A DIMENSION AWAY FROM THE PORCH'S, FAX MACHINES AND VCR'S OF EARTH...

INSIDE A CRUMBLING FORTRESS IN THE REALM OF JADE, DR. THEODORE DIGGERS AND HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER, BRITTANY DIGGERS, ARE REUNITED WITH A LONG-LOST RELATIVE...

DAMN...

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTA MY MOUTH, DAD!

YOU MAY REST AT EASE, SON. YOU TOO, GRAND-DAUGHTER. I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU.

AND THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD DO HARM TO ME EVEN IF I WAS.

YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, FATHER!

THREATENING MY FAMILY, PLAYING YOUR INVIDIOUS GAMES WITH THE LIVES OF THOSE I LOVE...
DAD? WE NEED TO GET THE HECK OUT OF HERE...

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

HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW...

WHAT DO YOU WANT, FATHERS! I KNOW YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO US FOR THE LAST 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.

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 PAIN, BAKEDIN AND REGAINED YOUR POWER...

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

TA-DA...

A LAST ISSUE...

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?

HE'S GONE!

WE HAVE TO GO AFTER GINA! DAMN!!

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!
While we were distracted by his illusion, my father was constructing a magical ward to prevent me from teleporting to Giga! Blast!

It's anchored on two innocent souls within this fortress!

Oh, yeah!

The wolves, Sander and Thogian! They were after Brendan to bring him to justice...

We'll have to free them and get out of this death trap on foot!

I just hope mom and the others can protect Giga until we get out of here!

Meanwhile, far from the fortress, the mystic observatory of Jada receives yet another visitor...

ARGH!!!

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 my self totally defenseless against you.

Nor do I, troll.

Hrm...
AT LAST YOU SEE THE GENN'S DOWN, YOU FOOLS!!!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!

WE CAN'T SPARE ANYONE TO HELP HIM, MESSA...

SURRENDER MORTALS! THE LICH KING IS INVINCIBLE!

NOW STAND BACK EVERYONE... I'M ABOUT TO SHOW THIS LICH HOW YOU FIGHT WITHOUT A BLENDER!!

BLAST IT!!

MY AURA-SPELLS HAVE NO EFFECT ON METAL!

MY DEFENSES ARE USELESS AGAINST THAT SWORD!!

THEN AGAIN MY MAGIC IS ONLY A TOOL...

JUNKIE, DON'T YOU EVER SHUT UP??

THIS IS SO COOL!!

GINA? AREN'T YOU GLAD WE SET OUR LASERS TO SOUND LIKE THE FIGHTER BLASTS?

WHOOPS! YOU'D BETTER HOLD OFF ON GETTING TO THAT SWORD, MOM!!

MY EXTENDED RANGE METAL DETECTOR SAYS THE ONE WE SEE IS AN ILLUSION.

THE REAL ONE'S ABOUT THREE FEET TO YOUR LEFT!!

GRANDMA MUST HAVE BENT THE LIGHT AROUND IT TO MAKE IT INVISIBLE.

THANKS, GINA! I'VE GOT IT!!
NO!

It's how I use it. That's important.

Mom!

Come on, Brianna! Mom's hurt!

Gina! Look over there!!

Your lives end now, elves! I shall feast on your souls as I've done to countless of your brethren!

Your destruction is at hand, troll! We will cleanse this realm of your disgusting breed once and for all!

What the heck is...?
NEVER! YOUR KIND SLEW FAR TOO MANY OF MY KIN!

NEVER SHALL ANOTHER TROLL FERISH AT YOUR HANDS!

THE TROLL REVEALS HIS TRUE MURDEROUS COLORS, MESSHA!

I KNEW HE COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!

ATTACK! FULL STRENGTH!

NO! WAIT! STOP!

BRIANNA, TELL THEM TO STOP!!

THOOM THOOM THWWAM

<T C H U C K L E>

THAT WAS SO EASY, I'M ALMOST ASHAMED OF MYSELF!

AND YOU ARE NEXT, GRAND DAUGHTER!!

Blast his butt!

GRRRR!
OH YES! PUT A FORK IN THAT TURKEY! HE IS- DONE!

WELL NOW, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT...

GASP! HOW'D HE GET BACK THERE??

A MAGICIAN NEVER TELLS, MY DEAR!

AND NOW, THE TWO OF YOU WILL FEEL THE EFFECT OF MY HOLDING SPELL!!

SHOOM

WHAT?

SORRY, GRAND-DAD. THIS MACHINE IS RUNNING WITH MY NEW ANTI-MAGIC FIELD GENERATOR PROTOTYPE!

A SIMPLE CONCEPT REALLY.)

BRIANNA AND I DESIGNED AND BUILT IT WHILE WE WERE WORKING ON THIS CRAPT FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY!

HA! GIMME FIVE, SIS!!

SO HOW NOW BROWN COW?
Impressive device, grand daughter. After you're defeated, I'll have to study its technology.

Get a life, grandpa! Come on, Gina, let's ice this joker!

Brianna, I don't think it's a good idea to taunt a lich...

Don't worry, he can't get at us...

On the other hand, I sure can reach out and touch him!

ARGH!

That'll learn ya!

The power distribution circuit is off! We're sitting ducks!
Now to deal with my pitiful excuses for secretaries. You there! Get out of that spell prison!

Oh great and powerful lord of the undead, please forgive my failure. Please don't transfer me to waste processing!

I'll think about it.

Revive your partner, then bring Gina and her device back to the realm of the undead.

Yes sir. At once...

Incompetence. I would have never had to micro-manage one of my old secretary's assignments.

It's too bad I had her destroyed for plotting against me...

That lich! I'm gonna make him pay for trying to get rid of me...

Make him pay for twisting this entire undead realm to his will...

...and make him pay for us having to wait in his musty old office closet to ambush him...

What's keeping him??

Calm down, Natasha.

We were able to discover that the lich plans to restore his failing powers by possessing his granddaughters' body...

But he isn't drained yet.

And our own vampiric powers are still stripped from us.

But the lich's power will eventually drain Vlad, especially if we keep him from succeeding in his scheme!

His spell over us will be broken and our powers restored!!
I IS MOM GONNA BE ALL RIGHT DAD??

I'D BETTER CHECK ON THE OTHER WOUNDED.

Ugh!

THI... THIS SORT OF THING NEVER HAPPENED ON MY SIDE OF THE FAMILY.

Julia! Please! Say something!!

Julia!

Uh...

Ahaha... It only hurts when I laugh, Brittany.

Hahaha...

Help me up, Willa!

She'll be fine, Brittany. Just shaken up...

Oho! Is Mister' Revenge doesn't solve any check on the old fax-back trail eh?

Wup she's fine all right.

Which is more than I can say for my father when I'm through with him!

It seems everyone is intact...

Not that I deserve to be... I played right into that lich's hands willingly and without a second thought!

You weren't alone, Brod. Mesha and I were fooled just as easily.

Will you forgive us for attacking you?

Of course... that is, if you can exonerate my assault against you as well...

A fatuous illusion turned my ignorance and prejudice against me.
THEO, WHAT HAPPENED TO BRENDAN?

He tried to reclaim the power of the obelisk, but he didn't realize that the power couldn't be used twice... at least until it's had a century to recharge.

When he touched it, the obelisk destroyed him.

Unfortunately, my father delayed my return here.

I also had to rescue Tharian and Sandor, two of Brendan's victims.

DAD

GINA'S GONE! I THINK GRANDPA KIDNAPPED HER.

Looks like you were right, Dad.

WAIT, DR. DIGGERS. ALLOW ME TO ASSIST YOU.

I HAVE TO GO RESCUE GINA BEFORE MY FATHER CAN HURT HER...

No, brod. This is far beyond your ability to handle.

Against my father, you may be more of a liability than an asset.

YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING WITHOUT ME ARE YOU?

I'M SORRY, JULIA...

If I brought you or brod with me, my father would force me to protect you by viciously attacking you.

THEO! WAIT! STOP!

Oh shoot!

MY BEST CHANCE AGAINST HIM IS ALONE!

DIMENSION DOOR

BE CAREFUL, THEO...

AND DON'T YOU DARE MAKE ME A WIDOW...
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 confusion spell from my son will render them inert.

I'll handle this myself. You will go and guard my grand daughter in the "guest-room" until I return for her.

Thank you, sensor ghost... that will be all.

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.
I'll get to the point, father.
You can't have Gina!
I don't want to destroy you, but I will if you try to stop me from taking her back.

If any part of my father is left in you, you'll release my daughter and pass on as you were meant to 18 years ago.

Are you through?

...Good! I didn't desire this confrontation, but I have prepared for it.

I'm sorry son, but you are going to die today.

You don't fool me, father! I know how weak you must have become in that undead husk!

And you're getting weaker by the second!
AND BY THE WAY
IF YOU THINK THEATRICS
LIKE THAT VOLCANO WILL
INTIMIDATE ME, THINK
AGAIN!

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

YOU'D BETTER THINK
AGAIN!

SPELL SHIELD
LIGHT RAZOR

WAGES 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.I.P. "FRED")

IT WAS WORTH
A TRY...

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

BUT HERE I HAVE A SLIGHT
ADVANTAGE!

GUIGAN
**Panel 1:**

Damn!

**Panel 2:**

Come on, Theodore! Get on your feet! Don't make this too easy for me!

**Panel 3:**

Fireball!

**Panel 4:**

Hmph, a fireball? He's planning to detonate it behind me where my aura shield is weakest.

**Panel 5:**

Ugh.

Well, I'll just shift all of my shield to the rear and...
Meanwhile...

HAHA!

GOOD MOVE, DIGGERS!

TEAR THAT LICH APART!

Isn't it fascinating, Vlad? A mage's duel can't be won with just brute force!

You must outthink your foe as well!

Come Natasha! We haven't much time. It's almost like a game of chess!

They both must think several moves ahead to win!

Natasha, are you listening to me at all??

That is what we have to do too, Vlad! Think ahead!

We're going to alter our plans slightly. Instead of killing Gina Diggers to deprive the lich of a body to possess, we'll set her and her machine FREE!

Remember! The lich said she possessed technology in that machine that could nullify the effects of any spell cast on it!

Gina will use the machine to help her father!

The lich can't hope to survive against them both in his weakened state!

Plus, we won't have to worry about incurring Dr. Diggers' wrath! (which would be a definite factor if we proceeded with our original plan.)

HMM. Good point! In fact, he would wind up OWING US one!

Right! Now to the word processors!

I have a MEMO to forge!

Now how in the heck did I get in here?

Lemme outta here!

Quiet, you!! Don't make me come in there and suck out some of your blood!!
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 GASP ALL YOU PLEASE.

NOPE. US PEONS JUST LOOK ALIVE.

GASP!

I'M BEING PROMOTED!

A RAISE!

COMPANY COFFIN!

GAMER OFFICE!

UNLIMITED BLOOD BANK CREDIT!!

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

GET THE HECK OUTA MY WAY!

AND GOOD RIDDANCE.

FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT I LIED 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... WAT?
NEVER MIND MY REASONS...
YOUR FATHER'S HERE AND HE'S IN GREAT DANGER! HE'S FIGHTING THE LICH KING...

JINKIES! WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO IN THE FIRST PLACE?

CAN YOU GET THAT MACHINE OF YOURS WORKING? YOUR FATHER'S LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

I'D HAVE A TOUGHER TIME TYPING MY SHOE LACES!
NOW WHERE IS MY DAD?

I'M NOT AS WEAK AS YOU THINK, EM, THEODOR?
I'M NOT STUPID, FATHER...

I'VE ALREADY DEDUCED THAT YOU'RE USING THE ETHEREAL POWER OF THIS REALM FOR YOUR SPELLS...

IT ONLY TAKES A LITTLE OF YOUR GREATLY DEPLETED ENERGY TO TAP INTO THIS REALM'S POWER.

ALL I NEED IS A MOMENT WITH YOUR DEFENSES DOWN TO UNPLUG YOU FROM THAT POWER AND DEFEAT YOU!

YOUR PERCEPTION IS SICKENING, THEODOR... (INHERITED FROM ME, OF COURSE...)

I KNEW WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED HERE EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, THAT ANY POWER I USED COULDN'T BE REPLACED.

THAT IS WHY I DECIDED TO CREATE AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM WITHIN THIS REALM TO GATHER AND MAINTAIN THIS REALM'S MAGICAL RESERVES.

THE SYSTEM WAS MODELLED LOOSELY AFTER AT&T...
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...

Yes... now clever of you...
OORGH AHHHHHHH

ERUPT

NO!

AURASHIELD

Your end is at hand, Theodore.

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!

GET THE HECK AWAY FROM MY DAD!
HMM. I didn't plan on this...

I'll show you a little magic trick of my own!

I'll transform my invidious undead Grampa into a smoking boot with the flick of my trigger.

PRESTO.

You're starting to iritate me, Gina...

WAH.

Hah! Lucky for me, I unpacked the flameproof 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.

COOM!
GINA! NO!
HE'LL DESTROY YOU!

OH DRAT! YOU'VE ESCAPED THE LAVA.
NO PROBLEM, I'LL JUST DISINTEGRATE YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!

OH NO YOU DON'T!
KLAMP!
HOW RUDE!

I SEE YOU NEED A PAINFUL LESSON IN MANNERS!

OH YEAH? WELL GET A LOAD OF WHAT I INSTALLED IN MY ARMOR AFTER I GOT OUT OF YOUR PRISON...

ANTI MAGIC FIELD ON.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?

WHAT?? NO!! NOO!!
LETHIM HAVE IT, DAD!!
JUST THE OPENING I NEEDED!

ALTHOUGH YOUR FIELD PREVENTS ME FROM ATTACKING HIM DIRECTLY...

I CAN STILL USE MY MAGIC TO REMOVE THE FIELD ON THIS REALM, EFFECTIVELY LEAVING HIM POWERLESS FOREVER!

AARGH!!
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.

Heh...

I'm not talking about 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 she came after me...

Think about it.

Let's go, Gina.

J-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 Granta there?

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 subatomic 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?

*The conversation took place in G4#13.
EPILOGUE

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.

I wonder what kind of favor we did for her?

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...

Yes! I seemed to have dropped my bracelet.

As you wish, your highness...

Fetch!

The End