

Guardians

The Game of Heroic High Adventure

Written by James Perham & Gideon



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Cover by Andy Dimmit
Color by Carol Van Hook

Back Cover by Gideon
Color by Andy Barlow

Edited by
J. Michelle Gearhart
J. Perham

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Traders Through Time
info@tradersthroughtime.com
http://www.tradersthroughtime.com

Publisher:
Richard K. Lawson

Contributing Artists:
Gideon Christina Wald
Andy Dimmit Kurt Metz
Kevin Van Hook

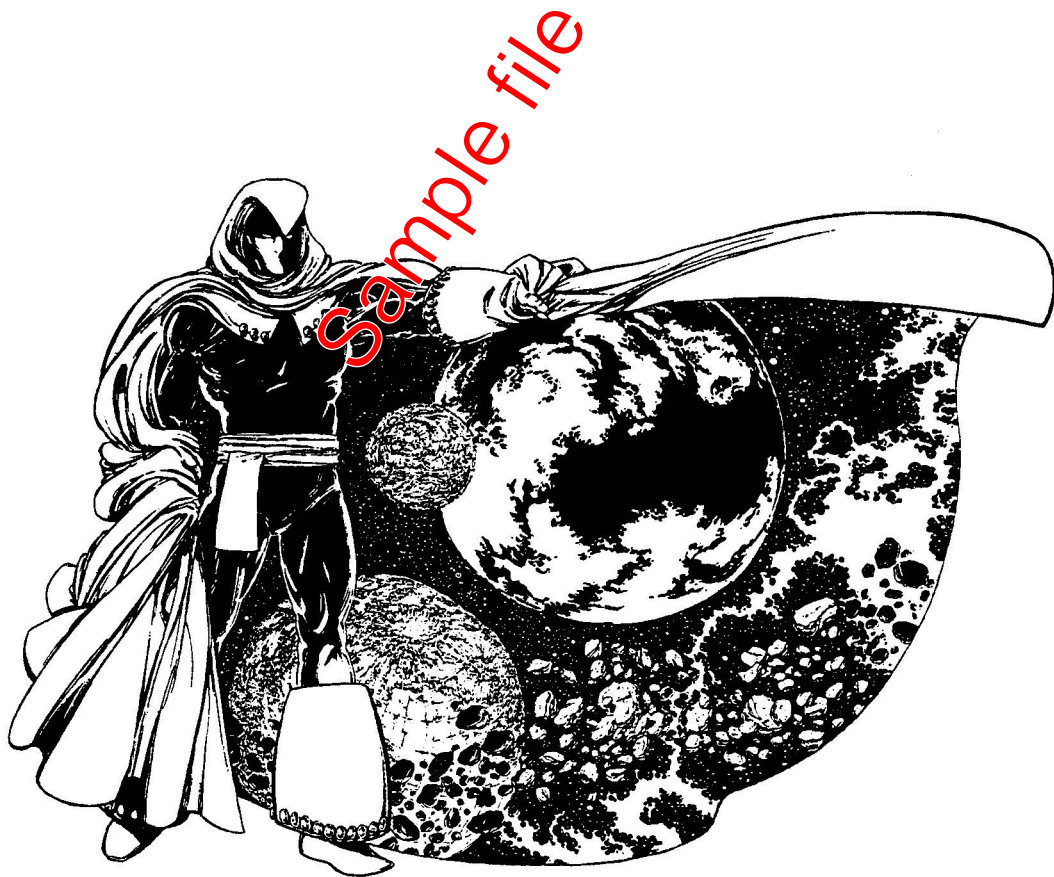
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...and to lovers , writers, artists, and publishers of comics (and especially superheroes) everywhere!



Introduction

"So...um...What are you writing for the introduction to Guardians?", asked **Cliff**, StarChilde publisher and fearsome fearless leader. It was a fair question, I guess, one deserving a good answer. Actually, to be perfectly honest, I hadn't planned to write anything for the Guardians introduction. I had planned to persuade (beg, plead, threaten, trick) someone else to do it.

At first, my friend **Kevin VanHook** was going to write the blasted thing. If his name sounds familiar, then you, dear reader, are a connoisseur of good comics. Kevin created Jack Frost, the mysterious detective/soldier-of-fortune late of Caliber Press' **Frost** series (one of the best action-adventure comics being done). He's done several other jobs for Caliber, as well as worked for Marvel, Innovation, Amazing, Pied Piper, etc. - in other words, he's a gosh honest comics professional. Kevin is probably best known as the writer/penciller/inker (**Carol**, Kevin's wife, colored it - it's a conspiracy, I tell you) of the **Rocky Horror Picture Show** comic book adaptation. Yes, Kevin **WAS** going to write it, but a freelance job fell into his lap which he had to complete, so he had to abstain... courteously (that's a Chicago Comicon inside joke between Kevin, Carol and myself). Imagine, turning down a chance to work for free for a paying job. Personally, I think he's just getting back at me for not writing an intro to his **Frost Graphic Novel** (which I really wanted to do, but I was just too busy procrastinating to finish it). It became necessary to find another sucker... err... friend, to write the intro.

I never asked my buddy, pal, friend and homeboy, **Francisco "Vincenzo" Guerrero**, to write the introduction to Guardians, but I have a reason for this - he was visiting relatives back in the "old country" (Texas). I decided to include Frisco because: A) I forgot to include his name in the "thank you" list on page #3 and he'd break my face if I didn't mention him. B) He might call me in the middle of the night and ask me to go bowling (that's another inside joke, folks).

I was running out of "close personal friends" and I was ~~beginning~~ to worry. What if I couldn't find anyone to write the introduction? What if I had to write the introduction to my OWN book???! Imagine the indignity! Imagine the shame! Imagine me writing something for FREE (that's what really steamed my clams, boyo)! I looked across the room and there sat my savior - Cliff "Gideon" VanMeter. Cliff the good! Cliff the kind! Cliff the gullible fool with a large vocabulary! He would write the introduction. At last, I had a good feeling about this.

Cliff sat and stared at the blank computer screen. He sat, and sat, and sat. Suddenly he would burst into a fury of flying fingers banging away at the keyboard. A few seconds later, he stopped. Then he sat some more. After an hour or so of this active inactivity, Cliff looked up from his computer, and with one sentence, sent my fragile house of cards crashing down on me.

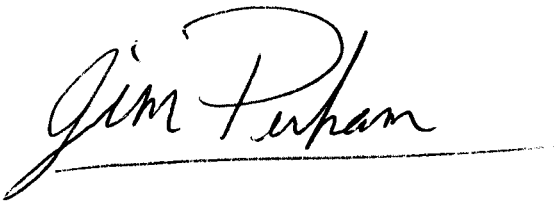
"So...um...What are you writing for the introduction to Guardians?"

There was no getting around it. I was stuck.

What can I say about Guardians without having the **Modesty Fairy** fly down and bean me over the head with her **Staff of Incoherency**?

It doesn't suck.

Guardians gives the GM and players the freedom to play any genre of comics they wish. The rules are playable without being dictatorial. The art is great, maybe some of the best in a game of this type. And, if I may say so, the book is a fun read. All things considered, I'm very proud of this game. And on that note, I'll have to end this little talk. Hope you enjoy Guardians - let me know what you think. You know, writing this intro wasn't so bad. Maybe next time I'll... then again, maybe not.




Jim Perham '91



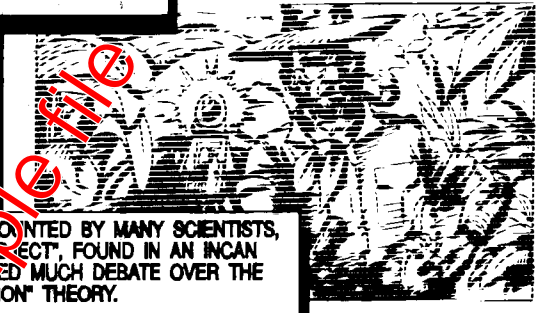
NUMEROUS THEORIES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED ON THE ORIGINS OF GUARDIANS AND OTHER EXTRA NORMALS. MANY OF THESE THEORIES POSSES GREAT MERIT, OTHERS ARE ONLY SO MUCH BAT GUANO, BUT DESERVE CONSIDERATION NONE- THELESS IN KEEPING WITH SCIENTIFIC TRADITIONS.



THE SMYTHE-SMULLINS THEORY SUPPOSES THAT THE GODS OF ANTIQUITY WERE MORTALS WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS... THE FIRST GUARDIANS.




ANOTHER THEORY SUPPOSES THAT TODAY'S GUARDIANS ARE THE OFFSPRING OF PAST HUMAN-ALIEN UNIONS.




ALTHOUGH DISCOUNTED BY MANY SCIENTISTS, THE 'HELMAN OBJECT', FOUND IN AN INCAN RUIN HAS CAUSED MUCH DEBATE OVER THE 'ALIEN' CONNECTION THEORY.

5/16/79 - Dr. Helman finds the object at dig site .5




YET ANOTHER FRINGE THEORY PROPOSES THAT GUARDIANS ARE DECENDED FROM THE SURVIVORS OF ATLANTIS. FOR MOST EXPERTS, HOWEVER, THIS THEORY JUST DOESN'T HOLD WATER.

THE MOST RECENT THEORY, PRESENTED BY DR. LAURA STERN, SUGGESTS THAT GUARDIANS ARE THE NEXT RUNG IN THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER.




HER PAPER, "GUARDIANS: MAN'S NEXT STEP OR EVOLUTIONARY CUL-DE-SAC?" PRESENTS COMPELLING EVIDENCE FOR THIS VIEW.



A FINAL THEORY, FROM PSYCHOLOGIST DR. MICHAEL CLARKE, HOLDS THAT THE HERO EXISTS INSIDE EACH PERSON, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT.

THE 'HEROIC POTENTIAL' THEORY SUPPOSES THAT SUCH A RESPONSE MUST BE TRIGGERED BY SOME GREAT PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL STRAIN.



REGARDLESS OF WHICH OF THESE THEORIES ULTIMATELY PROVES TRUE, THE IDENTITY OF THE FIRST GUARDIAN WILL FOREVER REMAIN A SECRET. THEIR EXISTANCE, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE HERALDED AS A GREAT MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.