

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN



ISSUE 22
2011



SPOTLIGHT ON... ~~CAPTAIN PARAGONNA~~ **LADY TEMPLAR**



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:
LADY TEMPLAR

REAL NAME:
"MELISSA WALKER"

STATUS:
REGISTERED SUPERHERO

ARCHETYPE:
SCRAPPER

PRIMARY POWER:
MARTIAL ARTS

SECONDARY POWER:
WILLPOWER

AS THE GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN STILL TRY TO RECOVER OVER THE PERCEIVED LOSS OF DAYBRIGHT AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GALATEA POWERS, AN OLD ADVERSARY OF DOC TOR HAS BEEN SLOWLY CARRYING OUT HIS PLANS OF REVENGE AND THE RESTORATION OF HIS LOST GODHOOD.

ALOR, THE COSMIC BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MANY UNIVERSES, WAS REVEALED TO BE THE "SILENT" PARTNER OF STARCHYGNUS, GIVING HIM KNOWLEDGE OF TECHNOLOGY THAT ALLOWED HIM TO SERVE AS BOTH A "HERO" IN NAME ONLY AND AS AN AGENT OF THE SECRET GROUP CALLED SHADOWBORN.

BY ELIMINATING DAYBRIGHT, ALOR ASSUMED FULL CONTROL OVER STARCHYGNUS, USING THE CYBERNETIC BODY TO THEN TAKE OVER THE D.A.T.A. CENTER THAT SERVES AS THE BACKUP SYSTEM FOR THE FREEDOM PHALANX HERO CITADEL, AS WELL AS SHUTTING DOWN THE FAMED ANDROID HERO.

NOW ALOR HAS REVEALED HIS TRUE IDENTITY TO ICON POWERS, THE SUPERHERO FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALOR'S DEFEAT IN 2007. WITH THE SUPER-HUMAN TANKER DEFEATED BUT NOT KILLED, ALOR PUTS THE REST OF HIS PLAN IN MOTION TO ONCE AGAIN ASSIMILATE THE WHOLE OMNIVERSE.

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DETECTIVE SLUGGITT

MY JOB.

I MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE AS CAPTAIN PARAGONNA*, BUT I AM STILL A POLICE CONSULTANT IN GOOD STANDING, WHICH MEANS I'M ABLE TO LOOK INTO INCIDENTS LIKE THIS ONE.

STEVIE WALKER-RODGERS

(* SEE ISSUE 14)

HMMPH... DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'D ALLOW YOU TO LOOK INTO THIS... IT REEKS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST SINCE IT INVOLVES TWO OF YOUR BUDDIES IN THE GUARDIANS.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME THE DETAILS?

THEN IF YOU STILL HAVE AN ISSUE WITH ME BEING INVOLVED YOU CAN REQUEST ACTING CHIEF MCMILLIAN TO PULL ME OFF THE CASE, AND THAT'LL COVER YOUR BUTT.

OKAY, LAST NIGHT ICON POWERS WAS ASKED TO COME IN TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS THAT THE DA'S OFFICE HAD.*

INSPECTOR REVOK WAS ASKED TO BABYSIT HIM AND SEE IF HE COULD GET POWERS TO BE... A LITTLE MORE TALKATIVE.

WHAT???

YOU HAD THE PSI DIVISION MIND-PROBE HIM? DID YOU AT LEAST...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. I WASN'T EVEN HERE FOR IT. COMMANDER YINDELL MADE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS.

(* SEE ISSUE 21)

ANYWAY, ACCORDING TO REVOK'S REPORT, HE STAYED WITHIN CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS WITH HIS PROBES, AND IT DIDN'T HELP. YOUR FRIEND ICON APPARENTLY HAS SOME EXPERIENCE THWARTING PSI PROBES.

LATER ON, THOUGH, YOUR OTHER GUARDIAN BUDDY ST ARCYGNUS SHOWED UP AND HE STARTED SOME SORT OF FIGHT WITH ICON.

ST ARCYGNUS DID WHAT?

SECURITY CAMERAS WERE FRIED. SOMETHING ABOUT AN ELECTROMAGNETIC BURST THAT ALSO TOOK ICON DOWN.

THE OFFICERS ON DUTY TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE PUT THEM DOWN. FIVE OFFICERS WERE KILLED AND TWO ARE OVER AT LAGRANGE MEDICAL IN SERIOUS CONDITION.

THESE ARE SOME **SERIOUS** CHARGES, AGENT RODGERS. YOUR CYBERNETIC HERO-FRIEND IS WANTED ON MULTIPLE COUNTS OF CAPITAL MURDER.

SO YOU TELL ME... IS THERE ANY REASON WHY I **SHOULDN'T** SUSPECT CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH YOU GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS CASE?

I DON'T KNOW STARCYNUS TOO MUCH FROM MY TIME WITH THE GUARDIANS. HE SEEMED TO KEEP TO HIMSELF A LOT OR RUN MONITOR DUTY.

I KNOW THAT HE WAS BROUGHT IN AT THE REQUEST OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AFTER HE SAVED THE PRESIDENT*, BUT THEY KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM THAN I DO.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH. MAYBE I'M STILL TOO CLOSE TO THE GUARDIANS TO BE IMPARTIAL...

BUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS, THEN I REALLY HOPE THAT YOU FIND HIM BEFORE THE GUARDIANS DO.

* SEE ISSUE 14 AND CCC CONTINUUM #5

Beep-Beep
Beep-Beep

AGENT RODGERS...
OH, HI MAY...

LISTEN, NOW IS NOT A GOOD TIME TO TALK.

NO, LISTEN TO ME MAY... NOW IS REALLY NOT A GOOD TIME TO TALK WITH ME RIGHT NOW.

YES, I... HELLO? HELLO? WHO...? DOC? DOC WHY ARE YOU CUTTING IN ON MY CALL?

I'M REALLY NOT THE PERSON TO SPEAK WITH... YOU NEED TO CONTACT MAXIMUS REX.

YOU DID? THEN WHY...?

WHAT? NO, IT'S TRUE, BUT HOW DID YOU...?

NO, NO, OF COURSE I'LL DO IT IF IT MEANS... RIGHT, WRONG TIME, WRONG PLACE.

OKAY, WHERE IS HE? I KNOW WHERE THAT IS. I'LL BE THERE.

"Time and Changes" Phase 5

"PATHS UNKNOWN"

- A CITY OF HEROES
STORY BY DAVID 2

"GALATEA, YOU ARE ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE INTEGRITY OF THE PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME BY FORCING IT TO ENGAGE IN AN UNAUTHORIZED TIME PARADOX."

"AS AN AGENT OF OUROBOROS, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW HOW DANGEROUS A PARADOX IN TIME CAN BE, MUCH LESS ONE HERE SO CLOSE TO EVENT TERMINAL."



"ARE YOU AWARE OF THE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS?"

I WOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK HERE IF I WASN'T PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVEN GOT BACK FROM ALOR'S UNIVERSE.



GALATEA FUTURE

DID YOU REALLY THINK WE WOULD GIVE YOU THE AEGIS ARMOR AND ALL THE POWER OF OUROBOROS THAT IT GIVES YOU WITHOUT SOME SAFEGUARDS?

IT WAS THOSE SAFEGUARDS THAT PULLED YOU OUT OF ALOR'S UNIVERSE, NOT LIBRA.*



MENDER SILOS

(* SEE ISSUE 21)

GALATEA, THERE WAS A REASON WHY WE REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF YOUR "WITHDRAWAL" FROM THE YEAR 2010 AND WHY WE HAD TO KEEP YOU HERE FOR THREE EARTH YEARS.*

WE KNEW WHEN LIBRA ACTED IN RECRUITING DAYBRIGHT AND SENDING YOU TO US THAT HE WAS FULFILLING A KEY ROLE IN HISTORY THAT WOULD BRING YOU INTO OUR UNIVERSE. YOUR ACTIONS WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THAT KEY MOMENT FROM HAPPENING. THAT WAS WHY THE PILLAR WAS PREVENTING YOU FROM ACTING WHEN IT DID.**

AS MENDERS, WE HAVE TO WEIGH POTENTIAL RISKS TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE TIMELINE AND MAKE HARD CHOICES TO ANY CHANGES MADE. THE EVENTS YOU ENDURED WERE DEEMED THE MOST OPTIMAL OF ALTERATIONS.

YOU ACTUALLY CALL THE DECIMATION OF EARTH IN 2018 BY RULARUH AN "OPTIMAL" CHOICE, SILOS?



(* SEE ISSUE 18 ** SEE ISSUE 20)

NOT AT FIRST.

UNDERSTAND THAT WE AS MENDERS LABORED OVER THOUSANDS OF POSSIBLE SCENARIOS AND VIEWED THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES OF EACH OF THEM.

WE HAD TO WEIGH RULARUU'S RETURN IN 2018 WITH THE COMING STORM AND THE THREATS FROM EMPEROR COLE AND THE PRAETORIANS.



WOULD EARTH FARE BETTER AGAINST RULARUU OR AGAINST LORD RECLUSE'S "RAGNAROK" PLAN? OR AGAINST PRAETORIA'S "ULTIMATE HAMIDON"? NO.

THOSE ARE THE KINDS OF SITUATIONS WE HAVE TO WEIGH, GALATEA, AND IN EVERY ONE OF THEM, THE EARTH IS DESTROYED OR RENDERED UNINHABITABLE AT SOME POINT.

NOW, BECAUSE OF YOUR RASH ACTIONS, THE FUTURE IS ONCE AGAIN IN FLUX.

RULARUU MAY RETURN IN 2018, OR HE MAY NOT. WE DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN ANYMORE.

SOMETIMES IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT PROBABILITIES, SILOS. IT'S ABOUT DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.

IF RULARUU DOES RETURN IN THIS NEW TIMELINE, THEN I'LL BE THERE IN PERSON TO FACE HIM.



SIGH NO, GALATEA, YOU WON'T. NOT AS AN INCARNATE, AND NOT IN THE AEGIS ARMOR.

I SEE THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY WE CAN RESOLVE THIS MATTER...

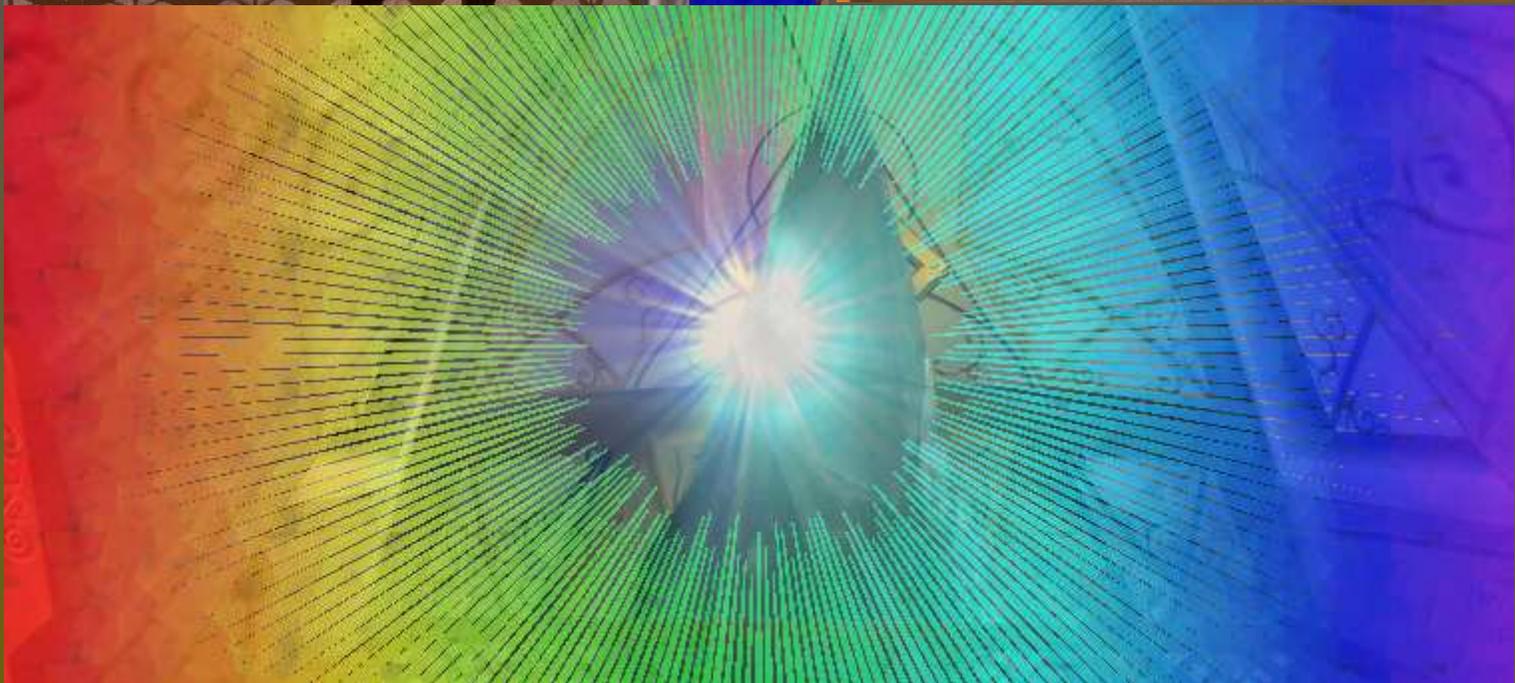


<PILLAR... PROCEED.>



PILLAR OF ICE AND FLAME

< TRANSLATED FROM THE ANCIENT FIRST LANGUAGE >





UNNNH...

WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE CONSCIOUS, HERO.

I SEEM TO RECALL YOU BEING A LITTLE MORE DURABLE THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT.

ICON POWERS

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME ALTERING THIS SHELL TO SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE RECOGNIZABLE.

IT WAS TIME TO GET RID OF THAT FAKE HERO PERSONA ANYWAY.

ALOR/STARCYGNUS

HOW CAN YOU BE ALIVE? WE DESTROYED YOUR DEVICES, YOU WERE TRAPPED IN YOUR COLLAPSING UNIVERSE ABOUT TO ENTER TOTAL ENTROPY!*

ISSUE 21

YES. I WAS. THANKS TO YOU AND THE KHELDIAN.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER WHEN SHE FIRST APPEARED. AFTER ALL, SHE DISGUISED HERSELF QUITE WELL.

IT DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH. I HAVE ALREADY DEALT WITH THE KHELDIAN

YOU DID DESTROY ME. OR, AT LEAST MY ORIGINAL BODY WAS DESTROYED.

BUT WHEN DAYBRIGHT DAMAGED MY DEVICES, SHE DID SOMETHING MORE...

"DAYBRIGHT'S ENERGY CREATED A FREQUENCY LINK BETWEEN YOUR WORLD AND THIS ONE."

"MY EQUIPMENT COULD NOT HANDLE BOTH WORLDS AND TRIED TO OPEN PORTALS TO THEM BOTH."

"THE RESULT WAS WHAT WAS SEEN IN 2007... DOZENS OF SMALL FREE-FORMING PORTALS ALL OVER PARAGON CITY... AND ABOVE IT."*

ISSUE 0

"ONE OF THOSE PORTALS ENCOUNTERED THE SPACE SHUTTLE CYGNUS WHILE IN RE-ENTRY."*

"ELEMENTS OF MY BODY, ASSIMILATED FROM A CYBERNETIC VERSION OF MYSELF, INSTINCTIVELY CONNECTED TO IT."

"IT CREATED A LINK BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE SHUTTLE AND ITS CREW."

"BUT THE SHUTTLE COULD NOT HANDLE THE POWER SURGING THROUGH IT."

◀ AS RECOUNTED IN ISSUE 14 ▶

"THE SHUTTLE EXPLODED, BUT NOT BEFORE I IMPRINTED MYSELF INTO ITS SURVIVING CREWMAN."

"MY POWER AND MY WILL KEPT HIM ALIVE WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED."

"IT WAS A MERGER THAT TURNED THE HUMAN HANK GEDDY INTO A SO-CALLED "SUPERHERO". THE PERFECT MOLE FOR HIS FATHER'S PLANS."

HIS FATHER?

LORD LEE GEDDY OF THE ROCINANTE GROUP. HIS GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING THE WHOLE "STARCYGNUS" PERSONA TO BEGIN WITH.

I ALLOWED THIS HOAX TO GO ON BECAUSE IT GAVE ME ACCESS TO THE GUARDIANS AND THEIR DEVICES...
AND IT GAVE ME TIME.

"TIME TO SLOWLY REBUILD MY ESSENCE FROM THE FRAGMENTS OF DATA FLOATING AROUND THE CITY."*

"A FRAGMENT OF MY ESSENCE WAS IMBEDDED IN EVERY DEVICE TOUCHED BY ONE OF THOSE FREE-FORMING PORTALS."

"GEDDY WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS. HE PRESUMED THEM TO BE FLAWED DATA PACKETS."

"BUT SLOWLY THOSE PACKETS CAME TOGETHER SO I COULD REASSERT MYSELF ONCE AGAIN."

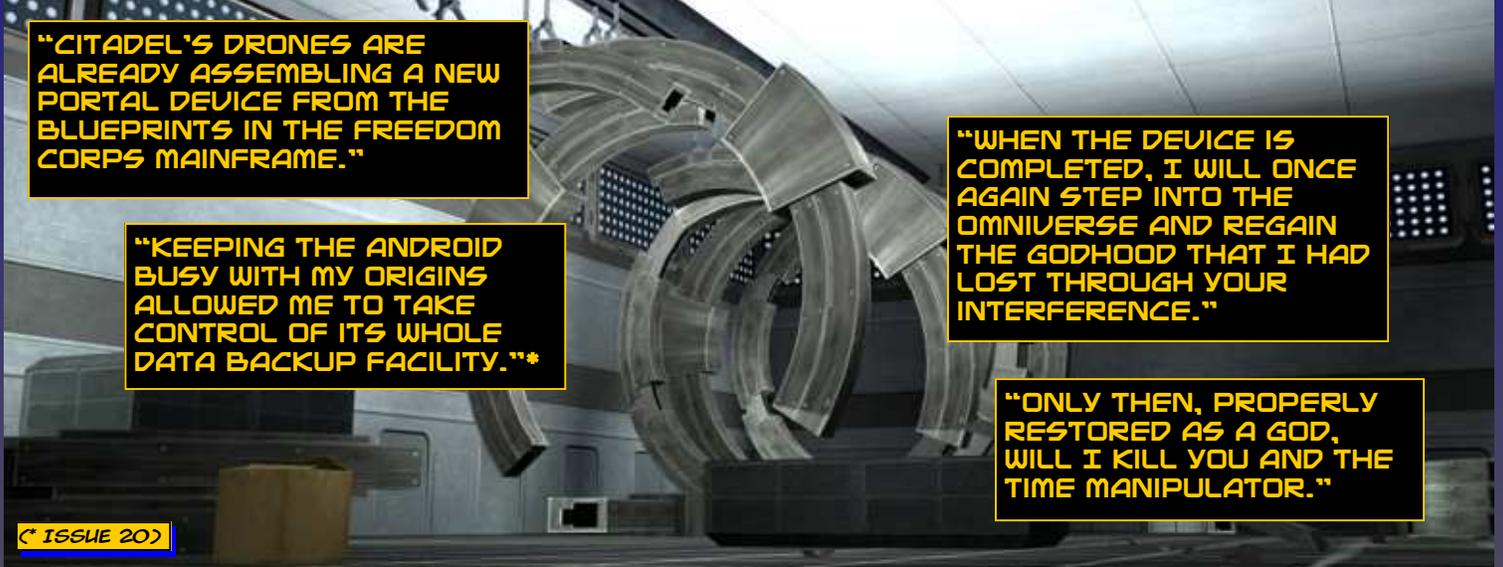
◀ ISSUE 10 ▶



WHY? WHY DO ALL OF THIS?



THAT SHOULD BE PRETTY OBVIOUS BY NOW, HERO. I WILL FINISH THE WORK THAT I STARTED.



"CITADEL'S DRONES ARE ALREADY ASSEMBLING A NEW PORTAL DEVICE FROM THE BLUEPRINTS IN THE FREEDOM CORPS MAINFRAME."

"KEEPING THE ANDROID BUSY WITH MY ORIGINS ALLOWED ME TO TAKE CONTROL OF ITS WHOLE DATA BACKUP FACILITY."*

"WHEN THE DEVICE IS COMPLETED, I WILL ONCE AGAIN STEP INTO THE OMNIVERSE AND REGAIN THE GODHOOD THAT I HAD LOST THROUGH YOUR INTERFERENCE."

"ONLY THEN, PROPERLY RESTORED AS A GOD, WILL I KILL YOU AND THE TIME MANIPULATOR."

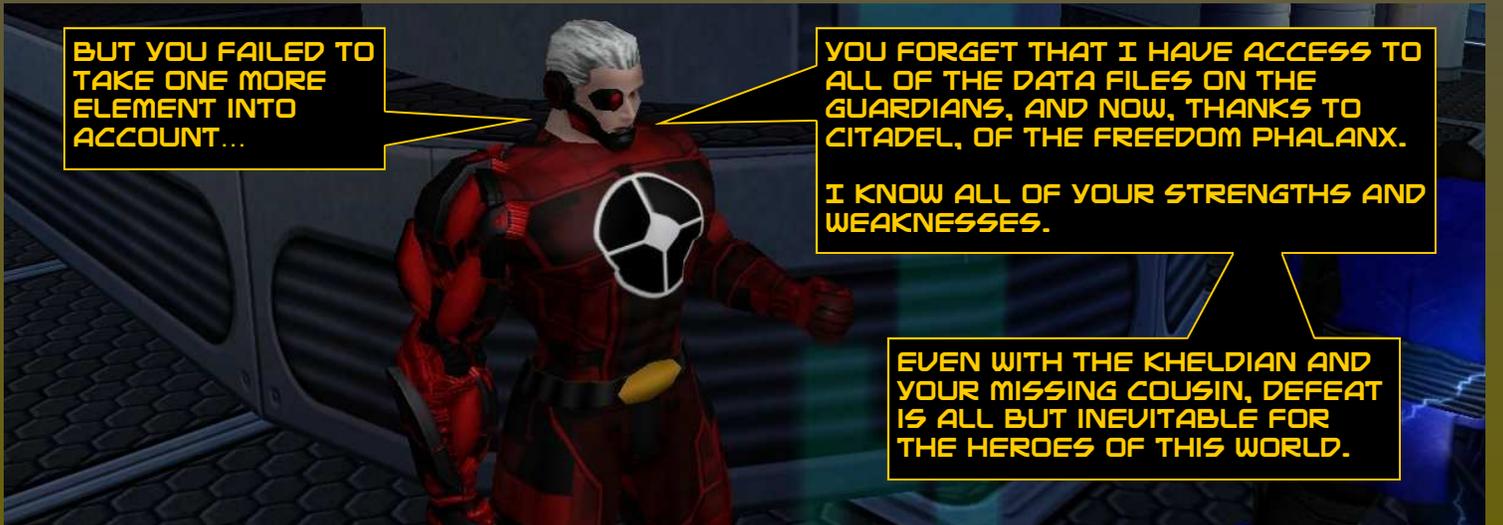
(* ISSUE 20)



AND YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL JUST COME HERE WILLINGLY?
OR, FOR THAT MATTER, SHOW UP ALONE?

I HAVE NO DOUBT THE OTHER GUARDIANS WILL TRY TO MOUNT A RESCUE.

IN FACT I AM WELL AWARE OF THE "ALL-CALL" EMERGENCY SIGNAL THAT WAS SENT NOT LONG AFTER OUR LITTLE FIGHT IN SKYWAY CITY.



BUT YOU FAILED TO TAKE ONE MORE ELEMENT INTO ACCOUNT...

YOU FORGET THAT I HAVE ACCESS TO ALL OF THE DATA FILES ON THE GUARDIANS, AND NOW, THANKS TO CITADEL, OF THE FREEDOM PHALANX.

I KNOW ALL OF YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

EVEN WITH THE KHELDIAN AND YOUR MISSING COUSIN, DEFEAT IS ALL BUT INEVITABLE FOR THE HEROES OF THIS WORLD.

I THINK THIS NEW DATA EXPLAINS EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.

THE SAME DATA SIGNATURE WITH THE TELEPORT CODES... AND THE ATTACK AT THE SKYWAY PD.

THE SAME BEING DID BOTH.

 POSITRON

STARCYGNUS...

HE WAS THE TRAITOR WE WERE LOOKING FOR ALL THIS TIME.

 MAXIMUS REX

I'D ASK CITADEL TO CONFIRM THIS, BUT NOBODY HAS SEEN OR HEARD FROM HIM IN OVER TWELVE HOURS NOW.

ISN'T HE NORMALLY ON TALOS ISLAND?

FOR MOST OF THE TIME, YES.

BUT HE STILL NEEDS TO REST AND DO REGULAR BACK-UPS AT THE D.A.T.A. FACILITY BUILT JUST FOR HIM.

AND THE FACT THAT I CAN'T CONTACT THAT EITHER MEANS THAT IT'S ALSO COMPROMISED, AND THAT'S BAD FOR US.

CITADEL'S SYSTEMS ARE LINKED TO THE WHOLE FREEDOM CORPS MAINFRAME! I NEED TO GET THE REST OF THE PHALANX INVOLVED.

NO.

IF STARCYGNUS IS DOING THIS, THEN HE WILL KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BOTH GROUPS.

WE'LL NEED TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT HE HASN'T FACTORED IN YET.

I TAKE IT YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME?

I MIGHT...

VANGUARD HEADQUARTERS

THE ICON TAILOR CENTER

WELL? HOW DOES IT FIT?

NOT BAD... ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE COLORS... I KIND OF MISS MY RED BODYSUIT.

RYDER LIGHTNING

I UNDERSTAND... ALTHOUGH WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS WAS A RUSH ORDER.

IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE GO AHEAD AND ENGAGE YOUR SPEED-POWER.

WHOA... I CAN FEEL IT NOW!

THESE DEVICES ARE DOING MORE THAN JUST BOOSTING MY LINK TO THE VORTEX...

I CAN ALMOST SEE IT RIGHT NOW,,, JUST BY STANDING HERE.

BUT... BUT IT'S DIFFERENT... SOMETHING HAS CHANGED THE VORTEX...

ALERT!
Incoming priority message.

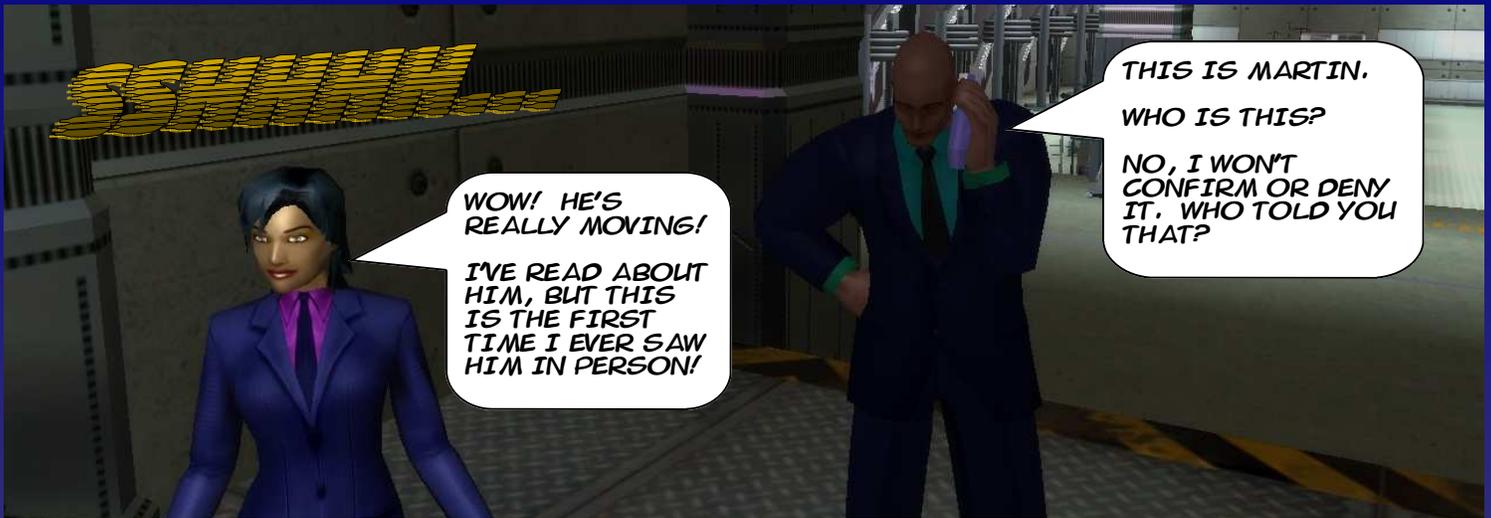
THIS IS RYDER LIGHTNING, RESPONDING TO PAGE.

RYDER, IF YOU'RE THROUGH PLAYING WITH THE TAILORS, YOU'RE NEEDED AT THE STAGING AREA TEN SECONDS AGO.

NO PROBLEM. I HOPE THE UPGRADES HELP YOU.

CONFIRMED. I'M GOING SUPERSONIC.

MARTIN, HATE TO RUN, BUT THANKS AGAIN FOR THIS.



SHHHH

WOW! HE'S REALLY MOVING!
I'VE READ ABOUT HIM, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW HIM IN PERSON!

THIS IS MARTIN.
WHO IS THIS?
NO, I WON'T CONFIRM OR DENY IT. WHO TOLD YOU THAT?



YES, I KNOW WHO SHE IS. BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT...?
WAIT... HUH? HOW DID...?

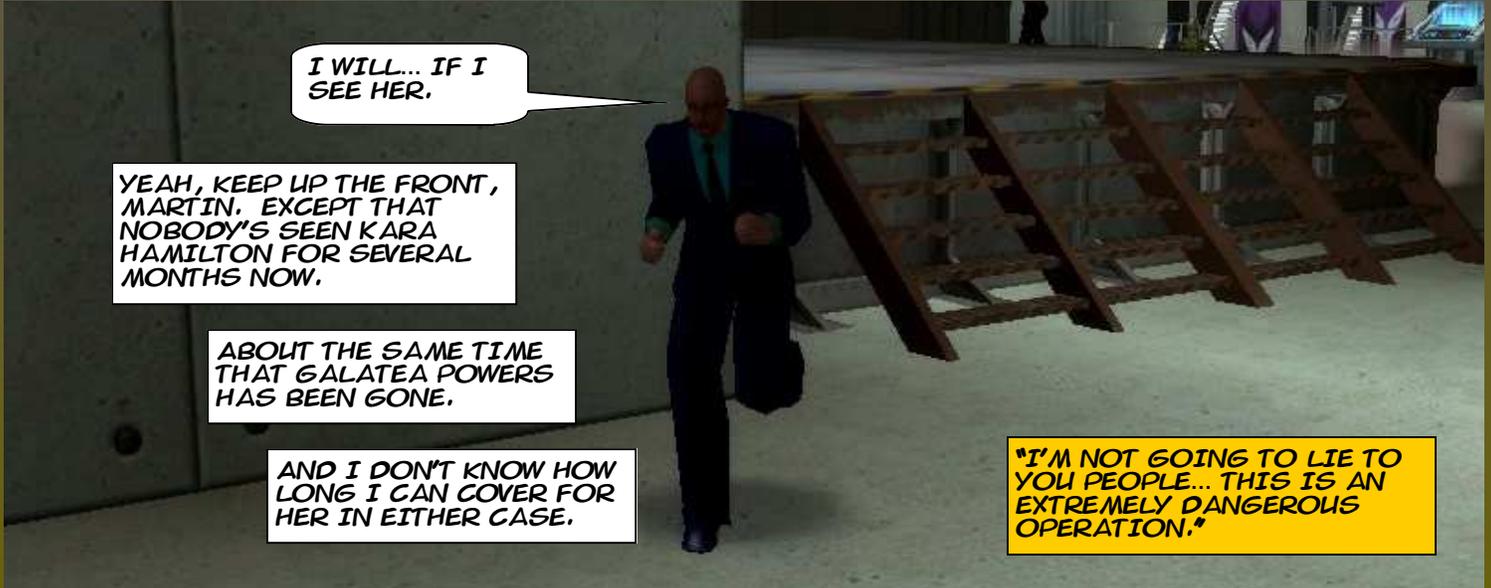
OKAY, LISTEN... IF YOU'RE HONEST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU KNOW, THEN I'LL BE MORE THAN WILLING TO HELP. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT OVER THE PHONE. WHERE CAN WE...
OH... YES, I KNOW WHERE THAT IS. OKAY.



SALLY, I HAVE TO GO RUN AN ERRAND.
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO RELAY BACK TO THE CORPORATE OFFICE?



NO, WE SHOULD BE GOOD HERE, MARTIN.
THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING US WITH THIS JOB. OH, AND IF YOU SEE KARA, TELL HER I SAID HI.



I WILL... IF I SEE HER.

YEAH, KEEP UP THE FRONT, MARTIN. EXCEPT THAT NOBODY'S SEEN KARA HAMILTON FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW.

ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT GALATEA POWERS HAS BEEN GONE.

AND I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN COVER FOR HER IN EITHER CASE.

"I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU PEOPLE... THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS OPERATION."

WE ARE GOING INTO BATTLE NOT ONLY WITHOUT OUR MOST POWERFUL MEMBERS...

BUT ALSO AGAINST AN ENEMY THAT KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT US, AND HAS SULLIED OUR NAME BY KILLING POLICE OFFICERS.

FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, I'VE SENT PYROGURL TO STAY WITH HER PARENTS IN BOSTON UNTIL WE CAN RESOLVE ALL OF THIS.

WE WILL BE ASSISTED BY MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM PHALANX, BUT THEY WILL FACE THE SAME THREAT AS WE DO, WITH AN ENEMY THAT KNOWS ALL OF OUR STRENGTHS AND ALL OF OUR WEAKNESSES.

AND YET IT IS THAT SAME KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL BE STARCYNUS' DOWNFALL.

CITY HALL IS GIVING US SIX HOURS OF A MEDIA BLACKOUT TO RESOLVE THIS.

BUT IN ALL HONESTY, IF WE FAIL HERE, A NEW HERO SCANDAL WILL BE THE LEAST OF THIS CITY'S WORRIES.

D.A.T.A. FACILITY

"FIRST STEP: USING OUR SPEEDSTERS TO TAKE OUT THE INTERIOR SENSORS."

SHAKE A LEG SLOWPOKE.



IF IT WAS JUST ME, I'D BE DONE AND ALREADY OUT THE DOOR.

EXCUSE ME? I'M NOT THE ONE WHO GOT US LOST THREE TIMES, MISTER "I KNOW MY WAY AROUND HERE BLINDFOLDED."

LEST I REMIND YOU WHO'S BEEN AUGMENTING YOUR SPEED AND DEFENSES BY SIPHONING THE INERTIA FROM THESE DRONES.

LISTEN, RYDER,
NOTHING PERSONAL,
BUT I REALLY DON'T
NEED YOUR KINETIC
BOOSTS.

I'VE TAKEN ON CITADEL'S
PRAETORIAN TWIN, SO I
THINK I KNOW WHAT TO
EXPECT HERE.

AND IF WE WERE JUST
TAKING ON SIEGE,
I'D PROBABLY AGREE
WITH YOU. BUT
STARCYGNUS IS FAR
FROM BEING JUST A
CYBORG GONE MAD.

YEAH YEAH YEAH...

BESIDES, I'M
STILL TRYING TO
GET THE HANG OF
THIS NEW OUTFIT.
NOT USED TO
HAVING TECH HELP.

YEAH USING MY TECH
DESIGN FROM POSTI.

OKAY, I THINK
WE FOUND THE
RIGHT ACCESS
TERMINAL.

TYPING IN THE
NEW SCRIPT.

Tap-tap
Tap-tap
Tap-tap
Tap-tap

STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
CAN DO ALL
THAT FROM
MEMORY AT
HYPER-SPEED.

YOU SHOULD
HAVE SEEN MY
THESIS PAPER.

Tap-tap
Tap-tap
Tap-tap

OKAY, NOW
LET'S SEE IF
IT WORKS.

NEW PROGRAM
ACCEPTED. RUN
PROGRAM... THANK
YOU FOR STANDING
STILL LONG ENOUGH
TO ENGAGE THE
CONTAINMENT FIELD.

BZZZZZTTTT

BZZZZZTTTT

ALL TOO EASY.

"STEP TWO: OUR KNIGHT CAN THEN START SABOTAGING ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS."

WOW, YOU'RE REALLY INTO THAT WHOLE "CAPE AND COWL" THING, HUHP? OR IS IT "CAPE AND HOOD" NOW?

CAN'T WAIT TO PEEL IT OFF YOU TO SEE THE BEEFY GOODNESS INSIDE.

 MIDKNIGHT X

THE NAME, TALL, DARK, AND SOON-TO-BE DEAD, IS...

"BLOODBLADER!"

THINK I SHOULD COPYRIGHT IT?

 BLOODBLADER

AND OF COURSE I KNOW WHO YOU ARE... MISTER MIDKNIGHT X... THE MAN WHO DRESSES UP LIKE A WINGED... WHATEVER THAT IS ON YOUR CHEST... AND FIGHTS BAD GUYS.

OH, AND I FORGOT... ALSO BREAKING INTO OFFICES THAT HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN AND ZAPPING SWEET OLD LADIES TRYING TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.*

I'M GUESSING THAT PART WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT OUT OF YOUR CITY INFO TRACKER PROFILE.

WHOMEVER YOU ARE, I'M GIVING YOU THIS OPPORTUNITY NOW TO WALK AWAY.

WE CAN RESOLVE WHATEVER PROBLEMS YOU HAVE WITH ME LATER. THERE ARE LIVES AT STAKE HERE.

◀ SEE ISSUE 21 FOR MORE INFORMATION ▶

WHOA! CREEPY AND GRUFF. YOU GOT THAT WHOLE CHRISTIAN BALE THING DOWN PAT!

SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT A NAIL APPOINTMENT LATER. GOTTA KILL YOU NOW.

LAST CHANCE...
LEAVE... NOW.



EN-OH!

SLASH-SLICE



POW!



OW! THAT HURT!

SWISH



*POP-POP!
*POP-POP!
*POP-POP!



WHEW! BABY, I DON'T KNOW IF I'M FALLING IN LOVE OR JUST HAVING A CONCUSSION.



SWISH

GOOD THING I HEAL QUICKLY FOR THE LATTER.



SLASH-SLICE



ENF..

POW!

HEY!

NO FAIR! HE WAS MY PLAYTOY!

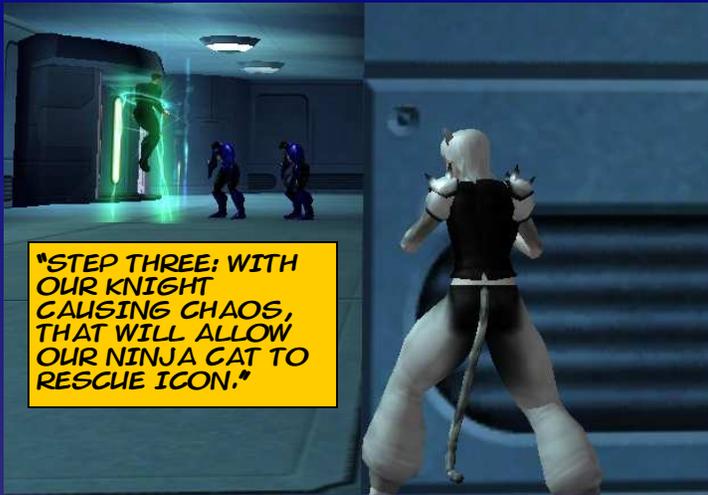


YOUR ASSISTANCE, WHILE NOT WELCOMED, WAS APPRECIATED IN NEUTRALIZING HIM.

I BELIEVE THE CONFIRMATION CODEWORD IS... "REVENGE".

HUH... WELL, NEXT TIME I MAY NOT BE SUCH A TEAM PLAYER.

BE SURE TO SAVE SOMETHING OF HIM LATER FOR ME TO GIVE TO MS. MAPLE.



STEP THREE: WITH OUR KNIGHT CAUSING CHAOS, THAT WILL ALLOW OUR NINJA CAT TO RESCUE ICON.



***RRR* TIME FOR THIS KITTY TO PLAY.**

TASHATIGER



BZZZZT

SLASH-SLICE



HOLD ON, MISTER POWERS... I GOT ONE MORE TO GO.

Whrrrrttt..



***KeCHUNK!**



ARE YOU OKAY, MISTER POWERS? YOU SMELL... A LITTLE METALLIC?



ERROR! ERROR! RESET! RESET!

HSSSS!!! YOU'RE A DRONE!

HOW VERY ASTUTE, TASHATIGER... PITY YOUR CAT-LIKE SENSES DIDN'T NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE BEFOREHAND.

RRRRRR COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN, WIZARD, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I DEAL WITH TIN MEN!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY WORK? IT WAS A BIT RUSHED BUT I THINK I GOT THE PROPORTIONS RIGHT.

A "WIZARD OF OZ" QUIP! HOW ORIGINAL. NOW I SEE WHY THEY RECRUITED YOU AND NOT KRUSHER KITTEN.



HSSSSSSSSS!

BZZZZT

WHEN WILL ANY OF YOU LEARN?

I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO BEFORE YOU DO IT!



NO MATTER THE NUMBERS...



YOU WILL STILL FAIL!



ALL OF YOUR POWERS MEAN NOTHING TO ME.

ALL OF YOUR PLANS, ALL OF YOUR PREPAREDNESS... ALL FOR NOTHING.

WHYSPERA

SISTER PSYCHE

MANTICORE

LYON POWERS

OMEGA SHIFT

JIMMY HELLFIGHTER



REPORT.

DIMENSIONAL
SCAN OF
SUBJECT
INITIATED.



OMNIVERSE
ENERGY
DETECTED.



ALERT!

STREET JUSTICE,
TAKE OUT THE
OTHER ONE!



ERROR!
UNIDENTIFIED
SUBJECTS!
ERROR!
ERROR!



ERROR!

GO-BOTS
GOING
DOWN!



ARE YOU
OKAY, ICON?



I'M FINE, ALTHOUGH
I'D APPRECIATE
KNOWING WHO JUST
RESCUED ME.

I'M LADY TEMPLAR,
AND HE'S STREET
JUSTICE.

WE'RE THE
RESCUE
PARTY.

STREET JUSTICE

LADY TEMPLAR



I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ST ARCYGNUS WASN'T ABLE TO NEUTRALIZE YOU LIKE HE DID THE OTHERS.



WELL HE WOULD IF WE WERE IN THE GUARDIANS DATABASE. BUT WE'RE NOT. NOT YET ANYWAY. IT'S ALL PART OF MAXIMUS' PLAN.



WAIT... YOU MEAN THE OTHER HEROES PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE TO SERVE AS THE DECOYS?



NOT SOMETHING THEY WANTED TO DO, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP ST ARCYGNUS BUSY WHILE WE MADE OUR MOVE TO FREE YOU.



NOT A GOOD PLAN... IT'S A WASTE...



LISTEN GUYS, HATE TO BREAK THIS DEBATE UP, BUT WE GOT MORE OF SG'S DROIDS COMING OVER TO PLAY.

I FIGURED THEY WOULD. OKAY, NEXT PHASE. ICON, REMEMBER IRON BUTTERFLY?



YES, BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

DON'T ASK. THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT!



FAIR ENOUGH. BOTH OF YOU GET GOING! I'LL KEEP THEM BUSY HERE!



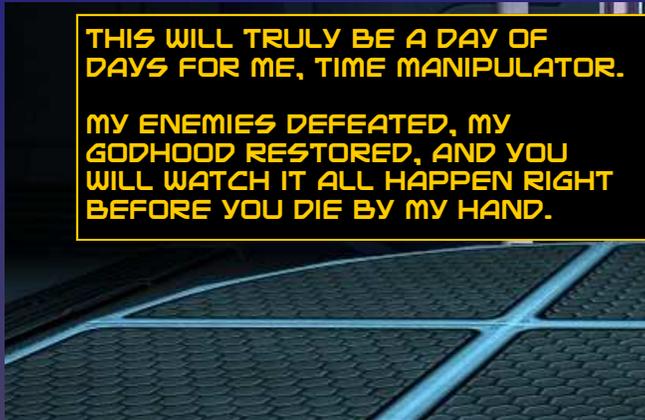
QUINN.



HELLO ALOR.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND; I HAD TO GO GET MY HAT. I FOUND I KIND OF MISSED IT.

DOC TOR

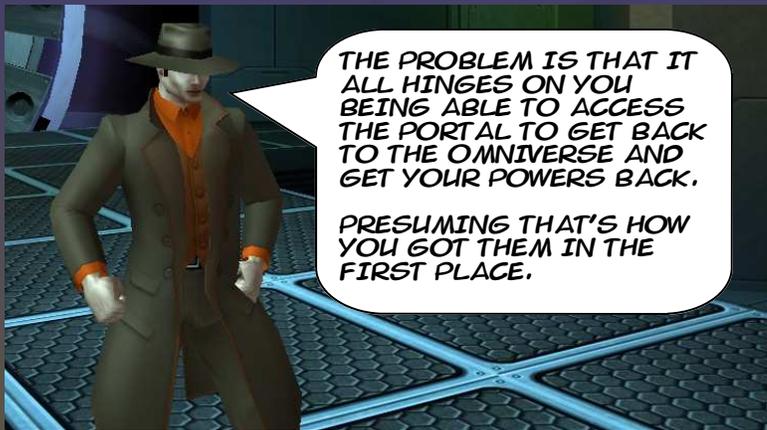


THIS WILL TRULY BE A DAY OF DAYS FOR ME, TIME MANIPULATOR.

MY ENEMIES DEFEATED, MY GODHOOD RESTORED, AND YOU WILL WATCH IT ALL HAPPEN RIGHT BEFORE YOU DIE BY MY HAND.

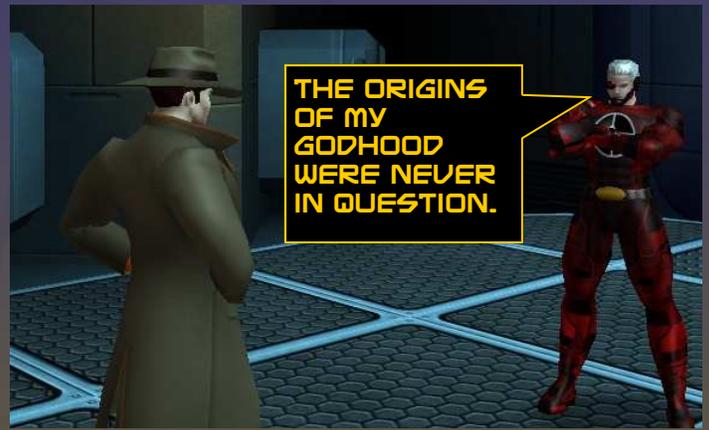
ACTUALLY... NO. IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN, THOUGH, IF YOU'RE INTO THAT MEGALOMANIACAL THING.

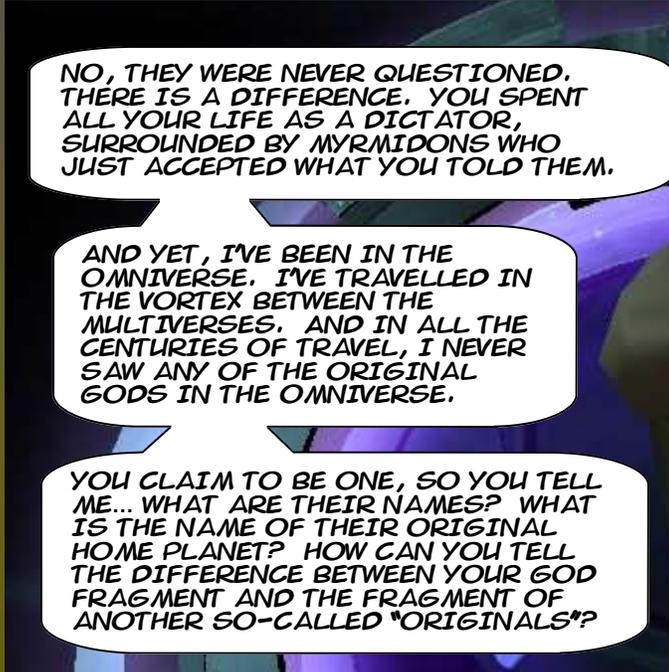


THE PROBLEM IS THAT IT ALL HINGES ON YOU BEING ABLE TO ACCESS THE PORTAL TO GET BACK TO THE OMNIVERSE AND GET YOUR POWERS BACK.

PRESUMING THAT'S HOW YOU GOT THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.



THE ORIGINS OF MY GODHOOD WERE NEVER IN QUESTION.



NO, THEY WERE NEVER QUESTIONED. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. YOU SPENT ALL YOUR LIFE AS A DICTATOR, SURROUNDED BY MYRMIDONS WHO JUST ACCEPTED WHAT YOU TOLD THEM.

AND YET, I'VE BEEN IN THE OMNIVERSE. I'VE TRAVELLED IN THE VORTEX BETWEEN THE MULTIVERSES. AND IN ALL THE CENTURIES OF TRAVEL, I NEVER SAW ANY OF THE ORIGINAL GODS IN THE OMNIVERSE.

YOU CLAIM TO BE ONE, SO YOU TELL ME... WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES? WHAT IS THE NAME OF THEIR ORIGINAL HOME PLANET? HOW CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR GOD FRAGMENT AND THE FRAGMENT OF ANOTHER SO-CALLED "ORIGINALS"?



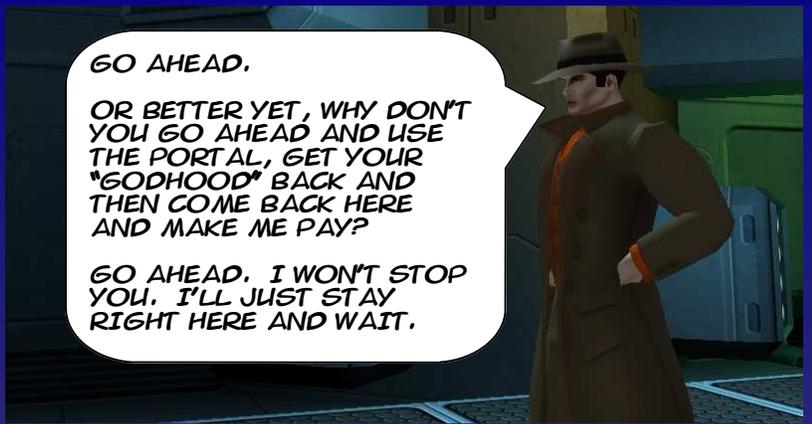
BLASPHEMY! HOW DARE YOU!

I DARE BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT I DO, ALOR. THAT IS WHAT I'M GOOD AT. I QUESTION THE THINGS THAT OTHERS DON'T!

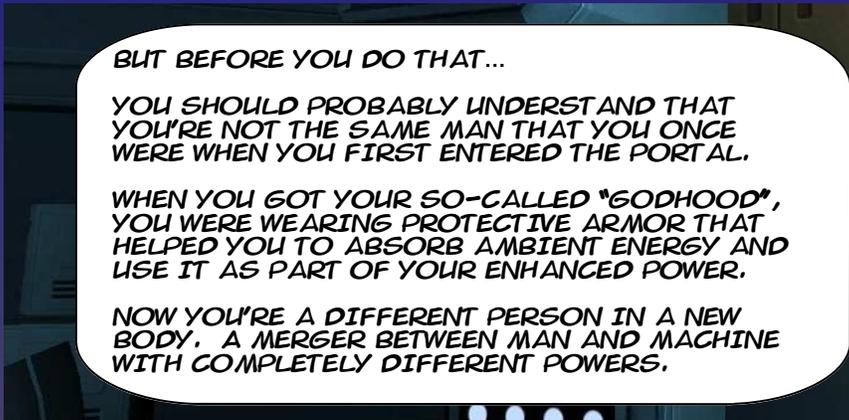
AND THE TRUTH, ALOR, IS THAT YOU'RE NOT A GOD. YOU NEVER WERE. THAT POWER YOU GOT WAS THE DYING ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSES YOU DESTROYED, AND YOU WERE HOOKED ON THAT LIKE A JUNKIE ON A FIX.



YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR INSOLENCE, "DOC TOR".



**GO AHEAD.
OR BETTER YET, WHY DONT YOU GO AHEAD AND USE THE PORTAL, GET YOUR "GODHOOD" BACK AND THEN COME BACK HERE AND MAKE ME PAY?
GO AHEAD. I WON'T STOP YOU. I'LL JUST STAY RIGHT HERE AND WAIT.**



**BUT BEFORE YOU DO THAT...
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE NOT THE SAME MAN THAT YOU ONCE WERE WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED THE PORTAL.
WHEN YOU GOT YOUR SO-CALLED "GODHOOD", YOU WERE WEARING PROTECTIVE ARMOR THAT HELPED YOU TO ABSORB AMBIENT ENERGY AND USE IT AS PART OF YOUR ENHANCED POWER.
NOW YOU'RE A DIFFERENT PERSON IN A NEW BODY. A MERGER BETWEEN MAN AND MACHINE WITH COMPLETELY DIFFERENT POWERS.**



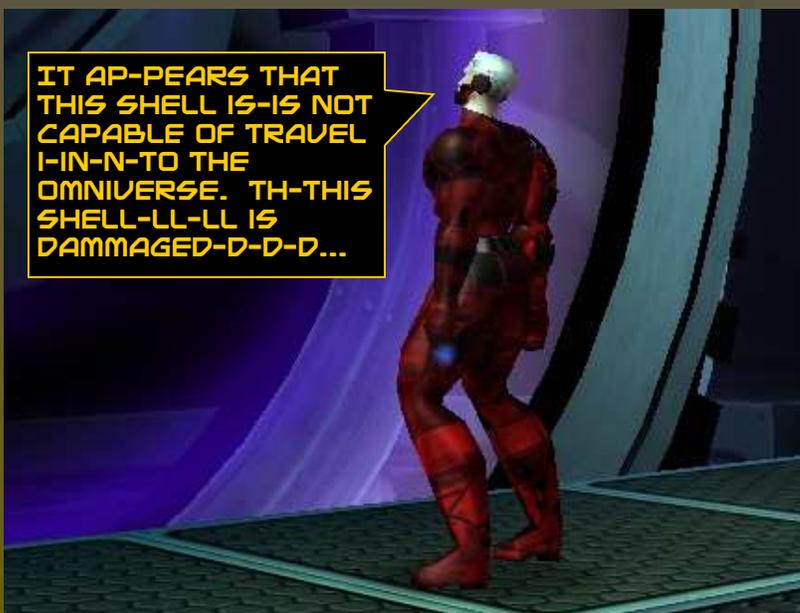
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT YOUR NEW BODY CAN ABSORB THAT MUCH ENERGY WHEN IT IS BASED ON A CLEARLY "INFERIOR" ALTERNATE VERSION OF YOURSELF?

GO AHEAD. I'M CURIOUS TO SEE YOU DO IT.



AARGH!!

BZZZZT!



IT AP-PEARS THAT THIS SHELL IS-IS NOT CAPABLE OF TRAVEL I-IN-N-TO THE OMNIVERSE. TH-THIS SHELL-LL-LL IS DAMMAGED-D-D-D...



I-I MUST UPGRADE-DE THIS FORM-M IMMEDIATELY.



OKAY, I THINK I FOUND THE SUBROUTINE THAT SHOULD RELEASE THE OTHER HEROES FROM THEIR CONTAINMENT BUBBLES.

GOOD, I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.



SO WHEN DID YOU KNOW ABOUT GALATEA?

TWO YEARS AGO...

RIKTI RAID AT THE STORE, WE HID IN THE BACK, AND I FOUND A PILE OF THE CLOTHES SHE WORE THAT DAY.



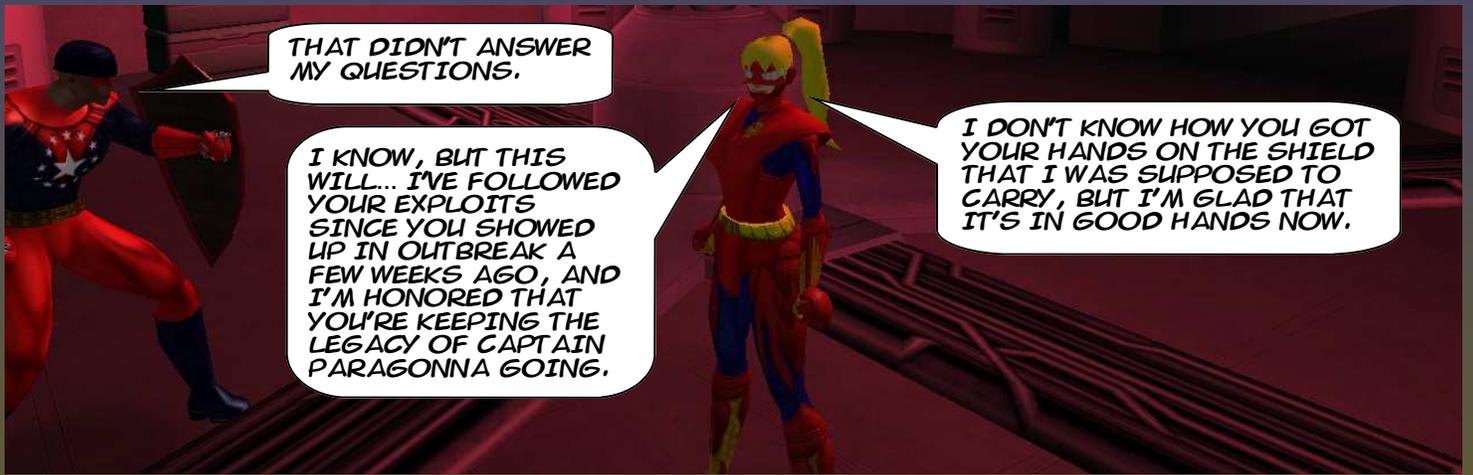
WE TALKED A BIT AFTER AND WE AGREED I COULD HELP HER KEEP APPEARANCES GOING WITH THE STORE WHILE SHE'S ON MISSIONS.

SHE KEEPS ME IN THE LOOP ON THINGS WITH THE GUARDIANS AND I GUESS THAT'S WHAT INSPIRED ME.

YOUR TURN. HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ME AND HOW TO CONTACT ME?

LET'S JUST SAY, SINCE WE'RE "KEEPING IT SAFE", THAT I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE NOW. I JUST NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH MY FRIENDS REALLY MISSED ME UNTIL A FEW HOURS AGO.

OKAY, CONTAINMENT BUBBLES ARE DROPPED AND THEIR INFIRMARY TELEPORTERS HAVE KICKED IN TO SEND THEM OUT OF HERE.



THAT DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

I KNOW, BUT THIS WILL... I'VE FOLLOWED YOUR EXPLOITS SINCE YOU SHOWED UP IN OUTBREAK A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND I'M HONORED THAT YOU'RE KEEPING THE LEGACY OF CAPTAIN PARAGONNA GOING.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON THE SHIELD THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO CARRY, BUT I'M GLAD THAT IT'S IN GOOD HANDS NOW.



WAIT... WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU'RE...?

COME ON, WE'VE GOT ONE MORE THING TO DO BEFORE WE CATCH UP WITH ICON POWERS.



THIS-IS CANNOT HAPPEN TO ME. NOT WHEN I-I AM SO C-CLOSE TO MY GOD-GOD-GODHOOD.



REPAIRS AT-T SEVENTY-TWO PERCENT...
DRONE! I N-NEED YOUR CIR-CIRCUITS!



DRONE! RESPOND!



INTRUDER! INTRUDER!
DEFENSIVE MODE ENGAGED!



N-NO! HOW COULD I-I LOSE MY CONTROL OVER THE COMPLEXXX?

BZZZZTTTT



THE DATA MAINFRAME! I'LL TAKE BACK MY CONTROL AT THE SOURRRCE!



IT'S OVER WITH, ALOR! YOUR CONTROL HAS BEEN PURGED FROM THIS FACILITY!

N-NO! IT CAN'T BE!



THE C-CORE CHAMBER! I'LL UPLOAD MYSELF TO THE SERVER DIRECTLY!



UP-UPPPLOAD BEGINNNINGG.



I CONTROL THIS FACILITY AGAIN, ALOR.

THERE'S NO ESCAPE, SURRENDER.

CITADEL



N-NO! I WILL NNOT YIELD TO YOUUU!

IF I AM TO FALL... I WILL NOT FALL ALONE!



THEN LET'S DO THIS, ALOR...

I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DONT POSE A THREAT TO ANYONE EVER AGAIN!

FOR MY FRIENDS... FOR MY FAMILY!

DIE, HERO! DD-DIE!



SOMEWHERE ON TALOS ISLAND

OKAY, EITHER I MADE A WRONG TURN AT ALBUQUERQUE, OR I'M IN THE HOME OF THE GUARDIANS AND THEY'RE THE MESSIEST HERO TEAM THIS SIDE OF THE FREAKSHOW.

ALTHOUGH, THIS WOULD MAKE FOR A NICE FIXER-UPPER...

SOME PAINT, A VELVET BULLFIGHTER PICTURE, AND A MILLION WORTH OF...

SORRY, IT'S NOT FOR SALE.

... WHO?

THIS IS A UTILITY TUBE, SOMEONE WHO TRIES TO BREAK INTO OUR HEADQUARTERS WILL END UP HERE IF THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

 DAYBRIGHT

HEY, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD?

TRIED IT. SUCKED. NO CABLE.

HEY! NO FAIR! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE COMEDIC RELIEF HERE!

NO, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE BEHIND BARS.

WELL THEN I'M GAME TO FIX EITHER ONE OR THE OTHER!

SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIENDS!

HELLO...

FWSH!

AND GOODNIGHT GRACIE!

Unnh...

LATER THAT DAY

YOU'RE LUCKY MY PEOPLE MANAGED TO FIND YOU.
BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, YOU'RE ONLY HERE BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO DO THIS.

YOU WILL STAND TRIAL FOR THE LIVES THAT YOU'VE TAKEN.
BUT WE WILL NOT DO IT WITH A PUBLIC SPECTACLE.



IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO ME NOW. I AM NOT EVEN A MAN ANYMORE.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO LET ME DIE THAN TO LIVE LIKE THIS.



HIS HOLDING CELL IS READY. JUST GIVE THE WORD, MAXIMUS.

DO IT.



YOUR VICTORY IS A PYRRHIC ONE!
I KILLED THE PEOPLE WHO MADE ME THIS WAY! I HAVE BROKEN YOUR GROUP. AND...



HARD TO IMAGINE THAT HE USED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT... NOT TO MENTION SOMEONE THAT WAS ENTRUSTED WITH OUR SECRETS.
HOW SECURE IS THIS FACILITY?

I HELPED DESIGN THIS BASE WITH LADY GREY AND STATESMAN AFTER THE RIKIT WAR TO HOLD THE RIKTI PRISONERS.
WE'RE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN BETWEEN HERE AND THE ROGUE ISLES. THE ONLY WAY IN AND OUT IS THROUGH TELEPORTERS.





I ALMOST TOLD HIM ABOUT
ICON POWERS AND DAYBRIGHT
STILL BEING ALIVE.

I STILL DON'T KNOW
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED
WITH HER, BUT SHE SAID SHE'D
EXPLAIN IT ALL SOON.

THAT'S GOOD. IT
MAKES MY JOB AS
THE INVESTIGATOR
OF THAT INCIDENT A
LITTLE EASIER.

AND THE DOC SAYS
ICON'S STABILIZED.
HE'S COMATOSE,
BUT NOT ON LIFE
SUPPORT ANYMORE.



THAT'S GOOD. WE'VE
LOST SO MUCH ALREADY.

HEY, I'VE BEEN
BLOWN UP BY THE
RIKTI AND PUT
BACK TOGETHER.*
IN TERMS OF
LOSS, YOU GUYS
CAME OUT WELL.

© TOP GUN'S CITY OF HEROES ISSUE 20



COME ON.
WE'VE GOT
ONE MORE
PRISONER
TO VISIT.



CITADEL IS STILL RUNNING A
COMPLETE CHECK OF THE FACILITY,
AND SISTER PSYCHE AND NUMINA
ARE SCANNING TO MAKE SURE
THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF ALOR.

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A
COMPUTER SERVER IS ALL THAT'S
LEFT OF A BEING THAT USED TO
DESTROY WHOLE UNIVERSES JUST
TO FEED HIS GOD-DELUSIONS.



IT'S A PITY
THERE'S NOT
ENOUGH OF
HIM TO PUT
ON TRIAL.

GIVEN ALL THAT ALOR
ALLEGEDLY DID, THERE ISN'T A
TRIBUNAL POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO DISPENSE THE JUSTICE
NEEDED.

AS LONG AS THIS SERVER IS
KEPT SEPARATE FROM ANY
OTHER ELECTRICAL DEVICE AND
THERE'S NO ATTEMPT TO MESS
WITH THE PROGRAMMING TO
GET HIM TO TALK, HE'S IN THE
BEST PRISON POSSIBLE.

ALOR THOUGHT HIMSELF A
GOD. NOW HE'S NOTHING BUT
A DIGITAL MYTH. HE FINALLY
GOT WHAT HE DESERVED.

TALOS ISLAND

THERE IT IS... GUARDIAN BASE, DIRECTLY UNDER THE HUGE STATUE OF TALOS.

I CAN SEE WHY MIDNIGHT ARACHNIA LOVES TO SPEND HER LUNCHES UNDER HIS SHADOW. IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S REALLY THERE, WATCHING OVER US.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE HERE IN ANOTHER COSTUME, THOUGH. LIVING THROUGH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIFE.

I'M NOT SURE I'M READY FOR THIS, EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TODAY.

THE BIOMED ENHANCERS ARE OUT OF MY SYSTEM. ENHANCED HEALTH, ENDURANCE... GONE. EVERYTHING I DO NOW IS FROM MY OWN BODY.

THE HEAVIER KEVLAR AND BODY ARMOR MAKES UP FOR SOME OF THE LOST POWERS, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM.

OMEGA SHIFT SET UP MY "DOUBLE LIFE" UNDER THE NAME "MELISSA WALKER", MY FICTIONAL SISTER, BUT BASICALLY IT'S JUST CAPTAIN PARAGONNA WITH BLOND HAIR.

I'M STILL WITH THE POLICE FORCE, ALTHOUGH UNDER WHAT CAPACITY IS STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

BUT AT LEAST NOW I DON'T HAVE TO STAY ON THE SIDELINES WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE.

COME ON GRAMPS! GIVE IT UP!

AND THIS CITY SEEMS TO HAVE AN UNENDING SUPPLY OF TROUBLE.

HEY, FREAKSHOW! YOU'RE TWO SECONDS AWAY FROM THE WORST DAY OF YOUR LIFE!

WE'RE NOT... *UGH!*

POW!

OH WELL... TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK.

Fortunas NOT destined ones - dead end

SO THE CRISIS IS OVER WITH, AND I TAKE IT THE CHANGES ARE TO YOUR LIKING?

ASIDE FROM YOUR HAT. I BELIEVE THE COMMITTEE SAID THAT YOU NEEDED TO GET RID OF IT.

YEAHHH, WELL YOU KNOW ME AND COMMITTEES.

UNFORTUNATELY. BUT DON'T GET TOO CONFIDENT, GALEN. THERE IS STILL SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS THAT NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED.

HE WHO CHRONICLES...

UNFINISHED? IF YOU MEAN THAT THING WITH ICON POWERS AND THE DA'S OFFICE, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH A DONE DEAL, ISN'T IT?

I MEAN, THE "SCANDAL" IS ERASED WITH DAYBRIGHT BACK AMONG THE LIVING.

WAIT... GALATEA! DID OUROBOROS SEND HER BACK?

THEY WILL SHORTLY. YOU KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE HOW MASTERS OF TIME AND SPACE TEND TO WAIT UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE TO DO THINGS.

edit writes for
s - Keep secret!

Radioooo -
Alive?
Haunted?

WAIT... YES,
WAIT!

THAT'S IT!

IF TAINTED EVE BELIEVED THAT DAYBRIGHT WAS ON A SUICIDE MISSION, THEN WHY WAS SHE STILL IN LIMBO? WHO ELSE WAS SHE THERE FOR TO DO LIBRA'S WORK IN 2007?

VP zones

edit writes for
Keep secret!

tuff at CAD

NOT dest

WHAT ELSE DID LIBRA HAVE CHANGED IN THAT YEAR?

EPISON ERIANDI STAR SYSTEM

10.5 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH

EARTH YEAR: 2007

“<<MY LORD BARTIOK... THIS CREATURE HAS REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE...>>”

<<I WILL LET YOU LIVE FOR NOW... THIS ONE... PLEASES ME...>>*

<<SPEAK.>>

(* TRANSLATED FROM INTERGALACTIC LANGUAGE)

<<LORD BARTIOK... MY MASTER LIBRA SENDS HIS GREETINGS. I AM HIS LOYAL MISTRESS HERE TO OFFER YOU AN... OPPORTUNITY.>>



MISSTRESS LIBRA

<<IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO KHELDIANS...>>

<<THEY ARE FAR MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY ARE WORTH.>>

<<ACTUALLY, MY MASTER HAS ANOTHER RARE GROUP OF BEINGS IN MIND THAT ARE TRULY WORTHY OF YOUR GROWING CLIENTELE OF COLLECTORS.>>

<<HMM... AND WHERE IS THIS FOUND?>>

<<SOL-3... OTHERWISE KNOWN AS EARTH.>>

<<THEY ARE KNOWN AS GUARDIAN EXILES.>>





"Time and Changes"

Final Thoughts from “He Who Chronicles”

And so ends the first MAJOR storyline for the Guardians... “Time and Changes”.

Technically it’s not the FIRST storyline... that actually was the three-issue “Guardian Exiles” storyline at the start of this series. It’s not even the first “named” storyline... that was “Limelight”. But it was the biggest and the most dramatic of the storylines to date, and it was a storyline that **needed** to be done.

A lot of what was involved with making “TaC” happen was mirrored in the issues. A request came from “up high” to make some changes to the “key” characters so they would be less “inspired by” and more “just a hint of...”. Getting there wasn’t easy and it took a lot of hashing through ideas with certain people and being willing to give up certain elements that readers have come to know and love.

When you invest time and effort and energy into a project like this one, it’s not easy to simply scrap what you have. I have attributed it to being asked to cut off my own arm with a butter knife. Special thanks have to go to my fellow artists at the City of Comic Creators for putting up with me during this time and giving me the needed feedback.

Strangely enough, the character that will be facing the most changes because of this storyline is also the one with the least exposure in it: Galatea Powers. Galatea was the most “inspired by” of the characters, as well as a huge fan-favorite for readers. (I think there were a few reasons why... at least two of them.) Unfortunately, when the order came down to make changes, it was the one character that I found was hard to change.

As luck would have it, I had the idea for a “Galatea Future” story was on the back-burner as a possible spin-off or one-shot special. She was different enough from her “current” version to be allowed. And then going over the history of Icon Powers opened the door for Galatea’s “original universe” likeness to appear without the skin-tight body suit and White-Red-and-Blue colors.

Finally, as you discovered, the circumstances of this issue opened the door for an “acceptable” version of Galatea to finally be seen.

But don’t think for a moment that this is the END of the changes in her life!

Quite the contrary... this is just the beginning.

While “Time and Changes” is ending, another storyline will be starting up that will focus ON Galatea, and you saw hints of it during this storyline. In fact what you saw in Icon’s account of her history will play a key role in the next few issues.

By the time the next 3-part storyline is done, Galatea Powers will be even more of a citizen of Paragon City than ever before. And you’ll get a larger look of a certain superhero group that you have only seen in the periphery of both in-game and in this comic series... Which group? Well, I’m sure you’ll find out soon enough, and the title should give you a big enough of a hint to figure it out.

In the meantime, stay tuned for...

GALATEA DAWNING

<http://GuardiansOfTheDawn.wordpress.com>

NEXT ISSUE...



There’s more to Galatea that has changed besides her hair color.

Find out what else has changed with her in the next issue as “Galatea Dawning” begins!





SEE PARAGON CITY WITH THE...
C.C.C. COMPENDIUM
 STALKTRESS!
 NEO-CHA
 CITY OF COMIC CREATORS
 No. 13
 No. 11
 Parts of the
 2004
 No. 20
 No. 11
 Parts of the
 2004
 GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN!
 (AND A SPECIAL GUEST!)

C.C.C. COMPENDIUM
 THE EUROPEAN INVASION!
 PC PARAGON CITY

THE RETURN OF DRAGONBANE

BATTLE BOVINE
 GUEST STARRING:
Phoenix Force



Rena LIVE
 Rona Cosell

GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN
 SPOTLIGHT ON... DAYBRIGHT

THE LEGENDARY J-MAN

CITY OF HEROES

HARLEM HAMMER

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THE RIGHT CONNECTION
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