



www.topcow.com

image

3 \$2.99 \$4.60  
JULY



WAID NAKAYAMA BASALDUA OBACK

# CITY OF HEROES



IMAGECOMICS.COM

DIRECT SALES



00311

7 09853 100302 1

# the Necromancer™ #1



'Take an acclaimed novelist, add a hot penciller and mix in a female teen lead and you've got a recipe for a break-out title! Looks like Top Cow has another to add to their stable.'

—Mike Malve, owner, Atomic Comics

'A faithful yet frightening look at magic and how it might be used and misused by one with the raw power, but not the experience to control it.'

—Marcus Crowley

'Francis Manapul is one of the break out stars in comics! He's bringing every ounce of his skill and passion to *Necromancer* and the results are bursting through each and every page'

—Nick Barucci

'The launch of *Necromancer* signals a new era for Top Cow as a new character's adventures are part of an established universe. *Necromancer* is more than just a new property though as it builds on the strengths of Top Cow: Babes, Supernatural Horror, and fantastic production values.'

—Bill Jay  
[JayCompanyComics.com](http://JayCompanyComics.com)

written by  
**JOSH ORTEGA**  
(*FREQUENCIES*)



# August

LAUNCHING AT

**WIZARD  
WORLD**  
CHICAGO

art by  
**FRANCIS MANAPUL**  
(*WITCHBLADE*)



\* RETAILERS \*

To get an advance copy of the first issue, contact Annie Pham at:

[apham@topcow.com](mailto:apham@topcow.com)

The Necromancer is © 2005 Top Cow Productions Inc. "The Necromancer," the logo, and the likenesses of all featured characters are trademarks of and Top Cow Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.

PRINTED IN CANADA



NICE  
SHOT.

THANK  
YOU.

NOW, MAY WE PLEASE HAVE WHAT WE CAME FOR?

LOG/FREEDOM-PHALANX/  
MANTICORE/ PRIVATE/08 JUN 05

IF I SOUND NONCHALANT, IT'S ONLY WITH SPECTACULAR EFFORT.

I CAN BARELY HEAR MYSELF OVER THE TICKING OF THE PANIC CLOCK IN MY HEAD.

FROM THE MOMENT I FIRED THAT ARROW,  
THE SECONDS STARTED SLIPPING  
THROUGH MY FINGERS LIKE QUICKSILVER--

--BUT I HAD TO PLAY IT COOL  
SO PROMETHEUS WOULDN'T  
GUESS WHAT I WAS UP TO.

YOU UNBELIEVABLE  
BASTARD...!

HAD TO.

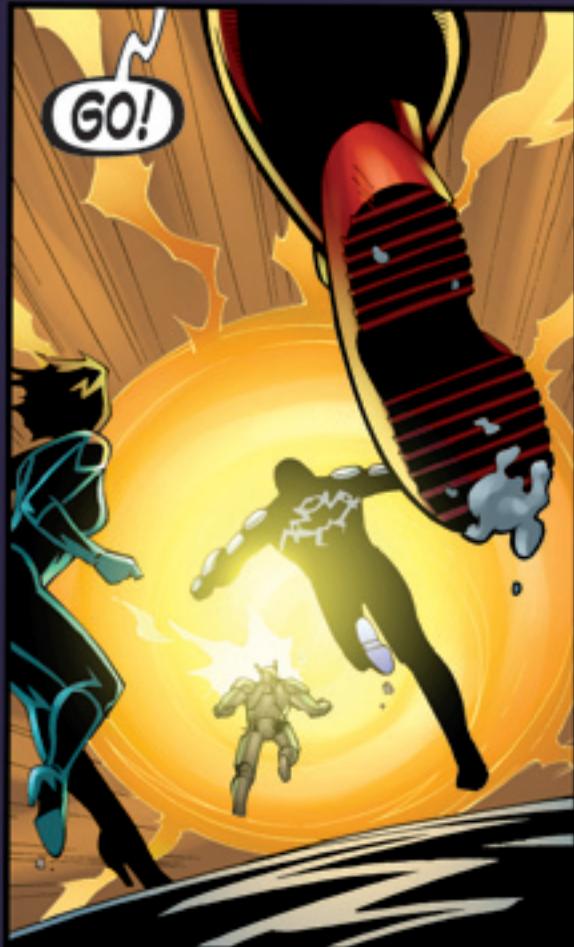
SO THIS FIRE...IT  
COMES HOW?  
ON A STICK? ON  
A TORCH?

BAH.  
PEDESTRIAN HUMAN  
CONSTRUCTS UNWORTHY  
OF GLORY. FREE  
YOUR IMAGINATION,  
MORTAL.

YOU  
YOURSELF WILL  
BE THE LAMP  
OF POWER.

WHATEVER. JUST GET  
ON WITH IT, WILL YOU?





Poor  
Bangers.

THIS MUST BE WHAT JUDGMENT DAY LOOKS LIKE TO THEM.



POSITRON DIDN'T SAY A WORD. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO.

HE JUST GLOWED LIKE THE PROVERBAL SUN, THE FIRE OF PROMETHEUS SWEEPING FROM HIM LIKE A CLEANSING WAVE...

...RESTORING AND RE-ENERGIZING EVERYTHING...

...AND EVERYONE...





NUMINA!



MANTICORE! IS THAT--?

STATESMAN, YES.

HE NEEDS YOU. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP HIM NOW.

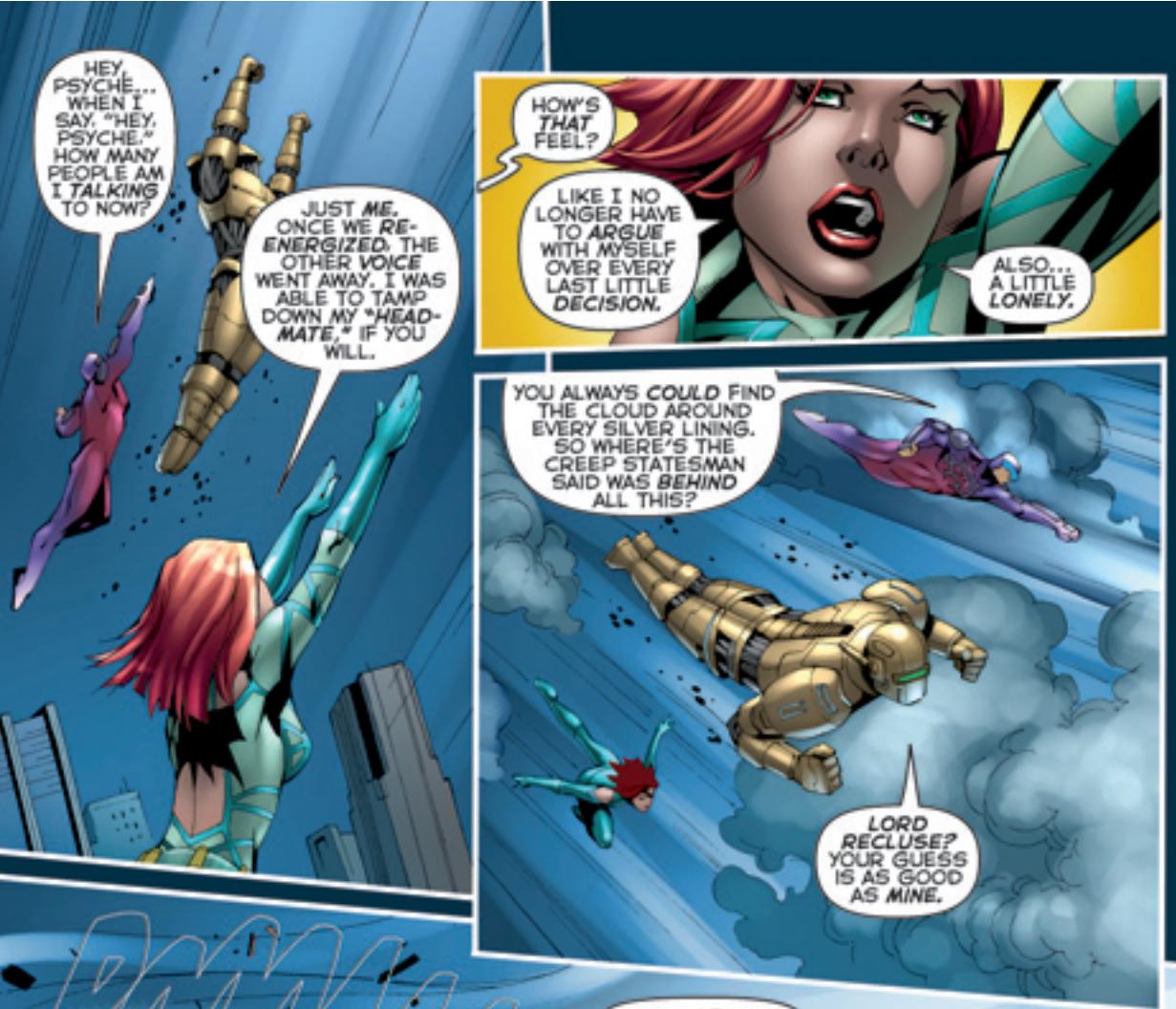
BUT I CANNOT PERFORM RESURRECTIONS ANYMORE. SINCE THE RITUAL, MY ASTRAL FORM HAS BECOME A PRISON.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS. BUT TRUST ME, YOUR POWERS ARE BACK, EVERYONE'S ARE. THANKS TO HIM.

NOW PLEASE GET TO IT WHILE HE'S STILL FRESH ENOUGH.

WHY IS THERE AN ARROW STICKING OUT OF HIM?

JUST FIX HIM.





THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AFTER. AS USUAL, IT'S UP TO ME TO HAVE AN ACTUAL PLAN.

AS I SAW IT, WE HAD PRECISELY ONE OPTION. I GAMBLED-- BIG--THAT IF I TOOK STATESMAN OUT, PROMETHEUS WOULD SIDE WITH US--

--ALLOWING ME A VERY NARROW WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO GET STATESMAN RESURRECTED ONCE EVERYONE'S POWERS WERE RESTORED.

SUCKS THAT I HAD TO LET MY TEAMMATES BELIEVE I WAS A MURDERER RATHER THAN RISK PROMETHEUS CATCHING ON--BUT THANKS TO ME, THIS CITY STILL HAS A CHANCE OF SURVIV-

I'M SORRY.

SORRY HOW? WHY ISN'T HE UP?

MANTICORE, I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S BECAUSE TOO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED, OR BECAUSE STATESMAN DIED ON ANOTHER PLANE, OR SOME COMBINATION THEREOF...

...BUT I CAN'T...REACH HIM. CAN'T EVEN FIND HIM. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BODY AND SOUL IS TOO VAST.

YOUR PLAN DIDN'T WORK MANTICORE. WE'RE TOO LATE.

HE'S GONE.



YOU'D THINK  
SOMEONE NAMED  
LORD RECLUSE  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
THIS MANY  
FRIENDS!

PSYCHE,  
CAN YOU PSI UP  
SOME INFO ON  
THESE GUYS?  
FAST?

YOU'RE  
FIGHTING SCIROCCO!  
POSITRON'S AGAINST  
BLACK SCORPION! MINE  
CALL THEMSELVES  
CAPTAIN MAKO  
AND--

HOST  
WIDOW.

LET ME  
SHOW YOU  
WHY.

PSYCHE GETS  
OFF EASY. WIDOW'LL  
SUCK HER LIFE  
AWAY QUICK.

I'LL  
KILL YA  
SLOW.

YOU AIN'T NO  
CHALLENGE, I BEEN  
STUDYIN'. I KNOW HOW  
FAR YOU C'N PUSH THAT  
ARMOR O' YOURS, AND  
BUDDY, YOU ARE PAST  
YOUR LIMIT--



WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?



I DON'T--  
HUUH. PROMETHEUS SAID  
HE'D THROWN US SOME  
SORT OF BONUS, YEAH?

WELL, FOR A SECOND  
THERE, I WAS...I DON'T  
KNOW...OVERCLOCKING!  
AND IT FELT PHENOMENAL!

AND THIS?

HOW DOES THIS FEEL?

YOU IGNORANT PRAT.  
WHAT DID STATESMAN TELL YOU  
ABOUT ME BEFORE HE DIED? DID  
HE BRAG THAT HE MADE THE  
ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY  
OF THE MILLENNIUM AS A  
YOUNG MAN?

DID HE  
SPIN TALES OF HOW HE  
FOUND A MYSTIC FOUNTAIN  
THAT GRANTED GODLY  
POWERS TO THOSE WHO  
DRANK ITS WATERS?

DID HE, AS  
HE ALWAYS DOES,  
CONVENIENTLY  
FORGET TO  
MENTION--

"...THAT HE DID  
NONE OF THAT  
BY HIMSELF?"

WE WERE TWO OF A KIND.  
YOUR LATE LEADER AND I...SO MANY YEARS AGO.  
BUT THERE WERE ALWAYS  
DIFFERENCES.

I WAS  
BETTER...I WAS  
SMARTER...

...AND I  
HAD FAR LESS  
TOLERANCE FOR  
BETRAYAL.



AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

WHAT--?

YOU?

SURPRISE.

CAN'T I AT LEAST GET SOME PEACE HERE?

DID YOU COME TO KILL ME AGAIN? ONCE WASN'T ENOUGH?

STOP FIDGETING, YOU POMPOUS ASS, AND HANG ONTO ME! WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET GO--

--BECAUSE IF I'VE PLAYED THIS RIGHT--

"I'M YOUR TICKET HOME!"

TELL ME--  
IF A TREE FALLS IN PEREZ PARK  
AND THERE'S NO  
ONE ALIVE TO  
HEAR IT--





AND AS THE LEGEND ENTERS  
TO BRING HOPE AND JOY,  
THE WORKING MAN IS ONCE  
MORE FORGOTTEN.

STATESMAN'S  
MINE.

KILL THE  
REST.

I BET THIS IS HOW  
SANTA FEELS: NO CREDIT  
FOR BRINGING THE TOYS.

I'M ONCE AGAIN A MERE ARCHER, HUMBLY  
DOING MY PART IN A CITY OF ARMORED  
TOUGHS AND FLYING, AGGRAVATINGLY  
HANDSOME DEMI-GODS. AH, WELL.

GUESS I SHOULD AIM AT THE  
ONE WHO LOOKS TANGIBLE.



AWW, NO!  
I NEVER GET A  
CLEAR SHOT WITH YOU AROUND!

STATESMAN,  
GET OUT OF  
THE--



DID I  
JUST SHOOT  
THROUGH  
SOMEBODY?

LOOKS LIKE.  
WE ALL GOT LITTLE  
IMPROVEMENTS FROM  
PROMETHEUS.

CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR VERY FIRST  
SUPER-POWER,  
MANTICORE.



WE'RE BACK,  
RECLUSE, AND  
WE'RE STRONGER  
THAN EVER NOW. YOU  
WON'T WEAKEN  
US AGAIN.

WHO WERE  
YOU WORKING  
WITH THIS TIME?  
THE CIRCLE OF  
THORNS? THE  
COUNCIL?

YOU'LL--  
SINNIN'

YOU'LL  
KNOW SOON  
ENOUGH,  
MARCUS.  
THE WHOLE  
WORLD WILL  
KNOW.

MY ALLIES  
WILL BE EASY TO  
RECOGNIZE.

THEY'LL  
BE THE ONES  
DANCING  
ON YOUR  
GRAVE.

I COULD  
END THIS NOW,  
MARCUS--BUT WHY  
NOT LEAVE YOU IN  
SUSPENSE?

BY THE  
WAY...MY SISTER  
SENDS HER  
REGARDS.

TA.



...SO IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE GOD-LEVEL ENEMIES WHO HATE US JUST FOR KNOWING YOU, I WANT OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST, AND FAST.

ALSO, FEEL FREE TO THANK ME FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE.



DIDN'T YOU KILL ME?

YOU'RE WELCOME. DON'T MENTION IT. YOU'D HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR ME...

NO, I'D HAVE LEFT YOU DEAD, WITHOUT A DOUBT.

...BECAUSE THAT'S THE KIND OF BELOVED CHAMPION OF GOODNESS YOU--

WAIT, WHAT?

OH, I MIGHT HAVE GONE TO THE FUNERAL. PAID MY RESPECTS.

HE HAS TO.

OR ELSE I MESSED UP AND PUT SOME OTHER SOUL INTO HIS BODY.

OR ELSE--AND THIS IS THE UNTHINKABLE PROSPECT--THE DEATH-TO-LIFE EXPERIENCE IMPLANTED IN STATESMAN THE FIRST FRAGILE SEEDS OF A SENSE OF HUMOR.

BUT ONCE YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE GONE. I WOULD HAVE LEARNED TO ACCEPT IT.

HE MEANS IT.

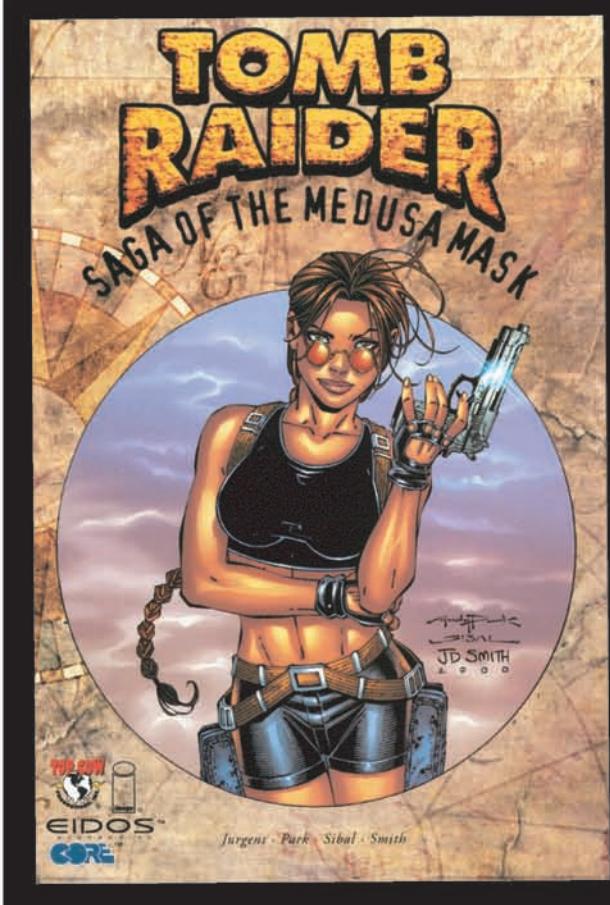
PARAGON CITY:

WHERE MIRACLES NEVER CEASE.

END.

# TOMB RAIDER: SAGA OF THE MEDUSA MASK

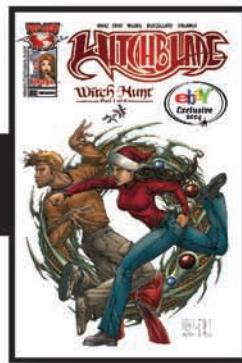
## HALF PRICE!



**BACK ISSUES**

**PRINTS**

**CONVENTION EXCLUSIVES**



**ALL AVAILABLE NOW!**

OR TO FIND A STORE NEAR YOU, CALL 1-888-COMICBOOK

**WWW.TOPCOWSTORE.COM**

Tomb Raider is © 2005 Eidos, P.L.C. "Tomb Raider," the Tomb Raider logo, LARA CROFT and her likeness and EIDOS Interactive are trademarks of EIDOS P.L.C. All Rights Reserved. City of Heroes is © 2005 Cryptic Studios, Inc. and NC Interactive, Inc. NCsoft, the interlocking NC logo, Lineage and all associated NCsoft logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation. City of Heroes is a registered trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. and NCsoft Corporation. Cryptic Studios is a trademark of Cryptic Studios, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



# GET YOUR CITY OF HEROES® GEAR NOW!



Official City of Heroes gear available: Men's and women's T-shirts, poster, strategy guide, game time card, standard game edition, and collector's DVD game edition

# PlayNC

[www.PLAYNC.COM](http://www.PLAYNC.COM)



© 2005 Cryptic Studios, Inc. and NCsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. CITY OF HEROES and all associated CITY OF HEROES logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cryptic Studios and NCsoft Corporation. NCSOFT, the Interlocking NC logo, and all associated NCSOFT logos and designs are trademarks or registered trademarks of NCsoft Corporation.

