



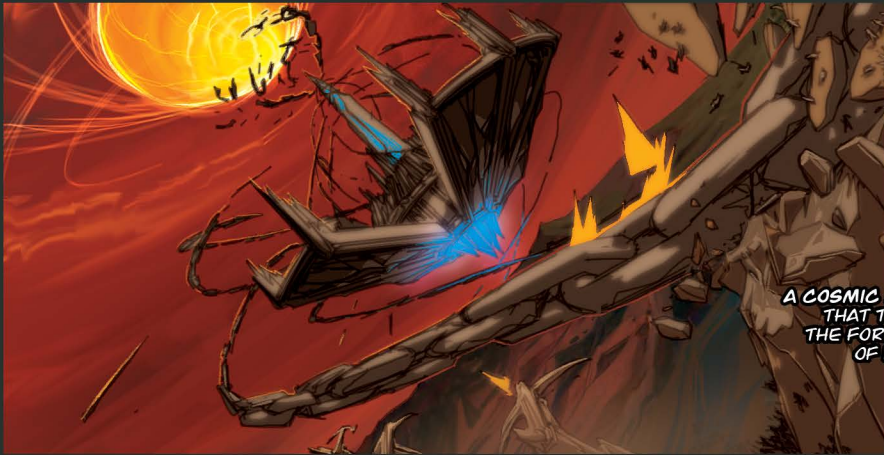
FEB 09 #104
\$2.99 U.S. & Can.
WWW.APMANGA.COM

FRED PERRY

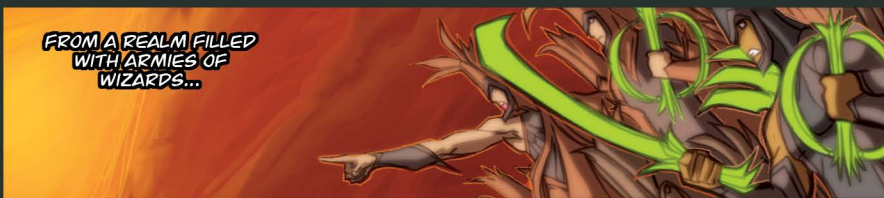
GOLD DIGGER



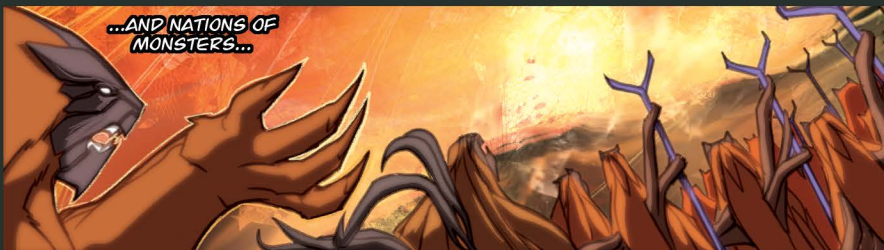
THERE WAS A CATASTROPHE.



A COSMIC METAMORPHOSIS
THAT TRANSFORMED
THE FORGOTTEN WORLD
OF LONG AGO.



FROM A REALM FILLED
WITH ARMIES OF
WIZARDS...



...AND NATIONS OF
MONSTERS...

..TO THE WORLD
THAT WE KNOW.

THE WORLD OF
SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY
AND MAN.

BUT THE ANCIENT
WORLD...THE AGE
OF WONDERS...DID
NOT COMPLETELY
VANISH.

AND THERE
REMAINS ONE SURE
WAY TO UNLOCK IT'S
LOST SECRETS.

PROFESSOR
DIGGERS IS
A BIG, FAT
LIAR, KYLIE!

SHE SAID
ARCHAEOLOGY'S A
"SOFT SCIENCE"!

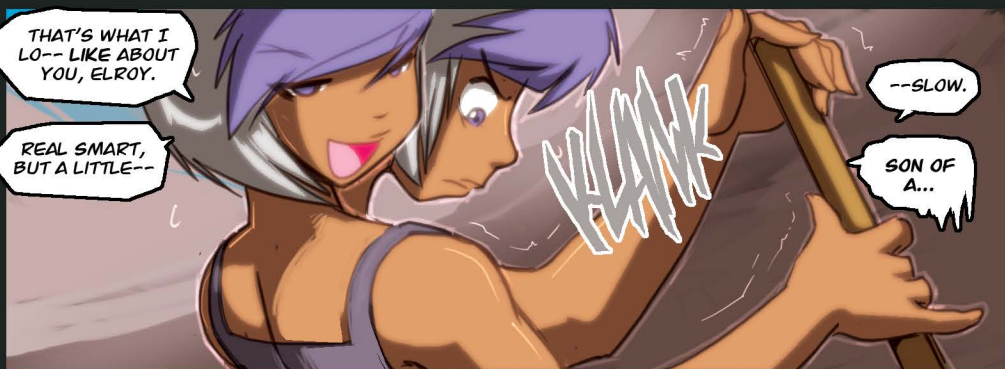
HAH!

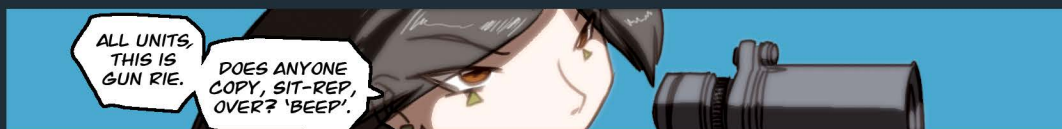
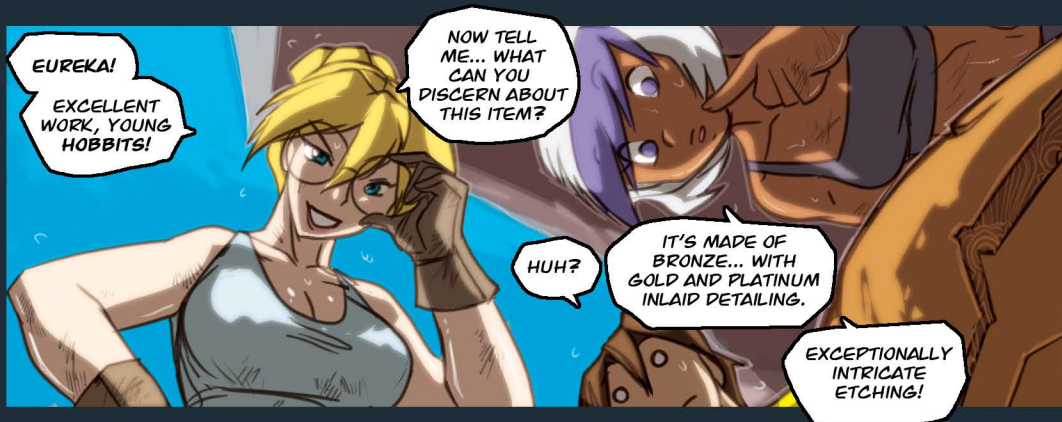
THIS CRAP
IS HARD!!
HARD!!
HARD!!!

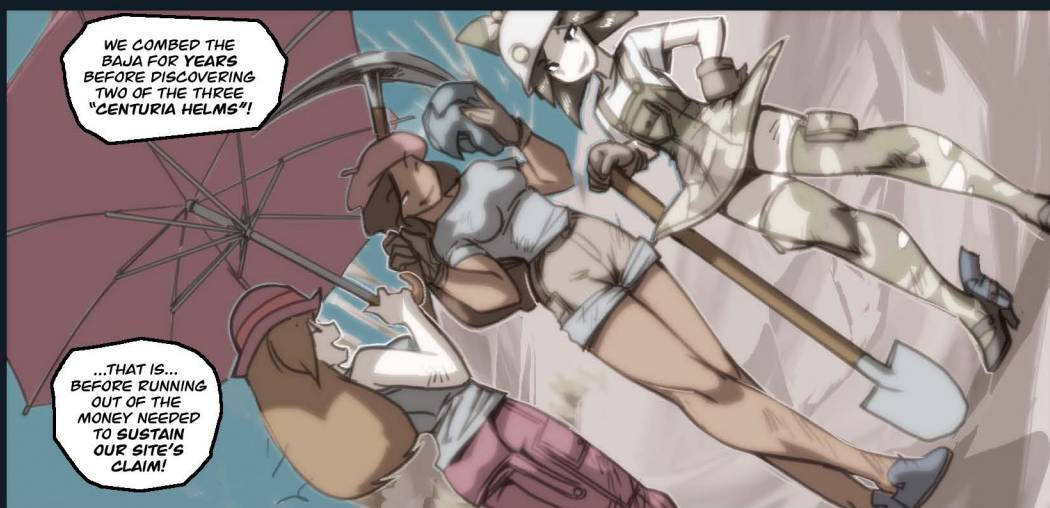


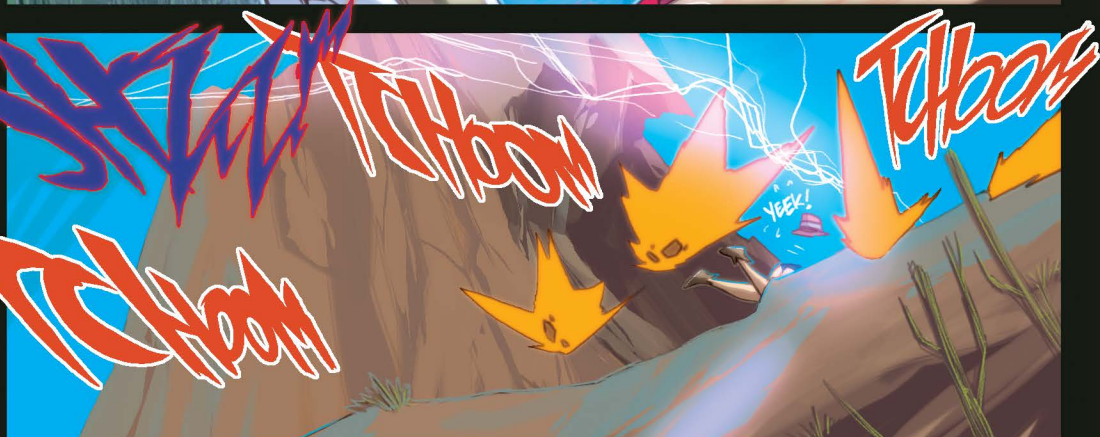
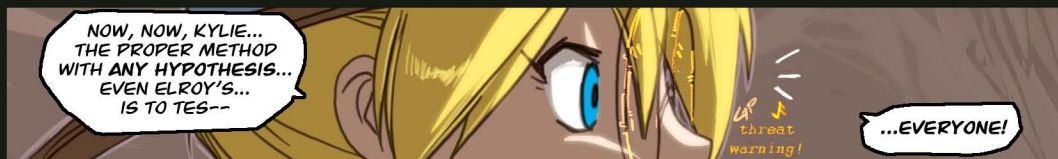
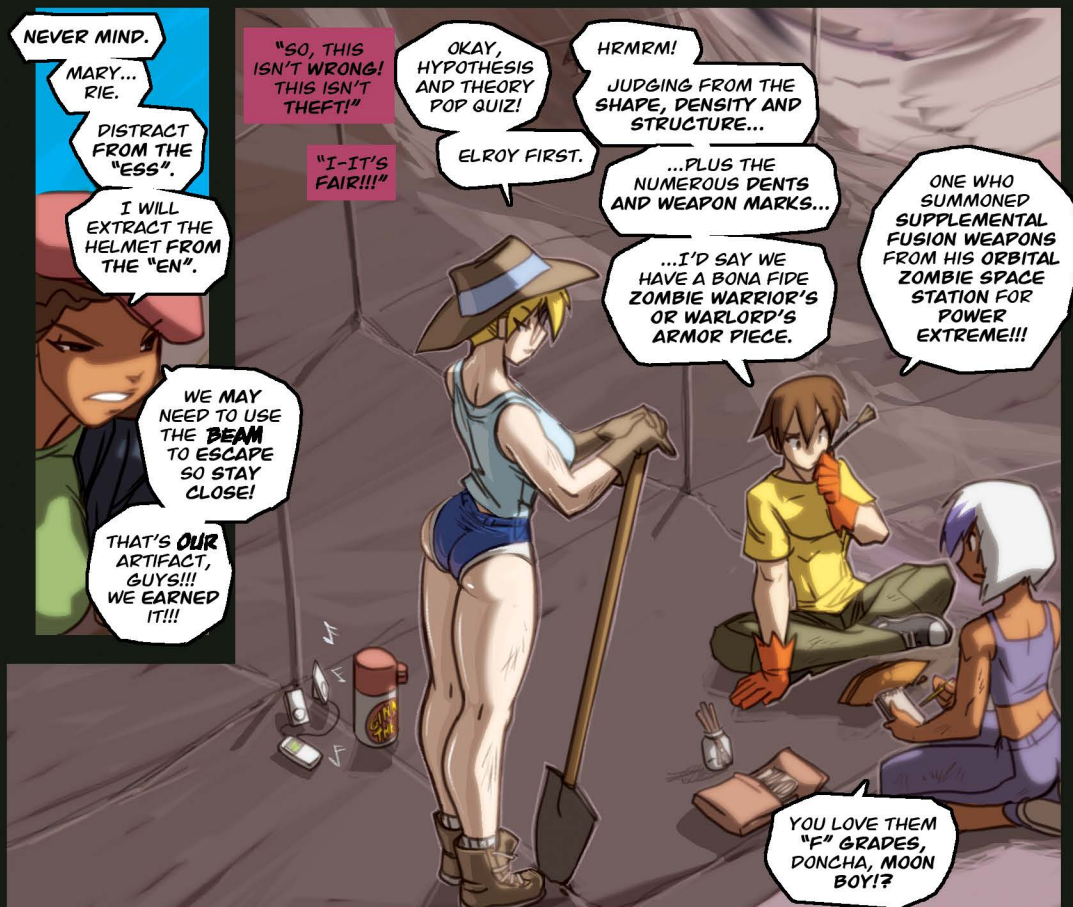


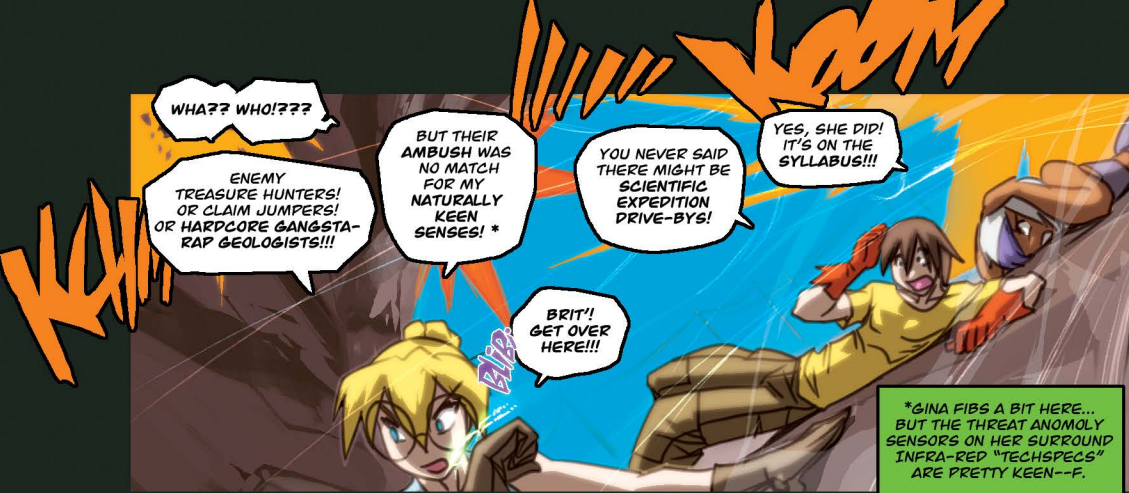












WHA?? WHO????

ENEMY
TREASURE HUNTERS!
OR CLAIM JUMPERS!
OR HARDCORE GANGSTA-
RAP GEOLOGISTS!!!

BUT THEIR
AMBUSH WAS
NO MATCH
FOR MY
NATURALLY
KEEN
SENSES! *

YOU NEVER SAID
THERE MIGHT BE
SCIENTIFIC
EXPEDITION
DRIVE-BYS!

YES, SHE DID!
IT'S ON THE
SYLLABUS!!!

BRIT!
GET OVER
HERE!!!

*GINA FIBS A BIT HERE...
BUT THE THREAT ANOMOLY
SENSORS ON HER SURROUND
INFRA-RED "TECHSPECS"
ARE PRETTY KEEN--F.



I'VE GOT
THIS!

YOU GUYS
SIT TIGHT...

WHAT ARE
YOU--



...WHILE I CALL
MY TRUSTY
GINA-BLASTER
FROM HYPER-
SPACE
STORAGE!

I CAN USE THIS WITH
PINPOINT ACCURACY
NOW THAT I'VE SWITCHED
MY SPECTACLES FROM
SUPER-SENSITIVE
"SEARCH MODE"...

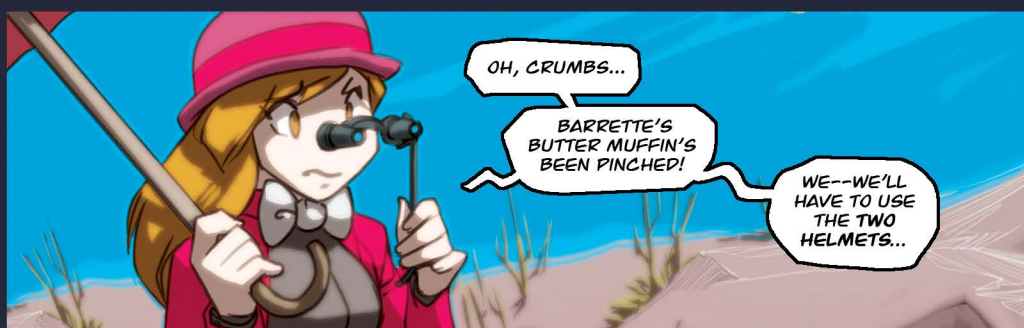
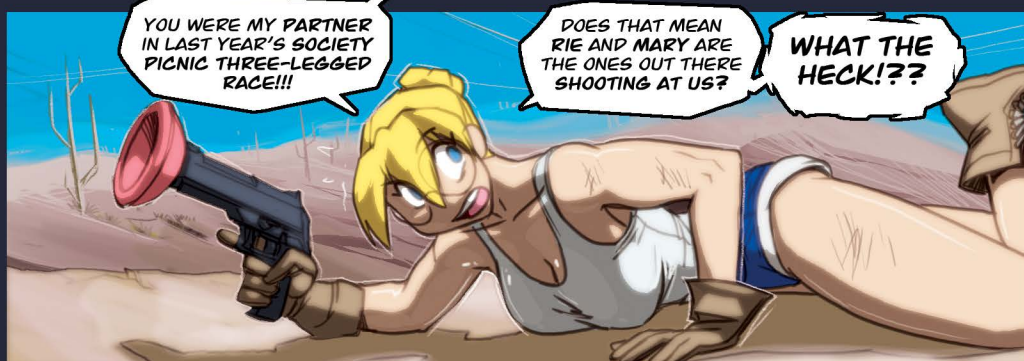


...TO SUPER-
ACCURATE
"TARGETING--

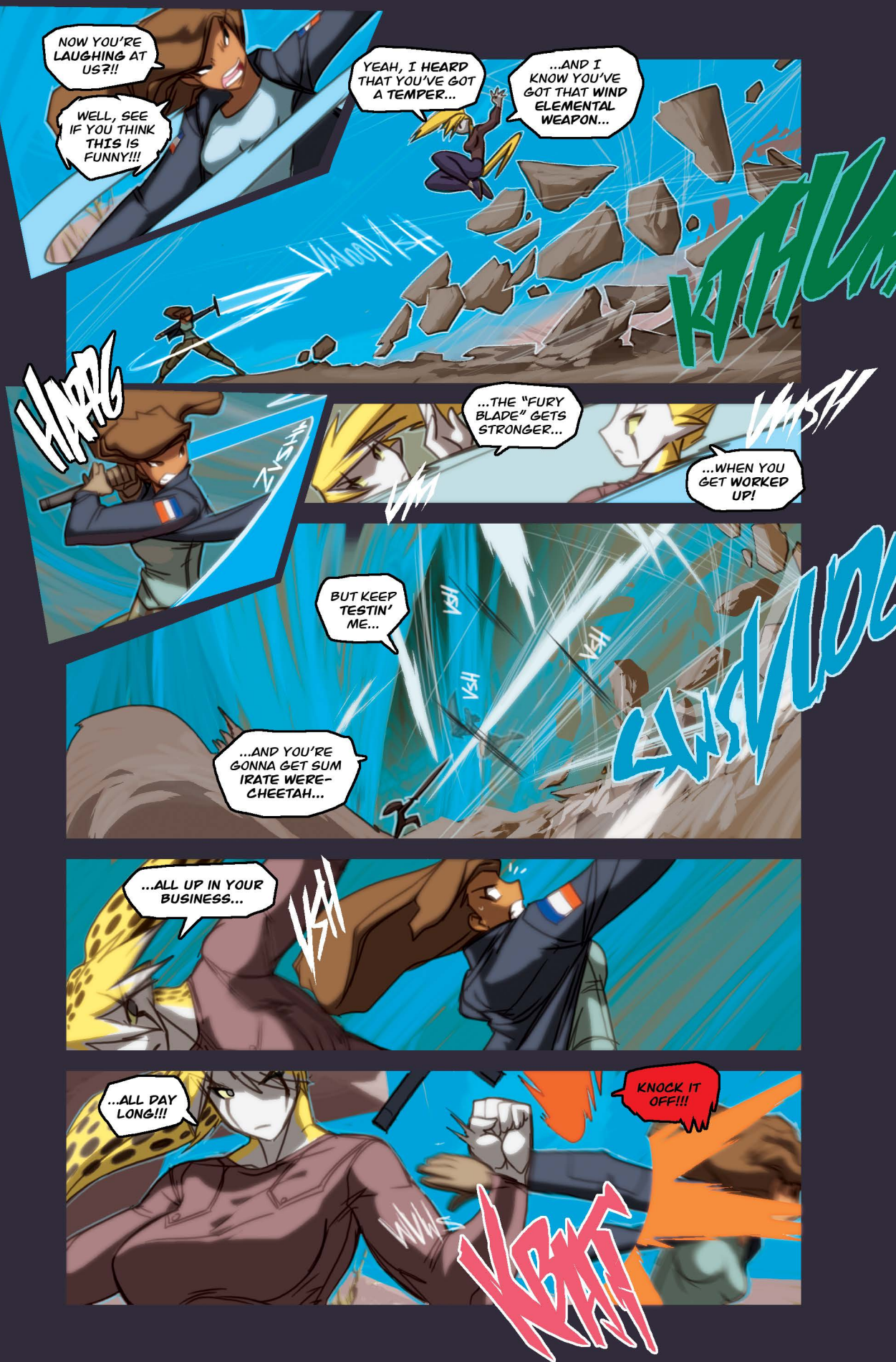
--MODE".

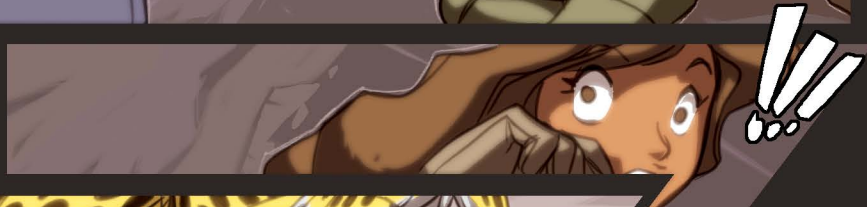


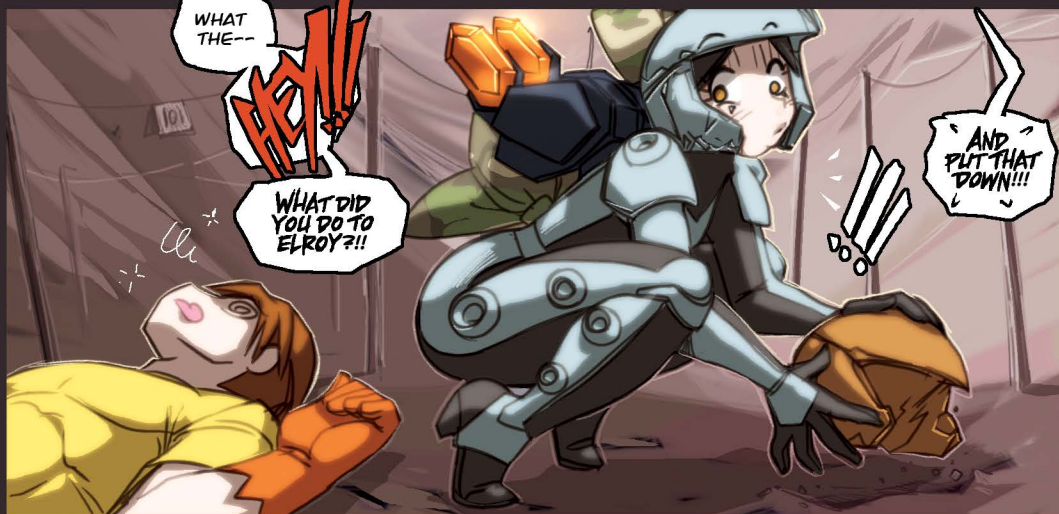
HFF
ZOINKS!

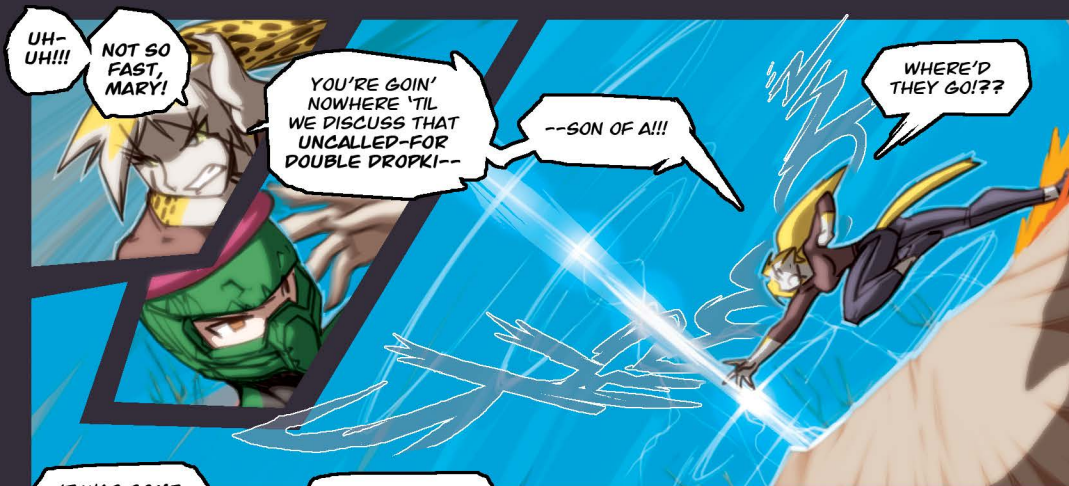












UH-UH!!!

NOT SO FAST, MARY!

YOU'RE GOIN' NOWHERE 'TIL WE DISCUSS THAT UNCALLED-FOR DOUBLE DROPKI--

--SON OF A!!!

WHERE'D THEY GO!??

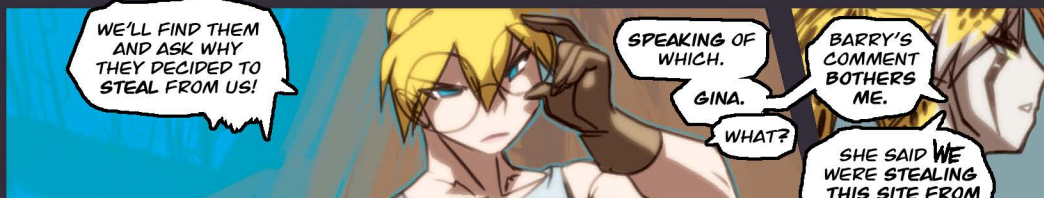
IT WAS SOME KIND OF TRANSPORT BEAM, BRITANNY!

FOCUSED DIRECTLY ON MARY AND RIE'S ARMOR PLUS ANYTHING THEY WERE TOUCHING!

MY SPECTACLES RECORDED THE EVENT!

I'LL GET TO MY COMPUTER AND ANALYZE A "JUMP TRACE"!

...



WE'LL FIND THEM AND ASK WHY THEY DECIDED TO STEAL FROM US!

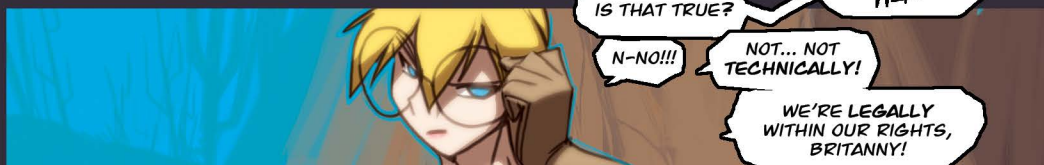
SPEAKING OF WHICH.

GINA.

WHAT?

BARRY'S COMMENT BOTHERS ME.

SHE SAID WE WERE STEALING THIS SITE FROM HER.

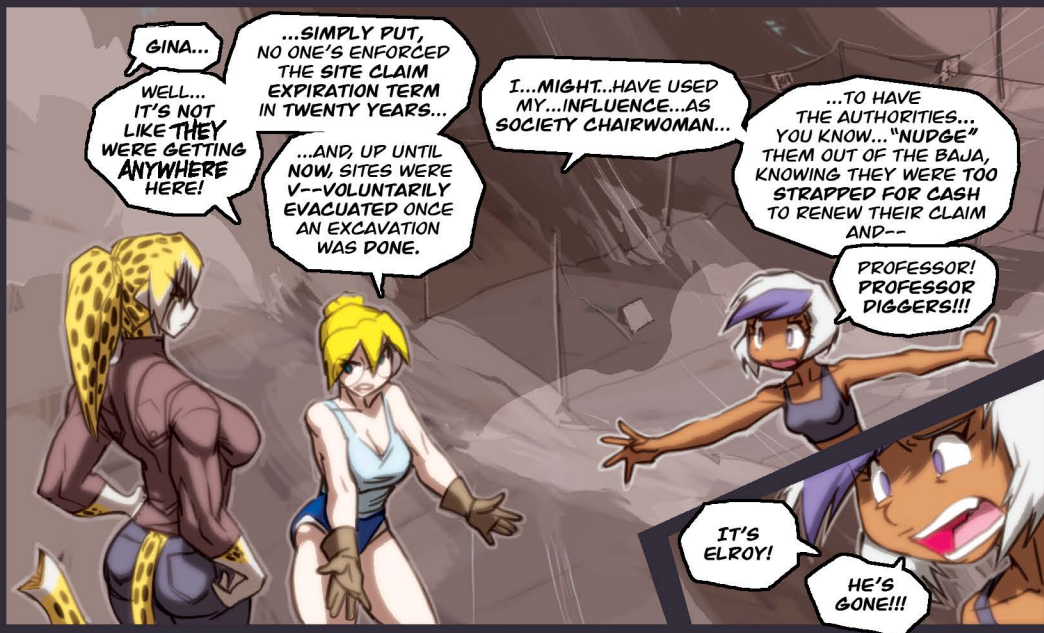


IS THAT TRUE?

N-NO!!!

NOT... NOT TECHNICALLY!

WE'RE LEGALLY WITHIN OUR RIGHTS, BRITANNY!



GINA...

WELL... IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE GETTING ANYWHERE HERE!

...SIMPLY PUT, NO ONE'S ENFORCED THE SITE CLAIM EXPIRATION TERM IN TWENTY YEARS...

...AND, UP UNTIL NOW, SITES WERE V--VOLUNTARILY EVACUATED ONCE AN EXCAVATION WAS DONE.

I...MIGHT...HAVE USED MY...INFLUENCE...AS SOCIETY CHAIRWOMAN...

...TO HAVE THE AUTHORITIES... YOU KNOW... "NUDGE" THEM OUT OF THE BAJA, KNOWING THEY WERE TOO STRAPPED FOR CASH TO RENEW THEIR CLAIM AND--

PROFESSOR! PROFESSOR DIGGERS!!!

IT'S ELROY!

HE'S GONE!!!



ELROY!

HE MUST HAVE BEEN
SNATCHED BY WHAT-
EVER TOOK BARRY,
MARY AND RIE!!!

DON'T WORRY,
KYLIE! WE'LL TRACK
THEM DOWN
IMMEDIATELY!

GOOD!



BECAUSE SOMEONE'S
GOTTA ASK THEM FOR
ACCEPTANCE FOR "A",
AN APOLOGY AND "B",
PERMISSION TO SHARE
THIS SITE!!!

...
PERHAPS.

BUT FIRST THINGS
FIRST, BRIT...

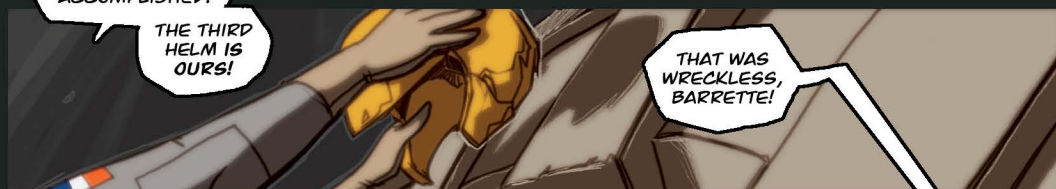


"...FIRST WE FIND
WHERE ON EARTH
DID THEY TAKE
ELROY!"

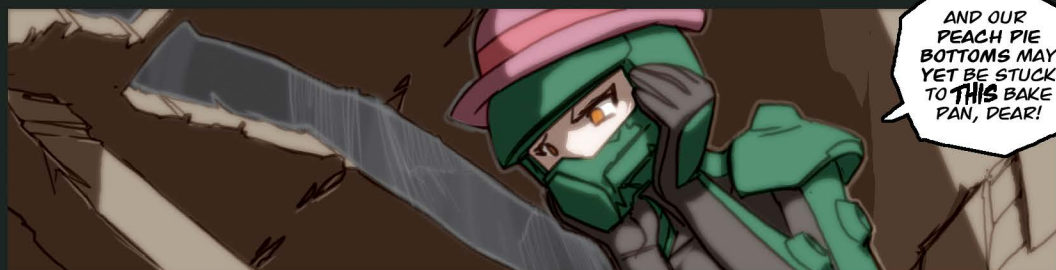
WHEW.
THAT WAS
CUTTING
IT PRETTY
CLOSE.

BUT... MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED!

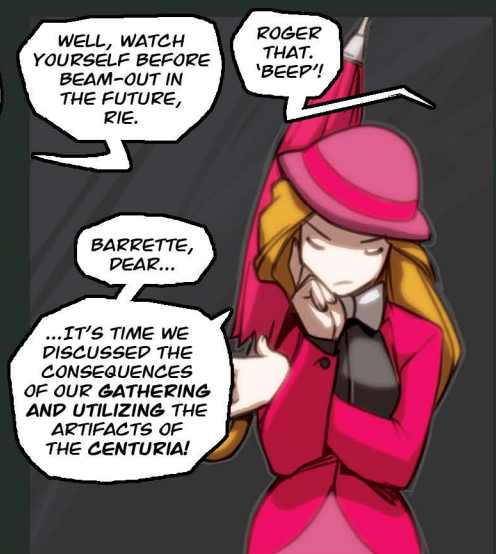
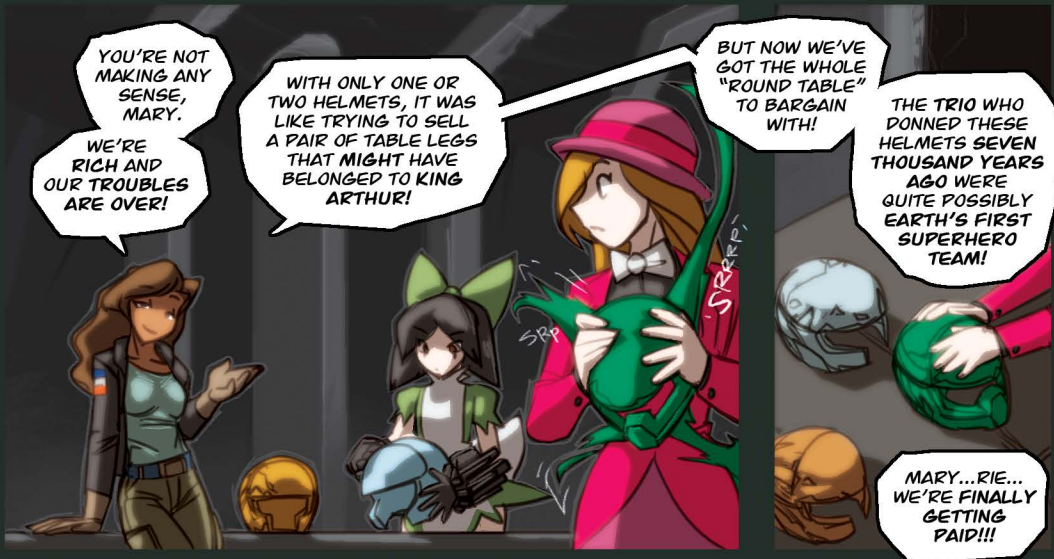
THE THIRD
HELM IS
OURS!

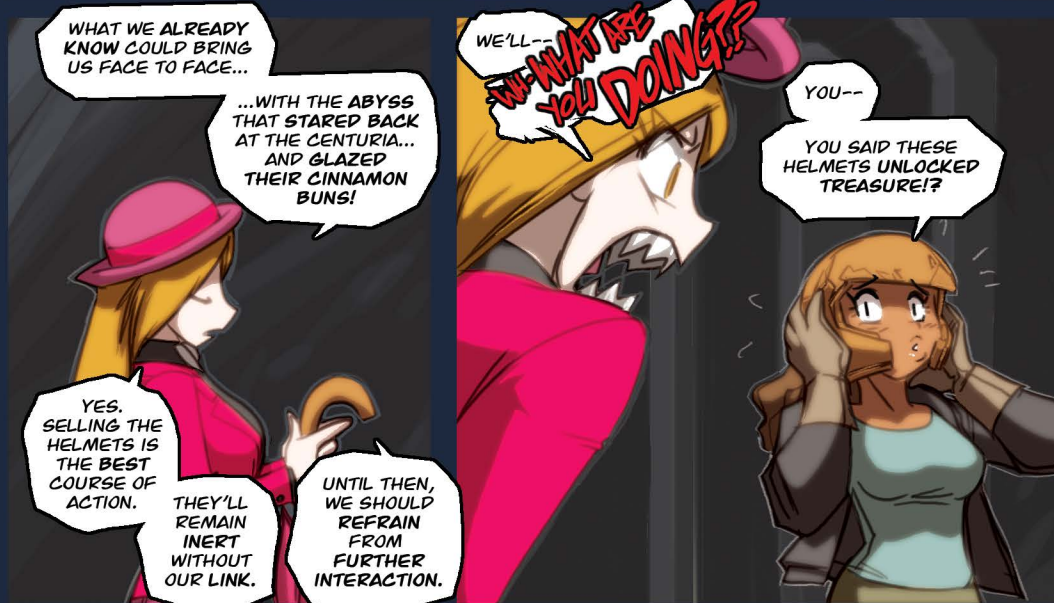
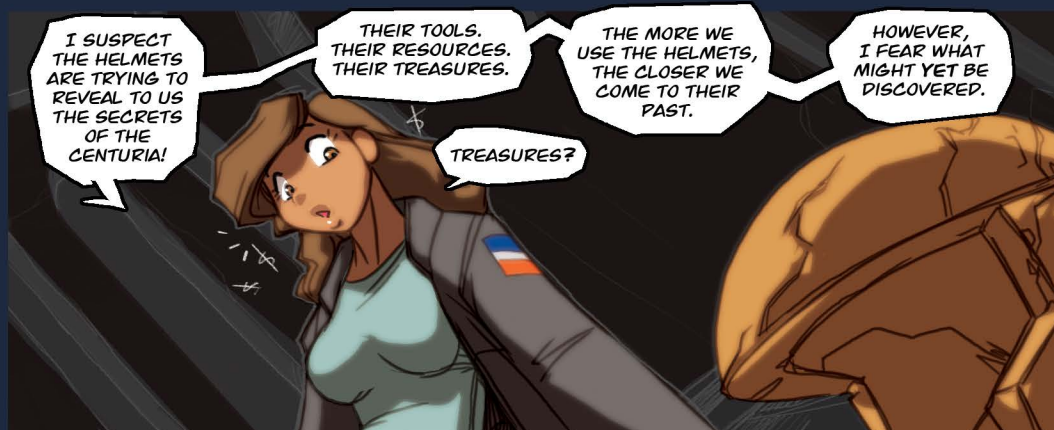
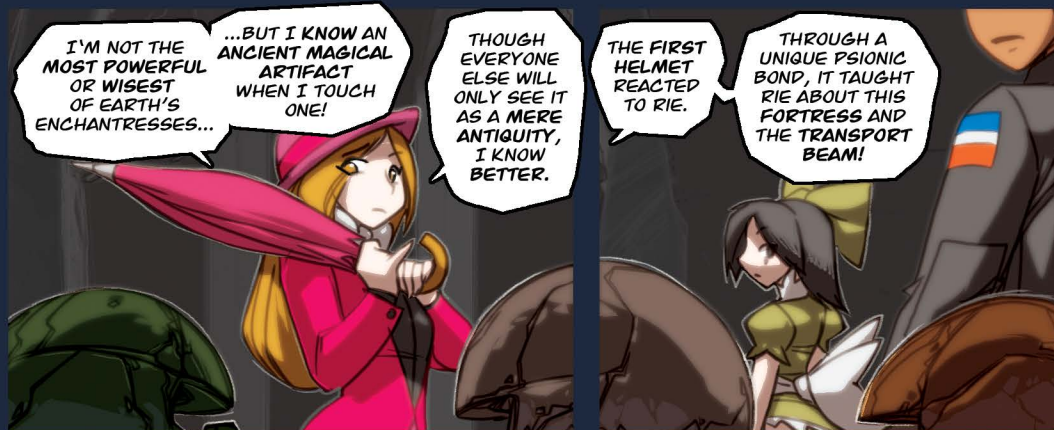


THAT WAS
WRECKLESS,
BARRETTE!



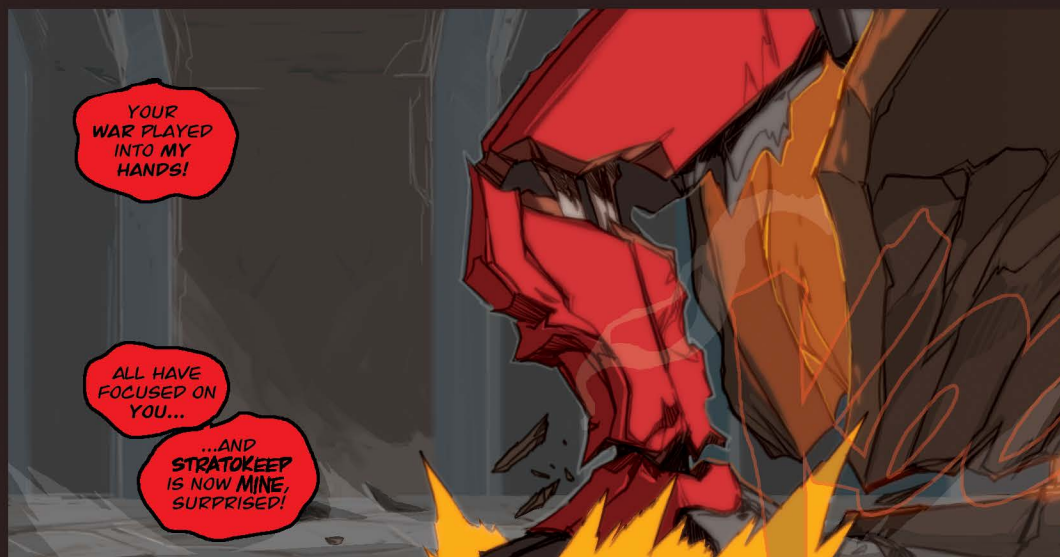
AND OUR PEACH PIE
BOTTOMS MAY
YET BE STUCK
TO THIS BAKE
PAN, DEAR!











YOUR
WAR PLAYED
INTO MY
HANDS!

ALL HAVE
FOCUSED ON
YOU...

...AND
STRATOKEEP
IS NOW MINE,
SURPRISED!



IT'S MIGHT
SHALL AUGMENT
MY OWN

WHO DARES!

--WHO DARES
ATTACK--

-A-MBUSH!!!
THEY WERE
EXPECTING
ME!!!



A RUSE!

I AM
DECIEV-D!!!

I AM
OVERWHELMED!!!

I AM...
DEAD...

WHY,
BARRETTE?

WHY DON'T
YOU EVER,
EVER LISTEN
TO ME?!

WELL, MARY...
IF YOU'VE GOT
AN **IDEA** OF HOW
TO DEAL WITH AN
UNDEAD, **SEVEN-**
THOUSAND-YEAR-
OLD DARK KNIGHT
WITH POST
TRAUMATIC STRESS
DISORDER,
I AM LISTENING
RIGHT NOW!!!

I WET
'EM!!!





D--EAD...

IT WAS YOU--



IT WAS YOU... WHO KILLED ME!

IT WAS YOU...

...CENTURIA!!!



MARY!!! MY SWORD!!!
SUMMON MY SWORD
FOR ME!!!

TODAY, MARY!
TODAY!!!

I'M SUMMONING
I'M SUMMONING!!!

GUN TARGET
LINE MARKED,
COPY? 'BEEP'.



...I GOT THIS!

STAND CLEAR...

TERMINAL
SHOCK

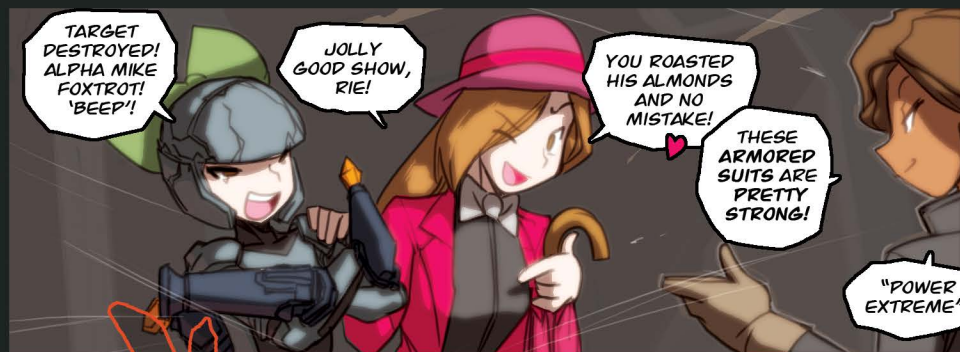
CLASH

SHOCK



YEAH!!!

THAT'S WHAT I WAS GONNA DO!!!



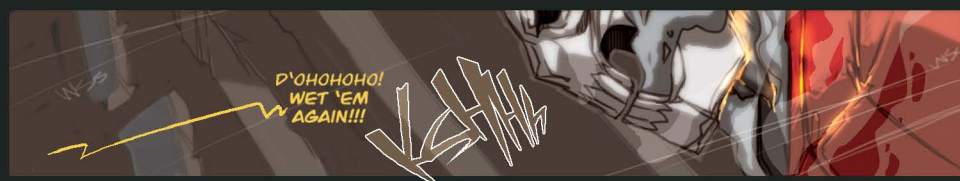
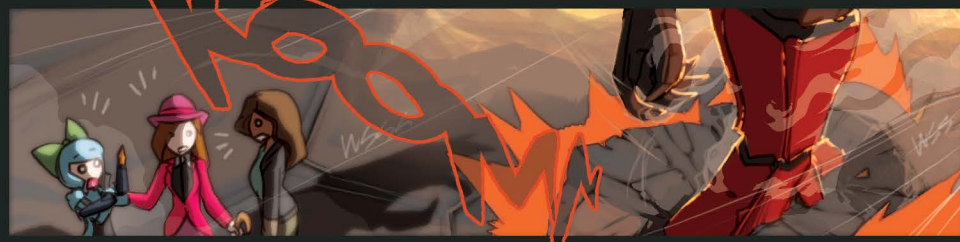
TARGET DESTROYED! ALPHA MIKE FOXTROT! 'BEEP'!

JOLLY GOOD SHOW, RIE!

YOU ROASTED HIS ALMONDS AND NO MISTAKE!

THESE ARMORED SUITS ARE PRETTY STRONG!

"POWER EXTREME"!



D'OHOOHOHO! WET 'EM AGAIN!!!



TH-THERE'S NOT EVEN A SCRATCH!

OIG, THIS IS RIE!

WHAT THE F--K? OVER. 'BEEP'!

DAMN... WHAT IS THAT THING!?

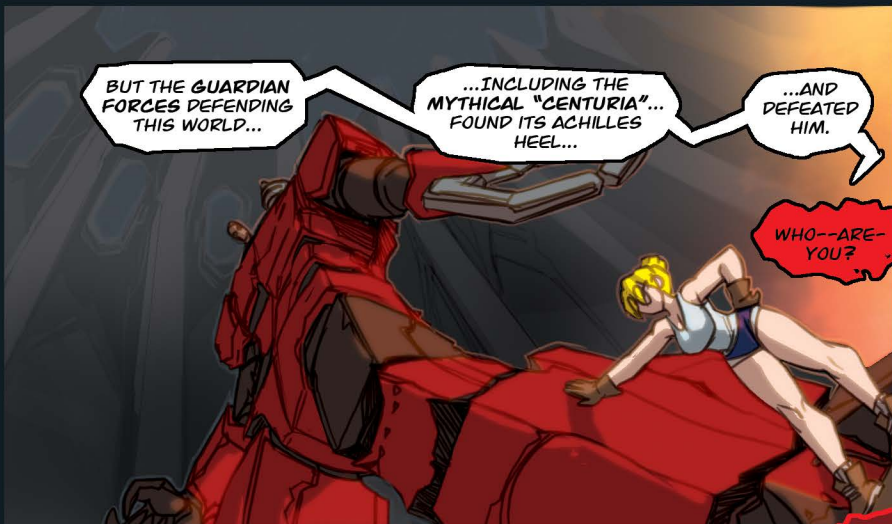
CRODROTRE'S A FIEND GOLEM OF THE ANCIENT WORLD'S WAR.



ONE OF THE FOES OF THE GAEA ALLIANCE, ACCORDING TO MY RESEARCH THUS FAR...

...AND ITS BODY WAS...IS... INDESTRUCTABLE!





BUT THE GUARDIAN
FORCES DEFENDING
THIS WORLD...

...INCLUDING THE
MYTHICAL "CENTURIA"...
FOUND ITS ACHILLES
HEEL...

...AND
DEFEATED
HIM.

WHO--ARE--
YOU?

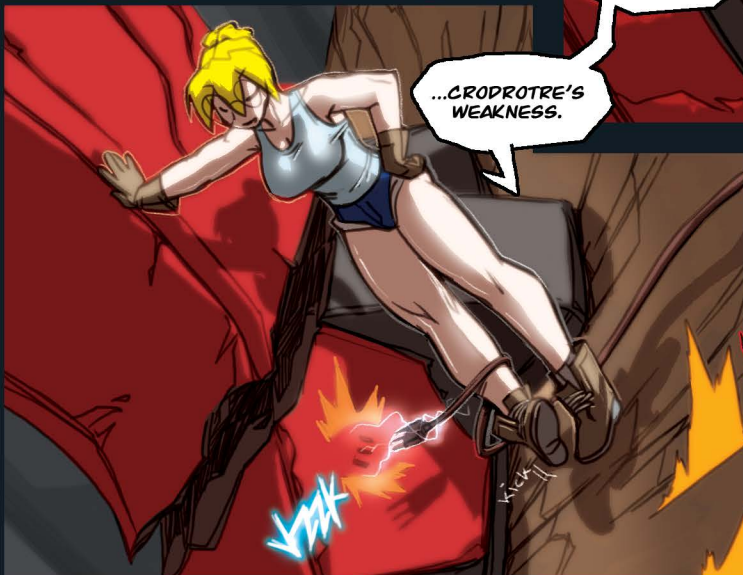


I'M THE SCIENTIST
WHO TRACED AND
DUPLICATED THIS
ANCIENT ORBITAL
FORTRESS'S
TELEPORT
BEAM!

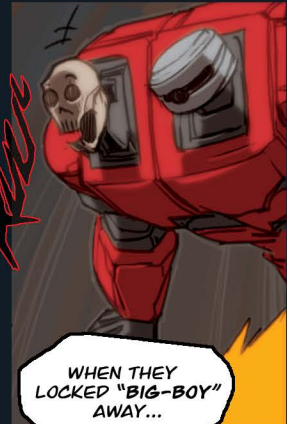
I'M THE
ARCHAEOLOGIST
WHO HAS RESEARCHED
ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY
ALL HER CAREER!

ORBITAL?!

AND I'M THE
ONE WHO JUST
RECENTLY
STUDIED...
AMONG OTHER
THINGS...



...CRODROTRE'S
WEAKNESS.



WHEN THEY
LOCKED "BIG-BOY"
AWAY...



...THEY KEPT HIS
POWER-GUZZLING
BUTT ON A SHORT
LEASH.



TSK.
I COULDA
DONE THAT.

GUYS.

CAN WE TALK
FOR A MINUTE?

I APOLOGIZE.

I ALL BUT
CHEATED YOU
OUT OF THE BAJA
EXCAVATION
SITE.

IT WAS BAD
FORM...ESPECIALLY
FOR THE EXPLORERS'
SOCIETY CHAIRPERSON...
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF YOUR FINACIAL
SITUATION.



YEAH, IT
WAS!

I APOLOGIZE.

WE'LL MOVE OUT
BY DAWN AND
STAY CLEAR
UNTIL YOU
FINISH.

YOU GUYS
WERE THERE
FIRST.

WELL... I
GUESS WE
SHOULD HAVE
TALKED INSTEAD
OF ATTACKED
YOU GUYS.

BUT, YEAH!
WE WERE
HERE FIRST!

WE--

--WE
DECLINE
YOUR OFFER
MADAME
CHAIRWOMAN

A TEAM CAN
ONLY CLAIM
ONE GEOGRAPHIC
SITE AT A TIME.

WE'RE DONE WITH
THE BAJA.

THIS STRUCTURE
IS OUR CURRENT
AREA.



WHAT!?

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, MARY?

BARRETTE, FOR THE LAST TIME...LISTEN TO M--

NO WAY! NO WAY WE'RE GIVIN' UP THAT SITE, MARY!

No Way

"PARALYZE."

GLK!!!

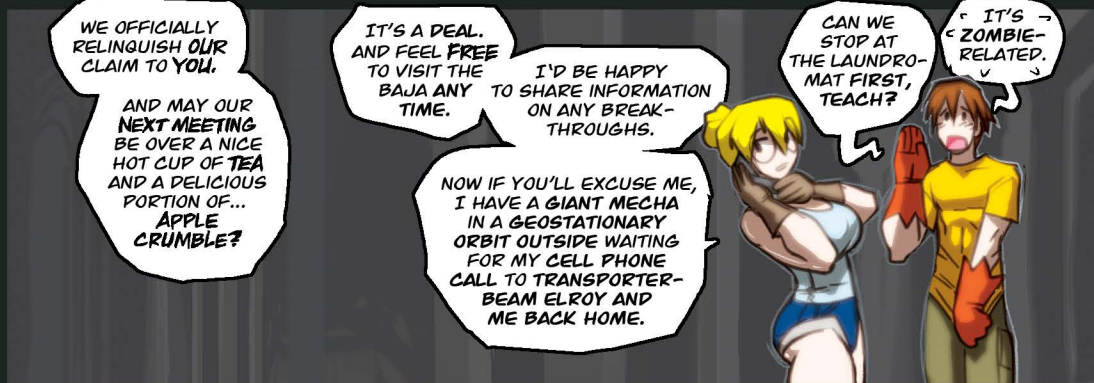


PLEASE FORGIVE BARRETTE, MADAME CHAIRWOMAN.

THE BAJA **IS** SENTIMENTAL TO US.

BUT IN ALL HONESTY, WE LACK YOUR **EXPERTISE**.

YOURS IS THE BEST TEAM FOR THAT JOB.



WE OFFICIALLY RELINQUISH OUR CLAIM TO YOU.

AND MAY OUR NEXT MEETING BE OVER A NICE HOT CUP OF TEA AND A DELICIOUS PORTION OF... **APPLE CRUMBLE?**

IT'S A DEAL. AND FEEL **FREE** TO VISIT THE BAJA ANY TIME.

I'D BE HAPPY TO SHARE INFORMATION ON ANY BREAK-THROUGHS.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A GIANT MECHA IN A GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT OUTSIDE WAITING FOR MY CELL PHONE CALL TO TRANSPORTER-BEAM ELROY AND ME BACK HOME.

CAN WE STOP AT THE LAUNDROMAT FIRST, TEACH?

IT'S - ZOMBIE-RELATED.



SOMETIMES, IT'S HARD FOR A CHAIRPERSON TO SEE HERSELF AS UNFAIR.

THANKS FOR STANDING UP FOR YOURSELVES.



WHAT THE HELL, MARY!?

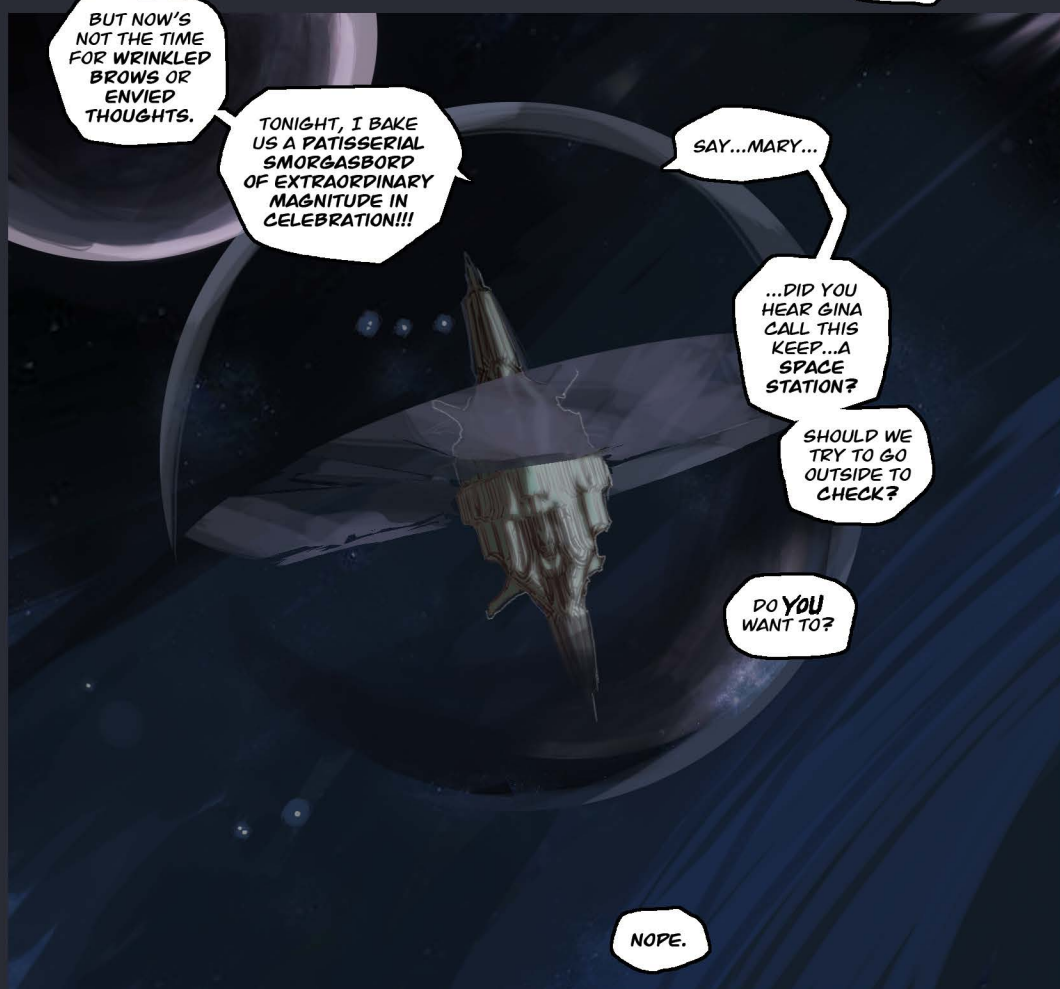
REMEMBER WHEN YOU DONNED THAT HELM?

YOU USED IT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THIS "STRATO-KEEP" TO UNLOCK A CACHE OF TREASURE.

AND IT DID!

BUT THE CACHE HAPPEND TO CONTAIN A PRISONER AS WELL. ♥

I SUPPOSE THE JAILERS RAN OUT OF CELLS DURING A FINAL EMERGENCY.



THEY'RE GONNA HAVE TO LOOK SOMETIME...