

T+ FOR TEENS PLUS

# FURIA

AND  
THE GUARDIANS



Issue 08  
2015



# When did you have good **TEXAS** food?



If the answer isn't "today", then it might as well be "never".

Why waste your time with posers when you can be shock-and-awed by a REAL-American steakhouse?

Whether it is our rib-sticking-ribs, our Cold War Beer, our Gitmo Enchiladas, our Improvised Edible Deserts, or our new **Four-Alarm FIREHOUSE CHILI**, we guarantee to help you put food on your family, and do it in a compassionate, conservative way that won't require a federal bailout!

# DUBYA'S Steakhouse Restaurant

*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**

Ever since he came to Paragon City from a universe that no longer exists, Jason Knight has struggled to protect the citizens of Kings Row in a non-stop crusade, using his dark mists to bring justice to the masses and fear to the gangs.

By day, he was Jason Knight, street vigilante. By night, he was MidKnight X, dark guardian of Kings Row. And aside from one hour a day to sleep, this was who he was all the time. Never ending. Never resting.

Then the Phoenician god Mot corrupted MidKnight X and turned him into Mot's dark apostle. Even when he thought he was freed of Mot's influence, he still found himself indebted to the banished deity.

Finally, Mot was forced to pull his presence from Jason's body, taking with him all of Jason's dark mists. Jason Knight was free not only of Mot's corruption, but also from the darkness that has plagued him since his resurrection.

But now what does that mean for him... and for MidKnight X?

# **"KNIGHT AND GREY"**

## **- A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2**

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Special thanks to Joseph Brownstone for his assistance in the making of this issue.



"GOOD MORNING PARAGON CITY, I'M MARTIN SHEER AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE MORNING NEWS HERE ON P-N-N RADIO."

"TWO PEOPLE WERE HOSPITALIZED IN STEEL CANYON LAST NIGHT WHEN THEIR APARTMENT CAUGHT FIRE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL HEROES MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE BLAZE, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO RESCUE THE CIVILIANS WITHOUT BEING SUBJECTED TO SERIOUS BURNS."

"THE IDENTITIES OF THE VICTIMS ARE STILL BEING WITHHELD PENDING THE NOTIFICATION OF THEIR FAMILIES."

"NOTE: THE EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE OCCUR DURING THE SAME DAY AS THOSE IN ISSUES 6-7"

"POLICE OFFICIALS REPORT A MARKED DECREASE IN GANG ATTACKS ON CITIZENS IN THE CRIME-RIDDEN KINGS ROW ZONE."

"DEPUTY CHIEF THOMAS WELD ATTRIBUTES THE DECREASE TO HIS NEW ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY SINCE PERSONALLY OVERSEEING THE KINGS ROW ZONE THIS PAST JANUARY."

"CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS, HOWEVER, DISAGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PARAGON LIBERTARIAN SOCIETY SAYS THAT WHILE REPORTED CRIMES IN THAT AREA ARE DOWN, CLAIMS OF POLICE ABUSE ARE SKYROCKETING."



"IN BUSINESS NEWS... ARCHITECT ENTERTAINMENT IS LISTED IN THE RHODE ISLAND BUSINESS JOURNAL'S TOP-TEN BUSINESS COMEBACKS FOR 2015."



"A-E HAD SUFFERED A STEADY DECLINE IN REVENUE SINCE 2013 AMIDST REPORTS OF POOR CUSTOMER SERVICE."

"ALL THAT CHANGED, HOWEVER, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF DRAKE GREY AS OPERATIONS MANAGER."



"IN THE THREE SHORT MONTHS SINCE TAKING OVER, GREY HAS TURNED THE BUSINESS AROUND AND REPAIRED THE COMPANY'S GOOD NAME IN THE COMMUNITY."

"AND NOW... WEATHER AND TRAFFIC."



GOOD MORNING NANCY.

GOOD MORNING MISTER GREY.



WILL YOU BE STAYING HERE TODAY OR ARE YOU JUST CHECKING IN?



I THINK I'LL BE HERE TODAY, BUT I'LL BE ABOUT, SO CALL ME ON MY CELL IF ANYONE IS LOOKING FOR ME.



GOOD MORNING MISTER GREY.

EVERYTHING IS RUNNING JUST NICELY UP HERE.



THE NIGHT SHIFT SAID THERE WAS A BRIEF SURGE IN NETWORK OUTPUT, BUT THEY COULDN'T TRACE WHERE IT WAS FROM. THEY SAID IT WAS A ONE-TIME THING, AND IT HASN'T HAPPENED SINCE.

I'LL LOOK INTO IT. IT MAY HAVE JUST BEEN SOME NETWORK UPDATES FROM GREYWARE.

CALL ME ON MY CELL IF ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS AGAIN.



GOOD MORNING JULIA. HOW WAS THE CONCERT?

OH IT WAS FABULOUS, MISTER GREY!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE TICKETS. MY HUSBAND AND I REALLY ENJOYED IT.



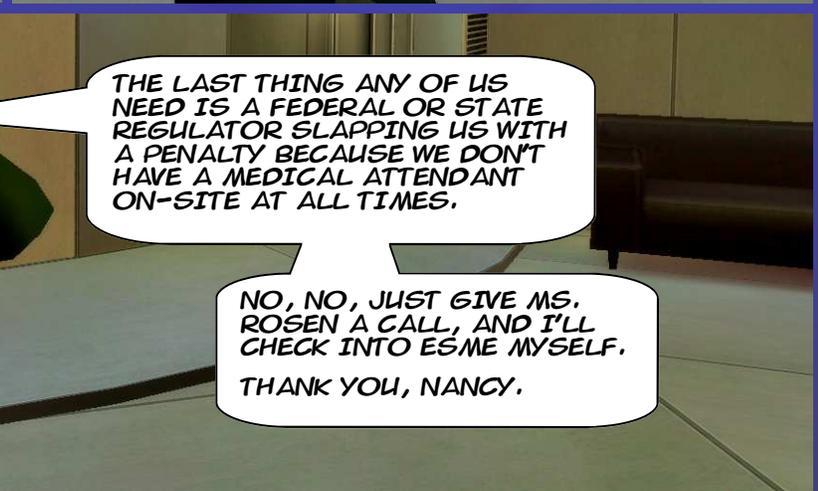
NANCY, THIS IS DRAKE.  
WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING THE INFIRMARY TODAY?



NOPE, I'M DOWN HERE AND SHE'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.  
GIVE MS. ROSEN A CALL AND HAVE HER SEND ONE OF THE BACKUP ATTENDANTS.

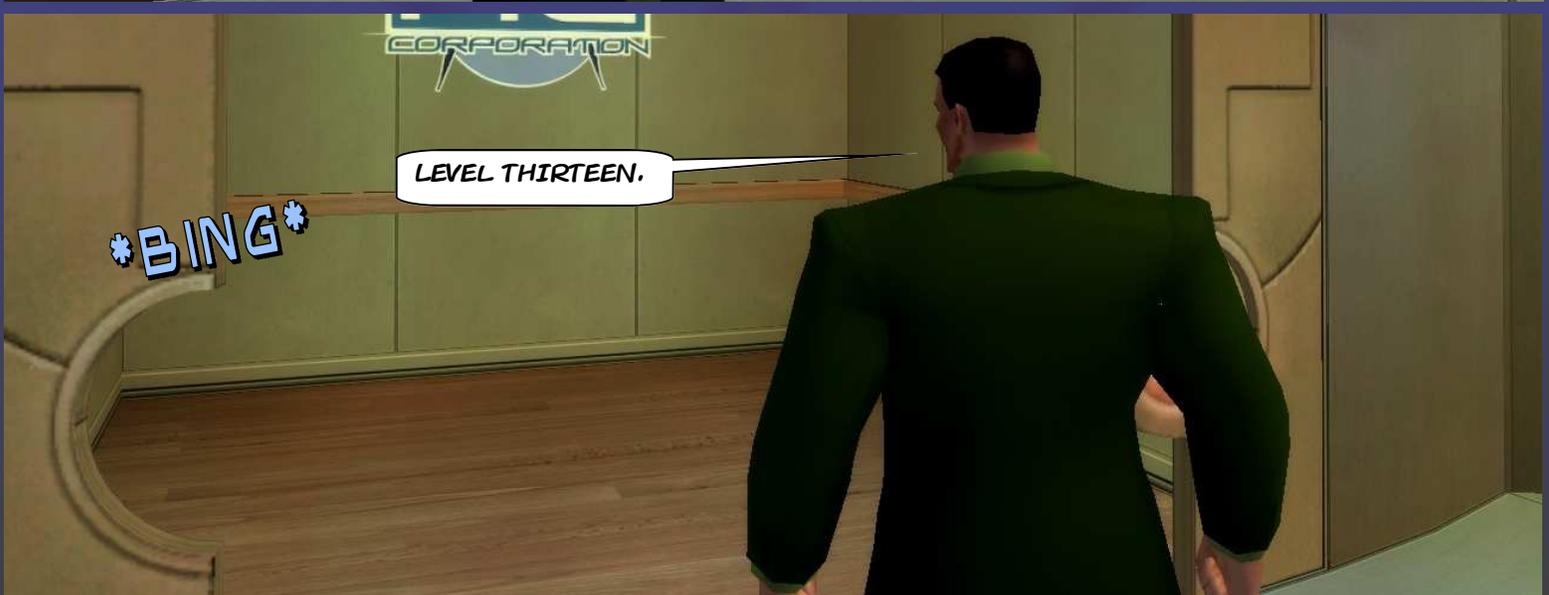


WELL I HOPE SHE'S JUST RUNNING LATE TOO, BUT WE HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN, AND I NEED SOMEONE IN THE INFIRMARY.



THE LAST THING ANY OF US NEED IS A FEDERAL OR STATE REGULATOR SLAPPING US WITH A PENALTY BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A MEDICAL ATTENDANT ON-SITE AT ALL TIMES.

NO, NO, JUST GIVE MS. ROSEN A CALL, AND I'LL CHECK INTO ESME MYSELF.  
THANK YOU, NANCY.



LEVEL THIRTEEN.

\*BING\*

"LEVEL THIRTEEN"



STATUS REPORT, SENTRY.

SENTRY SYSTEM FULLY ONLINE, JASON.  
THE DATA TRANSFER FROM THE SEWER LAIR HAS BEEN COMPLETED.\*

(\* ISSUE #5)



YOUR NETWORK USE WAS DETECTED TOPSIDE.  
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO USE THE SECURE CONNECTIONS ONLY.

UNFORTUNATELY IT COULD NOT BE HELPED AS THE HOLD-GRID PROJECTOR WAS STILL CONNECTED TO THE MAIN FACILITY'S NETWORK BY DEFAULT.



ALL CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED. THIS SYSTEM IS NOW MONITORING ALL POLICE, FIRE, RESCUE, AND HERO-GROUP COMMUNICATIONS FOR INCIDENTS IN KINGS ROW.  
THERE ARE FOURTEEN FILES THAT HAVE BEEN FLAGGED AS PER YOUR REQUEST.



BEGIN A NEW  
SUBJECT FILE.  
SUBJECT NAME IS  
ESME BARBERA.

IS THIS SUBJECT A  
SUSPECT OR VICTIM?

FOR NOW SHE IS A  
PERSON OF INTEREST.  
I HAVE A HUNCH THAT  
WILL CHANGE SOON.

COLLECT BACKGROUND  
INFORMATION FROM  
HER A-E FILE.

BUILDING PROFILE  
FILE NOW.



DRAKE GREY HAS A  
CALL COMING IN ON  
HIS CELLPHONE.

SEND IT THROUGH  
THE RELAY AND  
PUT IT ON  
SPEAKER.

RE-ROUTING CALL  
FROM CELL PHONE  
THROUGH OFFICE  
PHONE TO CONSOLE.



THIS IS DRAKE  
GREY, HOW CAN  
I HELP YOU?

MISTER GREY,  
THIS IS SALLY  
SIMS WITH ZONE-  
FREE DOCTORS.



I'M CALLING ABOUT AN ASSOCIATE OF  
YOURS: ESME BARBERA.

YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THIS, BUT ESME  
HAS BEEN SPENDING HER PERSONAL TIME  
WITH OUR ORGANIZATION, PROVIDING  
MEDICAL HELP TO THOSE THAT NEED IT.

WELL, APPARENTLY SHE DID NOT CHECK IN  
AFTER HER CALL LAST NIGHT, AND I  
WANTED TO CHECK WITH HER AT WORK, BUT  
YOUR DESK PEOPLE RELAYED ME TO YOU.



THAT'S STRANGE, BECAUSE SHE  
HASN'T SHOWN UP HERE EITHER  
AND WE WERE ABOUT TO GO  
LOOKING FOR HER.

IS THIS SOMETHING THAT SHE'S  
DONE BEFORE?

OH GOODNESS NO, MISTER GREY!  
WE HAVE A PROCEDURE IN PLACE  
THAT IS SUPPOSED TO ENSURE OUR  
VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE AND RETURN  
FROM THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.

I KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WAIT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE WE CAN GO TO THE POLICE ABOUT THIS, BUT MAYBE WE CAN--

THAT TWENTY-FOUR HOUR RULE IS ONLY FOR TV SHOWS, MISS SIMS.

GO AHEAD AND ASK THE POLICE TO CARRY OUT A WELFARE CHECK AT HER ADDRESS. THAT WILL GET THE BALL ROLLING TRYING TO FIND HER.

HOPEFULLY SHE'S JUST OVERSLEEPING.

I TRULY HOPE THAT IS THE CASE.

THANK YOU, MISTER GREY. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF WE HEAR FROM HER.

OF COURSE.

CALL HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED.

UPDATE ESME'S FILE STATUS FROM "PERSON OF INTEREST" TO "MISSING".

HER FILE HAS BEEN UPDATED.

"ZONE-FREE DOCTORS"... THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE "DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS". DOCTORS AND PHYSICIANS ASSISTANTS OFFERING FREE MEDICAL SERVICES TO HAZARD AREAS.

CORRECT.

NEVER LIKED HOW THE CITY HAS ALLOWED THOSE HAZARD ZONES TO GO ON FOR AS LONG AS THEY HAVE.

BAD ENOUGH THEY ALLOWED ZONES LIKE KINGS ROW TO ROT, BUT FAULTLINE AND THE HOLLOWAYS HAVE BEEN THAT WAY FOR WELL OVER A DECADE!

YOU CAN ALWAYS RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

DON'T MAKE ME REGRET GIVING YOU DATABANK'S SHORT-LIVED PERSONALITY PROGRAM, SENTRY.

I'M GOING TO GET SOME MORE INFORMATION ON ESME FROM THE STAFF.

HAVE HER BACKGROUND INFORMATION READY WHEN I RETURN.

AND LOAD THE KNIGHT OUTFIT TO THE HOLO-DISPLAY FOR LATER.

RIKTI WAR ZONE (FORMERLY WHITE PLAINS)

UNITED NATIONS VANGUARD BASE

"HELLOP ANYONE HERE?"

HELLO-OO...

KNEW I SHOULDVE GONE TO THE JUDICIAL CENTER FIRST...\*

**Furia Powers**  
FORMER PRAETORIAN

( ISSUE #6 )

**SORRY!  
SORRY!**  
I, UH, HAD TO GO TO THE MEN'S ROOM.

WELL, NEXT TIME SKIP THE CAFETERIA'S BREAKFAST BURRITO. WHERE'S DESTITUTION? I'M TOLD YOU STILL HAVE HIS BODY HERE.

WELL, THIS IS A LITTLE CONFUSING. WE **HAD** HIS BODY HERE IN AUTOPSY...

BUT THEN WE FOUND OUT THAT HIS BODY WASN'T REALLY DEAD.

WE HAVE IT IN MEDICAL STASIS RIGHT NOW.

**WHAT?!?**

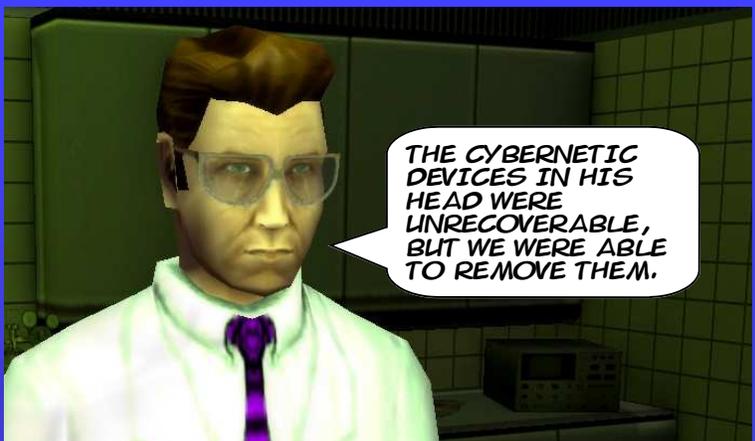
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HIS WHOLE HEAD WAS **FRIED!** THERE WAS NO WAY THAT HE COULDVE SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION BETWEEN HIS ENERGY AND MINE!\*

( ISSUE #3 )



AND HE WAS CONSIDERED BRAIN-DEAD WHEN HE WAS BROUGHT HERE.  
BUT THE REST OF HIS BODY BEGAN TO HEAL.



THE CYBERNETIC DEVICES IN HIS HEAD WERE UNRECOVERABLE, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO REMOVE THEM.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "UNRECOVERABLE"?  
YOU WERE ABLE TO GET THEM ALL OUT, RIGHT?

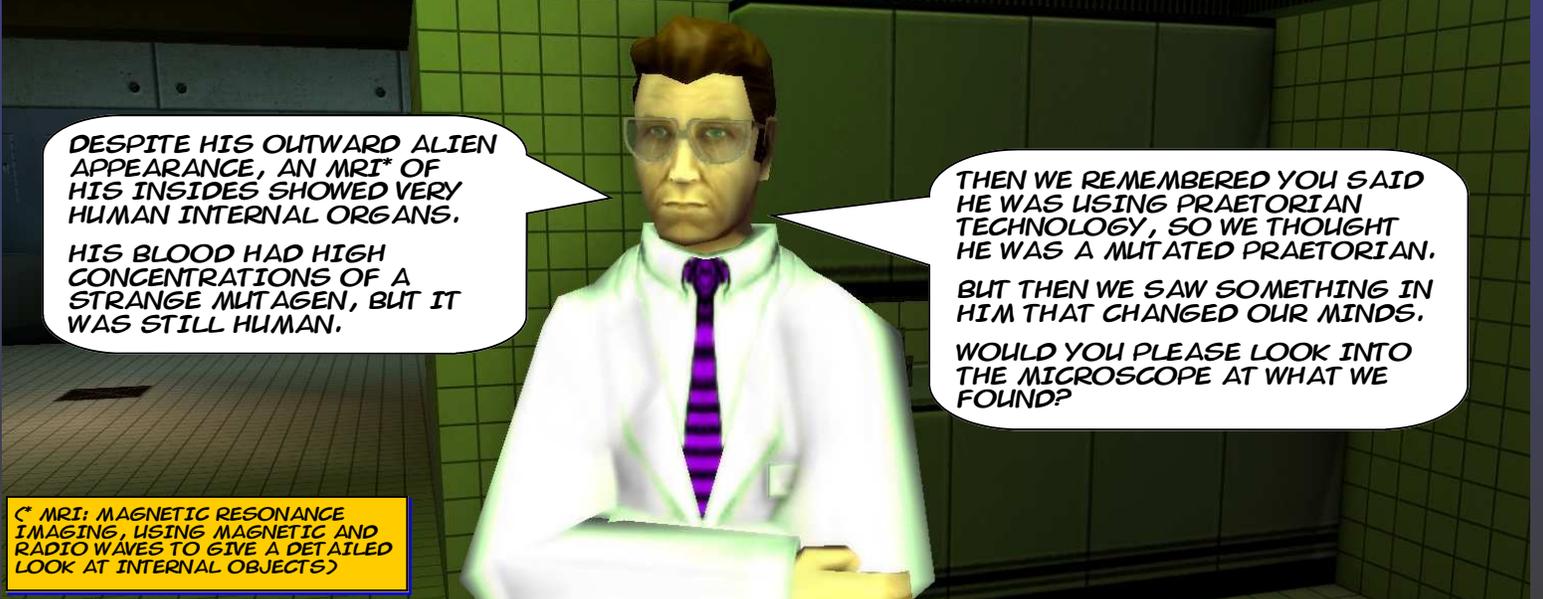


GAUSSIAN HAS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE DEVICES, BUT I KNOW THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH OBLITERATED PIECES.



OKAY, SO MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT SORT OF ALIEN HE WAS... I MEAN, IS.  
YOU COULD AT LEAST X-RAY HIS INSIDES, RIGHT? TEST HIS BLOOD?

WELL, THAT WAS THE OTHER SURPRISE WE FOUND OUT ABOUT HIM.



DESPITE HIS OUTWARD ALIEN APPEARANCE, AN MRI\* OF HIS INSIDES SHOWED VERY HUMAN INTERNAL ORGANS.  
HIS BLOOD HAD HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF A STRANGE MUTAGEN, BUT IT WAS STILL HUMAN.

THEN WE REMEMBERED YOU SAID HE WAS USING PRAETORIAN TECHNOLOGY, SO WE THOUGHT HE WAS A MUTATED PRAETORIAN.  
BUT THEN WE SAW SOMETHING IN HIM THAT CHANGED OUR MINDS.  
WOULD YOU PLEASE LOOK INTO THE MICROSCOPE AT WHAT WE FOUND?

\* MRI: MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING, USING MAGNETIC AND RADIO WAVES TO GIVE A DETAILED LOOK AT INTERNAL OBJECTS)



OKAY, SO WHAT IS THIS I'M SEEING?

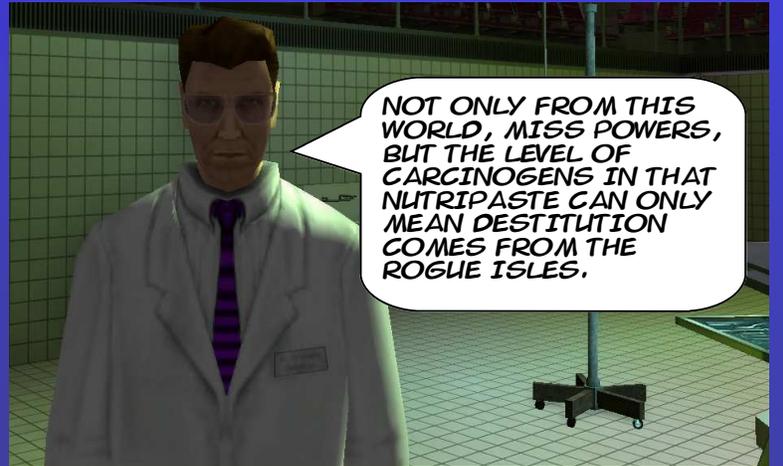
FOOD PARTICLES FROM HIS TEETH.



WE TESTED THE SUBSTANCE AND FOUND IT WAS A FISH-BASED FOOD PASTE SOLD IN A VERY SPECIFIC PART OF OUR WORLD.



SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT DESTITUTION IS NOT ONLY HUMAN, BUT HE'S FROM THIS WORLD?



NOT ONLY FROM THIS WORLD, MISS POWERS, BUT THE LEVEL OF CARCINOGENS IN THAT NUTRIPASTE CAN ONLY MEAN DESTITUTION COMES FROM THE ROGUE ISLES.



OF COURSE, THAT MEANS THAT I HAVE TO NOTIFY LADY GREY ABOUT THIS BEING A POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO ARACHNOS.



THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, THOUGH.

EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT ARACHNOS SAYS THEY WOULDN'T PLAY GAMES LIKE THIS GUY WAS PLAYING ON US.



THAT MAY BE, BUT I STILL HAVE TO FOLLOW PROCEDURE. IT'S UP TO LADY GREY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THE INFORMATION.



I UNDERSTAND... BUT ASK HER TO HOLD OFF ON MAKING ANY DECISIONS UNTIL I SPEAK WITH MY SUPERIOR ABOUT THESE DISCOVERIES.

MY INVESTIGATOR INSTINCTS TELL ME THERE'S MORE GOING ON THAN WHAT WE'RE SEEING RIGHT NOW.



YOU KNOW, IT'S WEIRD THAT ESME WOULD JUST NOT SHOW UP.  
IT'S JUST NOT SOMETHING SHE'D DO.

I UNDERSTAND, GLORIA.  
DID SHE EVER TALK ABOUT HER WORK WITH A GROUP CALLED "ZONE-FREE DOCTORS"?



OH DID SHE!  
SHE'D TALK ABOUT HOW SHE'D SPEND HER TIME HELPING OUT THOSE STUPID PEOPLE THAT TRY TO LIVE IN THOSE HAZARD ZONES, LIKE THEY WERE PIONEERS OR SOMETHING.

BUNCH OF DAMNED IDIOTS, IF YOU ASK ME.  
I MEAN, YOU'RE JUST ASKING FOR TROUBLE IF YOU DECIDE TO LIVE IN PEREZ PARK OR THE HOLLOW.



DID SHE EVER TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE?  
A BOYFRIEND, PERHAPS?



YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?  
ESME CHASES NURSES, NOT DOCTORS, IF YOU GET MY DRIFT.



I-I DIDN'T...  
I DIDN'T KNOW...

WELL, SHE DOESN'T MAKE A THING OF IT ANYWAY.  
IF SHE DID HAVE ANYONE, SHE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT IT 'ROUND HERE.



ESME'S TOTALLY DEDICATED TO HER WORK. I MEAN, SHE'S NEVER TAKEN A SICK DAY SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE.

ONE TIME I ASKED HER IF SHE WANTED TO GO OUT FOR DRINKS, AND SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T BECAUSE SHE WAS DOING VOLUNTEER WORK. REALLY, SHE NEEDS TO GET A HOBBY.



YOU KNOW, IT'S STRANGE THAT SHE'S NOT HERE, BECAUSE SHE'S ALWAYS HERE BEFORE ME.

ONE TIME I JUST GOT IN, AND SHE WOULD BE TELLING ME ABOUT A NETWORK OUTAGE IN A RESONATOR PAD IN THE INFIRMARY.

SHE REALLY GOT INTO ME ABOUT "WHAT IF SOMEONE NEEDED TO BE BROUGHT OUT AND THEY COULDN'T BECAUSE THE PADS WEREN'T AVAILABLE" AND THAT STUFF. I MEAN, A REAL PAIN.



NEVER REALLY WORKED WITH ESME, BUT I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER. THEY CALL HER "SAINT ESME" AT THE OFFICE.



GUESS SHE'S A STICKLER FOR CHARITY WORK AND ALL. I WISH I HAD HER ENERGY!



WE SENT A UNIFORMED OFFICER TO DO A WELFARE CHECK AS REQUESTED. NOBODY WAS THERE.



IF YOU WANT ANYTHING MORE, FILE A REPORT WITH THE STATION. I GOT A DONUT TO FINISH EATING.



PARAGON CITY POLICE HAVE STARTED A MISSING PERSONS FILE ON ESMÉ BARBERA.

ADD HER PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS TO ACTIVE SEARCHES FOR THE HOSPITALS AND MORGUES.

GIVING UP ON HER ALREADY, JASON?

INCLUDE "JANE DOE" REFERENCES, BEING REALISTIC, SENTRY.



IF THE VAHZILOK TOOK HER, THEN SHE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD ALREADY.

AT LEAST THE SKULLS AND HELLIONS MAY LEAVE HER ALIVE WHEN THEY'RE THROUGH.

DON'T YOU HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SKULLS?

TAKE NOTHING INTO ACCOUNT WITH THEM.

I'M NOT THE MAN I WAS WHEN THAT ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE.



I WAS A MUCH DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN I WAS SEDUCED INTO BEING MOT'S UNKNOWING APOSTLE.

THE SKULL LEADERS WIELD THE SAME DARK MIST POWERS THAT I HAD THEN. THAT WAS A COMMON BOND. MOT TOOK THAT ALL AWAY FROM ME WHEN HORLIS AND PHARON FREED ME FROM MOT'S CONTROL.\*

I CAN'T ASSUME THAT THE SKULLS WILL STILL HONOR OUR ARRANGEMENT NOW THAT "MIDNIGHT X" IS NO LONGER WATCHING OVER KINGS ROW.

C\* "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN - GRADUATION" #3 >



SPEAKING OF WHICH... BRING UP THE KNIGHT OUTFIT ON THE HOLO-DISPLAY.

OUTFIT ON HOLO-DISPLAY PAD.



HMMM...



AS PER YOUR REQUEST, I EXAMINED THE FEASIBILITY OF INCORPORATING TECHNICAL SIMULATIONS OF YOUR DARK MIST ABILITIES.

WHILE AUGMENTING YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND PROTECTION FROM HARM CAN BE ACHIEVED, OTHER ELEMENTS CANNOT BE EASILY REPLICATED.

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO REPLICATE THE STEALTH PORTION BEFORE.

YES, AND THAT WAS ALREADY INCORPORATED IN THIS MODEL.

BUT BEING ABLE TO INDUCE FEAR OR DRAIN ONE OF THEIR ENERGIES, OR EVEN THE SPIRITUAL SENSE THAT EXPANDED YOUR AWARENESS CANNOT BE REPLICATED BY CURRENT TECHNOLOGY.

**MidKnight X**  
(JASON KNIGHT)



UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU WERE TO TURN TO MAGIC.

NOT AN OPTION!

I CAN NEVER USE MYSTICAL POWERS AGAIN. I AM NOT GIVING NOT A THIRD CHANCE TO CORRUPT ME!

IF I'M GOING TO RECLAIM THE MANTLE OF THE KNIGHT, I'LL HAVE TO DO IT LIKE MY PREDECESSOR DID; WITH MY FISTS AND BRAINS.



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# Do you like these comics? Ever wanted to do one yourself? Find out how!

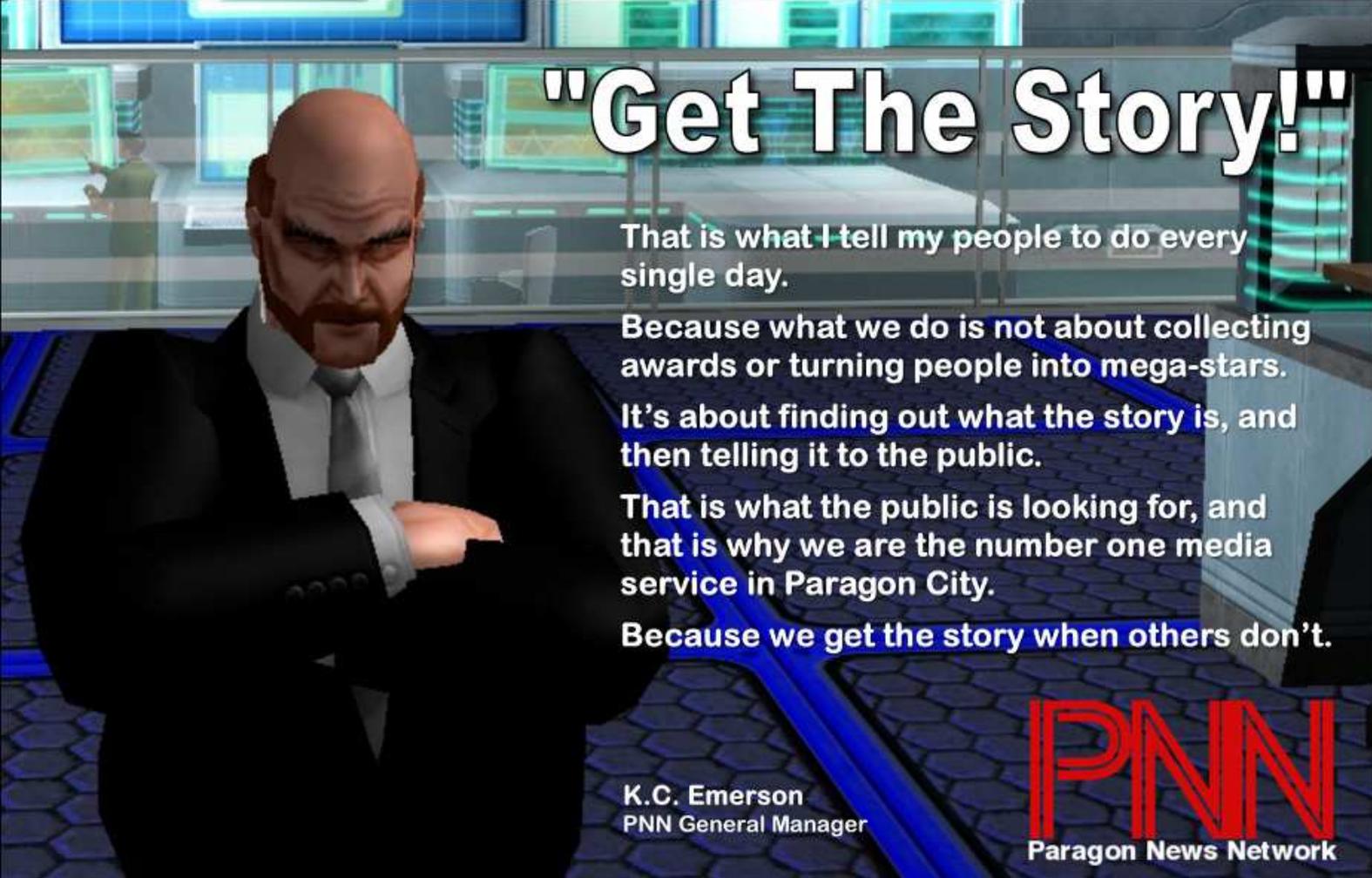
The City of Comic Creators is always looking for more talented writers, artists, and overall comic creators. We are a group of amateur creators with one thing in common: turning the stories in our heads into digital comics for others to share and enjoy.

All of us started out as players of Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games as well as fans of comic books, and it was our love of those two things that led us to become comic creators in our own right, taking our characters and our stories out of the MMOPRG and into digitized pages.

And if you're one of those people who are wondering how we could come up with these comics, and maybe even wanting to do one yourself, then we have a "How To" section for you.

Follow this address to the MMO Comic Index and look for the link on "**How To Create A Comic**".

# <http://mmocomicindex.com>



## "Get The Story!"

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

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

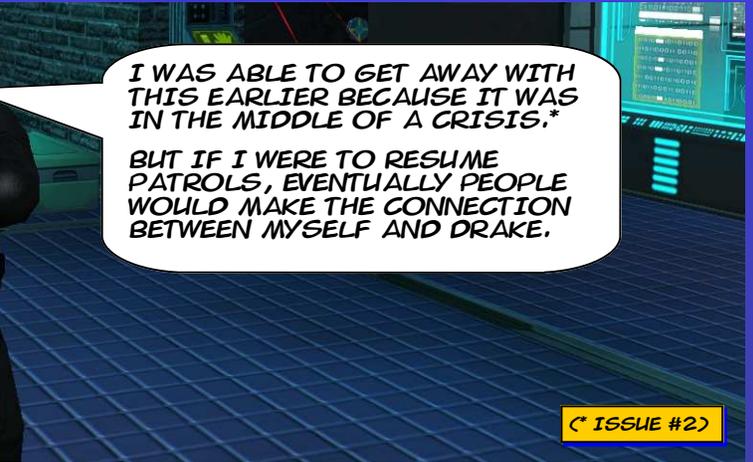
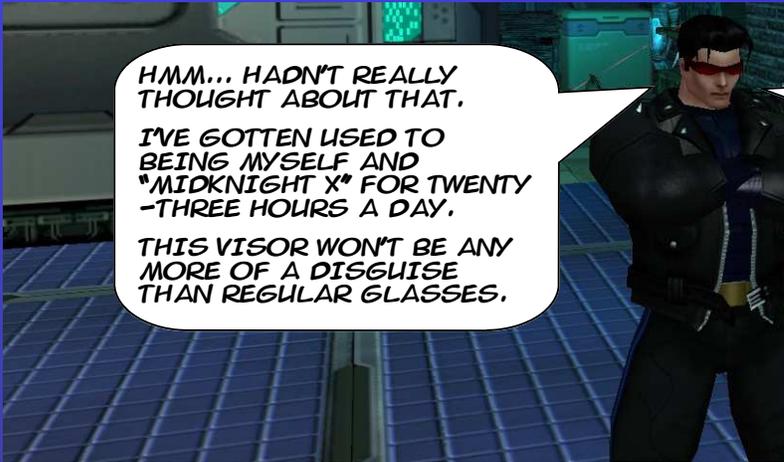
It's about finding out what the story is, and then telling it to the public.

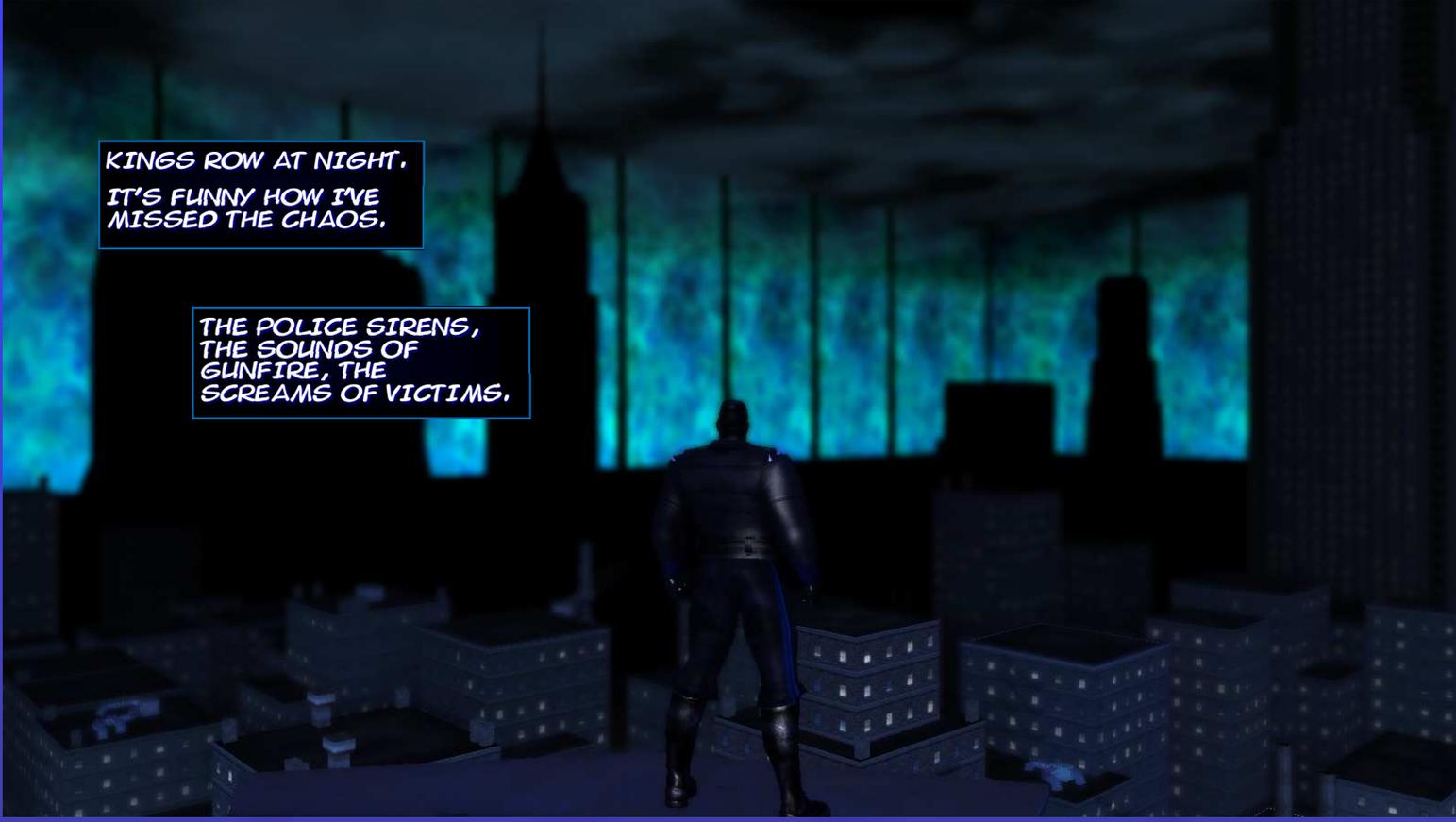
That is what the public is looking for, and that is why we are the number one media service in Paragon City.

Because we get the story when others don't.

K.C. Emerson  
PNN General Manager

**PNN**  
Paragon News Network





KINGS ROW AT NIGHT.  
IT'S FUNNY HOW I'VE  
MISSED THE CHAOS.

THE POLICE SIRENS,  
THE SOUNDS OF  
GUNFIRE, THE  
SCREAMS OF VICTIMS.



I BORROWED THE LOWER  
HOOD AND MASK FROM  
THE KNIGHT OUTFIT.  
IT'LL GIVE ME SOME  
PROTECTION AND HIDE  
SOME OF MY FACE.

IT ALSO ALLOWS ME TO  
TIE IN MY VISOR WITH  
SENTRY, SO I HAVE  
HEADS-UP DISPLAYS  
AND ON-DEMAND  
COMMUNICATION.



THE "KNIGHT" IS BACK.

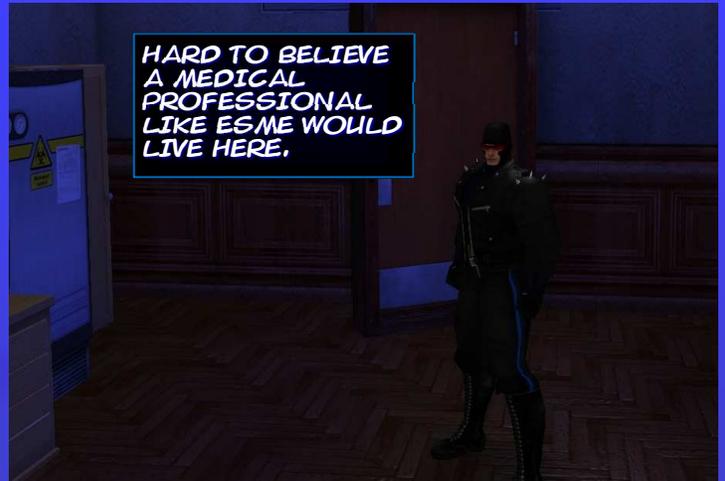
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT I  
CAN DIG UP FROM ESME'S  
APARTMENT, AND MAYBE  
LEARN WHERE SHE WENT.

 **Jason Knight**  
(DRAKE GREY)

KINGS ROW - INDUSTRIAL AVENUE



HARD TO BELIEVE  
A MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
LIKE ESME WOULD  
LIVE HERE.



"SPARTAN" DOESN'T EVEN  
BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT.



IT'S ALMOST  
LIKE SHE  
TREATS THIS  
AS A HOTEL.



**\*BEEP\***

YOU HAVE TWENTY NEW  
MESSAGES AND TWO  
SAVED MESSAGES.

I'LL CHECK THE SAVED  
MESSAGES AND HAVE  
SENTRY DOWNLOAD THE  
NEW ONES FROM THE  
SERVICE SO NOBODY  
WILL THINK I WAS HERE.



**\*CLICK-CLICK\***

FIRST SAVED MESSAGE...

THIS IS ZONE-FREE  
DOCTORS CALLING FOR  
ESME BARBERA.

WE HAVE A PATIENT IN  
PEREZ PARK THAT NEEDS  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CALL US BACK AT 401-  
555-4319.



**\*BEEP\*** SECOND SAVED MESSAGE...

ESME, THIS IS SALLY AT ZONE-  
FREE DOCTORS.

I HAVE THE ADDRESS FOR THAT  
PATIENT IN PEREZ PARK THAT WAS  
CALLING FOR YOU.

HE'S IN THE JACKSON BUILDING IN  
THE BETTIS HILLS AREA,  
APARTMENT NUMBER 533.

ASK FOR JOHN DEERING.

CALL US IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE  
OR TRANSPORTATION.



I'LL HAVE TO MAKE  
NOTE OF THE ADDRESS.  
THAT WILL BE MY NEXT  
PLACE TO VISIT.

STILL, BETTER BE  
THOROUGH WITH MY  
INVESTIGATION OF  
ESME'S APARTMENT.  
DON'T WANT TO  
MISS ANYTHING  
IMPORTANT.



STRANGE THAT THERE  
ARE NO PERSONAL  
BELONGINGS JUST  
LAYING ABOUT.

EVERYTHING IS  
NEATLY ORGANIZED  
AND SORTED IN A  
DRAWER.

CLOSET'S GOT A FEW  
CLOTHES, MOSTLY  
CASUAL. LOTS OF  
HOSPITAL SCRUBS.



IF ESME WAS DOING  
ANYTHING ILLICIT, IT'S  
NOT BEING DONE HERE.

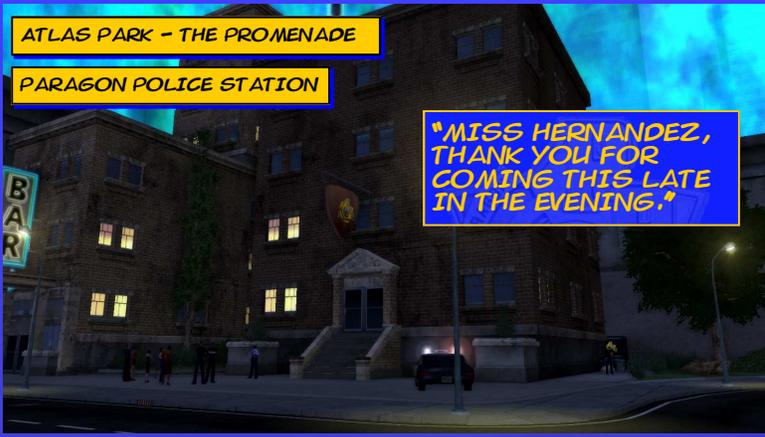
IN FACT, ASIDE FROM THE  
COFFEE MUG AND SOUP  
BOWL IN THE SINK, I  
WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN SHE  
WAS EVEN HERE.

STILL, THE NIGHT IS YOUNG  
AND I HAVE TO TRAVEL TO  
PEREZ PARK NEXT.

ATLAS PARK - THE PROMENADE

PARAGON POLICE STATION

"MISS HERNANDEZ, THANK YOU FOR COMING THIS LATE IN THE EVENING."

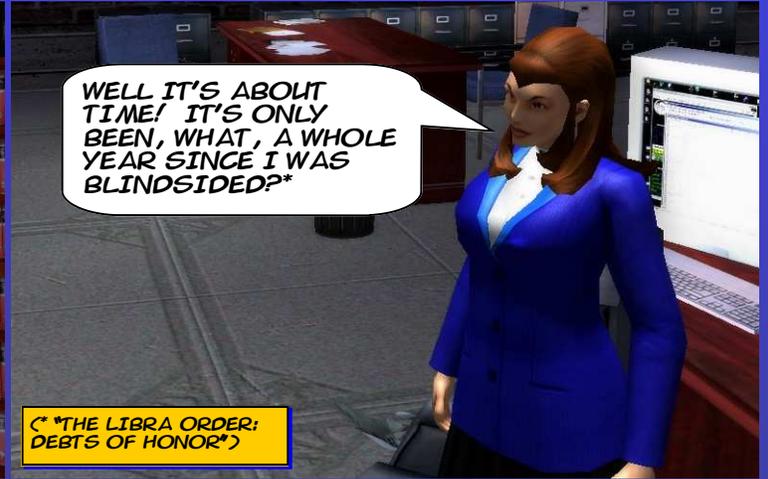


IT'S RAMIREZ, DETECTIVE. I GOT MARRIED LAST YEAR. DON'T YOU WATCH TV? MY MARRIED NAME IS PLASTERED ALL OVER MY NEWS REPORTS.

April Ramirez  
PNN REPORTER

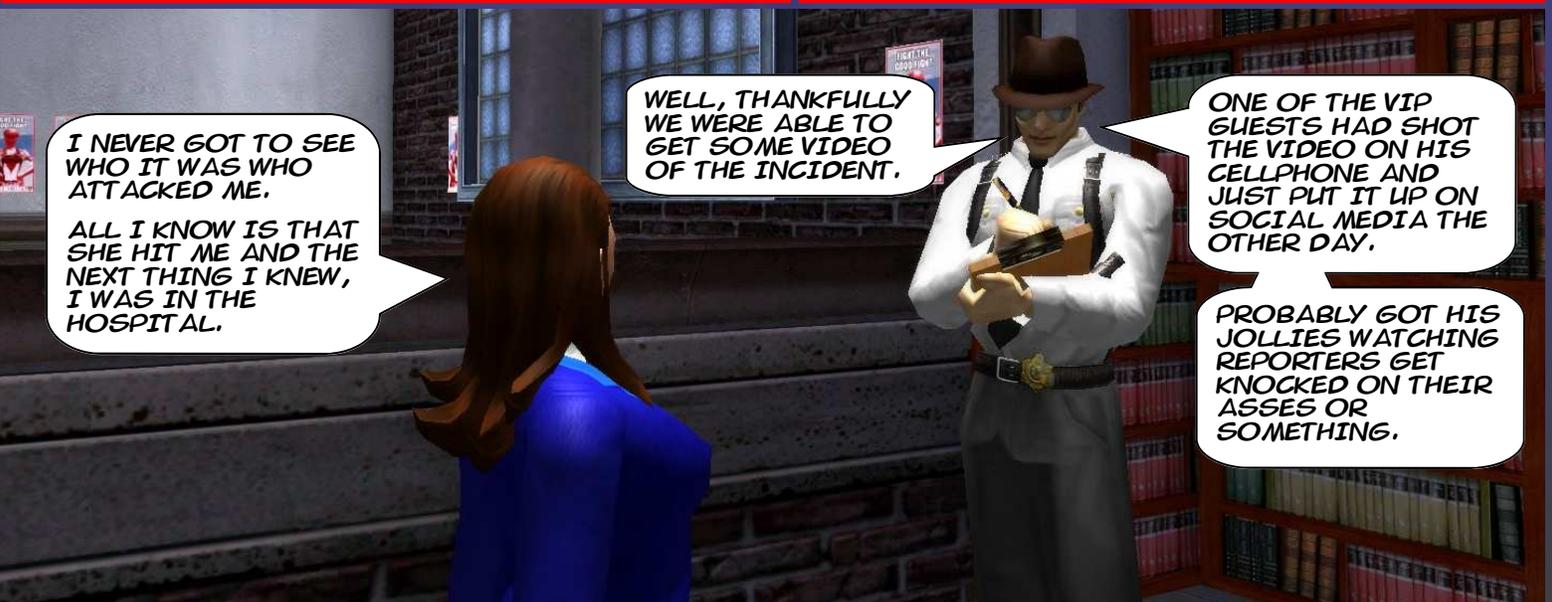


SORRY, I DONT WATCH PNN. TOO MUCH OF THAT RONA PERSON. ANYWAY, I HAVE AN UPDATE ON YOUR ASSAULT CASE.



WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME! IT'S ONLY BEEN, WHAT, A WHOLE YEAR SINCE I WAS BLINDSIDED?\*

(\*THE LIBRA ORDER: DEBTS OF HONOR\*)



I NEVER GOT TO SEE WHO IT WAS WHO ATTACKED ME. ALL I KNOW IS THAT SHE HIT ME AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

WELL, THANKFULLY WE WERE ABLE TO GET SOME VIDEO OF THE INCIDENT.

ONE OF THE VIP GUESTS HAD SHOT THE VIDEO ON HIS CELLPHONE AND JUST PUT IT UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA THE OTHER DAY.

PROBABLY GOT HIS JOLLIES WATCHING REPORTERS GET KNOCKED ON THEIR ASSES OR SOMETHING.



TURNED OUT YOUR  
ATTACKER WAS A  
KNOWN VILLAIN.  
WOMAN BY THE  
NAME OF...  
MISTY MYSERY.



M-MISTY...  
MYSERY?



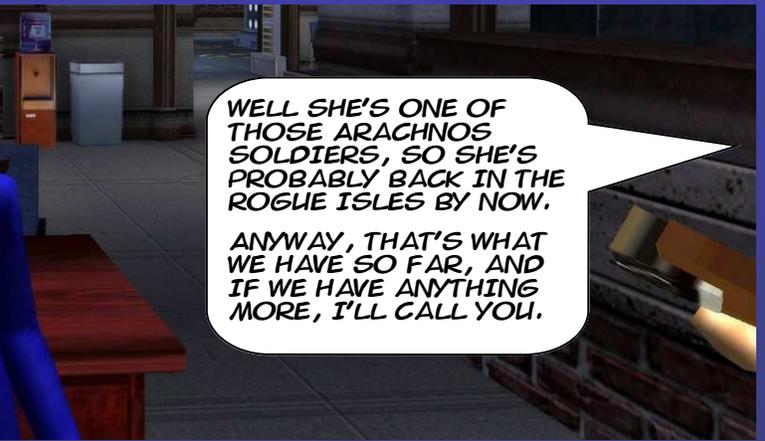
EXCUSE ME BOYS...  
I'M WITH THE  
ARACHNOS  
APPRECIATION  
SOCIETY. I'M HERE  
TO CHECK YOUR GUN  
PERMITS.



IS THE NAME  
FAMILIAR TO YOU?  
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU  
RECOGNIZE HER  
FROM SOMEWHERE.



N-NO... NO, IT'S JUST...  
WELL, I MUST HAVE COME  
ACROSS THE NAME IN ONE  
OF THE CRIME BLOTTERS  
IN THE NEWSROOM.  
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE  
MIGHT BE?



WELL SHE'S ONE OF  
THOSE ARACHNOS  
SOLDIERS, SO SHE'S  
PROBABLY BACK IN THE  
ROGUE ISLES BY NOW.  
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHAT  
WE HAVE SO FAR, AND  
IF WE HAVE ANYTHING  
MORE, I'LL CALL YOU.



HI...  
I KNOW IT'S A  
LITTLE LATE BUT...  
I... I NEED TO TALK  
WITH SOMEONE.

PEREZ PARK - BETTIS HILLS

JACKSON BUILDING



I WAS AFRAID  
THIS IS WHAT  
I'D FIND.



A "RESIDENCE"  
IN NAME ONLY.



DEVELOPERS HAD  
LOBBIED FOR A "MIXED-  
USE" BUILDING WHEN  
PEREZ PARK WAS BUILT.

THIS IS WHAT  
THEY MEANT.



REGULAR APARTMENTS MIXED IN  
WITH SMALL OFFICES FOR LEASE.  
PERFECT FOR SCAM ARTISTS AND  
FLY-BY-NIGHT SPAMMERS.

AND THERE WAS NO WAY ESME  
COULDN'T KNOW THIS WASN'T  
A RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS  
UNTIL SHE GOT HERE, AND  
THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.



THE COMPUTER AND  
KEYBOARD LOOK LIKE THEY  
HAVEN'T BEEN TOUCHED IN  
AT LEAST A YEAR.

BUT THE SAME CANNOT BE  
SAID ABOUT THE PHONE.  
THAT MEANS THERE COULD  
BE FINGERPRINTS FROM  
WHEN HE MADE CALLS TO  
LURE IN HIS VICTIMS.





SENTRY, I'M  
SENDING A  
VISUAL IMAGE  
OF THE PHONE.  
LOOK FOR  
FINGERPRINTS.

I WILL SCAN FOR THEM AND RUN  
ANY SUCH PRINTS THROUGH ALL  
ACTIVE DATABASES WITH ALL  
DUE HASTE.

MEANWHILE, THERE IS A  
GUARDIAN CALL FOR ASSISTANCE  
AT PORTAL CORPORATION.



CONNECT ME  
TO GUARDIAN  
BASE.

CONNECTING TO GUARDIAN BASE  
VIA THEIR CPGU\* SYSTEM.

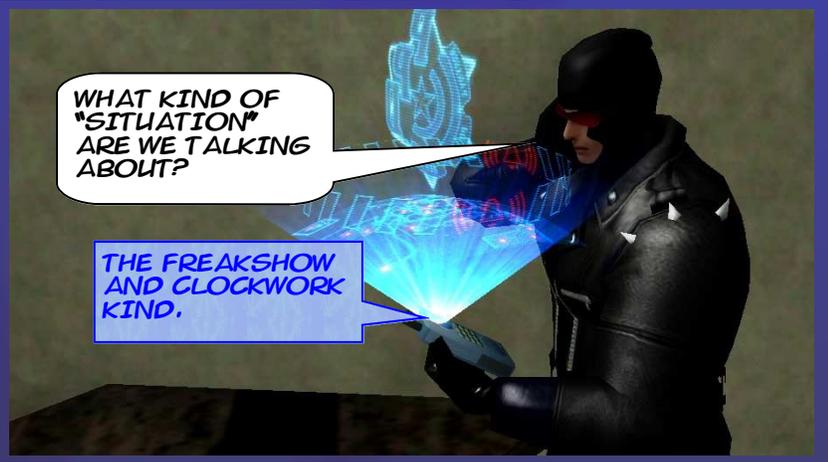
THIS IS ELITE ICE  
QUEEN AT  
GUARDIAN BASE.

(\* CPGU: CENTRAL COMMAND  
AND PROCESSING UTILITY. \*)



MISTER KNIGHT,  
I'M GLAD YOU  
CALLED.  
KOLDFRONT'S GOT  
A SITUATION OVER  
AT PORTAL.

**Elite Ice Queen**  
(CYNTHIA DI GHIACCIO)



WHAT KIND OF  
"SITUATION"  
ARE WE TALKING  
ABOUT?

THE FREAKSHOW  
AND CLOCKWORK  
KIND.



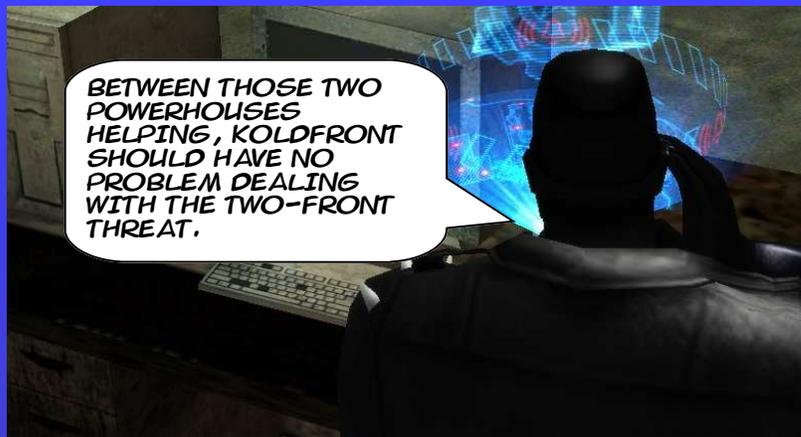
APPARENTLY THE  
FREAKSHOW ARE TRYING TO  
TAKE THE STASIS CHAMBER  
WITH THE HORDE-INFECTED  
BODY INSIDE IT.

AND NOW I'M GETTING  
REPORTS OF THE  
CLOCKWORK SHOWING UP.

THANKFULLY, KOLDFRONT'S  
NOT ALONE. HE HAS AURORA  
BOREALIS WITH HIM, AS WELL  
AS SOME GUY NAMED  
WATCHER TWELVE.

AND I JUST HEARD BACK  
FROM GALATEA POWERS A  
FEW MINUTES AGO. FURIA  
POWERS AND GUARDIAN STAR  
ARE ON THEIR WAY TO HELP.\*

(\* AS WAS SEEN IN ISSUES 6-7)



BETWEEN THOSE TWO POWERHOUSES HELPING, KOLDFRONT SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM DEALING WITH THE TWO-FRONT THREAT.



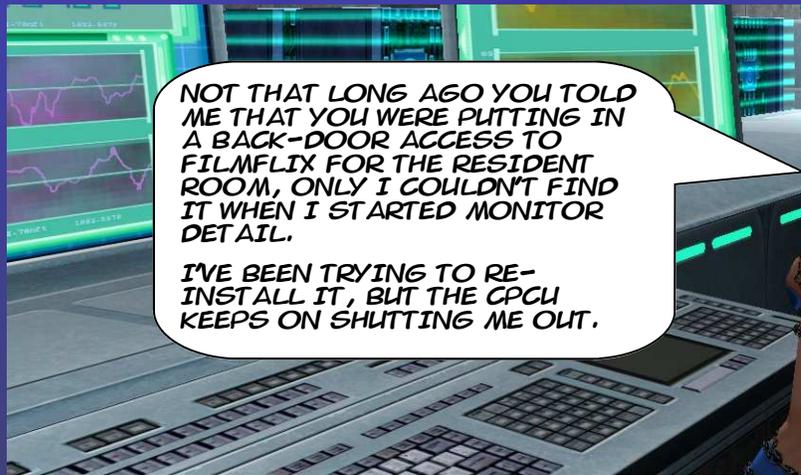
SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP THEM?



I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ACTIVE INVESTIGATION FOR A MISSING PERSON. I CAN'T PULL AWAY FROM THIS AS LONG AS SHE'S MISSING.



GOT IT. OH! HEY! WHILE I HAVE YOU HERE...



NOT THAT LONG AGO YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE PUTTING IN A BACK-DOOR ACCESS TO FILMFLIX FOR THE RESIDENT ROOM, ONLY I COULDN'T FIND IT WHEN I STARTED MONITOR DETAIL. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RE-INSTALL IT, BUT THE CPCU KEEPS ON SHUTTING ME OUT.



ANY CHANCE AFTER YOUR CASE YOU CAN STOP BY AND SHOW ME WHAT YOU DID?



THE CONNECTION HAS BEEN TERMINATED.



... OF COURSE IT HAS.

THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT REGRETS LYING TO HER LIKE THAT.

BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD EXPLAIN WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN I GAVE SENTRY BACK-DOOR ACCESS TO THE GUARDIAN NETWORKS.

BUT THAT WASN'T WHY I HAD TO SHUT DOWN COMMUNICATIONS.

THERE ARE SKULLS OUT THERE, AND THEY WEREN'T OUT THERE EARLIER.

ARE THEY HERE TO CLEAN UP THE CRIME SCENE? MAYBE GLIT THE WHOLE BUILDING TO DESTROY ANY EVIDENCE I MAY FIND?

OR ARE THEY HERE TO HANG OUT AND HAVE A PARTY?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

CHECK IT OUT, GLIT. DEAD HERO WALKING.

WHO WAS IN THE OFFICE ACROSS THE HALL?

DARKEN THE VOICE. BE DIRECT AND SERIOUS.

YER MOMMA, AFTER SHE SHINED MY KNOB.

YOU KNOW WHO I AM. I WON'T ASK AGAIN.

YOU SOUND LIKE THE KNIGHT... BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM.



YOU DON'T SCARE US.

HE'S RIGHT.

AND THEN I FEEL IT...

THE DARK MIST.

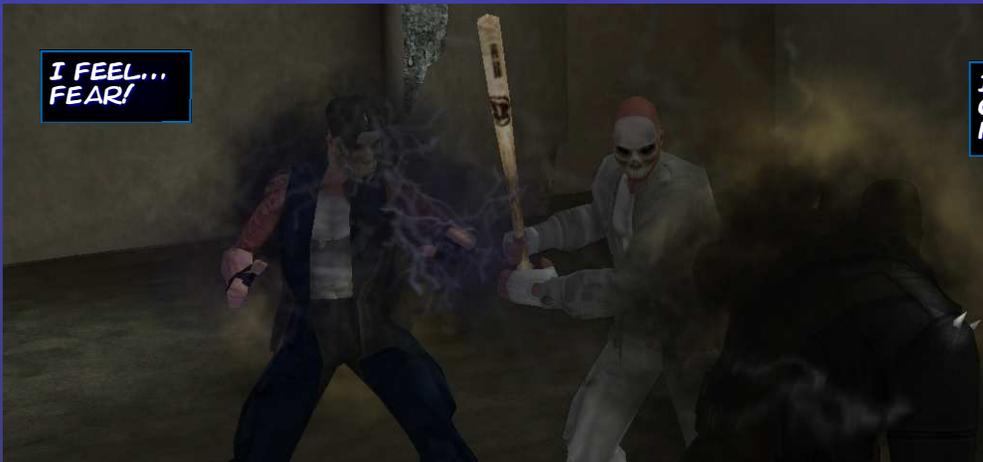
ONLY ITS BEING USED AGAINST ME!



I FEEL... FEAR!

I USED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE OUT A LOW-LEVEL PUNK LIKE HIM IN HALF-A-SECOND.

BUT THAT WAS WHEN I HAD THE MISTS. WHEN I HAD MOT'S POWER SILENTLY TWISTING INSIDE ME LIKE THE CANCER IT WAS.

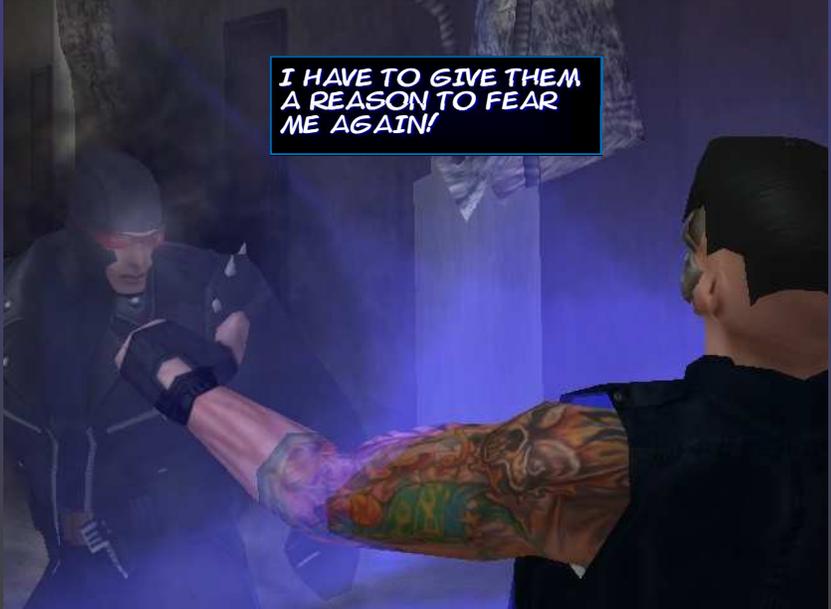


I HAVE TO IGNORE IT.

I HAVE TO GIVE THEM A REASON TO FEAR ME AGAIN!

**\*WHAM!\***

POWER THROUGH.



THEY FALL QUICKLY,  
BUT NOT QUICK  
ENOUGH FOR ME.

THERE ARE MORE  
VOICES ON THE  
FLOOR ABOVE.

LOOKS LIKE THE  
BUILDING'S COMMUNITY  
CENTER, WHERE RESIDENTS  
WOULD GET THEIR MAIL.

PROBABLY A DROP-BOX  
AREA FOR THE SKULLS TO  
GET THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.

I CAN SEE THEIR STREET  
BOSS WAITING FOR ME.



ENOUGH!  
LET HIM  
THROUGH.



**YOU COME INTO MY STREET, INTO MY BUILDING, AND BEAT UP MY PEOPLE.  
WHY?**

**I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.**



**I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TOO...  
MS. LIBERTY, NAKED AND ON HER KNEES.  
BUT YOU AIN'T HER.**

**YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC.**

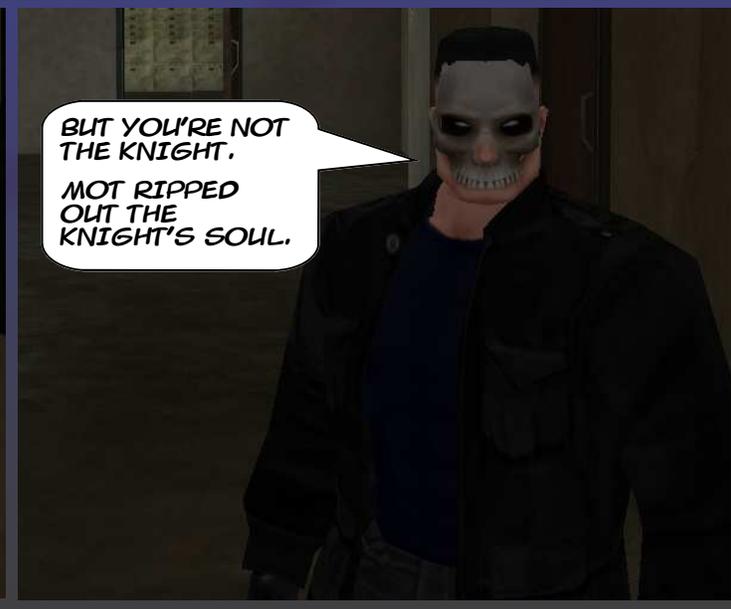


**ESME BARBERA,  
WORKED FOR ZONE-FREE DOCTORS.  
SHE WAS SENT HERE LAST NIGHT AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE.**

**YOU CAN EITHER TELL ME WHERE SHE IS, OR YOU CAN TELL ME WHO WAS USING THE OFFICE IN UNIT 533 LAST NIGHT.  
I KNOW THAT NOTHING GOES ON IN THIS BUILDING WITHOUT YOU KNOWING ABOUT IT.**



**MAYBE I KNOW SOMETHING.  
OR MAYBE I DON'T.  
IF YOU WERE THE KNIGHT, I'D MIGHT EVEN TELL YOU.**



**BUT YOU'RE NOT THE KNIGHT.  
NOT RIPPED OUT THE KNIGHT'S SOUL.**





**STOP!**  
HOLD ON...

HIS UNDERLING WAS READY TO CUT ME... AND I WAS READY TO RIP HIS ARM OFF AND USE IT TO FINISH OFF THE STREET BOSS.



YOU FIGHT LIKE THE KNIGHT, SO YOU DESERVE THIS...

I JUST TOOK CONTROL OF THE BUILDING TONIGHT FROM THE HELLIONS.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT WENT ON HERE BEFORE TODAY. WE DON'T MESS WITH ZONE-FREE DOCTORS. THEY HELP US OUT WHEN NOBODY ELSE WILL, AND WE RESPECT THAT.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT EARLIER?



WE DON'T HELP HEROES. SKULLS HAD AN UNDERSTANDING WITH MIDKNIGHT X. HE FREED US FROM MOT, AND WE RESPECTED HIM FOR THAT.

BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM. YOU HAVE TO EARN OUR RESPECT IF YOU WANT ANYTHING FROM US AGAIN.

SO GO BACK TO ATLAS PARK WITH THE OTHER HEROES AND GO POUND THOSE PUSSY-ASS HELLIONS.

YOU COME BACK HERE AGAIN, BE READY TO DIE.

WE CLEAR?

NOT QUITE.

**\*KA-POW!\***

I'VE BEEN DEAD. YOUR THREAT DOESN'T SCARE ME AT ALL.

YOU RELAY THAT TO HIM WHEN HE WAKES UP.

**\*AAAAH!\***

**\*CRRRRACK!\***

I LEAVE HIM IN AGONY.

HE'LL NEVER HOLD A KNIFE WITH THAT HAND AGAIN.

BUT AT LEAST HE'LL STILL HAVE A HAND.

THAT ONE MAY NOT THINK I'M "THE KNIGHT" YET... BUT RIGHT NOW HE'LL KNOW THAT I'M SOMEONE YOU DON'T CROSS.

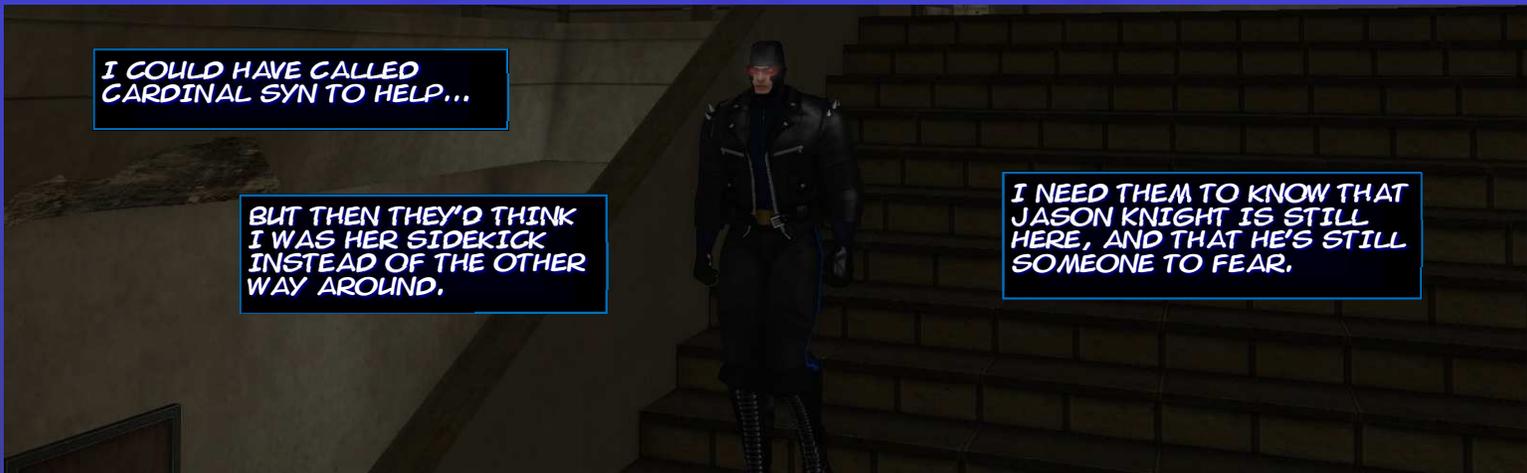


I STILL FEEL THE CHILL OF  
THE DARK MISTS DEEP INTO  
MY BONES.

I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE  
GAME FOR TOO LONG.

THEY DON'T FEAR JASON  
KNIGHT ANYMORE.

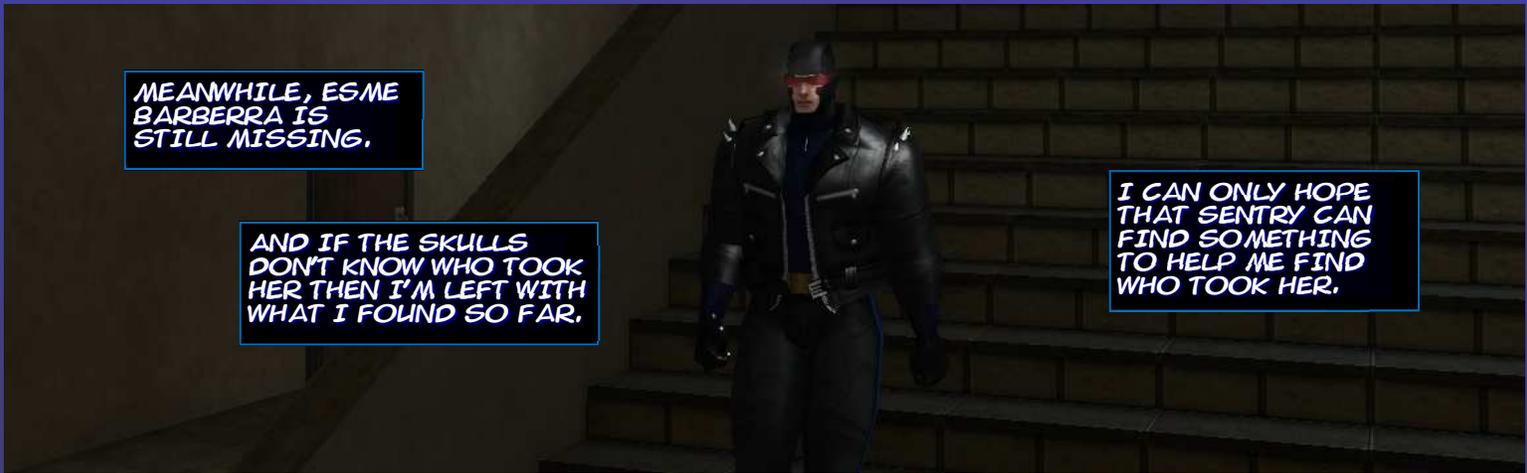
THEY ONLY REMEMBER  
THE KNIGHT THAT WAS  
MOT'S APOSTLE.



I COULD HAVE CALLED  
CARDINAL SYN TO HELP...

BUT THEN THEY'D THINK  
I WAS HER SIDEKICK  
INSTEAD OF THE OTHER  
WAY AROUND.

I NEED THEM TO KNOW THAT  
JASON KNIGHT IS STILL  
HERE, AND THAT HE'S STILL  
SOMEONE TO FEAR.



MEANWHILE, ESME  
BARBERA IS  
STILL MISSING.

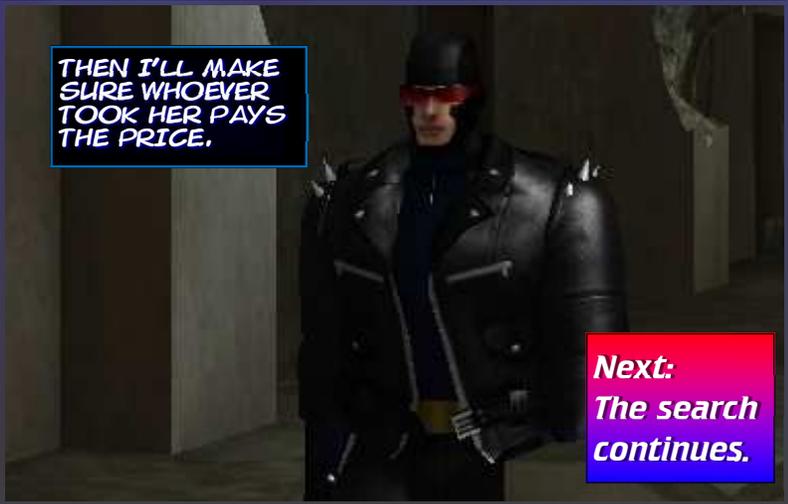
AND IF THE SKULLS  
DON'T KNOW WHO TOOK  
HER THEN I'M LEFT WITH  
WHAT I FOUND SO FAR.

I CAN ONLY HOPE  
THAT SENTRY CAN  
FIND SOMETHING  
TO HELP ME FIND  
WHO TOOK HER.



IF I'M LUCKY,  
I'LL FIND HER  
WHILE SHE'S  
STILL ALIVE.

BUT IF  
I'M NOT...



THEN I'LL MAKE  
SURE WHOEVER  
TOOK HER PAYS  
THE PRICE.

**Next:**  
The search  
continues.

# **FURIOUS SCRIBBLINGS**

*Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.*

---

## **The Knight Remade**

He's the self-appointed guardian of Kings Row.

He's the super-suspicious conspiracy buff.

He's grumpy, reserved, anarchistic, nihilistic, and, oh yeah, did I forget to mention he was dead and came back to life? And that was before his whole universe was destroyed and he ended up in the City of Heroes.

Of course we're talking about Jason Knight, aka "MidKnight X".

Jason first appeared in the text-only Issue Zero of "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight" along with his fellow "Guardian Exiles", Galatea Powers and Ryder Lightning. As one of four surviving people from the destroyed universe XHT-S7, Jason found himself in Kings Row, badly injured, bleeding almost to death, and facing two groups of gang members ready to finish the job.

His first words in this new world, classic:

***"I am the Knight, and you're practice!"***

His life story was eventually told in "Guardians of the Dawn Spotlight" #3. An orphan brought under the tutelage and guardianship of police officer Damian Wilson, who was also the street vigilante "MidKnight", Jason Rich was raised not to play a sidekick, but to eventually replace Damian as the "Knight".

But first, Jason had to die, and then come back to life when his mentor and guardian tried in vain to avenge his murder.

His resurrection would change him; making him the dark, brooding, anarchist that we know him to be. And when he came to the "Primal Universe" of the City of Heroes, he subconsciously began calling himself "Jason Knight" and later "MidKnight X".

Over the years, though, the "Knight" has drifted further and further away from the Guardians. He goes to Europe to learn about the Bilderburg Alliance from Europe's own conspiracy buff, Shodden Freud. He becomes a sewer recluse in "The Guardian Powers" after a Shadowborn assassin tries to kill Alex Wentworth. And by the time we get to "Guardians of the Dawn GRADUATION", Jason is now a full recluse, trying desperately to hold on to himself while still trying to use the power of the Phoenician god Mot, and ending up being Mot's apostle not just once, but twice.

*Continues on next page...*

So where could he go from there?

The only way for him to get past what he became was to be purged of everything he coveted and start fresh. And that meant... letting him sleep. For a while anyway.

So we took a man who was brought back from the dead and hurled from another universe with dark powers that could be easily corrupted and has nihilistic tendencies, strip all of the dark stuff from him, and give him something to actually live for. We gave him a new civilian identity, a new day job, and a new base of operations so he can rebuild his hero career.

Much like his original name of “Jason Rich”, Jason Knight’s new identity as “Drake Grey” was a combination of two mainstream characters that served as an inspiration for his creation. (*Here’s a hint: think “bird”.*) In fact it was one of those inspiration’s brief tenure as his city’s dominant “guardian” that also inspired the change of the Knight’s Lair from one in the middle of the sewers to “Level Thirteen”. I liked how that character did everything to make the “mantle” his own, including changing his base of operations to one that made him feel a little more comfortable with the responsibility. It showed that he was serious about the burden being his and not just holding it for someone else to come waltzing back (*even though he eventually did, damn you big corporate editorial mandate*).

But the idea of coming up with Sentry, Jason’s digital assistant, that came from a few other sources. A certain flawed genius billionaire quickly comes to mind, but also from a certain real-world computer program named Cortana. And I can tell you that designing Sentry wasn’t easy from a demorecording perspective.

But let’s put a pin on this until the next issue...

<http://BattlerockComics.wordpress.com>

**NEXT ISSUE...**



**JASON KNIGHT HASN'T GIVEN UP ON FINDING HIS MISSING COWORKER, BUT HE DISCOVERS THERE'S MORE TO HER DISAPPEARANCE THAN MEETS THE EYE.**

**AND THERE'S MORE GOING ON IN KINGS ROW THAN HE PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.**

**HIS QUEST FOR JUSTICE IS ABOUT TO TAKE A STARTLING TURN.**

**PLUS: BE SURE TO CHECK OUT JASON'S FIRST ADVENTURE AS THE "KNIGHT" IN "THE CITY'S FINEST" #2 - AVAILABLE NOW AT [WWW.JKCOMICS.COM](http://WWW.JKCOMICS.COM)**

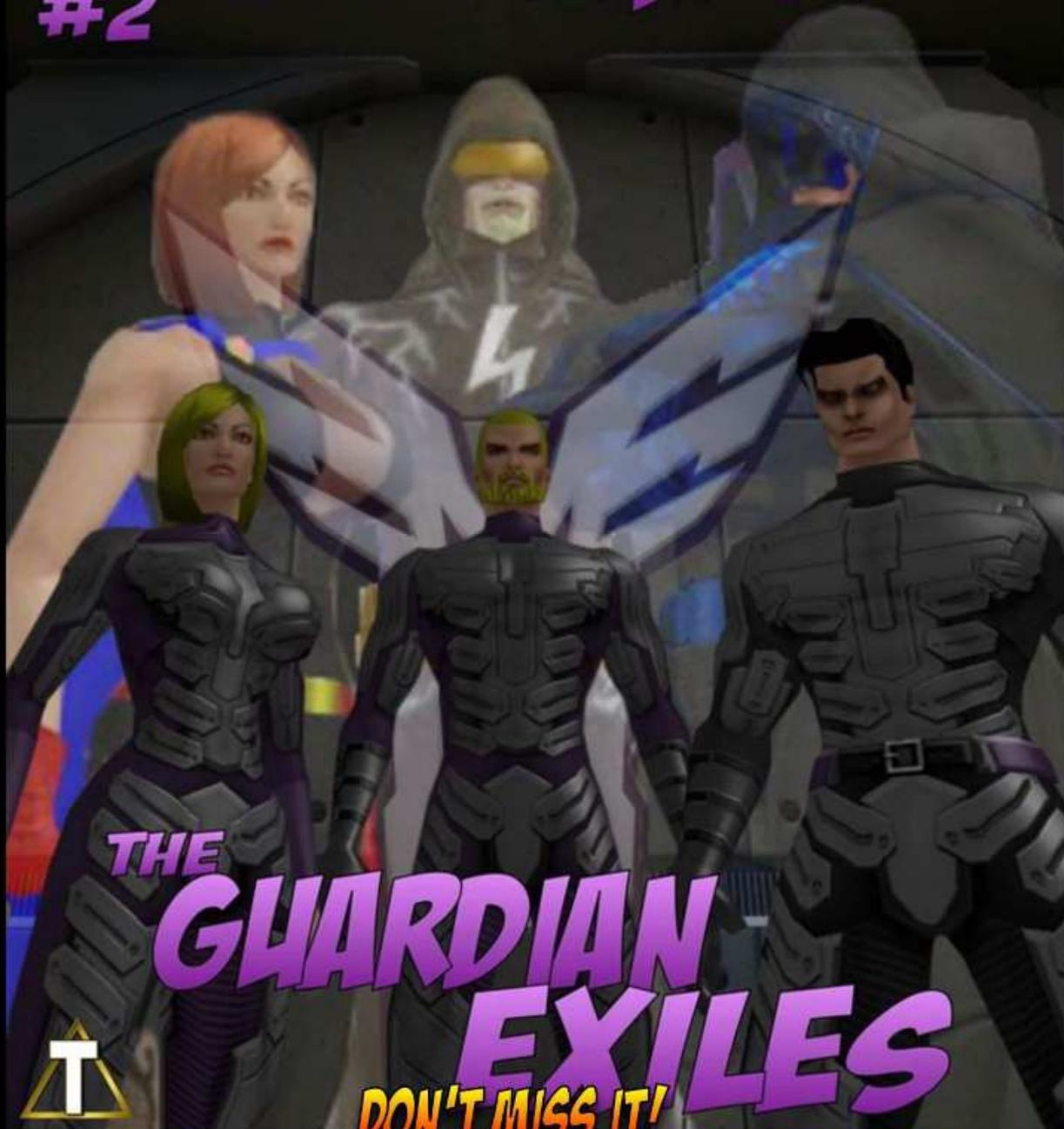


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THE

# CITY'S FINEST

#2



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# 'CRUCIBLE' THE



THE HOUSE OF SOTHIS