

BLUE KING



STUDIOS

January 8

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CITY OF HEROES



CREY
INDUSTRIES

TODAY'S IS TOMORROW'S
PAIN PROFIT

CITY OF HEROES™

DELUXE



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



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THIS IS MY LIFE, HERNANDO!

STAY OUT OF IT!



SALLY, **CREY INDUSTRIES** IS AN **EVIL** COMPANY. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT.

YOU CAN'T GO WORK FOR THEM! YOU'LL BE DOING SOMETHING **ILLEGAL** AND... AND... WELL, **EVIL** BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!



IF THEY'RE SO **EVIL**, WHY HASN'T SOME "**HERO**" LIKE YOU ARRESTED THEM? **HUH?** BUT I GUESS YOU'RE THE EXPERT IN THE FAMILY ABOUT **BREAKING** THE

BUT I GUESS YOU'RE THE EXPERT IN THE FAMILY ABOUT **BREAKING** THE **LAW...**



"MR. UNDERHOUSE ARREST FOR BREAKING OUT OF JAIL!"

Issue #8		Training Day	
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I'M GOING TO WORK!

IT WASN'T JAIL, IT WAS JURY DUTY!



SLAM!



THAT SOUNDED LIKE IT WENT WELL.

WHY DON'T YOU GO GET HER?



HAR-DE-HAR. HAR. VERY FUNNY.

OH RIGHT! THE HOUSE ARREST BRACELET. TELEPORTS YOU RIGHT BACK TO JAIL, HUH?

ONLY THREE MORE DAYS...

HEY, WHY'RE YOU IN YOUR COSTUME?



HORNS AND I ARE GOING TO GO PATROL. CRIME DOESN'T STOP JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T COME OUT AND PLAY.

YEAH, YEAH, RUB IT IN.



I HATE THIS THING.



SIGH... STILL AN HOUR 'TILL SPONGEBOB'S ON.



SKNOCK-KNOCK

CAN I COME IN?

16-C

WHO IS IT?

WHO IS IT?

HOW MANY WOMEN JUST CAME BARBING INTO YOUR APARTMENT LIKE ME?



OH/HI WAR WITCH. SORRY, I WAS ENGROSSED IN THIS FILE I STOLE FROM THE MALTA GROUP.



YOU STOLE A FILE FROM THE MALTA GROUP BASE? HOW COME YOU NEVER TOLD US?

I WANTED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING IMPORTANT ON IT.

LIKE THIS.



HEY! THAT'S YOU. WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT

YOU? - A LOT MY WHOLE HISTORY BEFORE AND AFTER

THE WAR. WHAT MAKES



BECAUSE, APPARENTLY, THE 5TH COLUMN IS INTERESTED IN ME. VERY INTERESTED.

WHAT? WHY?

I'M ON A LIST OF TWELVE HEROES THE 5TH COLUMN HAS MARKED AS "PROBABLE HOSTS" WHATEVER THAT MEANS.



THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD. WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING. AND I KNOW JUST WHO CAN HELP US.

YOU DON'T MEAN...



KAYLA. SHE'S OUR BEST CONTACT FOR ANYTHING 5TH COLUMN.

OHhhh MAN. I ALREADY HATE THIS PLAN AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN AMBUSHED IN AN ALLEYWAY YET.

WELL, IT'S EARLY. THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME.

CREY INDUSTRIES
INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS

CREY
INDUSTRIES

MS.
BARRERA?
WELCOME TO CREY
INDUSTRIES.

OH,
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.
PLEASE, CALL
ME SALLY.

SALLY IT IS. ARE YOU EXCITED
TO START YOUR FIRST DAY AT
THE WORLD'S GREATEST
CORPORATION?

I
SURE AM! I'VE
BEEN REALLY LOOKING
FORWARD TO THIS. THANKS
AGAIN SO MUCH FOR
HIRING ME.

YOUR QUALIFICATIONS JUMPED
OFF THE PAGE WHEN WE READ
THEM. I'M SURE YOU'LL BE A
TREMENDOUS ASSET TO
OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT.

AND
DON'T MENTION THIS
TO YOUR NEW CO-WORKERS,
BUT THE COUNTESS HERSELF
ACTUALLY DIRECTED US TO
HIRE YOU ONCE SHE READ
YOUR RESUME.

THE
COUNTESS
CREY ACTUALLY HIRED
ME HERSELF? WOW...I'M
VERY FLATTERED.
THAT'S JUST...

WOW.



THE *COUNTESS* ALWAYS REVIEWS ANY PROMISING APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTANT JOBS. SHE'S AN *INCREDIBLY SHREWD* JUDGE OF CHARACTER.

NOW JUST STEP ON THROUGH THE *SECURITY SCANNERS* AND WE CAN BEGIN YOUR *ORIENTATION*.



YOU GUYS HAVE A LOT OF *SECURITY*, HUH?

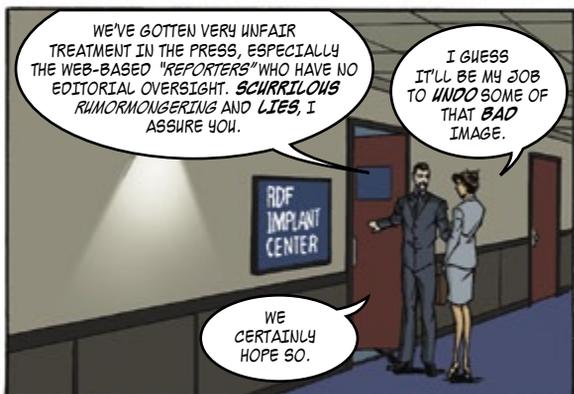
IN *THIS CITY* YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW.

PLUS, WE GET A LOT OF *THREATS*, EVEN SOME FROM *ROGUE "HEROES"* WHO THINK WE'RE UP TO *NO GOOD*.



YEAH, UM, I'VE HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT. YOU'RE *NOT* VERY POPULAR WITH THE *SPANDEX* AND *CAPE* SET, ARE YOU?

IT'S "*WE*", SALLY. REMEMBER, YOU'RE PART OF THE *CREY INDUSTRIES* TEAM NOW.



WE'VE GOTTEN VERY UNFAIR TREATMENT IN THE PRESS, ESPECIALLY THE WEB-BASED "*REPORTERS*" WHO HAVE NO EDITORIAL OVERSIGHT. *SCURRILOUS RUMORMONGERING* AND *LIES*, I ASSURE YOU.

I GUESS IT'LL BE MY JOB TO *UNDO* SOME OF THAT *BAD IMAGE*.

WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO.



WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

JUST A *SMALL SECURITY MEASURE*. ALL *CREY* EMPLOYEES RECEIVE *RDF TRACKING IMPLANTS* THAT MONITOR THEIR EVERY MOVEMENT WHILE THEY'RE IN THE BUILDING.



IS IT *SAFE*? THAT NEEDLE LOOKS



DON'T WORRY SALLY, IT'S *TOTALLY SAFE*, JUST LIKE ALL OF *CREY'S*



NOW, LET'S START THE *TOUR*, SHALL WE?





KAYLA, I WAS KIND OF HOPING TO KEEP THIS MORE, YOU KNOW, QUIET.

WHY'S THAT?

I HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THIS ONE, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



DON'T WORRY YOUR LITTLE NOGGIN H, THESE GUYS MAY JUST BE MISCLE, BUT THEY'LL KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.

OK, OK, I TRUST YOU.

CLONK
CLONK

BESIDES, DID YOU NOT SEE THE BLONDE? RRROWW! NOW, WHAT'S THE BIG SECRET? TELL AUNTIE KAYLA EVERYTHING.



THAT'S AN INTERESTING FRIEND YOU HAVE THERE.

YOU MEAN HORUS? HE'S OUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR...

I BELIEVE HE WAS REFERRING TO KAYLA.



OH, YEAH, KAYLA'S A HANDFUL ALL RIGHT, AS I'M SURE WE'RE ALL ABOUT TO FIND OUT.

WE'VE SEEN HER IN A FIGHT ALREADY - SHE'S VERY, WELL, ENTHUSIASTIC.

INDEED.



SHE'S CALLING A CONTACT OF HERS WHO SHE THINKS MIGHT HAVE A LEAD FOR US.

KAYLA WAS FUZZY ON THE DETAILS - WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE TRYING TO DO



IT'S SIMPLE.

WE'RE GOING TO FIND A 5TH COLUMN BASE, BREAK IN, HACK THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEM AND STEAL THEIR MOST SECRET FILES.

NO MATTER HOW MANY HEADS WE HAVE TO BREAK ALONG THE WAY.



YOU'LL BE WORKING HERE, IN THE *PR* DEPARTMENT. YOU'LL BE SPECIALIZING IN *SUPER POWERED HERO RELATIONS*

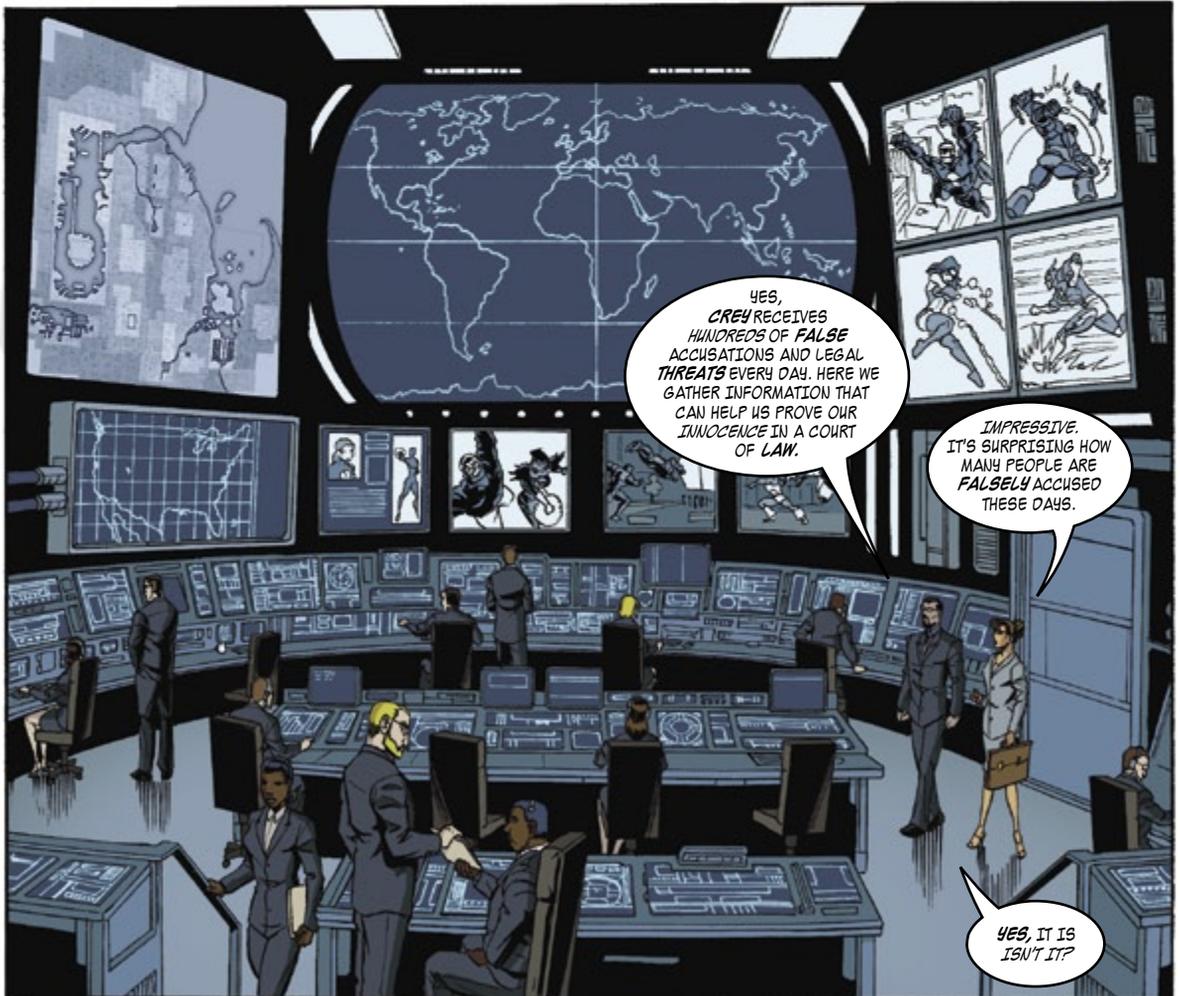
REALLY? THAT'S *GREAT!* I'D HEARD IT WAS HARD TO GET INTO THAT DEPARTMENT.



WELL, WE RECOGNIZE *TALENT*, AND *REWARD* IT WHEN WE FIND IT.

NOW, WE'RE MOVING ON TO THE *CRISIS RESPONSE* DIVISION OF OUR *LEGAL* DEPARTMENT.

CRISIS RESPONSE?



YES, *GREY* RECEIVES HUNDREDS OF *FALSE* ACCUSATIONS AND *LEGAL THREATS* EVERY DAY. HERE WE GATHER INFORMATION THAT CAN HELP US PROVE OUR INNOCENCE IN A COURT OF LAW.

IMPRESSIVE. IT'S SURPRISING HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE *FALSELY* ACCUSED THESE DAYS.

YES, IT IS ISN'T IT?



THIS IS A *PERFECT* EXAMPLE - THE NEIGHBORHOOD CALLED "*CREY'S FOLLY*" BY SOME - *SIMPLY RIDICULOUS*. WE WERE *NEVER* SHOWN TO BE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MISTAKES THAT WERE MADE THERE.

UM, OK.



CREY IS ONE OF THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS CORPORATIONS IN THE WORLD. WE ALWAYS FOLLOW RESTRICTIONS TO THE *LETTER*

WHAT ABOUT THAT CASE I WAS READING ABOUT *TODAY* IN THE PAPER?



A *PERFECT* EXAMPLE OF THE *PRESS* BLOWING THINGS *OUT* OF *PROPORTION* AND GETTING THE *STORY* ALL *WRONG*.



"THERE WAS A MISTAKE IN THE *SHIPPING DEPARTMENT* AND SOME *CHEMICALS* ENDED UP GETTING SHIPPED TO THE *WRONG ADDRESS*."



"THERE WAS A *SLIGHT MISHUNDERSTANDING* WITH A *HERO* WHO HAD NO *BUSINESS* BEING THERE IN THE *FIRST PLACE*."



"IN THE *ENSUING CONFRONTATION*, THE *HERO'S* ACTIONS *DESTABILIZED* THE *SITUATION*."



"FORTUNATELY, ONLY A *SMALL AMOUNT* OF *CHEMICALS* ESCAPED INTO THE *ENVIRONMENT*, AND WE *QUICKLY CLEANED* IT UP."



OH, WELL, THAT'S *VERY* DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS IN THE PAPERS. *HOW* COULD THEY GET IT SO *WRONG*?

THEY HAVE A *VERY PRO-HERO* AGENDA. *HOPEFULLY*, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HELP US CHANGE THAT.



HOW COULD I CHANGE THAT? WOULD YOU PREFER AN *ANTI-HERO* AGENDA?

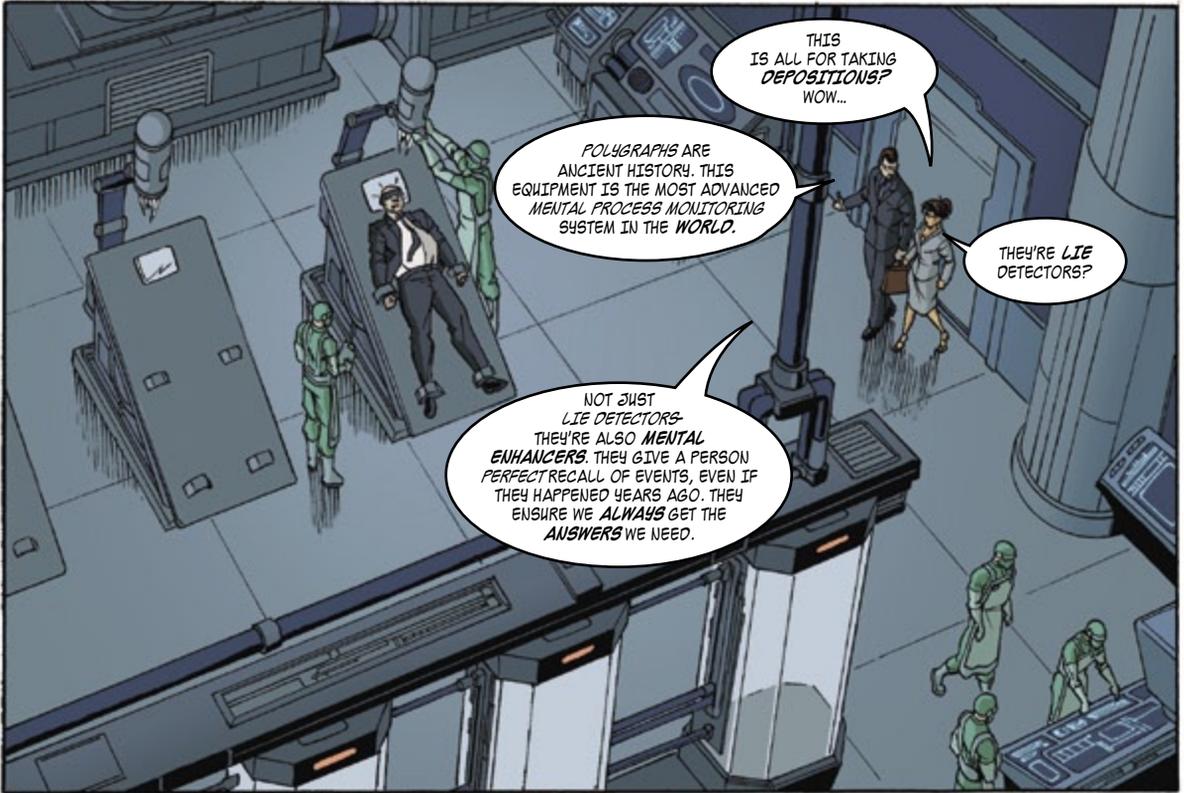
NO, NOT NECESSARILY - ALTHOUGH YOUR PROPOSAL, *MS. BARERA*, SHOWS PROMISE. WE'D PREFER A "*PRO-CREY*" AGENDA."



ANYWAY, I'M ABOUT TO TAKE YOU INTO OUR *DEPOSITIONS*

A LOT OF *SECURITY* FOR TAKING *DEPOSITIONS* ISN'T IT?

WELL, WE HAVE A *SPECIAL TECHNIQUE*. YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN IN A MOMENT.



THIS IS ALL FOR TAKING *DEPOSITIONS*? WOW...

POLYGRAPHS ARE ANCIENT HISTORY. THIS EQUIPMENT IS THE MOST ADVANCED MENTAL PROCESS MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE *WORLD*.

THEY'RE *LIE* DETECTORS?

NOT JUST *LIE DETECTORS* - THEY'RE ALSO *MENTAL ENHANCERS*. THEY GIVE A PERSON *PERFECT RECALL* OF EVENTS, EVEN IF THEY HAPPENED YEARS AGO. THEY ENSURE WE *ALWAYS* GET THE *ANSWERS* WE NEED.



LET'S JUST SAY IT'S IN A "GRAY ZONE" RIGHT NOW, BUT WE'RE LOBBYING HARD TO HAVE IT ADMISSIBLE IN COURT. AT THE VERY LEAST, IT LETS US FIND OUT WHAT WE NEED TO. AND THERE ARE THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW.

IS THIS LEGAL?



I'M...I'M HAPPY TO TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW, BUT I SWEAR I WASN'T INVOLVED.



POWER UP TO LEVEL 2.

DON'T... KNOW... ABOUT... ANY... SECRET... ACCOUNT...



OMIGOSH...

GLYMAN... TRUST! 532... 213... 9032...!!!!



THERE'S NO PERMANENT DAMAGE. HE'LL BE FINE. AND IN THE END, HE'LL HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO HELP US OUT.

IF YOU SAY SO...

IF YOU SAY SO...



NOW, TAKE A MINUTE TO GATHER YOURSELF. BREATHE DEEP. READY?

READY FOR WHAT?

WHY, FOR YOUR PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE COUNTESS CREY, OF COURSE.



OK,
THERE'RE SOME FASCISTS.
MY CONTACT SAID IF WE ROUGH THESE
JERKS UP, THEY SHOULD TELL US WHAT
WE NEED TO KNOW.

YOU LIKE
JUMPING DOWN
ON BAD GUYS FROM
ROOFS, DON'T
YOU?



DON'T YOU?

YEAH.
I REALLY
DO..



'KAY KIDS, HERE'S THE PLAY. WE
JUMP DOWN, STOMP THE HATE OUT
OF 'EM AND SHOW THEM WHO'S
BOSS. HOT STUFF, YOU STAY
CLOSE TO ME.

AND
SAVE ONE FOR
QUESTIONS.

YEAH,
THAT TOO.
OK, LET'S DO
IT!



YEEEEEEEE
HAWWWWW!!!

JOIN US!

UM...SIR?

THE FUTURE
BELONGS TO THE
5TH COLUMN



BURN
IN THE
FLAMES OF
JUSTICE!

NICE
SHOT, HOT
STUFF!



OW!

IT'S
PAYBACK
TIME!

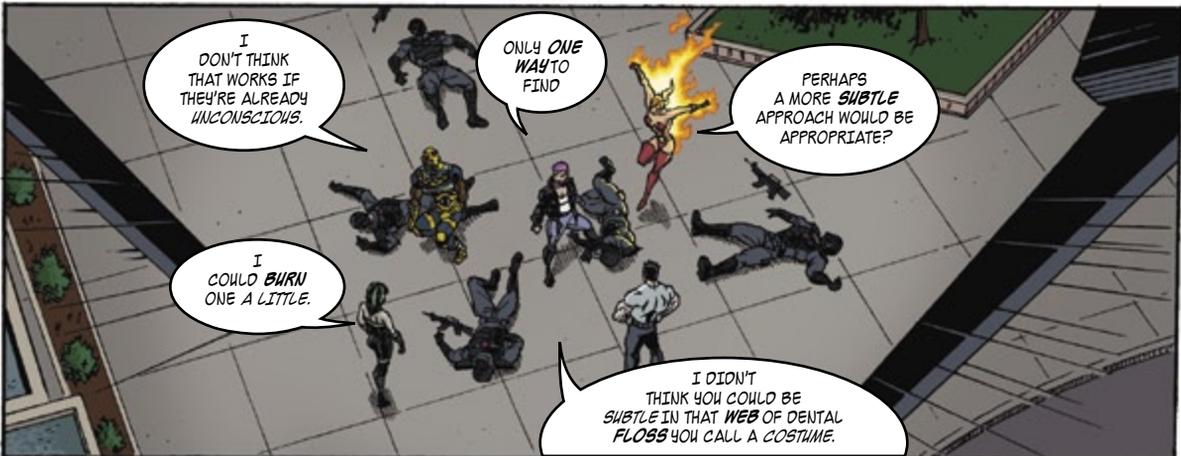
YEAH! **BURN**
IN THE **FLAMES**
OF **PAYBACK!**

OR
SOMETHING



WELL, AT LEAST THEY'RE
STILL **ALIVE**, IF NOT
CONSCIOUS.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, **H**. I KNOW
YOU WANTED TO **CHIN WAG**
WITH THEM. MAYBE IF I **SLAP**
ONE ACROSS THE **FACE**
HE'LL WAKE UP.



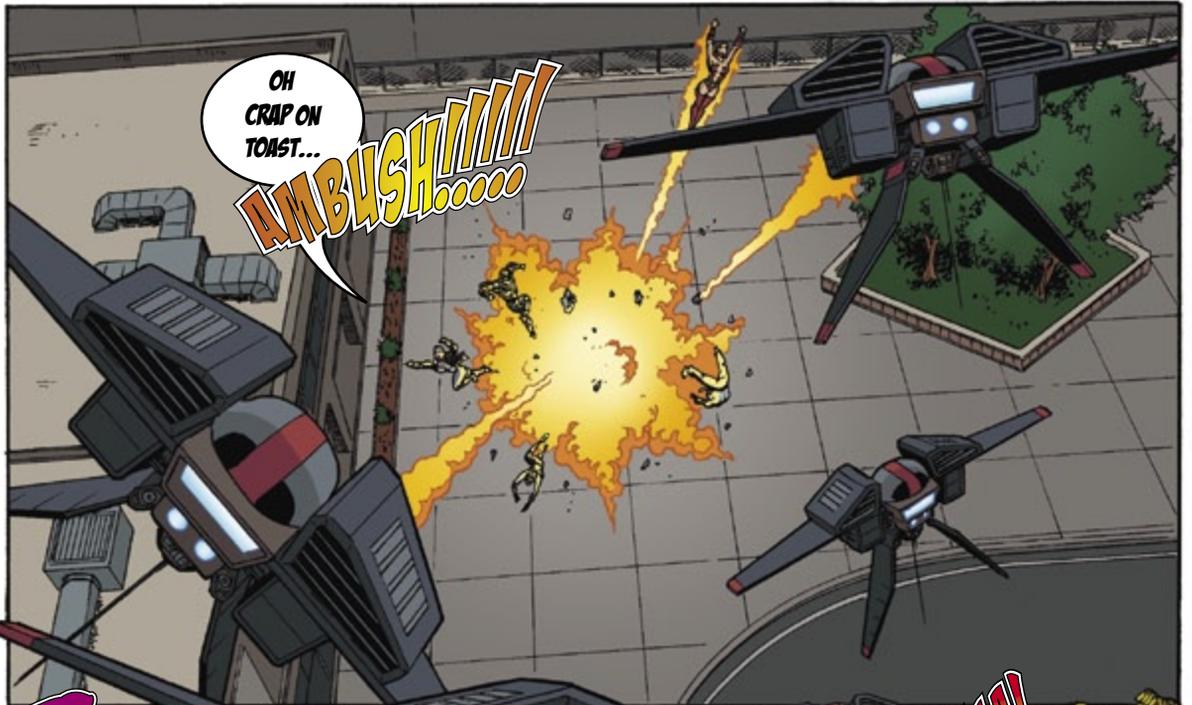
I
DON'T THINK
THAT WORKS IF
THEY'RE ALREADY
UNCONSCIOUS.

ONLY **ONE**
WAY TO
FIND

PERHAPS
A MORE **SUBTLE**
APPROACH WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE?

I
COULD **BURN**
ONE A LITTLE.

I DIDN'T
THINK YOU COULD BE
SUBTLE IN THAT **WEB** OF **DENTAL**
FLOSS YOU CALL A **COSTUME**.



OH CRAP ON TOAST...

AMBUSH!!!!!!



POOF!

KAYLA!



THEY'RE COMING BACK AROUND FOR ANOTHER PASS!

THE LEAD ONE'S MINE!

I'LL HOLD OFF THE OTHER TWO.



Auto Assault™



***Drive
to
Survive!***



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CITY OF VILLAINS™

**SOMETHING
WICKED
THIS WAY
COMES**

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DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL DO FINE, JUST BE YOURSELF.



I'M OK. IT'S JUST, YOU KNOW, EXCITING. NOT EVERY DAY THAT YOU MEET ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD.



UH... HELLO.

MISS, IF YOU'LL JUST STEP OVER HERE FOR A MOMENT PLEASE.



SHE'S CLEAN.



HELLO...

UM...

I'M SALLY BARRERA.



I'VE, UH, BEEN VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR FACILITIES.

EVERYTHING... UM... EVERYTHING MR. TYLER'S SHOWN ME HAS BEEN VERY, UM... IMPRESSIVE.





WHAT'S THE **WORST** THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD SOMEONE SAY ABOUT **ME**?



EXCUSE ME? I'M NOT SURE...

I'M NOT **SURE** I KNOW WHAT YOU **MEAN**.



YOU'RE **NEW**, SO I'LL MAKE A **ONE** TIME **EXCEPTION** AND ASK A QUESTION A **SECOND** TIME.

WHAT IS THE **WORST** THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD ANYONE SAY ABOUT **ME**?



WELL, TO BE HONEST, I'VE HEARD A **LOT** OF **NEGATIVE** THINGS ABOUT **CREY INDUSTRIES** SINCE I TOOK THIS **JOB**.

BUT THE **WORST** HAS TO BE THAT YOU **STEAL** THE **BODIES** OF **FALLEN** HEROES AND USE THEM IN YOUR **LABS**.



AND HOW WOULD **YOU**, AS MY **PUBLIC RELATIONS** REPRESENTATIVE, COUNTER SUCH **CLAIMS**?



I'D POINT OUT THE **LACK** OF **PROOF** FOR ANY OF THESE **RIDICULOUS** STORIES AND THEN EMPHASIZE THAT **CREY INDUSTRIES** HAS SUPPORTED **PARAGON CITY** SINCE THE COMPANY RELOCATED HERE...

AND THAT OUR **MEDICAL** TECHNOLOGIES SAVE **MILLIONS** OF LIVES EVERY YEAR. AND THAT **CREY** IS A **LICENSED** RECIPIENT OF **DONOR** ORGAN **TISSUES** FOR **TRANSPLANTS** AND **RESEARCH**.



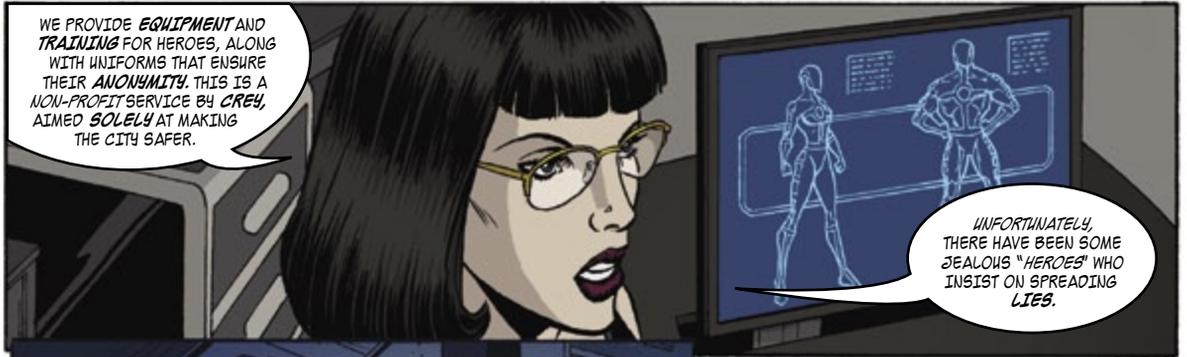
NOT **BAD**.

NOW, I HAVE SOMETHING **ELSE** I WANT TO **DISCUSS** WITH YOU.



I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF OUR HEROES FOR TOMORROW PROGRAM.

YES, OF COURSE.



WE PROVIDE *EQUIPMENT* AND *TRAINING* FOR HEROES, ALONG WITH UNIFORMS THAT ENSURE THEIR *ANONYMITY*. THIS IS A *NON-PROFIT* SERVICE BY *CREY*, AIMED *SOLELY* AT MAKING THE CITY SAFER.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME JEALOUS "HEROES" WHO INSIST ON SPREADING LIES.



THERE'VE BEEN FALSE REPORTS OF OUR HEROES NEEDLESSLY ATTACKING OTHER, SO-CALLED HEROES.

IN FACT, OUR HEROES ARE HELD TO THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS. THEY ARE *UTTERLY* ABOVE REPROACH.



THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT.



I'D LIKE YOU TO HEAD OUR NEW **PUBLIC RELATIONS** CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE OUR **CORPORATE HEROES** OVER THE **FREELANCE** VARIETY.

REALLY? THAT'S **HM**, QUITE AN **HONOR**.



NOW, ACCORDING TO OUR RESEARCH, YOUR BROTHER IS A **VIGILANTE** WHO OPERATES UNDER THE NAME "**APEX**."

AND HE RECENTLY HAD SOME **LEGAL** TROUBLE INVOLVING A **STINT OF JURY DUTY**.



YES, THAT'S MY **BROTHER**. BUT, YOU KNOW THAT **JURY** THING - HE WAS JUST DOING WHAT HE THOUGHT BEST. IT WAS **ALL** KIND OF A **MISUNDERSTANDING**.



SO YOUR FAMILY ISN'T **UNFAMILIAR** WITH THE **DAMAGE RUMOR** AND **INNUEENDO** CAN DO TO AN **INNOCENT** PERSON'S - OR COMPANY'S - REPUTATION.

EXCELLENT.



YES, I...UH...SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

I'M GLAD THAT YOU DO. I'M SURE YOU WON'T LET YOUR BROTHER'S "**HOBBY**" INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK WITH OUR OWN **HEROES OF TOMORROW**.



NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT. TO BE **HONEST**, HE AND I DON'T REALLY... WELL...

LET'S JUST SAY, I THINK **YOUR** WAY SOUNDS MUCH BETTER THAN **HIS**.



I'LL BE A **MODEL** EMPLOYEE, I **PROMISE** YOU.

I'M **GLAD** TO HEAR IT. WELCOME ABOARD.

AND REST ASSURED, I'LL **HOLD** YOU TO THAT **PROMISE**.



WHAT HAPPENED TO HORUS?

I'M NOT SURE - THERE WAS A HUGE EXPLOSION!
I DIDN'T SEE HIM COME OUT OF IT.



WE'RE GETTING OUR BUTTS KICKED, AREN'T WE?

LIKE WE GOT "KICK ME" SIGNS ON OUR BACKS.



I THINK THEY *KNEW* WE WERE COMING. WE NEED A PLAN, FAST.

IF THEY'D HOLD STILL I COULD GRAB ONE...

IS THAT HORUS?



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!



OH!!

HOW...HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

I...DON'T...KNOW...

I NEED TO GO HOME...REST.



HOLY COW!



WHAT HAPPENED!?!?

IT'S A LONG STORY. HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY OF WORK?

UM... WEIRD. IT'S A LONG STORY.



THINGS GOT UGLY OUT THERE.

MAN, I HATE THIS THING!

AND, UM, I THINK I'M A SUPER VILLAIN NOW.

JOIN US NEXT MONTH FOR MORE MAGNIFICENT MAYHEM!