I must admit, Julia. In all of Jade, there is no Arms Master as intriguing as you are.

In this realm, it is rare that any warrior sojourn this observatory even once in their lives...

Yet you unvaringly migrate to this locus every 366 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 a... er... 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.

Well, here we are. Call me if you require anything.

Thank you, brod.

You're very hospitable.

Perhaps we will find the time to enlighten each other one day.

Perhaps.

You're welcome.

Kik.

Mrs. Diggers.
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.*

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

I JUST HOPE THABIAN AND JETTA DON'T MIND US DROPING 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.
Ahah! Britanny! And Gina too! It's a pleasure to see you again without having to fight you.

Hi, Jetta, you don't know what a relief it is to see you friendly.

Jinkies, Jetta! I thought you would be funy in your human form like Cheetah...

Transform...

...but you're still pretty tall!

Speaking of human forms, Britanny, you should change into yours.

It's traditional that when the leaders of two were-clans meet, both leaders use the human form... as a way to show trust and respect.

Well... okay, but I won't be able to change back into this hybrid form for a day or so... I'm not that good at changing forms.

And I hate being stuck in the human body.

Oh, that's right. Isn't it? I'd forgotten. You were raised by humans! You didn't have anyone to teach you to transform properly did you? Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Well...

That's all right. Come over here and I'll teach you the basics.

I won't be long. Sander, Britanny's a fast learner.

Okay, I'll go see Thabian then.

Say, Sander...
...Thibian 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 calm it down? My child is taking a nap.

Thibian, 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 wolvesbane barrier that recently appeared around his prison? How could he have gotten past it?

Sorry, Thibian. That barrier wasn't there to keep Brendan in; it was there to keep you out.

I agree, Gina.

Damn.

Has Jetta been told?

See?

Haha! Zeez! I never realized how easy it was.

And Thibian, if it weren't for Gina and Brittany's investigation of Brendan's prison, we would have never known of his disappearance.
GINA!! YOU’LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT I CAN DO NOW!!
(AND I DON’T HAVE TO WAIT A DAY TO DO IT ANYMORE EITHER!)

WATCH THIS!

TA DAH!

YOU’RE A-OPS! Parody CONCENTRATING IN THE WRONG AREA AGAIN...

I’M GUESS I NEED MORE PRACTICE

WELL, BRITTANY, I MUST SAY IT'S A RELIEF TO NOT HAVE YOU AS AN ENEMY ANY LONGER.

THE VERY FIRST TIME YOU CAME HERE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT TO HAVE REVENGE AGAINST ME FOR WHAT MY FATHER, BRENDAN, DID TO YOU AND YOUR WERECHEETAH CLAN,

I WAS SURE YOU WOULD BLAME ALL WEREWOLVES FOR YOUR CLANS DEATH.

SPEAKING OF BRENDAN, JETTA, I'M AFRAID HE IS MISSING!!

WHAT!

THABIAN AND I PLAN TO USE THE BOOK'S POWER TO HELP US LOOK FOR HIM AFTER RETURNING GINA AND BRITTANY TO THEIR HOME.

WE INTEND TO BEGIN SEARCHING IMMEDIATELY!

THABIAN!

TRANSFORM

YOU STAY HERE! I'M GOING WITH SANDER TO FIND AND DEAL WITH BRENDAN!
NO, JETTA, YOU'RE STAYING HERE. OUR SON AND ESPECIALLY OUR NEXT CHILD NEED YOU!

I'M THE LEADER OF OUR CLAN, THABIAN!! NOT YOU!!

JETTA, YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.

GRRRR...

I HATE IT WHEN I LOSE AN ARGUMENT...

YOU'RE ALSO THE FUTURE OF OUR CLAN, JETTA. NOT ME. BUT THABIAN!

WE'LL BEGIN LOOKING AS SOON AS I TRANSPORT GINA AND BRITANNY TO THEIR HOME...

THEN I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE, HUH? FOR NOW.

BYE GUYS. TAKE IT EASY, JETTA.

GOOD BYE, WERE-CAT...

AND, ONCE AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

"ZINKS! 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?

HANlder FOR REAL...

ANSWER ME!

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

ONLY BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSES.

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 WONT 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.

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

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

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

WHERE DO I START?

WHEN! BACK HOME, THE GOOD OLD US OF A!

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

Cheetah, I've never been so embarrassed in my whole life!

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

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

I WISH I HAD SOME HUMILIATING ACCIDENTS IN HER DAY, BELIEVE ME!

Not in front of an audience.

WE SHOULD CHANGE YOUR NICKNAME TO "ROGGY" INSTEAD OF "CHEETAH!"

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

AND ANA HAS HAD SOME...

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

So how was your trip to Ireland?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING BACK BY PLANE.

YOU DIE, BRIANNA!

GIGGLE

WHAHAPPEN? WHAHHAPPEN?

No!

Well... first she said it, then she did it!...

HAHA! HAAHAA! (I don't get it.)

Oh, she lies.
At first we came up empty, Tark. Penny Pincer, my rival, was there to complicate the situation.

The only thing that went right on the whole trip was our unscheduled meeting with the Werewolves.

*Last issue: - F.

At least we were able to cement our new alliance with them.

There's much more to talk about, Tark, but I'll save that for later.

I'm hitting the showers.

By the way, Gina, your father is here...

He's with a guest.

Thanks, Tark. I'll find Dad after I take my shower.

Oh Gina! I haven't seen my little girl in so long!

Oh! I don't believe this!

Mom's here?

Dad!! Mom's back! Jinkies!!

Surprise!
I was worried that you'd forgotten today is the day she returns here each year.

I was about to go out and look for you.

I can't believe I forgot what day it is!

In all of the excitement it slipped my mind.

Snickers! Dad told me not to give away the surprise, I'm a pretty good actor, huh?

Too good!

Brianna! You knew mom was here all along, didn't you?

By the way, Gina. I've already explained Brianna's obsession to Julia.

At first she thought Brianna was you!

I did not! I knew it all along!

Ms! Leggo! You're squishing me!

Wait a minute! There's something else I haven't seen in a long time...

Where is the book?

Soon...

Awww, isn't she cute?

Cheetah, you always say that!

Can't you say anything else?

Awww, isn't she cute?

Awww, isn't she cute?

Yeah! That was when Gina was nice and fluffy!

Britannia - Favorite Pillow

Hey Gino, who's your boyfriend?

Whoa!

Ooo! This one's my favorite!

Hey... that's mom and dad, isn't it?

When was that taken?

Long, long ago when we were young like you.

That picture was taken on Vape, where I studied music and where we met.
Mom? Dad? How did you two meet anyway?

A good question, Brittany... (And I've always wanted to hear your side of it, Theodore...)

Only if you include yours.

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 countryside.

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 straightforward. 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?

At the time, Julia, all I could think of was how radiant and confident you looked (and such an adorable figure too!)

Anyway, during the duel, Toru made a vicious swing that just missed Julia!

It was a wild swing, Theodore. I'd give a little credit!

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!

I remember that, Julia. He started attacking at great speed and ferocity, but you didn't try to fight back!

I couldn't!

Toru 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...

Swish! Swish! Swish!
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 knew 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!

So that's how she won all of those battles!

But...

I've -- I've never seen him before in my whole life!!

I'm sorry Julia but I'm left with little choice.

She's been getting his help all along!

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!

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 tournameeennnnnnn!

You!

I decided to give you a good scare... teach you a lesson.

Hey!

But when I tried to pin your tunic to a tree, you vanished!
THUSH

NOW THEN...
Way did you interfere in my contest?

I was... concerned! Your opponent looked as though he was about to hurt you!

Concerned about me? Why?

Just doing a "good deed"?

No! It's not that way at all! I just couldn't let such a attractive woman come to harm!

I see now...

And now that I think about it, you're a little comely yourself!

Don't worry about the contest. Toro had me beaten before you interfered. I would have lost anyway.

I guess I was just taking it out on you.

Wait! Do you have anyplace to stay?

No, not really. I was planning to camp out here.

I've got a cottage just a few miles away. You can stay here with me until you find work.

Ha! Ha! You're cute, but not that cute.

No, it has two bedrooms! You can use one.

Well...

...okay...

Just remember, trying anything ungentleman-like with a swordswoman is the worst mistake a man could make!

No matter how attractive he is...

Don't worry about the contest. Toro had me beaten before you interfered. I would have lost anyway.

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...okay...

Just remember, trying anything ungentleman-like with a swordswoman is the worst mistake a man could make!

No matter how attractive he is...

My name is Julia Brigand... an unemployed warrior.

I'm Theodore Diggers... an apprentice magic-user.

Well, it was nice meeting you, Theo. I must be off now.

With the tournament over for me, I'll have to look elsewhere for work.

Understand? Ahem... completely.

However, while we made our way to my cottage, we came across a curious structure.

One which neither I nor Julia had ever seen before.

It seemed abandoned.
COME ON! LET'S GO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE! IT'LL BE FUN!

NO WAY! THAT PLACE LOOKS DANGEROUS! THERE MAY BE MONSTERS INSIDE!!

SO?

THERE MAY BE TREASURE INSIDE TOO!

FORGET IT!

NOW LOOK, THEODORE... IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY BOYFRIEND YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO ME GETTING MY WAY ABOUT THESE THINGS.

I'M AN ADVENTURER AND I HAVE TO VENTURE!

AND SINCE YOU'RE SO "CONCERNED" ABOUT ME, I KNOW YOU WON'T LET ME GO ALONE...

OKAY, OKAY... I KNOW WHEN I'M BEATEN. YOU WIN.

GREAT! NOW WHAT CAN YOU DO THAT WILL BE USEFUL IN THERE.

WELL, I KNOW A 'LIGHT' SPELL... YOU'VE SEEN MY 'SHIELD' AND 'DUPICATION' SHIELD.

OKAY! FINE. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

LET'S GO!

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND AN ENTRANCE, JULIA. I COULDN'T WAIT TO ENTER, BUT I WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS...

IT'S DARK.

OF COURSE IT'S DARK. IT'S ABANDONED.

CRANK-UP THAT 'LIGHT' SPELL OF YOURS AND LET'S GET GOING.

HURRY UP!

DON'T RUSH ME!

SOMEBODY GET THE NINJAS!(GIGGLES)
NIGHT-STALKERS! THESE GUYS LIKE TO SNACK ON CHILDREN AFTER THEY RANSACK VILLAGES. REAL SCUM.
COVER YOUR EYES!

AARGH!
CAN'T SEE

GOOD MOVE, HANDSOME!
NOW LEAVE THIS GREAT BIG ONE TO ME.
AFTER ALL...

CRUNCH

WHERE ARE THEY? WHERE ARE THEY?
HELP! ONE OF THEM IS COMING TO GET ME!

...THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE WORSE THEY HURT!!

AHHH
I CAN ALSO THROW MY VOICE. GRIGGLE. THAT WAS TOO MUCH!

AHAH. YOU THINK YOU'RE SOOO SMART!

OOF! OOF!

BAM!

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN OUTWIPE THESE CLAWS!

THUD

UH... WHAT HAPPENED?

WHew.

THE LAST NIGHTSTALKER PICKED ME UP AND THREW ME AT YOU. BUT I MANAGED TO STOP HIM.
For the next eight years we explored the most mysterious sites in Jade. From the Iron Castle of Greyswamp to the Sewer-labyrinth of the Northern Citadel to the Sky keep high above the Shadow-Plains to the... you get the idea.

What was that for?
If you don't know, I'm not going to tell you.

Now let's look around and see if these Night-stalkers have any plunder.

Treat

As it turned out, those Night-stalkers did have some loot! And from that moment on Theo and I were adventuring partners.

That's what I get for falling in love with an Earth boy.

Mmmmm...

Not to tell you the truth, the reason I first fell for you is that sexy "mage-suit" of yours!

Say it, really?

Finally, I was able to convince her to marry me and settle down here on Earth.
(NOW I SEE WHERE GINA GETS HER SPARKLING PERSONALITY!) "Sigh..."

ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS HOW MOM WAS CURSED SO THAT WE COULD NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.

(EXCEPT FOR ONE DAY EACH YEAR.)

IT ALL STARTED ABOUT EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO WITH THAT TERRIBLE ACCIDENT GRANDPA HAD WHILE WORKING IN HIS LAB...

A MAGIC SPELL HE WAS RESEARCHING EXPLODED AND HE WAS KILLED...

BUT HIS MAGIC AND HIS BODY DIDN'T COMPLETELY PERISH!

WHATEVER HE WAS WORKING ON MUST HAVE TAKEN THEM OVER!

HE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A LICH! AN UNDEAD MAGIC-USER!

PURELY EVIL!

I REMEMBER WHEN HE TRIED TO KILL US AND DAD FOUGHT HIM TO PROTECT US.

DAD COULDN'T MATCH GRANDPA'S POWER, SO HE PUSHED HIM THROUGH A DIMENSION DOOR.

IT TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD TO DO IT!

IT WAS SOME KIND OF DEATH SPELL OR SOMETHING MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR DAD!

DAD WAS HELPLESS TO DEFLECT IT!

BUT MOM JUMPED IN THE WAY AND TOOK THE BLAST!
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 mysteriously 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 Jude! 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 anything 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 sonar on mom this morning. It’s one vector from the airwave.

But the power demand for that thing is enormous! Our solar power receiver arrays can’t hack it!

But your toroidal magnetic chamber can do it.

My “tor mag” nuclear fusion generator? That thing never works.

If you use transistors as terminators for your thin-coaxial ethernet-card networks, you 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, Brittany... 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.
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF PUTTING MOM IN THE CURSE REMOVING MACHINE ARE YOU?
THE LAST TIME YOU TRIED THAT, ALL HECK BROKE LOOSE!

IT'S NOT A CURSE, BRIT, IT'S JUST A WEIRD "PHASING" THINGIE!

YUP.

WELL IF IT'S SO SIMPLE, WHY CAN'T DAD DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

BECAUSE BEING PHASED MEANS YOUR WEAKLY INTERACTING MASSIVE PARTICLES ARE BONDED TO YOUR OTHER SUB-ATOMIC PARTICLES.

IT'S BASIC HYPERNUCLEAR PHYSICS, BRIT!

I TOLD YOU TWO TO STOP TALKING LIKE THAT!

BRITANNY, WHAT BRIANNA AND GINA MEAN IS THAT THIS PROBLEM IS ROOTED ON THE SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL.

NO MAGIC ANYWHERE CAN ACCURATELY AFFECT ANYTHING ON THE SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL.

ONE OF THE REASONS WHY MAGIC CAN'T TURN LEAD INTO GOLD.

WHEN MY FATHER HIT JULIA INSTEAD OF ME WITH HIS SPELL, IT MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY CAUSED THE "PHASING" EFFECT.

WITH GINA'S EQUIPMENT WE COULD COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO CURE MOM...

AT LEAST I HOPE WE CAN...

SO, BRIT? YOU UP FOR A LITTLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT?

I'VE ALREADY STARTED THE LAB'S COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN WORKSTATIONS UP ON THE PROJECT, SIS!

SSigh... IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE ANOTHER GENIUS AROUND!
Hold on... the dimensional portal is opening. We must have arrived.

Where are we?
We're supposed to be in wishing!

Looks like Utah to me.

Wherever we are, we're definitely on the prime material plane: Planet Earth, North America!

It's open! Everyone prepare to file out. We'll do it one at a time so I can check my manifest.

Dirk, Vlad and I will materialize first...

Okay... good start the op.

Meanwhile, far away in another state...

Tek
It's times like this I wish I knew as much about biochemistry and quantum physics as I do about jujitsu and wrestling.

I wanna help too.

Aw don't feel bad, Pumpkin.

Theodore's magic and his doctorate in parapsychology can't help either...

But it's still okay with him.

Actually, I was wishing the same thing Brittany was.
Before the Light King appeared in our realm, the vampires were the dominant creatures of our world. Now, it's run like a " begins his " No, I'm not a vampire."

"Do you think I know what's going on?"

Now, it's run like a vampire business. All our dominions are reduced to "We're just screwing up."

You remember what happened when he first arrived. He kicked our collective buts in under ten minutes.

The Light King and his bureaucracy ad

We've just have the time to bite our bidders into our flesh, and now we're over him.

Put up with this."

We can't stand him."

How much longer must we put up with this?"

The Light King and his bureaucracy ad

The Light King and his bureaucracy ad

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