(Alright, take a memo...) (ehem...) EARTH, of the prime material plane. Among the oldest realms in reality and the birthplace of all humans.

LONG AGO, WHEN HUMANS RELIED ON MAGIC AS MUCH AS THEY RELY ON TECHNOLOGY TODAY, THEY DISCOVERED AND COLONIZED A REALM SIMILAR TO EARTH: "JADE".

UNLIKE EARTH, JADE HASN’T ABANDONED ITS MAGIC FOR TECHNOLOGY.

"THE RETREAT": ANOTHER MAGICAL COLONY OF EARTH. THIS REALM WASN’T REALLY DISCOVERED AS JADE WAS. THIS DIMENSION WAS CREATED.

IT WAS CREATED BY THE ANCIENT SORCERORS AND DRAGONS OF OLD EARTH TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE AGE OF MAN AND TECHNOLOGY ON EARTH.

HERE, EARTH’S MAGIC AND MAGICAL CREATURES CONTINUE THEIR EXISTANCE.

"EDEN": A SMALL DIMENSION SEPARATED FROM EARTH JUST AFTER THE BIRTH OF MAN. A PARADISE LOST BUT REDISCOVERED BY ONE OF THE MAGICAL RACES OF EARTH WHO DIDN’T GO TO "THE RETREAT" WITH THE OTHERS.

AND FINALLY "THE REALM OF THE UNDEAD" WHERE I RULE.

BEFORE MY ARRIVAL, THIS WAS A PLACE AS DISORGANIZED AND MISMANAGED AS THE REST OF THE REALMS DIMENSIONALLY SURROUNDING "EARTH."

I HAD THE POWER TO RE-SHAPE IT INTO MY IMAGE.

BUT THE POWER I USED TO DO IT IS GONE AND MY BODY CAN’T GET IT BACK....

IF THE OTHERS WERE UNHAPPY, I’VE BECOME UNLIVING IN THIS BODY....
Fortunately, I have found a way to restore my powers so that I can extend my influence to the afterlife realms.

I need a new body. A living body of my own blood.

At first, I considered claiming the body of my son, Theodore.

But he is too old and could possibly defeat me if I challenge him in my current state.

My granddaughter, Gina, on the other hand, is fresh and young and has no chance of stopping me from possessing her body.

She's perfect for my needs!

Her intelligence has earned her PhDs in mathematics, chemistry, biology and physics... (to name a few)

Her spirit and thirst for adventure and excitement has earned her a nickname: Gold Digger.

But to get to her, I must get through her friends and family.

The most difficult of these obstacles will be her father and her adopted sister, Brittany.

And so, I have laid plans for an elaborate campaign to overcome these obstacles.

This campaign has already begun and I cannot fail! (end of memo)

Um... strike out that section about me being "weak" and "low on power"...

"On second thought, keep it!"

Look that page of my memoirs in the chest.

I'll post it later, after I have Gina's body.

I'm sure my wingmen will be amazed to know that they could have destroyed me at any time. (chuckle...)

HM...
Meanwhile, inside the lab of Gina and Cheetah's underground complex...

I had my fingers crossed, so it should have worked.

Don't worry, Britanny, it worked.

Julia's time here has expired but she remains with us!

Um... is it finished?

Did it work?*

Then you've destroyed it! The cure that's kept me separated from you all is gone!

Well, mom, technically it wasn't a cure.

Remember, your phased particles were electromagnetically bound to your...

Never mind that, Gina! This calls for a celebration!

A good idea, Brianna, and I really feel like celebrating.

By...uh...

Augh...

Augh...

Augh...

Ah, a bush...n...n...n...

Augh...

Uh... Ehem... Yes... Er... Your mother and I will be at the mansion. We'll see you all tomorrow.

Bye.

You're so cute when you blush.

You know what Gina? I used to wonder why you act the way you do.

It's all so clear to me now about where you get your hormones from!

You mean Mom?

Hmm...

You realize why mom is so rambunctious don't you?

Back on Jate, the dimension she comes from, she's a monster-fighting swashbuckler!

There, it's perfectly acceptable behavior to toss your fella over your shoulder and make off with him!

* Last issue, Gina set out to cure her mother. - Fred
AND NOW THAT MOM IS NO LONGER DIMENSIONALLY SEPARATED FROM US, SHE CAN TOSSE DAD OVER HER SHOULDER AND MAKE OFF WITH HIM AS MUCH AS SHE WANTS!

(DO I REALLY ACT AS FORWARD AS MOM DOES?)

NEED YOU ASK?

NINE O'CLOCK. YOU TWO WERE TO BE AT A MUSEUM APPRAISAL MEETING TONIGHT.

GOOD GRIESE. WE ARE AN HOURS LATE!!

WE MUST HAVE LOST TRACK OF TIME WHILE WE WERE CURING MOM, CHEETAH...

LET'S GO! WE'VE GOT TREASURE AND SCIENTIFIC DATA TO SELL.

OH BOY! MORE SHOPPING MONEY!

AND WHILE YOU'RE OUT, PICK UP MORE MILK AND TUNA, OKAY?

MEANWHILE, IN A ONCE PEACEFUL TOWN ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN THE MID-WEST....

SHUT UP, NUMBER FOUR! YOU GET PAID MINIMUM WAGE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE AROUND HERE!!

(INCLUDING ME! NOW GET BACK TO WORK!!)

A LITTLE MORE STANDING NUMBER SIX! THE WAY YOU'RE GOING NOW, YOU COULDN'T CARRY A FLY WITH A FLY SWATTER!

GHOUL NUMBER TEN! STOP SLACKING!! WHAT ARE WE PAYING YOU FOR??

I WANT THIS WHOLE TOWN IN A STATE OF TERROR BEFORE BREAK TIME!

ER, EXCUSE ME, BOSS....

WE'D BETTER GET OVERTIME FOR THIS!
I mean, we aren't instructed to do any real damage. All we're doing is scaring people. We aren't even supposed to eat anybody!

Exactly what is our motivation here?

Um... I just don't get it exactly. What are we doing here?

Can't you see I'm micro managing here?

I normally don't take micro-managing to the extreme, but for you I have an exception...

Sigh... You remember how it used to be in the realm of the undead, don't you?

Yeah! You vampires and liches and wraiths ruled everything while the rest of us were your slaves!

Right. But now things are a little different, right? I guess so now we're all slaves of the lich king and he calls us his "employees". He's turned the whole realm into a giant "business" that doesn't produce anything?

Right. He's the boss and what he says goes.

He says "Scare this town!" and that's what we're going to do! Got it?? That explains "motivation"...

But why are we scaring this town? To cause enough psychic terror to attract those who can sense it.

Particularly Doctor Theodore Duggers. Once he arrives we preoccupy him for ten minutes.

Is it clear to you now?

Um... yeah, I guess.

Good!

You're fired!
Now! Was anyone else sleeping through that exhaustively long briefing I gave before we arrived here?

 Heck no!

Nope! No!

Not me!

Perish the thought!

Then get back to work!

Boogah! Boogah!

Ahah!

EEE

Augh

Way did I take this cruddy job?

Vampire queen turned private secretary to the lich-king.

If I wasn't undead, I'd kill myself!

Natasha!

Vlad, what are you doing here?

You're supposed to be supervising the ghosts on Main Street!

The ghosts are fine, Natasha...

I came to alert you to a magic-user approaching.

Is it Diggers?

No, but it's almost as good. The early warning sensor-ghosts say it's a high-level magic-user, witch-classes.

There's every indication that it's an old 'friend' of yours.

Oh no! Things are looking up!

Shall I go and intercept her?

No.

Take charge of the operation, Vlad.

I'll deal with little Miss Masters.

Meanwhile, at the Diggers' mansion in Atlanta, Georgia, (approximately two miles from Gina and Cheepah's underground apartment complex)...

So you want to go on a second honeymoon, eh?

I can't think of a reason why not, Theodore.
Can you think of a better way for a wife to reunite with her husband?

Hmm... I suppose not. So where would you like to go and when?

Oh...

How about here... and now...

Ugh!

Wh-what's wrong, honey?

There's something wrong! I feel some powerful force of evil moving against helpless people!

I have to go.

I'm coming with you!

No! It's too dangerous, Julia. I'll deal with this.

Okay, hold on for a minute. Let me get my sword.

Hurry up, Julia! This is an emergency!!

But it won't be one when we get there!

I'll be right back! And don't you dare teleport away while I'm gone!

* Dr. Diggers and Julia Diggers, where adventuring partners before they were married. (See last issue - F.)
MEANWHILE...

WELL? HOW MUCH MONEY DO WE GET?
Well, right off hand, I'd say these jewels are worth... approximately...

Oh... uh...... possibly......

Mmm hmmm?

E-eight million dollars at the very least!

Yes!

Woo! Told ya!

One credit chip... paid off!!

Y'know that ten to go, Brit?

Well, um... yes. As usual, the museum will forward the full amount into your accounts.

Music to my ears! Hey guys, what's that weird light thingie over there?

Ready? One, two, three.

Get 'em!

Charge!

Vhii! That's better!

Now I can show these guys what bad timing they have!

Jinkies! Of all the clothes in your over-packed wardrobe you had to chose this one time to pick the one outfit that doesn't stretch!
AT THAT MOMENT NEAR THE SITE OF THE TERRORIZED TOWN...

LOOK! I'M A MACCH-TRACK HOOD ORNAMENT!

ALCIUS! HOW DARE YOU MAKE LIGHT OF THIS SITUATION!!

ESPECIALLY WHEN SO MANY PEOPLE ARE IN DANGER FROM SUCH AN EVIL MAGICAL FORCE!!

ESPECIALLY WHEN WE COULD FEEL IT HAPPENING FROM SO FAR AWAY!

I'M SORRY, MIMI! I GUESS, I'M JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS... I JUST... DID YOU KNOW WE'RE BEING CHASED BY A GREEN MIST?!

GREEN?!

BOOM

Fling

-AUGH!

NATASHA! HAVEN'T WE KICKED YOUR BUTT ENOUGH TIMES ALREADY?!

SHUT UP, CAT. MY LONG-STANDING BUSINESS IS WITH MS. MASTERS HERE.

I'M WARNING YOU, NATASHA, LET US BE! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU TODAY!

I DON'T THINK SO, MY DEAR. AND OOOO!

MY! MY! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRESH, PURE SOUL, MIMI?!

NICE "SUNBURST!"
ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED! MY VENDETTA AGAINST YOU AND ALL WITCHES OF THE COVEN!

IT WAS YOUR ANCESTORS WHO DESTROYED MY REIGN HERE ON EARTH SO LONG AGO, AND FORCED ME INTO THE REALM OF THE UNDEAD.

IT'S GOT A HUGE INKY SPOT OF EVIL ON IT. HEH...

WE ALL CHANGE, NATASHA. FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, THAT IS THE WAY OF THINGS.

IF I AM TO RULE THE EARTH AGAIN, YOU AND ALL OF YOUR KIND-

MUST DIE!

YOU WERE WANTED, VAMPIRE!

SO I WAS.

EEE

MOMM!

UH

WOO

HOLD ON, I'LL SAVE YOU!
YOW!

AH, AH, AH!

KEEP YOU AND
THIS BRICKY STICK
OUT OF THIS,
ALOYSIUS!

THIS IS
BETWEEN
ME AND
MIM!

AND IF SHE
CAN'T SAVE HERSELF FROM A
HUNDRED
FOOT-FALL...

FUF

UHNN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE TOOK TWO STUNBURSTS AT
POINT-BLANK RANGE...

THOSE BURSTS USUALLY SEND HER RUNNING
FOR COVER!

NOW SHE SEEMS TO
BE ABLE TO SHOUT
THEM OFF WITH
LITTLE EFFORT!

SHE'S DEFINITELY STRONGER
THAN SHE WAS
BEFORE!

BUT FIGHTING HER ISN'T
WAY I'm HERE...

I'VE GOT INNOCENT LIVES
TO SAVE!

...IS THROUGH HER!!

HAHAHAHAHA!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY
WAY TO GET TO THEM...

NOT TIE
SECONDARY OBJECTIVES COMPLETED, DUDE!

THIS TOWN IS TOTALLY UNGLUED!

GOOD JOB, DIRK. YOUR WORK HERE IS DONE!

...NOW TAKE THE OTHER SUPERVISING VAMPIRES BACK TO THE REALM OF THE UNDEAD. NO USE TYING UP UNNECESSARY PERSONNEL.

COOLNESS!

BREAK TIME, GUYS.

GOOD, I COULD USE A GOOD ONE.

BLAH BLAH BLAH.

Hmph! NOT MY JOB, VLAD! DO IT YOURSELF, DUDE!

SENSOR GHOST REPORT ON NATASHA'S STATUS!

NATASHA IS CURRENTLY ENGAGED WITH TARGET "MIMI"-MASTER!

CONDITIONS FOR VICTORY ARE FAVORABLE.

GOOD! MIMI'S HEAD WILL MAKE A GOOD SONG!

NEXT! ARCH-LEVEL MAGIC-USER APPROACHING! EITHER-CLASS.... TRANSPORT MORE: DIMENSION-POOR!

AHH! THAT WOULD BE OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE!

ALERT ALL GHOULS TO THE SITUATION....

"DOCTOR THEODORE BEERS HAS ARRIVED!!"

RETURN FROM WHEREVER YOU CAME BEFORE. MY PATIENCE AND MERCY ARE GONE!

I'M A PATIENT AND MERCIFUL SOUL, VAMPIRE. EVEN TO THE UNDEAD, BUT WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TONIGHT IS INTOLERABLE.

DITTO WITH A CHERRY ON TOP!
I'm sorry, but leaving without pummelling the "good guys" just isn't company policy.

Mindless minions! Get them!

Grah!

Mindless?

Raah!

Theo, we'll have to deal with those minions first!

I agree. They seem to be able to do more damage to the town than just the vampire alone.

Are you ready?

Yes, but let's make it interesting. Cast a "Create Ice" spell on the ground. Zero friction!

Oooh!

Slip slide.

Thanks honey. Unlike these goons, I'm good enough to fight effortlessly on frictionless ice...

Just be careful. I'll deal with the ones over here.
Woo woo woo! Woo

You guys are pathetic! No skill! No grace!

Not even worth my time.

And I thought a little ice would make things interesting.

Boy was I wrong! Stupid bunch of ghosts.

Especially you, Junior! What a joke!

Ooph!

Oh! She used the flat of her blade, part time.

Julia! Stop joking around! This is serious, and these creatures must be stopped!

Oh, lighten up! Honey! Sschesh!

Well? Sensor scan complete!

Both targets exhibit a high level of skill.

Dr. Diggers! Focuses ethereal energy through his aura.

An aura user! That explains his movement! Aura users have to do a lot of gesturing to cast spells, especially in combat.

But what about the other one? She seems unable to cast spells but very capable none the less.

I guessed that ghost. Give me a report on their abilities.

Huh? No new data on that target as of yet?
THEN I'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE WENCH CAN DO ON MY OWN.

THAT TAKES CARE OF THE LAST MINION, VAMPIRE.
I GUESS IT'S JUST US FROM NOW ON.

Indeed. And soon only I will remain!

HA! I doubt that!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN A MATCH FOR ME OR THEODORÉ ALONE!

IF WE TEAMED UP ON YOU, THERE'D BE NOTHING LEFT OF YOU BUT LITTLE VAMP-BITS!

NO NEED TO TANT HIM JULIA

I BELIEVE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST.

AT THAT MOMENT...

LIGHT
DAMN WITCH!! NOW YOU'RE GONE AND MADE ME ANGRY!
AND WHEN I GET ANGRY, I GET THIRSTY!

Gigh!

NATASHA IS STRONGER THAN BEFORE! MY FLASH-SHIELD RARELY ABSORBED THAT PUNCH!

Smack! Witch's Blood! MMM Mmm OOF!

THAT WAS FOR BEING GROSS!

WHY YOU UGHN!

I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL RIP OUT YOUR LUNGS! I'LL FEAST ON YOUR LIVING HEART!

YUCK! I AM GETTING GROSS!

NATASHA
WHO THE
NATASHA CAN YOU
HEAR ME??!

VLAD! THIS TELEPATHIC
MESSAGE BETTER BE
IMPORTANT!

GET BACK TO
THE OPERATION
AREA! I NEED
HELP! NOW!!

YOU ASKED FOR
IT, NATASHA!

AAH!

NOW YOU'RE GOING
TO GET IT!

SHROOOOOGH!

THUD!

(AHH)

UH-HA!
YOU'RE
LUCKY!

I HAVE TO
GO NOW!

IM SURE
YOU WILL!

MIMI!

BUT
REST ASSURED,
I WILL
RETURN!

MIMI! OVER
HERE!

ALOYSIUS!

AW! POOR LITTLE
GUY, DID NATASHA
KILL YOU?

UH UH! SHE
SAID SHE
WANTED ME
TO WATCH
YOU DIE...

DON'T WORRY,
ALOYSIUS.

THEN SHE'D
KILL ME

NATASHA WILL
GET HERSELF...
Meanwhile...

Ooo! Good slash attack! Too bad I parried it!

(oh yeah... take that.)

ARGH!

SISY!

JULIA...

...the spell is finished!

Then I guess it's time to let my husband have his fun!

Krang!

While I've been keeping you busy...

It's called the "kiss it-good-bye" spell!

Whew! That's that! I suppose we should help the town settle down now.

Not quite. The vampire was teleported away before I could destroy him.

Huh? But how? Who did it?

Julia, that's not the name of the spell!

She did...
I couldn't let you expend the time and training put into creating a manager like Vlad, now could I?

Besides, saving him means I still have enough in my operation budget to enjoy a little help!!

...but this was the best way I could think of to launch you into eternity!

Huh?

Meanwhile... looks we're trapped! I only brought my auto-laser!

But at least you got me out of those perverted skeletons' clutches with the beam-saber.

I don't mean to antagonize you, Natasha, but we do have a little arrangement to resolve.
CHEETAH! Above us!

I see 'em!

But don't worry! They won't get at you! I'll see to that.

CLAMP

Woah! I can see your bloomers!!

What the hell?

Help, NEEEE

She floats through the air...

GINAaa!

Didn't I tell you to stay behind me??

EEE EEE VORP Gina

Hey! All right! One down, one to go!

But the other is pretty big!!

Plus the operation ends in twenty seconds!

We'll never be able to...

Hot-darn! Primary mission complete!
(Care we good or what?!) Piece of cake! Let's blow!

Wait for me!! VORP
Oh, and thank you for your cooperation.

FILE IN BOYS!

VYORP VYORP VYORP

WHOA! SOME FUN GUYS?

YOU BET!

OH YEAH! ESPECIALLY THE ONLY ONE!

ELSEWHERE...

TRY HARDER! USE YOUR MOST POWERFUL SPELLS!!

NOTHING STOPS MY DRAGON! NOTHING!!

YOUR FATE IS SEALED!!

UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT REMAIN TO WITNESS YOUR Slaughter FIRST HAND!

I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT MY MISSION HERE IS COMPLETE SO I MUST BID YOU ALL A FINAL GOODBYE!

SO LONG, SUCKERS!

SHE'S RIGHT! IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE BEAST IS ABLE TO IGNORE MY SPELLS!

IT'S THE SAME WITH MY SPELLS! NOTHING I DO AFFECTS IT!

BUT I'M SURE THAT POWER CAN BE NULLIFIED WITH ANOTHER "SPELL-ABSORBER!"

MY SWORD...
YOUR SWORD? IT JUST LOOKS NORMAL TO ME...

IT IS... EXCEPT THE ENCHANTED JEWEL ON THE HILT...

NOW, BOTH OF YOU, HIT ME WITH YOUR MOST DESTRUCTIVE SPELL!

WHAT??

DON'T WORRY. I THINK I KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO,

(REMEMBER THERE IS NO CHANGING HER MIND ABOUT THESE THINGS)

CONFLAGRATION!

HEX-VORTEX!

WOOOSH!

RRROARRR!

AAAAA-SHAAAAAPPI!

AN ILLUSION!

IT WAS AN ILLUSION ALL ALONG!
VERY CLEVER, I DIDN'T EVEN SUSPECT IT TO BE ONE.

YOU'RE GETTING RUSTY IN YOUR OLD AGE, HON! OF ALL OF US, YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

NATASHA, WOSTOV IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO GATE IN THIS REALM.

I DON'T MIND. LET HER IN...

NATASHA WOSTOV IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO GATE IN THIS REALM.

LET HER IN...

SHE HAS A DEBRIEFING PRESENTATION TO PREPARE, SO SHE GETS PRIORITY OVER THE OTHERS WHO ARE STILL ARRIVING FROM EARTH.

VHM M M M

WELCOME BACK, NATASHA, GOOD WORK!

DID WE WIN?

DID WE WIN?

WELCOME BACK, NATASHA, GOOD WORK!

YES, SIR...

THANKS, VLAD. SORRY I HAD TO EXPRESS TELEPORT YOU HERE, I KNOW HOW PAINFUL IT IS.

IF I'D HAD THE POWERFUL DR. DIGGERS WHO WERE NEVER LEFT TO GET MIMI.

WHERE ARE GINA AND BRITANNY NOW, NATASHA? THEY WEREN'T TRANSMITTED HERE WITH THE REST OF US.

WHERE ARE GINA AND BRITANNY NOW, NATASHA? THEY WEREN'T TRANSMITTED HERE WITH THE REST OF US.

THE SKELETONS MANAGED TO ABduct THE DIGGERS' BRATS WHILE WE WERE BUSY AND SO FAR AWAY FROM HIS CHILDREN. HE COULDN'T SENSE THE DANGER HIS KIDS WERE IN.

THE SKELETONS MANAGED TO ABduct THE DIGGERS' BRATS WHILE WE WERE BUSY AND SO FAR AWAY FROM HIS CHILDREN. HE COULDN'T SENSE THE DANGER HIS KIDS WERE IN.

I THINK THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST PART OF THE LICH KING'S CAMPAIGN TO CAPTURE GINA DIGGER.

I THINK THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST PART OF THE LICH KING'S CAMPAIGN TO CAPTURE GINA DIGGERS.

WHATEVER HE WANTS HER FOR...

WHATEVER HE WANTS HER FOR...

DID YOU KILL HER?

DID YOU KILL HER?

NO. THAT LITTLE WENCH IS A LOT NAUGHTIER THAN BEFORE...

NO. THAT LITTLE WENCH IS A LOT NAUGHTIER THAN BEFORE...

NATASHA, EXACTly WHAT DID WE ACCOMPLISH?

NATASHA, EXACTly WHAT DID WE ACCOMPLISH?

ALL OF OUR MISSION OBJECTIVES ARE COMPLETE.

ALL OF OUR MISSION OBJECTIVES ARE COMPLETE.

WHERE ARE OUR NEXT MISSION STARTS.

WHERE ARE OUR NEXT MISSION STARTS.

TO BE CONTINUED.

TO BE CONTINUED.