

"PSILENCE OF CONSCIENCE" - CONTINUES



ISSUE 10
2014

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



CHAMPIONS
ONLINE

PERFECT
WORLD

Tired? Sleepy? Running out of steam?

You need...

WAKE-EZ



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!

Stay In The Game with Wake-EZ!

DO NOT USE IN LIEU OF SLEEP. DO NOT USE TO STAY AWAKE LONGER THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. DO NOT USE WHILE ENGAGING IN BRAIN SURGERY. CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU EXPERIENCE HALLUCINATIONS. THIS IS NOT AN ACTUAL PRODUCT. THIS IS NOT A REAL AD. ANY RESEMBLANCE IN NAME OR APPEARANCE IS COINCIDENTAL. DO NOT CONSULT AN ATTORNEY. SIMPLY GET A GRIP AND REALIZE THIS IS FICTION.

A PRODUCT OF HET DIMN, INCORPORATED



We didn't make the oil...

But we did get it from the ground.

And then bring it to America.

And then refine it into the cleanest, most fuel-efficient form of gasoline on the market ever.

And then make that gasoline available for you when you need it at any one of our 24-hour service stations all across the country.

We didn't have to do all of that.

But we did it anyway.

Because we care.

Because that's what a good corporate business in America does.

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 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

"MOTHER MAY..."

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

"PSYCHE", A CHARACTER FROM ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE'S "SENTINELS OF LOVE" BOOK SERIES, HAS APPEARED IN MILLENNIUM CITY.

BASED ON A REAL-LIFE HERO FROM GALATEA FUTURE'S EXPERIENCE IN A CERTAIN "OTHER WORLD", THIS VERSION OF PSYCHE CAME COMPLETE WITH HER OWN "EVIL TWIN"; THE MENTAL PERSONALITY OF HER EVIL-UNIVERSE COUNTERPART CALLED "MALIZIA". A PERSONALITY THAT WAS ALL-TOO EAGER TO TAKE CHARGE IN GETTING ANSWERS ABOUT WHERE THEY WERE AND HOW TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN WORLD.

MEANWHILE, GALATEA, IN HER GUISE AS ATHENA, IS VISITED BY FBI AGENT WEDNESDAY, A TELEPATH WITH A SHOCKING ACCUSATION ABOUT GALATEA'S BEST FRIEND, CANDACE SINCLAIR.

AND IT IS AN ACCUSATION THAT COULD HAVE VERY DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR GALATEA'S CAREER AS A SUPERHERO.

Future's Guardian #10 is created using original characters in the Champions Online Multiplayer Online Roleplaying Game. Copyright © 2009-2014, 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.



"CAN I GET YOU SOME COFFEE, AGENT WEDNESDAY?"

"NO THANK YOU, MISS FAIRMORE."

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T START MY DAY WITHOUT SOME GOOD COFFEE.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE
AKA: GALATEA FUTURE



I'M GOOD, BUT THANK YOU FOR OFFERING.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

AGENT WEDNESDAY
FBI TELEPATH



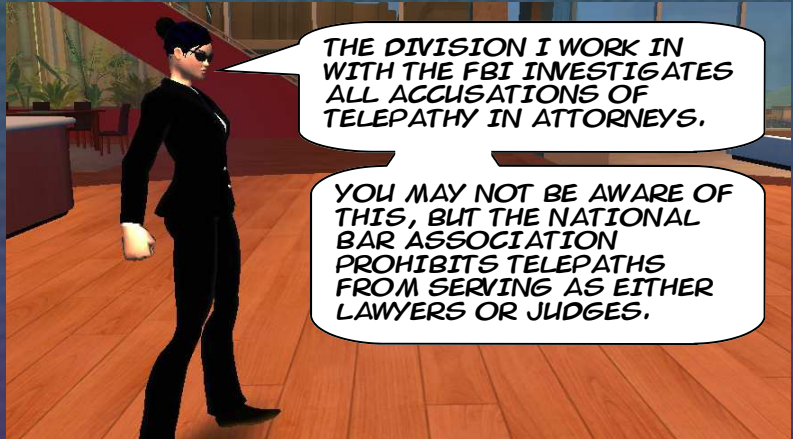
YOU HAVE A NICE PLACE HERE, MISS FAIRMORE. LOTS OF... OPEN SPACE.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.



THANK YOU. IT HELPS ME WHEN I WORK OUT STORIES WITH A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE. YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT CANDACE BEING IN TROUBLE?

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.



THE DIVISION I WORK IN WITH THE FBI INVESTIGATES ALL ACCUSATIONS OF TELEPATHY IN ATTORNEYS.

YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THIS, BUT THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION PROHIBITS TELEPATHS FROM SERVING AS EITHER LAWYERS OR JUDGES.



THIS IS NEWS TO ME. SO WHY CAN'T TELEPATHS SERVE AS LAWYERS OR JUDGES? WOULDN'T THAT ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TELL THE TRUTH ON THE STAND?

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

IT'S TOO EASILY ABUSED. AND THEY SAY IT GIVES AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.*

BUT IT'S NOT MY JOB TO MAKE THE POLICY. MY JOB IS SIMPLY TO INVESTIGATE SUCH INSTANCES BEFORE THEY CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ITSELF.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

* AS EXPLAINED IN THE REPORT BY MAJOR CROSS IN ISSUE #8

I REALLY NEED SOME COFFEE...

SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK CANDACE IS A TELEPATH? DID SOMEONE ACCUSE HER OF BEING ONE?

ACTUALLY, NO. ALL CITY COURTHOUSES HAVE HIDDEN PSIONIC DETECTORS. THE ONE IN CITY HALL WENT OFF A FEW DAYS AGO WHEN SOME MUTANT NAMED THE NATIONALIST TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE MAYOR.*

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

(* ISSUE #8)

WOW, AND I THOUGHT THE N.S.A. WERE NOSY!

SO YOU HAVE EQUIPMENT THAT CAN DETECT WHO IN ANY GIVEN CITY IS A TELEPATH?

COME ON... THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME COFFEE AROUND HERE...

SORRY, BUT THE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT THAT PRECISE.

IT WAS ACTUALLY A MATTER OF GOING THROUGH THE COURT REGISTER THAT DAY.

IT WAS A VERY LIGHT COURT DAY... FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

GOTT A KEEP THINKING COFFEE...

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU A MORE... PERSONAL QUESTION?

HAVE YOU EVER WORKED WITH A TELEPATH BEFORE?

UMMM... WHY WOULD YOU ASK?

THERE HAS TO BE SOME COFFEE IN HERE! EVEN INSTANT COFFEE WILL WORK!

BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN MENTALLY OBSESSED WITH COFFEE SINCE I GOT HERE.

AND IT'S ONE OF THE HIDDEN TRICKS SOME PEOPLE USE TO AVOID PASSIVE TELEPATHIC SCANS.

SO EITHER YOU REALLY ARE ADDICTED TO COFFEE... OR YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING FROM ME.

I'VE WORKED WITH HEROES AS PART OF MY RESEARCH FOR MY STORIES, SO I MAY HAVE PICKED A FEW TRICKS FROM THEM.

DON'T YOU NEED A WARRANT TO DO THAT? TO... I DON'T KNOW... SCAN ME?

AND... AM I BEING INVESTIGATED AS WELL, AGENT WEDNESDAY?

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE.

PASSIVE SCANS ARE LIKE HEARING PEOPLE WHISPER.

I REALLY DON'T NEED A WARRANT FOR THAT AS LONG AS PEOPLE KNOW THAT I'M A TELEPATH.

AND, BELIEVE ME, YOUR MENTAL "COFFEE" MANTRA WAS PRETTY BLATANT TO ME.

COFFEE. COFFEE. COFFEE. OH HELL...

SORRY... IT WAS JUST SOMETHING I PICKED UP.

I NEVER REALLY PUT IT TO USE UNTIL NOW.

SO... HOW MUCH TROUBLE IS CANDACE IN? CAN I ASK YOU THAT?

THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT I FIND IN MY INVESTIGATION.

IF SHE DOES HAVE TELEPATHIC POWERS, SHE WILL MOST LIKELY BE DISBARRED.

THEN IT'S A MATTER OF FINDING OUT JUST HOW LONG SHE'S HAD THOSE POWERS, BECAUSE ANY CASE THAT SHE'S HANDLED WHILE SHE'S A TELEPATH WOULD HAVE TO BE AUTOMATICALLY OVERTURNED AND RE-TRIED.

WE'VE HAD CASES THAT WERE THIRTY YEARS OLD THAT ENDED UP BEING OVERTURNED BECAUSE COUNCIL DIDN'T DISCLOSE THEY HAD TELEPATHIC ABILITIES.

WAIT... YOU MEAN ANY CASE THAT WAS HANDLED BY A TELEPATH IS AUTOMATICALLY OVERTURNED?

DON'T!
DON'T!

OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM ERRS ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION, MISS FAIRMORE.

IT WOULD RATHER RE-HEAR A CASE A MILLION TIMES THAN LET IT STAND ON THE HINT THAT IT MAY BE TAINTED BY TELEPATHY.

WELL, I THINK I'VE HELD YOU UP LONG ENOUGH. I'M SURE MISS SINCLAIR WILL BE ARRIVING ANY TIME SOON SO YOU CAN GET THAT COFFEE YOU DESPERATELY NEED.

I WOULD ASK THAT YOU NOT TELL MISS SINCLAIR OF MY VISIT FOR THE TIME BEING. I WILL BE CONTACTING HER SOON ENOUGH.

I WOULD ALSO ASK THAT YOU LET ME KNOW IF SHE EXHIBITS ANY STRANGE BEHAVIORS, OR IF PEOPLE START TO ACT STRANGELY AROUND HER.

I'VE LEFT MY CARD ON THE COUNTER IN CASE YOU NEED TO CALL ME.

OF COURSE, I'LL... I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

I CERTAINLY WOULD WANT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS AS WELL.

THANK YOU.

DON'T THINK IT!!!

DONT...

THE REASON WHY I'VE CALLED THIS TELE-CONFERENCE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF MY RECRUITERS ARE ON THE SAME PAGE.

WHATEVER PROSPECTS YOU ARE CURRENTLY PURSUING FOR THE AGENCY, YOU NEED TO PUT THEM ON HOLD.

WE HAVE A NEW PROSPECTIVE HERO THAT I WANT ALL OF MY RECRUITERS TO FIND AND SIGN TO THE GOLD STANDARD AGENCY A-S-A-P.

MARKMAN GOLD
AGENT TO THE SUPER-LEGENDS

THAT HERO'S NAME IS PSYCHE.

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HER IN THE NEWS.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

SIR, THIS IS CONSTANCE OVER IN LEGAL... WE MAY HAVE SOME LEGAL ISSUES WITH A HERO-CLIENT NAMED "PSYCHE", SINCE THAT'S THE NAME OF THE CHARACTER IN ATHENA FAIRMORE'S BOOK.

PFFT! IP LAW IS JUST ANOTHER LAW TO GET AROUND!

THAT'S WHY I PAY YOU THE BIG MONEY!

ALL WE DO IS WE HAVE PSYCHE'S HERO-NAME CHANGED SLIGHTLY.

WE PUT A PREFIX ON IT LIKE "LADY" OR "SISTER" AND CLAIM SHE WAS "INSPIRED BY" MISS FAIRMORE'S BOOKS.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVEN'T DONE THIS BEFORE!

I SEEM TO RECALL YOU WERE THE ONE THAT WORRIED ABOUT WOLF-MARINE AND IRON STAN, AND THOSE TURNED OUT OKAY.

ACTUALLY, SIR, WE LOST THOSE CASES... BUT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO BURY THEM IN APPEALS AND THEN SETTLE.

THAT'S STILL A WIN IN MY BOOK!

INCARNATE STUDIOS IS IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE MOVIE RIGHTS TO THE WHOLE "SENTINELS OF LOVE" SERIES.

THAT'S POTENTIALLY A TEN **BILLION** DOLLAR WIN FOR THEM AT THE BOX OFFICE!

THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE PAY-PER-VIEW REVENUE, THE DVD RELEASES, AND THE TOY MERCHANDIZING.

AS SOON AS ONE OF YOU GET PSYCHE SIGNED UP, THAT GIVES THE AGENCY AN AUTOMATIC CHAIR AT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS...

AND A HUGE PIECE OF THAT **BILLION-DOLLAR** PIE.

NOW... THINK OF THE COMMISSION ONE OF YOU WOULD GET FROM THAT FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN.

BUT NONE OF THAT WILL HAPPEN IF A DEAL IS MADE **BEFORE** WE CAN SIGN OUR LITTLE GOLDEN GOOSE.

SO UNLESS YOU HAVE ANY MORE QUESTIONS... GET OUT THERE AND SIGN HER UP!

MEANWHILE, IN A PARK JUST OUTSIDE THE RENAISSANCE CENTER...

ZZZ..
MNUHHH...
LHHH...

GASP!

 **CANDACE SINCLAIR**
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

DON'T PANIC!
DON'T MAKE
TOO MUCH
NOISE!

YOU'RE OKAY.
NOTHING
FEELS OUT-
OF-PLACE.

EXCEPT...

EXCEPT FOR THE FACT
THAT YOU JUST WOKE UP
ON A PARK BENCH AND
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW
YOU GOT HERE OR HOW
LONG YOU WERE OUT...

... AGAIN!

I CAN'T KEEP
DOING THIS!

I NEED TO GET MY
WORK DONE, AND
YET I CAN'T KEEP
BLACKING OUT AND
ENDING UP IN...
GOD KNOWS WHERE!

WHAT IS
HAPPENING
TO ME?

AM I... AM I
GOING CRAZY?

WHAT TIME
IS IT
ANYWAY?

I HAVE TO MEET
TAYA FOR
BREAKFAST!

OHMIGOD!
I'M LATE!

I JUST HOPE
SHE'S NOT
UPSET AT ME!

A HALF-HOUR LATER... AT CITY HALL...

MY INTERVIEW WITH MISS FAIRMORE LEFT ME WITH A FEW... SURPRISES.
THERE'S CLEARLY MORE TO HER THAN MEETS THE EYE.

WELL IF I WASN'T SIDETRACKED BY THOSE OTHER CASES, I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HERE DAYS EARLIER, WHEN THE EVIDENCE WAS FRESH!

YES, I'M BLAMING YOU!
YOU KNOW WE CAN'T LIE TO EACH OTHER, EVEN OVER THE PHONE.

I KNOW WE'RE SHORT-STAFFED, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU CAN PULL ME--

YES I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT TIMING IS EVERYTHING IN THESE CASES!

WELL IT SEEMS THAT SOMEONE NEEDS TO REMIND YOU OF THOSE THINGS SOMETIMES.

RIGHT, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT AND ALL, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT EX-SPOUSES DO.

NO, I WANT TO CHECK A FEW THINGS HERE IN CITY HALL BEFORE MY MEETING WITH GALATEA FUTURE.
SINCLAIR'S TELEPATHY IS TIED IN WITH THE WHOLE FAILED COUP BY THE NATIONALIST. I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW AND THEN CONFRONT HER WITH THE EVIDENCE.

YES, I STILL BELIEVE THAT SHE'S THE ONE, EVEN WITH ALL OF THE OTHER INCIDENTS THAT HAVE POPPED UP IN THE AREA.

I NEED YOU TO GET ME EVERYTHING THE BUREAU HAS ON BOTH SINCLAIR AND FAIRMORE.

FINANCIAL RECORDS, FAMILY HISTORY, THE WORKS.

I'M GOING TO GET THE GROUND WORK GOING FOR A PSYCHIC SEARCH WARRANT. NO, NOT FOR SINCLAIR. FOR FAIRMORE.
LET'S JUST SAY THAT SOMEONE THAT KNOWS HOW TO BLOCK A PASSIVE SCAN MUST HAVE SOMETHING BIG TO HIDE.
AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT'S TIED IN WITH SINCLAIR SOMEHOW.



"WE HAVE A BARTENDER IN CLUB CAPRICE.."



"A LOUNGE WAITRESS..."



"AN MCPD PATROL OFFICER..."



"... AND LET'S NOT FORGET YOUR LITTLE PSYCHOTIC PHILLY BUSTER."

UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW HQ

PLUS A FEW DOZEN COLLEGE KIDS... ALL SUDDENLY DEVELOPING VARIOUS LEVELS OF PSYCHIC POWERS.

THAT IS STRANGE. I'VE SEEN PHYSICAL MUTATIONS CAUSED BY SOME KIND OF BIO-CHEM ATTACK, BUT NEVER SOMETHING THAT CAN CAUSE PSYCHIC MUTATIONS. I TAKE IT NONE OF THEM WERE LATENT PSYCHICS.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

NOT AS FAR AS WE KNOW. SOME PRIVATE COMPANY CALLED "THE MIND, INCORPORATED" WANTS TO INVESTIGATE THIS FOR U.N.T.I.L.

BUT SINCE PHILLY BUSTER WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE AFFECTED, THAT PUTS THIS CASE FIRMLY IN OUR LAP.*

NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ONE OF MY ENEMIES WOULD DO US A FAVOR. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YET ON WHO SHE IS OR WHO SHE WORKS FOR?

< LAST ISSUE >



NORMALLY I WOULD HAVE RONIN OMEGA DOING THE BACKGROUND. BUT HE'S OUT WEST RUNNING DOWN A LEAD ON FORECLOSURE AND WHAT HE WAS DOING BEFORE HE BECAME A SUICIDE MACHINE. I'VE GOT ANOTHER AGENT INTERVIEWING MISS BUSTER RIGHT NOW AT THE HOSPITAL.



BUT, JUST LIKE FORECLOSURE, THE ONLY ENTRY IN MARKMAN GOLD'S DATABASE SAYS THAT PHILLY BUSTER WAS ONCE A CLIENT, BUT THAT SHE WAS "DISMISSED".*

(* ISSUE #2)



A VAGUE ENTRY IN A HACKED DATABASE THAT WE CAN'T USE AS EVIDENCE EVEN IF IT COULD HELP US. IF "PSYCHE", OR WHOEVER SHE IS, DIDN'T STEP IN TO STOP HER, WE WOULD BE BACK TO SQUARE ONE WITH THIS.



ARE YOU SURE "PSYCHE" ISN'T FROM THAT OTHER WORLD? A TELEPATH COULD REALLY COME IN HANDY FOR PROJECT MYCROFT IF WE CAN GET HER PAST THE OTHER U.N.T.I.L. GROUPS.



I'M ALMOST POSITIVE THAT SHE'S NOT THE TELEPATH I USED TO WORK WITH IN THAT OTHER WORLD. FIRST, EVEN IF IT WAS HER, SHE WOULDN'T BE MAKING REFERENCES TO THINGS IN ATHENA'S STORIES.



SECOND, THE PERSON THAT I KNEW FROM THAT WORLD... WELL, SHE WAS DEAD A THOUSAND YEARS FROM MY HISTORY. STILL, JUST TO BE SAFE, I'LL HAVE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AGENT SIDESTEP. HE'D KNOW IF ANYONE BESIDES MYSELF MANAGED TO CROSS OVER FROM THAT WORLD.

MERCY HOSPITAL
SECURITY WING

YOU KNOW, IT
WOULD HELP IF
YOU AT LEAST
TOLD ME YOUR
FIRST NAME.

"PHILLY BUSTER"
WOULD-BE TERRORIST

BECAUSE I
REALLY DON'T
THINK YOUR
PARENTS NAMED
YOU "PHILLY".
JUST A HUNCH.

STARLETT
STREET VIGILANTE

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

IT DOES TO ME.

NO IT DOESN'T. YOU
CAN'T LIE TO ME.
NOT WHILE I STILL
HAVE THIS D@MNN
POWER I NEVER WANTED.

IT'S SLOWLY FADING,
BUT I STILL HAVE
ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT
YOU'RE A PART OF THE
"TEAM" LIKE ME AND
THAT YOU'RE JUST
PLAYING YOUR PART.
I WON'T BETRAY THEM.
YOU CAN TELL THEM
THAT MUCH.

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE DYING.
YOU DON'T OWE THEM
ANYTHING NOW!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST TELL
ME YOUR REAL NAME?
MAYBE THERE'S FAMILY I
CAN CONTACT... A LOVED
ONE THAT CAN HELP YOU.

YOU STILL DON'T
GET IT, DO YOU?
THERE IS NOBODY
LEFT TO CARE FOR
ME!

I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMILY
ANYMORE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY LOVED ONES
ANYMORE.
MY ONLY FRIENDS ARE THE
PEOPLE I SERVED WITH, AND
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
THERE'S JUST ME AND MY
MISSION... AND I FAILED THAT!

EXCUSE ME, MISS
STARLETT, BUT I
HAVE TO TAKE HER
BACK TO X-RAY
SOON.



I'M ALMOST DONE.

NO, YOU WERE DONE THE MINUTE YOU SHOWED UP.
I'M DYING, AND I KNOW THAT THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO TO CHANGE THAT.



I SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO DIE ON MY TERMS.
BUT GALATEA AND HER FRIEND DIDN'T GIVE ME THAT DIGNITY.
STILL, I BLAME MYSELF MORE THAN I BLAME ANYONE ELSE.

THIS CURSE... THIS D@MNED TELEPATHY... IT DROVE ME TO SPEED THINGS UP.
HEARING PEOPLES' THOUGHTS... I THOUGHT I WAS GOING CRAZY.
BUT ONCE I WAS SEDATED AND ALLOWED TO SLEEP... THAT'S WHEN THE VOICES QUIETED DOWN.



MAYBE IF I'M LUCKY, THEY'LL BE SILENT BEFORE I DIE.
THEN AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO GO IN PEACE.
BUT YOU BE SURE TO TELL THEM. TELL THEM THAT I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM DOWN AGAIN.

TIME TO GO, MISS STARLETT.



BRRT
BRRT



CLICK
HELLO?

PUT HIM ON.



OH NO!!!

CAPES LOOK GREAT ON HEROES, BUT THEY ARE ALSO GREAT STAIN MAGNETS!

BLOOD, DIRT, RAW SEWAGE, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, HYDRAULIC FLUIDS, EXPLOSIVE RESIDUE, ALIEN GOO... THEY ARE ALL QUICK TO FIND THEIR WAYS ONTO YOUR CAPE AND THEY TAKE FOREVER TO GET OUT!

LAUNDRY SERVICES ARE EXPENSIVE, AND THEY DON'T ALWAYS GET THE TROUBLE STAINS OUT.

Nuke It

NUKEIT IS A CUTTING-EDGE CLEANER DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CAPES.

NUKEIT IS SAFE FOR CLOTH, LEATHER, SOFT-METAL, EVEN CAPES MADE FROM RE-STABILIZED MOLECULES. WHATEVER IT IS, NUKEIT TO CLEAN IT!

NUKEIT COMES IN BOTH ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL SIZES; PERFECT IF YOU HAVE ONE CAPE TO CLEAN OR A HUNDRED.

NUKEIT IS AVAILABLE AT ALL HERO SUPPLY STORES. PICK SOME UP TODAY AND NUKE YOUR CAPE STAINS AWAY!

DO NOT USE NUKEIT IF YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO NEUTRON RADIATION OR IF YOU GET YOUR POWERS FROM GAMMA RADIATION. CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU EXPERIENCE LOSS OF HAIR OR TEETH OR PAINFUL SORES FROM USING CAPES TREATED WITH NUKEIT. DO NOT EXPOSE TO BARE SKIN UNLESS YOU ARE INVULNERABLE. WASH CAPES IN NUKEIT SEPARATE FROM ALL OTHER CLOTHING.

NOT AN ACTUAL PRODUCT. THIS IS A FICTIONAL AD. ANY COMPARISON TO AN ACTUAL PRODUCT IS COINCIDENTAL.



Take It From Burt Jackson...

Hey, I know that when you're hauling a bunch of processors through Millennium City, you don't stop for Viper goons, strange looking robots, or Maniacs.

If they're wearing purple, then they're the mob, and you stay away from the guys installing weird electronic stuff on the sidewalks if you don't want to get a migraine.

I also know that the only radio I listen to whenever the Pork Rind Express is in town is The Cape Radio.

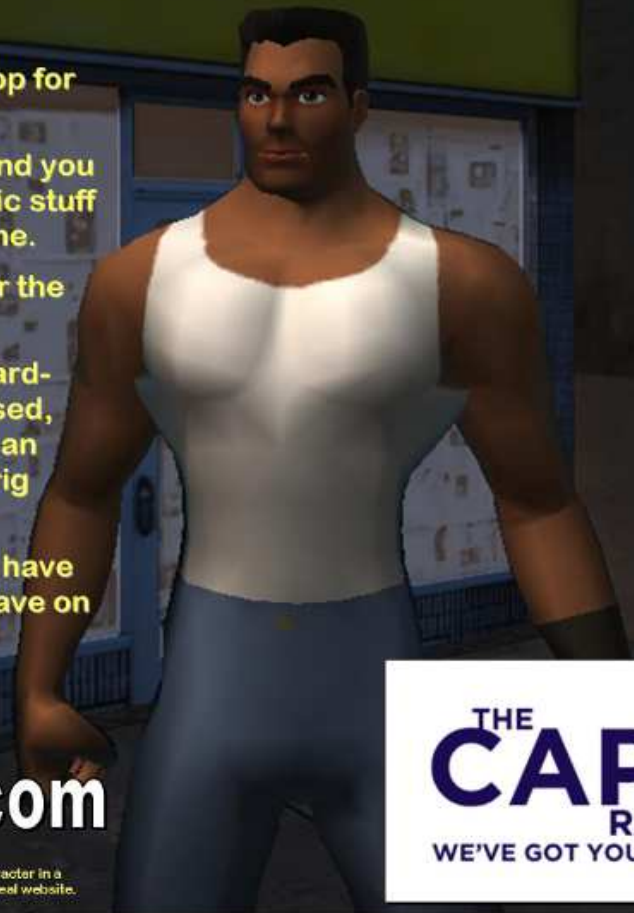
The Cape Radio has the best variety of music a hard-driving man like Burt Jackson needs to stay focused, whether it's to rescue some green-eyed girl from an immortal Chinese warlord or trying to keep your rig from being hijacked by bug-aliens.

Either way, it's gonna get messy, and if you don't have a knife or the reflexes, then you should at least have on The Cape Radio, cuz they got your back, like the feathers on the wings of the American Eagle.

Just ask Burt Jackson.

www.TheCapeRadio.com

Burt Jackson is a fictional character in the MMO world of Champions Online. Any resemblance to a certain character in a certain John Carpenter movie is just coincidental. Just ask Burt Jackson. The Cape Radio, however, is a very real website.



THE
CAPE
RADIO
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

CLEAN CAPE DRY CLEANING

BECAUSE THIS SHOULDN'T

END UP BEING YOUR

HERO HEADQUARTERS!

www.CleanCape.Millennium.City

A fictional business in the world of Champions Online - Not a real business or website

OUTSIDE THE U.N.T.I.L. BUILDING...



THIS IS CANDACE SINCLAIR.
I CAN'T ANSWER THE PHONE RIGHT NOW, BUT PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU.



CANDACE, IT'S TAYA.
LISTEN... WE REALLY NEED TO TALK ABOUT...
WELL, I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I SEE YOU.



ALSO... I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN DO THIS, BUT I REALLY NEED TO SPEAK WITH AGENT SIDESTEP ABOUT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT "OTHER WORLD".



I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS WITH YOU TWO, IF THERE'S SOME SORT OF NUMBER YOU CAN CALL OR ANYTHING, BUT...
WELL, JUST CALL ME BACK AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS, OKAY?

THE HIDDEN SANCTUM OF KIERA FYRE...



YES?

MISS FYRE...
THIS IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO REDEEM YOURSELF.

KEIRA FYRE
ELEMENTAL ARCHER



I'M READY.



THEN LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.
THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO...

HIGH ABOVE
MILLENNIUM CITY...

CANDACE?

 **AGENT SIDESTEP**
MULTIVERSE OPERATIVE

ARE YOU
OKAY?

IT'S... IT'S A
BEAUTIFUL VIEW,
ISN'T IT?
YOU CAN SEE THE
WHOLE COUNTY
FROM HERE.

I SUPPOSE.
YES, IT IS
RATHER... NICE.

ALTHOUGH THE LAST TIME
I WAS UP HERE WAS UNDER
LESS THAN PLEASURABLE
CONDITIONS.*

(* SEE "THE LOST ADVENTURES
OF GALATEA FUTURE" #2)

SOMETHING IS
BOTHERING YOU.
WHAT IS IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO
DO! I DON'T KNOW WHO
TO TURN TO...

I DON'T TO BURDEN
GALATEA WITH THIS... AND
I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN
YOU WITH IT EITHER...

BUT, I HAVE NOBODY ELSE
THAT I CAN TRUST!

SOMETHING'S WRONG
WITH ME. SOMETHING
SERIOUS.

I'VE BEEN PUTTING IN LONG
HOURS AT WORK, TRYING TO GET
A HANDLE ON ALL THE CASEWORK
I'VE BEEN PUTTING IN.

AND... LATELY I'VE BEEN
EXPERIENCING THESE
BLACKOUTS.

I WOULD REMEMBER BEING IN
THE OFFICE, AND THEN A FEW
HOURS LATER I'D FIND MYSELF
IN A PARK SOMEWHERE, WITH NO
IDEA HOW I GOT THERE OR WHAT
I DID DURING THAT TIME.

THAT IS... DISTURBING.
DOES YOUR FAMILY
HAVE ANY HISTORY OF
SLEEPWALKING?

NOT AS FAR AS I
KNOW.
BUT... THIS IS ALL
SOMETHING THAT'S
STARTED IN THE
PAST FEW WEEKS!
I NEVER HAD A
PROBLEM UNTIL NOW.

I MEAN, I'VE DONE
SLEEP-LESS NIGHTS
BEFORE. I'VE HAD
WORKLOADS
HEAVIER THAN NOW.
I'M A LAWYER FOR
CHRIS--

ALERT! ALERT!
PSYCHIC THREAT
DETECTED!

WHAT IS IT
PROPHET?

PSYCHIC ASSAULT
THREAT IMMINENT!
THREAT HIGH!

WHAT'S
GOING ON?

PROPHET IS SAYING AN
ATTACK IS COMING.
WHERE, PROPHET?

SOURCE IS IN
IMMEDIATE AREA!
THREAT HIGH!
TAKE DEFENSIVE
MEASURES!

I NEED YOU
TO GO...
RIGHT
NOW.

NO. I'M
STAYING.

ALERT! ALERT!
PSYCHIC THREAT
DETECTED!

GALATEA WAS
RIGHT. I REALLY
CARE ABOUT YOU,
CANDACE.
THAT'S WHY I
WANT YOU TO RUN
AWAY NOW, SO
YOU CAN BE SAFE.

THREAT HIGH!
ATTACK
EMINENT!

GO... NOW!

PROPHET, WHERE IS THE SOURCE OF THE ATTACK?

SOURCE IS IN IMMEDIATE AREA.

THEY MUST BE CLOAKED.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, SHOW YOURSELF!

AAAAA!

AGENT DOWN!
AGENT DOWN!

ACTIVATING
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
TELEPORT.

TCH! SO MUCH
DRAMA FOR
SOMEONE SO
EMOTIONALLY
STUNTED!

MALAZIA! WHY
DID YOU ATTACK
HIM?

WHY? BECAUSE
HIS LITTLE
COMPUTER TOLD
HIM AN ATTACK
WAS COMING!

HE WAS A HERO!
YOU ATTACKED
A HERO!

TECHNICALLY, YOU
ATTACKED A HERO.
I'M JUST YOUR LITTLE
EVIL TWIN LOCKED
AWAY IN YOUR HEAD,
REMEMBER?

BESIDES I DID US
A FAVOR. HE WAS
A THREAT TO OUR
MISSION.

PSYCHE
PSIONIC SENTINEL



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.



GO AHEAD AND DO IT.



ELSEWHERE...

STARLETT?
ARE YOU HERE?

 **RONIN OMEGA**
COSMIC TRAVELER



COUGH *COUGH*
COUGH *COUGH*

GET IT TOGETHER... YOU MADE IT BACK TO THE LOFT



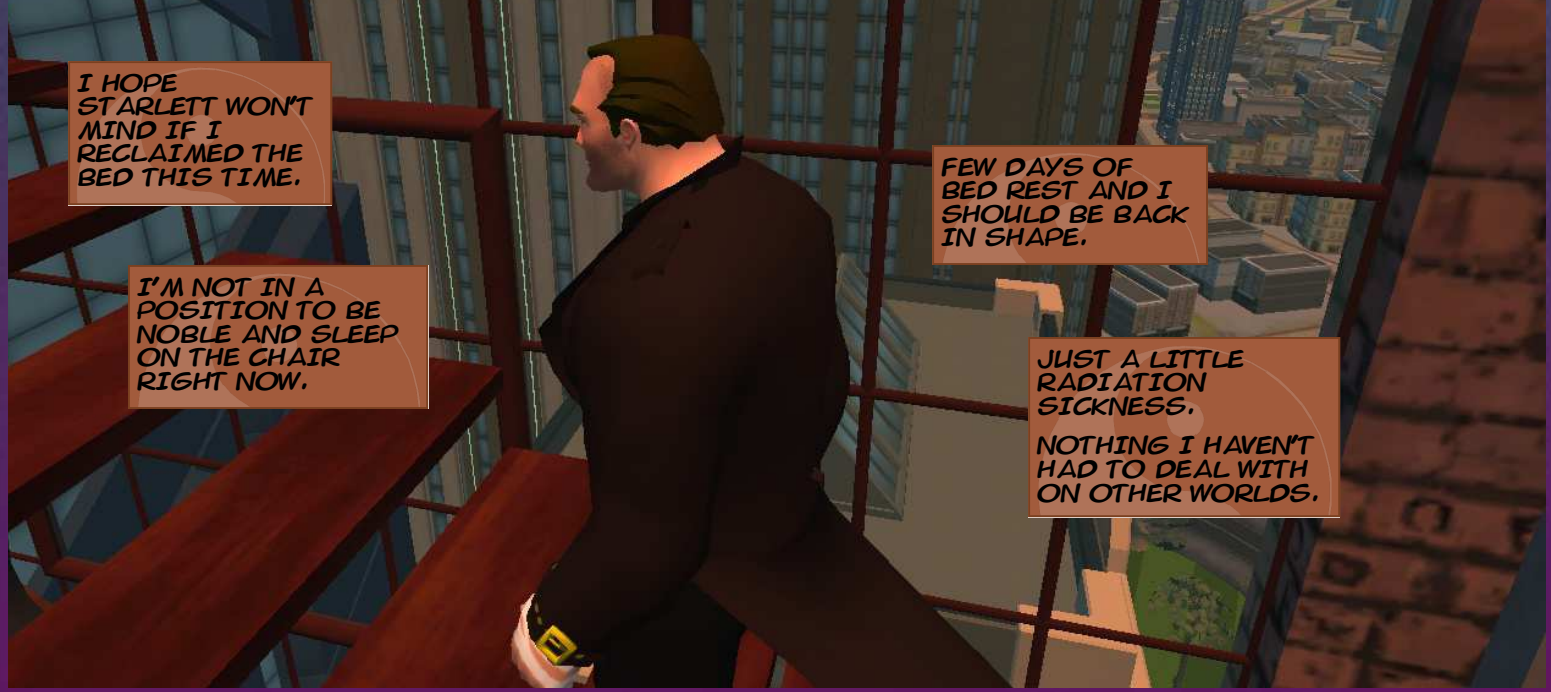
NO BLOOD THIS TIME. GOOD.

ALTHOUGH I'VE LOST A LITTLE MORE HAIR.



JUST NEED SOME MORE BED REST.

WILL CHECK IN WITH CROSS LATER.



I HOPE STARLETT WON'T MIND IF I RECLAIMED THE BED THIS TIME.

I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO BE NOBLE AND SLEEP ON THE CHAIR RIGHT NOW.

FEW DAYS OF BED REST AND I SHOULD BE BACK IN SHAPE.

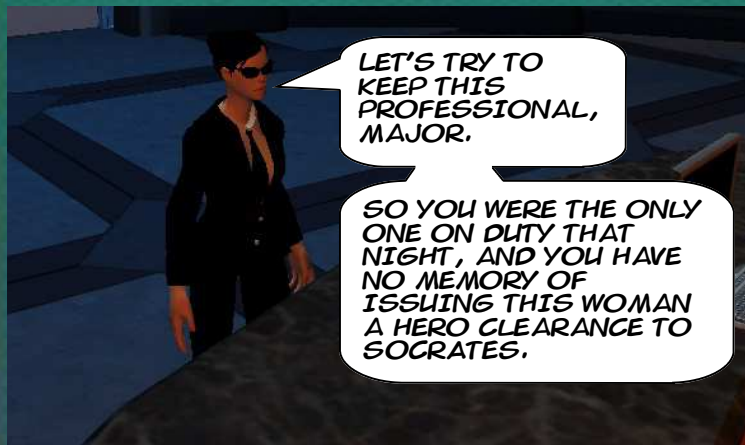
JUST A LITTLE RADIATION SICKNESS. NOTHING I HAVEN'T HAD TO DEAL WITH ON OTHER WORLDS.



"SO YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF BEING VISITED THAT NIGHT."

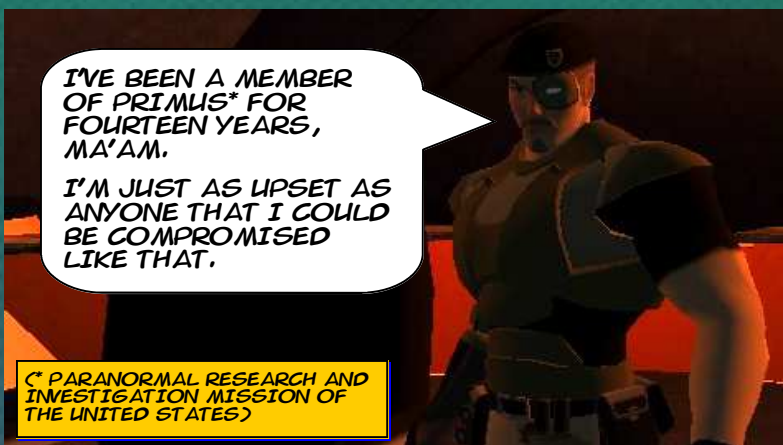


I'D LIKE TO SAY I WOULD REMEMBER SEEING AN ATTRACTIVE REDHEADED HERO, MA'AM.



LET'S TRY TO KEEP THIS PROFESSIONAL, MAJOR.

SO YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE ON DUTY THAT NIGHT, AND YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF ISSUING THIS WOMAN A HERO CLEARANCE TO SOCRATES.

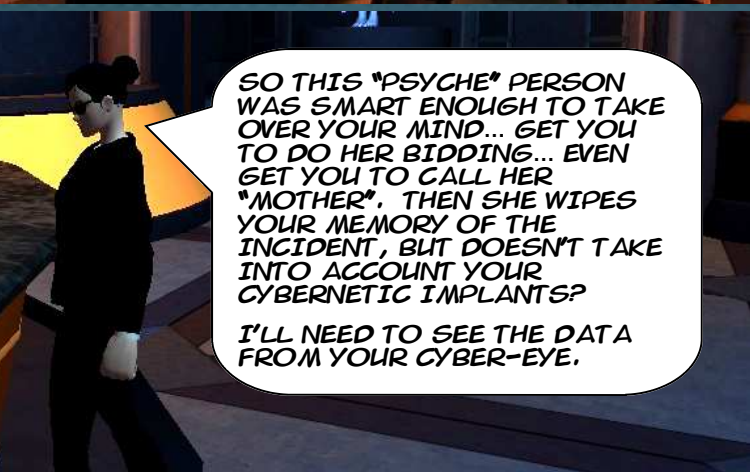


I'VE BEEN A MEMBER OF PRIMUS* FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, MA'AM.
I'M JUST AS UPSET AS ANYONE THAT I COULD BE COMPROMISED LIKE THAT.

(* PARANORMAL RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES)



I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN KNOWN I WAS COMPROMISED IF MY CYBERNETICS DIDN'T ALERT ME.



SO THIS "PSYCHE" PERSON WAS SMART ENOUGH TO TAKE OVER YOUR MIND... GET YOU TO DO HER BIDDING... EVEN GET YOU TO CALL HER "MOTHER". THEN SHE WIPES YOUR MEMORY OF THE INCIDENT, BUT DOESN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT YOUR CYBERNETIC IMPLANTS?

I'LL NEED TO SEE THE DATA FROM YOUR CYBER-EYE.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU SHOULD ALREADY HAVE IT. I JUST GAVE IT AND THE SECURITY FOOTAGE TO THE OTHER AGENT.



WHAT OTHER AGENT?



AND YOU DID EXACTLY LIKE I TOLD YOU?

RIGHT DOWN TO PUTTING ON A BLACK SUIT AND TIE.



NOT EXACTLY THE KIND OF THING I'D WEAR, THOUGH.

I KNOW. NICE WORK STARLETT.



IT FELT WEIRD POSING AS A FEDERAL AGENT. SHOULD'NT WE BE WORKING WITH THE FBI ON THIS? AREN'T WE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE?

WE MAY ALL BE ON THE SAME SIDE, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

THIS IS AN U.N.T.I.L. CASE AND WE HAVE PRIMARY JURISDICTION. SPEAKING OF... YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO LOOK AT ANY OF THE DATA, DID YOU?



UM... YOU TOLD ME NOT TO, SO I DIDN'T. WHY? SHOULD I HAVE?

NO. YOU DID GOOD. THAT WAY IF AGENT WEDNESDAY WERE TO SCAN YOU, YOU COULDN'T GIVE HER ANY INFO WE DIDN'T WANT RELEASED TO HER YET.



MY GOD... OKAY, GET BACK TO THE LOFT. ALERT ME IF AGENT WEDNESDAY DOES TALK WITH YOU.

NOTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW! I HAVE TO FIND GALATEA FUTURE RIGHT NOW!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

NO, EMMA, I OWN THE RIGHTS TO THE CHARACTER OF PSYCHE. SHE WAS MY CREATION LONG BEFORE THIS PERSON SHOWED UP CALLING HERSELF THAT.

BUT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY THE EXECS AT INCARNATE WOULD BE CONCERNED. THIS IS A POTENTIAL DEAL-BREAKER FOR THEM AS LONG AS THIS IMPOSTER IS RUNNING AROUND. YOU NEED TO TAKE STEPS.

AND I AM, EMMA. I AM. I HAVE A... FRIEND... LOOKING FOR HER. I WOULD PREFER THIS TO END WITHOUT GETTING CANDACE INVOLVED, BUT IF WORSE COMES TO WORSE, I'LL TAKE HER TO COURT.

DING-DONGGGG

HOLD ON. SOMEONE JUST SHOWED UP IN THE LIFT. I'M GOING TO PUT YOU ON HOLD.

TAYAI ARE YOU IN HERE?

COME ON IN. I'M FINISHING MY CALL WITH EMMA. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

OKAY, EMMA... IT WAS JUST CANDACE. LISTEN, I HAVE A HANDLE ON THIS, SO YOU CAN TELL THE SUITS AT INCARNATE NOT TO WORRY, OKAY?

WELL, WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT IF IT HAPPENS, OKAY? TALK WITH YOU SOON.

I'LL TELL THEM, ATHENA. BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE THEY'D BUY IT, ESPECIALLY IF ANOTHER VIDEO OF HER SHOWS UP ONLINE.

BEEP
EMERGENCY
MESSAGE
COMING IN...

GALATEA, THIS IS MAJOR
CROSS. SORRY FOR
BARGING IN ON YOUR
CALL LIKE THIS BUT--

MAJOR, I'M NOT HAPPY
THAT YOU KNOW MY
CIVILIAN IDENTITY, BUT
THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU
CAN BARGE INTO THAT
PERSONAL LIFE ANYTI--

WILL YOU JUST
SHUT UP AND
LISTEN!?

REMEMBER A FEW
DAYS AGO WHEN
PSYCHE WENT TO THE
CHAMPIONS
BUILDING AND GOT
HERSELF A HERO ID?

SHE WIPED THE MIND
OF THE PRIMUS
OFFICER THAT WAS
ON DUTY THAT NIGHT.

BUT SHE DIDN'T
REALIZE THAT THE
OFFICER HAD A
CYBERNETIC EYE THAT
HAD A BUILT-IN
PSIONIC FILTER.

I HAD STARLETT GET THE
DATA FILES FROM THAT
OFFICER BEFORE AGENT
WEDNESDAY COULD.

I JUST FINISHED
RUNNING THE DATA
FILTER ON THE FOOTAGE
ON PSYCHE.

IT'S CANDACE SINCLAIR.

OH MY GOD...

CANDACE SINCLAIR
IS PSYCHE!



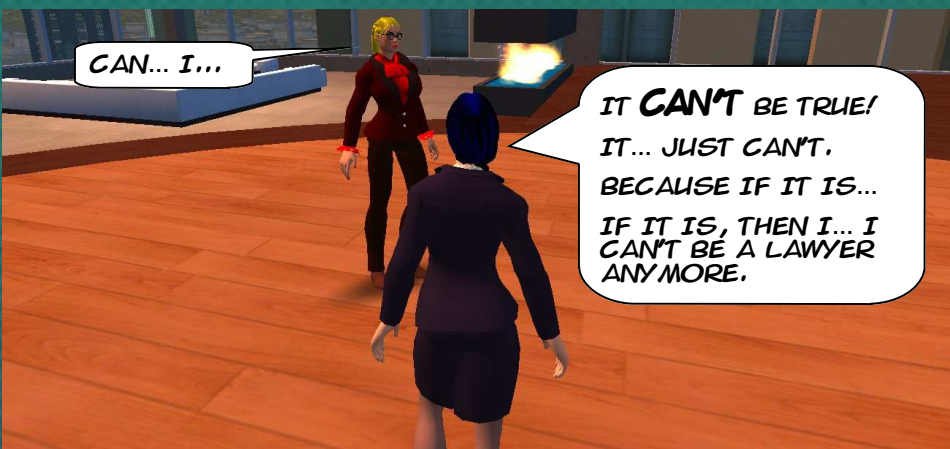
GALATEA?
GALATEA?
D@MN IT! SHE
HUNG UP!



HEY... UM...
WHAT'S UP?
IS... UM.. IS
EVERYTHING...
OKAY?

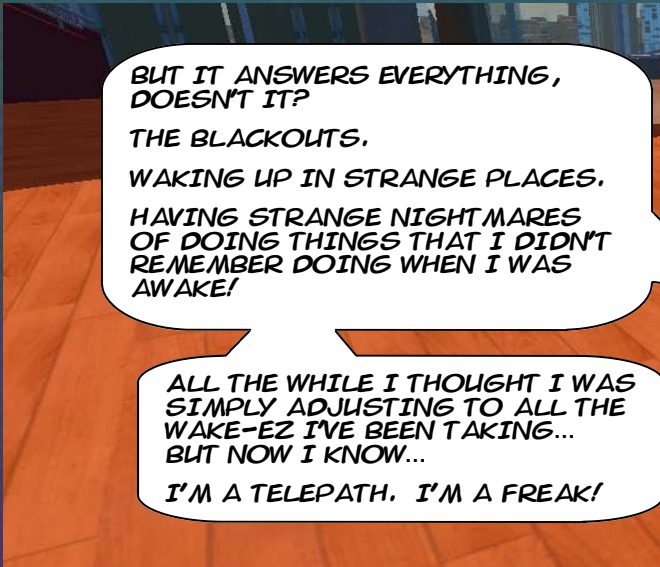


THAT STUFF THAT
CROSS SAID...
THAT... THAT
CAN'T BE TRUE,
COULD IT?



CAN... I...

IT **CAN'T** BE TRUE!
IT... JUST CAN'T.
BECAUSE IF IT IS...
IF IT IS, THEN I... I
CAN'T BE A LAWYER
ANYMORE.



BUT IT ANSWERS EVERYTHING,
DOESN'T IT?
THE BLACKOUTS.
WAKING UP IN STRANGE PLACES.
HAVING STRANGE NIGHTMARES
OF DOING THINGS THAT I DIDN'T
REMEMBER DOING WHEN I WAS
AWAKE!

ALL THE WHILE I THOUGHT I WAS
SIMPLY ADJUSTING TO ALL THE
WAKE-EZ I'VE BEEN TAKING...
BUT NOW I KNOW...
I'M A TELEPATH. I'M A FREAK!



CANDACE...
I REALLY DON'T
KNOW IF YOU ARE
A TELEPATH.


BUT NO MATTER WHAT,
WE'LL GET THROUGH
THIS, I PROMISE YOU!



DON'T LIE TO ME!
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SO
DESPERATE TO CALL ME, AND
WHY YOU NEEDED TO TALK
WITH SIDESTEP!



YOU'VE KNOWN I WAS A
TELEPATH!
I CAN TELL!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I
CAN TELL THAT YOU'VE KNOWN
THAT I'M A TELEPATH!
I CAN SEE IT IN MY HEAD...
SOMEONE TOLD YOU!



CANDACE... LISTEN...

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A TELEPATH.

YES, AN AGENT FROM THE FBI CAME HERE AND ACCUSED YOU OF BEING ONE, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT WAS TRUE!

YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND... THE ONLY FRIEND I'VE KNOWN IN OVER A THOUSAND YEARS!

I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THAT.



YOUR FRIEND...

YOUR NORMAL PLAIN FRIEND.

SOMEONE THAT CAN'T DEFEND HERSELF.

SOMEONE THAT NEEDS SAVING.



THAT'S NOT TRUE!

YOU HAVE SAVED ME IN WAYS THAT DON'T REQUIRE SUPER-HUMAN POWERS!

YOU HELPED ME WHEN I NEEDED IT.



OH BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE PART OF THE CLUB, ISN'T IT?

DOORS OPEN FOR YOU WHEN YOU HAVE POWERS!

HELL, YOU'VE BEEN ON THREE WORLDS WHERE THAT WAS THE CASE!

YOU KNOW THIS MORE THAN ANYONE!

NOW IT'S MY TURN!



CANDACE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



I DON'T KNOW! BUT WHATEVER IT IS...

I CAN'T STOP IT!



leeeeeeeeeEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



LNNH...

**OH, THAT IS SO MUCH BETTER!
NO MORE PRETENSES.
NO MORE DISGUISES
FOR EITHER OF US.**

**JUST US, STRIPPED DOWN
TO OUR TRUE SELVES,
ONLY IN YOUR CASE,
QUITE LITERALLY.
YOU KNOW, IN ALL
HONESTY, THAT FRILLY
OUTFIT WITH THE BLOND
WIG AND GLASSES... THAT
REALLY WASN'T YOU.
I MEAN, YOU LOOKED LIKE
A PARODY OF HUMANITY
IF IT WAS MODELED AFTER
LIBERACE.**

BUT EVEN THIS ISN'T ME. THIS IS JUST THE PERSON "SHE" WANTED TO BE. THE NOBLE HEROINE.



THE SELFLESS HERO BASED ON THE HEROES OF YOUR PAST.

THE ONE THAT YOU FOCUSED ON IN YOUR BOOKS THAT EVERYONE LOVES. THIS IS WHO "SHE" WANTED TO BE.

BUT PSYCHE WASN'T THE ONE THAT SAVED "HER" WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY THE NATIONALIST.*

PSYCHE WASN'T THE ONE THAT LATER DISHED OUT TRUE JUSTICE AT CITY HALL.**

THAT WAS ME!



CANDACE... PLEASE, I KNOW YOU'RE STILL IN THERE.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

PLEASE... LET'S JUST TALK ABOUT THIS.



< ISSUE #7 ** ISSUE #8 >

"TALK"? OH, NO, GALATEA, WE'RE BEYOND TALKING. THAT'S ALL THAT CANDACE DID, AND LOOK WHERE IT GOT HER. SO, NO MORE TALKING. TIME TO ACT. AND CANDACE SINCLAIR IS GONE NOW.



I AM...

Malizia



MALIZIA
PSIONIC TYRANT

AND NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

"MOTHER" HAS HER WORK CUT OUT FOR HER.



NEXT ISSUE:
BEWARE THE FURY OF MALIZIA!

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

“The Damsel Problem”

There was a scene in the 2002 live-action “Scooby-Doo” movie where Daphne, aptly played by Sarah Michelle Gellar, complained about being the perpetual “damsel in distress”.

It was funny watching her complain about it, because she hardly fits the “damsel in distress” category.

The “Damsel in Distress” idea goes back to the days of mythology. Greek, Indian, and Jewish literature each had stories of helpless women that needed being saved by male heroes. Probably the most famous of the Greek tales was that of Perseus, recently made famous with two version of the “Clash of the Titans” movie. European fairy tales would later pick up on this idea, as would the Persian tales of “Arabian Nights”.

The traditional damsel in distress is that of an innocent victim, often female, rendered helpless and in desperate need of being saved from certain doom.

The classic example of this is the Old West image of an attractive farm woman being tied up on a railroad track by some sinister villain, waiting for the nearest train to come on by to run over her. We don’t know why the villain is doing this, since it’s not the surest way to kill someone, and a lot of it depends on the train engineer being just as ruthless as the villain as there’s usually more than enough time and distance for the train to be brought to a stop.

Think about that for a moment. You’re a train engineer on a huge stretch of rail along the Old West. In the distance, you see something across the tracks that doesn’t look like an animal. You know if run it over, you might plow through it, or you might derail the train. Derailing the train can not only get you killed but it is very expensive for the owner of the train. Which would you rather be in trouble for: derailing a train, or being late because you brought the train to a stop to clear the obstruction that could have derailed it?

So your average stereotypical sinister villain needed more than just rope to do in the damsel. He would also need a train engineer that was just as sinister as he was. Or at least one that was clueless.

The 1930’s and the rise of comic books brought a different kind of damsel. One that was hardly an innocent. In fact, one that would spend her time getting into distress, and thus needed to be saved.

Superman had Lois Lane, a plucky reporter trying to make her name in the “mean world” of journalism by getting “the scoop” by any means necessary. Or “necessary” as in putting her life on the line so it would be saved by Superman, and thus she would have her story.

Batman had Vicky Vale, who was also a plucky reporter trying to maker her name in the “mean world” of journalism by getting “the scoop” by... well, you get the picture.

Of course it was an easy way to come up with stories using the “nosy reporter” formula. The woman looking to “make a name for herself” would look for trouble, eventually find it, then be put in danger and need to be rescued. Lather, rinse, repeat.

And if the “nosy reporter” formula seemed too cliché, then they just changed occupations, or even genders. Wonder Woman had Steve Trevor, a solider-slash-intelligence agent who apparently didn’t know how to get himself out of trouble. The Phantom had Diana Palmer, who worked for the United Nations. The “Shazam” books actually made “damsel” and hero into the same person, with the young Billy Batson getting into trouble, and then being able to rescue himself when he’s able to say the word

Continues on next page...

“Shazam” and transform into Captain Marvel.

In fact part of the reason behind the wave of teenage sidekicks was to give the hero someone to save. After all, it would be the sidekick that would be the one that would get in trouble and thus needed to be rescued. I mean, it's not like you can expect those “strong independent women” to continually put themselves in trouble just so they can show themselves as being helpless and needing to be rescued by a male hero, right?

That brings us back to Daphne of the actual “Scooby Gang”.

The complaint of Daphne as the perpetual “damsel in distress” is really a hollow one. First of all, she's often hiding out with Fred, and they usually aren't the ones that get into much trouble. That ends up being Velma, Shaggy, and Scooby. Second, even though she's essentially the “bankroll” behind the Mystery Machine, she's also supposedly trained to defend herself... so I find it hard to believe that she would allow herself to be put in peril unless it was by choice.

And third... seriously? You put yourself in danger and your only hope is an ascot-wearing Ken Doll, a geek girl who is blind the moment she loses her glasses (*which is all the time*), and a stoner and his talking dog? No wonder why they ended up teaming with Batman and Robin!

But no matter how much the idea was abused (*and believe me, it was during the “Silver Age” of comics and the Hanna-Barbera-age of cartoons*), at the core of the “damsel in distress” concept is something very primal... evil being perpetrated, and people in need of a hero to step in before a tragedy could occur.

While reality often sees evil prevailing, we'd like to imagine a situation where the tragedy could be averted, the villain's plans thwarted, and the innocent victim saved.

After all... the damsel is really supposed to represent us.

[HTTP://BATTLE ROCK COMICS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://battlerockcomics.wordpress.com)

NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



LOOK OUT WORLD!

MALIZIA HAS TAKEN OVER!

CAN GALATEA FUTURE STOP HER?

**AND CAN SHE DO SO WITHOUT KILLING
HER BEST FRIEND IN THE PROCESS?**

**FIND OUT AS THE "PSILENCE OF
CONSCIENCE" STORYLINE CONTINUES TO
BUILD TO ITS CLIMAX.**



CITY OF HEROES

CHAMPIONS ONLINE

STAR TREK ONLINE

DC Universe Online

**STAR WARS: THE
OLD REPUBLIC**

THE SECRET WORLD

WORLD OF WARCRAFT

AND MANY, MANY MORE!

**OUR "CITY" DIDN'T GO AWAY...
OUR "CITY" ONLY GOT BIGGER!**

HTTP://MMOCOMICINDEX.COM

THE RESOURCE SITE FOR FAN-MADE MMO COMICS!



**THE NEW HOME FOR
THE CITY OF COMIC
CREATORS**

MMOComicIndex.com is a fan-made MediaWiki resource website dedicated to fan-made comics based in or inspired by Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games. "City of Heroes" is owned by NC Soft. "Champions Online" and "Star Trek Online" are owned by Perfect World Entertainment, Inc. "Star Wars: The Old Republic" is owned by Electronic Arts and Disney. "DC Universe Online" is owned by Sony World Entertainment and WB Games. "The Secret World" is owned by Electronic Arts. "World of Warcraft" is owned by Blizzard Entertainment. Neither the City of Comic Creators or MMOComicIndex.com make any claim of ownership for any content owned by the above-mentioned groups. MMOComicIndex.com should not be used as a substitute for any official Wiki resource sites endorsed by the above-mentioned groups.

CHAMPIONS ONLINE WHITEOUT

A FIVE-PART IN-GAME COMIC SERIES

TERROR IN THE FROZEN WASTELAND!

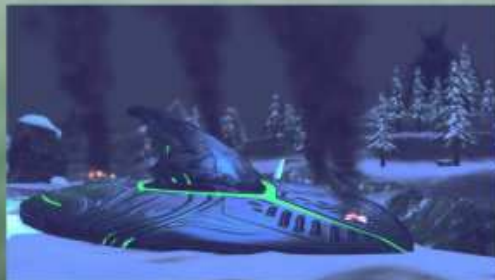


A VISIT TO THE CANADIAN WILDERNESS GOES HORRIBLY AWRY WHEN AN ALIEN SHIP CRASHES AND YOU ARE SENT TO INVESTIGATE.

TEAM-UP WITH JUSTICIAR AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AS THEY INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE ALIEN SHIP.

TAKE ON ALL THREATS RANGING FROM ARGENT TO JUSTICIAR'S MORTAL ENEMY, THE CYBERLORD, TO THE SHAPE-SHIFTING ROIN'ESH.

THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY APPEAR IN THE FROZEN WASTELANDS! IT'S UP TO YOU TO GET TO THE TRUTH AND STOP THE THREAT TO EARTH BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!



[HTTP://CO.PERFECTWORLD.COM/](http://co.perfectworld.com/)

CHAMPIONS ONLINE: WHITEOUT IS AN IN-GAME COMIC SERIES AVAILABLE TO ALL ACTIVE PLAYERS OF THE CHAMPIONS ONLINE MMO. NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE IS REQUIRED. CHAMPIONS ONLINE IS OWNED BY PERFECT WORLD ENTERTAINMENT INC.



PERFECT
WORLD