

FRED PERRY'S

GOLD

DIGGER

TM



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GOLD DIGGER







DAD? WE NEED TO GET THE HECK OUT OF HERE!...

YOU KNOW... WHILE WE CAN?...
HE'S RIGHT YOU KNOW...

BRITTANY, WE HAVE A FAR GREATER THREAT BEFORE US THAN THE COLLAPSE OF THIS FORTRESS...

HE'S RIGHT YOU KNOW...

WHAT DO YOU WANT, FATHER?! I KNOW YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO US FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS!

WHY?!

I'M SHOCKED AT YOU, SON... YOU HAVEN'T GUESSED MY INTENTIONS YET?

THEN AGAIN, YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GUESSED WHY I'M HERE NOW, HAVE YOU?



DAD? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

I THINK I FINALLY SEE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BRITTANY.

WHEN MY FATHER WAS ALIVE, HE USED THE POWER OF HIS AURA TO FOCUS MAGIC JUST AS I DO...

BUT NOW HE IS UNDEAD AND HE CAN NO LONGER MAINTAIN HIS AURA.

SO HE SHOULD BE POWERLESS, RIGHT?

NOT QUITE. HE'S RUNNING OUT OF POWER. HE NEEDS A NEW LIVING BODY TO REGAIN IT, BUT HE CAN ONLY TRANSFER TO ONE OF HIS OWN BLOOD.

LIKE YOU, DAD?

LIKE GINA! HE'S BEEN AFTER MY DAUGHTER ALL ALONG!! EVERYTHING HE'S DONE WAS PART OF HIS PLAN TO CAPTURE YOUR SISTER AND LEAVE US HELPLESS TO STOP HIM FROM POSSESSING HER BODY AND RESTORING HIS MAGIC POWERS...

VERY GOOD, THEODORE! VERY GOOD

BUT SINCE YOU DEFEATED MY PAWN, BRENDAN, AND REGAINED YOUR POWER*

I HAVE TO RELY ON MY "BACK-UP" PLAN, NOW DON'T I?

A LAST ISSUE.

HE'S GONE!

HE WAS NEVER HERE!! (AT LEAST NOT IN THIS ROOM.) I SENSE NOW THAT HE WAS USING AN ILLUSION TO SPEAK WITH US! HE WAS JUST OUTSIDE THIS STRUCTURE.

HE'S ALREADY GOING AFTER GINA!

WE HAVE TO GO AFTER-- DAMN!!

FADE
FADE
GONE



WHILE WE WERE DISTRACTED BY HIS ILLUSION, MY FATHER WAS CONSTRUCTING A MAGICAL WARD TO PREVENT ME FROM TELEPORTING TO GINA! **BLAST!!**

IT'S ANCHORED ON TWO INNOCENT SOULS WITHIN THIS FORTRESS!

OH, YEAH!

THE WERE-WOLVES, SANDER AND THABIAN! THEY WERE AFTER BRENDAN TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE... *

BUT BRENDAN BEAT THEM AND TOSSED THEM INTO THE DUNGEON.

WE'LL HAVE TO FREE THEM AND GET OUT OF THIS DEATH TRAP ON FOOT!

I JUST HOPE MOM AND THE OTHERS CAN PROTECT GINA UNTIL WE GET OUT OF HERE!

MEANWHILE, FAR FROM THE FORTRESS, THE MYSTIC OBSERVATORY OF JADE RECEIVES YET ANOTHER VISITOR...

ARG!!!

DEJA VU.

HMM... I DIDN'T EXPECT THE OPPOSITION TO BE THIS TOUGH! BEATING THEM WILL TAKE SOME CREATIVE THINKING.

JULIA, GET TO THE SWORD!! ITS METAL CAN PENETRATE THE LICH'S DEFENSES WHERE OUR MAGIC CANNOT!

WORRY ABOUT OUR DEFENSES FIRST, TROLL!

PUT ALL OF YOUR MAGIC INTO IT BEFORE THIS SHIELD CRUMBLES!

I'M PUTTING AS MUCH AS I CAN SPARE, ELF. JUST AS YOU ARE.

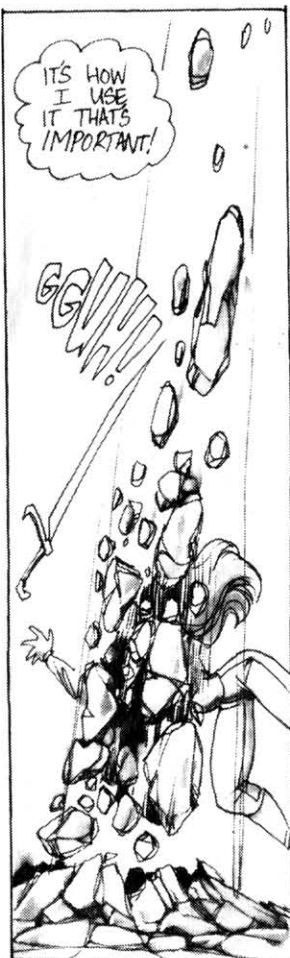
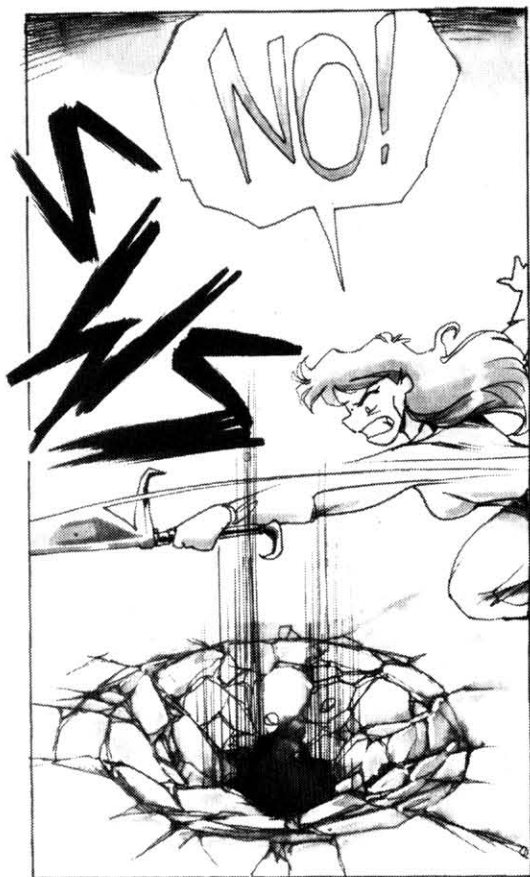
I DON'T TRUST YOU ENOUGH TO LEAVE MYSELF TOTALLY DEFENSELESS AGAINST YOU.

NOR DO I, TROLL.

HMM...

* IN GD #17- FRED

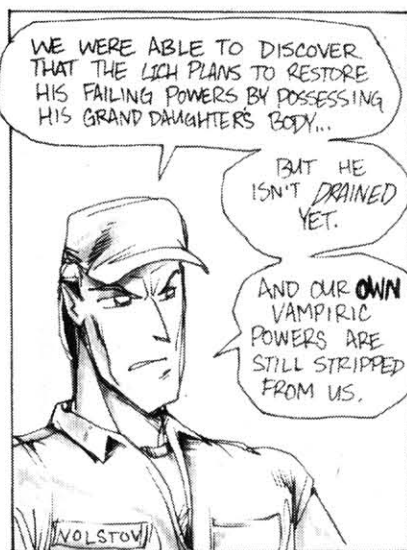
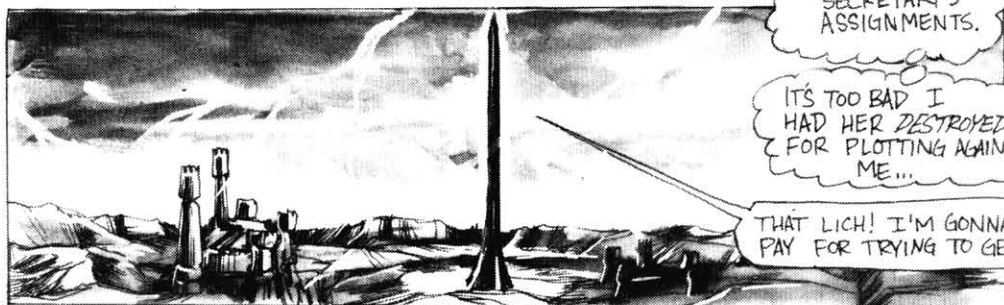




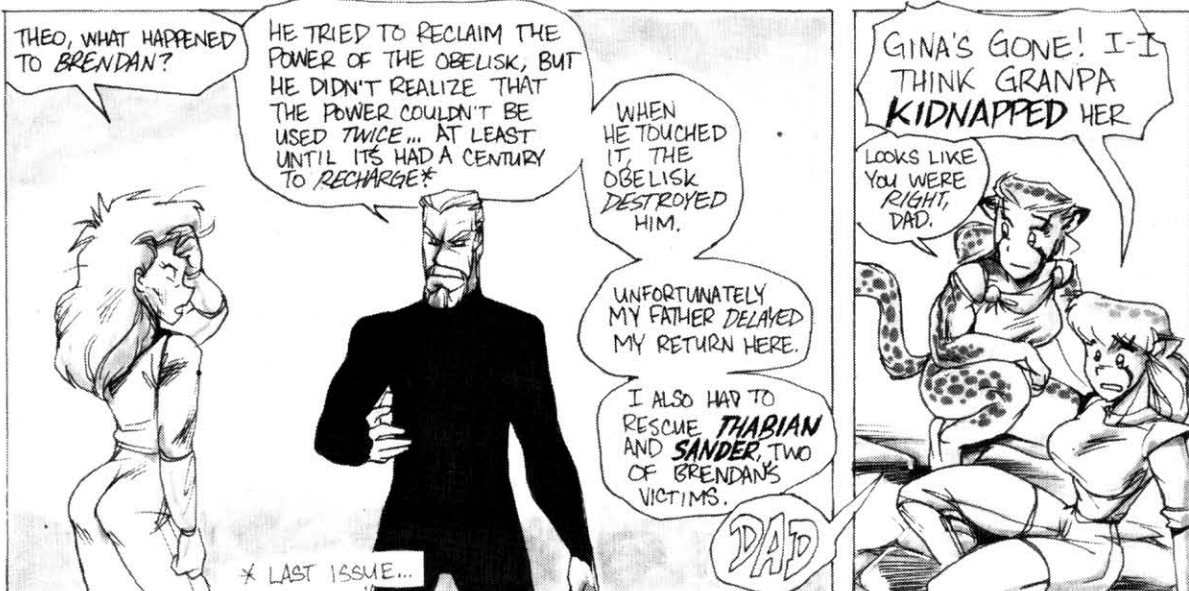












HOWEVER...

AN ARCH-LEVEL
MAGIC-USER IS
APPROACHING THIS
REALM FROM THE
REALM CALLED
JADE.

SHALL I SUMMON
A HORDE TO DEAL
WITH THE INTRUDER?

A WASTE OF TIME
AND A WASTE OF A
PERFECTLY GOOD
HORDE.

A SIMPLE *MASS CON-
FUSION* SPELL FROM MY
SON WILL RENDER
THEM *INERT*.

TRANSPORT
MODE:
DIMENSION
DOORWAY.

THANK YOU,
SENSOR GHOST...
THAT WILL
BE ALL.

I'LL HANDLE THIS
MYSELF. YOU WILL
GO AND GUARD
MY GRAND DAUGHTER
IN THE "GUEST-
ROOM" UNTIL I
RETURN FOR HER.

BUT
WHAT OF
HER DEVICE,
SIR?



YOU ARE TO GUARD IT
AS WELL. IT HAS
TECHNOLOGY WITHIN
IT THAT CAN ACTUALLY
NEUTRALIZE ANY SPELL
CAST AGAINST IT.

THIS "ANTI-MAGIC"
TECHNOLOGY WILL BE
OF GREAT USE IN
THE FUTURE...

NOW IF
YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME...

...I HAVE TO
GO KILL MY
SON.







AND BY THE WAY

IF YOU THINK THEATRICS LIKE THAT VOLCANO WILL INTIMIDATE ME, THINK AGAIN!

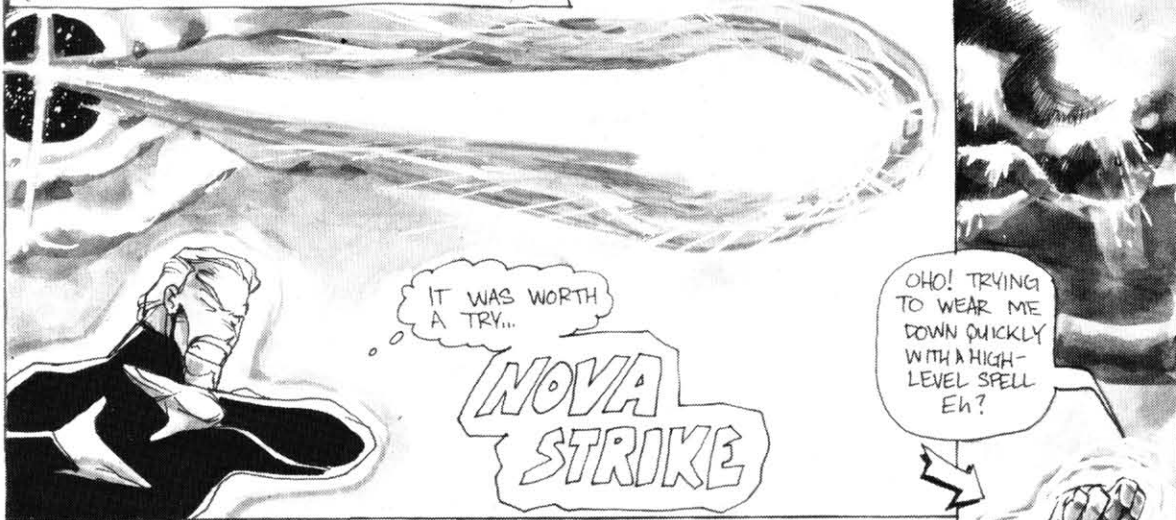
SPELL SHIELD

LIGHT RAZOR

WELL IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO REVEAL MY STRATEGY JUST BECAUSE YOU USED REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY...

YOU'D BETTER THINK AGAIN!

*MAGES SOMETIMES USE A MAGIC WORD OR THE SPELL'S NAME TO STRENGTHEN THE EFFECT OR LESSEN THE ENERGY COST NEEDED FOR CASTING. (BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW THAT, HUH? -"R.P.G."-FRED)



IT WAS WORTH A TRY...

NOVA STRIKE

OH! TRYING TO WEAR ME DOWN QUICKLY WITH A HIGH-LEVEL SPELL EH?



...BUT HERE I HAVE A SLIGHT ADVANTAGE!

GUGHN

WELL, THAT MAY HAVE WORKED ON EARTH OR JADE...







JUST TAKE IT EASY AND GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE SPIDERS AND OTHER INSECTS IN THERE.

SPIDERS AREN'T "INSECTS", THEY'RE ACTUALLY ARACHNIDS! INSECTS HAVE SIX LEGS WHILE ARACHNIDS HAVE --

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

NOPE. JUST REMEMBER TO KEEP IT DOWN AND YOU CAN GAB ALL YOU PLEASE.

Ehem



Huh?

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, MA'AM...

BUT THE LICH KING ASKED ME TO DELIVER THIS TO YOU...

GIMME THAT YOU, PATHETIC LITTLE PEON...

WAIT... DON'T I KNOW YOU??

NOPE. US PEONS JUST LOOK ALIVE.



GASP!

I'M BEING PROMOTED!

A RAISE!

COMPANY COFFIN!

CORNER OFFICE!

UNLIMITED BLOOD BANK CREDIT!!

I'M TO TYPE UP THE PAPER WORK RIGHT AWAY SO HE MAY SIGN IT!!



GET THE HECK OUTTA MY WAY!

AND GOOD RIDDANCE.

FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT I LAID IT ON A LITTLE TOO THICK...



WELL, WELL. MS. GINA DIGGERS I PRESUME...

MAYBE

HOLD ON. I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN NO TIME...

LET ME GET MY KEYS...

UM ... NOT THAT I MIND BUT... WHY?

I WAS HOPING TO SAVE
THE VAST POWER OF THIS
REALM FOR USE IN CONQUERING
OTHER REALMS...

BUT NOW I
THINK I'LL USE IT
TO LAUNCH YOU
INTO OBLIVION!

DISINTEGRATION

WHAT THE...

CONFLAGRATION

ARGH!!

SURRENDER NOW,
FATHER. THE DAMAGE
YOU'VE SUSTAINED
FROM THAT LAST
ATTACK LEFT YOU
TOO WEAK TO
FIGHT ME NOW.

YOU'RE... RIGHT
SON... YOU WIN...
I SURRENDER.

INVISIBLE, STATIONARY,
DELAYED-BLAST
FIREBALL...

I CHANGED MY MIND!

DISINTEGRATION

I THOUGHT
SO! THAT'S
WHY I HAD
A TELEPORTATION
SPELL READY
TO SEND ME...

VANISH

...DIRECTLY BEHIND
YOU WHERE YOU
ARE WEAKEST!!

YES... HOW CLEVER
OF YOU.



SOME OF THE
ROCK IN THAT LAVA IS
LEAD OR IRON OR
SOME OTHER TYPE OF
METAL. YOUR SHIELD
CAN'T PROTECT YOU
FOR LONG AGAINST
THAT!

THAT SAME METAL IN
THAT LAVA DISRUPTS
YOUR ABILITY TO
TELEPORT OUT AND
ESCAPE!

I **TOLD** YOU
THAT YOU WERE
GOING TO DIE,
SON. I PLANNED
EVERY STEP
OF THIS BATTLE!
I KNEW ITS
OUTCOME
BEFORE IT
BEGAN!





HMM. I DIDN'T PLAN ON *THIS*...

I'LL SHOW YOU A LITTLE MAGIC TRICK OF MY OWN!

I'LL TRANSFORM MY INVIDIOUS UNDEAD GRANPA INTO A SMOKING BOOT WITH THE FLICK OF MY TRIGGER!



PRESTO

THOOO

YOU'RE STARTING TO IRRITATE ME, GINA!!!



WAM

WAM

WAM

WAM



HAH! LUCKY FOR ME I UNPACKED THE POWERED ARMOR I STASHED IN THE **TRUNK** BEFORE I GOT HERE!

HERE! AMUSE YOURSELF WITH THESE BOULDERS WHILE YOUR FATHER AND I FINISH OUR LITTLE ARGUMENT.



THAK

COOWW

THOOO



NNNN





YOU CAN LET HIM GO NOW, GINA.

WHAT LITTLE REMAINING POWER HE HAS CAN'T HARM ANYONE.

DESTROY ME.

DESTROY ME WHILE YOU CAN.

NO!

NOT WHEN THERE'S A CHANCE TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR SOUL! I REFUSE TO GIVE UP HOPE ON YOU, FATHER.

HOW DID I KNOW YOU WOULD SAY THAT?

YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SAVING YOURSELF... AND GINA. NOT ME...



YOUR EMPTY THREATS DON'T FRIGHTEN ME, I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE EVEN A **FRACTION** OF THE POWER IT WOULD TAKE TO TAP INTO THIS REALM'S ETHER AGAIN.

HEH...

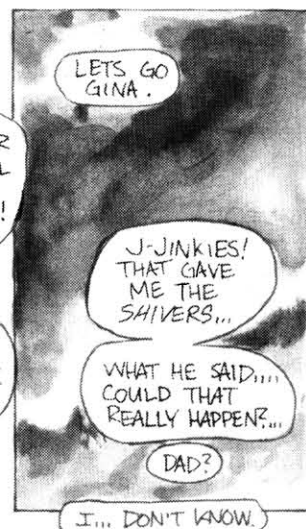
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT **ME** BEING THE THREAT. I'M TALKING ABOUT **YOU**!

...WHEN YOU PERISH, MAKE **SURE** YOUR MAGIC DIES BEFORE YOU DO...

...OTHERWISE ITS POWER MIGHT TAINT **YOUR** SOUL AND TRANSFORM **YOU** INTO AN UNDEAD HORROR!

...AND **GINA** WILL BE FORCED TO COME AFTER **YOU** JUST AS **YOU** CAME AFTER **ME**...

THINK ABOUT IT.



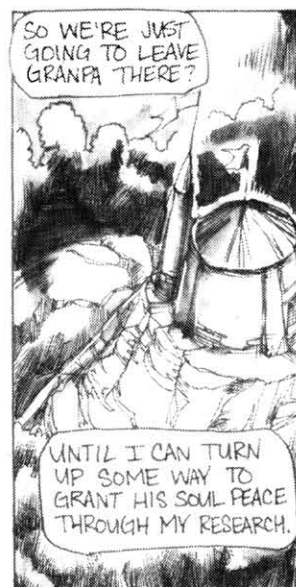
LET'S GO GINA.

J-JINKIES! THAT GAVE ME THE SHIVERS...

WHAT HE SAID... COULD THAT REALLY HAPPEN?...

DAD?

I... DON'T KNOW.



SO WE'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE GRANPA THERE?

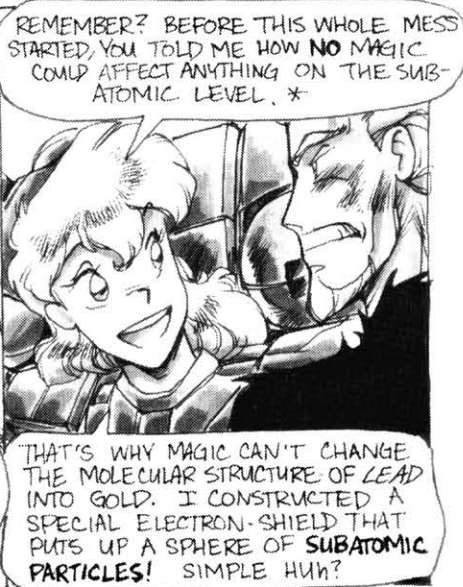
UNTIL I CAN TURN UP SOME WAY TO GRANT HIS SOUL PEACE THROUGH MY RESEARCH.



PERHAPS ONE OF THE MAGIC PRIESTS ON EARTH CAN HELP. THEY **SPECIALIZE** IN THAT SORT OF MAGIC...

AND SPEAKING OF MAGIC, JUST WHERE DID THIS **ANTI-MAGIC** DEVICE COME FROM?

ACTUALLY, **YOU** GAVE ME THE IDEA FOR IT, DAD!



REMEMBER? BEFORE THIS WHOLE MESS STARTED YOU TOLD ME HOW **NO** MAGIC COULD AFFECT ANYTHING ON THE SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL. *

THAT'S WHY MAGIC CAN'T CHANGE THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF LEAD INTO GOLD. I CONSTRUCTED A SPECIAL ELECTRON SHIELD THAT PUTS UP A SPHERE OF SUBATOMIC PARTICLES! SIMPLE HUH?

NOT TO ME. WE'D BETTER GO INSIDE. I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER IS WORRIED ABOUT US.

THERE'S ONE THING THAT'S STILL A MYSTERY TO ME, DAD.

I WAS HELD PRISONER, AND THIS VAMPIRE JANITOR SET ME FREE TO HELP YOU!

I NEVER FOUND OUT WHY THOUGH...

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FAVOR WE DID FOR HER?

EPILOGUE

IT'S SOO NICE TO HAVE MY **RULE** BACK AGAIN...

AND IT'S SUCH A **RELIEF** TO SEE THAT AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS UNDER THAT LICH'S THUMB...

MAGIC MIRROR...

...I STILL HAVEN'T LOST MY REGAL CHARM!

I MUST AGREE, NATASHA...

PLEASE ALLOW ME THE HONOR OF ESCORTING THE QUEEN OF ALL VAMPIRES OUT TO HER ADORING AND GRATEFUL SUBJECTS.

YOU'RE SO SWEET, VLAD ♡

...EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT...

DIGGERS

YOU... CALLED, MISTRESS?

YES! I SEEMED TO HAVE DROPPED MY BRACELET.

FETCH!

AS YOU WISH, YOUR HIGHNESS...

The End