

GIRL GENIUS

ELECTRONIC EDITION



GIRL GENIUS VOLUME NINETEEN
THE SECOND JOURNEY OF AGATHA HETERODYNE
BOOK SIX
SPARKS AND MONSTERS



GIRL GENIUS® & AIRSHIP ENTERTAINMENT™ ©2000-2020 STUDIO FOGGIO, LLC • WWW.GIRLGENIUSONLINE.COM

Melissa Nuno (Order #27983143)

GIRL GENIUS

Adventure, Romance, MAD SCIENCE!
a Gaslamp Fantasy

by KAJA & PHIL FOGGIO



VOLUME 19 NINETEEN
the SECOND JOURNEY of AGATHA HETERODYNE
BOOK SIX

SPARKS AND MONSTERS

GIRL GENIUS



SPARKS —and— MONSTERS

the SECOND JOURNEY OF AGATHA HETERODYNE
BOOK SIX
THE NINETEENTH VOLUME IN THE GIRL GENIUS SERIES

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

OTHER BOOKS
FROM
AIRSHIP ENTERTAINMENT
AND STUDIO FOGGIO



Girl Genius® Graphic Novels

- Vol. 1: Agatha Heterodyne and the Beetleburg Clank*
Vol. 2: Agatha Heterodyne and the Airship City
Vol. 3: Agatha Heterodyne and the Monster Engine
Vol. 4: Agatha Heterodyne and the Circus of Dreams
Vol. 5: Agatha Heterodyne and the Clockwork Princess
Vol. 6: Agatha Heterodyne and the Golden Trilobite
Vol. 7: Agatha Heterodyne and the Voice of the Castle
Vol. 8: Agatha Heterodyne and the Chapel of Bones
Vol. 9: Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm
Vol. 10: Agatha Heterodyne and the Guardian Muse
Vol. 11: Agatha Heterodyne and the Hammerless Bell
Vol. 12: Agatha Heterodyne and the Siege of Mechanicsburg
Vol. 13: Agatha Heterodyne and the Sleeping City
Vol. 14: The Beast of the Rails (Second Journey Book 1)
Vol. 15: The City of Lightning (Second Journey Book 2)
Vol. 16: The Incorruptible Library (Second Journey Book 3)
Vol. 17: Kings and Wizards (Second Journey Book 4)
Vol. 18: Queens and Pirates (Second Journey Book 5)
Vol. 19: Sparks and Monsters (Second Journey Book 6)

Girl Genius® Novels from Night Shade Books

- Girl Genius: Agatha H. and the Airship City*
Girl Genius: Agatha H. and the Clockwork Princess
Girl Genius: Agatha H. and the Voice of the Castle
Girl Genius: Agatha H. and the Siege of Mechanicsburg

Girl Genius® is published by:
Airship Entertainment™: a happy part of Studio Foglio, LLC
2400 NW 80th St #129 Seattle WA 98117-4449, USA

Please visit our Web site at www.girlgeniusonline.com

Girl Genius is a registered trademark of Studio Foglio, LLC. Girl Genius, the Girl Genius logos, Studio Foglio and the Studio Foglio logo, Airship Entertainment, Airship Books & Comics & the Airship logo, and all characters original to the work are © & ™ 2020 Studio Foglio.

All material ©2020 Studio Foglio. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form (including electronic) without permission in writing from the publisher except for brief passages in connection with a review.

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

This material originally appeared from September 2018 to June 2019 at www.girlgeniusonline.com.

Published simultaneously in Hardcover (ISBN 978-1-890856-72-4) and Softcover (ISBN 978-1-890856-71-7) editions.

First Printing: November 2020 PRINTED IN SOUTH KOREA

AGATHA HETERODYNE



WASP EATERS

Fierce little hunters of slaver wasps. As far as anyone knows, Agatha's is the last one.

LITTLE CLANKS

Agatha builds helpful machines to assist her when she's working.

Agatha is the latest in a powerful line of mad scientists (or "Sparks" to be polite.) She has recently established herself as the Lady Heterodyne: hereditary ruler of the fortress-town of Mechanicsburg—which is currently trapped in a bubble of stopped time. Now Agatha and her friends are traveling Europa in search of a way to reverse the effect.

Albia, the ancient God-Queen of England, has welcomed Agatha as an honored guest and given her a laboratory of her own in the domed undersea headquarters of the Queen's Society. Soon, a room full of extra-dimensional equations left by a murdered monster fanatic points to even more trouble for Mechanicsburg.

CASTLE HETERODYNE

The mechanical fortress that looms in the center of Mechanicsburg is intelligent, with a rather ghoulish sense of humor. Agatha found a fragment of it in Paris, and transferred it to the body of one of her little clanks.



THE BEAST OF THE RAILS

A monstrous, self-aware train engine created by Agatha's ancestors for the Corbettite Railway. It was running amok until Agatha and her friends defeated it. She transferred its mechanical mind into a little clank body so that she could keep it with her.

LUCREZIA MONGFISH / THE "OTHER"

The terrible, mysterious Spark who—a generation ago—terrorized Europa with devastating attacks. The Other made extensive use of mind control—adding to an already fearsome reputation. Although most people still don't know it, the Other was actually Lucrezia Heterodyne (née Mongfish)—Agatha's mother.

Lucrezia recently tried to replace Agatha's mind with her own, but failed. Lucrezia's physical whereabouts are currently unknown, but an echo of her personality is still lodged in Agatha's head—kept in check by a clever mechanism built into a locket. Agatha, Gil and Tarvek are working to find a way to remove her.



GILGAMESH WULFENBAECH

Currently the master of the Wulfenbach Empire. Gil is partially mind controlled by his father, Baron Wulfenbach.



TARVEK STURMVORAUS

Heir to the throne of the ancient Storm King. Tarvek has fled his scheming family and now travels with Agatha.



ZEETHA OF SKIFANDER

The Lost Princess of the Lost City of Skifander. Zeetha is Agatha's best friend, and is training her in self-defense.



JÄGERMONSTERS

A band of fearsome monster soldiers created generations ago by Agatha's ancestors.



AXEL HIGGS

Secretly a Jäger general who for some reason never got any of the nifty fangs or claws. Higgs is Zeetha's sweetheart.



TRELAWNEY THORPE

Her Majesty's official Hero, and Spark of the Realm. She is keeping Gil busy and away from Agatha.



VIOLETTA MONDAREV

Tarvek's cousin, and a Smoke Knight who currently serves Agatha as a bodyguard. She has gone missing.



LADY STEELGARTER

A little too interested in Skifander. Violetta caught her searching Zeetha's room.



KROSK | EMPEROR OF ALL CATS

Agatha's cat. Also a failed experiment who has recently rescued his creator from the Wulfenbach Empire.



DR. VAPNOOPLE

The creator of many terrible monsters, including Krosk. His mind was destroyed by Klaus Wulfenbach.



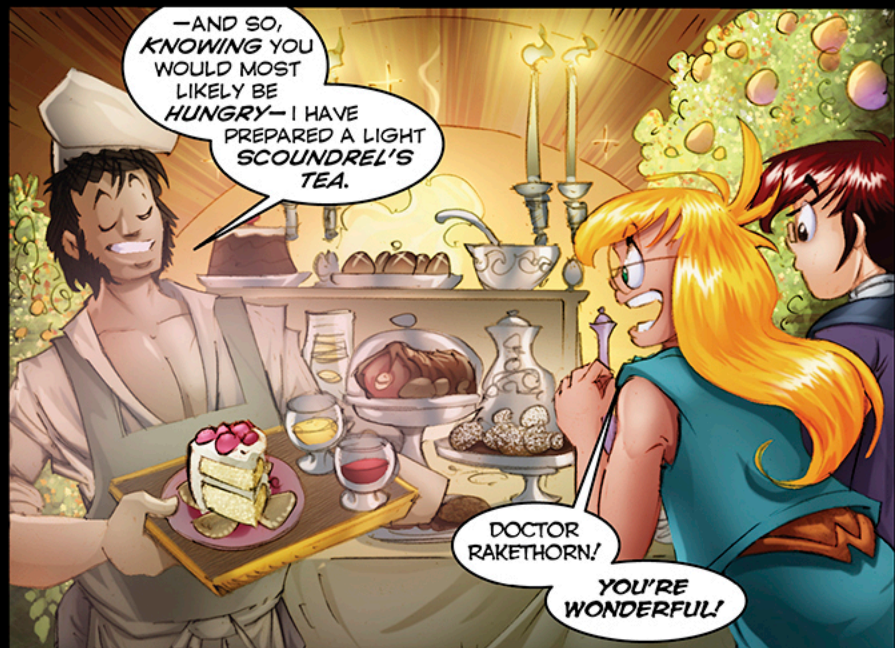
BANGLADESH DUPREE

An ex-pirate queen who signed on to work for the Wulfenbach Empire after her base was mysteriously destroyed.



SEFFIE VON BLITZENGAARD

Tarvek and Violetta's cousin. Seffie supports her brother Martellus' claim to the throne of the Storm King.



ELSEWHERE—

ANY SIGN OF HER?

NO. **NOTTINK.**

WHOEFFER SHE VOS FIGHTINK IZ GONE, TOO.

DIS PLACE IZ FULL OV HIDDEN DOORS UND TUNNELS.

A LOT OV DEM LEAD TO OPEN VATER.

HY **COULD** TELL VUN TING—

WHOEFFER DEY VOS—VUN VOS A **LADY**—

UND MIZ VIOLETTA VENT ALONG VIT HER.

WAS SHE **FOLLOWING** THEM—

OR BEING **CARRIED**?

HUM. HY DUNNO.

ZO—VOT VE GONNA TELL DE LADY?

VE DUN GOTS A LOT TO TELL, BUT—

NOTHING.

NOT YET.

SHE HAS **WAY** TOO MANY THINGS TO DEAL WITH AS **IT IS**—

AND NOW, SHE **FINALLY** HAS A CHANCE TO **SETTLE IN** AND **WORK ON** THEM.

HO! DOT IZ **TRUE!**

YEAH. SO LET'S DO OUR **JOB.**

ISN'T HANDLING THIS SORT OF THING **OUR JOB**?



WAKE UP, MISTER WOOSTER!

PRINCESS ZEETHA! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR?

WELL, I HEAR THEY'VE PUT YOU IN CHARGE.



ONLY OF THE INVESTIGATION.

THE DAY TO DAY RUNNING OF THE DOME IS THE PROBLEM OF LORD SNACKLEFORD HERE.

UNTIL THIS MURDER BUSINESS IS CLEARED UP, WE'LL JUST CALL IT A **WORKING PARTNERSHIP.**



SO, IF FOG BARNACLES HAVE EATEN YOUR SHEETS, HE'S THE ONE TO TALK TO.

VIOLETTA'S GONE. THERE WAS A FIGHT IN OUR QUARTERS.

THE JÄGERS AND I TRIED TO FOLLOW, BUT THIS PLACE IS RIDDLED WITH SECRET PASSAGES.



SECRET PASSAGES? I'VE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT THIS!

RUBBISH! THEY'RE NOT "SECRET."

THEY'RE JUST... SPACES. **UNUSED SPACES,** MOSTLY.

UNUSED SPACES—AND...ALL OVER THE DOME?

WELL, SOME OF THEM ARE OLD ACCESS TUNNELS,

THE STAFF WILL TELL YOU THEY'RE HAUNTED, OF COURSE, BUT—



"HAUNTED?!"

BUT DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! IT'S SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!

IF THERE'S A LEAK OR MISSING SNACKS OR SOMEONE'S HEAD EXPLODES,

THEY'RE ALL: "OH, IT'S THE BOILERGHAST!"



THE BOILERGHAST.

I MEAN, DO YOU *KNOW* HOW MUCH PAPERWORK AN IMAGINARY MALEVOLENT ENTITY ROAMING THE STEAM TUNNELS **GENERATES?**

NOW, WITH SOMETHING **SIMPLE** LIKE "IMPLOSION CAUSED BY MATERIALS FAILURE," I CAN BE BACK TO MY LAB IN **TWENTY MINUTES!**

I CAN SEE THAT OUR "WORKING PARTNERSHIP" NEEDS A LITTLE MORE **WORK.**



WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT ALL THIS?!

WHAT? YOU CAN NOT TELL ME YOU'RE TAKING THE BOILERGAST SERIOUSLY!

IT'S NOTHING BUT SERVANT'S GOSSIP!

AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED!
I'M TAKING EVERYTHING SERIOUSLY!

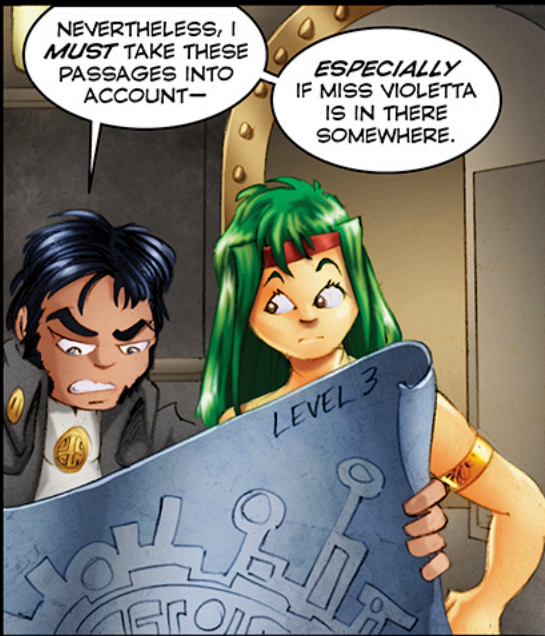
-BUT IT'S RANK SUPERSTITION!



NINETY-NINE TIMES OUT OF ONE HUNDRED, WHEN A FELLOW'S HEAD EXPLODES,

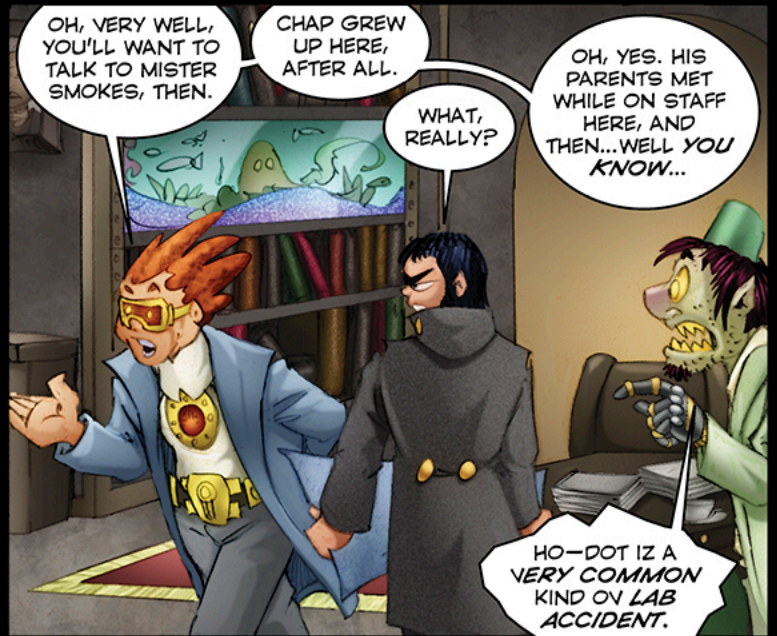
IT'S FOR PERFECTLY SCIENTIFICALLY EXPLAINABLE REASONS!

DOT'S TRUE!



NEVERTHELESS, I MUST TAKE THESE PASSAGES INTO ACCOUNT—

ESPECIALLY IF MISS VIOLETTA IS IN THERE SOMEWHERE.



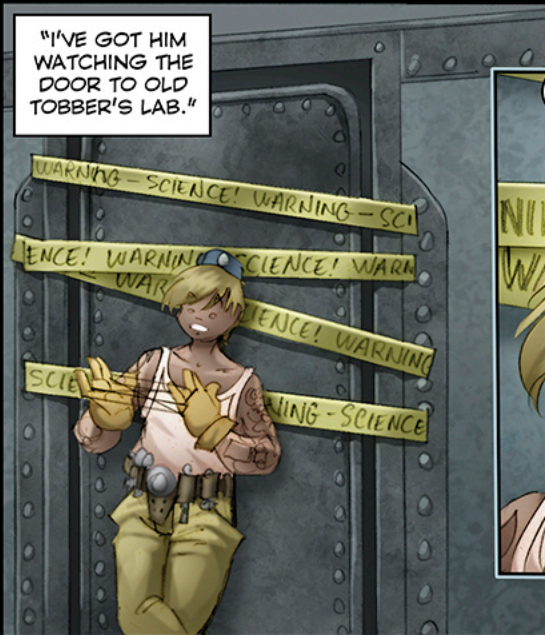
OH, VERY WELL, YOU'LL WANT TO TALK TO MISTER SMOKES, THEN.

CHAP GREW UP HERE, AFTER ALL.

WHAT, REALLY?

OH, YES. HIS PARENTS MET WHILE ON STAFF HERE, AND THEN...WELL YOU KNOW...

HO-DOT IZ A VERY COMMON KIND OV LAB ACCIDENT.



"I'VE GOT HIM WATCHING THE DOOR TO OLD TOBBER'S LAB."



GOOD EVENING, MISTER SMOKES.

SORRY. LAB'S SEALED.



WHOA—
UH—



HOKAY.
ZO: VE
GOES TO DE
LAB.

VE GETS
MEESTER
SMOKES.

VUN OV US
STAYS TO
GUARD DE
LAB—

DE ODDER
VUN *TAKES*
MEESTER
SMOKES BACK
TO MEESTER
VOOSTER.



DIS IZ
EASY.

DIS IZ
PEASY.

VE KEN DO
DIS, NO
TROBBLE.

YAH. EVEN
VE KEN'T
MESS *DIS*
VUN OP!



HUH.



WOW.



HMMM?



HO! VOT
DID HY
SAY? EAZY!

YAH! HY'D LIKE
TO SEE DEM
COMPLAIN ABOUT
DIS!





LATER—

TARVEK.
WAKE UP.



WHAT? I DON'T WANT TO—



OH! I AM STILL DREAMING!

NO YOU'RE NOT. IT'S A SKIFANDRIAN TRAINING OUTFIT.



OH. RIGHT. I SAID I'D TRAIN WITH YOU.

WHERE'S PRINCESS ZEETHA?

I DON'T KNOW.

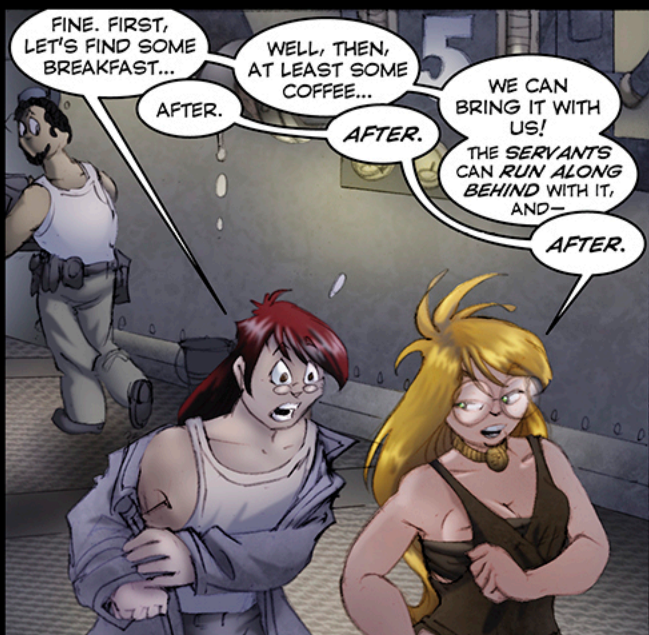


SHE'S PROBABLY STILL ASLEEP. WE ONLY GOT TO BED A COUPLE HOURS AGO.

SHE ISN'T. THIS IS *PROBABLY* SOME KIND OF TEST—

WELL, THEN YOU'VE *PASSED*. BACK TO SLEEP...

BUT IF IT *ISN'T*, THEN I'M WORRIED. SO I WANT TO GO *FIND HER*. COME ON! LET'S GO!



FINE. FIRST, LET'S FIND SOME BREAKFAST...

AFTER.

WELL, THEN, AT LEAST SOME COFFEE...

AFTER.

WE CAN BRING IT WITH US! THE *SERVANTS* CAN RUN ALONG BEHIND WITH IT, AND—

AFTER.



...BUT THIS ISN'T FUN AT ALL!

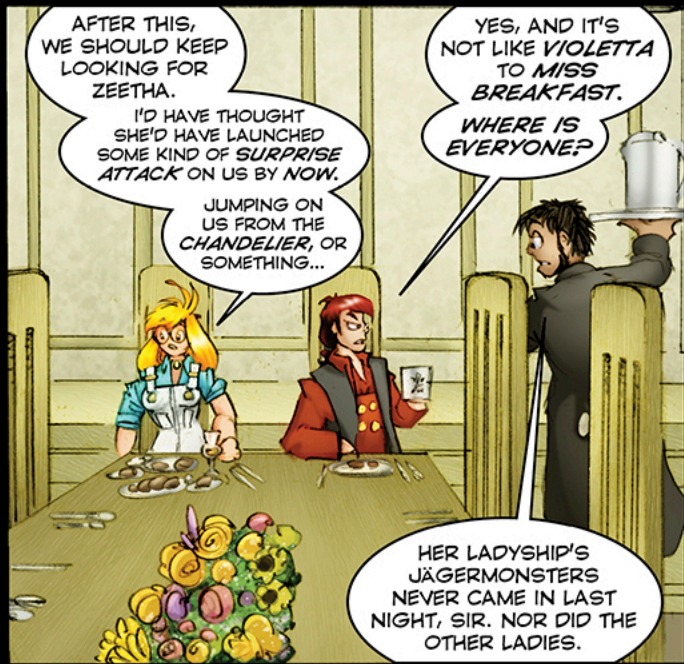
HEH. I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY ZEETHA THINKS IT IS.



SOON—

SEE? DOESN'T THAT TASTE BETTER AFTER A GOOD WORKOUT?

NOBODY WHO'S *SERIOUS* ABOUT COFFEE DRINKS IT FOR THE TASTE.



AFTER THIS, WE SHOULD KEEP LOOKING FOR ZEETHA.

I'D HAVE THOUGHT SHE'D HAVE LAUNCHED SOME KIND OF *SURPRISE* ATTACK ON US BY NOW.

JUMPING ON US FROM THE *CHANDELIER*, OR SOMETHING...

YES, AND IT'S NOT LIKE *VIOLETTA* TO MISS *BREAKFAST*. WHERE IS EVERYONE?

HER LADYSHIP'S *JÄGERMONSTERS* NEVER CAME IN LAST NIGHT, SIR. NOR DID THE OTHER LADIES.



THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

NO...IT DOES NOT.

MISTER HIGGS!



...



YES, YOUR HIGHEST?

HIGHNESS.

SURE.



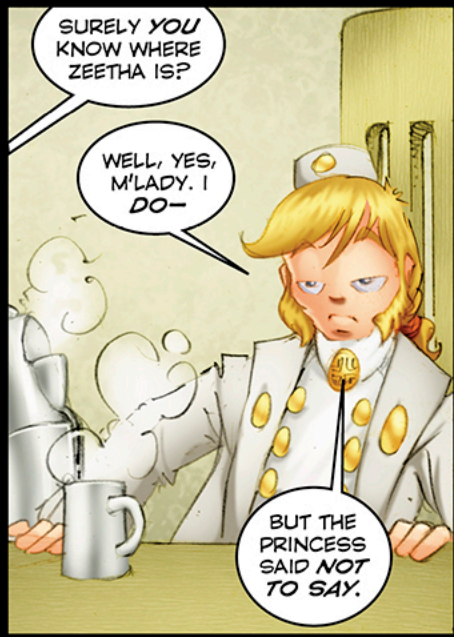
OH. I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THERE. HOW DID YOU—

I GUESSED.

WELL, PLEASE JOIN US, MISTER HIGGS.

OH, I—

SIT DOWN.



SURELY YOU KNOW WHERE ZEETHA IS?

WELL, YES, M'LADY. I DO—

BUT THE PRINCESS SAID NOT TO SAY.



SHE SAID: "YOU TELL HER TO DO SCIENCE STUFF AND LET US PUNCH PEOPLE."

AH.



WORKS FOR ME.

IT...*WILL* GET US INTO THE LAB FASTER...

HM. GOOD COFFEE.



—SHE GOTTS DE STURMVORAUSS KEEED DOINK DE TRAININK VIT HER.

UND WHO IZ DIS MEEESTER "ULYSSES BONNY?"

HE'S THE OTHER MISSING PERSON.

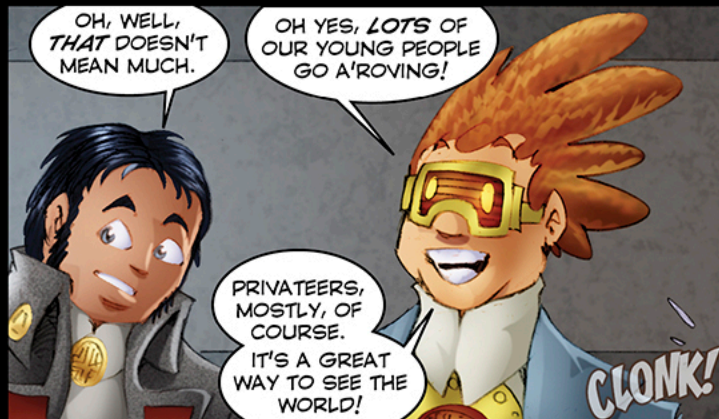
"KITCHEN AND MAINTENANCE STAFF..."

HO! UND HE IZ AN EX-PIRATE.

AW, NOW I WANNA JUMP ON 'EM OUT OF A CHANDELIER OR SOMETHING.

OH WELL.

MEBBE LATER.



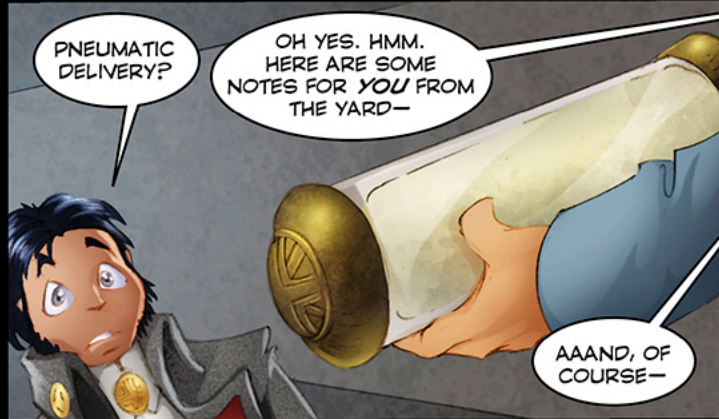
OH, WELL, THAT DOESN'T MEAN MUCH.

OH YES, LOTS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE GO A'ROVING!

PRIVATEERS, MOSTLY, OF COURSE.

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SEE THE WORLD!

CLONK!



PNEUMATIC DELIVERY?

OH YES. HMM. HERE ARE SOME NOTES FOR YOU FROM THE YARD—

AAAND, OF COURSE—



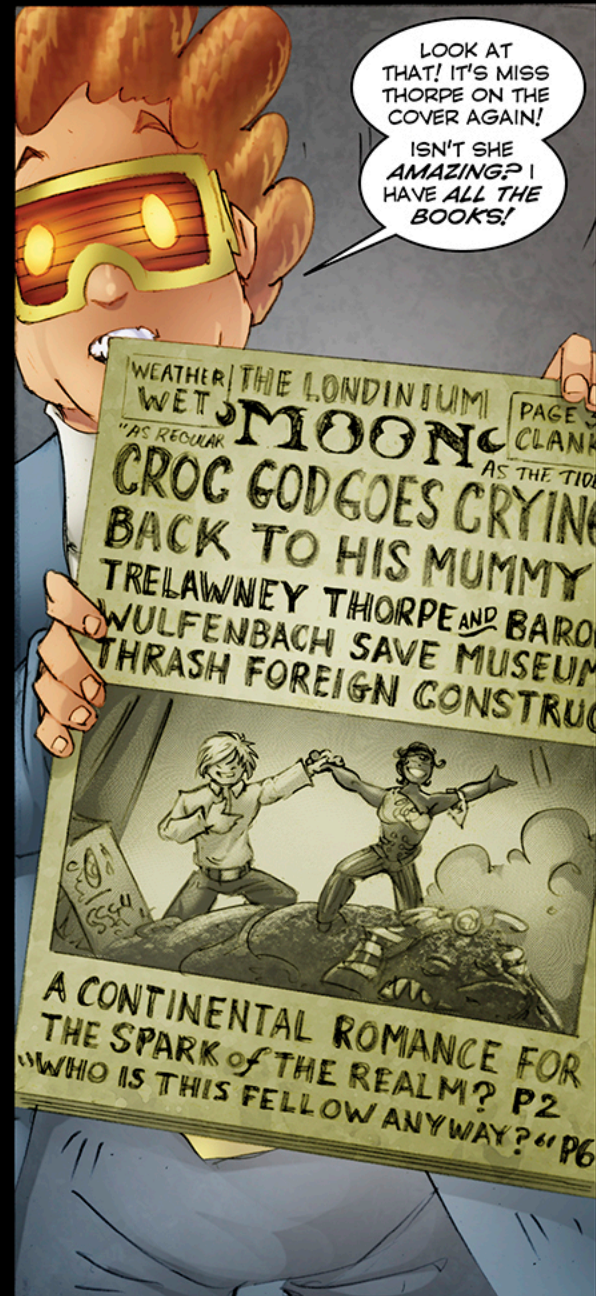
TA-DA! THE MORNING PAPER!

CAN'T MISS THE ADVENTURES OF YOUNG SNAPS IN THE KINGDOM OF...

OH! MY GOODNESS!

WHAT IS IT?

2P THE LONDINIUM LUCKRITH IT MOONC SPORTSBALL FRENZY! THEY DID THE THINGS



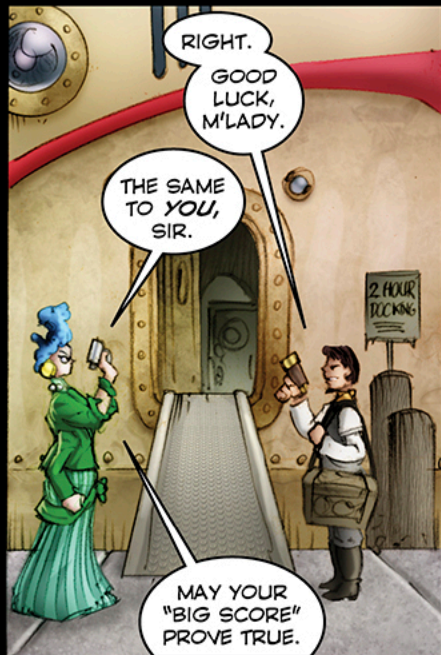
LOOK AT THAT! IT'S MISS THORPE ON THE COVER AGAIN!

ISN'T SHE AMAZING? I HAVE ALL THE BOOKS!

WEATHER WET THE LONDINIUM PAGE 3 CLANK AS THE TIDE MOONC AS THE TIDE CROC GOD GOES CRYING BACK TO HIS MUMMY TRELAWNEY THORPE AND BARO WULFENBACH SAVE MUSEUM THRASH FOREIGN CONSTRUCT



A CONTINENTAL ROMANCE FOR THE SPARK OF THE REALM? P2 WHO IS THIS FELLOW ANYWAY? P6



RIGHT.

GOOD LUCK, M'LADY.

THE SAME TO YOU, SIR.

MAY YOUR "BIG SCORE" PROVE TRUE.



AR.

AR.

LOOKIN' FOR A BERTH?

LOOKIN' FOR A PIRATE.

HERE? I NEVER, LAD.



I'VE HEARD DIFFERENT. I'M SEEKIN' THE DEVIL'S PRIZE.



YOU...KNOW THE PRICE OF FAILURE?

I DO.

THIS WAY, THEN.



HO THERE, JENKINS. ANNOUNCE US.

AT THIS HOUR? 'S AS MUCH AS MY LIFE'S WORTH.

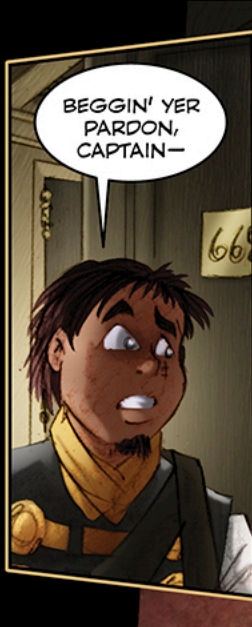
SHOVE OFF.

THE LAD HERE SEEKS THE DEVIL'S PRIZE.



...

ANNOUNCE YOURSELF, THEN.



BEGGIN' YER PARDON, CAPTAIN—

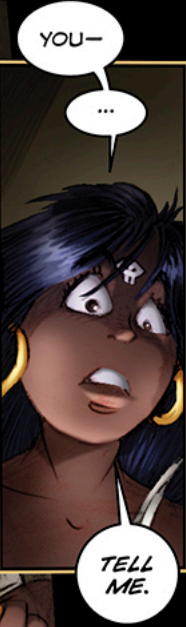


...



OOOH! AN EARLY MORNING TREAT!

I CLAIM THE DEVIL'S PRIZE!



YOU—

...

TELL ME.



I OVERHEARD A WARRIOR LASS TELL HOW SHE WIPED OUT A PIRATE FORTRESS.

YOUR FORTRESS.

EVERY DETAIL MATCHED.

WAIT— ONLY ONE PERSON?

AYE. SHE'S THE ONE YE'VE BEEN HUNTIN'—

I'LL STAKE ME LIFE ON IT.

DESCRIBE HER.



GOLD SKIN. LONG GREEN HAIR.

GREEN...

SHE'S WITH THE HETERODYNE GIRL?

uh...AYE, CAPTAIN. HOW'D YA KNOW?



HA HA HA!

AFTER ALL THIS TIME! AND THIS IS GOING TO BE THE BEST FIGHT EVER!



SO, YOU DO BELIEVE ME, THEN?

OH, I WANT TO,

POF!

NOW DRINK UP.

EARN YOUR PRIZE, AND TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU HEARD.



HA!



"HA!" SOUNDS PROMISING.

YES! I THINK WE'RE **REALLY CLOSE!**

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE BASIC METHOD THE BARON USED TO CONTROL GIL'S MIND.

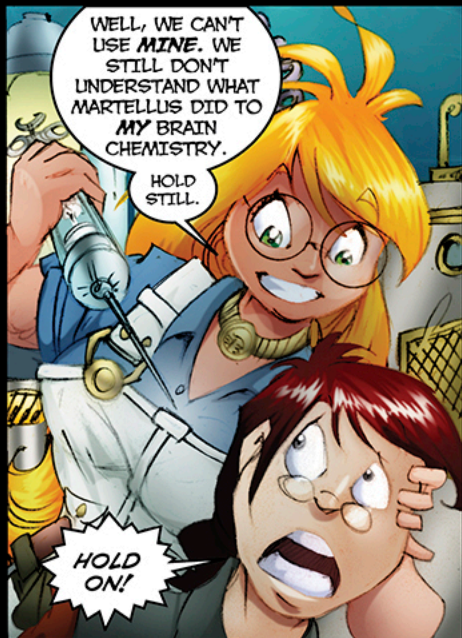


I'VE CALIBRATED THE ARRAY USING THE BLOOD SAMPLES MISTER WOOSTER GOT-

AND NOW I JUST NEED TO INCORPORATE A LITTLE BIT OF **SPINAL FLUID!**

HOLD STILL.

WAIT-FROM ME? WHAT FOR?



WELL, WE CAN'T USE **MINE**. WE STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MARTELLUS DID TO **MY** BRAIN CHEMISTRY.

HOLD STILL.

HOLD ON!



TARVEK, I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO HELP ME!

I DO! BUT LISTEN-

I'M NOT NORMAL.



I'M A SPARK, REMEMBER? THE BRAIN CHEMISTRY OF SPARKS IS **ALL OVER THE PLACE.**

EVEN THE BARON, WHO'S BEEN STUDYING THE SPARK ALL THESE YEARS, DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT.

FOR THIS TO WORK PROPERLY, WE'LL NEED A **CLEAN SAMPLE.** FROM A **NORMAL PERSON.**



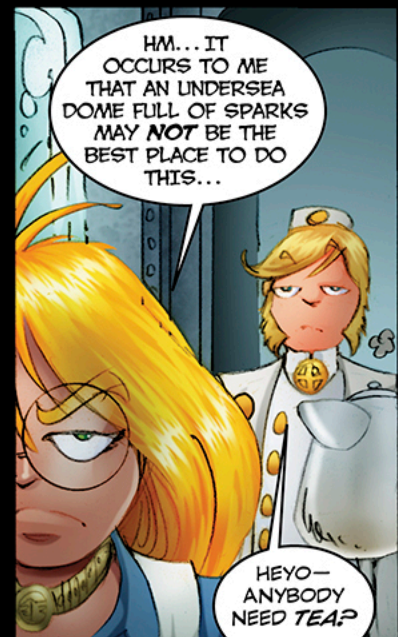
WELL, WE'LL JUST FIND A **NORMAL PERSON,** THEN.



OH DOCTOR RAKETHORN-

SPARK!

AH. RIGHT.



HM... IT OCCURS TO ME THAT AN UNDERSEA DOME FULL OF SPARKS MAY **NOT** BE THE BEST PLACE TO DO THIS...

HEYO- ANYBODY NEED TEA?



MISTER HIGGS!

YES?

NO!



WHY NOT? HE'S NOT A SPARK.

HEEEEE...



IS TERRIFIED OF NEEDLES.

WHAT?

OH, YES— TRAUMATIC ENCOUNTER WITH A SEAMSTRESS IN ANTWERP.

NEEDLES... GIVE HIM FITS.



AIEEE.



FINE. WE'LL ASK SOMEBODY ELSE.

—BUT ASIDE FROM THAT, WHERE ARE WE?



OH, WE'RE VERY CLOSE! ONCE WE HAVE EVERYTHING CALIBRATED, IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE!



ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET GIL TO STAND HERE—



AND WEAR THIS HELMET—



AND GRAB THESE ELECTRODES!



OH, AND OF COURSE, **THE BARON** WILL HAVE TO BE THE ONE IN CONTROL AT THE TIME.



SO WHEN YOU SAY "SIMPLE..."

YES! ALL RIGHT! IT NEEDS WORK— BUT THE CONCEPT IS SOUND!



LOOK AT IT! SEVENTH DYNASTY AND THEY USED IT LIKE A BLOODY NUTCRACKER!

OH, CALM DOWN, MISTER HOPPS.
AT LEAST YOU'RE ALIVE TO COMPLAIN.

AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO MY EXHIBITS?

THAT IS COLD COMFORT, M'LORD!

TYPICAL. I LEAVE FOR TWO DAYS AND YOU TRASH THE PLACE.



MY DEAR ARIADNE!
NOW THIS WILL MAKE LIGHT WORK!

OH, VERY DROLL.

AH, FORGIVE ME. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED SOME TEA.

TO DILUTE THE WHISKEY? PERHAPS A BIT.



I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON.

tch— YES, WELL—

OUR SURMISE WAS CORRECT.

THE WARRIOR WITH THE HETERODYNE GIRL IS A SKIFANDRIAN—

STEADY ON, THAT'S MY ARDBEG.



AND, TRUE TO FORM, RETAINS ALMOST NOTHING IN THE WAY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS.

I WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN AN ARTEFACT.

WORSE, I WAS DISCOVERED, AND HAD TO KILL ONE OF THE HETERODYNE'S ATTENDANTS.



KILL THEM? WHY? WHO WAS IT?

THE SMOKE KNIGHT. SHE CAUGHT ME IN THE ACT, AND ACTUALLY DEDUCED EVERYTHING!
CUNNING LITTLE—

EVERYTHING? EVEN YOUR PLANS FOR THE THRONE?



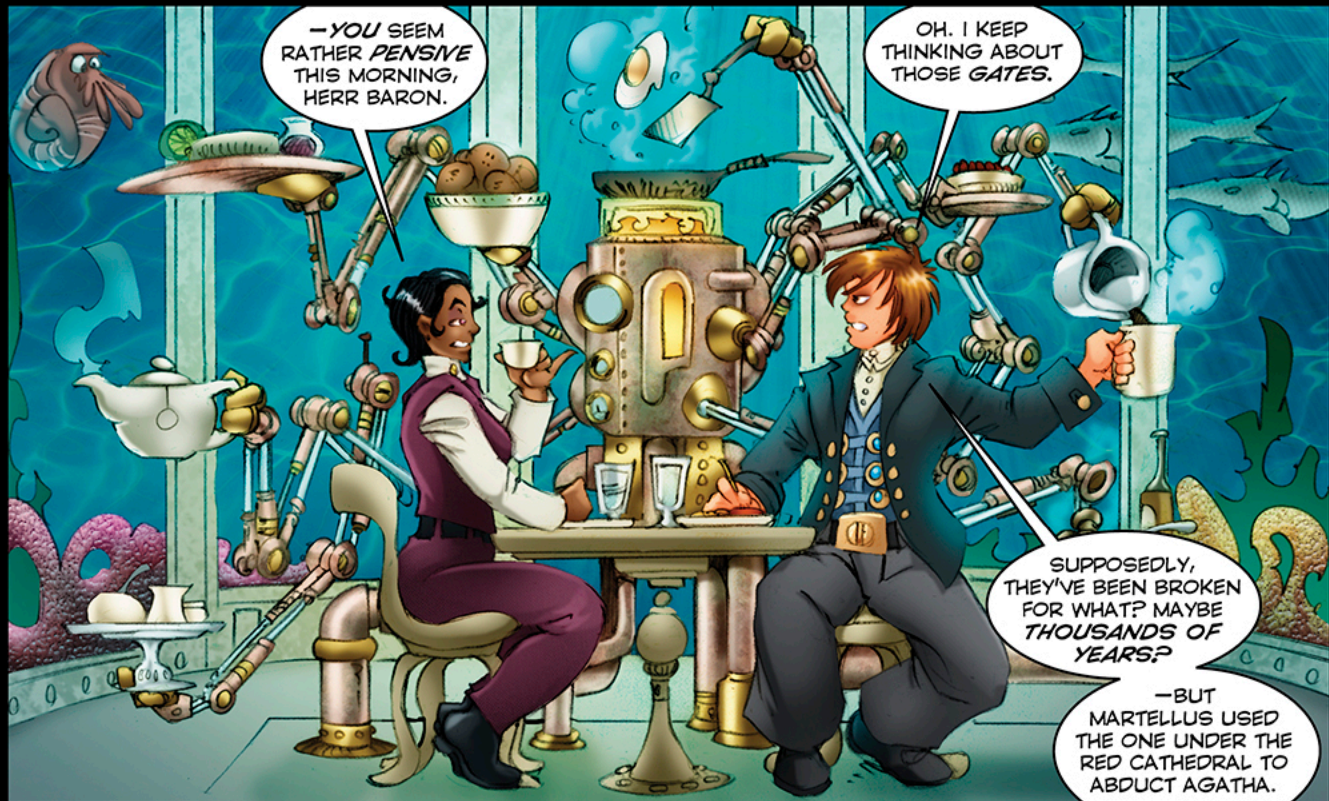
WELL, NO, BUT HAD SHE REPORTED BACK TO THE HETERODYNE—

AH...SUCH A PITY...SHE WAS A CHARMING LITTLE THING—

BUT, YES. ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE FAR TOO CLEVER.



BEST TO KEEP THEM DISTRACTED.

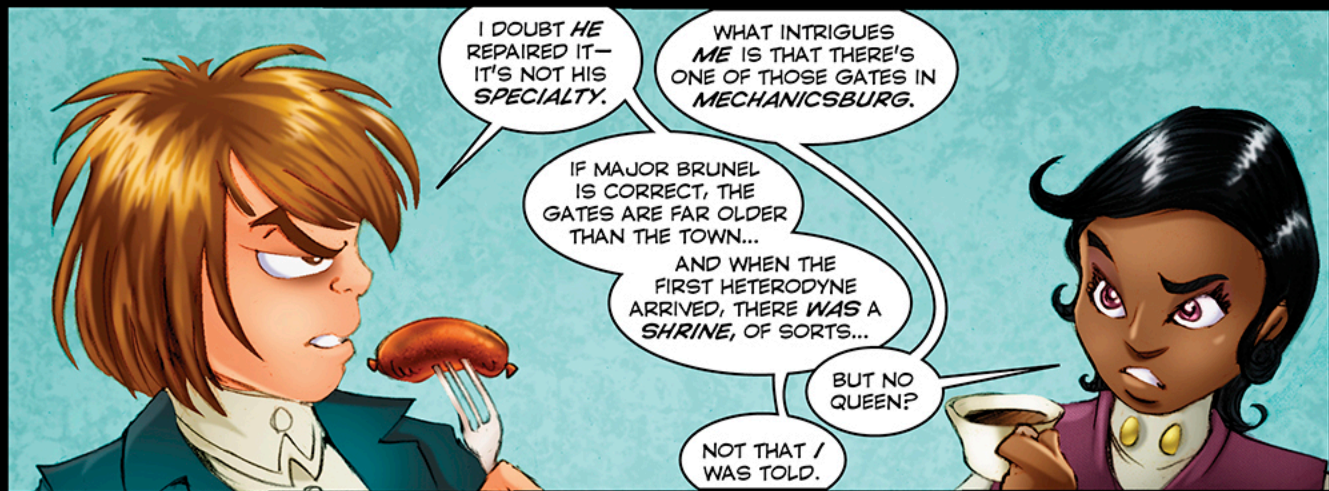


-YOU SEEM RATHER *PENSIVE* THIS MORNING, HERR BARON.

OH. I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THOSE GATES.

SUPPOSEDLY, THEY'VE BEEN BROKEN FOR WHAT? MAYBE THOUSANDS OF YEARS?

-BUT MARTELLUS USED THE ONE UNDER THE RED CATHEDRAL TO ABDUCT AGATHA.



I DOUBT *HE* REPAIRED IT- IT'S NOT HIS *SPECIALTY*.

WHAT INTRIGUES *ME* IS THAT THERE'S ONE OF THOSE GATES IN *MECHANICSBURG*.

IF MAJOR BRUNEL IS CORRECT, THE GATES ARE FAR OLDER THAN THE TOWN... AND WHEN THE FIRST HETERODYNE ARRIVED, THERE WAS A *SHRINE*, OF SORTS...

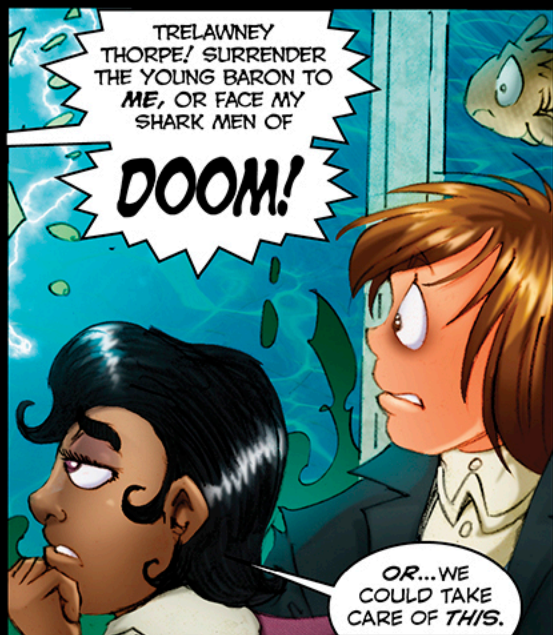
BUT NO QUEEN?

NOT THAT I WAS TOLD.



HMM. WELL, NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR, I THINK I KNOW SOME LIKELY PLACES FOR A LITTLE *RESEARCH*.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? IT'LL BE FUN!



TRELAWNEY THORPE! SURRENDER THE YOUNG BARON TO ME, OR FACE MY SHARK MEN OF

DOOM!

OR...WE COULD TAKE CARE OF THIS.



NO NEED.

WHAT? BUT—

WHAT THE—

WHO THE DEVIL ARE—

AIEEEE!

WHAK
SMACK!
CRASH!

THUMP

THUMP



GOOD MORNING, DUPREE.

ISN'T IT JUST!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LIE LOW UNTIL I CALLED YOU.

SURE, SURE, BUT THIS CAN'T WAIT, HERR BARON.



MY TERM OF SERVICE TO THE EMPIRE IS OVER.

I QUIT.



QUIT? DUPREE, WHY?

I'VE GOT STUFF TO DO— AND I DON'T NEED YOU GETTING IN MY WAY.



"THE DEAL WITH YOUR FATHER WAS: I'D WORK FOR HIM, AND HE'D GIVE ME A PLACE IN THE EMPIRE WHILE WE SEARCHED FOR WHOEVER DESTROYED MY FORTRESS. WELL, HE NEVER FOUND IT, BUT HE DID ALL RIGHT BY ME, JUST THE SAME."

"SO THERE'S NO HARD FEELINGS, OKAY? BUT NOW THAT I KNOW, I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE."



YOU KNOW? REALLY? BUT HOW—

SHH. THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

HEY, DON'T FEEL BAD! WE'VE HAD FUN, HAVEN'T WE?



DUPREE— BANG— DON'T. OR, IF YOU HAVE TO GO, LET ME COME TOO.



NO. I DO THIS MY WAY. ALONE.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?

SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOU VERY WELL— AND STILL CARES ENOUGH TO STAND BY YOU!



EEW—THAT'S NOT SOME KIND OF LAME PROPOSAL, IS IT?

WHAT? OF COURSE NOT!

GOOD, 'CAUSE THAT WOULD BE SUPER GROSS.

I JUST DON'T WANT YOU GOING OFF TO GET KILLED!



OH? AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GET KILLED?

YOU THINK SO. I CAN TELL.

IT'S WHY YOU'RE LEAVING, ISN'T IT?

OH? YOU THINK I CARE IF I DRAG YOU TO YOUR DEATH?



NO, I THINK YOU CARE IF I SEE YOU GET YOUR BUTT WHIPPED.

...OKAY, SO YOU DO KNOW ME PRETTY WELL.



DUPREE, WHOEVER THESE PEOPLE ARE, THEY TOOK OUT EVERYONE IN YOUR FORTRESS.

DON'T GO AFTER THEM BY YOURSELF.

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

I...HAVE A PLAN.

THAT'S A FIRST.



ANYWAY, YOU'LL PROBABLY KILL SOMEBODY BEFORE THE HOUR IS OUT, AND—

HA! SHOWS WHAT YOU KNOW.

SOMETIMES I DON'T KILL ANYBODY FOR DAYS!



...AND THEN YOU'RE SAD.

SO WHAT?!

YOU WANT SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT?



MISS THORPE! HOLD ON, I'M COMING!

DON'T WORRY, HERR BARON—

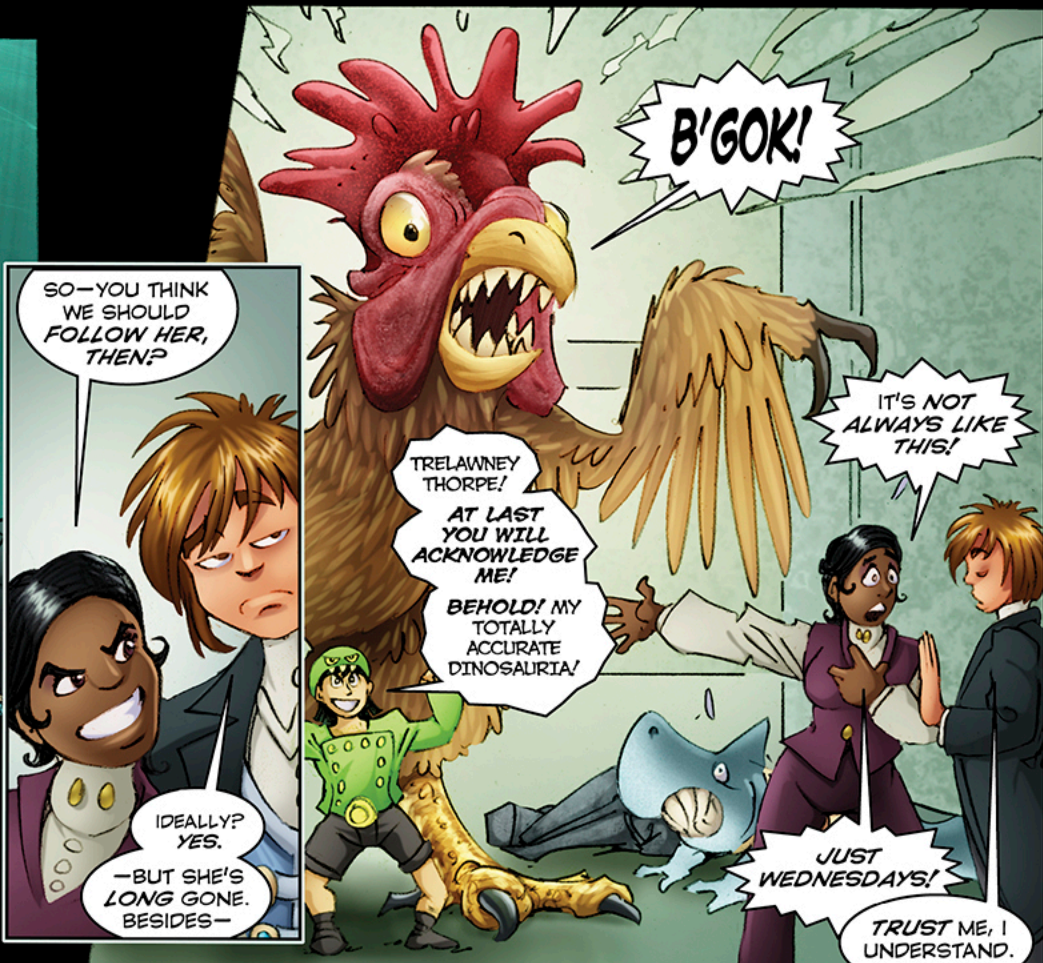
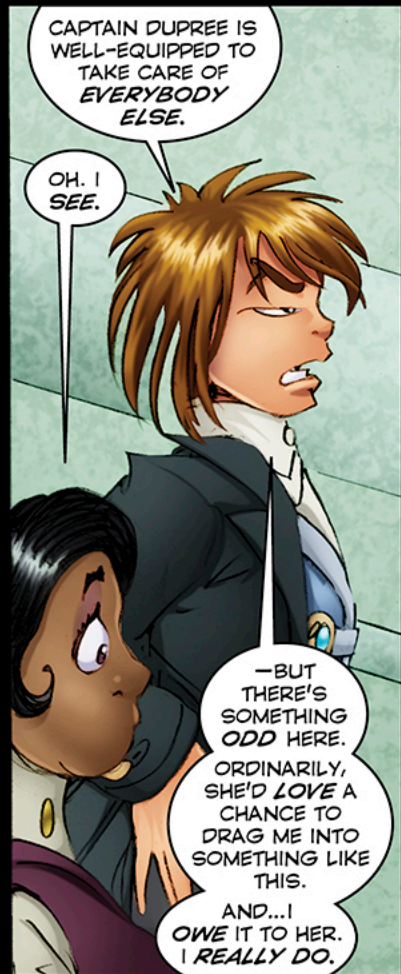
I WON'T LET THESE SCOUNDRELS LAY A FINGER ON YOU!

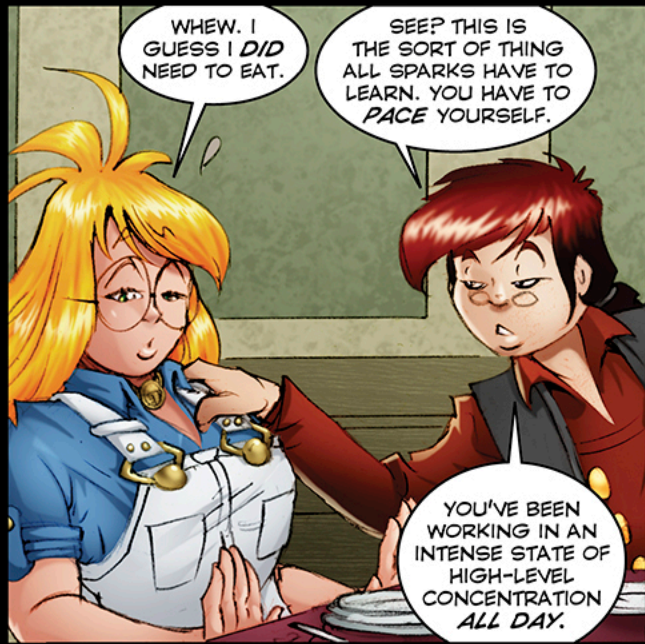


LOOK! I SAVED YOU SOME DOOM-Y SHARK GUYS!

WHAT?!

BYE!

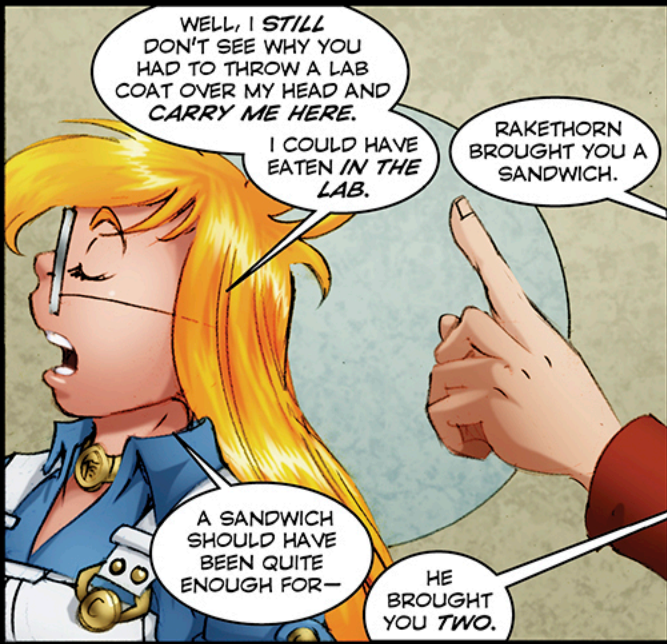




WHEW. I GUESS I *DID* NEED TO EAT.

SEE? THIS IS THE SORT OF THING ALL SPARKS HAVE TO LEARN. YOU HAVE TO *PACE* YOURSELF.

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING IN AN INTENSE STATE OF HIGH-LEVEL CONCENTRATION *ALL DAY*.



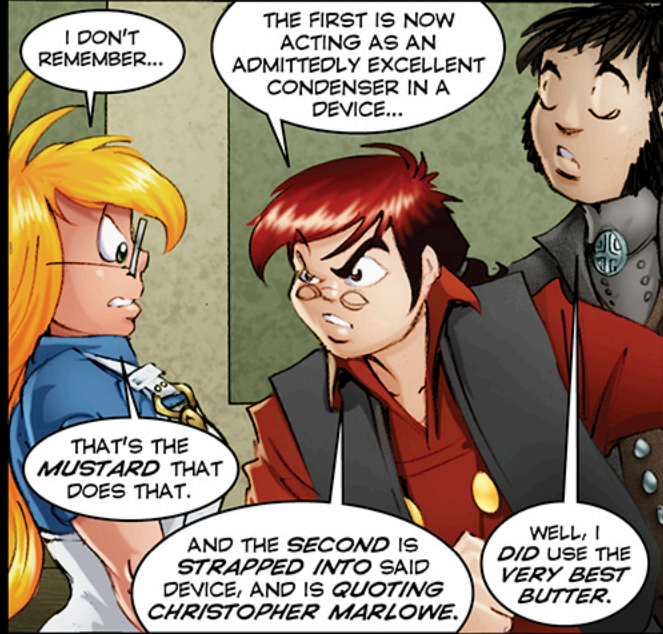
WELL, I *STILL* DON'T SEE WHY YOU HAD TO THROW A LAB COAT OVER MY HEAD AND *CARRY ME HERE*.

I COULD HAVE EATEN *IN THE LAB*.

RAKETHORN BROUGHT YOU A SANDWICH.

A SANDWICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE ENOUGH FOR—

HE BROUGHT YOU *TWO*.



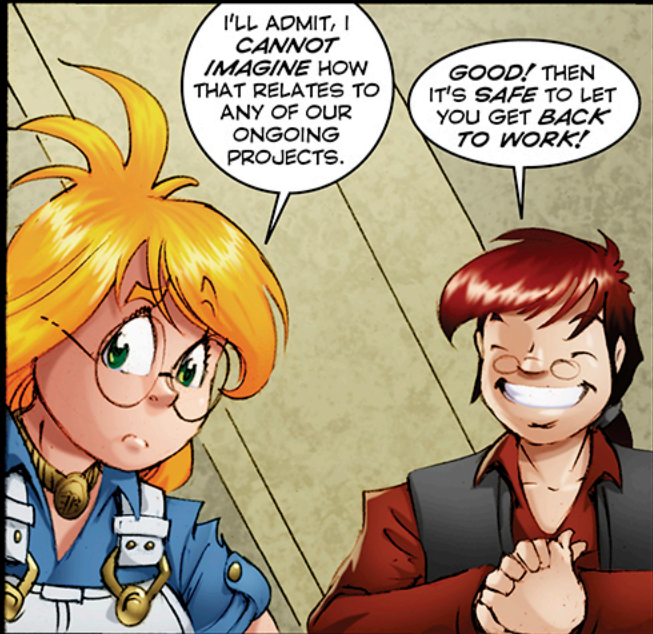
I DON'T REMEMBER...

THE FIRST IS NOW ACTING AS AN ADMITTEDLY EXCELLENT CONDENSER IN A DEVICE...

THAT'S THE *MUSTARD* THAT DOES THAT.

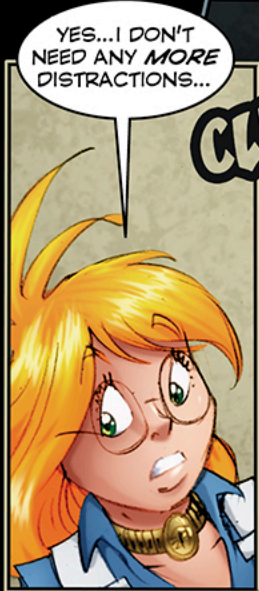
AND THE *SECOND* IS STRAPPED INTO SAID DEVICE, AND IS *QUOTING CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE*.

WELL, I *DID* USE THE *VERY BEST BUTTER*.



I'LL ADMIT, I *CANNOT IMAGINE* HOW THAT RELATES TO ANY OF OUR ONGOING PROJECTS.

GOOD! THEN IT'S *SAFE* TO LET YOU GET *BACK TO WORK!*



YES...I DON'T NEED ANY *MORE* DISTRACTIONS...

CLIK

OH! THE LIGHTS!

WHAT IS IT, RAKETHORN? A BLACKOUT?

HOLD ON, LET ME CHECK THE SWITCHES—



CLIK

THERE!



SOON—

—AND IT WAS JUST THERE?

YES! WE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ANYBODY COME IN,

AND THEN, THERE IT WAS!

SO, WHAT IS IT?

IT'S SOME KIND OF JOURNAL, APPARENTLY.

AGATHA'S BEEN LOOKING IT OVER.



...AND?

FROM THE WRITING, IT LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGED TO MISTER TOBBER...

AH, YOU KNOW, PROFESSOR HOMLOMIUM.

IT MOSTLY TALKS ABOUT MONSTERS...

AND...

AND IN SOME CASES, HOW TO SUMMON THEM.



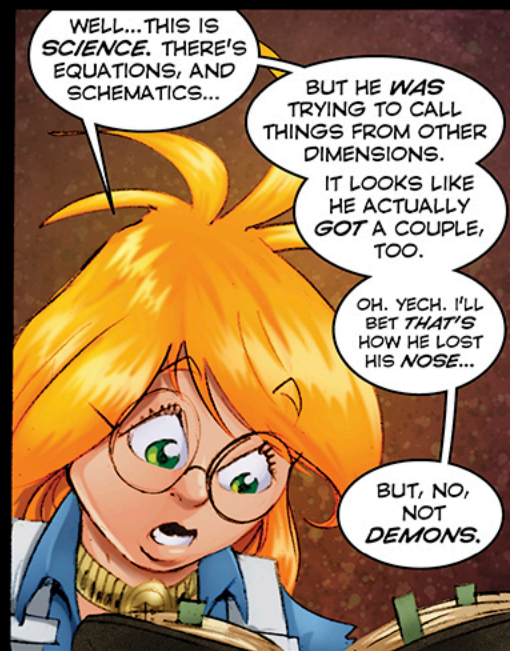
I'LL TAKE THAT!

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO TRY IT.

NOT RIGHT NOW, ANYWAY...

ER... WHEN YOU SAY "SUMMON..."

YOU DON'T MEAN LIKE SOME OLD-TIME WIZARD SUMMONING DEMONS, DO YOU?



WELL... THIS IS SCIENCE. THERE'S EQUATIONS, AND SCHEMATICS...

BUT HE WAS TRYING TO CALL THINGS FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE ACTUALLY GOT A COUPLE, TOO.

OH. YECH. I'LL BET THAT'S HOW HE LOST HIS NOSE...

BUT, NO, NOT DEMONS.



I MEAN, I CAN'T JUST SAY "APPEAR BEFORE ME, ALL-POWERFUL CREATURE," AND EXPECT—

TEA?

OH! YES, THANK YOU!



THE THING IS, HE SEEMS TO HAVE KNOWN HOW TO OPEN SMALL RIFTS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS— AND HOW TO CLOSE THEM, TOO.

IF I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW,

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP WHATEVER IS COMING TO MECHANICSBURG.



COMMANDER!
THE MOST
AMAZING THING
JUST HAPPENED!



"I WAS PREPARING
SOME SEA CUCUMBER
SANDWICHES, AND THE
LIGHTS WENT OUT!"

WELL, WITH THE
MURDERS WE'VE
BEEN HAVING, I
THOUGHT MY TIME
WAS UP, LET ME
TELL YOU!"



"BUT THEN THEY
CAME BACK ON
AGAIN, AND THERE
WAS THIS BOOK!"

SO I THOUGHT 'OH,
IT'S JUST THE
BOILERGHAST AGAIN,
PLAYING HIS LITTLE
TRICKS...'"

"AND WAS I
RELIEVED! OH
MY, **YES!**"



AND LOOK! IT'S OLD
TOBBER'S NOTES ON **SEA
MONSTROSITIES!**

I'D WANTED TO
BORROW IT, BUT
HE SWORE IT HAD
BEEN LOST FOR
YEARS!

I CAN'T TELL
YOU HOW
CHUFFED I AM
ABOUT THIS—

BUT I **DID**
THINK YOU
OUGHT TO BE
TOLD. FOR YOUR
INVESTIGATION,
YOU KNOW...



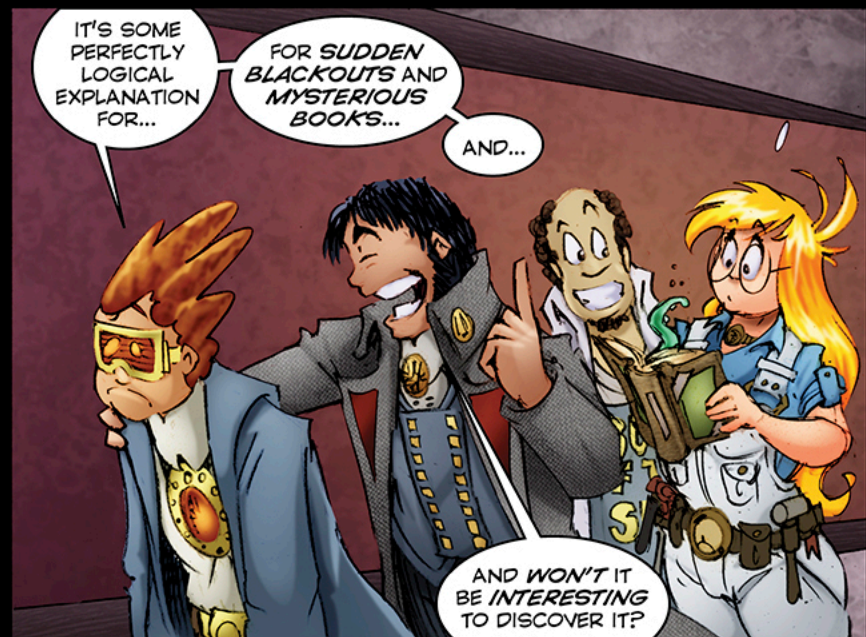
THAT'S...
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

APPARENTLY
NOT.

WE SHOULD
ASK AROUND. SEE
IF ANYONE ELSE HAS
BEEN VISITED BY
MISTER
BOILERGHAST.



**THERE IS NO
SUCH PERSON
AS THE
BOILERGHAST!**



IT'S SOME
PERFECTLY
LOGICAL
EXPLANATION
FOR...

FOR **SUDDEN
BLACKOUTS AND
MYSTERIOUS
BOOKS...**

AND...

AND **WON'T IT
BE INTERESTING
TO DISCOVER IT?**



AND SO—

THE BOILERGHAST? WHY, YES. BLIGHTER STOLE ALL MY SHOES!



—THE ENTIRE SET OF TRANSDIMENSIONAL LENSES PROFESSOR HOMF LEFT TO TOBBER!

NO-ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO REPLICATE THEM, YOU KNOW!

THEY SAY THAT STARING THROUGH THEM MAKES YOU GO MAD!

HA HA HA HAH!

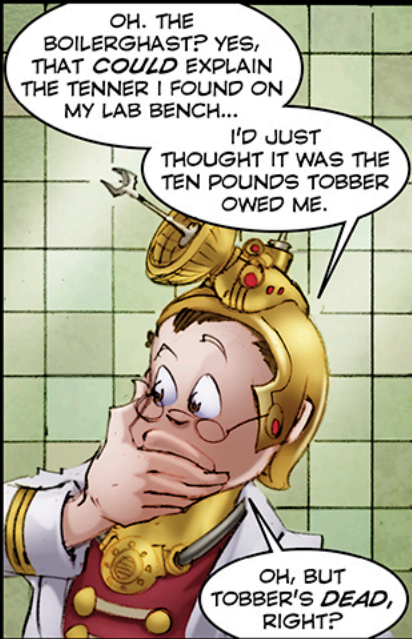


HE'S BEEN DRINKING MY SOLVENTS.



I DON'T BELIEVE IT EXISTS...

AND YOU CAN TELL IT I SAID SO.



OH. THE BOILERGHAST? YES, THAT COULD EXPLAIN THE TENNER I FOUND ON MY LAB BENCH...

I'D JUST THOUGHT IT WAS THE TEN POUNDS TOBBER OWED ME.

OH, BUT TOBBER'S DEAD, RIGHT?



—ALL HIS NOTES ON SECRET SOCIETIES!

HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN THE ONES THAT HAD TO DO WITH MONSTERS, OF COURSE, BUT MY RESEARCH—



...IS THAT THE CHAP LIVING IN MY WALL?

I'D ALWAYS WONDERED.

HE MUST BE VERY THIN, YES?



HE'S THE ONE WHO MAKES ALL THE FISH LAUGH AT ME!

—BUT I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!



—AND THIS IS YOG-YOGGERUNT.

... AND THEY'RE NOT DOLLS! THEY'RE RESEARCH MANIKINS!



OH, HEY! HOW'D HYU KNOW?

YAH. DEY IZ BOTH DEAD.

VAT? HYU DIDN'T KNOW?



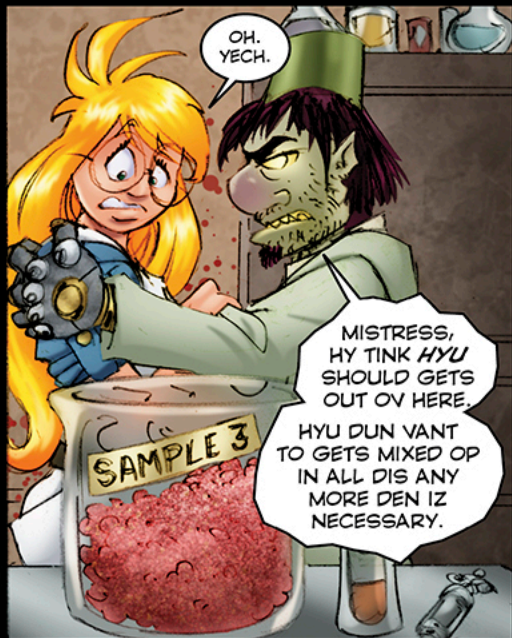
IT'S...IT'S DOCTORS CRISP AND HENKLE!

OH. THOSE TWO—



"LORD BUNSTABLE HAD THEM EXAMINING MISTER TOBBER'S BODY!"

"EXACTLY. WELL, WHAT WAS LEFT OF IT, THAT IS...IT DID GO THROUGH THE GRINDER—"



OH. YECH.

MISTRESS, HY TINK HYU SHOULD GETS OUT OV HERE.

HYU DUN VANT TO GETS MIXED OP IN ALL DIS ANY MORE DEN IZ NECESSARY.



YOU CAN'T REALLY THINK THIS IS TOO DISTURBING FOR ME?

VELL, NO, BUT IT IZ PRETTY EAZY FOR PEOPLE TO BLAME DE HETERODYNE FOR ALL KINDS OV TINGS.

IZ LIKE BEING A VITCH.

BLADE OF SOME SORT— EXPERTLY DONE— INSTANTANEOUS— BUT...WHY?



I CAN GUESS!

SOMETHING ABOUT OLD TOBBER!

ALL THEIR NOTES AND TESTS AND FINDINGS—

THEY'RE ALL GONE!

SO...THERE WAS SOMETHING HERE THAT SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUT ABOUT.



FIND OUT ABOUT WHAT?

CHOMP



KROSP! NO!

BAD KITTY!

WHAT? WHAT'D I DO?



YOU DON'T EAT PEOPLE!

WHAT PEOPLE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE JAR YOU WERE EATING OUT OF! THAT'S PROFESSOR—

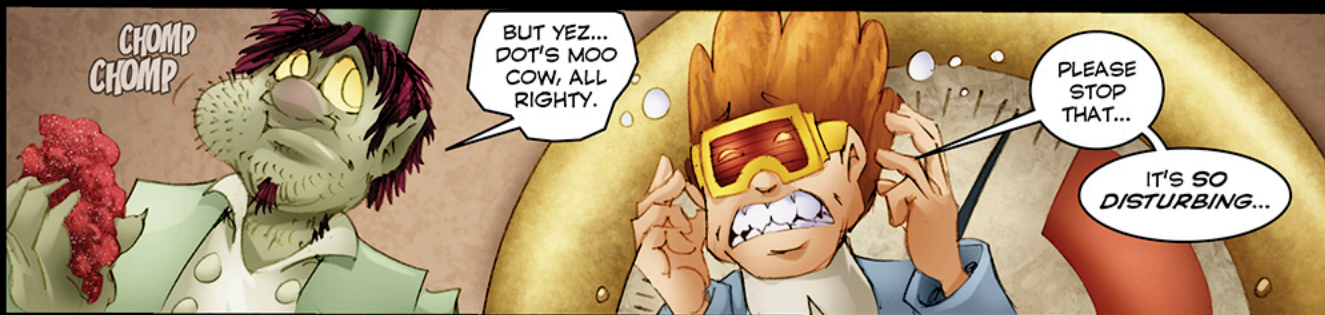
IT IS NOT! IT'S JUST BEEF AND GRISTLE AND STUFF!



I'M SURPRISED YOU COULDN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

EH. MY NOZE HAZ BEEN ALL STOPPED OP EVER SINCE VE VENT UNDER VATER.

BESIDES, DIS IZ DE FIRST TIME HY HAZ SEEN DIS SCHTUFF—

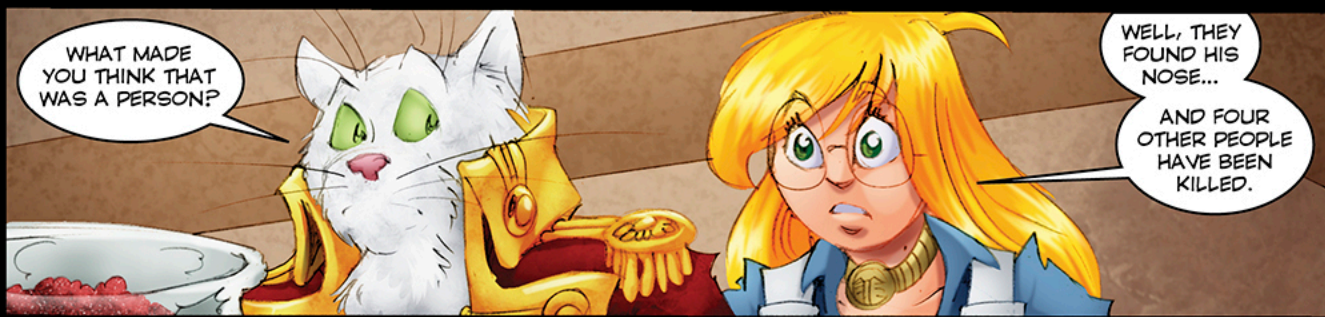


CHOMP CHOMP

BUT YEZ... DOT'S MOO COW, ALL RIGHTY.

PLEASE STOP THAT...

IT'S SO DISTURBING...



WHAT MADE YOU THINK THAT WAS A PERSON?

WELL, THEY FOUND HIS NOSE...

AND FOUR OTHER PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED.



HUH.

SO WHO'S BEEN KILLING THEM?

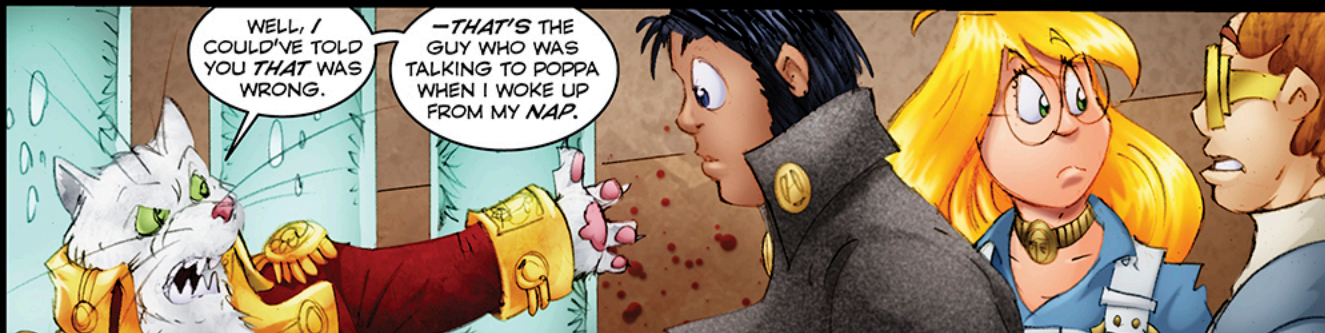
WE DON'T KNOW WHO... OR EVEN WHY.



—AND NOW, I SUPPOSE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO EXAMINE ALL THE BODIES AGAIN...

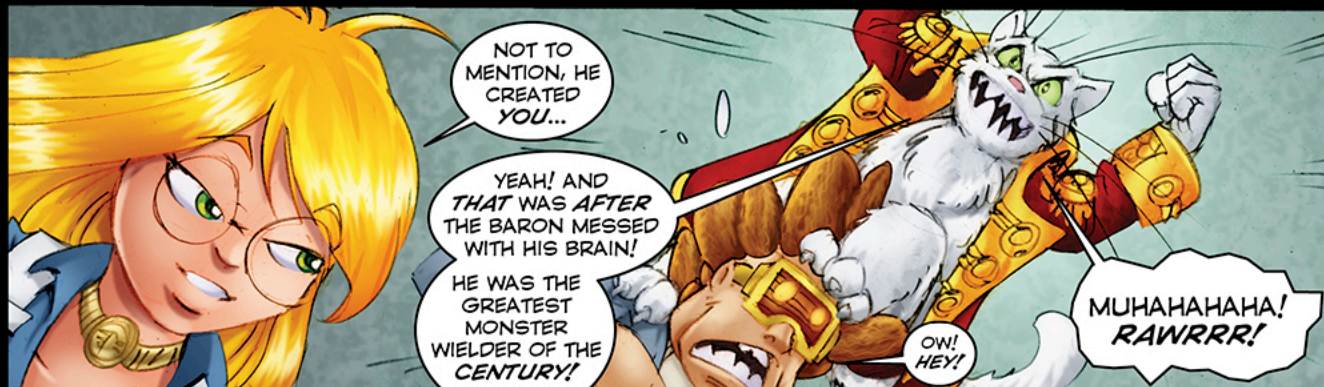
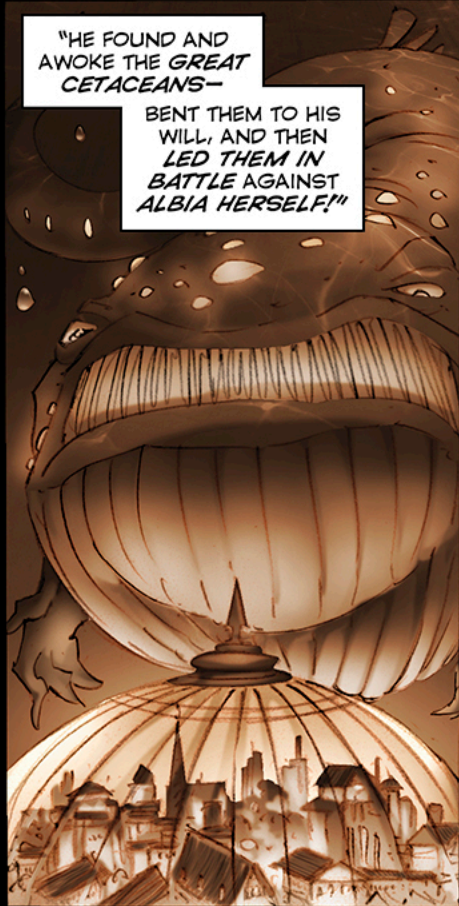
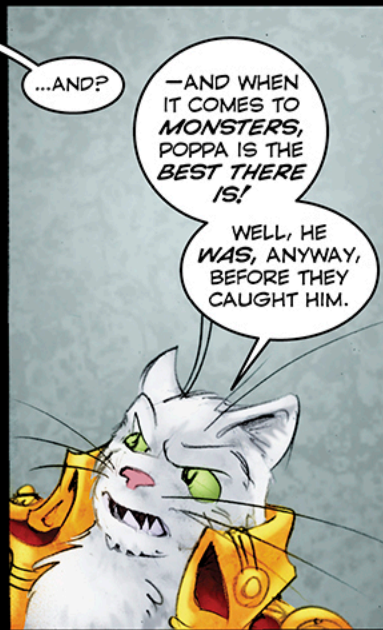
YEAH? WHY?

WELL, WE THOUGHT THAT WAS PROFESSOR HOMLOMIUM...



WELL, I COULD'VE TOLD YOU THAT WAS WRONG.

—THAT'S THE GUY WHO WAS TALKING TO POPPA WHEN I WOKE UP FROM MY NAP.



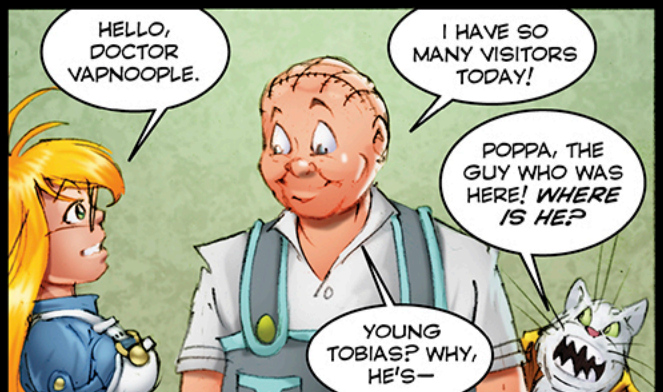


POPPA!

KROSP! YOU ARE BACK ALREADY!

OH, AND YOU FOUND THE YOUNG LADY!

HELLO, YOUNG LADY!



HELLO, DOCTOR VAPNOOPLE.

I HAVE SO MANY VISITORS TODAY!

POPPA, THE GUY WHO WAS HERE! WHERE IS HE?

YOUNG TOBIAS? WHY, HE'S—



OH! HE HAS VANISHED AGAIN. HOW DOES HE DO THAT?

YOU LOOK LIKE AN OBSERVANT BEAR... HOW DID HE DO IT?



MUH. MISTER HOITY-TOITY PROFESSOR MAN ORDERED THESE BEARS NOT TO TELL.

"ORDERED" YOU SAY?

...AND WHY SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO HIM?



WHY INDEED?

CRUMP!



HEH. THIS BEAR SEES WHY LITTLE KING RESPECTS YOU.

AH! ANOTHER SECRET PASSAGE!



CAN YOU ACTUALLY TELL WHICH WAY HE WENT?

GIVE ME A MINUTE.



HE SMELLS DAMP, BUT THIS WHOLE PLACE SMELLS DAMP, PICKING HIM OUT IS REALLY HARD—

BUT IF I HAD TO GUESS, I'D SAY—



THAT WAY.



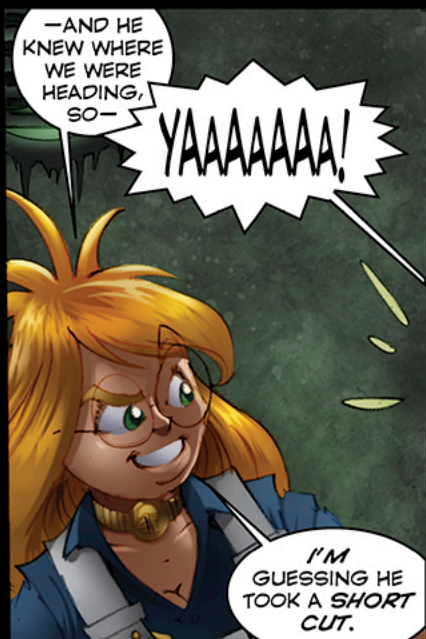
MUH. YOU NOT IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO CATCH THIS GUY?

WELL, DIMO RAN AHEAD OF US—



AH. PICKLE MAN. YES, HE IS VERY SMART.

HE /S.



—AND HE KNEW WHERE WE WERE HEADING, SO—

YAAAAAAA!

I'M GUESSING HE TOOK A SHORT CUT.



HOY DERE, MISTRESS, LOOK VOT VE GOTTS!

NO! NO! LET ME GO!

I'LL BE KILLED!

ONLY IF HYU DUN SHTOP KICKING ME, SVEETHOT.



YOU'LL BE KILLED?

HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY KILLED FOUR PEOPLE?

FOUR?! OH, THAT IS HARDLY FAIR!

I AM TRYING TO SAVE PEOPLE! LOTS OF PEOPLE!



BY FAKING YOUR OWN DEATH?

YES! UM, BUT, SHHH—WE SHOULD NOT TALK HERE!

I—WE ARE ALL IN DANGER!



WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT IN MY OFFICE. LET'S GO.

NO! WAIT!



OH NO, NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

I MEAN, UH—



MY HAND! YES! MY HAND!

OH, THE TERRIBLE PAIN OF A MAMMAL WHO HAS LOST HIS SKIN!

AK—

YANK!

DO NOT BE ALARMED! THIS IS MERELY A BAD HAIRCUT!



IT'S MISTER TROGULUS!

PROFESSOR HOMLOMIUM'S ASSISTANT!

SHH! NO ONE MUST KNOW!

YOU ARE OUTSIDERS, BUT YOU MUST TRUST ME!

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT!

GIVE ME BACK THE MASK!



MUH. HERE. WEIRD MASK.

THE PROFESSOR HATED STAFF MEETINGS! HE USED TO SEND ME IN HIS PLACE!

AND NOBODY NOTICED?

THOSE MEETINGS ARE SO STULTIFYING THAT FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS—

DOCTOR MOG HAS BEEN SENDING A WHITE RAT WITH A HAT!



THAT BEEF WE FOUND WAS FAR TOO FRESH TO HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE LABORATORY DRAINS.

PROFESSOR HOMLOMIUM REALLY WAS KILLED, WASN'T HE?



YOU SWITCHED THE REMAINS— AND KILLED THE DOCTORS.

YES. THEY WOULD HAVE CONFIRMED THE PROFESSOR'S DEATH!

THE GREY HOODS MUST BELIEVE THAT THE PROFESSOR YET LIVES!

...THE GREY HOODS?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY CALL THEMSELVES!

THEY ARE A SECRET SOCIETY OF WIZARDS AND MADMEN!

THEY HIDE THEIR FACES!



THEY MOVE THROUGH THE WALLS, AND HOLD STRANGE MEETINGS IN THE OLD TEMPLE BENEATH THE DOME.

BENEATH— BENEATH THIS DOME?

YES! THE PROFESSOR SAID IT WAS WHY THEY ORIGINALLY BUILT HERE!

WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY HAVE POWER—AND THEY HOPE FOR MORE.



THERE IS SOMETHING DOWN THERE—SOMETHING OLD AND STRANGE.

THE GREY HOODS BELIEVE THEY CAN USE IT TO HELP SUMMON AN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL CREATURE—

BUT THE PROFESSOR STOOD IN THEIR WAY.

THEY KILLED HIM AND STOLE HIS WORK.

THEY MUST CONTINUE TO FEAR HIM!



ARE THERE A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE HERE IN THE DOME?

OH, YES.

ONCE, I TRIED TO FOLLOW SOME OF THEM...

THAT WAS WHEN I FOUND THE TEMPLE.

THERE WERE SO MANY GREY HOODS THERE—

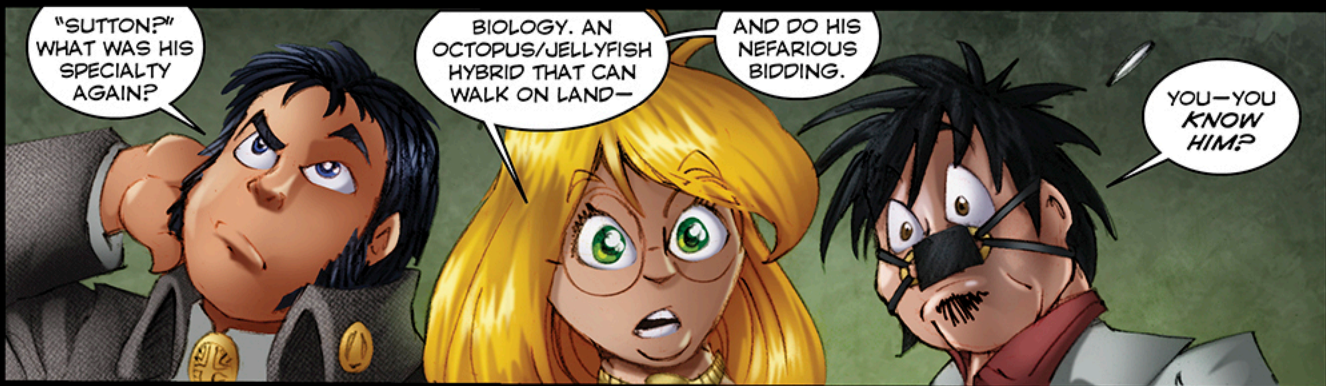


MANY, MANY OF THE PEOPLE HERE IN THE DOME MUST BE A PART OF THIS.

I HAVE HAD TO BE VERY CAREFUL.

DO YOU KNOW WHO ANY OF THEM ARE?

I SUSPECT A FEW. THE DOCTORS I KILLED... PROFESSOR SUTTON...



"SUTTON?" WHAT WAS HIS SPECIALTY AGAIN?

BIOLOGY. AN OCTOPUS/JELLYFISH HYBRID THAT CAN WALK ON LAND—

AND DO HIS NEFARIOUS BIDDING.

YOU—YOU KNOW HIM?



NO, THAT'S JUST A GUESS.

GRAAAAAAAAH



HA!

TIME FOR
SOME EXPERTLY
APPLIED
VIOLENCE!



NO! DON'T
FIGHT THEM!

RUN!



YOU'VE GOT
TO BE KIDDING!

THESE THINGS
ARE EASY!

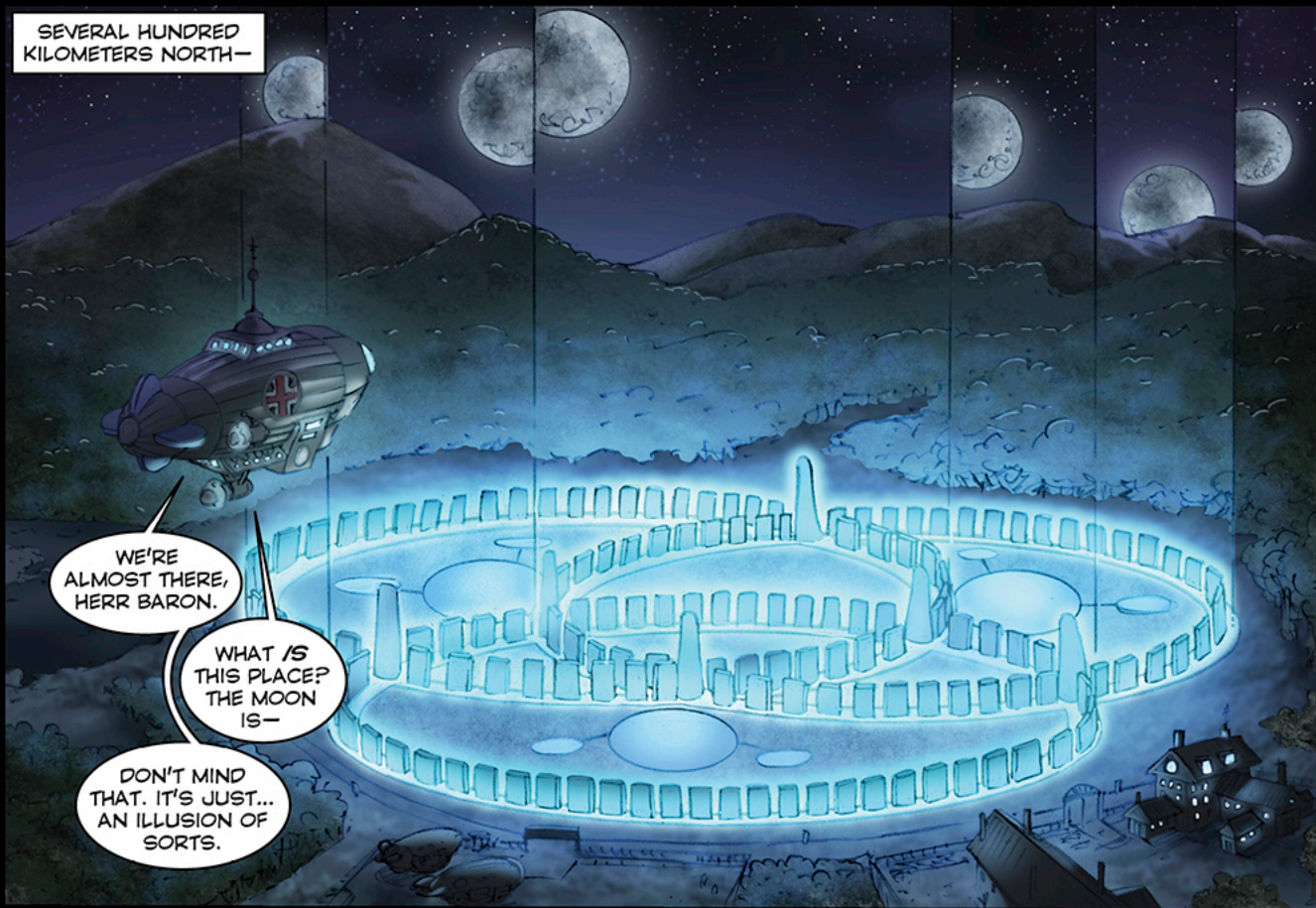
YES, BUT
THEY'LL ONLY BE
THE FIRST!
NOW THEY'VE
FOUND US,
EVERYONE WILL
BE AFTER US!



RHAAAHH!
AVENGE OUR
GELATINOUS
BRETHREN!

...AH.

SEVERAL HUNDRED KILOMETERS NORTH—



WE'RE ALMOST THERE, HERR BARON.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THE MOON IS—

DON'T MIND THAT. IT'S JUST... AN ILLUSION OF SORTS.



THIS IS THE QUEEN'S HENGE.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT.

I SHOULD THINK NOT. IT'S A VERY SPECIAL, SACRED PLACE.



YOU COULD FLY OVER THIS LAND EVERY DAY FOR A CENTURY AND NEVER SEE IT AT ALL, IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE RIGHT PATH.

AND... YOU'RE BRINGING ME IN?

I AM ONE OF ITS SACRED GUARDIANS. THE QUEEN TRUSTS ME—

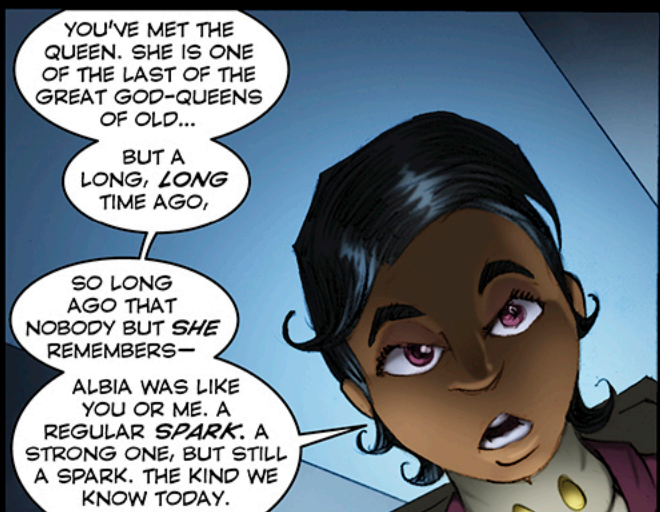


AND I HAVE CHOSEN TO TRUST YOU.

I...I'LL HONOR THAT TRUST.

THANK YOU.

BUT—WHAT IS IT?

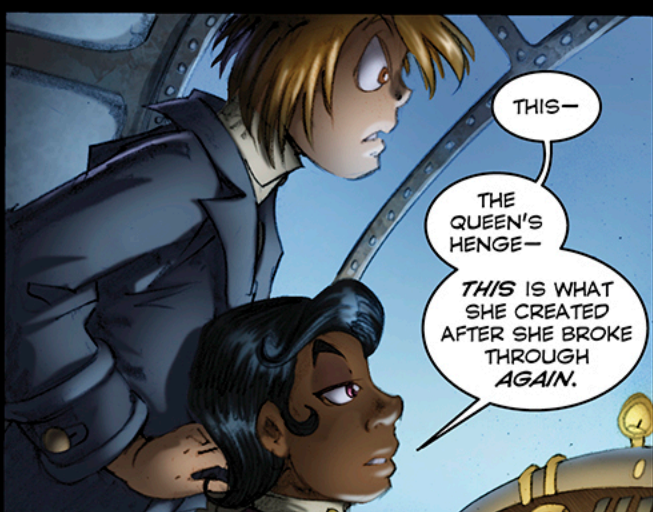


YOU'VE MET THE QUEEN. SHE IS ONE OF THE LAST OF THE GREAT GOD-QUEENS OF OLD...

BUT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO,

SO LONG AGO THAT NOBODY BUT SHE REMEMBERS—

ALBIA WAS LIKE YOU OR ME. A REGULAR SPARK. A STRONG ONE, BUT STILL A SPARK. THE KIND WE KNOW TODAY.



THIS—

THE QUEEN'S HENGE—

THIS IS WHAT SHE CREATED AFTER SHE BROKE THROUGH AGAIN.



WHAT—

AND WHERE
DID THAT COME
FROM?

IT WAS
ALWAYS
THERE.

WE TURNED A
CORNER, AND
NOW YOU CAN
SEE IT, THAT'S
ALL.





I CAN'T REALLY TELL YOU A LOT ABOUT THIS PLACE—

GOOD.

EXCUSE ME?



FRANKLY, I'VE ALREADY SEEN ENOUGH THAT I'M WORRIED I WON'T BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

OH NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

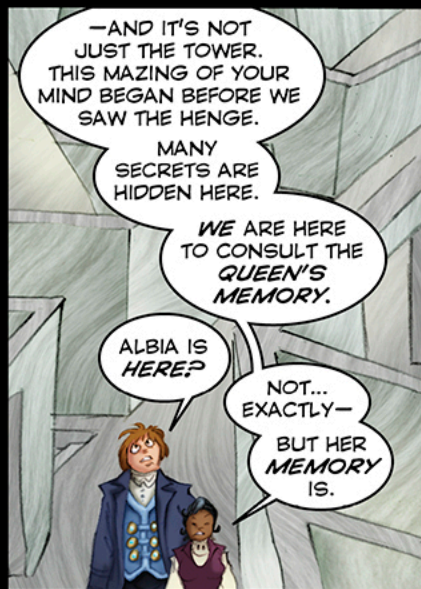


YOU ARE UNINITIATED. THE MAZE AFFECTS YOUR MIND AS YOU TRAVERSE IT.

OH?

TELL ME... WAS OUR LAST TURNING A LEFT OR A RIGHT?

UM... UH... OH.



—AND IT'S NOT JUST THE TOWER. THIS MAZING OF YOUR MIND BEGAN BEFORE WE SAW THE HENGE.

MANY SECRETS ARE HIDDEN HERE.

WE ARE HERE TO CONSULT THE QUEEN'S MEMORY.

ALBIA IS HERE?

NOT... EXACTLY— BUT HER MEMORY IS.



SO...HOW TO PUT THIS... THE HUMAN BRAIN CAN ONLY STORE SO MUCH INFORMATION.

AN ORDINARY PERSON WILL STRUGGLE WITH EVEN A CENTURY'S WORTH OF MEMORIES.



SPARKS CAN PROCESS IT BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE—

AND ALBIA IS SOMETHING BEYOND A SPARK...

BUT THERE ARE STILL LIMITS.

AH. I SEE—AND ALBIA IS...HOW OLD? WHOOF.



EXACTLY.

SO SHE'S LEARNED TO STORE MEMORIES.

ARCHIVE THEM.

HERE. IN THE WELL OF THE QUEEN'S MEMORY.

WHAT—

YOUNG THORPE?

I WAS NOT TOLD THAT YOU WERE COMING?



LADY ASTARTE, MAY I PRESENT BARON GILGAMESH WULFENBACH.

HERR BARON, THIS IS LADY ASTARTE, THIRD HIGH CARETAKER OF THE SACRED WELL.

I AM CHARMED TO MEET YOU, MY LADY.

AH! THE YOUNG BARON WULFENBACH! OH I SEE IT NOW.



I REMEMBER YOUR FATHER WHEN HE CAME TO ENGLAND...

OH, IT MUST HAVE BEEN FORTY YEARS AGO...

SUCH A FLIRT, THAT MAN...

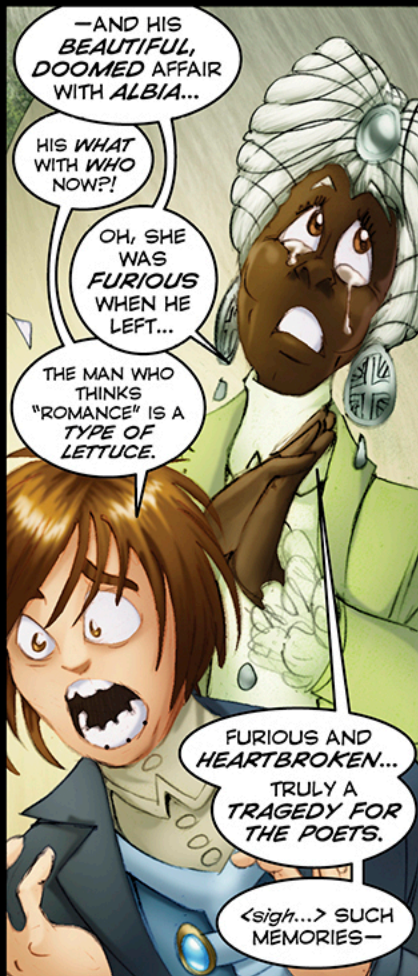
WAIT. MY... FATHER?

OH YES, ALL THE LADIES OF THE COURT HAD THEIR EYES ON HIM.



KLAUS WULFENBACH.

HIS MOUTH DOES THIS ALL THE TIME.



-AND HIS BEAUTIFUL, DOOMED AFFAIR WITH ALBIA...

HIS WHAT WITH WHO NOW?!

OH, SHE WAS FURIOUS WHEN HE LEFT...

THE MAN WHO THINKS "ROMANCE" IS A TYPE OF LETTUCE.

FURIOUS AND HEARTBROKEN... TRULY A TRAGEDY FOR THE POETS.

<sigh...> SUCH MEMORIES-



HE TAUGHT ME NOT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH A GIRL UNTIL I'D MET HER PARENTS!

BUT ENOUGH ABOUT OLD COURT SCANDALS- WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WE HOPE TO CONSULT THE QUEEN'S MEMORY.



WELL OF COURSE. WHAT ABOUT?

THIS IMPOSTOR CLAIMING TO BE MY FATHER!

THE QUEEN'S MIRRORS.



"QUEEN'S MIRRORS" YOU SAY.
I PRESUME YOU MEAN SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE SORT AT A LADY'S DRESSING TABLE?
INTERESTING.



IT SHOULD BE **QUITE OLD**, I THINK.
THE MIRRORS WERE DEVICES USED BY THE ANCIENT QUEENS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER.
I'D LIKE TO START WITH HER **EARLIEST** ENCOUNTER WITH THEM.



AH. I SEE—
WELL, IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT YOU ARE CHASING A **MYTH**, YOUNG THORPE.
RUMORS OF THE ANCIENT QUEENS AND THEIR "LOST KNOWLEDGE" OFTEN ARE.



I ASSURE YOU, LADY ASTARTE—
THESE MIRRORS ARE **REAL**.



OF COURSE, OF COURSE!
JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER, SO **EARNEST**...
HEH.
WELL, NOW I'M **CURIOUS**. LET US BEGIN!



HAIL, GREAT LADY! I BEG YOU, TURN YOUR MIND TO THIS, YOUR WELL OF MEMORY—
AND, IF IT IS YOUR WILL, GRANT THESE SUPPLICANTS THE ANSWERS THEY SEEK.
I WISH TO ACCESS YOUR **EARLIEST** MEMORIES OF THE "QUEEN'S MIRRORS."
...
AH! SHE ANSWERS!



-BUT I... THIS... THIS IS FARTHER BACK THAN I HAVE **EVER SEEN!**
BEFORE ROME!
BEFORE BRITAIN!
BEFORE THE CHANNEL!



...BEFORE MY **SECOND ASCENSION.**
ASK.



SO, THESE MIRRORS? THEY ARE REAL?

OH MY, YES— MARVELOUS THINGS THEY WERE. MY FIRST KNOWING OF THEM? IT WAS WHEN THIS LAND WAS RULED BY THE WITCH QUEEN, LOZZ.



"SHE CONTROLLED THE ANIMALS. NOT JUST THOSE OF THE FOREST—"

"BUT OUR OWN CATTLE, DOGS AND PIGS. THEY WOULD ATTACK US AT HER WILL. RUIN CROPS...FOUL WATER..."



"HER CAVE WAS A PLACE OF WONDER AND FEAR—"

AND BEHIND HER THRONE WAS A PORTAL TO THE LAND OF THE DEVILS—"

"FROM WHICH, IT WAS SAID, SHE HERSELF HAD COME, LONG AGO."



"LOZZ CONTROLLED THE GATEWAY—"

AND THE PEOPLE WENT IN TERROR OF THE STRANGE, OTHERWORLDLY SERVANTS THAT THE WITCH QUEEN SHOWED THEM."



"—BUT I HAD BEEN TRAINED IN THE SECRET WAYS OF KNOWING PEOPLE'S HEARTS—"

BY MEANS OF FACES, MOVEMENTS, AND VOICE—"



"AND I COULD SEE THAT THESE 'SERVANTS' WERE NOTHING OF THE KIND."



"WHEN I FINALLY OVERTHREW LOZZ, AND HER CAVE WAS MINE—"

"I SPOKE TO THEM—"



AND THAT WAS HOW I MET MY SISTER QUEENS!

OH, THE THINGS THEY SHOWED ME! WE HAD SUCH FUN IN THOSE DAYS—

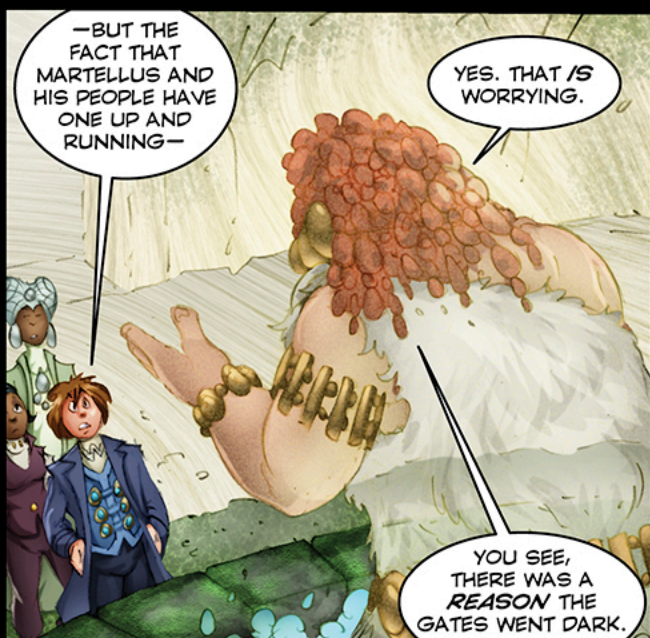
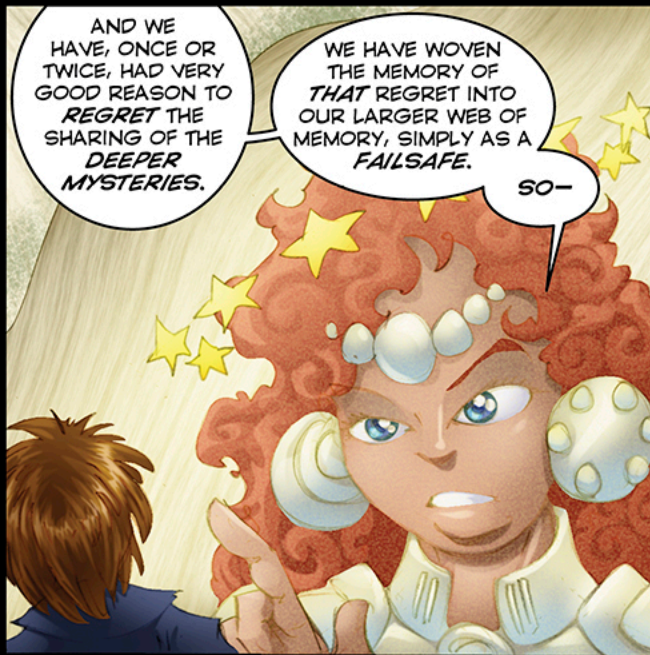
AND BECAUSE OF THEM, I WAS ABLE TO—

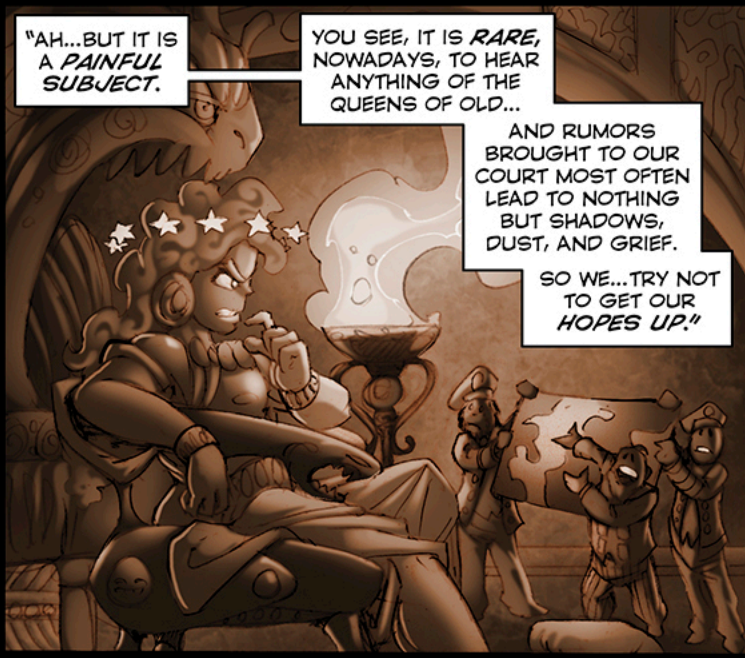


AH. NO.

THAT IS KNOWLEDGE PERHAPS BEST NOT SHARED.

WE ALWAYS DID TALK TOO MUCH IN THOSE DAYS...



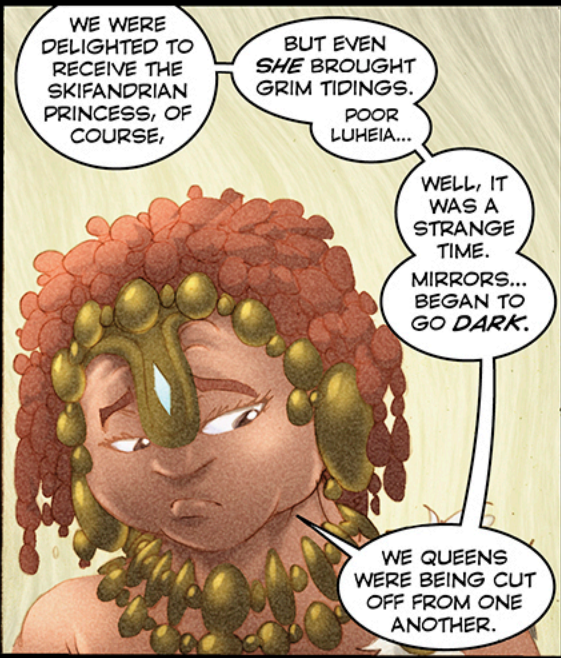


"AH...BUT IT IS A PAINFUL SUBJECT."

YOU SEE, IT IS RARE, NOWADAYS, TO HEAR ANYTHING OF THE QUEENS OF OLD...

AND RUMORS BROUGHT TO OUR COURT MOST OFTEN LEAD TO NOTHING BUT SHADOWS, DUST, AND GRIEF.

SO WE...TRY NOT TO GET OUR HOPES UP!"



WE WERE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THE SKIFANDRIAN PRINCESS, OF COURSE,

BUT EVEN SHE BROUGHT GRIM TIDINGS. POOR LUHEIA...

WELL, IT WAS A STRANGE TIME. MIRRORS... BEGAN TO GO DARK.

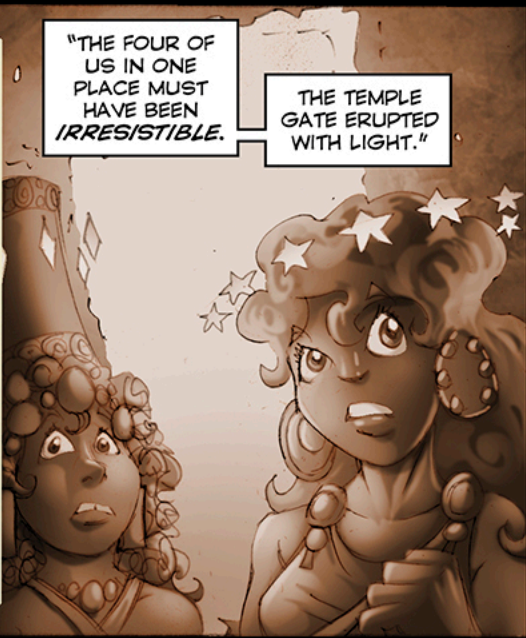
WE QUEENS WERE BEING CUT OFF FROM ONE ANOTHER.



"FOUR OF US GATHERED AT THE TEMPLE OF NAMMAH TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM, AND TO STRATEGIZE--"



BUT, AS IT HAPPENED, THE DARKNESS WAS NO MERE MALFUNCTION IN THE SYSTEM. SOMEONE WAS...HUNTING QUEENS. HUNTING US.



"THE FOUR OF US IN ONE PLACE MUST HAVE BEEN IRRESISTIBLE."

THE TEMPLE GATE ERUPTED WITH LIGHT."



"NYX FELL INSTANTLY--"

"TO A WEAPON WE COULDN'T EVEN COMPREHEND."



"ALTHOUGH TAKEN BY SURPRISE, WE ALL HAD POWERFUL DEFENSES--"

"AND WE PREPARED TO FIGHT."

"THE ATTACKER STOOD
IN THE GATEWAY, AND
LAUGHED AT US."



"THEN, SHE
SLEW AMARE."

"SIANNA WAS IN *SHOCK*.
SHE HAD *SEALED* THE
MIRROR SO THAT WE
COULD HOLD COUNCIL
UNDISTURBED—YET THIS STRANGER
HAD COME THROUGH
EASILY, AND WITH
NO WARNING."



"THIS WAS WHAT
HAD HAPPENED TO
THE OTHER QUEENS."

THE STRANGER HAD
BEEN *USING THE
MIRRORS* TO TAKE
THEM BY SURPRISE—

AND *NOW*, SHE HAD
COME FOR *US*."

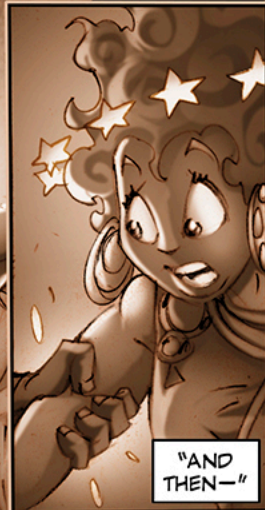


"WE DIDN'T
KNOW *WHY*—

OR WHAT TO DO. SHE
SHRUGGED OFF
EVERYTHING WE
COULD THROW AT HER."



"SIANNA
SHOUTED TO
HEAD FOR THE
MIRROR—"



"AND
THEN—"

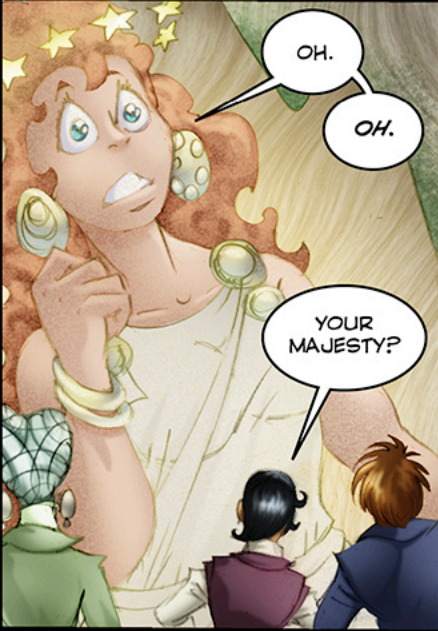
"SHE ACTUALLY *PICKED
US UP*, AND *FLUNG US
THROUGH THE GATE!*"



"THE AIR NEAR THE MIRROR FELT WRONG—

ALMOST... OILY... AND THERE WAS A SHOCK-LIKE ELECTRICITY, AS WE PASSED THROUGH."

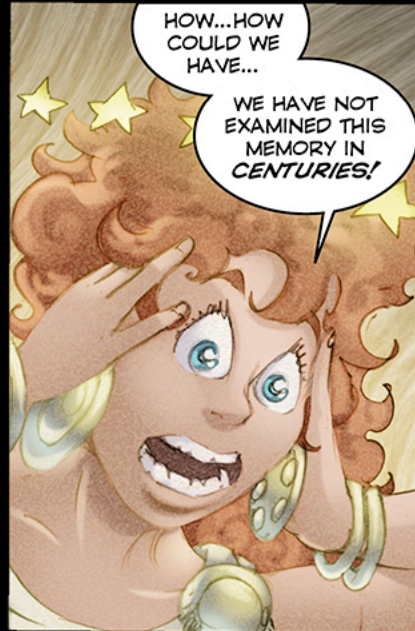
"THE STRANGER CAME AFTER US, AND..."



OH.

OH.

YOUR MAJESTY?



HOW...HOW COULD WE HAVE...

WE HAVE NOT EXAMINED THIS MEMORY IN CENTURIES!



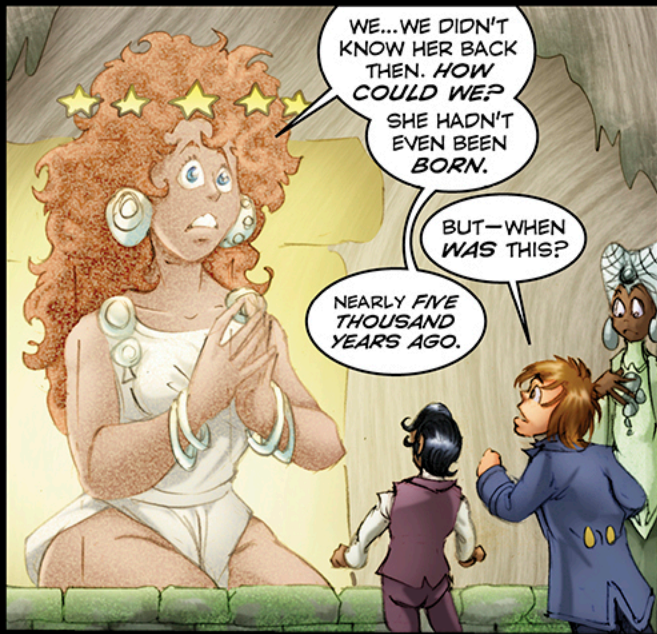
WE DID NOT KNOW! WE DID NOT REMEMBER!

BUT...IT WAS SHE!

"IT WAS LUCREZIA!"



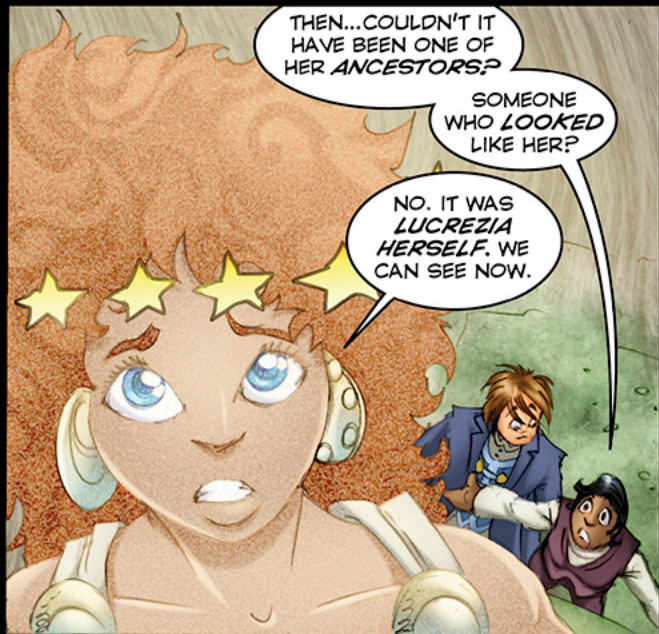
"LUCREZIA MONGFISH!"



WE...WE DIDN'T KNOW HER BACK THEN. **HOW COULD WE?** SHE HADN'T EVEN BEEN BORN.

BUT—WHEN WAS THIS?

NEARLY **FIVE THOUSAND YEARS** AGO.



THEN...COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN ONE OF HER **ANCESTORS?**

SOMEONE WHO **LOOKED** LIKE HER?

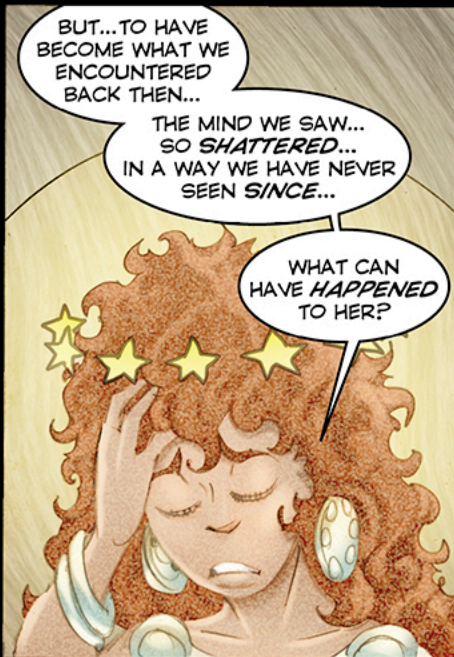
NO. IT WAS **LUCREZIA HERSELF**. WE CAN SEE NOW.



"SHE CAME TO OUR COURT YEARS AGO. WE KNEW HER WELL.

AN **EXQUISITE MIND, INTRIGUINGLY BENT."**

"SHE WAS **VERY ENTERTAINING."**



BUT...TO HAVE BECOME WHAT WE ENCOUNTERED BACK THEN...

THE MIND WE SAW... **SO SHATTERED...** IN A WAY WE HAVE NEVER SEEN **SINCE...**

WHAT CAN HAVE **HAPPENED** TO HER?



MY FATHER'S NOTES...HE WAS WORRIED THAT **SOMEONE** OUT THERE WAS ABLE TO MANIPULATE TIME.

IF IT'S **LUCREZIA...**

WELL, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SHE IS SOMEHOW TRAVELING BETWEEN **TIMES.**



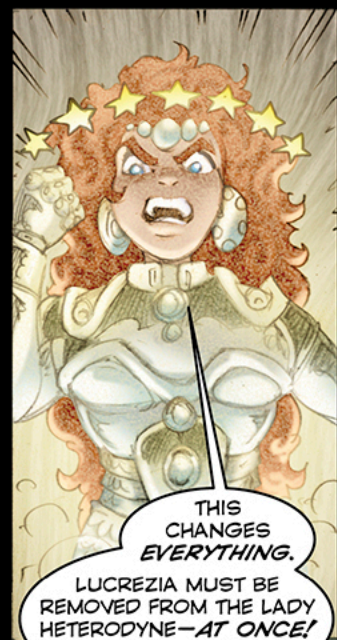
AH...THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.

YES...AND SHE IS **THE OTHER...** OH DEAR.



"THE MIRRORS WENT DARK BEFORE **LUCREZIA** COULD REACH US. WE BELIEVE **SIANNA** SAVED OUR LIFE THAT DAY."

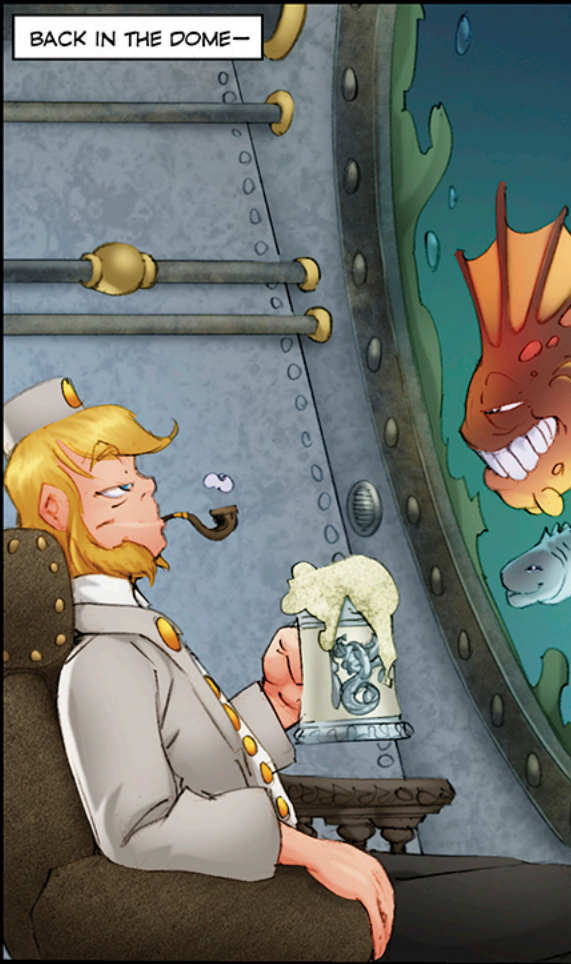
"WE WERE NOT IN OUR OWN LAND...IT WAS **YEARS** BEFORE WE FOUND OUR WAY HOME... AND WE HAVE HAD NO WORD OF **SIANNA** SINCE."



THIS CHANGES **EVERYTHING.**

LUCREZIA MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE **LADY HETERODYNE—AT ONCE!**

BACK IN THE DOME—





HOKAY,
SO NOW
VOT?

EVERYONE
HERE IS
NUTS.

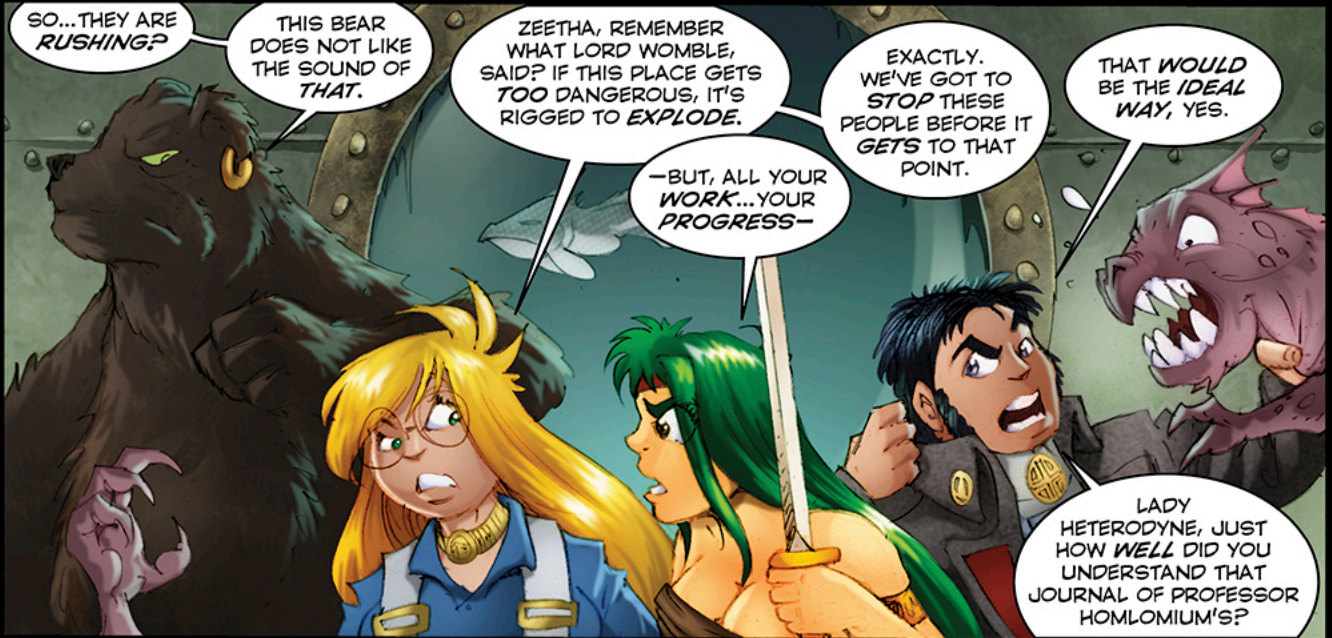
WE SHOULD
GO BACK FOR
POPPA,

GRAB A SUB,
AND LET THE
NAVY HANDLE IT.



I CONCUR.
FOOLING THEM WAS
SUPPOSED TO
PREVENT THIS
WHOLE MESS—

BUT THIS ATTACK—
IT MAY BE THEY ARE
READY TO TRY AN
ACTUAL SUMMONING,
DESPITE THEIR FEAR OF
THE PROFESSOR.



SO...THEY ARE
RUSHING?

THIS BEAR
DOES NOT LIKE
THE SOUND OF
THAT.

ZEETHA, REMEMBER
WHAT LORD WOMBLE,
SAID? IF THIS PLACE GETS
TOO DANGEROUS, IT'S
RIGGED TO EXPLODE.

—BUT, ALL YOUR
WORK...YOUR
PROGRESS—

EXACTLY.
WE'VE GOT TO
STOP THESE
PEOPLE BEFORE IT
GETS TO THAT
POINT.

THAT WOULD
BE THE IDEAL
WAY, YES.

LADY
HETERODYNE, JUST
HOW WELL DID YOU
UNDERSTAND THAT
JOURNAL OF PROFESSOR
HOMLOMIUM'S?



I'LL NEED TO
SEE IT AGAIN,
BUT...YES...

WE MAY BE
ABLE TO DO
THIS.

MISTER
TROGULUS? CAN
YOU TAKE ME TO
THIS TEMPLE YOU
MENTIONED?

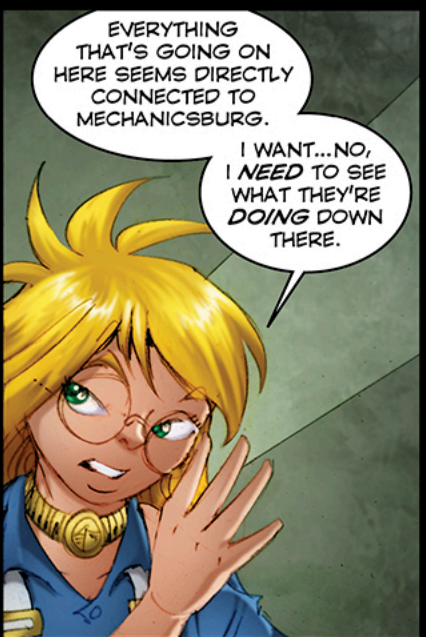
WAIT...



YOU'RE ACTUALLY
GOING OFF TO FIND AN
EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL
MONSTROSITY?

SHE 'Z A
HETERODYNE.

YES I AM—
AND THIS IS
TOO GOOD AN
OPPORTUNITY.



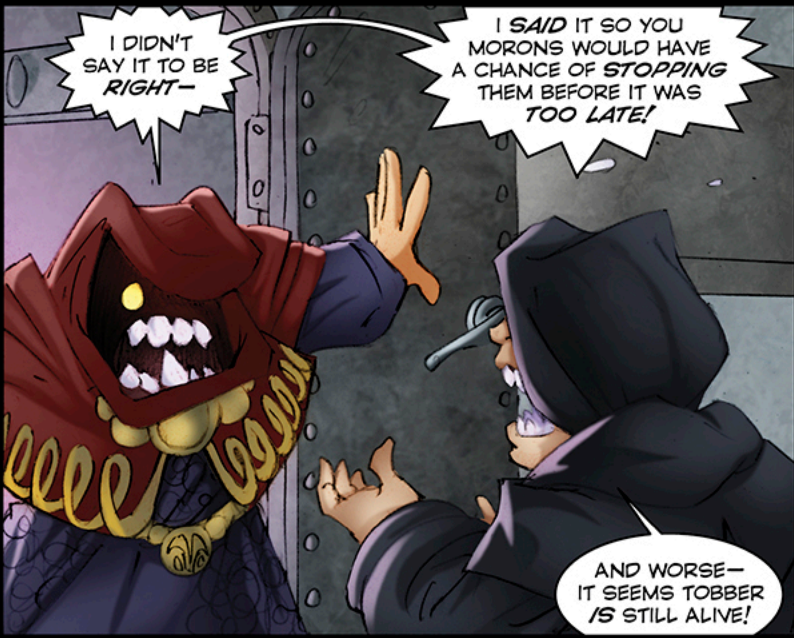
EVERYTHING
THAT'S GOING ON
HERE SEEMS DIRECTLY
CONNECTED TO
MECHANICSBURG.

I WANT...NO,
I NEED TO SEE
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING DOWN
THERE.



SIR! YOUR LORDSHIP!

THE OUTSIDERS HAVE ESCAPED— AND YOU WERE RIGHT! DOCTOR VAPNOOPLE AND ALL HIS CREATURES ARE ON THE MOVE!



I DIDN'T SAY IT TO BE RIGHT—

I SAID IT SO YOU MORONS WOULD HAVE A CHANCE OF STOPPING THEM BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!

AND WORSE— IT SEEMS TOBBER IS STILL ALIVE!



I KNOW! UNBELIEVABLE! YOU IDIOTS WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL HIM!

WE—WE DID! WE STUFFED HIM DOWN THE GRINDER! —BUT HE'S THERE, WITH THE OUTSIDERS!



IT MUST BE SORCERY! I SAW—

"SORCERY?!" —AND YOU DARE TO CALL YOURSELF A SCIENTIST?!

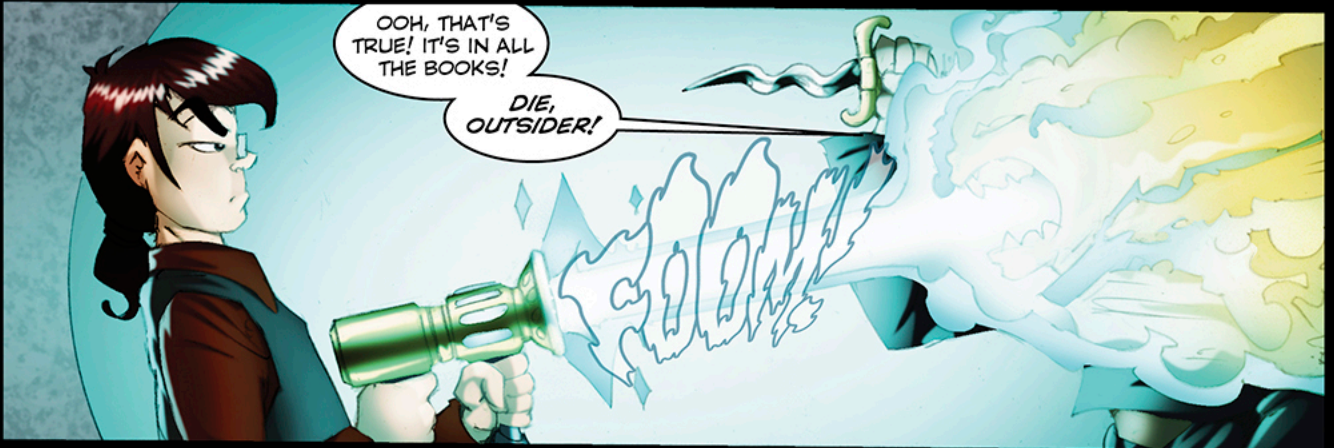
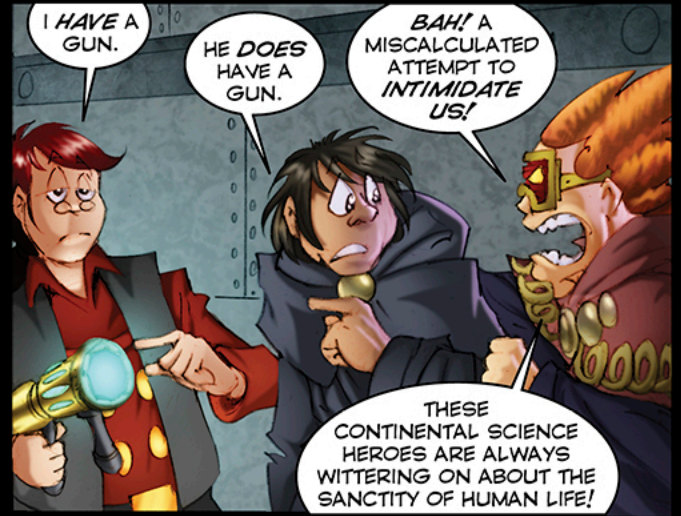


IF TOBBER IS ABLE TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE WITH DIMITRI VAPNOOPLE AND HIS MONSTERS BECAUSE YOU LOT WERE RUNNING AROUND LIKE PANICKED CHILDREN—

OH, NOW LET'S BE FAIR. YOU CAN'T EXPECT THEM TO THINK CLEARLY, CONSIDERING ALL THE NONSENSE YOU'VE BEEN FILLING THEIR HEADS WITH—



NOW CAN YOU, LORD SNACKLEFORD?





AAH!



HA! NOW, YOU WILL FACE OUR WRATH!



UGH. MISSED.



—WHILE I AM...AH...BUSY ELSEWHERE!



THAT THE LEADER?

COULD BE. I DOUBT IT, THOUGH.

WANT ME TO GET HIM?



NOOOO—I THINK YOU'RE FINE RIGHT HERE.

OH. YEAH—FORGOT ABOUT THAT.



AIN'T YOU GONNA SHOOT IT?

CHEAP GUN. IT'S RE-CHARGING.

SO—WHERE WOULD YOU PUT THIS ON THE MONSTER SCALE?

SMACK!

WHICH ONE?



THERE'S MORE THAN ONE?

CRACK!

SURE. BET YOU'RE USING THE OLD PERSEUS-BEOWULF CODEX SYSTEM.



IT'S WHAT WE LEARNED AT UNIVERSITY...

UH HUH. ALL FULL OF ALCHEMICAL WEAKNESSES AND ARISTOTELIAN CLASSIFICATIONS.

SO? IT WORKS.



ONLY 'CAUSE IT WAS MODIFIED BY THE VAN VOGT ADDENDUM OF 1790.

STILL GOOD FOR ACADEMICS, I GUESS...AND POSTMORTEMS...

SO WHAT DO YOU USE?

DEPENDS. IN FOREIGN PARTS, THE MCGUIRE BOOKE OF BEASTIES IS PRETTY GOOD—



BUT IN EUROPA, YOU REALLY SHOULD USE SNAGAPPLE'S MONSTROSIUM.

OOF.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT.

'S WHAT ALL THE MONSTER HUNTERS USE.

SWAM!



IT'S A... WHATAYACALLIT...

A LIVING DOCUMENT.

AIN'T AFRAID TO REGISTER CHANGES.

OOOH, TRUE! THE OLD P AND B DOESN'T EVEN LIST DROP BEARS.

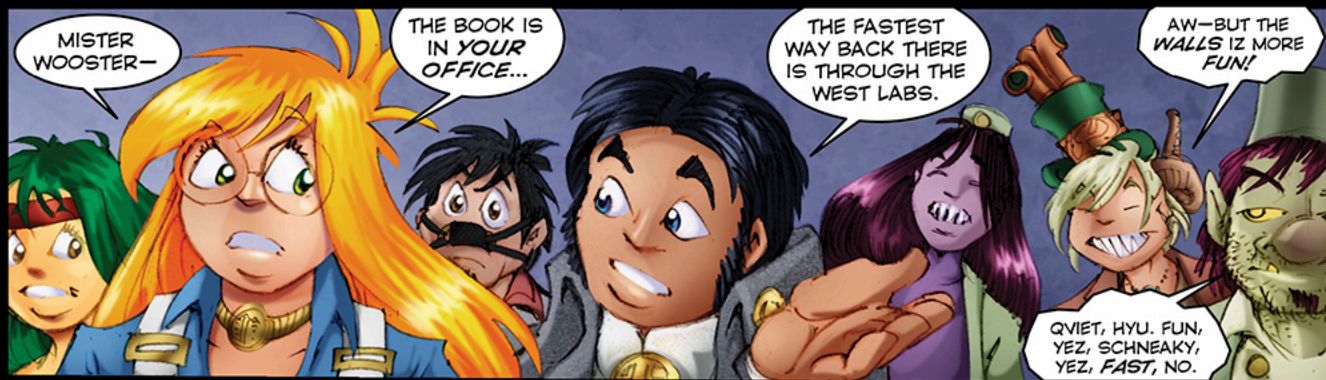
HUH.

SO, ON THE SNAGAPPLE SCALE...?



THIS GUY? TWO, MAYBE THREE.

OH, THAT IS GOOD NEWS!



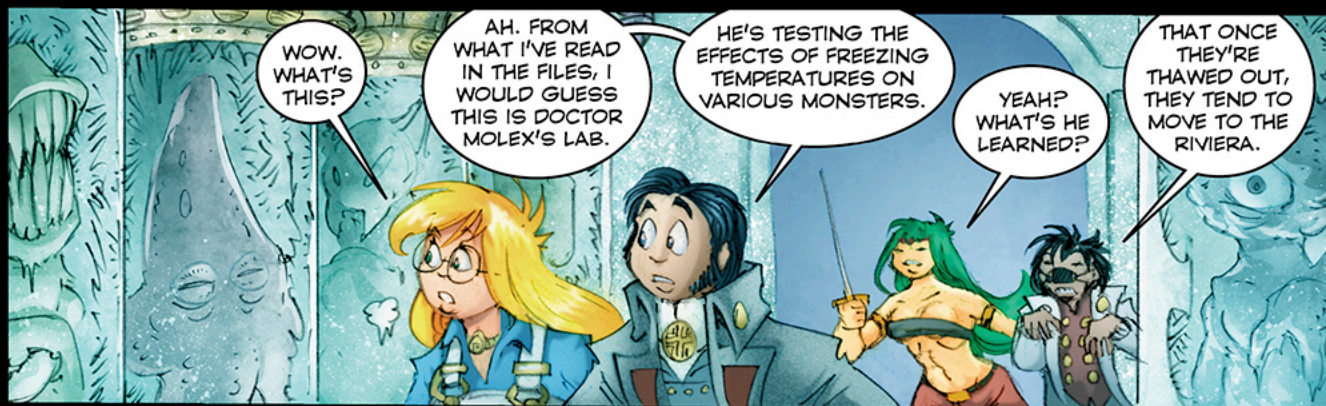
MISTER WOOSTER—

THE BOOK IS IN YOUR OFFICE...

THE FASTEST WAY BACK THERE IS THROUGH THE WEST LABS.

AW—BUT THE WALLS IZ MORE FUN!

QUIET, HYU. FUN, YEZ, SCHNEAKY, YEZ, FAST, NO.



WOW. WHAT'S THIS?

AH. FROM WHAT I'VE READ IN THE FILES, I WOULD GUESS THIS IS DOCTOR MOLEX'S LAB.

HE'S TESTING THE EFFECTS OF FREEZING TEMPERATURES ON VARIOUS MONSTERS.

YEAH? WHAT'S HE LEARNED?

THAT ONCE THEY'RE THAWED OUT, THEY TEND TO MOVE TO THE RIVIERA.



—AND THIS ONE?

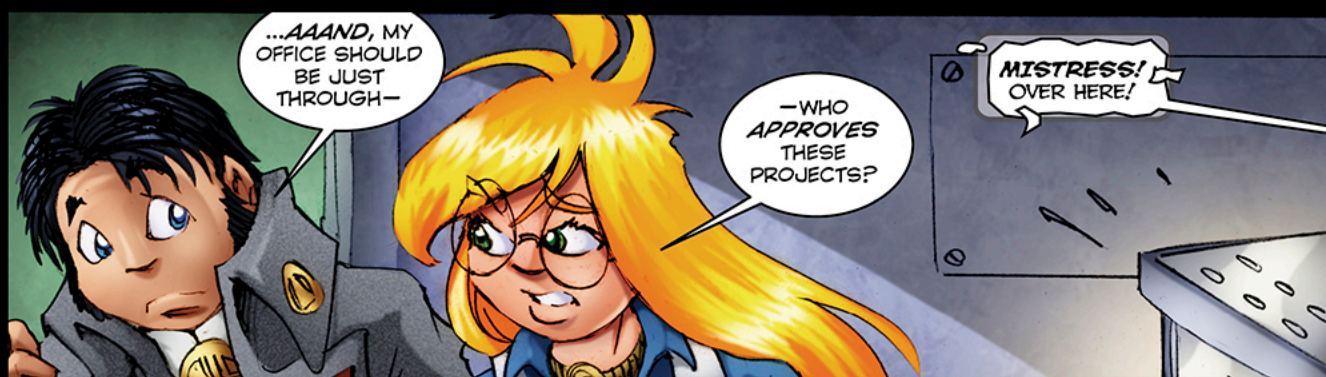
SOME SORT OF MACHINE FOR COUNTING SPIDERS.

REALLY?

YES. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT IT MAY NOT JUST BE COUNTING THEM, BUT CALLING IN NEW ONES.

EVIDENCE?

WELL THAT'S WHAT THE SPIDERS TELL US.



...AAAND, MY OFFICE SHOULD BE JUST THROUGH—

—WHO APPROVES THESE PROJECTS?

MISTRESS! OVER HERE!



I FEARED YOU WOULD NEVER FIND US!

CASTLE!
—AND THE TRAIN! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

IT WAS DOCTOR COMPOCULOUS! HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY TRUSTING NATURE!



—AND THIS FOOL STOPPED HELPING WITH MY ESCAPE AFTER THEY LET IT RUN THE MODEL RAILROAD!

HIT IZ A LEEDLE TOWN!

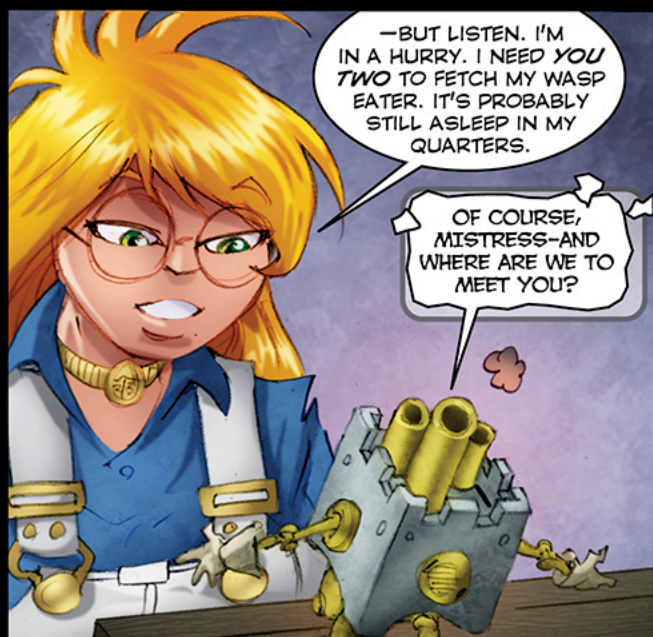
VIT LEEDLE TRAINZ!
UND LEEDLE SCREAMINK PIPPLE!



DID IT HAVE OTHER TRAINS YOU COULD BLOW UP?

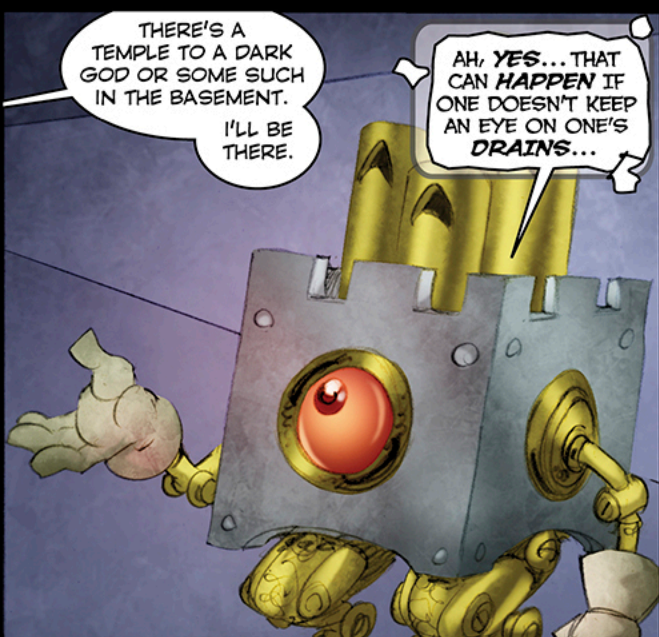
'S...

THEN WE'LL SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT.



—BUT LISTEN. I'M IN A HURRY. I NEED YOU TWO TO FETCH MY WASP EATER. IT'S PROBABLY STILL ASLEEP IN MY QUARTERS.

OF COURSE, MISTRESS—AND WHERE ARE WE TO MEET YOU?



THERE'S A TEMPLE TO A DARK GOD OR SOME SUCH IN THE BASEMENT. I'LL BE THERE.

AH, YES... THAT CAN HAPPEN IF ONE DOESN'T KEEP AN EYE ON ONE'S DRAINS...





MIND IF I ASK A PERSONAL QUESTION?

NOW?

I FIND PEOPLE DON'T BOTHER TO LIE IN EXTREMIS.

TRUE... SO?



DOES PRINCESS ZEETHA KNOW WHAT YOU ARE?

NO. SHE DON'T.



THAT'S GOT TO BE HARD.

YEP—BUT I'M USED TO KEEPING MUM.

OH, YOU MEAN SHE'S ONLY THE LATEST?



NO!

NEVER! I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS FOR A WOMAN! EVER!

THAT'S WHY IT'S SO HARD!



OH. I SEE.

YEAH... I'M BETTIN' YOU DO.



PLUS, SHE'D FEEL BAD 'BOUT NOT TELLING THE LADY, AND...

YES, I GET IT—

BEEP!

AH. FINALLY.



WELL, THEY WON'T HEAR IT FROM ME.

IF I THOUGHT OTHERWISE, I'D GUT YOU AND TURN YOU INSIDE OUT.

...GOOD TALK.



AAH! WHAT—
WHERE ARE
WE?

RELAX.
WE'RE ON MY
AIRSHIP.



...BUT—ALBIA.
SHE WAS TALKING
ABOUT LUCREZIA—AND
HOW SHE HAS TO BE
STOPPED—AND—

AND
THEN WE
LEFT.

SORRY ABOUT
THE WEIRDNESS—
I TOLD YOU. THE
QUEEN'S HENGE HAS
DEFENSES AGAINST
THE UNINITIATED.



IMPRESSIVE...

NOW, IT'LL
TAKE US
AROUND THREE
HOURS TO—

AND
MISLEADING.

WHAT?

YOU DON'T
CHOOSE TO
RECOUNT THE REST
OF THE VISIT?



WHERE MY SON
DESCRIBED THE METHOD HE
AND PRINCE STURMVORAU
HOPE TO USE TO FREE THE
YOUNG LADY HETERODYNE OF
LUCREZIA'S CONTROL—

AH. HERR
BARON.

OR THE
SEVERAL SMALL
IMPROVEMENTS
ALBIA HAS MADE TO
THIS PLAN, WHICH
SHE HAS SUBTLY
WOVEN INTO HIS
MEMORY?



MY QUEEN
DOES TRY
TO RESIST MEDDLING
WITH PEOPLE'S
MINDS—

BUT WHEN
SHE FEELS SHE
MUST, SHE
PREFERS TO DO IT
VERY QUIETLY.



YES, I KNOW.
I RESPECT
THE FACT THAT SHE
NEVER TRIED TO
DO IT TO ME.

—BUT HOW
WOULD YOU
EVEN—

I WOULD
KNOW.



NO MATTER.
THEIR SUCCESS
IS PRACTICALLY
ASSURED.

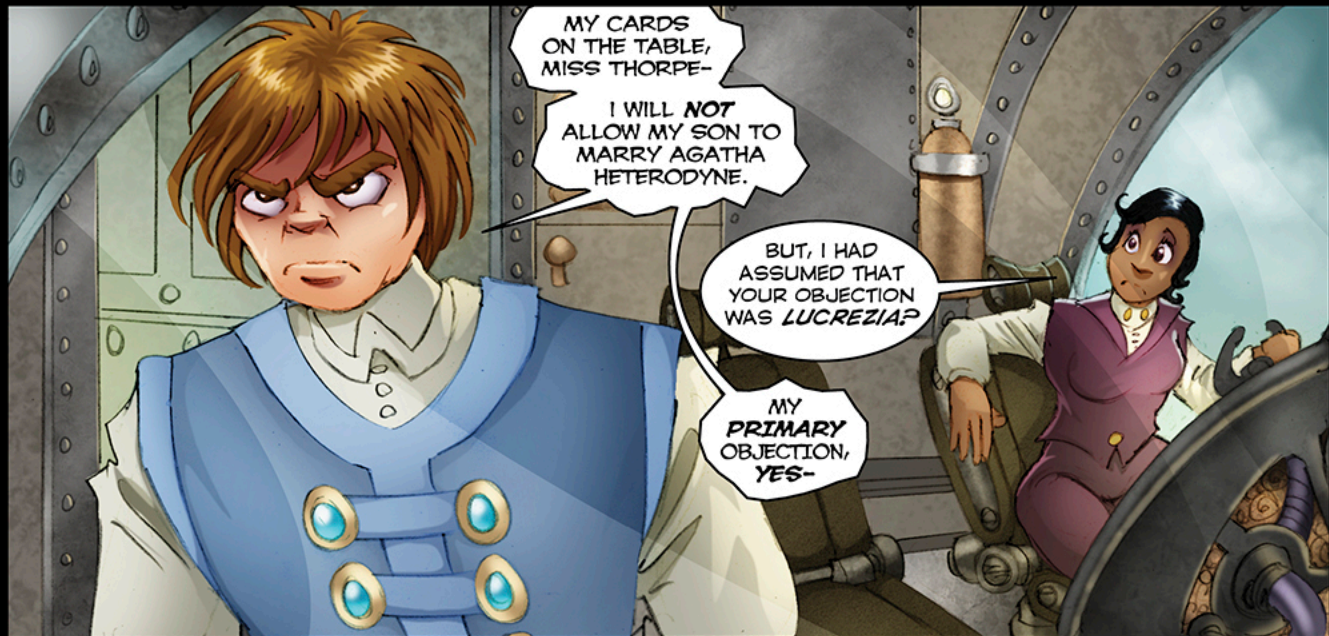
LUCREZIA WILL
BE COMPLETELY
ERASED FROM THE
HETERODYNE GIRL.
THIS IS GOOD—

BUT IT LEAVES
ME WITH A NEW
PROBLEM.



GOING FORWARD,
MISS THORPE, IT
WOULD SEEM OUR
GOALS WILL BE ONE
AND THE SAME.

OH?



MY CARDS ON THE TABLE, MISS THORPE—
I WILL **NOT** ALLOW MY SON TO MARRY AGATHA HETERODYNE.

BUT, I HAD ASSUMED THAT YOUR OBJECTION WAS **LUCREZIA?**

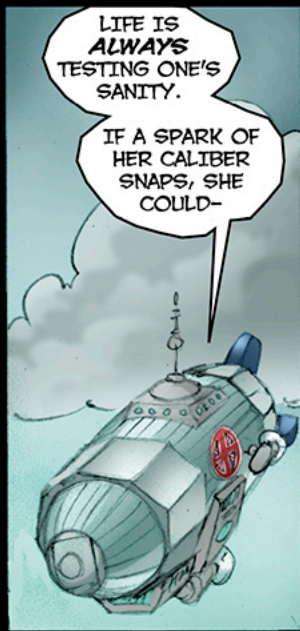
MY **PRIMARY** OBJECTION, YES—



BUT HER FAMILY HISTORY ON **BOTH SIDES** CONTAINS **ASTONISHING** LEVELS OF **OUTRIGHT EVIL**.

ER...WELL... **HEREDITY ISN'T EVERYTHING...**

NO, BUT I DO **NOT** CHOOSE TO TAKE THE CHANCE.



LIFE IS **ALWAYS** TESTING ONE'S SANITY.

IF A SPARK OF HER CALIBER SNAPS, SHE COULD—



—PUT HER FOOT DOWN AND FOUND AN EMPIRE THAT ABSORBS ALL OF EUROPA?



...A-HEH.
YES... **YOU** WILL DO **NICELY**.



FOR **WHAT**, EXACTLY?

ALBIA WANTS **YOU** TO PUT AN END TO MY SON'S OBSESSION WITH THE HETERODYNE GIRL,
AND, IDEALLY, FORMALLY TIE MY EMPIRE TO BRITAIN BY BLOOD AND MARRIAGE.

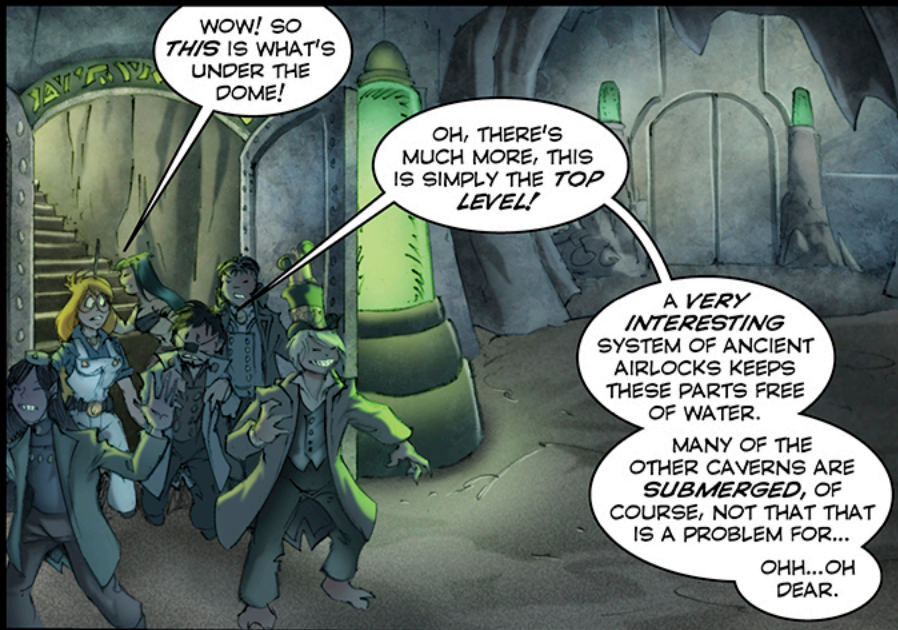


...
I **WOULDN'T** DO IT IF I DIDN'T LIKE HIM...



WOULDN'T YOU? WELL, HE IS A **VERY LIKEABLE** FELLOW.
HE GETS IT FROM HIS **MOTHER**, I SUPPOSE.

HAVE NO FEAR, I **APPROVE**.
IN FACT, I WILL **HELP** YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN.



WOW! SO THIS IS WHAT'S UNDER THE DOME!

OH, THERE'S MUCH MORE, THIS IS SIMPLY THE TOP LEVEL!

A VERY INTERESTING SYSTEM OF ANCIENT AIRLOCKS KEEPS THESE PARTS FREE OF WATER.

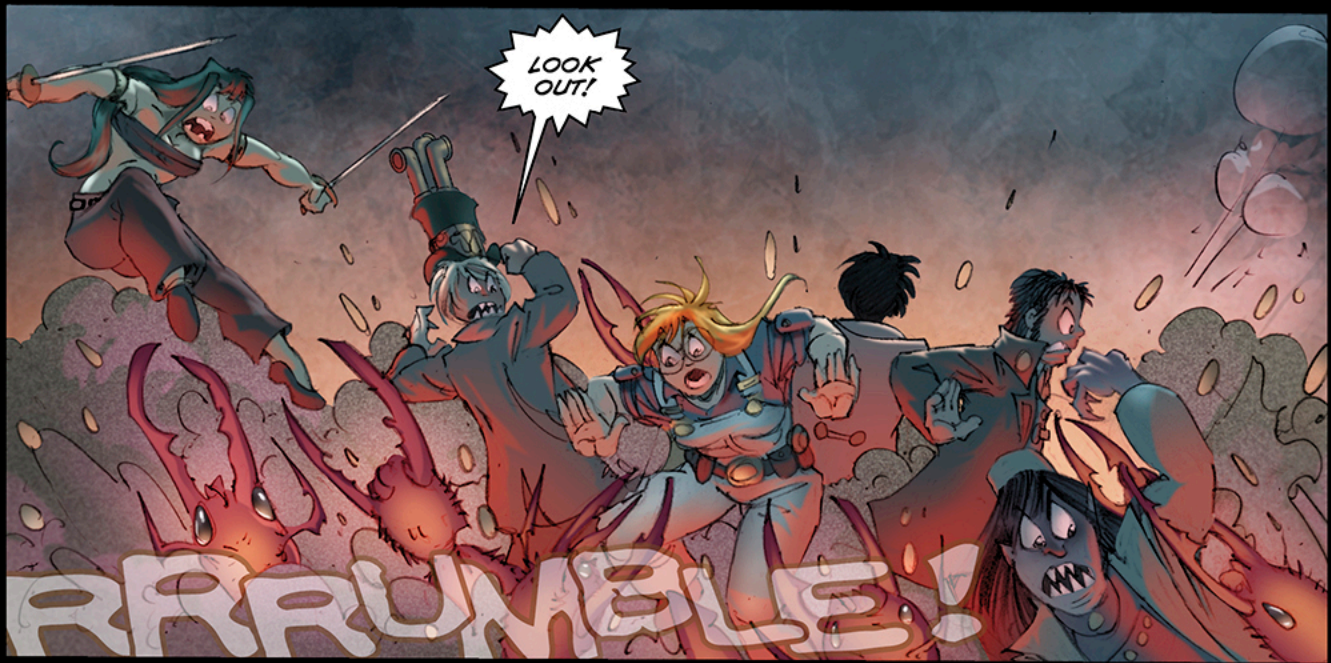
MANY OF THE OTHER CAVERNS ARE SUBMERGED, OF COURSE, NOT THAT THAT IS A PROBLEM FOR...

OHH...OH DEAR.



WHAT'S WRONG?

SOMETHING SEEMS... OFF...



LOOK OUT!



MAXIM! GET TO DE LADY!

HY CAN'T! DESE TINGS HAZ GOT'S ME!



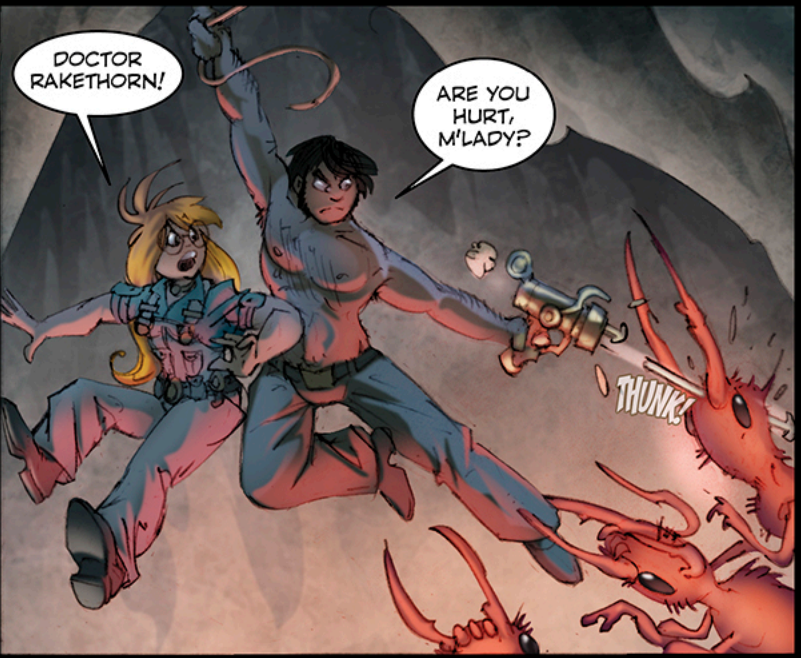
AAH! THEY'RE PULLING ME DOWN!



THUNK!



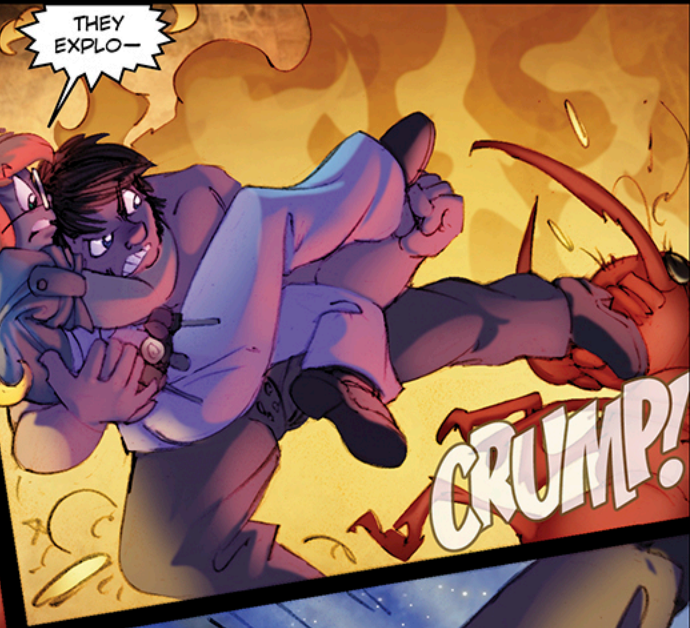
SWOOP!





LOOK OUT!

SNAP!



THEY EXPLO—

CRUMP!



SKREEEEEEEE



WELL, THAT SHOULD BE ALL OF THEM...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OH, YES.



GOOT YORK, HERO!

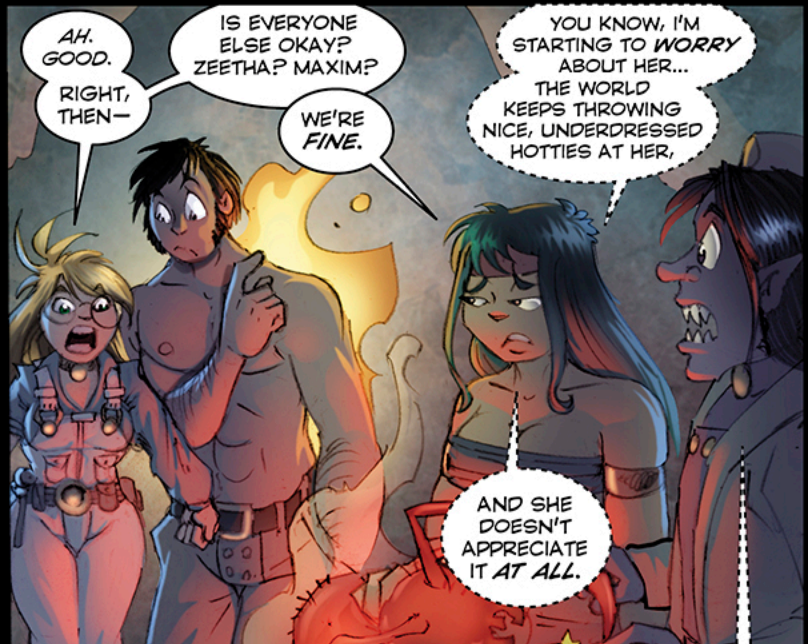
SMACK!



OH—YOUR BACK—

NONSENSE!
IT'S NOTHING.

AS LONG
AS YOU'RE
SAFE—



AH.
GOOD.
RIGHT,
THEN—

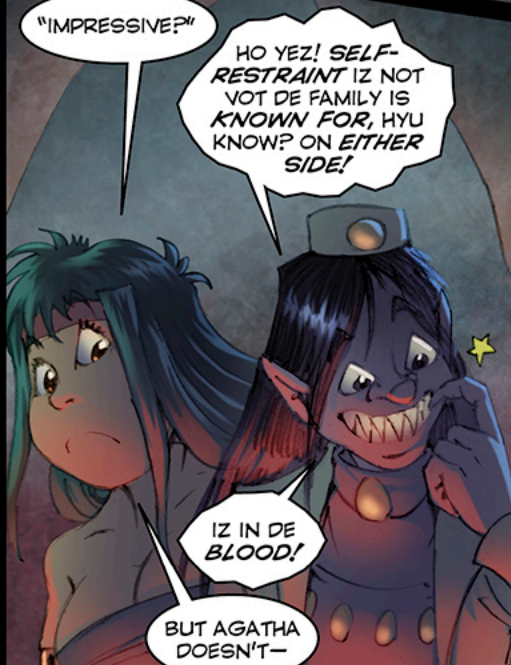
IS EVERYONE
ELSE OKAY?
ZEETHA? MAXIM?

WE'RE
FINE.

YOU KNOW, I'M
STARTING TO WORRY
ABOUT HER...
THE WORLD
KEEPS THROWING
NICE, UNDERDRESSED
HOTTIES AT HER,

AND SHE
DOESN'T
APPRECIATE
IT AT ALL.

YAH, DOT IZ
IMPRESSIVE.



"IMPRESSIVE?"

HO YEZ! SELF-
RESTRAINT IZ NOT
VOT DE FAMILY IS
KNOWN FOR, HYU
KNOW? ON EITHER
SIDE!

IZ IN DE
BLOOD!

BUT AGATHA
DOESN'T—



VELL, OV
CAUZE NOT.

SHE GOTTS
LADY LUCREZIA
IN HER HEAD.

SHE KENT
EVER LET
DOWN HER
GUARD.



UGH. YEAH,
TRYING TO GET
ROMANTIC WITH HER
WATCHING... I SEE
WHAT YOU MEAN.

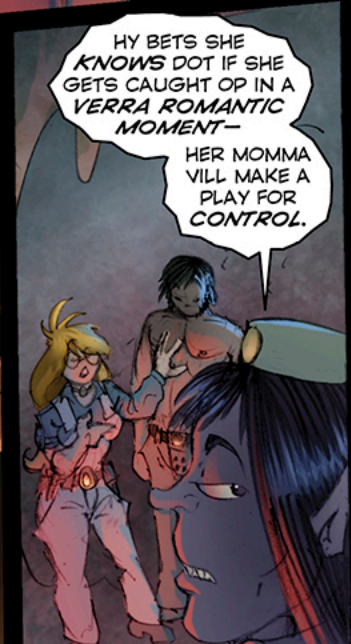
YUK.

IZ MORE
DEN "YUK"
HY THINKS.



"DOT LUCREZIA VOS
VERRA GOOT AT HAFFING
HER FUN UND SCHEMING,
BOTH AT DE SAME TIME—

BUT OUR LADY HERE
GOTS ALMOST NO
PRACTICE VIT DOT
SORT OV TING."



HY BETS SHE
KNOWS DOT IF SHE
GETTS CAUGHT OP IN A
VERRA ROMANTIC
MOMENT—

HER MOMMA
VILL MAKE A
PLAY FOR
CONTROL.



OOOH...
YEAH...

I'VE GOT TO
STOP TEASING
HER.

ON DE ODDER
HAND, VEN HER
MOMMA IZ
GONE—

DOSE BOYS
OV HERS HAD
BETTER VATCH
OUT!



-BUT THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE!

SERIOUSLY?! THAT IS HOW YOU NAVIGATE?

THEN THAT IS WHERE WE SHALL LOOK!

IT IS WORKING WELL ENOUGH! YOU JUST BE QUIET AND DRIVE!

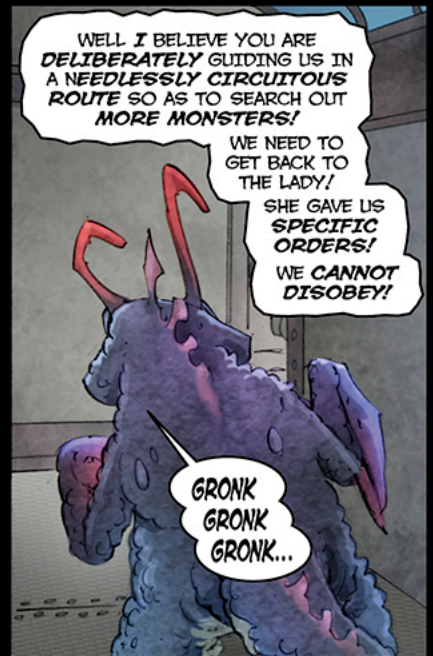
GRRRRONGLE...



I AM! THIS CREATURE HAS NO BRAIN AT ALL!

DO YOU THINK MY JOB IS EASY? THIS PLACE HAS NO COHERENT LAYOUT!

GRAR?



WELL I BELIEVE YOU ARE DELIBERATELY GUIDING US IN A NEEDLESSLY CIRCUITOUS ROUTE SO AS TO SEARCH OUT MORE MONSTERS!

WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE LADY!

SHE GAVE US SPECIFIC ORDERS! WE CANNOT DISOBEY!

GRONK GRONK GRONK...



HO HO HO! MY DEAR TRAIN!

GRAAAAAH!

YOU MUST LET ME TEACH YOU ABOUT SEMANTICS!

WHOO! LOOK OUT!



POW!

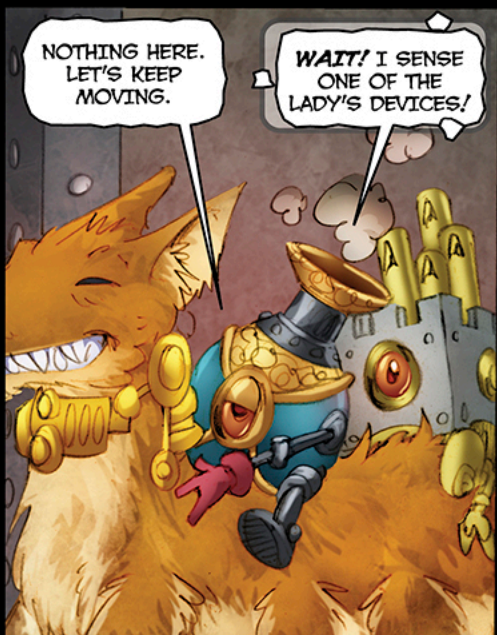
FWUMP!



FIE. WE ARE DOWN TO TWO SHOTS.

NO MATTER. LET'S CHECK THAT LAB UP AHEAD.

YES, YES...



NOTHING HERE. LET'S KEEP MOVING.

WAIT! I SENSE ONE OF THE LADY'S DEVICES!



STURMHALTEN

OOOH! INTERESTING!

I WONDER WHAT IT'S FOR!



KROSP!
THERE YOU ARE!
WHERE IS AGATHA?

THE WHOLE PLACE
HAS GONE CRAZY—
EVERYTHING'S
TRYING TO KILL
US!

OH. YEAH.
SHE'S GONE TO
SOME KIND OF
SUBTERRANEAN
TEMPLE UNDER THE
DOME OR
SOMETHING.



BY
HERSELF?

OF COURSE
NOT. ZEETHA,
WOOSTER AND THE
OTHER JÄGERS
WENT WITH HER.

APPARENTLY
EVERYBODY HERE
IS SOME KIND OF
CULTIST, AND
THEY'RE PLANNING TO
SUMMON AN EXTRA-
DIMENSIONAL
MONSTER.



—AND, OF
COURSE, THE
LADY HETERODYNE
HAS DECIDED SHE
NEEDED TO SEE
IT?

PRETTY MUCH.
THE BEARS AND I
HAVE SECURED A
SUPPLY SUB.

POPPA IS
SAFE THERE. TELL
AGATHA IT'S
DOCK TWENTY.



WHY DON'T
YOU TELL
HER?

BECAUSE I'M
NOT INSANE?
BESIDES, SHE TOLD
ME TO GET THE
SUB READY.

I
SEE.



YOU DIDN'T
MENTION
VIOLETTA.

HAVE YOU
SEEN HER?

NOT FOR A
WHILE. I THINK
SHE'S DEAD.



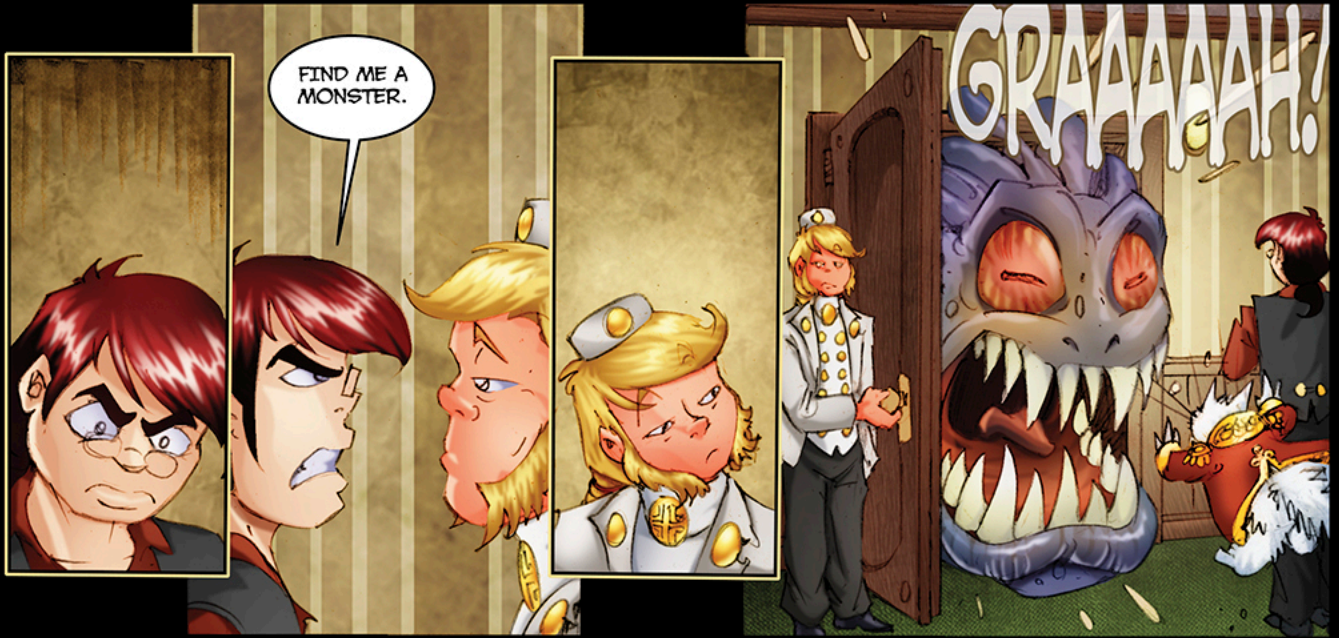
WHAT?!

SHE'S TOO
LOYAL TO BE
GONE THIS
LONG,
AND THIS
PLACE ISN'T
THAT BIG.

ERGO—
DEAD.



IT'S TOO
BAD... SHE HAD A
COMFY LAP.





HUH. YOU'RE STILL UPSET.

YES! I AM!

WHY? ALL YOU TWO EVER DID WAS FIGHT.

OF COURSE WE FOUGHT! WE WERE PRACTICALLY SIBLINGS!



BUT...BUT I THOUGHT I'D SAVED HER.

UGH, AND NOW THIS THING'S DRAINED AGAIN.

LISTEN-



I...

WELL, I'M THE HEIR TO THE STORM KING AND ALL THAT-

BUT THAT JUST MAKES ME A USEFUL PAWN.



I'VE NEVER HAD ANY REAL POWER IN THE FAMILY-

JUST WHATEVER I COULD MANAGE WITH GUILE.

I COULDN'T PROTECT MY SISTER-



"EVEN WHEN SHE WAS DYING, THE BEST I COULD DO WAS BUILD A CLANK TO TAKE HER PLACE-

AND I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP THAT CLANK ANEVKA SAFE."



"I PULLED ALL KINDS OF DIRTY TRICKS JUST TO GET COUSIN ZULENNA SENT TO CASTLE WULFENBACH... THE SAFEST PLACE I KNEW-

ZULENNA WAS ALWAYS... VERY KIND TO ME..."

"BUT SHE DIED ANYWAY..."



"AND THEN I MET AGATHA... AND SHE WAS SO WONDERFUL, AND I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD SAVE HER... AND WE COULD BE TOGETHER, AND-

AND I TRIED TO GET HER AWAY-AND I FAILED AGAIN.

THEY PUT HER IN LUCREZIA'S MACHINE, AND I THOUGHT-NO, I KNEW SHE WAS GONE-"

"AND I'D DONE NOTHING."



"WHEN AGATHA CAME BACK, IT WAS LIKE A MIRACLE. I WAS SO HAPPY... BUT SHE DID THAT. NOT ME.

I NEVER DID ANYTHING TO REALLY HELP ANYONE I CARED ABOUT... EXCEPT VIOLETTA.

I FINALLY FOUND VIOLETTA A PLACE WHERE SHE COULD BE HAPPY."

"I FELT... VERY GOOD ABOUT THAT."



-AND IF SHE IS DEAD, THEN THE ONLY PEOPLE I HAVE LEFT THAT I REALLY CARE ABOUT ARE AGATHA AND WULFENBACH-

AND THIS TIME, I'LL DESTROY ANYONE WHO THREATENS THEM! STARTING WITH THESE CLOWNS!

GOOD PRIORITIES, SIR-

AND WHEN WE'RE DONE? I'M BUYIN' YOU A DRINK.



HA! WELL DONE, YOUNG FELLOW! YOU GOT ALL OF THEM!

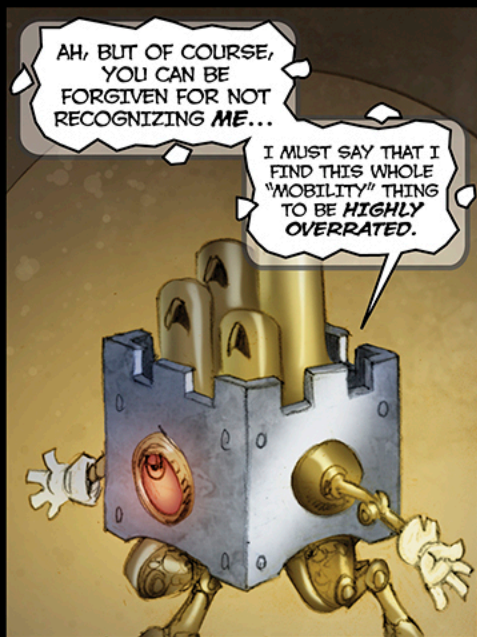
YES, YES, NICE SHOOTING-AND NOW, TO BUSINESS.



IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, GENERAL!

...HAVE WE MET?

I AM CASTLE HETERODYNE!



AH, BUT OF COURSE, YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN FOR NOT RECOGNIZING ME...

I MUST SAY THAT I FIND THIS WHOLE "MOBILITY" THING TO BE HIGHLY OVERRATED.



NEVERTHELESS, HERE WE ARE, AND A GOOD THING, TOO. THE MISTRESS IS IN NEED OF OUR AID!

YOU WILL COME WITH ME.

SURE SOUNDS LIKE THE CASTLE-

WELL, IT IS... SORT OF.



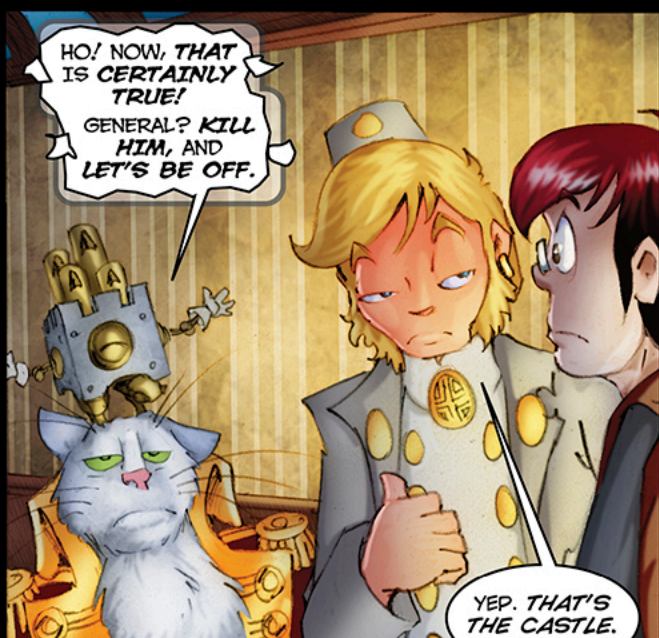
"SORT OF?!" IMPERTINENCE!

IT SEEMS TO BE A FRAGMENT OF THE CASTLE'S PERSONALITY.

IT TURNED UP IN PARIS-

WATCH YOUR TONE WHEN YOU SAY "FRAGMENT," YOU STURMVORAU'S DOG!

AND YOU'LL NOTICE IT'S GOT EVERY BIT OF THE CASTLE'S USUAL CHARM.



HO! NOW, THAT IS CERTAINLY TRUE! GENERAL? KILL HIM, AND LET'S BE OFF.

YEP. THAT'S THE CASTLE.



LE PORT DE CALAIS—

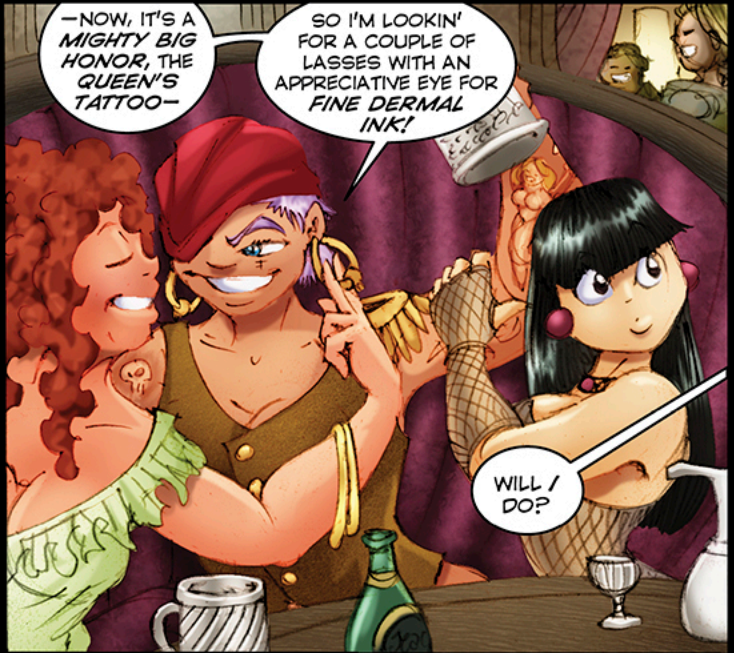
IS SHE STILL HERE?

FOR THE GOLD YOU'RE PAYIN' I'D'VE NAILED HER FEET TO THE FLOOR!

I TOLD 'EM IT WAS FREE DRINKS NIGHT.

(sigh.) ADD IT TO MY BILL.

ALREADY DID!



—NOW, IT'S A MIGHTY BIG HONOR, THE QUEEN'S TATTOO—

SO I'M LOOKIN' FOR A COUPLE OF LASSES WITH AN APPRECIATIVE EYE FOR FINE DERMAL INK!

WILL I DO?



SEFFIE! HO HO! YOU'LL DO AND THEN SOME! BARKEEP! ANOTHER BOTTLE!

BELAY THAT. A STRONG POT OF ENGINEER'S COFFEE. LARGE.



ARE YE MAD? IT'S FREE DRINKS NIGHT!

I NEED YOU SOBER, JEANNE.

BUT—

THE TORTOISE. FIVE THOUSAND GOLD DOLPHINS.



THUNDERIN' TYPHOONS! I'M NOT SELLIN' ME SHIP!

I'M NOT BUYING IT.



IT'S PASSAGE I NEED. FOR MYSELF—AND TWO OTHERS.

TO ENGLAND.

TONIGHT.

NOW.



SEFFIE, I'D TAKE YE FOR FREE. WHY SO MUCH?

NO CUSTOMS. NO OFFICIALS. NO PAPER. NO FLIGHT PLAN.

...WHY?



SOON—

LILLEGIRL. FIND THE CREW AND HAVE 'EM ABOARD THE TORTOISE IN TWENTY MINUTES.

—BUT CAPTAIN! ARE YE MAD? IT'S FREE DRINKS NIGHT!

I KNOW!

MEANWHILE—



IT...LOOKS LIKE NEARLY EVERYONE FROM THE DOME IS HERE.



WE LOOK LIKE IDIOTS IN THESE ROBES.

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION, OLD BOY...

WHAT?

WELL, WE ARE HERE TO DELIBERATELY SUMMON A TERRIBLY DANGEROUS MONSTER, ARE WE NOT?



OH. YES. I SEE...VERY DROLL.

I SUSPECT SOME OF US MAY NOT SURVIVE.

YES, YES. I'M IN THE BACK TOO, NOW AREN'T I?

YES...

AND THERE'S PROFESSOR QUIX, ALL EAGER AND BANG UP FRONT,

THE TOAD EATER.



I WANT TO KNOW WHERE SNACKLEFORD IS.

YES...I HOPE THE OUTSIDERS DIDN'T GET HIM...

BAH! MY LUMINOUS OCTOJELLIES ARE UNSTOPPABLE!

OR EVEN WORSE...THE BOILERGHAST...



DON'T BE DAFT! YOU KNOW THAT'S JUST A RUMOR JENKINS STARTED TO EXPLAIN THE MESS WHEN HIS HIDDEN STILL EXPLODED!

WELL, JENKINS COULD BE VERY CONVINCING...

...SERIOUSLY. WHY ARE YOU SO NEGATIVE?



BECAUSE THE GIRL IS A HETERODYNE.

I'VE STUDIED THE FAMILY HISTORY...

THOSE WHO OPPOSE THEM RARELY FARE WELL.

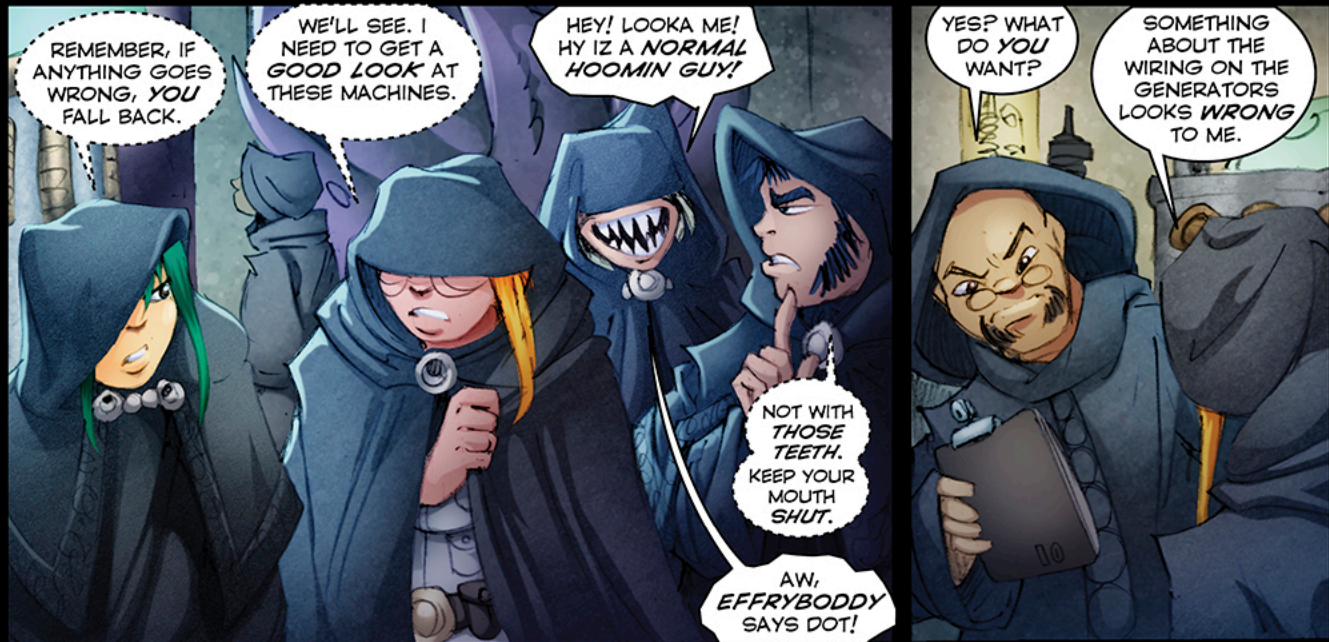


WE SHOULD HAVE—

OH.



tsk. I SUPPOSE NOBODY LIKES A WORRYWART.



REMEMBER, IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, YOU FALL BACK.

WE'LL SEE. I NEED TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT THESE MACHINES.

HEY! LOOKA ME! HY IZ A NORMAL HOOMIN GUY!

YES? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SOMETHING ABOUT THE WIRING ON THE GENERATORS LOOKS WRONG TO ME.

NOT WITH THOSE TEETH. KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

AW, EFFRYBODDY SAYS DOT!



OH, THIS IS DRIVING ME INSANE!

ISN'T DOT DE POINT?

SHH.

WHAT'S WRONG, PROFESSOR?



TOO MANY SPARKS, NOT ENOUGH MINIONS!

EVERYBODY WANTS TO TWEAK THIS THING!



THEY GET IN THERE AND MAKE "IMPROVEMENTS," AND THEN I HAVE TO GO BACK AND PUT EVERYTHING BACK IN ORDER.

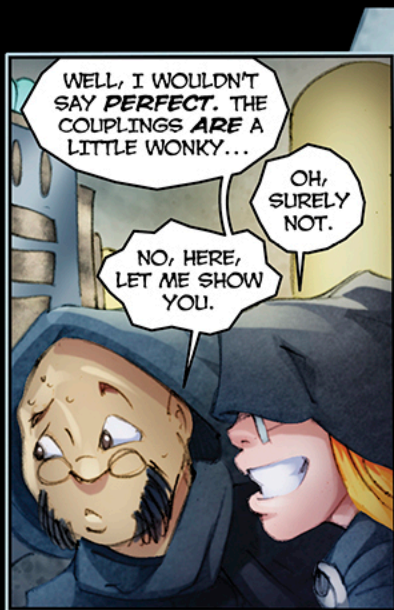
YOU AREN'T GOING TO GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE, ARE YOU?

GOODNESS, NO!



REALLY? NO CLEVER IDEAS ABOUT A BETTER WAY TO HOOK UP THE GENERATORS?

HEAVENS NO! IF YOU THINK THEY'RE PERFECT AS IS...



WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY PERFECT. THE COUPLINGS ARE A LITTLE WONKY...

OH, SURELY NOT.

NO, HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.



THANK YOU! THAT WAS VERY INSTRUCTIVE!

WHAT AM I DOING?

DID YOU TEACH HER THAT?

I DID NOT TEACH HER THAT!



SEE ANYONE WE KNOW?

TWO OF THEM OVER ON THAT BALCONY ACROSS THE WAY MOVE LIKE JÄGERS...

THAT PROBABLY MEANS THAT AGATHA IS HERE, TOO.

FINE. SO, WE NEED TO SHUT THIS THING DOWN AND GET US ALL OUT OF HERE.

THINK WE CAN TAKE ON THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM?

WHAT, THE WHOLE CROWD?

WELL, I'M COUNTING ON ABOUT TEN PERCENT TO JUST RUN AWAY...

MIGHT NOT. IF THEY'RE ALL SPARKS...IF THEY GOT WEAPONS...

OH, I ALWAYS ASSUME THEY HAVE WEAPONS.



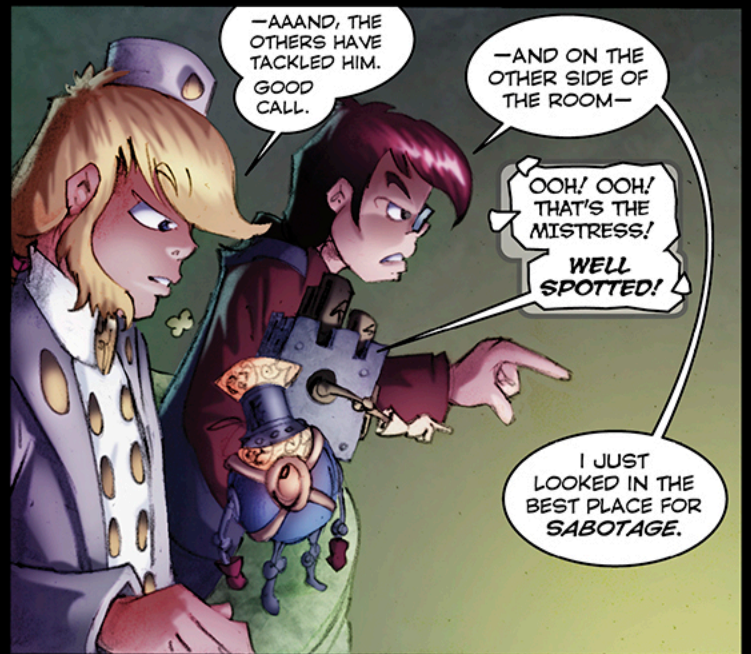
MM...

LOOK! THERE IS SOMETHING ODD—THAT FELLOW THERE IS **DISMANTLING A GENERATOR!**

NO, IT IS ODD.

THEY'RE IN A HURRY. THEY WOULDN'T—

OH, THEY'LL DO **THAT** AT THE DROP OF A HAT.



—AAAND, THE OTHERS HAVE TACKLED HIM. GOOD CALL.

—AND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM—

OOH! OOH! THAT'S THE MISTRESS! **WELL SPOTTED!**

I JUST LOOKED IN THE BEST PLACE FOR **SABOTAGE.**



YOU AIN'T ALONE. THEY'VE SEEN HER.

I GUESS NOW WE'LL FIND OUT HOW MANY HAVE WEAPONS...

LET'S START WITH 'ONE.'



IT'S THE **LADY HETERODYNE!**

AGATHA! WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, YOU NOW HAVE **LESS TIME TO GET IT DONE!**

I'M **ALMOST FINISHED!**



THERE! DONE!

KZAK!



WHAT HAVE YOU **DONE?!**

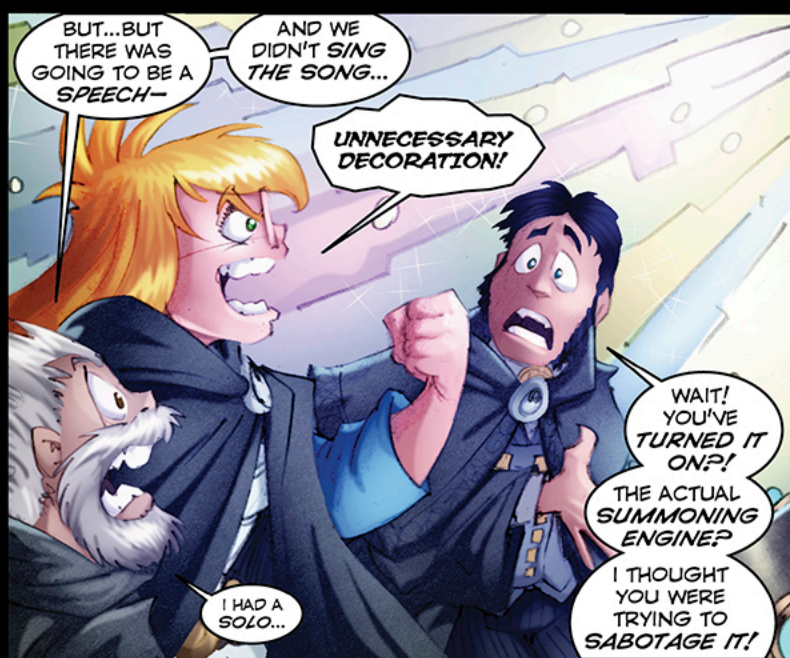
I'VE **ACTIVATED THE DEVICE!**



-BUT...THE **NORTH GENERATOR HAS BEEN DISABLED...**

YES! THE **WIRING WAS A MESS!**

IF YOU'D **TURNED IT ON, IT WOULD HAVE MELTED THE ENTIRE APPARATUS!**



BUT...BUT THERE WAS GOING TO BE A **SPEECH-**

AND WE **DIDN'T SING THE SONG...**

UNNECESSARY DECORATION!

WAIT! YOU'VE **TURNED IT ON?!**

THE **ACTUAL SUMMONING ENGINE?**

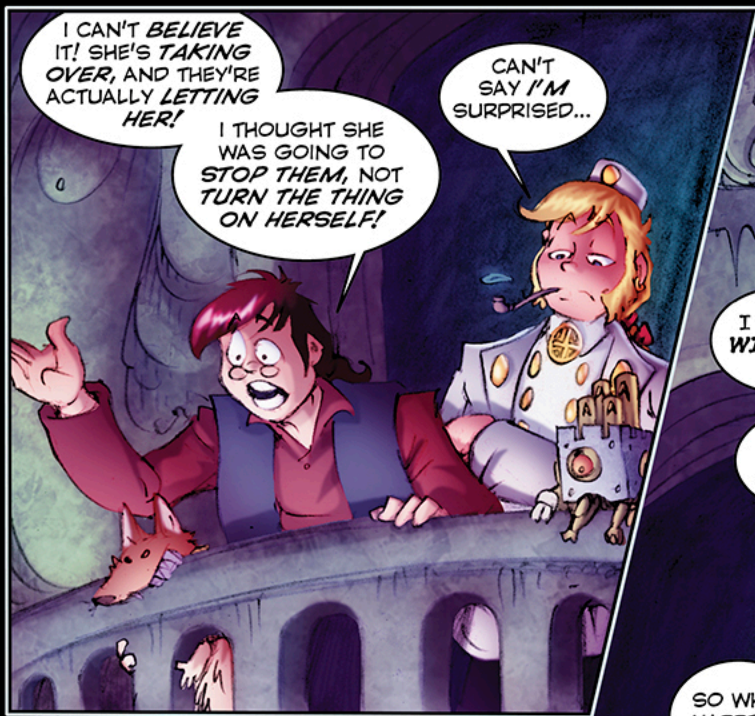
I **THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO SABOTAGE IT!**

I **HAD A SOLO...**



SABOTAGE? THEY'RE SUMMONING SOMETHING FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

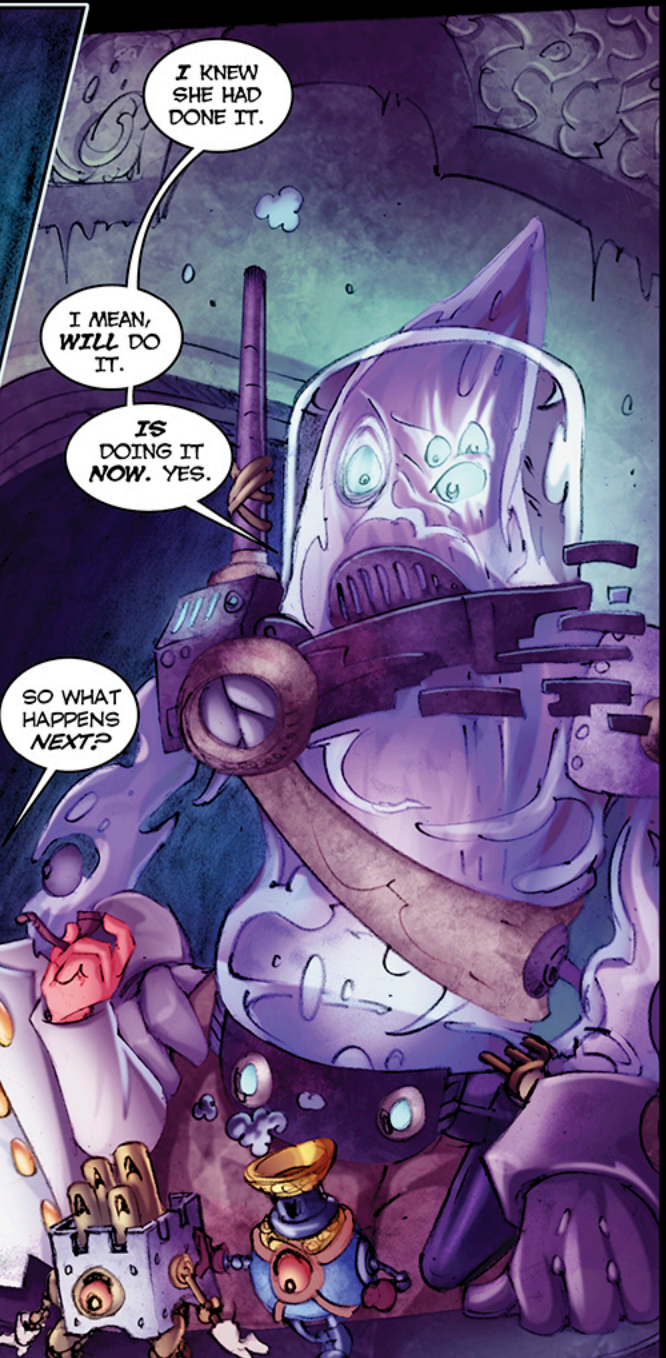
THAT'S **AMAZING! I'VE GOT TO SEE HOW IT WORKS!**



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE'S TAKING OVER, AND THEY'RE ACTUALLY LETTING HER!

I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO STOP THEM, NOT TURN THE THING ON HERSELF!

CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED...



I KNEW SHE HAD DONE IT.

I MEAN, WILL DO IT.

IS DOING IT NOW. YES.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



OH. THEY WILL SING THEIR LITTLE SONG.

"LITTLE SONG?"

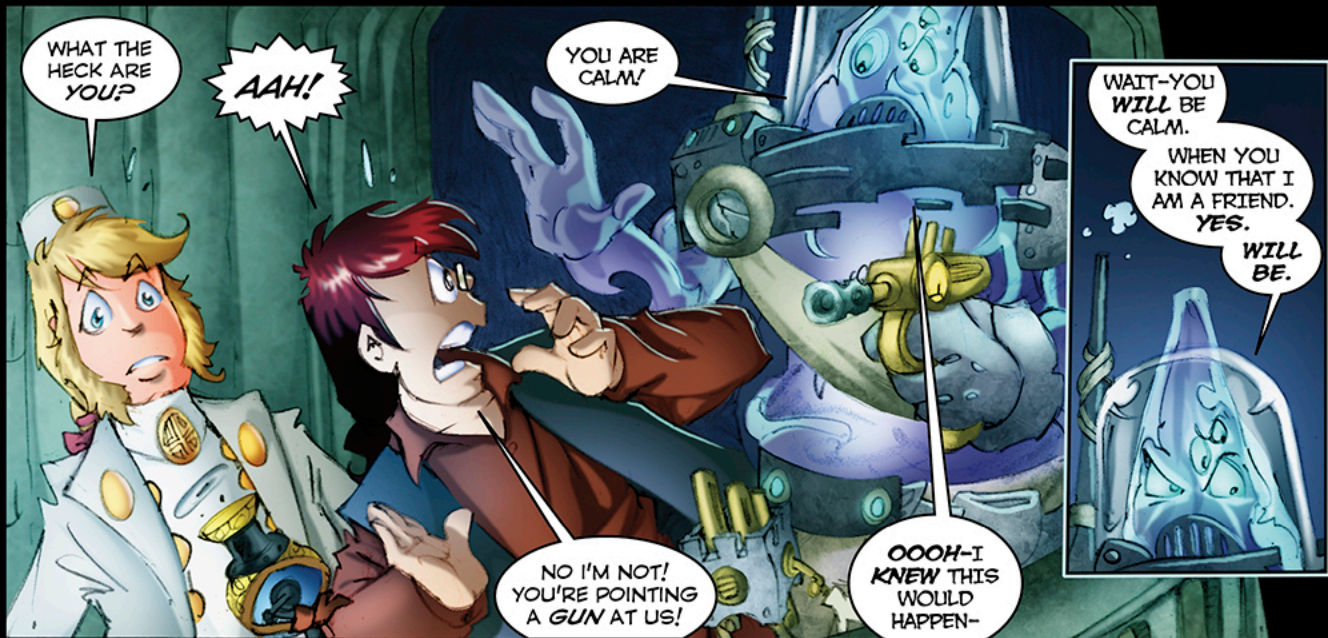
-AND IS SOMETHING GOING TO COME THROUGH?



OH YES. THEY HAVE OFFERED IT THE SACRIFICE.

NO- UH-

WILL OFFER IT. YES. THAT'S IT.



WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU?

AAH!

YOU ARE CALM!

WAIT-YOU WILL BE CALM.

WHEN YOU KNOW THAT I AM A FRIEND. YES.

WILL BE.

NO I'M NOT! YOU'RE POINTING A GUN AT US!

OOOH-I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN-



-AND IS SOMETHING GOING TO COME THROUGH?

WAIT... I...

UH...



WE ALREADY DID THIS.

YES. OUR DIMENSIONS WILL BE IN CONFLICT.

UM... ARE.

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO MAINTAIN INTACT SANITY.



WHOO! THAT'S A BIG MONSTER, ALL RIGHT.

THEY'RE SACRIFICING HER?

OH, NO!



CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED... HUH. THIS IS WEIRD.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO US?



EXISTING AT YOU, MOSTLY.

IT IS NOT A THING I CAN REALLY HELP.



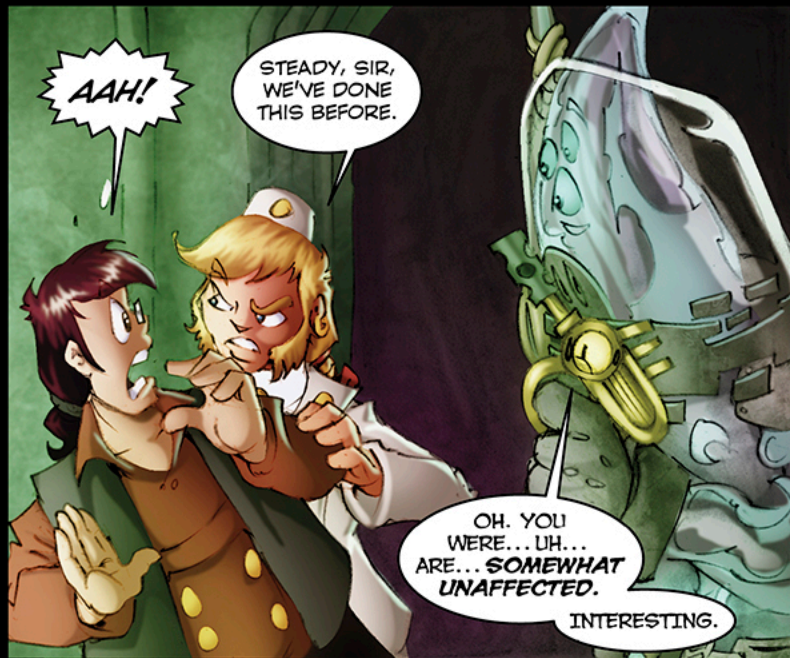
WHOA. IT'S REALLY WORKING! SOMETHING IS COMING OUT.



THIS IS POINTLESS.

I NEEDED YOUR HELP.

NEED.



AAH!

STEADY, SIR, WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE.

OH. YOU WERE... UH... ARE... **SOMEWHAT UNAFFECTED.**

INTERESTING.

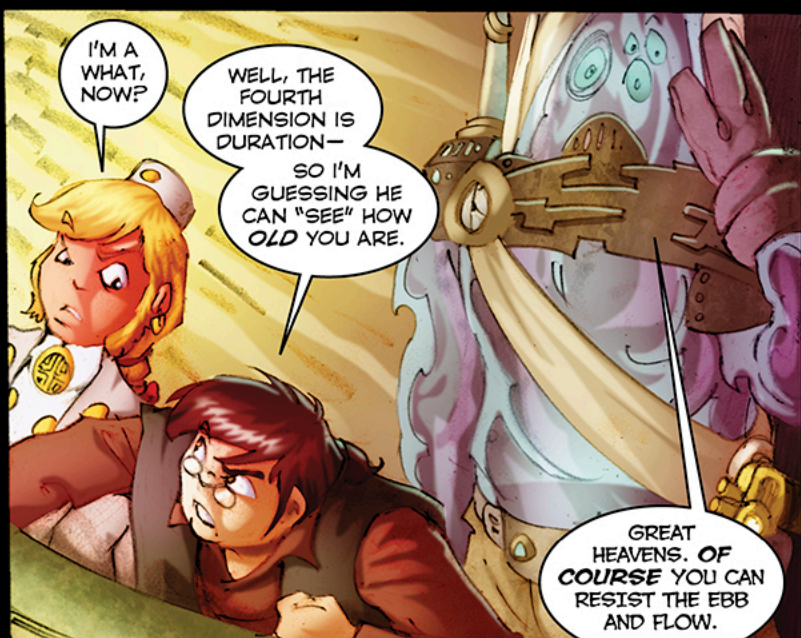


LET ME LOOK AT YOU— OH. GOODNESS. WHAT ARE YOU?



WHY? WHAT DO YOU SEE?

FOURTH DIMENSIONALLY, HE IS A **LEVIATHAN.**



I'M A WHAT, NOW?

WELL, THE FOURTH DIMENSION IS DURATION— SO I'M GUESSING HE CAN "SEE" HOW OLD YOU ARE.

GREAT HEAVENS. OF COURSE YOU CAN RESIST THE EBB AND FLOW.



THIS IS MOST FORTUITOUS.

WHAT? WHY?

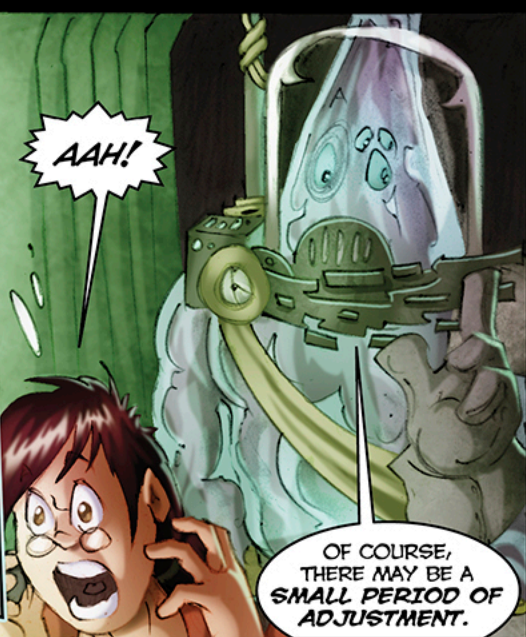
I CAN, PERHAPS, USE YOUR BULK TO ANCHOR HIM SOMEWHAT.

STAND STILL.

WHOA. IT'S REALLY WORKING! SOMETHING IS COMING OUT.

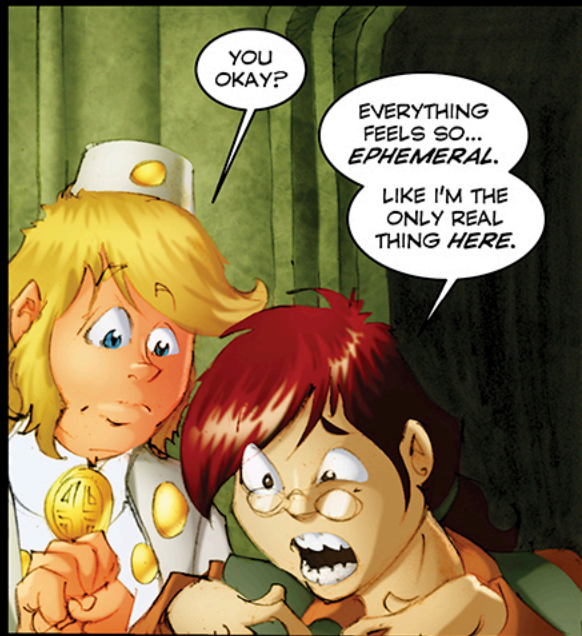


THERE. IT IS DONE.



AAH!

OF COURSE, THERE MAY BE A SMALL PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT.



YOU OKAY?

EVERYTHING FEELS SO... EPHEMERAL.

LIKE I'M THE ONLY REAL THING HERE.

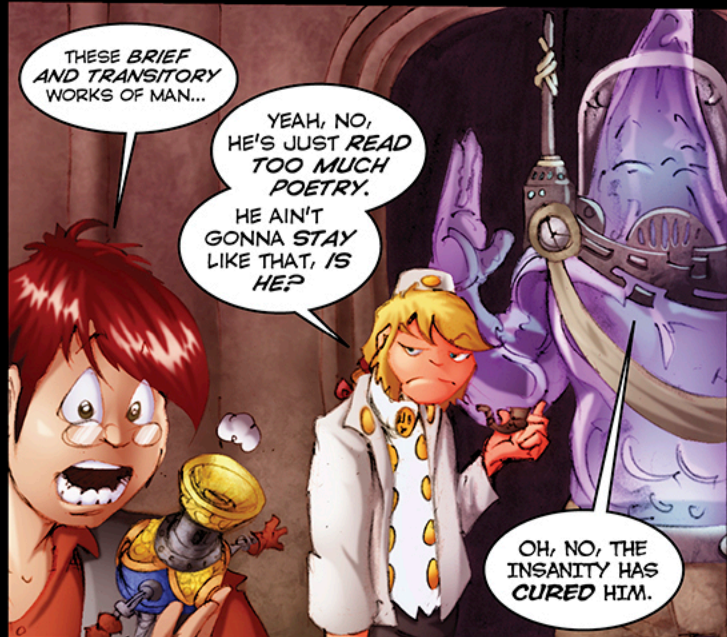


OH, THIS FRAGILE SHELL OF EARTH AND AIR...

THE HELL?

HE IS EXPERIENCING WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE SO MASSIVE ALL AT ONCE.

YOU, MOST LIKELY, HAVE ALWAYS FELT THIS WAY.



THESE BRIEF AND TRANSITORY WORKS OF MAN...

YEAH, NO, HE'S JUST READ TOO MUCH POETRY.

HE AIN'T GONNA STAY LIKE THAT, IS HE?

OH, NO, THE INSANITY HAS CURED HIM.



THE WHAT, NOW?

OH, I'M SORRY. **WILL** CURE HIM.

WHEN THE SUMMONING IS COMPLETE.

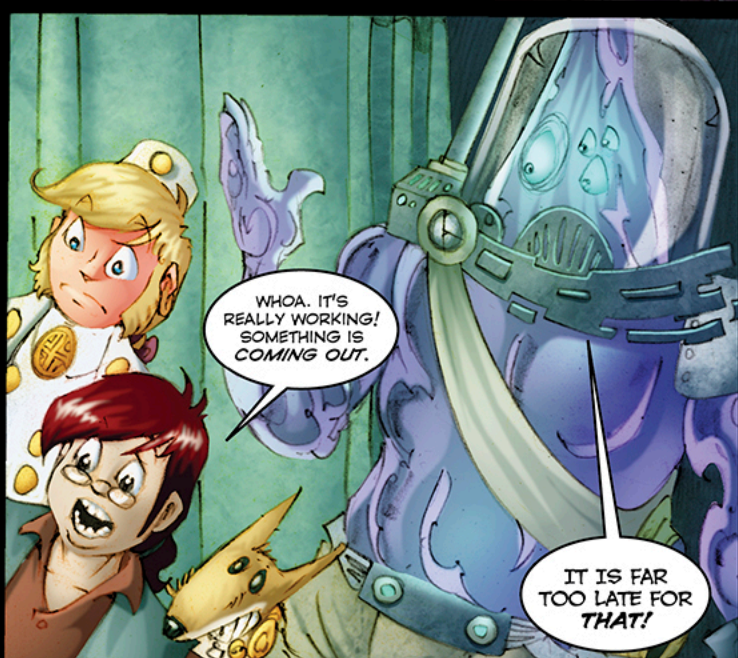
IT WILL DRIVE HIM INSANE.



I AM SURROUNDED BY MAYFLIES!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT!

OH, MY, I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD.



WHOA. IT'S REALLY WORKING! SOMETHING IS COMING OUT.

IT IS FAR TOO LATE FOR **THAT!**



WHOO! THAT'S
A **BIG MONSTER**,
ALL RIGHT.



YOU'VE **ALREADY** STARTED?! WITHOUT ME?!

IT'S THE HETERODYNE! SHE STARTED THE MACHINERY!

SHE'S TAKEN OVER!

NO!
THIS IS MY EXPERIMENT!



OH! THIS IS **WONDERFUL!**

IT'S OPENED UP A **WHOLE** NEW REALM OF QUESTIONS!

OH? WELL, **HERE'S** A GOOD ONE:

WHY ARE WE STILL HERE?!



-BUT SHE HASN'T TOUCHED THE **SECONDARY** APPARATUS.

I DON'T THINK SHE'S EVEN NOTICED IT, YET.

GOOD!

BEGIN THE WARM-UP SEQUENCE!



WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THAT **THING** IS STILL HERE.

I NOTICED!

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LEAVE IT HERE.

YOU-YOU CAN GET RID OF IT?



IT'S MOVING.

THE ELECTRO-VEILS SHOULD HOLD IT IN PLACE.

I DON'T KNOW... THOSE TENTACLES...

HUH. YES, I SEE. VERY WELL, DISTRACTING IT IS WHAT THE **SACRIFICE** IS FOR.



I'M STILL ANALYZING THE MACHINERY-

BUT IF I CAN **REVERSE** IT, THEN, **QUITE** PROBABLY!

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT...

OH, BUT EVEN IF I **FAIL**, I'LL HAVE LEARNED **SO MUCH!**

OR... NOT...

GSNRLLRARGRAAK



IT'S BREACHING THE CONTAINMENT VEILS!

REVEAL THE SACRIFICE!



SWOOSH!

OH, YOU JOKERS HAD BETTER HOPE THIS THING KILLS ME.



VIOLETTA!

THERE YOU ARE! NICE ENTRANCE!



WHOO! THAT'S A BIG MONSTER, ALL RIGHT.

THEY'RE SACRIFICING HER?

OH, NO!



GRARLGR?





INTERESTING.
WHAT ARE THEY
DOING?

LET'S FIND
OUT FROM
WAYYY OVER
HERE.

WE REALLY
SHOULD GET
VIOLETTA OUT OF
THERE...

HY
GOTS
DIS!



VELL,
HELLO DERE,
SVEETHOT!
NIZE
ANKLES!

OH. HEY,
OGGIE.

ANY
TIME,
GUYS.



BEGIN THE
TRANSFER!

IT'S TOO
STRONG! THERE'S
TOO MUCH!

WE EXPECTED
THIS! PATCH IN
RESISTOR BLOCKS
ONE AND TWO-

IT'S STILL
NOT-

-AND
THREE!

AH! YES!
THAT DID
IT!



PARTS OF THAT
MACHINERY LOOK
FAMILIAR...



IT'S A
MODIFIED
SUMMONING
ENGINE!

I NEVER
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THAT IS,
NO MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES YOU
SAY IT.

IT'S WHAT
LUCREZIA
USED WHEN SHE
TRANSFERED HER
MIND INTO
AGATHA'S
BODY!

AH. NO. I
STILL DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.



YES!

IT'S WORKING!

I CAN FEEL IT!

MUHAHAHAHA!



**WHAT'S WORKING?
WHAT IS HE DOING?**

**HE IS USHERING IN THE
NEW GOLDEN AGE!**

**WHAT "NEW GOLDEN AGE?"
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?**

**LORD SNACKLEFORD IS ABSORBING THE
KNOWLEDGE—THE POWER—OF AN ACTUAL
EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL BEING!**

—AND HE IS BUT THE FIRST!



IT IS THE GREAT WORK OF OUR SOCIETY-

NOTHING LESS THAN A **SPLENDID RETURN** TO THE DAYS OF **HEROES AND SORCERER KINGS!**



TOGETHER, WE OF THE SHINING BROTHERHOOD SEARCH FOR THE TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT-

THE PROCESS THAT WILL ALLOW **EACH** OF US TO UNDERSTAND THE **VAST POWER** THAT OUR QUEEN SO LIGHTLY WIELDS!



WE WILL EQUAL, NO, EVEN **SURPASS HER!**

A NEW PANTHEON OF GLORIOUS **DEMIGODS!**



WE HAVE ALL HEARD STORIES OF THE WORLD OF ALBIA'S YOUTH-

A WONDERFUL WORLD OF STRANGE SCIENCES-

BUT NOW, AFTER SO LONG, FALLEN INTO DECADENCE AND TURMOIL-

IT'S PAST GLORY **FADED AND WEAK!**



WE WILL **HEAL IT!**

WE WILL **RESHAPE IT!**

AND WE WILL **RULE IT ETERNALLY!**



ALL WILL GRATEFULLY BOW BEFORE US, **EVEN ALBIA HERSELF!**

JUST **IMAGINE IT!**

OH DEAR.



Z



HMMF—
NICE
PERFUME—

GOOD
MORNING,
SLEEPYHEAD!



AAH! MISS
THORPE!

YOU ARE
SO CUTE
WHEN YOU'RE
ASLEEP!



UGH, WAIT— I
WOKE UP ONCE
ALREADY...

YES. AND
THEN YOUR
FATHER
SHOWED UP.



MY
FATHER?
WHY?

THE PROCEDURE
YOU AND PRINCE
STURMVORAU'S PLAN
TO USE ON THE LADY
HETERODYNE?
TO GET RID OF
LUCREZIA?

HE THINKS IT
WILL WORK.



HE
DOES?

YES.

—AND...IT
WON'T KILL
HER OR
SOMETHING?

NO.



HE STILL
DOESN'T TRUST
HER,
BUT HE
HATES
LUCREZIA.

HE SEES GETTING
RID OF HER AS THE
FIRST PRIORITY.



YES, THAT DOES
SOUND LIKE MY
FATHER'S BRAND OF
PRACTICALITY.

I'M... SORRY
FOR FALLING
ASLEEP ON YOUR
SHOULDER.

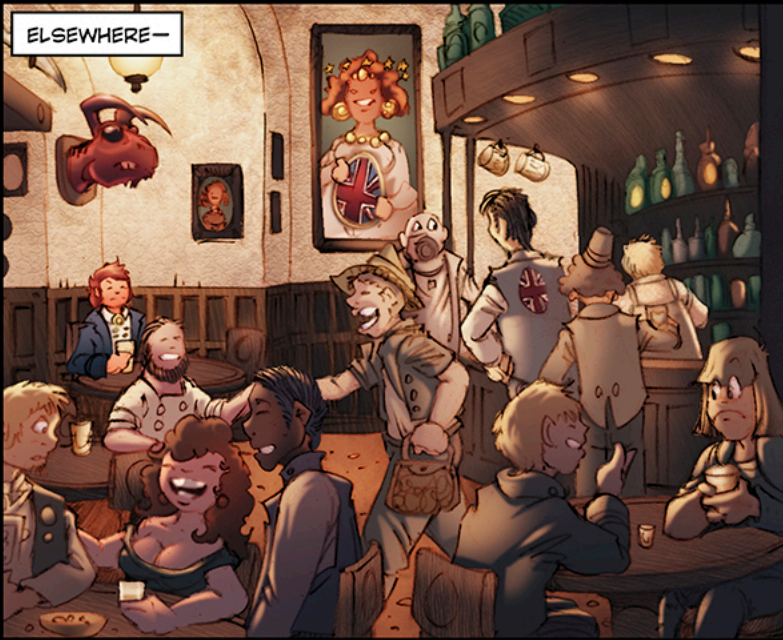
OH, NOT AT
ALL! IT WAS
QUITE CHARMING!



I HOPE IT DIDN'T
MAKE YOU TOO
UNCOMFORTABLE—

UM...NOT AT
ALL. UH...
QUITE...AS YOU
SAY...QUITE
CHARMING...
ER...

ELSEWHERE—



IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?

PRINCESS XERXEPHINA! IT IS YOU!



INDEED IT IS. YOU TOLD NO ONE?

OF COURSE NOT! YOUR INSTRUCTIONS—

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, HIGHNESS, NO ONE HERE IS UNDULY INTERESTED IN US.

OF COURSE NOT.



MISTER QUINSTER IS DISCREET, AND QUITE LOYAL.

GET US A DRINK, WOULD YOU?

I WAS ASTONISHED AT YOUR SUMMONS—

THERE'S BEEN NO WHISPER OF YOUR ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE.

I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT.



YES... SO...

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

YOU KNOW OF THE LADY HETERODYNE?

OH, YES.

WHERE IS SHE?



I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW... THE QUEEN RECEIVED HER, THEN SHE VANISHED.

COULD SHE STILL BE IN THE PALACE?

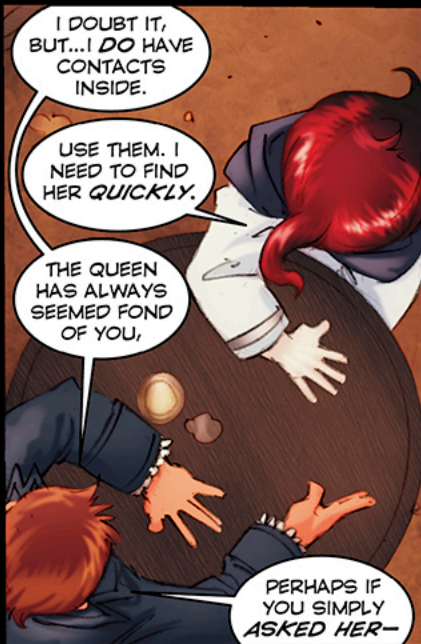


I DOUBT IT, BUT...I DO HAVE CONTACTS INSIDE.

USE THEM. I NEED TO FIND HER QUICKLY.

THE QUEEN HAS ALWAYS SEEMED FOND OF YOU,

PERHAPS IF YOU SIMPLY ASKED HER—



ABSOLUTELY NOT.

AH. IT'S THAT KIND OF JOB.

I ASSUME YOU MEAN THE KIND THAT WILL MAKE YOU RICH IF YOU SUCCEED—

AND DEAD IF I DON'T.

OH, I LOVE WORKING WITH YOU ENGLISH! SUCH A FINE GRASP OF COMMERCE!





WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?

I DON'T KNOW—

MUHAHAHAHA!

BUT AT LEAST HE SOUNDS HAPPY...



AT LAST!

THE SECRETS OF CREATION REVEAL THEMSELVES!



GRAAAH!



LEZ GO!

HEY, I CAN—
WHOO!
YEAH, LET'S GO!

CRASH!



THE CREATURE...IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH IT IS IN PAIN!

DOT'S NOT GOOT. DE MISTRESS HAD BETTER GET OUT OV DERE.

I AGREE. WHAT IS SHE DOING?



LADY HETERODYNE...

JUST A MINUTE...



OH DEAR—NOW, THIS PART WAS **VERY STRESSFUL**—

WHAT?



GRAA!

YIII!

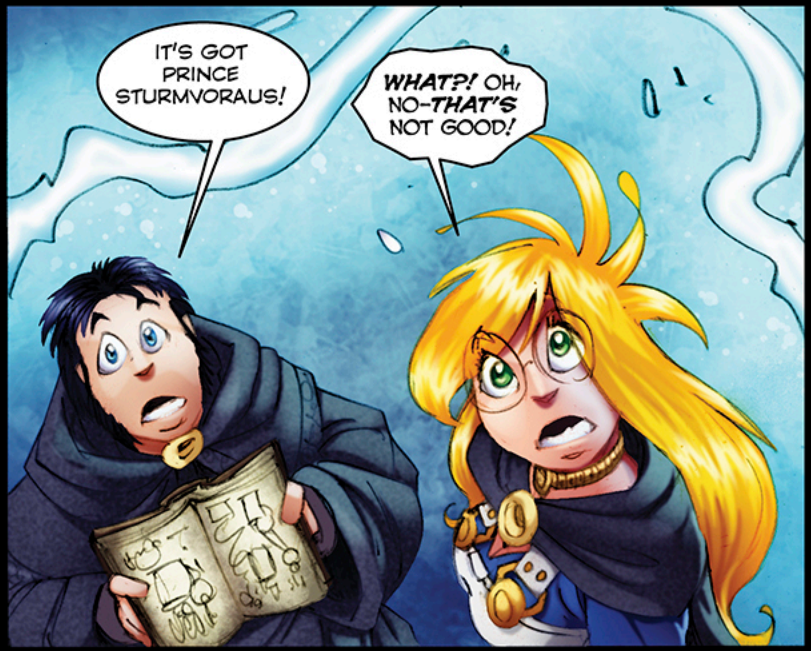
BUT DON'T WORRY!
I WAS **COMPLETELY UNHARMED!**



OH DEAR. HE WAS FUN.

IS? WILL BE?

AH, IT'S ALL STILL SO CONFUSING...



IT'S GOT PRINCE STURMVORAUSS!

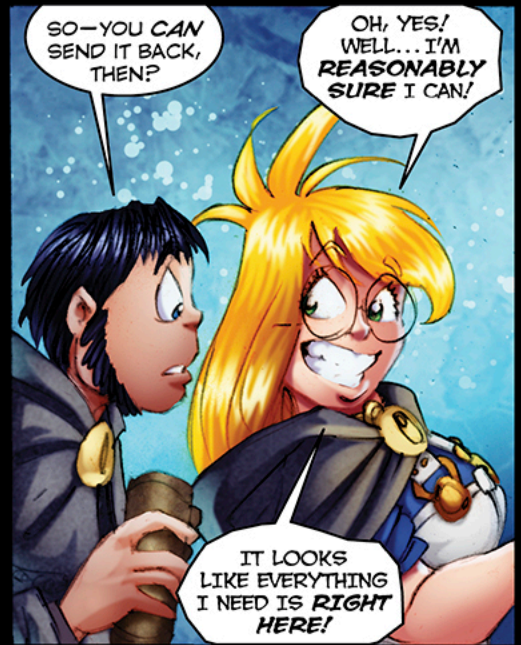
WHAT?! OH, NO-THAT'S NOT GOOD!



I'M NEARLY READY TO SEND IT BACK, BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO TAKE TARVEK WITH IT!



WELL, AT ANY RATE, I HAD BEST NOT STAND AROUND *HERE*-



SO-YOU CAN SEND IT BACK, THEN?

OH, YES! WELL... I'M REASONABLY SURE I CAN!

IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING I NEED IS *RIGHT HERE!*



WE'RE GETTING **SIGNAL INTERFERENCE!**

IT'S THE LADY HETERODYNE!



NO! SHE WILL NOT INTERFERE!
SOON I WILL HAVE ENOUGH **POWER-**



bzotz!



LINE THREE HAS SHORTED OUT!

WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU CHECKED IT!



THINGS QUIET NOW. SEEMS LIKE REST OF MONSTERS RUN AWAY.

YEAH. WEIRD, BUT AT LEAST IT MADE IT **REALLY EASY** TO RAID THE KITCHENS...

I...SUPPOSE THEY'RE ALL DOWN IN THAT **TEMPLE**.

THAT IS **GOOD**, YES?
NO MONSTERS **HERE**.

EASIER TO KEEP **CREATOR** SAFE.



YES... WHERE **IS** POPPA?

CREATOR IS TAKING NAP. ON SUBMARINE.
ALL READY TO GO.



AH. **GOOD**.

SO NOW **LITTLE KING** WANTS TO HELP **CLEVER LADY**?



WELL... SHE **IS** TAKING A WHILE...
BUT...



LITTLE KING IS WORRIED.
THIS BEAR CAN **SMELL** IT.

WELL, OF **COURSE** I'M WORRIED!

THEY'RE SUMMONING SOME KIND OF **HUGE MONSTER** DOWN THERE!



BUT-BUT **AGATHA** IS SMART! SHE CAN HANDLE ANY **NUMBER** OF **BIG HORRIBLE MONSTERS**!

STILL...
ARRRGH! **FINE!** I'LL GO!



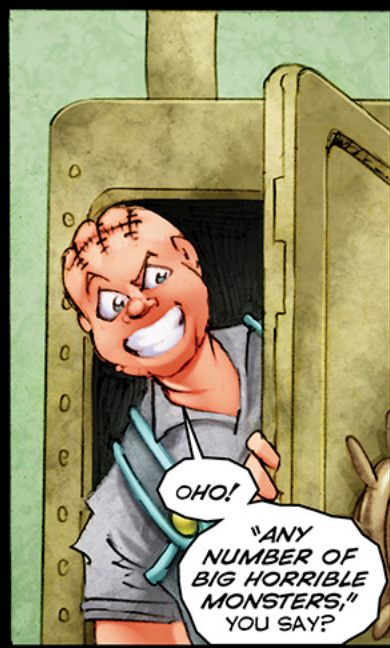
THIS BEAR WILL GO **WITH** **LITTLE KING**.
OTHER BEARS **STAND** **GUARD**.

YES. **GOOD**. UGH! WHAT AM I **DOING**?

SHE'LL HAVE IT **DICED** INTO BITS BEFORE I GET THERE, ANYWAY!



ON THE OTHER HAND, **MAYBE** IT'LL TASTE **GOOD** **FRIED**...



OHO!

"ANY **NUMBER** OF **BIG HORRIBLE MONSTERS**," YOU SAY?



WHOA! THAT THING GOT TARVEK!

VELL, VE KENT HAFF DOT!

... 'SPOSE NOT... I TOOK HIS FARTHING.



NO!

NOT WHEN I AM THIS CLOSE!

SHUT DOWN THE THIRD BLOCK!



AAAH! WE GOT ANOTHER MONSTER!

OH, NOW, REALLY. WE DID NOT, AH... DO NOT HAVE TO-

KILL IT!

<SIGH.> WELL, ALL RIGHT, I SUPPOSE WE DO.



USE THE STATIC GUNS!

KEEP THE BEAST DISTRACTED!



Zzork!



I THINK KEEPING THESE CULTISTS DISTRACTED IS A MUCH BETTER IDEA!

Zzork!

Zzork!

HY LIKES DE VAY HYU TINKS!







OH MY!
ARE YOU A
MONSTER?

I HEARD
THERE WAS
ONE HERE!

AH. I THINK
YOU WANT *THAT*
OVER *THERE*.



OH!

OH,
LOOK AT
IT!

IT IS
WONDERFUL!



... YOU
ARE AN ODD
ONE...

OH, YES,
I *USED*
TO BE...

I USED TO *WORK*
WITH MONSTERS,
YOU KNOW! YES,
YES, I *DID!*

I...EVEN
MADE
SOME!

LIKE
THIS
ONE?

BETTER!

—BUT THIS
ONE IS *VERY*
GOOD!



PEOPLE FEAR
MONSTERS...

BUT...BUT
THEY *NEED*
THEM, TOO!

YES!

... I DID NOT
UNDERSTAND
THAT.



I *KNOW!* I
DON'T REMEMBER
THE *WORDS*...

IT WAS ALL
SO *CLEAR*,
ONCE,

BUT...THE
BARON, HE TOOK
MY *WORDS!*



OH, YES. I
CAN SEE THE
CONFUSIONS.
OH DEAR. HOW CAN YOU
THINK LIKE
THIS?



I CAN'T!

BUT YOU WERE
NOT ALWAYS LIKE
THIS?

NO, I...

I USED TO
MAKE MONSTERS,
YOU KNOW...



FASCINATING.

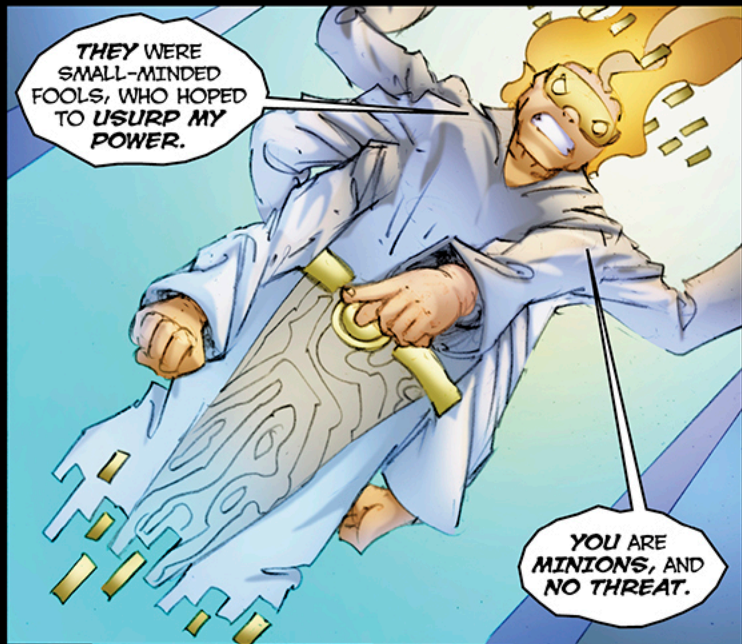
I WOULD
LIKE TO *SEE*
THAT.





HE...HE'S
KILLED
THEM ALL!

YAH, BUT VOT
HY WANTS TO
KNOW IZ, VY IZ
VE STILL ALIVE?



THEY WERE
SMALL-MINDED
FOOLS, WHO HOPED
TO USURP MY
POWER.

YOU ARE
MINIONS, AND
NO THREAT.

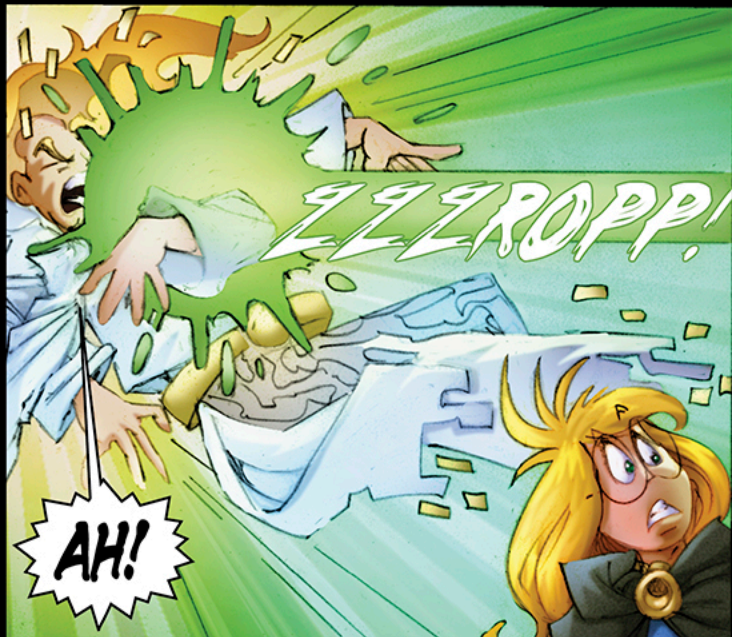


-AND YOU,
LADY HETERODYNE,
ARE A GUEST OF
HER MAJESTY.
TO KILL YOU
WOULD MAKE A
POOR FIRST
IMPRESSION
INDEED!



OOOH,
YESSS... AND
NOW, I MUST THINK
ON HOW BEST TO
DEMONSTRATE MY
LOVELY NEW
POWER-

TO
ALBIA-
AND TO
THE
WORLD!



AH!



OHOHOHO!
I HAVE MISSED
THIS!

OH MY!



HAHAHAHA!
WHY, IT'S LIKE
I NEVER LEFT!

HERE YOU ARE—STILL
ARROGANT FOOLS—STILL
STRIVING TO **SUBJUGATE**
AND **DESTROY** ALL OF THE
WORLD'S **BEAUTIFUL**
MONSTERS!

HOW DO YOU NOT
REALIZE IT? HOW DO
YOU NOT **SEE** THAT THESE
MONSTERS ARE YOUR
SUPERIORS?

THINK ON IT,
AND YOU WILL
KNOW—HUMANITY
NEEDS
MONSTERS!

WITHOUT
MONSTERS, WE ARE THE
APEX PREDATORS OF THE
WORLD, AND THUS WE ALLOW
OURSELVES TO **SINK INTO**
SELF-SATISFIED
MEDIOCRITY!

WE NEED
MONSTERS TO
KEEP US **SHARP!**
TO PROVE OUR
METTLE!


TO **CULL THE**
HERD! REMOVE
THE **INDOLENT!** THE
WEAK! THE **AGED**
AND **INFIRM!** THOSE
NOT **WORTHY** TO
SURVIVE!

THE MORE
DANGEROUS THE
MONSTERS—THE MORE
DEADLY THEY ARE—THE
STRONGER THE
REMAINS OF
HUMANITY WILL
BECOME—

AND MY
BEAUTIFUL, GLORIOUS
MONSTERS—THEY WILL BE
THE MOST DANGEROUS—THE
MOST **DEADLY**—OF ALL!

I WILL GATHER MY
FORCES, AND UNLEASH
A **RAVENING HORDE** THAT
WILL **SCOUR** THE LAND!

THERE IS
NO NEED TO
THANK ME!



HER MAJESTY
IS GOING TO BE
FURIOUS.

AH—I... I **MAY**
BE BEGINNING TO
SEE WHY THE
BARON—AH—

JUST
WAIT.

OH?

BEEN AWHILE
SINCE MAKER
THIS HAPPY.

FROM WHAT
I'VE READ, HE'S
JUST GETTING
STARTED.

OH,
DEAR—
HE SEEMED
LIKE SUCH A
NICE MAN.



KROSP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHY IS HE LIKE THIS?

I DON'T KNOW!

I THOUGHT HE WAS ASLEEP ON THE SUBMARINE!

—AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS!

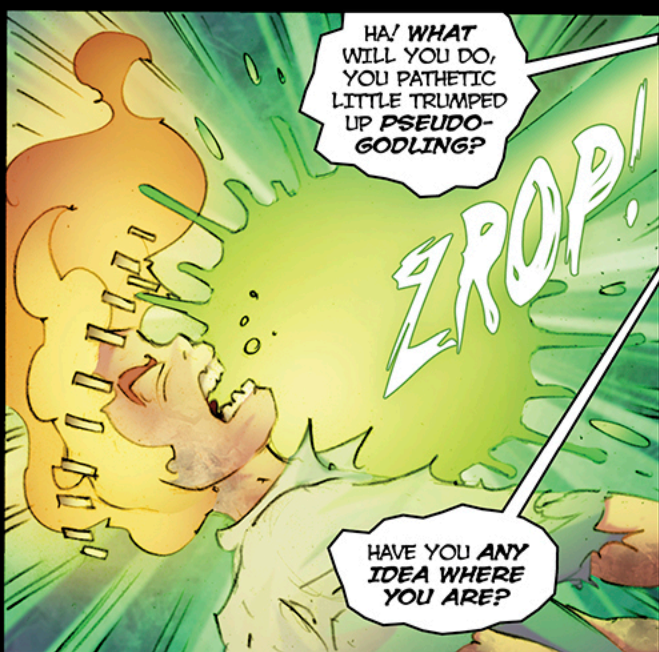
MAKER ALWAYS LIKE THIS WHEN HE WAS WITH BEARS—

BEFORE BARON TOOK HIM.



WORM! HOW DARE YOU RAISE YOUR HAND TO ME!

I WILL—



HA! WHAT WILL YOU DO, YOU PATHETIC LITTLE TRUMPET UP PSEUDO-GODLING?

ZROP!

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE YOU ARE?



THERE ARE PLACES IN THIS EARTH— PLACES WHERE MAN SHOULD NOT GO—

PLACES THAT BELONG TO THE MONSTROUS CREATURES THAT HELD SWAY BEFORE HUMANITY AROSE—

AND I KNOW THEM ALL!

YOU THINK THIS PLACE ABANDONED?

HA!

IT IS NOT! IT NEVER HAS BEEN!



HGRAOOO

DO YOU HEAR THEM?

I HAVE ALREADY CALLED THEM—

AND NOW, THEY COME!



TAKE THAT, YOU DODDERING JACKANAPES! NOW STAND BACK!

I CONTROL THIS CREATURE, AND I WILL—



WHAT WILL YOU DO? YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A CALLOW CHILD!

OH, IT MUST HAVE FELT GLORIOUS—IN THAT FIRST HEADY RUSH OF POWER—



SO GLORIOUS, TO SIMPLY SNAP YOUR FINGERS AND WIPE OUT ALL YOUR PETTY, TEDIOUS COMPATRIOTS IN A SINGLE BURST OF RAW ENERGY!

AH, BUT WHERE IS THAT ENERGY NOW, EH?

WHY HAVE YOU NOT ALREADY STRUCK ME DOWN THE SAME WAY?

HA!
YOU CANNOT!

YOU HAVE MADE A BEGINNER'S MISTAKE, AND LEFT YOURSELF WEAK!

YOU HAVE ONE MONSTER AT YOUR COMMAND? GOOD FOR YOU!

IT WILL NOT HELP YOU, FOR ALL THOSE THAT COME NOW, COME AT MY CALL!





HOY! BUT DEY SURE CAN GETS TO US!

STAY BACK, KIDDO!



OH, YES. THEY WERE... **ARE**... SLIGHTLY OUT OF ALIGNMENT WITH THIS DIMENSION...

BUT THEN... HOW CAN WE FIGHT THEM?



GOODNESS-I DON'T KNOW.

BACK HOME, I WAS BUT A SIMPLE VOZZLER.

A WHAT?

WE DON'T FIGHT ANYTHING!

CHILDREN LOVE US!



I CAN SEE WHAT TO DO!

TARVEK! YOU CANP HOW?!



I HAVE NO IDEA! -BUT I CAN SEE! UNDERSTAND!

SO MANY THINGS I COULDN'T BEFORE! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!



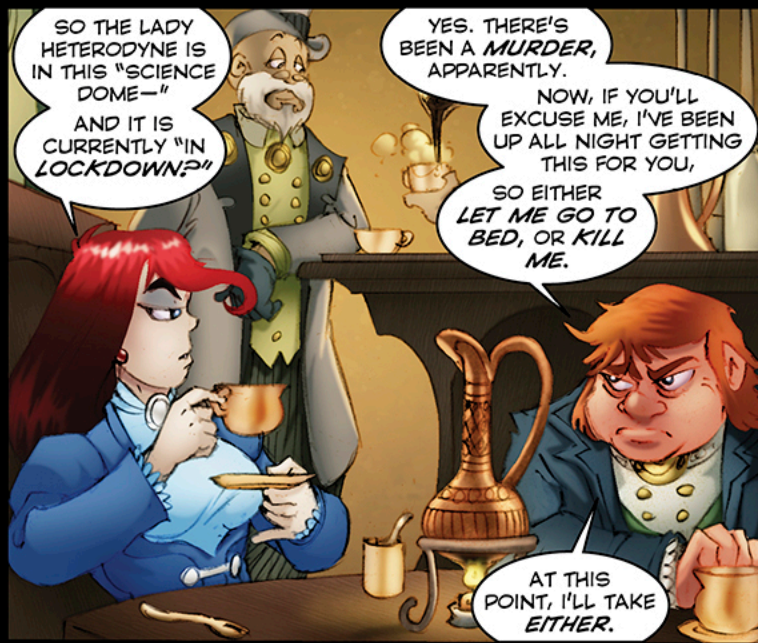
I DID MENTION HE WAS MAD, DID I NOT?

AHAHAHA! SEE? IT'S SO WEIRD!

IT LOOKS LIKE I ONLY HAVE FIVE FINGERS!

YESSS-BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE A MADNESS WE CAN USE.

PROBABLY.



SO THE LADY HETERODYNE IS IN THIS "SCIENCE DOME—" AND IT IS CURRENTLY "IN LOCKDOWN?"

YES. THERE'S BEEN A **MURDER**, APPARENTLY.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT GETTING THIS FOR YOU, SO EITHER LET ME GO TO BED, OR KILL ME.

AT THIS POINT, I'LL TAKE EITHER.



HOW CAN I GET IN TO SEE HER?

YOU CAN'T. I SAID IT'S IN LOCKDOWN!

ENFORCED BY THE ROYAL NAVY, NO LESS!

EXCELLENT.

WHY?



BECAUSE WHEN THE GUARDIAN IS SO FEARSOME THAT ITS NAME ALONE IS ENOUGH TO KEEP INTRUDERS AWAY—

NO ONE WILL EXPECT US TO EVEN TRY.



YES, BECAUSE YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO TRY!



SPARAFUCILE? PLEASE PAY MISTER QUINSTER.

IN MONEY?

EKK!

OF COURSE, DEAR. HE DID AS I ASKED—

WHEW!



AN HONOR, YOUR HIGHNESS!

AND NOW, I WANT YOU TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN GET US IN.

CAFE
BLACK-
MILK-
REAL-
WHITE-
COINT-



WHAT? NOTHING DOING! I TOLD YOU, I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND ALL NIGHT, AND I NEED TO SLEEP!

I'M DEAD ON MY FEET, HERE! I CAN'T BE—

UH—



AAAND HERE I AM, SUDDENLY AND MIRACULOUSLY WIDE AWAKE.

THE CURSE OF COMPETENCE!

ELSEWHERE—



MISS THORPE!

CAPTAIN BLSH.

ARE WE CLEARED FOR PASSAGE?



OH, AYE, WE RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE.

WILL THERE BE ANY PROBLEMS?

NOT FOR THE SPARK OF THE REALM!

JOLLY GOOD!



ACTUALLY, WE'RE JUST AS GLAD YOU WANT TO GO.

OH?

THE SCHEDULED UPDATES HAVE STOPPED.

IT'S BEEN A FEW HOURS, AND, WELL...

I ASSUME YOU'VE SENT SOMEONE TO CHECK?



WHO?

OH! HE'S WITH ME.



OHO! A NEW JACK TARR, IS IT?

WELCOME ABOARD, SON!

AH, HE'S—

ROIT! STREUTH AND HIT'S THE CUMULATION UV A LOIFLONG DREAM, SQUIRE!

OF COURSE! RIGHT THIS WAY!



SO, YES, WE DID SEND A PICKET SUB, BUT IT NO LONGER RESPONDS EITHER.

NEVER, EVER TALK LIKE THAT AGAIN.

WHAT? I'M JUST TRYING TO FIT IN!



SEE? THIS WILL REVERSE THE FLOW AND SEND THE BIG ONE BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM.

OH, YES! I SEE!



-BUT LOOK. I WANT TO MAKE A LITTLE TWEAK HERE...

OOH. INTRIGUING! THAT WILL CERTAINLY AMPLIFY THE EFFECT... BUT IS IT REALLY NECESSARY?



OKAY. SORRY. SILLY QUESTION.



NOT REALLY. ACCORDING TO OUR FRIEND HERE, THESE CREATURES ARE ALL OUT OF SYNC WITH THIS DIMENSION IN THE SAME WAY.

THE ONES FIGHTING FOR VAPNOOPLE MUST HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY DRAWN HERE-

POSSIBLY AGES AGO- BUT THEY'RE ALL FROM THE SAME... DIRECTION.



SO IF THIS DEVICE WORKS ON THE ONE- WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND THEM ALL BACK AT THE SAME TIME!



WE'D BETTER HURRY. I DON'T WANT TO GIVE THEM TIME TO ESCAPE AND GO ROAMING AROUND ENGLAND.

WE NEED SOMETHING TO CATCH THEIR ATTENTION.

DRAW THEM INTO THE DEVICE'S FOCUS.

AH, LIKE A FAMILIAR HARMONIC?



TSK-I WISH I COULD HELP, BUT THOSE THINGS WOULD TRY TO EAT ME IF THEY WEREN'T TRYING TO EAT EACH OTHER.

REALLY?



THAT SOUNDS PERFECT!

GURK!

SPLURCH!



FIGHT!
FIGHT! YOU
STUPID
CREATURE!
DEFEND
YOUR
MASTER!



GRARG!



MUHAHAHA!
YOUR CREATURE
FIGHTS ALONE!
IT WILL FAIL,
AND THEN YOU, AND
ALL YOUR PATHETIC
MINIONS WILL
DIE!



HOY! FOR DE
RECORD, VE IZ
NOT DIS GUY'S
MINIONS!

YEAH! WE'RE
WITH THE LADY
HETERODYNE!

WE'RE
HERE TO
STOP
HIM!



THE LADY
HETERODYNE,
YOU SAY?

YOU KNOW
HER, POPPA.
AGATHA CLAY?
FROM CASTLE
WULFENBACH?
SHE
PROMISED TO
HELP THE
BEARS?



OH! YES,
INDEED!
AND A
HETERODYNE,
YOU SAY?
MARVELOUS!

WHY, OLD
SATURN AND I
WERE
FRATERNITY
BROTHERS!



NOW, THAT IS
A FAMILY WHO
KNOWS THE VALUE OF
A REALLY
TOP-NOTCH
MONSTER!

YES! I SHALL
MAKE HER MY NEW
APPRENTICE!

TOGETHER, WE
SHALL BRING
ALBIA TO HER
KNEES!



...



OKAY...
THAT...

THAT...
COULD
HAPPEN...

UH...



OH, YES, THIS IS SYNCING UP NICELY!

THIS WAS... UH, IS GOING ON FOR ENTIRELY TOO LONG.



WE'RE READY TO GO!

YOU JUST HAVE TO LURE THOSE THINGS TO THE DEVICE'S FOCUS.

-AND I WILL BE SAFE?



WE'RE ALMOST READY TO GO!



HEY! HEY! UM, AAAGATHA-

ERM-

KROSP, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR A CAT TREAT.



AH, NO, BUT...POPPA'S DECIDED THAT YOU'RE HIS NEW APPRENTICE-

AAAAND, I MIGHT HAVE KIND OF ENCOURAGED THAT IDEA...

JUST A LITTLE...



WHAT?! BUT HE'S-

DANGEROUS ENOUGH TO KILL EVERYONE HERE!

-BUT NOW HE WON'T, BECAUSE YOU'RE HIS APPRENTICE AND THE OTHERS ARE YOUR MINIONS!



HUH. WELL, HE MIGHT BE SOME HELP IN DEALING WITH MARTELLUS...

THERE YOU GO!

FIND THE POSITIVE!



AND HE MIGHT GIVE ME SOME POINTERS ABOUT YOU, AS WELL.

SO, ARE YOU SAYING YOU HAVE CAT TREATS?







AAAAND-

YES!



IS IT WORKING?

YES! I ANALYZED THE VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES-

AND PLUGGED THEM IN TO THE EQUATIONS FROM MISTER TOBBER'S NOTES-



AND THEN **INVERTED THE WHOLE THING!**

NOW, I'VE REWORKED THIS WHOLE ARRAY SO THAT INSTEAD OF **CALLING THESE THINGS HERE-**



FWHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

IT WILL **SEND THEM BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM!**

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME THING IN **MECHANICSBURG,** ASSUMING THAT-

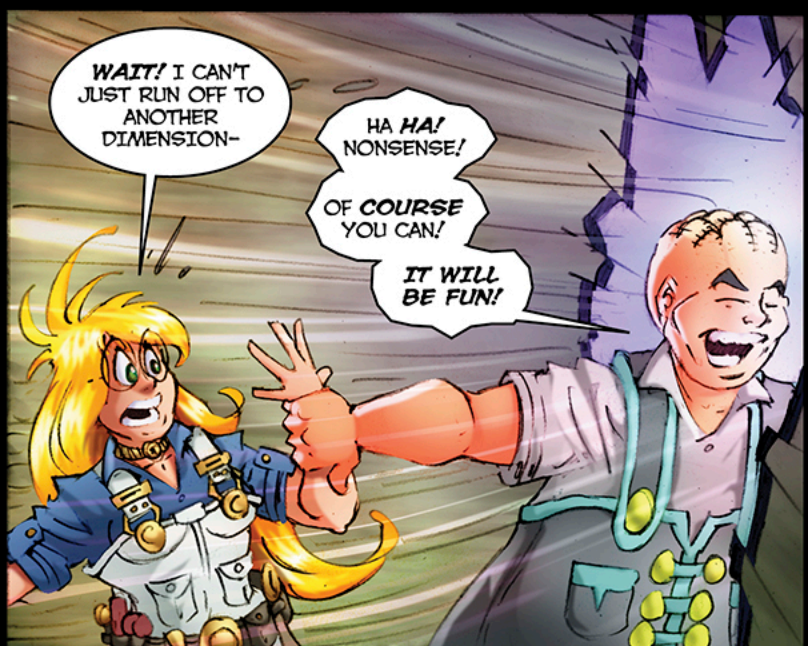
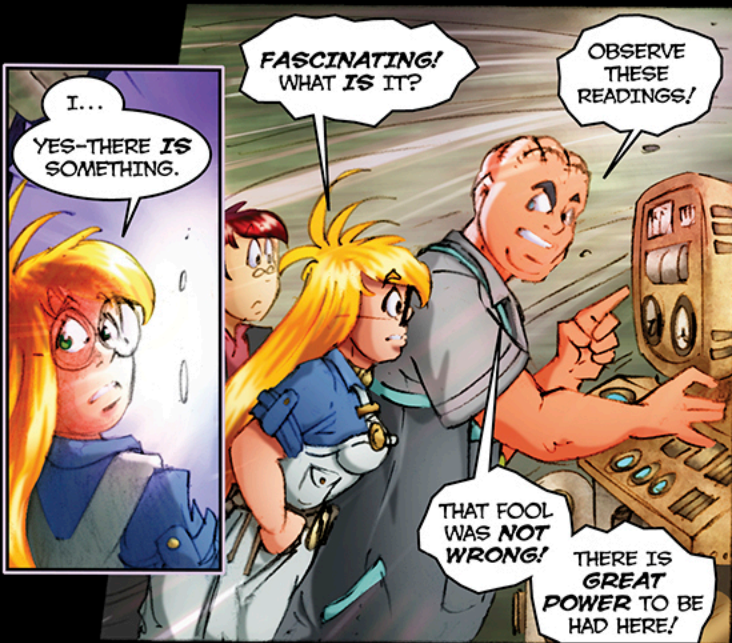
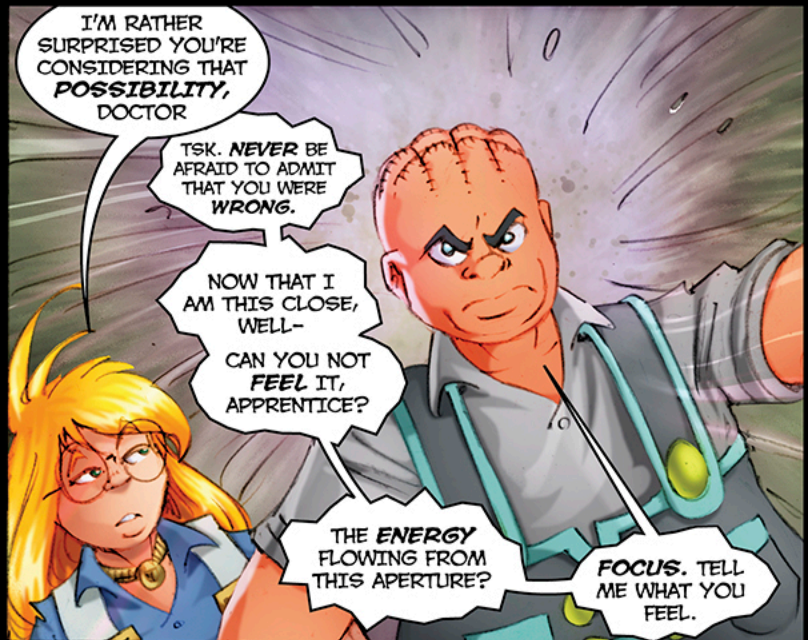
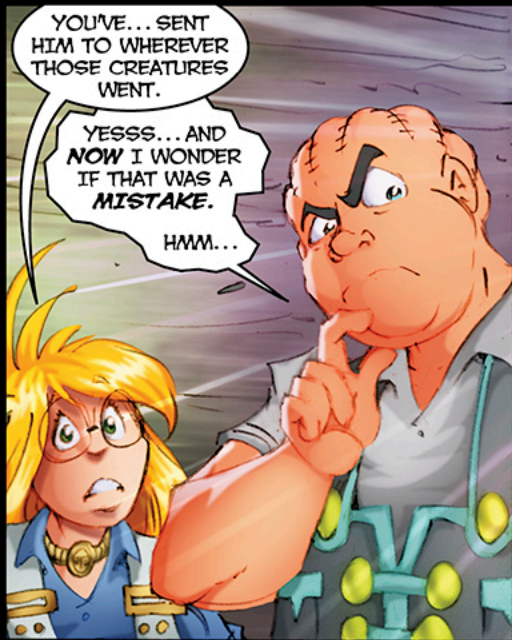
NO!

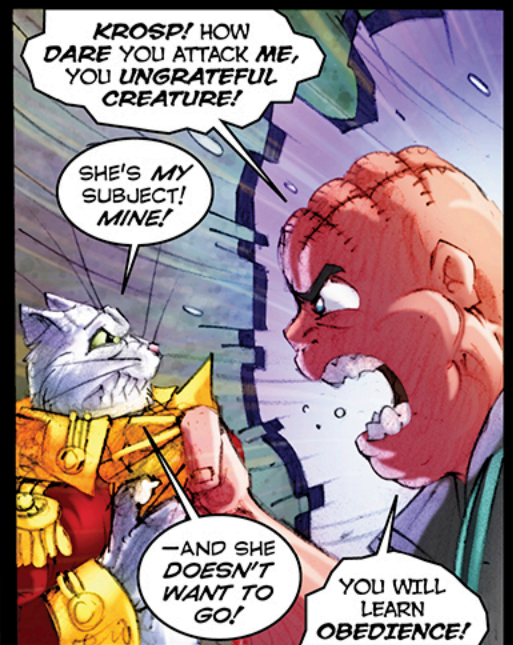




-AND THERE YOU HAVE IT!

AN EASY VICTORY!







DON'T WORRY,
APPRENTICE-

I'LL BE BACK
FOR YOU!

AND FOR
YOU-

YOU
TRAITOROUS
CAT!



IT'S
PULLING
US BACK!

JUST HOLD
ON... THEY WERE
DONE ANY
SECOND...



AH.
THERE.

WHEW.



HA! WE
DID IT!

JUST IN
TIME!



AW, YOU SLAGGED IT!

WELL, YES. THINGS WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND WITH VAPNOOPLE— AND IT SEEMED LIKE THE QUICKEST WAY TO SHUT HIM DOWN.

BUT YOU SOUND DISAPPOINTED.



YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO GO WITH HIM, DID YOU?

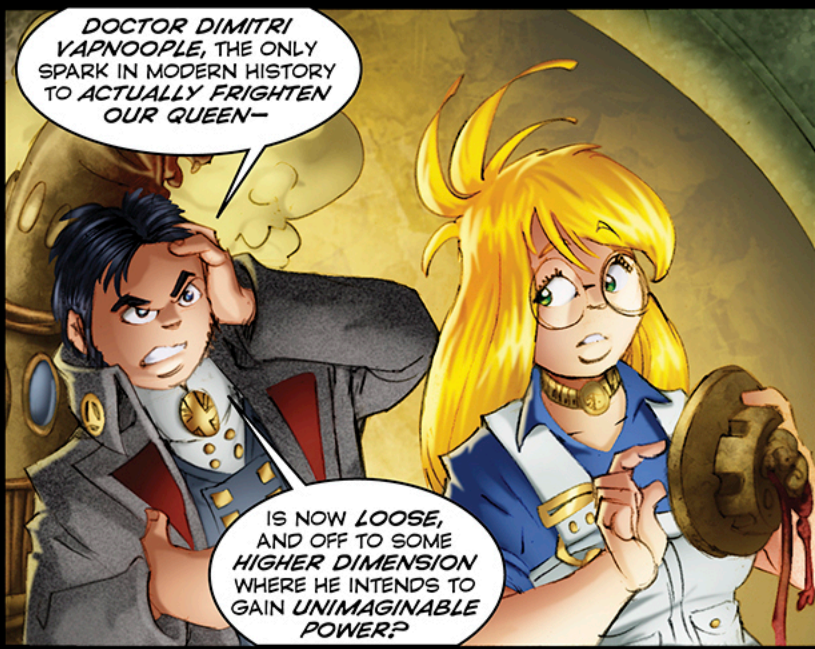
NO, OF COURSE NOT.

I MEAN... SURE, ANOTHER DIMENSION IS HARD TO RESIST,

BUT I HAVE THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF HERE.

I'M JUST SAYING I'D HAVE STUDIED THIS THING A BIT MORE— IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE GOING TO MELT IT.

SO DID I GET ALL THAT CORRECTLY?



DOCTOR DIMITRI VAPNOOPLE, THE ONLY SPARK IN MODERN HISTORY TO ACTUALLY FRIGHTEN OUR QUEEN—

IS NOW LOOSE, AND OFF TO SOME HIGHER DIMENSION WHERE HE INTENDS TO GAIN UNIMAGINABLE POWER?



THAT DOES SEEM TO BE THE SITUATION.

IT'S TOO BAD. I THINK THERE'S A LOT I COULD HAVE LEARNED FROM HIM.



YES! ALL KINDS OF THINGS! TERRIBLE, EVIL THINGS!

WAYS TO WARP NATURE AND CREATE BIZARRE, MONSTROUS ABOMINATIONS OF SCIENCE!



—AND THAT WOULD BE BAD!

I KNEW THAT!



WOOSTER, WE NEED TO CHECK ON THINGS UP ABOVE.

YES, THAT'S TRUE.



ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE. LET'S HEAD BACK UPSTAIRS.

CLAP! CLAP!



-AND I THINK WE CAN IMPROVE IT, IF WE-

OH. HOLD ON. KROSS??



KROSS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I...I BIT POPPA!



WELL, YOU DID IT TO HELP ME, SO THANK YOU.

YOU ARE MY SUBJECT!

I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU!



BUT-TO GO AGAINST MY CREATOR...

I'VE DEFIED AN INVIOLE DICTUM HARDWIRED INTO MY CORE PERSONALITY!



"POPPA WAS VERY GOOD WHEN IT CAME TO INSTALLING LOYALTY.

TO EVEN CONSIDER DOING WHAT I'VE DONE SHOULD BE UNTHINKABLE!"



IT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR YOU.

EH-NOT REALLY, HE HAD IT COMING.

THE GUY WAS NUTS.



AH! THERE YOU ARE!

SQUEE!



GETTING YOU FREE OF THAT CREATURE IS THE FIRST THING—

WELL, AFTER WE GET RID OF LUCREZIA—

OH, I AGREE... BUT HE'S SUCH A CUTIE!

YES, YOU ARE!

SKRONK!

COME ON, GUYS, WHAT DO YOU THINK'S WAITING FOR US UPSTAIRS, HEY?

HOY!



AH! VIOLETTA! I MUST SAY—

NOT A WORD ABOUT THIS OUTFIT. NOT A WORD.

OF COURSE NOT!



BUT I'M... I'M VERY GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AND—

OKAY. JUST STOP RIGHT THERE. YOU CAN BE WITTY AND CONDESCENDING WHEN I HAVE PANTS.



BUT...

NOT LISTENING!



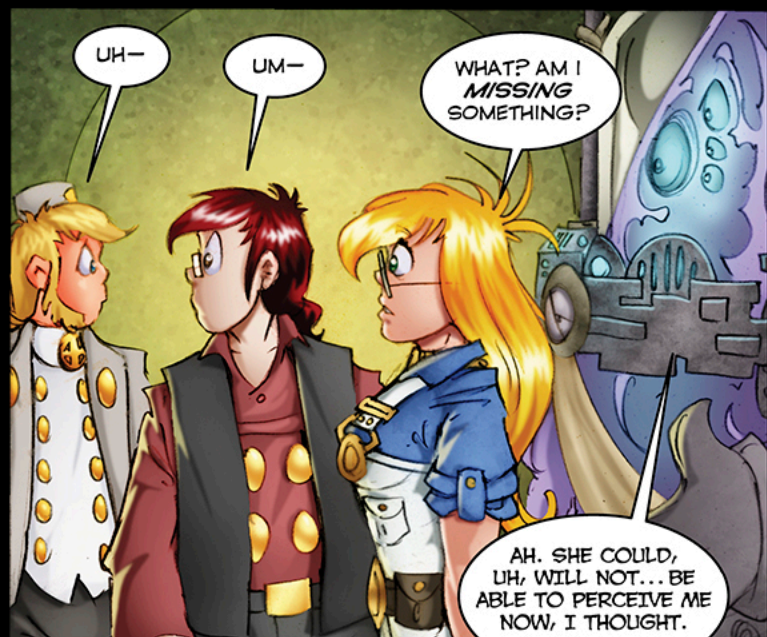
BABY STEPS, SIR.

TARVEK—



THAT, uh... PERSON WHO RESCUED US—

WHERE DID THEY GO?



UH—

UM—

WHAT? AM I MISSING SOMETHING?

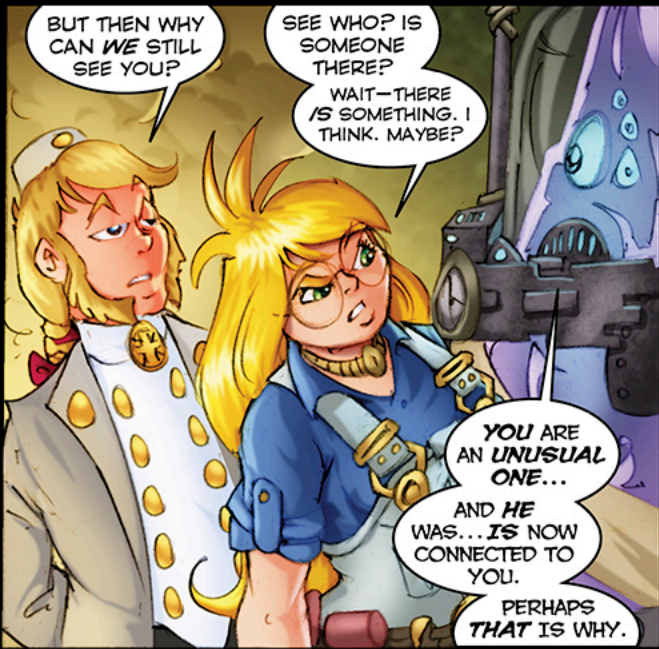
AH. SHE COULD, UH, WILL NOT... BE ABLE TO PERCEIVE ME NOW, I THOUGHT.



WHAT? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WELL, AH... WHAT?

THE MACHINE WAS GONE, I SUPPOSE I WILL BE NO LONGER IN PHASE HERE.



BUT THEN WHY CAN WE STILL SEE YOU?

SEE WHO? IS SOMEONE THERE?

WAIT—THERE IS SOMETHING, I THINK. MAYBE?

YOU ARE AN UNUSUAL ONE...

AND HE WAS... IS NOW CONNECTED TO YOU.

PERHAPS THAT IS WHY.

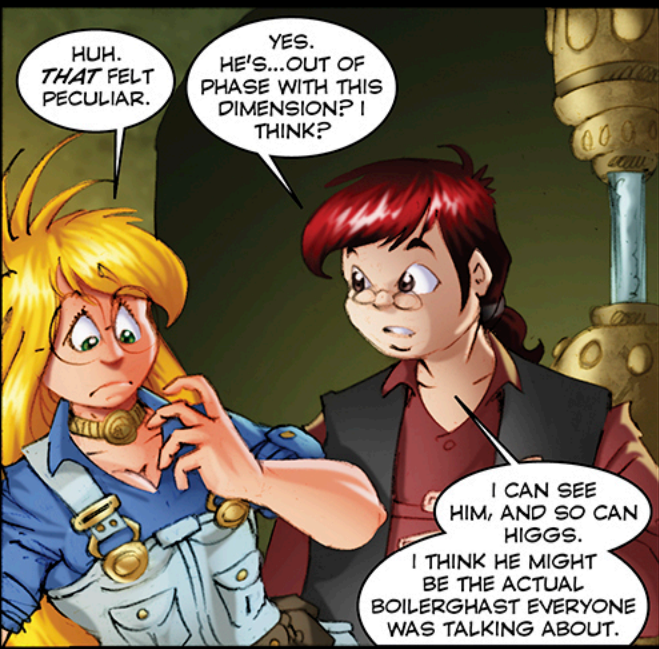


SO, NOBODY ELSE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU?

IT DID SEEM TO WILL BE THAT WAY, PROBABLY.

ARE YOU SAYING THEY'RE STILL HERE?

OH. THAT FEELS PECULIAR.



HUH. THAT FELT PECULIAR.

YES. HE'S... OUT OF PHASE WITH THIS DIMENSION? I THINK?

I CAN SEE HIM, AND SO CAN HIGGS. I THINK HE MIGHT BE THE ACTUAL BOILERGHAST EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT.



AH. THE BOILERGHAST. YES.

PROFESSOR HOMLOMIUM THOUGHT IT IS VERY FUNNY.

I WILL NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK TO ANY OF THE OTHERS.

I AM HAVE BEEN OUT OF PHASE FOR THEM, AS WELL.



MAKES SENSE.

HE'S ON ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL LEVEL, SO HE'S LESS THAN A GHOST TO MOST FOLKS.

WE'D HAVE TO RE-TUNE HIS ENTIRE CORE HARMONIC JUST TO LET OTHER PEOPLE TALK TO HIM.

OOH. NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!



SOON—

WAS EVERYONE IN THE DOME PART OF THIS?

IT IS HARD TO SAY. THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF TRANSFERS HERE LATELY,

AND A LOT OF STAFF HAS BEEN REASSIGNED, AS WELL.

SO HOW MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE STILL HERE, DO YOU THINK?

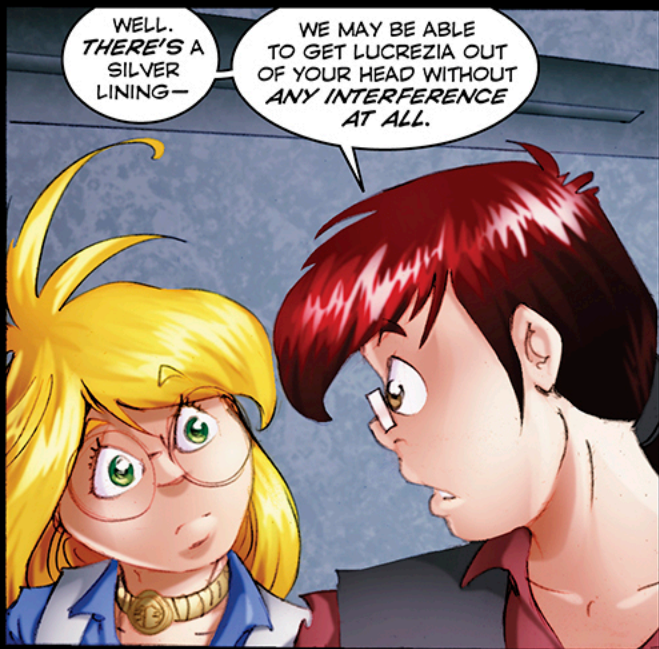
QUITE POSSIBLY, NONE, BESIDES OURSELVES.



WE SAW NO ONE ALIVE WHILE WE RETRIEVED THE MISTRESS' BOOK.

YES—AND THERE WERE MONSTERS ROAMING ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE DISPATCHED SEVERAL OF THEM, ALONE!

WE DISPATCHED SEVERAL OF THEM, ALONE!



WELL, THERE'S A SILVER LINING—

WE MAY BE ABLE TO GET LUCREZIA OUT OF YOUR HEAD WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE AT ALL.



THAT WOULD BE NICE.



—AND I DARESAY IT WILL MAKE A LOT OF PEOPLE'S JOBS EASIER.

OH, I KNOW MASTER GILGAMESH WILL APPRECIATE IT.



INDEED HE WILL. SO BACK TO THE LAB!





...ALL RIGHT. THAT SHOULD BE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING—
LET'S TRY IT OUT.

AGATHA? SIT HERE.



OH DEAR... YOU KNOW, I AM SO TIRED AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED TODAY...

WHY DON'T WE TRY THIS TOMORROW, INSTEAD.



THAT'S LUCREZIA TALKING.

AH! YES!

SHE'S TRYING TO FIGHT THE LOCKET!

I'M... I'M ACTUALLY HAVING TROUBLE...



VIOLETTA! MISTER HIGGS!
AS WE DISCUSSED!



LET'S GO!

WHAT— NO! RELEASE ME! THAT IS AN ORDER!

SOON, MA'AM.



TARVEK!
HURRY!



YES, YES—



HUH. IS THIS WIRE EVEN LIVE?

HMM—

HOY! LET ME HELP!

CHUST LETS ME KNOW VOT HYU VANTS ME TO DO! YAH!

HMM. TEMPTING, BUT NO.



ALL RIGHT!
I THINK WE'RE ABOUT READY TO—

STOP!



DON'T RUN THE PROCEDURE!
THE SITUATION HAS **CHANGED!**



DOT IZ NOT MEESTER GILGAMESH!

DOT IZ DE BARON!

PROTECT AGATHA!

I'LL FINISH THIS!



WAIT! I MEAN THE GIRL NO HARM!

THIS IS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ALL EUROPA!
JUST LISTEN TO ME!



WE NEED TO KEEP THIS COPY OF LUCREZIA!

ALBIA WANTS TO TALK TO HER! TO FIGURE OUT HER SECRETS!

LUCREZIA IS BEHIND FAR MORE THAN JUST THE ATTACKS OF THE OTHER.



NO! NO MORE DELAYS!

I DON'T TRUST YOU, YOU JUST WANT HER DEAD!

PRINCE STURMVORAU! STOP!

I DON'T WANT TO BREAK YOUR ARM.



MISS THORPE!

IF YOU DON'T TRUST HIM, TRUST ME. PLEASE. HEAR US OUT.

WE HAVE BEEN TO SEE THE QUEEN, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SOME NEW DEVELOPMENTS.



LOOK. THIS PROCEDURE WILL WORK—BUT IF WE ADD THESE COMPONENTS—

AH. I SEE. YOU WANT TO SHUNT LUCREZIA INTO HER OWN CONTAINER.

AND THEN WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN CAPTIVE PIECE OF THE OTHER.

STILL, THE BARON—



MY PRESENCE CANNOT BE HELPED.

THIS PERSONALITY OVERLAY WAS BUILT TO AUTOMATICALLY TAKE OVER WHEN MY SON IS NEAR THE HETERODYNE GIRL,

BUT I WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH YOU RELEASING HER MIND.



WELL, WE WON'T LET YOU HURT HER!

OH, OF COURSE NOT.

HYU KNOW, (OW) HY DUN TINK HYU IZ TAKINK US SERIOUSLY.



ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS, LEAVE HIM ALONE.

HE HAS AN EXCELLENT POINT.

-BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO DO IT, LET'S DO IT QUICKLY.

LUCREZIA HAS BEEN FIGHTING BACK HARD, AND I WANT HER GONE.

THANK YOU.

THIS COULD BE A GREAT WEAPON AGAINST THE OTHER.

HOKAY, HY TINK HE HAZ LEARNED HIZ LESSON.



I CAN ALTER THE MACHINES WE ALREADY HAVE TO ADD A **TRANSFER APPARATUS**.

THE SYSTEM WE USED TO MOVE THE CASTLE INTELLECT FROM THE OTILIA SHELL SHOULD BE **PERFECT**.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. IT'S **TOO DANGEROUS**.

I DON'T EITHER, BUT HE'S RIGHT. IT'LL BE **TOO USEFUL**-

AND I'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR NOW. SHE'S GONE QUIET AGAIN.

... WE'LL STILL NEED SOMETHING TO **PUT HER IN-**



"I SUPPOSE I CAN HANDLE **THAT** PART OF IT."

"BACK IN STURMHALTEN, SHE SHOWED ME HOW TO MECHANICALLY CONTAIN HER INTELLECT **PERFECTLY**."



YES. YOU **HAVE** WORKED CLOSELY WITH LUCREZIA.

YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY IS IN THRALL TO HER.

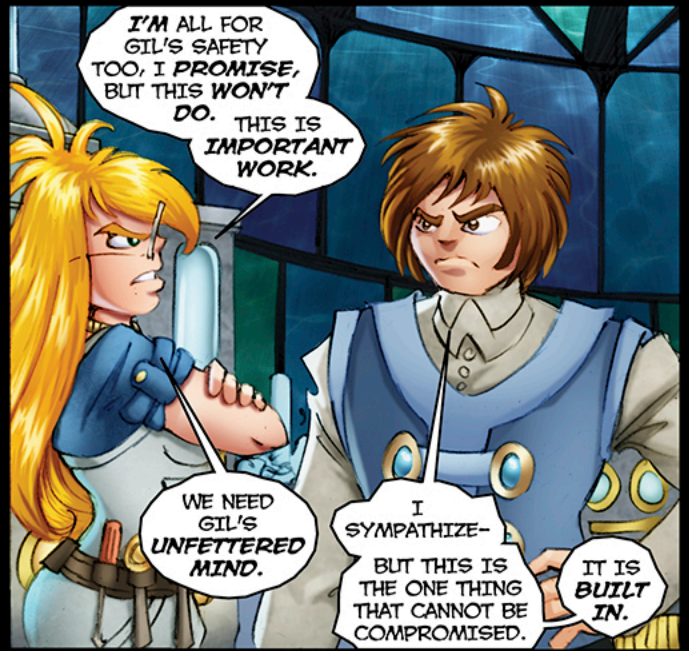
I CANNOT TRUST YOU TO OVERSEE THIS.



GIL TRUSTS ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING WHEN IT COMES TO **AGATHA**.

MAYBE NOTHING ELSE-

BUT NOTHING ELSE IS AS **IMPORTANT**.





TO BE CONTINUED IN:

GIRL GENIUS[®]

Volume 20



WWW.GIRLGENIUSONLINE.COM



READ THE LATEST ADVENTURES AT:

WWW.GIRLGENIUSONLINE.COM

MONDAY • WEDNESDAY • FRIDAY

Girl Genius:

BOOK SIX of the Second Journey
(Volume Nineteen of the complete series)

SF/Fantasy
Teens & Up



In a time when the Industrial Revolution has become an all-out war, Mad Science rules the World...with mixed success.

Agatha is the last of the Heterodynes—a notorious family of Mad Scientists that everyone had thought safely wiped out. Now, the ancestral city of the Heterodynes has been trapped in a bubble of stopped time, and Agatha is on a journey to find a way to reverse the effect and save the people she loves.

In this volume, Agatha and her friends visit Londinium, a marvellous sunken city of glass domes. As a guest of the Queen, Agatha is granted a lab of her own—but her work is soon interrupted by a string of nasty murders, a science-minded ghost, any number of roving monsters, and a pack of hapless cultists plotting to “return magic to the World” by summoning one very large and very *angry* creature from a higher dimension!

Girl Genius is a three-time winner of the World Science Fiction Society's Hugo Award in the category of *Best Graphic Story!*

Digital Edition

www.girlgeniusonline.com



WWW.GIRLGENIUSONLINE.COM

ALL-NEW GIRL GENIUS® WEBCOMICS M • W • F

