

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA

AND
THE GUARDIANS



Issue 20
2016



See This Guy?

His name is Snaptooth, and he hates two things: heroes, and the holidays.

In fact, he hates these two things so much that he kidnaps Baby New Year every year so he can ruin the holidays for everyone, and also so it will bring as many heroes his way so he can pound on them.

Of course, he always loses, but that doesn't stop him from trying over and over again.

So if someone as twisted as him can continue to give everything he has into something he thinks is worthy, then why can't you do the same?

Heroes put their lives on the line every day. They deserve nothing less than our support, especially when they give the ultimate sacrifice for us.



Give To The Fallen Heroes Support Fund!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FALLENHEROESFUND.PARA FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NOT A REAL CHARITY. NOT A REAL WEBSITE.

PANDORA'S BOX



MAGIC IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TREATED LIGHTLY. HAVING THE RIGHT CHARMS AND SPELLS ON HAND CAN LITERALLY BE A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH.

WE OFFER THE BEST TOOLS FOR MYSTICS, MAGES, WIZARDS, AND SORCERERS OF ALL FOLLOWINGS AND COLLECTIVES.

WE ALSO OFFER FREE SCREENINGS FOR THOSE BELIEVED TO BE "CHARMED" OR "CURSED".

COME IN TODAY AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE!

SKYWAY CITY - STEEL CANYON - INDEPENDENCE PORT - TALOS ISLAND

Pandora's Box is a business that only exists in the City of Heroes MMO. Not a real-world business franchise. Any similarities to a real-world business is coincidental, and really should be suspect.

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

Previously...

A sudden solar storm produced the largest coronal mass ejection in human history. The immediate threat was stopped thanks to the heroic efforts of the human-Kheldian hybrids led by Daybright of the Guardians of the Dawn.

But while Earth was spared the brunt of the damage, the CME still caused problems for civilization. Power outages and overloads spread around the world. Riots and looting were rampant.

With most of the superhero community busy trying to keep the peace, Galatea Powers led a search-and-rescue mission for Daybright and any other surviving Kheldians with help from the Justice-Knights and their repurposed Rikti mothership, the Gilgamesh.

Galatea found Daybright and several other badly injured Kheldians atop a lone orbiting defense platform, but she also found herself suddenly overwhelmed with power. The Justice-Knight also discovered that the injured Kheldians were the only ones keeping that orbital platform in a stable orbit around the Earth. With the hybrids now evacuated to the Gilgamesh, the platform's orbit has decayed.

Now...

The orbital defense platform is falling back to Earth, and with the Kheldian hybrids unable to help, the only hope for the planet rests with a trio of "D-list" heroes and a seemingly incapacitated Galatea Powers.

"ICARUS - PART 3"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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THE GOOD NEWS, LADY GREY, IS THAT WE ARE STARTING TO GET SOME DATA FROM WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ORBIT.

YES, MA'AM, I KNOW THAT THE CORONAL MASS EJECTION DESTROYED ALL OF OUR ORBITING SATELLITES.

BUT OUR GROUND-BASED TELESCOPES AND RADAR ARE STARTING TO COME BACK ONLINE!

 **Director Leopold Simms**
UNITED NATIONS SPACE AGENCY

THE BAD NEWS, MA'AM, IS WHAT THEY'RE TELLING US.

WE'RE SEEING ONE OF THE ORBITAL PLATFORMS ON A RAPIDLY DEGRADING PATH TO EARTH.

AND WE'RE SEEING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RIKTI MOTHERSHIP RUNNING PARALLEL TO IT!

YES, MA'AM. PARALLEL.

MA'AM, IF I HAD TO SPECULATE, IT APPEARS THAT THE RIKTI SHIP MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR MOVING THE PLATFORM OUT OF ORBIT.

LADY GREY, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE ANY AND ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO STOP THE RIKTI SHIP....
... WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

NO, LADY GREY, I ASSURE YOU THAT RIKTI SHIP IS ON OUR SIDE.

YES, MA'AM, THAT'S THE GILGAMESH.

IF I HAD TO VENTURE A GUESS, IT'S BECAUSE THE AMBIENT ENERGY STILL UP THERE FROM THE CORONAL MASS EJECTION IS INTERFERING WITH ITS ULTRA-LOW FREQUENCY TRANSPONDER.

Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)

NO, I UNDERSTAND HOW DIRECTOR SIMMS COULD MAKE THAT MISTAKE GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THAT SHIP UP THERE IS THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS BASE.

YES, WE ARE AWARE OF THE THREAT AND WE ARE TRYING TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED CONFIDENCE, MA'AM.

WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDATED.

I JUST STOPPED VANGUARD OBAMA FROM GETTING OBAMA TO FIRE A NUCLEAR MISSILE AT THE GILGAMESH.

BUT WE MAY HAVE TO DO THAT TO KNOCK OUT THE PLATFORM IF WE CAN'T FIX ITS ORBIT.

IT WOULDN'T NEED TO BE AN OPTION IF WE CAN SOMEHOW FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO GALATEA... OTHER THAN SHE'S ON THE PATH TO BECOMING AN INCARNATE HERO.

Carlton Sage
VANGUARD OVERSEER

SOMETHING ELSE HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME, THOUGH...

THE GILGAMESH IS A RESTORED RIKTI MOTHERSHIP, RIGHT?

WHY CAN'T THE KNIGHTS USE THE RIKTI WEAPONS?

LET'S ASK THE KNIGHTS THEMSELVES...

GUARDIAN BASE TO GILGAMESH:

WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS DO YOU HAVE UP THERE THAT COULD HELP?

NOTHING THAT
COULD HELP,
GUARDIAN BASE.

DESPITE THE ALIEN
INFLUENCE, THE RIKTI
DESIGNED THESE
SHIPS MOSTLY FOR
TERRESTRIAL DAMAGE.

★ **Biosphere**
(DR. AARON NELLIS)

STORAGE INVENTORY DOES
INCLUDE SEVERAL SMALLER
VESSELS,

HOWEVER THEY ARE NOT
AUTOMATED AND WE DO NOT
POSSESS THE MANPOWER
TO BOTH PILOT THEM AND
MAINTAIN THIS VESSEL.

★ **Databank**
JUSTICE-KNIGHTS MEMBER

WHEN THE TAOSIANS
HELPED US REBUILD
THE SHIP, THEY MADE
IT CAPABLE OF
INTERSTELLAR
TRAVEL AGAIN, BUT
THEY DIDN'T INCLUDE
ANY OF THEIR
WEAPONS.

NOT EVEN A
TRACTOR-
BEAM?

WHAT ABOUT THE
DROP SHIPS? THE
HEAVY PROBES?
THE BOMBS?

MOST OF THE DROP SHIPS
WERE JETTISONED BEFORE
THE SHIP CRASHED
DURING THE RIKTI WAR.
USING THE BOMBS WOULD
ONLY FRAGMENT THE
PLATFORM... WHICH WOULD
BE JUST AS BAD.

AND WE ONLY HAD TWO
FUNCTIONING RIKTI HEAVY
DRONES... AND YOUR
FRIEND DOC TOR RAN ONE
OF THEM INTO A SHIVAN
ROCK A FEW YEARS AGO.*

BUT WE'RE GOING
STILL GOING TO
TRY TO FIND
SOMETHING TO
STOP THE
PLATFORM FROM
COMING DOWN ON
THE PLANET.

* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN
SPOTLIGHT" #10

ON THE SURFACE OF THE ORBITAL
DEFENSE PLATFORM...

IT'S SO...
OVERWHELMING!

I CAN FEEL THE SHIFT
OF THE MOLTEN
SURFACE AS IT
SLOWLY COOLS.

I CAN... I CAN HEAR
THE TRANSMISSIONS
FROM EARTH.

I SHOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO, BUT I CAN.

Galatea Powers
(FAITH KARL)

11%

THE COSMOS... I
CAN SEE IT ALL.

THE STARS, THEIR
PLANETS AND
MOONS, THE DISTANT
GALAXIES...

IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE
UNIVERSE OPENED UP
RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

I WANT TO GET UP...
I WANT TO JUST FLY OUT
THERE AND SEE IT ALL.

BUT IT'S LIKE EVERY
NERVE IN MY BODY
IS SUPERCHARGED
AND I CAN'T MOVE.

13%

OH GOD WHAT IS
HAPPENING TO ME?

TALOS ISLAND

PENNY FOR
YOUR
THOUGHTS?

HELLO?
ANYONE
HOME?

★ **Monstermass**
FRESHMAN HEROINE

SORRY. I GUESS
I WAS... LOST IN
THOUGHT.
IT'S A NICE VIEW.

★ **Guardian Star**
(JOHN COLE)

YEAH, IF YOU'RE AN
ARCHITECT.
BUT FOR MOST
PEOPLE, THE REAL
VIEW IS THE STATUE
OF TALOS... WHICH
IS IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION.

WELL, TALOS MAY BE
A NICE SIGHT, BUT
ONCE YOU'VE LIVED
HERE A WHILE, YOU
GET USED TO IT.

OH. WELL, SEE, I'M
STILL NEW TO ALL
OF THIS, SO IT'S
ALL STILL EXCITING.

SPEAKING OF
WHICH...

I'M TOLD
THERE'S A
SECRET DOOR
TO POCKET D
JUST A BLOCK
AWAY.

MAYBE WE CAN
CELEBRATE OUR
FIRST TEAM-UP
WITH A DRINK OR
TWO AND SEE WHAT
ELSE CAN BE "NEW
AND EXCITING"?
MY TREAT.



WAIT...
NO...
SORRY,
I CAN'T.



DON'T GET ME
WRONG... I ENJOYED
TEAMING WITH YOU.
BUT... I'M SEEING
SOMEONE, AND I
DON'T WANT ANYONE
TO GET MIXED
MESSAGES.



BESIDES, WE STILL
HAVE A WAY TO GO
HERE BEFORE
THINGS GET
STABLE ENOUGH
FOR ANYONE TO
CELEBRATE.

SURE... SURE...
WHAT WAS I
THINKING?
DUH! SORRY.

PING

**PRIORITY CALL FOR
GUARDIAN STAR**



THIS IS
GUARDIAN STAR,
RESPONDING TO
PAGE.

VANGUARD
CLEARANCE.
UNDERSTOOD.

**EMERGENCY CALL
AT PHOENIX
MEDICAL CENTER.
VANGUARD
CLEARANCE ONLY.**



SORRY, BUT THIS
IS ONE OF THOSE
MISSIONS THAT I
HAVE TO HANDLE BY
MYSELF.

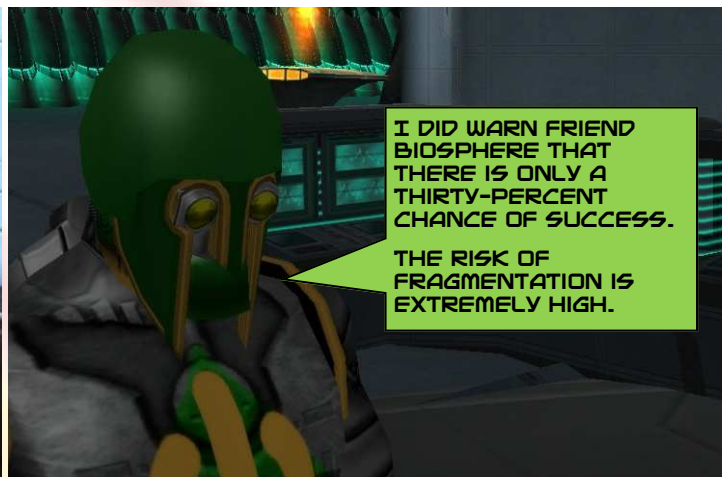
BUT IT WAS A
PLEASURE TEAMING
WITH YOU.



LIKEWISE.
AND, WHO KNOWS?
WE MAY BE TEAMING
TOGETHER AGAIN.



WAIT... YOU'RE
FIRING HARPOONS
AND TOW CABLES
AT THE PLATFORM?
THAT'S... ACTUALLY
A GOOD IDEA.



I DID WARN FRIEND
BIOSPHERE THAT
THERE IS ONLY A
THIRTY-PERCENT
CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
THE RISK OF
FRAGMENTATION IS
EXTREMELY HIGH.



THAT WAS ALSO BEFORE
DATABANK WAS ABLE TO
COMPUTE JUST WHAT THE
DAMAGE WOULD BE IF WE
LET THE PLATFORM FALL.

IT'S NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO BE AN
EXTINCTION-LEVEL EVENT, BUT IT
WOULD STILL BE LARGE ENOUGH
TO CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO
THE PLANET.



IF THAT THING CRASHES ON LAND, IT
LEAVES A CRATER THE SIZE OF RHODE
ISLAND AND A NUCLEAR WINTER FOR
THE PLANET FOR A DECADE.

IF IT CRASHES IN WATER, THE
DISPLACED WATER FLOODS ALL
COASTAL AREAS, NOT TO
MENTION IT ENDANGERS OUR
FRIENDS, THE TAOSIANS.

SO FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION
HERE, GUARDIAN BASE, AND NO
OPTION IS TOO RISKY IF IT
MEANS SAVING THE PLANET.



QUITE A VIEW,
ISN'T IT?



A SMALL BLUE MARBLE IN
A SEA OF BLACK, BUT
SOMEHOW THE OCEANS
AND THE AIR GIVE IT A
GLOW THAT MAKES THE
EARTH STAND OUT ABOVE
ALL OTHER PLANETS.



OH, AND YOU CAN
GET UP NOW. I'VE
FILTERED OUT MOST
OF THE NEUTRINOS
THAT WERE
SUPERCHARGING
YOUR BODY.



YOU... YOU'RE
TALKING... I CAN
HEAR YOU... BUT IT'S
NOT ON THE RADIO.
BUT THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE HERE!
THERE'S NO AIR!




WAIT... I
CAN'T HEAR
THE COMMS.




YOU CREATED A NULL
FIELD AROUND US.
SOMEPLACE WHERE WE
CAN TALK BUT
WITHOUT ANYONE
ELSE KNOWING.

YOU PICKED
UP ON THAT
FASTER THAN
EXPECTED.
GRATZ.



THIS IS
INCREDIBLE!
IF THERE'S SOME
WAY WE CAN USE
THIS SO I CAN GET
BACK TO THE SHIP...

I'M AFRAID OUR
TIME IS LIMITED
AND THERE IS
SOMETHING FAR
MORE IMPORTANT I
HAVE TO SHARE
WITH YOU.




BUT... HOW ARE YOU
DOING THIS? HOW?
AND... WHO ARE
YOU? I SAW YOU
ONCE BEFORE...*


ON THAT DEAD
EARTH, YES.
I SHOWED YOU
THE WAY HOME.

MY NAME IS
QUINN... AND THE
SHORT ANSWER TO
"HOW" IS UTOPIAN
TECHNOLOGY.


(* ISSUE #5)



YOU'RE A UTOPIAN?
BUT GILL GAMMA
SAID THAT HE WAS
THE LAST OF THE
UTOPIANS.



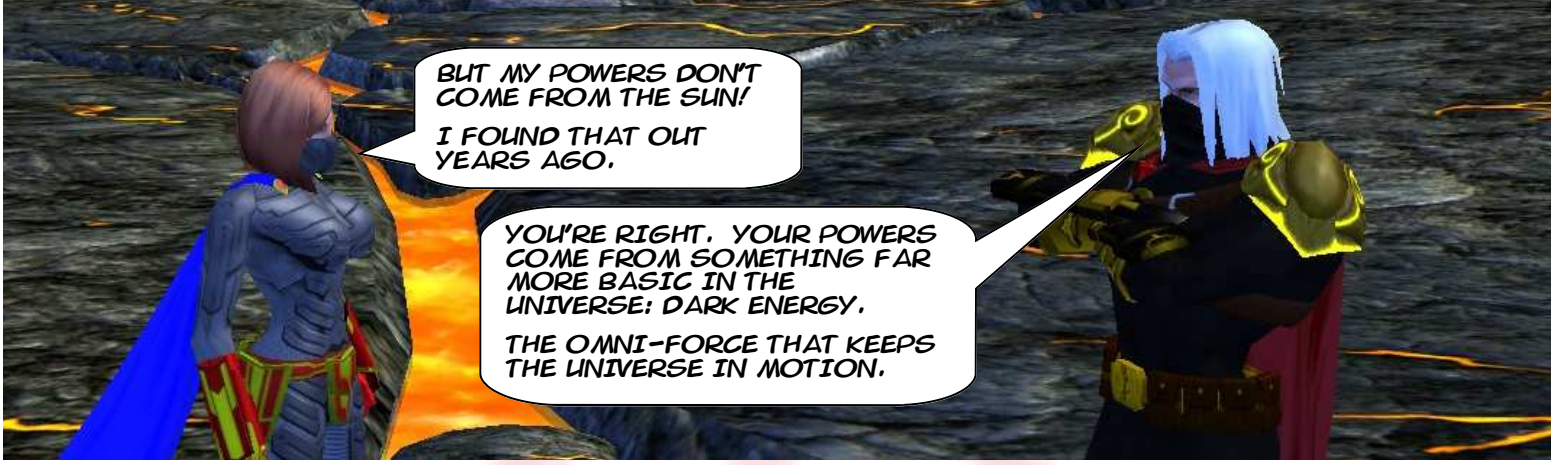
GILL GAMMA IS
MANY THINGS,
GALATEA POWERS.
"TRUTHFUL" IS FAR
FROM BEING ONE
OF THEM.



BUT YOU'LL FIND
OUT THE REST OF
THAT IN DUE TIME.
WHAT I HAVE TO
SHARE WITH YOU
CANNOT WAIT.

YOU ARE AT THE CUSP OF
YOUR PERSONAL EVOLUTION.
YOU ARE ON THE PATH TO
BECOMING AN INCARNATE
BEING.

NORMALLY THIS PROCESS
WOULD TAKE YEARS, BUT
THE UNIQUE RADIATION
FROM THE EJECTED SOLAR
MATERIAL GAVE YOUR BODY
A BOOST, WHICH IS WHY
YOU WERE OVERWHELMED
WITH ENERGY.

A comic book panel showing two characters on a dark, rocky planet with glowing orange lava flows. On the left, Galatea, a woman with short reddish-brown hair wearing a grey and blue armored suit with a blue cape, is looking towards the right. On the right, Rularuu, a man with long white hair and a black face mask, wearing a black and gold suit with a red cape, is looking back at her.

BUT MY POWERS DON'T
COME FROM THE SUN!
I FOUND THAT OUT
YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOUR POWERS
COME FROM SOMETHING FAR
MORE BASIC IN THE
UNIVERSE: DARK ENERGY.
THE OMNI-FORCE THAT KEEPS
THE UNIVERSE IN MOTION.

A close-up comic book panel of Rularuu. He has long white hair and a black face mask. He is wearing a black and gold suit with a red cape and a brown belt with multiple buckles. He is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression.

FOR THE FEW BEINGS THAT BECOME
INCARNATE, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR
PERSONALITIES ARE MAGNIFIED.

WHAT WAS KIND AND NOBLE BEFORE
BECOMES HEROIC. WHAT WAS PETTY
AND SELFISH BECOMES EVIL.

BUT WHILE YOUR TRANSFORMATION MAY
MAGNIFY THE HEROIC TRAITS YOU
ALREADY POSSESS, IT WILL ALSO BE AT
A LEVEL THAT WILL MAKE CERTAIN
COSMIC FORCES NERVOUS.

GILL GAMMA IS JUST ONE OF THESE
BEINGS THAT SEE IT. THERE ARE FAR
MORE POWERFUL BEINGS THAT WILL
SOON SEE YOUR POTENTIAL AS A
OUTRIGHT THREAT TO THEIR EXISTENCE.

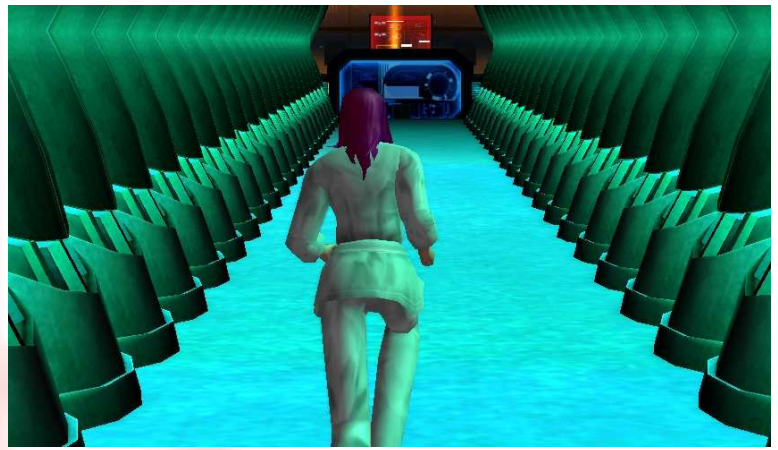
A comic book panel showing Galatea and Rularuu in conversation. Galatea is on the left, seen from the side, looking at Rularuu. Rularuu is on the right, partially visible, looking back at her. The background is the same volcanic landscape with lava flows.

YOU MEAN
RULARUU.

DO NOT BE SO OPEN WITH
HIS NAME, GALATEA.

EVEN LESSER GODS LIKE
MOT PAUSE AT HIS
MENTION.

BUT, YES, HE ALREADY
SEES YOUR POTENTIAL AS
A THREAT TO HIS POWER.



SHEER IS AT EIGHTEEN PERCENT ABOVE TOLERANCE.

I'LL NEED ANOTHER MINUTE TO LAUNCH TWO MORE HARPOONS.



IF YOU'RE DOING WHAT I THINK YOU'RE DOING, THEN IT WON'T WORK.



THE PLATFORM'S ATTRACTION TO THE PLANET IS TOO GREAT FOR YOU TO JUST TOW IT AWAY.

Grace Fellows
AKA DAYBRIGHT



OKAY, WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET ABOARD THIS SHIP? AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?



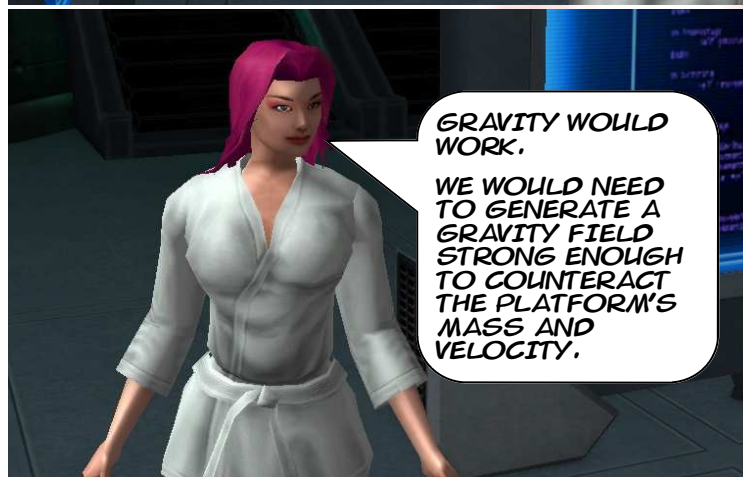
SUBJECT IS FRIEND GRACE FELLOWS.
FRIEND GRACE FELLOWS WAS BROUGHT HERE BY FRIEND GALATEA POWERS.
FRIEND GRACE FELLOWS IS ALSO FRIEND DAYBRIGHT.



IT'S A LITTLE COMPLICATED, BUT DATABANK IS RIGHT ABOUT WHO I AM.

AND ALL THE TOW CABLES IN THE WORLD WON'T BE ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE PLATFORM'S DESCENT.

PRESUMING YOU'RE RIGHT... WHAT ELSE WOULD WE NEED?



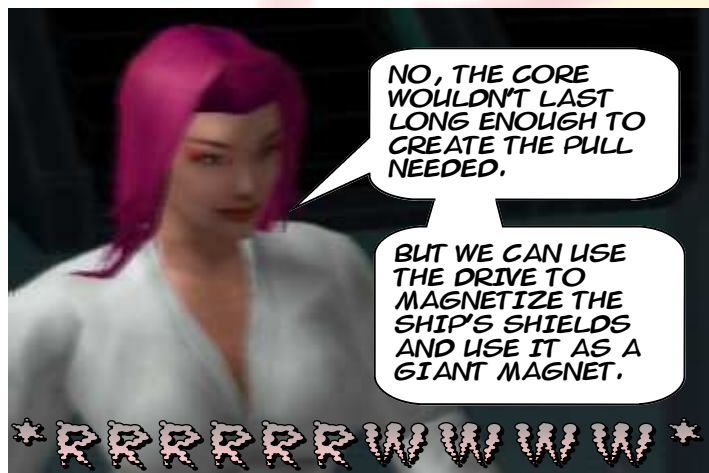
GRAVITY WOULD WORK.

WE WOULD NEED TO GENERATE A GRAVITY FIELD STRONG ENOUGH TO COUNTERACT THE PLATFORM'S MASS AND VELOCITY.



OUR SHIP IS POWERED BY A MINIATURE BLACK HOLE DRIVE...

BUT... JETTISONING THE DRIVE WOULDN'T HELP.



NO, THE CORE WOULDN'T LAST LONG ENOUGH TO CREATE THE PULL NEEDED.

BUT WE CAN USE THE DRIVE TO MAGNETIZE THE SHIP'S SHIELDS AND USE IT AS A GIANT MAGNET.

RRRRRRRWWW *WWW*



ENGINEERING CONSOLE'S RIGHT THERE. GO!



WHOA! AN OLD TAOSIAN CONFIGURATION! NO WONDER IT'S BEING UNDERUTILIZED.

I FEEL LIKE I WAS JUST HANDED AN APPLE IIE.

Change Your Costume With A Click!



If you're a hero, then you know that embarrassing moment when some big crisis happens and you don't have your hero outfit with you.

Sure, you can try to wear your hero outfit under your clothes, but that gets too uncomfortable really fast. And carrying them around in a purse or knapsack invites you to either leave it behind or to have it stolen by some punk.

Now you don't have to worry about changing into your hero attire thanks to the **icon** costume pack.

The **icon** costume pack allows you to change to and from your hero outfit with just a click of a button. Within seconds, your civilian attire is gone and you are in your hero gear, ready to fight evil. And after the day is saved, another click will restore you to your civilian attire like nothing ever happened.

So why worry about whether or not you can change into your hero attire in time? Head on over to your nearest **icon** tailor store today and you can be just one click away from ready.

Atlas Park * Steel Canyon * Independence Port * Founders Falls

i c o n

IT'S LIKE SHE'S WEARING NOTHING!

Don't get caught with ugly underwear lines under your skin-tight hero outfit, or risk possible embarrassment by having nothing on underneath.

Our patented Skin 2 lingerie covers you where you need it the most, preventing you from having those embarrassing moments of being "overexposed", as well as providing miracle support even in the most harrowing of deathtraps.

And no matter the intensity of the crisis, nobody will mistake your seriousness for anything else as long as you're wearing Skin 2 under your costume.

Whether defending the world or rescuing kittens, Skin 2 is there for you like it was your own skin.

Skin 2

Available exclusively at your nearest
ICON tailor store.





Not All Holiday Events Are "Fun"!

It's a FACT:

- ⇒ Even though they first appear in brightly-colored boxes, Winter Horde monsters are far from festive creatures.
- ⇒ Even when defeated, still-melting snow creatures have been known to cause havoc with the daily commute and have even caused power-outages.
- ⇒ While a “winter wonderland” is beautiful to view in Atlas Park, the mere threat by Lord and Lady Winter to make the rest of the world a frozen wasteland is still enough to shut down stores and schools.

Why let holiday monsters ruin your holiday living?



Green Pouch survival kits are perfect year-round, providing enough food to feed a family of four without cooking or refrigeration. And they provide enough variety to ensure that you won't suffer winter blues from blandness.

Buy Green Pouch Survival Kits at any local store.

Don't wait until the next threat of a great freeze! Get prepared TODAY!



PHOENIX MEDICAL CENTER - TALOS ISLAND

I WAS A BIT RELIEVED TO GET THIS ASSIGNMENT SOLO.



I DON'T MIND WORKING WITH NEW HEROES.

I'M STILL NEW AT THIS MYSELF.



BUT I THINK MONSTERMASS WAS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER KIND OF "TANK AND SPANK".



MIND ON THE CASE, COLE!

THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG HERE.



THIS IS THE CONTAINMENT STASIS CHAMBER THAT WAS HOLDING THE XENONITE MAN'S REMAINS.

GALATEA TOLD ME ABOUT HER RUN-IN WITH HIM WEEKS AGO.*

(* ISSUE #15)

BUT THE DOORS LOOK LIKE THEY WERE FORCED OPEN FROM THE INSIDE!

AND I'M PICKING UP XENONITE RADIATION ON THE SCANNER.



GUARDIAN STAR TO BASE: THE XENONITE MAN'S BODY IS GONE. HOW THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED REMAINS A MYSTERY FOR NOW.

THE SCANNER IN MY COMM DEVICE IS PICKING UP A FAINT TRAIL OF XENONITE RADIATION.

I'M GOING TO FOLLOW IT TO SEE IF I CAN CATCH UP TO WHOMEVER HAS TAKEN THE BODY.



THE GILGAMESH...



THE PLATFORM IS
FALLING TO EARTH.
YOU KNOW THIS.
YOU'VE BEEN
FEELING IT ALONG
WITH EVERYTHING
ELSE HERE.



THEY'RE NOT GOING
TO SUCCEED, NOT
BY THEMSELVES.

I HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING
TO HELP THEM.



ONCE YOU LEAVE THE NULL
FIELD, YOU WILL ONCE
AGAIN BE BOMBARDED WITH
THE NEUTRINOS THAT HAVE
BEEN SUPERCHARGING YOUR
BODY AND HASTENING YOUR
TRANSFORMATION.

YOU KNOW WHAT IS
HAPPENING TO YOU NOW.
USE THAT AS A TOOL.

AND KNOW THAT I WON'T BE
THE ONLY ONE WATCHING
FROM A DISTANCE.

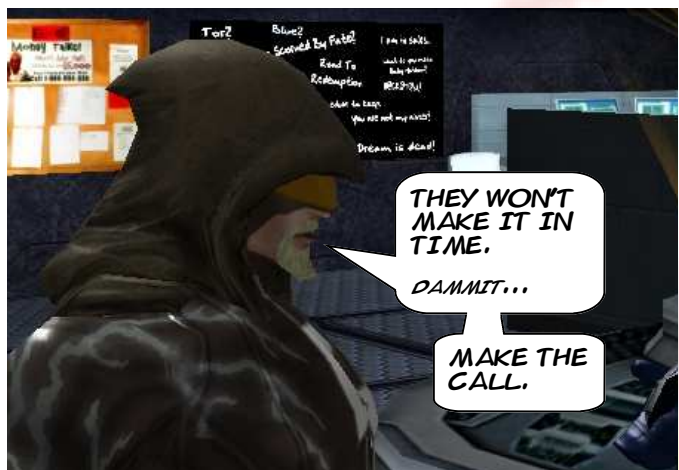


ALL AVAILABLE
POWER HAS BEEN
DIVERTED TO THE
FULL
POLARIZATION
OF THE SHIELDS.



THE RATE OF DESCENT
IS SLOWING, BUT
IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

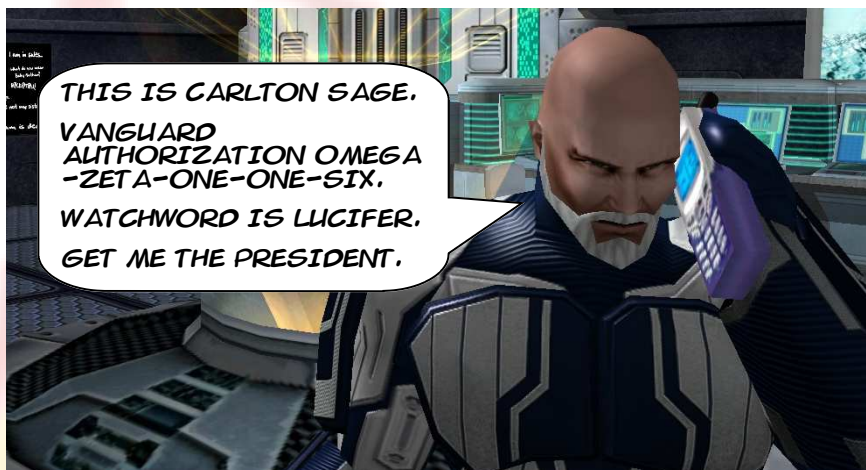
WE'LL CROSS OVER
THE RED-LINE IN TWO
MINUTES.



THEY WON'T
MAKE IT IN
TIME.

DAMMIT...

MAKE THE
CALL.



THIS IS CARLTON SAGE.
VANGUARD
AUTHORIZATION OMEGA
-ZETA-ONE-ONE-SIX.
WATCHWORD IS LUCIFER.
GET ME THE PRESIDENT.



NMF

THIS IS...
GALATEA...
POWERS.



'TAYAP

LISTEN TO ME...
GET OFF THAT
PLATFORM
RIGHT NOW!



ON THAT...
ON THAT WE'RE IN
AGREEMENT.
JUST NOT... NOT IN
THE WAY YOU THINK.



I'M GOING... TO USE MY
FLIGHT POWER TO PUSH
THE PLATFORM INSTEAD
OF IT PUSHING ME.
IT NORMALLY TAKES A
LOT OF... OF POWER.

HEH...

THANKFULLY RIGHT
NOW I HAVE...
PLENTY TO... SPARE.





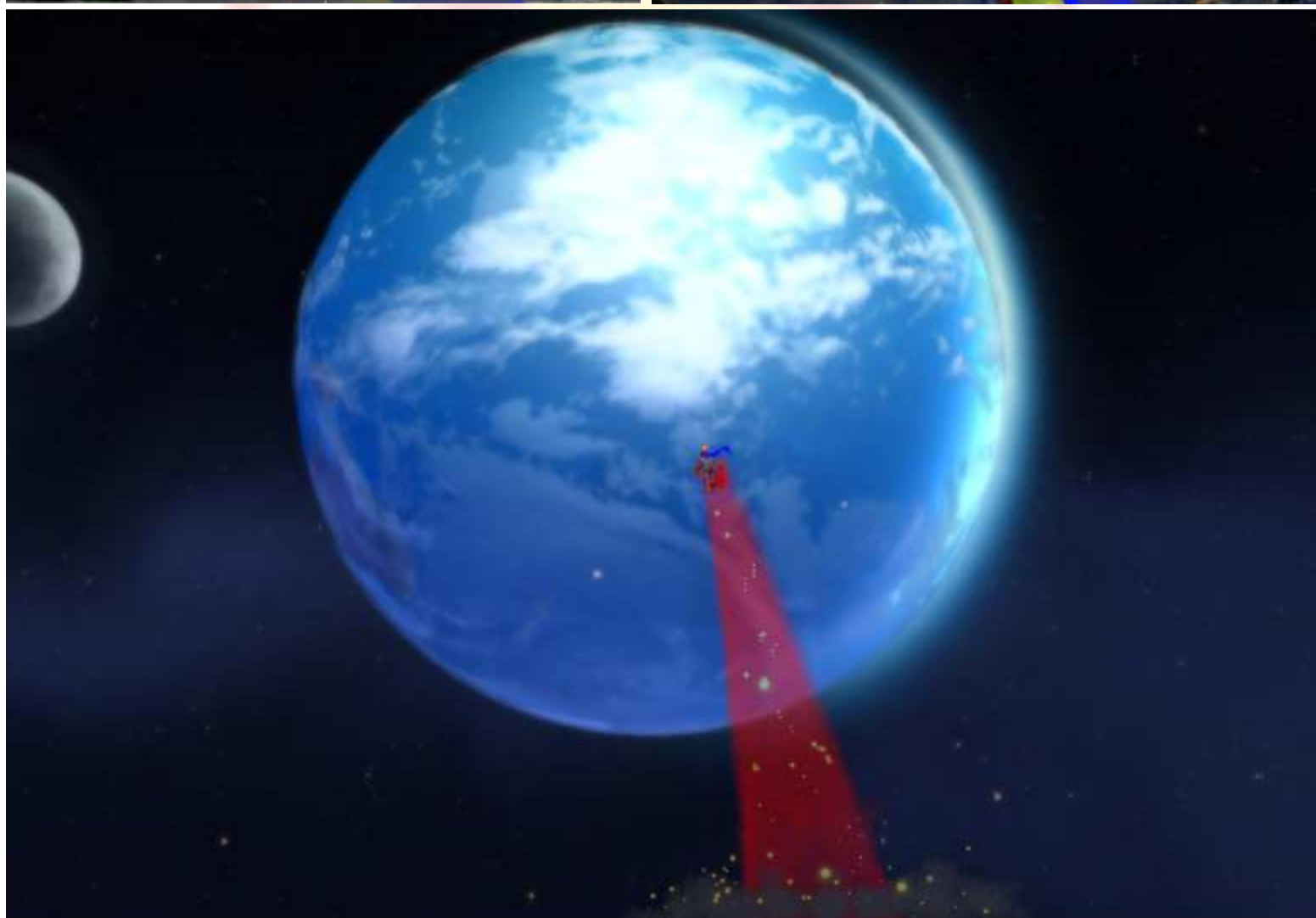
'TAYA... YOU DO
REALIZE THE
AMOUNT OF
THRUST YOU'LL
NEED TO--



GILGAMESH... WE
CAN EITHER DO
OR DEBATE...
AND I'M VOTING
"DO".



SEE YOU...
PLANETSIDE.





MY GOD...
SHE JUST...
LAUNCHED HERSELF...
AND THE PLATFORM.



COMPENSATING FOR
ADDITIONAL THRUST.
THE PLATFORM IS
MOVING AWAY FROM
CRITICAL THRESHOLD.



IF I'M READING
THIS RIGHT... WE
SHOULD HAVE
ENOUGH MOMENTUM
NOW TO GUIDE THE
PLATFORM INTO A
NEW STABLE ORBIT.



GALATEA DID IT.
I JUST HOPE SHE
CAN SURVIVE RE-
ENTRY.



IS THERE ANY WAY
WE CAN TELEPORT
HER HERE?

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES...
WITH ALL OUR SATELLITES
WORKING AND WITHOUT THE
AMBIENT ENERGY STILL IN THE
ATMOSPHERE FROM THE C-M-E?
MAYBE.

RIGHT NOW?
NO CHANCE AT ALL.

CITY HALL - ATLAS PARK



"I'M MORE CONCERNED
ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN
WHEN SHE LANDS AT THAT
SPEED."



WE'RE NOW GETTING
REPORTS OF A SMALL
OBJECT ENTERING OUR
ATMOSPHERE.



THERE IS NO WORD
WHETHER OR NOT
THIS IS PART OF THE
ORBITAL PLATFORM
WHICH WAS
REPORTEDLY
HEADING TO EARTH.



"CIVIL AUTHORITIES
ARE ON FULL ALERT.
MEANWHILE ALL
CIVILIANS ARE URGED
TO STAY AWAY FROM
WINDOWS AND TO SEEK
SHELTER."

"STAY HERE WITH P-N-N
FOR MORE
INFORMATION AS IT
BECOMES AVAILABLE."

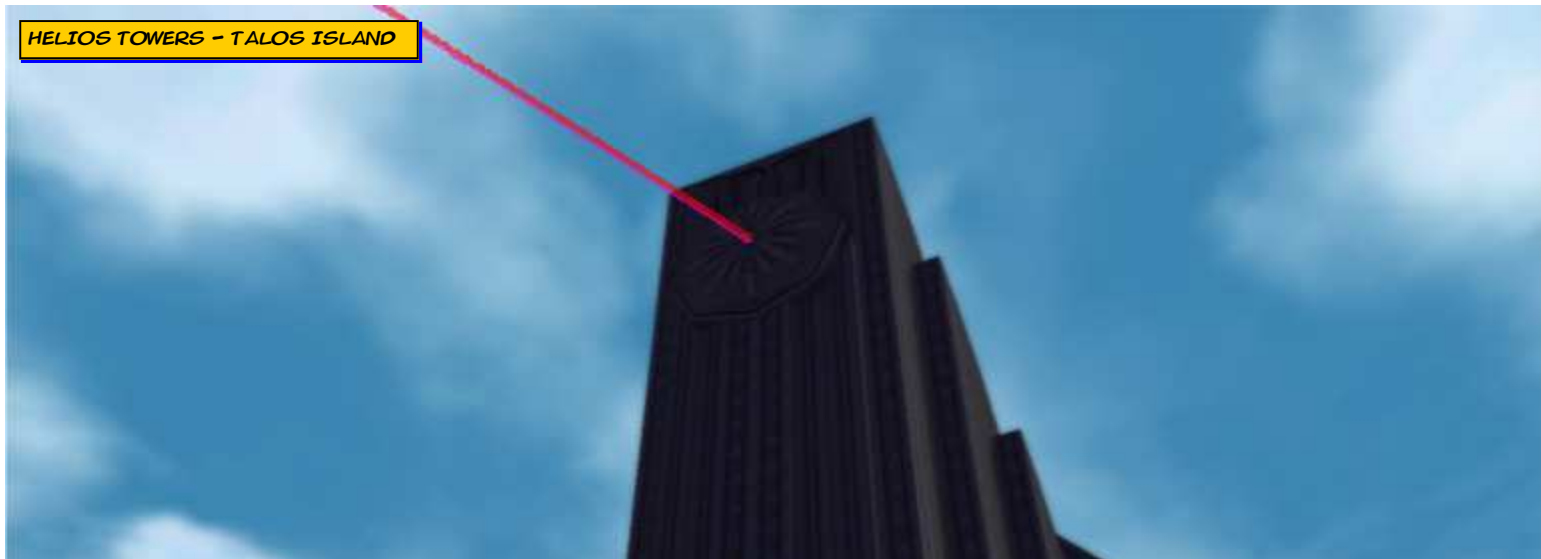
STEEL CANYON



"IF SHE HITS ONE OF THE
POPULATED PARTS OF
THE CITY AT THAT SPEED,
IT'LL BE LIKE THE SHIVAN
METEOR STRIKE IN
GALAXY CITY."

"IT'LL KILL HUNDREDS
OF PEOPLE...
... AND THIS TIME WE'LL
REALLY BE THE ONES AT
FAULT!"

HELIOS TOWERS - TALOS ISLAND



THE HOLLOWS (FORMERLY EASTGATE)



UNDERNEATH TALOS ISLAND

I HATE GOING INTO
THE SEWERS...
BUT THE TRAIL IS
LEADING ME HERE.

I JUST HOPE
I CAN CATCH
UP WITH HIM
SOON.

WHAT THE HELL?
THIS WALL WAS
BLASTED IN,
NOT OUT.

SOMEONE WAS
PREPARING
FOR THIS.

DAMN...
THEY WENT
TOPSIDE.

AND THE
RADIATION
TRAIL ENDS
HERE.

GUARDIAN STAR TO
BASE:

I FOLLOWED THE
RADIATION TRAIL
THROUGH THE SEWER
SYSTEM, BUT THEN
IT EMPTIED INTO A
COMMERCIAL
BUILDING.

SOMEONE TOOK THE
XENONITE MAN, AND
WHOEVER IT WAS,
THEY WERE PREPARED.

UNDERSTOOD, GUARDIAN
STAR.

SUBMIT YOUR REPORT WHEN
YOU CAN AND WE'LL INFORM
RYDER LIGHTNING.





DID YOU
REALLY GO
OUT IN SPACE
IN JUST YOUR
BRA AND
PANTIES?



SNORT
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

'CUZ... YOU
KNOW... THAT
WOULD BE REALLY
BADASS.



HAHAHAHAHAHA...

NO, MY SPACE
SUIT BURNED UP
IN RE-ENTRY.

TOO BAD... YOU
MISSED ONE HELL OF
AN OPPORTUNITY.

"ONE SMALL STEP
FOR WOMAN, ONE
GIANT LEAP FOR
LINGERIE."



HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

I'D LAUGH BUT IT
STILL HURTS TOO
MUCH...

BUT I'M GLAD I
COULD HELP...
IT'S WHAT
SISTERS ARE
FOR, RIGHT?



NOVEMBER 2016

TIME PASSES...

WOUNDS HEAL.

THE CITIES
RECOVER.

AND SO DO
THEIR HEROES.

"SO... WHAT DO YOU
THINK SO FAR?
HELL OF A VIEW, HUHP"

IT'S OKAY.
BUT IT'S NOTHING
LIKE BEING OUT
THERE YOURSELF.

OH, DID I MENTION THAT
SHE'S SPACE-WORTHY?
WE CAN TAKE HER OUT FOR
A SPIN, IF YOU WANT.
QUICK JUMP TO THE ORT
CLOUD AND BACK...

THERE'S A PLACE
HERE ON THE SHIP
THAT... WELL, I
THINK YOU'LL
AGREE IS THE
CLOSEST THING
TO HEAVEN IN THE
RIGHT SETTING.

★ Dr. Frostburg
(DR. FREDRICK ROSSBERG)

DOCTOR, YOU ASKED
ME TO COME HERE TO
CHECK OUT THE DRIVE
CONFIGURATION.
IF YOU THINK THAT
CAN BE A PETTY PLOY
TO CHECK OUT MY
CONFIGURATION...

WELL, JUST
REMEMBER THAT I
CAN STILL X-RAY
SOMEONE'S
TESTICLES STERILE.

IN ONE OF HIS LAST ACTS IN OFFICE, PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA VISITED PARAGON CITY TO PERSONALLY THANK THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN KHELDIAN HYBRIDS THAT SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE THE PLANET FROM THE CORONAL MASS EJECTION THIS PAST FALL.

OVER ONE HUNDRED KHELDIANS WERE INVOLVED WITH THE EMERGENCY SHIELD WHICH COST THE LIVES OF FORTY-TWO, AND SEVERELY INJURED THIRTY-NINE HYBRIDS.

PNN AFTERNOON NEWS WITH ROBIN STEED



"PRESIDENT OBAMA IS SEEN HERE WITH SUNSTORM AND DAYBRIGHT, TWO OF THE LEADERS OF THE DEFENSE TEAM, AS THEY ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM ON BEHALF OF THEIR FALLEN BRETHREN."



OBAMA PAYS HOMAGE TO KHELDIAN HEROES



WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS... THE GRATITUDE... WE HAVE... FOR OUR KHELDIAN FRIENDS FOR... THEIR NOBLE SACRIFICE.

THE INCIDENT WE ENDURED... SHOULD REMIND US ALL... JUST HOW FRAGILE OUR WORLD TRULY IS. WE ARE BLESSED... TO HAVE SUCH NOBLE... AND KNOWLEDGEABLE FRIENDS... FROM ACROSS THE STARS.

PRESIDENT OBAMA



PRESIDENT OBAMA



THE PRESIDENT ALSO USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALLY THANK GALATEA POWERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE-KNIGHTS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN RESCUING THE INJURED KHELDIANS IN SPACE.

BIOSPHERE, DOCTOR FROSTBURG, AND DATABANK JOINED GALATEA POWERS IN ALSO RECEIVING THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD.

IN ADDITION, DAYBRIGHT AND THE OTHER KHELDIANS WERE AWARDED THE ORDER OF ATLAS, PARAGON CITY'S HIGHEST AWARD FOR SACRIFICE UNDER FIRE.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT THANKS HEROES




DECEMBER 23RD, 2016



THIS IS NICE... I'M GLAD WE ARE ABLE TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS AGAIN.

WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON, I THOUGHT WE NEEDED SOME TIME TO TALK.



'TAYA... I...
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT--

--I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE, JOHN.


I KNEW THAT YOU WERE SENT TO OBSERVE ME BECAUSE VANGUARD AND A FEW OTHERS WERE NERVOUS ABOUT MY GROWING HYPER-INTELLIGENCE.*

John Cole
AKA GUARDIAN STAR

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



AT FIRST I WAS INSULTED...
BUT THEN I REALIZED I NEEDED SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO WATCH OUT FOR ME.



I WISH I COULD SAY THAT THIS WAS... JUST A JOB.
BUT THE LONGER I SPENT WITH YOU, THE MORE I BEGAN TO REALIZE JUST HOW MUCH I'VE COME TO CARE ABOUT YOU.



I DIDN'T WANT TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU. I WANTED TO TELL THEM THAT THEY HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM YOU.

I KNOW... AND I DON'T BLAME YOU. BUT IT'S ALL MOOT NOW.



I'M SCARED, JOHN. I'M SCARED OF WHAT I'M BECOMING.

THIS "PATH TO INCARNATE" STUFF IS GOING TO MAKE ME MORE POWERFUL AND MORE OF A TARGET TO CERTAIN PEOPLE.

I CAN REALLY TRUST ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE WITH WHAT I'M BECOMING, AND YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW THAT ISN'T FAMILY.

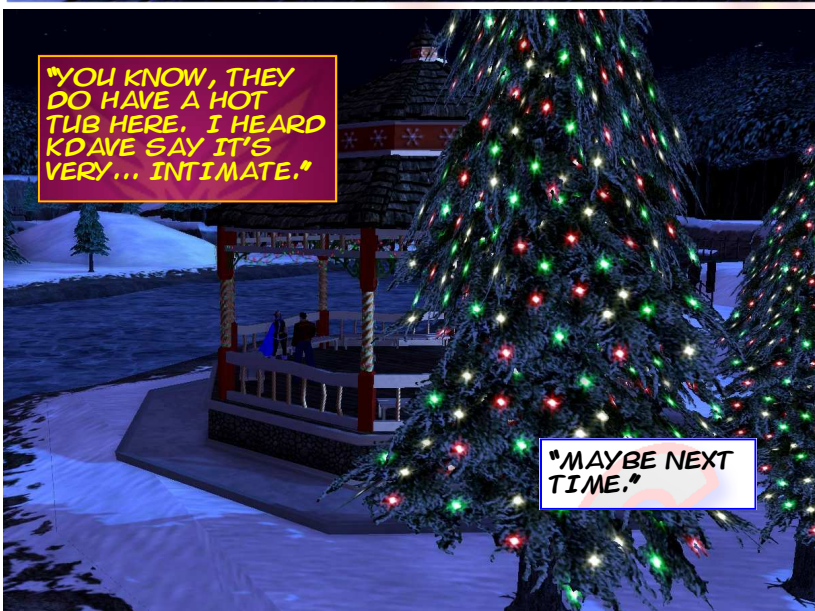
I DO CARE ABOUT YOU, JOHN, AND I NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU STILL HAVE MY BACK.



ALWAYS, TAYA. ALWAYS. AND YOUR FRONT TOO.

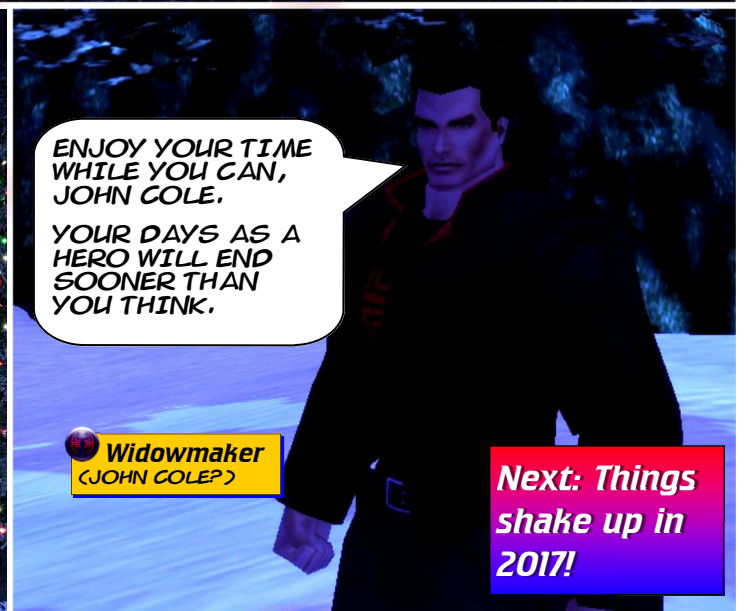
GIGGLE

WHY DID I KNOW YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT?



"YOU KNOW, THEY DO HAVE A HOT TUB HERE. I HEARD KDAVE SAY IT'S VERY... INTIMATE."

"MAYBE NEXT TIME."



ENJOY YOUR TIME WHILE YOU CAN, JOHN COLE.

YOUR DAYS AS A HERO WILL END SOONER THAN YOU THINK.

Widowmaker
(JOHN COLE?)

Next: Things shake up in 2017!

Thoughts On “Icarus” And The End Of An Era

So here we are... We’ve come to the end of the “Icarus” storyline, which also marks the end of an era.

And it’s also the end of 2016. Let’s not forget that!

Let’s start with “Icarus”.

I can’t say thanks enough to Sin Stalker and Biosphere for their assistance with this storyline. They helped me bring the Justice-Knights not only into the story, but also into 2016, since their own comic takes place almost ten years in the past. They also provided the coding for the Gilgamesh, and believe me when I say their base’s demorecord coding is far more complicated than my own.

Sin has also been helpful with the development of certain concepts, including the Cole-Smythe Particle, along with a few other traceable particles that we’ll probably get into in various future issues. *(You can probably also expect a detailed explanation of these particles in the MMO Comic Index resource site at some point. Visit them at MMOComicIndex.com)*

As with the “Destitution” storyline from last year, I sometimes get my inspiration from music, and choosing the name “Icarus” for this storyline is no coincidence. The initial inspiration of this storyline came from the instrumental song “Icarus” by the group Two Steps From Hell. They’re pretty good at providing trailer music for TV shows, major motion picture releases, and video games.

As for the use of a coronal mass ejection as the “villain” of the storyline, I have to thank the Discovery Network’s various cable channels, including Sci, for their research into the subject and how they have an impact on human civilization.

“Icarus” also allowed me to start Galatea Powers on her path to becoming an Incarnate.

The Incarnate process was a relatively new concept in the City of Heroes MMORPG when the game was still active. Developers had long worked on what they referred to as the “endgame” stage for character development. Prior to that point, characters could only advance to “Level 50” and stay there. But then there were some characters that were long established in the MMO that were even more powerful than that. Certainly the two iconic characters, Statesman and Lord Recluse, were considered incarnate. But until the introduction to the Incarnate System in 2011, players could not reach that level.

In the game, becoming an incarnate was a lengthy process, divided into six tiers, starting with Alpha and ending in Omega. Each level required completing a specific trial, and most of those required teamwork. In theory, “Omega” would put heroes on the same level as Statesman and Recluse.

Sadly, though, players would never experience the “Omega” level as the MMO was shut down in 2012. The last Incarnate trial known as the Magisterium Trial, was part of “Where Shadows Lie” update, and it covered the tier-four level of “Hybrid”.

Continues on next page...

Of course, the City of Heroes comics were not bound by the same rules as the game. In “Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight” #17, Lord Recluse was warned that Galatea Powers had the potential to become an incarnate being. This was published before the Incarnate System was released in the game. And in the alternate future told in Issue #18, we find Galatea Powers not only becoming an incarnate, but she eventually becomes an Omega Incarnate; powerful enough to challenge and even defeat gods.

So the idea was always there for Galatea Powers to become an incarnate. It was simply a matter of when this could be introduced and how.

This issue also marks the end of an era.

Various comics over the years have used real-world figures as part of their publications. From pop stars to athletes to Presidents, people in the public eye have been included in comics to give the stories a connection to the real world and their real-world readers. And the same holds true to our current President with the City of Comic Creators.

President Barack Obama first appeared in the “City of Comic Creators Compendium” #5 as a quick cameo in a story featuring the Guardians of the Dawn. He would later appear in “Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight” #14. He then appeared in the “PNN News Break” specials, and finally here in “Furia and the Guardians”.

But as Obama’s real-life tenure as President comes to an end, so too will his present-day appearances in the world of comics. As president, Obama is considered a public figure, and thus his likeness is allowed under public domain, which is why we’ve been able to use it.

But as one president steps down, another will soon come to power, whether we like him or not. And given the caustic and abrasive nature of this person even before he ran for public office, one only has to wonder what sort of impact he will have not only in the real world, but also in the world of comics.

I guess we’ll all find that out in 2017.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...

**THINGS WILL REALLY
BE SHAKEN UP IN
2017...**

**AND YOU CAN GUESS
WHO WILL PLAY A
ROLE IN IT.**



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



From:

The Major DeeJ Universe

<http://www.majordeejuniverse.com/>

Happy Holidays From Battlerock Comics!

THIS YEAR IT'S MY TURN
TO WISH EVERYONE
SEASON'S GREETINGS.

I DON'T KNOW HOW THE HECK
GALATEA DOES THIS IN A
SLEEVELESS JACKET!

FURIA POWERS
"FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS"

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>



Hell hath
no fury...

January
2017

www.CoXComics.com