

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

FURIA AND THE GUARDIANS



Issue 01
2015



HERO...

... PRAETORIAN



CAN SHE BE BOTH?



"The check is in the mail..."

"But I don't have a mailbox anymore!"

At Baumton Insurance, we understand that the last thing you need to hear is the slow grind of a bureaucrat keeping you from your needed settlement money.

Whether it is the Rikti, Nemesis, or Arachnos, you don't deserve to be victimized twice for a service you've already paid into.

We know from experience how painful it is to be denied the funds you need to rebuild your life. In fact, we remind ourselves every day with a photo of our former home office.

That's why we will bend over backward to make sure you get everything you deserve as soon as possible, not when some bureaucrat decides is "appropriate".

Because once upon a time, we were the ones that were told that "the check is in the mail."



BAUMTON INSURANCE

"WE KNOW IT HURTS."

MEDICAL * DENTAL * HOME *
LIFE * INVASION *
MEGALOMANIA * GIANT
MONSTER

OFFICES IN STEEL CANYON,
FOUNDER'S FALLS, CROATOA,
AND PEREGRINE ISLAND

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

The woman known as Furia Powers has been torn between two Earths.

On one Earth, she is seen as a respected hero and protector of the weak. The latest member of a proud superhero dynasty.

On another Earth, she is eyed with suspicion and distrust.

Unfortunately, the world that respects her is devastated by monsters and ruled by super-powered tyrants.

And the world that distrusts her is the one that is best known for its "City of Heroes". This is the world that she fled to in order to survive.

Now her challenge is to convince this world that she is really worth their respect and their trust.

"DO-OVER"

- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2

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CAP AU DIABLE - ROGUE ISLES

AEON CITY DISTRICT

LEXIETECH INC. - CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS



VANGUARD BASE - RIkti WAR ZONE

PARAGON CITY, RHODE ISLAND, USA

"OKAY... THIS IS A RECORDED VANGUARD COUNSELING SESSION. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD."

"FURIA POWERS."

"IS THAT THE NAME YOU WERE BORN WITH?"

NO. OF COURSE NOT. WHAT KIND OF PARENTS WOULD NAME THEIR DAUGHTER "FURIA"?

MISS POWERS, YOU KNOW WE HAVE TO FOLLOW PROTOCOL HERE.

PLEASE JUST ANSWER THESE FORMAL QUESTIONS AND THEN YOU CAN ELABORATE MORE AFTERWARD.

SIGH OKAY...

NO, MY BIRTH NAME WAS FAITH ANNA POWERS. I WAS BORN IN CARDIFF, WALES, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

YES.

AND BY "UNITED KINGDOM" YOU MEAN THE ONE IN THE UNIVERSE DESIGNATED UPSILON BETA 9-6, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "PRAETORIA". CORRECT?

 **Furia Powers**
FORMER PRAETORIAN

AND IS "FURIA" YOUR CODE-NAME OR NICKNAME?

NO, I LEGALLY CHANGED MY NAME TO FURIA POWERS AFTER THE DEATH OF MY SISTER.

AND YOU ARE HERE IN THIS UNIVERSE BY YOUR OWN FREE WILL. IS THAT CORRECT?

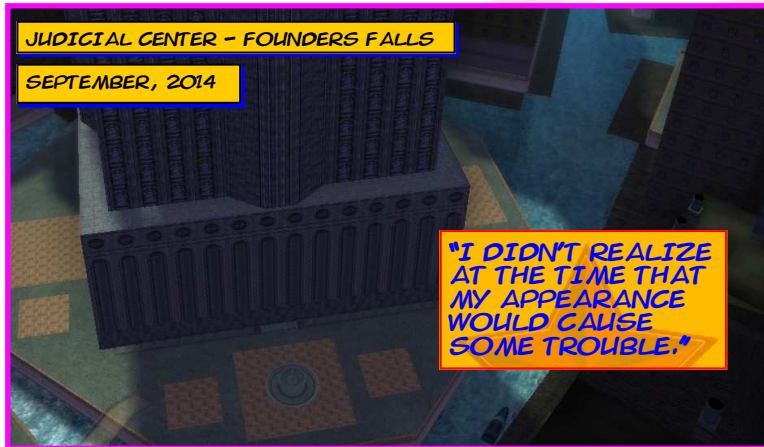
YES.



OKAY. NOW I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED IN THE JUDICIAL CENTER IN SEPTEMBER OF 2014?



I WAS SUMMONED TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE AGAINST SOME OUTCAST GANG MEMBERS I HAD ARRESTED.



JUDICIAL CENTER - FOUNDERS FALLS

SEPTEMBER, 2014

"I DIDN'T REALIZE AT THE TIME THAT MY APPEARANCE WOULD CAUSE SOME TROUBLE."



IS THAT A PRAETORIAN?

IT'S AN INVASION!

WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

I THOUGHT SHE WAS ON OUR SIDE NOW!



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO WEAR YOUR PRAETORIAN INVESTIGATOR'S UNIFORM?



I WAS TOLD TO DRESS PROFESSIONALLY, AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING FORMAL OTHER THAN MY OLD POWERS DIVISION UNIFORM.



"APPARENTLY THE JUDGE OVERSEEING THE CASE WAS A REAL STICKLER ABOUT HOW HEROES DRESSED IN HIS COURTROOM, SO I WAS TOLD NOT TO WEAR MY USUAL HERO OUTFIT."

"SO YOU SHOWED UP IN YOUR PRAETORIAN UNIFORM, READY TO GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY."

"CORRECT."



"I WAS JUST COMING UP TO THE COURTROOM WHEN I SAW THEM."



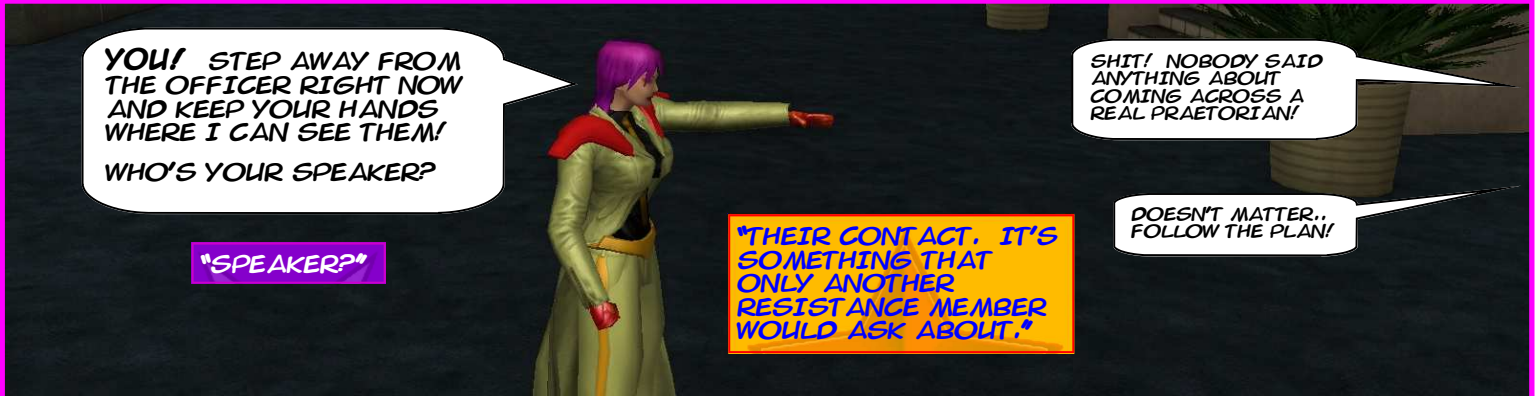
"YOU MEAN THE RESISTANCE?"

"I MEAN THE PEOPLE PRETENDING TO BE RESISTANCE."



HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THEY WERENT IN THE RESISTANCE?
THEY SUPPOSEDLY WORE THE OUTFITS AND CARRIED THE KNOWN WEAPONS OF RESISTANCE MEMBERS.

I WORKED WITH THE RESISTANCE FOR YEARS, HELPING REFUGEES FROM FIRST WARD. I KNOW WHAT A REAL MEMBER LOOKS LIKE.
AND... CARRYING WEAPONS IN A SECURE AREA LIKE THE JUDICIAL CENTER?
EVEN I KNOW THAT'S WRONG.



YOU! STEP AWAY FROM THE OFFICER RIGHT NOW AND KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM! WHO'S YOUR SPEAKER?

"SPEAKER?"

"THEIR CONTACT. IT'S SOMETHING THAT ONLY ANOTHER RESISTANCE MEMBER WOULD ASK ABOUT."

SHIT! NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT COMING ACROSS A REAL PRAETORIAN!

DOESNT MATTER.. FOLLOW THE PLAN!



SHE'S NOT ARMED. WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.

I'M NOT GOING DOWN FOR KILLING A COP!

WE PLAY IT RIGHT, WE WON'T. SHE WILL. ON MY CUE...

HOLD ON...WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE. I'LL SHOW YOU OUR "SPEAKER".



GET HER!

"THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD RUSH ME."

"THEIR FIRST MISTAKE."



"THEY ASSUMED THEY HAD THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE."

WHAM!



"BUT IF THEY WERE REAL PRAETORIANS, RESISTANCE OR OTHERWISE, THEN THEY WOULD KNOW WHO I AM."

"I AM THE DAUGHTER OF THE FOUNDER OF THE POWERS DIVISION. I WAS FAR FROM BEING A SECRET THERE."

"AND THEY WOULD ALSO KNOW THAT I'M ALWAYS ARMED, THANKS TO MY MUTANT KINETIC MELEE POWERS."

WHAM!

WHAM!



"THEIR SECOND MISTAKE WAS THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO USE THE WEAPONS OF THE RESISTANCE."

WHAM!



"THOSE 'BLUEBERRY' RIFLES HAD MIGHT AS WELL BEEN WATER PISTOLS IN THEIR HANDS."

WHAM!



"I HAD THEM DISABLED AND UNCONSCIOUS WITHIN TWO MINUTES."

WHAM!



THIS IS FURIA POWERS. I HAVE AN OFFICER DOWN IN THE JUDICIAL CENTER. I NEED BACKUP AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. THREE IN--

YOU! HANDS UP!



GET THE GOLDIE!

GODDAMN GOLDIE!

GET HER!

UNF!

I'M A HERO DAMMIT!

SO THE POLICE... ATTACKED YOU?



THEY ATTACKED ME BEFORE I COULD EVEN IDENTIFY MYSELF AS A REGISTERED HERO.

IS THERE A CHANCE THAT THEY WERE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS?

AFTER ALL, YOU WERE DRESSED AS A PRAETORIAN LOYALIST, AND THERE WERE THREE RESISTANCE OFFICERS AND A POLICEMAN DOWN.



THEY HAD GUNS DRAWN AND WERE TRYING TO SHOOT ME EVEN BEFORE I COULD TRY TO COMPLY.*

IF MY POWERS DIDN'T INCLUDE TELEKINETIC PROTECTION, I'D BE DEAD IN A HEARTBEAT.*



I HAD TO PUT A STOP TO IT IN THE ONLY WAY THAT I KNOW.*

YOU ASSAULTED THE OFFICERS.*

I USED MY POWERS TO DEFEND MYSELF FROM AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO MY LIFE.*

STAND DOWN, DAMNIT! STAND DOWN!

WHAM!



BUT AT SOME POINT, YOU DID STAND DOWN.

WHEN THE SENIOR OFFICER ARRIVED AND TOLD HIS MEN TO DO THE SAME.

BUT I STILL WANTED AN EXPLANATION FOR WHY THEY ATTACKED ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.



LOOK, MY MEN WERE TOLD AN OFFICER WAS DOWN. THEY SHOW UP AND SEE DETECTIVE BRYTE DEAD, THREE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS DOWN, AND A WOMAN IN A PRAETORIAN UNIFORM WAS STANDING OVER ALL OF THEM.

THEY ONLY DID WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS RIGHT AT THE TIME.

AND THAT "JUSTIFIES" ATTACKING A DULY-REGISTERED HERO AND TRYING TO OUT-AND-OUT KILL ME BEFORE I CAN EVEN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED?

I THOUGHT ONLY THE ROGUE ISLES POLICE SHOT FIRST AND JUSTIFIED LATER.

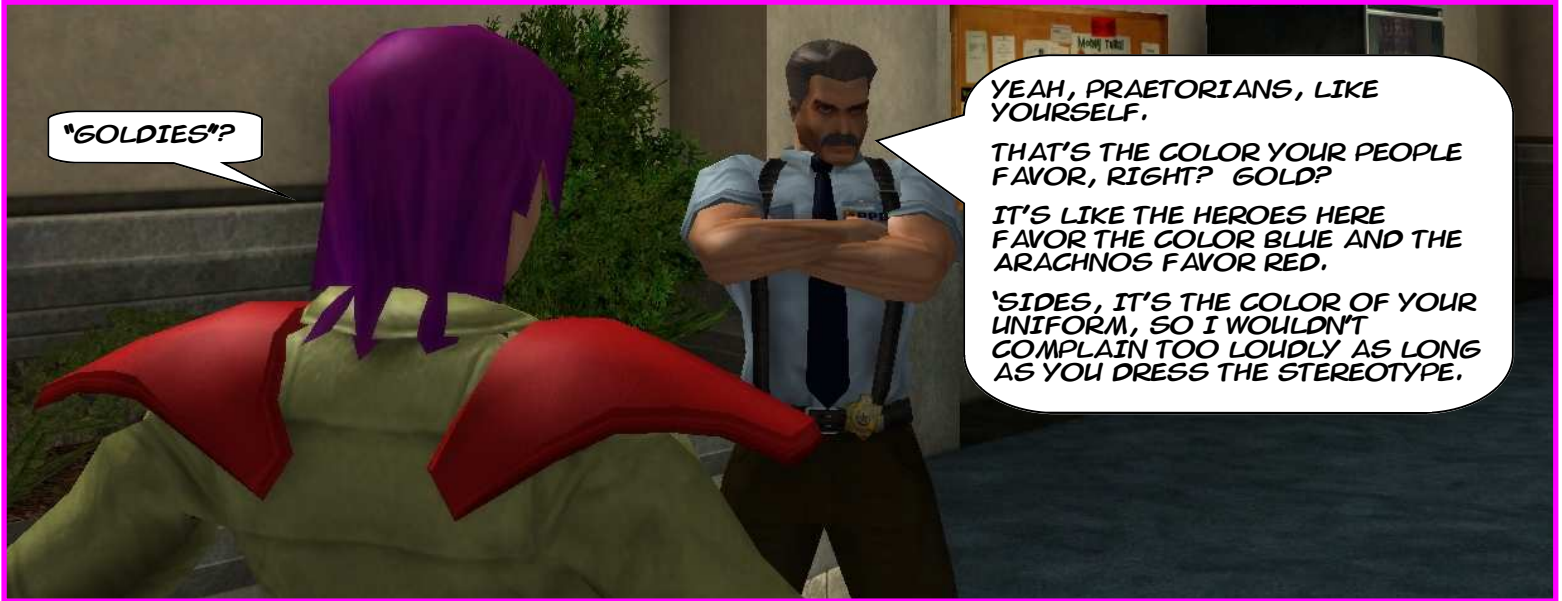


I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF OR MY MEN FOR THEIR ACTIONS, MISS POWERS.

CAPTAIN PARAGONNA VOUCHERED FOR YOU, AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WHY WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION HERE AND NOT IN A HOLDING CELL.

I DO KNOW THAT SOME OF THE OFFICERS HAVE SOME DEEP-ROOTED PREJUDICES AGAINST ANYONE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE, AND RIGHTLY SO.

BETWEEN THE RIKTI AND RULARUU AND EVEN YOUR OWN PRAETORIAN EMPEROR, WE DON'T HAVE TOO MANY REASONS TO BE PULLING OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR "GOLDIES", NO MATTER WHICH SIDE THEY CLAIM TO BE ON.



"GOLDIES"?

YEAH, PRAETORIANS, LIKE YOURSELF.

THAT'S THE COLOR YOUR PEOPLE FAVOR, RIGHT? GOLD?

IT'S LIKE THE HEROES HERE FAVOR THE COLOR BLUE AND THE ARACHNOS FAVOR RED.

'SIDES, IT'S THE COLOR OF YOUR UNIFORM, SO I WOULDN'T COMPLAIN TOO LOUDLY AS LONG AS YOU DRESS THE STEREOTYPE.



"DRESS THE STEREOTYPE!"



**AND I TAKE IT THIS BOTHERS YOU.
WHY?**



**WELL OF COURSE IT BOTHERS ME!
I THOUGHT PARAGON CITY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOVE ALL OF THAT BIGOTRY!**



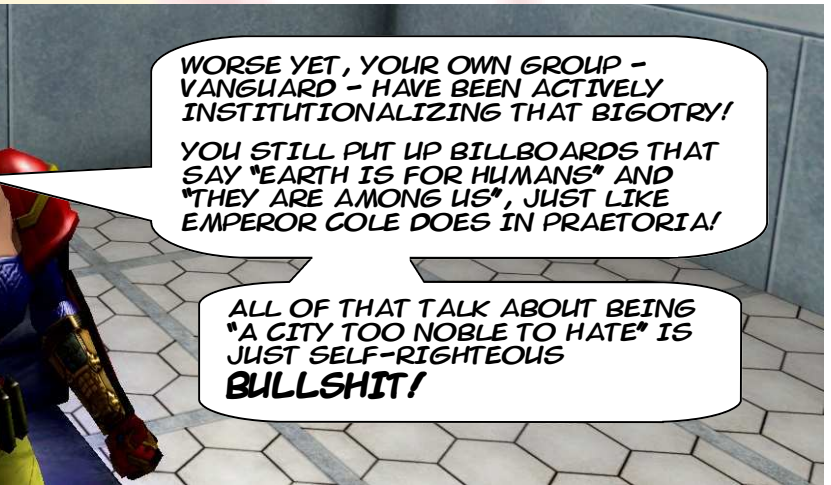
**DONE WITH RACISM.
DONE WITH SEXISM.
DONE WITH ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION.**

THE FIRST CITY TO HAVE AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRANSGENDER JUDGE. THE FIRST CITY TO PERFORM SAME-SEX MARRIAGES. THE FIRST CITY TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF CATGURLS!



AND YET YOU STILL HAVE NO PROBLEM FINDING SOME GROUP TO DISCRIMINATE!

"PRIMALISM"; THE PREJUDICIAL PREFERENCE OF PEOPLE FROM THIS UNIVERSE OVER ALL OTHERS!



WORSE YET, YOUR OWN GROUP - VANGUARD - HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INSTITUTIONALIZING THAT BIGOTRY!

YOU STILL PUT UP BILLBOARDS THAT SAY "EARTH IS FOR HUMANS" AND "THEY ARE AMONG US", JUST LIKE EMPEROR COLE DOES IN PRAETORIA!

ALL OF THAT TALK ABOUT BEING "A CITY TOO NOBLE TO HATE" IS JUST SELF-RIGHTEOUS BULLSHIT!

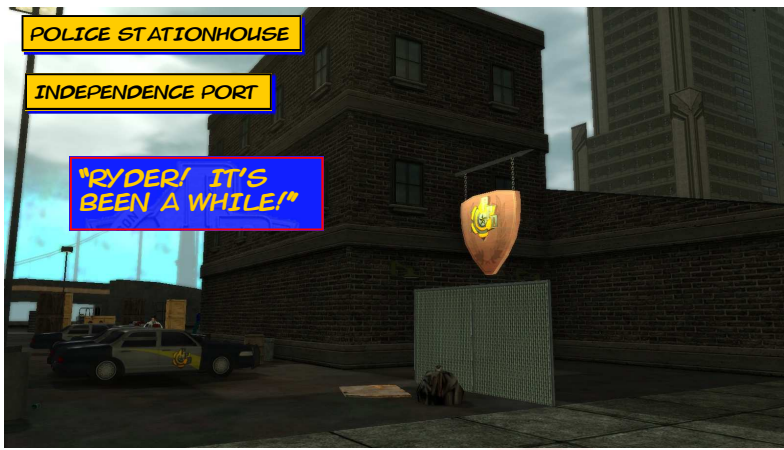


I'VE BEEN ON THIS WORLD FOR TWO YEARS NOW. I BURNED ALL OF MY BRIDGES WITH PRAETORIA. I EVEN KNOCKED A PRAETOR ON HIS ASS INSIDE TYRANT'S MAGISTERIUM* AND YET MY EVERY MOVE IS STILL QUESTIONED. I'M STILL UNDER VANGUARD SUPERVISION, STILL HAVING TO TAKE PART IN AUDITS AND COUNSELING SESSIONS.

I'M A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN; ONE OF THE RISING GROUPS IN PARAGON CITY!

SO WHEN THE HELL AM I GOING TO FEEL LIKE I ACTUALLY BELONG HERE!/?

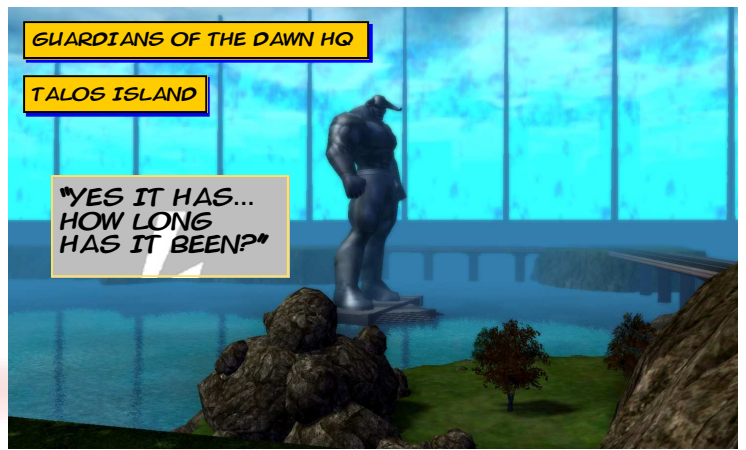
(* "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #13)



POLICE STATIONHOUSE

INDEPENDENCE PORT

"RYDER! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!"



GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN HQ

TALOS ISLAND

"YES IT HAS... HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?"



SINCE WE TALKED? OH, I DON'T KNOW...

AT LEAST SINCE JIMMY HELLFIGHTER'S FUNERAL LAST YEAR, MAYBE?

I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU WOULD HAVE TRIED TO CALL ME UP LAST FALL AFTER YOU DUSTED OFF YOUR HERO GEAR AND RE-JOINED THE GUARDIANS.

WELL, I'M NOT "BACK" AS A HERO. JUST AS OPERATIONS DIRECTOR... ICON'S OLD JOB.*

THANKFULLY IT DOESN'T REQUIRE ME TO USE HYPER-SPEED.

Captain Paragonna
(STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS)

(* AS SEEN IN THE THREE-PART "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN GRADUATION" MINI-SERIES)



BESIDES, I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN RATHER BUSY AS HEAD OF THE AWAKENED DIVISION.

THEY FINALLY MADE THAT RANK OF "CAPTAIN" A REAL ONE FOR YOU. GRATZ.

THANKS.

HOW'S THAT BEEN GOING?

Ryder Lightning
(BART WALLACE)



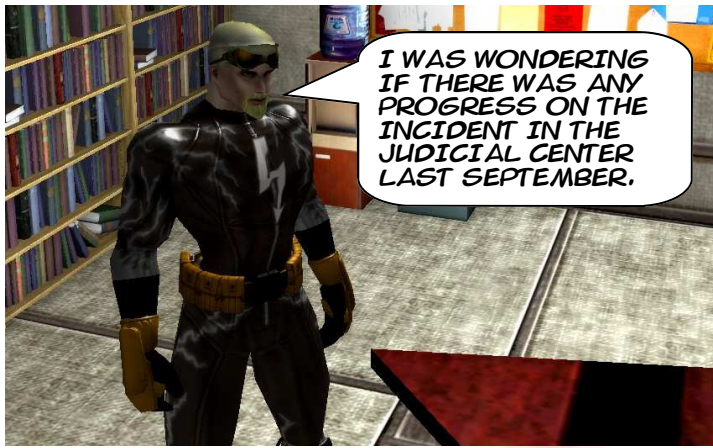
BEING THE ONLY FULLY-HUMAN COP IN CHARGE OF AN ALL-KHELDIAN HYBRID UNIT IS A BIT OF A LEARNING CURVE FOR ME.

BUT, THANKFULLY, DAYBRIGHT HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN GETTING ME UP TO SPEED.

HAVING A PEACEBRINGER REDEEMER BY MY SIDE HAS KNOCKED OFF A LOT OF THE ATTITUDE WITHIN THE RANKS.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE HAVING A ROCK STAR FOR A BEST FRIEND.

BUT I'M GUESSING THAT YOU'RE NOT CALLING ME FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, SO HOW CAN I HELP YOU?



I WAS WONDERING IF THERE WAS ANY PROGRESS ON THE INCIDENT IN THE JUDICIAL CENTER LAST SEPTEMBER.



YOU MEAN THE ONE THAT INVOLVED FURIA POWERS AND DETECTIVE BRYTEP?

WISH I COULD SAY I KNEW SOMETHING, BUT MAJOR CRIMES TOOK OVER THAT CASE ALMOST FROM THE GET-GO AND LOCKED IT DOWN.

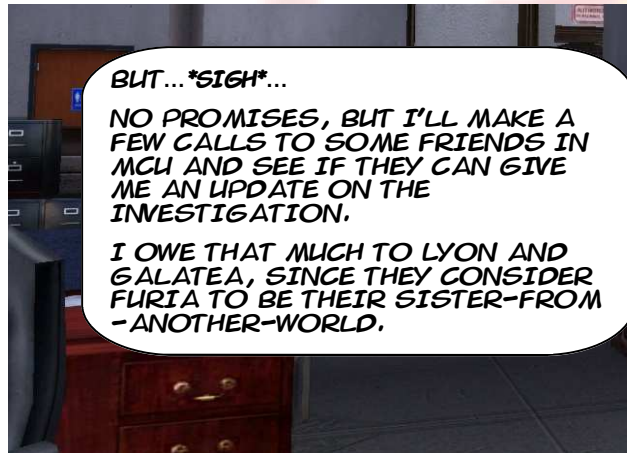


THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE CAPTAIN PARAGONNA I USED TO REMEMBER.

THE ONE THAT USED TO KNOCK DOWN ANY DOOR TO HELP A FRIEND.



YEAH, WELL, THIS IS THE CAPTAIN PARAGONNA THAT IS TRYING TO KEEP HER BUTT IN A SKIN-TIGHT BODYSUIT AGAIN AND KEEPING UP WITH COSMIC-POWERED HYBRIDS SO THEY DON'T BECOME A SELF-APPOINTED HIT SQUAD LIKE THEY WERE UNDER DREADLAW.



BUT... *SIGH*...

NO PROMISES, BUT I'LL MAKE A FEW CALLS TO SOME FRIENDS IN MCH AND SEE IF THEY CAN GIVE ME AN UPDATE ON THE INVESTIGATION.

I OWE THAT MUCH TO LYON AND GALATEA, SINCE THEY CONSIDER FURIA TO BE THEIR SISTER-FROM-ANOTHER-WORLD.



OH, AND WHEN YOU SEE GALATEA, BE SURE TO TELL HER I SAID "THANK YOU" FOR THE INTER-SPEAK TRANSLATOR DEVICE.*

IT'S MADE TALKING WITH NEW HYBRID RECRUITS SO MUCH EASIER!

(* INTER-SPEAK: UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE FOR SPACE TRAVELERS.)



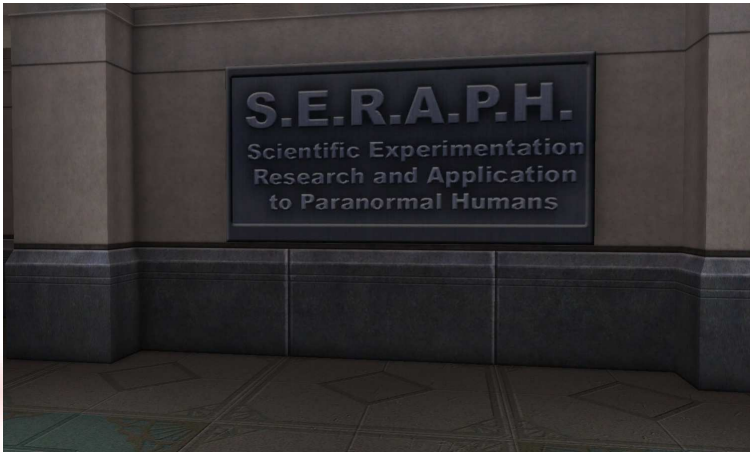
I CERTAINLY WILL.

STRANGE... I DON'T REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT A TRANSLATOR DEVICE FOR INTER-SPEAK.

APPARENTLY IT WAS SOMETHING THAT SHE MADE AFTER STARTING WORK AT S.E.R.A.P.H. SIX MONTHS AGO.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT'S BEEN A LIFESAVER FOR ME!

STEEL CANYON



YOU CAN COVER IT UP, BUT IT STILL DOESN'T MATTER...



...YOU STILL HAVE THE BEST BOD IN THE UNIVERSE!



 **John Cole**
SON OF STATESMAN

OKAY, JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, HOW DID YOU GET HERE, AND WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO MAKE SEXIST COMMENTS LIKE THAT?



 **Faith Karl**
AKA GALATEA POWERS



RELAX. EVERYONE ELSE IS AT LUNCH.
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, TAYA.
YOU CAN PUT YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND ME.



I DON'T KNOW YOU, MISTER.
AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T KNOW WHO "TAYA" IS.
I WOULD SUGGEST YOU TURN AROUND RIGHT NOW AND LEAVE BEFORE I CALL SECURITY.



ARE YOU OKAY?
DID YOU GET HIT ON THE HEAD OR SOMETHING?

RRRR!
OKAY, FINE!
JUST... SHUT UP AND COME WITH ME!



MINUTES LATER...

NICE...KEEPING IT PRIVATE.
HEY, ISN'T THIS THE PLACE WHERE YOU AND CAP AND LYON WOULD MEET?*

JOHN, I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANYONE HERE IN S.E.R.A.P.H. TO SEE US TOGETHER!
WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER. NOT WHEN I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS.

(* YES IT IS! CHECK OUT "THE GUARDIAN POWERS" #1 TO SEE "ALEX'S ANGELS" IN ACTION.)



I DON'T GET YOU, TAYA.
WE'VE BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW.
HELL, I'VE SEEN MORE OF YOU THAN ANYONE IN THIS CITY OTHER THAN YOUR DOCTOR!
AND YET...I STILL DON'T KNOW YOU.
I'VE BEEN TO YOUR HOME...HELL, I'VE BEEN IN YOUR BED! SO WHY CAN'T I SEE YOU HERE AT WORK?



JOHN...



IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU.

IT JUST CAN'T BE HERE. NOT WHEN I'M... NOT WHEN I'M FAITH.



WHAT? YOU'RE AFRAID THAT I'LL ACCIDENTALLY BLURT OUT WHO YOU ARE UNDER THAT WIG AND GLASSES?

I KNOW HOW TO KEEP A SECRET, TAYA... OR "FAITH"... OR WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU HERE.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT KEEPING A SECRET, JOHN.

IT'S ABOUT KEEPING THOSE TWO SIDES OF ME SEPARATE.



I'VE HAD A CIVILIAN IDENTITY BEFORE THIS ONE... AND I ENDED UP LOSING IT BECAUSE I COULDN'T KEEP THE TWO SIDES SEPARATE.*

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE THAT SAME MISTAKE EVER AGAIN.

WHEN I'M HERE, DRESSED LIKE THIS, I'M NOT GALATEA POWERS, BUSTY SUPERHERO FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

HERE, I'M FAITH KARL, AN OFFICE WORKER FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

AND FAITH KARL IS NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHO JOHN COLE IS.

AT LEAST...NOT YET.

** WELL...NOT ENTIRELY SO. CHECK OUT THE "GALATEA DAWNING" STORYLINE IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT" #23-25 FOR THE WHOLE STORY.)*



DOES THAT... MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

ABSOLUTELY.

AND IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO GET TO MEET YOU... MISS KARL.

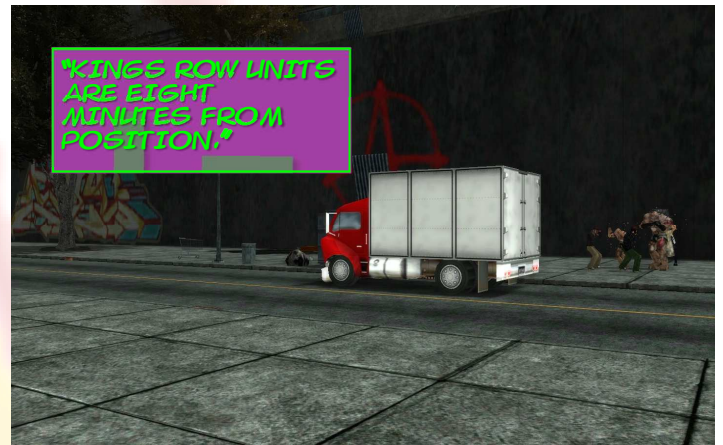


REPORT COMING IN FROM OUR SKYWAY CITY OFFICE. SUPPORT UNITS HAVE MOVED INTO POSITION.

STEEL CANYON OFFICE REPORTING IN...



"SUPPORT UNITS ARE MOBILE AND WILL BE IN POSITION IN FIVE MINUTES."



"KINGS ROW UNITS ARE EIGHT MINUTES FROM POSITION."



THIS IS GENIE IN THE TRAVEL OFFICE...



...THE "PAYLOAD" HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE STAGING AREA FOR DEPLOYMENT.

Genie Whitehall
LEXIETECH INC.



THANK YOU TRAVEL OFFICE. STAND READY FOR PHASE TWO.

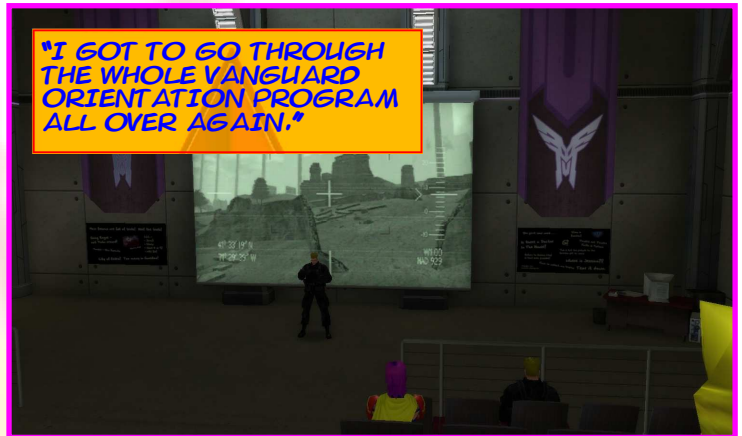
INFORM STEEL CANYON AND KINGS ROW OFFICES THAT THEY NEED TO PICK UP THE PAGE. THEY MUST BE IN POSITION BY THE TIME "SHE" GETS HERE.



OKAY, SO THE INCIDENT IN THE JUDICIAL CENTER IS OVER WITH. YOU MANAGED TO CLEAR THINGS UP WITH THE POLICE TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY SO THEY DON'T FALSELY ARREST YOU FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?



WHAT ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAPPEN. I GO BACK TO SQUARE ONE.



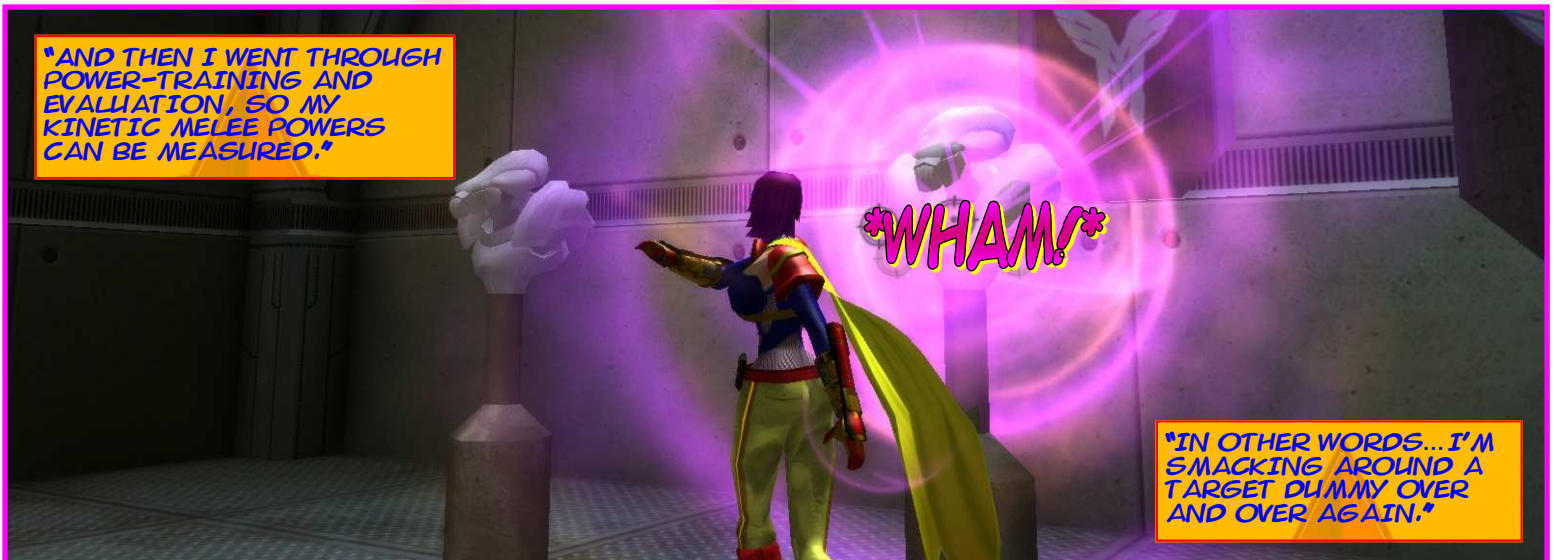
"I GOT TO GO THROUGH THE WHOLE VANGUARD ORIENTATION PROGRAM ALL OVER AGAIN."



"I SAT THROUGH THE SAME LECTURES ABOUT HOW THIS WORLD IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE."

"HOW THE HEROES IN THIS WORLD ARE NOBLE PEOPLE THAT DO GOOD THINGS, AND HOW THIS WORLD'S GREATEST HERO REMAINED ONE UNTIL HE WAS KILLED IN 2012."

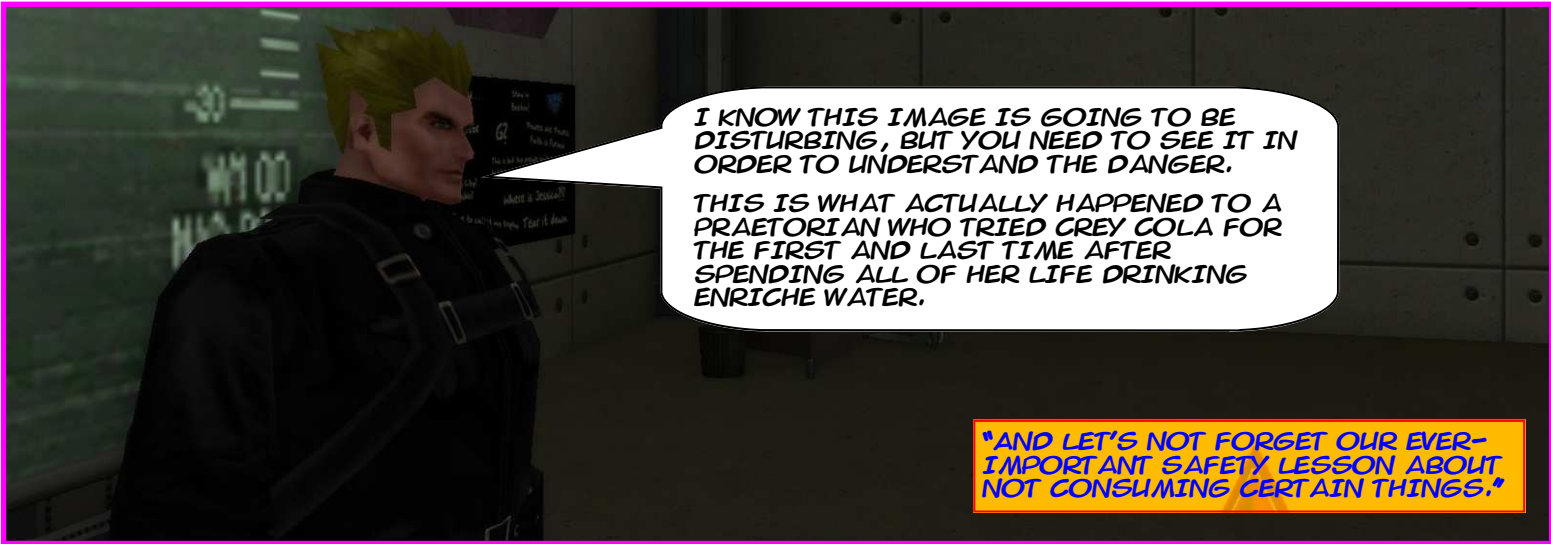
(* AS WAS SEEN IN THE EPIC IN-GAME STORYLINE "WHO WILL DIE".)



"AND THEN I WENT THROUGH POWER-TRAINING AND EVALUATION, SO MY KINETIC MELEE POWERS CAN BE MEASURED."

WHAM!

"IN OTHER WORDS... I'M SMACKING AROUND A TARGET DUMMY OVER AND OVER AGAIN."



I KNOW THIS IMAGE IS GOING TO BE DISTURBING, BUT YOU NEED TO SEE IT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE DANGER.

THIS IS WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO A PRAETORIAN WHO TRIED GREY COLA FOR THE FIRST AND LAST TIME AFTER SPENDING ALL OF HER LIFE DRINKING ENRICHE WATER.

"AND LET'S NOT FORGET OUR EVER-IMPORTANT SAFETY LESSON ABOUT NOT CONSUMING CERTAIN THINGS."



OH GOD, IT BURNS...
IT BURNS...HELP ME...HELP...
HELP...OH GOD I...
IEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!

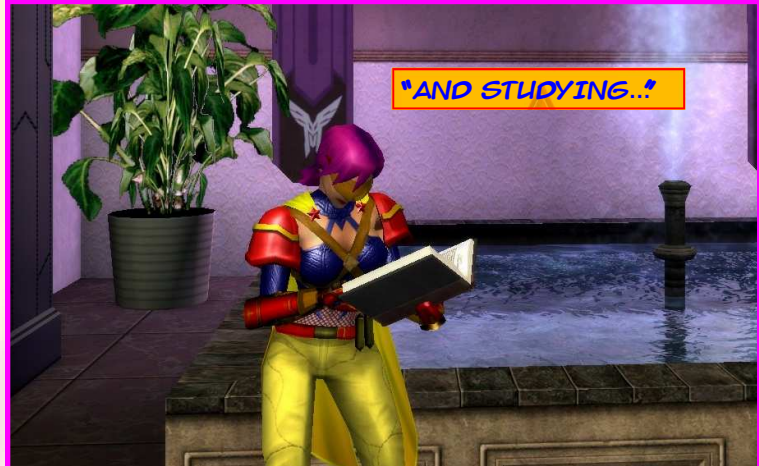
"WATCHING THE SAME SICK VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE WOMAN CATCH FIRE BECAUSE THE NANITES IN THE TWO BEVERAGES REACT VIOLENTLY AGAINST EACH OTHER."

"AND HEARING AND SMELLING THE REST OF THE AUDIENCE GET VIOLENTLY ILL WATCHING THAT GLORIFIED SNUFF VIDEO."



"AND THEN MORE TRAINING."

WHAM!



"AND STUDYING..."



"AND MORE TRAINING..."

WHAM!



"AND WORKING WITH OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT SO I CAN GET USED TO LIFE IN PARAGON CITY."



"HAVE I MENTIONED HOW SICK I AM OF TRAINING AND EVALUATIONS?"

WHAM!



"AND WHEN I'M NOT DOING THOSE THINGS, OR DOING MONITOR DUTY WITH THE GUARDIANS, I'VE BEEN IN MY DORM ROOM TRYING TO GET MY THOUGHTS TOGETHER."


"ANYTHING SPECIFIC?"



"WHAT I WOULD BE DOING ONCE I'M ALLOWED TO LIVE IN THE CITY UNSUPERVISED."

"WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE SOME SORT OF IDEA ABOUT A VOCATION THAT VANGUARD CAN HELP TRAIN US FOR."

"I MEAN, YEAH, I COULD BE A HERO 24-7, BUT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOME SORT OF SOCIAL LIFE TOO."



"I THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE PARAGON POLICE DEPARTMENT, MAYBE EVEN BEING AN INVESTIGATOR, LIKE I WAS IN MY BIRTH WORLD."

"BUT AFTER MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE POLICE HERE AND THEIR BIGOTRY, I DON'T THINK I EVER WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A GROUP LIKE THAT."



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED TALKING ABOUT THIS WITH SOME OF YOUR FELLOW GUARDIANS?

OR MAYBE YOUR NEW ADOPTED FAMILY HERE ON THIS WORLD?

MOST OF THE GUARDIANS ARE FROM THIS WORLD. THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH AS A REFUGEE FROM THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE.

AND EVEN THOUGH THE POWERS FAMILY IS ALIVE AND WELL HERE IN THIS UNIVERSE, MOST OF THEM DON'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST.



THE FAITH ANNA POWERS OF THIS WORLD WAS A HERO.

SHE WAS KILLED IN THE FIRST RIKTI INVASION DURING THE "ALPHA-OMEGA GAMBIT".




"SHE AND I MAY BE BIOLOGICALLY THE SAME... BUT I HAVE NO RIGHT TO CLAIM TO BE HER."

 **Welsh Fury**
(FAITH POWERS)



THE ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS THAT EVEN KNOW WHO I REALLY AM ARE GALATEA POWERS, ICON POWERS, AND LYON POWERS.

LYON AND ICON ARE IN CARDIFF WITH THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS. AND GALATEA... WELL, SHE AND I AREN'T THAT CLOSE.



DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT MAYBE THE PROBLEM ISN'T WITH THEM ACCEPTING YOU...

BUT OF YOU NOT ACCEPTING ALL OF THIS?



E-EXCUSE ME?

DID YOU NOT HEAR A WORD I SAID ABOUT ME BURNING ALL OF MY PRAETORIAN BRIDGES?

I AM PERSONNA NON GRATA IN PRAETORIA! THERE IS A DEATH WARRANT OVER THERE WITH MY NAME ON IT!



YES, I HEARD EVERYTHING THAT YOU SAID.

BUT BEING BRANDED A TRAITOR DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON YOUR BIRTH UNIVERSE.



YOU SAY THAT YOU'VE BURNED ALL OF YOUR PRAETORIAN BRIDGES...

BUT YOU STILL HAVE YOUR POWERS DIVISION UNIFORM.

YOU STILL DRESS IN YOUR PRAETORIAN HERO OUTFIT.

YOU STILL THINK OF YOURSELF AS A HERO IN THE PRAETORIAN UNIVERSE, EVEN IF YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK THERE AGAIN.

IF YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING TO FEEL LIKE YOU BELONG HERE, THEN MAYBE YOU NEED TO START THINKING OF YOURSELF AS A MEMBER OF THIS WORLD.

GIVE YOURSELF A "DO-OVER". RE-INVENT YOURSELF AS SOMEONE THAT WANTS TO BELONG IN THIS WORLD, AND MAYBE THE REST WILL FOLLOW.



*SHE'S ON
HER WAY
OVER.*



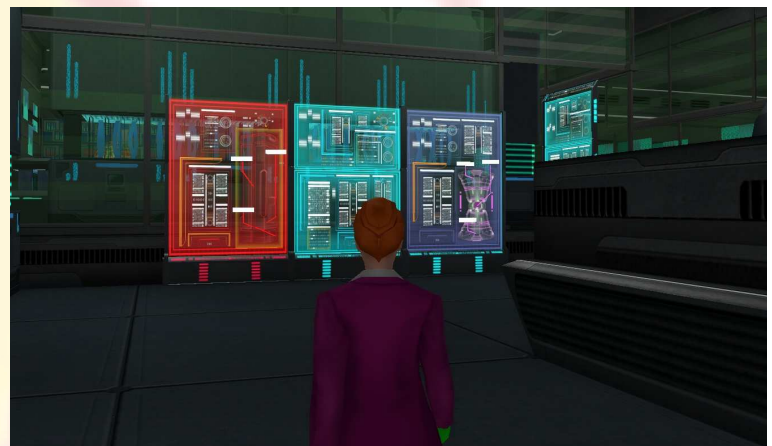
*UNDERSTOOD.
THANK YOU,
MISS CELIA.*

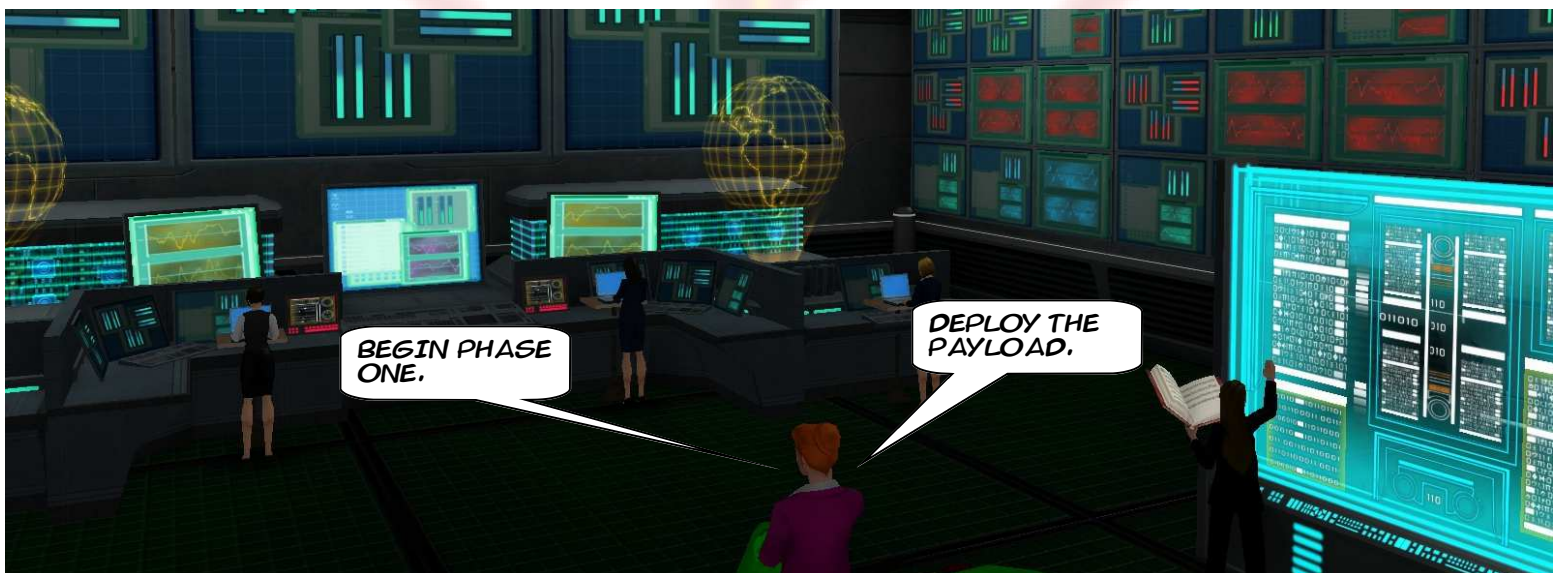


LOOK SHARP EVERYONE!

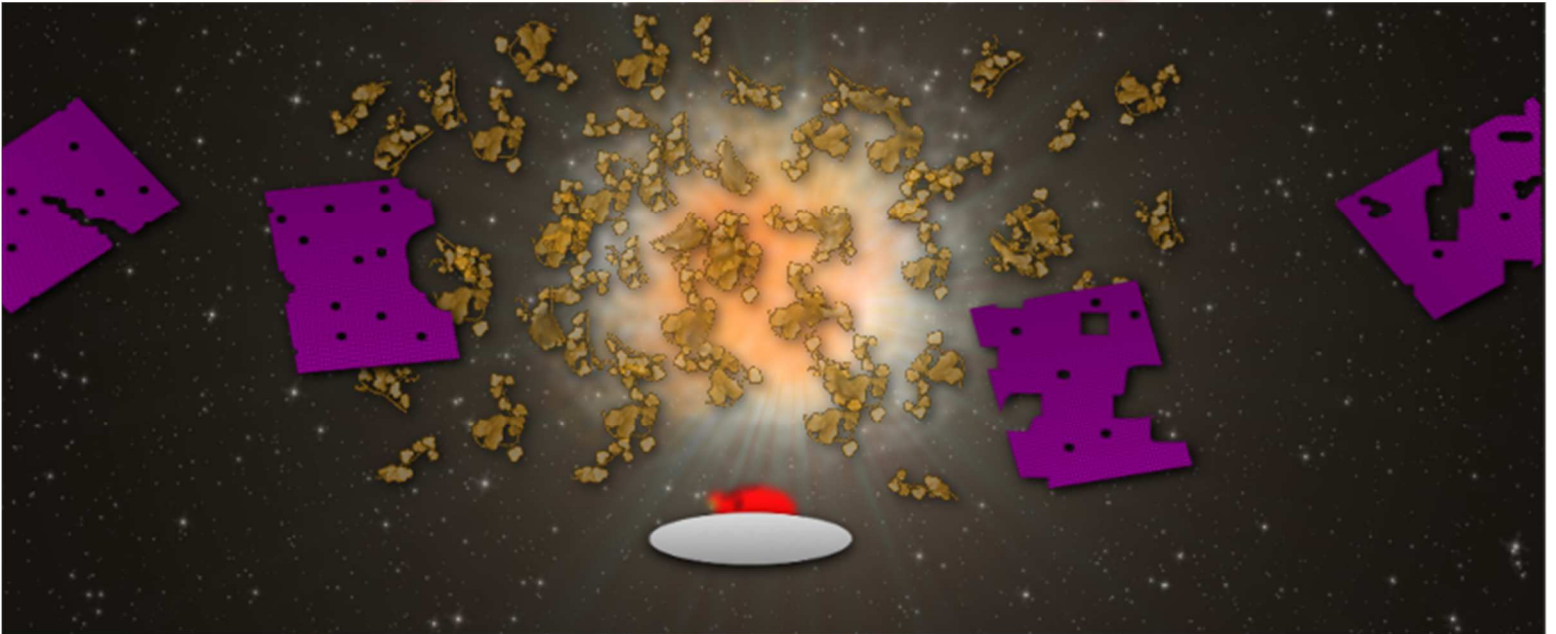
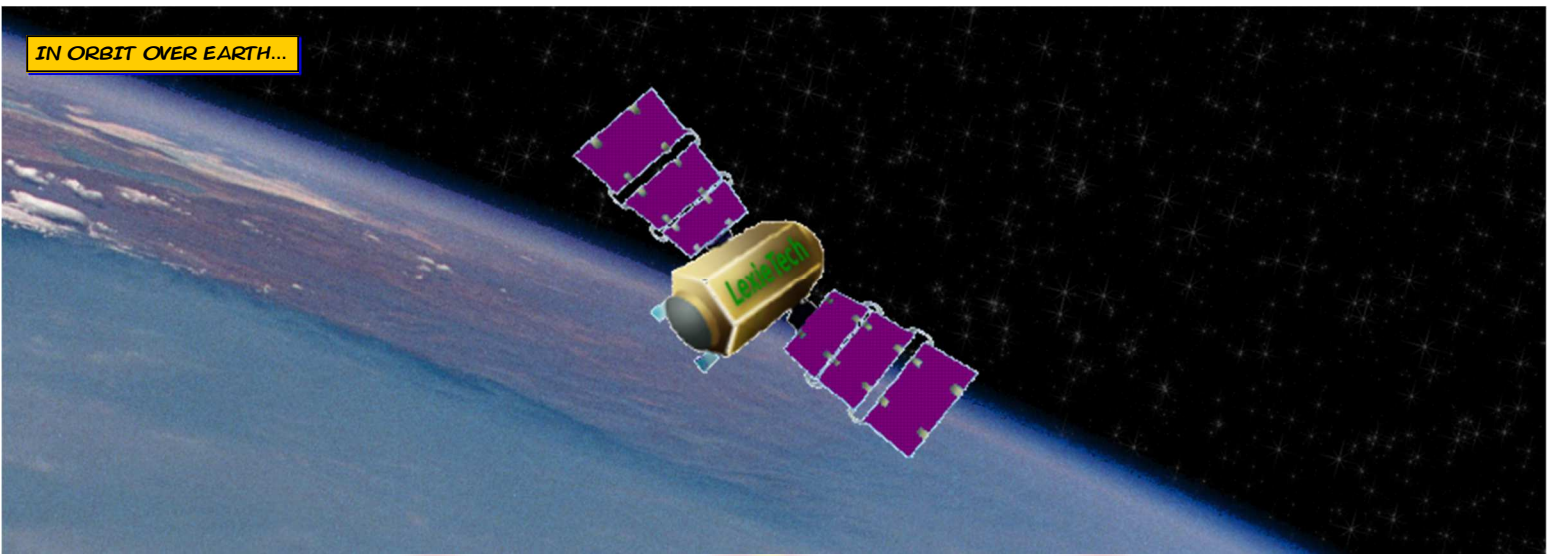
*MS. LOTHORA IS ON HER WAY
TO THE COMMAND AREA.*

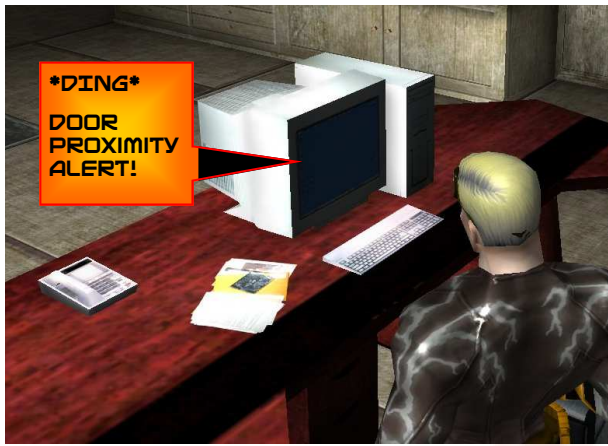
*EVERYONE BE AT YOUR BEST
BEHAVIOR OR YOU WILL ANSWER
TO MORE THAN JUST HUMAN
RESOURCES!*





IN ORBIT OVER EARTH...

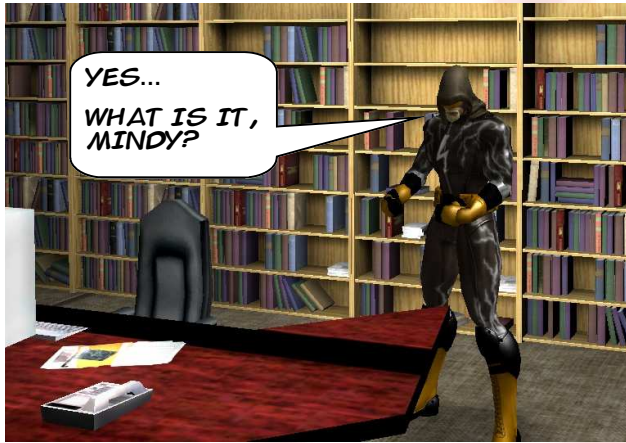




DING
DOOR PROXIMITY ALERT!



RYDER?
ARE YOU THERE?



YES...
WHAT IS IT, MINDY?

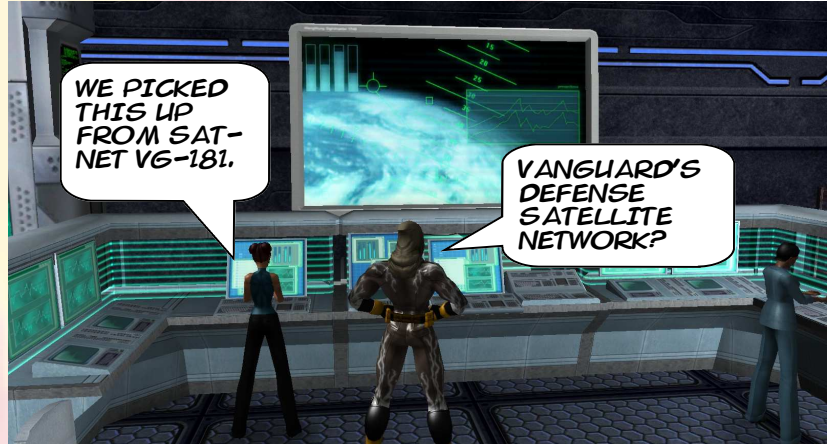


SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, BUT THE LADIES AT THE DEFENSE STATION SAY THAT THEY PICKED UP SOMETHING ODD THEY NEED YOU TO LOOK AT.

Mindy Harrison
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT



WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?



WE PICKED THIS UP FROM SAT-NET VG-181.

VANGUARD'S DEFENSE SATELLITE NETWORK?



WE'RE PART OF VANGUARD'S PLANETARY DEFENSE SYSTEM TO CHECK THE SKY FOR THREATS LIKE SHIVAN METEORS.

ANYWAY, SOMETHING JUST TOOK OUT A LEXIETECH COMMUNICATION SATELLITE AND IS COMING THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS A METEOR, BUT THE PROFILE ISN'T RIGHT.

AND...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT WAS OFF.



PRIOR TO THE SATELLITE'S DESTRUCTION, IT BROADCAST SOME WEIRD SIGNAL THAT WE CAN'T DECIPHER.



CPCU: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE SIGNAL?*

SADLY, I DO NOT. IT IS A LANGUAGE THAT IS NOT IN MY DATABANKS.

(* CPCU: CENTRAL PROCESSOR AND COMMAND UTILITY)



THAT'S ODD. ARE YOU USING THE INTER-SPEAK TRANSLATOR?

THAT LANGUAGE IS PART OF MY DATABANK, BUT THE SIGNAL IS NOT USING INTER-SPEAK.



LET'S GET DAYBRIGHT TO LOOK INTO THAT. DO WE KNOW WHERE THE OBJECT WILL LAND?

PROJECTED COURSE SAYS RIGHT NEXT TO SIREN'S CALL.



CONNECT ME WITH THE FREEDOM PHALANX BASE IN FORT TRIDENT. THAT AREA MAY BE A HAZARD ZONE, BUT IT'S STILL PART OF PARAGON CITY.

FORT TRIDENT COMING ONLINE.

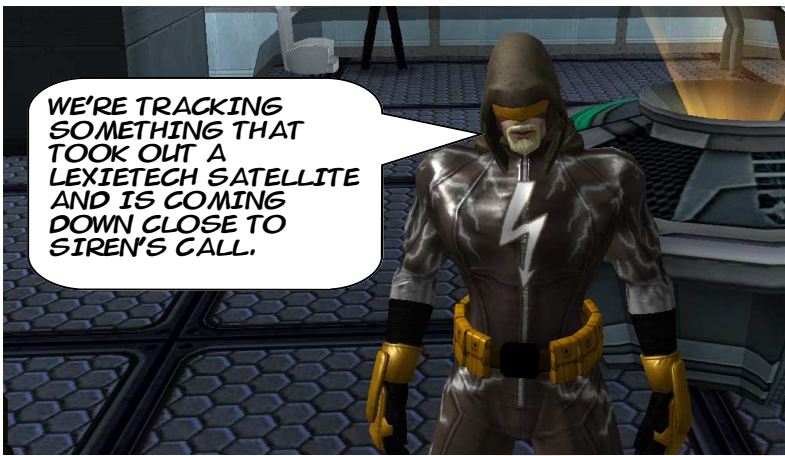


GUARDIAN BASE, THIS IS POSITRON AT FORT TRIDENT. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

POSITRON! YOU LET VALKYRIE HANDLE THE TRAINER JOB IN STEEL CANYON ON HER OWN?

WE BOTH KNOW VALKYRIE IS A BIG GIRL, RYDER, AND NOT JUST LITERALLY. WHAT'S UP?

★ Positron (RAYMOND KEYES)



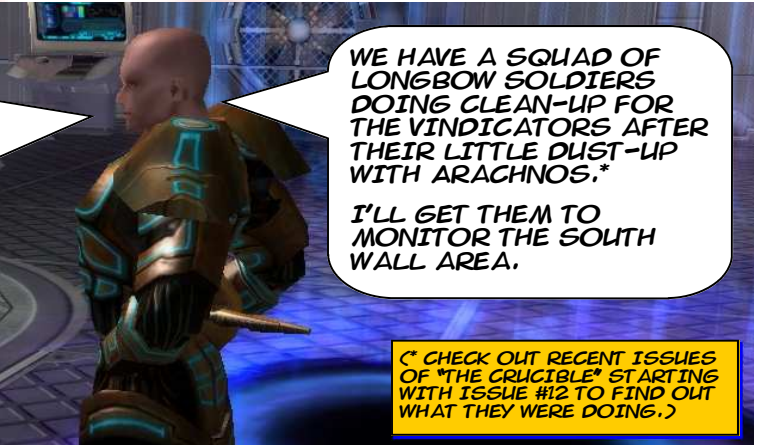
WE'RE TRACKING SOMETHING THAT TOOK OUT A LEXIETECH SATELLITE AND IS COMING DOWN CLOSE TO SIREN'S CALL.



WE'VE BEEN TRACKING IT AS WELL. IT'S GOING TO BE A FEW MILES AWAY FROM THE CITY, BUT IT'S STILL SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



WE NEVER WERE ABLE TO FIX THE WAR WALLS THERE THAT WERE DESTROYED WHEN SUNBURST BLEW UP IN 2004. IT'S THE ONLY PART OF THE CITY THAT IS UNPROTECTED, AND AN IMPACT THERE EVEN FROM A SPACE OBJECT THAT SMALL COULD CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE CITY. FORTUNATELY WE ALREADY HAVE SOME PEOPLE IN THE AREA.



WE HAVE A SQUAD OF LONGBOW SOLDIERS DOING CLEAN-UP FOR THE VINDICATORS AFTER THEIR LITTLE DUST-UP WITH ARACHNOS.* I'LL GET THEM TO MONITOR THE SOUTH WALL AREA.

(* CHECK OUT RECENT ISSUES OF "THE CRUCIBLE" STARTING WITH ISSUE #12 TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY WERE DOING.)



SIR! THERE'S A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT IN THE PATH OF THE OBJECT'S DESCENT!

WHAT?



DEAR GOD, NO.





ROBIN, I'M HERE IN STEEL CANYON, WHERE THESE STRANGE ROBOTS HAVE BEEN COMING OUT OF UNMARKED PANEL TRUCKS, COMMITTING ALL SORT OF--

BREAKING NEWS · FAITH NOTTINGHAM REPORTING 



...NO, WAIT... ..A REPORT --... --TACKING... ..HELP..... SURRENDER! ... DON'T... --LL ME!

BREAKING NEWS · FAITH NOTTINGHAM REPORTING 



BZZZZT

BREAKING NEWS · STEEL CANYON 



FAITH? FAITH ARE YOU THERE? IT'S ROBIN IN THE STUDIO...

BREAKING NEWS · ROBOT RAMPAGE! 



CPCU IS NOW REPORTING SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN KINGS ROW, FOLINDERS FALLS, SKYWAY CITY... IT'S ALL OVER THE CITY.



ATTENTION ALL GUARDIANS! UNKNOWN ROBOTS ARE ATTACKING MULTIPLE ZONES IN PARAGON CITY! MOBILIZE AND ENGAGE! PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IS TOP PRIORITY!



IF ONLY I
COULD BE
OUT THERE...

YOU WILL,
MISTER KEYS.
IT JUST WON'T
BE TODAY.

WHO AM I
KIDDING?

I CAN'T BE OUT
THERE. NOT
LIKE I WAS.

I'VE WORKED
WITH HEROES
IN FAR WORSE
CONDITIONS
THAN YOURS,
MISTER KEYS.

YOU JUST HAVE
TO GET USED
TO YOUR NEW
ARMS.

Martin Keys
(FORMERLY STREET JUSTICE)

THAT'S JUST IT!

I WASN'T JUST A HERO.
I WAS A TAILOR... MY
HANDS HELPED MAKE
HERO OUTFITS.

HUNTER BLOODMOON
DID MORE THAN JUST
TAKE MY ARMS... HE
TOOK MY

I CAN'T BE A
TAILOR WITH
THESE THINGS!

(* AS TOLD IN THE "GUARDIANS OF THE
DAWN GRADUATION" MINISERIES)

THEY DON'T EVEN TRY TO
FIND HUNTER ANYMORE!
THEY STILL TREAT HIM
AS A "HERO", EVEN
THOUGH HE TOOK AWAY
MY ARMS, MY CAREER,
AND MY GIRL!

IF THAT'S WHAT BEING A
"HERO" IS LIKE, THEN I
CAN'T BE "STREET JUSTICE"
ANYMORE...

I HAVE TO BE SOMETHING
A LOT HARDER THAN THAT...
... SO I CAN MAKE HUNTER
PAY FOR WHAT HE DID!



KINGS ROW

"ALL ACTIVE GUARDIANS ARE REPORTING IN...?"

TashaTiger
(NATASHA PRISS)



STEEL CANYON UNIVERSITY

"THEY'RE RESPONDING TO THE NEAREST INCIDENTS."

Pharon
(SET RAMSES)

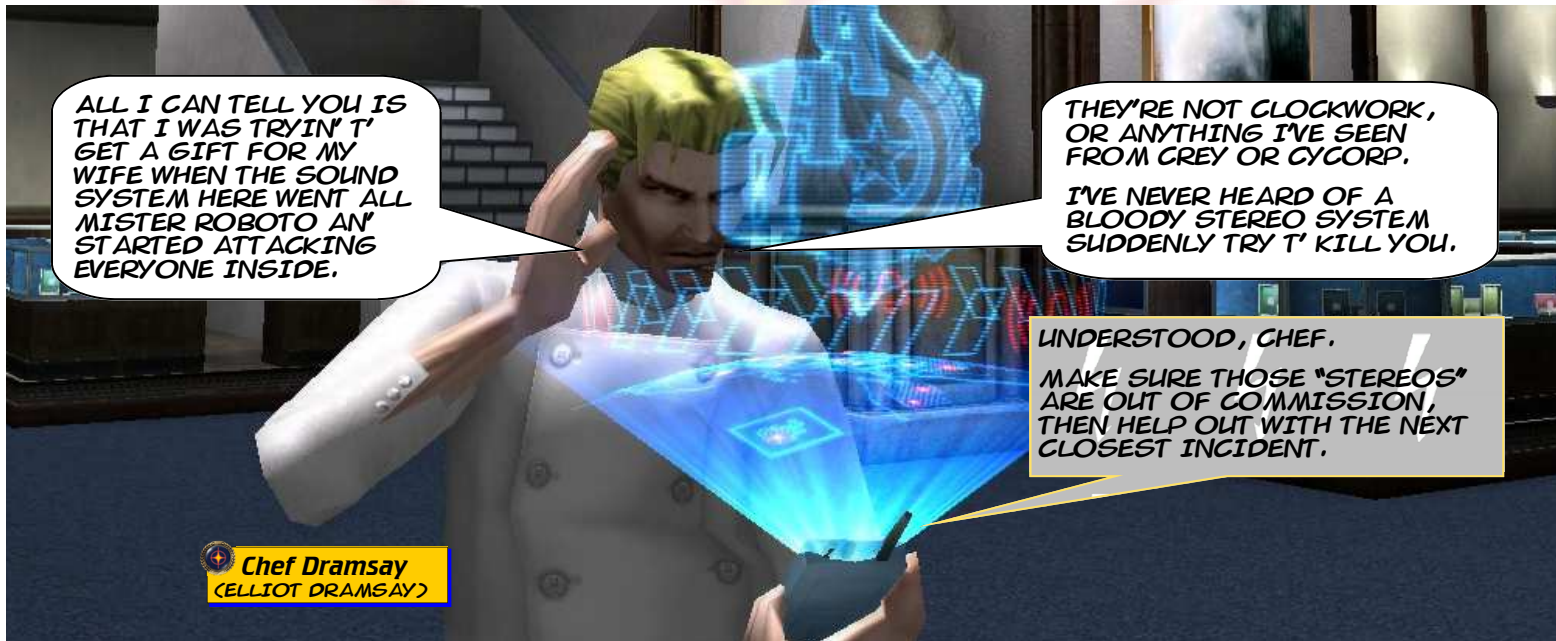


CHEF DRAMSAY IS ALREADY ENGAGING THE UNKNOWN ROBOTS AT THE ELAINE SMITH JEWELRY STORE HERE ON TALOS ISLAND.

FLASH MESSAGE TO CHEF DRAMSAY:
WE NEED AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THOSE THINGS AS YOU CAN GIVE US.



TALOS ISLAND



ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT I WAS TRYIN' T' GET A GIFT FOR MY WIFE WHEN THE SOUND SYSTEM HERE WENT ALL MISTER ROBOTO AN' STARTED ATTACKING EVERYONE INSIDE.

THEY'RE NOT CLOCKWORK, OR ANYTHING I'VE SEEN FROM GREY OR CYCORP. I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A BLOODY STEREO SYSTEM SUDDENLY TRY T' KILL YOU.

UNDERSTOOD, CHEF. MAKE SURE THOSE "STEREOS" ARE OUT OF COMMISSION, THEN HELP OUT WITH THE NEXT CLOSEST INCIDENT.

Chef Dramsay
(CELLIOT DRAMSAY)

SIREN'S CALL



YOU! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!



GOT YOU COVERED.

HANDS IN THE AIR!



YOU CHALLENGE ME? GOOD.

YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO DIE...

BUT FAR FROM BEING THE LAST.





THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THEM ALL.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE, RYDER.



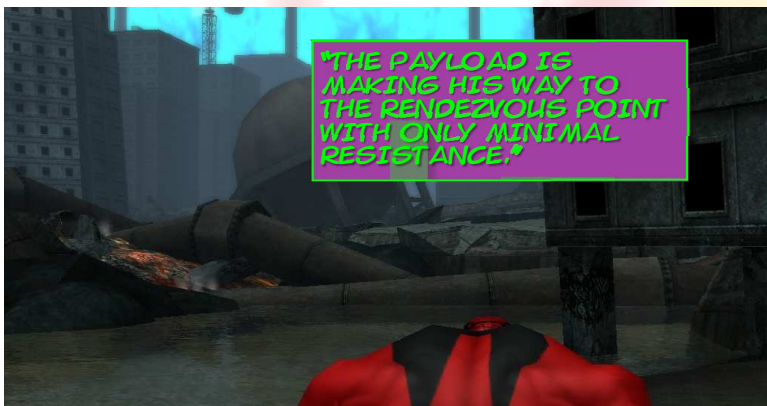
I'M ISSUING A GAMMA-LEVEL ALERT FOR PARAGON CITY.

ALL ACTIVE HEROES WILL BE REPORTING TO GUARDIAN BASE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.



WHAT? YOU'RE GIVING US THE TEAM STAR? BUT...THIS IS SOMETHING THAT THE PHALANX--

YOU MADE THE CALL, SO YOU GET THE STAR. WE'LL BACK YOU UP, BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT WE LET THE GUARDIANS SHINE ON THIS ONE.



"THE PAYLOAD IS MAKING HIS WAY TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT WITH ONLY MINIMAL RESISTANCE."



EXCELLENT. EVERYTHING IS GOING AS WE PLANNED.



STEEL CANYON

"AS LONG AS THE HEROES ARE BUSY WITH THE SUPPORT UNITS, THEY WILL NOT BE PREPARED FOR WHAT WILL MEET THEM IN STEEL CANYON."

"AND THEN WE CAN INITIATE PHASE TWO."

Next Issue: Destitution!

FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

A New Year, A New Look at The City

Welcome back to “the City”.

When the City of Heroes MMO was shut down at the end of November 2012, I was depressed. And so were a lot of other people. A part of us died with the MMO.

Sure, there was always Champions Online, and I did try to keep the “magic” going with “**Future’s Guardian**”. I had already successfully brought an alternate version of Galatea Powers over to Millennium City, and I had made accommodations and a support cast for her so I could keep the “spirit” of the City alive in a whole new universe.

But Millennium City was not Paragon City, no matter how many times I tried to bring elements of it into the new series. The look and feel about it were just too different.

Then I came across a way to go back to “the City” even though the MMO itself was shut down. A wonderful little program called Titan Icon, which gave me access not only to all of the items I used to have, but also to material that I either was not able to unlock or were in “Beta”. And believe me when I say that there was a lot that was in that “Beta” program that will blow your mind.

But, of course, it was just the core program. The MMO is still gone, so there is no interaction. It’s a stage with just one player: my character.

That’s where demorecording comes in. Demorecording is the secret behind all of those fan-made videos people used to create that helped to further promote the City of Heroes MMO.

The process itself is a bit complicated, but what you need to understand is that the demorecording file itself is pretty much a script, like the kind of script you would see on a stage or a TV show or a movie. It says how the stage should be set, what is on that stage, what players are on the stage, and what they are doing.

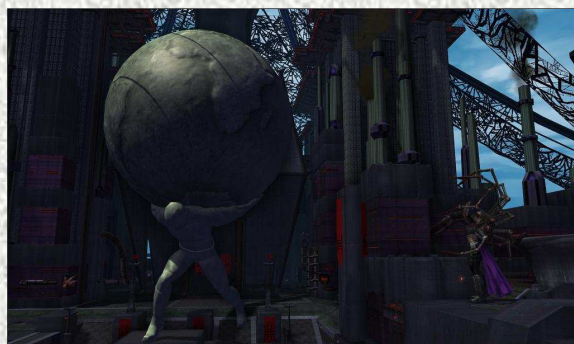
Now here’s the fun part: like any script for a stage or a TV show or a movie, the script in a demorecording file can also be changed. Things can be added or removed. Players can be changed, and can do something different than what was originally scripted.

For instance... what if Lord Recluse stole Atlas Park’s famed giant statue of Atlas and moved it to Grandville in the Rogue Isles? Traditionally, the game designers would have to write a whole new script that would change the geometry in two different game maps so that the MMO.

Continues on next page...

But in demorecording, you just write it into the script as to what the object is and where you want it placed. **Boom!** Recluse pulls off the greatest caper this side of a David Copperfield special!

Now imagine doing that to other demorecording files that were made and saved before the MMO were shut down. Changing rooms about, changing items around, adding characters or removing them.



("Recluse's Heist" as shown by Leandro through Demorecording)

This is the magic that allowed me to "return" to "the City" and bring back the comic characters that you the readers have enjoyed, and the ones that I wanted to share with you but never got the opportunity to. The MMO is still gone, but the magic allows the stories to continue.

This is the magic behind the three-part "**Guardians of the Dawn GRADUATION**" mini-series and "**The Libra Order: Debts of Honor**" one-shot special, and now it is the magic behind this new phase of stories that take place in "the City".

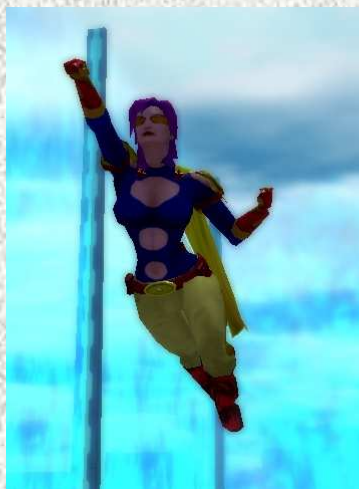
"**Furia and the Guardians**" continues the stories from all of the previous comic series set in the world of the City of Heroes MMO. That includes the two specials as well as "**Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight**", "**The Guardian Powers**", and "**Tales from Paragon City**". Plus you can look forward to seeing some of the characters that you may have read about in deviantART before I started doing comics.

Well, that's enough for now, don't you think?

Next time, let's talk about the new players in this revitalized stage.

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



LEXIE LOTHORA'S "PROJECT MESSENGER" CONTINUES AS HER "PAYLOAD" JOINS THE BATTLE.

CAN FURIA POWERS AND THE REST OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN LEAD THE HEROES OF PARAGON CITY TO FIGHT OFF THESE STRANGE ATTACKERS?

AND... WHAT IS "PHASE TWO"?

FIND OUT IN ISSUE #2!



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.

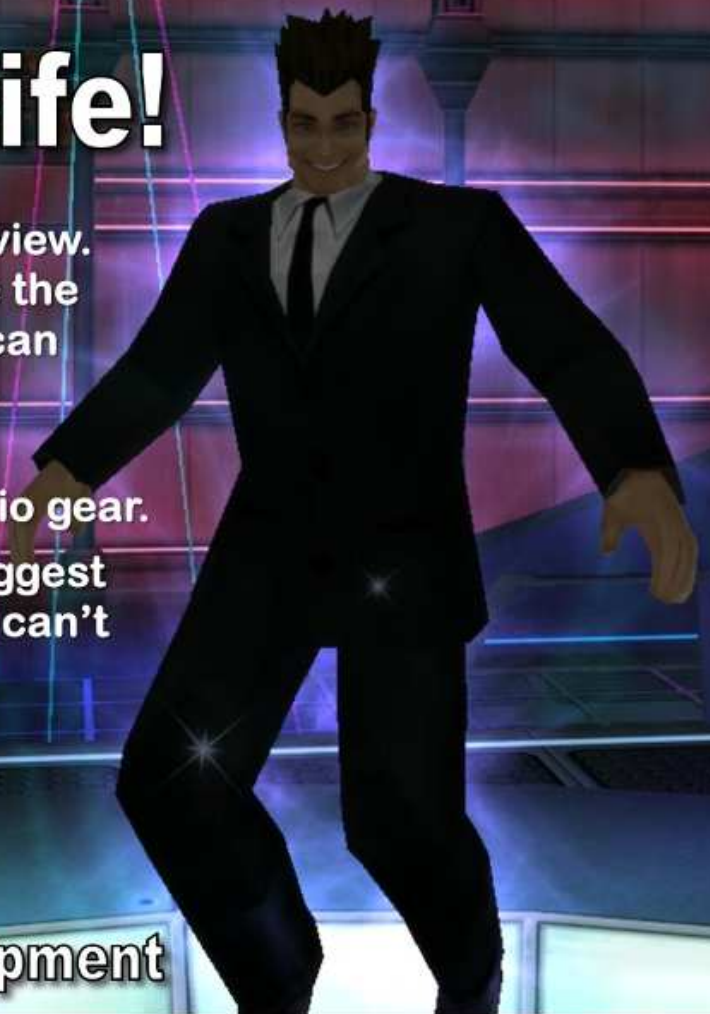
Because when you're hosting the biggest nonstop party in the omniverse, you can't settle for second best.

And neither should you!



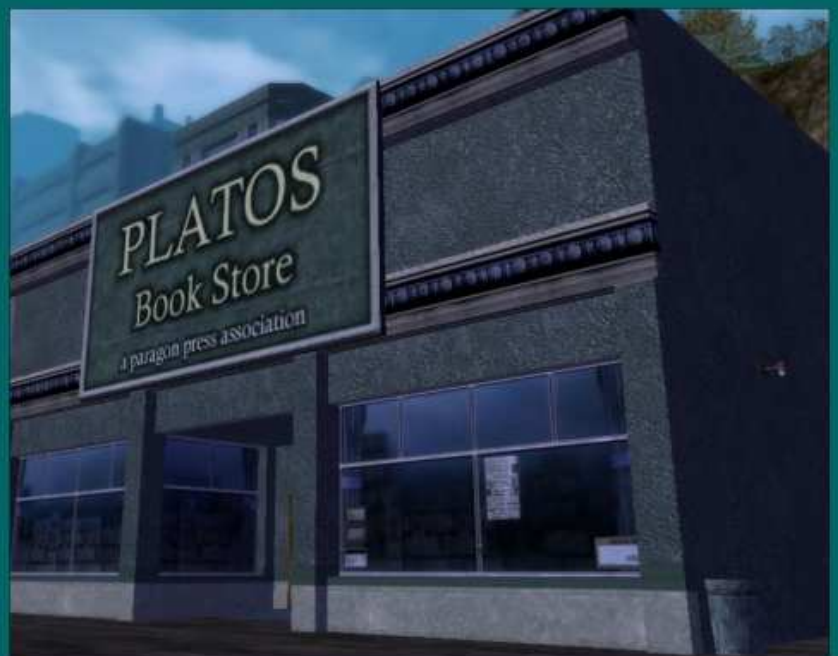
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