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FRED PERRY

GOLD DIGGER



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20 YEARS



IT IS
A MIRACLE.

IT IS EXACTLY
AS YOUNG LADY
TIFANNY FORETOLD.

OBLIVION
HAS TRAVERSED
THE PLANES, AND
WE'VE ARRIVED
NEAR YOUR
HOME, LADY
'GIA.

WE ARE
CLOSE
TO THE
EARTH.

IN QUASI-
SPACE. A SINGLE
STEP AND AN
ETERNITY
AWAY.



OBLIVION
MUST HOLD
HERE.

IT IS **TOO**
WEAK FROM
THE JOURNEY
TO **PUSH** INTO
YOUR REALM.

A CENTURY
OF REST IS
NEEDED.

BUT... **I**
AM STRONG
ENOUGH.
I KNOW
I AM.

I WILL TAKE
YOU THE REST
OF THE WAY.

BRITANNY?



ARE YOU
READY TO
GO HOME?

...

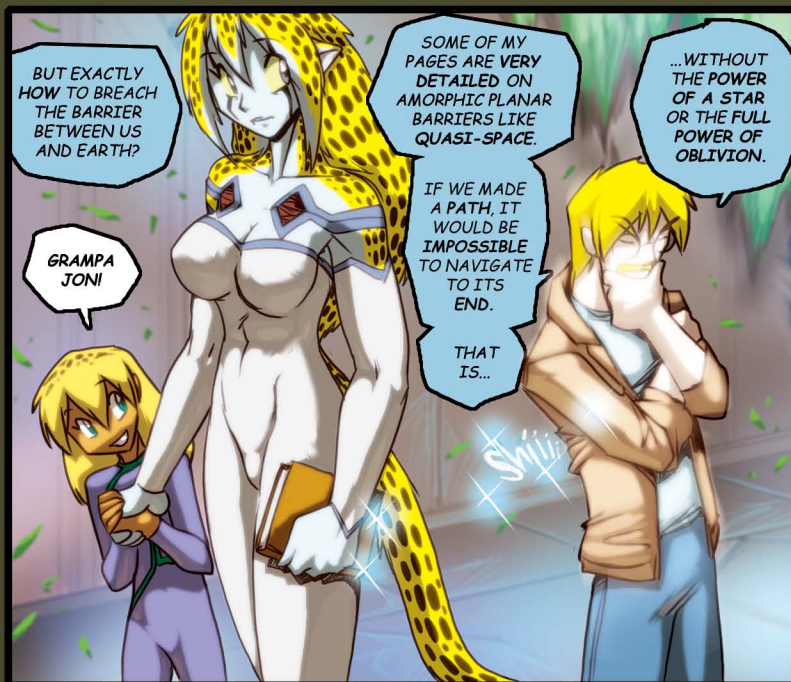


...

♥
NOO



Yes.



BUT EXACTLY
HOW TO BREACH
THE BARRIER
BETWEEN US
AND EARTH?

GRAMPA
JONI!

SOME OF MY
PAGES ARE VERY
DETAILED ON
AMORPHIC PLANAR
BARRIERS LIKE
QUASI-SPACE.

IF WE MADE
A PATH, IT
WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE
TO NAVIGATE
TO ITS END.

THAT
IS...

...WITHOUT
THE POWER
OF A STAR
OR THE FULL
POWER OF
OBLIVION.

QUASI-
SPACE IS
ALWAYS
SHIFTING,
AND SINCE
WE CAN'T
"HOLD" ITS
FABRIC
STILL...

...WE'LL
NEED A
BEACON
FROM
EARTH-
REALM
TO GUIDE
US.



AND A
BEACON
WE MAY
YET
HAVE.

SOMEWHERE
ON EARTH, ETHER
IS GATHERING INTO
A TREMENDOUS
GEYSER.

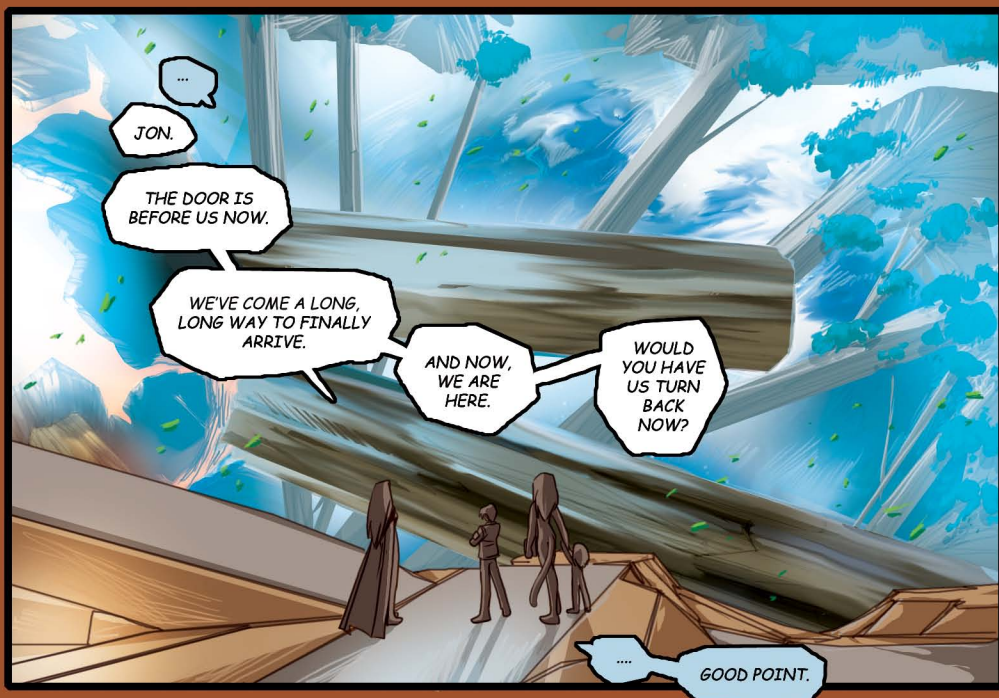
A "TUNNEL" IS
BEING FORMED.
ITS MAGNITUDE...
ASTOUNDING!
ITS PATTERN...
familiar.

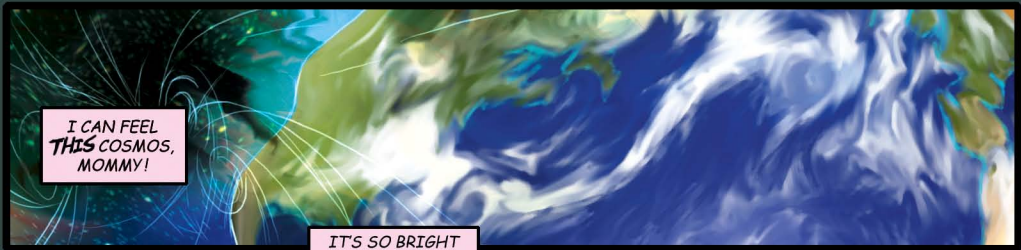
I CAN
FEEL IT
FROM
HERE.

AS THE TUNNEL
MANIFESTS, I
WILL KNOW
ITS LOCATION.
WE WILL HAVE
OUR BEACON.

WHEN THE
TUNNEL IS
FULLY FORMED,
I INTEND
TO PRY A
SMALL GAP
INSIDE AND
PUSH LADY
'GIA AND
TIFANNY
THROUGH...

THROUGH,
AND AT
LAST...
HOME.





I CAN FEEL
THIS COSMOS,
MOMMY!

IT'S SO BRIGHT
HERE! SO BRIGHT
AND PRETTY!

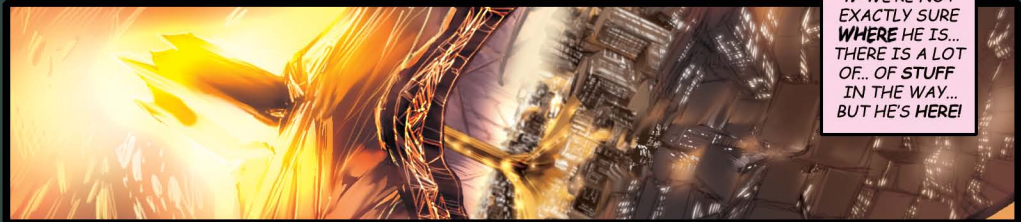


OBLIVION CAN FEEL
EVERYTHING!

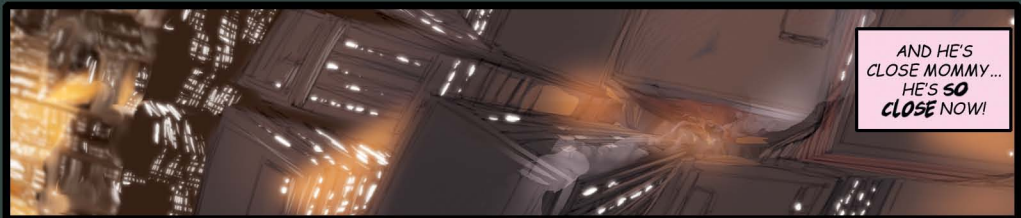
THROUGH HER,
I CAN FEEL EVERY-
THING TOO!



A-AND
WE CAN
FEEL HIM!



W-WERE NOT
EXACTLY SURE
WHERE HE IS...
THERE IS A LOT
OF.. OF STUFF
IN THE WAY...
BUT HE'S HERE!



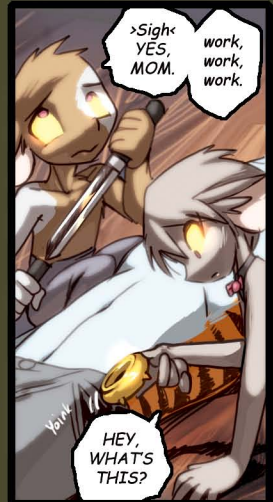
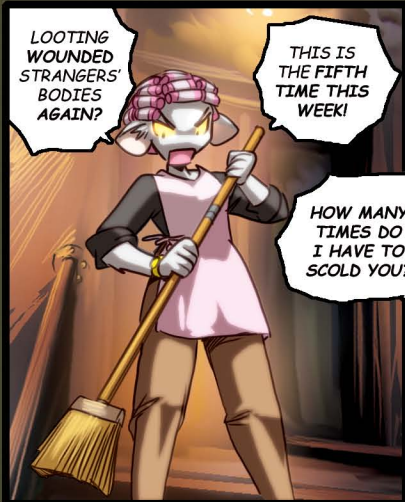
AND HE'S
CLOSE MOMMY...
HE'S **SO**
CLOSE NOW!

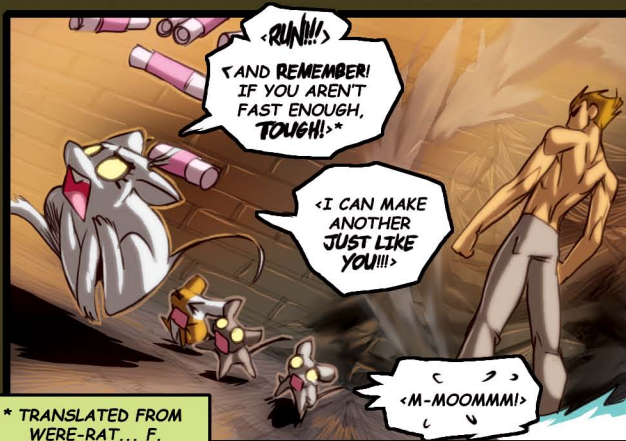
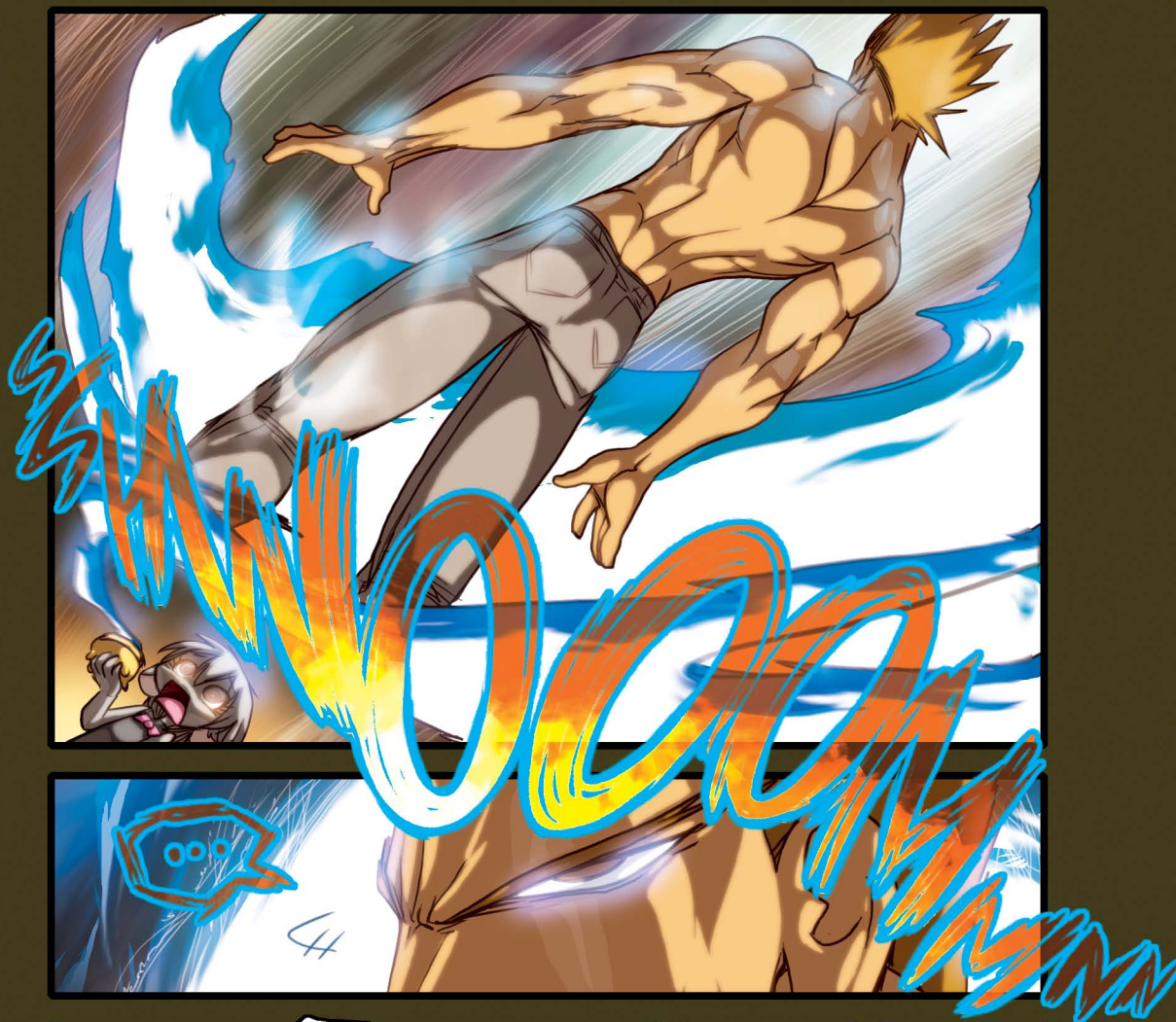


WE **KNOW** HE'S
HERE! WE'VE
FINALLY
FOUND **HIM!**



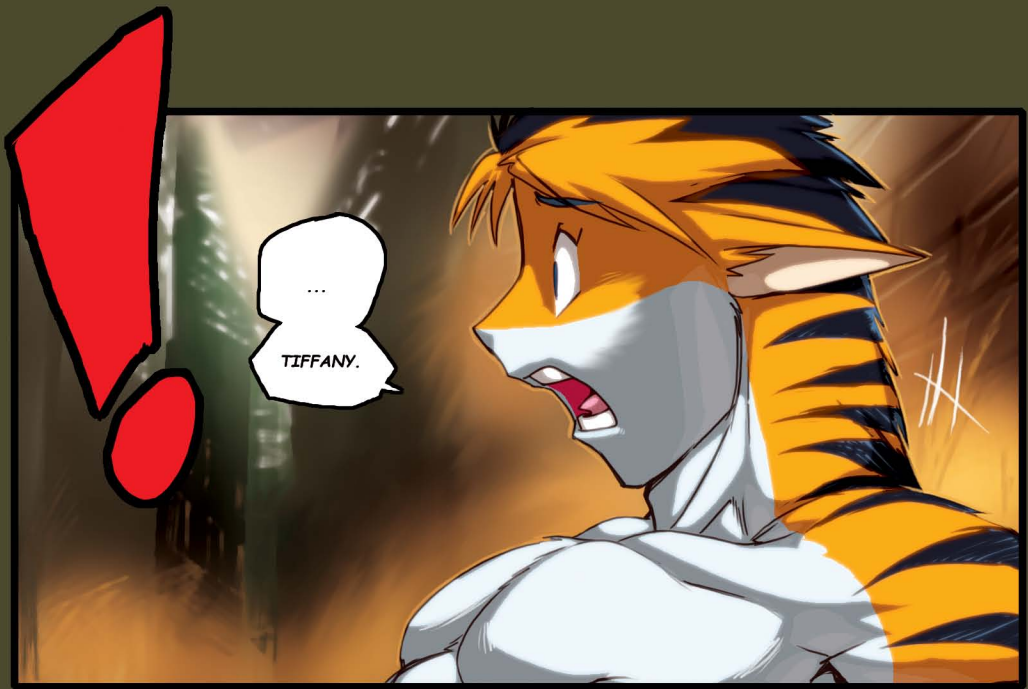
WE'VE
FOUND
DADDY!

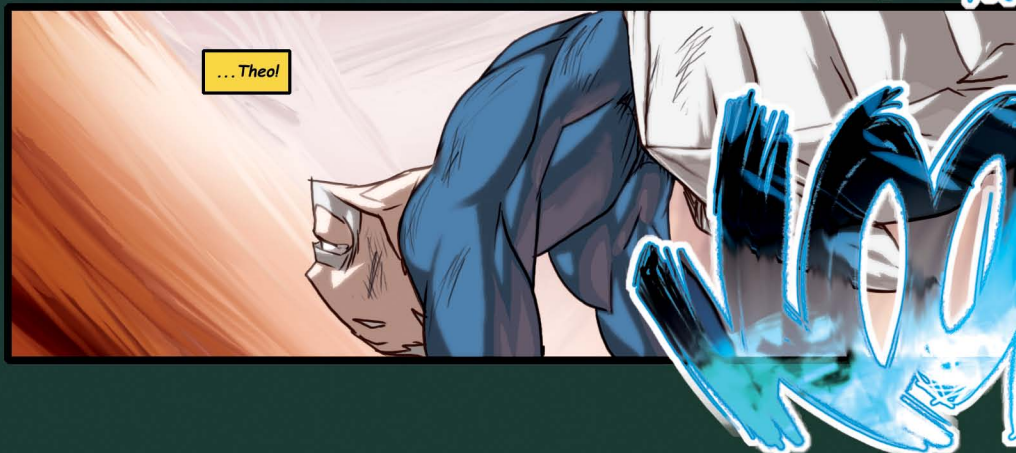


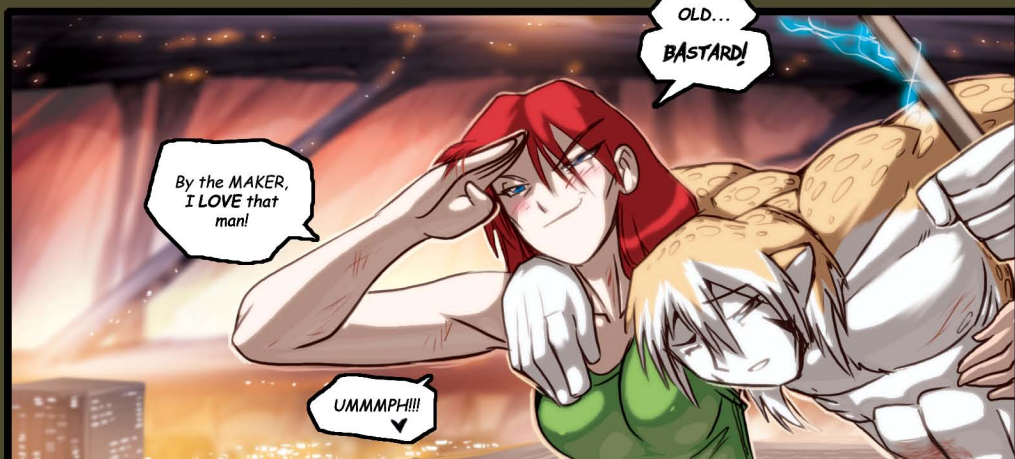
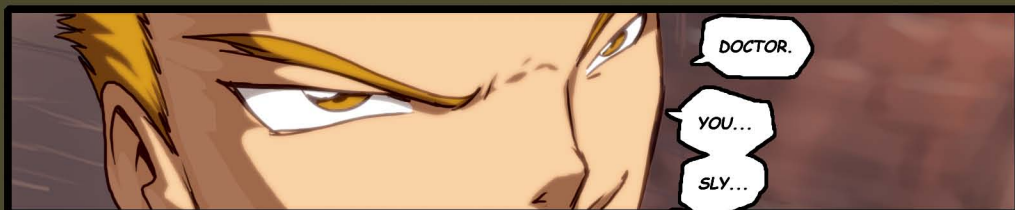
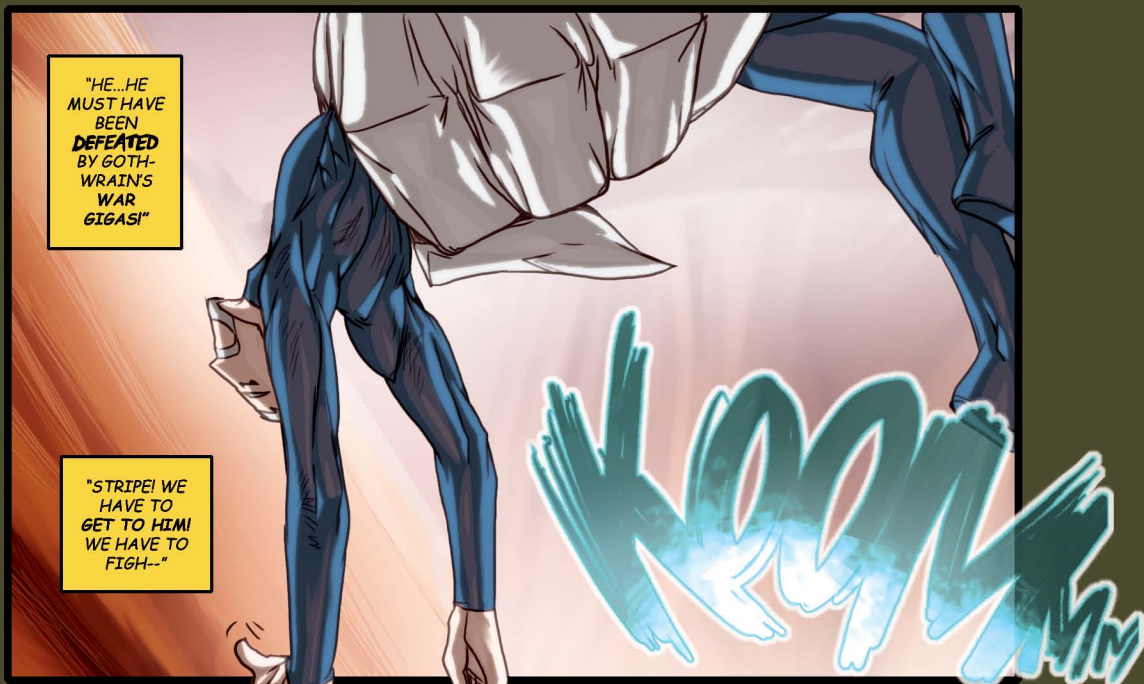


* TRANSLATED FROM
WERE-RAT... F.











gh--
GARI

IT'S--IT'S NOTHING.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

I'M HEALING.

I'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU FIGHT SOON...

...HELP YOU RESCUE BRITANNY AND TIFFANNY.



WE BOTH KNOW YOU CAN'T REGENERATE SILVER WEAPON WOUNDS, GAR.

I'M GETTING YOU TO A SAFE--



--position...

TEACHER?

FOR-- A MOMENT I THOUGHT...

UM, GAR...?

DID YOU... HEAR ANYTHING FROM OVER THERE?

NO... JUST THE WIND.



COME ON.

I SCOUTED A GOOD PLACE FOR YOUR CONCEALMENT IN THE BUILDING TO THE WEST.

BUT, TEACHER--

YOU HAVE TO REST!

I HAVE TO FIGHT!



"...AND DON'T YOU DARE MOVE FROM THAT SPOT!"

Theodore...
...I don't know how to thank you... *



...You saved me.

* TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION.



NO, JZU-
JZU.
IN ALL
HONESTY...

...I THINK
WE SAVED
EACH OTHER
THIS TIME!

KYLE ... IT
WASN'T ENOUGH
THAT HE TRANS-
FORMED YOU
INTO THIS
GIANT...

...BRINGING YOU
UNDER HIS
CONTROL WITH
A "VOODOO
GRAFT"
ENCHANTMENT...



WHAT'S
WRONG,
THEODORE?
ATTACK!

GIVE
ME YOUR
STRONGEST!



ERUPTION!

...HE ALSO MADE
IT IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO
HARM HIM
WITHOUT
KILLING YOU...



...BY USING
YOUR HELPLESS
AURA AS A
SPELL SHIELD.

AAAAARGHHH

AHAHAH!
DID THAT
HURT,
JZU-JZU!?

OF
COURSE
IT DID!

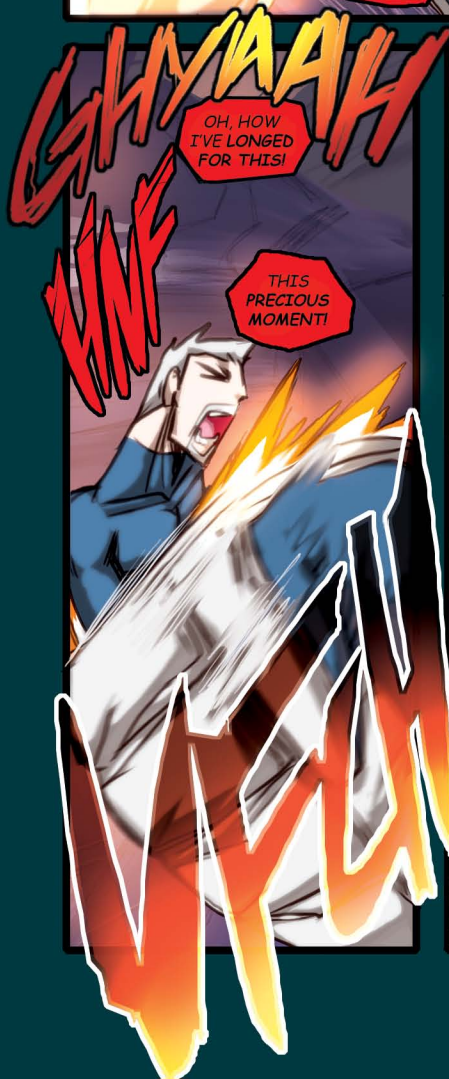
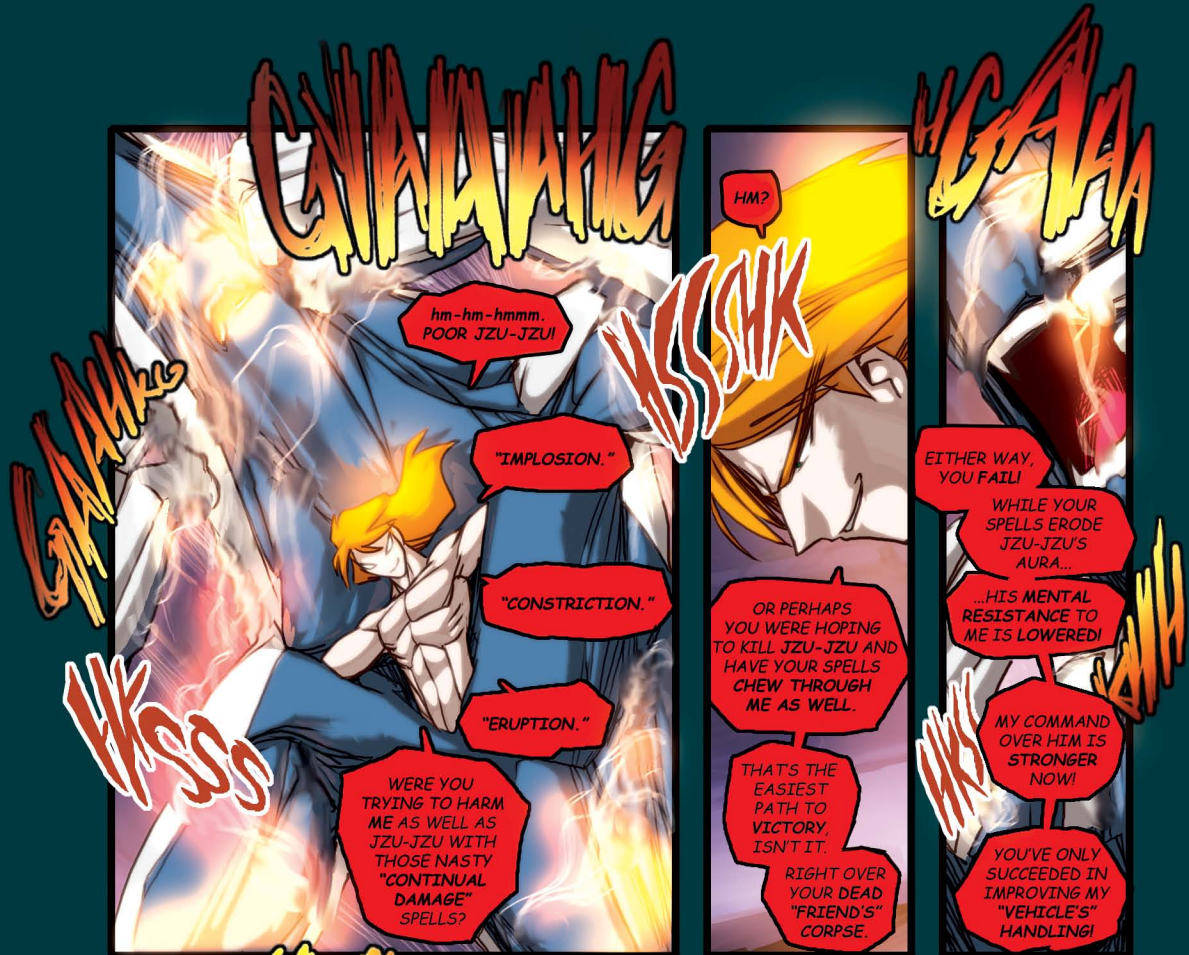
YOU SEE
NOW, DON'T
YOU, JZU-JZU!



DIGGERS...
...YOUR
"FRIEND..."

...WONT
HESITATE TO
KILL YOU TO
SAVE HIMSELF!

EHEHEH...
I KNEW
HE HAD
IT IN
HIM!





SIGH...

...BUT
I'VE WASTED
ENOUGH TIME.

AND A NEAR-
PERFECT VICTORY
OVER YOU IS
STILL QUITE
SATISFYING.

JZU-
JZU.



CRUSH
THEODORE'S
HEAD...

...LIKE A
GOOD
SLAVE.

jzu-
jzu?



YOUR PROBLEM, KYLE...
IS THAT YOU THINK
YOU KNOW IT **ALL**.
YOU NEVER STUDY!

ESPECIALLY THE
NATURE OF SPELLS
OUTSIDE YOUR
EXPERTISE!

"IMPLOSION":
REDUCTION OF
BONE MASS.

What
is th...

"CONSTRICTION":
A SPELL THAT
RESTRICTS
THE MUSCLES
ABILITY TO
GROW AND
EXPAND... OR
SHRINK AND
CONTRACT.

AND "ERUPTION":
AN EXPLOSIVE
INCREASE IN THE
BODY'S INTERNAL
FLUID MASS.

ALL OF THOSE
SPELLS, WHICH YOU
WERE KIND ENOUGH
TO CHANNEL DIRECTLY
INTO MY AURA...
ARE OF A PARTICULAR
SCHOOL OF
MAGIC.

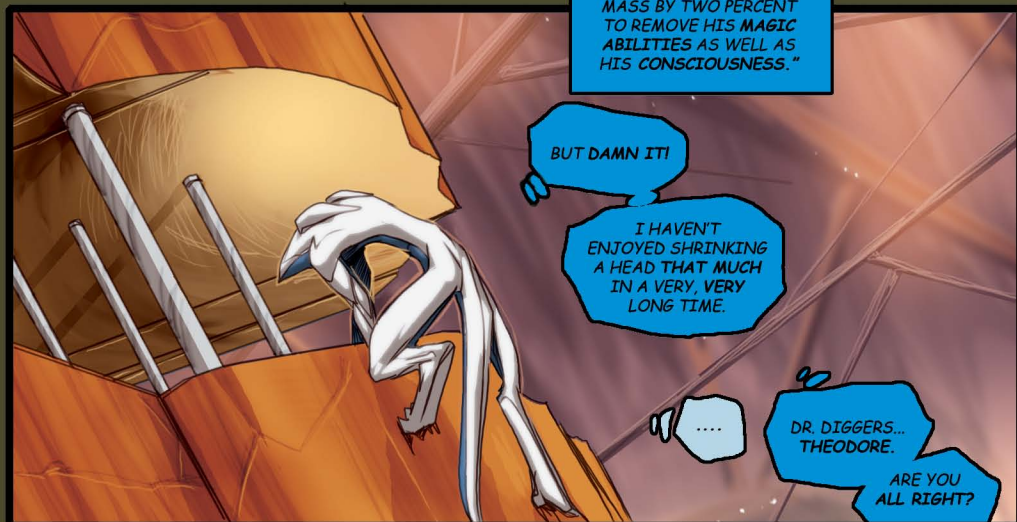


"SIZE MAGIC!"

A SCHOOL IN WHICH
I JUST SO HAPPEN
TO SPECIALIZE!

YOU MIGHT
AS WELL HAVE
TOSSED ME A
CAN OF
SPINACH!

"ADMITTEDLY... I ONLY
NEEDED TO SHRINK KYLE'S
UNGUARDED CRANIAL
MASS BY TWO PERCENT
TO REMOVE HIS MAGIC
ABILITIES AS WELL AS
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS."



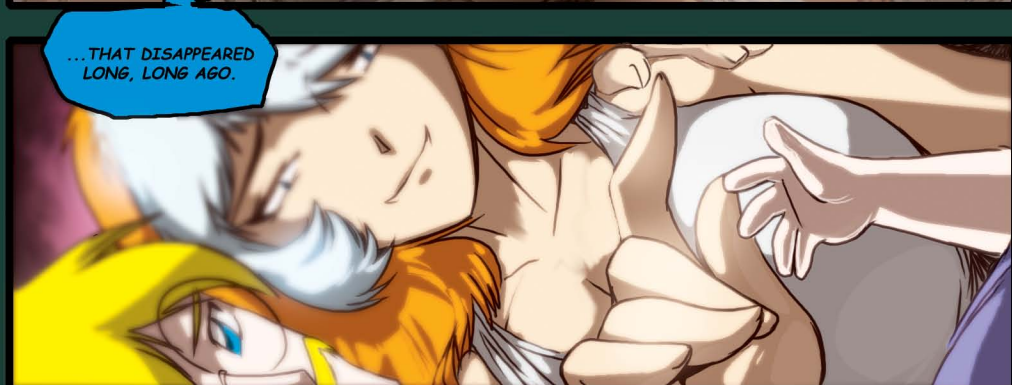
BUT DAMN IT!

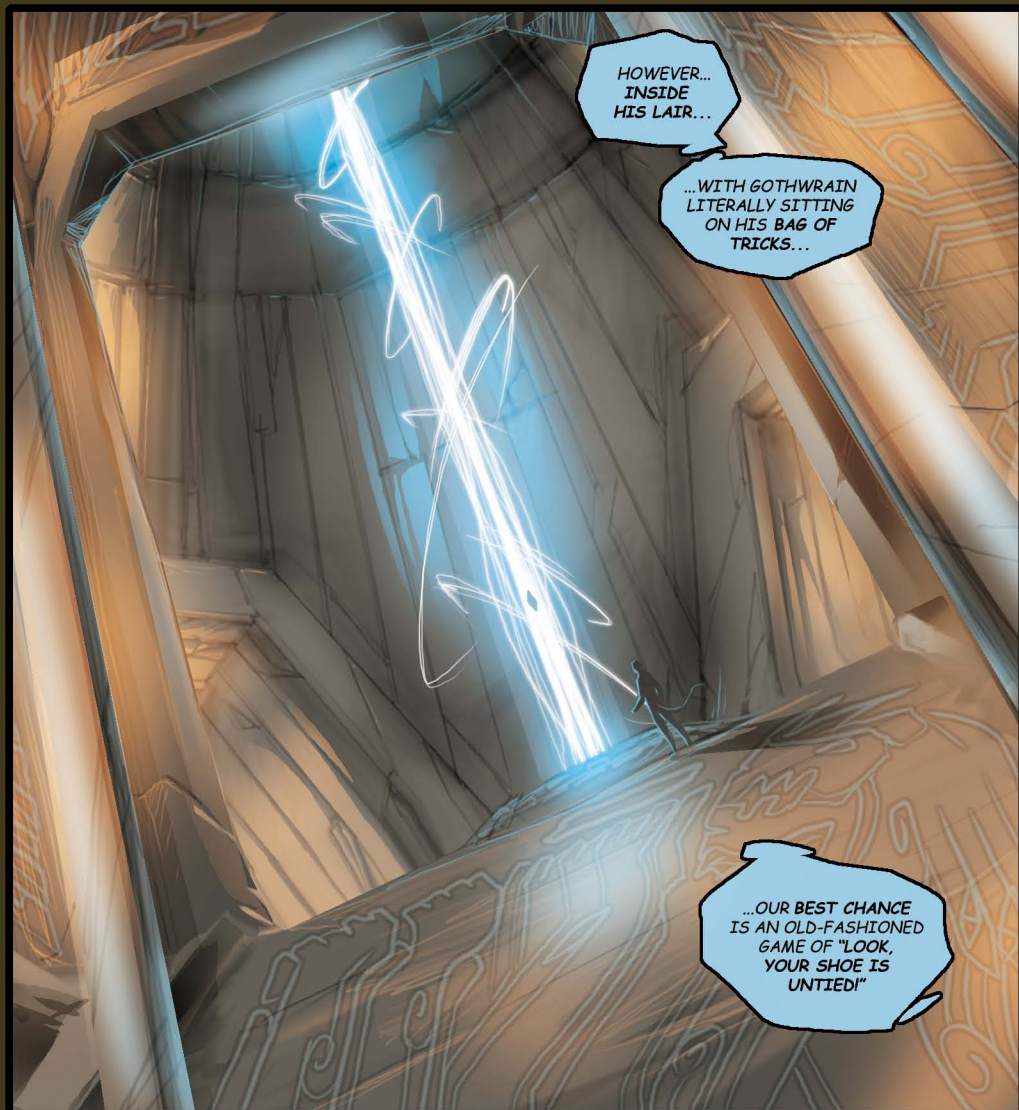
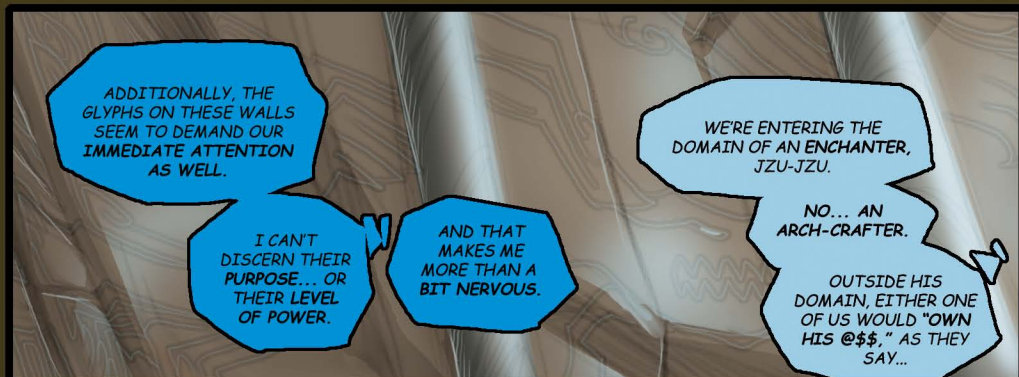
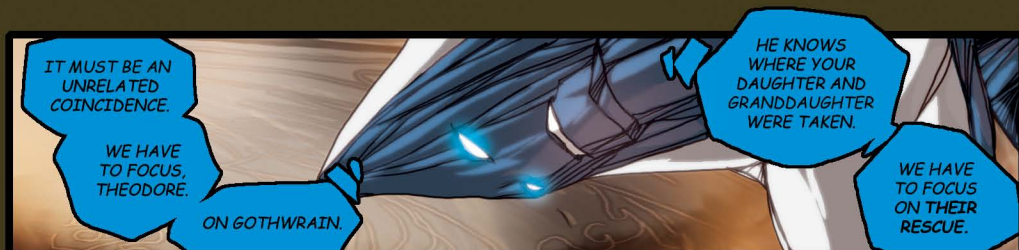
I HAVEN'T
ENJOYED SHRINKING
A HEAD THAT MUCH
IN A VERY, VERY
LONG TIME.

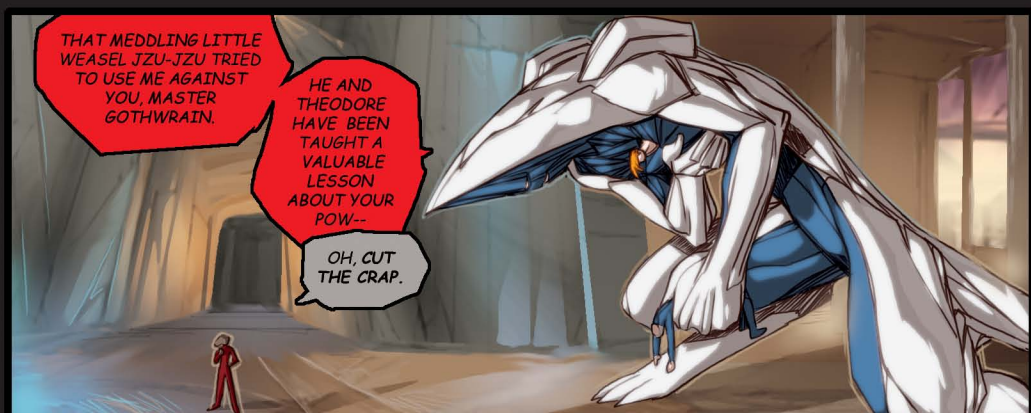
....

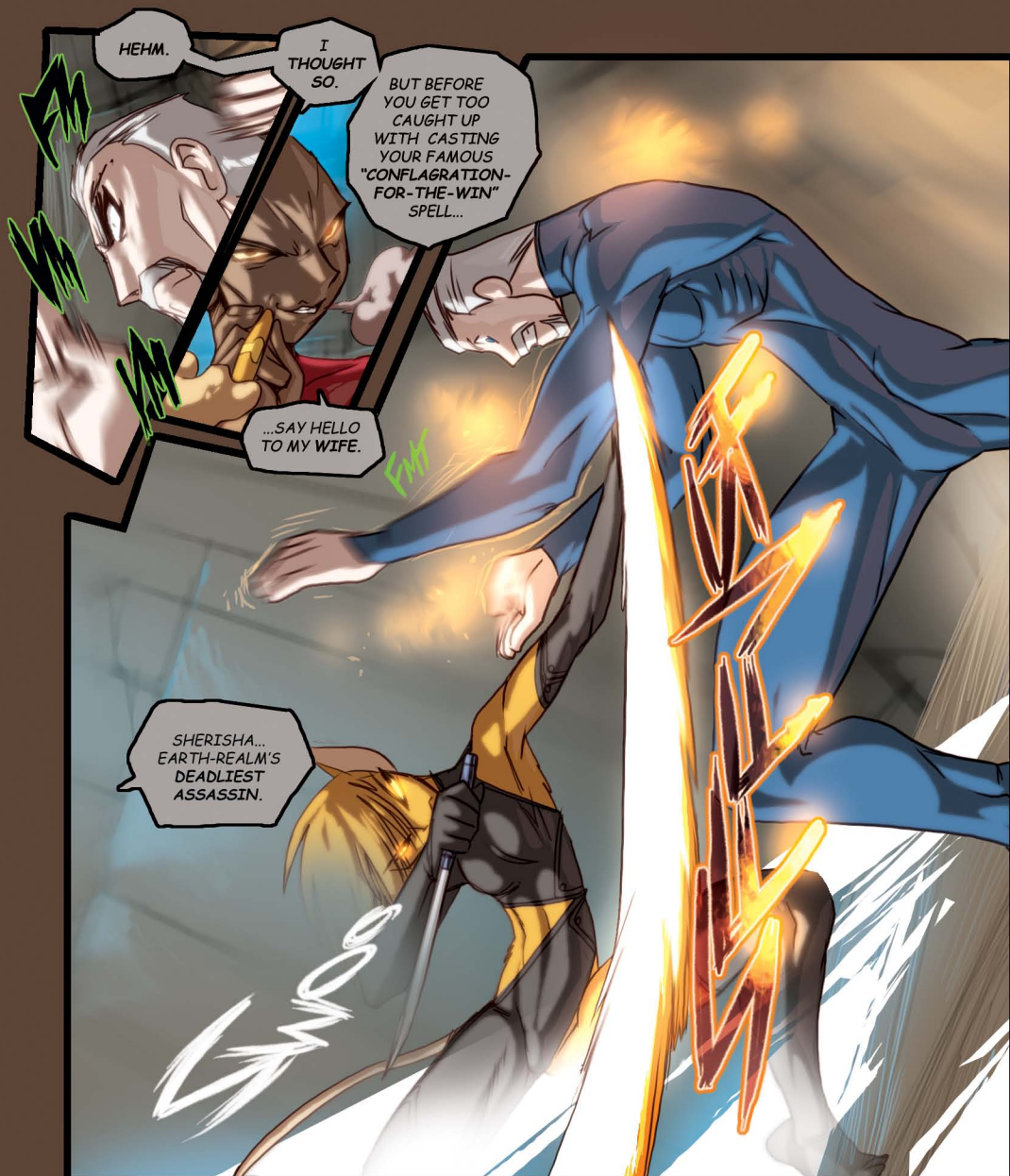
DR. DIGGERS...
THEODORE.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?







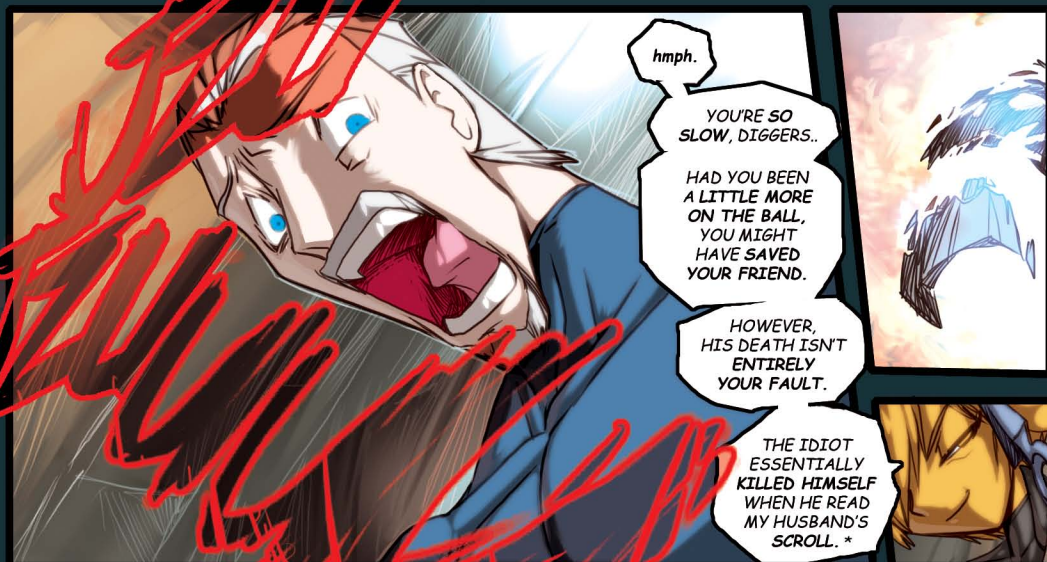




Th-theo...
quickly.

Dispel
it bef-

"AURA FUSE":
AN ANTI-MAGIC-
USER SPELL OR
ITEM THAT
IGNITES A SMALL
PERCENTAGE OF
A MAGE'S REFINED
ETHEREAL ENERGY
RESERVE...BUT
IN JZU-JZU'S
CASE, A "SMALL
PERCENTAGE" OF A
GIGAS' COLOSSAL
ENERGY POOL
WAS ENOUGH
TO DO THIS. -F.



hmph.

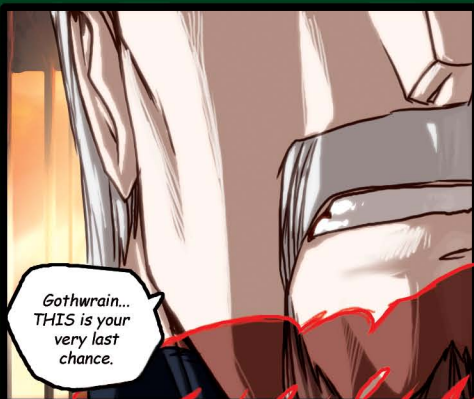
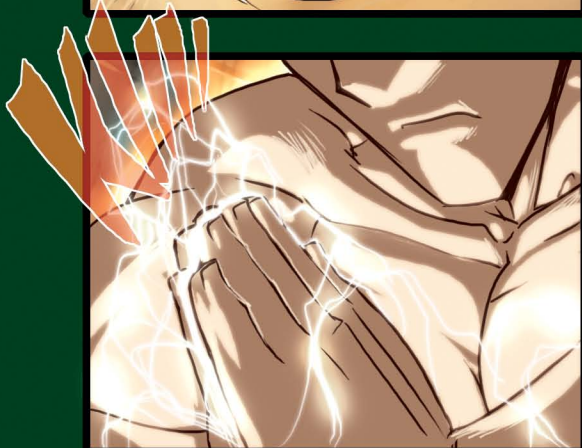
YOU'RE SO
SLOW, DIGGERS.

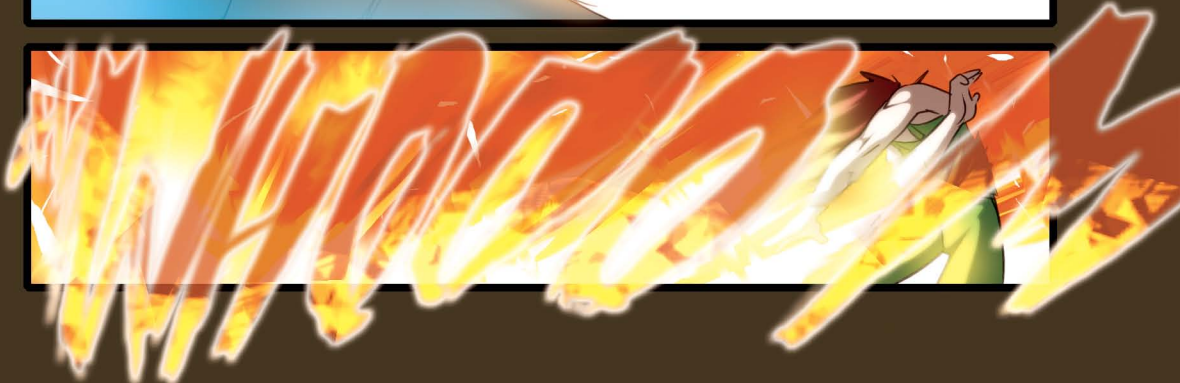
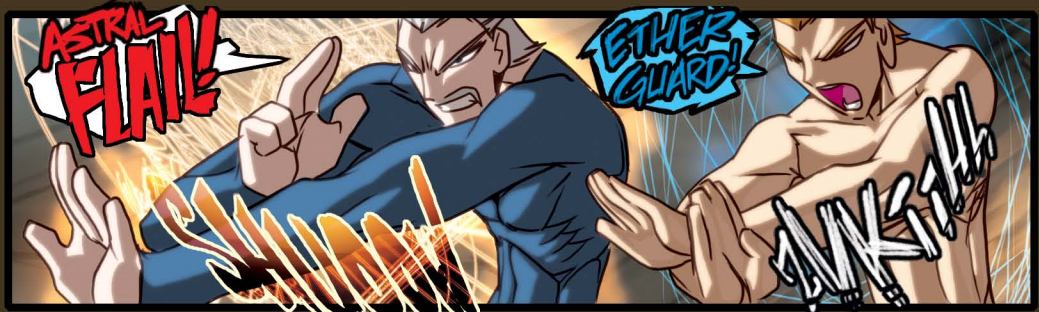
HAD YOU BEEN
A LITTLE MORE
ON THE BALL,
YOU MIGHT
HAVE SAVED
YOUR FRIEND.

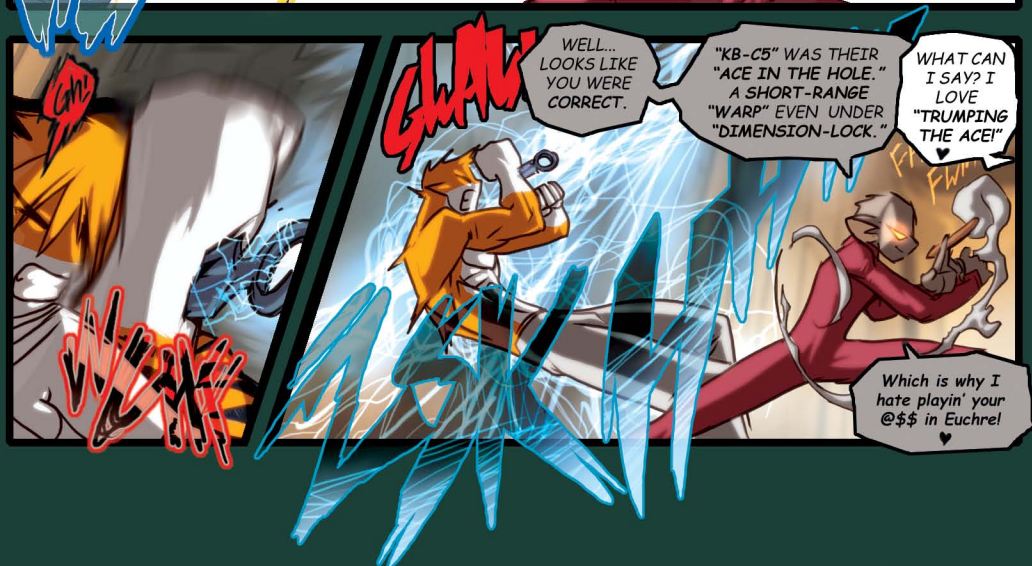
HOWEVER,
HIS DEATH ISN'T
ENTIRELY
YOUR FAULT.

THE IDIOT
ESSENTIALLY
KILLED HIMSELF
WHEN HE READ
MY HUSBAND'S
SCROLL. *











NOW
DIGGERS!

THIS IS WHY YOU
DON'T COME INTO
AN ENCHANTER'S
HOUSE AND
START \$#!+!!!

perfect

SUMMON

Shi

ROAR

oh...

oh no!

OH, GOD
NO!!!

ABYSSALISKS...
AMONG THE MOST
FEARED PLANAR
ABOMINATIONS
EVER ENCOUNTERED.
EVEN ELDER DRAGONS
TAKE THE LONG WAY
AROUND THESE
HORRORS' DENS.

JULIA,
MOVE!!!

SHHHHHH

JULIA!

AHH!

RAAAHHH

VCKH



DAMN!
TAKE IT
EASY,
SHERISHA.

NO NEED
TO RUSH.

Sorry. I
got carried
away. ♡



ABYSSALISKS,
THAT GOES
FOR YOU AS
WELL.

NO ONE
ENTERS OR
LEAVES,
UNDERSTOOD?

BY THE
WAY, DARLING.

THE SPELL
FURNACE
SEEMS TO
BE RUNNING
A BIT LOW.

STAND BY
AT THE
EXIT.



DON'T WORRY.

I ONLY NEED
TO ADD ONE
LAST BIT OF
"COAL"...



...TO STOK
THE FLAME.

OUR PLANS
NO LONGER
NEED "ORACLE"
NOW, DO
THEY.

EH?
IS THAT
A HINT OF
RECOGNITION
IN YOUR EYE,
DIGGERS?

UNDERSTANDABLE.

OUR LITTLE "SLAVE
ENCHANTMENT" HAS
QUITE THE "MYSTERIOUS
PAST" BEHIND IT.

SOME SAY
ORACLE WAS
ONCE AN
ANCIENT
BEING...

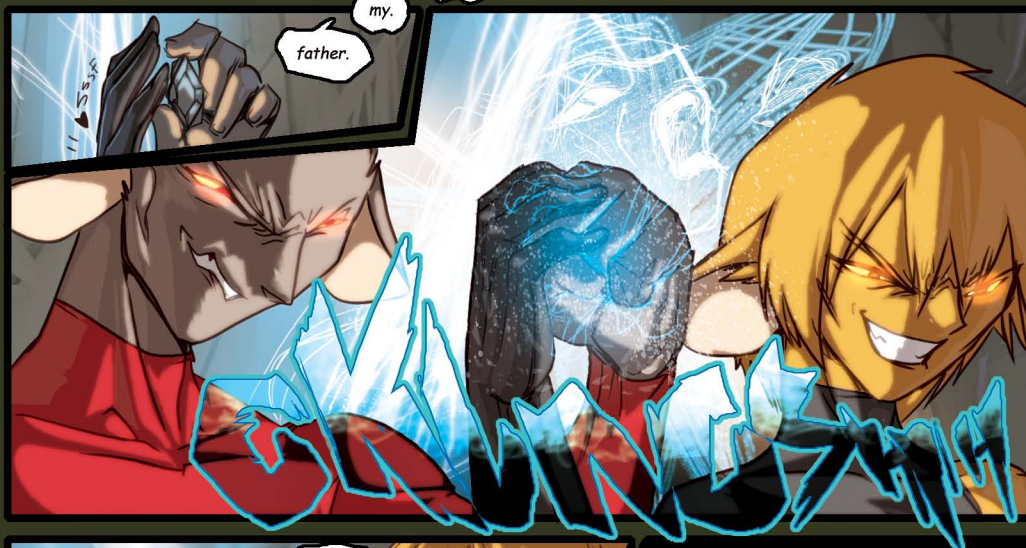
...TRANSFORMED
INTO A GEM
BY THE GREAT
DRAGON EXTHILION
TO PROTECT HER
FROM AN EVIL
FORCE.

THEY
SAY ORACLE
WAS STOLEN BY...
INTERESTED
PARTIES...
THEN RESCUED
BY ONE OF
EXTHILION'S
FRIENDS...

...AND THAT
ORACLE FELL FOR
HER RESCUER...
BRIEFLY LIVING
AND LOVING AS
A HUMAN.

HOWEVER,
SHE WAS
VULNERABLE AS
A HUMAN, AND THE
EVIL ESSENCE
FORCED HER TO
RETURN TO HER GEM
FORM... WHERE
SHE REMAINS
TO THIS DAY,
HEARTBROKEN
AND ALONE.

IF ONLY SOME
SPELL EXISTED
TO INVERT THE
DARK INFLUENCE.
AN "ESSENCE
INVERSION"
THAT WOULD
KEEP HER
SAFE.

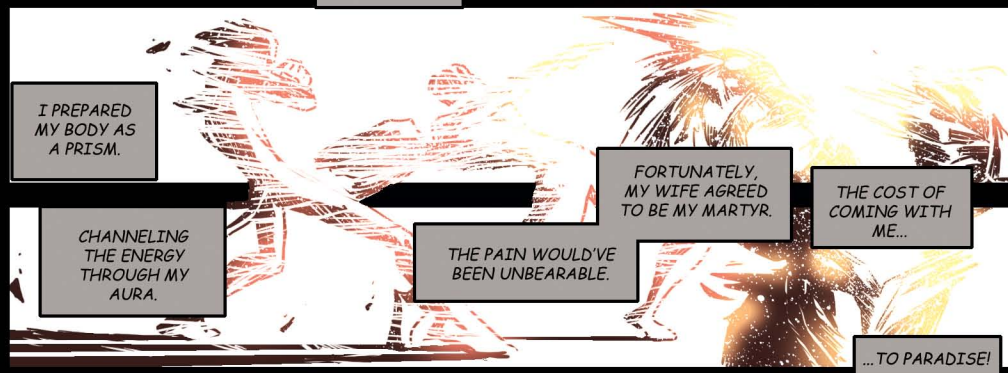




PERFECT.

THE POWER...
HIS POWER...

...AS STRONG
AS I HOPED.



I PREPARED
MY BODY AS
A PRISM.

CHANNELING
THE ENERGY
THROUGH MY
AURA.

THE PAIN WOULD'VE
BEEN UNBEARABLE.

FORTUNATELY,
MY WIFE AGREED
TO BE MY MARTYR.

THE COST OF
COMING WITH
ME...

...TO PARADISE!



IT... IT'S WORKING.

THE GATE IS
FORMING.

PARADISE
WELCOMES OUR
SOULS.

AND WHEN
THE GATE
FULLY FORMS...
OUR ENEMIES
WILL PERISH.

there

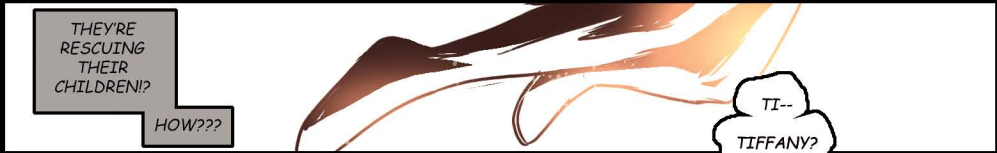
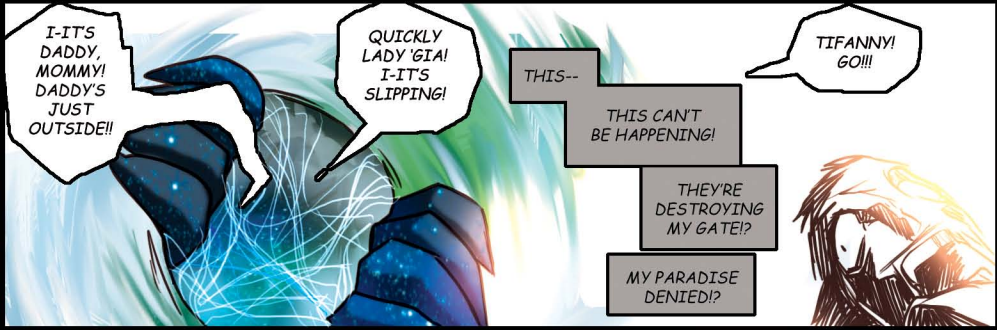
WE'VE WON.

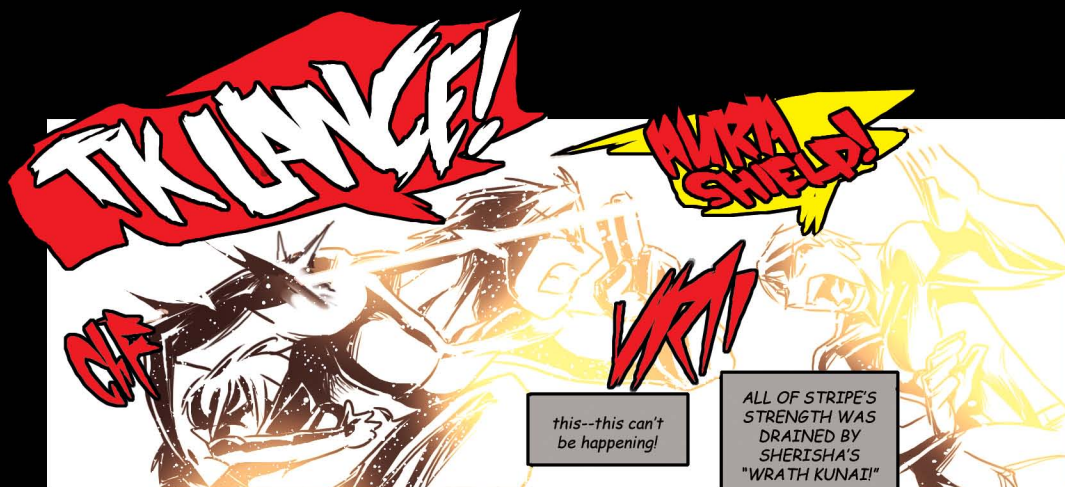
THERE IS ONLY--
ENOUGH ROOM--

WE'VE... won?

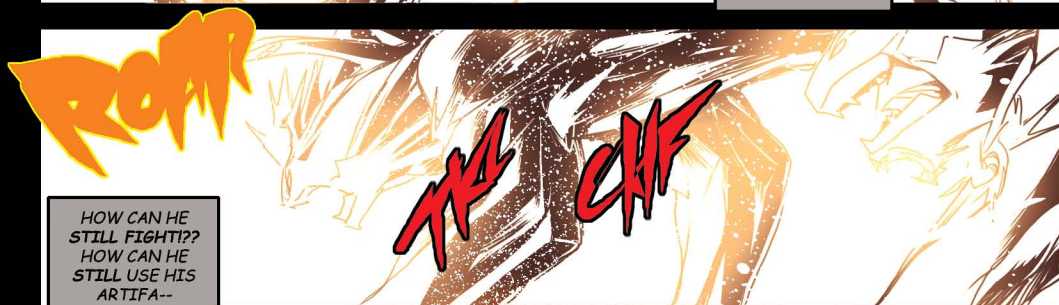


--ONLY ENOUGH
ROOM FOR ONE
AT A TIME, LADY
'GIA!





ALL OF STRIPE'S STRENGTH WAS DRAINED BY SHERISHA'S "WRATH KUNAI!"



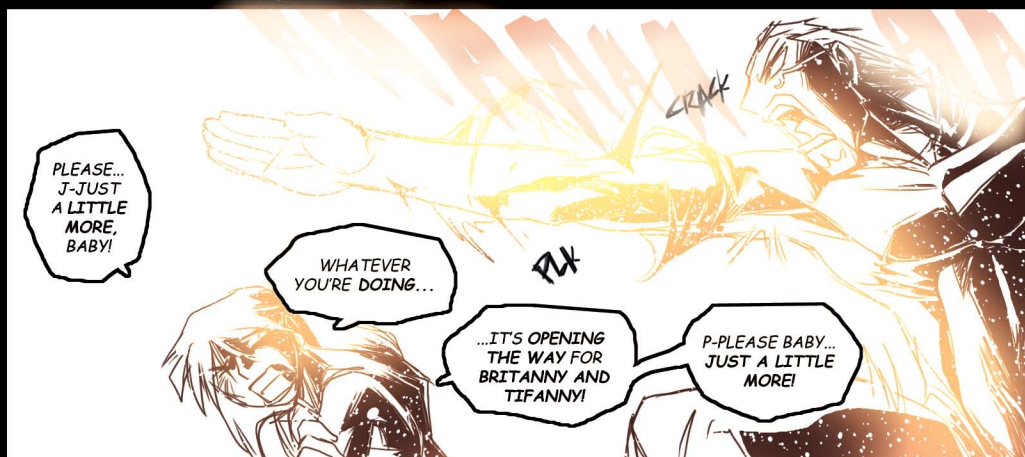
HOW CAN HE STILL FIGHT?? HOW CAN HE STILL USE HIS ARTIFA--



--\$#!+!!! THAT'S HOW!

HE'S FORCING HIS ARTIFACTS... TO CONSUME HIS OWN FLESH FOR ENERGY!

DAMN HEROES PISS ME OFF!

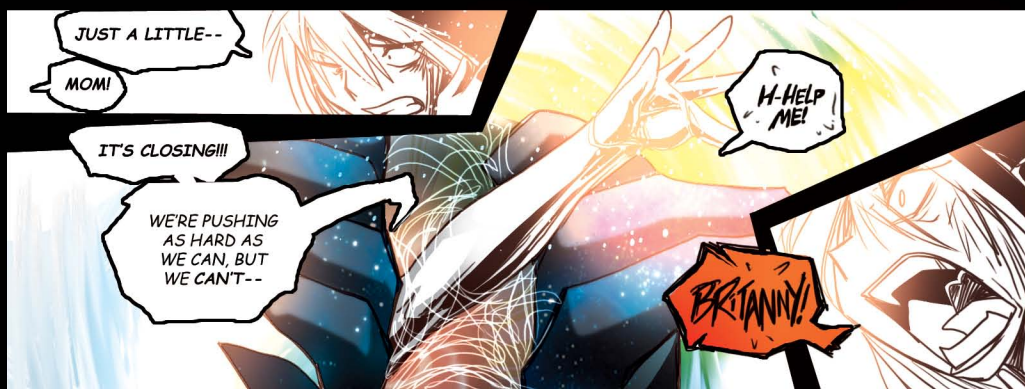


PLEASE... J-JUST A LITTLE MORE, BABY!

WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING...

...IT'S OPENING THE WAY FOR BRITANNY AND TIFANNY!

P-PLEASE BABY... JUST A LITTLE MORE!



JUST A LITTLE-- MOM!

IT'S CLOSING!!!

WE'RE PUSHING AS HARD AS WE CAN, BUT WE CAN'T--

H-HELP ME!

BRITANNY!



JULIA, I
ADMIRE
YOUR
STRENGTH.

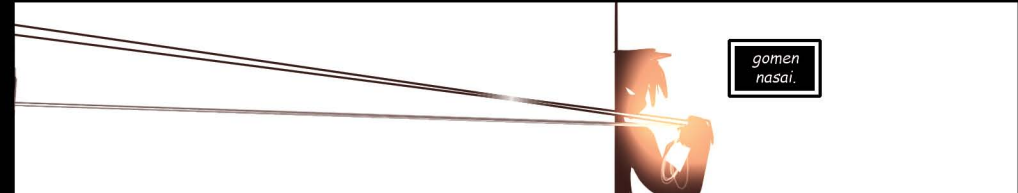
YOUR BODY
IS BROKEN.

YOUR LIMITS
ARE REACHED.

STILL YOU
PRESS ON.

HOWEVER...

...MY OBLIGATIONS DICTATE
THAT I ENSURE YOUR
FAILURE.



gomen
nasai.



IT IS DONE!

THE DOOR TO
PARADISE IS
RESTORED.

OUR SOULS
ARE BEING
PULLED
THROUGH.

WE
WIN.



ONCE WE LEAVE,
THE EXPLOSION
WILL ERADICATE
OUR ENEMIES.

FOR THEM, THERE
IS NO ESCAPE.

THEY **LOSE.**



ghhnn...

T-THAT
FUNNEL!

THAT
ENERGY!

