

BLUE KING

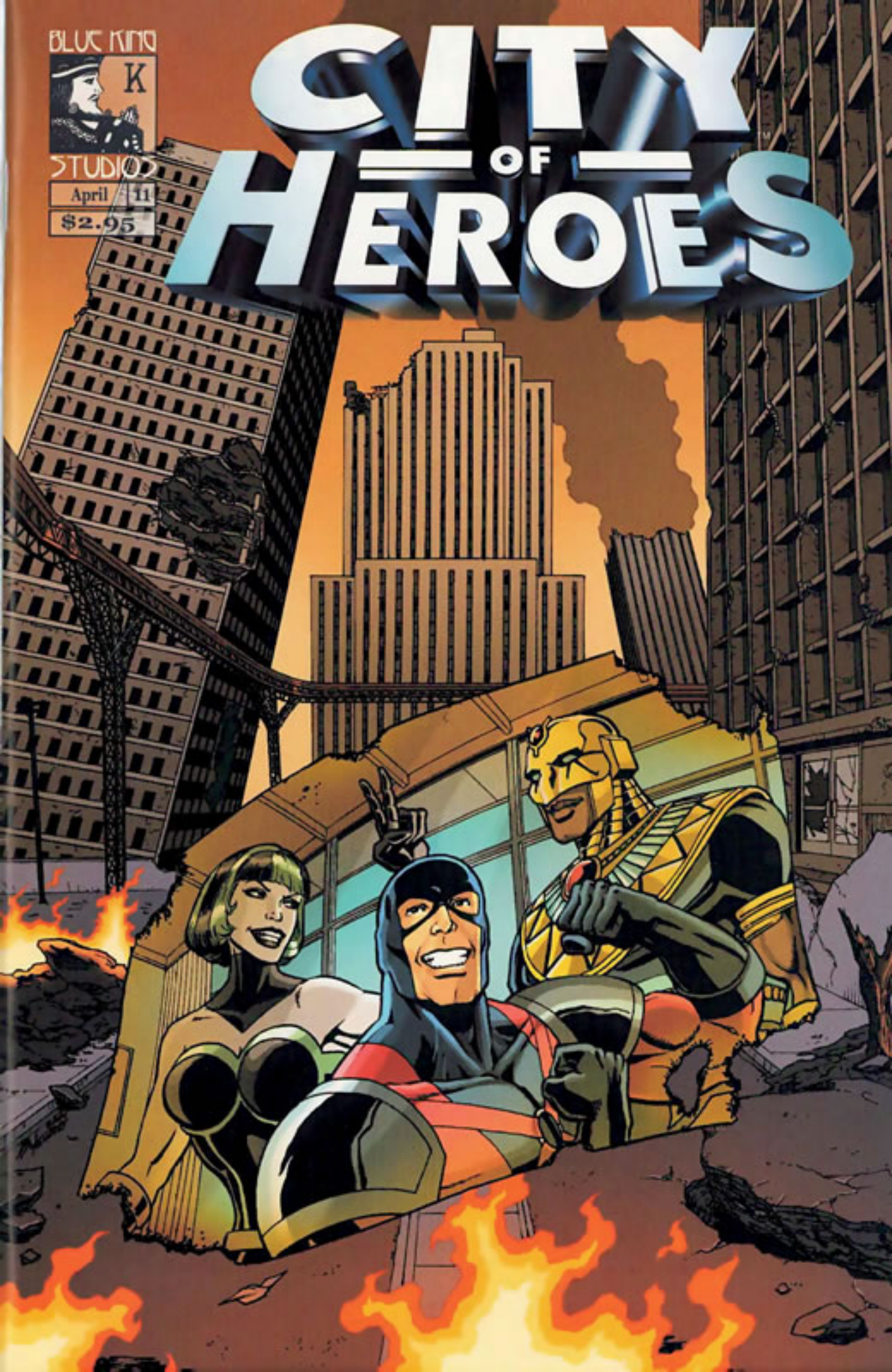
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STUDIO

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# CITY OF HEROES





# ISSUE # 11 "WELCOME THE KHELDIANS"



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**CLARISSA!**

WHAT'S SHE  
DOING?

I DIDN'T KNOW  
SHE COULD  
FLY...

WE'VE GOT  
TO GET HER  
DOWN!

COME ON,  
CLARISSA! SNAP  
OUT OF IT!

SOMETHING'S...

HOLDING...

HER...  
UP.

OH  
CRAP...



I'VE PLAYED THIS LITTLE  
DRAMA OUT ON A HUNDRED  
DIFFERENT WORLDS AND  
IT ALWAYS ENDS THE  
SAME.



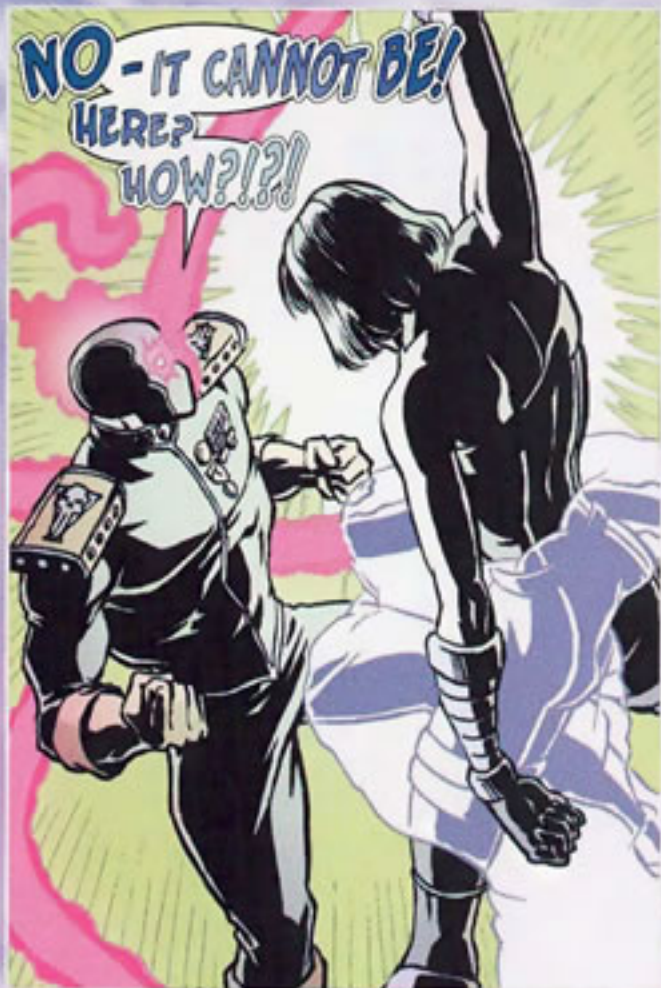
YOU  
FALL TO PIECES  
AND I CONTINUE  
- FOREVER AND  
EVER.



AND SO  
IT ENDS.



NO - IT CANNOT BE!  
HERE?  
HOW?!?!?















IS  
EVERYONE  
ALL RIGHT?

WHAT  
ABOUT YOU?  
WHAT...?

WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
YOU? WHAT DID  
YOU DO?

I'M  
BETTER THAN I'VE  
EVER BEEN. I'M FINALLY  
WHOLE.

I KNOW  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO ME AND WHO I  
HAVE BECOME.

I'M  
AN ALIEN.

BUT...BUT...

WELL,  
NOW IT  
FINALLY ALL FITS  
TOGETHER.

YOU  
REALLY ARE  
CRAZY.

WELL,  
TO BE MORE  
PRECISE, I HAVE AN ALIEN  
IN ME. I'M NOT ACTUALLY  
FROM ANOTHER PLANET OR  
ANYTHING.

BUT  
THE LIFE  
FORCE INSIDE  
ME IS.



I  
ARRIVED AT  
THE TIME OF THE  
RKT7 INVASION.

"KHELOIAN. I AM A  
KHELOIAN HUNTER. I CAME  
TO EARTH IN SEARCH OF THE  
NICTUS SCIENCE-LORD."

"KHELOIANS WERE ONCE THE SLAVES OF  
THE NICTUS, WE FEO THEIR LUST FOR POWER  
WITH OUR VERY LIFE FORCE, WE SERVED  
THEM LIKE DOGS TO CRUEL MASTERS."

"WE KHELOIANS THREW  
OFF THAT TERRIBLE  
YOKK, REBELLED, AND  
TOOK CONTROL OF OUR  
WORLDS. SOME OF US,  
PEACEBRINGERS, HUNT  
THE REMAINING NICTUS  
TO THE ENDS OF THE  
GALAXY."

"EXPECTING NICTUS HERE,  
I WAS CAUGHT UNAWARE  
BY THE RKT7 AND ALL BUT  
SLAIN"

"A FALLEN HERO GAVE ME A SLIM CHANCE  
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"A CRUSADE AGAINST ALL ODDS, IN TRUTH IT CAME NATURALLY TO ME."

"WERE THE KINTI SO DIFFERENT FROM THE AUCTUS? WHATEVER REMAINED OF THE ORIGINAL HORUS WAS ENOUGH TO STEER HIS FURY TOWARDS EARTHLY CONCERNS."

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HORUS, TELL  
ME JUST ONE  
THING.

WHO  
WAS THAT  
MONSTER YOU  
SAVED ME FROM  
JUST NOW...

AND HOW  
DO I KILL  
IT?



THAT WAS REGNUM - LEADER  
OF THE 5TH COLUMN. BUT HE WAS  
ALSO SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT  
- A NECTUS SEEMS TO INHABIT  
HIM, JUST LIKE A KHELOIAN'S  
INSIDE ME.

AS TO  
HOW TO FIND HIM - I  
DON'T KNOW. NOW THAT I HAVE  
MY MEMORIES BACK I MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO RECREATE A KHELOIAN  
SCANNER, BUT IT'LL TAKE A  
FEW DAYS...



**NO**

I NEED TO FIND HIM  
RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T LET  
HIM KEEP BREATHING  
ANOTHER DAY.

NOT  
ANOTHER  
HOUR.



CLARISSA, WHAT HAPPENED?  
WHERE'S ALL THIS BLOOD-  
LUST COMING FROM ALL  
OF A SUDDEN?

I KNOW  
IT SUCKS TO GET  
AMBUSHED LIKE THAT, BUT  
YOU'RE OK, RIGHT? LET'S  
TAKE A...



**HE KILLED THEM, APEX**

MY GOVEN! THE ONLY  
FAMILY I EVER KNEW AND  
HE KILLED ALL OF  
THEM!



WHEN I ASKED THEM FOR  
HELP THAT THING SOMEHOW  
TRACED THEM THROUGH  
THE ASTRAL  
AETHER.

AND  
IT MURDERED  
THEM - AND  
ALMOST KILLED  
ME.



HELP ME FIND IT...  
RIGHT NOW.

BEFORE IT CAN  
HURT ANOTHER  
LIVING THING.





PARDON ME, IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT HERE? I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE SOMETHING MAKING THIS RATHER LARGE HOLE IN YOUR WALL.

WHO THE ~~HELL~~ ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS HELLBEIST. I WAS PASSING BY AND I SAW...



IS EVERYONE OK HERE?

HOW CAN I HELP...

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE?!?!?

PLEASE DEAR, CALM DOWN. I'M HERE TO HELP.

I SAW THE EXPLOSION AND THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE INJURED INNOCENTS.



LET'S EVERYBODY JUST CALM DOWN A SECOND, OK? NO ONE'S HURT WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WALL?

JUST AN ACCIDENT. NOTHING TO SEE HERE. PLEASE, JUST MOVE ON AND LET US TAKE CARE OF IT.











WE HEREBY OFFICIALLY NOTIFY YOU THAT THE HERO  
OPERATING UNDER THE MONIKER "HOKUS" HAS BEEN  
VIDEOTAPED TRESPASSING ON CREY INDUSTRIES PROPERTY,  
DESTROYING CREY INDUSTRIES PROPERTY, AND  
ASSAULTING CREY INDUSTRIES PERSONNEL.

ANY  
RESISTANCE WILL OF  
COURSE RESULT IN FURTHER  
LEGAL ACTION AND POSSIBLE  
USE OF APPROPRIATE AND  
DEADLY FORCE.

AS DEPUTIZED  
VIGILANTES, LICENSED BY  
PARAGON CITY TO STOP CRIME  
WHEREVER IT IS FOUND, THESE AGENTS  
ARE HERE TO TAKE HOKUS AND HIS  
ACCOMPLICE SALLY BARRERA  
INTO CUSTODY.

OH SHUT UP  
ALREADY!





















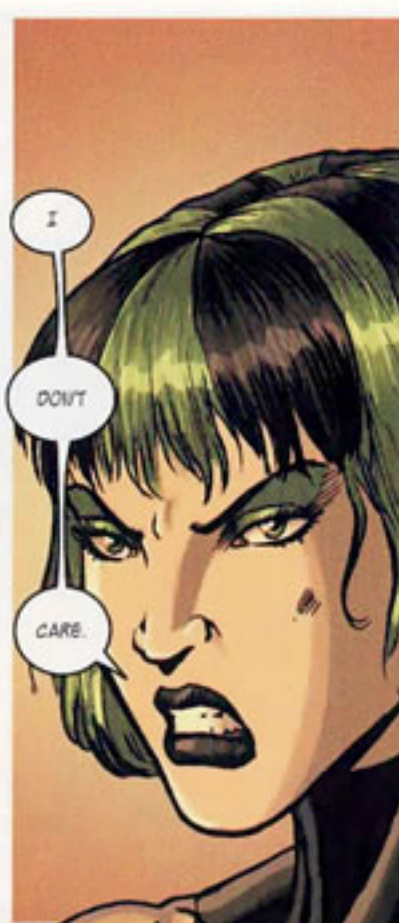






IT'S NOT NONSENSE WAR WICH, I'VE MET THE *COUNTESS GREY*, AND SHE'S *NOT* GOING TO GIVE UP. NOT AFTER BEING *BEATEN* LIKE THIS.

THIS WAS JUST A *WARNING* SHOT.



I

DON'T

CARE.



LISTEN, *CLARISSA*, WE'RE GOING TO GET THIS *ACTIVIS*. WE WILL. BUT WE CAN'T DO IT IF THE RICHEST, MOST POWERFUL CORPORATION IN THE COUNTRY IS *BREATHING* DOWN OUR NECKS.

SO WHAT, YOU WANT TO TAKE *ALL* OF GREY OUT FIRST, IS THAT IT?



WE JUST NEED TO *BUY* OURSELVES SOME TIME. GET SOME COVER FROM GREY WHILE I WORK ON THAT *SCANNER*.

THAT'S GOING TO BE *TUGH*. SHE HAS *SPIES* EVERYWHERE AND SHE *KNOWS* WHO WE ALL ARE.



I'M SOMETHING OF AN EXPERT ON *HIDING* AND *MISDIRECTION*.

AND I CAN TELL YOU, SOMETHING THE EASIEST TO DO IS *HIDE* PLAIN SIGHT





THANKS FOR HELPING WITH THE CREY GOONS AND ALL, BUT I THINK WE'RE FAST NEEDING CRYSTIC LITTLE SAVINGS RIGHT NOW...

ALL I MEANT WAS, FIND PROTECTION FROM SOMEONE EVEN CREY CAN'T TOUCH.



WAIT A SEC. I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING. THIS JUST MIGHT WORK.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVEN MORE CLOUT THAN THE COUNTESS CREY.

I CAN THINK OF SEVEN OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD.

YOU MEAN THE SWISSING SEVEN?



YES! THEY'RE THE HEROES OF THE HEROES - THE GREATEST SURVIVORS OF THE ROTT WAR. THEY'VE GOT ALL KINDS OF SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PERKS AND, WELL, INFLUENCE.



ONE OF THEM COULD OFFER US THE PROTECTION WE NEED WHILE WE FIND THE ANTS. OR COULD MAYBE EVEN HELP US FIND IT.

BUT WHY WOULD ONE OF THEM GO OUT ON A LIMB LIKE THAT FOR YOU?

THAT'S JUST IT! AFTER I MADE THE PAPERS WITH THAT JURY THING, ONE OF THEM I MET BEFORE CALLED ME.



HE SAID, IF I WAS EVER IN A REAL FIX, HE'D HELP ME OUT. WELL, I'M IN A REAL FIX NOW - WE ALL ARE.

LET ME JUST THROW ON MY COSTUME AND WE'LL HEAD OVER TO SEE HIM BEFORE CREY SHOWS UP FOR ROUND TWO.



WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE A PLAN.

YOU DON'T MIND IF WE TAG ALONG, DO YOU?

WOULD IT MATTER IF I SAID NO?



TOUGH  
DAH, HON?

THEY  
ALL ARE THESE DAYS.  
ALL THESE DAMN NEWSIE  
HEROES COMIN' UP TO ME AND ASKING  
FOR TRAINING AND TIPS AND WHATEVER.  
I JUST STAND AROUND WITH THOSE  
DAMN GLOVES ON AND DISPENSE MY  
WISDOM IN ATLAS PARK.

WELL, YOU  
ARE THE WORLD-  
FAMOUS BACK  
ALLEY BRAHLER.  
THEY LOOK UP TO  
YOU.

THESE SOUND ONE'S, THEY  
NEED LEADERSHIP,  
DARLING. THEY NEED  
THAT GUIDANCE.

I  
KNOW. I'D  
JUST RATHER MY  
FEET WERE TIRED FROM  
KICKING BUTT RATHER  
THAN STANDING  
POST.

WHO THE  
HELL IS  
THAT?

AWW HELL, SON,  
WHAT'RE YOU COMING  
'ROUND MY HOUSE  
FOR?

UM, MR. BRAHLER SON,  
YOU SAID IF I EVER  
NEEDED SOME  
HELP...

WELL, WE  
NEED SOME  
HELP.

ALRIGHT, NEWSIES.  
COME ON IN.

MORE HEART STOPPING HEROICS, PULSE POUNDING  
PUNCHES, AND BRAIN BOGGING PRATINGS NEXT ISSUE!