

GOLD DIGGER NO. 15

FRED PERRY



GOLD DIGGER



THE REALM OF JADE -- A WORLD
APART FROM EARTH...

THE ARMS-MASTER'S
PALACE...

G'NOLGA, YOU'RE BEING
UNREASONABLE!

YOU'RE GOING TO
RUIN EVERYTHING!!

SAY WHAT YOU WANT,
TIRANT, I WON'T
CHANGE MY MIND!

I INTEND TO
FACE JULIA IN
THE FINAL CONTEST
OF THE TOURNAMENT...

NO TRICKS!
NO TRAPS!!

AND WHAT HAPPENS
IF YOU LOSE,
G'NOLGA?...

ALL OF OUR
PLANNING AND
HARD WORK,
SHOT TO
PIECES!!

HMM....

I WON'T
LOSE,
TIRANT!

I **SWEAR**
I WON'T!!

WHY, OH
WHY AM
I NOT
REASSURED?

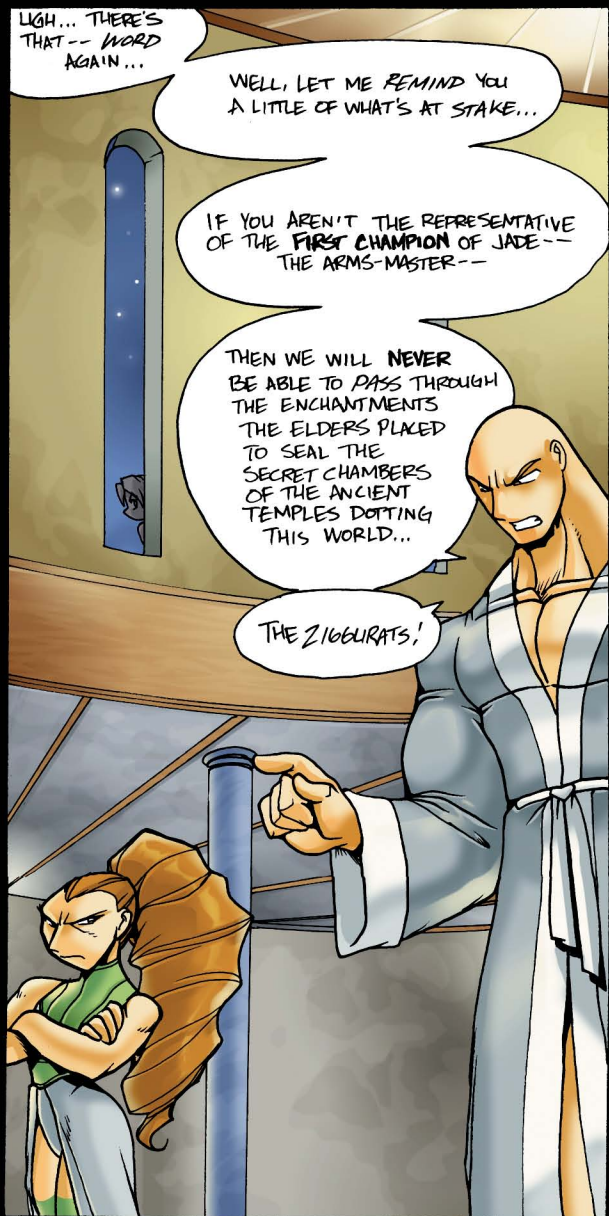
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'VE *NEVER...EVER*
BEEN ABLE TO DEFEAT
JULIA *WITHOUT* RESORTING
TO TRICKERY OR
DECEIT....

THAT DOESN'T
MATTER!
NOTHING
ELSE
MATTERS!

THEN
WHAT
DOES,
G'NOLGA?

WHAT?

HONOR.



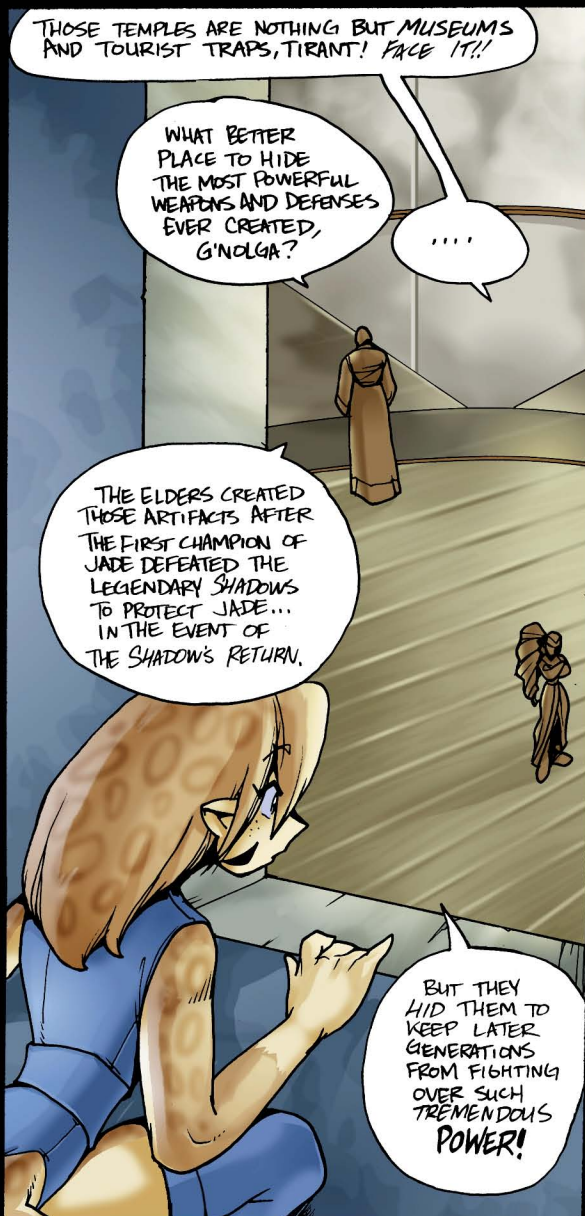
UGH... THERE'S THAT-- WORD AGAIN...

WELL, LET ME REMIND YOU A LITTLE OF WHAT'S AT STAKE...

IF YOU AREN'T THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIRST CHAMPION OF JADE-- THE ARMS-MASTER--

THEN WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PASS THROUGH THE ENCHANTMENTS THE ELDERS PLACED TO SEAL THE SECRET CHAMBERS OF THE ANCIENT TEMPLES DOTTING THIS WORLD...

THE ZIGGURATS!



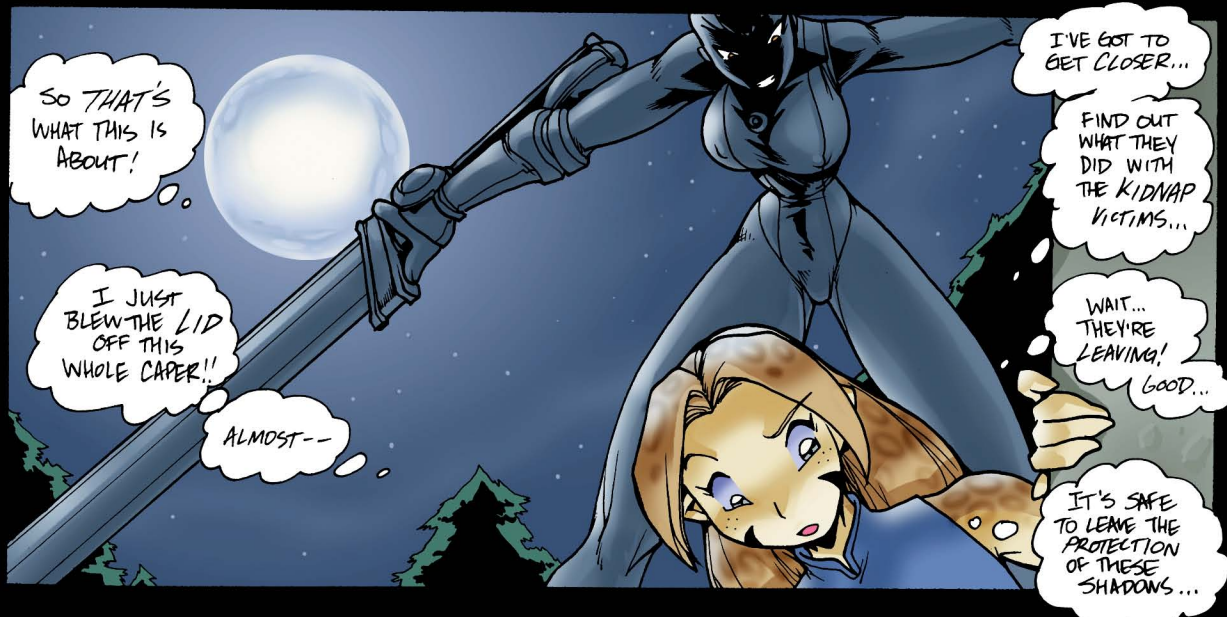
THOSE TEMPLES ARE NOTHING BUT MUSEUMS AND TOURIST TRAPS, TIRANT! FACE IT!!

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO HIDE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS AND DEFENSES EVER CREATED, G'NOLGA?

....

THE ELDERS CREATED THOSE ARTIFACTS AFTER THE FIRST CHAMPION OF JADE DEFEATED THE LEGENDARY SHADOWS TO PROTECT JADE... IN THE EVENT OF THE SHADOW'S RETURN,

BUT THEY HID THEM TO KEEP LATER GENERATIONS FROM FIGHTING OVER SUCH TREMENDOUS POWER!



SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!

I JUST BLEW THE LID OFF THIS WHOLE CAPER!!

ALMOST--

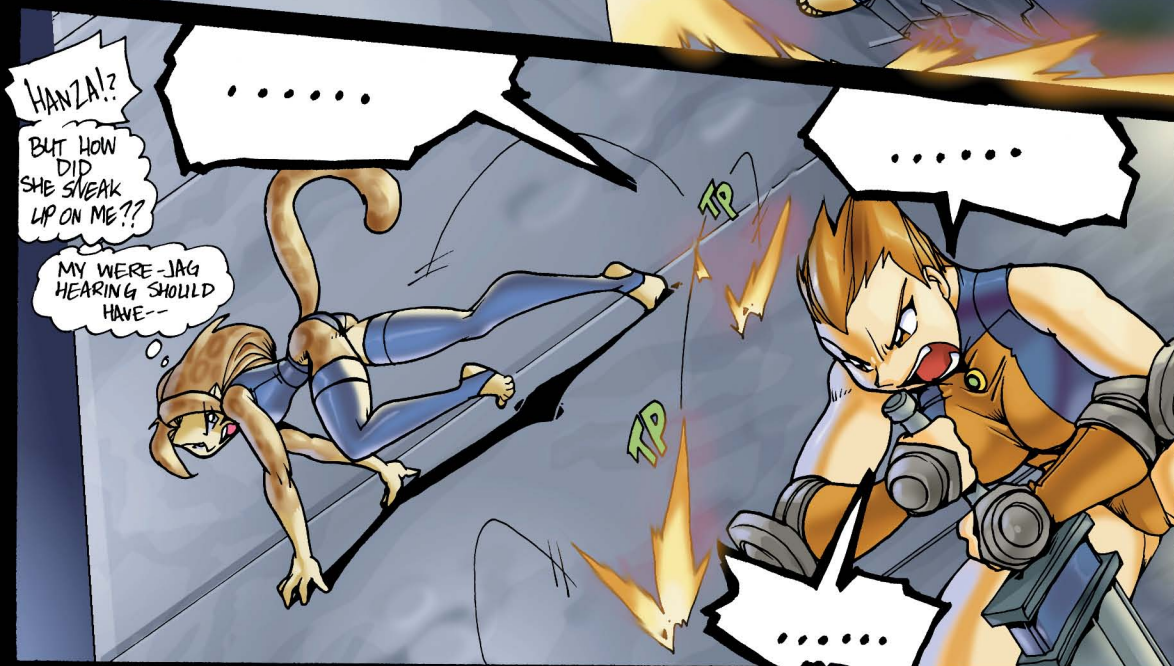
I'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER...

FIND OUT WHAT THEY DID WITH THE KIDNAP VICTIMS...

WAIT... THEY'RE LEAVING!

GOOD...

IT'S SAFE TO LEAVE THE PROTECTION OF THESE SHADOWS...





OH, I GET IT NOW !!

SHE'S GOT A "SILENCE" ENCHANTMENT AROUND HER!

BUT THAT MEANS SHE CAN'T SOUND ANY ALARMS UNTIL IT WEARS OFF!

SO I'LL HAVE TO PUT HER ON ICE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!

ICE SCIMITAR!

H-- HEY!!

GRRR!!

I MAY NOT HAVE HEARD WHAT YOU SAID...

BUT I READ YOUR LIPS!

AND THE SAME GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU!

AND STILL NO SIGN OF PEEBOCHU!!!

I KNEW IT! I KNEW THERE'D BE TROUBLE!

HOWEVER...

THERE'S A FIGHT ON THE ROOF -- WAIT...

BRIANNA, SHHH!

JUST TELL US WHAT YOU SEE, BUT KEEP IT DOWN!

LUAN! GINA!! IT'S SHEILA!!

"LIAN! GINA!
C'MON! SHE
NEEDS HELP!"

"BRIANNA!
WAIT!"

NNH

SHANNING

"BUT, GINA!..."

"IT'S OBVIOUS SHE'S ON
SOME KIND OF SECRET NIGHT
MISSION HERE! WHAT IF
WE ENDANGER HER--"

POW

GKK

TP

WHAT?

\$\$\$@#!

AN
INTRUDER!

SEIZE
HER!

OKAY.

NOW
SHE NEEDS
HELP!



GIMME!

GASP!!

MY HYPER-SPACE
TRANSPORTER
REMOTE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO--

I'M GONNA CALL
MY TRUSTY TIDAL-SHOCK
BATTLE ARMOR FROM
HYPER-SPACE!

WHAT
ELSE?!



BLIP
BLIP
BEEP!



POWER EXTREME!



YOU KNOW? O-ONCE YOU GET
USED TO EARTH-TECHNOLOGY...

IT'S PRETTY
--HOW YOU SAY--
"COOL"...

Still a
bit SCARY...

'CEPT THAT BIG
OL' ARMOR JUST
DRAINED MY POOR
PORTERS BATTERIES!

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO GET
MY GINA-BLASTER
NOW?



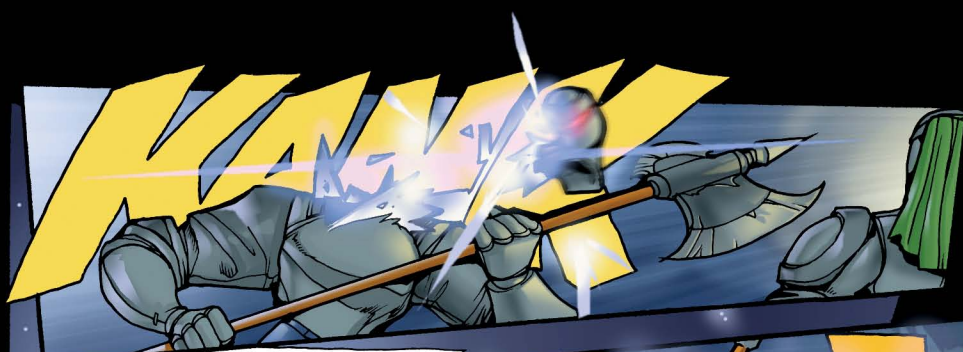
HOWEVER...

**I BLEW
IT!**

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
A SIMPLE AREA-SCOUTING
MISSION, AND I JUST
BLEW IT!

ALL THAT WORK
THE TEAM PUT INTO
INFILTRATING THIS
PALACE, UP IN
SMOKE!!

KR NK



YYYATZEE!

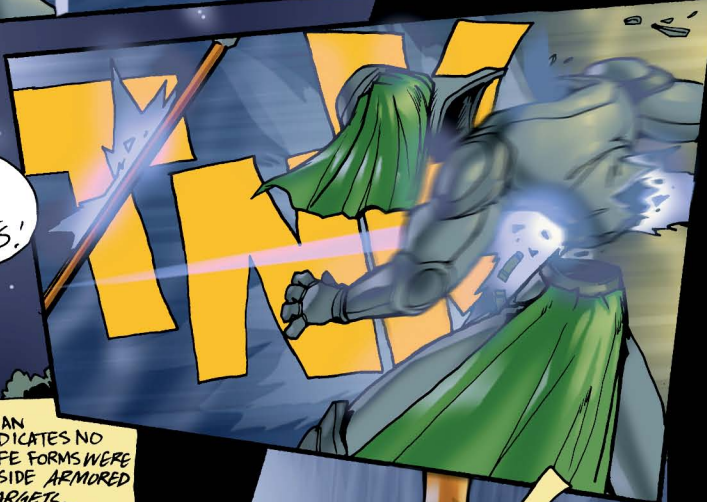
AND THOSE
WERE JUST THE
WARNING SHOTS!

SCAN
INDICATES NO
LIFE FORMS WERE
INSIDE ARMORED
TARGETS...

Hee Hee...!
NEXT TIME, I'LL
CHECK BEFORE
I SHOOT! ♡

BETTER
KEEP YOUR
HEAD DOWN,
SHEILA!!

WOULDN'T WANT
ANY OF THESE TITANIUM-
TIPPED, HIGH-EXPLOSIVE
LIL' WARHEADS TO
GET YOU TOO!



B-

B--

BRIANNA?!?

WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING
HE--





NO...

NOT AGAIN!!

NOT THIS AGAIN!!

I'VE GOT TO
WAKE UP!!

WHY CAN'T I
WAKE UP!

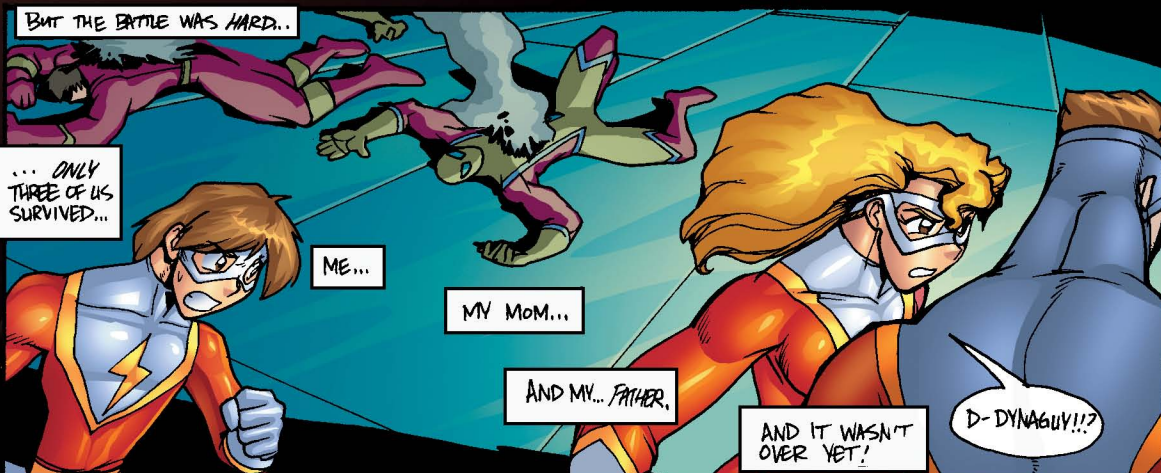
DR. EX-MORTIS' LAB!! HE PLANNED TO OPEN THE GATE THAT WOULD LINK THE UNDERWORLD TO EARTH!!



THE WONDER-
ERENDS
FOUGHT HIM...
AND FOUGHT
HIM!



FORCING HIM
BACK TO THAT
DEATH GATE!



BUT THE BATTLE WAS HARD..

... ONLY
THREE OF US
SURVIVED...

ME...

MY MOM...

AND MY... FATHER,

AND IT WASN'T
OVER YET!

D-DYNAGUY!!!?



ATTACK PLAN ALPHA!
IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF
PUSHING HIM IN BEFORE
HE CHARGES UP AGAIN!

DYNAGUY? IS
IT GOING TO
BE OKAY?

WILL WE
MAKE IT?

DYNA-TEAM!
GO!
VHHH



... BUT THE COLD,
HARD REALITY OF
IT ALL WAS...

... WE WERE AS
GOOD AS DEAD!!

"NO!!"
YOU
FOOLS!

DON'T YOU
REALIZE??



WE WILL ...
REMEMBER...

WE'RE THE
GOOD GUYS!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HOW
CORNLY FATHER WAS... EVEN
AT THE DARKEST OF MOMENTS...

HE ALWAYS USED THAT
CATCH-PHASE OF HIS WHEN
THINGS GOT **DESPERATE** ...
AS IF IT MADE **EVERYTHING**
ALL RIGHT.

BUT WITH THAT
REASSURING SMILE...

NOM AND I BELIEVED
EVERYTHING ~~WAS~~ ALL RIGHT.

EVEN DR. EX
WAS DOOMED!

HRRAV!
DAMN
YOU!!

IT WAS A
NO-WIN FOR
EVERYBODY!!

A MEXICAN
STANDOFF OF
THE WORST
KIND!

I REMEMBER PUTTING MY
FEARS ON HOLD AND JUST
FOCUSING ON PLAN **ALPHA**.

MOM AND FATHER
RAN THEIR ATTACK
PATTERN WHILE I
CONCENTRATED ON
MY SPECIALTY...
A FOCUSED BOLT...

FORGETTING ALL ABOUT
DR. EX-MORTIS' LETHAL
OPTIC BLASTS...

...HOW EARLIER
THEY'D INSTANTLY
KILLED **SIRE**
ARMOUR...

I JUST FOCUSED--
AND NOT DAMN!!

I ACTUALLY
DID IT!!

THE BOLT
KNOCKED HIM
INTO THE
ABYSS FOREVER!!

WE WON!!

I WAS A BLANK
AFTER THAT...

WHEN THE RESERVE
MEMBERS OF THE
WONDER FRIENDS
FINALLY ARRIVED..

ALL THEY
COULD DO WAS
GATHER THE ...
BODIES...

...AND
APOLOGIZE
FOR NOT
BEING THERE
IN TIME...

ESPECIALLY AT
THE FUNERAL...

WE
WON.

BUT AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE CEREMONY, I GLANCED AT THE OTHER TOMBS NEXT TO MY PARENTS', AND CAME TO A REALIZATION!!

MY GRANDFATHER AND EVEN HIS FATHER....!

EVER SINCE THE NINETEEN-TWENTIES!

THEY WERE ALL... HEROES!!

SUPERHEROES!!

AND... NOT ONE OF THEM DIED OF OLD AGE!!

BE BRAVE, YOUNG WILLIAM... AND YOU'LL DO YOUR FATHER PROUD...

FAREWELL.

WITH THAT, I REALIZED THAT THEY ALL EXPECTED THE SAME OF ME!!

TO... TO DIE FOR THEIR "CAUSE"!!

TO SACRIFICE MYSELF FOR JUSTICE OR WHATEVER!!

TO THROW MY LIFE AWAY SELFLESSLY FOR THE "COMMON GOOD"!!

TO BE A SUPER-HERO....

SCREW THAT!

FATHER...

I KNOW
YOU'RE WATCHING.

THIS IS THE ROAD I
CHOOSE FOR MYSELF,
FATHER.

IT'S MY LIFE!
MY POWERS!

MY CHOICES!!!

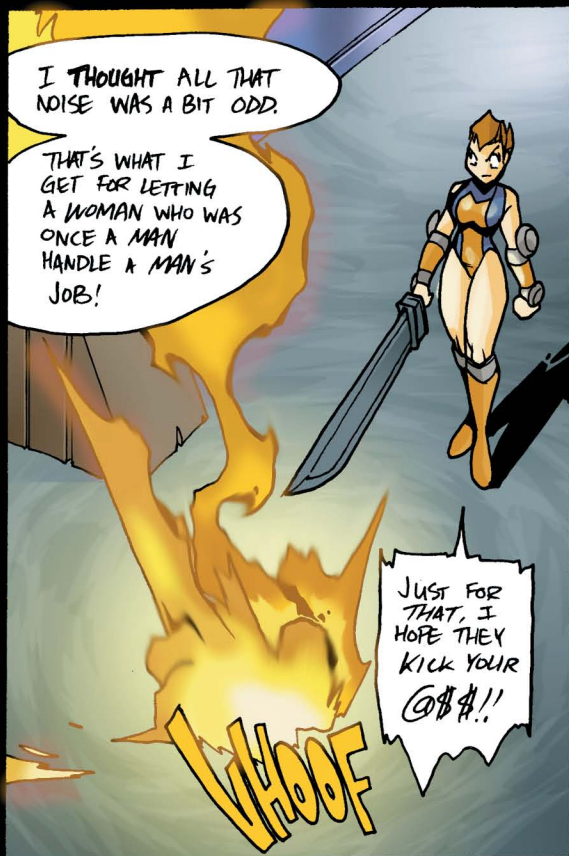
I'M NOT A
HERO.

I'M
EVERYTHING
A HERO
IS **NOT!**

AND ONCE THIS KEY OPENS
THE RELICS OF THE ZIGURATS
FOR ME...

...I'M GOING
TO PROVE IT
TO YOU!!





ELSEWHERE,
INSIDE THE PALACE...

TIRGA!!
WAKE UP!!!

TIRGA!!

LADIES,
LADIES,
PLEASE!

THERE'S
'NUFF ME
'F' ALL
THIRTY OF
YOU!

TIRGA! GET YOUR
GEAR ON!!

SHEILA'S
IN DANGER!

SHE'S
WAY OVER-
DUE TO CHECK
IN FROM HER
PATROL...

....

AND THOSE FAINT
SOUNDS OF EXPLOSIONS
AND CHAOS!!

INDEED... SHEILA'S
IN NEED OF HELP
IMMEDIATELY!

hn?

WHERE'D
THE BABES GO?

TIRGA!!

EDGE GUARD! LISTEN WELL.
WE WILL SPLIT UP AND SEARCH
FOR SHEILA, EACH TAKING A WING
OF THE PALACE...

I'M UP!
I'M UP!!
JEEZ!!

THE SEARCH
ENDS IN TEN
MINUTES...

...WHETHER WE'VE
FOUND SHEILA OR NOT,
WE'LL RALLY NORTH OF
THE PALACE...
ONE LEAGUE.

ONOLI... WHAT OF
OUR INFILTRATION
MISSION?

I'M SORRY,
GAR...
OUR MISSION

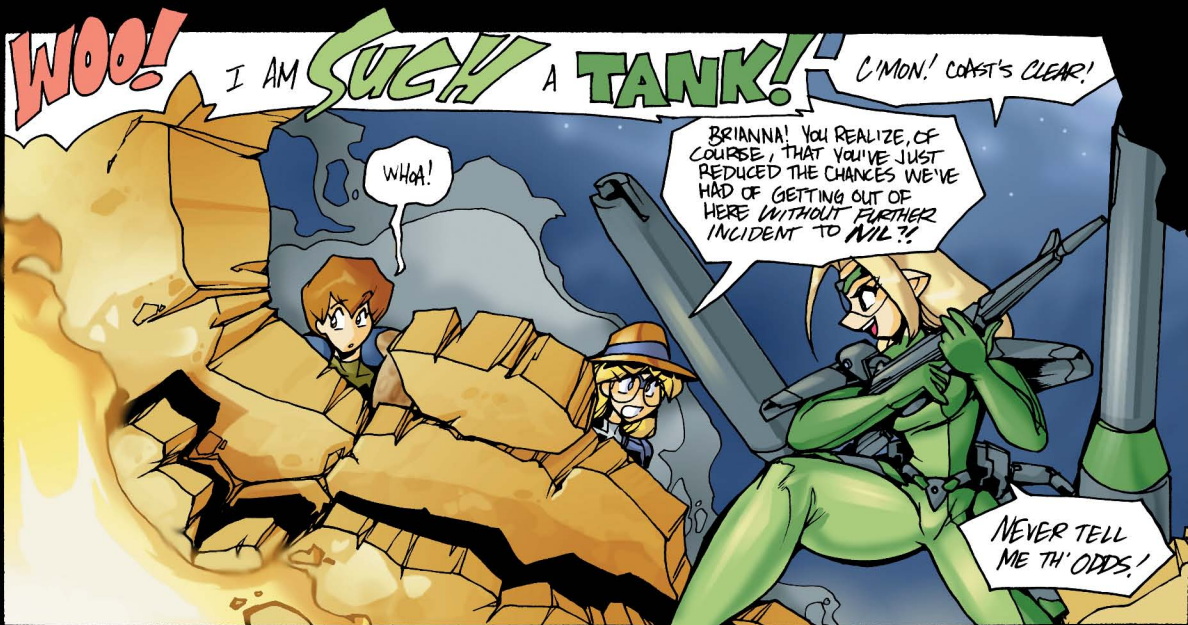
...IS A FAILURE.

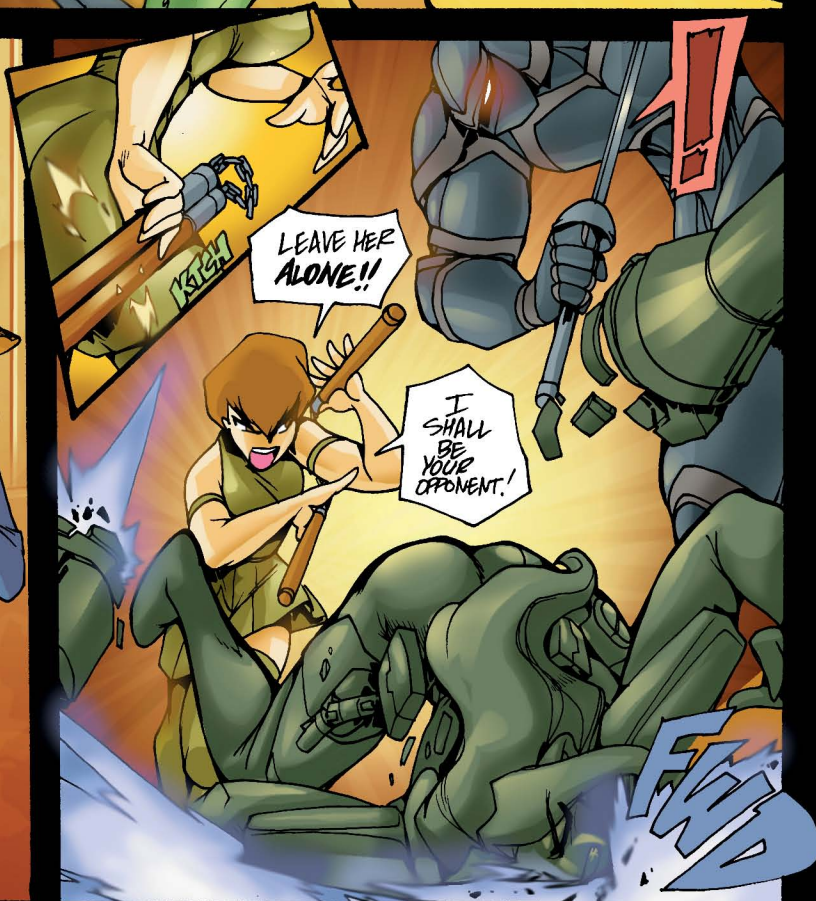
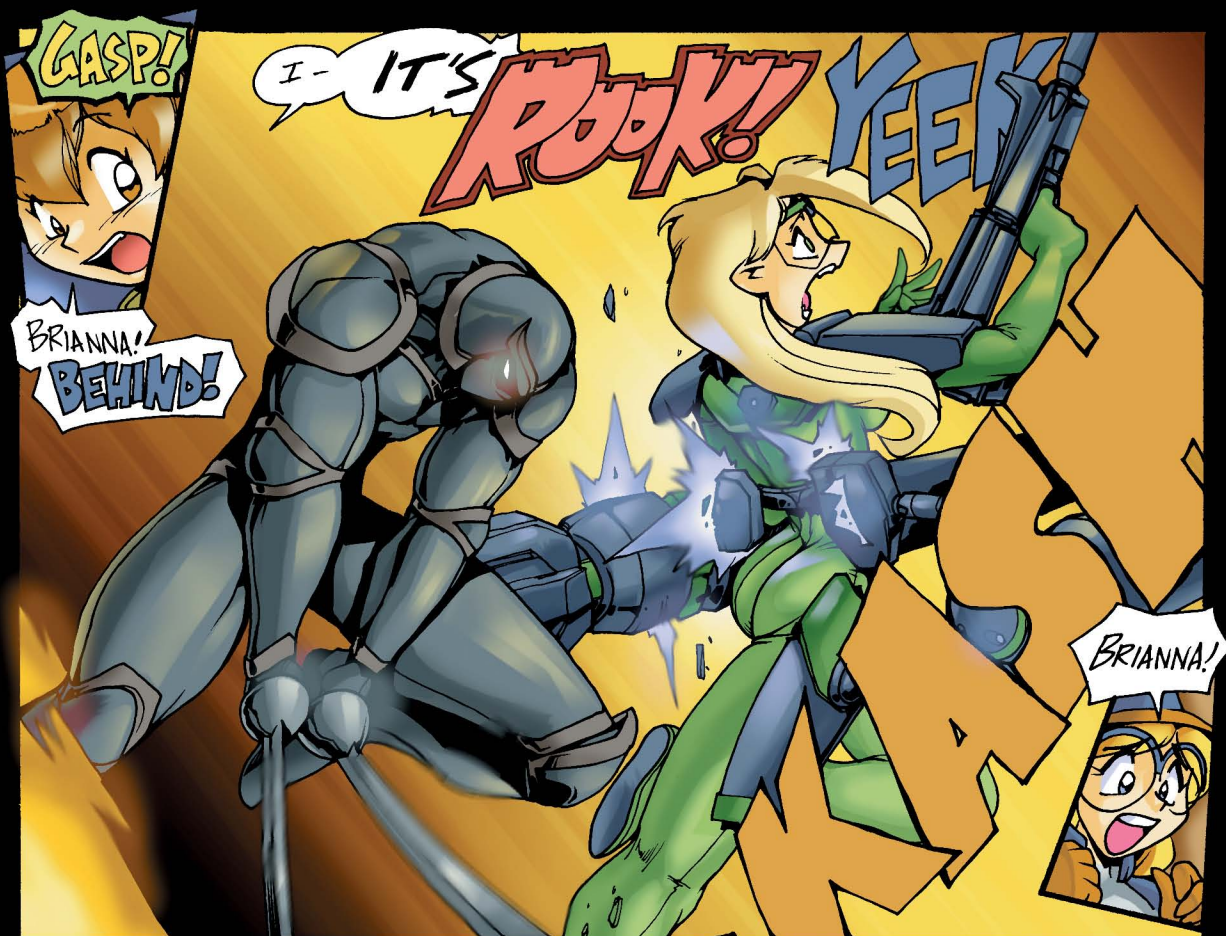
GINA!

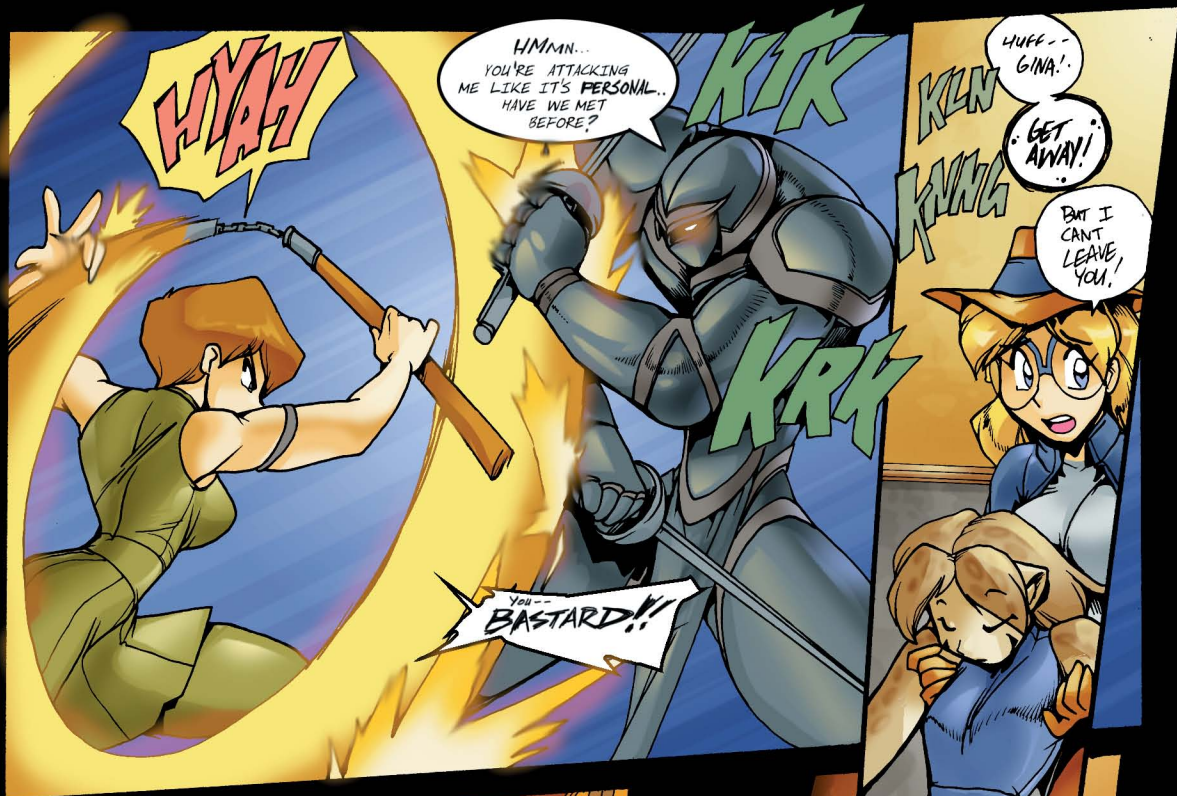
WHICH WAY?

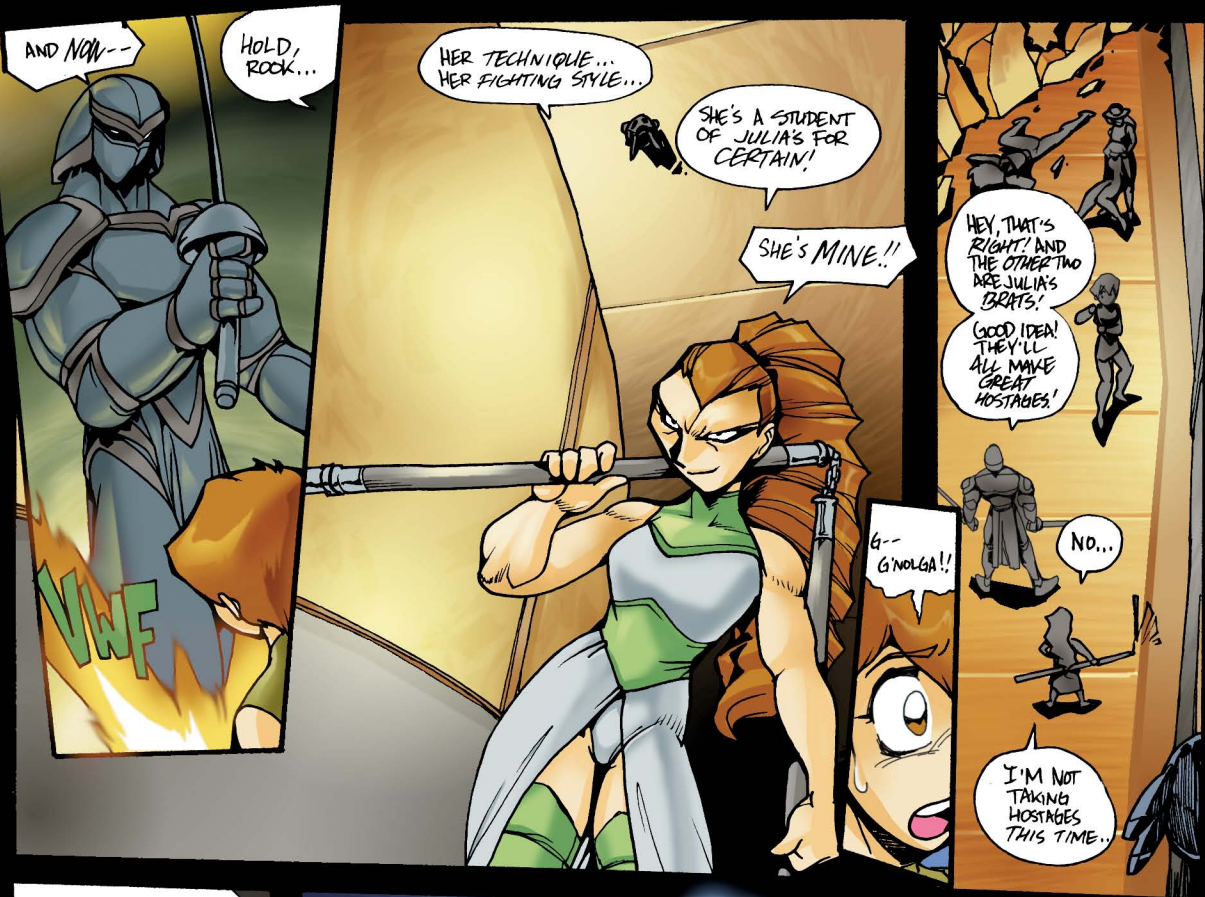
HOLD ON!
HOLD ON!!











AND NOW--

HOLD,
ROCK...

HER TECHNIQUE...
HER FIGHTING STYLE...

SHE'S A STUDENT
OF JULIA'S FOR
CERTAIN!

SHE'S MINE..!

HEY, THAT'S
RIGHT! AND
THE OTHER TWO
ARE JULIA'S
GRATS!

GOOD IDEA!
THEY'LL
ALL MAKE
GREAT
HOSTAGES!

NO...

I'M NOT
TAKING
HOSTAGES
THIS TIME..

VWF

G--
GINOLGA!!

I WANT TO BEAT JULIA
WHILE SHE IS USING
ALL HER MIGHT AND
FURY...

HER DEFEAT WILL BE
ALL THE MORE BITTER
WHEN SHE CANNOT
AVENGE HER DEAD
LOVED ONES..!

UNLESS TEACHER'S
PET CAN SOMEHOW
DEFEAT ME...

COME, GIRL...
SHOW GINOLGA
WHAT TEACHER
HAS TAUGHT
YOU!

WANT?!

SHE'S NOT THE
ONLY STUDENT OF
JULIA ...

I'M ONE OF HER
PUPILS AS WELL...

AND IF YOU MESS
WITH ONE OF US...

YOU MESS
WITH ALL
OF US!!!