



Title  
Author





# Witch

Will Irma Tarance Cornelia May Lin

Part 1. The Twelve Portals  
Volume 3



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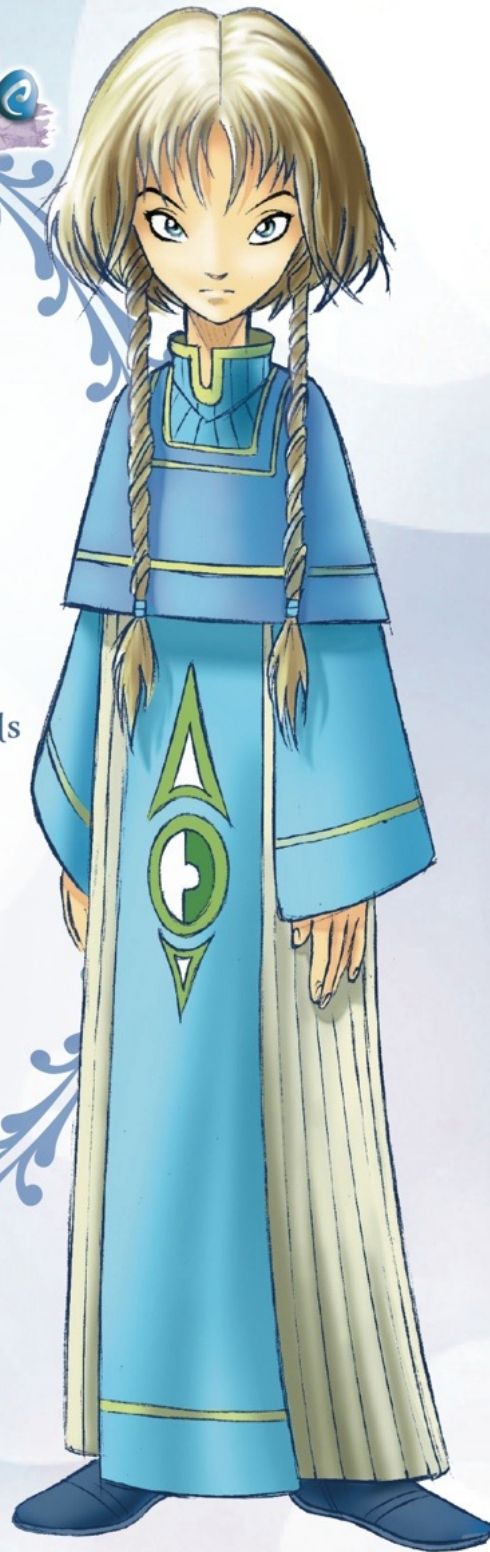
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“That’s how Xin Jing, the Nymph,  
soared above the world...”



# THE FOUR DRAGONS





JINGLE BELLS...



JINGLE BELLS...

JINGLE  
ALL THE WAY...

I'M COMING!



ARE YOU STILL  
IN YOUR ROOM?  
WE'RE GONNA BE  
**SUPER-LATE!**

JUST A SEC, IRMA!  
I'LL BE RIGHT  
THERE!

...Oh, what  
fun it is to  
ride in a one-  
horse open  
sleigh...



**YES!** HERE'S THAT  
PICTURE I DREW OF  
**MS. KNICKERBOCHER.**  
I PROMISED I'D GIVE IT  
TO HER!

DID YOU HIDE IT  
UNDER YOUR BED  
'COS YOU WERE AFRAID  
SOMEBODY'D STEAL IT, OR ARE  
YOU JUST THAT **MESSY?**  
C'MON, HAY-HAY!  
LET'S GET GOIN'!







YOU THINK I'M MESSY?

IF NOT, THEN SOMEBODY ELSE MUST HAVE SET A BOMB OFF IN YOUR ROOM. IF YOU WANT, I COULD ASK MY DAD TO FIND THE CULPRIT...



WE WASTED HALF AN HOUR HUNTING DOWN YOUR MASTERPIECE! IF WE'RE LATE, I'M GONNA BE SO MAD!

WE STILL HAVE TIME.



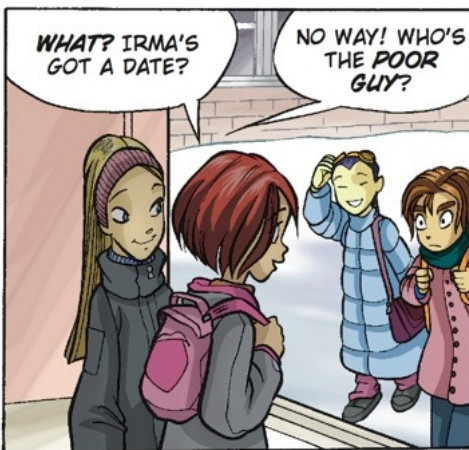
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN IN A RUSH TO GET TO SCHOOL? WE'LL BE THERE EARLY, Y'KNOW.

SO WHAT? WE'RE USUALLY LATE. I JUST WANT TO MAKE UP FOR THAT.



YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING! YOU HAVE A DATE, DON'T YOU? ADMIT IT!

QUIET DOWN, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!



WHAT? IRMA'S GOT A DATE?

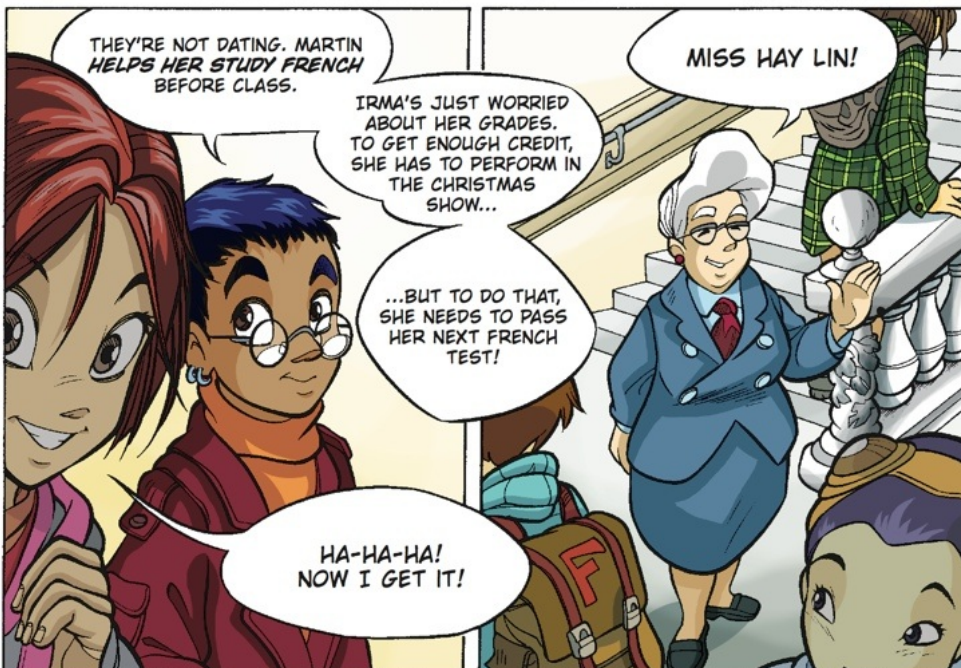
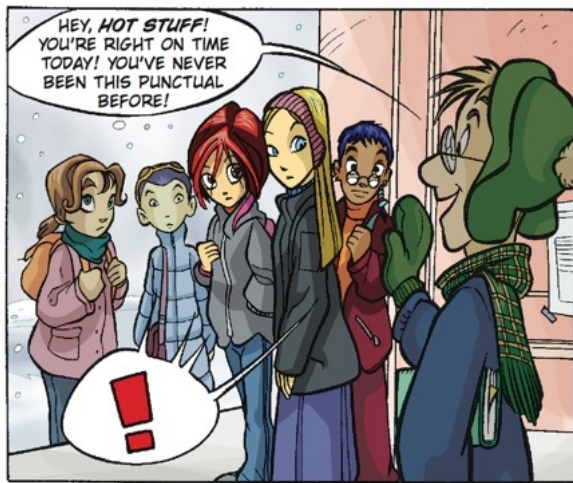
NO WAY! WHO'S THE POOR GUY?



ZIP IT, CORNELIA!

OOOOH! LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY GOT UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED THIS MORNING!













I'D LIKE YOU TO WORK ON ASIA. YOU WOULD PREPARE A STORY, THE BACKDROP, AND THE COSTUMES...CAN YOU HANDLE THAT?

SUPER!



AND SO...



...IT'S HOPELESS. I GOTTA COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THIS.

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED? IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO BE WORKING.



SOMETIMES A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM. YOU MIGHT JUST DREAM THE PERFECT IDEA!

AN ASIAN MYTH—MOM, DO YOU KNOW ANY?



OH, YOUR GRANDMA KNEW TONS OF CHINESE LEGENDS! WHEN I WAS LITTLE, SHE WOULD TELL ME A DIFFERENT ONE EACH NIGHT.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE?



THE LEGEND OF THE FOUR DRAGONS.

YES! THE FOUR DRAGONS!

"IN THE SKY..."

"TIME WAS YOUNG THEN.

GAAROOOWW!

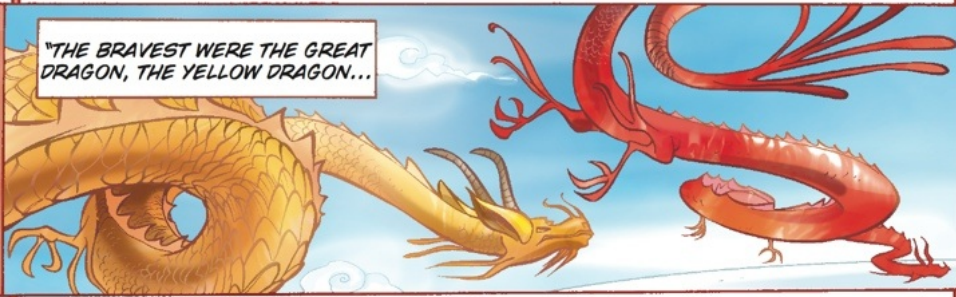
"THERE WERE NO RIVERS OR LAKES...JUST THE GREAT EASTERN SEA.

WOOSH

"THE DRAGONS PLAYED IN THE AIR.

WOOSH

"THE BRAVEST WERE THE GREAT DRAGON, THE YELLOW DRAGON..."



"...THE BLACK DRAGON, AND THE PEARL DRAGON.





"BUT ONE SAD DAY,  
A PRAYER ROSE..."

OUR POWERFUL  
ANCESTORS, PLEASE  
HELP US!

"...CARRIED BY THE  
INCENSE'S SMOKE.

"THE YELLOW DRAGON, THE ONE WHO MOST  
LOVED THE EARTH, WENT DOWN TO SEE  
WHAT WAS GOING ON.

MAY THE SKIES OPEN!  
MAY THE RAIN BLESS OUR  
FIELDS! THIS WE BEG FOR!  
THIS WE HOPE FOR!

POOR  
PEOPLE!

THE DROUGHT  
IS DESTROYING  
THEIR CROPS!

THEIR SUPPLIES WILL  
SOON RUN OUT, AND  
THAT WILL BE THE END  
FOR THEM.

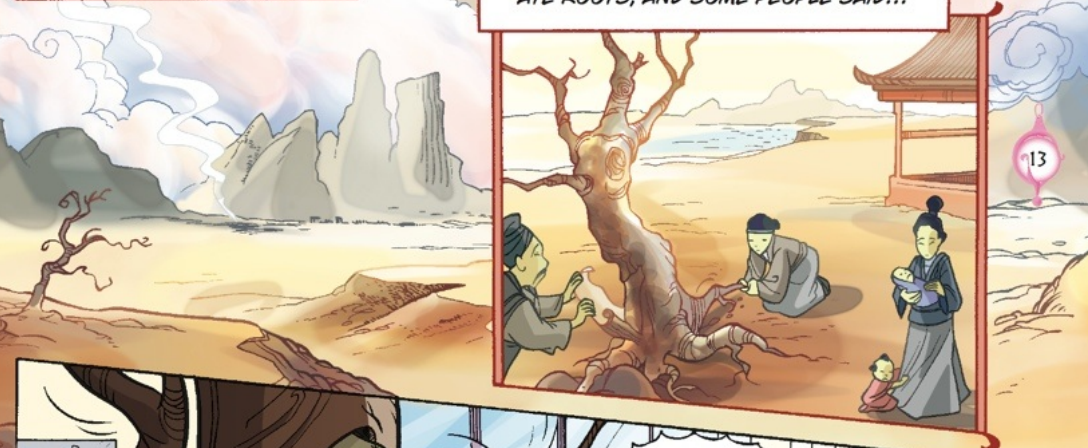
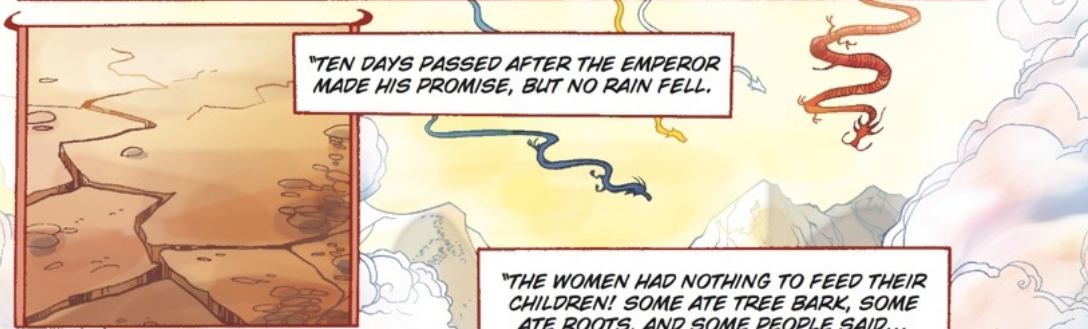




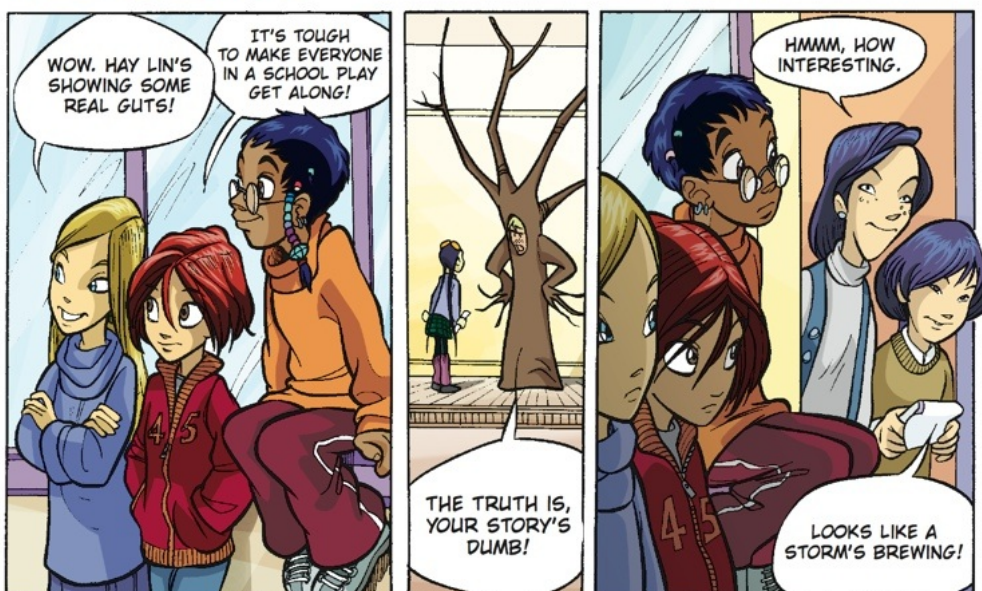
"YET THEY RECEIVED NO WELCOME."













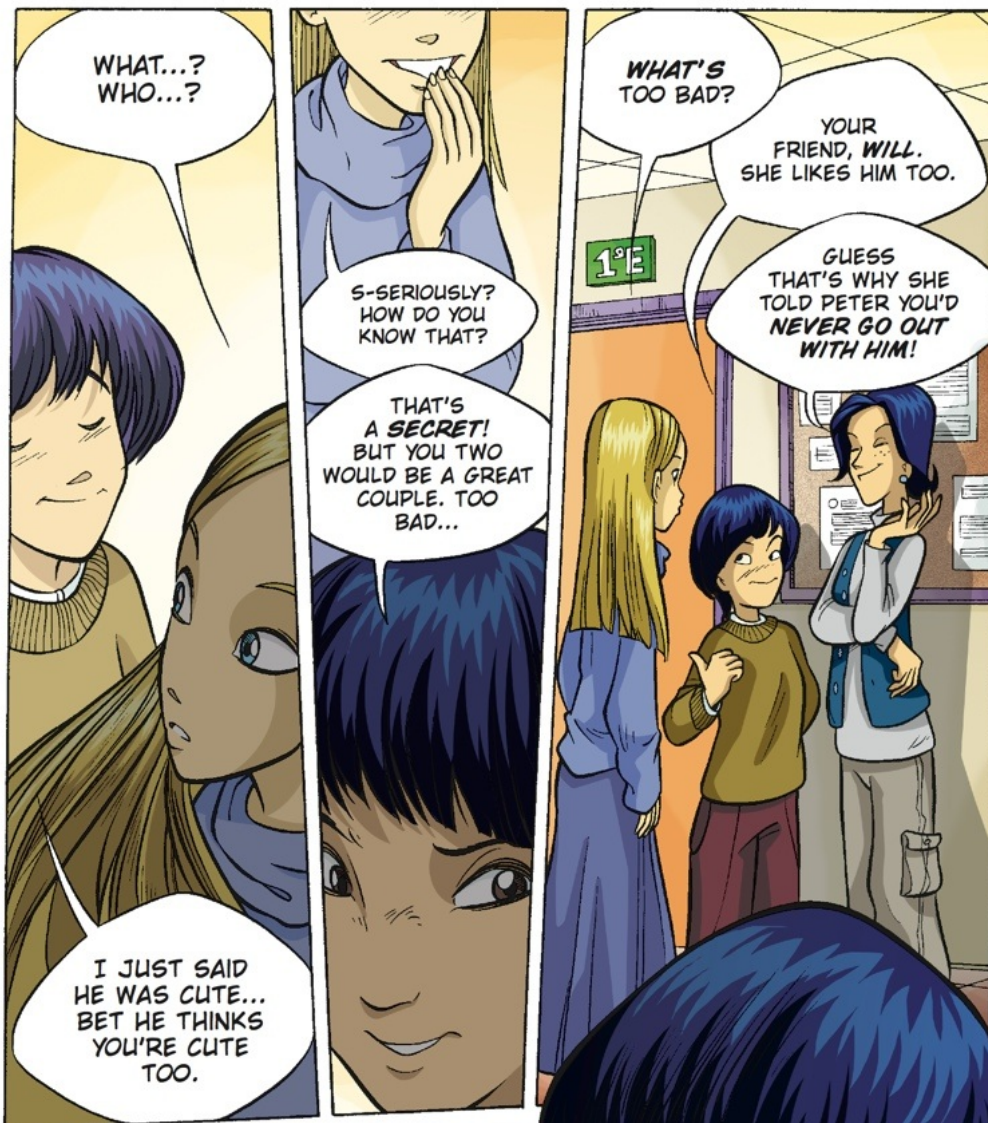




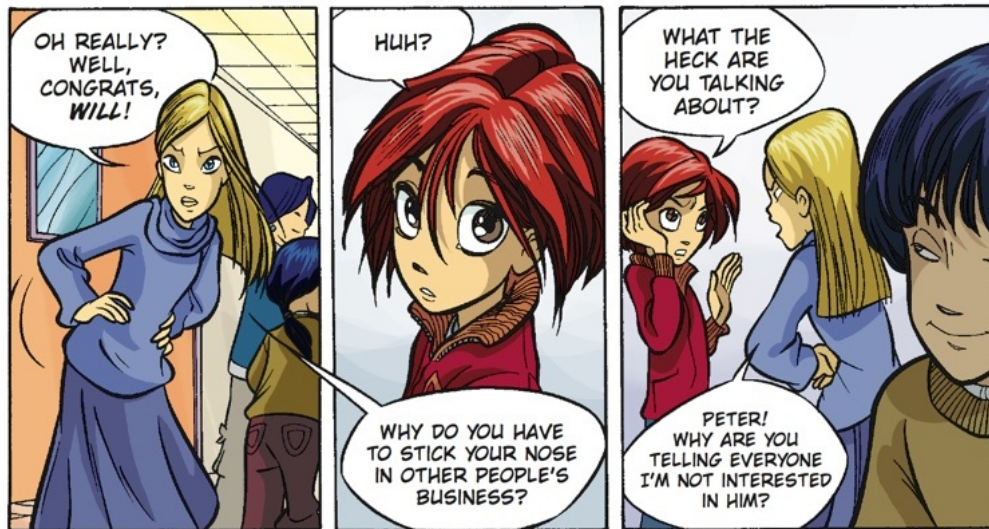




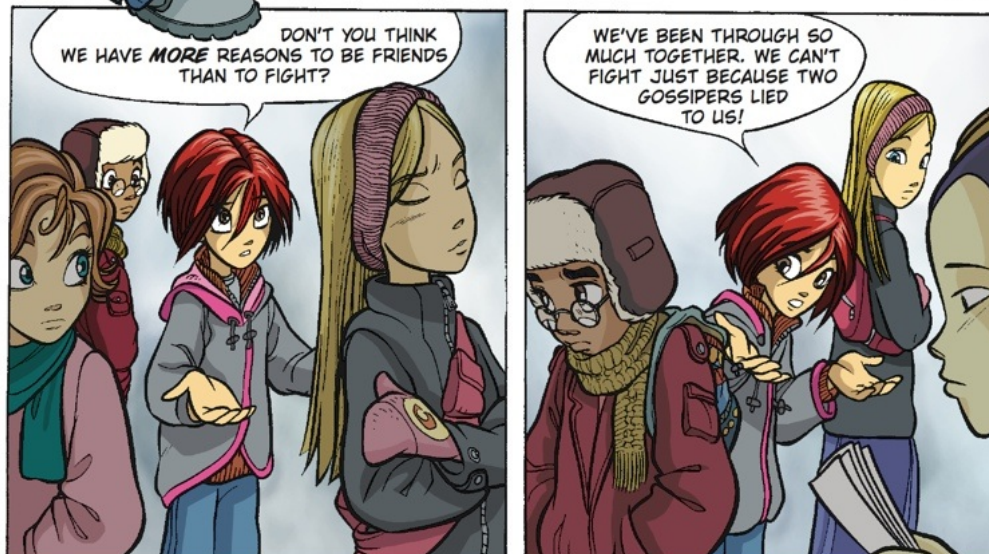
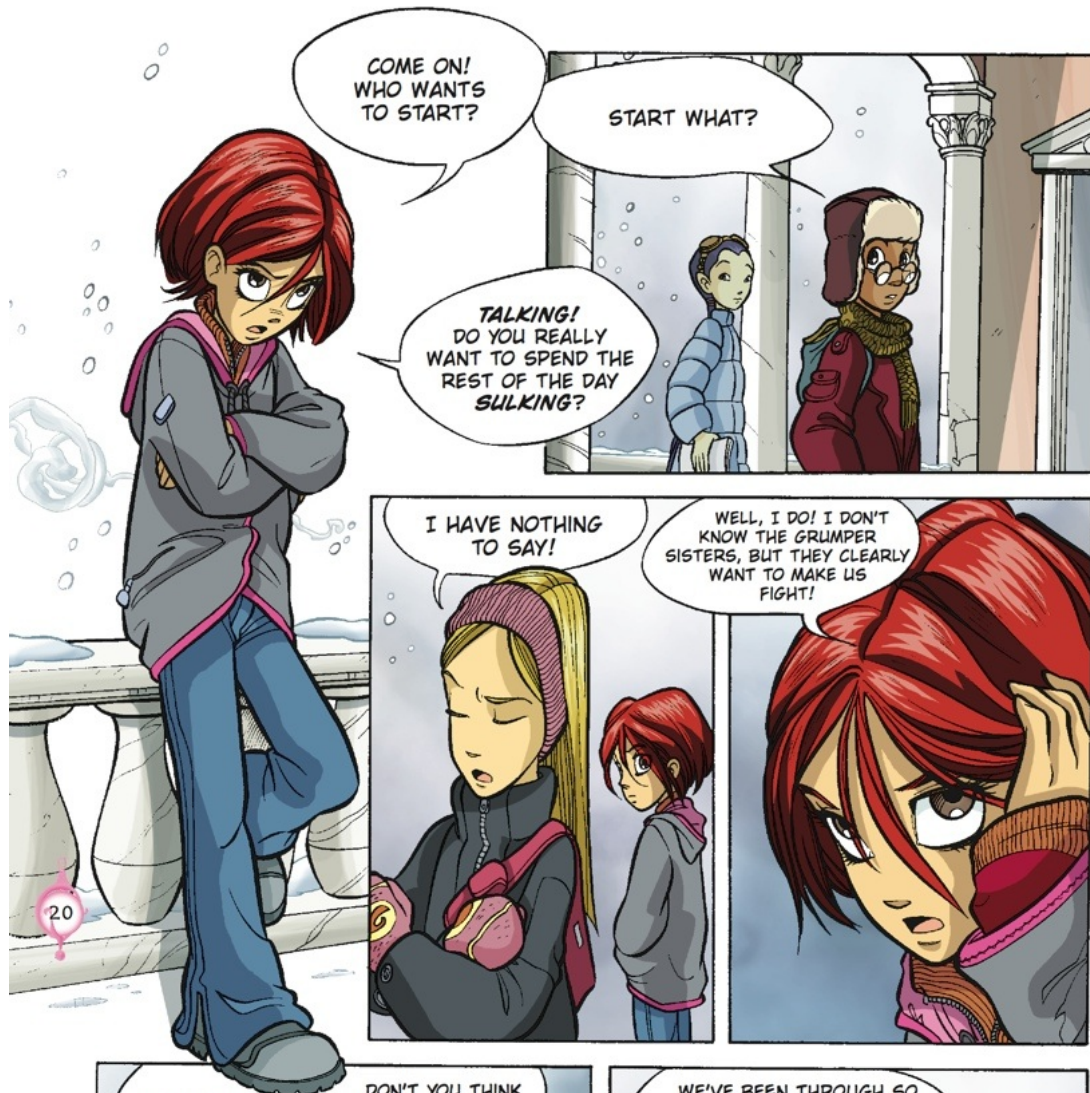




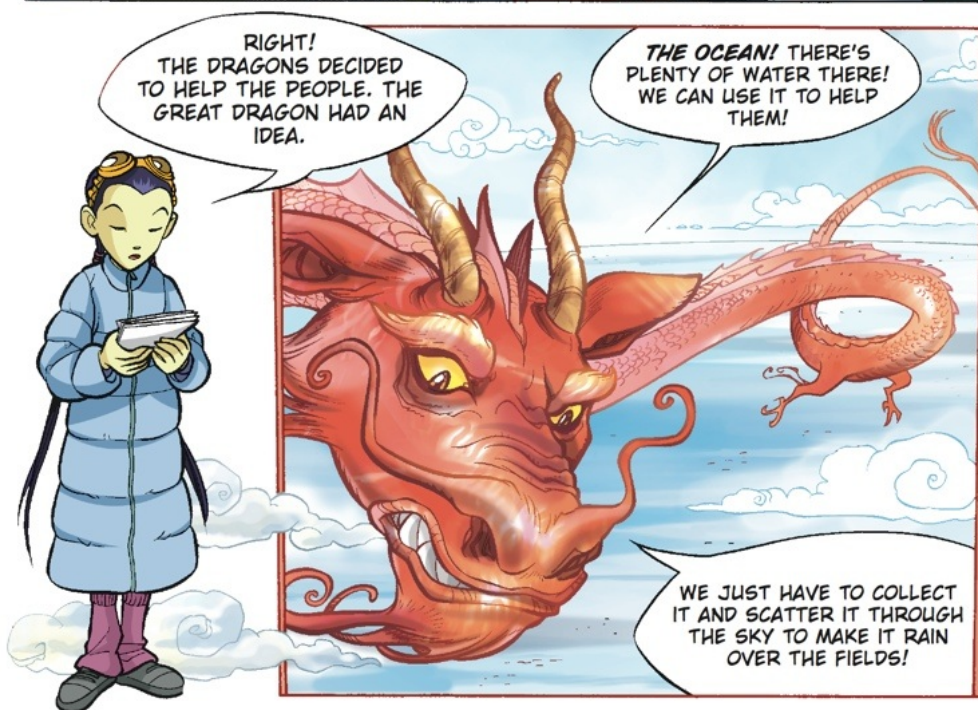














"AND THAT'S WHAT THE FOUR DRAGONS DID HUNDREDS OF TIMES. THE DESPERATE PEOPLE COULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EYES.



THE DRAGONS WERE TAKEN TO THE PALACE IN CHAINS. THE EMPEROR HAD PREPARED A TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT ...



RAIN!  
**IT'S RAINING!**



"BUT THE JADE EMPEROR WASN'T PLEASED WITH SUCH WONDERS. HIS WRATH GREW!"



GET THEM!  
BRING THEM TO ME  
IMMEDIATELY!



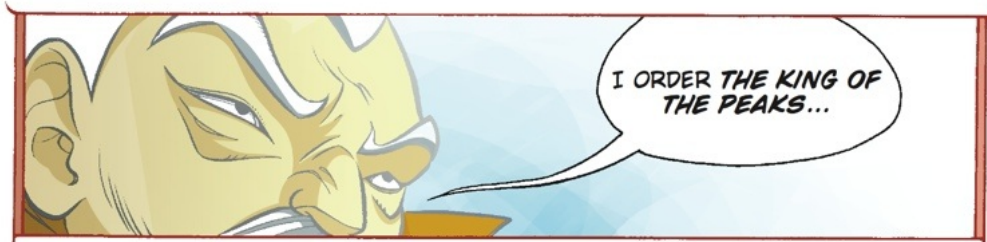
IS THERE A PUNISHMENT WORSE THAN HAVING TO LISTEN TO THE STORY OF THE FOUR DRAGONS?



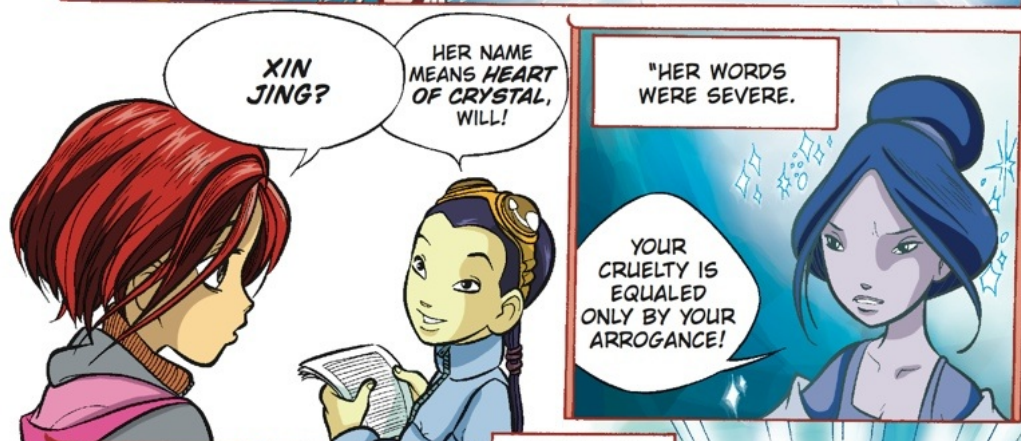
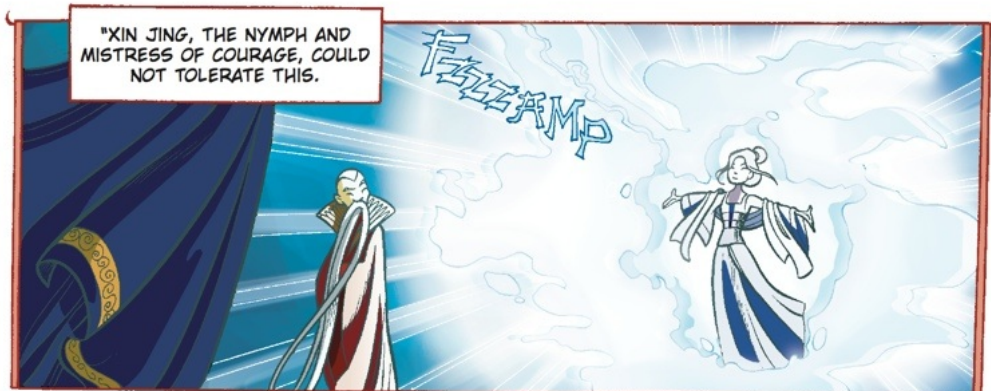
YOU HAVE CHALLENGED MY POWER, AND FOR THIS YOU WILL BE PUNISHED!



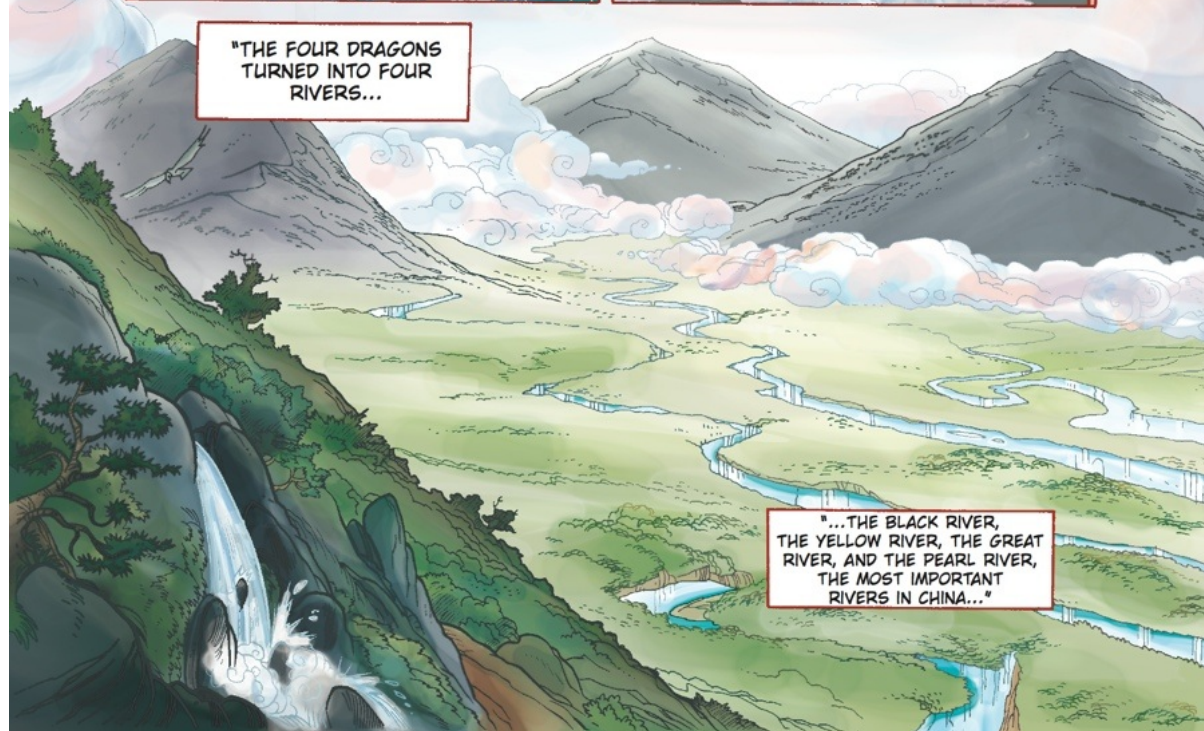














"AND ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THE NYMPH WAS A CRYSTAL TALISMAN..."

...CONTAINING THE **ESSENCE** OF THE FOUR DRAGONS...PLUS **HER OWN**.

WOW!

DON'T YOU GET IT? THE DRAGONS, THE NYMPH... **THEY'RE US!** THIS LEGEND IS THE ORIGIN OF **OUR POWERS!**

SO THE CRYSTAL TALISMAN...

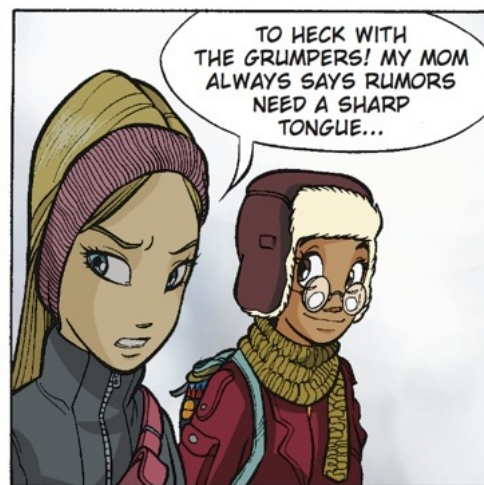
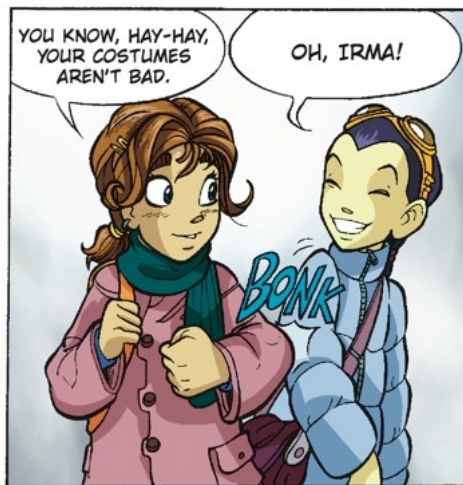
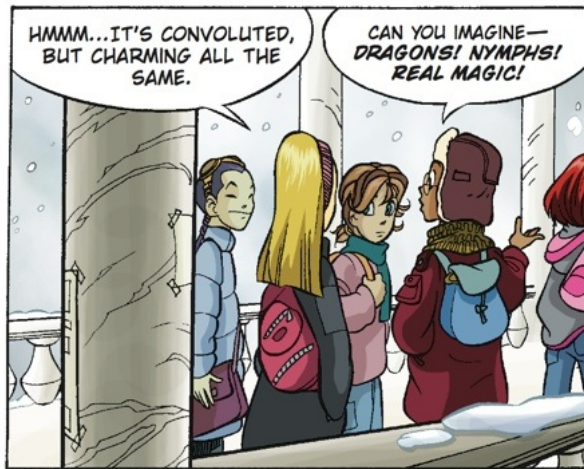
EXACTLY! IT'S THE **HEART OF KANDRAKARI!** MY GRANDMOTHER LOVED THIS STORY. YOU KNOW WHY?

THE **YELLOW** DRAGON LOVED THE **EARTH**. THE **BLACK** DRAGON **FLEW** THE HIGHEST!

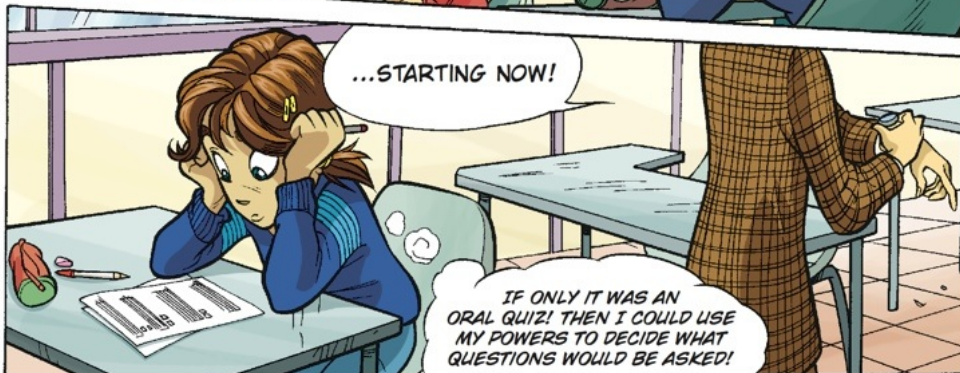
THE **GREAT** DRAGON LOVED **WATER**, AND THE **PEARL** DRAGON CONTROLLED **FIRE**...

...AND THE NYMPH, ALL BY HERSELF, MADE THEIR TRANSFORMATIONS POSSIBLE.

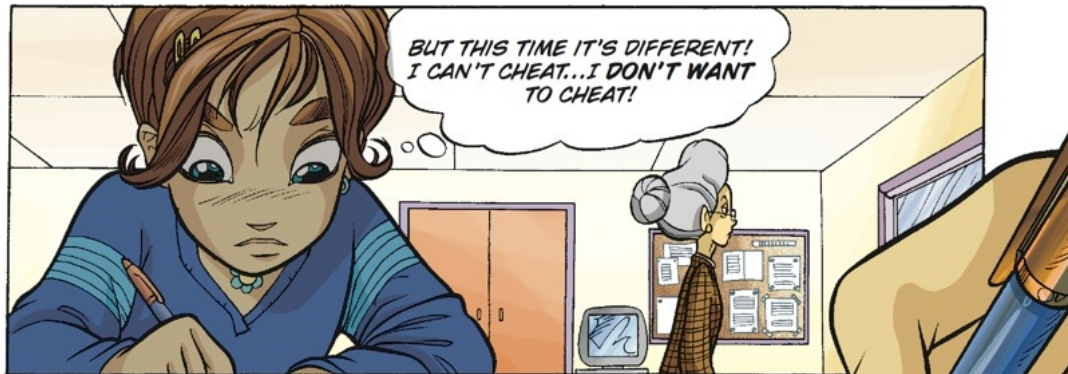




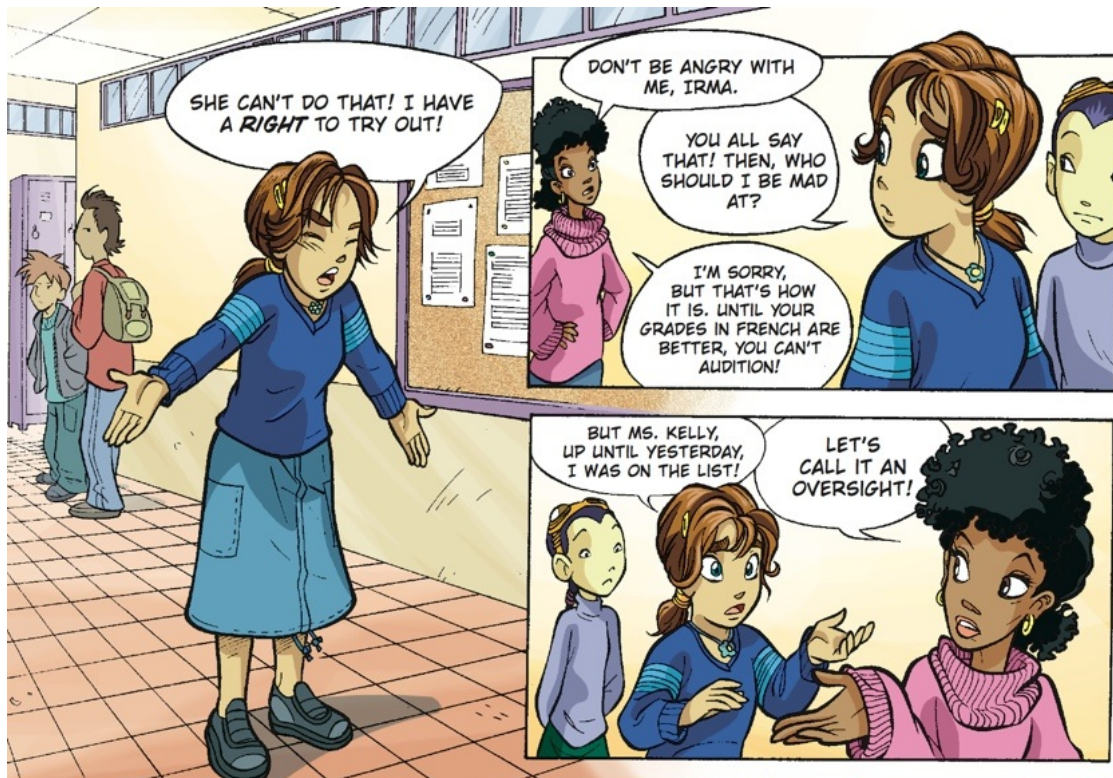




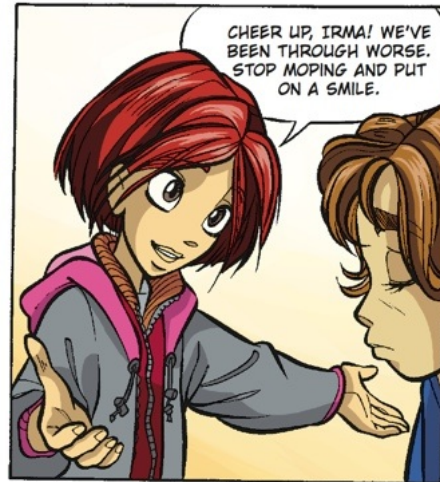
















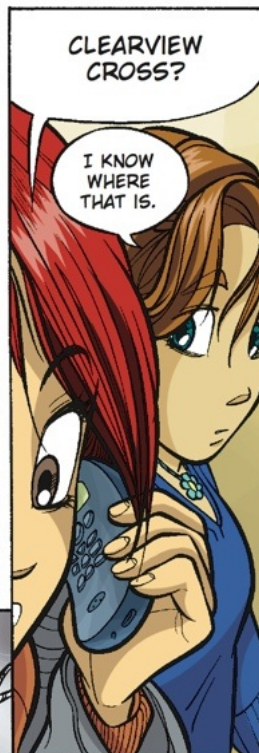
THANK HEAVENS  
I FOUND YOU! IT'S  
AN EMERGENCY, WILL!  
YOU HAVE TO MEET  
ME AS SOON AS  
YOU CAN!



WHAT'S  
THE MATTER?  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?



I'LL EXPLAIN  
LATER!  
MEET ME AT  
**CLEARVIEW  
CROSS!**



CLEARVIEW  
CROSS?

I KNOW  
WHERE  
THAT IS.

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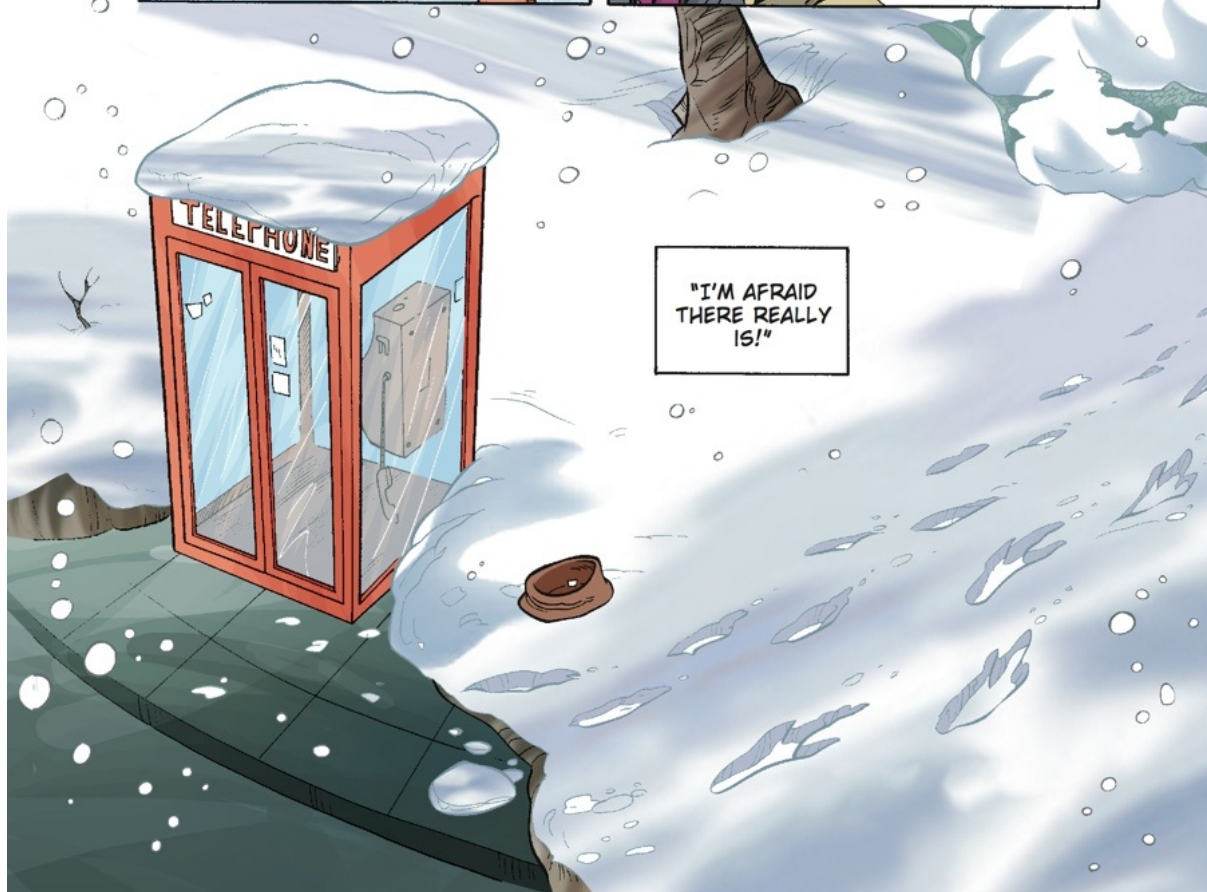
MS. RUDOLPH, are  
you still there?

WAIT A MOMENT,  
WILL! A TRAIN'S  
PASSING BY!



OH NO!







IN WEATHER LIKE THIS,  
THE BEST THING TO DO WOULD  
BE TO STAY AT HOME.

BUT JUST AN HOUR AGO,  
THESE GIRLS RECEIVED  
A CALL FOR HELP FROM  
THEIR MATH TEACHER.

STUDENTS DON'T USUALLY RUN OFF  
TO HELP TEACHERS, BUT IF YOU KNOW  
W.I.T.C.H., THEN YOU KNOW THAT THIS SORT  
OF THING IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN.

BUT THESE  
FOOTPRINTS AREN'T  
HERS!

IT'S HER HAT.

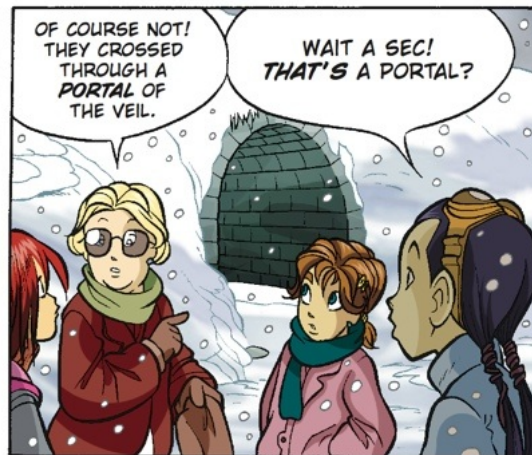
CLEARVIEW CROSS...  
WE WERE SUPPOSED  
TO MEET HER HERE, BUT  
NOBODY'S AROUND.

SOMETHING  
MUST'VE HAPPENED.  
MS. RUDOLPH  
WASN'T ALONE.

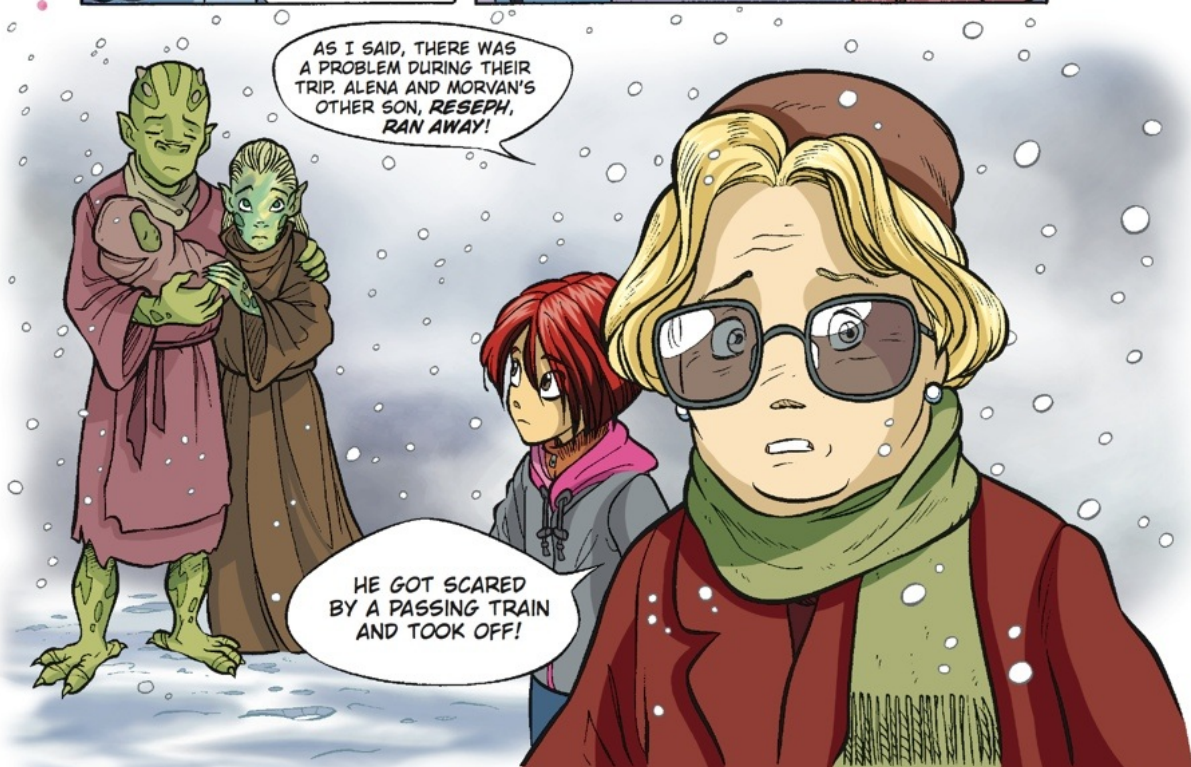








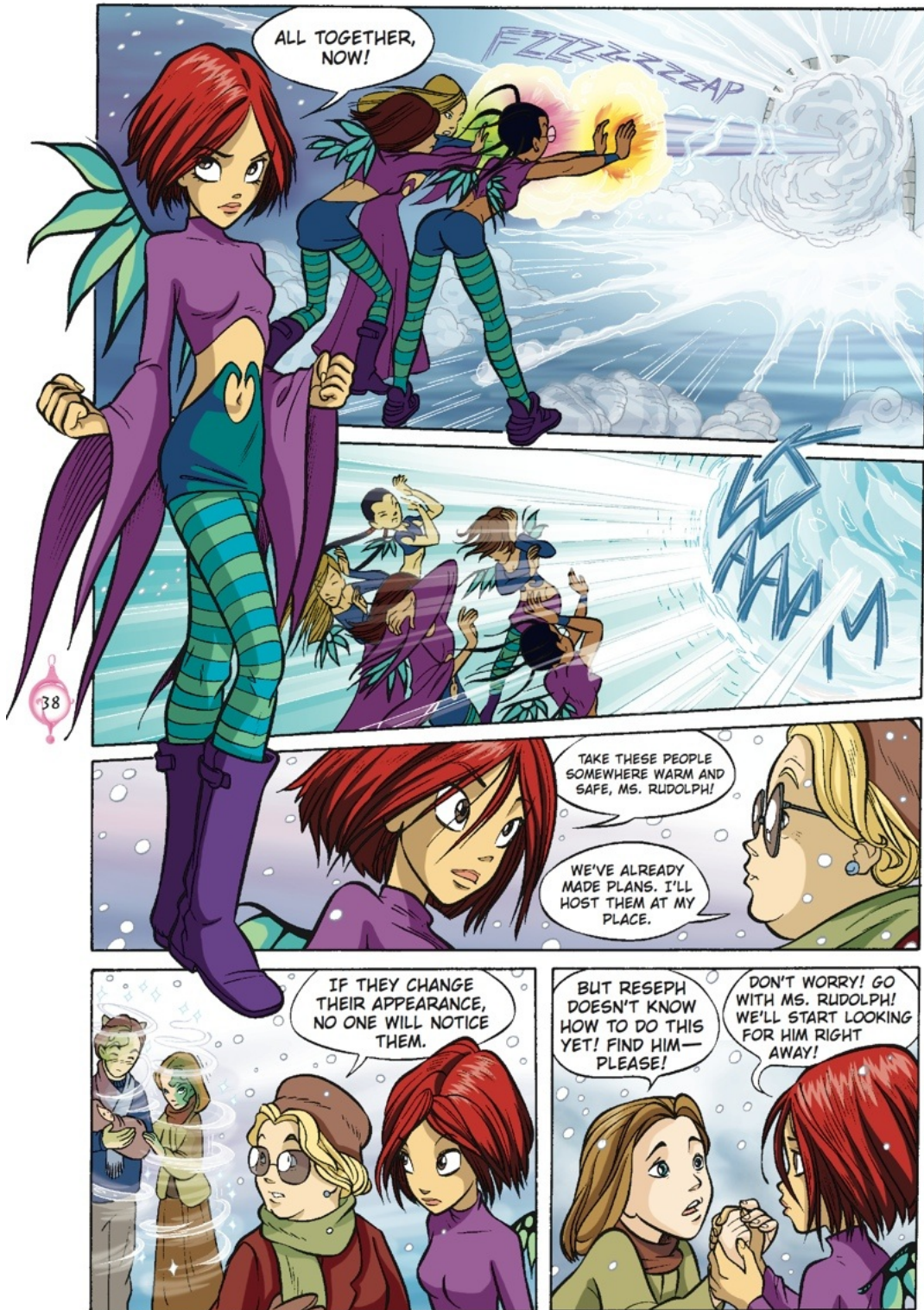
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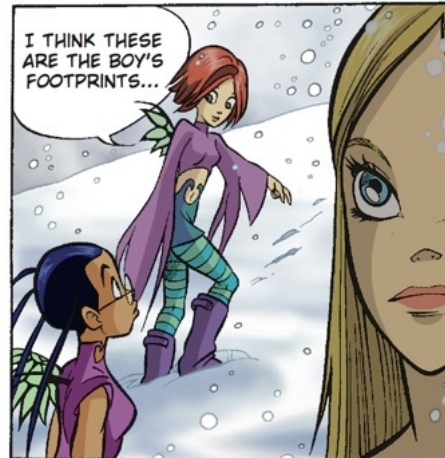












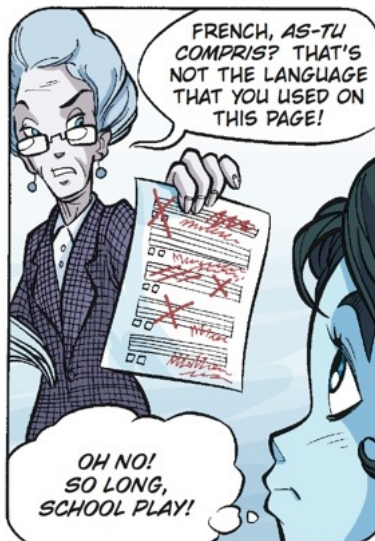
























"...BECAUSE  
YOU JUST  
MIGHT  
GET IT!"



WE'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED  
THIS! I CAN'T LET YOU TURN  
THIS DOWN.

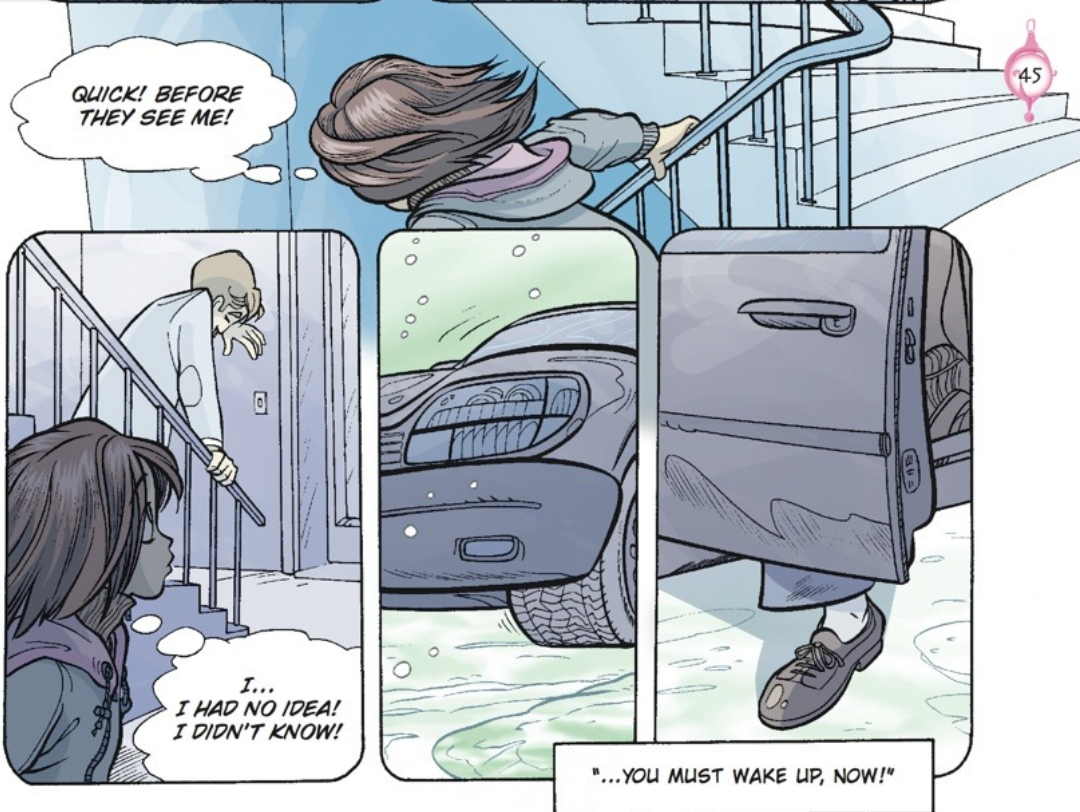
THEN...  
WE'RE OVER?



GOOD-BYE, SUSAN.  
TAKE CARE OF  
YOURSELF!

IT'S NOT  
FAIR!

MOM!



QUICK! BEFORE  
THEY SEE ME!

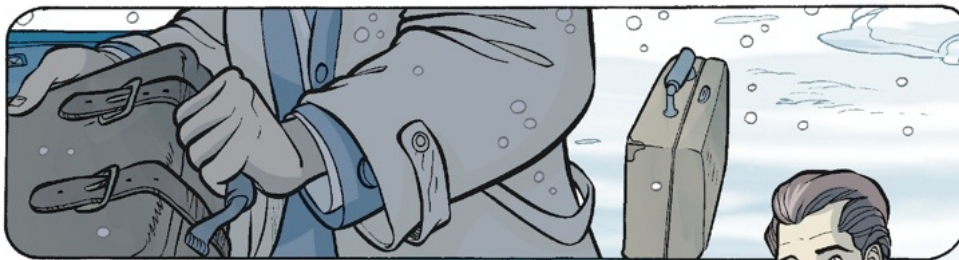


I...  
I HAD NO IDEA!  
I DIDN'T KNOW!



"...YOU MUST WAKE UP, NOW!"





I'M SORRY,  
MOM!

I KNOW,  
WILL...  
I KNOW!



SUSAN!  
WILL!

DAD!

LOOK HOW  
MY LITTLE GIRL  
HAS GROWN!



YOU CAME  
BACK!

OOOF!



WE WERE  
ABOUT TO  
HAVE DINNER.  
WILL YOU  
JOIN US?

"...THAT'S ENOUGH, WILL!  
YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!"





"GIRLS, IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF YOU TO WAKE UP..."

GET DOWN HERE, LAZYBONES!

ONLY IF YOU STOP YELLING!

PETER, YOUR GIRLFRIEND CAN BE SO RUDE SOMETIMES!

ARE YOU STILL TALKING TO THAT TRAITOR?

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, LITTLE SISTER?

WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS, TARANEE...

ELYON IS OUR FRIEND! WHAT HAPPENED IS OVER AND DONE WITH...

WHY DO YOU KEEP MAKING EXCUSES FOR HER?

SHE SOLD US OUT TO CEDRIC! SHE TRIED TO GET RID OF US!





LI KKUNN TUI KKIENN  
KKANN...

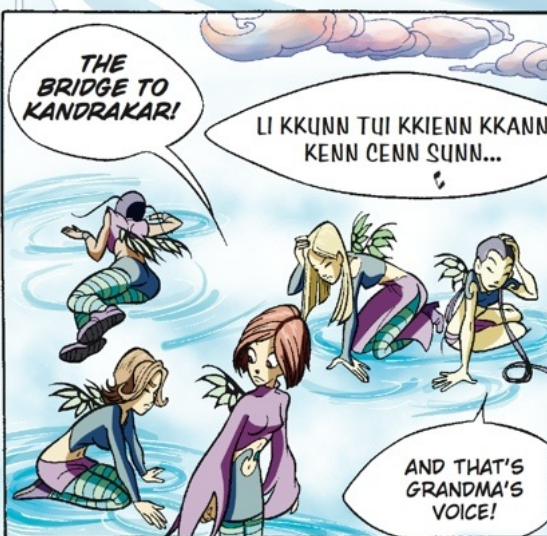
...KENN CENN LI KKUNN TUI  
KKIENN KKANN KENN CENN...

SUNN LI KKUNN TUI  
KKIENN KKANN...

..."OPEN YOUR EYES!"



AH...



THE  
BRIDGE TO  
KANDRAKAR!

LI KKUNN TUI KKIENN KKANN  
KENN CENN SUNN...

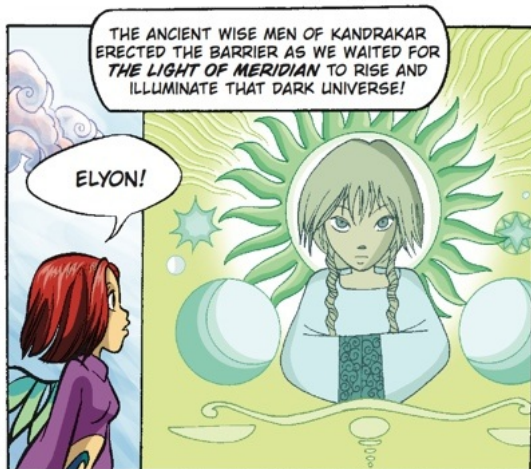
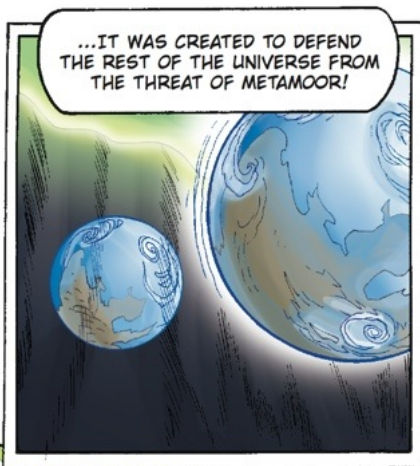
AND THAT'S  
GRANDMA'S  
VOICE!

HERE, NOTHING IS  
AS IT SEEMS.

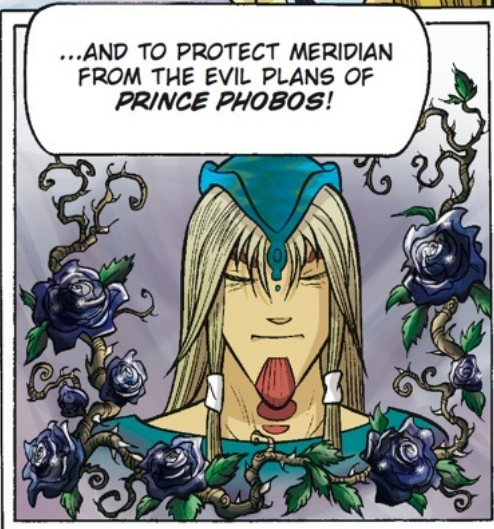
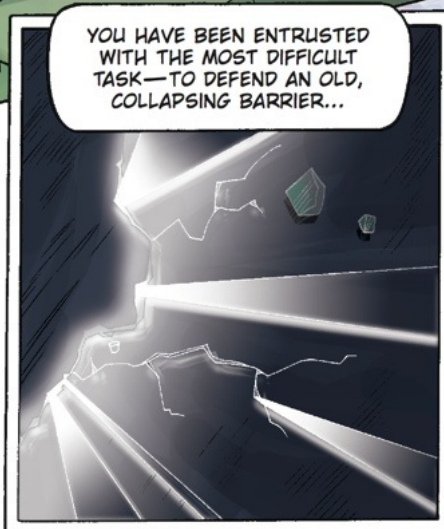








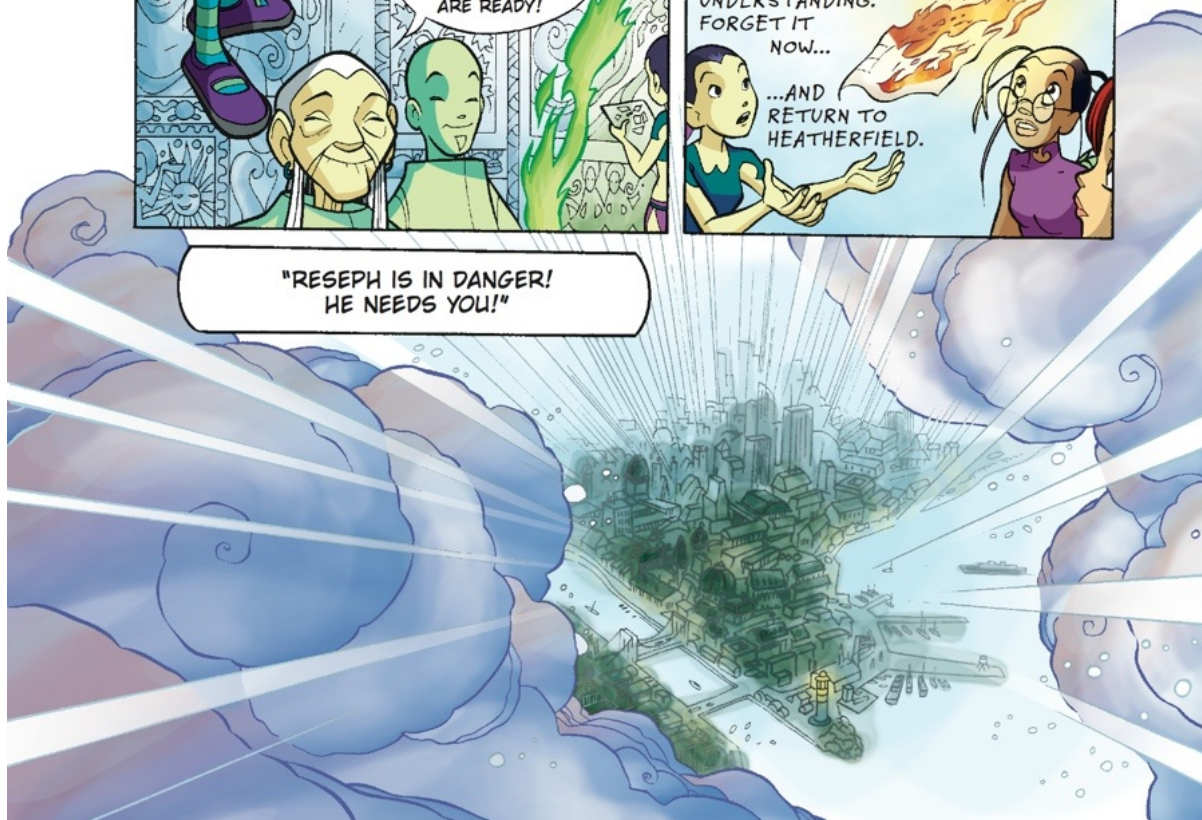
HER ARRIVAL WOULD RESTORE BALANCE. UNTIL THEN, THE GUARDIANS WOULD WATCH OVER THE VEIL.







"RESEPH IS IN DANGER! HE NEEDS YOU!"















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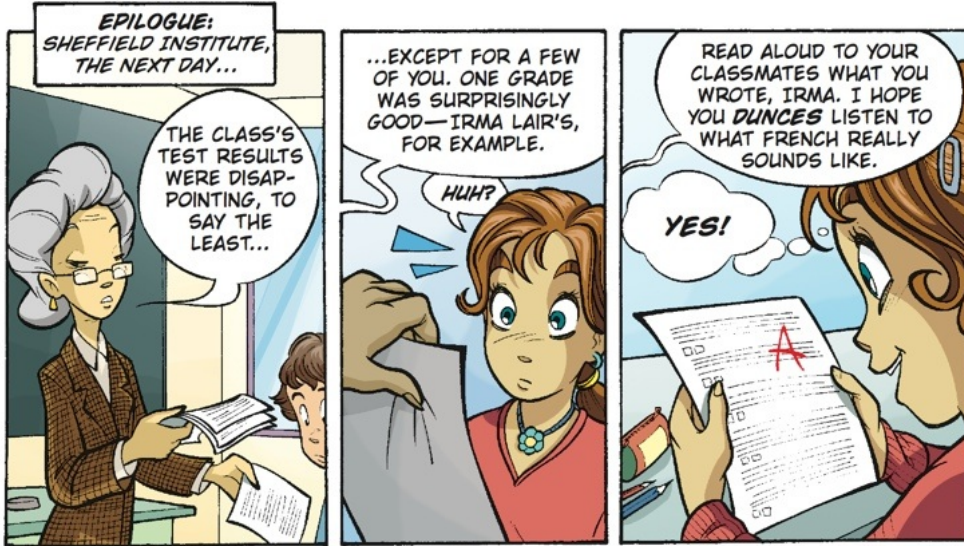




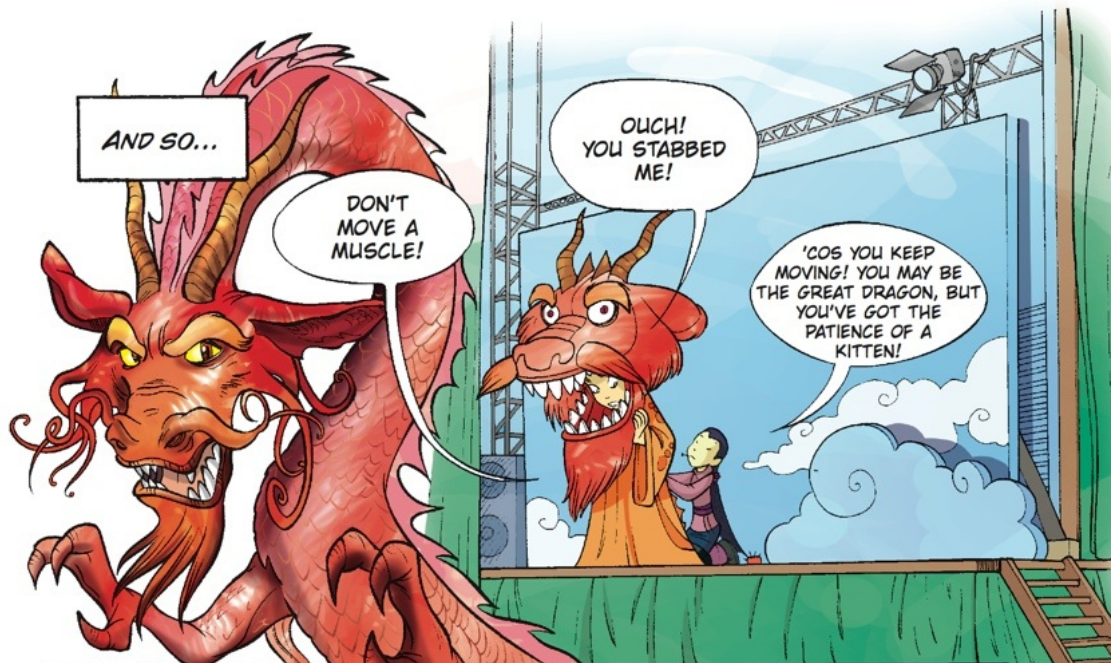




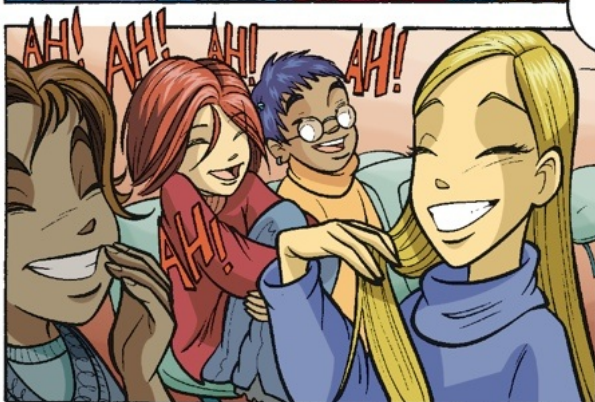




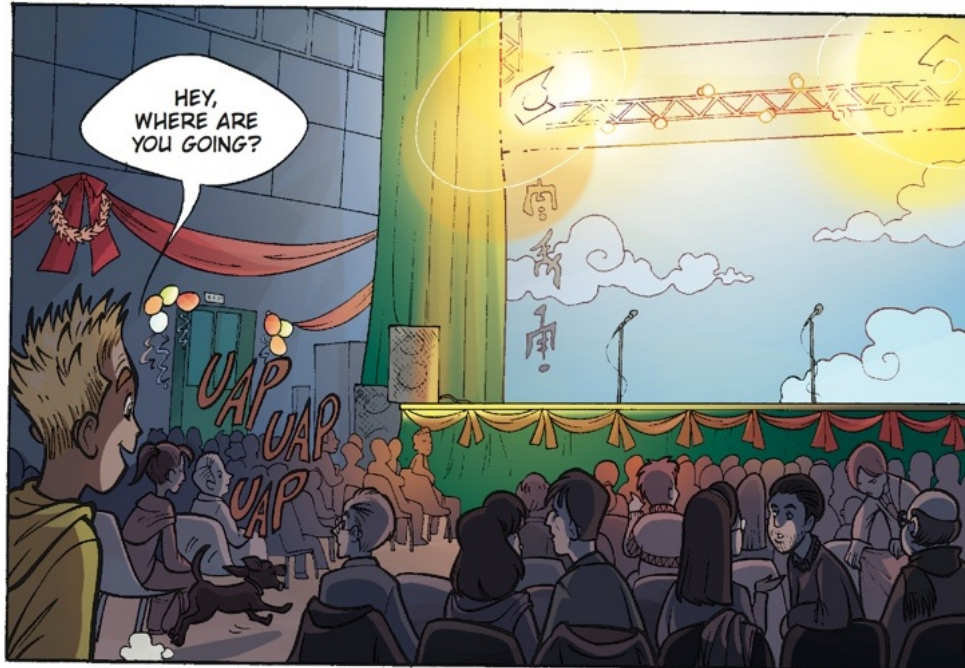




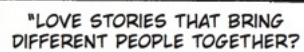




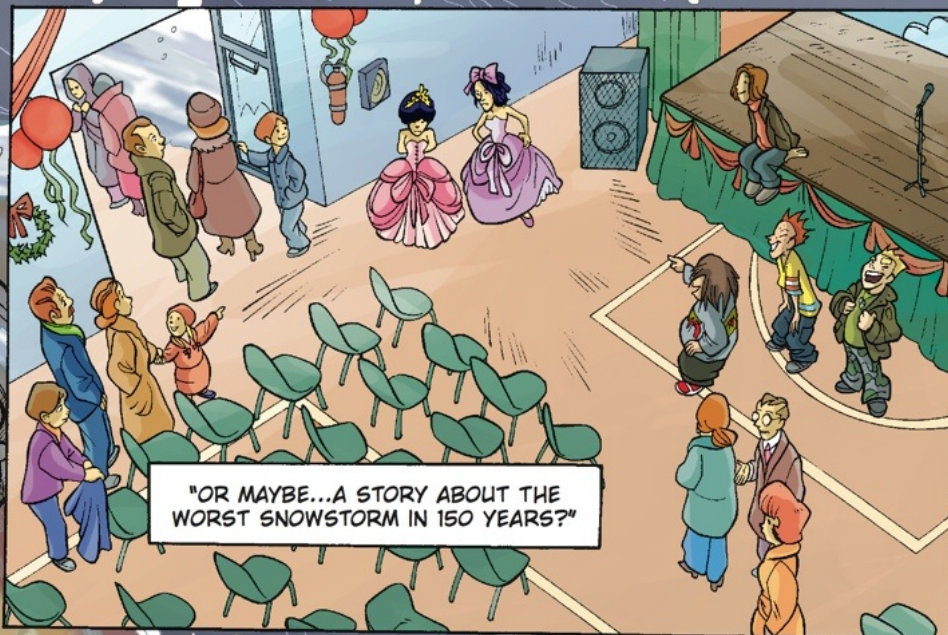












MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!

END OF  
CHAPTER 9











# A BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

“Friendship is a dry  
passage in the  
pouring rain.”







ELYON'S HOUSE, ON  
THE OUTSKIRTS OF  
HEATHERFIELD...



THE ELECTRICITY'S OUT. MAYBE  
WE SHOULD POSTPONE  
THE INSPECTION...



OR MAYBE NOT! IT'S NOT OFTEN  
THAT A WHOLE FAMILY  
DISAPPEARS INTO THIN  
AIR!



WHAT DO  
WE HAVE  
HERE?









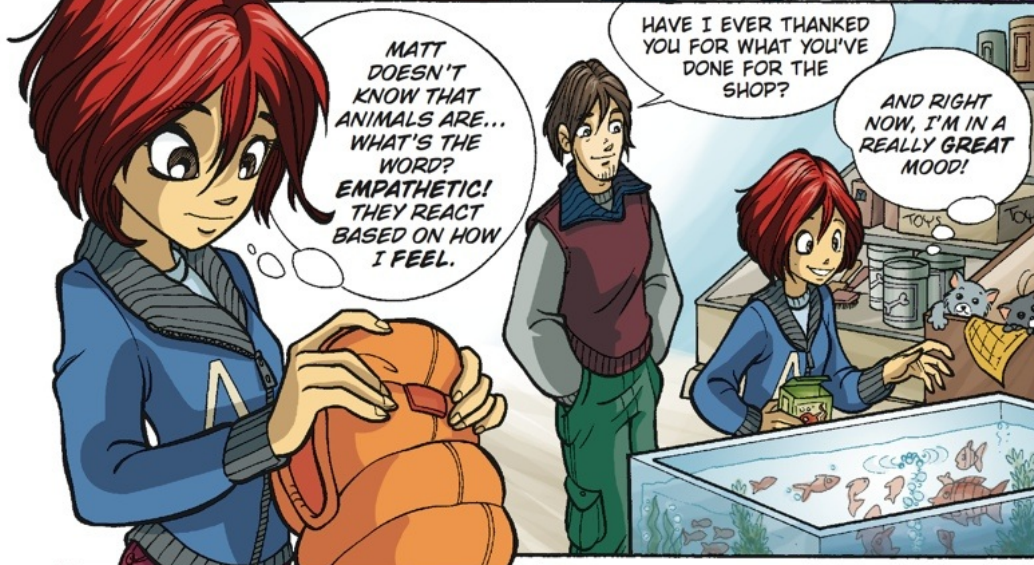




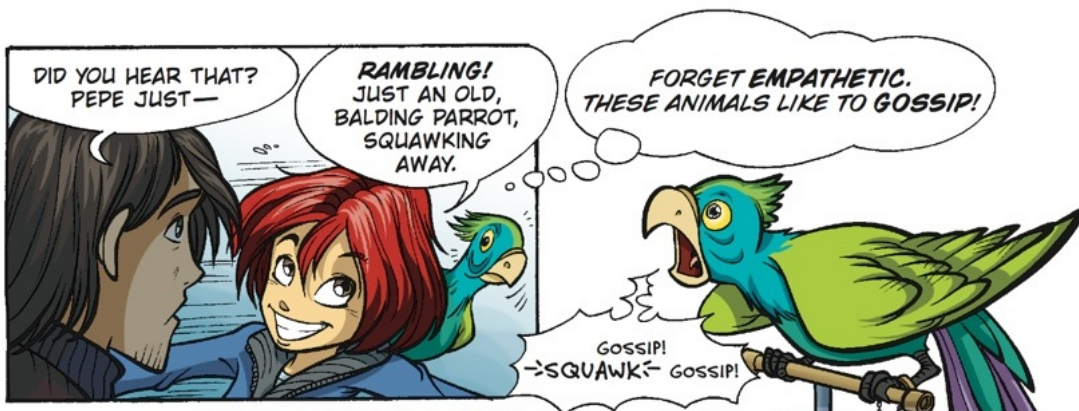
"YES, BUT IT SEEMS YOU DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU THOUGHT. THE GIRL YOU'RE POINTING TO IS..."

















LATER, AT THE SILVER DRAGON ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...



PLEASE, MR. LIN—IRMA'S WAITING FOR US.



I'M SORRY, CORNELIA, BUT HAY LIN HAS TO HELP ME CLEAN THE RESTAURANT.



What a mess. I bet it's all left over from the New Year's Eve party.

Yeah. Distract my dad. I'll take care of the rest.

HAY LIN SAYS YOU'RE SOME KIND OF ORNITHOLOGIST. IS THAT TRUE?



HUH? WELL, I'M NOT EXACTLY AN *EXPERT* ON BIRDS, BUT I KNOW A THING OR TWO!



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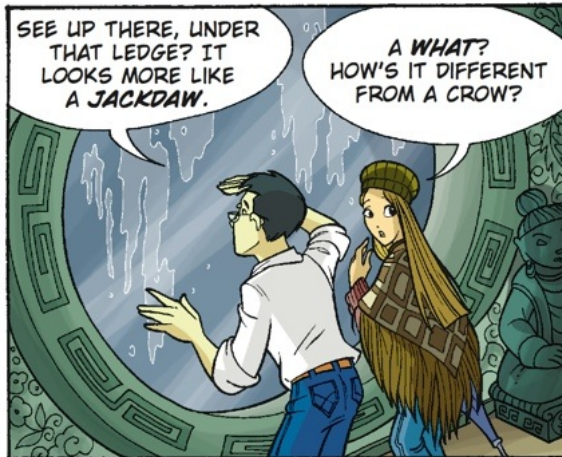
I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL THROUGH ALL THIS RAIN. THE BIRD OUT THERE—IS THAT A CROW?

Step aside, Taranee.

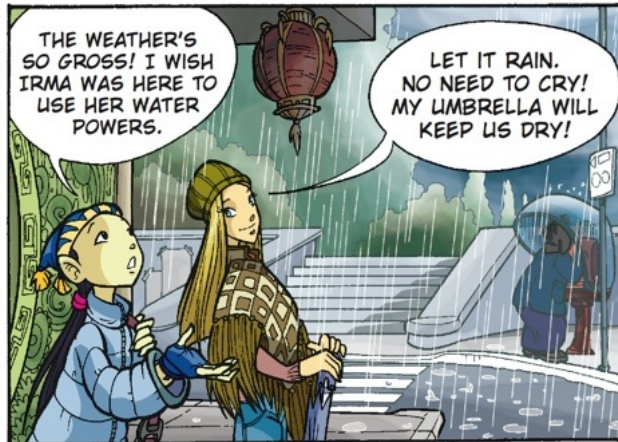
Just to say it with a bit of flair... Obey me now, powers of air!





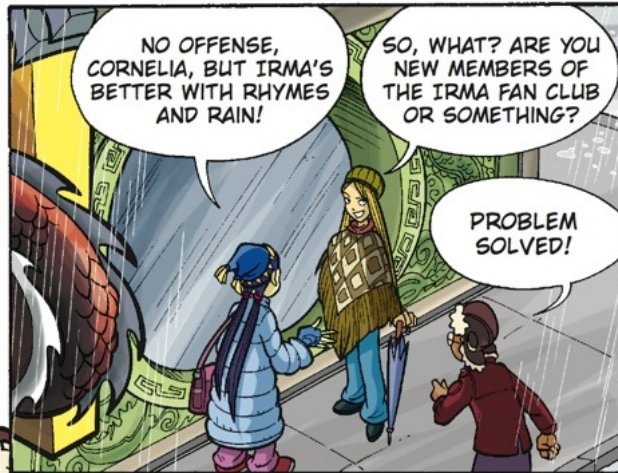






THE WEATHER'S SO GROSS! I WISH IRMA WAS HERE TO USE HER WATER POWERS.

LET IT RAIN. NO NEED TO CRY! MY UMBRELLA WILL KEEP US DRY!



NO OFFENSE, CORNELIA, BUT IRMA'S BETTER WITH RHYMES AND RAIN!

SO, WHAT? ARE YOU NEW MEMBERS OF THE IRMA FAN CLUB OR SOMETHING?

PROBLEM SOLVED!



IT ONLY TOOK A PHONE CALL TO FIND A WAY TO **AVOID** ALL THIS RAIN.



HI! HOP IN IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO FIND SOME ROOM BETWEEN MY **SURFBOARDS**.

OH NO! IT'S TARANEE'S BROTHER, PETER!





HAY LIN AND I ARE PRETTY **SMALL**, SO WE'LL GET IN THE BACK. HOP IN FRONT, CORNELIA!

NO!



I MEAN...THANKS, BUT **I CAN'T!** I HAVE TO...UM...RUN AN ERRAND! FOR MY MOTHER!

NO PROBLEM. I'LL TAKE YOU. WHERE DO YOU NEED TO GO?



?

**WALKING!** I NEED TO GO ON FOOT—TO A RELATIVE'S HOUSE, RIGHT NEAR HERE. I'LL SEE YOU AT IRMA'S, OKAY?



SO I'LL SEE YOU AROUND, HUH?

SURE THING! SEE YOU SOON—AND SAY HI TO YOUR FOLKS FOR ME.



I DIDN'T KNOW CORNELIA HAD RELATIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. DID YOU?

ALL I KNOW...

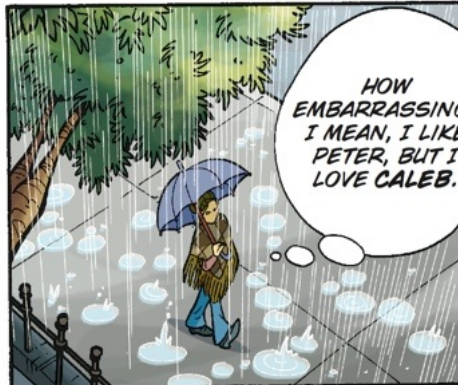


...is that when she's around **YOUR BROTHER**, she suddenly gets very **NERVOUS**.





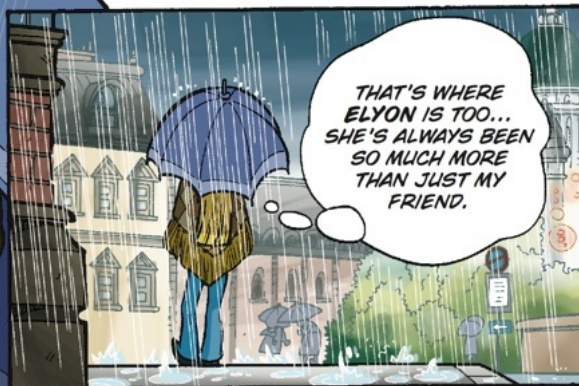
"SAY HI TO  
YOUR FOLKS!"  
I'M SO STUPID!  
CAN I JUST GET  
INCINERATED BY  
A BOLT OF  
LIGHTNING?



HOW  
EMBARRASSING!  
I MEAN, I LIKE  
PETER, BUT I  
LOVE CALEB.



EVEN IF HE'S  
FAR AWAY  
RIGHT NOW...  
SOMEWHERE  
BEYOND THE VEIL.  
IN ANOTHER  
WORLD—  
MERIDIAN.



THAT'S WHERE  
ELYON IS TOO...  
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN  
SO MUCH MORE  
THAN JUST MY  
FRIEND.

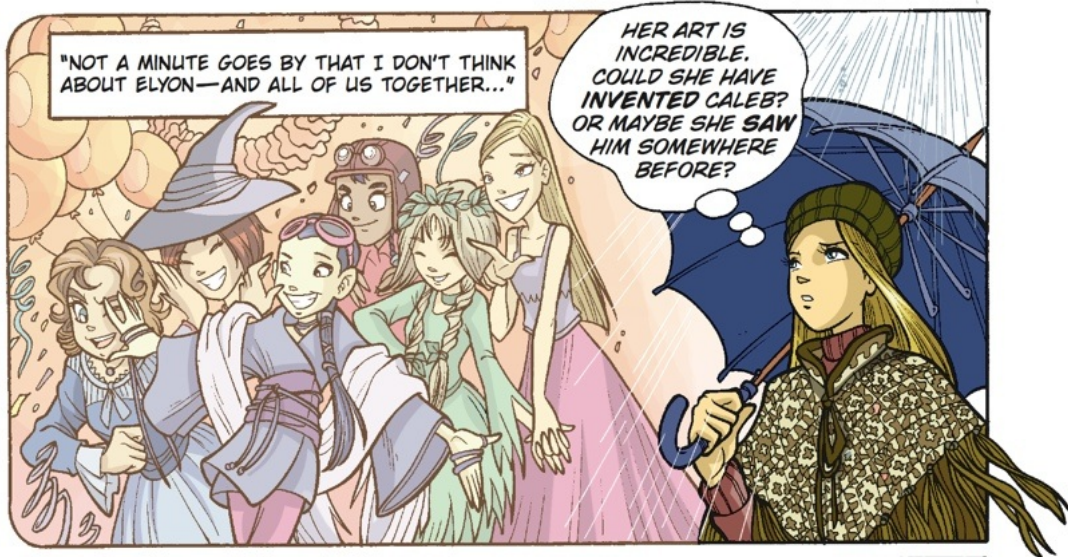
"SHE WAS THE ONE WHO INTRODUCED ME TO MY  
TRUE LOVE THROUGH THIS PICTURE.



"AND THEN IT ALL BECAME REAL! CALEB  
AND I FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, JUST  
LIKE A BOOK OR A MOVIE.



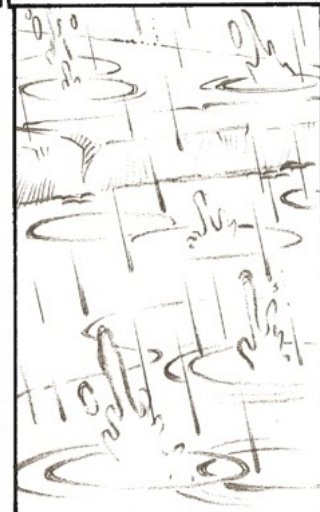




"A WAY TO TRY TO CROSS IMPASSABLE BARRIERS, LIKE THE VEIL..."



"...AND, WITHOUT REALIZING IT, A WAY OF BUILDING A SORT OF BRIDGE..."



"...BETWEEN OUR TWO WORLDS!"



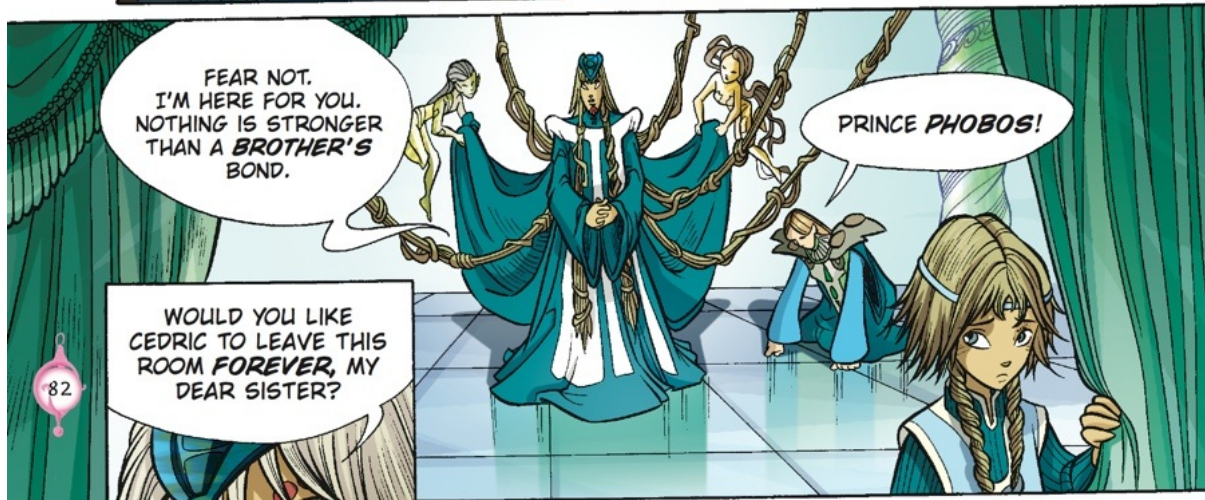
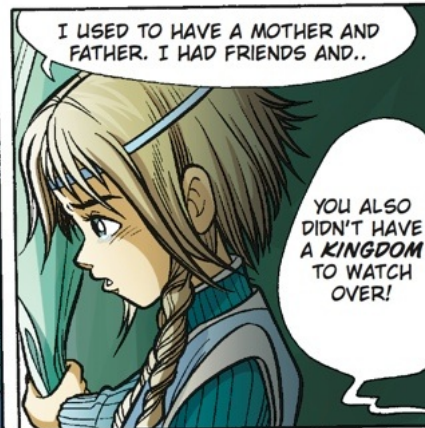
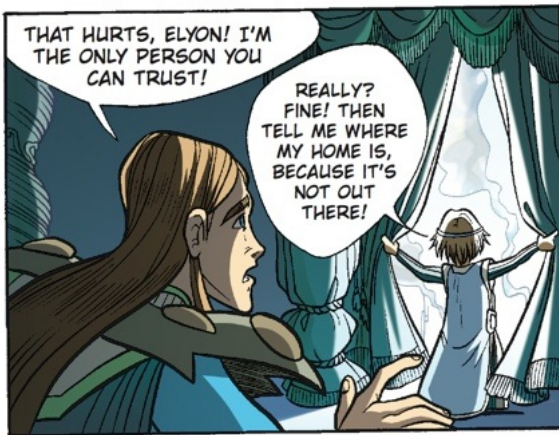












82







I SPOKE WITH MY PARENTS...  
MY ADOPTIVE ONES, IN PRISON.  
I WOULD LIKE TO GRANT THEM  
THEIR FREEDOM!

AH, A WISE DECISION!  
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT  
A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.



OUR DYNASTIC POWERS ARE PASSED  
DOWN TO *THE WOMEN OF OUR*  
*FAMILY*, AND I WILL GLADLY  
RELINQUISH THE *CROWN*  
TO YOU.



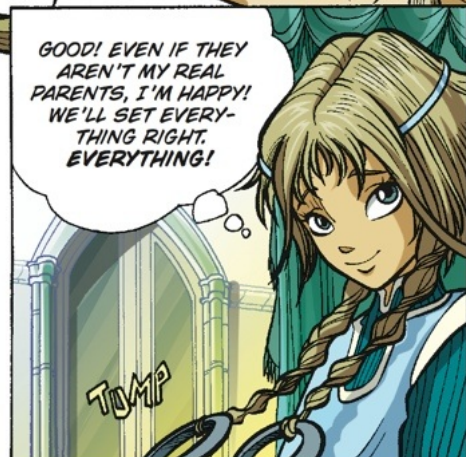
SADLY, YOU  
WILL BE ABLE  
TO ASSUME  
FULL  
AUTHORITY  
ONLY AFTER  
THE *OFFICIAL*  
*CEREMONY*.  
DO YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND?

A CEREMONY?  
WHEN IS IT?



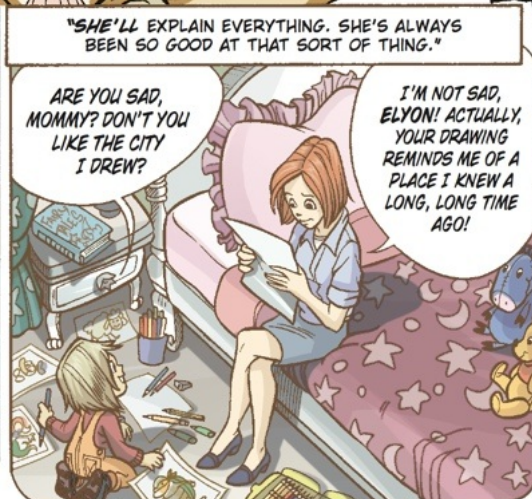
SOON, MY DEAR  
SISTER!

VERY SOON!



GOOD! EVEN IF THEY  
AREN'T MY REAL  
PARENTS, I'M HAPPY!  
WE'LL SET EVERY-  
THING RIGHT.  
EVERYTHING!

TOMP

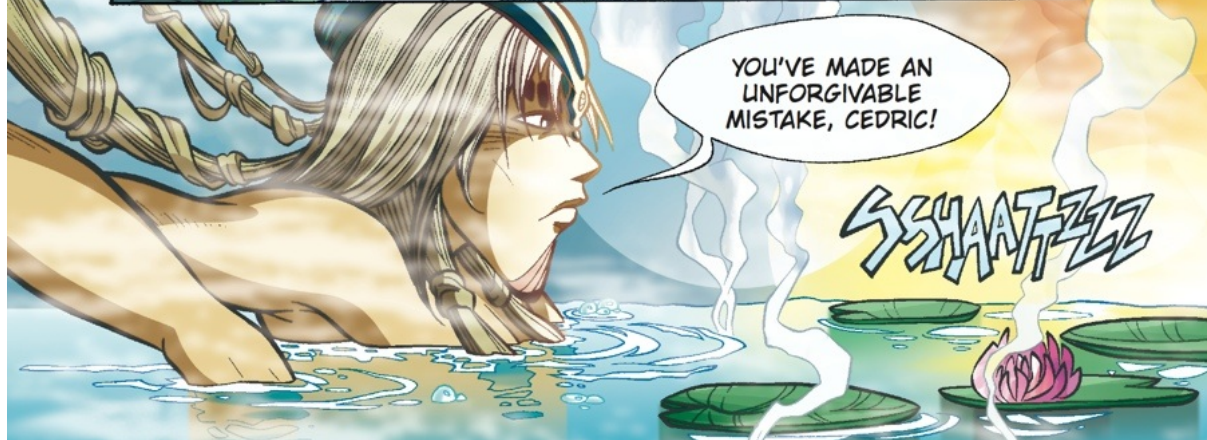
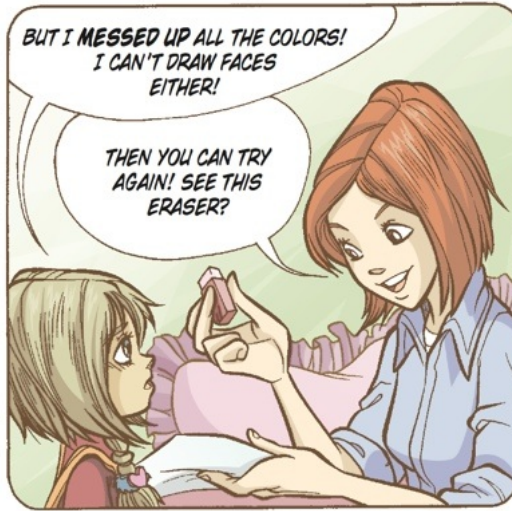
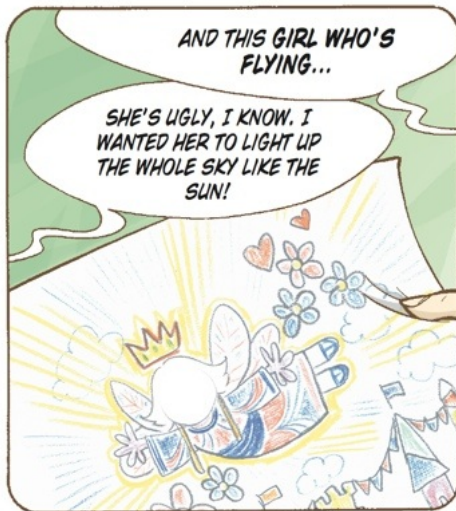


"SHE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. SHE'S ALWAYS  
BEEN SO GOOD AT THAT SORT OF THING."

ARE YOU SAD,  
MOMMY? DON'T YOU  
LIKE THE CITY  
I DREW?

I'M NOT SAD,  
ELYON! ACTUALLY,  
YOUR DRAWING  
REMINDS ME OF A  
PLACE I KNEW A  
LONG, LONG TIME  
AGO!











"AIDED BY *NURSE GALGHEITA\**, THOSE TRAITORS TOOK MY SISTER TO EARTH."



\*\*GALGHEITA" IS MS. RUDOLPH'S NAME IN METAMONDIAN.



NOW, TO ABSORB HER VITAL FORCE, I NEED HER TO OVERCOME HER HESITANCE.

HOW WILL YOU DO THAT, MY LORD?



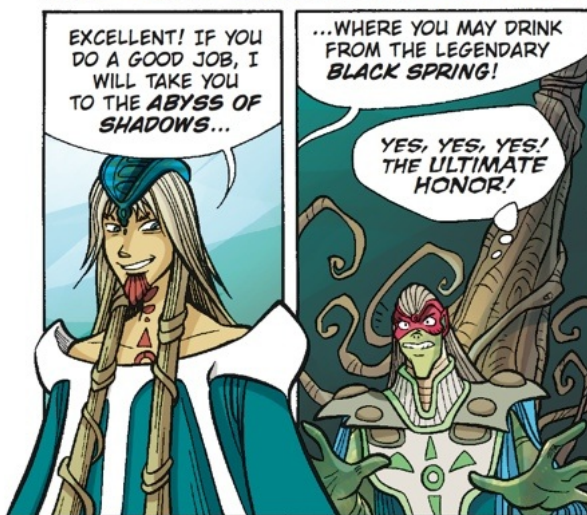
THE CORONATION CEREMONY, CEDRIC!

THERE, ELYON WILL WEAR THE CROWN...FOR THE FIRST AND LAST TIME!



IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRISONERS MUSTN'T SPEAK WITH HER—EVER AGAIN!

THEN, AN ACCIDENT WILL BEFALL THEM IN PRISON! ELYON WON'T SUSPECT A THING.



EXCELLENT! IF YOU DO A GOOD JOB, I WILL TAKE YOU TO THE ABYSS OF SHADOWS...

...WHERE YOU MAY DRINK FROM THE LEGENDARY BLACK SPRING!

YES, YES, YES! THE ULTIMATE HONOR!



AND SOON, I TOO WILL LIVE IN THE PALACE—AS A MURMURER!





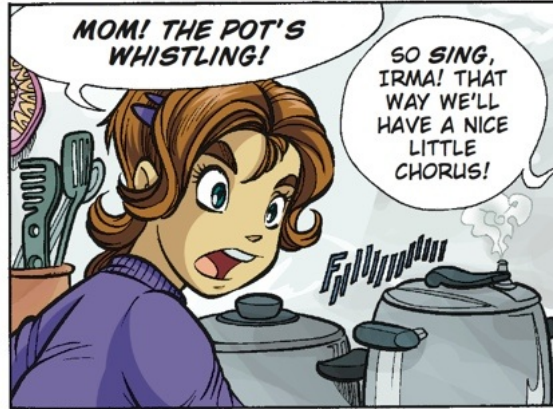
PHOBOS'S SINISTER PLOT  
IS REFLECTED IN THE GRIM  
SKIES OVER MERIDIAN...



EVEN THE HEATHERFIELD SKY  
HOLDS NO CHEER...

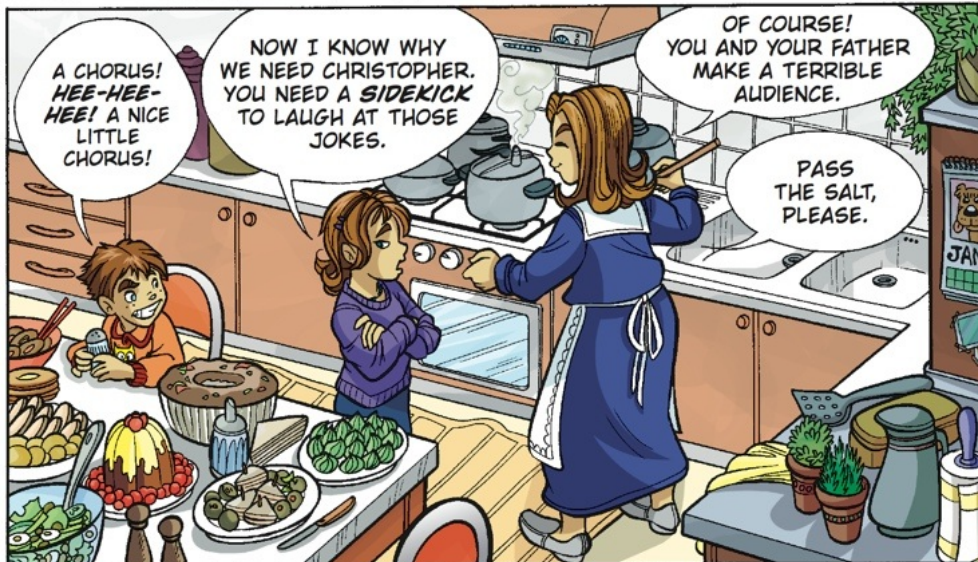


MOM!



MOM! THE POT'S  
WHISTLING!

SO SING,  
IRMA! THAT  
WAY WE'LL  
HAVE A NICE  
LITTLE  
CHORUS!



A CHORUS!  
HEE-HEE-  
HEE! A NICE  
LITTLE  
CHORUS!

NOW I KNOW WHY  
WE NEED CHRISTOPHER.  
YOU NEED A *SIDEKICK*  
TO LAUGH AT THOSE  
JOKES.

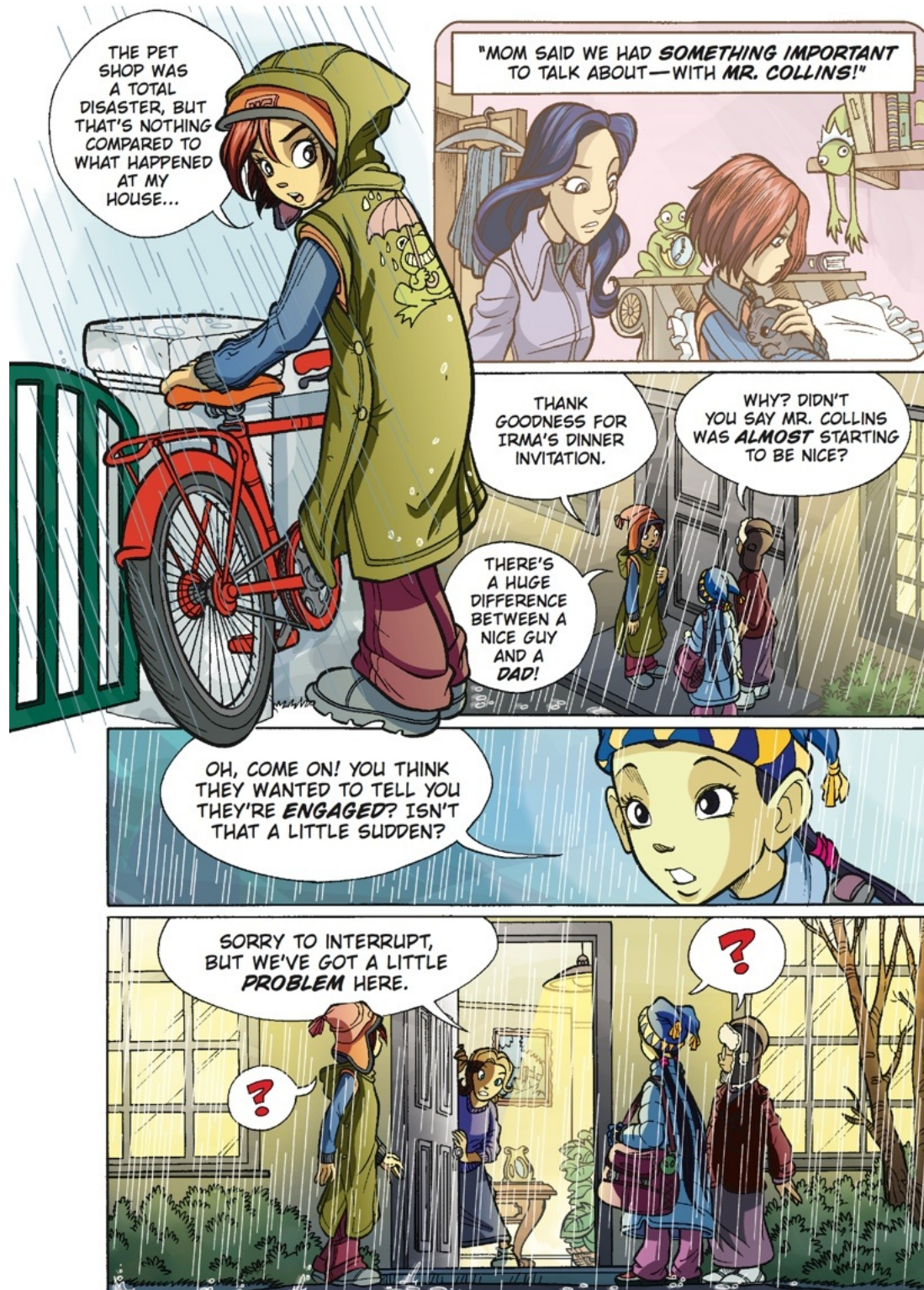
OF COURSE!  
YOU AND YOUR FATHER  
MAKE A TERRIBLE  
AUDIENCE.

PASS  
THE SALT,  
PLEASE.





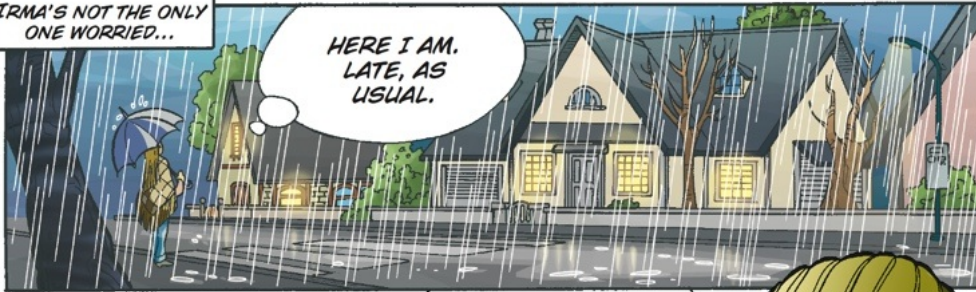






IRMA'S NOT THE ONLY  
ONE WORRIED...

HERE I AM.  
LATE, AS  
USUAL.



WHAT'S  
THIS?

A DRY TUNNEL  
THROUGH THE RAIN.  
THIS HAS GOT TO BE  
IRMA'S WORK.



I DON'T KNOW  
WHY, BUT I HAVE A  
FEELING SHE WANTS  
TO TALK RIGHT  
NOW.



PSSST! Hurry  
up! Move it, before  
someone sees...

WHO IS IT?

EEP!



HI, CORNELIA.  
YOU'RE SOAKING WET.  
WHY DIDN'T YOU USE YOUR  
UMBRELLA?



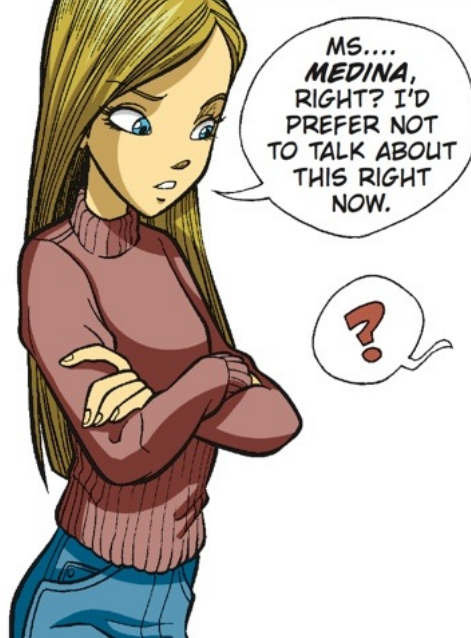
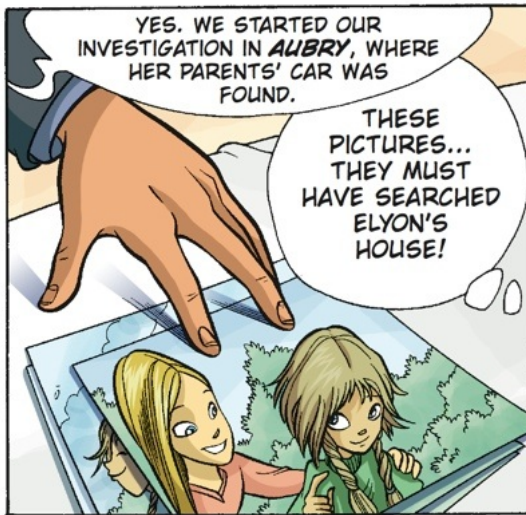
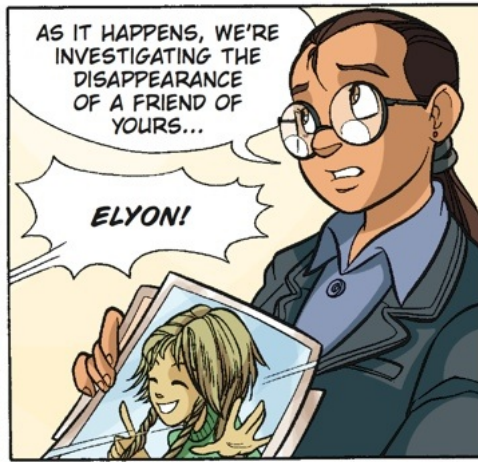
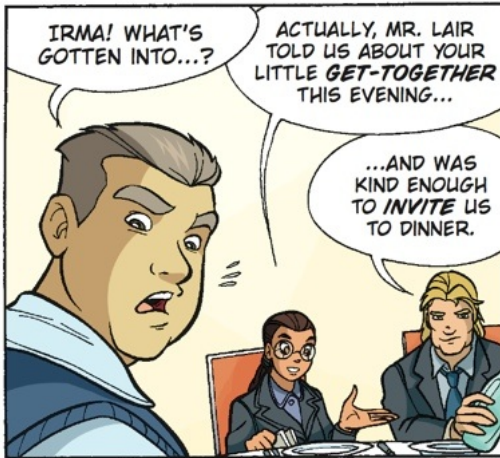
I DIDN'T THINK  
I NEEDED ONE  
A SECOND  
AGO!







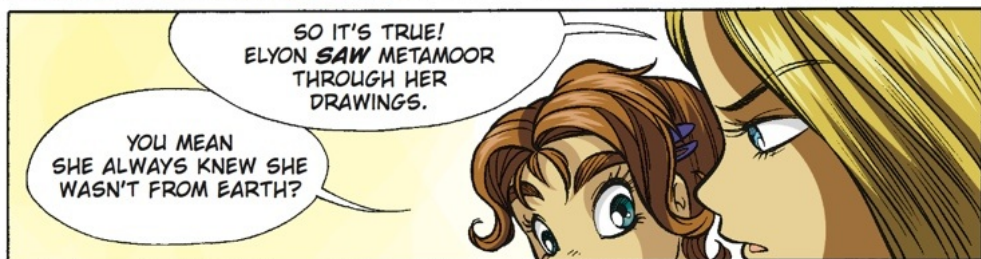
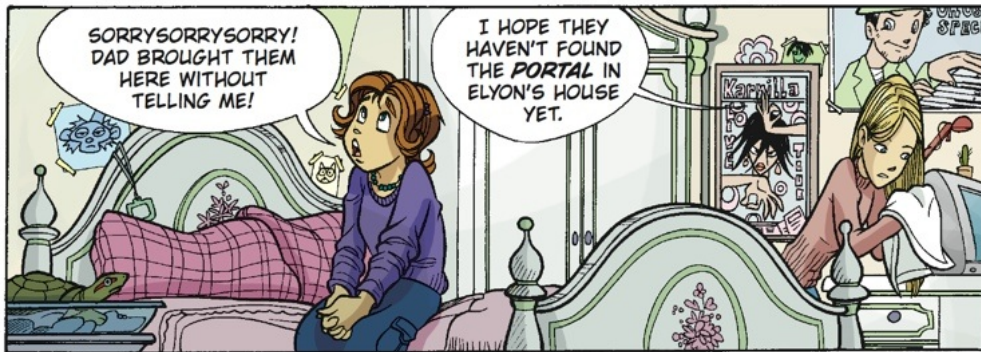




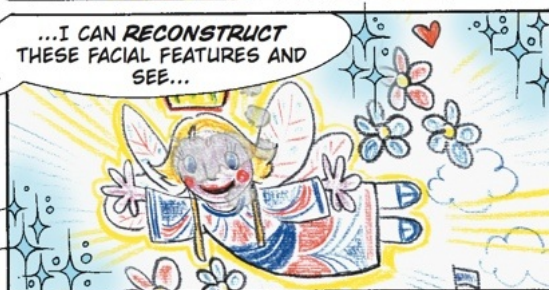
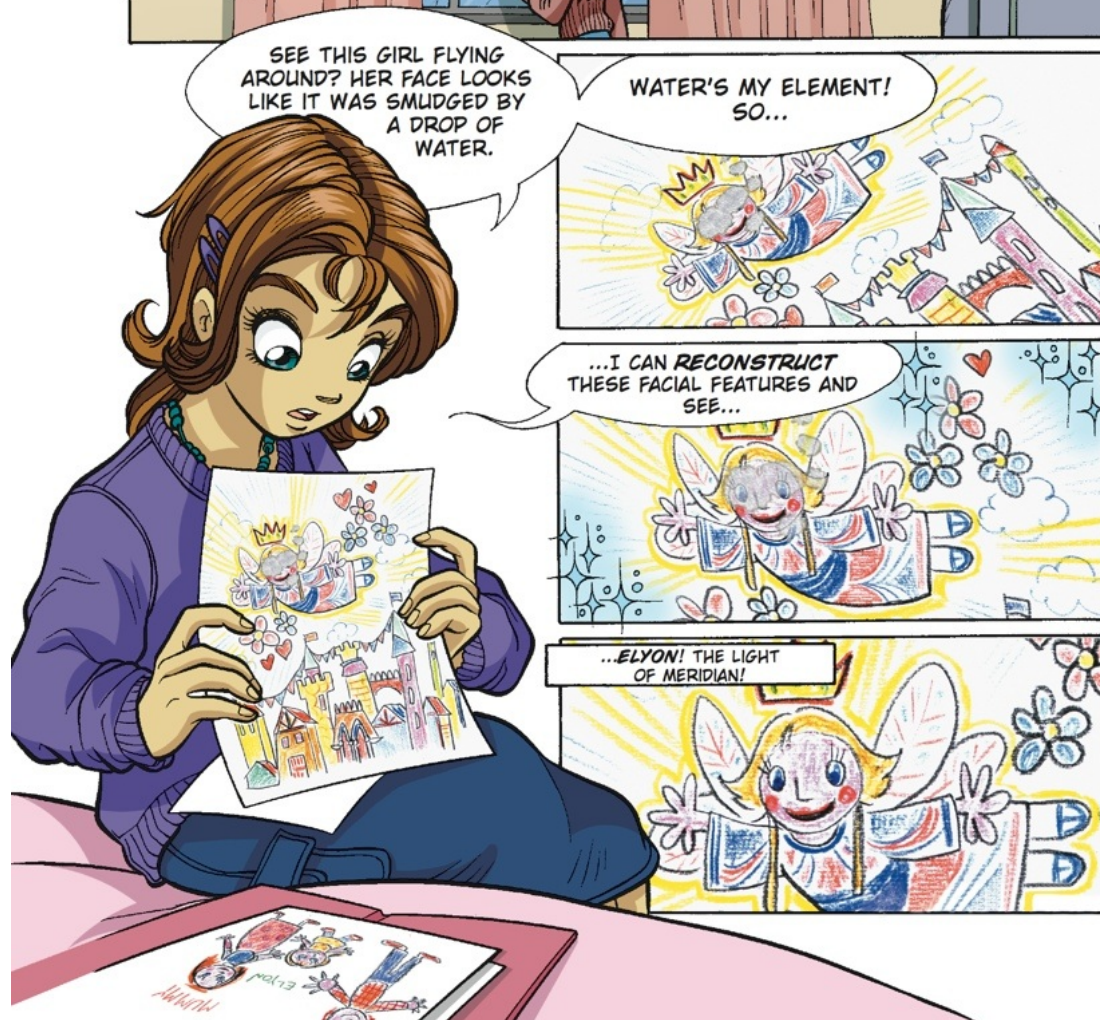
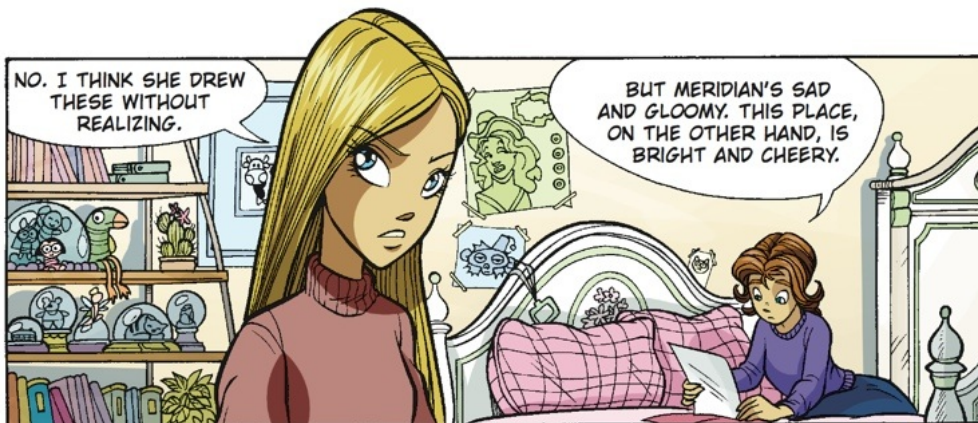
















The next morning, Will wakes up with a start! She'd been dreaming about Irma, Cornelia, Elgon, and...



ALARM CLOCK! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Your DREAMS, Will! Must be all that rich food you ate last night!



OH, SO YOU'RE A *SPY*? WANT ME TO PUT YOUR BATTERIES INTO YOUR FROG-SHAPED COMPETITOR?

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'D MANAGE TO FIND IT IN THIS *MESS*!



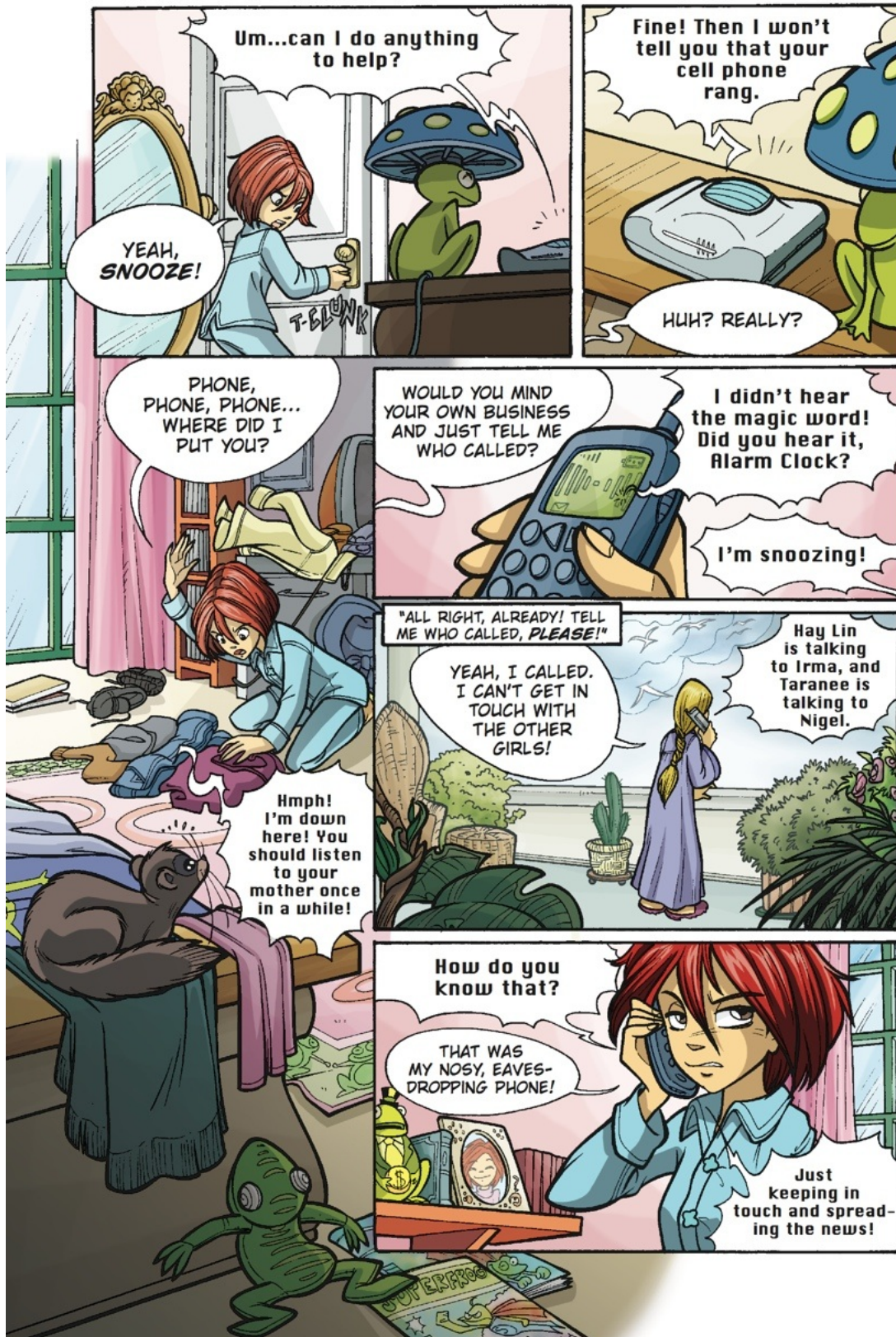
M-MOM! H-HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?

LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE SO TIRED, YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF. COME ON. BREAKFAST IS READY.









Um...can I do anything to help?

YEAH, SNOOZE!

T-BLUNK

Fine! Then I won't tell you that your cell phone rang.

HUH? REALLY?

PHONE, PHONE, PHONE... WHERE DID I PUT YOU?

Hmph! I'm down here! You should listen to your mother once in a while!

WOULD YOU MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND JUST TELL ME WHO CALLED?

I didn't hear the magic word! Did you hear it, Alarm Clock?

I'm snoozing!

"ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! TELL ME WHO CALLED, PLEASE!"

YEAH, I CALLED. I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH THE OTHER GIRLS!

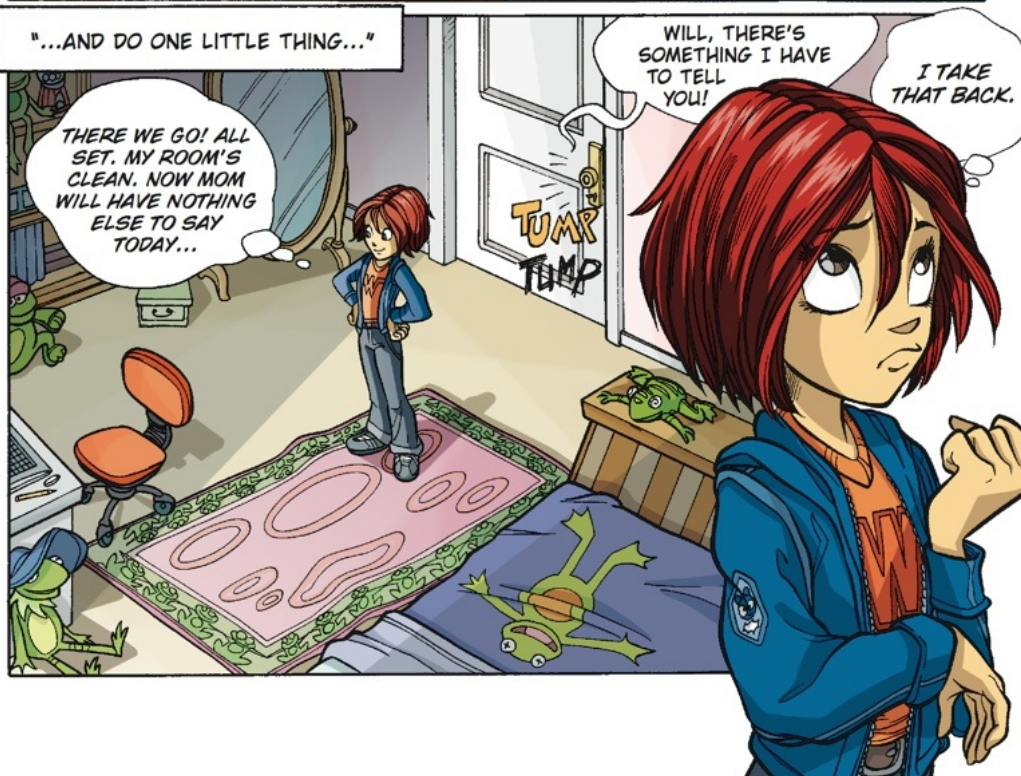
Hay Lin is talking to Irma, and Taranee is talking to Nigel.

How do you know that?

THAT WAS MY NOSY, EAVES-DROPPING PHONE!

Just keeping in touch and spreading the news!





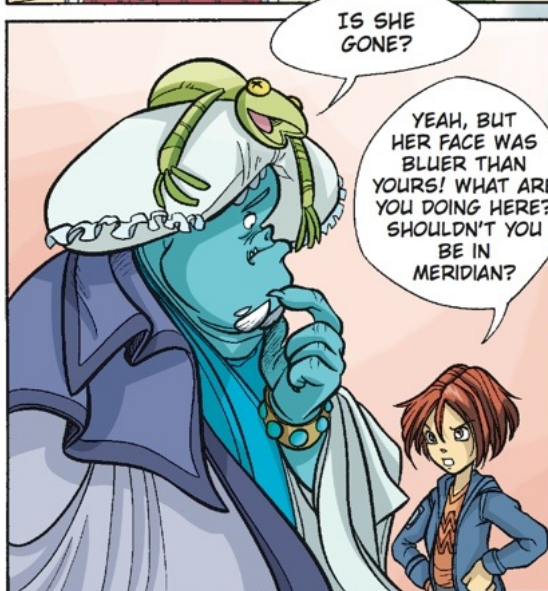














"SHE CAME TO US AT NIGHT, RISKING HER OWN LIFE AND BRAVING THE UNDERGROUND WORLD OF THE INFINITE CITY."

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR CALEB, HE'S RECRUITING REBELS IN YOUR NAME!

I'M HERE TO BEG YOU, VATHEK. PLEASE. I NEED YOU TO FREE MY ADOPTIVE PARENTS!

I KNOW I'VE DISOWNED THEM, BUT I'VE ALSO SEEN WHERE THEY'RE LOCKED UP. IT'S HORRIBLE!

THAT PRISON IS YOUR BROTHER'S DOING—HE CONFINES THOSE WHO OPPOSE HIM!

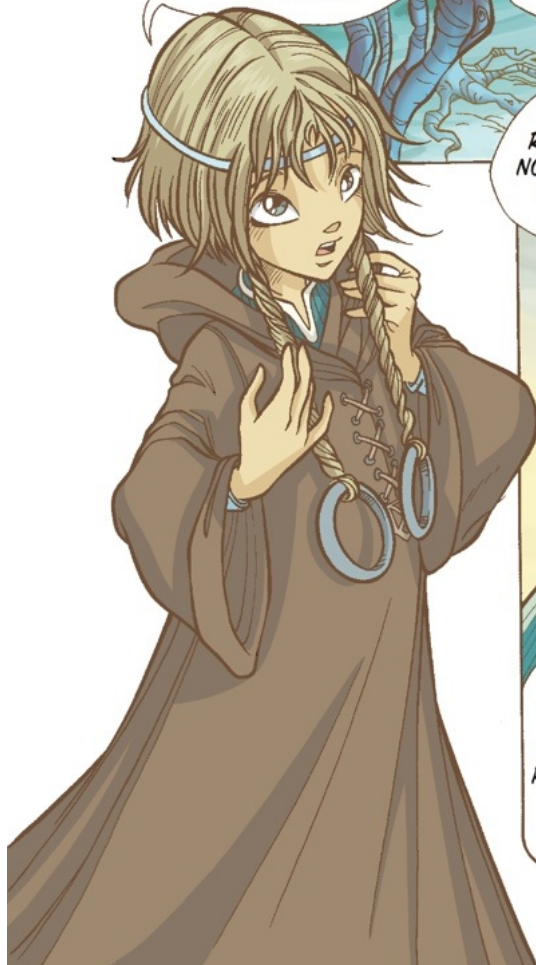


THEY'RE SUFFERING! I CAN SENSE IT! THEY'LL NEVER SURVIVE TO MY CORONATION.

NO ONE CAN BREAK INTO THE PRISON, NOT EVEN ME! YOU SHOULD ASK THE GUARDIANS FOR HELP.

EXCEPT FOR CORNELIA, THEY HATE ME. THEY'D NEVER HELP.

REALLY? I'M NOT EXACTLY A GENIUS...

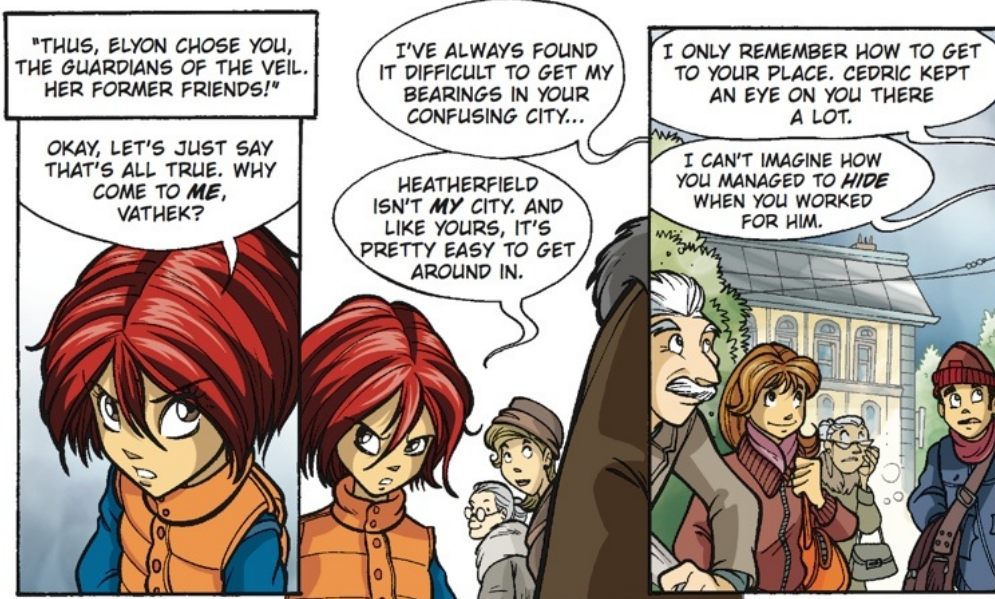


...BUT IT'S EASY TO SEE THAT IF YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY HERE, ELUDING PHOBOS'S CONTROL, YOU DON'T TRUST HIM EITHER.

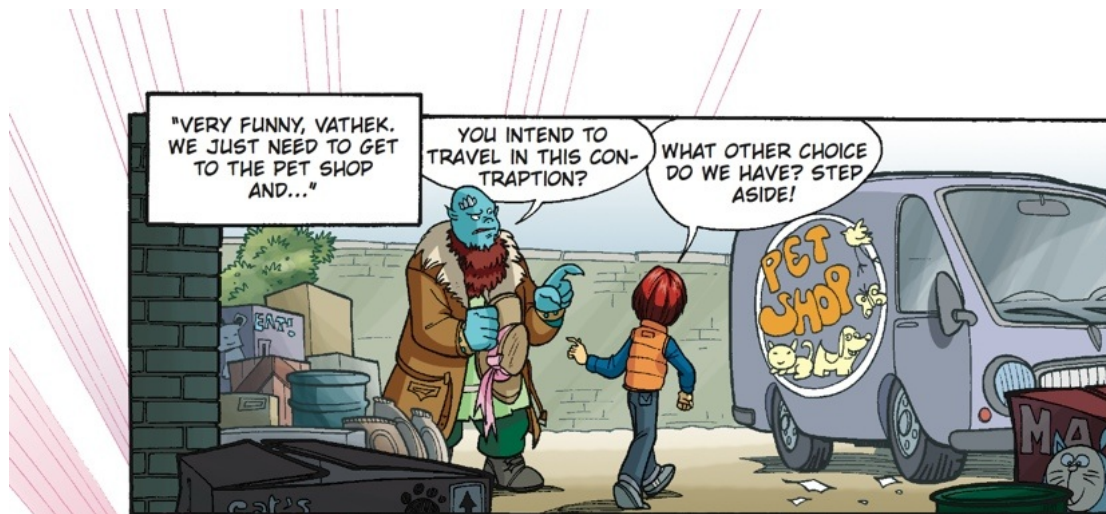
PERHAPS THE MOMENT HAS COME TO BELIEVE IN SOMEONE ELSE, LIGHT OF MERIDIAN!











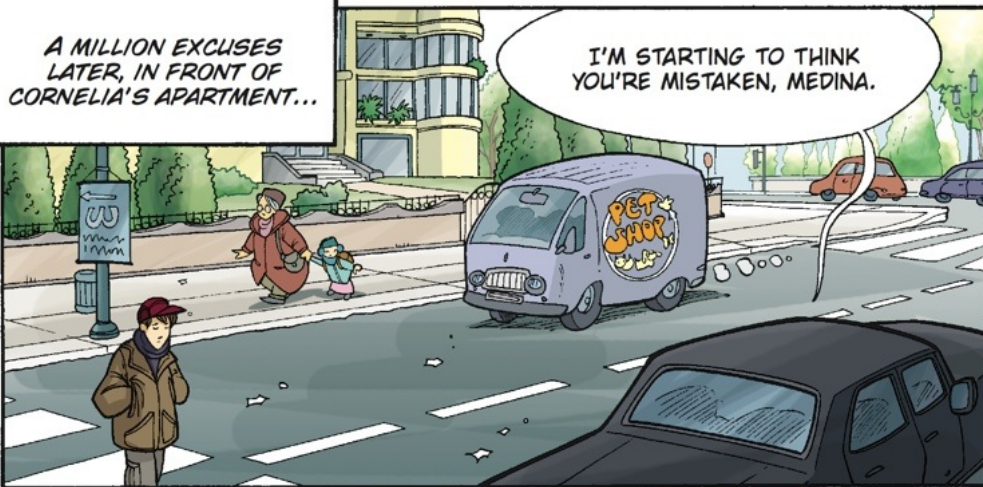






A MILLION EXCUSES  
LATER, IN FRONT OF  
CORNELIA'S APARTMENT...

I'M STARTING TO THINK  
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, MEDINA.



CORNELIA'S HIDING  
SOMETHING,  
McTIENNAN.  
I'M SURE OF IT!

THE ONLY THING  
I'M SURE ABOUT  
IS THAT WE DON'T  
HAVE ANY  
LEADS.



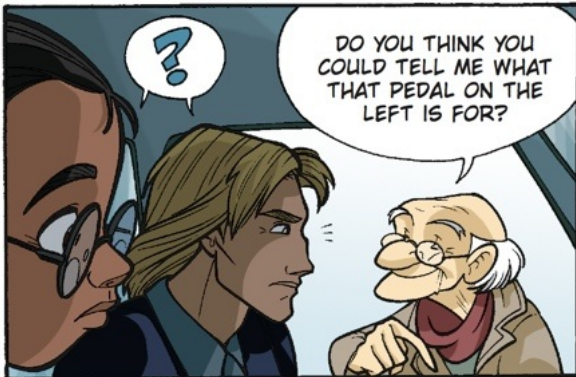
THIS STAKEOUT IS  
USELESS AND...

HELLO!



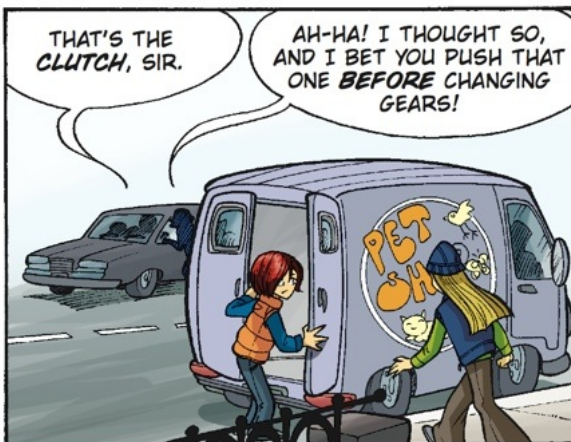
?

DO YOU THINK YOU  
COULD TELL ME WHAT  
THAT PEDAL ON THE  
LEFT IS FOR?



THAT'S THE  
**CLUTCH**, SIR.

AH-HA! I THOUGHT SO,  
AND I BET YOU PUSH THAT  
ONE **BEFORE** CHANGING  
GEARS!

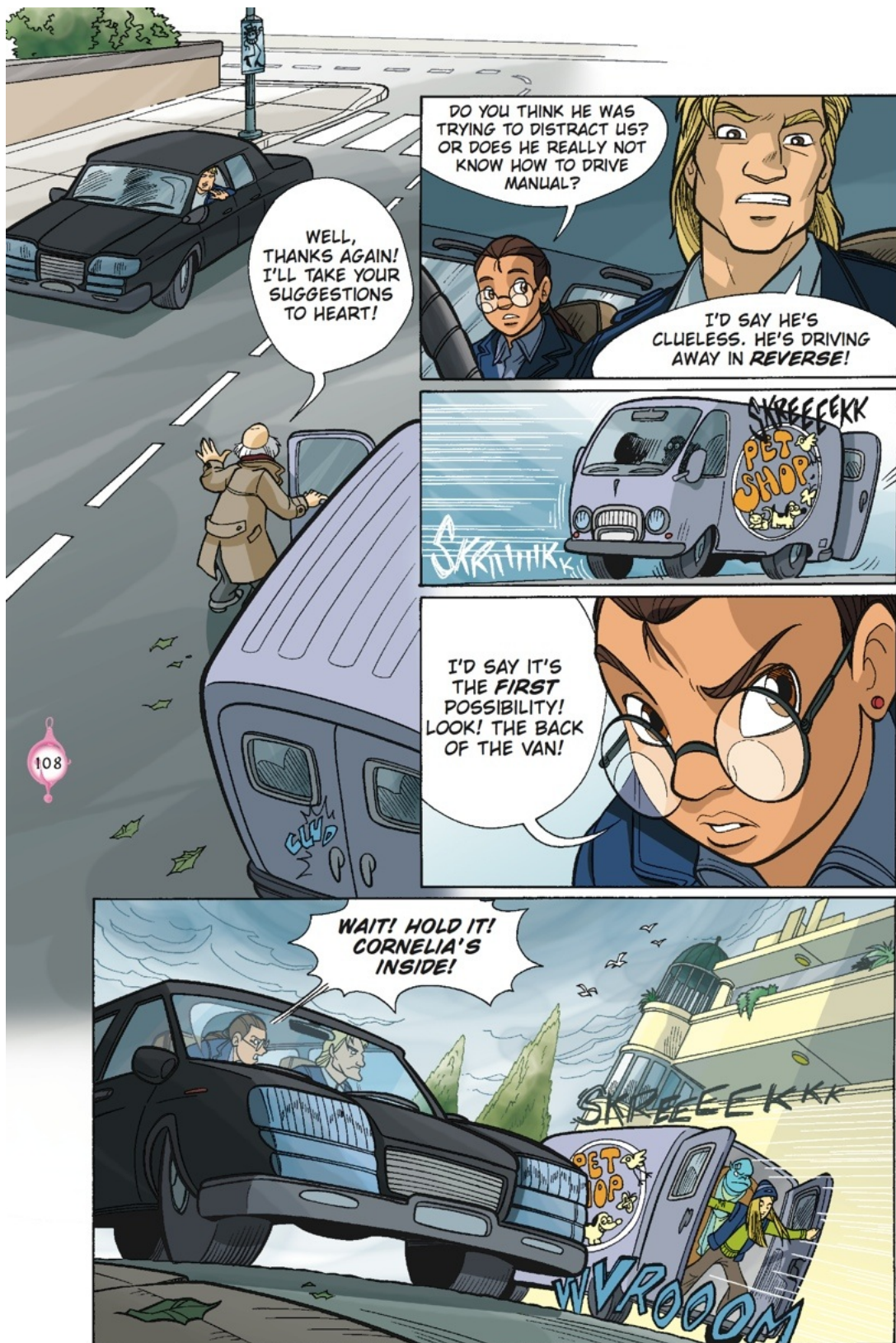


What on earth...?

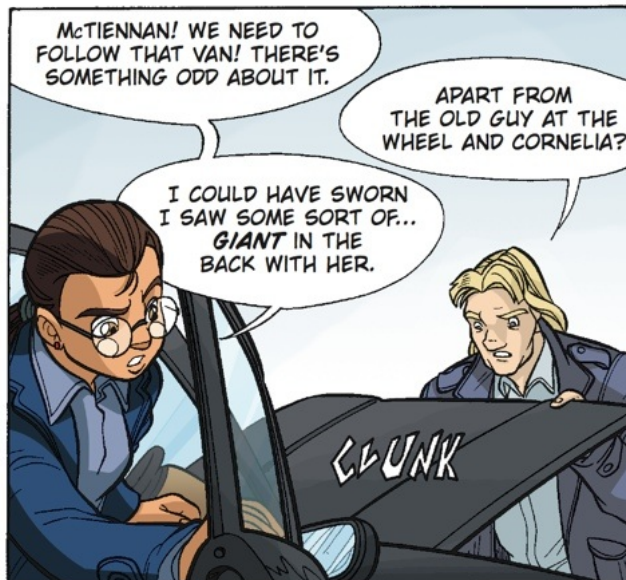
No questions!  
Just GET IN!



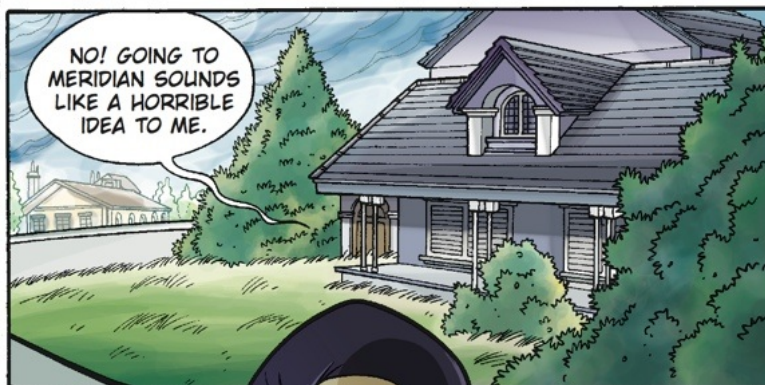














"MERIDIAN, HERE WE  
COME!"

THE WRETCHED  
PRISON SITS  
ATOP A HILL,  
DEMANDING  
RESPECT AND  
INSTILLING FEAR.

TODAY, THOUGH, THE  
ONES WHO FEEL FEAR  
ARE THE GUARDS OF THE  
DISMAL PLACE...

WHAT'S GOING  
ON? WHY ARE THE  
SCUTTLERS SO  
NERVOUS?

THE  
THUNDER, SIR!  
THOSE STRANGE  
EXPLOSIONS!  
THEY SEEM TO BE  
COMING...

SKRUEKKK

SKRUEKKK

"...FROM  
UNDERGROUND!"

I CAD GO EDDY FURDER  
DAN DIS, GUARDIADS.  
→SNIFF← I MADE  
YOU A MAB.



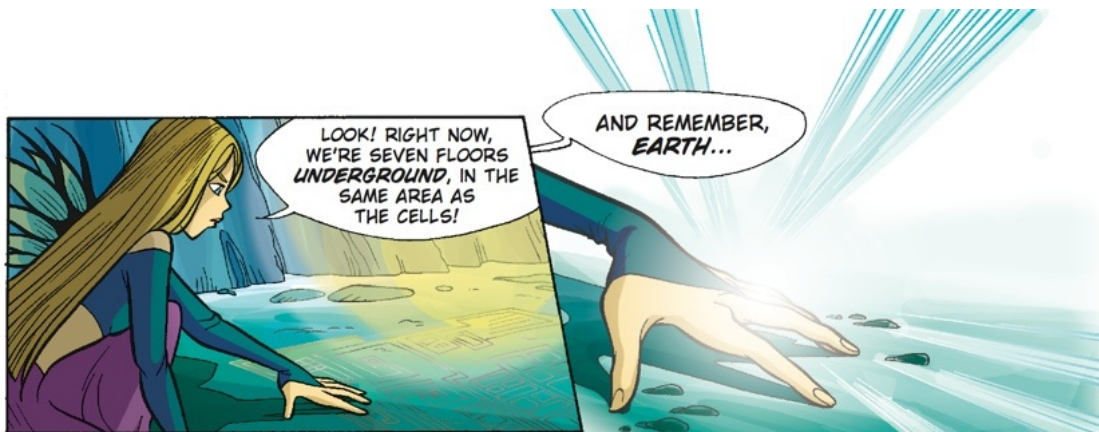
WITH THOSE  
SNEEZES, YOU'D  
PROBABLY END  
UP ALERTING  
PHOBOS'S  
ENTIRE ARMY,  
VATHEK!

ACCORDING TO  
YOUR DRAWING,  
THERE'S A REAL  
MAZE OF  
TUNNELS  
DOWN HERE.

THIS PLACE IS PROB-  
ABLY CRAWLING WITH  
BUGS! WE COULD BE  
HERE FOR DAYS!

MAYBE NOT.









I'M SCARED! **CEDRIC'S** DANGEROUS! DID HE COME HERE FOR US?

MAYBE. HE'S POINTING RIGHT AT US!

I...I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR?

YOU HEARD ME! OPEN THAT CELL AND RELEASE THE PRISONERS!



DOES THIS LEVER OPEN THE SCUTTLERS' CAGE?

HUH? YES, SIR. BUT I'D ADVISE AGAINST TOUCHING IT. THE **MONSTER** HASN'T EATEN YET.



POOR CREATURE! SEE TO IT THAT HE GETS A MEAL RIGHT AWAY!



THOMAS— THE DOOR! SOMEONE'S OPENING IT.

YES. STAY CLOSE TO ME, ELEANOR.



Well?

I don't understand! Cedric's disappeared with the guard, and...







MAY THE  
LIGHT PROTECT  
US! THEY'VE LET A  
SCUTTLE LOOSE!



ELEANOR!



SEE WHAT  
I MEAN?  
I TOLD YOU  
THIS PLACE  
WAS FULL  
OF BUGS!



STAY BACK,  
YOU BIG  
ROACH!

GOOD JOB, HAY LIN! GIVE  
HIM A BLAST OF AIR!  
MAYBE HE'LL CATCH  
PNEUMONIA!

HEY...







SHORTLY AFTERWARD,  
A COMMOTION RUNS  
THROUGH THE STREETS  
OF MERIDIAN...

HURRY UP, HALGART!  
CALL THE OTHERS. CALL  
EVERYONE!



I'M GLAD I LEFT  
THE PALACE.  
SOMETHING  
STRANGE IS  
HAPPENING!

ELYON SEES SOMETHING SHE  
NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED...

GET THE LITTLE ONES INSIDE!  
IT'S AN UPRISING!  
THE PRISON'S  
OPEN!



...THE SOLDIERS, TRYING TO  
QUELL THE CROWDS...



...AND HER FORMER FRIENDS,  
TRIUMPHANTLY CARRIED ON  
THE PRISONERS' SHOULDERS.

AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS  
UNSPEAKABLE CONFUSION...



YES, IT'S  
THEM! BUT SHE  
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S  
IN PAIN. WHAT DID  
THEY DO TO HER  
IN THERE?

THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS!  
STAY BACK, LOWLIFE!



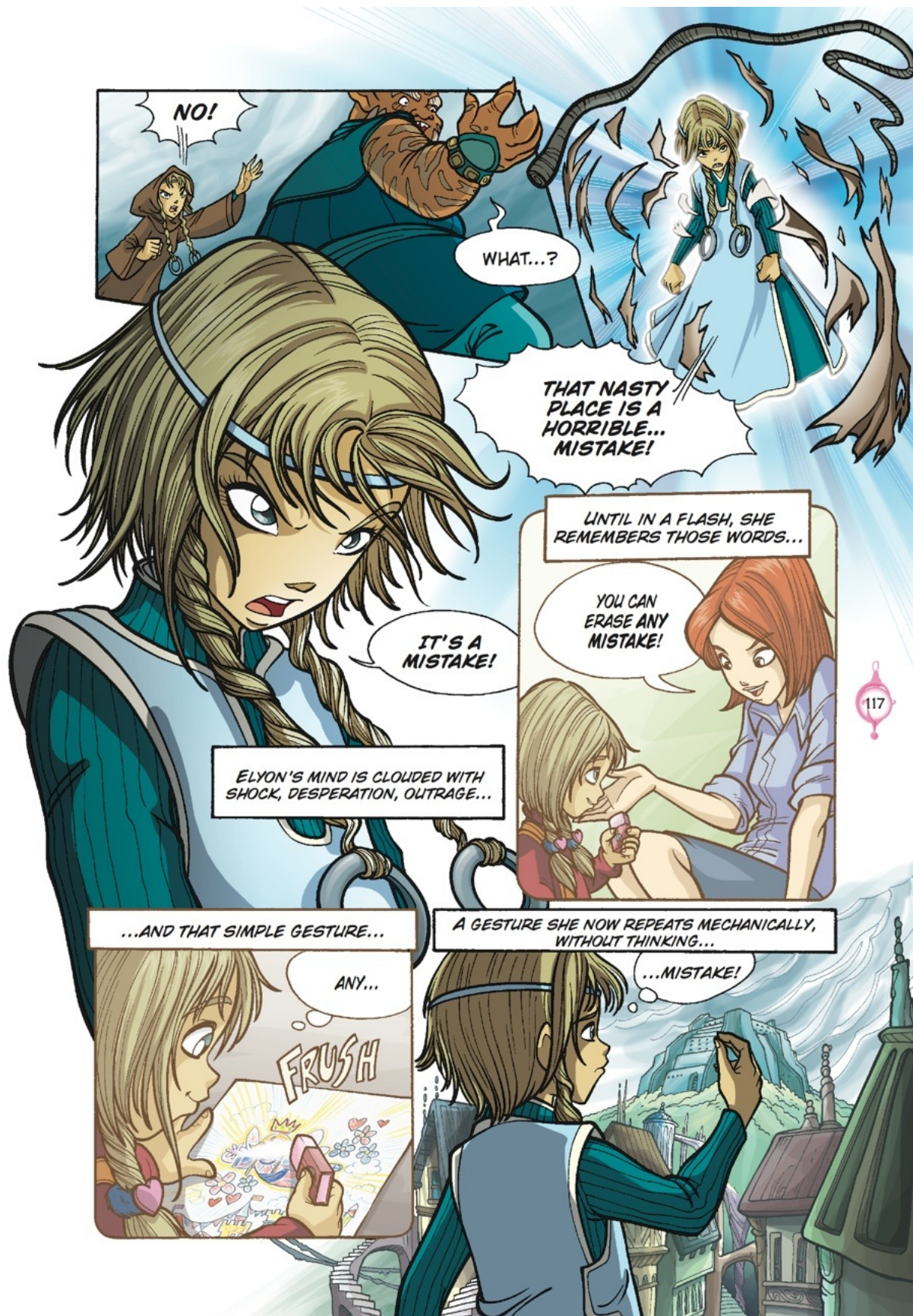
MY BROTHER'S  
DOWN THERE!  
PLEASE BELIEVE  
ME!

OH, I BELIEVE YOU, DOG!  
BUT IF YOU DON'T  
LEAVE, I'LL  
LOCK YOU UP  
WHERE YOU  
BELONG —  
PRISON!



NO!







IN A SINGLE, FLEETING MOMENT,  
MERIDIAN'S PRISON DISAPPEARS,  
BY ELYON'S WILL...

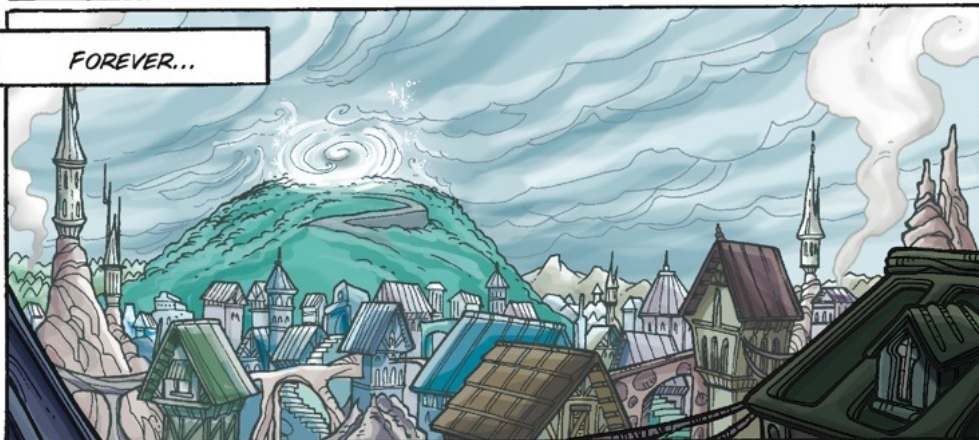


FOR THE WOMAN WHO, DEEP IN HER  
HEART, SHE CONSIDERS HER MOTHER...

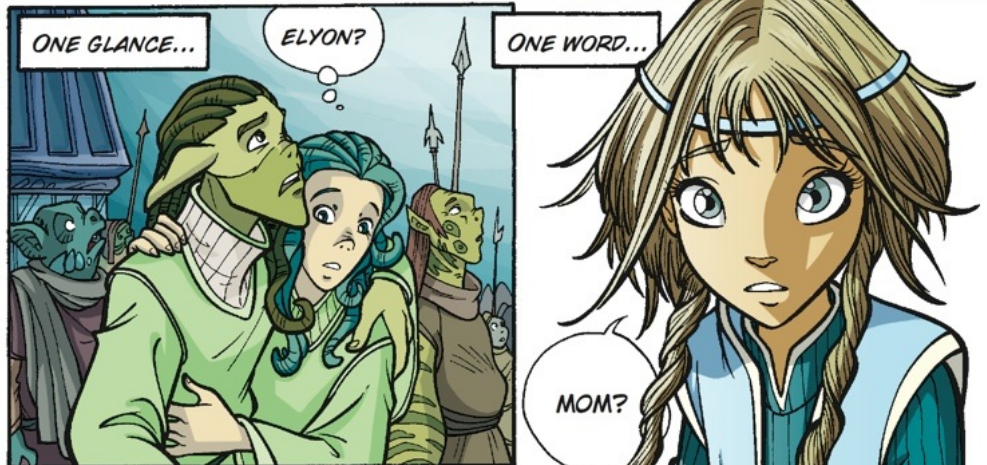


FOR THE CITIZENS SHE'S  
BEGINN TO CONSIDER HER  
OWN PEOPLE...

FOREVER...











I'M COMING, THOMAS! D-DID YOU HEAR HER?





EPILOGUE 1: MERIDIAN, INSIDE  
PHOBOS'S CASTLE...

I FAILED, MY LORD!  
I DID NOT SUCCEED  
IN ELIMINATING THE  
TWO TRAITORS.

I KNOW, CEDRIC.  
I KNOW ALL  
ABOUT IT.

I BEG YOU. TELL ME HOW  
ELYON MADE THE PRISON  
DISAPPEAR!

HER POWER IS  
**IMMENSE!** I  
MUST **HAVE** IT FOR  
MYSELF!

THAT IS WHY IT'S  
TIME TO OFFICIALLY  
ANNOUNCE HER  
**CORONATION!**

EPILOGUE 2: HEATHERFIELD,  
IN ELYON'S BASEMENT...

MERIDIAN'S  
DEFINITELY CHANGING.

SO I WASN'T WRONG  
ABOUT ELYON! SHE  
NEEDS TO UNDER-  
STAND WHAT'S GOING  
ON. SHE  
NEEDS US!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING,  
CORNELIA?

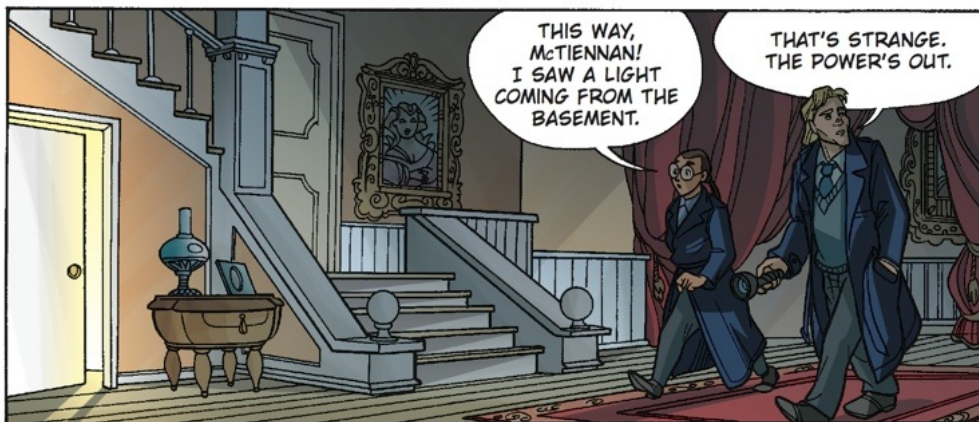
MAKING A WALL  
TO HIDE THE PORTAL.  
WE MIGHT NEED TO  
USE IT AGAIN.

GRAAAMM

WITHOUT  
THE **MAP** OF  
THE PORTALS,  
THIS IS THE  
ONLY ONE WE  
KNOW ABOUT,  
AND...

SHHHH!  
Someone's  
coming.  
We'd better  
**CHANGE**  
**BACK,**  
**QUICK!**





THIS WAY, McTIENNAN! I SAW A LIGHT COMING FROM THE BASEMENT.

THAT'S STRANGE. THE POWER'S OUT.



HI! WHAT BRINGS YOU FOLKS HERE?

NO ONE COULD FIND YOU GIRLS. WE FIGURED YOU'D BE HERE.

WE COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING.

LATER, IN FRONT OF CORNELIA'S HOUSE...

THANKS FOR GOING WITH ME, WILL. REALLY, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.



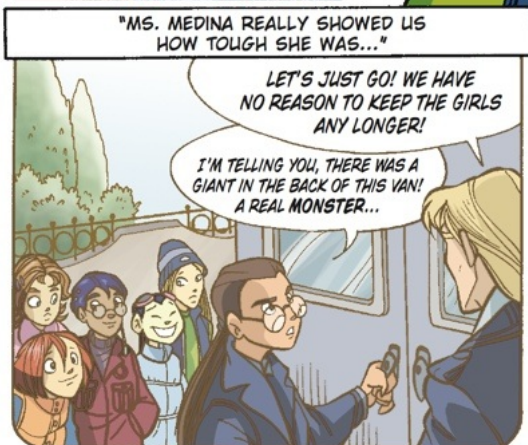
ARE YOU KIDDING? MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOOK OFF THOSE AGENTS!

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THINK THEY BOUGHT OUR STORY ABOUT HAVING A MEMORIAL FOR ELYON AT HER HOUSE?

DOUBTFUL, BUT I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANYTHING BETTER ...



"MS. MEDINA REALLY SHOWED US HOW TOUGH SHE WAS..."

LET'S JUST GO! WE HAVE NO REASON TO KEEP THE GIRLS ANY LONGER!

I'M TELLING YOU, THERE WAS A GIANT IN THE BACK OF THIS VAN! A REAL MONSTER...



YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S ONE GIANT DOG!



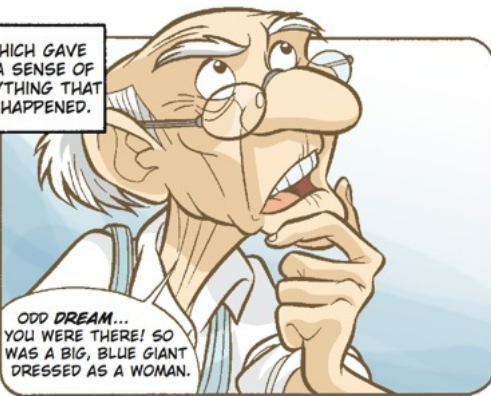




INSTINCTIVELY,  
THE ASTRAL DROP  
RETURNED TO HIS  
TWIN'S BODY...



...WHICH GAVE  
HIM A SENSE OF  
EVERYTHING THAT  
HAD HAPPENED.



ODD DREAM...  
YOU WERE THERE! SO  
WAS A BIG, BLUE GIANT  
DRESSED AS A WOMAN.

IS THAT WHEN  
YOU FOUND MATT'S  
NOTE?



YUP!  
A FORMAL  
INVITATION TO THE  
LODELYDAY, THE  
COOLEST PLACE IN  
THE WHOLE  
CITY!



WILL, DID YOU NOTICE THAT  
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WE  
MET, WE'RE GETTING ALONG  
PERFECTLY?



YEAH,  
WE'RE REALLY  
NOT ALL THAT  
DIFFERENT. THIS  
CITY ISN'T  
SO BAD.

KNOW WHAT I THINK?  
FROM NOW ON, THINGS  
ARE GONNA JUST  
KEEP GETTING  
BETTER!

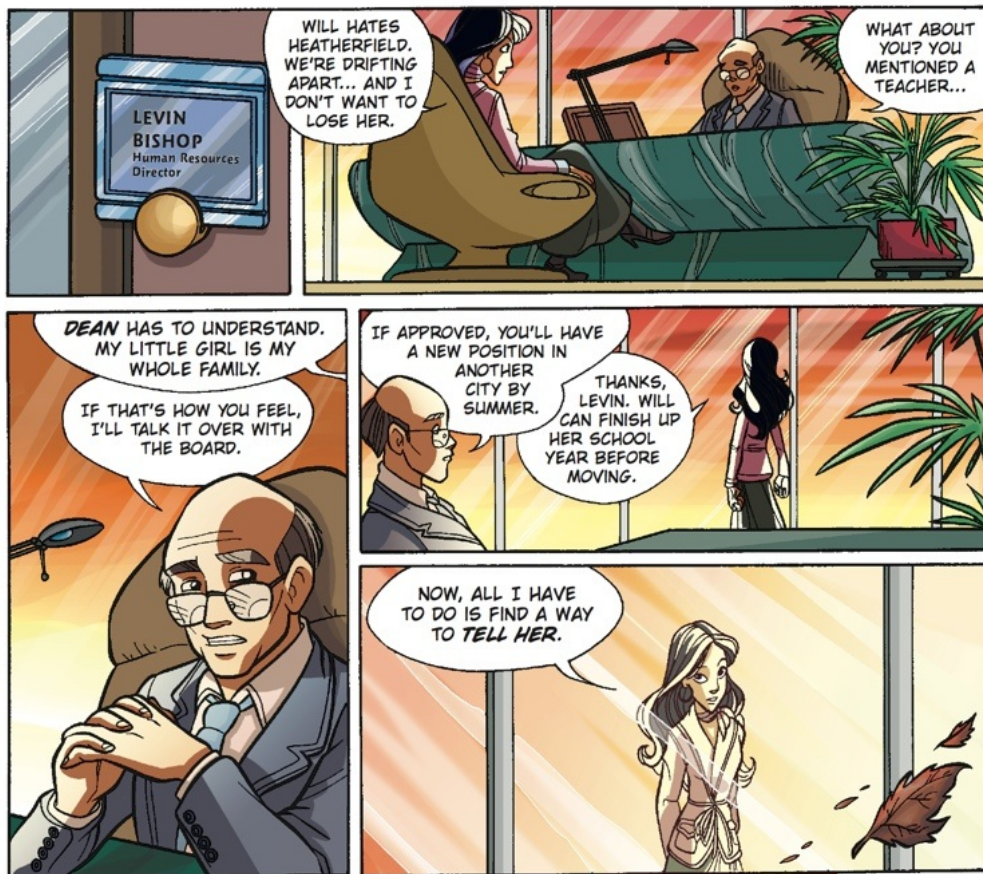
SIMULTECH, IN AN  
INDUSTRIAL ZONE  
IN HEATHERFIELD'S  
OUTSKIRTS....

THIS COMPANY  
CAN'T AFFORD  
TO LOSE A GREAT  
WORKER LIKE  
YOU, SUSAN!

YOU'RE  
NOT  
LOSING ME.  
I'M JUST  
ASKING FOR  
A TRANS-  
FER!

















# THE CROWN OF LIGHT

“My search for her was long,  
and tomorrow her power  
will be mine at last!”





# KANDRAKAR.

LONG AGO, THIS PLACE WAS  
CREATED TO WATCH OVER  
OTHER WORLDS  
AND DIMENSIONS...

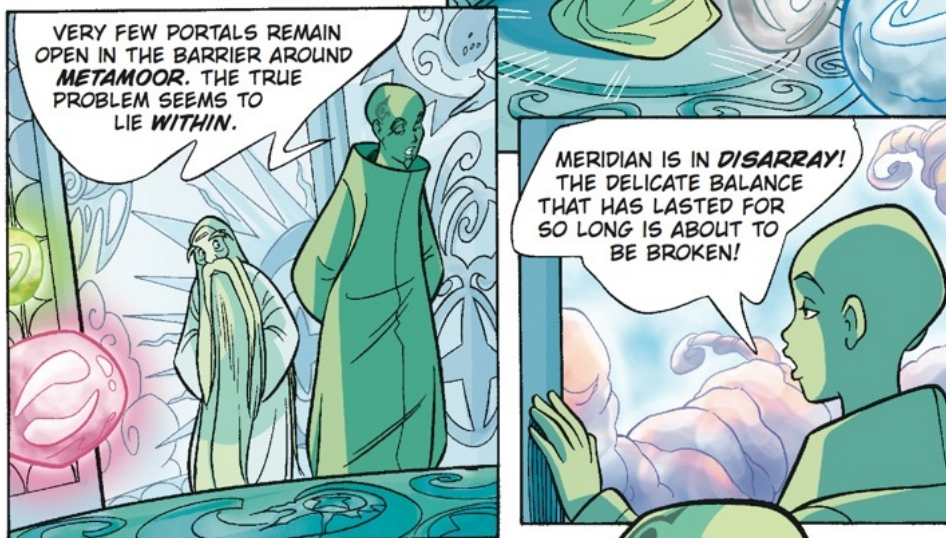
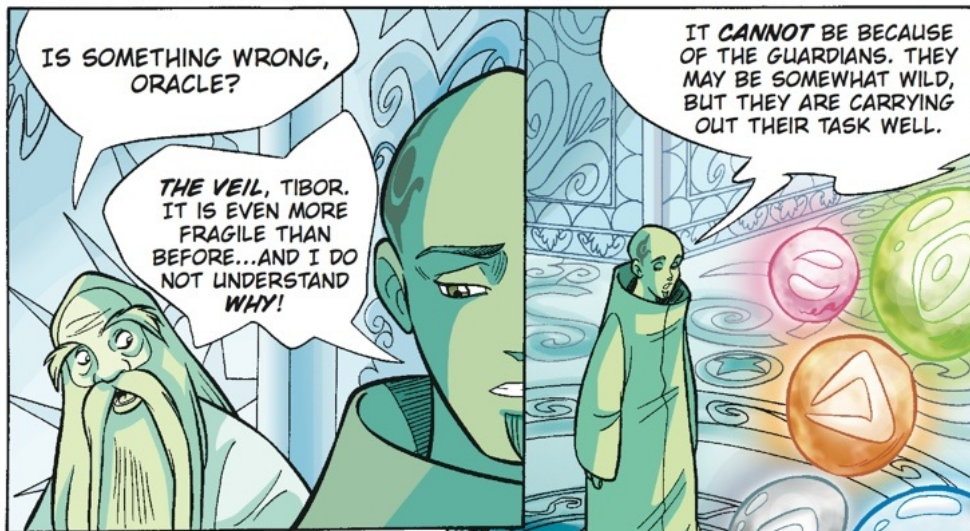
...A TASK THAT THE  
ORACLE HAS NEVER  
FAILED TO FULFILL.

ALTHOUGH HIS EYES  
HAVE OBSERVED  
BILLIONS OF LIVES,  
NOTHING UPSETS HIM...

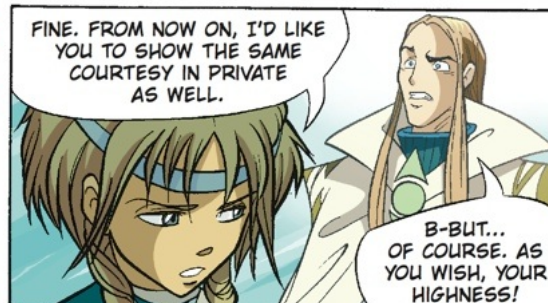
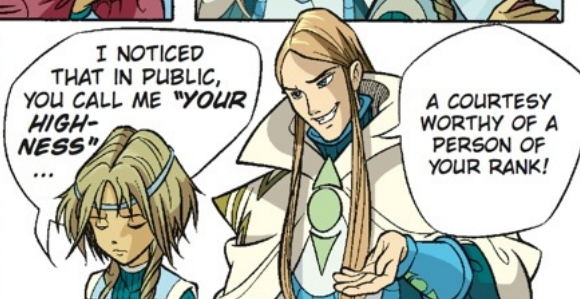
YET TODAY, THE  
UNEXPECTED HAS  
OCCURRED. HIS BROW  
FURROWS WITH A  
LINE OF CONCERN.

TODAY, FOR  
THE FIRST TIME,  
THE ORACLE  
IS WORRIED.













THAT BRAT! SHE DIDN'T  
TREAT ME THIS WAY A  
FEW WEEKS AGO!



RECENT EVENTS  
MUST HAVE TRIGGERED  
SOMETHING IN THAT  
LITTLE HEAD OF  
HERS.



I'D BETTER INFORM  
THE PRINCE  
IMMEDIATELY.



MY RESPECTS, ENLIGHTENED COURT  
OF MURMURERS, VOICE AND EYES  
OF THE PRINCE OF PRINCES!



I ASK YOUR LEAVE  
TO CONSULT WITH  
OUR POWERFUL  
LORD.

I was  
expecting you, Cedric!  
You always arrive at  
just the right moment...



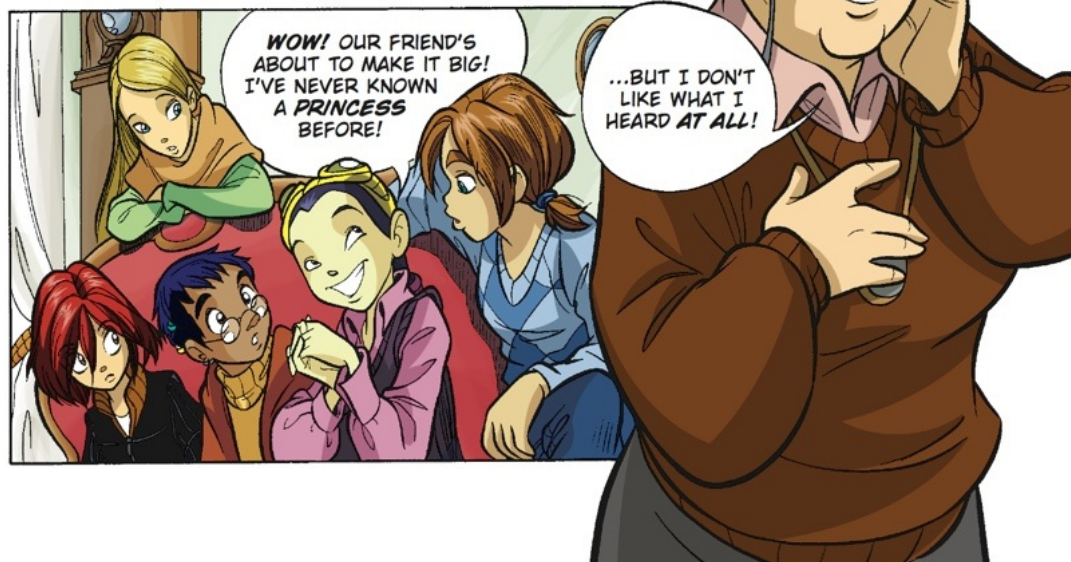
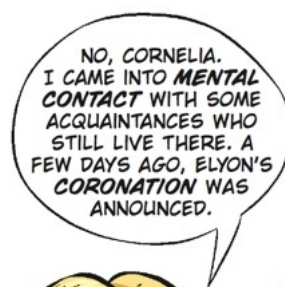
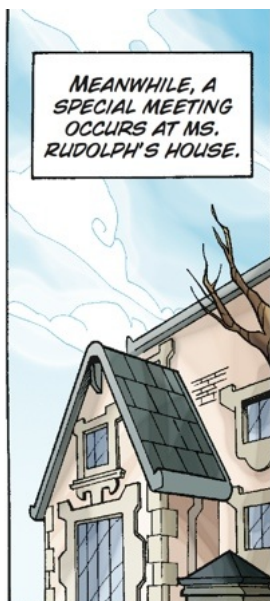
...Join me without  
fear...in the ABYSS OF  
SHADOWS!

...Abyss of Shad—

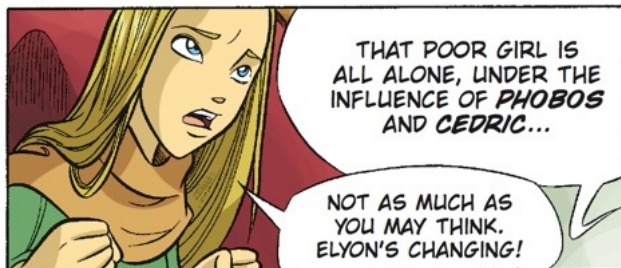
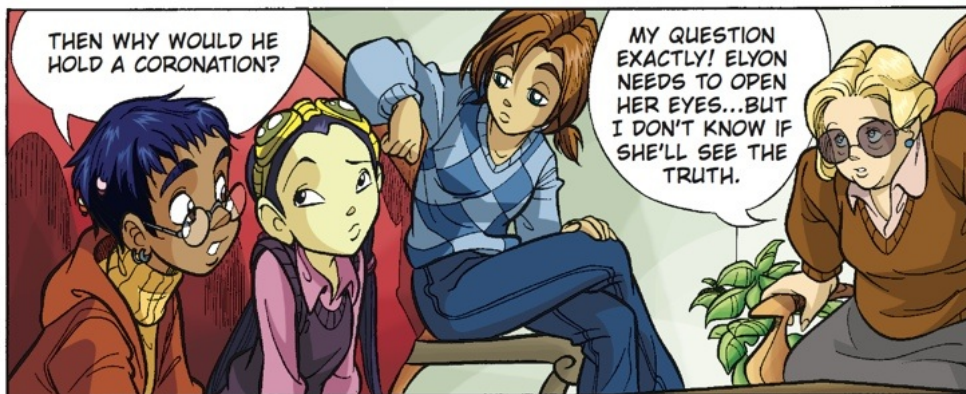
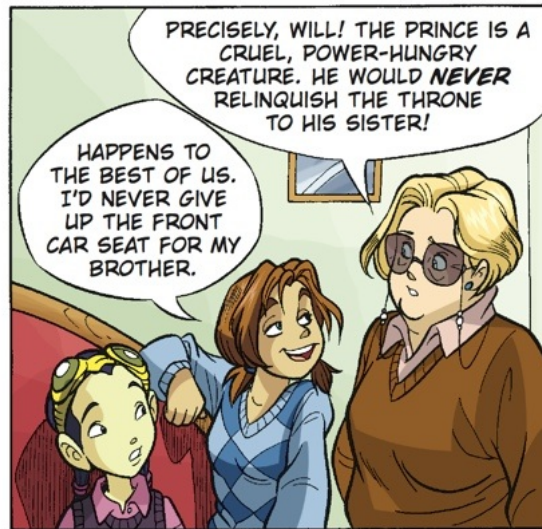
...of shadows...



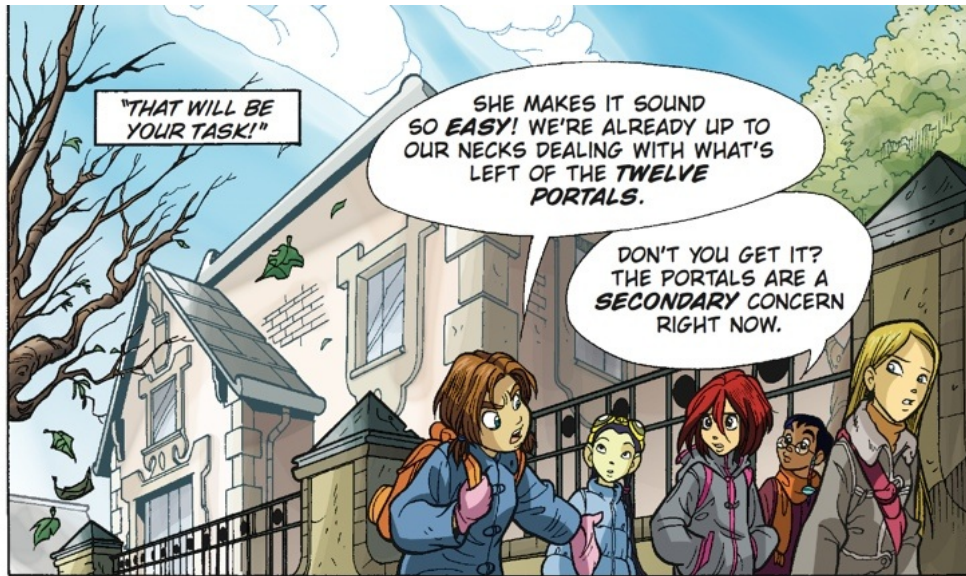












"THAT WILL BE YOUR TASK!"

SHE MAKES IT SOUND SO *EASY*! WE'RE ALREADY UP TO OUR NECKS DEALING WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF THE *TWELVE PORTALS*.

DON'T YOU GET IT? THE PORTALS ARE A *SECONDARY CONCERN* RIGHT NOW.



IF MERIDIAN COLLAPSES, THE BARRIER WILL FALL TOO. AN UPRISING OR A WAR WOULD DESTROY EVERYTHING!

LET ME GUESS—ANOTHER TRIP TO *MONSTROPOLIS*, HUH?



SURE LOOKS LIKE IT. WELL, IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET THERE.

THAT'S RIGHT! WITHOUT MY GRANDMA'S MAP, WE'RE IN A PICKLE!



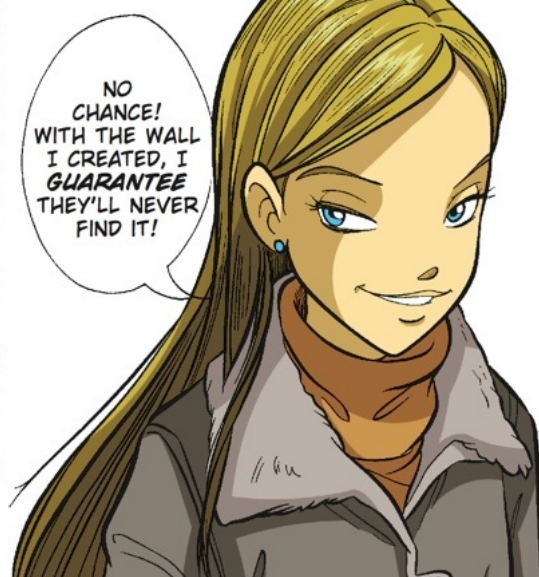
WE COULD ALWAYS USE THE PORTAL IN ELYON'S HOUSE.

WE'D BE SPOTTED FOR SURE. THERE ARE *TWO DETECTIVES* FOLLOWING US. REMEMBER, CORNELIA?



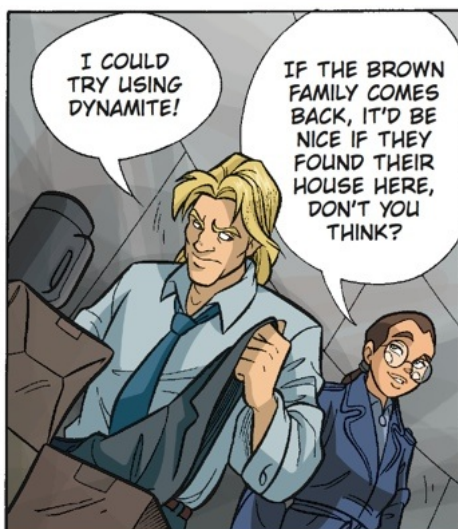
RIGHT! THOSE SNOOPS HAVE PRACTICALLY PITCHED CAMP AT ELLIE'S PLACE.

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL FIND THE *PORTAL*?

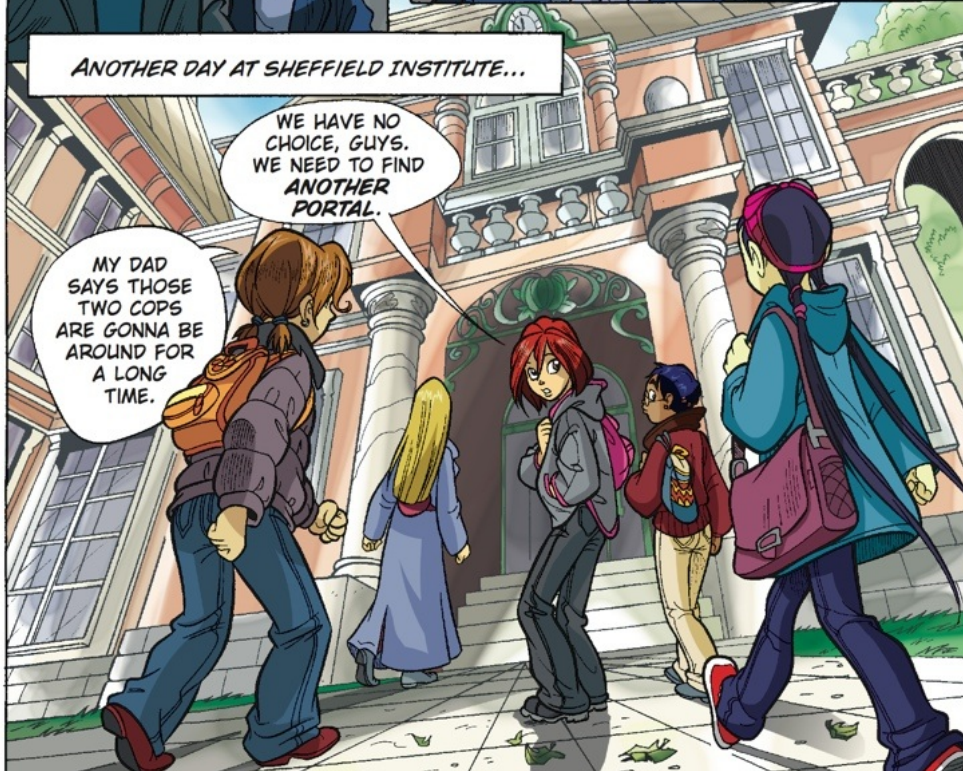
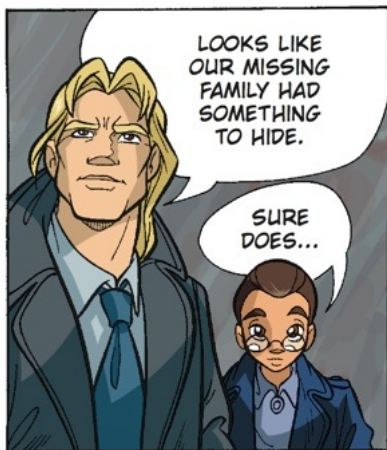
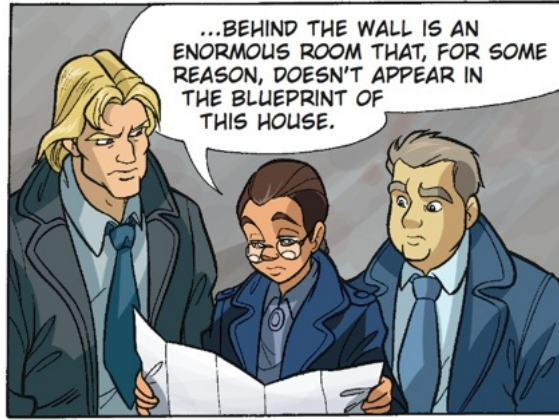


NO CHANCE! WITH THE WALL I CREATED, I *GUARANTEE* THEY'LL NEVER FIND IT!

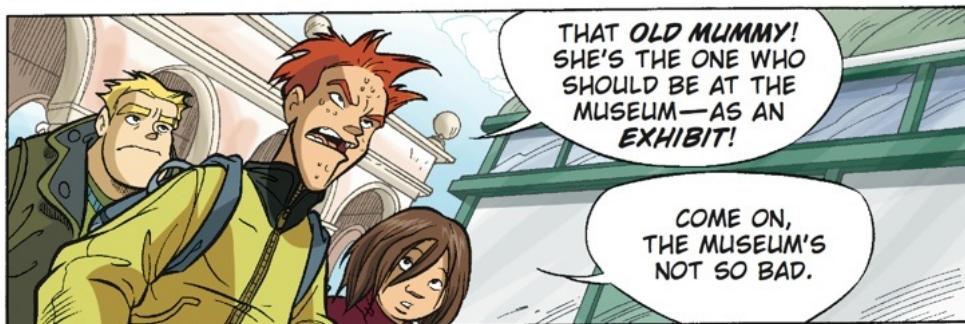
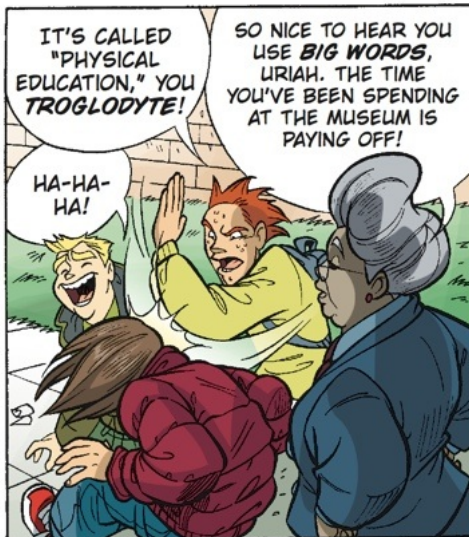
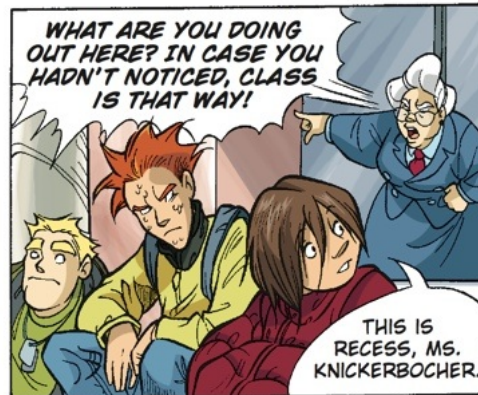




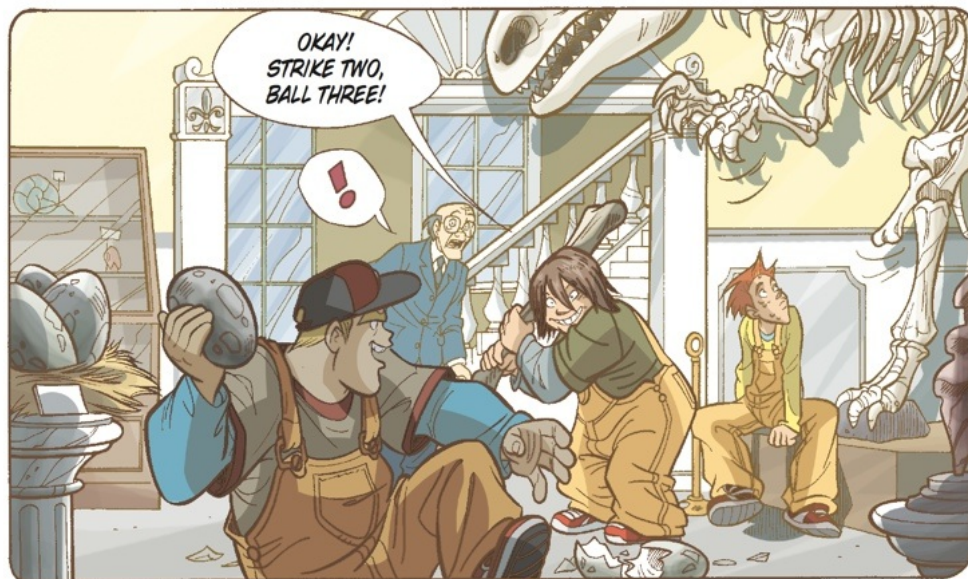
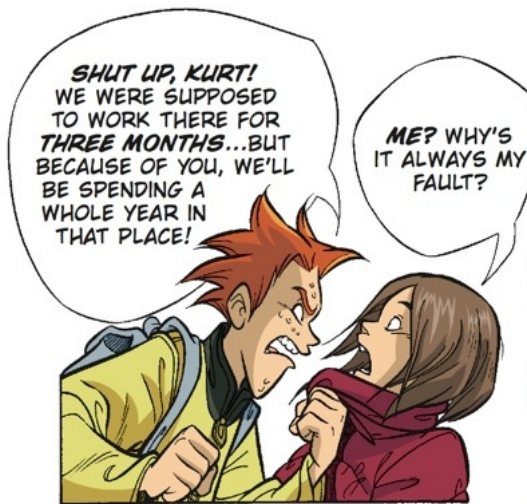








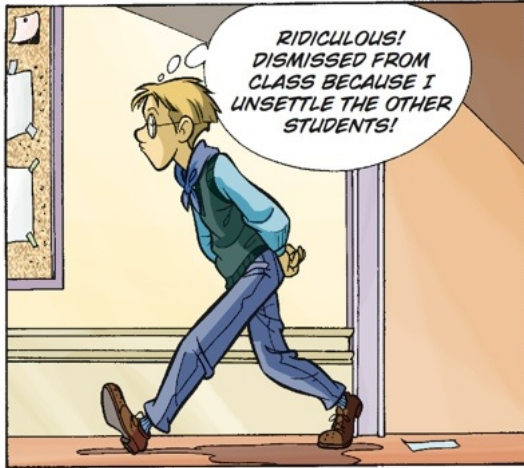




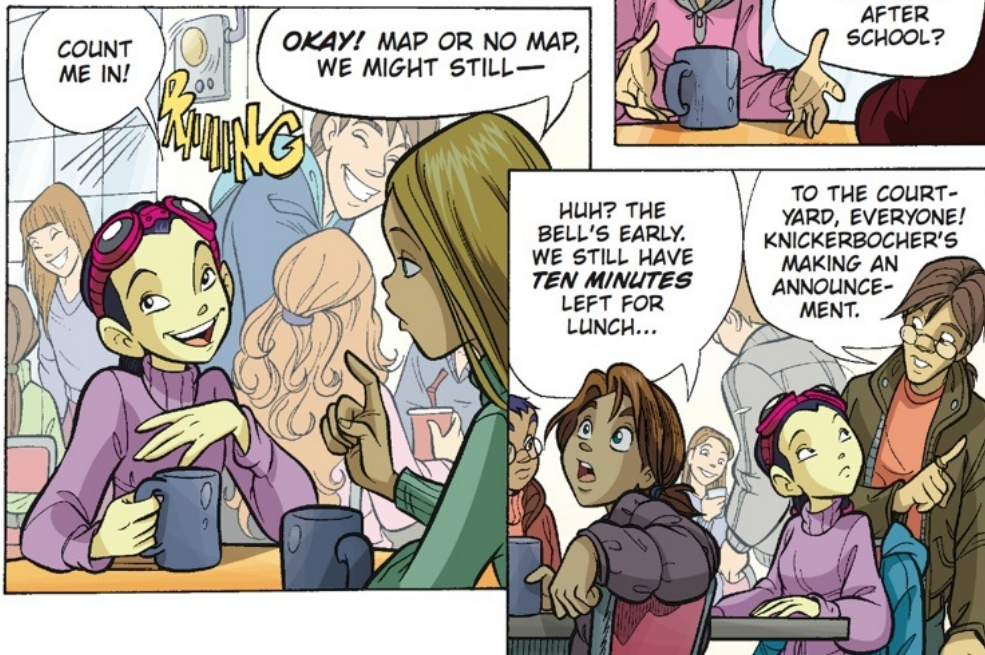
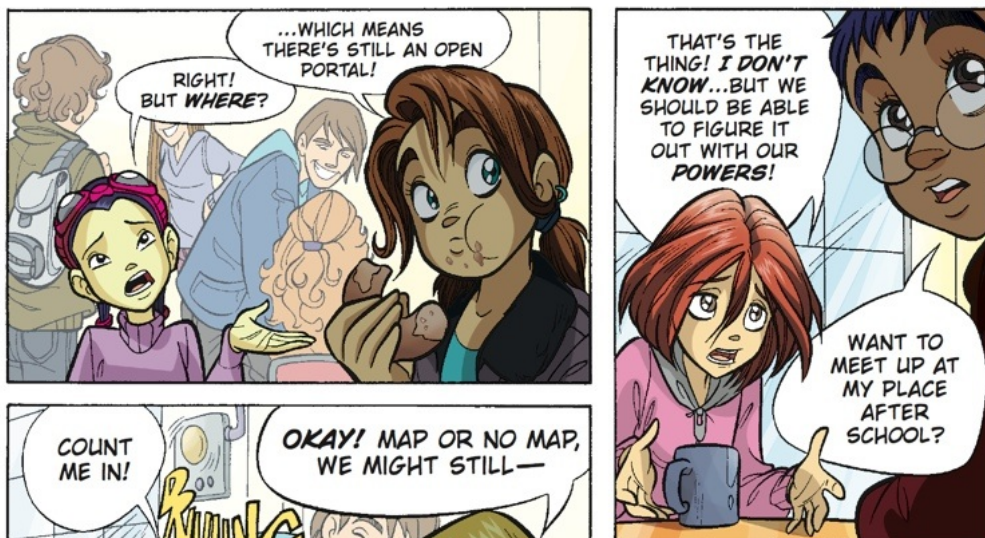
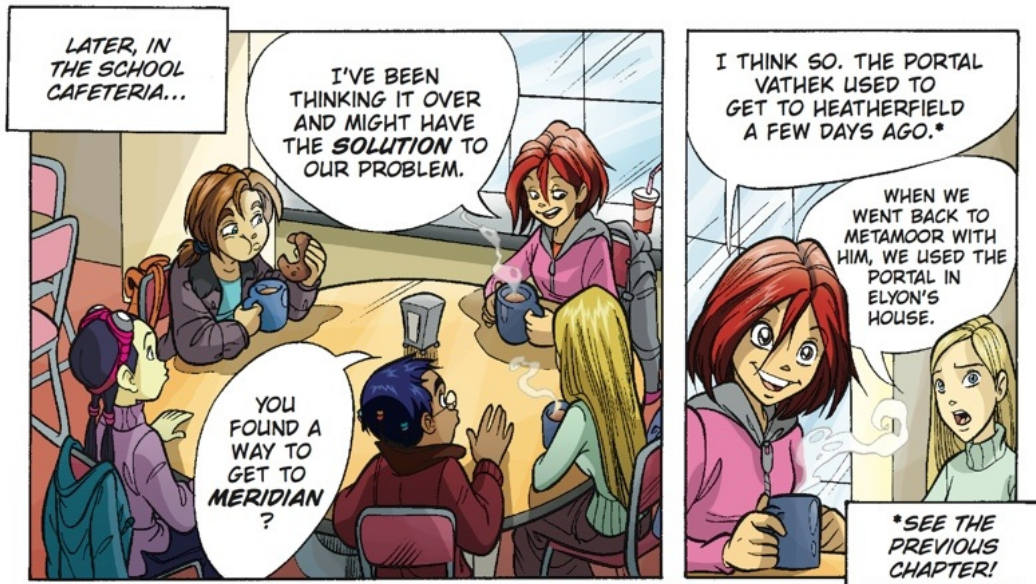




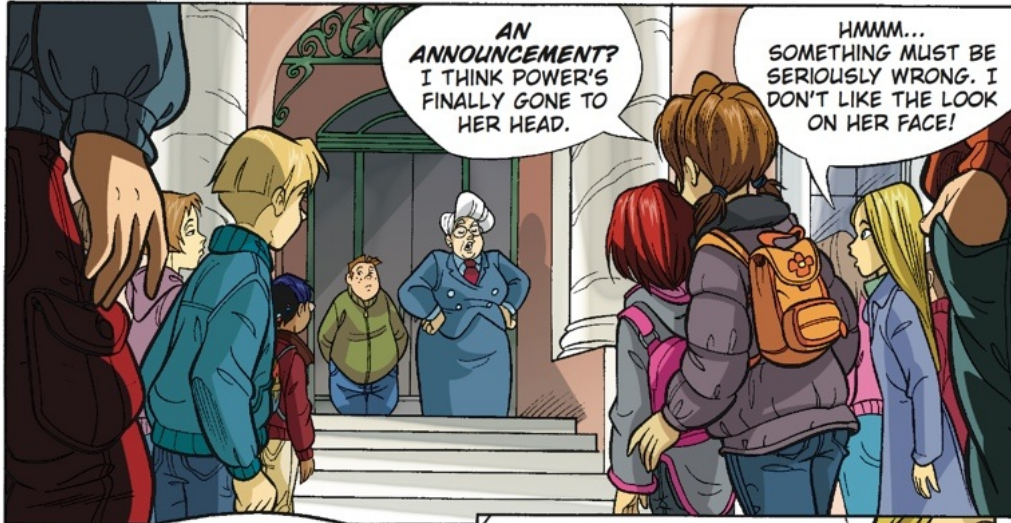












AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT?  
I THINK POWER'S  
FINALLY GONE TO  
HER HEAD.

HMMM...  
SOMETHING MUST BE  
SERIOUSLY WRONG. I  
DON'T LIKE THE LOOK  
ON HER FACE!

SOMETHING VERY  
SERIOUS HAS  
HAPPENED, CHILDREN.

I SHOULD REPORT THIS INCIDENT  
TO THE POLICE, *BUT*  
I'M *NOT* GOING TO  
DO THAT.

SOMEONE  
HAS STOLEN A  
WATCH FROM YOUR  
CLASSMATE DAVID  
BERLIN. NOTHING  
LIKE THIS HAS EVER  
HAPPENED IN MY  
SCHOOL!

I WOULD HOPE THAT THE  
RESPONSIBLE PARTY WILL THINK  
CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT HE  
OR SHE HAS DONE AND WILL  
RETURN THE WATCH TO ITS  
OWNER.

NOW I'LL RETURN TO MY  
OFFICE, AND YOU WILL GO  
STRAIGHT TO YOUR  
CLASSES,  
BUT KNOW  
THIS...





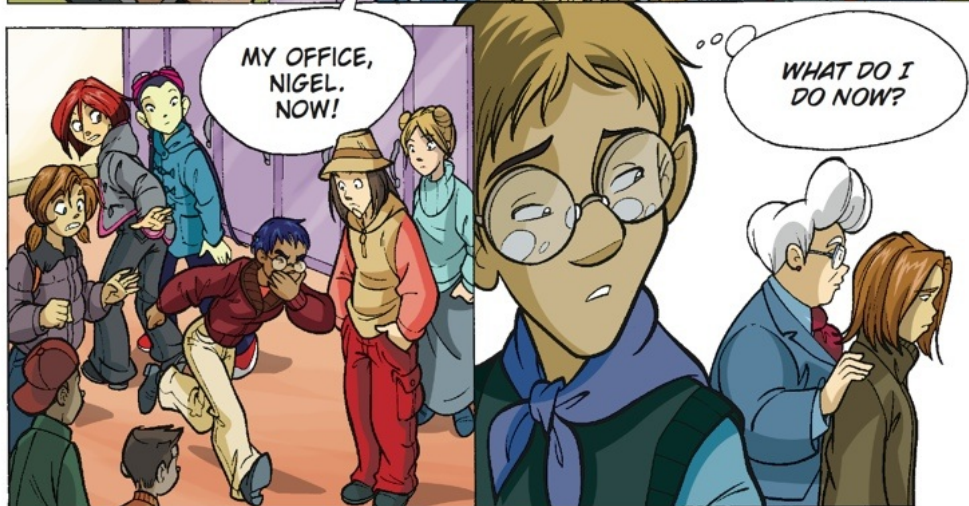








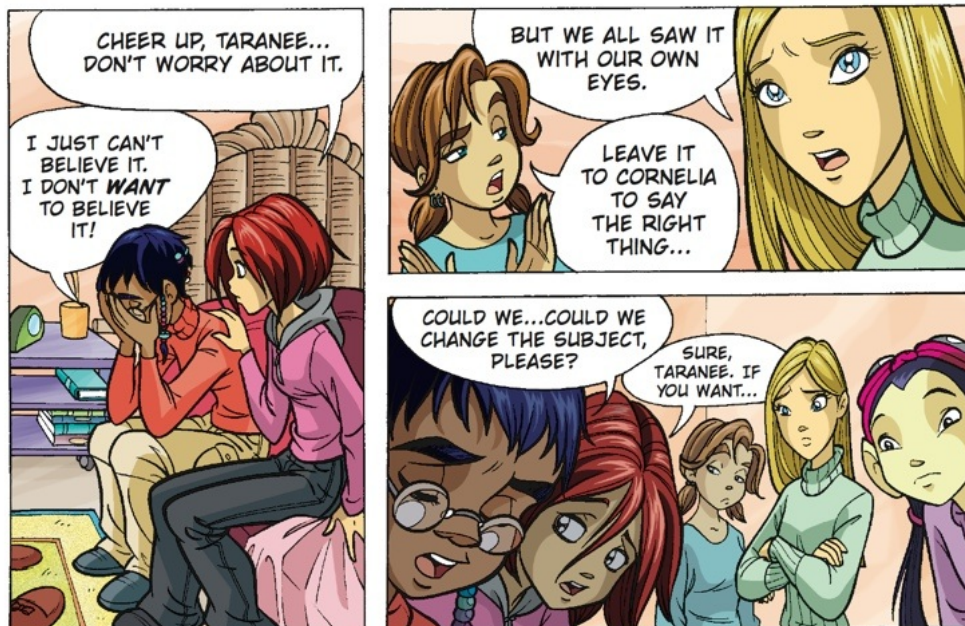
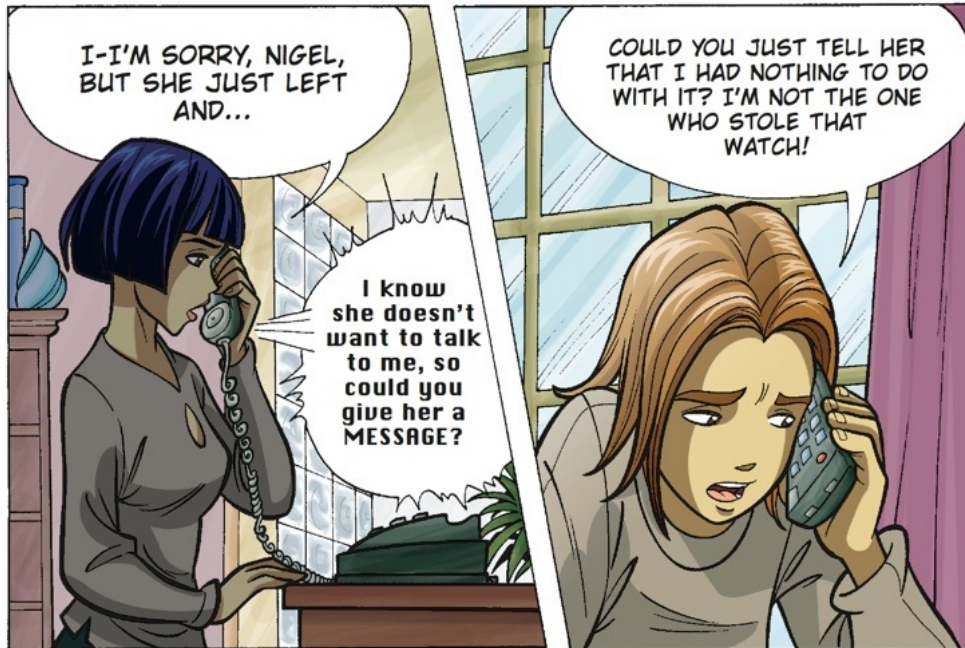










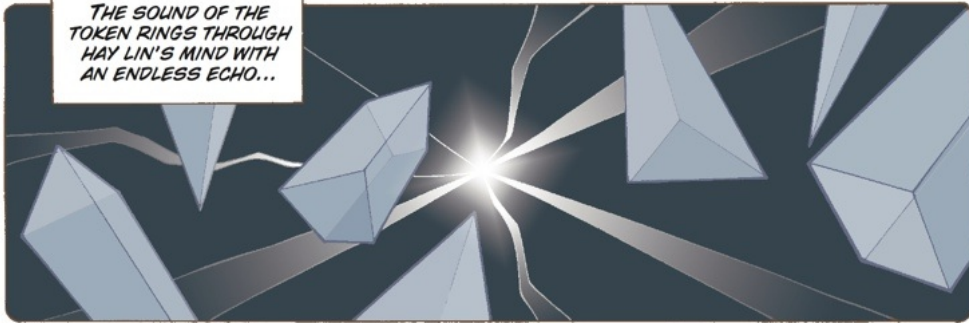








THE SOUND OF THE  
TOKEN RINGS THROUGH  
HAY LIN'S MIND WITH  
AN ENDLESS ECHO...



...AND BEFORE THE  
GIRL'S EYES PASS  
BLURRED AND JUMBLED  
IMAGES...



...THAT SOON  
SHARPEN.



OF COURSE.  
NOW I GET  
IT!

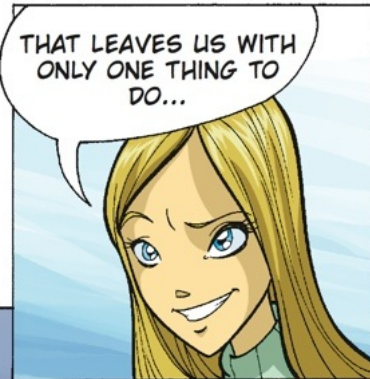


IT'S AN  
AMUSEMENT PARK!  
THE OLD ABANDONED  
**CARNIVAL** JUST  
OUTSIDE OF  
HEATHERFIELD.

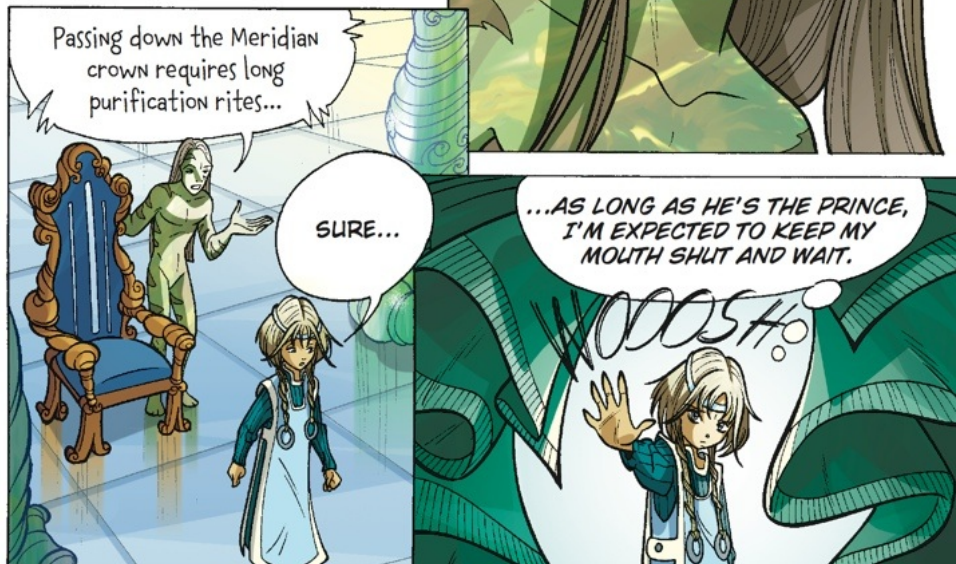
YOU'RE  
SURE?







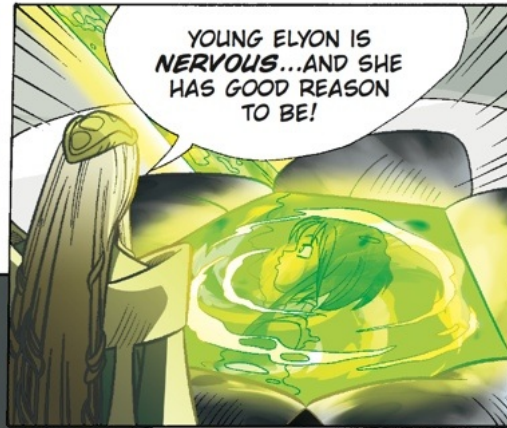




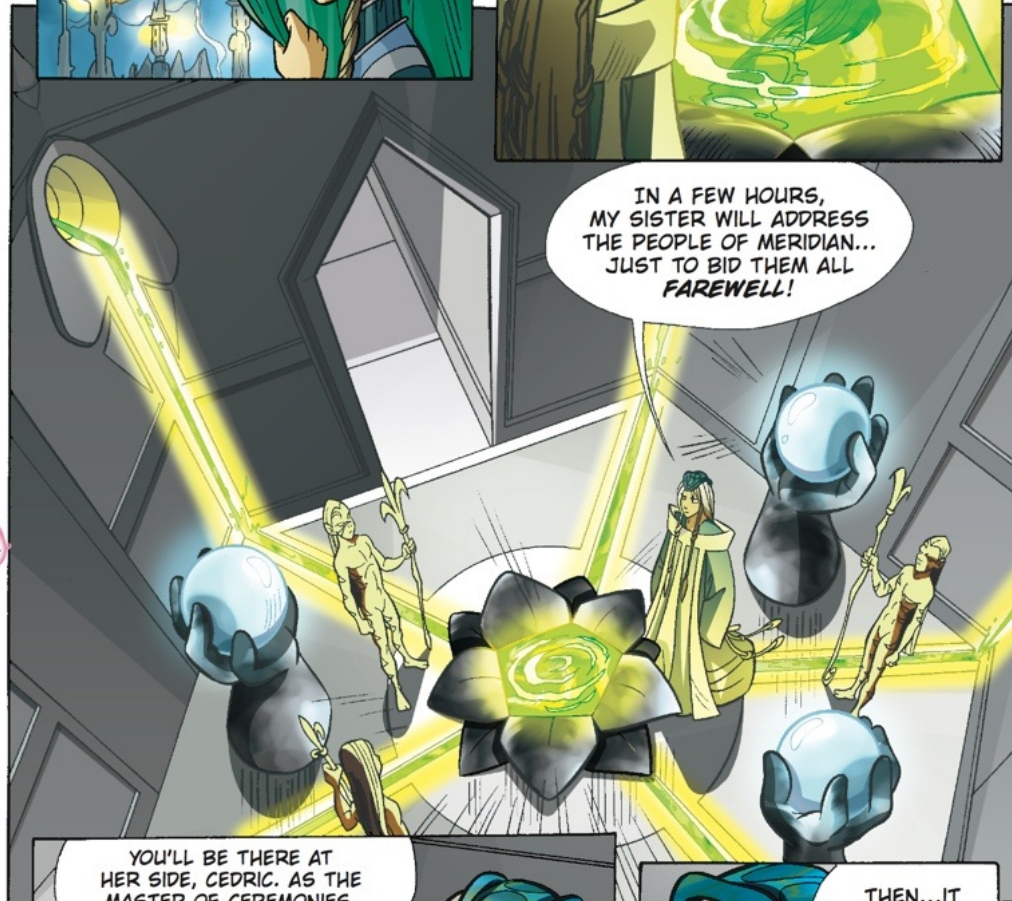




...BUT I STILL  
HAVEN'T LEARNED  
ANYTHING!  
TOMORROW, I'M  
GONNA DEMAND  
ANSWERS.

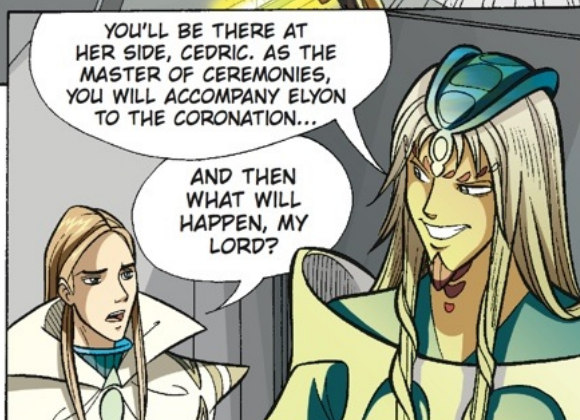


YOUNG ELYON IS  
**NERVOUS**...AND SHE  
HAS GOOD REASON  
TO BE!



IN A FEW HOURS,  
MY SISTER WILL ADDRESS  
THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN...  
JUST TO BID THEM ALL  
**FAREWELL!**

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YOU'LL BE THERE AT  
HER SIDE, CEDRIC. AS THE  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES,  
YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ELYON  
TO THE CORONATION...

AND THEN  
WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN, MY  
LORD?

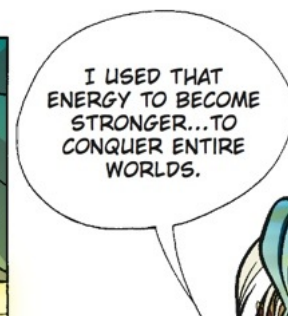


THEN...IT  
WILL BE THE  
BEGINNING OF  
THE END!





OBSERVE, CEDRIC. A RIVER OF **MAGICAL ENERGY** ONCE FLOWED THROUGH HERE... MERIDIAN'S PUREST, MOST POWERFUL RESOURCE.



I USED THAT ENERGY TO BECOME STRONGER...TO CONQUER ENTIRE WORLDS.



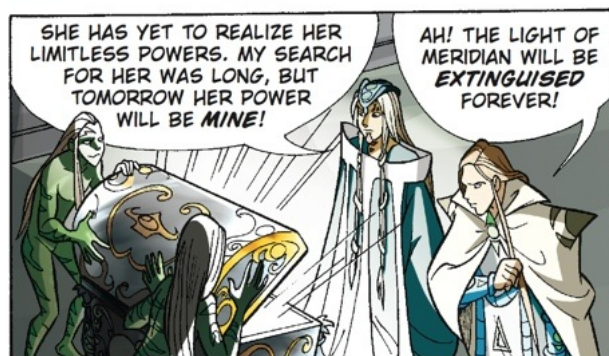
THOSE FOOLS FROM KANDRAKAR THOUGHT THEY COULD PUNISH ME BY CUTTING ME OFF FROM THE UNIVERSE WITH THEIR RIDICULOUS **VEIL!**



THE POWER THAT ONCE FLOWED IN ABUNDANCE IS NOW A MERE **TRICKLE!** THIS WORLD IS DESTINED FOR RUIN...



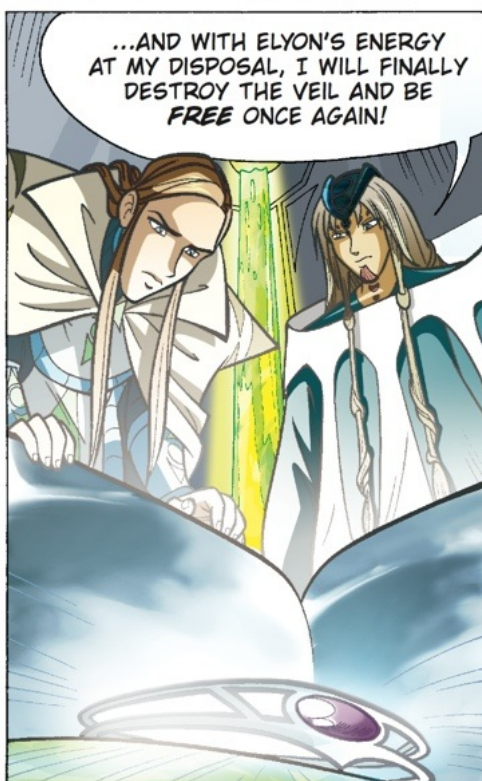
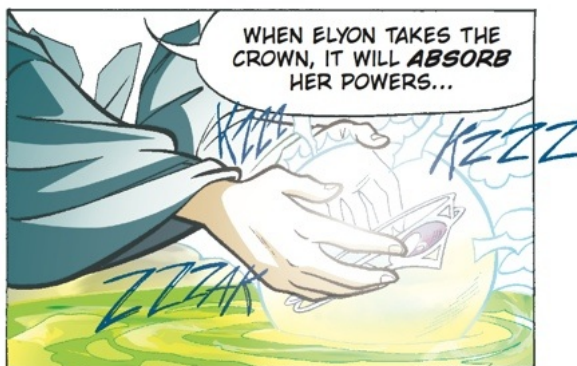
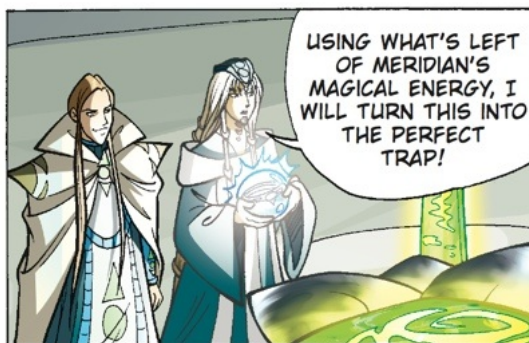
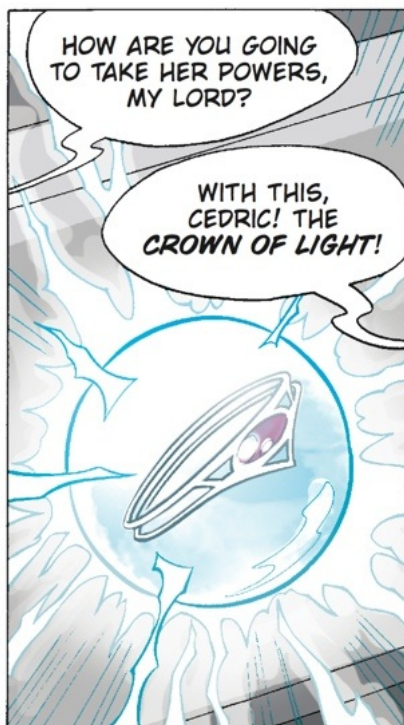
...BUT ELYON'S RETURN HAS CHANGED MANY THINGS. SHE IS THE **LIGHT OF MERIDIAN!**



SHE HAS YET TO REALIZE HER LIMITLESS POWERS. MY SEARCH FOR HER WAS LONG, BUT TOMORROW HER POWER WILL BE **MINE!**

AH! THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN WILL BE **EXTINGUISHED FOREVER!**







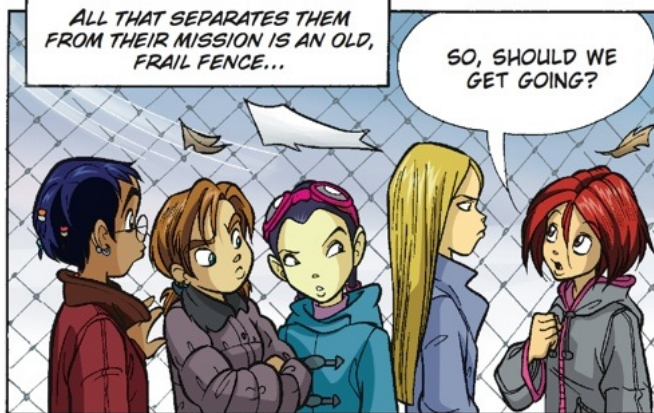




USING THEIR  
MAGIC, WILL  
AND HER  
FRIENDS  
HAVE LOCATED  
ANOTHER  
PORTAL TO  
MERIDIAN.



ALL THAT SEPARATES THEM  
FROM THEIR MISSION IS AN OLD,  
FRAIL FENCE...



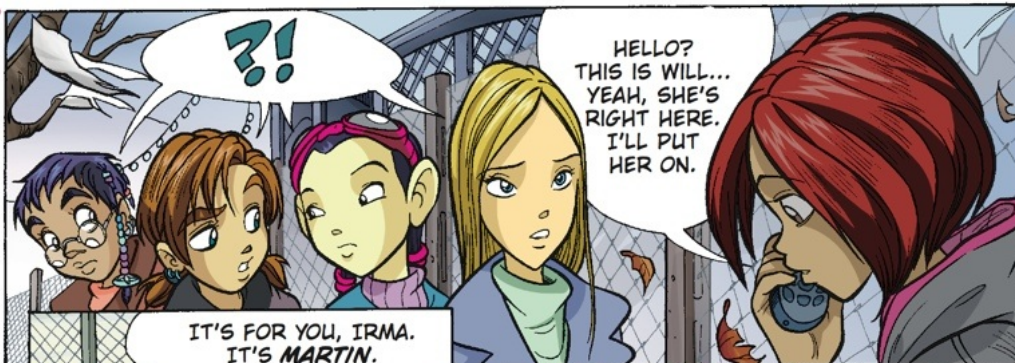
SO, SHOULD WE  
GET GOING?

BUT THE MISSION  
CANNOT BEGIN YET!



OOPS!

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?!

HELLO?  
THIS IS WILL...  
YEAH, SHE'S  
RIGHT HERE.  
I'LL PUT  
HER ON.

IT'S FOR YOU, IRMA.  
IT'S MARTIN.



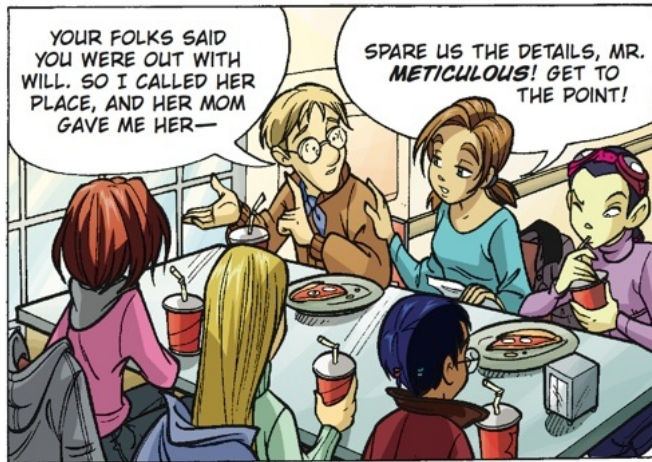
YOU'RE  
KIDDING,  
RIGHT?



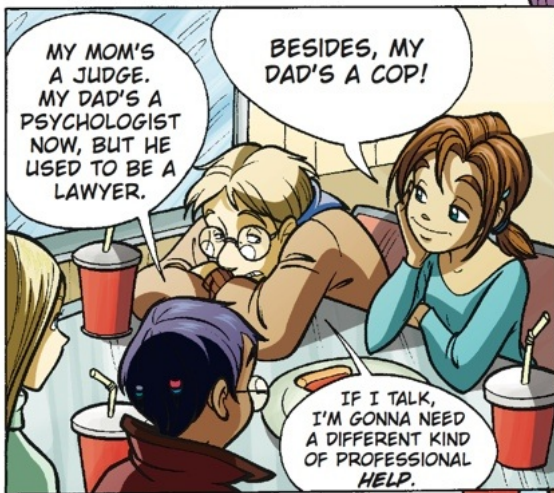
WHAT DO  
YOU WANT,  
MARTIN? I'M  
REALLY BUSY  
AND...

WHAT?  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?















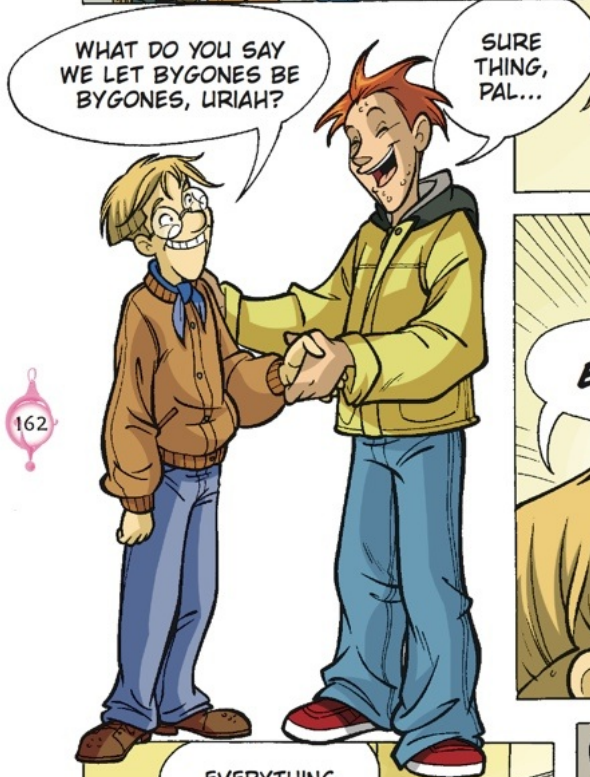


I'LL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT LATER ON TO EXPLAIN TO EVERYONE WHAT REALLY HAPPENED. ONE LAST THING, URIAH...



...THIS WHOLE THING ENDS RIGHT HERE. IF *ANYTHING* SHOULD HAPPEN TO MARTIN...AND YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...I WILL BE *EXTREMELY* ANGRY.

NO PROBLEM, MA'AM! I PROMISE!



WHAT DO YOU SAY WE LET BYGONES BE BYGONES, URIAH?

SURE THING, PAL...



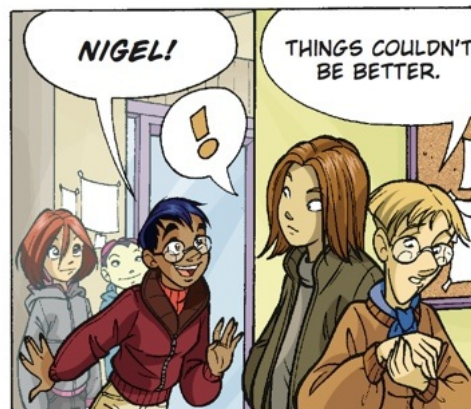
...So get ready to say bye-bye, 'cos you're definitely a goner! See you outside after school, snitch!

EEP!



EVERYTHING OKAY, MARTIN?

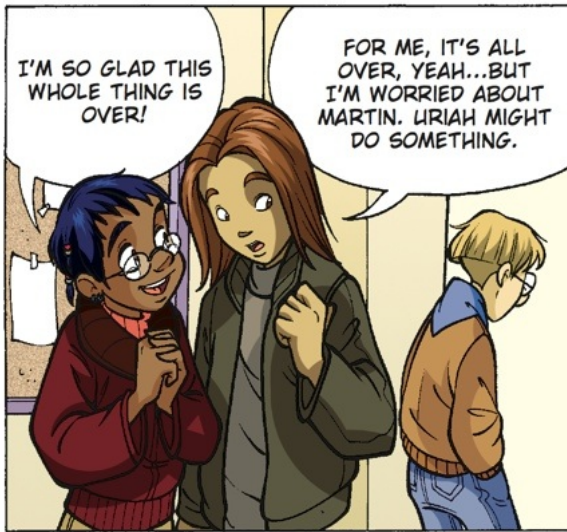
OH, S-SURE...



NIGEL!

THINGS COULDN'T BE BETTER.





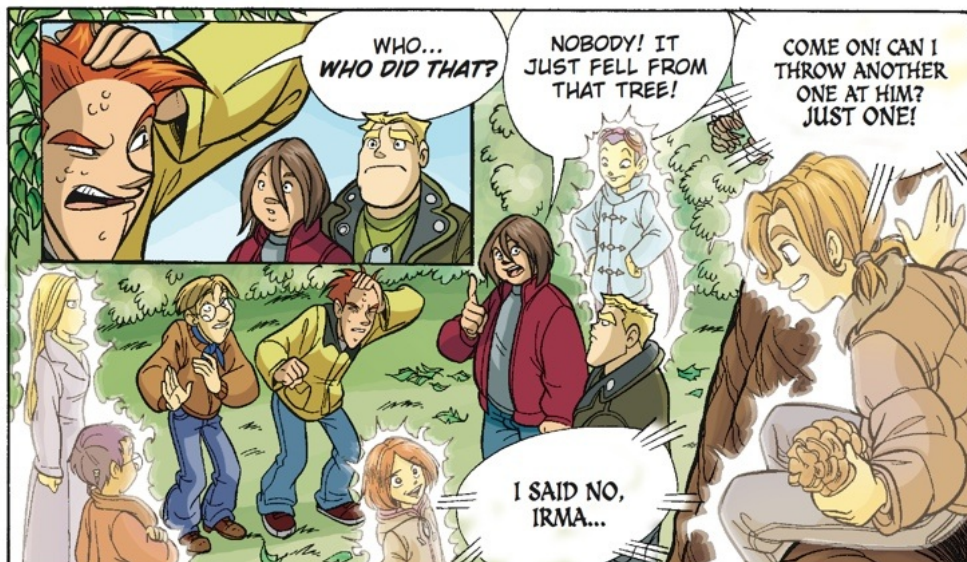
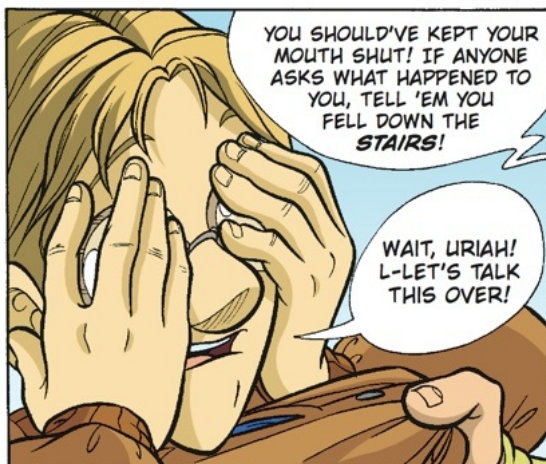




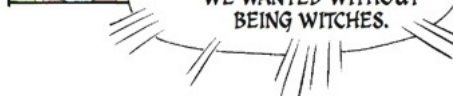








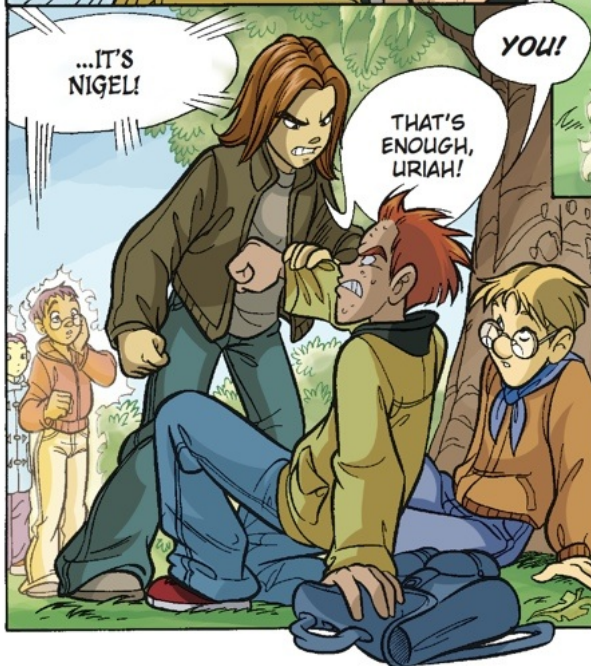




















"...I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T CAUSE AS MUCH TROUBLE AS THEY DID LAST TIME!"



"WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THEM RIGHT NOW. THE AMUSEMENT PARK'S WAITING."



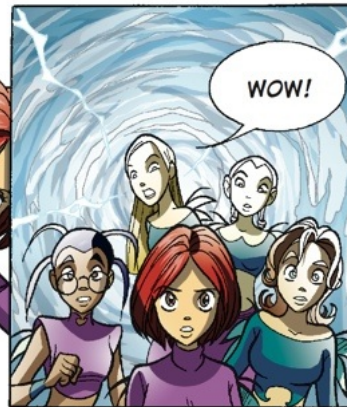








...AND  
HOPEFULLY, IT'LL  
TAKE US RIGHT  
TO HIM!



WOW!



WHAT'S HAPPENED TO  
MERIDIAN? WHAT'S WITH  
THE STREETS FULL OF  
HAPPY PEOPLE?

THINK WE TOOK  
A WRONG TURN?

IT MUST BE A CELEBRATION  
FOR THE CORONATION!  
WE GOT HERE JUST  
IN TIME!



THEN WE  
DON'T HAVE A  
MOMENT TO LOSE.  
WE HAVE TO FIND  
ELYON AND STAY  
BY HER SIDE!



WHICH MEANS  
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY  
INTO PHOBOS'S CASTLE.

FOLLOW ME!  
I KNOW A  
SHORTCUT!



THE PALACE GARDEN IS ON  
THE OTHER SIDE. THESE  
*ROSES* ARE ENCHANTED,  
BUT THEY'RE NO MATCH  
FOR CORNELIA!

I SURE  
HOPE  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.



AND...  
ONCE WE'RE  
INSIDE, WHAT  
DO WE DO?

SAME AS  
ALWAYS,  
IRMA...  
*IMPROVISE!*





HURRY UP! THE MAGIC IN THESE FLOWERS IS REALLY STRONG, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS PASSAGE OPEN!

NICE WORK, CORNY!

OOOF!



WELL, WELL, WELL! WHAT A SURPRISE!

HI! I WAS REALLY HOPING WE'D SEE YOU...



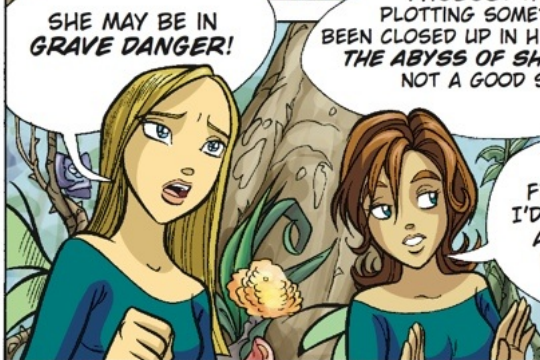
...DALTAR!

That must be the gardener she told us about!



NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MISS. THESE MUST BE...

YES! THESE ARE THE OTHER FOUR GUARDIANS OF KANDRAKAR! WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT ELYON!

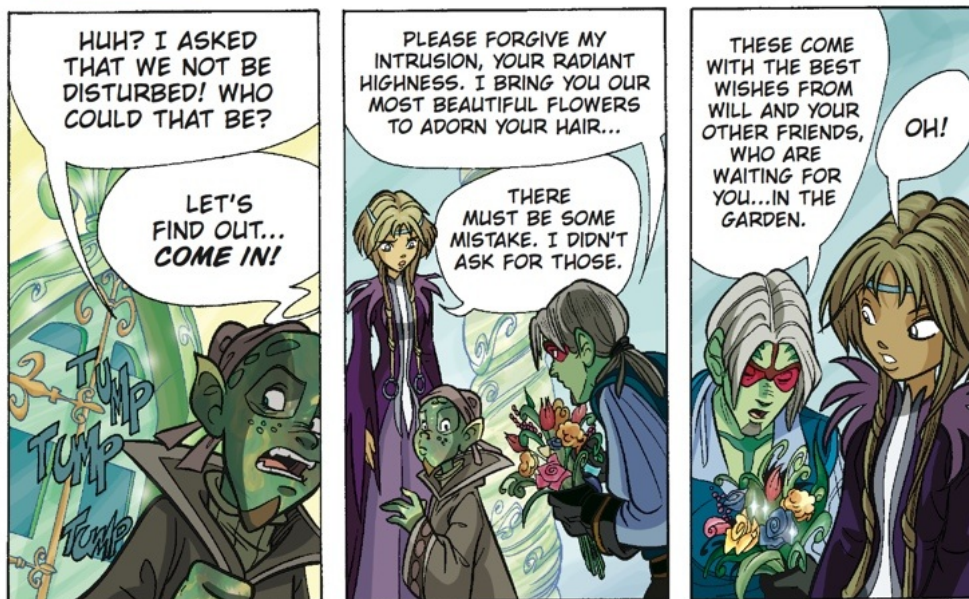
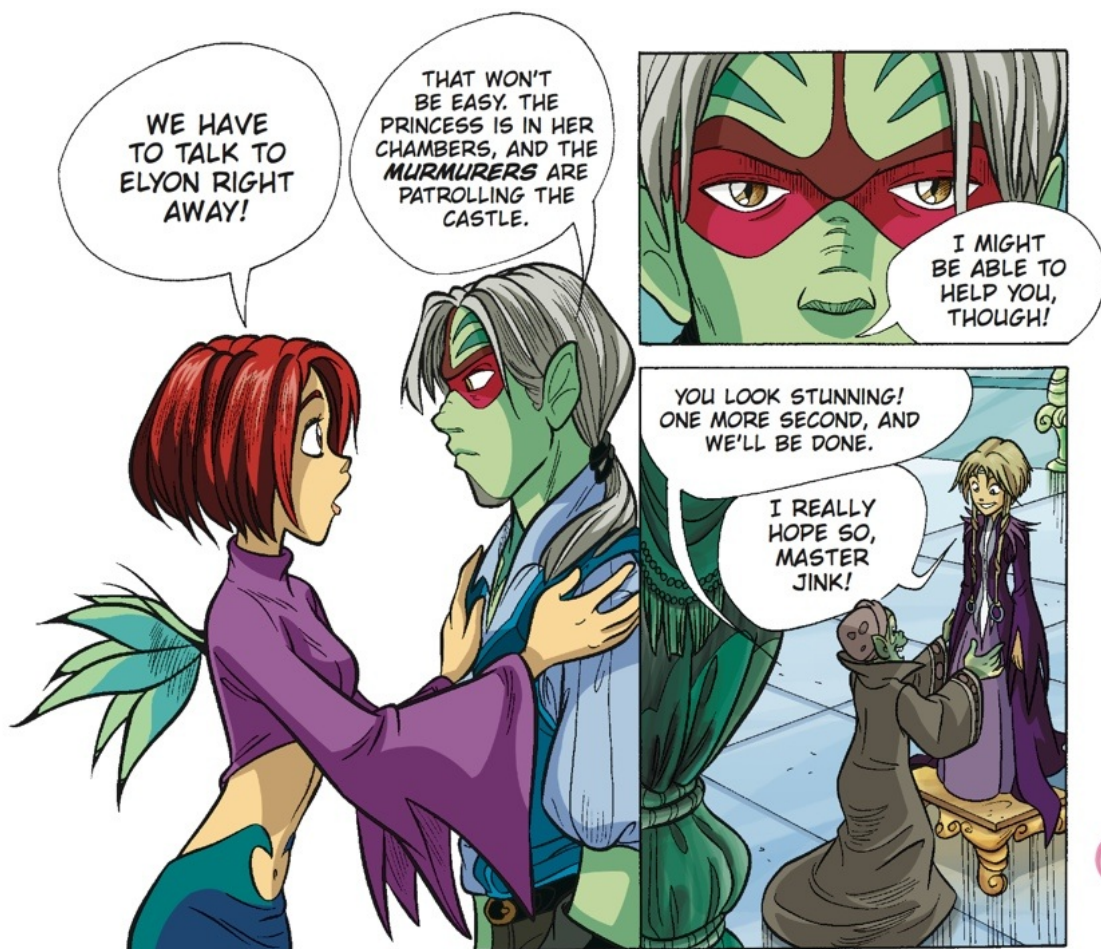


SHE MAY BE IN GRAVE DANGER!

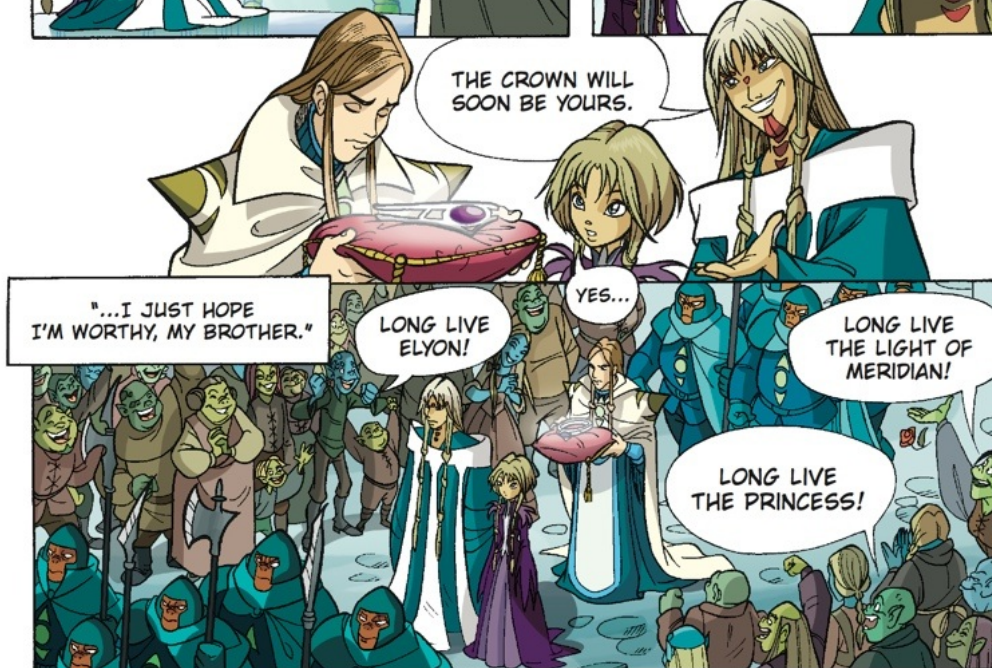
YOU MUST MEAN **PHOBOS**. THE PRINCE IS PLOTTING SOMETHING! HE'S BEEN CLOSED UP IN HIS HIDEAWAY, **THE ABYSS OF SHADOWS...** NOT A GOOD SIGN.

FROM THE NAME, I'D GUESS IT'S NOT A VERY CHEERY PLACE EITHER.

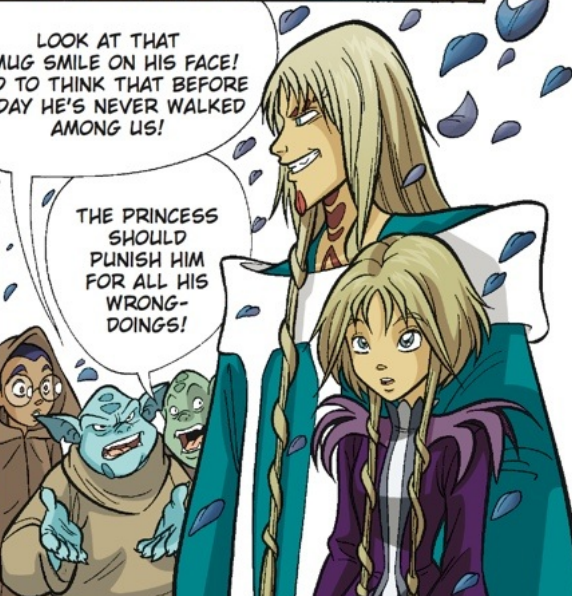
















A KINGDOM THAT  
FOR TOO LONG HAS  
BEEN DEPRIVED OF  
ITS RIGHTFUL  
QUEEN...



...AND  
WRONGFULLY  
RULED BY A  
BROTHER TOO  
LONG DEPRIVED  
OF HIS  
BELOVED  
SISTER!

DOESN'T SHE  
LOOK AMAZING?

SHHH!

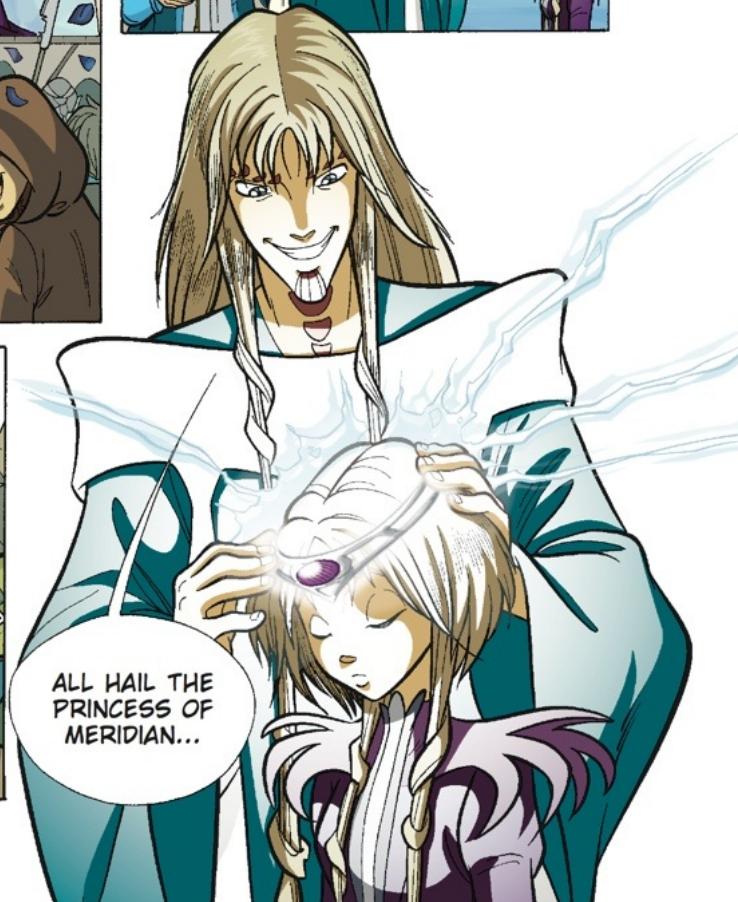


THEREFORE, ELYON, I BESTOW  
UPON YOU THIS SYMBOL OF  
JUSTICE AND WISDOM, OF HONOR  
AND LOYALTY!

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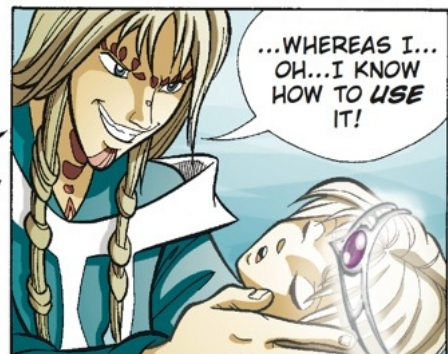
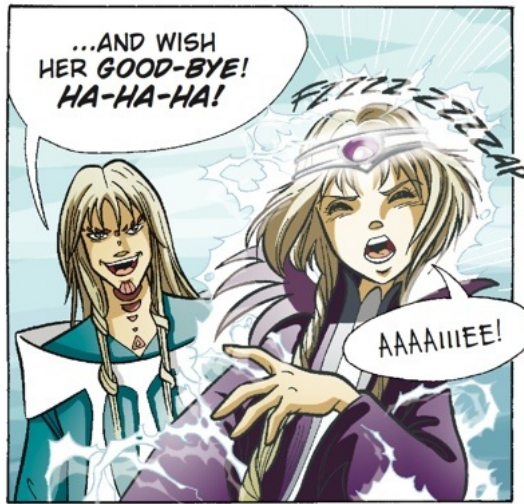


MAY YOUR ETERNAL POWER  
ILLUMINATE THE SPIRIT AND  
THE PATH OF YOUR LOYAL  
SUBJECTS!



ALL HAIL THE  
PRINCESS OF  
MERIDIAN...

















ARISE,  
ANNIHILATORS!



...RISE UP AND  
DESTROY THOSE WHO  
DARED TO DISOBEY  
THE RULER OF  
MERIDIAN!



FRIENDS OF YOURS,  
HAY LIN?

BY THE  
LOOKS OF THEM,  
I THOUGHT THEY  
WERE YOURS!

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CURSED ELYON!  
GET HER!  
DON'T LET HER  
ESCAPE!



TAKE THE  
PRINCESS TO  
SAFETY!



YOU'RE NOT  
GOING ANYWHERE,  
LITTLE GIRL...

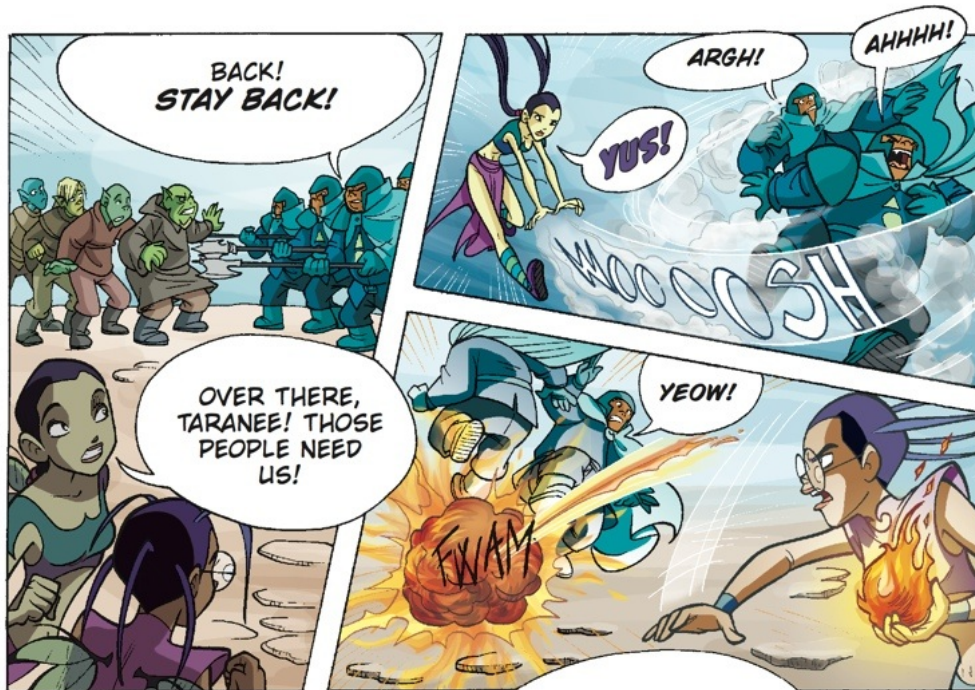


I'VE HAD ENOUGH  
OF YOU, CEDRIC!





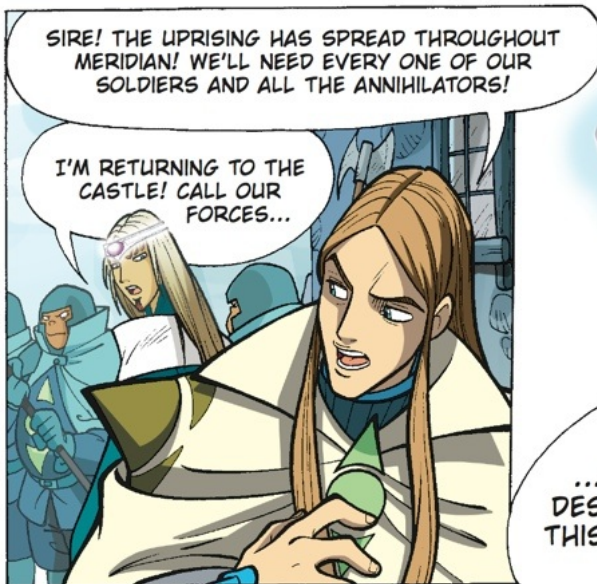


















THIS...THIS  
WASN'T SUPPOSED  
TO HAPPEN!



WHY?

"WHY?"



END OF  
CHAPTER 11

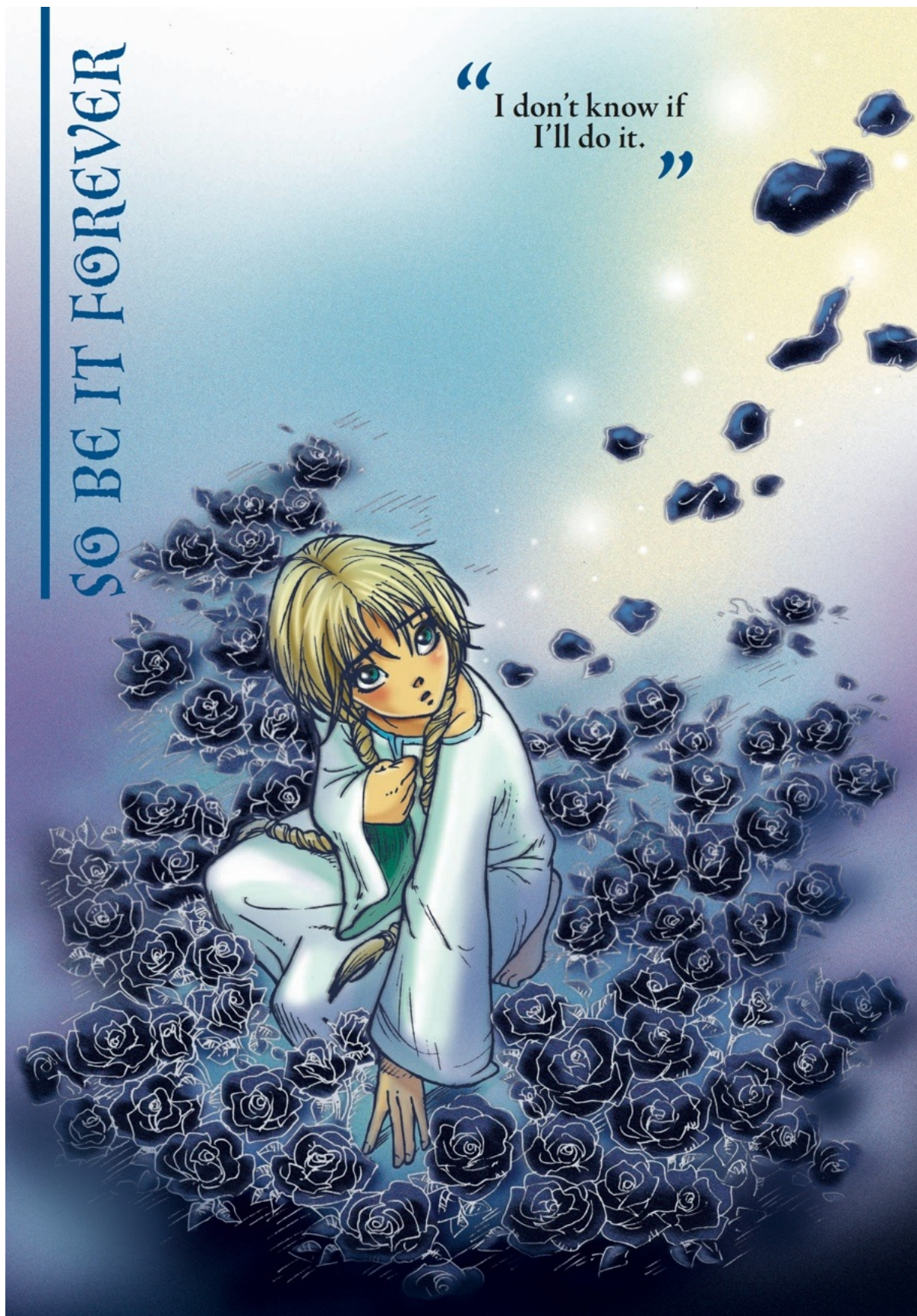






# SO BE IT FOREVER

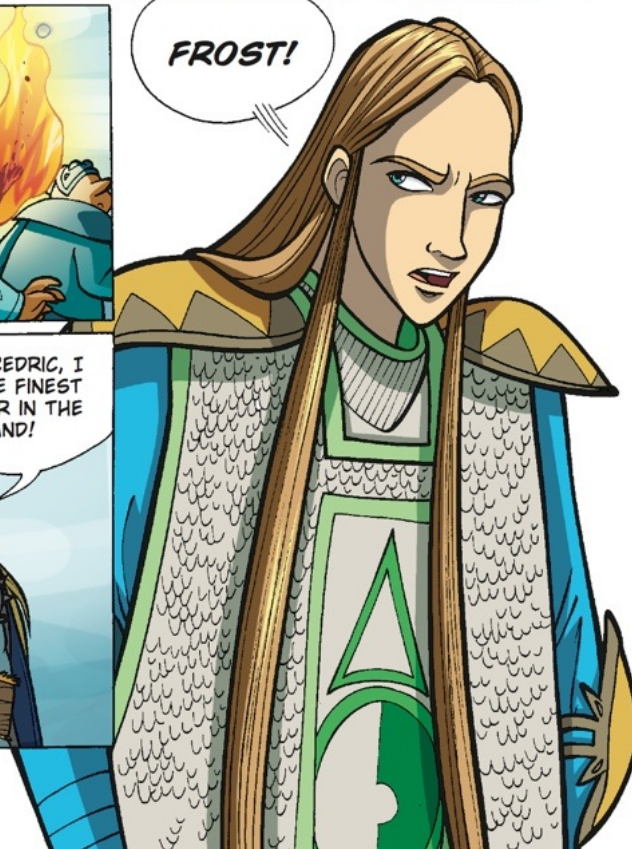
“I don't know if  
I'll do it.”



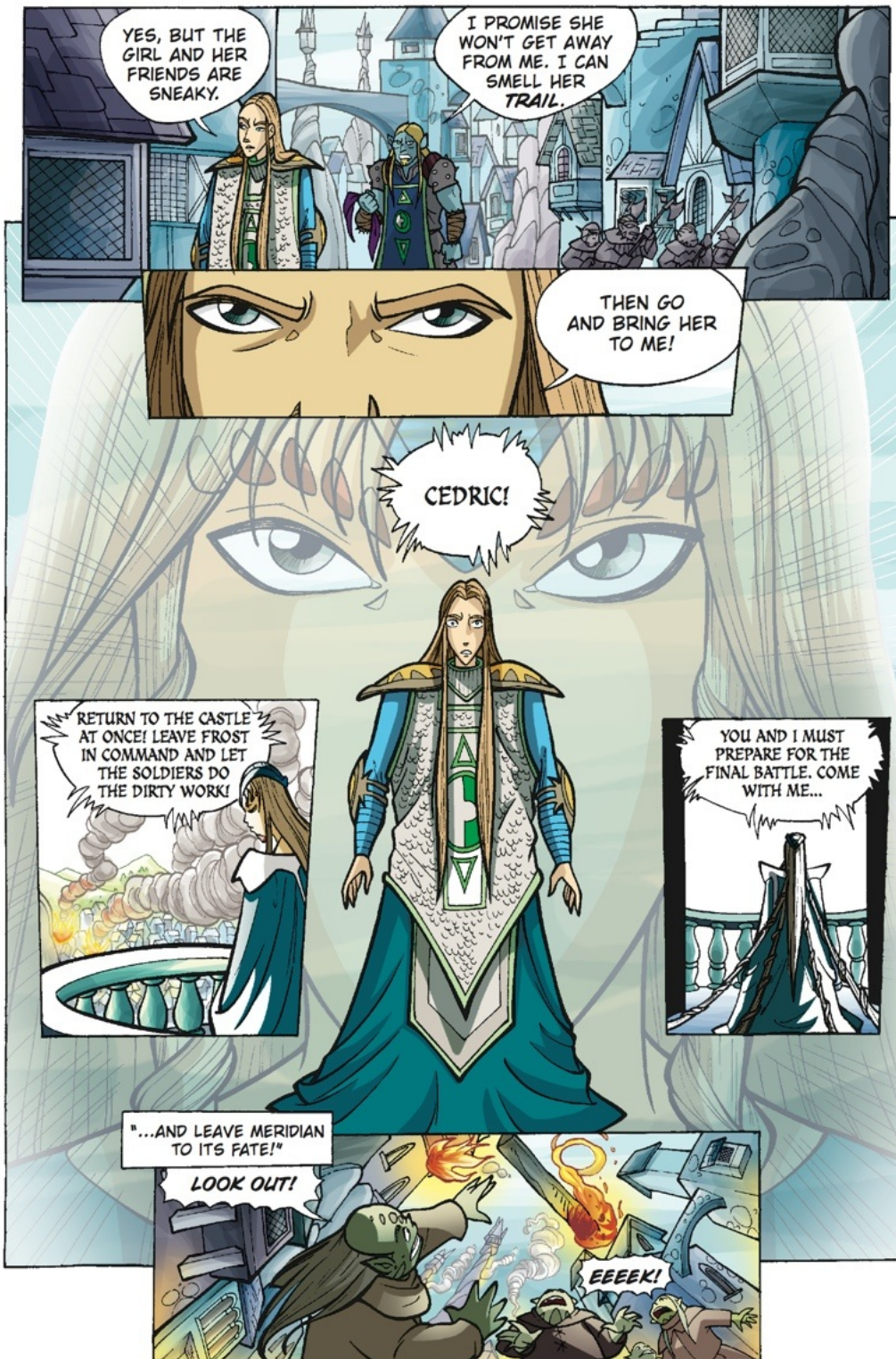














"THE MOMENT OF TRUTH HAS ARRIVED!"



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PUT OUT THOSE FLAMES, TARANEE! THE REST OF YOU, RUN FOR COVER, QUICKLY!

MAY THE STAR OF MERIDIAN PROTECT YOU, GIRLS.

COME ON! HELP ME SHUT THIS!

COMING, VATHEK!



THIS IS A DISASTER! THEY'RE DESTROYING THE CITY!

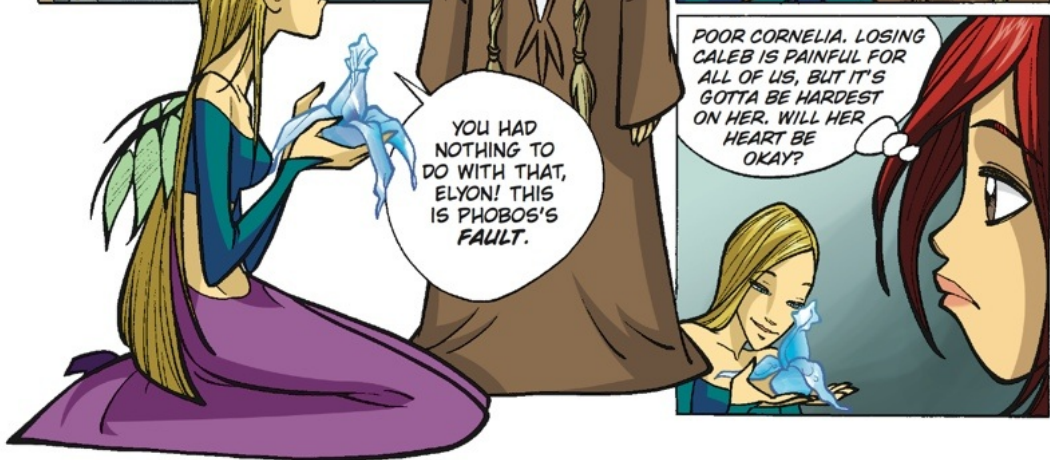
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT PHOBOS WANTS!

BY NOW, I'D SAY ANY SECOND CHANCES FOR YOUR BROTHER ARE GONE.

THIS IS MY FAULT! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!





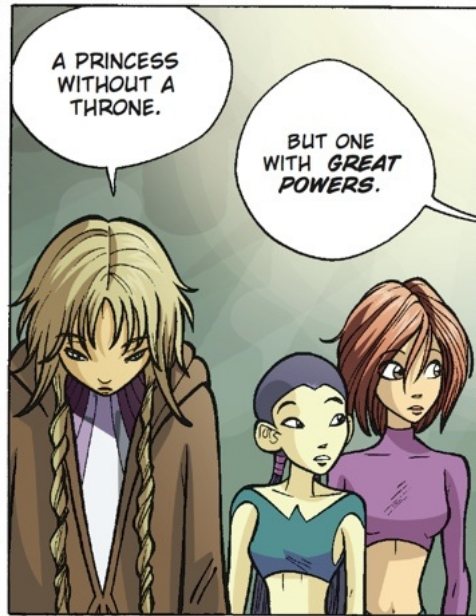






WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING! THESE PEOPLE EXPECT THINGS FROM US, ESPECIALLY FROM YOU, ELYON.

YOU'RE THEIR **PRINCESS** NOW.



A PRINCESS WITHOUT A THRONE.

BUT ONE WITH **GREAT POWERS.**



FATHER! MOTHER!

OH, ELYON. AT LAST, WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN.



THEY LOOK SIMILAR, YEAH?

STOP JOKING AROUND, IRMA. YOU KNOW THOSE ARE HER ADOPTIVE PARENTS. THEY TOOK HER TO SAFETY!



AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU!

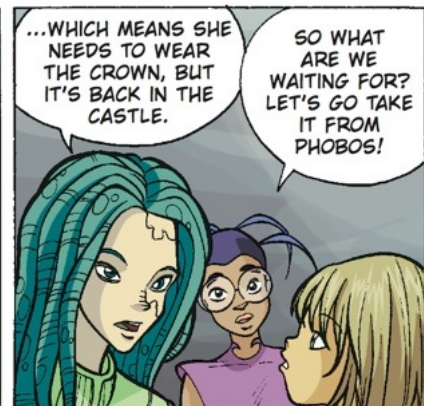
YOU KNEW US AS **THOMAS** AND **ELEANOR**...



...BUT MY REAL NAME IS **ALBORN**. I WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL GUARD OF MERIDIAN.

AND I'M **MIRIADEL**. I WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY.















"THE CROWN  
AWAITS YOU!"



RAAAAARGH!



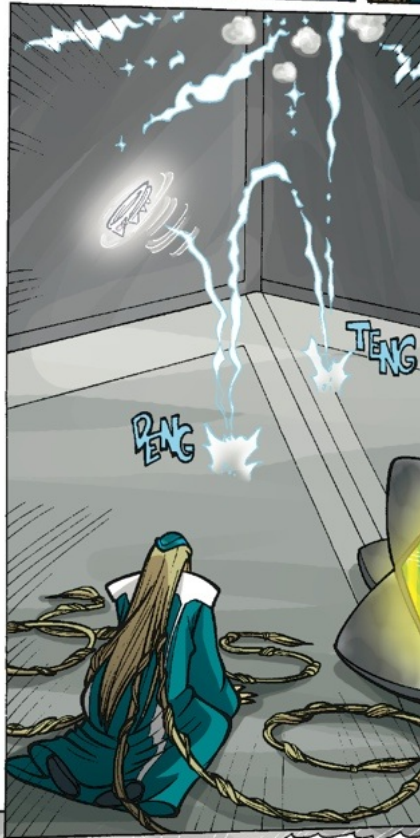
NOTHING!  
BLAST!  
NOTHING IS  
HAPPENING!



LOOK, CEDRIC!  
I'VE TRIED TO  
DESTROY THE  
CROWN IN EVERY  
WAY IMAGINABLE,  
BUT IT DOESN'T  
BEAR A SINGLE  
SCRATCH!



200



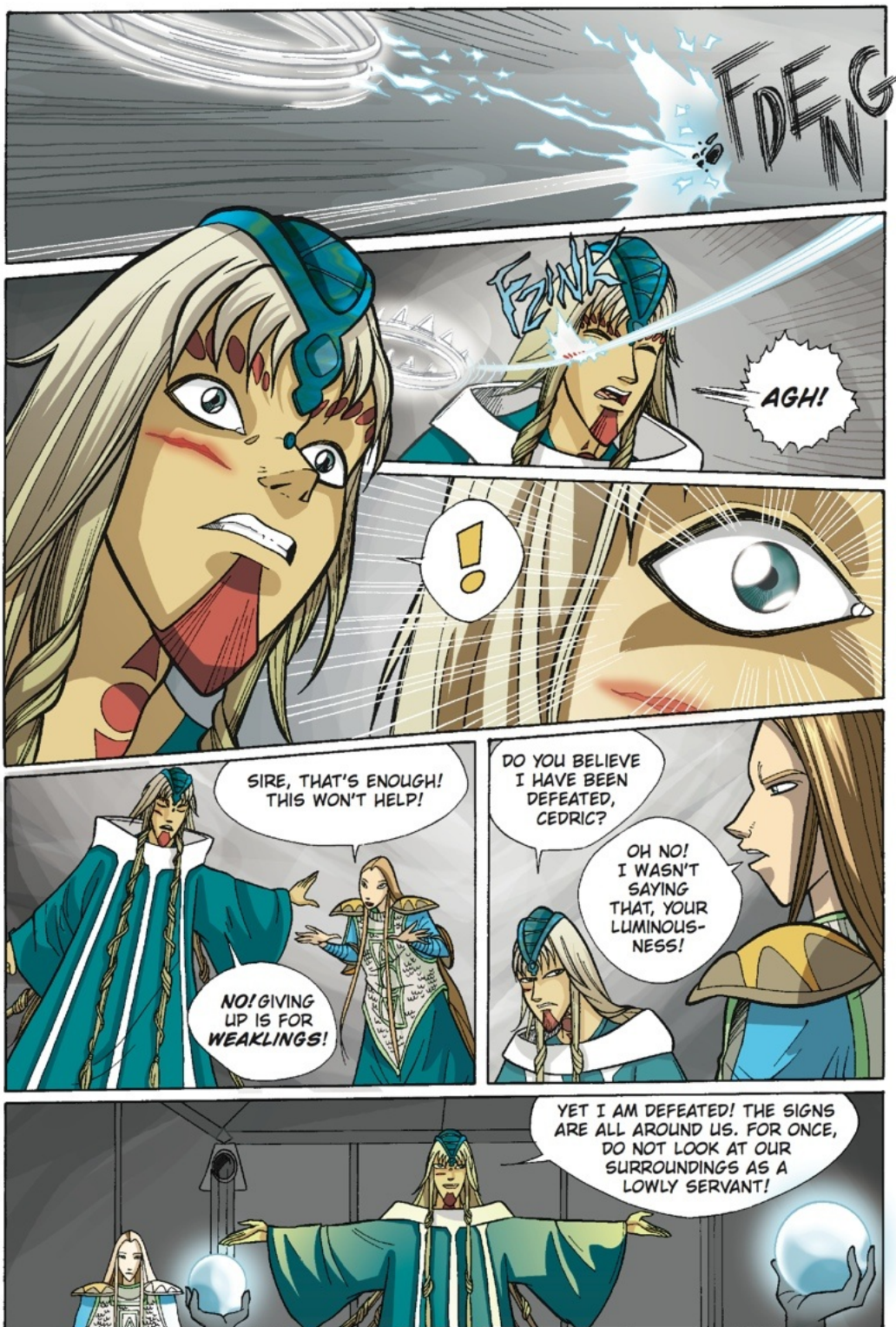
WHY?  
WHY?  
WHY?



WHYYYYYY?











THE WORLD IS DYING!  
I CONSUMED IT! NOW IT'S  
IN SHAMBLES!



ABSORBING MY SISTER'S  
POWERS SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN SO  
SIMPLE...  
MY ULTIMATE  
VICTORY.

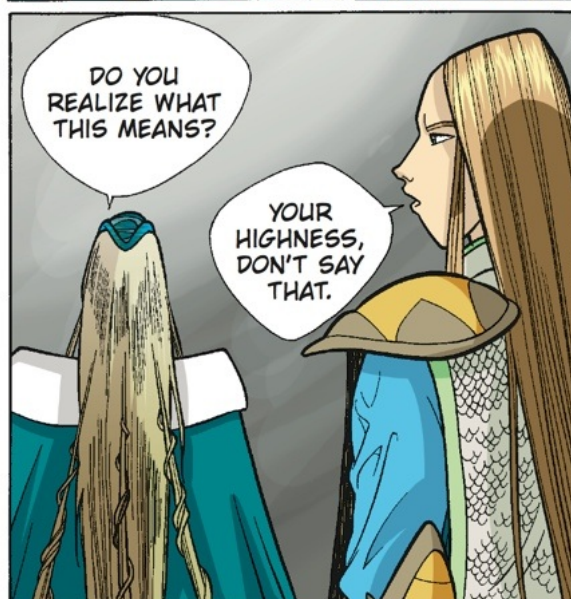


YET JUST AS I CANNOT  
BEND THIS RING OF  
METAL, I CANNOT BEND  
HER WILL!

THE FAULT  
LIES ONLY  
IN THE SPELL  
CAST ON THE  
CROWN.



NO, CEDRIC. THE  
**FAULT** IS ALL  
**MINE!** I AM  
WEAKENING. I'VE  
USED UP ALL  
THE ENERGY  
FROM  
METAMOOR.



DO YOU  
REALIZE WHAT  
THIS MEANS?

YOUR  
HIGHNESS,  
DON'T SAY  
THAT.



BUT I  
WILL NOT  
GO DOWN  
WITHOUT  
A FIGHT!  
IF I CAN'T  
HAVE THIS  
CITY, THEN  
**NO ONE**  
WILL!













...LOOK AT THESE FOOTPRINTS. THE REBELS ARE HIDING HERE.



THESE TRACKS ARE FRESH! THEY CAN'T HAVE LEFT LONG AGO, AND THE **PRINCESS** WAS WITH THEM!

GET GOING, MEN! HURRY!



THE GOWN...THE GOWN IS NEARBY!

STAY ALERT! ELYON WON'T BE ALONE! BE READY TO...



!

HUH?



IT'S... IT'S HER GOWN!

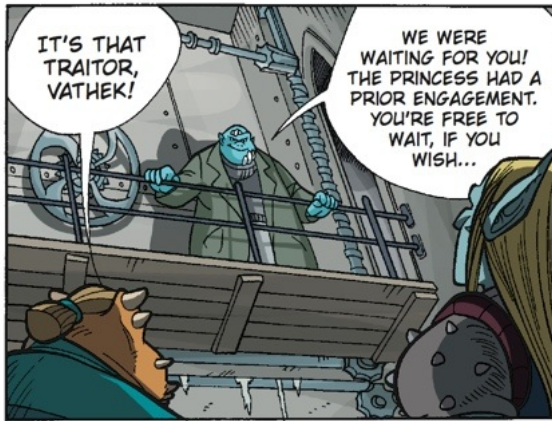
YES, I CAN SEE THAT! BUT WHERE'S THE PRINCESS? WHERE ARE THE REBELS?



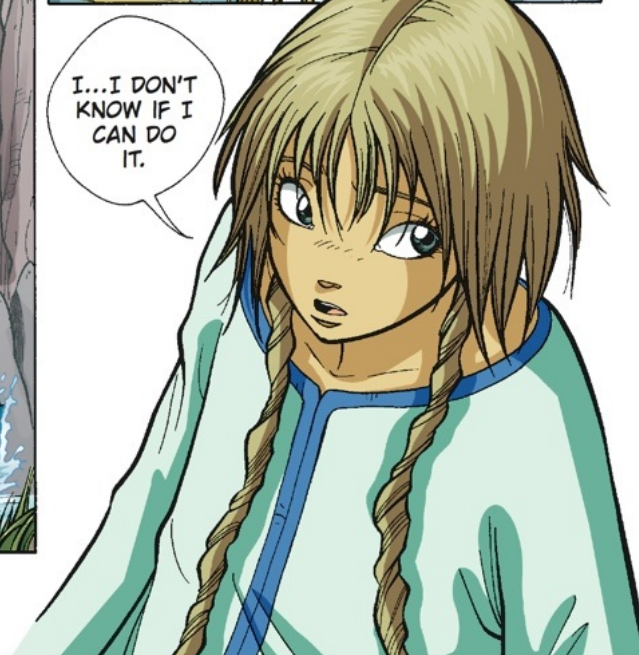
THERE!

LOOKING FOR US?









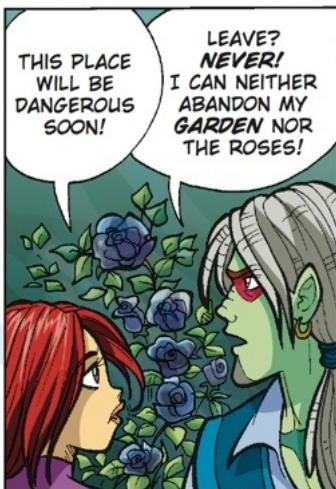
















ANNIHILATORS!

SEVEN ON TWO?  
UNFAIR, BUT  
WHATEVER!

THOOM-  
THOOM  
THOOM



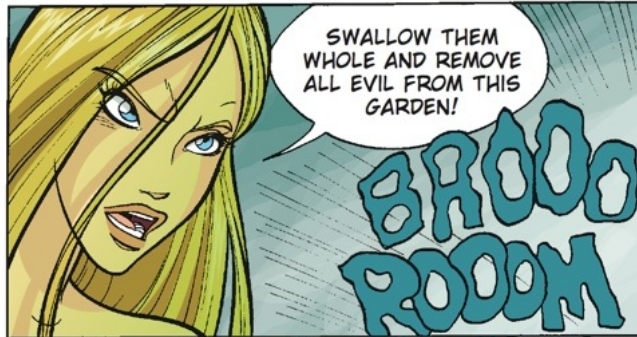
SAVE YOUR  
STRENGTH, IRMA!  
I CAN TAKE  
CARE OF  
THEM!

FZZ-  
ZZZAAK



EARTH,  
SWALLOW  
THEM!

KRA-KOOM



SWALLOW THEM  
WHOLE AND REMOVE  
ALL EVIL FROM THIS  
GARDEN!

BROOO  
ROOM



She's  
scary when  
she's angry!

From  
now on,  
let's not  
provoke  
her!



AH, HERE THEY  
ARE. COME ON IN,  
LADIES. I'VE BEEN  
EXPECTING YOU...



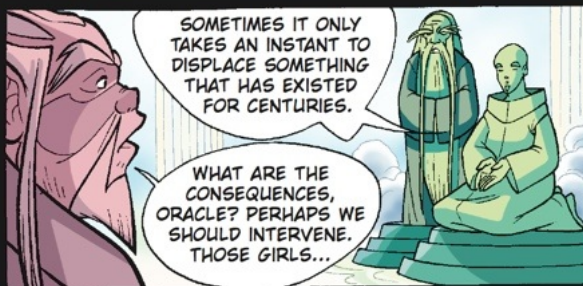
EVEN IN KANDRAKAR,  
EVERYONE IS WATCHING  
W.I.T.C.H. WITH  
BATED BREATH...



I'VE SAID  
IT BEFORE AND  
WILL SAY IT AGAIN,  
MY WISE  
FOLLOWERS...



...TIME IS UNFOLDING  
IN WAYS I HAVE  
NOT FORESEEN.



SOMETIMES IT ONLY  
TAKES AN INSTANT TO  
DISPLACE SOMETHING  
THAT HAS EXISTED  
FOR CENTURIES.

WHAT ARE THE  
CONSEQUENCES,  
ORACLE? PERHAPS WE  
SHOULD INTERVENE.  
THOSE GIRLS...



NO, **BOLGO**.  
THE GIRLS HAVE  
DONE EVEN MORE THAN  
WE HAVE ASKED OF  
THEM, BY WORKING FOR  
THE GOOD OF  
MERIDIAN!



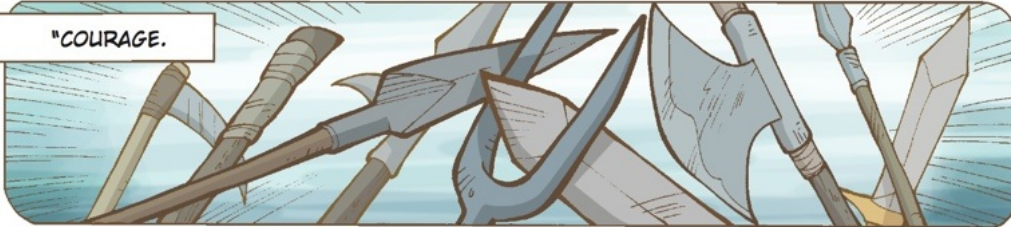
THESE BATTLES SIGNIFY CHANGE!  
THE PEOPLE OF METAMOR ARE  
REDISCOVERING THINGS THEY'D  
LONG FORGOTTEN...



"PRIDE.



"COURAGE.



"FREEDOM!"

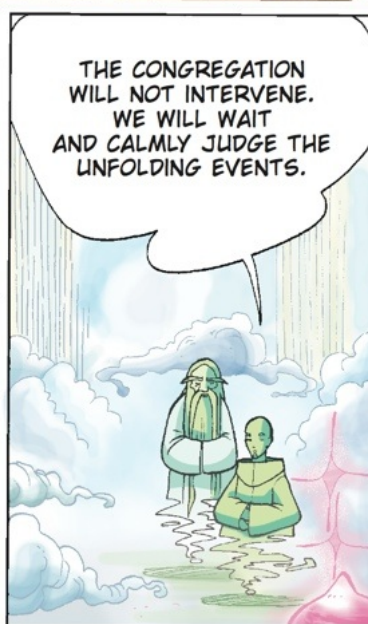


BY  
PUBLICLY  
ATTACKING HIS  
SISTER, PHOBOS  
BELIEVED HE WOULD  
IMPOSE HIS WILL  
ONCE MORE...

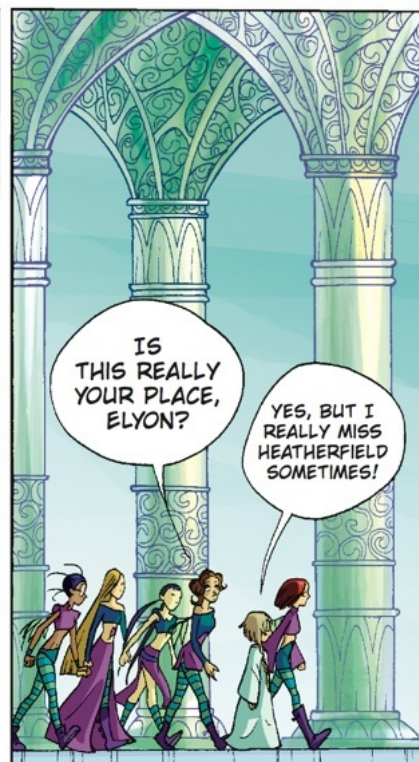
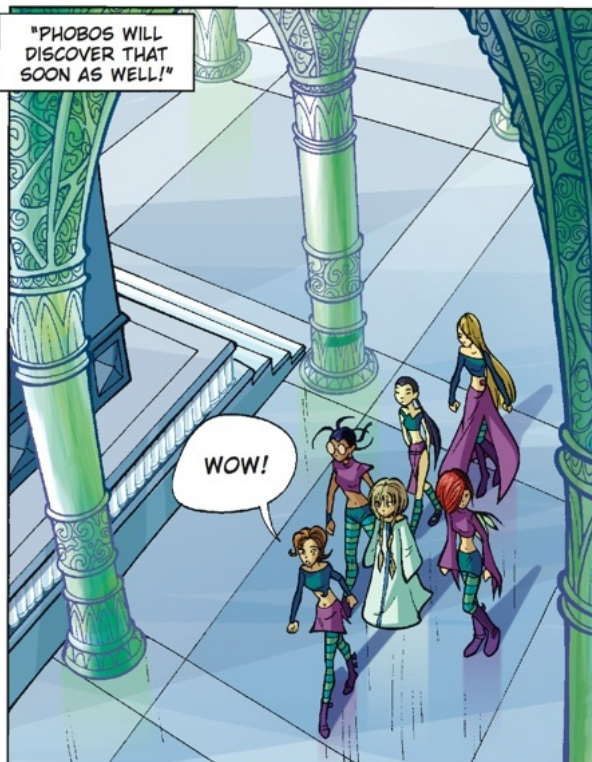
...BUT HE COMMITTED  
A GRAVE ERROR.



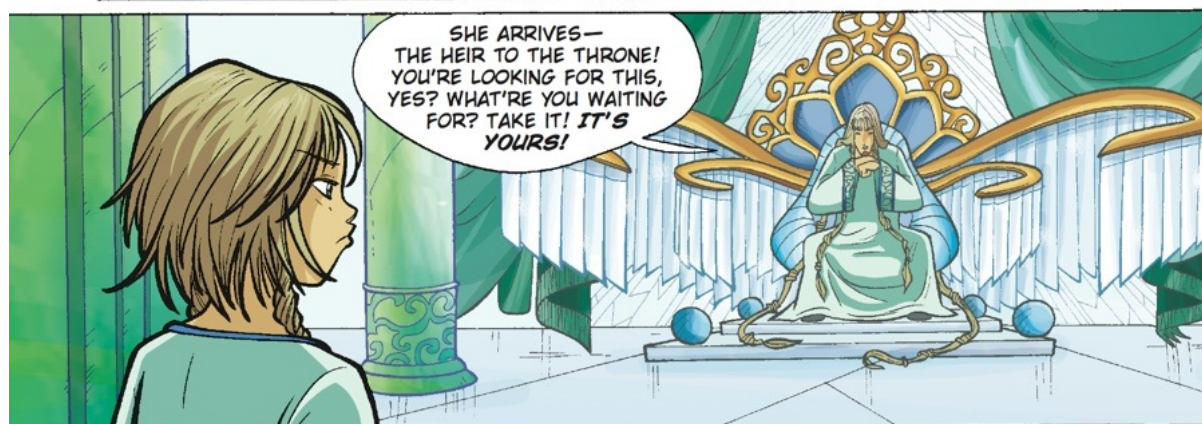
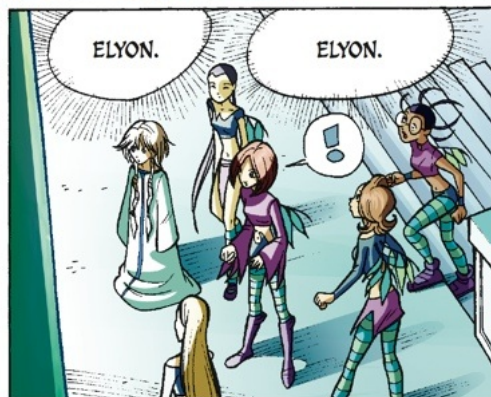
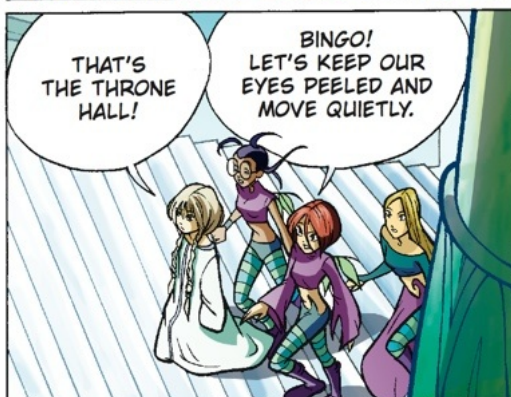
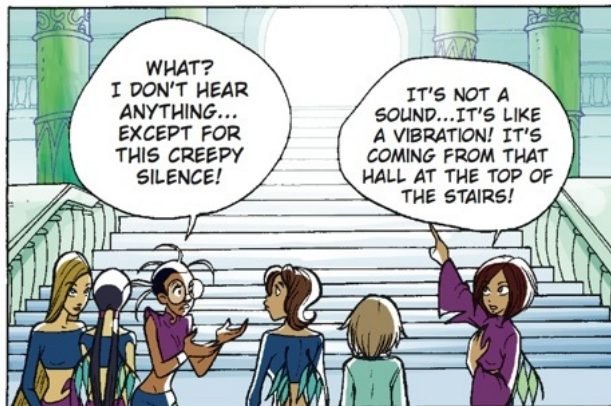
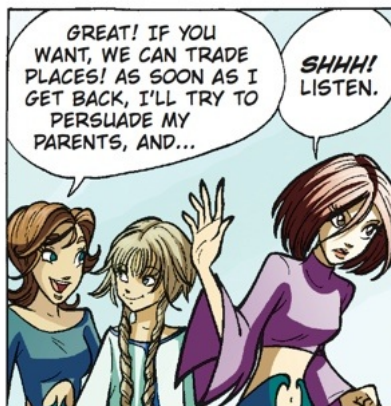
THE CONGREGATION  
WILL NOT INTERVENE.  
WE WILL WAIT  
AND CALMLY JUDGE THE  
UNFOLDING EVENTS.



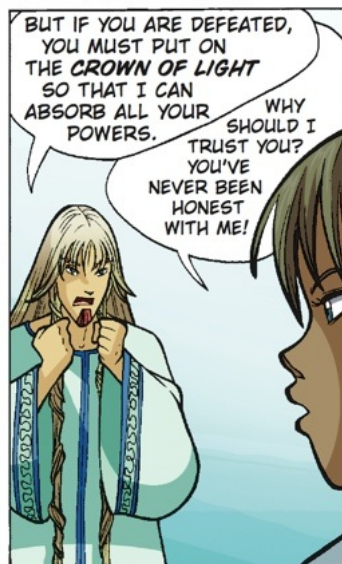
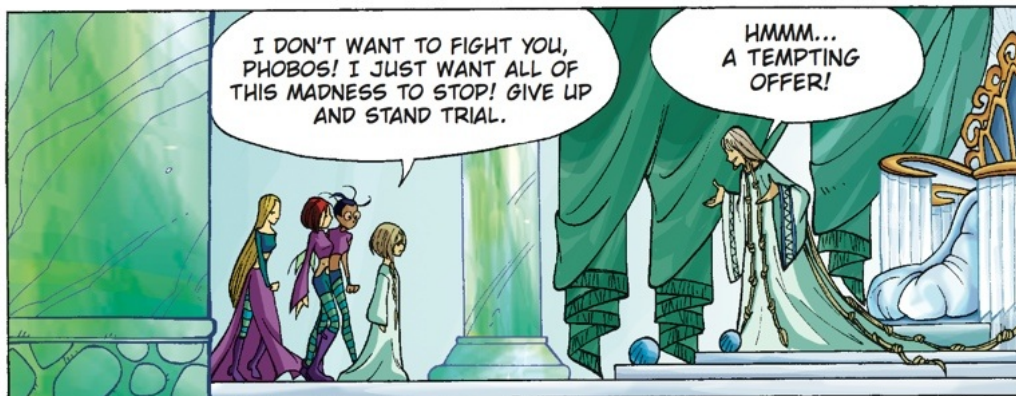












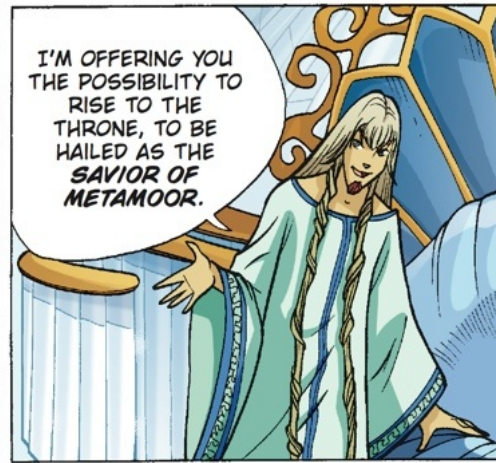




I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE. YOU COULD WIN. MY POWERS ARE GROWING WEAKER...



...WHILE YOUR POWER IS READY TO EXPLODE. RIGHT NOW, WE'RE EVENLY MATCHED!



I'M OFFERING YOU THE POSSIBILITY TO RISE TO THE THRONE, TO BE HAILED AS THE **SAVIOR OF METAMOOR**.



THE GIRL WHO SAVED MERIDIAN! ITS VERY LIGHT! **THE ONE AND ONLY!**

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, ELYON!



**FINE!** ONCE YOU'VE LOST, YOU WILL PAY FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE!

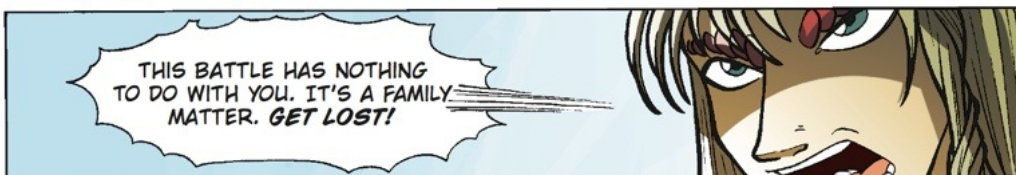
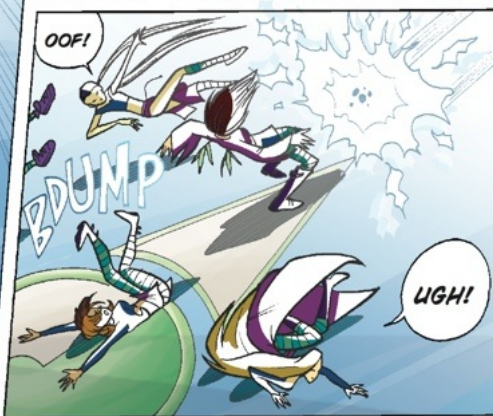
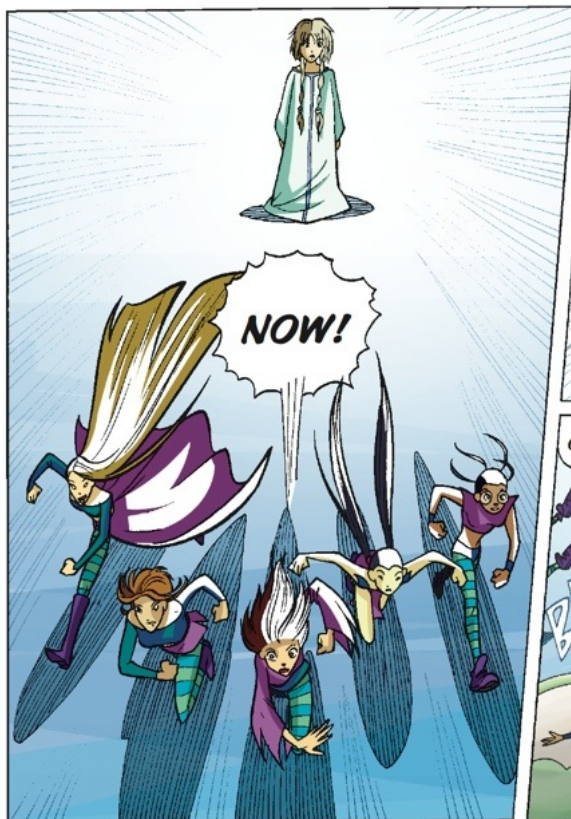
AH, SUCH A **PROUD FIGHTING SPIRIT**. THAT'S THE ELYON I KNOW!



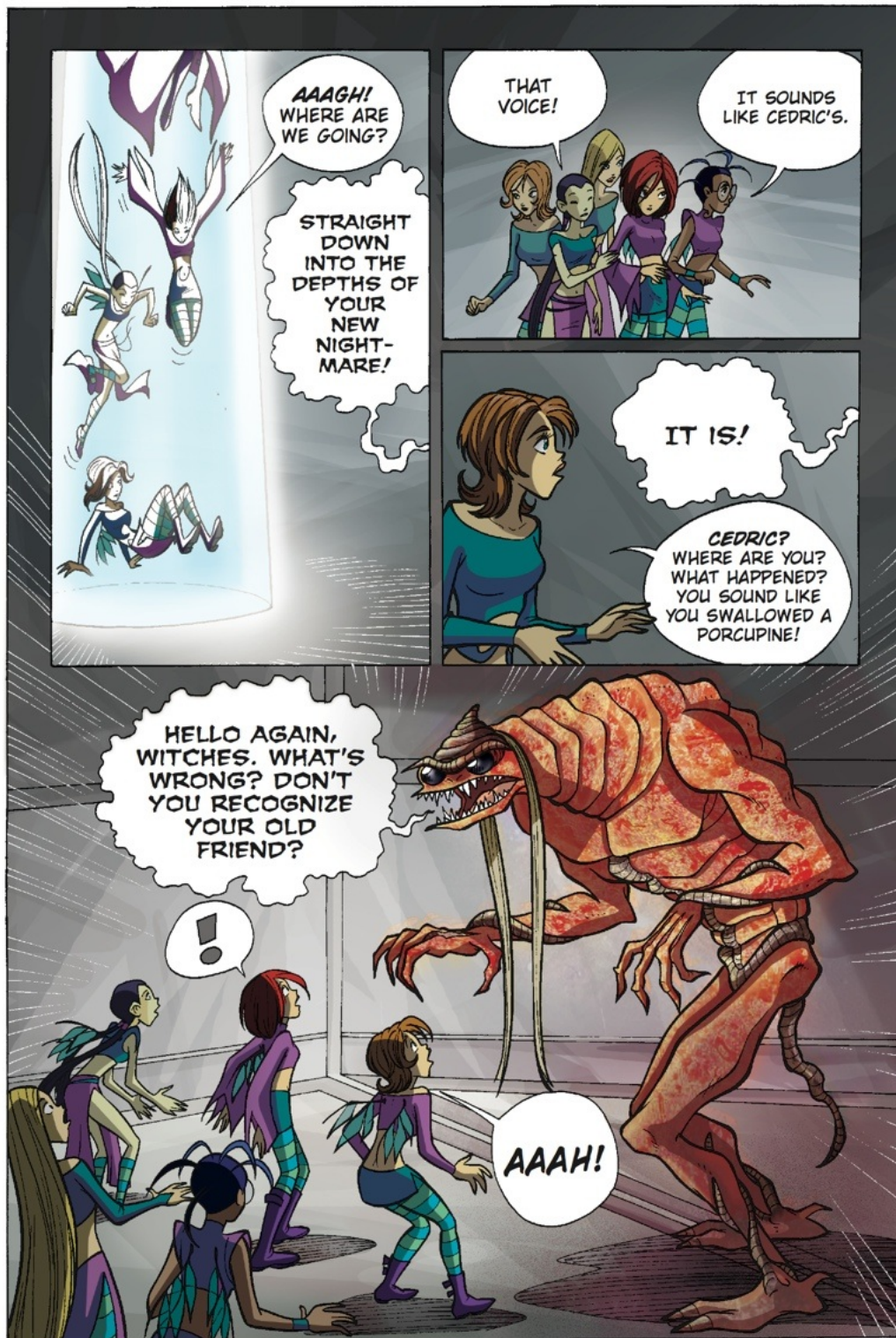
WILL! We can't just let her fight him.

You're right. When I give the signal, we'll attack Phobos all together. Ready?









AAAGH!  
WHERE ARE  
WE GOING?

STRAIGHT  
DOWN  
INTO THE  
DEPTHS OF  
YOUR  
NEW  
NIGHT-  
MARE!

THAT  
VOICE!

IT SOUNDS  
LIKE CEDRIC'S.

IT IS!

CEDRIC?  
WHERE ARE YOU?  
WHAT HAPPENED?  
YOU SOUND LIKE  
YOU SWALLOWED A  
PORCUPINE!

HELLO AGAIN,  
WITCHES. WHAT'S  
WRONG? DON'T  
YOU RECOGNIZE  
YOUR OLD  
FRIEND?

!

AAAH!



“That which was born  
united, return to being  
part of the whole!”





FOR CENTURIES,  
THIS ETERNAL  
CLOCK MARKED  
THE PASSAGE OF  
TIME IN  
MERIDIAN...



BUT  
TODAY,  
VIOLENCE  
HAS  
STOPPED  
THE  
CLOCK'S  
HANDS.



IF THAT CLOCK  
COULD STRIKE  
ONCE AGAIN...



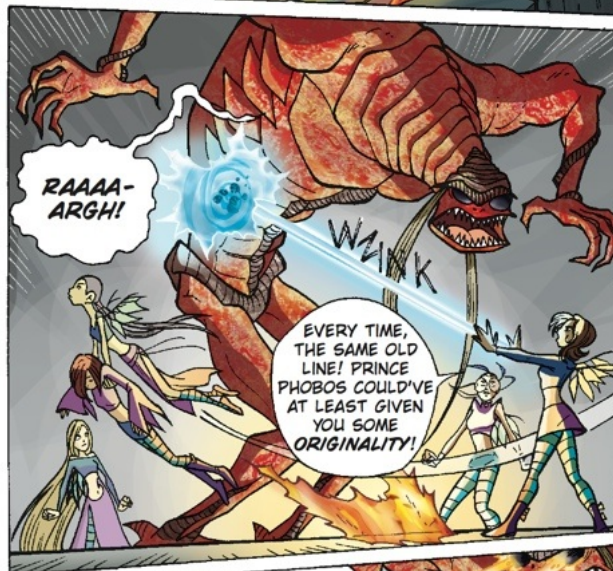
...IT WOULD SIGNAL THE  
HOUR OF TRUTH'S  
ARRIVAL.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT  
THAT, CEDRIC!

YOU CAN HIDE ALL  
YOU WANT, INSOLENT  
VERMIN, BUT YOU'LL  
NEVER ESCAPE!











HA!  
IS THAT  
ALL YOU  
CAN  
DO?

**BZAP**



HAY  
LIN!

YOUR BLOWS  
DON'T EVEN  
SCRATCH ME.  
I'M STRONGER  
THAN ALL OF  
YOU COMBINED!



OW, MY HEAD. THAT  
OVERGROWN BEAST  
REALLY PACKS A  
PUNCH...



NO WAY! THAT'S  
THE CROWN OF  
LIGHT!

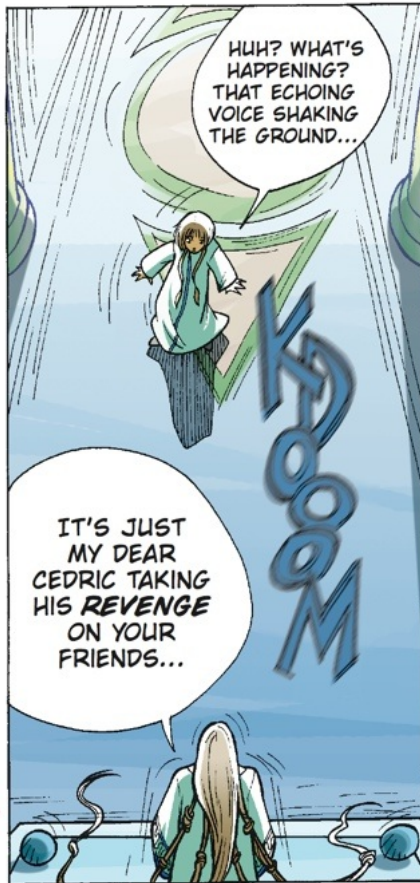


GUYS, TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
WHAT I FOUND!  
IT'S ELYON'S  
CROWN!



**DON'T  
TOUCH THAT!**





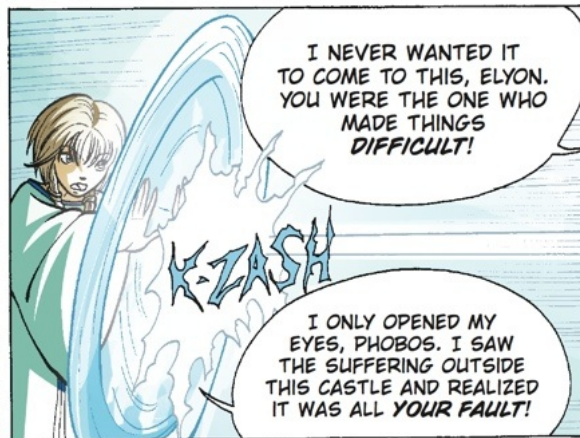
HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
THAT ECHOING  
VOICE SHAKING  
THE GROUND...

IT'S JUST  
MY DEAR  
CEDRIC TAKING  
HIS **REVENGE**  
ON YOUR  
FRIENDS...



...BUT YOU AND I ALSO  
HAVE OUR OWN **SCORE TO  
SETTLE!** UNTIL THE BITTER  
END, DEAR SISTER!

UNTIL  
THE  
BITTER  
END!



I NEVER WANTED IT  
TO COME TO THIS, ELYON.  
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO  
MADE THINGS  
**DIFFICULT!**

I ONLY OPENED MY  
EYES, PHOBOS. I SAW  
THE SUFFERING OUTSIDE  
THIS CASTLE AND REALIZED  
IT WAS ALL **YOUR FAULT!**



WHAT YOU CALL  
MY FAULT, I CALL  
**AMBITION.** THIS  
WORLD WAS  
**BRIMMING** WITH  
MAGICAL ENERGY, AND  
IT'S RIGHTFULLY  
MINE!

!

SHA  
ZASH



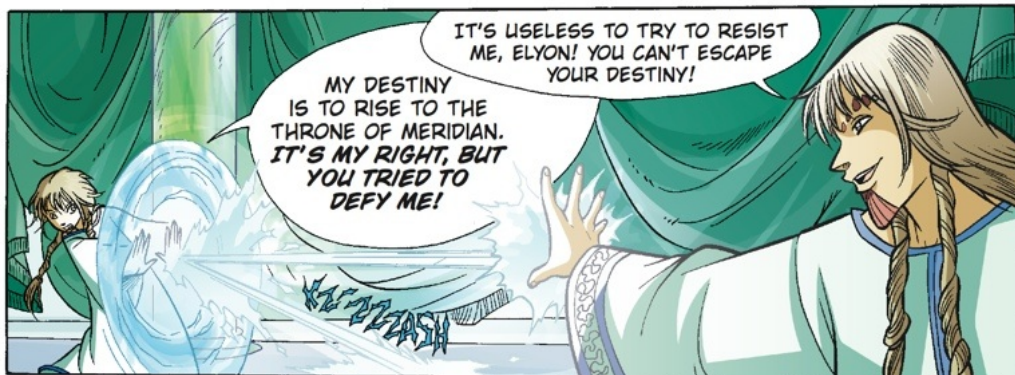
WITH YOUR IMMENSE  
POWERS, I WILL DESTROY  
THE VEIL AND CROSS THE  
THRESHOLD OF MERIDIAN,  
ON TO NEW  
**CONQUESTS!**

SORRY TO  
DISAPPOINT YOU,  
DEAR BROTHER...



...BUT  
I HAVE  
A FEW  
**CHANGES**  
TO YOUR  
PLANS!





MY DESTINY IS TO RISE TO THE THRONE OF MERIDIAN. IT'S MY RIGHT, BUT YOU TRIED TO DEFY ME!

IT'S USELESS TO TRY TO RESIST ME, ELYON! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR DESTINY!



VERY FUNNY! SINCE WHEN DO OLDER BROTHERS HAVE TO TAKE ORDERS FROM LITTLE SISTERS?

SINCE NOW!



MY GOOD-NESS!



ALBORN! THEY'RE BATTLING IN THE CASTLE!

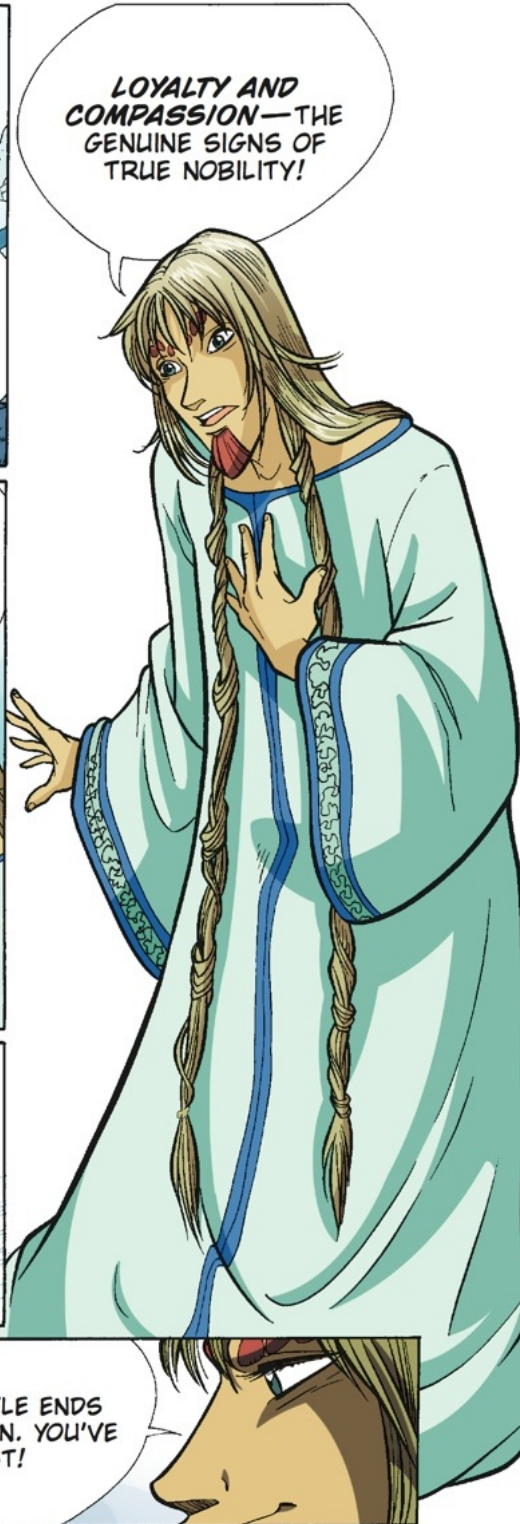
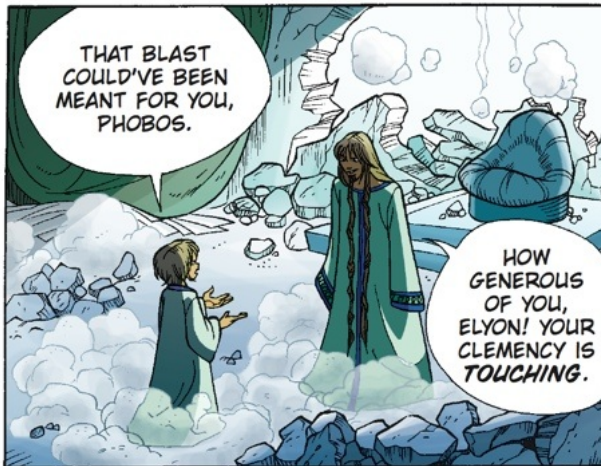
I CAN HEAR THAT, MY FRIEND! RIGHT NOW, THERE'S **NOTHING** MORE WE CAN DO.



OUR BATTLE WAS TO DEFEAT PHOBOS'S ARMY — AND WE **WON!**

MERIDIAN'S **FUTURE** LIES IN THOSE GIRLS' HANDS!







"AS HAVE YOUR  
DUMB FRIENDS!"



DONE  
DEAL,  
CEDRIC!

I WON'T  
TELL YOU THIS  
AGAIN, WITCH!  
GET AWAY  
FROM  
THERE!



BUT DO YOU MIND IF I  
TAKE A LITTLE SOUVENIR  
BEFORE I GO?

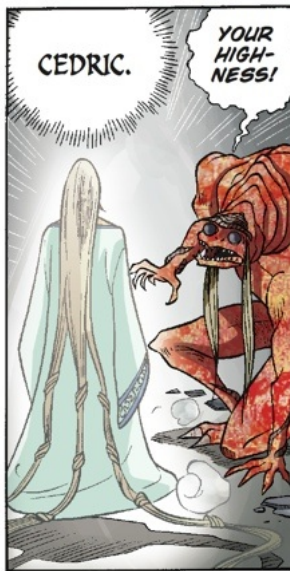
RAAAAARGH!



I'VE GOT IT,  
GUYS!



GRRR...  
YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE DONE  
THAT!



CEDRIC.

YOUR  
HIGH-  
NESS!

ELYON  
HAS  
BEEN  
DEFEATED!  
RID YOUR-  
SELF OF  
THOSE LITTLE  
GIRLS AND BRING  
MY CROWN TO ME  
IMMEDIATELY!

I...GRRR...  
AT ONCE,  
SIR!

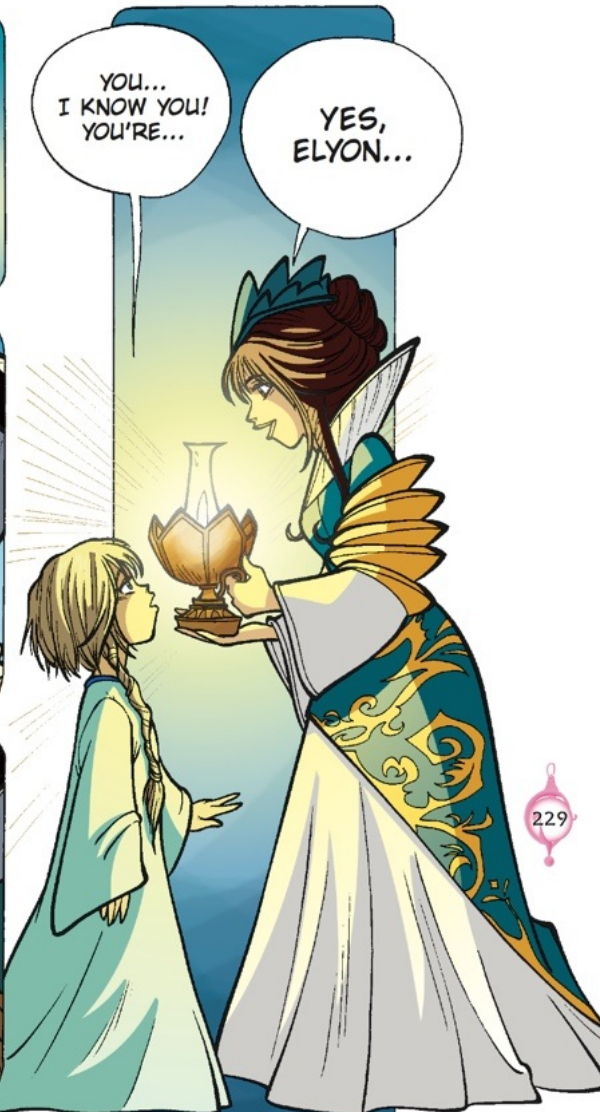
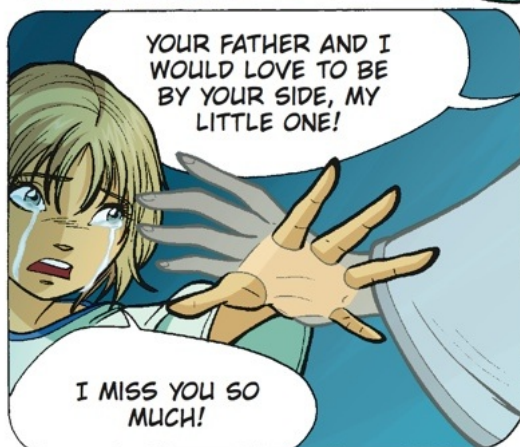
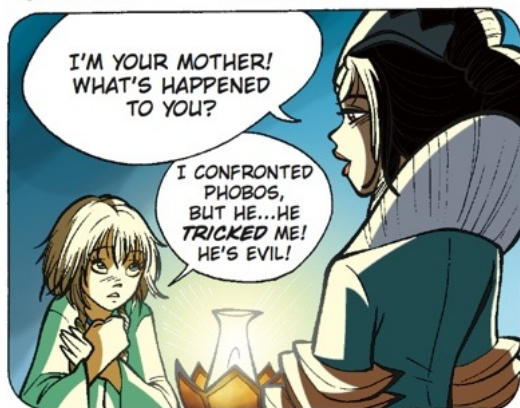




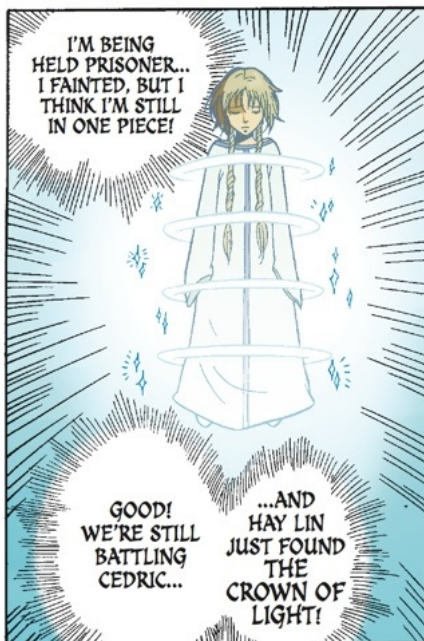
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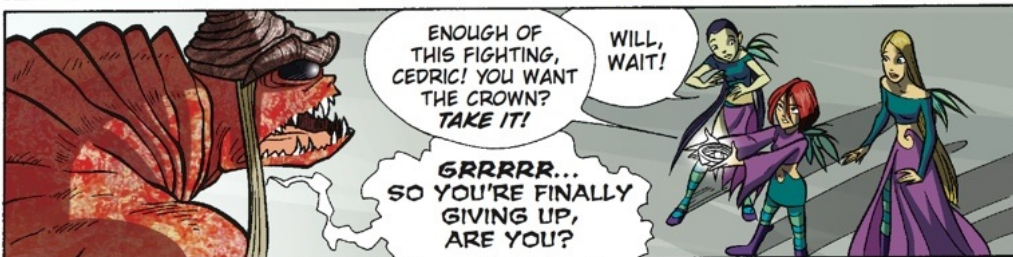
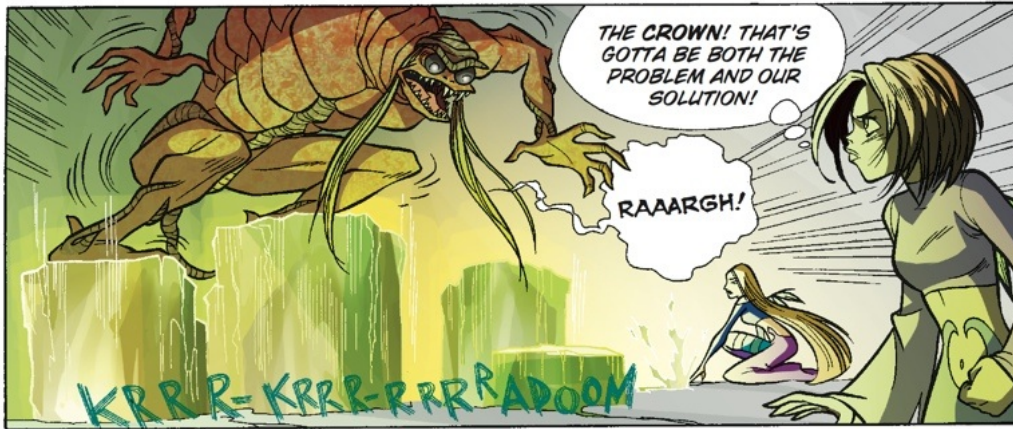
















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AS THE CROWN COMES INTO CONTACT WITH CEDRIC, IT RELEASES THE EVIL EFFECTS THAT PHOBOS INFUSED WITH HIS SPELL...

YAAAARGH!



I DID IT!

RAAARGH!



YEAH...BUT WHAT DID YOU DO?

THAT CROWN ABSORBS POWERS! SO I THOUGHT, IF IT WORKED ON ELYON'S ASTRAL DROP...



NYAHHHH!

...WHY SHOULDN'T IT WORK ON CEDRIC TOO?



OH MY GOSH! LOOK!



OHHH!

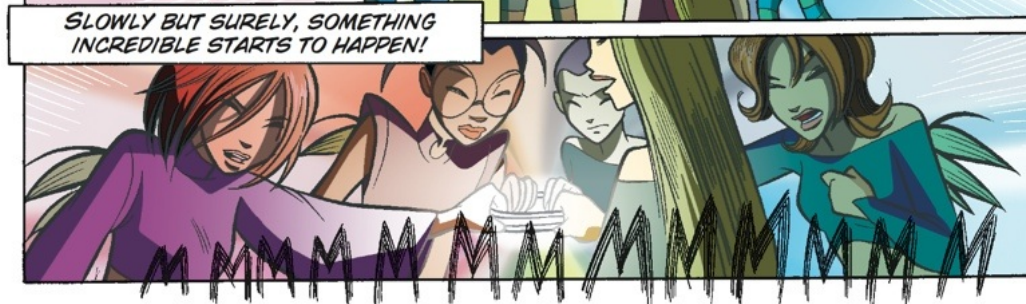
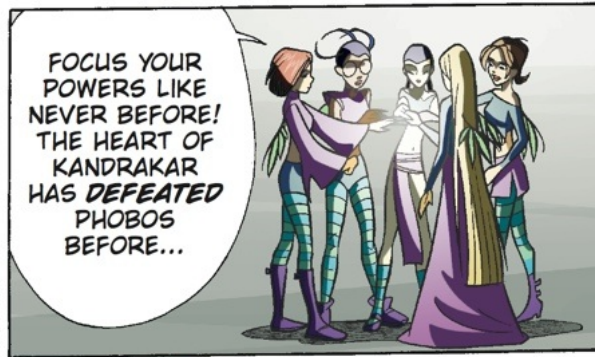


BACK TO THE SNAKE HE IS!

GREAT THINKING, WILL! HE'S BACK TO HIS TRUE FORM!











**AHHH!**  
THE CROWN'S **BURNING**  
**HOT!**

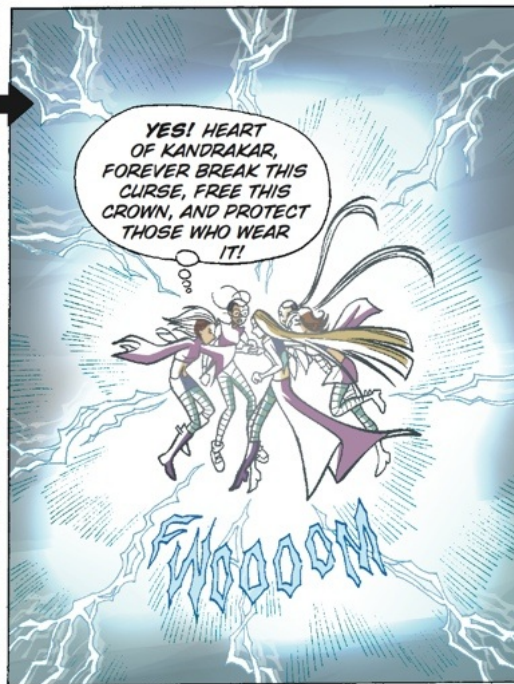
DON'T  
LET GO!  
COME ON! **WE**  
**CAN DO IT!**  
**WE CAN!**



HUH? WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

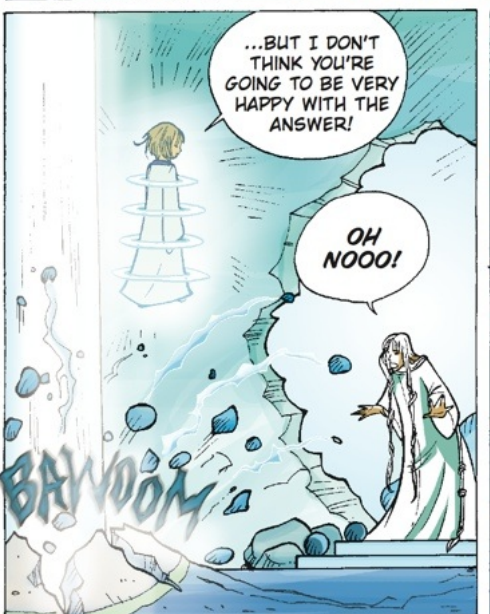
I THINK I  
CAN TELL YOU,  
PHOBOS...

**BRRRMRRMRRRR**



**YES! HEART**  
**OF KANDRAKAR,**  
**FOREVER BREAK THIS**  
**CURSE, FREE THIS**  
**CROWN, AND PROTECT**  
**THOSE WHO WEAR**  
**IT!**

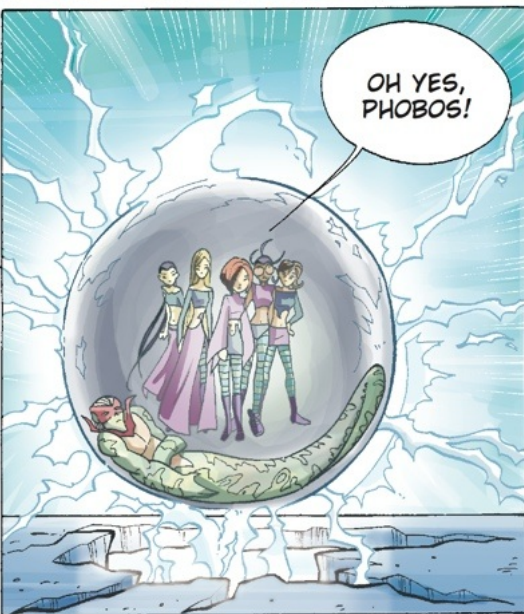
**WOOOM**



...BUT I DON'T  
THINK YOU'RE  
GOING TO BE VERY  
HAPPY WITH THE  
ANSWER!

**OH**  
**NOOO!**

**BAWOOM**



**OH YES,**  
**PHOBOS!**

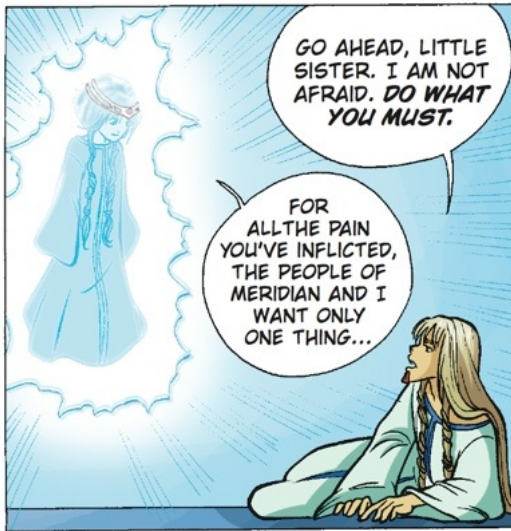












GO AHEAD, LITTLE SISTER. I AM NOT AFRAID. **DO WHAT YOU MUST.**

FOR ALL THE PAIN YOU'VE INFLICTED, THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN AND I WANT ONLY ONE THING...



...TO FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU!



WOULD A HUG OR A **BOW** BE MORE APPROPRIATE?

DON'T BE SILLY. I'M ROYALTY NOW. I'M GLOWING WITH THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN!

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I HAVE TO MAINTAIN PROPER ETIQUETTE!

UMM... MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK DOWN THERE!



THERE! IT'S **ELYON!**

**ELYON!**

THE PRINCESS HAS WON! PHOBOS IS DEFEATED!

LONG LIVE THE NEW RULER OF MERIDIAN, **ELYON!**



LOOK AT THAT CROWD! WHAT...WHAT DO I DO?

I'M NO EXPERT AT CORONATIONS, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO THEM!

YOU'RE THEIR **QUEEN** NOW, ELYON.









MAY EVIL  
DISAPPEAR  
FROM THIS  
WORLD! MAY  
EACH OF  
PHOBOS'S  
SPELLS  
BE REMOVED!  
MAY MERIDIAN  
SPRING BACK  
TO LIFE!



NOTHING RESISTS ELYON'S  
ORDERS—NOT EVEN A SINGLE  
HEDGE OF BLACK ROSES. THE  
WALLS OF THE FLOWERY CAGE  
BUST OPEN...



...AS THE TIME HAS COME  
FOR ITS PRISONERS TO BE  
SET FREE!



MERIDIAN COMES  
BACK TO LIFE.

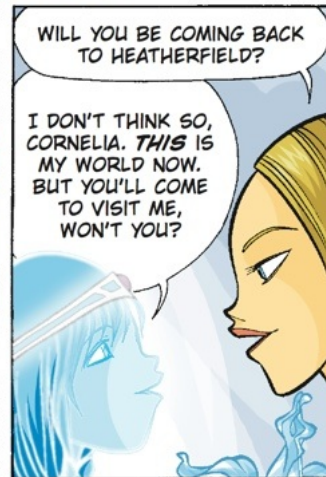


DALTAR!

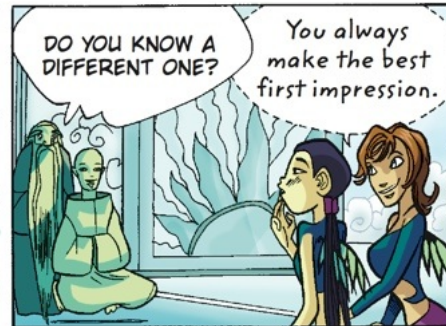
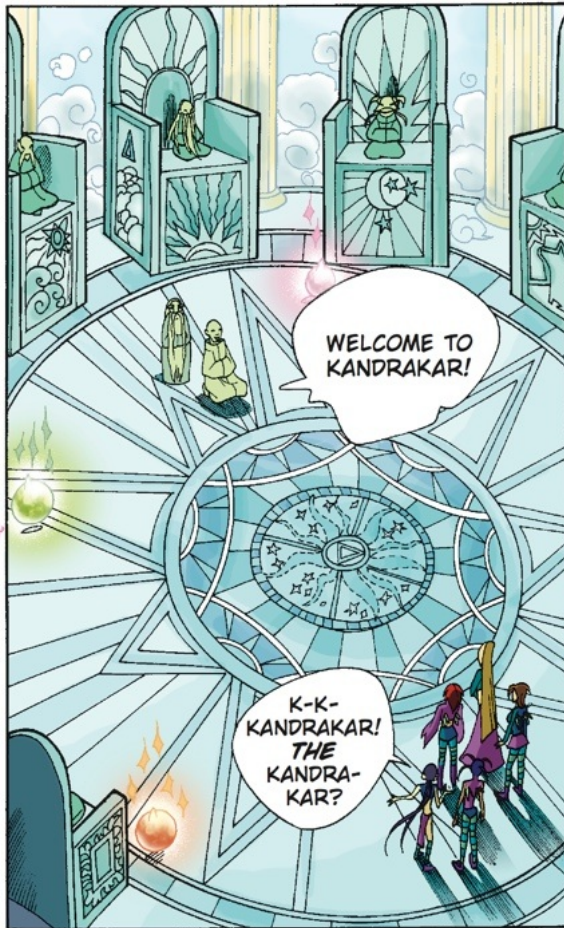
DADDY!

THE FUTURE BEGINS HERE.





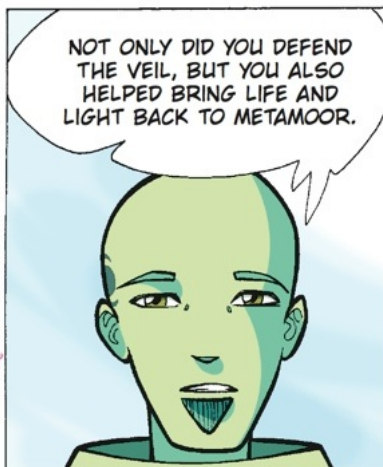




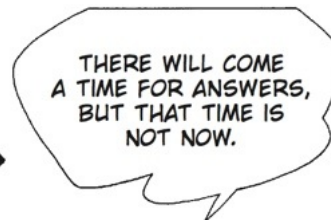
















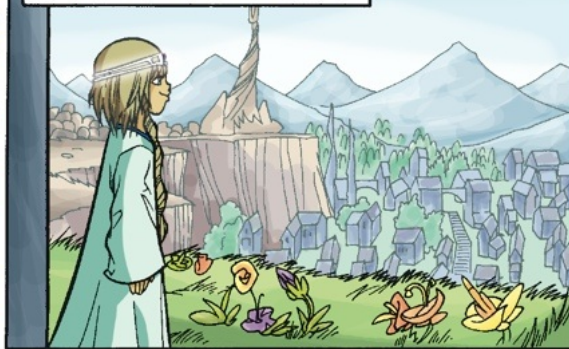




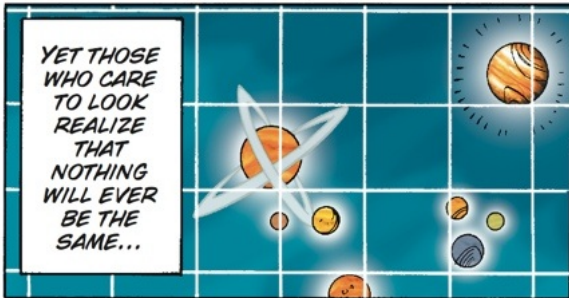
THAT WHICH WAS  
BORN TO BE UNITED,  
RETURN TO BEING A PART  
OF THE WHOLE!

**BY MY COMMAND,  
MAY THE VEIL CEASE  
TO EXIST!**

A UNIVERSE AWAY, ON META-  
MOOR, NO ONE NOTICES...



YET THOSE  
WHO CARE  
TO LOOK  
REALIZE  
THAT  
NOTHING  
WILL EVER  
BE THE  
SAME...



NO BARRIERS!  
NO LIMITS! THIS IS  
THE FREE WORLD  
OVER WHICH  
**KANDRAKAR**  
RULES.



!

A WORLD NOW  
ENTRUSTED TO  
THE FIVE OF  
YOU!







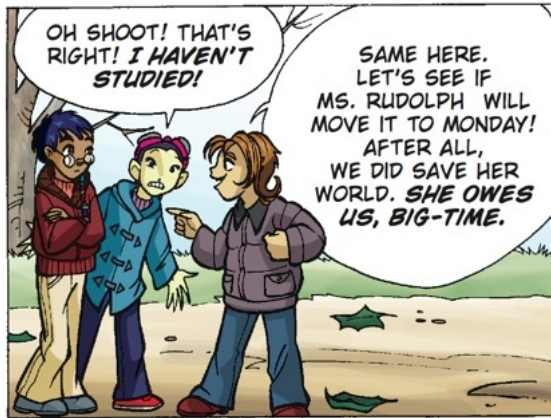






SO NOW  
WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT NOW, BUT  
**TOMORROW THERE'S  
A MATH QUIZ!**



OH SHOOT! THAT'S  
RIGHT! **I HAVEN'T  
STUDIED!**

SAME HERE.  
LET'S SEE IF  
MS. RUDOLPH WILL  
MOVE IT TO MONDAY!  
AFTER ALL,  
WE DID SAVE HER  
WORLD. **SHE OWES  
US, BIG-TIME.**



**HA-HA-HA!**  
I DOUBT SHE'D  
AGREE TO THAT,  
IRMA!



MAN! WHAT'S A GIRL  
GOTTA DO TO AVOID  
FAILING A QUIZ AT SCHOOL  
ANYWAY? **SAVE THE  
ENTIRE UNIVERSE?**

NOT A BAD IDEA,  
BUT WITH OUR LUCK,  
WE'D END UP HAVING  
TO DO IT ON A  
**WEEKEND!**

**HA-  
HA-HA-  
HA!**

END OF  
CHAPTER 12





Read on in Volume 4!





ASTONISHED BY...

# Elyon

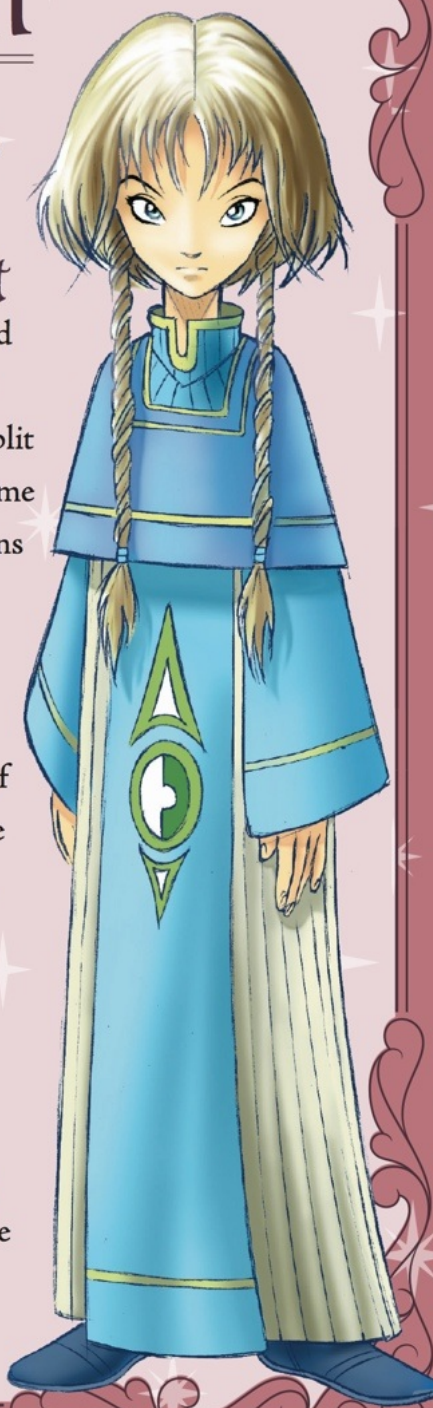
Almost **14** years old, Scorpio,  
born **October 31**

She was **Cornelia's best friend** until she encountered

Cedric and suddenly went to Metamoore. Since then, she has split with the other girls and has become the worst enemy of the Guardians of Kandrakar.

From Cedric, she learned the people of Metamoore expected her to become the **Light of Meridian**, future ruler of that realm where the female offspring of the royal line become sovereign. Her brother, **Phobos**, is the regent in the interim and is looking forward to Elyon's rule (according to Cedric).

Elyon uses **negative" magical powers**. They have nothing to do with nature, but they come from the energy of the world and control matter.





ASTONISHED BY...

# Phobos

## Elyon's older brother.

After the disappearance of his parents, the sovereigns of Meridian, he takes his place on the throne, which should rightfully belong to his sister.

Thirsty for power, Prince Phobos has kept **Meridian on its knees** by absorbing the land's magical energy.

To keep his ambition in check, Kandrakar's Congregation of Wise Men erected the **Wall** around the kingdom.

Ruthless and haughty, Phobos reveals himself through the **Murmurers**, a faithful court of his own creation.

**He has a dream**—to absorb Elyon's endless magical energy and destroy the Wall, allowing him to return to conquering other worlds and dimensions.





ASTONISHED BY...

# Cedric



Prince Phobos's right hand man. His other, human identity is a **bookseller in Heatherfield.**

He's one of the monstrous, faithful assistants to Phobos.

His **antique bookstore,** Ye Olde Book Shop, was the cover for Elyon's investigations with his aide Vathek (who then partnered with Caleb as part of the Meridian rebels).

Like every Metamoor resident, Cedric can change his appearance; he's actually **"reptilian."**

His only ambition is to be a part of the **Court of Murmurers,** reporting to the Prince of Meridian.







ASTONISHED BY...

## Caleb

Caleb is the young leader of the **Rebels of Meridian**, a clandestine organization seeking the end to Prince Phobos's reign. Its base (also used for other people revolting) lies in the city's infinite underground.

His faithful lieutenant is **Vathek**, who, upon leaving Cedric's loyalty, has completely converted to the rebels' cause.

### Born as a Murmurer,

Caleb developed a will and a conscience that led him to rebel against the control of his creator, Phobos.

Caleb is the love of **Cornelia's** dreams. The future of their love is still up in the air...





## Part I. The Twelve Portals • Volume 3



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