

AGE OF DARKNESS



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Grimm Fairy Tales
presents:

CODE RED



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ISSUE 1 OF 5

For centuries, it was assumed that fairy tales and fables were fictional stories passed down from generation to generation. However, that is not entirely true. Beings from four different realms linked to Earth do in fact exist. These realms are known as Myst, Neverland, Wonderland, and Oz.

Some beings born inside of these powerful realms grow to possess mystical powers and are known as "Highborns." Those with both human and Highborn blood are known as "Falsebloods." Good or evil, not all Highborns and Falsebloods have yet realized their true power. But when they do, most are inclined to choose a side between those who want to rule Earth and those who want to protect it.

Britney Waters operates under the codename "Agent Red" for a government agency, HiboCorp, that employs Highborns and Falsebloods to help protect Earth from dangerous, supernatural threats. As a part of HiboCorp's Realm Knights team, she helped protect the world many times... but as the Dark Horde begins to rise again, Agent Red will face an evil more threatening than she ever imagined.



COVER A
TALENT CALDWELL
WES HARTMAN



COVER B
PASQUALE QUALANO
STEPHEN SCHAFER



COVER C
ALE GARZA
STEPHEN SCHAFER



COVER D
MARAT MYCHAELS
STEPHEN SCHAFER



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J SCOTT CAMPBELL
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JERSEY COMIC CON
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IAGO MAYA
IVAN NUNES

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CHINA.

A YEAR AND A
HALF AGO.

"SO WHAT THE
HELL IS IT?"

"THAT'S WHAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO
FIND OUT."

"HOW'S THAT
GOING FOR
YOU?"

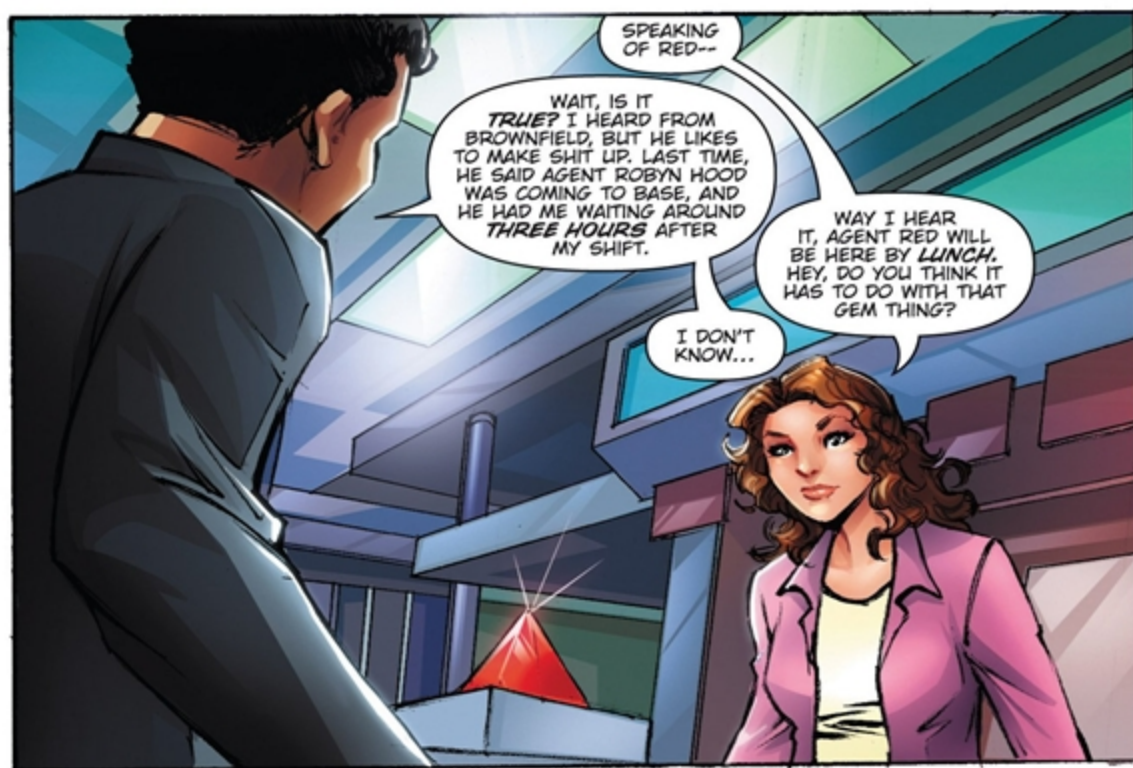
PARDON
ME. THAT'S
GOVERNMENT
PROPERTY.

THE DARK
ONE SHALL BE
PROUD...

YOU KNOW, I JUST HATE
PEOPLE TOUCHING MY
STUFF.

**BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA**

"WELL, I HAVE
CONCLUSIVELY
FOUND..."



"WHAT DO YOU
THINK SHE'S
DOING RIGHT
NOW?"

JUST A SMALL TOWN GIRL!
LIVIN' IN A LONELY WORLD!
TOOK THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN
GOIN' ANNYWHERE!

♪

I'M A NEW
WOMAN.

I USED TO CLING
TO THE PAST.

I HAD BIG DREAMS FOR
WHAT I WANTED TO DO
WITH MY LIFE.

MASTERS
DEGREE IN
BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCE
MOYOL COLLEGE

FANCIED MYSELF A THERAPIST.
I'D BE THE CLICHE. I'D SPEAK
TO THE YOUTH, REALLY GET TO
THE ROOT OF THEIR PAIN.

JULIA ROBERTS WOULD PLAY
ME IN THE INEVITABLE MOVIE.

TROUBLE WAS, I HAD MORE OF
MY OWN PAIN THAN I WAS
READY TO DEAL WITH.

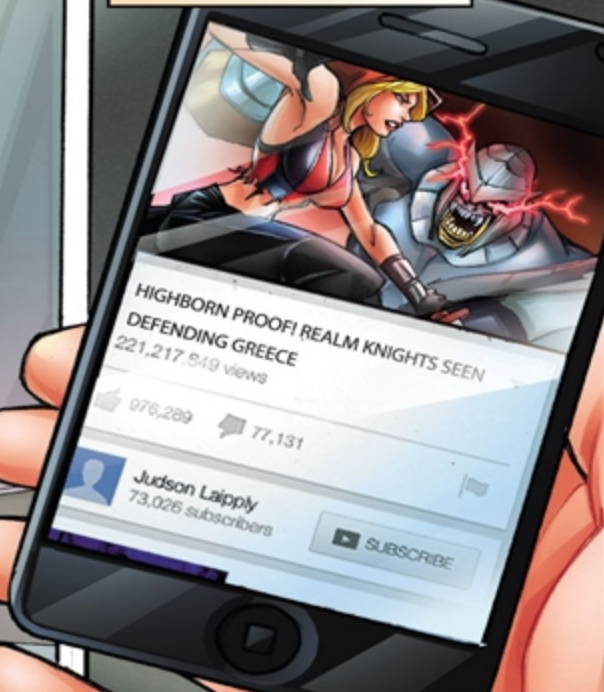




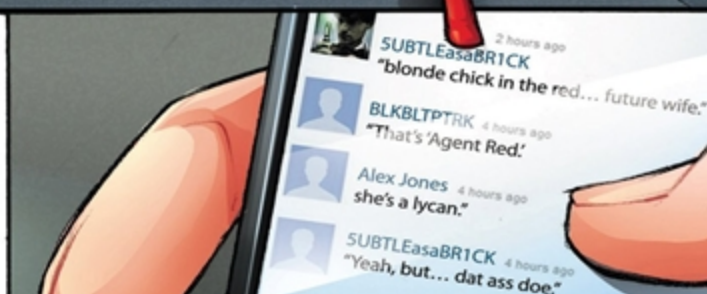
I'M SURE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT'S WITH THE HOLLYWOOD SHADES.

HELPS ME KEEP ANONYMOUS.

RECENTLY, EVERYONE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT HIGHBORNS, FALSEBLOODS, GODS, AND MONSTERS.

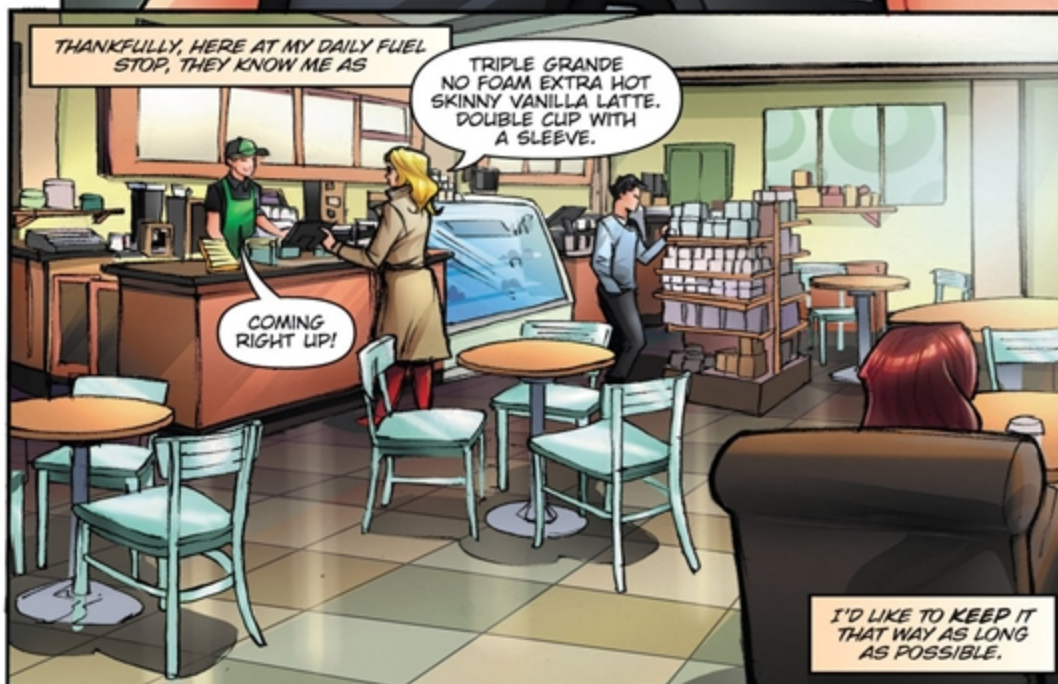


THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T CONFIRMED ANYTHING, BUT THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE SO ABUNDANT THAT PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO TAKE THEM AT FACE VALUE.



2 hours ago
SUBTLEasaBRICK
"blonde chick in the red... future wife."
4 hours ago
BLKBLTPTRK
"That's 'Agent Red.'
4 hours ago
Alex Jones
she's a lycan."
4 hours ago
SUBTLEasaBRICK
"Yeah, but... dat ass doe."

AND WITH FOOTAGE OF A TITAN TAKING OVER GREECE AND WAGING ALL OUT WAR ON HUMANITY JUST LAST MONTH RACKING UP MILLIONS OF HITS ON YOUTUBE, A GIRL IN MY LINE OF WORK HAS GOT TO PROTECT HER IDENTITY.

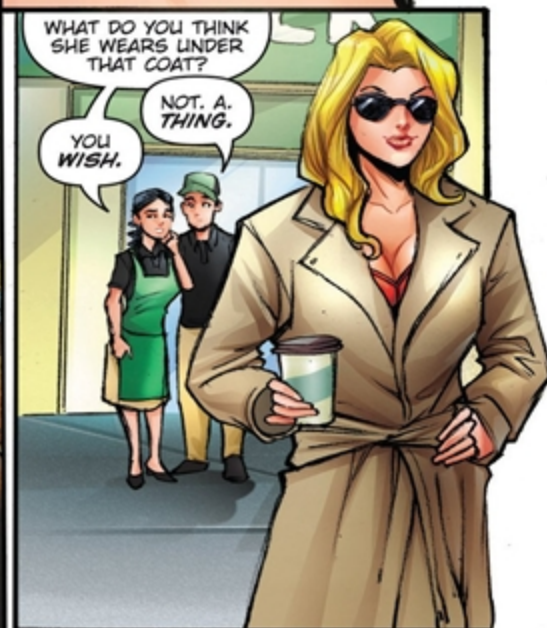


THANKFULLY, HERE AT MY DAILY FUEL STOP, THEY KNOW ME AS

TRIPLE GRANDE
NO FOAM EXTRA HOT
SKINNY VANILLA LATTE.
DOUBLE CLIP WITH
A SLEEVE.

COMING
RIGHT UP!

I'D LIKE TO KEEP IT
THAT WAY AS LONG
AS POSSIBLE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK
SHE WEARS UNDER
THAT COAT?

NOT. A.
THING.

YOU
WISH.

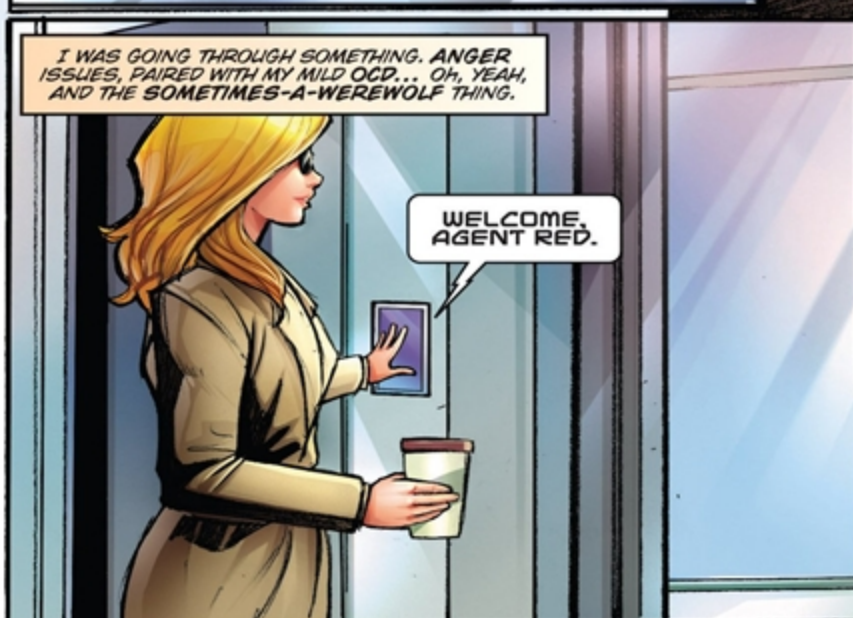


Ahhhh. SWEET NECTAR.

JUST THE KICK I NEED TO START MY WORKDAY.



I WAS SKEPTICAL OF JOINING THE REALM KNIGHTS AT FIRST. I FELT LIKE I WAS LEAVING BEHIND WHO I WAS... AND I WAS RIGHT.



I WAS GOING THROUGH SOMETHING. ANGER ISSUES, PAIRED WITH MY MILD OCD... OH, YEAH, AND THE SOMETIMES-A-WEREWOLF THING.

WELCOME, AGENT RED.



AFTER I THOUGHT ABOUT IT... I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE ALL THAT BEHIND. BECOME SOMEONE NEW. SOMEONE WELL-ADJUSTED. SOMEONE I COULD BE PROUD OF.

GREETINGS, COMPUTER. GOING UP.



GOOD MORNING, AGENT RED. MY NAME IS AGENT ANTWONE FICARO, AND I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR MAKING THE TRIP TO OUR BASE TODAY.

MY PLEASURE, AGENT FICARO. ANY CHANCE YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT THIS MISSION IS ABOUT?

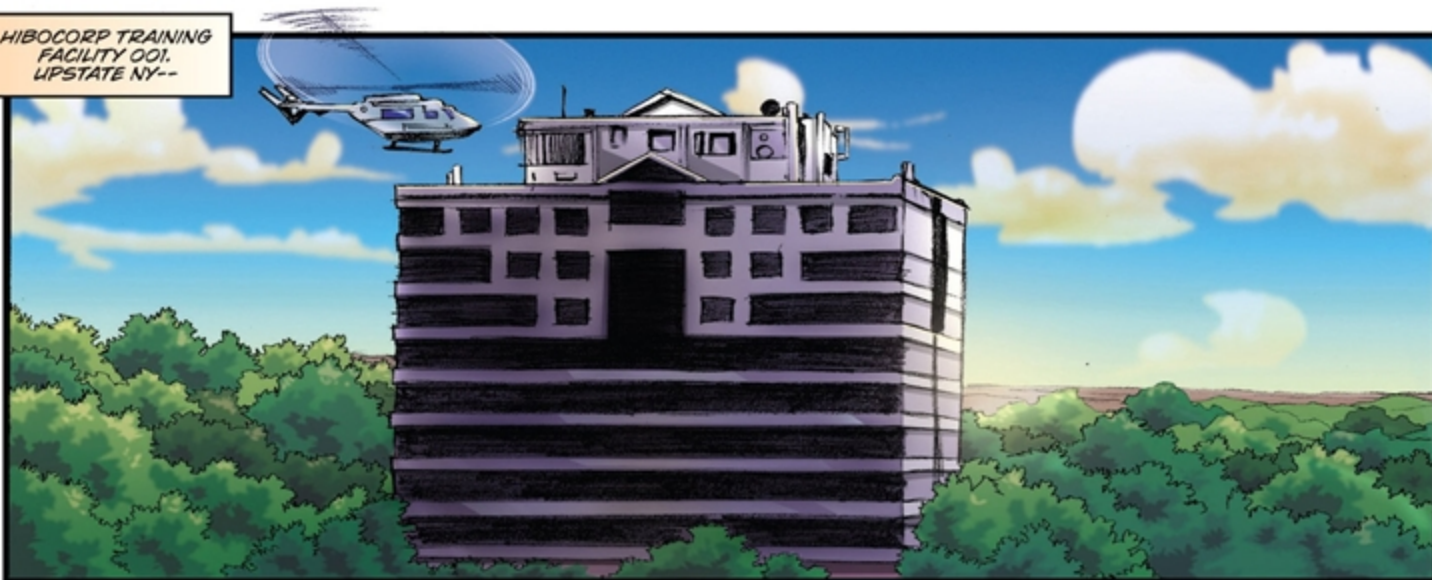
YOU KNOW HIBOCORP, AGENT. EVERYTHING IN DUE TIME... WITH A HELL OF A LOT OF PAGEANTRY.

AND, HEY -- NOT ONLY DO I GET TO HELP PEOPLE ON A GRANDER SCALE THAN I COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED...



BUT THE ACCOMMODATIONS ALSO AREN'T HALF BAD.

HIBOCORP TRAINING
FACILITY 001.
UPSTATE NY--



TWO
GUARDS?
WHAT IS THIS,
HIBOCORP
LITE?

FUNNY, AGENT
RED. THIS IS A BRAND
NEW FACILITY... AND YOU'RE
HERE TO HELP BUILD
IT UP.

WHICH
MEANS?

YOU'LL
SEE.

THAT'S
ACTUALLY
HER--

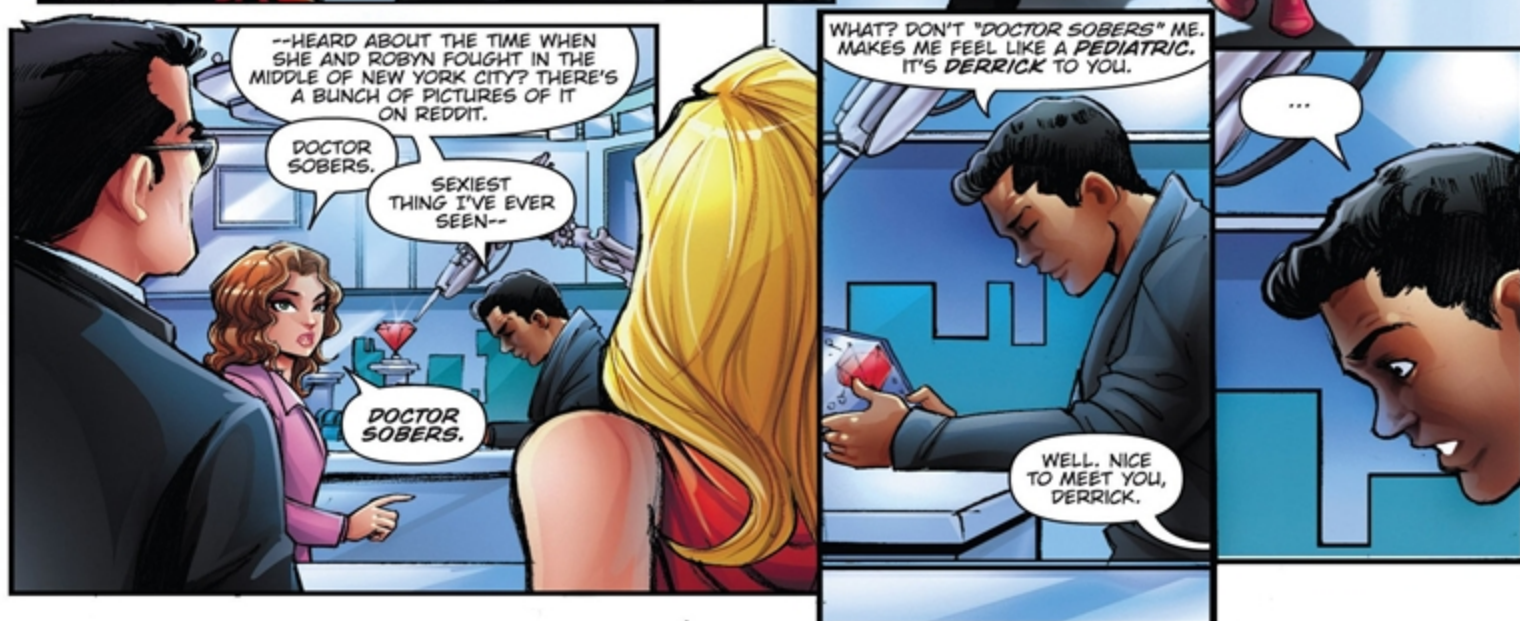
WOW, I THOUGHT
BROWNFIELD WAS
BULLSHITTING
AGAIN.

--THINK
IT'S TRUE?
THAT'S SHE'S
A WER--

DO YOU
WANT TO GET A
PINK SLIP? SHE'S
GOING TO HEAR
YOU.

WOULD
YOU LOOK AT
THAT. YOU'RE
FAMOUS.

YOU TAKE
THAT BACK OR
I QUIT.



--HEARD ABOUT THE TIME WHEN
SHE AND ROBYN FOUGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF NEW YORK CITY? THERE'S
A BUNCH OF PICTURES OF IT
ON REDDIT.

DOCTOR
SOBERS.

SEXIEST
THING I'VE EVER
SEEN--

DOCTOR
SOBERS.

WHAT? DON'T "DOCTOR SOBERS" ME.
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A PEDIATRIC.
IT'S DERRICK TO YOU.

WELL, NICE
TO MEET YOU,
DERRICK.



TRUST ME. THERE'S NO REASON TO BE EXCITED. I'M JUST... ME.

IT'S -- GOD, IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, AGENT RED. A TRUE HONOR.

SORRY FOR WHATEVER YOU MAY HAVE OVERHEARD, I JUST GET EXCITED AND--

AND YOU HELPED SAVE THE WORLD ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS. EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING AT HIBOCORP CENTERS ON HIGHBORNS AND FALSEBLOODS, SO THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE EXCITEMENT.

HELLO, AGENT RED. I'M AGENT ZOE POWERS. IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.



PLEASURE'S ALL MINE... THOUGH I'M STILL NOT QUITE SURE WHAT I'M DOING HERE.

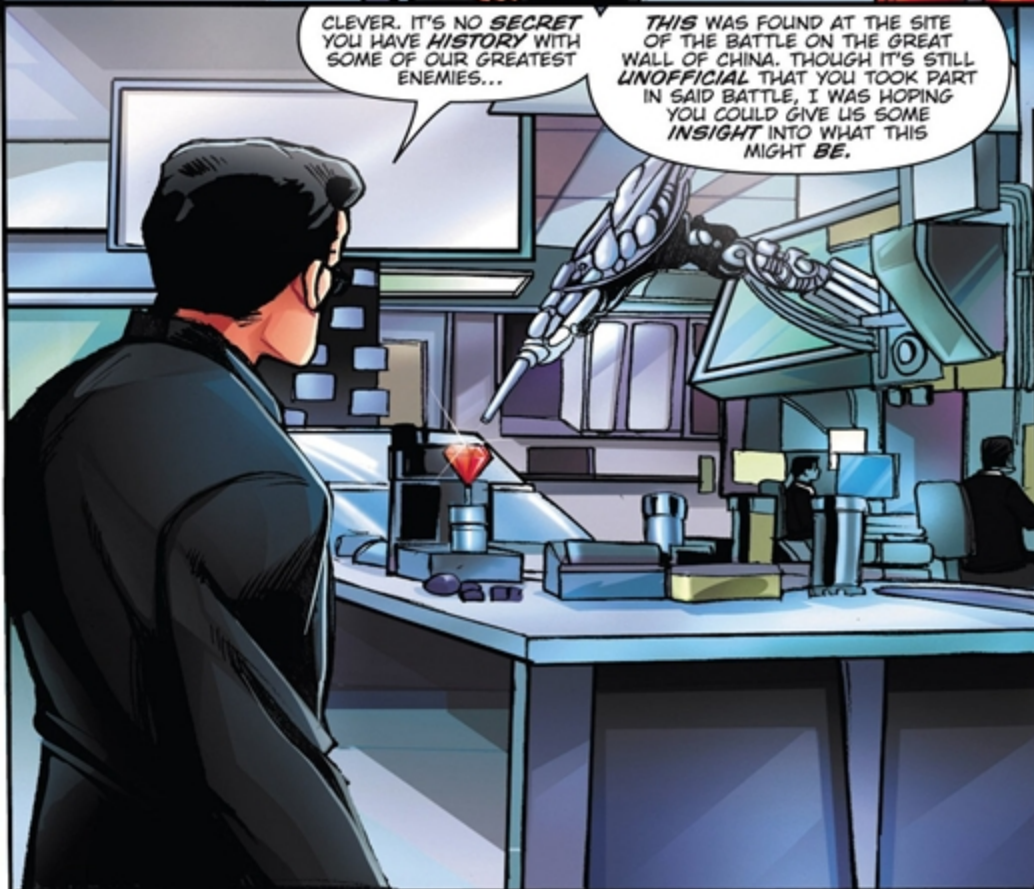


WITH YOUR HELP, WE'LL BE SETTING UP THIS LOCATION AS A TRAINING SITE FOR 'BORNS AND 'BLOODS. WE HOPE TO OPEN MORE REALM KNIGHTS TEAMS, AND WE THINK YOU WOULD BE A GREAT HELP.

AND?

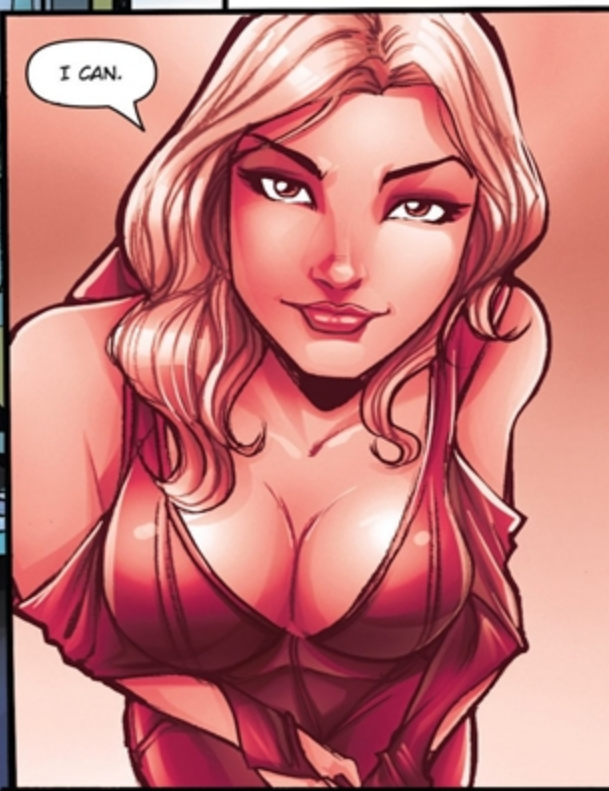
EXCUSE ME?

THIS IS HIBOCORP. THERE'S ALWAYS AN AND.

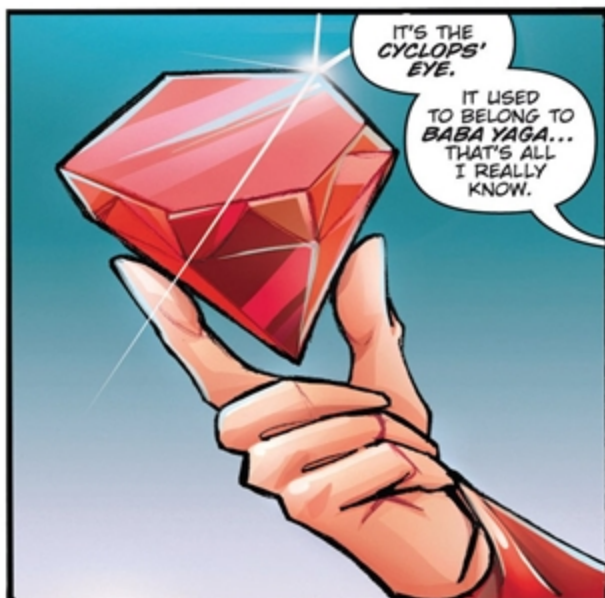


CLEVER. IT'S NO SECRET YOU HAVE HISTORY WITH SOME OF OUR GREATEST ENEMIES...

THIS WAS FOUND AT THE SITE OF THE BATTLE ON THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA. THOUGH IT'S STILL UNOFFICIAL THAT YOU TOOK PART IN SAID BATTLE, I WAS HOPING YOU COULD GIVE US SOME INSIGHT INTO WHAT THIS MIGHT BE.



I CAN.



WORKING FOR THE REALM KNIGHTS IS KIND OF LIKE HAVING A NEW JOB EVERY DAY.

ONE DAY, I'LL BE GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH A GIANT MONSTER IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN.* THE NEXT I'LL BE RECOVERING AN ALL-POWERFUL ARTIFACT FROM THE UNDERWORLD.*

THEN, ON AN ESPECIALLY ODD DAY, I'LL BE ASKED TO DRESS UP LIKE A FRENCH MAID TO CATCH A MYSTICAL DRUG TRADER AT A RESORT IN LITHUANIA.

I'M READY!

DON'T ASK.

*See REALM KNIGHTS TPB available January 2014!



YOU HEARD THE WOMAN.

INITIATE TRAINING SEQUENCE ONE.

WHAT I'M READY FOR, THOUGH, I HAVE NO IDEA.

BUT I'VE STARTED LIVING LIFE ON THE EDGE OF MY SEAT.



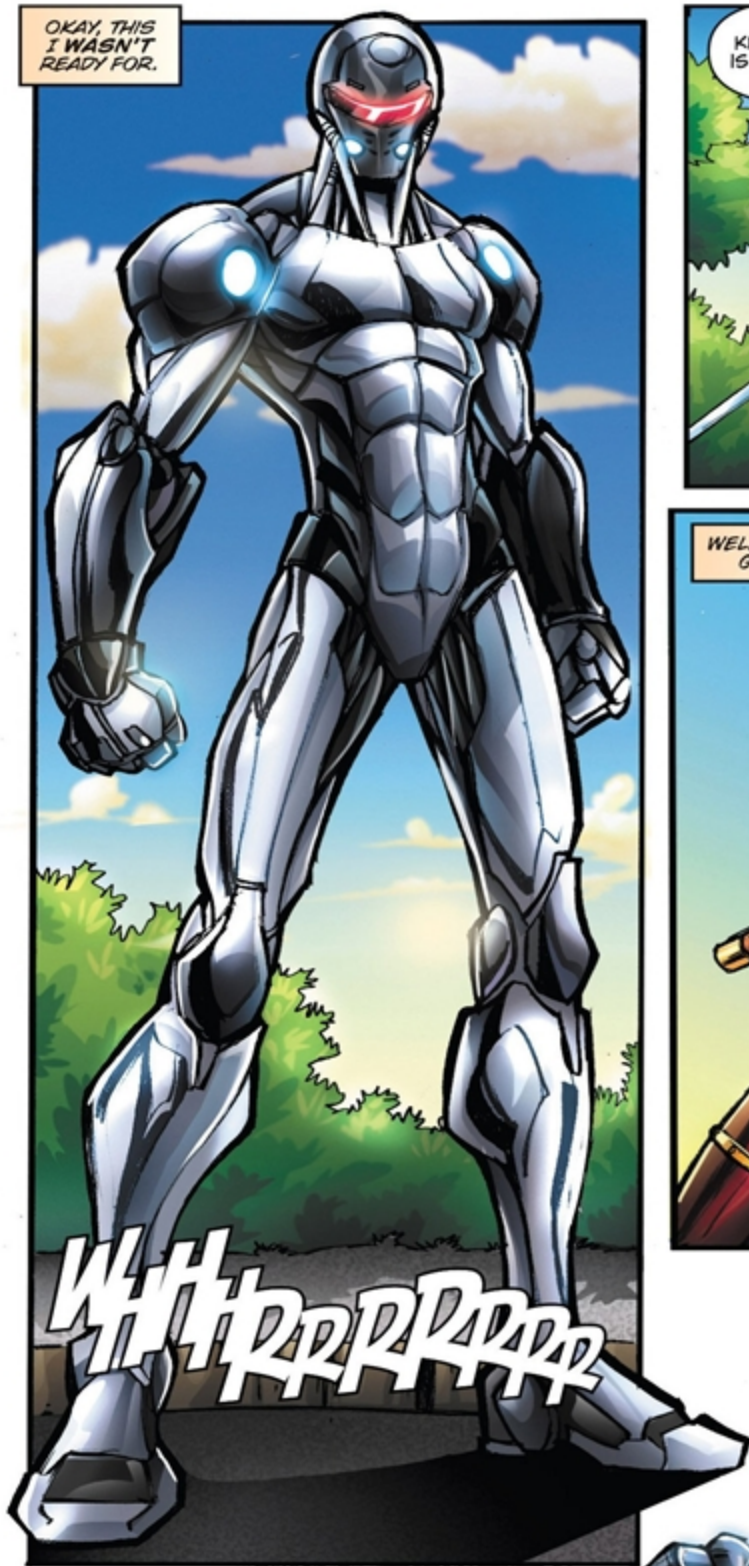
BEEN TRAINING FOR MONTHS. I'VE FIGURED OUT A BIT OF A BALANCE. FIGHTING ALONGSIDE SELA HAS GOT ME FOND OF SWORDS...

BUT THE REALM KNIGHTS OPS HAVE ME PACKING HEAT.

I FORGET WHAT FEAR FEELS LIKE.

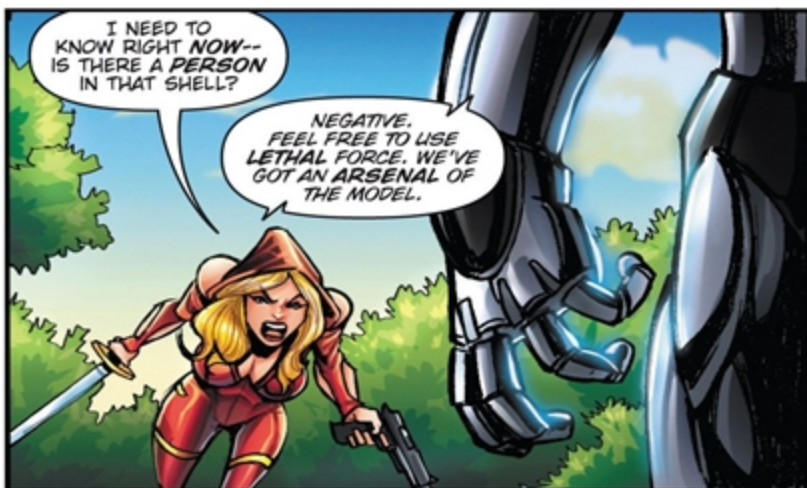


OKAY, THIS
I WASN'T
READY FOR.



I NEED TO
KNOW RIGHT NOW--
IS THERE A PERSON
IN THAT SHELL?

NEGATIVE.
FEEL FREE TO USE
LETHAL FORCE. WE'VE
GOT AN ARSENAL OF
THE MODEL.



WELL, HERE WE
GO THEN.



WOMAN FIGHTING ROBOT
WITH SWORD. GET YOUR
TICKETS NOW.



NO WAY SHE
PUTS A DENT
IN IT.

CARE TO MAKE
A WAGER, MY
GOOD MAN?

BET
YOUR ASS.
LUNCH?

LUNCH
IT IS.

THE EXTENT OF MY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MACHINERY IS THAT THE ON SWITCH USUALLY MAKES ELECTRICITY DO THINGS. I'M A PROUD LUDDITE.

BUT THIS THING'S SHOULDER LOOKS LIKE ITS WEAKEST POINT. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I HIT IT.



SCORE ONE FOR MY NEW SWORD.



YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN TO THROW IN THE TOWEL, WALL-E.



IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT MY BEST MATERIAL IS WASTED ON AN INANIMATE ROBOT.













I'VE BEEN STANDING
HERE DOING NOTHING
FOR TEN MINUTES.

NO ANNOUNCEMENTS,
NO COMMUNICATION TO
MY DEVICE...

I THINK THEY'RE LULLING ME INTO
A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY,
MAKING ME THINK IT'S OVER --
AND THEN, THE WHAMMY.

NOT A BAD
TACTIC.



AGENT
RED, COME IN! I
REPEAT, AGENT
RED!

ODD... THAT'S AGENT
WISNOWSKI'S VOICE. HE'S
AT THE MANHATTAN BASE...

AGENT RED,
WE'VE TAKEN CONTROL
OF THE COMM DEVICE
REMOTELY -- YOU NEED
TO GET INTO THE
FACILITY RIGHT
NOW!

THE ALARMS
HAVE BEEN CUT OFF AND THE
TEAM IS UNRESPONSIVE. WE
BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN
AN ATTACK.



BACK-UP IS ON
THE WAY, BUT YOU NEED TO
PROTECT THE CYCLOPS' EYE AT
ALL COSTS. WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH SHANG... AND WE CANNOT,
I REPEAT, CANNOT LET THIS
FALL INTO THE WRONG
HANDS!



I'M ON
IT. OVER.

KEEP IT COOL, BRITNEY.
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO
LOSE IT RIGHT NOW.

FIND OUT WHAT THE
SITUATION IS. AND
THEN END IT.









BUT I WANT TO.



BLAM BLAM



TOO MANY--

BACK-UP!



BACK-UP!

THERE IS NO BACK-UP. YOU ARE ALONE.



NO ONE CAN HEAR YOUR SCREAMS.

NEXT:
INTO THE WOODS

COMING NEXT MONTH...

AGE OF DARKNESS

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PART 2 OF 5



COVER BY GIUSEPPE CAFARO

THE DARK HORDE IS AFTER THE FABLED CYCLOPS' EYE AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP THEM IS AGENT RED. SHE FINDS HERSELF ALONE IN THE FOREST, OUTNUMBERED AND OVERMATCHED. HELP FROM A FAMILIAR ALLY IS ON THE WAY, BUT WILL IT ARRIVE IN TIME TO STOP THE HORDE AND KEEP THE CYCLOPS' EYE FROM FALLING INTO THEIR HANDS?