

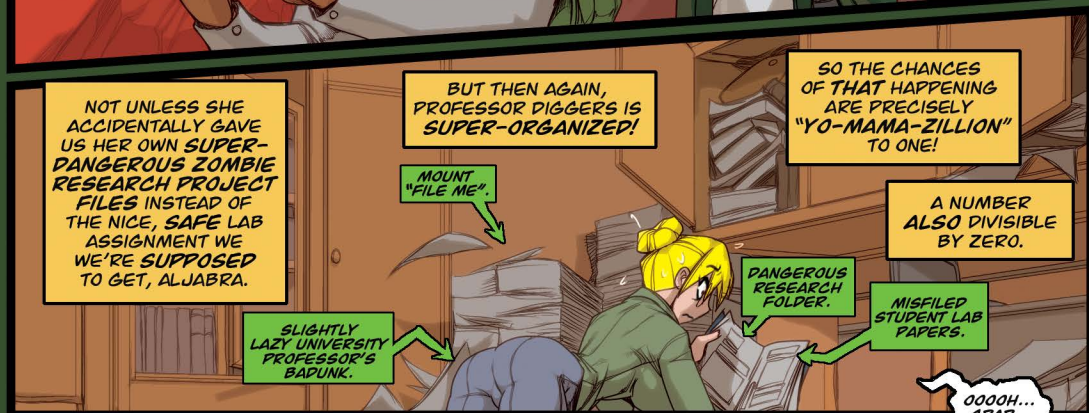


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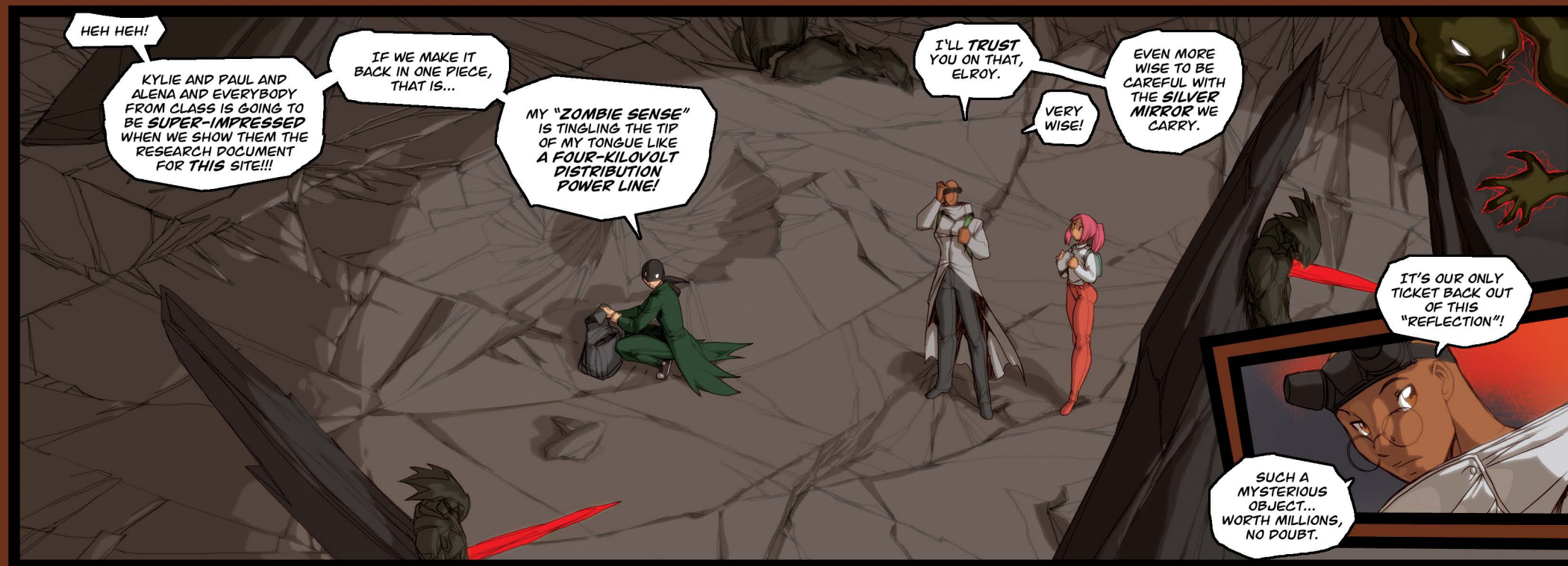
FRED PERRY

GOLD DIGGER









HEH HEH!

KYLIE AND PAUL AND ALENA AND EVERYBODY FROM CLASS IS GOING TO BE **SUPER-IMPRESSED** WHEN WE SHOW THEM THE RESEARCH DOCUMENT FOR THIS SITE!!!

IF WE MAKE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE, THAT IS...

MY "ZOMBIE SENSE" IS TINGLING THE TIP OF MY TONGUE LIKE A **FOUR-KILOVOLT DISTRIBUTION POWER LINE!**

I'LL **TRUST** YOU ON THAT, ELROY.

VERY WISE!

EVEN MORE WISE TO BE CAREFUL WITH THE **SILVER MIRROR** WE CARRY.

IT'S OUR ONLY TICKET BACK OUT OF THIS "REFLECTION"!

SUCH A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT... WORTH MILLIONS, NO DOUBT.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET IT, ALJABRA?

IS THE MIRROR PART OF YOUR ARTIFACT COLLECTION?

NUH-UH. I JUST **RECENTLY** ACQUIRED IT, ANTON.

WHEN WE FIRST GOT THE ASSIGNMENT, I WAS GETTIN' NOWHERE FAST.

THE ONLY THING **INTERESTIN'** I FOUND IN THE UNIVERSITY ANTHROPOLOGY ARCHIVES COVERING THE **SILVER MIRROR** OR "MYNOS SIEGE-WELD"...

...WAS THE SCHOOL'S RAGGEDY OLD MASCOT, "SEA BISCUIT"... DRESSED UP IN A **MOLDY HAT** AND **RAINCOAT**.

STUPID JOCKS ALWAYS SHOVIN' THAT HORSE IN THE LIBRARY TO MESS WITH US **SERIOUS STUDENTS!**

ANYWAY, THE NEXT MORNIN'...

...I GOT ME A PACKAGE ON MY DOOR-STEP!

ON IT WAS A NOTE... A WEIRD MESSAGE.

"SAVE HER."

INSIDE THE PACKAGE WAS THE **SILVER MIRROR!**

AND AFTER I GOT MY HANDS ON IT, ALL MY RESEARCH **CLICKED TOGETHER!**

STRANGE.

YOU'D BETTER PUT THE MIRROR AWAY FOR NOW, AL.

IT'S VITAL WE DON'T LOSE IT.

ROGER, DODGER!

ALL RIGHT.

THERE'S BUT ONE WAY TO FACILITATE AN EXPEDIENT SAMPLE DATA COLLECTION PROPERLY IN A REGION OF UNDISCOVERED HORROR!

LET'S SPLIT UP AND SEARCH FOR CLUES, GANG!

JOKING!

ONLY JOKING.

WE'RE STICKING TOGETHER LIKE A MOFO UP IN HERE, TO COIN A PHRASE.

HMM.

...
SORRY, GUYS.

NOT MUCH TO GO ON SO FAR.

MY MONSTER BANDPANA'S "ECHO SENSOR" IS USUALLY MUCH BETTER AT FINDING ODD STUFF THAN THIS.

IT'S OUR FIRST TIME TOGETHER ON A PROJECT, ELROY.

A GOOD CHANCE TO COMPARE OUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS.

FOR EXAMPLE, ALJABRA IS A CERTIFIED EXPERT ON ANTIQUES!

I'M ANXIOUS TO HEAR HER OPINION ON WHAT WE'VE FOUND SO FAR.

YEAH. WHAT'S THAT?

I HAD TO DIG INTO A PILE OF ZOMBIE BONES FOR IT WITH MY BARE HANDS!

IT'S JUST YOUR TYPICAL, RUN OF THE MILL, FIVE THOUSAND B.C. CELL PHONE, ELROY...

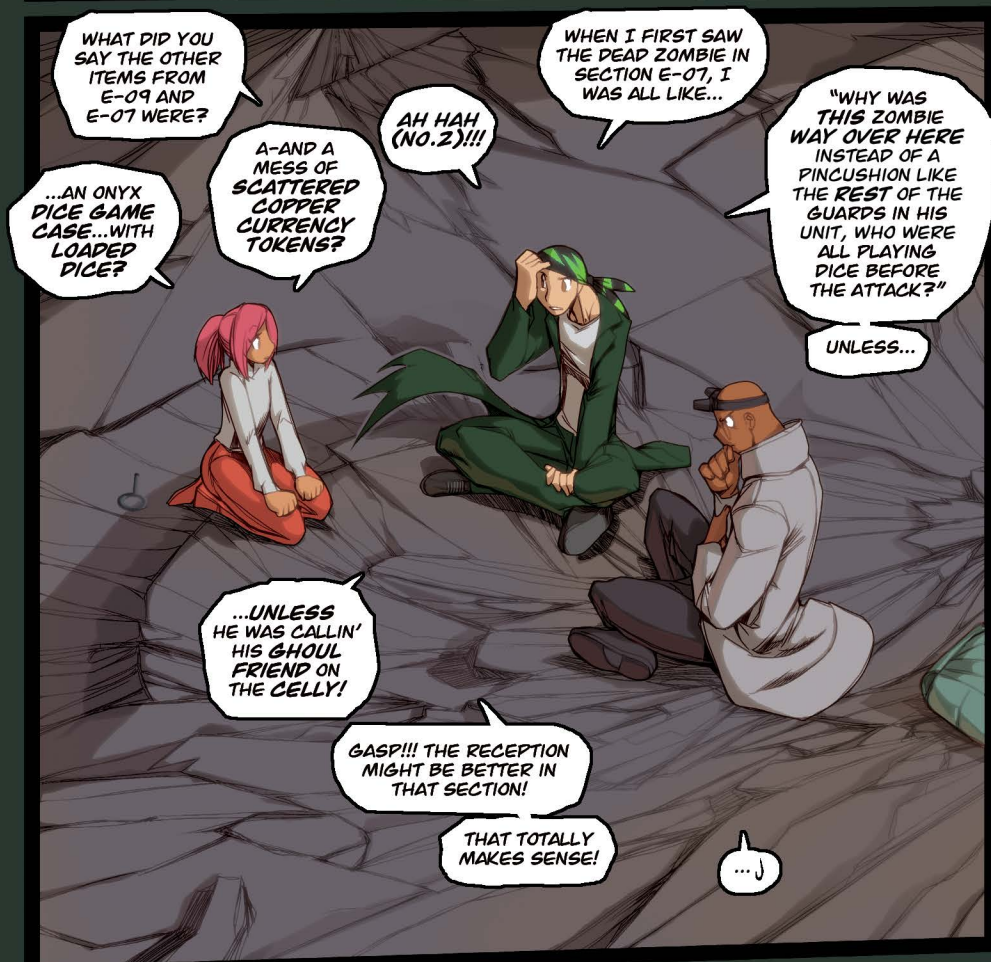
...AT FIRST GLANCE!

BUT, HERE'S THE RIDDLE.

THIS PHONE... HAS CALL FORWARDIN'!!!!

THERE'S NO RECORD OF ANY PREHISTORIC CELLULAR DEVICE WITH THAT FEATURE!

WEEIRD!





OKAY...
HERE'S
HOW IT
WENT
DOWN!

TWO PARTY CRASHERS
BENT ON VENGEANCE
SWOOPED INTO THIS FORTRESS'S
ZOMBIE BINGO NIGHT!

ONE OF THEM WAS
A PRIESTESS OR SOME
KIND OF QUEEN OF
PRISM MAGIC...

...THE ENERGY SHE
USED IN HER ATTACKS
RESONATES TO
THIS DAY!

MY MONSTER
BANDANA GIVES
ME PARANORMAL
PERCEPTION, SO I
CAN STILL TASTE
SOME RAINBOW
AROUND
HERE!

HER PARTNER
WAS SOME KINDA
PSI-BARD!

OR THE
PRISM QUEEN'S
PASTRY
CHEF.

HARD
TO TELL
WHICH!

BOTH ARE LETHAL
TO ZOMBIE WAR-
LORDS AT POINT-
BLANK RANGE!





FOR
EXAMPLE...

...MY SCANS INDICATE
THAT THERE ARE OVER
ONE THOUSAND INDIVIDUAL
SUITS OF **BRONZE ARMOR**
IN THIS ATRIUM.

...J

B-BUT...
WE ARE REAL
ARCHAEOLOGISTS,
ANTON.

EACH ONE
SEEMS TO--
THAT'S...
ODD.

A-ALL OF
THE SLAIN WORE
THE SAME TYPE
OF ARMOR?

ALL WERE
DAMAGED
FROM **SONIC**
DISRUPTION OR...
THOSE STRANGE
RED PHOTON
SPIKES.

THIS WAS...
A **MASSIVELY**
ONE-SIDED
FIGHT!

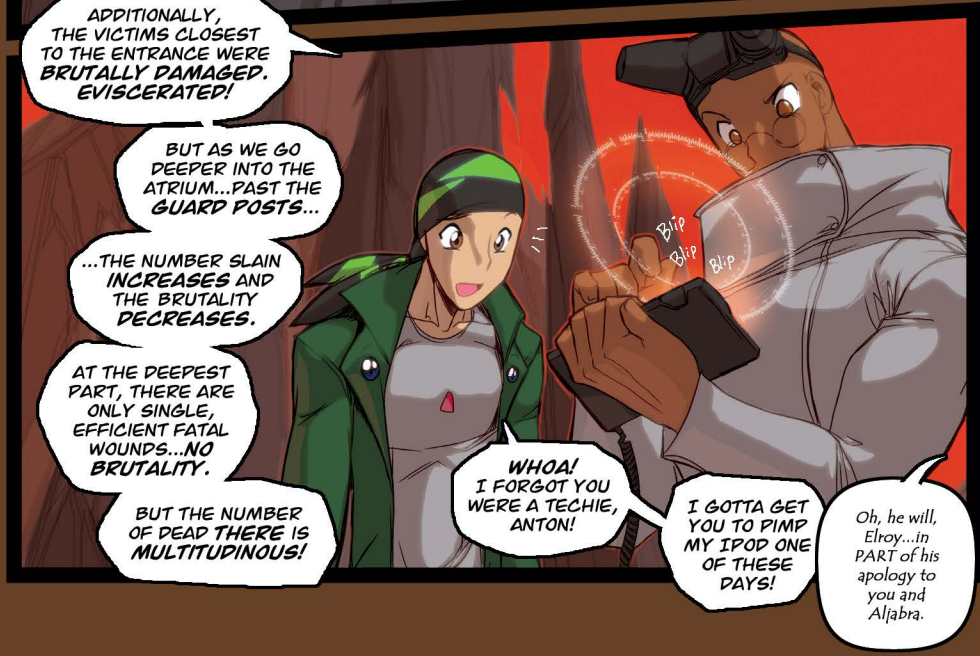
ADDITIONALLY,
THE VICTIMS CLOSEST
TO THE ENTRANCE WERE
BRUTALLY DAMAGED.
EVISцерATED!

BUT AS WE GO
DEEPER INTO THE
ATRIUM...PAST THE
GUARD POSTS...

...THE NUMBER SLAIN
INCREASES AND
THE **BRUTALITY**
DECREASES.

AT THE DEEPEST
PART, THERE ARE
ONLY SINGLE,
EFFICIENT FATAL
WOUNDS...**NO**
BRUTALITY.

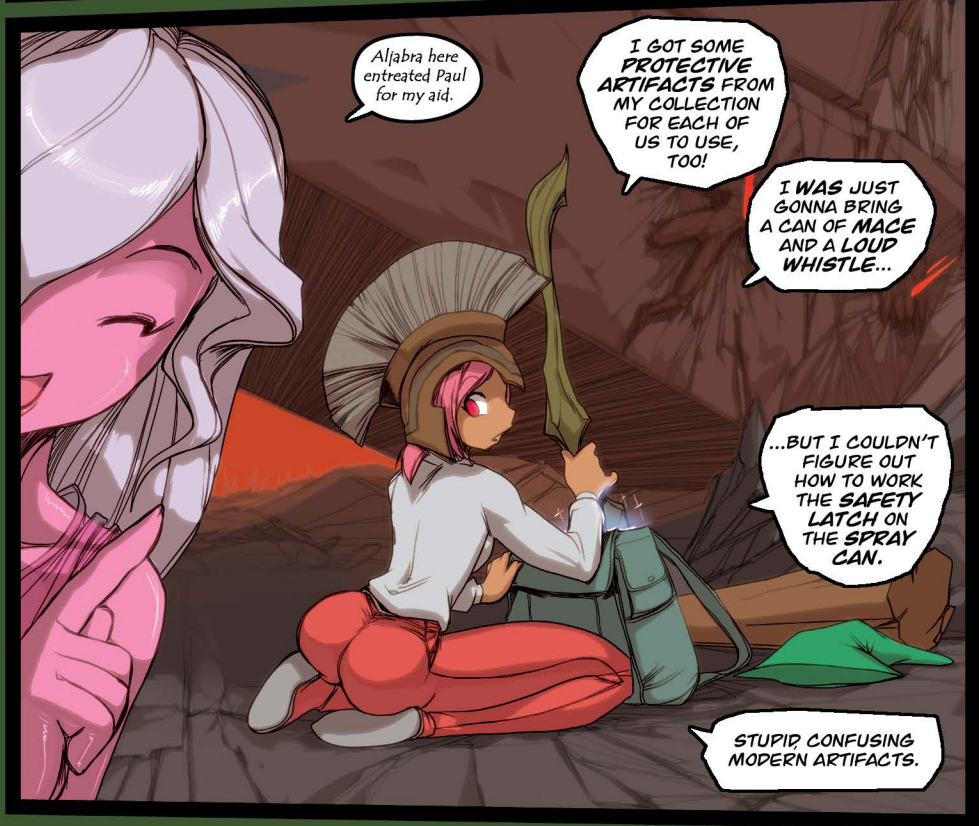
BUT THE NUMBER
OF DEAD THERE IS
MULTITUDINOUS!

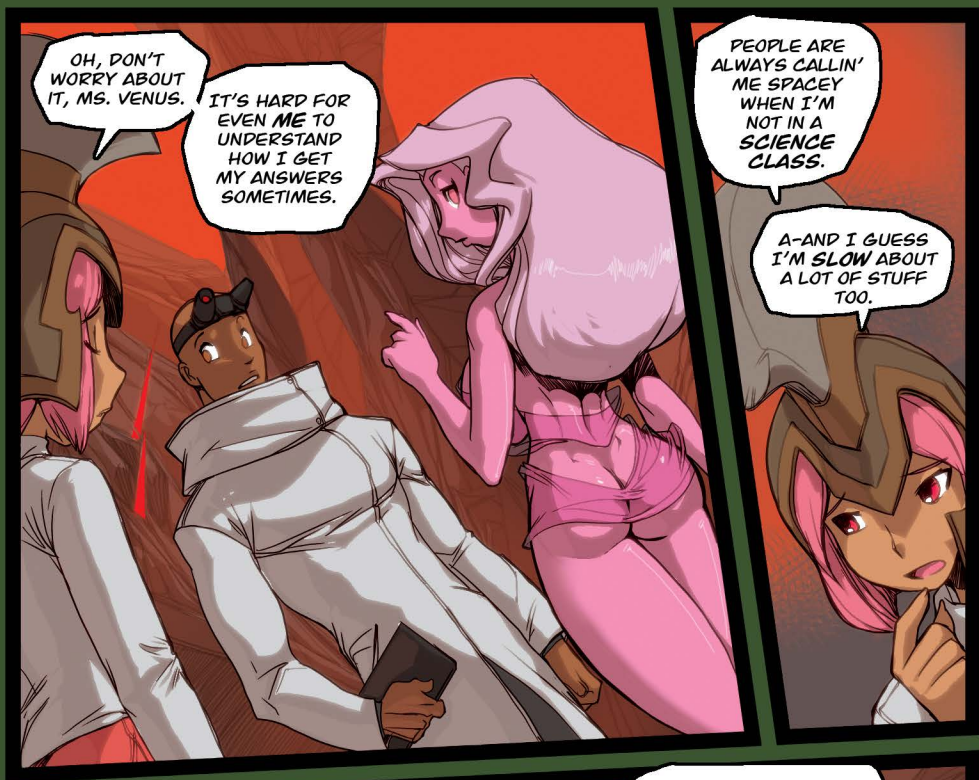


WHOA!
I FORGOT YOU
WERE A **TECHIE**,
ANTON!

I GOTTA GET
YOU TO **PIMP**
MY **IPOD** ONE
OF THESE
DAYS!

Oh, he will,
Elroy...in
PART of his
apology to
you and
Aljabria.





OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MS. VENUS.

IT'S HARD FOR EVEN ME TO UNDERSTAND HOW I GET MY ANSWERS SOMETIMES.

PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS CALLIN' ME SPACEY WHEN I'M NOT IN A SCIENCE CLASS.

A-AND I GUESS I'M SLOW ABOUT A LOT OF STUFF TOO.



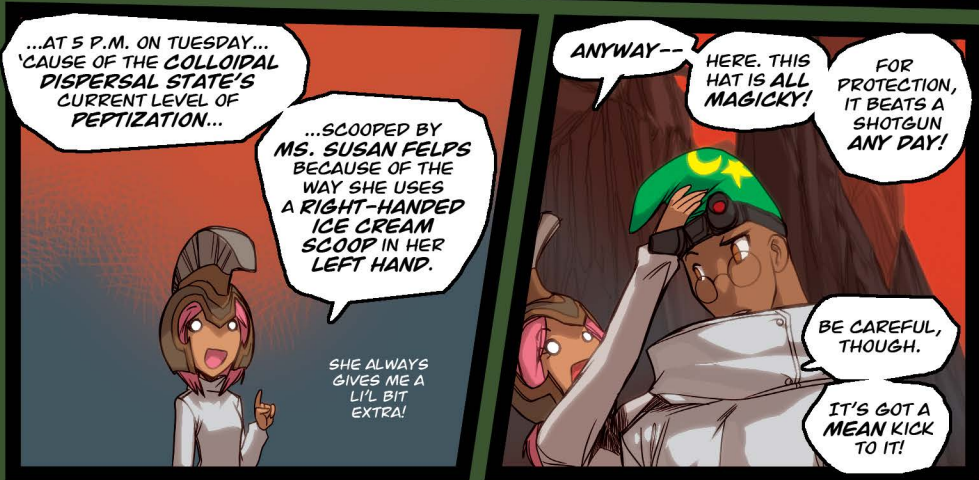
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT SOMETHING COMPLEX LIKE THAT ANCIENT CELL PHONE...

...OR SOMETHING SIMPLE LIKE A CARTON OF MILK...

...EVERYTHING SEEMS TO CLICK TOGETHER FOR ME.

I CAN SEE, SMELL AND TASTE EVERY ASPECT OF ITS MACROSCOPIC CHEMICAL SYSTEMS.

IT'S LIKE YOU TASTE AN ICE CREAM CONE AND JUST KNOW IT CAME FROM THE BASKIN ROBBINS ON EAST WICHITA ROAD BESIDE THE Q-MART!..



...AT 5 P.M. ON TUESDAY... 'CAUSE OF THE COLLOIDAL DISPERSAL STATE'S CURRENT LEVEL OF PEPTIZATION...

...SCOOPED BY MS. SUSAN FELPS BECAUSE OF THE WAY SHE USES A RIGHT-HANDED ICE CREAM SCOOP IN HER LEFT HAND.

SHE ALWAYS GIVES ME A L'L BIT EXTRA!

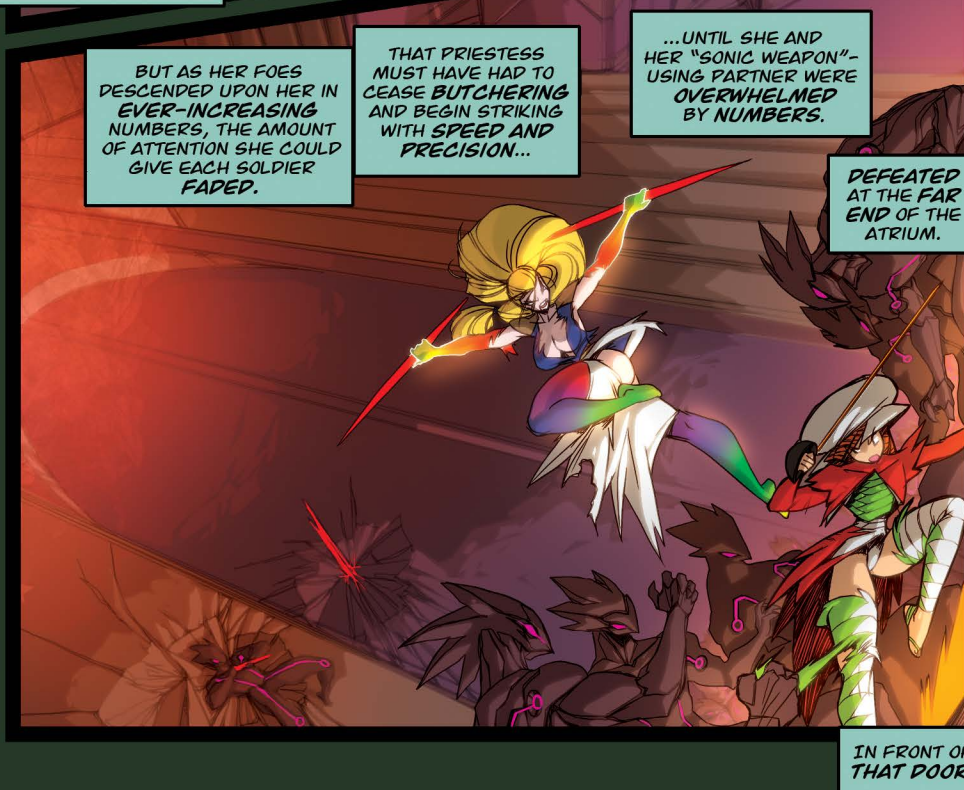
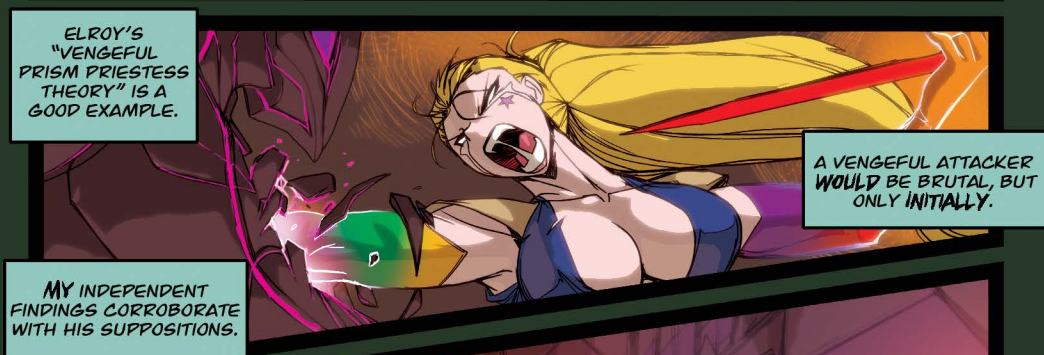
ANYWAY--

HERE. THIS HAT IS ALL MAGICKY!

FOR PROTECTION, IT BEATS A SHOTGUN ANY DAY!

BE CAREFUL, THOUGH.

IT'S GOT A MEAN KICK TO IT!





ULP...
WH--

--WHAT DO
YOU THINK'S
BEHIND
TH-THAT
DOOR?

**ZOMBIES!!!
WHAT ELSE!?!**



MORE LIKELY, WE'LL
HAVE TO CONTEND WITH
DEATH TRAPS, ELROY...
AND NOT TRAPPED
DEAD.

OOH! OOH!
I'LL GET THE
LOCK!

I'M A WIZ
AT PICKIN'
LOCKS WITH
TRAPS ON
'EM!

JUST LEMME
GET MY LOCK-
PICKIN' STUFF
OUT!

STAND
CLEAR!
♥



I don't
have that
much DIVINE
INFLUENCE
over SPIKED
PITS or
BLADED
PENDULUMS.

Thus, my role
shall be to
inspire and
encourage
your mortal
bravery...

...from
waaay
over
here. ♥

YOU'RE A
GODDESS OF
CHEERLEADING
TOO?

Aaaand
belly
dancing...
for your
information!



HM.

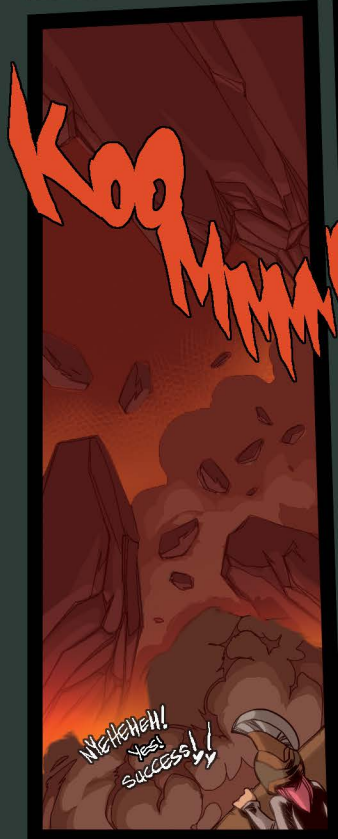
WAIT A MOMENT...
ALJABRA, DIDN'T
YOU SAY YOU
WEREN'T ANY
GOOD WITH
**MECHANICAL
LATCHES?**

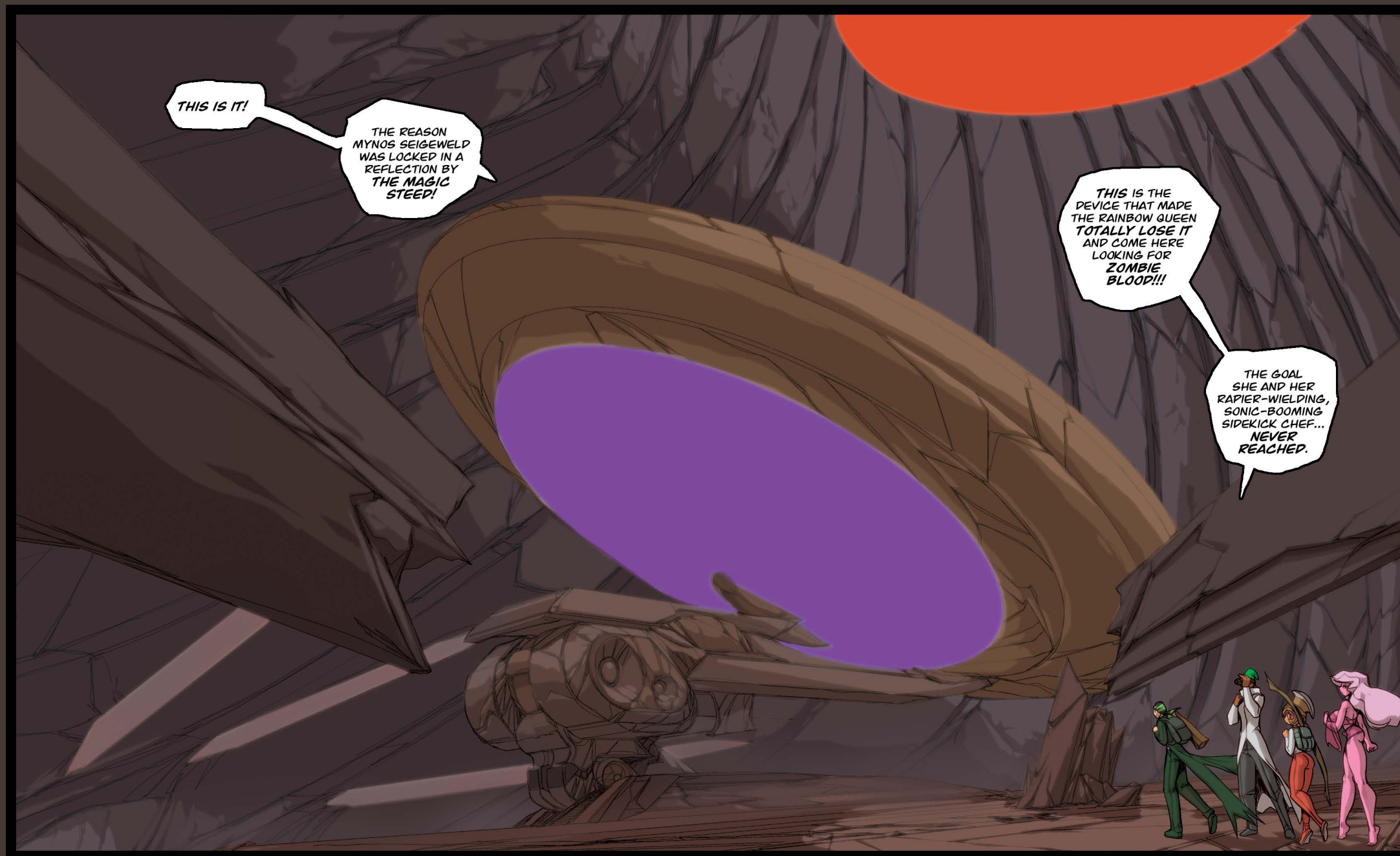
HOW ARE YOU
GOING TO PICK
AN ANCIENT
LOCK...

...WHEN YOU
CAN'T EVEN
HANDLE THE
SAFETY CATCH
ON A CAN OF
MACE?



HEE...





THIS IS IT!

THE REASON
MYNOS SEIGEWELD
WAS LOCKED IN A
REFLECTION BY
THE MAGIC
STEED!

THIS IS THE
DEVICE THAT MADE
THE RAINBOW QUEEN
TOTALLY LOSE IT
AND COME HERE
LOOKING FOR
ZOMBIE
BLOOD!!!

THE GOAL
SHE AND HER
RAPIER-WIELDING,
SONIC-BOOMING
SIDEKICK CHEF...
NEVER
REACHED.



THAT THING...

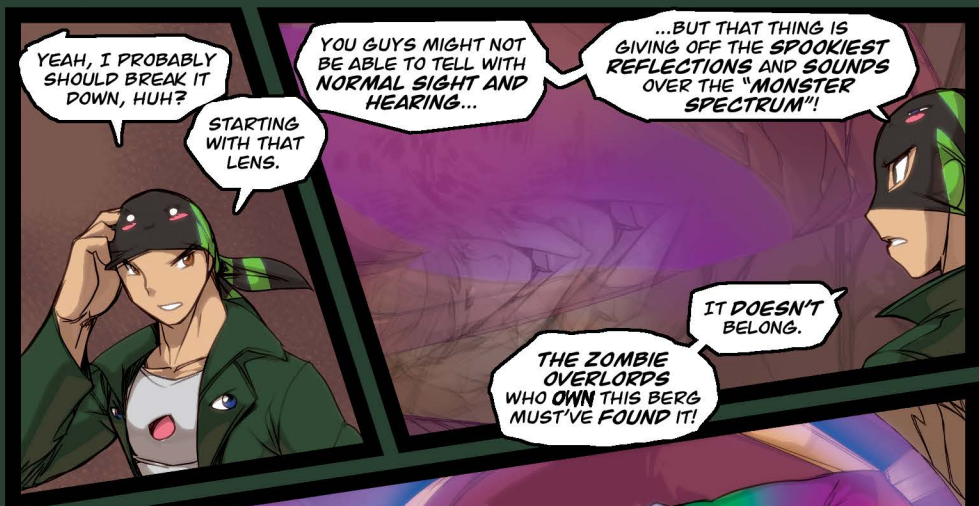
...DESTROYED
"RAINBOW
LAND"!

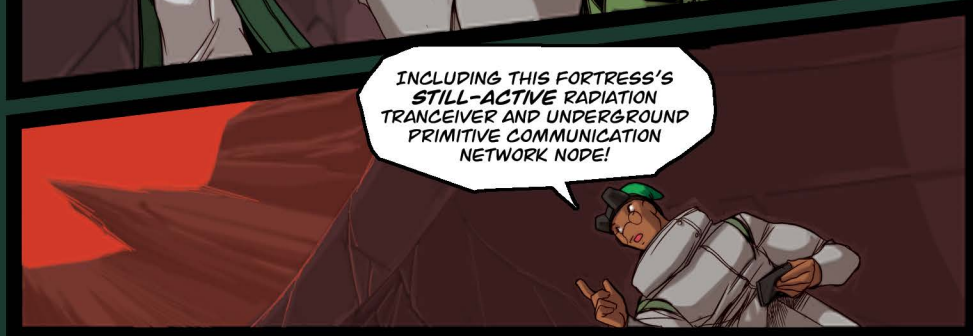
WH--WHAT
IN THE...

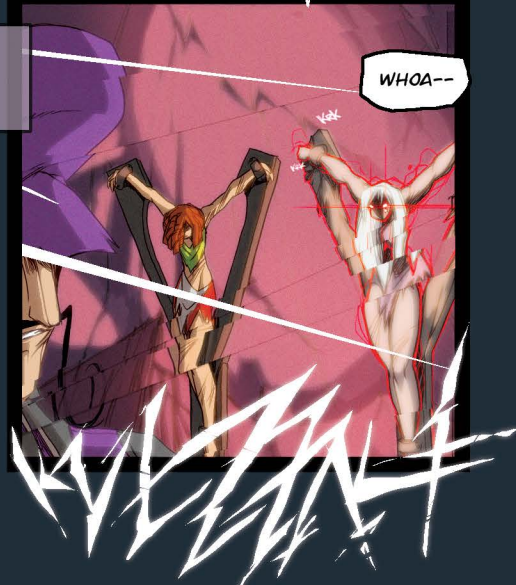
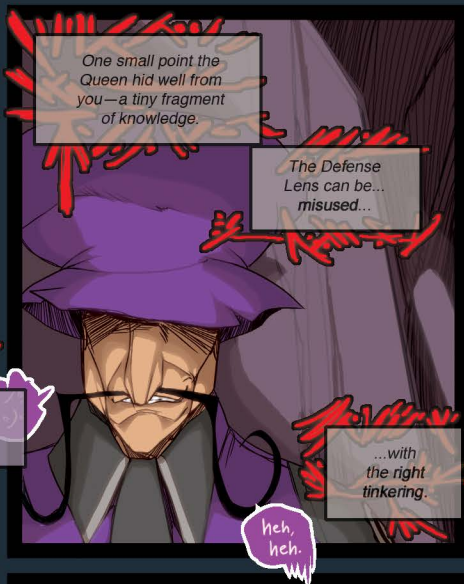
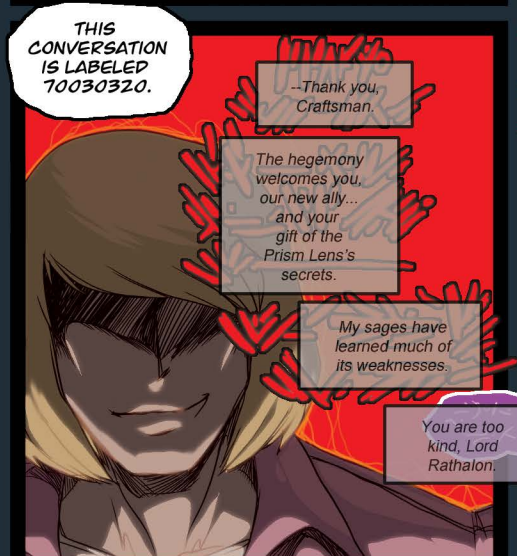
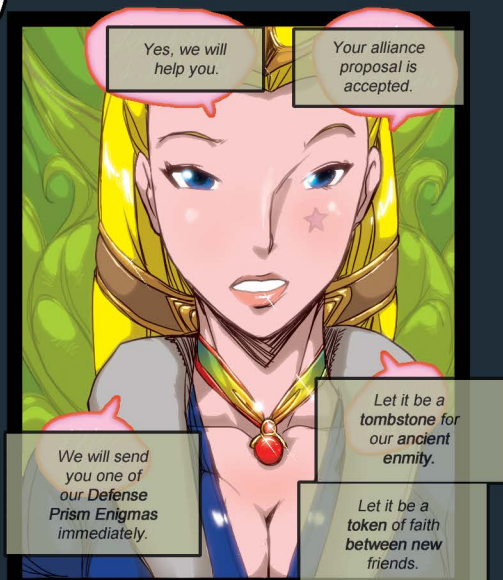
"MAGIC
STEED"?
"RAINBOW
LAND"?

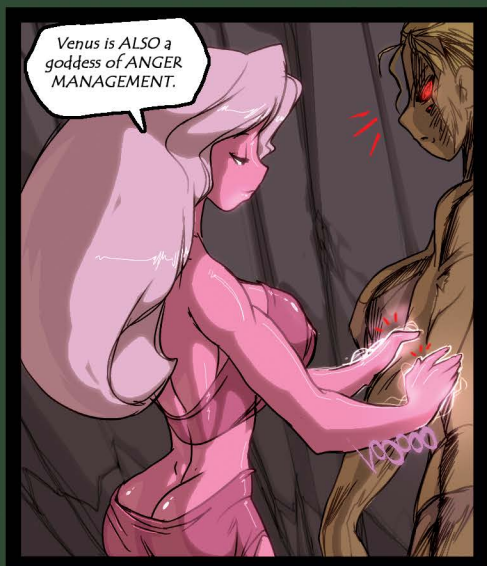
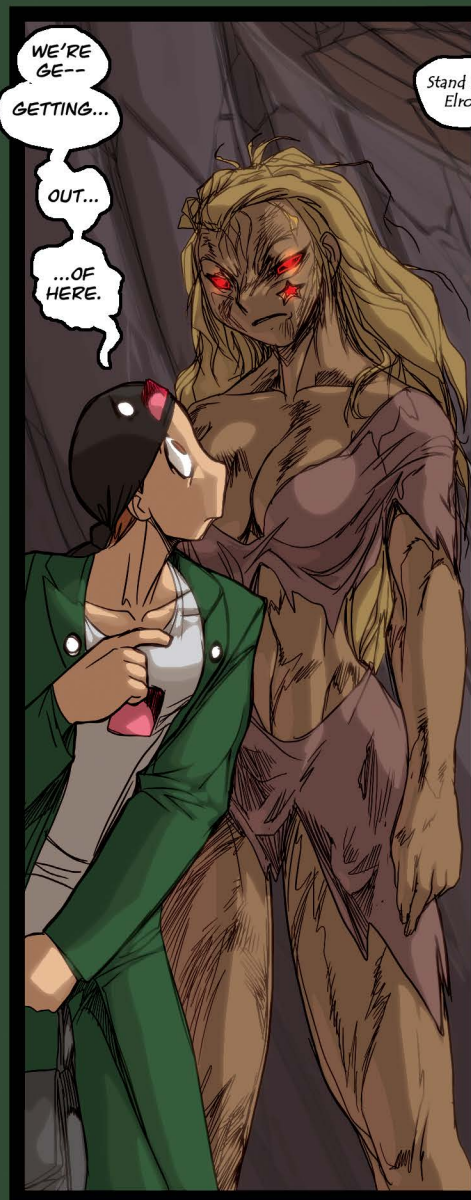
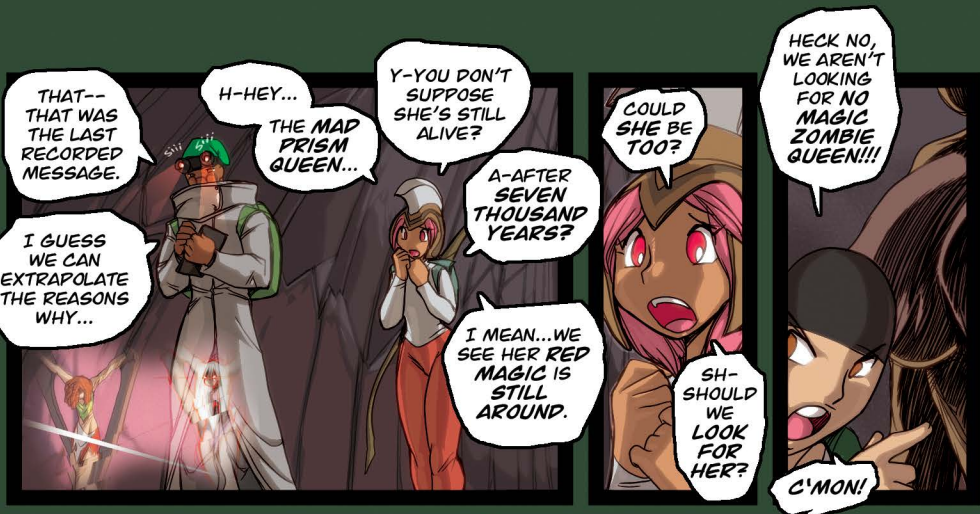
ER...
ELROY?

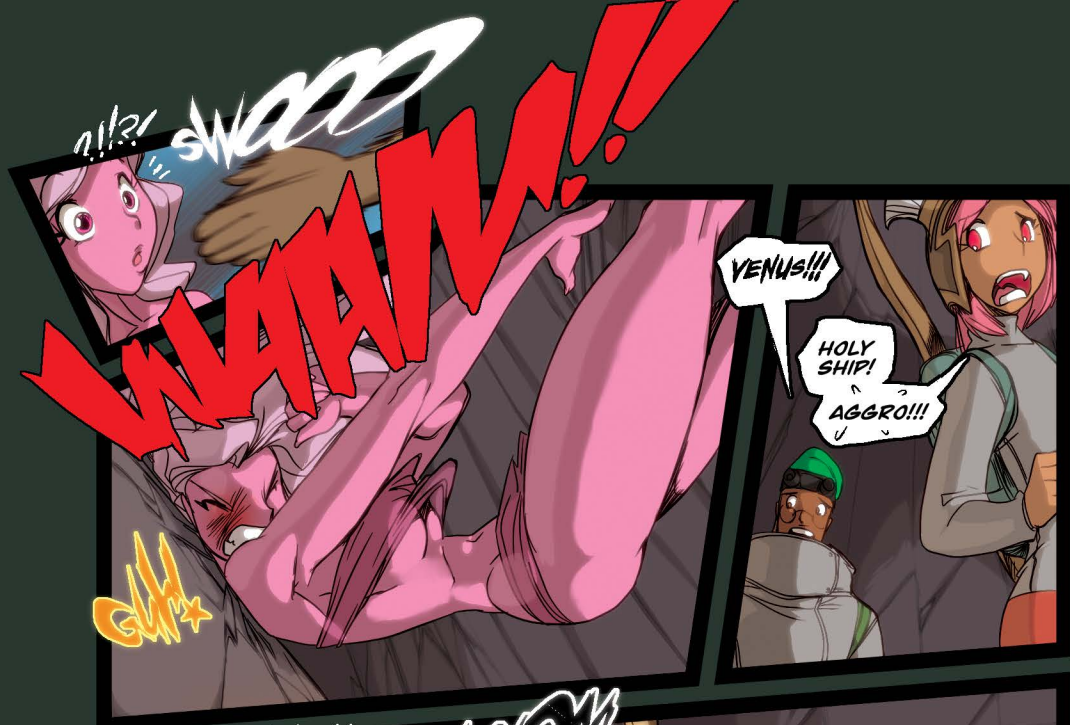
CARE TO
ELUCIDATE?









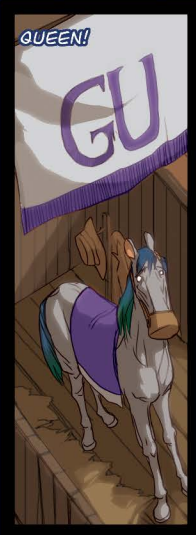




TO LOSE YOURSELF FOR SO LONG...

...NOTHING ELSE WOULD MATTER, EXCEPT A "MAP"...

...WITH A LITTLE SIGN THAT READS "YOU ARE HERE".



QUEEN!

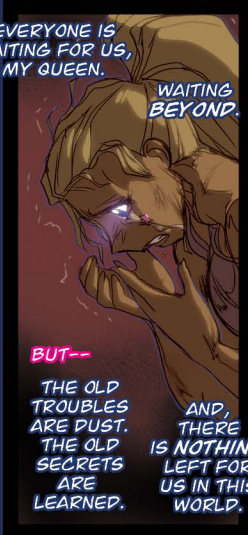
GU



MY QUEEN.

H-HOW LONG... HAVE I...

IT MATTERS NOT.



EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR US, MY QUEEN.

WAITING BEYOND.

BUT--

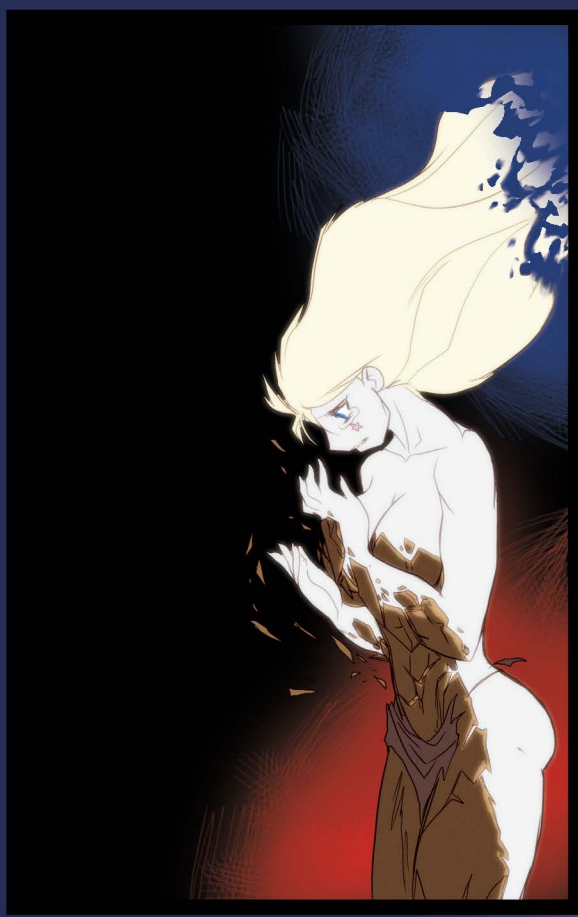
THE OLD TROUBLES ARE DUST. THE OLD SECRETS ARE LEARNED.

AND, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR US IN THIS WORLD.



EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR US, MY QUEEN.

WAITING... BEYOND.



...
OKAY.

LET'S START WRITIN' THIS LAB'S PAPER.