

FRED PERRY'S

GOLD

DIGGER™

1985-1995  
10<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

AP

ANTARCTIC  
PRESS™

25

OCT.  
1995

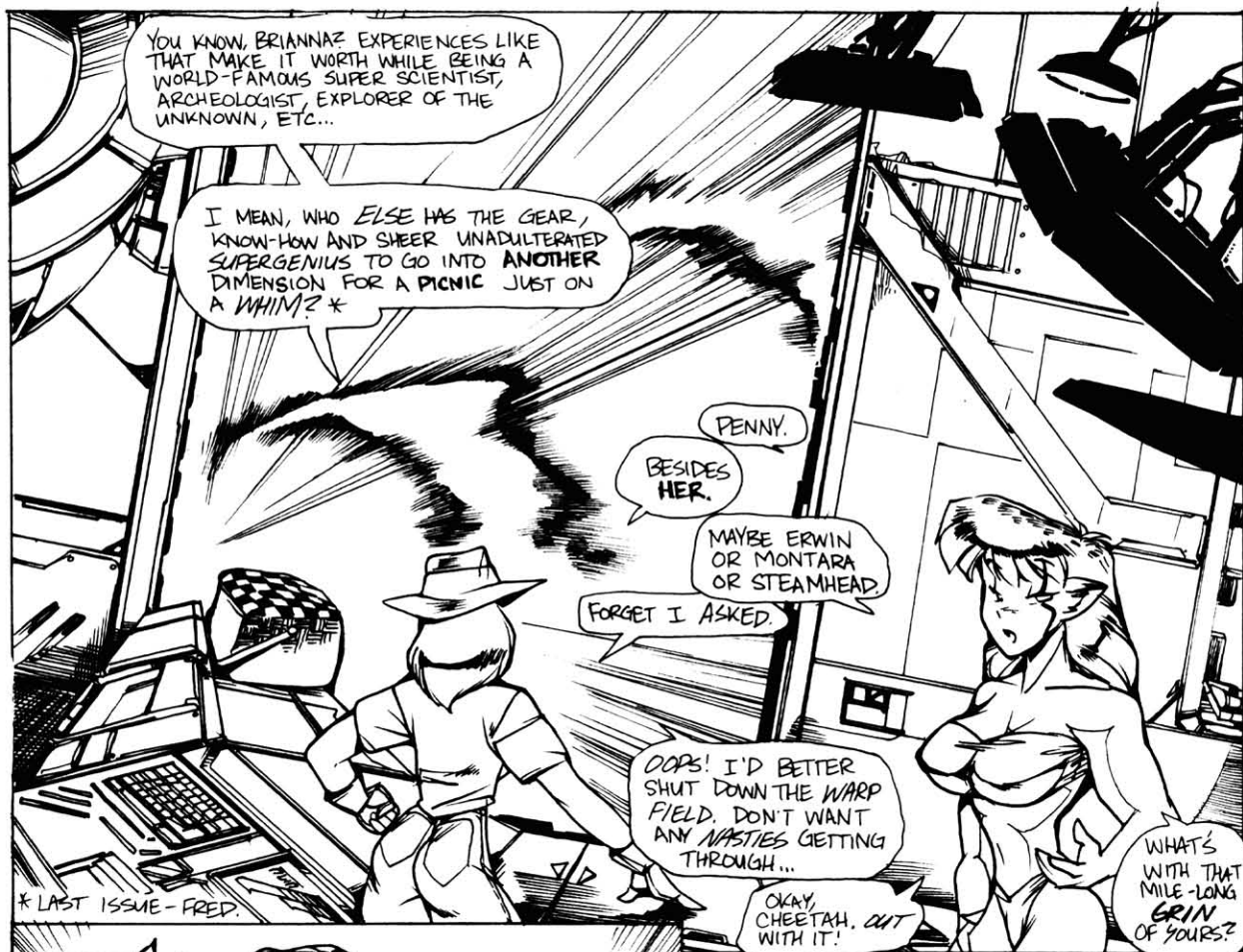
\$2.75  
U.S.

\$3.85  
Can.

GOLD DIGGER









A BIT LATER...





WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT CLUBS?

THAT'S MY EQUIPMENT!

ALTHOUGH I THINK THERE'S A CLUB IN THERE SOMEWHERE.



HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GO GOLFING WITH THIS STUFF?

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF?

YOU DID!

NO I DIDN'T! I SAID I NEED A CADDIE TO CARRY MY EQUIPMENT!

...UM, IF WE AREN'T GOING TO A GOLF COURSE...

...THEN WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE DRAGON PHARAOH'S INVISIBLE TOWER! GINA, BRITANNY AND I FOUND IT A FEW DAYS AGO.\*

WE'LL TRAVEL USING THE LIGHT-GATE TELEPORTER GINA GOT FROM SHANGRI-LA.

SHE MAY NOT TRUST IT ANYMORE, BUT I DO...

\*SEE GD#23



WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WHEN WE GET THERE?

THE TOWER IS A PRISON FOR SUPER-EVIL GUYS. THEY MAKE GREAT TARGET PRACTICE!

THAT'S STRANGE. I DON'T SENSE THAT YOU ARE IN A "SHOOTING MOOD".



IN FACT, I SENSE GREAT SADNESS WITHIN YOU. WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO PEEK INTO YOUR THOUGHTS?

PERHAPS I CAN HELP WITH WHATEVER IS TROUBLING YOU.

**NO!** -- I MEAN -- DON'T YOU DARE USE YOUR POWERS ON ME, GENN!

J-JUST TURN OFF WHATEVER EMPATHIC, PSYCHIC OR TELEPATHIC SENSES YOU'VE TRAINED ON ME RIGHT NOW!

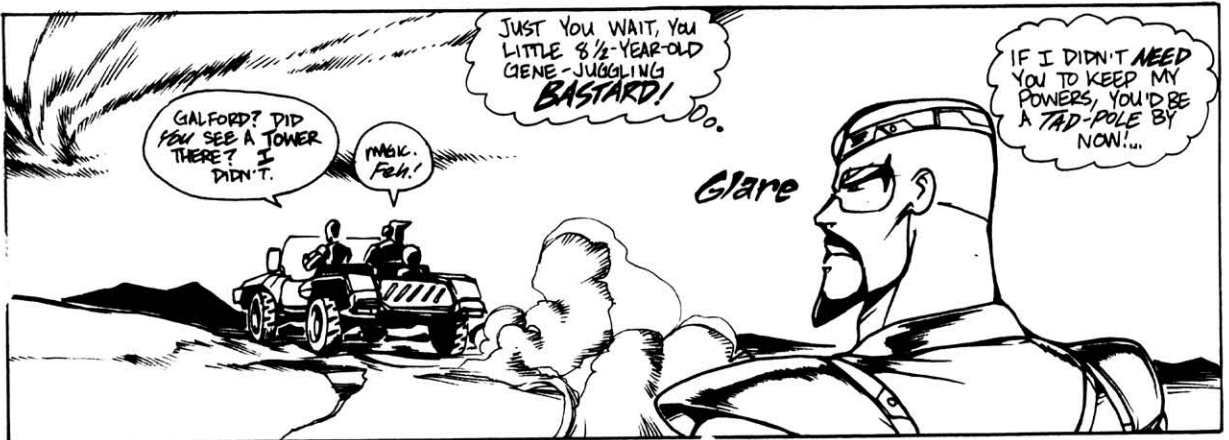
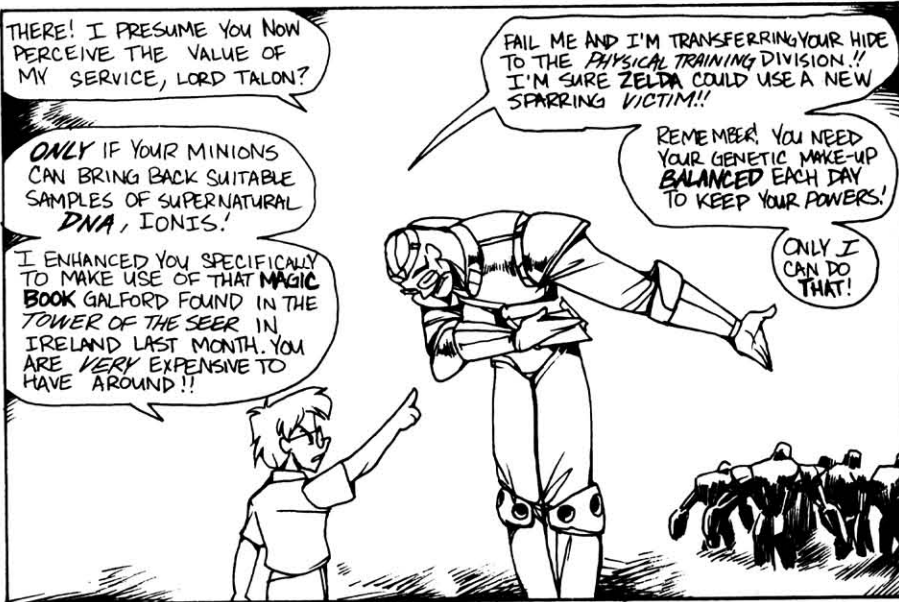
AND IF YOU TRY TO READ MY THOUGHTS, I SWEAR I'LL NEVER SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN!

NOW LET'S GO HAVE SOME FUN BEFORE I REALLY GET TICKED-OFF, DAMMIT!















WELL NOW...  
A SUPERNATURAL  
PRISON IS IT?

AND HERE I  
HYPOTHESIZED IT  
TO BE A SUPER-  
NATURAL REST  
HOME!

NOW THIS HAS  
POSSIBILITIES!

MEANWHILE...  
INSIDE THE TOWER...

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT  
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO  
CHANCE FOR US TO  
ESCAPE THIS PRISON,  
SALAMANDER?

THE PHAROAH DRAGON  
WAS VERY THOROUGH  
WHEN HE MADE THIS  
PLACE, BEHEMOTH.

THE TOWER ITSELF  
IS A POWER-  
MAGNIFIER FOR  
MAGIC ARTIFACTS!

THE DRAGON ORB, WHICH IS  
IN THE HIGHEST SECRET ROOM  
OF THE TOWER, IS A POWERFUL  
ARTIFACT OF PROTECTION FROM  
EVIL...

TOGETHER, THE TOWER AND THE ORB HAVE  
NEAR ABSOLUTE POWER OVER ANY  
EVIL BEING WITHIN THE TOWER...

THE ORB USES THIS POWER NOT  
ONLY TO IMPRISON US HERE  
WITHOUT OUR POWERS, BUT  
TO PREVENT US FROM ATTACKING  
EACH OTHER AS WELL! AS IF WE  
WERE ALL PROTECTED FROM EVIL!!



THERE MUST BE A WAY TO  
ESCAPE! I'M TIRED OF  
LOOKING AT YOUR COLLECTIVE  
UGLINESS!!!

I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU,  
SITH! YOU'RE NOT LOOKING  
TOO HOT THESE DAYS  
EITHER!

THE ONLY WAY TO  
ESCAPE IS  
IF YOU WERE  
TO BECOME  
"GOOD AT  
HEART..."

THEN THE ORB  
WOULD HAVE NO  
POWER OVER  
YOU AND YOU'D  
LIVE HAPPILY  
EVER AFTER!

WHAT ABOUT JUST BEING NOT  
EVIL. THAT WOULD ALLOW  
US TO LEAVE, WOULD IT NOT?



PERHAPS. BEING  
"NOT GOOD" BUT  
"NOT EVIL" IS A  
GREY AREA THE  
ORB MAY OR MAY  
NOT HAVE POWER  
OVER.

BUT WHO ARE  
WE FOOLING.  
WE'RE EVIL  
AND THAT'S HOW  
WE'LL BE  
THROUGH  
ETERNITY.

AND ANOTHER THING WE'LL  
BE THROUGH ETERNITY IS  
BORED!... WE CAN'T  
EVEN SPIT AT EACH  
OTHER FOR FUN!

OH, HOW I'VE LONGED TO STRANGLE  
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IN YOUR  
SLEEP!... BUT ALAS. THAT ENTER-  
TAINMENT IS DENIED ME!...  
THANKS TO THE ORB.

OF COURSE, WE COULD  
FIND MORE CASUAL WAYS  
TO ENTERTAIN OURSELVES  
WHILE WE'RE STUCK IN  
THIS MAGICAL STOCKADE.

RIGHT,  
LADIES?

EVEN THOUGH THE ORB MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO ATTACK EACH OTHER, I ~~SSSS~~WEAR I'LL KILL THE FIRST IDIOT WHO TRIES ANYTHING FUNNY WITH ME!

HEY, GAME I AM IF YOU GUYS ARE!

ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE!

WE HELD THIS MEETING TONIGHT FOR BUT ONE PURPOSE!...

...TO THINK OF A WAY TO SHATTER THE DRAGON ORBS HOLD ON US AND ESCAPE THIS TOWER!

IF WE ARE NOT GOING TO FOCUS ON OUR OBJECTIVE, WE MIGHT AS WELL RETURN TO OUR CELLS AS THE OTHERS HAVE ALREADY DONE!

**NOW THINK!**  
THERE MUST BE A WAY!

I GROW WEARY OF YOUR MOUTH, MAELSTROM. THIS "MEETING" CAN SERVE NO FURTHER PURPOSE.

WE CANNOT ESCAPE THIS PRISON. PERIOD!

I'M RETURNING TO MY CELL. AT LEAST THE ORB TELEPORTS A GOOD MEAL THERE EACH DAY...

**FAREWELL, FOOLS.**

HEY, SALAMANDER. IF YOUR POWERS ARE TRULY STRIPPED FROM YOU, WHY IS YOUR HEAD STILL ON FIRE?

I'D PERISH WITHOUT MY FLAME. SUCH IS THE WAY OF ALL WHO COME FROM THE ELEMENTAL PLANE OF FIRE!

OH? REALLY?  
WHFF WHFFF WHFFFF...

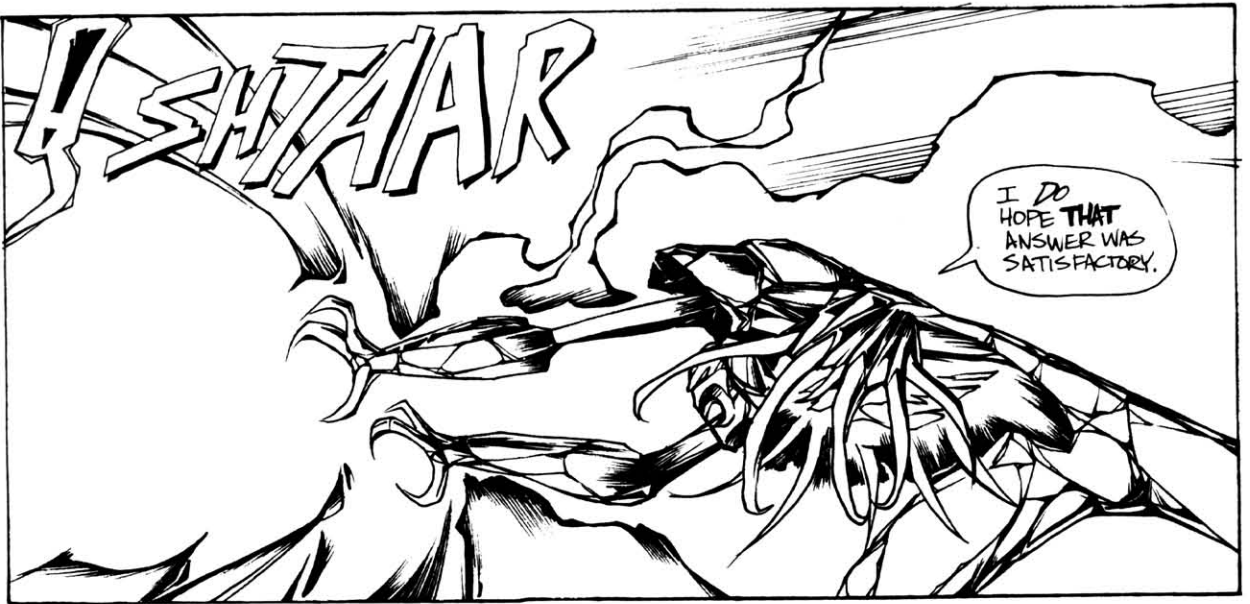
HEY! STOP TRYING TO BLOW ME OUT!

YOU'RE ALL IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT?

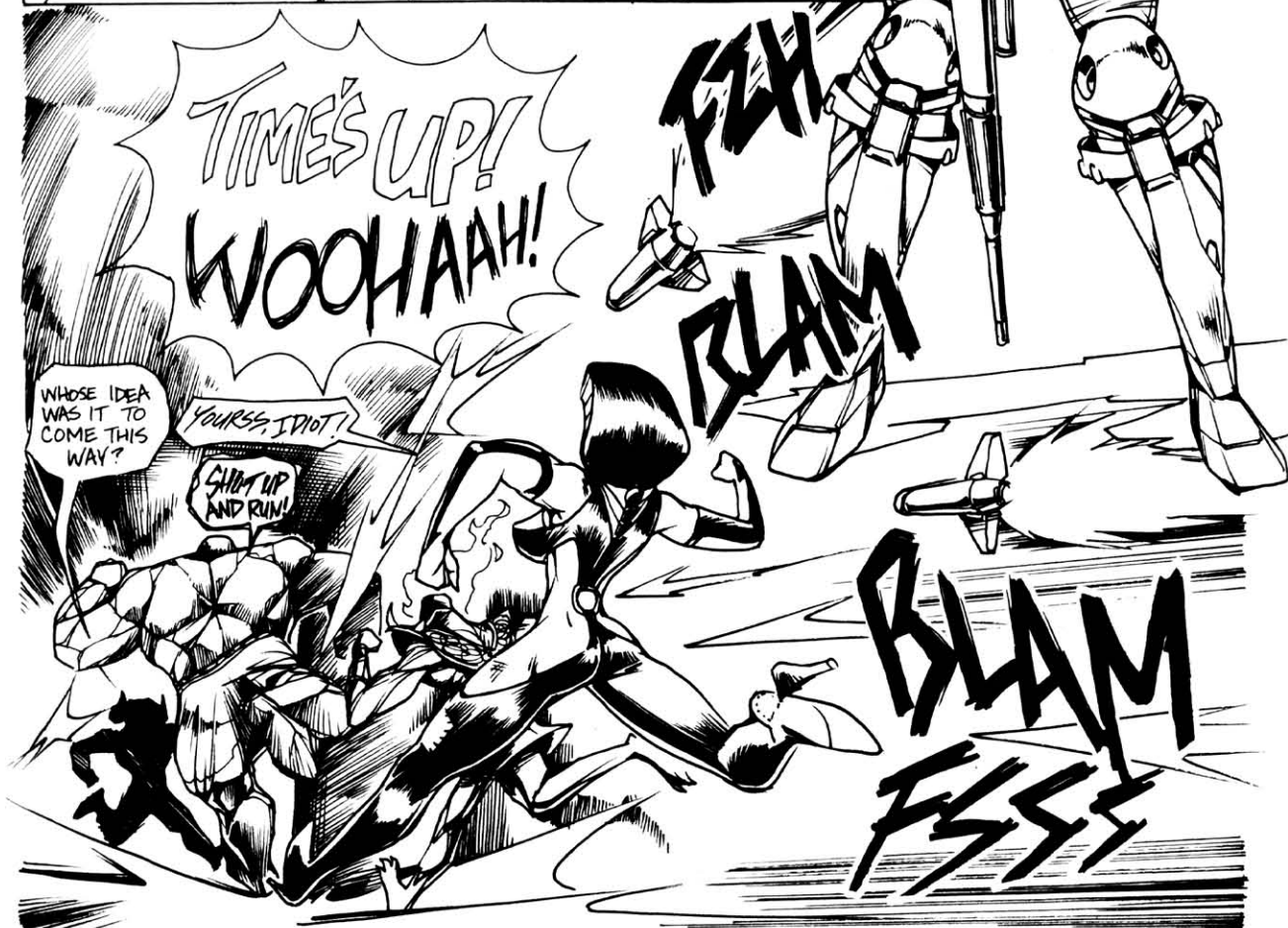
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE IS THIS??











MEANWHILE...

DID YOU TRULY THINK  
YOU COULD DEFEAT THE  
MIGHT OF MAELSTROM?

I AM INNING

OH,  
SHUT  
UP!

PERHAPS WE SHOULD  
SIMPLY BREAK ITS NECK!

NO. THE MASTER WANTS TO INTERVIEW  
THE SUBJECT BEFORE DNA SAMPLING...  
THEN WE BREAK ITS NECK!

UH-OH...

I'LL BE  
A KOBOLD'S  
UNCLE IF I  
DIDN'T LET  
MY RAGE GET  
THE BETTER  
OF ME  
AGAIN...

IF I'M TO  
KEEP MY NECK,  
I'D BETTER  
CONTROL MY  
TEMPER AND  
USE A LITTLE  
CUNNING!

OH HO!  
YOU  
GOT ONE EH?

LET'S SEE IF  
HIS DNA IS  
WORTH ANYTHING.

HMM! AN ASTRAL  
PROJECTION OF THE  
WIZARD SO HE CAN  
UTILIZE HIS PRESENCE  
AND SOME OF HIS POWER  
WITHOUT THE THREAT  
OF PERSONAL INJURY.

INTERESTING.

A COMPLETE IF NOT  
OBVIOUS OBSERVATION,  
CREATURE. I AM ZAVIS...  
JASON IONIS. LORD  
ERWIN TALON'S AGENT  
OF THE SUPERNATURAL...

AND YOU  
ARE?

I AM MAELSTROM.  
A BEING OF THE  
SUPERNATURAL. I AM  
PRESENTLY STRIPPED  
OF MY POWERS...  
AND I FIND IT A  
LITTLE DIFFICULT TO  
BELIEVE A WIZARD  
OF YOUR MIGHT...

IS MERELY A  
SERVANT FOR  
A "LORD  
ERWIN TALON"

ACTUALLY... I FIND IT  
HARD TO BELIEVE MYSELF  
SOMETIMES... BUT LORD  
TALON HAS THE KEY TO  
MY POWER. WITHOUT  
HIM MY MAGIC WILL **FAVE**.

OH?

REALLY?



THEN PERHAPS WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER, IONIS...

IF YOU HELP ME RESTORE MY POWER (WHICH PALES IN COMPARISON TO YOUR MIGHT)...

I'LL HELP YOU KEEP YOUR POWERS WITHOUT GOING TO LORD TALON FOR REPLENISHMENT.

IF I HAD MY POWER RESTORED TO ME, I COULD HAVE ACCESS TO SPELLS THAT WOULD MAKE YOU DEPENDENT ON NO ONE FOR YOUR MIGHT. IT'S NOT AS DIFFICULT AS YOU THINK.

I THINK WE MAY HAVE A DEAL, MAELSTROM...

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?



ELSE - WHERE..

SHUCKS! I LOST THEM!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I KNOW I'M FASTER THAN THOSE GUYS ARE! HOW DID THEY LOSE ME?

I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MY SCANNER ALONG!

I'M STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR INTRUSION HERE, BRIANNA. THIS LOOKS LIKE A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN IF YOU ASK ME!

STOP WORRYING, GENN. I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

I'M ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR LACK OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE LIVES AND SENTIENT RIGHTS OF THESE "INMATES"! THEY'RE STILL LIVING BEINGS AFTER ALL.

HEY, I HAVE IT ON STUN, OKAY? (EXCEPT MAYBE THE MISSILES)

BY THE WAY, I COULD FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE IF YOU'D LET ME USE MY ESP...



BRIANNA... WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY ON YOUR MIND?

LOOK...

I'M JUST BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM, OKAY, GENN?

IT MUST BE A LOT OF STEAM... YOU USUALLY SHOOT AT PAPER CUT-OUTS FOR THAT.

WHAT HAS YOU SO UPSET THAT YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER LIVE TARGETS?

GENN...

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED ..... NEEDED SOMETHING REALLY BADLY, BUT YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER HAVE IT?





WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I...  
BEEP  
BEEP

OOOPS!  
MY  
PROXIMITY  
ALARM!

SOMETHING'S  
APPROACHING  
BEHIND US!

THE MASTER HAS TELEPATHICALLY  
SIGNALLED WITH *NEW COMMANDS*.

OBJECTIVE NUMBER ONE!  
FIND THE TWO INTRUDERS  
HE SPOTTED ENTERING  
THIS TOWER...

OBJECTIVE ONE  
COMPLETE.

I DON'T THINK  
THEY'RE "INMATES",  
BRIANNA. THEY'RE  
RADIATING MAGIC  
ENERGY LIKE CRAZY!

I-I THINK  
YOU'RE RIGHT.

OBJECTIVE  
TWO..

...ELIMINATE THEM!

BRIANNA,  
LOOK OUT!

AAA!

THE OTHER ONE--  
PIN HIS ARMS!!

LIRGF!

HOLD HIM!

(INTERESTING.)

APPARENTLY,  
OUR TWO FOESS  
HAVE DISCOVERED  
ONE ANOTHER!

IT ISS FORTUNATE  
NEITHER PARTY HASS  
KNOWLEDGE OF THISS  
SSSSSECRET ROOM!

WE'LL JUST WAIT  
FOR THEM TO  
DESTROY ONE  
ANOTHER AND--

WHAT DO  
YOU WANT?

WOULD YOU?  
COULD YOU?  
IN THE DARK?

Hisssss

WHY DOES SALAMANDER LOOK LIKE THE LICH KING? ↗









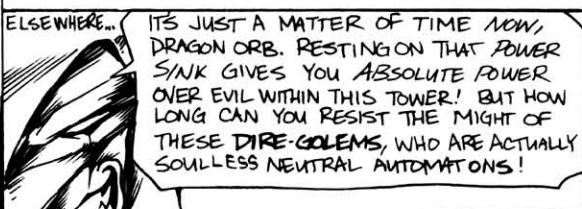
WELL, THAT SETTLES IT! THIS "TARGET PRACTICE" OF YOURS IS OVER...

SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING HERE.

Uh Oh... MORE ARE COMING THIS WAY...

WAIT...

CURIOUS. THEY'RE IGNORING US? WHERE ARE THEY GOING?



ELSEWHERE...

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME NOW, DRAGON ORB. RESTING ON THAT POWER SINK GIVES YOU ABSOLUTE POWER OVER EVIL WITHIN THIS TOWER! BUT HOW LONG CAN YOU RESIST THE MIGHT OF THESE DIRE-GOLEMS, WHO ARE ACTUALLY SOULLESS NEUTRAL AUTOMATIONS!

>NMF=: VERY CLEVER, MAELSTROM! GETTING THESE OUTSIDERS TO DO YOUR BIDDING...

I MAY NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO REMOVE THEIR POWERS, BUT I CAN KEEP THEM FROM REMOVING ME FROM THIS POWERSINK.

YOUR NEW FRIENDS AREN'T EVIL, BUT THEY AREN'T GOOD EITHER...



LINHA

LINHA

AMAZING, MAELSTROM! AN INTELLIGENT POWER-ARTIFACT. I'VE READ ABOUT THEM, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY SEE ONE.

JUST REMEMBER TO PUT IT BACK THE SECOND YOU REMOVE IT...

I DON'T WANT ANY OF THE LAW-LIFES INHABITING THIS TOWER ESCAPING AS WELL...

WE'LL HAVE IT REMOVED SOON ENOUGH. I'VE SUMMONED THE REST OF MY GOLEMS FROM ALL OVER THE TOWER...

YOU JUST REMEMBER YOUR HALF OF THE BARGAIN.

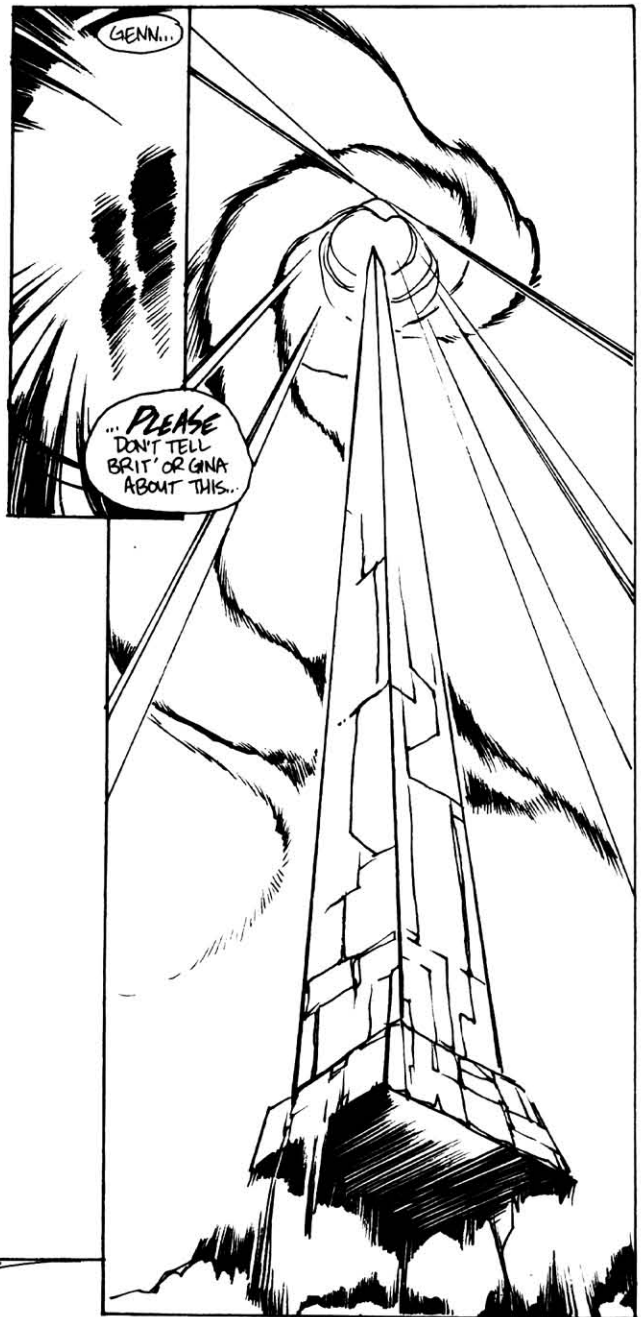














EPILOGUE:

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE UPSET, BRIANNA. THE NEWS OF BRITANNY AND STRIPE SEALING THEIR RELATIONSHIP MUST HAVE CAUGHT YOU OFF GUARD.

I-I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, GENN. IT ALL REMINDED ME OF HOW I'M STILL A SUM OF GINA AND BRITANNY...

THE BRITANNY PART WAS SOO JEALOUS...

I WAS HAPPY, SAD AND CONFUSED ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO GO SHOOTING. TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

THE GINA PART OF ME WAS TICKLED THAT BRIT' FINALLY GOT WHAT SHE WAS MOONING OVER FOR SO LONG...

I THINK I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I THINK...

SOMETIMES I GET CONFUSED ON HOW I SHOULD REACT TO A GIVEN SITUATION.

I SOMETIMES THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER TO BE JUST MASCULINE OR FEMININE INSTEAD OF BOTH.

BEFORE... WHEN THEY WERE JUST DATING, I WOULD...

I'D SECRETLY HOPED BEYOND HOPE THAT SOMETHING WOULD BREAK THEM UP. THAT THEY'D GET TIERED OF EACH OTHER... SO I COULD STEP IN AND HAVE STRIPE.

I'D HOPE THAT STRIPE WOULD REALIZE THAT THE LITTLE PASSES I MADE AT HIM MEANT SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST "BRIANNA BEING FLIRTY."

THEN I'D THINK "SHAME ON YOU!!"

"THAT'S YOUR SISTER'S HAPPINESS YOU'RE HOPING AGAINST."

Haha...

YOU KNOW? I FEEL BETTER! I FINALLY GOT THAT TON-OF-BRICKS OFF MY CHEST TO SOMEONE!

I KNOW IT'S HARD, BRIANNA, BUT... YOU COULD ALWAYS PRETEND I COULD BE YOUR STRIPE.

CHANGE

NO... NOW THAT I'VE GOT THAT OFF MY CHEST...

I-I-T'S TIME I FORGOT STRIPE.

NO THANKS, GENN!

Sigh

Whew!

THAT'S NICE TO HEAR. BEING STRIPE USES UP A LOT OF MY ENERGY.

NOT TO MENTION THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY I KNOW I'D HAVE TO USE WHILE BEING STRIPE FOR YOU...

(I DIDN'T FINISH...) "NO THANKS"

Blink Blink

... I THINK YOU'LL DO JUST FINE, GENN! SINCE YOU INITIATED THE FUN AND EVERYTHING. NOW CHANGE INTO SOME MUSCLES AND LET THE SMOOCH-O-THON BEGIN!

SM--SMOOCH-O-THON???

RWEOW!

AND DON'T EVEN GIMME THAT LOOK, GENN!

YOU STARTED IT!

SMOOCH! SMOOCH! SMOOCH!

BRIT'S ROOM

END.