



GOLD DIGGER

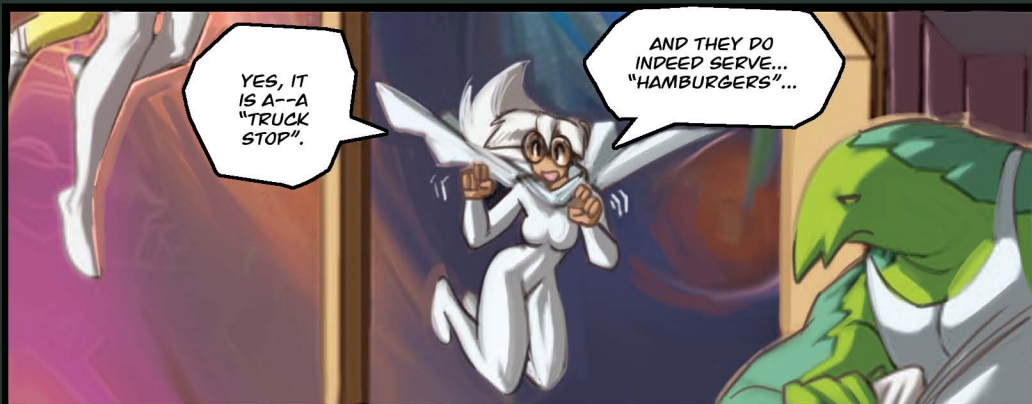
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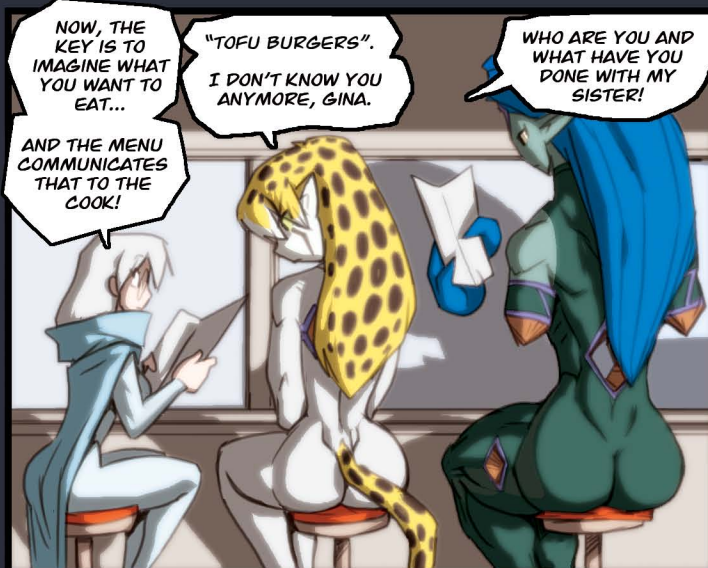
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I NEVER HAD A HAMBURGER BEFORE.

WHILE LADY BRITANNY AND I LIVED ON OBLIVION, SHE'D PINE FOR THEM QUITE FREQUENTLY.

THE ONLY MEAT AVAILABLE WERE THE FISH IN THE SUBMERGED LAKES.



I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU WEREN'T AFTER TUNA THIS TIME, BRIT'!

TUNA WILL ALWAYS BE NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART, GINA.

BUT, I HAVEN'T HAD RED MEAT IN YEARS!*

BURGER ME!!!

*FIVE YEARS PASSED ON OBLIVION IN ONE DAY'S EARTH TIME. --F



WHOA! WAIT!
HEY, GINA!!!

LET'S THINK OF THOSE KING KAMEHAMEHA HAMBURGERS STRIPE MADE US THE NIGHT TIFANNY WAS BORN!

THEY WERE FRIGGIN' AWESOME!!!

OH! EXCELLENT!

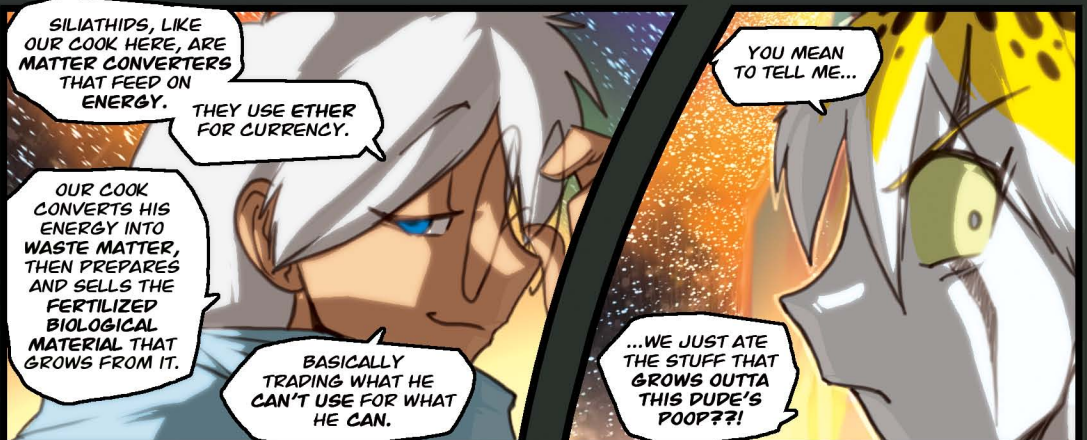
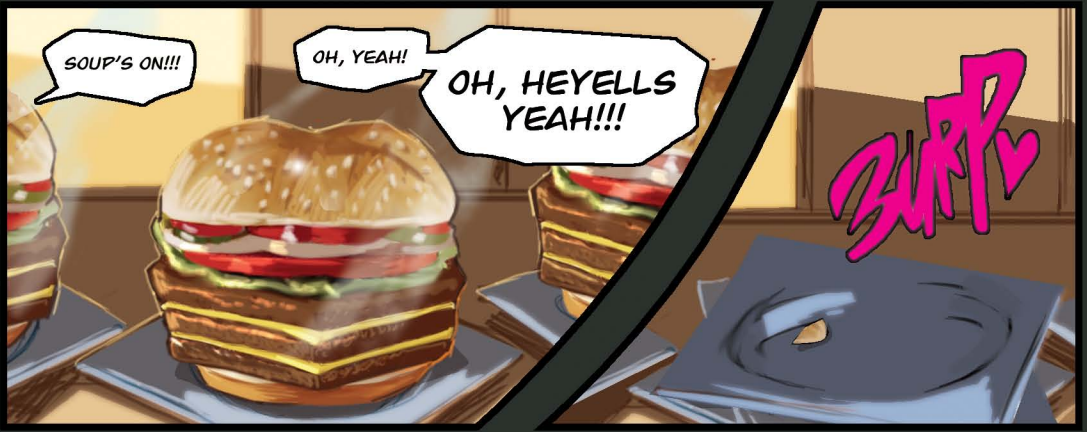
EXCELLENT IDEA!



I'M... KIND OF FUZZY ON THE TASTE OF THOSE.

BEING EONS OLD MEANS MY MEMORY IS MARGINALLY WORN DOWN ON SOME THINGS.











GINA, WHY DID YOU DO THOSE THINGS?

IS IT NORMAL FOR YOU TO ANTAGONIZE YOUR SISTER?

BRIT'S BLOWING THIS WAY OUT OF PROPORTION, CRESCENS.

AM. NOT!

AND SHE KNOWS I MEAN NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR HER!

SAYS. YOU!

BUT OCCASIONALLY MY CURIOSITY GETS THE BEST OF ME, OR I'M A BIT TOO ANXIOUS TO HAVE BRIT' SHARE IN A NEW DISCOVERY, SO I KIND OF "PUSH THE ENVELOPE..."

OCCASIONALLY.

EVERY. TIME!

FOR EXAMPLE, THE FISHING TRIP SHE WENT ON WAS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY TWO ANCIENT WEAPONS OF EARTH'S PREHISTORIC VISITORS.

"THE MERCURIAN SUN-LENS" AND "THE MAU-TAI COLOSSUS."

THEY WERE ONCE USED IN A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ARTIFICERS, THE SHADOWS AND THE GARDENERS.



BUT, IT IS TRUE. I TRICKED BRITANNY INTO RETRIEVING THAT DATA.

I NEVER APOLOGIZED FOR THAT.

SORRY, BRIT'. I WAS JUST CURIOUS.

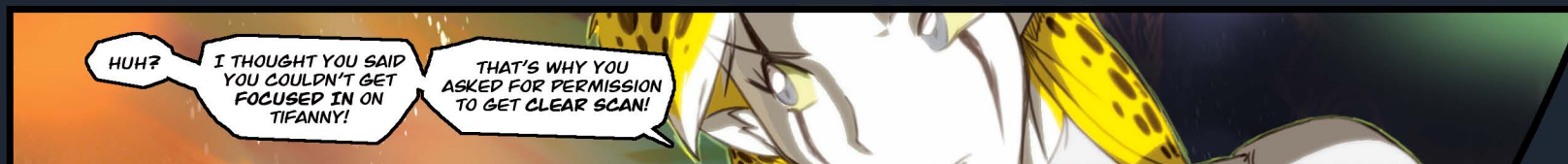
AND THAT IS WHY YOU SCANNED BRITANNY'S UNBORN CHILD?

SHE WAS TRYING TO GET FIRST PEEK AT TIFANNY!

OR MAYBE SHE DIDN'T TRUST MY TUMMY!

I--IT WAS FIRST PEEK, OKAY?

I-I WAS THE FIRST TO SEE TIFANNY'S ADORABLE FACE.



HUH?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T GET FOCUSED IN ON TIFANNY!

THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO GET CLEAR SCAN!



...WELL... I...

BUSTED!!!



ALL THIS TIME, YOU SWORE UP AND DOWN THAT YOUR SCANNER NEVER EVEN GLANCED AT TIFANNY'S BODY!

NOW HERE AT LAST THE TRUTH COMES OUT!

IT'S OFFICIAL NOW!

YOU'RE PRETTY SNEAKY, SIS!



AHEH.

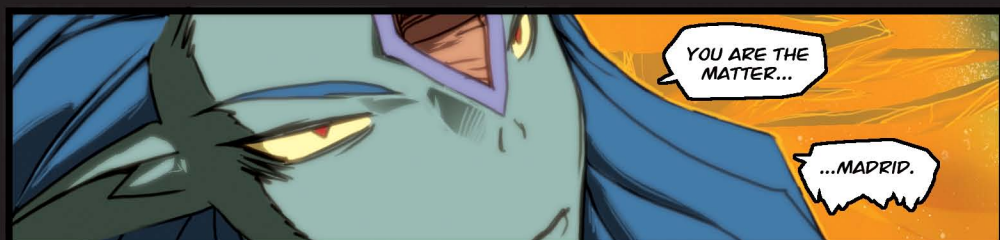
OKAY, OKAY.

YOU GOT ME THERE.

DON'T PICK ON YOUR DECREPIT OLD SISTER.

YOUR NEW NICKNAME IS QUEEN SLICKERINA McSNEAKERSTEIN!!

THE THIRD!!!





SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HERSELF AND HER FAMILY.

HER ADVENTURES AND HER ENEMIES.

SHE TOLD ME ABOUT A MALEVOLENT ENTITY WHO ONCE STOLE A FACE, A MEMORY AND AN ESSENCE TO KILL AND SUPPLANT HER OLDER SISTER, GINA, FOR AN ULTIMATE POWER.

SHE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU... MADRID.





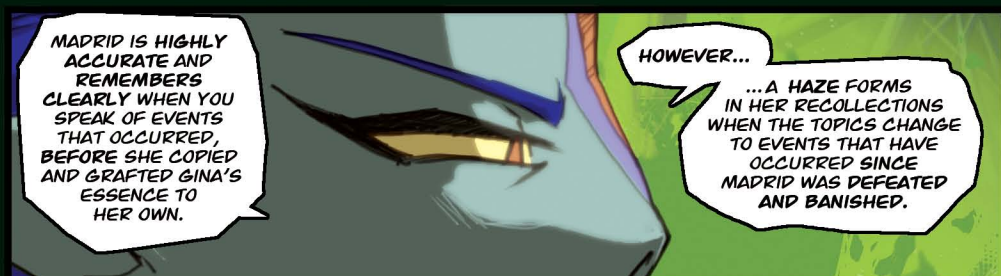
I AM SORRY,
LADY 'GIA.

THAT WOMAN
IS NOT GINA!

THIS ISN'T
FUNNY,
CRESCENS!

THIS ISN'T
EVEN CLOSE
TO FUNNY!!!

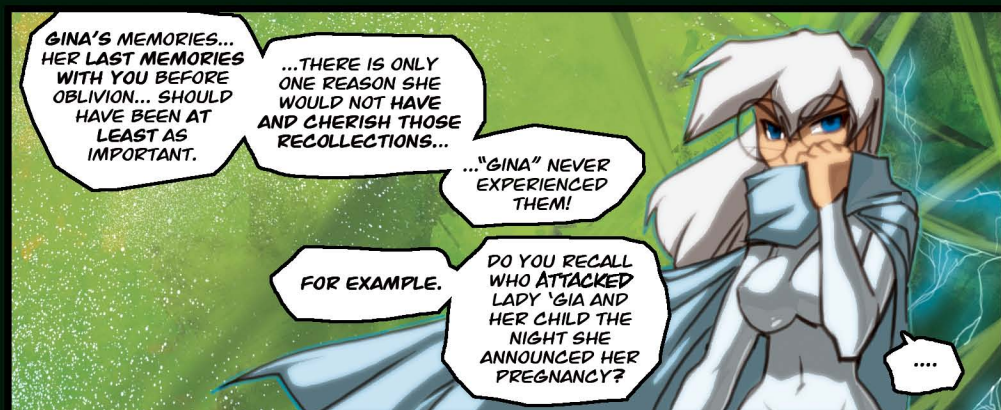
WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
SAYING!?



MADRID IS HIGHLY
ACCURATE AND
REMEMBERS
CLEARLY WHEN YOU
SPEAK OF EVENTS
THAT OCCURRED,
BEFORE SHE COPIED
AND GRAFTED GINA'S
ESSENCE TO
HER OWN.

HOWEVER...

...A HAZE FORMS
IN HER RECOLLECTIONS
WHEN THE TOPICS CHANGE
TO EVENTS THAT HAVE
OCCURRED SINCE
MADRID WAS DEFEATED
AND BANISHED.



GINA'S MEMORIES...
HER LAST MEMORIES
WITH YOU BEFORE
OBLIVION... SHOULD
HAVE BEEN AT
LEAST AS
IMPORTANT.

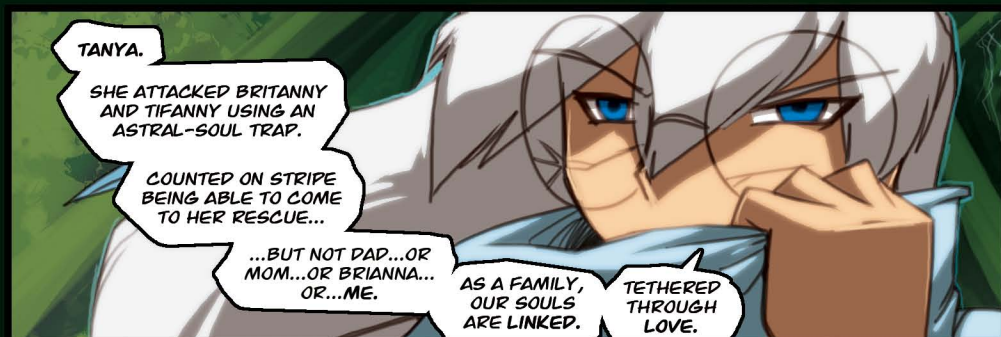
...THERE IS ONLY
ONE REASON SHE
WOULD NOT HAVE
AND CHERISH THOSE
RECOLLECTIONS...

..."GINA" NEVER
EXPERIENCED
THEM!

FOR EXAMPLE.

DO YOU RECALL
WHO ATTACKED
LADY 'GIA AND
HER CHILD THE
NIGHT SHE
ANNOUNCED HER
PREGNANCY?

....



TANYA.

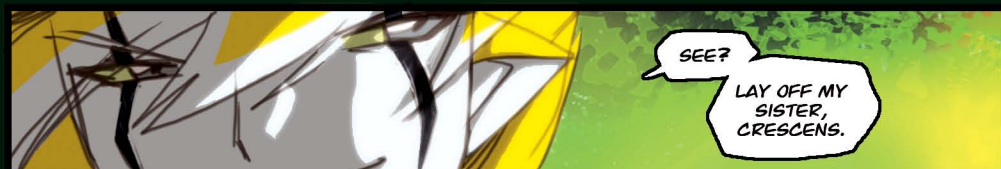
SHE ATTACKED BRITANNY
AND TIFANNY USING AN
ASTRAL-SOUL TRAP.

COUNTED ON STRIPE
BEING ABLE TO COME
TO HER RESCUE...

...BUT NOT DAD...OR
MOM...OR BRIANNA...
OR...ME.

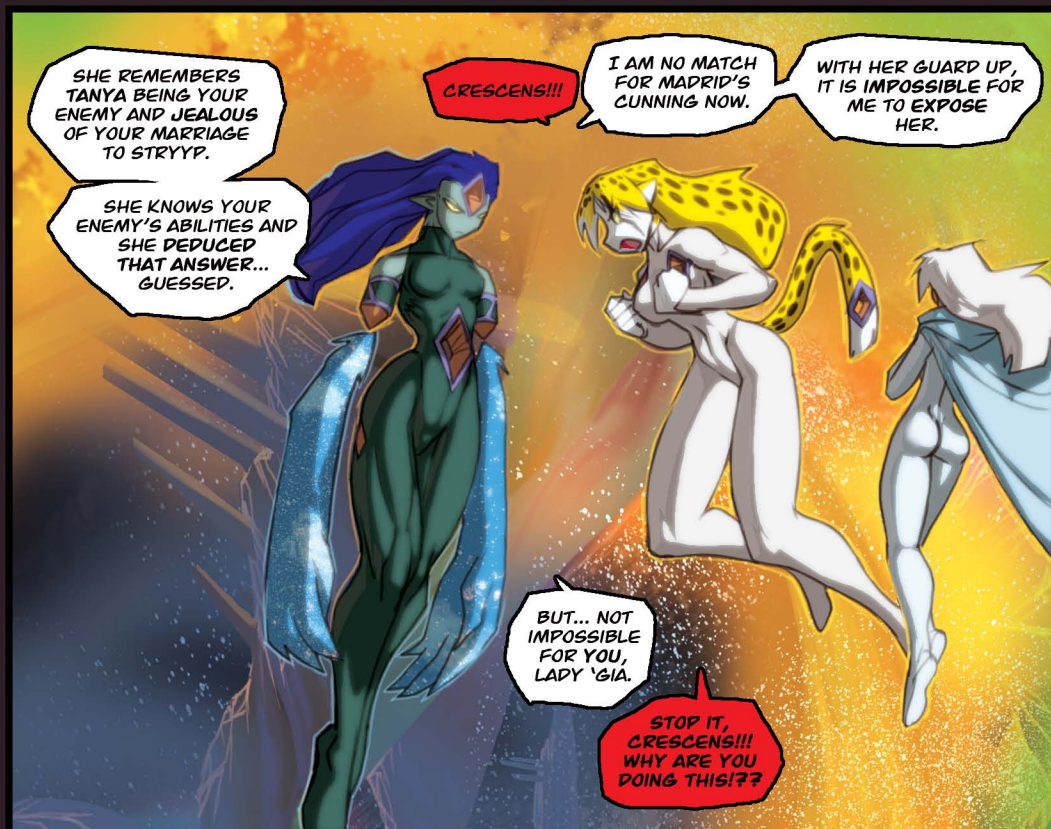
AS A FAMILY,
OUR SOULS
ARE LINKED.

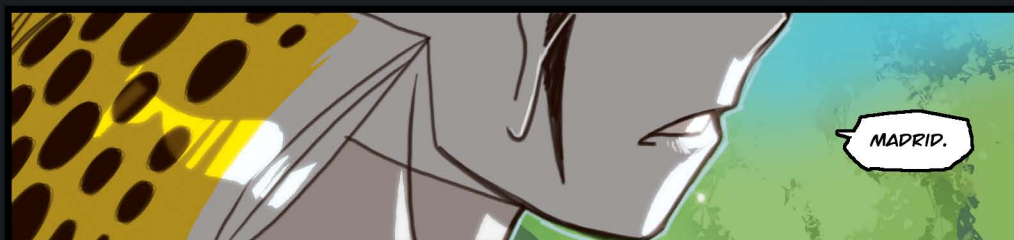
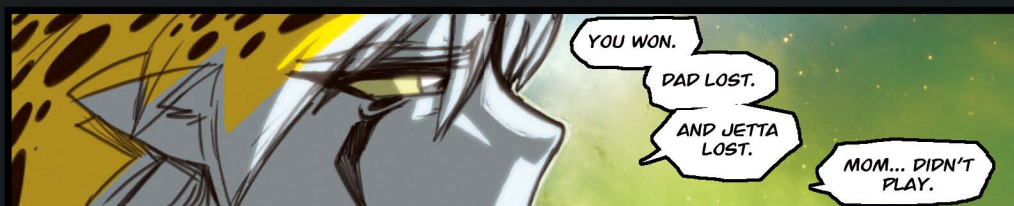
TETHERED
THROUGH
LOVE.

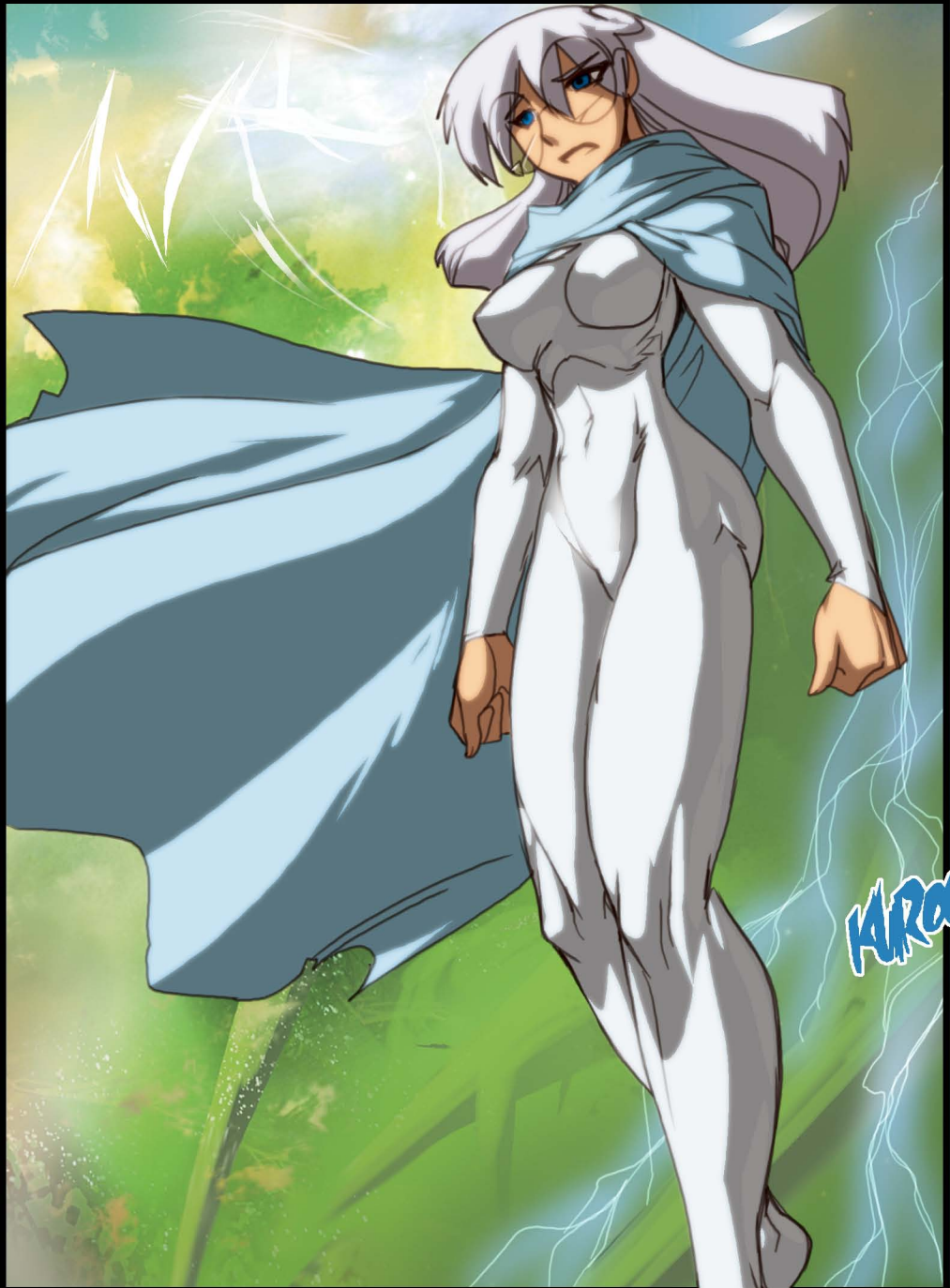


SEE?

LAY OFF MY
SISTER,
CRESCENS.



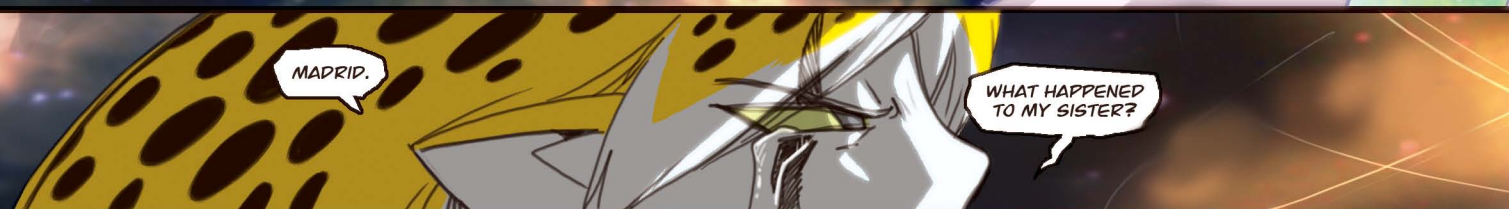




KROOM

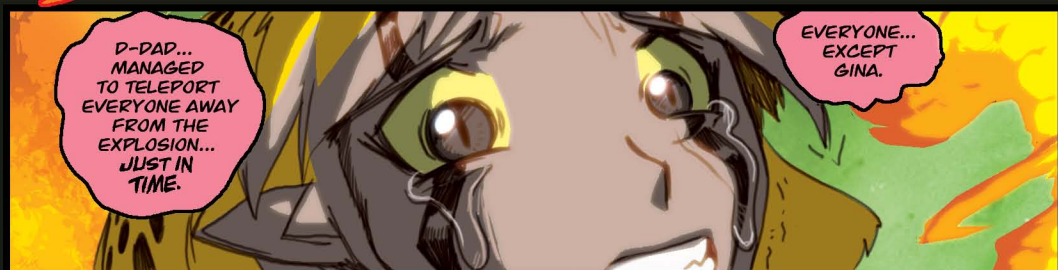


KROOM



MADRID.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO MY SISTER?



IN SIX MONTHS
TIME, PENNY FINDS
WHAT WAS ONCE
MADRID'S BODY...
WHAT WAS ONCE HER
"GINA DISGUISE"...
FROZEN IN
THE ARCTIC...
BATTERED,
AMNESIC BUT
PRESERVED.

THE MADRID
YOU KNEW...
THAT PITIFUL,
HATEFUL, SELFISH
LITTLE BRAT...
SURRENDERED
AND DIED IN THAT
ICE... FROZEN
AND ALONE.

GINA'S
MEMORIES...
HER WILL...
HER ESSENCE...
HER LOVE...
LIVED ON...
IN ME.

I BEGAN MY
EXISTENCE AS
MADRID.

BUT THAT
MADRID BROUGHT
ABOUT HER OWN
DESTRUCTION.

ALL THAT
IS LEFT...

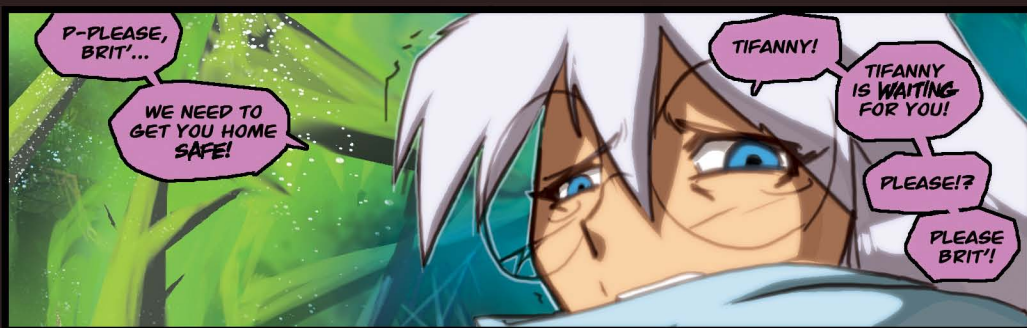
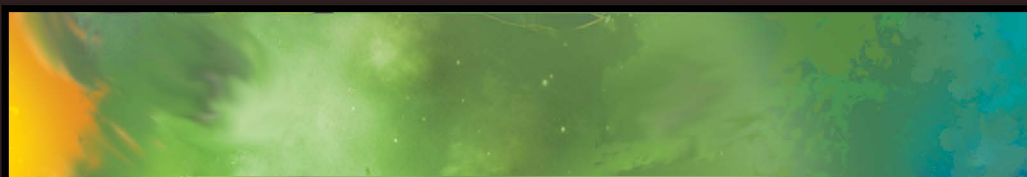
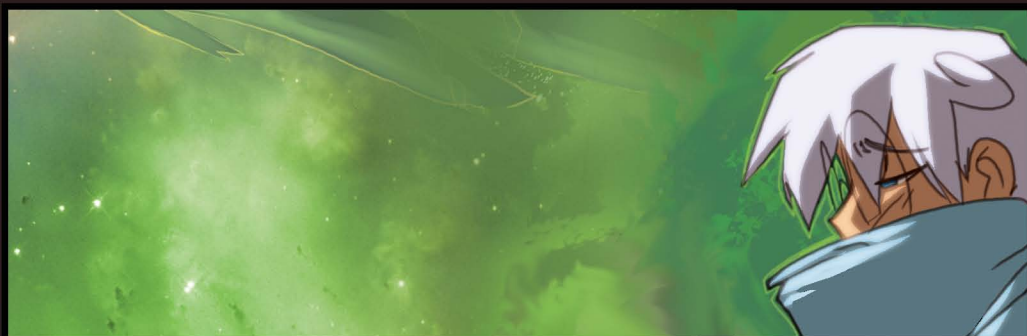
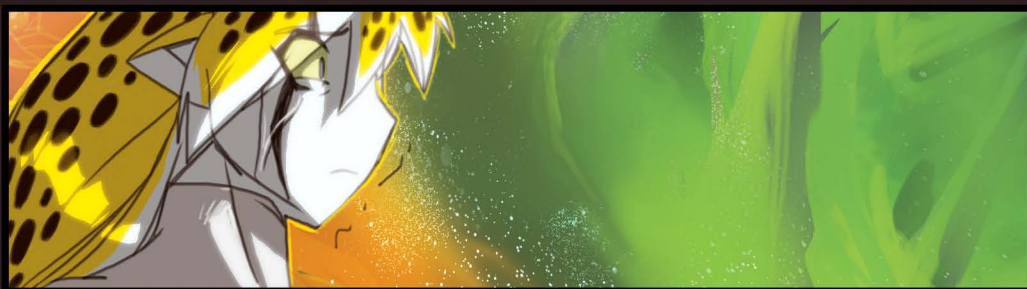
...IS SOMEONE
WHO LOVES YOU,
BRITANNY.

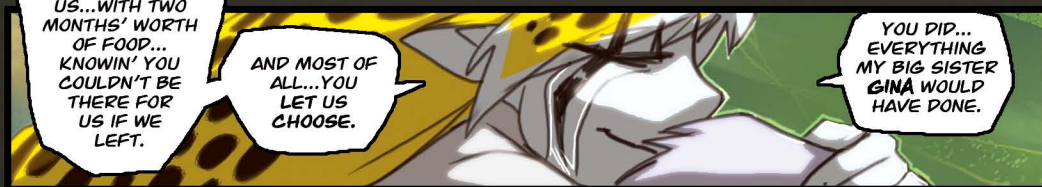
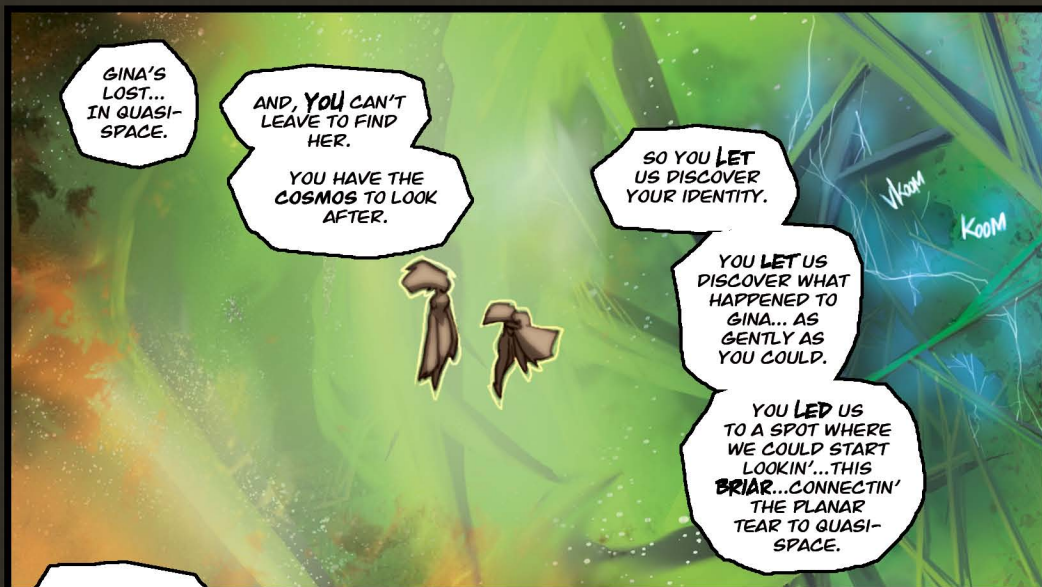
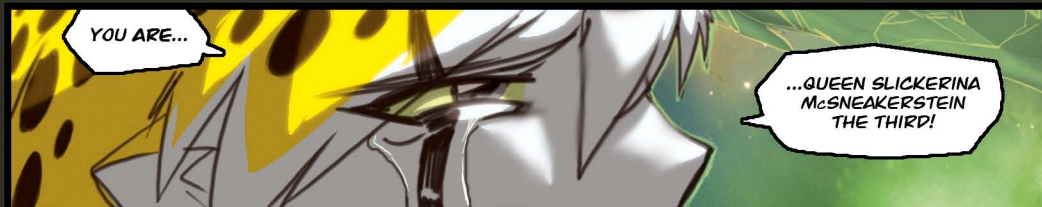
YOU'RE NOT LYING...
AN AURA CAN'T
DO THAT.

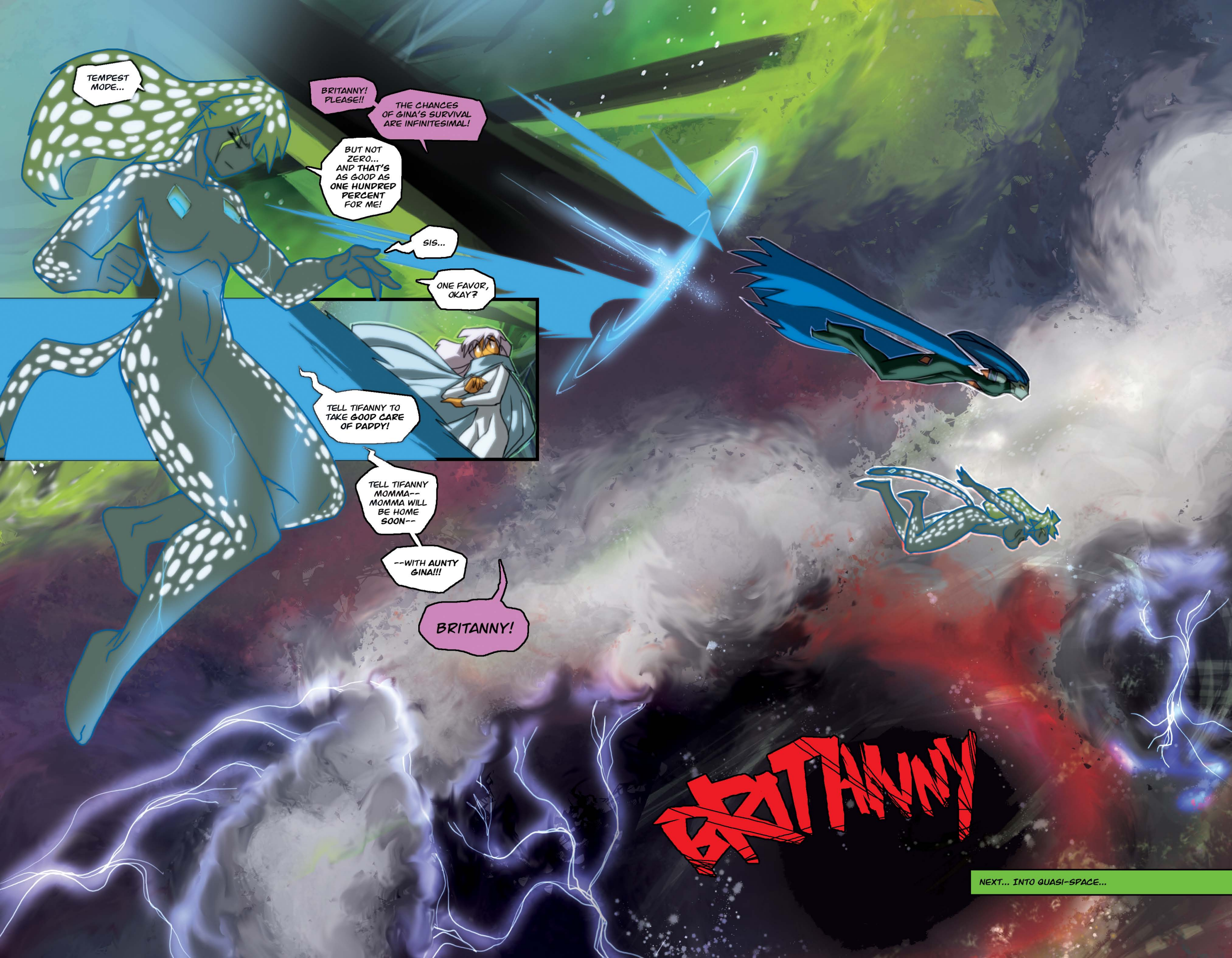
BUT...

Y-YOU NEVER
SAID GINA
DIED.

DID YOU?







TEMPEST
MODE...

BRITANNY!
PLEASE!!

THE CHANCES
OF GINA'S SURVIVAL
ARE INFINITESIMAL!

BUT NOT
ZERO...
AND THAT'S
AS GOOD AS
ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT
FOR ME!

SIS...

ONE FAVOR,
OKAY?

TELL TIFANNY TO
TAKE GOOD CARE
OF DADDY!

TELL TIFANNY
MOMMA--
MOMMA WILL
BE HOME
SOON--

--WITH AUNTY
GINA!!!

BRITANNY!

BRITANNY

NEXT... INTO QUASI-SPACE...