

GOLD DIGGER NO. 51

FRED PERRY



GOLD DIGGER



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\$2.99 US - \$4.80 CANADA
05111
10721 07003 1
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MARCH 2004

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WIZARD, I'M IN A HORRIBLE MOOD... A BEHEADING MOOD, IF YOU WILL...

BUT MY WITCHCRAFT-WIELDING WRETCH OF A RETAINER INSISTED I HEAR YOU OUT, SO LET'S HAVE IT...



WHY ARE YOU WASTING MY PRECIOUS TIME, AND WHY SHOULD I, PRINCE LOWTOR, BE PAYING YOU CASH FOR IT?

RUMOR HAS IT YOU'VE BEEN HAVIN' GIRL TROUBLES, BABEH...

THAT YOU'VE JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP ON A CERTAIN HOT-@** FAIRY PRINCESS...

HMPH... A FOOLISH, IMPOSSIBLE QUEST, WIZARD.

I SPENT A MONTH IN DEEP SPACE WITH NOTHING TO GNAW ON EXCEPT MY LEATHER BOOTS...

...AND THE COLD HARD FACTS...*

*THANKS TO AN UPPERCUT FROM VAULTRON'S MIGHTY, METAL FIST IN ISSUE #44 -- F.

VAULTRON, IS INVINCIBLE...

AS LONG AS VAULTRON STANDS, THE PRINCESS IS UNREACHABLE...

AND I AM A CONFIRMED BACHELOR FOR LIFE!!

HEH... YOU'VE BEEN GOIN' AT THIS ALLL WRONG, SON...

YOU WANT YOUR PRINCESS A-SWOONIN'? THEN YOU NEED TH' KANG'S SMOOOOTH CROONIN'!!

HAVE Y' EVER HEARDA TH' "SWEET SILK MAGIC"?

HMN...

THE LOST CHARMING MAGIC USED BY THE MERMAIDS OF OLD...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE--

REDISCOVERED THAT SPELL CIRCLE...? UAH HUH, BABEH!

JUST ASK TH' WARDEN OF MAH FORMER "RESIDENCE"... SHE 'N' YOUR WITCH, HAGGY, ARE NOW MAH BIGGEST FANS!!

HMMMMM...

VERY WELL, SPELLVIS, YOU'VE SPARKED MY INTEREST.

RETURN WITH MY ROYAL BRIDE-TO-BE, AND I'LL SEE TO YOUR "BLANG-BLANG FOR THE KANG"!!

"THANKYEHVEREHMUCH...
NOW THEN... WHERE DO
I FIND THIS PRINCESS
O'LURA...?"

SURE 'N' IT'S
NOT ME PLACE
T' BE ASKIN'
THIS, YER
HIGHNESS...

BUT YOU'VE BEEN
A WEE BIT FIDGETY
ALL THIS AFTERNOON...
I MEAN... Y' DON'T
NORMALLY BE GIVEN
US BOYS IN SECURITY
TWENTY-SIX TEST
DRILLS A DAY...

SO WOULD Y'
MIND TELLIN'
YOUR SECURITY
CHIEF WHAT
BE BUNCHIN'
UP Y'R PANTIES
THIS TIME?

NO TIME,
O'MALLEY...
WHAT BE
THE STATUS
OF THE
PRISONERS
IN TH'
DETENTION
BLOCK...?



THE GOLD-THIEVIN'
WERE-RATS WE CAUGHT
LAST YEAR?

I WOULDN'T
BE FRETIN' OVER
THEM TYKES.

I'LL BE
DECIDED WHAT
T' FRET ABOUT,
O'MALLEY...

I'D BETTER
BE CHECKIN' ON
'EM MESELF...

...
Guys...
incoming...

Y' STILL NEED
T' BE ANSWERIN'
ME QUESTION,
Y'R HIGHNESS...

WHAT BE
ALL TH'
HULLABALOO?

NO
TIME...

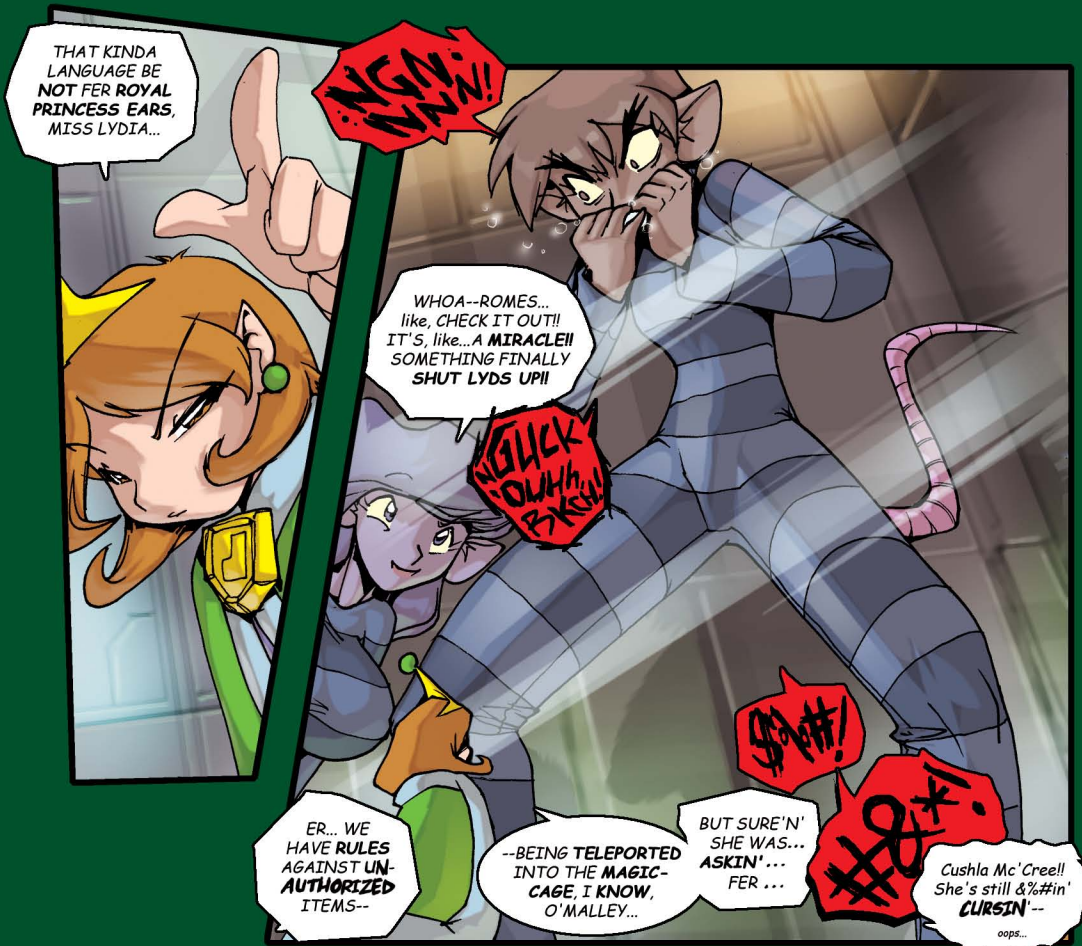


WHEN THE F%#%
ARE YOU GONNA
F%\$&ING LET
US OUTTA HERE!!??

AND WHERE'S
OUR FAIR TRIAL??
WHAT THE F%*%
HAPPENED TO
"DUE PROCESS"?!

AND WHO
THE F%\$%
DO YOU THINK
YOU ARE LOCKIN'
US UP IN HERE!!
I'LL F%\$%
GLP





THAT KINDA LANGUAGE BE NOT FER ROYAL PRINCESS EARS, MISS LYDIA...

NGN!

WHOA--ROMES... like, CHECK IT OUT!! IT'S, like... A **MIRACLE!!** SOMETHING FINALLY SHUT LYDS UP!!

WELCK

\$%&!

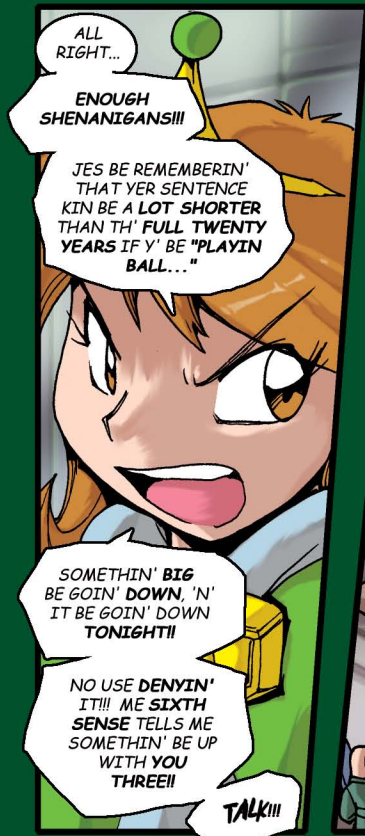
X*!

ER... WE HAVE RULES AGAINST UN-AUTHORIZED ITEMS--

--BEING TELEPORTED INTO THE MAGIC-CAGE, I KNOW, O' MALLEY...

BUT SURE'N' SHE WAS... ASKIN'... FER ...

Cushla Mc'Cree!! She's still &%#in' CURSIN'--
oops...



ALL RIGHT...

ENOUGH SHENANIGANS!!!

JES BE REMEMBERIN' THAT YER SENTENCE KIN BE A LOT SHORTER THAN TH' FULL TWENTY YEARS IF Y' BE "PLAYIN BALL..."

SOMETHIN' BIG BE GOIN' DOWN, 'N' IT BE GOIN' DOWN TONIGHT!!

NO USE DENYIN' IT!!! ME SIXTH SENSE TELLS ME SOMETHIN' BE UP WITH YOU THREE!!

TALK!!!



.....

PRINCESS...

...I THINK IT BE TIME FOR US T' HAVE A WEE CHAT...

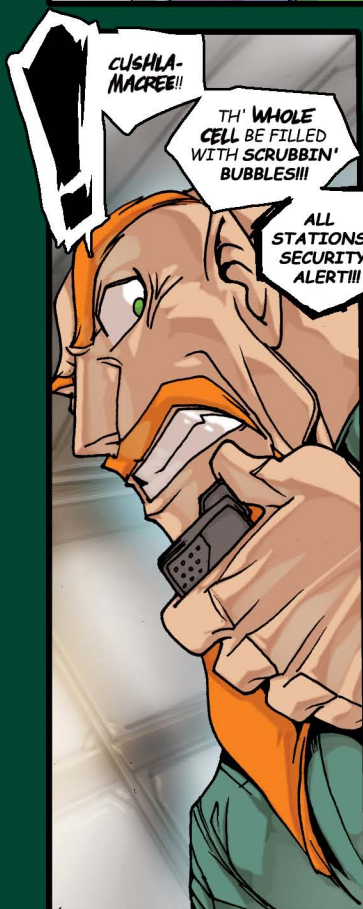


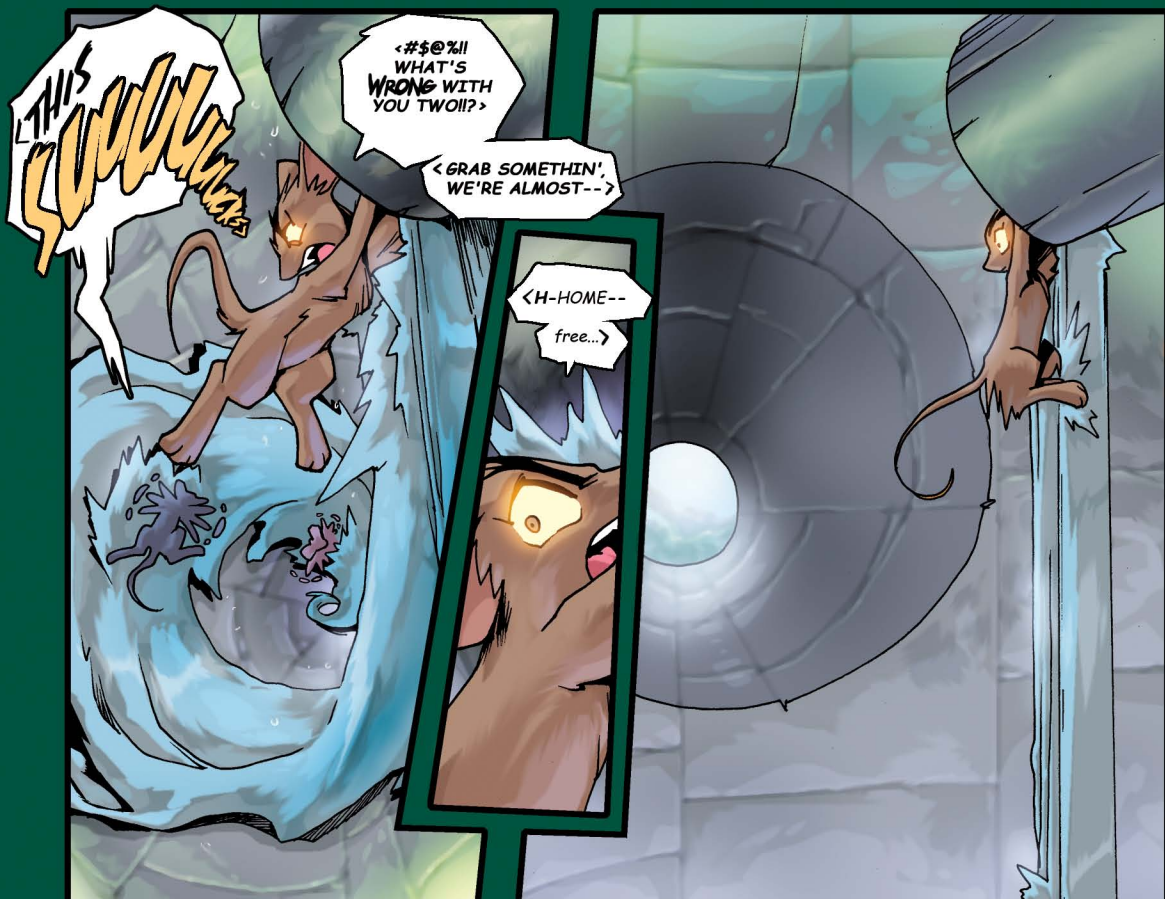
I'M BEGINNIN' TO SUSPECT Y' BE NEEDIN' T' USE SOME O' THAT VACATION TIME Y'VE BEEN HOARDIN'...

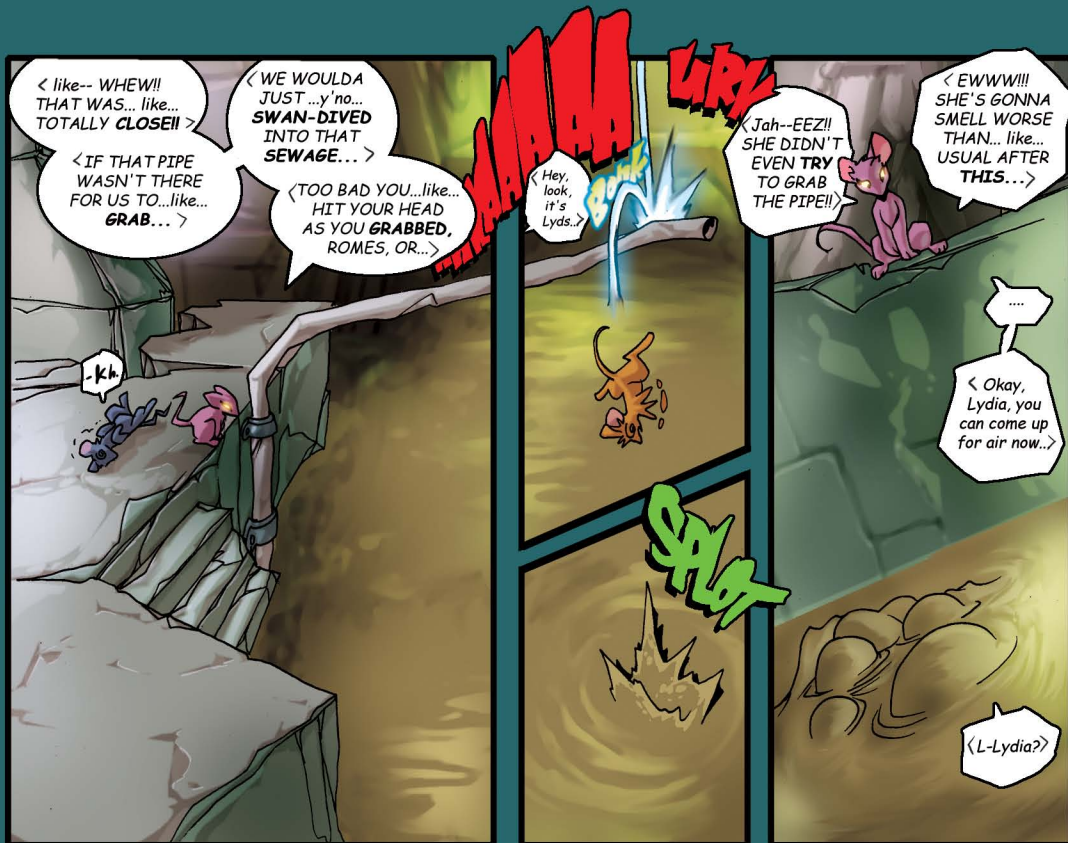
AFTER ALL, WHAT COULD THE THREE OF **THOSE SCALLY-WAGS** BE DOIN' BEHIND A CAGE O' INDESTRUCTIBLE MAGIC FORCE?

....











<...LET'S SHOW
THIS PUNK
HOW NEW
YORK RATS
WORK A
SEWER...!>

THIS SEASON
IS WHY THE
FIRST EXPLORERS
NAMED THIS
REALM JADE...

THE HARVEST
SEASON...

IT SEEMS TO
COME TO EVERY
PART OF THE REALM
SIMULTANEOUSLY,
CAUSING EVERYTHING
TO BLOOM... GROW...

...RENEW...

THE LAND
ON WHICH
I BUILT MY
OBSERVATORY,
CAME WITH A
PRICE AND
A PROMISE...

...THAT I
KEPT THE
FARMLANDS
HEALTHY AND
HARVESTED
EACH SEASON.

A PROMISE
I HAPPILY KEEP
EVEN AFTER ALL
THESE CENTURIES...

AFTER TOILING AWAY IN
THE ARCAN E LABORATORY
OR SPENDING ENDLESS
NIGHTS RESEARCHING
ENCHANTMENTS...

...THIS LABOR IS A
SIMPLE AND CLEAN
DIVERSION...

...A DIVERSION
MY GUESTS AND
ASSISTANTS,
MESHA AND
TARK, SEEM
TO ENJOY AS
MUCH AS I....

...AND
PERHAPS
MORE...
IT'S AS
THOUGH
THEY WOULD
RATHER BE
SIMPLE
FARMERS...

...THAN
ARCAN E
MASTERS...

I'VE HEARD THAT
ELVES LOVE TO RELATE
TALES OF THEIR PAST
EXPERIENCES... SPINNING
ANECDOTES AND CLEVER
STORIES AT EACH
OPPORTUNITY.

BUT... MY GUESTS
SEEM EAGER TO LET
THEIR HISTORY
FADE...

EACH SEASON
THEY WORK
HARDER...

...LOOSENING THEIR
HOLD ON THE MAGIC
ARTS AND EMBRACING
THIS "NEW LIFE".

I THINK I
OVERHEARD
THEM MAKING
PLANS TO
START A
FAMILY...

IMAGINE THAT...
FIRST, **BROD THE
TERRIBLE...** WARRIOR
OF THE ONCE-GREAT
TROLL HORDES...

THEN, **BROD THE
SAGE...** HERMIT
MAGICIAN OF THE
ENCHANTED
OBSERVATORY...

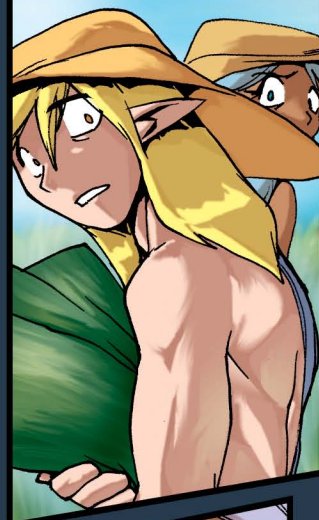
AND SOON...
"UNCLE BROD"...
LORD AND MASTER
OF **DAYCARE...**
Hmhmm...

It seems the
improvement of
my **status** is
endless...

I...

WHAT'S...
THIS...?

MESHALA...



F-father??

VISITORS...
NO...
INVADERS!!

**HOW DARE
THEY!!?**

HOW DARE YOU!

TWELVE... NO...
FIFTEEN ELVEN
AURA-SWORDS...

WIELDING
"LEFT-HANDED"...
THEY INTEND
TO SUBDUCE...

...AND INFLICT
PAIN...

AND THAT ARMOR...
ETHEREAL MAIL...
RESISTANT TO
ALL BUT THE MOST
DEVASTATING
SPELLS...

THEY'RE
HERE TO
CAPTURE--

--AND
EVEN IF THEY
HAD PREPARED
ATTACK SPELLS,
MESHA AND
TARK COULDN'T
DO A THING
ABOUT IT...

IT'S UP TO
ME-- IT'S UP
T--

YOU SHOULD
NOT HAVE ALLOWED
THEM TO LIVE HERE,
TROLL...

MY DAUGHTER WAS
SAFE ON EARTH-REALM...
SAFE FROM OUR LAWS...

...SAFE FROM
ME...

but now

....

gone...

BUT THEY LEFT A
SMALL TRACE OF
THE GATE- SPELL
THEY USED...

I KNOW THAT
TRACE...

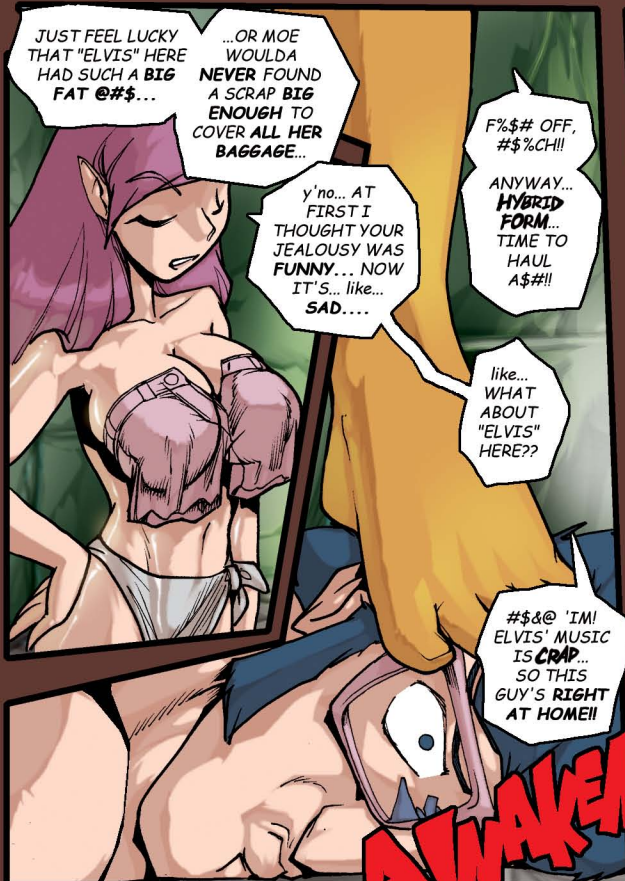
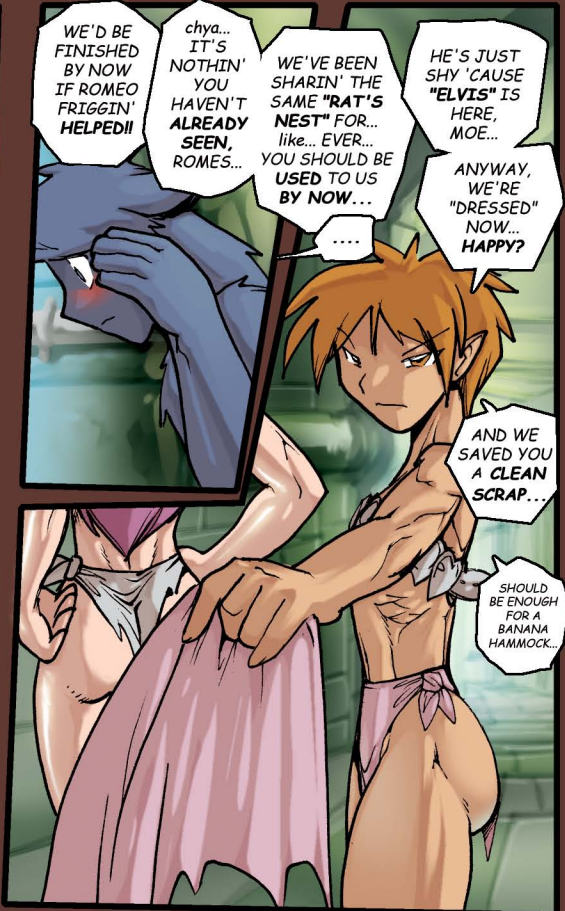
THEY TOOK
MY GUESTS
TO THE
RETREAT...

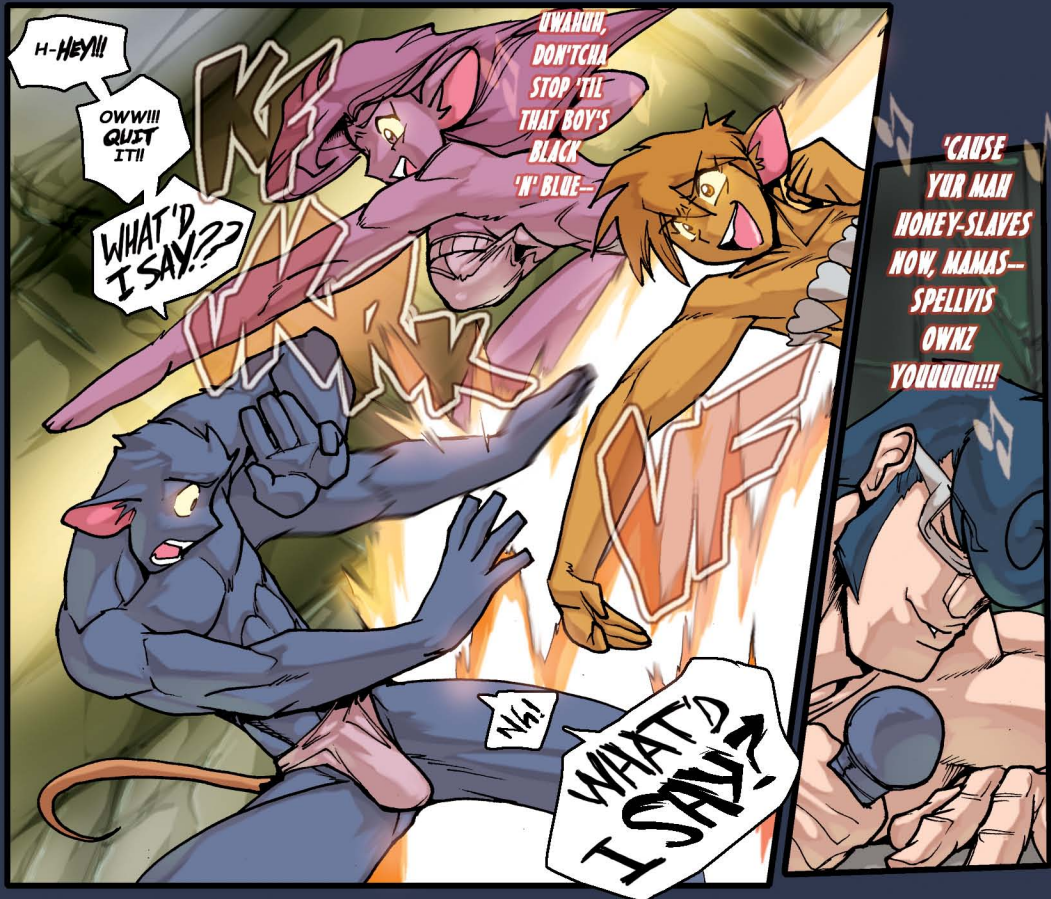
WELL, BROD...

...YOU HAVEN'T
STORMED AN
ELVEN PRISON
TO RESCUE
COMRADES IN
OVER FIVE
HUNDRED
YEARS...

I HOPE
YOU'RE
NOT TOO
RUSTY...









GO AHEAD 'N' SLIDE THAT BODY INTO TH' SEWAGE, LI'L MAMAS...

REAL QUIET-LIKE...

IF HE AIN'T DEAD NOW, HE'LL BE DROWNED BEFORE HE WAKES UP...



g-goodbye...

...Romeo...

I swear we'll get him for this...

...I SWEAR...



NOW, FOLLAH ME, HONEYS... I MAY HAVE OPENED MY ACT WITH YOU THREE...



...BUT SPELLVIS STILL HAS A ROYAL CONCERT TO PLAY...

...Romeo...

...I swear... we'll make him pay...



MEANWHILE...

I dunno about this, McKeith...

I be havin' a baaaad feeling...



RELAX, PRINCESS... THIS PLAN CAN'T BE FAILIN'...

TWO O' OUR BEST STEALTHY-BOYOS... "DING McCHAVES" 'N TH' "MASTER O'CHIEF"...



...BE LEADIN' Y' OUT O' TH' CASTLE T' TH' SECRET HIDEAWAY IN TH' BAHAMAS BY TH' SNEAKIEST ROUTE THERE BE...





PLUS TH' V-FORCE BE HOLDIN' IT DOWN HERE IN TH' THRONE ROOM...

WE EVEN GOT US A BODY-DOUBLE JUST IN CASE...

AAAARG!! ME EYES!! ME VIRGIN EYEEES!!

SO RELAX, PRINCESS... 'N' HAVE FUN ON YER LONG-OVERDUE 'N' WELL-EARNED VACATION!!



HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THIS, PRINCESS... I'LL NEVER BE LIVIN' THIS DOWN IF THE BOYS IN HIGH COMMAND BE RECOGNIZIN' ME IN YER DRESS...

CHIEF!! FER TH' LOVE O' CRIMIN'!! CLOSE YER LEGS!!

I DO, O'MALLEY. I REALLY DO... N' THAT GOES FER ALL O' YA...

THANKS, PALLIES.

PINK HEART BE OVER 'N' OUT...

PRINCESS... THIS BE McCHAVES... WE BE NEEDIN' T' HOLD UP A SEC...



HUH? SOMETHIN' **WRONG**, BOYO? I'M NOT PICKIN' UP **NOTHIN'** ON ME MOTION DETECTOR...

"NOTHIN'" BE THE PROBLEM, PRINCESS...

EVER SINCE WE GOT DOWN HERE...NOTHIN' BUT QUIET...

LIKE TH' WHOLE AREA BE UNDER AN ENCHANTMENT O' AMBIENT SOUND...



IN WHICH CASE, WE WON'T BE HEARIN' **NOTHIN'** UNLESS WE KIN SEE IT TOO...

'N' SINCE YER MOTION DETECTOR BE WORKING WITH VIBRATIONS, THEY BE AFFECTED AS WELL!!

TH' WHOLE AREA, McCHAVES!?? GET OUT!!

ONLY A DEDICATED MASTER O' SOUND MAGIC COULD BE PULLIN' OFF SUCH A--



...what?

Sshh...

CLK





**POT ON THAT
WEDDIN' RANG,
PRINCESS--
KISS
LOWTOR'S LOVE
MEDALLION--**

**--SAY "I DO",
TOSS THAT
BIG BOUQUET--
'N RIDE OFF
ON HIS ORANGE
STALLION--**

no--NO!!!

NO WAY
I BE GOIN'
OUT LIKE
THAT!!

IF LOWTOR
BE WANTIN'
SOME O' THIS,
HE'S GONNA
HAVE TA PRY
ME COLD, DEAD
HANDS FROM
TH' WEAPON
CONTROLS
FIR--



NNH...
I...
I CAN'T
MOVE ME
ARMS!!??

**THERE'S NO
USE RESISTIN';
HONEY--**

I-I'M BEIN'
ENCHANTED--

A CHARM
SPELL??

BUT--
LEPRECHAUNS
BE --
IMMUNE T'--



WAIT... THIS
BE NO SPELL-
SONG---

**--CAUSE
SPELLS'S
GETTIN'
BLANG-
BLANG,
DAH-LIN'--**

**THERE'S NO
WAY Y'ALL
EVER LAST--**

**'N LOWTOR'S
A-GETTIN' DAT
@@@\$\$#!**



T-THIS BE
PSIONIC!!

MAH, WHADDA
SMART LI'L
DARLIN'...

Y'ALL TH'
FIRST ONE
T' SEE TH'
NATURE O'
MAH TRUE
POWER...

BUT IT AIN'T
GONNA MAKE NO
DIFFERENCE,
BABEH...

WHEN I'M
FINISHED WITH
YOU, MAMA,
LOWTOR'LL
HAVE T' FIGHT
Y' OFF WITH
A STI--

i was... *too*
weak...
to move...

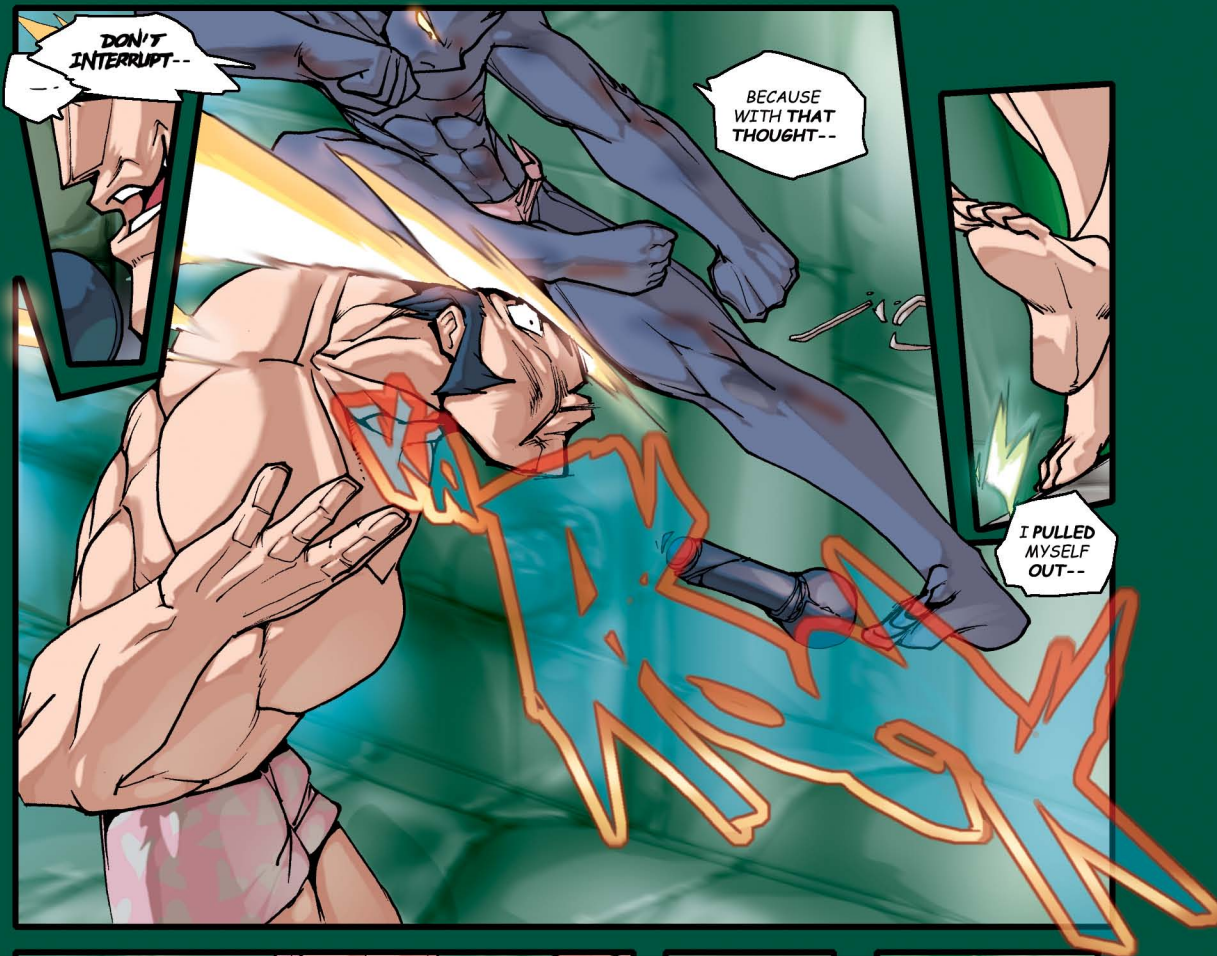
...while i
drowned...

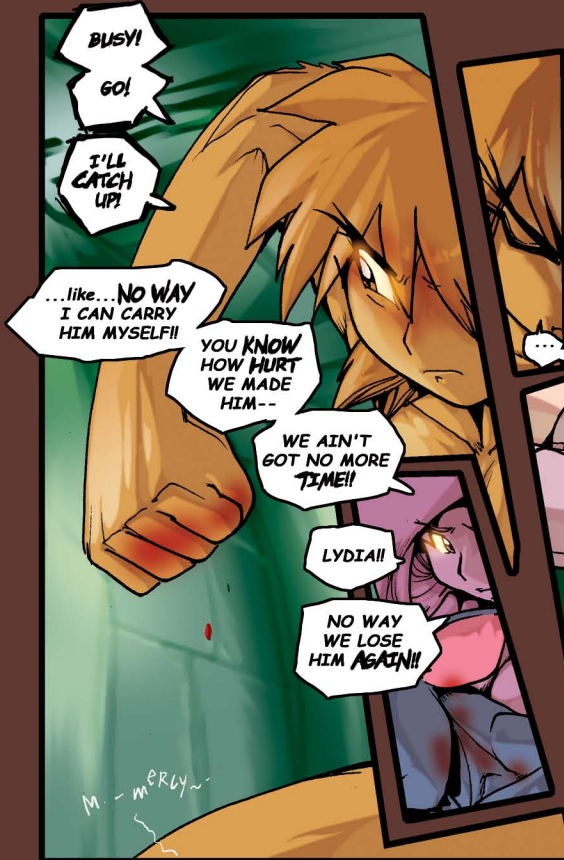
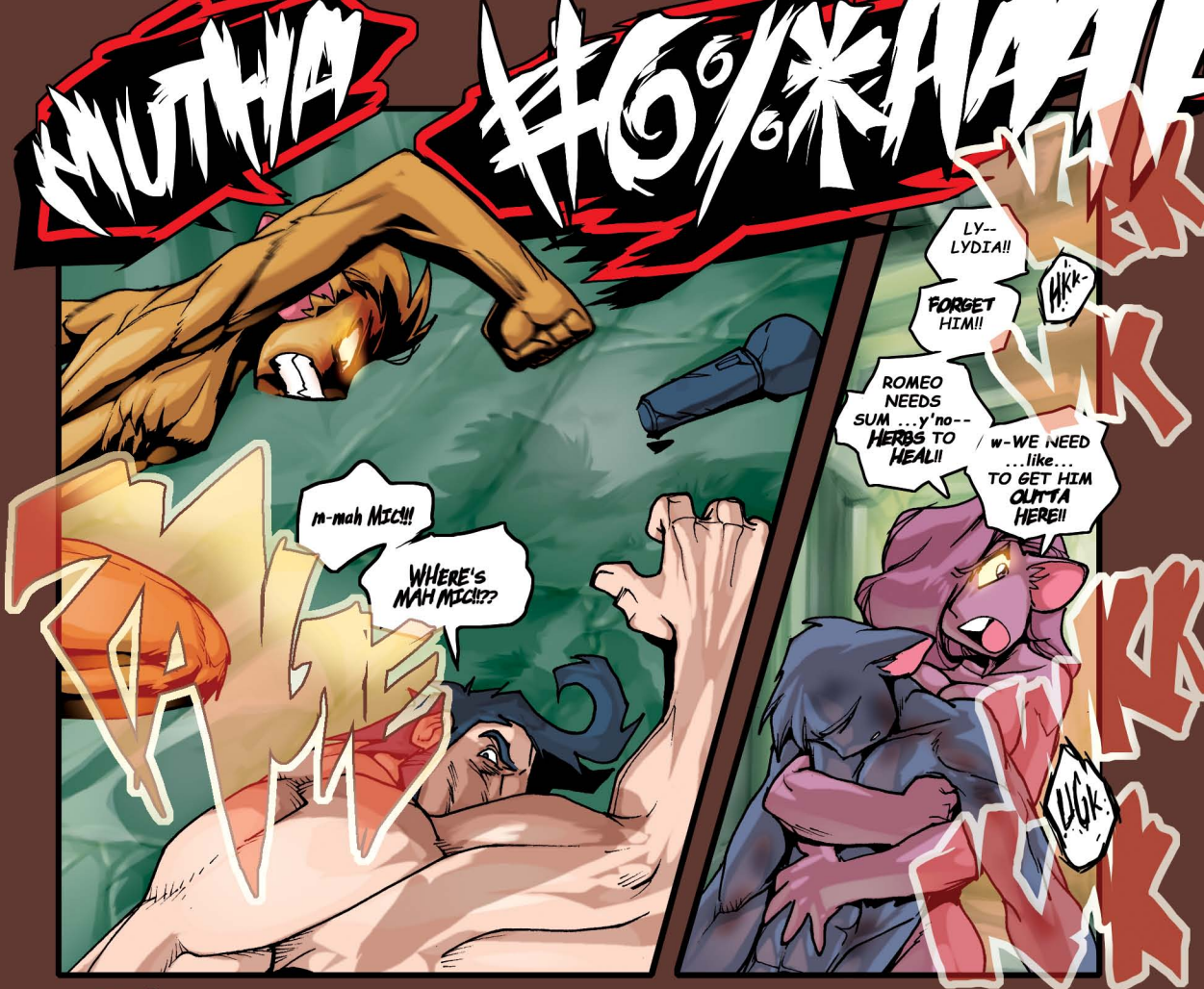


but then...

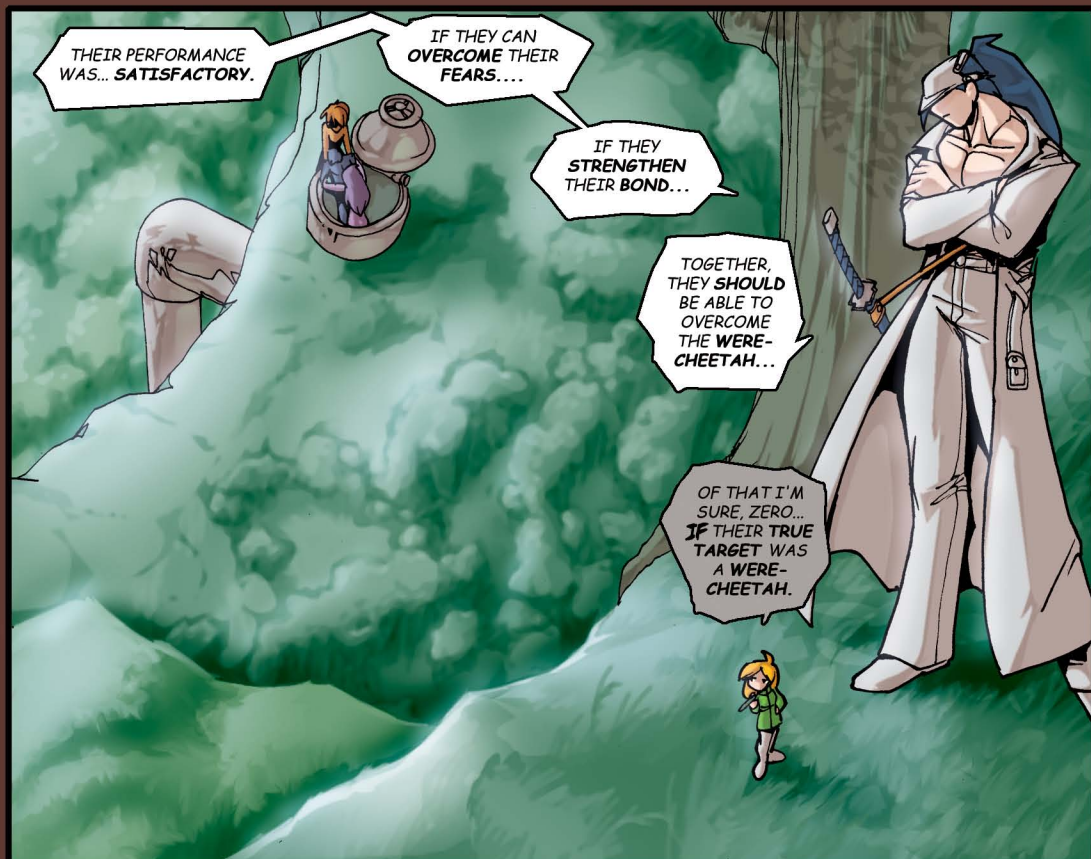
I-I
THOUGHT
OF MY
FRIENDS...
+TRAPPED AS
YOUR
SLAVES...

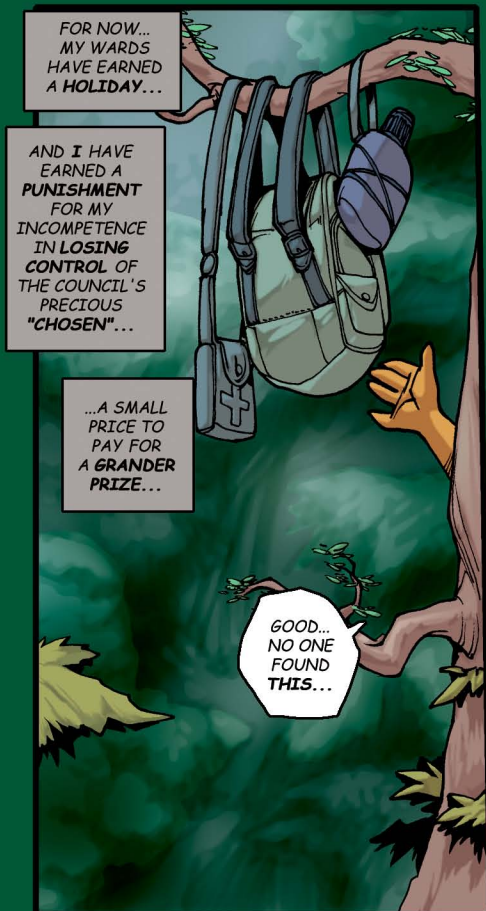
FOREVER...











FOR NOW...
MY WARDS
HAVE EARNED
A HOLIDAY...

AND I HAVE
EARNED A
PUNISHMENT
FOR MY
INCOMPETENCE
IN LOSING
CONTROL OF
THE COUNCIL'S
PRECIOUS
"CHOSEN"...

...A SMALL
PRICE TO
PAY FOR
A GRANDER
PRIZE...

GOOD...
NO ONE
FOUND
THIS...



HMMM...

EVERYTHING'S
JUST LIKE WE
LEFT IT...

OUR STREET-
CLOTHES...
CASH...

EXACTLY
LIKE THE
MORNIN'
WE PULLED
ON OUR
MAGIC
LEATHER
AND SNUCK
INTO THE
CASTLE.

THE SPARE
MAGIC
HEALIN'
KIT'S
HERE TOO,
ROMEO...

AND
MOE...?



...like...
WHAT
NOW?

THANK YOU
SO VERY F%\$#IN'
MUCH FOR INSISTIN'
ON BRINGIN' A
BOX OF HANDY-
WIPE!!

TOLDJA
WE'D
NEED 'EM
SUMHOW...

SO...like...
WHAT NOW?
REPORT BACK TO
GOTHWRAIN?

AFTER HE LEFT
US IN JAIL FOR
A YEAR? >PFT:
%&#% 'IM!

LYDI...A...

MOI-SHA...



...like...
SAVE YER
STRENGTH,
ROMES...

WE'LL GET
YA PATCHED
UP IN A
SEC...

NO...

I CAN
CONTAIN
THIS NO...
koff...n-NO
LONGER...

THROUGH
ALL HARDSHIP...
THROUGH ALL
PAIN...

WHEN I WAS
TOO WEAK
TO GO ON...

YOU BOTH...
koff...
r-REFUSED
TO ABANDON
ME...

MOISHA...
LYDIA...
I'M GLAD...

...GLAD YOU'RE
MY FRIENDS...
WHOM I LOVE...



D--DAMMIT,
L-LEAVE IT
TO MR. CORN-
BALL TO...T-...

RUIN... A-A
PERFECTLY
GOOD REST
BREAK...

SNIFF

Like...
NOT MUCH
WE CAN
DO 'BOUT
IT, LYDS...

WE AIN'T
GOT MUCH
CHOICE...

We're
all we
got...



MEANWHILE...

WHERE'S
M' LAWYER??
DO Y' KNOW
WHO AH AM?

AH'VE GOT
DIPLOMATIC
IMMUNITY!

Y' SEE,
PRINCESS?
NOT ALL
YER DREAMS
BE COMIN'
TRUE!!

O'MALLEY...

YES,
PRINCESS?

YE CAN BE
TAKIN' ME
DRESS OFF
NOW...

THE END.