



GOLD DIGGER

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FRED PERRY



OCTOBER 2012



ADVANCE THE SIGNS
OF WAR! BRING FORTH
EVERY WILD-MAGIC
SIEGE TOWER!

THIS IS THE DAY OF
DOOM FOR THE CRUEL,
MALIGNED CHILDREN
OF JADE-REALM,
O' BROTHERS AND
SISTERS!

AVENGE OUR
MURDERED KIN!

BUT BE AWARE
OF YOUR VICTORIES
HERE, AS WE MOST
CERTAINLY **ARE**
KEEPING **SCORE!!!**

THEREFORE, FIGHT
HARD, O' MEMBERS
OF MY FACTION!

I FULLY EXPECT THE
FIRST OF THOSE
POINTS GO TO HOUSE
GRIFFEND!!!

FIE, BROTHER
HARRUS!

SAVE YOUR
VICTORIOUS SPEECH-
MAKING AND AWARDED
OF "SPOIL SCORES"...

...FOR WHEN WE
AREN'T ABOUT TO
LOSE!!!



FOUR OF HOTHWARG'S
GREAT HOUSES SENT THEIR
STRONGEST TO YOU FOR
THIS CRUSADE, HARRUS!

SIXTY WILD MAGI!
RIFT-RIDERS!
THREE SCORE
RANGERS!
FOUR SIEGE
TOWERS!

STRENGTH
ENOUGH TO BRING
DOWN THE
MIGHTIEST PLANAR
HORROR IN THE
ASTRAL RIFTS!



YET, OUR POWERS ARE HELD
AT BAY...**STALEMATED!**

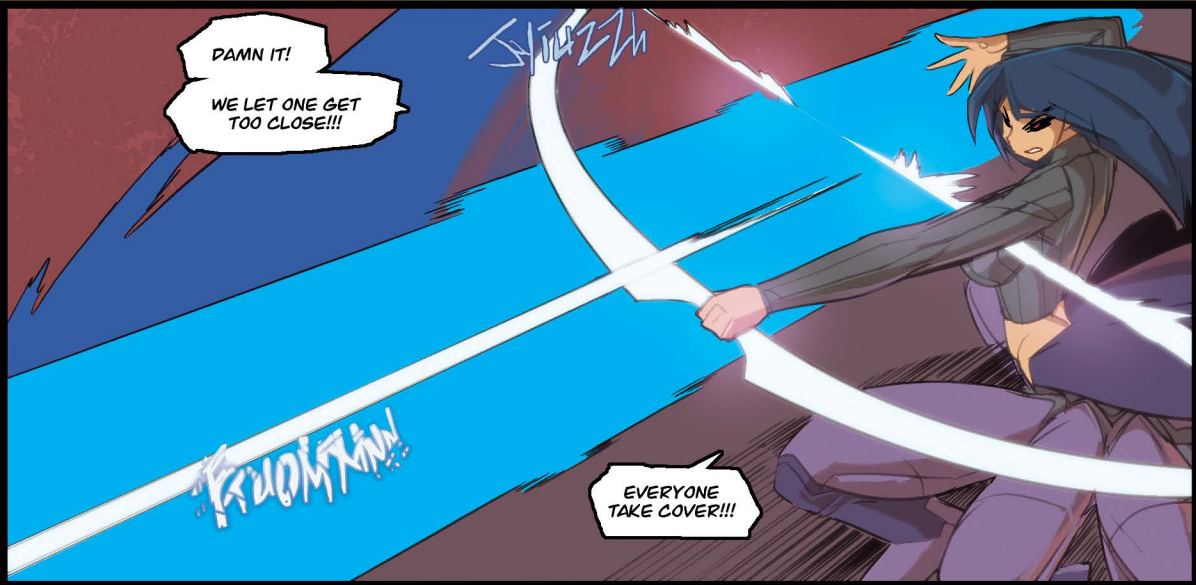
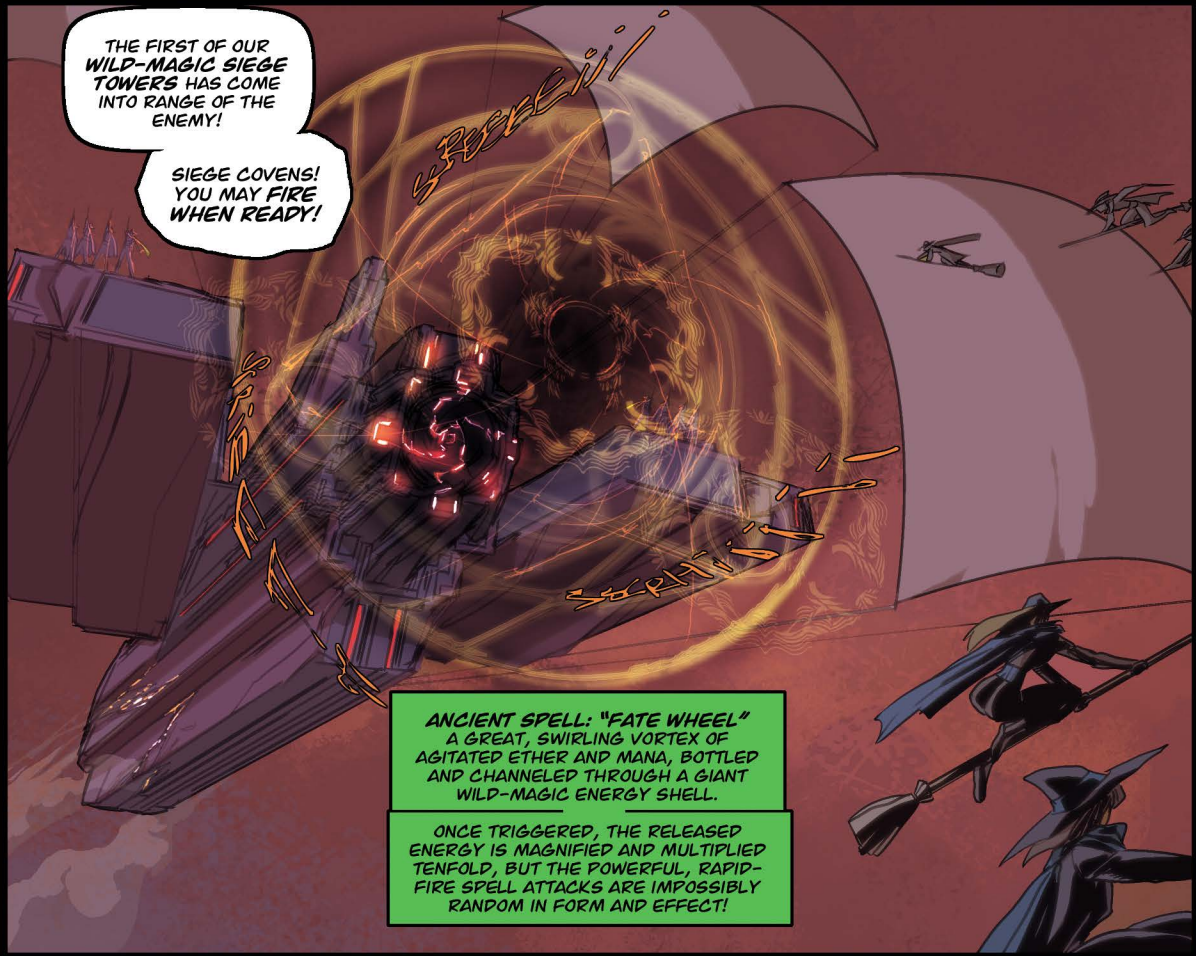
BY JADE-REALM'S
DRAGON BROOD
PRINCESS AND HER
SMALL ENTOURAGE
OF EXPERTS!

THE LOT OF THEM ARE
SITTING ON THOSE RUNIC
OUTPOSTS, WHICH
SUPPORT THEM WITH AN
EVER-GROWING ARRAY OF
DEFENSIVE AND
OFFENSIVE
ENCHANTMENTS!

SHIELDS! PHANTASMAL
PLATFORMS! ELEMENTAL
RESISTANCES!!!

IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME NOW THAT
JADE'S "SPARSELY DEFENDED
SHORES" WERE DESIGNED TO
SUSTAIN A DELAYING ACTION
AGAINST A LARGE FORCE!

WHAT HAPPENS
TO US WHEN THEIR
REINFORCEMENTS
ARRIVE?





MARSH ARAC TI: DUSQUE

**SIEGE ARCHER AND
EXPERT TRACKER.
2ND-IN-COMMAND OF THE
SOUTHERN EDGE-GUARD!**

CHEVROTAUR:
KYRA SUNDANCE

"SPELL TRIGGER"
AURA MUSKET
SPECIALIST.

KITAURÉ: IGA FAYDE
SHADOW SCOUT AND
THROWN WEAPON
SPECIALIST.

CENTAUR:
TWILIGHT SKYE

PLANAR WARFARE
TACTICIAN, PHALANX
CHEVALIER AND
SOUTHERN EDGE-
GUARD COMMANDER.

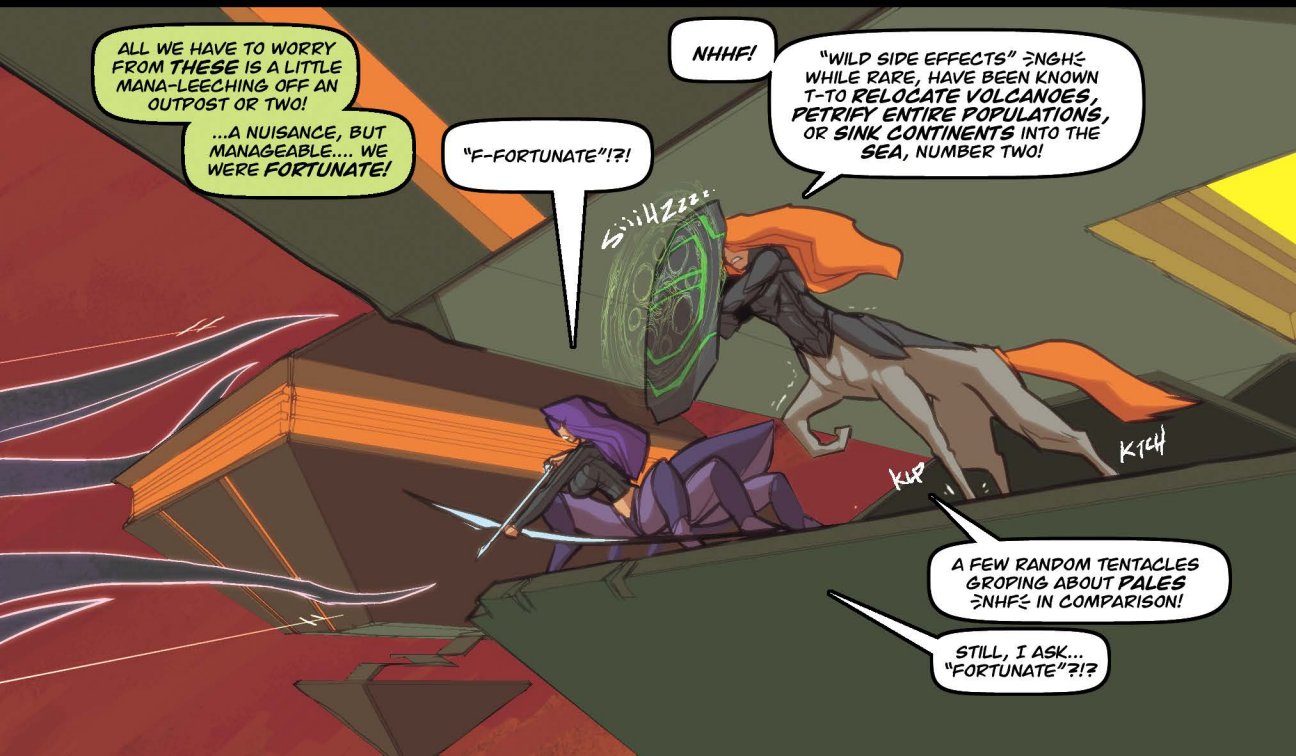
FALL BACK!!!

GET AS FAR BEHIND
MY **SHIELD-WALL**
AS YOU CAN!!!

AND HOPE WITHAL ITS
STRENGTH HOLDS!!!



PRAY AGAINST
A WILD MAGIC
"MIRACLE"!





ALL PART OF MY
NEW STRATEGY,
COMMANDER SKYE.

FOR NOW, FOCUS
THE MOON GATE AT
"INGRESS", THE VEIL
FORTRESS PROTECTING
THE PLANAR SKIN OF
JADE-REALM WHERE IT
TOUCHES THIS PART
OF THE RIFT!

OUR REINFORCEMENTS WILL
STAND GUARD THERE IN CASE
DREADWING ATTEMPTS
SOMETHING INSIDIOUS!

SOUL-EDGE SUMMON:
"THRUDGELMIR (II)"

THE PRIDE AND JOY
OF D'BRA'S DRAGON
HORDE WEAPON
COLLECTION, AND THUS,
BONDED TO HER AURA.

THUS ARRAYED, IN
PLAIN SIGHT OF THE WILD
MAGI, OUR FORCES WILL BE A
TESTAMENT TO OUR LENIENCE
AND GENTLE PATIENCE WHEN
WE ARE VICTORIOUS
WITHOUT THEIR AID!

YOU AND THE REST OF THE
SOUTHERN EDGE-GUARD WILL
DEFEND THIS POST WHILE I PUT
MY STRATEGY INTO EFFECT!

I STRONGLY ADVISE
AGAINST THIS COURSE,
HIGHNESS!

LET OUR REINFORCEMENTS
STAGE BELOW US AT THE
RUNIC SUPPLY CITADEL!

WITH THEM, WE CAN
REBUFF THIS ASSAULT
QUICKLY!

IN UNPLANNED,
DEFENSIVE BATTLES,
THE BEST COURSE IS
THE ONE THAT BRINGS
THE FIGHT TO THE
SWIFTEST END!

AND WHEN THEY
RETREAT, DREADWING
WILL BE WAITING TO
NURSE THEIR GRUDGES
AND FUEL THEIR HEARTS
WITH TALK OF BLOOD
AND REVENGE!

BUT IF I RISK A
BIT MORE, OUR
REWARDS COULD
BE FAR, FAR
GREATER!!!

WE STAND TO WIN THE
HEARTS AND MINDS OF
AN INVALUABLE ALLY
AGAINST DREADWING!

WHO DARES...
WINS, COMMANDER
SKYE!



THEN THE
TASK IS PLAIN!

HER
HIGHNESS
HAS
SELECTED
OUR PLAN!

NHHH!

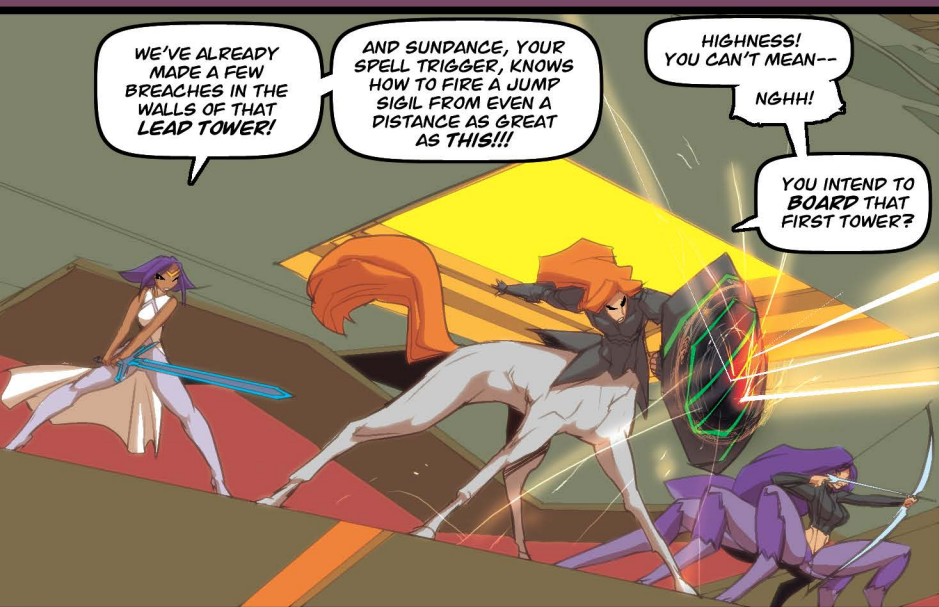
SHADOW ELF
CHAMPION:
RHOATON

MASTER OF CHI
MANIPULATION
AND ONE OF THE
TEN WEAPONS-
MASTERS OF
JADE-REALM!

WE MAKE
SURE IT
WORKS!

IT WILL
WORK!

BUT I'LL NEED
SOME HELP!



WE'VE ALREADY
MADE A FEW
BREACHES IN THE
WALLS OF THAT
LEAD TOWER!

AND SUNDANCE, YOUR
SPELL TRIGGER, KNOWS
HOW TO FIRE A JUMP
SIGIL FROM EVEN A
DISTANCE AS GREAT
AS THIS!!!

HIGHNESS!
YOU CAN'T MEAN--
NGHH!

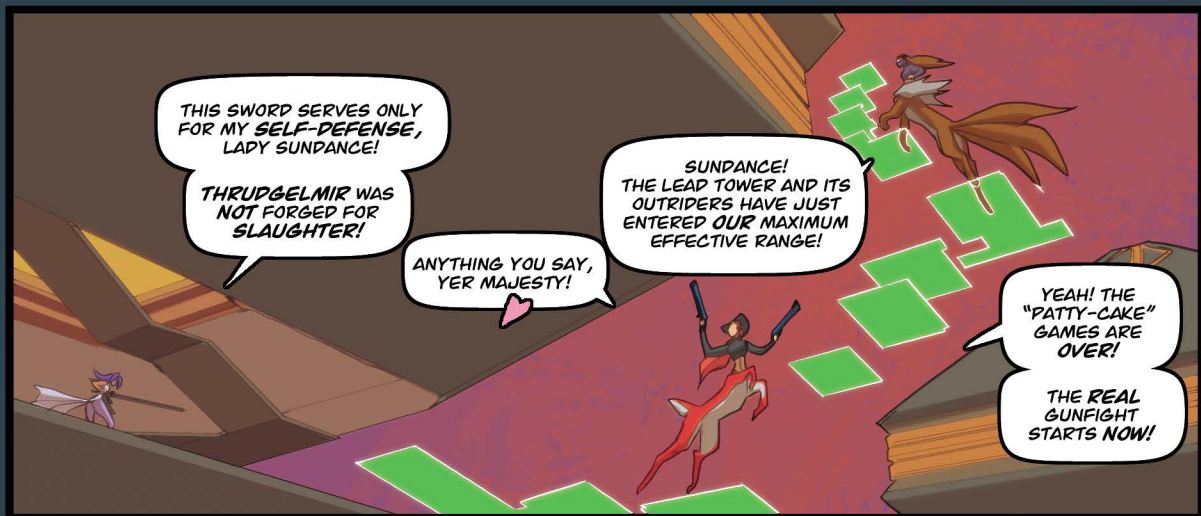
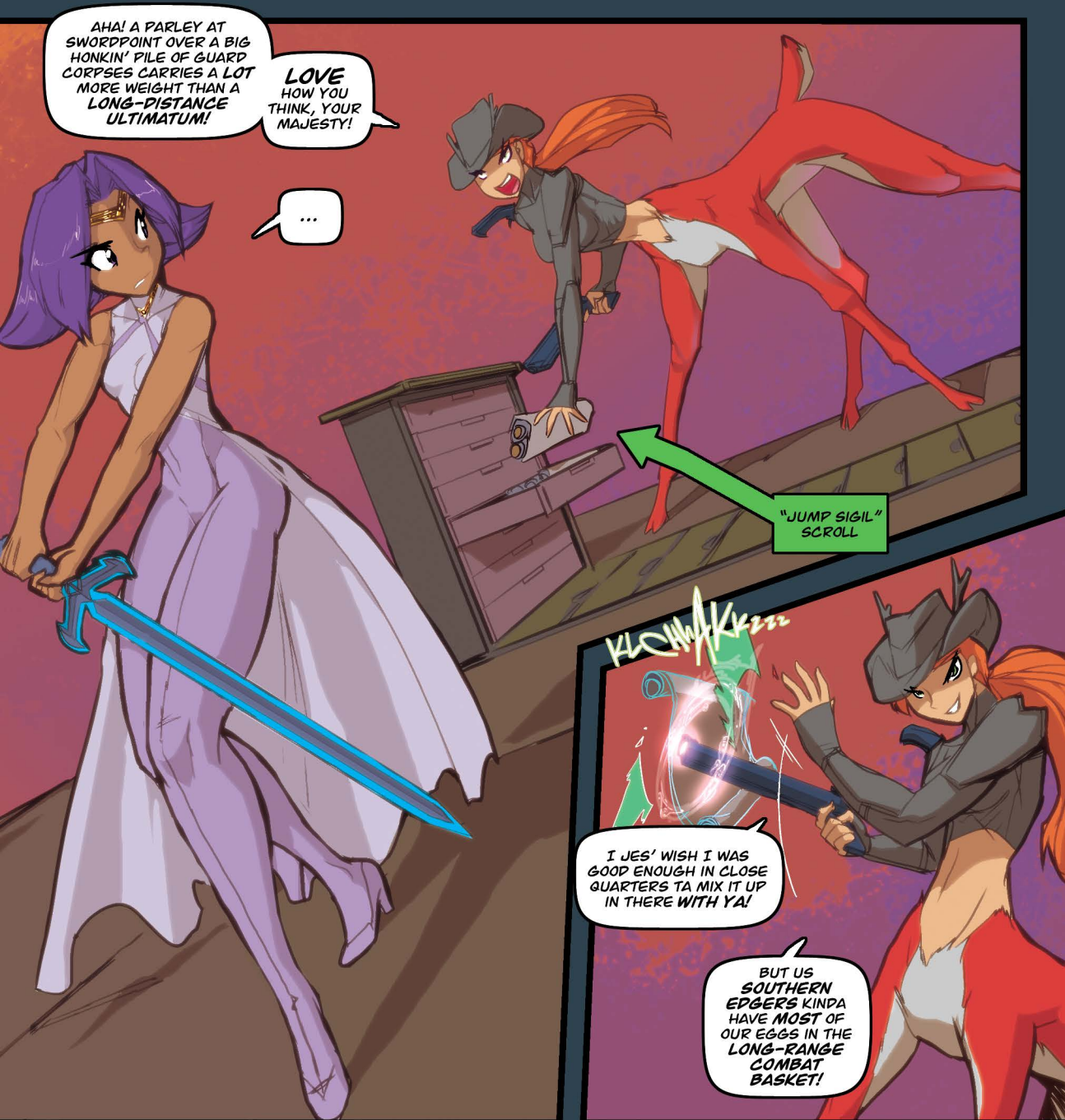
YOU INTEND TO
BOARD THAT
FIRST TOWER?

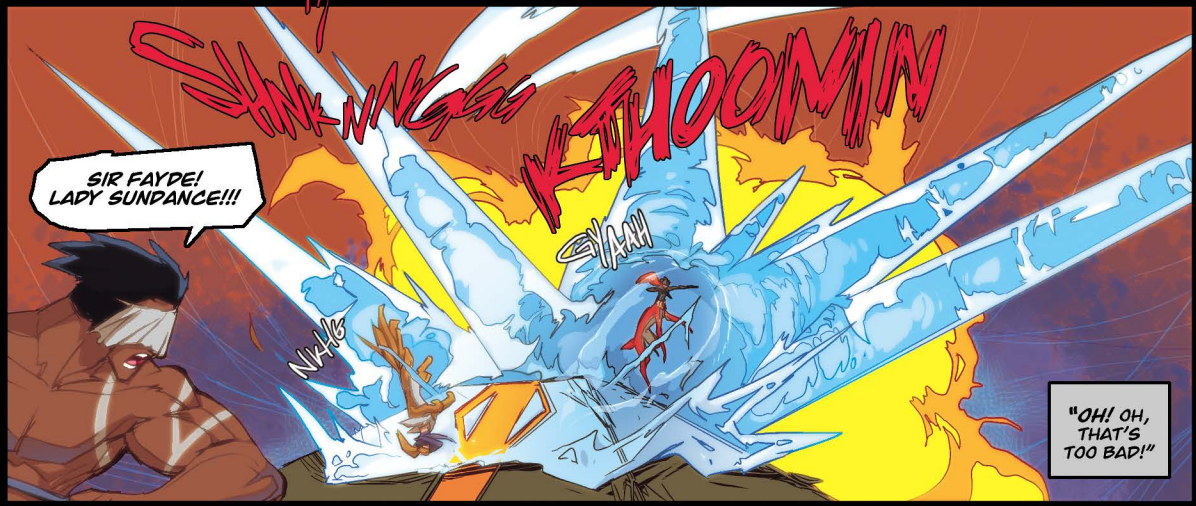


JUMP SIGIL PATHS
BREAK IF THE DISTANCE
IS TOO GREAT AND THE
CARGO IS TOO HEAVY.

BUT MY SLIGHT,
COMPACT HUMAN
FORM SHOULD BE
JUST RIGHT!

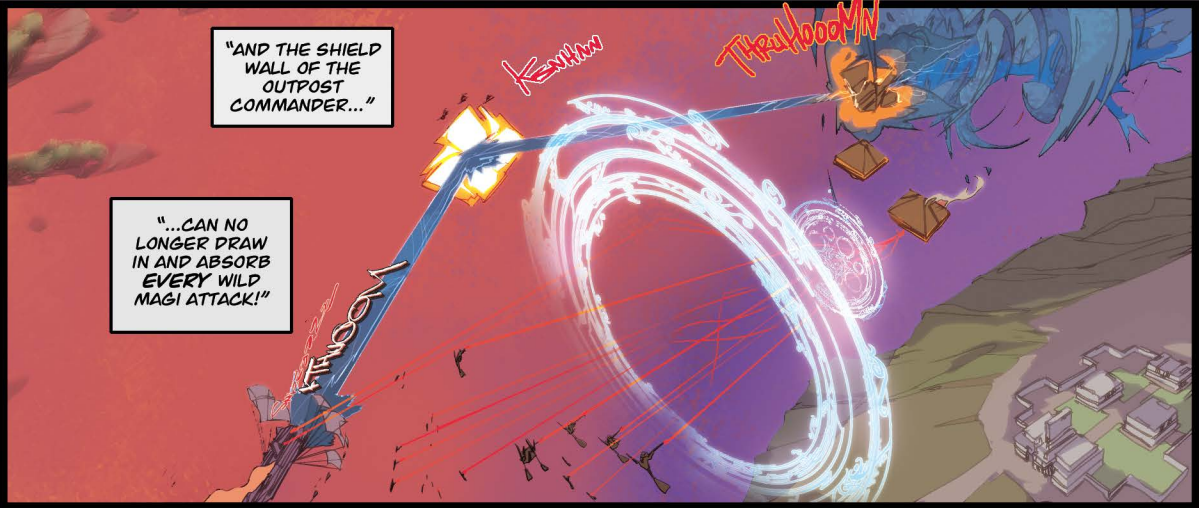
"LITTLE"
DEBBIE FOR
THE WIN!







"THE WILD MAGI
HAVE BEGUN
UNRAVELLING
THEIR
OPPONENTS'
DEFENSES!"



"AND THE SHIELD
WALL OF THE
OUTPOST
COMMANDER..."

"...CAN NO
LONGER DRAW
IN AND ABSORB
EVERY WILD
MAGI ATTACK!"



DID I OVERESTIMATE THE
STRENGTH AND RESOLVE OF
JADE-REALM'S DEFENDERS?

WILL I HAVE TO GO
WITH PLAN "B"?



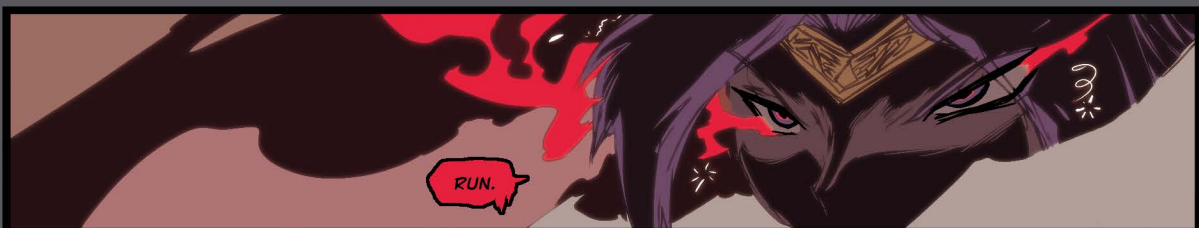
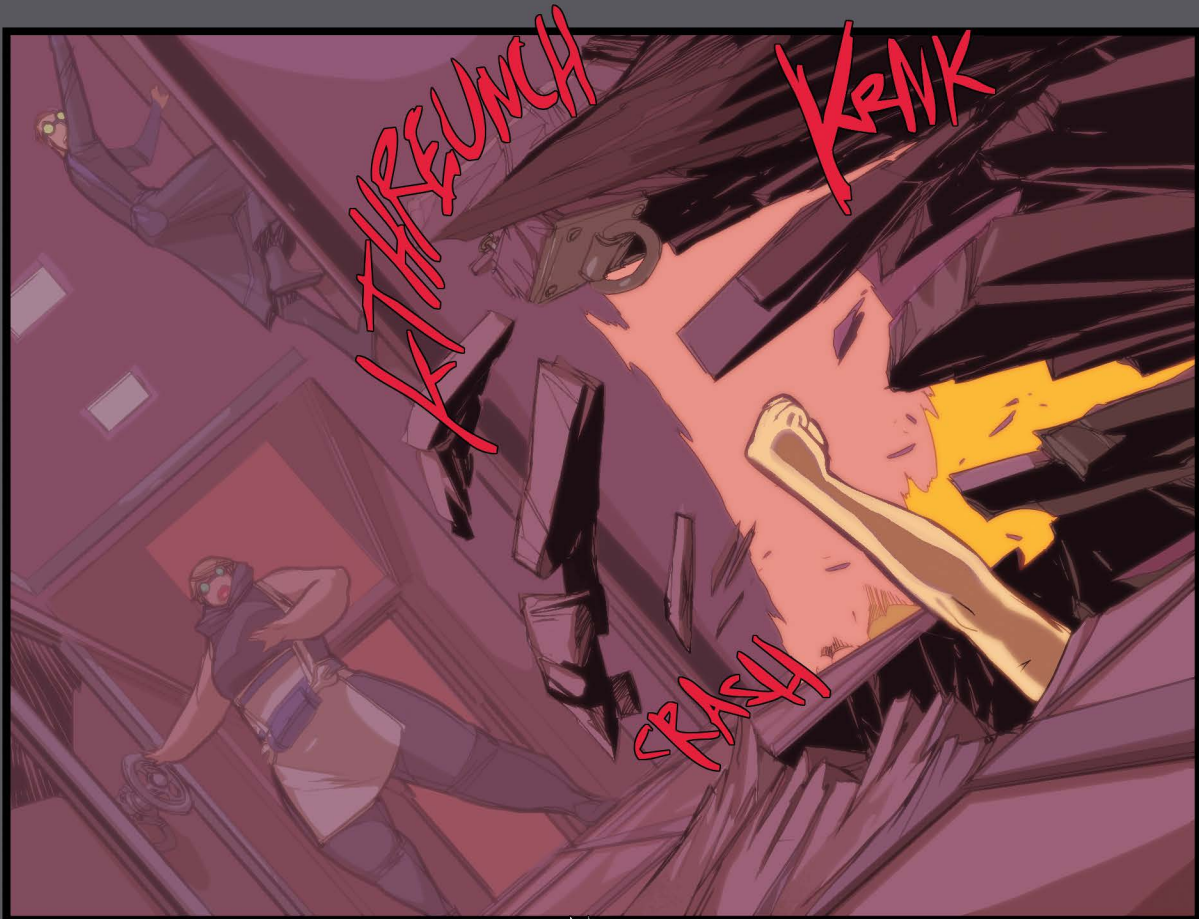
"NO...WAIT..."

"...THAT GLOW!"



"AHAHAH!!!"

"SO D'BRA'S
SPELL TRIGGER
MANAGED TO TAKE
HER 'JUMP SIGIL'
SHOT AFTER ALL!"











DREADWING'S GOING
TO TRY SOMETHING
AGAINST US!

HE'S COUNTING ON THE
WILD MAGI'S ASSAULT
TO DISTRACT US.

ARE YOU AND
THE REST OF
THE SOUTHERN
EDGE FIT FOR
DUTY?

WE SUFFERED
WOUNDS DURING THE
LAST SKIRMISH, BUT
NOTHING THAT WILL
KEEP US FROM THE
FIGHT, HIGHNESS.



EVERY CONTINGENCY
IS COVERED, THEN.

DREADWING WON'T BE
ABLE TO PUSH PAST
THE DEFENSES WE'VE
SET AROUND JADE'S
PLANAR COAST.

SO LET HIM
LEAP FROM
THE SHADOWS
TO SPRING HIS
TRAP!



AND AFTER
DREADWING FAILS,
I INTEND TO PLANT
THE STANDARD OF
JADE-REALM...

...BY SHOVING THE
BANNER SO FAR DOWN
THAT VILLAIN'S THROAT
THAT IT UNFURLS
BEHIND HIM!!!

WE'RE READY
FOR ANYTHING!



WELL,
DRAGON.
HERE I AM.

SPEAK
YOUR
MIND.

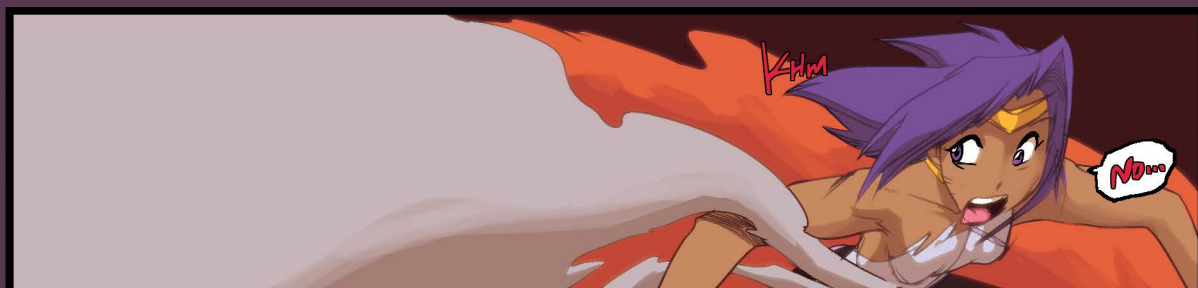
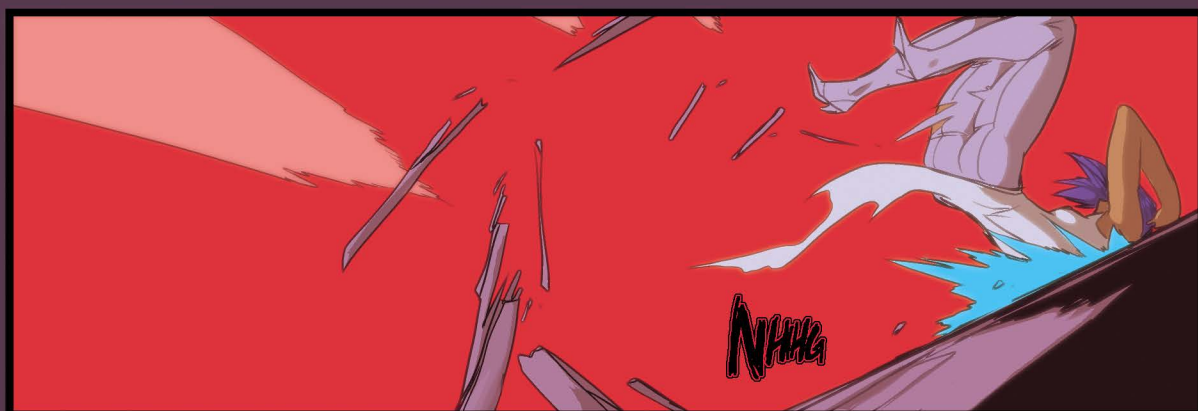
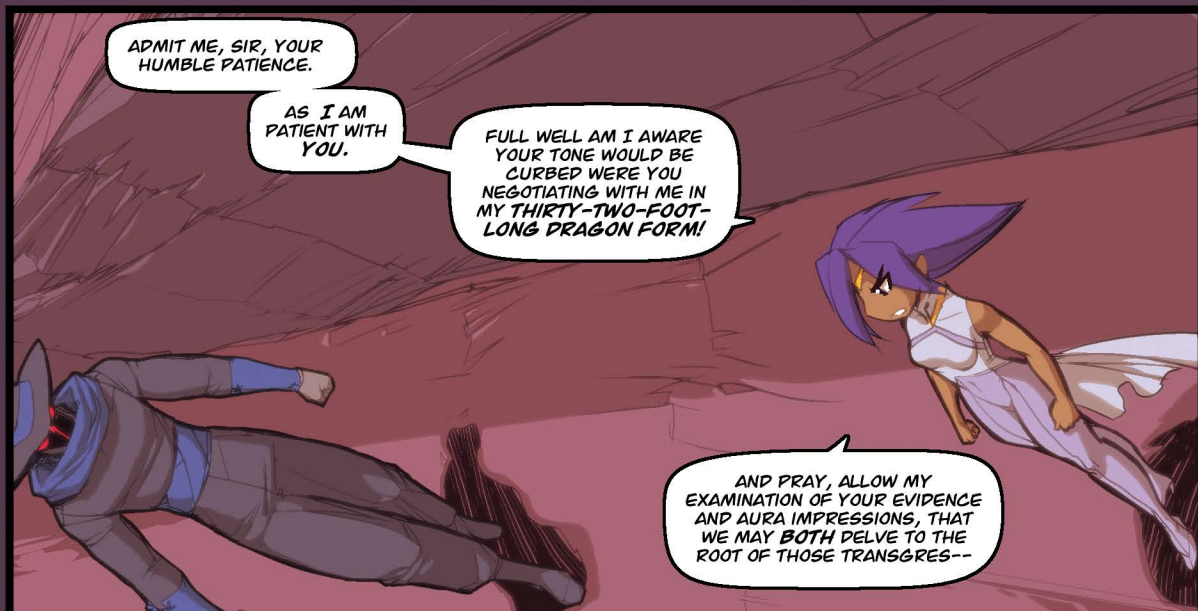
JUSTIFY THE
INVASION OF
OUR MAGI
TERRITORY BY
YOUR SCOUTS!

JUSTIFY THE
BARBARIC MURDERS
YOUR EXPLORERS
INFLICTED ON MY
KIN!

YOU CALLED FOR
THIS MEET.

NOW,
SPEAK!









YOU WERE A GOOD
ZEALOT, HARRUS.

BUT YOU MAKE AN
EVEN BETTER
MARTYR!



B-BALANCE COUNCILOR
XERCIE!?!

WASN'T SHE TAKEN
CAPTIVE BY
DREADWING AND
HIS MINIONS?

TH-THEY
TURNED
HER!

SHE'S BEEN
TURNED
AGAINST US!

NO!



THROUGH MY DRAGON'S
SENSES, I CAN FEEL THE
CONSISTENCY OF THAT
ILLUSION FROM HERE!

IT'S DREADWING'S
NEW ALLY...
SERPENTUS!

HE'S DRAPED IN A
LARGE PATCH OF
POOR XERCIE'S
AURA!

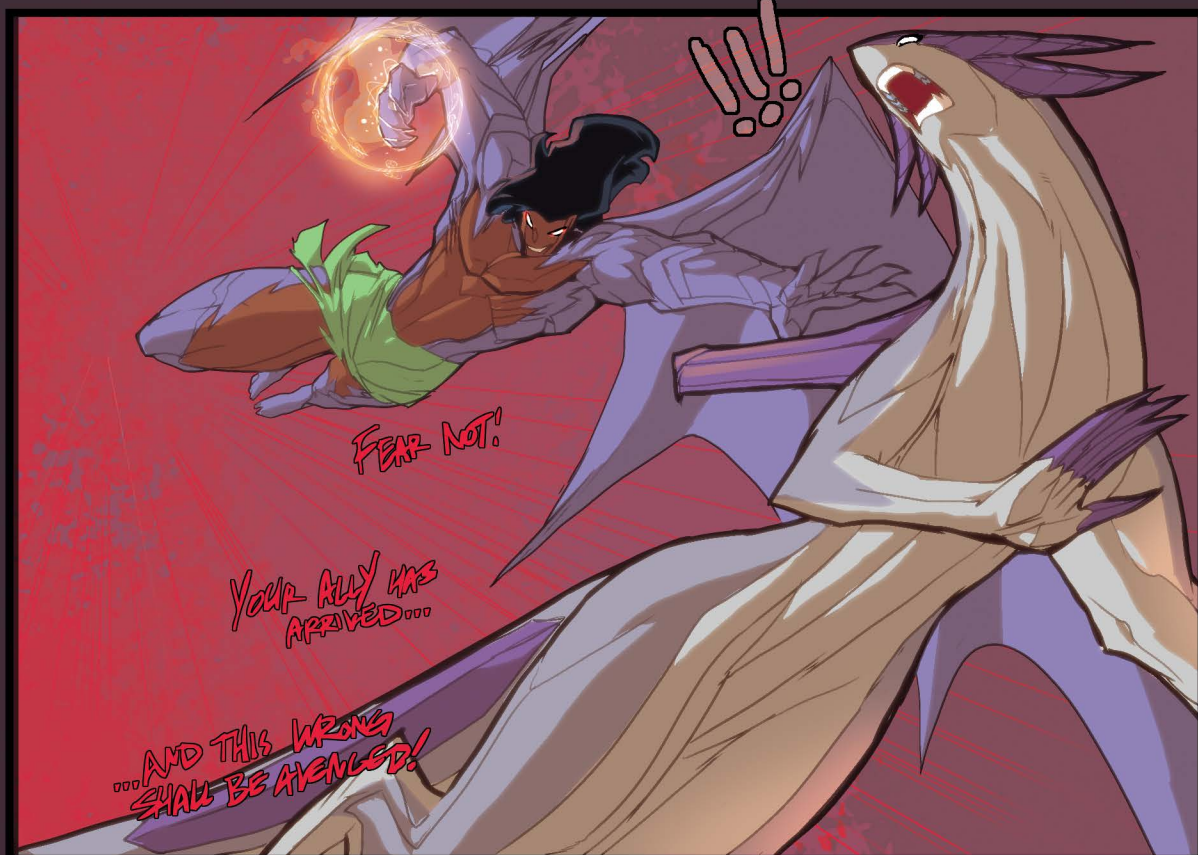
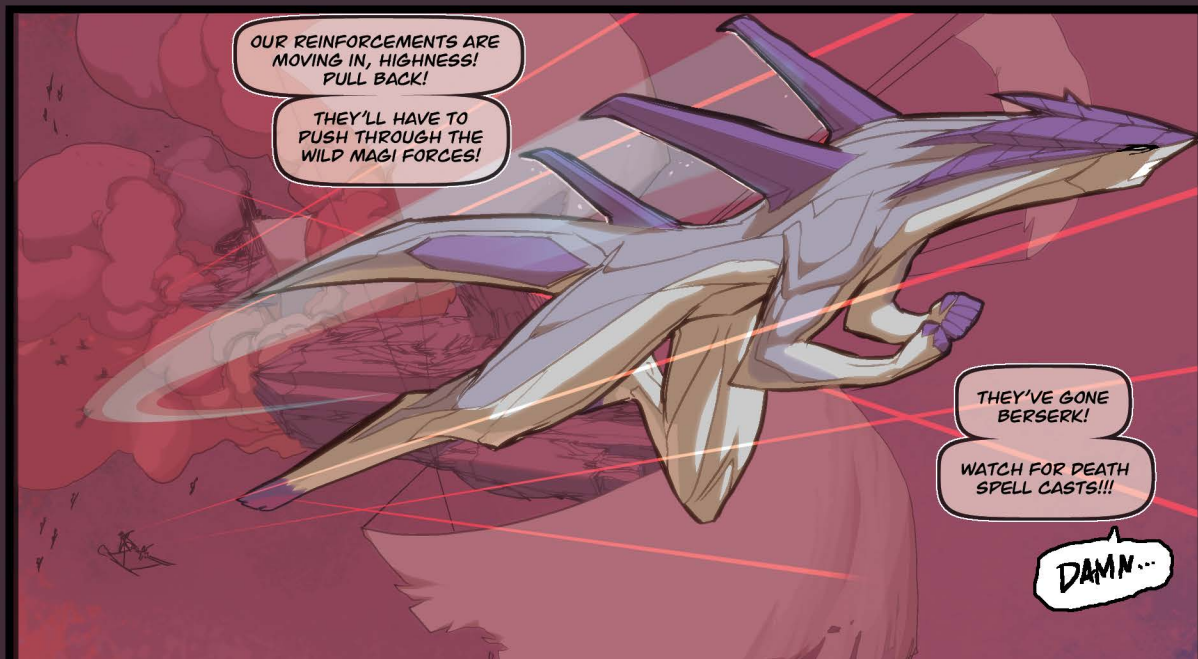
DAMN!!!



K..

K-KILL!

KILL THE
QUEEN!!!
KILL THEM
ALL!





NEXT: RHOATON VERSUS DREADWING...
ALL OUT! ALL ISSUE!!!
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO DO THIS FOR A LOOONG TIME, Y'ALL! --F.