



FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 05
2013

THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED!



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From another time and from another world, Galatea Future arrived in the world of the Champions to do the one thing she tried so desperately to avoid before... to live.

It's not easy, though, when you're over a thousand years old and suddenly you're given a new life in more ways than one. Life is literally starting over again for her, and yet she is still doing what she does best: serving humanity as...

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

"THE HUNT" **- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2**

WHILE GALATEA FUTURE WAS BUSY SAVING MAYOR BISELLE FROM A VIPER ATTACK, A WOLF-LIKE HITMAN CALLING HIMSELF "MISTER BLUE" BEGAN HIS HUNT OF THE OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN AND ANYONE CLOSE TO HER, ESPECIALLY CANDACE SINCLAIR.

HAVING ALREADY PUT THE SWORD-WIELDING ADVENTURER STARLETT IN THE HOSPITAL, "MISTER BLUE" IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF AN INTENSE MANHUNT BY THE HEROES OF MILLENNIUM CITY, AND SPECIFICALLY BY GALATEA FUTURE.

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MILLENNIUM CITY, MICHIGAN, USA

I AM A WOMAN
ON A MISSION...



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

TO FIND A SUPER-
POWERED HIT MAN NAMED
"MISTER BLUE" AND STOP
HIM BEFORE HE GOES
AFTER ME THROUGH THE
PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT!



HE NEARLY KILLED
ANOTHER HERO WHO
TRIED TO INTERVENE.
A FRIEND THAT I
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
THAT I HAD.*

(* LAST ISSUE)

SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN ON A
HUNT FOR A SEVEN-FOOT
BLUE WOLF-LIKE HUMANOID
THAT SOMEHOW VANISHED
LIKE THE WIND.



BUT NOBODY, ESPECIALLY
NOT A SEVEN-FOOT WOLF-
LIKE HUMANOID, CAN STAY
GONE FOR THAT LONG.

SOMEONE KNOWS WHERE
HE IS HIDING.



WHERE
IS HE?

I JUST HAVE
TO PRY IT
OUT OF THAT
PERSON.

WHY ARE YOU
HIDING HIM?





S-STAY BACK... I'M WARNING YOU... MY PSI-POWER WILL KILL YOU IF YOU DON'T STOP!

I'VE PUT AWAY EIGHT OF YOUR COHORTS TODAY, AND THEY ALL MADE THE SAME CLAIM.



KA-POW!

I'M NOT IMPRESSED!



WE... WE DON'T KNOWWW...

IT WAS THE SAME EVERYWHERE I WENT...



AGENTS FROM PSI, ONE OF THE BIGGEST TELEPATHIC CRIMINAL GROUPS I'VE EVER HEARD OF, ALL HAVE NO IDEA WHERE "BLUE" IS HIDING.

THAT REALLY BOTHERS ME.


THESE GUYS PRIDE THEMSELVES ON KNOWING WHERE EVERYTHING IS.

IF THEY DON'T KNOW... THEN WHO DOES?



I'M SORRY, GALATEA, BUT ALL OF OUR SEARCH TEAMS HAVE COME UP EMPTY.

THEN THERE'S THE MILLENNIUM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. THEY'VE BEEN WORKING WITH ME TO FIND "BLUE"; SOMETIMES JUST AS HARD AS I HAVE.




AND AS MUCH AS WE'D LIKE TO HELP YOU MORE, WE'RE PRETTY BUSY COORDINATING WITH MAYOR BISELLE'S NEW ANTI-VIPER TASK FORCE.

WHICH, BY THE WAY, THE MAYOR HAS SAID HE STILL WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE TAKING POINT ON AFTER YOU TOOK DOWN THEIR GUNSHIPS.*

WHILE I OTHERWISE WOULD BE HONORED, I CAN'T.

NOT WHILE "BLUE" IS OUT THERE AND THREATENING PEOPLE I KNOW JUST TO GET TO ME.

(← LAST ISSUE)



I UNDERSTAND... AND BELIEVE ME, YOU'RE DOING YOUR FRIEND A HUGE SERVICE BY KEEPING HER UNDER GUARD YOURSELF.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW THE TASK FORCE WILL BE FUNDED GIVEN THE BUDGET CUTS WE'VE HAD TO MAKE!

WELL, THE ONE THING THAT I DO KNOW ABOUT POLITICIANS IS THAT WHEN THEY HAVE TO, THEY SOMEHOW KNOW HOW TO FUND THEIR PET PROGRAMS.

A LITTLE LEVITY TO HIDE MY FRUSTRATION.



BUT I KNOW THAT AT SOME POINT REAL SOON, IT'LL JUST BE ME DOING THIS.



ONE HERO LOOKING FOR ONE MONSTER.



STILL... NO STONE LEFT UNTURNED.
NO SEWER LINE EITHER.



I JUST WISH I COULD TURN OFF MY HYPER-SMELL WHEN I HAVE TO COME DOWN HERE.



POP HER! DON'T LET HER BREAK UP OUR HIDEOUT!

SOCK!

BULLETS JUST BOUNCE OFF HER, MAN!

IF ANYONE WOULD AID "BLUE", IT WOULD BE THE NEW PURPLE GANG, ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL STARLETT HAS BEEN DOING TO SHUT DOWN THEIR OPERATIONS.



I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY STILL TRY TO SHOOT ME, THOUGH.

IT'S LIKE THAT OLD PUNCHLINE..



"YOU ONLY HAD ONE JOB!"

POW!

AND SO IT GOES,
AND SO IT GOES...



DAY TURNS INTO
NIGHT, NIGHT
TURNS INTO
TWILIGHT...

I'M NOWHERE CLOSE
TO FINDING "BLUE"
THAN I WAS WHEN I
STARTED THE DAY.



AND I FIND MYSELF
COMING BACK TO THE
RENAISSANCE CENTER
TO END THE DAY.

I MAY BE INVULNERABLE,
BUT EVEN MY BRAIN
SUFFERS FROM A LACK
OF SLEEP EVENTUALLY.



I JUST NEED A
COUPLE OF HOURS
OF DOWNTIME AND
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
AT IT AGAIN.

A FEW HOURS LATER...

DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

"YOUR HONOR, I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS EITHER..."

THE PENTHOUSE OF ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE...


(A.K.A. GALATEA FUTURE)

NO, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE FOR ME.

I HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURITY JUST SO I CAN GO TO THE COURTHOUSE.

YES, I KNOW THE OLD SAYING ABOUT TIME AND TIDES.

I CAN MAKE SOME CALLS, BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT THERE ANY EARLIER THAN THIS AFTERNOON.

 **CANDACE SINCLAIR**
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

YES, YOUR HONOR, I WANT A SPEEDY TRIAL AS WELL. MY CLIENTS DESERVE THAT TOO.

NO, I'M NOT TRYING TO DRAG THINGS OUT.

YES, I WILL TRY TO BE THERE FOR THE HEARING.

YES, YOUR HONOR, I WILL INFORM MAJOR CROSS OF YOUR DISPLEASURE...

... AND I'LL BE SURE TO ADD MY OWN.

YES, YOUR HONOR.

YES, I WILL BE THERE AT 1PM, YOUR HONOR.

YES, BODYGUARD OR NO BODYGUARD.

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

MORNING... COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YOUR HALF OF THE CONVERSATION. EVERYTHING OKAY?

ACTUALLY IT'S CLOSER TO NOONTIME, AND, NO, THINGS ARE NOT OKAY.

JUDGE FAGAN WANTS ME TO BE AT AN IMPROMPTU SIDEBAR HEARING AT 1PM, WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO GIVE MAJOR CROSS A CALL TO PROVIDE A BODYGUARD AT SHORT NOTICE...

UNLESS YOU'RE ABLE TO GEAR UP AND FLY ME OVER THERE YOURSELF.



WISH I COULD... BUT CROSS WANTS ME TO BRING IN A NEW HERO ON THIS HUNT...
 SOMEONE TO PROVIDE "FRESH EYES", OR SO HE SAYS.
 DO WE HAVE ANY COFFEE?



ALL OUT. THE CONCIERGE DESK SAYS THEY'LL BE DOING THE SHOPPING LATER THIS AFTERNOON.
 I GUESS I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP AT MY APARTMENT BEFOREHAND, THEN. I'LL JUST HAVE TO WEAR ONE OF MY OTHER SUIT JACKETS.

I'M SORRY, CAN. I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO FIND THIS GUY SO HE WON'T TRY TO FIND YOU TO GET TO ME, BUT IT'S NOT EASY.



IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE HE ATTACKED STARLETT.
 ISN'T IT POSSIBLE HE JUST... I DON'T KNOW... GAVE UP?



I'VE DEALT WITH CONTRACT KILLERS AND MERCENARIES IN OTHER UNIVERSES.

NONE OF THEM HAVE EVER BACKED DOWN THIS EARLY INTO AN ASSIGNMENT.



WELL MAYBE YOU COULD LET ME GO BACK HOME AND YOU CAN JUST WATCH ME REMOTELY UNTIL HE ARRIVES?
 I'M SERIOUS, TAYA... I LOVE YOU LIKE A SISTER, BUT I CAN'T KEEP HIDING HERE AND GOING OUT ONLY UNDER UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION!
 I'M GOING CRAZY HERE!

I KNOW, CAN... D@MNIT I KNOW...
 THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN OUT THERE EVERY SINGLE DAY, DAY-IN AND DAY-OUT, TRYING TO FIND THAT MONSTER.
 AS LONG AS I'M OUT HUNTING HIM, HE'S NOT HUNTING YOU.



AT THE EXPENSE OF MY CAREER AND YOURS.
HOW LONG BEFORE YOUR BOOK DEADLINE?



TO HELL WITH THE PUBLISHERS... I'LL WORRY ABOUT THE BOOK AFTER I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE FROM "BLUE".



LIKE HELL YOU WILL!
GALATEA, I SPENT WEEKS HELPING YOU CREATE THE IDENTITY OF ATHENA FAIRMORE JUST SO YOU COULD HAVE A PERSONAL LIFE!
YOU CAN'T JUST PUT THAT LIFE ON HOLD BECAUSE IT'S AN "INCONVENIENCE".

ALL OF THIS... EVERYTHING YOU SEE HERE... IS ALL FOR ATHENA FAIRMORE, NOT FOR GALATEA FUTURE!
A YOUNG WOMAN THAT BY ALL RIGHTS **DIED** IN 1992 AS A LITTLE GIRL IN THE BATTLE OF DETROIT!
I HELPED TO GIVE THAT GIRL NEW LIFE THROUGH YOU, AND **WILL BE DAMNED** IF I LET YOU JUST CAST IT ASIDE LIKE AN ANNOYANCE!



YOU'RE RIGHT... **D@MNIT**, YOU'RE RIGHT...
AND YOU DID PUT IN ALL THIS EFFORT FOR ME...
I'M SORRY.



I'VE NEVER REALLY SEEN YOU THIS DEFENSIVE, THOUGH.
IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE LIKE IN THE COURTROOM?



I'M A LOT TAMER IN THE COURTROOM.
BUT I REALLY STUCK MY NECK OUT FOR YOU ON BEING ATHENA, AND I'VE NEVER DONE THAT FOR ANYONE BEFORE.
SO... YEAH, LET'S CATCH "BLUE", BUT DON'T DO IT AT THE EXPENSE OF WHAT YOU AND I HAVE INVESTED.

OKAY. DULY CHASTISED.
AND... I GUESS I SHOULD GIVE MAJOR CROSS A CALL TO GET THAT SECURITY DETAIL FOR YOUR HEARING BEFORE I HEAD OUT AGAIN.

AN HOUR LATER...



OKAY, IT SHOULD BE RIGHT ABOUT...



... HERE.

IT'S ONE THING TO KNOW THERE'S A MAGIC FIELD...



SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

... IT'S ANOTHER THING TO ACTUALLY WALK THROUGH IT.

CREEPY.



I HAVE GOOSE BUMPS ON TOP OF GOOSE BUMPS.



GREETINGS, GALATEA FUTURE.

UM... HI.



WITCHCRAFT TOLD ME TO EXPECT YOU HERE.*
MISS DEL GELO IS IN THE ARCANIA STORE, YOU CAN TAKE THE DOOR TO YOUR LEFT.

IS THERE... SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO ASK ME?



ALIGIA BLACKMUN
MAGIC LANTERN BOOKSTORE

* WITCHCRAFT IS A MEMBER OF THE CHAMPIONS AND KNOWS GALATEA FROM "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #1 BACK IN 2011!



WOW... YOU'RE GOOD.
TWO THINGS, ACTUALLY.
FIRST, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF
THIS MAGIC FIELD?
AND SECOND, WHAT CAN YOU
TELL ME ABOUT MISS DEL GELO?



THE FIELD IS HERE TO PROTECT THE
TWO BUILDINGS.

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE OLD
SAYING, "KNOWLEDGE IS POWER",
THAT APPLIES DOUBLY SO FOR THE
WORLD OF MAGIC.

BOTH THE ARCANA STORE AND
MY BOOKSTORE REPRESENT
INCREDIBLE POWER FOR THOSE
WILLING TO USE THE KNOWLEDGE
THEY POSSESS.

THIS FIELD IS A MODEST
FORM OF PROTECTION.

TO THE UN-WELCOMED,
THE FIELD HIDES THE
DOORS TO THE STORE
AND MY BOOKSTORE, SO
THEY DON'T KNOW HOW OR
WHERE TO ENTER.

THE FIELD ALSO INVOKES
FEAR AND PANIC,
CAUSING THEM TO FLEE
FROM THE AREA.



AS FOR MISS DEL GELO...
WELL, IT'S BEST IF YOU
FOUND OUT FOR YOURSELF.
THE DOORWAY IS WAITING.





IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
IN AN OLD
"NEVERWINTER"
KIND OF WAY.



HELLO? ANYONE HERE?
I'M LOOKING FOR
CYNTHIA DEL GELO. I
WAS TOLD TO MEET HER
HERE.



I'M UP HERE.
AND IT'S CYNTHIA
REGINA DEL GELO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO
USE MY NAME, PLEASE
USE IT COMPLETELY.


MY APOLOGIES,
MAJOR CROSS TELLS ME THAT
YOU COME WELL-RECOMMENDED
BY RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY.

THOUGH I'M SURPRISED YOU'D
WANT TO WORK SO CLOSE TO
A BRIMSTONE FORGE, GIVEN
WHAT I WAS TOLD ABOUT
YOUR ABILITIES.

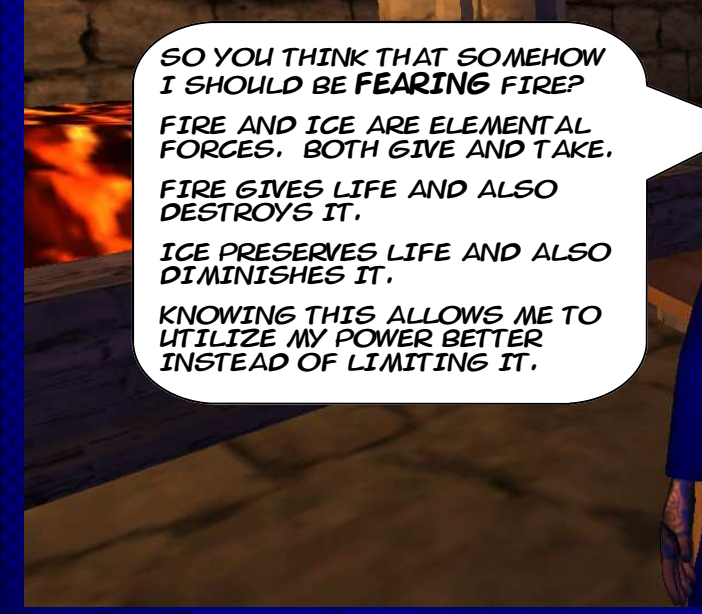





SO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT MAGIC?



I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE WITH PEOPLE WHO USE MAGIC BEFORE. I KNOW THAT FIRE AND ICE ARE DIAMETRIC OPPOSITES.




SO YOU THINK THAT SOMEHOW I SHOULD BE FEARING FIRE? FIRE AND ICE ARE ELEMENTAL FORCES. BOTH GIVE AND TAKE. FIRE GIVES LIFE AND ALSO DESTROYS IT. ICE PRESERVES LIFE AND ALSO DIMINISHES IT. KNOWING THIS ALLOWS ME TO UTILIZE MY POWER BETTER INSTEAD OF LIMITING IT.



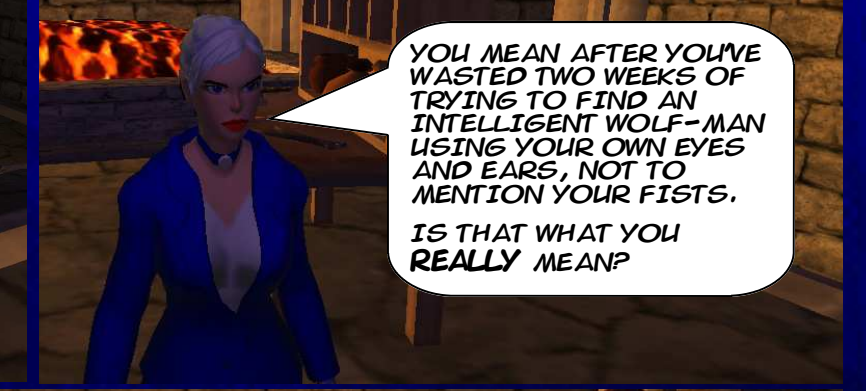
BUT MAJOR CROSS DIDN'T SEND YOU HERE TO GET A LESSON IN BASIC ELEMENTAL MAGIC. HE SENT YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU NEED ME TO FIND YOUR WOLF-MAN.



 **CYNTHIA REGINA DEL GELO**
RAVENSWOOD ACADEMY GRADUATE




YOU SOUND CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING THAT DOZENS OF HEROES COULDN'T.



YOU MEAN AFTER YOU'VE WASTED TWO WEEKS OF TRYING TO FIND AN INTELLIGENT WOLF-MAN USING YOUR OWN EYES AND EARS, NOT TO MENTION YOUR FISTS. IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN?



AND YOU THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER?



I DON'T *THINK* IT. I KNOW IT. MAJOR CROSS CALLED ME IN BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZES THE TALENT AND THE SKILLS, AND BECAUSE YOU'RE LOSING THE EXTRA MANPOWER FROM THE POLICE. YOU NEED ME... BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING SLOPPY OR STUPID.



SINCE YOU'RE SO SURE OF YOURSELF, HOW DO YOU PLAN ON FINDING HIM?

WATER IS A KEY ELEMENT OF LIFE THAT CREATES ICE. IF "BLUE" IS HIDING ANYPLACE WHERE WATER CROSSES, I CAN FIND HIM USING A LOCATOR SPELL.

THINK OF IT AS A REVERSE DIVINING SPELL; INSTEAD OF A PERSON USING MAGIC TO FIND WATER, I'LL BE USING MAGIC THROUGH WATER TO FIND A PERSON... OR IN THIS CASE A WOLF-LIKE BEING.



OKAYYYY...

I LEAD YOU TO HIM, YOU MAKE THE BUST. AND WE BOTH GET THE CREDIT! I EXPECT NOTHING LESS THAN RECOGNITION FOR THE SKILLS THAT I BRING TO THIS LITTLE WOLF-HUNT.



FAIR ENOUGH. OKAY, YOU DO YOUR THING, THEN LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU FIND HIM.



OH, AND ONE MORE THING...



YES?



WHEN I'M OUT IN THE FIELD, YOU CAN REFER TO ME AS... **Elite ice**

 **ELITE ICE**
ELEMENTAL MYSTIC

ELSEWHERE...

OH GALATEA...

WHAT A
WONDERFUL
QUARRY YOU
TURN OUT TO
BE!!

YOU THINK THAT
I'M HIDING...
THAT I'M AFRAID
OF YOU...

 "MISTER BLUE"
SUPER-POWERED HIT MAN

WHEN, IN TRUTH, YOUR SO-
CALLED "PURSUIT" OF ME
ALLOWS ME TO CALIBRATE
THIS PSIONIC DEVICE TO
BETTER TRACK YOU.

ALL OF THAT VERY VISIBLE
FLYING AROUND MAKES YOU
THE PERFECT TARGET.

AND NOW I CAN USE THIS
DEVICE TO TRACK YOUR
LOCATION THROUGH
YOUR BRAIN WAVES.

AND TO THINK THAT CHILD-LIKE
KEVIN POE BELIEVED HE COULD USE
THIS DEVICE TO "LIQUEFY BRAINS"!

NOT ONLY WOULD IT NOT WORK IN
THE WAY THAT HE WANTED IT TO,
BUT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF ITS
FULLEST POTENTIAL.

WHY TRY TO DESTROY **ALL** MINDS
WHEN YOU CAN USE THIS DEVICE TO
FIND ONE SPECIFIC MIND AMONG
MANY?

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT
AND SEE WHERE YOU GO...

AND ALSO WHERE YOU STAY...

AND I'LL KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU
AND THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
I WILL HAVE MY TARGET.

LATER...

SHE SEEMED A BIT TOO CONFIDENT... NOT TO MENTION QUITE ARROGANT.

U.N.T.I.L. HEADQUARTERS

THAT MAY BE, BUT ACCORDING TO RAVENSWOOD, SHE'S THE BEST AT WHAT SHE DOES.

MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

IF YOU MEAN TO TURN PEOPLE OFF, THEN I AGREE.

RIGHT NOW BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS.

SHE IS SOMEONE THAT I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY EYES ON...

OBVIOUSLY FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION...

BUT "BLUE" FORCED ME TO SPEED THINGS UP.

PLUS... I HAPPEN TO HAVE THE VIDEO FOOTAGE OF YOUR STANDOFF WITH THOSE VIPER GUNSHIPS, AND YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY BEING MODEST WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT YOUR OWN CAPABILITIES.*

NOW GRANTED, YOU CAN BACK UP MOST OF WHAT YOU CLAIM; BUT TO SOMEONE LIKE ELITE ICE, WHO IS JUST STARTING OUT, SHE SEES WHAT YOU DO AND SHE THINKS THIS IS STANDARD PROCEDURE.

(* LAST ISSUE)

OKAY, MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I LED BY EXAMPLE.

BUT I STILL HAVE EXPERIENCE TO RELY ON... ELITE ICE DOESN'T.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE THIS IS JUST A GAME TO HER.

THEN IT'S UP TO YOU TO SHOW HER THAT IT'S NOT.

WHETHER YOU BOTH LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE HER MENTOR ON HOW TO BE A HERO.

GET SOME REST AND LET HER GET HER SPELL GOING. CROSS OUT.



SECURE ROOM
DISENGAGED.

I NEED TO GET OUT
OF THIS OUTFIT!
TIMES LIKE THESE,
IT REALLY SUCKS TO
HAVE HYPER-SMELL!



HEY CAN?
I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER TO
TRY TO GET THE STENCH OF
BRIMSTONE OUT OF MY NOSE,
BUT MAYBE AFTERWARD, YOU
AND I CAN GO TO DARREN'S
PIZZA AND SPLURGE ON A
CHICAGO PIE?

WE BOTH COULD USE
THE BREAK, RIGHT?



THUD



I MEAN, AFTER ATHENA
RETURNS FROM HER ERRANDS,
SINCE THIS IS HER
APARTMENT, AND I DON'T
WANT HER TO THINK THAT I'M
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER
HOSPITALITY.

I AM SO DEAD
RIGHT NOW! I'M
WALKING AROUND
HALF OUT OF MY
OUTFIT IN FRONT
OF STRANGERS!



WAIT... GALATEA... THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK... THIS IS... UM...



IT'S OKAY, CANDACE... GALATEA KNOWS WHO I AM...



... EVEN IF SHE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE MY CURRENT APPEARANCE.



AGENT SIDESTEP!

YOU BETTER HAVE A **D**OWN GOOD REASON WHY YOU'RE STICKING YOUR NOSE AROUND HERE!



I'M HERE BECAUSE I HAVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU REGARDING YOUR ASSASSIN.

'TAYA, SIDESTEP WAS THE ONE THAT CONVINCED ME TO TAKE UP YOUR CASE AGAINST MARKMAN GOLD!* HE'S HERE TO HELP YOU!

+ AGENT SIDESTEP
MULTIVERSE OPERATIVE

(* FROM "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #4)



CANDACE, THE FIRST TIME I ENCOUNTERED HIM, HE ACCUSED ME OF BEING A MULTIVERSE THREAT AND **ATTACKED** ME. I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I TAKE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY SUSPICIOUSLY. **ARRGH...** I'LL AGREE TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, BUT IF HE STARTS ATTACKING ME AGAIN, I'LL KNOCK HIM INTO THE MOON!

AND I GUESS I BETTER PUT THE REST OF MY OUTFIT BACK ON... IN CASE I HAVE TO DO JUST THAT.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

FIRST THINGS FIRST...
WHO ARE YOU AN
"AGENT" FOR?

I'VE KNOWN THEM ONLY AS
THE COUNCIL OF LIGHT.
THEY ARE A GROUP OF
ADVANCED MULTIVERSE
BEINGS DEDICATED TO
MAKING SURE THE
MULTIVERSE ITSELF
CONTINUES TO EXIST.

MY ORIGINAL MISSION
WAS TO ASSESS YOUR
THREAT CAPACITY, NOT
ONLY IN TERMS OF YOUR
POWER-LEVELS BUT ALSO
THE PROBABILITY THAT
YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS
UNIVERSE COULD ATTRACT
OTHER MULTIVERSE
THREATS.

I REMEMBER THAT.
I ALSO REMEMBER THAT
YOUR SUPERIORS TOLD
YOU THAT I WASN'T
THAT "NIGH-OMEGA"
BEING ANYMORE.*

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

THEY DID, BUT THEN MY
ASSIGNMENT WAS
CHANGED TO CONTINUE
TO OBSERVE YOU TO
SEE IF YOU COULD
EVENTUALLY RETURN TO
THOSE POWER LEVELS.

THEY MODIFIED MY
APPEARANCE SO I
COULD BLEND IN
BETTER WITH THIS
WORLD.

SO YOU'RE HERE AS AN
"OBSERVER", RIGHT?
WELL WHAT CHANGED TO
SUDDENLY HELP ME
LIKE YOU DID IN 2012?
AND WHY DECIDE TO
MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN
TO ME NOW?

I HAVE ACTUALLY AIDED
YOU IN TWO PREVIOUS
INSTANCES.

THE FIRST WAS WHEN YOU
HAD YOUR "BLACKOUT"
FOLLOWING YOUR
MISSION IN AFRICA.*

IN THAT INSTANCE AND THE ONE INVOLVING
MISTER GOLD, I OPERATED OUTSIDE OF
THE SANCTION OF THE COUNCIL AND WAS
DULY CHASTISED FOR IT.

BUT THIS TIME IS DIFFERENT. THIS TIME I
AM COMING TO YOU WITH THE FULL
SUPPORT OF MY SUPERIORS.

THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES YOUR NEW
STATUS AS ONE OF THIS WORLD'S
GUARDIANS AND FEELS IT IS ONLY
RIGHT TO WARN YOU ABOUT THE
ASSASSIN THAT YOU KNOW AS
"MISTER BLUE".

HIS REAL NAME IS **GRIFF**, AND HE IS
A GENETICALLY-MODIFIED
MULTIVERSE OPERATIVE DESIGNED TO
TRACK DOWN A TARGET FROM ANY
PLACE IN ANY GIVEN UNIVERSE.

(* THE LOST ADVENTURES
OF GALATEA FUTURE* #3)

THE ONLY WAY GRIFF WOULD COME AFTER YOU WOULD BE IF SOMEONE HIRED HIM TO FIND AND ELIMINATE YOU. HE IS A METHODOICAL HUNTER. IF ANYTHING, STARLETT DID YOU A FAVOR BY TIPPING YOU OFF TO HIS PRESENCE.



WHO HIRED HIM? WHY? AND HOW DID HE FIND ME HERE?

WE DON'T KNOW WHO HIRED GRIFF OR WHY.

AS TO HOW HE FOUND YOU, I WOULD SUSPECT THE SAME WAY THAT I DID; YOUR ORIGINAL QUANTUM SIGNATURE.

"WHEN YOU WERE SENT HERE IN 2011, YOUR BODY STILL HAD THE RESIDUAL QUANTUM ENERGY FROM YOUR PREVIOUS UNIVERSE. THIS WAS HOW I WAS ABLE TO TRACK YOU."



"AS WELL AS CHANGE MY HAIR COLOR."

"A SIDE EFFECT, BUT, YES, THAT TOO."

"HOWEVER, THE LONGER YOU STAYED HERE IN THIS UNIVERSE, THE MORE YOUR BODY WAS ACCLIMATED TO IT, THUS IT LOST THAT UNIQUE QUANTUM FREQUENCY."

"YOUR ORIGINAL QUANTUM TRAIL COULD STILL BE DETECTED IN THE VOID BETWEEN UNIVERSE, IF SOMEONE HAD THE RIGHT DEVICES, BUT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO USE IT TO SPECIFICALLY FIND YOU IN THIS UNIVERSE."

SO IF HE COULD FIND GALATEA THROUGH HER QUANTUM SIGNATURE, COULDN'T YOU FIND HIM THROUGH HIS?

GRIFF IS AN EXPERIENCED MULTIVERSE TRAVELER. HIS BODY ARMOR IS DESIGNED TO MASK HIS OWN QUANTUM SIGNATURE EVEN FROM MY DEVICES.

I HAVE TO LET MAJOR CROSS KNOW ABOUT THIS.

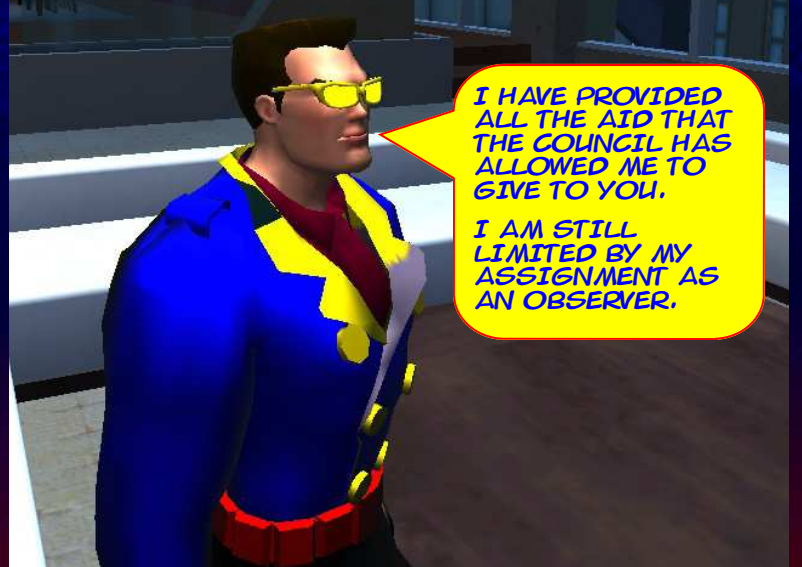
OR... AT LEAST THE PART ABOUT GRIFF AND WHY HE'S HERE...


CAN I COUNT ON YOUR HELP IN STOPPING HIM?



I HAVE PROVIDED ALL THE AID THAT THE COUNCIL HAS ALLOWED ME TO GIVE TO YOU.


I AM STILL LIMITED BY MY ASSIGNMENT AS AN OBSERVER.





I DON'T BUY THAT!
YOU SAID EARLIER THAT
YOU'VE STEPPED IN BEFORE
TO HELP ME... **TWICE** IN
FACT.
HOW DOES THAT DIFFER
FROM NOW?

YES, I DID HELP YOU
PREVIOUSLY, AND I WAS
CENSURED BY THE
COUNCIL FOR IT.
I RISK BEING RECALLED
IF I DO SO AGAIN.

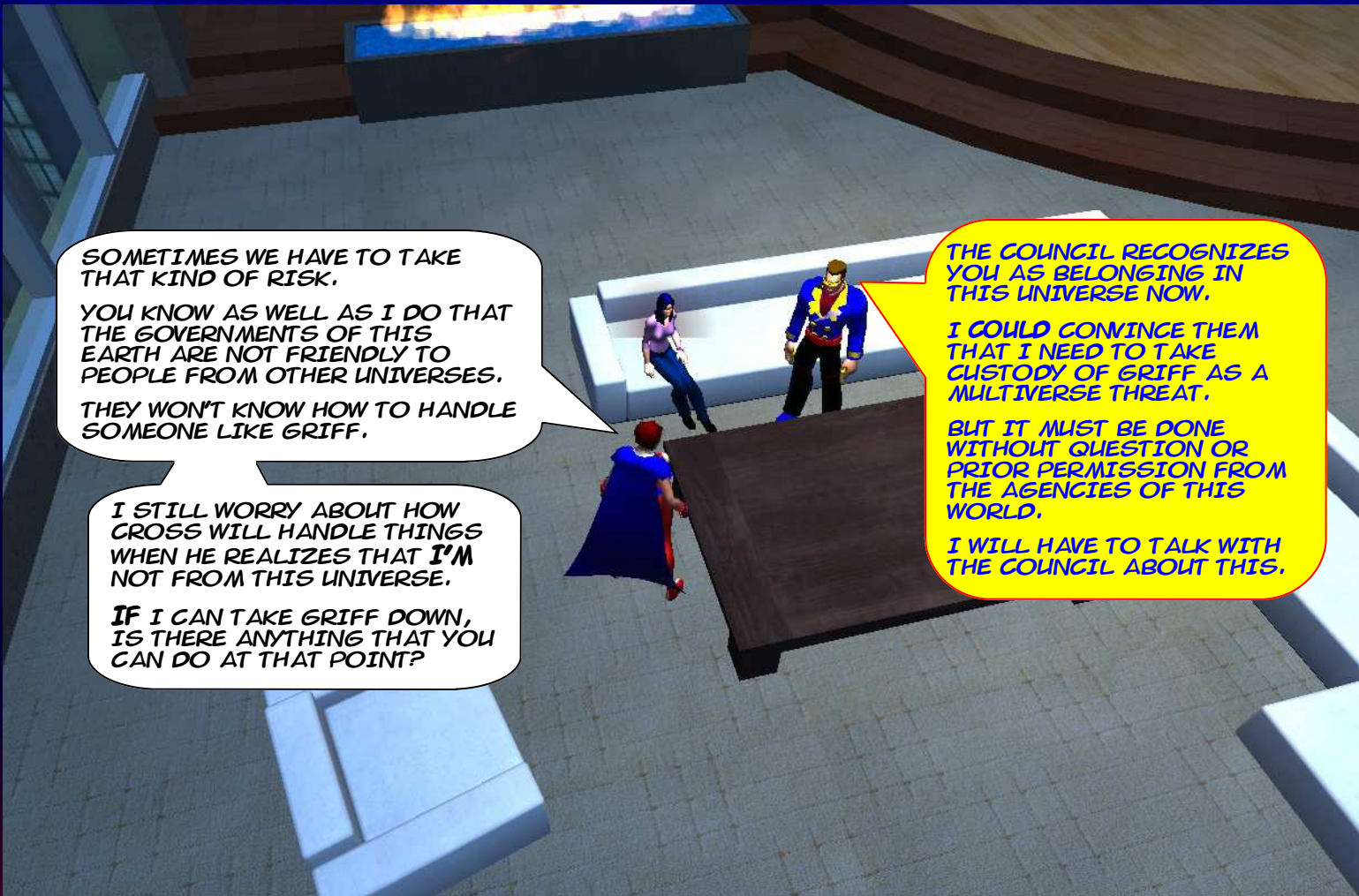


THEN DON'T HELP
ME... HELP CANDACE!
I WASN'T SEEING
THINGS WHEN I SAW
YOU TWO TOGETHER.
I CAN TELL YOU
CARE ABOUT HER.

WAIT...
YOU...?



IT'S FOR THAT
REASON WHY I
CANNOT RISK
BEING RECALLED.



SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE
THAT KIND OF RISK.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT
THE GOVERNMENTS OF THIS
EARTH ARE NOT FRIENDLY TO
PEOPLE FROM OTHER UNIVERSES.
THEY WON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE
SOMEONE LIKE GRIFF.

I STILL WORRY ABOUT HOW
CROSS WILL HANDLE THINGS
WHEN HE REALIZES THAT **I'M**
NOT FROM THIS UNIVERSE.
IF I CAN TAKE GRIFF DOWN,
IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU
CAN DO AT THAT POINT?

THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZES
YOU AS BELONGING IN
THIS UNIVERSE NOW.

I COULD CONVINCE THEM
THAT I NEED TO TAKE
CUSTODY OF GRIFF AS A
MULTIVERSE THREAT.

BUT IT MUST BE DONE
WITHOUT QUESTION OR
PRIOR PERMISSION FROM
THE AGENCIES OF THIS
WORLD.

I WILL HAVE TO TALK WITH
THE COUNCIL ABOUT THIS.

"NO. OUT OF THE QUESTION."

"YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN PROPOSED IT WITHOUT CHECKING WITH ME."

"IF AGENT SIDESTEP IS RIGHT, I MAY NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM, NEVER MIND YOU BEING ABLE TO INCARCERATE HIM."

UNTIL

"DON'T BE SO SURE. GRIFF OR 'BLUE' OR WHATEVER HE GOES BY ISN'T THE FIRST EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL BEING WE'VE ENCOUNTERED."

"I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE BIGFOOT OR THE YETI."

NOR AM I. AND THEY WEREN'T THE FIRST ONES TO VISIT OUR UNIVERSE EITHER.

MAYBE, BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD GRIFF IN CUSTODY? SEND HIM TO DEVIL'S HEAD MESA IN THE DESERT? HOLD HIM WITH THE WORST THAT THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER?

YES. UNDERSTAND THIS: THAT MONSTER ATTACKED A REGISTERED HERO IN MILLENNIUM CITY AND ALMOST KILLED HER! THAT MEANS WE HAVE JURISDICTION!

IF AGENT SIDESTEP WANTS TO CLAIM HIM, HE HAS TO DO SO THROUGH U.N.T.I.L. FIRST. IF... NO, WHEN... YOU TAKE GRIFF DOWN, YOU ARE TO PUT HIM IN U.N.T.I.L. CUSTODY, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. IS THAT CLEAR?

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I'M NOW A MEMBER OF U.N.T.I.L.

YOU NEVER STOPPED BEING ONE FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED HERE.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK IF YOUR LOYALTIES ARE WITH THIS WORLD OR WITH AGENT SIDESTEP'S. DON'T MAKE ME START DOING THAT NOW.

THE DEL GELO FAMILY SANCTUM



THERE YOU ARE!



THIS IS U.N.T.I.L. COMMAND...
STATE YOUR NAME AND INTENTIONS.



YOU WILL INFORM MAJOR CROSS THAT ELITE ICE HAS FOUND MISTER BLUE.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

EMPTY...
I'M TOO LATE.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS WAS KEVIN POE...

BUT IT TURNS OUT THIS IS JUST A MANNEQUIN DRESSED IN POE'S CLOTHES.

THEATRICALS...
GRIFF WANTED ME TO KNOW HE WAS HERE.

HE DESTROYED THE EQUIPMENT HE USED, BUT HE LEFT THIS TO GIVE ME A HINT OF WHAT HE USED.

I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW HE USED IT... OR WHERE HE WENT.

ELSEWHERE...

THIS IS CANDACE SINCLAIR... I'M CALLING AGAIN ABOUT THE ARMED ESCORT THAT IS TO GO WITH ME TO CITY HALL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW?
I'VE BEEN HERE FOR FIFTEEN... HELLO? HELLOO?

THUD

GOOD AFTERNOON MISS SINCLAIR.

I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR PLANS HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

YOU WILL COME WITH ME NOW.

I PRESUME I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

OF COURSE YOU DO.
BUT THE ALTERNATIVE IS NOT... PREFERRED.



GREETINGS.

I PRESUME THAT GALATEA FUTURE IS WATCHING THIS VIDEO, SINCE IT IS INTENDED FOR HER.



FIRST, I ASSURE YOU THAT MISS SINCLAIR IS ALIVE AND UNHARMED.

I HAVE NO NEED TO HARM HER SINCE SHE IS NEEDED AS A WITNESS TO THE COMPLETION OF MY ASSIGNMENT.



THAT BRINGS US TO THE MATTER AT HAND... NAMELY YOUR **DEATH** BY MY HAND.

UNLIKE THE ACTIONS OF THE YOUNG MISS STARLETT, WHOSE DEMISE I ASSURE YOU WAS NOT PART OF MY *MODUS OPERANDI*, I BELIEVE IN GIVING YOU A FIGHTING CHANCE TO MEET YOUR END.

WE ARE BOTH, AFTER ALL, INTELLIGENT BEINGS, NOT SOME MINDLESS CREATURES.


I HAVE HAD PLENTY OF TIME HERE TO OBSERVE YOU IN ACTION AND TO GAUGE YOUR POWERS, SO I KNOW THAT PHYSICALLY YOU ARE NO MATCH AGAINST ME.

STILL, YOU ARE WORTH FACING YOUR EXECUTIONER.



WHAT I PROPOSE IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD CONFRONTATION.

NO WEAPONS. JUST YOU VERSUS MY ENHANCED STRENGTH AND BODY ARMOR.



SINCE YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO GIVE YOUR FRIEND A GPS WATCH, I'LL LET YOU USE THAT TO FIND WHERE WE WILL MEET FOR OUR FIRST... AND LAST... ENCOUNTER.



I WANT A TRACE ON GALATEA'S SOCRATES ACCOUNT.

I WANT THAT GPS SIGNAL **YESTERDAY!**

AND GET ELITE ICE ON THE COM.

IT'S TIME SHE REALLY EARNED HER STRIPES.

WESTSIDE - AN HOUR LATER...



I'M HERE...

MUCH TO MY PLEASURE...
AND TO HERS, I WOULD IMAGINE.



CANDACE, ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M OKAY...

HUMBLED AND SCARED, AND SITTING ON COLD AND DIRTY CONCRETE, BUT I'M OKAY.



AS PROMISED, SHE IS NOT HARMED.

SHE BROUGHT YOU TO ME, AND NOW SHE WILL BE MY WITNESS TO YOUR DEATH.



BEFORE WE DO THIS, I WANT TO KNOW ONE THING, GRIFF... WHO HIRED YOU?



SO SOMEONE TOLD YOU MY REAL NAME...

I GUESS I SHOULD THANK THEM AFTERWARD... THIS WHOLE *MISTER BLUE* THING WAS GETTING ANNOYING FOR ME.

TO BE HONEST, I NEVER REALLY KNOW WHO HIRES ME... AND I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHOM THEY ARE EITHER.

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THE MONEY AND THE HUNT.

THE CLIENT PAID WELL FOR MY TRAVEL EXPENSES, AND YOU'VE PROVIDED A SUPERB HUNTING EXPERIENCE FOR ME.



I SHOULD CAUTION YOU
BEFOREHAND THAT I'M
WEARING LEVEL-FIVE
KINETIC DAMPENING BODY
ARMOR.

JUST SO YOU'LL KNOW WHY
YOUR PUNCHES WILL FAIL
TO TRULY HARM ME.

ARE YOU READY?

LET'S DO
THIS.

KA-POW!

MY TURN!

OH CR@P!



MY BRAIN HAS MENTALLY SHUT OFF THE SOUNDS OF OUR BLOWS.

BUT I CAN FEEL EVERY PUNCH AND HOW IT AFFECTS MY BODY.

HIS ARMOR IS MAKING HIM MY PHYSICAL EQUAL.





UNLESS... I CAN OVERWHELM HIS ARMOR?



BZZT!

BZZT!

APPARENTLY SO!



MISS SINCLAIR... DON'T MAKE A SOUND.

HUH?



I SAID DON'T MAKE A SOUND!
I'M FREEZING THE CHAIN KEEPING YOU HERE SO WE CAN MOVE.

WHAM!

WHAM! WHAM!



I'M ELITE ICE. I WORK WITH GALATEA. I WAS ORDERED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE.
COME ON... LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT GALATEA?

WHAM!

WHAM!

WHAM!

WHAM!



COME ON!
GASP *GASP*
IS THAT ALL
YOU GOT?

"SOUNDS LIKE
SHE HAS HIM
RIGHT WHERE SHE
WANTS HIM."



RARRRR!

IT'S NOT ABOUT
STRENGTH...

IT'S NOT ABOUT
TECHNOLOGY...



IT'S ABOUT
ENDURANCE.



IT'S ABOUT
THE HEART.



IT'S ABOUT
FIGHTING WITH
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE.



HUFF... *HUFF...*

NOW COMES
THE REALLY
HARD PART.



IT'S DONE. *HUFF...*
COME GET HIM...
BEFORE I... CHANGE
MY MIND.

WHO DID SHE
CALL?
FIND OUT IN
THE NEXT ISSUE!

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.



UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
Project Mycroft - Major Xavier Cross, U.N.T.I.L. Commander



CLASSIFIED INFORMATION - EYES ONLY

Subject: United Nations Security Council Resolution 67a

We've suspected for years that ours was not the only universe. The very existence of magic is proof that there are realms that extend beyond our own.

We've hidden the knowledge of some of these places by saying that they're fairy tales or mythological stories, as if by doing so we could somehow make them less real. But that doesn't change the fact that these places do exist. That our "universe" is really a multiverse of different realities and dimensions.

Near the end of World War II, there were rumors that Adolph Hitler was obsessed with using mystical powers from the Norse gods to bolster his forces and cement his stranglehold on the world. Unearthed German documents that were never made public showed that Hitler indeed possessed Norn Stones, which would give him the power of Asgard itself. However, there was no mention that he was able to unlock their secrets, although one would suspect that if he did then he would not have committed suicide near the end of the war.

Heaven, Hell, Olympus, Asgard, Azarath, Purgatory, they all exist in one way or another. And that knowledge is terrifying to many people of this world. It's one thing to tell them about mythical gods. It's another to show that these gods and the realms they call home do exist.

In 1949, the United Nations Security Council met in closed-door sessions to discuss the potential threat of extra-dimensional forces. If the "gods" of myth really did exist and were from other realms, then why did they suddenly stop appearing? Why did they stop making contact with us "mere mortals"? What other realms were out there? And who were in those realms waiting for us?

The possible answers were staggering to the delegates.

Long before the United Nations Tribunal on International Law was even formed, the Security Council tried to establish rules concerning multiverse travel and their visitors. Unfortunately, barring the technological development needed for such a task, the only known sources of travel to other realms involved magic. And given the secretive nature of the various mystical orders to begin with, these were the first groups prohibited.

Even while the world was saying "Never Again" over the horrors of Jewish persecution, their leaders were letting history repeat itself over mystical groups, many of them influenced by the same religious voices of previous tragedies.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 67a was the first attempt to regulate extra-dimensional visitors. It declared the United Nations to serve as the only authority entitled to

Continues on next page...

provide residency or sanctuary status for, quote, “any sentient being whose origins are outside of the known universe or dimension.”

While simple enough, it was difficult to enforce, especially when it was revealed that certain mystical beings were born in this universe. Appearances alone were not enough of a determination.

UNSCR 67a became the basis for the eventual creation of the United Nations Tribunal on International Law. While the initial purpose of UNTIL was to assess and determine the status of extra-dimensional beings, it was then expanded to include all threats to Earth’s survival, including threats from outer space and from under the ocean.

With the recent development of dimensional transportation from Harmon Industries, including the accidental creation of a portal to the universe known as Multifaria, attention has once again focused on the possible threat of inter-dimensional invasion. Only this time we know that the threat is not just mystical beings. The threat could very well come from alternate realities; realities similar to our own, maybe even identical in almost every way. The fact that someone like Defender could in an alternate reality become a tyrant far worse than Doctor Destroyer is a scary notion indeed; even before you add the means for that kind of tyrant to invade other worlds.

Currently the responsibility for dealing with extra-dimensional threats falls on Project Citadel, one of the oldest of divisions in UNTIL. Their current handling of the possible crossover of people from Multifaria can best be described as something akin to Tomas de Torquemada’s handling of the Spanish Inquisition. Their zealous determination to identify and monitor those that did not come from this universe is something that should be both admired and feared.

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NEXT ISSUE...



EVERY ACTION HAS A CONSEQUENCE.

GALATEA FUTURE IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER THE CONSEQUENCE OF HER DECISION.

AND HOPEFULLY SHE WILL DEAL WITH IT SOON AS MILLENNIUM CITY IS VISITED BY...

THE NATIONALIST!



'THE CRUCIBLE'



WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE OF...

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NOW HE IS BACK AND TRYING TO RECREATE THE DEMONFLAME INCIDENT ALL OVER AGAIN!

IT IS UP TO YOU TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE UNLEASHES AN EVIL THAT WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING!



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