



JUN 12 #141
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FRED PERRY

GOLD DIGGER



JUNE 2012



TSK&
WONDERFUL!

THE SKY'S FALLING!
OUR WORLD'S
LITERALLY
CRUMBLING ALL
AROUND US!

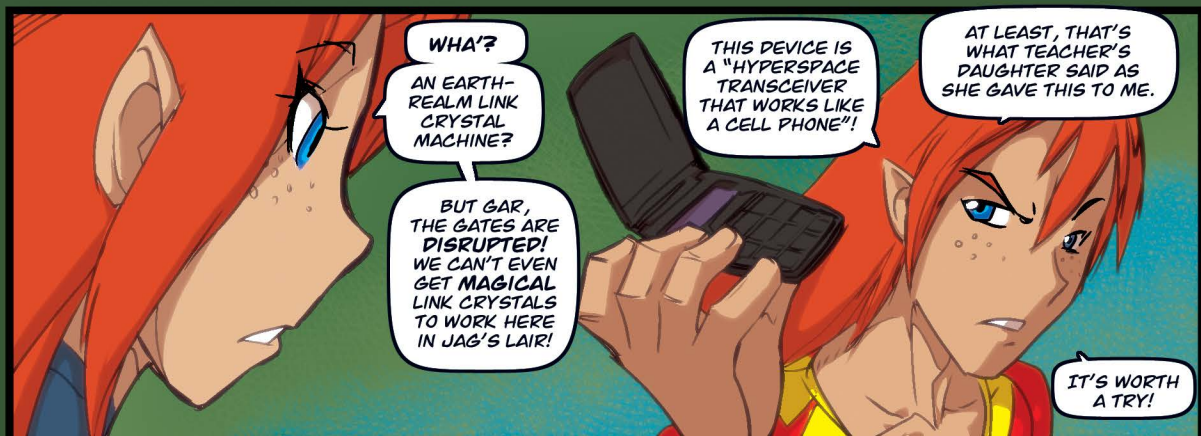
AND I SEE
MY GOOD OLD,
RELIABLE BIG
BROTHER RACE
HOME LIKE HE'S
GOT A BRILLIANT
IDEA FOR HOW TO
SAVE JAG'S
LAIR...

...ONLY TO FIND HIM GOING
THROUGH HIS OLD LAUNDRY
BAG BECAUSE MOM AND
DAD ARE HERE, AND THEY
ALWAYS SAID, "IF YOU'RE
GONNA MEET YOUR DOOM,
MAKE SURE YOU GOT ON A
CLEAN PAIR OF UNDIES!"

I DO HAVE A
PLAN, SHEILA.

I DID RUN HOME
BECAUSE IT WAS
BRILLIANT.

AND I'M WEARING
ENCHANTED BOXERS THAT
CLEAN THEMSELVES!



WHA'?

AN EARTH-
REALM LINK
CRYSTAL
MACHINE?

BUT GAR,
THE GATES ARE
DISRUPTED!
WE CAN'T EVEN
GET MAGICAL
LINK CRYSTALS
TO WORK HERE
IN JAG'S LAIR!

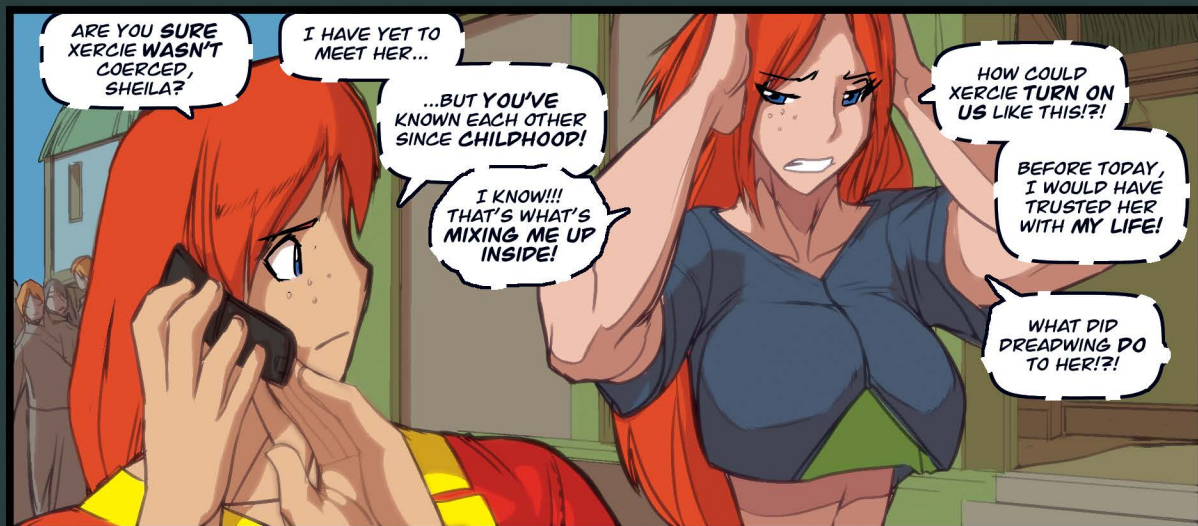
THIS DEVICE IS A
"HYPERSPACE
TRANSCIVER
THAT WORKS LIKE
A CELL PHONE"!

AT LEAST, THAT'S
WHAT TEACHER'S
DAUGHTER SAID AS
SHE GAVE THIS TO ME.

IT'S WORTH
A TRY!

THE ASTRAL RIFTS' UNCHARTED REGION: "MAHNPAHRA"
NYZULE ISLAND EXPEDITION







WHERE IS EVERYBODY GOING?

TO THE UNDERSEA DRUID GLADE.

A SECRET SHELTER CONSTRUCTED FOR JUST SUCH EMERGENCIES AS THE ONE OCCURRING TODAY.

ELDER SILVEAR HAS THE RIGHT OF IT.

YOU LEAVE THE TASK OF PRESERVING THE FOLK OF JAG'S LAIR TO US...

...WHILE WE LEAVE THE TASK OF PRESERVING OUR FUTURE TO YOU!



DAD!? TEACHER STONTAIL?

MISTER AND MRS. STONTAIL HAVE JUST ARRIVED FROM THE WESTERN HILL MAGIC OBSERVATORY!

WITH DIRE NEWS, I'M AFRAID!

WE SENT RUNNERS TO ALL OF THE OTHER VILLAGE ELDER SYNODS...

...BUT WE CAME HERE DIRECTLY TO BRIEF OUR LUMINARY GUARDIANS.

WHO, US!?

IS THIS ABOUT PREADWING?



ABOUT HIS SABOTAGE!!!

YOU'RE AWARE OF HIS INVASION, BUT NOT OF ITS NATURE!

NOR ARE YOU AWARE OF THE IRRESISTIBLE, ETHEREAL "BREAD CRUMBS" HE'S TRAILED TO OUR DIMENSIONAL DOORSTEP!!!

AND WHAT ENTITIES THOSE "BREAD CRUMBS" HAVE ATTRACTED!

OOPS! I'M SUCH A BUTTER-FINGERS!!!

THERE ARE PLANAR HORRORS CIRCLING LIKE SHARKS IN THE REALM VEIL!

THEY ACT LIKE SOMETHING VALUABLE AND UNPROTECTED WAITS HERE, AND THEY WANT IT BADLY!

SOME'N' 'ROUND HERE SMELLS GOOOOOP!!!



IT'S STARTING!!!

OUR PLANAR FABRIC IS BEING BATTERED FROM THE ASTRAL RIFTS BY THOSE PREDATORS!!!

THE PHYSICAL POINT OF WEAKNESS MUST BE SOMEWHERE INSIDE THE COUNCILOR'S MANSE!

BUT BY SEALING JAG'S LAIR TO KEEP US FROM WARNING THE REST OF JADE-REALM, DREADWING MIGHT HAVE ACCIDENTALLY BOUGHT US SOME TIME TO TURN THE TABLES!



I'VE DRAWN THESE GUIDE SCROLLS TO MAP A NEW PATH I SPIED THROUGH THE RIFTS!

FROM MY OBSERVATORY, I SAW THAT THIS PATH LEADS FROM JAG'S LAIR RIGHT INTO A HIDDEN MANA VAULT OF TITANIC PROPORTIONS!

THAT VAULT MUST BE DREADWING'S TREASURE HOARD!

THE TRUE ORIGIN POINT OF THOSE "BREAD CRUMBS"!

SO... ALL WE NEED...

...IS A PAIR OF HEROES TO SLIP PAST THOSE PLANAR HORRORS AND LEAD THEM TO DREADWING'S HOARD WHEN THE FIRST BREACH IS MADE!



HEROES TRAINED TO HANDLE ENTIES CAPABLE OF THREATENING JADE-REALM ITSELF.

WE'RE ON EDGE-GUARD DUTY AGAIN, SHEILA.

BETTER CHANGE OUT OF "FORMAL ATTIRE..."

...AND INTO OUR "WORK CLOTHES".

YOU'RE RIGHT, BIG BROTHER!

AS MUCH AS I LIKE HAVING MY MUSCLES...

...MY HYBRID FORM CAN HANDLE US GETTING KAPOWIED A WHOLE LOT BETTER!*

(AND WE'RE DEFINITELY GETTING KAPOWIED ON THIS ONE!)

SHEILA'S WERE-JAGUAR AURA WAS IMPROPERLY DEVELOPED AS A YOUNG CHILD. HER STRENGTH AND SIZE DEVELOPED IN HER HUMAN BODY INSTEAD OF HER HYBRID FORM!

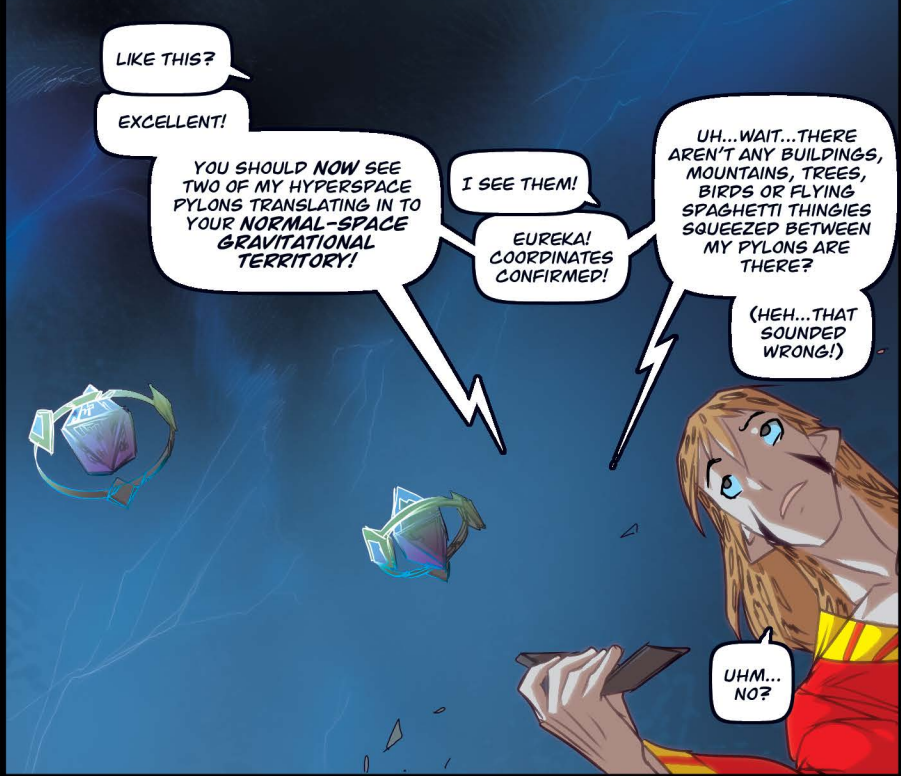


GAR!!!

GAR, ARE YOU STILL THERE!?

GINA?

GOOD...
HOLD THE
PHONE UP SO I
CAN ORIENTATE
MY ENTRANCE
APPROACH!



LIKE THIS?

EXCELLENT!

YOU SHOULD NOW SEE
TWO OF MY HYPERSPACE
PYLONS TRANSLATING IN TO
YOUR **NORMAL-SPACE**
GRAVITATIONAL
TERRITORY!

I SEE THEM!

EUREKA!
COORDINATES
CONFIRMED!

UH...WAIT...THERE
AREN'T ANY BUILDINGS,
MOUNTAINS, TREES,
BIRDS OR FLYING
SPAGHETTI THINGIES
SQUEEZED BETWEEN
MY PYLONS ARE
THERE?

(HEH...THAT
SOUNDED
WRONG!)

UHM...
NO?



GOODY!

'CAUSE I'M COMING
THROUGH...

...AND I'M BRING MY
WHOLE DUNGEONING
DRAGONS PARTY!!!

HOW MORTIFYING!
DRAGONS RIDING
A HUMAN INTO
BATTLE!

THEN SAVE THAT,
JR'EE, AMONG YOUR
CARDS IN YOUR SUIT
OF HATRED FOR
WHEN WE DEAL
WITH DREADWING!



THERE'S GAR!
FLAGGING US
DOWN TO THE
WHEAT FIELD!

BRING US IN,
GESPENST!

RYOKAI!!!
LANDING
CYCLE
INITIATED,
MA'AM!!!



HEH, HEH!
"RYOKAI", IS IT,
GESPIE?

COULD IT BE THAT MAKING
YOU WATCH HOURS AND
HOURS OF GUTS-POWERED
JAPANESE GIANT ROBOT
ANIME...

...FINALLY CRACKED YOU
OUT OF YOUR **OVERLY
CAUTIOUS** ABSTRACT
QUALIFIER ADVANCED
A.I. ROUTINES?



W-WELL, I WANT US
TO SUCCEED, MA'AM...!
AND VICTORY GOES TO
THE **COURAGEOUS!!!**

GEEHEE!
WELL SAID!



HAIL.

WHO LEADS
SECURITY
HERE?

HAIL AND WELL
MET.

I AM GARFIELD SILVEAR
OF THE NORTHERN
EDGE-GUARD!

EDGE-GUARD.
GOOD.

THEN THE **LOWER
CREATURES** CAN FEND
FOR THEMSELVES
WHILE WE HUNT
DREADWING!

"**LOWER
CREATURES?**"

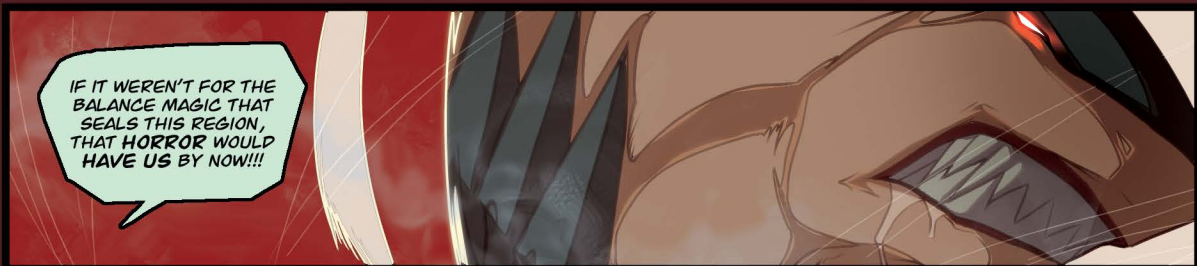
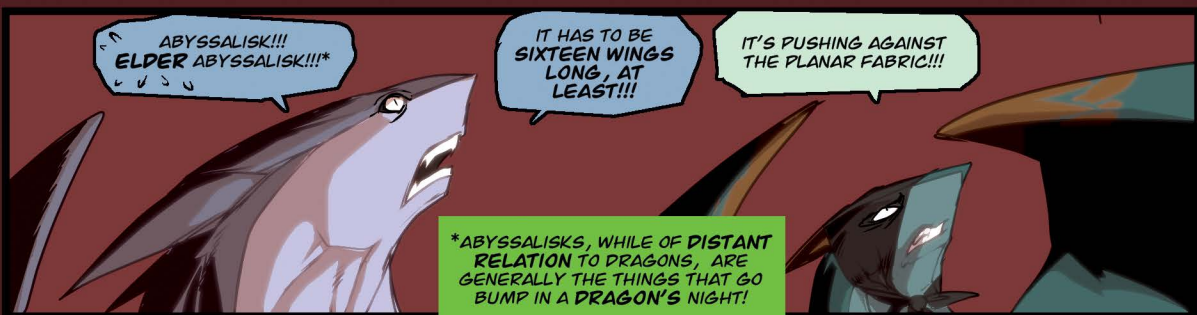
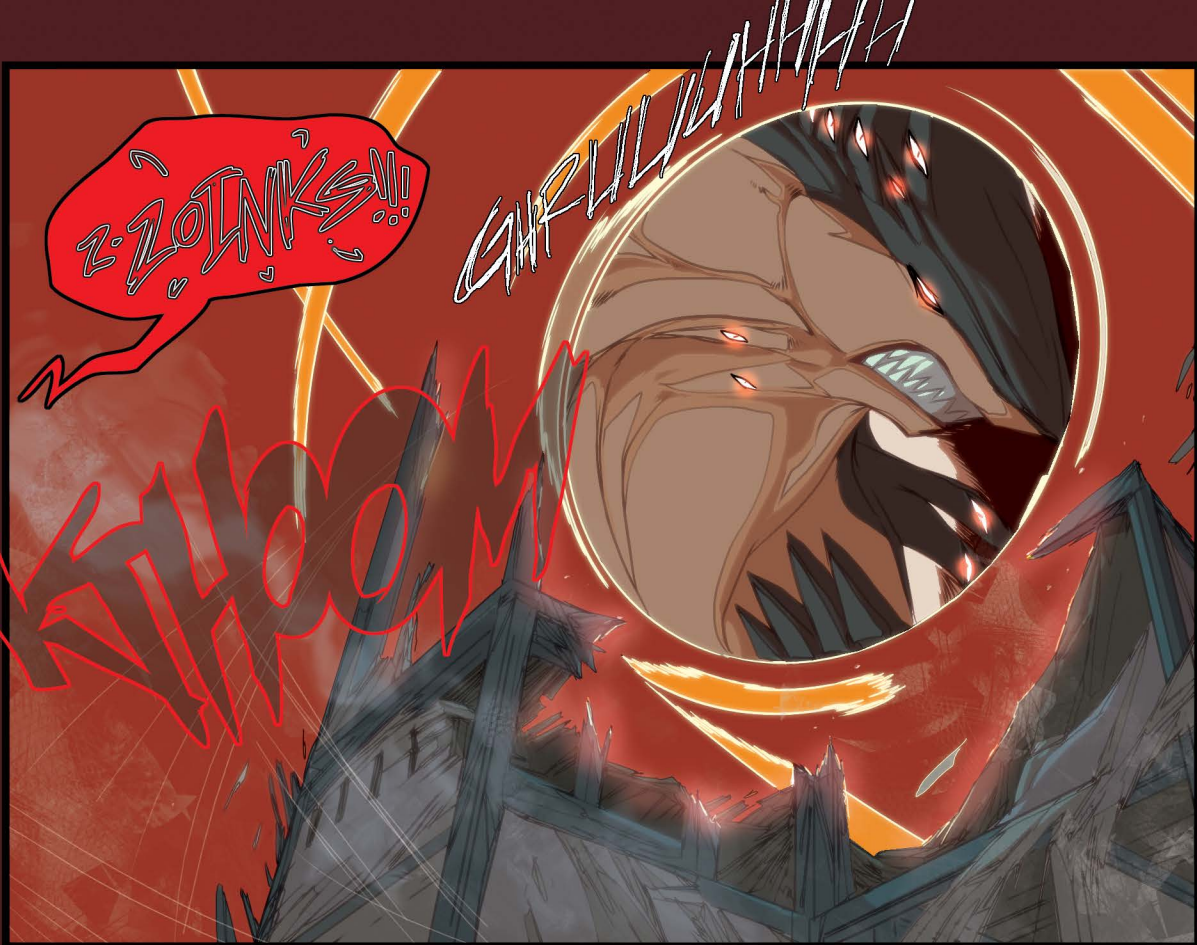


DON'T BE TOO
HASTY N'DEN!

THERE IS MUCH WE
CAN LEARN FROM...
PARLAYING...
HERE!

THIS IS NO TIME
FOR **SOCIALIZING**
WITH...**THEM...**
KY'RHA.

HAVE YOUR TEA
PARTIES **AFTER**
YOU'VE FOUND
DREADWINGS
TRAIL!





FOLLOW THEIR GUIDANCE INTO
THIS REGION OF THE ASTRAL
RIFTS AND PAST THE SEIGE!

A SECRET
ENTRANCE TO
DREADWING'S
DOMAIN AND HIS
VAULT IS FIXED
TO THIS POINT!

OPEN IT WIDE AND
SPILL THE MANA
TREASURES WITHIN!

TO THOSE PLANAR
HORRORS, JAG'S LAIR
WILL BE LIKE AN
ACORN ON THE
FLOOR COMPARED TO
A BANQUET FEAST!!!



WE ONLY NEED WAIT
FOR A SMALL CRACK
TO APPEAR TO ALLOW
PASSAGE INTO THAT
RIFT TERRITORY!

WE'LL MOVE AS
FAST AS WE CAN!
AND YOU ALL
SHOULD BE OFF TO
THAT SHELTER!

WAIT!
TAKE MY
ASTRAL
SHROUD,
SIR GAR.

MY FAMILY
HEIRLOOM...

...AND AN ELEMENTAL
WEAPON AGAINST
DARKNESS!

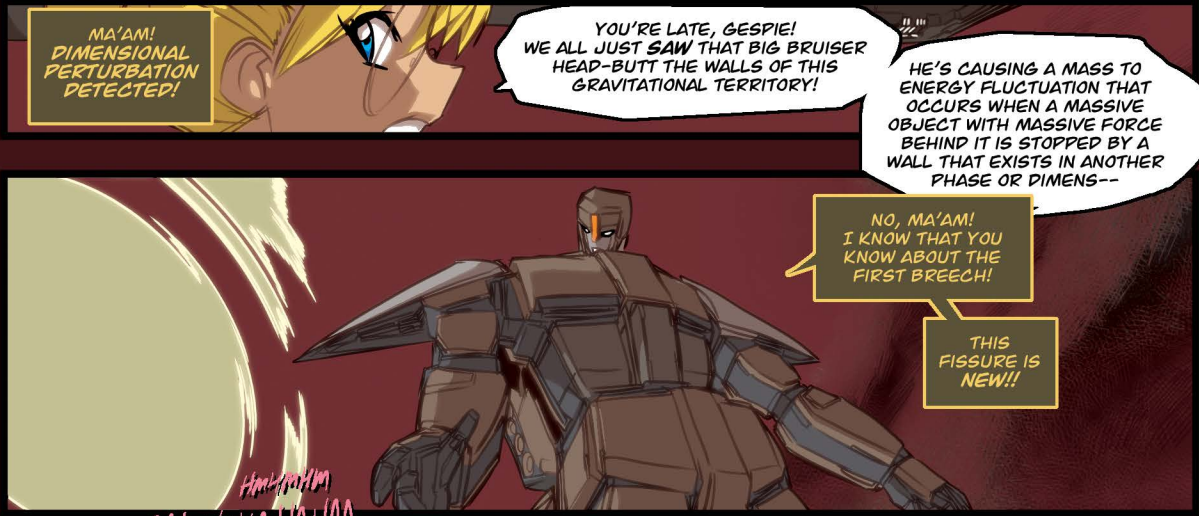
WE LEAVE FOR
THE SHELTER.
YOUR MOTHER IS
EXPECTING US!

FOLLOW
THE GUIDE
SCROLLS,
SHEILA...
GAR...



AND...DON'T BE
LATE FOR DINNER.

BOTH OF YOU.



MA'AM!
DIMENSIONAL
PERTURBATION
DETECTED!

YOU'RE LATE, GESPIE!
WE ALL JUST SAW THAT BIG BRUISER
HEAD-BUTT THE WALLS OF THIS
GRAVITATIONAL TERRITORY!

HE'S CAUSING A MASS
ENERGY FLUCTUATION THAT
OCCURS WHEN A MASSIVE
OBJECT WITH MASSIVE FORCE
BEHIND IT IS STOPPED BY A
WALL THAT EXISTS IN ANOTHER
PHASE OR DIMENS--

NO, MA'AM!
I KNOW THAT YOU
KNOW ABOUT THE
FIRST BREACH!

THIS
FISSURE IS
NEW!!!



I CAN FEEL THE
TREASURE FROM
HERE!

ENOUGH MANA TO
MAKE MY REALM OF
THE UNDEAD THE MOST
POWERFUL REGION IN
THE PLANES!

SOMEONE IN A
DARKER COSM MUST
HAVE REMEMBERED IT
WAS MY BIRTHDAY!!!

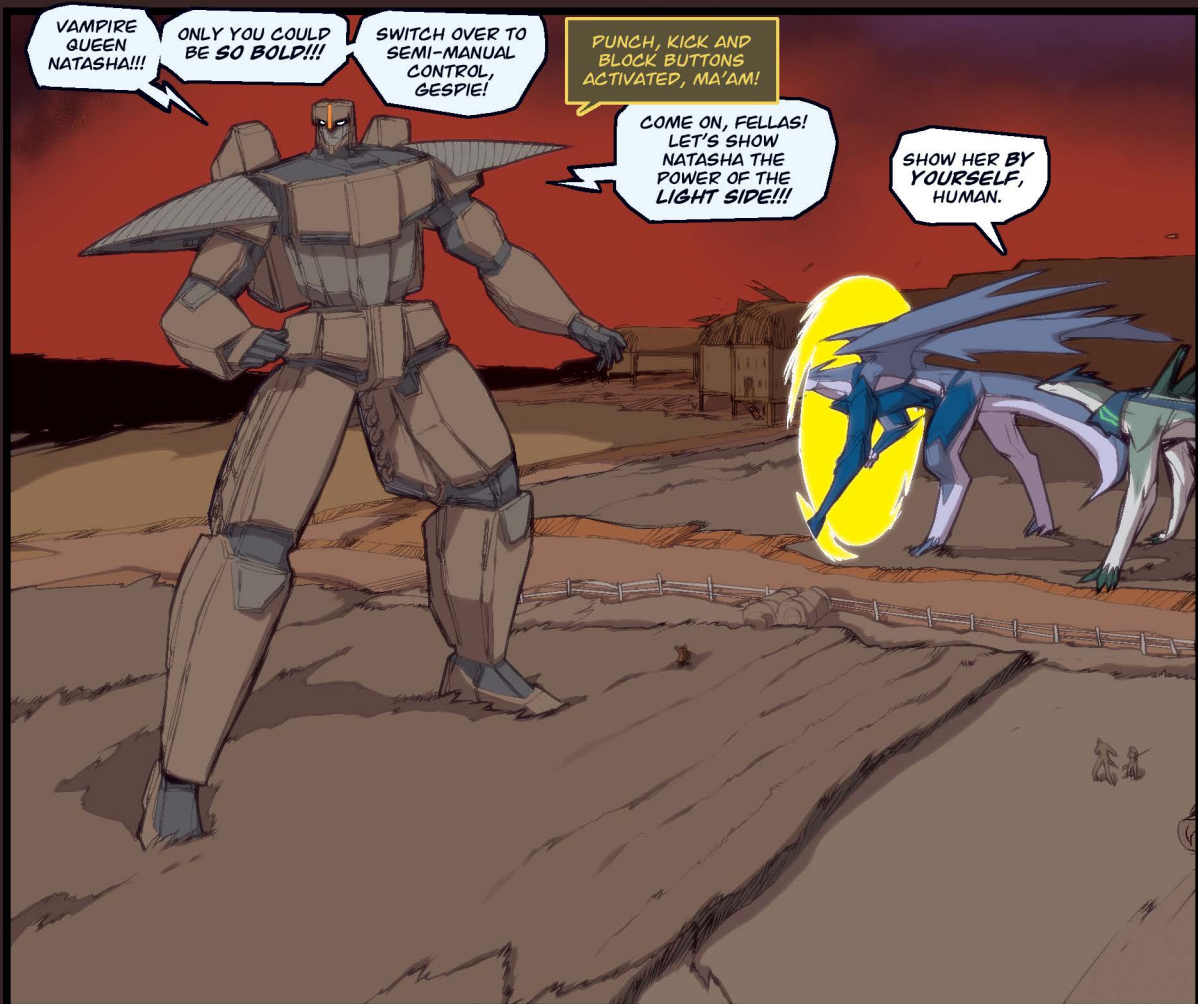


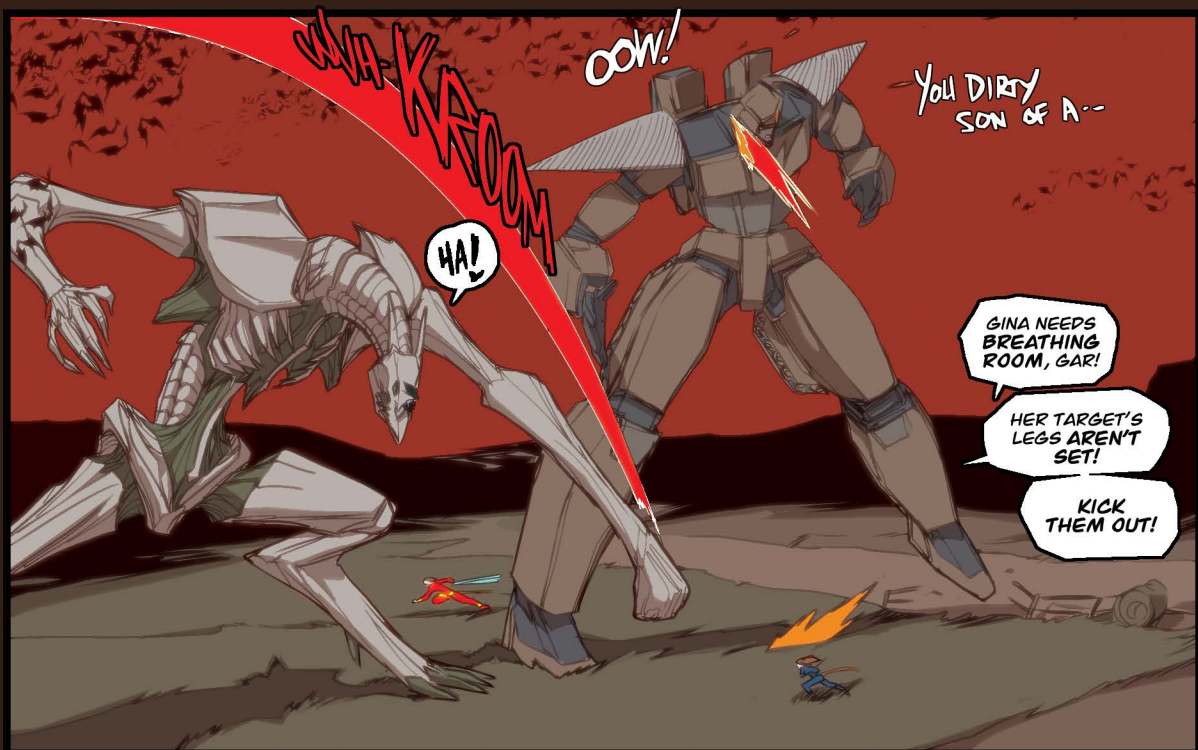
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO MEEEE!

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY T000
MEEEE!!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
DEAR NATASHAAAAA!

KKOOMNNN









GAR!
ARE YOU OKAY
DOWN THERE!?

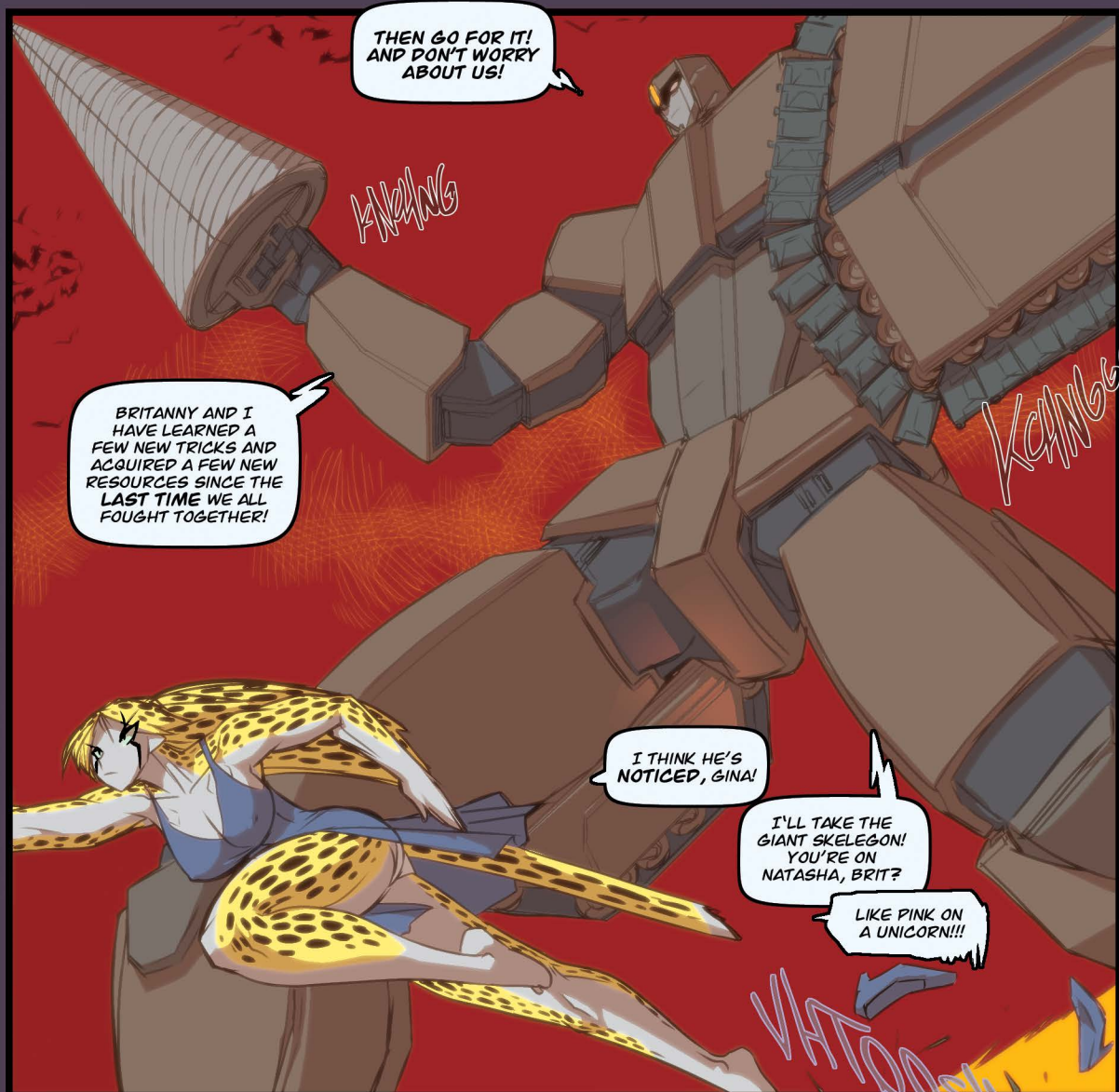
YOU'RE FADING ON
MY SCANNERS!

WE'RE FINE, GINA!
SHEILA AND I HAVE
JUST FOUND A NEW
FISSURE, AND
WE'RE STARTING
OUR MISSION!

IF YOU AND BRITANNY CAN
HOLD THE TOWN FOR A FEW
MINUTES, AND IF WE
SUCCEED...

...WE'LL HAVE
INFILTRATED
DREADWING'S LAIR,
TURNED THE TABLES
ON HIM, AND LURED ALL
OF THESE PLANES-
CRAWLERS AWAY
FROM JAG'S LAIR
ONCE AND FOR ALL!

"WHEN" WE
SUCCEED! NOT
"IF", GAR!!!



THEN GO FOR IT!
AND DON'T WORRY
ABOUT US!

BRITANNY AND I
HAVE LEARNED A
FEW NEW TRICKS AND
ACQUIRED A FEW NEW
RESOURCES SINCE THE
LAST TIME WE ALL
FOUGHT TOGETHER!

I THINK HE'S
NOTICED, GINA!

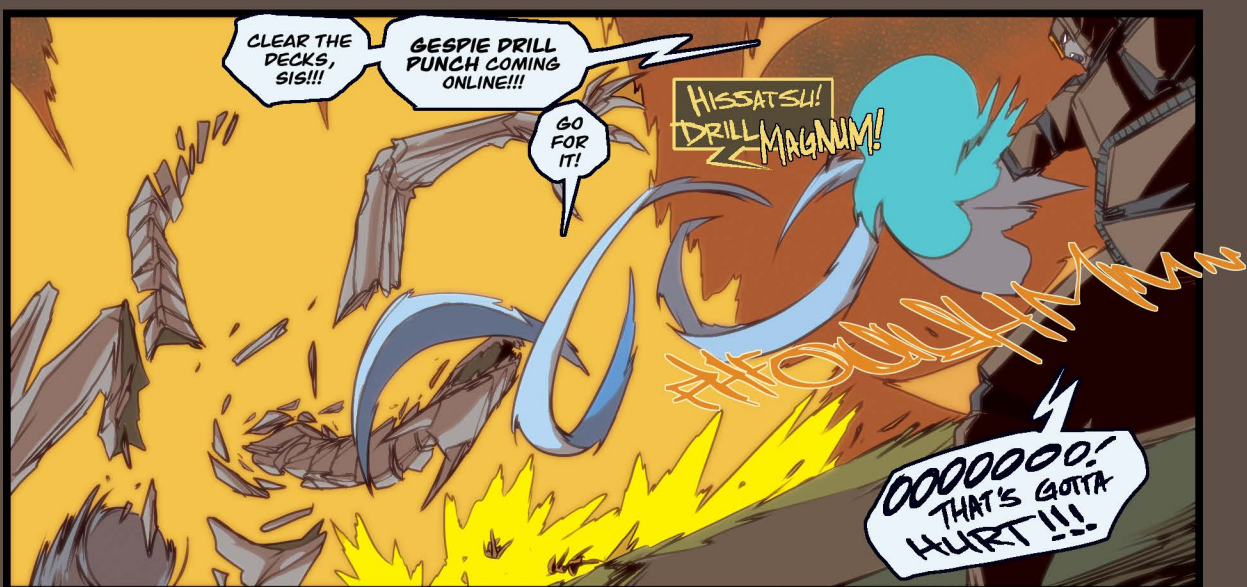
I'LL TAKE THE
GIANT SKELETON!
YOU'RE ON
NATASHA, BRIT?

LIKE PINK ON
A UNICORN!!!

KNOCK

KAMBO

VATOO







ALL THOSE MONSTERS!

DID--
=NNGH!!!

DID DREADWING
REALLY TAKE THIS
PASSAGE TO JAG'S
LAIR!?!

THIS MUST BE SOME KIND
OF "CLOSING WOUND"
THROUGH THE ASTRAL
RIFTS, SHEILA!

WHEN DREADWING SLICED IT
OPEN, IT WASN'T FILLED
WITH CREATURES OR
HORRORS!



WE'RE FORTUNATE TEACHER
STONTAIL WAS WATCHING WHEN
THE INCISION WAS MADE...

...OTHERWISE, NO ONE WOULD
HAVE EVEN SUSPECTED THIS
PATH'S EXISTENCE!!!



WE'LL RUMINATE ON
DREADWING'S
METHODS LATER!

FOR NOW, FOCUS
ON GETTING TO
THAT LAST GUIDE
SCROLL!

RUN,
SHEILA!

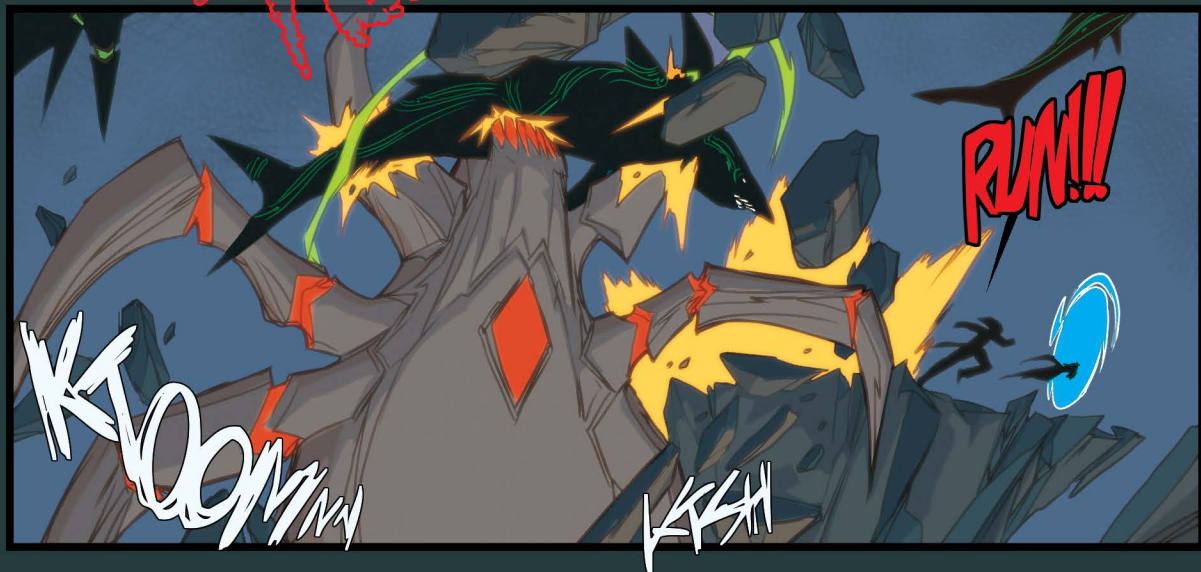
AS FAST
AS YOU
CAN!!!



GHN!

BACK!

BACK!
YOU DEVILS!!!







I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, SHEILA!

AND IF OUR THROPAN IS WITH THEM, HE'LL KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW TO SPILL DREADWING'S TREASURES FOR THOSE HORRORS ATTACKING JAG'S LAIR!

IF HIS ENCHANTMENT ENGINEER TRAINING COVERS A DEMI-DRAGON'S MANA HOARD, THAT IS...

HURRY!



YOUR THOUGHTS, MY DEAR?

THEY'RE ADORABLE!



ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE.

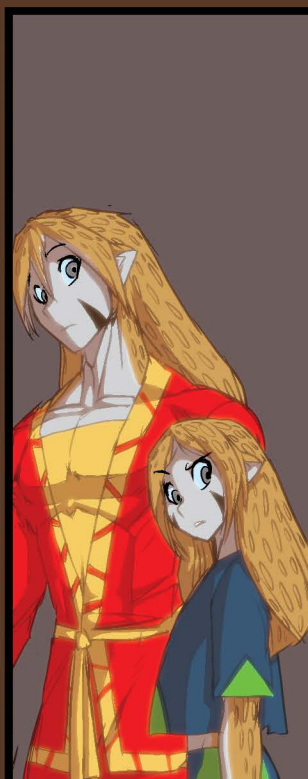
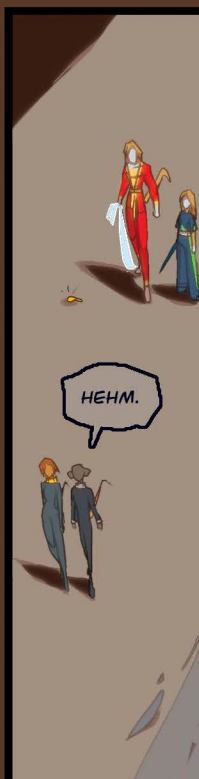
AND THEY'RE SIBLINGS!

WITH SOULS LINKED THROUGH A BOND OF LOVE.

THAT MEANS WE WON'T HAVE TO WAIT.

WE CAN SHARE!

WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK!





THERE...
ARE YOU INJURED,
CALANDRA?

GHF...
TH-THANKS,
GAR.

I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN
TO DESCRIBE HOW
GLAD I AM TO SEE
YOU AND SHEILA!





WH-WHAT
HAPPENED TO
DREADWING!?

THAT'S WHAT
WE NEED TO
FIND OUT!

BUT FIRST, WE'RE
GOING TO RESCUE
JAG'S LAIR!

BUT WE'RE
HEADING BACK
IMMEDIATELY!

ONOLI AND HIS
SKY-FLAIL ARE ALMOST
FINISHED POKING HOLES
IN DREADWING'S MANA
VAULTS FOR THE
DIVERSION WE'LL
NEED!

WE'LL HAVE TO
TAKE GAR AND
SHEILA'S PATH
THROUGH THE
ASTRAL RIFTS!

THIS DIVERSION
WON'T END THE
CONFLICT!

DREADWING'S
INVASION HAS
BEGUN, AND JAG'S
LAIR IS WHERE THE
LINE IS DRAWN...

THE FATE OF JADE-
REALM WILL BE
DECIDED IN OUR
HOMELAND!

IT WILL BE UP TO
US TO DEFEND IT!