



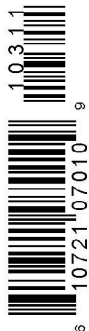
JAN 09 #103
\$2.99 U.S. & Can.
WWW.APMANGA.COM

FRED PERRY

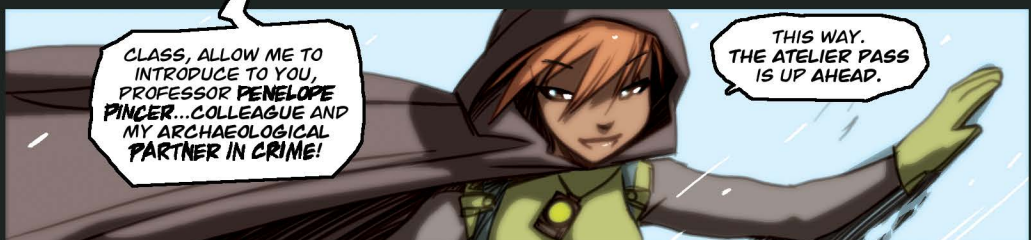
GOLD DIGGER

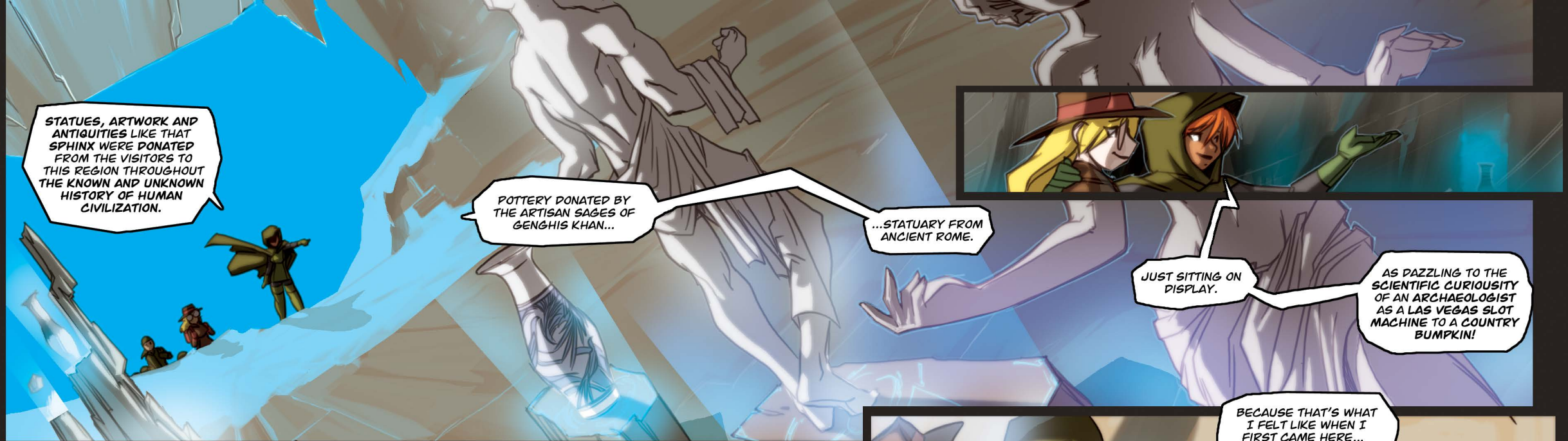


WWW.APMANGA.COM



JANUARY 2009





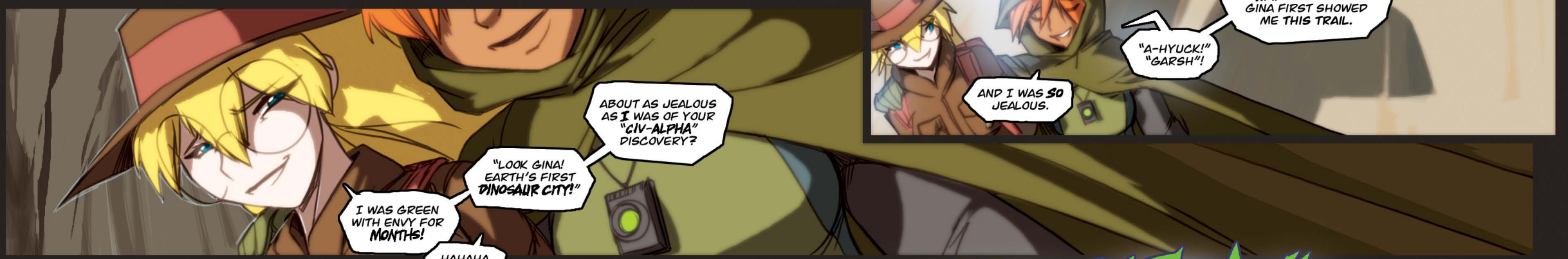
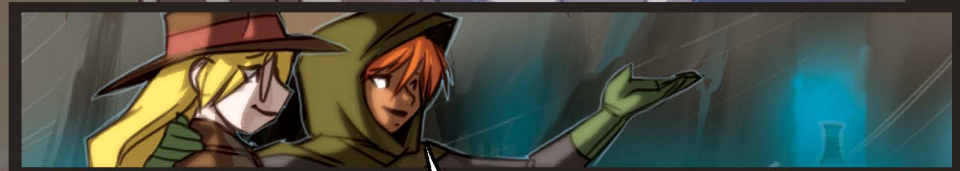
STATUES, ARTWORK AND ANTIQUITIES LIKE THAT SPHINX WERE DONATED FROM THE VISITORS TO THIS REGION THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HISTORY OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION.

POTTERY DONATED BY THE ARTISAN SAGES OF GENGHIS KHAN...

...STATUARY FROM ANCIENT ROME.

JUST SITTING ON DISPLAY.

AS DAZZLING TO THE SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGIST AS A LAS VEGAS SLOT MACHINE TO A COUNTRY BUMPKIN!



ABOUT AS JEALOUS AS I WAS OF YOUR "CIV-ALPHA" DISCOVERY?

"LOOK GINA! EARTH'S FIRST DINOSAUR CITY!"

I WAS GREEN WITH ENVY FOR MONTHS!

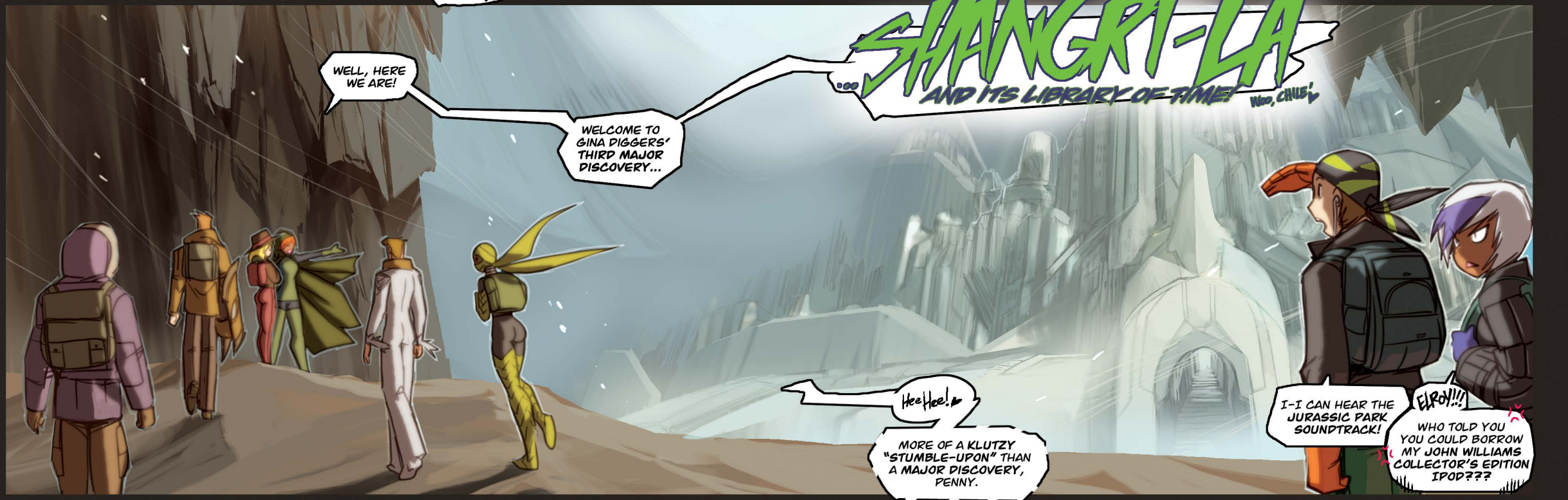
HAHAHA.



BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I FELT LIKE WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE... WAY BACK WHEN GINA FIRST SHOWED ME THIS TRAIL.

"A-HYUCK!"
"GARSH!"

AND I WAS SO JEALOUS.



WELL, HERE WE ARE!

WELCOME TO GINA DIGGERS' THIRD MAJOR DISCOVERY...

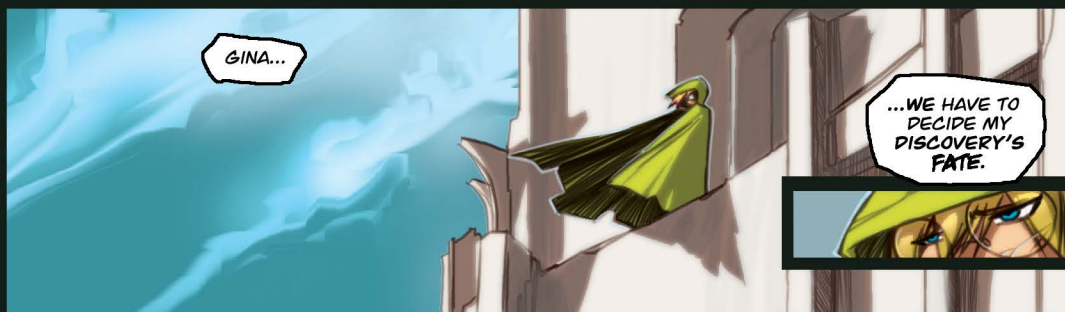
SHANGRI-LA
AND ITS LIBRARY OF TIME! Woo, CHUS!

Hee Hee!

MORE OF A KLUTZY "STUMBLE-UPON" THAN A MAJOR DISCOVERY, PENNY.

I-I CAN HEAR THE JURASSIC PARK SOUNDTRACK!

EEROY!!!
WHO TOLD YOU YOU COULD BORROW MY JOHN WILLIAMS COLLECTOR'S EDITION IPOD???



THIS WAY,
"PAPAWANS".

YEARS AGO, PROFESSOR
PINCER AND I DISCOVERED
THAT THE EVOLVED RACE
OF DINOSAURS WHO
CONSTRUCTED
"CIV-ALPHA"...

...THE SAURIANS...

...GAINED KNOWLEDGE
AND TECHNOLOGY FROM
ENIGMATIC STRUCTURES
HIDDEN AROUND THE
WORLD.

THESE WERE
CALLED
"ENIGMA
TEMPLES".

BUT ONE OF THESE
TEMPLES, UNDISCOVERED
BY THE SAURIANS OR THEIR
GENE-CRAFTED "CHILDREN",
THE DRAGONS...

...WAS FOUND
BY A MAN...
A MONK.

THIS TEMPLE
SUSTAINED A
DIMENSIONAL
VORTEX AT
ITS CORE
CONTAINING, OF
ALL THINGS,
BOOKS!

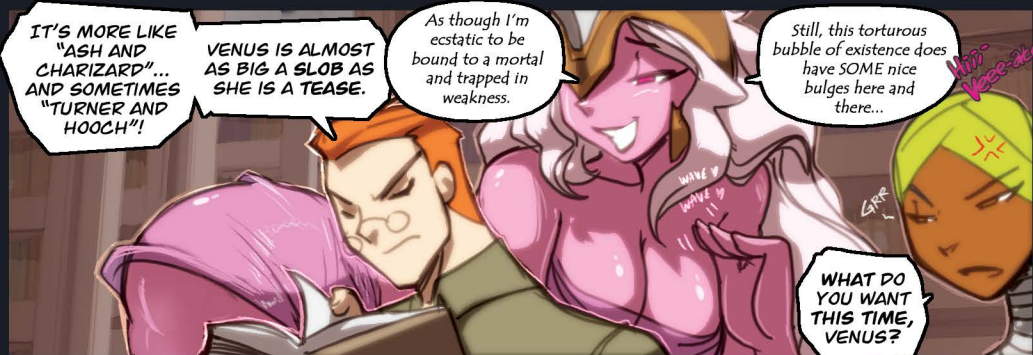
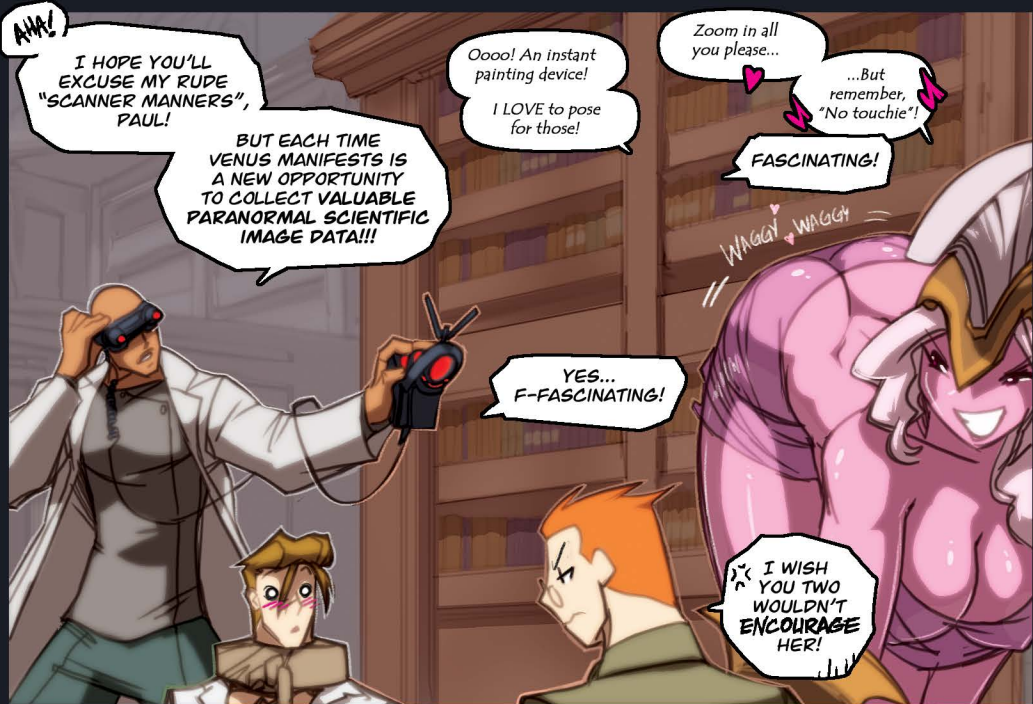
BOOKS FROM
EVERY ERA OF
TIME ON EARTH.

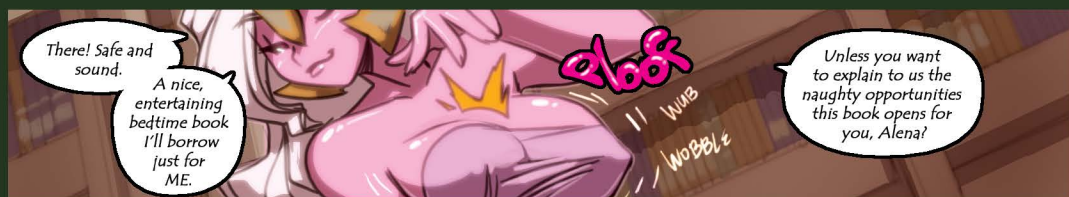
THIS CORE
BECAME THE
CENTER OF THE
DEPOSITORY BUILT
BY THAT MONK...
THE FIRST LIBRARIAN
OF THE LIBRARY
OF TIME.













DURING THE AGE OF MAGIC ON EARTH, MY TRIBE WAS AFRICA'S CENTRAL AUTHORITY ON THE TELEKINETIC MANIPULATION OF ETHER... THE MEDIUM OF MAGIC SPELLS.

BUT SINCE THE TOME'S DISAPPEARANCE, NO ONE IN THE WHOLE WORLD HAS BEEN ABLE TO RECLAIM THAT KNOWLEDGE.

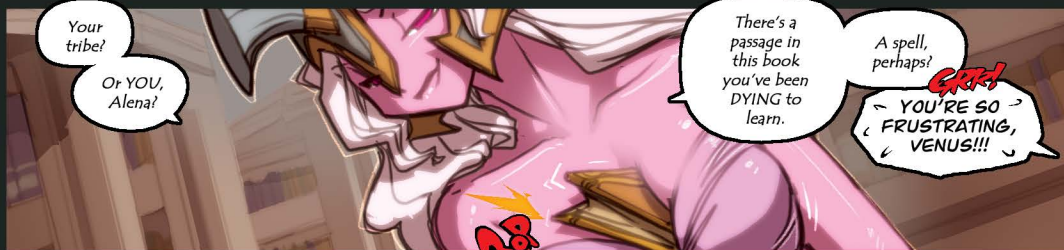
NOW, TELEKINESIS IS VERY MUCH "BASIC CARPENTRY" COMPARED TO AN AURA MAGIC-USER'S "SCULPTURED MASTERWORKS" OF MAGIC.



I WAS PLANNING TO PERUSE THIS LIBRARY FOR A COPY OF THAT TOME AFTER OUR RESEARCH WAS COMPLETE.

VENUS, I ENTREAT... GIVE ME THE TOME!

MY TRIBE NEEDS THAT BOOK!



Your tribe?
Or YOU, Alena?

There's a passage in this book you've been DYING to learn.

A spell, perhaps!
GRR!
YOU'RE SO FRUSTRATING, VENUS!!!



HMPH!
WELL...THERE IS A PASSAGE.
A SPELL WHICH A TELEKINETIC CAN CAST.
ONE THAT COULD HELP US RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.
"LLUHBIDUHBII".

AN AFFECTION CHARM.
A SPELL THAT REMOVES A COUPLE'S SHYNESS.
IF I COULD CAST IT ON ELROY AND KYLIE...



...THEY'D STOP THEIR HORSEPLAY AND ADMIT LOVE TO EACH OTHER, AND WE COULD FINALLY GET SOME WORK DONE!!!

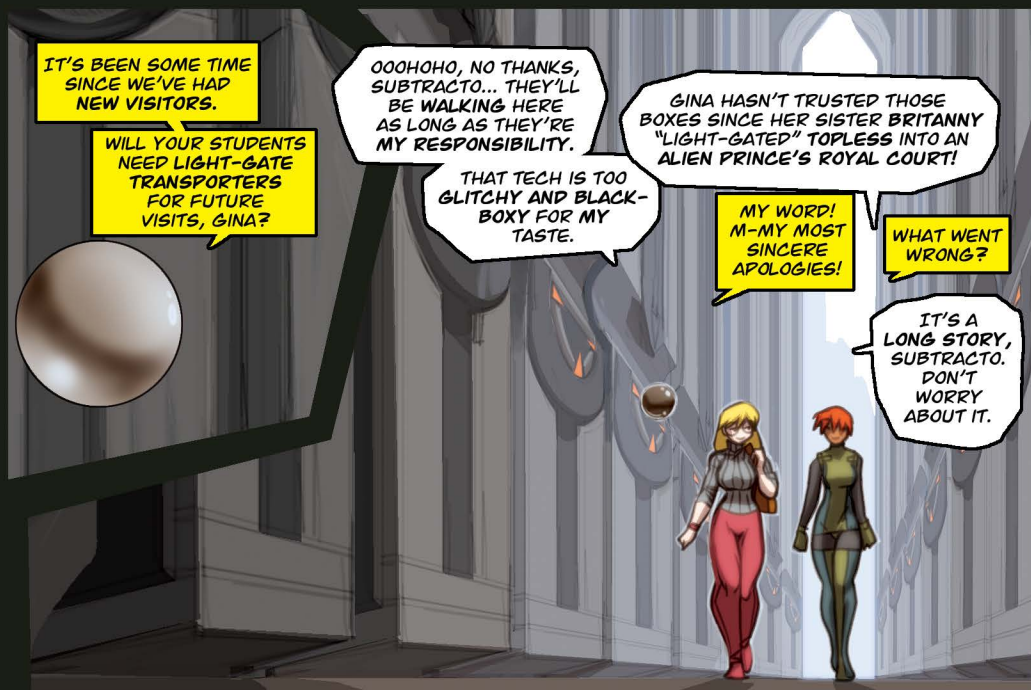
OW! GAAH!
HEARR!
SAY "KYLIE ROOZ!"
SAY IT!!

An interesting pair of guinea pigs you've selected, Alena.



HUH?
A-ALENA...IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?

SUPPOSE--
SUPPOSE THEY'RE JUST NOT READY?
NO, KY'!!!
NOT THIS PENALTY!
NOT "HAPPY BIRTHDAY"!



IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD NEW VISITORS.

WILL YOUR STUDENTS NEED LIGHT-GATE TRANSPORTERS FOR FUTURE VISITS, GINA?

OOOHOHO, NO THANKS, SUBTRACTO... THEY'LL BE WALKING HERE AS LONG AS THEY'RE MY RESPONSIBILITY.

THAT TECH IS TOO GLITCHY AND BLACK-BOXY FOR MY TASTE.

GINA HASN'T TRUSTED THOSE BOXES SINCE HER SISTER BRITANNY "LIGHT-GATED" TOPLESS INTO AN ALIEN PRINCE'S ROYAL COURT!

MY WORD! M-MY MOST SINCERE APOLOGIES!

WHAT WENT WRONG?

IT'S A LONG STORY, SUBTRACTO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.



LIGHT GATES... SHANGRI-LA'S EARTHBOUND TELEPORTATION SYSTEM!

ONLY PENNY AND I DISCOVERED HOW TO UTILIZE THEM FULLY.

FOR EVERYONE ELSE, "HOME" AND "HERE" ARE THE ONLY OPTIONS.

BUT THE GATES ARE ONLY TO AID OUR VISITORS IN RETURNING BOOKS!

WE KNOW...THE TECHNOLOGY'S TOO DANGEROUS OTHERWISE, SUBTRACTO.

THAT'S WHY WE BURIED THAT KNOWLEDGE.



A RESPONSIBLE SCIENTIST KNOWS WHEN A DISCOVERY IS BEST LEFT UNDISCOVERED FOR A WHILE.

AND WHEN IT COMES TO CONFERRING ON SUCH MATTERS, THERE'S NO ONE WHOSE JUDGEMENT I TRUST MORE THAN PENNY!

THANKFULLY, WE VERY RARELY HAVE TO CHOOSE.



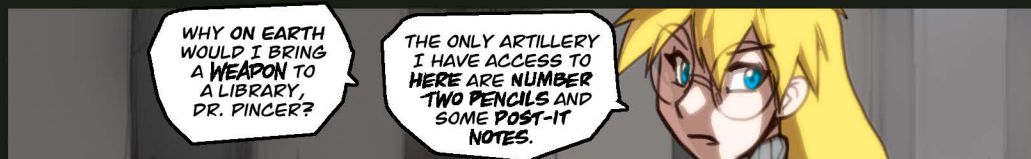
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE PURPOSE OF OUR CONSULTATION HERE IN SHANGRI-LA.

HOPEFULLY, WE WON'T HAVE TO BURY WHATEVER PENNY'S UNEARTHED TWO YEARS AGO IN THE ARCTIC.

...

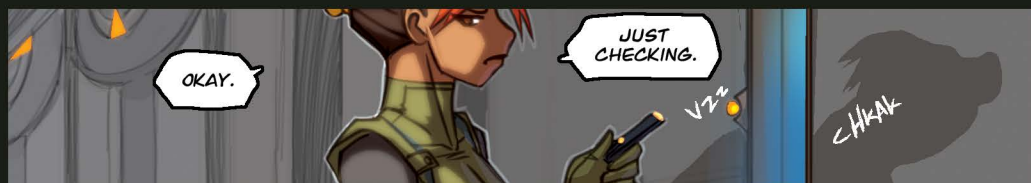
...

GINA...YOU...DIDN'T BRING ANY...UHM... WEAPONS WITH YOU... I PRESUME?



WHY ON EARTH WOULD I BRING A WEAPON TO A LIBRARY, DR. PINCER?

THE ONLY ARTILLERY I HAVE ACCESS TO HERE ARE NUMBER TWO PENCILS AND SOME POST-IT NOTES.



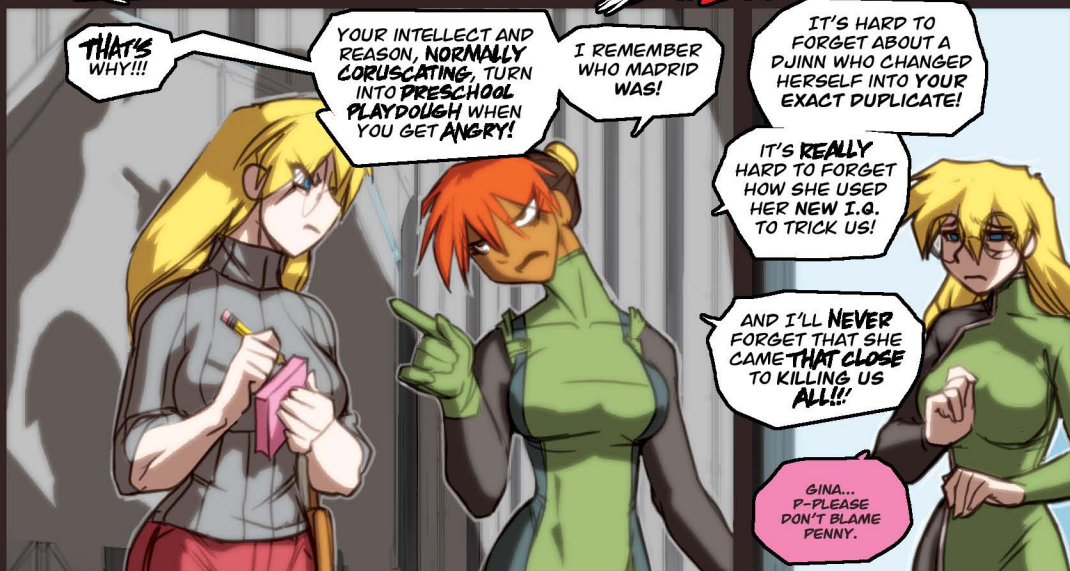
OKAY.

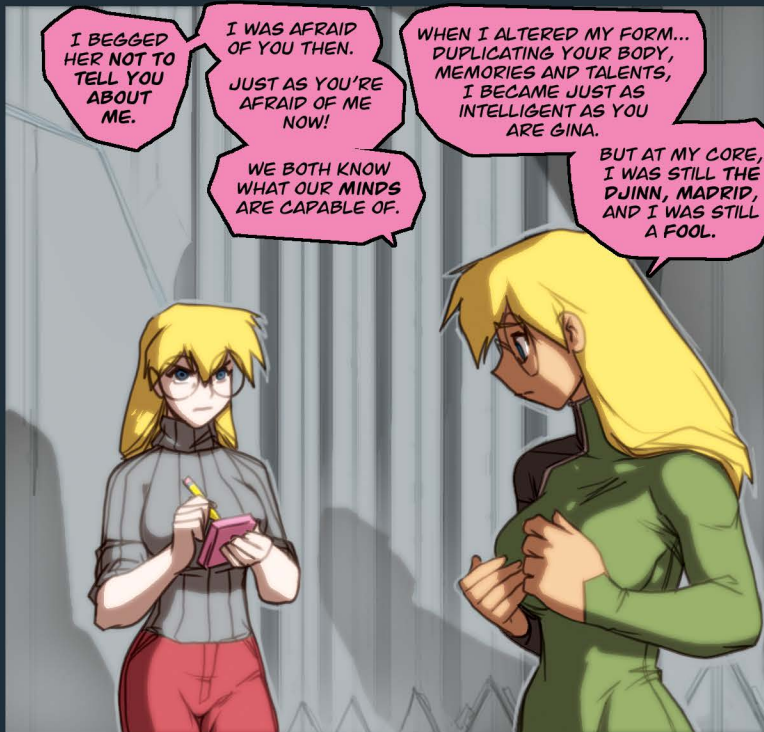
JUST CHECKING.

VZ

CHAK







I BEGGED HER NOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT ME.

I WAS AFRAID OF YOU THEN. JUST AS YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME NOW!

WE BOTH KNOW WHAT OUR MINDS ARE CAPABLE OF.

WHEN I ALTERED MY FORM... DUPLICATING YOUR BODY, MEMORIES AND TALENTS, I BECAME JUST AS INTELLIGENT AS YOU ARE GINA.

BUT AT MY CORE, I WAS STILL THE DJINN, MADRID, AND I WAS STILL A FOOL.



I AWOKE IN SHANGRI-LA MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO.

A GUEST OF EMPRESS LYNN, ITS RULER.

...AND LIBRARIAN KAHN, LYNN'S CONSORT.



AND THEN THE MEMORIES CAME FLOODING BACK.

MEMORIES OF WHO I WAS AND WHAT I HAD DONE.



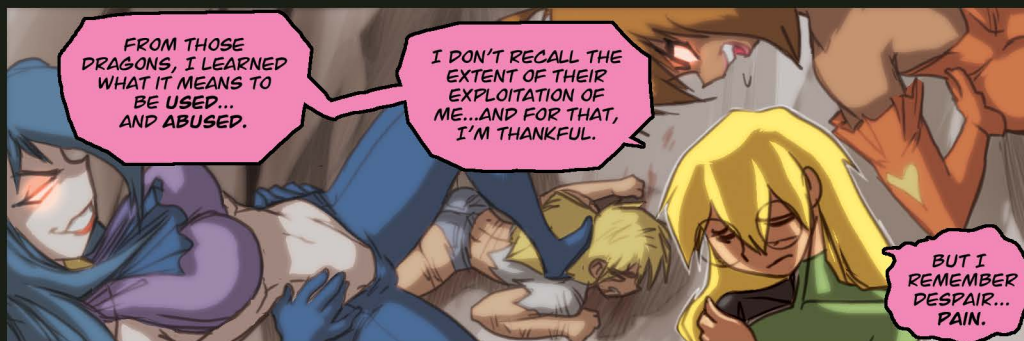
MEMORIES OF MADRID, THE SPOILED PRINCESS OF THE DJINN.

TO HER, YOU AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE WERE THE PERFECT STEPPING STONE TO THE GREATEST OF POWERS!

I BEGAN TO REMEMBER HOW SHE...I...GAINED YOUR TRUST THEN TURNED YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AGAINST YOU!

YOU DEFEATED ME...BUT I ESCAPED YOUR TRAP.

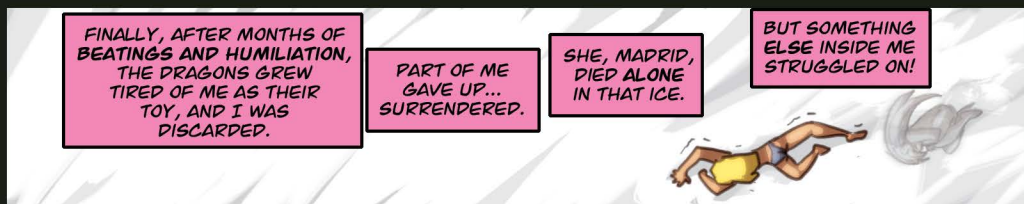
ONLY TO BE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY, OF ALL PEOPLE, A PAIR OF FEMALE DRAGONS HIDING OUT IN THE ARCTIC.



FROM THOSE DRAGONS, I LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE USED... AND ABUSED.

I DON'T RECALL THE EXTENT OF THEIR EXPLOITATION OF ME...AND FOR THAT, I'M THANKFUL.

BUT I REMEMBER DESPAIR... PAIN.

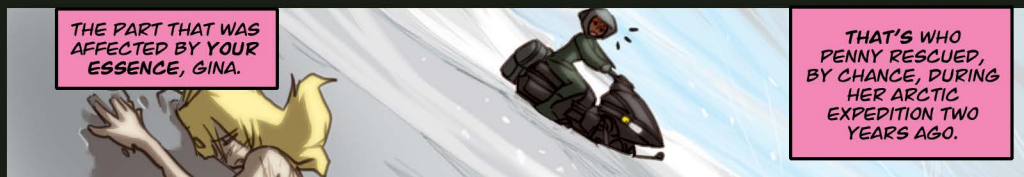


FINALLY, AFTER MONTHS OF BEATINGS AND HUMILIATION, THE DRAGONS GREW TIRED OF ME AS THEIR TOY, AND I WAS DISCARDED.

PART OF ME GAVE UP... SURRENDERED.

SHE, MADRID, DIED ALONE IN THAT ICE.

BUT SOMETHING ELSE INSIDE ME STRUGGLED ON!



THE PART THAT WAS AFFECTED BY YOUR ESSENCE, GINA.

THAT'S WHO PENNY RESCUED, BY CHANCE, DURING HER ARCTIC EXPEDITION TWO YEARS AGO.



WHEN I DEPART SHANGRI-LA, I--I INTEND TO EXPLORE.

PERHAPS INVESTIGATE THE ASTRAL RIFTS... OR THE PLANAR CORRIDORS.

SOMEWHERE... OUT OF YOUR WAY.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

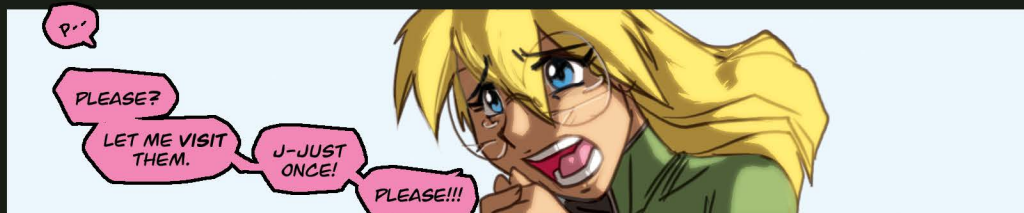
WHY MEET ME NOW?

I...

...I MISS EVERYONE.

I MISS BRIT'. I MISS BRIANNA.

I MISS MOM AND DAD.



PLEASE?

LET ME VISIT THEM.

J--JUST ONCE!

PLEASE!!!

"CHECK".

IN ORDER TO PROTECT MY FAMILY FROM WHATEVER MADRID HAS IN MIND...

...I HAVE TO BE THE "BAD GUY" AND REFUSE HER "HEART-FELT, SINCERE" PLEA.

BUT IF I DO REFUSE, YOU ALL PLAN TO HELP POOR LITTLE MADRID BY SOMEHOW INCAPACITATING ME AND LETTING HER MASQUERADE AS "GINA" FOR ONE DAY.

GINA... PLEASE.

I'M NOT TRYING TO TRICK YOU.

ACTUALLY, MADRID HAD A DIFFERENT SCENARIO MAPPED OUT, GINA...

MADRID PREDICTED THAT YOU WOULD SOMEHOW DEFEAT PENNY, KAHN, SUBTRACTO AND ME, THEN MURDER HER.

ALL WHILE UNARMED.

AS FAR-FETCHED AS THAT SOUNDS.

IMAGINE! YOU...DEFEAT MY MARTIAL ARTISTRY? UNARMED???

AND KAHN'S SHAO LIN KUNG FU?

AND SUBTRACTO???

IT IS TO LAUGH.

NEVERTHELESS, GINA, TO GUARD AGAINST THAT SCENARIO WAS MADRID'S ONLY REQUEST.

AND SHOULD YOU REFUSE HER PLEA, SHE SWORE TO ABIDE BY YOUR DECISION.

GINA... DEAR FRIEND... I SENSE MADRID'S INTENT.

SHE IS SINCERE.

HMPH.

SKETCH

FLUTTER



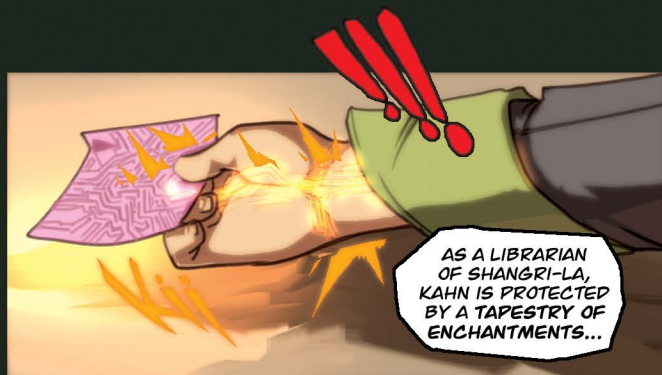
K-KAHN! DON'T LET IT TOUCH THE FLOOR!

GINA'S COMPUTERS AND SATELLITES COULD BE FOCUSED HERE!

THAT NOTE MIGHT BE A-A DISCREET RESCUE SIGNAL INSTRUCTION!

OR...

NKK...



AS A LIBRARIAN OF SHANGRI-LA, KAHN IS PROTECTED BY A TAPESTRY OF ENCHANTMENTS...



WHAT... IS THIS?!

...ALL THROUGH TATTOOS OF "RIBBON", THE WRITTEN LANGUAGE OF MAGIC...



...A LANGUAGE WHICH I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE CAREER DECIPHERING.

WHEN KAHN TOUCHED MY POST-IT NOTE...

...HE ABSORBED THE CONTROL HACK I WROTE FOR HIM.

AND HE'D HAVE AN EASIER TIME GROWING EARS FROM HIS ELBOWS THAN RESISTING IT!



OH, CRAP.

LYNN... WHAT DO WE DO?

NONE OF US IS A MATCH FOR KAHN!

Y-YOU'RE ASKING ME, SUBTRACTO?



NOW.

NOW YOU SEE WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!

YOU'RE ALL TRAPPED! JUST LIKE THAT.

IN A SCHEME THAT TOOK ALL OF FIVE SECONDS FOR ME TO CONCOCT.

IMAGINE IF I WAS MADRID!

IMAGINE IF I WANTED YOU TO SUFFER!

HOW WOULD YOU STOP ME?



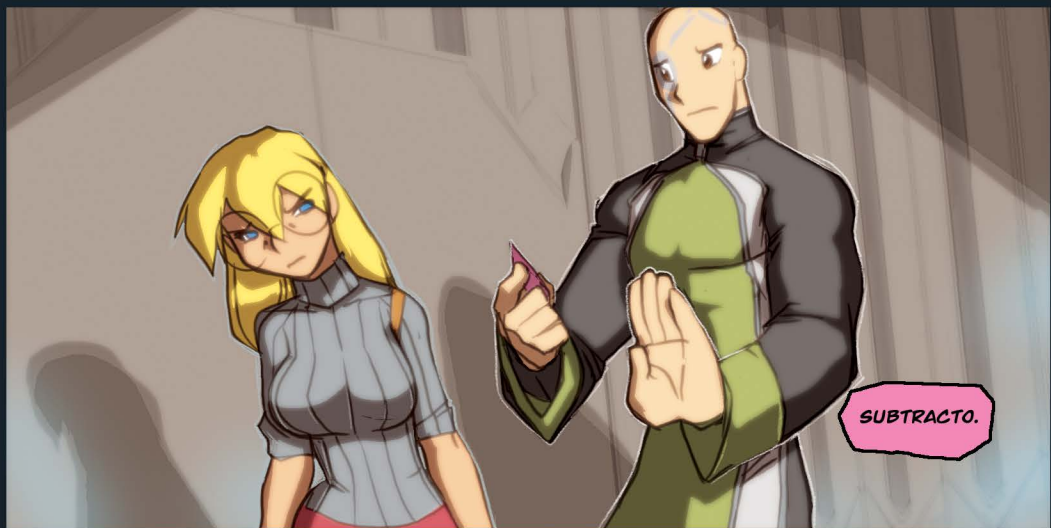
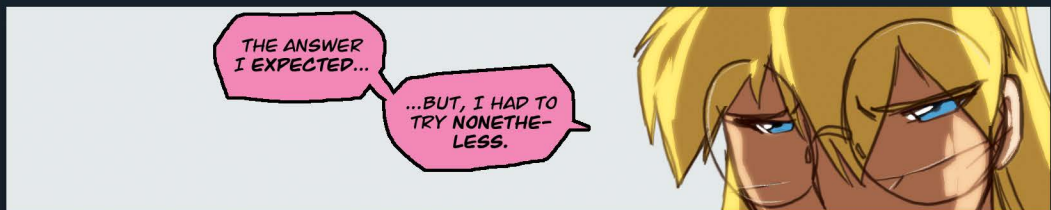
UNDER HER CONTROL IS AN EXACT COPY OF MY MIND.

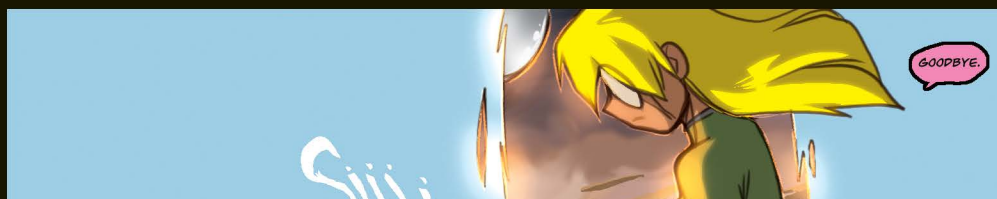
AND THAT SCARES THE P*** OUTTA ME!!!

I-I WISH I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO THINK OF A WAY TO STOP HER BESIDES MURDER!

...

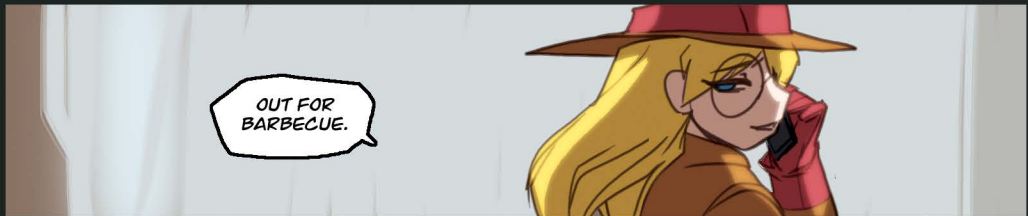
BUT, I'M NOT... GOD HELP ME... I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER WAY!







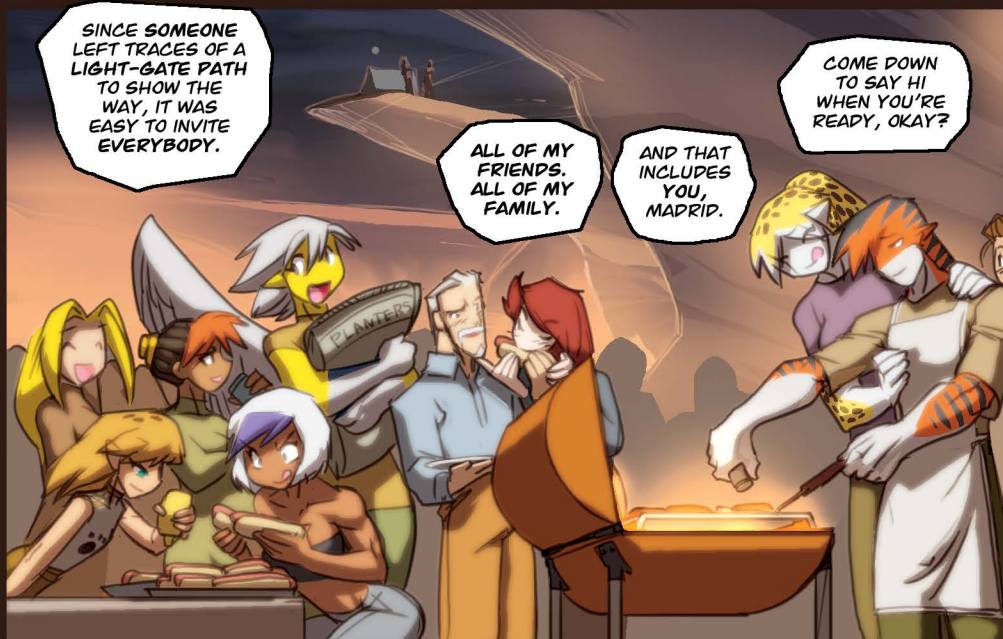




=>snf<=







THANK YOU.