

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



ISSUE 23
2011



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Galatea Powers?

LET'S JUST
SAY A LITTLE
CHANGE WAS
NEEDED...



PARAGON CITY: THE CITY OF HEROES! THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE THE HERO-TO-PROBLEM RATIO IS ALMOST ONE-TO-ONE. IF YOU NEED A HERO IN THIS CITY, YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND THE CORNER.

BUT NOT ALL HEROES ARE THE SAME. SOME ARE MORE MERCENARY THAN THE OTHERS. BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO SEE THE CALLING AS A SIGN OF BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD FOR ALL MANKIND. THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING BETTER. THEY ARE THE...

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



**NAME:
GALATEA
POWERS**

**REAL NAME:
KAREN
POWERS/KARA
HAMILTON**

**STATUS:
REGISTERED
HERO**

**ARCHETYPE:
TANKER**

**PRIMARY POWER:
INVULNERABLE**

**SECONDARY
POWER: SUPER-
STRENGTH**

GALATEA POWERS, THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN, SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS CONFINED AGAINST HER WILL AT OUROBOROS BY THE TEMPORAL PARADOX DEVICE KNOWN AS THE PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME.

SHE WAS NEVER TOLD WHY SHE WAS DETAINED, NOR WAS SHE AWARE OF THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED TO HER FELLOW GUARDIANS IN HER ABSENCE.

EVENTUALLY SHE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HER ADOPTED HOME, BUT SHE WAS CLEARLY NOT THE SAME WOMAN THAT PEOPLE REMEMBER.

THE BUSTY BLOND BEAUTY, WAS NO LONGER BLOND.

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We Heart Galatea Powers!

Dedicated to those of us who love Paragon City's True Guardian!

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SHE'S BACK!

GALATEA POWERS...

EVERYONE LOVES GALATEA POWERS.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY FAN SITES THERE ARE ON THE INTERNET DEDICATED TO HER EVERY BREATH?

SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE, NOT COUNTING THE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES AND THE ONES THAT PHOTOSHOP HER PIC TO SEE UNDER HER TIGHTS.



"WE HEART GALATEA POWERS" IS THE TAMEST OF THE LOT, BUT IT'S ALSO THE MOST POPULAR.

SORT OF THE DAILY MIRROR FOR HERO NEWS ONLINE, MOSTLY GOSSIP, BUT IT'S ALL ABOUT HER.

OF COURSE WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE ABOUT HER? I MEAN, SHE'S STRONG, DETERMINED, NOT TO MENTION SHE'S GOT NO PROBLEM SHOWING OFF HER "ASSETS". SHE'S A REAL-LIFE SINDY IN A CAPE.

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Our beloved Galatea Powers is back!

Our months of painful suffering has ended, as the TRUE GUARDIAN of our blessed Paragon City has returned to us!

Words cannot express the sheer joy over knowing that Galatea is back to watch over us and for us to watch over her! Hero-watchers everywhere are rejoicing as she is free to once again fly the skies. Blog sites are already scrambling to post new pictures of her and to let her know just how much Paragon City really loves and misses her!

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN BASE - TALOS ISLAND

Never trust a Mender! Even a Guardian Mender!

OF COURSE I'M NOT JEALOUS OF HER 'CUZ OF HER BODY. I COULD PUT IT OUT THERE LIKE A TROLLIP IF I WANTED TO.

Who should be District Attorney? -
• The Trust?
• A Hero?
• Have an election?
• LA?

Can we have some changes in the weather?

IT'S JUST THAT THE REST OF US ARE BUSTING OUR SPANDEX BUTTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND WE DON'T GET A PEEP FOR IT.

NOT TOO LONG AGO WE HAD TO TAKE DOWN ONE OF OUR OWN... SOMEONE THAT KNEW WHO WE ARE AND HOW TO STOP US.* WE ALL GOT BANGED UP OVER IT.

SEE ISSUE 22

"Galatea Dawning" Part 1 "THE DEATH OF KARA HAMILTON" - A CITY OF HEROES STORY BY DAVID 2



BUT GALATEA COMES BACK FROM WHEREVER SHE WAS FOR A FEW MONTHS, AND EVERYONE GOES GAGA OVER HER.

LYON POWERS

ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHY I'M COMPOSING THIS JOURNAL.

I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I NEED TO DOCUMENT WHAT'S HAPPENED THESE PAST FEW WEEKS SINCE SHE CAME BACK.

LADY JANE, WHO HAS BEEN LIKE A HERO-MUM TO ME SINCE I'VE BEEN WITH THE DAWN PATROL, SUGGESTED IT WOULD HELP ME PUT ALL OF THIS IN CONTEXT.



Never trust a Mender! Even a Guardian Mender!

Who is the REAL face of PNN? Can we show more faces? Is Rona gone?

What happened to First Captain?

Can we have some changes in the weather?

Loyalties in Praetoria?

Who should be District Attorney? -

- The Trust?
- A Hero?
- Have an election?
- LA?

OF COURSE SHE WAS TALKING A DIARY... AS IN PEN-AND-PAPER, I'M USING AN ENCRYPTED LAPTOP THAT I KEEP LOCKED AWAY, LITTLE EASIER TO DO WITH GLOVES. YOU EVER TRY TO HOLD A PEN WITH GLOVES?

IT HELPS THAT I DO THIS DURING WATCH DUTY.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF KEEPING AN EYE ON STUFF, CPCL SYSTEM, VANGUARD BULLETINS, PPD ALERTS, THAT SORT OF STUFF.

IT'S NOT TOO BAD. WE HAVE A BED, PLENTY OF BOOKS, A LOO WITH A WASH, AND OF COURSE A LOUNGE AREA WITH A TELE AND PLENTY OF EATS.

BUT IT'S STILL TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, AND THAT MEANS PLENTY OF TIME ON MY HANDS, MOSTLY ALL BY MYSELF.

ANYWAY, ENOUGH OF THAT, BACK TO GALATEA.

WE JUST FINISHED TAKING DOWN STARCYNUS, AND WE HAD BOTH DAYBRIGHT AND GALATEA COME BACK TO US, SO OF COURSE WE HAD TO HAVE A LITTLE PARTY TO CELEBRATE.

FREEDOM CORPS HEADQUARTERS - GALAXY CITY

WELL, NOT ALL OF US WANTED TO CELEBRATE, SO WE HAD IT IN THE FREEDOM CORPS OFFICER'S LOUNGE.

SO THEN WHAT DID YOU DO?

WELL THAT'S WHEN THE DOOR OPENED AND THE SKULLS STARTED TO COME OUT READY TO AMBLUSH ME.

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, MY SHIELD WAS IN FRONT OF THE DOOR, SO THEY WENT THROUGH THE GLASS PANE AND SMACKED INTO IT HEAD-FIRST.

GALATEA POWERS

STREET JUSTICE

HA HA! YEAH, TYPICAL HOLLOWES SCAM GOOD THING YOU HAD YOUR SHIELD WHERE IT WAS!

THEY TRIED THAT ONCE WITH ME, BUT WITH THE GIRLFRIEND BEATING UP THE SKULL THUG. I JUST STOOD THERE AND LAUGHED AT THEM UNTIL THEY JUST GAVE UP AND WALKED BACK INSIDE IN FRUSTRATION. I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND THEY JUST GAVE UP RIGHT THERE.

STREET JUSTICE IS THE NEWEST RECRUIT TO OUR GROUP. HE AND GALATEA SUPPOSEDLY ARE GOOD FRIENDS.

AND YET I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HOW GALATEA WAS WATCHING THE WHOLE LOT, IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT.

IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS SOMETIMES WATCHING THEM WITH NEW EYES...

LIKE A PREDATOR SIZING UP HER PREY.

THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HER, AND IT WASN'T JUST THE HAIR COLOR.

GALATEA HAS BEEN A BIG SIS TO ME, SHOWING ME THE ROPES HERE IN PARAGON CITY, EAGER TO INTRODUCE ME TO PEOPLE SHE KNEW IN THE FEW YEARS THAT SHE'S BEEN IN THIS UNIVERSE.

BUT NOW SHE SEEMS TO BE A BIT... UNEASY.



THIS WASN'T THE FIRST TIME SHE CHANGED HER ATTIRE EITHER.

BEFORE SHE WAS A MANAGER FOR THE ICON STORES, SHE WAS A TAILOR-IN-TRAINING.



BUT SHE NEVER WENT SO FAR AS TO CHANGE HER HAIR COLOR.

SHE'S PLAYED WITH GETTING RID OF HER "SWIMSUIT" OUTFIT BEFORE...

FILE FOOTAGE



WELL, THIS HAS BEEN FUN, BUT I'M A LITTLE BEAT. I'M GOING TO GET SOME SLEEP SO I CAN START MY FIRST DAY BACK FRESH.

RIGHT... YEAH, FIRST DAY BACK. CATCH YOU TOMORROW, G.P...



EXCUSE ME?

YOU KNOW... FIRST DAY BACK.. "TO WORK"?

OH! RIGHT, OF COURSE, "WORK"! SEE YOU THEN.



SO... PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

EHP?



WELL BESIDES SCOPING OUT OUR MOST DE-LISH NEW MEMBER, I SEEM TO REMEMBER A DAY WHEN YOU AND GALATEA WERE ALMOST JOINED AT THE HIP. NOW IT SEEMS YOU'RE NOT HER BFF ANYMORE. WHAT'S UP?

WHYSPERA



I'M SORRY, WHYSPERA... IT'S JUST... I DON'T KNOW.

D'YOU EVER THINK MAYBE WE ENDED UP WITH A PRAETORIAN VERSION OF GALATEA?

I DON'T EVEN THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE, IS IT? I MEAN, GALATEA'S NOT EVEN FROM THIS UNIVERSE, SO HOW COULD THERE BE AN EVIL DIMENSIONAL TWIN OF HER?



LOOK, I GET IT... YOU'RE STILL JEALOUS OF YOUR BIG "HERO-SIS" 'CUZ SHE'S HANGING WITH THE ROOKIE AND NOT WITH YOU.

CHEER UP! BEEN THERE TOO, Y'KNOW?



NO, IT'S NOT THAT... IT'S...

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH SHE'S EMBARRASSED TO BE SEEN IN HER OUTFIT. AND THAT'S WEIRD, I KNOW, 'CUZ SHE FLIES AROUND HALF-STARKERS AN' ALL.



WELL THEN MAYBE ALL OF THAT "HALF-STARKERS" TALK IS FINALLY TAKING HOLD ON HER.

LISTEN, IT'S BEEN FUN, BUT I'M OUT OF HERE. I'M GONNA HIT THE BARRACKS BEFORE I START SINGING KARAOKE.



GIGGLE RIGHT... AN' WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT, NOW, DO WE? THEY JUST REPLACED THE SOUND SYSTEM FROM TH' LAST TIME YOU DID!

I STILL COULDN'T GET RID OF THE NAGGING FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH GALATEA.

STEEL CANYON - LATER THAT EVENING



THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT YOU DON'T EXPECT TO SEE IN PARAGON CITY.

YOU DON'T EXPECT TO SEE RAIN INSIDE THE CITY.

YOU DON'T EXPECT TO SEE MIDNIGHT X LAUGH.

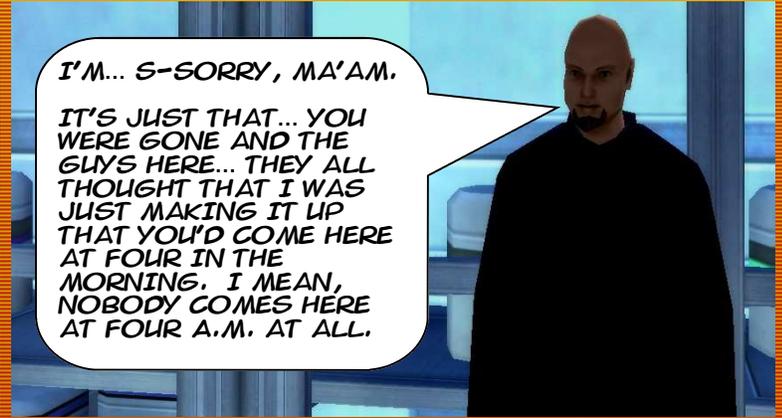
AND YOU DON'T EXPECT TO SEE SOMEONE OF ONE POWER ORIGIN SHOWING UP IN A STORE DEDICATED TO A DIFFERENT ORIGIN.



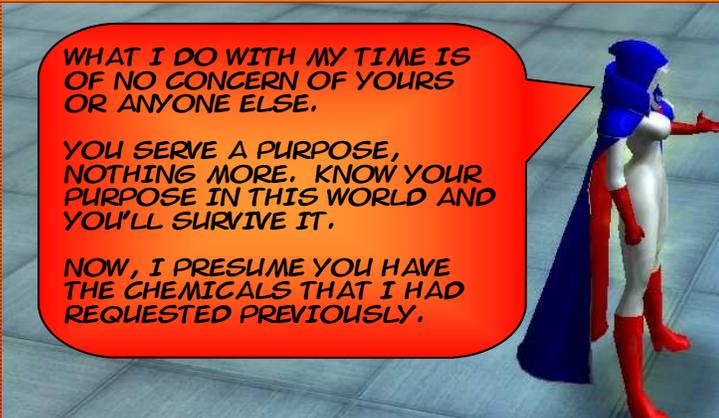
THERE SHE IS!
THE LADY OF MY
LATE-NIGHT
DREAMS-COME-
TRUE!



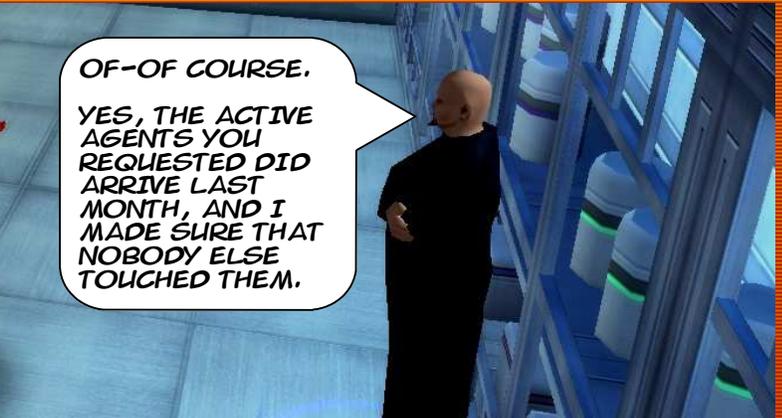
WHAT DID I TELL
YOU ABOUT
USING THOSE VILE
REFERENCES
ABOUT ME,
RANDALL?



I'M... S-SORRY, MA'AM.
IT'S JUST THAT... YOU
WERE GONE AND THE
GUYS HERE... THEY ALL
THOUGHT THAT I WAS
JUST MAKING IT UP
THAT YOU'D COME HERE
AT FOUR IN THE
MORNING. I MEAN,
NOBODY COMES HERE
AT FOUR A.M. AT ALL.



WHAT I DO WITH MY TIME IS
OF NO CONCERN OF YOURS
OR ANYONE ELSE.
YOU SERVE A PURPOSE,
NOTHING MORE. KNOW YOUR
PURPOSE IN THIS WORLD AND
YOU'LL SURVIVE IT.
NOW, I PRESUME YOU HAVE
THE CHEMICALS THAT I HAD
REQUESTED PREVIOUSLY.



OF-OF COURSE.
YES, THE ACTIVE
AGENTS YOU
REQUESTED DID
ARRIVE LAST
MONTH, AND I
MADE SURE THAT
NOBODY ELSE
TOUCHED THEM.



HMM... YES
IT ALL
APPEARS
TO BE IN
ORDER...

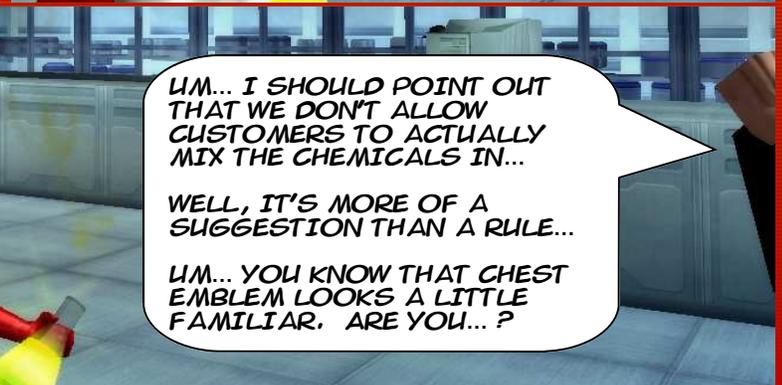


Snnniffiff

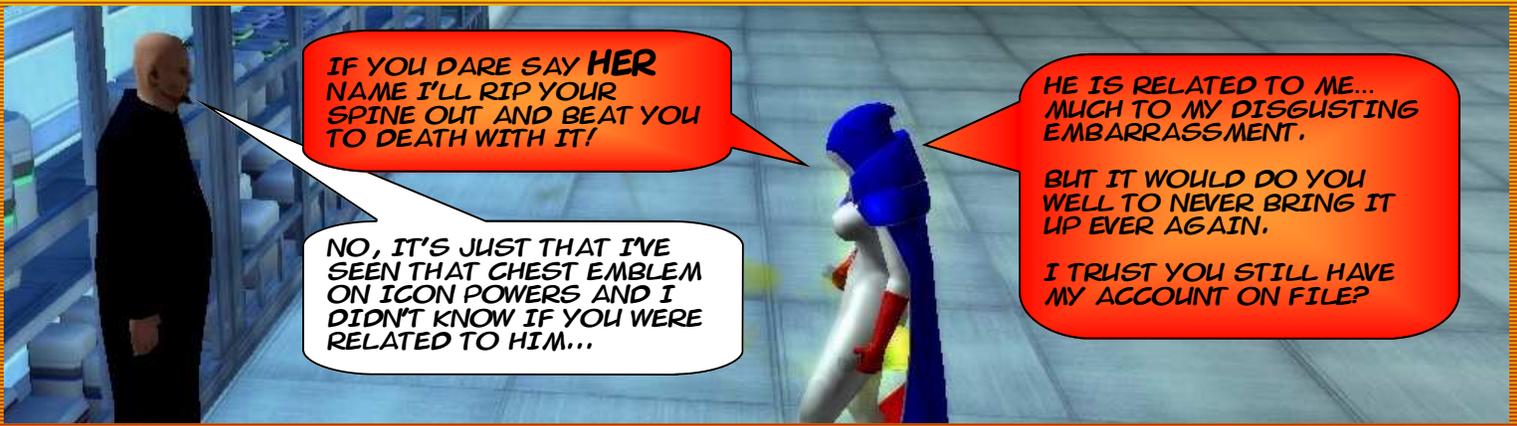


YES!

YES THIS IS
PRECISELY WHAT I
NEED TO FINISH
MY PROJECT!



UM... I SHOULD POINT OUT
THAT WE DON'T ALLOW
CUSTOMERS TO ACTUALLY
MIX THE CHEMICALS IN...
WELL, IT'S MORE OF A
SUGGESTION THAN A RULE...
UM... YOU KNOW THAT CHEST
EMBLEM LOOKS A LITTLE
FAMILIAR. ARE YOU... ?



IF YOU DARE SAY **HER** NAME I'LL RIP YOUR SPINE OUT AND BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH IT!

NO, IT'S JUST THAT I'VE SEEN THAT CHEST EMBLEM ON ICON POWERS AND I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WERE RELATED TO HIM...

HE IS RELATED TO ME... MUCH TO MY DISGUSTING EMBARRASSMENT.
BUT IT WOULD DO YOU WELL TO NEVER BRING IT UP EVER AGAIN.
I TRUST YOU STILL HAVE MY ACCOUNT ON FILE?



YES... YES, OF COURSE YOUR VAULT ACCOUNT IS STILL ON FILE WITH US AND SHERRY WILL CREDIT IT APPROPRIATELY.



RANDALL... DID YOU TELL HER ABOUT THE FED ASKING AROUND ABOUT HER?



YOU JUST HAD TO MENTION IT, HUHP

WHAT FED? WHO? WHAT DID YOU TELL THEM?



JUST SOME GUY FROM THE D.A.'S OFFICE. WEIRD GUY... LOOKED LIKE HE WAS A TECHNOMANCER WITH THE TECH STUFF ON HIS HEAD AND ALL.



IT'S NO BIGGIE... HE STARTED ASKING ABOUT SEEING YOU ON THE SECURITY CAMERAS AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT YOU WERE BUYING AND HOW YOU WERE PAYING FOR IT.
WE DIDN'T TELL HIM ANYTHING ABOUT YOU. WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN CUSTOMER CONFIDENTIALITY.

AND YOU THINK THAT STOPS A TECHNOMANCER?
IT WAS BAD ENOUGH THAT I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO OPERATE FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS BECAUSE OF... OF...
BUT NOW I DISCOVER THAT YOU ADMITTED MY EXISTENCE TO SOMEONE WHO IS A THREAT TO MY OPERATION. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

MA'AM, RIGHT ABOUT NOW I HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF OUR "MAD SCIENTIST" POLICY SURROUNDING THREATS TO STAFF MEMBERS.

WE'RE NOT LIKE THE ROGUE ISLES. WE WILL PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY, BUT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ABUSE, EITHER PHYSICAL OR VERBAL.

REST ASSURED, I ALREADY HAVE EVERYTHING I CAN GET HERE.

I WILL HOLD YOU TO YOUR WORD ABOUT MY PRIVACY.

AS MY FATHER ONCE SAID...

"A MAN'S WORD IS NOTHING IF IT IS NOT BACKED UP WITH DEEDS."

PSYCHO...

YOU DO NOT WANT TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

FURTHER UP THE STREET - FIVE HOURS LATER...

vault reserve inc.

OF COURSE THAT WASN'T THE ONLY ACTIVITY IN THAT PART OF THE CITY.

vault reserve inc.

GOOD MORNING, SIR.

WELCOME TO THE VAULT RESERVE.

GOOD MORNING, TIFFANY, IS IT?

YES SIR. I'M TIFFANY. HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU TODAY, SIR?

I'M DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY EDWARD VANCE. I'M TRYING TO TRACK DOWN AN ASSAILANT THAT HAS BEEN SEEN HERE RECENTLY. SHE'S PAYING FOR SERVICES USING A VAULT FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.

I'M GOING TO NEED ACCESS TO HER REGISTRATION INFORMATION.



EDWARD "THE TRUST" VANCE

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT THE VAULT IS MORE THAN JUST A STORAGE PLACE FOR HEROES... CERTAIN GROUPS ALSO USE THE VAULT LIKE A SWISS BANK, SETTING UP ANONYMOUS CREDIT LINES.

I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT THAT'S INFORMATION THAT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DIVULGE TO YOU.

THE VAULT PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS CONFIDENTIALITY, AND WE ARE BARRED FROM PROVIDING ANY KIND OF INFORMATION OF ITS CLIENTS.



YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM, TIFFANY?

I AM "THE TRUST-BUSTER", TIFFANY. I'VE GONE AFTER THE ELITE IN THIS CITY... AND I'VE WON EVERY TIME.

I'M THE MOST POWERFUL PROSECUTOR IN PARAGON CITY. THAT MEANS THERE AREN'T TOO MANY DOORS THAT ARE LOCKED TO ME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

YES, MISTER VANCE, I DO.

AND I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT WE ARE BARRED FROM GIVING YOU THAT INFORMATION WITHOUT A WARRANT.

OH I'LL GET THAT WARRANT...

BUT I PROMISE YOU IF I HAVE TO GO THAT ROUTE, THAT THINGS WILL GET VERY UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH OUR INVESTIGATION.

THAT MEANS OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES.

MISTER VANCE, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOU DON'T SCARE ME.

MY FATHER IS STILL BEHIND BARS FOR A CHARGE HE HAS NEVER BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR "PROMISES".

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'VE ALREADY DONE YOUR WORST TO ME.

MISTER CADE, THIS IS VANCE. I NEED YOU TO GET A WARRANT STARTED FOR THE VAULT RESERVE INC. I WANT AN ALL-PURPOSE WARRANT.. USE "NATIONAL SECURITY" AS THE REASON. I ALSO WANT THE EMPLOYEE RECORDS ON ANYONE NAMED "TIFFANY".

WHAT?! IMPOSSIBLE! THIS IS STILL A PARAGON CITY CASE, NOT A FEDERAL ONE! OBAMA'S PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO...

MISTER VANCE, I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE POSSIBLE. WE JUST RECEIVED AN ORDER FROM THE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO CLOSE THIS CASE IMMEDIATELY.

MISTER VANCE, THE ORDER STATES THAT THE PERSON WE'RE LOOKING FOR WAS A PART OF A COVERT OPERATION WITH THE SECURITY PREFIX OF ZERO-ZERO-TWO.

ZERO-ZERO-TWO, YOU SAID?

ZERO-ZERO IS VANGUARD...
ZERO-ONE IS THE FREEDOM
PHALANX. ZERO-TWO... THAT'S
THE MIDNIGHT SQUAD!

WHAT THE HELL IS THE MIDNIGHT
SQUAD DOING INVESTIGATING
MY ACTIVITIES? THE LAST TIME
I CHECKED, I WASN'T A DEMON
OR TRYING TO RESURRECT
ORANBEGA.

I CAN MAKE SOME INQUIRIES
IF YOU LIKE. POKE THROUGH
SOME NEWSGROUPS.

YES. GO AHEAD AND DO
THAT.

IN THE MEANTIME, REPORT
THE VAULT TO THE I.R.S.*
AT THE VERY LEAST I WANT
TO SEE THEM AUDITED.

(* I.R.S. - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE)

VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU COULD
DENY MY
REQUEST FOR ME
TO VISIT HIM.

HE IS
MY SON.



SHADOWBORN LEADER

YES, LORD
GEDDY, A FACT
THAT I WAS MADE
QUITE AWARE OF
BY CIT ADEL IN
HIS DEBRIEFING
OF THE INCIDENT
INVOLVING YOUR
SON.*



THE LADY GREY

(* SEE ISSUE #20)

MAJOR GEDDY IS ALSO
CHARGED WITH SERIOUS
VIOLATIONS OF LOCAL,
FEDERAL, AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
LAWS, NOT TO MENTION
AIDING AND ABETTING IN
CAPITAL MURDER AND
ATTEMPTED MURDER.

THOSE ALONE ARE MORE
THAN ENOUGH OF A REASON
FOR HIM TO BE CONFINED
TO OUR ATLANTIS BASE
UNTIL HIS TRIAL.*

CONFINED ALONGSIDE
THOSE RIKTI SOLDIERS
AND NEMESIS AGENTS?

YOU'RE PRESUMING HE'S
ALREADY GUILTY!

YOU HAD MIGHT AS WELL
HAVE PUT HIM IN
REICHSMAN'S OLD CELL
IN THE FREEDOM PHALANX
HEADQUARTERS!

(* SEE ISSUE #22)

HAD WE NOT PRESUMED
REICHSMAN'S CELL WAS
DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE
REST OF BAUMTON IN THE FIRST
RIKTI INVASION, HE'D PROBABLY
BE TRANSFERRED TO THE
ATLANTIS FACILITY. BUT THAT
IS NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.

MAJOR GEDDY WILL RECEIVE A
FAIR TRIAL FOR THE CRIMES HE
IS ACCUSED OF, OR AS FAIR AS
CAN BE EXPECTED UNDER UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY LAWS. THAT
INCLUDES A DEFENSE ATTORNEY
FROM OUR LEGAL SERVICES AND
ALL THE HUMAN RIGHTS AS
PROVIDED UNDER THE GENEVA
CONVENTION.

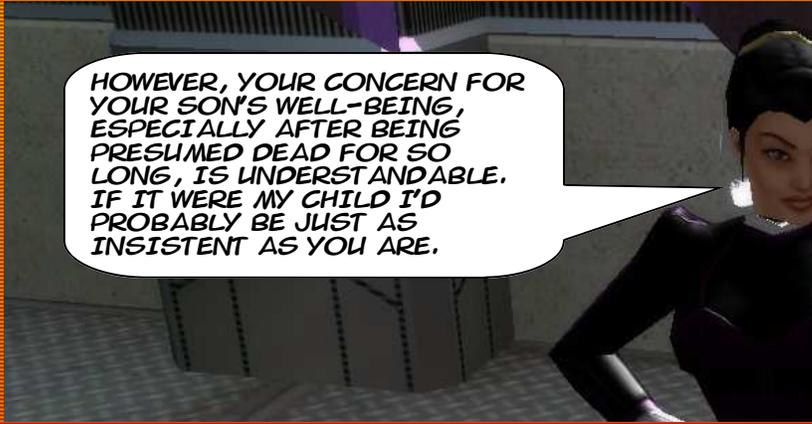


THEN WHY WON'T YOU LET ME SEE FOR MYSELF THAT HE'S BEING TREATED HUMANELY?

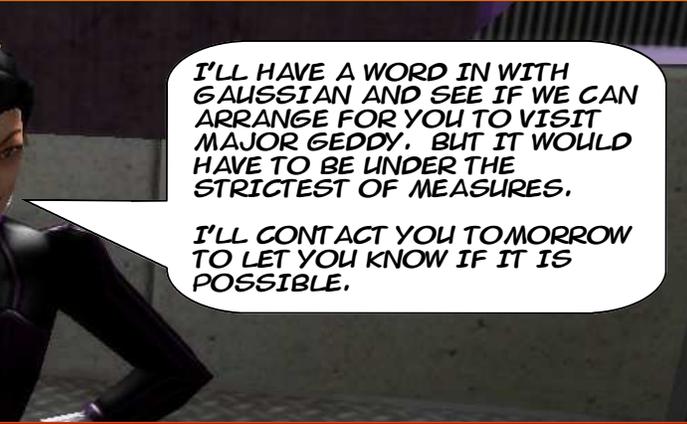


IT'S A MATTER OF SECURITY.

QUITE FRANKLY, LORD GEDDY, EVEN YOU LACK THE CLEARANCE TO BE THERE.

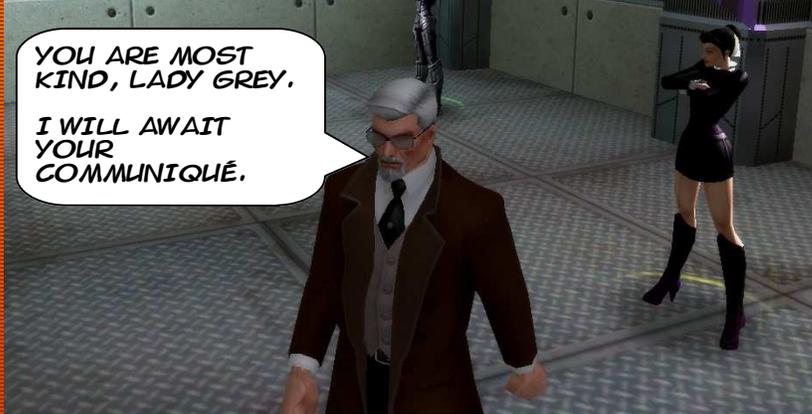


HOWEVER, YOUR CONCERN FOR YOUR SON'S WELL-BEING, ESPECIALLY AFTER BEING PRESUMED DEAD FOR SO LONG, IS UNDERSTANDABLE. IF IT WERE MY CHILD I'D PROBABLY BE JUST AS INSISTENT AS YOU ARE.



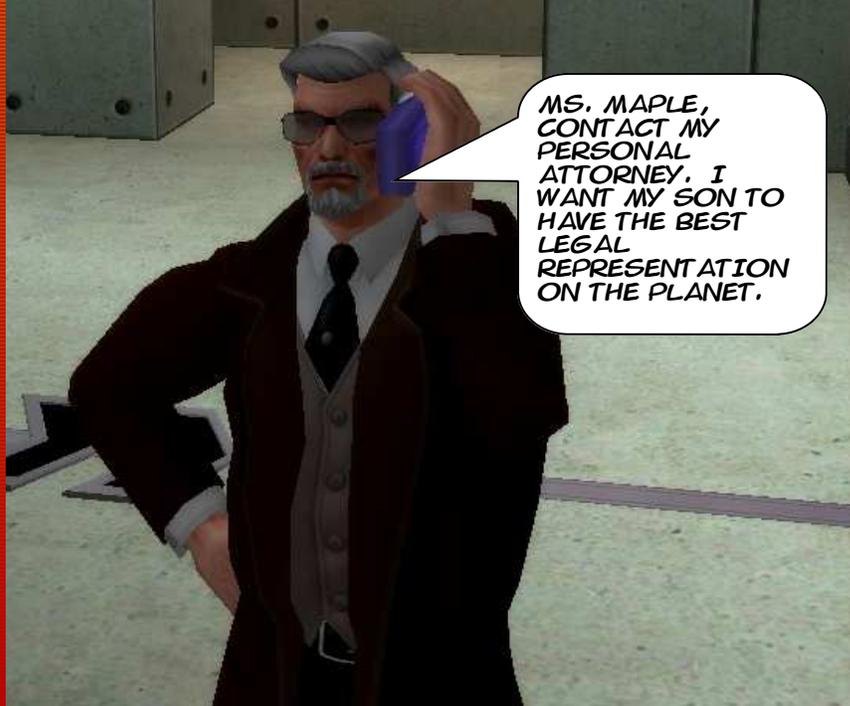
I'LL HAVE A WORD IN WITH GAUSSIAN AND SEE IF WE CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU TO VISIT MAJOR GEDDY. BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER THE STRICTEST OF MEASURES.

I'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW TO LET YOU KNOW IF IT IS POSSIBLE.



YOU ARE MOST KIND, LADY GREY.

I WILL AWAIT YOUR COMMUNIQUE.



MS. MAPLE, CONTACT MY PERSONAL ATTORNEY. I WANT MY SON TO HAVE THE BEST LEGAL REPRESENTATION ON THE PLANET.

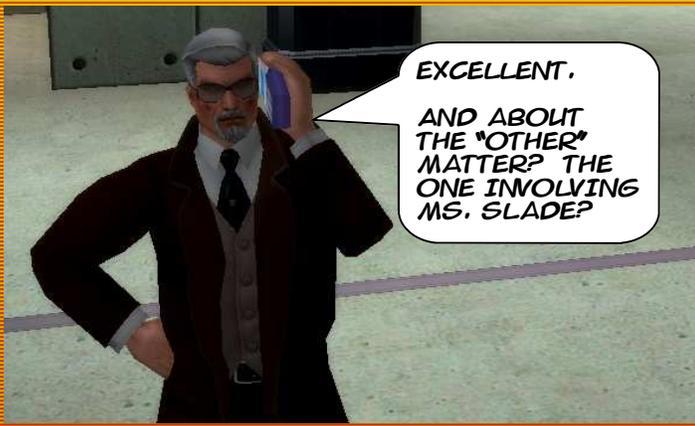


ROGINANTE GROUP - PEREZ PARK

YES, LORD GEDDY. I'LL CONTACT MISTER RUBENSTEIN AND RELAY YOUR WISHES.

ALSO, AS PER OUR EARLIER CALL, MISTER BARRISTER IS NOW ON HIS WAY TO LOGAN AIRPORT FOR A FLIGHT TO AMSTERDAM.

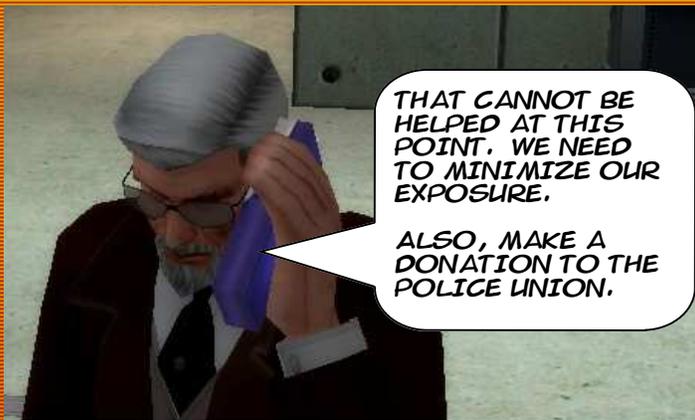
MS. MAPLE



EXCELLENT.
AND ABOUT THE "OTHER" MATTER? THE ONE INVOLVING MS. SLADE?



BLOODBLADER... I MEAN, MS. SLADE... MANAGED TO ESCAPE POLICE CUSTODY AFTER BEING BROUGHT IN BY DAYBRIGHT.
SHE'S AT LARGE, AND I'M TOLD THAT SHE'S RATHER ANGRY.



THAT CANNOT BE HELPED AT THIS POINT. WE NEED TO MINIMIZE OUR EXPOSURE.
ALSO, MAKE A DONATION TO THE POLICE UNION.



I'VE ALREADY SET UP A FUND ON BEHALF OF THE ROGINANTE GROUP FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE KILLED OFFICERS.
THANK YOU, MS. MAPLE. EFFICIENT AS EVER.



THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.

ICON POWERS WAS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL FROM HIS FINAL BATTLE WITH ALOR SO HE COULDN'T TELL US ABOUT MAJOR GEDDY AND HIS FATHER.

IF WE KNEW THEN THAT "STARCYNUS" WAS WORKING FOR THE ROGINANTE GROUP, THEN OBVIOUSLY LADY GREY WOULD HAVE ARRESTED LORD GEDDY ON THE SPOT, NEVER MIND LET HIM VIST HIS SON AT THE ATLANTIS BASE.

Dedicated to those of us who love Paragon City's True Guardian!

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Galatea Goes Biker!

BUT THEN AGAIN, WE WERE A BIT DISTRACTED BY THIS NEWS...



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE PNN AND THE OTHER SERVICES PICKED UP ON THIS AS WELL.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS A SLOW NEWS DAY OR ANYTHING. IT'S JUST THAT GALATEA CHANGING HER OUTFIT SO SOON AFTER HER RETURN AND GOING ALL GINGER REALLY WAS A SHOCK FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE USED TO THE BLOND BUSTY HEROINE WEARING VERY LITTLE WITH A CAPE.

Galatea Powers Ditches The Cape For Leather!

Apparently our beloved goddess and TRUE GUARDIAN of Paragon City hasn't finished with her changes. First her hair, and now her outfit.

These pictures were taken earlier today by LedgeSitter1410 from his loyal post in Steel Canyon. We don't know why she decided to cover up her curvy looks with a thick leather jacket... it's not like she needs to worry about being cold here in Paragon City... but so far the reaction from the forum members is a little on the chilly side.

"Release the girls!" - forum poster OrnyOggy25.

"First the hair, now the bod... please don't tell me tomorrow that she's married!" - IHARTGP1555

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STEEL CANYON

THAT WASN'T THE ONLY THING PEOPLE STARTED PICKING UP ON.

IT SEEMED LIKE HER WHOLE DEMEANOR HAD CHANGED AS WELL.

HELP!

SOMEONE PLEASE HELP!

I'M BEING MUGGED!

IT IS SAID THAT GALATEA POWERS HAS ENHANCED SENSES.

SHE COULD SEE FROM ONE SIDE OF A CITY ZONE TO ANOTHER.

SHE COULD HEAR THE HEARTBEATS OF PEOPLE TRAPPED UNDERGROUND.

SOMEONE, ANYONE, HELP ME PLEASE!

BUT ALONG WITH HER NEW LOOK CAME A SENSE OF APATHY TO THE PLIGHT OF THE CITIZENS.

GIVE IT UP LADY, NOBODY'S COMING!

I MEAN, SHE USED TO COMPLAIN THAT SHE WAS ALWAYS BUSY BETWEEN HER DAY JOB AND SAVING THE PEOPLE OF PARAGON CITY.

SO YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT SHE DOESN'T SEE OR HEAR WHAT'S GOING ON.

HELP ME! OH GOD SOMEONE PLEASE!!!

"HELP ME! HELP ME!"
BWAHAHAH! SCREAM ALL YOU WANT LADY!
ALL THE CAPES ARE TOO BUSY TO CARE!

YEAH, JUST GIVE IT UP SWEET-THANG! WE JUST WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU A LITTLE BETTER... BE GOOD FRIENDS AN' ALL.

THE CITY DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A SHORTAGE OF GANG MEMBERS THAT USE THIS CITY AS THEIR PERSONAL PLAYGROUND.

WHY HAS SHE SUDDENLY TURNED A BLIND EYE AND A DEAF EAR TO THAT?

SOMEONE... PLEASE...

I NEEDED HELP TRYING TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT...

SIREN'S CALL

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT T' PITCH IN 'ERE?

IEEEEEE!!!

YER DOIN' JUS' FINE LYON...

JUS' ENJOYIN' ME COFFEE.

THE CELTIC BRAWLER IS A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE DAWN PATROL.

WOL I REMEMB'R WHEN YOU ASKED THAT YOU SAID TH' WORD "HELP", NOT "DO".

LEAST YER MEMORY IS STILL SHARP.

ANYHOO... I JUS' DON'T GET GALATEA NOT CARIN' ABOUT WOT'S GOIN' ON.

I'VE SEEN HER IGNORE PEOPLE BEIN' MUGGED AS THOUGH THEY'RE... BENEATH HER OR SOMETHIN'...

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHIN' HAPPENED T' HER WHILE SHE WAS OFF ON HOLIDAY.

OI, FALL DOWN ALREADY!

YA, WOL SHE SAID NOTHIN' HAPPENED IN OUROBOROS.

... uhhhh ...

YEAH, AN IF YE' BELIEVE T' AT ONE I'LL TELL YA ONE JUS' LIKE IT.

YE' WANT ME T' KNOCK SOME SENSE INT' HER?

HEE.. I'D LOVE T' SEE YE TRY.

SOMETHIN' HAPPENED T'HER AN' IT LOOK 'IKE SHE DON' WANNA TALK 'BOUT IT.

* thud *

I'D GIVE IT ME BEST SHOT, YE' KNOW ME.

I DO...

BUT I THINK BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHIN' THAT PUTS YOU IN A HOSPITAL BED NEXT T' ICON POWERS, WE TRY T' FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WI' HIS COUSIN.

AS CRAZY AS IT MAY SOUND, WATERFORD'S STREET TOUGH REALLY WOULDN'T HIT A LADY... UNLESS IN SELF-DEFENSE. HE'S ALSO A SOFTY WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING OUT NEW MEMBERS, LIKE WHEN I WAS FIRST STARTING OUT.



YEH, WOL, YE KNOW THAT TH' DAWN PATROL WILL BE READY T' HELP YE AN' THE GUARDIANS. JUS' GIVE US TH' WORD AN' WE'LL BE 'ERE ON TH' FIRST FLIGHT.

THANKS SHAWN.

I REALLY DO APPRECIATE THAT.

I JUS' HOPE WE DON' HAVE TO CALL THE OTHER DAWNIES IN.



JUS' ONE THING, THOUGH...

WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO MEET YOU 'ERE IF ALL YOU REALLY NEEDED WAS A CUP OF COFFEE?



OI, YE EV'R ASK THE MALTA GROUP T' MAKE THEIR ARMS DEALS NEAR A GREEDY BEAN COFFEEHOUSE? IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO EXPENSE IT.



WOL, COFFEE BREAK'S OVER, LYON.

YE UP T' HELPING ME MOP UP TH' REST OF THESE MALTA EEJITS FER OLD TIME'S SAKE?

JUST AS LONG AS "HELP" THIS TIME MEANS YOU ACTUALLY DOIN' SOMETHING OTH'R THAN USIN' YER SHILLELAGH TO BE SCRATCHIN' YER BUM.

I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO NEXT TO DEAL WITH GALATEA, BUT AT LEAST I KNEW I HAD PLENTY OF BACKUP WHEN I WAS READY.

MIDNIGHTER CLUB



ALRIGHT, I GET HOW OMEGA SHIFT AND GALATEA MANAGED TO COBBLE TOGETHER A NEW IDENTITY FOR YOU SO YOU CAN OPERATE APART FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

BUT WHY CAN'T YOU STILL SHOW UP AT OUR HEADQUARTERS? I HATE HAVING TO MEET IN THESE CLANDESTINE PLACES.

IT'S JUST NOT THAT SIMPLE, JESSICA. I WISH IT WERE. I'D LOVE FOR THINGS TO BE BACK TO NORMAL.

LADY TEMPLAR

MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA

THE THING WITH STARCYNUS WAS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE OUR REAL THREAT IS SHADOWBORN.



WHAT? STEVIE, THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

YOU TOLD ME YOURSELF THAT SHADOWBORN WAS DISMANTLED AFTER AGENT SHADOW TRIED TO BLACKMAIL YOU.*

HOW CAN THEY STILL BE AROUND?



← SEE ISSUE #4 →

I WAS SKEPTICAL AS WELL, BUT THEN I WAS APPROACHED BY SIN STALKER'S PATRON.

HE WAS THE ONE THAT ACTUALLY CONVINCED THE SUPERGROUP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO TRUST MAXIMUS REX INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING A PLAN BY EDWARD VANCE TO PUT THE GUARDIANS IN RECEIVERSHIP.*



WAIT... DDA VANCE IS A PART OF THAT GROUP?

OH THIS JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER!

SO WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO IF YOU'RE NOT WORKING WITH US? YOU HELPED MAKE THIS GROUP!



← SEE ISSUE #14 →

I KNOW...

D@MNIT, I KNOW, JESS!



I HATED HAVING TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, JUST WATCHING EVERYTHING HAPPEN TO THE GUARDIANS!

BUT WHILE I WAS WAITING, I WAS ALSO WATCHING, TAKING NOTES, AND SLOWLY PUTTING ALL OF THE PIECES TOGETHER.

SHADOWBORN IS STILL AROUND, JESS. I KNOW IT.



SO FOR NOW, LADY TEMPLAR HAS TO PRETEND TO BE APART FROM THE GUARDIANS IN ANY WAY.

EVEN IF THEY FIGURE OUT THAT IT'S ME UNDER THIS HEAVY-KEY AND NOT MY FICTIONAL "SISTER", I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GUYS AREN'T CONNECTED TO IT... AT LEAST UNTIL I'M READY.

THERE'S JUST ONE THING I NEED YOU TO DO...

ANYTHING, YOU NAME IT.



ARKTIC CHILL'S CONNECTED TO THE "WE HEART GALATEA POWERS" WEBSITE.

YOU NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. WHATEVER'S GOING ON WITH KARA RIGHT NOW, I DON'T WANT HUNTER TO GET SWEEPED UP IN IT.

OOKAYYY... THAT WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW, BUT I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM JUST THE SAME.



STEEL CANYON - SILVER LAKE DISTRICT

I DON'T THINK EVEN GALATEA HAD ANY IDEA WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HER.

KARA HAMILTON'S APARTMENT

WHY CAN'T I SLEEP?

IT'S ALMOST FOUR A.M. AND I'M STILL AWAKE...

I'VE NEVER HAD THIS KIND OF PROBLEM BEFORE I CAME BACK FROM OUROBOROS.

I USED TO SLEEP LIKE A LOG.

SURE I WOULD HAVE NIGHTMARES... BUT AT LEAST I ALSO HAD SOME SLEEP!

AND IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TAKE ANYTHING TO HELP ME SLEEP.

ALCOHOL HAS NO EFFECT ON ME. PILLS ARE USELESS.

TV IS NO USE.

EVEN THE MOST BORING SHOWS ON CABLE CAN'T PUT ME TO SLEEP.

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH...

AS THOUGH I'M WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN.

RIGHT ABOUT NOW I WISH I HAD FLASHER* WITH ME...

BUT I NEVER BOTHERED TO PICK HIM UP FROM LYON'S PLACE.

WHY CAN'T I DO THAT??? WHY HAVEN'T I DONE THAT ALREADY?

WHY...

CAN'T...

I...

SLEEP?

← KARA'S CAT →

I WISH I HAD BETTER NEWS FOR YOU MISTER KNIGHT...

THE INJURIES ICON SUSTAINED BY HIS BATTLE WITH ST ARCYGNUS WERE TOO EXTENSIVE FOR THE MEDICAL TELEPORTER TO FIX.

MIDKNIGHT X

WE CURRENTLY HAVE HIM IN ONE OF OUR EXTENDED RECOVERY CHAMBERS, BUT...

GIVEN THE NATURE OF HIS POWERS AND HIS ORIGINS, WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE BEFORE HE CAN BE WELL ENOUGH TO BE RELEASED.

WHAT ABOUT HIS TECH SUIT? THAT WAS DESIGNED TO BOOST HIS PHYSICAL ABILITIES AS WELL AS AID IN HIS HEALING. CAN THAT STILL HELP HIM?

SADLY, NO.

THE BODYSUIT HE WORE WHEN HE WAS BROUGHT TO US WAS BADLY DAMAGED, NOT TO MENTION INFESTED WITH THE DIGITAL ESSENCE OF THAT BEING ALOR. IT HAD TO BE DESTROYED FOR SECURITY REASONS.

I SEE...

I'LL SEE HIM NOW.

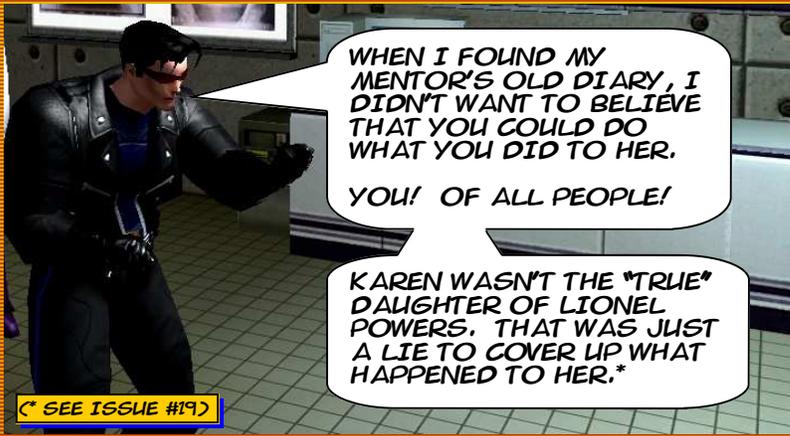
THE DOCTORS SAY YOU STILL CAN HEAR ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE IN A COMA. I HOPE THEY'RE RIGHT.

I WOULD HATE TO HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF.

OF ALL OF THE STUPID THINGS YOU COULD HAVE DONE, KENT... YOU HAD TO TRY TO KILL YOURSELF TO STOP ALOR.

WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE NOT AS POWERFUL AS YOU USED TO BE.

AND WE BOTH KNOW WHY!



WHEN I FOUND MY MENTOR'S OLD DIARY, I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT YOU COULD DO WHAT YOU DID TO HER. YOU! OF ALL PEOPLE!

KAREN WASN'T THE "TRUE" DAUGHTER OF LIONEL POWERS. THAT WAS JUST A LIE TO COVER UP WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.*

SEE ISSUE #19



YOU DID IT, DIDN'T YOU? YOU JUST HAD TO PLAY GOD! YOU AND PHOTONIS BOTH!



THE OTHERS DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO KAREN, BUT I DO. I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER.

EVERYTHING YOU AND PHOTONIS DID TO HER IS SLOWLY COMING APART. SOON "KAREN" WILL BE GONE... AND LIONEL'S TRUE DAUGHTER WILL BE BACK, WITH ALL OF HER POWERS AT FULL STRENGTH. AND I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN STOP HER WITHOUT YOU.



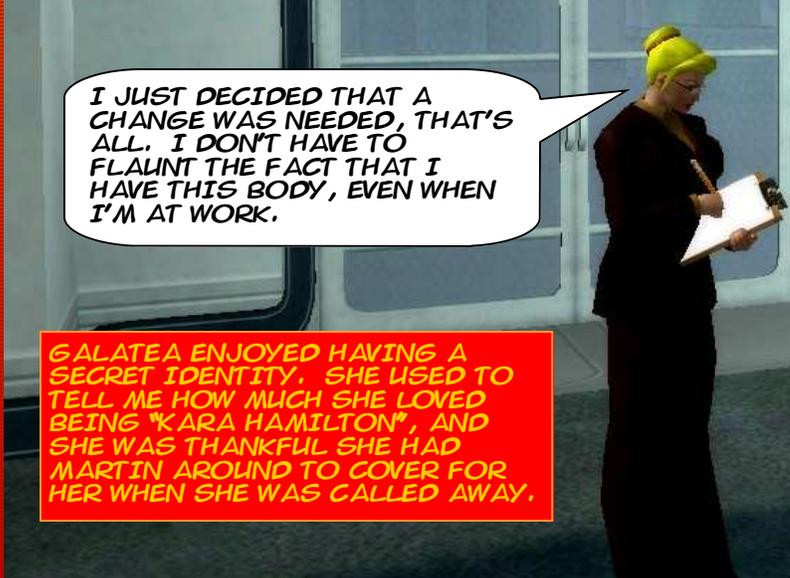
YES, MIDNIGHT X KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WARN US ABOUT IT UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH OUR LINE OF WORK...



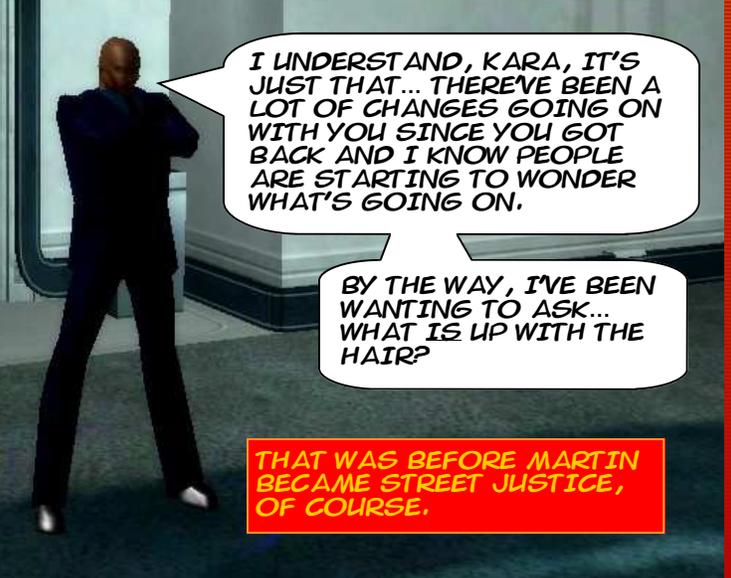
INDEPENDENCE PORT
ICON TAILOR STORE

... THINGS ARE ALWAYS MOVING A WHOLE LOT FASTER THAN WE THINK THEY WOULD.



I JUST DECIDED THAT A CHANGE WAS NEEDED, THAT'S ALL. I DON'T HAVE TO FLAUNT THE FACT THAT I HAVE THIS BODY, EVEN WHEN I'M AT WORK.

GALATEA ENJOYED HAVING A SECRET IDENTITY. SHE USED TO TELL ME HOW MUCH SHE LOVED BEING "KARA HAMILTON", AND SHE WAS THANKFUL SHE HAD MARTIN AROUND TO COVER FOR HER WHEN SHE WAS CALLED AWAY.



I UNDERSTAND, KARA, IT'S JUST THAT... THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF CHANGES GOING ON WITH YOU SINCE YOU GOT BACK AND I KNOW PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.

BY THE WAY, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK... WHAT IS UP WITH THE HAIR?

THAT WAS BEFORE MARTIN BECAME STREET JUSTICE, OF COURSE.

IT'S A DYE-NET CONNECTED TO MY HAIR CLIP. I SLIP IT ON AND IT CHANGES THE COLOR TO WHATEVER I WANT IT TO BE. I REMOVE IT WHEN I CHANGE AND I CAN SLIP IT ON AGAIN LATER.

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I WHIPPED UP OVERNIGHT.



SEE... THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT KARA!

I MEAN, IT'S A GREAT INVENTION AND ALL... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR OTHER HAIR?

WHY DID YOU GO RED? HOW DID IT GO RED?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MARTIN. I'M GETTING A LITTLE ANNOYED BY PEOPLE PESTERING ME ABOUT THAT...

MISS HAMILTON...

A WORD, S'IL VOUS PLAIS?

SAVED BY THE SHRILL...

BE NICE, K.



I DO MEAN NOW, MISS HAMILTON!

NOT *IF YOU CAN SQUEEZE IN SOME TIME BETWEEN WASTING COMPANY TIME IN IDLE GOSSIP*.

 LAUREN



KARA... REMEMBER... SHE DOESN'T KNOW YOU.

MARTIN WOULD LATER TELL ME THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN HER SO BUGGERED BEFORE.



SHE WILL SOON ENOUGH, MARTIN.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WORKING IN LAUREN'S STORE IS AKIN TO WORKING FOR THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND...

MORE LIKELY THE QUEEN OF HEARTS FROM "ALICE AND THE LOOKING GLASS".



YES, MISS LAUREN?

I'VE MET THE QUEEN MUM. SHE'S A BIT OLD BUT STILL NOT AS BAD AS I'VE HEARD LAUREN CAN BE.





MISS HAMILTON, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IN GOD'S NAME YOU WERE DOING WHILE VISITING OUR VANGUARD OUTPOSTS THESE PAST FEW MONTHS...

... BUT THIS IS NOT A SOCIAL CLUB. I EXPECT EVERYONE WHO WORKS IN MY BOUTIQUE TO BE DOING THEIR JOBS.

AND I WAS, MS. LAUREN. I WAS CONFIRMING WITH MARTIN ABOUT THE NEW WISP AURA FEATURE WHICH WE CAN AID CERTAIN CUSTOMERS IN INCORPORATING INTO THEIR OUTFITS. THE UPGRADE PROCESS IS A LITTLE TRICKY BUT WITH SOME DOCUMENTATION...



EXCUSE ME, BUT WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU...?



THAT! THAT HORRID MAN-THING YOU'RE WEARING!

THAT UGLY MAROON PANTSUIT!



WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE TO WORK FOR ME AS A TAILOR, YOU SHOWED A REMARKABLE SENSE OF FASHION. PROFESSIONAL AND YET VERY ATTRACTIVE.

AND YET YOU GO AWAY FOR A FEW MONTHS AND YOU COME BACK LOOKING LIKE... **THIS**.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, MISS HAMILTON. CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE.

WHEN YOU ARE WORKING HERE IN MY STORE, YOU ARE NOT ONLY REFLECTING THE ICON, INCORPORATED, BUT YOU'RE ALSO REFLECTING ME AS THE PREMIERE DESIGNER!

YOU ARE A **WOMAN**, MISS HAMILTON! I EXPECT YOU TO REFLECT THAT IN YOUR ATTIRE!



EX-CUSE ME?

I AM SURPRISED THAT YOU AS A WOMAN WOULD START IN WITH THAT SEXIST CR@P!

YES I'M A WOMAN BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I HAVE TO CONTINUALLY DISPLAY MY BREASTS AND THIGHS LIKE A CHICKEN FOR THE SAKE OF BUSINESS!

HOW **DARE** YOU...

NO!

I WILL NOT LET YOU SPEAK UNTIL I HAVE MY SAY, BECAUSE IT'S HIGH TIME THAT SOMEONE PUT YOU IN YOUR PLACE!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOUR STAFF MEMBER BEEN CORRECTING THE MISTAKES YOU MADE? I'VE LOST TRACK OF THE TIMES I'VE PERSONALLY HAD TO SAVE SOME POOR PERSON'S LIFE BECAUSE OF YOU GLOATING ABOUT YOUR CAREER AND WHO YOU KNOW!

AND YOU WANTED TO POOH-POOH MY ARREST ON FALSE CHARGES* AS SIMPLY THE PRICE OF DOING BUSINESS! WHY DO YOU THINK THERE'S BEEN A HIGH TURNOVER IN YOUR STORE, HUH? WHY?

* SEE ISSUE #1)

I'LL TELL YOU WHY! BECAUSE THEY ALL KNOW YOU'RE A DRIED-UP PRIMA DONNA!

GASP!

YOUR LAST "GREAT" DESIGN WAS FOR THE WEDDING OF MANTICORE AND SISTER PSYCHE, AND THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO!

AND WE BOTH KNOW IN THE WORLD OF FASHION, THREE YEARS IS EQUAL TO THREE DECADES!

KARA! DON'T GO THERE!

FOR YEARS YOU'VE RODE ON THE IDEAS OF OTHER TAILORS, USING THE ICON'S LEGAL TEAM TO PUT YOUR NAME ON THEIR TALENT!

REMEMBER RITA MAYFAIR? SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR "PROTÉGÉ".

WHEN PEOPLE SAID SHE WAS BETTER THAN YOU, YOU HAD HER FIRED, THEN SEIZED ALL OF HER WORK, RUINED HER REPUTATION, AND THEN DROVE HER INTO A MENTAL ASYLUM.

YOU KNOW WHAT AYN RAND CALLED PEOPLE LIKE YOU? MOOCHERS! SABOTEURS! PARASITES!

I'D SAY SHE WAS BEING KIND.

AYN RAND?

WELL YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME BEING A THREAT, BECAUSE I'M THROUGH WITH THIS GAME! I'M THROUGH PRETENDING TO BE NICE AND TRYING TO PUT ON A CHEERFUL SMILE LIKE I'M SOME HAPPY LITTLE LEMMING.

AND DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO THREATEN ME, BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T HURT ME IF YOU TRIED!

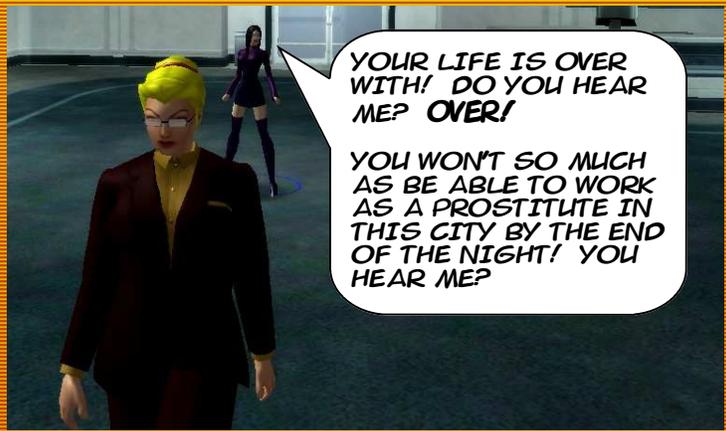
AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DISTURBING MRS. CARLISLE TO GET ME FIRED EITHER BECAUSE I WON'T GIVE YOU THE SATISFACTION OF DOING THAT...

KARA NO!

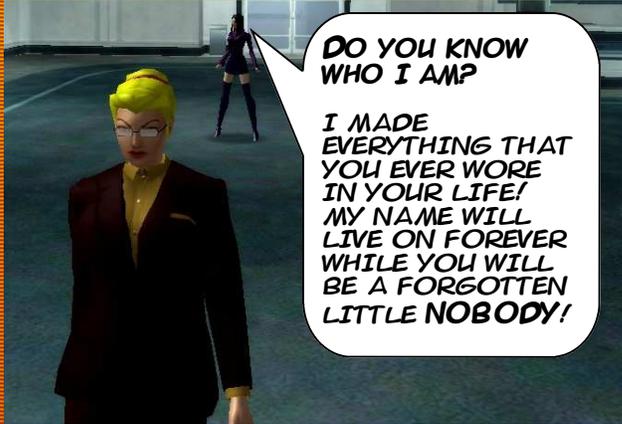
I QUIT!



HOW... HOW **DARE YOU!**
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, CHILD?



YOUR LIFE IS OVER WITH! DO YOU HEAR ME? OVER!
YOU WON'T SO MUCH AS BE ABLE TO WORK AS A PROSTITUTE IN THIS CITY BY THE END OF THE NIGHT! YOU HEAR ME?



DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
I MADE EVERYTHING THAT YOU EVER WORE IN YOUR LIFE! MY NAME WILL LIVE ON FOREVER WHILE YOU WILL BE A FORGOTTEN LITTLE NOBODY!



UH OH...



YOU MADE NOTHING THAT I AM OR WEAR. NOT EVEN THIS...



KARA!



gasp!

AND IF YOU TRY TO CLAIM THIS... I'LL BREAK YOU IN TWO.



I WILL OWN THAT BY TOMORROW!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE DID THIS, HUNTER.

WE TALK ALL THE TIME, JESS.

IN FACT WE TALKED AFTER THE WHOLE THING WITH STARCYNUS AND THE FREEDOM PHALANX.

ARKTIC CHILL

YEAH, BUT THAT'S WORK. I MEAN JUST YOU AND ME... LIKE WHEN WE WENT OUT.

OH...

BEFORE THE "AGENT BURKE" THING.*

YEAH... BEFORE THAT...

(* ISSUES 7 AND 8)

SO WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LITTLE PROJECT?

WHICH PROJECT?

THE "WE HEART GALATEA POWERS" WEBSITE.

YOU ARE THE OWNER OF THE SITE, RIGHT?

ACTUALLY I'M JUST ONE OF THE ADMINISTRATORS FOR THE SITE. THE REAL OWNER IS SOME KID WORKING FOR HERO CORPS.

IT WAS REALLY KARA'S IDEA FROM THE GET-GO. WHEN SHE FOUND OUT THAT PEOPLE WERE ASKING ME FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HER, SHE ASKED ME TO BE HER ONLINE "WATCHER".

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW COULD YOU WORK WITH PEOPLE THAT ARE OBSESSED WITH KARA?

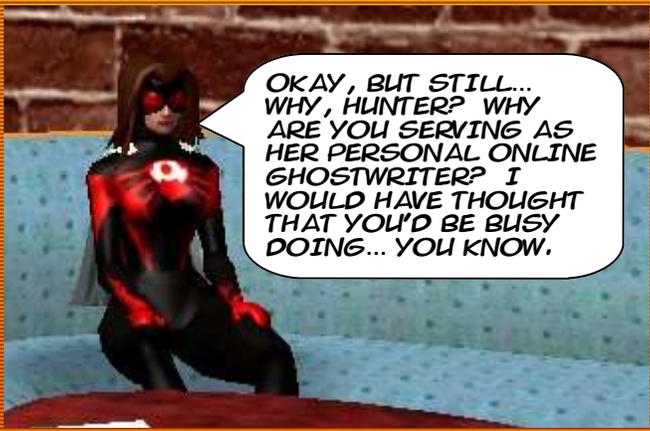
I PROVIDE SOME TIDBITS ABOUT HER LIFE TO BOOST HER PUBLICITY, VALIDATE A FEW TIDBITS OTHERS PICK UP, BUT I ALSO MAKE SURE THAT NOTHING PERTAINING TO HER CIVILIAN IDENTITY OR ANYTHING TOO "PERSONAL" GETS OUT. I'D EVEN DISPEL SOME RUMORS WITH A LITTLE "UN-TRUTH" OF MY OWN.



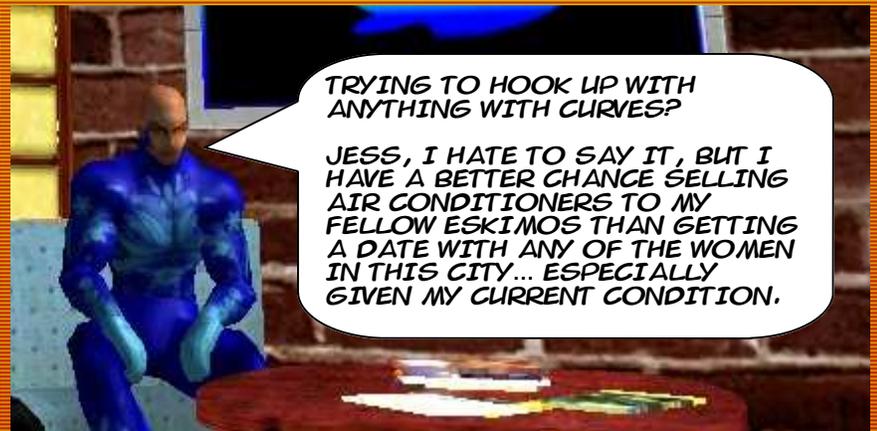
SO ALL OF THE STUFF ONLINE ABOUT HER... THAT'S REALLY FROM HER? OR.. FROM YOU?

NOT ALL OF IT! NOT EVEN MOST OF IT. SHE'S GOT SOME VERY DETERMINED FANS OUT THERE, BUT THEY'RE ALSO QUITE PROTECTIVE OF HER.

ONE OF THOSE CUT-AND-PASTE PHOTOSHOP SITES REALLY FOUND THAT OUT.



OKAY, BUT STILL... WHY, HUNTER? WHY ARE YOU SERVING AS HER PERSONAL ONLINE GHOSTWRITER? I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE BUSY DOING... YOU KNOW.



TRYING TO HOOK UP WITH ANYTHING WITH CURVES?

JESS, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I HAVE A BETTER CHANCE SELLING AIR CONDITIONERS TO MY FELLOW ESKIMOS THAN GETTING A DATE WITH ANY OF THE WOMEN IN THIS CITY... ESPECIALLY GIVEN MY CURRENT CONDITION.



THIS BODYSUIT KEEPS MY BODY TEMPERATURE LOW TO ACCOMMODATE FOR MY THERMO-SENSITIVE DISORDER.*

BUT I HAVE TO WEAR IT ALL THE TIME IN NORMAL SETTINGS.

EVER TRY TO SCORE A DATE IN A FREEZER? IT DOESN'T REALLY WORK UNLESS YOU'RE DATING FROSTFIRE'S SISTER.

* SEE ISSUE #6



BUT FROSTFIRE DOESN'T HAVE A... OH, I GET IT.

YEAH...



I'M SORRY, HUNTER... I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS GETTING THAT BAD FOR YOU.

NOBODY DID. THAT'S WHY I KEPT THE PRETENSE GOING.

BUT THAT'S OKAY. I'M MAKING DO WITH WHAT I CAN PROVIDE TO OTHERS. IT'S JUST THIS ONE IS... A LITTLE WEIRD FOR ME AS A HERO.



FOR THE RECORD, ARKTIC CHILL NEVER ASKED ME OUT. I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I'M A LITTLE TOO YOUNG FOR HIM.

ANYWAY, NEITHER OF THEM KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH GALATEA UNTIL STREET JUSTICE CALLED IN WITH THE NEWS THAT SHE BLEW HER SECRET IDENTITY AND QUIT HER DAY JOB.

WE ALL TRIED TO CONTACT HER, BUT SHE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO ANY OF US. SHE TURNED OFF HER SUPERGROUP COMMUNICATOR AND HERO ID CARD.

Is Rona gone?
what happened to First Captain?
Loyalties in Practoria?
• The Trust?
• A Hero?
• Have an election?
• LA?
Can we have some changes in the weather?



WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING TODAY??

IT FELT GOOD... REALLY GOOD... BUT... WHY DID I DO THAT?



I LOVED WORKING THERE!

SURE LAUREN WAS A BITCH, BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS MANAGEABLE.



NOW MY IDENTITY IS BLOWN. I HAVE TO GIVE THIS ALL UP.

AT LEAST I DIDN'T REVEAL MYSELF TO BE GALATEA...

BUT STILL... WHY DID I DO THAT?



JASON SHOWED ME HOW TO MEDITATE MYSELF TO SLEEP ONCE.

MAYBE IF I CAN PUT MYSELF INTO A TRANCE I CAN GET SOME SLEEP.

IT HASN'T WORKED BEFORE BUT... I REALLY NEED TO SL...



YEEAAAAAAHHHHH!!!!



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

FIRE DEPARTMENT!
IS THERE ANYONE
HERE?



JIMMY HELLFIGHTER

KARA
HAMILTON!
ARE YOU
HERE?

JIMMY HELLFIGHTER IS
ONE OF THOSE OLD-
SCHOOL STREET HEROES.

FIREFIGHTER, POLICE OFFICER,
CONSTRUCTION WORKER, NAVY
VETERAN... HE'S PRETTY MUCH
DONE IT ALL, AND HE'S WORN
MANY OF THOSE HATS HERE IN
PARAGON CITY.

WHEN HE FOUND OUT IT WAS
KARA'S APARTMENT THAT
WAS INVOLVED IN THE FIRE,
HE WASTED NO TIME
SHOWING UP TO MOUNT A
SEARCH-AND-RESCUE.

FIRE DEPARTMENT!
GET AWAY FROM
THE DOOR! I'M
BREAKING IT
DOWN.

KARA?

MY GOD...

I NEED AN
EMERGENCY
TELEPORTER TO
MY SIGNAL.
AND FLASH-
MESSAGE TO
MAXIMUS REX.

KARA
HAMILTON.
PROTOCOL
ONE.

THE NEXT AFTERNOON...

FIRE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION AT A CONDOMINIUM IN STEEL CANYON THAT CLAIMED THE LIFE OF ONE WOMAN.

THIRTY YEAR-OLD KARA HAMILTON WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE FIRE THAT ENGULFED THE WHOLE FLOOR.

FIRE IN STEEL CANYON · 1 DEAD



PNN MIDDAY · ROBIN STEED



AND NOW WE MOVE ON TO ATLAS PARK AND A CASE OF A CONTROVERSIAL AD CAMPAIGN BEING ATTACKED.

EARLIER THIS WEEK THE WEBSITE "WE HEART GALATEA POWERS" PAID FOR THESE BILLBOARDS TO BE PUT UP.



PNN MIDDAY · ROBIN STEED



ATLAS PARK · YESTERDAY



WOMEN'S GROUPS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE BILLBOARD, SAYING THAT THE WEBSITE SPONSORING IT EXPLOITS GALATEA POWERS AND TRIES TO PRY INTO HER PERSONAL LIFE.

BUT NOW IT APPEARS THAT SOMEONE HAS BEEN BUSY DEFACTING ALL OF THOSE BILLBOARDS IN PARAGON CITY.

SOME HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY DAMAGED, TORN, OR, IN ONE INSTANCE, BURNED SO BADLY THAT THE METAL FRAME ITSELF MELTED AND COLLAPSED.

COST OF BILLBOARDS IN PARAGON CITY · \$1000 PER MONTH PER BILLBOARD



OUR "MAN ON THE STREET" REPORTER MATT MYERS IS ON THE SCENE IN ATLAS PLAZA WITH THE LATEST ON THIS WILD SITUATION...

ROBIN, THE BUILDING BEHIND ME WAS THE LAST ONE WITH AN UNTOUCHED BILLBOARD...

THAT WAS UNTIL A FEW MINUTES AGO WHEN THE UNKNOWN VANDAL DEFACTED IT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

BILLBOARD VANDALS



ON THE STREET · MATT MYERS



THIS IS WHAT OUR PNN HELICOPTER REPORTER EYE EAGLE TAPED JUST BEFORE WE WENT ON THE AIR.

THE VANDAL TOOK HER TIME DESTROYING THE IMAGE OF GALATEA POWERS AS WELL AS THE MESSAGE.



RECORDED EARLIER





AND NOW, WE HAVE THE VANDAL HERE, AND SHE'S WILLING TO SHARE THE REASON WHY SHE DEFACED ALL...



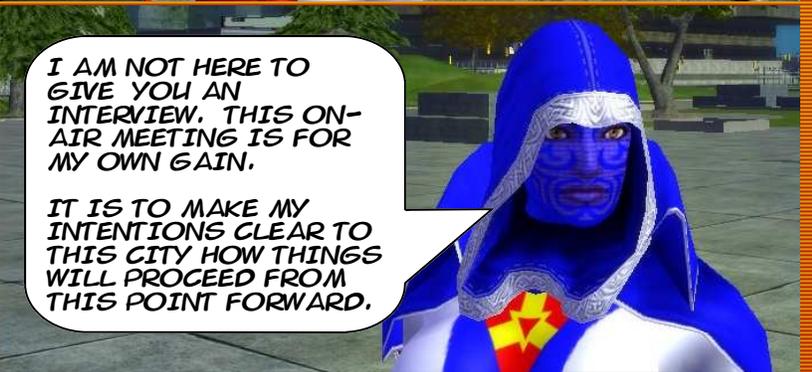
THE REASON WHY I DEFACED THOSE BILLBOARDS IS BECAUSE THEY WORSHIP A FRAUD.

MATT MYERS · ATLAS PLAZA 

PNN EXCLUSIVE 



OO-KAY...
NOT EXACTLY HOW WE CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW HERE, BUT, HEY, LET'S GO FROM THERE-



I AM NOT HERE TO GIVE YOU AN INTERVIEW. THIS ON-AIR MEETING IS FOR MY OWN GAIN.
IT IS TO MAKE MY INTENTIONS CLEAR TO THIS CITY HOW THINGS WILL PROCEED FROM THIS POINT FORWARD.

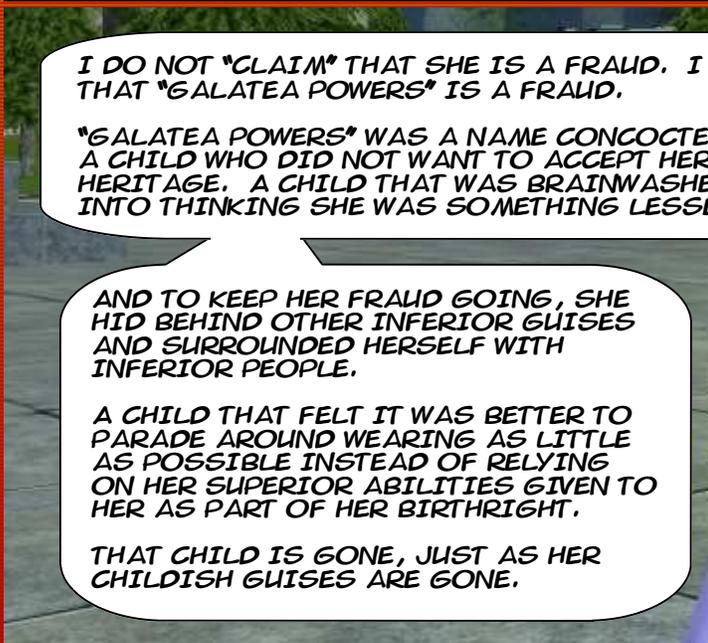
MATT MYERS · ON THE STREET 

UNKNOWN BILLBOARD VANDAL 



OKAY I'M BEING TOLD BY MY PRODUCER TO JUST GO AHEAD AND LET YOU SPEAK...
SO IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE TELL THE VIEWERS WHO YOU ARE, WHY YOU'RE HERE, AND WHY YOU CLAIM THAT GALATEA POWERS IS A FRAUD.

PNN EXCLUSIVE · "HERO" DEFACES BILLBOARDS OF GALATEA POWERS 



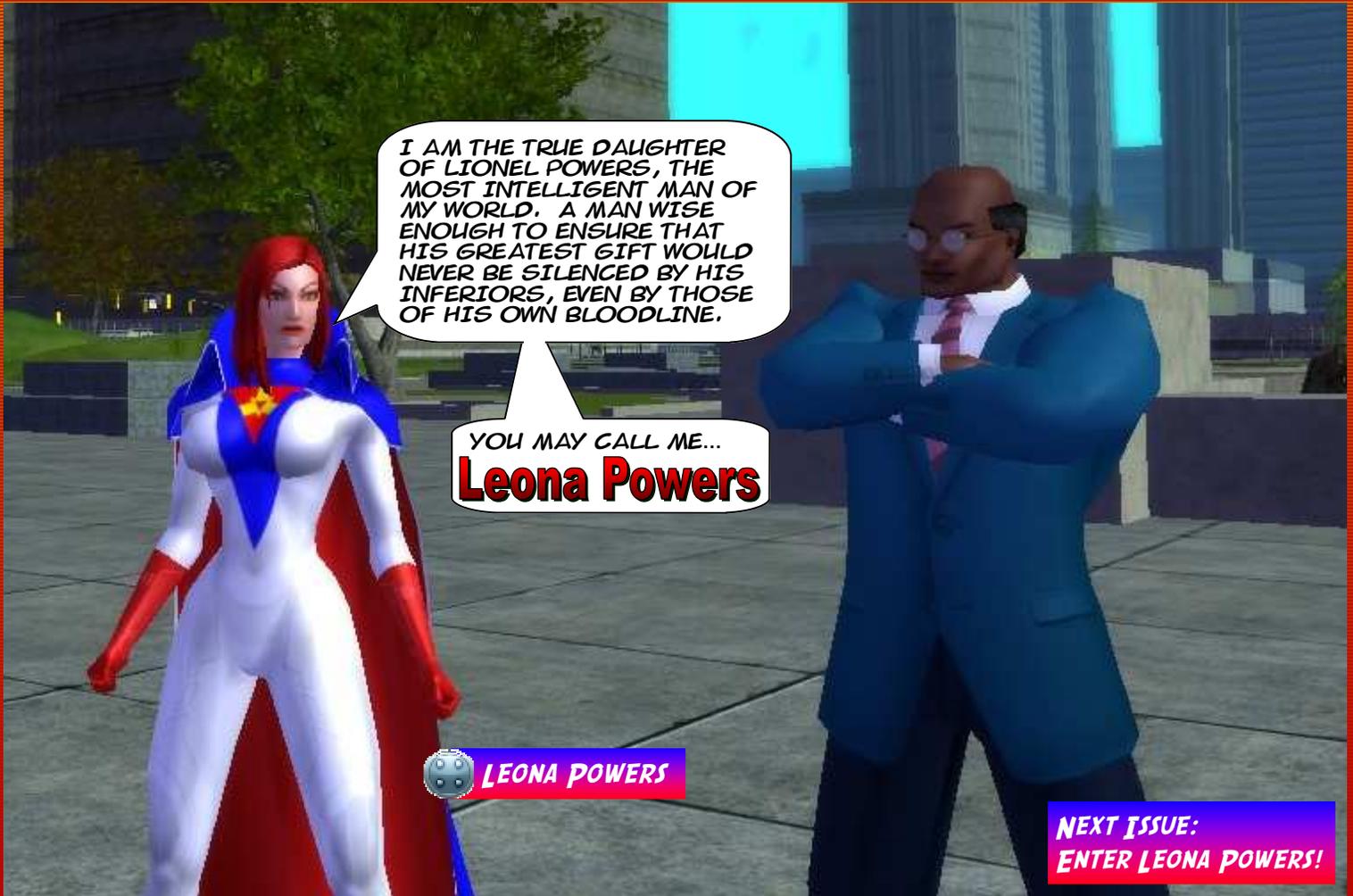
I DO NOT "CLAIM" THAT SHE IS A FRAUD. I KNOW THAT "GALATEA POWERS" IS A FRAUD.
"GALATEA POWERS" WAS A NAME CONCOCTED BY A CHILD WHO DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT HER TRUE HERITAGE. A CHILD THAT WAS BRAINWASHED INTO THINKING SHE WAS SOMETHING LESSER.
AND TO KEEP HER FRAUD GOING, SHE HID BEHIND OTHER INFERIOR GUISES AND SURROUNDED HERSELF WITH INFERIOR PEOPLE.
A CHILD THAT FELT IT WAS BETTER TO PARADE AROUND WEARING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE INSTEAD OF RELYING ON HER SUPERIOR ABILITIES GIVEN TO HER AS PART OF HER BIRTHRIGHT.
THAT CHILD IS GONE, JUST AS HER CHILDISH GUISES ARE GONE.



PNN EXCLUSIVE · "HERO" DEFACES BILLBOARDS OF GALATEA POWERS 



PNN EXCLUSIVE · UNKNOWN "HERO"



LEONA POWERS

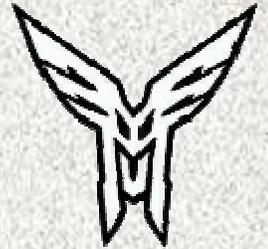
NEXT ISSUE:
ENTER LEONA POWERS!



Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS VANGUARD PROGRAM



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FROM THE DESK OF: DOCTOR EMILY ZEN

Evaluation of Galatea Powers

Revised: February 11, 2011

As the councilor on record to evaluate the extra-dimensional being known as Galatea Powers since her arrival to Paragon City in April of 2007, I am required to provide the following report to advise officials of any potential or actual psychological problems as per F.B.S.A. regulations.

Background

Galatea Powers arrived to the Primal Universe through the D.A.T.A. portal in City Hall. At the time she was badly wounded from an unknown cosmic activity. She was treated at the nearby Chiron Medical Center before being transferred to the Vanguard for further evaluation along with the two others that came into our universe from that event. It was at that point that I was assigned as her counselor on record.

The subject was initially had no memory of herself or of anything she did prior to her arrival in the Primal Universe. It was her attending physician that dubbed her "Galatea" for her idealized physique, and as she started to remember fragments of her past life, she added the last name "Powers". She also began to exhibit superhuman abilities, which allowed us to officially classify her with the power archetype of "Tanker".

Evaluation Progress

As someone suffering from tremendous physical trauma, Galatea exhibited signs of short-term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which included sudden flashbacks, nightmares, and unexplained bouts of anxiety. These gradually lessened as more of her memories began to return and she began to assimilate herself into her new life in Paragon City.

Not long after this, the subject began to exhibit new nightmares, this time surrounding what she believed to be some sort of traumatic event. This would be followed by brief moments of hallucinations, where she was convinced that her hair had changed colors or that she would not recognize herself in the mirror.

As the nature of her abilities prohibited the proscriptioin of medication to treat her mental disturbances, a less-intrusive therapeutic method was established. Controlled sessions with a telepath also allowed for some of the nightmares to go away, however the treating telepath did say that the subject did have some sort of repressed psychological trauma that needed to be observed.

Continues on next page...

To further aid in her recovery, she agreed to undertake a civilian identity through Vanguard's Helm Division. While her aptitude tests indicated a potential genius-level intelligence, it was determined that she should undertake a more "average" position. Since she showed a preference towards fashion and design, she was given a position with The Icon tailor chain as a tailor's apprentice.

With a sense of normalcy being established within Paragon City, the subject has said that she has not had any more nightmares. Even with the return of her pre-2007 memories, she says that she has not experienced any new bouts of hallucinations or anxiety.

Update: September 2010

The subject recently contacted me about strange feelings of either night terrors or somnambulism that she's been experiencing. She would wake up wearing different clothes as when she fell asleep, or that she had the feeling she did something while she slept. Unable to delve further into this as she has disappeared.

Update: February 2011

Having been missing for several months, the subject has now returned with a change in her hair color. Given the nature of her abilities, and the fact that this change coincided with one of her earlier instances of anxiety and hallucinations leads me to suspect something traumatic happened to her while missing. This has been further complicated by long bouts of insomnia.

Recommendations (updated)

While the subject's mental status was considered manageable in the past, recent events indicate that she is on the verge of either a psychological breakthrough or a breakdown. In either case, it is strongly recommended that she undergo further evaluation and counseling.

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



Good-bye **Kara Hamilton!**

Say hello to **Leona Powers** as "Galatea Dawning" continues.



"Emperor Cole calls us outlaws. But make no mistake...
We're the good guys here!"



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