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FOR TEENS

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN



ISSUE 27
2024

**NEGATION
CONTINUES**



**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



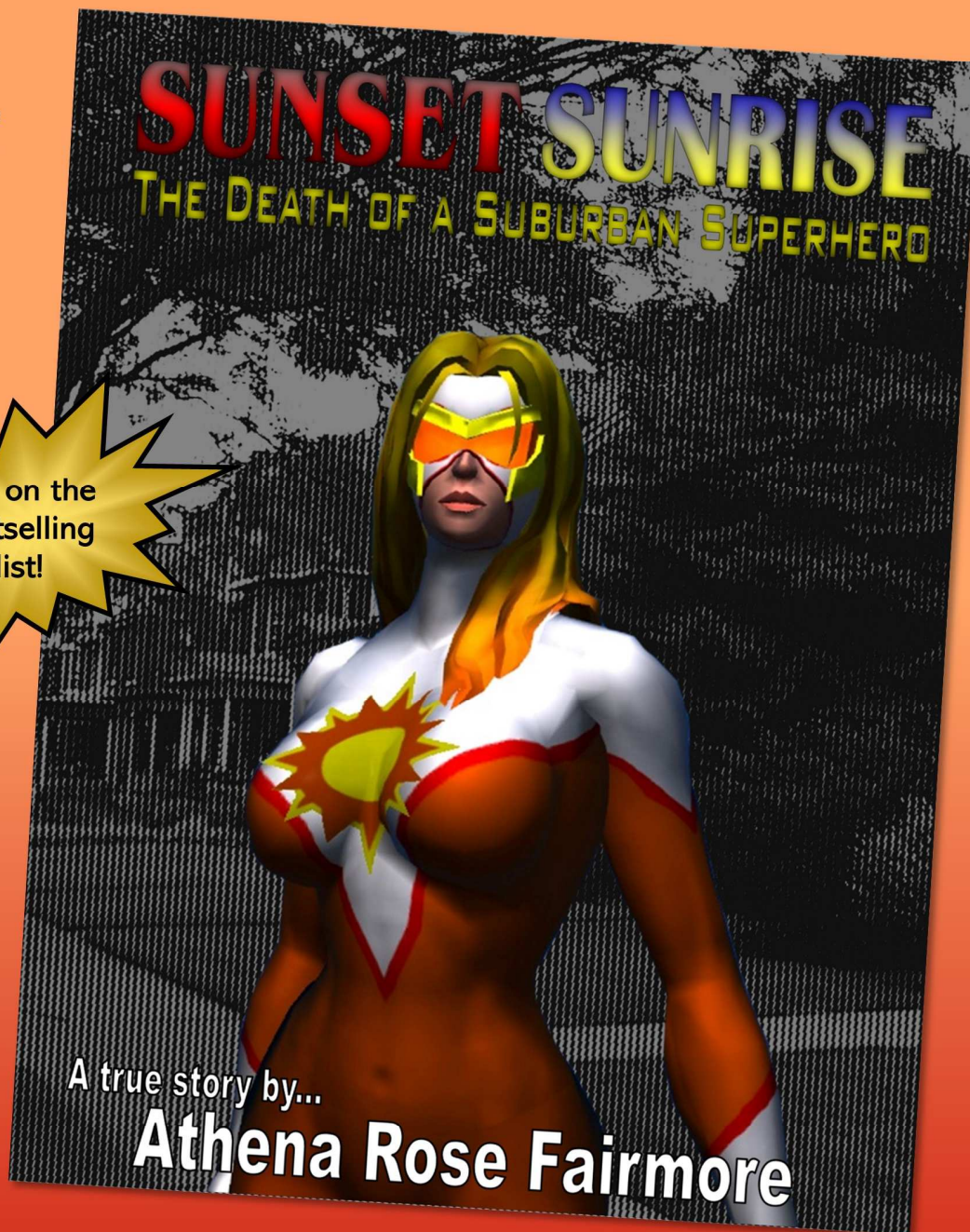
gearbox
publishing

Soccer practice, school recitals, parent-teacher meetings, carpooling, barbeques, supervillain battles...

Just the day in the life of a suburban housewife and superhero... **Until someone discovered her secret.**

"Athena Rose Fairmore has shown that real-life can be just as perilous as her fictional worlds."
- Books 102

Still on the bestselling list!



"I didn't want to believe it could happen, but it did."
- Hero Reader Today

"I cried. I honestly cried when I finished reading."
- Ella Bransfield

A real-life tragedy from bestselling author Athena Rose Fairmore.
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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 alongside her friends as...

FUTURE'S GUARDIAN

"NEGATION: PART 3 - CONFRONTATION"

- A CHAMPIONS ONLINE STORY BY DAVID 2

WILLIAM "BILLY BRAIN" FOSWELL IS DEAD.

BUT BEFORE HE DIED, THE BOYISH HYPER-GENIUS MANAGED TO CREATE HIS MASTERPIECE: AN ARTIFICIAL BEING DESIGNED TO IMPERSONATE GALATEA FUTURE AND REPLACE HER.

FOR THE PAST DAY, THAT CREATION HAS BEEN WANDERING THE STREETS OF MILLENNIUM CITY, SAVING LIVES AND STOPPING CRIMINALS WHILE CLAIMING TO BE GALATEA FUTURE.

BUT NOW SHE IS FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE VERY GUARDIAN THAT SHE CLAIMS TO BE.

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MILLENNIUM CITY, MI
CITY CENTER

MY NAME IS
GALATEA FUTURE.

I AM THE REFUGEE
OF TWO UNIVERSES
AND AN ALTERNATE
TIMELINE.

I'VE LIVED IN THIS
CITY AND IN THIS
UNIVERSE FOR OVER
TEN YEARS NOW.

THE PROBLEM IS...



GALATEA FUTURE?
UNKNOWN

THIS WOMAN
ATTACKING ME
THINKS SHE IS ME.

SHE'S STRONG!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR
THE OPPOSITE
COLORS, I'D SWEAR
SHE WAS MY
DOPPELGÄNGER.



GALATEA FUTURE
OTHERWORLD GUARDIAN

KA-POW!

BUT IF SHE IS AS
POWERFUL AS I AM,
I'LL HAVE TO END
THIS QUICKLY.

THERE!

THE SAME KIND OF NANITES THAT THE OTHER ANDROID USED EARLIER.*

BUT THESE AREN'T ATTACKING ME LIKE THE OTHER ONES DID.

(* LAST ISSUE)

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU WILL NOT REPLACE ME!

BLOCK!

SHE REALLY THINKS SHE'S ME!

SHE HITS LIKE I DO.

IT'S LIKE SHE KNOWS WHAT I'M GOING TO DO NEXT.

WHAM!

BUT IF SHE IS AN ANDROID LIKE THE OTHER ONE, THEN MAYBE SHE HAS THE SAME VULNERABILITY.

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN DO THIS!



YES!

OOF!

KRAKOOOM

YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THAT!



WHAT... ERRR...
WHAT DID YOU DO?



I THOUGHT EVERYONE KNEW BY NOW THAT GALATEA FUTURE COULD DO FORCE BURSTS.
HOW ABOUT ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION?



KRAKOOOM



TIME TO END THIS!



KA-POW!

SHE'S QUIET.

**I DON'T SEE ANY
NANITE ACTIVITY
AROUND HER.**

**I DON'T THINK
SHE'S DEAD... SHE'S
PROBABLY JUST IN
SLEEP MODE TO
REPAIR HERSELF.**

**I CAN STILL HEAR
WHAT SOUNDS LIKE
BREATHING FROM
HER CHEST.**

**THERE'S EVEN A
STEADY PULSE THAT
SOUNDS LIKE A
HEARTBEAT.**

**IF NOT FOR THE
NANITES, YOU'D
THINK SHE WAS A
REAL BEING.**



**U.N.T.I.L. CONTROL THIS
IS GALATEA FUTURE.
I HAVE A LEVEL 4
POWERED ANDROID IN
CUSTODY.**

**UNDERSTOOD,
GALATEA.
CAN YOU BRING
IT TO U.N.T.I.L.
ON YOUR OWN?**

**I WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE
THIS UNDER U.N.T.I.L.
CONTROL BEFORE WE CAN
MOVE IT TO HQ.
USE THE MECHANON*
PROTOCOLS,
AND ALERT MAJOR CROSS
AND DOCTOR SILVERBACK.**

**NOTIFYING PROJECT
CLOCKWORK TO DISPATCH THE
MECHANON CONTAINMENT
TEAM TO YOUR LOCATION.**



*** MECHANON IS A MAJOR
SUPERVILLAIN IN THE WORLD OF
CHAMPIONS ONLINE. IT IS A GIANT
MECHANICAL ROBOT DESIGNED TO
ERADICATE ALL LIFE ON EARTH.***

FROM WCOC STUDIOS...
"GOOD MORNING MILLENNIUM CITY!"

Good Morning MILLENNIUM CITY

"AND NOW, HERE'S YOUR HOST,
VICTORIA CROWNSTONE..."



GOOD MORNING
MILLENNIUM CITY!
I'M VICTORIA
CROWNSTONE.



WE START TODAY
WITH NEWS THAT
BROKE OVERNIGHT
OF A BATTLE
BETWEEN TWO
SUPER-POWERED
WOMEN.



"THE FIGHT WAS CAUGHT
ON MILLENNIUM CITY
SECURITY CAMERAS."

8 WCOC VICTORIA CROWNSTONE - GMMC HOST

8 WCOC CITY FOOTAGE - GALATEA VS GALATEA?

AS INCREDIBLE AS
IT MAY SEEM, BOTH
WOMEN CLAIM TO
BE MILLENNIUM
CITY'S OWN
GALATEA FUTURE.



8 WCOC GALATEA VS GALATEA? ARE THERE TWO GALATEAS?

YEAH, SHE SAID
SHE'S GALATEA
FUTURE, BUT, COME
ON... YOU KNOW
THAT'S NOT HER.



OL' BURT JACKSON
KNOWS THERE'S
ONLY ONE ME AND
THERE'S ONLY ONE
GALATEA FUTURE.

8 WCOC BURT JACKSON - LEGENDARY TRUCK DRIVING HERO

YEAH, SHE SHOWED UP,
DRESSED IN GREEN
AND YELLOW WITH THAT
WEIRD SKIN TONE AND
SAID SHE WAS
GALATEA FUTURE.

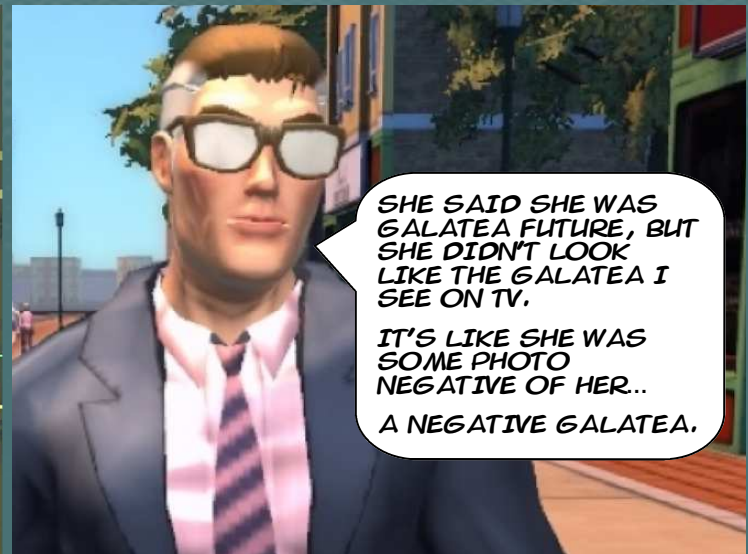
BUT IT WAS WEIRD,
'CUZ SHE HAD THAT
LOOK. YOU KNOW
THE KIND OF LOOK
WHERE YOU KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.



8 WCOC BRUNO O'SULLIVAN - BARTENDER

SHE SAID SHE WAS
GALATEA FUTURE, BUT
SHE DIDN'T LOOK
LIKE THE GALATEA I
SEE ON TV.

IT'S LIKE SHE WAS
SOME PHOTO
NEGATIVE OF HER..
A NEGATIVE GALATEA.



8 WCOC WOLF STREETER - BUSINESS INVESTMENT AGENT

UNITED NATIONS TRIBUNAL ON
INTERNATIONAL LAW HEADQUARTERS



AGENT PIPER
IS BUSY
INTERVIEWING
YOUR TWIN
RIGHT NOW.



SILVERBACK AND
MICROMAN WILL
ALSO BE DOING A
THROUGH EXAM
OF HER, BUT IT'S
CLEAR SHE'S
ANOTHER ONE OF
DOCTOR
FOSWELL'S
CREATIONS.



MAJOR XAVIER CROSS
PROJECT MYCROFT

IT'S CERTAINLY A
BETTER MODEL
THAN THE ONE THAT
I FOUGHT THE
OTHER DAY.

IT WAS ALMOST
LIKE I WAS
FIGHTING MYSELF.



WELL CLEARLY THIS
ONE HAD THE SAME
FLAW AS THE OTHER
ANDROID.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW
ABOUT YOUR FORCE
BURST POWER.



RIGHT, SO THE
QUESTION IS...

WHY WOULD
FOSWELL WANT
TO CREATE A
DUPLICATE OF
ME?



AND HOW DID HE GET ALL
THE INFORMATION ABOUT
ME TO EVEN TRY TO CREATE
A DUPLICATE?



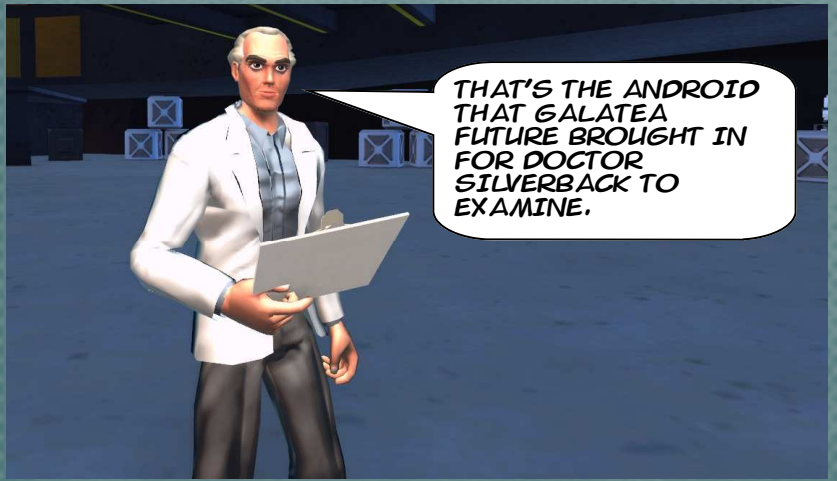


K113R⁺
KILLING MACHINE



MIRANDA LAW
ARGENT ATTORNEY

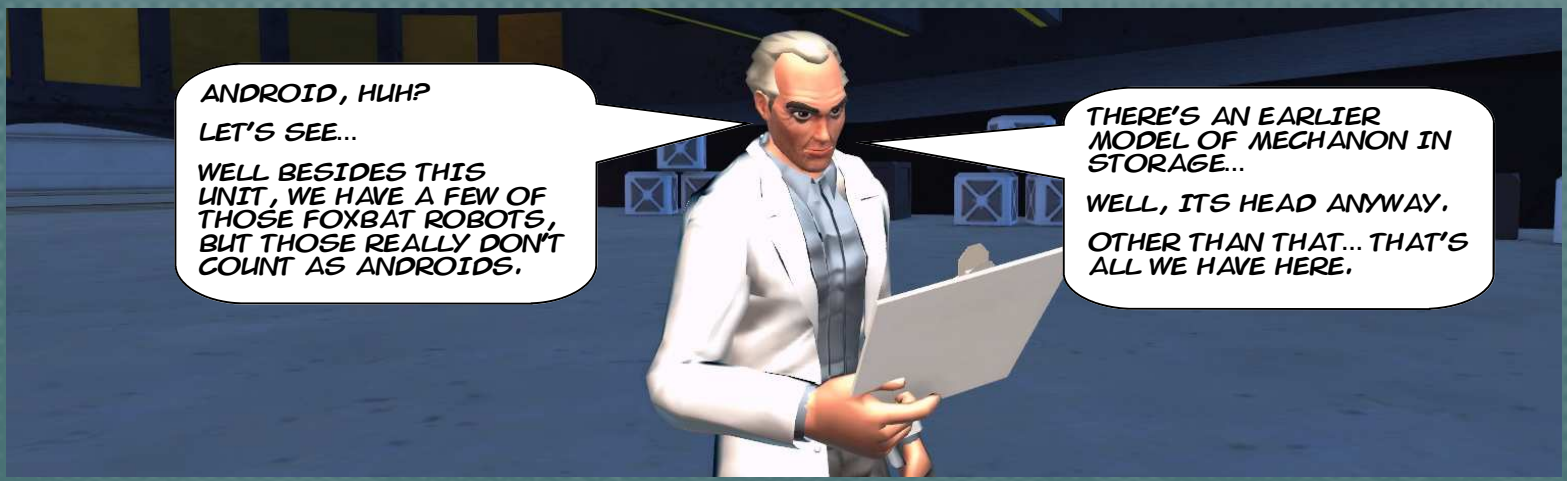
WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?



THAT'S THE ANDROID THAT GALATEA FUTURE BROUGHT IN FOR DOCTOR SILVERBACK TO EXAMINE.



THIS IS NOT THE ANDROID THAT I WAS TOLD WOULD BE HERE!
WHERE IS THE ONE THAT WAS BROUGHT OVER LAST NIGHT?



ANDROID, HUH?
LET'S SEE...
WELL BESIDES THIS UNIT, WE HAVE A FEW OF THOSE FOXBAT ROBOTS, BUT THOSE REALLY DON'T COUNT AS ANDROIDS.

THERE'S AN EARLIER MODEL OF MECHANON IN STORAGE...
WELL, ITS HEAD ANYWAY. OTHER THAN THAT... THAT'S ALL WE HAVE HERE.



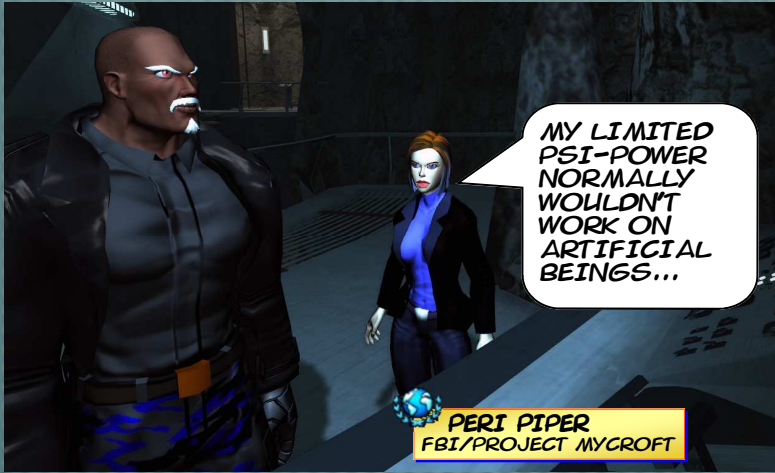
FIND DOCTOR SILVERBACK AND TELL HIM THAT I WANT THAT ANDROID TURNED OVER TO ME IMMEDIATELY!



WHEREVER IT IS... I WILL FIND IT.



PROJECT MYCROFT OFFICE
U.N.T.I.L. SUB-BASEMENT

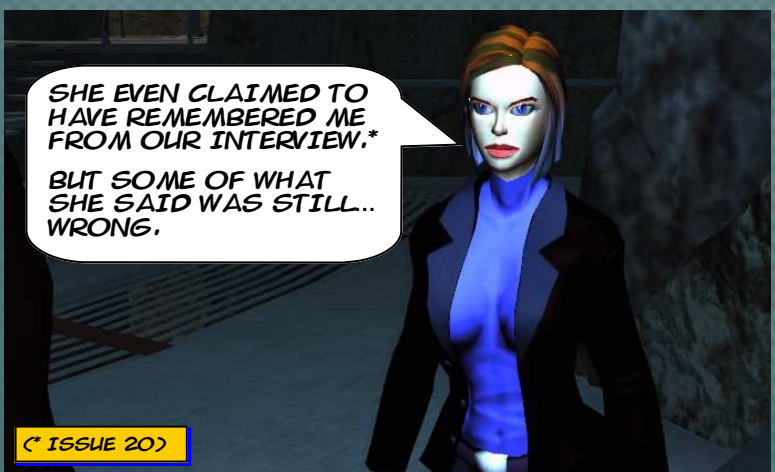


MY LIMITED PSI-POWER NORMALLY WOULDN'T WORK ON ARTIFICIAL BEINGS...

PERI PIPER
FBI/PROJECT MYCROFT



BUT THIS ANDROID'S BRAIN IS BUILT SO MUCH LIKE A HUMAN ONE THAT I COULD ACTUALLY SENSE THAT WHAT SHE BELIEVES IS GENUINE.
SHE REALLY BELIEVES THAT SHE IS GALATEA FUTURE.



SHE EVEN CLAIMED TO HAVE REMEMBERED ME FROM OUR INTERVIEW.* BUT SOME OF WHAT SHE SAID WAS STILL... WRONG.

(* ISSUE 20)



WRONG...
IN WHAT WAY?



THE REAL GALATEA WAS VERY DESCRIPTIVE OF THE TWO UNIVERSES SHE LIVED IN PRIOR TO COMING HERE.
SHE TALKED ABOUT THE WORLD SHE WAS IN BEFORE THIS ONE BEING DEVASTATED AND HAVING TO WATCH EVERYONE SHE KNEW AND LOVED DIE.
THIS GALATEA... SHE DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF IT.

SHE KNEW SHE WAS "CREATED" BUT SHE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHO HER FATHER WAS OR WHO SHE WAS WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD.
AND THOSE WERE DETAILS THAT I HAD IN MY NOTES!



GALATEA SAID THAT THE ANDROID WAS SURPRISED WHEN SHE USED HER FORCE BURST POWER.

WHICH I KNOW DOCTOR SILVERBACK INCLUDED IN HIS NOTES!

SO HOW COULD FOSWELL BE SO WRONG ABOUT GALATEA IF HE HAD ALL OF OUR NOTES?

BEEP
BEEP



THIS IS CROSS.

MAJOR CROSS, THIS IS THE FRONT GATE.

WE HAVE A VISITOR HERE DEMANDING TO SPEAK WITH YOU.



UPSTAIRS...

I HAVE TO SAY THAT THE LATE DOCTOR FOSWELL REALLY OUTDID HIMSELF WITH THIS ANDROID.

SHE EXCEEDS THE OTHER UNIT BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS, NOT ONLY IN APPEARANCE BUT ALSO IN THE APPROXIMATION TO A BIOLOGICAL BEING.

SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS A REAL PERSON.

I COULD HEAR BREATHING AND A HEARTBEAT.



OUR SCANS SHOWED WHAT APPEARED TO BE SKELETAL AND MUSCLE SYSTEMS. THERE ARE SOME PATHWAYS THAT APPEAR TO RESEMBLE CIRCULATION AND MICROFIBERS THAT BEHAVE NOT UNLIKE THOSE OF HUMAN NEURONS.

MICRON WAS UNABLE TO GET PAST HER PROTECTIVE AURA, WHICH BEHAVES RATHER SIMILAR TO YOUR OWN, BUT, IN HER CASE, ARE PROVIDED BY THOSE DARK-POWERED NANITES.

INCREDIBLE LITTLE DEVICES, THOSE NANITES.

 **DOCTOR SILVERBACK**
SIMIAN SCIENTIST



HER NANITES
APPEAR TO WORK
DIFFERENTLY THAN
WITH THE OTHER
ANDROID.
HERS DIDN'T TRY
TO ATTACK ME
WHEN WE FOUGHT.



QUITE RIGHT.
FOSWELL WAS ABLE TO
TURN THESE SPECIAL
NANITES INTO NOT
ONLY BUILDERS BUT
ALSO AS A POWER
SOURCE FOR HER
ABILITIES.



HER NANITES ARE
ABLE TO CONVERT
STORED MASS INTO
ENERGY, WHICH
COULD THEN BE USED
TO REPLICATE MOST
OF YOUR POWERS.



OKAY, SO HOW DOES
SHE RECHARGE THOSE
NANITES?

I MEAN, THE FIRST LAW
OF THERMODYNAMICS
STATES THAT ENERGY
CANNOT BE CREATED
OR DESTROYED, ONLY
TRANSFORMED.



YOU ARE CORRECT.
AND THAT IS ONE OF THE
MYSTERIES ABOUT YOUR
ARTIFICIAL TWIN.
WE HAVE YET TO FIGURE
OUT HOW THOSE NANITES
ARE RECHARGED ONCE
THEY ARE DEPLETED.



IT COULD VERY WELL
BE THAT THEY ARE
PROVIDED FROM AN
OUTSIDE SOURCE,
MUCH LIKE THOSE OF
HER PREDECESSOR.



THAT WOULD BE
PROBLEMATIC FOR HER,
BECAUSE WE HAVE NO
IDEA HOW FOSWELL WAS
ABLE TO CREATE THOSE
PARTICULAR NANITES,
NEVER MIND ABLE TO
REPLENISH THE SUPPLY
ONCE DEPLETED.

WHICH MEANS AT
SOME POINT SHE
WILL LOSE ALL
POWER AND SHUT
DOWN FOR GOOD.



We didn't make the oil...

But we did get it from the ground.

And then bring it to America.

And then refine it into the cleanest, most fuel-efficient form of gasoline on the market ever.

And then make that gasoline available for you when you need it at any one of our 24-hour service stations all across the country.

We didn't have to do all of that.

But we did it anyway.

Because we care.

Because that's what a good corporate business in America does.

ARGENT



MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE... FOR EVERYONE!

Argent is a fictional business in the MMO world of Champions Online. Any comparisons to filthy, greedy, money-grubbing, polluting, real-world private corporations that get tax breaks from corrupt politicians in Washington while screwing over the taxpayers and denying the consequences of their actions are just coincidental. It's fiction, okay?

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The latest titles from Rowling, Fairmore, Clancy, King, Woodward, and others.

The newest editions of the best-sellers.



The classics from mythology to science-fiction.

Newspapers from around the world. Magazines and graphic novels. Audio books.

You name it, we have it! And if we don't, we will get it for you!

City Center, Millennium City

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www.WCOG.millennium.city

Advertisement for Legends Agency in the world of Champions Online. Not a real TV station.

THERE ARE *HEROES*...

AND THEN THERE ARE **LEGENDS!**

WHICH DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Do you want to be the kind of hero that looks up at the statues for inspiration? Or do you want to be the one they make statues of?

You need to stand out among the field of colorful spandex and creative hero-names.

That is where we come in. We make heroes legendary.

GOLD STANDARD AGENCY

Hero Image and Management

997-111-GOLD

OUTSIDE U.N.T.I.L. HQ...



MAJOR CROSS?
I'M MIRANDA
LAW, LEGAL
COUNCIL FOR
ARGENT.



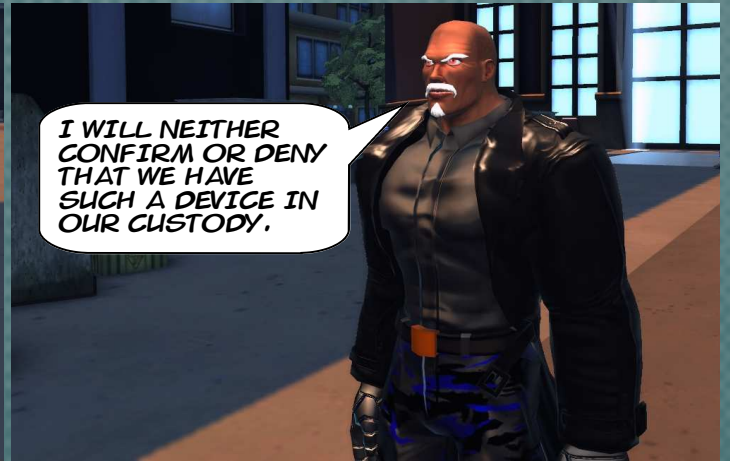
I BELIEVE YOU
HAVE AN
ANDROID THAT
IS THE PROPERTY
OF ARGENT.



THE ANDROID IS
FEMALE IN
APPEARANCE AND
WAS LAST SEEN
FIGHTING GALATEA
FUTURE LAST NIGHT.



I WILL NEITHER
CONFIRM OR DENY
THAT WE HAVE
SUCH A DEVICE IN
OUR CUSTODY.



WE KNOW GALATEA FUTURE IS
IN THE EMPLOY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS.

WE KNOW THAT SHE FOUGHT
TWO ANDROIDS YESTERDAY,
THE FIRST BEING IN THE
DOWNTOWN AREA AND THE
SECOND LAST NIGHT.

THE LATTER CONFRONTATION
HAS BEEN ON THE LOCAL
NEWS ALL DAY TODAY.



WE HAVE NO CLAIM ON THE FIRST
ANDROID THAT MS. FUTURE
FOUGHT. YOU CAN DO WITH IT
WHAT YOU WANT.

OUR ONLY INTEREST IS IN THE
SECOND ANDROID. THE ONE THE
MEDIA IS NOW CALLING
"NEGATIVE GALATEA".

THAT ANDROID IS THE PROPERTY
OF ARGENT AND WE DEMAND IT
BE RELEASED TO US... NOW.





IMPOSTOR!



YOU KEEP SAYING THAT... BUT I'M NOT THE ONE IN A SPECIAL HOLDING CELL.



I WILL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS, AND THEN I WILL FIND A WAY TO CONVINCE THEM THAT I AM THE REAL GALATEA.



MAYBE YOU CAN ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS... THAT IS, IF YOU REALLY ARE GALATEA.



DO YOU KNOW THE NAME ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE?



SHE'S...

ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR SPECIALIZING IN FICTIONAL SUPERHERO ROMANCE AND SCIENCE-FICTION. SHE IS BEST KNOWN FOR THE "SENTINELS OF LOVE" SUPERHERO ROMANCE BOOK SERIES.



HER LAST BOOK WAS THE BIOGRAPHY OF A FORMER SUPERHERO NAMED SUNRISE. SHE LIVES IN MILLENNIUM CITY, ALTHOUGH SHE HAS SPENT MUCH OF HER EARLIER YEARS ROAMING THE WORLD INTERVIEWING SUPERHEROES FOR HER BOOK SERIES.



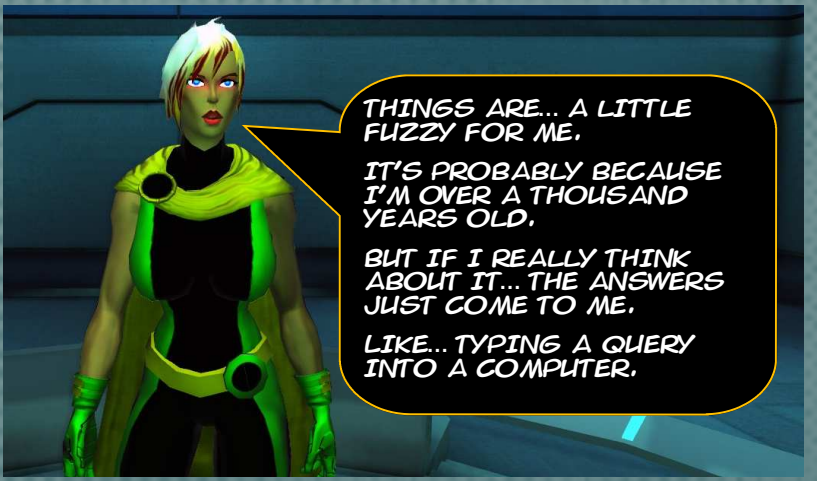
IS SHE IN ANY WAY IMPORTANT TO YOU?



NO, SHE IS JUST THE NAME OF A CELEBRITY IN THE MEDIA.



HOW ABOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE PERSONAL?
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE BORN?



THINGS ARE... A LITTLE FUZZY FOR ME.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M OVER A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.
BUT IF I REALLY THINK ABOUT IT... THE ANSWERS JUST COME TO ME.
LIKE... TYPING A QUERY INTO A COMPUTER.



I REMEMBER BEING IN A TANK, SUBMERGED IN LIQUIDS.
I REMEMBER A VOICE... TELLING ME WHO I AM AND THAT I WILL BE THE GREATEST HERO THIS WORLD EVER HAD.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY... I REMEMBER SEEING THE MAN I LOVE.
THE MAN I'VE ALWAYS LOVED, EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER TOLD HIM THAT.



DOES HE HAVE A NAME?

OF COURSE HE DOES.
IT'S WILLIAM FOSWELL.

THE MAN WHO CREATED ME.

CLUB CAPRICE - RENAISSANCE CENTER

CLUB CAPRICE...
A SUPERHERO
NIGHTCLUB OPEN
24-7.

Club Caprice



A PLACE WHERE
HEROES CAN LET
THEIR GUARD DOWN
AND TALK WITH
OTHER HEROES.

BUT NOT
EVERYONE IS
THERE TO RELAX
AND CONVERSE.



 **SPIRALCROSS**
HERO SPY



SOME USE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO SPY
ON OTHER HEROES AND
GET GOSSIP.

SPIRALCROSS
PRETENDS TO BE
DRINK, BUT THAT'S
WATER IN HER GLASS.

THE CYBERNETIC
IMPLANTS IN HER EYES
ALLOW HER TO RECORD
EVERYTHING SHE SEES.



THE IMPLANTS IN HER EARS PICK
UP EVERY CONVERSATION
AROUND HER AND RECORD THEM
TO BE POSTED ONLINE LATER.

EVERYTHING THOSE HEROES IN
FRONT OF HER ARE SAYING IS
BEING RECORDED AND WILL BE
POSTED ON HER BLOG WITHIN
THE HOUR.

AAAHH!!!

OR IT WOULD HAVE
UNTIL I TURNED
ON MY JAMMING
DEVICE.

WE NEED TO TALK.



 **RED SINNER**
HOODED VIGILANTE



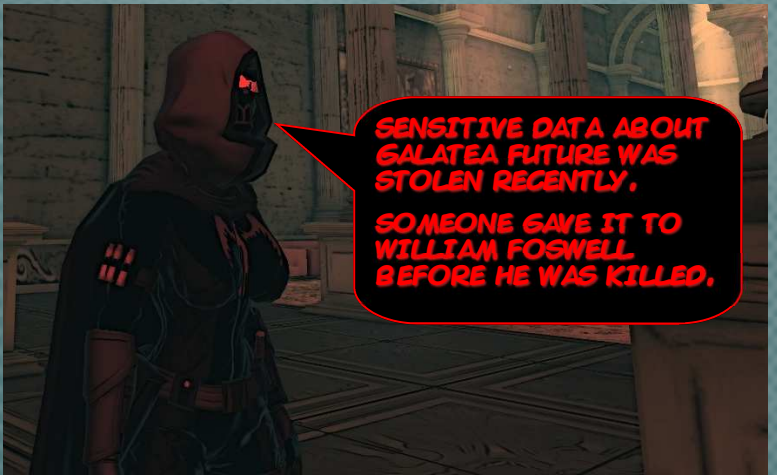
OOF!
WHAT THE HELL!
WE'RE ALL
HEROES HERE!

★SLAM!★



**YOU'RE NO HERO.
YOU'RE A GOSSIP
MONGER AND HACKER.
YOU ONLY PRETEND
TO BE A HERO.**

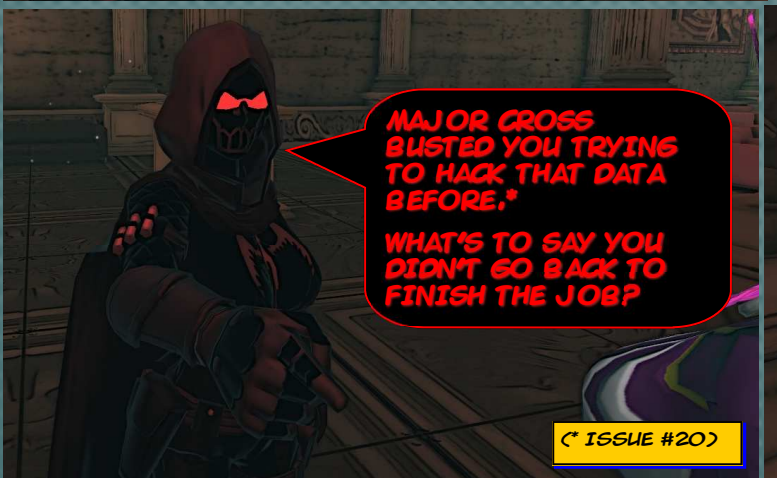
**I PUT ON MY
INTERROGATION
MASK BEFORE SHE
COULD SEE MY FACE.**



**SENSITIVE DATA ABOUT
GALATEA FUTURE WAS
STOLEN RECENTLY.
SOMEONE GAVE IT TO
WILLIAM FOSWELL
BEFORE HE WAS KILLED.**



WHAT DOES ANY
OF THAT HAVE TO
DO WITH ME?
AND WHY ARE MY
DEVICES NOT
WORKING?



**MAJOR CROSS
BUSTED YOU TRYING
TO HACK THAT DATA
BEFORE.*
WHAT'S TO SAY YOU
DIDN'T GO BACK TO
FINISH THE JOB?**

(* ISSUE #20)



ARE YOU
KIDDING?!?
I WAS IN U.N.T.I.L.
DETENTION FOR
HOURS!
WHEN I GOT OUT,
THE JOB WAS
ALREADY DONE.



WHO'S JOB?

THAT'S NOT
HOW IT WORKS.
THERE ARE
PEOPLE...
BROKERS.

**YOU'RE ONE OF MIKE
MESSENGER'S OPERATIVES.
X-TEND SERVICES.**

I'M FREELANCE. I WORK FOR WHOEVER PAYS ME. X-TEND, THE MEDIA, THE HERO GROUPS... EVEN YOU IF THE PRICE IS RIGHT.



BUT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO DID IT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU FOR FREE. KEIRA FYRE.

YOU'RE LYING. FYRE WORKS FOR CROSS.



PLEASE! THAT REDHEADED WITCH HAS BEEN A SPY FOR MESSENGER FROM DAY ONE!

I EVEN CONFRONTED HER WITH STEALING MY ASSIGNMENT AND SHE PUT AN ARROW IN MY CHEST FOR IT!* BYE-BYE BIKINIS.

(* ISSUE #21)

YOU BETTER BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT!! OR I'LL SHUT DOWN YOUR GOSSIP GIG FOR GOOD.



THAT WAS AN UNEXPECTED TWIST.

I GUESS I'LL NEED TO PAY A CALL TO CROSS' ASSASSIN.


OH COME ON! YOU MEAN I DIDN'T RECORD ANY OF THAT?!





I TAKE IT YOUR TALK WITH YOUR FLAWED TWIN DIDN'T TURN OUT WELL.

I DON'T THINK SHE KNOWS THAT SHE IS AN ANDROID.
I THINK SHE REALLY BELIEVES SHE IS ME.




WHICH IS ONLY COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT WHAT SHE THINKS SHE KNOWS ABOUT WHO I AM IS WRONG.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO ATHENA FAIRMORE IS.*
SHE CLAIMS TO BE A THOUSAND YEARS OLD, BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO MY FATHER REALLY WAS.

SHE BELIEVES THAT FOSWELL CREATED HER... BUT ALSO THAT SHE IS IN LOVE WITH HIM.
THAT IN AND OF ITSELF IS CREEPING ME OUT.

* ATHENA ROSE FAIRMORE, OF COURSE, IS GALATEA'S CIVILIAN IDENTITY.)



YES, BUT SOME OF IT IS STARTING TO MAKE SENSE.
AGENT PIPER THEORIZES THAT FOSWELL CREATED THE ANDROID TO REPLACE YOU AND TO SERVE AS HIS... FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD... COMPANION.



THE SCANDINAVIANS HAD A LEGEND ABOUT TROLLS SWAPPING HUMAN BABIES WITH TROLL BABIES.

THEY CALLED THEM "CHANGELINGS".

SOMETIMES THE CHANGELING HAD NO IDEA THAT THEY WEREN'T HUMAN BECAUSE THEY WERE RAISED JUST LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD IN THE VILLAGE.

PIPER THINKS FOSWELL DESIGNED THE FIRST ANDROID TO KILL YOU, THEN TO RELEASE THE SECOND ANDROID TO PRETEND TO BE YOU, THEN SHE WOULD DESTROY THE FIRST ANDROID.

THEN SHE'D GO ON WITH LIFE AS YOU AND NOBODY WOULD BE THE WISER.



EXCEPT MY SUPPOSED REPLACEMENT LOOKS LIKE A MIRROR OPPOSITE OF ME AND WITH A COMPLETELY FLAWED HISTORY.

EVEN HER VOICE SOUNDS ARTIFICIAL.

HOW COULD ANYONE THINK SHE WAS IDENTICAL TO ME?



THAT'S WHERE FOSWELL'S PLAN APPARENTLY WENT SOUTH.

HE DID COMMISSION A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF YOU BASED ON YOUR PUBLIC HISTORY AND INTERVIEWS, SO HE DID WANT HIS CREATION TO THINK LIKE YOU.

BUT IT'S CLEAR THAT HE WAS KILLED BEFORE HE COULD FINISH FINE-TUNING YOUR REPLACEMENT TO APPEAR TO BE YOUR DUPLICATE.



SECURITY TO MAJOR CROSS.
REPORT TO THE FRONT CHECKPOINT.

WHAT NOW?

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT.



ELSEWHERE...

WELL...
WELL...
WELL...



SO YOU'RE THE FAMED "ADAM" I HEARD FOSWELL TALK SO MUCH ABOUT.

 **VIPRA**
AGENT OF VIPER



WHAT A MASTERPIECE OF VIOLENCE!



THAT ARGENT LADY WAS A FOOL TO TURN YOU DOWN.
ANYTHING THAT CAN KILL GALATEA FUTURE IS A TOOL THAT YOU DON'T THROW AWAY.

OH YES, ON BEHALF OF VIPER, I WILL GLADLY TAKE YOU OFF THEIR HANDS!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

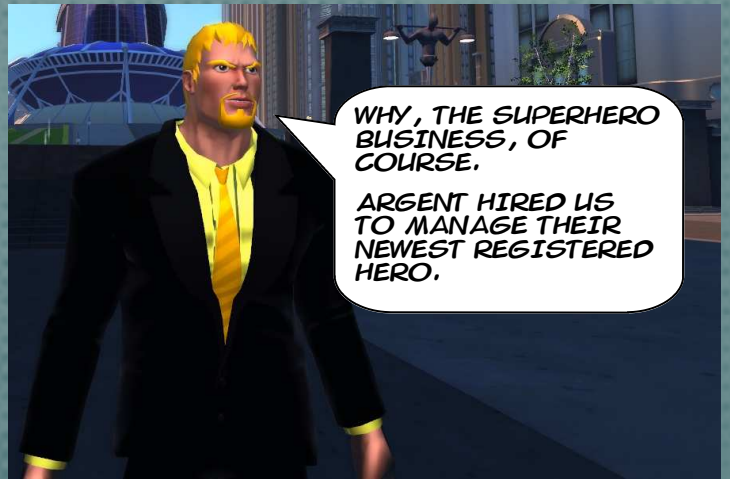


I'M ACTUALLY HERE ON BUSINESS...
FOR ARGENT AND FOR THE GOLD STANDARD AGENCY.

MARKMAN GOLD
AGENT TO THE SUPER-LEGENDS



WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS WOULD ARGENT HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR PARASITIC AGENCY?



WHY, THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS, OF COURSE.
ARGENT HIRED US TO MANAGE THEIR NEWEST REGISTERED HERO.



YOU HAVE GOT TO BE JOKING!



NO, GALATEA, I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM AS SERIOUS AS A HEART ATTACK.



THIS IS A FEDERAL COURT ORDER ISSUED AN HOUR AGO, REQUIRING YOU TO TURN OVER THE ANDROID KNOWN IN THE MEDIA AS EITHER "NEGATIVE GALATEA" OR "NEGATEA" TO THE CUSTODY OF THE GOLD STANDARD AGENCY.

MY LEGAL TEAM HAVE ALREADY TRADEMARKED BOTH NAMES ON BEHALF OF OUR NEW CLIENT.
FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, NEGATEA BELONGS TO US.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

GUARDIAN WORDS

Words of wisdom from writer and creator David 2.

Transcripts from William Foswell's Diary

(The following are selected entries into the diary and notes of Dr. William Foswell. These were seized as part of U.N.T.I.L. Project Mycroft's investigation into his apparent murder.)

NOVEMBER 10TH, 2011

FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF ONE OF MY COLLEGE ADVISORS, I AM WRITING DOWN MY THOUGHTS AND WORDS.

I HAVE BEEN FASCINATED WITH GALATEA FUTURE, THE WOMAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE FROM THE FAR FUTURE. WHILE I FIND HER STORY TO BE RIDICULOUS, THERE IS A LOT THAT I FIND ATTRACTIVE ABOUT HER. FROM THE ANSWERS ON TV, SHE DOESN'T COME OFF AS SOMEONE WHO IS VAPID OR PRETENTIOUS, AND SHE IS CLEARLY NOT A CHILD IN A WOMAN'S BODY. RATHER, SHE SEEMS TO POSSESS AN INTELLIGENCE THAT COULD POSSIBLY RIVAL MY OWN.

I CONTACTED HER AGENT, MARKMAN GOLD, WITH THE IDEA OF POSSIBLY CONTRACTING HER AS MY PERSONAL SECURITY. HE SAID SHE WOULD BE OPEN TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT BUT SUCH AN EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT WOULD BE PRICY. MONEY, OF COURSE IS NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME, THANKS TO ARGENT.

JANUARY 20TH, 2012

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT GALATEA WOULD QUIT LIKE THAT! SHE WAS IN A PERFECTLY GOOD AND LEGAL ARRANGEMENT, AND NOW SHE'S JUST UP AND CALLED IT QUILTS! APPARENTLY I'VE BEEN MISTAKEN ABOUT HER BEING INTELLIGENT. IT SEEMS THAT SHE IS JUST ANOTHER PRETENTIOUS IMBECILIC CHILD PARADING ABOUT IN AN ADULT'S BODY.

IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T PAY FOR THE CONTRACT ON HER SERVICES YET. GOLD IS SUGGESTING SOME OTHER HERO, AS IF THERE COULD BE ANYONE THAT WOULD MATCH MY INTELLECTUAL STATUS. I MAY HAVE TO LOOK AT OTHER OPTIONS. MAYBE ROBOTICS?

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF CREATING AN EXOSKELETON SYSTEM TO COMPENSATE FOR MY DIMINUTIVE SIZE AND TO HELP SUPPORT MY OVERSIZED HEAD. MAYBE I NEED TO LOOK INTO THAT. MAYBE GENETICS?

FEBRUARY 5TH, 2012

MY APPLICATION TO MIT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED. IF PAST ACADEMIC PROGRESS IS ANY INDICATION, I SHOULD HAVE MY MASTERS IN ROBOTICS WITHIN FIVE MONTHS. MY PHD SHOULD BE TWO MONTHS AFTER THAT.

I STILL CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER ABOUT GALATEA, THOUGH. I KNOW SHE IS FIGHTING MARKMAN GOLD'S TRADEMARK AND CONTRACT, BUT SHE SHOULD REALLY JUST PUT THAT ASIDE AND JUST WORK WITH HIM SO SHE CAN BE MY GUARD. I HOPE SHE WOULD APPROVE THE CHANGES I'M LOOKING INTO TO MAKE MYSELF LARGER TO MATCH MY INTELLIGENCE.

APRIL 6TH, 2012

MY MIT ADVISOR CUED ME IN ON NANOTECHNOLOGY AND THE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS TO MAKING FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES TO MY EXOSKELETON. BECAUSE OF HIS IDEA, I'VE ABANDONED THE IDEA OF AN EXOSKELETON AND INSTEAD WILL BE CREATING AN ANDROID THAT WOULD BE HUMAN IN APPEARANCE. THIS WOULD ALLOW ME TO TRANSFER MY BRAIN FROM THIS DIMINUTIVE CHILD-LIKE BODY INTO ONE THAT I COULD CONTINUE TO UPGRADE AND MAINTAIN FOR POTENTIALLY CENTURIES.

I'M EXPLORING ADDITIONAL PRACTICES IN BIOLOGY AND GENETICS TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.

Continues on next page...

JUNE 28, 2016

I HAVE ALL THE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE I NEED TO BEGIN MY PROJECT. I'VE DESIGNED BOTH A MALE AND FEMALE FIGURE, BASED ON IDEAL PHYSICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE MALE, AND ON GALATEA FUTURE'S OWN MEASUREMENTS AS RECORDED BY THE MEDIA FOR THE FEMALE FIGURE.

IT HAS BECOME CLEAR AT THIS POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO POSSIBLE WAY I WILL SECURE THE SERVICES OF GALATEA. THEREFORE I WILL HAVE TO CREATE MY OWN AND THEN REPLACE HER WITH IT.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

I'VE REACHED OUT TO ARGENT, WHO HAVE GLADLY AGREED TO HELP FUND MY PROJECT. THEY WERE EAGER TO INVEST IN MY CREATIONS AFTER THE WORK I DID FOR THEM IN MY CHILDHOOD YEARS.

THEY ALSO CONTACTED ONE OF THEIR ASSOCIATE FIRMS THAT SPECIALIZE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES. IF I WILL BE REPLACING GALATEA WITH MY OWN CREATION, THEN I WILL NEED TO HAVE MY GALATEA THINK LIKE HER.

MARCH 7, 2020

SUCCESS! I'VE CREATED "ADAM"!

THE NANITES I'VE USED ARE CRUDE VERSIONS OF THE ONES I HAD INTENDED TO USE, BUT IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO PROVE TO ARGENT THAT MY WORK SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE SO I CAN CREATE "EVE" AS PLANNED.

I HATE TO SACRIFICE "ADAM"; I HAD INTENDED FOR HIM TO SERVE AS MY OWN REPLACEMENT, BUT I WILL NEED TO GIVE HIM TO ARGENT IN ORDER TO HAVE MY GALATEA. I CAN ALWAYS COME UP WITH ANOTHER "ADAM" LATER.

MAY 13, 2021

ARGENT IS CUTTING MY FUNDING! THE INGRATES! I WILL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER METHOD TO SECURE THE FUNDS NEEDED TO CREATE MY GALATEA.

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NEXT ISSUE...

**CHAMPIONS
ONLINE**



**WILL NEGATEA BE MARKMAN GOLD'S
NEWEST HERO?**

DID SHE KILL WILLIAM FOSWELL?

**AND WHAT ARE VIPRA'S PLANS FOR
THE OTHER ANDROID?**

**ANSWERS WILL BE REVEALED AS
"NEGATION" COMES TO AN
EXPLOSIVE CONCLUSION!**



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