

FRED PERRY'S

GOLD

Digger

AP

ANTARCTIC
PRESS™

14

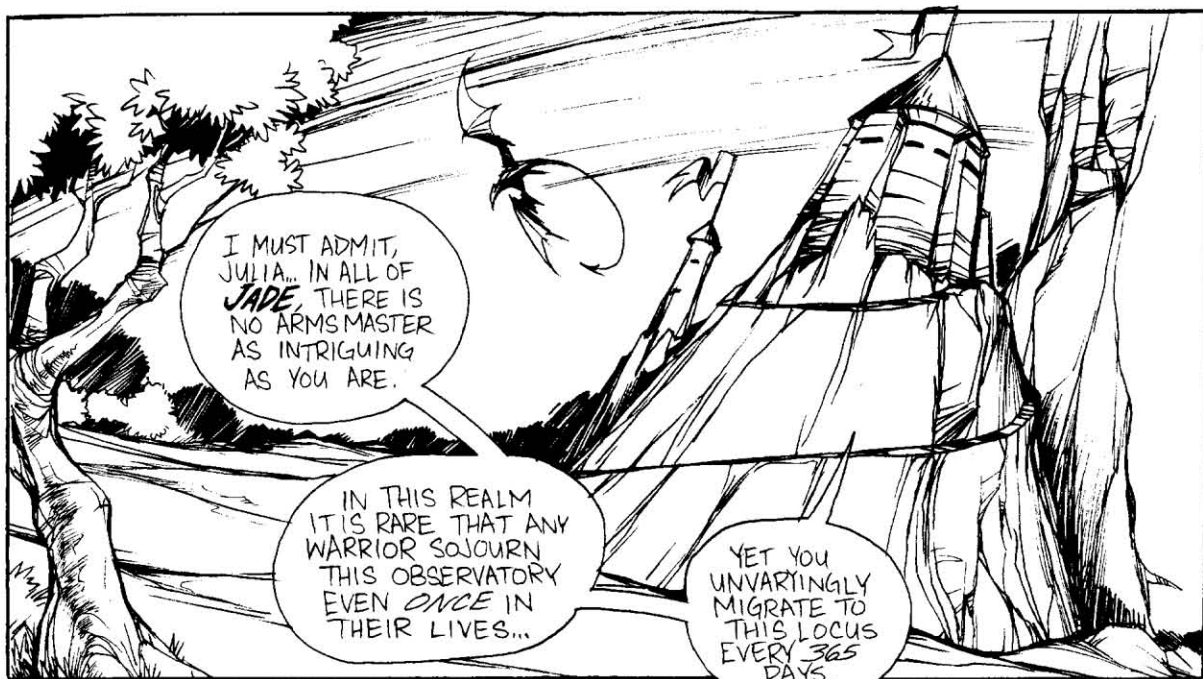
AUG
1994

\$2.75
U.S.

\$3.85
Can.

ADVENTURE





I MUST ADMIT, JULIA... IN ALL OF **JADE**, THERE IS NO ARMSMASTER AS INTRIGUING AS YOU ARE.

IN THIS REALM IT IS RARE THAT ANY WARRIOR SOJOURN THIS OBSERVATORY EVEN *ONCE* IN THEIR LIVES...

YET YOU UNVARIABLY MIGRATE TO THIS LOCUS EVERY *365* DAYS.

YOU TRAVEL FOR FOUR WEEKS TO COME HERE FROM YOUR HOME IN THE NORTH...

AND ONLY TO STAY A DAY IN OUR MEDITATION CHAMBER? *WHY?*

IT'S A **LONG** STORY, BROD...

(PROBABLY AS LONG AS HOW Aer... TROLL SUCH AS YOURSELF BECAME AN **ARCH-MAGICIAN**...)

BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'D CROSS EVERY DESERT AND MOUNTAIN IN **JADE** TO COME HERE TODAY...

IT'S MORE THAN WORTH IT.



PERHAPS WE WILL FIND THE TIME TO ENLIGHTEN EACH OTHER ONE DAY.

PERHAPS.



WELL, HERE WE ARE. CALL ME IF YOU REQUIRE ANYTHING.

THANK YOU, BROD.

YOU'RE VERY HOSPITABLE.



YOU'RE WELCOME...

MRS. DIGGERS.

KIK

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

"GINA, CHEETAH, THE TELEPORTATION SPELL IS COMPLETE! WE'RE NOW AT THABIAN AND JETTA'S HOME NEAR THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

"I HOPE YOU BOTH DON'T MIND IF WE STOP HERE FOR A WHILE..."

WE UNDERSTAND, SANDER. YOU WANT TO LET JETTA AND THABIAN KNOW THAT "BRENDAN THE BETRAYER" IS ON THE LOOSE. *

AFTER ALL, HE MIGHT COME HERE AND TRY SOMETHING

WOO! THAT "WATER-DROP" TELEPORTING EFFECT FEELS KINDA FUNKY!...

I JUST HOPE THABIAN AND JETTA DON'T MIND US DROPPING IN ON THEM.

I DOUBT THEY WILL, GINA.

AND DON'T WORRY. I'LL USE THIS MAGIC BOOK'S POWER TO TELEPORT YOU BOTH BACK TO YOUR HOME AFTER THIS VISIT.

*CHECK THE LAST ISSUE FOR DETAILS! - FRED.

THERE'S MY SISTER NOW!

JETTA! OVER HERE!

SAND'R?!

MISS'D U! ♥

I MISSED YOU TOO, JETTA...

I BROUGHT SOME GUESTS WITH ME TODAY...



...THABIAN IS MUCH STRONGER AND WISER THAN JETTA. WHY ISN'T HE THE LEADER OF THE WERE-WOLVES?

BECAUSE TO CLAIM LEADERSHIP OF MY CLAN WOULD MEAN I'D HAVE TO CHALLENGE JETTA AND DEFEAT HER IN COMBAT...



AND I REFUSE TO ATTACK MY OWN WIFE.

NOW COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN? MY CHILD IS TAKING A NAP.

THABIAN, I'M AFRAID I'VE COME WITH SOME DISTURBING NEWS.



BRENDAN HAS ESCAPED AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE'S GONE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT STRANGE WOLVES (SANE) BARRIER THAT RECENTLY APPEARED AROUND HIS PRISON? HOW COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN PAST IT?

SORRY, THABIAN. THAT BARRIER WASN'T THERE TO KEEP BRENDAN IN, IT WAS THERE TO KEEP YOU OUT!

WHOEVER MADE THE BARRIER PROBABLY EXTRICATED BRENDAN.



I AGREE GINA.

AND THABIAN, IF IT WEREN'T FOR GINA AND BRITANNY'S INVESTIGATION OF BRENDAN'S PRISON, WE WOULD HAVE NEVER KNOWN OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

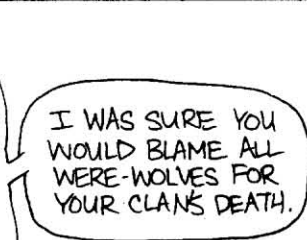


DAMN.

HAS JETTA BEEN TOLD?

SEE?

HAHA! JEEZ! I NEVER REALIZED HOW EASY IT WAS.





"ZOINKS! IT'S THAT WEIRD TELEPORTING EFFECT AGAIN, CHEETAH!"

"MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M IN A COSMIC PERCOLATOR."



"FOR REAL THO!"

MEANWHILE...

WHERE AM I....
WHO ARE YOU?

AH SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND, EH, BRENDAN?

ANSWER ME!

ONLY BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSES...

YOU ARE IN THE REALM OF THE UNDEAD, MY FRIEND...

I AM THE **LICH-KING**. I AM MASTER HERE.

AND I HAVE A MISSION FOR YOU.

I ANSWER TO NO ONE!

WHATEVER YOU WANT FROM ME, YOU WON'T HAVE IT. GO AHEAD AND KILL ME.

TSK, TSK... YOU HAVE ME ALL WRONG.

I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IN FORCING ANYONE TO DO MY BIDDING... IT'S MUCH MORE ECONOMICAL AND MOTIVATIONAL TO PERSUADE.



THIS IS WHAT I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO FIND WITH THOSE INCREDIBLE TRACKING SKILLS OF YOURS.

THIS CRYSTAL OBELISK. IT HAS GREAT POWER. IT SERVES MY PURPOSES IF YOU POSSESS IT.

WITH IT YOU CAN EASILY BE ABLE TO TAKE REVENGE AGAINST A CERTAIN WERE-CAT OR A CERTAIN WERE-WOLF CLAN.

OR WHAT HAVE YOU.



WHERE DO I START?

WHUEW! BACK HOME THE GOOD OLD US OF A!

I WAS STARTING TO GET DIZZY JUMPING AROUND ALL OF THOSE DIMENSIONS.

WELL. LOOK WHO'S BACK! (AND BLOCKIN' THE T.V.)

SCOOT.



CHEETAH, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO EMBARRASSED IN MY WHOLE LIFE!

WHAT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY CUT ONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!

YOU ACT LIKE YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING EMBARRASSING BEFORE.

NO! NOT LIKE THAT...



NOT IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE! WE SHOULD CHANGE YOUR NICK-NAME TO "POOFY" INSTEAD OF "CHEETAH!"

DON'T MIND HER, CHEETS.

I STILL HAVE BOTH OF YOUR MEMORIES FROM WHEN I WAS BORN*

AND GINA HAS HAD SOME HUMILIATING ACCIDENTS IN HER DAY, BELIEVE ME!

* G.D. #3-F.



FOR INSTANCE, THE DAY SHE PERFECTED HER SPECKLE-INTERFEROMETRY TELESCOPE AND A METEORITE SMACKED INTO IT WHILE SHE WAS STAR-GAZING

No!

WHAAHAPPEN? WHAAHAPPEN?



WE'LL... FIRST SHE SAID IT, THEN SHE DID IT!...

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! (i don't get it)

Brianna still has a bit of a mean streak. →

SO HOW WAS YOUR TRIP TO IRELAND.

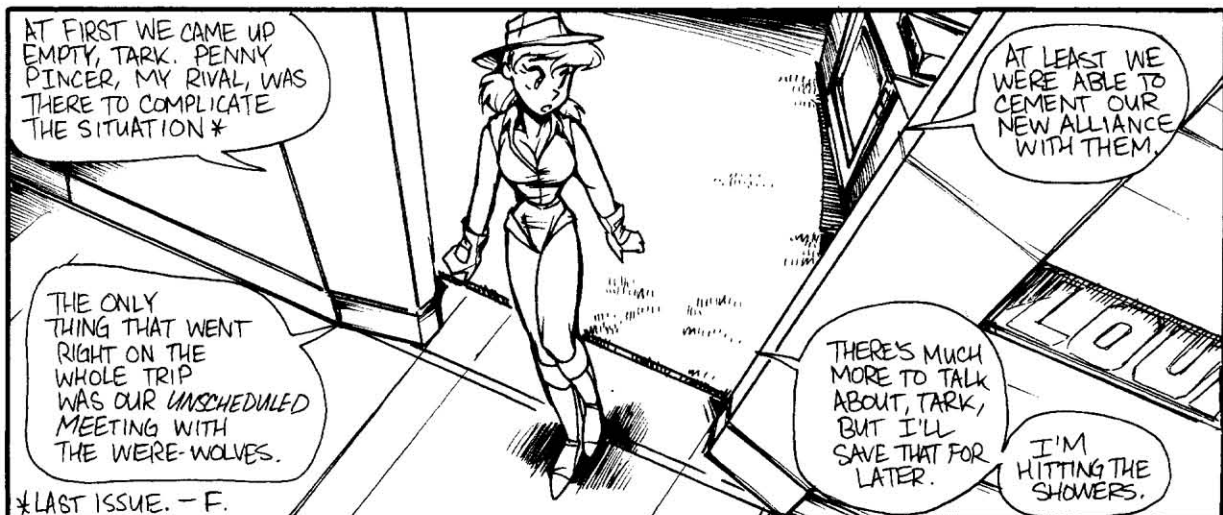
I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING BACK BY PLANE.

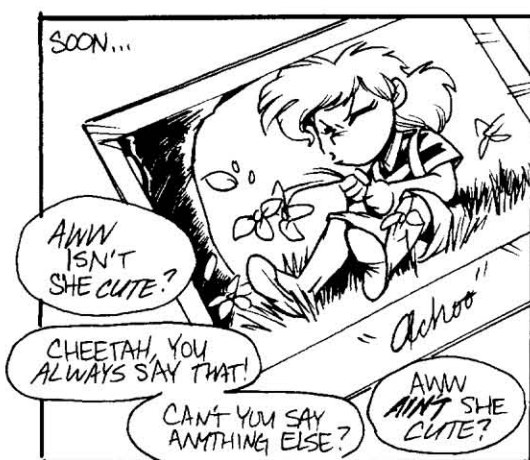
YOU DIE, BRIANNA!

GIGGLE



← she lies.







MOM? DAD? HOW DID YOU TWO MEET ANYWAY?



A GOOD QUESTION, BRITANNY...
(AND I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF IT, THEODORE...)

ONLY IF YOU INCLUDE YOURS.

ALL RIGHT THEN. YOU START.

IT WAS DURING MY FINAL YEAR STUDYING IN JADE WHEN I MET JULIA.

MY FATHER SENT ME THERE TO LEARN UNDER HIS OLD INSTRUCTOR, ELDRIN...

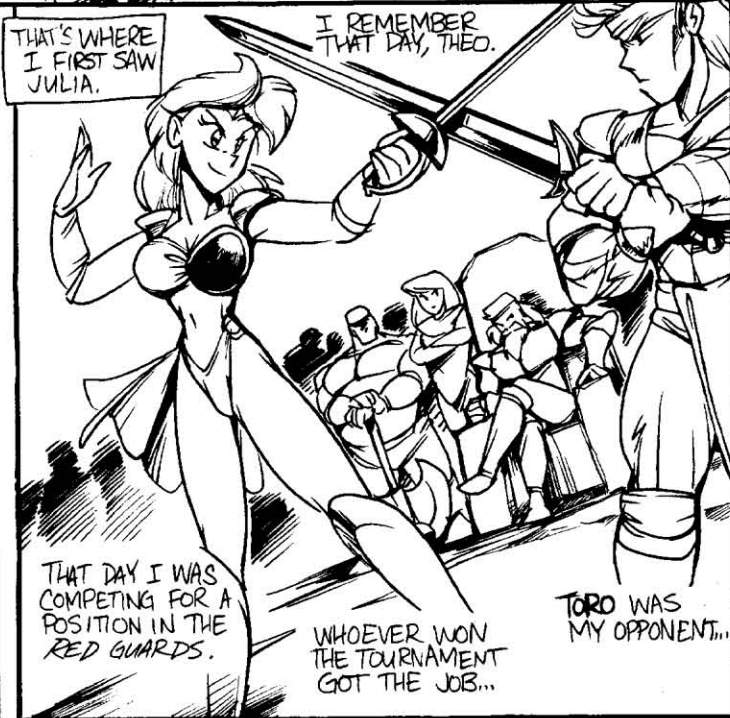
DURING THE SUMMER WHEN I COMPLETED MY STUDIES FOR THE DAY I'D TOUR THE COUNTRY SIDE.

ONE DAY I CAME ACROSS A LARGE GATHERING OF WARRIORS.

IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE HOLDING A TOURNAMENT.



I'D NEVER SEEN A WARRIOR'S TOURNAMENT BEFORE SO I STAYED AND WATCHED.



THAT'S WHERE I FIRST SAW JULIA.

I REMEMBER THAT DAY, THEO.

THAT DAY I WAS COMPETING FOR A POSITION IN THE RED GUARDS.

WHOEVER WON THE TOURNAMENT GOT THE JOB...

TORO WAS MY OPPONENT...

THE RULES OF THE CONTEST WERE PRETTY STRAIGHT FORWARD. GET YOUR OPPONENT INTO A POSITION WHERE YOUR NEXT MOVE WOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL...

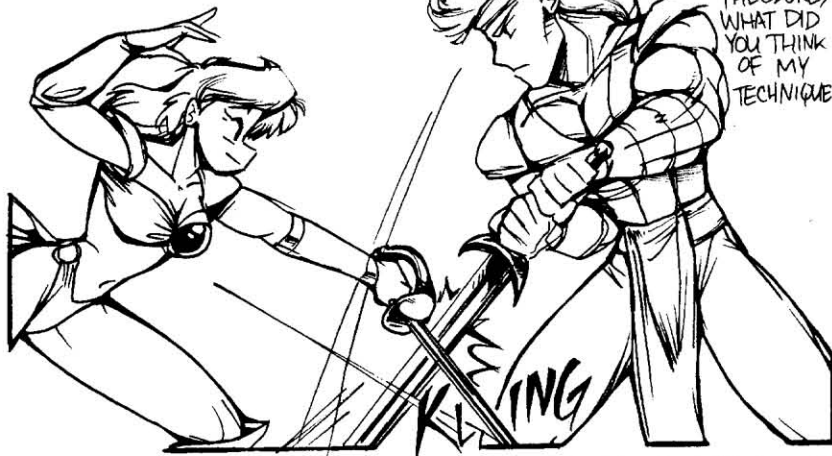
IN OTHER WORDS, "CHECKMATE" YOUR OPPONENT!

I ALWAYS MEANT TO ASK YOU, THEODORE, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY TECHNIQUE?

KE KING KING

AT THE TIME, JULIA, ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS HOW RADIANT AND CONFIDENT YOU LOOKED

(AND SUCH AN ADORABLE FIGURE TOO!)



≧GIGGLE≡
YOU BIG
FLATTERER!

ANYWAY, DURING THE DUEL, TORO MADE A VICIOUS SWING THAT JUST MISSED JULIA!

IT WAS A WILD SWING, THEODORE. HE GOT A LITTLE COCKY!

HE LEFT HIMSELF WIDE OPEN!



I GAVE HIM A LITTLE SCRATCH TO TELL HIM NOT TO FOOL AROUND WITH ME...

...BUT HE TOOK IT THE WRONG WAY!

SWIP

KL
KLING
KING



I REMEMBER THAT, JULIA. HE STARTED ATTACKING AT GREAT SPEED AND FEROCITY BUT YOU DIDN'T TRY TO FIGHT BACK!

I COULDN'T!



TORO WAS BERSERK! IF I ATTACKED INSTEAD OF DEFENDING I WOULD HAVE SURELY BEEN HIT BY ONE OF HIS WILD THRUSTS! EVEN IF I HIT HIM!

I WAS GOING TO WAIT UNTIL HE PAUSED TO REST...



BUT THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS BACKING AWAY FASTER THAN I COULD MAINTAIN MY BALANCE.

I TRIPPED AND BRUISED MY BACKSIDE SOMETHING AWFUL!



THAT'S WHEN TORO MOVED IN TO FINISH THE DUEL.

I WASN'T IN ANY REAL DANGER THOUGH...



BUT IT SURE LOOKED LIKE IT, JULIA. I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU, SO I CAST A **SHIELD-SPELL** AROUND YOU...

I KNOW WHAT IT **LOOKED** LIKE HONEY, BUT TORO IS VERY SKILLED. HE WAS GOING TO STOP HIS ATTACK AT THE LAST SECOND TO CLAIM VICTORY.



BUT AT LEAST YOU CARED ENOUGH TO TRY TO PROTECT ME. HOWEVER....

WHAT THE...

A MAGIC-USER OF ALL THE...

HE'S THE ONE

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

HE DEFLECTED TORO'S LAST ATTACK!

oops



SO THAT'S HOW SHE WON ALL OF THOSE BATTLES!

SHE'S BEEN GETTING HIS HELP ALL ALONG!

BUT...

I'VE -- I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE IN MY WHOLE LIFE!!

I'M SORRY JULIA BUT I'M LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE!

YOU ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM THIS TOURNAMENT.

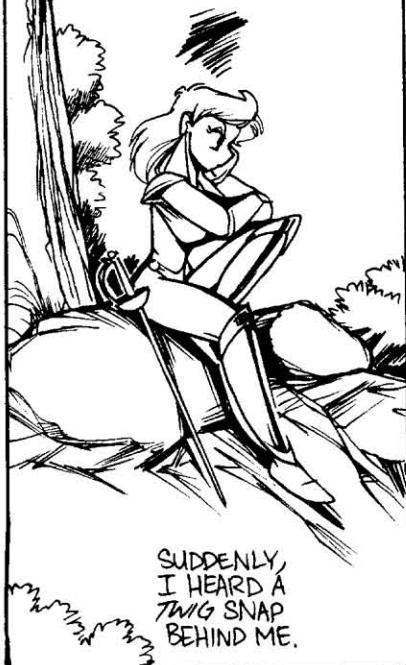
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO JULIA, BUT I KNEW THAT ANYTHING I WOULD HAVE SAID AT THAT MOMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MISCONSTRUED AND MADE MATTERS WORSE.



THEN IT'S A LUCKY THING FOR YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, THEODORE.

I WAS SO MAD, I WOULD HAVE POPPED YOU RIGHT IN THE MOUTH FOR EVEN A PEEP!

I WENT INTO THE FOREST TO SULK UNDER MY FAVORITE SHADE TREE.



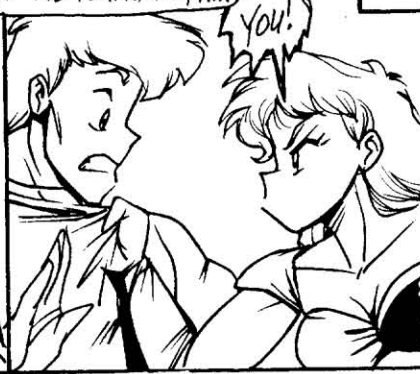
SUDDENLY, I HEARD A TWIG SNAP BEHIND ME.

SOMEHOW, I KNEW IT WAS YOU, THEO...

E-EXCUSE ME, MISS. I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

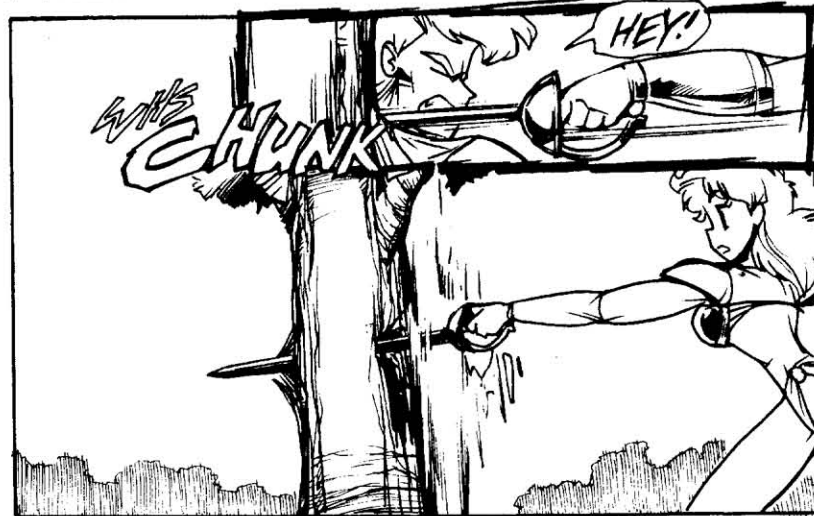
AT THE TOURNAMENT H/H

YOU!



WHIS
WHIS
WHIS

I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A GOOD SCARE... TEACH YOU A LESSON.



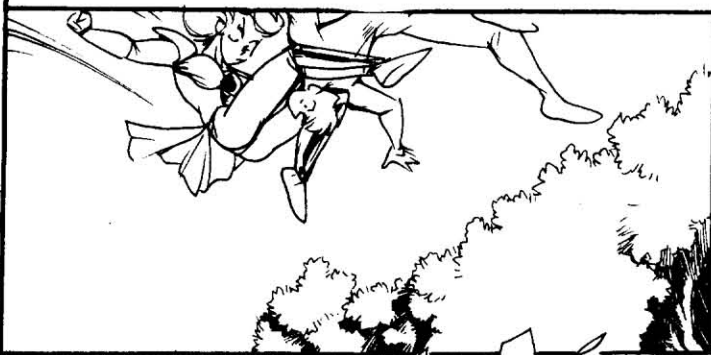
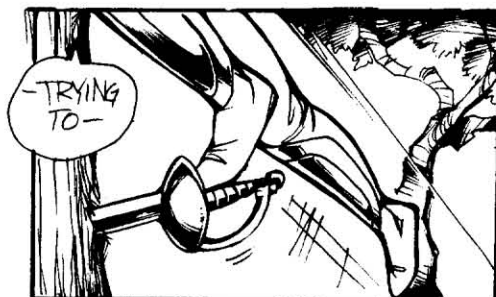
HEY!

CHUNK

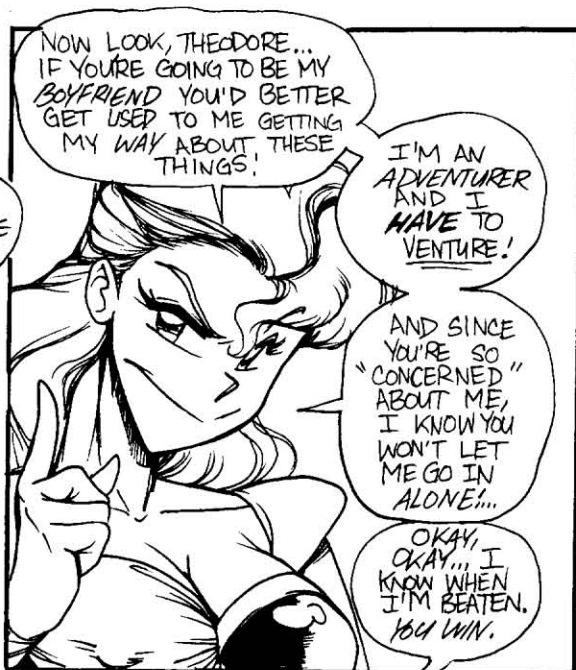
BUT WHEN I TRIED TO PIN YOUR TUNIC TO A TREE,

YOU VANISHED!

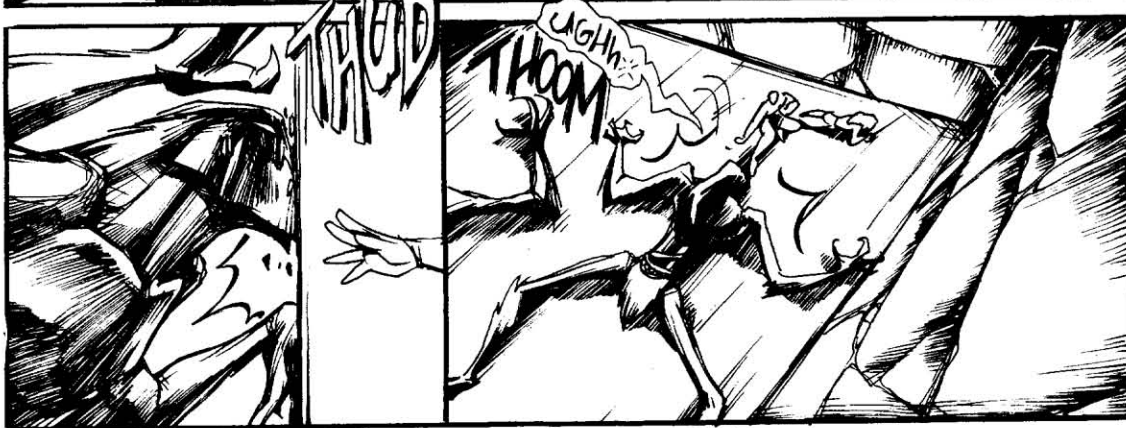
?



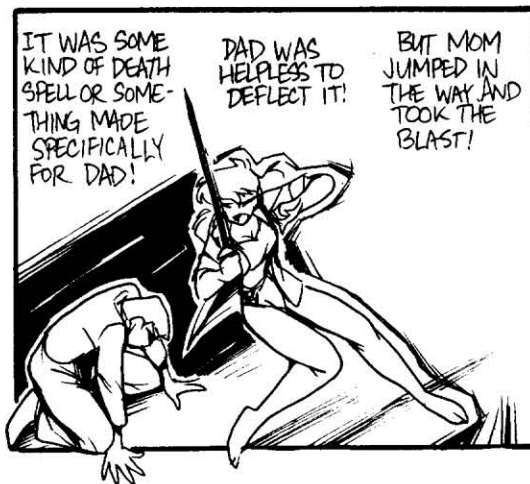
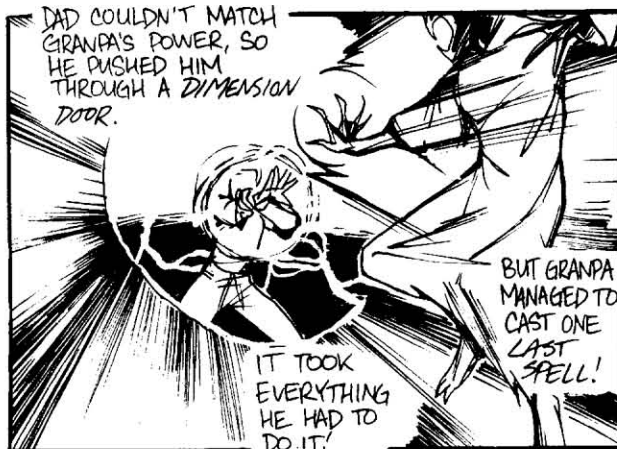










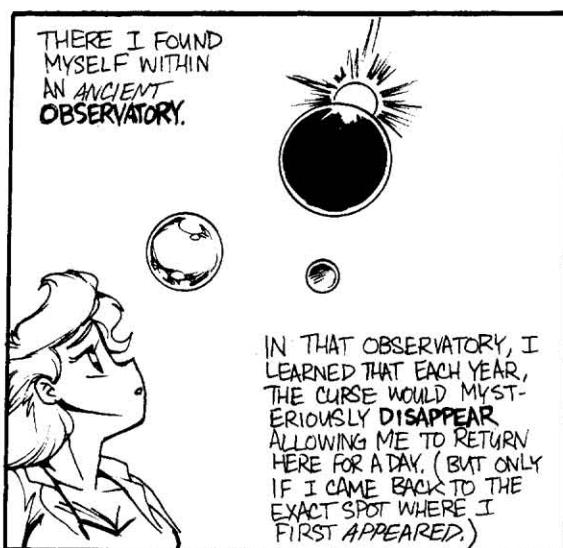




DON'T WORRY, GINA. THE SPELL DIDN'T HARM ME. I DON'T THINK IT WAS A "DEATH SPELL".

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A CURSE. ONE THAT KEPT WHOEVER IT HIT AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILY FOREVER!

I WAS TELEPORTED BACK TO MY HOME REALM OF JADE.



THERE I FOUND MYSELF WITHIN AN ANCIENT OBSERVATORY.

IN THAT OBSERVATORY, I LEARNED THAT EACH YEAR, THE CURSE WOULD MYST-ERIOUSLY **DISAPPEAR**, ALLOWING ME TO RETURN HERE FOR A DAY. (BUT ONLY IF I CAME BACK TO THE EXACT SPOT WHERE I FIRST APPEARED.)



MOM'S CURSE WON'T EVEN LET US COME TO VISIT HER ON JADE! EACH TIME WE TRY, MOM SEEMS TO "BLINK-OUT" AND WE CAN'T SEE OR HEAR HER.

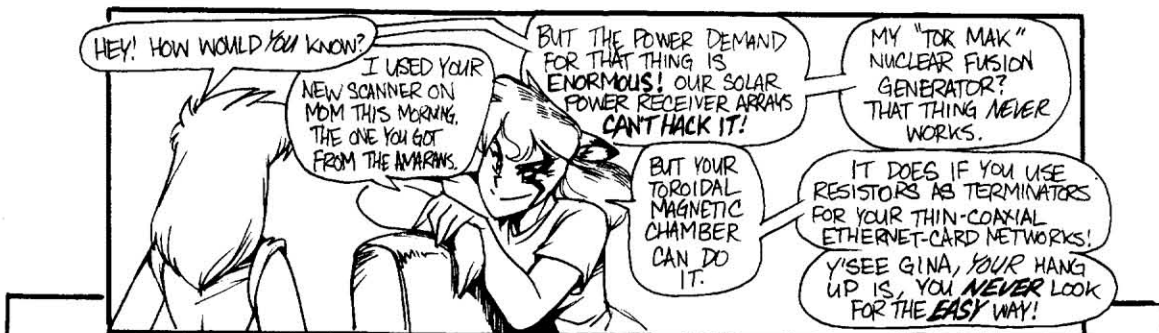
IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY TO DEAL WITH THE CURSE.

MOM DOESN'T HAVE A CURSE. SHE'S JUST PHASED!

AND EACH TIME ANY-THING FROM THIS DIMENSION COMES NEAR HER, SHE'LL "PHASE-OUT". (EXCEPT FOR TODAY.)

WE UNPHASE HER, WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

SIMPLE, HUH?



HEY! HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

I USED YOUR NEW SCANNER ON MOM THIS MORNING. THE ONE YOU GOT FROM THE AWARNS.

BUT THE POWER DEMAND FOR THAT THING IS ENORMOUS! OUR SOLAR POWER RECEIVER ARRAYS CAN'T HACK IT!

MY "TOR MAK" NUCLEAR FUSION GENERATOR? THAT THING NEVER WORKS.

BUT YOUR TOROIDAL MAGNETIC CHAMBER CAN DO IT.

IT DOES IF YOU USE RESISTORS AS TERMINATORS FOR YOUR THIN-COAXIAL ETHERNET-CARD NETWORKS! Y'SEE GINA, YOUR HANG UP IS, YOU **NEVER** LOOK FOR THE **EASY** WAY!



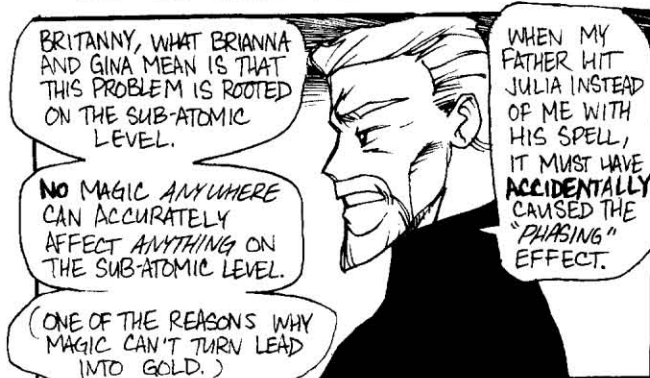
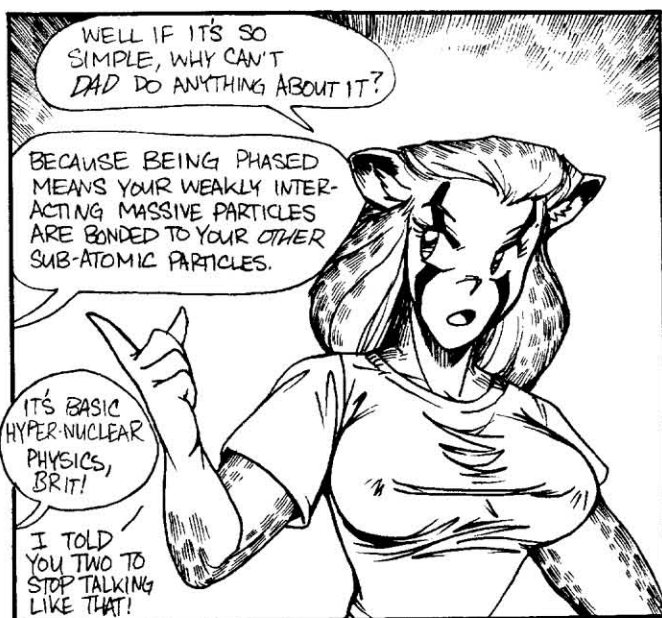
WILL YOU TWO STOP TALKING LIKE THAT? YOU'RE GIVING ME A HEADACHE.

JUST A MOMENT, BRITANNY...

BRIANNA? GINA? WHAT IS THE CONCLUSION TO ALL OF THIS?

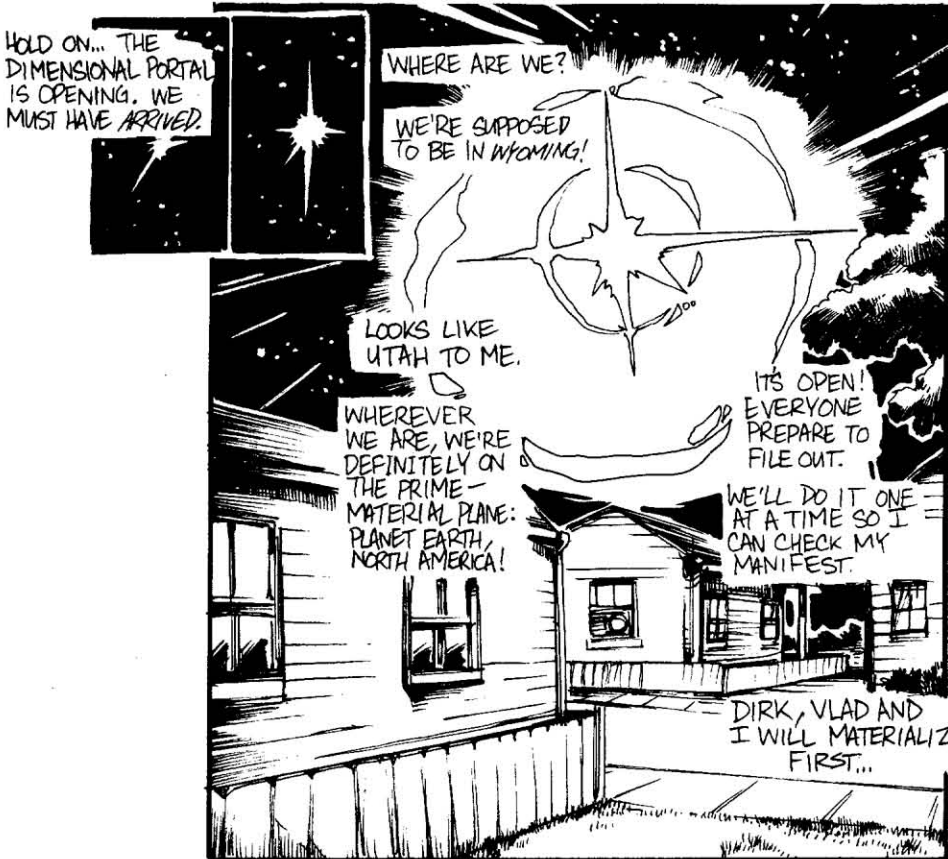
AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE "CURSE" COULDN'T BE REMOVED FROM MOM...

BUT NOW I'M BEGINNING TO THINK DIFFERENTLY.





MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY IN ANOTHER STATE...





NEXT: *THE LICH-KING PART I...*