEY OPENED UP THE TIME CAPSULE IN 2009.


YET MY FATHER HAS BEEN DEAD SINCE 2012 AND THEY HAVEN'T EVEN PUT UP SO MUCH AS A PLAQUE IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE.

WELL, THEY MAY NOT HAVE DONE A MEMORIAL ROOM LIKE THIS ONE...



... BUT I DO KNOW THAT THEY ARE BUILDING SOMETHING BIG IN YOUR FATHER'S NAME OVER IN KALLISTI WHARF.

I'VE FLOWN BY THERE A FEW TIMES, AND IT'S MASSIVE!



IT BETTER BE.

THE MORE I LEARN ABOUT WHAT MY FATHER DID AS STATESMAN, THE MORE I REALIZE JUST HOW BIG OF A LEGACY I HAVE TO LIVE UP TO.



GROWING UP ON MERCY ISLAND, THE ONLY STUFF I HEARD ABOUT CONCERNING STATESMAN WAS FROM ARACHNOS PROPAGANDA, AND OBVIOUSLY THAT WAS MOSTLY BUNK.

AFTER MY MOTHER DIED AND I FOUND OUT WHO MY FATHER WAS, HE AND I NEVER REALLY GOT TO TALK TOO MUCH, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN LIVE TO BEING THE KIND OF LEGEND HE WAS. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN EVEN COME CLOSE TO HIS POWER LEVELS.

BUT I CAN CERTAINLY TRY.



YOU KNOW, I DON'T HAVE TO REPORT BACK TO VANGUARD FOR A COUPLE MORE HOURS.

WANNA GET A BURGER OR SOMETHING?

ABSOLUTELY!

BUT ONLY IF IT'S ON TALOS ISLAND.

I KNOW THIS PLACE NOT FAR FROM MY CONDO.

AND THEN... MAYBE...

***BOOMTOWN* (FORMERLY BAUMTON)**

I NEVER WOULDVE BELIEVED IT IF I DIDN'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

THE GREAT AND POWERFUL ST ARCYENUS... DOING MANUAL LABOR! HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE INDEED FALLEN!

Malcolm Rochspare
ATTORNEY *FIXER*

ONLY JOB I COULD GET THAT DIDN'T INVOLVE TECH.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Hank Geddy
AKA ST ARCYENUS

WHAT I WANT IS TO SEE YOU RESTORED TO THE GLORY THAT YOU ONCE WERE.
YOU WERE ONCE RESPECTED.
YOU WERE HONORED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR GOD'S SAKE!*

* FOR ACTIONS SEEN IN *CITY OF COMIC CREATORS COMPENDIUM* #5 AND *GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT* #14)

WE BOTH KNOW THAT WAS A BUNCH OF SMOKE AND MIRRORS.
OBAMA... FEH!

YES, BUT YOU WERE STILL A POWERFUL FORCE... A MASTER OF THE CYBER-REALM, ABLE TO DEFEAT EVEN THE LEGENDARY FREEDOM PHALANX!*

WHAT IF I COULD HELP YOU RETURN TO THAT LEVEL OF POWER?

* WELL, HE DIDN'T DO IT BY HIMSELF. CHECK OUT THE *TIME AND CHANGES* STORYLINE IN *SPOTLIGHT* #18-22 FOR DETAILS)



EXCUSE ME...CAN I HAVE SOME TIME ALONE TO SPEAK WITH MY CLIENT?



YA GOT FIVE MINUTES, GEDDY. AND IT COMES OUTTA YER BREAK TIME.



YOU BETTER START TALKING. THIS IS MY FIRST DAY AT WORK AND YOU'RE MAKING IT A BAD ONE.



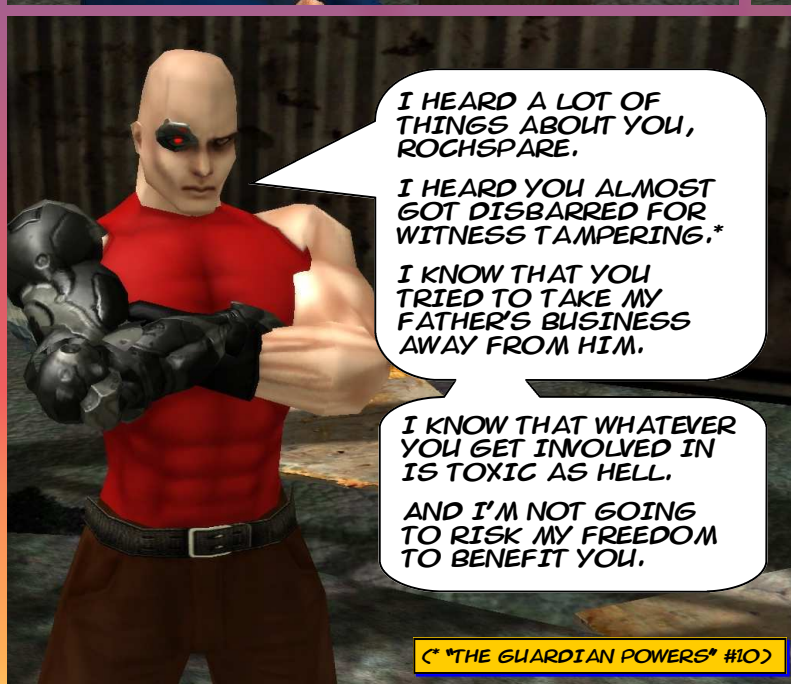
I HAVE NEED OF YOUR UNIQUE ABILITIES. YOU HELP ME OUT AND I'LL GIVE YOU ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY TO UPGRADE YOUR CYBERNETICS.



I CAN HELP YOU BE ST ARCYGNUS ONCE AGAIN! WHAT HAS YOUR FATHER DONE? HE'S ABANDONED YOU TO ROT IN THIS MEDIOCRITY!



YOU THINK THAT HE "ABANDONED" ME? WHO DO YOU THINK GOT ME OUT? LORD GEDDY GOT ME OUT OF VANGUARD'S DETENTION FACILITY. THAT'S MORE THAN YOU EVER DID.



I HEARD A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT YOU, ROCHSPARE. I HEARD YOU ALMOST GOT DISBARRED FOR WITNESS TAMPERING.* I KNOW THAT YOU TRIED TO TAKE MY FATHER'S BUSINESS AWAY FROM HIM. I KNOW THAT WHATEVER YOU GET INVOLVED IN IS TOXIC AS HELL. AND I'M NOT GOING TO RISK MY FREEDOM TO BENEFIT YOU.



OH, AND YOU'RE NOT MY ATTORNEY, ROCHSPARE. DON'T EVER HARASS ME AT WORK AGAIN!

EVENTUALLY, MY HALF-MAN FRIEND, THAT REALLY WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU.

(* THE GUARDIAN POWERS #10)

TALOS ISLAND



WELCOME BACK, RYDER LIGHTNING.

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HQ



GOOD TO BE BACK, CPCU. IS CHEF DRAMSAY IN THE BASE?

YES. HE IS BUSY AT HIS USUAL PLACE IN THE KITCHEN OF THE GUARDIAN LOUNGE.

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THAT THERE'S A FULL-BLOWN KITCHEN NOW FOR A GOURMET CHEF AND HERO.

FLASH MESSAGE FOR HIM TO HAVE HIS HANDS-FREE READY.

I'LL BE IN THE COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTER.



WOW.

THIS BEATS THE OLD TACTICAL CENTER.

INDEED.

WELCOME TO THE COMMAND INTELLIGENCE CENTER OR "C-I-C".

THIS IS THE SECOND CONFIGURATION OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTER.

I TAKE IT WE HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THE ESSENTIAL HERO NETWORKS.

THE EARLIER C-A-C WAS DESIGNED BY ICON POWERS, DAYBRIGHT, AND JUSTICE-KNIGHTS HERO DATABANK.

ICON POWERS AND DATABANK OVERSAW THE TRANSITION TO THE CURRENT CONFIGURATION.

EVERYTHING FROM VANGUARD, FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL NETWORKS, INCLUDING FREEDOM CORPS, DAWN PATROL, HERO CORPS, AND EVEN DEEP-NETS ONE TO FIVE.

MISS NANCY SHOULD HELP GET YOU UP TO SPEED ON OUR ACTIVE MISSION.

GOOD MORNING, MISTER LIGHTNING.

COEUR DU FELI AND ELITE ICE QUEEN ARE IN PEREZ PARK RESCUING SOME KIDNAPPED CIVILIANS FROM THE CIRCLE OF THORNS.

OH...OKAY. AND YOU CAN JUST CALL ME "RYDER".



THIS ONE'S MINE!

NNNNNNNN!!

BZZZZT



ARE YOU OKAY?

YES, BUT MY BROTHER, HE'S--



HEY, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

THAT DRY ICE SHIELD SPELL I GAVE YOU ONLY LASTS FOR SO LONG!



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MYSTICAL EXPERT NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK FROM ENGLAND.* SO DON'T STAND THERE JAWING AND LET'S FINISH OFF THESE CIRCLE-JERKS!

EXCUSE ME, ELITE, BUT THERE'S SUCH A THING AS COURTESY IN WHAT WE DO!

YOU SAY SOMETHING? I'M SORRY, I WAS A BIT BUSY FINDING MORE HOSTAGES TO RESCUE.

Elite Ice Queen
ELEMENTAL MYSTIC

(*LAST ISSUE*)



SORRY ABOUT THAT.
CAN YOU EXCUSE US? WE'LL FIND YOUR BROTHER, I PROMISE YOU.



ALRIGHT, ELITE.
WE NEED TO TALK RIGHT NOW!

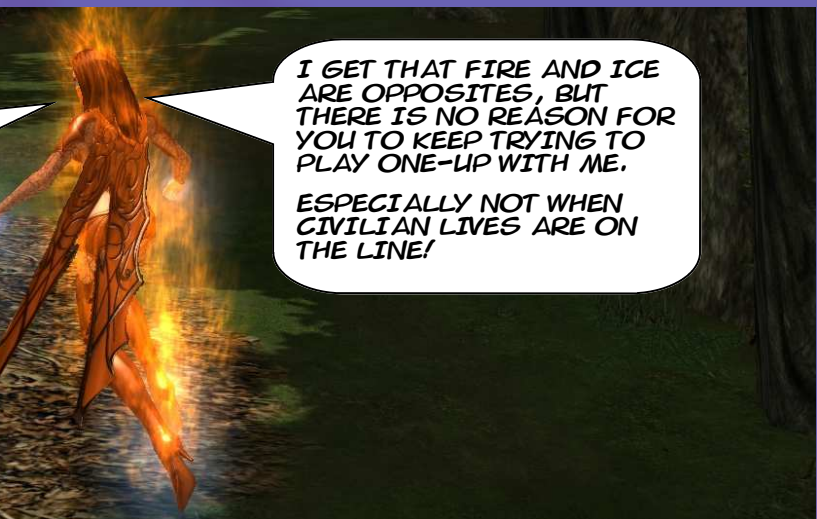
FWOOSH!

Coeur du Feu
CURSED ROMANTIC



WHY DID YOU BREAK MY SPELL?

BECAUSE I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I DIDN'T NEED ONE.



I GET THAT FIRE AND ICE ARE OPPOSITES, BUT THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO KEEP TRYING TO PLAY ONE-UP WITH ME.
ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN CIVILIAN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE!



UHM, NO, YOU DON'T GET TO LECTURE ME ABOUT BEING A HERO.

I'VE BEEN HERE WHILE YOU WERE STUCK IN THAT TIME ECHO, AND THEN WHILE YOU WENT OFF TO ENGLAND TO GO STUDY WITH THE STONEHENGE COVEN!



SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

I WENT TO STONEHENGE AND STUDIED WITH THE OLDEST ACTIVE COVEN ON THE PLANET.



TELL YOU WHAT... AFTER WE FINISH THIS MISSION, YOU AND I HAVE A TALK ABOUT ENGLAND, AND MAYBE I CAN EVEN TALK WITH THE COVEN ON YOUR BEHALF. IS THAT OKAY?

O-OKAY, I SUPPOSE...



GREAT! THEN LET'S GO FINISH THIS.

LORD GEDDY,
WELCOME TO THE
ROGUE ISLES.

MISS LOTHORA...

I WAS GENUINELY
SURPRISED TO HEAR
THAT SOMEONE LIKE
YOU WOULD BE ABLE
TO LEAVE THE UNITED
STATES AND COME
HERE SO READILY.

 **Lexie Lothora**
LEXIETECH CEO

I'VE RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT MY
INHERITED CANADIAN TITLE AS
"MARGRAVE OF NIAGARA" COMES
WITH SOME PERKS, INCLUDING
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

IT MAKES TRAVEL A LITTLE BIT
EASIER FOR ME IN MY LINE OF WORK
AS AN INFORMATION BROKER.

BUT... I'M HERE TO TALK
ABOUT YOU AND YOUR
BUSINESS DEALINGS.

I HAVE TO ADMIT YOU'VE
DONE QUITE WELL FOR
YOURSELF THESE PAST
FEW YEARS.

 **Lord Lee Geddy**
MARGRAVE OF NIAGARA

I REMEMBER YOUR
FATHER, LEELAND
LOTHORA, AND HOW
HE BUILT UP A
SHIPPING EMPIRE
IN PARAGON CITY
BEFORE IT WAS
TORN DOWN.

I ALSO REMEMBER
HEARING ABOUT THE
BUSINESS YOU AND
YOUR TWIN BROTHER
BUILT IN THE ASHES
OF THAT DOWNFALL.

AND ABOUT HOW MY BROTHER
ALEXI WAS KILLED BY JOHN
BATTLEROCK, AND HOW I HAD A
BREAKDOWN AFTERWARD, AND
HOW I CAME BACK TO TAKE MY
COMPANY OUT OF RECEIVERSHIP...
AND SO ON AND SO FORTH.

I DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAME
ALL THE WAY OVER FROM THE
UNITED STATES JUST TO PLAY
"THIS IS YOUR LIFE" WITH ME.

HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT.

I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY
HERE TO PLAY "THIS IS YOUR
LIFE".

I CAME HERE TO TALK ABOUT
YOUR FUTURE.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A
LEVEL OF LEGITIMACY IN ALL
YOUR BUSINESS DEALINGS THAT
YOUR FATHER OR BROTHER NEVER
COULD HAVE?

BACK AT GUARDIAN BASE...

SO THEY FINALLY MOVED YOU HERE, CPCI?

THAT IS CORRECT.

JUSTICE-KNIGHTS HERO DATABANK WAS KIND ENOUGH TO FACILITATE THE MOVING OF MY PROGRAMMING TO THIS NEW STATION.

YOU KNOW, THAT'S TWICE I HEARD ABOUT DATABANK. I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS.

I THOUGHT DAYBRIGHT WAS OUR TECH SPECIALIST.

ICON POWERS WAS THE ONE THAT ACQUIRED THE SERVICES OF DATABANK WHEN HE NEEDED HELP IN REACTIVATING THE BASE.*

AT THE TIME SHE WAS... PLEASE STAND BY... ALERT! ALERT! ACTION REQUIRED!

(* GUARDIAN POWERS #2)

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

SKULLS ARE RIOTING AT A REFUGEE CENTER IN KINGS ROW.

IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, SO I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THEY'D TRY IT NOW.

OKAY, GO AHEAD AND PAGE MIDNIGHT X, SINCE THAT'S HIS TERRITORY.

ACTUALLY... MIDNIGHT X DOESN'T RESPOND TO OUR CALLS ANYMORE. I THOUGHT THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT. WE DO HAVE KDAVE ON CALL, AND HE'S ON HIS WAY OVER THERE NOW.

NO... HE DIDN'T TELL ME...

OKAY... THEN WHO DO WE HAVE THAT COVERS KINGS ROW IF WE CAN'T COUNT ON THE KNIGHT?

MINUTES LATER AT THE REFUGEE CENTER...

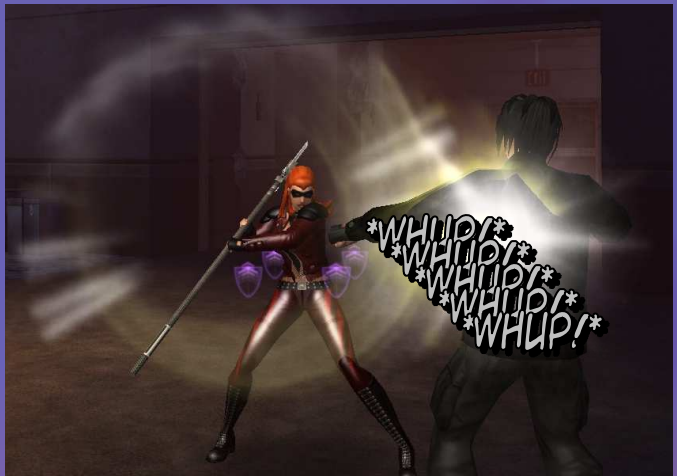
KINGS ROW

FIRE'S PRETTY HEAVY HERE, BASE. ARE YOU SURE KDAVE IS HERE?

HE SHOULD BE WAITING JUST INSIDE THE LOBBY.

FIRE UNITS ARE TWO MINUTES AWAY.

Cardinal Syn
STREET VIGILANTE



WHIP! WHIP! WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!



THERE SHE IS. SEEP SLAMMING HOT, HUHP



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?



HEY, I WAS TOLD TO WAIT UNTIL YOU GOT HERE.



THAT DIDN'T MEAN YOU NEEDED TO STAND THERE LIKE A DUMBASS WHILE THE BUILDING'S BURNING DOWN AND THE SKULLS ARE TEARING UP THE PLACE!

WELL, ALL THE REFUGEE WORKERS WERE ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR. IT'S JUST THESE DUDES WITH THE FACEPAINT.



UNF YOU DON'T KNOW THAT FOR CERTAIN!

WHUP!



YOU DON'T EVER ASSUME A PLACE LIKE THIS IS EMPTY! ESPECIALLY IN KINGS ROW!



YES, MA'AM. DULY NOTED.



HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY ROCKING NEW BATTLE-THREADS? MISTER WENTWORTH SAID IT REALLY BEEFS UP MY CRED WITH THE GUARDIANS.



YOU KNOW... ANDREW WENTWORTH? OUR PATRON? OH, RIGHT... HERO-STUFF FIRST...



SLAM!



PLAYING THROUGH! FOOOORE!

SLAM!



KA-POW!



WHAT TH'--
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?



MY JOB,
YOU TELL THEM TO
LET ME HANDLE IT.



HEY, CAN YOU
BELIEVE WHO I
CAME ACROSS??

NOT NOW,
KDAVE.

THE SKULLS
DIDN'T CAUSE
THIS.



AND HOW DO
YOU KNOW THIS?
SOUNDS LIKE
JUST THE KIND
OF MAYHEM THEY
LIKE TO
INFLECT.



SKULLS ARE DRUG
DEALERS. DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE TO HAVE
THEM SCARE AWAY
THEIR CUSTOMER BASE.
PLUS, THIS PLACE WAS
HIT BY ARSON.
SKULLS DON'T DO
ARSON. HELLIONS DO.

THE MEMBERS I TALKED
TO SAY THEY WERE LED
HERE BY A TIP.
THEY WERE SET UP.
YOU TELL RYDER THAT.
SOMEONE ELSE
TORCHED THIS PLACE
AND WANT THE SKULLS
TO BE BLAMED FOR IT.

MidKnight X
STREET VIGILANTE



UH, WHO'S
RYDER?

HEY, I WAS THINKING, YOU KNOW,
THIS IS SO COOL AND ALL...
MAYBE WE CAN GET LIKE A GROUP
SELFIE? YOU KNOW, IF WE HAD
LIKE A SMARTPHONE?

WHERE ARE YOU
GUYS GOING?



Image by Yon Phillipz

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

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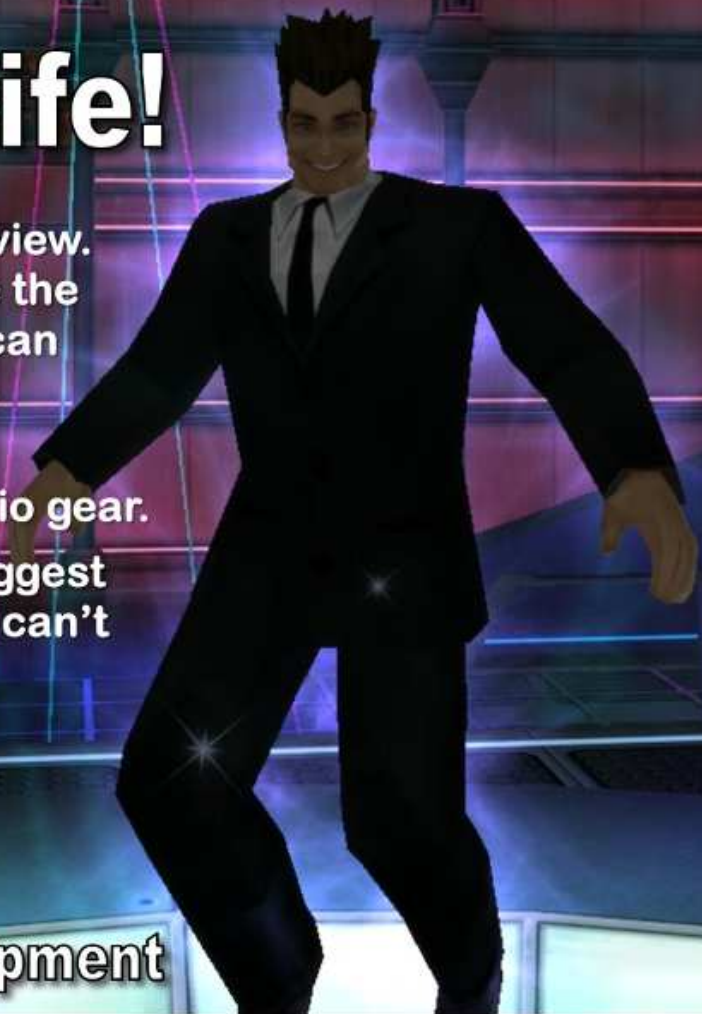
Music Is My Life!

People don't just come here for the view. They also come here because I have the best audio in any dimension. And I can only get that by using the best audio equipment.

That's why I use the **LT** brand of audio gear. Because when you're hosting the biggest nonstop party in the omniverse, you can't settle for second best.

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Skin 2

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ICON tailor store.



POLICE OFFICIALS WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON-CAMERA AS TO WHO CAUSED THE RAMPAGE AT THE CENTER...

BUT SOURCES INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT SUGGEST THAT THE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE "OUR WORLD FIRST" MOVEMENT.



REFUGEE CENTER TORCHED



APRIL RAMIREZ · KINGS ROW



A SPOKESMAN FROM THE "O-W-F" REFUSED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE ALLEGATION.

REPORTING LIVE FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS, I'M APRIL RAMIREZ, P-N-N.



THANKS APRIL.

THE O-W-F OR "OUR WORLD FIRST" MOVEMENT FIRST APPEARED LAST SUMMER TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST OTHER-WORLD REFUGEES.



ROBIN STEED · PNN MIDDAY NEWS



ROBIN STEED · PNN MIDDAY NEWS



ALTHOUGH THEY CLAIM TO BE A NON-VIOLENT GROUP, THEY HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN SEVERAL RIOTS INVOLVING BOTH PRO AND ANTI-REFUGEE PROTESTS.



BACK AT PORT OAKES...

WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?



YOU'VE GIVEN ME A LOT TO CONSIDER, LORD GEDDY.

WHILE I'VE ENJOYED ENACTING MY REVENGE ON THOSE THAT HAVE HURT ME, THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO MUCH MORE THAN JUST THAT...IT INTRIGUES ME.

CAN I HAVE SOME TIME TO THINK IT OVER AND DISCUSS THIS WITH MY ADVISORS?



OH, BY ALL MEANS, TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU THINK YOU NEED TO COME TO THIS DECISION.

I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE HOW MUCH THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.



AS FOR CONSULTATION...

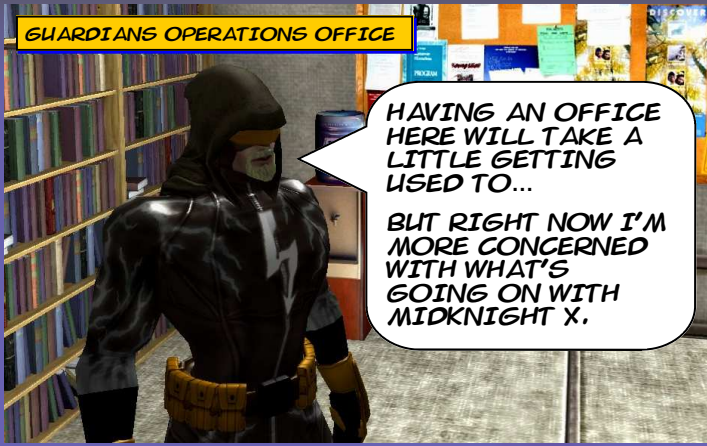
I WOULD ASK THAT YOU KEEP KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CONVERSATION TO AS LIMITED AS POSSIBLE.

PREFERABLY TO JUST YOU AND I, BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MIGHT NEED TO INVOLVE YOUR CLOSEST AND MOST TRUSTED OF ADVISORS.

WHAT I OFFER YOU IS SOMETHING THAT CAN ONLY EXIST AND PERSEVERE FOR AS LONG AS ANONYMITY REIGNS SUPREME.

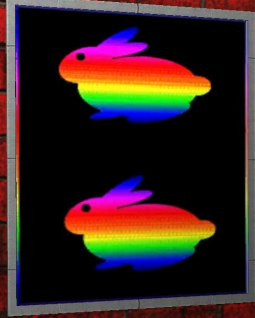
I'LL AWAIT YOUR CALL ON MY PRIVATE LINE BACK IN PARAGON CITY.

GUARDIANS OPERATIONS OFFICE



HAVING AN OFFICE HERE WILL TAKE A LITTLE GETTING USED TO... BUT RIGHT NOW I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MIDNIGHT X.

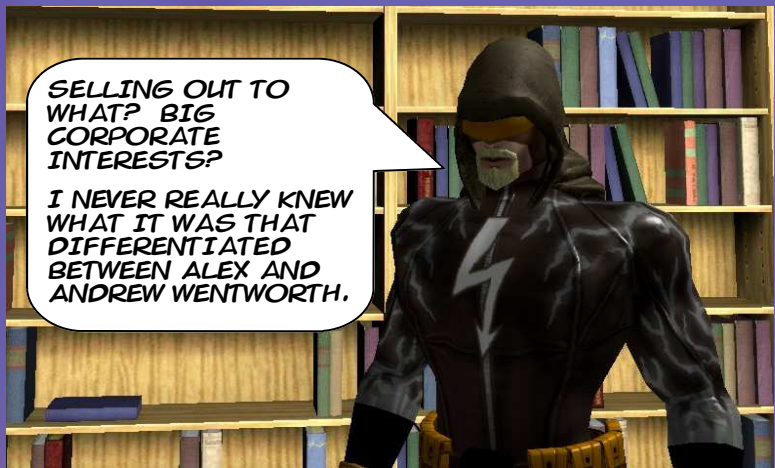
GUARDIAN LOUNGE



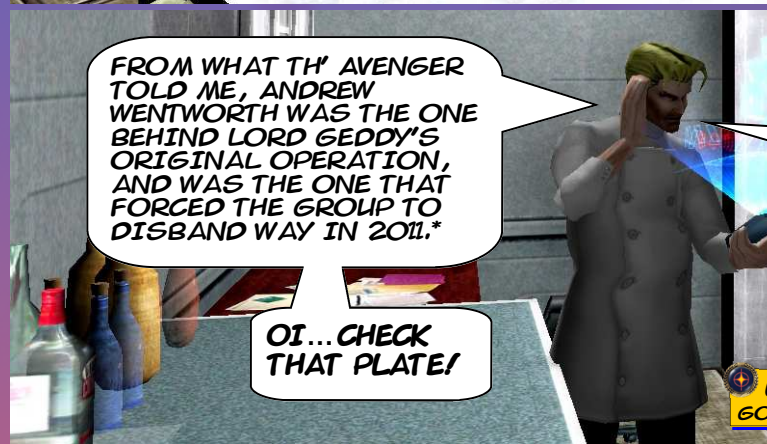
IT'S A PICKLE, THAT ONE IS. FROM WHAT I KNOW, IT STARTED JUST AFTER THE GUARDIANS GOT REACTIVATED.



SOON AS THE KNIGHT HEARD THAT ANDREW WENTWORTH WAS THE NEW SPONSOR, HE GOT ALL-PISSY ABOUT IT. ACCUSED THE LIBERTARIAN AVENGER OF SELLING THE GROUP OUT.



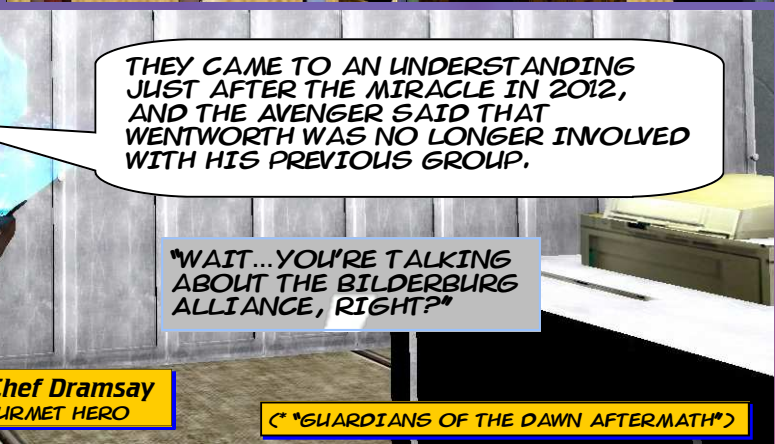
SELLING OUT TO WHAT? BIG CORPORATE INTERESTS? I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT IT WAS THAT DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN ALEX AND ANDREW WENTWORTH.



FROM WHAT TH' AVENGER TOLD ME, ANDREW WENTWORTH WAS THE ONE BEHIND LORD GEDDY'S ORIGINAL OPERATION, AND WAS THE ONE THAT FORCED THE GROUP TO DISBAND WAY IN 2011.*

OI... CHECK THAT PLATE!

Chef Dramsay GOURMET HERO



THEY CAME TO AN UNDERSTANDING JUST AFTER THE MIRACLE IN 2012, AND THE AVENGER SAID THAT WENTWORTH WAS NO LONGER INVOLVED WITH HIS PREVIOUS GROUP.

WAIT... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BILDERBURG ALLIANCE, RIGHT?

(* GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN AFTERMATH *)



YEAH, WOL, UNLIKE YOU, I DON'T HAVE THE PLEASURE OF KEEPING THIS CONVERSATION INSIDE THE OFFICE.

WELL I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS WHOLE THING MYSELF AND PUT AN END TO THIS WHOLE "NOT ANSWERING" CRAP. I'M TAKING THE TELEPORT TO KINGS ROW.

ELSEWHERE IN THE GUARDIAN BASE...

AN EXCLUSIVE ROMAN THERMAE...



KICK SOME BUTT,
LOOKING GOOD
DOING IT...
WHAT A DAY, WHAT A
DAY, WHAT-A-DAY!



LITTLE TIME IN
THE SPRING
POOL SHOULD
DO THE TRICK.



Spring Thermae reserved for...
WOMEN ♀

JUST HOPE THEY HAVE
THE EXTRA-LARGE
TOWELS THIS TIME...



.../



UH... HI.
COEUR DU FEU, RIGHT?
I'M... KDAVE.
ONE OF THE NEWER
GUARDIANS.





HELLO KDAVE.
DO THEY TEACH
NEWER GUARDIANS
TO READ SIGNS
BEFORE
SAUNTERING IN
WHERE THEY LIKE?



OH GOD, I AM
SO SORRY!
YOU'RE RIGHT,
I SHOULD
HAVE READ THE
SIGN!



LISTEN... I KNOW
IT'S A LITTLE
INAPPROPRIATE...
BUT MAYBE I CAN
MAKE IT UP TO
YOU LATER ON?



YOUR SOCIAL
SKILLS LEAVE
A LOT TO BE
DESIRED,
KDAVE.




I KNOW! I KNOW!
AND, LIKE I SAID, I AM
SO SORRRRY!
I MEAN, HERE YOU ARE
TRYING TO RELAX AND ALL
AND I'M HERE GAWKING...


IT'S JUST THAT... I'M RUINING
YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF
ME AND I JUST WANT YOU TO
KNOW I DON'T NORMALLY DO
STUFF LIKE THIS, OKAY?




SO... MAYBE WE CAN
HAVE, LIKE, A DO-
OVER LATER ON?
I REALLY WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW YOU...
YOU KNOW, AS A
FELLOW GUARDIAN.



I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF
I SEE YOU IN THE
GUARDIAN LOUNGE.




BEAUTY!
THANK YOU!




WHAT WAS THAT ALL
ABOUT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SET
HIS NUTS ON FIRE OR
SOMETHING?
I MEAN, HE WAS
WATCHING YOU THERE
NAKED AND TRYING
TO PICK YOU UP!

 **Cassandra Dare**
AKA CARDINAL SYN



I'VE HAD A LITTLE
EXPERIENCE
WORKING WITH
GUYS LIKE HIM,
CASS.
IT'S A MATTER OF
FINESSE.



I DIDN'T ALWAYS HAVE THIS
BODY.
SOME WOMEN SAY THEY
WERE CURSED WITH BEAUTY,
BUT IN MY CASE IT'S A
LITERAL CURSE, THANKS TO
A PARISIAN SPELL BOOK.*
SO HAVING TO DEAL WITH
THIS CURSE INVOLVES ME
OWNING THE EFFECT THAT IT
HAS ON MEN.

GUYS LIKE KDAVE...THEY
CAN'T HELP FUMBLING OVER
THEMSELVES.
SO, RATHER THAN SHOOT
THEM DOWN, JUST LET THEM
CONTINUE TO FUMBLE.

AFTER ALL...WE STILL HAVE
TO WORK WITH THEM.

C* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #9)

MINUTES LATER... IN KINGS ROW...



UNDERNEATH THE CITY...









WHAT THE HELL?
"SELL-OUT"? "QUIT"?
"ON MY OWN?"



GET OUT!

JASON?

**GET OUT OF
MY HOME!**

NOW!



WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT,
JASON? I THOUGHT
YOU STILL HAD
YOUR APARTMENT.

GET OUT!



OH MY GOD...YOU'VE
BEEN LIVING HERE
ALL THIS TIME,
HAVEN'T YOU?

THAT PLACE WAS A STORAGE LOCKER FOR A LIE.

NO WONDER WHY NOBODY COULD REACH YOU AT YOUR APARTMENT... YOU WERE NEVER THERE!

VANGUARD SET THAT PLACE UP FOR YOU AS A REWARD FOR OUR SERVICE WITH THEM!* A WAY FOR YOU TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE!

(* AGAIN, KEEP CHECKING WITH BATTLEROCK COMICS FOR WHEN THAT STORY COMES OUT.)

THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING "NORMAL" ABOUT ME.

I DON'T BUY THAT! WE WERE ALL MESSED UP, SURE. I WAS A RUNAWAY, YOU WERE AN ORPHAN, TAYA WAS... COMPLICATED.

BUT... ARRGH! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS SO WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS LIKE FRIENDS?

WE AREN'T FRIENDS, YOU QUIT! I DIDN'T!

BULLSHIT! I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE DAMIAN TOOK YOU IN! AND SINCE YOUR MENTOR ISN'T ALIVE AND KENT POWERS ISN'T AROUND TO DO IT...

I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU!



WELL?
WHERE ARE
YOU, KNIGHT?

YOU WANTED ME
OUT OF YOUR
PRECIOUS HOME,
RIGHT?
SO HERE I AM!



YOUR "HOME" WITH EQUIPMENT
THAT WAS **STOLEN** FROM THE
GUARDIANS!

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A
GUARDIAN ANYMORE, FINE.

THIS MEANS YOU'RE A **THIEF.**
A CRIMINAL.

NO BETTER THAN THE THUGS YOU
BEAT UP IN KINGS ROW!



OOF!

WHAP!
WHAP!
WHAP!
WHAP!



YOU WANTED TO FACE
ME... RYDER LIGHTNING?
HERE I AM!

AND NOW THAT YOU'VE
SEEN WHERE I LIVE...

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU
TAKE THAT KNOWLEDGE
TO YOUR GRAVE!

Next:
Confrontations!



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

Someone Old, Someone New, Someone Borrowed, and Someone Blue...

So the Guardians are back, and, as you can see, things are a little different. They're not the same group that you may remember from "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight" and "The Guardian Powers".

Some things are the same... but a lot of it isn't.

Someone Old...

Obviously Ryder Lightning, Couer Du Feu, and MidKnight X are back. But they're clearly not the same that you may remember from the previous comics.

Coeur Du Feu's racy new "work" outfit shows just how much she's changed since spending time in the "Time Echo" and with the Stonehenge witches. But is that just a cosmetic change?

Ryder Lightning's new outfit may be sporty, but it doesn't mean that he's the same old electric speedster that he used to be. And we only have "his word" as to how much of his powers he has gotten back, don't we?

Then there's the "Knight"...

As you can see, something is off with MidKnight X. He's darker than before, both in his dialogue and his appearance.

But does "darker" mean evil?

Readers of "The Guardian Powers" will remember that this isn't the first time that the "Knight" has gone off the reservation. He did the same thing after the events of "Guardians of the Dawn AFTERMATH", although back then he had Icon Powers to talk him back.

Can Ryder do the same thing? Or has he simply gone too far? You'll just have to wait another month to find out.

Oh, and of course Galatea Powers and John Cole are back as well.



The original "Stained Glass" image that was used to promote the "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight" series.



The "tampered" version of that same image as it is seen in MidKnight X's "home" (and also on the cover).

Continues on next page...

Someone New...

Chef Dramsay was already introduced in Issue #1, but here he's in his element. He's running the kitchen. But it still remains to be seen what else he can do.

We also introduced two of the newer Guardians in this issue, even though one of them isn't exactly "new" to the world of comics.

KDave first made his appearance in "**Tales From Paragon City**" #1. As a nerdy city official who longed to be anything other than "normal", Phil Ski finally managed to live his dream as the super-sized "Meat Mountain" called "KDave". And ever since his issue first appeared, I've been inundated with requests for more stores about KDave. (*Granted, most of those requests came from the best friend who was the real-life inspiration for both Phil Ski and KDave.*) So when the opportunity came to bring the Guardians back to the world of online comics, why not bring back KDave as well?

Then there's Cardinal Syn, the all-new street vigilante who wears a red wig and wields a mean staff. There's clearly more to Cassandra Dare than meets the eye. And how did she become the new "Guardian of Kings Row"? Was this done with "The Knight's" permission?

Someone Borrowed...

There were references to someone called "Databank" in this issue that I'm sure readers would be curious to know more about.

But if you ever read the more recent issues of "**Justice-Knights**", you'd know who Databank is and his role with that team. But what about his connection to the Guardians?

You'll just have to wait and see about that. Don't worry, you will see him in future issues with the Guardians.

That just leaves...

Someone Blue...

Well that's Elite Ice Queen, of course! Aren't you glad that she's back?

Don't worry, there's more of her to be seen in the next issue.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>



NEXT ISSUE:

IT'S RYDER LIGHTNING VERSUS MIDKNIGHT X IN THE SEWERS UNDER KINGS ROW!

BUT HOW WILL RYDER'S DIMINISHED POWERS ALLOW HIM TO PREVAIL AGAINST A SEEMINGLY OVERPOWERED KNIGHT? CAN KINGS ROW'S SELF-APPOINTED DEFENDER BE BROUGHT BACK TO HIS SENSES?

AND WHAT ABOUT LORD GEDDY'S MEETING WITH LEXIE LOTHORA? WILL SHE SAY "YES" TO HIS OFFER?

FIND OUT AS OUR THREE-PART MINISERIES COMES TO ITS CONCLUSION!



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