



Title  
Author





# Witch

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia May Lin

Part 1. The Twelve Portals  
Volume 2



# Witch

Will Irma Taranea Cornelia Hay Lin

Part 1. The Twelve Portals  
Volume 2

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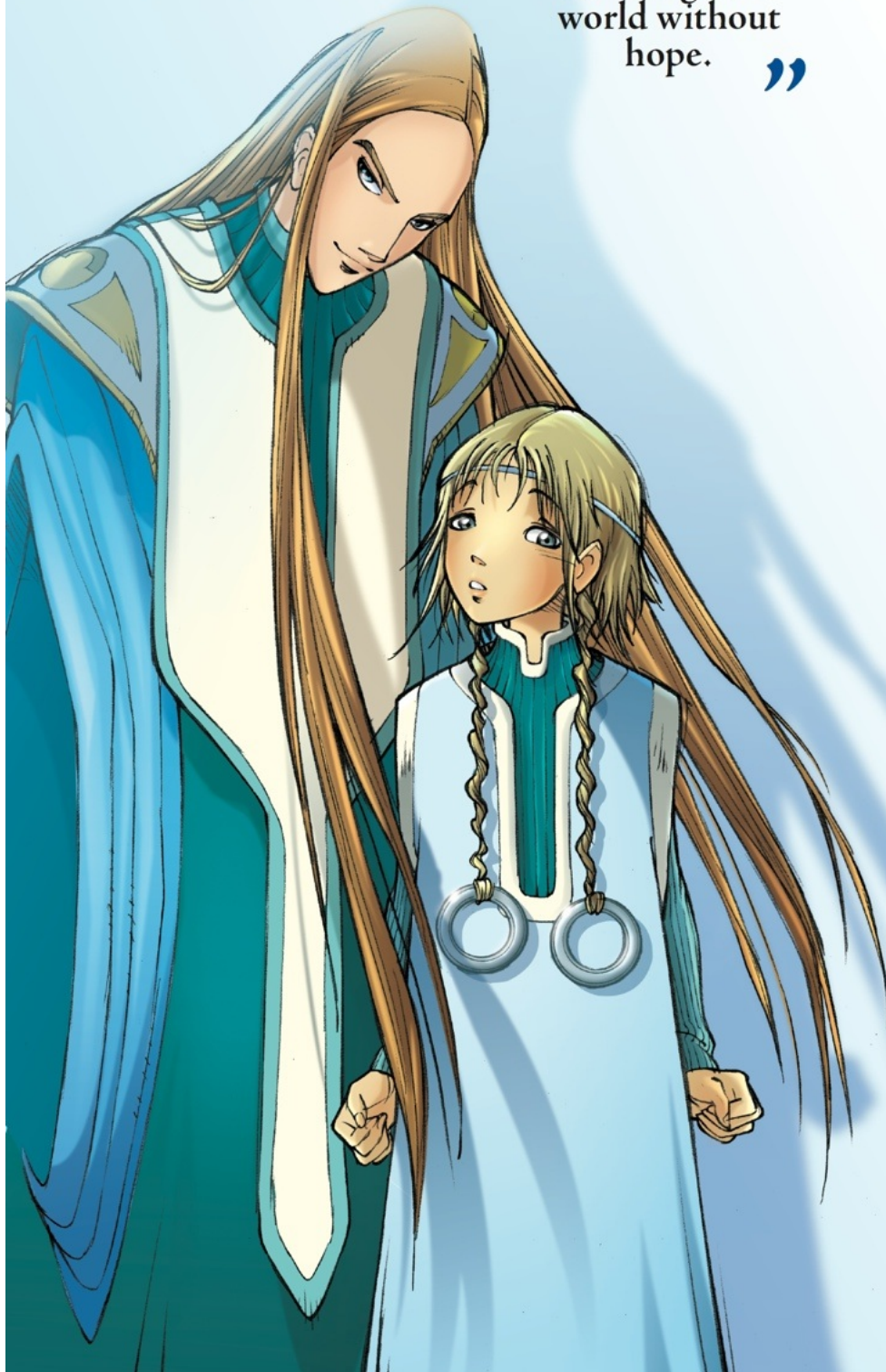






“A world unable  
to change is a  
world without  
hope.”

# THE LAST TEAR





IT MOVES IN THE DARK.



MASTER OF THE DARKNESS,  
IT RUNS QUICKLY AND QUIETLY  
THROUGH THE SHADOW.



BREATHING  
HEAVILY,  
IT TURNS,  
JUMPS,  
ESCAPES.



ITS HEART BEATS  
WILDLY. HEARING  
THE STEPS GROW  
CLOSER, IT KNOWS  
THIS IS A TRAP.

WORSE—  
SHE KNOWS TOO.



COME ON,  
GET OUTTA  
THERE! YOU'RE  
IN BIG TROUBLE  
THIS TIME!



THIS USED TO BE A JAR FULL OF COOKIES! I THOUGHT WE'D BEEN OVER THE CONCEPT OF **PRIVATE PROPERTY**!

->GROAN-<



YOU AREN'T A DORMOUSE, YOU'RE A **LOCUST** IN A COAT! THERE'S JUST ONE LEFT. CONSIDER IT A **GIFT**.

URK!



URK!  
URK!  
URK!

HUH?  
WHAT'S WRONG?



UGH...  
URK!

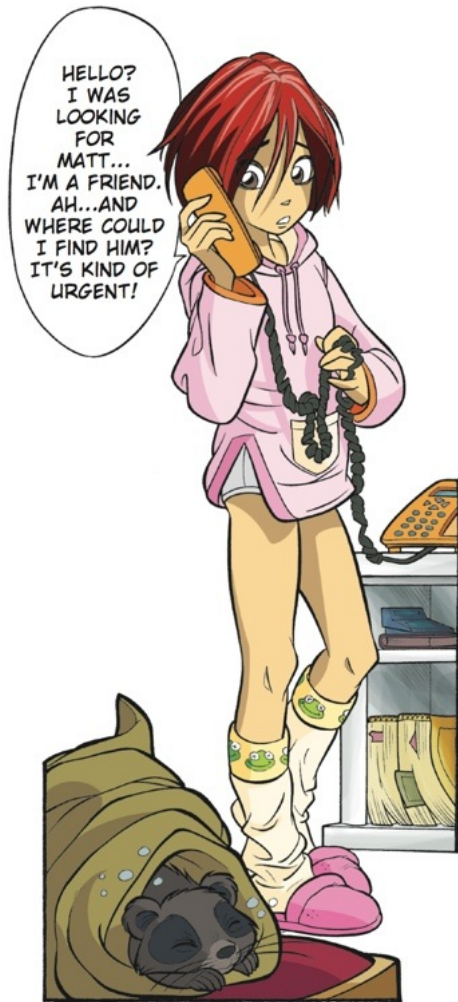
OH NO! DON'T DO THIS TO ME, DORMOUSE! OPEN YOUR EYES! SMILE! WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?

HE'S SICK! WHAT DO I DO? MOM'S AT SOME KINDA **CONFER-SOME-THING**. WHO CAN I ASK FOR HELP?

OF COURSE! MATT! WHERE'D I PUT HIS NUMBER?







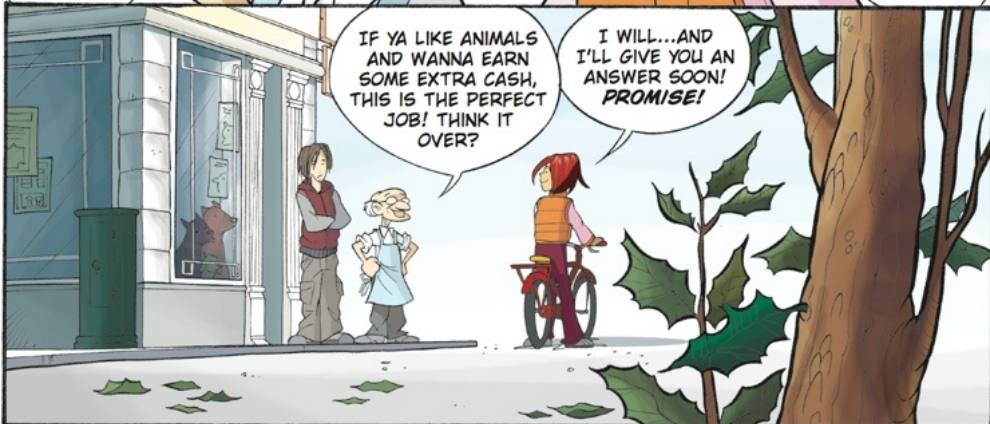
















HEAR THAT?  
PROMISED!

A DIFFERENT  
HOUSE WITH  
DIFFERENT  
PROMISES...



**PROMISED?**  
WHEN WOULD I HAVE PROMISED  
ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

**IRMA!** IF YOU DON'T  
COME OUT OF YOUR ROOM  
RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO  
LOSE MY TEMPER!



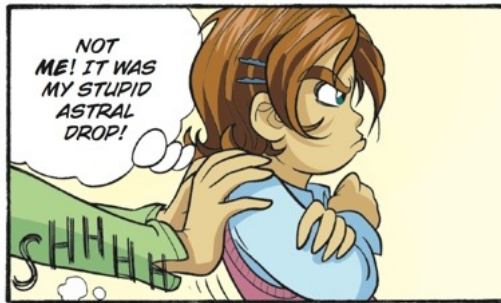
I WANT TO DO MY HOMEWORK!  
I HAVE TO STUDY! SEND LEAFY  
INSTEAD! HE WON'T KNOW  
THE DIFFERENCE!

**STOP THIS!**  
YOU'RE ACTING  
LIKE A BABY!



HAVE YOU NO PITY  
FOR YOUR FAVORITE  
DAUGHTER?

ENOUGH!  
YOU MADE  
A PROMISE,  
AND YOU'LL  
KEEP IT!



NOT  
ME! IT WAS  
MY STUPID  
ASTRAL  
DROP!

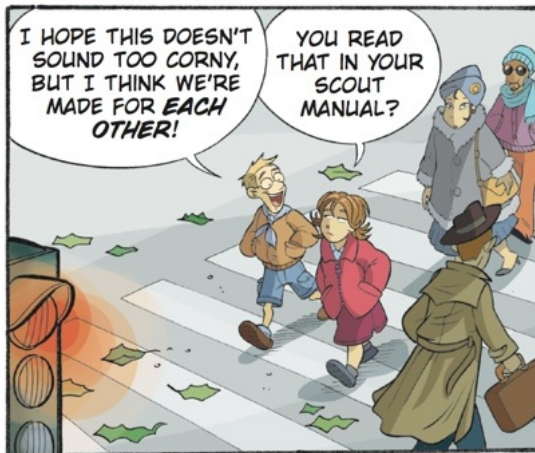
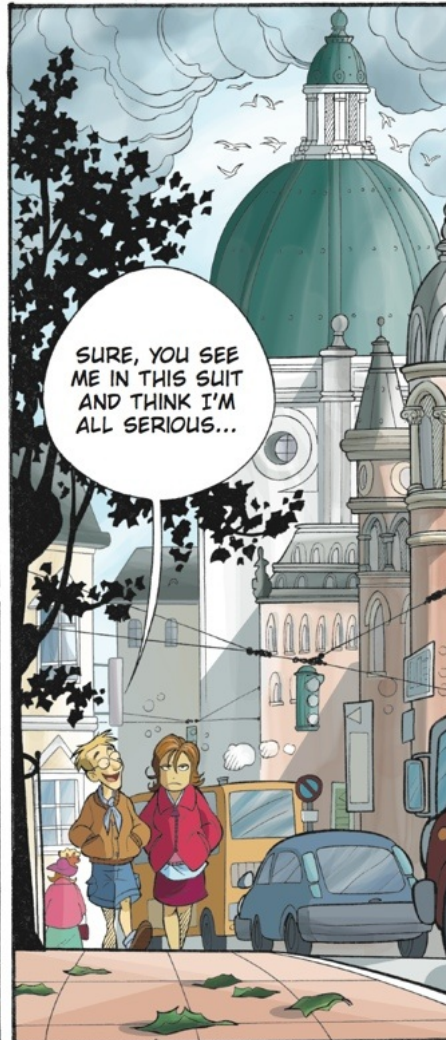
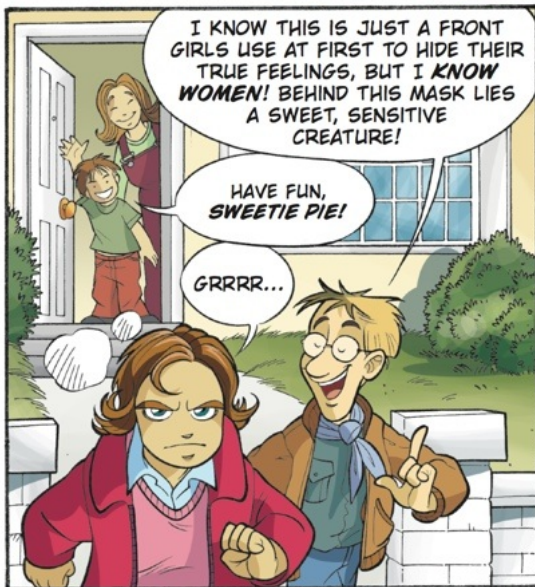


NOBODY IN  
HER RIGHT  
MIND WOULD  
HAVE SAID  
YES...UNLESS  
SHE LIKED  
HORROR!

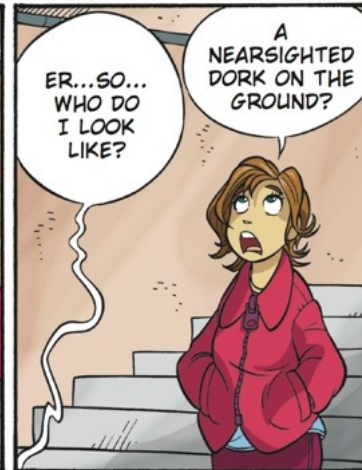
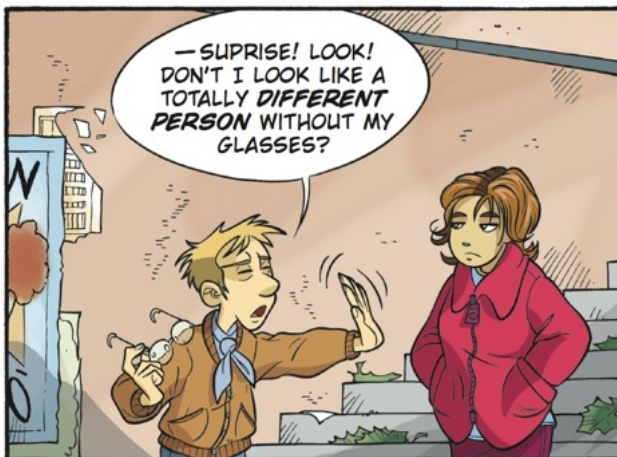
SAY HELLO  
TO YOUR FRIEND,  
IRMA!

**SWEETIE PIE!**  
YOU ARE SIMPLY  
A-DO-RA-BLE!

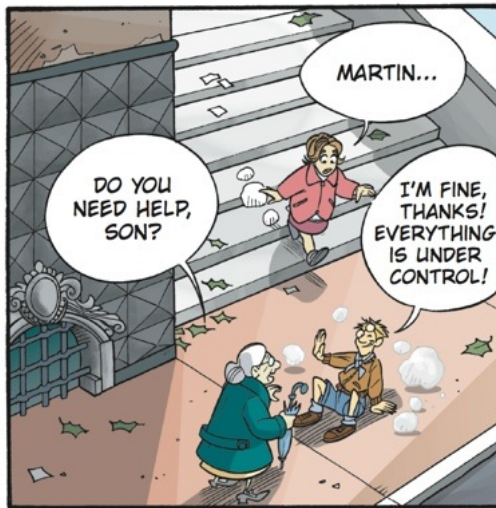




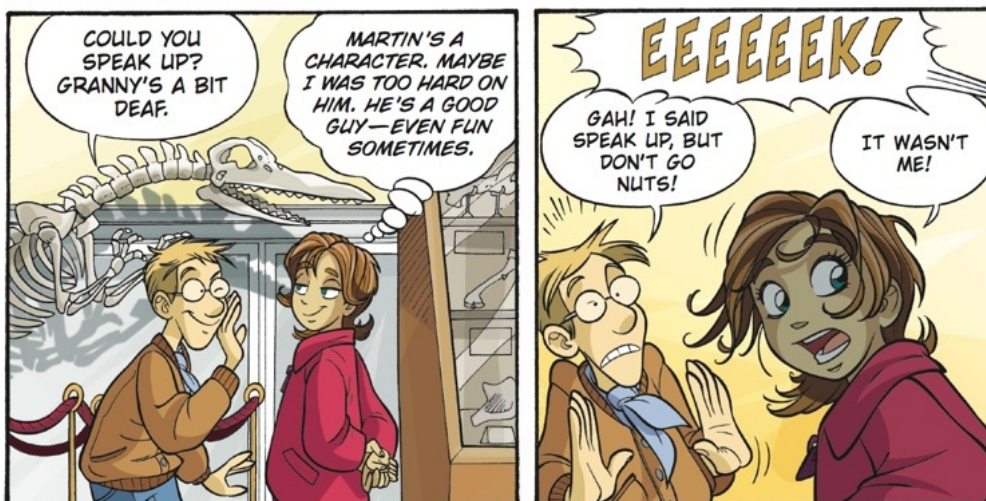
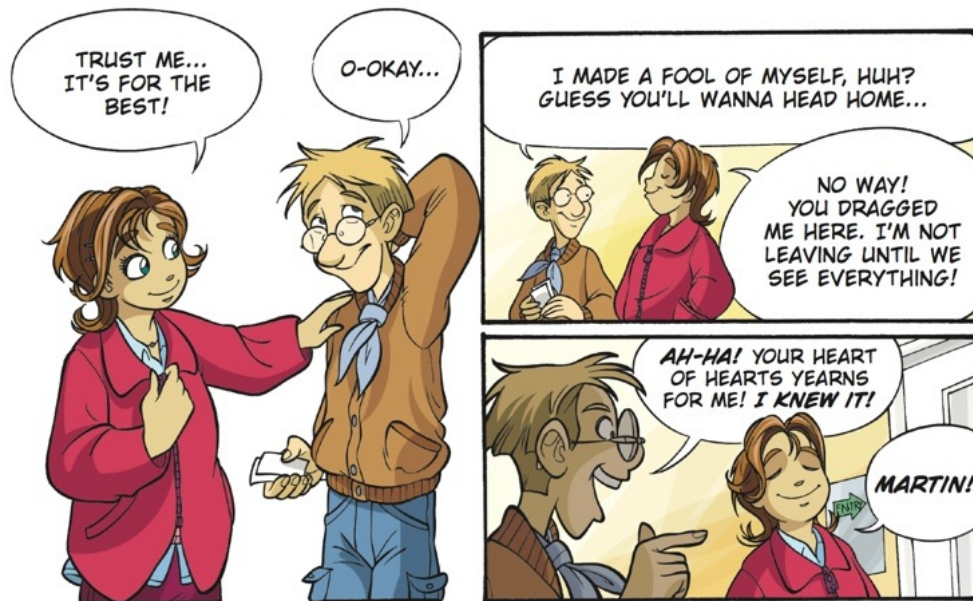




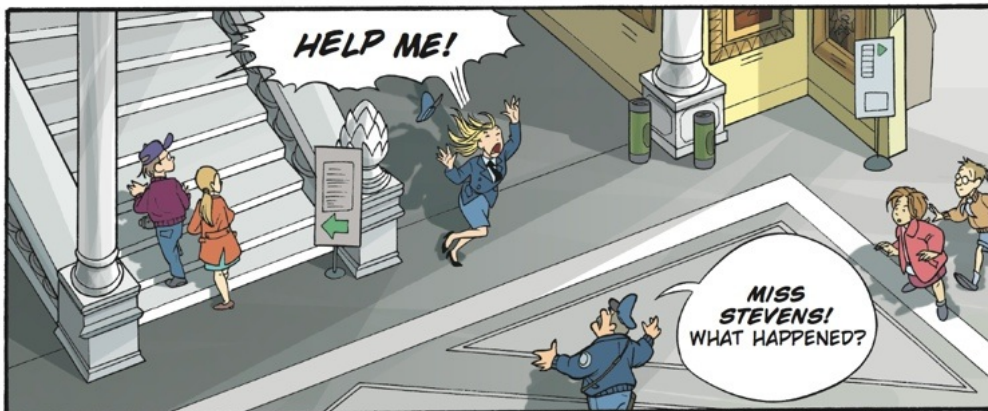




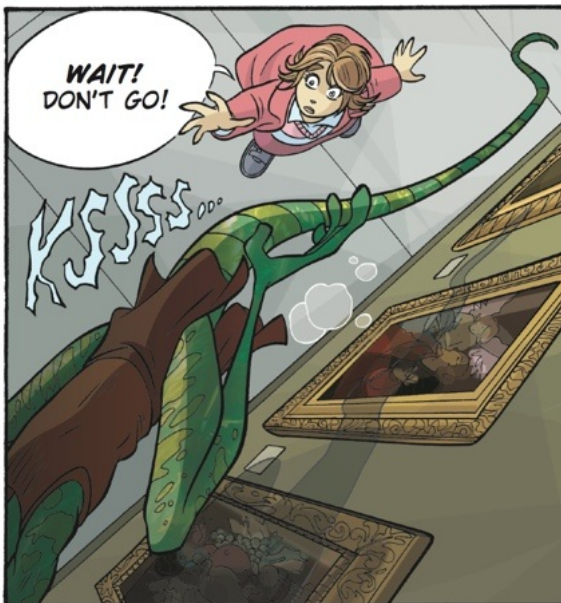
















EVERYTHING OKAY, MISS?

UH? YEAH...  
THANKS,  
OFFICER!



THAT...  
THAT THING  
JUMPED OUT OF  
NOTHING!

I THINK WE  
BETTER GO,  
MARTIN.

WOW! DIDJA  
SEE THAT?  
IT WAS...SOME  
KINDA *REPTILE*!



IT WAS  
SOMETHING  
MORE,  
MY FRIEND...

THE NEXT DAY,  
AT SHEFFIELD  
INSTITUTE...



BUT ARE YOU  
REALLY SURE?

LIKE I SAID,  
HAY LIN, IF IT  
WASN'T ONE OF  
THE INHABITANTS  
OF *MERIDIAN*, IT  
SURE LOOKED  
LIKE ONE!

THE TV AND PAPERS  
AREN'T TAKING IT  
TOO SERIOUSLY. THEY  
REPORTED IT AS  
A SOME SORT OF MASS  
HALLUCINATION...

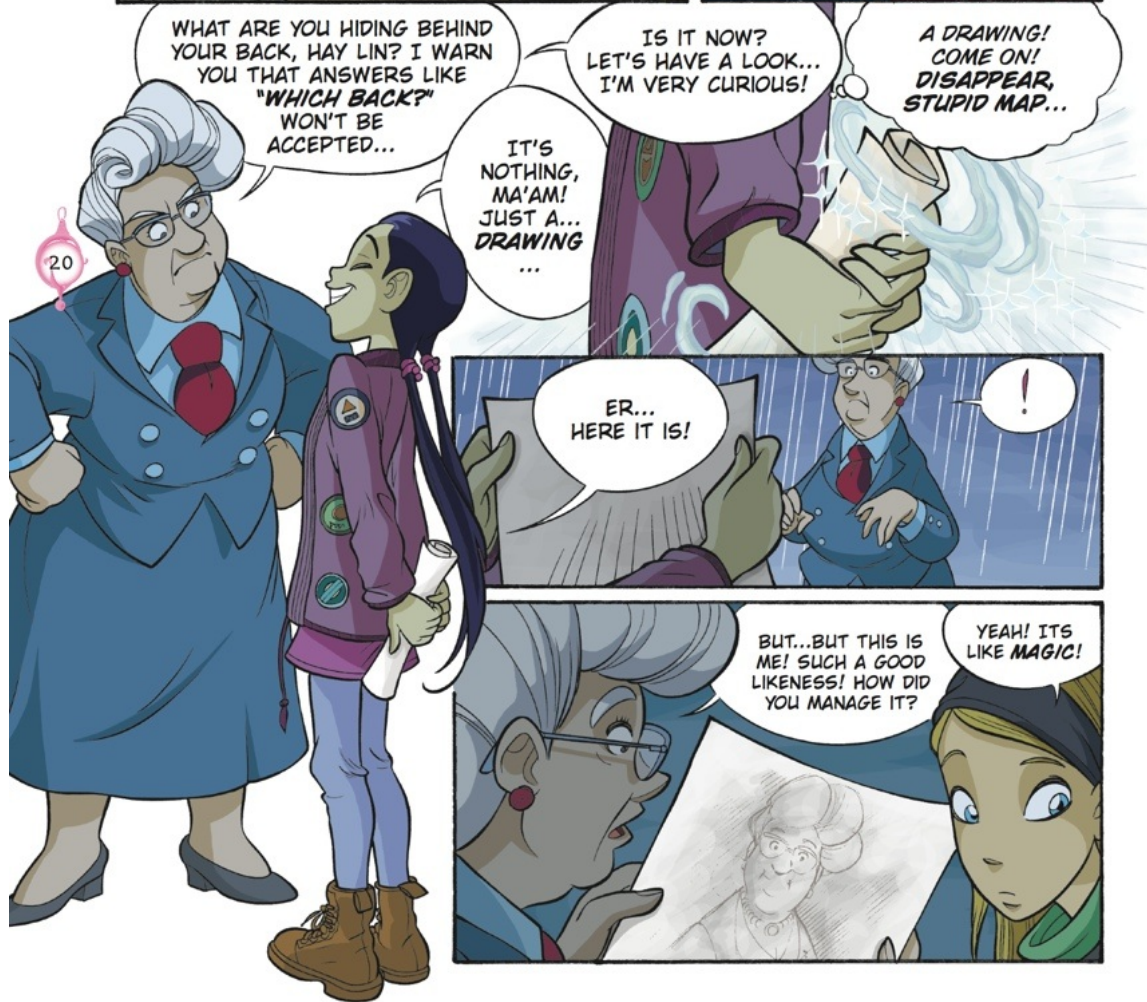
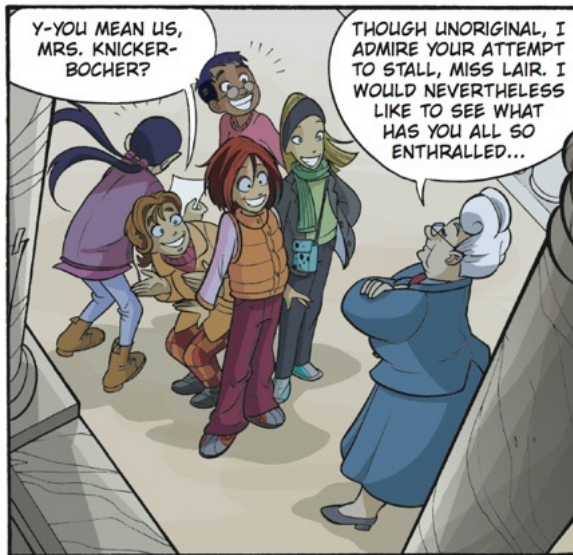
IF THE MONSTER  
CALLED YOU A  
*GUARDIAN*, THEN  
IT SEEMS PRETTY  
CLEAR...



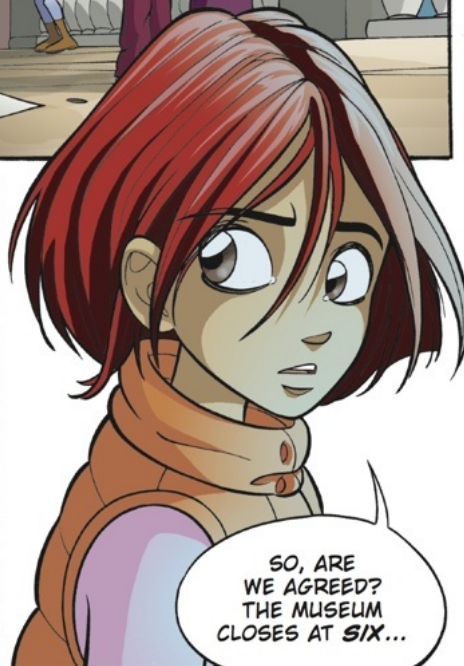




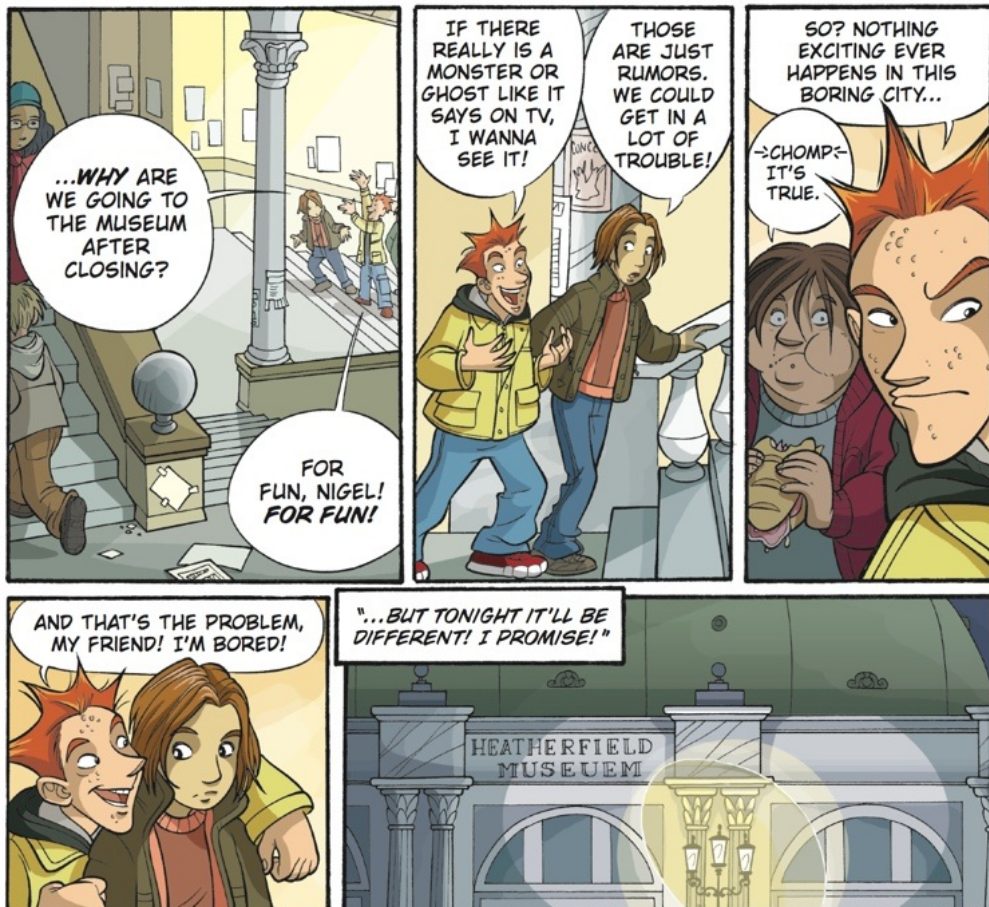




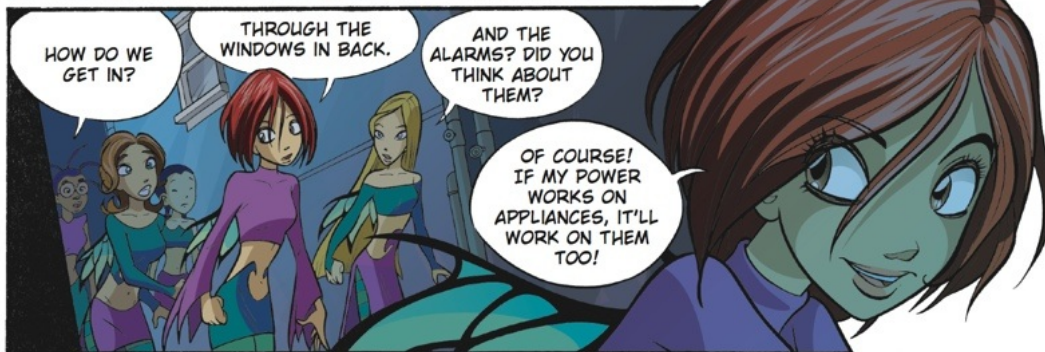
















HERE!  
THIS IS WHERE  
IT HAPPENED!



FEEL  
ANY-  
THING?

NOT REALLY.



BUT THE  
PORTAL MUST BE  
HERE SOMEWHERE.  
FOCUS.



WHAT'S  
WRONG?

OH NO!



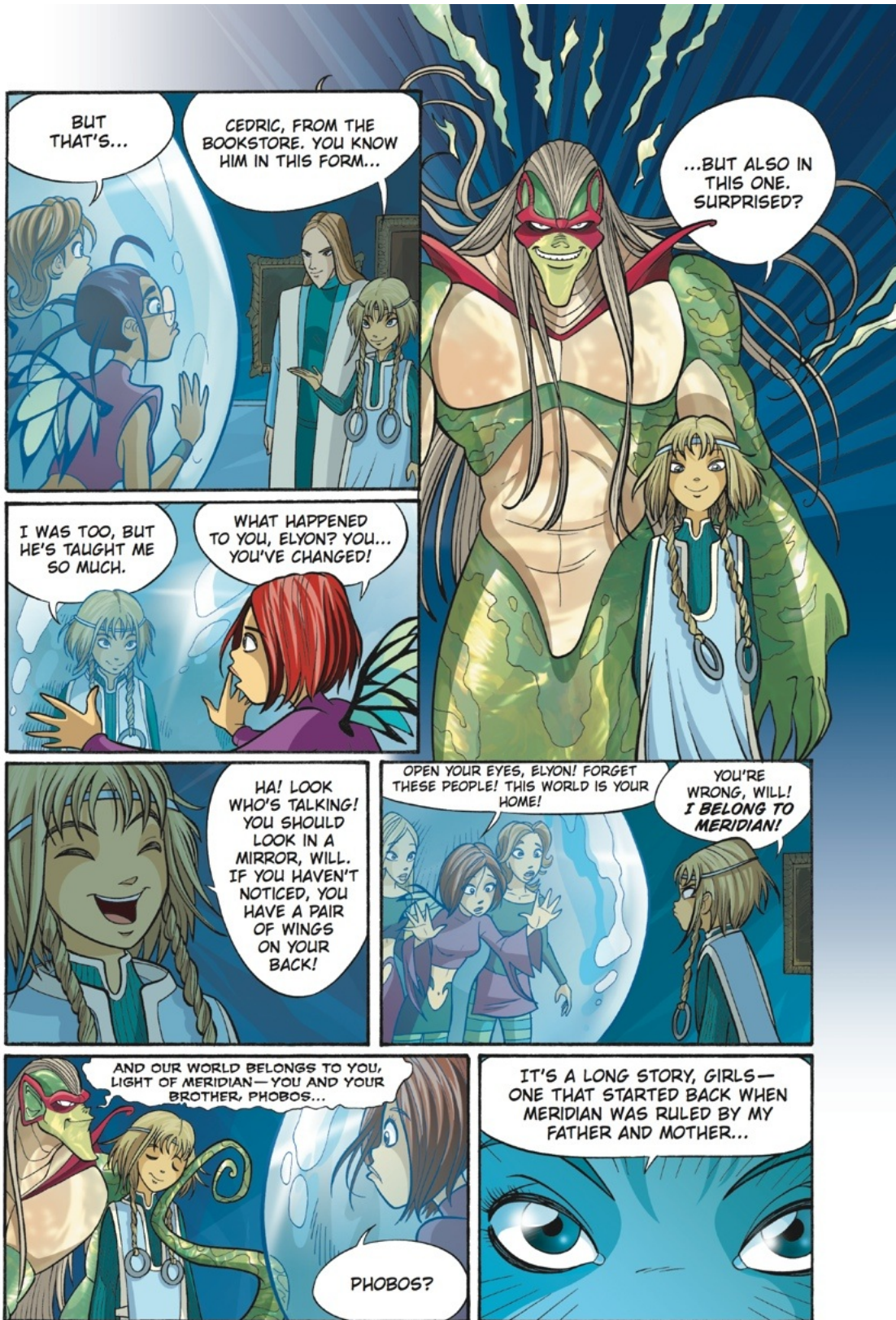
COME AND  
LOOK AT THIS  
PAINTING...

THE  
NEVER-ENDING  
SPRING BY ELIAS  
VAN DAHL.











"MY PARENTS DISAPPEARED WHEN I WAS JUST A BABY, AND I WAS CARED FOR BY A NANNY CHOSEN BY MY BROTHER WHEN HE ASCENDED THE THRONE.

"BUT SHE BETRAYED HIS TRUST! SHE KIDNAPPED ME WITH TWO ACCOMPLICES, TAKING ME FAR AWAY!



"WITH ONE OF THE SEALS OF PHOBOS, THEY OPENED A PASSAGE IN THE VEIL, BRINGING ME TO YOUR WORLD..."

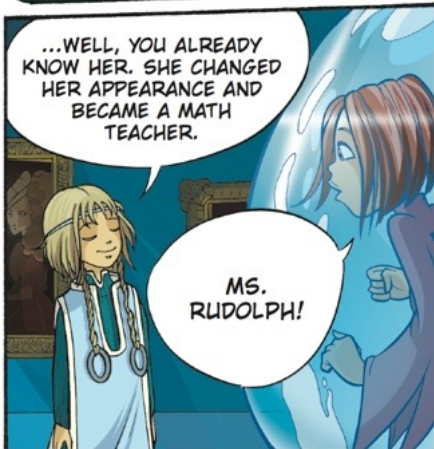
"THE ACCOMPLICES PASSED THEMSELVES OFF AS MY PARENTS, WHILE THE NANNY..."



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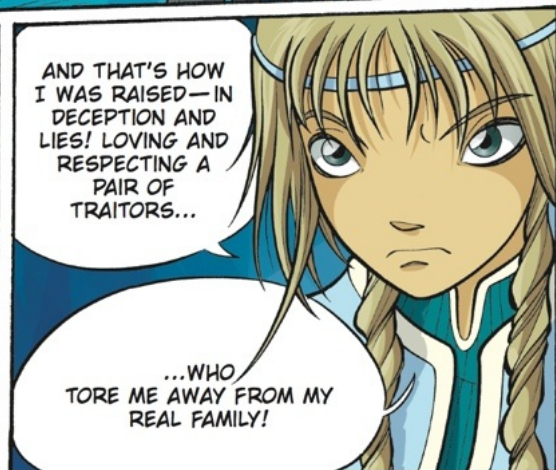
...WELL, YOU ALREADY KNOW HER. SHE CHANGED HER APPEARANCE AND BECAME A MATH TEACHER.

MS. RUDOLPH!

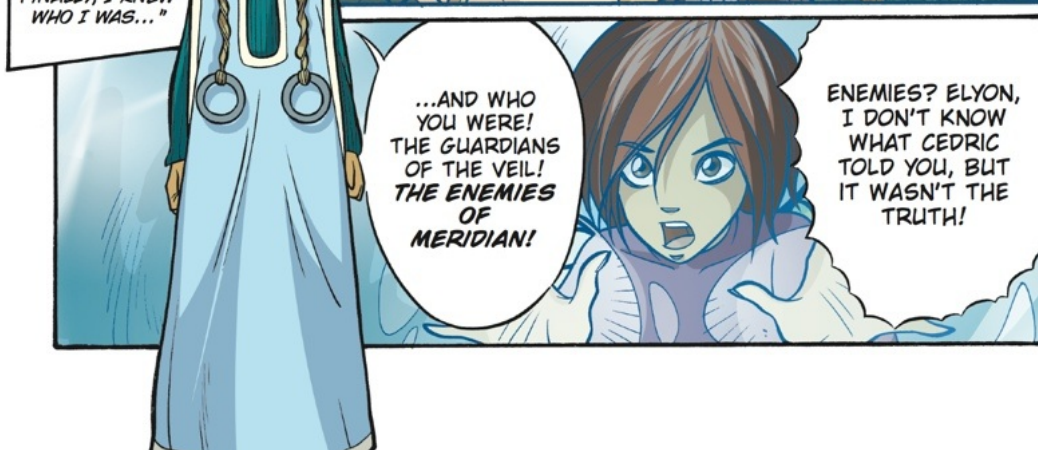


AND THAT'S HOW I WAS RAISED—IN DECEPTION AND LIES! LOVING AND RESPECTING A PAIR OF TRAITORS...

...WHO TORE ME AWAY FROM MY REAL FAMILY!











**SHUT UP!**

**POW**



BECAUSE OF THE VEIL THAT YOU PROTECT, THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN ARE BOUND TO LIVE ON ONE SIDE, WITH NO WAY OUT...



BECAUSE OF THAT VEIL, MY BROTHER **PHOBOS** HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR ME FOR YEARS, UNABLE TO FIND ME...



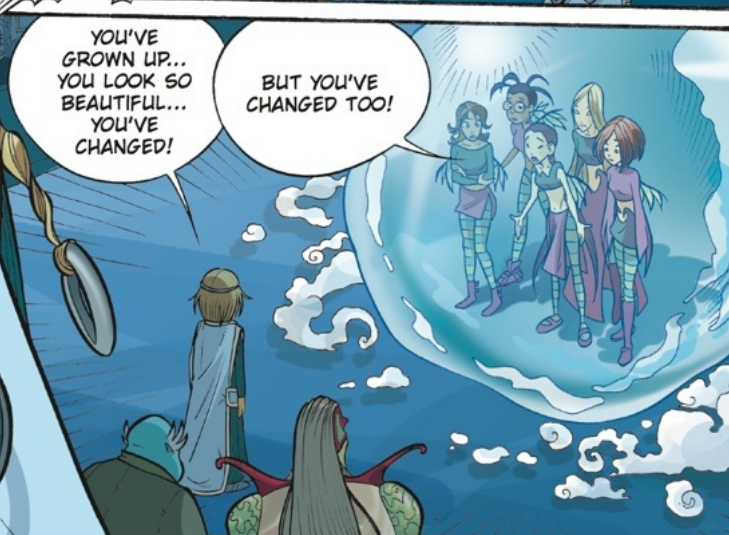
THE VEIL YOU PROTECT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER! AND THAT'S WHY I HATE YOU, GUARDIANS!



BUT WE WERE FRIENDS ONCE, ELYON!



YES, IRMA...ONCE! BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU ANYMORE! LOOK AT YOURSELVES!



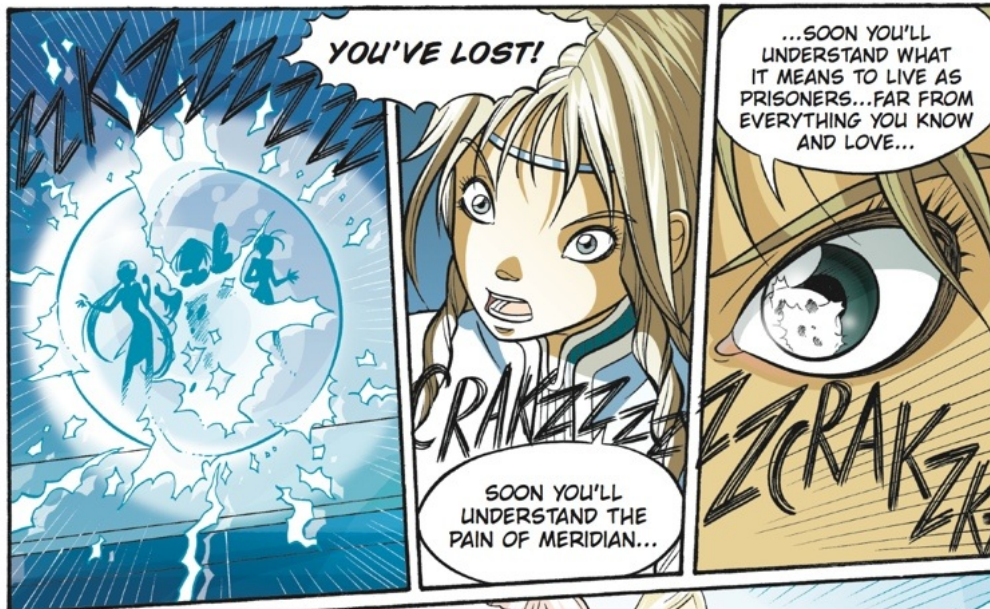
YOU'VE GROWN UP... YOU LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL... YOU'VE CHANGED!

BUT YOU'VE CHANGED TOO!

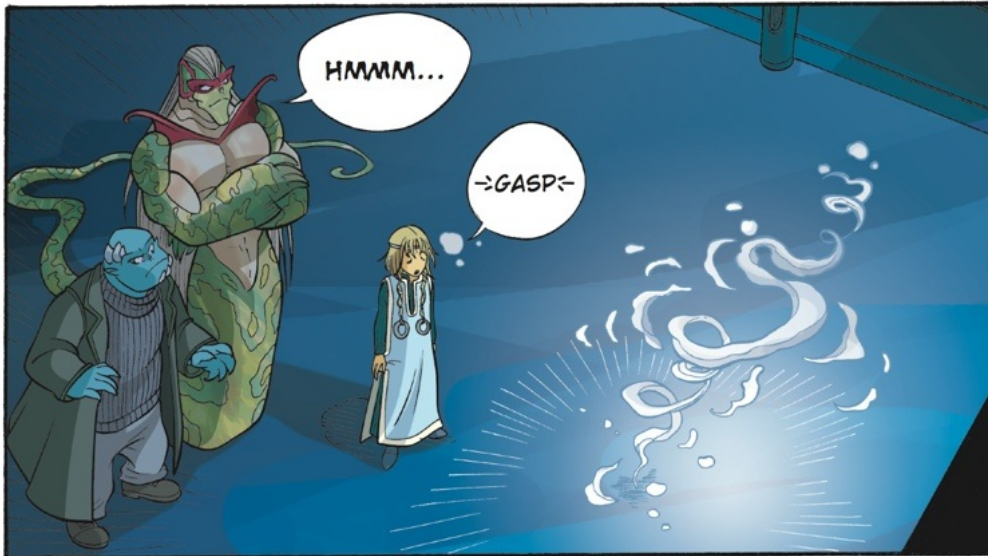






















THE BOYS AREN'T  
THE ONLY ONES WITH  
PROBLEMS. MOMENTS  
AGO, THESE WERE THE  
FIVE MOST POWERFUL  
BEINGS ON EARTH...



...FIVE GIRLS  
CAPABLE OF  
BENDING THE  
ELEMENTS AT  
WILL.



HOW QUICKLY  
THINGS CHANGE.  
NOW, WILL,  
IRMA, TARANEE,  
CORNELIA,  
AND HAY LIN  
AREN'T "FREE"  
IN ANY SENSE OF  
THE WORD...



...BECAUSE THEY ARE  
PRISONERS IN A PAINTING.

OUTTA THE  
WAY, PEOPLE!  
LET 'EM  
PASS!

GUYS,  
I THINK  
WE HAVE A  
PROBLEM!

HA-HA-  
HA!

HA-HA-  
HA!

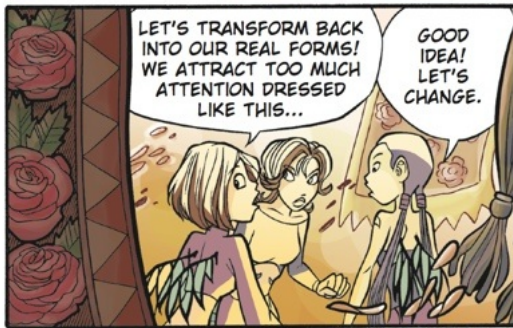
HA-HA-  
HA!



























THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, MISTER...?

HEH-HEH-HEH. YOU CAN CALL ME ELIAS!



YOU PUT THOSE SOLDIERS IN THEIR PLACE WITH JUST A COUPLE WORDS! YOU MUST BE A PRETTY IMPORTANT GUY AROUND HERE, ELIAS!

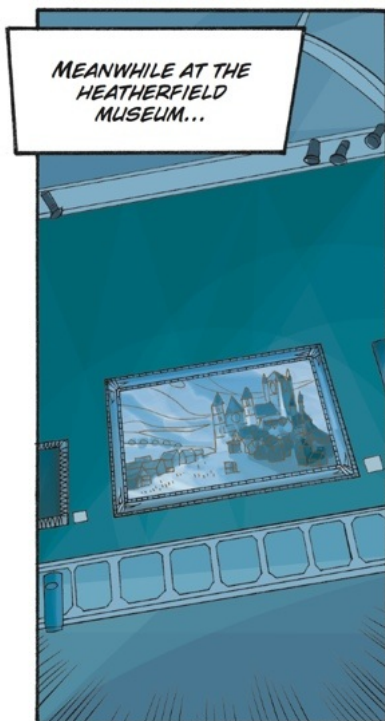
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF THEY FEAR ME OR RESPECT ME.



THEY CERTAINLY OWE ME A LOT. AFTER ALL...THIS SKY, THIS TOWN, THESE PEOPLE...



...I CREATED THEM!



MEANWHILE AT THE HEATHERFIELD MUSEUM...



...FOUR BOYS HAVE FOUND WHAT THEY CAME LOOKING FOR.

AAAAAH!

















"COME HERE..."

DON'T BE  
AFRAID...

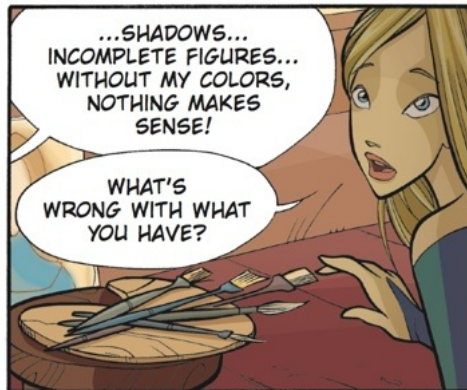


I LIVE HERE.  
IT'S NOT VERY BIG,  
BUT I LIKE IT. THERE'S  
A BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF  
THE CATHEDRAL!

LOOK AT ALL  
THESE PAINTINGS.  
YOU REALLY ARE  
A PAINTER?



WELL, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.  
NOWADAYS, THIS IS ABOUT ALL  
I CAN MANAGE...



...SHADOWS...  
INCOMPLETE FIGURES...  
WITHOUT MY COLORS,  
NOTHING MAKES  
SENSE!

WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH WHAT  
YOU HAVE?



THESE ARE JUST ILLUSIONS.  
NOTHING AROUND US **ACTUALLY EXISTS**.  
THIS IS THE CURSE OF **PHOBOS**...









I'M THE ONE WHO **PAINTED** ALL THIS! ELIAS VAN DAHL... COURT PAINTER OF MERIDIAN...

...AT LEAST UNTIL PHOBOS DECIDED DIFFERENTLY!

"FOR A LONG TIME, I WORKED FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY. AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE KING AND QUEEN, PHOBOS ASCENDED THE THRONE..."



LIFE IN MERIDIAN HAD NEVER BEEN EASY, BUT THE PRINCE SOON MADE IT **IMPOSSIBLE!**

"OBSESSIVELY VAIN, HE ORDERED EVERY IMAGE OF HIMSELF DESTROYED..."

"LOCKED UP IN HIS CASTLE, PHOBOS ONLY SHOWED HIMSELF THROUGH THE FAITHFUL MURMURERS."















"CEDRIC  
RIPPED  
OPEN A  
BREACH  
IN THE VEIL  
USING MY  
PAINTING  
AS A  
PORTAL..."



"...AND WHILE HE RETURNED  
TO MERIDIAN, I WAS  
ABANDONED IN THE WORLD  
I HAD PAINTED..."

...A WORLD,  
THAT, THANKS  
TO MAGIC, HAD  
SUDDENLY  
COME TO  
LIFE!



50



THOSE PEOPLE  
AREN'T REAL,  
BUT THEY LIVE AS  
IF THEY WERE IN A  
NEVER-ENDING  
DAY!

WHAT A  
NIGHTMARE!



IT IS A SIGN OF PHOBOS'S  
EVIL! HE'S FORCED ME TO  
STAY HERE FOR...FOR...  
FOR HOW LONG?

FOUR HUNDRED  
YEARS, ELIAS!  
WE'RE FROM THE  
TWENTY-FIRST  
CENTURY...



FOUR HUNDRED  
YEARS...

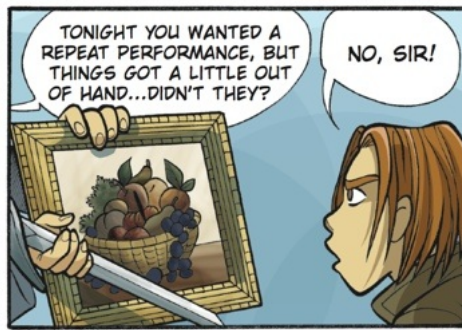
You don't  
look your  
age.

Shut up,  
Irma!

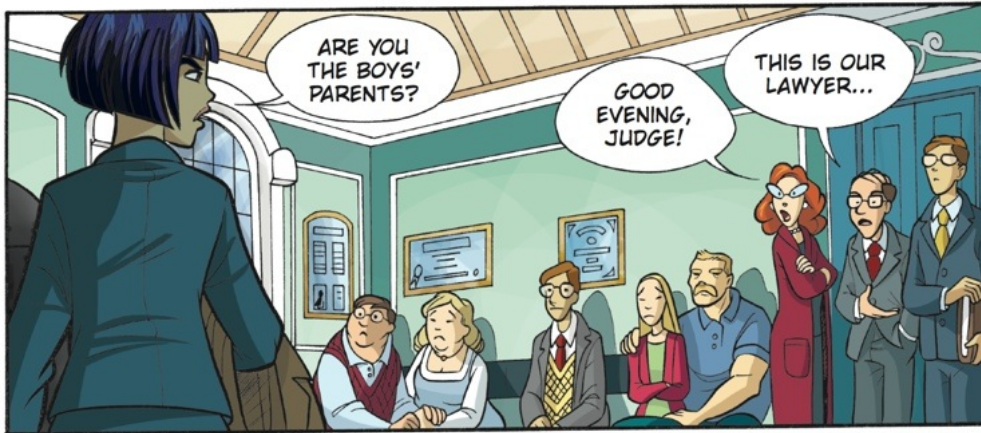








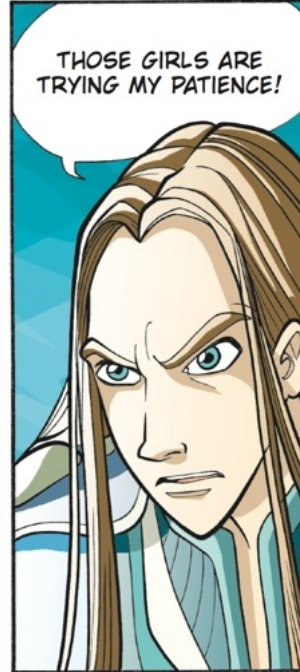
















ONCE, PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE SPELL SAT QUIETLY IN CORNERS UNTIL THE END OF THEIR DAYS...



WHAT IS THIS ARROGANCE?

YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! PEOPLE ARE SO RUDE NOWADAYS. WANT ME TO TAKE CARE OF IT?

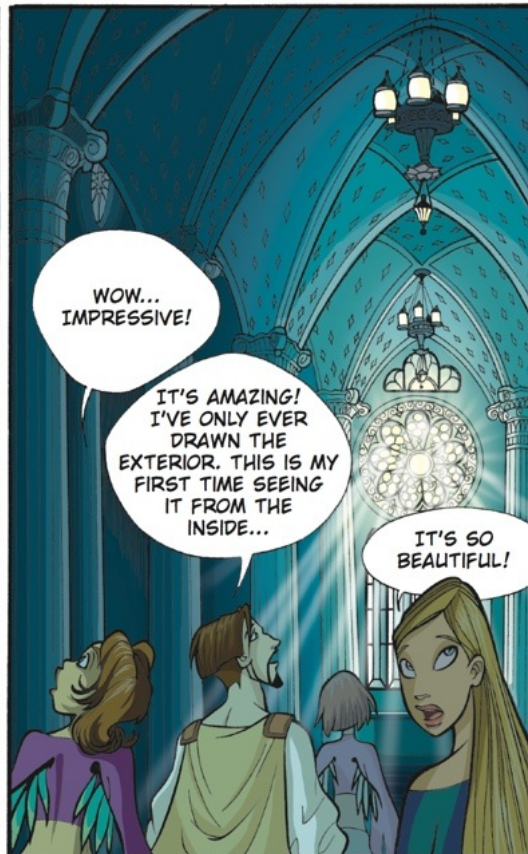


NO, VATHEK! SOMEONE ELSE WILL SETTLE UP WITH THOSE WITCHES...



YES! WE DID IT!

OOFF!



WOW... IMPRESSIVE!

IT'S AMAZING! I'VE ONLY EVER DRAWN THE EXTERIOR. THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT FROM THE INSIDE...

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!













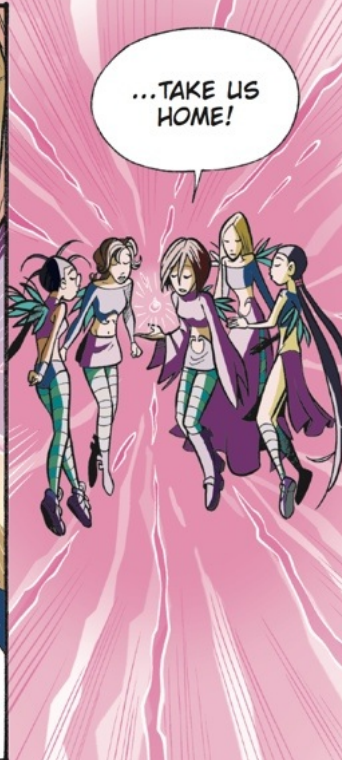
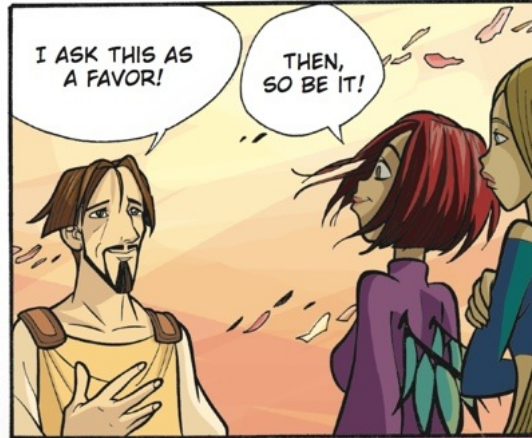










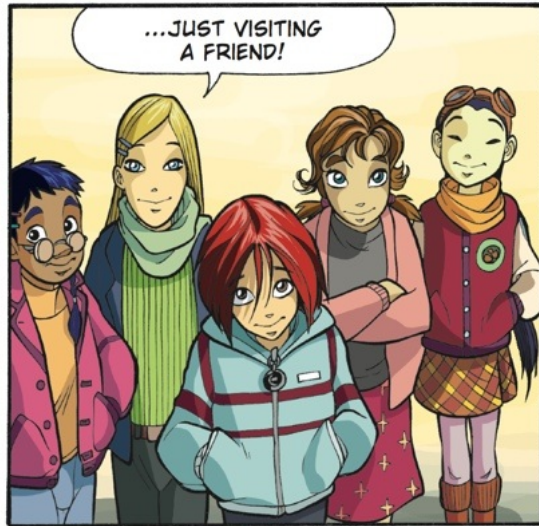




**EPILOGUE:  
THE HEATHERFIELD  
MUSEUM,  
A FEW DAYS LATER**







END OF CHAPTER 5







“  
Sometimes words  
are not enough  
for feelings...”

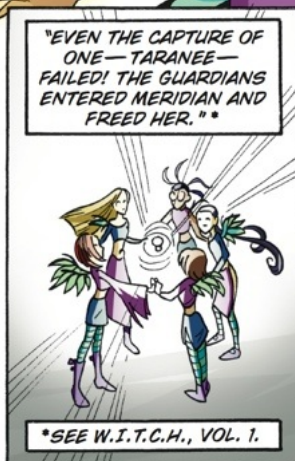


# ILLUSIONS AND LIES

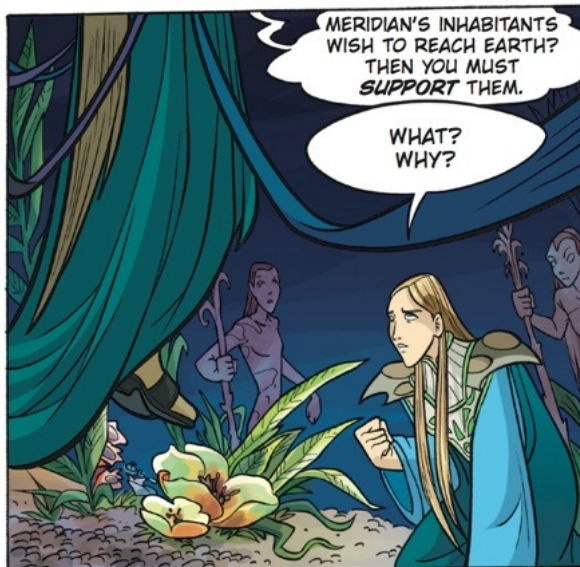
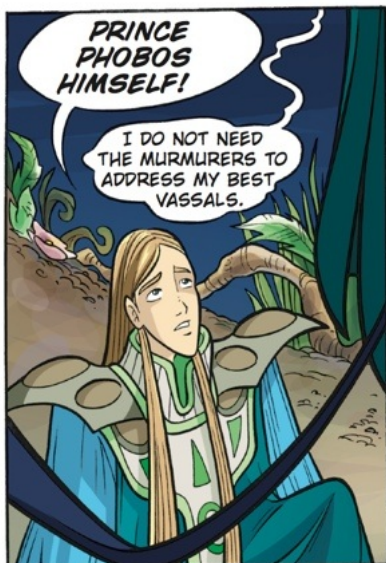




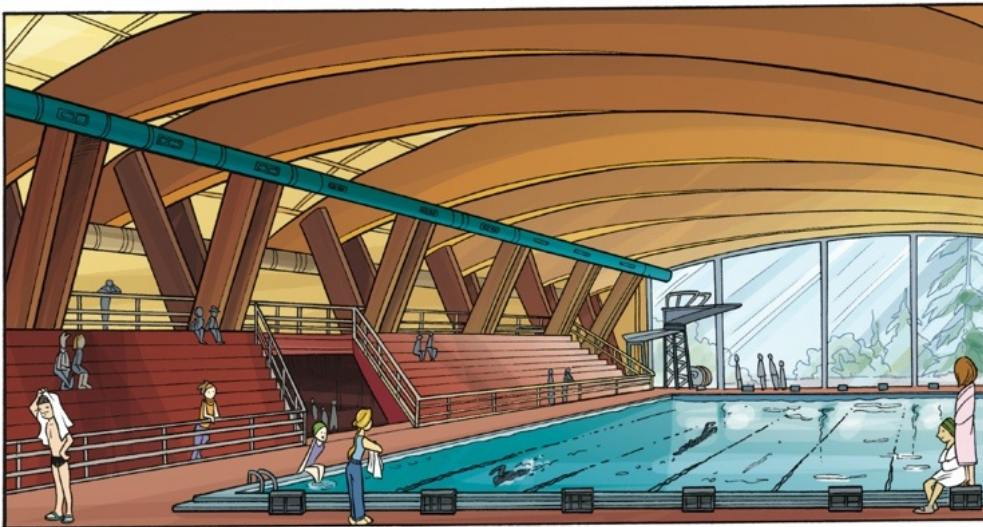
"MORE THAN ONCE, I HAVE BEEN UNDONE BY THE POWER OF THE FIVE GUARDIANS OF THE PORTALS..."



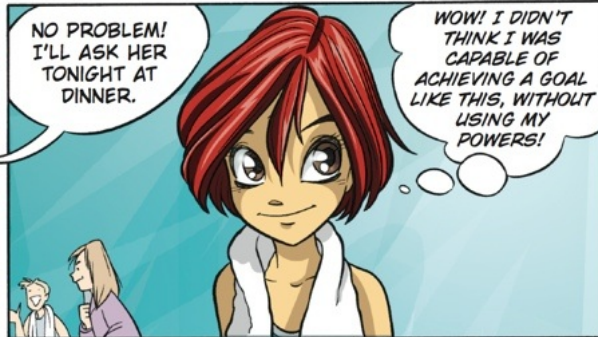




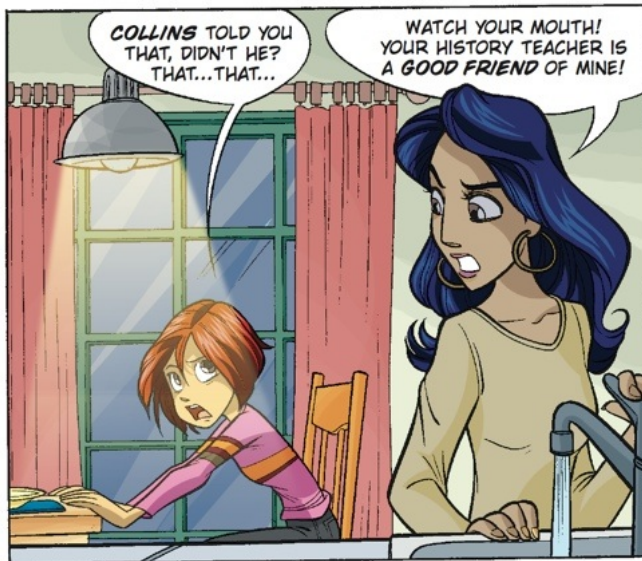






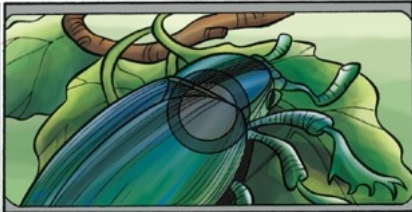








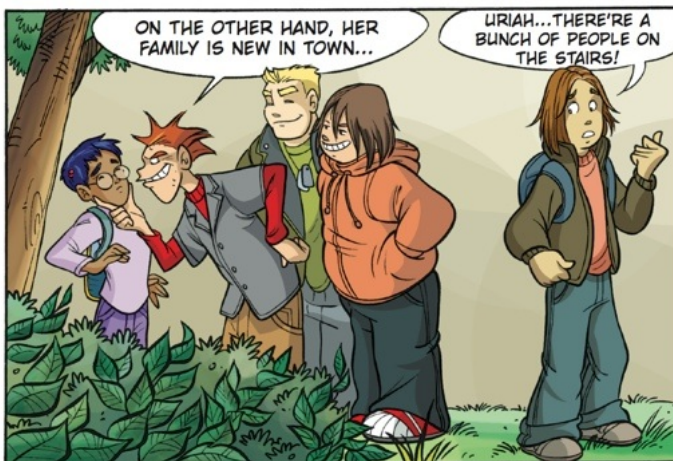
THE NEXT MORNING,  
IN FRONT OF  
THE SHEFFIELD  
INSTITUTE...



WHY? WHY?



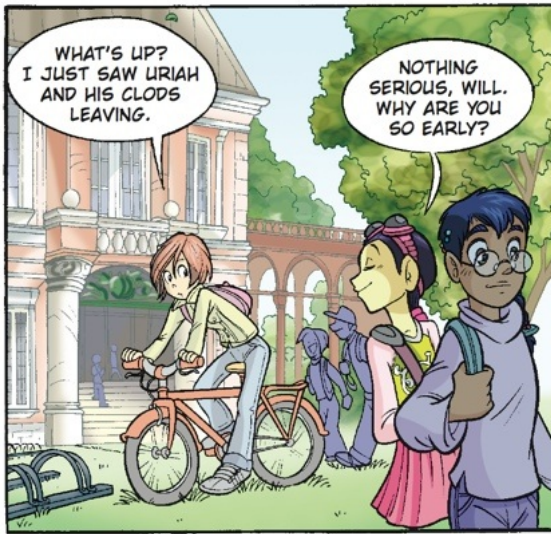








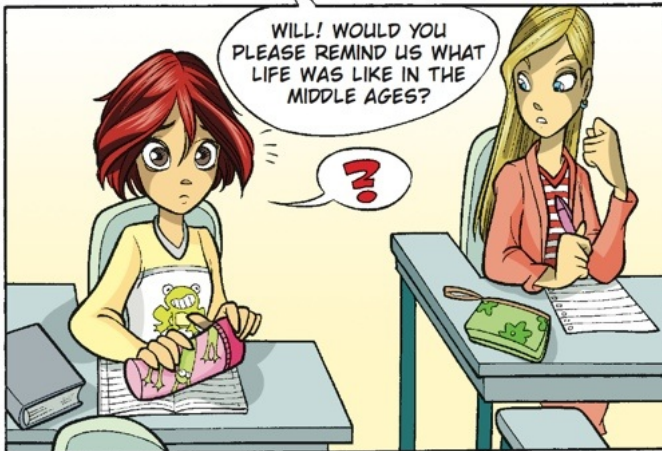
















KNOW WHAT I SAY TO THAT, TEACH? FORGET IT!



YOU SAID THAT, AND COLLINS DIDN'T KICK YOU OUT?

WELL, WHAT I REALLY SAID WAS "YES, SIR!"

BUT YOU SHOULD'VE HEARD MY TONE!



CORNELIA, YOU SAW HOW HE TARGETED ME!

I HAVE TO ADMIT HE WAS UNUSUALLY TOUGH...



SEE? THAT PROVES COLLINS IS ODD!



AND AFTER ALL, MS. RUDOLPH DID COME FROM METAMOR...

COME ON, ANOTHER MONSTER? BUT YOU'RE JUST REALIZING NOW?



IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING PERSONAL AGAINST HIM?

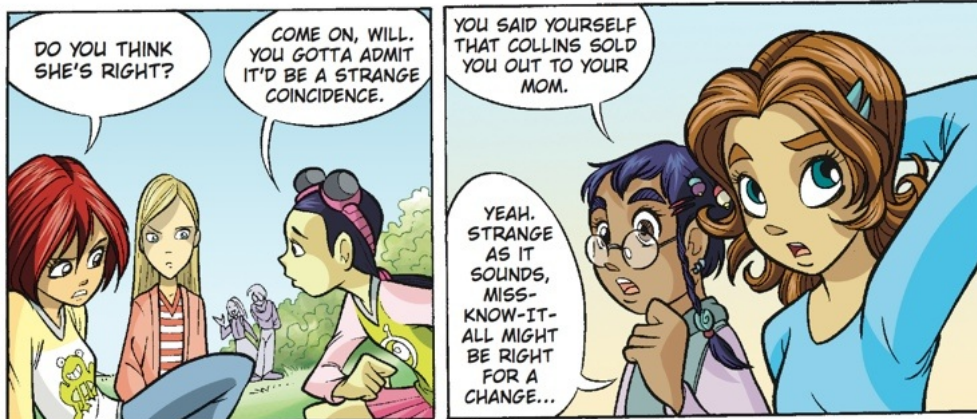
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I MADE IT ALL UP?



I'M JUST SAYING YOU'VE BEEN FAINTING A LOT LATELY, AND MAYBE IT'S ALL IN YOUR...

STOP! THAT'S ENOUGH!













THOUGH I MUST ADMIT,  
THE REAL COLLINS GAVE ME  
A HARD TIME.



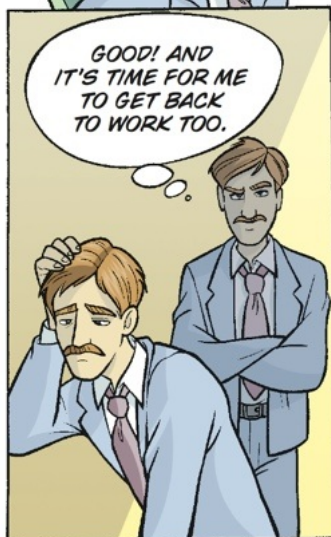
COLLINS,  
CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YES.



THE BREAK IS OVER.  
WHEN YOU GO BACK TO YOUR  
CLASSROOM, YOU WON'T  
REMEMBER A  
THING.

NOTHING!



GOOD! AND  
IT'S TIME FOR ME  
TO GET BACK  
TO WORK TOO.



BUT NOT  
LOOKING LIKE  
THIS...



AHH! SO  
MUCH BETTER!





MR. COLLINS!  
EVEN IF THE MEN  
ARE TAKING A  
BREAK, YOU CAN'T  
BE IN THIS WING!



WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I ALREADY  
TOLD YOU THIS?

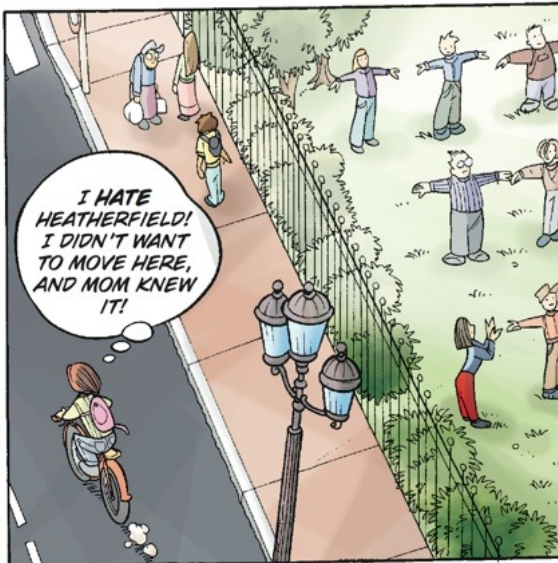
MAYBE  
IT'S *DÉJÀ VU*,  
BERTOLD!



THOUGH  
I'M AT A LOSS...WHAT  
AM I DOING HERE?



WHAT AM  
I DOING  
HERE?

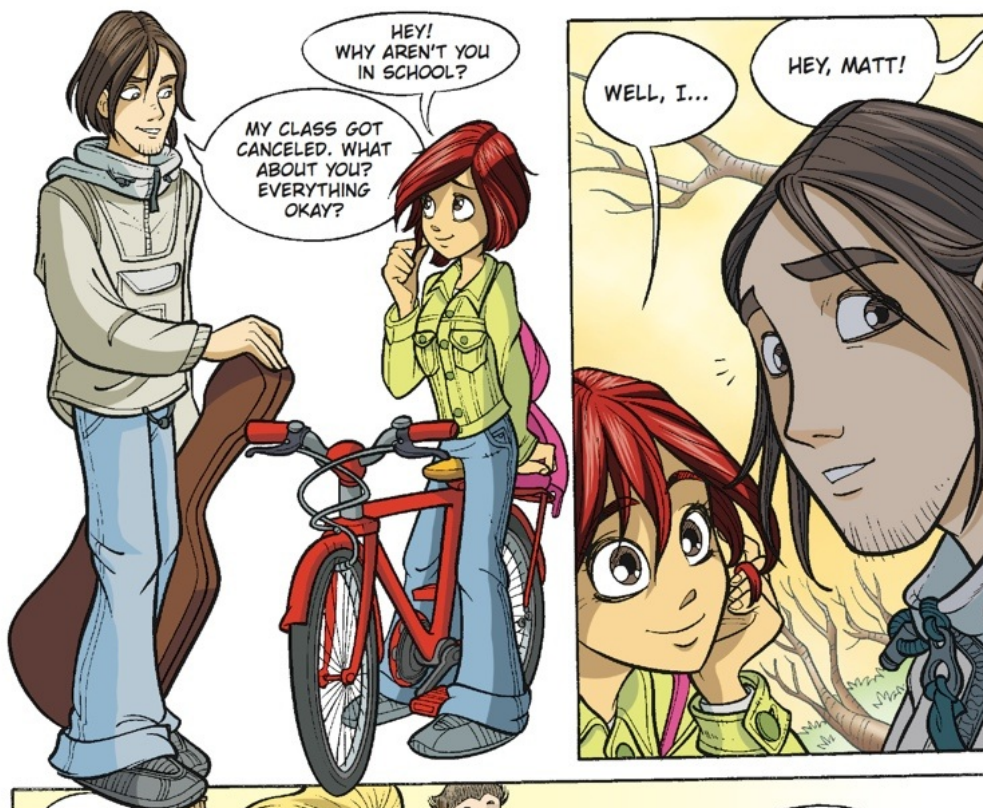


I HATE  
HEATHERFIELD!  
I DIDN'T WANT  
TO MOVE HERE,  
AND MOM KNEW  
IT!



MATT! HE'S THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
MAKES THIS TOWN  
BEARABLE!









MEANWHILE,  
IN ANOTHER PART OF  
THE CITY...

TELL ME,  
VATHEK! HOW  
IS IT GOING?



WELL, SIR!  
I'VE ENTERED MERIDIAN'S  
UNDERGROUND AND  
INFILTRATED  
THE REBELS!



I TOLD THEM I  
**BETRAYED** YOU!  
UNFORTUNATELY,  
NOT EVERYONE  
BELIEVED ME.

GO ON!

THEY ARE DIVIDED.  
THOSE WHO FELL  
FOR IT ARE UNDER  
MY COMMAND.



OH? I DIDN'T THINK YOU  
SUCH A CHARMER, OLD  
FRIEND!



THEY ARE TRULY  
DESPERATE, SIR.  
THEY WOULD BELIEVE  
ANYBODY!



DON'T BE  
MOVED BY  
THEM! REMEMBER  
WHOM YOU  
SERVE!



I WON'T FORGET, SIR!  
I ONLY WONDER WHY WE MUST  
DECEIVE THEM.

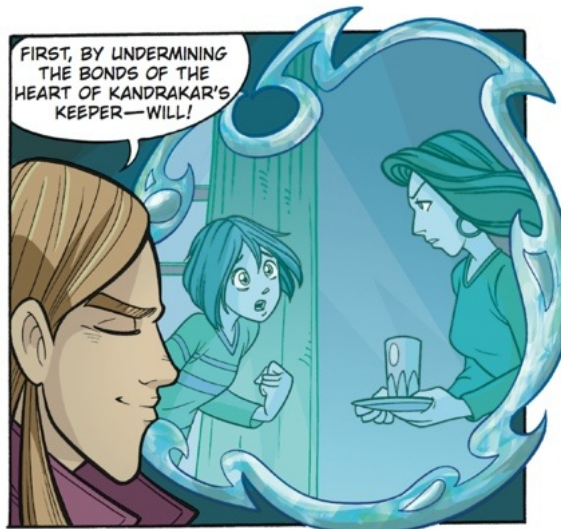
WE AREN'T—QUITE  
THE CONTRARY. WE'RE  
GIVING THEM A REAL  
CHANCE TO **INVADE**  
EARTH.





AND WE'RE AIDING THEM. I'M DOING ALL I CAN TO WEAKEN THE GUARDIANS!

MAY I ASK HOW?



FIRST, BY UNDERMINING THE BONDS OF THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR'S KEEPER—WILL!



CLOUDING HER MIND WAS QUITE SIMPLE. NOW WHEN THE TIME COMES, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO RELY ON HER FRIENDS!

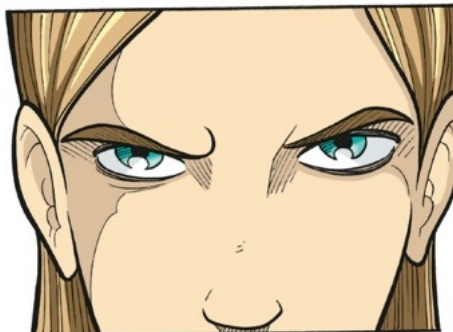


BUT ELYON WILL DELIVER THE FINAL BLOW! SHE'S PLAYING HER PART PERFECTLY.

AND I MAKE MY MOVE TONIGHT?



YES, VATHEK. NURTURE RAGE WITHIN YOUR FOLLOWERS! TEACH THEM TO HATE THE GUARDIANS!

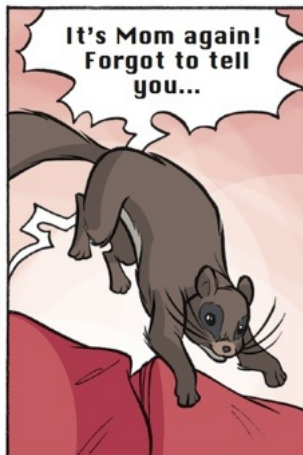


WE'LL LEAVE THE TASK OF ERADICATION TO THEM...









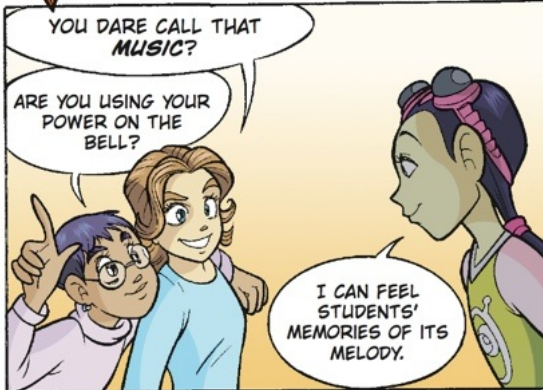




GAH! ONLY A SADIST WOULD INSTALL THAT BELL TO CALL KIDS TO CLASS.

I LIKE IT! MUSIC TO MY EARS!

SOME OF US LIKE GOING TO CLASS...AND MAY EVEN STEAL A GLANCE AT *SOMEONE* THEY LIKE BUT CAN'T SUMMON THE COURAGE TO TELL...



YOU DARE CALL THAT **MUSIC**?

ARE YOU USING YOUR POWER ON THE BELL?

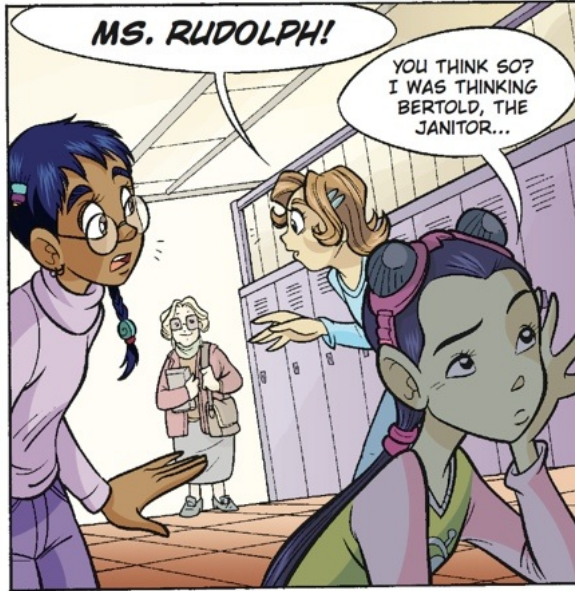
I CAN FEEL STUDENTS' MEMORIES OF ITS MELODY.



MELODY?!



EVEN **FOOTSTEPS** SPEAK TO ME. HEAR THOSE? LIGHT...SHY...THEY REMIND ME OF...



**MS. RUDOLPH!**

YOU THINK SO? I WAS THINKING BERTOLD, THE JANITOR...





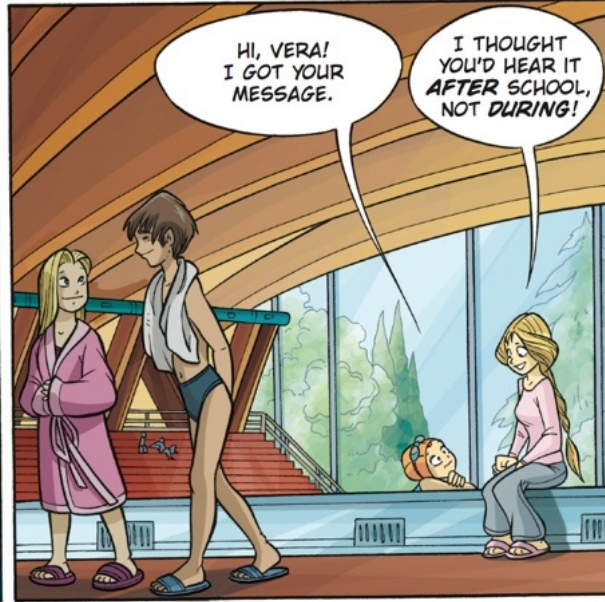




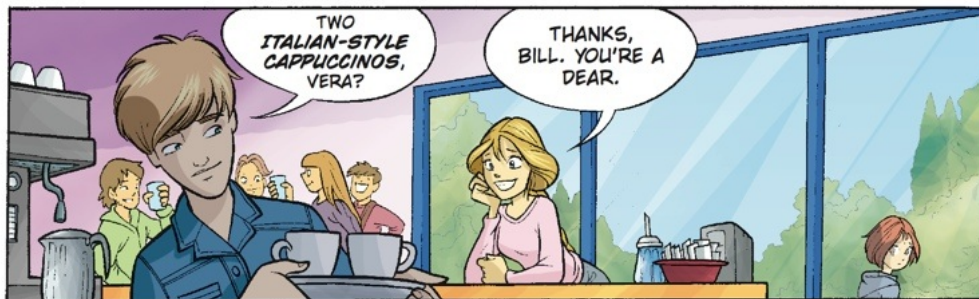




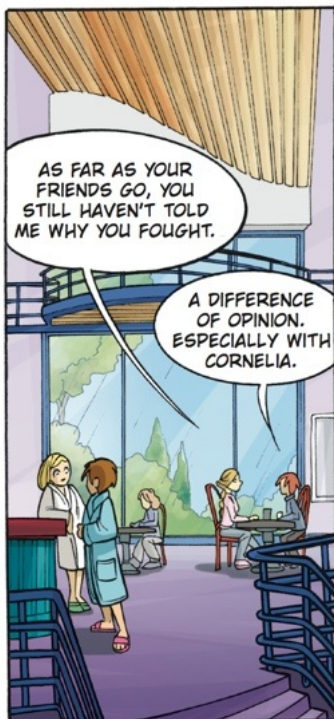








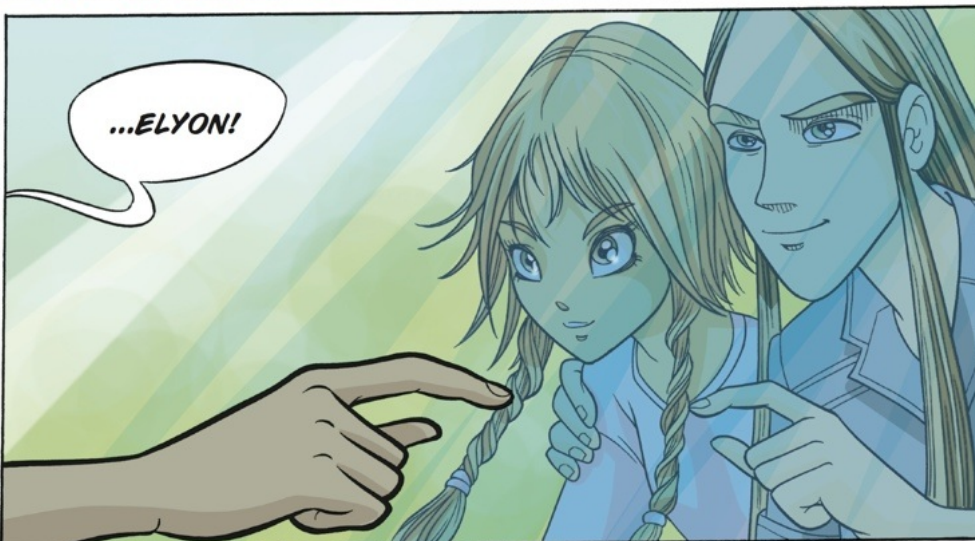
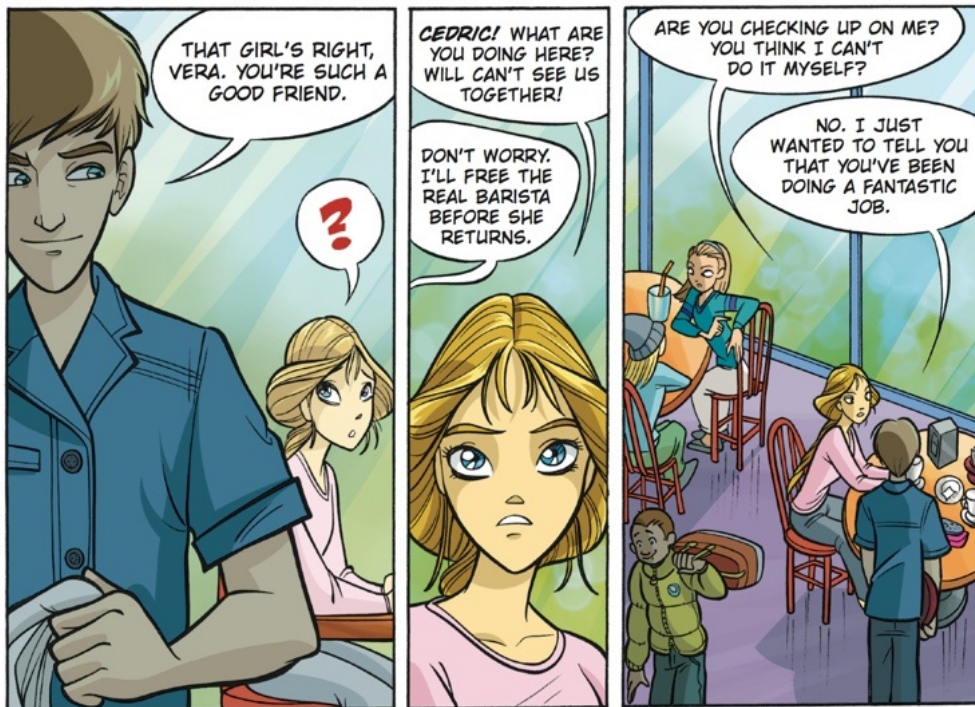


































IRMA, WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WAS AFRAID OF MS. RUDOLPH?

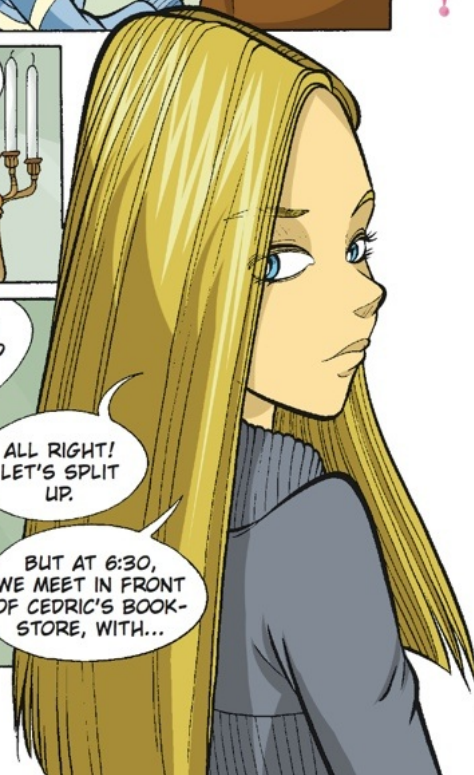
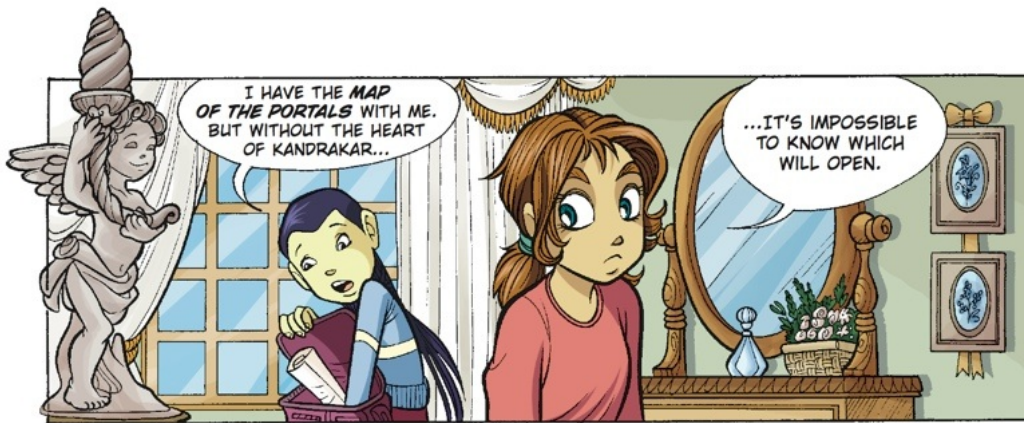
WELL, YEAH... BUT THE COOKIES SEEM DELICIOUS AND HARMLESS.



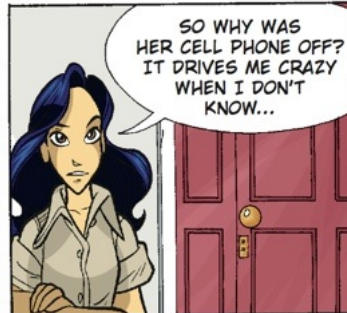
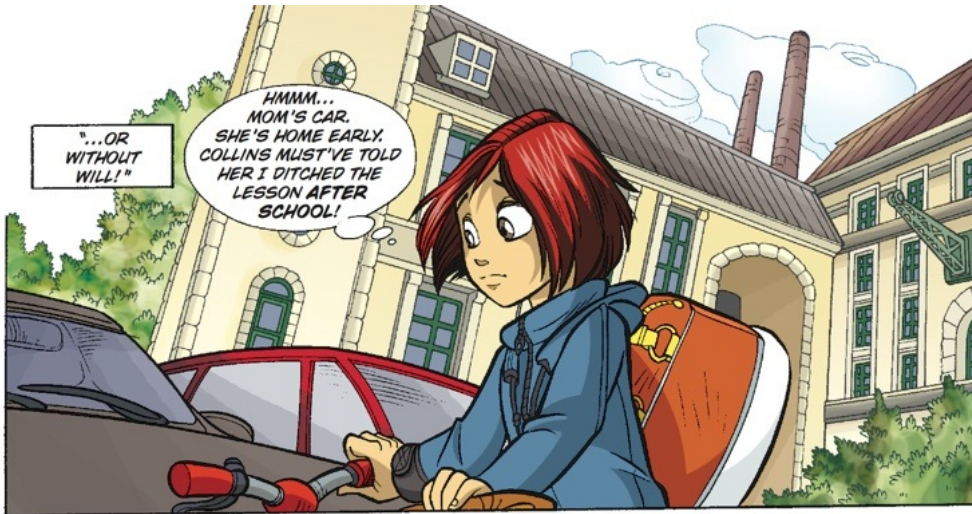
102







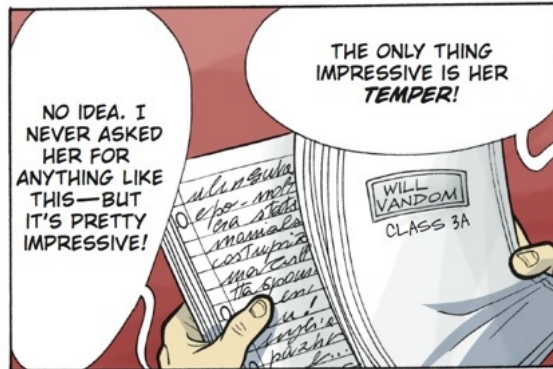








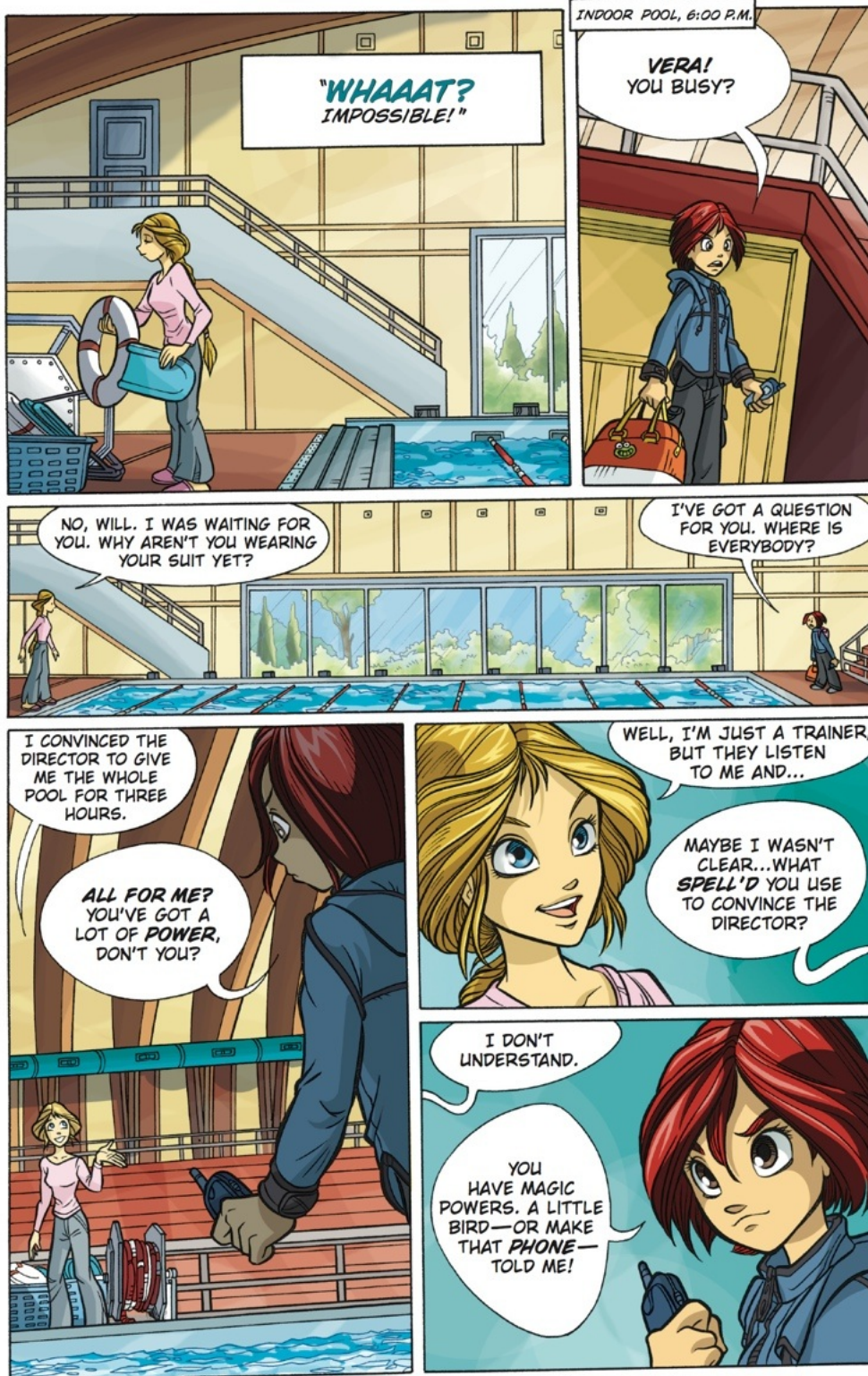












INDOOR POOL, 6:00 P.M.

"WHAAAT?  
IMPOSSIBLE!"

VERA!  
YOU BUSY?

NO, WILL. I WAS WAITING FOR  
YOU. WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING  
YOUR SUIT YET?

I'VE GOT A QUESTION  
FOR YOU. WHERE IS  
EVERYBODY?

108

I CONVINCED THE  
DIRECTOR TO GIVE  
ME THE WHOLE  
POOL FOR THREE  
HOURS.

ALL FOR ME?  
YOU'VE GOT A  
LOT OF POWER,  
DON'T YOU?

WELL, I'M JUST A TRAINER,  
BUT THEY LISTEN  
TO ME AND...

MAYBE I WASN'T  
CLEAR...WHAT  
SPELL'D YOU USE  
TO CONVINCE THE  
DIRECTOR?

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

YOU  
HAVE MAGIC  
POWERS. A LITTLE  
BIRD—OR MAKE  
THAT PHONE—  
TOLD ME!





SO YOU FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT!  
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT  
WAS FOR ME...

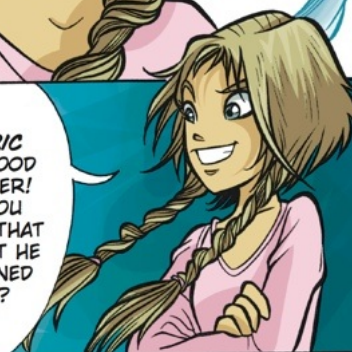
...TO KEEP  
PRETENDING!

ELYON?



YOU CAN  
CHANGE  
YOUR  
APPEARANCE?

CEDRIC  
IS A GOOD  
TEACHER!  
DID YOU  
FINISH THAT  
REPORT HE  
ASSIGNED  
YOU?



109



HE...YOU MEAN  
COLLINS WAS HIM?

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU  
JUST CAN'T TRUST  
ANYBODY. **NOW STOP  
RIGHT THERE!**

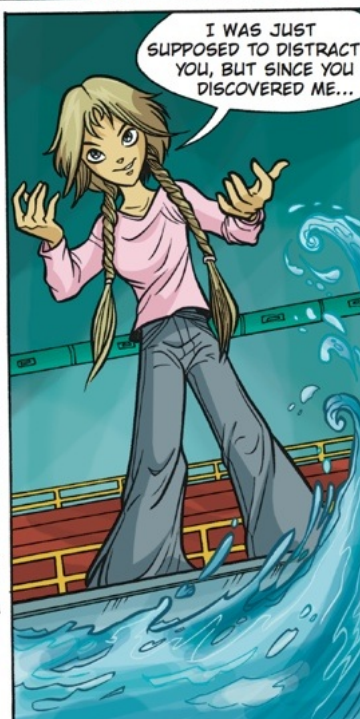


NOW I  
GET WHY I  
FELT FAINT.  
IT NEVER  
HAPPENED  
WITH ELYON  
BECAUSE  
SHE WAS A  
FRIEND.



TELL ME JUST ONE  
THING! WHY?

I DON'T  
KNOW  
EVERYTHING!  
IT'S  
CEDRIC'S  
PLAN, AND  
I TRUST  
HIM.



I WAS JUST  
SUPPOSED TO DISTRACT  
YOU, BUT SINCE YOU  
DISCOVERED ME...









BUT SINCE  
ME AND WATER  
ARE BASICALLY  
ONE AND THE  
SAME, I'LL PUT  
THIS DOG BACK  
IN ITS CAGE!



IT CAN'T  
HEAR YOU, WILL!  
MAYBE SOME  
WATER GOT IN  
ITS EARS!

IRMA?!



FRUUUUSSHHH



SOOHHH!!!



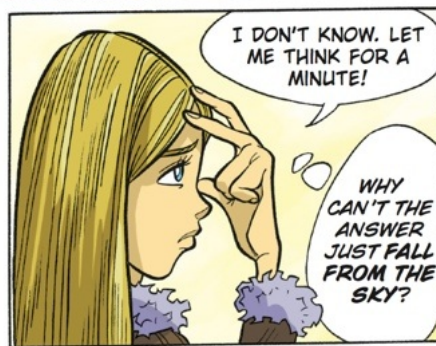
ERR...  
GOOD THING  
WILL'S A STRONG  
DIVER!

AT LEAST,  
I HOPE  
SHE IS...













114



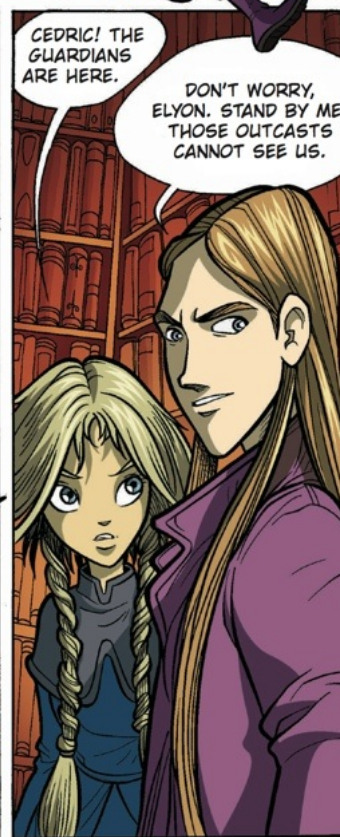












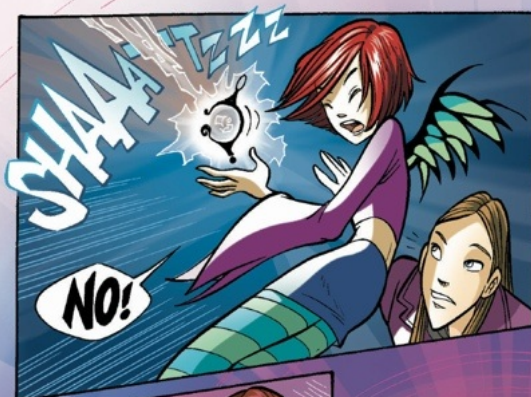




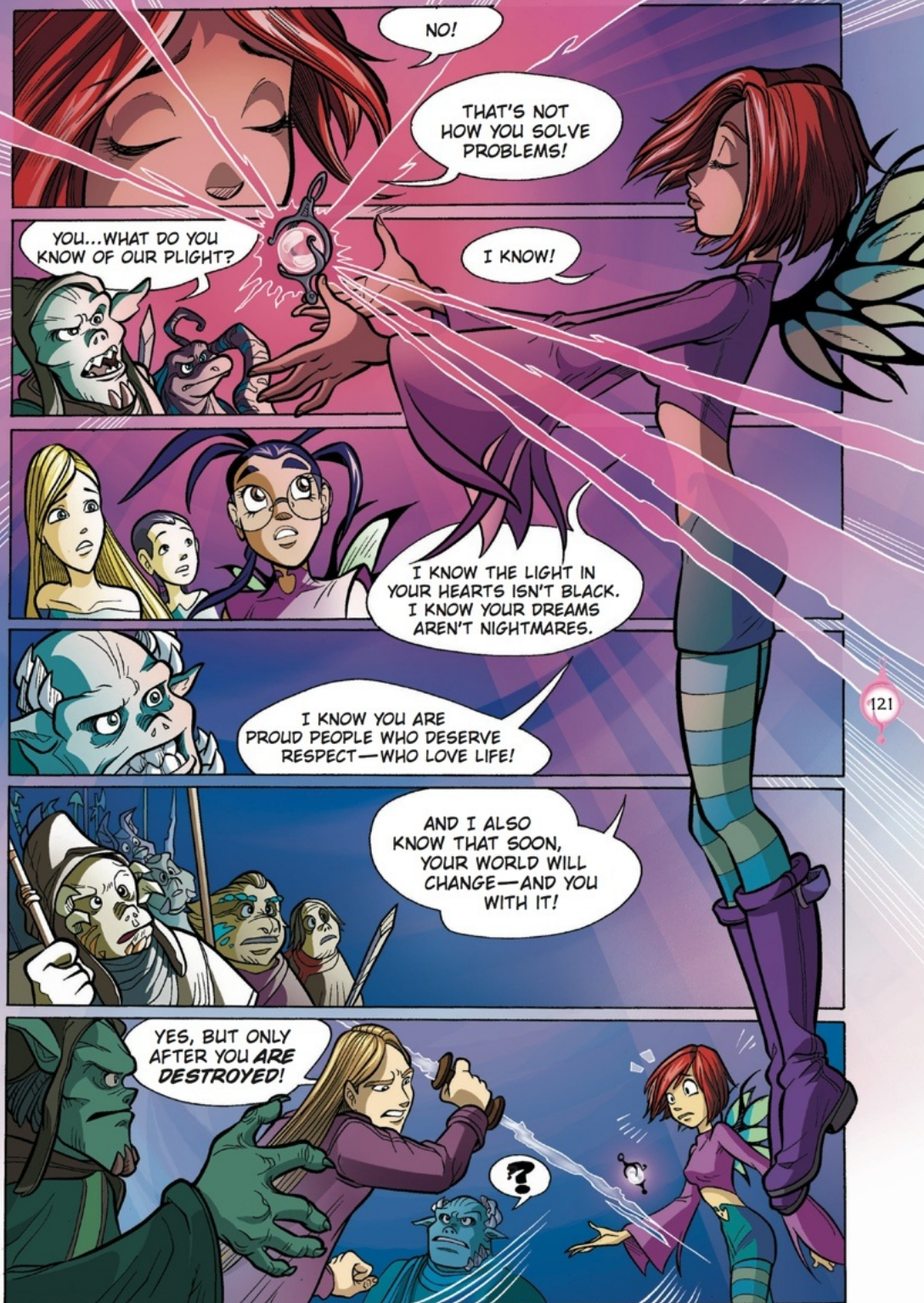












NO!

THAT'S NOT  
HOW YOU SOLVE  
PROBLEMS!

YOU...WHAT DO YOU  
KNOW OF OUR PLIGHT?

I KNOW!

I KNOW THE LIGHT IN  
YOUR HEARTS ISN'T BLACK.  
I KNOW YOUR DREAMS  
AREN'T NIGHTMARES.

I KNOW YOU ARE  
PROUD PEOPLE WHO DESERVE  
RESPECT—WHO LOVE LIFE!

AND I ALSO  
KNOW THAT SOON,  
YOUR WORLD WILL  
CHANGE—AND YOU  
WITH IT!

YES, BUT ONLY  
AFTER YOU ARE  
DESTROYED!

?





OUT OF THE WAY, VATHEK!  
SHE AND HER FRIENDS ARE  
GOING TO CLOSE THE  
PORTAL!



KILL HER! IT'S THE ONLY  
PATH TO FREEDOM—  
A NEW WORLD...

IT'S USELESS.  
THEY WON'T DO IT!



THEY WILL RETURN  
WITH ME TO *THEIR*...  
TO *OUR*  
WORLD!

NEED  
I REMIND  
YOU WHO'S  
IN CHARGE,  
BEAST?  
HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN  
YOUR  
PLACE?

...AND I WANT TO  
**KEEP DOING SO!**  
LET'S GO, BROTHERS!



**YOU** WOULD  
DESTROY THE ONLY  
PERSON WHO EVER  
SHOWED PITY FOR  
YOUR **MISERABLE**  
**LIFE?**

WH-WHAT'S  
HAPPENED TO  
YOU?



A SMALL MIRACLE!  
THESE PAST DAYS, I'VE LIVED  
WITH THE BEST PART OF MY  
BLACK SOUL...

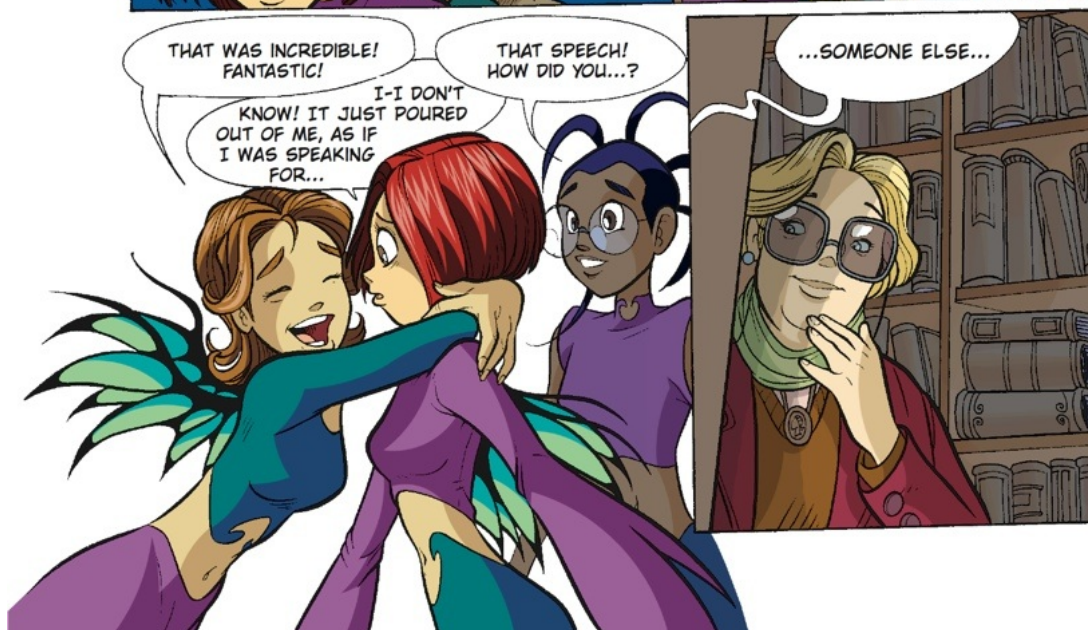
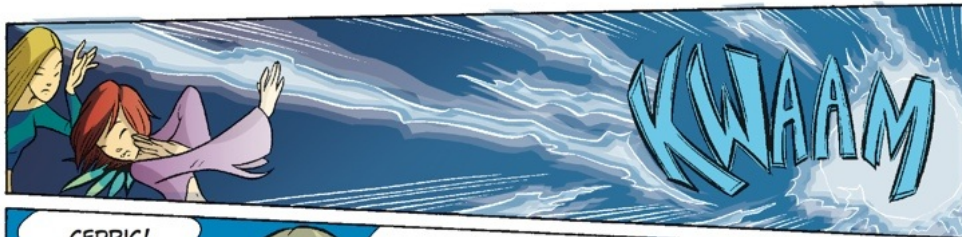


**TRAITOR!** PHOBOS  
HIMSELF WILL MAKE YOU  
SUFFER!



I AWAIT HIM WITH OPEN  
ARMS, IN THE DEPTHS OF  
MERIDIAN!





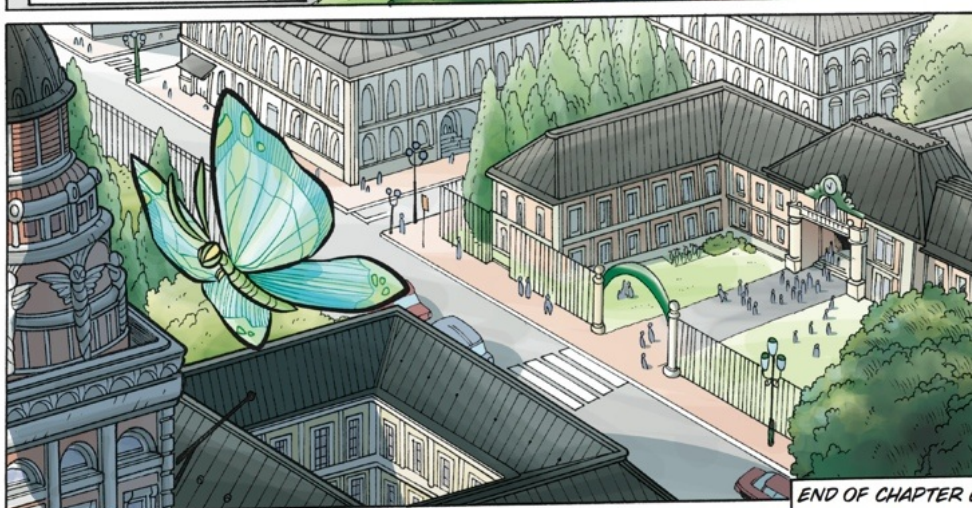












END OF CHAPTER 6







“It takes a lot of  
courage to change.”

ONE DAY YOU'LL  
MEET HIM







HEATHERFIELD. WINTER.



THE SNOW  
SURROUNDS THE  
TOWN WITH SILENCE.



OR RATHER...



HEE  
HEE  
HEE!

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

SORRY! MATT'S  
GRANDFATHER IS  
WAITING FOR ME!



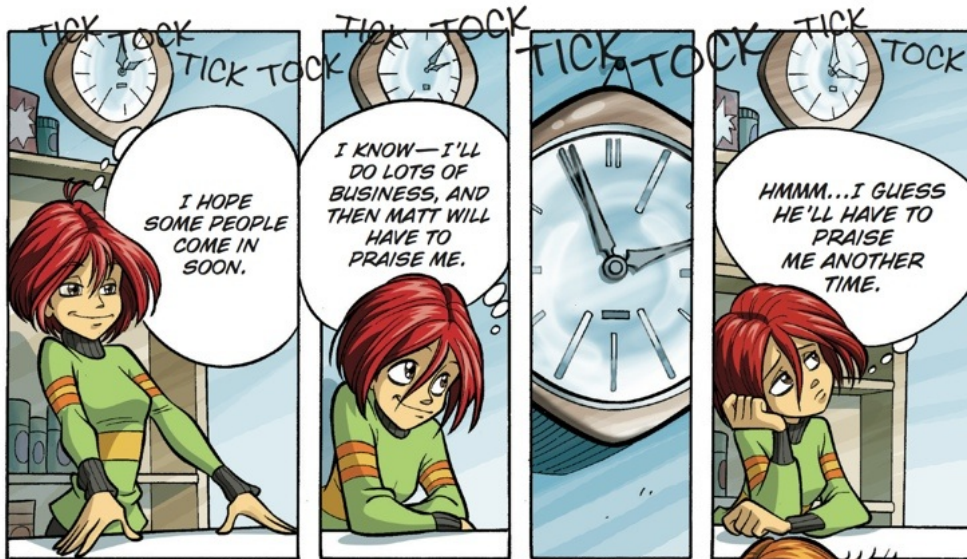
YEAH,  
RIGHT! MATT'S  
GRANDFATHER...

LET'S JUST  
PLAY ALONG  
FOR NOW.





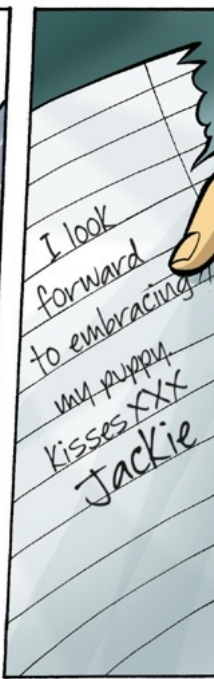




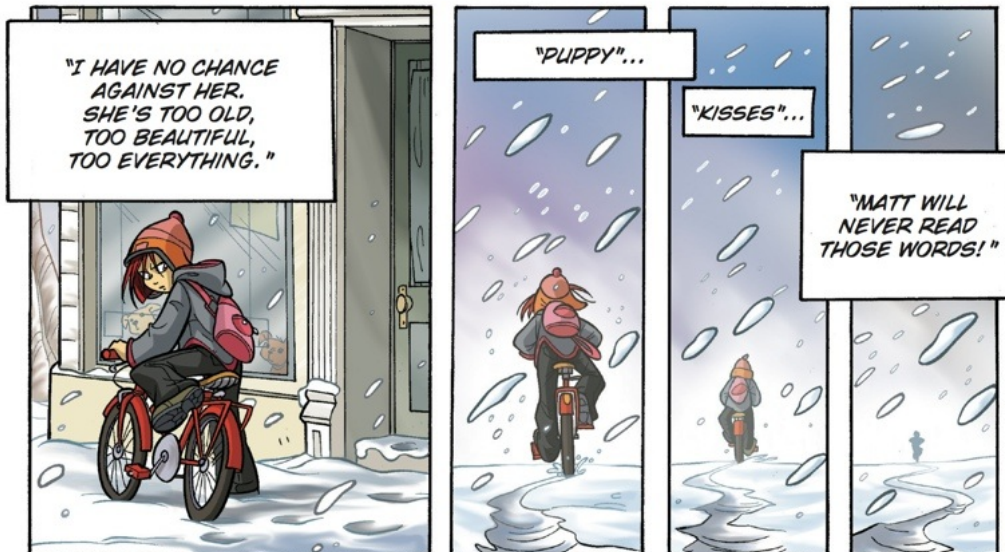




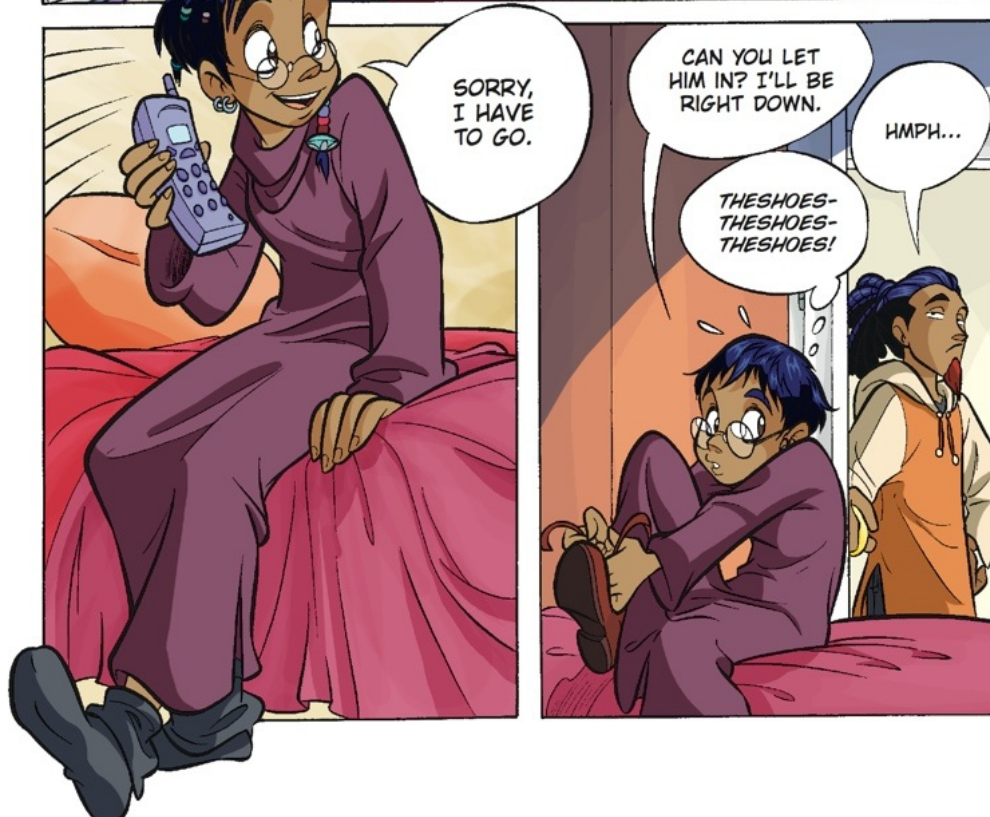
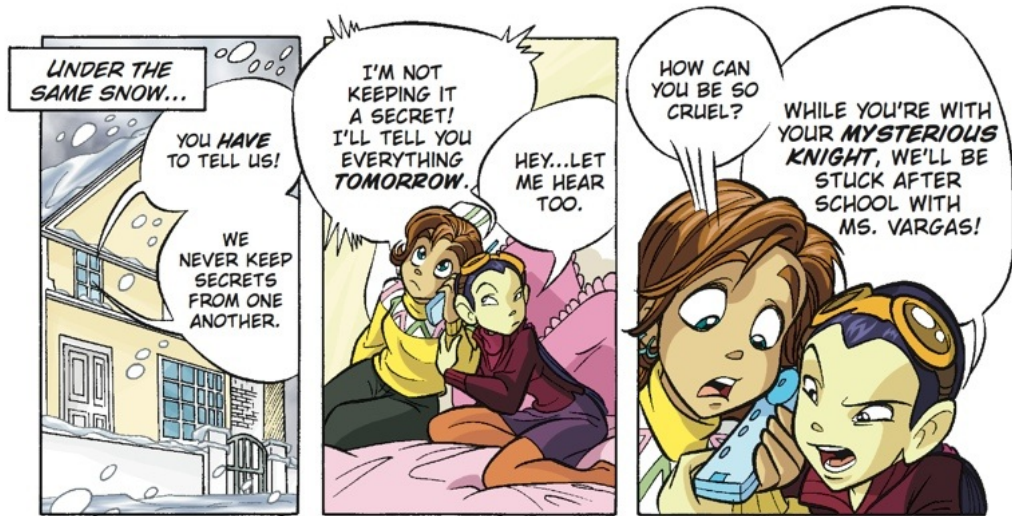




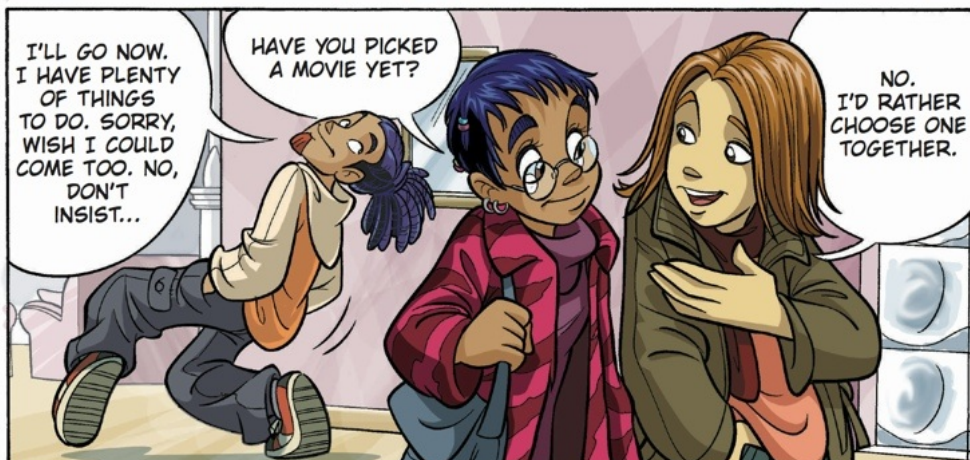








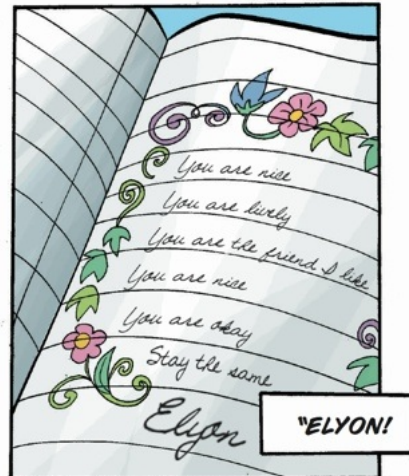
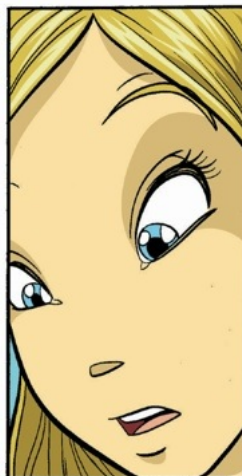
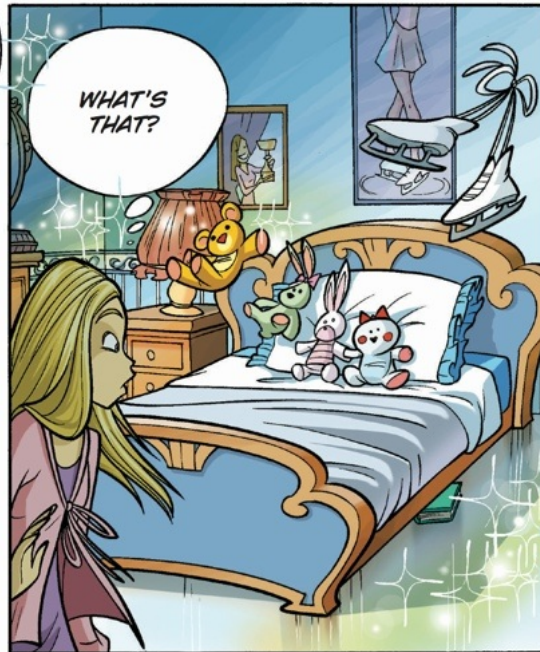




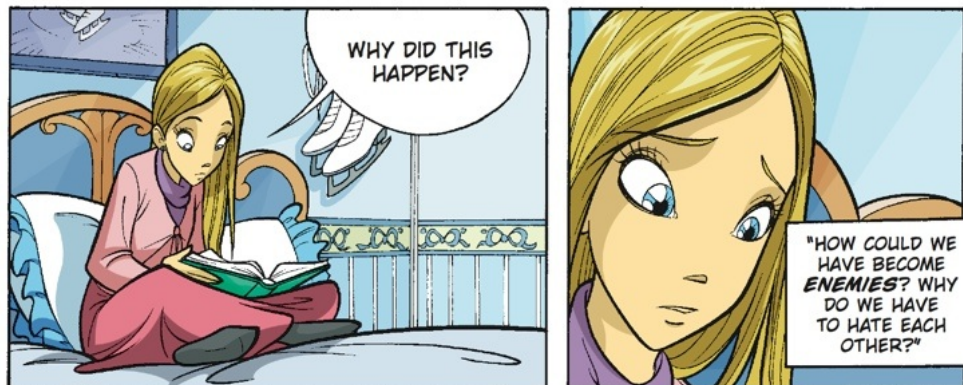
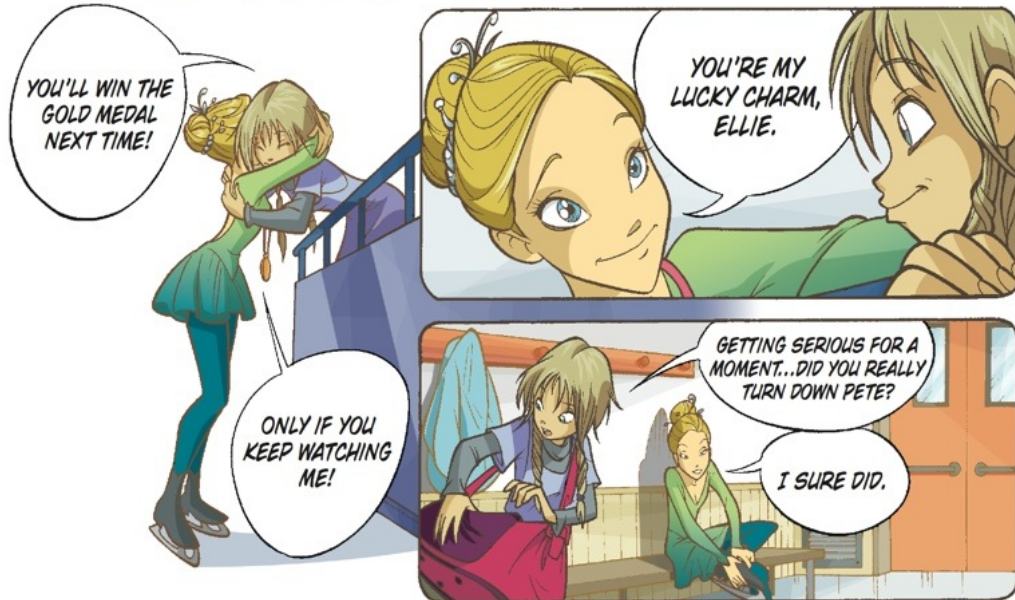




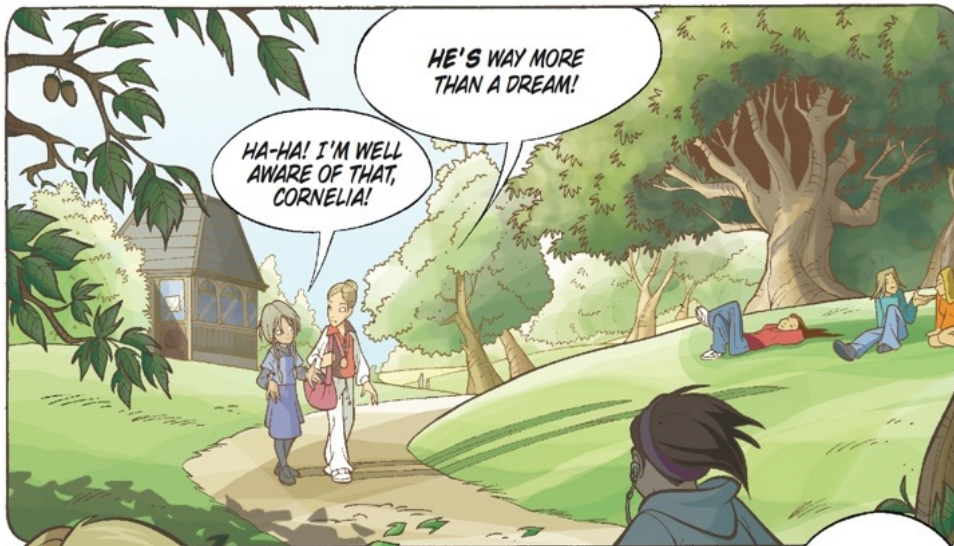












HE'S WAY MORE  
THAN A DREAM!

HA-HA! I'M WELL  
AWARE OF THAT,  
CORNELIA!



140

YOU'VE TOLD  
ME SO MUCH  
ABOUT HIM  
THAT I CAN'T  
WAIT TO  
MEET HIM.

BUT WHILE  
YOU WAIT FOR  
YOUR IMAGINARY  
PRINCE, YOU  
COULD AT LEAST  
GO OUT WITH  
PETE. HE'S SO  
CUTE!

NO WAY.



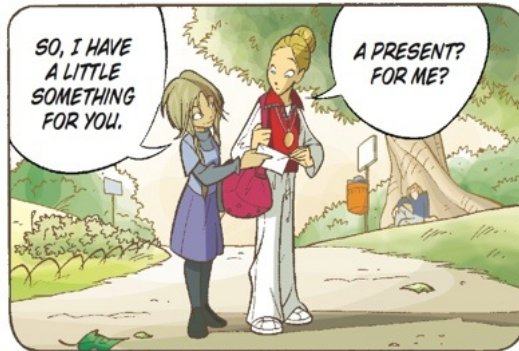
I HAVE ONLY ONE  
GREAT LOVE.  
I DON'T WANT  
ANYONE BUT HIM.

YOU  
REALLY ARE  
HOPELESS.



SO, I HAVE  
A LITTLE  
SOMETHING  
FOR YOU.

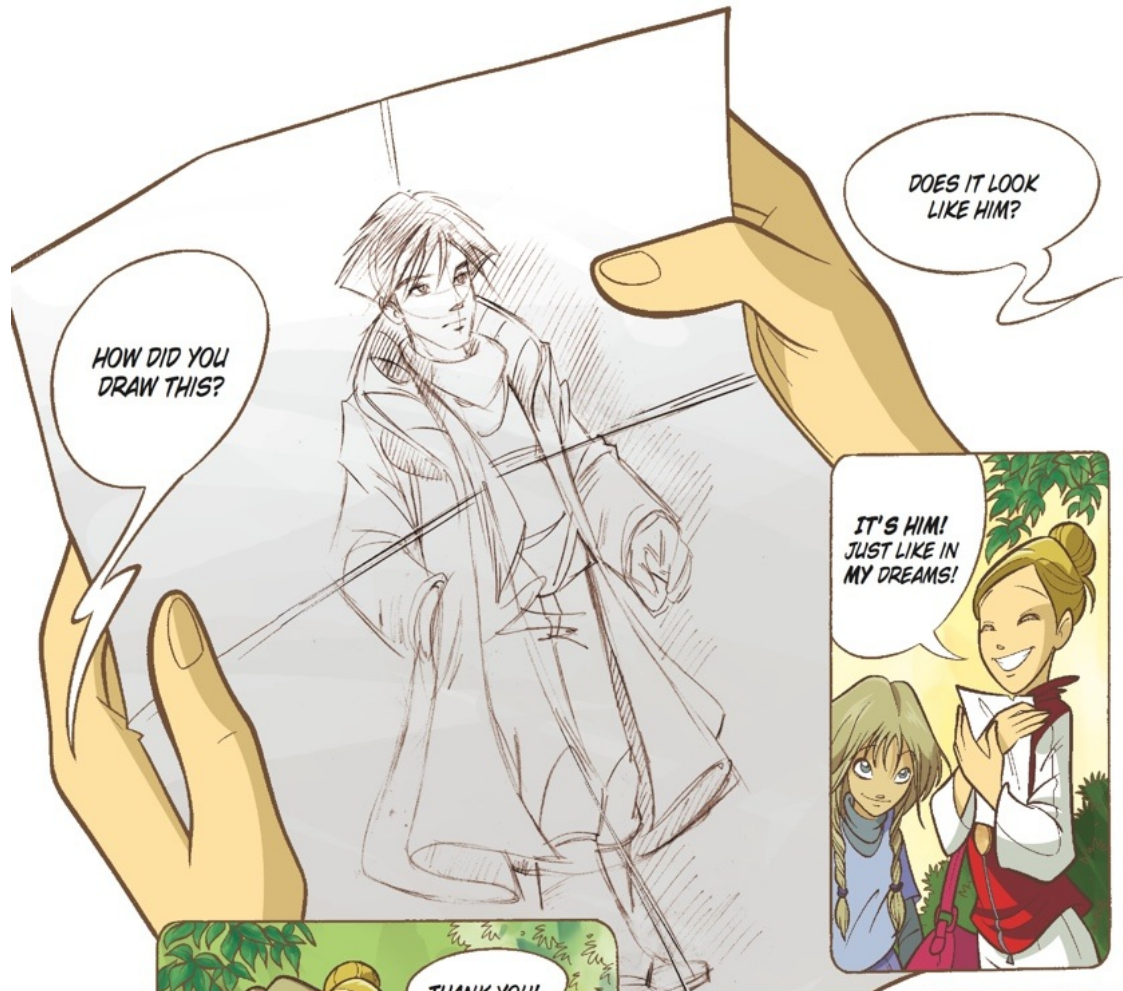
A PRESENT?  
FOR ME?



TO CELEBRATE  
YOUR WIN! I KNEW  
YOU'D DO  
WELL.











ALL OF HEATHERFIELD IS COVERED BY A WHITE BLANKET OF SNOW.

NO WAY! I LOOK LIKE A DRESSED-UP BROOM-STICK! IF I GO OUT IN THIS, I MIGHT AS WELL BE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.



142

I SHOULD TRY ANOTHER OUTFIT. I NEED SOMETHING THAT WILL LEAVE MATT BREATHLESS.



EXCUSE ME. I'M LOOKING FOR WILL. SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE, BUT I THINK I WOUND UP AT THE ZOO INSTEAD.

QUIT JOKING AROUND!



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DO YOU REALLY WANT MY HONEST OPINION?



NO. I THINK MINE IS ENOUGH!

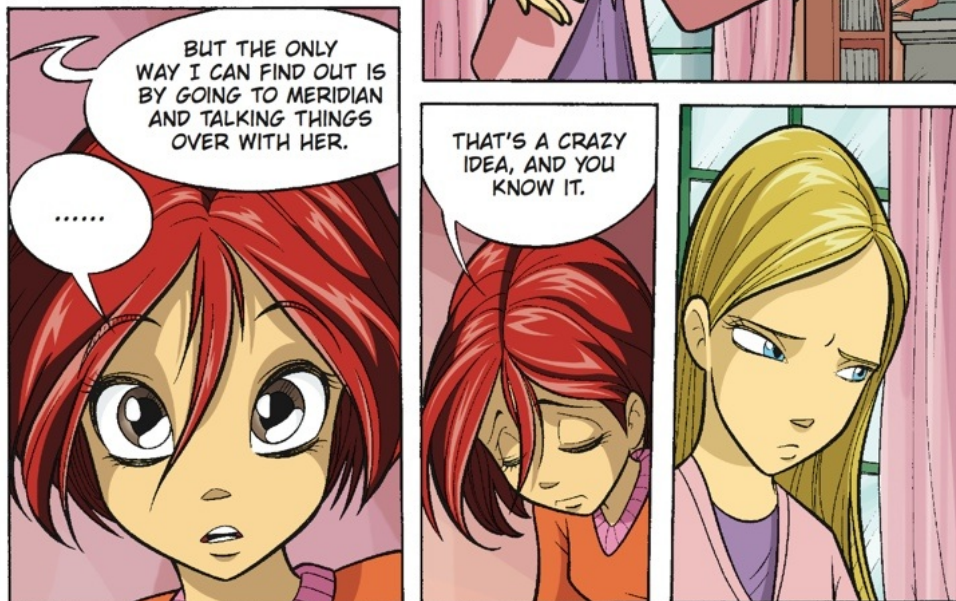
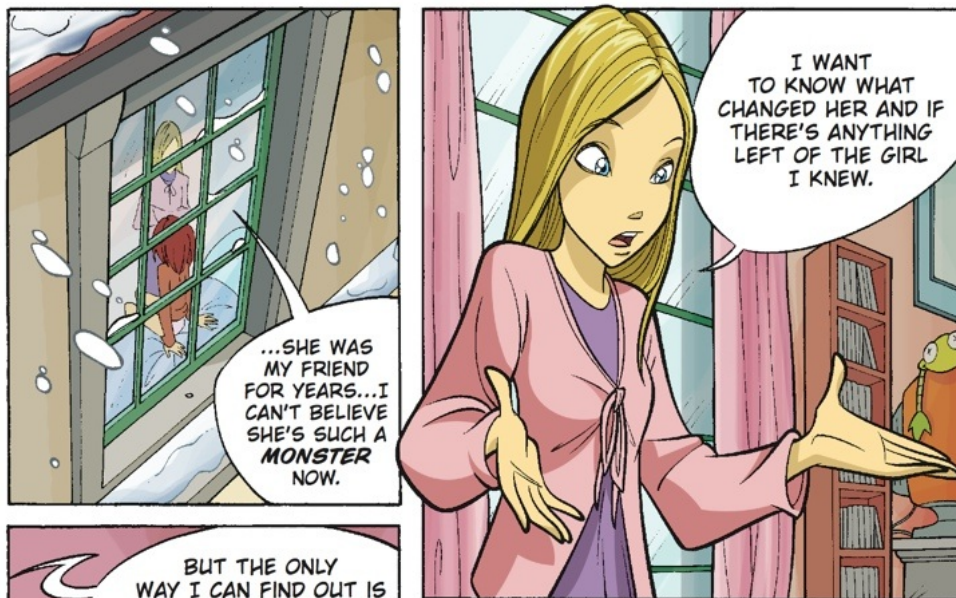
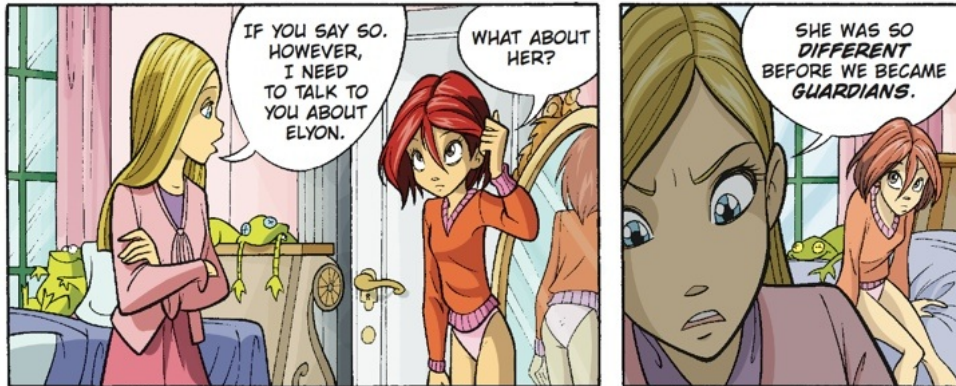


USING YOUR POWERS TO CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE? SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY. WHAT'S WRONG?

MMM... I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT IT.











"AFTER ALL, WILL'S ONLY SEEN THE WORST OF HER!"



"IRMA AND HAY LIN USED TO KNOW HER. I'M SURE THEY'LL AGREE WITH ME! OH, SPEAKING OF THOSE TWO, THEY HAVE AFTER-SCHOOL CLASSES. I'LL GO FIND THEM."

GREAT IDEA, CORNY! IF YOU WANT TO UNLEASH CEDRIC AND ALL HIS HENCHMEN AGAINST YOU, THAT'S THE PERFECT PLAN.

YEAH, I'M WITH IRMA ON THIS.

OH, NEVER MIND!

144



I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T LIKE THE IDEA.

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY WINTER HOLIDAY IN A MERIDIAN PRISON. WHAT ABOUT YOU?



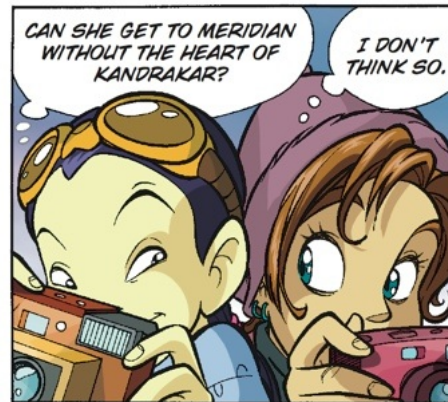
CORNELIA, WAIT!

MISS HAY LIN!



THOSE ICICLES ARE PROOF OF THE WATER SOLIDIFICATION PROCESS, AND THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY!

OF COURSE, MS. VARGAS!



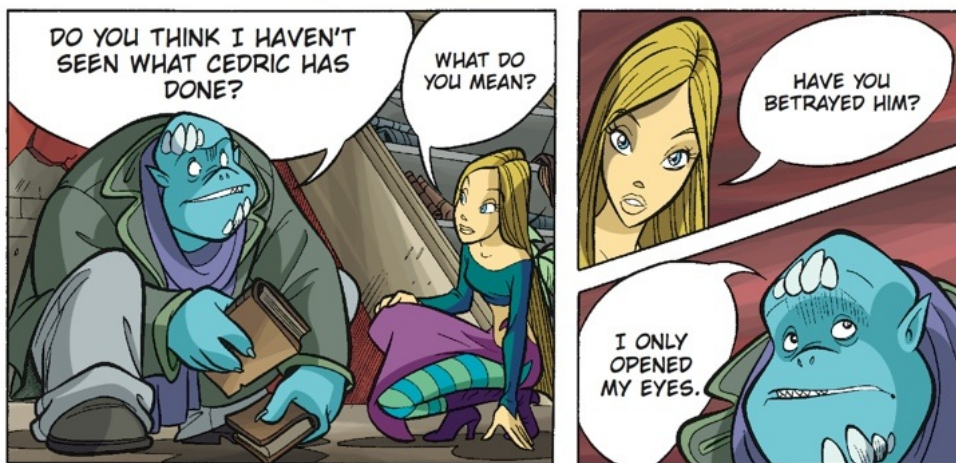
CAN SHE GET TO MERIDIAN WITHOUT THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR?

I DON'T THINK SO.

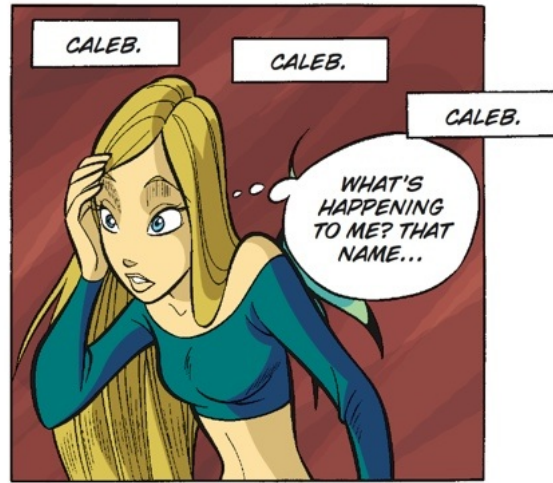




















I DON'T GET IT.  
CEDRIC, YOU NEED TO  
EXPLAIN EVERYTHING  
TO ME. PLEASE!

STAY  
CALM!



NO! YOU  
ATTACKED WILL  
AFTER SHE SAVED  
YOUR LIFE!

149



THAT'S  
**SHAMEFUL**  
BEHAVIOR,  
EVEN FOR  
YOU!

HA-HA-HA!  
GROW UP, LITTLE  
GIRL!



STOP THINKING LIKE A  
STUDENT. YOU ARE A  
PRINCESS NOW!

THAT'S RIGHT.

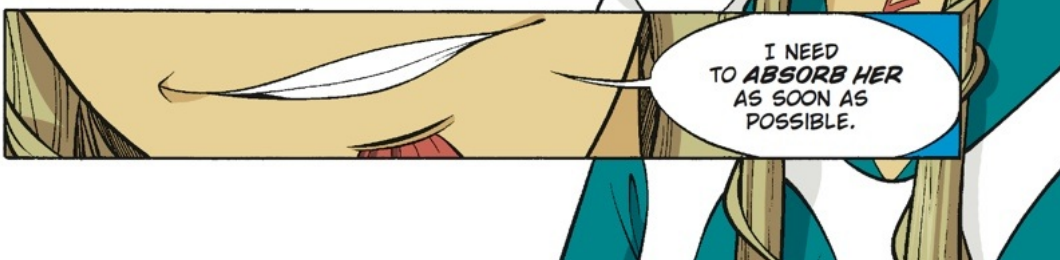
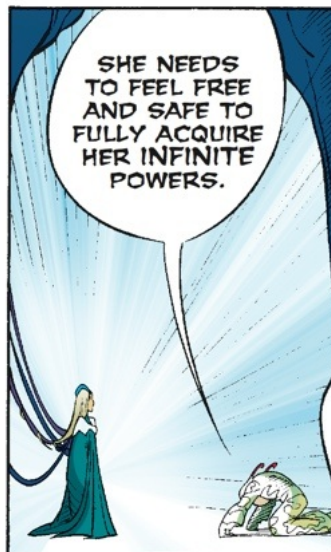
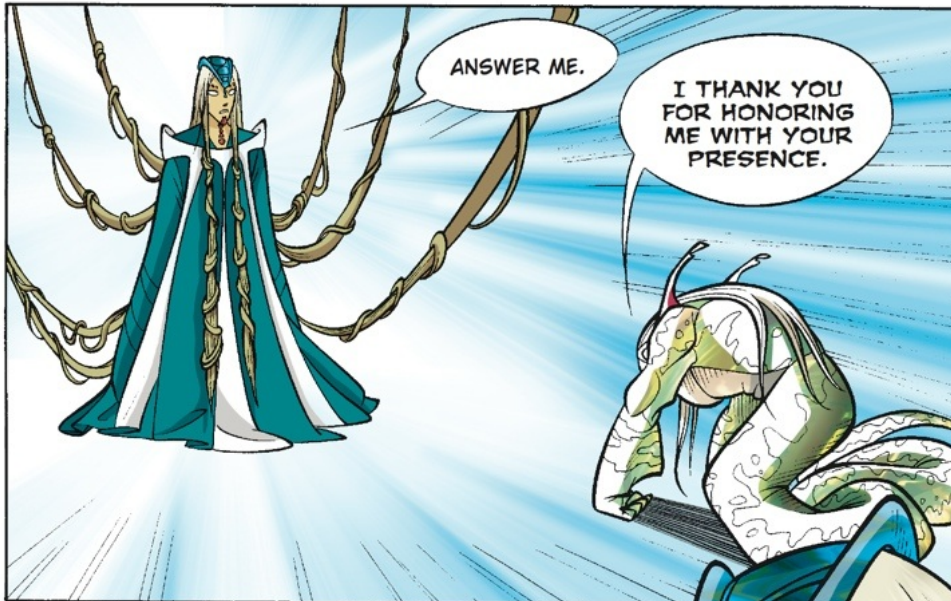
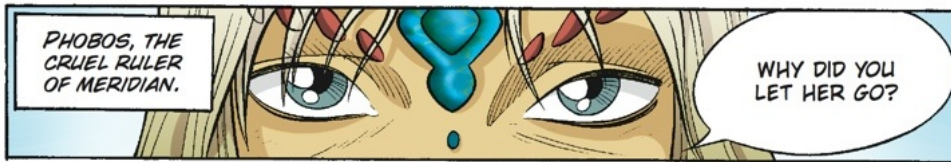


SO I  
**ORDER**  
YOU TO  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE!

















YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.



HE CAN'T BE REAL!



SHE'S NOT ONE OF US!

SHE CAN'T STAY HERE!

AND SHE'S DISGUSTING!

EXCUSE ME! HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED IN A MIRROR?



CALM DOWN. I CAN VOUCH FOR HER.

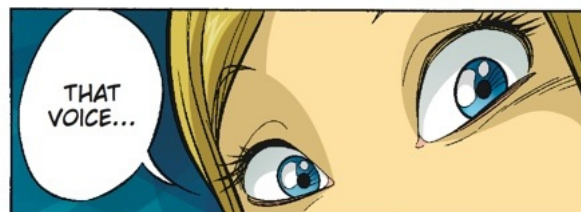
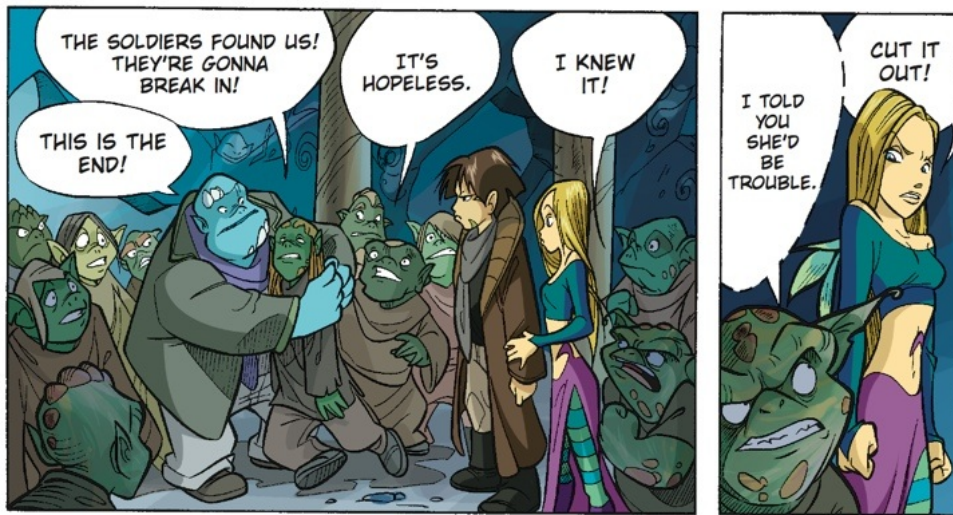
DUDE, COULD YOU HAVE SAID ANYTHING ELSE?

SHE'LL BRING TROUBLE!

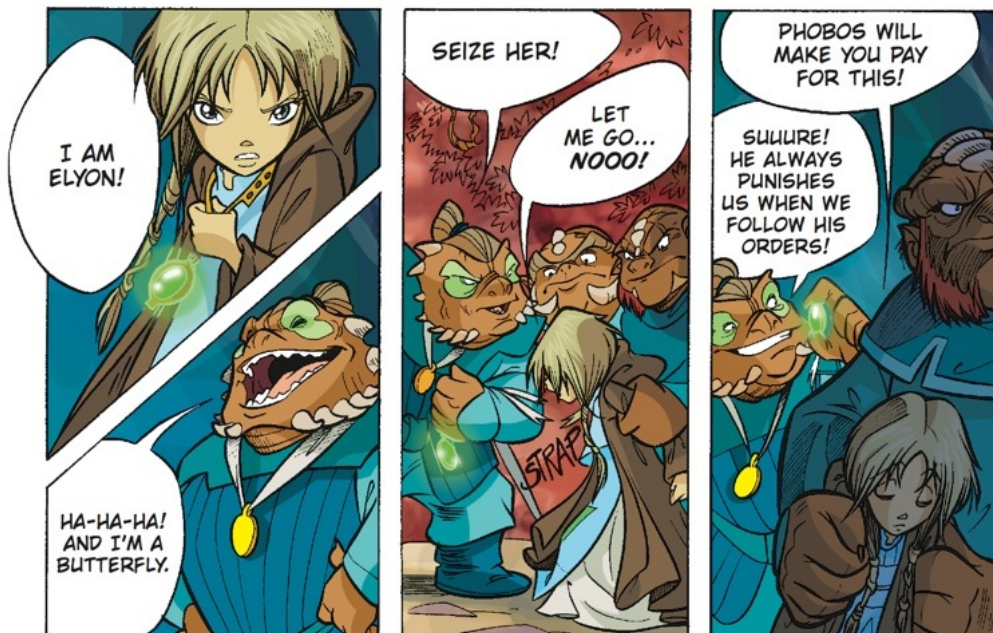


CALEB! THEY'RE COMING!





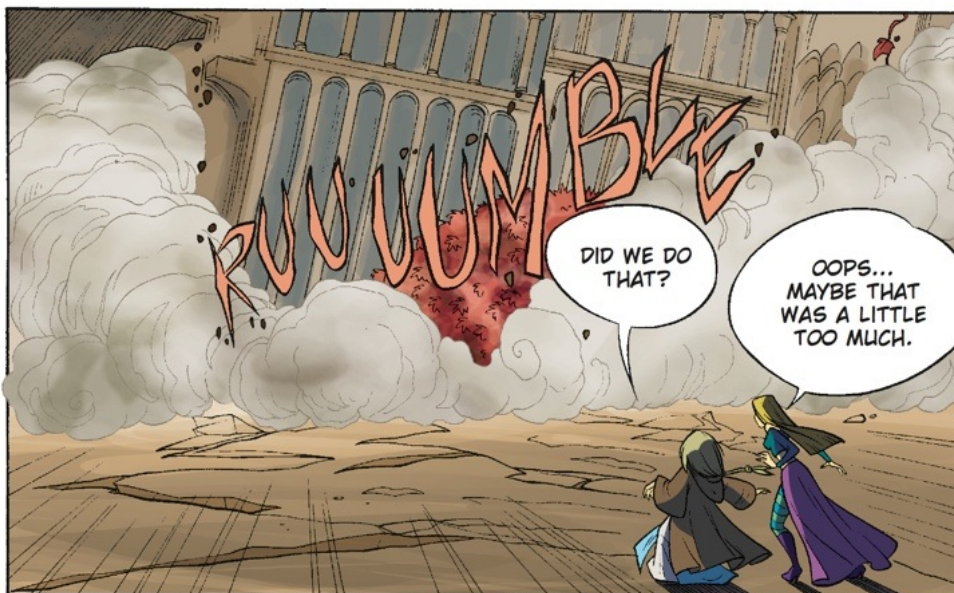
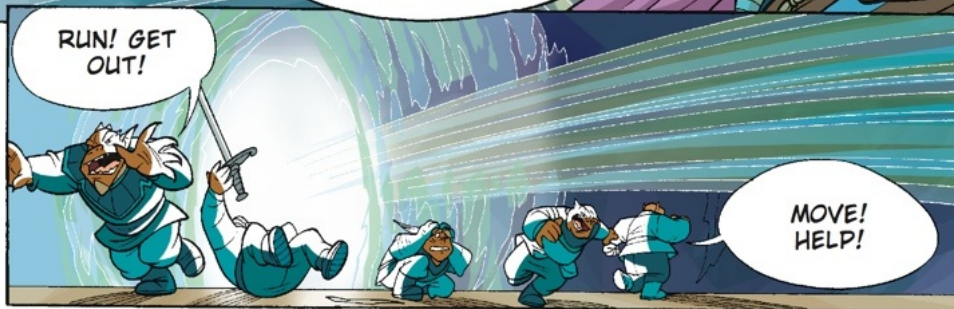


















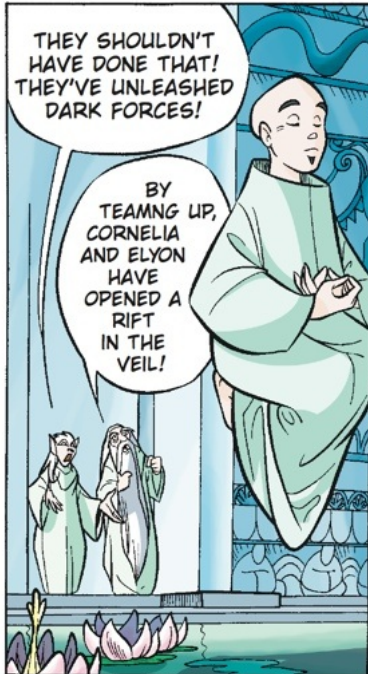
“A promise can be  
born out of a tear.”







Kandrakar



THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT! THEY'VE UNLEASHED DARK FORCES!

BY TEAMING UP, CORNELIA AND ELYON HAVE OPENED A RIFT IN THE VEIL!



THE EARTH AND MERIDIAN ARE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER!

THE GUARDIANS CAN'T HANDLE THIS!



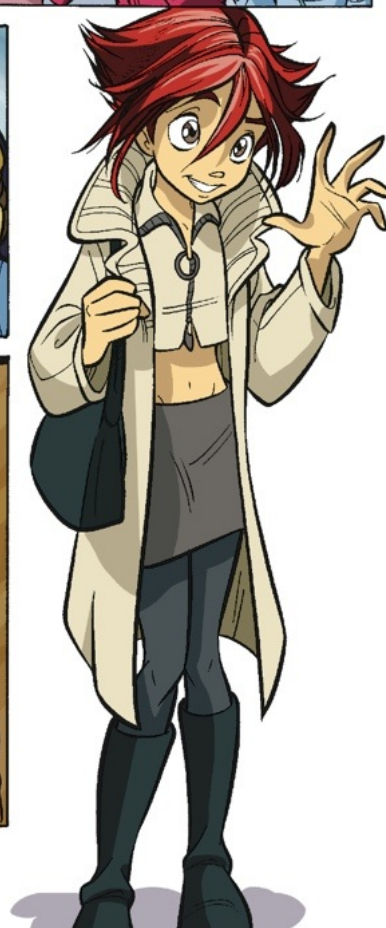
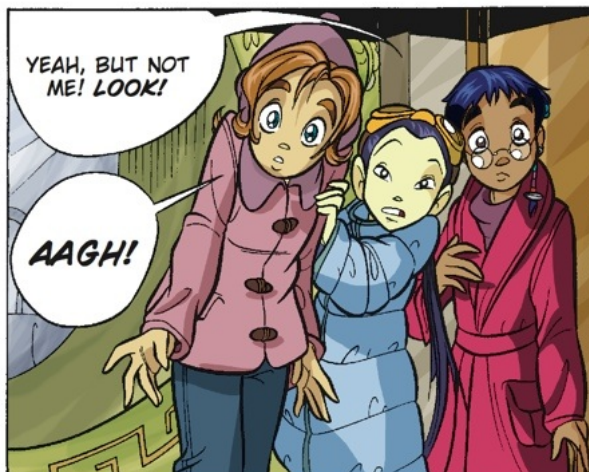
HUSH. LET FATE TAKE ITS COURSE...



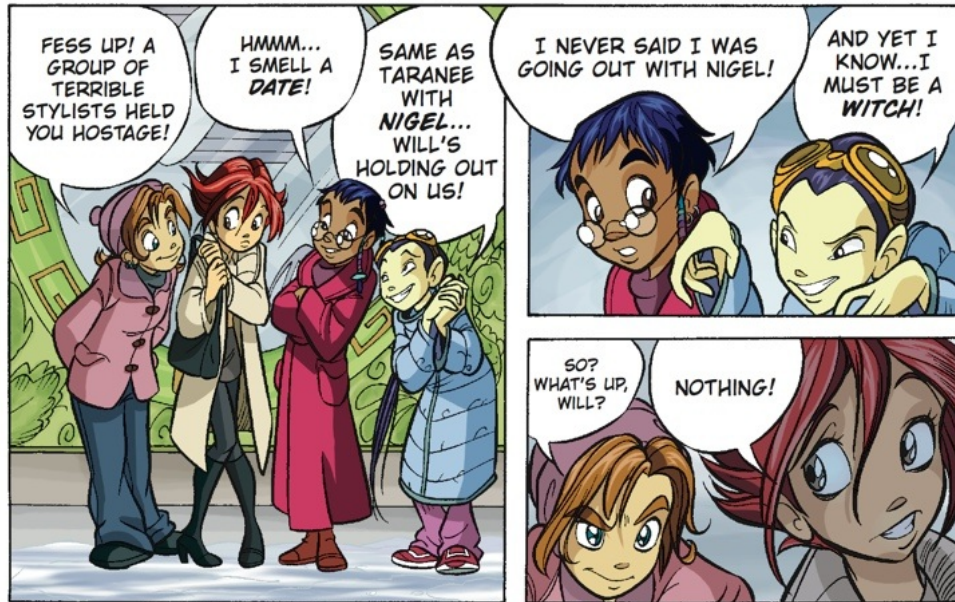
...SO THAT THE GIRLS FIND THEMSELVES AGAIN AND YOUR FAITH IS RESTORED.















I'VE GOT NEWS!

GOOD NEWS, I HOPE.



WELL, TO START, A NEW PORTAL HAS OPENED.

THIS IS NOT **GOOD NEWS...** AND NOT REALLY **NEWS** AT ALL...

LET HER FINISH!



YOU CAN SEE **THIS PORTAL** IS DIFFERENT FROM THE USUAL ONES.

AFTER LISTENING TO THE RADIO, I FOUND OUT THAT IT CORRESPONDS TO THE **EPICENTER** OF THE EARTHQUAKE!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

**TROUBLE!** THAT'S WHAT!



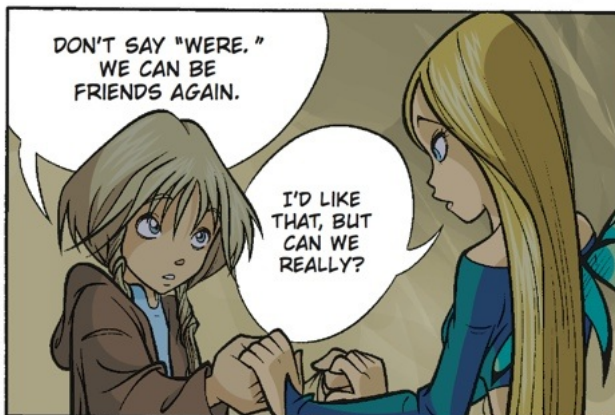
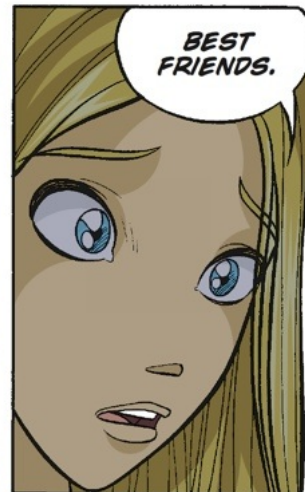
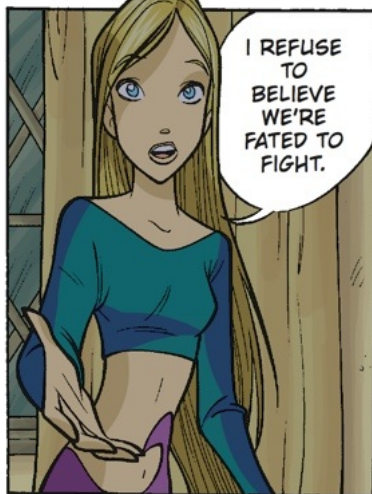
IF THE PORTAL AND THE EARTHQUAKE ARE LINKED, THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

I HAVE A QUESTION.

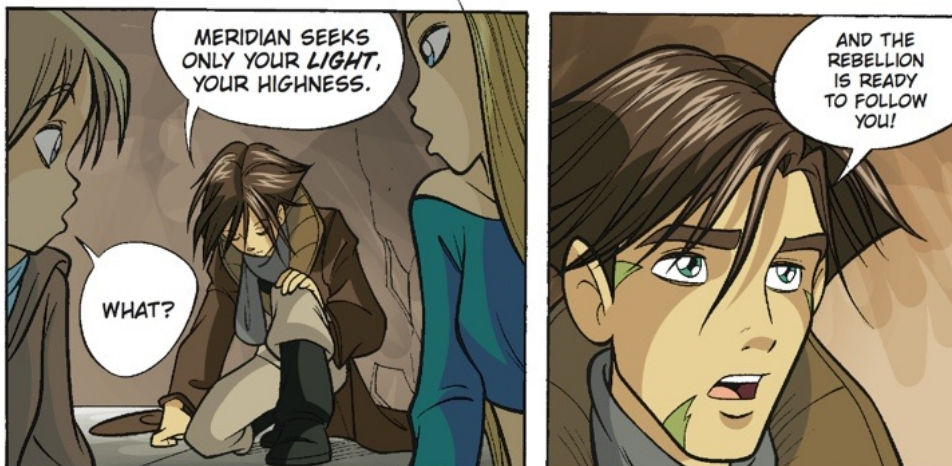
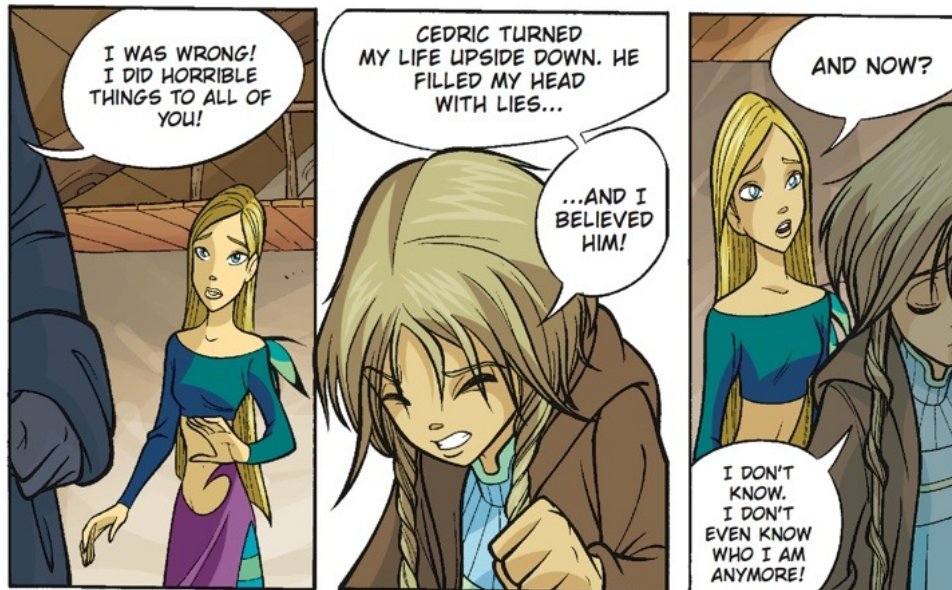














HEATHERFIELD,  
SUBWAY TUNNELS

HERE'S A  
PASSAGE! WE'RE  
CLOSE!

HOW LOVELY!  
IT'S BEEN YEARS  
SINCE I SMELLED  
SOMETHING SO  
RANK.

WHAT A GREAT  
MISSION. WHY CAN'T  
THE PORTALS OPEN  
ON A CARIBBEAN  
BEACH?

OR OVERLOOK  
A ROYAL  
PALACE?

WELL, MAYBE  
THIS TIME IT  
DOES.

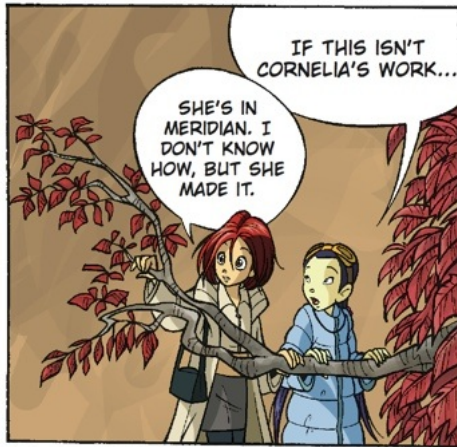
WHAT  
IS THIS  
PLACE?

IT'S  
DEFINITELY NOT  
HEATHERFIELD.

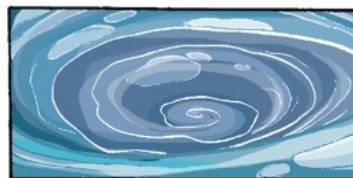
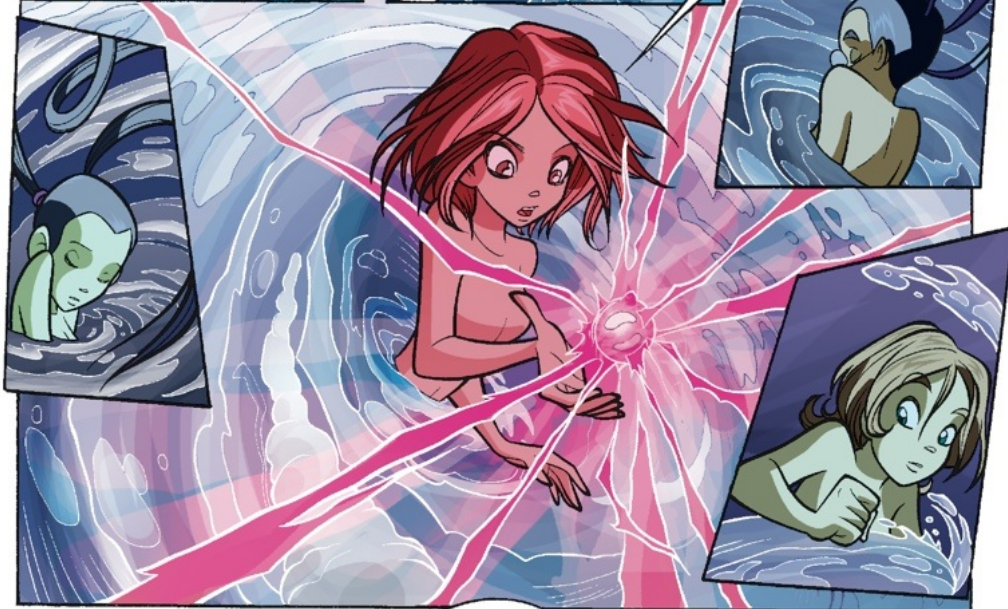
A GIFT  
FROM META-  
MOOR?

LOOK!

















"DO YOU WANT TO EMBRACE YOUR PEOPLE?"

IT'S CALEB!

WITH THE GIRLS WHO HAVE OPENED THE WAY!

WILL THIS PASSAGE REALLY LEAD US TO EARTH?



LISTEN TO ME! I KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAIN AND SUFFERING!

YOU HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO PHOBOS'S CRUELTY FOR FAR TOO LONG!

USING DECEPTION, THE TYRANT TOOK ALL OF MERIDIAN'S ENERGY AND THEN **SEIZED THE THRONE.**



WHAT'S HE SAYING?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

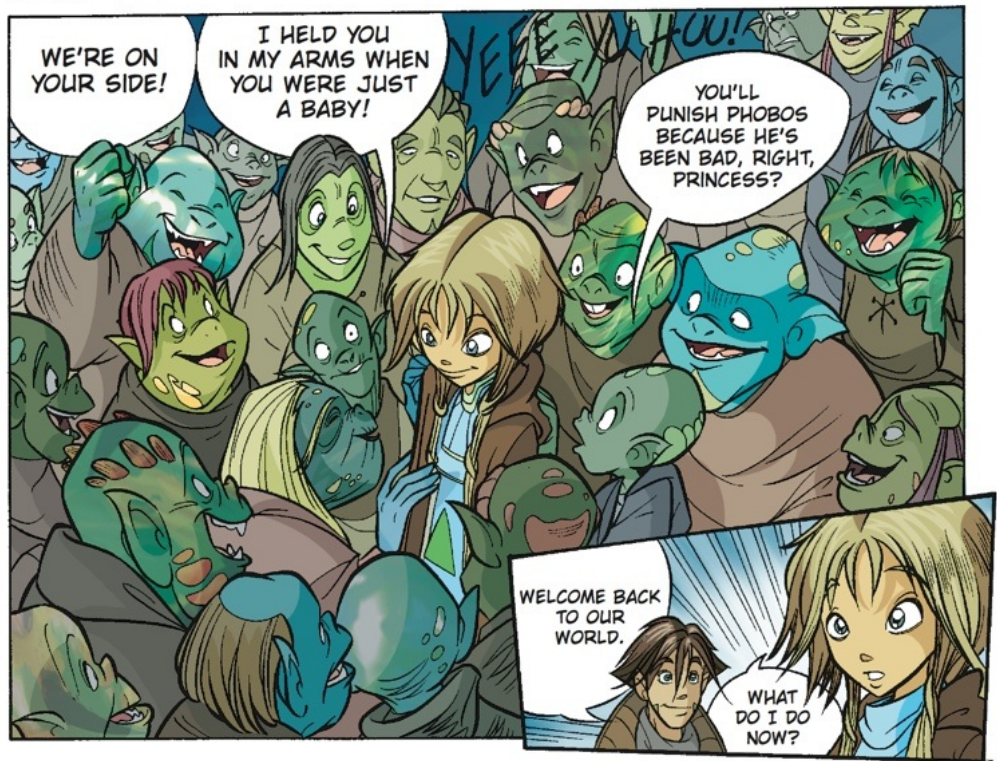
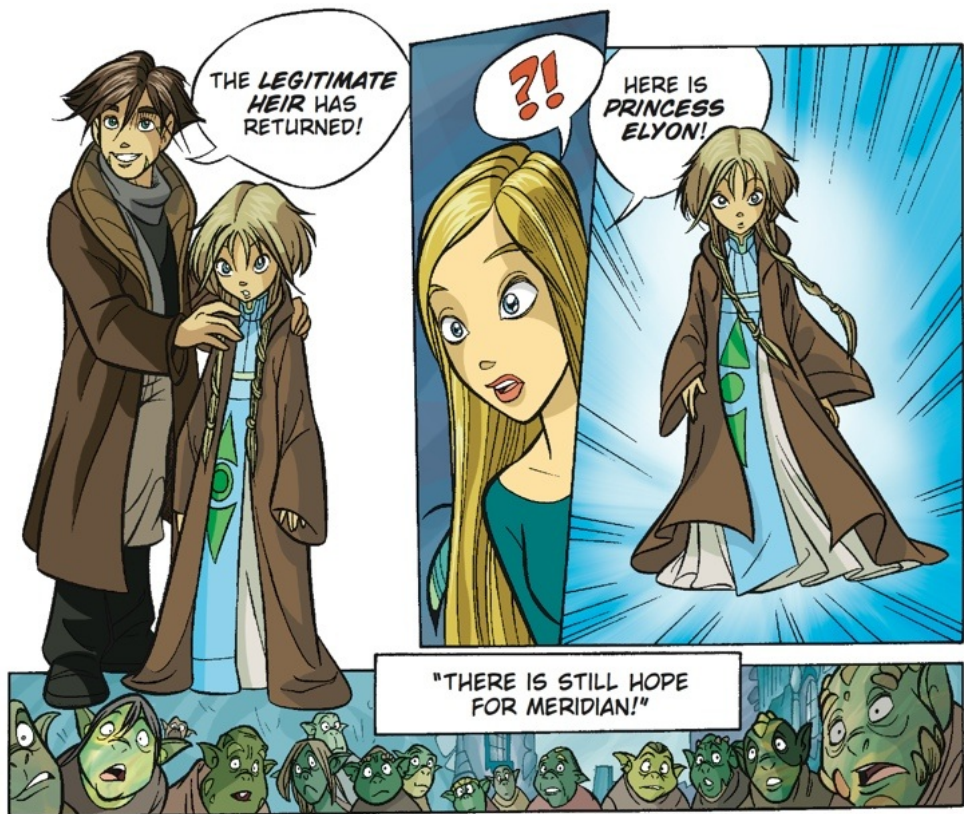


BUT THE LIGHT OF **MERIDIAN** SHINES BRIGHT!

WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE!

THAT FOREIGNER HAS MADE HIM LOSE HIS MIND!

















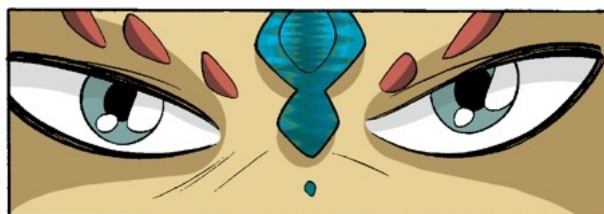
AT THAT SAME MOMENT, CORNELIA'S FRIENDS ARRIVE.







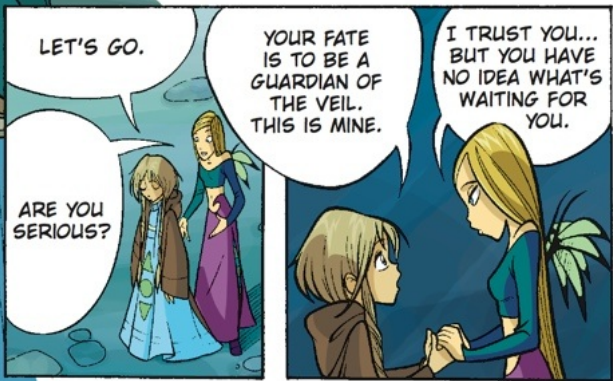














YET ANOTHER DREAM  
COMES TO AN END.



LET'S GO  
BACK TO  
HEATHERFIELD.

HERE I WAS  
LOOKING  
FORWARD TO  
ANOTHER TRIP  
INSIDE THAT  
SLUSH.

IF YOU KNOW  
ANOTHER ROUTE,  
I'M ALL EARS.



WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

I'LL BE  
RIGHT  
BACK.

I'LL  
NEVER  
SEE HIM  
AGAIN...



I HAVE  
TO TELL  
HIM!



UM...  
I JUST  
WANTED...



...UH...TO  
TELL YOU  
THAT...I'VE  
SEEN YOU  
BEFORE.

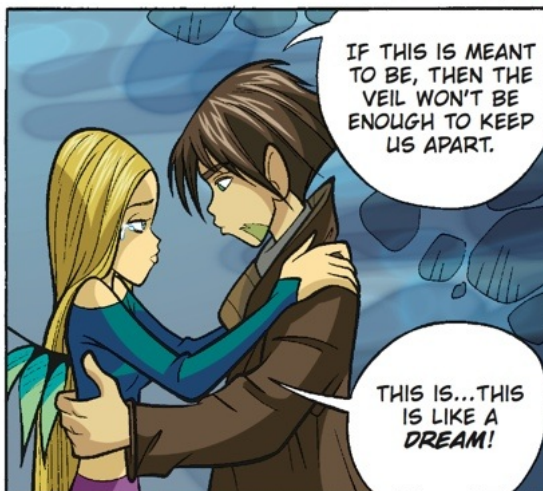
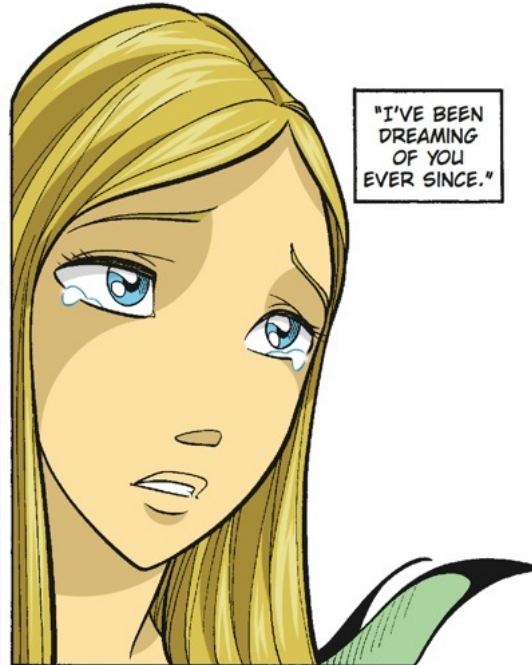
I KNOW.



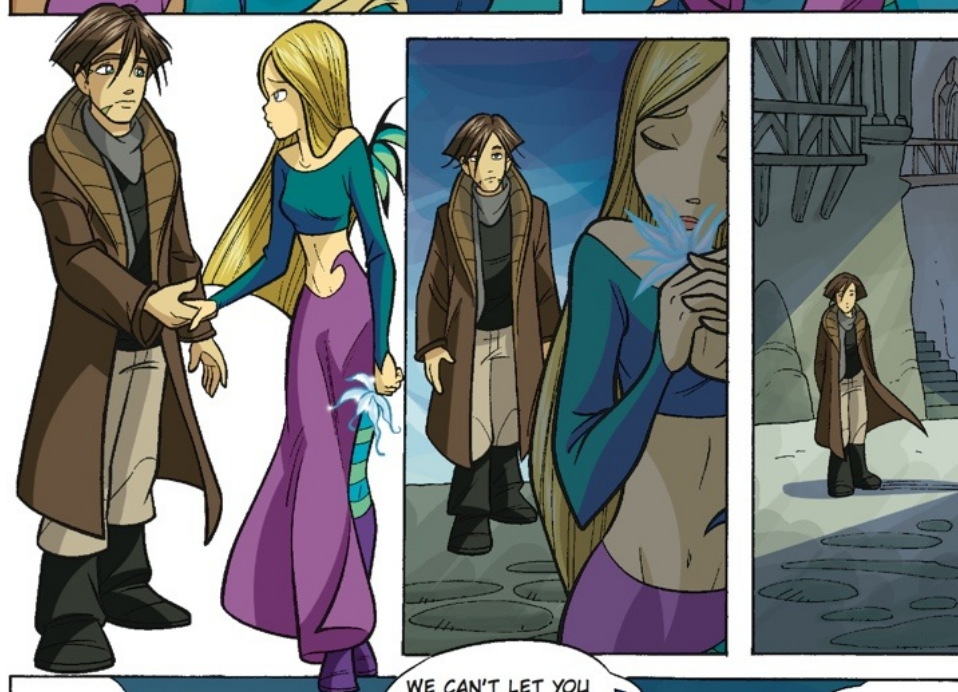
"YOU DON'T NEED  
TO EXPLAIN."









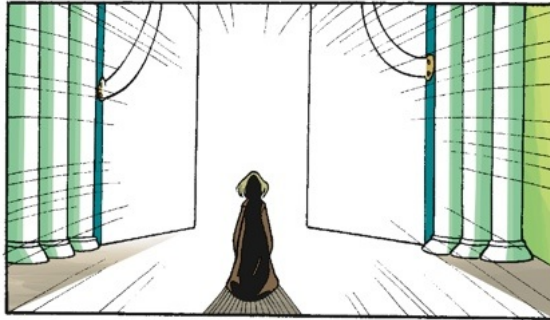




EPILOGUE



COME IN,  
LIGHT OF  
MERIDIAN!  
YOUR BROTHER  
AWAITS!



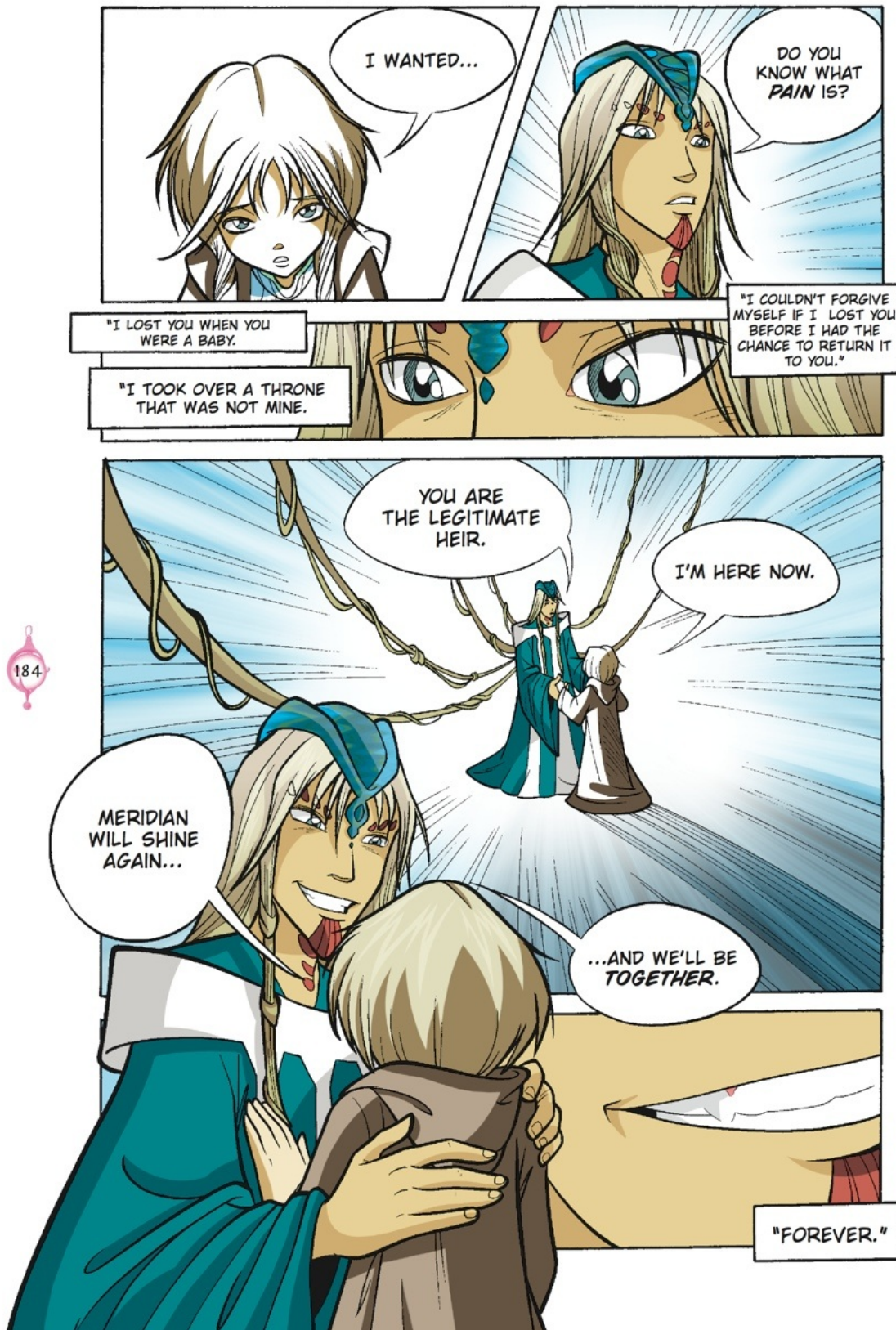
MY BELOVED  
SISTER!

PHOBOS...

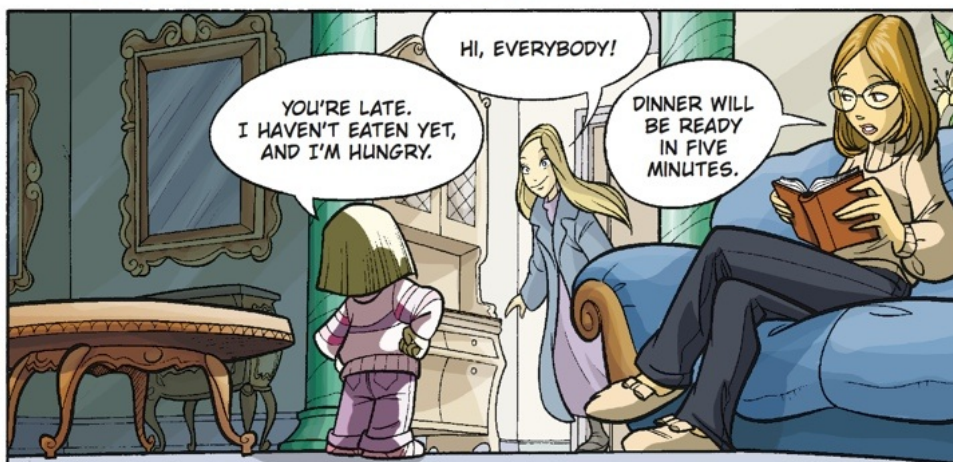
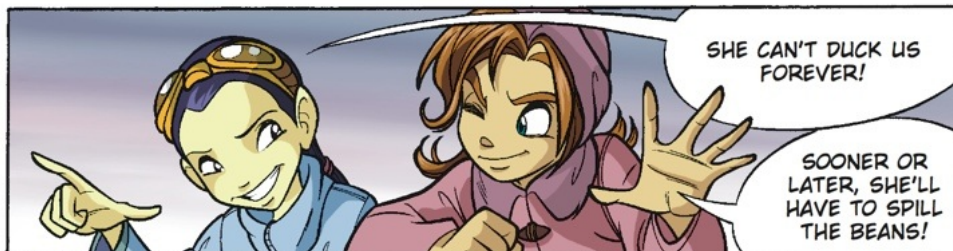


I'VE BEEN  
WAITING FOR  
THIS MOMENT.















STILL, ONE PROBLEM  
REMAINS.



I'M WILL!  
WILL VANDOM!



I'M NOT JACKIE!  
I WON'T CHANGE  
FOR MATT OR  
ANYONE  
ELSE!



THERE HE IS...  
IT'S THE MOMENT  
OF TRUTH!



HI, WILL!



HELLO.  
I WAS LOOKING  
FOR YOU.



SOME GIRL  
CAME OVER  
AND TOLD ME  
TO GIVE THIS  
TO YOU!



UM...

YOU JERK!  
JUST BE HONEST  
AND TELL ME  
YOU'RE DATING  
HER. YOU THINK  
I DON'T KNOW  
ALREADY?





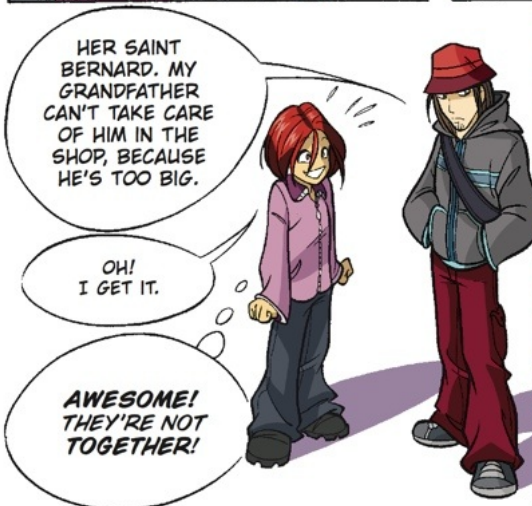


UGH!  
SHE ALWAYS  
TREATS ME LIKE  
A KID!



WHEN SHE  
BROUGHT IN HER  
PUPPY, SHE EVEN  
TOLD ME THAT  
I LOOK LIKE  
HER BABY  
BROTHER!

UM...  
PUPPY?



HER SAINT  
BERNARD. MY  
GRANDFATHER  
CAN'T TAKE CARE  
OF HIM IN THE  
SHOP, BECAUSE  
HE'S TOO BIG.

OH!  
I GET IT.

AWESOME!  
THEY'RE NOT  
TOGETHER!



GET A GRIP,  
WILL! HE'S  
GONNA FIND  
OUT!



WELL...  
NEVER FALL FOR  
SOMEONE WHO'S  
OLDER THAN  
YOU!

AIN'T THAT  
THE TRUTH!



CAN I WALK  
YOU HOME?

"UH...SURE!  
THANKS!"

END OF  
CHAPTER 7







# THE BLACK ROSES OF MERIDIAN

“Sometimes  
I feel like  
I’m the  
only one  
who doesn’t  
know the  
truth.”





HEATHERFIELD.

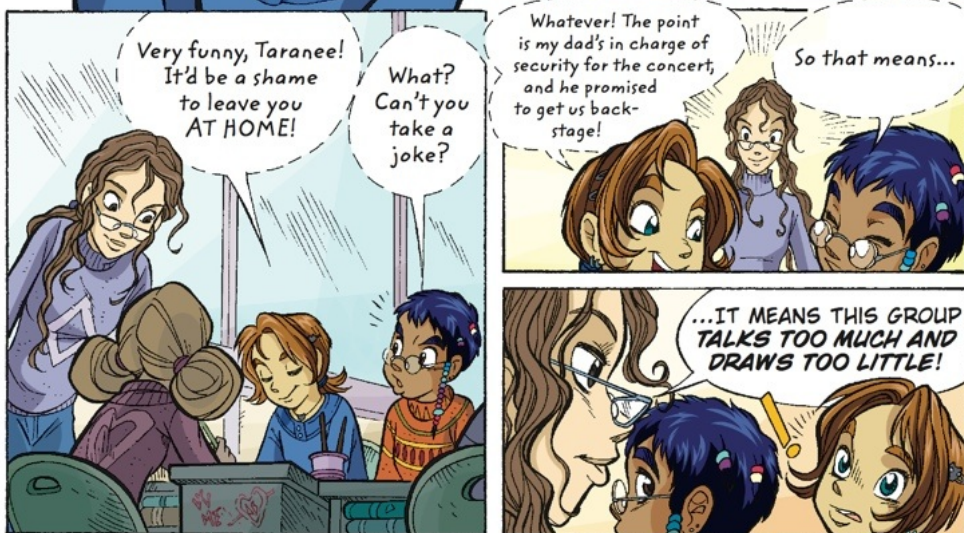
DESPITE THE COLD AND SNOW COVERING THE ARENA, IT'S LIKELY TO BECOME ONE OF THE HOTTEST SPOTS IN THE CITY IN JUST A FEW DAYS.

BRINGING THE HEAT WILL BE KARMILLA AND HER BAND. IF YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM, EITHER YOU COME FROM ANOTHER PLANET, OR...

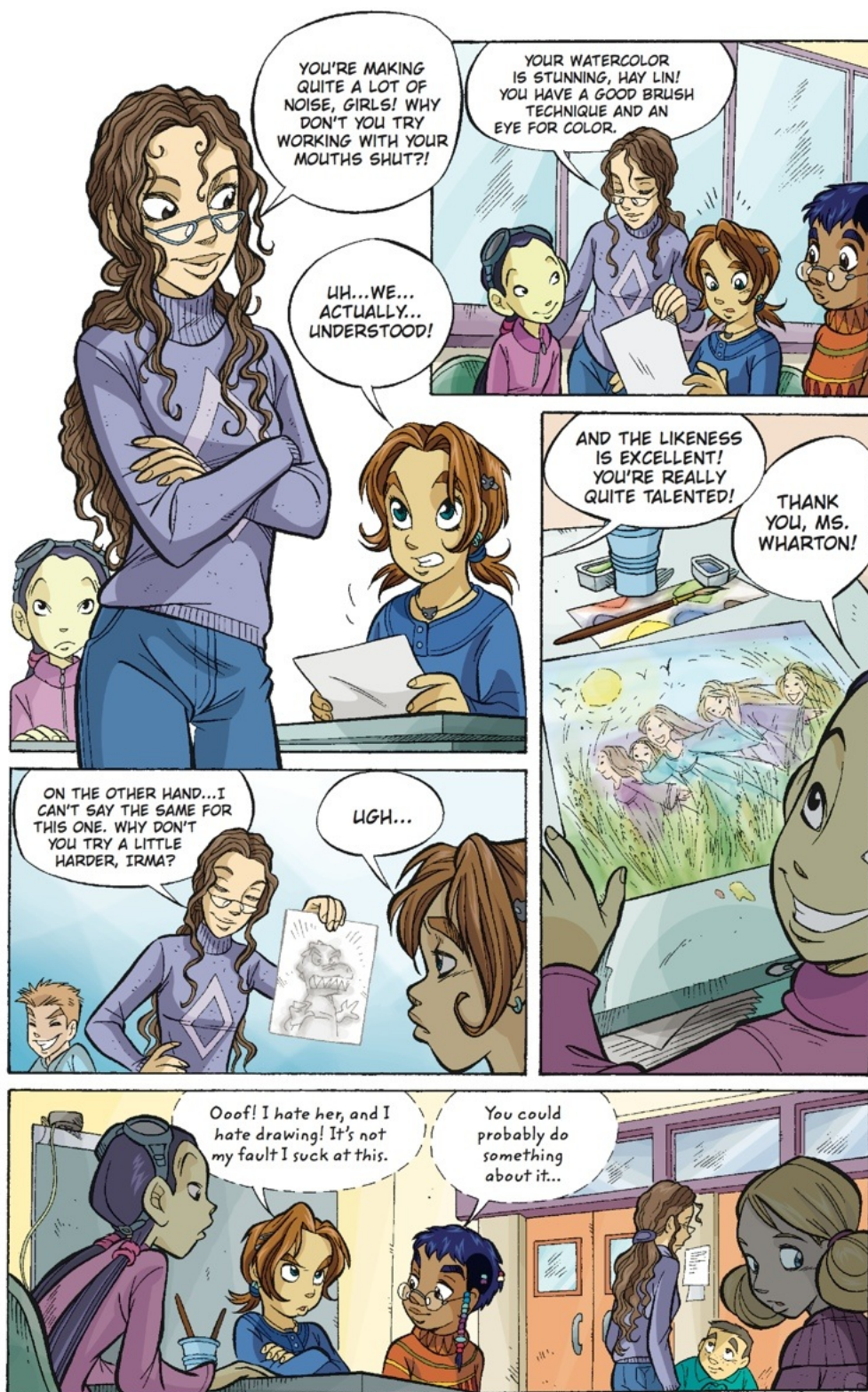
...YOU'RE FROM THE JURASSIC ERA!

I said no!  
Please don't  
make me...













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THE BELL RINGS FOR CLASS 3-A.

HOMework. I MIGHT GO WITH MY MOM TO LOOK FOR A NEW PAIR OF SKATES LATER. I HAVEN'T TRAINED IN A WHILE, AND THIS WOULD BE A GOOD EXCUSE TO START AGAIN.

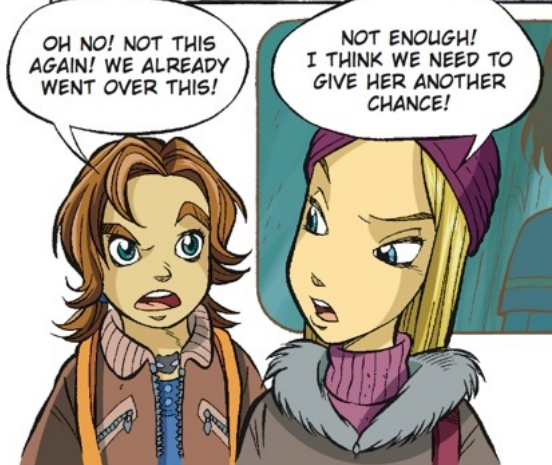
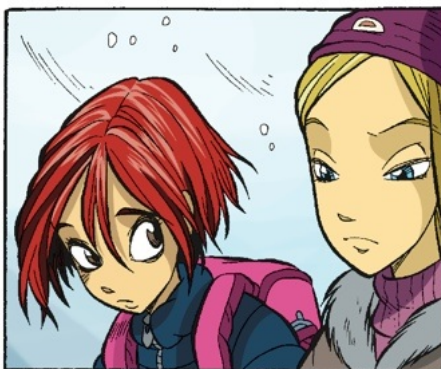
SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THIS AFTERNOON?







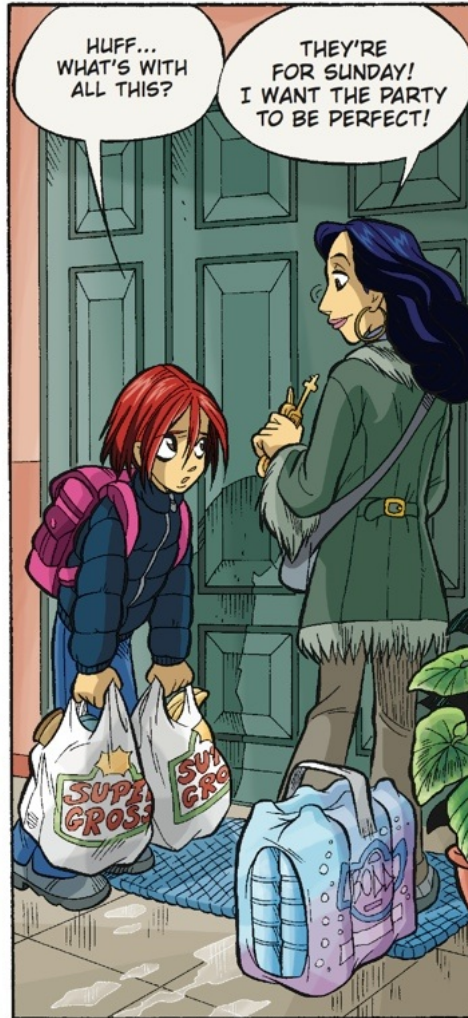




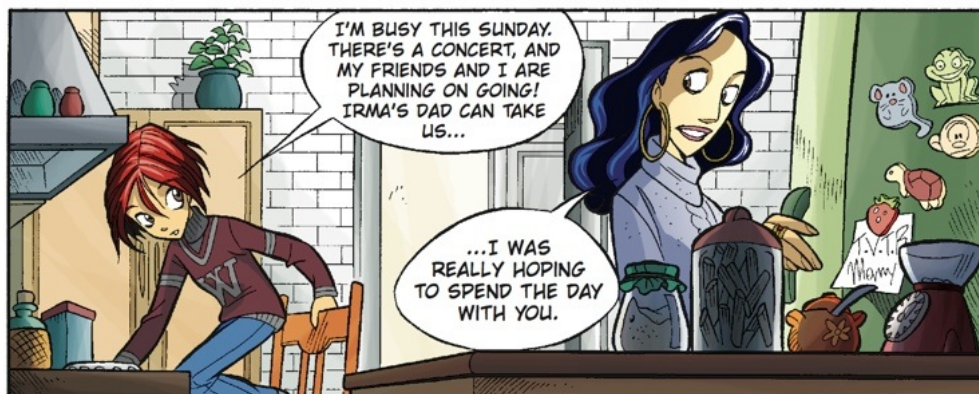




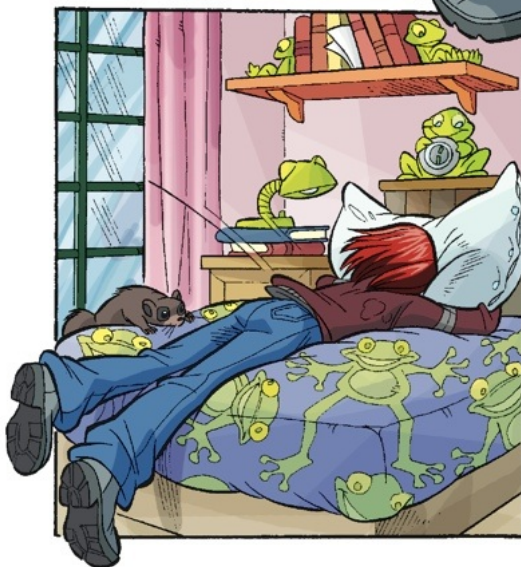
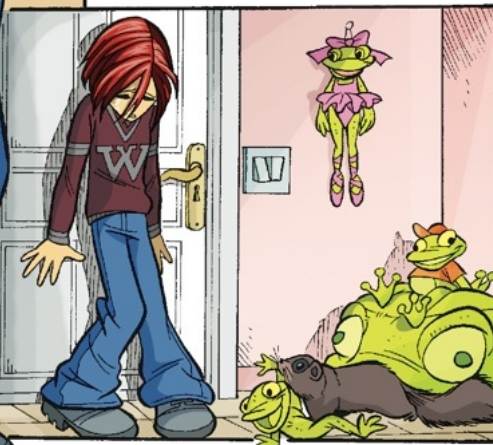




















"WILL FEELS LONELY..."



I WOULD LIKE TO HELP HER, BUT I CANNOT.




I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, TIBOR, BUT SOMETIMES I FEEL A BIT GUILTY. THESE GIRLS ARE SO YOUNG.




THEY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL, ORACLE. IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME STORY...

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AFTER THE INITIAL FEAR, THEY ALL DO THEIR JOBS.



THIS IS TRUE...

...BUT AT WHAT COST?



MEANWHILE,  
IN MERIDIAN...

YOUR WORDS SOUND  
LIKE FAILURE, MY  
FAITHFUL CEDRIC...

ALL OUR EFFORTS  
TO VEX THE GUARDIANS  
OF THE VEIL HAVE  
BACKFIRED!  
MY PATIENCE WEARS  
THIN!

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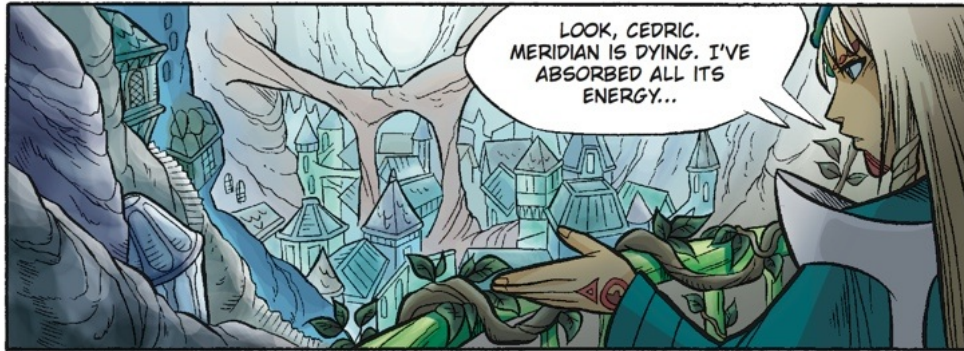
...I WOULDN'T  
WANT TO THINK I MADE  
A MISTAKE ENTRUSTING  
YOU WITH THIS TASK!

YOU ARE NEVER  
WRONG, YOUR  
HIGHNESS...

I KNOW!  
BUT TIME IS RUNNING OUT,  
AND CERTAIN THINGS CANNOT  
BE RUSHED. MOREOVER, MY  
SISTER IS WARY...

...IT'S TIME TO  
LEAVE MERIDIAN!





LOOK, CEDRIC.  
MERIDIAN IS DYING. I'VE  
ABSORBED ALL ITS  
ENERGY...



"...AND NOW THE PEOPLE  
FADE AWAY, POOR AND  
DESPERATE.

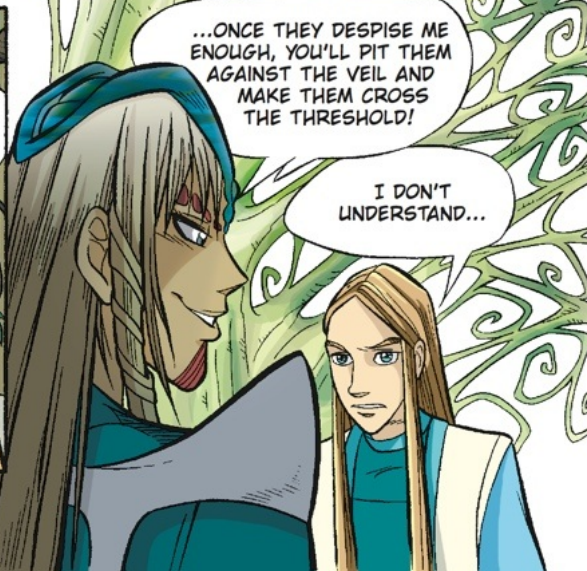


"...WE CAN'T STOP THE  
REBELLION, BUT WE DON'T  
NEED TO. SO I THOUGHT  
OF SOMETHING..."



YOU WILL PROVOKE  
THEM. MAKE THEIR  
HATRED AND  
DESPERATION  
SWELL!

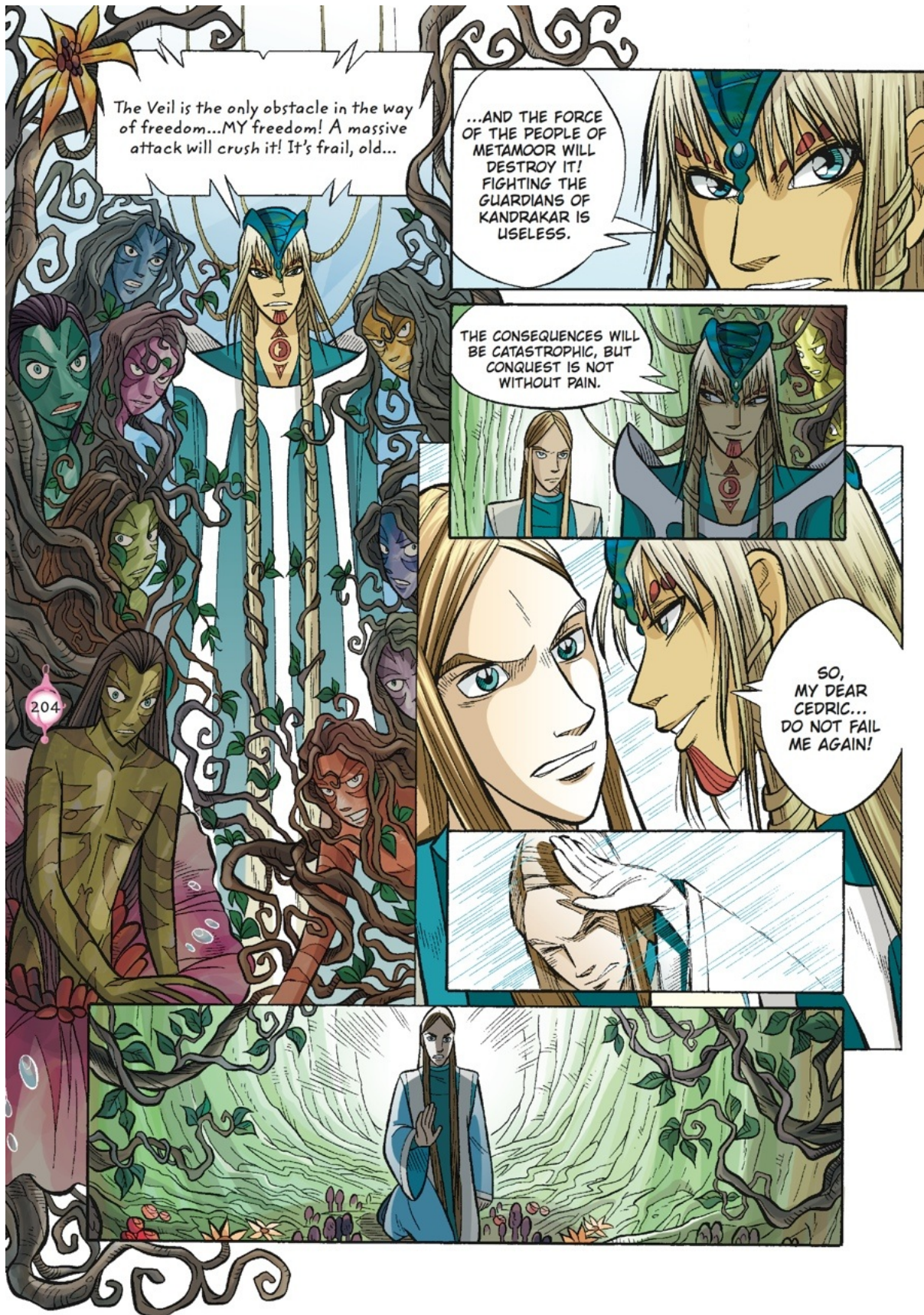
BUT,  
SIRE...



...ONCE THEY DESPISE ME  
ENOUGH, YOU'LL PIT THEM  
AGAINST THE VEIL AND  
MAKE THEM CROSS  
THE THRESHOLD!

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND...





The Veil is the only obstacle in the way of freedom...MY freedom! A massive attack will crush it! It's frail, old...

...AND THE FORCE OF THE PEOPLE OF METAMOOR WILL DESTROY IT! FIGHTING THE GUARDIANS OF KANDRAKAR IS USELESS.

THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE CATASTROPHIC, BUT CONQUEST IS NOT WITHOUT PAIN.

SO, MY DEAR CEDRIC... DO NOT FAIL ME AGAIN!



SUNDAY HAS FINALLY  
ARRIVED IN HEATHERFIELD.  
FOR SOME, IT'S THE BEST  
DAY OF THE WEEK...



...BUT GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS  
CAN SOMETIMES  
BRING GREAT  
DISAPPOINTMENTS  
TOO!

BELIEVE ME, IRMA. I'M  
SORRIER THAN YOU. IT'S JUST  
A MILD CASE OF THE FLU, BUT  
IT'S BETTER TO BE SAFE! I'LL  
COME NEXT TIME, OKAY?



First Will, and now you!  
What's up with you guys?  
This was gonna be our big  
chance! We'll never get  
another opportunity like  
this!



ARE WE STILL  
FRIENDS?

Okay, Hay-Hay.  
I'll just have to get  
AUTOGRAPHS for you,  
even if you don't  
deserve them. Bye!



I DON'T LIKE LYING...BUT IF  
I TOLD THEM THE TRUTH,  
THEY'D TEASE ME  
FOREVER!



SKIPPING A CONCERT TO  
HELP YOUR PARENTS AT  
THEIR RESTAURANT ISN'T  
EXACTLY COOL...

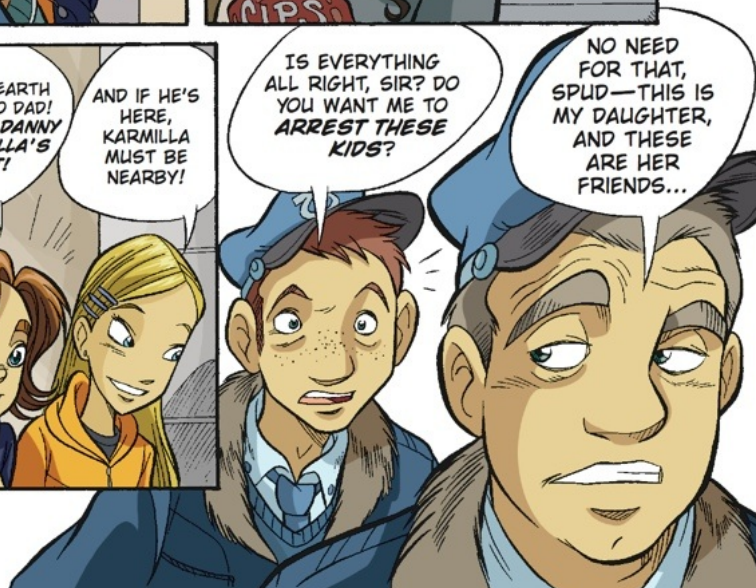
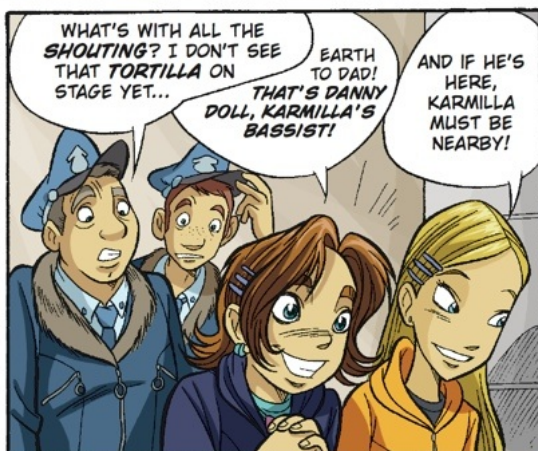




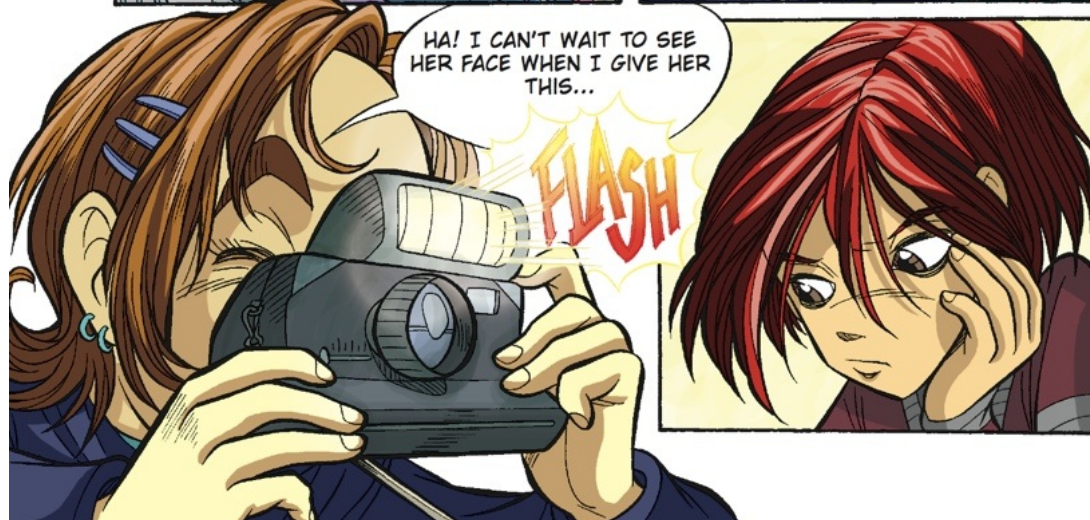
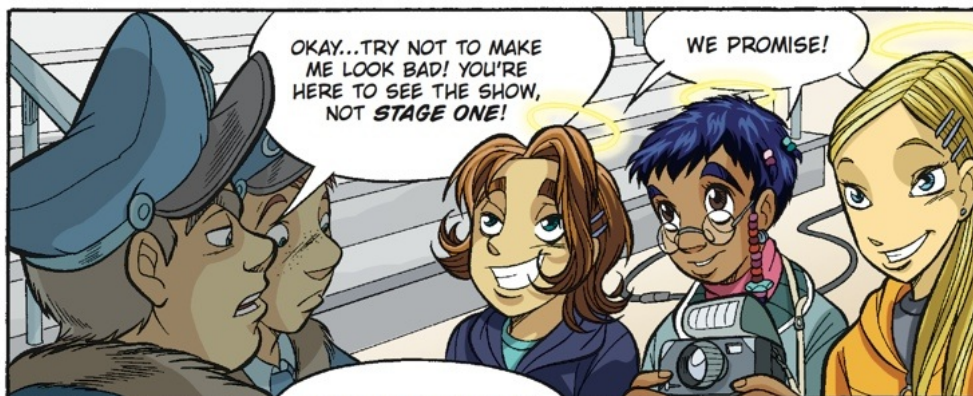




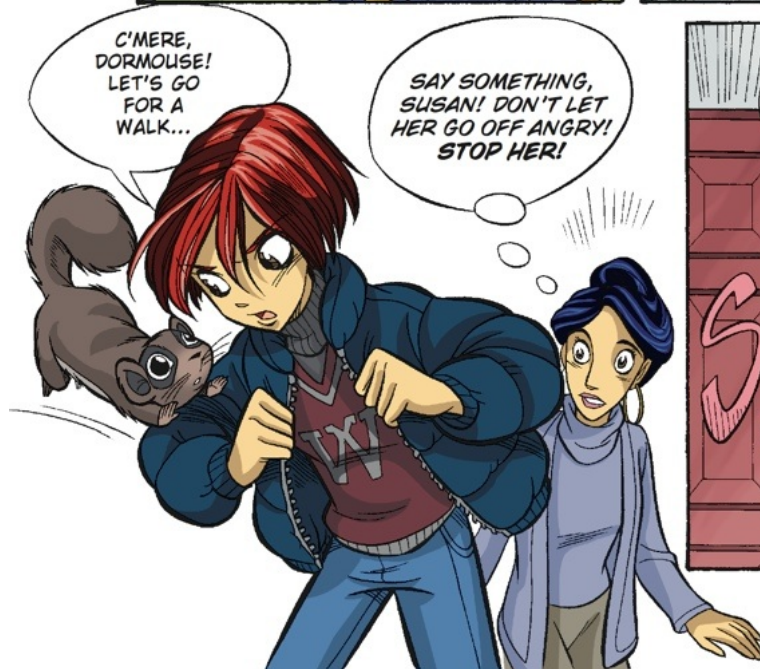
MEANWHILE, AT FUTURE-DOME, HEATHERFIELD'S COVERED STADIUM...







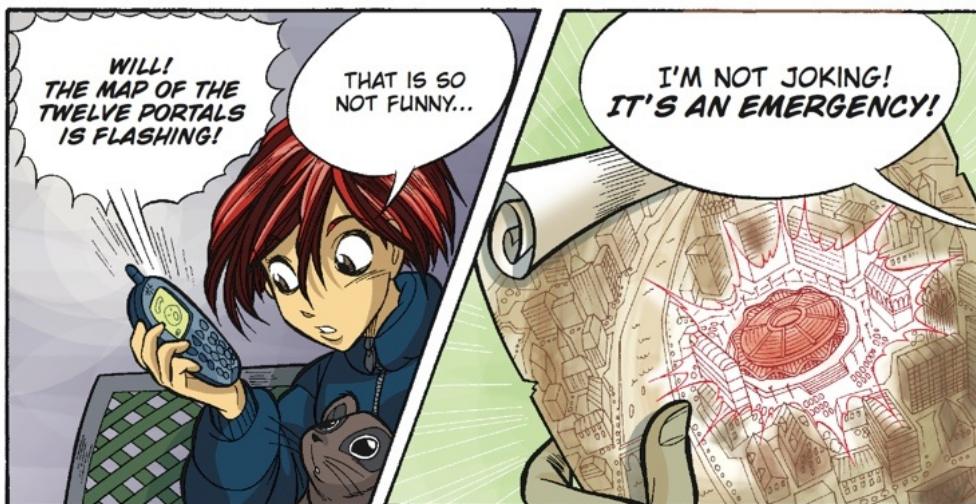
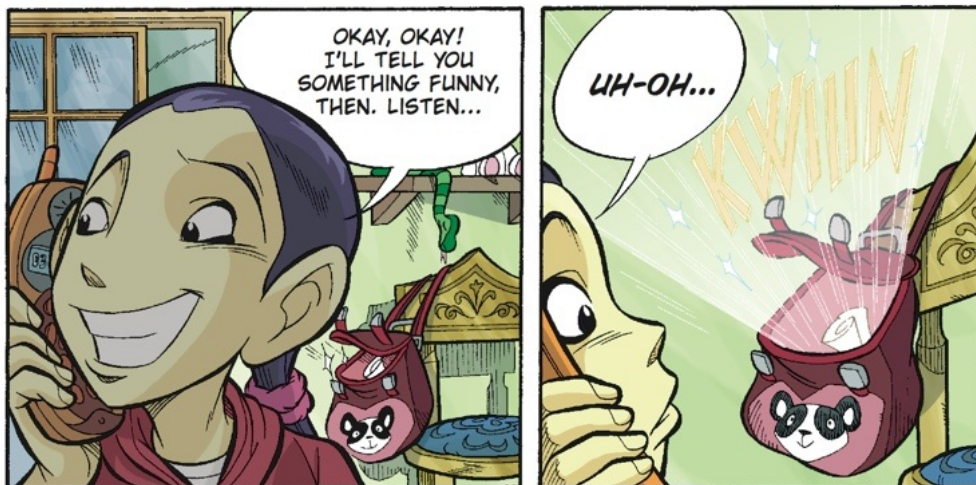




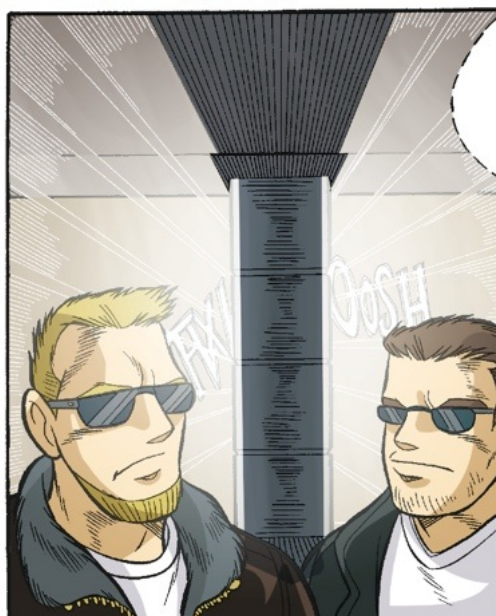
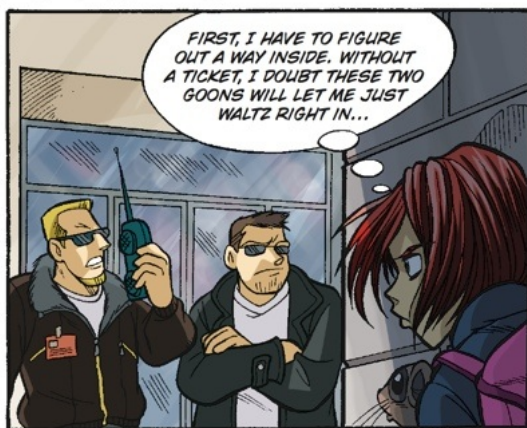
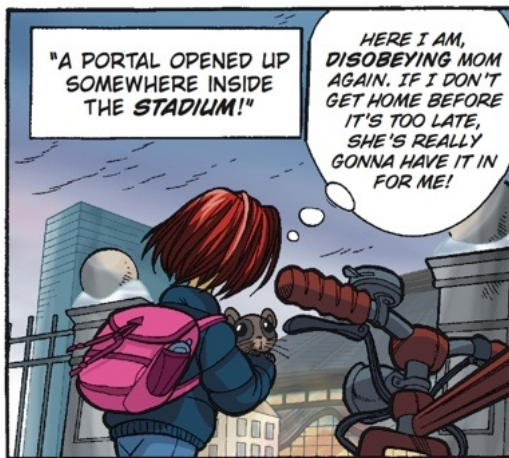




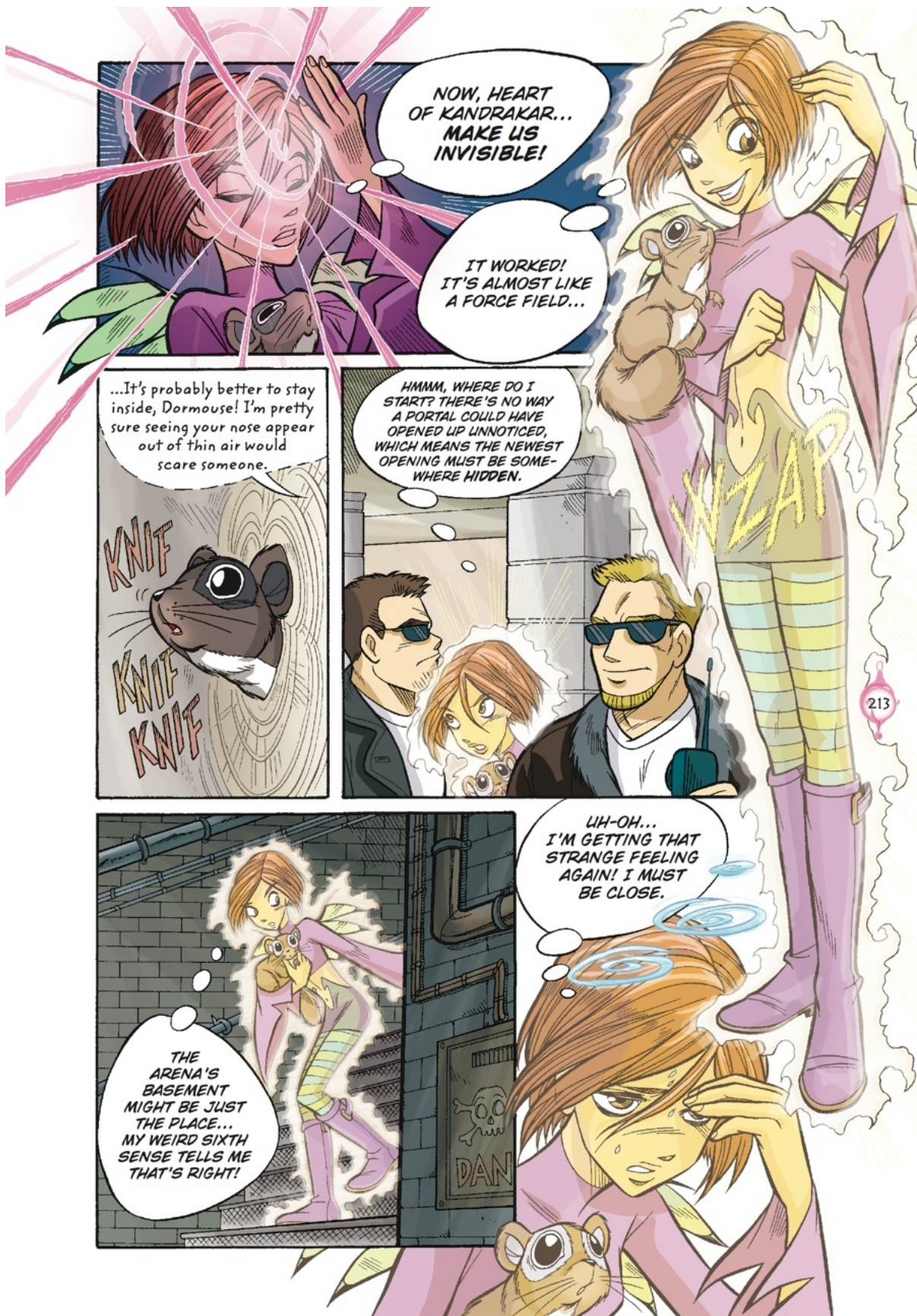












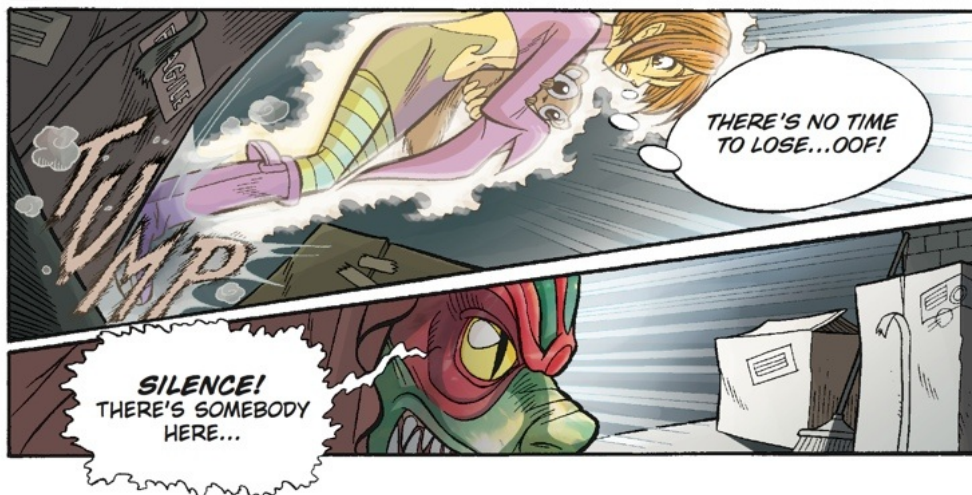




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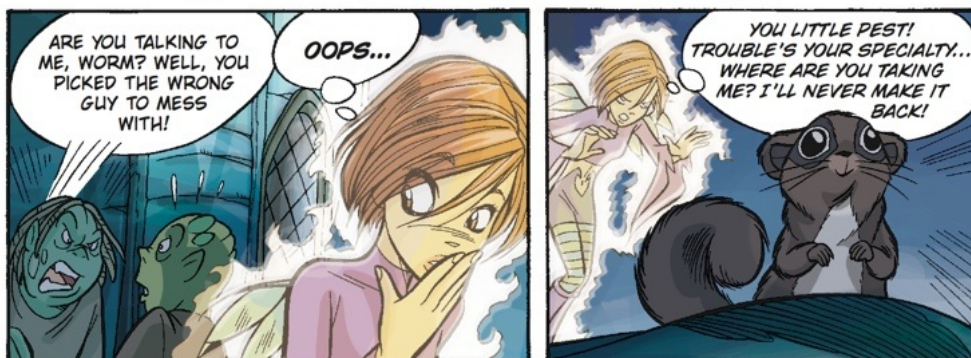




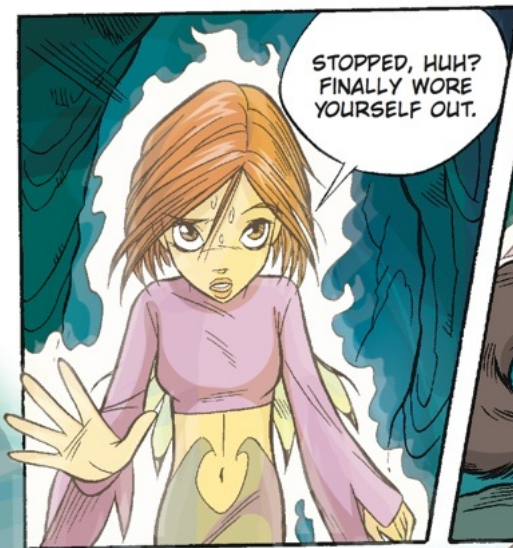










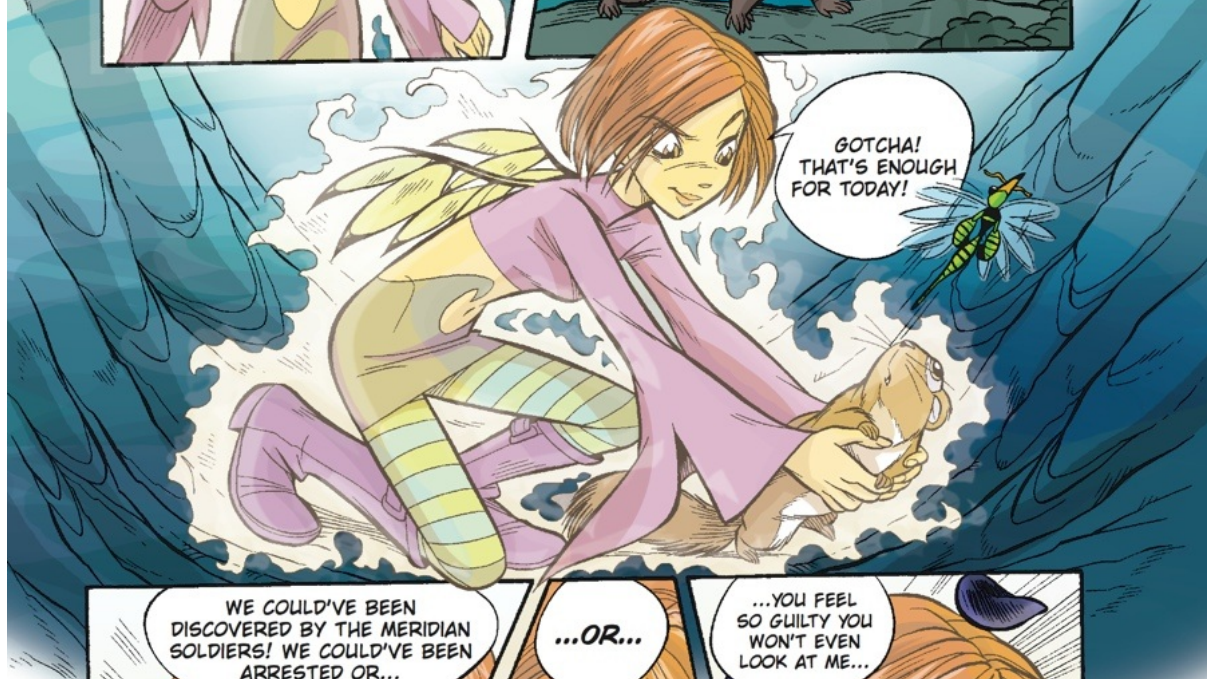


STOPPED, HUH?  
FINALLY WORE  
YOURSELF OUT.

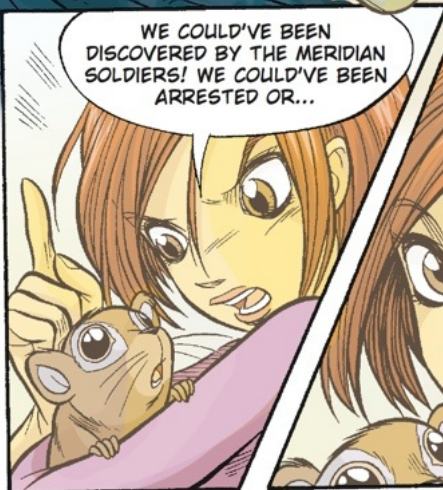


YOU'VE GIVEN ME  
SO MUCH GRIEF!

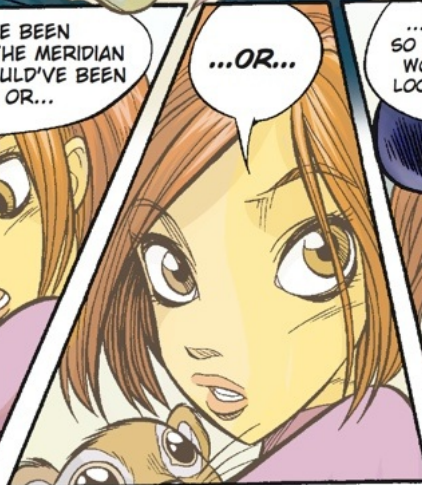
GNIK!



GOTCHA!  
THAT'S ENOUGH  
FOR TODAY!



WE COULD'VE BEEN  
DISCOVERED BY THE MERIDIAN  
SOLDIERS! WE COULD'VE BEEN  
ARRESTED OR...

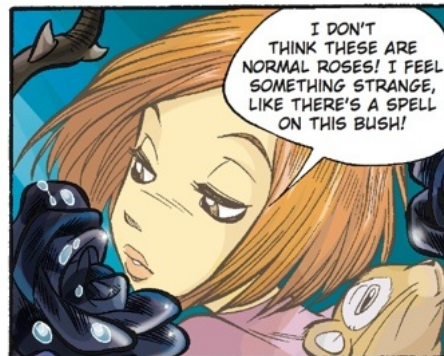
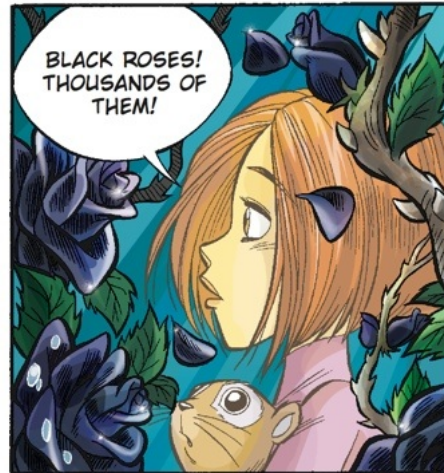
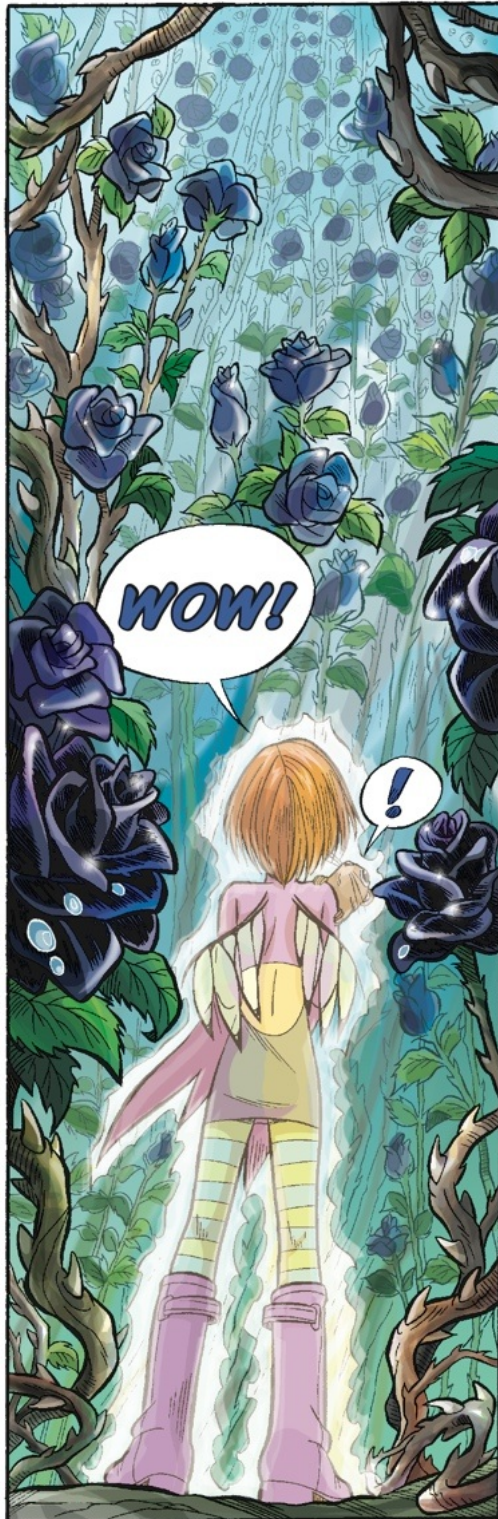


...OR...



...YOU FEEL  
SO GUILTY YOU  
WON'T EVEN  
LOOK AT ME...





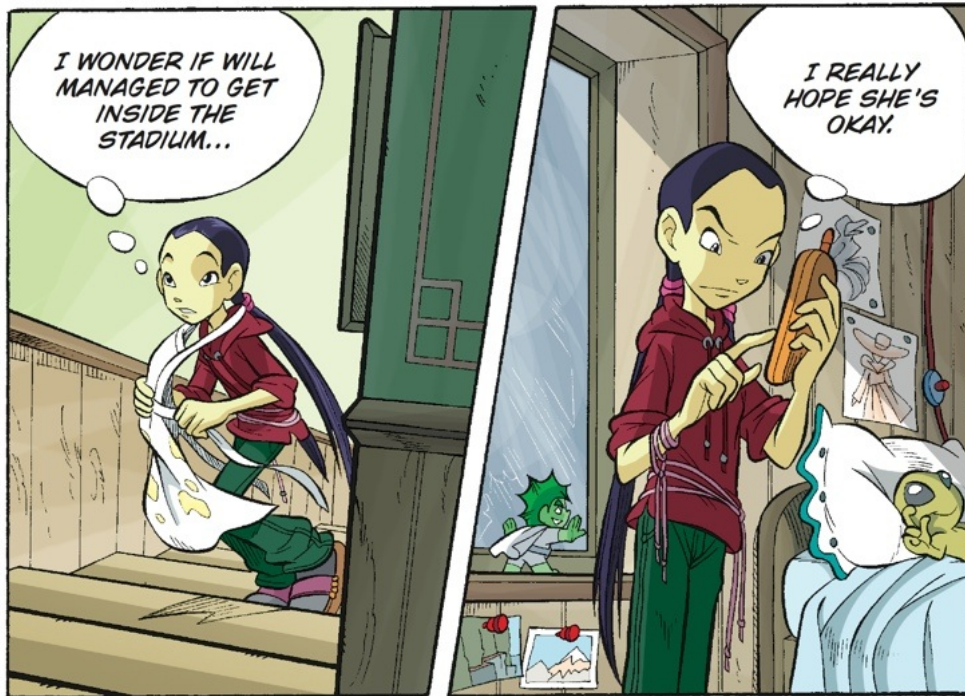




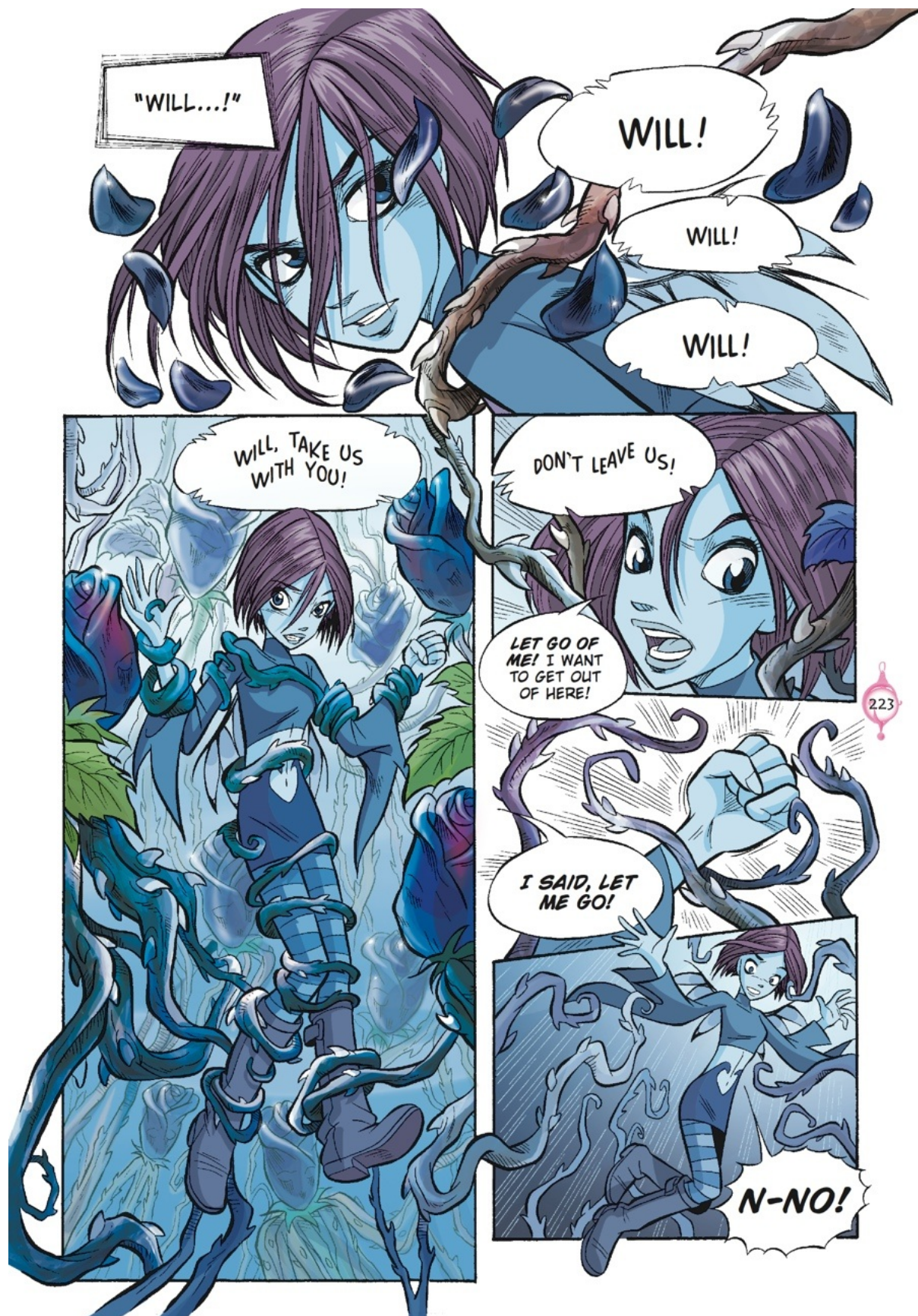












"WILL...!"

WILL!

WILL!

WILL!

WILL, TAKE US  
WITH YOU!

DON'T LEAVE US!

LET GO OF  
ME! I WANT  
TO GET OUT  
OF HERE!

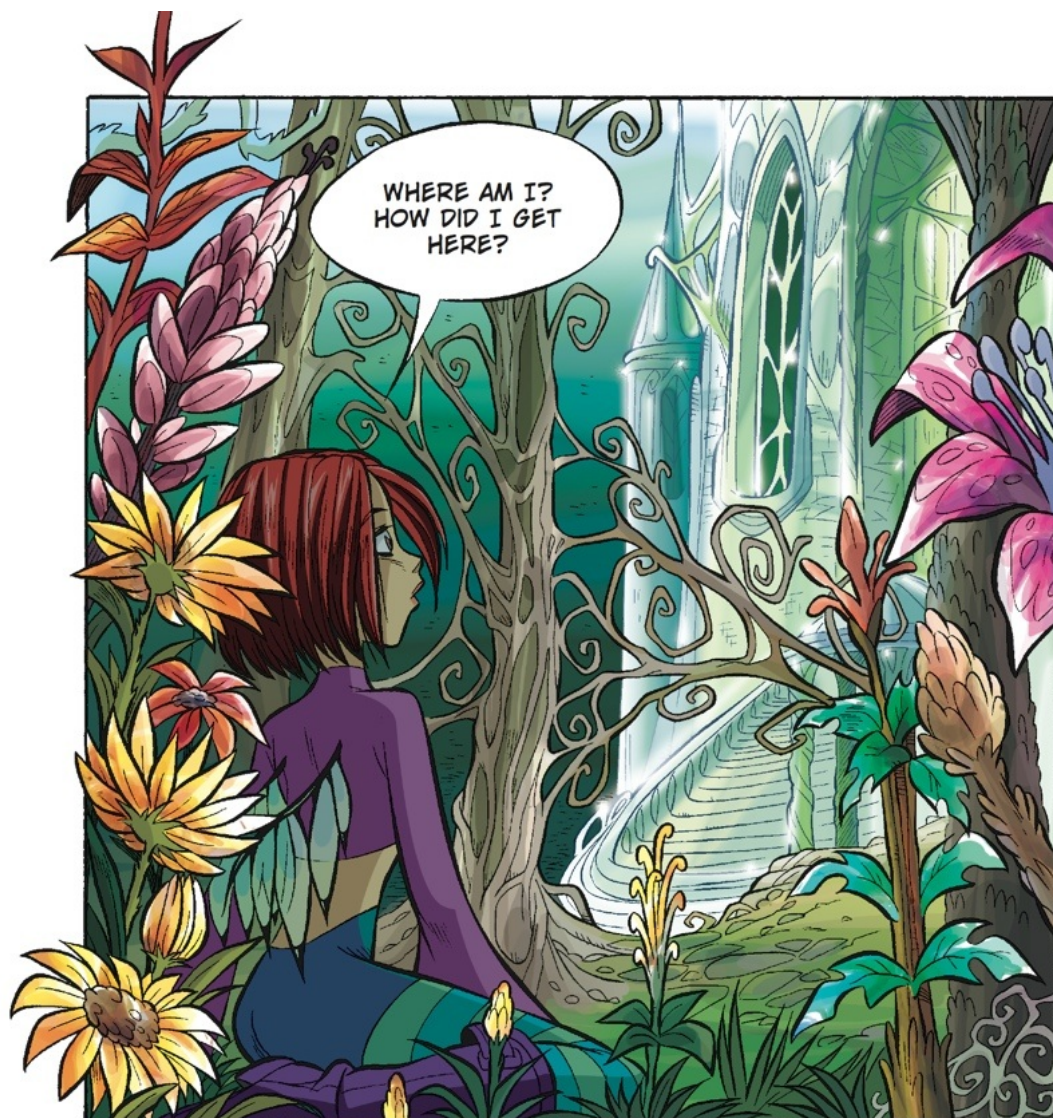
I SAID, LET  
ME GO!

N-NO!













YOU...  
YOU...  
SURVIVED  
THE BLACK  
ROSES!  
THAT'S A  
MIRACLE.

THE THORNS THAT  
PRICKED YOU ARE  
USUALLY LETHAL—  
BUT NOT TO YOU!  
HOW ARE YOU  
CAPABLE OF  
AVOIDING  
THEIR  
POWER?

I HONESTLY  
DON'T  
KNOW...

THE HEART OF  
KANDRAKAR MUST  
HAVE PROTECTED ME!

THE  
HEART OF  
KANDRAKAR?  
YOU'RE A  
GUARDIAN OF THE  
VEIL?

THIS IS THE GARDEN OF THE  
CASTLE OF PHOBOS! ARE YOU  
HERE TO FIGHT THE PRINCE?

WORD  
TRAVELS FAST.  
WHERE ARE WE?  
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

SORRY, BUT NO. I'M  
GUESSING YOU'RE NOT  
HIS BIGGEST  
FAN?

HIS FAN? I  
DETEST THAT  
CREATURE WITH  
ALL MY MIGHT!







"IF ONLY I HAD  
SOMEONE ELSE TO ASK  
FOR ANSWERS."



THE FORTRESS  
OF MERIDIAN



THE  
PRISONERS  
YOU WISH  
TO SEE ARE IN  
THE CELL  
DOWN THE  
CORRIDOR.



CALL ME  
IF YOU NEED  
ANYTHING,  
PRINCESS  
ELYON.







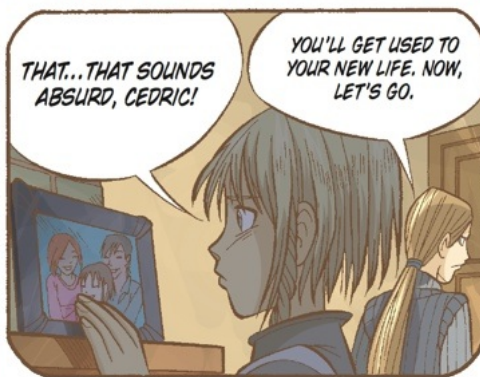
ONCE UPON  
A TIME, THESE  
PEOPLE WERE  
MY MOTHER  
AND FATHER...  
IN SOME WAYS,  
THEY STILL  
ARE!

I GREW  
UP WITH  
THEM—  
LOVED  
THEM...  
UNTIL...

"...WHAT HAPPENED  
IN HEATHERFIELD A  
FEW WEEKS AGO."



THEY ARE  
TRAITORS, ELYON!  
UNWORTHY  
CREATURES WHO  
TOOK YOU FROM YOUR  
REAL HOME AND YOUR  
REAL FAMILY!

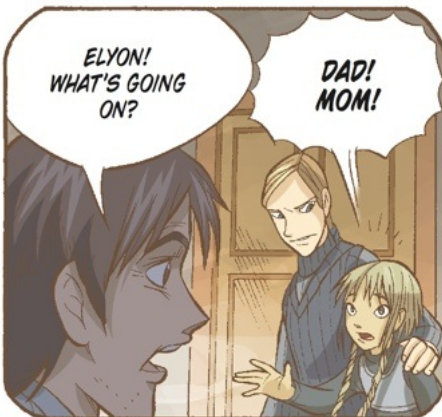


THAT...THAT SOUNDS  
ABSURD, CEDRIC!

YOU'LL GET USED TO  
YOUR NEW LIFE. NOW,  
LET'S GO.



PACK  
YOUR THINGS  
AND GET READY  
TO LEAVE!



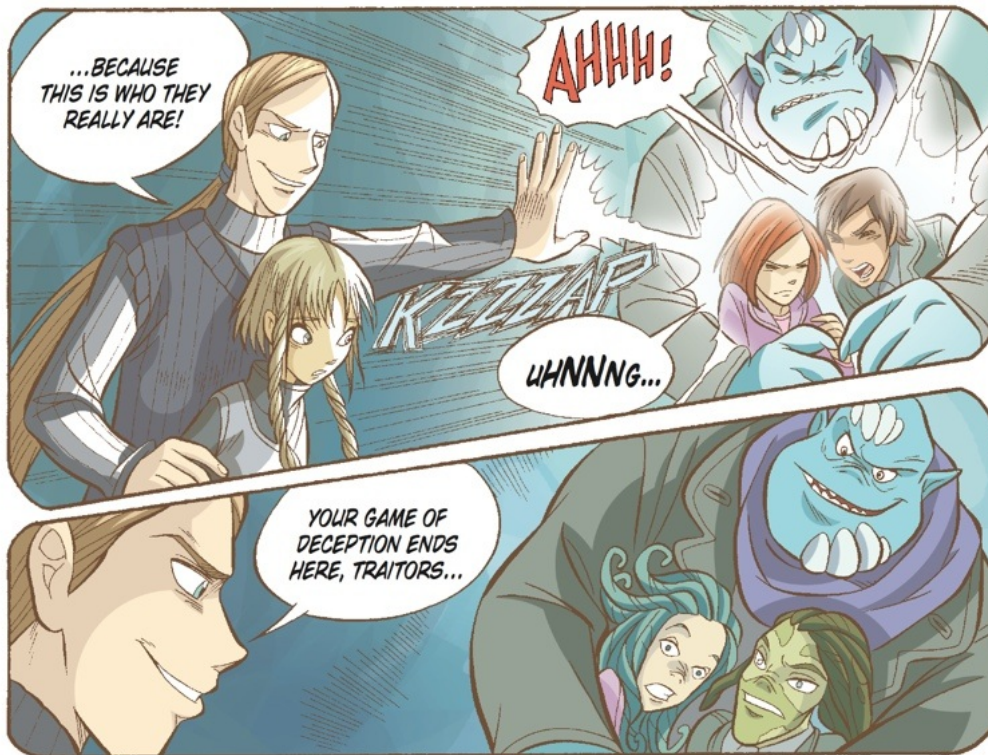
ELYON!  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON?

DAD!  
MOM!



STOP CALLING  
THEM THAT,  
ELYON...





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"WE'RE RETURNING TO MERIDIAN—WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND WHERE YOU WILL STAY!"

ELYON!  
IS...  
IS THAT YOU?

MY LITTLE GIRL!  
HOW ARE YOU?

COME CLOSER,  
HONEY! LET US  
SEE YOU...

OH, ELYON!  
IF YOU ONLY  
KNEW...

THEIR WORDS...  
THEIR GESTURES!  
THESE...THESE PEOPLE  
STILL LOVE ME!

I CAN'T STAY LONG!  
I'M HERE BECAUSE  
I NEED THE TRUTH.  
I *ONLY* NEED  
ANSWERS.

I ALREADY  
KNOW MY STORY  
AND MERIDIAN'S!  
NOW I WANT TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
PHOBOS! ABOUT  
*YOUR* TRUTH.





PHOBOS IS *PURE EVIL*, ELYON! THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO KNOW... HE'S CONTROLLED YOUR REIGN FOR ALL THESE YEARS!

WE TOOK YOU AWAY WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BABY BECAUSE WE WANTED TO SAVE YOU! YOUR BROTHER IS CRUEL...



WE WANTED YOU TO GROW UP HAPPY, FAR FROM THIS HOPELESS WORLD! PLEASE FORGIVE US! WE DID IT ALL FOR YOU!



PHOBOS MAY HAVE MADE SOME MISTAKES, BUT HE'S CHANGED. HE WANTS TO TURN THE CROWN OVER TO ME. IF HE'S REALLY AS BAD AS YOU SAY...

DON'T TRUST HIM, ELYON...



DON'T TRUST ANYBODY... JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART!

*COME ON, YOU SCUM!*



COME GET YOUR SOUP! LET'S GO!

LOWER YOUR VOICE, JARUS! PRINCESS ELYON IS HERE!



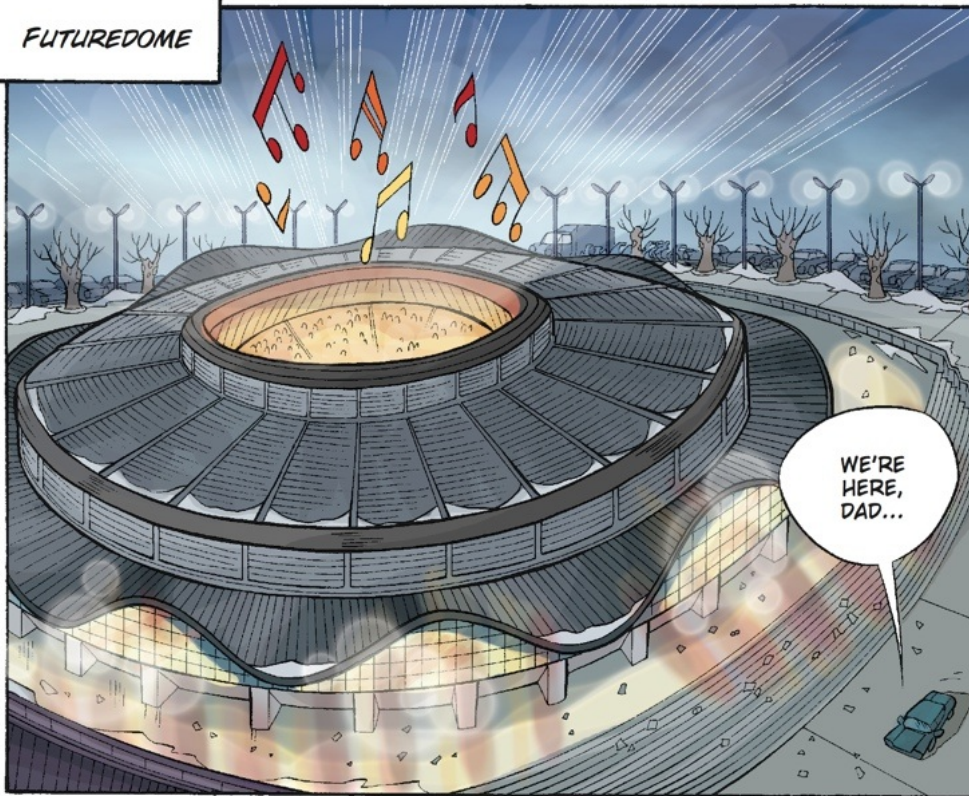
OH, FORGIVE ME, YOUR HIGHNESS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

I WAS LEAVING ANYWAY.



FUTUREDOVE



WE'RE  
HERE,  
DAD...

232



YOU CAN STOP  
HERE. IT'S  
FINE.

YOUR WISH IS  
MY COMMAND,  
MILADY.

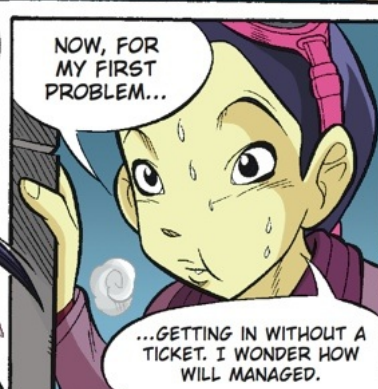


THANKS FOR  
THE RIDE, DAD.

NO PROBLEM.  
HAVE FUN!



I'LL TRY!  
SEE YOU LATER!



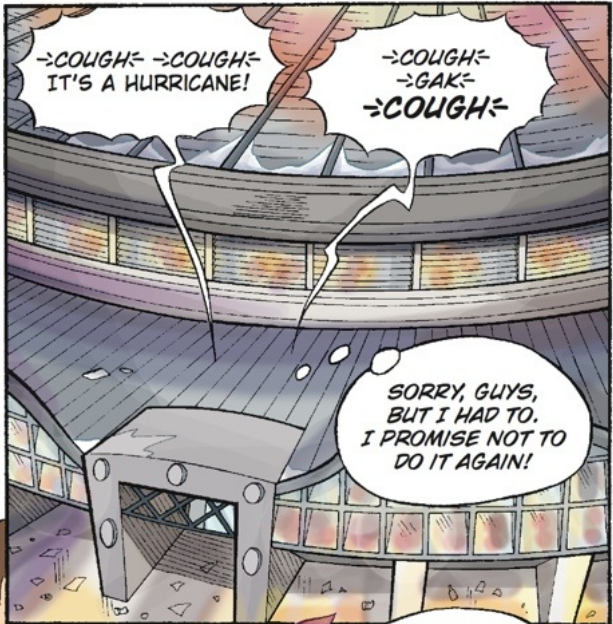
NOW, FOR  
MY FIRST  
PROBLEM...

...GETTING IN WITHOUT A  
TICKET. I WONDER HOW  
WILL MANAGED.



...USUALLY, ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO SNEAK BY IS A BIT OF DUST!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?



->COUGH-> ->COUGH->  
IT'S A HURRICANE!

->COUGH->  
->GAK->  
->COUGH->

SORRY, GUYS,  
BUT I HAD TO.  
I PROMISE NOT TO  
DO IT AGAIN!



NOW, TO FIND THE OTHERS! THEY SHOULDN'T BE FAR. KARMILLA'S ALREADY ON THE STAGE.

...THERE THEY ARE!

233



HAY LIN!  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO YOUR FLU?

FORGET THAT!  
WE'VE GOT AN  
EMERGENCY!



WHAT ELSE IS  
NEW? WHAT  
HAPPENED?





A PORTAL OPENED SOMEWHERE IN THE STADIUM! I TOLD WILL, BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE...

WE SURE HAVEN'T SEEN HER.



WE HAVE TO FIND HER! SHE COULD BE IN SERIOUS DANGER!

BUT WILL IS FARTHER THAN THEY THINK...

I AM THE CARETAKER OF THESE MAGICAL BEINGS...

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...CREATED FOR PRINCE PHOBOS.



DID YOU ALSO MAKE THE BLACK ROSES?

YES... BUT I'M NOT PROUD OF THEM.

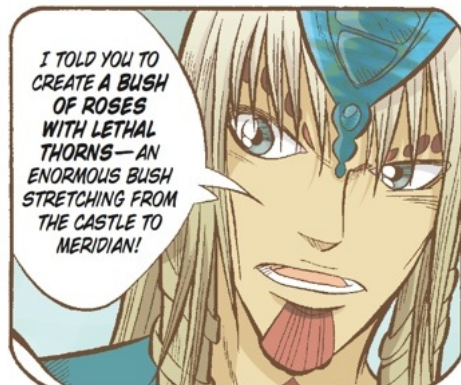


THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL, CRUEL...MERCILESS FLOWERS THAT DECEIVE AND BETRAY PEOPLE!

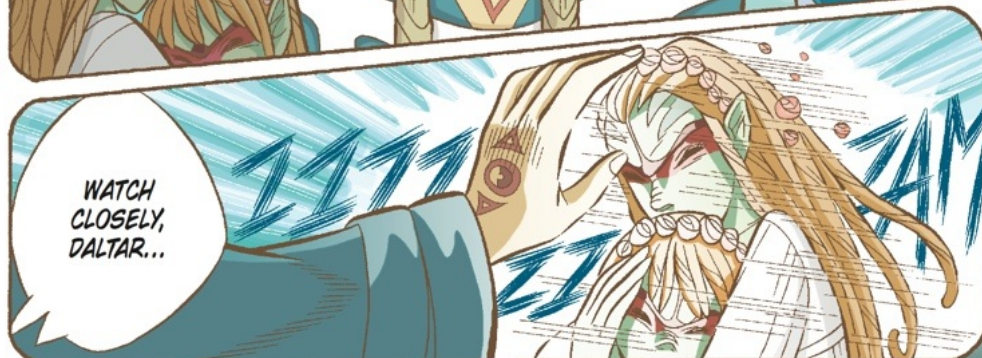




"I COULDN'T REFUSE HIM."











THE THORNS OF MY CREATION TRANSFORM ALL WHO TOUCH THEM INTO ROSES...



THESE FLOWERS...ARE THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN! THOUSANDS OF DESPERATE SOULS WHO TRIED TO ENTER THE CASTLE TO BEG PHOBOS FOR MERCY...



SO THESE ROSES... ARE ALIVE?



YES...AND I MUST TAKE CARE OF THEM. SOMEWHERE INSIDE THESE THICK BUSHES IS MY FAMILY!



BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE! SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED... AND SO MANY NEW ROSES HAVE BLOOMED.

COME ON, DALTAR...



BUT THINGS WILL CHANGE SOON. ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, SOMEONE IS HELPING PEOPLE ESCAPE FROM MERIDIAN.













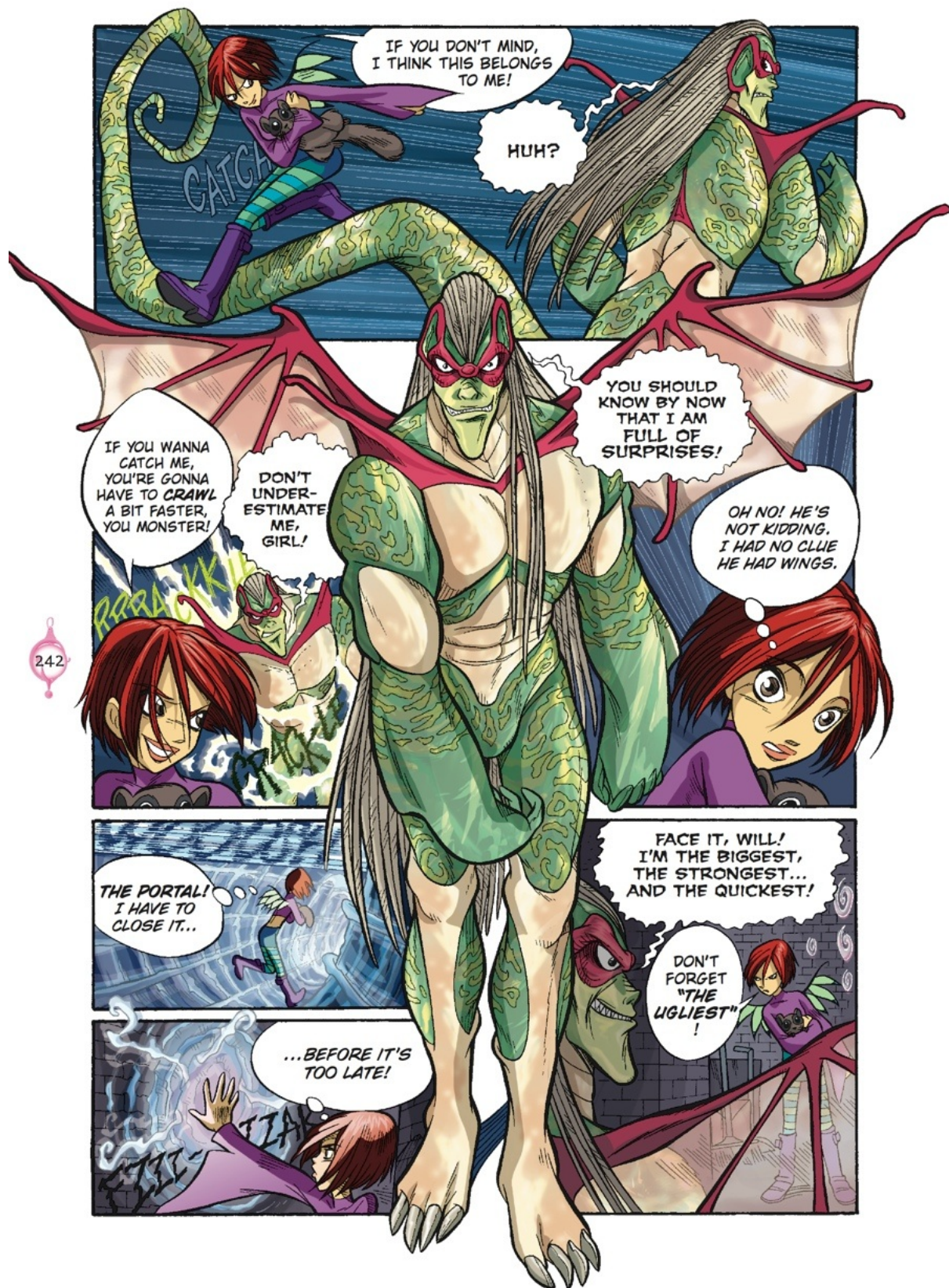
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IF YOU DON'T MIND,  
I THINK THIS BELONGS  
TO ME!

HUH?

YOU SHOULD  
KNOW BY NOW  
THAT I AM  
FULL OF  
SURPRISES!

IF YOU WANNA  
CATCH ME,  
YOU'RE GONNA  
HAVE TO CRAWL  
A BIT FASTER,  
YOU MONSTER!

DON'T UNDER-  
ESTIMATE  
ME,  
GIRL!

OH NO! HE'S  
NOT KIDDING.  
I HAD NO CLUE  
HE HAD WINGS.

THE PORTAL!  
I HAVE TO  
CLOSE IT...

FACE IT, WILL!  
I'M THE BIGGEST,  
THE STRONGEST...  
AND THE QUICKEST!

DON'T FORGET  
"THE  
UGLIEST"  
!

...BEFORE IT'S  
TOO LATE!





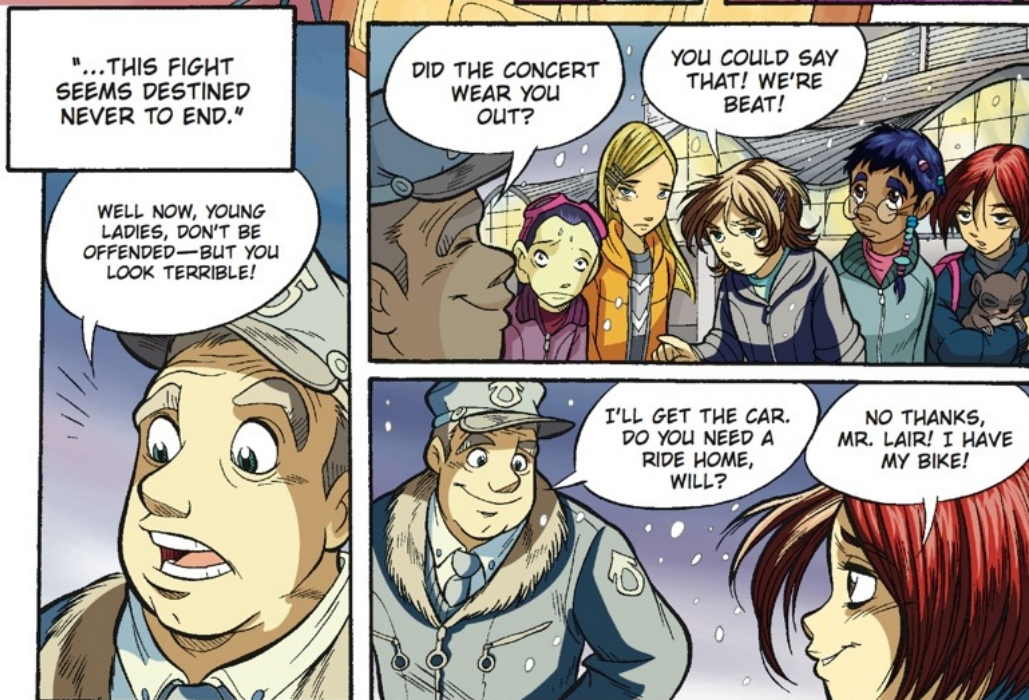
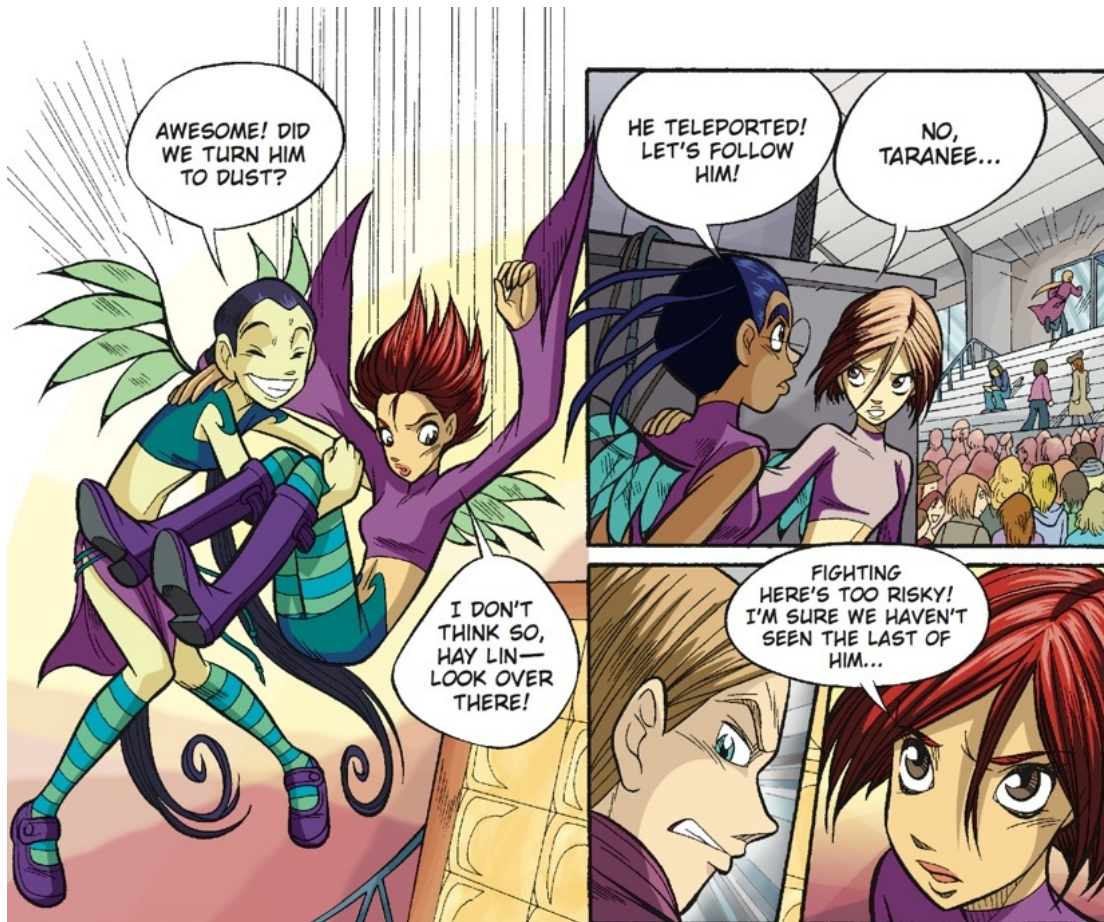
















ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU DON'T WANT A RIDE? WE COULD PUT YOUR BIKE IN THE TRUNK.

I'M FINE, IRMA. THANKS...



YOU TOLD US SOME AWFUL STORIES TODAY, WILL...THE BLACK ROSES...DALTAR AND HIS FAMILY...

...AND CALEB AND THE REBELS! SO MUCH IS HAPPENING IN MERIDIAN...SO MUCH OF IT RIGHT NOW...



METAMOOR IS ABOUT TO CHANGE...EVEN THOUGH NO ONE'S TOLD US YET, I KNOW WE'RE GONNA BE PART OF IT!

BUT, WILL... WE'RE JUST THE GUARDIANS OF THE VEIL!

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THAT'S NO REASON TO JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS!



WE'VE LEARNED OUR LESSON. WE CAN'T DEFEND A BARRIER WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE.

I'M WITH YOU. IF THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN WANT TO INVAD OUR WORLD, IT ISN'T OUT OF ANGER OR EVIL...



...BUT **DESPERATION!** THOSE PEOPLE WANT TO ESCAPE FROM FEAR AND HUNGER!

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHY WE'LL HELP THEM. I'M WITH YOU TOO, WILL.













ASTONISHED BY...

# Taranee

13 years old

Born **March 23**, Aries

The most **reflective** and quiet of the group but is a little bit distracted

Her favorite subject is **math**.

She's in Class 2B at Sheffield Institute with Irma and Hay Lin. Like Will, she's new to Heatherfield.

She loves classical music and **basketball**. She's passionate about photography and likes to take pictures of insects even though she gets the jitters around these "flying monsters."

Her mom is a judge, and her dad is a psychologist. She has an older **brother** who's very cute and loves surfing.



## In witch form



Controls the power of **fire** and uses it to illuminate areas

When she transforms, her **glasses** become bigger, but even as a witch, they look a little...

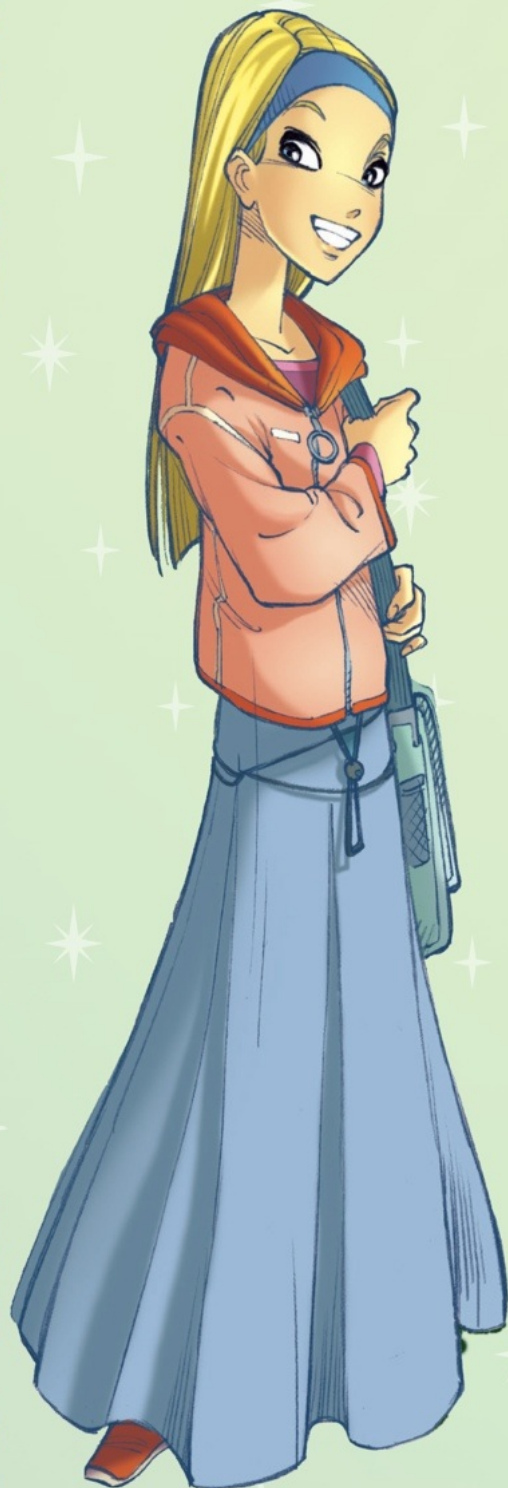
Her magic color is **red**.

Like her fire element, Taranee is **quiet** until something sparks her into an explosion.

After she gets her powers, she loses her shyness, acquiring a **smile** so genuine, it surprises even her.







ASTONISHED BY...

# Cornelia

She's in Class 3A at **Sheffield Institute** with Will.

Her **calm** and **rational** behavior is challenged by Irma's sense of humor.

Lives with her parents and her **little sister, Lilian**, in a beautiful apartment in one of Heatherfield's most elegant neighborhoods

She loves **ice skating** and has already won many awards in competitions.

She **can't swim** and is afraid of water, but that doesn't mean she won't overcome that difficulty one day.



## In witch form



Controls the power of **earth**,  
with which she can open gaps in  
walls and move objects with her  
mind

Even though her best friend,  
Elyon, is now her **worst  
enemy**, she hopes to be  
friends again.

Her transformation reinforces her  
**elegant appearance**,  
making her look the trendiest of the  
group. She's attentive to fashion.







ASTONISHED BY...

# Hay Lin

Only just turned **13**,  
on **June 4** as a Gemini

Is in class with Irma and Taranee.

Her favorite class is **art**.

Sweet and frequently  
**daydreaming**, Hay Lin is the  
most distracted of the group. She even  
writes notes to herself on her hands.

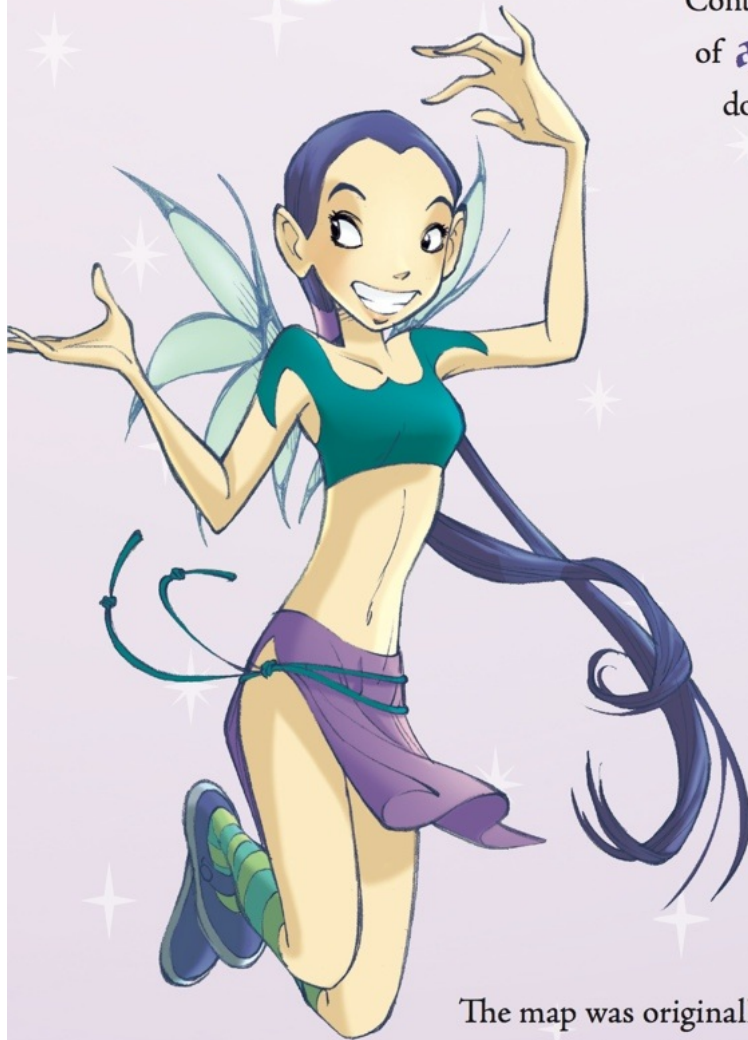
She lives with her parents in an  
apartment above the Chinese restaurant  
that her family runs.

A science fiction enthusiast, she hopes  
to meet a scaly, bony **alien** one day.  
When she sees something she likes, she  
says stuff like, "**Out of  
this World!**"

She loves **glasses**, especially big,  
oddly shaped ones. She also redesigns  
her clothes with **laces**, which she  
uses as distinctive accessories for a  
distinctive look.



## In witch form



Controls the power of **air** to fly. She dominates air currents.

She is entrusted with the map of the **twelve portals**, which indicates all the places to cross to Metamoor.

The map was originally in the hands of her grandmother, the elderly Yan Lin. For the first millennium, she was also a **Guardian of Kandrakar**.





## Part I. The Twelve Portals • Volume 2



Series Created by Elisabetta Gnone  
Comic Art Direction: Alessandro Barbucci, Barbara Canepa

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