



Antarctic Press presents

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Fred Perry's

GOLD DIGGER



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IT SEEMS INKREDIBLE TO ME NOW TO THINK WE WERE ONCE THE PROTECTORS OF LIFE AND HEALERS OF PLANETS...

OUR TIME AS GARDENERS SEEMS MORE OF A DREAM THAN A DISTANT MEMORY.

YOU DWELL ON DANGEROUS THOUGHTS, MY SON. FORGET YOUR PAST. YOU ARE ON OUR PATH NOW.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORGET.

NOT WHEN I LOOK AT THIS ONCE-BEAUTIFUL WORLD...

MOTHER, LOOK WHAT WE'VE DONE TO IT...

AEBRA IS INSIGNIFICANT, RIOGEN, AS ARE ITS INHABITANTS, THE KRYN.

AEBRA IS A FARM. THE KRYN ARE CATTLE. THEY EXIST ONLY TO EVENTUALLY SERVE OUR PURPOSES...

...TO FUEL OUR POWERS.

BUT THEY ARE SENTIENT, MOTHER. SELF-AWARE...

DO WE TRULY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENSLAVE THEM? CONSUME THEIR WORLD?

WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT, FOR IF WE DO NOT, THE OTHERS WILL FIND US.

AND WE WILL BE TOO WEAK TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND OUR GALAXY.

I WONDER, MOTHER...

THESE YET-UNSEEN, UNDISCOVERED ENEMIES OF OURS... HAVE WE... IMAGINED THEM?

"SON... I THINK IT MAY BE TIME FOR YOUR NAP."

IT'S COMIN' RIGHT FOR US!!

WHO'S BRIGHT IDEA WAS IT TO RUN IN THIS DIRECTION, ANYWAY??

THIS THING'S ARMOR IS TOO TOUGH FOR BLASTERS!

JINKIES, PENNY, WE HAD TO LURE IT AWAY FROM THE SHIP...

AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY BETTER IDEAS!

NE'ER YE FEAR, PENNY ME LASS!

NOT WHEN TH' VAULTRON FORCE BE IN THE HOUSE!

INVOK SPECIAL POWER!

BUT HOW DO WE STOP IT?

ANTI-

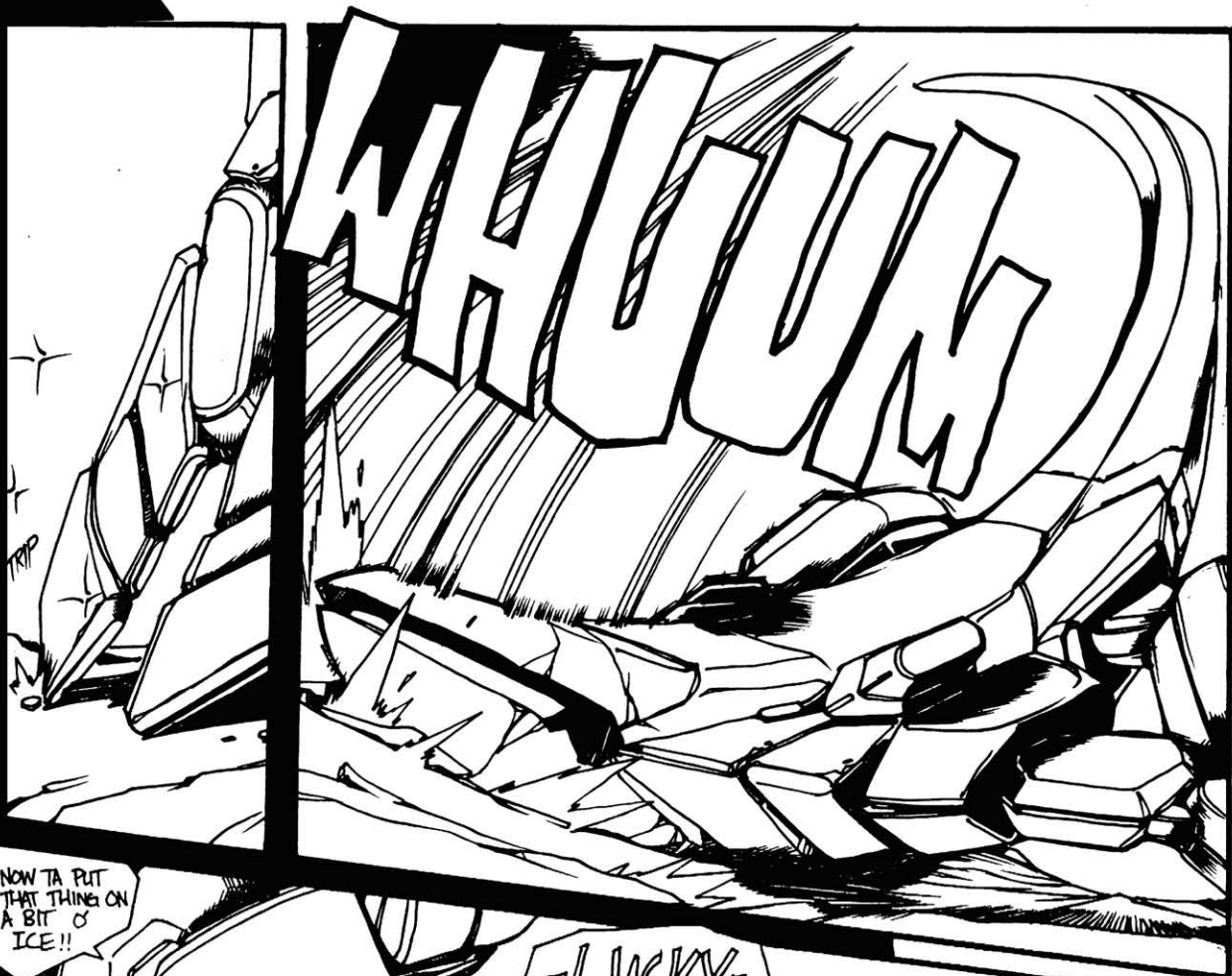
-LUCKY-

-CHARMS-

WHOA!

AND NO BACKSIES!





NOW TA PUT
THAT THING ON
A BIT O
ICE!!

-LUCKY-

FROSTED-

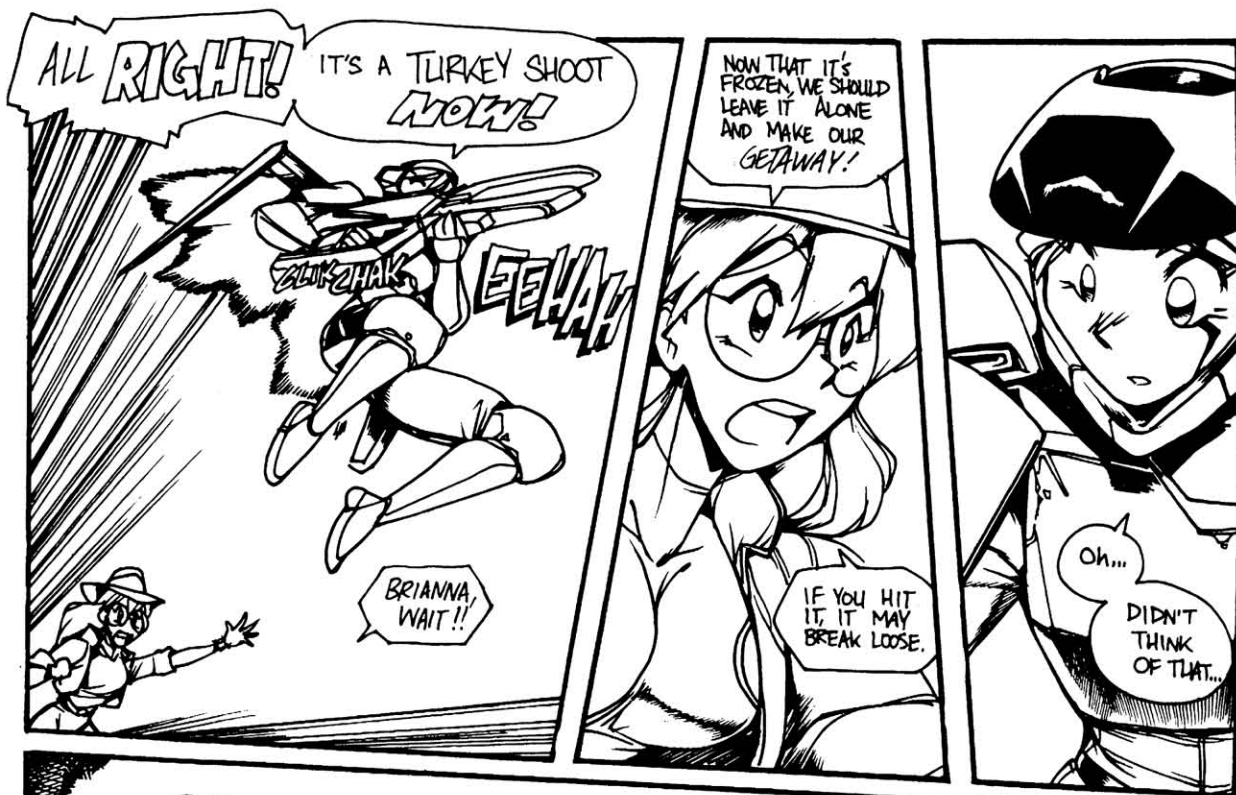
-CHARMS!



SEE? SEE??
I TOLD YOU IT
WAS A GOOD IDEA
TO BRING THOSE
GUYS ALONG!

NUDGE
NUDGE

JINKIES, DID YOU SEE
THE SIZE OF THAT
THING? WHAT IF THERE'S
MORE ?? WHAT HAVE
WE GOTTEN OURSELVES
INTO?!







CALM
DOWN, BRIANNA
GEEZ!!

Heh! Heh!
SORRY...

STRIPE

OH, WOW!
YOU FOUND
HIM!

A-YUP

YY/HEEHEE
HEEHEEHEE
HEEHEE
HEEHEE
= SNORT <
Hee HeeHee

BUT SERIOUSLY,
BRITANNY, YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
FOLLOWED ME.

Um-Hmmm...

ITS INCREDIBLY
DANGEROUS
HERE...

Um-Hmm...

BRITANNY?
IS EVERY-
ONE OKAY?

JUMP
JUMP
JUMP

HAHA...
I'M GLAD
TO SEE
YOU
TOO!

Hmph... AND SHE
TOLD ME TO
CALM DOWN...

BRITANNY?
ARE YOU
LISTENING?



PLEASE, TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

"PLEASE, TRY TO UNDERSTAND-- STAND??"

HEY! DON'T YOU **DARE** TELEPORT WHILE I'M TALKING TO...

WAIT A MINUTE...
TELE-PORT????

COME... WE HAVE TO GET TO YOUR CRAFT BEFORE WE MAKE IT TO THE SHELTER...

OKAY, I'M THROUGH PLAYING MISS NICE GAL.

I WANNA KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON! AND I MEAN **NOW!**

BRITANNY, I HEARD STRIPE CALL HER ARCHON!

JINKIES, HE MUST BE HER RETAINER...

SHE'S STRIPE'S MISTRESS!

MISTRESS!?

NOT LIKE THAT, BRIT...

"WELL... HOPEFULLY."

I'M NOT EVEN **BUDGING** 'TIL I'VE GOT ME SOME **ANSWERS!**

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONFUSION, BRITANNY.

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU, BUT WHILE WE MOVE.

TIME IS SHORT.

AFTER OUR BELOVED AEBRA WAS ATTACKED BY THE DYNASTY, WE KNEW OUR DOOM WAS NEAR...

UNTIL EL DORADO CAME TO OUR RESCUE.

EVEN WHEN THE CITY-SHIP WENT DOWN, I KNEW THE ONE KEY TO OUR SURVIVAL HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO US...

STREMPGIA.

BUT BEFORE HE COULD SAVE OUR WORLD...

I HAD TO SAVE HIM!

HE HAD BROUGHT THE AMAZING POWERS OF SEVERAL POWERFUL ARTIFACTS THAT MAY BE STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT OFF THE DYNASTY...

...BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO USE THEM, AND THAT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ALMOST COST HIM HIS LIFE...

...ALMOST...

I REACHED INTO HIS MIND AND FORCED HIM TO USE ONE OF THE ARTIFACTS...
HE HAD NO IDEA "PHASE-RUNNER" WOULD LET HIM TELEPORT BEFORE THEN.

IT TRANSPORTED HIM OUT OF DANGER AND TO A PLACE I COULD REACH HIM WITHOUT BEING NOTICED

IN THE MEANTIME,

I USED MY ARTIFACTS TO PROJECT A REALITY-ILLUSION OF STRYP'GIA'S BODY FOR THE DYNASTY TO DESTROY.

WHILE THEY WERE BUSY, I DRAGGED PRINCE 'GIA TO SAFETY.

A SHORT TIME AFTER HE RECOVERED, I LED HIM TO THE SHELTER...

...AND THE SURVIVORS OF EL DORADO.


WE KNEW IT WOULD NOT TAKE LONG BEFORE THE DYNASTY FOUND THE SHELTER...

...SO I QUICKLY INSTRUCTED STRYP'GIA IN HOW TO USE HIS ARTIFACTS.

TO DO THIS, I HAD TO TOUCH HIS MIND AND SOUL USING MY ARTIFACTS...

...STRYP...

...A MAZE OF PASSAGES THAT WAS NOW BEING USED TO HIDE THE SURVIVORS OF AEBRA...



WITH STRYPICIA FULLY IN CONTROL OF HIS ARTIFACTS' POWERS, HE HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF DEFEATING THE FATHER OF THE DYNASTY, RIO. WITHOUT HIM, THE DYNASTY IS NO MORE.

RIGHT NOW, ALL OF THE DYNASTY IS WEAK AND PEEBLE COMPARED TO THEIR LEGENDARY HORROR...

THE CLAIRVOYANT PSYCHIC POWERS OF MY ARTIFACTS TELL ME THAT THE DYNASTY IS HERE ON AEBRA TO REPLENISH THEIR MIGHT BY DRAINING OUR PLANET'S **FOCUS**...

...ITS ETHEREAL CENTER OF COSMIC BALANCE... ITS **SOUL**...

BUT I HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT THEIR POWER IS **WEAKEST** WHEN THEY ARE **NEAREST A FOCUS**.

AND NOW THAT THEY BELIEVE NOTHING CAN HURT THEM, THEY ARE MAKING THEIR **MOVE**...

RIO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GO TO THE **FOCUS** FIRST... OUR BEST AND ONLY CHANCE TO DEFEAT HIM!

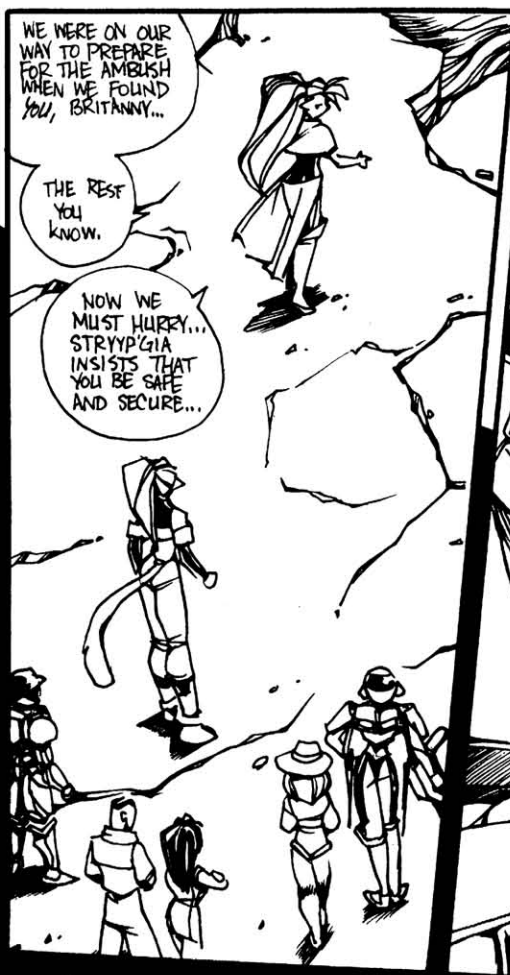
TO THIS END, I HAVE SEALED SOME OF STRYPICIA'S ARTIFACTS WITHIN HIM.

HE IS STILL HEALING FROM THE ORDEAL, BUT HIS CONTROL IS NOW **ABSOLUTE**...

I ONLY WISH I COULD FIGHT AT HIS SIDE, BUT...

...I AM TOO WEAK.

I COULD ONLY SEAL **ONE** ARTIFACT WITHOUT KILLING MYSELF...



WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO PREPARE FOR THE AMBUSH WHEN WE FOUND YOU, BRITANNY...

THE REST YOU KNOW.

NOW WE MUST HURRY... STRYPP'GIA INSISTS THAT YOU BE SAFE AND SECURE...

BRITANNY? DID YOU GET A WHIFF OF HER?

I KNOW! I KNOW!! SHE'S GOT STRIPE'S SCENT ALL OVER HER!!
they've been... t-touching...

YUP! AND THAT "HE WAS WOUNDED AND I HAD TO HELP HIM" ALIBI IS JUST SO CONVENIENT!

FET!

SH-SHOULD I BE... WORRIED?

---LOOK AT HER... SHE'S GORGEOUS... STRONG... RESPONSIBLE... SOMEONE WHO COULD GOVERN WITH STRIPE WAY BETTER THAN I COULD...

'N' LOOK AT THAT CABOOSE!

SHE BE HAVIN' BACK FER DAYS!



-- WITH A WEEK ON IT?

Ahhh...

BUT IT'S NOTHING LIKE MY HONEY'S!!
RIGHT, PENNY?

Huh? WHAT?

OH, SORRY. I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION...



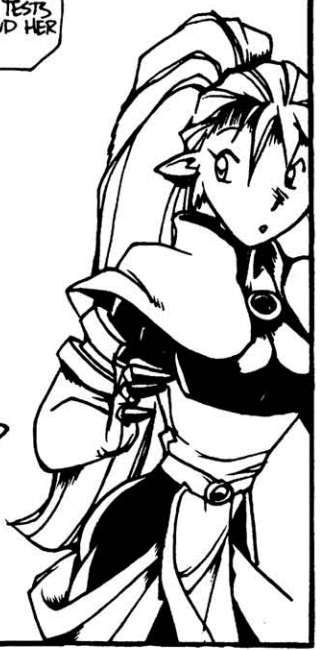
WAIT A MINUTE, ARCHON.

PENNY AND I THINK WE'VE DISCOVERED ANOTHER WAY TO END THE DYNASTY'S REIGN OF TERROR FOR GOOD.

WE CAPTURED ONE OF THEM WHEN WE CRASH-LANDED ON AEBRA....

IF I CAN RUN A FEW MORE TESTS ON HER AND HER ARMOR...

IS HER NAME LIRIEL?





JINKIES?
HOW DID
YOU KNOW?

OH... THAT'S
RIGHT...
YOUR PSYCHIC
POWERS...

UM... CAN
YOU READ
MINDS?



I SURE HOPE
NOT...

...NO, BUT I DID
SENSE HER
MIND... SHE'S
STILL UNCONSCIOUS
FROM YOUR BATTLE.

UM... ARCHON?

IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
GOING
THERE.
MIND
YOU...

...BUT
EXACTLY
WHERE
IS THE
FOCUS?
...

I DIDN'T
EVEN NEED
MY MIND-
READING
POWER TO
SEE THROUGH
THAT
ONE,
BRITANNY...

THE FOCUS OF
AEBRA LIES
ON THE RIDGE
OF THAT
VOLCANO.

THE WAY IS
TREACHEROUS
AND IT'S
SURROUNDED
BY LAVA
PITS...

SO YOU
SEE, IT
IS BEST
IF WE
AVOID
IT.



YEAH,
RIGHT

BRITANNY

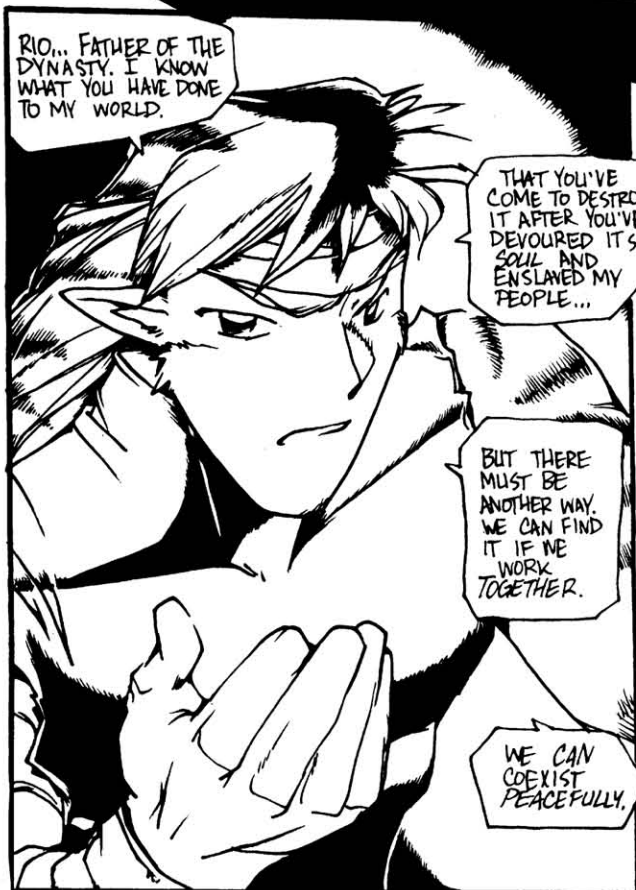
OH, JINKIES,
SHE'S AT IT
AGAIN!

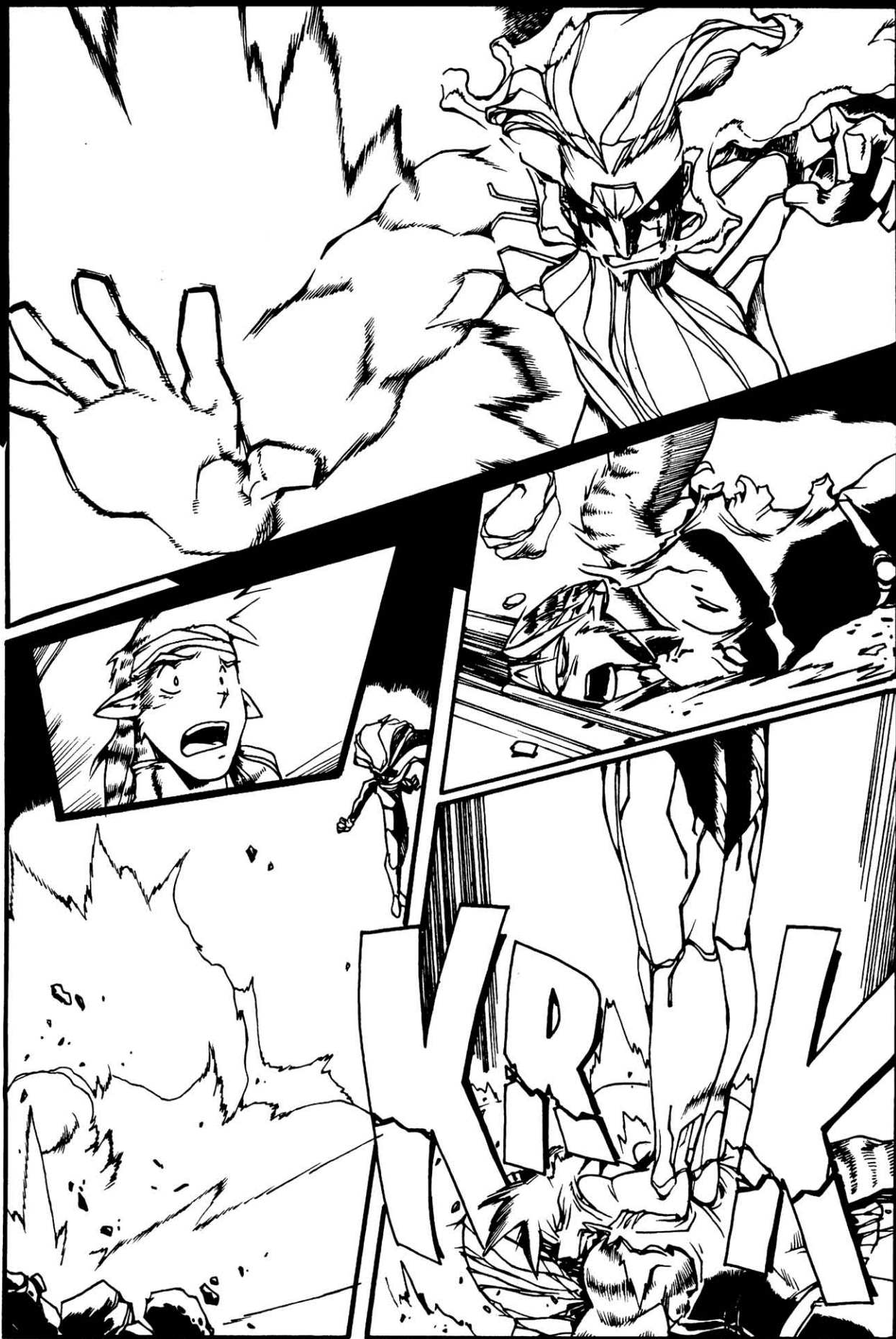
BRITANNY...
...I WISH YOU
LUCK.





SET
ANCHORS







MOST OF ALL, YOUR RACE IS *LINIQUE* IN ITS *ARROGANCE!*

YOU DARE CONFRONT ME?



YOUR KIND ARE LESS THAN *INSECTS* TO US...

THIS YOU SHALL LEARN!



RIEL!

SEND *RIOGEN* AND *ILRIEL* TO GUARD THE AREA.

THIS *KRYN* UPSTART HAS EARNED MY *FURY!*



HUSBAND, OUR SITUATION IS GROWING PERILOUS...

RIOGEN AND OUR OTHER CHILDREN ARE BEGINNING TO STRAY FROM OUR PATH.

OUR POWER OVER THEM HAS FADED OVER THE MILLENNIA

I HAD TO PUT THEM TO SLEEP.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR PETTY VENGEANCE!

THE FOCUS MUST BE DRAINED! WE--

=Sigh= I SEE...

I WILL STAND GUARD, THEN...

WHAT IN THE **WORLD**
HAPPENED TO OUR
RIDE?

I-I DIDN'T
DO IT, PENNY!
I DIDN'T DO
IT! I DIDN'T
TOUCH ANYTHING!!
I-IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT !!!!

CALM DOWN,
CHARLOTTE...
WE **KNOW** YOU
DIDN'T DO
THIS...

IT'S ALL
FUNKY LOOKIN' ...

...BUT **FIXED!**

I RECOGNIZE THIS....
IT'S AN ATLANTIAN REPAIR
MATRIX... I DIDN'T THINK
THEY GAVE SUCH RARE
TECHNOLOGY AWAY...

Hey... YEAH!
THEY **DID** HELP
PENNY BUILD
THIS BIRD...

AND THEY SAID
SOMETHIN' ABOUT
BEIN' DOWN FOR
US WHEN WE NEEDED
IT **MOST**...

HOPE IT
STILL FLIES
THE SAME.

I'M SURE IT
WILL, KEVIN KOSS...
CALL ME
ACE, YO.

E-EXCUSE ME...
I HAVE TO CHECK
ON PRINCE 'GIA.
I SENSE HIS
BATTLE HAS BEGUN.

MY CLAIRVOYANCE
WILL GIVE ME A
PEEK AT.....

At....

Oh no...
THE MISCALCULATED
RID'S STRENGTH...

AND HIS
GUILF...

Uh-oh...

I DON'T
LIKE THAT
LOOK ON
HER FACE...

ARCHON?

PRINCE 'GIA

I-I STILL BELIEVE
I HAVE A SOLUTION...

A SHORT TIME
AGO, PENNY AND
I DISCOVERED
THE DYNASTY USES
LIVING CYBERNETIC
IMPLANTS TO
BECOME SO
POWERFUL!

WHAT THE DYNASTY DOESN'T
KNOW IS THAT THESE IMPLANTS
ARE SO HIGHLY ADVANCED,
THAT THEY ARE SELF-AWARE...
...SENTIENT...

THEY CALL
THEMSELVES
SYMBIOTS.

I MANAGED TO
TRANSFER THE
SYMBIOT FROM
LIRIEL'S ARMOR
TO MY COMPUTER
HERE...

HMM...
IT SEEMS
TO BE... SLEEPING.

HOPE IT
DOESN'T MIND
BEING...
DISTURBED...

HEY! IT'S JUST
LIKE ONE OF
MY VIRTUA
GIGA-GOCHI-
PETS!™

THAT'S A
PRETTY
ACCURATE
ANALOGY,
CHARLOTTE...

THE SYMBIOTS DESPERATELY WANT
TO END THE DYNASTY'S REIGN OF
TERROR... BUT THEIR CORE
PROGRAMMING WON'T LET THEM...
I NEED TIME TO REVERSE-
ENGINEER THE PROGRAM...

GINA...

LET ME
TALK TO
THE
SYMBIOT.





=Cough=
NO ONE... HAS EVER CHALLENGED YOU BEFORE! NO ONE HAS EVER THREATENED YOU BEFORE...

AND IF YOU THINK THIS IS THE LAST TIME IT WILL HAPPEN...

KRAM

Britannia...

DIE.

FAREWELL, STRYPP! GIA.
YOU WERE CORRECT.

NO ONE HAS
EVER THREATENED
MY POWER...
THREATENED
ME...

QUITE
CORRECT...

WHAT'S THIS??

I'M...

Bleeding??

...I'M
Sorry...

BUT ONCE
I CONSUME
THE POWER
OF AEBRA'S
FOCUS...

Eh...?

HOW
CAN THIS
BE?

STRIPE

STRIPE!!

HOLD IT!

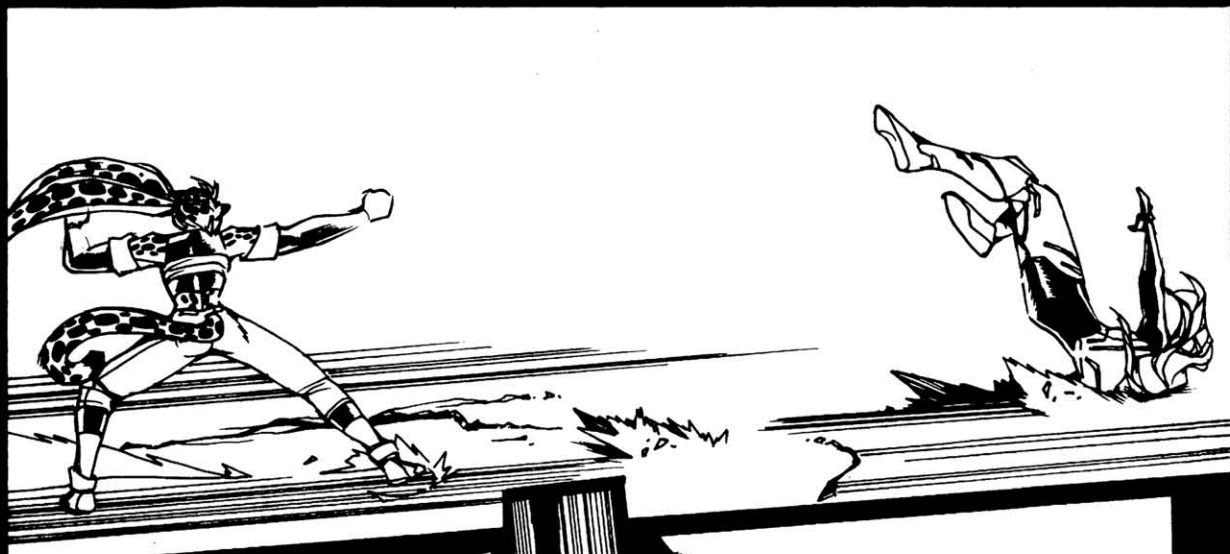
THAT'S AS
FAR AS
YOU GO!

ANOTHER ONE!

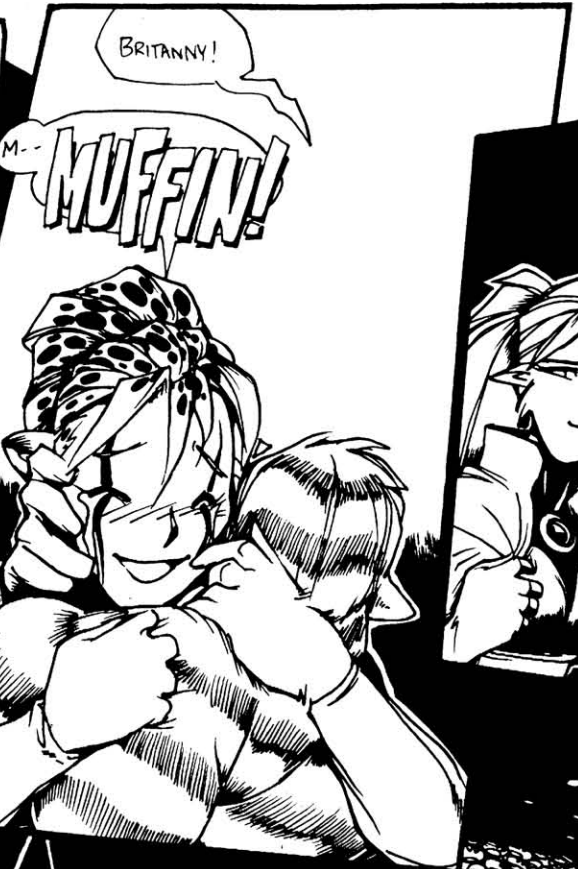
ANOTHER...

...CHALLENGER...









EPILOGUE -1



EPILOGUE -2

