

GOLD DIGGER NO.9

FRED PERRY



# GOLD DIGGER





THIS IS "LIHM DI TURROK"--  
THE HALLS OF THE **EXTREMELY**  
DEAD. HERE GINA DIGGERS  
AND HER FRIENDS HOPE TO  
UNCOVER THE **ONYX** TABLET...

...A MYSTERIOUS ARTIFACT  
WHICH HOLDS THE SECRETS  
OF THE MOST POWERFUL  
OF THE ANCIENT MAGICAL  
RACES... THE **DJINNI!!**

IS IT WORKING?

HOLD YOUR HORSES... I'VE  
GOT TO RECALIBRATE.

THE WALLS  
IN THIS CRYPT  
ARE STRANGE.  
HARDER TO  
SCAN THROUGH.

WELL, DON'T  
TAKE TOO LONG.  
WE'RE IN A RACE...  
WE HAVE TO FIND  
THAT TABLET  
BEFORE  
FAULTLETTY.

I TOLD YOU  
WE SHOULDN'T  
HAVE COME THIS  
WAY, NO.  
SIX! >

<THEY'RE  
SURE TO  
UNCOVER  
US NOW!!>

<W-WHAT DO WE  
DO, NO. 33?  
WHAT CAN WE  
DO??>

<WE WEREN'T  
SUPPOSED TO  
ATTACK UNTIL  
THEY DISARMED  
ALL OF THE TRAPS  
HERE AND  
SECURED THE  
TABLET!>

<I-IF THEY FIND  
US NOW, WE'LL  
HAVE NO CHOICE  
BUT TO-->

I KNOW!

<WE'D HAVE  
TO KILL THEM  
NOW AND  
RISK OUR OWN  
NECKS AGAINST  
THE TRAPS  
DEEPER  
WITHIN THE  
CRYPT...>

...OR WE'D HAVE TO  
FLEE AND RUIN OUR  
CHANCES OF SURPRISING  
THEM LATER.>

I'VE RISK  
MUCH,  
EVEN NOW,  
BY LOW-  
SPEAKING \*  
TO EACH  
OTHER.>

\*A VERY LOW-FREQUENCY VOICE ONLY  
DRAGONS AND DRAGON-KIN MAY USE... -F.





ANY LUCK?

HMM... HOLD IT...  
I'M GETTING  
SOMETHING --

WHAT THE --  
UM...  
YOU GUYS  
AREN'T GOING  
TO BELIEVE  
THIS --

--BUT



**DAWN!**  
THIS IS  
IT, SIX...

<G-GET  
READY!>



GINNA? DO YOU HAVE  
A BLASTER ON YOU?  
HIGH-POWERED???

SURE...  
WHY?



<THEY'RE -->  
<THEY'RE  
ARMED??>

<OF COURSE  
THEY'RE ARMED!!  
NOW -- -- ON  
MY SIGNAL...>



WHY DO YOU  
NEED MY  
BLASTER?

TO PUT THIS  
STUPID MAPPER  
**OUT OF ITS  
MISERY!**

THIS  
GLITCHY  
SON OF A  
**B!TCH!**  
HAS CRASHED  
ON ME FOR  
THE **LAST  
TIME!**

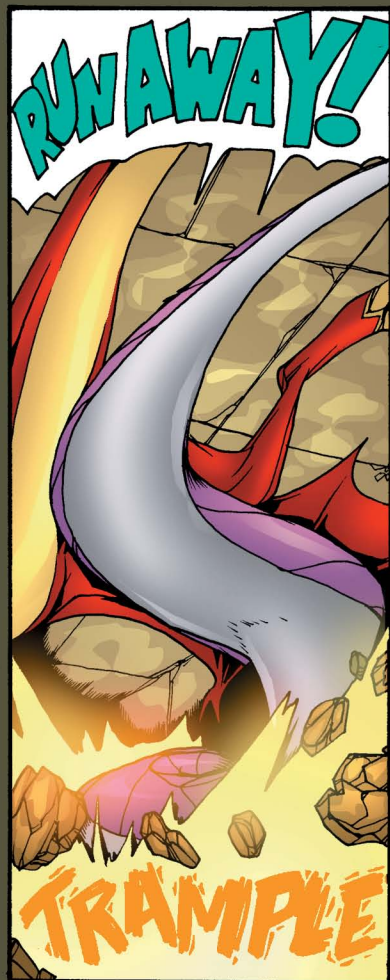


**WHOOOM**











...ARCHAEOLOGIST, SCIENTIST,...  
EXPLORER...

YOUR MANY ADVENTURES  
HAVE FINALLY BROUGHT  
YOU CLOSE ENOUGH...

CLOSE ENOUGH  
TO TOUCH...

HURRY, CHILD.

THE ONYX TABLET  
AND ITS TALE AWAIT  
YOU.

THE SECRET  
HISTORY OF THE  
DJINNI AND  
THE MYSTERY  
OF OUR POWER  
MUST BE  
REVEALED TO  
YOU.

USE  
ALL OF  
YOUR  
RESOURCES.

USE ALL  
OF YOUR  
SKILL  
AND  
EXPERIENCE.

ONLY THROUGH  
THEM WILL YOU  
SURVIVE THE TRAPS  
WHICH HAVE CLAIMED  
COUNTLESS BEFORE  
YOU...



ELSEWHERE...

**SHOW YOURSELF,  
MAGE!**

YOU'RE  
**DEAD!**  
DO YOU  
HEAR??

YOUR CUTE LITTLE  
"NOW YOU SEE ME,  
NOW YOU DON'T"  
PLOT HAS ONLY  
HEIGHTENED MY  
**RAGE!**

I AM *NOT*  
A COWARD,  
FLAUNTHERY!



YOUR COWARDLY  
ATTACKS HAVE ONLY  
BROUGHT YOU  
**MY WRATH!!**

I WILL BATTLE  
YOU FACE TO FACE  
IF YOU WISH.

SO WHEN YOU ARE  
DEFEATED, THERE WILL  
BE NO DOUBT IN  
YOUR MIND WHO BEAT  
YOU.

BUT FIRST, I WANT YOU  
TO ANSWER A QUESTION FOR ME.

I ONCE HEARD A  
TALE OF A DRAGON WHICH  
TERRORIZED JADE-REALM  
AND THE RETREAT...

"THE ADVENTURING  
DRAGON"...

A DRAGON WHO  
POSSESSED A STRANGE  
MOCKERY OF THE  
ADVENTURER'S SPIRIT!!

A DRAGON  
WHO VENTURED  
NOT INTO DUNGEONS  
OR CAVES OF  
THE UNKNOWN...

...BUT INTO CITADELS  
AND CASTLES!

AND FELLED  
KNIGHTS AND  
GUARDS INSTEAD  
OF GOBLINS  
AND GHOULS...





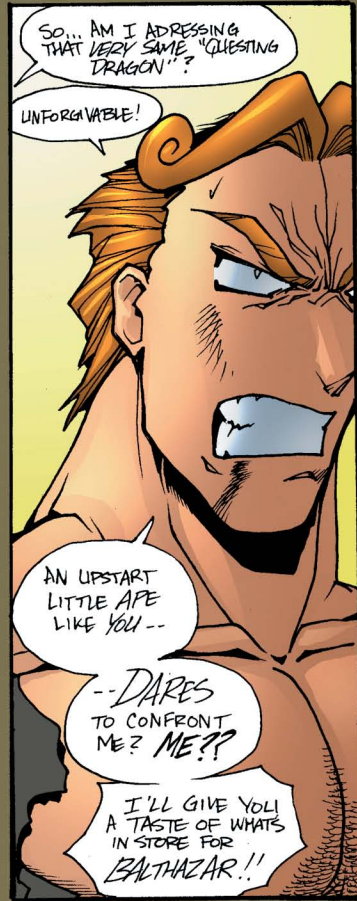
THAT DRAGON'S REIGN OF TERROR CONTINUED UNTIL IT INVADED AND RAIDED THE WRONG KINGDOM...

A KINGDOM WHICH HAPPENED TO BELONG TO A POWERFUL ENCHANTER NAMED BALTHAZAR!!



USING A POWERFUL SPELL, HE SEALED THAT DRAGON INTO HUMAN FORM...

...AND THEN SENT IT TO EARTH-REHM, ENDING THE DRAGON'S TWISTED "ADVENTURES."



SO... AM I ADDRESSING THAT VERY SAME "QUESTING DRAGON"?

UNFORGIVABLE!

AN UPSTART LITTLE APE LIKE YOU --

--DARES TO CONFRONT ME? ME??

I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF WHAT'S IN STORE FOR BALTHAZAR!!



LEAP



HEW!.. HAHAHA!! NICE MOVE!

BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE "FLOWN"!!

HA HA! HA!

YOU'RE FLOATING DOWN NICE AND SLOW FOR ME!!

NICE... AND... SLOW..









JINKIES!  
IT'S LIKE THE  
LIGHT IS BEING  
SUCKED AWAY  
FROM THIS  
FLASHLIGHT!!

WE CAN  
BARELY SEE  
THREE FEET  
IN FRONT OF  
OUR FACES!!

EXCEPT FOR  
STREYYP, THAT  
IS...

FIRST OF ALL,  
THEY AREN'T ANY  
DJINNI.

THEY'RE BOTH INDEPENDENT  
BUT, STRANGELY ENOUGH, THEY  
LIKE HANGING AROUND!

SECOND OF ALL, MY SCANNERS  
REGISTER BOTH DAO AND MADRID'S  
POWER LEVELS WAY OFF THE  
SCALE, BUT THEY CAN'T USE  
THAT POWER FOR THEIR OWN  
BENEFIT FOR SOME REASON.

EVEN TO SAVE  
THEIR OWN LIVES!

SO, BASICALLY, THEY WOULD  
BE PRETTY HELPLESS IN THIS  
TRAP-FILLED MAZE...

UNLIKE  
PROFESSIONALS  
LIKE US...



HE STILL HAS  
THOSE BIOSYNTHETIC  
ARTIFACTS HELPING  
HIM... \*

NO DOUBT  
HE CAN SEE  
IN THIS PITCH-  
BLACK FOG.

TRUST ME,  
PENNY...

\* HOW DID HE GET  
THEM? SEE ISSUES  
36-39 OF THE  
BLACK-AND-WHITE  
SERIES... - F



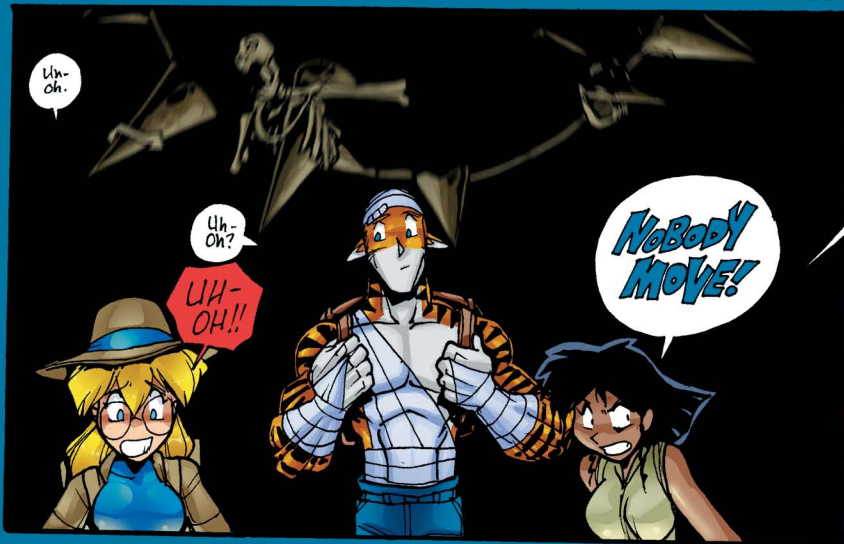
... YOU'RE  
NOT MISSING  
ALL THAT  
MUCH...



HEY, GINA.  
WHY DIDN'T THOSE  
DJINNI OF YOURS  
COME ALONG FOR  
THIS?

THIS WHOLE  
SCENARIO IS  
FOR THEIR  
BENEFIT,  
AFTER ALL.

AND WE  
COULD USE  
SOME EXTRA  
HELP.



Uh-  
oh.

Uh-  
oh?

UH-  
OH!!

**NOBODY  
MOVE!**



I THINK  
I HEAR  
SOMETHING...

**WHUP!** STREYYP!!

















WE WERE HELPLESS  
AGAINST THEM...

THEY POSSESSED A POWER WHICH WE  
DJINNI ARE WEAKEST AGAINST...

THEY CONTROLLED OUR MINDS  
AND CRUSHED OUR RESISTANCE  
TO THEM WITH THEIR FEARSOME  
PSYCHIC ABILITIES... FORCING  
US TO USE OUR POWER FOR  
THEIR BENEFIT...

ONLY A FEW  
OF US ESCAPED  
YL DAHJIM... THANKS  
TO THE WISHES OF  
THOSE WHO WERE  
DOOMED...



UNFORTUNATELY, WE REFUGEES  
WERE SOON DISCOVERED WANDERING  
THE ASTRAL RIFTS BY PHYROGOTH  
THE PLANESCRAWLER...

...A PSI-DRAGON  
FROM EARTH-REALM  
WHO COLLECTED  
TREASURES FROM  
ACROSS THE REALMS.

HE TOO THOUGHT OF  
US AS PERFECT SLAVES...  
AND TO ENSURE WE  
COULD NEVER ESCAPE  
HIM...

...HE CHAINED OUR  
SOULS TO ENCHANTED  
ITEMS...  
...A LAMP...  
A SUNDIAL...



...A TABLET...

WE SERVED HIM AND HIS  
FRIENDS UNTIL THE "AGE  
OF MAGIC" ENDED AND  
PHYROGOTH ABANDONED  
EARTH-REALM... BUT  
NOT BEFORE HE  
SEALED EACH OF US  
AWAY INTO ONE OF HIS  
MULTITUDE OF CACHES  
AND STRONGHOLDS...

INCLUDING  
LHM DI TURROK...

JINKIES!

SO THAT'S  
THE DJINNI'S  
ORIGINS...

FOR EONS,  
WE'VE CHOSEN  
TO REMAIN  
HIDDEN...  
SAFE FROM  
SLAVERY...

EVEN NOW... WE  
DJINNI MUST CONTINUE  
TO HIDE OURSELVES...

... NOT  
FROM THE  
DARK MINDS  
BUT FROM  
THOSE WHOSE  
SOULS ARE  
NOT AS TAINED,  
YET VERY  
SIMILAR...

YOU'RE...  
TALKING ABOUT  
US, AREN'T  
YOU... HMM...





TELL ME...



WHY HAVE YOU COME?

WHY DO YOU WANT THE ONYX TABLET?



WELL, I...

MNNH MN M...  
MMMMH MMMH  
NN'MH MH/M!

GOOD POINT, STRYP.

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY HERE, GINA. WE DON'T WANT A WRONG MOVE!

ACTUALLY, I THINK...

...THE TRUTH IS THE "RIGHT MOVE" HERE...



AT FIRST... ALL I WAS INTERESTED IN WAS MAKING SURE YOUR KIND OF POWER DIDN'T WIND UP IN THE WRONG HANDS...

LIKE FAUNTERON'S...

I LEARNED A WHILE AGO THAT IT'S BETTER TO DEAL WITH TROUBLE BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF HAND... IF AT ALL POSSIBLE...



BUT THEN I HEARD YOUR STORY! I WANT TO HELP YOU GET BACK HOME!!

AND TO BE TRUTHFUL, MY REASONS FOR THAT HAVE A LITTLE SELFISHNESS TO THEM...

I WANT TO SEE THE MAGIC SUN OF YL DAHUM!!

IF IT WAS CREATED BY THE NOMAD-ARTIFICERS, IT MIGHT GIVE ME A CLUE TO WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM... WHO THEY WERE!!!!

I'VE HEARD OF THEM\* BUT THIS IS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO FIND THEM! MY FIRST LEAD!

\* GINA FIRST HEARD OF THE NOMAD ARTIFICERS FROM SUBTRACTO AND EMPRESS LYNN IN GDV0.2#26-F.



HELPING YOU COULD LEAD ME TO THE GREATEST ADVENTURE AND THE MOST AMAZING DISCOVERIES EVER!!

HECK YEAH!!! I WANNA HELP!!



WELL SAID!





I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ABLE... BUT YOU ARE NOT YET READY.

SEEK ME OUT IN ONE YEAR...

AT THAT TIME, I WILL OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GREATEST OF YOUR ADVENTURES...



MMW

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU--

GO NOW... PREPARE YOURSELF!



PREPARE...

GINA?

YOU OKAY?



GINA?

PENNY?

WHAT HAPPENED?



WE'RE OUTSIDE, GIRL. SAFE AND SOUND...

THAT DJINNI MUST HAVE SENT US HERE BEFORE HE MOVED US HERE BEFORE...

I GUESS THIS EXPEDITION'S OVER...

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN MOVED!!!?



I MEAN MOVED... IT'S GONE!!

ALTHOUGH THAT DJINNI DID LEAVE SOMETHING FOR OUR TROUBLE... I THINK HE APPRECIATES US HELPING OUT.

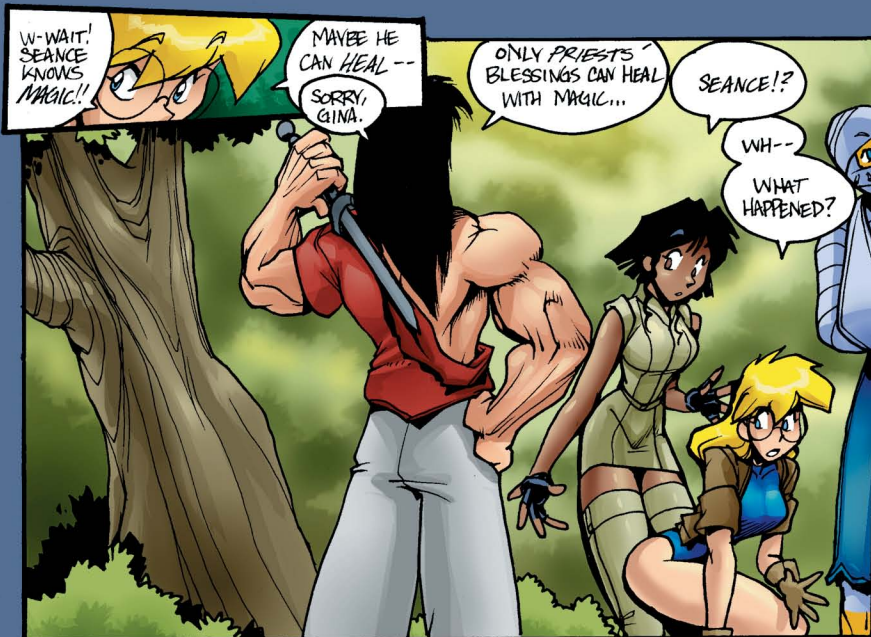
YEAH... HEY, THAT'S RIGHT! AND MAYBE... MAYBE HE HEARD STRYPP IN GRATITUDE TOO..!

STRYPP!!!?

MN...!

AW, RATS!





NEXT: RETURN TO JADE!...