

GOLD DIGGER NO.12

FRED PERRY



GOLD DIGGER





THE ARENA OF JADE-REALM!
A MASSIVE STRONGHOLD CAPABLE
OF HOSTING MILLIONS!... AND IT
STILL ISN'T BIG ENOUGH!!

BUILT DURING THE OLD EMPIRE
OF DARKNESS, WHEN THE
SHADES RULED EONS AGO...

WHEN DO WE EAT?
I'M HUNGRY!

SHH! WE'RE TRYING
TO TALK!!

GODS
SORRY

YEAH! PIPE
DOWN!!

-- Ehem... FOR COUNTLESS YEARS, SINCE THE FIRST
GLADIATOR SLAVES ROSE UP FROM THIS PLACE
AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE GREAT REBELLION,
THE WEAPONS-MASTERS OF JADE AND THEIR
LEADER, THE ARMS-MASTER OF JADE,
WERE CHOSEN HERE...

...THROUGH RITUAL COMBAT
IN A GRUELING CONTEST
OF SKILL, STRENGTH AND
ENDURANCE CALLED THE
TOURNAMENT OF ARMS.

SUCH TITLES ARE ONLY
BADGES OF HONOR FOR GREAT
FIGHTERS THESE DAYS...

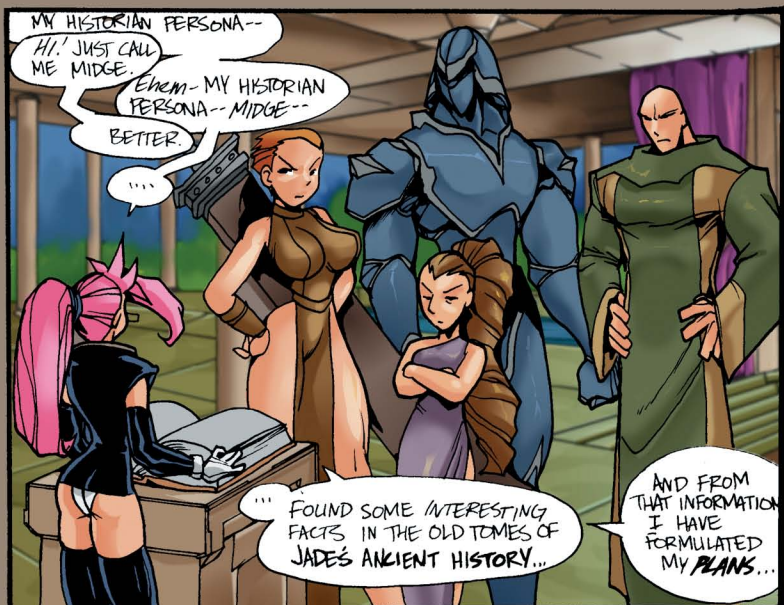
THE TOURNAMENT OF
ARMS IS NOW ONLY A
REVERED SPORTING
EVENT... HELD EVERY
TEN YEARS.



BUT IN ANCIENT TIMES...
THE ARENA AND THE TITLE
OF ARMS-MASTER MEANT
A LITTLE BIT MORE...

A LOT
MORE,
ACTUALLY!

SHH!!!!



MY HISTORIAN PERSONA--
HI! JUST CALL
ME MIDGE.

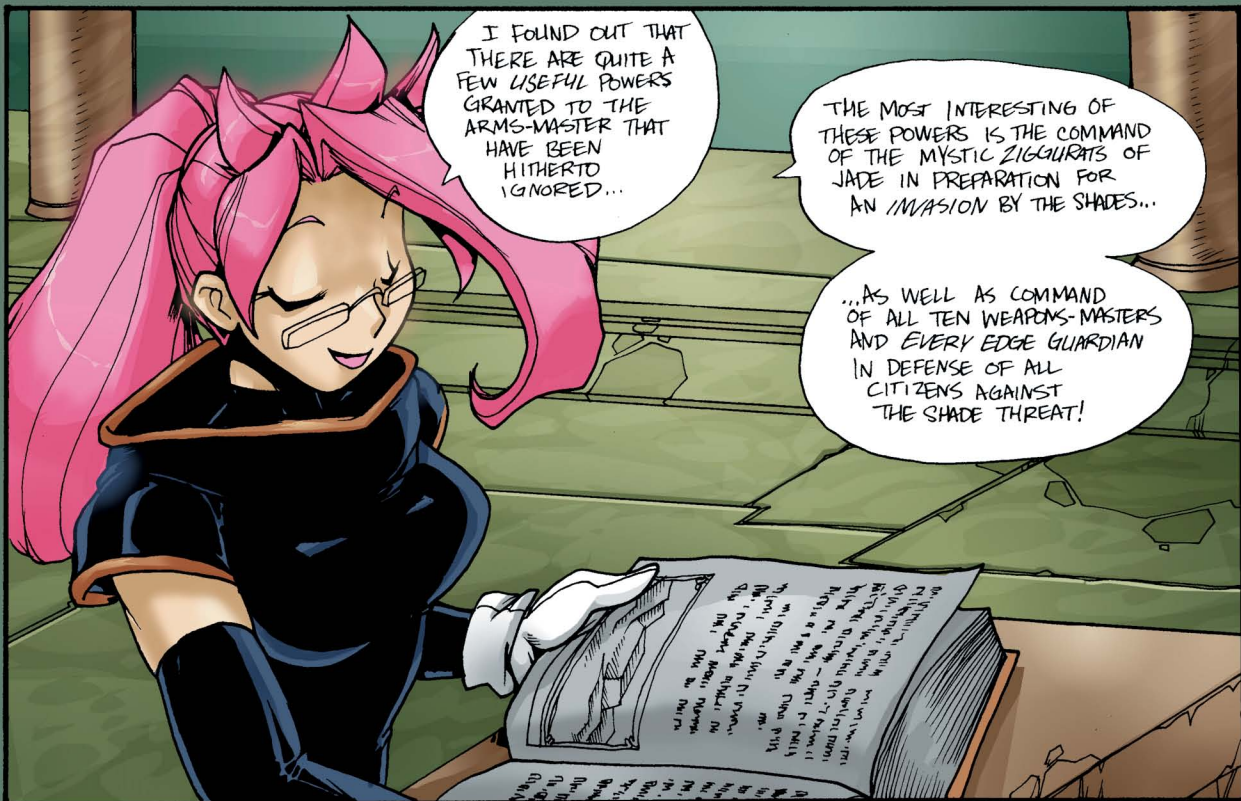
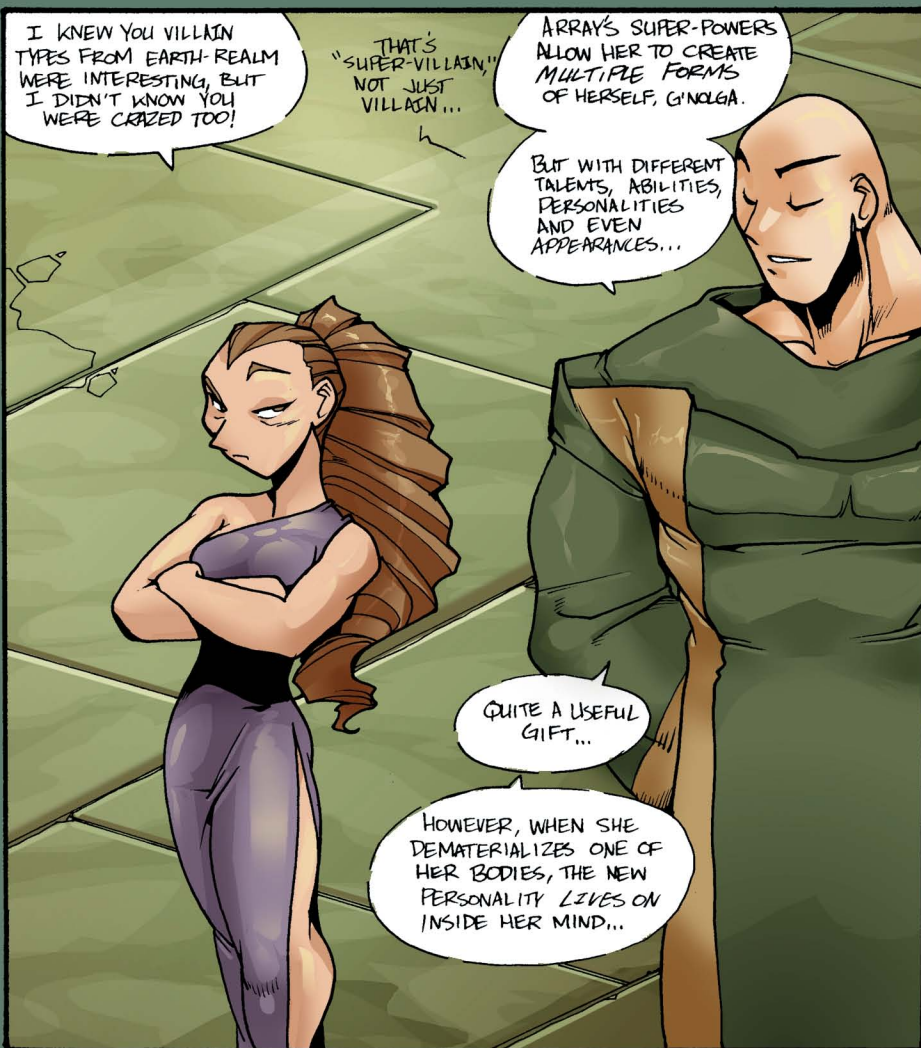
Ehem-- MY HISTORIAN
PERSONA-- MIDGE--

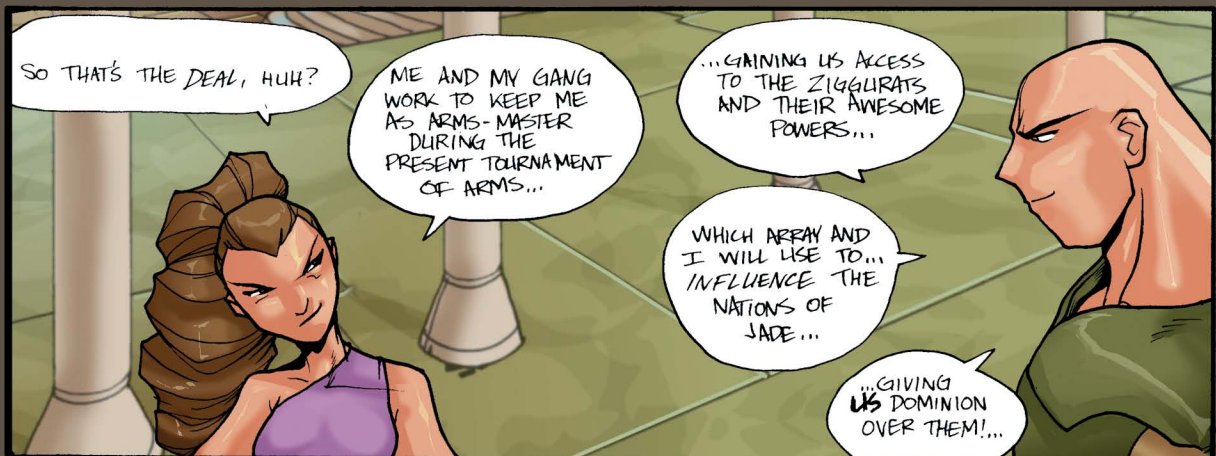
BETTER.

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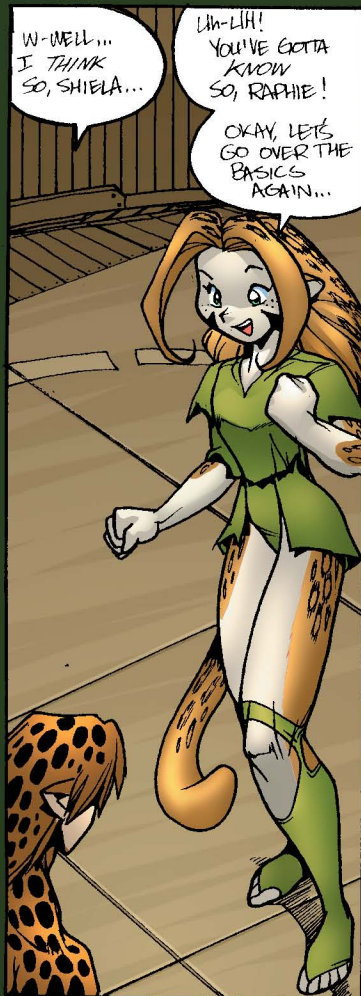
... FOUND SOME INTERESTING
FACTS IN THE OLD TOMES OF
JADE'S ANCIENT HISTORY...

AND FROM
THAT INFORMATION
I HAVE
FORMULATED
MY PLANS...









W-WELL...
I THINK
SO, SHIELA...

LIH-LIH!
YOU'VE GOTTA
KNOW
SO, RAPHE!

OKAY, LET'S
GO OVER THE
BASICS
AGAIN...



ARE YOU SURE THIS
IS HOW YOU BECOME
ONE OF THE
EDGE GUARD??

'CAUSE I
REALLY
REALLY
WANT TO
JOIN!

YOU'VE A LONG WAY
TO GO, RAPHE...

COME ON, NOW...

KICK! PUNCH!
IT'S ALL IN THE
MIND!

I'M TELLING
YOU, ONOL!...
I DON'T
LIKE IT...

AGREED.

THE REPORTS
I'M SENDING TO
THE WESTERN, EASTERN
AND SOUTHERN
EDGE GUARD
MATCH THOSE
THEY HAVE SENT
TO US...

WE HAVE A NEW,
SINISTER **FORCE**
ALIGNING AGAINST
THE PEACE
WE HAVE BEEN
CHARGED TO
MAINTAIN HERE
ON JADE...



FROM THE REPORTS
AND SIGHTINGS, I
CAN SEE THREE
MAJOR THREATS
AT LARGE.

IT
APPEARS
THEY HAVE
JOINED TOGETHER
AND ARE ACTING
AS A TEAM...

PROBABLY
FOR SOMETHING
BIG...

HERE... LOOK
AT THE REPORT
THROPPAN PUT
TOGETHER FOR
US...

AT LARGE: G'NOLGA,
WHO IS NOW THE
DISPUTED ARMSMASTER
OF JADE-REALM...

ONE OF THE
MOST DANGEROUS
CRIMINALS
KNOWN TO
US...

WE'VE BEEN AFTER
HER FOR SOME TIME,
AND YET WE'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
SHORT OF TIME,
LUCK OR EVIDENCE
WHEN IT CAME
TO CONVICTING
HER...

AT LARGE: ROOK,
UNDEAD KNIGHT OF
THE EAST...

THE EASTERN EDGE
REPORT TOLD US
THAT HE HAD BEEN
FREED FROM HIS
PRISON RECENTLY.
I SUSPECT G'NOLGA
HAD A HAND IN HIS
LIBERATION...

AND FINALLY,
HANZO... MERCENARY
AND THIEF...

CURRENTLY
PARTNERED
WITH G'NOLGA...

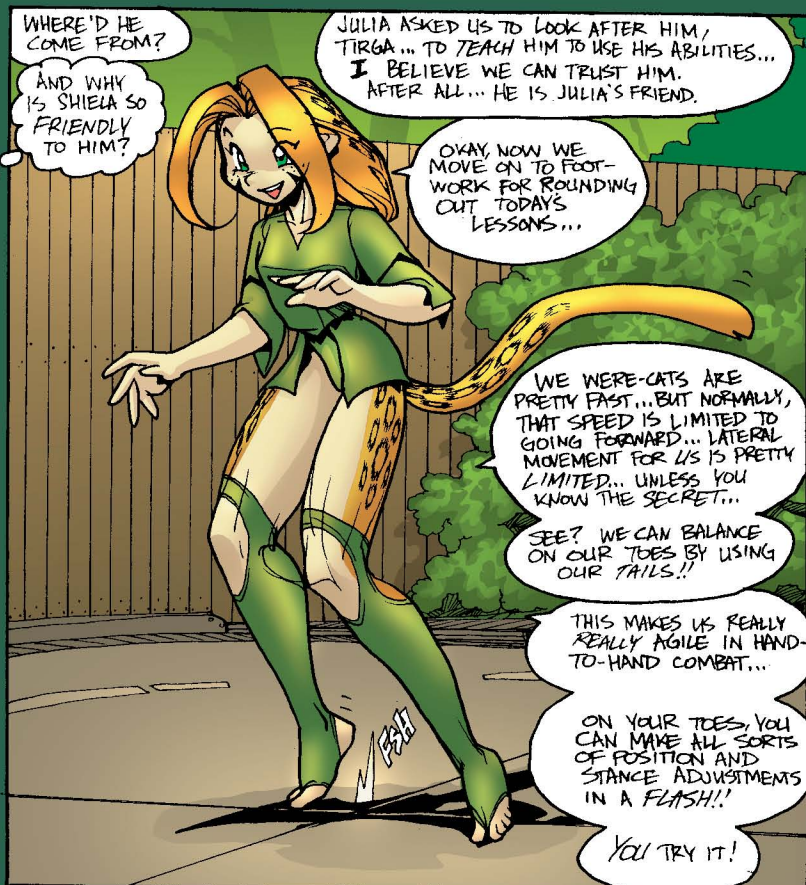
ALTHOUGH AN ACCIDENT
WITH A POTION HAS
RECENTLY SWITCHED
HIM TO A **HER**...
THE CHANGE HASN'T
SLOWED HIM-- HER
DOWN A BIT...



INDEED... THERE IS A LOT NOT TO LIKE, TIRGA...

NO, ONOLI... I'M TALKING ABOUT RAPHAEL!

WHO IS HE?



WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

AND WHY IS SHIERA SO FRIENDLY TO HIM?

JULIA ASKED US TO LOOK AFTER HIM, TIRGA... TO TEACH HIM TO USE HIS ABILITIES... I BELIEVE WE CAN TRUST HIM. AFTER ALL... HE IS JULIA'S FRIEND.

O'KAY, NOW WE MOVE ON TO FOOT-
WORK FOR ROUNDING
OUT TODAY'S
LESSONS...

WE WERE-CATS ARE
PRETTY FAST... BUT NORMALLY,
THAT SPEED IS LIMITED TO
GOING FORWARD... LATERAL
MOVEMENT FOR US IS PRETTY
LIMITED... UNLESS YOU
KNOW THE SECRET!...

SEE? WE CAN BALANCE
ON OUR TOES BY USING
OUR TAILS!!

THIS MAKES US REALLY
REALLY AGILE IN HAND-
TO-HAND COMBAT...

ON YOUR TOES, YOU
CAN MAKE ALL SORTS
OF POSITION AND
STANCE ADJUSTMENTS
IN A FLASH!!

YOU TRY IT!



W-WHOA!

THAT'S IT...
USE YOUR
TAIL...

USE YOUR
TAIL...

YOUR
TAIL!!

-WHOA

WHOA!



YOUR TAIL--OOF!

AAAH!

TWUD



G-GOSH SHIERA!!
I-I'M SORRY, I-

HEE
HEE
HEE!

HA!
HA!

SH-
SHIERA?

HERE I WAS,
TELLING YOU
HOW AGILE
BALANCING ON
OUR TAILS MAKES
US, AND I
DON'T EVEN
BOTHER TO
MOVE OUTTA
THE WAY...

HA HA HA HA!!!

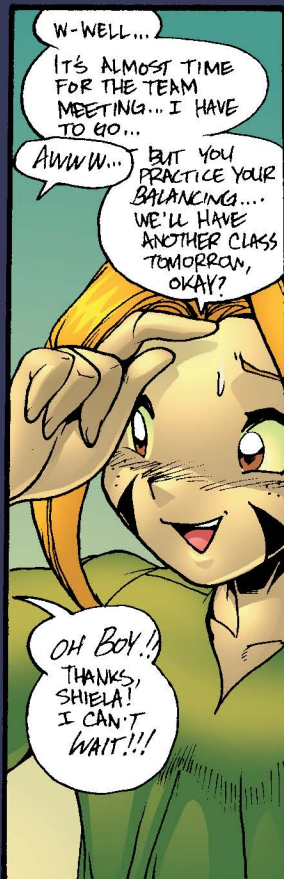


HAWAHA... I REALLY LIKE HEARING YOU LAUGH, SHIELA.

YOU'RE SO CUTE! 😊

W-WHY-- THANK YOU, RAPHAEL!

T-THAT'S SO SWEET OF YOU!



W-WELL... IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE TEAM MEETING... I HAVE TO GO...

AWWW... BUT YOU PRACTICE YOUR BALANCING... WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER CLASS TOMORROW, OKAY?

OH BOY!! THANKS, SHIELA! I CAN'T WAIT!!!



ACTUALLY, NEITHER CAN I, RAPHIE! BYE! 💖

.....

WELL, I'VE GOT THE BRIEFING INFO READY, TIRGA...

LET'S GET TO THE MEETING.

TIRGA?



TIRGA???

OH... SORRY.

YEAH... LET'S GET GOING...



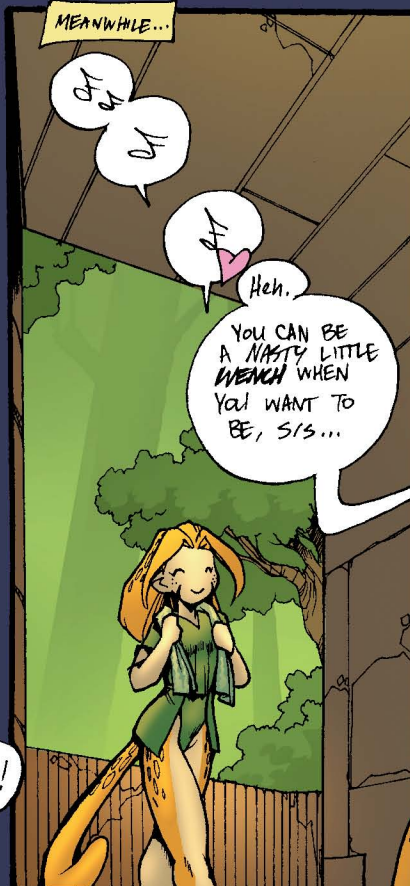
TIRGA, IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND? YOU DON'T SEEM FOCUSED...

IT'S-- NOTHING...

LET'S...

LET'S MEET THE OTHERS. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...

RIGHT!



MEANWHILE...

♪ ♪

Heh.

YOU CAN BE A NASTY LITTLE WENCH WHEN YOU WANT TO BE, SIS...



WHY, BIG BROTHER... WHAT- EVER DO YOU MEAN?

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, SHIELA...

THE WAY YOU WERE
COZYING UP TO RAPHAEL...
BEING SO "FRIENDLY" TO
HIM... DOING EVERYTHING YOU
COULD TO RAISE THE
"JEALOUSY FACTOR"
IN TIRGA...

LOOK, GAR...
RAPHAEL DOESN'T
THINK OF ME AS A
GIRLFRIEND...
WE'RE JUST
BUDDIES...

BUT! TIRGA DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND RELATIONSHIPS
LIKE THAT, SHIELA...

WITH HIM, IT'S EITHER
LOVERS OR **NOT**
LOVERS.

TO HIM, YOU AND RAPH
LOOK LIKE **BUDDING**
LOVERS...

THAT'S WHAT
MAKES THIS
PERFECT,
GAR!!

YOU HEARD HOW HIS
HEART-RATE ROSE EVERY
TIME I HELD RAPHIE'S
HAND... OR GOT CLOSE. X

YOU BET
I DID...

* WERE-JAGUARS HAVE INCREDIBLE
HEARING. - F.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
AFTER WATCHING HIM
CAT AROUND WITH ALL
THOSE B/MBOS FOR
YEARS... I FINALLY
FOUND A WAY TO
MAKE HIM SEE WHAT
IT FEELS LIKE!!!

OH, YEAH!!!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG I'VE WAITED
FOR THIS, BRO...

**LET THE
GAMES
BEGIN!**

Sigh

IT'S ALL FUN AND
GAMES UNTIL SOMEONE
GETS HURT!

I STILL SAY YOU
SHOULD TELL HIM
HOW YOU FEEL...
TELL HIM YOU'RE
IN LOVE BEFORE
IT'S TOO LATE,
SIS...

WHO DIED
AND MADE
YOU MY
CONSCIENCE
?

GAR...



WHAT IN
JADE??

WH-
WHO
ARE YOU?

MY NAME
DOES NOT
MATTER.

GAR! YOUR SENSEI
HAS RETURNED TO
THIS REALM---

SHE NEEDS
YOU--

AND JADE
NEEDS HER--

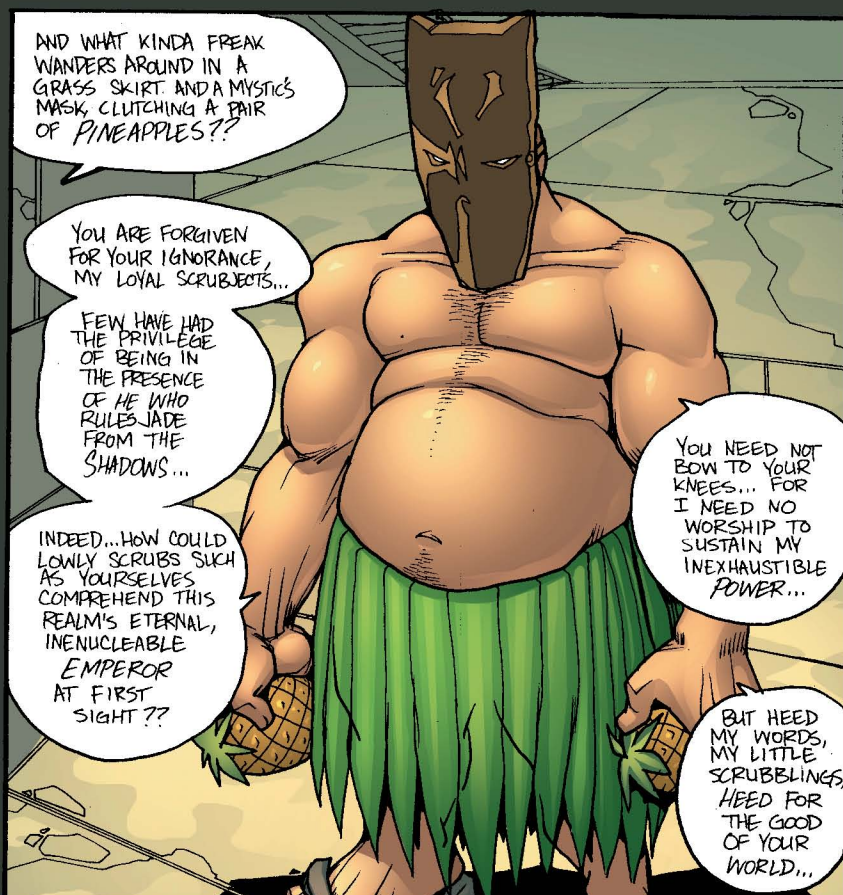


WAIT A MINUTE, WAIT A MINUTE... I KNOW THIS GUY---

HA HA HA...

HE ALMOST HAD ME GOING.

WELL, HOW ABOUT FILLING ME IN?



AND WHAT KINDA FREAK WANDERS AROUND IN A GRASS SKIRT AND A MYSTIC'S MASK, CLUTCHING A PAIR OF PINEAPPLES??

YOU ARE FORGIVEN FOR YOUR IGNORANCE, MY LOYAL SCRUBJECTS...

FEW HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF HE WHO RULES JADE FROM THE SHADOWS...

INDEED...HOW COULD LOWLY SCRUBS SUCH AS YOURSELVES COMPREHEND THIS REALM'S ETERNAL, INENUCLEABLE EMPEROR AT FIRST SIGHT??

YOU NEED NOT BOW TO YOUR KNEES... FOR I NEED NO WORSHIP TO SUSTAIN MY INEXHAUSTIBLE POWER...

BUT HEED MY WORDS, MY LITTLE SCRUBBLINGS, HEED FOR THE GOOD OF YOUR WORLD...



KEEP WALKING, SHIELA... HE'S JUST THAT CRAZY, WANDERING LUNATIC PROPHET.

I FORGOT HIS NAME...

SAPPO, BLABBO, SAGGO... OR SOMETHING.

TRY NOT TO MAKE EYE CONTACT...

EW, HIS BREATH STINKS... EVEN FROM BEHIND THAT MASK!

AND HOW DID HE KNOW YOUR NAME?



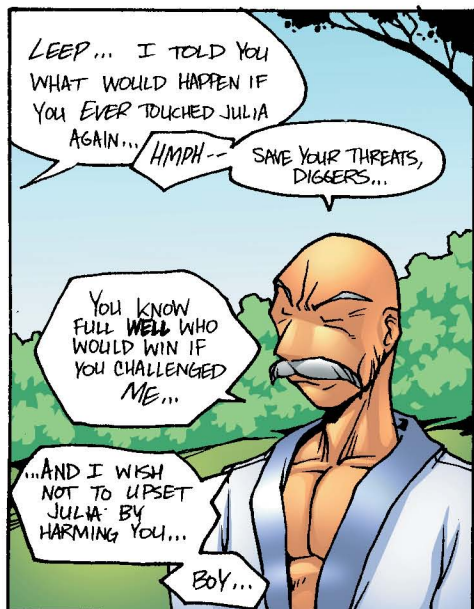
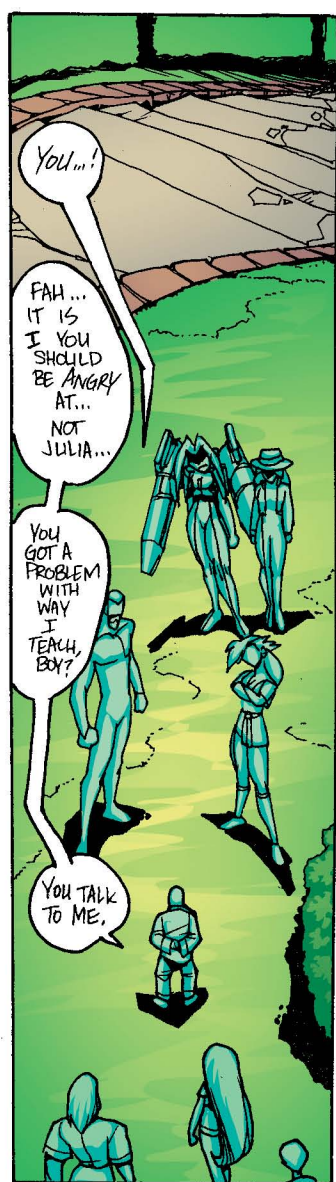
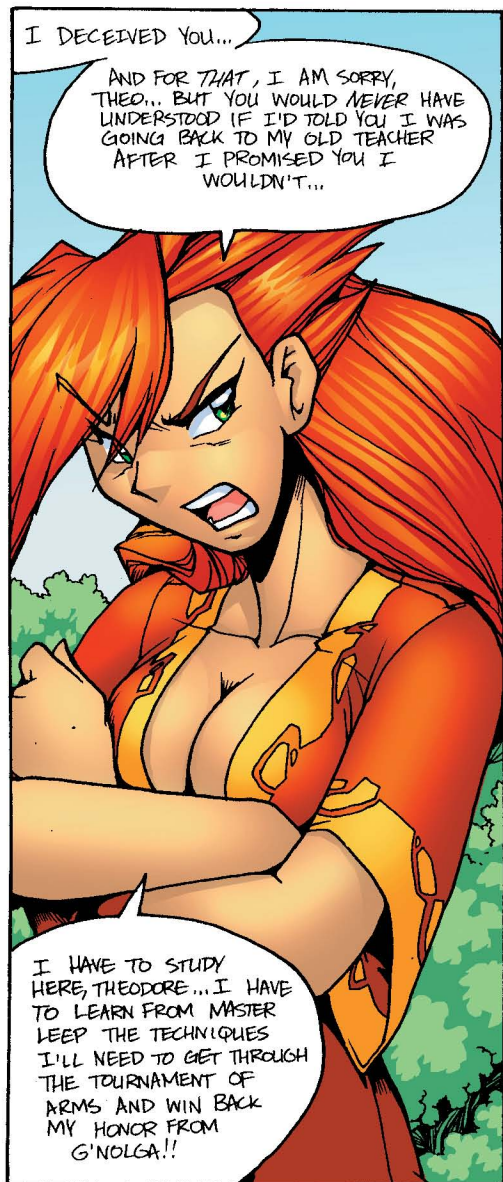
SEEK...

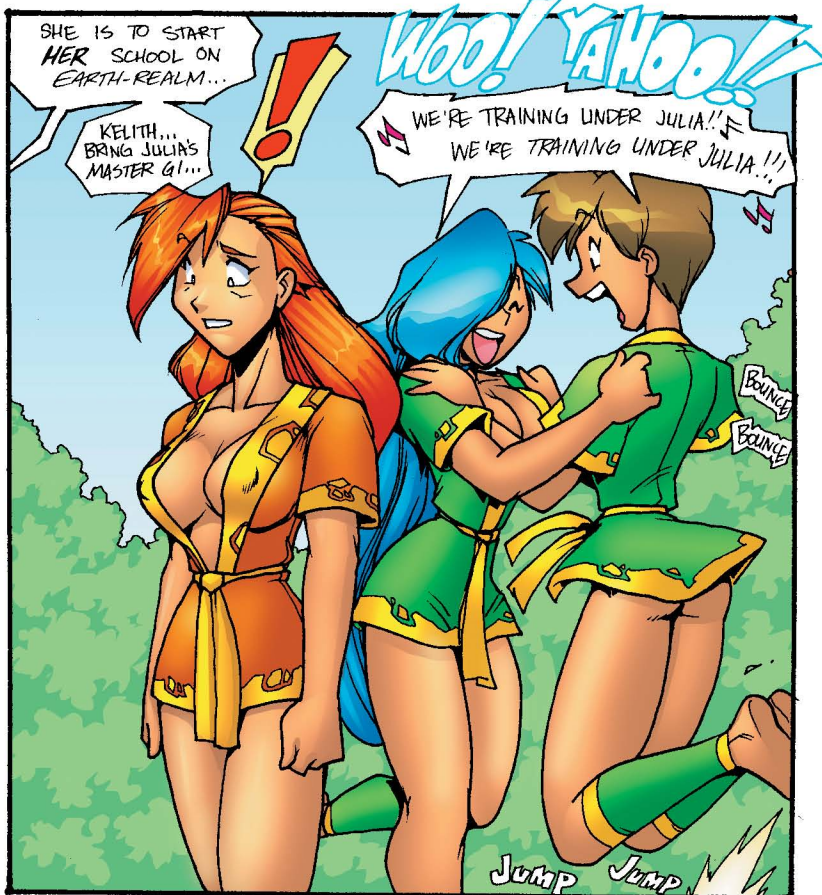
SEEK OUT YOUR SENSEI, GAR...

FIND JULIA DIGGERS...



JADE NEEDS HER...







GINA... BRIANNA...
LET US GO...

YOUR MOTHER
WILL MEET US
LATER...

I BELIEVE
SHE HAS WORK
TO DO NOW...

DAD?
WE'RE NOT
JUST GOING TO
LEAVE MOM
ALONE WITH
THAT LEEP
GUY, ARE
WE??



JULIA IS FINE,
BRIANNA...

AS LEEP
STATED...

JULIA IS
NO LONGER
HIS PUPIL.

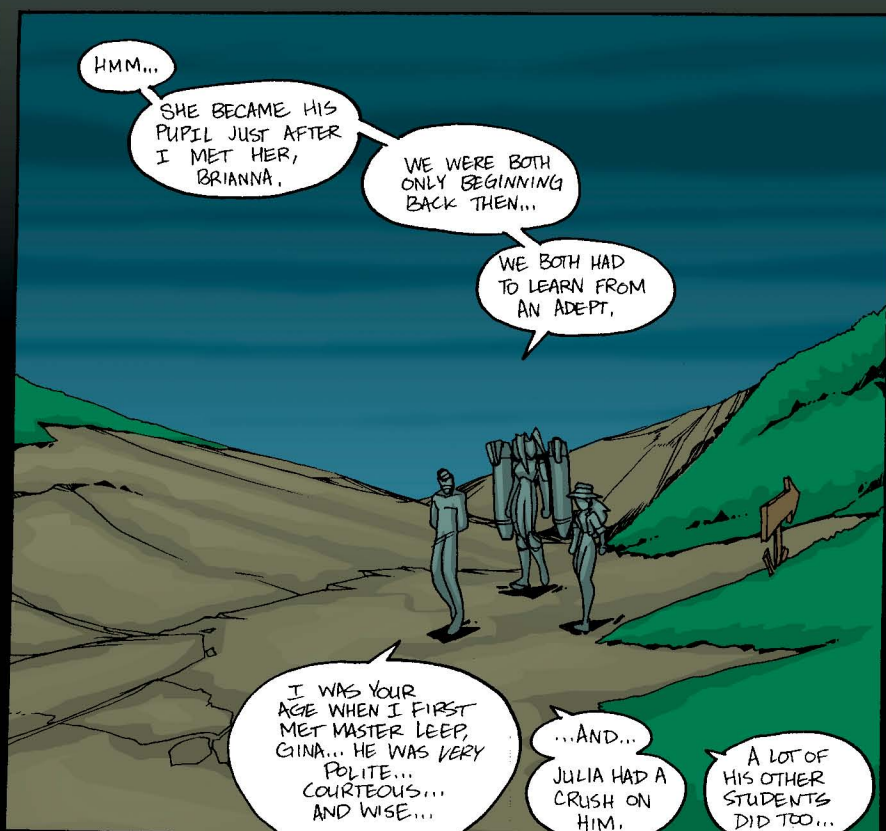
THERE IS
NO LONGER
CAUSE FOR
CONCERN...



I GUESS
WE CAN CAMP
OUT HERE...

INDEED, GINA.
JULIA SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
SPOT US
TOMORROW...

DAD?
HOW LONG HAS
MOM BEEN
A STUDENT
OF MASTER
LEEP?



HMM...

SHE BECAME HIS
PUPIL JUST AFTER
I MET HER,
BRIANNA.

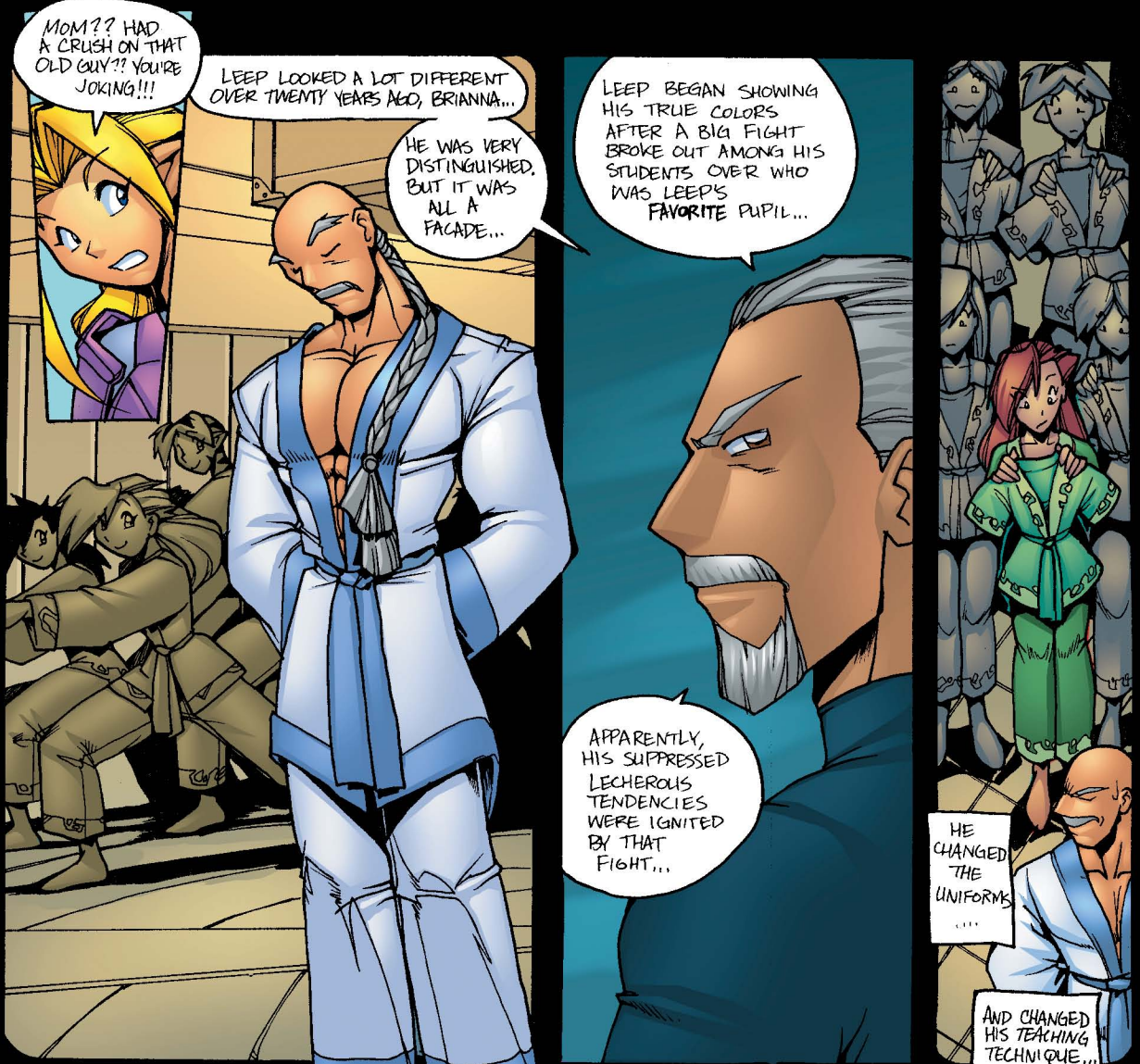
WE WERE BOTH
ONLY BEGINNING
BACK THEN...

WE BOTH HAD
TO LEARN FROM
AN ADEPT.

I WAS YOUR
AGE WHEN I FIRST
MET MASTER LEEP,
GINA... HE WAS VERY
POLITE...
COURTEOUS...
AND WISE...

...AND...
JULIA HAD A
CRUSH ON
HIM.

A LOT OF
HIS OTHER
STUDENTS
DID TOO...



MOM?? HAD A CRUSH ON THAT OLD GUY?? YOU'RE JOKING!!!

LEEP LOOKED A LOT DIFFERENT OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO, BRIANNA...

HE WAS VERY DISTINGUISHED. BUT IT WAS ALL A FACADE...

LEEP BEGAN SHOWING HIS TRUE COLORS AFTER A BIG FIGHT BROKE OUT AMONG HIS STUDENTS OVER WHO WAS LEEP'S FAVORITE PUPIL...

APPARENTLY, HIS SUPPRESSED LECHEROUS TENDENCIES WERE IGNITED BY THAT FIGHT...

HE CHANGED THE UNIFORMS

AND CHANGED HIS TEACHING TECHNIQUE...



SUFFICE TO SAY, JULIA'S CRUSH SOON VANISHED AFTER THAT...

HMM...

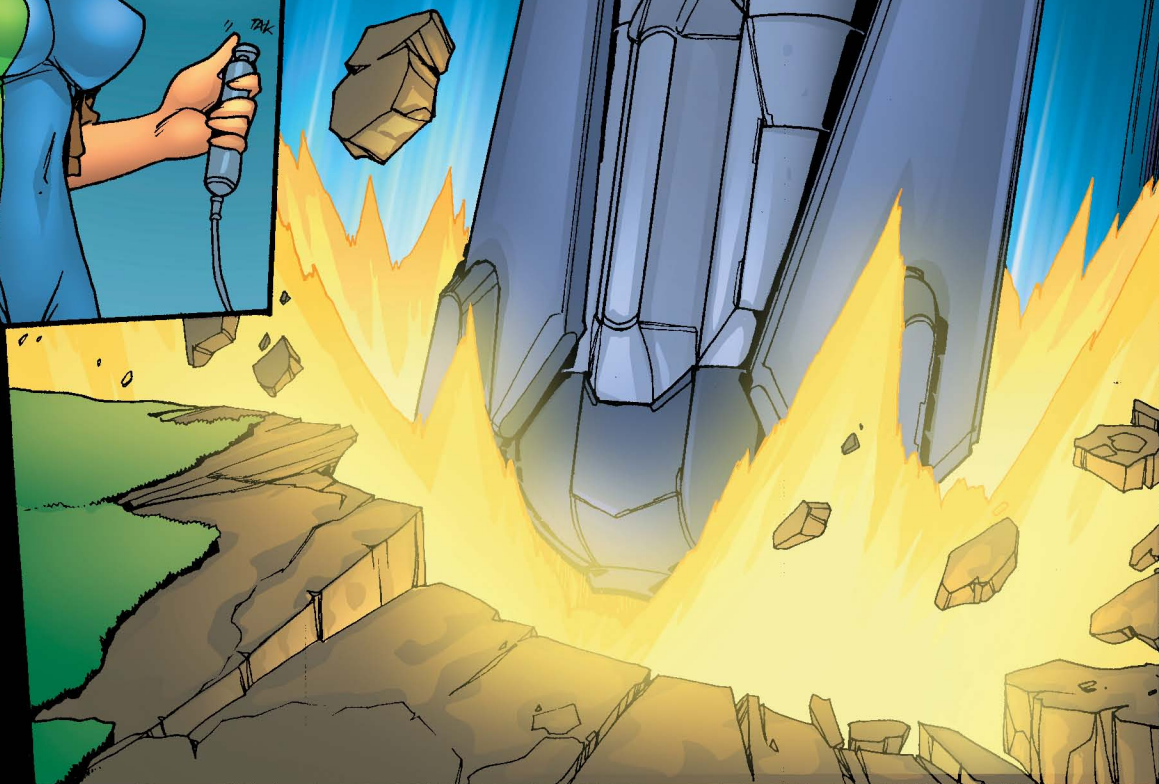
AT LEAST HE WAS HARMLESS... OR AT LEAST HE SEEMED AS SUCH.

ACTUALLY, THE PERSON WE
SHOULD BE CONCERNED
ABOUT IS THIS G'NOLGA
CHARACTER.

I'M
SETTING UP
THE TENT...
STAND
BACK...



FTOONK



SAY, DAD?

WHAT DOES G'NOLGA
HAVE AGAINST MOM,
ANYWAY...?

THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN IN
A FEUD THAT EXTENDS
A LONG WAY INTO THE
PAST, BRIANNA...

A DEADLY
FEUD...

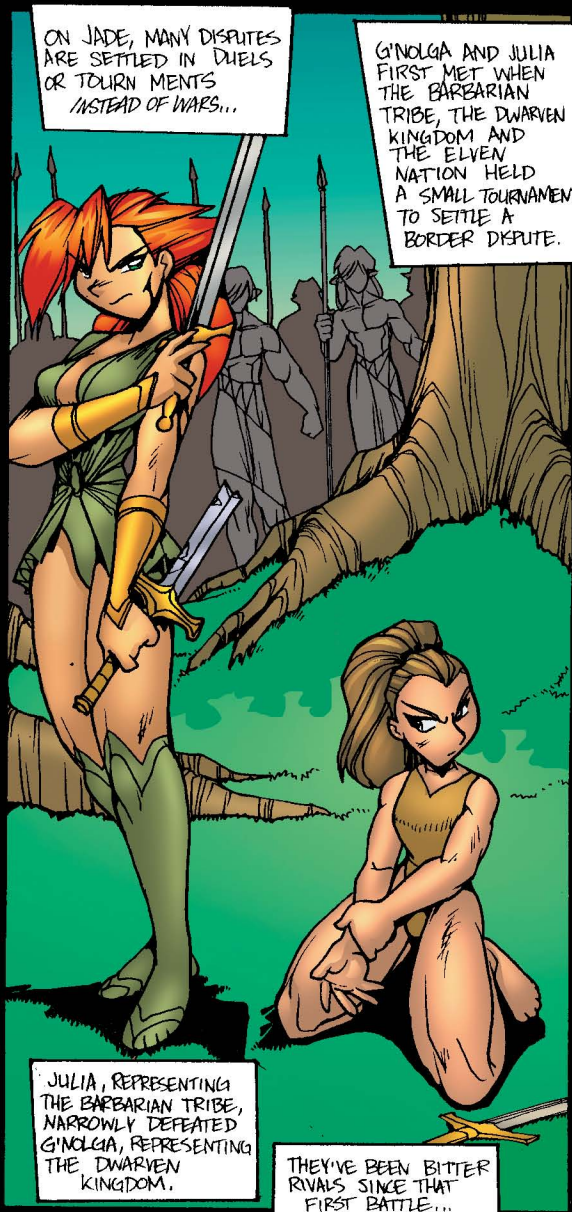
MMM...
WE MAY NEED
ONE OF THESE,
TOO...

CHAK

CHAK

CHAK

VAP



ON JADE, MANY DISPUTES
ARE SETTLED IN DUELS
OR TOURNAMENTS
INSTEAD OF WARS...

G'NOLGA AND JULIA
FIRST MET WHEN
THE BARBARIAN
TRIBE, THE DWARVEN
KINGDOM AND
THE ELVEN
NATION HELD
A SMALL TOURNAMENT
TO SETTLE A
BORDER DISPUTE.

JULIA, REPRESENTING
THE BARBARIAN TRIBE,
NARROWLY DEFEATED
G'NOLGA, REPRESENTING
THE DWARVEN
KINGDOM.

THEY'VE BEEN BITTER
RIVALS SINCE THAT
FIRST BATTLE...



JULIA Faced G'NOLGA
MANY TIMES... WINNING
ONLY BY A SLIM
MARGIN EACH
BATTLE...

THE LAST TIME
THEY FOUGHT WAS
AT THE LAST
TOURNAMENT
OF ARMS.



JULIA USED A SECRET
TECHNIQUE G'NOLGA HAD
NEVER SEEN
BEFORE THEN...

NATURALLY,
G'NOLGA TOOK THIS
FINAL DEFEAT VERY
BADLY.



SHE ACCUSED JULIA
OF CHEATING HER
OUT OF HER RIGHTFUL
PLACE AS ARMS
MASTER...

...THEN
DISAPPEARED AFTER
SWEARING TO HAVE HER
REVENGE...

