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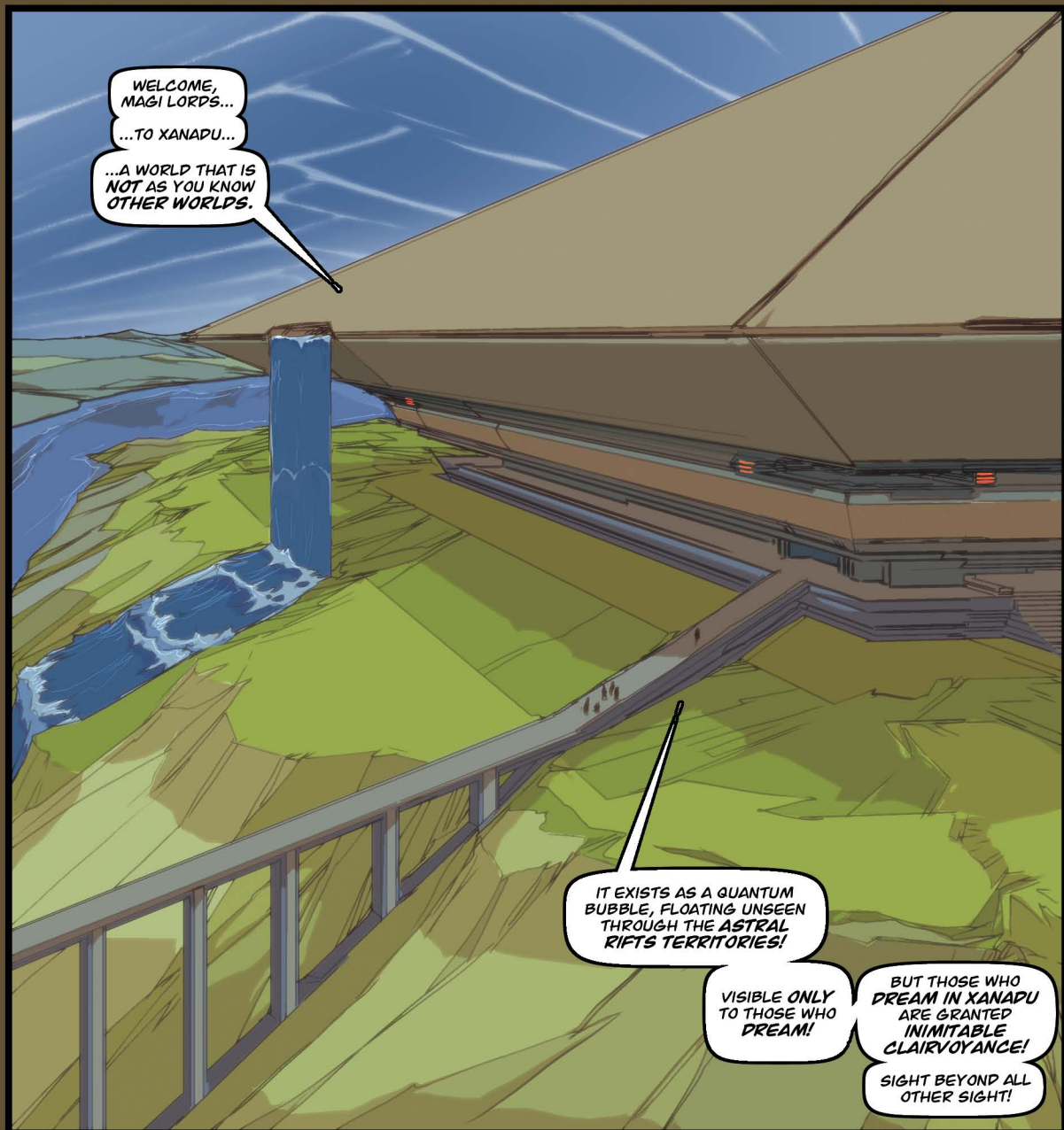
FRED PERRY

# GOLD DIGGER



DECEMBER 2012





WELCOME,  
MAGI LORDS...

...TO XANADU...

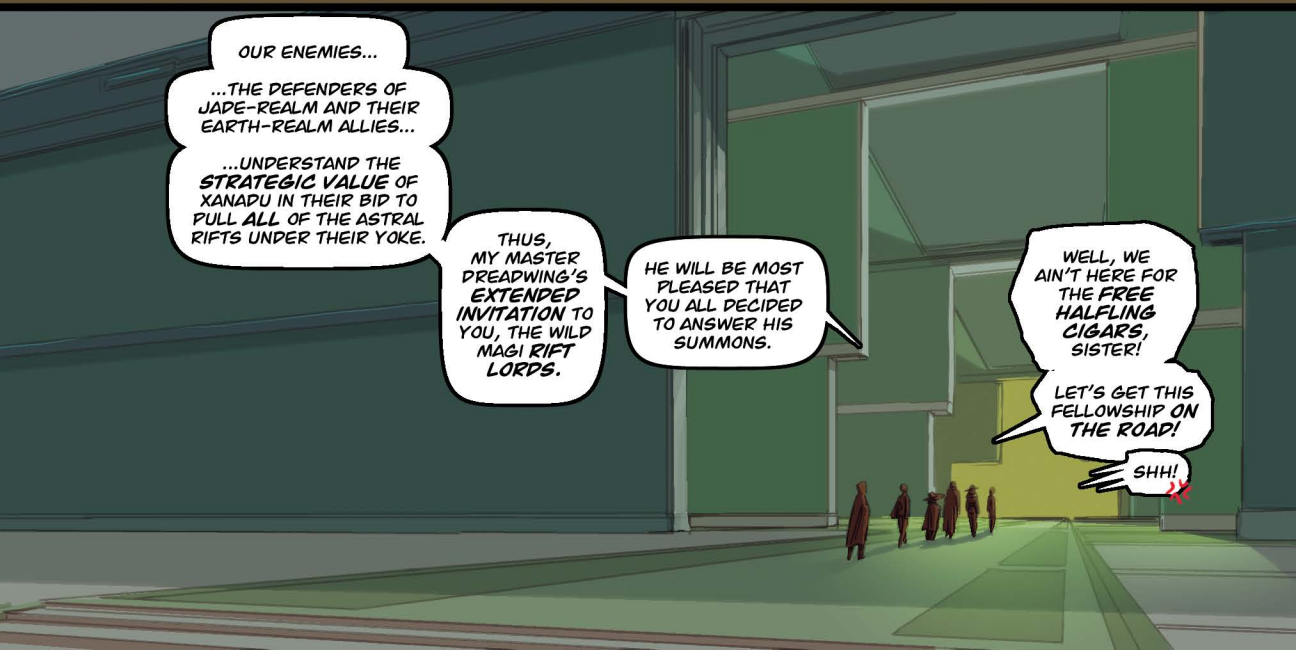
...A WORLD THAT IS  
NOT AS YOU KNOW  
OTHER WORLDS.

IT EXISTS AS A QUANTUM  
BUBBLE, FLOATING UNSEEN  
THROUGH THE ASTRAL  
RIFTS TERRITORIES!

VISIBLE ONLY  
TO THOSE WHO  
DREAM!

BUT THOSE WHO  
DREAM IN XANADU  
ARE GRANTED  
INIMITABLE  
CLAIRVOYANCE!

SIGHT BEYOND ALL  
OTHER SIGHT!



OUR ENEMIES...

...THE DEFENDERS OF  
JADE-REALM AND THEIR  
EARTH-REALM ALLIES...

...UNDERSTAND THE  
**STRATEGIC VALUE** OF  
XANADU IN THEIR BID TO  
PULL ALL OF THE ASTRAL  
RIFTS UNDER THEIR YOKE.

THUS,  
MY MASTER  
DREADWING'S  
**EXTENDED**  
INVITATION TO  
YOU, THE WILD  
MAGI RIFT  
LORDS.

HE WILL BE MOST  
PLEASED THAT  
YOU ALL DECIDED  
TO ANSWER HIS  
SUMMONS.

WELL, WE  
AIN'T HERE FOR  
THE **FREE**  
**HALFLING**  
**CIGARS,**  
SISTER!

LET'S GET THIS  
FELLOWSHIP ON  
THE ROAD!

SHH!







.....

WHAT?

WE'RE ALL THINKIN' IT... I'M JUST SAYIN' IT!



I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHAT WE ALL PUT ON OUR BEDROOM SLIPPERS AND OUR FANCY PAJAMAS, RIGHT?

THERE'S SOME BOZOS OUT THERE THAT NEED TO BE BOOTED IN THE HEAD!



EHEM...

THOUGH MAGE GRUBBERMUN HAS NEVER BEEN COUNTED AMONG THE MOST TACTFUL OF OUR FACTION, HE IS NOT WHOLLY WRONG, LADY SHERISHA.

INDEED...

AFTER HEARING OF JADE-REALM'S ATROCITIES...

...WE WISH TO "BOOT SOME HEAD" TOO!



THEN MIGHT I SUGGEST A BIT OF PATIENCE?

OUR COMMON ENEMY WAS ONCE WEAK AND DIVIDED.

BUT NOW, JADE-REALM'S STRENGTH IS BOLSTERED BY THEIR NEW LEADER!

D'BRA... THE NEWLY CROWNED BROOD QUEEN OF DRAGONS... AND MY DAUGHTER.



PATIENCE?

AS IN FIVE MINUTES  
FROM NOW?

AN HOUR? WHAT KINDA  
TIMETABLE ARE WE  
LOOKIN' AT HERE?

I AIN'T GOT  
ALL DAY!

I'M MISSIN' MY  
SHOWS!

"PATIENCE" AS IN DO  
NOT TRY MINE,  
LITTLE MAGE.

THESE WOUNDS I  
GAINED IN DEFENSE  
OF YOUR IMPERILED  
ARMIES!

AND THIS  
BECAUSE OF MAGI  
IMPATIENCE!

MY FURY IS  
ROUSED.

I WISH TO  
DIRECT IT  
TOWARDS  
PRODUCTIVE  
PURPOSES...

...SO TEST ME  
NOT!

PFFT!

WHAT?

YOU WANT  
A PIECE OF  
THIS!?!?

WELL, BRING IT,  
TOUGH GUY!

SO WHAT IF  
YOU GOT  
POWER?

ME AND MY  
MATES'LL STILL  
WIND UP WHIPPIN'  
THE WALLS WITH  
YOU!

MASTER DREADWING, JUST IN PASSING,  
WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE THAT WHILE  
GRUBBERMUN REPRESENTS A MINOR  
HOUSE OF THE WILD MAGI...

...HIS ANNOYANCE IS  
UBIQUITOUS, AND HIS  
DEMISE WOULD NOT BE  
UNFORESEEN...OR  
UNWARRANTED.

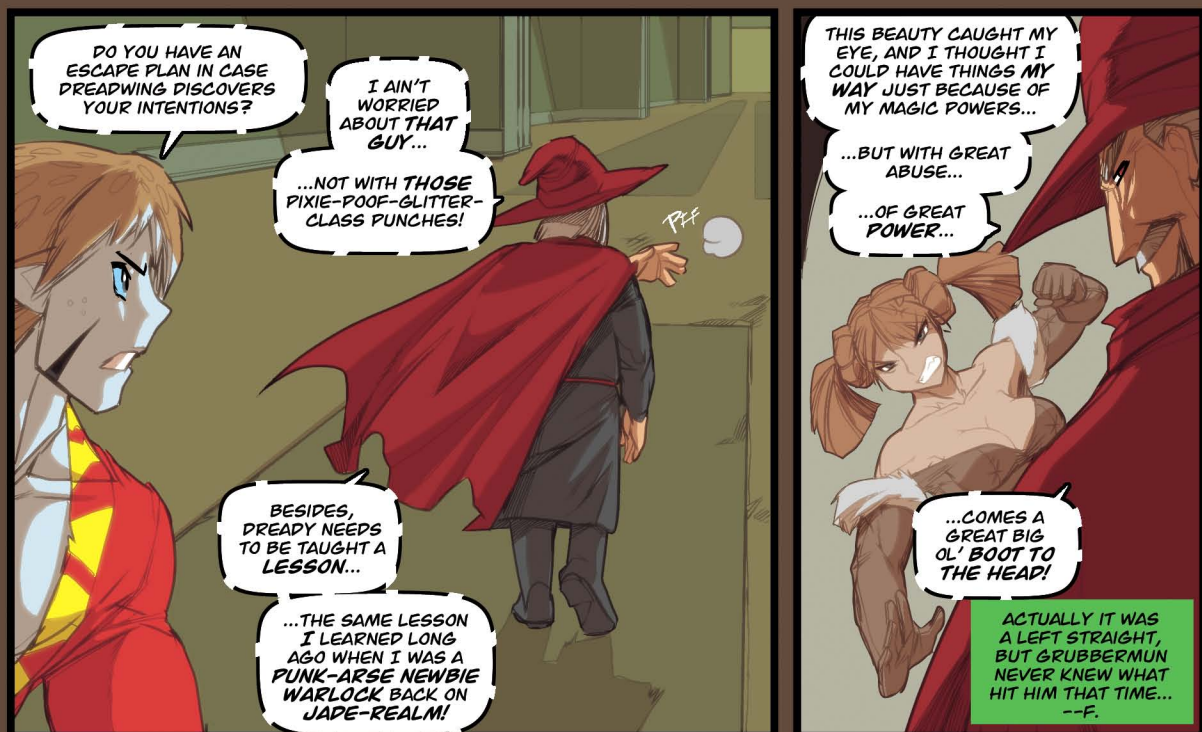
DIS-OWNED!!

SAY  
WHAT!?!?













THERE ARE POWERS YET UNTAPPED IN THE ASTRAL RIFTS THAT MAY BE USED TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

AND WITH THEM, WE CAN CRUSH JADE ONCE AND FOR ALL OF TIME!

MN...GOOD SPINACH PUFFS!

BUT WASN'T THERE MENTION OF A BAR?

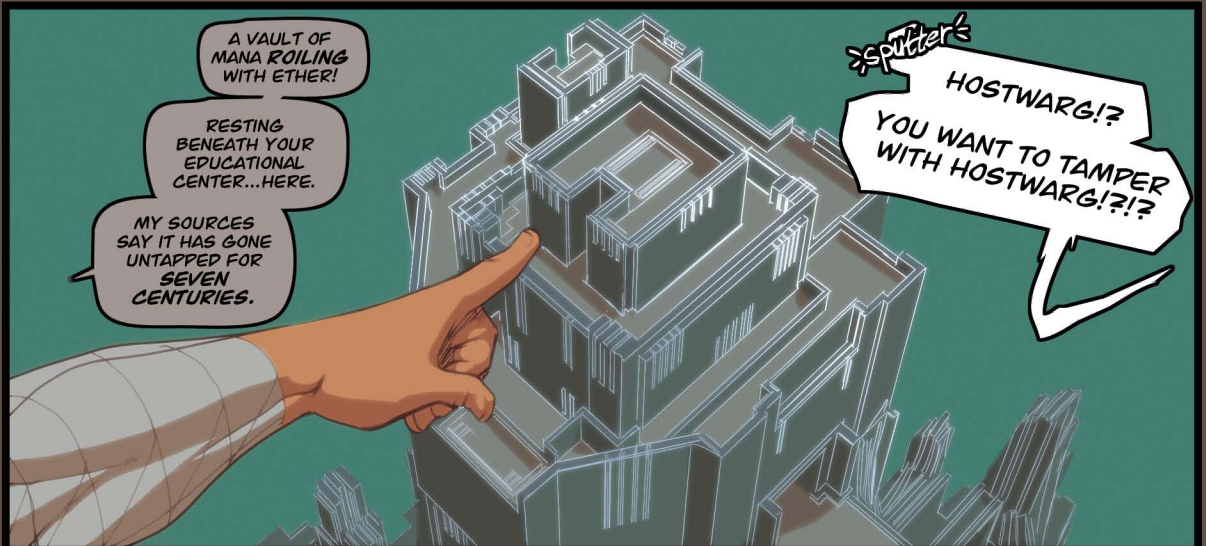
PAY ATTENTION, ELISE.



YOUR MAP IS FOCUSED ON THE CENTER OF WILD MAGI TERRITORY.

WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING, DRAGON?

WITHIN YOUR TERRITORY IS A POWER FITTED BY MY KIND FOR OUR PURPOSES.



A VAULT OF MANA ROILING WITH ETHER!

RESTING BENEATH YOUR EDUCATIONAL CENTER...HERE.

MY SOURCES SAY IT HAS GONE UNTAPPED FOR SEVEN CENTURIES.

*sputter*  
HOSTWARG!?  
YOU WANT TO TAMPER WITH HOSTWARG!?!?







CENTURIES AGO, OUR ANCESTORS EXILED THEMSELVES FROM JADE-REALM AND ITS OPPRESSIVE MAGE COUNCIL...

...IN RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTIONS ON WILD MAGIC EXPERIMENTATION AND RESEARCH!

THE JADE-REALM COUNCIL CALLED OUR CRAFT RECKLESS... DANGEROUS.

AND THEY WERE RIGHT!



I BLEW MY FACE OFF CONDUCTING PHASM TRIALS NEAR MAHNPAHRA THREE YEARS AGO.

IT WAS AWESOME!

WILD MAGIC EXPERIMENTS ARE FUN, BUT DANGEROUS!

THAT DANGER IS WHY OUR ANCESTORS BLEW THEIR FACES OFF...

MNHH

...ALONG WITH THE SURROUNDING FRONTIER CONTINENTS!!!

YENH!  
OHH  
MHH!  
JUST A LITTLE MORE MWA  
HERE IT COMES...

KRAK BAHOOOSH



THE ONLY REASON HOSTWARG IS STILL AROUND...

...IS BECAUSE ADVANCED WILD MAGIC EXPERIMENTS AREN'T ALLOWED WITHIN A HUNDRED LEAGUES OF THE CAMPUS!







THE WILD MAGI  
OBVIOUSLY DON'T WANT  
TO MAKE A DEAL WITH  
THE DEVIL...

...BUT THEY THINK THEY  
DON'T STAND A CHANCE  
WITHOUT HIM!

AND DREADWING  
WOULD RATHER KILL  
THEM ALL AND TAKE  
THEIR STUFF, BUT  
KNOWS HE'S NEVER  
GOING TO BEAT JADE  
WITHOUT AN ARMY!

THE SAD PART  
IS THAT THE  
MAGI ARE  
UPSET AT OUR  
SIDE FOR NO  
REASON, GAR!

SURE, WE PUSHED  
INTO THE ASTRAL  
RIFTS, BUT IT WAS  
TO CHASE AFTER  
DREADWING, NOT  
TRAMPLE THEIR  
DAISIES!



WE'D BETTER FOCUS  
ON OUR MISSION,  
LITTLE SISTER.

COUNCILOR  
XERCIE'S  
RESCUE.

PHASE ONE:  
REACHING HER  
LOCATION  
UNDETECTED!

THE ARTIFACT WE  
CARRY HAS KEPT  
US FROM BEING  
NOTICED THUS  
FAR...

GLANCE...  
SMMMIRK...

E-EXCEPT BY  
DREADWING'S  
SLAVES...

...THE ONES WHO  
GAVE US THE  
ARTIFACT WHEN WE  
FIRST ARRIVED.

THEY  
SEE US.



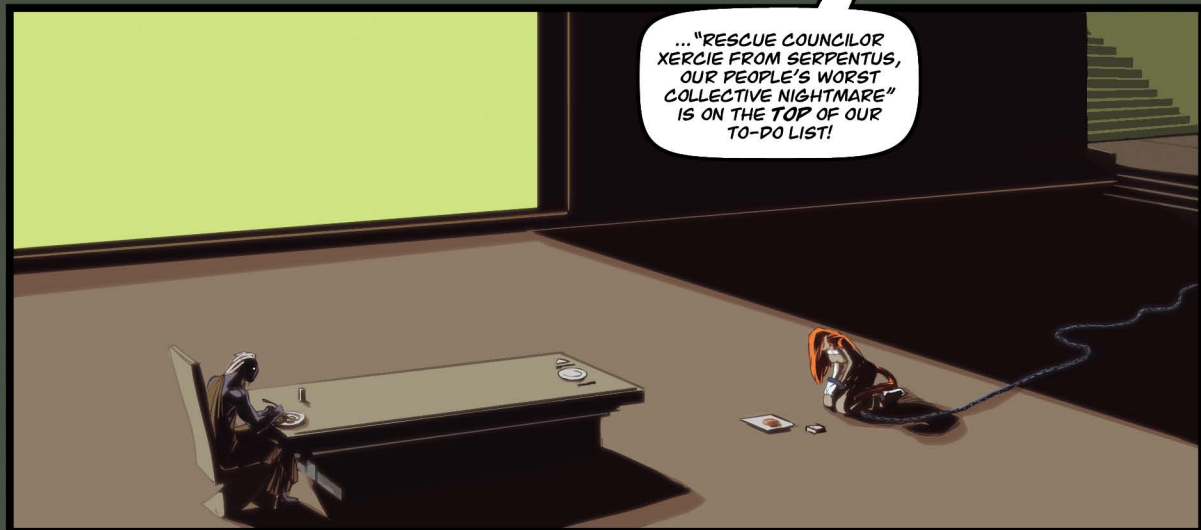
I'M STILL  
CONFUSED  
ABOUT THAT,  
GAR...

...HOW DID THEY  
MAKE THE STEALTH  
ARTIFACT?

WHY DON'T THEY  
USE IT THEMSELVES TO  
ESCAPE THEIR BONDS?

WHY GIVE IT TO US?  
WHY HAVEN'T THEY  
ASKED FOR OUR  
HELP IN RETURN?

I WISH I KNEW, SHEILA...  
BUT FOR NOW...



..."RESCUE COUNCILOR  
XERCIE FROM SERPENTUS,  
OUR PEOPLE'S WORST  
COLLECTIVE NIGHTMARE"  
IS ON THE TOP OF OUR  
TO-DO LIST!







SO WHAT OF IT?

I'M NO STRANGER TO PAIN, XERCIE.

AND I DARE SAY THE THINGS I GET MAKE THINGS MORE... INTERESTING.

BUT MORE THAN THAT...



...IT'S THE FIRE OF YOUR DEFIANCE THAT EXHILARATES.

YOU STILL HOLD OUT A MURDEROUS HOPE.

YOU STILL CLING TO THE NOTION OF AVENGING YOURSELF, YOUR PARENTS AND YOUR PEOPLE.



YOUR HATRED FOR ME SEEMS INEXHAUSTABLE.

SO MUCH TO "REAP"! AND SO POTENT THE HARVEST!

OH, SWEET XERCIE... YOU COMPLETE ME!

THAT BASTARD!

SHH.

LET HIM TALK.

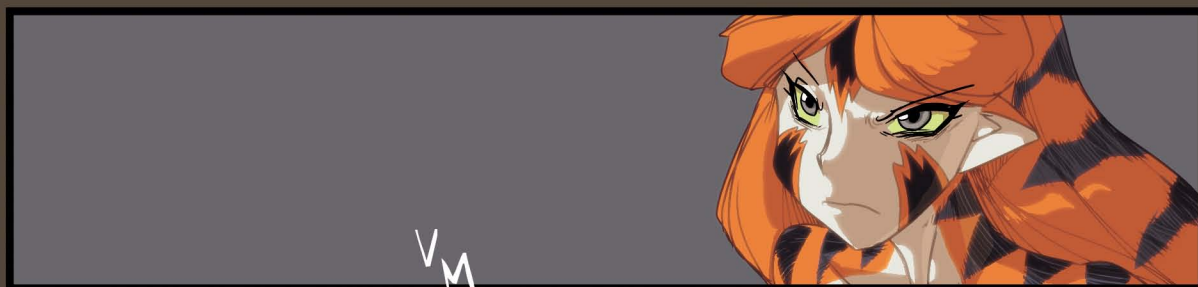


STILL, THERE REMAINS THE QUESTION OF YOUR INTENTIONS, PLAYTHING.

WHY STARVE YOURSELF?

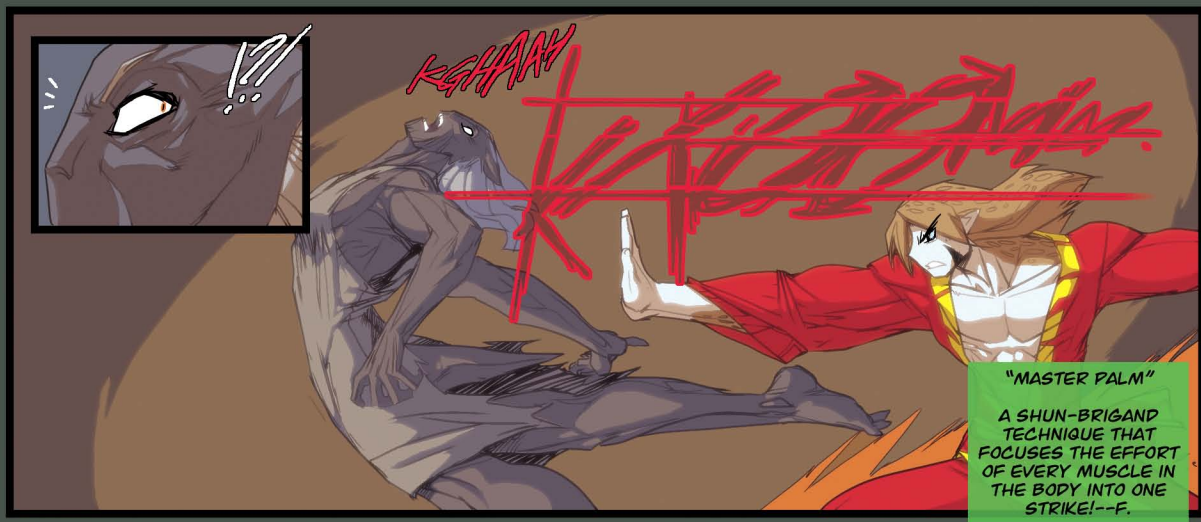
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE USING THAT PAIN AS A BARRIER AGAINST MY KNOWING YOUR THOUGHTS?

IF SO... WHAT DO YOU WISH ME NOT TO "SEE"?

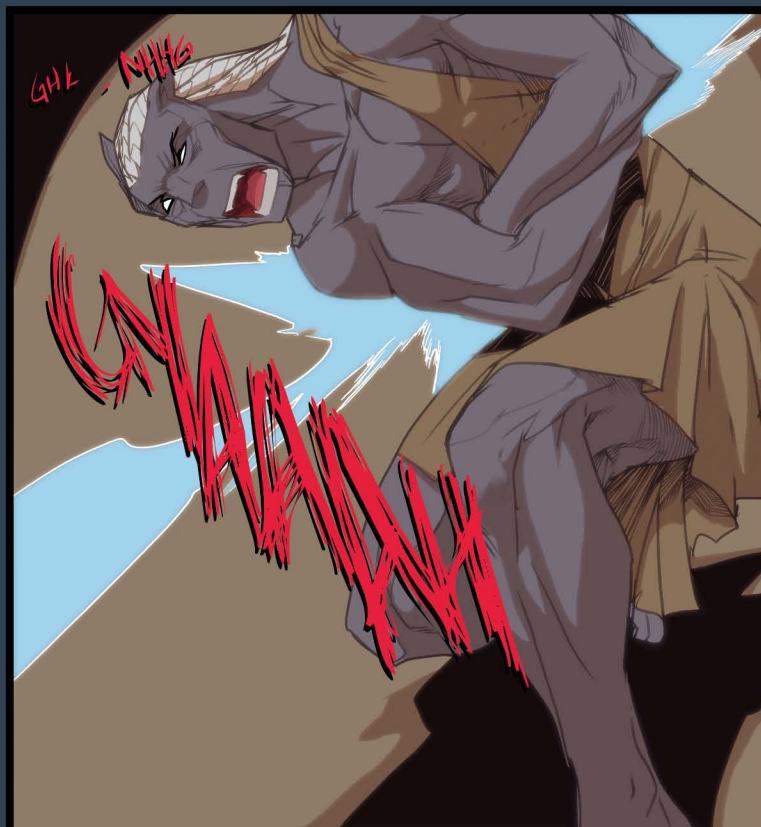


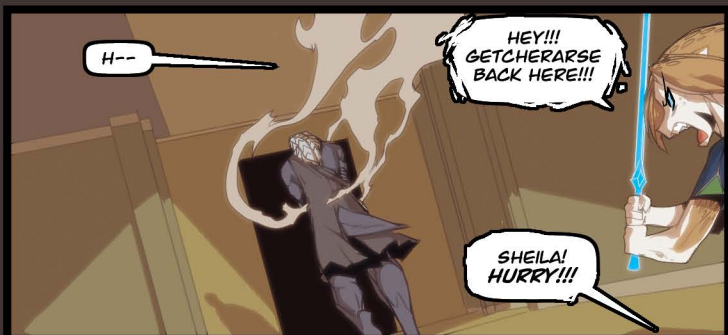
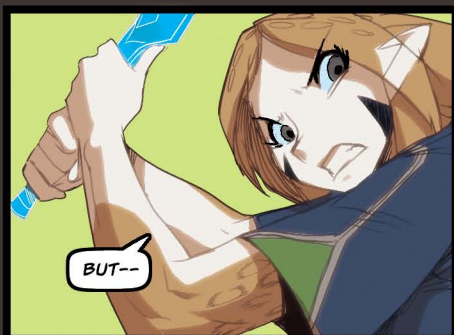




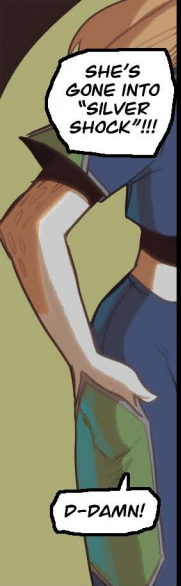












SHE'S GONE INTO "SILVER SHOCK"!!!

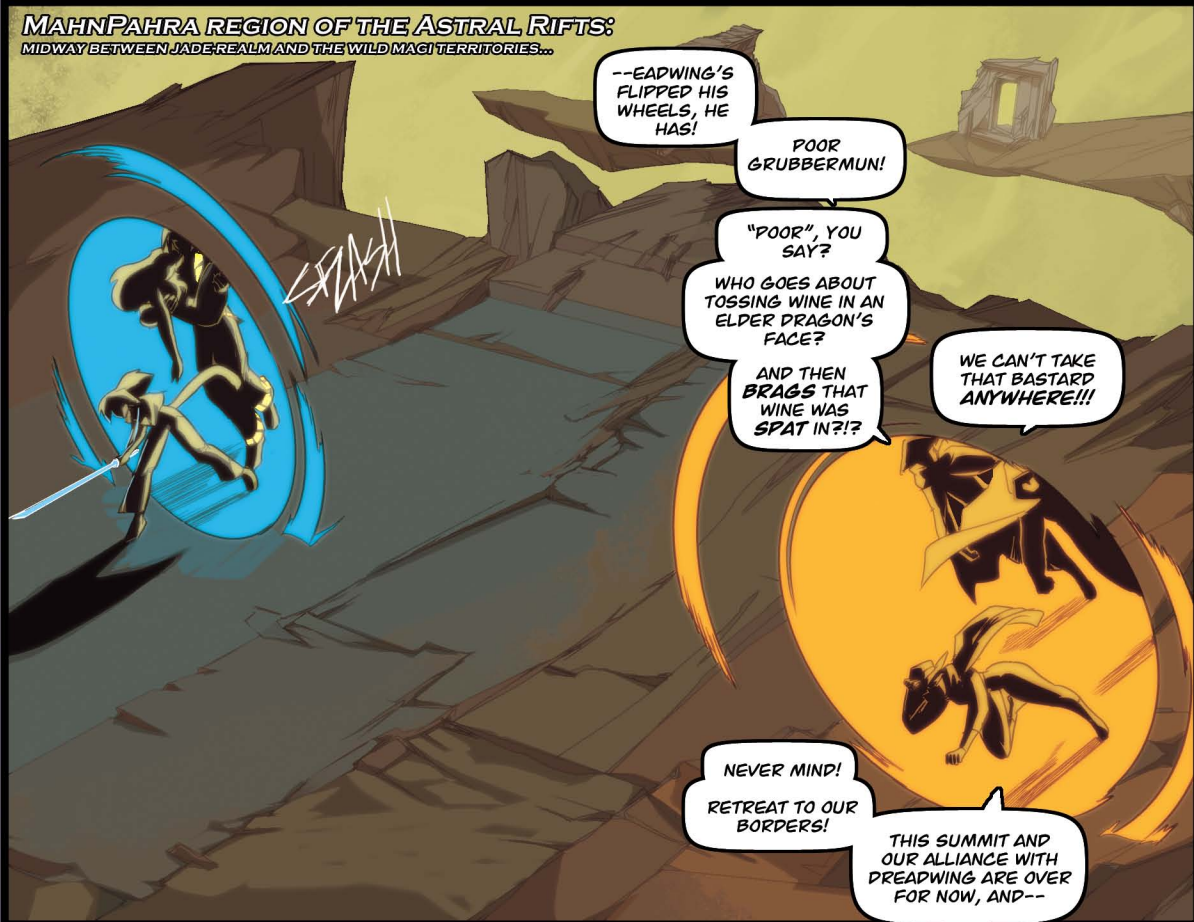
D-DAMN!



THIS IS THE LAST TIME, GAR!

THIS IS THE LAST TIME SERPENTUS GETS AWAY!!!

### MAHNPAHRA REGION OF THE ASTRAL RIFTS: MIDWAY BETWEEN JADE-REALM AND THE WILD MAGI TERRITORIES...



--EADWING'S FLIPPED HIS WHEELS, HE HAS!

POOR GRUBBERMUN!

"POOR", YOU SAY?

WHO GOES ABOUT TOSSING WINE IN AN ELDER DRAGON'S FACE?

AND THEN BRAGS THAT WINE WAS SPAT IN?!?

WE CAN'T TAKE THAT BASTARD ANYWHERE!!!

NEVER MIND!  
RETREAT TO OUR BORDERS!

THIS SUMMIT AND OUR ALLIANCE WITH DREADWING ARE OVER FOR NOW, AND--















