



PERFECT JUMPING-ON POINT FOR NEW READERS!

GOLD DIGGER

10 **1st**
issue!

NOV
08 #101

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FRED
PERRY



WAKE.

WAKE, MY
PRINCE.

THE AIR
STIRS.

THE CHAINS
MOVE.

THE SHADOWS
TREMBLE.

THE WORLD OF
MEN IS OURS
ONCE MORE!

REJOICE.

REJOICE, MY
PRINCE.

LISTEN AS YOU
SPEAK OF SUCH
FOOLISHNESS.

NOTHING STIRS...
OR MOVES...
OR TREMBLES.

ACCEPT THAT
I HAVE TRIUMPHED
OVER YOU...

OVER US.

AND I GUARD
WELL MY VICTORY
WITH LOCK...
AND CHAIN...
AND DEATH.

FOR ALL OF
TIME.

FOR ALL OF
TIME.

AS A SOFT
SCIENCE...

...ARCHAEOLOGY IS
ONLY ONE HUNDRED
AND FIFTY YEARS
YOUNG.

BEFORE THAT TIME,
ONLY LOOTERS AND
TOMB RAIDERS
SEARCHED FOR
ANTIQUITIES.

THE MODERN
SCIENTIFIC NAME
FOR THOSE
OPPORTUNISTS,
BY THE WAY,
IS "THIEVING
@\$\$HOLES"!

AND THAT'S
ON THE MID-
TERM, SO
JOT IT
DOWN.

NOW, THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN YOU AND
A TOMB-RAIDING
LOOTER ISN'T JUST
THE STRUCTURE
OF MONITORING
THE DIG...

...NOR IS IT
THE SCIENTIFIC
METHOD OF YOUR
EXCAVATION.

IT IS YOUR
MOTIVATION.

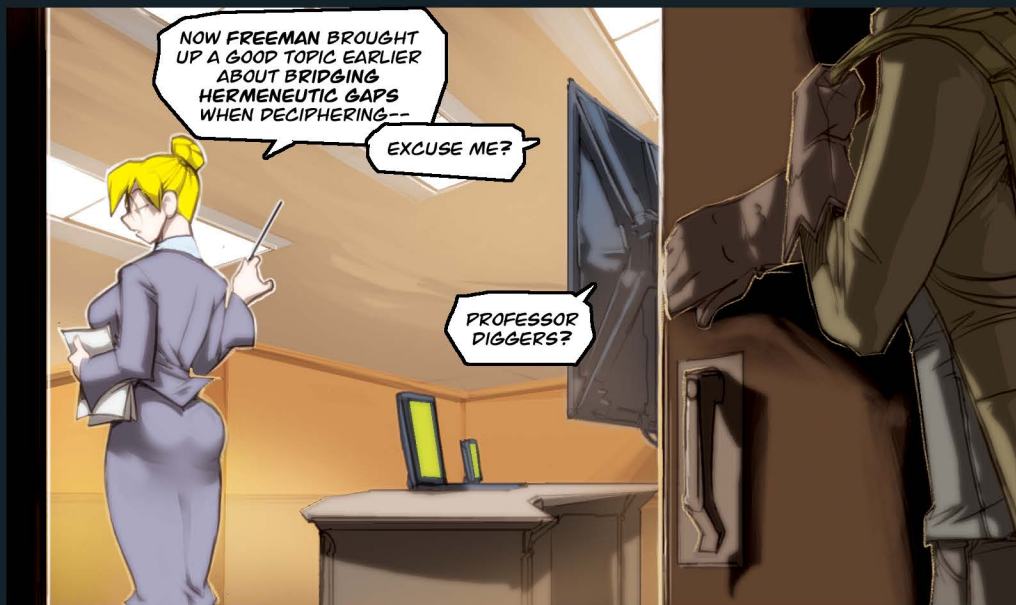
IF YOU'RE
HERE TO GET
RICH QUICK,
YOU'RE IN
THE WRONG
FIELD.

BUT IF YOU'RE A
SCIENCE BUFF...
OR DEDICATED TO
FURTHERING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
OUR SCIENTIFIC
FIELD...

...OR IF YOU'RE
JUST LIKE ME...

...A CURIOUS LITTLE
HUMAN WITH A
SHOVEL...

...ARCHAEOLOGY IS
WHAT YOU DO
IN THE SEARCH
FOR FACT.



MR. PAUL ULYSSES:

A STUDENT AND PASSIONATE COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUITIES FROM ANCIENT GREECE... UNTIL ONE OF HIS DISCOVERIES COLLECTED HIM!

ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR.
ART HISTORY MINOR.

MR. ANTON FYST:

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CAMPUS SCIENCE LEAGUE. CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE CAMPUS GHOST HUNTER SOCIETY.

PARA-PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR.
ARCHAEOLOGY MINOR.
PHYSICS MASTERS DEGREE.

MR. ELROY NABBUM:

VICTIM OF THE MYSTERIOUS "FASHION NIGHTMARE" INCIDENT THAT LEFT HIM CURSED WITH ANIMATED, SUPER-POWERED GARMENTS.

ELROY LEFT FASHION COLLEGE TO PURSUE A WAY TO CONTROL HIS CLOTHING.

EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY MAJOR.
ARCHAEOLOGY MINOR.

MS. KYLIE LABRANCHE:
WORLD'S MOST PROLIFIC PACKRAT.

ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR.
ANTHROPOLOGY MINOR.

MS. ALENA:

TRANSFER STUDENT FROM A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN WEST AFRICAN TRIBE OF TELEKINETICS.

AGROSTOLOGY (GRASS BIOLOGY) MAJOR.
ARCHAEOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR.

MR. V'AYT:

EVEN PROFESSOR GINA DIGGERS ISN'T SURE WHERE V'AYT CAME FROM, BUT HE'S A RICH, HANDSOME, STRAIGHT-A STUDENT OBSESSED WITH ARCHAEOLOGY AND TRAPPED IN A WEIRD COLLAR THAT WON'T COME OFF.

ARCHAEOLOGY MAJOR.
ANTHROPOLOGY DOUBLE MAJOR.

OKAY, MY LITTLE FRÖDO BAGGINSSES... YOUR OLD PAL GINAPALF IS DYING TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR PROGRESS.

MS. ALENA AND MR. ULYSSES'S EXCAVATION OUTLINE ON THE AUSTRALIAN UNDERMOUNTAINS...

...MR. FYST AND MR. V'AYT'S RESEARCH ON THE ANUBIS NEEDLE IN THE SAHARA DESERT...

...AND THE DRYAD MAUSOLEUM REPORT FROM MR. NABBUM AND MS. LABRANCHE.

BUT FIRST, I'M WONDERING IF ANY OF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING ME ON ONE OF MY OWN EXPEDITIONS?

OH, WE WON'T BE GOING STRAIGHT INTO "MORDOR"...

...BUT...



"...BUT ON HER
TERMS."

Ring's
Dance
Dress?

Ring's
Dance
Dress?

THE BAJA DESERT OF CALIFORNIA...

KAN WHOOOM

KOOM

KOOM

TSSH

KRFF

OH, DON'T
MIND ME.

KRFF
I WAS JUST
EIGHT HUNDRED AND
THIRTY METERS DEEP
INTO MY EXCAVATION.

I WASN'T
DOING ANYTHING
IMPORTANT.

ANYWAY, YOU
RANG, YOUR
HIGHNESS?

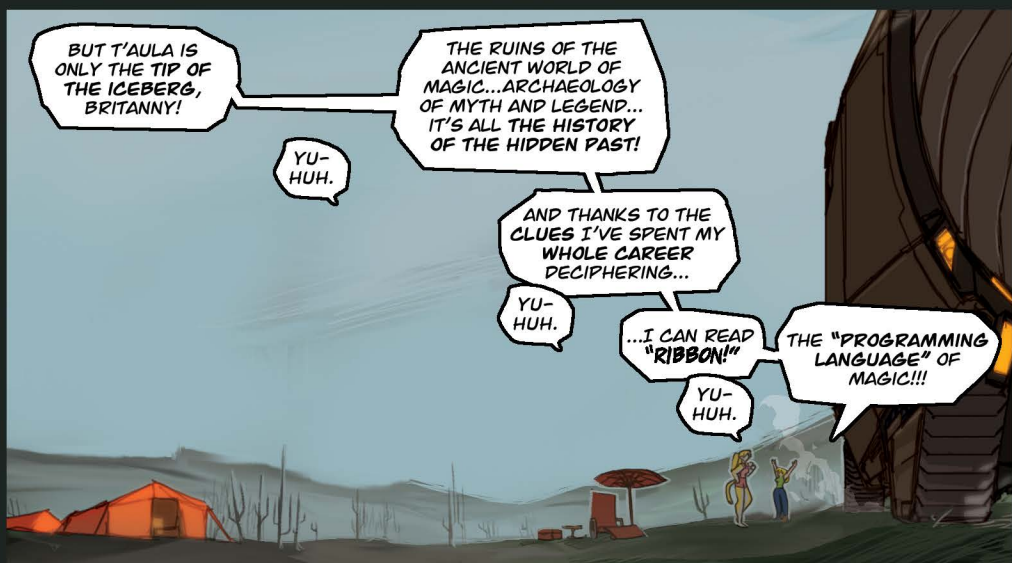


YES.

WE APPEAR TO
BE A BIT LOW ON
CRUSHED ICE.

SLURP!





BUT T'AULA IS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG, BRITANNY!

YU-HUH.

THE RUINS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD OF MAGIC... ARCHAEOLOGY OF MYTH AND LEGEND... IT'S ALL THE HISTORY OF THE HIDDEN PAST!

AND THANKS TO THE CLUES I'VE SPENT MY WHOLE CAREER DECIPHERING...

YU-HUH.

...I CAN READ "RIBBON!"

THE "PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE" OF MAGIC!!!

YU-HUH.

A LINGUISTIC ENIGMA FOR EVERYONE ELSE IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY!

BUT NO BIG DEAL FOR A VETERAN EXPLORER LIKE YOUR OLDER SISTER!

OF COURSE, I INTEND TO PASS ON MY KNOWLEDGE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF EXPLORERS.

BUT ONLY AFTER THEY'RE PROPERLY PREPARED.

MAYBE, IF YOU WATCH CLOSELY, YOU'LL LEARN A FEW NEW THINGS TOO!

YOU SEE, FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS SINCE OUR LAST ADVENTURE, I'VE GAINED A LITTLE PROFICIENCY!

--AND A LITTLE WEIGHT!



YOU GOT CHUNKY!

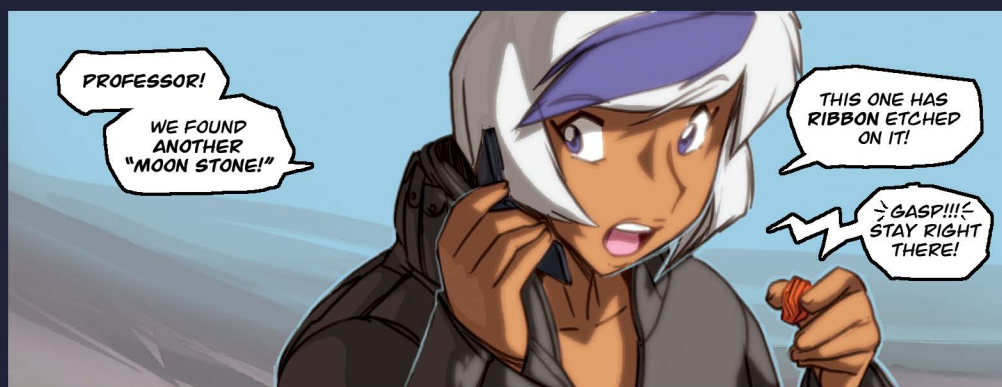
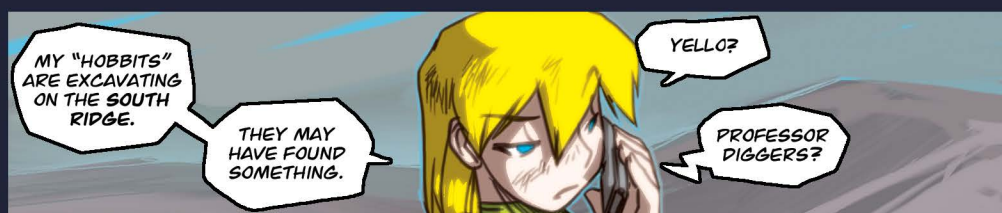


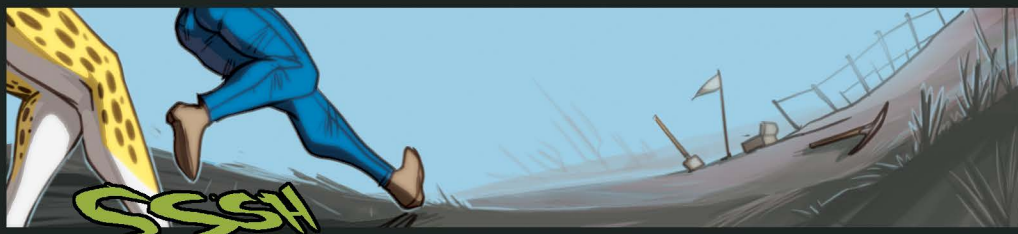
TH-THAT'S MUSCLE!

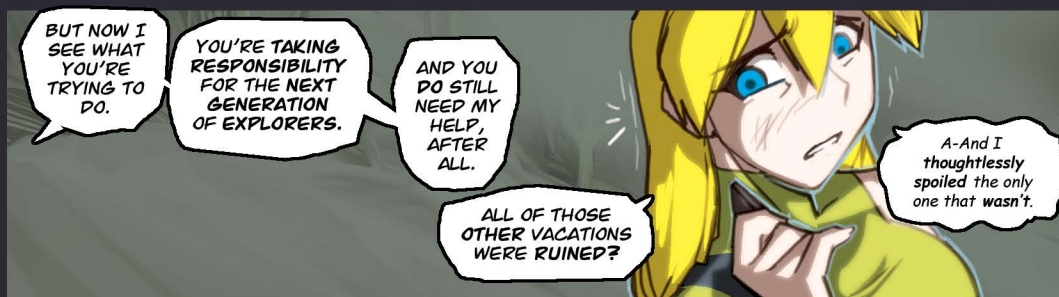
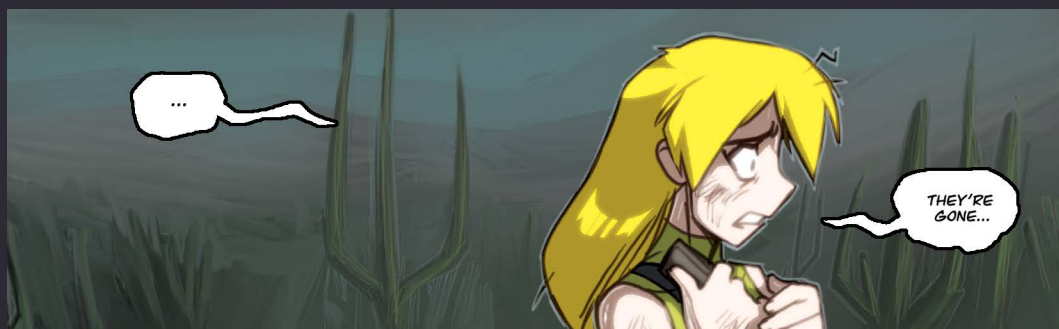
I'VE BEEN ROCK CLIMBING AND SWIMMING AND-- EATING!!!

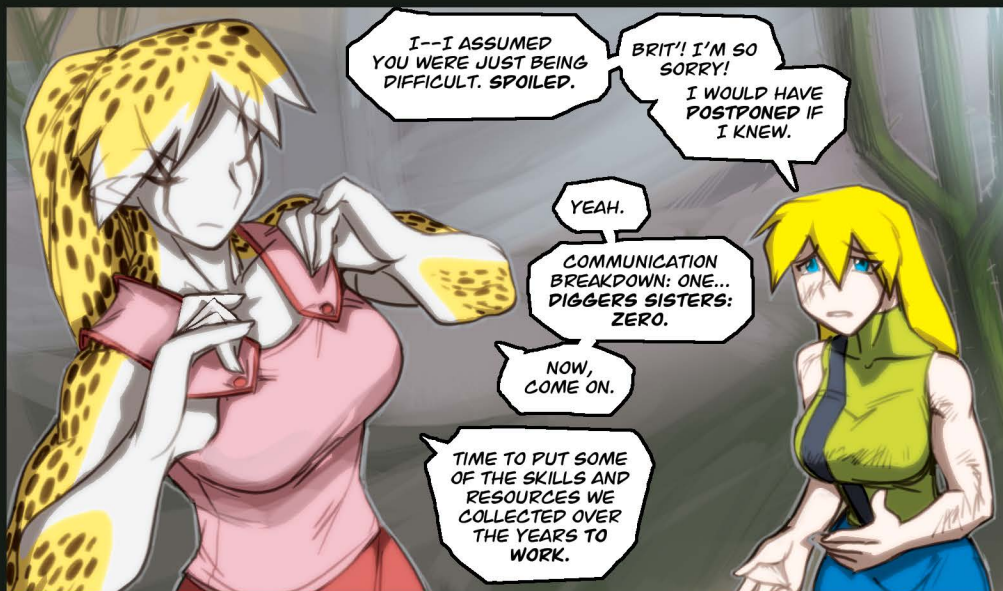
I HAD TO CHANGE OUTTA MY WERECHHEETAH HYBRID FORM TO TELL FOR SURE!

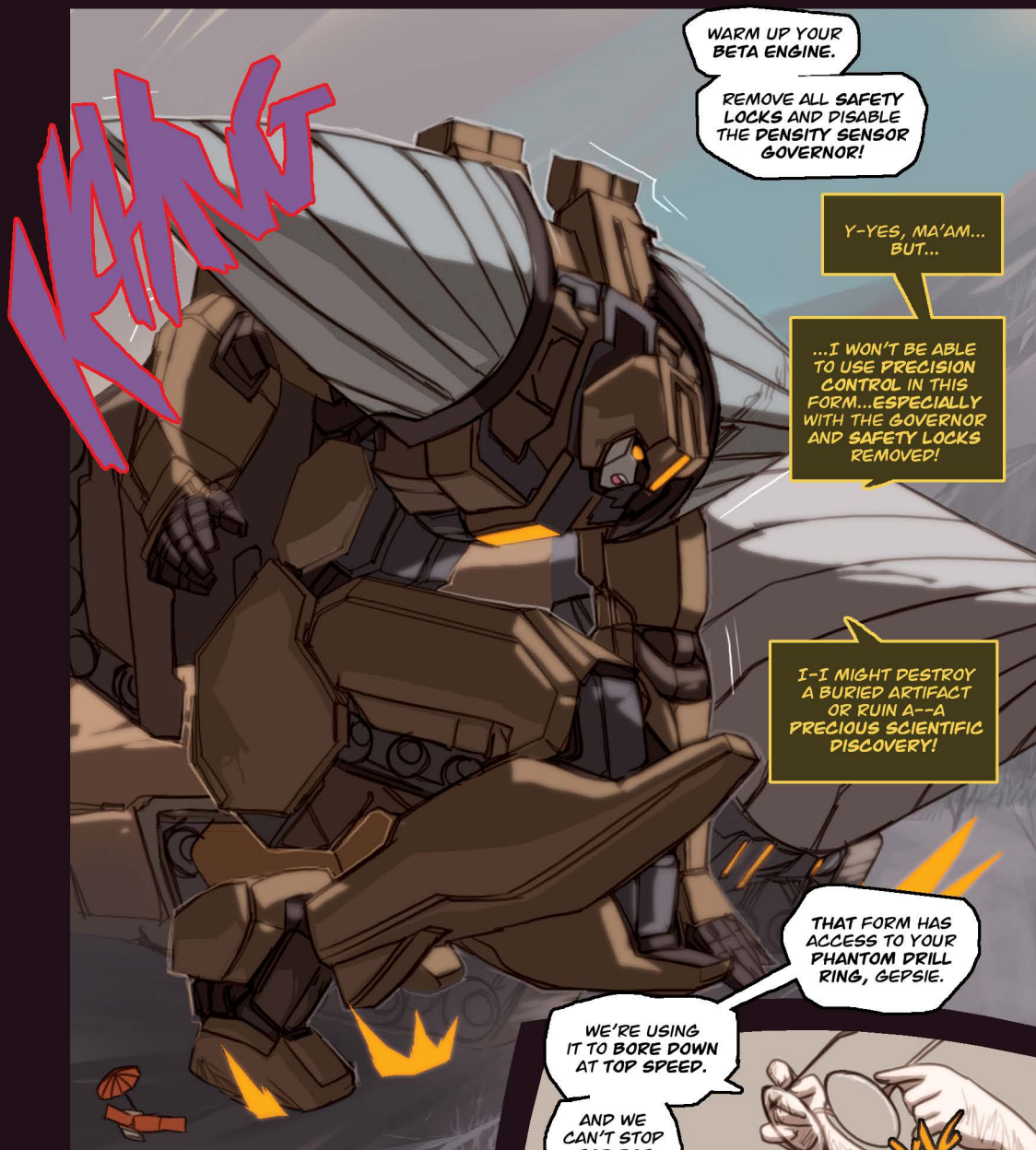
BUT FROM HERE, YOUR NEW SILHOUETTE IS OBVIOUS!

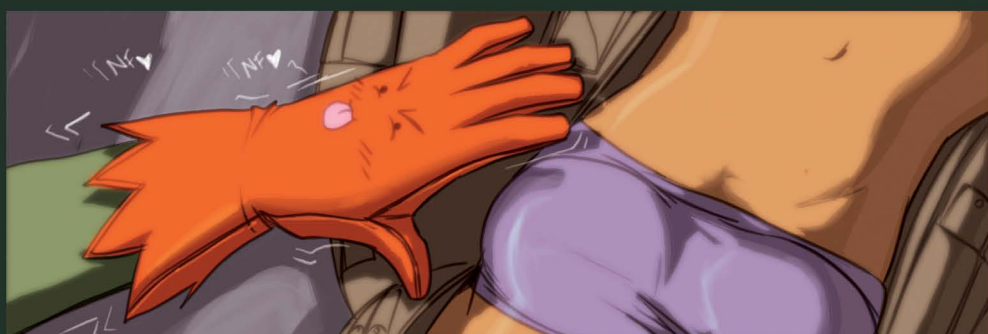
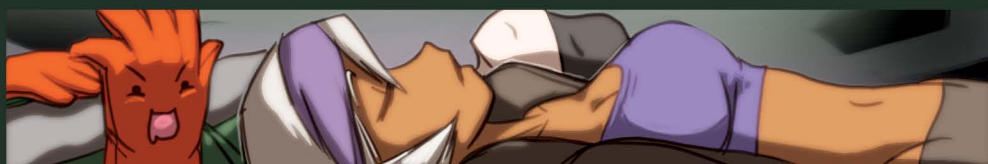
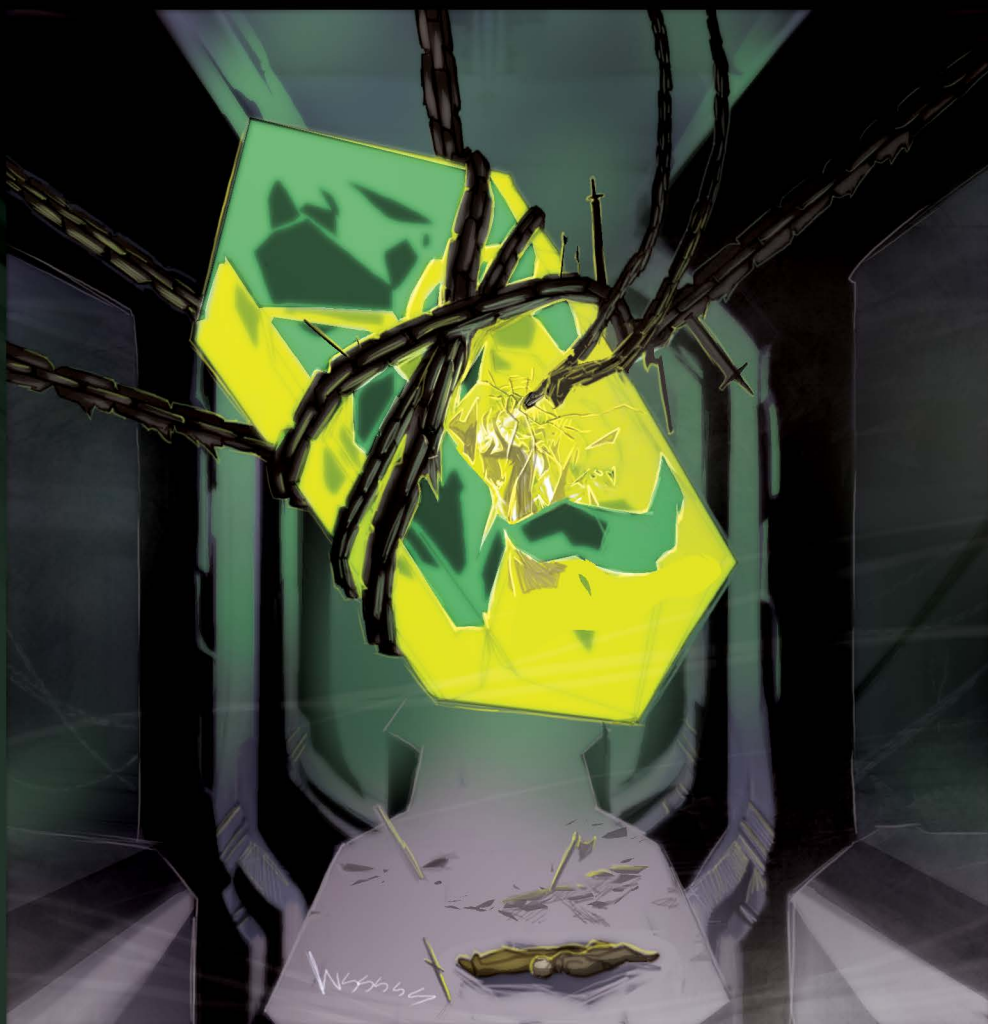


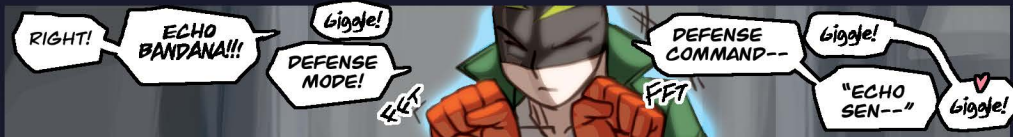
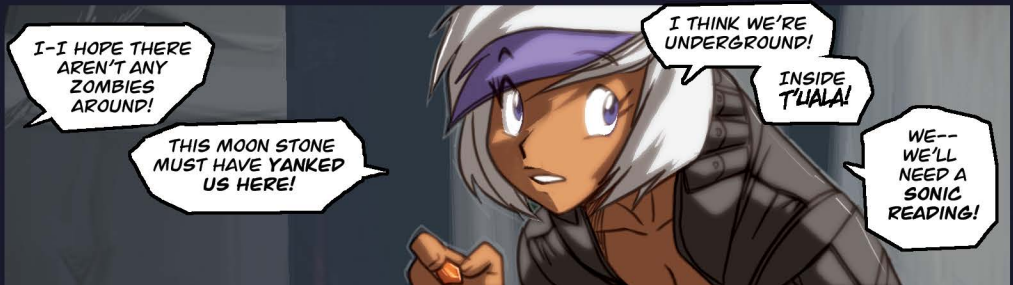
















--AND THAT
"WIZARD"!

EVEN HE
HAS EXCAVATION
EQUIPMENT,
ELROY!

WHOA! WAIT!
LOOK AT
HIS POUCH!

YEEP! A
ZOMBIE POUCH!
I SAW IT
TWITCH!!!

NO! LOOK!!!

MOON
STONES OF
T'UALA!

HE MUST
HAVE FOUND
SOME TOO!

I KNEW THOSE
THINGS WERE
COLLECTABLES!



MAYBE...OR--

HE'S REALLY A TREASURE-
HUNTING, ZOMBIE GEM-WIZARD
THAT USES HIS ZOMBIE GEMS
TO HUNT TREASURE!!!

HE MUST'VE USED THOSE
GEMS IN HIS SEARCH FOR
T'UALA CENTURIES AGO
WITH ALL HIS TREASURE-
HUNTING, ZOMBIE PALS!

S-SO THOSE "MOON STONES"
AREN'T FROM T'UALA LIKE
WE THOUGHT, BUT ARE
ACTUALLY FROM HIS
EARLIER ZOMBIE
EXPEDITION!!!

WHOA!...
I THINK
YOU HIT
IT, 'ROY!

Except for
the zombie
parts, that
is!



WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THEM, ELROY?

AND WHAT'S
WITH THE
CHAINS?

IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY
WERE HACKING
AT THEM,
BUT WHY?

OO! OO! I KNOW!
THE CHAINS ARE
RE-ANIMATED
Z---

DON'T SAY
"RE-ANIMATED
ZOMBIE CHAINS"!



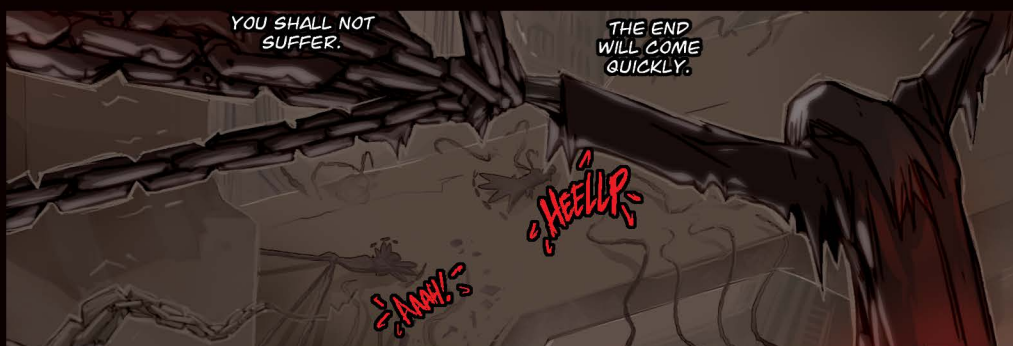
B-BUT...

...THAT MIGHT
BE ON THE
NOSE TOO,
ELROY...

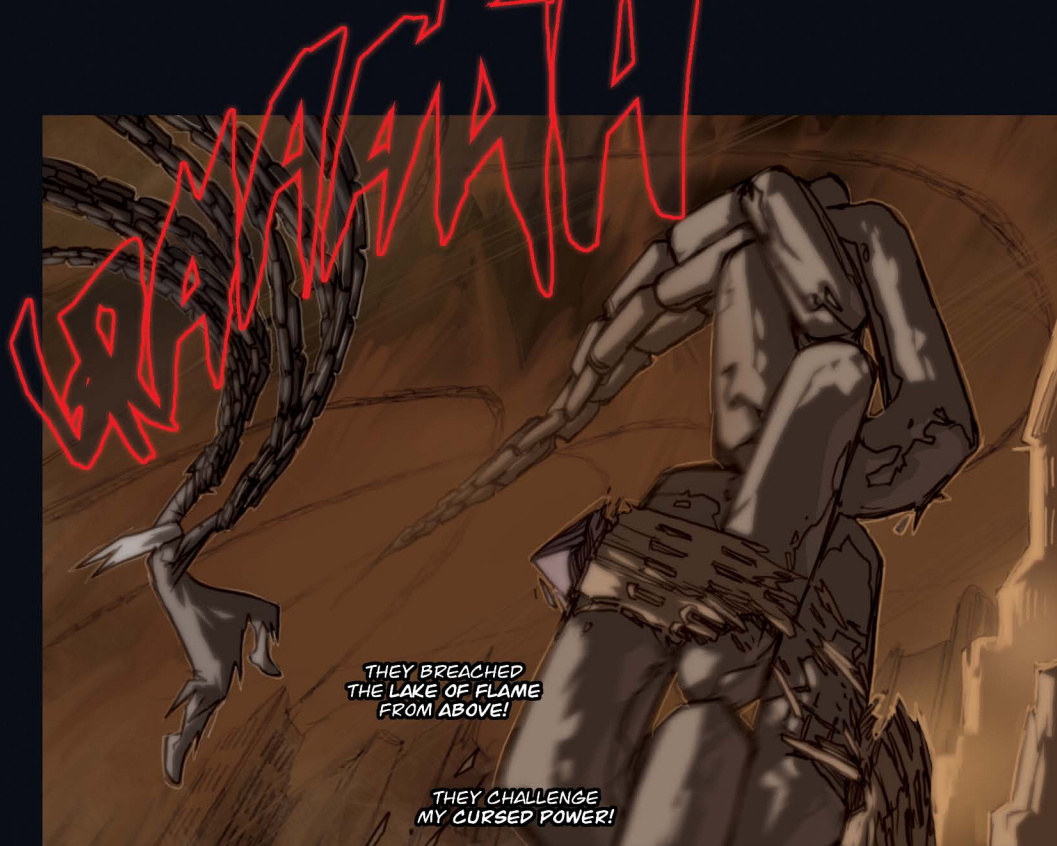
...HMM.

WH-WHY, HELLO
THERE, MR.
"I-GOT-ME-A-
BAD-FEELING"!
LONG TIME
N-NO SEE...







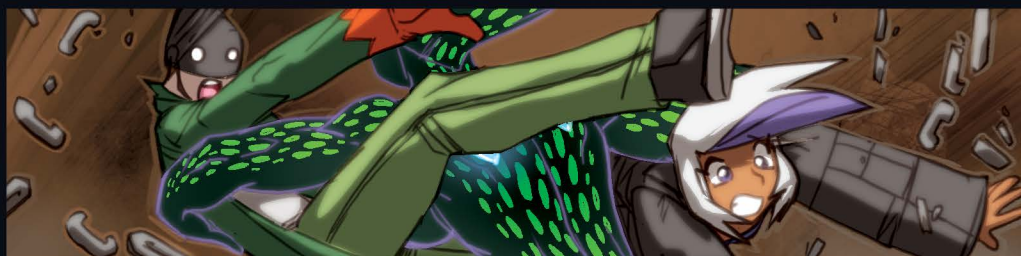


THEY BREACHED
THE LAKE OF FLAME
FROM ABOVE!

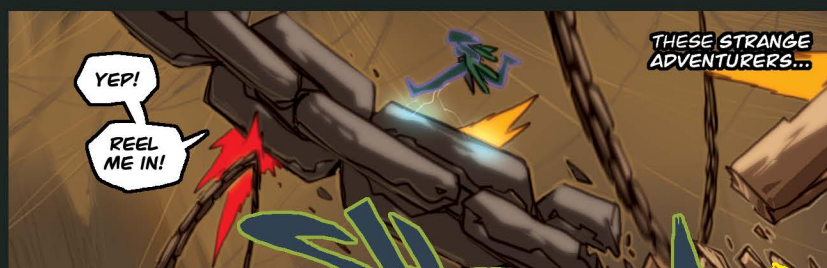
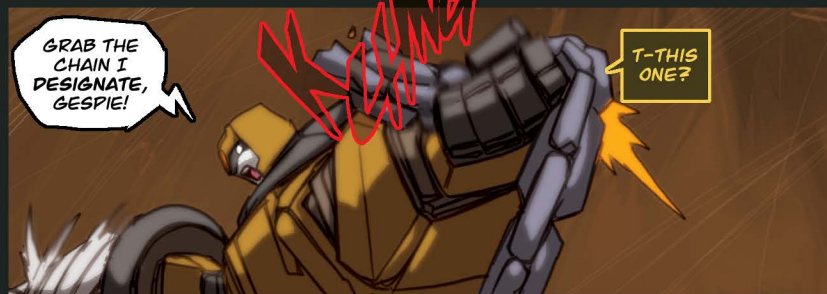
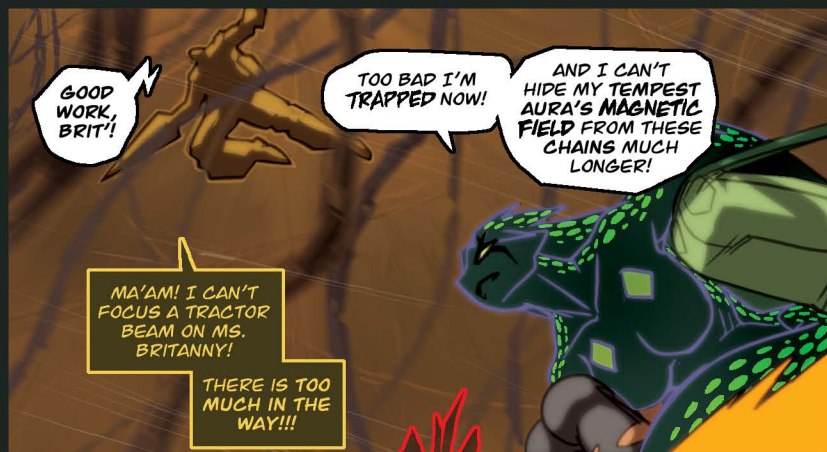
THEY CHALLENGE
MY CURSED POWER!

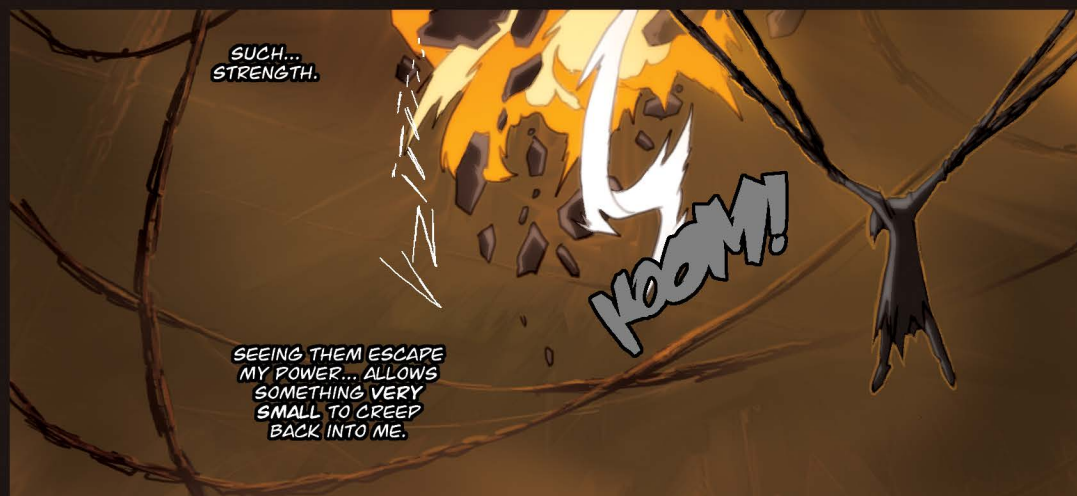
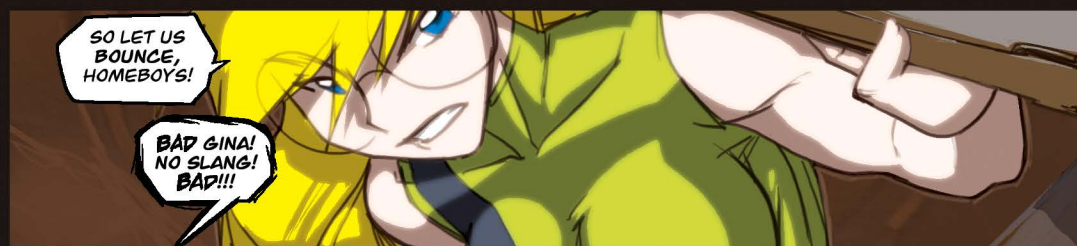
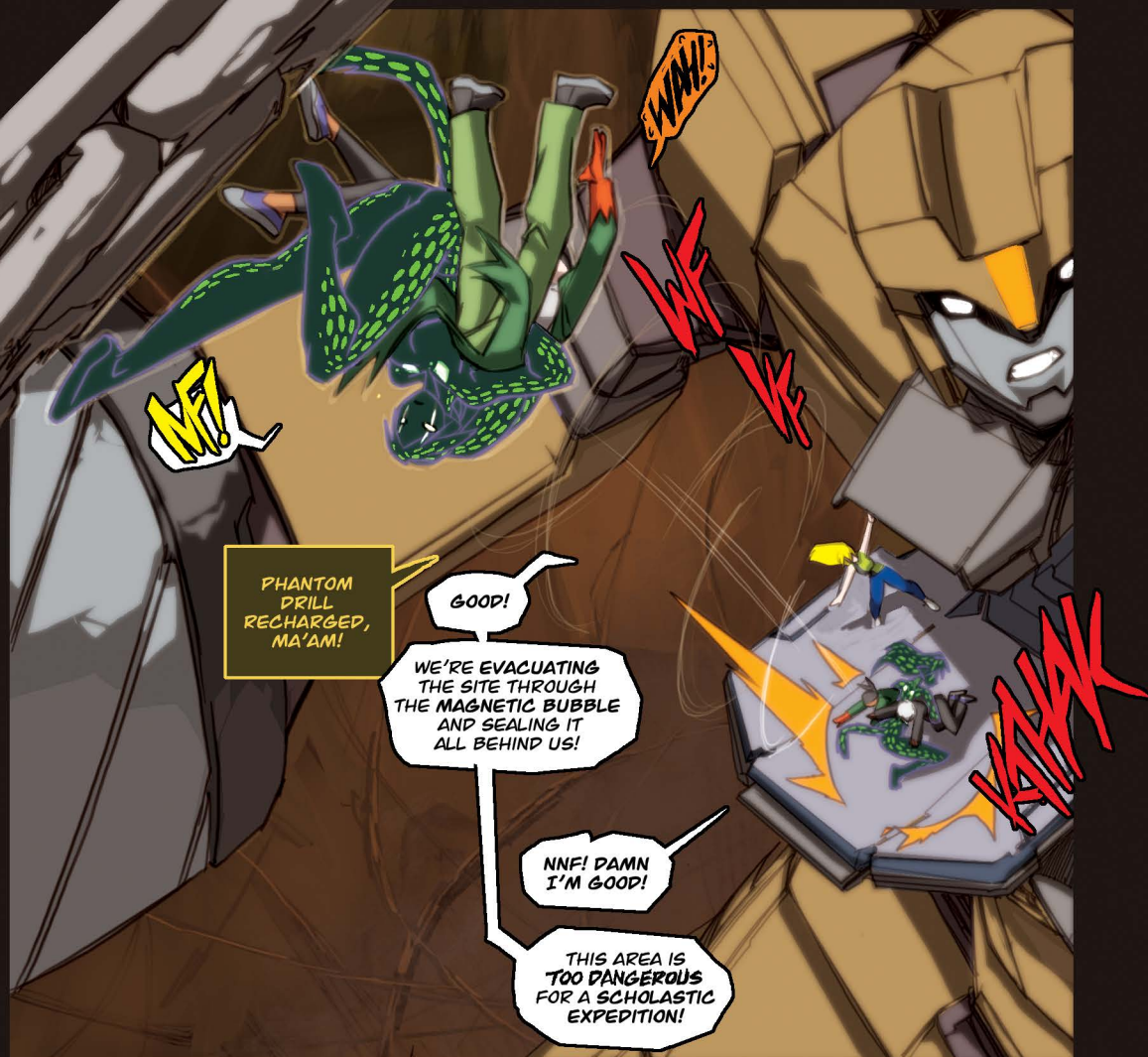


WH-WHAT
STRENGTH!



WHAT SPEED!!!





SO VERY SMALL....
SO VERY ANCIENT
THIS THING.

"HOPE".

DO I DARE
HOPE?

LONG HAS
OUR PRISON
HELD.

LONG HAVE YOU
KEPT ME FROM
THE PLAYGROUND
OF SOULS ABOVE!

LONG HAVE YOU
DESPAIRED AT
THE THOUGHT
OF OUR
ETERNAL
TORMENT.

THEY ARE YOUR LAST
AND ONLY CHANCE,
RATHALON.

BE NOT CONCERNED
BY THE RISK THAT I
MIGHT ESCAPE!

DARE.

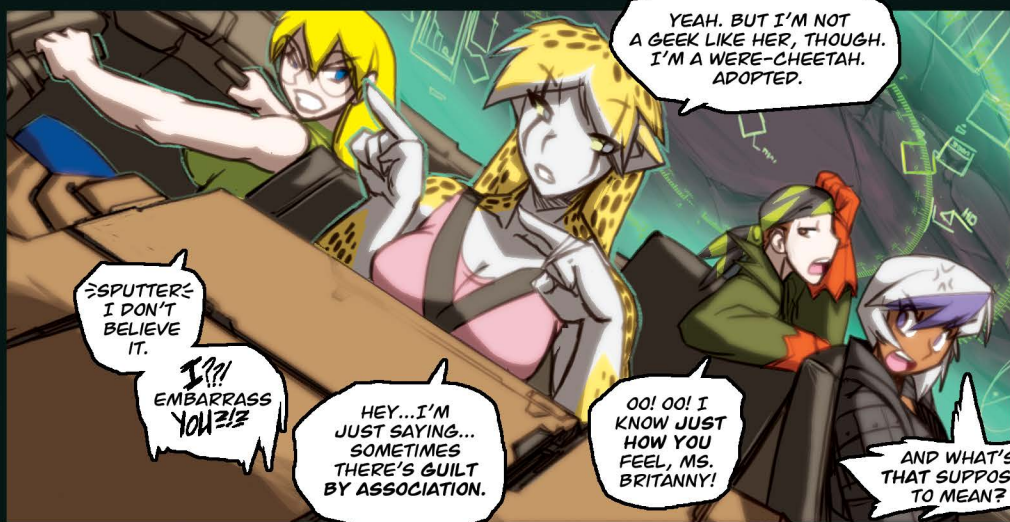
DARE, MY
PRINCE.

YOU--
YOU GUYS
ARE SO
POWERFUL!

IT'S NOT THE
HORSEPOWER,
KYLIE...IT'S
THE MILEAGE.

ASK ANY
TIMELORD OR
ISTAR.

AND YOU'RE
PROFESSOR
DIGGERS'
YOUNGER
SISTER?



SPUTTER
I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.

3!!!
EMBARRASS
YOU 3/3

HEY...I'M
JUST SAYING...
SOMETIMES
THERE'S GUILT
BY ASSOCIATION.

OO! OO! I
KNOW JUST
HOW YOU
FEEL, MS.
BRITANNY!

AND WHAT'S
THAT SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

YEAH. BUT I'M NOT
A GEEK LIKE HER, THOUGH.
I'M A WERE-CHEETAH.
ADOPTED.

NEXT.... EXPLORING THE RUINS: "THE BROKEN WEAPONS OF POWER"!