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FRED  
PERRY

# GOLD DIGGER



NOVEMBER 2012



"WHY THROW  
AWAY YOUR LIFE  
SO RECKLESSLY,  
RHOATON?"

I WAS JUST  
ABOUT TO ASK THAT  
QUESTION, BUT NO.

THE ANSWER IS PLAIN.

THIS BATTLE HAS  
REVEALED THE  
"TREACHERY" AND  
"MALICE" OF YOU AND  
YOUR FACTION!

AND WHEN MY NEW ALLIES  
SPREAD THE WORD ACROSS  
THE ASTRAL RIFTS, YOU AND  
YOUR FRIENDS WILL FIND  
THEMSELVES DEFENDING A  
THOUSAND NEW-MADE  
BATTLEFRONTS!

AND WITH YOUR FORCES THINLY  
SPREAD ACROSS JADE-REALM'S  
PLANAR SHORES, HOW SIMPLE  
WOULD IT BE FOR ME TO  
PUNCH THROUGH?

THE WAR WAS LOST  
HERE, RHOATON.

AND THIS IS  
WHY YOU STAND  
BEFORE ME  
NOW.

IF YOU CAN TAKE  
MY LIFE, YOU CAN  
PLUCK YOUR  
COMMONWEAL'S  
FATE FROM THE  
BRINK!

VILLAIN, YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT OF IT...  
FOR THE MOST  
PART.

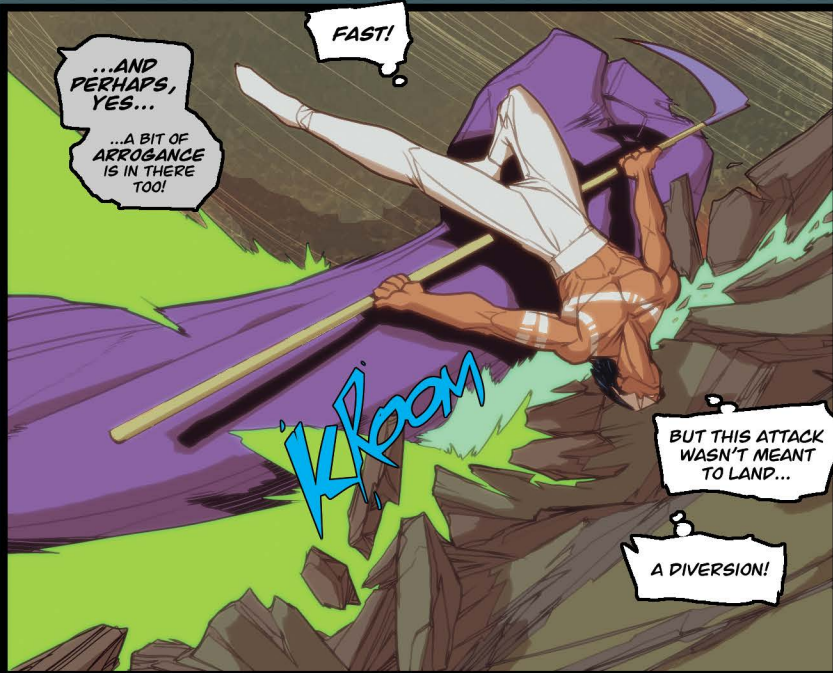
BUT I TELL YOU  
TRUTHFULLY THAT  
NOTHING ATTRACTS  
THE HARDENED  
KNUCKLES ON THE  
BACK OF MY HAND  
MORE THAN  
AN ARROGANT  
SMIRK!\*

\*YUP.  
JUST ASK  
THE  
CURRENT  
ARMS-  
MASTER  
OF JADE.

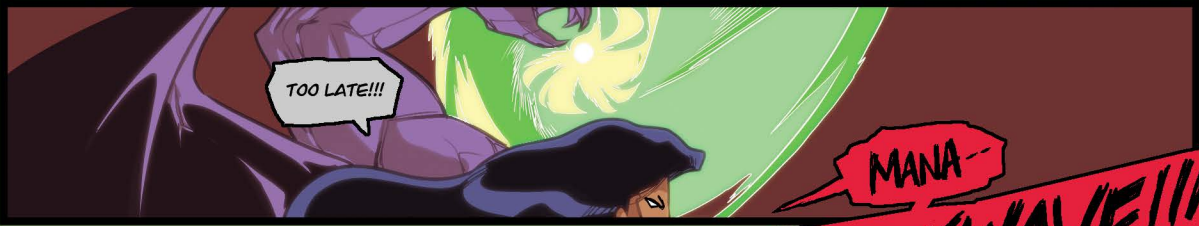
F.



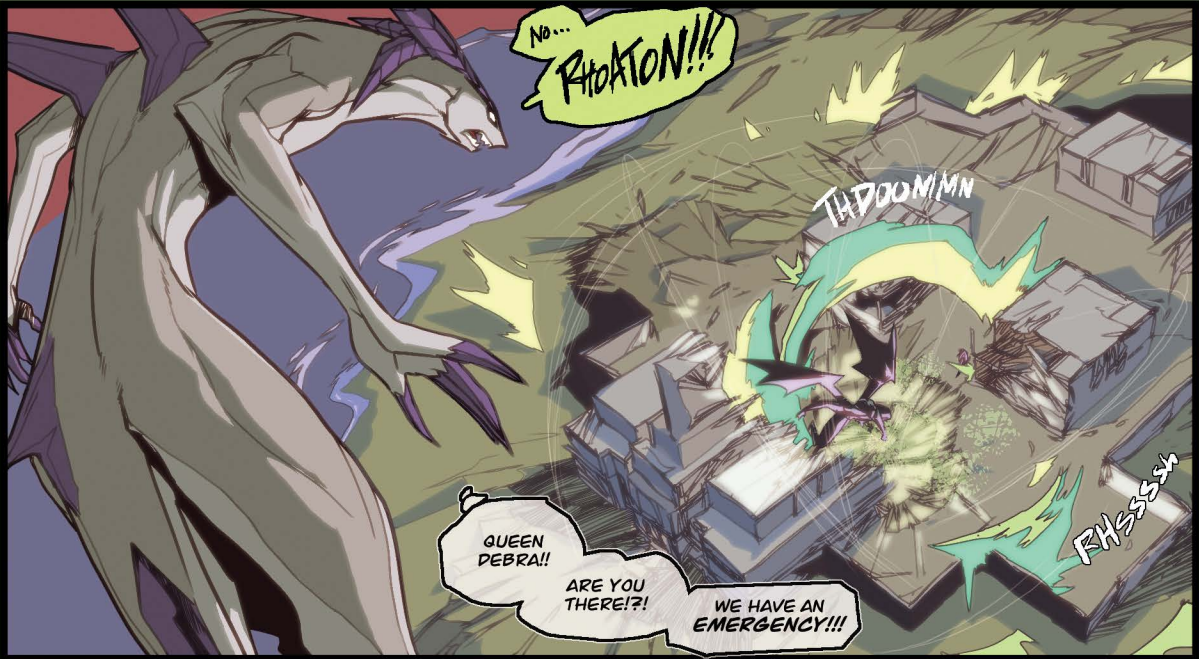
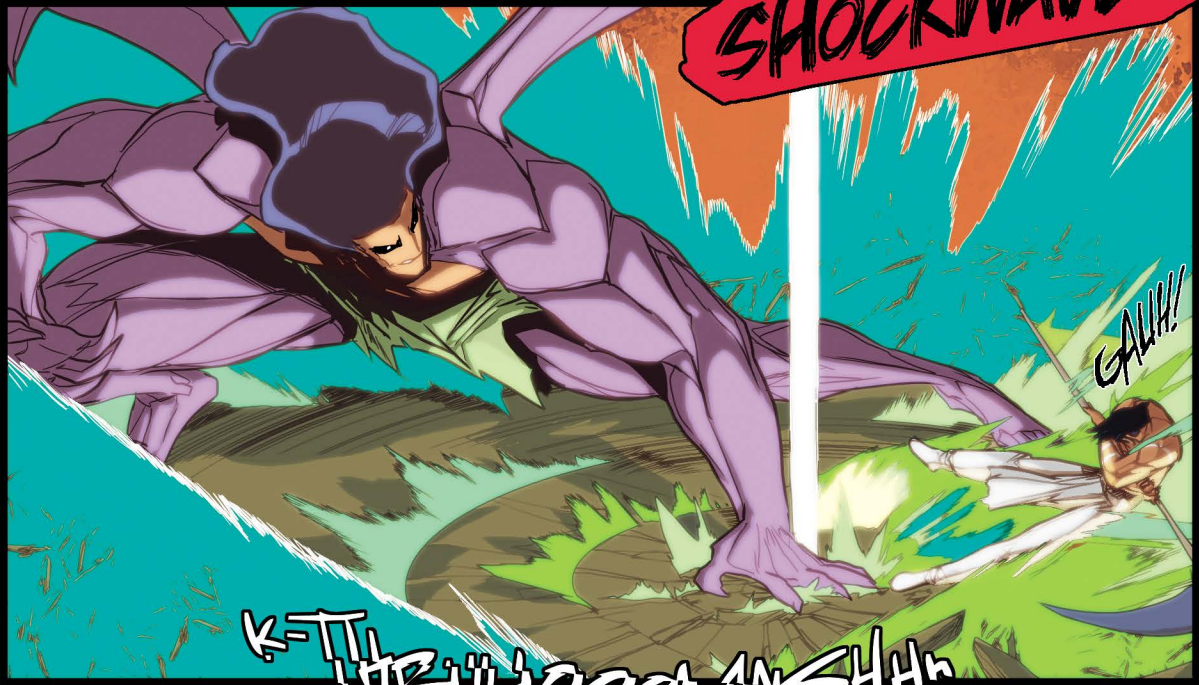








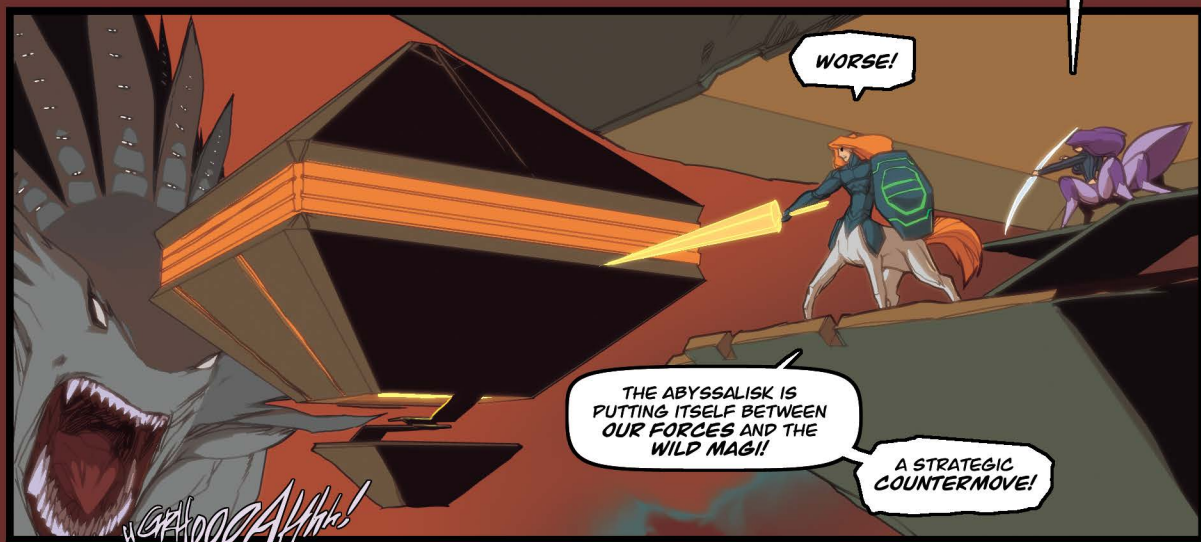
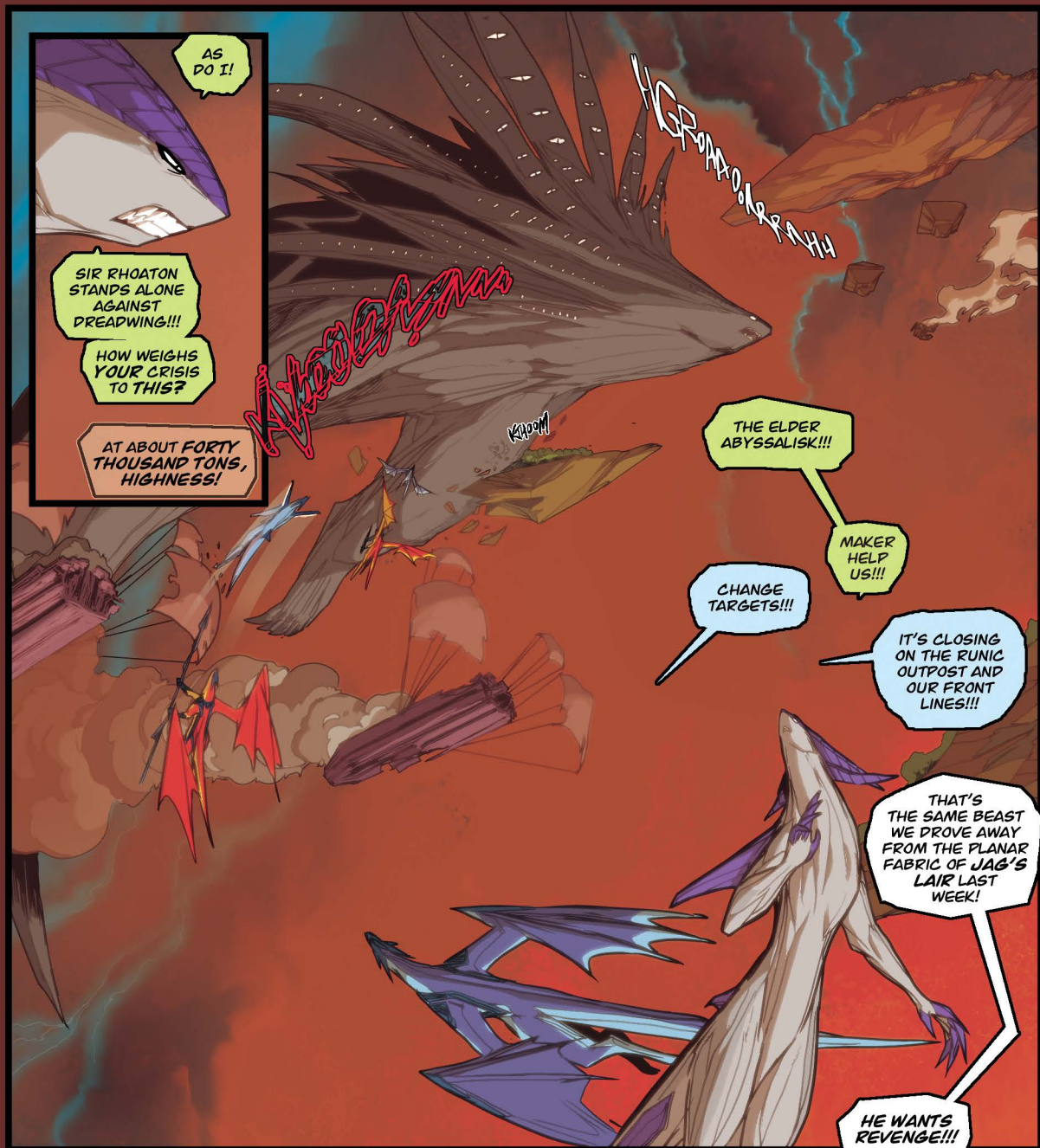
MANA--  
**SHOCKWAVE!!!**



QUEEN  
DEBRA!!  
ARE YOU  
THERE?!

WE HAVE AN  
EMERGENCY!!!









"...HE'S PART OF DREADWING'S ASSAULT!"

AEOD'S BLOOD!

A PLANAR HORROR FIGHTS FOR US!?!

NO.

A PLANAR HORROR FIGHTS FOR ME!



DREADWING!

YOU ARE ALL TOO CARELESS OF YOUR FRIENDS, MAGUS.



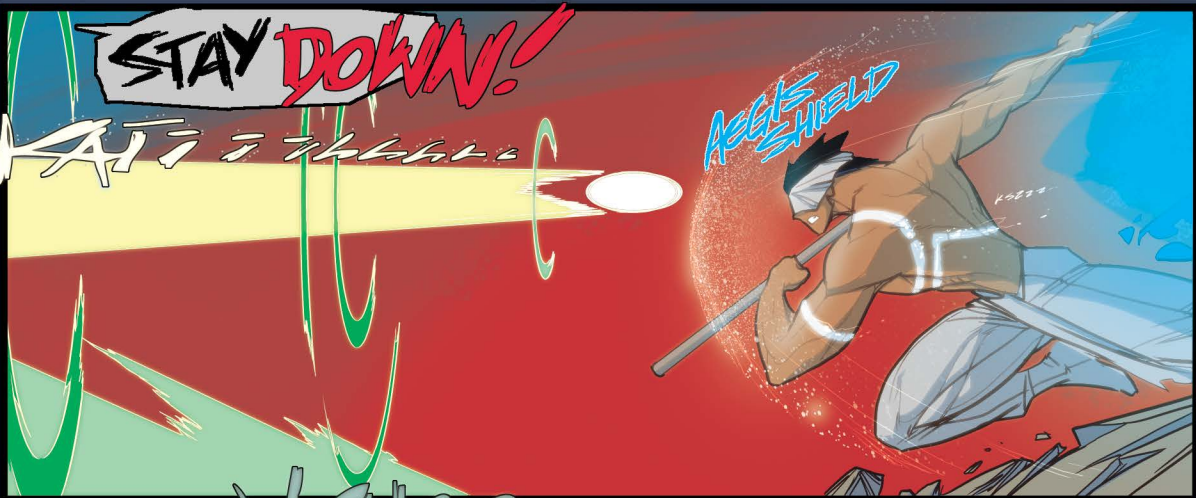
AFTER ALL THE WARNINGS I GAVE YOU OF ATTACKING JADE-REALM'S PLANAR COAST WITHOUT MY GUIDANCE...

...AFTER ALL MY WARNINGS OF THE TREACHEROUS STRENGTH OF JADE-REALM'S DEFENSES...

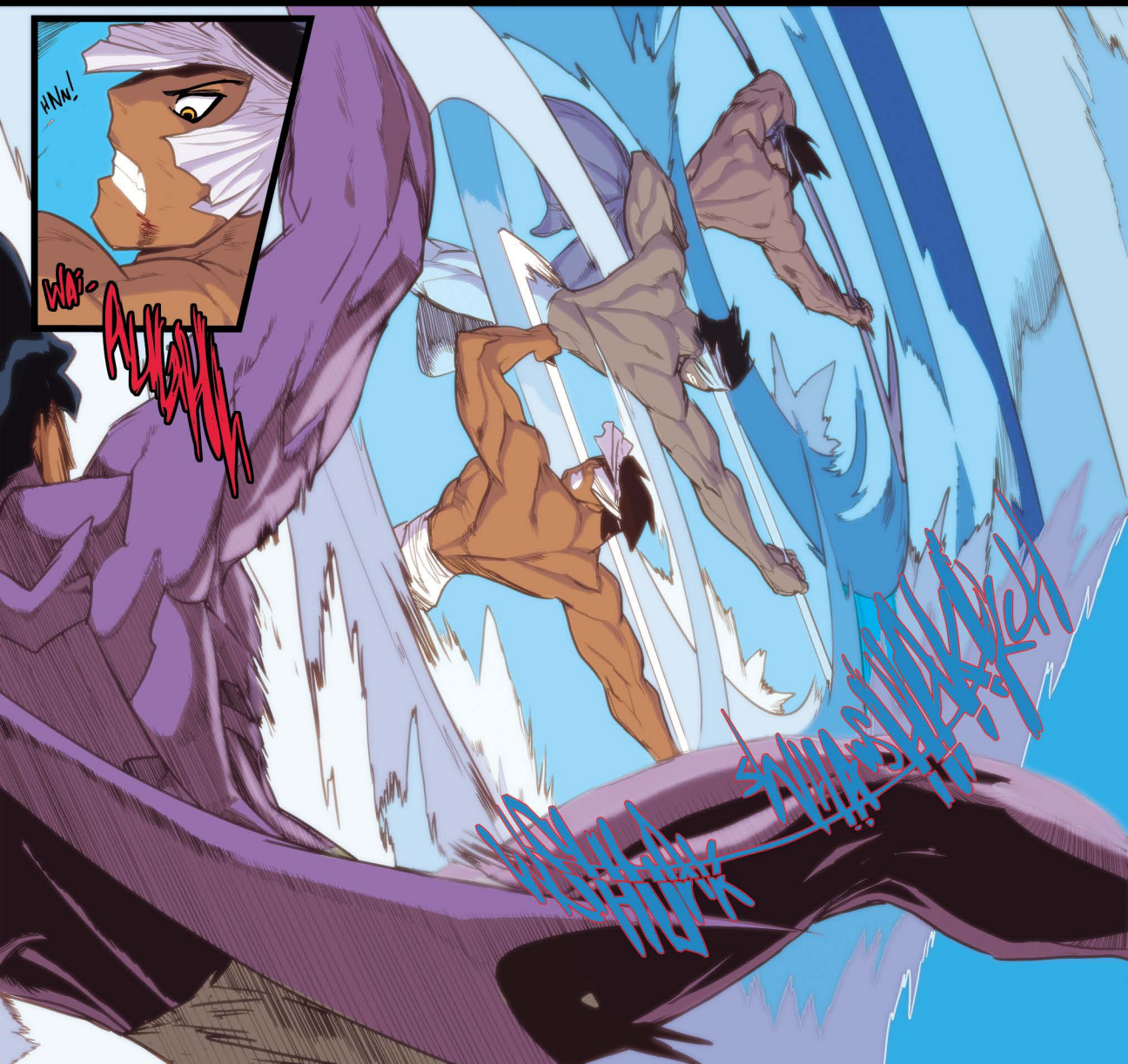
...YOU'VE FORCED ME TO SPEND MY OWN RESOURCES TO COME TO YOUR RESCUE!













A large, powerful blue and white energy attack, resembling a giant hand or a massive fist, is shown striking a rocky cliff. The impact is massive, with a large section of the cliff being blasted away. The background is a deep red, suggesting a fiery or intense environment. The attack is labeled 'AEGIS WHIRLWIND' in a green box.

**AEGIS WHIRLWIND:**  
A MASTER TECHNIQUE.

LIKE ALL MASTER  
TECHNIQUES, THIS  
ATTACK CHANNELS THE  
STRENGTH OF EVERY  
MUSCLE IN THE BODY,  
CREATING POWER  
GREATER THAN THE  
SUM OF THE ENERGY  
UTILIZED.

Rhoaton, a muscular man with a white headband and a red and white loincloth, is shown in a dynamic pose, channeling his chi. He is surrounded by a large, swirling blue and white energy field. The background is a deep red. The scene is labeled 'RHOATON'S FOCUS ENABLES HIM TO CHANNEL HIS CHI INTO THE TECHNIQUE AS WELL...' in a green box.

**RHOATON'S FOCUS ENABLES  
HIM TO CHANNEL HIS CHI INTO  
THE TECHNIQUE AS WELL...**

...AND, IN  
TIMES OF DIRE  
NEED, SO  
VERY MUCH  
MORE!

**RHOATON!!!**

**RHOATON! ENOUGH!!!**

I-I SAW  
YOU!

I FELT YOU BURN YOUR  
OWN AURA...THE SKIN OF  
YOUR SOUL...TO FUEL  
THAT ATTACK!

NO AURA...

NOT A DRAGON'S NOR  
A HUMAN'S...

SHOULD EVER BE  
FLARED LIKE THAT!!!

I-I ORDER YOU  
TO STAND AWAY,  
RHOATON!

I'LL DEAL WITH  
DREADWING  
FROM HERE!









XDOOM!

KTHALP

WAIT--

...

I KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO!



COMMANDER SKYE!  
GATHER YOUR TEAM!

SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS  
AND MAKE YOUR WAY INTO  
THE NEAREST WILD MAGI  
SIEGE TOWER HULKS!



HIGHNESS?!  
HAVE YOU GONE  
MAD!?!?

NO...BUT WHAT I  
HAVE IN MIND IS  
SO CRAZY...

...IT JUST  
MIGHT  
WORK!



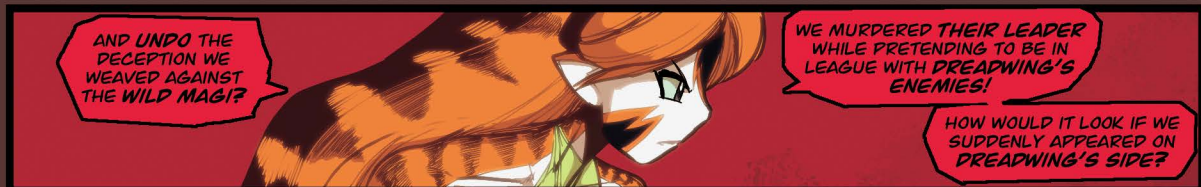


HM.

THIS GAMBIT  
WORKED MUCH  
BETTER ON THE  
PLANNING  
SCROLLS!

ARE WE TO MOVE  
INTO THE THRONG,  
THEN, LORD  
SERPENTUS?

TO DREADWING'S  
SIDE?



AND UNDO THE  
DECEPTION WE  
WEAVED AGAINST  
THE WILD MAGI?

WE MURDERED THEIR LEADER  
WHILE PRETENDING TO BE IN  
LEAGUE WITH DREADWING'S  
ENEMIES!

HOW WOULD IT LOOK IF WE  
SUDDENLY APPEARED ON  
DREADWING'S SIDE?



NO.  
WE'VE DONE  
OUR PART.

THIS BATTLE IS NOW IN  
DREADWING'S HANDS!

WOW!

LOOK AT  
ALL THOSE  
BOO-BOOS!

DOES IT  
HURT?

NEVER MIND  
THE "BOO-BOOS"  
MYNNY!

WHAT ABOUT  
THIS WEIRD,  
WEIGHTLESS  
DEATH-MIST?!

WHO DO WE  
HAUNT IF OUR  
HAUNTEE  
DIES!?!?

S-SILENCE,  
PARASITES.

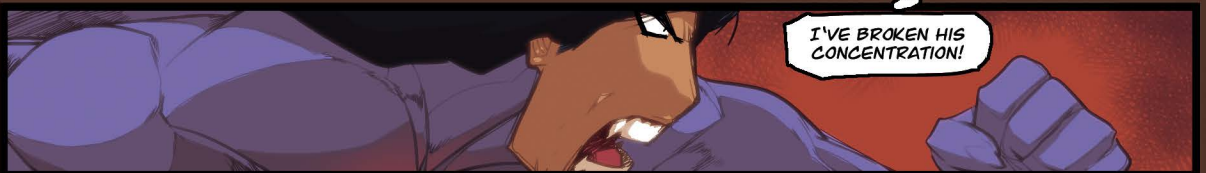
KH-

I SHALL INDEED  
RECOVER BEFORE  
THE MIST DRAINS  
MY LIFE AWAY!













IF I ALLOWED HIM  
A FEW CHANCES...

...HIS MAGIC COULD HAVE  
KILLED ME AS SURELY AS  
A WOODMAN'S AXE  
CLEAVES A TREE!



BUT NOW, HE  
HAMMERS AGAINST  
MY TRUNK WITH  
A MAUL!

TWICE AS  
PAINFUL...



...BUT HALF AS  
EFFECTIVE!

YOUR  
WEAPON...

...YOU CAN  
SET IT AS  
AN AURA  
FUSE?!



AURA FUSES IGNITE  
THE STORED MANA IN  
A MAGIC-USER'S  
RESERVE!

THE STRONGER  
THE RESERVE,  
THE GREATER  
THE DETONATION!

A MASTER CAN  
DEFUSE THESE  
"BOMBS", BUT  
ONLY WHEN THEY  
ARE FOCUSED  
AND ALERT!



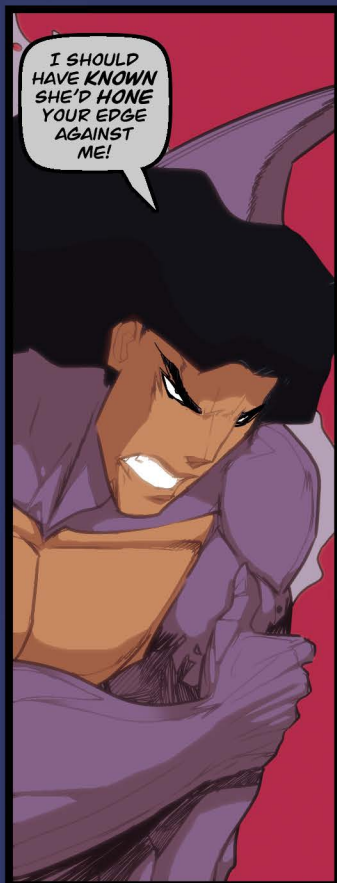


I HAVE A CHANCE  
IF I ENDURE....

...IF I CAN FIGHT  
LONG ENOUGH FOR  
QUEEN DEBRA TO  
CLAIM VICTORY!

I SHOULD HAVE  
SUSPECTED YOU'D  
BE TROUBLESOME...

YOU ARE A  
MINION OF THE  
ANCIENT ONE,  
AFTER ALL!



I SHOULD  
HAVE KNOWN  
SHE'D HONE  
YOUR EDGE  
AGAINST  
ME!



BUT SHE  
MISJUDGES  
MY STRENGTH,  
RHOATON!

YOU  
MISJUDGE MY  
STRENGTH!



I THINK  
NOT.

I BROKE YOUR  
CONCENTRATION!

I IGNITED YOUR  
MANA RESERVES!

I PLUCKED YOUR  
FANGS AWAY!

I HAVE YOU IN  
STALEMATE!







WE SHALL SEE!

KROO



THAT WE SHALL!

WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, YOU'VE STILL THE AURA OF AN IRON DRAGON!

AND YOU'VE A FULL DAY BEFORE IT'S REPLENI--

KROO



KROO

KROO



A FULL DAY TO REPLENISH MY AURA.

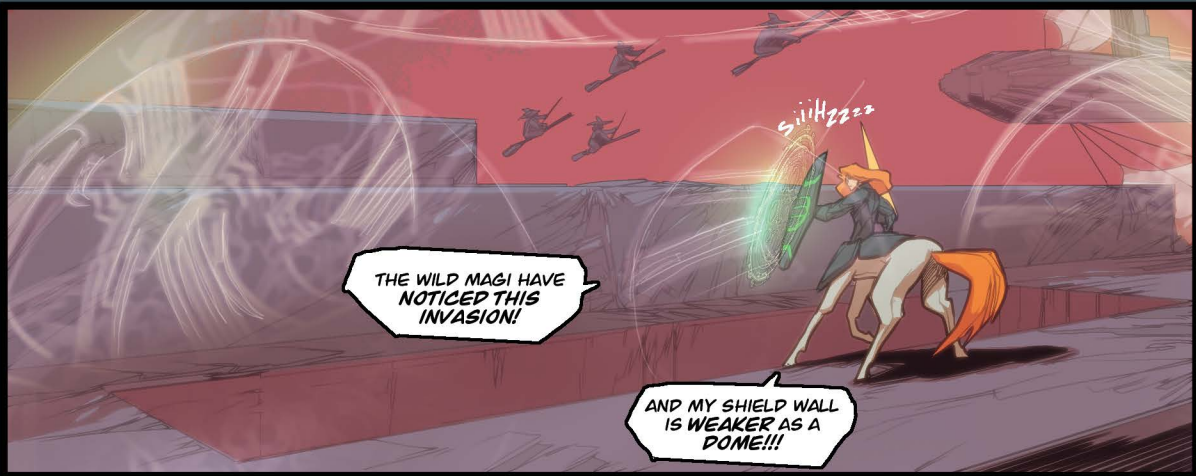
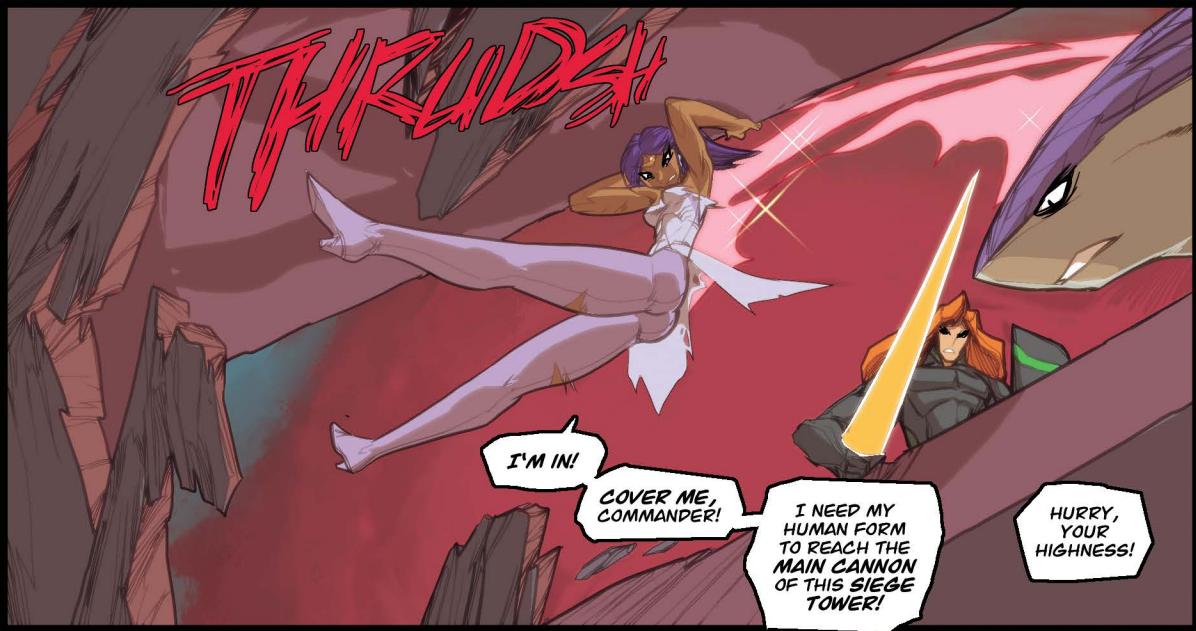
UNLESS...



...I SUCKED BACK THE MANA I USED TO GRANT MY POWERFUL HYBRID FORM!

WHICH IS QUITE A BIT!







WE'LL COVER YOUR  
ASSAULT FROM  
HERE, COMMANDER!

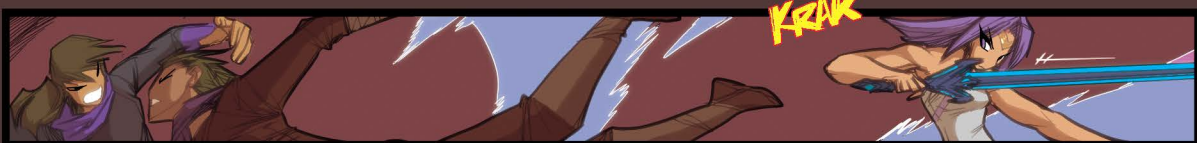
BUT QUEEN  
DEBRA HAS  
TO HURRY!



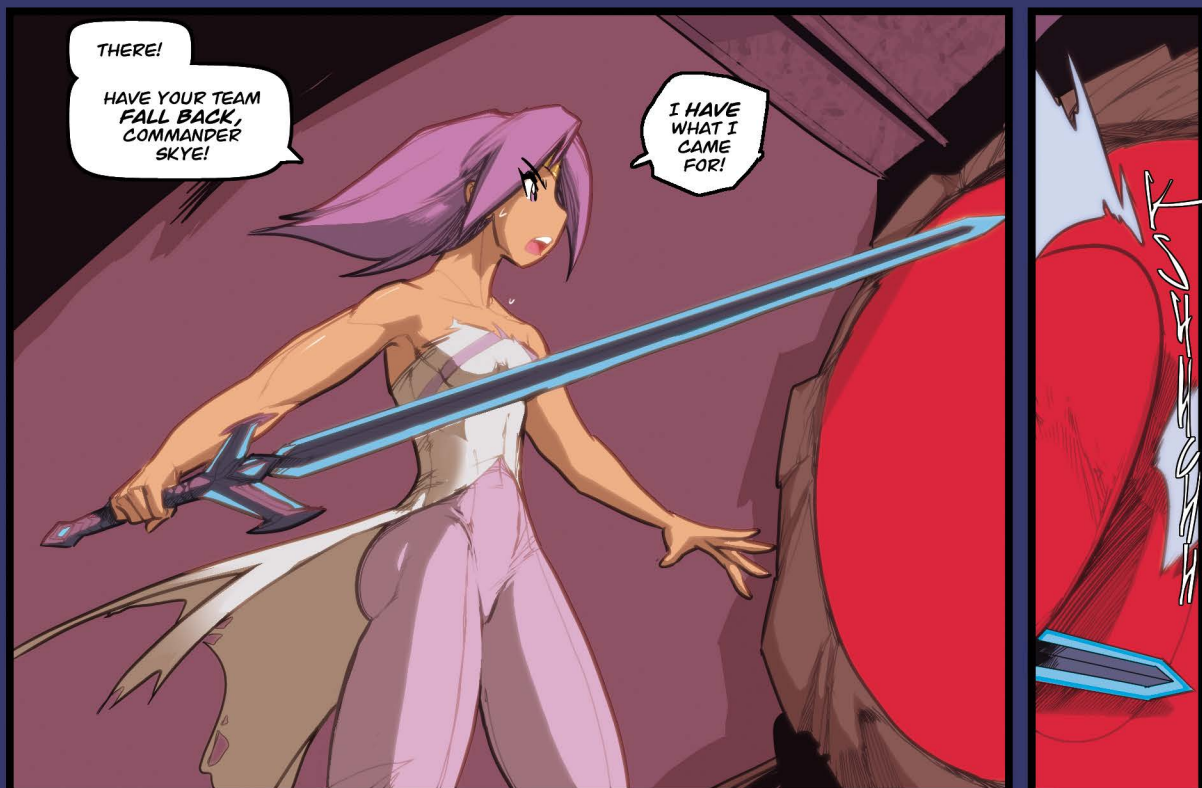
THE WHOLE WILD  
MAGI ARMY ARE  
CONVERGING ON  
HER POSITION!!!



JUST A FEW  
MORE GUARDS!



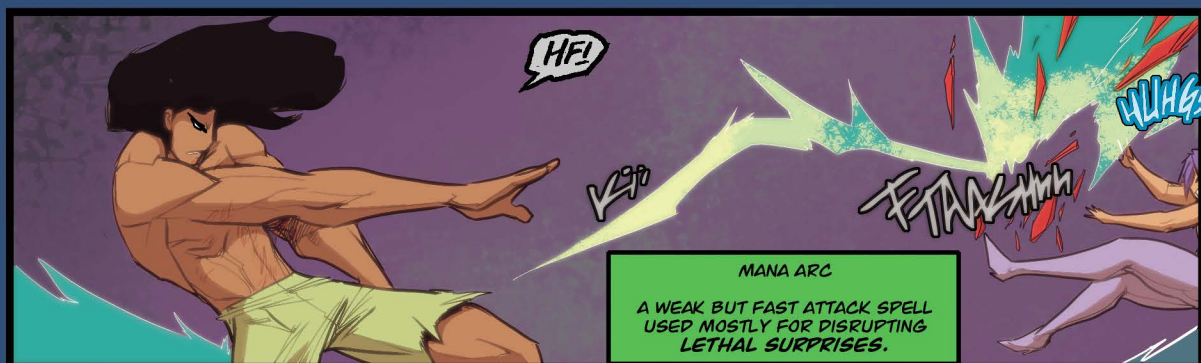
















COMMANDER  
SKYE!!!

QUICKLY!

RIGHT!  
FRONT SHIELD  
WALL RAISED!!!

HMPH!

WAS THAT YOUR  
PLAY, D'BRA?

TRYING TO  
AUGMENT YOUR  
BEAM ATTACK  
WITH A STOLEN  
CANNON LENS?

YOU'RE A  
PLATINUM  
DRAGON!

PLATINUM DRAGON  
ORGANIC SPELL  
LENSES CANNOT BE  
ENHANCED!!!

YOUR MOTHER  
RAISED A FOOL!



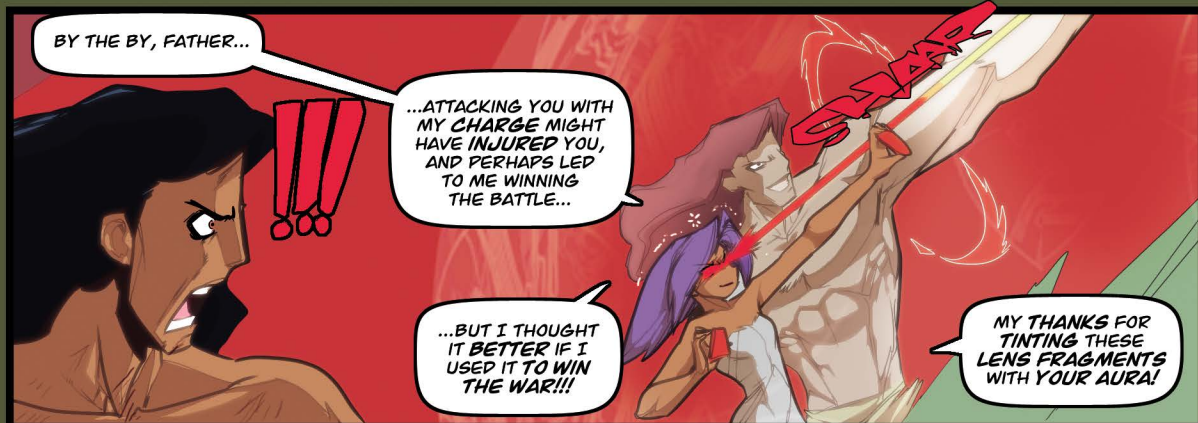
NGH!

F-FORGIVE THIS  
INDIGNITY, SIR  
RHOATON!

FOR THE LAST  
TIME, DUSQUE...

HE'LL NOT  
CARE THAT HE  
WAS SAVED BY  
YOUR PRIVATE  
PARTS!!!

ONLY THAT  
HE WAS  
SAVED!!!



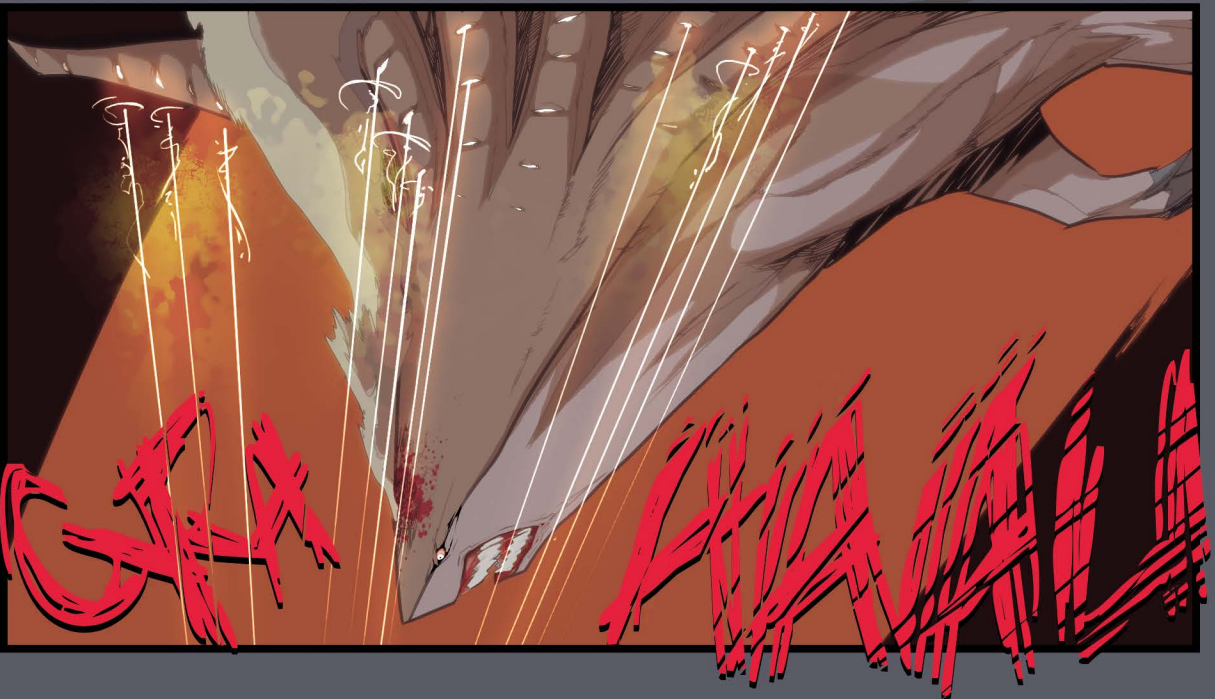
BY THE BY, FATHER...

...ATTACKING YOU WITH  
MY CHARGE MIGHT  
HAVE INJURED YOU,  
AND PERHAPS LED  
TO ME WINNING  
THE BATTLE...

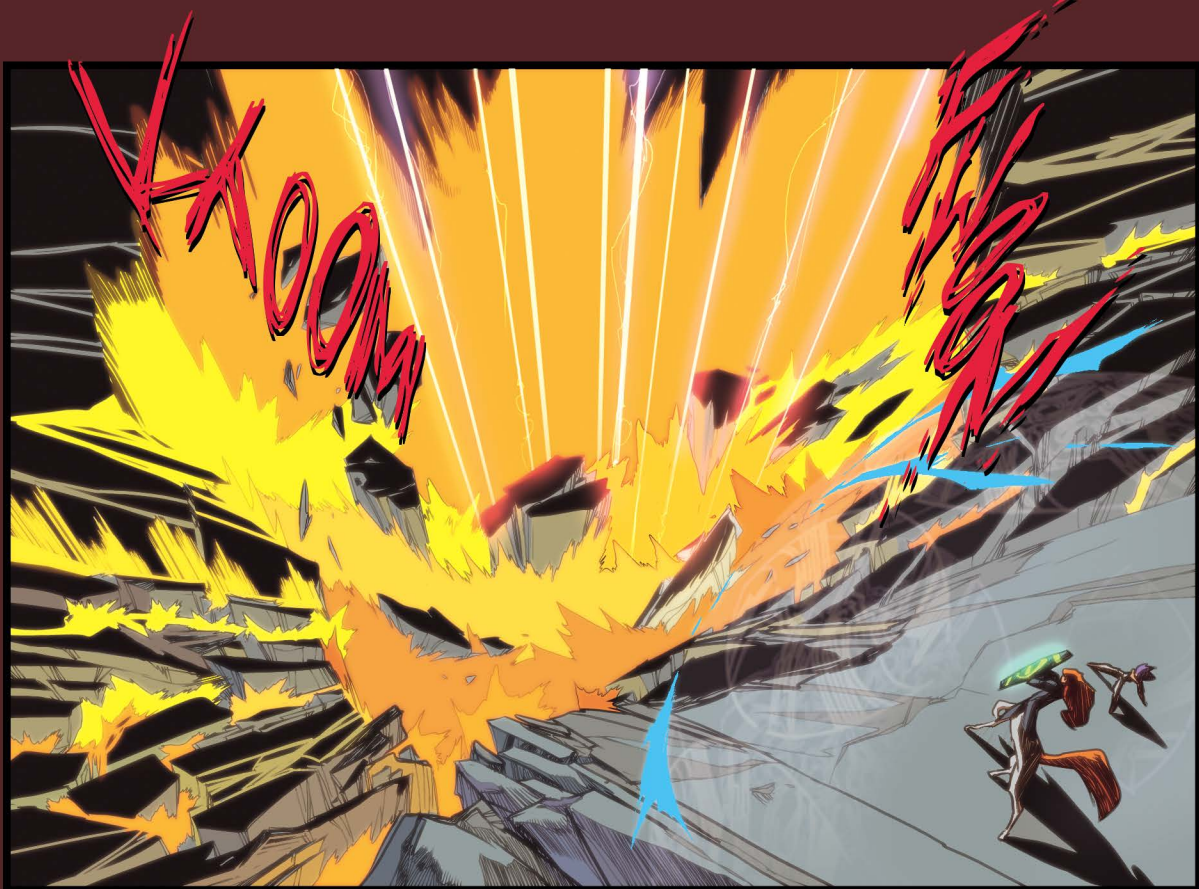
...BUT I THOUGHT  
IT BETTER IF I  
USED IT TO WIN  
THE WAR!!!

MY THANKS FOR  
TINTING THESE  
LENS FRAGMENTS  
WITH YOUR AURA!









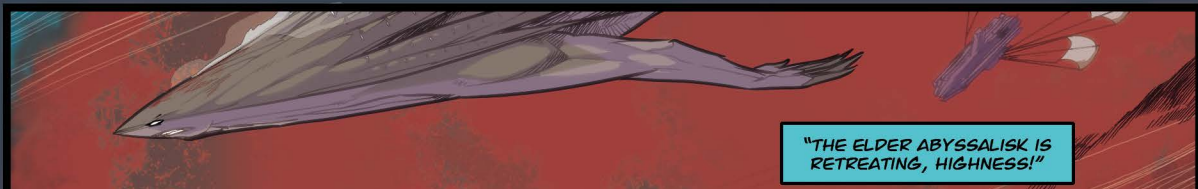




AN ESCAPE  
SPELL...

NOT THE FIRST TIME  
THAT COWARD TOOK  
FLIGHT!

WE'LL HAVE TO  
CORNER HIM IN  
HIS OWN LAIR!!!



"THE ELDER ABYSSALISK IS  
RETREATING, HIGHNESS!"



YES... HE'S  
DEMORALIZED  
BY HIS ALLY'S  
"BETRAYAL".

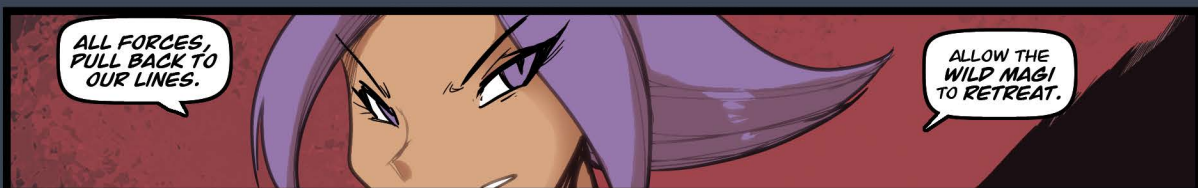
...AND I DOUBT DREADWING  
WILL BE ABLE TO DRAG HIM  
BACK INTO THE NEXT  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
US SO EASILY!

SHOULD OUR FORCES  
PURSUE?

NO, LADY  
SUNPANCE.

FOR US, SLAYING AN  
ELDER ABYSSALISK  
IS JUST AS DIFFICULT  
AS SLAYING A DIRE  
GRIZZLY IS FOR A  
HORNET'S NEST.

IT IS MUCH EASIER  
TO DRIVE IT AWAY.



ALL FORCES,  
PULL BACK TO  
OUR LINES.

ALLOW THE  
WILD MAGI  
TO RETREAT.





THEY STILL BELIEVE THE  
DECEPTION DREADWING  
PLAYED UPON THEM.

THEY STILL BELIEVE I  
SLEW THEIR  
LEADER.

THEY STILL SEE  
US AS ENEMIES...



...BUT NOW THEY  
KNOW HOW FIERCE  
OUR DEFENSES ARE...

...AND THEY SAW  
DREADWING AND  
HIS STRENGTH  
ABANDON THEIR  
SIDE.

THAT  
BUYS US  
TIME.

A SHALLOW BUT  
NOURISHING VICTORY.

BUT IF I AM TO  
ABSOLVE MYSELF...

...IF I AM TO  
KEEP ALL THE  
WILD MAGI  
TRIBES FROM  
GATHERING  
AGAINST JADE...

...I'LL NEED  
THAT TIME TO  
PREPARE MY  
CASE FOR A  
TRIAL...



...IN  
THEIR  
COURTS.

END.