

BLUE KING



STUDIOS

ISSUE 5

CITY OF HEROES

HERO OR VILLAIN?

MURDER SPELLS TROUBLE FOR THE ARCANIC

MAGIC OR ORDER?

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suspected of
us crimes

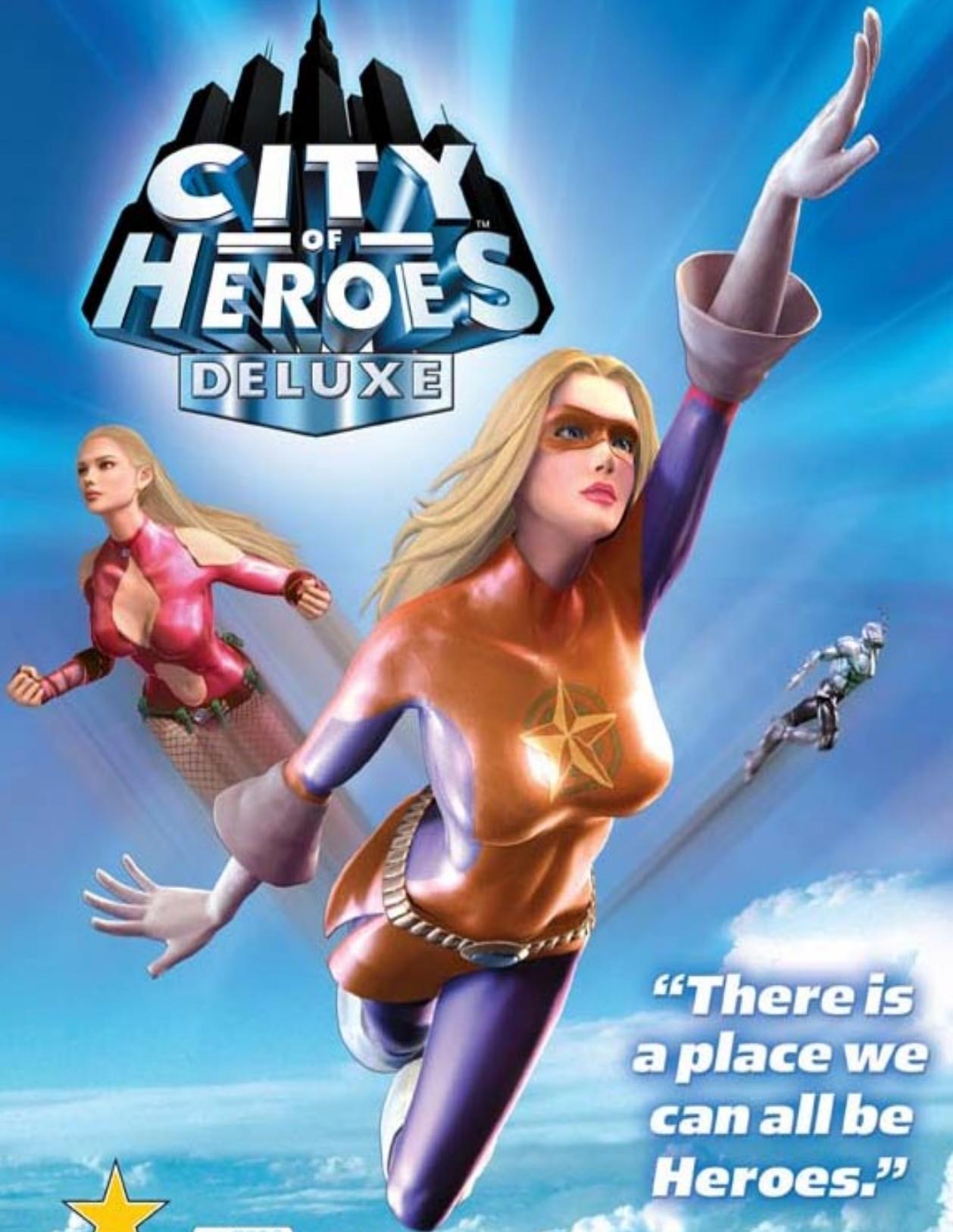
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JURY DUTY PART 1

CITY OF HEROES™

DELUXE



**“There is
a place we
can all be
Heroes.”**



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ARCANIST

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THE LATEST RUMORS THAT YOU AND RED RAZOR ALMOST KILLED EACH OTHER IN A BAR FIGHT THREE YEARS AGO?

WHAT!?!?
THAT'S CRAZY!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY THIS? I'M FREAKING

INNOCENT!
I DIDN'T KILL RED RAZOR!



AND WHEN THE JURY RETURNS ITS VERDICT, MY CLIENT'S FELLOW HEROES WILL EXONERATE HIM AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW JUST WHAT KIND OF FARCE THIS TRIAL HAS BEEN.

FOR NOW, NO FURTHER COMMENTS.



RED RAZOR SAVED MY LIFE! I HOPE YOU GET THE CHAIR!

MURDERER

MUR

MURDERER

Red Razor will RISE AGAIN

MURDERER

JUSTICE BE DONE

FED ARCANIST TO THE RIKT!!

CITY OF HEROES

WRITTEN BY: **RICK DAKAN**

ART BY: **BRANDON MCKINNEY**

COLORS BY: **AUSTIN MCKINLEY**

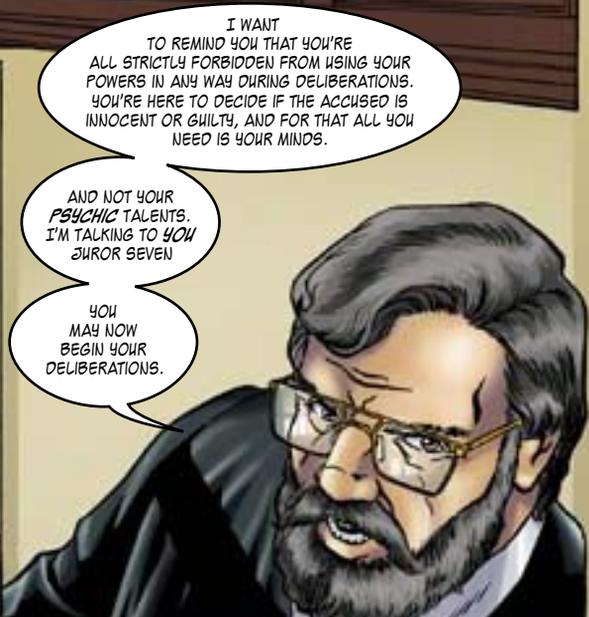
LETTERS BY: **NEIL HENDRICK**



IN ORDER TO FIND THE ARCANIST GUILTY, YOU MUST DETERMINE THAT, BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT, HIS ACTIONS LED TO THE RED RAZOR'S DEATH. FURTHERMORE, YOU MUST COME TO THIS CONCLUSION UNANIMOUSLY.



YOU MUST BASE YOUR VERDICT ONLY ON THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED HERE IN THE COURTROOM AND ON THE LAW THAT I HAVE INSTRUCTED YOU. YOU MAY USE YOUR EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE AND COMMON SENSE, BUT YOU **MAY NOT** SPECULATE ON ANY MATTERS OUTSIDE OF THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED HERE IN THE COURTROOM.



I WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU'RE ALL STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FROM USING YOUR POWERS IN ANY WAY DURING DELIBERATIONS. YOU'RE HERE TO DECIDE IF THE ACCUSED IS INNOCENT OR GUILTY, AND FOR THAT ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR MINDS.

AND NOT YOUR PSYCHIC TALENTS. I'M TALKING TO YOU JUROR SEVEN

YOU MAY NOW BEGIN YOUR DELIBERATIONS.



I TOLD YOU BEFORE! NO FLOATING OR FLYING IN THE COURTHOUSE!

SORRY!



WELL, THIS IS GONNA BE A DRAG.

TELL ME ABOUT IT! I'VE GOT REAL CRIME FIGHTING TO DO.



I SEE YOU WORE YOUR *COSTUME* TODAY.

WELL I DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE SUPPOSED TO. WHEN I SHOWED UP THE FIRST DAY IN A *SHIRT* AND *TIE* I FELT PRETTY SILLY..."



WELL, SOME OF US HAVE *SECRET IDENTITIES* TO PROTECT.

I GOT YA. IT FEELS A LITTLE SILLY THOUGH. I MEAN, WE'RE A *JURY*.



YES, BUT WE'RE A *JURY OF HEROES*. WE SHOULD LOOK THE PART.

I GUESS SO.

I SERVED ON A HERO JURY FIVE YEARS AGO. WE HAD A FELLOW THEN WHO DIDN'T WEAR HIS *COSTUME* AND *NO ONE* TOOK HIM SERIOUSLY.

HHH. I KINDA WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE *OPPOSITE*.



HELLO EVERYONE, MY NAMES, WELL, *JURY NUMBER 3* I GUESS, ALTHOUGH SOME OF YOU MAY RECOGNIZE ME AS *JANEY KINDHEART*

WE MIGHT AS WELL SIT DOWN AND GET STARTED, DON'T YOU THINK?



SO, WHAT DO WE DO FIRST?

WE SHOULD TAKE A *VOTE*. MAYBE WE ALREADY ALL AGREE AND WE CAN GET *OUTTA* HERE.



LET'S TRY A BLIND VOTE FIRST. JUST MARK DOWN *GUILTY* OR *NOT GUILTY* AND THEN WE'LL COUNT THEM UP AND SEE WHERE WE STAND.



HEY, AFTER WE CONVICT THIS GUY, I GOT A LEAD ON A WHERE WE CAN FIND A WHOLE GANG OF THE *LOST*. YOU WANNA HELP ME AND MY TEAM?

MAYBE. JUST LET ME CONCENTRATE ON THIS RIGHT NOW.



I'LL COUNT THESE UP AS SOON AS THEY'RE ALL IN. I DON'T EXPECT THERE TO BE A *UNANIMOUS* DECISION, SO WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO GO OVER THE *FACTS* AND START HASHING THINGS OUT.



GUILTY.
GUILTY.
GUILTY.

GUILTY.
GUILTY.



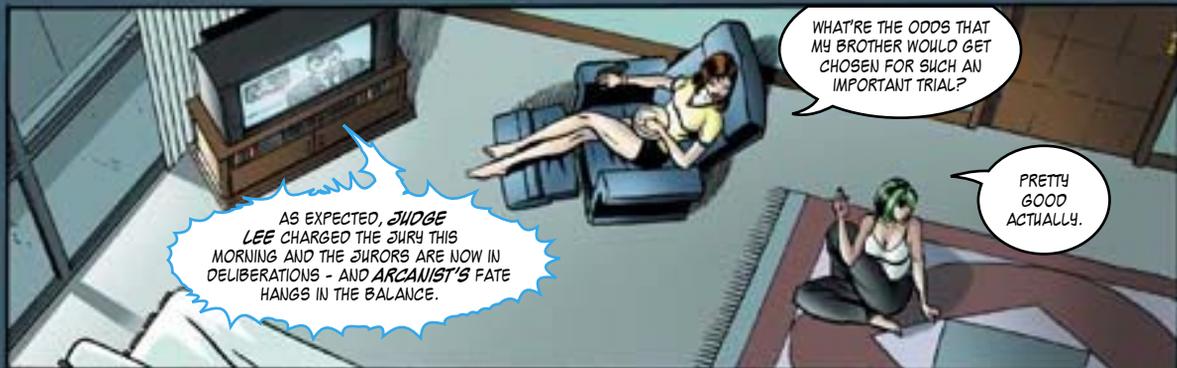
AND THIS IS THE LAST ONE...*GUILTY*.

THAT WENT FASTER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD. I GUESS WE COULD JUST GO AHEAD AND TAKE A *FORMAL* VOTE.



OK, LET'S DO THAT. BUT I'LL TELL YOU ALL RIGHT NOW.

I'M CHANGING MY VOTE TO *NOT GUILTY*.



AS EXPECTED, JUDGE LEE CHARGED THE JURY THIS MORNING AND THE JURORS ARE NOW IN DELIBERATIONS - AND ARCANIST'S FATE HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

WHAT'RE THE ODDS THAT MY BROTHER WOULD GET CHOSEN FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT TRIAL?

PRETTY GOOD ACTUALLY.

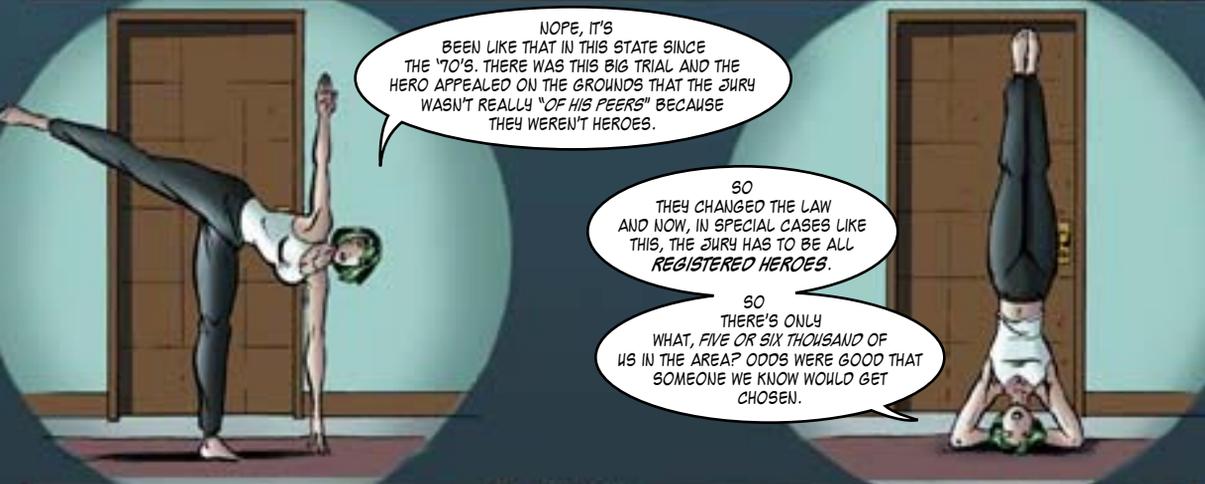


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL,

WHENEVER A HERO GOES ON TRIAL FOR SOME CRIME AGAINST ANOTHER HERO, THEY HAVE TO HAVE AN ALL HERO JURY POOL.

REALLY? YOU'RE KIDDING RIGHT?



NOPE, IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT IN THIS STATE SINCE THE '70'S. THERE WAS THIS BIG TRIAL AND THE HERO APPEALED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE JURY WASN'T REALLY "OF HIS PEERS" BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T HEROES.

SO THEY CHANGED THE LAW AND NOW, IN SPECIAL CASES LIKE THIS, THE JURY HAS TO BE ALL REGISTERED HEROES.

SO THERE'S ONLY WHAT, FIVE OR SIX THOUSAND OF US IN THE AREA? ODDS WERE GOOD THAT SOMEONE WE KNOW WOULD GET CHOSEN.



THINGS SURE WORK WEIRD IN THIS CITY HUH? BACK IN MIAMI, THERE ARE ALL THESE REGULATIONS ON HEROES. THERE'S EVEN A CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT BOARD. THEY'D NEVER LET THE HEROES *JUDGE* EACH OTHER.



FROM EVERYTHING MY BRO'S TOLD ME, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE PRETTY FREE REIGN TO DO WHAT YOU WANT HERE. THAT'S KINDA *MESSED UP*.

IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BOTHER YOUR BROTHER

AND PARAGON IS DIFFERENT, THIS IS A WAR. THE CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND REBUILT, PEOPLE WANT TO FEEL SAFE AGAIN HERE...WHATEVER IT TAKES.



WELL, *HERNANDO* HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN FOR THINKING THINGS THROUGH VERY FAR. HE'S MORE OF A *HANDS ON, ACTION GUY*.

YEAH, OK...SO, UM, HOW'S THE JOB HUNT GOING?



OH, IT'S GOOD. I'VE GOT ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH THE ACCOUNTING FIRM THAT FLEW ME UP HERE. BUT I ALSO JUST GOT A CALL FROM THIS COMPANY CALLED *HERO CORPS*. THEY WANT TO TALK TO ME TOO.



HERO CORPS? I DON'T KNOW, I'VE HEARD SOME *SHADY* STUFF ABOUT THEM. A LOT OF *HEROES* DON'T LIKE THEM. PLUS, *HEROISM FOR PROFIT* SEEMS WRONG TO ME.

WELL, AT LEAST THEY *VOUCH* FOR THEIR *HEROES* AND KEEP THEM IN LINE. I BET YOU DON'T SEE ANY *HERO CORPS* WORKERS ON TRIAL FOR KILLING THEIR *COMRADES*.



WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING FOR THEM?



HERO RELATIONS. YOU KNOW, PASSING OUT ASSIGNMENTS, HELPING WITH HEALTH CARE FORMS, RETIREMENT PLANNING, THAT TYPE OF THING.



WHAT'S UP *HP*? GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL USING *DOORS*.

I'M NEVER GOING TO LIVE THAT *WINDOW-CRASHING* THING DOWN, AM I?

DOESN'T SEEM TOO LIKELY.



WHAT'S UP? WHY'RE YOU IN *COSTUME*? COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY ARE YOU *ALWAYS* IN *COSTUME*?

I JUST RECEIVED THE STRANGEST MESSAGE. SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO USE MY PRIVATE *COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT* IS ASKING TO MEET US.



AND YOU DON'T KNOW *WHO* IT'S FROM?

NO. IN FACT, IT'S PROBABLY A *TRAP*.



WELL, AT LEAST IT GETS ME OUT OF THIS *APARTMENT*. LET'S GO.



CARE TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE CHANGING YOUR VOTE THERE PAL?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THAT MOVIE "12 ANGRY MEN"?

WHAT?

12 ANGRY MEN. IT'S A MOVIE ABOUT A JURY. HENRY FONDA'S IN IT.



IN THAT MOVIE, THE HENRY FONDA CHARACTER HOLDS OUT BECAUSE HE WANTS TO GIVE THE GUY ON TRIAL A FAIR SHAKE. I WANT TO DO THE SAME. IT ONLY SEEMS RIGHT.



BUT YOU THINK HE'S GUILTY RIGHT? SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND? YOU SURE AS HELL AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE MINE.



I'M NOT SAYING I'M GOING TO CHANGE ANYONE'S MIND. BESIDES, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A HERO AREN'T YOU? SHOULDN'T YOU WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING?



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!?!?

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF YOU! I'VE DONE MORE FOR THIS CITY THAN...



COME NOW, LET'S JUST CALM DOWN. THE GENTLEMAN HAS A POINT. IT'S OUR DUTY TO GIVE THIS WHOLE CASE A THOROUGH EXAMINATION. IT WON'T HURT TO GO OVER THE FACTS AGAIN.



FINE. LET'S GO OVER THE FACTS. I'LL GO THROUGH THE WHOLE THING AND EXPLAIN TO CAPTAIN MOVIE WATCHER DOWN THERE HOW HE'S DEFENDING A GUILTY MAN.



THE ARCANIST AND RED RAZOR BOTH RECEIVED TIPS ABOUT THE LOCATION OF A SECRET CIRCLE OF THORUS UNDERGROUND TEMPLE.



BOTH HEROES WENT TO THE LOCATION AND STARTED WAITING ON CIRCLE OF THORN BUTTS.



AND WHEN THEY RUN INTO EACH OTHER, THEY EXCHANGE HARSH WORDS, EACH CLAIMING THE DIBS ON BRINGING DOWN THESE PARTICULAR BADDIES.



THE RED RAZOR, SHOWING A LITTLE COMMON SENSE, DECIDES TO CALL IN HIS TEAMMATES TO HELP HIM CLEAR THE CIRCLE OUT.

NOT WANTING TO BE OVERSHADOWED BY THE RED RAZOR YET AGAIN, THE ARCANIST CASTS A SPELL TO DISRUPT THE RAZOR'S COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.



THE TWO HEROES GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, BUT THE RED RAZOR IS AMBUSHED.



WHEN THE RED RAZOR'S SIDEKICK, JACK KNIFE, ARRIVES ON THE SCENE, HE FINDS THE RAZOR'S CORPSE. HIS EMERGENCY TELEPORTATION BEACON IS INACTIVE - APPARENTLY FROM THE SAME SPELL THAT JAMMED HIS CELL PHONE.





FIRST OF ALL, WHO SENT THESE ANONYMOUS TIPS ABOUT THE *CIRCLE OF THORUS*? COULD THIS HAVE BEEN A TRAP FROM THE BEGINNING?



SECONDLY, WHY DIDN'T THE RED RAZOR WAIT FOR HIS *SIDEKICK* TO SHOW UP? WHY RUSH IN ALONE?



ALSO, THERE WERE NO *WITNESSES* TO RED RAZOR'S DEATH. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED THERE. MAYBE IT WAS THE *CIRCLE OF THORUS* THAT BLOCKED THE TELEPORTATION BEACON, AND NOT THE ARCANIST'S SPELL.



FINALLY, HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT THE *BODY* EVEN BELONGED TO RED RAZOR? WE'RE DEALING WITH *MAGIC* HERE. ALL I'M SAYING IS, IT'S PRETTY HARD FOR US TO BE SURE OF ANYTHING RIGHT NOW, LET ALONE WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH.



SO, CAN'T ONE OF YOUR CONTACTS HELP US FIGURE OUT WHO THIS MYSTERIOUS CALLER IS?

ACTUALLY, YOU'VE ALREADY MET BOTH MY CONTACTS. EVERYONE ELSE I KNEW DIED IN THE WAR.

OH...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.



SO WHO DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON IS?

I HAVE NO IDEA - I COULDN'T TRACE THE COMMUNICATION. BUT WHOEVER IT IS, THEY KNOW A LOT ABOUT US ALREADY.

A WHOLE LOT.

THAT'S A CREEPY THOUGHT.



IF I KNEW WE WERE PLAYING BASKETBALL I'D HAVE WORN DIFFERENT SHOES.

HE GAVE ME THESE G.P.S. COORDINATES.

ARE YOU SURE YOUR LOCATOR THINGY IS WORKING RIGHT? YOU KNOW YOU AND TECHNOLOGY.



QUITE AN ENTRANCE, FELLA - NOW, NO MORE SUDDEN MOVES OR TELEPORTATIONS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M UNARMED.

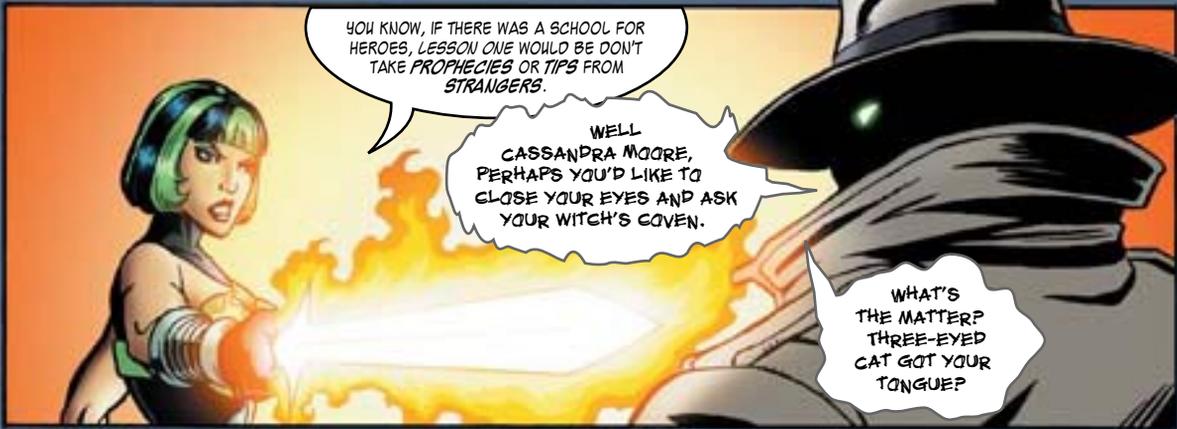
IN THIS TOWN, NOT HAVING A GUN IN YOUR HAND DOESN'T PROVE YOU'RE NOT DANGEROUS.

ESPECIALLY GIVEN YOUR MANNER OF ARRIVAL.



VERY WISE OF YOU. I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO BE SO INSIGHTFUL ONCE YOU'VE HEARD WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

THE FATES OF MANY MAY DEPEND ON YOU.



YOU KNOW, IF THERE WAS A SCHOOL FOR HEROES, LESSON ONE WOULD BE DON'T TAKE PROPHECIES OR TIPS FROM STRANGERS.

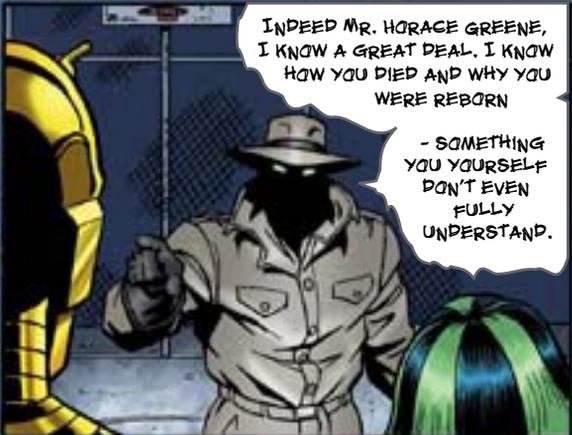
WELL CASSANDRA MOORE, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO CLOSE YOUR EYES AND ASK YOUR WITCH'S COVEN.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? THREE-EYED CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?



HOW DID YOU KNOW...?

I TOLD YOU WAR WITCH. HE KNOWS A LOT OF THINGS HE SHOULDN'T - COULDN'T KNOW.



INDEED MR. HORACE GREENE, I KNOW A GREAT DEAL. I KNOW HOW YOU DIED AND WHY YOU WERE REBORN

- SOMETHING YOU YOURSELF DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?!?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!?!?



CRAP...



I CAN DO THIS ALL DAY. BUT TRUST ME, YOU DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME. AND NEITHER DOES YOUR FRIEND, APEX.



AS I KEEP SAYING, THAT'S ALL **WILD** SPECULATION ON YOUR PART, AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO **FOLLOW THE FACTS!**

IT'S NOT NECESSARILY SPECULATION! IT COULD BE CONSIDERED **REASONABLE DOUBT.**

BUT YOU **VOTED GUILTY** THE FIRST TIME!



OK, LISTEN GUYS, JUST WAIT A SECOND. LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS **OTHER** THEORY FOR A MINUTE OK.



IF THE **CIRCLE OF THORNS** COULD DO A MAGIC RITUAL THAT BLOCKED OUR **EMERGENCY TELEPORTATION BEACONS**, WHY WOULDN'T THEY DO THIS ALL THE TIME? I'VE **NEVER** HEARD OF IT HAPPENING.



BUT **THE ARCANIST** IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL **MAGIC** USING HEROES IN THE CITY, RIGHT? IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE WITHIN HIS POWER. PLUS, WE KNOW HE CAST **SOME** KIND OF SPELL.



BUT **WHAT** SPELL DID HE **CAST?**

HUH? OH...I DON'T KNOW.

NONE OF US DO. **WHY?** BECAUSE IT NEVER CAME OUT IN COURT.

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ARENET



NC SOFT™

ONLINE GAMING
WITH NO FEES

ENTER A WORLD OF

DANGER

AND

GLORY

LINEAGE™ II
THE CHAOTIC CHRONICLE

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I AGREE THAT IF THE CIRCLE OF THORNS COULD BLOCK THE TELEPORTERS, THEY WOULD DO SO ALL THE TIME. BUT THEN AGAIN, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY SPELL THAT CAN DO THAT.



SO YOU'RE AN EXPERT ON MAGIC SPELLS THEN?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I AM. AND THE CIRCLE OF THORNS AS WELL. I DON'T BELIEVE THEY'RE BEHIND THIS.

WHICH IS WHY YOU VOTED GUILTY?



YES. BUT NOW I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. I'D LIKE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF SPELL THE ARCANIST SUPPOSEDLY USED.



WELL, LET'S HAVE THAT PART OF THE TRANSCRIPT READ BACK TO US.



WE CAN ASK, BUT I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, NEITHER THE PROSECUTION NOR THE DEFENSE EVER MENTIONED THE EXACT SPELL USED

AND SINCE IT WASN'T ENTERED IN EVIDENCE IN COURT, WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO KNOW.

WHICH MAKES IT QUITE DIFFICULT FOR US TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION, NO?



SO BECAUSE NO LAWYER BOTHERED TO ASK ABOUT IT, WE'RE MISSING KEY EVIDENCE.

JURY DUTY BITES



WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH APEX?

HE'S CURRENTLY SERVING ON A JURY.

HOW DO YOU...NEVER MIND. YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

SO YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SEE.
AND I KNOW THAT IF APEX DOESN'T HELP THAT JURY REACH THE CORRECT VERDICT, THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY.



WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?

THE JURY'S IN DELIBERATIONS NOW. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO INFLUENCE APEX EVEN IF WE WANTED TO.

WHICH WE DON'T!



I THINK YOU UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ABILITIES, HORACE. OR IS IT HORUS?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT WITH YOUR, SHALL WE SAY "ASSETS", YOU CAN CONTACT APEX AND MAKE SURE HE DOES THE RIGHT THING.



IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HORUS' LITTLE GADGETS, YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING AFTER ALL.

THEY HARDLY EVER WORK.

OH NO, I'M REFERRING TO SOMETHING ELSE. I'M TALKING ABOUT...



SHUT UP!



Horus
WHAT THE
HELL?

HE'LL APPEAR
BEHIND ME
FREEZE HIM



ICE BLAST!
NOW!



WHAT THE...
UNNG...

DIDN'T KNOW
THAT WAS COMING,
DID YA, SMART
GUY?



THAT WAS *SOME* PUNCH.

HE WAS *PISSING* ME OFF.

OBSVIOUSLY. WHAT WAS HE GOING TO SAY?



IF I'D WANTED *YOU* TO HEAR IT, I WOULDN'T HAVE HIT HIM.

WELL, MAYBE I *NEED* TO KNOW MAYBE YOU NEED TO TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT THE *STRANGER* KNOWS!

OK. JUST TELL ME ABOUT YOUR "*WITCHES COVEN*" FIRST.



FINE.

I CAN'T KEEP HIM LIKE THIS FOREVER, BUT IF THE ICE *MELTS* HE'LL TELEPORT AGAIN.

MAYBE I COULD *BUILD* SOME KIND OF *BRAIN* SCANNER...



AND NOW HE'S EITHER DEAD, OR TELEPORTED AWAY.

HE MUST'VE HAD *BACKUP*.

WE NEED TO WARN *APEX*.



I THINK WE'VE GONE OFF INTO POINTLESS SPECULATION. WE DON'T HAVE THE NAME OF THE SPELL USED TO CUT THE COMMUNICATIONS. FINE.

IF EITHER LAWYER THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT, THEY WOULD HAVE TOLD US.



NOT NECESSARILY. WHAT IF THE ARCANIST HIMSELF IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A CURSE? OR HIS LAWYERS? WE'RE DEALING WITH MAGIC HERE.



COME ON! THIS IS RIDICULOUS. YOU'RE JUST MAKING STUFF UP NOW.

BUT THAT'S THE WORLD WE LIVE IN - MAGIC, SUPER POWERS, ALIENS, OTHER DIMENSIONS. HOW CAN WE KNOW FOR SURE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?



WE COULD FIND OUT OURSELVES. WE'RE HEROES RIGHT? IT'S OUR DUTY TO FIND THE TRUTH. TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE.



THAT'S WAY OUT OF LINE. NOT ONLY WOULD WE BE HELD IN CONTEMPT, WE'D BE SUBVERTING THE WHOLE JUDICIAL PROCESS!



I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT BUSTING OUT OF HERE AND GOING TO CATCH THE CRIMINAL OURSELVES. I'M TALKING ABOUT DOING SOMETHING SECRET THAT'LL HELP US FIND THE TRUTH.

LIKE WHAT?



WELL, I KNOW FROM THE JUDGE'S ADMONITION THAT AT LEAST ONE PERSON HERE HAS *PSYCHIC* POWERS.



MY POWERS COULD DEFINITELY FIND THE INFORMATION YOU SEEK, BUT THE *JUDGE* POINTED *ME* OUT IN PARTICULAR WHEN HE WARNED ABOUT USING *POWERS*...



I COULD CLOAK OUR ACTIVITIES FROM THE COURTROOM'S SENSORS WITH A *MYSTIC RITUAL* I KNOW.

THAT MIGHT WORK. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS, WE NEED SOME *CONDUIT* - SOME CONNECTION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THE COURT BUILDING HAS *MYSTIC* AND *TECHNOLOGICAL SHIELDING* THAT BLOCK MY POWERS.



I MUST PROTEST. THIS IS AGAINST ANY NUMBER OF LAWS AND MIGHT RESULT IN US LOSING OUR *HERO* PRIVILEGES OR EVEN GETTING THROWN IN *JAIL*.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS. I AGREE WITH HER. WE'RE *OVERSTEPPING* OUT *BOUNDS* HERE. I KNOW IT *SUCKS*, BUT I THINK MORE *TROUBLE* THAN *GOOD* WILL COME OF IT.

ONLY IF WE GET *CAUGHT*.

NOW, WHY DON'T WE...



WHAT THE HECK?



IS THAT AN ALARM OR SOMETHING?

NO...NO, IT'S MY TEAMMATE, CALLING ME.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE'RE BEHIND A SEQUESTERING SHIELD!



WH... HELLO?

APEX! IT'S HORUS, LISTEN, ARE YOU OK?

YEAH, I'M FINE. HOW THE HECK ARE YOU CALLING ME?



I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DID IT, BUT I CAN USE THAT PHONE TRANSMISSION AS A CONDUIT!

ARE YOU SURE? IT'LL TAKE ME A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE MY CLOAKING RITUAL.

YES! I'M SURE - START THE RITUAL NOW.



HORUS, WHAT DO YOU MEAN SOMEONE'S THREATENING ME? I'M IN A COURTHOUSE FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T HANG UP! KEEP THE LINE OPEN!



HEY! MY PHONE WAS TURNED OFF - HOW ARE WE TALKING AT ALL?

I'M NOT SURE WHY THIS CALL IS WORKING, BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT.



WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS WANTS TO AFFECT THE *OUTCOME* OF THAT TRIAL.

AND THEY THINK THEY CAN DO THAT BY THREATENING *ME* THROUGH *YOU*.

IT SEEMS SO. THEY KNOW AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT BOTH *ME* AND *WAR WITCH* - AND PROBABLY *YOU* AS WELL.

WHAT DO THEY WANT?



I'M NOT SURE. I KIND OF HIT HIM BEFORE HE COULD TELL US. THEN WAR WITCH FROSE HIM AND HE KIND OF GOT SHOT AND BLEW UP.

OR MAYBE TELEPORTED AWAY.



WHAT ARE YOU TWO KIDS *DOING* OUT THERE? I *KNEW* YOU NEEDED ADULT SUPERVISION...

LISTEN, IF I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THEY WANT AN ACQUITTAL OR A CONVICTION, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.



RIGHT NOW THOUGH, THERE'S THIS CRAZY HERO - *NAMASTE* - WHO'S IN THE MIDDLE OF BREAKING THE LAW AND APPARENTLY I'M HELPING HIM.

AND YOU THINK WE NEED SUPERVISION?



I FOUND IT.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FINISHED WITH OUR *FELONIES* FOR THE MOMENT. I'LL EITHER CALL YOU FROM *JAIL* OR SEE YOU AFTER WE REACH A *VERDICT*, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.



HORUS, YOU NEED TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON. HOW DID YOU MAKE THAT PHONE WORK IN SPITE OF THE COURTHOUSE COMMUNICATION SHIELDS?

I CAN'T. I CAN'T TELL YOU.



IN MY CIRCLE, WE HAVE A THING CALLED "SECRETING" WHERE WE TRADE SECRETS, ONE FOR ONE. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT MY COVEN...

NO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I CAN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.



EVER SINCE THE WAR - SINCE I WAS NEARLY KILLED - THINGS HAVE BEEN STRANGE. I WAS A GENIUS WITH TECHNOLOGY, BUT NOW NOTHING I MAKE WORKS THE WAY IT SHOULD.

THAT'S NOT TRUE - WHAT ABOUT YOUR ARMOR? AND THOSE EMERGENCY BEACONS YOU GAVE APEX AND ME?



THOSE SHOULDN'T HAVE WORKED! I LOOKED AT APEX'S AFTERWARDS AND THERE WASN'T EVEN A BATTERY IN IT!

AND THIS ARMOR... THIS ARMOR... I... I DIDN'T MAKE IT.



I FOUND IT IN MY APARTMENT AFTER I GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS.

PLUS... I DON'T EVEN NEED IT TO FLY.

WHAT..?!



THERE'S OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON HERE AND NEITHER YOU NOR I HAVE THE ANSWERS.

BUT OUR MYSTERIOUS STRANGER SEEMED TO KNOW A LOT. MAYBE IF WE FIND HIM - OR WHOEVER HE WORKS FOR, WE CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS.

ARE YOU WITH ME?



IT'S A LONG SHOT.

I KNOW, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHIN'.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M IN.



OK, BEFORE THEY ARREST US, WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

I WAS ABLE TO USE MY CLAIRVOYANCE TO SCAN ALL THE PROSECUTOR'S FILES. THE SPELL WAS CALLED THE CHARM OF JORESH.

I KNOW THAT CHARM! IT'S A VERY MINOR SPELL. CREATES STATIC ON CELL PHONES.

YOU NEED A SPELL FOR THAT?

THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD INTERFERE WITH THE TELEPORTATION NETWORK. ARCANIST MIGHT BE INNOCENT!

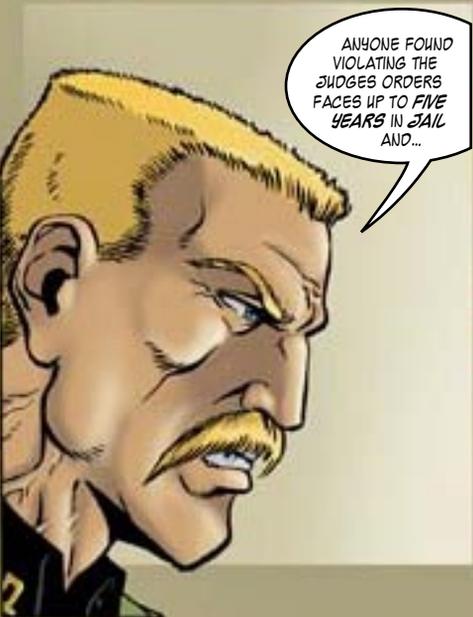
EVERYONE STAY WHERE YOU ARE! THERE'S BEEN AN UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SUPER POWERS IN THIS ROOM!

BY ORDER OF JUDGE STEPHEN LEE, YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY UNDER MAXIMUM SEQUESTRATION STATUS.



SINCE WE CANNOT ISOLATE THE OFFENDER, THE JUDGE HAS DECIDED TO LET YOUR DELIBERATIONS CONTINUE.

HOWEVER, THESE DRONES WILL REMAIN IN THE JURY ROOM AND IMMEDIATELY INCAPACITATE ANYONE WHO USES ANY SUPER POWER.



ANYONE FOUND VIOLATING THE JUDGES ORDERS FACES UP TO FIVE YEARS IN JAIL AND...



A PERMANENT REMOVAL OF ALL VIGILANTE AND HERO PRIVILEGES IN PARAGON CITY, AND, WHERE POSSIBLE...

A STRIPPING OF ALL YOUR SUPER POWERS.

NOW PLEASE, CARRY ON.

TO BE CONTINUED IN JURY DUTY: PART TWO

Auto Assault™



***Drive
to
Survive!***



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