



FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 06
2013

**YOU WILL TELL US
THE TRUTH,
GALATEA FUTURE...**

**OR YOU WILL NEVER
SEE THE LIGHT OF
DAY EVER AGAIN!**





'THE CRUCIBLE'

WWW.COXCOMICS.COM

Cowboys



catgirls

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

"CONSEQUENCES"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT SHE ARRIVED, GALATEA FUTURE KNEW THAT THE WORLD OF THE CHAMPIONS HAD A DEEP-ROOTED BIGOTRY AGAINST ANYONE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

SHE SPENT HER TIME CRAFTING A STORY TO EXPLAIN HER ORIGINS TO THE PUBLIC, BUT SHE ALWAYS FEARED THAT, AT SOME POINT, CERTAIN OTHERS WOULD FIND OUT THE TRUTH; THAT SHE CAME FROM MORE THAN JUST "THE FAR FUTURE".

UNFORTUNATELY IT WOULD TAKE THE APPEARANCE OF ANOTHER MULTIVERSE BEING FOR QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED ABOUT HOW GALATEA FUTURE ARRIVED HERE...

... AND WHY.

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"YOU'RE LISTENING
TO W-C-O-T HOT
TALK 97-POINT-9 FM!
TURN US ON... AND
WE'LL DO THE SAME!"

"OOOH BABY, DO
IT AGAINNN..."

"SIX MINUTES AFTER THE HOUR,
YOU'RE LISTENING TO 'MONITOR
DUTY' ON W-C-O-T 97-9FM...
I'M THE CAPED OFFENDER, AND IF
YOU'RE A HERO IN MILLENNIUM
CITY, THEN YOU KNOW THAT THIS
IS YOUR TIME... AND IT'S THE
TIME THAT MANY OF US HATE IN
THE HERO BIZ...
MONITOR DUTY!"

"AND THIS IS YOUR TIME TO
CALL IN AND LET US KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE DOING RIGHT
NOW. WHAT'S BOTHERING
YOU OTHER THAN THOSE
STUPID VEHICLE LOCKBOXES?
OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER IS
866-555-W-C-O-T. THAT'S
866-555-W-C-O-T."

"WE'LL TAKE CALLS FROM
ANYONE AND EVERYONE...
EXCEPT FROM FOXBAT!"

"AAAAAAND IT APPEARS MY
TRUSTY SIDEKICK PRODUCER-BOY
IS TELLING ME THAT WE HAVE A
CALL ON LINE ONE.
YOU'VE CALLED UP MONITOR DUTY
ON W-C-O-T... WHO IS THIS?"

**"YOU KNOW
WHO THIS IS."**



**"OH GREAT! IT'S OUR FAVORITE
FASCIST, THE NATIONALIST!**

**SO... WHAT NEW TIN-FOIL
CRACKPOT CONSPIRACY THEORY
HAS COME ACROSS YOUR HALF-
WIT RADAR THIS TIME?"**

**"ALWAYS WITH THAT ELITIST
TONE OF YOURS!**

**YOU AND YOUR PUTRID
LIBERAL CO-CONSPIRATORS
WILL NEVER STOP SLANDERING
THE TRUE PATRIOTS OF THIS
NATION, WILL YOU?"**

**"YOU MEAN THAT GANG
OF OVERGROWN CLUB-
SCOUT PRETENDERS YOU
CALL A 'MILITIA GROUP'?"**

**"OR THAT K-STREET-FUNDED
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
THAT SABOTAGES WASHINGTON
WITH ANARCHIST RHETORIC AND
THEIR LEGIONS OF CHICKENHAWK
HYPOCRITES PRETENDING TO BE
SOME FICTIONAL 'SILENT
MAJORITY'?"**

**"ARE THOSE THE
SO-CALLED
'PATRIOTS' YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT?"**

**"I HAVE WARNED YOU AND
WARNED YOU THAT YOUR DAY
OF RECKONING WILL COME..."**

**"FOR FAR TOO LONG YOU HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO HIDE BEHIND THE VERY
FREEDOMS WE ALLOW YOU TO HAVE..."**

**"BUT NO MORE!
NO MORE WILL YOU
AVOID OUR WRATH."**

**"YOUR DAY OF JUDGMENT
IS FINALLY HERE, 'CAPED
OFFENDER!'"**



"OH, RIGHT! LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO SOMEHOW CRAWL OUT OF YOUR MOMMY'S BASEMENT JUST TO GLARE HARD AT THE STATION?"

"OR, LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE GOING TO ORGANIZE A 'BOYCOTT' OF THIS STATION BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR TWO STUFFED TEDDY BEARS?"

"I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, PAL, YOU'VE JUST REPLACED FOXBAT AS THE ONE CALL I'LL NEVER--"

BOOOOOOOM!



YOUR "HOT TALK" IS NO MATCH FOR THE FIRES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. NOW YOU BURN IN HELL.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

"I WARNED YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET."

UNTIL

"IF YOU WERE HONEST WITH ME..."

"... THEN I WOULD BE THE BEST FRIEND YOU COULD EVER HAVE IN THIS ORGANIZATION."

BUT IF YOU **LIED** TO ME, THEN I WOULD BE THE WORST ENEMY THAT YOU WILL EVER KNOW.

TODAY IS **NOT** A DAY FOR YOU TO WONDER JUST HOW ACCURATE THAT PROMISE IS.

WE'LL DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF GRIFF, A.K.A. "MISTER BLUE", IN A BIT.

RIGHT NOW THERE ARE SOME OTHER THINGS ABOUT YOU THAT WE NEED TO GET STRAIGHTENED OUT BEFORE SOMEONE HIGHER THAN ME ASKS ABOUT THEM.

I NEED YOU TO TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF AND HOW YOU CAME HERE.



MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

I TOLD YOU, I CAME FROM THE FAR FUTURE.

BUT THAT'S NOT THE **WHOLE** TRUTH, IS IT?

BEFORE YOU GO ANY FURTHER I'LL JUST TELL YOU THAT I HAVE A 2011 REPORT THAT WAS AUTHORED BY DOCTOR SILVERBACK ABOUT A QUANTUM SCANNING SYSTEM TO DETERMINE ONE'S PRECISE AGE.*

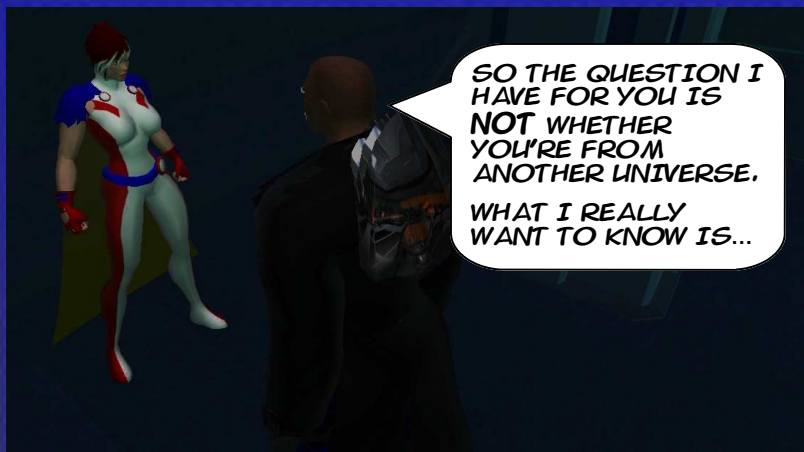
THAT REPORT SAYS THAT SILVERBACK'S DEVICE COULD NOT DETERMINE **YOUR** PRECISE AGE BECAUSE IT COULD NOT FULLY READ YOUR QUANTUM SIGNATURE.

SILVERBACK THEORIZED, AND SAID YOU LATER CONFIRMED, THAT THE REASON WHY THE DEVICE COULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY WAS BECAUSE YOUR QUANTUM SIGNATURE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE NORMALLY OF THIS UNIVERSE.



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

(FROM "THE LOST ADVENTURES OF GALATEA FUTURE" #2)



SO THE QUESTION I
HAVE FOR YOU IS
NOT WHETHER
YOU'RE FROM
ANOTHER UNIVERSE.
WHAT I REALLY
WANT TO KNOW IS...



... WHEN WERE
YOU GOING
TO TELL ME?



IDEALLY,
NEVER.

WHY?



IT'S...
COMPLICATED.

TRY ME.



THE WORLD THAT I CAME FROM IS
NOT JUST FROM THE FAR FUTURE IN
ANOTHER UNIVERSE, BUT IT'S FROM
AN ALTERNATE TIMELINE THAT NO
LONGER EXISTS.

BY ALL RIGHTS I SHOULDN'T EVEN
EXIST ONCE THAT TIMELINE WAS
ALTERED.

AND... THAT'S NOT EVEN
THE UNIVERSE THAT I
ORIGINALLY CAME FROM.

I'M STILL
LISTENING.



I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT MY
BIRTH-FATHER WAS THE
WORST CRIMINAL OF MY TIME
AND THAT I WAS RAISED BY
MY OLDER COUSIN.*

ALL OF THAT IS TRUE, EXCEPT
THAT IT DIDN'T TAKE PLACE IN
THE FAR FUTURE.

IT WAS IN THE
PAST... IN ANOTHER
UNIVERSE.

"MY EARTH WAS AN ORDINARY WORLD FOR THE MOST PART..."

"UNTIL A RIFT OPENED UP AND THE MATERIAL FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE RAINED DOWN MY PLANET ON OCTOBER 30TH, 1938."

"IRONICALLY, IT HAPPENED DURING THE 'WAR OF THE WORLDS' RADIO BROADCAST, SO PEOPLE THOUGHT THE SHOW WAS REAL."

"THE ENERGY FROM THAT DEBRIS TRANSFORMED SOME PEOPLE INTO SUPERHUMAN BEINGS."

I GREW UP IN THE SHADOWS OF MY UNCLE'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY AND ALL OF THEIR ICONIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

AND IN THE SHAME OF MY BIRTH-FATHER'S CRIMES.

I HAD TO FIGHT THE STIGMA OF ALL OF MY BIRTH-FATHER'S CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES... INCLUDING HOW HE MANAGED TO "CREATE" ME.

BUT THEN EVERYTHING I KNEW WAS DESTROYED BY A BEING NAMED ALOR.

"ALOR WAS A POWER-MAD TYRANT WHO THOUGHT HIMSELF A MULTIVERSE GOD."


"HE CREATED DEVICES THAT WOULD DESTROY WHOLE UNIVERSES SO HE COULD SUPPOSEDLY BRING BACK THE 'ORIGINAL GODS' OF THE OMNIVERSE."

"HE DESTROYED MY UNIVERSE... BUT SOMEHOW I WAS RESCUED AND BROUGHT TO ANOTHER WORLD THAT WELCOMED ME IN AND GAVE ME A NEW NAME AND A NEW LIFE."

WHICH I PRESUME IS NOT THIS WORLD.


SO HOW AND WHY DID YOU END UP HERE?

I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER.



THE FACT THAT THE PERPETRATOR OF THIS TERRORIST ACT IS A SO-CALLED "HERO" SHOULD REALLY NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO ANYONE IN THIS CITY.

MAYOR BISELLE'S LONGTIME "OPEN HERO" POLICY IS **CLEARLY** OUT OF CONTROL!



IN FACT I HOLD THE MAYOR **PERSONALLY** RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WCOT STUDIOS.

8 WCOC MEDIA MOGUL SPEAKS OUT ON WCOT DESTRUCTION

8 WCOC SHERMAN ADAIR - CEO, ADAIR MEDIA

CITY CENTER - ACROSS FROM CITY HALL



THIS IS CANDACE SINCLAIR...



OH, HI MRS. CARLISLE...
NO, I HAVEN'T TALKED WITH ATHENA TODAY.

 **CANDACE SINCLAIR**
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HER?

I MEAN, I KNOW SHE'S BEEN BUSY PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE BOOK BUT...

IT'S DUE **WHEN??**

I THOUGHT THE DEADLINE WAS A LITTLE LATER THAN THAT!

NO, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE REASON WHY SHE'S NOT RETURNING YOUR CALLS.



NO, NO, PLEASE LET ME HANDLE THIS, OKAY?

I **PROMISE** YOU THAT I'LL MAKE SURE ATHENA CALLS YOU BACK BY THE END OF THE DAY WITH THE STATUS OF THE BOOK, IF NOT SENDING THE BOOK HERSELF.

YES, I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT MYSELF. THANK YOU.

THE POWERHOUSE - RENAISSANCE CENTER

"THE SWORD
IS NOT JUST
A WEAPON."

SUPERHERO TRAINING AREA

"IT'S NOT JUST
AN EXTENSION
OF YOUR ARM."

"WHEN USED RIGHT,
IT BECOMES AN
EXTENSION OF YOU."

YOU CONTROL
THE DAMAGE
IT INFLECTS.

I ALREADY KNOW
ALL THAT, "YODA".
I DID HAVE SOME
TRAINING BEFORE
I BECAME A HERO.

TARGET DEFEATED.
WINNER: SAFESHOT

GRADUATING FROM "BOBBY
VOID'S SCHOOL OF STUNT
WEAPONS" IS NOT A
SUBSTITUTE FOR YEARS OF
TRAINING WITH ACTUAL
SWORD MASTERS.

HOLLYWOOD WEAPONS ARE
MEANT TO BE FLASHY BUT
NOT LETHAL.

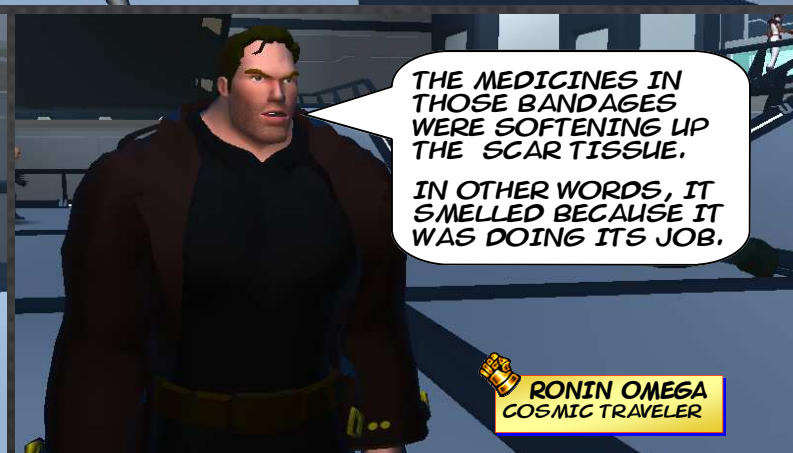
REMINDER: LIVE WEAPONS
IN TRAINING ROOM.
NO HORSEPLAY ALLOWED.

YOU ALMOST **DIED**
BECAUSE OF THAT
CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE.*

I DON'T NEED YOU TO
REMINDE ME OF THAT!

STARLETT
STREET VIGILANTE

C "FUTURE'S GUARDIAN" #4>







RONIN?

IT'S OKAY.
THERE'S SOMETHING I
HAVE TO DO VERY QUICKLY.
KEEP PRACTICING. I'LL BE
BACK IN A FEW MINUTES.



WHEN I GET BACK,
SHOW ME THAT YOU
CAN TAKE OUT TWO
DUMMIES WITH
ONE STRIKE.



WHATEVER...



YOU ARE IN THE TRAINING
AREA FOR PERSONAL
COMBAT SKILLS.
FOR TEAM-CENTERED
TRAINING GO TO THE
BATTLE-STATION FLOOR.


JUST A REMINDER: TONIGHT THE
POWERHOUSE THEATER WILL BE
SHOWING THE COMPLETE "I WAS
A TEENAGE ADAM WEST" SERIES
PARTS ONE, TWO, AND THREE,
STARTING AT SIX PM.



CROSS HAS
GALATEA IN FOR
QUESTIONING
ABOUT GRIFF.




I KNOW.
MY SUPERIORS
ARE NOT VERY
HAPPY EITHER.



I CONVINCED THE
COUNCIL OF LIGHT
TO TAKE CUSTODY
OF GRIFF, ONLY TO
FIND THAT HE'S
SOMEHOW
DISAPPEARED.*

 **AGENT SIDESTEP**
MULTIVERSE OPERATIVE

(* LAST ISSUE)



I DON'T LIKE THIS.
GRIFF'S
ACTIVITIES ARE
GETTING TOO
MUCH ATTENTION
BY THE WRONG
PEOPLE.



I AGREE.

MY SUPERIORS ARE AWARE OF THE RAMPANT
FEAR AND PARANOIA THAT EXISTS IN THIS
WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS INVOLVING PEOPLE
FROM OTHER REALITIES. THIS IS WHY THEY
DID NOT WANT ME TO STRAY FROM MY ROLE
AS AN OBSERVER.

IF THE WRONG PEOPLE IN U.N.T.I.L. HAVE
GALATEA, THEY COULD GET HER TO
DISCLOSE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OMNIVERSE
THAT EVEN SHE IS NOT AWARE OF.



AND WE CERTAINLY DON'T
WANT THAT DOOR OPENED.
THEY HAVE A HARD ENOUGH
TIME DEALING WITH WORLDS
LIKE MULTIFARIA.

MAYBE YOU CAN TALK WITH
MAJOR CROSS AND
CONVINCE HIM THAT YOU
DON'T HAVE GRIFF EITHER?

I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER
IT... BUT ONLY IF THE
COUNCIL AGREES.
WE MUST TREAD LIGHTLY
ON THIS MATTER.

ANYA STORM



[HTTP://ANYASTORM.DEVIANTART.COM/](http://anyastorm.deviantart.com/)

CHAMPIONS
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FREE FOR ALL

You're not super

Until you put on THE CAPE!

<http://thecaperadio.com>

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DJ ANGEL

presents

OPEN MIC NIGHT **AUGUST 2nd 2013**

DJ Angel wants your best/worst Karaoke,
Original Poetry, or Stand Up Comedy*

Submissions are due by July 19th!

Check forums for further details!

*Keep it PG-13

DJ STEEL AND DJ COZMIC PRESENT



KNIGHT RIDER



AIRWOLF



SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2013
STARTING AT 2PM GOING TO 8PM

IF YOU READ SILVERBACK'S REPORT, THEN YOU'D KNOW THAT I'M NOT ONLY FROM ANOTHER WORLD, BUT THAT I AM ALSO ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS OLD. PERSONALLY I STILL FIND THAT PART A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE.

THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

THAT WORLD WAS DEVASTATED TEN YEARS AFTER THEY WELCOMED ME IN.

MOST OF THE HEROES WERE KILLED IN THE PROCESS. I WAS ONE OF THE FEW THAT SURVIVED.

"WE TRIED TO SAVE AS MANY LIVES AS WE COULD."

"I SERVED AS THAT PLANET'S LAST GUARDIAN, SHEPHERDING THE HUMAN RACE TO A NEW HOME IN A NEW SYSTEM."

AFTERWARD, I WAS RECRUITED BY A GROUP OF TIME OBSERVERS.

I WAS GOING THROUGH THEIR RECORDS WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT THE HISTORY I KNEW WAS...

WELL, IT WAS **WRONG**.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WRONG"?

THE WHOLE THING!

THE DISASTER, THE LOSS OF THE PLANET, EVERYTHING THAT I ENDURED IN MY LIFE DURING THAT TIME... IT WAS ALL MANIPULATED FOR A SPECIFIC RESULT.

IT WAS ALL DESIGNED SO I WOULD BE POWERFUL ENOUGH AND HAVE ALL THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO GO BACK IN TIME AND CONFRONT ALOR.

WHICH, I PRESUME, YOU DID.*

YES, BUT NOT WITHOUT VIOLATING THE LAWS OF TIME AND SPACE AND THE RULES OF THE TIME OBSERVERS.

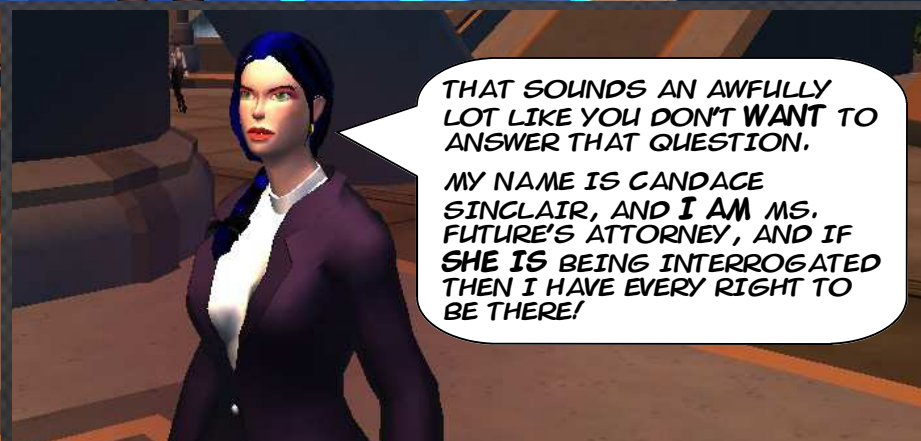
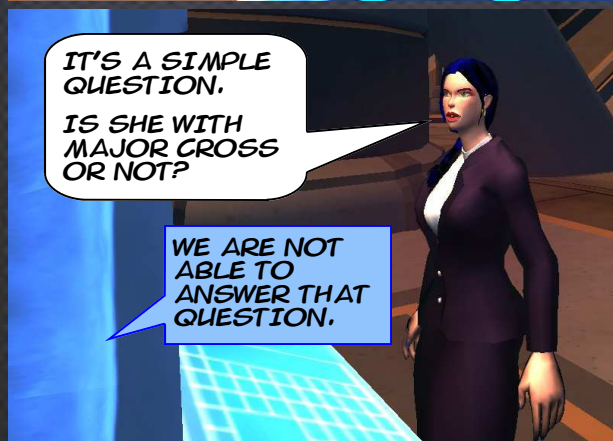
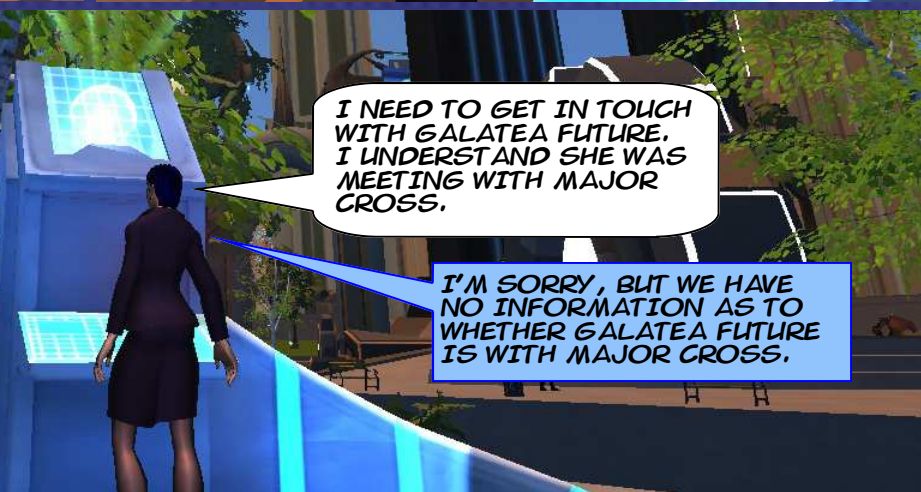
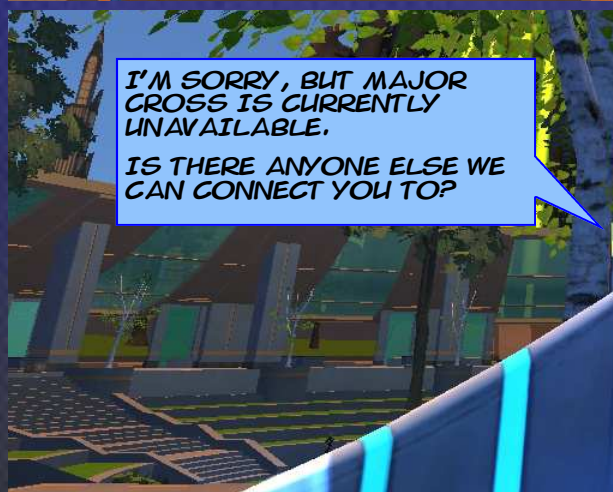
AND IN DOING SO, I BECAME A TEMPORAL ANOMALY MYSELF.

SO I PREPARED FOR THE INEVITABLE... I WENT BACK TO MY LITTLE HIDEAWAY AND WAITED TO FADE AWAY TO OBLIVION.

INSTEAD, I ENDED UP IN MILLENNIUM CITY, IN THE MIDDLE OF A QULARR INVASION.


AND YOU KNOW THE REST.

* FOR DETAILS OF THAT, CHECK OUT THE FIVE-PART "TIME AND CHANGES" STORYLINE IN "GUARDIANS OF THE DAWN SPOTLIGHT", AVAILABLE THROUGH BATTLEROCK COMICS. >






TELL ME ABOUT
AGENT SIDESTEP.



I'VE ALREADY TOLD
YOU ABOUT HIM.*
HE'S A MULTIVERSE
AGENT ASSIGNED
TO WATCH OVER ME.


(* LAST ISSUE)



NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
HE'S KEEPING AN EYE
ON YOU FOR A
REASON.
WHAT IS IT?



SIGH OKAY...
IN MY PREVIOUS
WORLD, I WASN'T
JUST OLDER... I WAS
MORE POWERFUL.
A LOT MORE
POWERFUL.



"IN THE TIME I SPENT IN
AND OUT OF THE TIME
AGENCY, MY POWERS GREW
AND I BECAME STRONGER
AND STRONGER."

"EVENTUALLY I BECAME
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO GO
TOE-TO-TOE AGAINST
GODS AND DEMONS."

"SIDESTEP'S SUPERIORS
FEARED THAT THIS KIND OF
POWER WOULD POSE A THREAT
TO THIS UNIVERSE. OR AT
LEAST TO ATTRACT OTHER
COSMIC-LEVEL THREATS."

"THAT EXPLAINS YOUR
OCCASIONAL BOASTFULNESS.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF
THOSE GOD-LEVEL ABILITIES
YOU SAY YOU HAD?"

"I LOST MOST OF THOSE POWERS
WHEN I WAS BROUGHT TO THIS
WORLD. SILVERBACK'S REPORT
SHOULD BE ABLE TO VERIFY THAT."

"OKAY... LET'S
PRESUME
THAT'S TRUE."




SO NOW... LET'S
TALK ABOUT GRIFF.
I TAKE IT THIS IS
WHY HE WAS SENT TO
"HUNT" YOU?



ACCORDING TO
SIDESTEP, YES,
SOMEONE HIRED
HIM TO TRACK
ME DOWN TO
THIS WORLD.




AND GRIFF NEVER
TOLD YOU WHO
HIRED HIM?




NO. I EVEN ASKED HIM
THAT DIRECTLY AND HE
SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW
NOR DID HE CARE.

CANDACE HEARD ME
ASK HIM THAT. SHE
CAN VOUCH FOR ME.



I IMAGINE THAT
SHE WOULD.
SO THE NEXT
QUESTION IS...
WHERE IS GRIFF
NOW?



WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE **SHOULD** BE IN
U.N.T.I.L. CUSTODY!



I CALLED YOU PERSONALLY
RIGHT AFTER I DEFEATED
GRIFF!

I TOLD YOU TO TAKE HIM.
I EVEN CAME HERE BECAUSE
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE
DEBRIEFING ME ABOUT HIS
CAPTURE!

RIGHT, YOU SAID
"COME GET HIM
BEFORE I CHANGE
MY MIND."

WHICH LEADS ME
TO SUSPECT THAT
YOU WERE STILL
CONSIDERING
LETTING SIDESTEP
TAKE HIM, IN SPITE
OF MY DIRECT
ORDER OTHERWISE!



NOT LONG AFTER HE WAS
PLACED IN U.N.T.I.L. CUSTODY,
GRIFF DISAPPEARED.

THE GUARDS SAID THAT HE
VANISHED IN A FLASH OF
LIGHT... LIKE HE WAS
TELEPORTED AWAY.

SOMETHING THAT I'M TOLD
AGENT SIDESTEP IS **REALLY**
GOOD AT DOING.

SO IF YOU KNOW WHERE
GRIFF IS RIGHT NOW, IT'S
IN YOUR BEST INTEREST
TO TELL ME, BEFORE I
HAVE TO TURN THIS OVER
TO PROJECT CITADEL.

I KNOW MY RIGHTS!

I DEMAND AN ATTORNEY
OR ARBITER OR WHATEVER
YOU CALL THEM ON THIS
PRIMITIVE PLANET!

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE
WITHOUT ONE!

MAYBE YOU'LL GET
ONE... SHOULD I
RETURN YOU TO
THEIR CUSTODY.

BUT, THEN, WHOSE
CUSTODY SHOULD
THAT BE?



GRIFF A.K.A. "MISTER BLUE"
SUPER-POWERED HIT MAN

WHERE IS THIS
PLACE? UNDER
WHOSE AUTHORITY--

YOU SHOULD REALLY
CONCERN YOURSELF ONLY
WITH WHO I AM.

I'M THE ONE THAT
LIBERATED YOU FROM
THAT "PRIMITIVE" PLANET.

I AM ALSO THE ONE THAT
ORIGINALLY HIRED YOU.

OH... WELL THEN ALLOW ME
TO EXTEND MY GRATITUDE
AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO
COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT
AND KILL GALATEA FUTURE
AS AGREED UPON.

THAT WILL NO LONGER BE
NECESSARY.

YOU FULFILLED THE PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE. YOU FOUND THE
LAST GUARDIAN OF EARTH.

KILLING HER WAS MERELY AN
INCENTIVE, AS WELL AS A
TEST OF HER CURRENT
ABILITIES.

SO THE ONLY QUESTION
THAT I HAVE TO CONCERN
MYSELF WITH AT THE
MOMENT IS...

WHAT DO TO WITH YOU?



WELL?

I'M TRACING THE SIGNAL NOW, MAJOR.



I WANT HIS PRECISE LOCATION BEFORE I'M THROUGH TALKING WITH HIM.



YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO FIND, AGENT SIDESTEP.



UNDERSTANDABLY SO, MAJOR CROSS.

I'M CONTACTING YOU TO LET YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE NO REASON TO DETAIN GALATEA FUTURE. SHE HAS NO IDEA WHERE GRIFF IS.



AND I TAKE IT THAT YOU DO?

SADLY, I DO NOT. NEITHER DO MY SUPERIORS, WHO ARE JUST AS DISTURBED ABOUT THIS AS YOU ARE.


WHY DO I FIND THAT SO HARD TO BELIEVE?



IT DOESN'T DETRACT FROM THE REALITY THAT NEITHER MY PEOPLE NOR YOURS HAVE GRIFF.

I HAD ASKED THEM TO INTERVENE BECAUSE OF THE THREAT GRIFF POSES TO YOUR WORLD AS A MULTIVERSE-TRAVELING ASSASSIN.

HAD THEY SUCCEEDED, HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION.



OR YOU COULD BE TELLING ME THIS TO MAKE ME THINK GALATEA IS BLAMELESS IN THIS WHOLE MATTER.

WHY DON'T YOU COME IN AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO ME IN PERSON?



UNFORTUNATELY THAT IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN DO AT THIS TIME.

I CAN ONLY RELAY THE MESSAGE FROM MY SUPERIORS THAT THEY SHARE IN YOUR FRUSTRATION REGARDING GRIFF.



WELL MY SUPERIORS ARE APPARENTLY NOT AS FORGIVING AS YOURS.

THEY GET RATHER UPSET WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO KILL A HERO HERE AND THEN GETS TO ESCAPE JUSTICE.

WE HAVE A DIVISION KNOWN AS PROJECT CITADEL THAT IS ASKING ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT "WOLF-LIKE KILLER" AND WHY HE ISN'T IN CUSTODY SO THEY CAN QUESTION HIM ABOUT HOW HE GOT HERE AND IF THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE HIM READY TO INVADE US.

I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND THAT THEY DON'T LIKE HEARING THAT GRIFF SIMPLY "DISAPPEARED" AND THAT NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HE IS.

THEY WANT A HEAD ON A PLATTER, AND I'D RATHER IT NOT BE MY OWN.



SO YOU'RE GIVING THEM GALATEA'S INSTEAD?

NOT SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO DO.

HELL, I'M TRYING TO BE ON HER SIDE!

BUT SHE'S NOT MAKING IT EASY FOR ME TO DO THAT, AND RIGHT NOW YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT WORSE FOR HER BY NOT COMING IN.



WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE, MAJOR.


WERE I TO BE TURNED OVER TO YOUR PROJECT CITADEL, MY SUPERIORS WOULD ONLY RECALL ME FROM THIS WORLD AND REPLACE ME WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

NO DOUBT WITH SOMEONE THAT IS LESS INVESTED IN GALATEA'S CONTINUED STAY IN THIS WORLD, AND WOULD NOT MIND SEEING HER DETAINED FOR THE REST OF HER LONG LIFE.

I HAVE RESPECT FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING, MAJOR.

IN SOME WAYS OUR JOBS ARE SIMILAR, WHICH IS WHY I AM NOT OFFENDED THAT YOU ARE USING THIS CONVERSATION TO TRY TO FIND MY LOCATION.

BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT, AS MY NAME IMPLIES, I WILL BE LONG GONE FROM THIS LOCATION THE SECOND THIS CONVERSATION HAS ENDED.



WELL I GUESS THAT PUTS US BACK AT SQUARE ONE, DOESN'T IT, AGENT?

YOU CAN'T HELP ME WHERE YOU'RE AT, AND I CAN'T GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT BY LETTING GALATEA GO.

SO YOU TELL ME:

HOW CAN YOU HELP ME, AND HELP GALATEA?

WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE ME THAT I CAN THEN GIVE TO PROJECT CITADEL TO GET THEM OFF MY BACK ABOUT GRIFF?




THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION. I--

BEEP *BEEP*

HMM... PLEASE WAIT.

...



MAJOR, I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO MAKE AN OFFER THAT SHOULD RESOLVE OUR JOINT DILEMMA.



I'M LISTENING.

I HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PROVIDE TO YOUR OWN *PROJECT MYCROFT* THE INFORMATION THAT I HAVE ABOUT GRIFF CONTAINED IN MY OWN PROPHET COMPUTER SYSTEM.

THIS WOULD INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT GRIFF, HIS SPECIES, HIS HOME UNIVERSE, AND HOW HE OPERATES IN THE MULTIVERSE.

INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN THEN GIVE TO PROJECT CITADEL AT YOUR DISCRETION...

IN EXCHANGE FOR GALATEA FUTURE'S CONTINUED FREEDOM, OF COURSE.



THIS IS A ONE-TIME OFFER THAT EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS TRANSMISSION.

YOU CAN HAVE THE INFORMATION YOUR SUPERIORS WANT, OR THEY CAN HAVE THE PROVERBIAL "HEAD ON A PLATTER", BUT THEY WILL NOT HAVE BOTH.



THE CHOICE IS YOURS TO MAKE.

"REPEATING OUR BREAKING STORY... FORTY-SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN WHAT POLICE CALL A CLEAR CASE OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FLAGLETT BUSINESS CENTER."

"THE WESTSIDE OFFICE BUILDING SERVED AS THE HOME FOR THE MILLENNIUM CITY CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOR TWENTY YEARS."

"OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT A HEAVY CONSTRUCTION CRANE WAS BLOWN TO ITS SIDE BY AN EXPLOSION, SLICING THROUGH THE ADJACENT BUILDING."

"HOWEVER, FIRE OFFICIALS ARE ALSO SAYING THAT MCCLU WORKERS THEMSELVES WERE ALSO BURNED TO DEATH WHEN THEIR OFFICE SPONTANEOUSLY IGNITED."

8 WCOC BREAKING NEWS - BUILDING HOLDING MCCLU OFFICES DESTROYED

"JUST AN HOUR AGO WE RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM AN EXTREMIST CALLING HIMSELF 'THE NATIONALIST', WHO IS PRAISING THE DEVASTATION AND THE LIVES LOST."

"ACCORDING TO HIS MESSAGE, QUOTE: THE LIBERAL TRAITORS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST DECENT AMERICANS. NO MORE WILL THEY POISON OUR CHILDREN AND STEAL OUR VALUES."

"MAYOR CALVIN BISELLE HAD THIS TO SAY EARLIER REGARDING THIS BLATANT ACT OF TERRORISM."

8 WCOC FORTY-SIX DEAD - NATIONALIST TAKES CREDIT FOR DESTRUCTION

FIRST, LET ME STATE FOR THE RECORD THAT REGARDLESS OF THE RAMBLINGS OF MISTER ADAIR, THIS "NATIONALIST" IS NOT AND NEVER WAS A REGISTERED HERO IN THIS CITY.

HEROES ARE DEFINED BY THEIR ACTIONS... AND THE ACTIONS OF THIS "NATIONALIST" ARE NOTHING SHORT THAN THOSE OF A TERRORIST.

I AM ASKING ALL HEROES IN MILLENNIUM CITY TO JOIN WITH THE LOCAL POLICE FORCE IN BRINGING IN "THE NATIONALIST" BEFORE HE CAUSES ANY MORE DAMAGE TO OUR WAY OF LIFE.

HON. CALVIN BISELLE
MAYOR OF MILLENNIUM CITY

8 WCOC MAYOR BISELLE CONDEMNS NATIONALIST - CALL ON HEROES TO ACT





THAT DOESN'T JUSTIFY HIM DETAINING YOU LIKE YOU'RE SOME GITMO TERRORIST! YOU'RE AN AMERICAN! YOU HAVE RIGHTS!



THE SECURE AREA WASN'T TO KEEP ME PRISONER. IT WAS TO PREVENT OTHER PEOPLE INSIDE U.N.T.I.L. FROM HEARING ABOUT MY PAST. MY **REAL** PAST.



OH...
SO I GUESS CROSS IS PART OF OUR "LITTLE SECRET" CIRCLE, HUH?



LOOKS LIKE...
AND I'M SORRY FOR NOT TELLING YOU WHERE I'VE BEEN. I GUESS... WE LOST TRACK OF TIME.



YOU **GUESS**?
'TAYA, I WASN'T THE ONE THAT WAS FIRST WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!

MRS. CARLSILE CALLED ME LOOKING FOR ATHENA.
IT TURNS OUT YOUR BOOK DEADLINE IS **TOMORROW** AND SHE HADN'T HEARD A PEEP FROM YOU ABOUT THE STATUS OF IT!

IN FACT I HAD TO **PERSONALLY** PROMISE HER THAT ATHENA WOULD CALL HER BY THE END OF THE DAY WITH THE STATUS OF THE BOOK...
AND **IT IS** THE END OF THE BUSINESS DAY!



SO... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT HER?
I MEAN, I **DID** TELL YOU BEFORE ABOUT NOT PUSHING YOUR PERSONAL LIFE ASIDE!



D@MN... I GUESS I FORGOT.
OKAY, CAN YOU CALL HER UP AND THEN LET ME BORROW YOUR CELLPHONE? I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.



AHEM...
MISSUS CARLISLE?
HI... IT'S ATHENA...



YES, I KNOW, AND I'M
SORRY... CANDACE LET
ME BORROW HER
PHONE SO I COULD
CALL YOU MYSELF.



YES... **"SHATTERED LIVES"** IS
COMPLETED.
I FINISHED IT LAST NIGHT, AND I
WAS READY TO SEND IT TO YOU,
BUT THEN I GOT SIDETRACKED WITH
RESEARCH FOR THE NEXT BOOK AND
THEN...

YES, BOOK FIVE... I DON'T HAVE A
TITLE FOR IT YET BUT...

YES, AS SOON AS I GET HOME
I'LL PERSONALLY UPLOAD IT TO
THE SECURE SERVER. SOMETIME
AROUND SEVEN, I THINK.

YES... I'M SORRY FOR CUTTING IT
CLOSE. OKAY. BYE...



THANK YOU, CAN...

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND BUT I'LL
WALK BACK TO THE APARTMENT
AND GET THAT UPLOAD GOING.

CALL YOU LATER FOR SOME
COFFEE?

YEAH... I'D LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE BUYING, THOUGH!

AND MAYBE I WON'T BILL YOU
FOR TRYING TO GET A WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS ON YOU FOR
"LOST TRACK OF TIME".



"YOU AND I, WE'RE
GOING TO COME TO A
NEW ARRANGEMENT."

"RIGHT NOW THE ONLY
THING KEEPING YOU FROM
PROJECT CITADEL AND
THEIR INTERROGATION
PEOPLE IS **ME**."

"I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH
EVIDENCE TO HAVE BOTH YOU AND
MISS SINCLAIR IN SOME **SERIOUS**
LEGAL TROUBLES UNTIL AT LEAST
THE END OF THE DECADE."

"THAT SAID, I HAPPEN TO THINK
THAT YOU COULD DO A WHOLE
LOT MORE FOR THIS CITY IF YOU
WEREN'T IN CUSTODY."

"I NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU
FOR PROJECT MYCROFT."

"SO WHAT WILL THAT ENTAIL?"

"RIGHT NOW IT MEANS I MAY CALL
ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME FOR
SOME MISSIONS.

BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT WHEN I
GIVE AN ORDER, I **EXPECT** YOU TO
FOLLOW IT WITHOUT QUESTION."

"NOW... ARE WE IN AGREEMENT?"

"I DON'T HAVE MUCH
OF A CHOICE, DO I?"

"NO... YOU DON'T."

WESTSIDE POLICE STATION

"OKAY, YOU HEARD THE MAYOR ON THIS... ANYONE WHO FINDS THIS 'NATIONALIST' IS TO ARREST HIM ON THE SPOT."

"HE HAS ALREADY KILLED AND IS NOT AFRAID TO KILL AGAIN."

"GIVEN THE DAMAGE HE'S CAUSED ALREADY, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A GOOD IDEA TO WORK IN TEAMS."

"WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THIS PERSON OR WHAT HE IS WILLING TO DO!"

ANY QUESTIONS?

 **KODIAK**
MILLENNIUM CITY POLICE

JUST ONE...
IS THERE A BONUS FOR BRINGING HIM IN QUICKLY?

 **ELITE ICE**
ELEMENTAL MYSTIC

GOLD STANDARD AGENCY

MISTER VAN CLEEF, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN, SIR.

I'LL GET TO THE POINT, MISTER GOLD...

YOU WILL BRING THE NATIONALIST IN AS YOUR NEWEST CLIENT.

U.M... MISTER VAN CLEEF, SIR, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS, BUT THE NATIONALIST IS A WANTED DOMESTIC TERRORIST.

THEN YOU WILL USE YOUR PR TOOLS AND MAKE HIM INTO A CRUSADING VIGILANTE LIKE NIGHTHAWK. IT IS WHAT YOU CLAIM TO BE GOOD AT DOING, RIGHT?

 **MARKMAN GOLD**
AGENT TO THE SUPER-LEGENDS

YES, SIR, IT IS.

BUT... GIVEN THE HEROES WE ALREADY HAVE UNDER CONTRACT, WHY HIM? WHY BRING HIM IN GIVEN HIS NOTORIETY?

THE NATIONALIST IS A SOLDIER, AND, UNLIKE YOU, HE FOLLOWS HIS ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTION.

AND WE WILL USE THIS SOLDIER TO WAGE WAR...

ON GALATEA FUTURE'S FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

FAR FROM OVER!

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

“The Fine Line...”

It has been said that **“one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter”**. That is certainly the case when it comes to the character of **“The Nationalist”**.

The idea of The Nationalist came from many sources, but all with a common theme.

First, from the pages of Marvel Comics, I came across a character called “The Grand Director”. It turned out he was one of several men who became “Captain America”, and this one ended up being wound just a little too tight. At one point he was brainwashed and wore a all-white outfit and calling himself the “Grand Director”. Later, comic writers would refer to him as the “1950’s Cap”.

The image of him in that outfit really stood out for me because this was someone who disguised the ugliness of his actions and his stances with an all-white outfit. White is supposed to represent purity and goodness, and yet here is this decidedly EVIL person wearing pretty much all-white as his uniform.

And the symbolism is certainly not lost in the real world. There are several groups that have over the years used the “purity” of white to mask their intentions. Some are religious. Others are less so.

There are people today that use the colors of the American flag to spread their own agenda. They have taken that flag and changed it into one that symbolizes their supposed superiority, and then placed it next to Old Glory as if they are ready to replace it.

These groups also became the inspiration for The Nationalist.

In the 1990’s we were introduced to a rather chilling idea... of groups that literally divorce themselves from the general public, be it for religious or for political purposes. From the standoff at Ruby Ridge, to the siege at Waco, to the carnage at Oklahoma City and the people behind it, we found out that there are people inside the United States that operate on some pretty scary ideas. And they had no qualms taking lives to defend those ideas, be those lives law enforcement in Waco, or a federal agency with a day care center in Oklahoma City.

And then I had a rather disturbing thought...

What if one of those folks had superpowers?

What if one of those people holed up in some ultra-conservative enclave, brought up with an extremely different view of the United States, embittered by years of continual indications that the rest of the world does not support their view, all of a sudden had superhuman abilities? What if they had the power to do something about the world that they firmly believe is “wrong” and needs “correcting”?

Well first of all, they probably wouldn’t give themselves a villain name or a villain appearance. While they may hate and despise “the corrupt system”, someone in that position would still want “the silent majority” on their side.

Continues on next page...

Remember these are groups that firmly believe that there are legions of like-minded people living their lives in silent agony, subjugated by the “cancerous system” that they find themselves in. And they’re supposedly waiting for a “champion” that would step up and lead them into that promised “final confrontation”.

This kind of “superhero” would want to be seen as a liberator for their cause, not as a terrorist. So they would dress themselves in symbols and colors that the fictional “silent majority” would supposedly recognize.

Sadly for myself as a creator, I wasn’t able to use the same symbols when coming up with the look of “The Nationalist”, but I did try to come as close as possible so you can get the feel of what one such super-powered individual would look like.

Then there’s the matter of his actions.

If you think about it, by allowing superheroes to operate in Millennium City in the way that they do in the comics (*and in Champions Online itself*), it opens the door to what is and is not allowed that extend beyond what normal police officers do. Back in Issue #4, Starlett took a rather proactive stance on members of the New Purple Gang for something that pretty much would have been tossed out by the courts if done by the city’s police officers. But because we’re dealing with costumed heroes, even those “registered” and “sanctioned” by the city, that “fine line” between justice and vigilantism is spread wider and wider.

That’s something that you’ll see explored a little more in the next issue concerning The Nationalist and whether what he is doing is considered a “political crusade” or “an act of terrorism”.

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NEXT ISSUE...



**AS GALATEA PREPARES
FOR "ATHENA'S" NEXT
BOOK RELEASE, HER
FRIENDS GO AFTER THE
NATIONALIST...**

**AS THE NATIONALIST
GOES AFTER THEM!**



The mind is a wonderfully complex thing...
It has so many little places to hide
things.

And sometimes it hides things that even the
mind itself does not want to know.

Be careful when you start opening those
little hiding places...

Because you never know what lies hidden...

And WHY.

PSILENCE OF CONSCIENCE

A NEW MULTI-PART STORY THAT STARTS WITH "FUTURE'S GUARDIAN" #7

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

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A MULTI-LEVEL IN-GAME ADVENTURE PACK!
JOURNEY TO AN EVIL UNIVERSE!
PLAY ALONE OR IN TEAMS!



WHAT WAS MEANT TO BE A
BREAKTHROUGH IN DIMENSIONAL
TRAVEL HAS OPENED THE DOOR
TO MULTIFARIA; A DYSTOPIAN
WORLD RULED BY CITIZEN HARMON
AND HIS ROBOTIC MINIONS!

JOIN THE RESISTANCE AND BRING
HIS EVIL EMPIRE TO AN END
BEFORE IT CAN CROSS OVER AND
THREATEN TO CONQUER OUR OWN
WORLD!



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