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# GOLD DIGGER



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20 YEARS





THE ADVENTURES OF GINA, BRITANNY AND BRIANNA DIGGERS AS THEY EXPLORE  
THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNKNOWN, UNLOCK THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE  
WORLD, AND DISCOVER A DESTINY SET INTO MOTION AT THE DAWN OF TIME.

### *previously...*

THE ENCHANTED, MALIGNED REMAINS OF  
JONATHAN LEONARD DIGGERS, ONCE THE  
BELOVED GRANDFATHER OF GINA AND  
BRITANNY, HAVE RETURNED ONCE AGAIN  
AS THE LICH KING!

ALL THANKS TO THE CLANDESTINE  
MANIPULATIONS OF GOTHWRAIN,  
ELDER OF THE WERE-RAT CLAN.

SENSING A SOUL'S LINK BETWEEN  
HIMSELF AND BRITANNY'S NEWBORN  
DAUGHTER, TIFANNY, THE LICH KING  
POSSESSED BRITANNY'S BODY AND  
SPIRITED TIFANNY AWAY TO THE  
HIDDEN REALM OF OBLIVION.

BRITANNY NOW FIGHTS TO RESCUE  
TIFANNY AND FIND SOME WAY...  
ANY WAY...TO GET BACK HOME.

### *inside...*

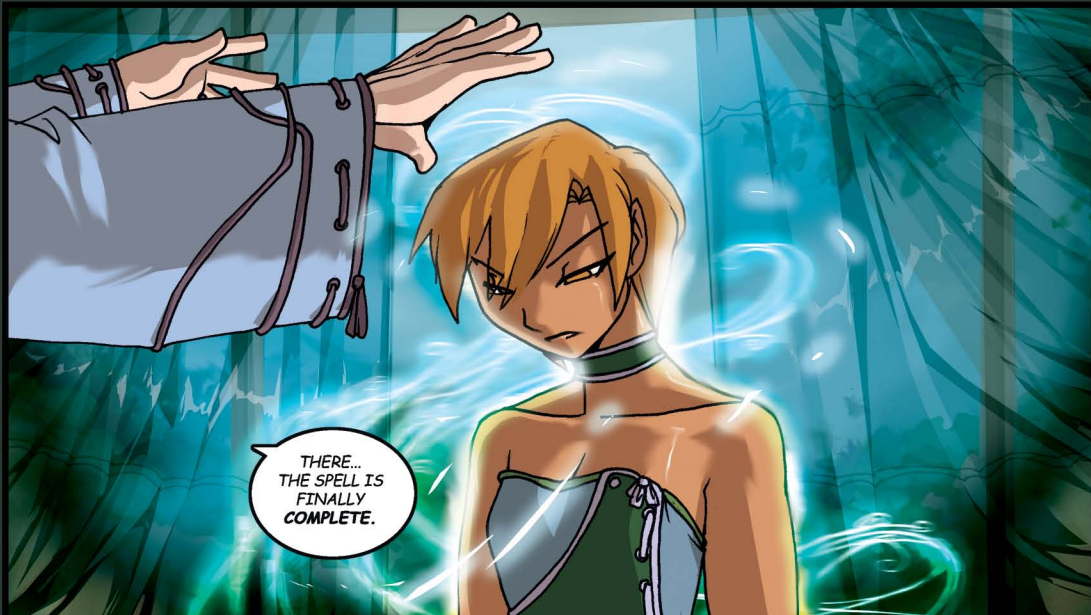
WITHIN THE VEILED REALM,  
ANCIENT SECRETS REVEAL  
THEMSELVES...

...SECRETS THAT WILL  
REVEAL THE HISTORY  
OF THE ANCIENT  
ELVES...AND OTHER  
ELDER RACES...

...SECRETS THAT WILL  
CHANGE BRITANNY  
FOREVER...



ICERON'S LAIR...  
ONE THOUSAND  
YEARS AGO...



MY GIFT  
FAILED TO  
SOOTHE  
YOU...

...AND THERE IS  
**NO SIGN** OF  
YOUR **USUAL**  
**ENTHUSIASM**  
FOR OUR  
**MORNING**  
**INTERACTION.**

HOWEVER, I  
**KNOW** YOU'LL  
EVENTUALLY  
**SMILE** FOR ME  
AGAIN.

TIME HEALS  
ALL WOUNDS.

Yes, master...

*Edge of Oblivion 3 of 4...*



GINA'S HOME: ATLANTA, GEORGIA...

PRESENT DAY...

IS EVERYONE  
READY?

IT WILL HAVE  
TO SUFFICE.

GOTHWRAIN  
LEFT US **NO**  
**CHOICE** WHEN HE  
ENGINEERED THIS  
SITUATION...

MY **SWORD COLLECTION**  
WAS DESTROYED IN THE  
EXPLOSION THAT TOOK  
OUR HOME...\* I'M GOING  
TO MAKE DO WITH  
MY **SPARE EQUIPMENT**  
FROM THE SHUNDOSI  
DOJO.

MY DAUGHTER **BRITANNY**  
AND HER CHILD, **TIFANNY**,  
HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED TO  
AN UNKNOWN LOCATION,  
OR EVEN **DIMENSION**, AND  
HE IS THE **ONLY ONE** WHO  
KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE...

WE HAVE TO  
FIND **GOTHWRAIN**  
AND **PERSUADE** HIM  
TO **CO-OPERATE**.

Hmph.  
I'll "persuade"  
'im, all right...

\*ISSUE  
#60, -F.

GOTHWRAIN  
WON'T BE  
EASY TO  
FIND.

HE AND THE  
REST OF THE  
WERE-RATS  
RESIDE IN A  
MYSTIC CITY  
CALLED  
"DARK HOME."

IT'S **EXACT**  
**LOCATION** HAS  
NEVER BEEN  
DISCOVERED BY  
**ANY OUTSIDER...**

...BUT WITH  
ALL OF YOUR  
HELP, WE'RE  
GOING TO  
**CHANGE**  
THAT...

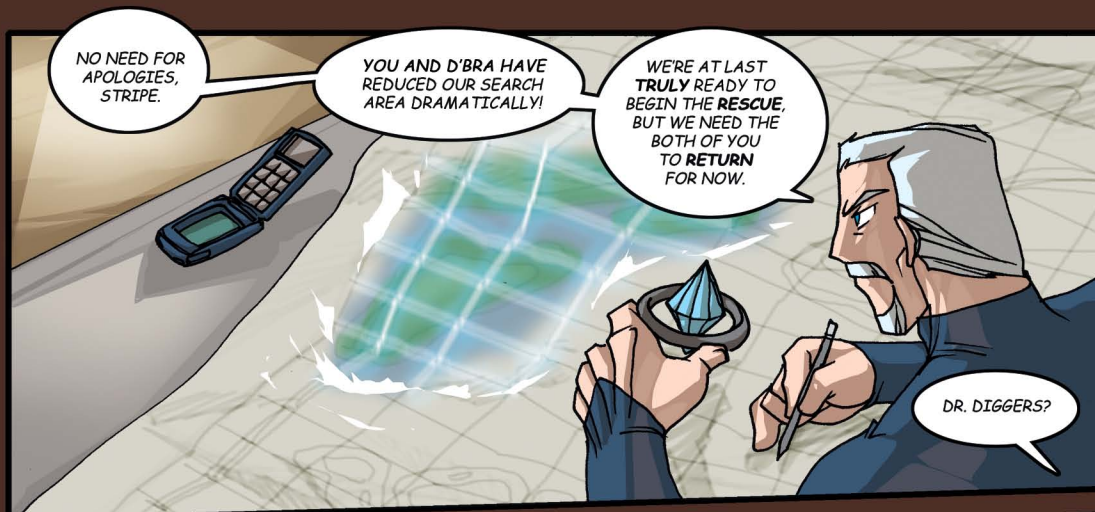
HELLO?  
DR. DIGGERS?

**STRIPE!**  
WHAT HAVE  
YOU FOUND?

DEBRA AND I HAVE  
ARRIVED IN CANADA, BUT  
SHE CAN'T SENSE **ANY-**  
**THING** AT THE LOCATION  
YOU SPECIFIED...

I'M SORRY...





NO NEED FOR APOLOGIES, STRIPE.

YOU AND D'BRA HAVE REDUCED OUR SEARCH AREA DRAMATICALLY!

WE'RE AT LAST TRULY READY TO BEGIN THE RESCUE, BUT WE NEED THE BOTH OF YOU TO RETURN FOR NOW.

DR. DIGGERS?



WHAT ABOUT GINA AND BRIANNA?

THEY LEFT WITH SEANCE AND GENN FOR JADE-REALM A FEW DAYS AGO...

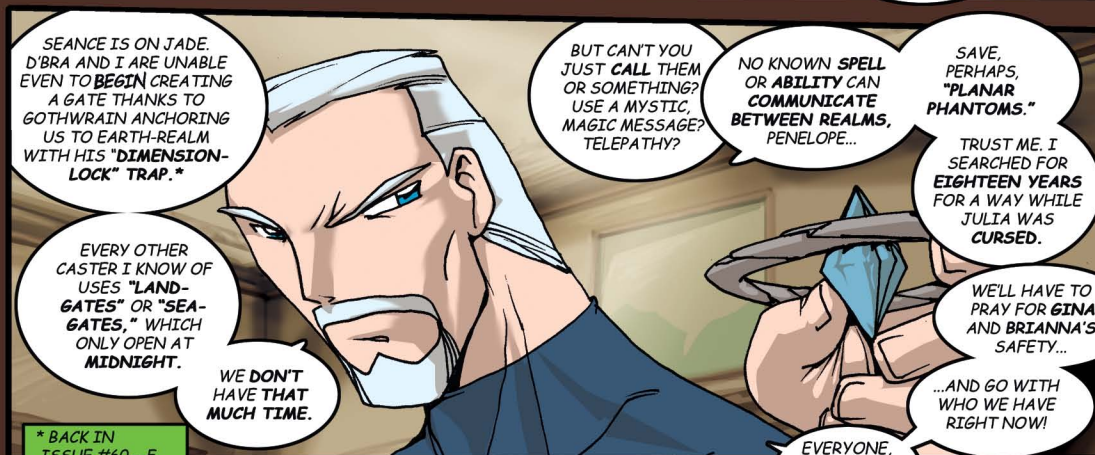
COULD THEY BE IN DANGER AS WELL?

AND IF NOT, PERHAPS THEY CAN HELP US FIND BRITANNY AND TIFANNY?

TRUE. WE SHOULD TRY TO CONTACT THEM!

IF ONLY WE COULD.

SEANCE, D'BRA AND I ARE THE ONLY AURA-MAGES ON EARTH WHO HAVE ACCESS TO THE "ETHEREAL GATE" SPELL.



SEANCE IS ON JADE. D'BRA AND I ARE UNABLE EVEN TO **BEGIN** CREATING A GATE THANKS TO GOTHWRAIN ANCHORING US TO EARTH-REALM WITH HIS "DIMENSION-LOCK" TRAP.\*

EVERY OTHER CASTER I KNOW OF USES "LAND-GATES" OR "SEA-GATES," WHICH ONLY OPEN AT MIDNIGHT.

WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME.

\* BACK IN ISSUE #60-- F.

BUT CAN'T YOU JUST CALL THEM OR SOMETHING? USE A MYSTIC, MAGIC MESSAGE? TELEPATHY?

NO KNOWN SPELL OR ABILITY CAN COMMUNICATE BETWEEN REALMS, PENELOPE...

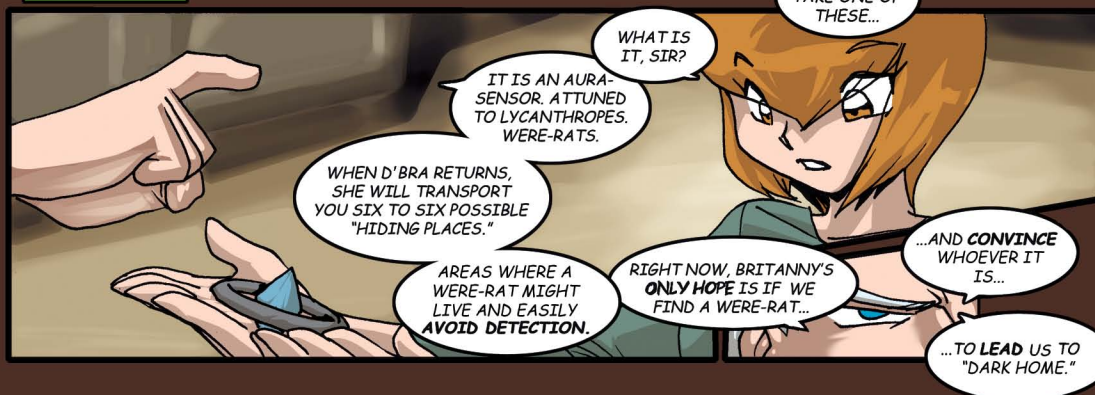
SAVE, PERHAPS, "PLANAR PHANTOMS."

TRUST ME. I SEARCHED FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR A WAY WHILE JULIA WAS CURSED.

WE'LL HAVE TO PRAY FOR GINA AND BRIANNA'S SAFETY...

...AND GO WITH WHO WE HAVE RIGHT NOW!

EVERYONE, TAKE ONE OF THESE...



WHAT IS IT, SIR?

IT IS AN AURA-SENSOR. ATTUNED TO LYCANTHROPES, WERE-RATS.

WHEN D'BRA RETURNS, SHE WILL TRANSPORT YOU SIX TO SIX POSSIBLE "HIDING PLACES."

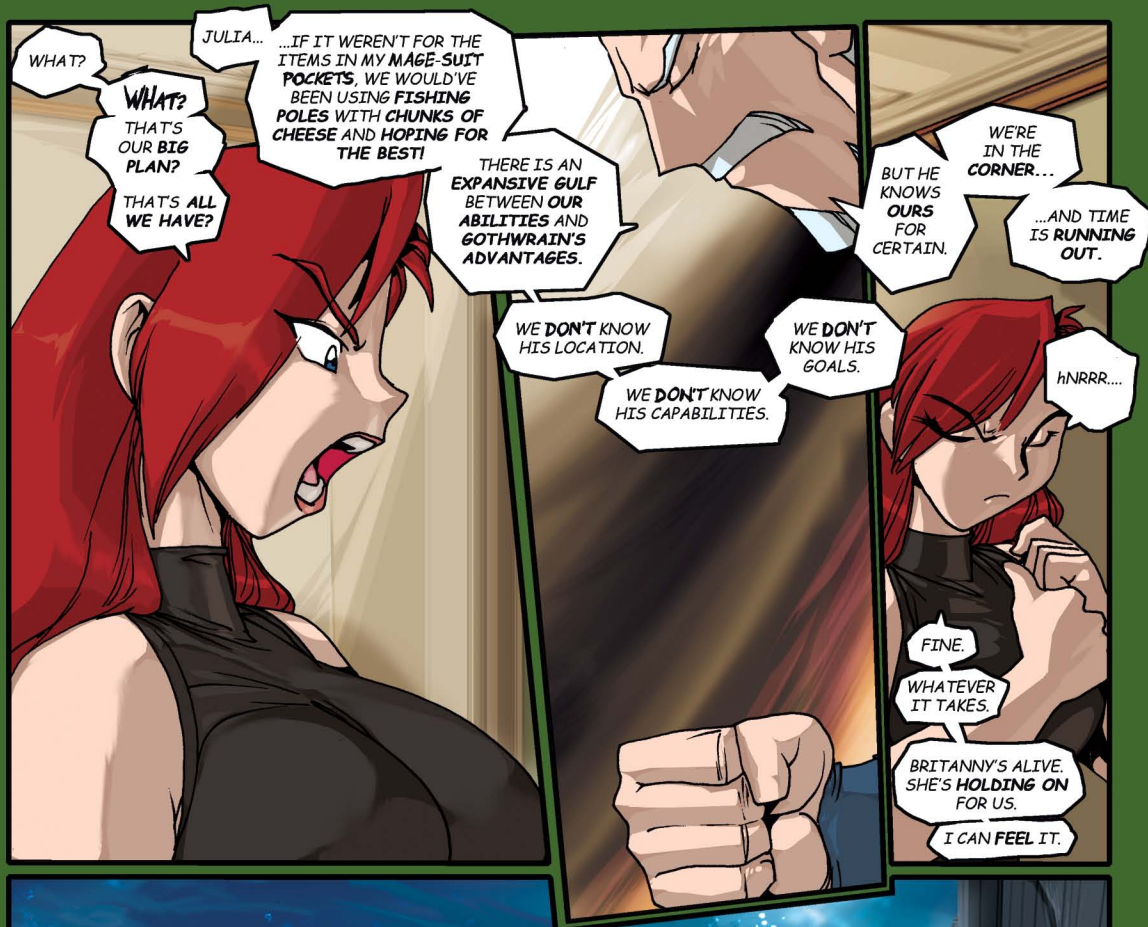
AREAS WHERE A WERE-RAT MIGHT LIVE AND EASILY AVOID DETECTION.

RIGHT NOW, BRITANNY'S ONLY HOPE IS IF WE FIND A WERE-RAT...

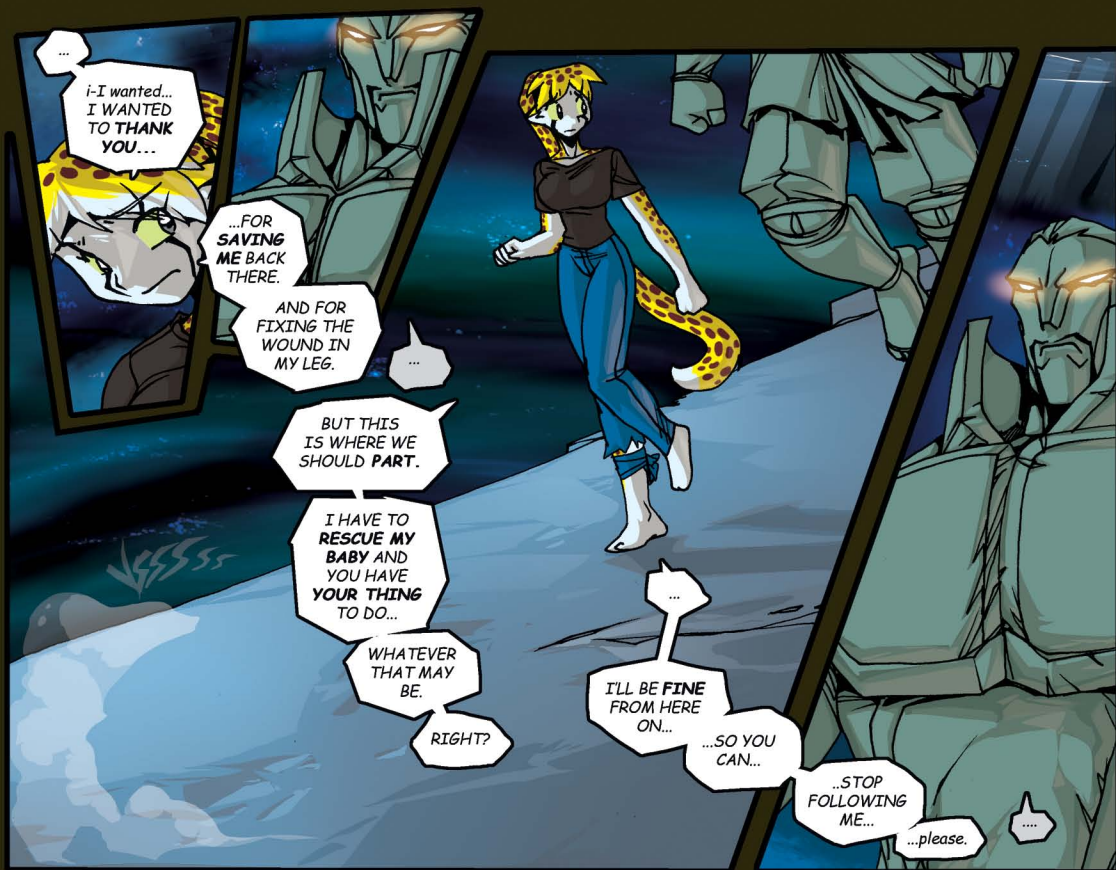
...AND CONVINCE WHOEVER IT IS...

...TO LEAD US TO "DARK HOME."









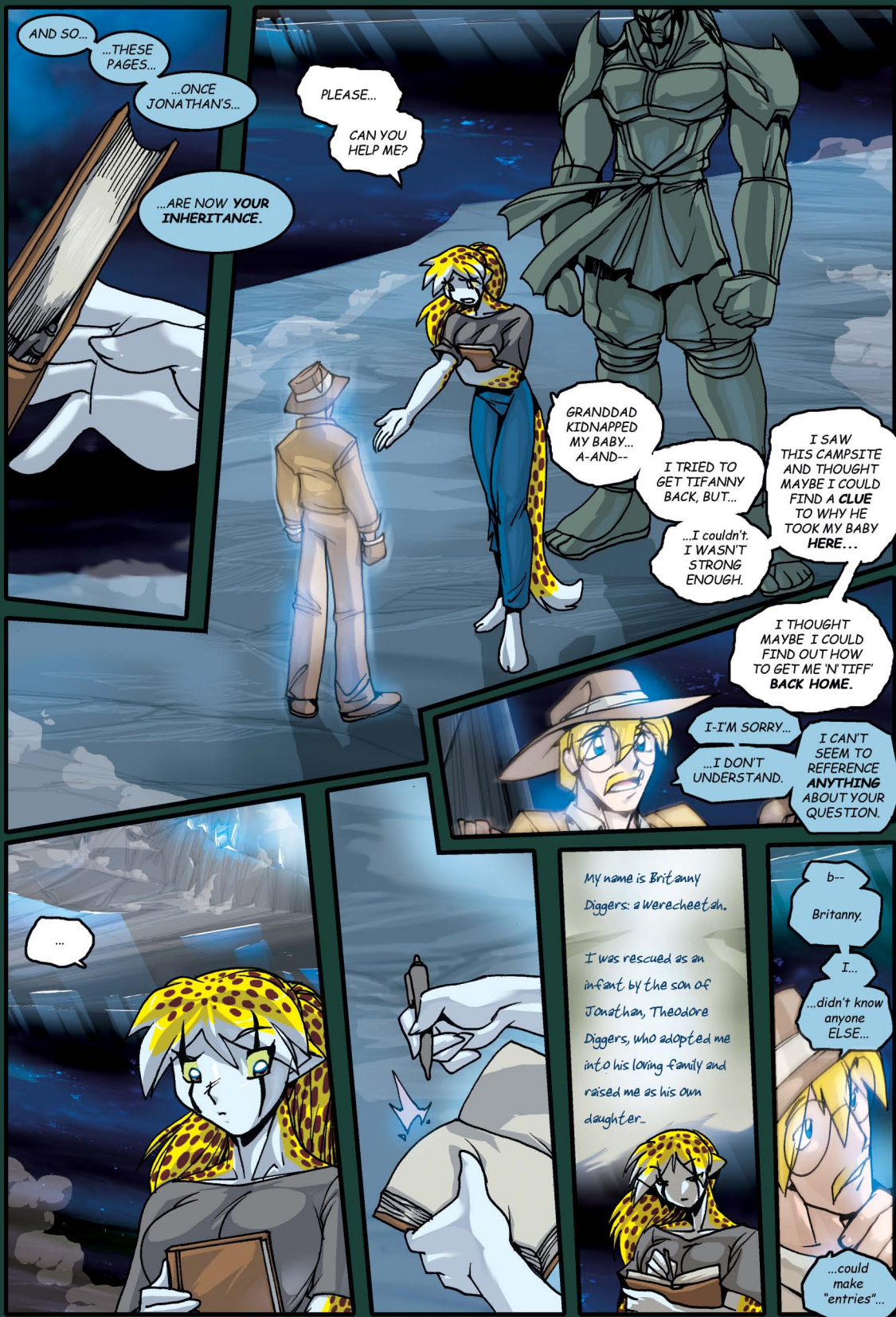












AND SO...

...THESE  
PAGES...

...ONCE  
JONATHAN'S...

...ARE NOW YOUR  
INHERITANCE.

PLEASE...

CAN YOU  
HELP ME?

GRANDDAD  
KIDNAPPED  
MY BABY...  
A-AND--

I TRIED TO  
GET TIFANNY  
BACK, BUT...

...I couldn't.  
I WASN'T  
STRONG  
ENOUGH.

I SAW  
THIS CAMPSITE  
AND THOUGHT  
MAYBE I COULD  
FIND A CLUE  
TO WHY HE  
TOOK MY BABY  
HERE...

I THOUGHT  
MAYBE I COULD  
FIND OUT HOW  
TO GET ME 'N' TIFF  
BACK HOME.

I-I'M SORRY...

...I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

I CAN'T  
SEEM TO  
REFERENCE  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT YOUR  
QUESTION.

...

My name is Brittany  
Diggers: a werecheetah.

I was rescued as an  
infant by the son of  
Jonathan, Theodore  
Diggers, who adopted me  
into his loving family and  
raised me as his own  
daughter.

b--

Britanny.

I...

...didn't know  
anyone  
ELSE...

...could  
make  
"entries"...





YOU...  
**CAN'T**  
HELP  
ME.

YOU'RE NOT  
A PERSON. YOU'RE  
NOT ALIVE.

YOU'RE NOT  
EVEN A **GHOST**.

YOU'RE  
JUST A  
**BOOK**.



YOU ONLY  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT'S **WRITTEN**  
IN YOUR  
PAGES.



YOU'RE  
JUST A...

...book.



IT'S TRUE.  
I AM A  
"BOOK."

IT'S ALSO  
TRUE THAT I  
**ONLY** UNDERSTAND  
WHAT IS ON MY  
PAGES...

BUT, I  
HAPPEN  
TO BE A  
**VERY GOOD**  
"BOOK."

...BUT, I  
HAPPEN TO  
UNDERSTAND  
**EVERYTHING**  
ABOUT THOSE  
PAGES!

INCLUDING THE  
TEXT FROM **178 TO**  
**191** ON MANIPULAT-  
ING "**PHANTASMAL**  
**FORCE**" SPELL  
CIRCLES.

I'D SAY BETWEEN  
MYSELF AND YOUR  
SMITTEN GUARDIAN,  
YOU POTENTIALLY  
HAVE ALL THE  
HELP YOU COULD  
EVER NEED.

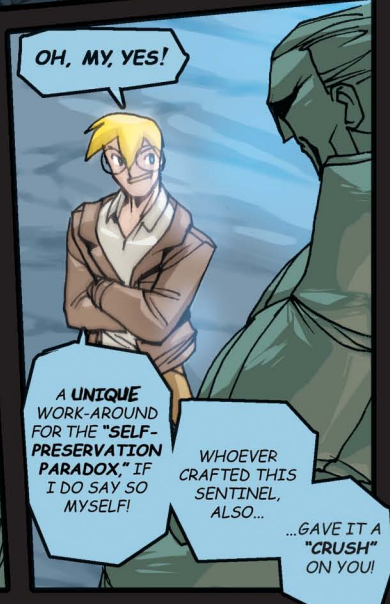


THAT IS...

...AS LONG AS  
YOU DON'T MIND  
WRITING A **THESIS**  
OR TWO TO GET  
ME **UP TO SPEED**  
ON WHAT SEEMS  
TO BE THE  
**TROUBLE...**

**SMITTEN?**

WAIT...  
WHOA!



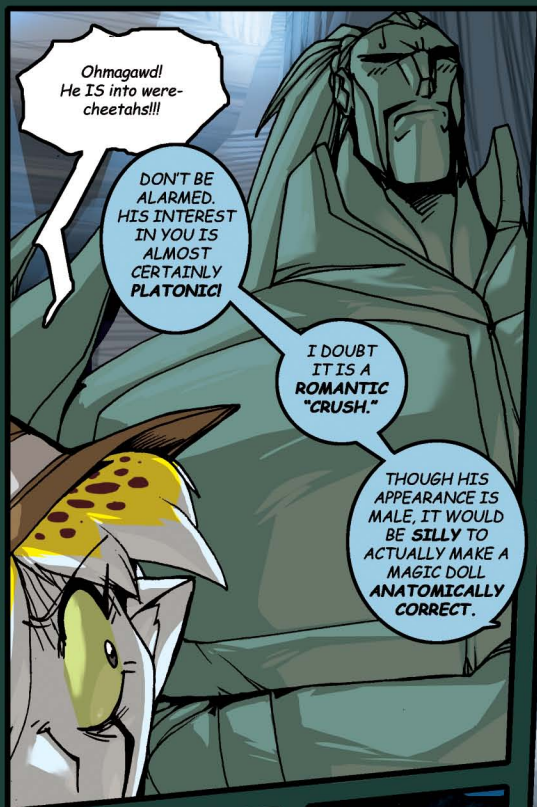
OH, MY, YES!

A **UNIQUE**  
WORK-AROUND  
FOR THE "**SELF-  
PRESERVATION**  
**PARADOX**," IF  
I DO SAY SO  
MYSELF!

WHOEVER  
CRAFTED THIS  
SENTINEL,  
ALSO...

...GAVE IT A  
"**CRUSH**"  
ON YOU!



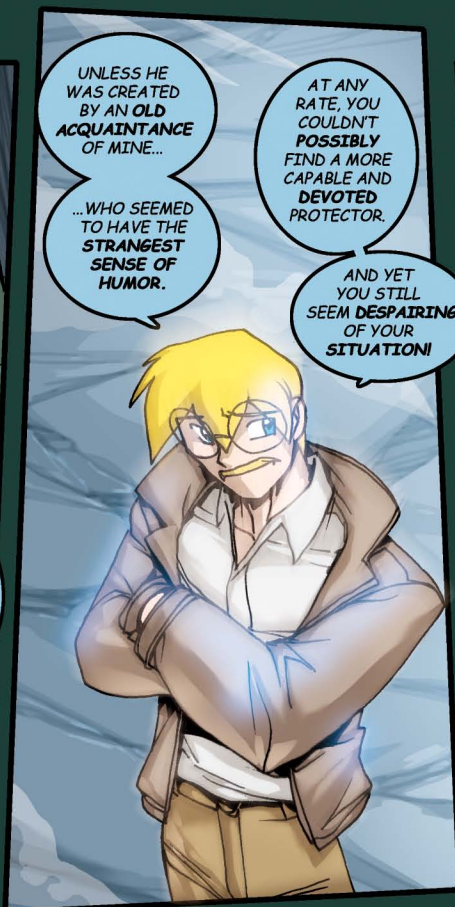


Ohmagawd!  
He IS into were-  
cheetahs!!!

DON'T BE  
ALARMED.  
HIS INTEREST  
IN YOU IS  
ALMOST  
CERTAINLY  
PLATONIC!

I DOUBT  
IT IS A  
ROMANTIC  
"CRUSH."

THOUGH HIS  
APPEARANCE IS  
MALE, IT WOULD  
BE SILLY TO  
ACTUALLY MAKE A  
MAGIC DOLL  
ANATOMICALLY  
CORRECT.



UNLESS HE  
WAS CREATED  
BY AN OLD  
ACQUAINTANCE  
OF MINE...

...WHO SEEMED  
TO HAVE THE  
STRANGEST  
SENSE OF  
HUMOR.

AT ANY  
RATE, YOU  
COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY  
FIND A MORE  
CAPABLE AND  
DEVOTED  
PROTECTOR.

AND YET  
YOU STILL  
SEEM DESPAIRING  
OF YOUR  
SITUATION!



WHATEVER  
COULD BE  
THE MATTER,  
BRITANNY?

WELL...  
IT'S LIKE...  
THIS...

Okay, here goes.  
I'm not completely  
sure of all the  
details.



But...



one night,  
something  
terrible happened  
to our family.

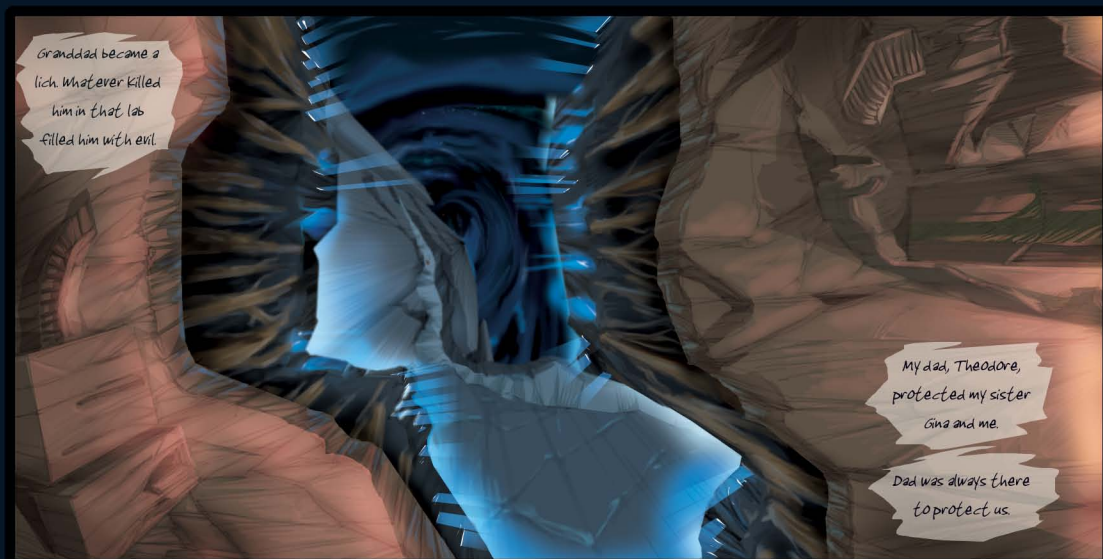


When I was five,  
granddad came to our  
home for a visit, and also  
to work in dad's lab.

There was an  
accident, and  
granddad died.

But what remained  
came after us.









«BUT, I'M NOT AT EASE WITH THE IDEA OF HAVING ONLY A **SMALL CONTINGENT** ESCORT US TO THE **GREAT ENGINE'S CORE.**»

«THE PASSAGES INTO OBLIVION HAVEN'T BEEN EXPLORED FOR **THOUSANDS OF YEARS**, AND MAY BE **TRULY DANGEROUS** TO SUCH A **SMALL GROUP.**»

«MEANWHILE, A **MULTITUDE** OF MY DISCIPLES ARE WILLING TO LEAVE THEIR "TEMPLES" AND JOIN US ON THIS **RIGHTEOUS QUEST!**»

«**THIS GROUP** WILL SUFFICE, PRIESTESS.»

«NO OBSTACLE WILL BAR US...»



«THAT IS, ONCE WE SECURE THE **KEY OF OBLIVION!**»

«T-THE KEY?»

«HOLINESS, THEY KEY LIES ON **SACRED GROUND!**»

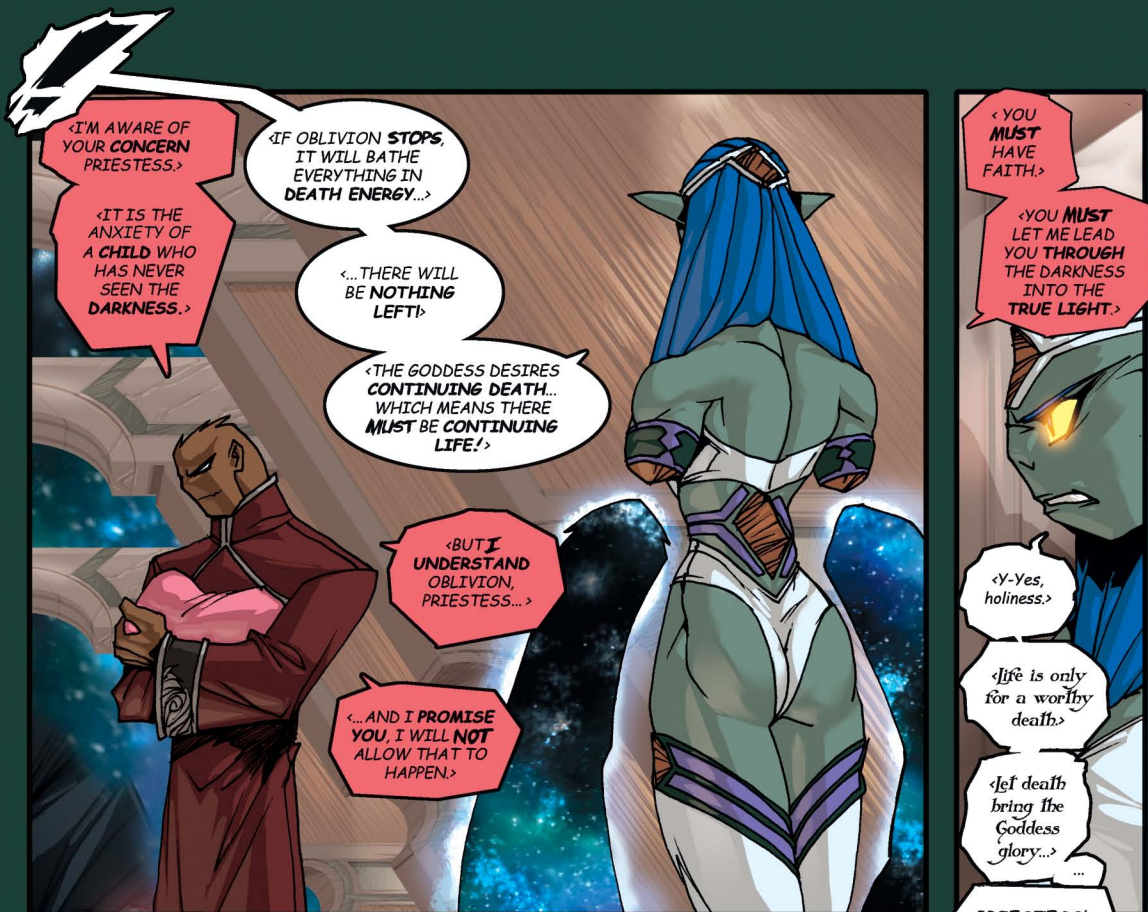


«THE GODDESS FORBADE **ANYONE** TO ENTER THE RUINS!»

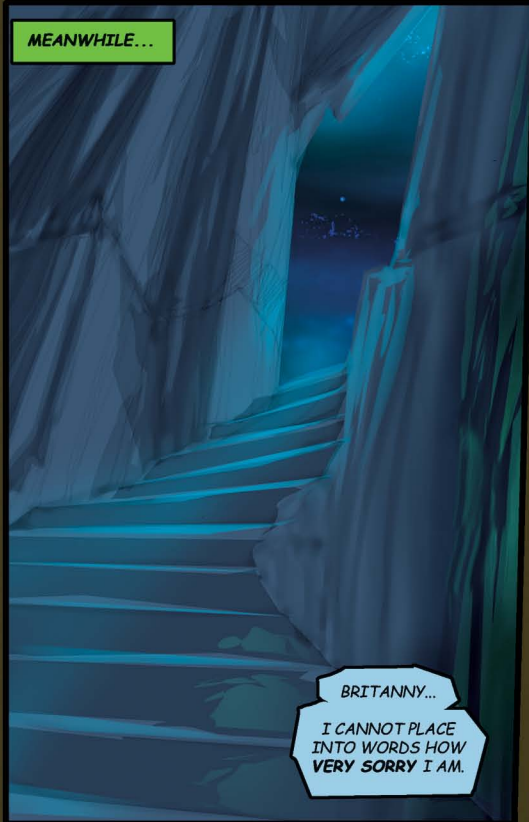
«I KNOW.»

«BUT HOW **ELSE** DO YOU EXPECT ME TO SHUT OFF OBLIVION?»









MEANWHILE...

BRITANNY...  
I CANNOT PLACE  
INTO WORDS HOW  
VERY SORRY I AM.



IT'S...NOT  
YOUR FAULT,  
JON.

BUT I  
FEEL AS  
THOUGH  
IT IS.



WITHIN MY PAGES  
LIE THEOREMS AND  
POSTULATES ABOUT  
THE VERY SPELL I  
FEAR IS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE LICH KING'S  
CREATION.

IF ONLY I'D  
BEEN THERE...  
MY NOTES  
MIGHT HAVE  
MADE A  
DIFFERENCE.

HOWEVER,  
I CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE  
RIGHT NOW!

PLEASE,  
FOLLOW  
ME.







AND THANKS TO THE GLYPHS WRITTEN ON THESE WALLS... WE FOUND THE ANSWERS--







TRAPS!

THE RESIDENTS OF THIS REALM MUST HAVE PLACED **MORE** SINCE JONATHAN AND I WERE HERE LAST!

**PHANTM  
screen**

THERE! A LAYER OF "PHANTASMAL FORCE" WILL KEEP THEM FROM SENSING ANY FOOTSTEPS!



THANKS.



WHAT IS THIS PLACE, AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH **TIFANNY** AND **GRANDDAD**?

IT'S A STARSHIP, BRITANNY... WELL, AT LEAST IT--

was...

you're...

a... a magic "Matryoshka" doll!?



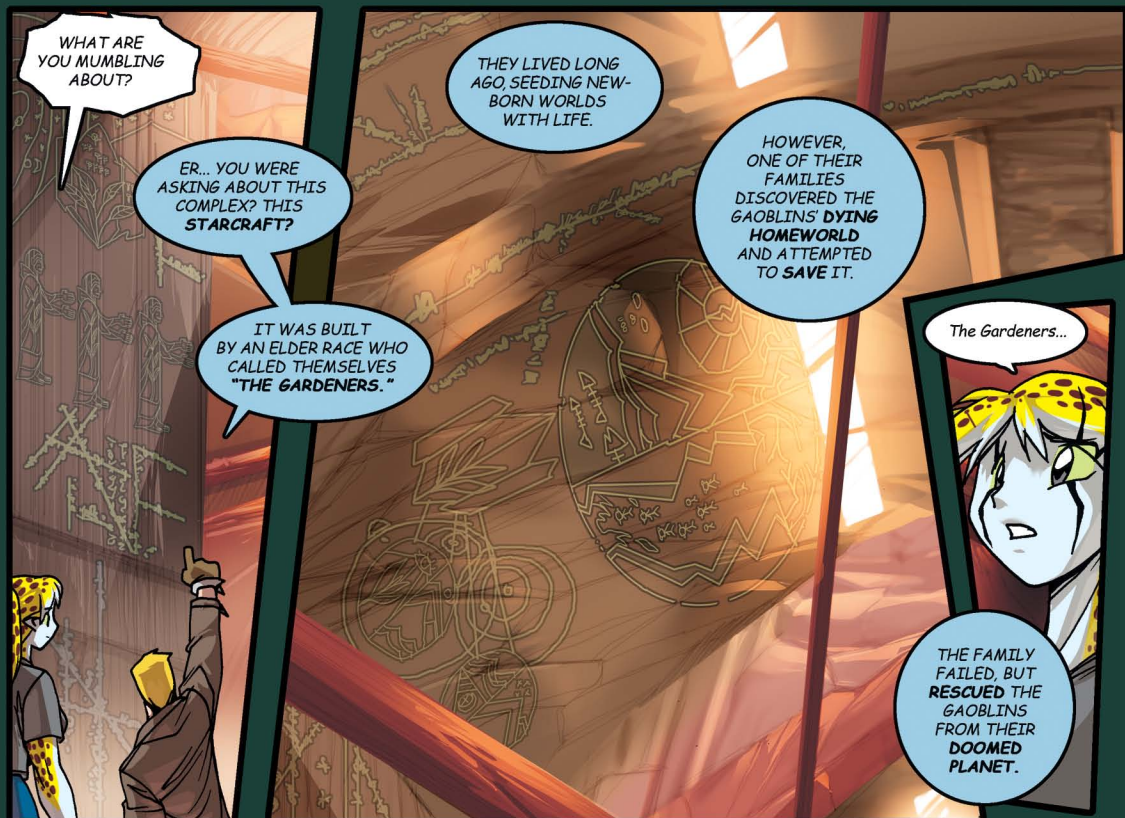
--and inside, you're a doll of--

so THAT'S why you --

...of... of course, my friend, not another word.

huh?





WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?

ER... YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT THIS COMPLEX? THIS **STARCRAFT**?

IT WAS BUILT BY AN ELDER RACE WHO CALLED THEMSELVES "**THE GARDENERS.**"

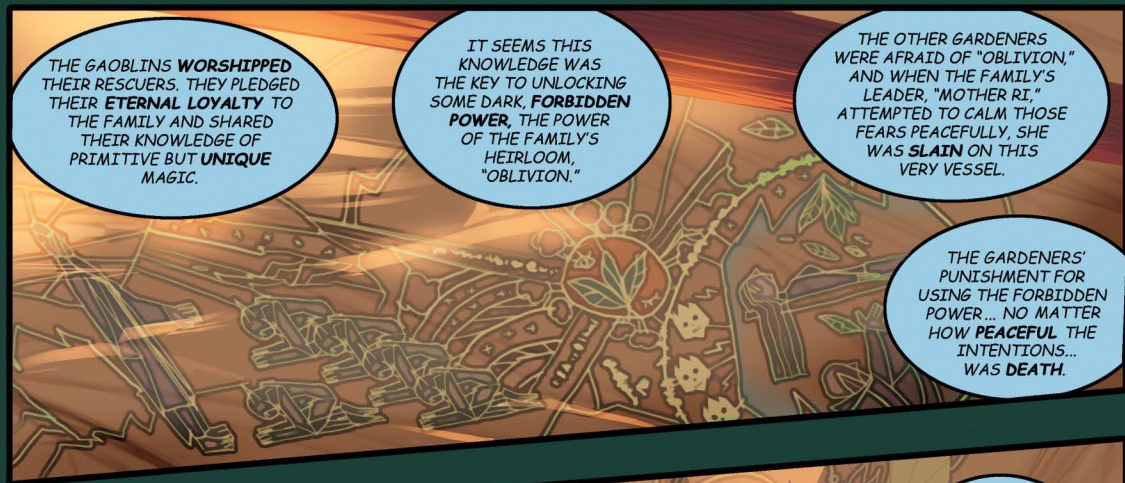
THEY LIVED LONG AGO, SEEDING NEW-BORN WORLDS WITH LIFE.

HOWEVER, ONE OF THEIR FAMILIES DISCOVERED THE **GAOBLINS' DYING HOMEWORLD** AND ATTEMPTED TO **SAVE IT.**



The Gardeners...

THE FAMILY FAILED, BUT **RESCUED THE GAOBLINS** FROM THEIR **DOOMED PLANET.**



THE **GAOBLINS** **WORSHIPPED** THEIR **RESCUERS.** THEY **PLEGGED** THEIR **ETERNAL LOYALTY** TO THE FAMILY AND **SHARED** THEIR **KNOWLEDGE** OF **PRIMITIVE** BUT **UNIQUE** **MAGIC.**

IT SEEMS THIS **KNOWLEDGE** WAS THE **KEY** TO **UNLOCKING** SOME **DARK, FORBIDDEN POWER,** THE **POWER** OF THE FAMILY'S **HEIRLOOM,** "**OBLIVION.**"

THE **OTHER GARDENERS** WERE **AFRAID** OF "**OBLIVION,**" AND WHEN THE **FAMILY'S** **LEADER,** "**MOTHER RI,**" ATTEMPTED TO **CALM** THOSE **FEARS** **PEACEFULLY,** SHE WAS **SLAIN** ON THIS **VERY VESSEL.**

THE **GARDENERS'** **PUNISHMENT** FOR **USING** THE **FORBIDDEN** **POWER...** NO **MATTER** HOW **PEACEFUL** THE **INTENTIONS...** WAS **DEATH.**



THE **REMAINING** **FAMILY** **MEMBERS** **BECAME** **ENRAGED,** AND **WITH** THAT **FURY,** THE **POWER** OF **OBLIVION** **CORRUPTED** THEM.

THEY **UNLEASHED** THAT **RAGE** ON THE **OTHER GARDENERS** AND THE **GALAXY** THEY **TENDED.**

**NOTHING** **COULD** **STAND** **AGAINST** THE **POWER** OF **OBLIVION** AND THE **FELL GARDENERS.**





THE GAOBLIN VOLUNTARILY SERVED THE FAMILY AS THEIR FIRST "WARRIOR-SLAVES."

AND AS CRUEL AND VICIOUS AS THE FELL GARDENERS WERE... THE GAOBLIN WERE JUST AS MURDEROUS.

PERHAPS THEY WISHED TO PLEASE THE FAMILY.

PERHAPS THEY WERE JEALOUS OF THOSE WHO STILL POSSESSED BEAUTIFUL WORLDS TO CALL HOME.

ONE DAY, HOWEVER, THE FAMILY MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED...

...LEAVING THE GAOBLIN SURROUNDED BY A VERY ANGRY AND VENGEFUL GALAXY!

FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF COMPLETE DESTRUCTION AT BEST, THEY DECIDED TO HIDE.

OBLIVION COULD BE CONCEALED IN ITS OWN REALM, BUT IT COULD ONLY SUSTAIN A HANDFUL OF THEIR PEOPLE. THE REST OF THE GAOBLIN QUICKLY AND SECRETLY **PLUNDERED** AND **OBLITERATED** THE OTHER, PASSIVE SLAVE-RACES AND **GENETICALLY DISGUISED** THEMSELVES AS THE VICTIMS.

MY PAGES REVEAL TWO WHOSE TRUE HERITAGES WERE FOREVER EXTINGUISHED.

THE TROLVIC...

...AND THE ELDRITCH...

THEY ARE NOW DESCENDANTS OF WHAT WAS THE MOST HATED AND FEARED RACE EVER KNOWN.

a-and... the... Atlantians...

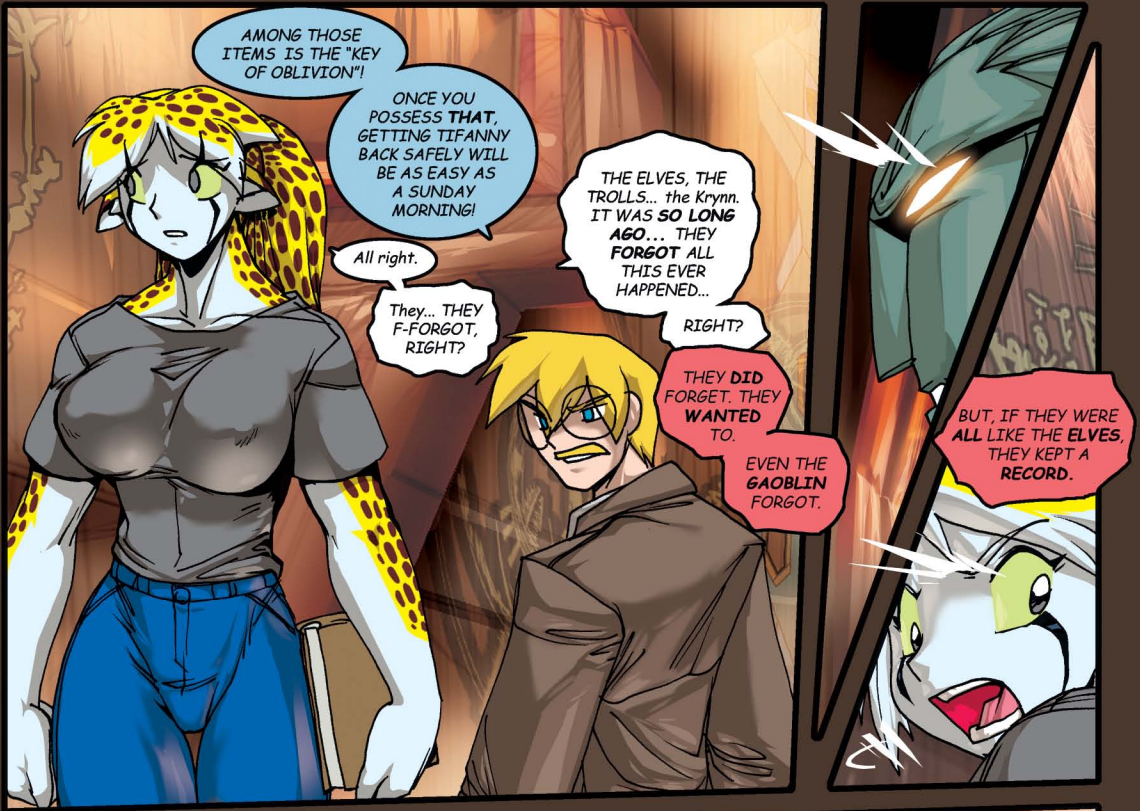
...and...

...the Kryn.

THEY... THEY LEFT THEIR WEAPONS... KNOWLEDGE... AND EVIDENCE BEHIND, BRITANNY.

ON THIS STARSHIP.











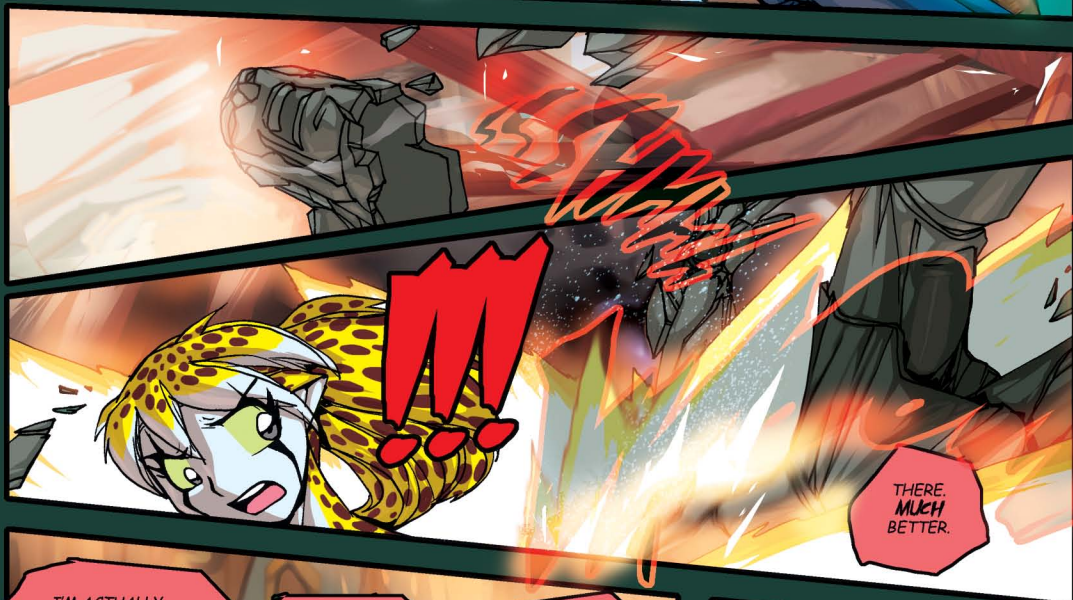
# RYANA

AH, YES.  
THAT PESKY  
SENTINEL.

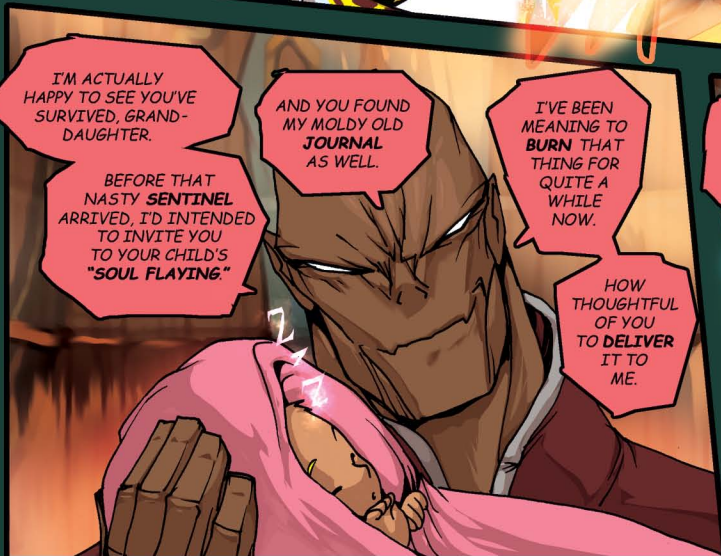
IT'S  
STRENGTH  
IS MOST  
FORMIDABLE.

BUT...

...THREATEN  
BRITANNY,  
AND IT  
BECOMES  
PREDICTABLE!



THERE.  
*MUCH*  
BETTER.



I'M ACTUALLY  
HAPPY TO SEE YOU'VE  
SURVIVED, GRAND-  
DAUGHTER.

BEFORE THAT  
NASTY **SENTINEL**  
ARRIVED, I'D INTENDED  
TO INVITE YOU  
TO YOUR CHILD'S  
"SOUL FLAYING."

AND YOU FOUND  
MY MOLDY OLD  
**JOURNAL**  
AS WELL.

I'VE BEEN  
MEANING TO  
**BURN** THAT  
THING FOR  
QUITE A  
WHILE  
NOW.

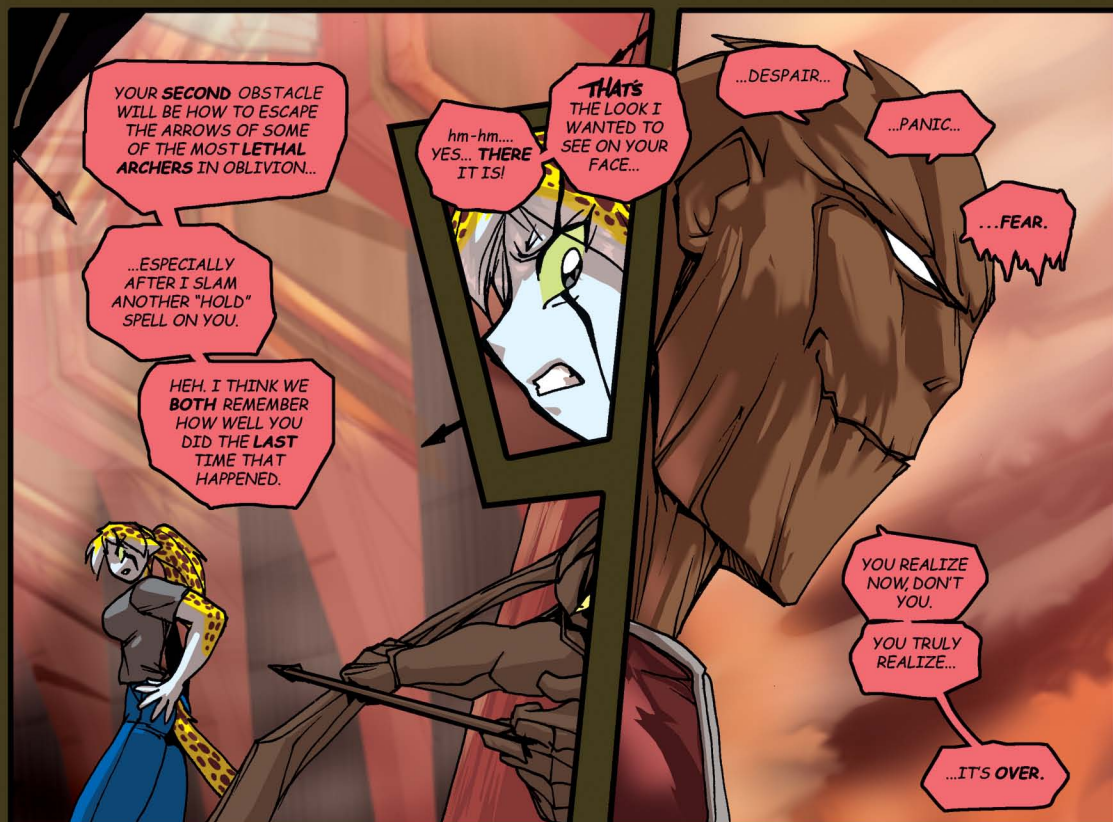
HOW  
THOUGHTFUL  
OF YOU  
TO **DELIVER**  
IT TO ME.

BY NOW,  
YOU REALIZE  
YOUR LITTLE  
"RESCUE  
ADVENTURE"...

...AND  
SOON,  
TIFANNY'S  
YOUNG  
LIFE...

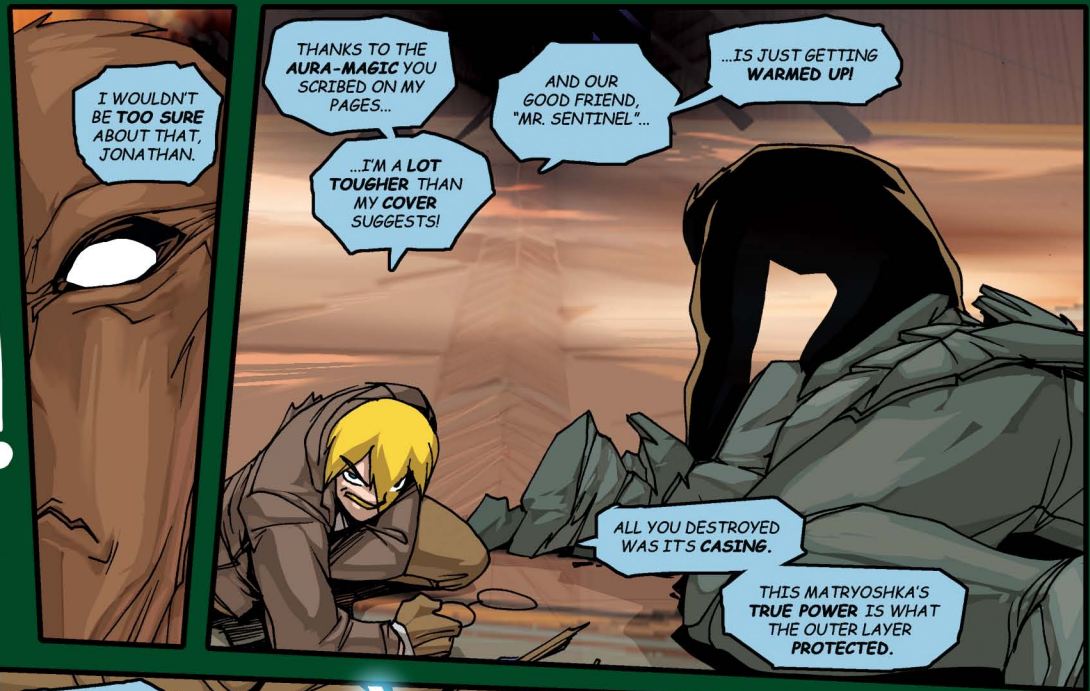
...ARE  
FINISHED?







!



I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THAT, JONATHAN.

THANKS TO THE **AURA-MAGIC** YOU SCRIBED ON MY PAGES...

AND OUR GOOD FRIEND, "MR. SENTINEL"...

...IS JUST GETTING WARMED UP!

...I'M A LOT TOUGHER THAN MY COVER SUGGESTS!

ALL YOU DESTROYED WAS ITS **CASING**.

THIS MATRYOSHKA'S **TRUE POWER** IS WHAT THE OUTER LAYER PROTECTED.



AND NOT PROTECTION FROM DAMAGE... BUT PROTECTION FROM ITS ...WELL... "PROTECTEE."

THIS SENTINEL IS A MAGIC DOLL OF SOMEONE WHO WILL SAFEGUARD BRITANNY **NO MATTER THE SACRIFICE...**

BUT IT COULDN'T DO ITS JOB **EFFECTIVELY** IF BRITANNY KEPT TRYING TO PROTECT IT!

i-i don't...

i don't...

I don't... believe it...

All this time... it was Stryyp.



SO. YOU WERE SAYING OUR LITTLE "RESCUE ADVENTURE" WAS **FINISHED**?

WELL, TO QUOTE THE OLD FAMILY "CATCH PHRASE"...

"NOT QUITE."

next:  
EDGE OF OBLIVION: finale.