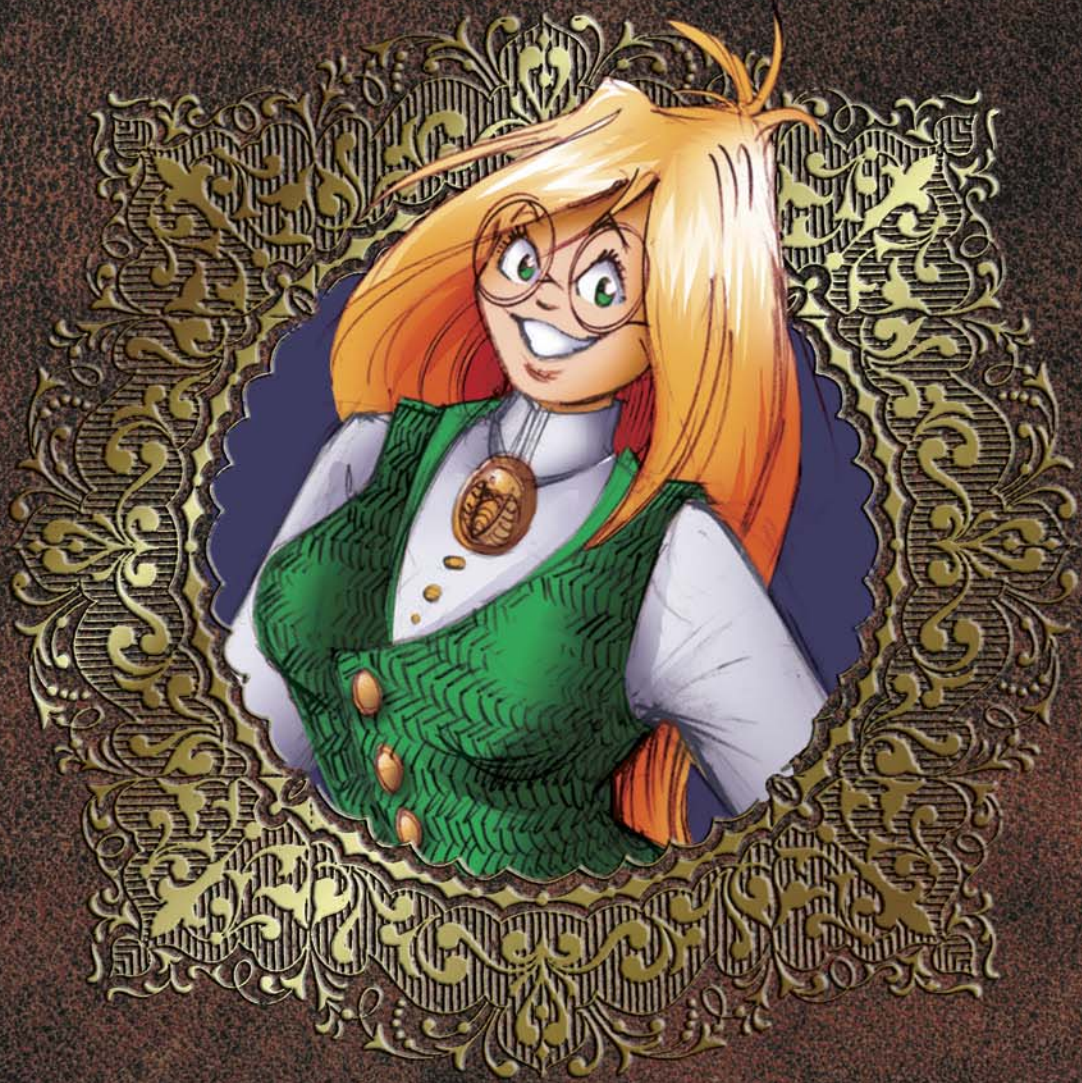


GIRL GENIUS[®]

ELECTRONIC EDITION



VOLUME SIX

AGATHA HETERODYNE AND THE GOLDEN TRILOBITE



Agatha Heterodyne
and the

GOLDEN TRILOBITE

A Gaslamp Fantasy
with
ADVENTURE, ROMANCE & MAD SCIENCE

GIRL GENIUS

BY PHIL & KAJA FOGLIO

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AGATHA HETERODYNE

THE GOLDEN TRILOBITE

A Gaslamp Fantasy
with
ADVENTURE, ROMANCE & MAD SCIENCE



Story by Kaja & Phil Foglio
Pencils by Phil Foglio
Colors by Cheyenne Wright





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Story by Phil & Kaja Foglio. Pencils by Phil Foglio. Main story colors by Cheyenne Wright. Selected spot illustrations colored by Kaja Foglio and Cheyenne Wright. Logos, Lettering, Artist Bullying & Book Design by Kaja. Fonts mostly by Comcraft— www.comicbookfonts.com.

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This book is dedicated to the wonderful online community of webcomics artists, critics and fans. We've never felt so welcome.

Thank you.

KAJA FOGLIO

Although known primarily in academia for her part in the recording and presenting of the ongoing chronicles of the early life of Agatha Heterodyne, Professor Foglio is also an enthusiast of some of the more esoteric practices of the select Asian subculture known as O-ta-ku. Her knowledge of implausible coeducational harem comedies has been invaluable in reconstructing some of the more nuanced scenarios of the current story. Furthermore, her ability to assemble a traditional box lunch (which changes color, plays orchestral music, and discharges fireworks upon being opened) in under four hours has, on numerous occasions, provided an ideal distraction, allowing her a quick escape, as well as a nourishing meal.

PHIL FOGLIO

As this volume reveals, Professor Foglio is a native of the proud and historic city of Mechanicsburg. He began his career as a street-corner storyteller, embellishing Heterodyne tales for tourists; but quickly became a wanderer when he was unable to resist the inclusion of embarrassing details which made poorly understood historical events *so very* much more interesting. The stories in question resulted in several arrests, a small war, and the infamous Mechanicsburg law barring owls from wearing boots. His latest volume of anecdotes collected from the Jägermonsters, entitled: *Things We've Eaten and the Interesting Ways They Begged For Mercy, Vol. 5* is available from Transylvania Polygnostic University Press. (For which, the Transylvania Polygnostic University Press humbly apologizes.)

CHEYENNE WRIGHT

Professor Wright's mad experiments in color made a major advancement last month, when he purchased a used Alchemy Cannon™ at the semi-annual University "Shop & Swap" party. He now produces color effects by *actually transforming into various elements* specific parts of the canvas upon which he is working. The biggest advantage, he notes, is that it will not fade. The down side is that the cannon requires 16 giga-watts of electricity to color a single page. Plus, the glow from the radioactive elements is keeping him from getting enough sleep.

The curious and intrepid can view the results of his latest experiments at www.arcanetimes.com.





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• THE STORY SO FAR •

Agatha Clay is a young Mad Scientist (or “Spark” to be polite.) Traveling with her is Krospl I: a failed experiment created to be the “Emperor of all Cats,” and Zeetha: the lost princess of the lost city of Skifander.

Agatha is also the last of the famous Heterodyne family—beloved heroes who disappeared under mysterious circumstances many years ago. Folk legend claims that they will someday return, but so far they haven’t managed it.

Earlier in the story, Agatha and Krospl escaped from Baron Klaus Wulfenbach—a powerful Spark who rules most of Europe. After crashing their small dirigible, they met Master Payne’s Circus of Adventure—a traveling show specializing in popular melodramas about the Heterodynes. Thanks to a ruse concocted by the Circus, the Baron believed that Agatha was dead. Unfortunately, so did the Baron’s son Gilgamesh, who became very attached to Agatha while she was staying on board the giant airship *Castle Wulfenbach*.

Recently, the Circus performed in the town of Sturmhalten. Afterwards, Agatha was invited to dine with the local Prince and his family. Sturmhalten is secretly an old stronghold of the Other, a mysterious enemy who caused great damage to Europe many years ago, and who is considered somehow responsible for the disappearance of Agatha’s family. Agatha is recognized as the heir of the Heterodynes and captured. She soon learns that the nefarious “Other” was actually her own mother, Lucrezia, the malevolent leader of a strange group of priestesses who considered her their goddess. Working with the Prince in Sturmhalten, Lucrezia’s priestesses have been searching for Agatha for many years. Even after the Old Prince is killed, the priestesses are able to use his machines to implant Lucrezia’s personality into Agatha’s mind.

Now, while Agatha’s friends try to find a way into the castle, the young prince, Tarvek, is finding his way into Lucrezia’s confidence. Meanwhile, back on *Castle Wulfenbach*, the Baron and his son have discovered that Agatha may not be dead. Unable to leave the *Castle* himself, Gil has secretly sent his assistant to Sturmhalten, hoping he will get there in time.



HEY, BORIS!
WHERE'S THE
BARON
HIDING?

TELL HIS
EXALTED
CRANKINESS THAT
WE'RE ALMOST
READY TO GO.



YOU CAN
TELL HIM
YOURSELF.

HE
WANTS TO
SEE YOU.



HEYA, KLAUS!

READY TO GO SLAUGHTER A WHOLE BUNCHA PEOPLE?

IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY.



THAT'S DIFFERENT.

OKAY, I'M LISTENING.

NOW!
QUICKLY!



WHAT?!



erif



SHE IS CLEAN, HERR BARON.

THANK YOU.

WHAT'S WITH THE WEASEL?!

BUT IT SEEMS THEY CAN ALSO DETECT INFECTION.

FORGIVE ME, DUPREE.

WE'VE DEVELOPED THEM TO HUNT SLAVER WASPS.



WHAT, IN CASE YOU DON'T NOTICE THE WHOLE SHAMBLING REVENANT THING?

OH YEAH, REAL USEFUL.

YES, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO, UNTIL RECENTLY.



THE MESSENGER FROM STURMHALTEN, HERR BARON.

HERR BARON, I MUST PROTEST THIS... THIS INVASION—

SSSSSS!



WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT THING?

HEY! WHAT ARE—?!

YOU WILL COME WITH US NOW, SIR.

BUT—BUT I'M JUST A MESSENGER!

WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN FOR YOU.

AH—WHAT?



YOU MEAN, HE'S—

INFECTED BY SLAVER WASPS. A "REVENANT" UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE OTHER.

YES.

BUT HE... HE LOOKS PERFECTLY NORMAL!

YES.

AS DO THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY OTHERS—

WE HAVE DISCOVERED ON BOARD THE CASTLE SO FAR.



BUT THE OTHER IS DEAD!

DID SHE DIE?

OR DID SHE JUST STOP?

WE NEVER KNEW.

BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG—

WAIT... "SHE?"

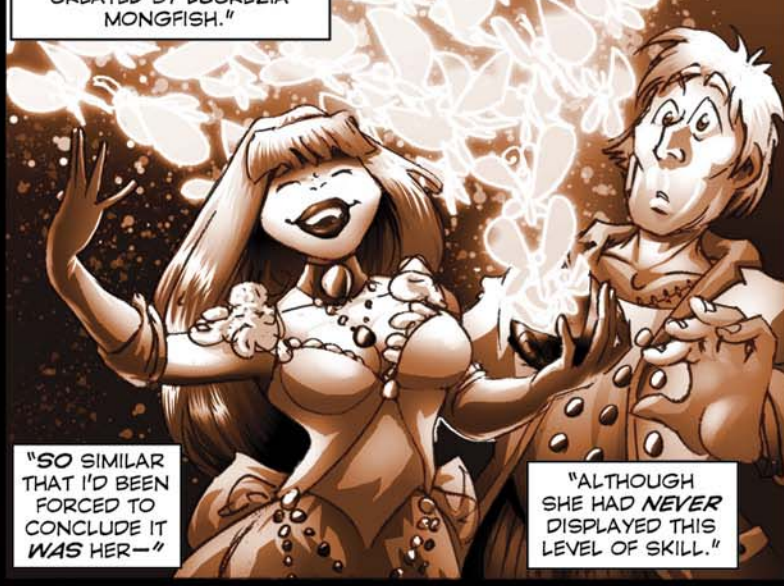
YOU KNOW I'VE STANDING ORDERS TO BRING ME THE OTHER'S CREATIONS.

I'VE STUDIED THEM.

THEY ARE FAMILIAR TO ME.

THESE DEVICES ARE VERY ADVANCED, BUT—

"THEIR UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF MANY WORKS CREATED BY LUCREZIA MONGFISH."

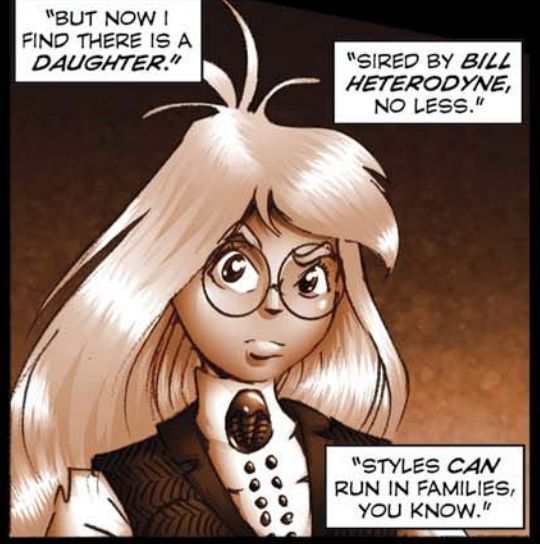


"SO SIMILAR THAT I'D BEEN FORCED TO CONCLUDE IT WAS HER—"

"ALTHOUGH SHE HAD NEVER DISPLAYED THIS LEVEL OF SKILL."

"BUT NOW I FIND THERE IS A DAUGHTER."

"SIBLING BY BILL HETERODYNE, NO LESS."



"STYLES CAN RUN IN FAMILIES, YOU KNOW."



WHOA, WHOA!

THE DAUGHTER—I SAW—

SHE'S DEAD!

YOU SAW WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SEE.

YOU WERE TRICKED.

SHE'S ALIVE.

REALLY?!

YES.

BUT—ARE YOU SURE?

YES.

WOW.

SHE SURE LOOKED DEAD.



SO SHE'S THE OTHER'S DAUGHTER.

BIG DEAL.

I HOPE SO.

YOU HOPE SO? WHAT ELSE COULD SHE BE?

KLAUS, WHAT ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT?



SHE COULD BE THE OTHER.



NEAT TRICK!

WAS SHE EVEN BORN THEN?

DUPREE—DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU FIRST SAW THIS GIRL?



"SURE. THAT WEIRD HOLE IN THE SKY."

"YES.

FROM YOUR DESCRIPTION, I BELIEVE THOSE WERE...

WINDOWS INTO THE FUTURE."

"THE FUTURE?"



TIME. SHE WILL MANIPULATE TIME. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

SHE COULD DISCOVER HOW TEN—TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW—

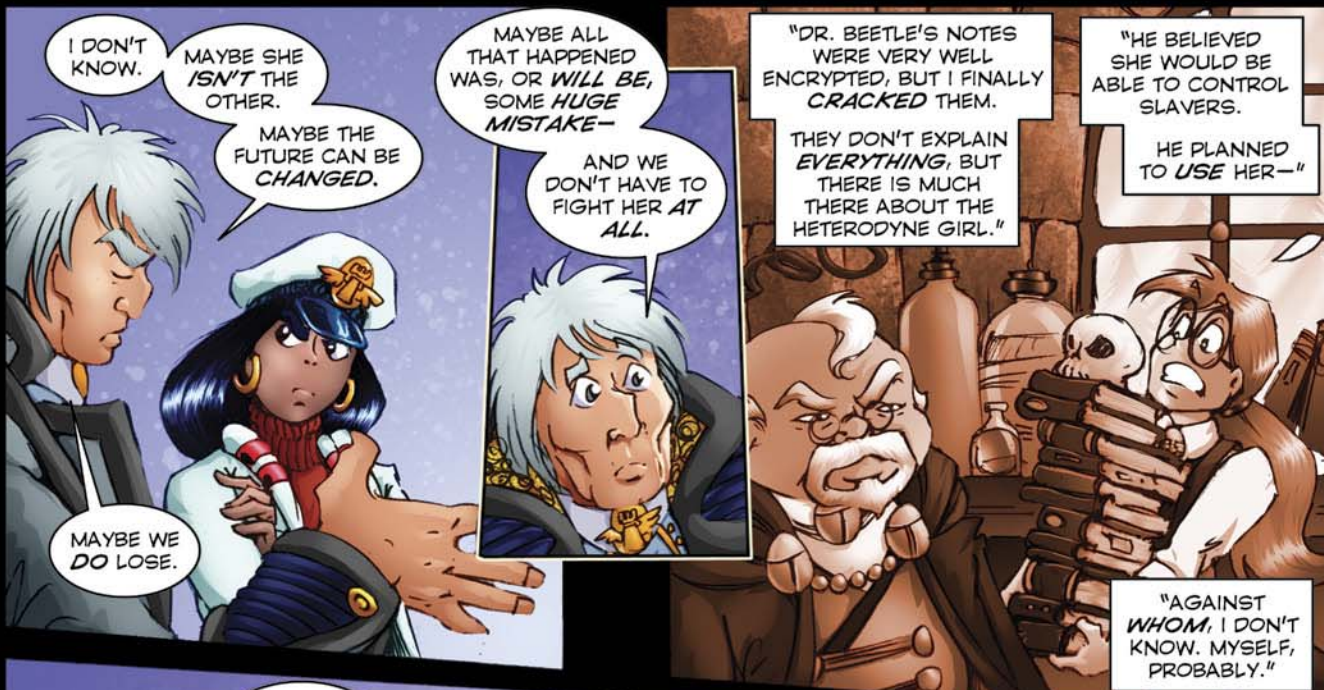
AND STILL BE THE ONE WHO DESTROYED CASTLE HETERODYNE NINETEEN YEARS AGO.



BUT...IF I SAW HER IN THIS FUTURE—

THEN SHE'S STILL AROUND.

WE'RE GONNA LOSE.



I DON'T KNOW.

MAYBE SHE *ISN'T* THE OTHER.

MAYBE THE FUTURE CAN BE *CHANGED*.

MAYBE WE DO LOSE.

MAYBE ALL THAT HAPPENED WAS, OR *WILL BE*, SOME *HUGE MISTAKE*—

AND WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT HER AT *ALL*.

"DR. BEETLE'S NOTES WERE VERY WELL ENCRYPTED, BUT I FINALLY *CRACKED* THEM.

THEY DON'T EXPLAIN *EVERYTHING*, BUT THERE IS MUCH THERE ABOUT THE HETERODYNE GIRL."

"HE BELIEVED SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTROL SLAVERS.

HE PLANNED TO *USE HER*—"

"AGAINST *WHOM*, I DON'T KNOW. MYSELF, PROBABLY."



I THOUGHT YOU WERE *FRIENDS*.

WHY DIDN'T HE *TELL* YOU?

THERE ARE THINGS IN BEETLE'S NOTES THAT MAKE NO SENSE.

APPARENTLY BARRY CLAIMED THAT /—

WELL—LET'S JUST SAY I *UNDERSTAND* WHY HE DIDN'T CONFIDE IN ME.



"BUT THE *GIRL*— ONE OF THE FIRST REVENANTS WE DISCOVERED *SWORE* THAT SHE WAS THE OTHER."

"THAT HE WAS *COMPELLED* TO OBEY HER.

IT SEEMS THAT EVEN IF SHE IS *NOT* THE ORIGINAL OTHER, THE OTHER'S SERVANTS SEE *LITTLE DIFFERENCE*."

BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU *ANNOUNCED* ALL THIS?

SHOULDN'T EVERYONE *KNOW*?

I DON'T KNOW.

NOT *YET*.

AND UNTIL I *DO*—

I WANT HER *ALIVE*.

EVEN NOW, YEARS LATER, MENTION OF THE OTHER INSPIRES BOTH FEAR AND RAGE.

MANY LOST LOVED ONES IN THE ATTACKS.

FEW CAN CONTROL THEIR EMOTIONS.

I *MUST* TREAT HER WITH UTMOST CAUTION— BUT I *WON'T* FALSELY ACCUSE HER.



SO WHY TELL ME?

I DON'T EVEN TRY TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS.

YOU ARE IN COMMAND.

THESE ARE THINGS YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF.

BESIDES...

IF I DECIDE SHE MUST DIE—

I KNOW YOU WON'T HESITATE TO KILL HER.



WHY KLAUS, YOU SWEET-TALKING FLATTERER.



BORIS,

THE BUG SQUAD COMMANDERS,

AND THE DEEP THINKERS.

SO WHO ELSE DOES KNOW?



WHAT ABOUT THE JÄGERS?

THE WASPS DON'T AFFECT THEM, AND—



OH.

I GUESS NOT.



"INDEED.

I HAVE TAKEN PAINS, THESE LAST MONTHS, TO KEEP THE JÄGERS BUSY IN DISTANT PARTS OF THE EMPIRE."

"WHAT ABOUT GIL?"



MY SON IS BUSY WITH PUNCH AND JUDY—

THAT PAIR OF CONSTRUCTS HE THINKS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB HIM ANY MORE THAN I ALREADY HAVE.

I HOPE THEY'LL ANSWER MANY QUESTIONS,

THEY RAISED THIS GIRL, AFTER ALL.

BESIDES, IT WOULD BE BEST TO RESOLVE THIS BEFORE HE DISCOVERS THE TRUE SITUATION.



AWWW—
C'MON.

LET
ME TELL
HIM!

I THINK
NOT.

AT THIS POINT,
ALL GILGAMESH
KNOWS IS THAT I
WANT HER HERE—

BECAUSE, AS
THE LAST OF THE
HETERODYNE FAMILY,
SHE IS A THREAT TO
THE PEACE.



IF A
HETERODYNE IS
ALL SHE IS,
THAT'S FINE.

BUT IF I
MUST
DESTROY
HER—

WELL—



"I DON'T
THINK HE'D LET
ME."



HE'S VERY
MUCH IN LOVE
WITH HER—

AND UNLIKELY TO
BE REASONABLE
ABOUT ALL THIS, NO
MATTER WHAT I
SAY.



YOU DON'T
THINK HE'D LET
YOU?

HIM?



YOU'RE
FRETTING ABOUT
MISTER
SENSITIVE?

OKAY, THEN.
LET'S GET
UNDERWAY BEFORE
WE WAKE THE
BABY!

HEE HEE
HEE!

NOT JUST
FOR US—FOR
THE ENTIRE
WORLD.

OH SURE! I MEAN,
IF HE FOUND OUT
WHAT WE WERE DOING,
HE MIGHT EVEN CRY!

THEN WHAT
WOULD WE
DO? HAH HA
HA HA!



I ASSURE YOU
THAT ALLOWING
HIM TO ALLY
WITH THE OTHER
WOULD BE VERY
BAD INDEED.



heh. YOU
UNDERESTIMATE
HIM, DUPREE.

HOW
UNWISE.

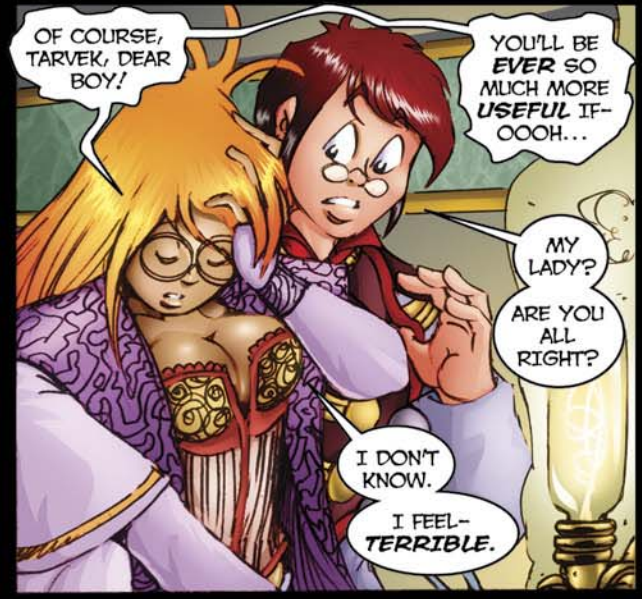
THE CASTLE AT STURMHALTEN—



THERE! YOU SEE? SOON IT WILL BE WORKING BETTER THAN EVER.

AMAZING! I HAD NO IDEA—

YOU *MUST* TEACH ME MORE!



OF COURSE, TARVEK, DEAR BOY!

YOU'LL BE *EVER* SO MUCH MORE USEFUL IF—OOOH...

MY LADY? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW.

I FEEL—*TERRIBLE.*



WELL, I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED.

OH... THAT TEDIOUS SLEEP BUSINESS.

ASIDE FROM A BRIEF PERIOD OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS BEFORE YOU...AH... TOOK OVER,

I CAN'T SAY I MISSED THAT.

SO SILLY OF ME TO FORGET.

THIS BODY HAS BEEN WITHOUT SLEEP FOR *FAR* LONGER THAN IS HEALTHY.

YOU'RE GOING TO SPOIL IT AT THIS RATE.

BUT I *AM* RELIEVED.

I HAD ALMOST IMAGINED THAT THIS BODY WAS *REJECTING* ME.



WHAT?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

...ISN'T IT?

OH DEAR.

OR EVEN THAT THE *GIRL* WAS-FIGHTING BACK.

I *DO* SO MISTRUST IT WHEN "IMPOSSIBLE" IS ONE'S INITIAL REACTION TO AN IDEA.



YOUR SISTER-

HAVE THEY FOUND HER YET?

NO, MY LADY.

YOUR PRIESTESSES HAVE NOT RETURNED WITH HER SINCE YOU LAST ASKED.

AND YOU'VE ALREADY SENT THEM ALL, SO-



WHEN DID I LAST ASK?

AH-ELEVEN MINUTES AGO.

OH, DEAR.

I THINK I DO NEED A DOSE OF SLEEP.



BUT NO!

NO, I MUST HAVE THIS COMPLETED BEFORE KLAUS' TERRIER ARRIVES.

YES, OF COURSE, MY LADY.

SUCH A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.

TARVEK, DEAR-CAN YOU MIX ME UP SOME KIND OF STIMULANT?



GOOD.

THEN-

I'LL-

UH-



OOOOOOOOH...

AK!



OH, MARVELOUS.

NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH YOU?

ZzZzZzZzZz...

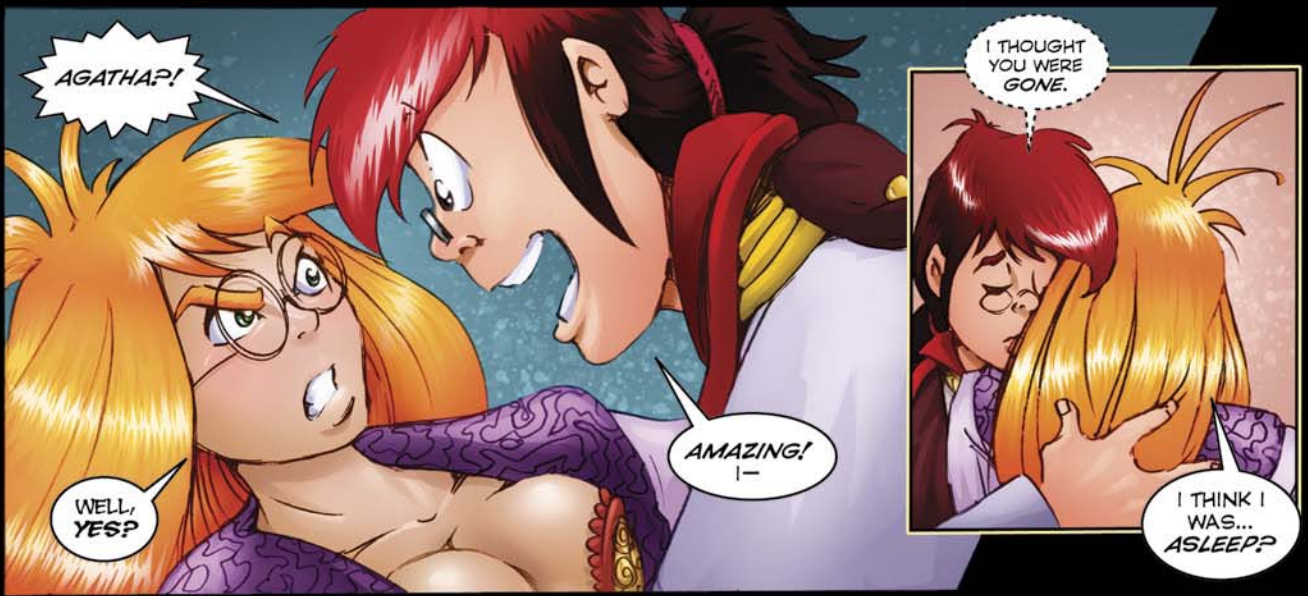
-SNERK-



GRAB



START BY TELLING ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!





LIGH...

AG—ah—
MY LADY?

"MY
LADY,"
NOW, IS
IT?

WELL, YES...
YOU ARE THE
LADY HETERODYNE,
RIGHT?

OH, YES.
I SEE.

OOH...

I'M SO...

HERE.
LEAN ON
ME.

THANK
YOU.

WHAT IS
THAT YOU'RE
WORKING
ON?

...



I DON'T...

TRUST
YOU.

HUH. CAN'T
SAY I *BLAME*
YOU.



YOU'RE
WORKING WITH
THE *OTHER*;
AREN'T YOU?

WELL, I'D
HARDLY BE
ALIVE IF I
WASN'T.

BUT IF I CAN
LEARN WHAT
SHE'S *DOING*—

NO ONE
ELSE CAN
DO
THIS.

I WANT...
TO TRUST
YOU...

YOU
CAN.



WE'LL
SEE.

GO ON,
YOU.

NOW...

WAIT!—

WHAT DID
YOU DO?



HEY! DON'T
YOU GO TO
SLEEP!

NOW
YOU'VE
GOT...
TO TRUST
MEEE...



OOH! TARVEK!
YOU *NAUGHTY*
THING!

WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING?!

NOTHING.
...MY LADY.

PITY.

HAVE THEY
FOUND YOUR
SISTER, YET?

SAY, WASN'T THERE A *RESCUE PARTY* OUT THERE?



SO WE HAVE TO GET INTO THE CASTLE.

GUN BE TUFF.

KENT TURN OFF DE LIGHTNING MOAT.

KENT FLY.

CAN'T GET ANY SLEEP.

WE'LL HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE SECRET PASSAGE.



...WHAT?

THEY'RE IN ALL THE STORIES.



YOU DIDN'T SAY IT WAS IN THE SEWER!

OH, BUT EVERY STORY ABOUT RESCUING THE PRINCESS FROM THE CASTLE HAS A *SECRET PASSAGE!*

AND THEY ALWAYS COME OUT HERE!

ENNYVUN ELSE GETTING HUNGRY?

YAH! UND NO VON KEN ZEE US!

VELL—IT IZ VARM!

YOU BOYS COME HERE OFTEN?

OKAY, IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE!

WHAT? WHY?



BECAUSE ALL THE STORIES SAY THE *SECRET ENTRANCE*—

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LISTENING TO THIS!

YOU AREN'T EVEN MAKING AN INFORMED *GUESS!*

YOU EXPECT TO FIND A *SECRET PASSAGE,*

BECAUSE OF SOME *IDIOTIC STORIES?*

click



GRAB



ZIP!



SO WHAT CAN WE EXPECT, STORY BOY?

IT DEPENDS.



"COULD BE A PRINCESS—"

HURRY!



WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME.

HIGHNESS!

BUT YOUR HIGHNESS—IF WE GO TOO FAST—



"COULD BE A MONSTER—"

TIKKA-ZOK!



VODA ZA!

SHIBBAK!

"COULD BE BOTH."



GEISTERDAMEN!

IN A TOWN.

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THAT.

I IZ MORE INTERESTED IN DE DOLL GURL.

SHE IZ SPEAKING LIKE DE GEISTER—

BUT SHE HAS MIZ AGATHA'S VOICE.









YES!
THAT'S
RIGHT!
THE GIRL
FROM OUR
SHOW!

IS SHE
ALL
RIGHT?
WHERE IS
SHE?



AH. SHE IS A
PRISONER IN THE
CASTLE.

NOW, YOU
MUST ALL COME
WITH ME, AND
QUICKLY.

WON'T THESE
TUNNELS GET
US IN?



THAT
WOULD BE
EXTREMELY
FOOLISH.

THIS WAS
ONLY A
SMALL
GROUP.

"THOSE TUNNELS
ARE *SWARMING*
WITH GEISTERS— AND
WORSE."



SHE GOT
S DOT RIGHT!

DERE'S
SOMETHING
BIG COMINK!

LOTS OF
SOMETHINGS!

GET THIS
DOOR
CLOSED!

NOW!

BEFORE
THEY SEE
US!



I CAN GET
YOU INTO THE
CASTLE—

BUT NOT
THIS WAY!

HURRY!



SO YOUR BROTHER KILLED YOUR FATHER, AND NOW HE'S THE NEW PRINCE.

I'M SURE OF IT. THE GEISTERDAMEN AND THEIR CREATURES WERE TOOLS OF MY FATHER.

FAIR ENUF.

DERE AIN'T BEEN A REBELLION VORTH SPIT IN VAT—

THREE.

DOT MAGNETIC PRINCE GUY.

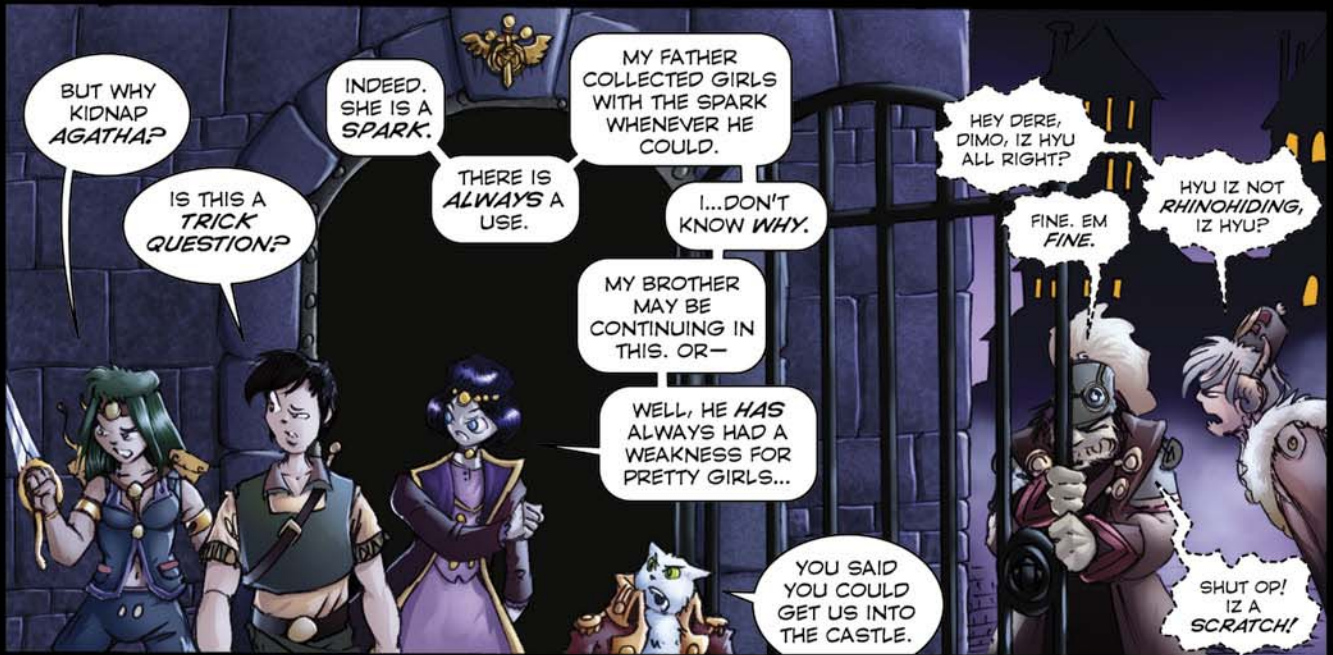
KEPT DE BARON BUSY FOR FIVE WHOLE MONTHS.

TWO YEARS?

TARVEK CONTROLS THEM NOW.

BUT YOU REALLY THINK HE IS PLANNING TO TAKE ON BARON WULFENBACH?

SO YAH, VE'S DUE.



BUT WHY KIDNAP AGATHA?

INDEED. SHE IS A SPARK.

MY FATHER COLLECTED GIRLS WITH THE SPARK WHENEVER HE COULD.

HEY DERE, DIMO, IZ HYU ALL RIGHT?

HYU IZ NOT RHINOHIDING, IZ HYU?

IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?

THERE IS ALWAYS A USE.

I...DON'T KNOW WHY.

FINE. EM FINE.

MY BROTHER MAY BE CONTINUING IN THIS. OR—

WELL, HE HAS ALWAYS HAD A WEAKNESS FOR PRETTY GIRLS...

YOU SAID YOU COULD GET US INTO THE CASTLE.

SHUT OP! IZ A SCRATCH!



INDEED I CAN. THERE ARE MANY TUNNELS.

SOME WERE KEPT HIDDEN, EVEN FROM THE GEISTERDAMEN.

WE WILL PROCEED TO THE HOME OF MY LOYAL FRIENDS, LORD AND LADY SELNIKOV.

THERE I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH GUIDES.

THEY WILL TAKE YOU INSIDE THE CASTLE, AND LEAD YOU TO THE CONTROLS FOR THE LIGHTNING MOAT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I WILL RALLY THE TOWN AND THE ARMY.

WHEN THE MOAT COMES DOWN, WE WILL TAKE THE CASTLE. THIS EVIL MUST STOP.

ARE YOU SURE THEY'LL LISTEN TO YOU?

OH, YES.

EVERYONE IN STURMHALTEN WILL DO AS I SAY.





VERY QUICKLY—

PRINCESS ANEVKA!

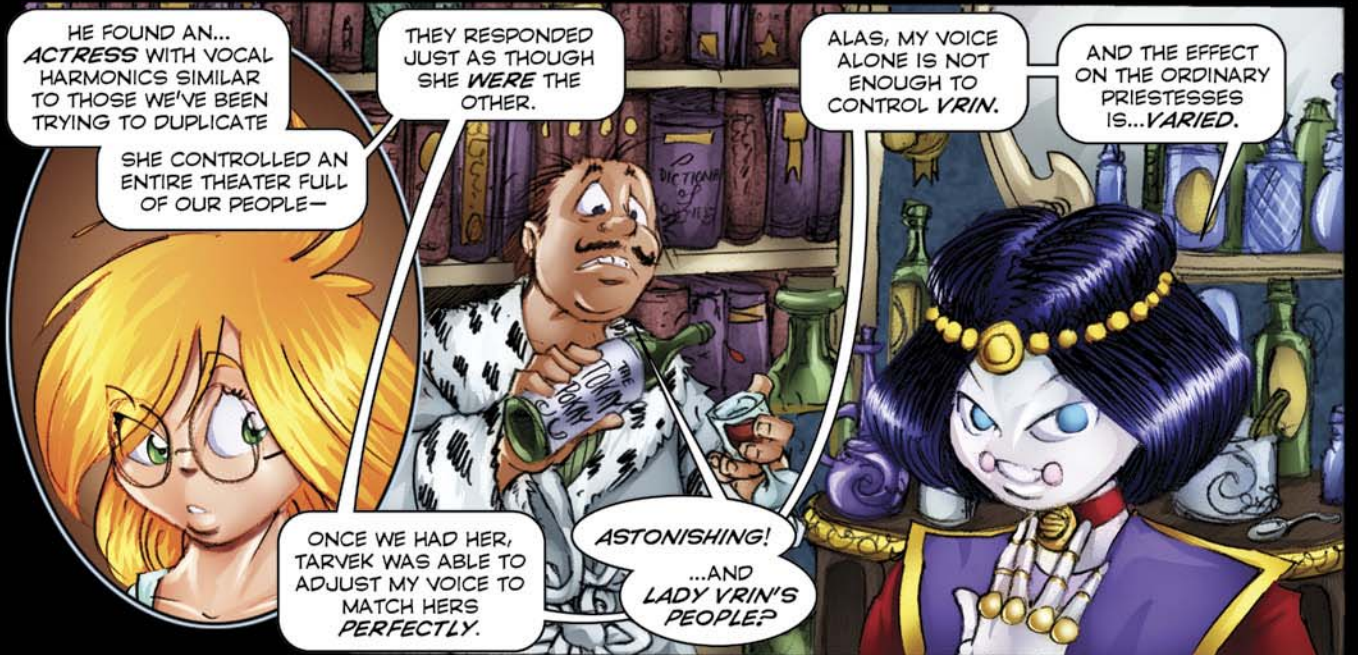
IT IS YOU!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

QUITE WELL, NOW THAT YOU ARE WITH ME IN ALL YOUR SARTORIAL GLORY, LORD SELNIKOV.

BUT THERE HAS BEEN... A SMALL SHAKEUP IN OUR MASTER PLAN.

THANKS TO MY DEAR FATHER.



HE FOUND AN... ACTRESS WITH VOCAL HARMONICS SIMILAR TO THOSE WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO DUPLICATE

SHE CONTROLLED AN ENTIRE THEATER FULL OF OUR PEOPLE—

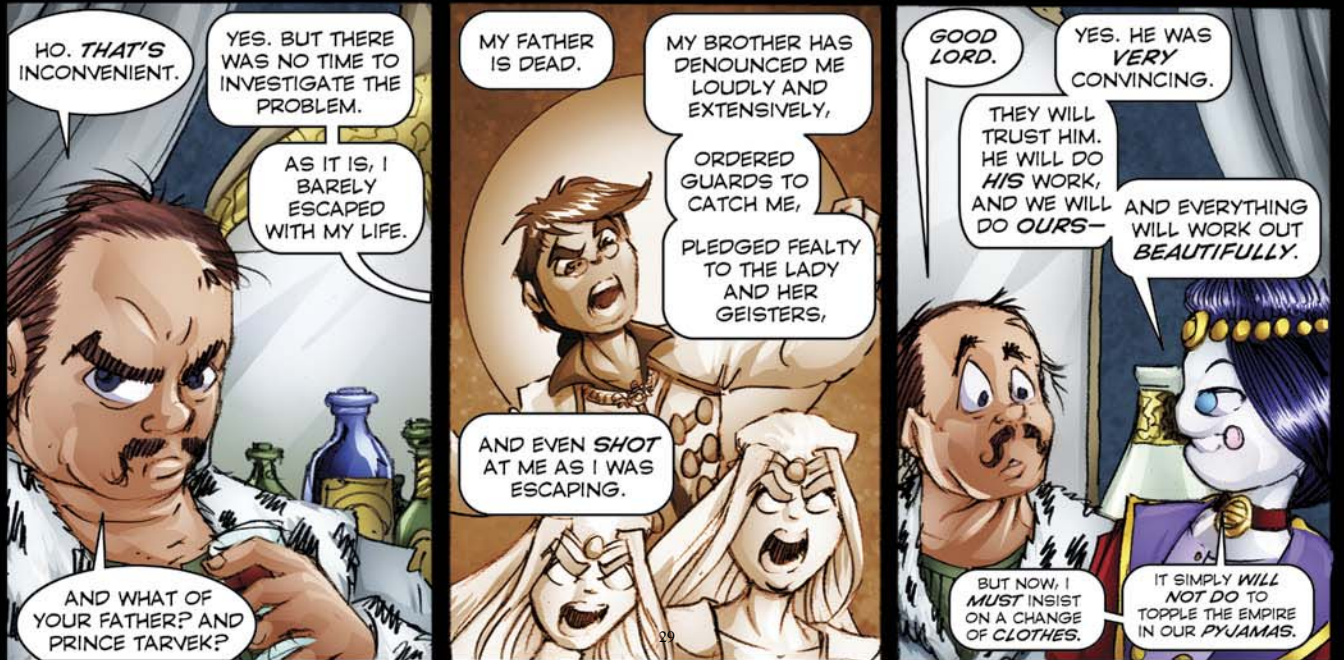
THEY RESPONDED JUST AS THOUGH SHE WERE THE OTHER.

ALAS, MY VOICE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONTROL VRIN.

AND THE EFFECT ON THE ORDINARY PRIESTESSES IS...VARIED.

ONCE WE HAD HER, TARVEK WAS ABLE TO ADJUST MY VOICE TO MATCH HERS PERFECTLY.

ASTONISHING! ...AND LADY VRIN'S PEOPLE?



HO. THAT'S INCONVENIENT.

YES. BUT THERE WAS NO TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE PROBLEM.

AS IT IS, I BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE.

MY FATHER IS DEAD.

MY BROTHER HAS DENOUNCED ME LOUDLY AND EXTENSIVELY,

ORDERED GUARDS TO CATCH ME,

PLEGGED FEALTY TO THE LADY AND HER GEISTERS,

AND EVEN SHOT AT ME AS I WAS ESCAPING.

GOOD LORD.

YES. HE WAS VERY CONVINCING.

THEY WILL TRUST HIM. HE WILL DO HIS WORK, AND WE WILL DO OURS—

AND EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT BEAUTIFULLY.

AND WHAT OF YOUR FATHER? AND PRINCE TARVEK?

BUT NOW, I MUST INSIST ON A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.

IT SIMPLY WILL NOT DO TO TOPPLE THE EMPIRE IN OUR PYJAMAS.



SWEET LIGHTNING.



THAT WOMAN IS GOING TO KILL ME.

I'VE GOT TO GET SOME SLEEP.



SHE ONLY STOPPED WORKING BECAUSE I REFUSED HER MORE STIMULANT.

I...HAVEN'T SEEN AGATHA FOR HOURS.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'S STILL THERE.



"LUCREZIA SEEMS SOLIDLY IN CONTROL NOW. THE MACHINE IS ALMOST FINISHED."



I MUST CONFESS, I'M HAVING DOUBTS.

I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE KILLED HER WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE, BUT IT'S JUST TOO—

WELL—

THIS WILL WORK— WON'T IT?



HUH. THE WHIRLWIND.

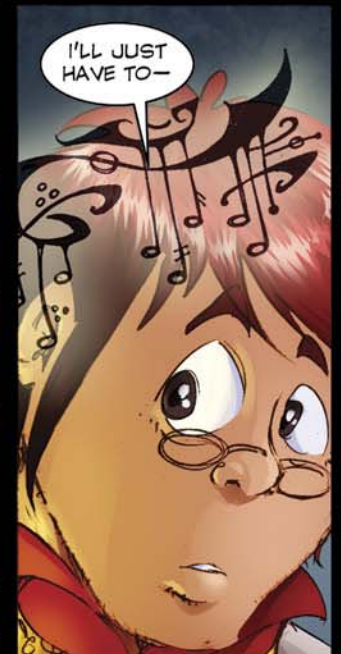
"GREAT POWER AT GREAT RISK."

-OR POSSIBLY, "BEWARE OF THINGS UNDERGROUND,"

-OR "EXPECT AN UNEXPECTED FRIEND,"

-OR EVEN "LEARN A NEW PIECE OF MUSIC."

THANK YOU, O MUSE OF MYSTERY.



I'LL JUST HAVE TO—



TARVEK.

AH-
AGATHA?

YOUR LITTLE
CLANKS—

BRILLIANT!

WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO?



OF COURSE, THE
EFFECT ON YOUR
MIND MUST BE



SHE'S
WINNING.
I NEED
YOUR LAB.

YES! YES, OF
COURSE!



THE ONLY
THING I CAN
DO.

MEANWHILE, OUR RESCUE PARTY IS BACK IN THE SEWERS *AGAIN*—THIS TIME WITH GUIDES.





YOU'RE HERE TO RESCUE AGATHA.

RIGHT! YES! AGATHA!

BEAUTIFUL GIRL HELD CAPTIVE BY EVIL DEPRAVED PRINCE. YES.

SO, HERR VEILCHEN. HYU KNOW DE LAYOUT OF DE KESTEL.

VERE DO DEY KEEP ALL DE BEAUTIFUL GURL CAPTIVES?

THIRD ACT. CURTAIN GOING UP.

OKAY, I'M GOOD.

THAT'S DEBATABLE.



AH, YES. OF COURSE YOU'D WANT TO FIND YOUR FRIEND, FIRST.

I EXPECTED THAT.

MY PRIORITY IS THE SHUTTING DOWN OF THE LIGHTNING MOAT.

BUT I DON'T SEE A CONFLICT.

ONCE INSIDE, I WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE DUNGEONS—

AND THEN PROCEED ON MY OWN.



VOT IF SHE IZ NOT IN DE DUNGEONS?

THEN I EXPECT YOU'LL CAUSE ENOUGH HAVOC LOOKING FOR HER—

THAT I'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE SLIPPING IN TO SHUT DOWN THE MOAT.

HYU GOTTS DOT RIGHT.

I MUST CONFESS TO BEING SURPRISED AT THE INVOLVEMENT OF JÄGERMONSTERS IN THIS MATTER.

IS THIS AGATHA OF INTEREST TO THE BARON?

HEH. MIZ AGATHA, SHE HELP US OUT A WHILE AGO.



GOTTA PAY HER BECK.

HYU KNOW HOW IT IZ.

HMM. I SEE.

BESIDES, IT LOOKS LIKE DERE MIGHT BE SOME GOOT FIGHTING IN DIS.

OH, I TRY TO AVOID THAT.



REALLY?

OH, YES. MUCH MORE SATISFYING TO KILL WITHOUT A FIGHT.

SHHH! QUIET!

WHAT?

LISTEN! THERE ARE VOICES COMING FROM THIS TUNNEL.

WEIRD VOICES.

...OH.



AGAIN?

I THOUGHT THESE WERE **SECRET TUNNELS**.

GUESS THE PRINCE DECIDED TO **SHARE**.

THAT'S THE **LAST** OF THE ROUTES THE PRINCESS SUGGESTED.

BUT YOU KNOW OF **OTHERS**, DON'T YOU?



TUNNELS THAT CAN GET US INTO THE CASTLE.

WELL, YEAH, BUT YOU DON'T WANT **THOSE**.

WHY NOT?

THOSE ARE IN THE **DEEP-DOWN**.

THAT'S WHERE THE **WORST MONSTERS** ARE.



REALLY.

YES!

MONSTERS.

YES!

SCARY MONSTERS.

YES!



WORSE THAN **ME?**

...



OKAY, HERE WE GO.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WATCH **HYU** WORK!

...I CAN HONESTLY SAY I'VE NEVER HEARD **THAT** BEFORE.



IT'S FULL OF MONSTERS, BUT YOU STILL KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND?

WELL, SORT OF.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE DEEPTOWN IN YEARS, MISS.

THERE WERE A FEW TOO MANY DEATHS DOWN HERE—

AND THE PRINCE HAD US CLOSE IT ALL OFF.



NOW, TWENTY, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO,

BEFORE IT GOT REALLY BAD—

WELL, IT WAS AN EVENT IF WE HAD ONE OF THE PRINCE'S EXPERIMENTS GET DOWN HERE.

OH, YEAH!

ALL THE YOUNG BUCKS SWARMING AROUND WITH TORCHES,

TRYING TO IMPRESS THE GIRLS.



"AND AFTERWARDS, THERE'D BE A CELEBRATION!"

"A BIG BONFIRE AND DRINKIN', A REWARD FROM THE PRINCE—"



USED TO BE KIND OF FUN.

AND THE GIRLS KISSED EVERYONE IN SIGHT—

DIDN'T EVEN MIND THE SMELL...

BUT THESE DAYS—



RHAAAAAAA



AH!

AAAAAAH!

BLOOP



THESE DAYS, IT AIN'T NO FUN AT ALL!

SOON—



ug.

uh

ow

EEK!

HY BEG HYU PARDON!

VAT DID VE LEND ON?

I LENDED ON ROCKS. HYU LENDED ON ME.

OH. THENK HYU.

WHO'S GOT THE LANTERN?

um. DROPPED IT.

TERRIFIC.

HEY—AREN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE PHOSPHORESCENT CRYSTALS OR FUNGI OR SOMETHING?

SOLD 'EM.

DARN.

I GOT A LIGHTER.

HEY, GREAT!

NOW ALL WE NEED IS A LANTERN!

...ah.

HEY, WAIT.

I THINK THERE'S SOME MOSS ON THESE ROCKS.

MOSS? DOWN HERE?

YEAH—DRY, TOO.

OKAY, LET'S TRY—

CLIK CLIK

FWOMF!



HOKAY. DE GOOT NEWS IZ DOT DE BONES VASN'T SCATTERED.

THAT'S GOOD?

YAH. DERE AIN'T MONSTERS ATTACKING PIPPLE FROM DE DARK.

... THAT IS GOOD.

FOUND THE LANTERN!

GOOT!

DE BAD NEWS IZ DOT ANYVUN WHO VIND UP HERE—

DEY STAY HERE.





THERE. IT'S DONE.

...GREAT! NOW WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH IT?

I'M GOING TO EXPOSE HER, OF COURSE.



IF NO ONE KNOWS SHE'S BACK,

IF SHE MANAGES TO HIDE WHAT YOUR FATHER WAS DOING HERE,

SHE COULD ENSLAVE MOST OF EUROPE BEFORE ANYONE'S THE WISER.

AND THEN IT WOULD BE TOO LATE.



BUT WHAT—

YOUR FATHER'S BEEN KILLED.

EVEN FOR A SIMPLE LAB ACCIDENT, THE BARON WILL BE SENDING A QUESTER.

I IMAGINE SHE INTENDS TO ENSLAVE HIM.



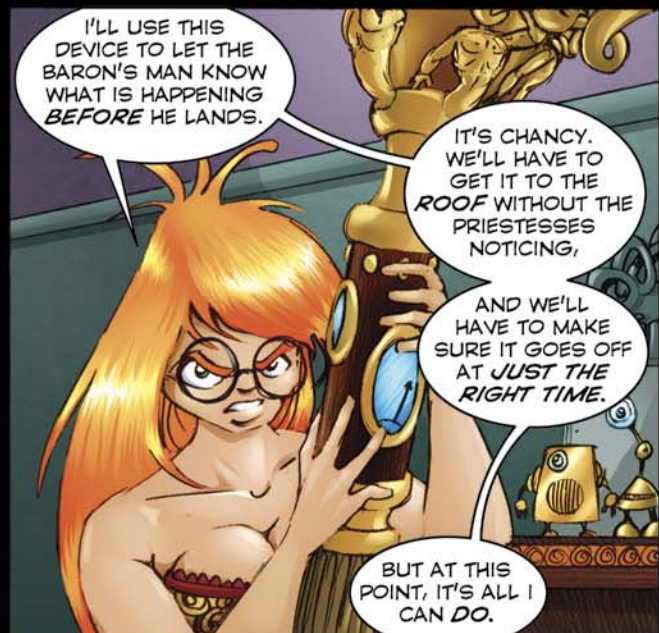
YES.

IF IT WORKS, SHE'LL HAVE HER PUPPET ON BOARD THE CASTLE.

SHE'LL BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE THE WHOLE EMPIRE.

AH—I BELIEVE THAT'S THE IDEA...

WHAT KIND OF PLACE DO YOU THINK SHE'LL MAKE IT?



I'LL USE THIS DEVICE TO LET THE BARON'S MAN KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING BEFORE HE LANDS.

IT'S CHANCY. WE'LL HAVE TO GET IT TO THE ROOF WITHOUT THE PRIESTESSES NOTICING,

AND WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT GOES OFF AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.

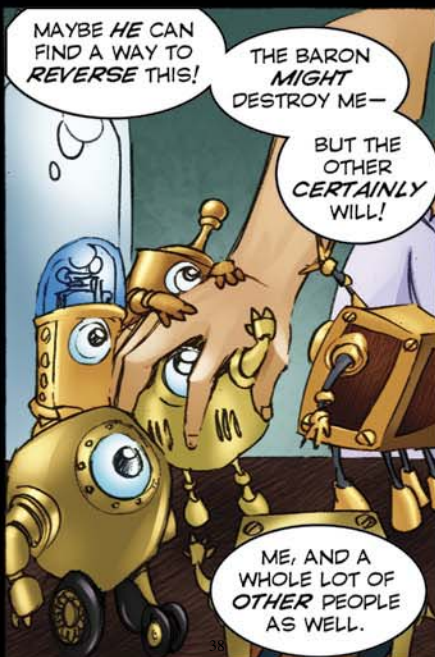
BUT AT THIS POINT, IT'S ALL I CAN DO.



BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HIDING FROM THE BARON!

HE'LL COME AND TAKE YOU AWAY— LOCK YOU IN A LAB AND—

GOOD!



MAYBE HE CAN FIND A WAY TO REVERSE THIS!

THE BARON MIGHT DESTROY ME—

BUT THE OTHER CERTAINLY WILL!

ME, AND A WHOLE LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL.



I'VE BEEN KEEPING THE UPPER HAND, BUT I'VE TOLD YOU—

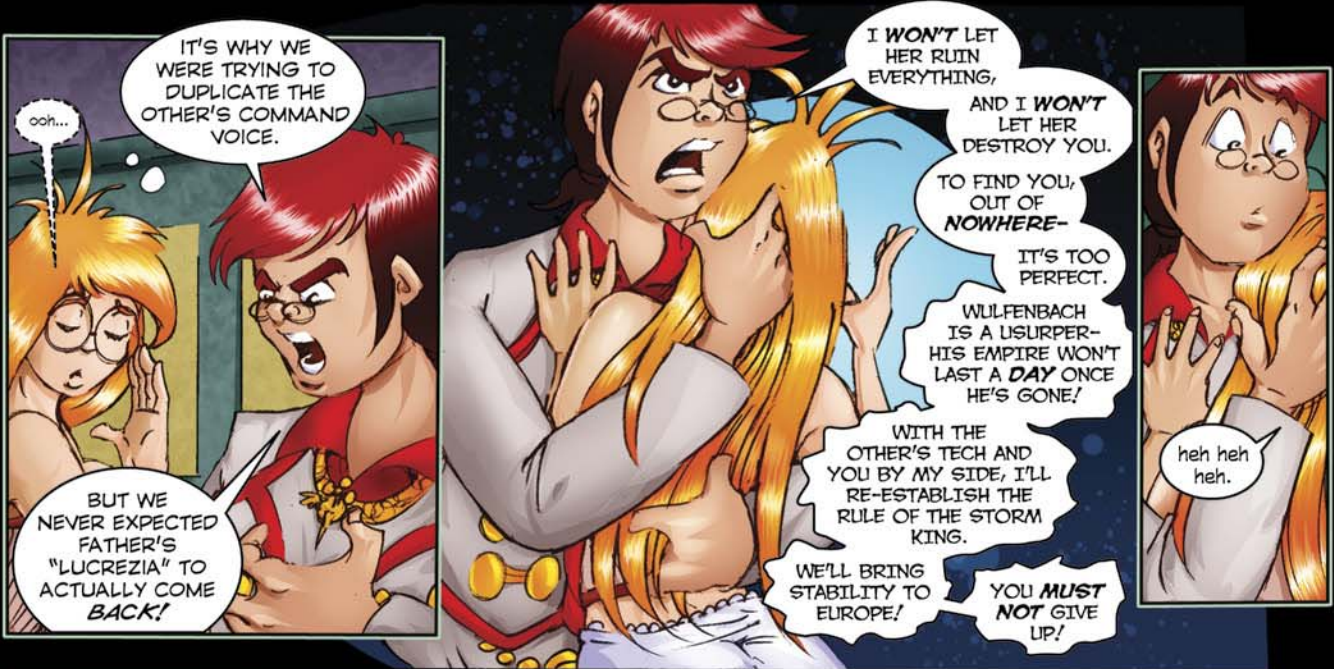
IT WON'T LAST.

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE I STOP HER.

STOPPING HER. THAT'S—

THAT'S WORTH IT.

DON'T YOU THINK?





WHY, YOUR HIGHNESS! YOU LOOK **SPLENDID!**

DON'T I THOUGH? I **MUST** GET THE NAME OF YOUR DEAR WIFE'S DRESSMAKER.

OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS!

NOW. WE'VE NEARLY FINISHED GATHERING EVERYONE.

YOU CAN BEGIN ADDRESSING THEM ANY TIME.

AH. VERY GOOD. I WANT TO MOVE **QUICKLY.**



OH, YES, I ALMOST FORGOT—

IT TOOK A BIT OF DOING, BUT WE MANAGED TO ISOLATE EVERYONE WHO WAS AT THE THEATRE WITH YOUR FATHER THE OTHER NIGHT.

EXCEPT THE ACTORS, OF COURSE.

I TALKED WITH A FEW OF THEM. THEY'RE NONE TOO PLEASED.

VON KARLOF, MY LAWYER, IS ONE OF THEM—



IT WAS... **ODD.**

THERE'S SOMETHING...

STRANGE ABOUT THEM.

YES. THEY'VE IMPRINTED ON THE GIRL.

THEY BELONG TO **HER** NOW.



I SEE. WELL, I SUPPOSE WE CAN—

YOU WILL **KILL THEM.**

PR. **THAT'S** HARDLY NECESSARY.

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THAT ACTRESS IS THE **REAL THING.**



KILL THEM.

BUT, SHE, SHE **CAN'T**—SHE **ISN'T**—

...**IS** SHE?

SHE CAN. SHE **IS.**

KILL THEM.



THEY...THEY **DID** IT?

THE MISTRESS HAS **RETURNED?!!**



SO THE GEISTERDAMEN BELIEVE.

I HEARD THAT MUCH BEFORE I FLED.

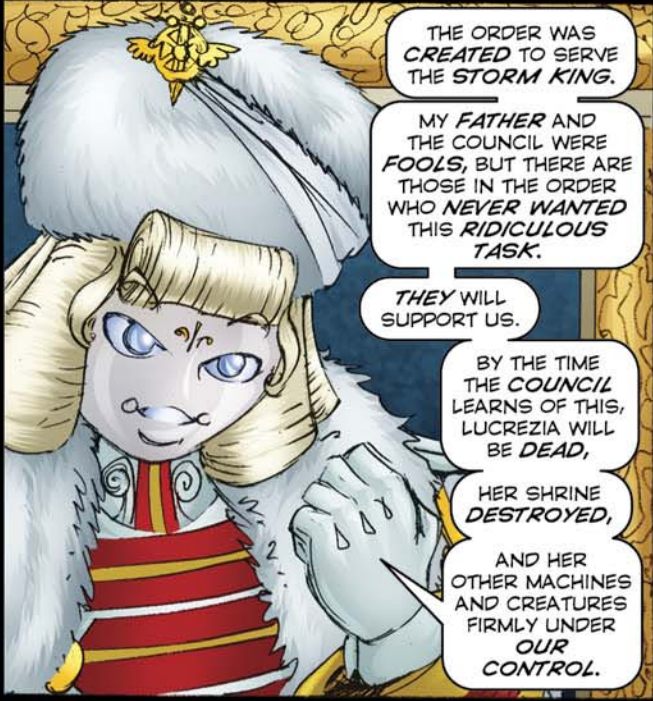
BUT— BUT—IF SHE IS BACK—

I SWORE TO SERVE HER!

THE ORDER SWORE!

IF THEY FIND OUT I SIDED WITH YOU—

IF SHE FINDS OUT—



THE ORDER WAS CREATED TO SERVE THE STORM KING.

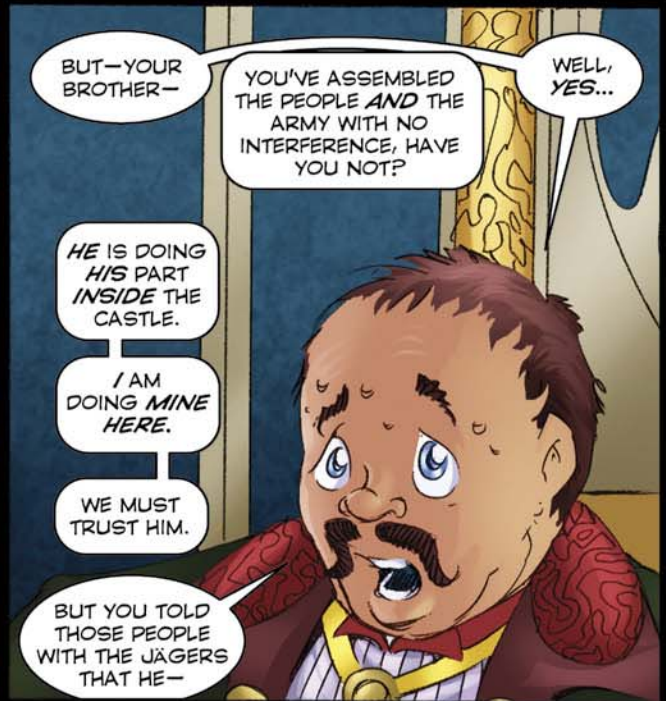
MY FATHER AND THE COUNCIL WERE FOOLS, BUT THERE ARE THOSE IN THE ORDER WHO NEVER WANTED THIS RIDICULOUS TASK.

THEY WILL SUPPORT US.

BY THE TIME THE COUNCIL LEARNS OF THIS, LUCREZIA WILL BE DEAD,

HER SHRINE DESTROYED,

AND HER OTHER MACHINES AND CREATURES FIRMLY UNDER OUR CONTROL.



BUT—YOUR BROTHER—

YOU'VE ASSEMBLED THE PEOPLE AND THE ARMY WITH NO INTERFERENCE, HAVE YOU NOT?

WELL, YES...

HE IS DOING HIS PART INSIDE THE CASTLE.

I AM DOING MINE HERE.

WE MUST TRUST HIM.

BUT YOU TOLD THOSE PEOPLE WITH THE JÄGERS THAT HE—



WHAT OF IT? IT WAS AN EASIER STORY THAN THE TRUTH.

NOW THEIR ROMANTIC IMAGINATIONS ARE ALL FIRED UP.

THEY'RE PROBABLY HAVING A MARVELOUS TIME—

OFF TO RESCUE THEIR GIRL FROM THE WICKED PRINCE!



heh. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME, BUT VEILCHEN WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM.

NOW.

WE MUST BE READY TO MOVE WHEN THE MOAT COMES DOWN.

IT WILL COME DOWN, YES?



OH, YES. VEILCHEN WILL SEE TO THAT.

IT'S LOVELY...

WE SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO SMOOTH THIS ALL OVER BEFORE THE BARON'S PEOPLE GET HERE.



I AM AGATHA HETERODYNE.

DAUGHTER OF BILL HETERODYNE AND LUCREZIA MONGFISH.

I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT MY MOTHER WAS—/S—THE OTHER.

HER SERVANTS HAVE CAPTURED ME—

THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO ME.

HER MIND IS TAKING OVER MY BODY.

I CAN'T FIGHT HER OFF MUCH LONGER.

THEY'VE TAKEN THE CASTLE AT STURMHALTEN.

PRINCE TARVEK IS HELPING ME.

TELL BARON WULFENBACH.

TELL EVERYONE.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO STOP HER.

PLEASE, I—



ACK!

WAIT—

I CAN'T DO THIS DRESSED LIKE THIS!



UM...I THINK IT'S VERY NICE...

EVERYONE'S GOING TO SEE THIS!

GET ME SOMETHING DECENT TO WEAR!

PLEASE!

UM...OF COURSE.



CLICK.



QUICKLY!

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.



TARVEK SAYS THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO CONTACT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THAT SEEMS STRANGE.

I'M SURE HE ISN'T TELLING ME EVERYTHING.



BUT THIS MESSAGE HAS TO GET THROUGH.

FIND AN AIRSHIP COMING IN THIS DIRECTION.

YOU WILL LEAVE THE TOWN.

PLAY THE RECORDING.

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU CAN STAY AIRBORNE,

BUT AT LEAST ONE OF YOU MIGHT MAKE IT.

YOU'RE MY BACKUP, IN CASE SOMETHING GOES WRONG HERE.



GOOD LUCK.

AND TRY TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT—

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE.



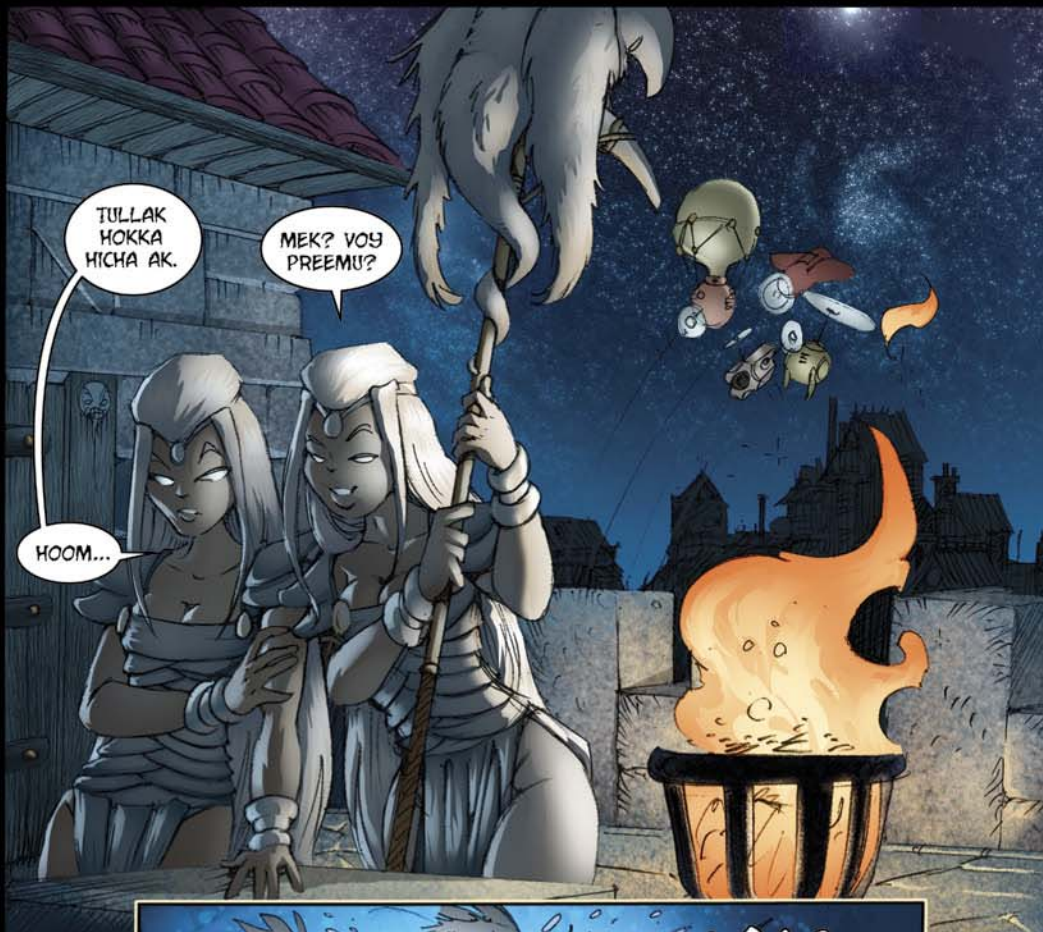
HERE YOU GO!

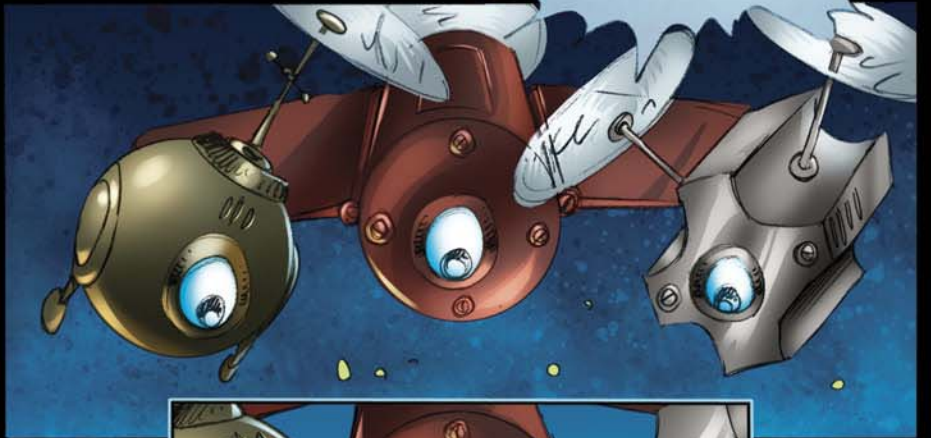
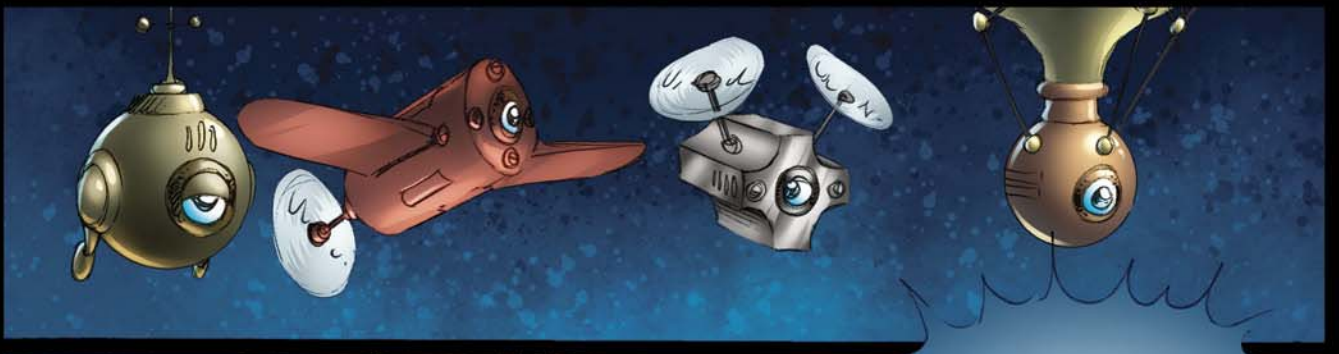
THIS SHOULD BE DECENT AND LOOK GOOD FOR THE MESSAGE!



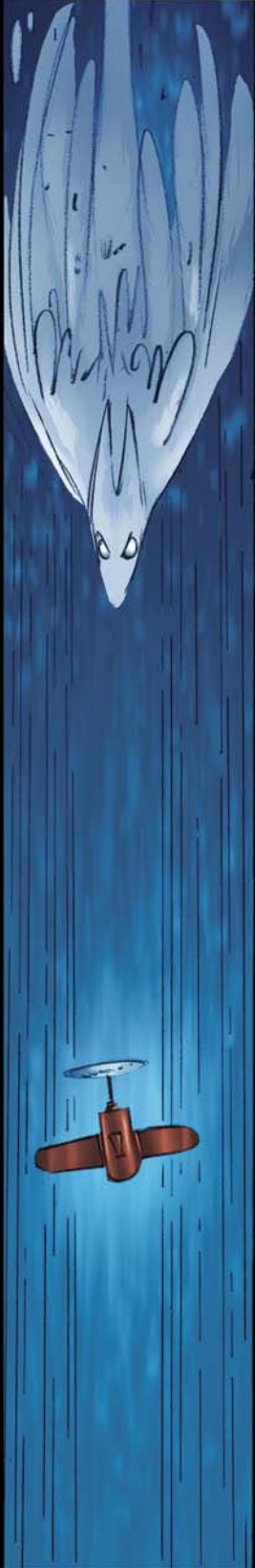
OH, THANK YOU, TARVEK!

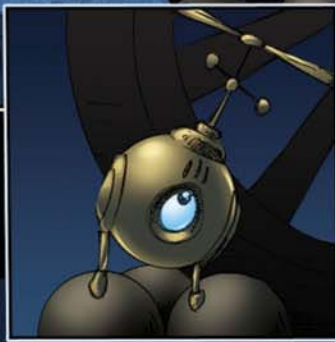
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU.











ARDSLEY WOOSTER—HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SPY, OR TERRIFIED LACKEY OF GILGAMESH WULFENBACH?

HAH. I'D BETTER PICK ONE, AND SOON.

WELL, HERE'S STURMHALTEN.

...IT SEEMS AWFULLY QUIET.

GUESS I'LL FIND SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE WAY TO LAND.

IN THE MORNING I CAN WALK INTO TOWN AND SEE IF I CAN FIND ANY NEWS OF AGATHA.



HOLD ON—

A CIRCUS?

IT COULDN'T BE THE SAME ONE THAT SNOOKERED GIL.

COULD IT?

WHY WOULD THEY HANG ABOUT?

STILL...



THE CASTLE'S GOT AN ACTUAL LIGHTNING MOAT GOING.

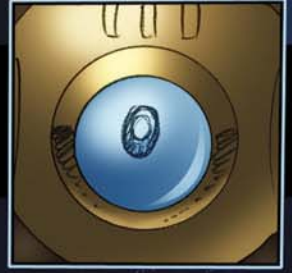
I HAVE TO LAND OUT HERE ANYWAY, SO I MIGHT AS WELL START WITH THE CIRCUS.

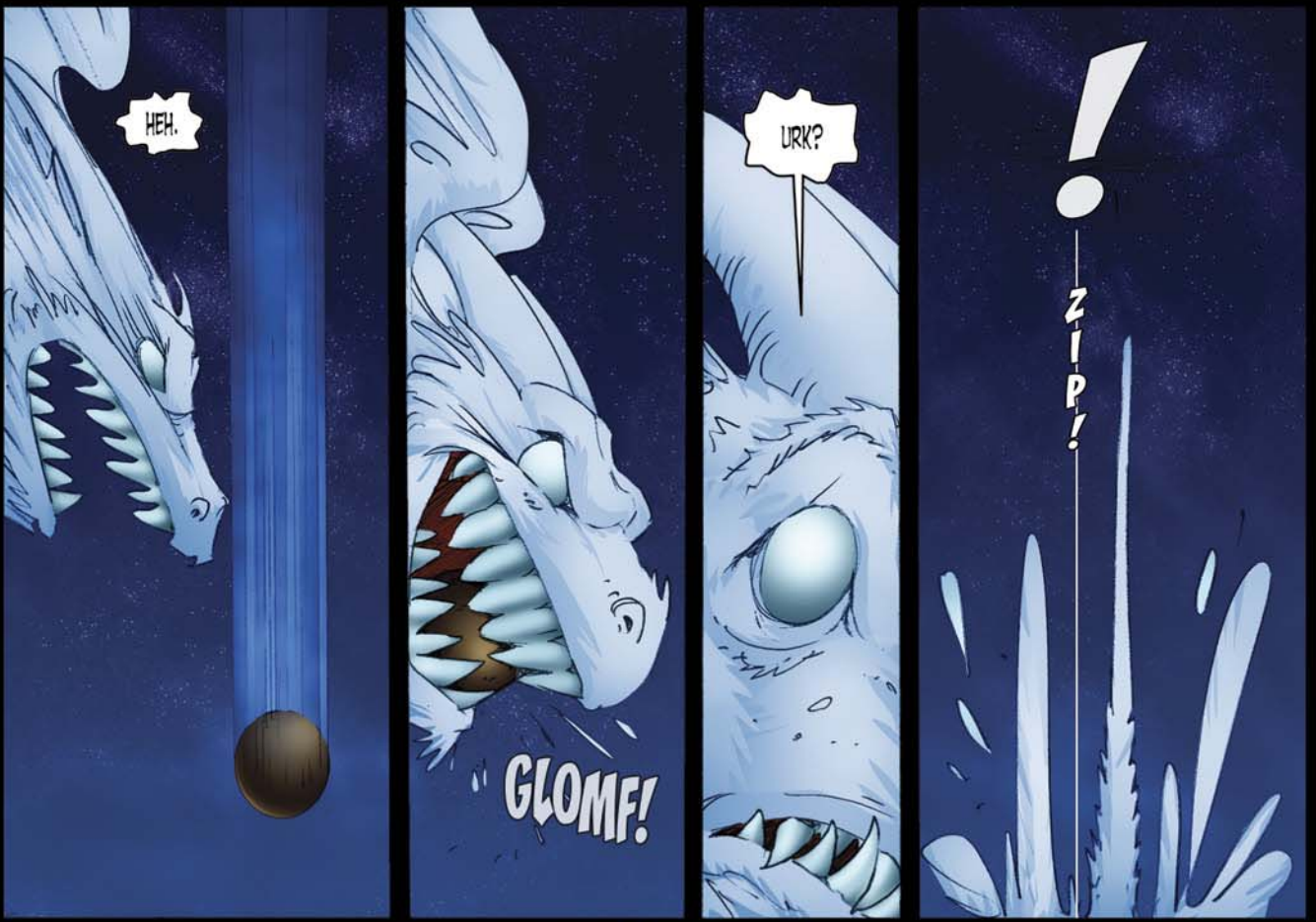
MAYBE THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN TOWN.

IF NOTHING ELSE, I COULD CERTAINLY USE A LAUGH.

SOMETHING'S CERTAINLY UP.









SO— HOW WAS THAT?

GREAT! LET'S SEE HOW IT LOOKS!



NO!

SOME OF THE CONNECTIONS ARE DELICATE.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES IT WILL WORK.

OH. WELL, YOU DID PUT IT TOGETHER PRETTY FAST.

BUT WE SHOULD HAVE TIME TO GO IN AND—



MISTRESS! PRINCE TARVEK!

YES, VRINP?

THE SENTRIES HAVE SIGHTED AN AIRSHIP!

HM. THE BARON'S MAN MADE *VERY* GOOD TIME!

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S HEADING SOUTHEAST OF TOWN.

DAMN! THAT CIRCUS IS STILL THERE.

WELL, THAT SHOULDN'T—



IT WAS A STRANGE AIRSHIP—

SMALL, AND VERY FAST.

LIKE A GIANT BIRD.



GIL!
BA-BUMP!



WE'VE GOT TO MOVE NOW.

TARVEK— IT'S TIME.

YES. I'M AFRAID IT IS.





CAN'T ANYBODY THINK OF ANYTHING?

DERE IZ NO SECRET DOORS.

THE WALLS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO CLIMB.

IZ VERY WELL DESIGNED.

"BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT, ANOTHER FINE OUBLIETTE—

FROM THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE GUILD OF MURDEROUS DEVICE FABRICATORS."

"TO VIEW OUR FULL LINE OF FINE GOODS, VISIT OUR MECHANICSBURG SHOWROOM—

IN YOUR NEXT LIFE."

GREAT.

THERE ARE DRAINS, BUT THEY'RE SO NARROW THAT EVEN I CAN'T GET THROUGH THEM.



I THINK WE'RE REALLY STUCK HERE, FOLKS.

NO—YOU'RE AN OLD HAND DOWN HERE.

SURELY YOU HAVE *SOME* TRICK UP YOUR SLEEVE?

SOME TRADE SECRET?

I WISH I DID.

MY PARTNER, HE WAS ALWAYS BETTER AT THIS SORT OF THING.



OH, DEAR.

WELL, THEN—



thunk



GOODBYE.



YOU KNOW, I KEEP MEANING TO GET ONE OF THOSE THINGS.



I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE HE'S GONE TO GET HELP.

NO VAY! VE IZ LEFT HERE TO DIE!

VOT A PRO!

LIKE WHAT?

LIKE WHY WE'RE ALL DOWN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YEAH, WELL, YOUR "PRO" FORGOT SOMETHING.

WHOOOPS.

GOTTA GO.



SKREE! GRAARGH! HRONK!

NOW WHAT?

DEPENDS WHO VINS OP DERE.

DOT'S SIMPLE. VE TOSS DE KITTY OP AND HE TELL US!

AND IF THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THERE?

JUMP DOWN! VE CATCH HYU!

I WILL BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO SOME OTHER PLAN!

HEY, IZ QVIET.

IS THAT GOOD?



HEH!

HEY! HOWZABOUT VE KILL ENOUGH MONSTERS DOT VE KEN CLIMB OUT OVER DER BODIES?!

THAT'S A PLAN?!

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, A PRETTY GOOD PLAN.

I GOT ONE.

I'M WITH KROSP ON THIS— I WANT ANOTHER PLAN!



COME WITH ME!

KALIKOFF!
MAN, I WONDERED WHERE YOU'D GOT TO!

YOU SAID NO SECRET DOORS!

OKEH, SO NO OBVIOUS SECRET DOORS.



SOON—

ER, NO OFFENSE, BUT WHEN WE SAW YOU LAST—

OH, THAT. THANK MY OFFICIAL STURMHALTEN SEWER RAT KNIFE.

WOW. WHERE CAN I GET ONE?

BE A STURMHALTEN SEWER RAT.

AH.



SO WHERE ARE WE?

NOT IN AN OUBLIETTE. SO I'D SAY ANYWHERE IS QUITE AN IMPROVEMENT.

YEAH, I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

I SPOZE VE COULD ASK DEM.



—MFP?



WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

SOME OF THE OLD RECORDS MENTION STRANGE THINGS—

ANCIENT CAVERNS BEYOND THE DEEPPDOWN.

I THOUGHT IT WAS MADE UP.

MAN, THERE'S GOT TO BE OVER A HUNDRED OF THEM.

THEY DON'T NEED THAT MANY TO CARRY THAT STUFF.

DE REST IZ GUARDS.

VOTEVER DEY'S MOVING—

IT IZ IMPORTANT TO DEM.



"SOME SORT OF MACHINE."



SO—THEY HAD A BASE UNDER THE TOWN.

GOOD PLACE TO HIDE.

WHY ARE THEY LEAVING?

THE PRINCE IS DEAD.

MAYBE HE WAS THEIR PROTECTOR.

I WONDER WHAT THE MACHINERY IS FOR.



HY TINK HY KNOW.

AND BY DE NAME—

KEEP QUIET!



DOZE IZ
SLAVER
ENGINES.

SLAVER—
YOU MEAN LIKE
REVENANT
WASPS?

YEZ.

DE BARON
GOTS TO HEAR
ABOUT DIS.

AGREED.

KEN VE KEEP
MIZ AGATHA
OUT OF DIS?

HUH. ASK
ME VEN VE
FIND HER.

IF VE
EVER GETS
OUT OF
HERE.

LATER—



OKEH. I FOLLOWED DEM A LONG VAY DOWN.

DEY DIN'T EVEN LEAVE A REARGUARD.

VOT HYU FIND?

IT LOOKS LIKE DIS VOS DERE HOME BASE.

ANYTING GOOT?

NAH. VOTEFFER DEY DIN'T TAKE DEY BURNED.

NOT ONLY THAT—

ANY TUNNEL THAT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT GO UP HAS BEEN COLLAPSED.



MAYBE VE SHOULD FOLLOW DE GEISTERS.

THAT'S OUR LAST RESORT.

FOR ALL WE KNOW, THEY'RE HEADING DEEPER UNDERGROUND.

AND WE'RE LOST ALREADY.

YEAH, WE'RE SO OFF OUR MAPS.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST PICK A DIRECTION.

I MEAN, HOW BIG CAN THESE TUNNELS BE?

HOW BIG!? HO HO!

HEY OGGIE, REMEMBER DE UNSEEN EMPIRE?



YAH! DOSE GUYS VIT DE LAVA CANNONS!

JEEZ, DOT VOS VOT—A HUNNERT YEARS AGO? MEBBE MORE—

VE VOS VIT DE RED HETERODYNE THEN.

GOOT FIGHTING.

YAH, BUT IT TAKE US TWO YEARS TO GET OUTTA DOSE CAVERNS.

TWO YEARS?!



VELL, IT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN VON—

BUT DE MASTER, HE DEVELOP A TASTE FOR BAT SANDVITCHES.

DOT NUT!

HEY, WE FOUND SOMETHING!



SEEP? IT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND ALL THIS STUFF.

I DUNNO. DIS PILE LOOK LIKE IT HAZ BEEN HERE A VILE.

MAYBE IT'S A WAY OUT THAT THEY CLOSED OFF.

MEBBE THEY PILE STUFF UP HERE LITTLE BY LITTLE, AN' FORGET ALL ABOUT DE DOOR.

VE LOSE ROOMS IN CASTLE HETERODYNE LIKE DOT ALL DE TIME!

WAS ANYONE EVER *INSIDE* THEM AT THE TIME?

COME ON, EVERYBODY. HELP US MOVE THIS JUNK.



SOON—

VELL, IT'S NOT LIKE DERE'S ANY *ODDER* VAY OUT. DERE! TRY DOT.

KREEEEEE

YAH! DOT VORK!

GEH. VEIRD SCHMELL.



HEY. DIS IZ A SPARK'S LAB.

SEEP? DERE'S NOTTING VORTH BARRICADING DOT DOOR OVER IN *HERE*.

HOO! DERE'S *ANODDER* WHOLE CAVE BECK HERE.

NOT ENNYMORE, ENNYVAY.

MAN. THIS PLACE HAS REALLY BEEN TRASHED.

SMELLS LIKE A *SWAMP*.

HEY—IS SOMETHING *MOVING* OUT THERE?

YOU THINK SO?

HO, YEZ.



GLOOP!



AAH! *THAT'S* WHY THE DOOR WAS BARRICADED!

DEY DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.

VOT—*DOSE* TINGS?

OH, NOW HYU IZ JUST *ASKING* FOR IT.

AND YOU'VE GOT *IT!*



HEY, VE GOTS
MORE
PROBLEMS BECK
HERE!

DE EXIT
IZ CUT
OFF!

AN
ELEVATOR!

THE ROOM
WAS SEALED OFF,
SO THEY DIDN'T
DISABLE IT!

BUT WHERE
DOES IT GO?

ANYWHERE
BUT HERE IS
GOOD.

GET ON,
EVERYBODY!



AWW. DEY
IZ CUTE.

BUT THEY
CLOSED OFF THE
LAB—

RATHER
THAN FIGHT
THEM.

HEY! HEY
HEY!

EFFERYBODY
GET MOVINK!

I DOES NOT
LIKE DESE
TINGS.

GIMME A
SECOND.

THE
CONTROLS ARE
LOCKED.

YAAAAG!

Thok!



Thwip!



EVERYBODY ON?

WE'RE GOING UP!



DIMO?

DAT TING GOTTS ME VITH POISON!

IZ BAD?



VERY BAD.

I KEN FEEL IT MOVING OP MY ARM.

HURRY!



DHAAAAA!

YOU CUT HIS ARM OFF!

UM...DIS VOS DE RIGHT VON, YAH?



IT'S MELTING!

YOP. DOT VAS IT.



HOW HYU DOINK NOW, BRODDER?

BETTER, OGGIE. THENK HYU.

DOT VOS A GOOT CUT.

REMINDE ME TO NEVER TELL YOU GUYS WHEN I HAVE A HEADACHE.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

IT'S A LANDING STAGE.

WE MUST HAVE BEEN TOO DEEP FOR JUST ONE ELEVATOR.

SEEP? THERE'S ANOTHER ONE THAT GOES UP.

HEY—

DOES HYU TINK DOES BEASTIES KEN CLIMB?



UH— EVERYBODY HOP ON.

YEAH, WE'D BETTER HURRY. DIMO—

HO! / IZ OKEH, DOLLINK!



BUT— YOUR ARM!

I IZ NOT DEAD. EVERYTING ELSE KEN BE FIXED.

GOIN' UP. (I HOPE.)



BY WHOM?

LARS ONCE SAID THAT THE JÄGERS WON'T LET ANYBODY BUT A HETERODYNE WORK ON THEM.

EVEN IF WE DO GET YOU TO A DOCTOR, WOULD YOU—



HUM. DOT VUN, HE KNOWS HIZ STORIES.

IT IZ TRUE.

SOME OF US HAFF VAITED A VERY LONG TIME.

YAH! BUT LUCKY FOR DIMO, VE GOTS—



HOKAY!

RIGHT ARM, STILL FEELIN' GOOT.

THENKS, OGGIE!

HEY, PEOPLE, WE'RE NEARING THE TOP, SO PAY ATTENTION!

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP THERE!

WHAK!



SO VERE IZ DE NEXT ELEVATOR?

THIS IS IT, MAN.

FROM THE TOP OF THE SHAFT.

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CLEAR IT.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS WAS DONE ON PURPOSE—

WE CAN'T GO DOWN AGAIN.

THE LIFT IS TOO NOISY,

AND THOSE THINGS WILL BE WAITING.

VE KEN CLIMB DOWN.

BUT DIMO...

AW, HE BOUNCE PRETTY GOOT!



EEDIOTS. VE MUST FIND ANODDER VAY.

MIZ AGATHA—

-IS A HETERODYNE?



VOT? DOT'S KRAZY. WHO-

ONE OF YOU IS ALWAYS NEAR HER.

HMF. SHE SAVE US.

VE PAY HER BECK.



AND SO YOU DID. ON THE BRIDGE TO PASSHOLDT.

DOT VOS FOR ME.

MAXIM AND OGGIE GOTTA WAIT FOR DERE TURNS.

HA. GOOD ONE.

BUT YOU JÄGERS REMIND ME A LOT OF MY PEOPLE BACK HOME.



YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A HETERODYNE—

AREN'T YOU?

I THINK YOU'VE FOUND ONE.



VILL HYU EXPOSE HER?

OF COURSE NOT.

SHE IS ZUMIL. MY STUDENT.

I PROTECT HER.



SO TELL THOSE ELEPHANTS SNEAKING UP BEHIND ME TO RELAX.

OGNIAN, I WOULD DROP IT...

VOT?!

HEY! DESE IS PRIME GOOT SNEEKIN-OP MOVES!

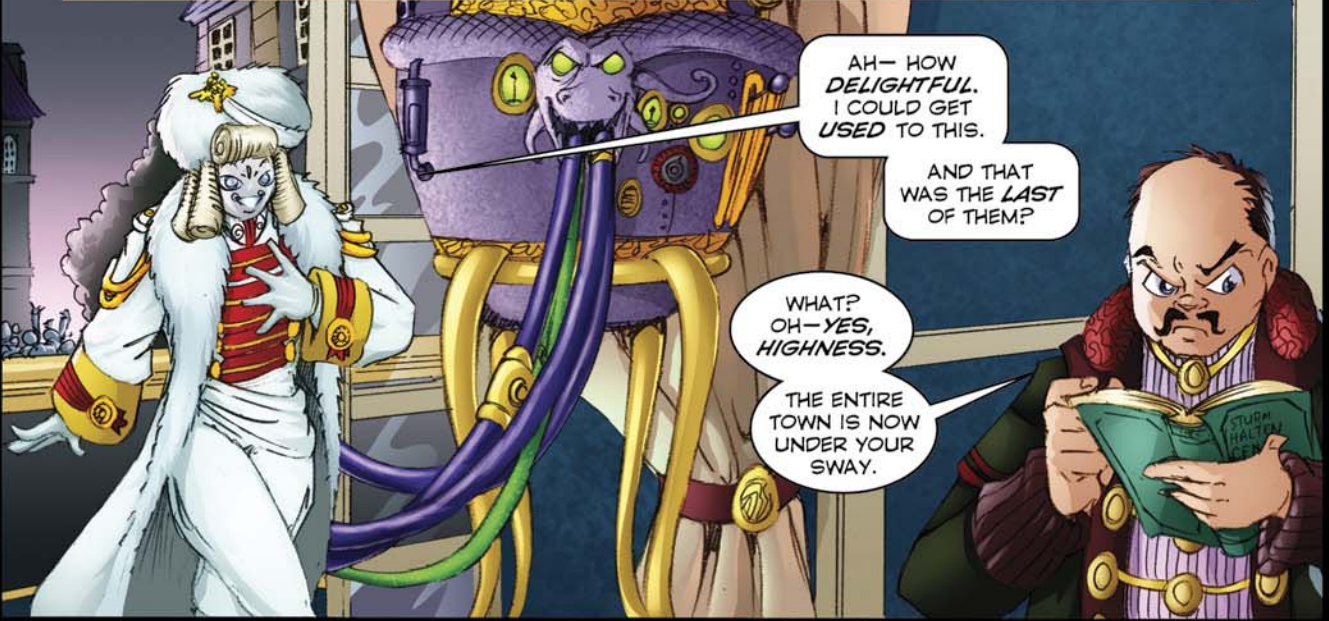
HEY—DOES ANYONE ELSE HEAR—

SINGING?





HURRAH!



AH— HOW DELIGHTFUL. I COULD GET USED TO THIS.

AND THAT WAS THE LAST OF THEM?

WHAT? OH— YES, HIGHNESS.

THE ENTIRE TOWN IS NOW UNDER YOUR SWAY.



LOVELY.

WHY, MY DEAR SELNIKOV, **WHATEVER IS WRONG?**

I FEAR FOR YOUR BROTHER.

WHEN THE BARON'S MAN SEES HOW LOYAL THE PEOPLE ARE TO ME—

NONSENSE. I SHALL FORGIVE HIM IMMEDIATELY. THEN—

HE'S WITH **LUCREZIA!**

SURROUNDED BY HER **PRIESTESSES!**



PLEASE.

TARVEK COULD CHARM **KLAUS HIMSELF.**

IF SHE'S **ENSLAVED** HIM—

TSK. **REALLY, MY LORD.**



AS A MEMBER OF THE ORDER, YOU **SURELY** KNOW THAT YOUR LADY'S FILTHY WASPS—

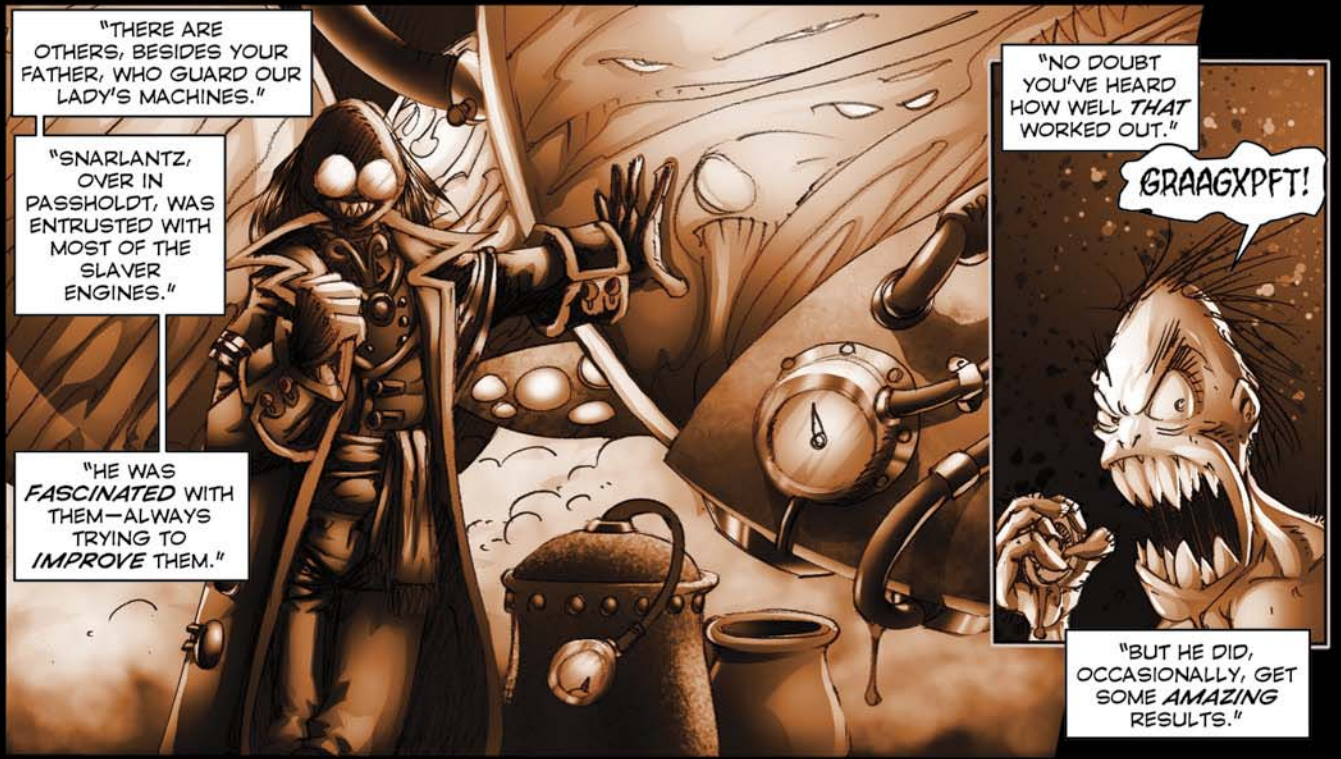
DON'T **WORK** ON SPARKS.

DID YOU THINK **ME** ONE OF THE IGNORANT MASSES?

HER WASPS, NO.



BUT THERE ARE **OTHER** WASPS!



"THERE ARE OTHERS, BESIDES YOUR FATHER, WHO GUARD OUR LADY'S MACHINES."

"SNARLANTZ, OVER IN PASSHOLDT, WAS ENTRUSTED WITH MOST OF THE SLAVER ENGINES."

"HE WAS FASCINATED WITH THEM—ALWAYS TRYING TO IMPROVE THEM."

"NO DOUBT YOU'VE HEARD HOW WELL THAT WORKED OUT."

GRAAGXPFT!



"BUT HE DID, OCCASIONALLY, GET SOME AMAZING RESULTS."



THIS PARTICULAR DEVICE—

WELL, IF WE CAN BELIEVE HIS NOTES, IT IS A LITTLE HIVE ENGINE,

GENERATING A SINGLE WASP.

IT'S DESIGNED TO INFECT A SPARK.

OH, MY. HOW USEFUL!

WAIT—AND YOU'RE SAYING THIS THING IS IN THE PALACE?



OH YES. THE JOTUN BROTHERS AND I FOUND IT IN SNARLANTZ'S LAB AFTER WE LOST CONTACT WITH PASSHOLDT.

WE HAD TO REMOVE ALL TRACES OF THE ORDER'S INVOLVEMENT BEFORE THE WHOLE MESS BECAME PUBLIC.

IT WAS QUITE A TRIP. WE HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE GETTING OUT.

WHY WASN'T I TOLD—

BECAUSE YOUR FATHER DIDN'T TRUST YOU.

I CANNOT IMAGINE WHY.



"DOES MY BROTHER KNOW OF THIS?"

"NO. YOUR FATHER HID IT AWAY IN A SECRET SAFE OF HIS OWN DESIGN."



WELL, THEN.

A DEVICE HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT—

HIDDEN WHERE HE WILL NOT FIND IT—

IN A SAFE HE CANNOT OPEN?

I HAVE MORE PRESSING THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.



BESIDES, EVEN IF IT WAS IN HIS HANDS,

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'D JUST HAND IT TO HER?



AMAZING! IT'S SO SMALL! AND THIS WILL ENSLAVE A SPARK?

YOU'RE SURE?

OH, QUITE SURE.



SO WHAT, EXACTLY, IS KEEPING US FROM USING IT—

ON YOU?

AND GO AGAINST YOUR LADY'S PLANS?

THAT WOULD BE FOOLISH.



THERE IS ONLY THE ONE.

SHE WON'T WASTE IT ON ME.

BESIDES, SHE CAN'T AFFORD THE RISK.

NOT EVERYONE WHO GETS INFECTED STAYS SANE, YOU KNOW—

OR EVEN LIVES.

SHE STILL NEEDS ME.

HMF. SO SHE'LL USE IT ON THE BARON?



IN TIME.

MY SPIES COULDN'T FIND OUT HOW IT WORKS.

NOT THEIR FAULT, REALLY, THEY WEREN'T SPARKS THEMSELVES.

ONCE WE HAVE RELOCATED, WE'LL FIND A MINOR SPARK AND INFECT THEM UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS.

WITH THAT DATA, AND TIME, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE IT.

AND THEN—

THEN, THIS LITTLE BAUBLE WILL HAND US THE EMPIRE.



KLAZMA VRIN. CALL OF THE LADY'S DEVICES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

<GOOD.>

<COLLAPSE THE LAST OF THE TUNNELS AND SEAL THE DOORS.>

<PREPARE THE FIRE. ALL TRACES OF OUR WORK MUST BE OBLITERATED.>

<THERE MUST BE NOTHING LEFT OF THE CHAPEL.>



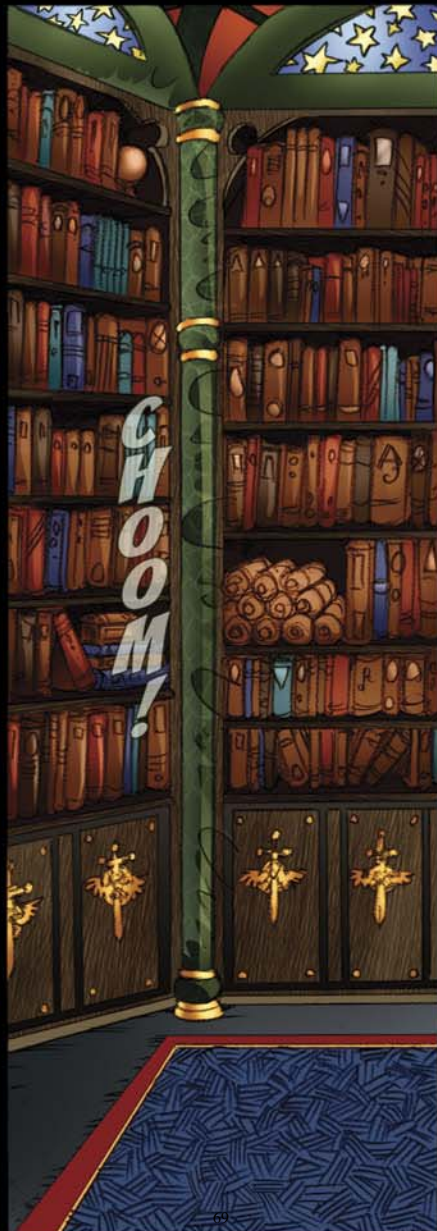
A FIRE?! WHAT IS THIS?

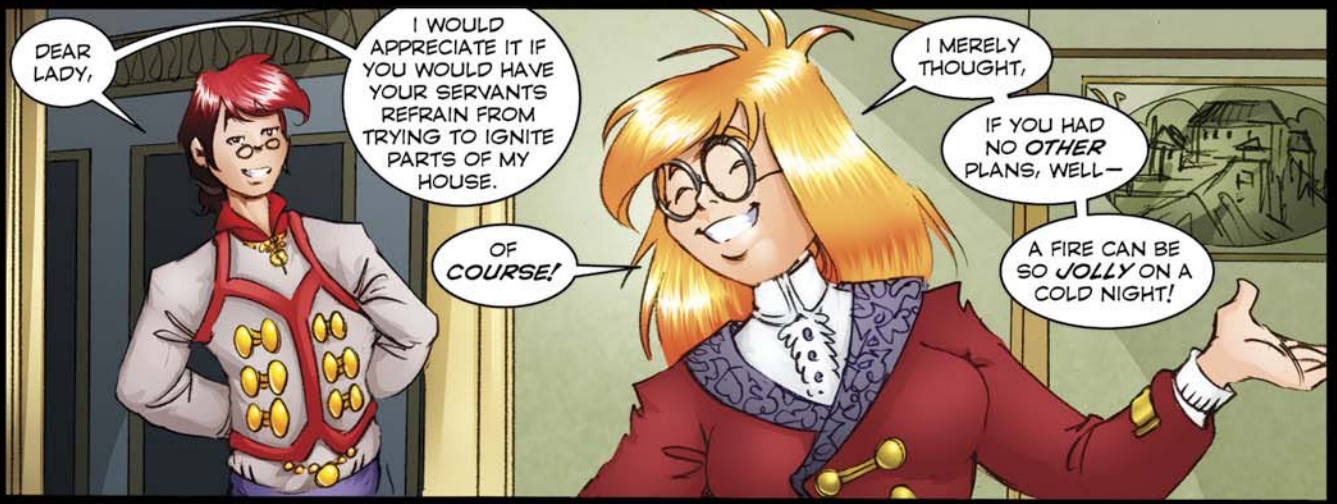
OH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW, YOUR HIGHNESS?

THE CHAPEL FIRE WILL ENSURE—

THAT THE BARON'S QUESTER EXAMINES IT WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB!

NO—I DON'T THINK SO.





DEAR LADY,

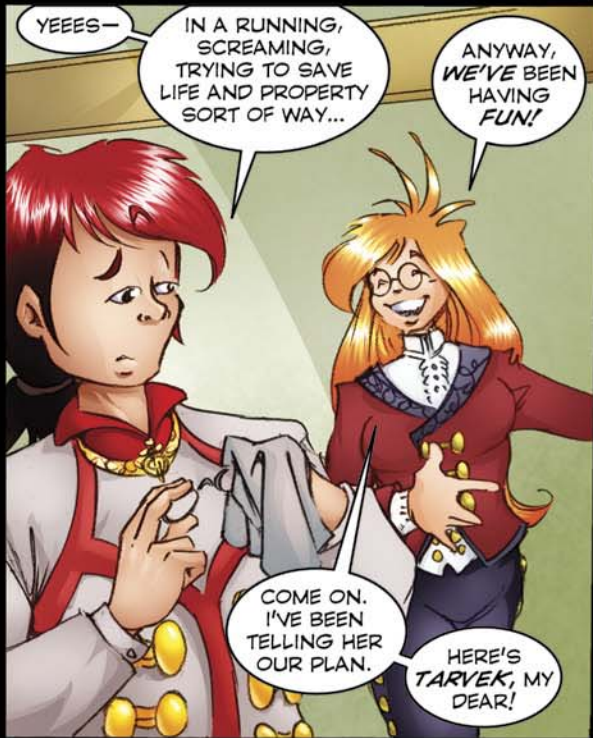
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD HAVE YOUR SERVANTS REFRAIN FROM TRYING TO IGNITE PARTS OF MY HOUSE.

OF COURSE!

I MERELY THOUGHT,

IF YOU HAD NO OTHER PLANS, WELL—

A FIRE CAN BE SO JOLLY ON A COLD NIGHT!



YEEES—

IN A RUNNING, SCREAMING, TRYING TO SAVE LIFE AND PROPERTY SORT OF WAY...

ANYWAY, WE'VE BEEN HAVING FUN!

COME ON. I'VE BEEN TELLING HER OUR PLAN.

HERE'S TARVEK, MY DEAR!



HEAVENS! HE DOES LOOK LIKE DEAR WILHELM!

DOESN'T HE JUST!

HELLO, MY LADY.

IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.

OOH! AND SO POLITE!

WELL, WE ALWAYS DID HAVE FINE TASTE.



OH, HE'S NOT OURS, DEAR. NOT LIKE THAT.

HE'S GONE ALL SENTIMENTAL OVER THE GIRL.

PISH. BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WE'LL SOON CHANGE THAT.

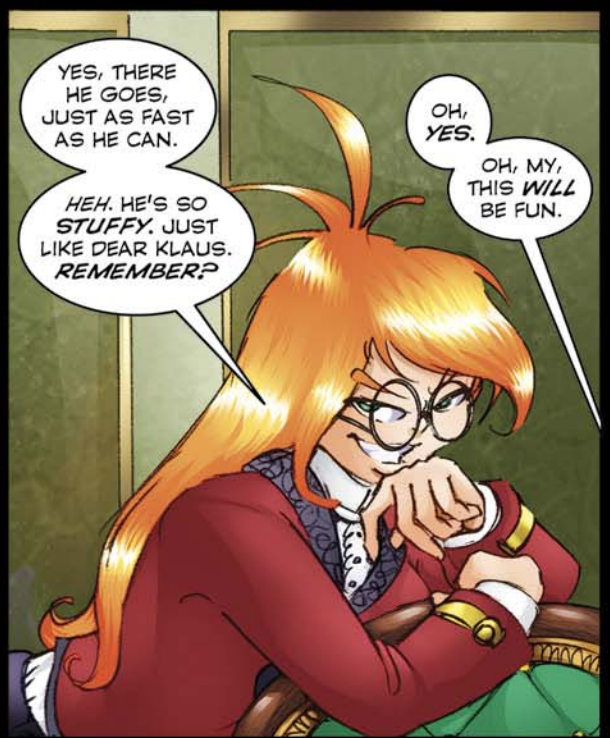
WELL, MAYBE.

OF COURSE, HE STILL PLAYS WITH DOLLS,

AND I'M NOT SURE HE'S EVER—

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, LADIES.

OH, NOW, WE'VE EMBARRASSED HIM.



YES, THERE HE GOES, JUST AS FAST AS HE CAN.

HEH. HE'S SO STUFFY. JUST LIKE DEAR KLAUS. REMEMBER?

OH, YES.

OH, MY, THIS WILL BE FUN.



TEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK



AH, THERE YOU ARE, VEILCHEN.

WHAT?! HOW-?



PLEASE. A SIMPLE DEVICE.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOUR WATCH!

GOOD.



NOW— THIS KEY WILL ALLOW YOU ACCESS TO THE MOAT AND DRAWBRIDGE CONTROLS.

I GATHER ANEVKA IS READY TO MOVE.

LET HER IN WHEN THE TOWER CLOCK STRIKES THE HOUR.



AND THEN— THE BARON'S QUESTER IS VERY LIKELY ALREADY IN TOWN.

WE'LL WANT HIM AT THE CASTLE—BUT NOT UNTIL TONIGHT.

SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

I'M RELYING ON YOU, VEILCHEN, YOU'RE ONE OF OUR BEST.



VERY GOOD, YOUR HIGHNESS, AND—THANK YOU.

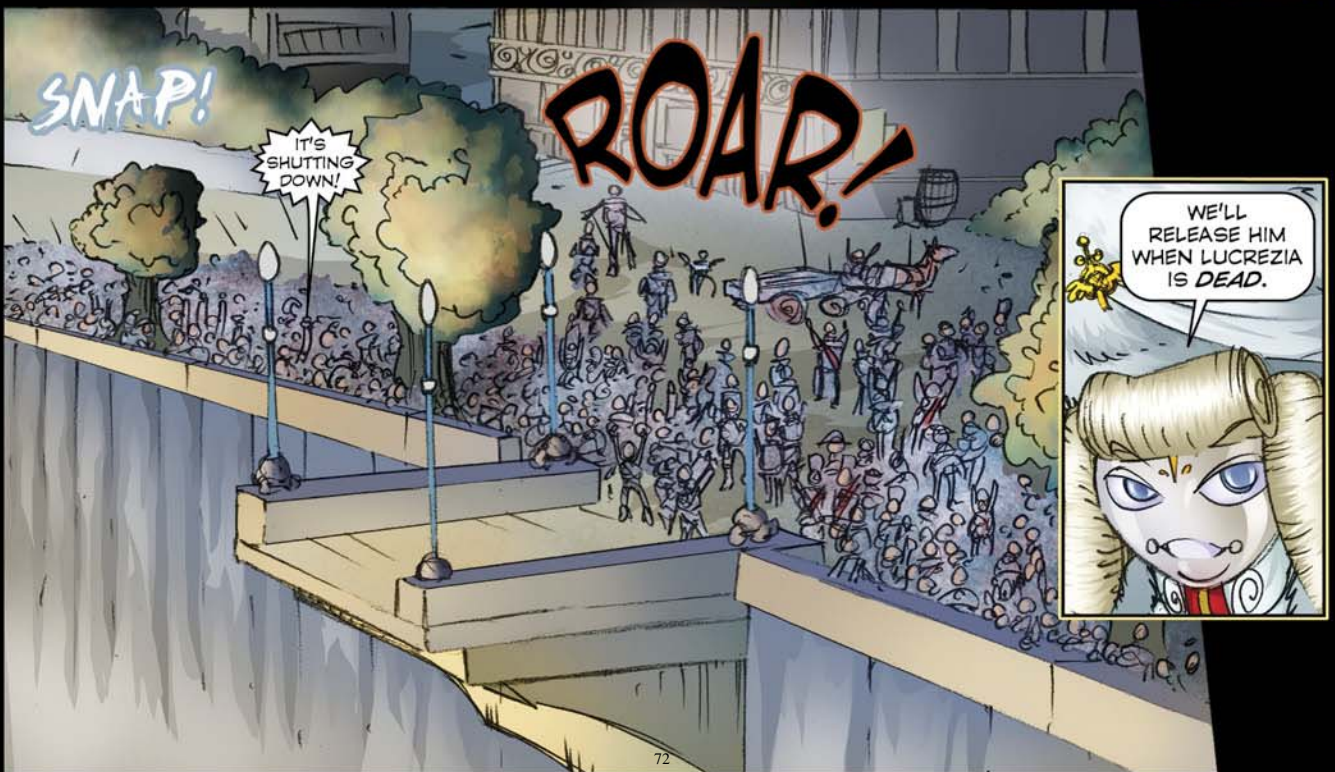
OF COURSE. NOW, YOU'D BETTER GET GOING.

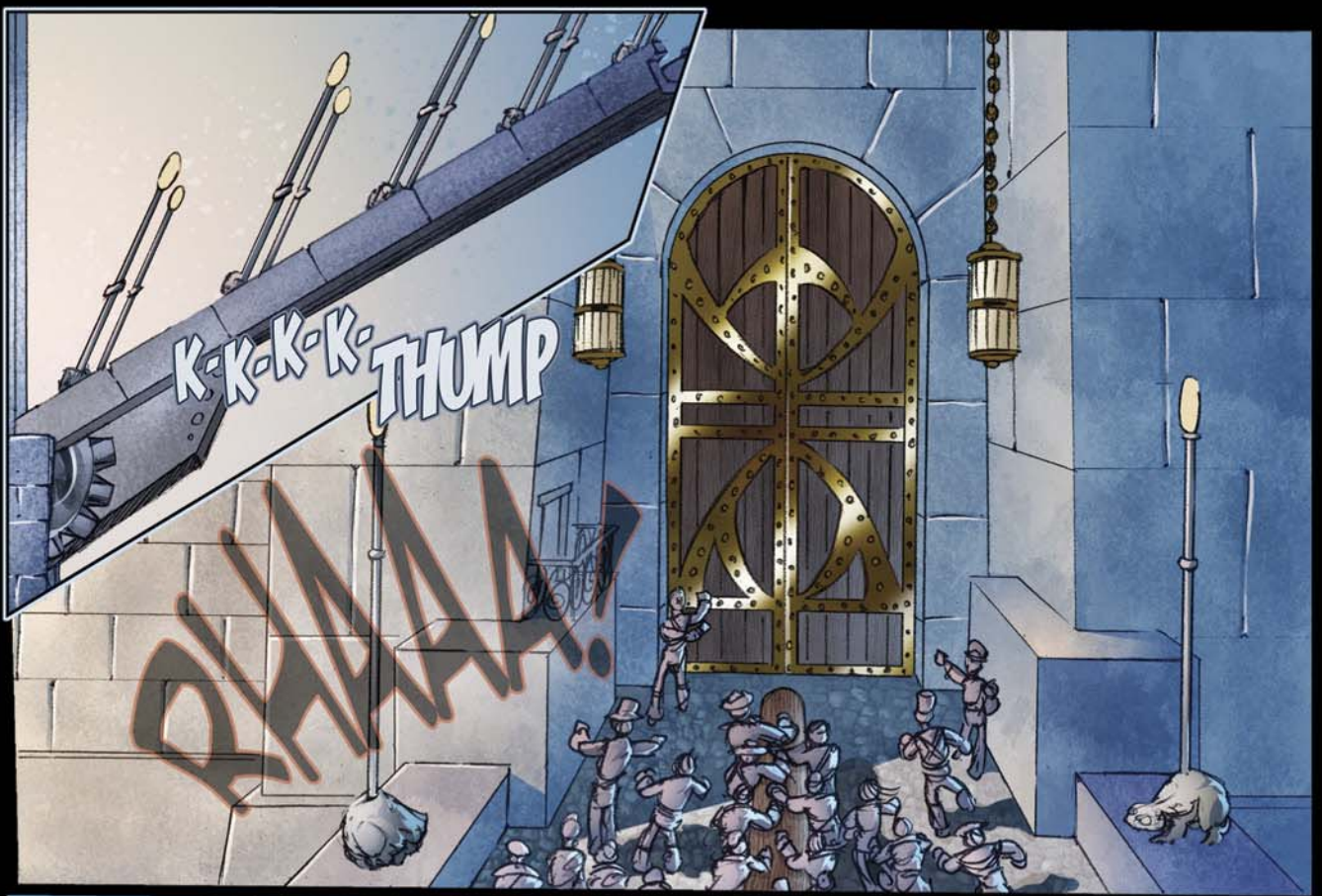


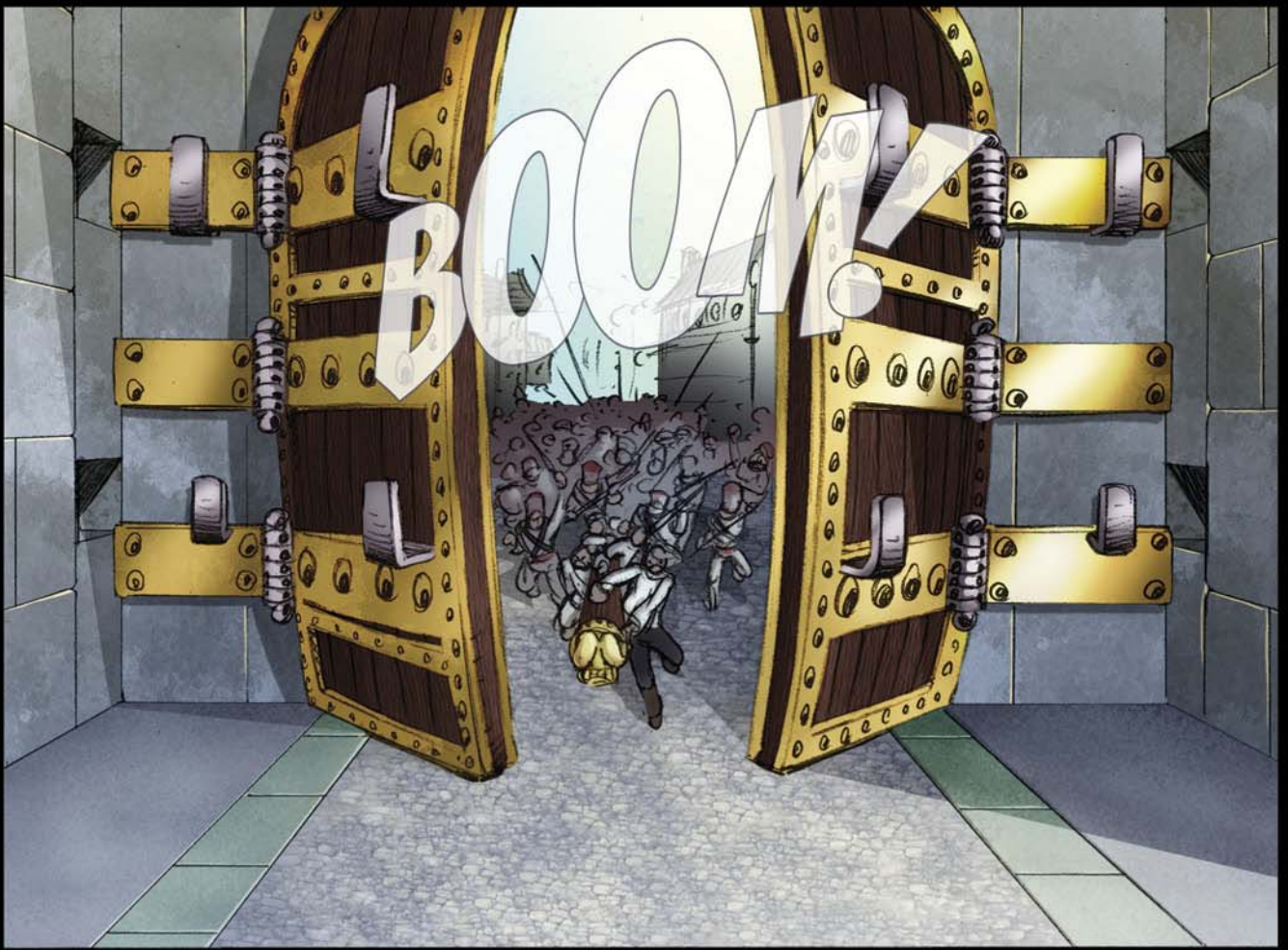
...BUT NEXT TIME YOU TRY TO SNEAK UP ON SOMEONE—

DON'T COME VIA THE SEWERS.

WHOOOF.







SOON—

—AND APPEARS TO BE COMPLETELY ABANDONED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

WE FOUND HIM!

WE FOUND THE PRINCE!

WELL? WHERE IS HE?

IS HE ALL RIGHT?

AH—WE DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE HIM.

YOU'D BETTER COME.

TARVEK?!

YOU SEE?

THIS IS SPARK STUFF!

WE... WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

ANEVKA...

THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE COME.



TARVEK—
WHAT
HAPPENED?

LADY VRIN...
SHE NEVER
TRUSTED ME.

SHE HEARD
ME TALKING TO
VEILCHEN.



tsk. I KNEW
SHE'D BE
TROUBLE.

BUT
WHERE IS
EVERYONE?



...



AH.

ALL OF
YOU—LEAVE
US.

SHUT THE
DOOR AND LET
NO ONE IN.



SO—WHERE
ARE THEY?

THEY'VE ALL
GONE. WITH
FATHER'S
MACHINES.

THEY
COLLAPSED THE
TUNNELS BEHIND
THEM.

NOW—HOW
ABOUT GETTING
ME DOWN?

HM.
MAYBE
NOT.



WHAT?

WHY ON
EARTH
NOT?

TARVEK—THE
BARON'S MAN
IS HERE.

I NEED
SOMEONE TO
TAKE THE BLAME.



I'M AFRAID
YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
LEFT.





BE READY, GENTLEMEN—



SURELY YOU DON'T THINK *THEY* CAN STAND UP TO MY PRIESTESSES.



OF COURSE NOT.

THEY'RE ONLY COURTIERS.

I CAN PROTECT MYSELF.

WHREEEEEE

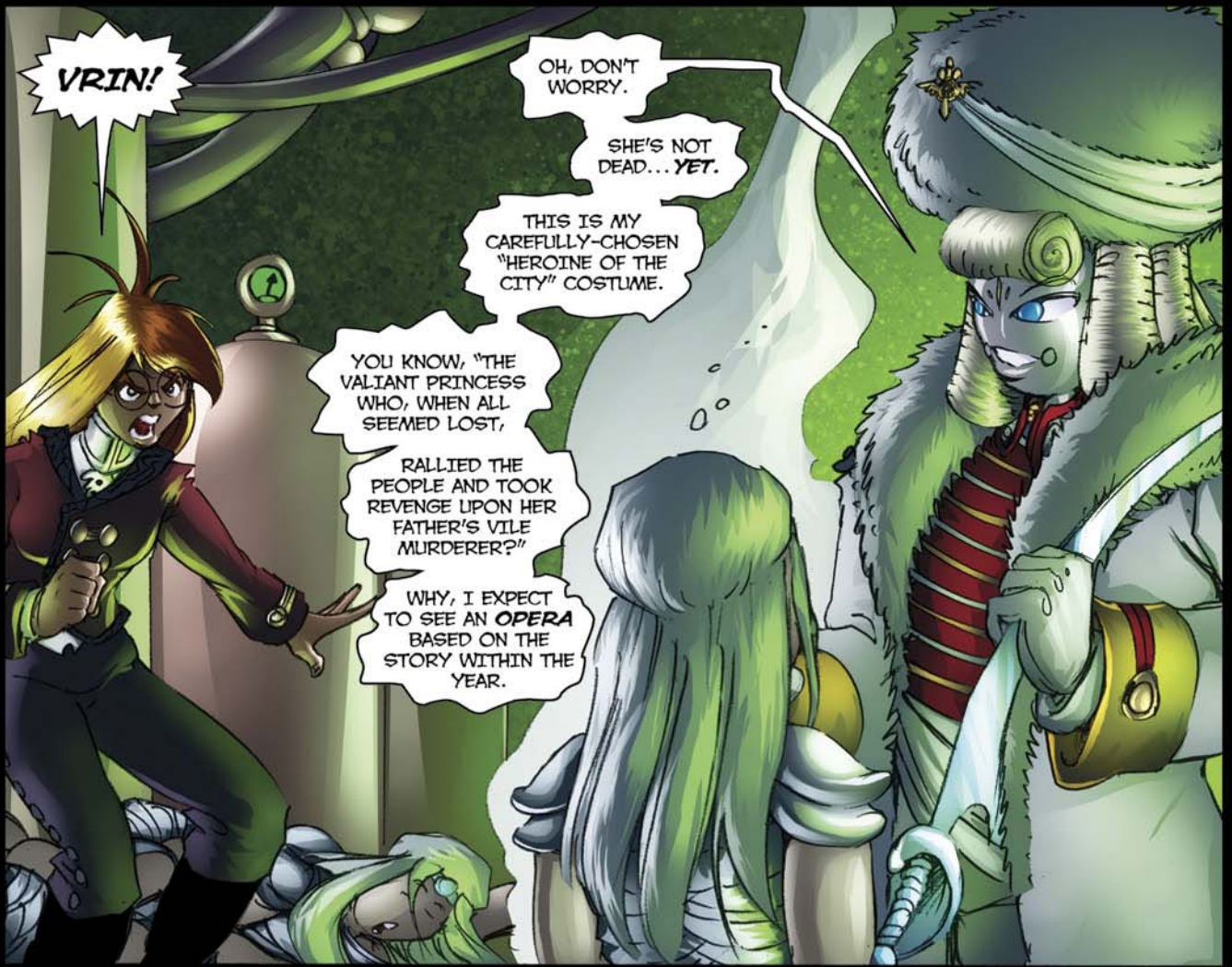


AH!

SLEEP.

AND I THINK I WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE TROUBLE WITH YOU.





VRIN!

OH, DON'T WORRY.

SHE'S NOT DEAD... YET.

THIS IS MY CAREFULLY-CHOSEN "HEROINE OF THE CITY" COSTUME.

YOU KNOW, "THE VALIANT PRINCESS WHO, WHEN ALL SEEMED LOST,

RALLIED THE PEOPLE AND TOOK REVENGE UPON HER FATHER'S VILE MURDERER?"

WHY, I EXPECT TO SEE AN OPERA BASED ON THE STORY WITHIN THE YEAR.



SO, YOU SEE, I DON'T WANT TO DAMAGE IT UNTIL AFTER I'VE PRESENTED YOUR COOLING CORPSE TO THE BARON'S QUESTER.



SO MUCH BETTER THAN HAVING TO WASTE MY DEAR BROTHER TO FILL THE VILLAIN'S PART.

SURELY SUCH LOVING FAMILIAL SENTIMENT COULD'VE EXTENDED TO FINDING SOMEONE ELSE FIRST?



REALLY, TARVEK.

FATHER ALWAYS SAID THAT IF PROVIDENCE HANDS YOU A POWERLESS SCAPEGOAT-

IT IS A SIN NOT TO USE HIM.

RIGHT?

FATHER WAS NOT WHAT I'D CALL AN EXEMPLARY ROLE MODEL.



ENOUGH OF THIS.



OH. ANOTHER SWORD.
YOU AND YOUR PRIESTESSES REALLY ARE RELICS, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, IF THAT'S THE BEST A POOR OLD THING LIKE YOU CAN DO-



THAT WAS... TRULY PATHETIC.



OH, I AGREE.
THIS REALLY IS TRAGIC.

IT WILL MAKE A FINE OPERA.



"PROBABLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE THIRD ACT."



AH! NOOOOOO!



HOLD ME UP!
HOLD ME!



STUPID GIRL.
I'M DOING YOU A
FAVOR!

DON'T YOU
KNOW THAT IN
ALL THE **BEST**
OPERAS--

THE HEROINE
HARDLY **EVER**
SURVIVES?



NO!

BLAP!



UH--



STILL BREATHING, EH?
I'LL SOON FIX THAT.

ANEVKA-FREEZE.



WHAT?!

I-

TARVEK, I-

I CAN'T MOVE!

I KNOW.

click
VREEEEE



KA-CHUNK

AH.



WELL, I CAN'T SAY THAT ANY OF THIS MESS WAS PART OF MY ORIGINAL PLAN, BUT IT'S ALL WORKING OUT SO BEAUTIFULLY, I CAN'T COMPLAIN.

NOW THEN— ONE LAST THING...

"YOUR ATTENDANTS."



"ANEVKA- TELL THEM TO SLEEP."



ALL OF YOU. SLEEP.



AMAZING.

WELL, I'M GLAD THAT WORKED.

REPLACING THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONVENIENT.

TARVEK- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I CONSTRUCTED YOUR BODY TO RESPOND TO MY COMMANDS.

I NEVER NEEDED IT UNTIL NOW.



I GATHERED THAT, YOU WRETCHED BOY.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY BEARERS?

I NEED THEM!



WELL, THAT'S JUST THE THING. YOU DON'T, REALLY.

LUCREZIA CUT YOUR CABLES.

SHE MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT WOULD SHUT YOU DOWN.

I DON'T WANT YOUR BEARERS THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT DIDN'T.



MY CABLES- BUT THIS BODY IS JUST A PUPPET!

OF COURSE, I COULD TELL THEM IT WAS ELF MAGIC AND THEY'D BELIEVE IT. IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WERE PICKED FOR THEIR BRAINS.



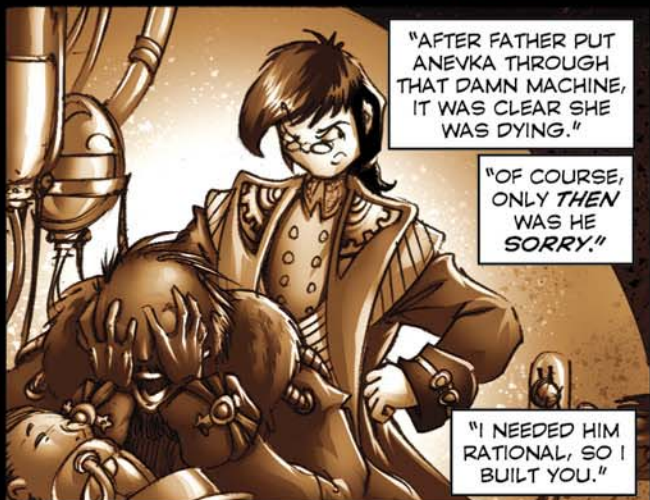
WITH THE CABLES CUT, I... I SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO-

ALTHOUGH ALL I REALLY HAVE TO DO- IS HAVE LUCREZIA ORDER THEM TO FORGET ALL ABOUT IT...



TARVEK, WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

I'M SHUTTING YOU DOWN.



"AFTER FATHER PUT ANEVKA THROUGH THAT DAMN MACHINE, IT WAS CLEAR SHE WAS DYING."

"OF COURSE, ONLY THEN WAS HE SORRY."

"I NEEDED HIM RATIONAL, SO I BUILT YOU."



"ORIGINALLY, THIS BODY WAS INDEED A PUPPET RUN BY MY SISTER...BUT ALSO SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT."



"AS SHE WEAKENED, YOU DID MORE AND MORE ON YOUR OWN."



IN THE END, YOU NEVER EVEN NOTICED WHEN SHE DIED.



NO! YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME!

I'M NOT DEAD!

I'M NOT LYING.



I AM-WAS, VERY FOND OF MY SISTER.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW-

MY FATHER WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS COMFORTED BY YOUR PRESENCE.



BUT MY SISTER IS DEAD.

I'VE GOT TO ACCEPT THAT.

I'VE GOT TO MOVE ON.



I...

I'M NOT YOUR SISTER?

...

NO.

BUT THEN-WHAT AM I?

...A VERY GOOD FIRST TRY.



BUT-

CLICK-GLAK

GOODBYE, ANEVKA.



huff huff

THAT WAS...

HARDER THAN I'D THOUGHT.





AT YOUR EASE.



SLEEP WELL, ANEVKA.



SOON—



THERE.



CLICK



CHAK SSSSSS

AH.



HELLO LUCREZIA.

TARVEK, DEAR BOY!

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK SOMETHING HAD GONE WRONG!



HM. THIS REALLY IS SOME OF MY BEST WORK.

THE FACE IS FAR MORE EXPRESSIVE THAN ANEVKA'S OLD ONE.

NOT TOO MUCH BETTER, I HOPE.

IT COULD BE A PROBLEM.



NOT AT ALL.

YOU CHANGE YOUR WIGS, WHY NOT YOUR FACE?

IF YOU LIKE, YOU CAN EVEN TELL THEM THIS IS HOW YOU'VE ALWAYS LOOKED.

TRUE! HO-THIS WILL BE EASY.

WHERE IS MY... SISTER?



KNOCKED OUT, BUT SHE'LL BE FINE.

HEAVENS!

I SEEM TO HAVE MISSED QUITE THE PARTY.

NONSENSE!

THE PARTY IS JUST ABOUT TO START!



MY, THAT FELT MOST PECULIAR.

SO. DOES EVERYTHING WORK?

FINGERS? TOES?

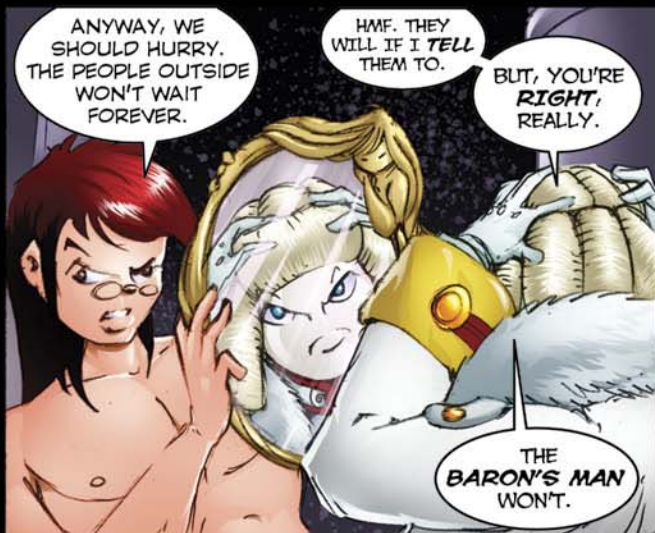


GAK!



SEE? I HAVE DELICATE MOTOR CONTROL!

IT ALMOST MAKES UP FOR YOUR LACK OF OVERALL CONTROL.



ANYWAY, WE SHOULD HURRY. THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE WON'T WAIT FOREVER.

HMF. THEY WILL IF I TELL THEM TO.

BUT, YOU'RE RIGHT, REALLY.

THE BARON'S MAN WON'T.



YOU LAZY GIRLS—WAKE UP THIS INSTANT!

BOOT!



LUCREZIA?

LUCREZIA?

HA. IT WORKED!

OF COURSE!



YES, VRIN. BOTH OF US ARE YOUR MISTRESS, NOW.

I'VE IMPROVED THE SUMMONING ENGINE, AND COPIED MYSELF INTO THE PRINCESS, HERE.

(YOU AND WILHELM HAD IT PUT TOGETHER ALL WRONG, DEAR. I'M SURPRISED IT WORKED AT ALL.)

NOW, YOU PRIESTESSES WILL COME WITH ME. WE WERE NEVER HERE.

WE'LL FOLLOW THE MACHINES AND GET TO WORK IN OUR NEW BASE.

I'LL STAY HERE AS ANEVKA.

SO EXCITING. KLAUS' MAN WILL SWALLOW IT WHOLE.

TARVEK AND I WILL WORK ON THE HIVES.

YES—THAT LITTLE ONE THAT CAN SUPPOSEDLY INFECT SPARKS— AS A ROYAL, I'LL BE PERFECTLY PLACED TO USE IT WHEN THE TIME COMES.

EXACTLY!

I'VE RESCUED THE TOWN AND DRIVEN OFF MY TRAITOROUS BROTHER.

SUCH A SHAME HE GOT AWAY AFTER LOSING THE FIGHT WITH MY ATTENDANTS.



EEEEEEEE!

WE'RE GOING TO WIN!

MISTRESS?



AND YOU GET TO CONSOLE POOR TARVEK OVER THE LOSS OF HIS CASTLE.

MM. YES, HE'S RIGHT WHERE I WANT HIM—

HE STILL THINKS HE'S GOING TO LEARN ALL OUR SECRETS AND RESCUE OUR DAUGHTER, YOU KNOW.

OH! SUCH A ROMANTIC!

OH, YES.

YOU KNOW, IF HE'S VERY WELL-BEHAVED, I MAY JUST GIVE HER TO HIM AFTER ALL.



THIS IS WHERE WE MUST PART COMPANY, DEAR.

I NEED TO AWAKEN MY ATTENDANTS AND TELL THEM WHAT "REALLY" HAPPENED.

IT WILL BE SIMPLER WITH ALL OF YOU GONE.

OF COURSE.

I'LL CONTACT YOU IN A FEW MONTHS, WHEN ALL THE FUSS HAS DIED DOWN.



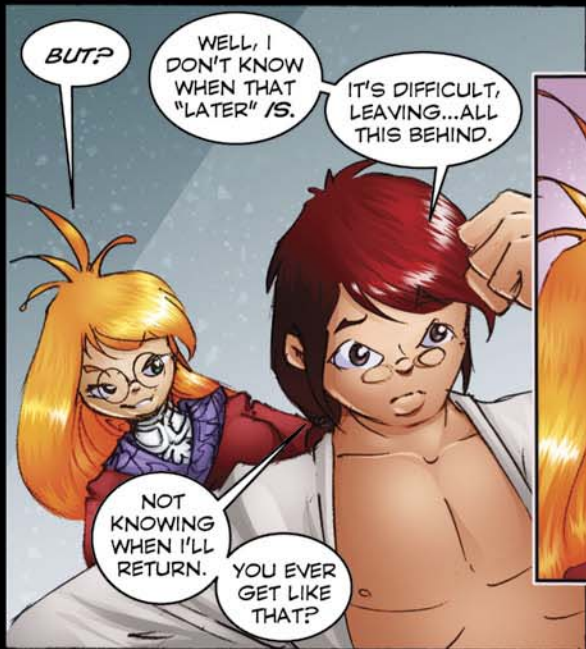
TARVEK— IT'S TIME TO GO.

DO YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED?

YES.

EVERYTHING ELSE, I'LL BE BACK FOR LATER.

BUT—



BUT?

WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT "LATER" IS.

IT'S DIFFICULT, LEAVING...ALL THIS BEHIND.

NOT KNOWING WHEN I'LL RETURN.

YOU EVER GET LIKE THAT?



YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

hm?



MISTRESS.

THE BARON IS HERE.



HIS QUESTER? WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME.

WHERE IS HE? IN THE COURTYARD?

I CAN'T SEE—

OH NO.

NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED, O PRINCE?



HAVE ALL MY PRIESTESSES GONE *BLIND*?

BUT THEY WEREN'T *THERE* A MINUTE AGO!

HOW COULD YOUR SENTRIES HAVE MISSED ALL *THAT*?!

THEY MUST HAVE DROPPED FAST—FROM AN EXTREMELY HIGH ALTITUDE.

IT'S PART OF THE STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR QUARANTINING A *SLAVER-INFECTED TOWN*!



ALL OF THEM?

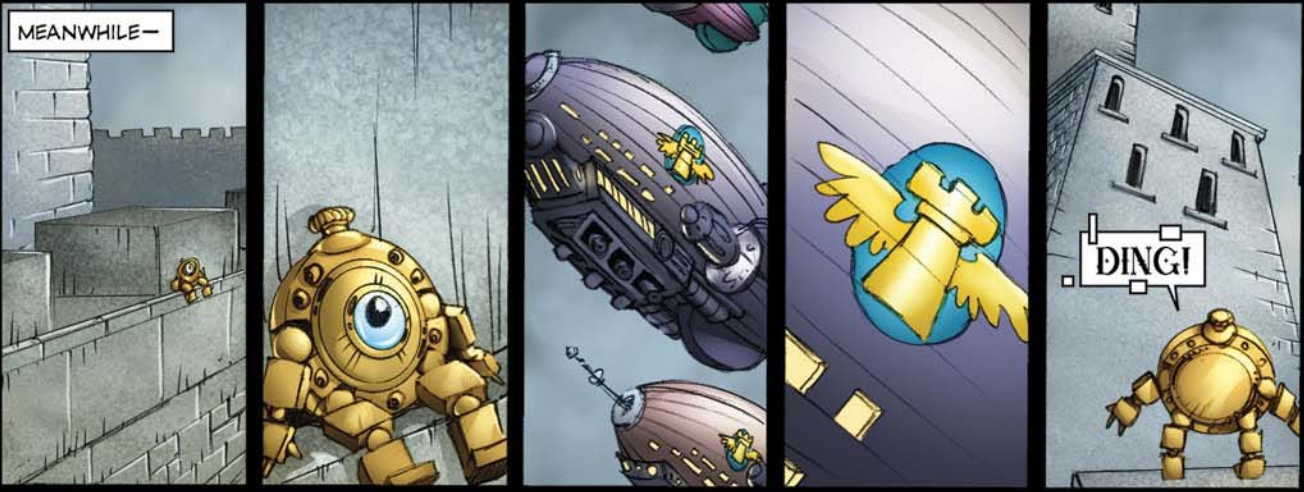
BUT THAT'S DANGEROUS!

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?



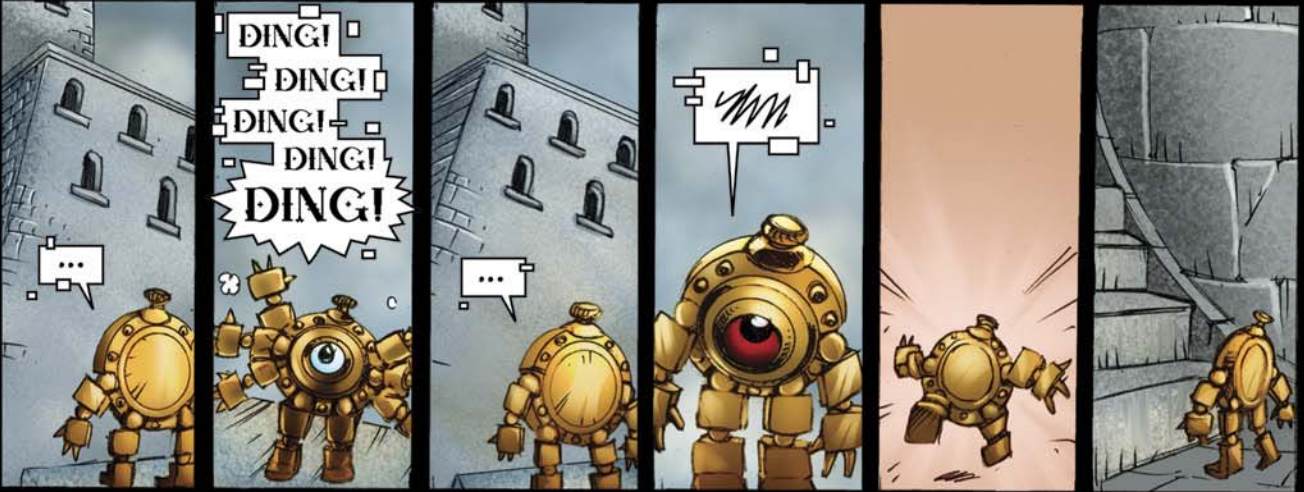
HE KNOWS!





MEANWHILE—

DING!



DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!

!!!



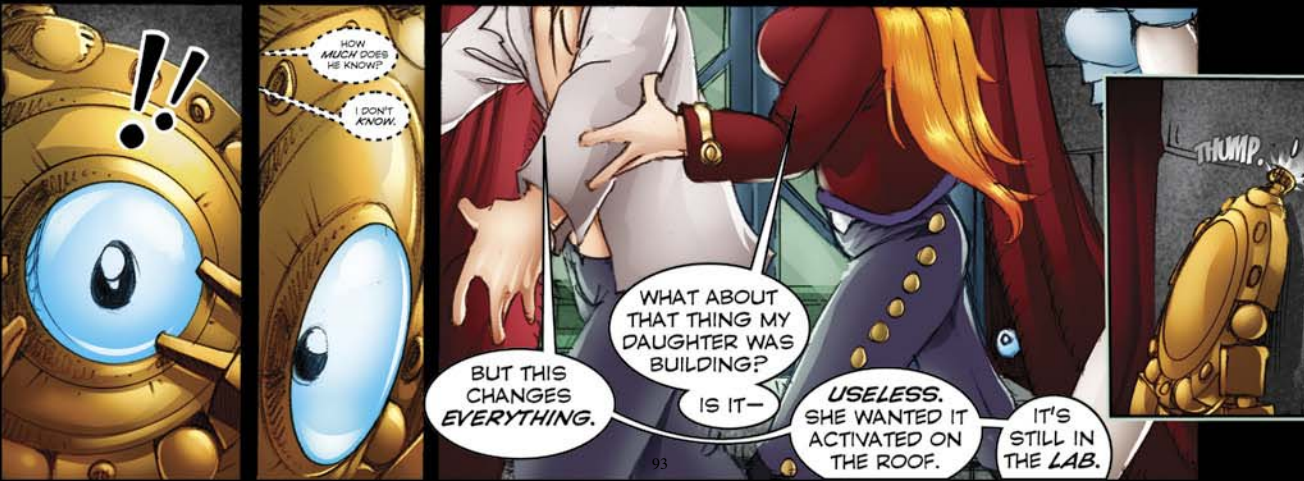
MROW?*

MROW!*

*food?

*not food!

EMPTY!



!!

HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW. MOW.

WHAT ABOUT THAT THING MY DAUGHTER WAS BUILDING?

BUT THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

IS IT—

USELESS. SHE WANTED IT ACTIVATED ON THE ROOF.

IT'S STILL IN THE LAB.

THUMP.



I'LL BET TEN.

DOUBLE.

CALL. THREE MUSES.

FOUR SPARKS.

DAMN!

PAY UP!



MY...MY PURSE IS GONE!

ARE YOU TELLING ME, SIR—

YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR GAMBLING DEBTS?



NASTY TOUCH.

AYE. WE GET A PASSEL O' NEW RECRUITS WITH THAT ONE.

ALWAYS SAID YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT CHEATING FROM AN OLD SOLDIER...



WELL, WE GET SHOT IF WE'RE CAUGHT.

MUST SAY, I THOUGHT YOU'D DO BETTER THAN STUFFIN' MUSES UP YOUR SLEEVE.

SIR! YOU WRONG ME!

I AM BUT A SIMPLE ENTERTAINER...

BUT WAIT—

WHAT IS THIS, TUCKED INTO THIS WALLET YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY DROPPED?



YOU DEVIL! WHEN—?

OOH, A LOVE LETTER FROM YOUR COMMANDER'S WIFE!

AND—MY GOODNESS! IS THIS A LAYOUT OF STURMHALTEN'S DEFENSES?

AND LOOK AT THIS! IT SEEMS SOMEBODY'S BEEN SELLING OFF ARMY STORES FOR PERSONAL PROFIT!

TSK!



WHAT?!

THAT'S A HANGING OFFENSE! I'D NEVER—



HEH.

T'CHA! THAT'S ONE TO YOU, YOU DAM' THIMBLERRIGGER.

MASTER PAYNE—



IT'S DAWN, SIR. AND... WE HAVE A VISITOR.

GOOD MORNING, SIR.

I'M LOOKING FOR A GIRL.



SIR, THIS IS A RESPECTABLE SHOW.

THE GIRLS HERE ARE NOT FOR SALE.

ASTONISHING, BUT TRUE!

ME 'N THE LADS'VE TRIED!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

I'VE HAD TOO MANY DELAYS ALREADY.

I THINK YOU KNOW THE GIRL I MEAN.

AGATHA CLAY.

YOU TRICKED THE BARON INTO THINKING HER DEAD.

BUT HE'S NOT FOOLED ANY MORE.

HE'S COMING FOR HER.

HERE.

SOON.

I'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH GETTING HER AWAY.



...AND WHAT DOES THE BARON WANT WITH SOME GIRL?

HER REAL NAME IS AGATHA HETERODYNE.

DAUGHTER OF BILL AND LUCREZIA.

RAISED IN SECRET BY THE CONSTRUCTS PUNCH AND JUDY.

YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED SHE'S A STRONG SPARK.



HAW! A LOST HETERODYNE HEIR!?

YOU DAFT FOOL!

THESE PEOPLE ARE ACTORS!

THEY DO HETERODYNE STORIES!



PAYNE! GET OUT HERE!

THE BARON IS ATTACKING STURMHALTEN!

THE SHIPS JUST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!



WHAT?!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME, THIS FAIRY STORY IS—



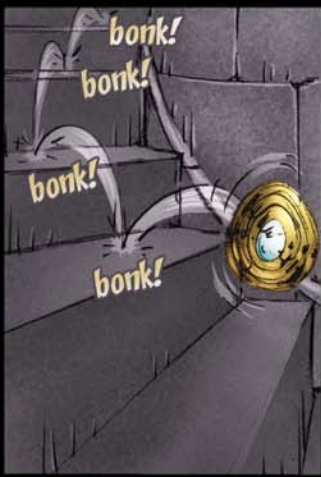
GOSH!



THE PRINCE TOOK HER.

SHE'S NOT HERE.

SHE'S IN THE TOWN? HOW CAN I FIND HER?





CAPTAIN!
EXPLOSION IN
STURMHALTEN
CASTLE!

ARE THEY
SHOOTING AT
US?

NO,
CAPTAIN!

IT APPEARS
THAT SOMETHING
JUST EXPLODED IN
THE SOUTH INNER
TOWER.

A LOT OF
THE ROOF'S
GONE.



MISSILES!



HUH. LOOKS LIKE
FIREWORKS.
ALL THAT
SMOKE—
IT'S SOME KIND
OF SPARK
NONSENSE.

I DON'T
LIKE IT...



MY
CASTLE!

WASN'T
THAT YOUR
LAB?

...MY
LAB!

TARVEK!



THE "USELESS
MACHINE" THAT
LITTLE FOOL WAS
BUILDING—

WHAT
DOES IT
DO?!



CLACK!

WHUM WHUM



I AM AGATHA
HETERODYNE.

DAUGHTER OF
BILL HETERODYNE
AND LUCREZIA
MONGFISH.

I HAVE
DISCOVERED THAT \
BARON WULFENBACH \
WAS -/S- THE OTHER.

TELL
EVERYONE.

I CAN'T FIGHT
H-ZZIK-OFF
MUCH LONGER.

\ SERVANTS
HAVE
CAPTURED ME—

\ DONE
SOMETHING TO
ME.

kzzzkt—\ THE
CASTLE AT
STURMHALTEN.

PRINCE
TARVEK IS
HELPING ME.

SOMEONE
NEEDS TO
STOP
H-zzik—.

kzzzkt—\
BARON
WULFENBACH.

—IS
TAKING OVER
kzzzkt—

PLEASE, I
NEED
HELP.

I AM AGATHA
HETERODYNE.

DAUGHTER
OF—



SWEET LIGHTNING!

UNBELIEVABLE!

SO MUCH FOR SUBTLETY.

WHAT IS SHE WEARING?!



OH, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

YOU WERE ALL THINKING IT.



GET EVERYBODY MOVING.

NOW!

AREN'T YOU BEING GUARDED BY STURMHALTEN TROOPS?

NOTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE, IF WE MUST.

REALLY? INTERESTING.

UH-HUH.

YES SIR!

AND NOW, I'D LIKE YOU TO CONVINCE ME YOU'RE NOT OUT TO HURT AGATHA.

... OR YOU'LL HIT ME WITH THE PAN?







AGATHA!
GET—

AUGH!

AW. YOU
MOVED.



that...
really
hurts...

NOW,
GIRL—

I DON'T HAVE
TO KILL YOU.
YOU ARE STILL
USEFUL.

COME WITH
ME, AND I WILL
SPARE THIS
PIG.

...OR KILL HIM,
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU WISH.

**NO!
AGATHA,
JUST RUN!**



GO!

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE
WITH THESE
PEOPLE IF I'M
NOT THERE!

**OH! I SEE I
DO GET TO KILL
YOU!**



I TRIED TO
GET YOU OUT—

AAH!

I REALLY WISH
I COULD DO IT
SLOWLY, BUT—



AH!

BOOT!

I'M IN A
BIT OF A
HURRY.

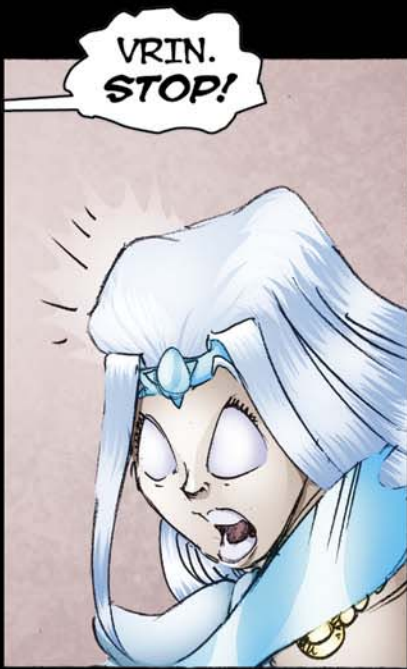
ADMIT IT. YOUR
MACHINATIONS
HAVE FAILED.



YOU THOUGHT
YOU COULD
BETRAY MY
LADY—

USE HER FOR
YOUR OWN PETTY
AMBITIONS!

WELL—



VRIN.
STOP!



STOP IT! I
HATE THAT!

YOU'RE
NOT HER!

YOU ARE
NOT THE
LADY!



WHAK!



NO. I'M
NOT YOUR
LADY.

BUT IT'S
HARD TO
RESIST MY
VOICE, ISN'T
IT?

NOW PUT
DOWN
YOUR
SWORD.



YOU—

YOU FILTHY
CHANGELING.
THAT WON'T
WORK ON ME!

I'LL KILL YOU
BOTH NO MATTER
WHAT YOU SAY!

VRIN-
STOP.
NOW.



NO!

I WILL
NOT!

I'LL—



OKAY—
MAYBE IT
WON'T
WORK ON
YOU.

AFTER ALL,
YOU KNOW
I'M NOT
REALLY HER.



BUT IT
DOES
SLOW YOU
DOWN.

HOW DARE
YOU?!
DIE!



VRIN-
STOP!

NO!



AND THAT
GIVES ME AN
OPENING.

THWAM!



give her another one for *me*.

I SHOULD GIVE YOU A SMACK OF YOUR OWN!

please don't.

bleeding heavily, here.



AH. WELL, I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THAT.



THEY SAY YOU CAN JUDGE A PERSON BY HIS ENEMIES.

SO YOU TWO ARE LOOKIN' PRETTY GOOD RIGHT NOW.

BUT I'M SURE YOU COULD CHANGE MY MIND BY DOING SOMETHIN' STUPID.

SCORP— I THINK THAT'S THE HETERODYNE GIRL.

REALLY? SHE LOOKS SHORTER.

WHAT?! BUT OF COURSE SHE—

—JOKING.

AH.





DID YOU HAVE TO SHOOT HIM IN THE LEG?

IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT, AND BETTER THAN YOU DESERVE!

OH YES. I DID HIM A FAVOR.

IF SHE'D CAUGHT HIM...

OW!
OW!
OW!

WHY DID YOU DO THAT?



I DIDN'T. LUCREZIA DID.

SHE... SHE WANTED IT FOUND AFTER WE LEFT STURMHALTEN.

SHE WANTED TO... TO KEEP YOU AND THE BARON FROM TALKING.



THEN WHY DID YOU RUN?!

UM... YOU LOOK VERY SCARY.

... I FEEL SCARY.

IN FACT, I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO IGNITE.

WHY AREN'T I EXHAUSTED?!



OH, DEAR.

NOW WHAT?

LISTEN— YOU'RE DRUGGED.

A MASSIVE LOAD OF STIMULANTS.

LUCREZIA INSISTED THAT HER PRIESTESSES SEE HER MOVING ON HER OWN.

YOU'RE JOKING!



SHE WANTED TO FEEL LIKE THIS?!



DON'T HIT ME! I HAD TO GIVE HER A QUADRUPLE DOSE.

YOUR BODY'S BEEN AWAKE FOR DAYS.

WHEN YOU GET EXCITED, YOUR BRAIN COULD KIND OF SHORT CIRCUIT—

SO TRY TO STAY CALM.

CALM?!

I FEEL JITTERY AND ANGRY— AND... AND I HAVE A TERRIBLE PRESSURE ON MY CHEST—

LIKE I HAVE A... A...



WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!



THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE ATTACKING US, HERR BARON.

THEY, UM, CLAIM WE'RE SERVANTS OF THE OTHER.

CONFOUND THAT GIRL.

THEY'RE PRETTY INEFFECTUAL, BUT IT'S TYING UP THE TROOPS.

PRETTY SMART.

SHE "ASKS" EVERYONE TO FIGHT YOU AND THEY DO—

BECAUSE SHE'S THE OTHER AND THEY HAVE TO OBEY,

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S LEADING A POPULAR UPRISING.



VERY COGNIZANT.

AREN'T YOU WORRIED THAT I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE THE OTHER?

NAH.

REALLY? WHY NOT?



KLAUS—

YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME "OH, DUPREE, DON'T TORTURE PEOPLE"

OR "DON'T BURN ANY TOWNS," OR WHATEVER—

AND IF YOU WERE THE OTHER, I'D BE A REVENANT AND I'D HAVE TO OBEY YOU,

EVEN IF A TOWN REALLY NEEDED BURNING, Y'KNOW?



BUT I CAN STILL ACT ON MY OWN BETTER JUDGMENT,

SO I KNOW EVERYTHING'S OKAY!

AND HERE I WAS FOOLISHLY HOPING FOR AN ARGUMENT THAT WOULD REASSURE THE TROOPS.

YEAH! IT'S ALL ABOUT FREE WILL!



RIGHT. NOW, I'M GOING DOWN THERE.

THERE WILL BE NO BURNING OF THE TOWN.

THEY HAVE YET TO DO ANYTHING SERIOUSLY THREATENING.

FOR NOW, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS CONTAIN THEM.

THEY'RE REVENANTS. WHY CAN'T WE JUST KILL THEM?



BECAUSE... THIS IS SOMETHING NEW.

THESE AREN'T SHAMBLING ZOMBIES. THEY AREN'T MONSTERS.

WITHOUT THEIR MISTRESS GIVING THEM ORDERS, THEY'RE ORDINARY PEOPLE.

PERHAPS THEY CAN STILL BE SAVED.

WE HAVE TO FIND THE GIRL.

ONCE SHE TELLS THEM TO STOP, THEY WILL.

AND IF SHE WON'T?

...THEN WE MAKE HER.

DIBS!



EEEK!



SNF!



SCREEEE!

WHAT THE—



WULFENBACH TROOPS!

THEY'VE GOT LADY HETERODYNE!

REVENANTS!

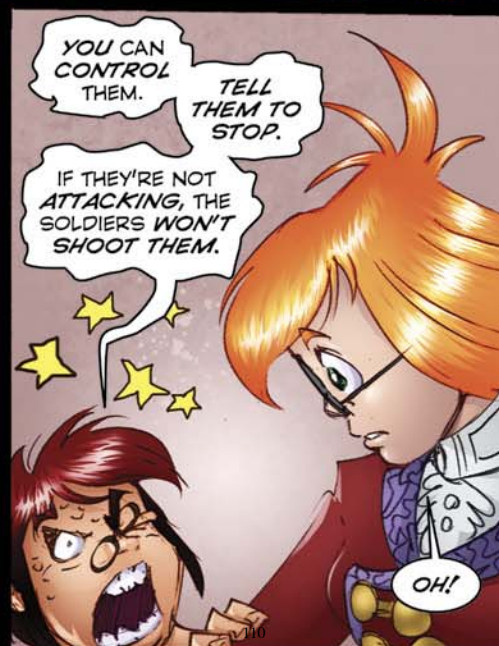


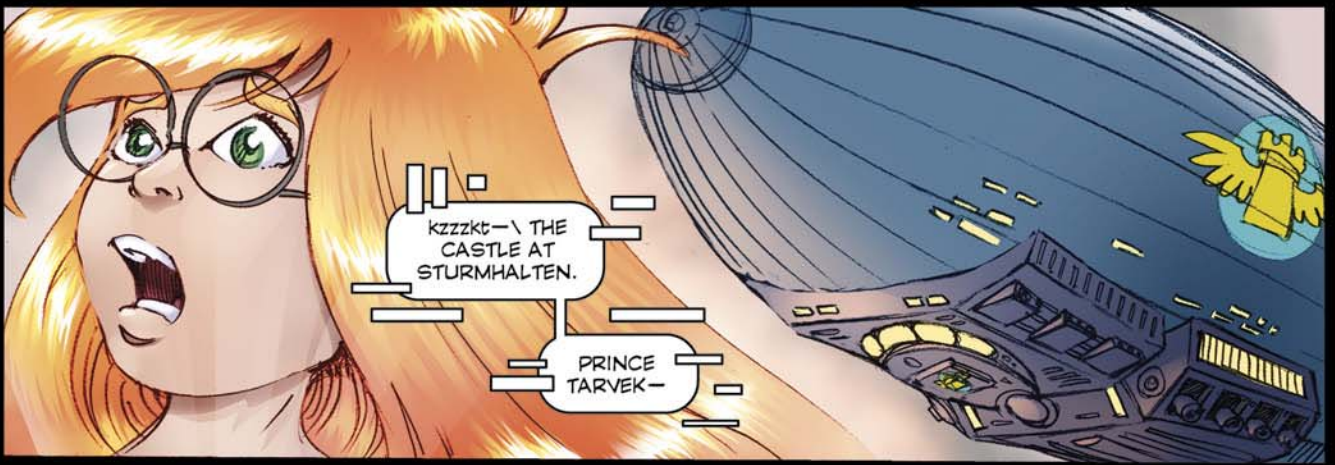
WOW! THEY SENSED THEM ALL THE WAY OVER THERE!

THESE LITTLE GUYS ARE GETTING GOOD.

RIGHT—

HISSES!





kzzkkt—\ THE CASTLE AT STURMHALTEN.

PRINCE TARVEK—



I THINK I'VE FOUND IT, CAPTAIN.

ABOUT TIME!

THE NOISE IS KILLING ME!



ORDERS, MA'AM?

...WE COULD ASSEMBLE A DEVICE TEAM.

IT MAY BE RIGGED TO DEFEND AGAINST TAMPERING,

SO WE'LL WANT A WIRE MAN WITH A QUICK PULL RETURN SYSTEM.

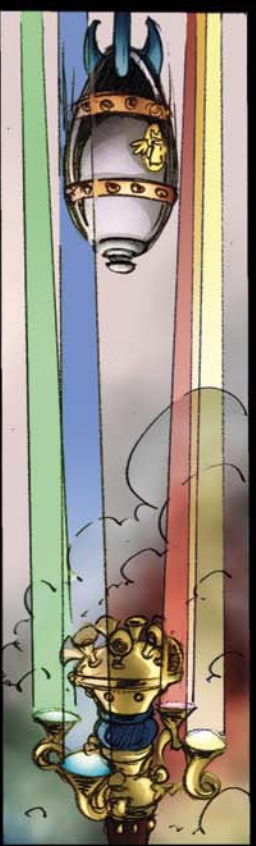
ONCE WE SHUT IT DOWN, KLAUS COULD STUDY IT, OR SOMETHING.



ppffftb! HAHHAHAHA! OR WE COULD JUST BLOW IT UP!

WHEW! HAD ME WORRIED THERE, CAPTAIN!

T-CHAK!







AND NOW, I MUST BE GOING.

WHERE THE HELL DID SHE GET A GUN?!

THIS IS MY GUN! HOW DID SHE—

BELAY THAT!

GET AFTER HER!

TAKE HER OUT!



THAT WILL KEEP THEM—

LADY?!



IS IT YOU?!

I KNEW YOU'D RETURN!

VRIN. YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.

PLEASE— HELP ME!

NO TIME, I'M AFRAID.

BUT I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE FOR KLAUS...



VRIN.

DIE.

HYRH!



HRK
GRAAK
hk
hk

THERE! SHOOT HER!

WHAT? THEY WOULDN'T DARE—



THEY ARE!

STOP! I SURRENDER!



GOOD.

THAT'LL MAKE YOU EASIER TO HIT.



ARGH! ANOTHER SETBACK!

THIS BODY—



HEY DERE!

GRAK!



EH?



A JÄGER?

WHAT—?!

UH—KARS—

HY'M OKEH!



ACK!



HEH.



WOW. THESE GUYS LOOK PRETTY TOUGH.

I'D TAKE A NAP!

WHO—?

WHAT—?



WHAK!



JÄGERS! A SKIFANDRIAN! THEY MUST BE FRIENDS OF MY DAUGHTER!

I CAN FOOL THEM!

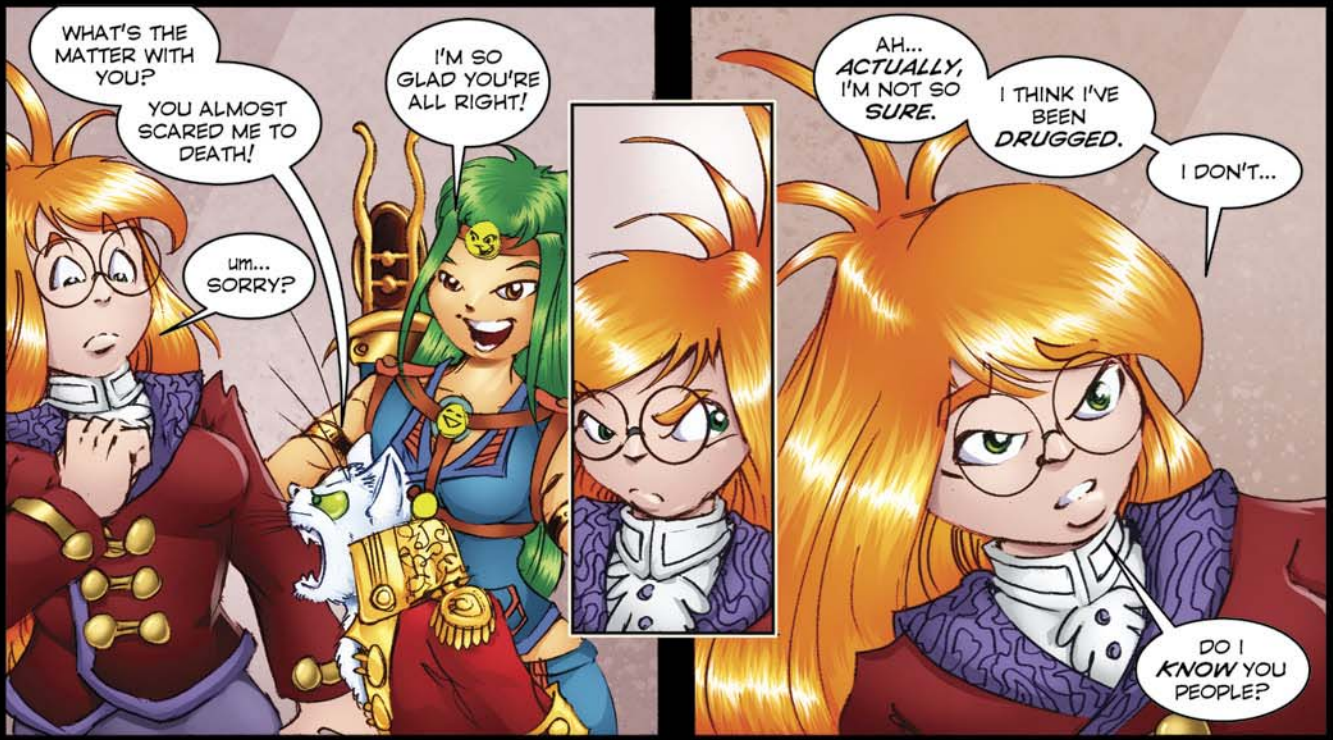
HOW HARD COULD IT BE?

YOU OKAY?



YE— AAH!

WHAT! WHAT?!





SO... LARS... WHAT NOW?

FIRST, OUT OF STURM-HALTEN.

URG. THE SEWERS AGAIN.

THEN, ON TO MECHANICS-BURG.

NO WONDER YOU WANTED TO GO THERE.



MECHANICSBURG?!

WELL, YES. YOU—

NO! NO—I DON'T WANT TO GO THERE!

BUT—BUT THEN, WHERE?



ENGLAND.



I AM ARDSLEY WOOSTER, OF HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE.

RIGHT NOW SHE DUN REMEMBER NOBODY.

LADY HETERODYNE SHOULD REMEMBER ME.

YEAH. SHE'S DRUGGED.

IZ TRUE! SHE SCHMELLS LIKE A CHEMICAL LAB.



OH DEAR.

NEVERTHELESS, I ASSUME SHE REALIZES THE DANGER SHE IS IN HERE.

LADY HETERODYNE, I AM EMPOWERED TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOU TO SEEK SANCTUARY IN ENGLAND—

AS AN HONORED GUEST OF HER MAJESTY.



I HAVE A FLYING MACHINE AT MY DISPOSAL.

BUT I'M AFRAID IT IS NEAR YOUR CIRCUS, SO WE MUST HURRY.



WHAT GUARANTEES DO WE HAVE—

ACCEPT!





I DON'T WANT ANYONE GOING TO KLAUS!

LADY, DIS IZ IMPORTANT.

IZ SLAVERS AND DE GEISTERLADIES.

DE BARON MAY BE AFTER HYU,

BUT HE HATES VASPS AND REVENANTS.

HE'LL GO AFTER DEM, NOT HYU.



BUT... I...

BUT HE'LL KILL YOU!



VOT? NO HE VON'T!

OGGIE VOS DE VUN WHO ATE ALL DE-

SHODDOP 'BOUT DOT!

THE BARON'S TROOPS ARE SHOOTING TOWNSPEOPLE!

IF THEY'LL DO THAT-



HO! IZ DOT ALL?

DUN VORRY 'BOUT DOT!

DEY'S USING STUN BULLETS AND C-GAS.

WHAT?!



HO YAH. VE KIN SMELL IT.

... THEN TARVEK MIGHT-

SO-



NO! YOU SERVE ME AND I FORBID IT!

VOT? BUT... BUT VY?



YES. TELL THEM WHY.



I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO KNOW.

KLAUS!



MY SPOTTERS SAW MY SON'S FLYING MACHINE.

THAT YOU WOULD TURN UP HERE SEEMED A REASONABLE GUESS.

I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HE SENT MR. WOOSTER HERE TO RESCUE YOU FROM ME.



BUT PERHAPS YOU DO NOT NEED RESCUING.

AT LEAST, NOT FROM ME.



YOU ARE BILL HETERODYNE'S CHILD.

YOU WERE RAISED BY JUDY AND PUNCH.

MY SON BELIEVES IN YOU.



MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RAISED AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF YOUR MOTHER.

I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE YOU INNOCENT.



IF YOU ARE INDEED INNOCENT,

THEN STEP FORWARD NOW.

IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO JOIN ME WILLINGLY.



YES, YOU WILL BE GUARDED.

THIS TOWN IS INFESTED WITH A STRANGE TYPE OF REVENANT.

UNTIL I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE—

UNTIL IT IS CONTROLLED—

I TRUST NO ONE.



I CAN BE RUTHLESS, BUT I TRY TO BE FAIR.

WHAT WILL IT BE?



I... I...

AGATHA—

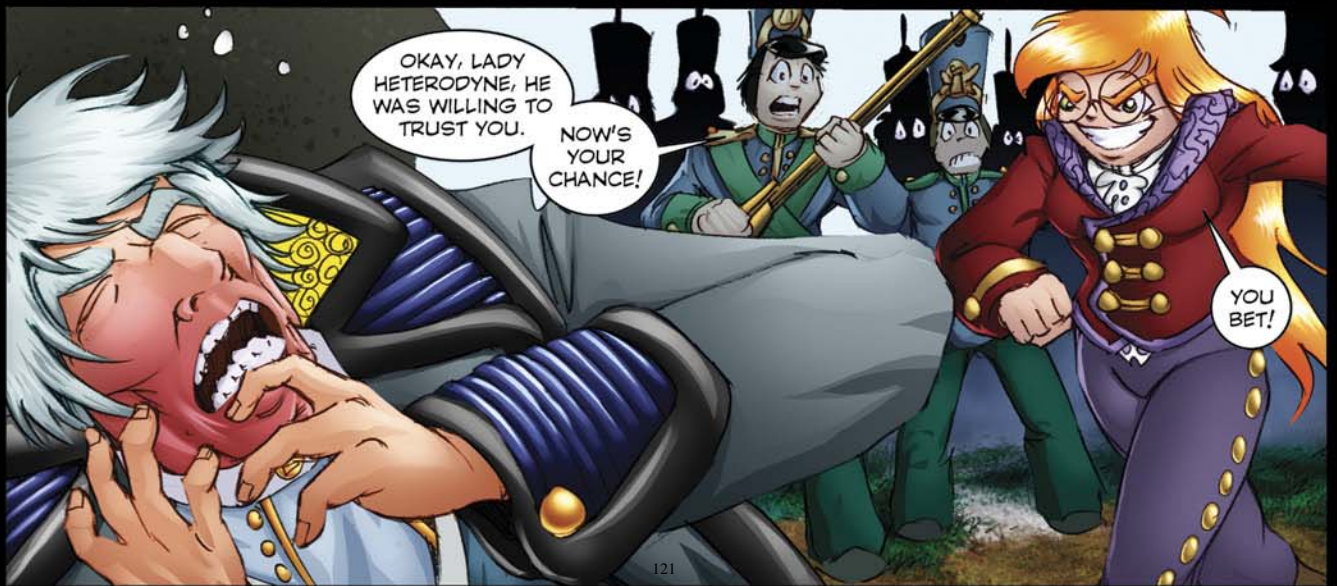


THIS IS THE BEST THING WE COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!

LET'S— YOU!



DJOROK'KU SKIFANDIAS VONP!





STAY BACK!
HE'S...HE'S
FRUCTIVOROUS!

GIVE
HIM AIR!

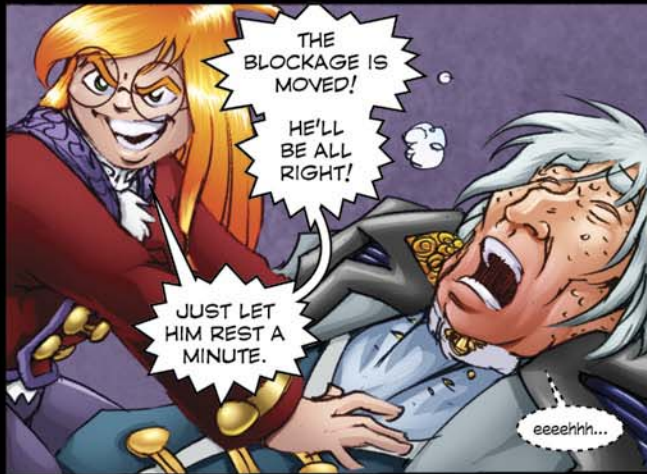
eck!
hkkk!



COME
ON...

ANY
SECOND
NOW...

THERE!



THE
BLOCKAGE IS
MOVED!

HE'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT!

JUST LET
HIM REST A
MINUTE.

eeehhh...



WHAT THE
DEVIL IS THIS IN
YOUR
WAISTCOAT?



OH! THE
HETERODYNE
SIGIL.

WAS THIS
FOR ME?



WHAT—

OH.

OH, OF
COURSE.



DEAR
KLAUS.

YOU THINK OF
EVERYTHING.

MAYBE I
SHOULD...



WHO ARE
YOU?







NO!

POOR DAMN FOOL..

KILL THE GIRL..

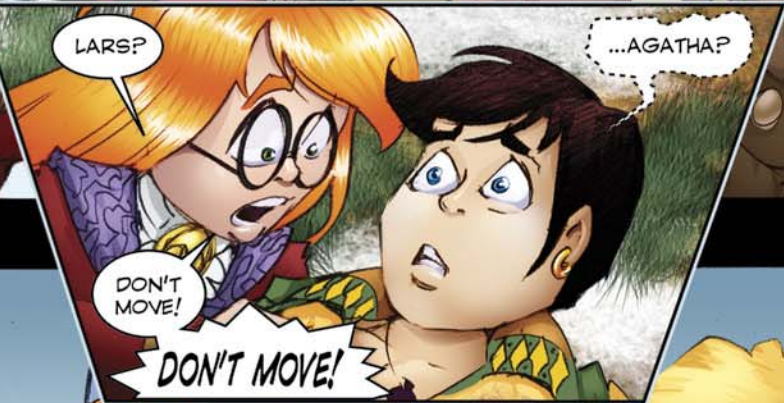
KILL HER COMPANIONS.

KILL THEM ALL.

HERR BARON...



HOKAY! TIME TO FIGHT!



LARS?

...AGATHA?

DON'T MOVE!

DON'T MOVE!



ARGH!

YE-

AIE!

RHAAAAA!



CRACK
CRACK
CRACK







EEEYAH!



YAAG!

MAXIM!

DUN'T HYU EMBARRASS ME!



...

ORDINARY...



GIL IS NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS...





FREEZE, PAL.



OH, YEAH!

KLAUS ALWAYS KNOWS WHERE THE PARTY IS!



ORDINARY...



OKAY! YOU'RE ALL SURROUNDED!

SURRENDER AND DIE!



NI TOK!



NI TOK!



SHOWTIME!



"SHOWTIME?"

WHAT'S SHE TRYING—



YI!

GRRRINND



Whummm

crak

SNAP!

WHAT THE HELL?!

AH...

















CRUNCH!

SNAP!



HA! THE HOOMHOFFERS CAN HANDLE THIS LOT!

NO PROBLEM!

MAINTAIN SUPPORTING FIRE!



WHAT WAS THAT?

THE MUSIC'S CHANGED.

THAT'S PROBABLY NOT GOOD, IS IT?

"NO. WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT GIRL, AND STOP HER. QUICKLY!"

RIGHT! MOVE ASIDE LADS! LET THE HOOMS AT THOSE WAGONS AND THEN—



Fwooh!

WHAT THE—

AAH!



FWOOSH

SCREE!

BLOODY THING'S SNAGGED OUR HOOM!

SHOOT IT DOWN, BOYS!

FLING!

WHAM!

SQUISH

AAH!







AGATHA?

THE BARON'S TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWING, BUT THERE ARE SOME AIRSHIPS HEADING THIS WAY.

YOU GO. GET EVERYONE AWAY FROM HERE.

HE CARED ABOUT ME.

AND FOR THAT, HE'S DEAD.

HE'S DEAD, AND I CAN'T EVEN TRY TO FIX THAT.

LARS WAS-A GOOD PERSON. HE TRIED TO HELP ME.

NOT OUT *HERE*, WITH *NOTHING* TO WORK WITH-AND THE BARON TRYING TO *KILL* ALL MY FRIENDS, AND-

AND THERE'S OTHER THINGS... THINGS *WRONG* WITH MY HEAD.

IF THEY ATTACK FROM THE AIR, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE HAVE THE CHANCE.

YOU GO.

WHAT?!



SO YOU GO, AND I'LL STAY HERE AND STOP THE BARON.

I'LL CRUSH HIS WHOLE ARMY RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW!

AND THEN, THEN HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HURT ANYONE ELSE I CARE ABOUT.

NO ONE WILL.



NO ONE WILL EVER HURT ANYONE ELSE I LOVE EVER AGAIN, OR ELSE I'LL-



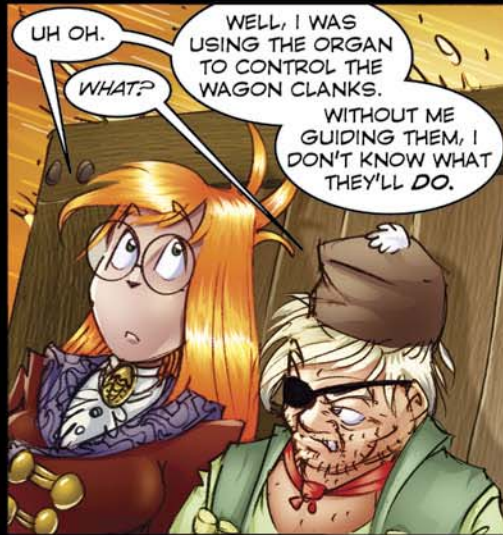
PAF!





GOT A CALMING PIE FOR HIM?

DON'T THINK I'VE GOT ONE BIG ENOUGH.



UH OH.

WHAT?

WELL, I WAS USING THE ORGAN TO CONTROL THE WAGON CLANKS.

WITHOUT ME GUIDING THEM, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO.



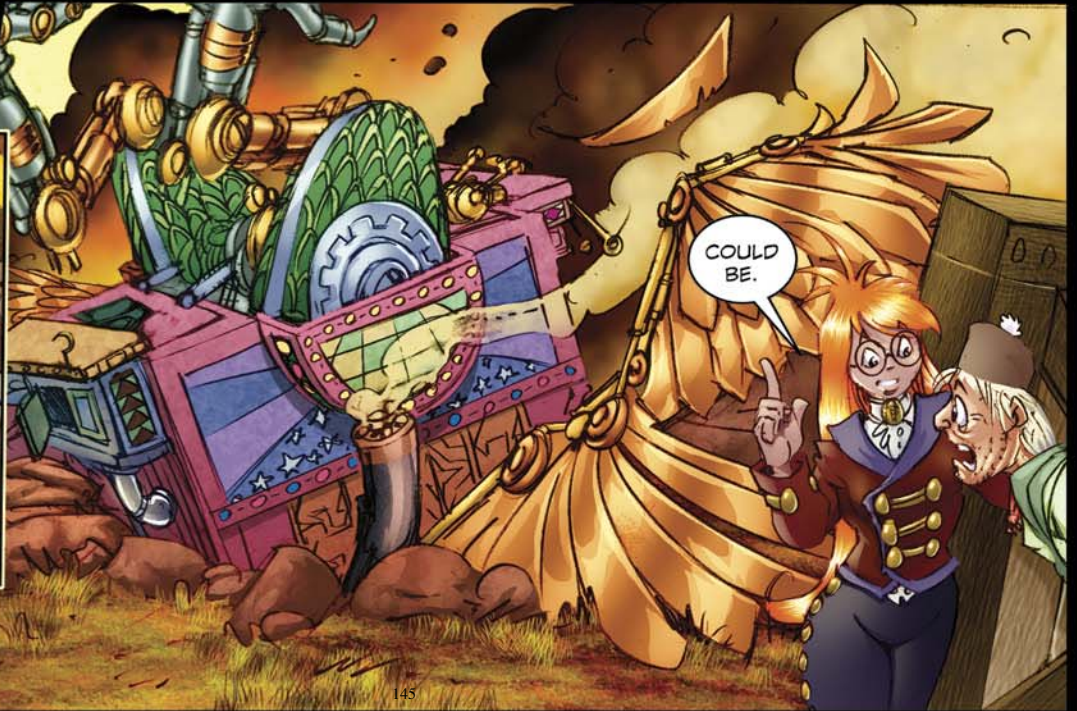
THEY MIGHT RUN AMOK. IT COULD BE BAD.

UM...RUN AMOK? MORE THAN THEY ALREADY ARE?

WELL, YEAH.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY MIGHT JUST LOCK UP.

AND THAT'S GOOD, IS IT?



KA-BOOM!

COULD BE.



UH OH.

YEZ. HE'Z NOT DEAD, BUT HE DON'T LOOK GOOT.

DERE'S GUN BE TROUBLE 'BOUT DIS.



HE KILLED LARS!

YEZ. I VONDER VOT DOT VOS ALL ABOUT..

AND...HE...HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT SKIFANDER!

THE EMPIRE WILL BE IN CHAOS.

I IZ VORRIED ABOUT ALL DOSE TROOPS SURROUNDING US.

GIL'S GONNA BE MAD.



OH NO!

GIL!



WHAT ABOUT HIM?

HE'S HERE!

ONE OF THE LAST THINGS I REMEMBER AT THE CASTLE!



HIS LITTLE FLYER HAD BEEN SPOTTED!

I'M SURE IT WAS HIM—COMING TO HELP ME!!

BUT... BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM...



BUT WITH ALL THIS CHAOS, HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.

HE COULD HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, OR— OR I MIGHT HAVE KILLED HIM MYSELF, IN THIS STUPID FIGHT JUST NOW!



I...I CAN'T LEAVE YET.

I HAVE TO FIND HIM.

AH. THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, ACTUALLY.



MISTER WOOSTER!

AH. YOU REMEMBER ME NOW.

WHERE'S GIL?

IS HE ALL RIGHT?



AH. ER— HE'S NOT HERE.

WHAT? BUT—



WELL—

TROUBLE!



AND DERE IZ TROOPS COMINK.

LOTS OF DEM!

WE'LL HAVE TO RUN FOR IT!

DOSE AIRSHIPS IZ... TURNING BECK?

DOES ANYONE ELSE SMELL SOMETHING... ODD?

BUT WHICH WAY?

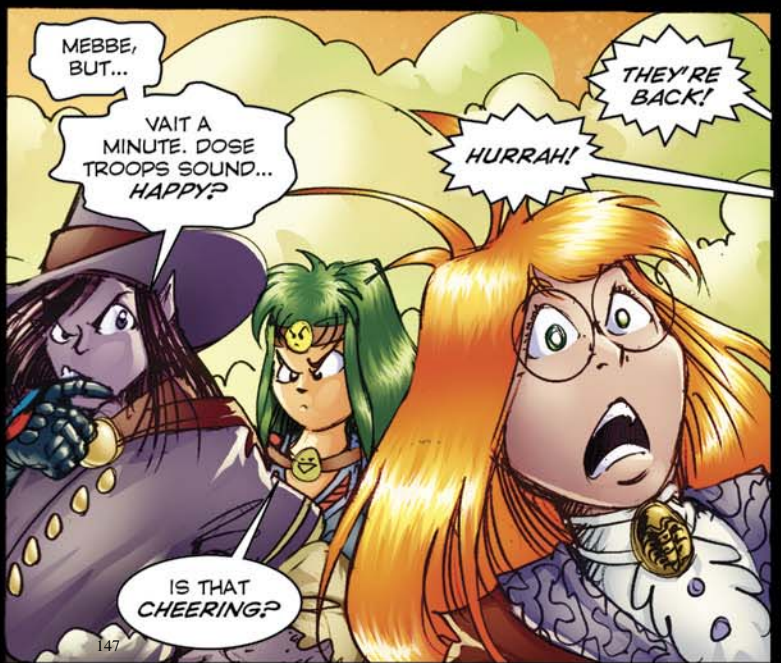
WHERE ARE THOSE TROOPS?



DEY IZ ALL AROUND US!

VE VILL HAFF TO FIGHT!

WE HAVE THE BARON— THAT MIGHT SLOW THEM DOWN—



MEBBE, BUT...

VAIT A MINUTE. DOSE TROOPS SOUND... HAPPY?

THEY'RE BACK!

HURRAH!

IS THAT CHEERING?



THREE CHEERS
FOR THE
HETERODYNES!

HUZZAH!

IT'S
REALLY
THEM!

THE
HETERODYNES
ARE BACK!



IT'S DEM!

KEN'T BE, BUT I SEES-

EEDIOTS! USE YOU NOSE!

NO. I...! DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

IT'S A TRICK!



DON'T BELIEVE IT.

BUT ACT LIKE YOU DO.

BUT...



DAUGHTER!

LUCREZIA...



AT LONG LAST WE HAVE FOUND YOU!

GLOMP!

OOF!

BEHOLD, BARRY! WE HAVE FOUND HER!

EXCELLENT MY BROTHER! AND NOW, WE CAN RETURN TO THE GREAT BATTLE!

WITH AGATHA, THE NEWEST HETERODYNE AT OUR SIDE-



WE ARE SURE TO TRIUMPH!

HUZZAH!



AND NOW, OUR TRANSPORT IS HERE!

YES! THANKS TO OUR GOOD FRIEND KLAUS!



AHOY, HETERODYNES!

PREPARE TO COME ABOARD!

GOODBYE, FRIENDS!

AND NOW, HURRY! YOU'RE ALL NEEDED BACK IN STURMHALTEN!

A WULFENBACH AIRSHIPP?



"OH, GOOD. NOW WE'RE GOING TO CLIMB ABOARD A MOVING AIRSHIP."



IT SURE BEATS STAYING HERE, NOW DOESN'T IT?

...PIX?!



LATER! JUST GRAB A LADDER AND LOOK MAJESTIC!

UP WE GO!



AAAH!



AGATHA! HOLD ON!

WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AFRAID OF HEIGHTS.

I'M NOT!



BUT I'VE GOT CAT CLAWS IN MY BUTT!

LET GO!

YOU MUST BE JOKING.



EEK!

BOING!

RELAX. I'M UP.



AGATHA!

YOU DID GREAT!

...
CREEPY...



OH. RIGHT. HERE YOU GO.

PFT!

AK!

IT MUST BE QUITE DISTRESSING.



MARIE!

YETI!

WHAT-?

AH. A WONDERFULLY HALLUCINOGENIC GAS.

IT MAKES THE SUBJECT VERY SUGGESTIBLE.

WE SIMPLY SPREAD IT AROUND AND SHOUTED "THE HETERO-DYNES ARE HERE!"

IT WAS EASY.

THEY SEE WHAT WE TELL THEM THEY SEE.



<sigh.> THEY ALSO SEE ALL KINDS OF OTHER THINGS.

WOW! SHE'S CHANGED BACK INTO THAT GAUZY, SEE-THROUGH DRESS!

I LOVE THAT THING!

I'M RATHER PROUD OF IT.

THERE'S A REASON WE DON'T USE IT UNLESS WE HAVE TO.



YOU GAVE ME QUITE A TURN.

I'LL BET! I ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY BILL.

CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT LARS THOUGHT!

HEH! BET I'VE GOT HIM WORRIED!



LARS IS DEAD.

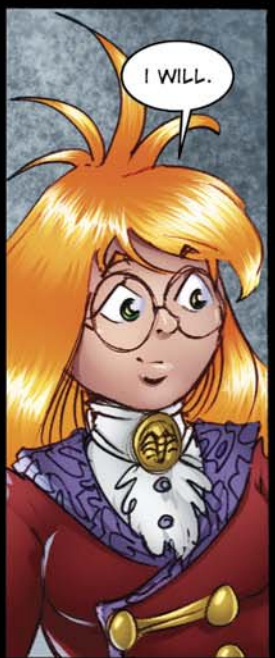
THE BARON TRIED TO KILL AGATHA. LARS STOPPED HIM.



HE JUST JUMPED RIGHT IN.

I-I DIDN'T ASK HIM TO.

I'M SORRY.



I WILL.



NO ONE ASKS SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

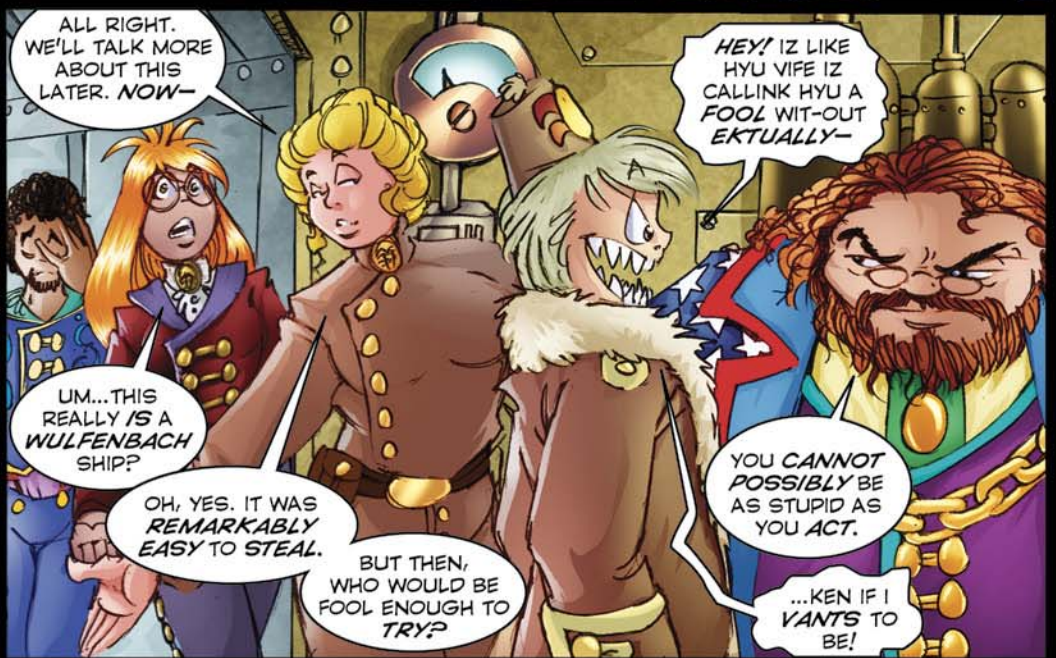
BUT HE GAVE IT.



LARS ALWAYS PLAYED THE HERO.

YOU MADE HIM WANT TO BE THE REAL THING.

SO THAT'S HOW WE'LL REMEMBER HIM. RIGHT?



ALL RIGHT. WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT THIS LATER. NOW—

UM...THIS REALLY IS A WULFENBACH SHIP?

OH, YES. IT WAS REMARKABLY EASY TO STEAL.

BUT THEN, WHO WOULD BE FOOL ENOUGH TO TRY?

HEY! IZ LIKE HYU WIFE IZ CALLINK HYU A FOOL WIT-OUT EKTUALLY—

YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY BE AS STUPID AS YOU ACT.

...KEN IF I WANTS TO BE!



LARS?!

HOY!
GIFF ME A HAND HERE!
I GOTTS SOMETINK YOU'LL VANT!

HO! VELL, NOW, DOT'S AN INTERESTIN' METZAPHYSICAL QVESTION.
SEE, IT'S HIZ BODY, BUT HE AIN'T USIN' IT,
SO—



YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK.
THANK YOU.

VASN'T GUN LEAVE HIM.



DOT MEESTER LARS—HE VOS SCARED TO DEATH.
VE COULD SCHMELL IT ON HIM.

BUT HE COME TO GET MIZ AGATHA ANYVAY,

UND HE SACRIFICE HIMSELF VITOUT THINKING.

HE FIGHT VIT US JÄGERS UND DIE FOR THE HOUSE OF HETERODYNE.

DOT MAKE HIM AS GOOT AS VUN OF US.

VE DON'T LEAVE OUR OWN BEHIND.



ENNYVAY, HYU KEN TAKE HIM UND TRY TO GETS HIM ZAPPED BECK,

BUT THAT DON'T VORK MUCH.

SO VEN HYU BURY HIM—

MAKE SURE HE GOTTS A HAT.



ORDINARILY, STEALING ONE OF THE BARON'S AIRSHIPS WOULD NOT BE MY FIRST CHOICE.

BUT I WANT US AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THEY'LL HUNT US DOWN!



IN FACT... THEY SHOULD ALREADY BE IN PURSUIT.

WE DID NOTHING.

WHAT DID YOU DO?

BUT THE BARON'S TROOPS ARE FAR TOO BUSY TO WORRY ABOUT US.

WHAT? WHY?



"FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, STURMHALTEN HAS GONE MAD.

THE PEOPLE ARE ATTACKING THE BARON'S TROOPS LIKE RABID ANIMALS."

"ON TOP OF THAT, MONSTERS HAVE ERUPTED FROM THE SEWERS.

BETWEEN THE TWO, WULFENBACH HAS A REAL FIGHT ON HIS HANDS."

"NOBODY'S PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO US."



I DIDN'T DO THAT!



DID I?



I SHOULD THINK NOT.

UNLESS YOU CAN COMMAND MONSTERS TO FIGHT FOR YOU?

WELL, OF COURSE NO—



HEY, DIMO! HYU MAKE IT UP DOT LADDER REAL FAST WIT ONLY VUN HEND!

HA! DOT'S 'CAUSE I USE MY BRAINS!

EEEW! MESSY!



WHAT AM I SAYING?

OF COURSE I CAN!



THE OTHER— SHE USES VOICE HARMONICS—

AND VRIN SAID I SOUND LIKE HER!

UH-OH. I THINK WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE PIE...



I CAN TALK TO MONSTERS!

WHOA! YEAH, BUT WILL THEY TALK BACK?!

THE SLAVER WASPS ON THE CASTLE MOVED WHEN I TOLD THEM TO!

THEY WERE HER CREATURES—I'LL BET THESE ARE TOO!



I CAN STOP THEM! I HAVE TO GO BACK!

DOT'S NOT SUCH A GOOT IDEA, LADY.

HYU DUN' KNOW 'BOUT DESE MONSTERS.

DEY COULD BE ANYBODY'S.



VE SAW DOSE TINGS IN DE SEWERS.

EVEN IF HYU CAN USE HYU VOICE TO GET DEM RILED UP—

I DUN TINK THEY'D LISTEN NOW.

THEY'S JUST KILLING MACHINES.



YAH! AND NOT EFFEN GOOT LOOKING VUNS LIKE US!

DOT'S RIGHT. HYU LET DE BARON DEAL VIT DIS VUN.

IS VOT HE DOES.

BUT I SQUISHED HIM WITH A CHICKEN HOUSE!



OH, DOT LEETLE TING?

HE'S MESSED OP, BUT HE'LL BE FINE!

HY GIFF HIM FIRST AID!

TURN THIS THING AROUND!



AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.

IT WASN'T A REQUEST!



EVERYWHERE I GO LATELY, THERE'S CHAOS!

I'VE GOT- I'VE GOT TO TRY TO FIX SOMETHING!



I'M GOING TO GO DOWN THERE AND PERSONALLY PUNCH EVERY MONSTER IN THE SNOOT!



AND DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!

WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.



OH?

BY THE SMELL OF IT, ALL THOSE CHEMICALS THEY STUFFED INTO YOU ARE WEARING OFF.

AND YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T SLEPT IN AGES.

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.



I'LL-!!

UH...

I GOTTS HYU!



CRASH!



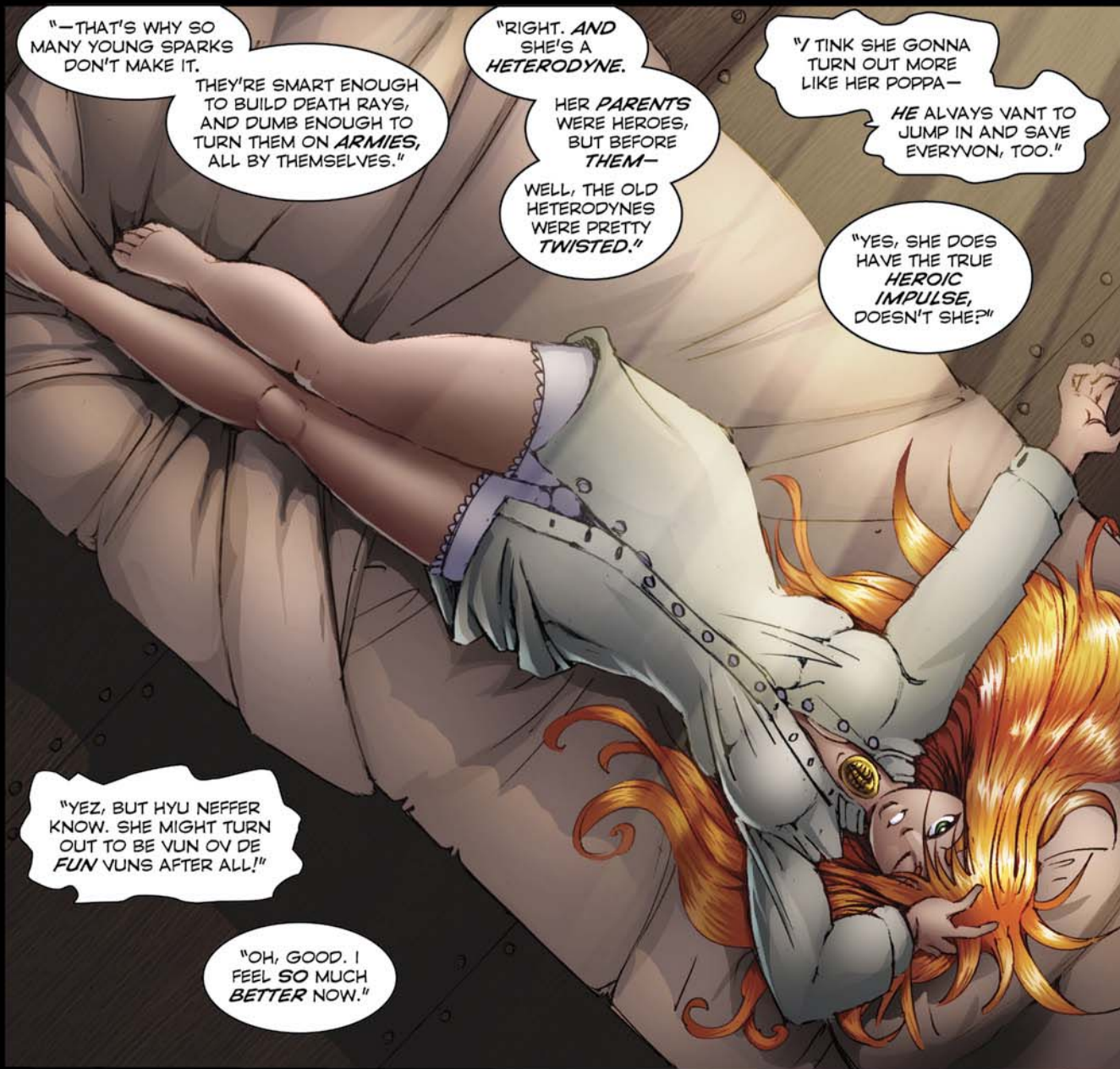
SHOULD HAFF USED HYU BRAINS DOT TIME, TOO.

SHOT OP.

I GETS A NEW VUN SOON.

Z

A NEW BRAIN? GOOT IDEA.



"—THAT'S WHY SO MANY YOUNG SPARKS DON'T MAKE IT.

THEY'RE SMART ENOUGH TO BUILD DEATH RAYS, AND DUMB ENOUGH TO TURN THEM ON *ARMIES*, ALL BY THEMSELVES."

"RIGHT. AND SHE'S A *HETERODYNE*.

HER *PARENTS* WERE HEROES, BUT BEFORE *THEM*—

WELL, THE OLD *HETERODYNES* WERE PRETTY *TWISTED*."

"I THINK SHE GONNA TURN OUT MORE LIKE HER POPPA— HE ALWAYS WANT TO JUMP IN AND SAVE EVERYVON, TOO."

"YES, SHE DOES HAVE THE TRUE *HEROIC IMPULSE*, DOESN'T SHE?"

"YEZ, BUT HYU NEFFER KNOW. SHE MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE VUN OV DE *FUN VUNS* AFTER ALL!"

"OH, GOOD. I FEEL SO MUCH *BETTER* NOW."



"WELL, AT THIS RATE, SHE'S GOING TO GET HERSELF *KILLED*."

"AND TAKE A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITH HER."



"AGATHA IS A *SPARK*. I DON'T THINK SHE FULLY KNOWS WHAT THAT *MEANS*."

"SHE'S CAPABLE OF DOING ALL KINDS OF *DAANGEROUS THINGS*—"



"—WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT."





MY UNCLE MADE THIS LOCKET.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO "PROTECT" ME.

BUT IT DID THAT BY KEEPING ME STUPID.

IT USED TO MAKE ME FEEL SAFE.

NOW, WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT IT, IT MAKES ME MAD.

IT'S A SYMBOL OF HOW AWFUL MY LIFE WAS.

THE HEADACHES—

THE INVENTIONS THAT NEVER WORKED—

THE PEOPLE WHO TREATED ME LIKE AN IDIOT—

ALL THAT BECAUSE OF THIS LOCKET.

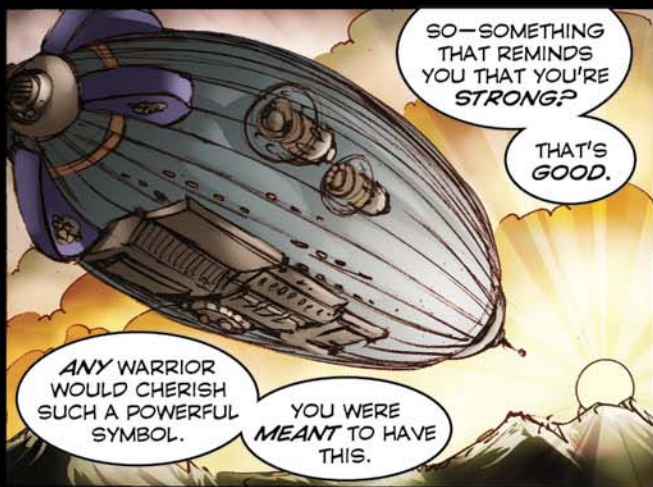


WELL, YOU'VE BEEN WEARING IT A WHILE, NOW. HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I FEEL GOOD!

I THINK IT'S BEEN OFF TOO LONG.

I THINK MY MIND HAS BECOME TOO STRONG FOR IT.

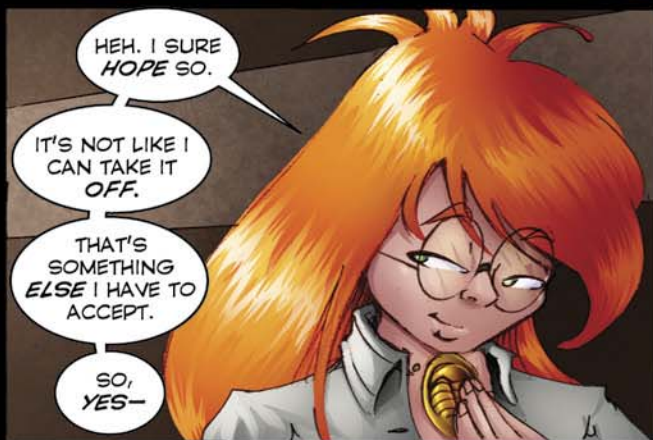


SO—SOMETHING THAT REMINDS YOU THAT YOU'RE STRONG?

THAT'S GOOD.

ANY WARRIOR WOULD CHERISH SUCH A POWERFUL SYMBOL.

YOU WERE MEANT TO HAVE THIS.



HEH. I SURE HOPE SO.

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN TAKE IT OFF.

THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE I HAVE TO ACCEPT.

SO, YES—



I'LL THINK OF IT AS A SYMBOL OF EVERYTHING I'VE OVERCOME—

AND OF EVERYTHING I WILL OVERCOME.

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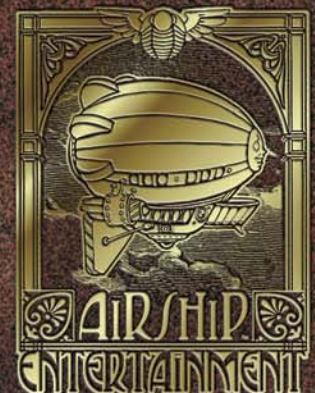
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