

GOLD DIGGER NO.13

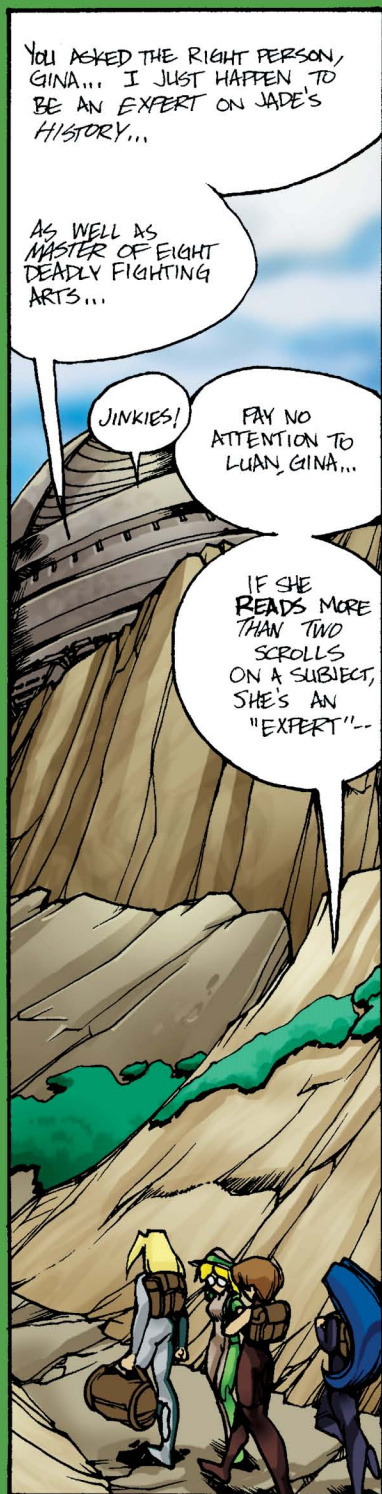
FRED PERRY



# GOLD DIGGER







YOU ASKED THE RIGHT PERSON,  
GINA... I JUST HAPPEN TO  
BE AN EXPERT ON JADE'S  
HISTORY...

AS WELL AS  
MASTER OF EIGHT  
DEADLY FIGHTING  
ARTS...

JINKIES!

PAY NO  
ATTENTION TO  
LUAN, GINA...

IF SHE  
READS MORE  
THAN TWO  
SCROLLS  
ON A SUBJECT,  
SHE'S AN  
"EXPERT"...



AT LEAST I KNOW  
HOW TO **READ**, CARLA...

NOW **THAT** WAS  
UNCALLED FOR...

GINA, IF ONLY YOU  
KNEW WHAT IT FEELS  
LIKE... BEING AN  
INTELLECTUAL **GIANT**  
AMONG THE MENTAL  
MIDGETS...

TRUST  
ME, LUAN...  
I **KNOW**  
THE FEELING!

BOY, OH  
BOY DO I  
KNOW  
THE FEELING.

GINA?  
JUST WHAT  
WAS **THAT**  
SUPPOSE TO  
MEAN?



AHEH...

So...

WHAT CAN YOU  
TELL ME ABOUT THE  
TOURNAMENT AT THE  
ARENA, LUAN?

MOM AND  
DAD SAID THEY'D  
MEET US AT  
THE ENTRANCE...

THE TOURNAMENT  
OF ARMS...



"THE ARENAS OF JADE..."

"A LONG TIME AGO THEY HAD A DIFFERENT PURPOSE..."

"A LONG TIME AGO, THE **SHADOWS**, FOR THEIR OWN TWISTED ENTERTAINMENT, FORCED THE INHABITANTS OF JADE TO BUILD THOSE ARENAS AND THE WARRIORS OF JADE TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH IN THEM..."

"JINKIES! WHO ARE THE **SHADOWS**..."

WHO WERE **SHADOWS**

I'D BETTER START AT THE BEGINNING...

"EONS AGO, WHEN MAGIC FLOURISHED ON THE EARTH, SOME DIMENSIONAL EXPLORERS FROM EARTH DISCOVERED THIS REALM..."

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT IT WAS **MORE BEAUTIFUL** THEN... A PRISTINE WORLD! A PARADISE!!

"THEY NAMED IT JADE--"

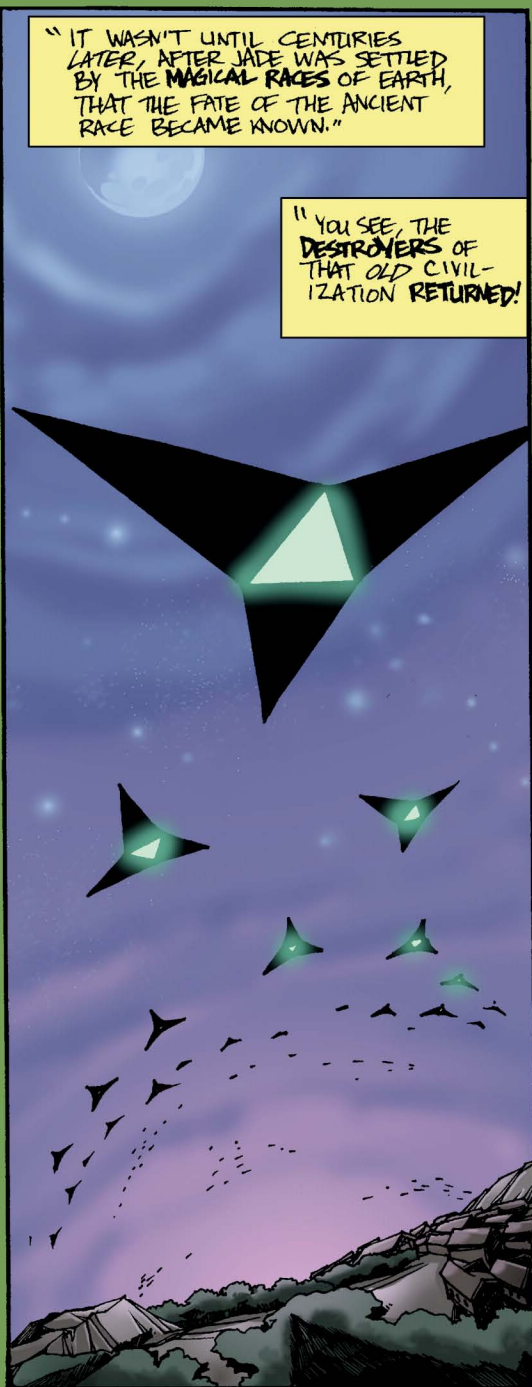
"THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANY INTELLIGENT LIFE... EXCEPT FOR A **STRANGE SCRAP OF STONE** HIDDEN IN AN OLD CAVE..."

"IT WASN'T UNTIL CENTURIES LATER, AFTER JADE WAS SETTLED BY THE **MAGICAL RACES** OF EARTH, THAT THE FATE OF THE ANCIENT RACE BECAME KNOWN."

"YOU SEE, THE **DESTROYERS** OF THAT OLD CIVILIZATION RETURNED!"

"THE **MAGIC SAGES** USED THEIR SPELLS AND TRIED TO LEARN WHAT CREATED THE **STONE**..."

"BUT ALL THEY COULD LEARN, WAS THAT IT BELONGED TO AN ANCIENT RACE, WHICH SUDDENLY VANISHED FROM THE REALM..."





I CAN SEE ALREADY THAT JADE'S MYSTERIOUS PAST HAS MORE THAN A FEW UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!

JUST THE KIND OF THING THAT INTRIGUES ARCHAEOLOGISTS LIKE ME!!

PLEASE GO ON!

AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHADOWS, ALL OF JADE'S INHABITANTS WERE ENSLAVED!!

THERE WAS NO ONE WHO COULD RESIST. IT WAS..... THE REALM'S DARKEST HOUR!

THE HORROR...  
the horror...

YOU CAN LAY OFF THE HEAVY DRAMA, LUAN.

JUST TELL THE STORY, ALL RIGHT?

"THE SHADOWS THEN FORCED THEIR SLAVES TO CONSTRUCT MONSTROUS WAR-ENGINES... CONSTRUCTS OF METAL AND WOOD... FLOATING MACHINES OF DESTRUCTION!"

"AFTER THE WAR-MACHINES WERE MADE, THE SHADOWS USED THEM ON THE CITIES OF JADE... DEVASTATING THEM..."

"COUNTLESS LIVES WERE SPARED ONLY BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THE SHADOWS HAD EMPTIED THE CITIES AND TOWNS OF JADE TO FILL THEIR SLAVE CAMPS..."

BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER ALL OF THE CIVILIZATIONS OF JADE WERE ANNIHILATED DID THE TRUE NIGHTMARE BEGIN...



THE SHADOWS FORCED SOME OF THEIR SLAVES TO BUILD GIANT ARENAS IN FOUR LOCATIONS...

THEN THEY BEGAN TOYING WITH US BY HAVING OUR ONCE PROUD WARRIORS DO MEANINGLESS BATTLES WITH EACH OTHER TO THE DEATH!

ALL OF THE SLAVES WERE FORCED TO WATCH THE CARNAGE...



BUT ONE DAY, A WARRIOR ... A **CHAMPION**... BROKE THE BONDS OF THE SHADOWS AND, FROM THE APEX ROCK ARENA... HE LED JADE TO FREEDOM!

THE SHADOWS FLED THE REALM AND NEVER RETURNED...

IN MEMORY OF THAT GREAT VICTORY, WE HOLD THE TOURNAMENT OF ARMS TO SELECT A NEW CHAMPION EVERY TEN YEARS.



JINKIES! ITS LIKE A FESTIVAL!!

Yup.

LOOK AT ALL THE SHOPS!!! ITS LIKE A BIG OUTDOOR MALL!

I HOPE THEY TAKE MY X-PRESS CHARGE...











I HEAR WE OWE THIS BACKYARD FEAST TO YOUR NEW FISHING HOBBIE, BRITANNY.

THERE **WOULD** BE MORE IF I DIDN'T THROW THE **WIMMY** ONES BACK!

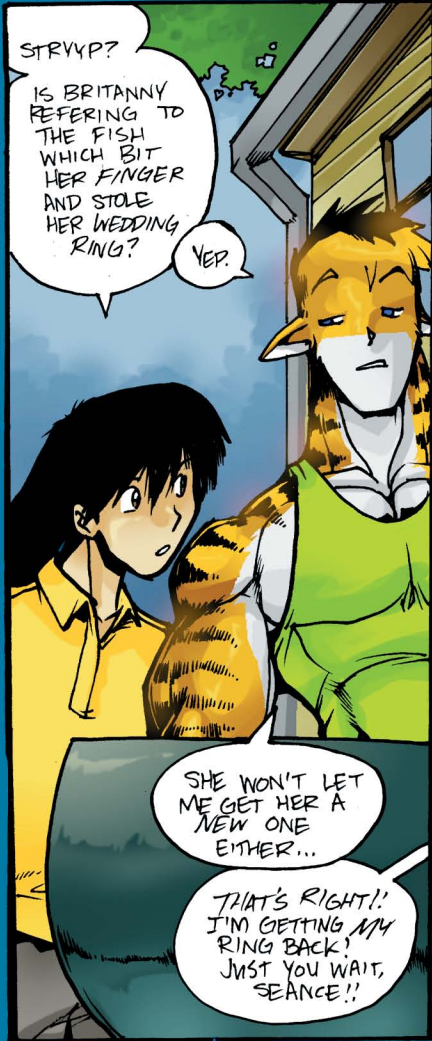
THE **FIESTY** ONES ALWAYS TASTE BEST!



BUT ALL THIS?... IT'S ONLY THE APPETIZER, DAD.

YOU SEE, THERE'S THIS **ONE TUNA**... THE ONLY ONE THAT **EVER** GOT AWAY FROM ME...

WHEN I CATCH THAT **SUCKER**... THE **REAL** FEAST STARTS!!



STRYP?

IS BRITANNY REFERRING TO THE FISH WHICH BIT HER FINGER AND STOLE HER WEDDING RING?

YEP.

SHE WON'T LET ME GET HER A NEW ONE EITHER...

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M GETTING MY RING BACK! JUST YOU WAIT, SEANCE!!



ANYWAY, IT'S TIME TO EAT! COME AND GET IT!!

REMEMBER, EVERYBODY!! **ONE SERVING PER PERSON!**

except for me, I get five helpings!...

BRIT!!

I'M JOKING!\*



H-HI...

SEANCE...

GENN?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO THE MOVIES...

WELL...

IT'S NO FUN TO GO BY YOURSELF... SO... I-- I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME WITH??

MAYBE??

\* NO SHE WASN'T...



\* IF SEANCE LEAVES, THEN BRIT CAN SWATCH HIS SERVING!

WELL... I'M...uh...

AW C'MON, SEANCE!  
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S ASKIN' YOU OUT ON A DATE OR SOME'N.

JUST TWO PALS GOIN' OUT TO CATCH A FLICK... RIGHT?

YOU'RE NOT GONNA TURN GENN DOWN AND MAKE HER GO ALONE ARE YA? \*

WELL I--

GUESS I CAN GO?

THANKS, BRIT!... SEE YA LATER!

BYE! AND GENN? YOU MIGHT WANT TO COVER THOSE ANTLER THINGIES OF YOURS...

THERE ARE A LOT OF OUT-OF-TOWNERS AROUND TODAY WHO AREN'T QUITE LISE TO US WEIRDOS!

HMM...

SO...LITTLE GENNADRID WANTS SEANCE...

I WONDER HOW MUCH SHE'S WILLING TO PAY TO HAVE HIM?

MEANWHILE... GET OUTTA HERE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE SEWERS JULIA!

YOUR NOT GONNA LET THE LIKES OF HER ENTER THE TOURNAMENT ARE YALL?

THROW 'ER OUTTA HERE!!

NO HONOR SILENCE!

NAME?

JULIA BRIGAND DIGGERS...

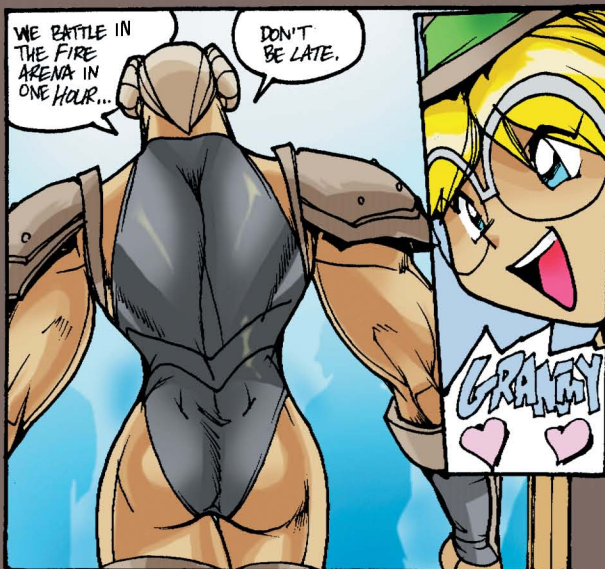
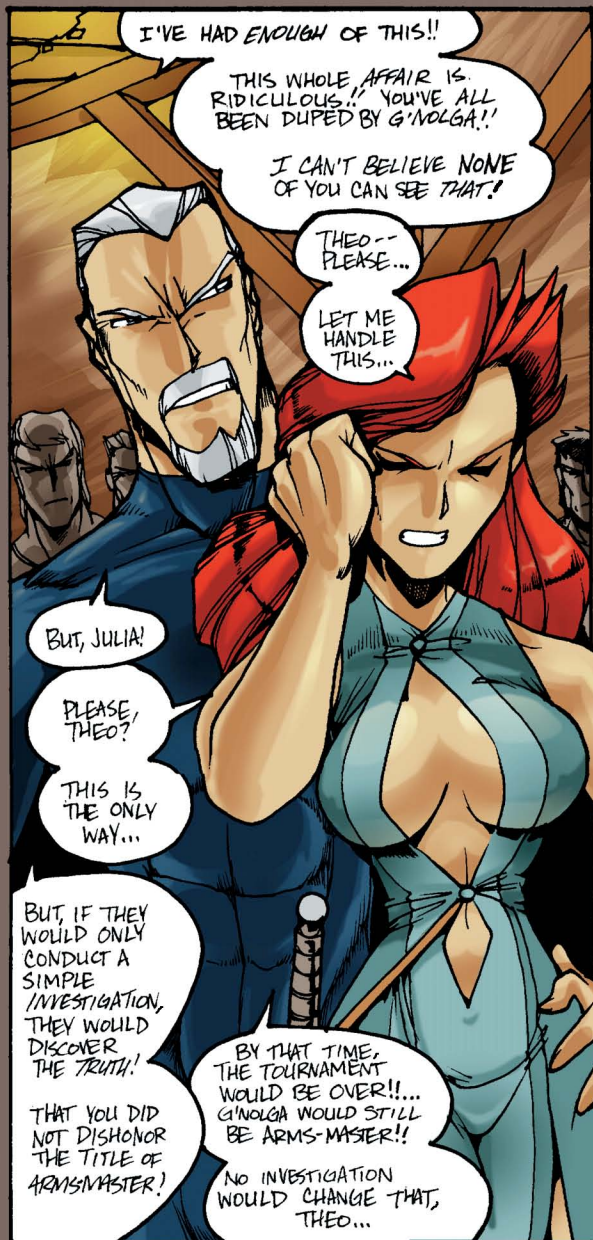
DAUGHTER OF TSUNAMI AND BRUNHILDAGARD BRIGAND... CHAMPION OF THE BARBARIAN CLAN AND--

F-FORMER ARMS MASTER OF JADE...

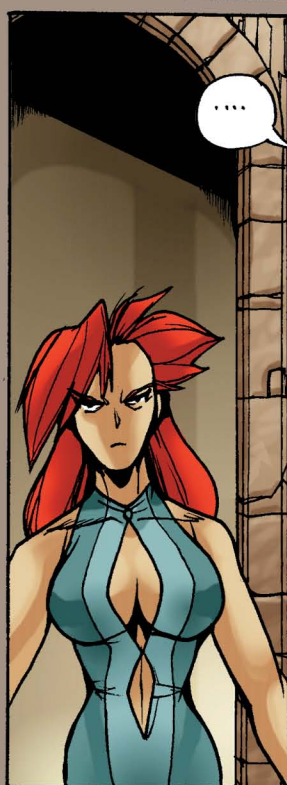
















OKAY, GRAMMY!  
BYE, BYE!!  
SEE YOU  
LATER !!

OH, HI, MOM.

GOOD MORNING  
TEACHER.

SAY MOM?  
WHY IS GRAMMY  
IN SUCH A  
HURRY?

SHE DIDN'T  
EVEN HAVE TIME  
TO PINCH OUR  
CHEEKS OR  
ANYTHING!!

WELL... YOUR  
GRANDMOTHER'S BEING--  
DIFFICULT TOWARDS  
ME RIGHT NOW...

Huh?



JULIA...

MAY I HAVE  
A WORD--

YOU TOO,  
BATLOCK?

YOU WANT TO...  
REBUKE ME  
TOO??

THEN AGAIN...IF MY  
OWN MOTHER CAN TURN  
ON ME, WHY NOT MY  
OLD MENTOR AS WELL?



YOU SHOULD NOT JUDGE  
YOUR MOTHER SO HARSHLY...

AS CHAIRSMAN  
OF OUR CLAN-  
COUNCIL, SHE'S  
HAD A HARD  
TIME SINCE  
YOUR LOSING  
TO G'NOLGA...

OUR NEIGHBORS...  
PARTICULARLY THE  
SHADOW ELVES AND  
THE DWARVEN KINGDOM...  
HAVE SEEN THIS AS  
A SIGN OF WEAKNESS...

WE'RE BEING CHALLENGED  
FOR TERRITORY ON EVERY  
FRONT--



UNLESS WE WISH TO  
COMMIT TO WARS WE CAN'T  
WIN, WE MUST DEFEND  
OUR LANDS WITH A  
CHAMPION IN A TOURNAMENT...

AND AS FAR AS OUR  
SUPPLY OF CHAMPIONS  
GO... WE'RE RUNNING  
VERY LOW...

WE STAND TO  
LOSE EVERYTHING  
UNLESS WE  
RECLAIM THE  
ARMSMASTER  
TITLE...

TH-  
THAT'S  
RIGHT...

WHEN I WAS  
ARMSMASTER, NO  
ONE COULD TRY TO  
CHALLENGE OUR  
CLAN FOR  
PROPERTY WE  
ALREADY OWN!









LIHH... NEVER MIND... YOU JUST-- STARTLED ME THATS ALL...

ITS JUST TECHNOLOGY MOM!! SHEESH!!

...RIGHT...

BUT... JUST... TRY NOT TO USE THE 'FLASHY' STUFF SO NEAR ME NEXT TIME, OKAY?



**GREAT SPIRIT!**  
THAT WAS TECHNOLOGY?

OOFS!! SORRY, MOM... LUAN... CARLA... I FORGOT FOLKS FROM JADE ARE A LITTLE TECH-PHOBIC...

AT LEAST MAGIC GIVES YOU FAIR WARNING BEFORE GETTING COID!!



WELL... I'M OFF TO WARM UP...

UH, THEO, DEAR? COULD YOU SHOW EVERYONE WHERE WE RENTED THE INN?

WHERE YA GOIN' MOM? ARE YOU GONNA COMPETE?

CAN BRIANNA AND I GO TOO? WE WANT TO CHEER YOU ON!!

LI MMM... I... THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU NOT WATCH THIS CONTEST...

THEO? COULD YOU--



--MAKE SURE NO ONE FOLLOWS YOU? OF COURSE, JULIA. FAIRWELL... AND GOOD LUCK.

**NOW**  
I'M CURIOUS!!

WHAT'S UP WITH MOM?

WHO IS SHE GOING TO BATTLE?

WELL... UH...

SHALL WE ABSCOND TO THE INN?

IT HAS AN OUTSTANDING VIEW OF THE COLOSSIUM...



D-DAD?

WE MAY HAVE COME IN THE MIDDLE OF WHATS GOING ON...

...BUT BY THE WAY MOM AND GRAMMY ARE ACTING...

are they going to fight?

....

ITS NECESSARY, GINA...THIS CONFLICT MUST BE RESOLVED. ITS A PRIVATE MATTER BETWEEN JULIA AND HER MOTHER...



AW, JEEZ...

DONT WORRY, DAD. WE'LL RESPECT MOM'S PRIVACY.

RIGHT BRIANNA?

R- RIGHT GINA.

(SAY MORE ON...)



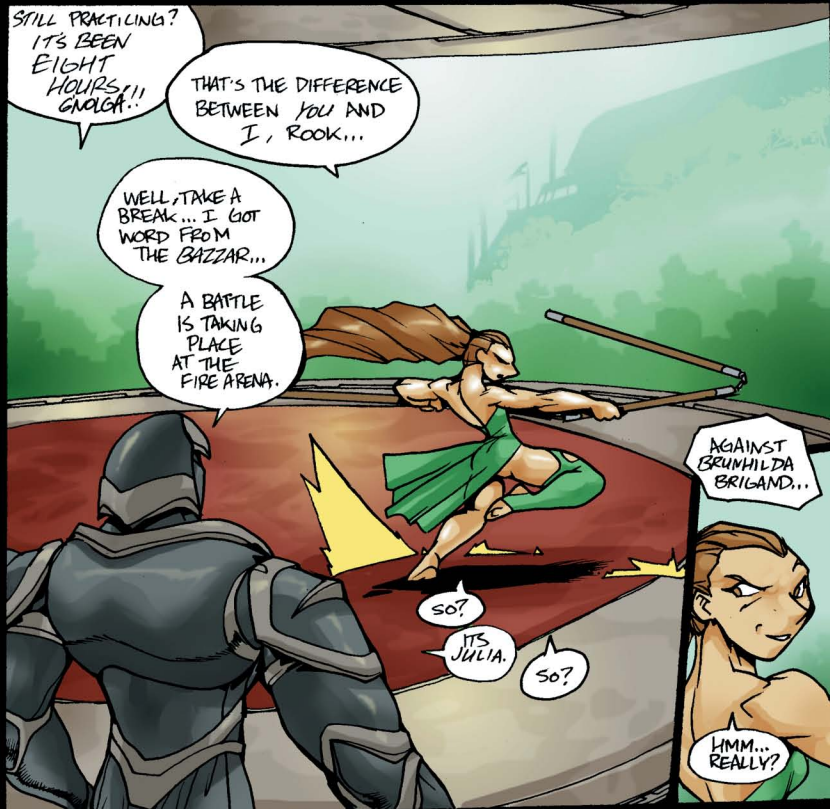


MEANWHILE...

AT THE ARMS-MASTER'S PALACE...

HA!

Wkkt!



STILL PRACTICING?  
IT'S BEEN  
EIGHT  
HOURS!!  
ENOUGH!!

THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN YOU AND  
I, ROOK...

WELL, TAKE A  
BREAK... I GOT  
WORD FROM  
THE BAZZAR...

A BATTLE  
IS TAKING  
PLACE  
AT THE  
FIRE ARENA.

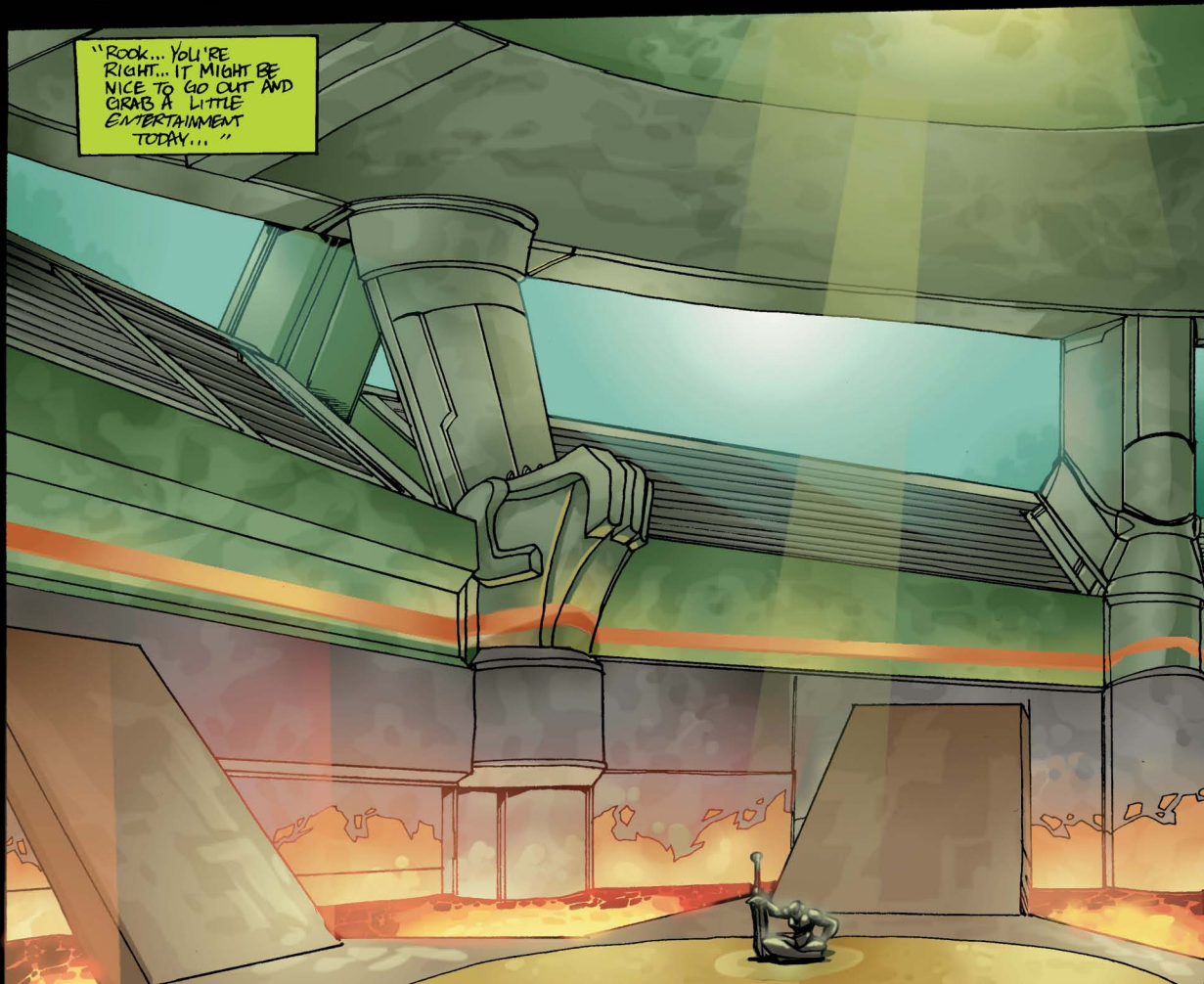
AGAINST  
BRUNHILDA  
ERIGAND...

SO?

IT'S  
JULIA.

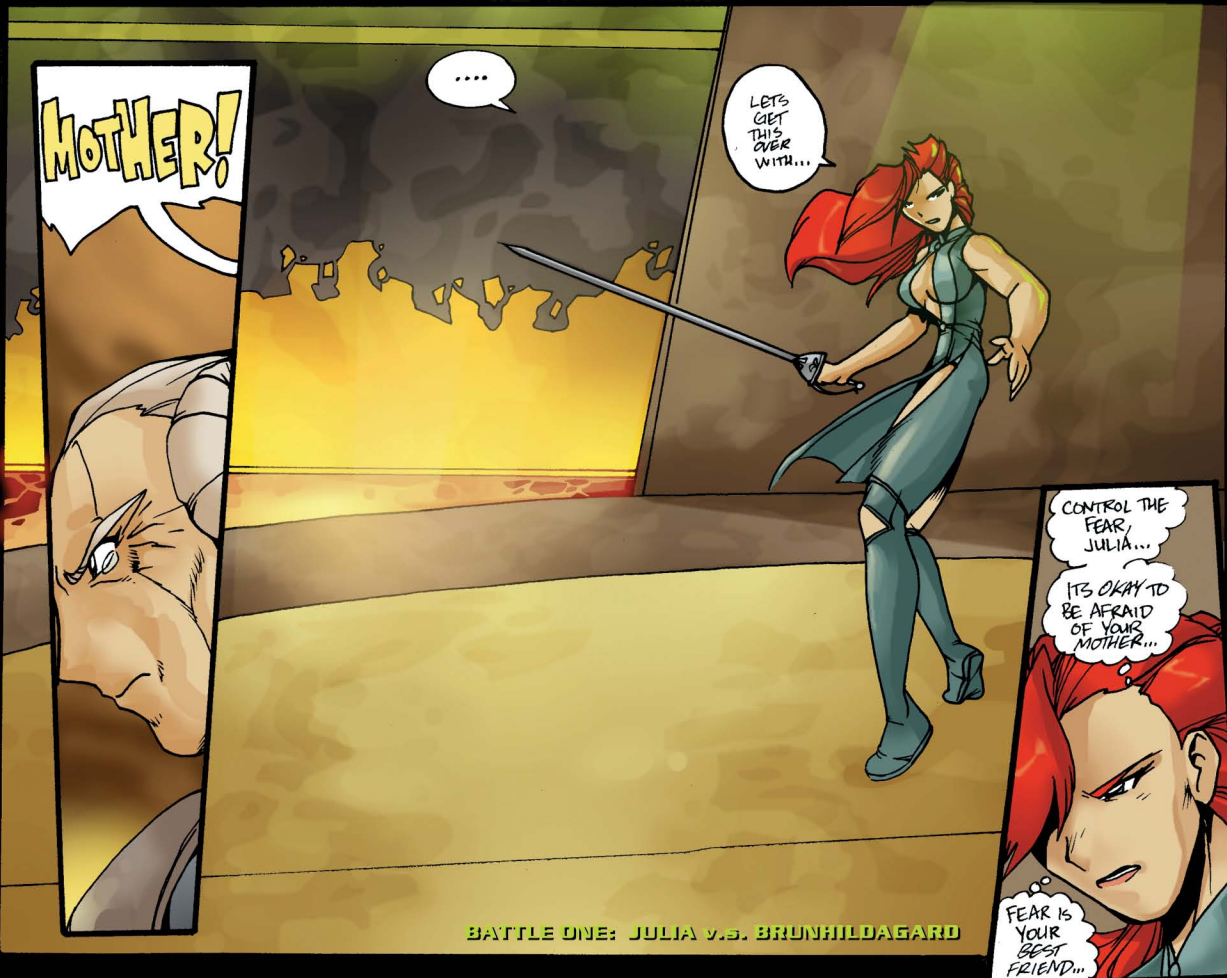
SO?

HMM...  
REALLY?

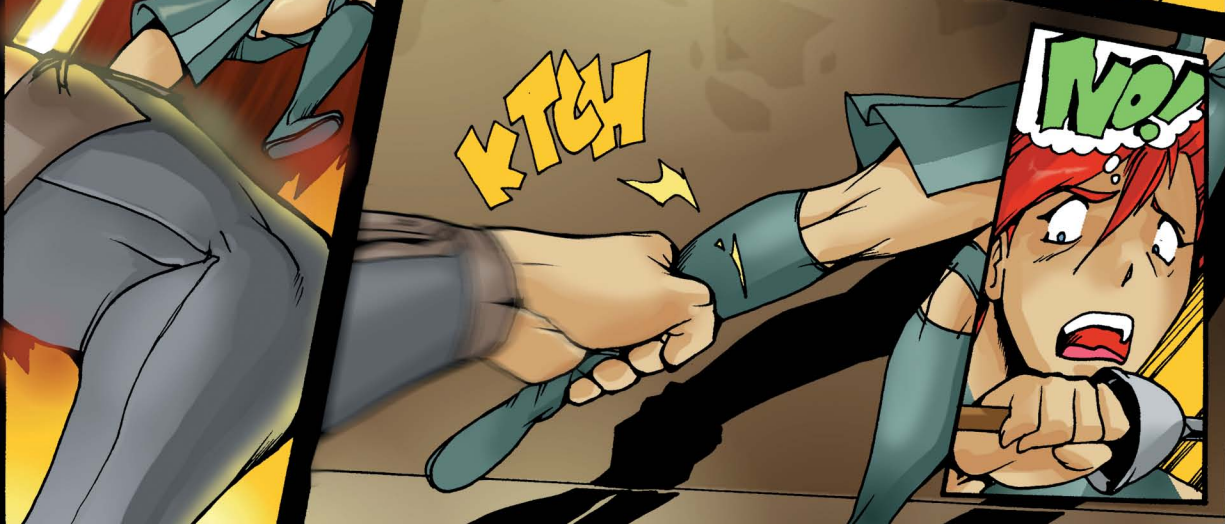


"ROOK... YOU'RE  
RIGHT... IT MIGHT BE  
NICE TO GO OUT AND  
GRAB A LITTLE  
ENTERTAINMENT  
TODAY..."

















HUFF--

HUFF--

HUFF--  
STAY DOWN,  
JULIA...



THE FIGHT IS OVER,  
DAUGHTER.



YOU'VE  
LOST...



N--

NO MOTHER

ITS NOT...

ITS NOT OVER  
UNTIL I  
YIELD?

NOT UNTIL I  
GIVE UP!!



AND---  
I'M NOT  
GIVING UP!!

...

DAMMIT!

OKAY...

OKAY...  
STAY CALM...

KEEP IN  
CONTROL...



VOOSH



