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FRED
PERRY

GOLD DIGGER



JULY 2007

A MONTH AGO...
MY FAMILY AND I
WERE FIGHTING
FOR MY DAUGHTER
AND GRAND-
DAUGHTER'S
LIVES...



...IN "DARK HOME"!

WE FOUGHT,
AND WE
LOST.



IN DESPERATION
AND ANGER, MY
HUSBAND ROSE
TO KILL OUR
TORMENTORS,
GOTHWRAIN AND
SHERISHA...

...BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER.
WE WERE TRAPPED.

THERE WAS NO
WAY TO SAVE
OUR LIVES.

Or so I
thought.



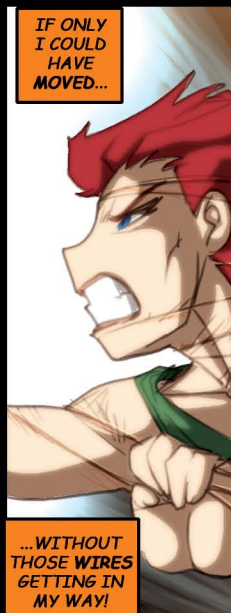
SOMEHOW...SOME
WAY... MY MOTHER
HAD LEARNED OF
OUR DANGER!

SHE ARRIVED
TO SACRIFICE
HERSELF...

...TO SAVE
US ALL.

I-IF ONLY
I WASN'T
SO SLOW...

IF ONLY
I COULD
HAVE
MOVED...



...WITHOUT
THOSE WIRES
GETTING IN
MY WAY!

ZERO... YOU COWARD!

FOR HELPING GOTHWRAIN
DECIMATE MY FAMILY...

...FOR THOSE
DAMNED
WIRES...



...FOR MY MOTHER
AND MY DAUGHTER...

...I'LL NEVER forgive you!



AFTER MY MOTHER'S FUNERAL...

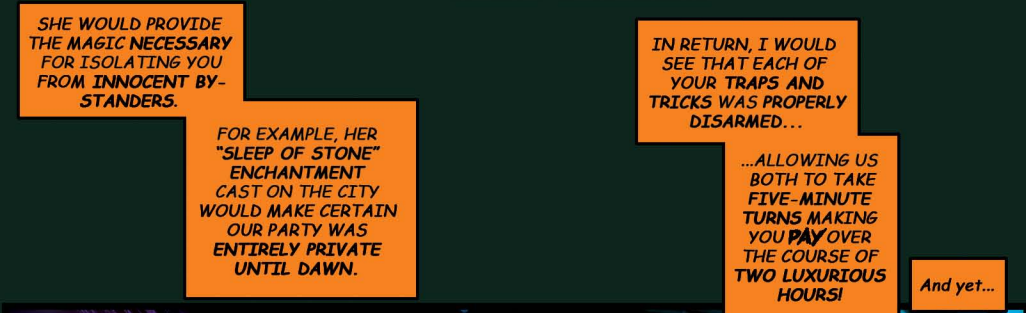
...I ANSWERED DEBRA'S SECRET SUMMONS TO THE HOSPITAL IN WHICH YOUR TREACHERY PLACED HER.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, ZERO, SHE COULD HAVE BEEN THERE TO HELP US DEFEAT GOTHWRAIN.



IN HER EYES, I SAW THE SAME DESIRE THAT BURNED IN MY OWN.

SHE KNEW WHERE YOU WOULD HIDE AND WANTED MY HELP IN SEEKING REVENGE!



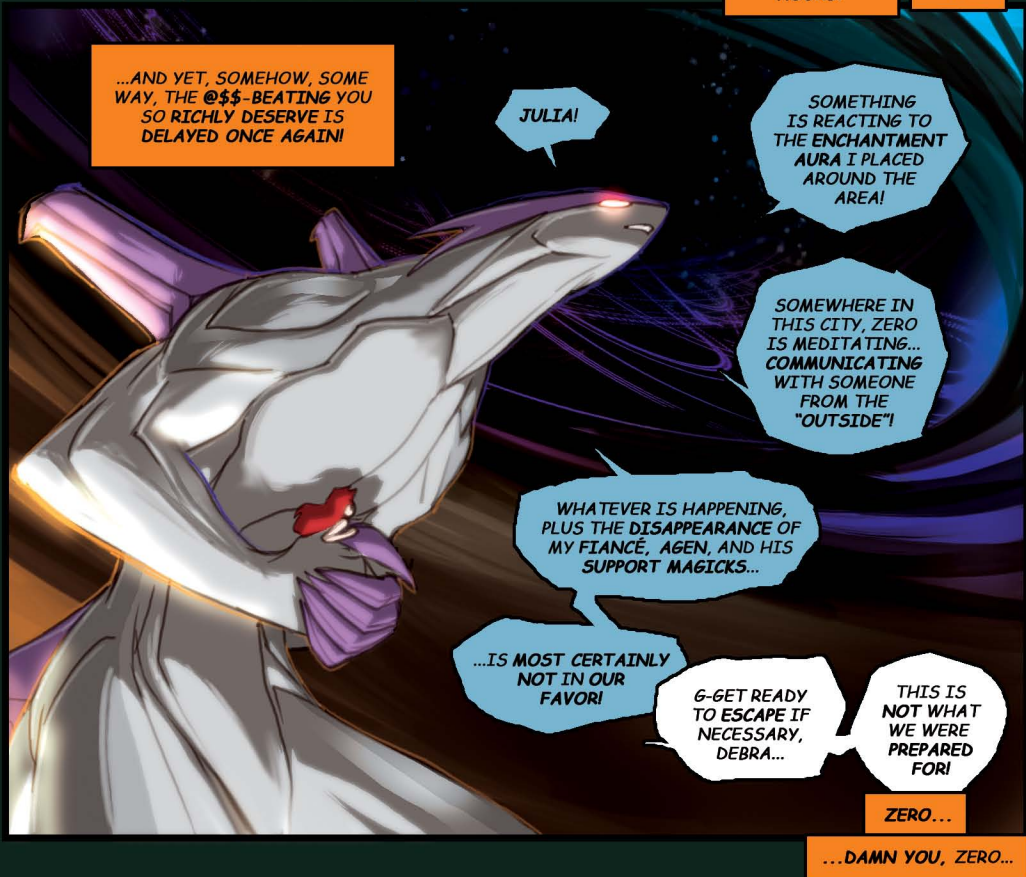
SHE WOULD PROVIDE THE MAGIC NECESSARY FOR ISOLATING YOU FROM INNOCENT BY-STANDERS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HER "SLEEP OF STONE" ENCHANTMENT CAST ON THE CITY WOULD MAKE CERTAIN OUR PARTY WAS ENTIRELY PRIVATE UNTIL DAWN.

IN RETURN, I WOULD SEE THAT EACH OF YOUR TRAPS AND TRICKS WAS PROPERLY DISARMED...

...ALLOWING US BOTH TO TAKE FIVE-MINUTE TURNS MAKING YOU PAY OVER THE COURSE OF TWO LUXURIOUS HOURS!

And yet...



...AND YET, SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, THE @\$\$-BEATING YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE IS DELAYED ONCE AGAIN!

JULIA!

SOMETHING IS REACTING TO THE ENCHANTMENT AURA I PLACED AROUND THE AREA!

SOMEWHERE IN THIS CITY, ZERO IS MEDITATING... COMMUNICATING WITH SOMEONE FROM THE "OUTSIDE"!

WHATEVER IS HAPPENING, PLUS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MY FIANCE', AGEN, AND HIS SUPPORT MAGICKS...

...IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT IN OUR FAVOR!

G-GET READY TO ESCAPE IF NECESSARY, DEBRA...

THIS IS NOT WHAT WE WERE PREPARED FOR!

ZERO...

...DAMN YOU, ZERO...

...WE WILL NEVER
FORGIVE YOU!

A PERILOUS
JOURNEY AWAITS
YOU, SERVANT.

WITH THE LAST
OF MY MAGIC, I
HAVE CAUGHT
A GLIMPSE OF
THE ARTIFACT
YOU MUST
CLAIM AS
YOUR OWN.

WITH THE LAST OF
MY MAGIC, I MUST
SEND YOU INTO
THE HIDDEN
CRACKS OF
REALITY, WHERE
YOUR PRIZE
AWAITS.



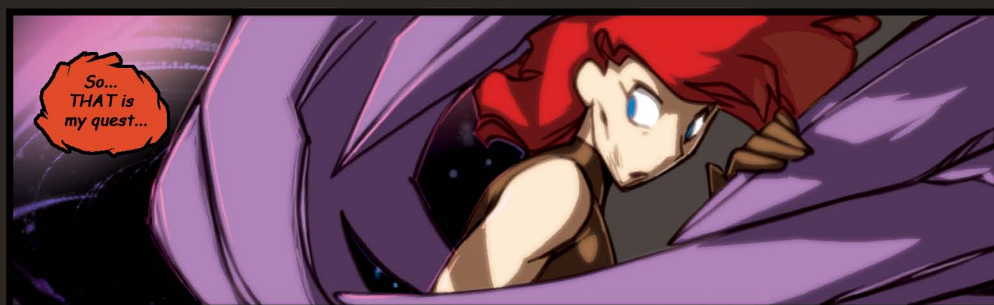
COMPLETE FOR ME THIS
FINAL MISSION, AND I
SHALL RELEASE YOU
AT LONG LAST.



SEIZE THE ARTIFACT.
IN DOING SO, YOU WILL
GROW STRONG
ENOUGH...



...TO SLAY THE
DRAGON...
"DREADWING".





THE CIRCLE
IS COMPLETE.



THE RIDDLES HAVE
ALL BEEN ANSWERED
FOR ME.



MY JOURNEY
BEGINS AND ENDS
HERE!



Debra...
DEBRA,
LOOK!

IT'S...

IT'S
ZERO!

WOOO

SHII

GOTHWRAIN'S
MAGIC IS PULLING
HIM UP INTO
THAT GATE!

I-- I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
HAPPENING, BUT...

...WE CAN'T
ALLOW THIS TO
CONTINUE!



THAT'S NOT
A GATE,
JULIA.

IT'S A MYMIORI
A DRAGON'S
ENCHANTED KEEP!
A "BOOK" OF SPELLS...
A "DIARY" AND
STOREHOUSE OF
POWER.

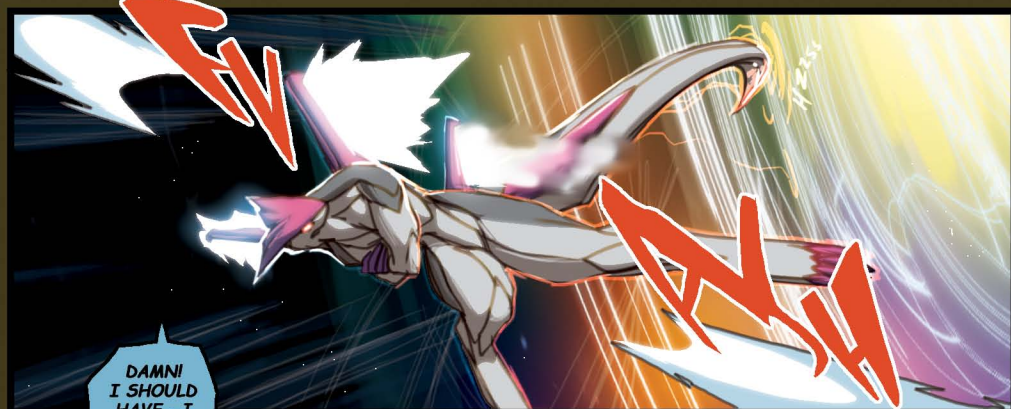
ONLY...it's too big
for any dragon!
Even Grandfather!



BUT FEAR NOT.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING ZERO NEAR SUCH A TREASURE!

SUCH A DELICIOUS FAT, RUBY OF SPELLCRA--



DAMNI I SHOULD HAVE--I DIDN'T SEE--

DEBRA! WHAT'S WRONG!

NEGATIVE ENERGY!



I almost KILLED US!



So...

...THIS IS THE
MOMENT THAT FADED
FROM MY MEMORY
SO LONG AGO.

THE MOMENT I
ENTERED THAT
WORLD...A DOMAIN
FROZEN IN TIME.

SUSPENDED
IN COSMIC
"AMBER"

EACH STEP...
ETERNITY.
EACH BREATH...
EMPTY.

I CRAWLED
THROUGH A
REALM ONLY
SUITABLE
FOR SPIRITS.

AND THOUGH THE
UNLIVING BODY
GOTHRWAIN HAD
FORTIFIED FOR
ME COULD ENDURE
THE ETERNAL
STILLNESS, MY
THOUGHTS WERE
NOT AS ARMORED.

MY MIND
SUFFERED...
...ADDLED...

...ERODED.

EVERYTHING
SLIPPED
AWAY...

...EXCEPT MY
MISSION.





I WAS DRIVEN
BY THE MISTY
ECHOES OF THE
GEAS PLACED
UPON ME.

A DISTANT YET
EVERLASTING
PHANTOM'S VOICE
INSIDE MY MIND.

"SEIZE THE
ARTIFACT."

"CLAIM THE
ANCIENT
WEAPON."

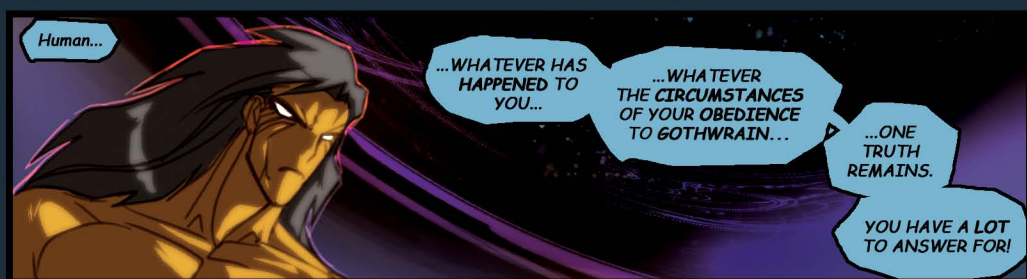


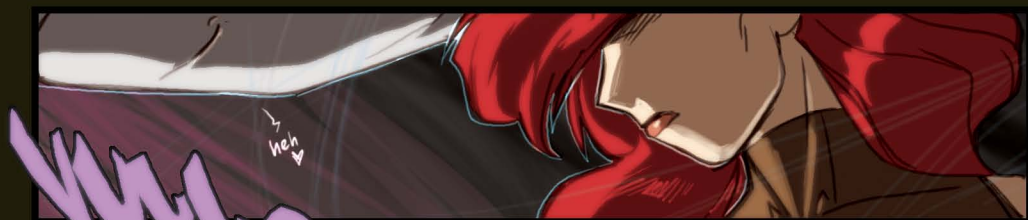
ZERO!

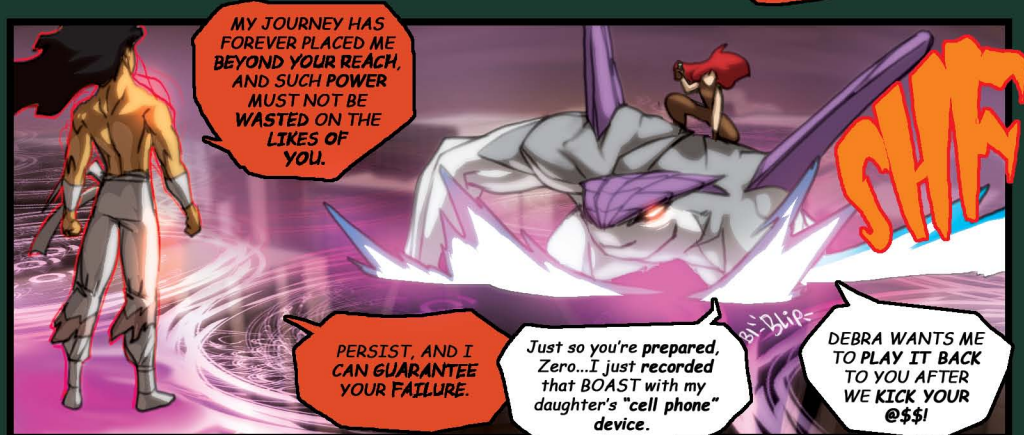
Wtsh

So...

It IS
you.

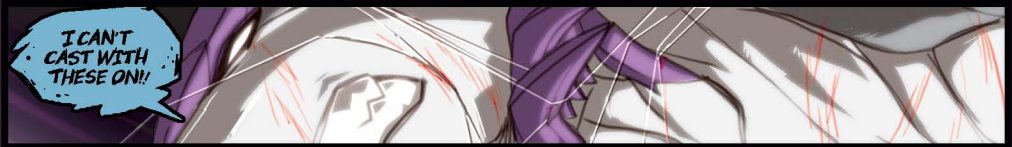
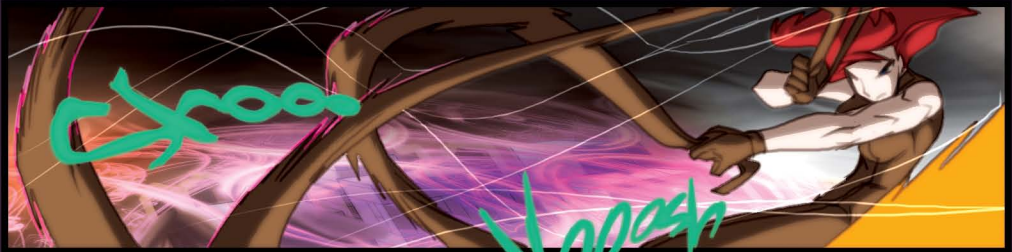
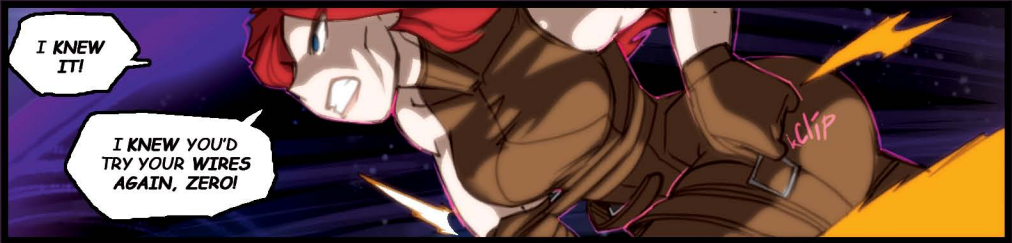


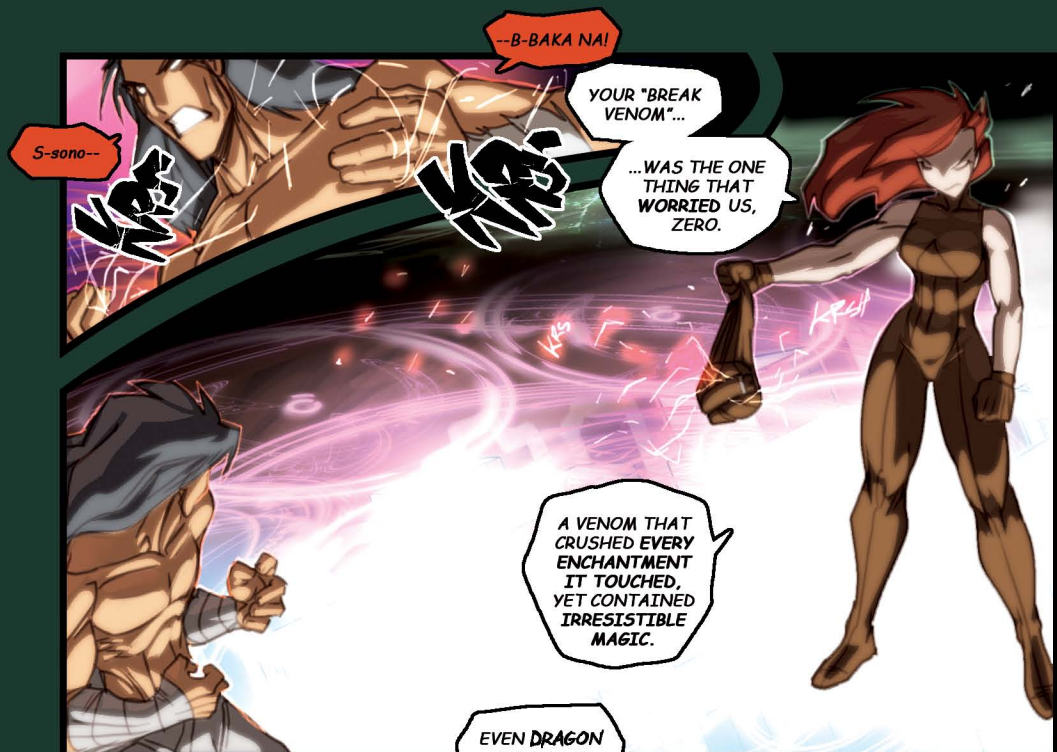




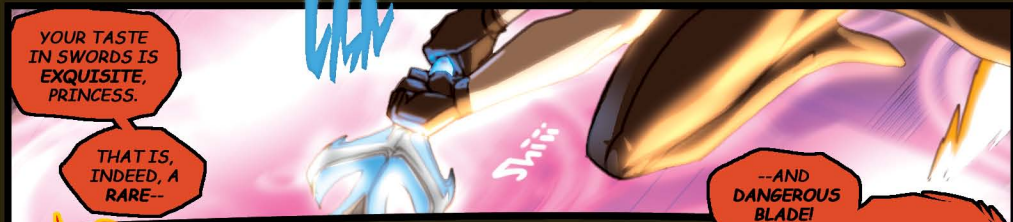


*ZERO USED
"BREAK VENOM"
TO DISRUPT
DEBRA'S MAGIC
BEFORE!-F.









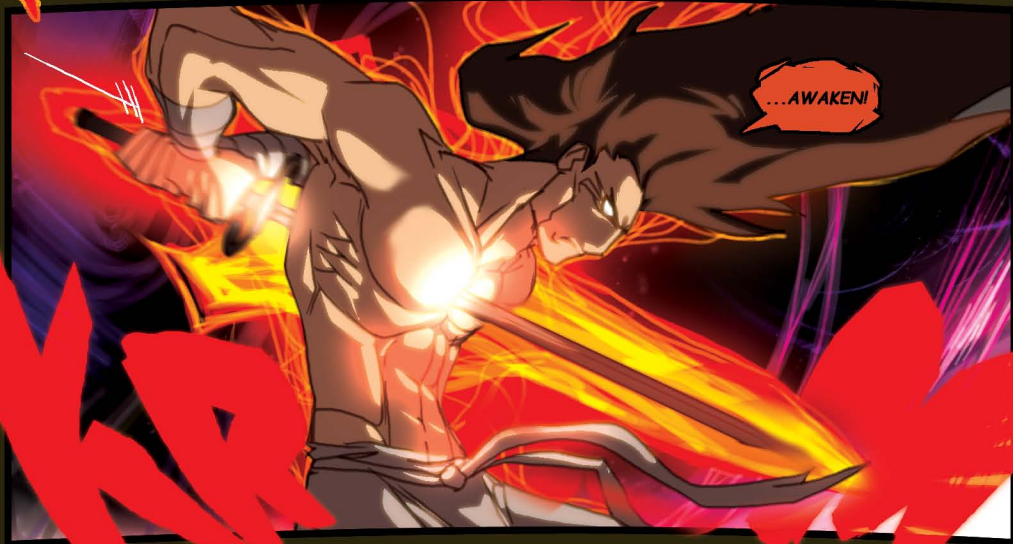
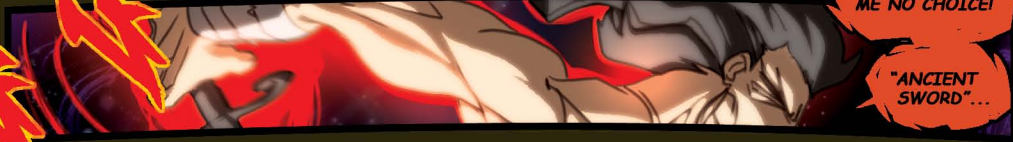
YOUR TASTE
IN SWORDS IS
EXQUISITE,
PRINCESS.

THAT IS,
INDEED, A
RARE--

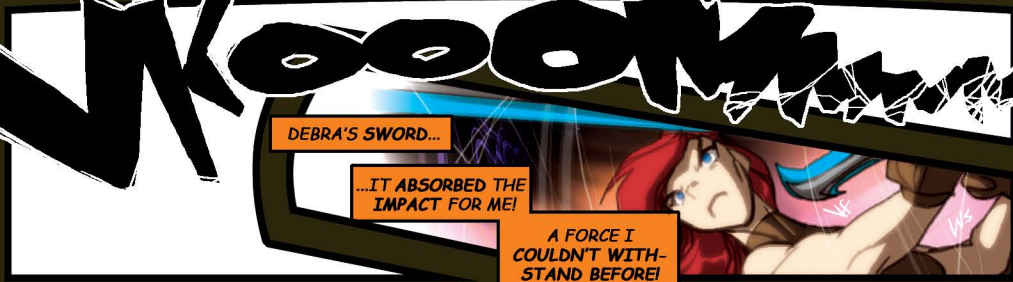
--AND
DANGEROUS
BLADE!

YOU LEAVE
ME NO CHOICE!

"ANCIENT
SWORD"...



...AWAKEN!



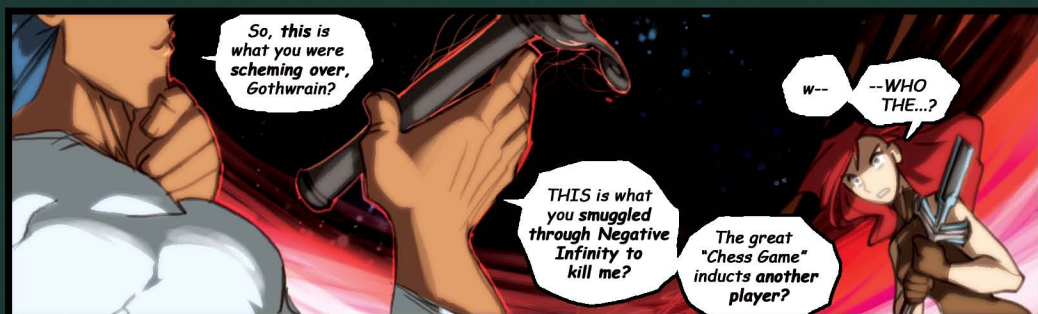
DEBRA'S SWORD...

...IT ABSORBED THE
IMPACT FOR ME!

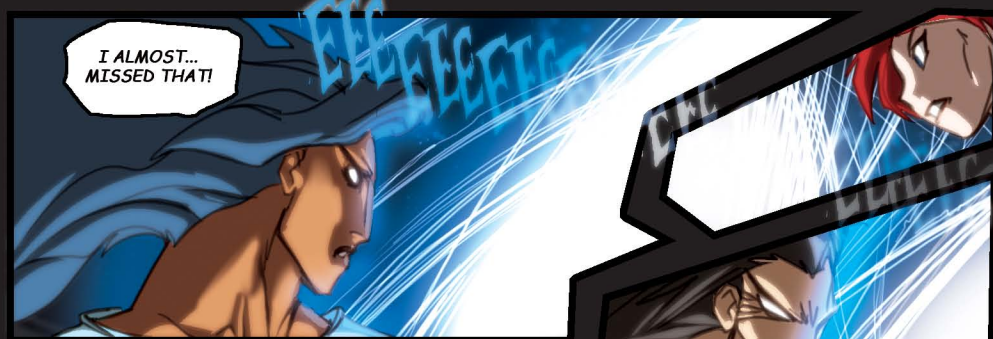
A FORCE I
COULDN'T WITH-
STAND BEFORE!

KOOOM









I ALMOST...
MISSED THAT!



A PSYCHIC
HOWL IN THE
DISTANCE...

...AMPLIFIED BY THE
"ENCHANTMENTS"
MY DEAR LITTLE
D'BRA PLACED
ABOUT THIS
AREA.

THE HOWL
OF GIGLIATHON!

AND LOOK WHO
THE DISCOVERING
EXPLORER IS!

LOOK WHO IS
UNDERTAKING THE
EXPEDITION!

AND I ALMOST
MISSED IT!



JULIA
DIGGERS.

YOU HAVE MY
MOST SINCERE
GRATITUDE
THIS DAY!

I DOUBT YOU COMPREHEND
WHAT HAS JUST OCCURRED,
BUT I ALSO TRUST THAT
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND
BOTH "SOON ENOUGH"
AND "FAR TOO LATE!"

IF ONLY I
HAD TIME TO
EXPLAIN HOW
AND WHY YOUR
THIRST FOR
REVENGE...



THE PERFECT AND
FINAL ADDITION
TO THE ARSENAL I
AM ASSEMBLING
AGAINST MY
ANCIENT FOE.

...HAS JUST
REVEALED TO ME
THE GREATEST
OF ANCIENT
WEAPONS.



YOUR DAUGHTER.

Next: Enter the Labyrinth...

epilogue...

