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FRED PERRY

# GOLD DIGGER



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# RIFTS AND ISLANDS

SO, I CAN REALLY SEE OUR DIMENSION FROM HERE, PROFESSOR MADRID?

WELL, IN A WAY...

DOWN THERE IS ONE OF THE ARCHIPELAGOS THAT TOUCH EARTH-REALM.

THE TERRAIN IS ACTUALLY BORROWED FROM THE HIMALAYANS.

EARTH-REALM IS AN ISLAND THAT FLOATS HERE IN THE ASTRAL RIFT'S SEA.

DOES THAT INCLUDE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE EARTH SITS IN?

NO, JUST EARTH-REALM.

THOUGH A PLANAR SHIFT AWAY DIMENSIONALLY, THE ASTRAL-RIFT IS LOCAL IN ASTRO-GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS.

AND THERE ARE OTHER ISLANDS FLOATING NEARBY.

JADE-REALM, FOR EXAMPLE.

IF YOU KNOW HOW TO ACCESS THE ISLANDS, YOU CAN SAIL BETWEEN REALMS!

AND THEN THERE ARE THE UNEXPLORED REGIONS OF THE ASTRAL RIFTS...

...DEBRIS FROM REALMS THAT DISINTEGRATED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO....

...AND THEIR ANCIENT RUINS...

...VERY DARK, VERY OLD PLACES.

SO, DON'T GET COCKY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE PROFESSOR DIGGERS' ADVANCED ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENTS.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP HER WITH THIS REGION'S INVESTIGATION WHILE EVADING DANGER...

...AND THESE "SEAS" ARE TEEMING WITH MAGICAL, BATTLESHIP-CLASS SHARKS AND CONTINENTAL PIRATE FORTRESSES...



*the* Resolve of FLESH to STONE

EIGHT ARE  
PETRIED.

AN ENTIRE  
PATROL!

THE MAGIC OF  
JADE-REALM IS  
FORMIDABLE INDEED  
TO INFLICT OUR  
RANGERS SUCH!

NOT  
NECESSARILY,  
HIRMION.

THESE VICTIMS ARE  
ALL OF HOUSE  
PUHFULLE.

WEAKLINGS.  
UNFIT TO SERVE  
HERE IN THE WILD  
REGIONS OF THE  
ASTRAL RIFTS!

THESE VICTIMS  
ARE STILL OF OUR  
CONCLAVE.

THEY WIELD  
OUR WEAPONS.  
OUR DEFENSES.

RONNE SPEAKS  
TRULY, HARRUS.

WE MUST WARN THE  
HOSTWARG CITADEL...

...AND PERHAPS MASTER  
PUNBEL KNOWS A WAY  
TO RESTORE FLESH  
FROM STONE!

NO,  
HIRMION.

THESE WOUNDS  
ARE...  
FATAL!

IT MUST  
BE OBVIOUS  
TO ALL THAT  
PLUNDERERS  
FROM JADE-  
REALM SHOW  
NO MERCY!

AND THE SACRIFICE OF  
THESE POOR SOULS WILL  
SPUR OUR DRUMS OF WAR  
SO THAT EVEN THE MOST  
FAINTHEARTED PUHFULLE  
VACILLATOR WILL CRY FOR  
BLOOD AND REVENGE!

AND SO AWAY WITH  
CRAVEN THOUGHTS OF  
SILENT COEXISTENCE.

TODAY, WE  
MAKE MANIFEST  
OUR DESTINY...

...WITH THE FIRST AND  
LARGEST CONQUEST  
TERRITORIES GOING TO  
HOUSE GRIFFEND!



# GAMES OF PAIN

YOUR WILD MAGE SPIES PLAY WELL AT ZEALOTRY, LADY SHERISHA.

HARRUS IS A ZEALOT, "MASTER" SERPENTUS.

THUS AN EVEN GREATER AGENT FOR OUR CAUSE.

ALL THAT WE REQUIRE IS FOR HIM TO FIND THE CLUES WE NEED HIM TO FIND AND TARGET THE FOES WE NEED HIM TO TARGET.

A FOLLY.

THE WILD MAGI OF THE ASTRAL RIFTS WILL NOT SUCCEED!

JADE-REALM'S UNITED FORCES WILL DRIVE THEM FROM THE ASTRAL SHORES OF OUR REALM!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT OUR GRACIOUS LORD DREADWING IS COUNTING ON, COUNCILOR XERCIE... PLAYTHING.





## A Direct Order...

GAR! GAR SILVEAR!  
ARE YOU THERE?  
IS SHEILA WITH  
YOU?

AFFIRMATIVE,  
ONOLI!

SO FAR, DREADWING  
AND HIS FORCES  
HAVEN'T DETECTED  
OUR INFILTRATION...

...AND WE'VE  
MANAGED TO  
LOCATE  
COUNCILOR  
XERCIE!

SHEILA AND I  
WERE JUST ABOUT  
TO EFFECT A  
RESCUE!

AND AS A BONUS, WE  
GET TO KAPOWIE THE  
BASTARD WHO BURNED  
OUR HOMETLAND AND  
TORTURED OUR  
FAMILIES!

GAR, YOU AND  
SHEILA ARE TO  
REMAIN HIDDEN  
AND OBSERVE!

W...  
WHAT???

TAKE NO ACTION  
AGAINST THE  
ENEMY!

ONOLI!  
YOU'RE JOKING!!!  
SERPENTUS IS  
RIGHT IN FRONT  
OF US!

WE HAVE  
HIM COLD!!!

WE'LL  
NEVER GET  
A BETTER  
CHANCE  
AT HIM!!!

ONOLI?  
ON--L--?  
C--AN--?  
Y-- HEAR  
--US?

BR-- R--  
EAKING--  
UP!

DO NOT FAKE A  
DISCONNECT THIS  
TIME, GAR!!!

THIS COMMAND IS FROM  
THE JADE ALLIANCE, AND  
THE COMMANDER-IN-  
CHIEF IS RIGHT HERE  
MONITORING THE LINK  
CRYSTAL!

FROM HERE ON,  
YOU'RE TO HEED THE  
COMMANDS OF THE  
DRAGON BROOD  
QUEEN!

...



Too good to be true...

SIR GARFIELD  
SILVEAR...

LADY SHEILA  
SILVEAR...

THE POSITIONS  
YOU'VE STOLEN  
INTO ARE NOW OF  
INCALCULABLE  
VALUE TO THE  
PEOPLE OF  
JADE-REALM!

THROUGH YOUR  
LINK CRYSTAL,  
MY SENSES CAN  
PERCEIVE THE  
FLOW AND EBB OF  
ETHER AS IT  
ENTERS AND  
LEAVES THE LAIR  
OF OUR ENEMY!

AS LONG AS WE HAVE  
THIS INTELLIGENCE,  
DREADWING WILL  
NEVER BE ABLE TO  
LAUNCH A SURPRISE  
ATTACK AGAINST US!

WITH SUCH  
FOREWARNING,  
OUR ARMIES CAN  
SAFELY EVACUATE  
THE HELPLESS AND  
PREPARE A FRONT  
PROPERLY FOR  
BATTLE!

THEN YOUR ORDER  
DOOMS COUNCILOR  
XERCIE TO MORE PAIN  
AND TORMENT AT THE  
HANDS OF SERPENTUS...

...YOUR HIGHNESS.

...OF  
THAT...  
I...

I...  
I AM AWARE.

BUT THIS IS ONLY UNTIL WE CAN  
QUICKLY BRING DREADWING'S  
THREAT TO AN END!

I CANNOT ALLOW  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO PREVENT FUTURE  
ATTACKS AGAINST  
CIVILIAN LANDS...  
LIKE JAG'S LAIR...  
TO PASS.

YOUR HIGHNESS!

IS THIS STATUS  
SIGIL ACCURATE?

THE ETHEREAL,  
ASTRAL AND  
PRIME MATERIAL  
PRESENCE OF  
THOSE AGENTS...

...IS  
ZERO!!!

SUCH  
STEALTH IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR EVEN THE  
STRONGEST  
"PRESENCE  
MASK"!

WH-WHAT  
TALISMANS  
ARE THEY USING TO  
DO THAT!?!

DID THE EDGE-GUARD  
MAGIC-CRAFTERS MAKE A  
BREAKTHROUGH AND  
NOT TELL THE REST OF  
JADE'S DEFENDERS?

NONE OF OUR TALISMANS  
ARE OF THIS QUALITY,  
MAGISTER WARBURG.

GAR?  
I-IS THIS SOMETHING  
YOU LEARNED FROM  
YOUR MENTOR,  
ARMSMASTER JULIA?

A SHUN-LEEP  
MASTER TECHNIQUE  
OF SOME KIND?

NO.

SHEILA AND I ARE  
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF  
A...A TRINKET DROPPED  
BY TWO OF DREADWING'S  
TORTURED SLAVES!

IT'S WHY WE  
WANT TO GET  
XERCIE AND  
GET OUT!

THIS..."KEY TO  
DREADWING'S LAIR"  
GIVES US THE RUN  
OF THE PLACE!

AND AS  
WEIRD AS IT  
SOUNDS...

I THINK THIS KEY WANTS TO...PROTECT US!!



# The Errant Queen

HERE.

I BELIEVE...  
THIS IS FAR  
ENOUGH.

AND YOU'VE  
HAD YOUR  
CHANCE.

A DAY AND  
A NIGHT AND  
A HUNDRED  
LEAGUES  
WERE AMPLE  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR YOU TO  
RECONSIDER  
YOUR ACTIONS.

NOW, UNVEIL YOUR  
CAMOFLAUGE...

...AND FACE THE  
CONSEQUENCES.

DURING THAT TIME AND  
ALONG THE WAY, THE  
WISDOM IN SHADOWING  
THE FORMER QUEEN OF  
DRAGONS MUST HAVE  
STRUCK YOU AS  
LUPICROUS!

FORGIVE MY  
INSOLENCE, YOUR  
HIGHNESS.

YOUR WELL-  
BEING IS  
IMPORTANT.

AND OF MOST  
CONCERN TO  
THOSE CLOSEST  
TO YOU.

AGEN.

SO, MY ANXIOUS  
DAUGHTER SENT  
HER FORBIDDEN  
LOVER TO SPY ON  
HER INSANE  
MOTHER?

DEBRA DOESN'T  
KNOW OF THE POTIONS  
I USE FOR STEALTH  
AND SHADOW.

AND SHE WOULD  
HAVE ASKED ME TO  
FIND A WAY TO TURN  
YOU AWAY FROM  
YOUR QUEST.

INSTEAD I AM HERE TO  
SAFEGUARD, SEE TO THE  
COMPLETION OF WHATEVER  
IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR  
YOU TO ABANDON YOUR  
CROWN, THEN ESCORT YOU  
BACK TO THE COUNCIL...AND  
TO YOUR DAUGHTER...  
ALIVE.

THEN YOUR QUEST  
IS DOOMED.

BUT BY ALL  
MEANS...  
TRY.

AN ELEMENTAL  
PHASM CHEMIST  
MIGHT PROVE  
USEFUL.

OUR GOAL IS  
AHEAD, WITHIN  
THE ENIGMA OF  
MERLIN.

AND ADDRESS  
ME AS T'MAT.  
NOT "YOUR  
HIGHNESS."

I AM NO QUEEN,  
BUT A WARRIOR.  
LIKE YOU.



# HONOR GUARD

RIGHT!

NOW YOU'RE JUST PICKING ONE ME, SIL!

MY UNIFORM FITS FINE! STOP ADJUSTING IT!!!

~SIGH~

SURE, I WANT TO LOOK NICE FOR THE INAUGURATION, BUT CEREMONIAL UNIFORMS MEAN GUARD DUTY!

BUT YOU'RE AN AMAZON BREEDER.

THAT'S AN ARISTOCRAT CLASS OF JADE!

I COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR GUEST, AND WE BOTH COULD HAVE GONE TO THE BALL!

WE'RE SORRY, SIL...

...CURSE WAS TOO STRONG...

...AS CLOSE AS WE CAN BRING YOU TO YOUR FORMER SELF...

...INFERTILE.

S-SIL... I'M SORRY.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING YOUR MEETING WITH THE ROYAL AMAZON PHYSICIANS LAST SEASON WAS PERSONAL.

THOUGH MY BEAST-WHISPER TALENT IS PSIONIC, I-I NEVER MEANT TO PRY.

WE'RE FORMING UP FOR THE PARADE!

AND WE'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO HONOR GUARD!

PRINCESS DEBRA'S MARCHING WITH US!!!



## Debra's ascent

"WE ALL UNDERSTAND...  
JADE-REALM NEEDS YOU."

"AND DON'T WORRY..."

"...BARBRA HAS ALREADY TAKEN TO THE OFFICE MANAGER'S DUTIES LIKE A FISH TO WATER."

"BUT IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU, DEBRA."

"WE'LL MISS YOU HERE AT AGENCY ZERO."

I'LL MISS YOU.

I'VE NEVER HAD A FINER PARTNER.

I-IT WAS AS THOUGH I HAD...  
A GUARDIAN ANGEL.

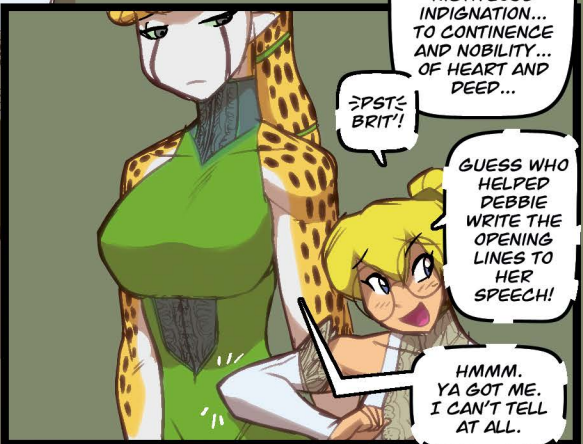
I'LL MISS YOU TOO, "M"...

IT WAS AS THOUGH I HAD...

...A BIG BROTHER...









# GOLD DIGGERS... GOLD MEDALS...

...WE WERE FORTUNATE.

TWO BRAVE HEROES FOUGHT FOR US WITH ALL THEY HAD TO PRESERVE OUR SECURITY!

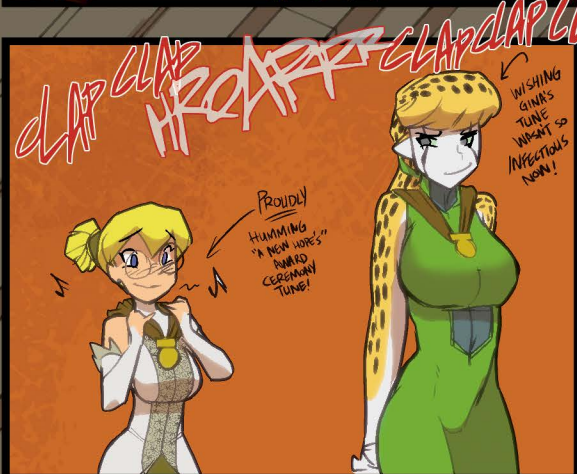
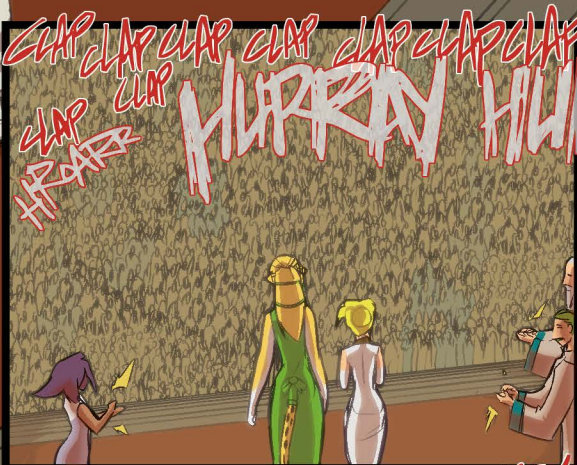
AND SO WE REWARD THEM HERE WITH LOVE AND HONOR!

PROFESSOR GINA DIGGERS. MAGISTER BRITANNY 'GIA...

GRACIOUS FRIENDS.

PRAY, ALLOW US OUR HOMAGE TO YOUR DEEDS?

WH-WHO... US!?!?!?





# RESCUER'S RAINCHECK



HERE!!!

THIS SHOULD  
BE CLOSE  
ENOUGH!

BUT ALL OF THE  
MAIN CORRIDORS  
FROM EARTH TO  
JADE-REALM HAVE  
BEEN WEAKENED!

I IMAGINE A FEW  
MAGISTERS HAVE  
DEPLETED THEM  
FOR USE IN  
JADE-REALM'S  
RECENT DEFENSE  
EFFORT!

AS LONG AS  
WE'RE CLOSE TO  
BRITTANNY AND  
GINA!!!

WE ALL  
RECEIVED  
GINA'S  
EMERGENCY  
SIGNAL, BUT  
ONLY BRITTANNY  
WAS ABLE TO  
GET TO HER!!!

NOW THEY'RE  
BOTH MISSING!



WAIT A MOMENT...

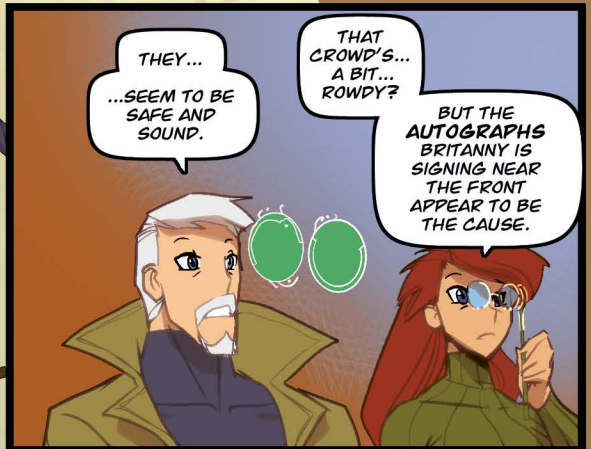
THIS IS THE  
PARADE  
PAVILION OF  
SAVATAKA'S  
CAPITOL CITY!!!

WE'VE PASSED INTO  
JADE-REALM'S  
ALLIANCE  
HEADQUARTERS!

THEO!  
I SEE THEM!  
LOOK  
NORTH!!!



WELL...  
HMMM.

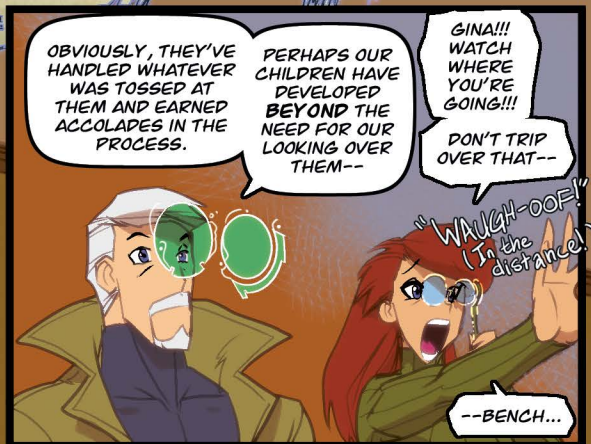


THEY...

...SEEM TO BE  
SAFE AND  
SOUND.

THAT  
CROWD'S...  
A BIT...  
ROWDY?

BUT THE  
AUTOGRAPHS  
BRITTANNY IS  
SIGNING NEAR  
THE FRONT  
APPEAR TO BE  
THE CAUSE.



OBVIOUSLY, THEY'VE  
HANDLED WHATEVER  
WAS TOSSED AT  
THEM AND EARNED  
ACCOLADES IN THE  
PROCESS.

PERHAPS OUR  
CHILDREN HAVE  
DEVELOPED  
BEYOND THE  
NEED FOR OUR  
LOOKING OVER  
THEM--

GINA!!!  
WATCH  
WHERE  
YOU'RE  
GOING!!!

DON'T TRIP  
OVER THAT--

"WAUGH-OOF!"  
(In the distance!)

--BENCH...





FALSE ALARM!  
THAT'S THE ARMSMASTER OF JADE AND HER MATE.

ARMSMASTER JULIA...  
OUR FORCES ARE ON HIGH ALERT RIGHT NOW!

YOUR SPOUSE'S DIMENSIONAL GATE WAS TOO ABRUPT TO IDENTIFY AND THEREBY A DISTRACTION TO WE SENTINELS OF THIS REGION!

YOU SHOULD HAVE USED THE CIVILIAN PASSAGES!

SORRY.

WE WON'T TROUBLE YOU AGAIN.

SIGH I SUPPOSE THERE ARE FINES TO CONSIDER?

ONLY REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE MANA DISPLACED BY THIS DIVERSION.

FAIR ENOUGH...

...MIND IF I "CHARGE" IT?

THEO!  
I WAS HOPING FOR YOUR RETURN TO JADE-REALM.

NOW I CAN CALL OUT TO YOU.

THE COUNCIL WON'T PAY HEED TO MY WARNING.

BUT YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME...



# STAY. CLEAR.

JULIA IS WITH HIM, THEN?

OF COURSE SHE IS.

AND SHE'LL FOLLOW HER HUSBAND IF HE ANSWERS YOUR SUMMONS!

TELL THEM OF SERPENTUS'S ESCAPE!

TELL THEM TO MEET US HERE IN THE FLAME GLADE.

THERE IS TOO MUCH "NOISE" WHERE HE IS NOW TO HEAR MY AURA'S WHISPER.

I'LL HAVE TO WAKE HIM FROM HIS SLEEP TONIGHT.

STILL FASTER THAN SENDING A RUNNER... AND WE "OUTLAWS" CAN'T RISK ANY AUTHORITIES LOCATING US FROM USING A PUBLIC LINKED CRYSTAL.

THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH HIM AS WELL AS JULIA OR I CAN.

ANYONE ELSE WHO ENTERS INTO THIS HUNT WILL ONLY GET IN OUR WAY!

THAT INCLUDES YOU AND JULIA'S HUSBAND, MERIGOLD.

BUT... SERPENTUS IS AN AURA REAVER!

YOU WILL BOTH STAY CLEAR ONCE WE'VE CORNERED OUR TARGET!

HE'LL HAVE SPELLS PREPARED AGAINST YOU!

YOU'LL NEED OUR HELP!!!

I'LL ONLY WARN YOU ONCE, MERIGOLD.

STAY. CLEAR.

I INTEND TO BREAK HIS LEGS AS I TAKE VENGEANCE FOR MOTHER AND FATHER'S DEATHS...

BUT BEFORE I RISK YOU BECOMING YET ANOTHER VICTIM I MUST AVENGE...

...BEFORE I RISK YOU RUNNING OUT FROM SAFETY TO "SAVE THE DAY"...

...I'LL BREAK YOUR LEGS!



# GETAWAYS

...THAT'S OUR CURRENT STATUS, BRIANNA.

BOTH BRITANNY AND GINA, AFTER BEATING BACK A GAUNTLET OF HORRIFIC PLANAR BEAST ONSLAUGHTS, ARE NOW ENJOYING A VICTORY CELEBRATION AS HONORED HEROES OF THE REALM!

THEN ALL IS WELL?

THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS, DOCTOR DIGGERS!

INDEED...JULIA AND I ARE WAITING FOR THE FESTIVITIES TO CALM BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT GINA OR BRITANNY.

WE'LL KEEP YOU UP TO DATE!

MAAAAHN!!! THAT SUCKS!!! GIGANTIC BAD\$\$\$ MONSTERS ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND I MISSED OUT ON IT!!! GINA AND BRIT' GET TO HAVE ALL THE FUN!

AND THE BEST NEWS IS THAT I WON'T HAVE TO EXPEND THE DIMENSION DOOR MANA I WAS SAVING FOR OUR HONEYMOON, GENN.

OH, DARLING, I CAN'T WAIT!!!

THE TRINSIC HOTEL WHERE WE STARTED...

MY FONDEST WISH WAS MADE THERE.

A WISH THAT CAME TRUE!

G-GENN?

THAT WAS TO BE A SURPRISE!

A-AAH!

FORGIVE ME, DARLING!

I NEVER MEANT TO PRY.

TH-THE RAPPORT WE SHARE...IT'S HARD TO KEEP AWAY FROM AFFECTIONATE INTENTIONS.

GETTING ANXIOUS, HUH, GENN!?!

YOU GUYS SHOULD VISIT THE MADAGASCAN RESORT ZAN AND I WENT TO LAST SUMMER!

MAN, THAT PLACE IS PERFECT FOR A PRE-WEDDING GETAWAY!

THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU CAME BACK AFTER A WEEK'S STAY, "FLOATING ON AIR"!

IS THAT WHERE YOU AND ZAN FELL IN LOVE, BRIANNA?!



# CHIPMONKEY BUSINESS

AHEH... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT!

BUT REALLY! AWESOME VACATION SPOT OVER THERE!

I'LL HAVE TO ASK ZAN WHERE HE MADE THOSE GREAT BANANA PANCAKES HE APPEARED WITH EACH MORNING, THOUGH!

ALSO, WE HAD A LITTLE BIT OF TROUBLE WITH THE NEIGHBORS.

THE CHIPMONKEYS OF MADAGASCAR PRACTICE THEIR SELF-DEFENSE ROCK-CHUCKING ALL THE TIME!

BUT THOSE POOR THINGS DON'T LIKE HURTING FOLKS, SO THEY PRACTICE ON EACH OTHER!

OWCH!

ZAN'S A JUNGLE MEDICINE EXPERT, THOUGH!

WE HAD OUR NEIGHBORS PATCHED UP IN NO TIME!

THEN I INTRODUCED A BRAND NEW CONCEPT...

"PRACTICE TARGETS"!

MAN, THOSE CHIPMONKEYS WERE SO HAPPY AFTER THAT...

...IT WAS LIKE WATCHING KIDS PLAY WITH CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

IT...IT KINDA MADE ME THINK OF HOW AWESOME IT WOULD BE...

...I-IF ZAN AND I WERE...PARENTS... WATCHING OUR KIDS AT CHRISTMAS TIME...



# THE DEEP BREATH...

THE FIREWORK  
SHOWS HAVE  
STARTED IN  
SAVATAKA,  
COMMANDER.

A **SPLENDID DIVERSION**  
WHILE YOUR **SECOND-IN-  
COMMAND** RELIEVES YOU  
FROM YOUR TWENTIETH  
HOUR OF GUARD DUTY,  
WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

I CAN'T  
LEAVE YET,  
NUMBER TWO.

"IT" IS IN THE AIR...  
DRAWING NEARER TO  
JADE FROM THE  
ASTRAL RIFTS...

AND THE HAMMER  
WILL FALL HERE  
FIRST.

THAT'S RIGHT...  
THEY SAY THAT CENTAURS  
ARE THE LEGENDARY  
HARBINGERS OF "ARES"!

A "CENT" CAN  
SMELL A WAR  
COMING A MILE  
AWAY.

NO NEED  
FOR SLURS,  
NUMBER  
TWO.

TOUCHY.

YOU KNOW I  
ENDEAR WITH  
THAT TERM.

SKYE?

OUR NEW  
COMMANDER-  
IN-CHIEF.

BROOD QUEEN  
DEBRA.

WHAT DO YOU  
THINK OF HER?

....

HAD SHE  
SIMPLY WON HER  
FIRST BATTLE...

...I WOULD NOT BE  
SO ILL AT EASE.

BUT HER FIRST  
VICTORY WAS  
**SPECTACULAR...**

...AND A FLUKE IF  
SHE DOES NOT MEET  
THIS NEWLY SET  
BAR!

SO I HAVE ADVISED HER TO  
BE AWARE OF HERSELF AND  
THE TEMPTATION TO GAMBLE  
FOR A SWEETER VICTORY  
WHEN A CRUSTY, STALE BUT  
**NOURISHING** VICTORY IS  
ALREADY IN--

--HAND...

THEY COME!

DUSQUE! ALERT ALL  
RUNIC GUARD POSTS!

THE GAME  
IS AFOOT!!!



Bedknobs And Boomsticks....

IT IS AS WE HOPED!

THE PLUNDERERS OF JADE-REALM ARE COMPLACENT IN DEFENSE OF THEIR BORDERS!

THEY AFFORD ONLY MEAGER PROTECTION TO THIS REMOTE PENINSULA!

CAPTURE THOSE OUTPOSTS, AND OUR TOEHOLD IS SECURED!

WE WILL MAKE A CAMP FROM WHICH WE LAUNCH OUR CAMPAIGNS AND LAY SIEGE AFTER SIEGE!

FOR SIX CENTURIES, OUR GREAT HOUSES HAVE ENDURED THESE WILD LANDS IN EXILE!

AND NOW THAT OUR HOMES ARE AT LAST MADE TAME, THE JADE-REALM PLUNDERERS MOVE AGAIN TO DRIVE US AWAY!!!

NO MORE, I SAY!!!

TODAY WE CRUSH OUR ENEMIES...

...SEE THEM DRIVEN BEFORE US...

...AND HEAR THE LAMENTATION OF THEIR WIZARDS!



# THE SOUTHERN EDGE-GUARD

THOSE WILD MAGI  
SAIL TOWERS CAN  
ACT AS FORTRESS  
PORTALS ONCE THEY  
SET THEIR ANCHORS  
ON OUR PLANAR  
SHORE!

WE'LL HAVE  
TO HOLD  
THEM AT BAY  
UNTIL HELP  
ARRIVES!

HOW FAST CAN  
SUPPORT REACH  
A MOON GATE  
TOUCHING OUR  
POSITION?

THE ARMY AT  
SAVATAKA WILL  
ARRIVE IN A FEW  
MINUTES!

FAYDE AND  
SUNDANCE ARE ON THEIR  
WAY NOW!

CORRECTION...  
FAYDE AND  
SUNDANCE ARE  
HERE!!!

EEE-HAAAH!

IKUZE!!!

LONG-RANGE BASE  
DEFENSE FORMATION!  
COMMANDER SKYE  
WILL COVER!

THE RUNIC OUTPOST  
WILL PROVIDE THE  
USUAL RIFT COMBAT  
ENCHANTMENT  
SUPPORT!

HEADIN' OUT,  
SUGARLEGS!

TARGETS  
SIGHTED!

RUNIC ENCHANTMENT:  
"PHANTOM WALK"...

STAY IN MY SHIELD  
WALL'S RADIUS...

...BUT KEEP OUT  
OF DUSQUE'S  
FIELD OF FIRE!!!

HER SPECTRAL  
ARCHERY WILL BE  
USED AS A SIEGE  
WEAPON TO DRIVE  
BACK THE ENEMY  
TOWERS!

TRUE AURA  
SHIELD:  
YELLOW...

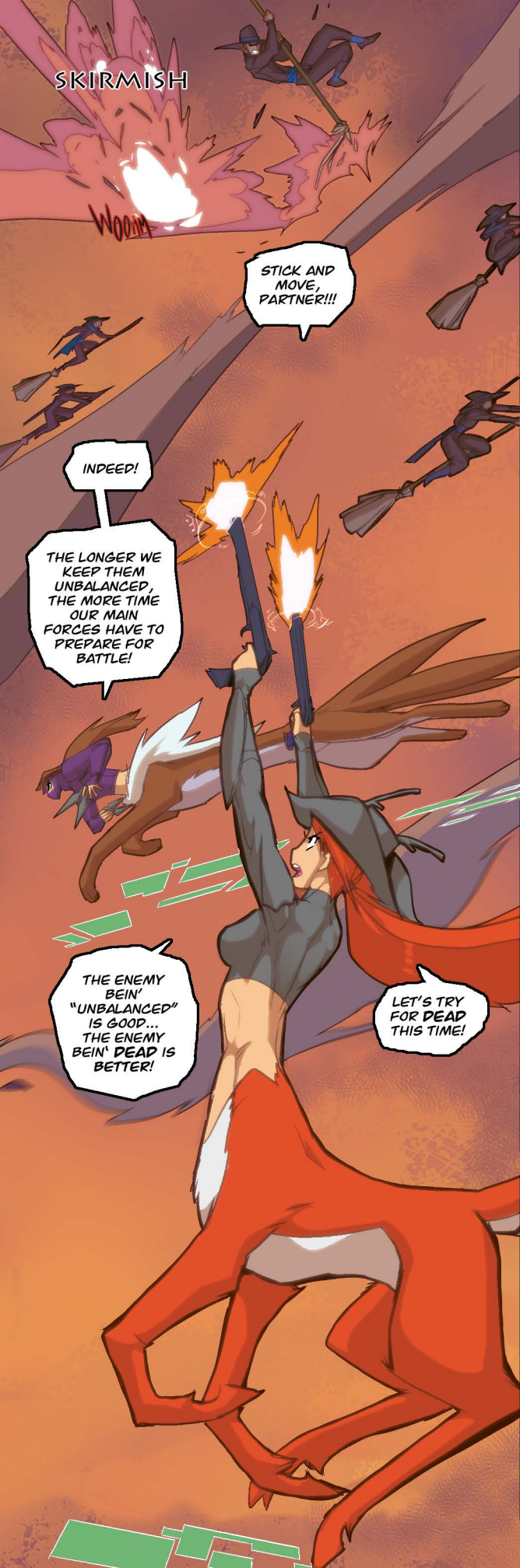
EACH EDGE-GUARDIAN  
HAS THE ABILITY TO  
SUMMON AN ATTUNED  
ELEMENTAL WEAPON!

IT IS BELIEVED THAT A  
FULLY TRAINED EDGE  
GUARDIAN WIELDING AN  
ELEMENTAL WEAPON IS  
THE EQUAL OF A SMALL  
COMPANY OF VETERAN  
SOLDIERS AND IS ONE  
WITH HIS OR HER FORCE!  
--F.

KTHOOM  
KTHOOM  
BROOOM  
HINNGH!  
Y-YOU KNOW  
YOUR PLACES,  
EDGE-GUARD!  
HOLD THE LINE  
HERE!!!



# SKIRMISH



INDEED!

THE LONGER WE  
KEEP THEM  
UNBALANCED,  
THE MORE TIME  
OUR MAIN  
FORCES HAVE TO  
PREPARE FOR  
BATTLE!

THE ENEMY  
BEIN'  
"UNBALANCED"  
IS GOOD...  
THE ENEMY  
BEIN' DEAD IS  
BETTER!

LET'S TRY  
FOR DEAD  
THIS TIME!

STICK AND  
MOVE,  
PARTNER!!!



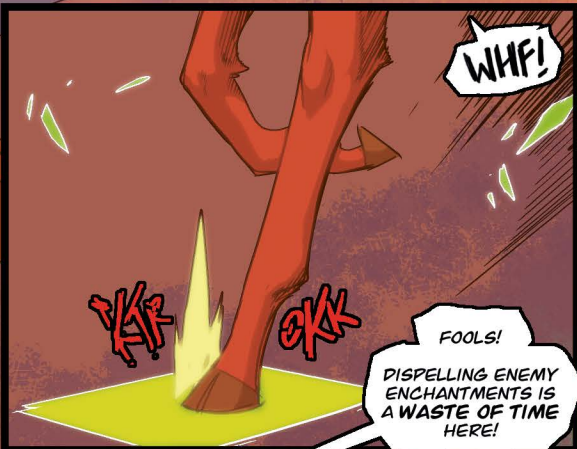
H-HAI...

IT LOOKS AS  
THOUGH OUR  
FOES ARE  
LEAVING US  
WITH LITTLE  
CHOICE--

-- 'DANCE!  
WATCH OUT!!!



AUGH!



WHF!

FOOLS!

DISPELLING ENEMY  
ENCHANTMENTS IS  
A WASTE OF TIME  
HERE!



THOSE RUNIC  
OUTPOSTS  
INSTANTLY  
RECONSTITUTE ANY  
GIFTS BESTOWED!

BUT SHOULD  
THOSE STRUCTURES  
FALL, THE PAY IS  
OURS!!!



# OVERMATCH

AND, WHILE THEY'VE DEMONSTRATED THE MIGHT OF THEIR DEFENSE...

...OUR ADVANCE HAS YET TO BE CHALLENGED!

SAIL ON!  
ONCE IN RANGE,  
OUR TRUE  
WEAPONS CAN  
BE BROUGHT  
TO BEAR!

I'VE GOT A  
SIEGE ARROW  
READY!

EVERYONE CLEAR THE  
FIRING LINE!

SHUZZZ

KUON KIN!

THEY'RE  
AFTER OUR  
TOWERS!

THEY'RE  
AFRAID!

THEY KNOW WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN ONCE A WILD  
MAGIC TOWER GETS IN  
CLOSE TO ITS PREY!

HAHAHAHA!

BUT THAT ATTACK  
WAS NO LAUGHING  
MATTER, HARRUS!

IT WAS NEARLY AS  
STRONG AS AN  
ANCIENT MAGIC  
SPELL!

NONE OF OUR TOWERS  
WILL LAST LONG  
AGAINST THAT KIND  
OF FIREPOWER!

AND IT CAME FROM  
JUST **ONE** OF THE  
JADE DEFENDERS!

I FEAR WE ARE  
OVERMATCHED  
IN THIS  
CAMPAIGN!



*party invite....*

EDGE-  
GUARD!

THE SAVATAKA  
SENTINEL MOONGATES  
WERE REFOCUSED  
INWARD DUE TO A  
FALSE ALARM!

PROPER  
REALIGNMENT  
WILL TAKE A FEW  
MORE MINUTES!

BUT PERHAPS I MAY  
BE OF ASSISTANCE  
UNTIL YOU ARE  
PROPERLY  
REINFORCED?

AND IF  
I, A HUMBLE  
GUEST OF HER  
MAJESTY'S  
INAUGURATION,  
MAY LEND A  
HAND AS  
WELL?

BROOD QUEEN DEBRA!  
SHADOW ELF  
CHAMPION!

BY ALL  
MEANS, JOIN  
OUR  
PARTY!

WE...

...ARE  
DEFINITELY  
OVERMATCHED,  
HARRUS!







PEEKABOO...

WELL...  
WELL...  
WELL...

A KOBOLD...  
A PSI-SNAIL  
KOBOLD!!!

SO HERE IS  
WHERE YOU'VE  
HIDDEN  
YOURSELVES!

THE ASTRAL  
RIFTS!

YOU LITTLE  
ROACHES HAVE  
BEEN THIS  
CLOSE ALL  
ALONG!

YOU'RE A  
"GREEN"  
AS WELL!

A SHORT-  
RANGE  
CAMOUFLAGE  
SCOUT!

THAT MEANS  
YOUR FORTRESS  
ISN'T THAT FAR  
AWAY!

HELRRRHHHHH

INDEED, MY FRIEND...  
THE QUEEN OF ITS HIVE  
AND I ARE VERY WELL  
ACQUAINTED!

I SIMPLY  
**MUST** PAY HER  
A VISIT!

OH YES...FINDING  
OUR LITTLE CAMOUFLAGE  
SCOUT HERE...

...WHILE RETAINING THE  
ELEMENT OF SURPRISE  
UNDER OUR OWN VEIL...

...WAS A TREMENDOUS  
STROKE OF LUCK!!!

WHY, I'LL  
BET THE QUEEN  
COULD BE COERCED  
INTO TELLING ME  
WHERE SHE TOOK  
MY TREASURE!

...OF COURSE!

I COULD HAVE  
HER LEAD ME TO  
GIGLIATHON ON  
A LEASH!!!



OLLY OLLY OXEN FREE...

THAT IS, IF I  
EVEN NEED HER  
FOR THAT!

JUST OVER THERE  
ARE THE REMAINS  
OF WHAT WAS ONCE  
THE REALM OF  
"RETREAT"!

NOW A  
PLANAR VOID...  
A DIMENSIONAL  
PHANTOM!

WHAT BETTER  
PLACE TO HIDE MY  
ANCIENT WAR  
MACHINE?



NEXT: "THE DREADWING CAMPAIGN" BATTLEFRONT SAVATAKA