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GOLD DIGGER

15th Anniversary
1991-2006

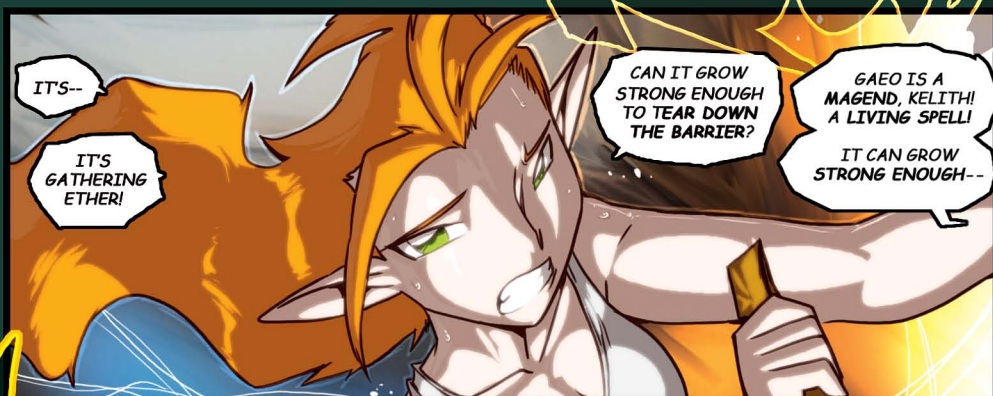


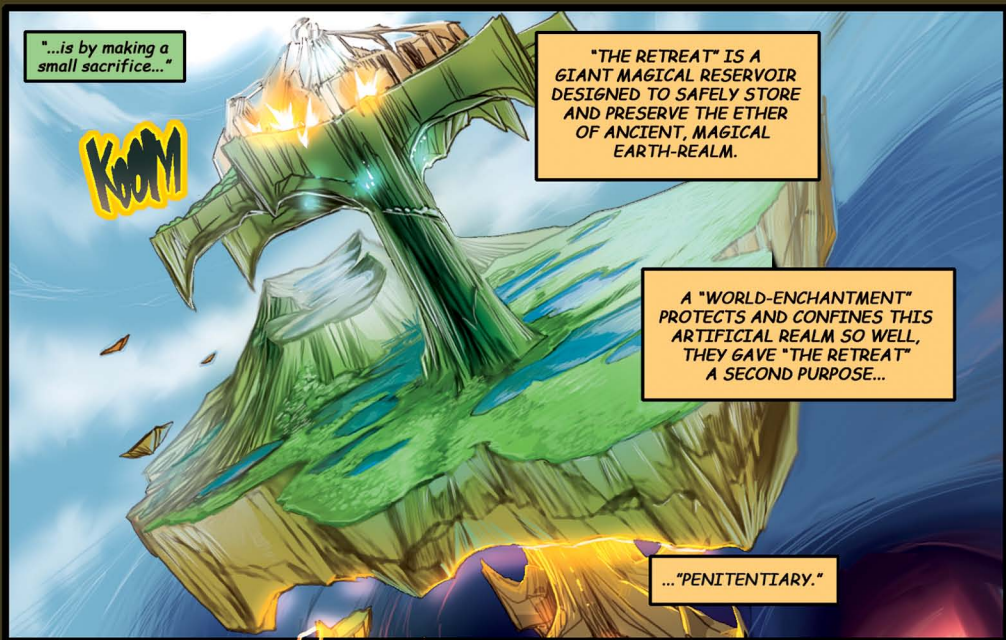
Wesley

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"...is by making a small sacrifice..."

"THE RETREAT" IS A GIANT MAGICAL RESERVOIR DESIGNED TO SAFELY STORE AND PRESERVE THE ETHER OF ANCIENT, MAGICAL EARTH-REALM.

A "WORLD-ENCHANTMENT" PROTECTS AND CONFINES THIS ARTIFICIAL REALM SO WELL, THEY GAVE "THE RETREAT" A SECOND PURPOSE...

... "PENITENTIARY."



IN OVER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, NO ONE HAS ESCAPED...

...BUT TODAY, THERE'S A COMMOTION STIRRING. GUARDS ARE MOVING. MAGIC IS SHIFTING.

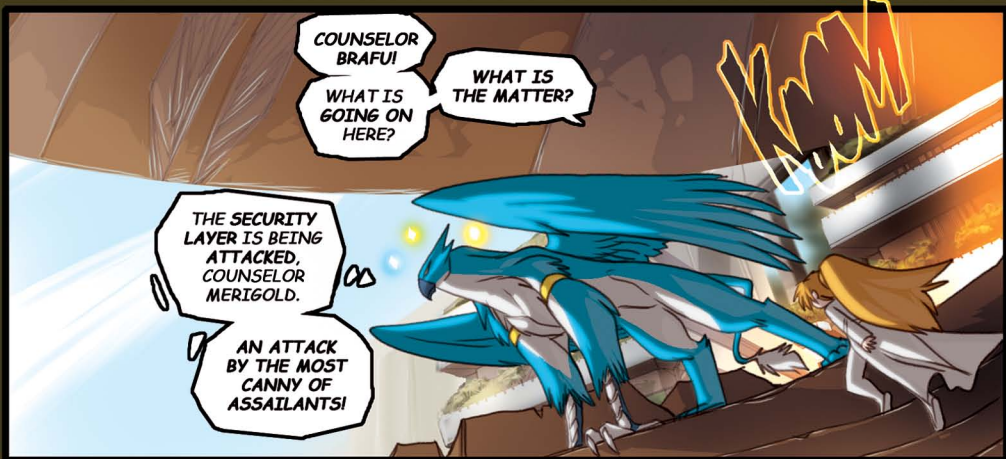
AT FIRST, I BELIEVED THAT THIS WAS THE WORK OF MY ALLIES COMING TO FREE ME FROM MY "VACATION."



But, no.

THIS IS THE WORK OF SOMEONE ELSE... SOME OTHER RESCUE PARTY...

...WHICH IS EVEN BETTER THAN I HOPED!

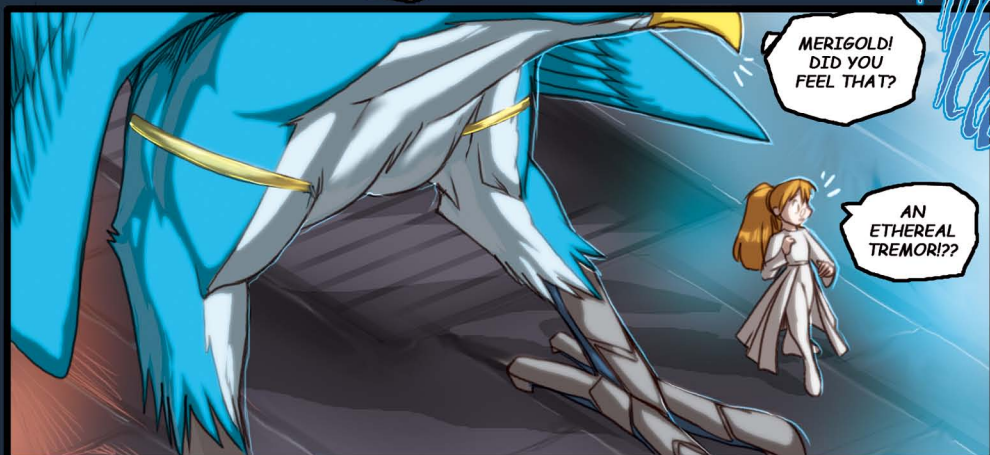
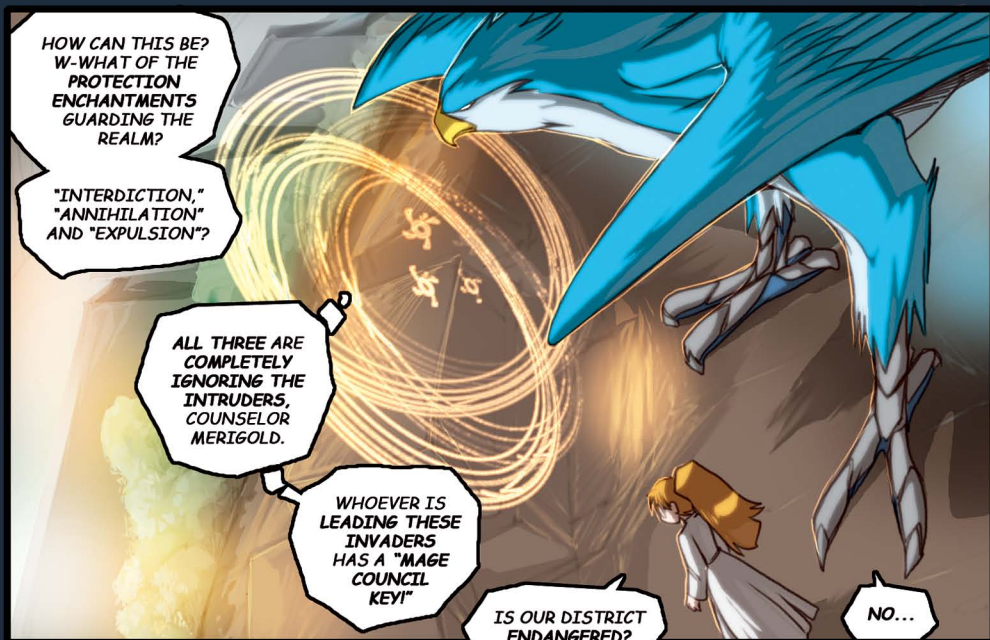


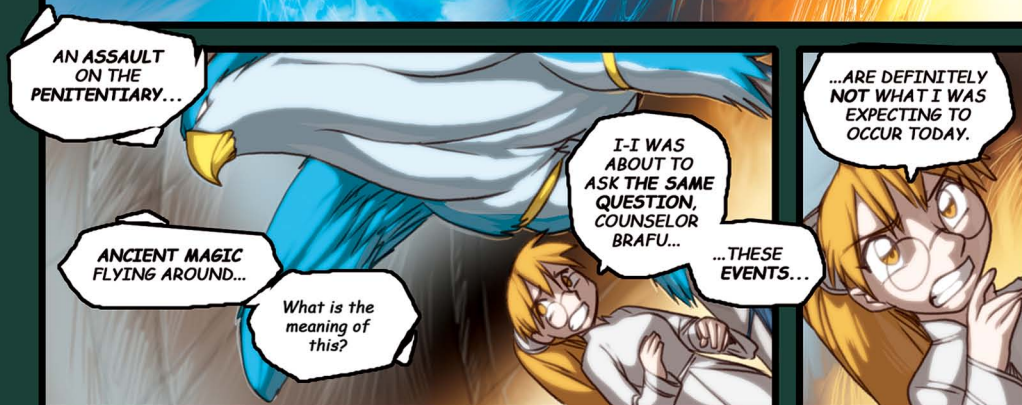
COUNSELOR BRAFU!

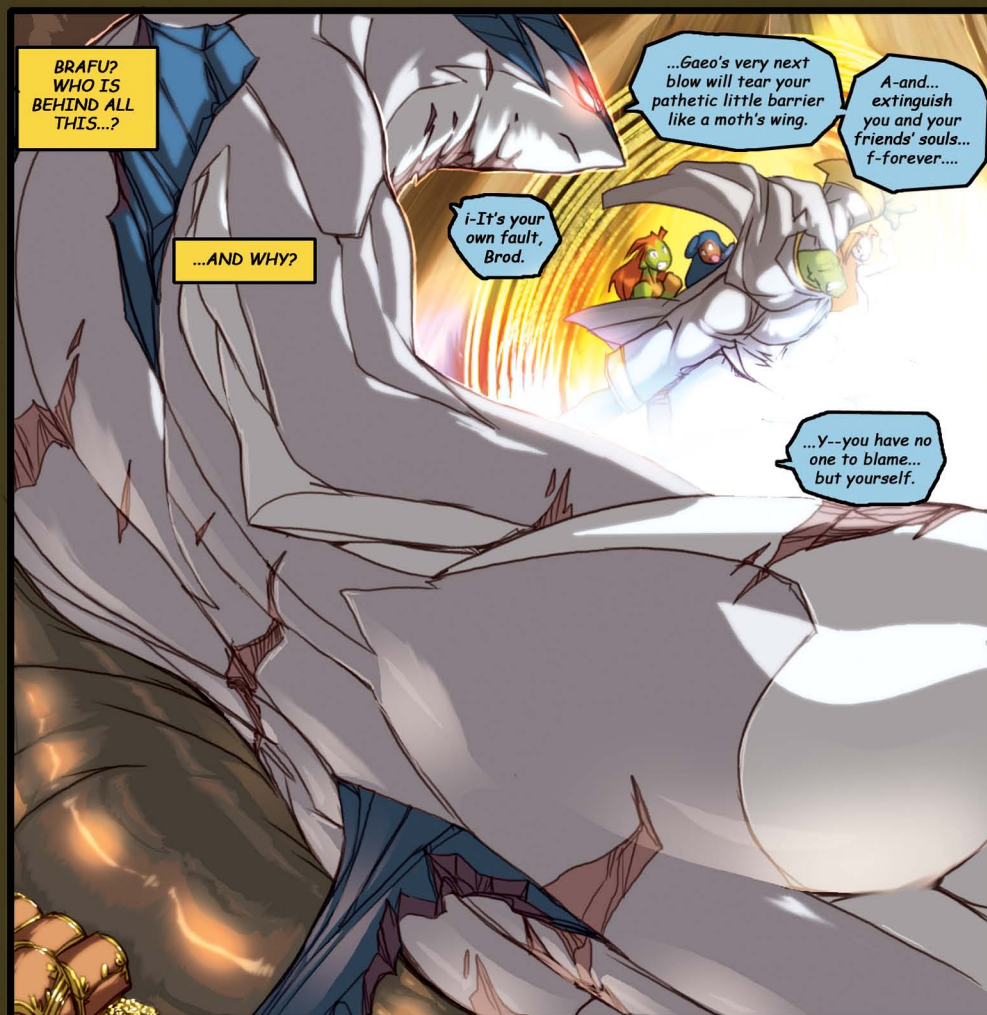
WHAT IS THE MATTER?

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

THE SECURITY LAYER IS BEING ATTACKED, COUNSELOR MERIGOLD.
AN ATTACK BY THE MOST CANNY OF ASSAILANTS!







BRAFU?
WHO IS
BEHIND ALL
THIS...?

...AND WHY?

i-It's your
own fault,
Brod.

...Gaeo's very next
blow will tear your
pathetic little barrier
like a moth's wing.

A-and...
extinguish
you and your
friends' souls...
f-forever....

...Y--you have no
one to blame...
but yourself.



This is your
last chance!
ESCAPE!
Forget your
friends and
save your-
selves!

Mesha and Tark
have to PAY for
what they helped...
HIM... do to me!

I swear...I SWEAR
I'll have GEAO
KILL you before
I let you take my
JUSTICE from
me!

I'll...



dammit.



T'MHT... GRAND-
DAUGHTER...
WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING?

You are
invading my lair...
my SANCTUM...
Grandfather
Exthilion.

Please leave.



I HAVE NEVER
INTERFERED WITH YOUR
AFFAIRS, I'MAT...
BUT YOUR MAGEND, GAEO,
THREATENS A VERY
DELICATE, VERY
PRECIOUS BALANCE.

I TAKE FULL
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR EVERYTHING
THAT HAPPENS,
GRANDFATHER.

YOUR PRECIOUS
RESERVOIR WILL
NOT BE HARMED.

THE "RETREAT"
IS SAFE FROM
GAEO.

NOW.
Leave
me.



I'M NOT FINISHED.

I ALSO SENSED THAT
THE SLEEPING MYMIOR OF
JADE-REALM, THE "SPELL-
JOURNAL" I CHARGED YOU
TO PROTECT, HAS RECENTLY
BEEN ACTIVATED!
IS THIS DISTURBANCE YOUR
DOING AS WELL?

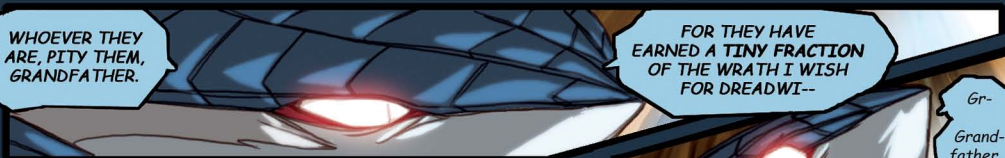
I-I hid that Mymior
from dragon-sight with
an enchantment! And
only a dragon can use
a Mymior!

It was
SAFE!



I SUGGEST YOU CHECK INTO
IT WITH A SCRYING SPELL
QUICKLY, BROOD QUEEN.

THE DRAGON WHO WIELDS
THE KNOWLEDGE AND POWER
OF THAT MYMIOR... WILL
DWARF THE POWER YOUR
FORMER LIFE-MATE ATTAINED.



WHOEVER THEY
ARE, PITY THEM,
GRANDFATHER.

FOR THEY HAVE
EARNED A TINY FRACTION
OF THE WRATH I WISH
FOR DREADWI--

Gr-
Grand-
father...

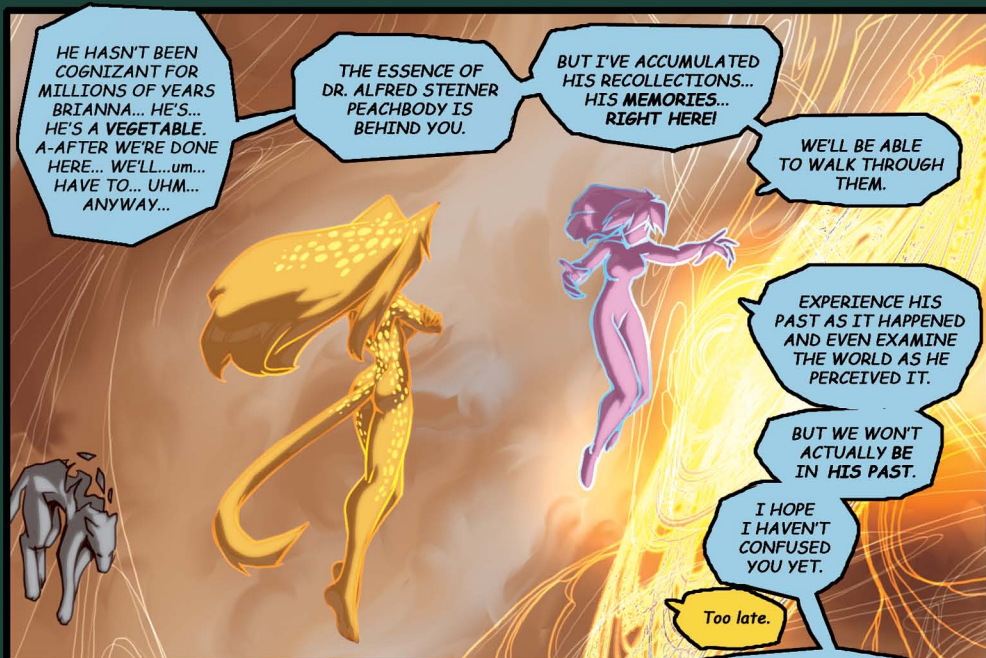


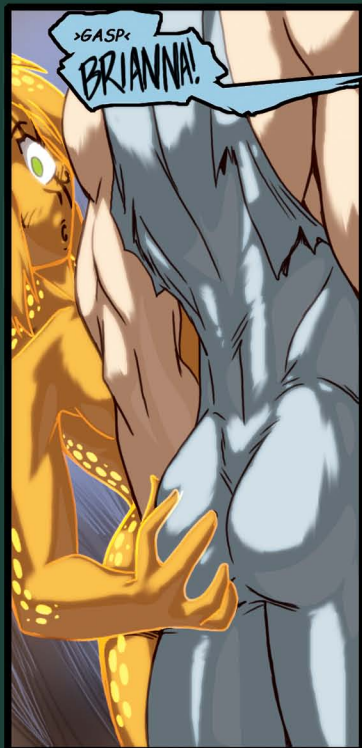
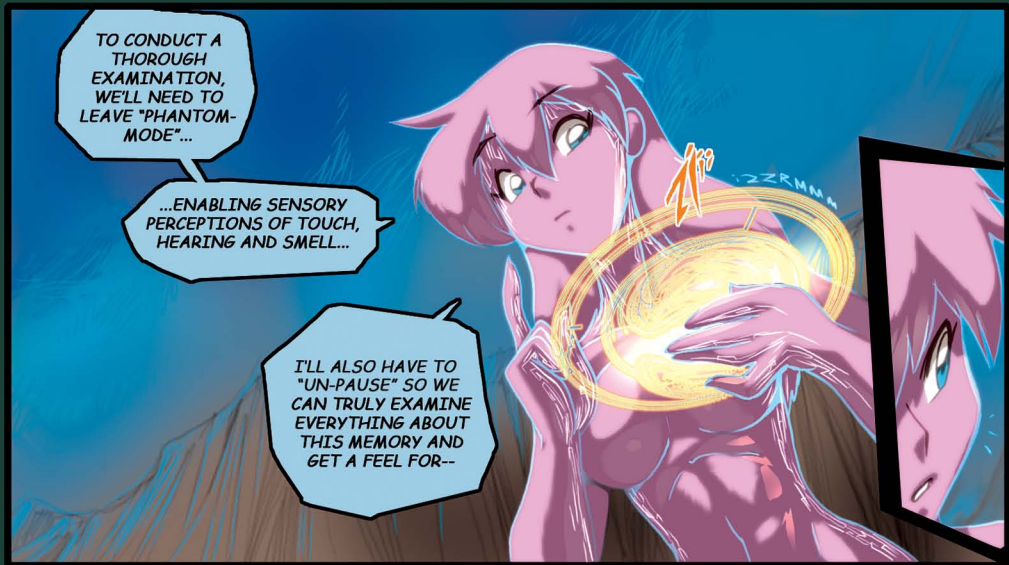
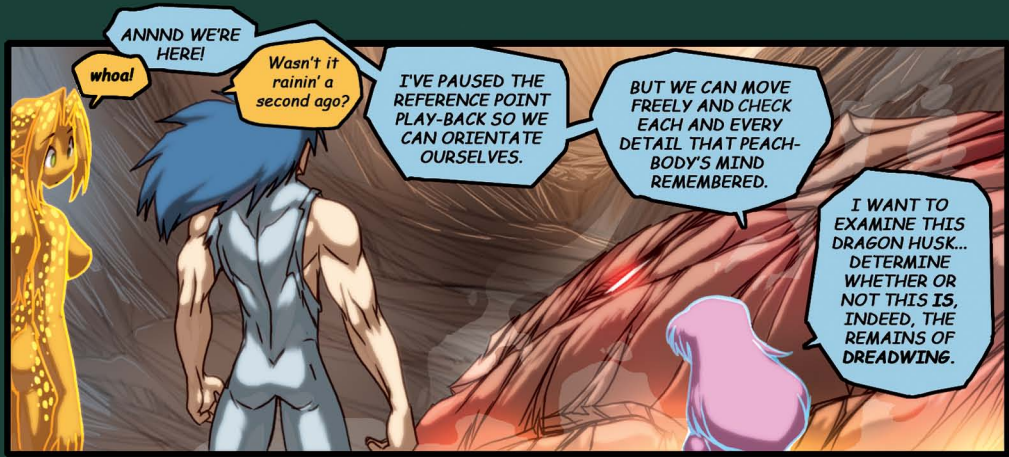
Dr. Gina Babette
Diggers.

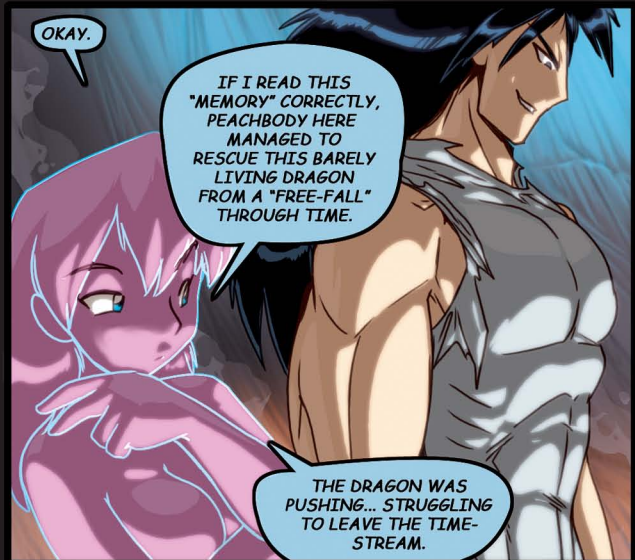
Archaeologist. Explorer...
And destroyer of my worst
enemy... slayer of my
nightmare.

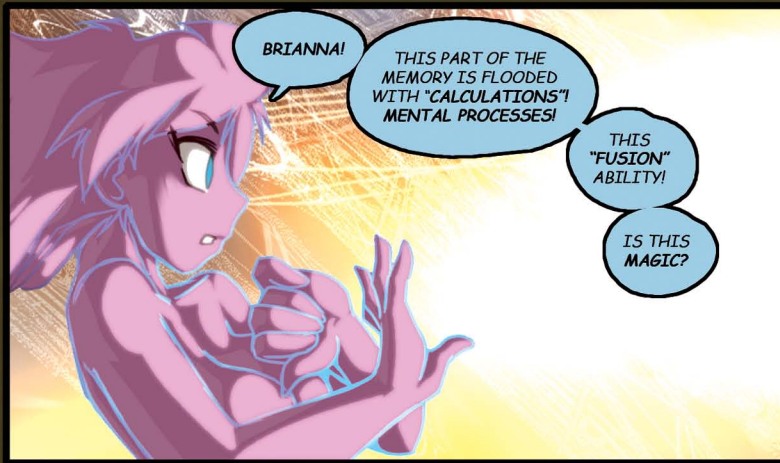
It's...
HER...











BRIANNA!

THIS PART OF THE
MEMORY IS FLOODED
WITH "CALCULATIONS"!
MENTAL PROCESSES!

THIS
"FUSION"
ABILITY!

IS THIS
MAGIC?



IS THIS
HOW A
MAGE CASTS
A SPE--?

HUH?
What the...



I SEE--A "BRIGHT YOUNG
SCIENTIST"... AWAKENING IN
AN ERA THAT IS UNRAVELLING
BEFORE HIS EYES...

I SEE HIS WORLD...
HIS UNIVERSE...
CRUMBLING
AROUND HIM.

HE REALIZES HIS
VERY EXISTENCE IS
BUT A DREAM... AN
ALTERNATE REALITY...
FADING AWAY.

B-Benji?
is that you,
boy?

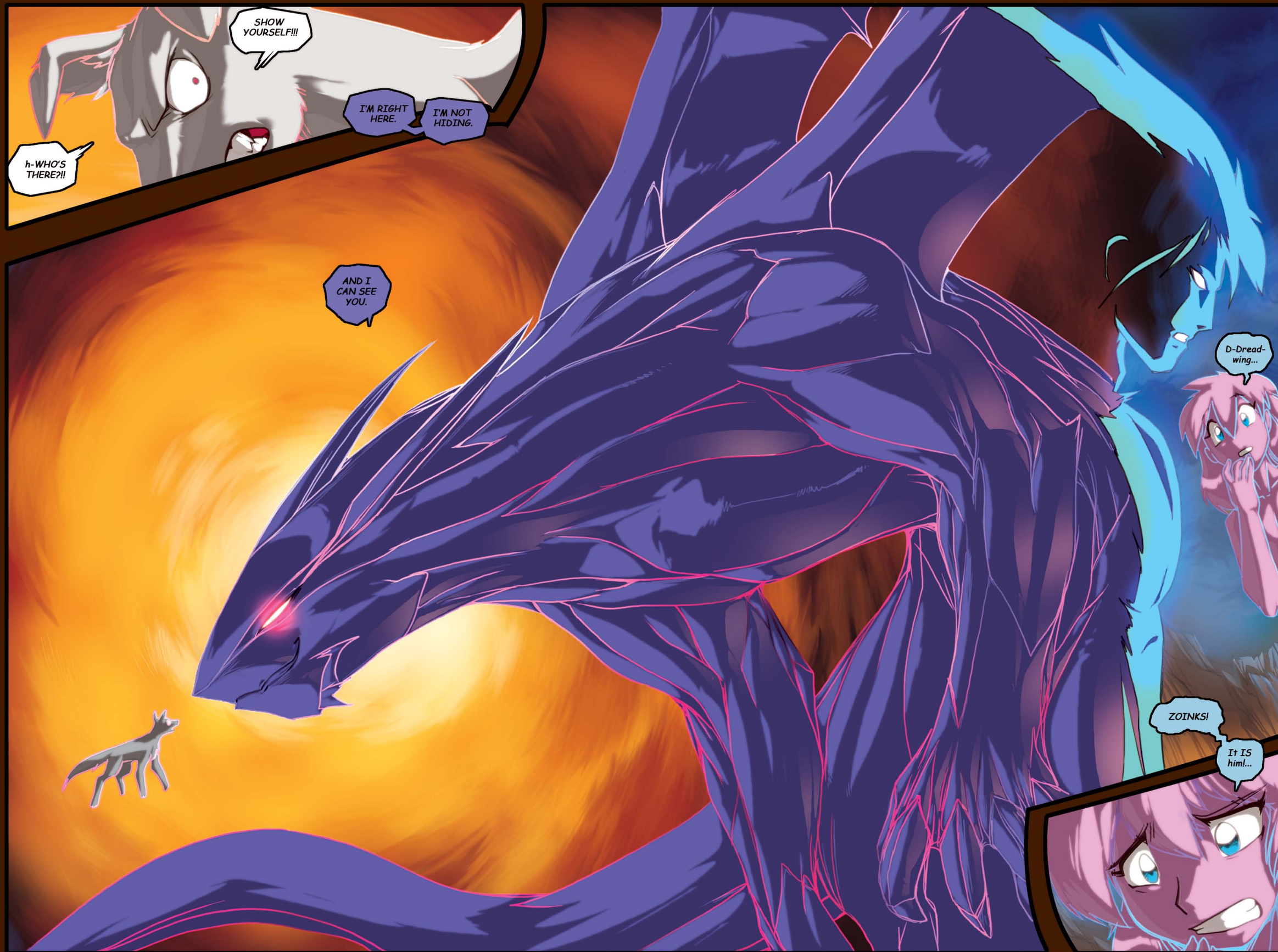
BUT THE
SCIENTIST IS
NOT HELPLESS.

HE KNOWS THE
SECRETS OF
TIME-TRAVEL!

HE USES THOSE
SECRETS TO HURL
HIMSELF THROUGH
TIME TO SAVE
HIS FUTURE...

HE LETS
NOTHING STAND
IN HIS WAY.

HE EVEN
DEVOURS
THE ESSENCE
OF HIS PET BOY,
"BENJI," TO
FURTHER HIS
QUEST.



h-WHO'S THERE?!!

SHOW YOURSELF!!!

I'M RIGHT HERE.

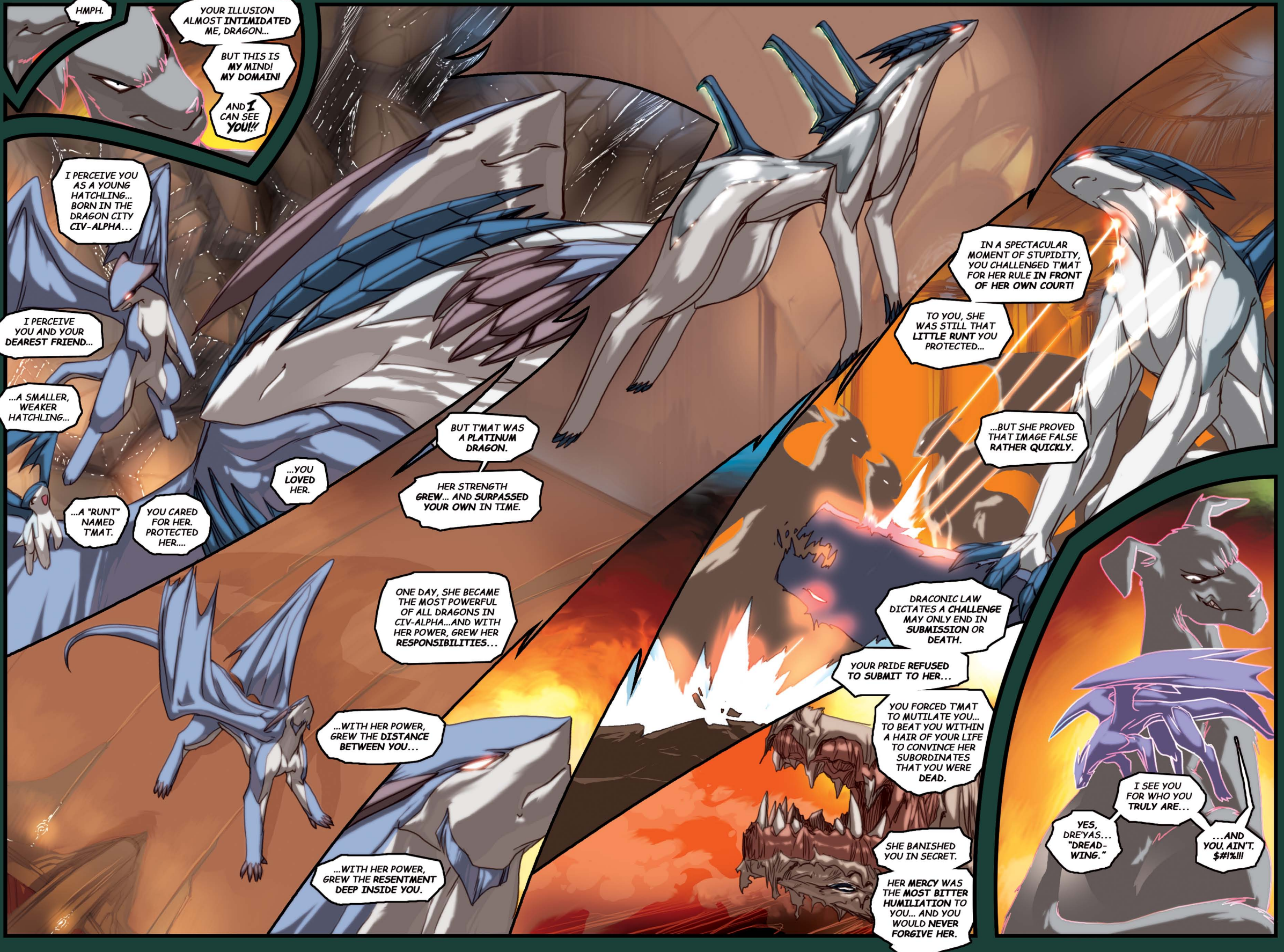
I'M NOT HIDING.

AND I CAN SEE YOU.

D-Dread-wing...

ZOINKS!

It IS him!...



HMPH.

YOUR ILLUSION
ALMOST INTIMIDATED
ME, DRAGON...

BUT THIS IS
MY MIND!
MY DOMAIN!

AND I
CAN SEE
YOU!!!

I PERCEIVE YOU
AS A YOUNG
HATCHLING...
BORN IN THE
DRAGON CITY
CIV-ALPHA...

I PERCEIVE
YOU AND YOUR
DEAREST FRIEND...

...A SMALLER,
WEAKER
HATCHLING...

...A "RUNT"
NAMED
T'MAT.

YOU CARED
FOR HER.
PROTECTED
HER....

...YOU
LOVED
HER.

BUT T'MAT WAS
A PLATINUM
DRAGON.

HER STRENGTH
GREW... AND SURPASSED
YOUR OWN IN TIME.

ONE DAY, SHE BECAME
THE MOST POWERFUL
OF ALL DRAGONS IN
CIV-ALPHA...AND WITH
HER POWER, GREW HER
RESPONSIBILITIES...

...WITH HER POWER,
GREW THE DISTANCE
BETWEEN YOU...

...WITH HER POWER,
GREW THE RESENTMENT
DEEP INSIDE YOU.

IN A SPECTACULAR
MOMENT OF STUPIDITY,
YOU CHALLENGED T'MAT
FOR HER RULE IN FRONT
OF HER OWN COURT!

TO YOU, SHE
WAS STILL THAT
LITTLE RUNT YOU
PROTECTED...

...BUT SHE PROVED
THAT IMAGE FALSE
RATHER QUICKLY.

DRACONIC LAW
DICTATES A CHALLENGE
MAY ONLY END IN
SUBMISSION OR
DEATH.

YOUR PRIDE REFUSED
TO SUBMIT TO HER...

YOU FORCED T'MAT
TO MUTILATE YOU...
TO BEAT YOU WITHIN
A HAIR OF YOUR LIFE
TO CONVINCE HER
SUBORDINATES
THAT YOU WERE
DEAD.


SHE BANISHED
YOU IN SECRET.

HER MERCY WAS
THE MOST BITTER
HUMILIATION TO
YOU... AND YOU
WOULD NEVER
FORGIVE HER.

I SEE YOU
FOR WHO YOU
TRULY ARE...

YES,
DRE'YAS...
"DREAD-
WING."

...AND
YOU, AIN'T.
\$#!%!!!



YOUR POTENTIAL
however... WAS NOT THE SAME
AS T'MAT AND THE
OTHER DRAGONS'.

YOUR TALENT
WAS NOT IN
MAGIC...

...BUT IN MAGICAL
DEVICES.

YOUR POTENTIAL
ZENITHED WHEN
YOU ACQUIRED...

...THE "TIME-RAFT"!

I PERCEIVE
YOUR RETURN
TO T'MAT'S
COURT.

INDEED...
THE "WURM"
HAD TURNED.

THE MAGIC GRANTED
BY THE TIME-RAFT
WAS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR T'MAT AND
HER ALLIES TO
RESIST!

YOU COULD BE
ANYWHERE AND
NOWHERE.

YOU COULD STOP
THE FLOW OF TIME
AROUND THEIR
MAGIC, MAKING
EVEN THE MOST
POWERFUL SPELLS
INERT!

YOU COULD
CAST SPELLS
THAT WOULD TAKE
CENTURIES OF
CONCENTRATION
IN AN INSTANT!

AND YET, T'MAT
WAS **STILL** ABLE
TO DENY YOUR
SATISFACTION!



SHE
REFUSED
TO LET
HERSELF
HATE...
OR FEAR
YOU.

EVEN AFTER
ALL OF YOUR
CRIMES, HER
EYES STILL
FORGAVE YOU.

TO HER, YOU
WERE STILL
THE "LITTLE
BOY" THAT
PROTECTED
HER...

SHE STILL
LOVED.

...HOWEVER,
YOU KNEW
EXACTLY HOW
TO DESTROY
HER LOVE...HOW
TO ATTAIN
THE VICTORY
YOU WANTED.

don't.

I will.

And you
will look into
our child's
eyes... and
see mine.

And you will
remember my
victory over
you.

Do it...
and I will
hate you.

hate you...
forever.

Perfect.

YOU BASTARD.

She wanted
it.

MULTA #08!!!

BRIANNA,
STOP!!!

USING A BLASTER
ISN'T GOING TO
SOLVE ANYTHING
HERE!

THIS IS JUST
A RECOLLECTION!
PLUS WE CAN'T
RISK DAMAGING
ANY OF THE
DATA!

But after we're
done, feel free
to "bussakap"!

YOU VANQUISHED
THE BROOD QUEEN.
YOUR POWER OVER
"TIME-MAGIC" WAS
FEARED BY ALL.

BUT NOW
YOU'RE JUST
A TINY, THOUGH
POTENTIALLY
USEFUL, LITTLE
PARAKEET
TAKING UP
TWO PERCENT
OF MY
ESSENCE.

TELL ME,
HOW DID YOU
COME TO **FALL**
THROUGH
TIME?

HOW DID
YOU REACH
THIS...
LOWLY
STATE?

THE SAME
WAY **YOU**
DID,
ALFRED.

JUST LIKE
YOU, I WAS
DEFEATED...

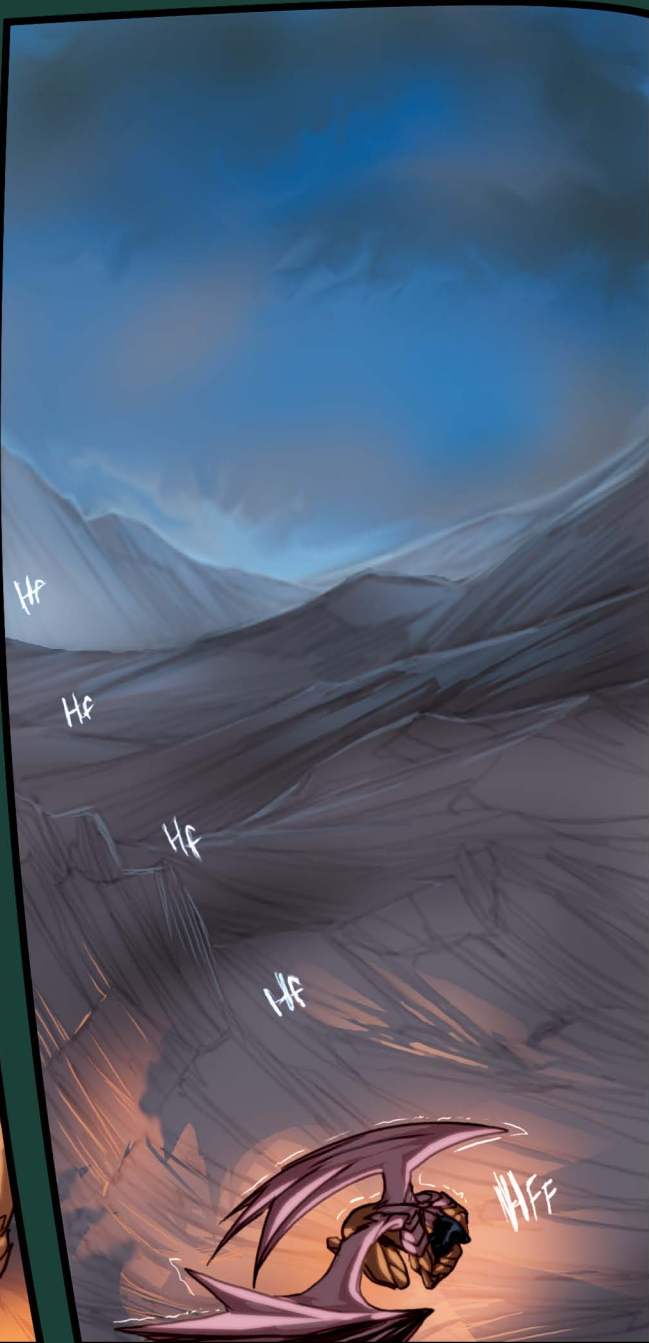
...STRIPPED
OF MY POWER...

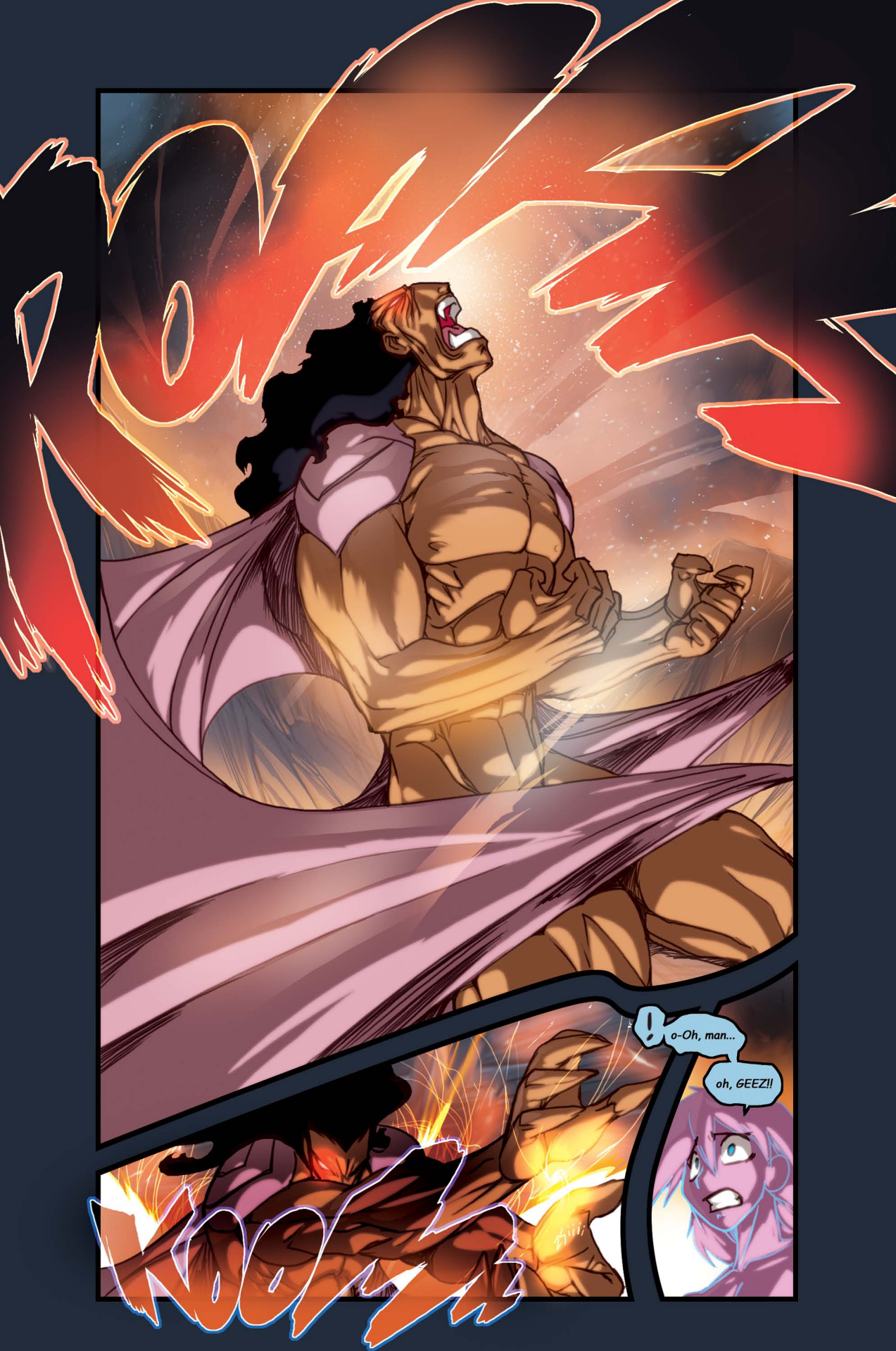
...HUMILIATED...

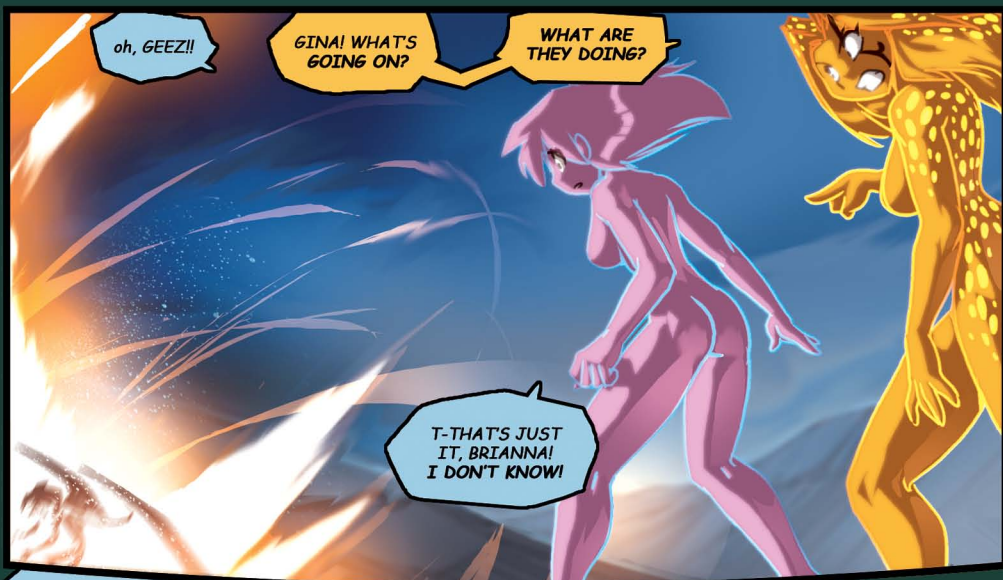
...AND FLUNG
BACK INTO THE
DAWN OF
TIME...

...BY A TINY
HUMAN BITCH
NAMED
GINA DIGGERS.









PEACHBODY'S MEMORIES
ARE STREAMING TOO FAST
FOR ME RIGHT NOW!

BEFORE... IF HIS
THOUGHTS WERE
WORDS IN A BOOK,
I WAS READING
HIS MEMORIES
LIKE THEY WERE
COMING FROM A
TELEPROMPTER...

...BUT FROM
THIS POINT
ON...

...PEACHBODY AND
DREADWING WERE
"WRITING" AN
ENCYCLOPEDIA
A SECOND!!!



THE FUSION!

IT INCREASED THEIR
COMBINED MENTAL
CAPABILITY BY AN
ASTRONOMICAL
FACTOR!

I-I CAN'T
BEGIN TO
DECIPHER THE
CALCULATIONS
THEY WERE
MAKING!

THEY'RE
BEYOND ME,
BRIANNA!

They're so
beyond me!

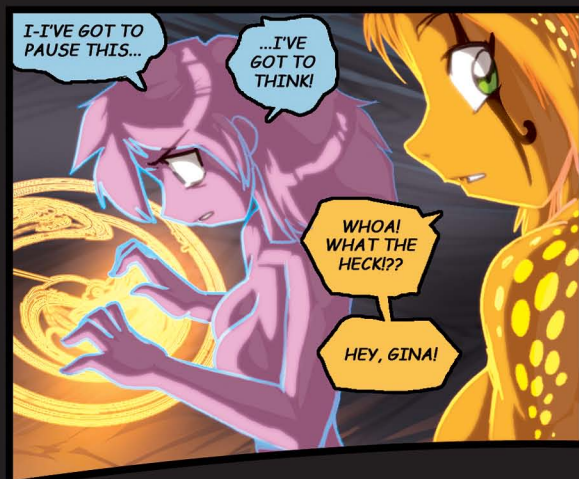
DAMN! WHAT
WERE THEY
DOING THAT
TOOK SO MUCH
THINKING???



oh...
OMIGAWD!

BRIANNA!
I RECOGNIZE
THEM NOW!

I KNOW
WHAT THEY
WERE DOING!



I-I'VE GOT TO
PAUSE THIS...

...I'VE
GOT TO
THINK!

WHOA!
WHAT THE
HECK!??

HEY, GINA!



TAKE A
LOOK AT
THEIR
AURA
NOW!

?



JINKIES!!!

IF--IF I HADN'T
PAUSED RIGHT HERE...

...I WOULD HAVE NEVER
DETECTED THIS INSTANT!

WHILE
BOTH PEACHBODY
AND DREADWING
WERE ENRAGED
AND ENGAGED
WITH THEIR NEW
TASK...



...DREADWING WAS...

...WAS SNEAKING
"NIBBLES" FROM
PEACHBODY'S
ESSENCE!



STEALING
ETHEREAL
ENERGY!

"LEECHING"!

j...JINKIES!

HE'S SUNK TO A
NEW LOW SINCE
I "READ" THAT
MYMIOR IN
"THE HALL OF
DRAGONS..."

Y-YOU CAN'T
TAKE YOUR
EYES OFF THAT
BASTARD FOR
A SECOND!

*GINA WATCHED DREADWING
BETRAY HIS ALLIES BACK
IN ISSUES 41-43. --F.

