

Sept. 1997 \$2.95US \$4.10 Can.



Fred Perry

GOLD DIGGER®



ATLANTIS...

I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT! PENNY AND
THE ATLANTIANS HAVE
BEEN WORKING ON
A SHIP ALL THIS
TIME!!

WAHOOO!!

PENNY'S JUST
SOOOO SMART!

CALM
DOWN,
BRIT'!

JINKIES, BUT
YOU'RE
HYPER TODAY!

BESIDES, I WOULD HAVE HAD A
SHIP READY WAY BEFORE SHE
DID...

...IF IT WEREN'T FOR ALL
OF THOSE INTERRUPTIONS
WE'VE HAD OVER THE PAST
FEW WEEKS...

I CAN'T WAIT
TO GET THERE,
GINA!!!

I CAN'T WAIT
TO LIFT OFF!

I CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE MY
FIANCEE AGAIN!!!

HAIR GREW
BACK FROM
LAST ISSUE...

THIS IS
GONNA BE
THE MOST
EXCITING
TRIP EVER!

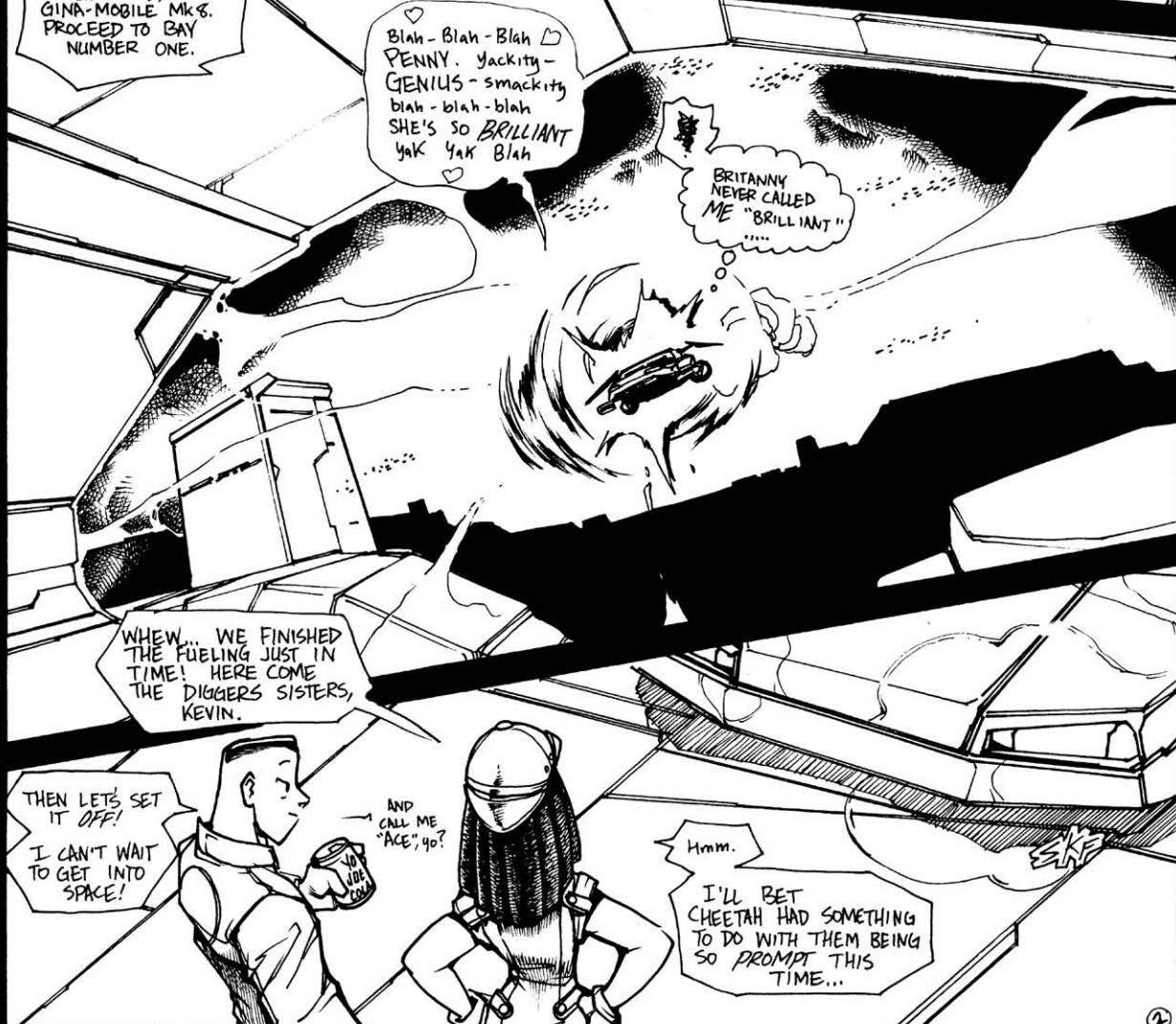
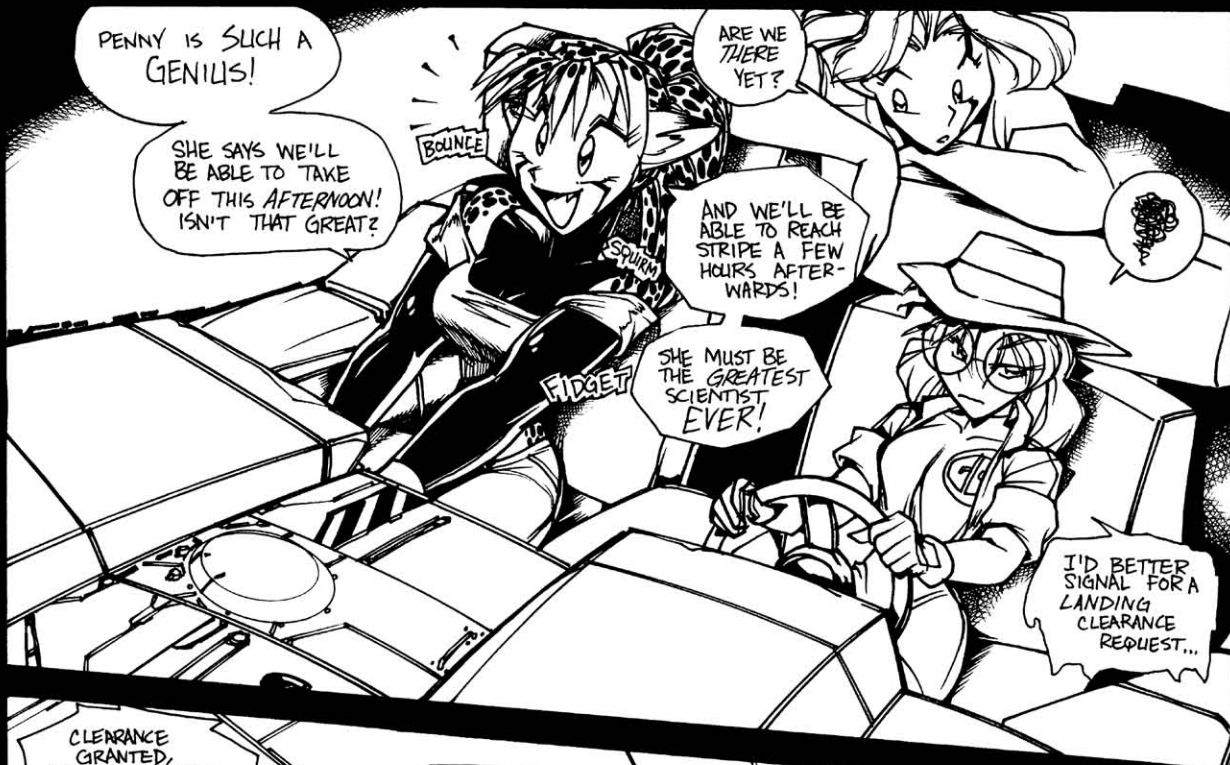
BRIT'! I'M
TRYING TO DRIVE!!

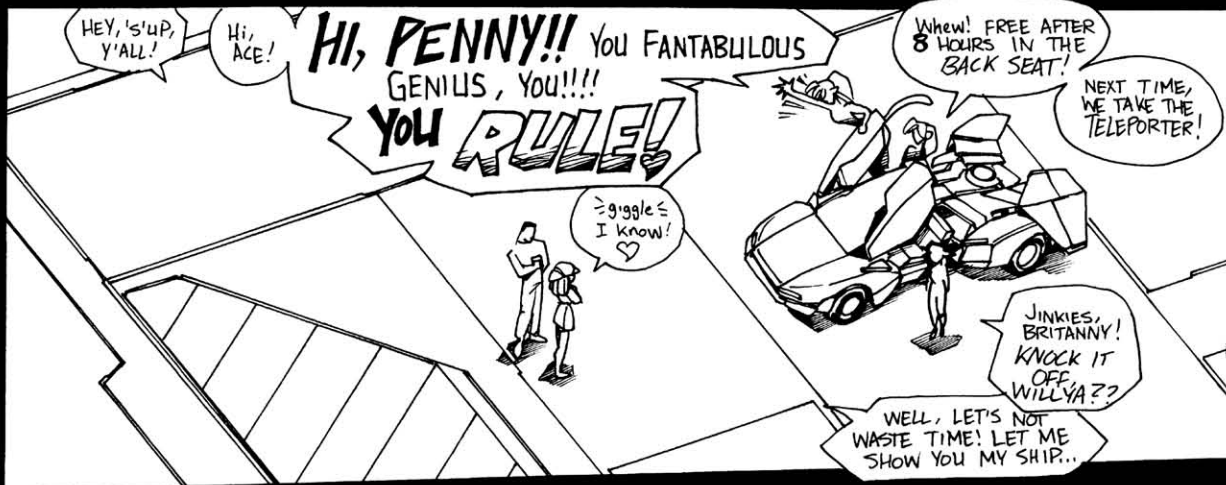
YOU'RE BLOCKING
MY VIEW!



BOUNCE

BOUNCE





OOOOO!

AAAH!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, PENNY!

Hmph!

YOU NEVER "OOO" AND "AAAH" AT ANY OF MY INVENTIONS!

BY THE WAY, GINA, I'M REALLY GLAD YOU MADE IT HERE SO EARLY...

I NEED YOUR EXPERTISE IN A.I. ALGORITHMS TO DEBUG THE PROGRAMS RUNNING MY HOLOGRAPHIC FORCE-FIELD PROJECTION SYSTEM...

IT WAS RUNNING FINE UNTIL I OPTIMIZED THE CODE FOR RUNNING ON THE VISIGOTH'S SLIGHTLY SLOWER SYSTEM.

WHY, OF COURSE I'LL HELP YOU, PENNY!

AFTER ALL I AM A GENIUS OF EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY. HOW NICE OF YOU TO **ACKNOWLEDGE** ME!

NO NEED TO SHOUT, GINA...

I'M NOT DEAF!

HEY, ACE, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A STARSHIP PILOT AS WELL...

AIN'T THAT A TRIP?

NEITHER DID I UNTIL LAST WEEK WHEN I TESTED THE SHIP.

THAT REMINDS ME, KEVIN... LAST WEEK WHEN WE TESTED THE SHIP, I DISCOVERED SOMETHING...

I JUST ABOUT REACHED THE MASS-LIMIT FOR THE HYPER-DRIVE MOTIVATOR I DESIGNED.

THE SHIP CAN ONLY TAKE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF CARGO AND PASSENGERS INTO HYPER-SPACE.

WELL I'M GOING AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT! NEXT TOPIC?!

EVEN IF I HAVE TO FLY IT ALL BY MYSELF.

Figures...

TAKA
TAKA
TAKA

I'VE ALREADY CALCULATED THE MASS-LIMIT RESTRICTIONS IN, AND WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH ROOM FOR ALL OF US HERE, PLUS ENOUGH AIR, WATER, AND SUPPLIES TO SUSTAIN US FOR A WEEK... BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT...

D'YOU MEAN I CAN'T TAKE ANY OF THE WEAPONS I SENT HERE YESTERDAY?

ACTUALLY, I MANAGED TO STOW THEM IN 3 BAYS WITHIN THE SHIP.

BECAUSE THE VISIGOTH HAS NO WEAPON SYSTEMS OF ITS OWN, YOU AND ACE WILL HAVE TO SHARE, BRIANNA.

BAY:0
N/A

BAY:1
PRISON MISSILES(4)
APDS
LASER CANNONS(2)

BAY:2
PLASMA GUN(1)
EMP CANNONS(2)
LRRP(4)

BAY:3
ALRRP(8)
30MM(20000)

THE FOURTH BAY WAS GOING TO BE OMITTED...

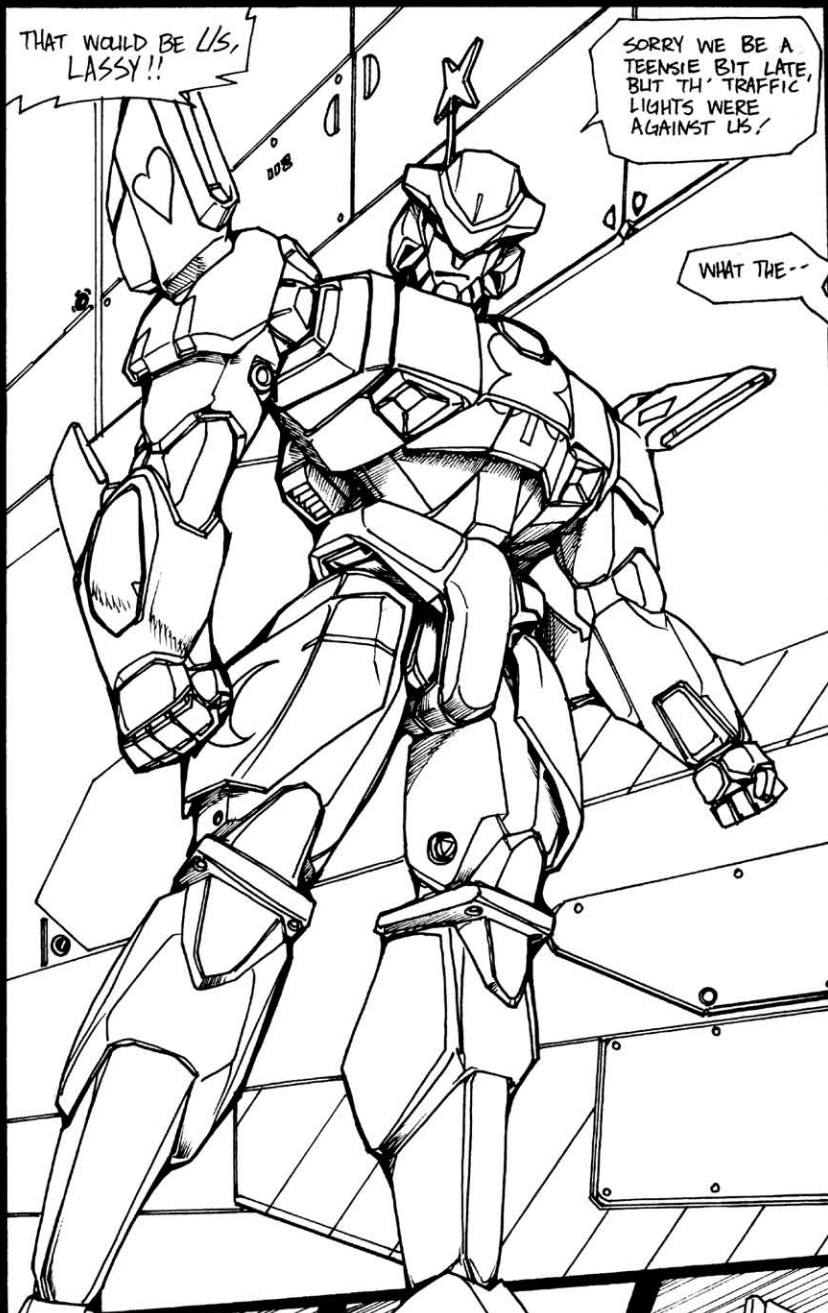
BUT I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO KEEP IT.

HEY! I SEE 4 BAYS IN THAT DIAGRAM, PENNY...

IS THAT A TYPO OR SOMETHING?

IT'S GOING TO BE USED TO HOLD OUR EXTRA SPECIAL HELP.

THERE WAS JUST ENOUGH ROOM FOR THEM.



THAT WOULD BE LIS,
LASSY!!

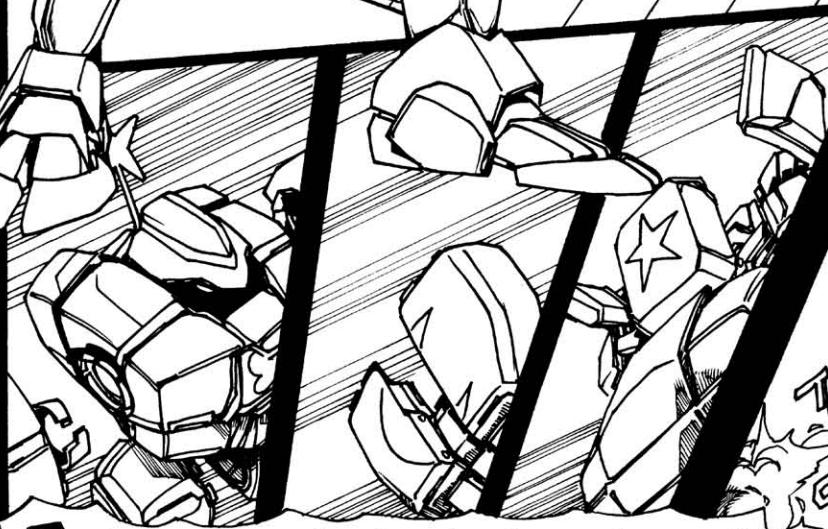
SORRY WE BE A
TEENSIE BIT LATE,
BUT TH' TRAFFIC
LIGHTS WERE
AGAINST US!

WHAT THE--

PENNY,
WOULD YOU
MIND TELLING
US WHAT THE
HECK THIS
IS??

I THINK IT'S
KIND OF OBVIOUS,
DON'T YOU,
BRIT'?

OKAY, LADS!
SURE 'N' IT BE
TIME TO SHOW
OFF TH' GOODS!!



TRANSFORM
CHANGE

RECONFIGURATION!





NOW THIS IS JUST PLAIN RIDICULOUS!!

A ROBOT WITH A BAD IRISH ACCENT???

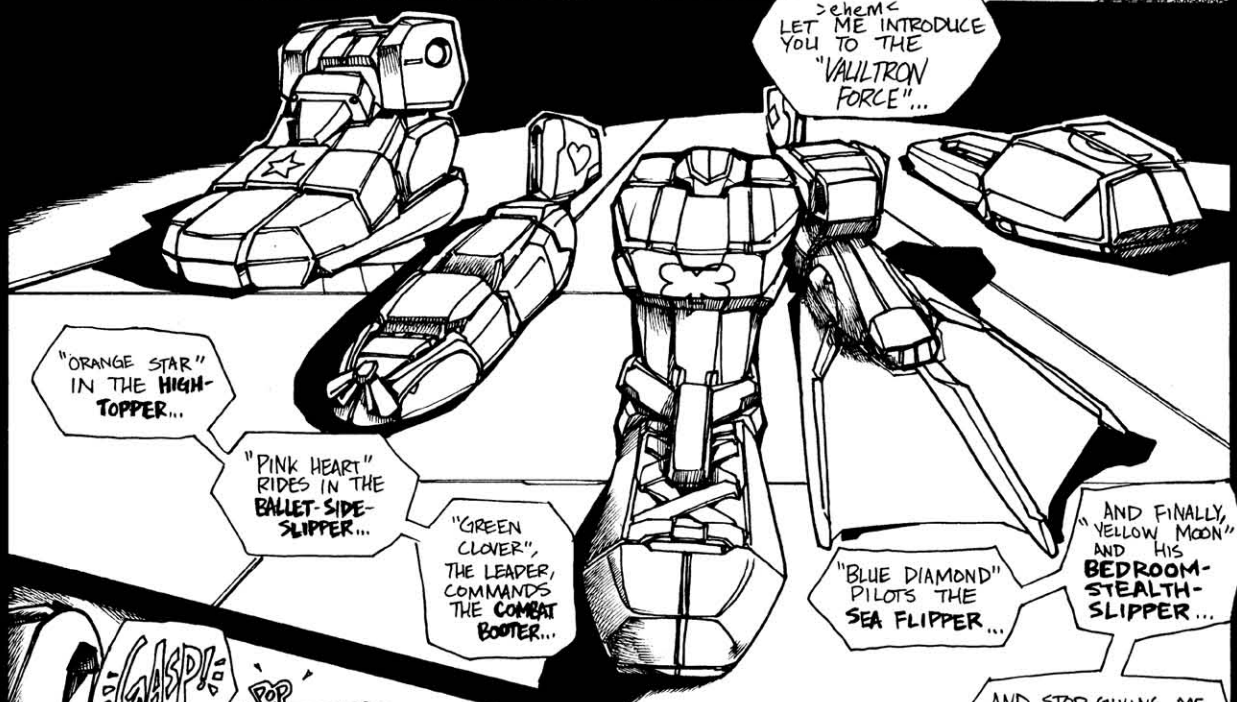
THAT CHANGES INTO... INTO...

SHOES, BRITANNY. FIVE SHOES.

THE ROBOT IS AN ADVANCED PROTOTYPE I WAS CONTRACTED TO BUILD OVER A YEAR AGO.

IT TRANSFORMS INTO 5 SHOES.

AND TO THIS DAY, I DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA AS TO WHY THEY ASKED ME TO DESIGN IT LIKE THAT...



SCHEME LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE "VALILTRON FORCE"...

"ORANGE STAR" IN THE HIGH-TOPPER...

"PINK HEART" RIDES IN THE BALLET SIDE-SLIPPER...

"GREEN CLOVER", THE LEADER, COMMANDS THE COMBAT BOOTER...

"BLUE DIAMOND" PILOTS THE SEA FLIPPER...

AND FINALLY, "YELLOW MOON" AND HIS BEDROOM-STEALTH-SLIPPER...



GASP!

FAITH, AM I GLAD TO BE GETTIN' SOME FRESH AIR!

'BE NEEDIN' SOME A.C. IN THERE!

AND STOP GIVING ME THOSE LOOKS! LAST YEAR WAS A BIT ROUGH FOR ME, AND I NEEDED THE CASH!

NOW, NOW, PRINCESS O'LURA... BEIN' A MEMBER O' THA VALILTRON FORCE IS NO LUXURY CRUISE!

YA KNEW THA JOB WAS TOUGH WHEN YA TOOK IT!



'TIS EASY FOR YA TA BE SAYIN' THAT, MCKIETH!

YER THA ONE WITH TH' AIR-CONDITIONED BOOT!

'N' THA TAPE DECK, TOO!!

LEPRECHALINS?? AND A FEMALE LEPRECHALIN???

I wanna swap!!

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE FEMALE LEPRECHALINS!

O' CARSE THERE BE FEMALE LEPRECHALINS!

IT'S JEST
THAT PRINCESS
O' LLIRA HERE
WON'T STAY
IN HER
PLACE!

SHE BE REFUSIN' TA STAY
HOME TA DO THA COOKIN'
'N' THA CLEANIN', LIKE
SHE'S SUPPOSE TA!

AND HERE'S A WHOPPIN'
BIG FLIP-OFF FER
YA, LARDY-BOY!

Y' CHAUVINIST
PIG!

FLIP

THAT BE QUITE ENOUGH, BOYS!
YER EMBARRASSIN'
THA HELL OUTTA US!!!
NOW SHUSH YER PIE HOLES!

-AND
GIRLS!

Aheh!
ME TEAM
STILL BE NEEDIN'
A WEE BIT O'
WORK IN TH'
DISCIPLINE
AREA...

QUESTION:

WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD
THE LEPRECHALIN "VAULTRON"
TEAM WANT TO GO WITH
US TO ANOTHER PLANET
TO RESCUE SOMEONE YOU
HAVEN'T EVEN MET?

A GOOD QUESTION,
LASSIE!!

LET ME JES' SAY THAT WE
LEPRECHALINS HAVE A DEBT TA
PAY TA THA DIGGERS SISTERS.

SURE 'N' IT'S TRUE THAT WE'VE
DONE Y' WRONG IN THE PAST.
UNFAIR 'N' UNJUST TREATMENT
WE OWE Y' FOR, 'N' WE
BE HERE TA MAKE THINGS
RIGHT BETWEEN US.

WE HEARD O'
YER FLIGHT 'N'
WE'RE HERE TA
LEND YA AID!

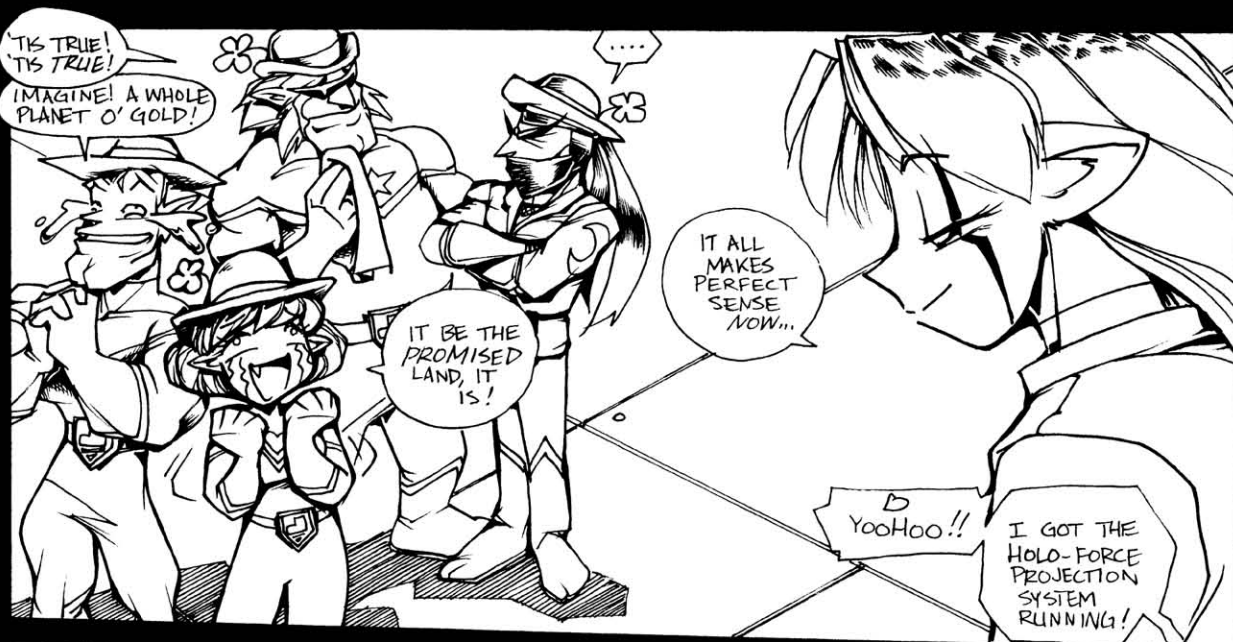
I BE PLEDGIN' THAT
THA MIGHTIEST FORCE
O' THE WEE FOLK BE
AT YER SERVICE.

SURE 'N'
THA VAULTRON
FORCE BE AT
YER
COMMAND!

Yeah.

Right.

THEY WANT TO COME
BECAUSE THEY KNOW
WE'RE GOING TO
AEBRA... THE CITY
OF GOLD'S
HOME PLANET.





I WISH I COULD GO WITH THEM.

IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY TO FULLY PREPARE THEM FOR THE PERIL THEY ARE ABOUT TO FACE.

PRINCESS TYR, WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THEM OFF IN PERSON?

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU WERE AVOIDING THEM.



YOU KNOW ME A LITTLE TOO WELL, GAREN.

THE TRUTH IS THAT I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY... ASHAMED...

LETTING THEM GO TO RESCUE EL DORADO WHILE I STAY HERE SAFE IN ATLANTIS.

THEY RISK THEIR LIVES IN OUR PLACES.

HOW COULD I FACE THEM? EVEN TO SAY GOODBYE?

DON'T DESPAIR, MY PRINCESS. WE MAY YET HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST OUR FRIENDS.

... IT'S GONNA BE A LONG TRIP...

ALL SET?

ALL SET...

YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS, BRIT?

SURE DO!



AND-A ONE, AND-A TWO, AND-A THREE...
NINETY-NINE CANS OF TUNA ON THE WALL,
NINETY-NINE CANS OF TUNA!
TAKE ONE DOWN, PASS IT AROUND!

OKAY, THE ELECTRO-GRAVITATIONAL SUB-LIGHT DRIVE IS UP TO FULL POWER...
BAY DOORS ARE OPEN...

GINA, WOULD YOU PLEASE MUZZLE YOUR SISTERS?

I CAN'T HEAR MYSELF THINK!

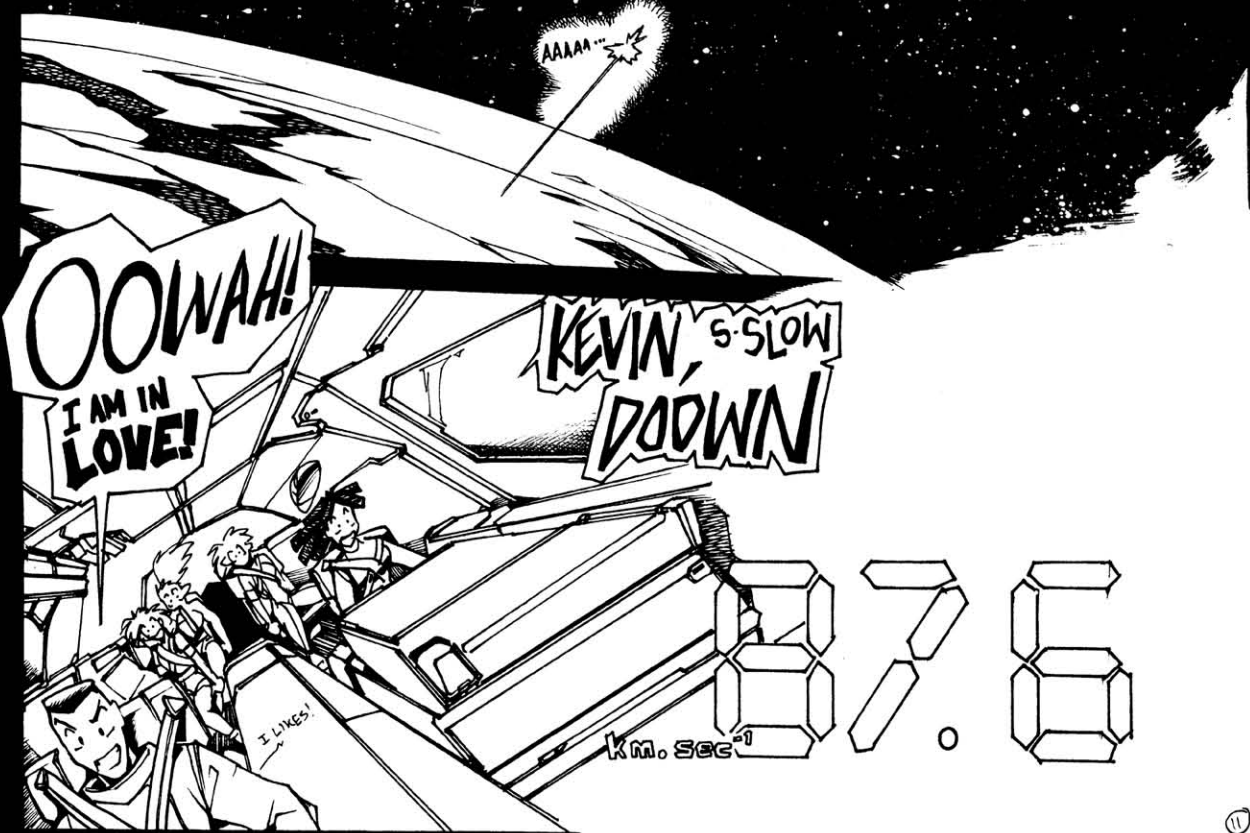
I GUESS YOU CAN LALINCH AT ANY TIME, KEVIN.

I RECOMMEND WE START OUT SLOW SO YOU CAN GET THE FEEL OF-

AAAHH!

VWOOSH

BOOM



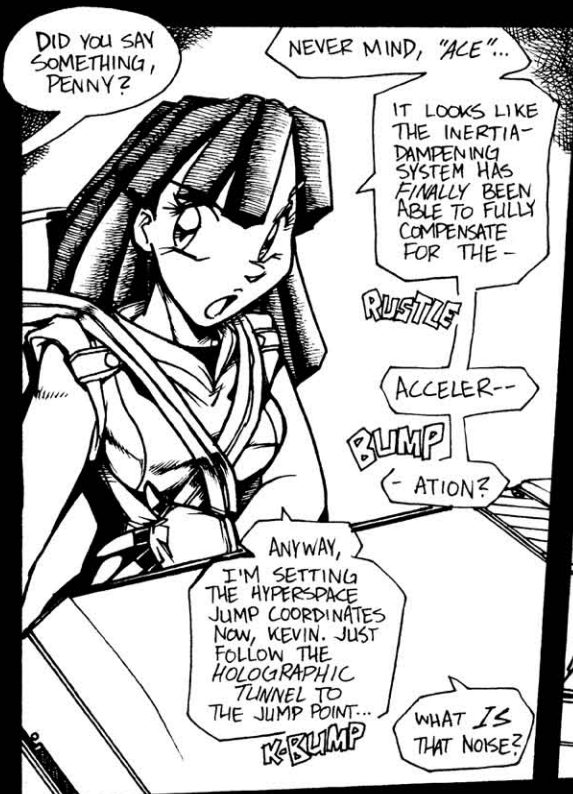
AAAAA...

OOOWAH!
I AM IN LOVE!

KEVIN, S-SLOW DOWN!

I LIVES!

27.6
km. sec⁻¹



DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, PENNY?

NEVER MIND, "ACE"...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE INERTIA-DAMPENING SYSTEM HAS FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO FULLY COMPENSATE FOR THE-

RUSTLE

ACCELER--

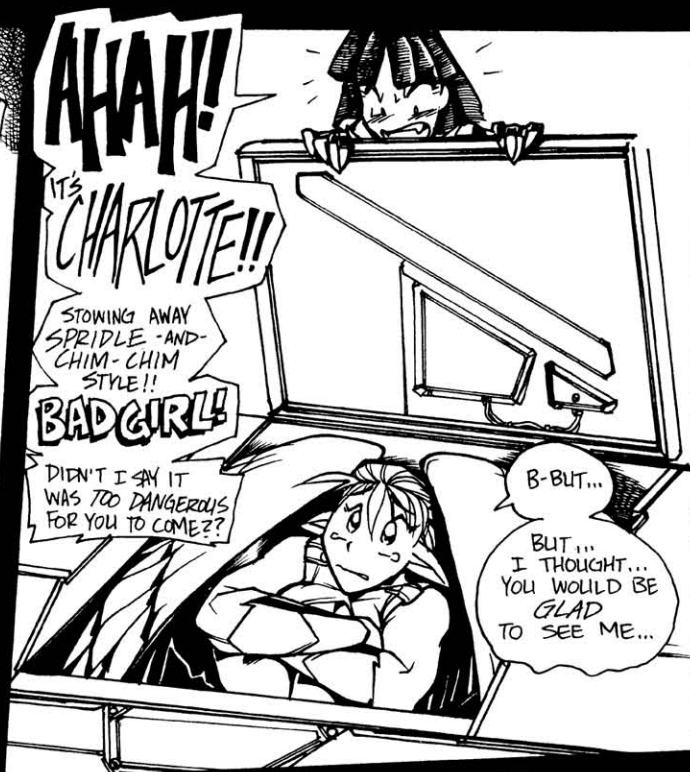
BUMP

-ATION?

ANYWAY, I'M SETTING THE HYPERSPACE JUMP COORDINATES NOW, KEVIN. JUST FOLLOW THE HOLOGRAPHIC TUNNEL TO THE JUMP POINT...

K-BUMP

WHAT IS THAT NOISE?



AHAH!

IT'S CHARLOTTE!!

STOWING AWAY SPRIDLE-AND-CHIM-CHIM STYLE!!

BAD GIRL!

DIDN'T I SAY IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO COME??

B-BUT...

BUT... I THOUGHT... YOU WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE ME...



WAIT A MINUTE... WHERE ARE THE SUPPLIES THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THIS COMPARTMENT, CHARLOTTE??

>sniff I-I'm sorry...

I didn't mean to be bad... >sobs

TAKE IT EASY, PENNY. CHARLOTTE JUST WANTED TO COME ALONG... AND WHAT'S A FEW SUPPLIES GONNA MATTER, ANYWAY?

BRITANNY... THE SUPPLIES SHE THREW OUT? 80 PERCENT OF IT WAS YOUR AND BRIANNA'S TLINA!



>WAAAH Now- >sniff NOW BRITANNY AND BRIANNA ARE MAD AT ME TOO!!



HOW LONG 'TIL WE JUMP, PENNY?

TEN SECONDS UNTIL HYPER JUMP... WE JUST HAVE TO CLEAR THE GRAVITY WELL AROUND THE MOON...

OKAY I-HEY!!

HOW COME I'M IN MY HUMAN FORM...?

I DIDN'T WANT TO SHIFT...

IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF OUR PROXIMITY TO THE MOON. YOU KNOW HOW STRANGELY IT CAN EFFECT LYCANTHROPES.

THAT'S PROBABLY IT, BRIANNA... I'LL JUST--

BRIANNA??

IS- IS THAT YOU??



MEANWHILE...

ACROSS THE LIMITLESS
GULF OF SPACE...

DO YOU MEAN THERE ARE NO
CITIES TO BE FOUND ON
AEBRA, JAN? NO CIVILIZATIONS?

IT APPEARS THAT THE
DYNASTY HAVE BEEN
MERCILESS IN THEIR
IMPLACABLE, RANCOROUS
ANNIHILATION OF YOUR
PEOPLE, STRYD... BUT
I-I'M SORRY... BUT
I THINK WE'RE TOO
LATE --

WAIT...

ON THE HORIZON!
I FOUND A CITY...
IT MAY EVEN BE
A CAPITOL!!

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING
ELSE...

IT'S THE DYNASTY
CLOSING IN ON
THEM! THEY HAVEN'T
A CHANCE!!



TAKE EL DORADO
DOWN INTO THE
CENTER OF
THAT CITY...

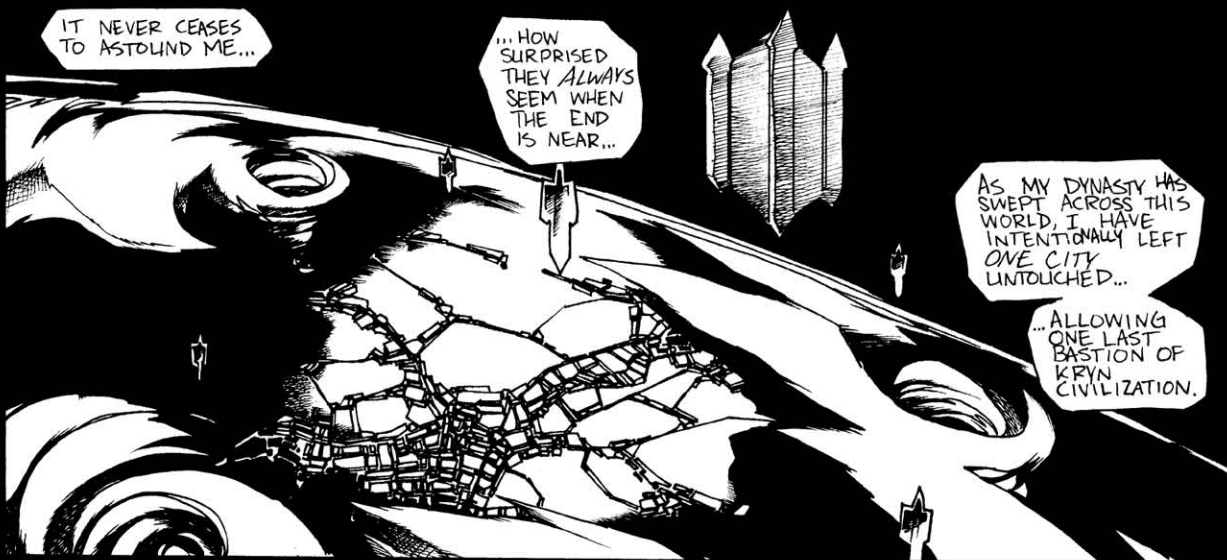
I CAN'T LEAVE
THOSE KRYN TO
THE MERCY OF
THE DYNASTY.

THEN
WE HAVE
TO FORGET
THE
PLAN.

WHAT?

TELL EVERYONE
TO PREPARE.

WE'RE IN FOR
THE FIGHT OF
OUR LIVES!

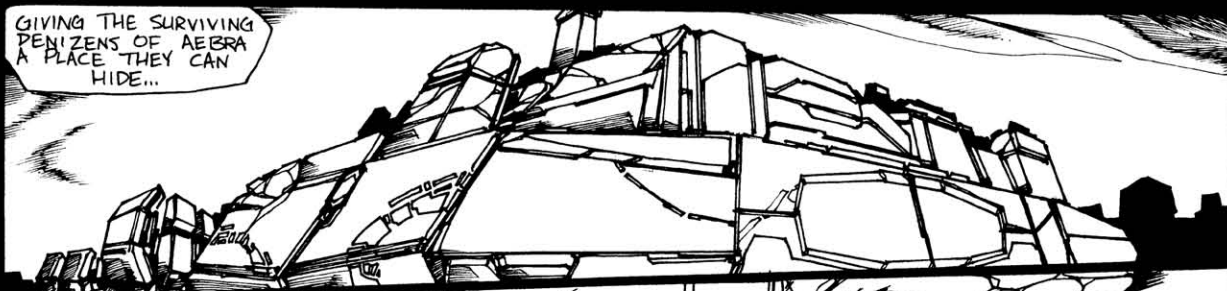


IT NEVER CEASES
TO ASTOUND ME...

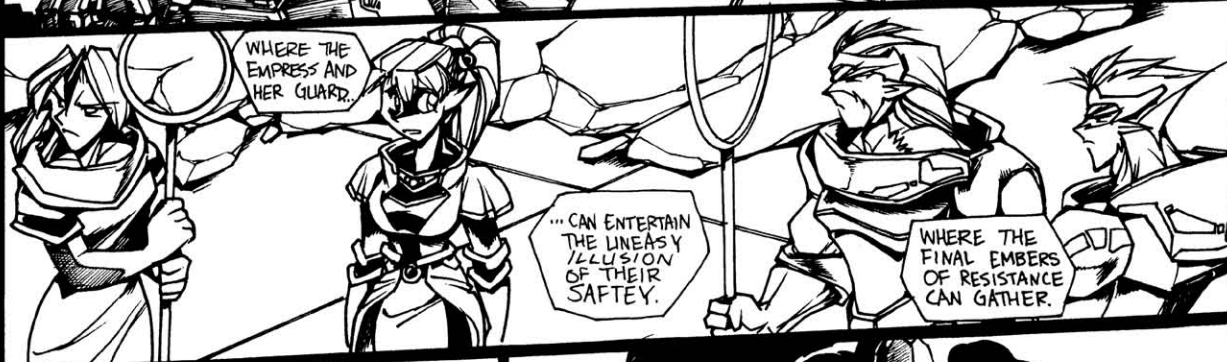
... HOW
SURPRISED
THEY ALWAYS
SEEM WHEN
THE END
IS NEAR...

AS MY DYNASTY HAS
SWEEPED ACROSS THIS
WORLD, I HAVE
INTENTIONALLY LEFT
ONE CITY UNTOUCHED...

... ALLOWING
ONE LAST
BASTION OF
KRYN
CIVILIZATION.



GIVING THE SURVIVING
PEWIZENS OF AEBRA
A PLACE THEY CAN
HIDE...



WHERE THE
EMPRESS AND
HER GUARD...

... CAN ENTERTAIN
THE LINEASY
ILLUSION
OF THEIR
SAFETY.

WHERE THE
FINAL EMBERS
OF RESISTANCE
CAN GATHER.



Heh...

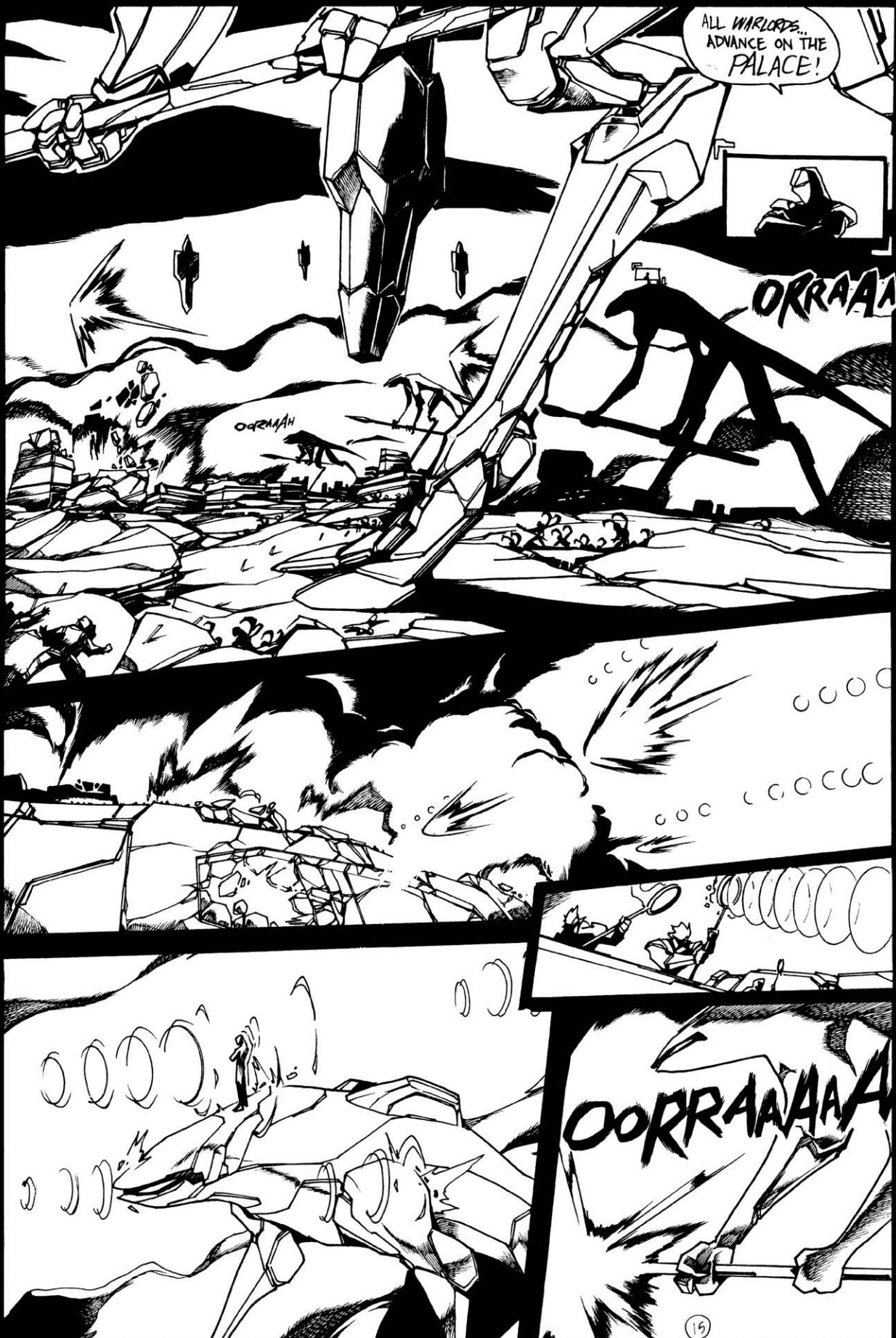
RIOGEN!
MY SON...

COMMENCE
THE ATTACK!

LET
NONE
ESCAPE!

... SAVES ME THE
TROUBLE OF
SCOURING
THE PLANET
FOR THEM!

I LIVE TO
SERVE, FATHER.





I PITY YOU,
KRYN...

YOUR PLANET IS
A SMOLDERING
ASH. A WORLD
OF DEATH AND
SORROW.

YOUR LAST HOPE
FOR SURVIVAL IS
CRUMBLING BEFORE
YOUR EYES...

THERE IS
NOTHING YOU
HAVE THAT
CAN STOP
US...

YOUR ONLY FATE
IS SOULLESS,
ETERNAL SLAVERY
TO MY FAMILY.

NOTHING LEFT TO
FIGHT FOR...

NOTHING LEFT TO
HOPE FOR OR LIVE
FOR...

YOU DON'T EVEN
HAVE ANYTHING
WORTH DYING
FOR...

I ONLY
WISH THERE
WERE ANOTHER
WAY...

...

... PERHAPS
...

... I SPOKE
TOO
SOON.



EL DORADO!

AND SOMETHING
ELSE...



THE KRYN'S
PRINCE.

WHICH CAN ONLY
MEAN RIELDA
AND HER SON
RIOLDO HAVE
FAILED.

ASTONISHING!
WHAT KIND OF
STRENGTH DOES
IT POSSESS?

IF ONLY I
COULD AFFORD
TO FIND OUT.

"...BUT THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO..."

T-K-SPHERE

"WHAT?"

I SAW YOU APPROACHING FROM A MILE AWAY, FRIEND.

VAK

VAK

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY RIELDA FAILED.

A PERFECT MOVE... HE AVOIDED MY STRIKE AND REVERSED MY MOMENTUM...

I'VE COMPLETELY LOST MY ADVANTAGE!

IT WAS FOOLISH OF ME TO ATTACK!

FLAME RAKER

I NOW SENSE A GREAT DEAL OF POWER...

AND CONTROL!

I AM NO MATCH FOR IT.

BUT THEN AGAIN, I AM MORE OF A SAGE THAN A WARRIOR.

I MUST USE MY POWER TO WITHDRAW...

...TO RETREAT."

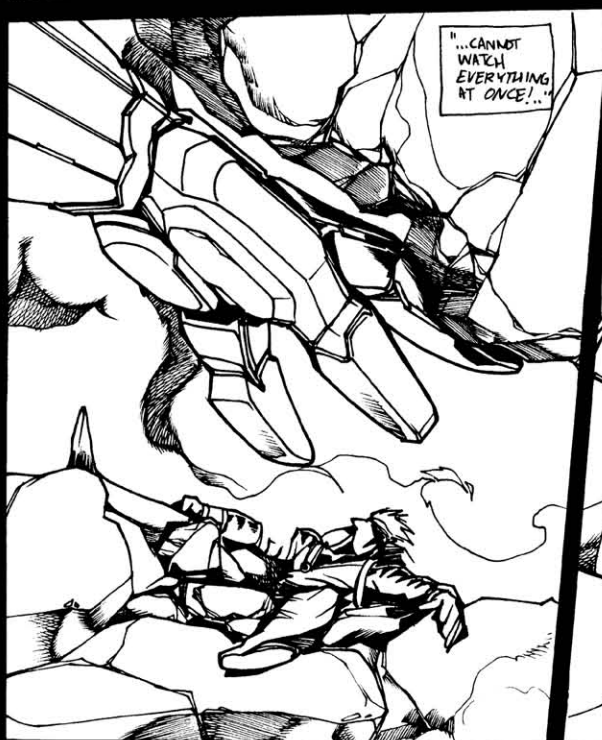
"...TO LET THAT WHICH IS DESIGNED TO DO BATTLE ENGAGE THE PRINCE..."

"ALREADY I HAVE DISCOVERED YOUR WEAKNESS..."

"FOR, WITH ALL YOUR POWER..."

ORRYAAAAAH

"EVEN YOU,
MIGHTY
PRINCE..."



"...CANNOT
WATCH
EVERYTHING
AT ONCE!..."



AT THE BESIEGED PALACE...

YOUR HIGHNESS!!
GET BACK!

MELANA,
LOOK!



I-IT MUST BE A DREAM,
BECAUSE IT CAN'T
BE REAL...

THE LOST
COLONY
WAS ONLY
A LEGEND...

STILL YOU FIGHT US...

STILL YOU FAIL TO SEE THE FUTILITY IN SUCH ACTIONS.

IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE DYNASTY...

...YOU WOULD WILLINGLY SURRENDER YOUR PLANET, YOUR LIVES... EVEN YOUR SOULS TO US...

...AND ETERNAL CALAMITY.

A DANGER BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION.

THE DYNASTY IS NOT YOUR TRUE ENEMY.

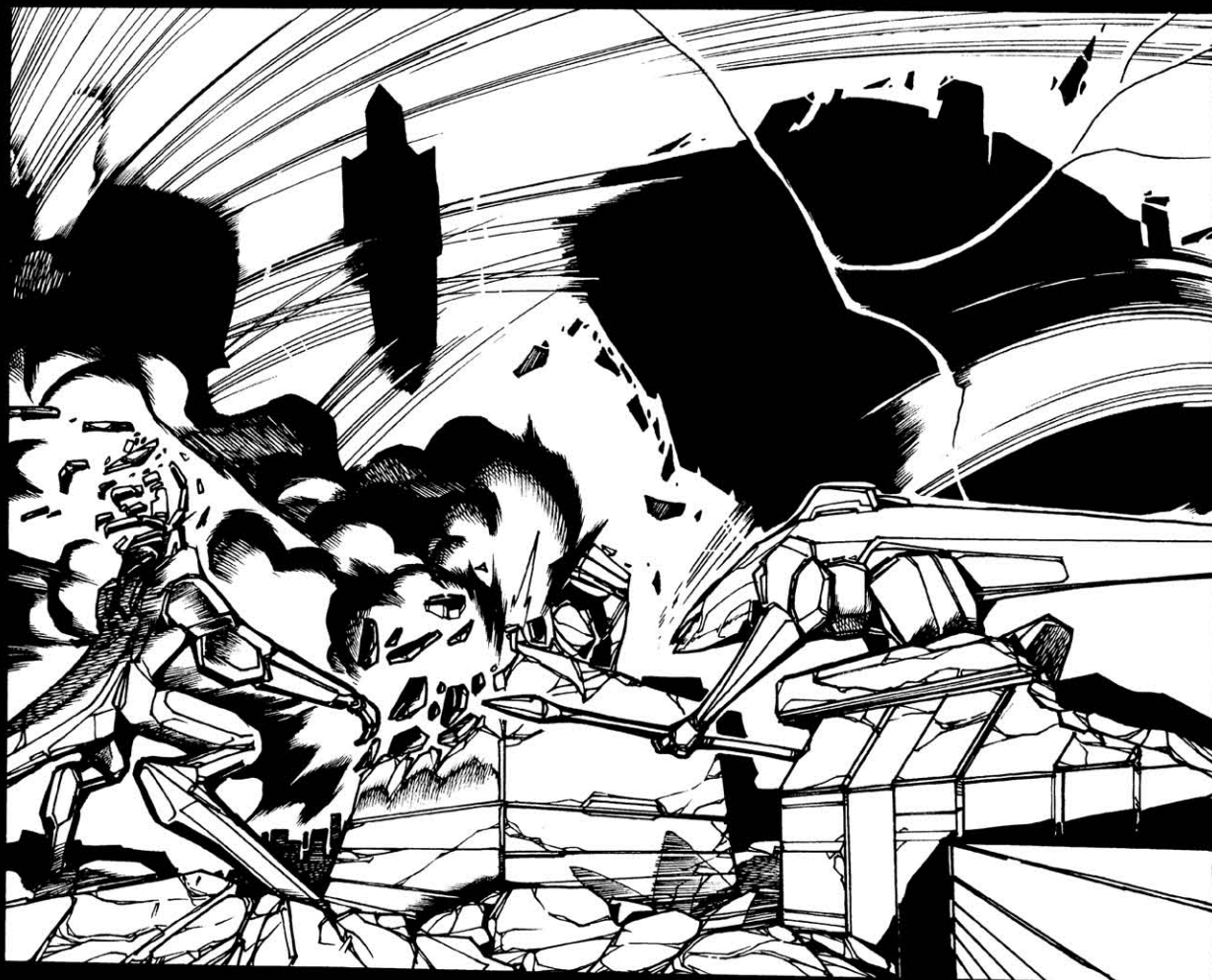
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS UNIVERSE, WE HAVE BEEN ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN LIFE...

SO YOU SEE, YOUR DEFEAT IS A VICTORY FOR THE VERY SOUL OF EXISTENCE...

AS IT IS FOR EL DORADO.

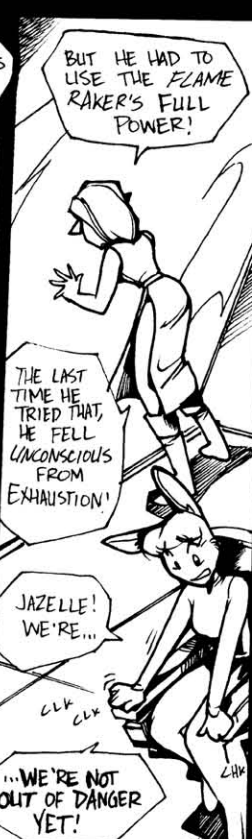
I WILL LEAVE IT TO THE FURY OF THE WAR WIND...





I...

I SEE HIM,
JAN! THANK GOODNESS
STRYP'S STILL
ALIVE!!



BUT HE HAD TO
USE THE FLAME
RAKER'S FULL
POWER!

THE LAST
TIME HE
TRIED THAT,
HE FELL
UNCONSCIOUS
FROM
EXHAUSTION!

JAZELLE!
WE'RE...

...WE'RE NOT
OUT OF DANGER
YET!



THIS HORRIBLE,
UNRELENTING
"WAR WIND"...

I-IT'S DRAGGING
EL DORADO
DOWN AND THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN
DO!!

WE'RE GOING TO
CRASH IN A
GIGANTIC, FIERY,
FLESH-SHREDDING
CATACLYSM!!

ABANDON
SHIP!!



EL
DORADO...

No!

FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I TRULY
SEE THAT YOU
HAVE NO MERCY!

BEWARE,
DYNASTY.

YOU'VE
EARNED
MY WRATH.

HMM...

I SENSE
SOMETHING
NEW WITHIN
THE KRYN
PRINCE.

COULD IT
BE THAT
YOUR
MYSTERIOUS
POWER
COMES
WITH A
PRICE?

THIS CALLS
FOR FURTHER
OBSERVATION.

IF YOUR POWER COMES FROM WHERE I SUSPECT IT DOES...



...OUR CAUSE IS ALREADY LOST...
AS IS AS THE SOUL OF THE KRYN PRINCE...

WELL Y'ALL ...



COCKPIT

...AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE HYPER-JUMPS FINISHED.

AEBRA'S AHEAD.



QUICK, ME BOYOS!



X-TERNAL POD

HURRY!! SOMEBODY GET A GEO-SCAN O' THAT PLANET!

X-TERNAL POD

CLISH LA MCCREE!

THE GOLD NEEDLE BE OFF THA SCALE!!

WE BE LOOKIN' AT THA LEGENDARY ALURIC WORLD!



FEEHAW!

COCKPIT

AEBRA DOESN'T LOOK TOO HEALTHY...

Jinkies! Look at all of the black clouds!



EVERYONE READY FOR ACTION??

M-MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT HOME...

HEADS UP!

WE'VE GOT COMPANY COMING AT 12 O'CLOCK!

ETA: 15 MINUTES!

KEVIN? ARE YOU READY?

REPRESENTIN' EARTH, GEE!

WAIT A MINUTE

I'VE SEEN THAT THING BEFORE.

NEXT: ALL HECK BREAKS LOOSE