

The Sound of Silence

Background

Set in the world of the massively multiplayer online (MMO) game of City of Heroes (CoH) where players take on the role of heroes, flying around fighting the bad guys and saving the ordinary people.

For more detailed information have a look at the web site for the game: <http://uk.cityofheroes.com/>

The story was written for a competition on the CoH UK forums. It needed to be about an existing character and no more than 800 words long.

Sonic Girl is a character I created in the game who has sonic powers, that is to say she can use her voice to blast things. I took this idea one step further and imagined that whenever she spoke her voice had destructive powers. This meant that in her day to day life as Milly Temblin she pretended to be mute using sign language to communicate. When she was out fighting crime she wore specially designed ear defenders that stopped her from being effected by her own voice (I imagined that the normal feedback protection system the human bodies has to stop us deafening ourselves probably wouldn't work for her).

The Story

Given the powers of the character, I rather liked the idea of putting her in a position where she would be forced to use her voice to warn someone about something, but by shouting she would probably kill that person.

This ultimately changed to the story I finally wrote where she has to warn her boyfriend about a bomb, but is unable to.

I'd be the first to admit that it is a slightly contrived story, but this is the comic genre we're dealing with and I was on a deadline. ;)

The final story lost a lot of the background to fit it in to the 800 word limit, but I think it still held on to the main storyline. I did want to show more of Milly's life as someone who could speak but had to restrain herself. I also like the idea that the Milly and Jake used text a lot to communicate with each other, but for something more intimate he would phone her. I thought about them using video calls instead, but voice seemed to offer something special considering her restriction.

Other Notes

As you will notice from the original notes Milly's boyfriend started off being named Jack and this was later changed to Jake for no reason other than I couldn't stop saying Jake in my head.