



Title
Author



Title
Author



Witch

Will Irma Tarance Cornelie Hay Lin

Part IV.
Trial of the Oracle
Volume I

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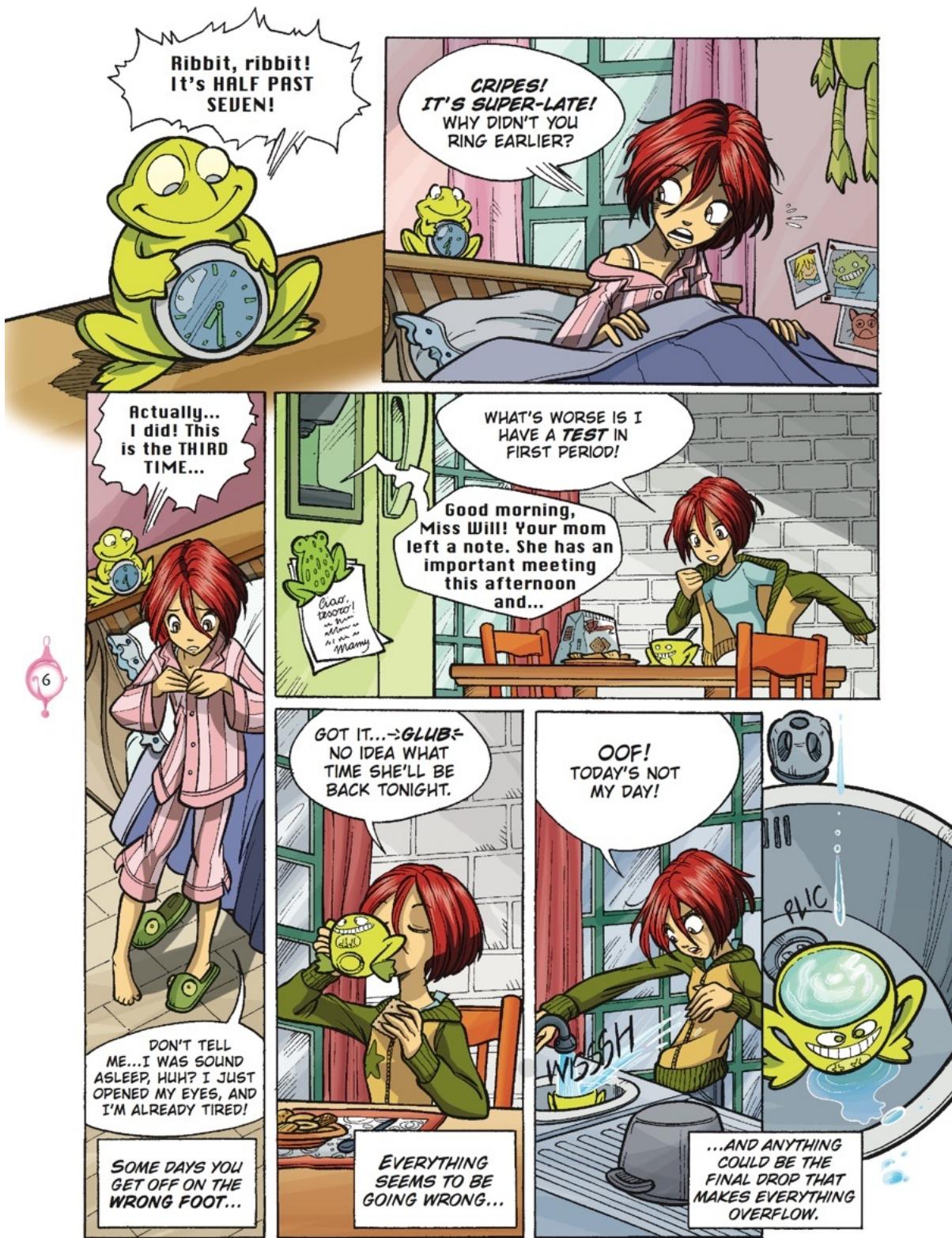


The Dispute

"Time's up, Oracle. The Congregation demands facts!"







KANDRAKAR, IN THE CENTER OF INFINITY. THIS FORTRESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE OF PEACE AND HARMONY...

...BUT THIS EQUILIBRIUM IS ABOUT TO BE BROKEN...

SOMETHING WRONG, SIR?

MY SPIRIT IS TROUBLED, TIBOR.

DARK, POWERFUL FORCES OBSCURE KANDRAKAR'S LIGHT. I FEEL THE TIME FOR CONFRONTATION IS COMING.

YOU SENSE A THREAT? DO YOU FEAR AN ATTACK, ORACLE?

NO, MY FRIEND. EVIL ROAMS FREE BETWEEN THESE WALLS AND GROWS SURPRISINGLY QUICKLY...

DISAGREEMENTS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, DISCONTENTMENT...

...CAN BE SHARPER THAN ANY BLADE.

IT'S UNACCEPTABLE.

OUTRAGEOUS!

CLEARLY... INAPPROPRIATE.

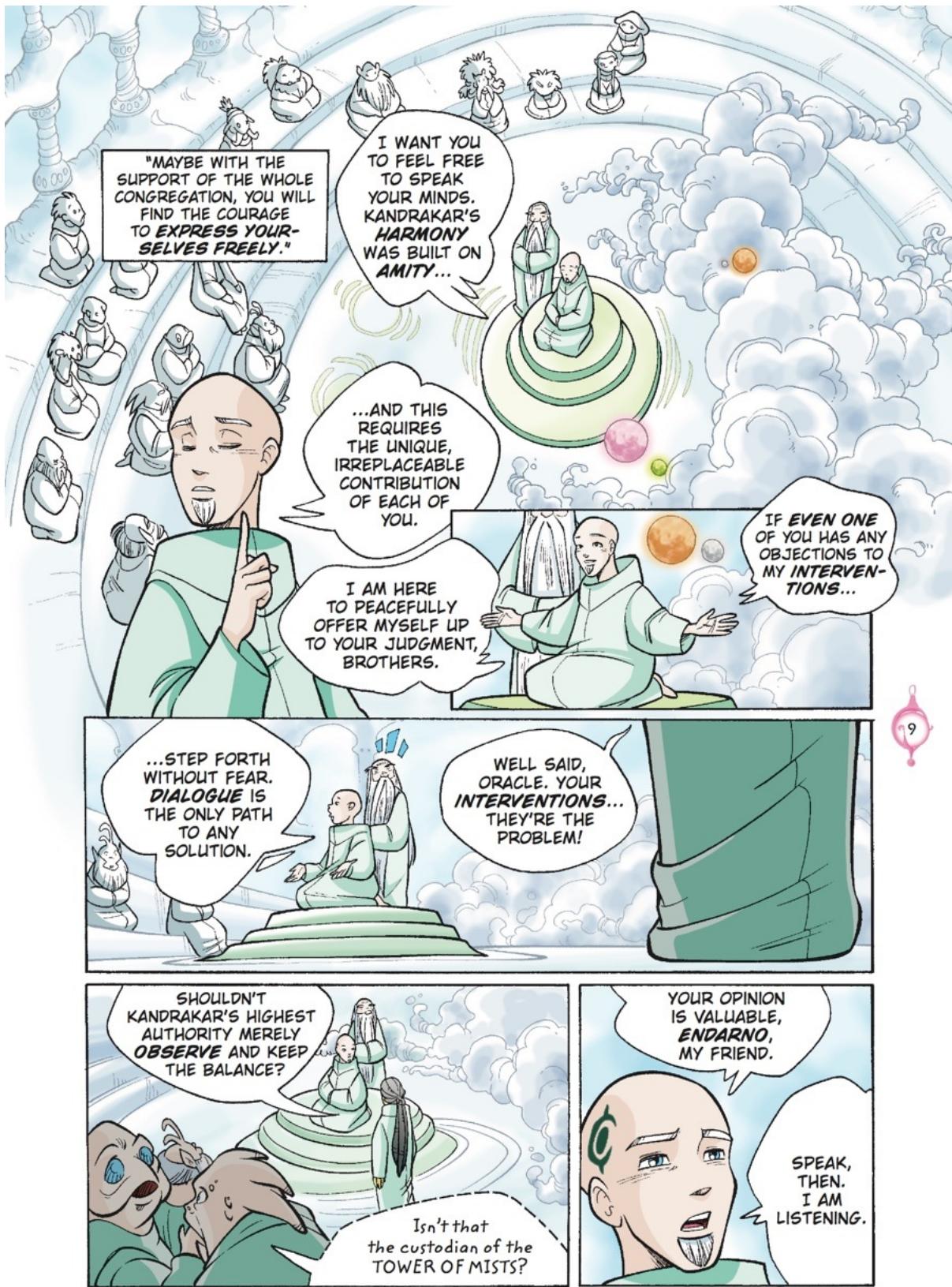
NO AUTHORITY IN KANDRAKAR HAS EVER GONE SO FAR.

THE MEMORY SPELL, FREEING THOSE ASTRAL DROPS... WHERE WILL THESE RASH CHOICES LEAD US?

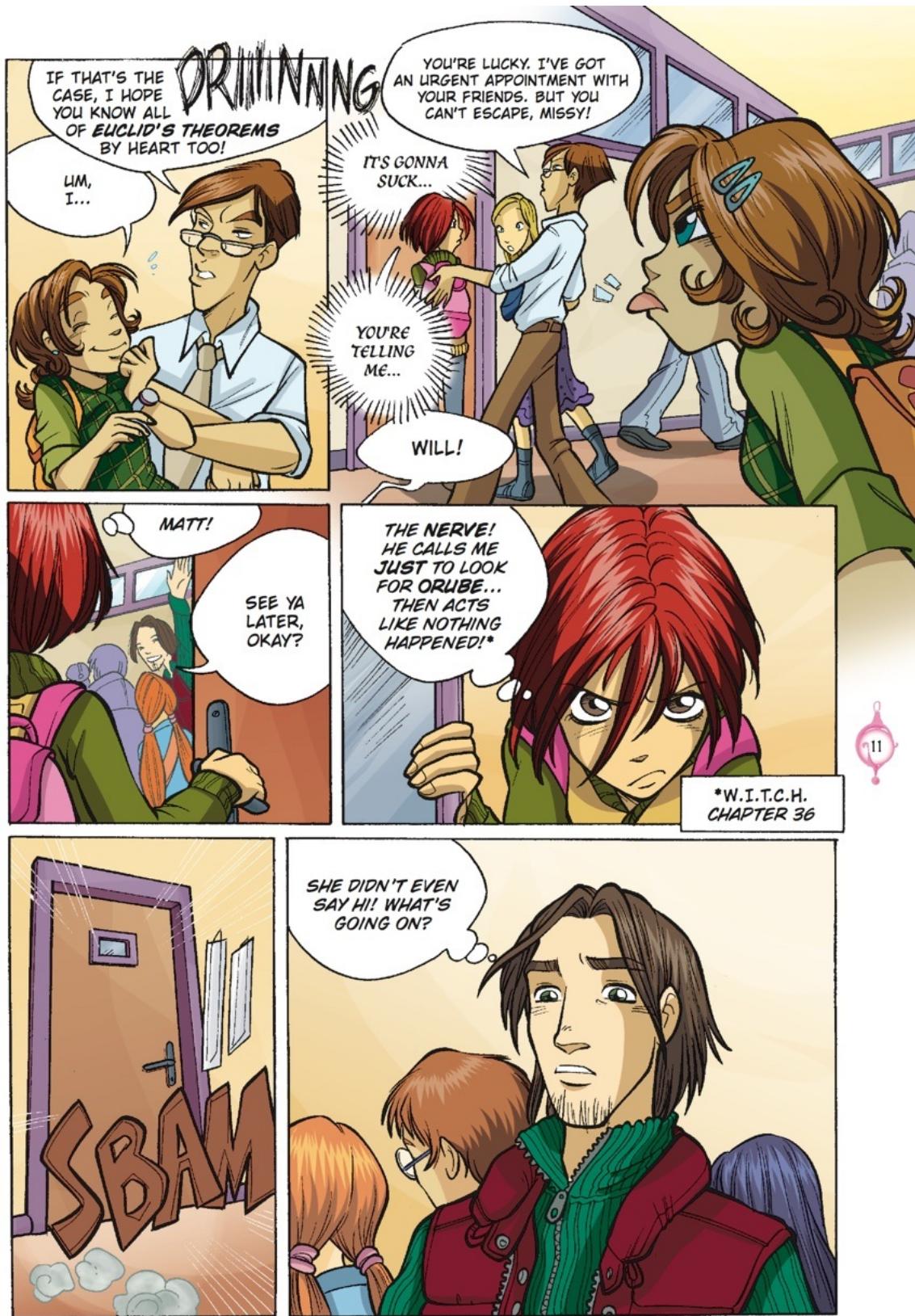


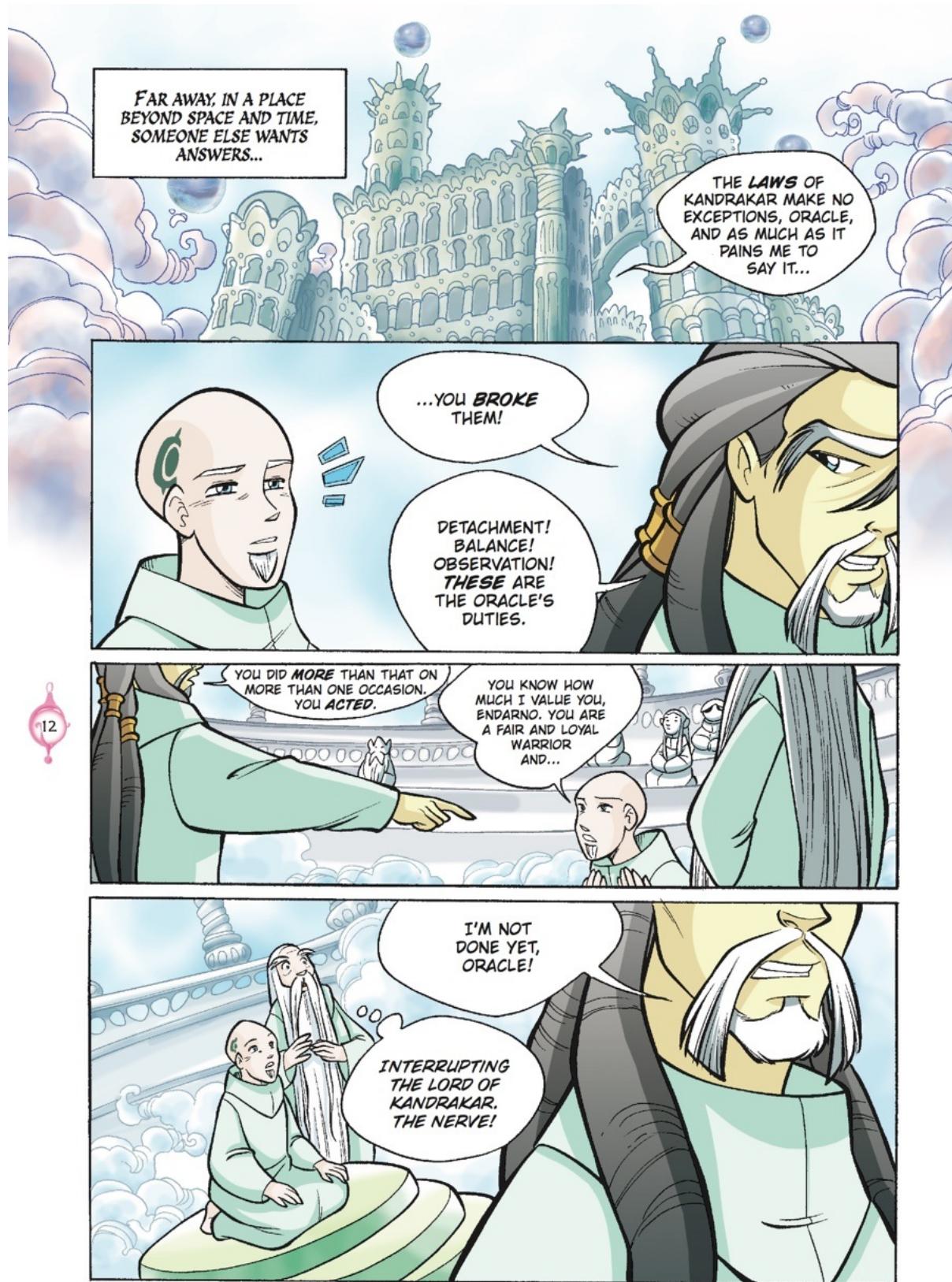
...THIS
BEHAVIOR
PAINS ME,
BROTHERS.



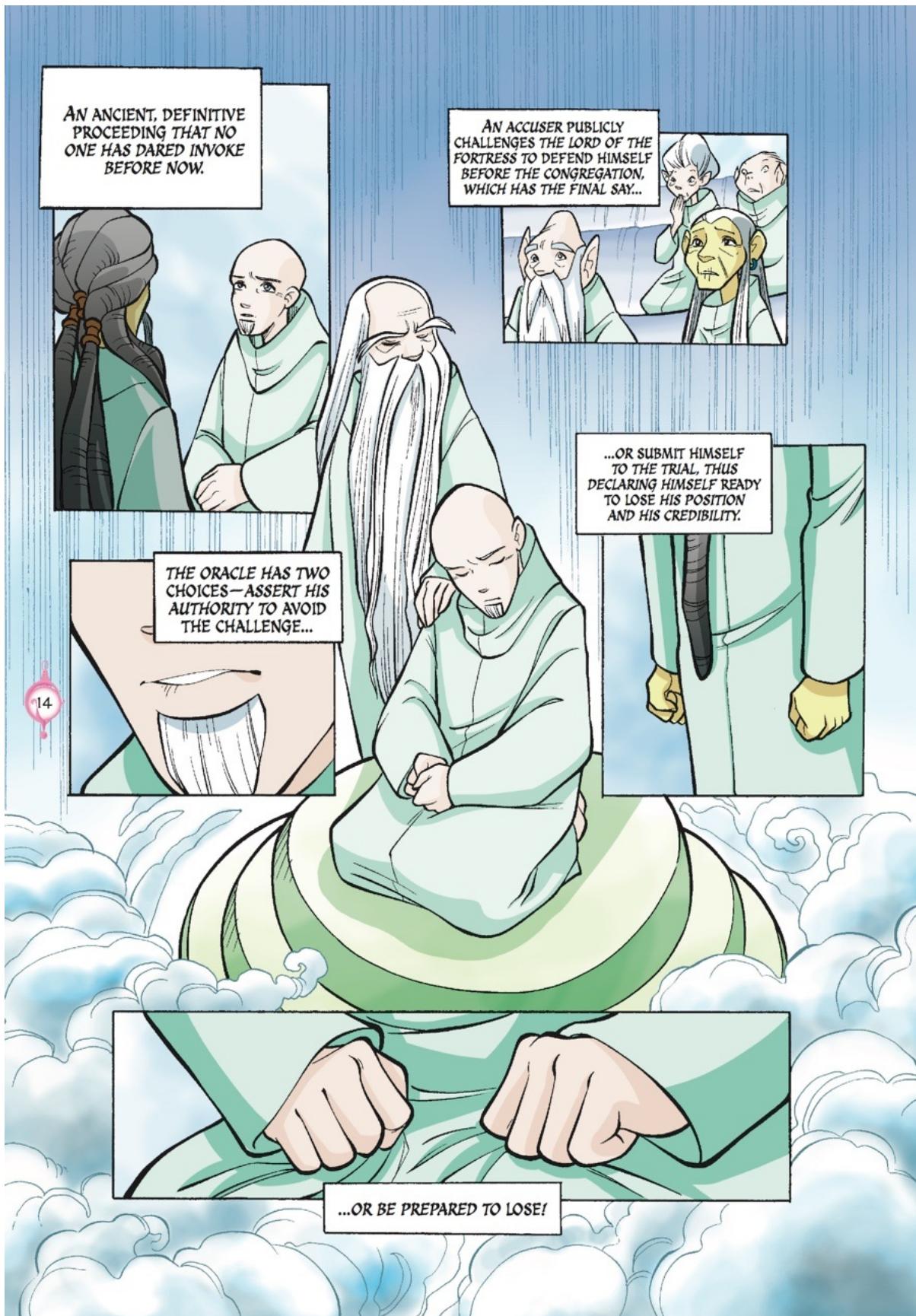


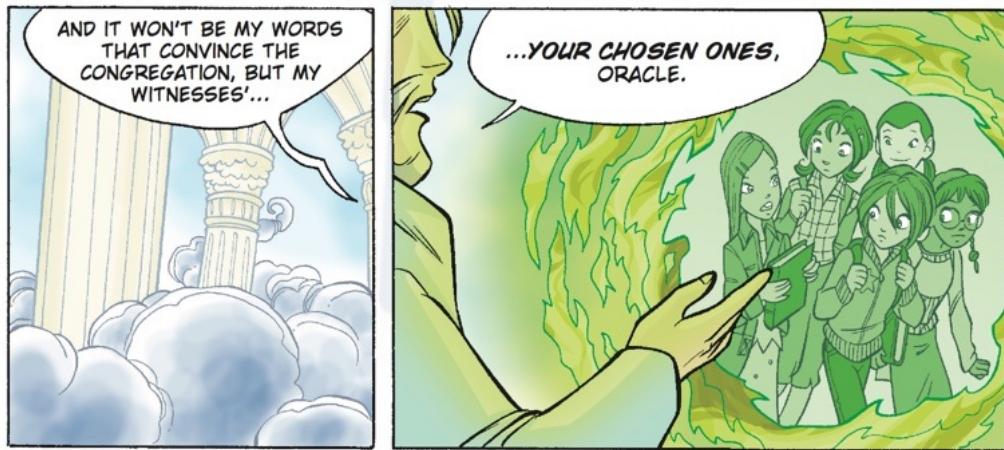
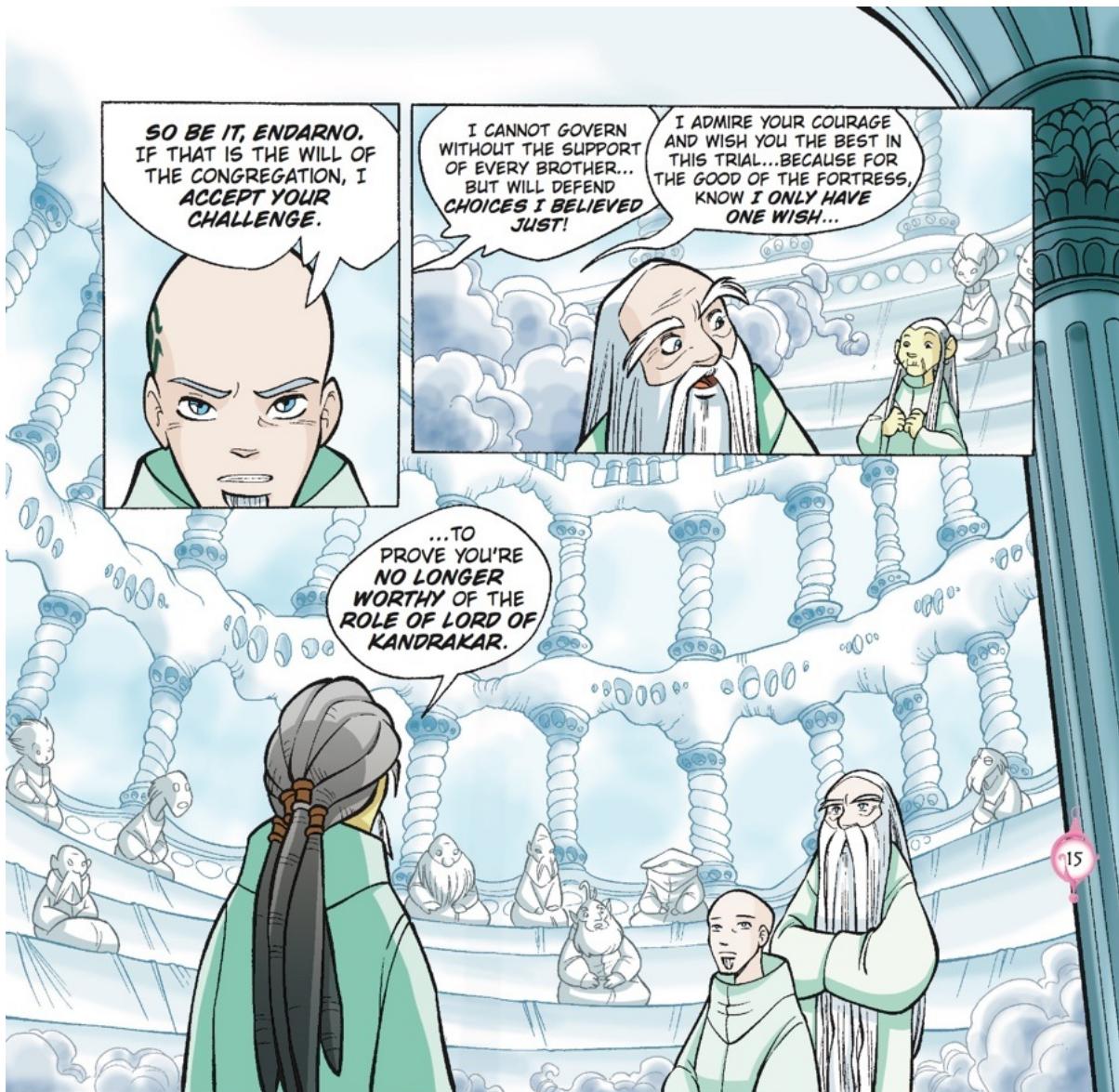




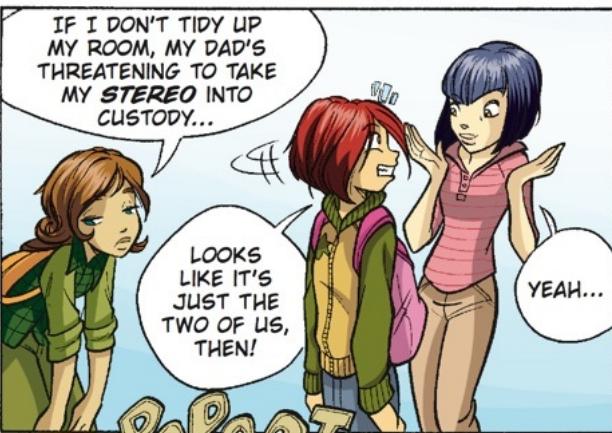
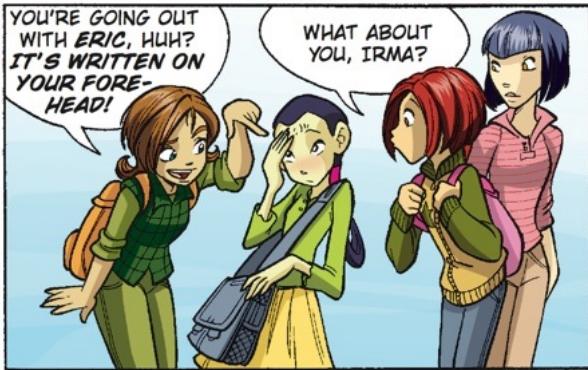


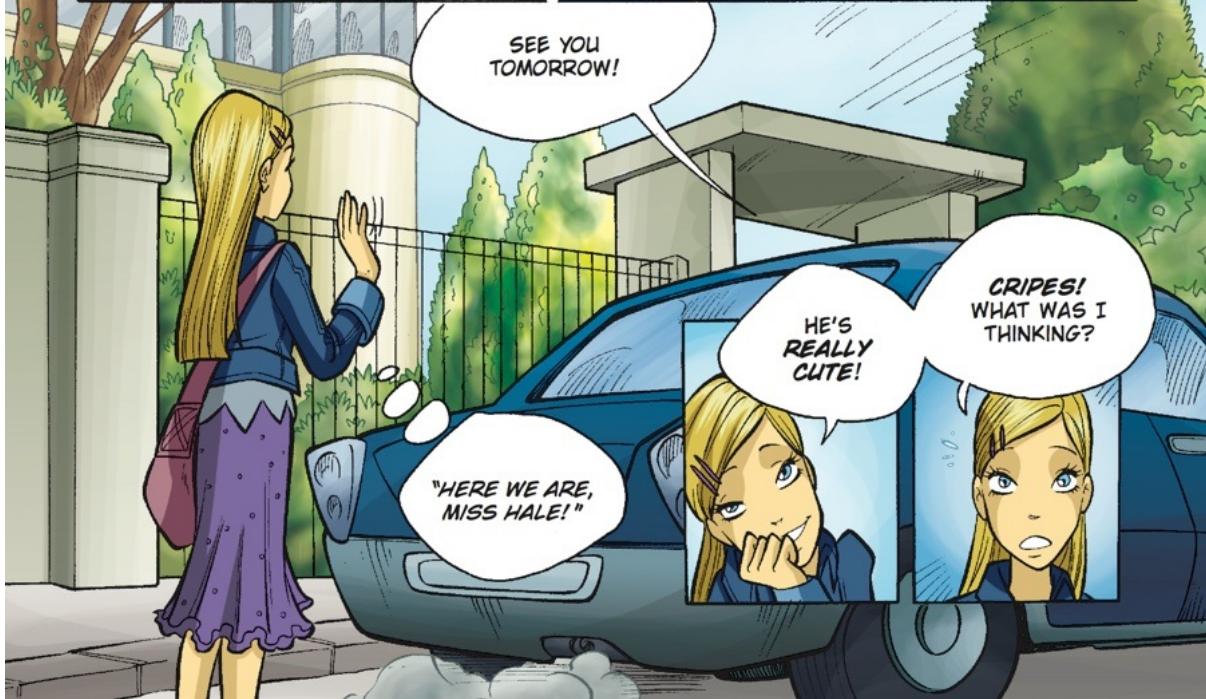










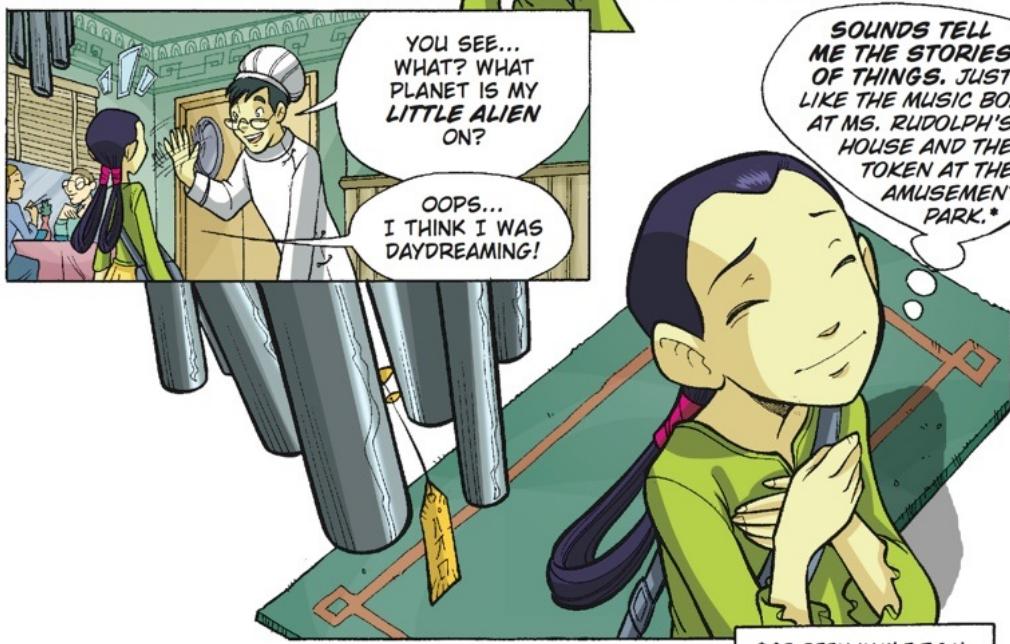




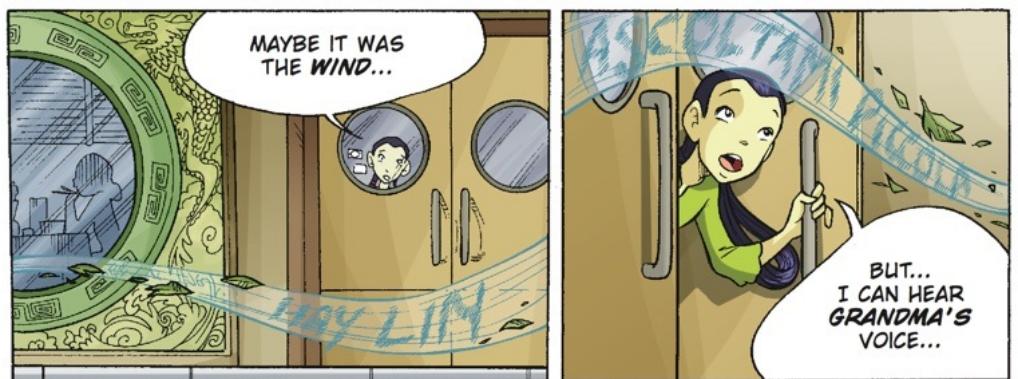


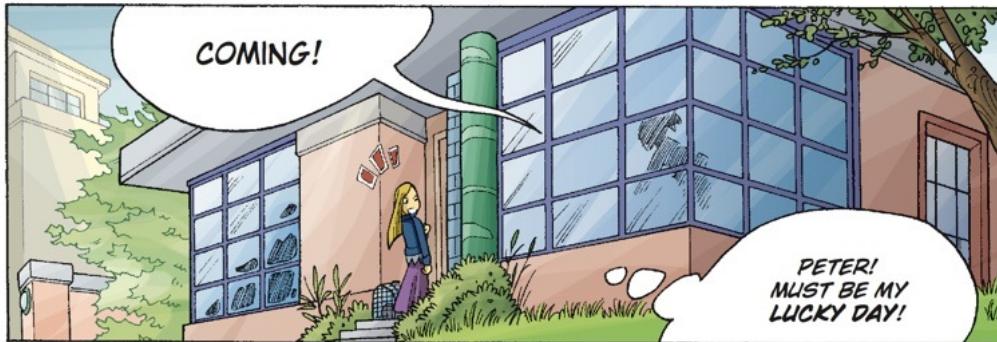


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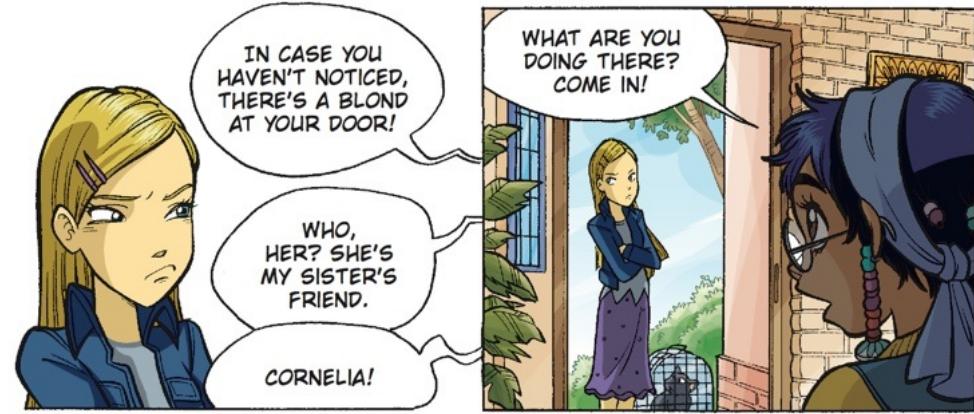
*AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H.
CHAPTERS 4 AND 11

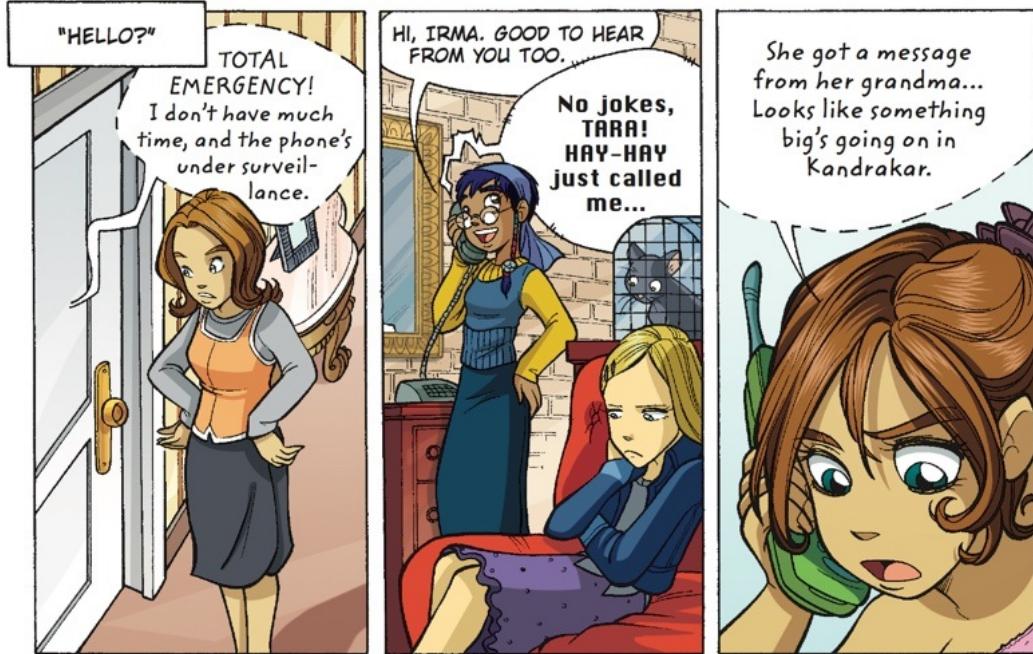




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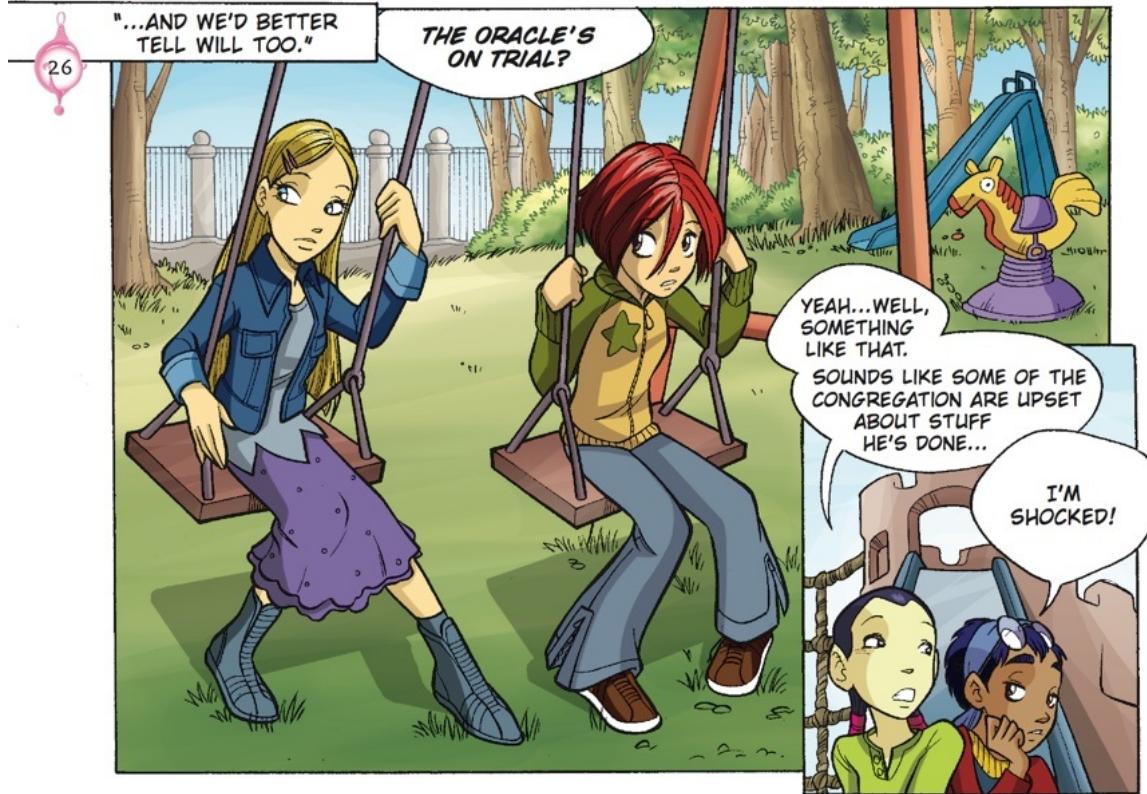


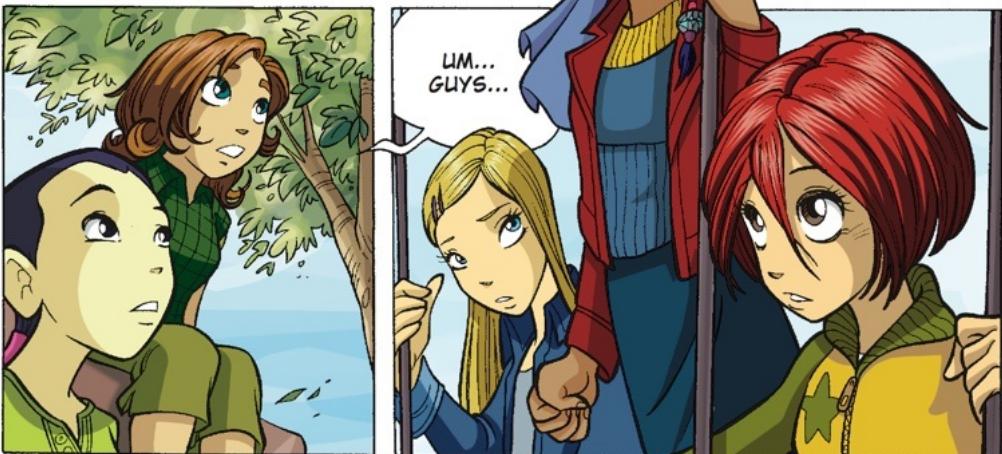
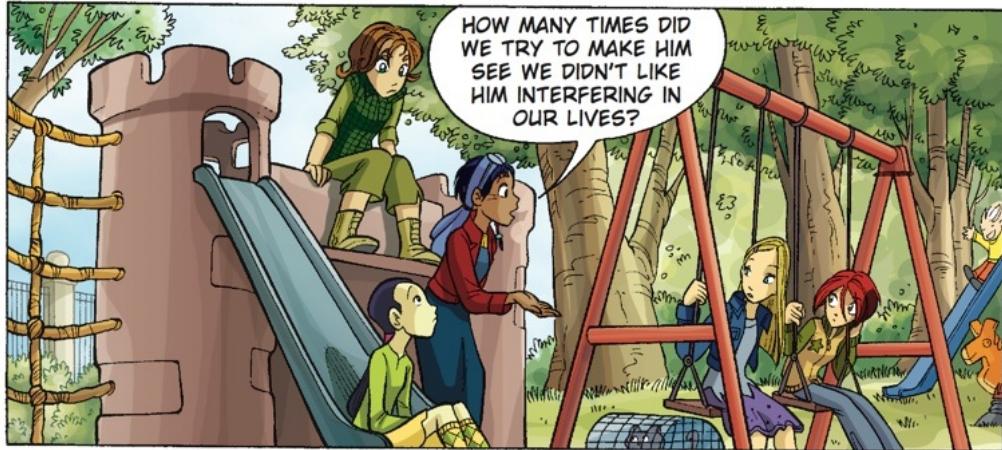




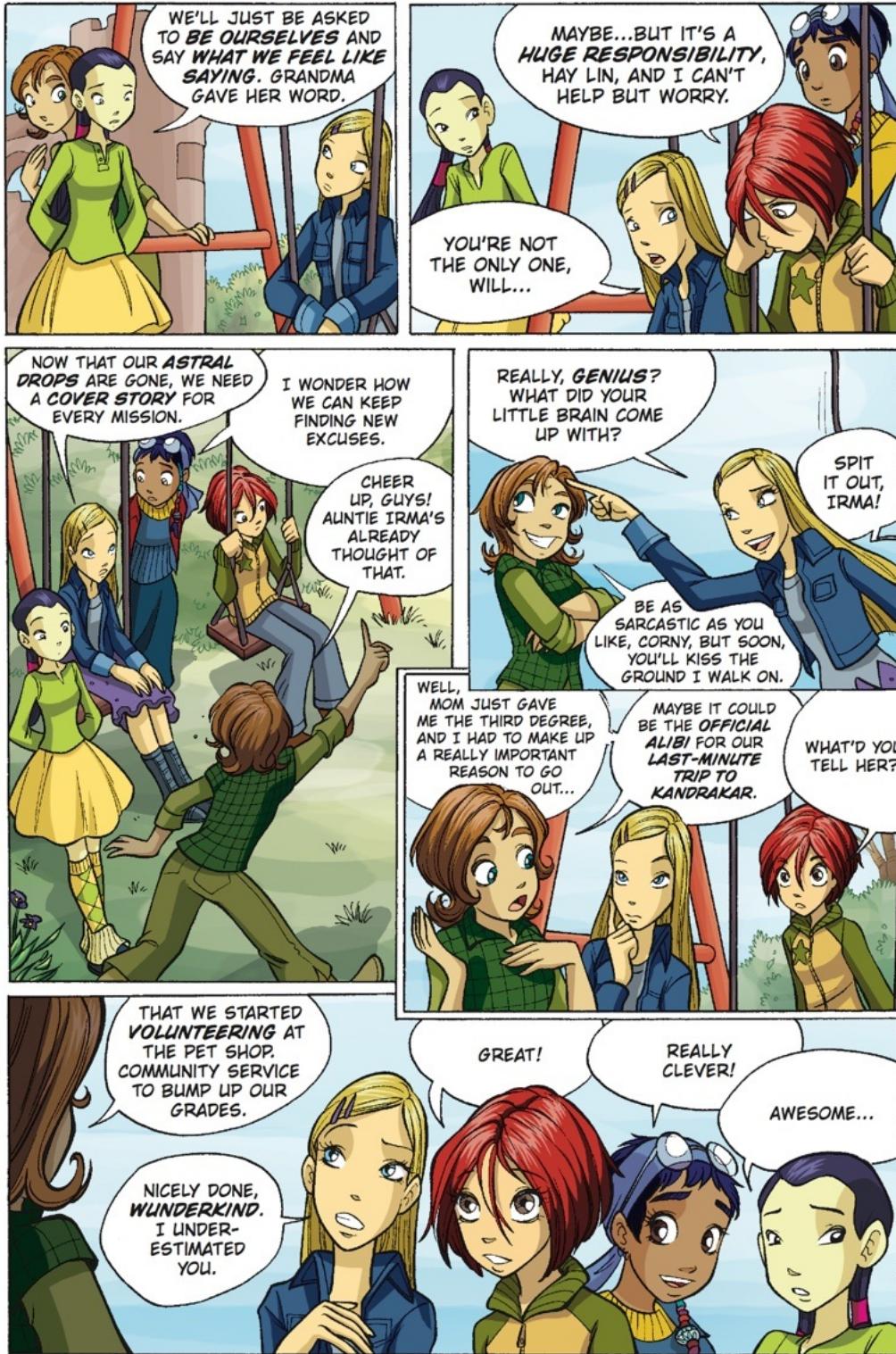
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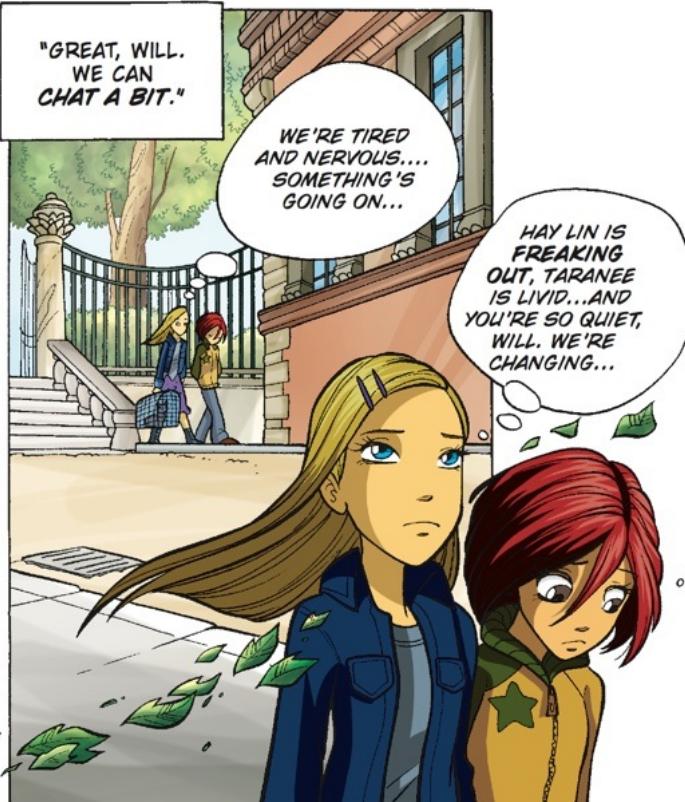


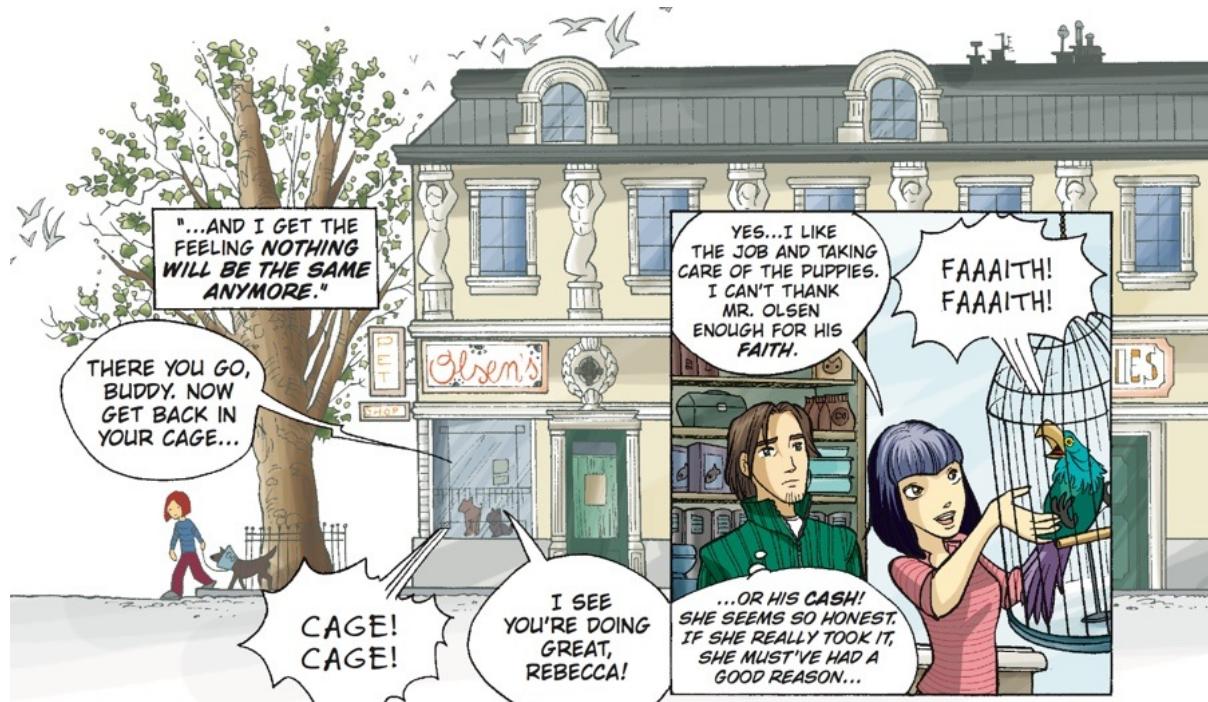


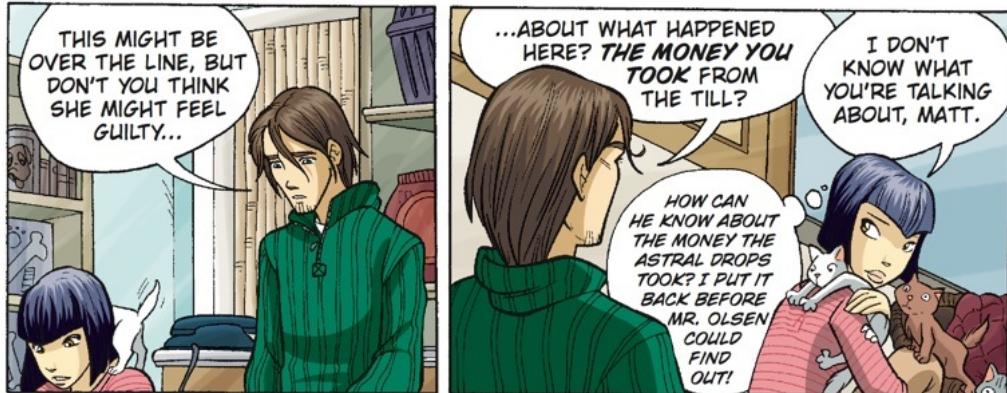




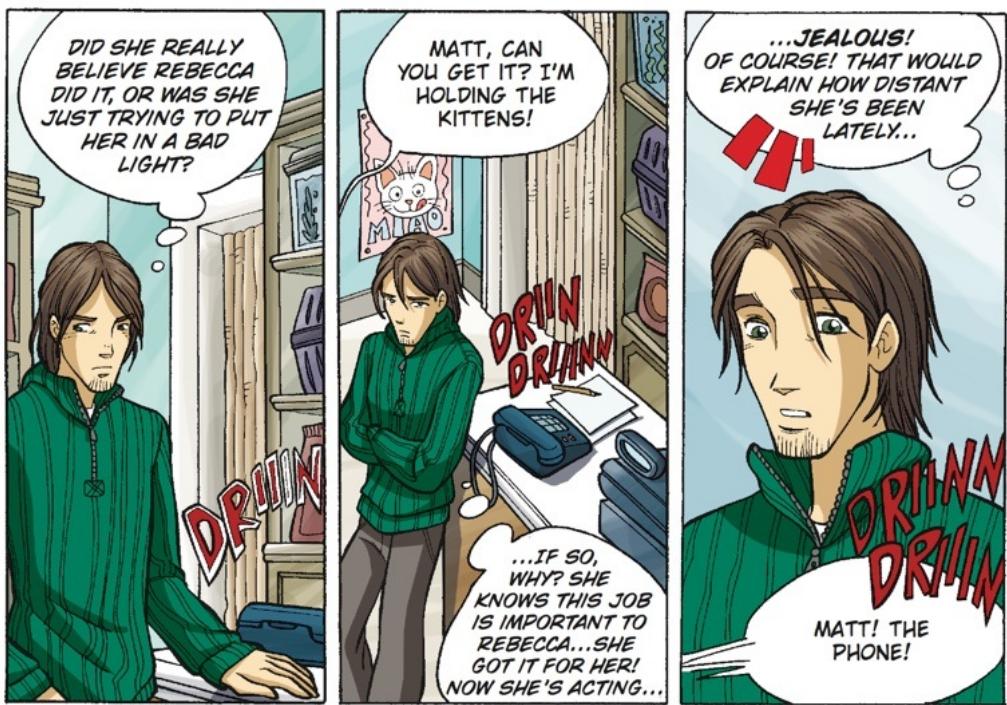


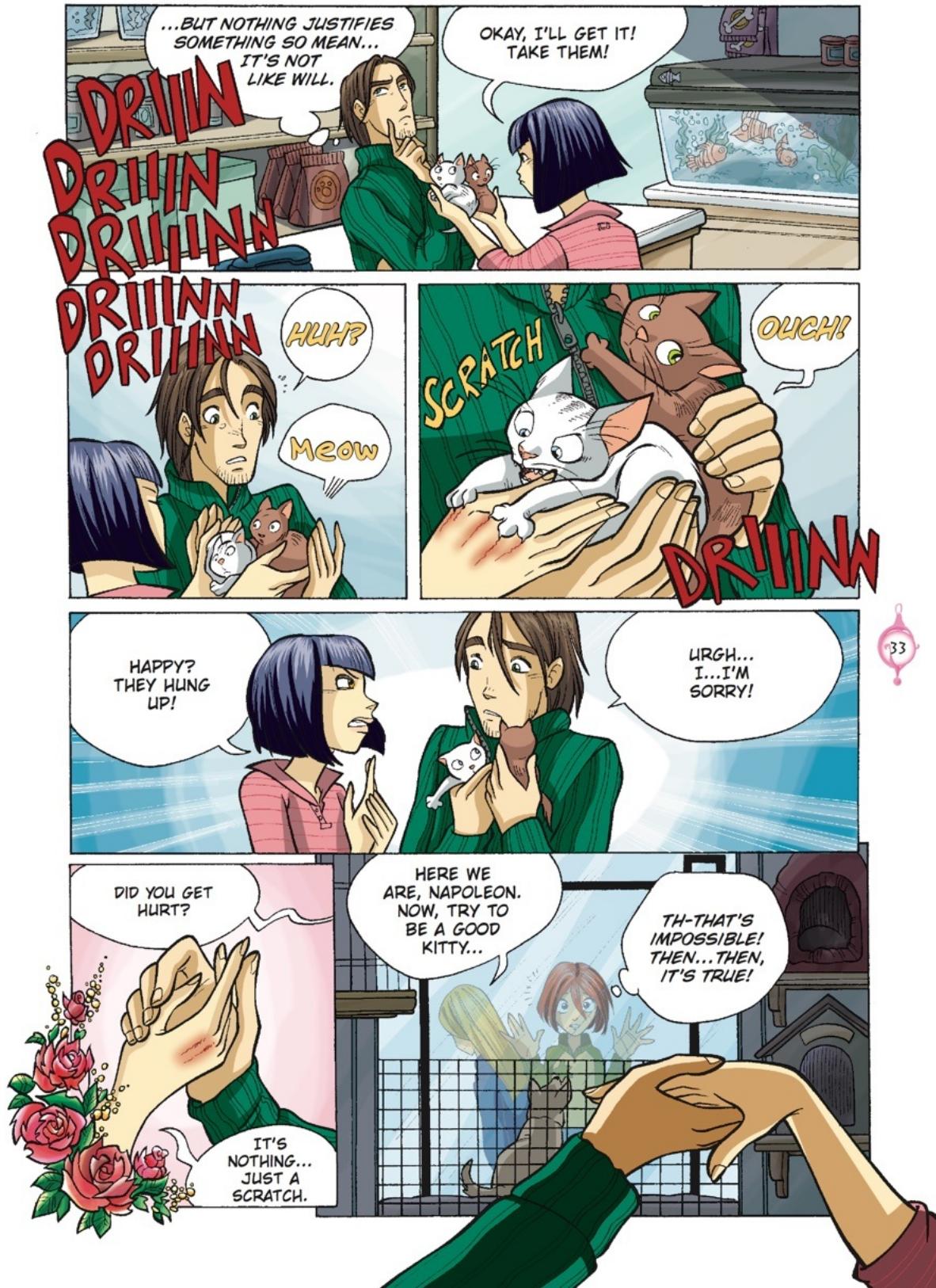


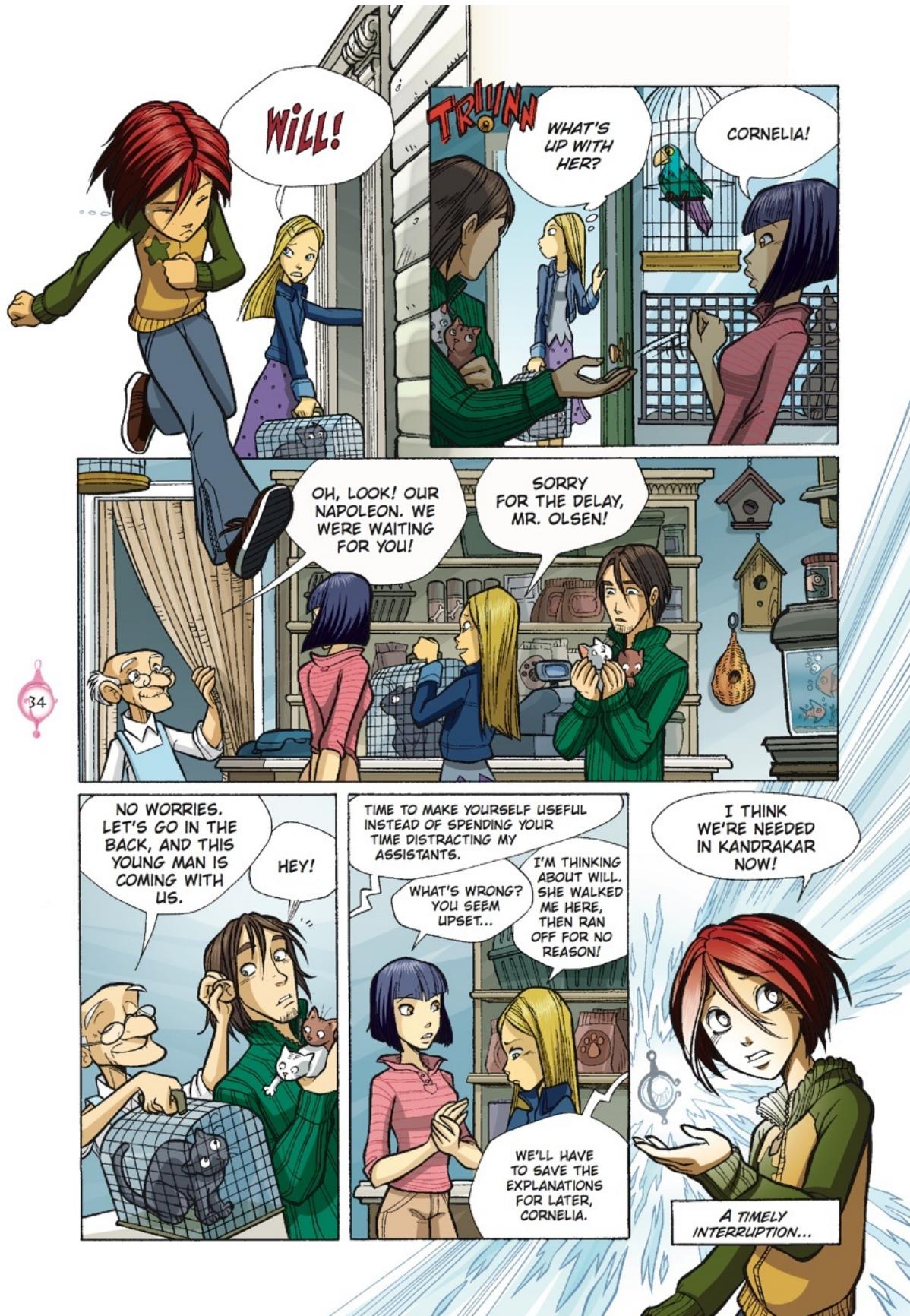


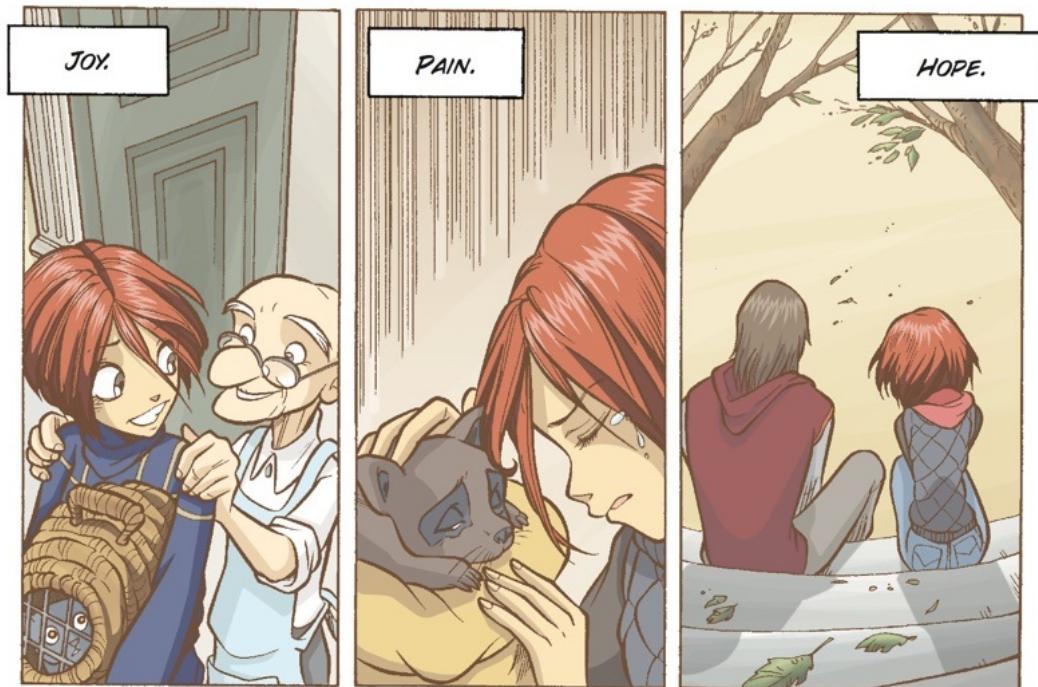
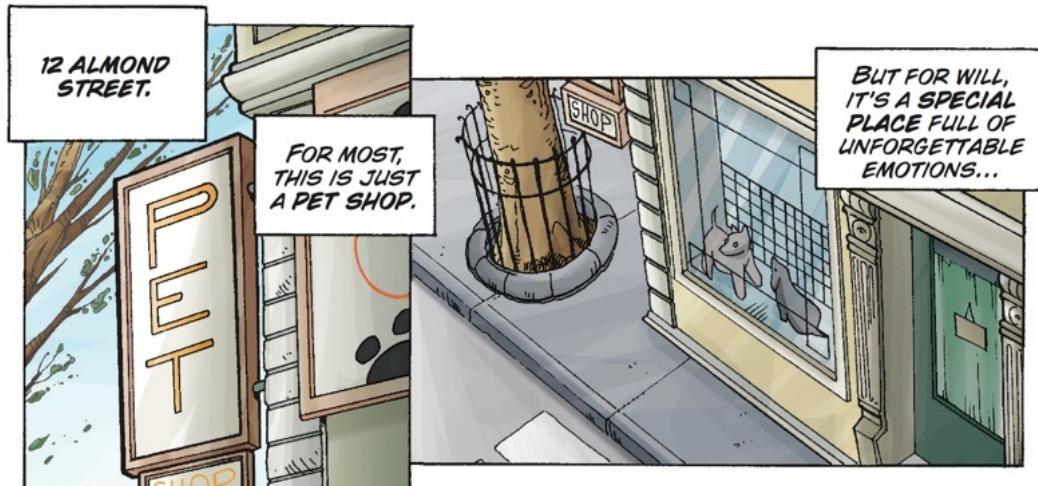


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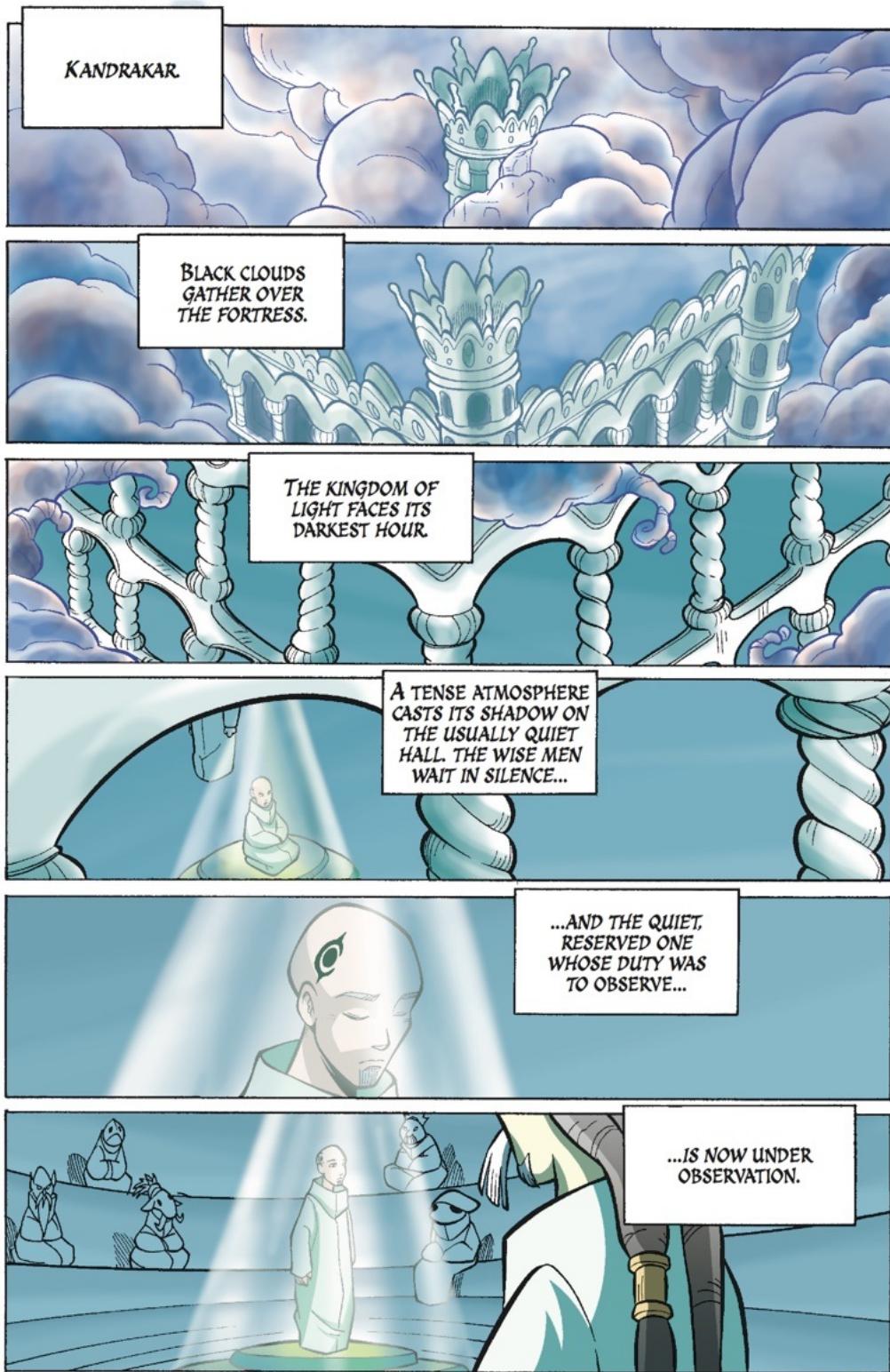


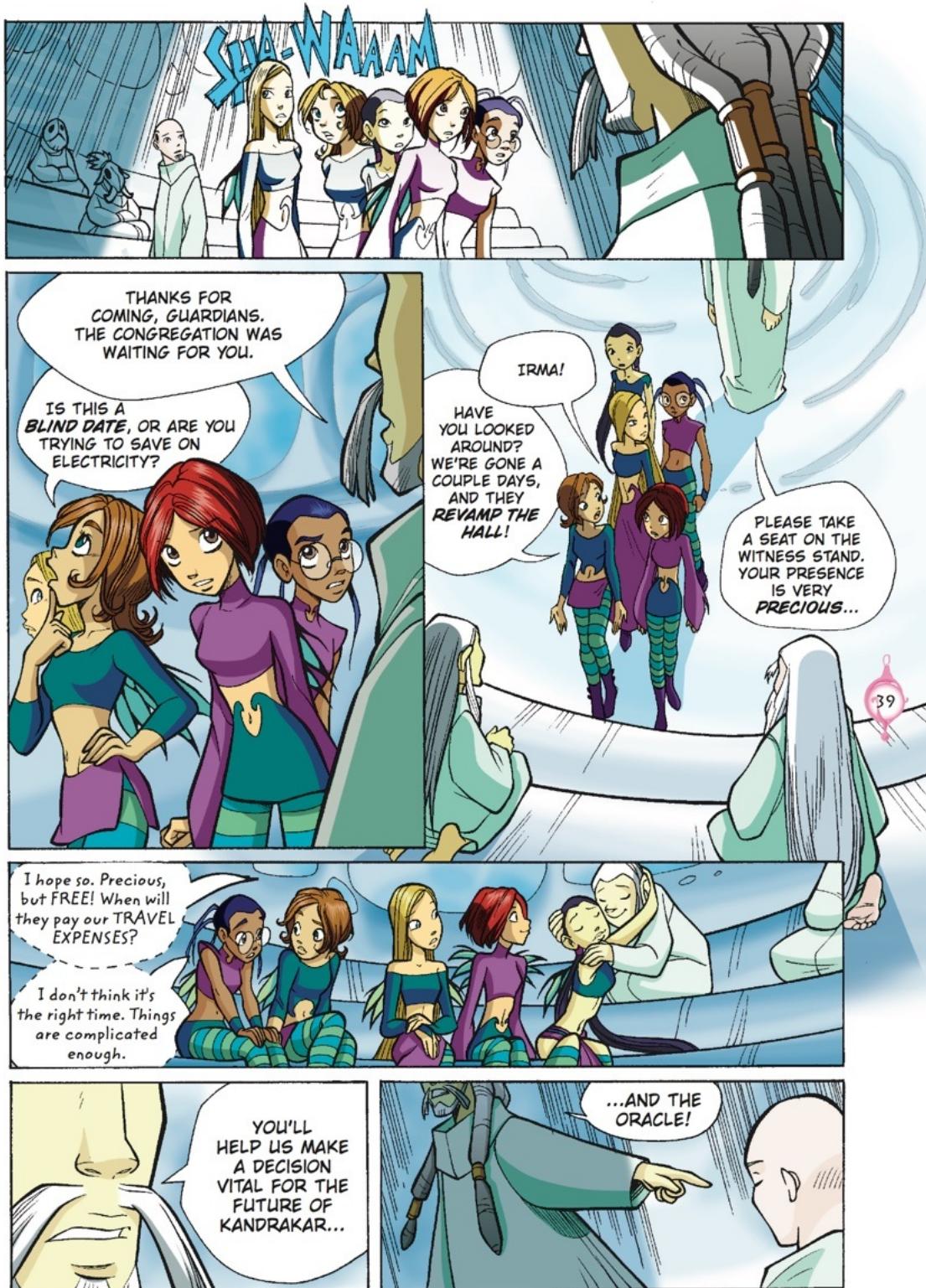
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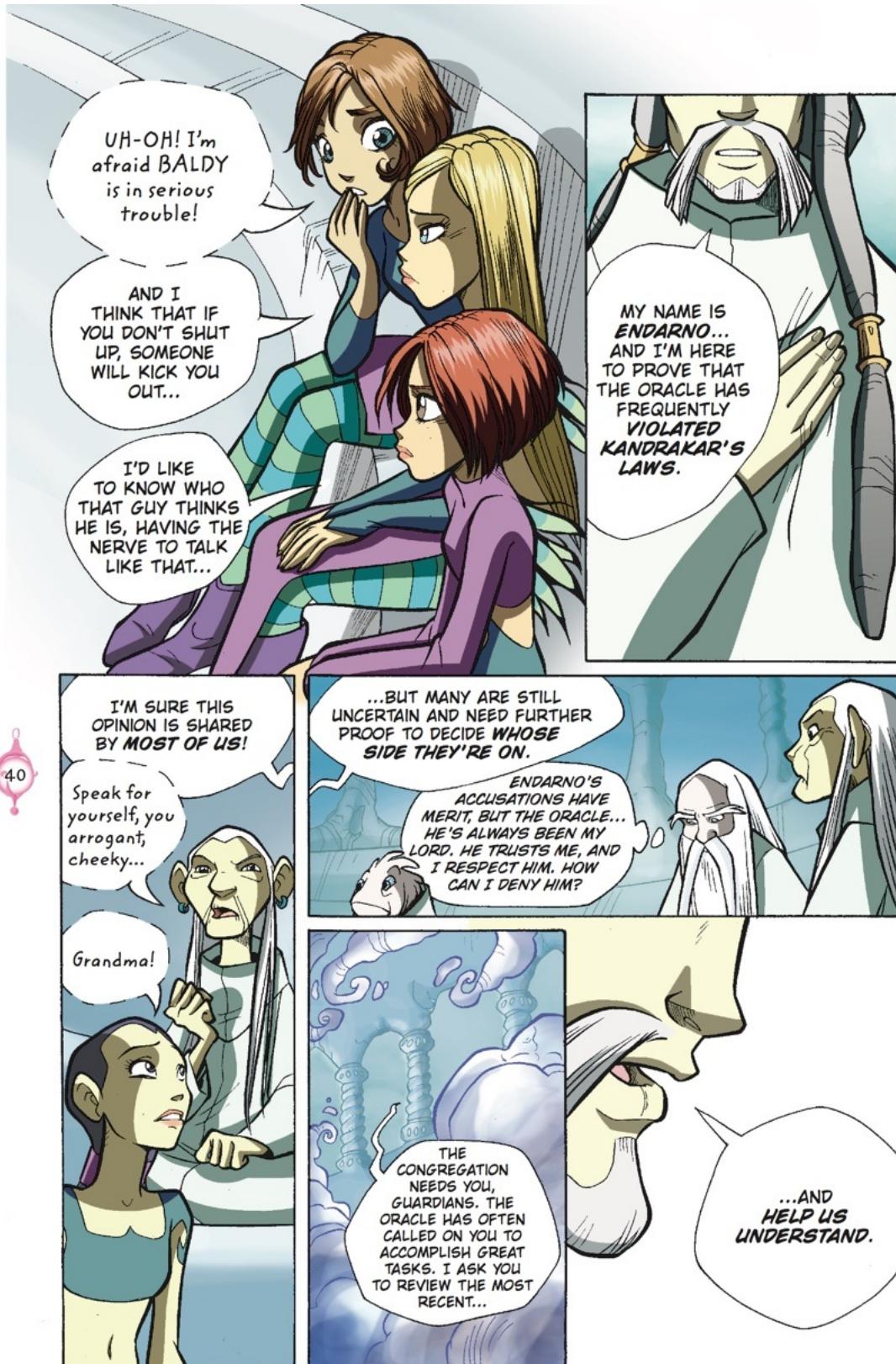




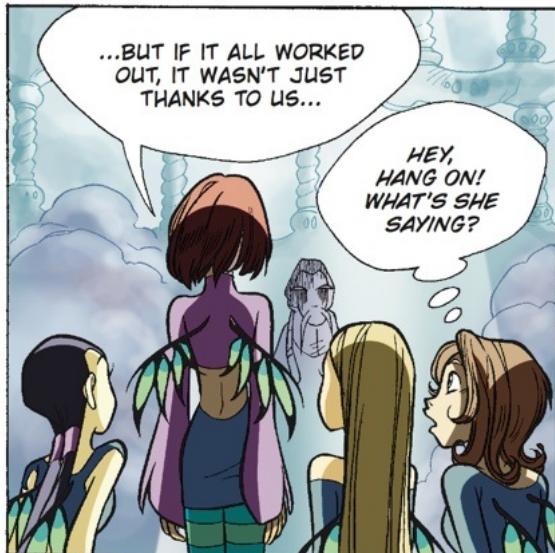




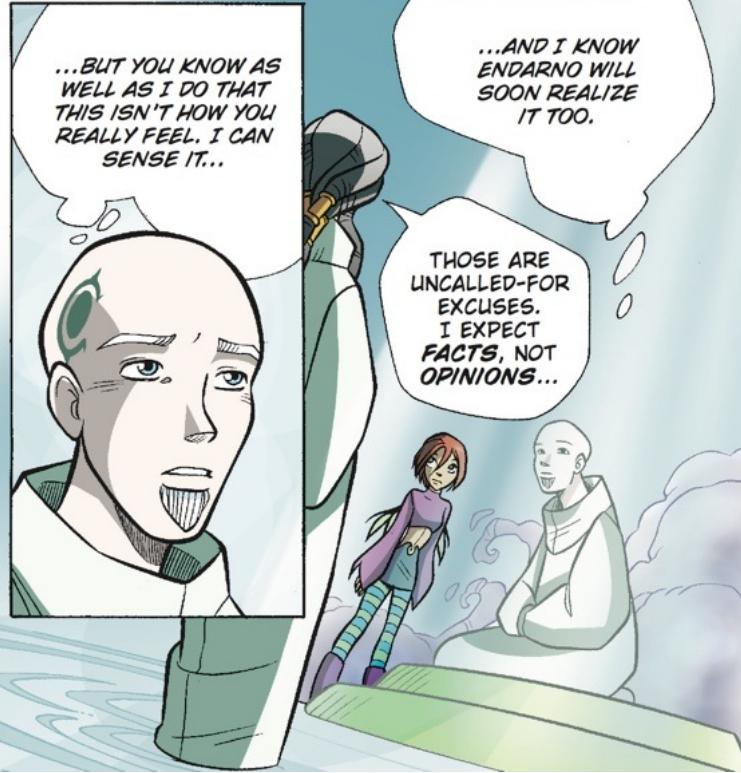


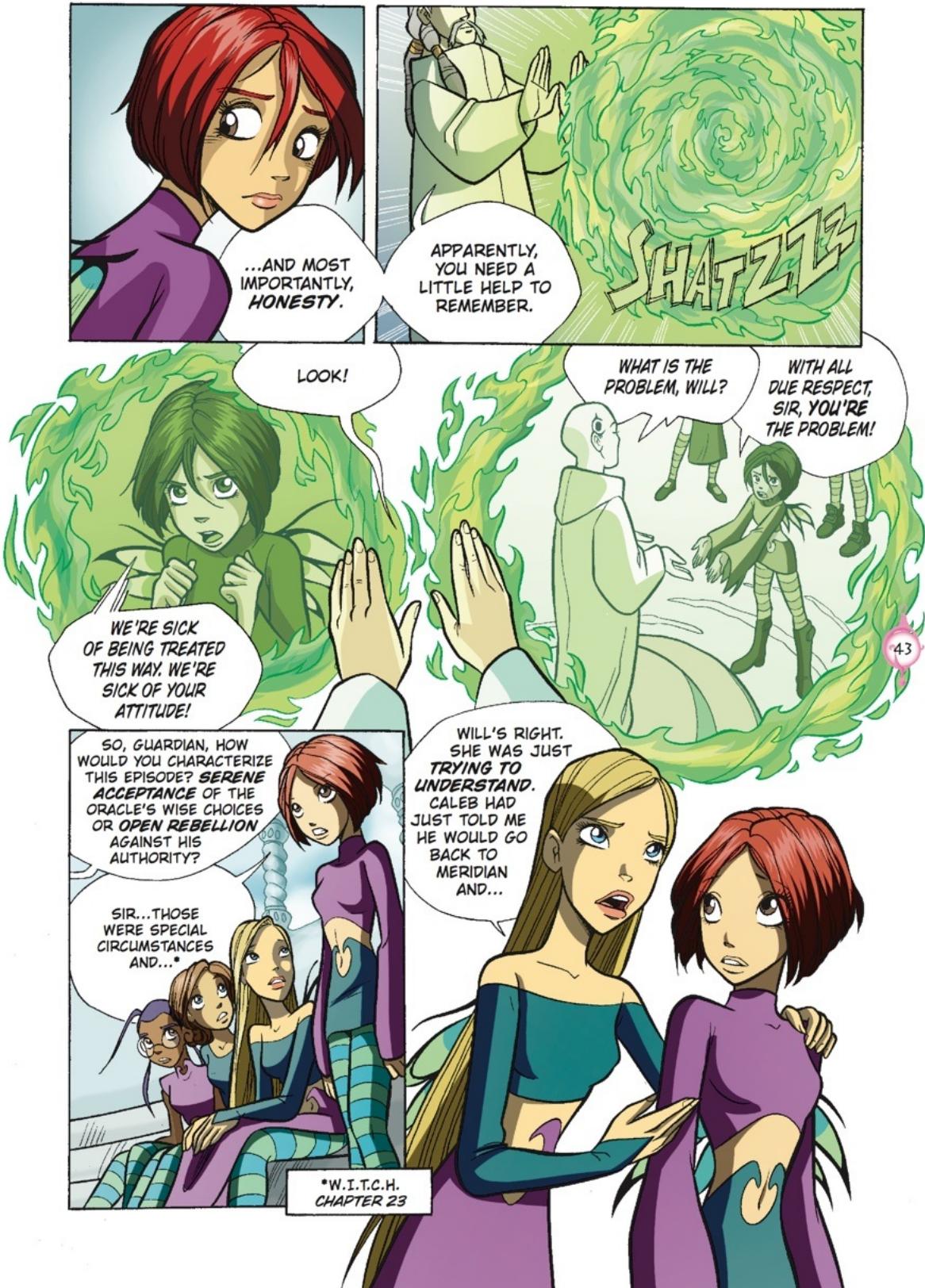


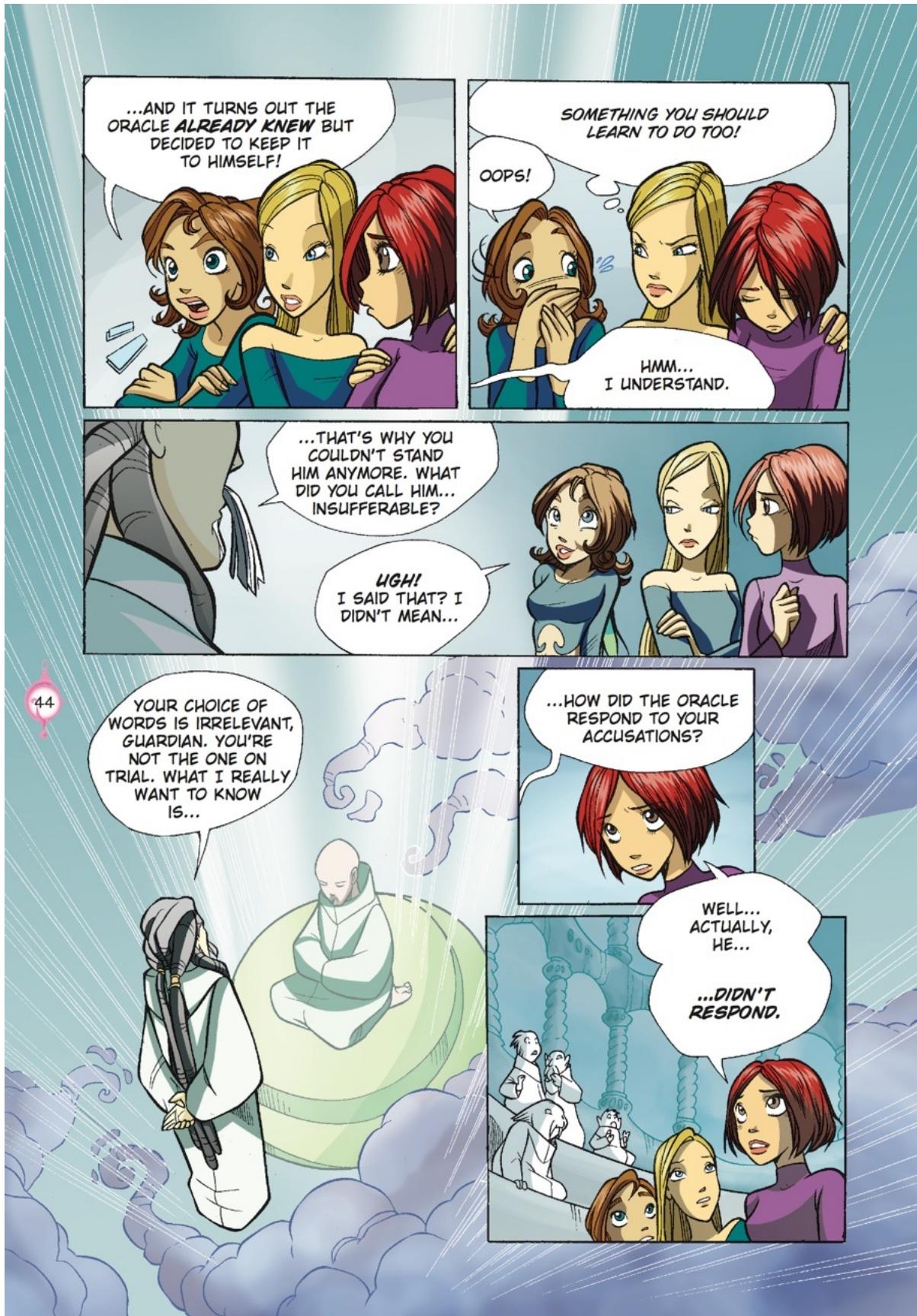




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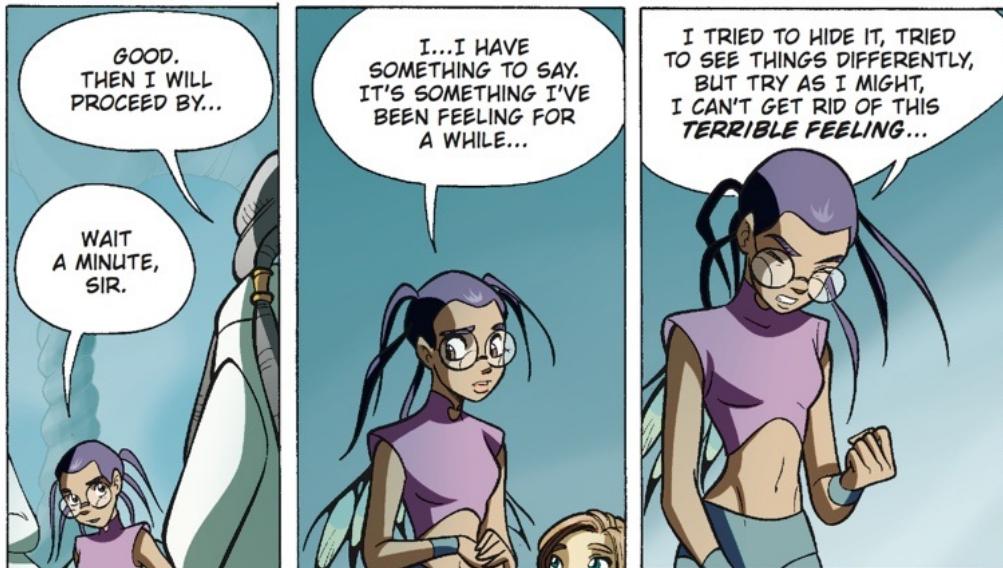
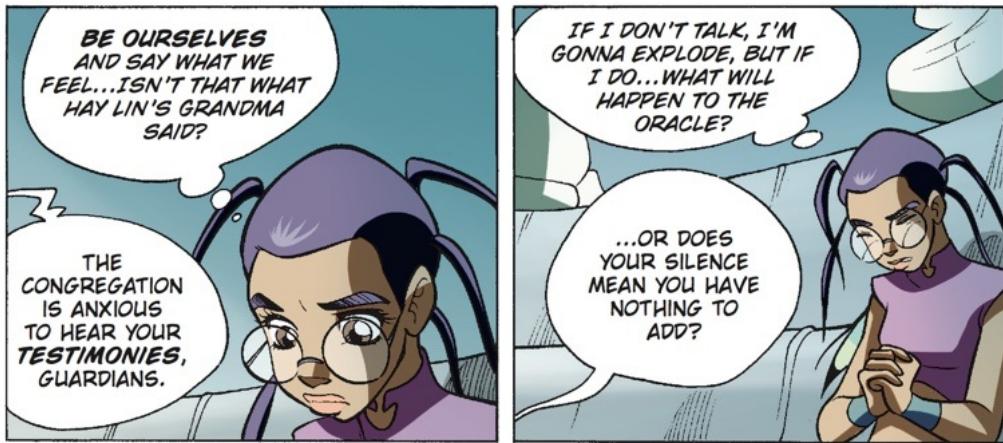


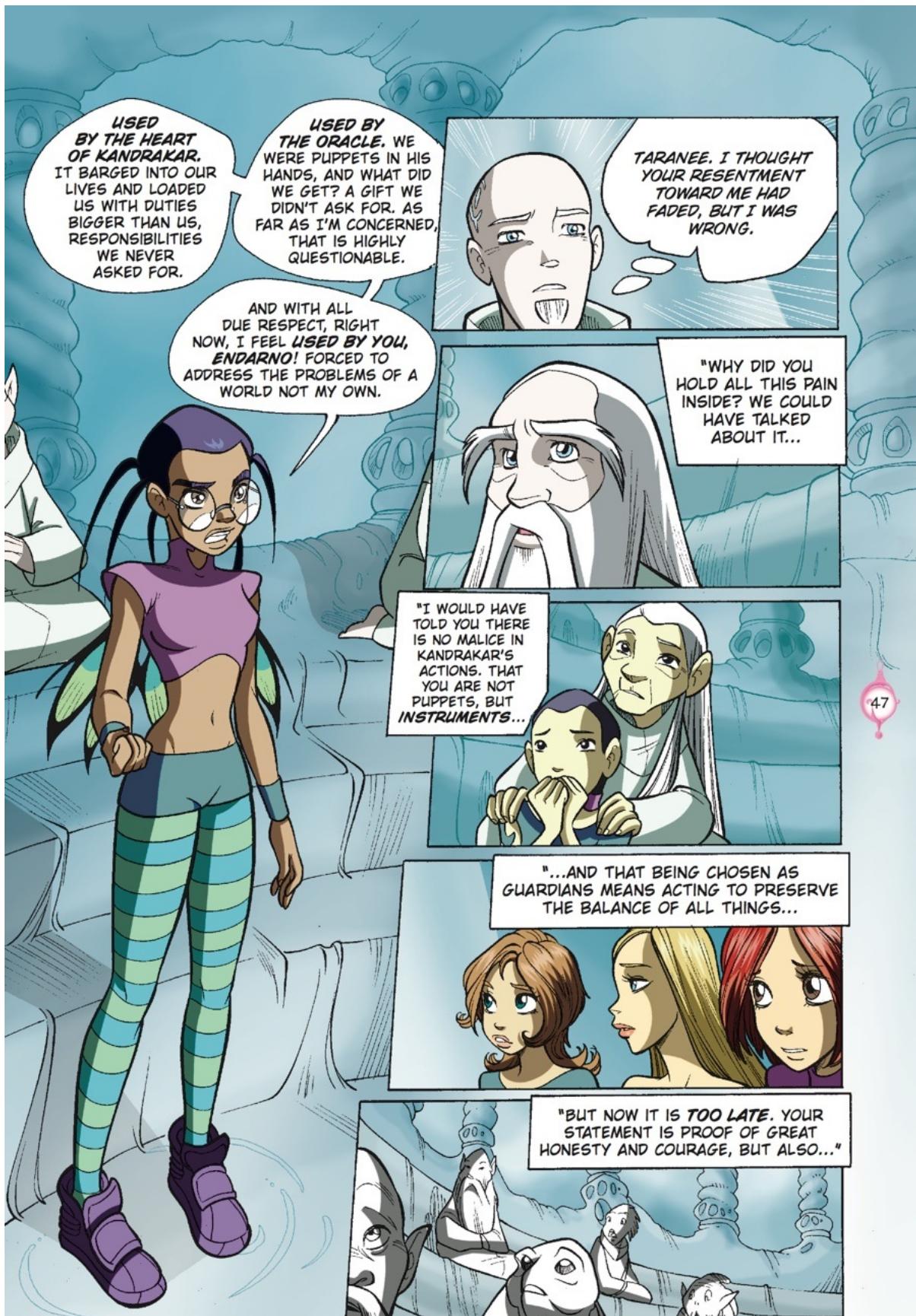


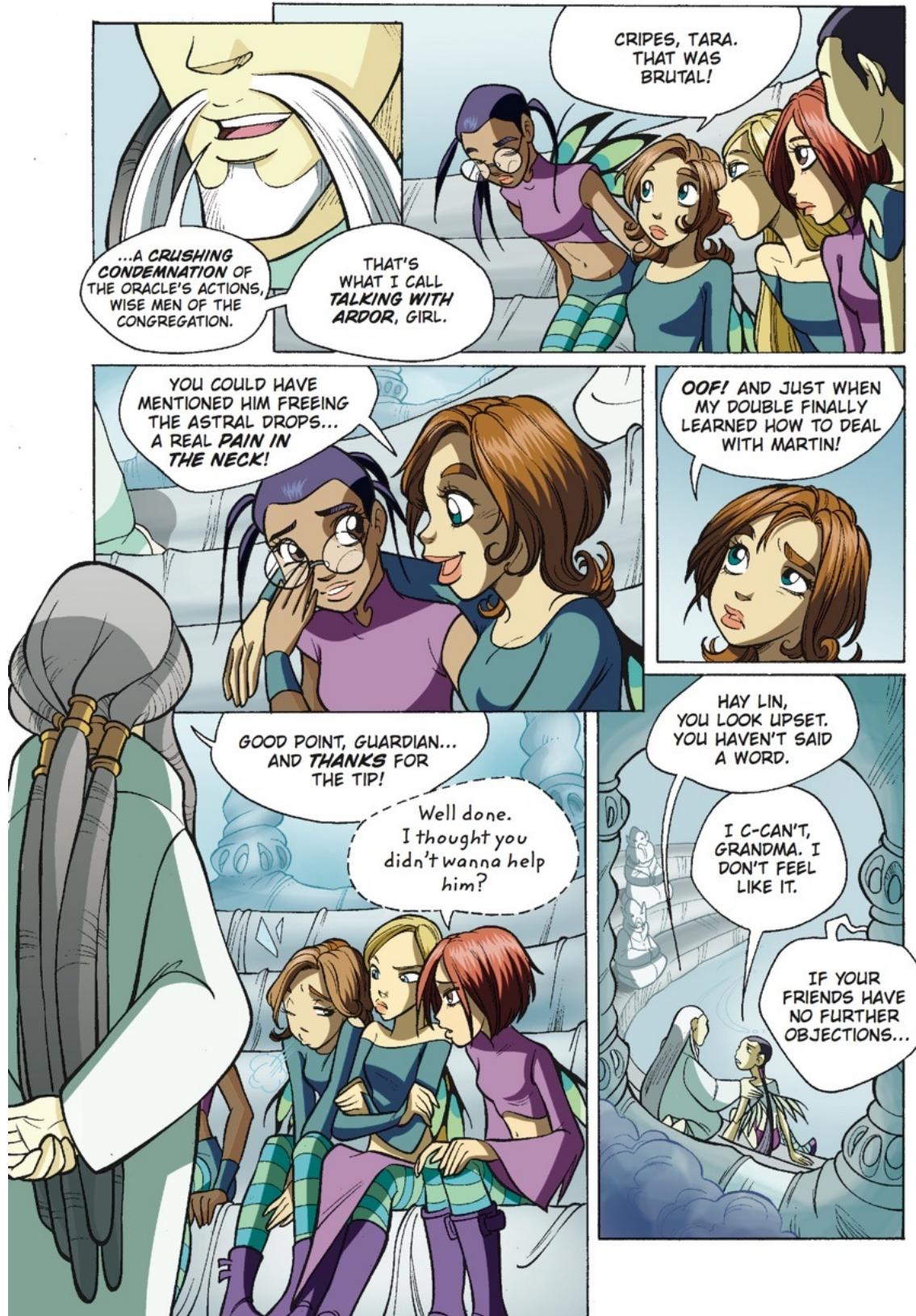




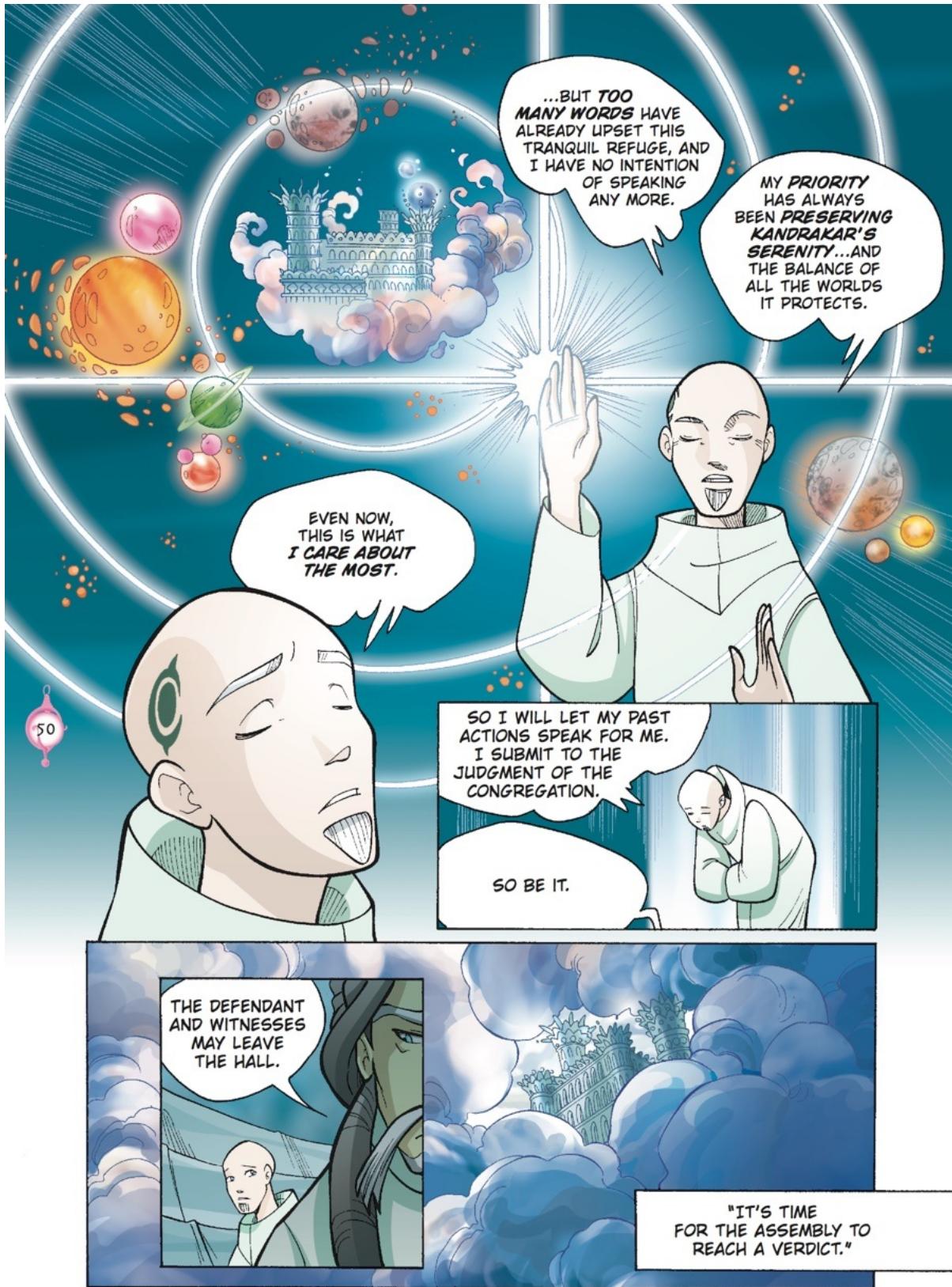
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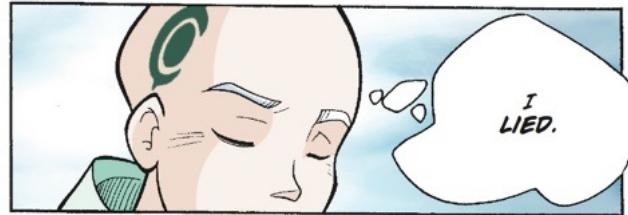




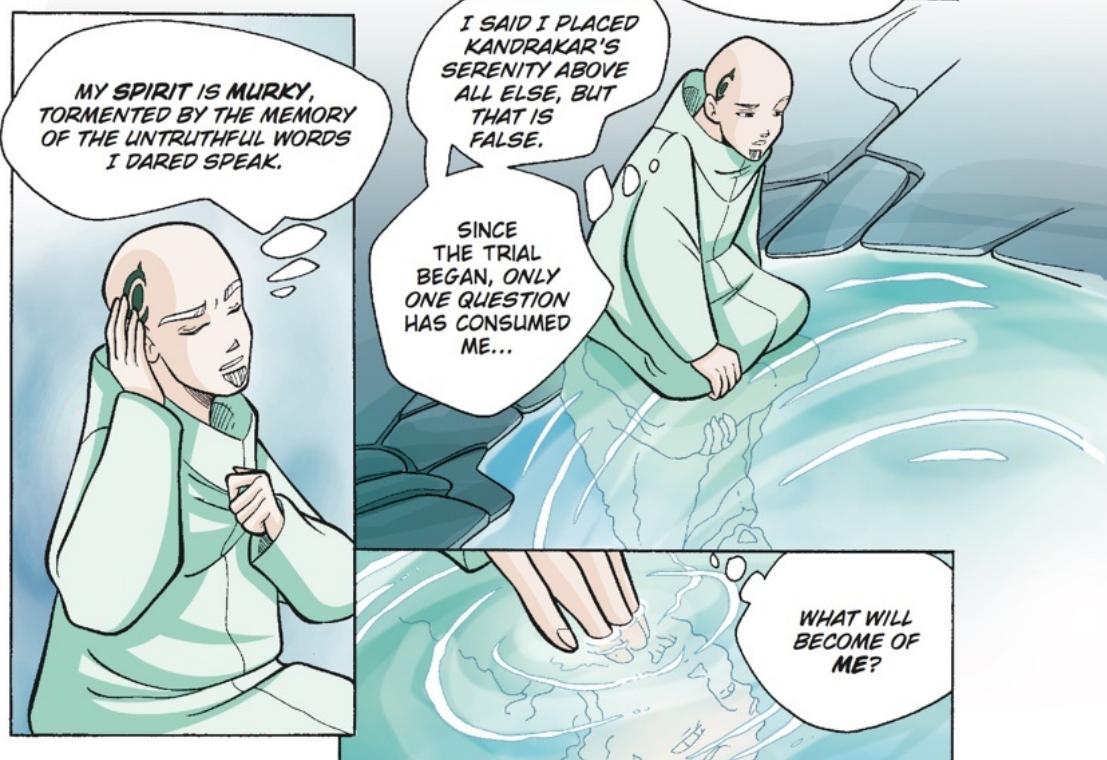


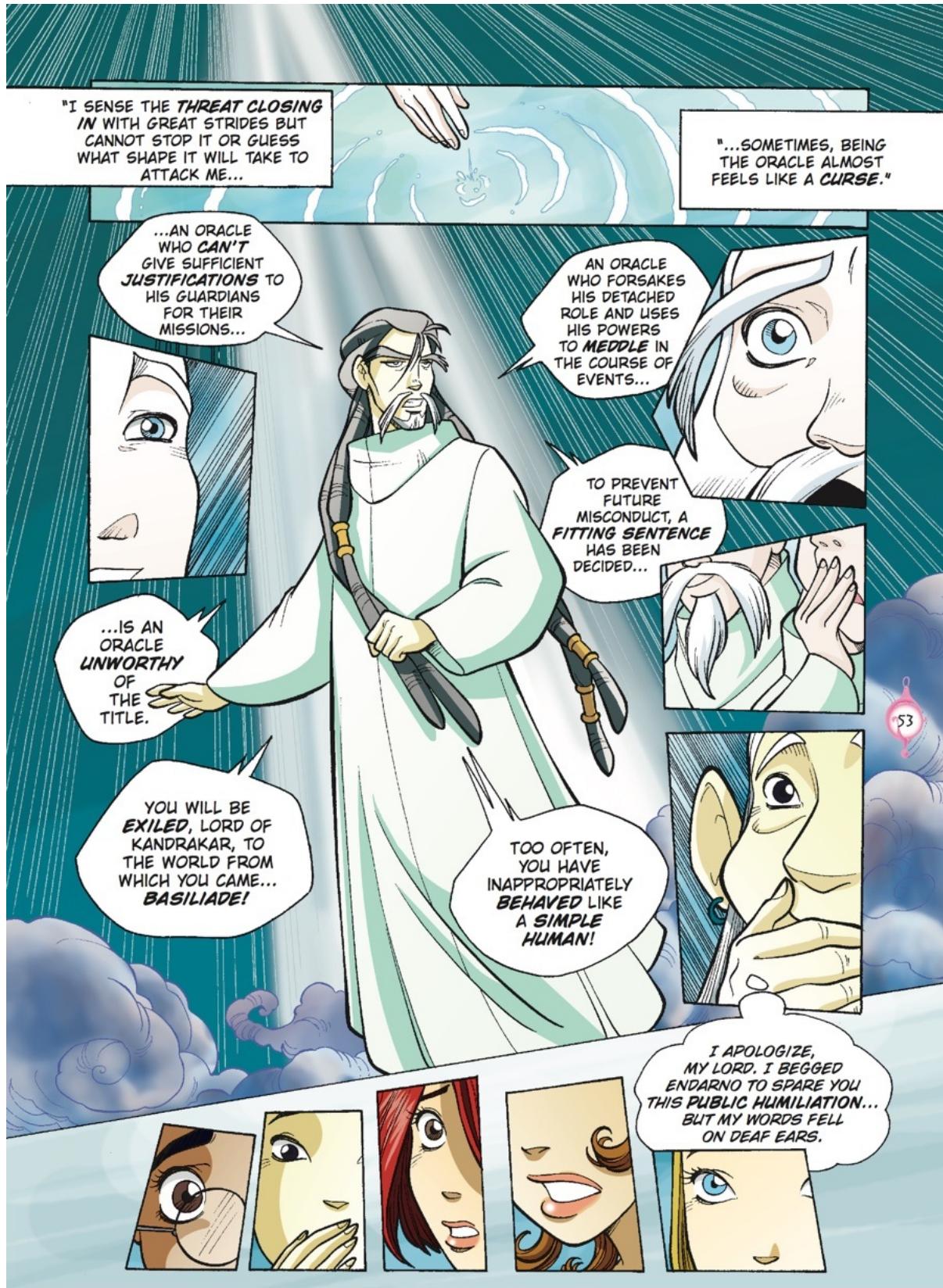
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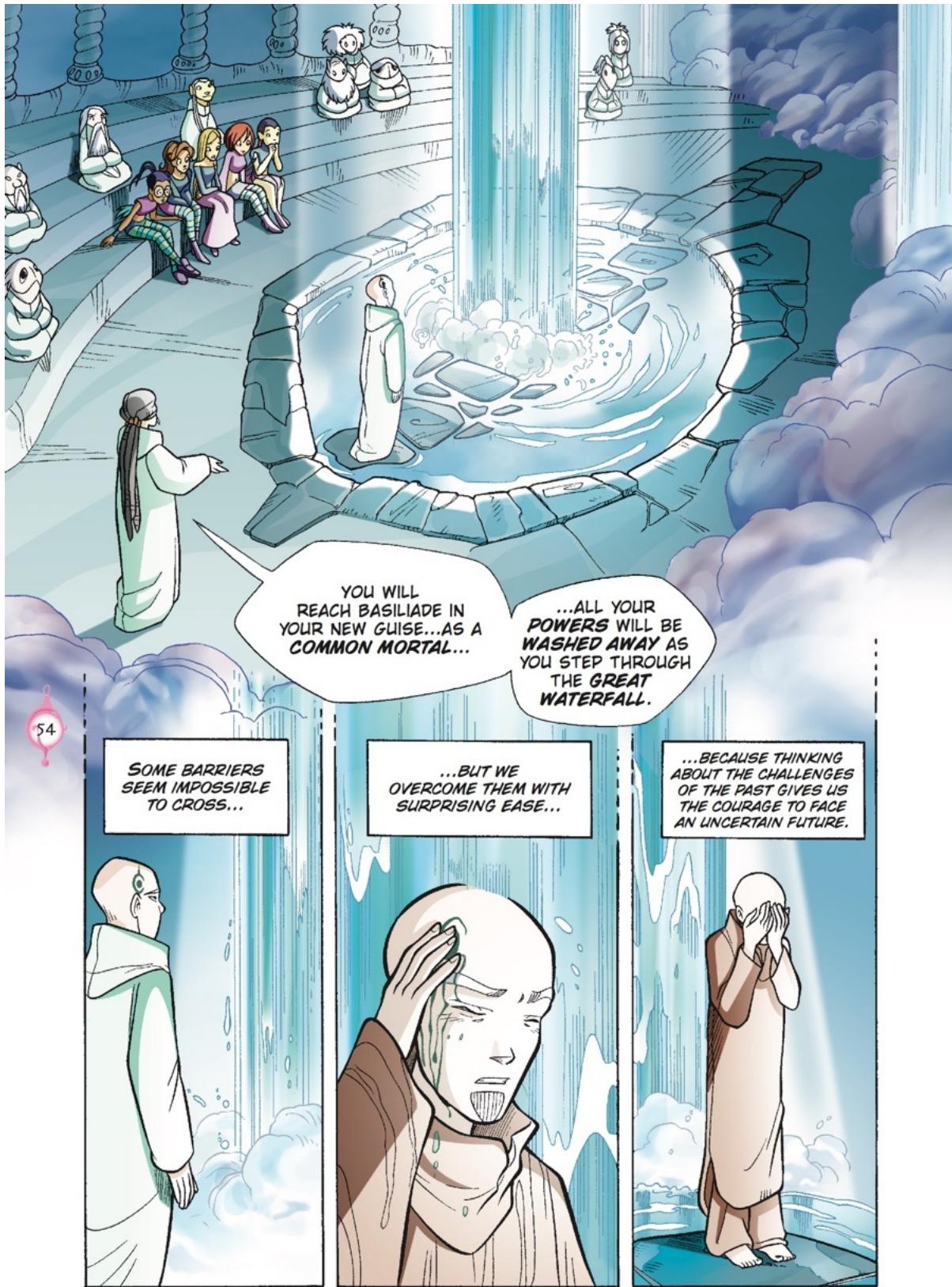


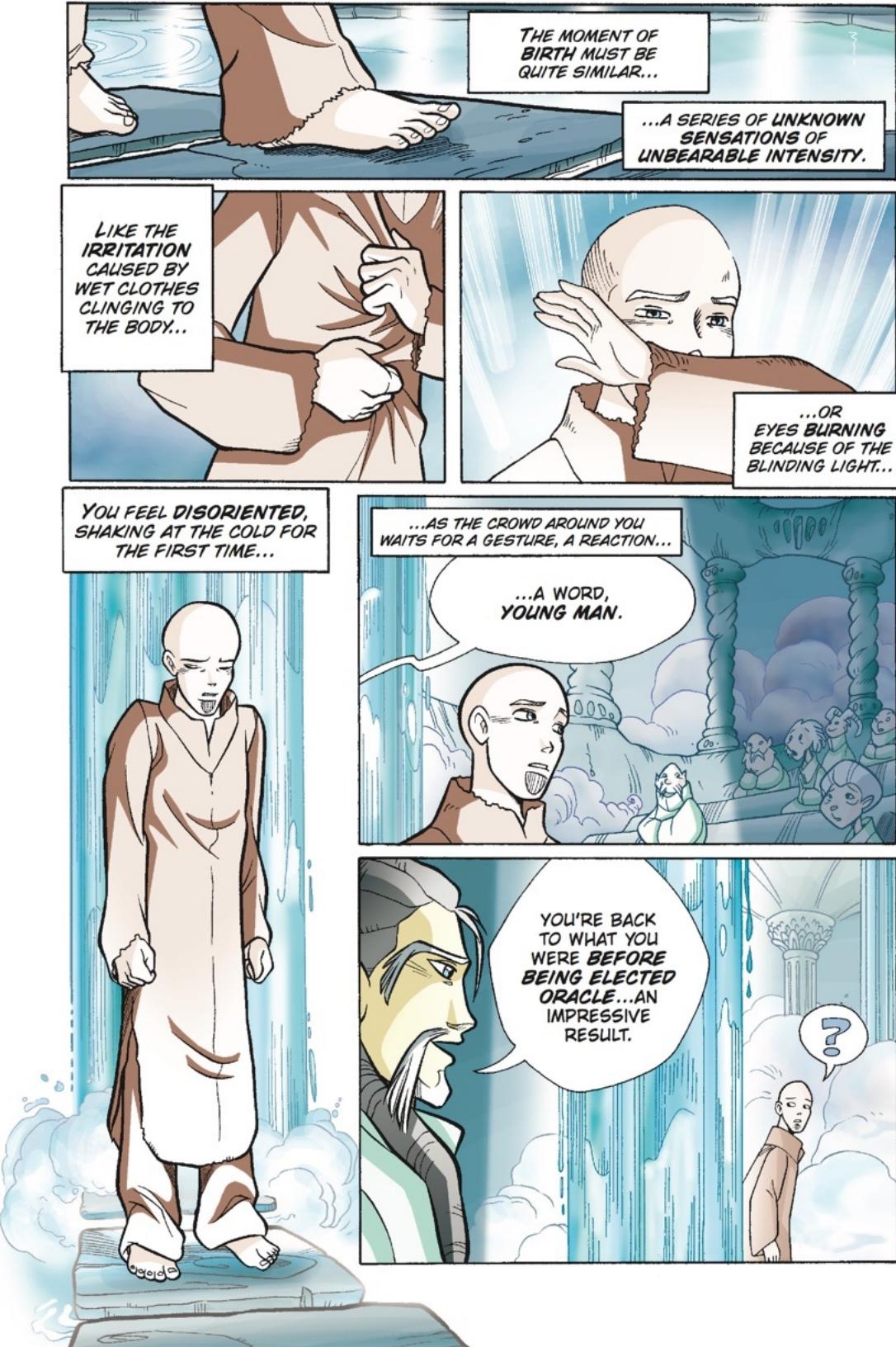


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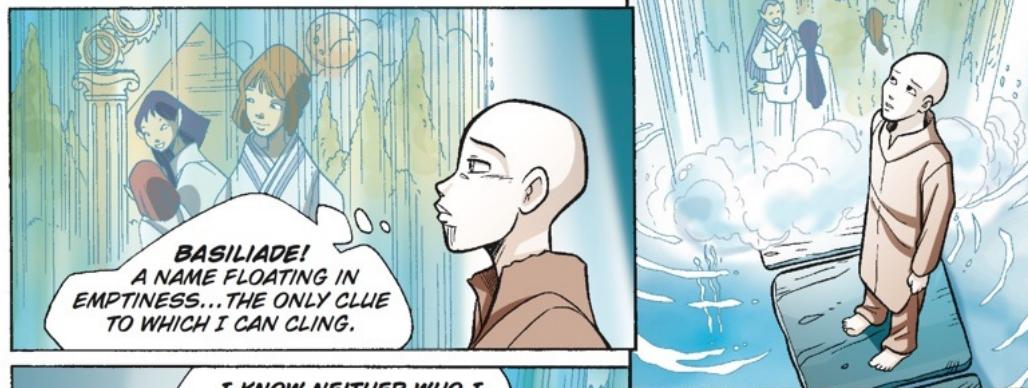












"...AND THE SAME GOES FOR KANDRAKAR."

I MEAN, IT'S OUTRAGEOUS! DID YOU SEE HOW HE DISSED HIM?

THIS TIME, YOU'RE RIGHT, CORNY!

HE TREATED HIM LIKE DIRT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT HIS POWERS ARE...WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE!

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT SOMEDAY I'D BE ROOTING FOR THE ORACLE?

DON'T CALL HIM THAT. HE'S NOT THE ORACLE ANYMORE, IRMA, AND ALL THIS HAPPENED...

DON'T FEEL GUILTY, TARANEE.

OR YOU, GIRLS. NO REMORSE, PLEASE.

GRANDMA!

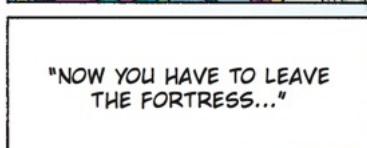
YOU HAD A TOUGH TASK TO DO, WHICH YOU FACED BRAVELY...EACH IN HER OWN WAY...

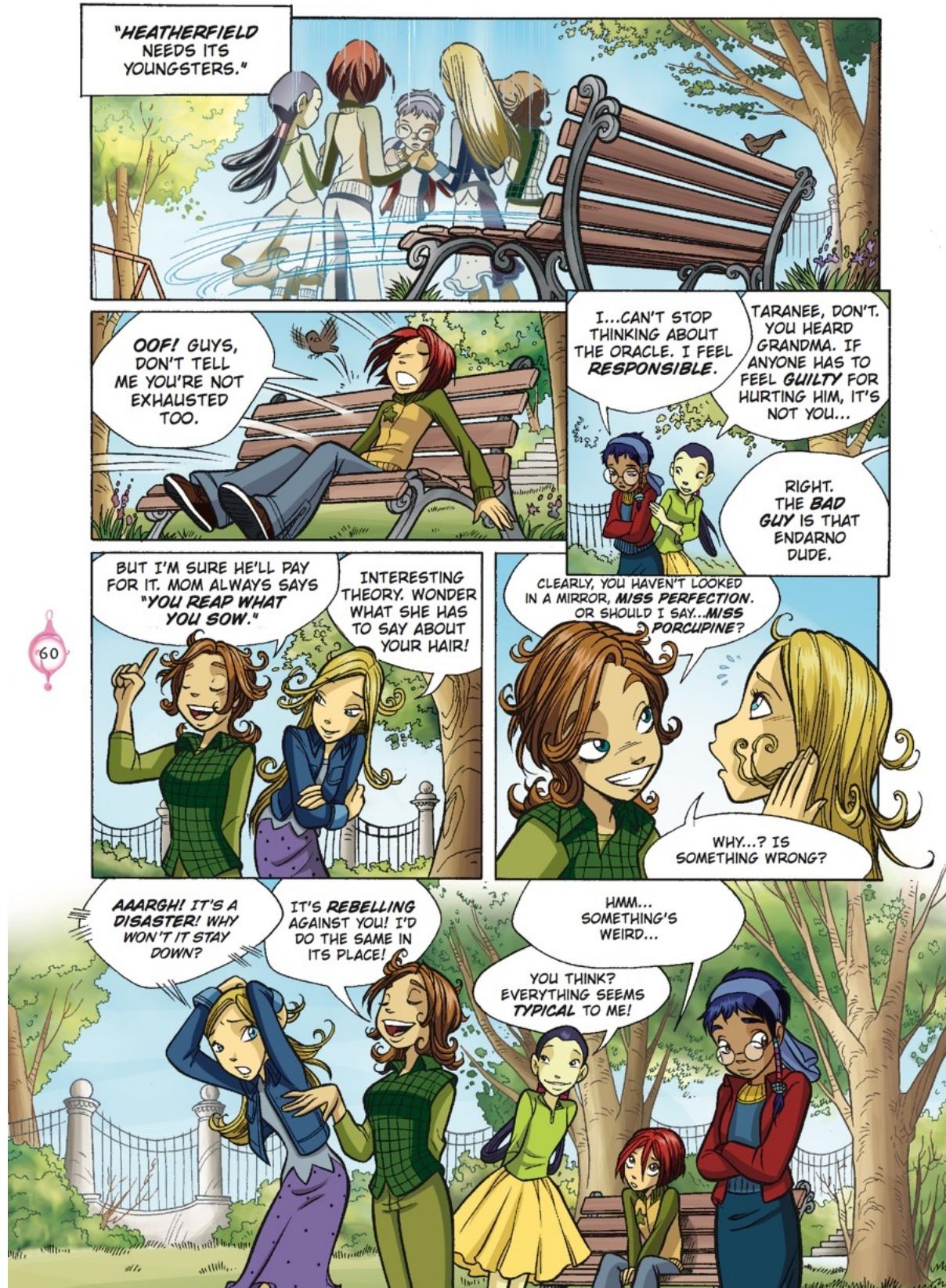
...BUT WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR ACTIONS RIGHT AWAY, AND I'M AFRAID IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

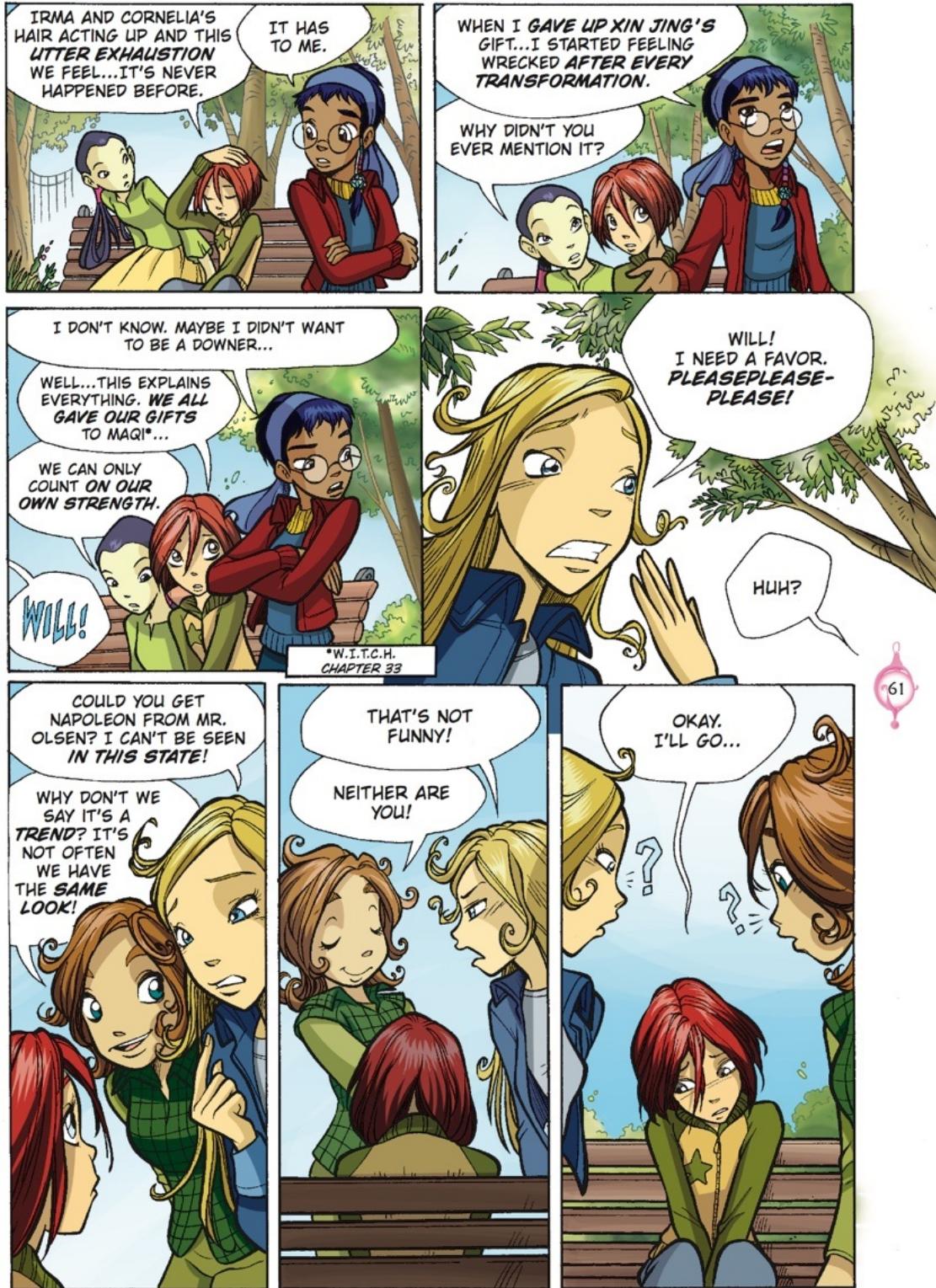
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



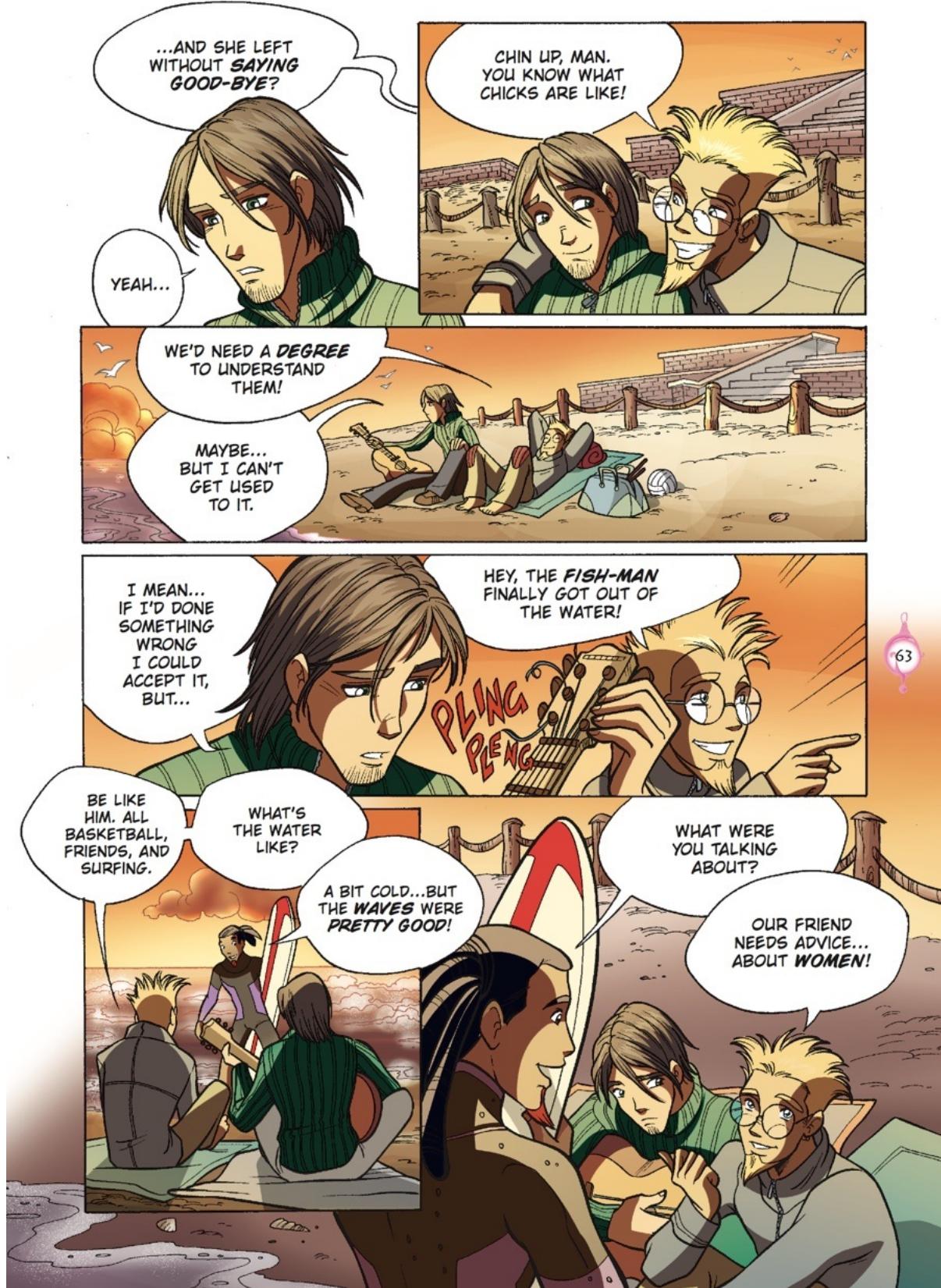
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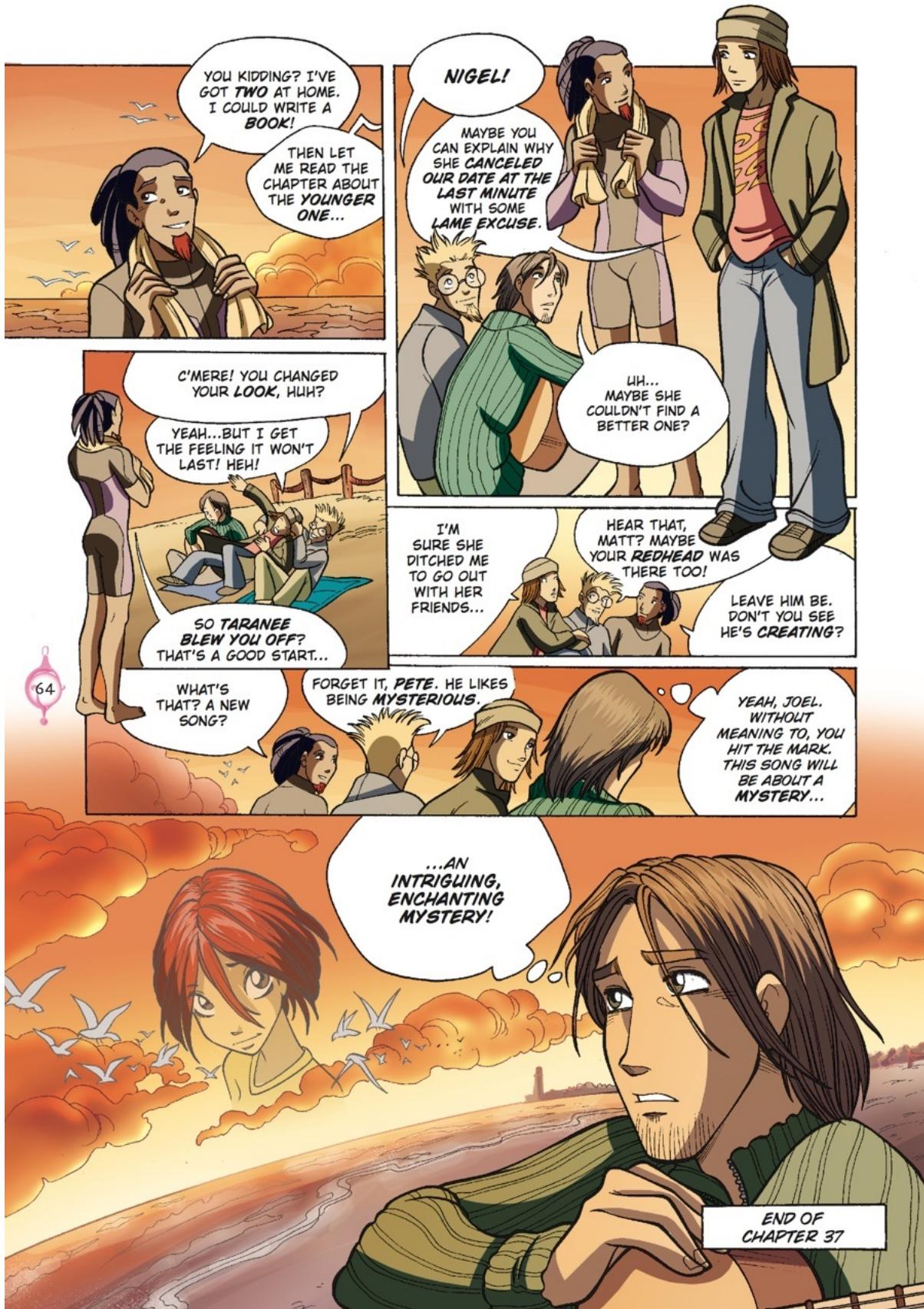












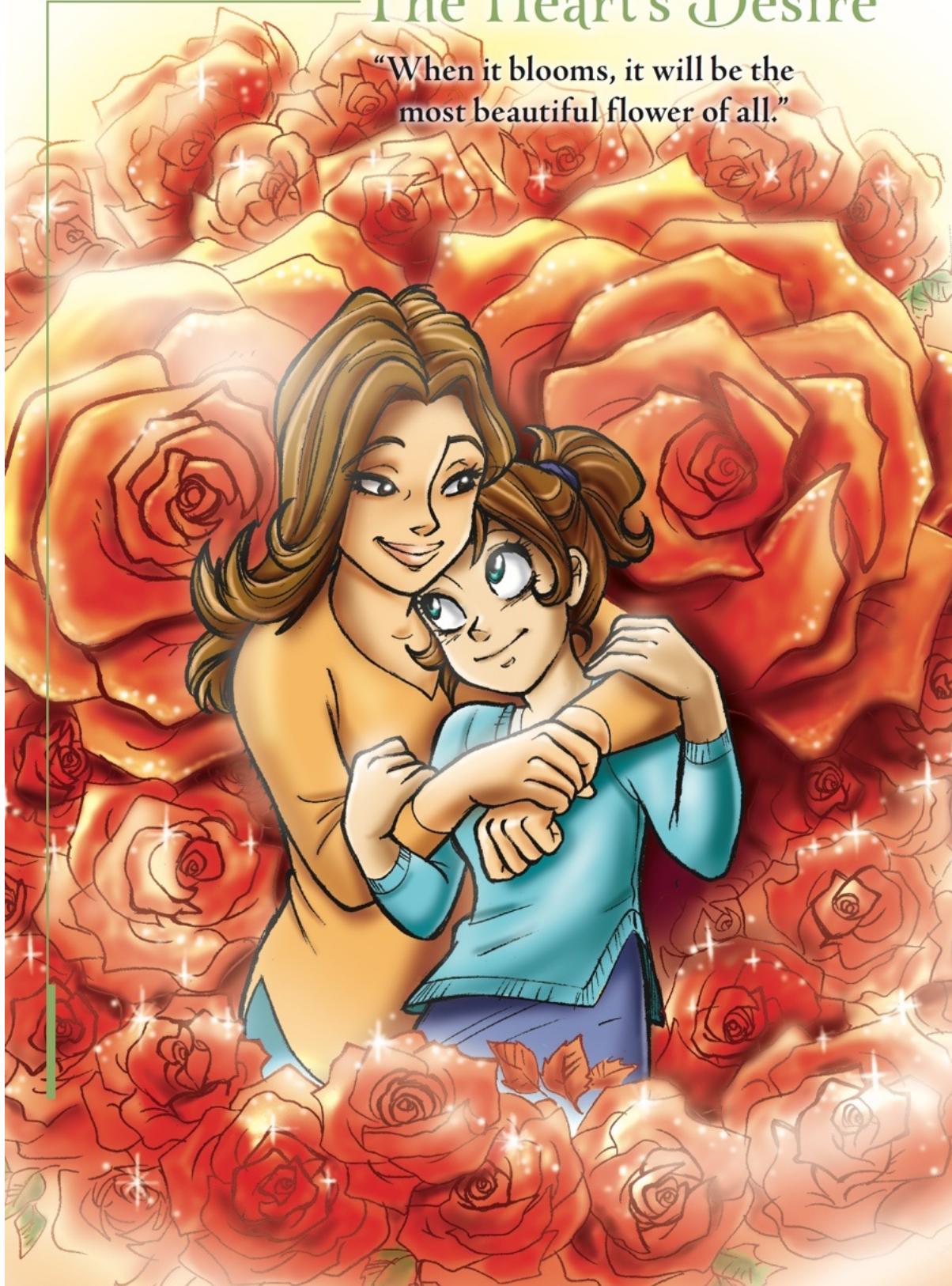


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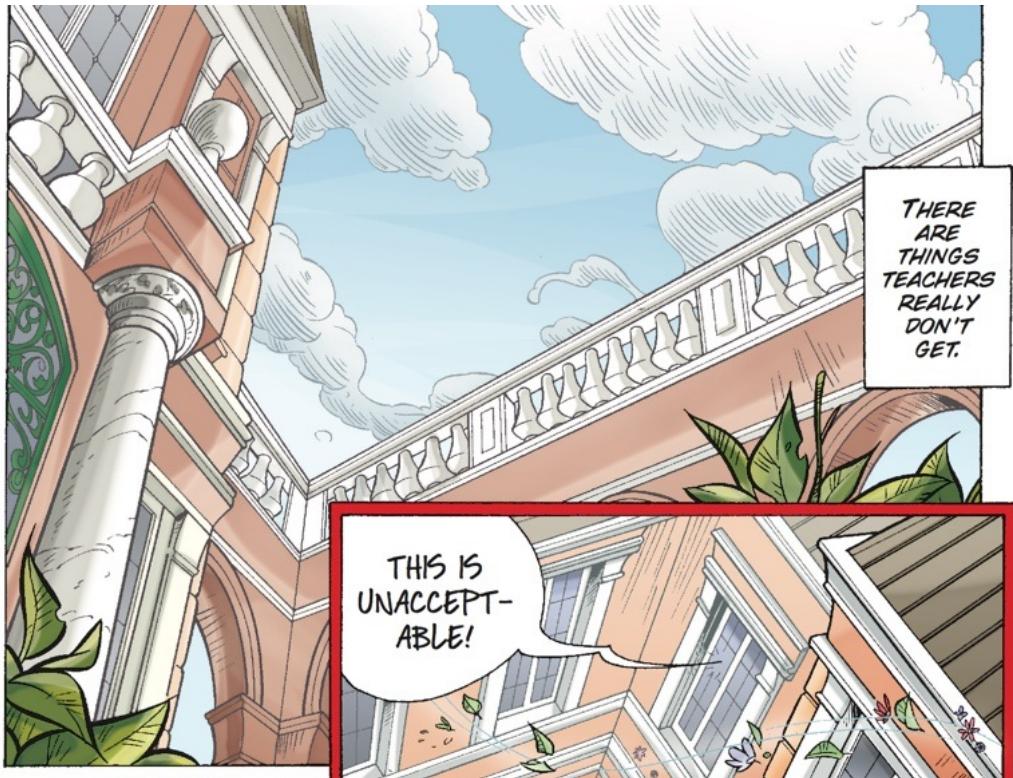


The Heart's Desire

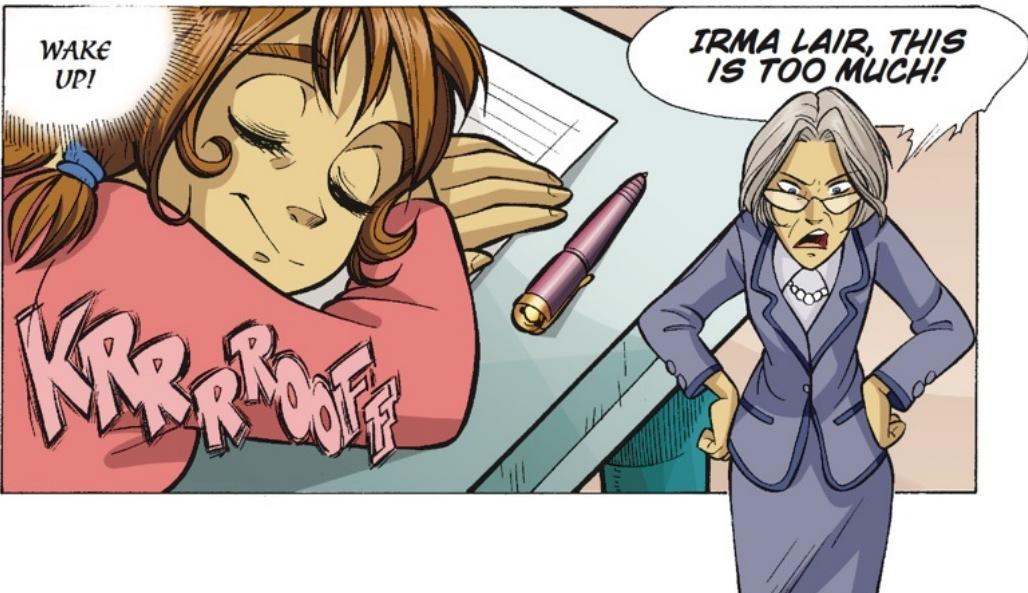
“When it blooms, it will be the
most beautiful flower of all.”





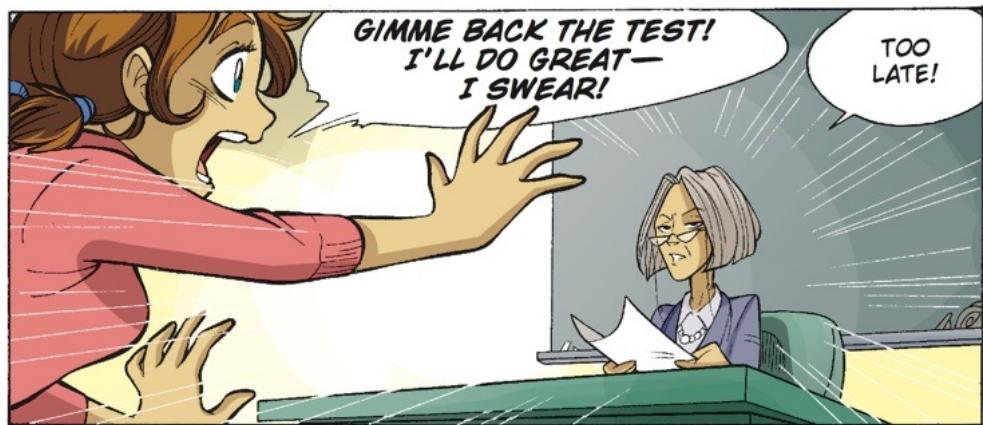


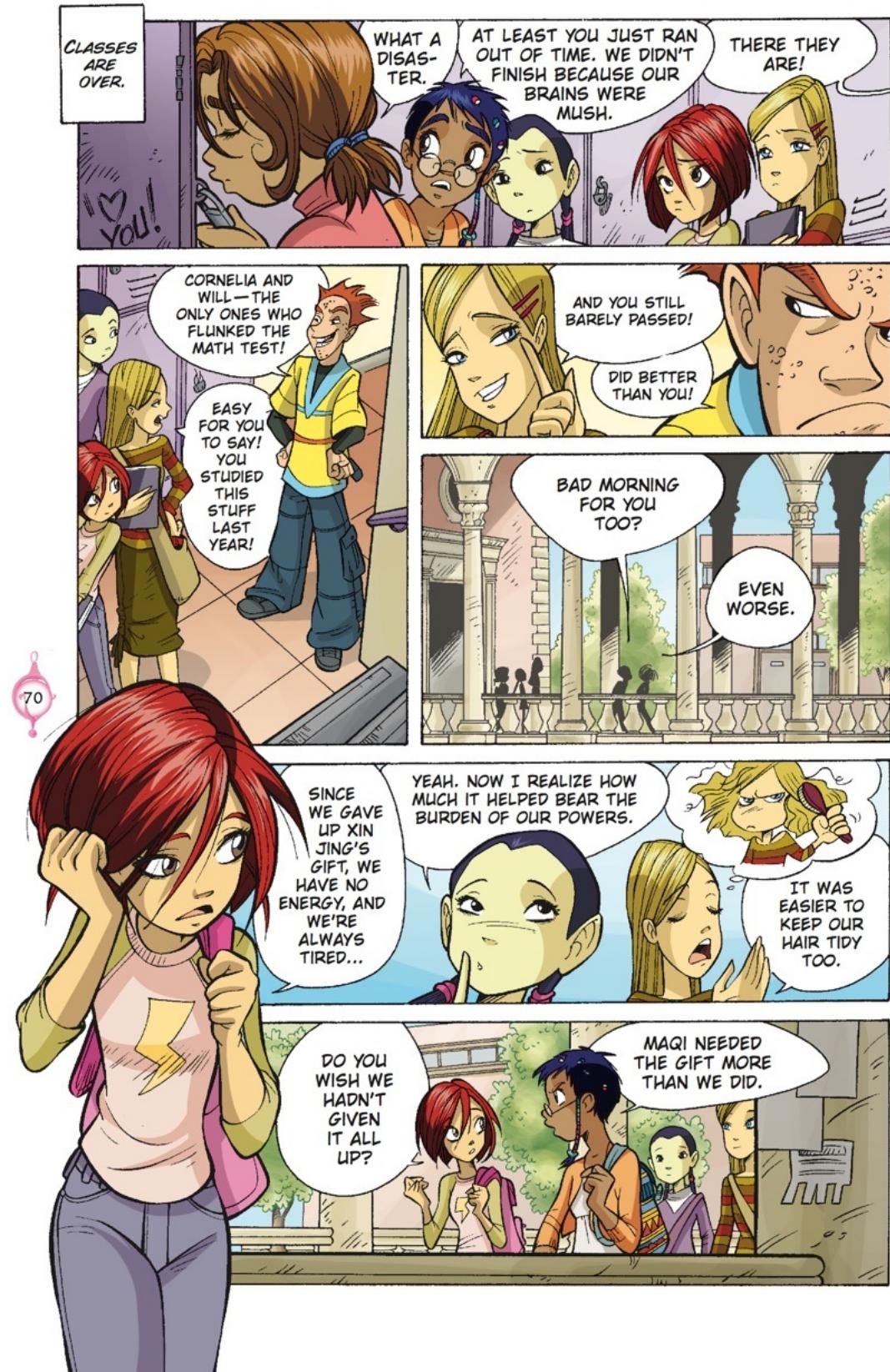
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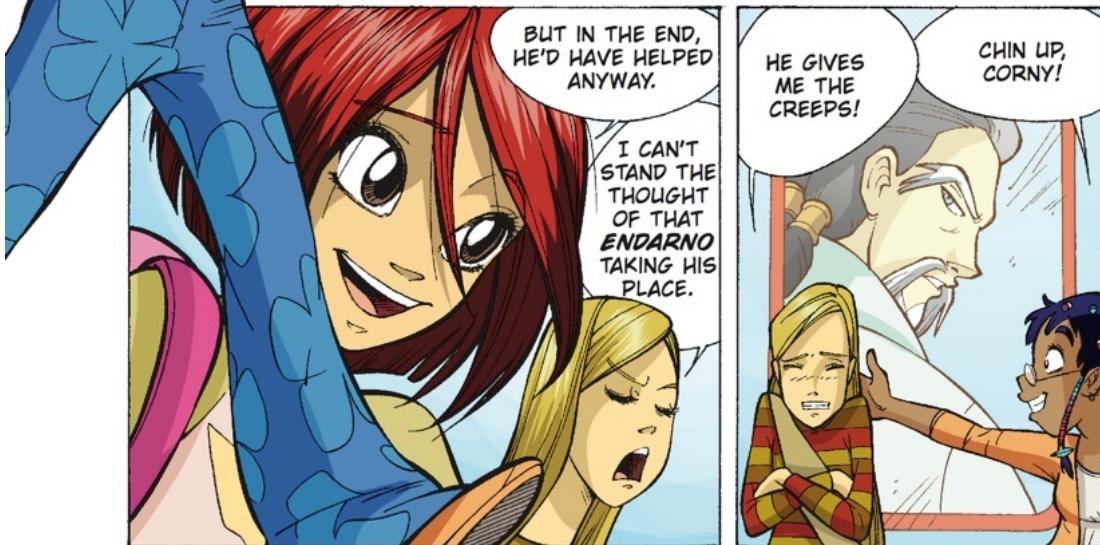




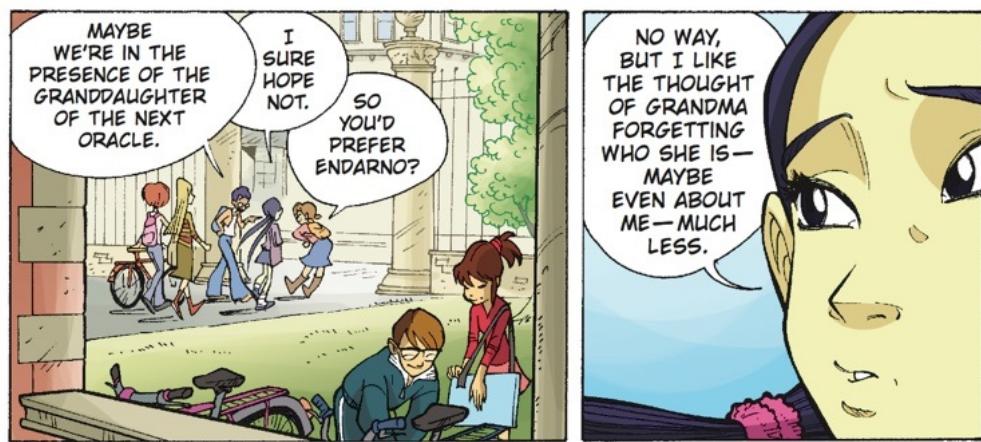
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KANDRAKAR
THE CEREMONY
OF REBIRTH, THE
ELECTION OF THE
NEW ORACLE, IS
ABOUT TO BEGIN.



I DON'T LIKE
IT, TIBOR.
I DON'T LIKE
IT AT ALL.

IT'S
THE CON-
GREGATION'S
BIGGEST
MISTAKE!

YOUR ANGER WILL
BE YOUR STRENGTH
ONCE YOU BEAR
THE MARK OF
KNOWLEDGE.

IS
THAT
A HINT
ABOUT
WHO'S
GETTING
YOUR
VOTE?

IT'S THE
CONGRE-
GATION'S
DECISION.

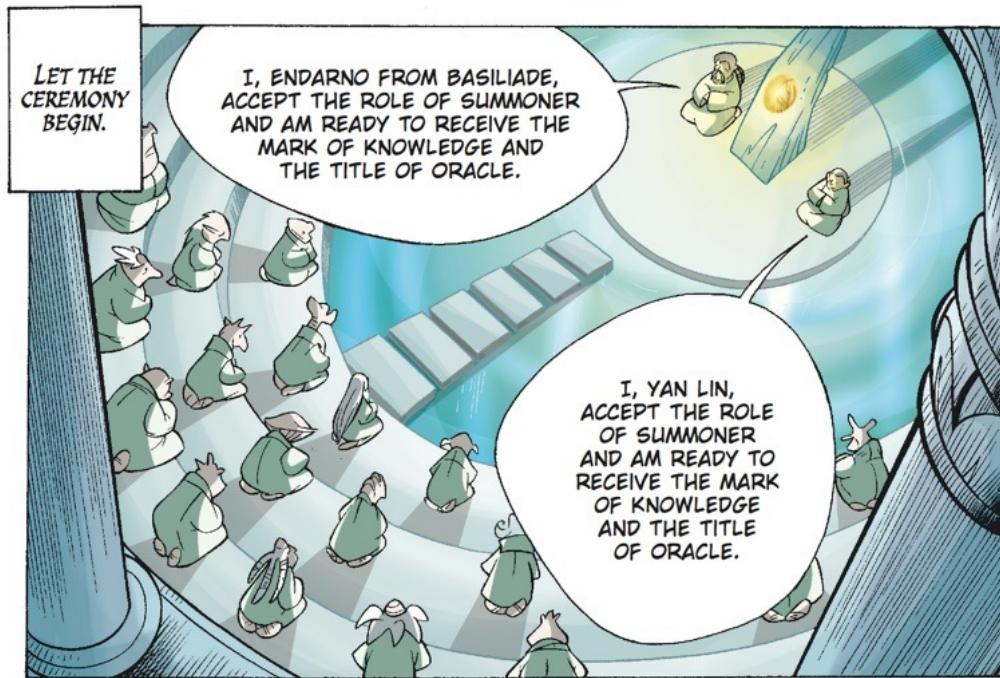
THE
ORACLE
WAS EXILED
JUST WHEN
HE'D MANAGED
TO EXPRESS HIS
HUMANITY!

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.....

IT'S
TIME.



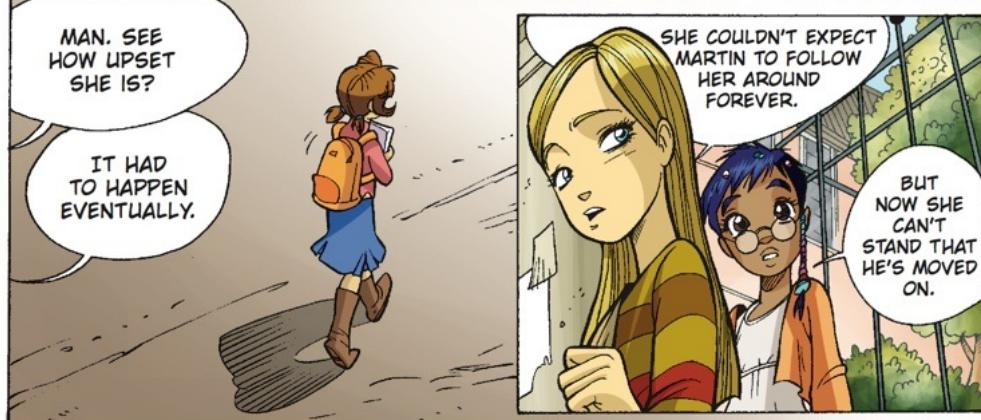


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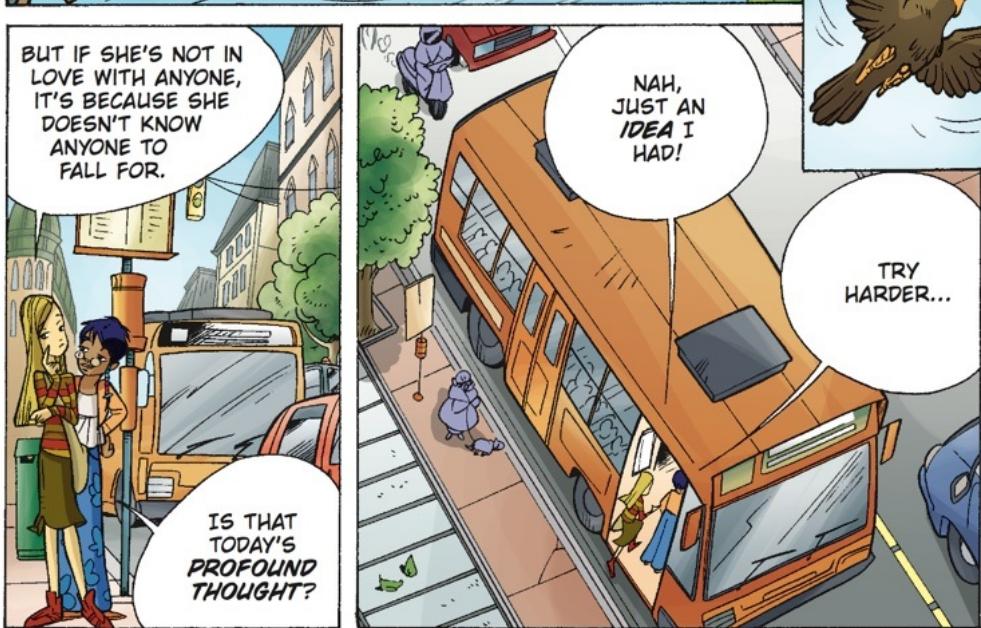


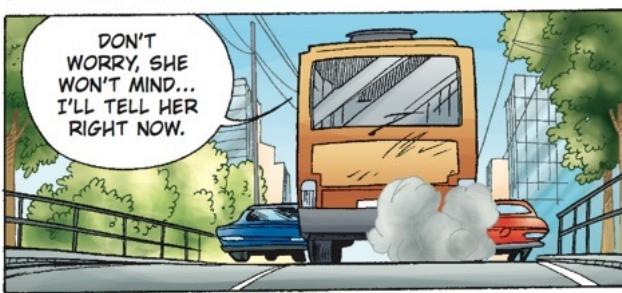
HEATHERFIELD





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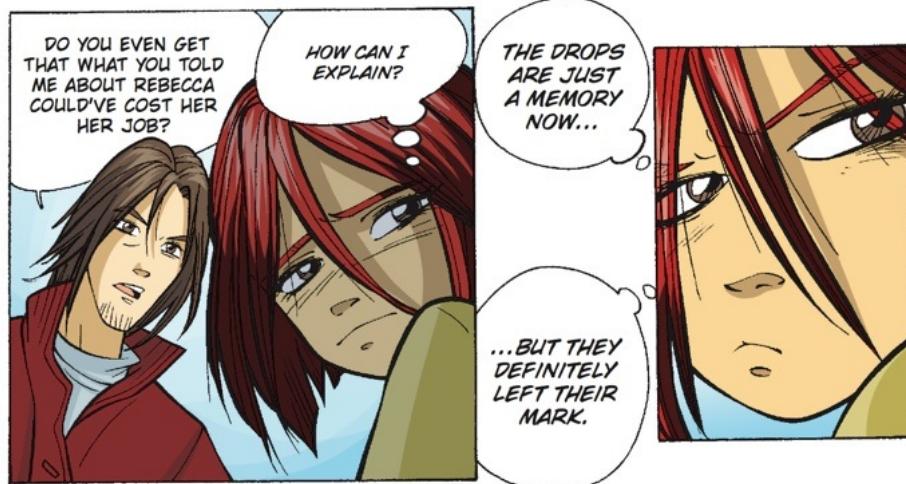
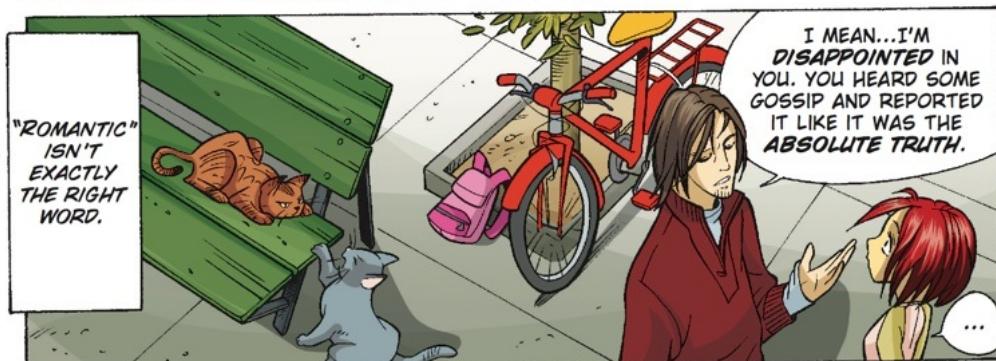


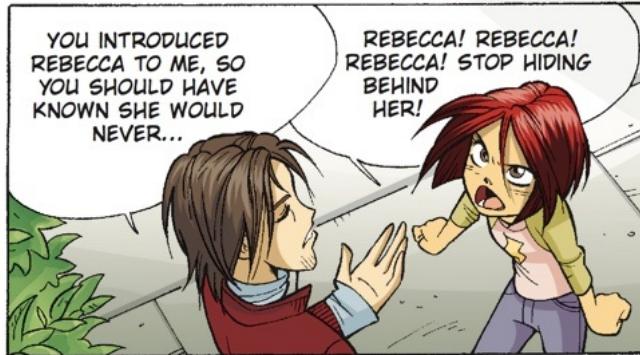
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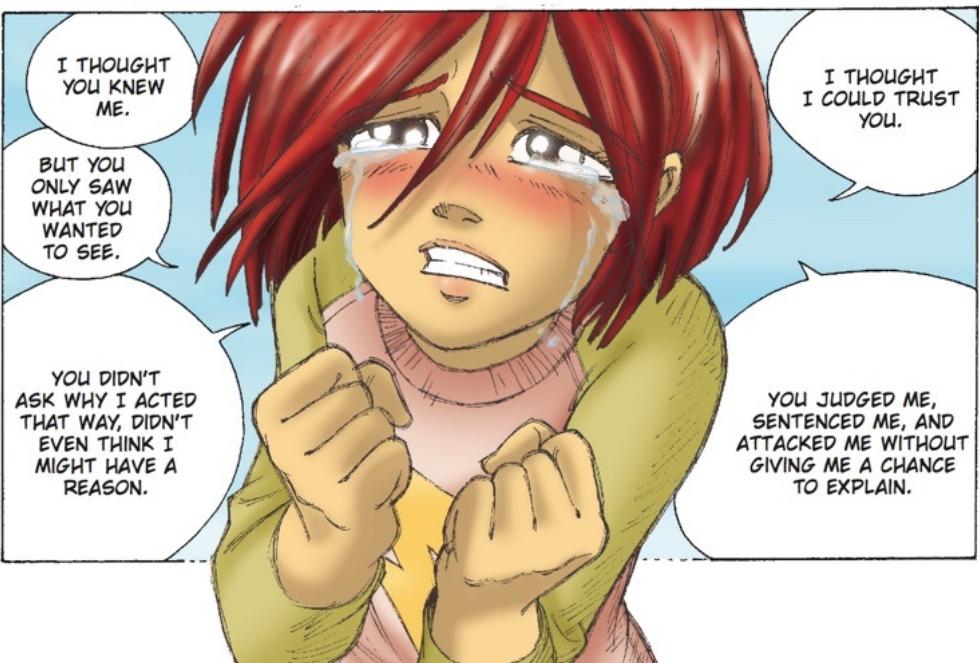
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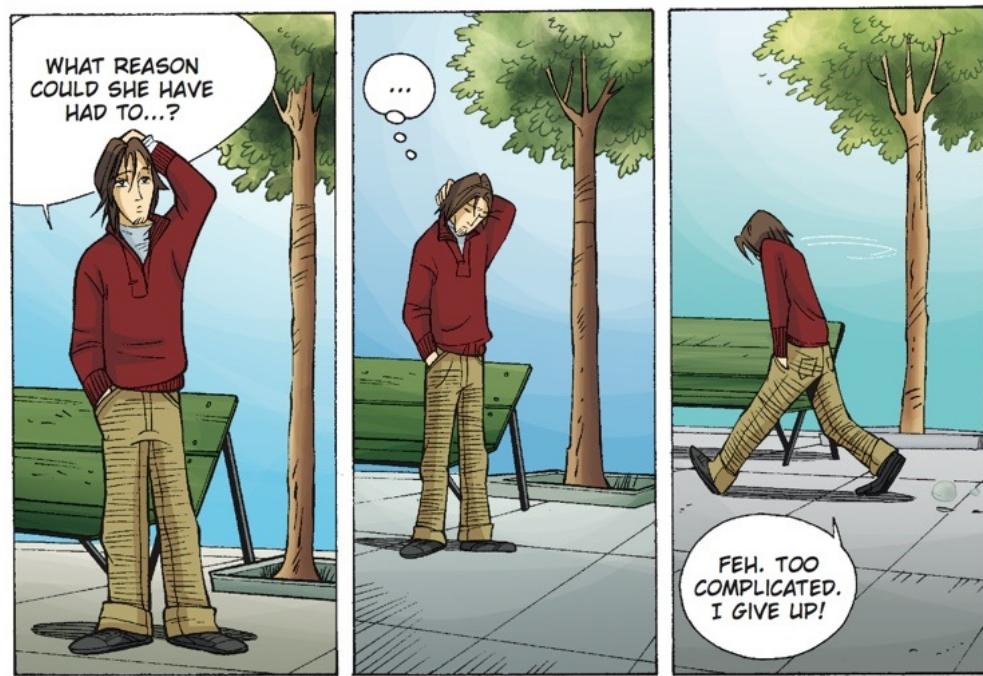
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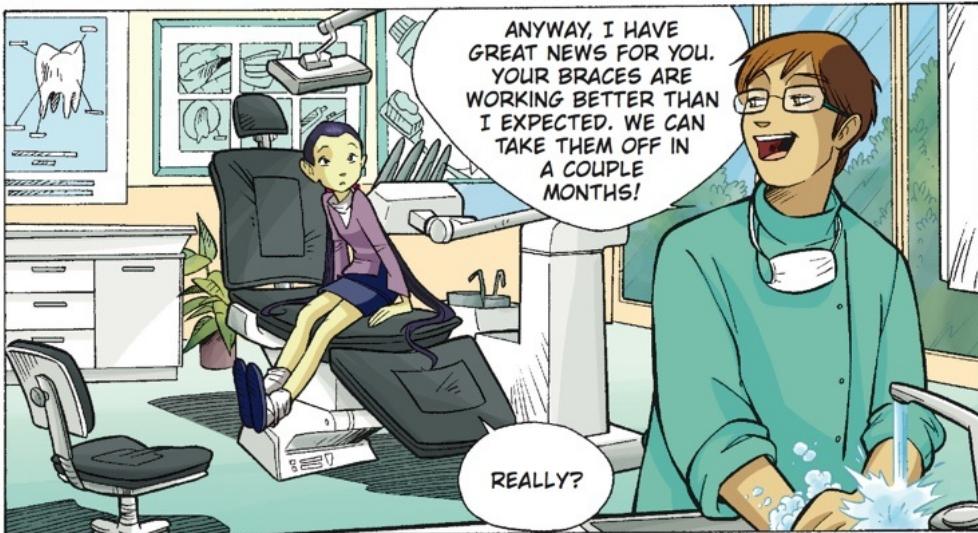






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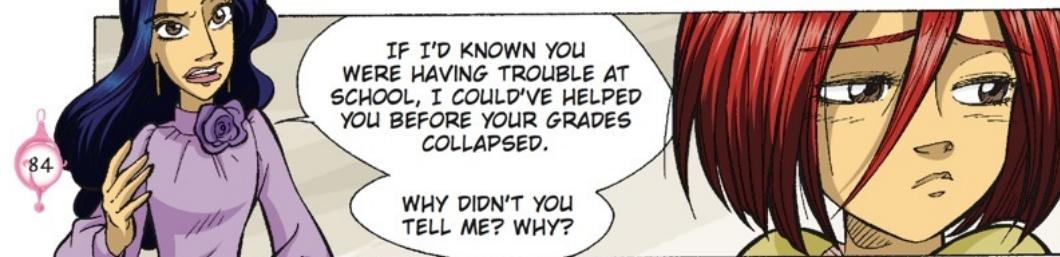
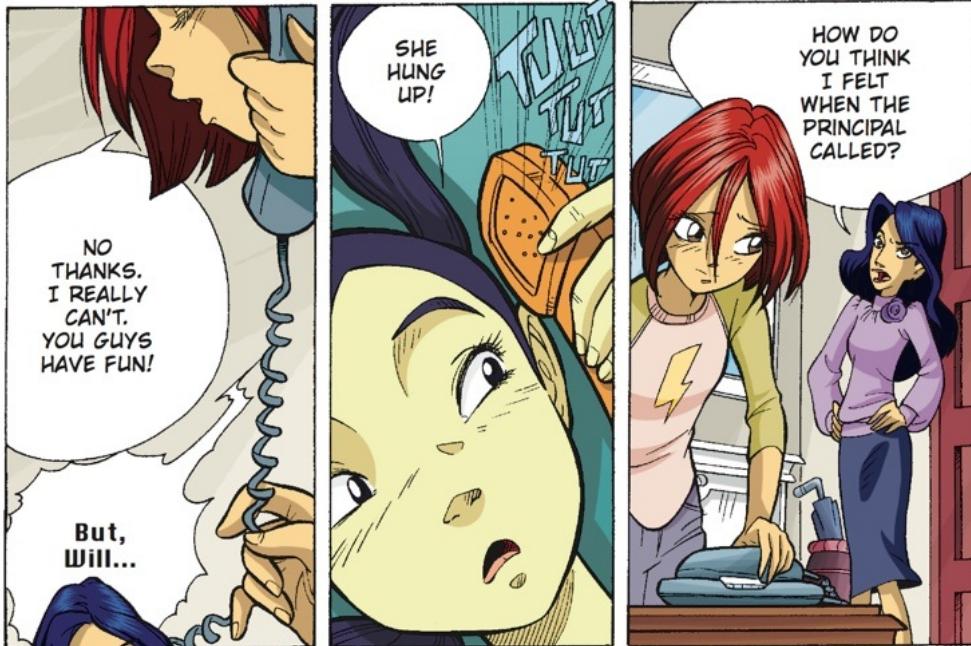




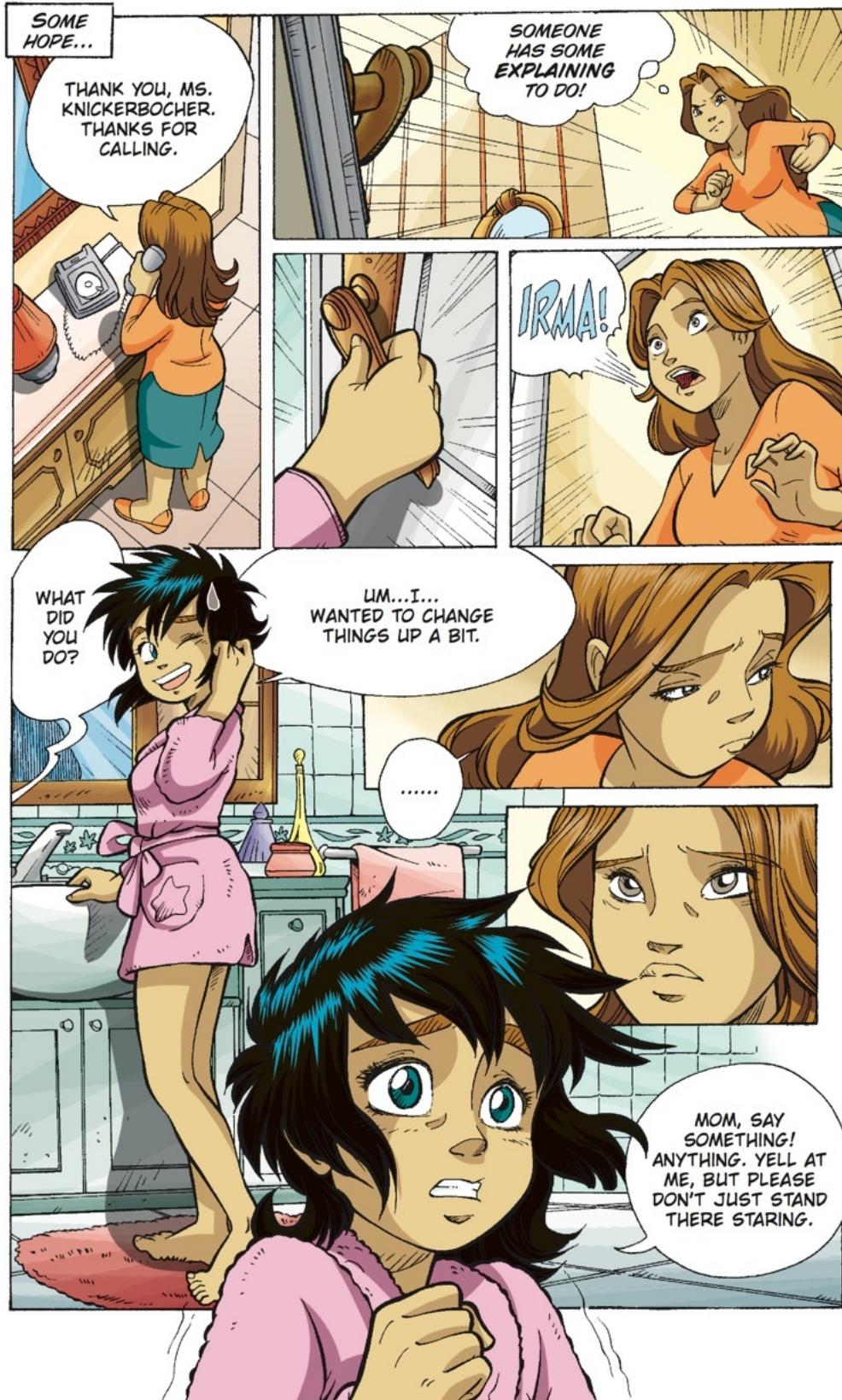
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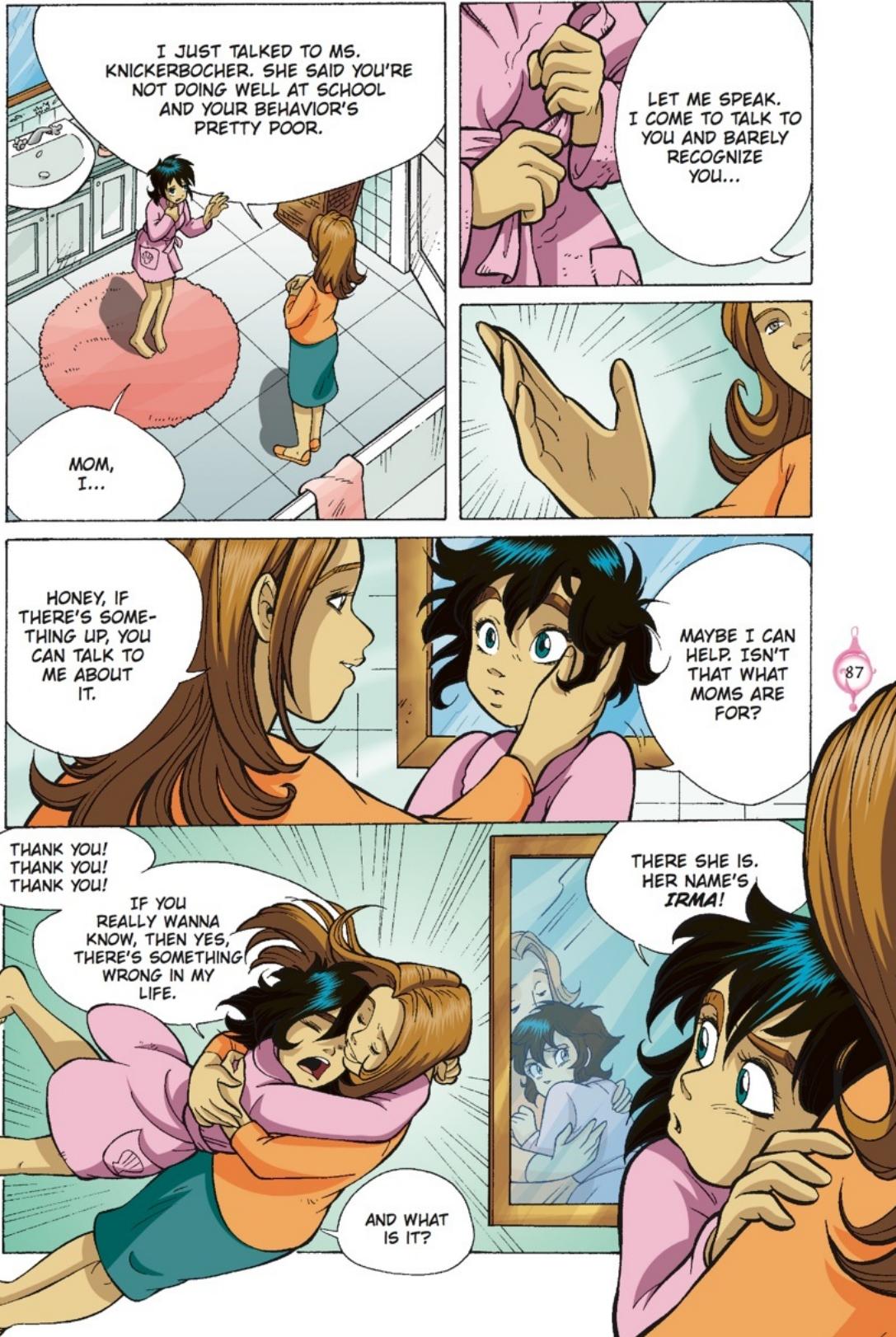


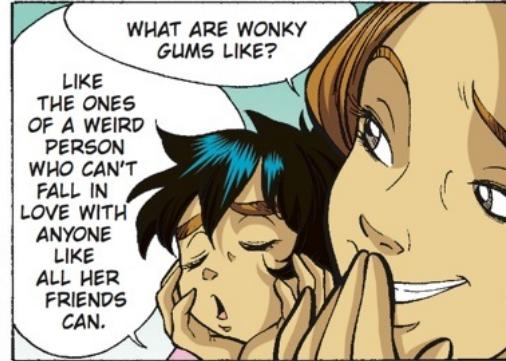






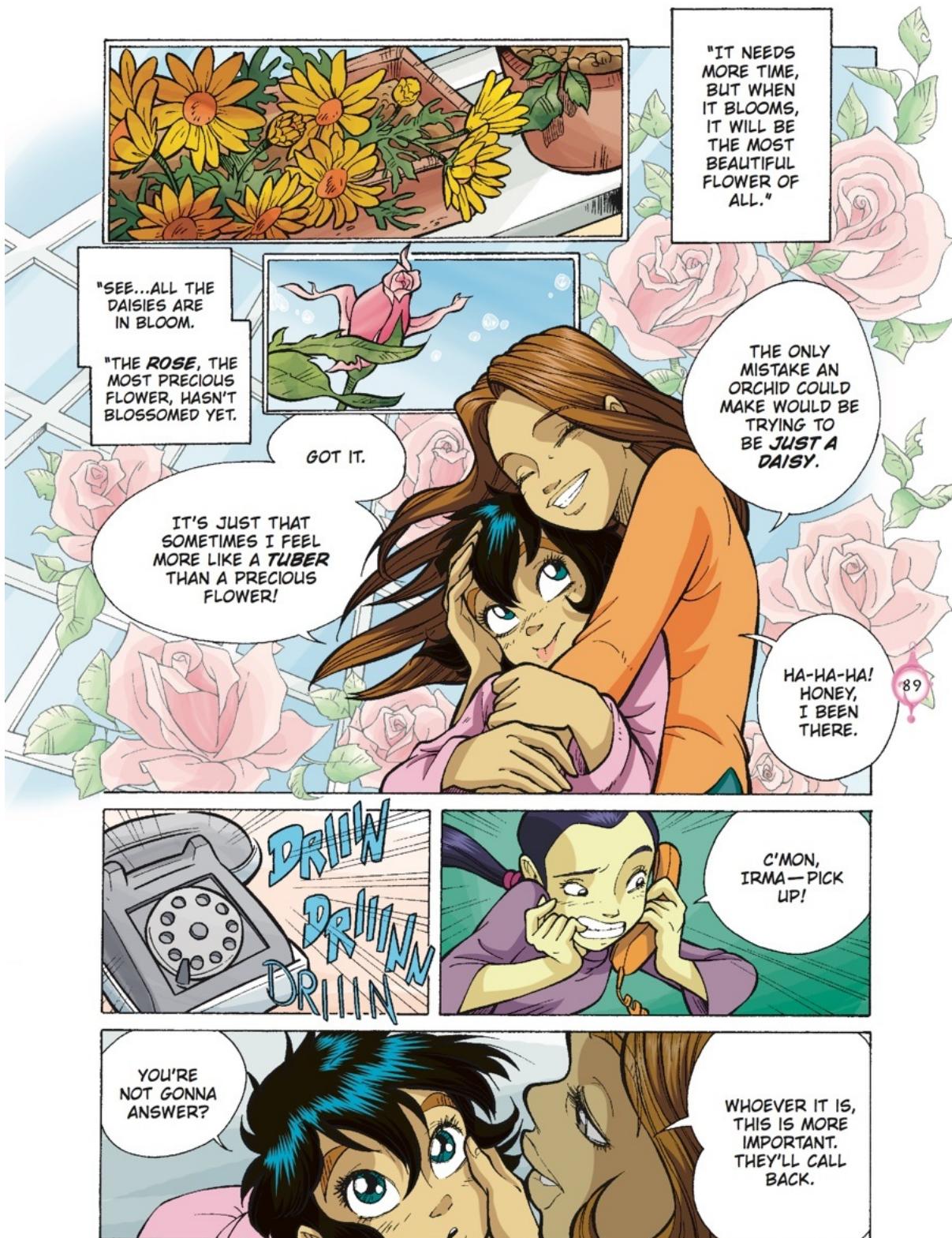


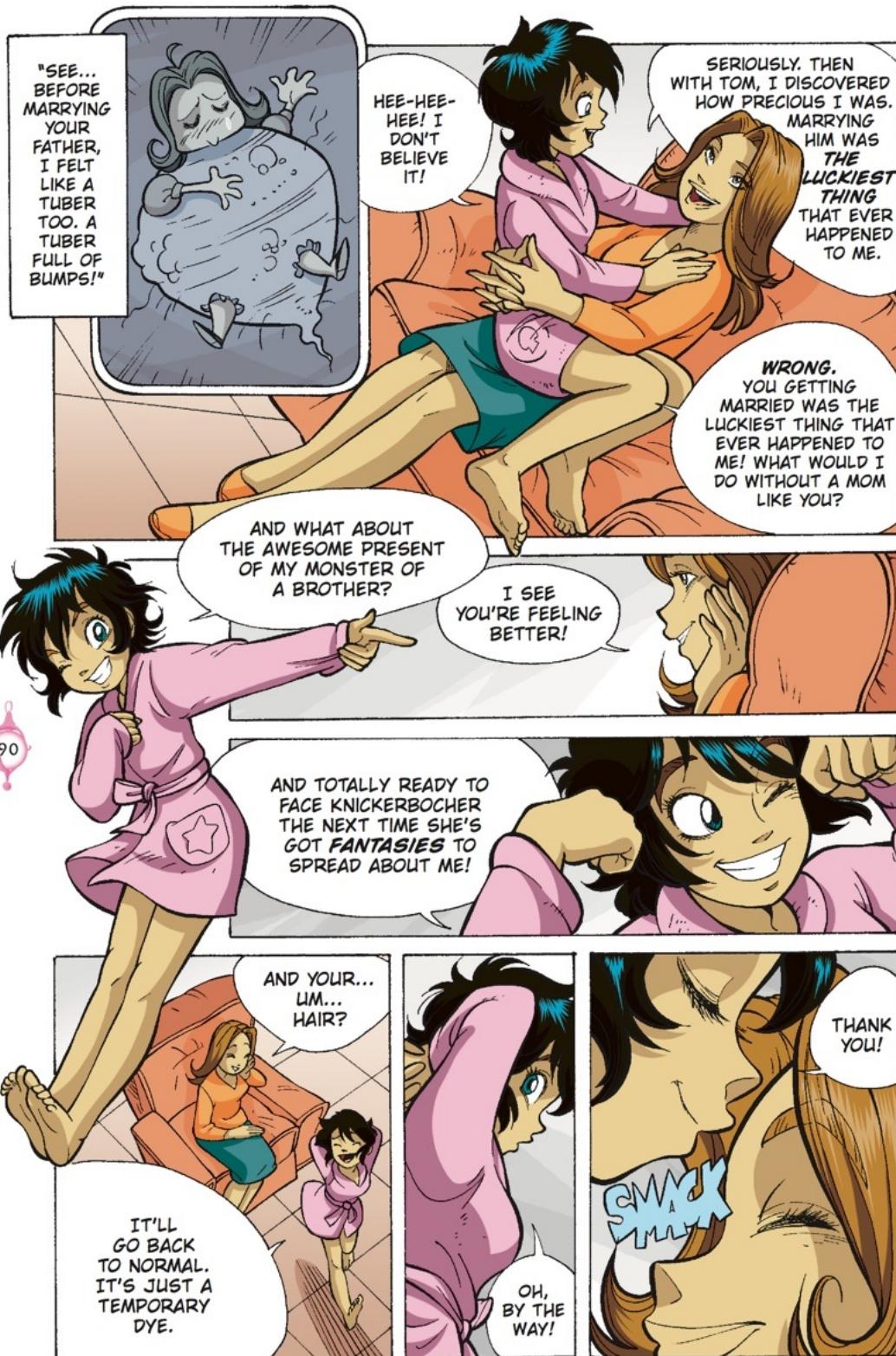




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COOK HOUSE.
MS. KNICKER-
BOCHER JUST
CALLED HERE
TOO.

YES. HELLO, MA'AM.
I'M TARANEE'S MOM.
SURE, TELL ME.



WE DID IT! WE'RE
AWESOME!

EVEN BETTER!
WE MAKE A PERFECT
DATING SERVICE!

HA-HA-HA!
EVEN IF WE
KEEP FAILING
AT SCHOOL,
WE STILL HAVE
A CAREER FOR
THE FUTURE!



BUT I'M NOT
SO SURE ABOUT
HUGH JONES...

I DON'T THINK
HE'S IRMA'S
TYPE.

HE WAS
THE ONLY ONE
AVAILABLE
TOMORROW.
HE'S OKAY FOR
STARTERS...

FOR
STARTERS?

THE
COOK-HALE
DATING SERVICE
DOESN'T
TOLERATE
FAILURE!

HEE
HEE!

I WOULDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
THAT NOW.





KANDRAKAR
WILL HAVE
A NEW
ORACLE.

NOT ONLY AM I HERE ALONE
BUT GRANDMA'S NOWHERE
TO BE SEEN...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE CONGREGATION FAILED TO REACH A UNANIMOUS DECISION.

TIMES ARE DARK.
THE DIVISION IN
THE COUNCIL IS
PROOF.

THE ORACLE
WON'T ENTER THE
SPRING OF SILENCE
AND WON'T RECEIVE
ALL THE POWERS
NECESSARY FOR
THE ROLE.

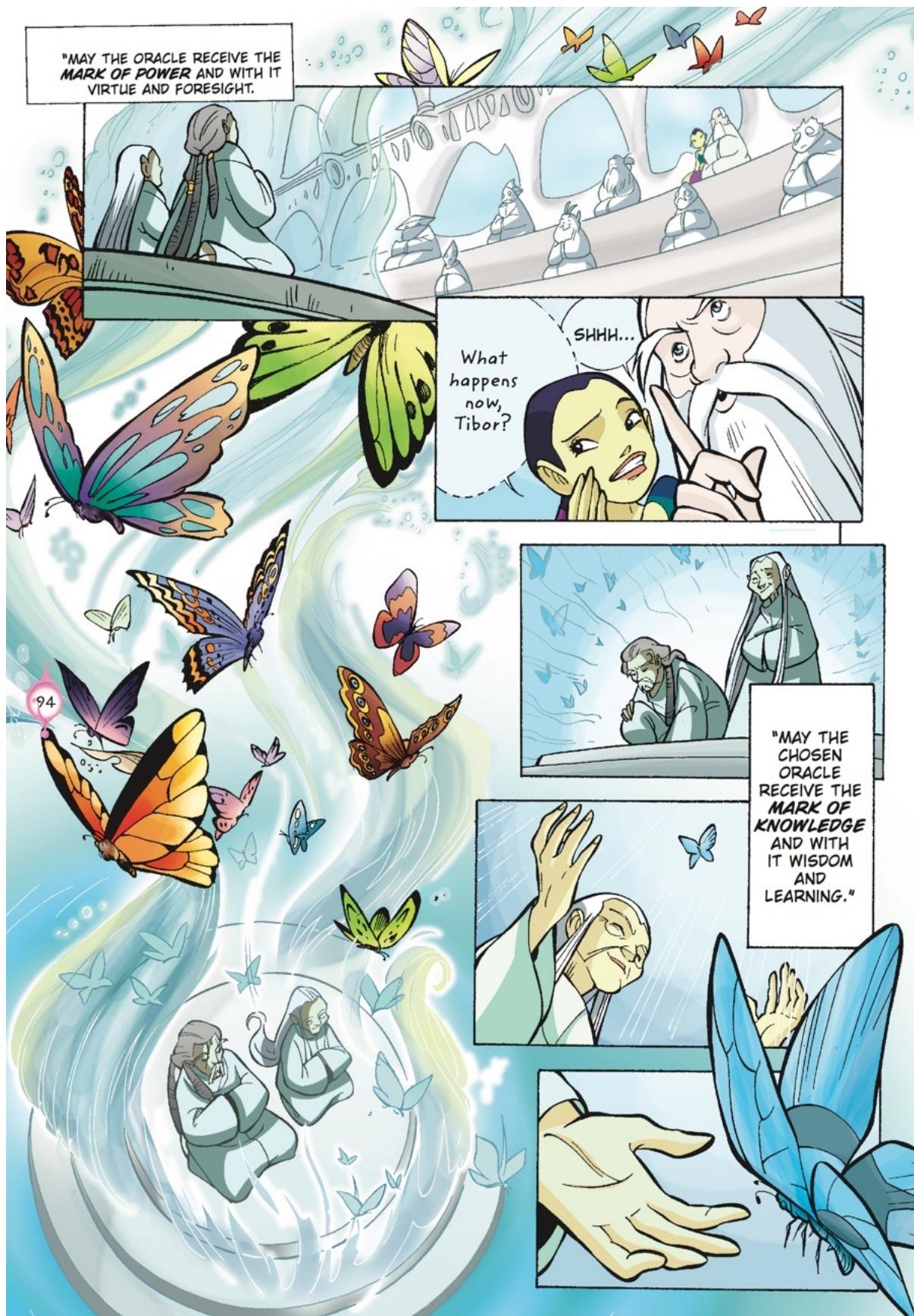
THE LACK OF
A UNANIMOUS VOTE
REQUIRES A PERIOD OF
OBSERVATION BEFORE
THE COUNSELORS
APPROVE THE
ELECTION.

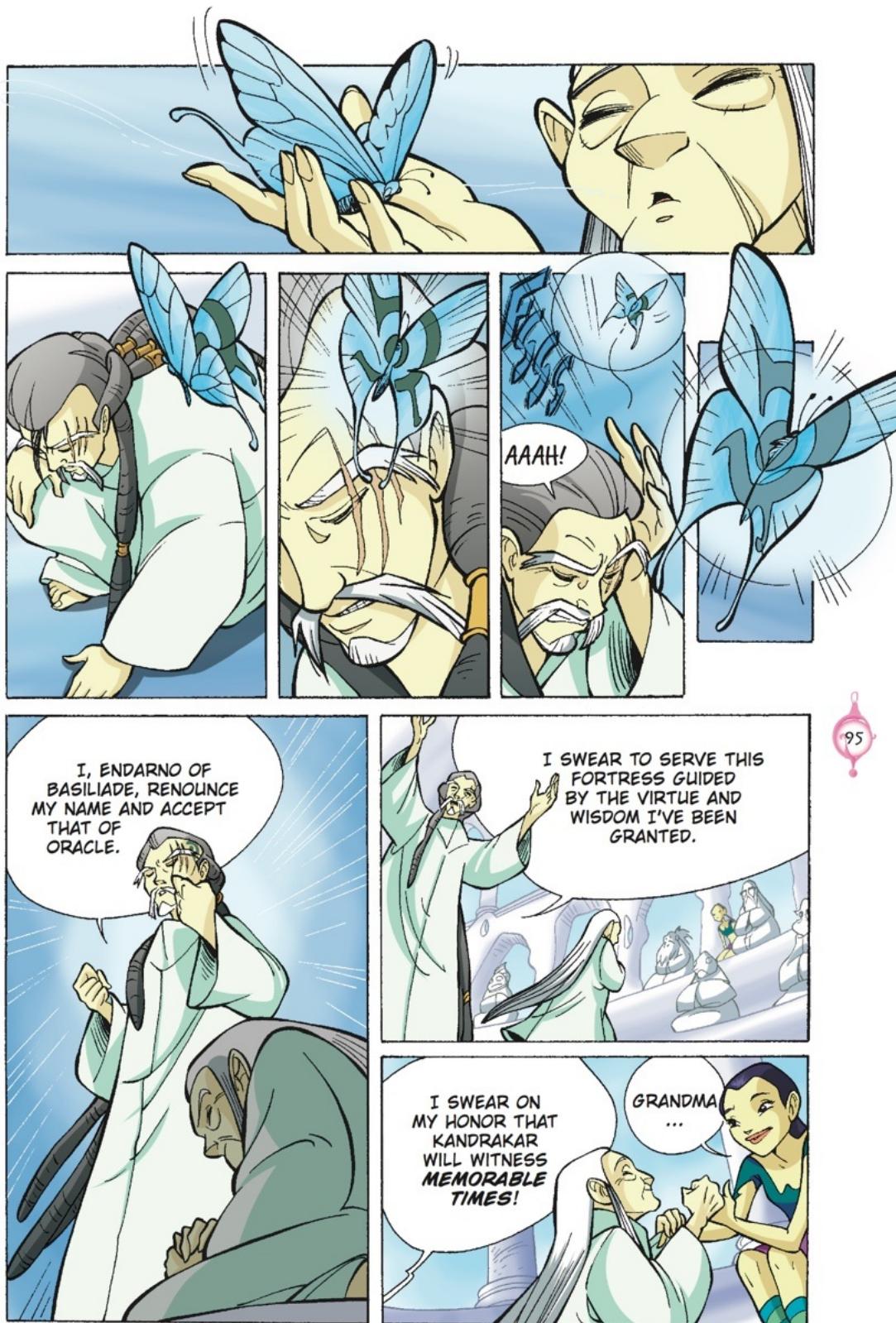
YOU JUST
SAID IT.

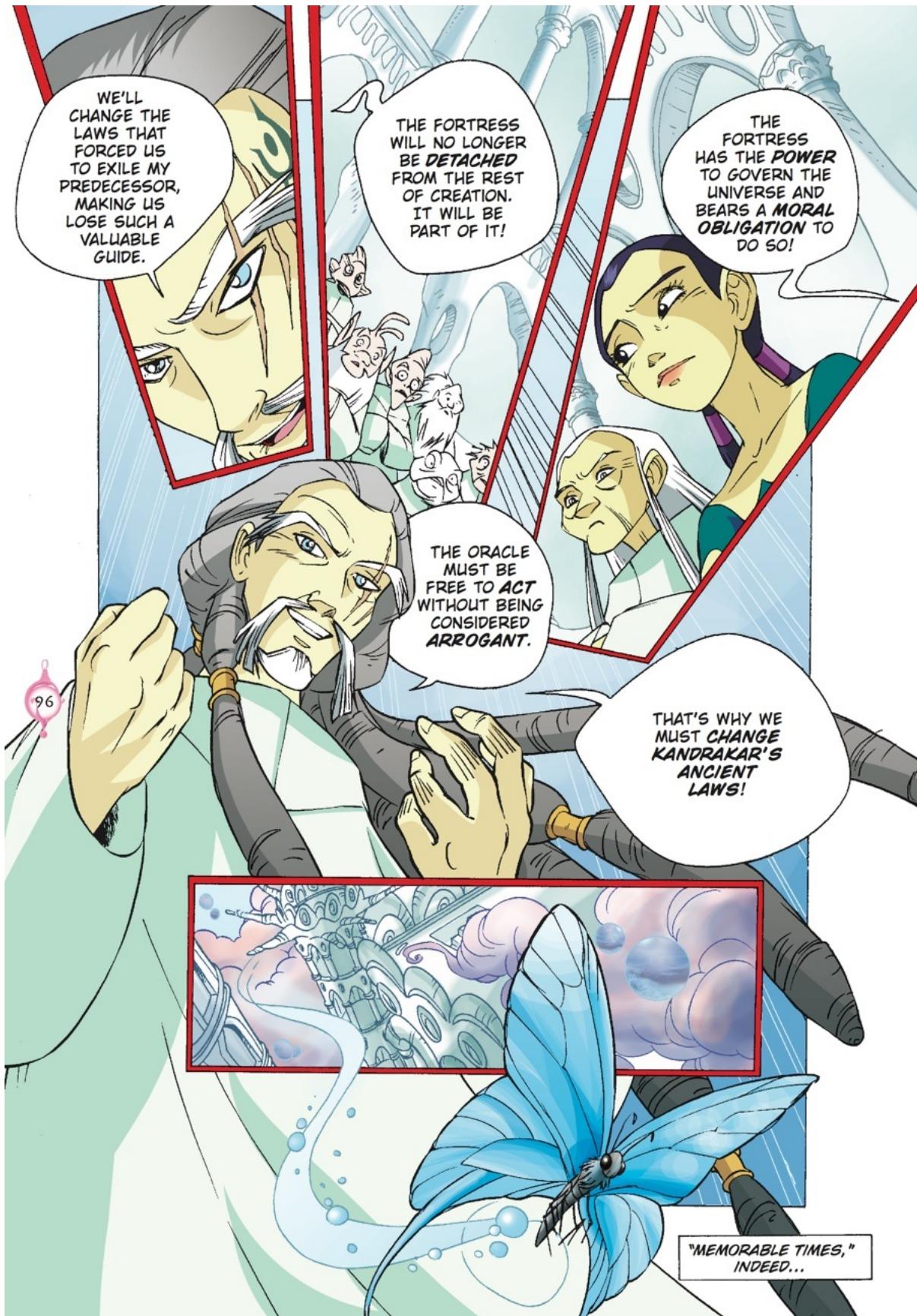
NO, I MEANT
HIS OR HER NAME
BEFORE BEING
CALLED THE
ORACLE...

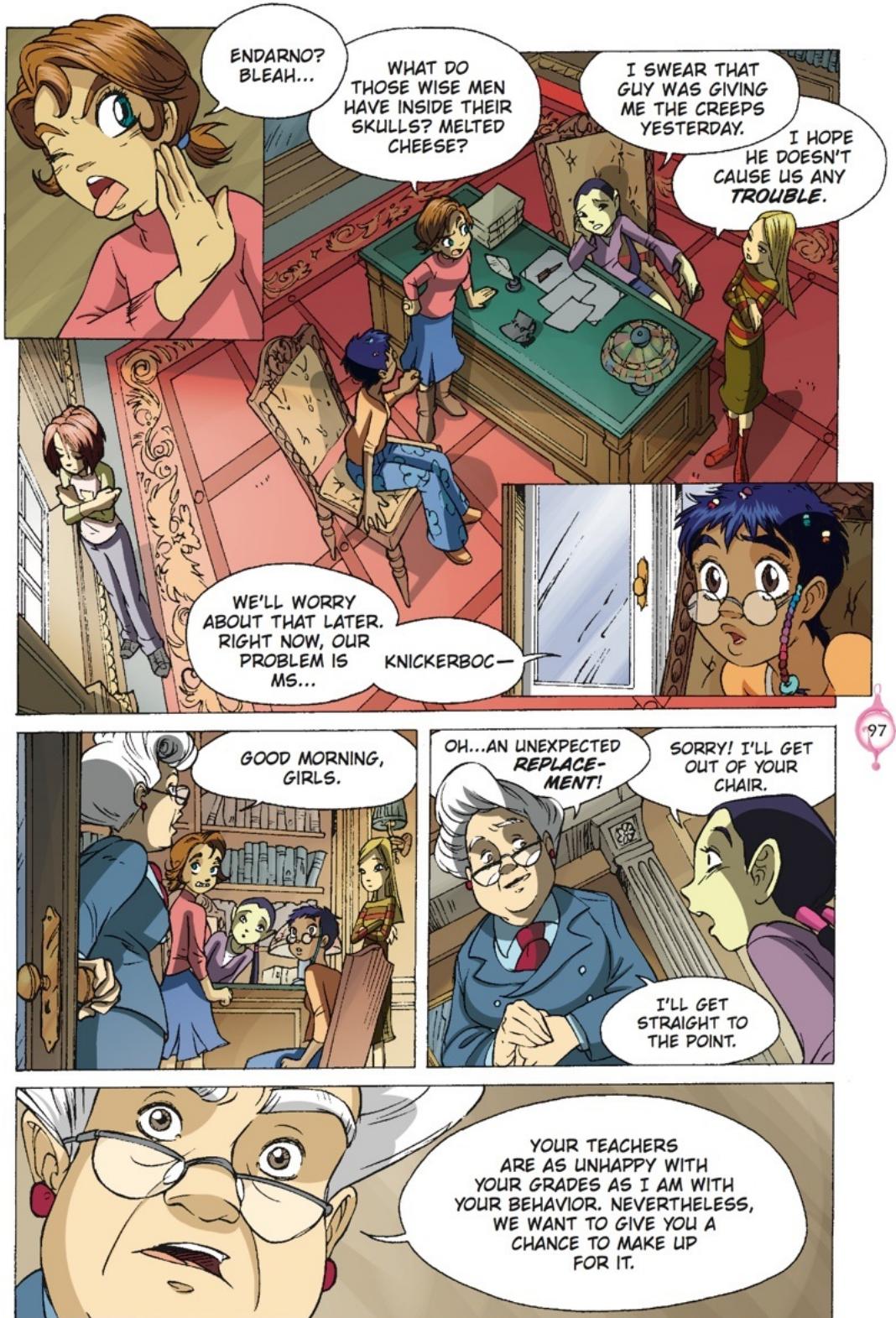
EXCUSE ME,
DO YOU KNOW
THE ORACLE'S
NAME...?

HAY LIN, FOLLOW ME.
NOT ANOTHER
WORD!













IS THIS
KANDRAKAR?

THE HEART
NEEDS A GOOD
CHECKUP.
IT MUST'VE
TAKEN US TO
THE WRONG
PLACE.

100

I DON'T LIKE
IT. NOT ONE
BIT...

LOOKS
LIKE A
NIGHT-
MARE!





"LISTEN..."

ENDARNO AND
THE ORACLE BOTH
COME FROM BASILIADE,
ORUBE'S WORLD.

WELL,
THAT'S NOT
ENCOURAGING.

ONCE UPON A TIME,
THE PEOPLE OF BASILIADE
FOUGHT ONE ANOTHER. PAIN
AND DESPAIR REIGNED
OVER THAT WORLD.

ENDARNO WAS A **GREAT**
WARRIOR OF THE SHANTA PEOPLE.
BRAVE AND PROUD, NOBLE AND
LOYAL.

THE SHANTA WERE LED BY SHARR
THE TERRIBLE. HIS ONLY GOAL WAS TO
ANNIHILATE EVERY OTHER TRIBE
ON BASILIADE.

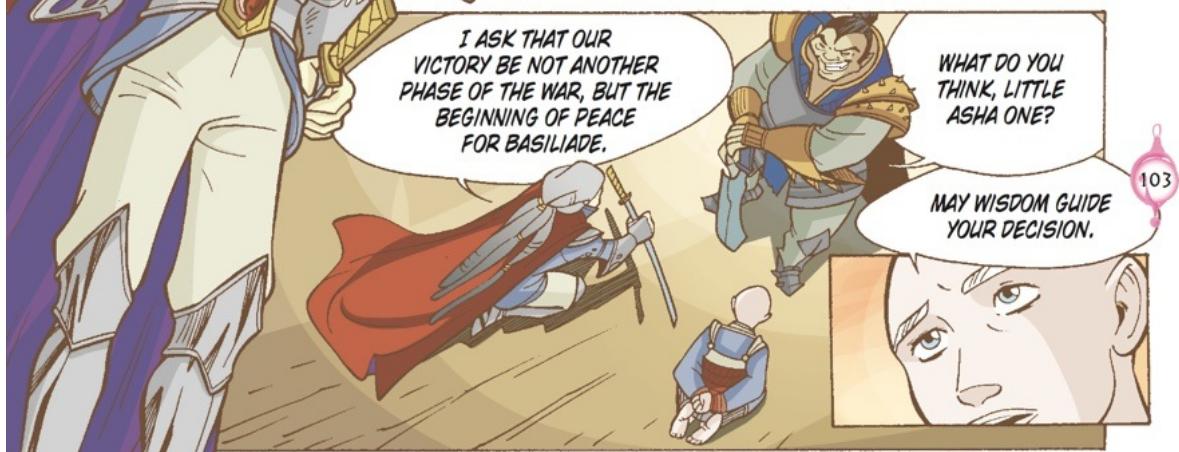
WHAT AN
UGLY MUG!

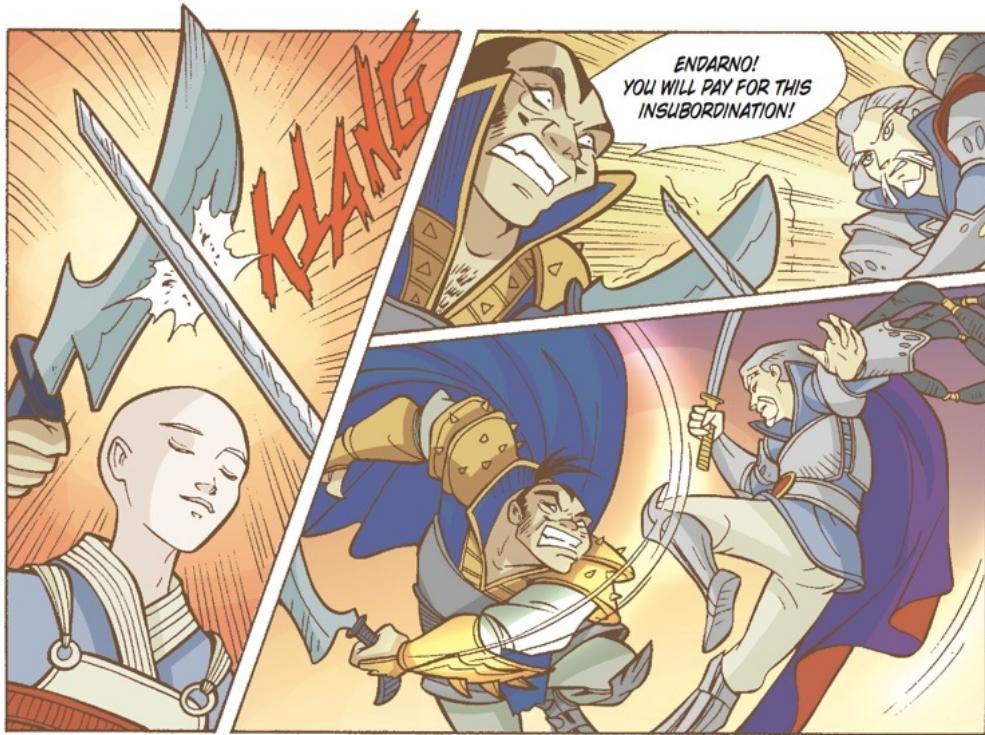
102

IF ENDARNO THE
KILLJOY LEARNED FROM
SHARR, THERE'S NOT MUCH
TO BE HAPPY ABOUT.

LET ME
FINISH...

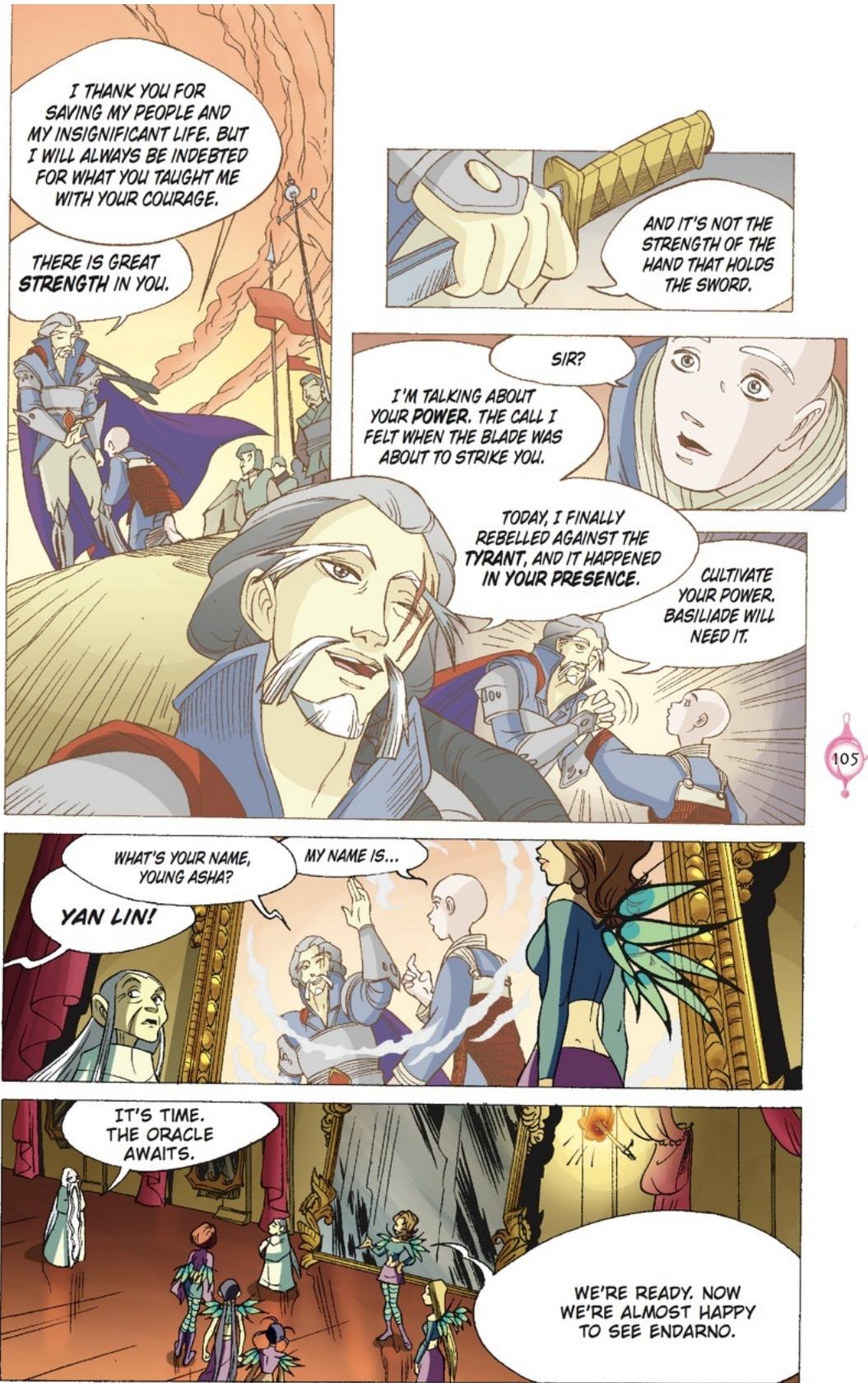
ON THE
SIXTH NEW
MOON OF
THE AGE
OF WRATH,
THE SHANTA
DEFEATED
THE ASHA,
THE
ORACLE'S
TRIBE.





104

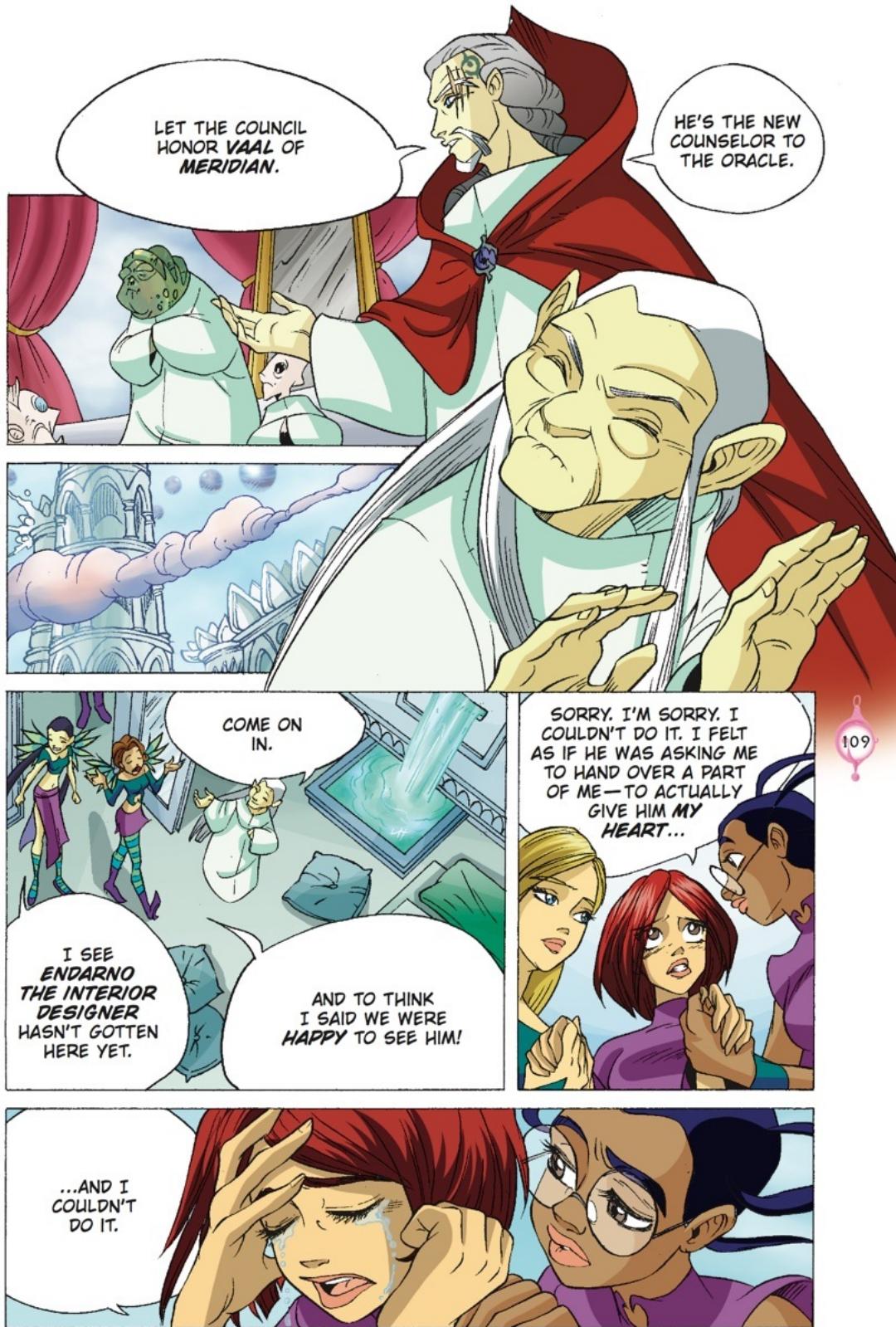


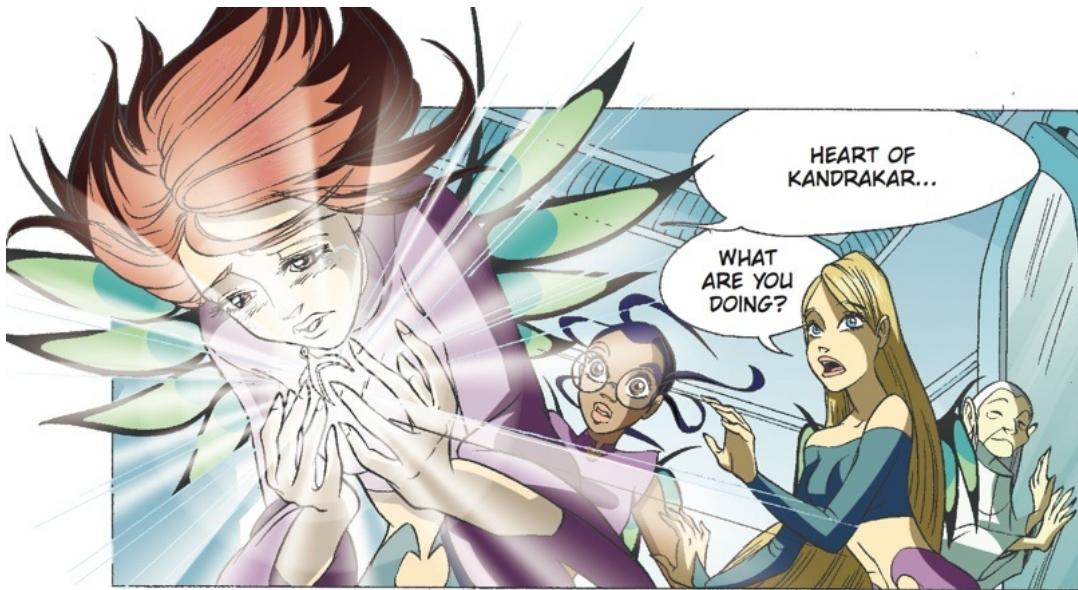




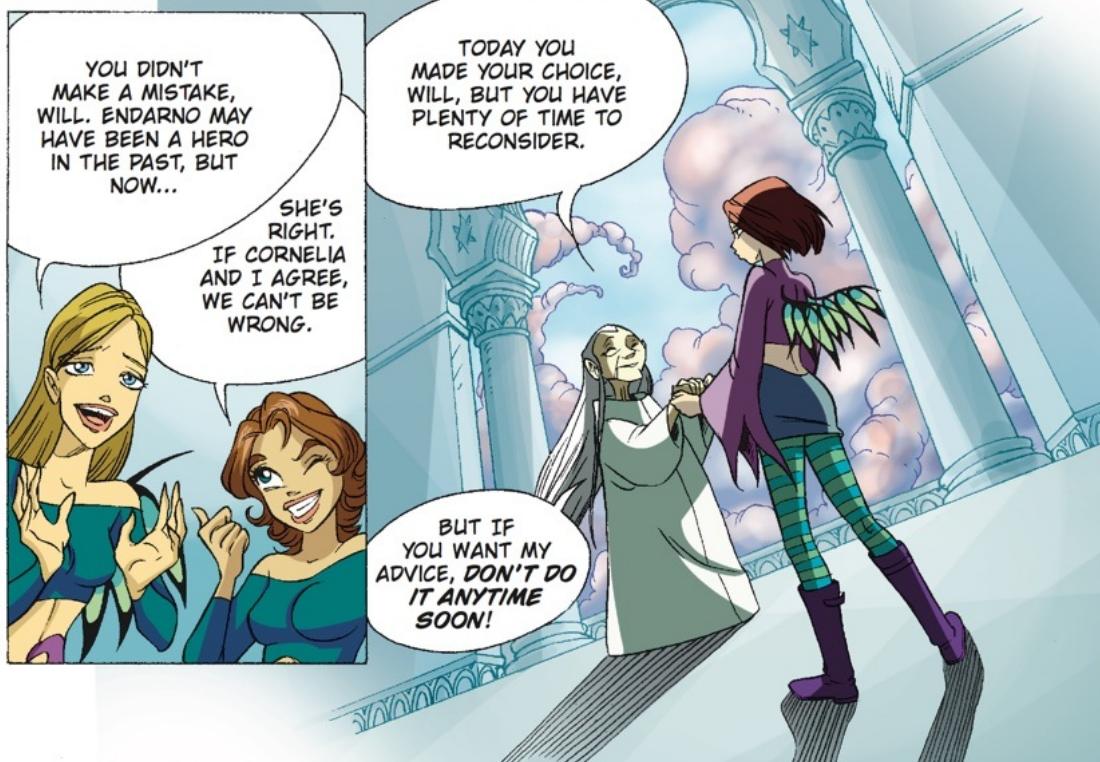








110



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

HAY LIN HAS
TO START RIGHT
AWAY.

MEANING
NOW OR IN THE
NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS?

WE HAVE
A CLASS
VISITING THE
PREHISTORIC
PAVILION
TOMORROW...

I'LL NEED
SOME TIME TO
READ ALL THESE
BOOKS, AND TODAY
I SHOULD REALLY
BRING SOMETHING
TO SOMEONE—

...AND YOU'LL
BE THE GUIDE.
JUST STUDY
THE PIECES
ON DISPLAY.

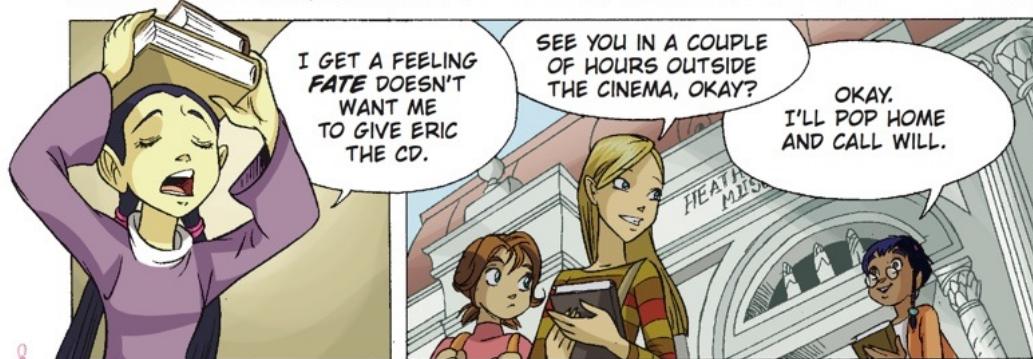
YOU CAN WORK HERE.
IT'LL BE MUCH
EASIER.

BUT,
DIRECTOR...AAAH...
AAAH...

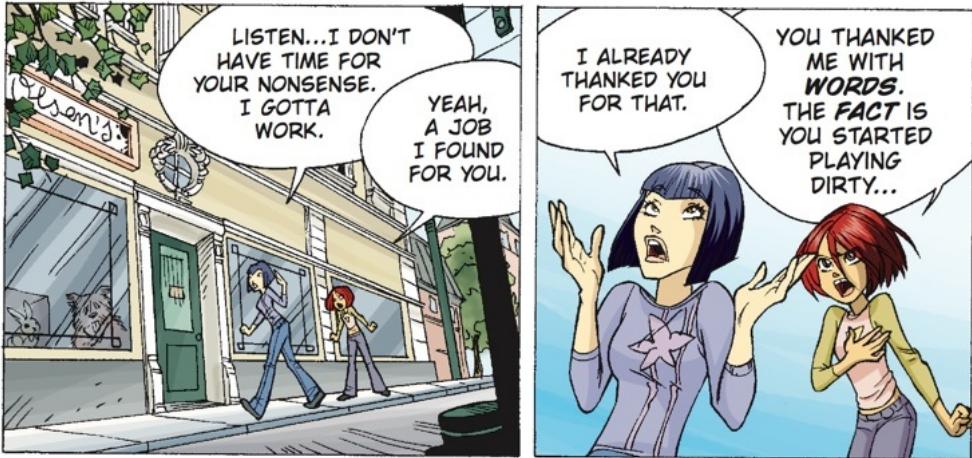
NO
"DIRECTOR,"
PLEASE.

ACHOO!

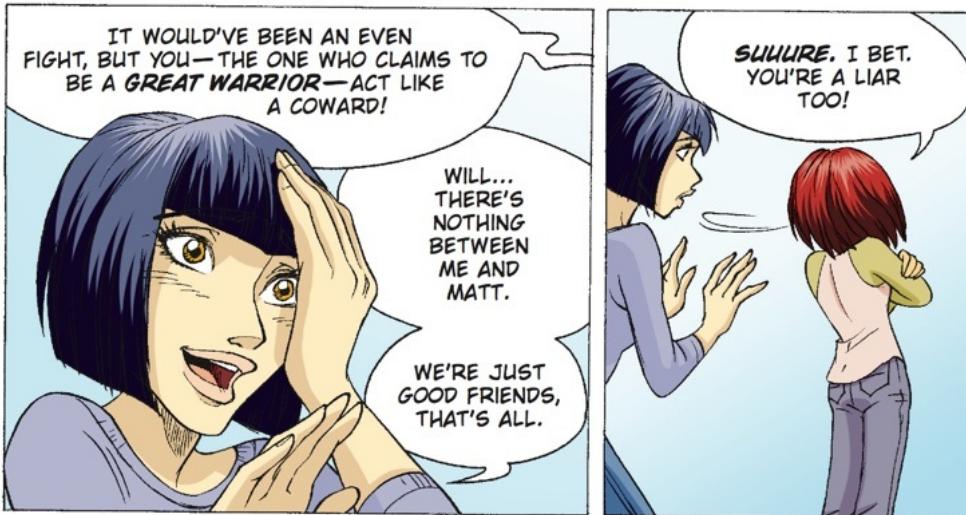
MY NAME'S
GEREMIA.



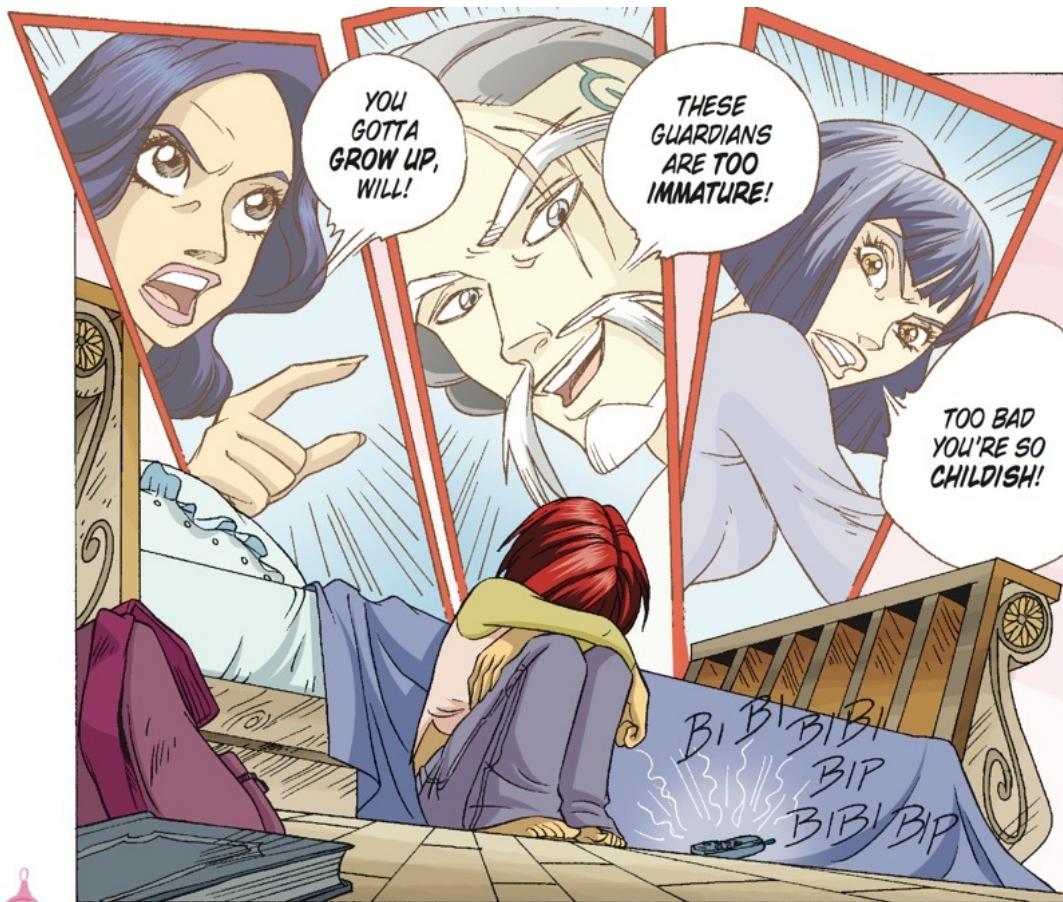




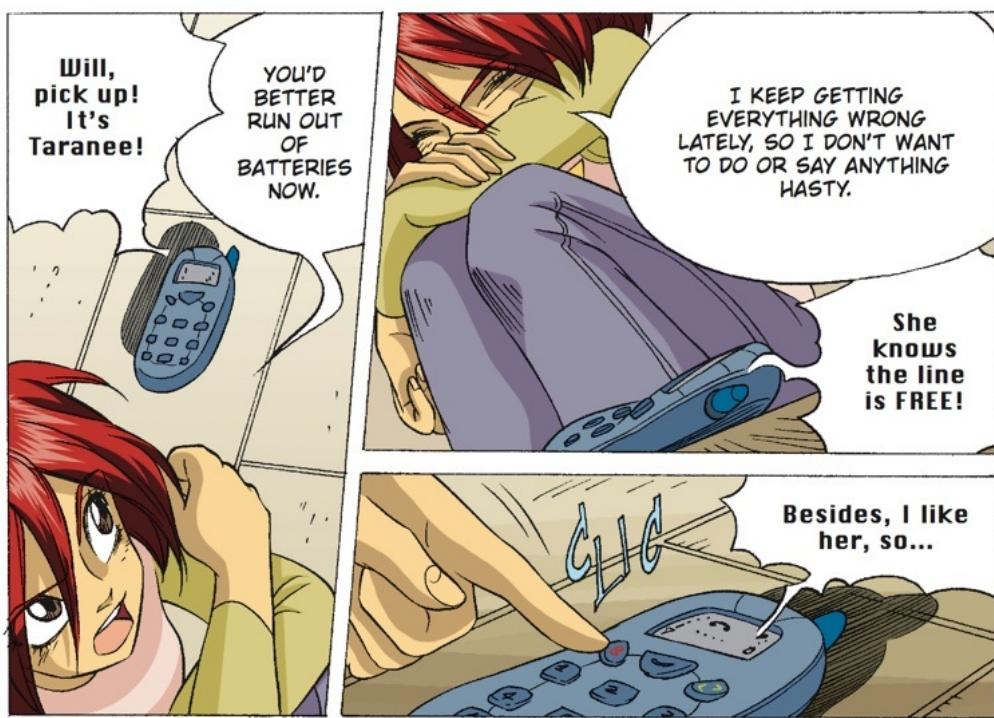
114







116



5:50 P.M.,
SIDERAL
CINEMA

WELL...
SHALL WE
GO IN?

WE'RE WAITING FOR
SOMEONE. YOU DON'T
MIND IF THEY TAG
ALONG, DO
YOU?



AS LONG AS
THEY DON'T KEEP
TALKING DURING
THE MOVIE!

THERE
HE IS!



HE'S
THE ONE WE
WERE WAITING
FOR?

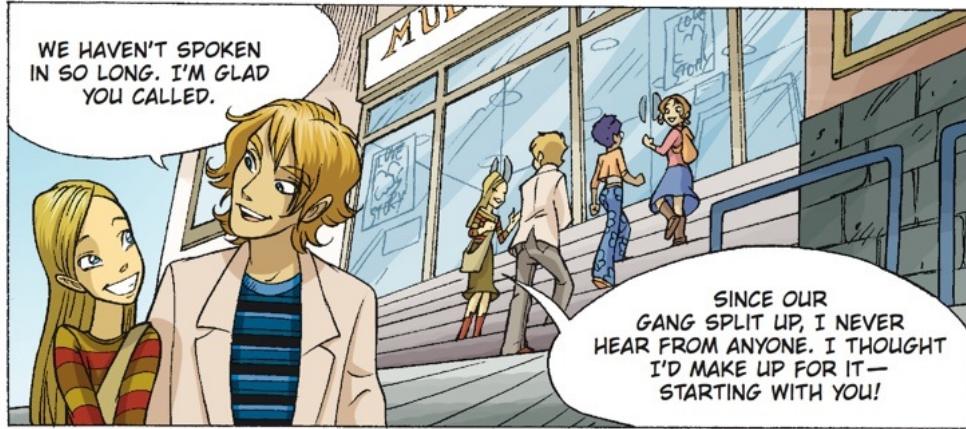


THIS IS HUGH...
AND THESE ARE
TARANEET AND
IRMA.

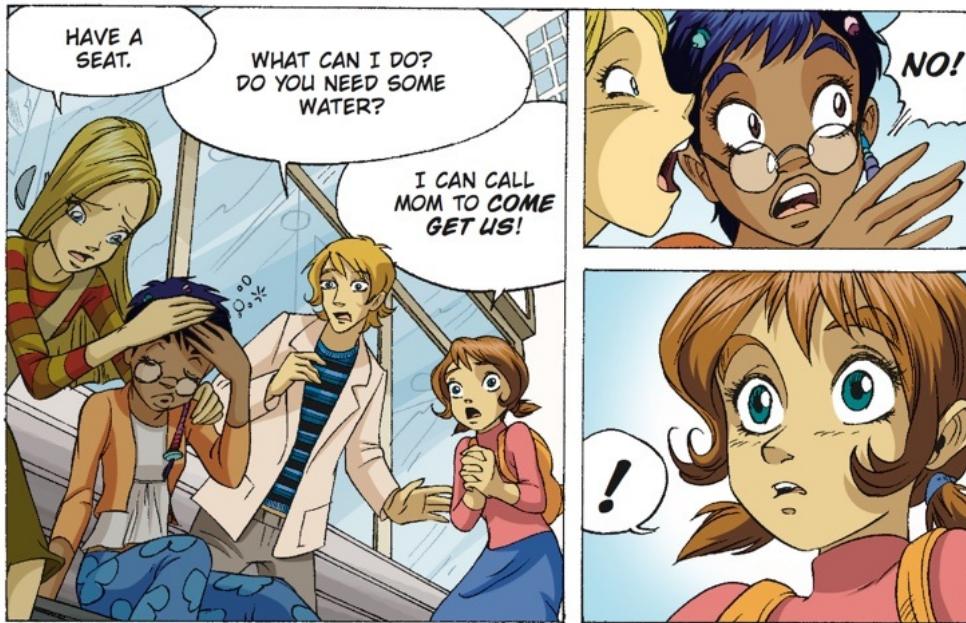
Hi!

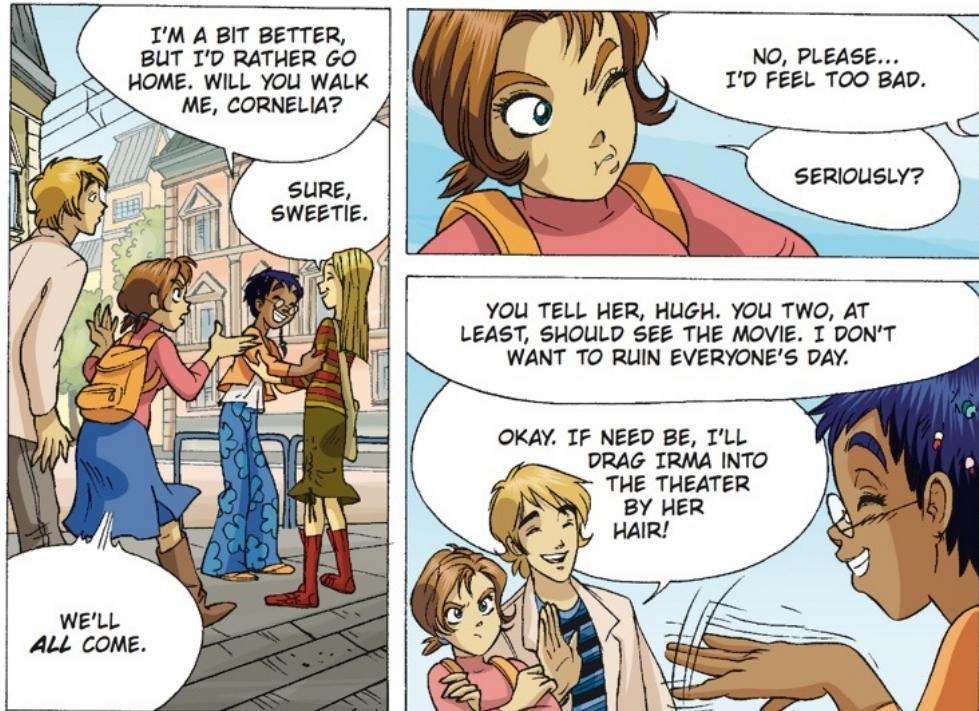
117



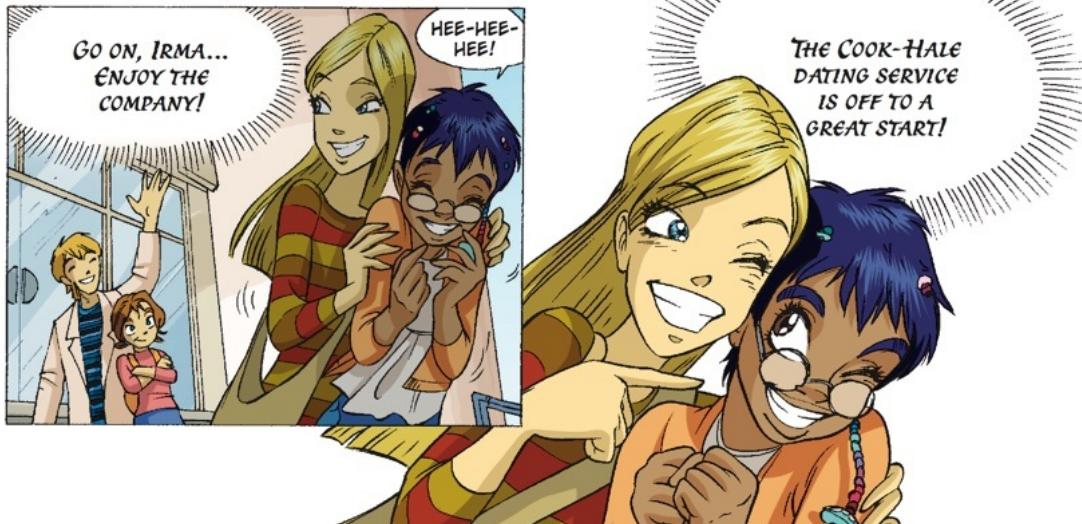


118

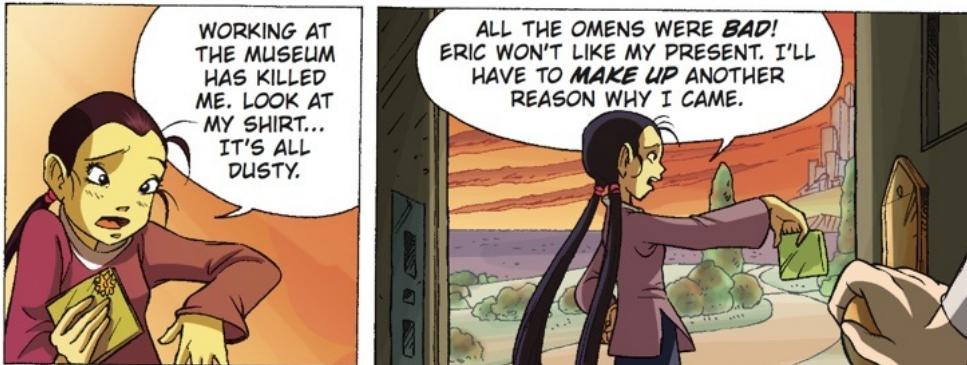
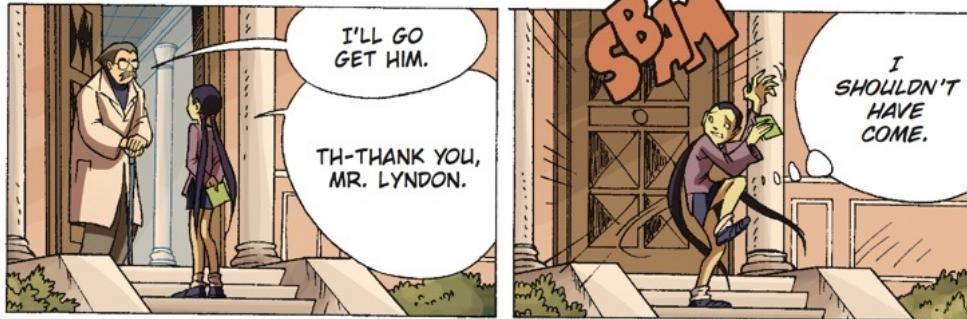




119

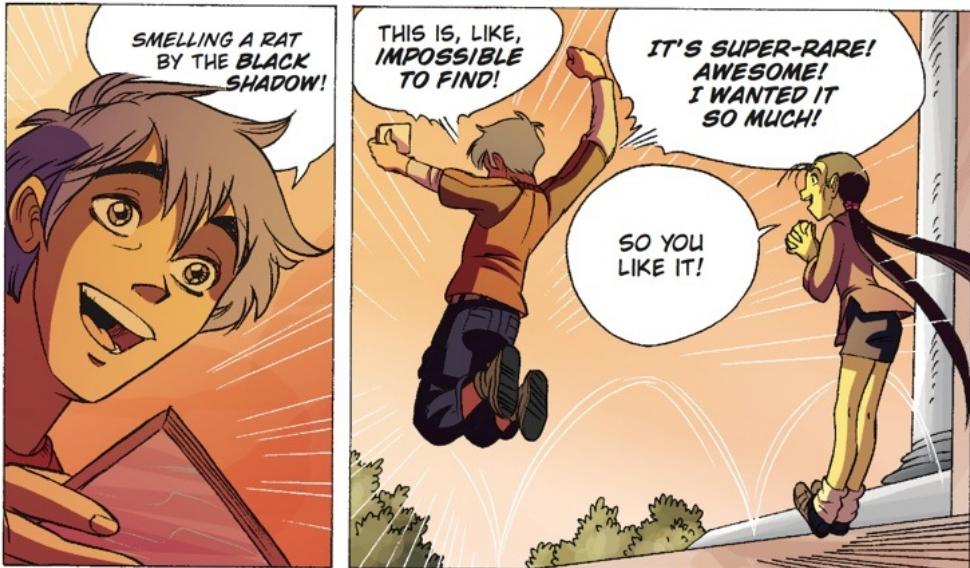


CAN ANYONE SURVIVE A DULL AFTERNOON STUDYING PREHISTORY?



120





121





122





SHEFFIELD
INSTITUTE,
THE NEXT DAY.

AFTER
YESTERDAY,
YOU'RE LUCKY
I'M STILL
TALKING TO
YOU.

DIDN'T
YOU HAVE
FUN?

"OH, SURE.
HOW COULD I
BE BORED WITH
MR. FUNTIMES?

HEE-HEE!



124

"THEN IT GOT
EVEN WORSE!"

OKAY!

PIZZA WITH FRIES,
SUPER-MAXI ORANGE
JUICE, AND CHOCOLATE
ICE CREAM.

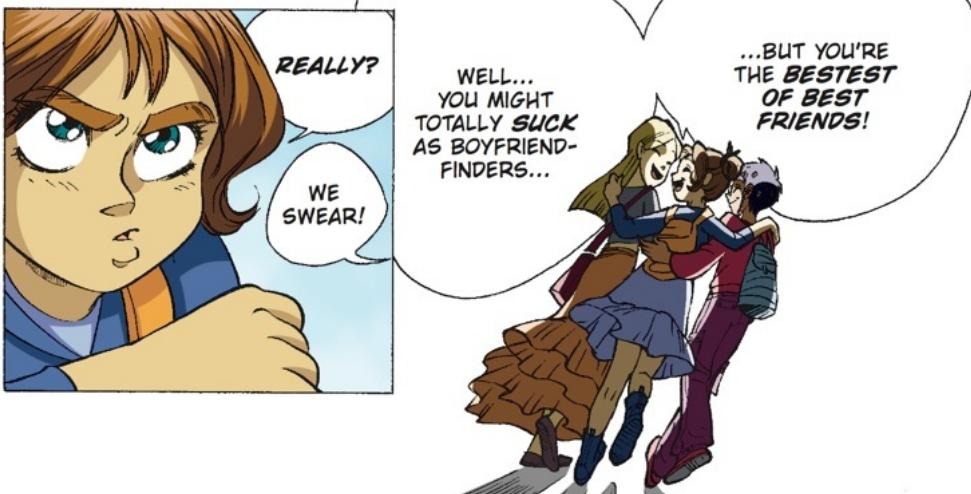
YOU REALLY WANT
ALL THAT?



WELL, SINCE I JUST
ORDERED IT...

YOU GOTTA EAT
HEALTHIER.





KANDAKAR

BEGIN THE
CELESTIAL
SEARCH.

I WANT THE
NEW GUARDIANS TO
BE STRONGER AND MORE
POWERFUL. WE'LL
PICK THREE.

AND THEY SHOULD
LOOK GOOD...NOT
LIKE THOSE **FIVE**
LOSERS!

126

AS YOU
WISH.

A PIECE
OF ADVICE
FOR YOU,
YAN LIN.

END OF
CHAPTER 38

39

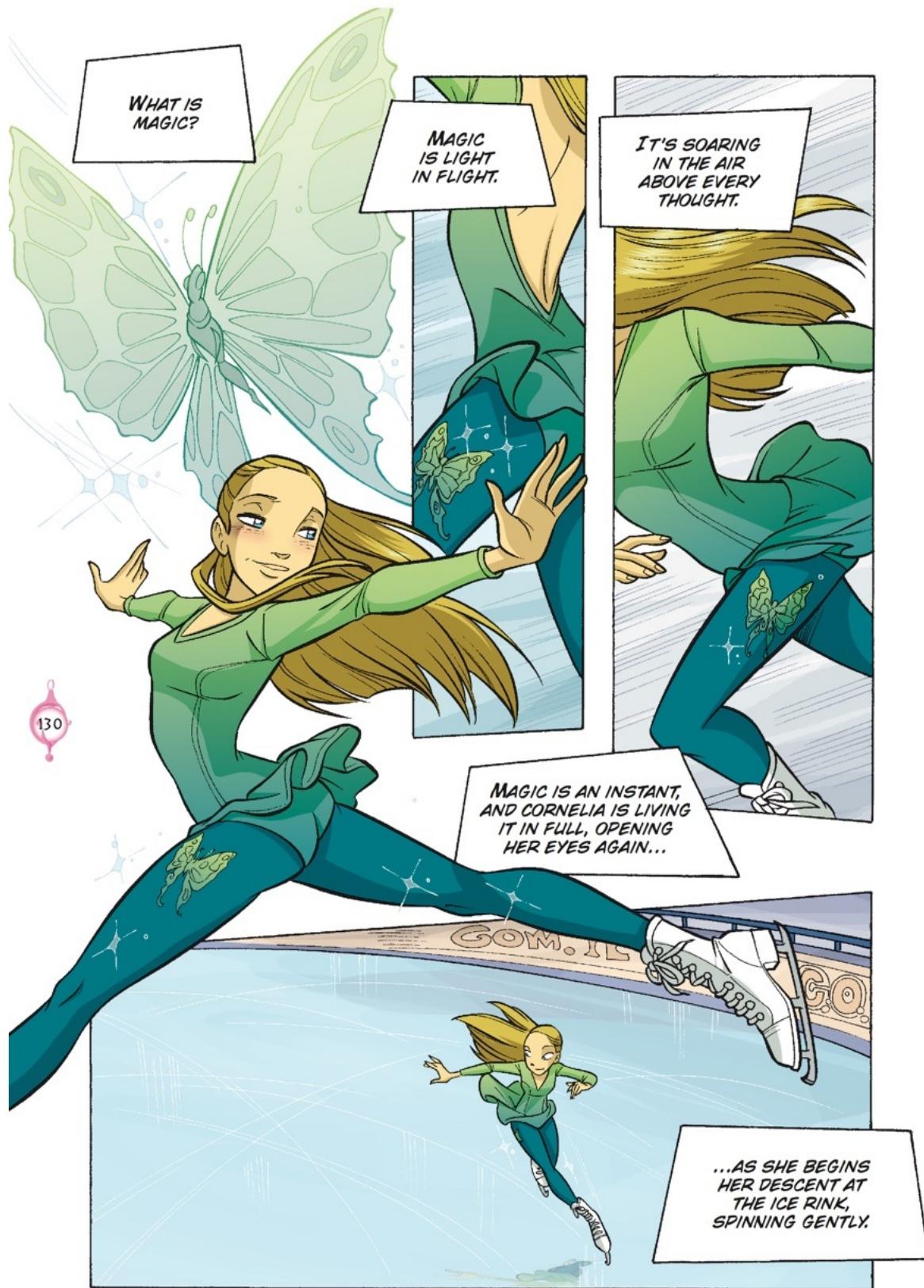


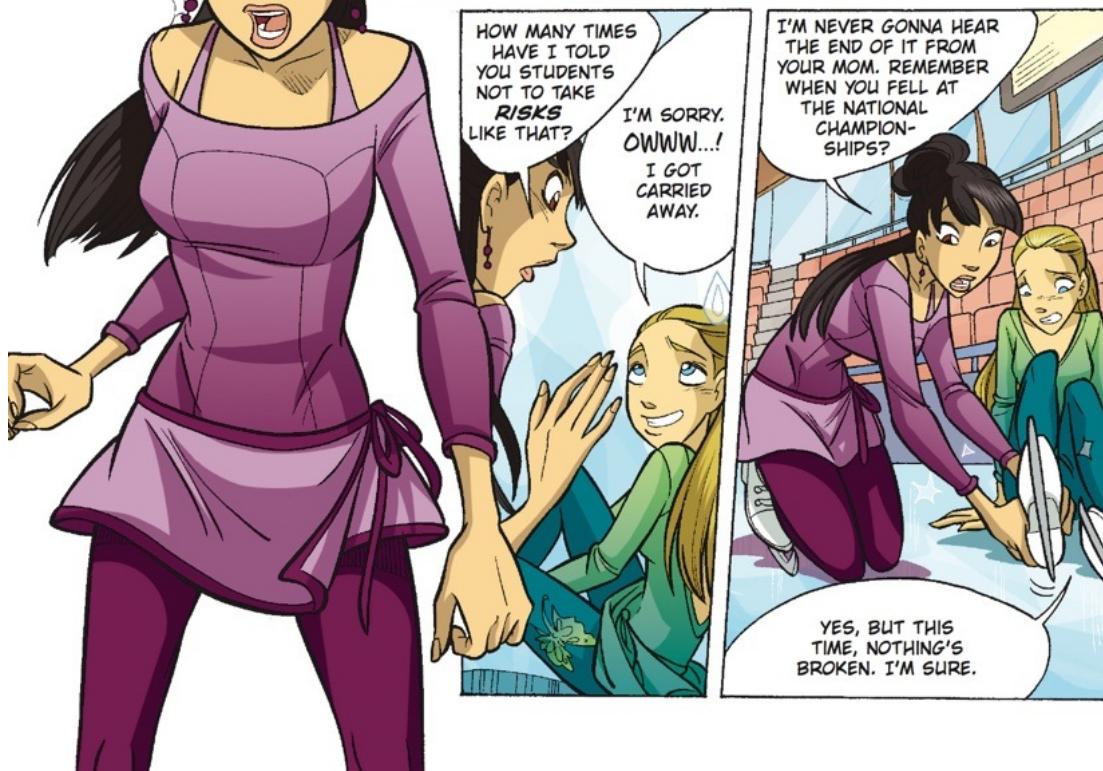
A Flutter of Wings

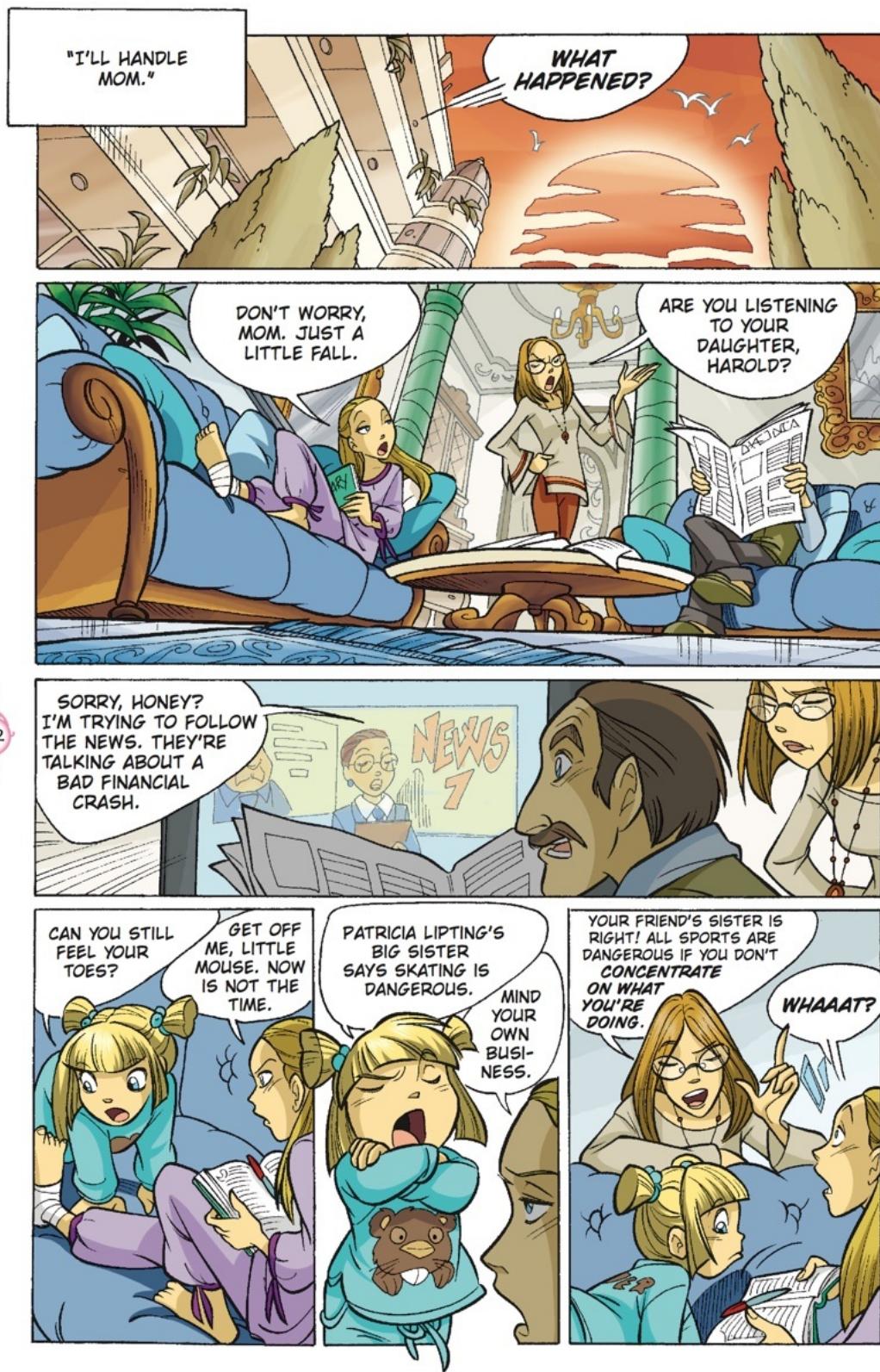
“Can the cruel flight
of a butterfly erase a
whole existence?”

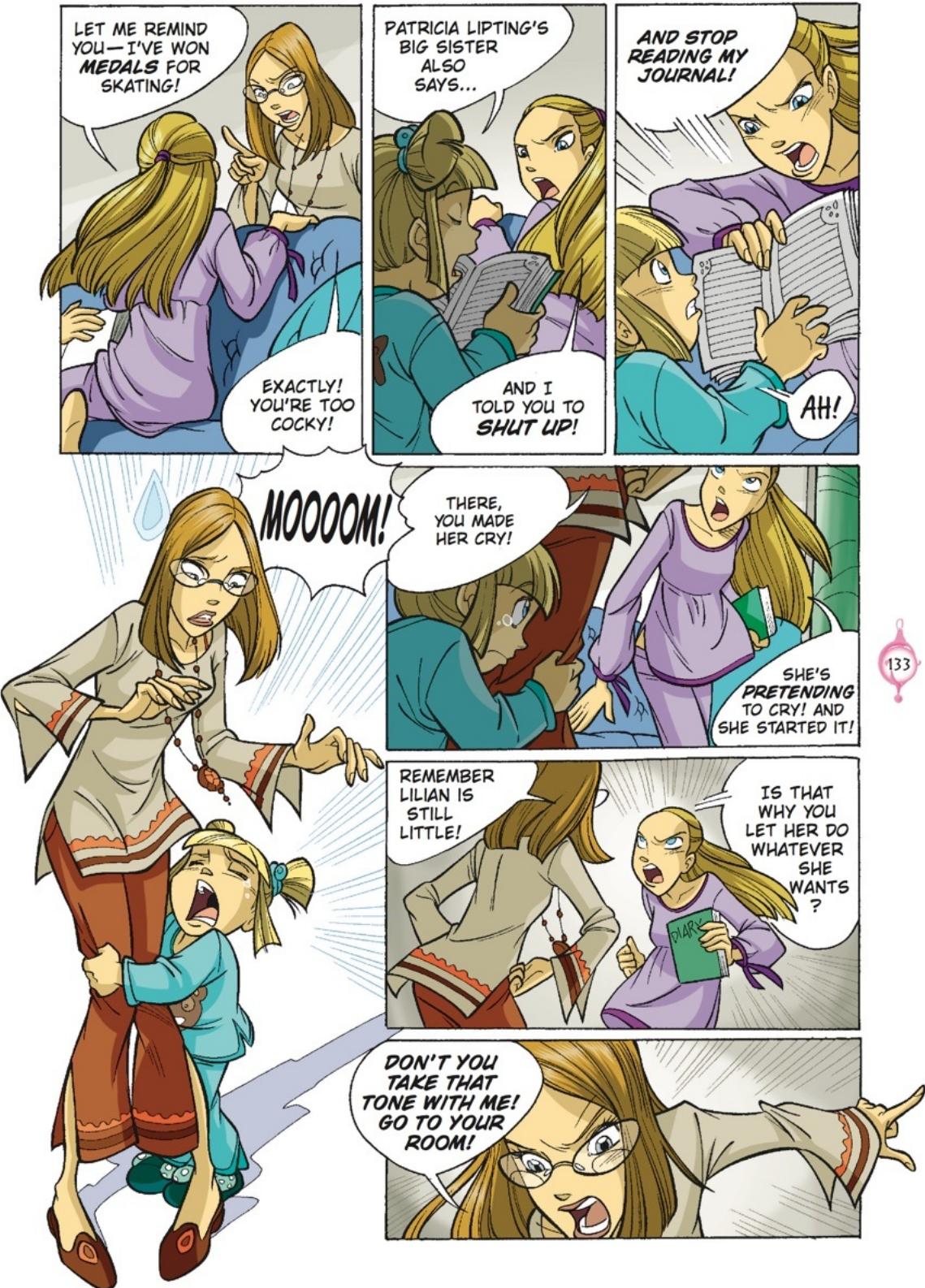












"THAT'S NOT FAIR!" CORNELIA THINKS, AVOIDING A FIGHT AND HER MOM'S GLARE.



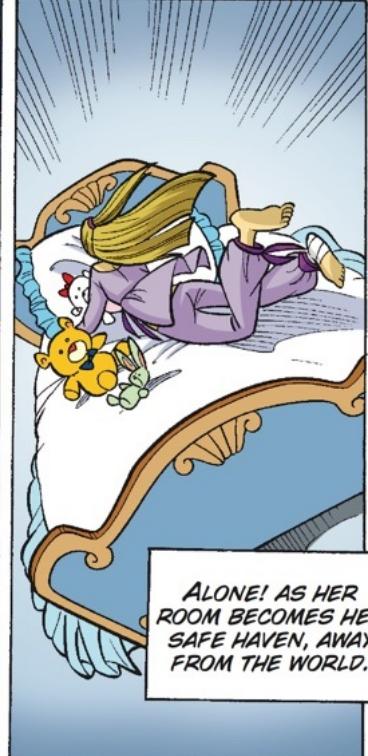
"IT'S NOT FAIR!" AND LILIAN'S CRYING FACE TURNS INTO A SATISFIED SMIRK.

"IT'S NOT FAIR!" AND HER FATHER DOESN'T SEEM TO NOTICE, DISTRACTED BY COMPLICATED WORK STUFF.

134 FOR A MOMENT, THE GUARDIAN FEELS SO ALONE IN THAT CROWDED HOUSE.

ALONE IN AN OCEAN OF UNPLEASANT, CONTRASTING FEELINGS.

ALONE! AS HER ROOM BECOMES HER SAFE HAVEN, AWAY FROM THE WORLD.



BUT AWAY FROM THE WORLD, FAR AWAY, IN KANDRAKAR, BEYOND SPACE AND TIME...

...SOMEONE WATCHES HER WITH INTEREST.

WONDERFUL!

THE POWER FLOWING THROUGH THIS BODY IS ALMOST UNLIMITED.

I CAN OBSERVE THE GUARDIANS' LIVES WHENEVER I WANT. I JUST NEED TO WISH FOR SOMETHING TO...

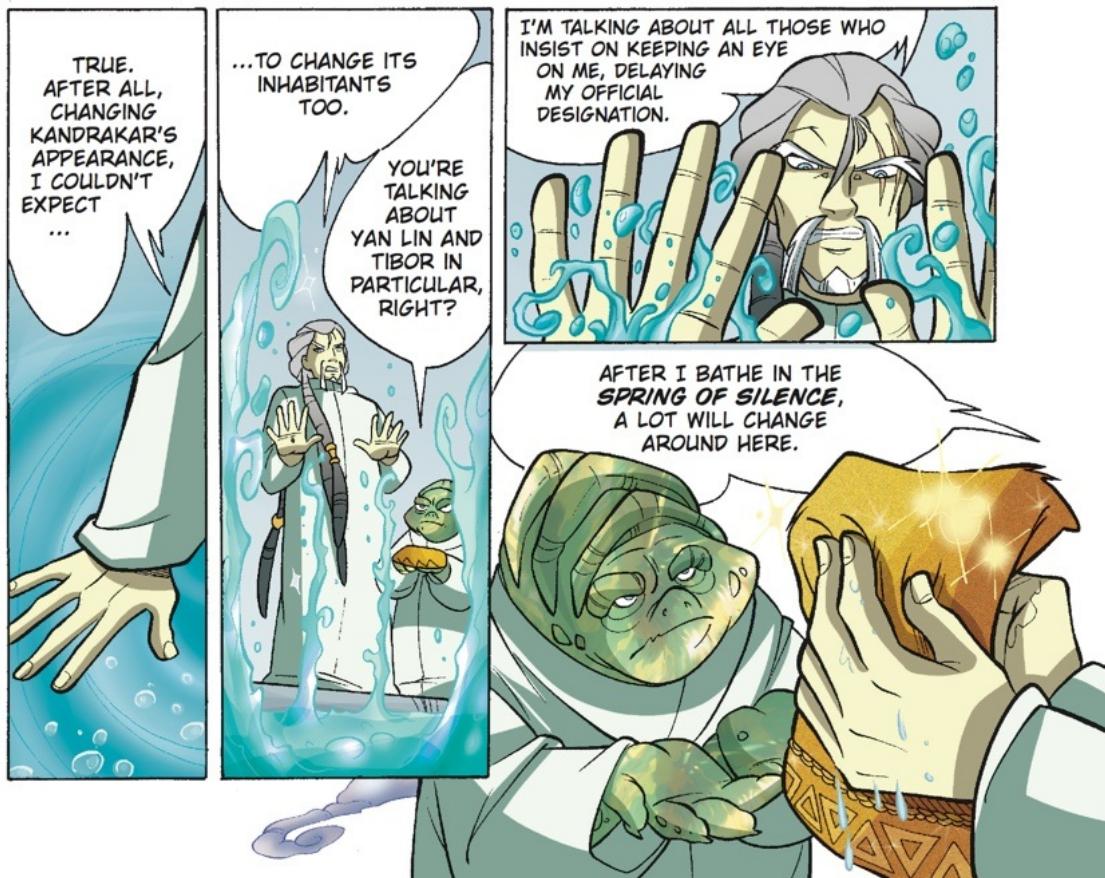
WISE ENDARNO...

AH, VAAL!

COME IN, MY FAITHFUL ADVISER. I HOPE SOON YOU CAN SIMPLY CALL ME ORACLE.



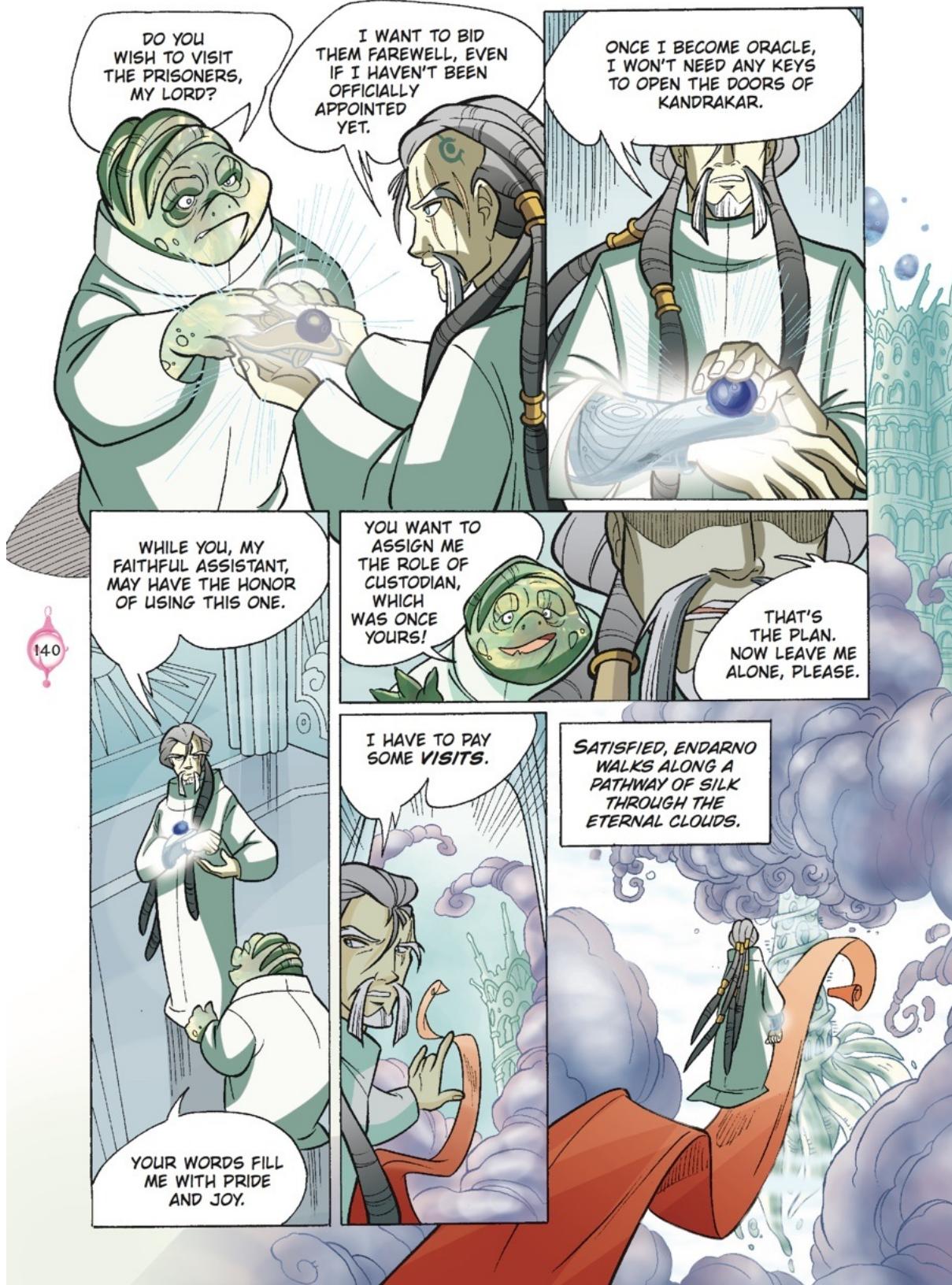
136











ONCE IN FRONT OF THE SMOOTH WALL OF THE TOWER OF MISTS, ENDARNO ACTIVATES THE KEY BRACELET...

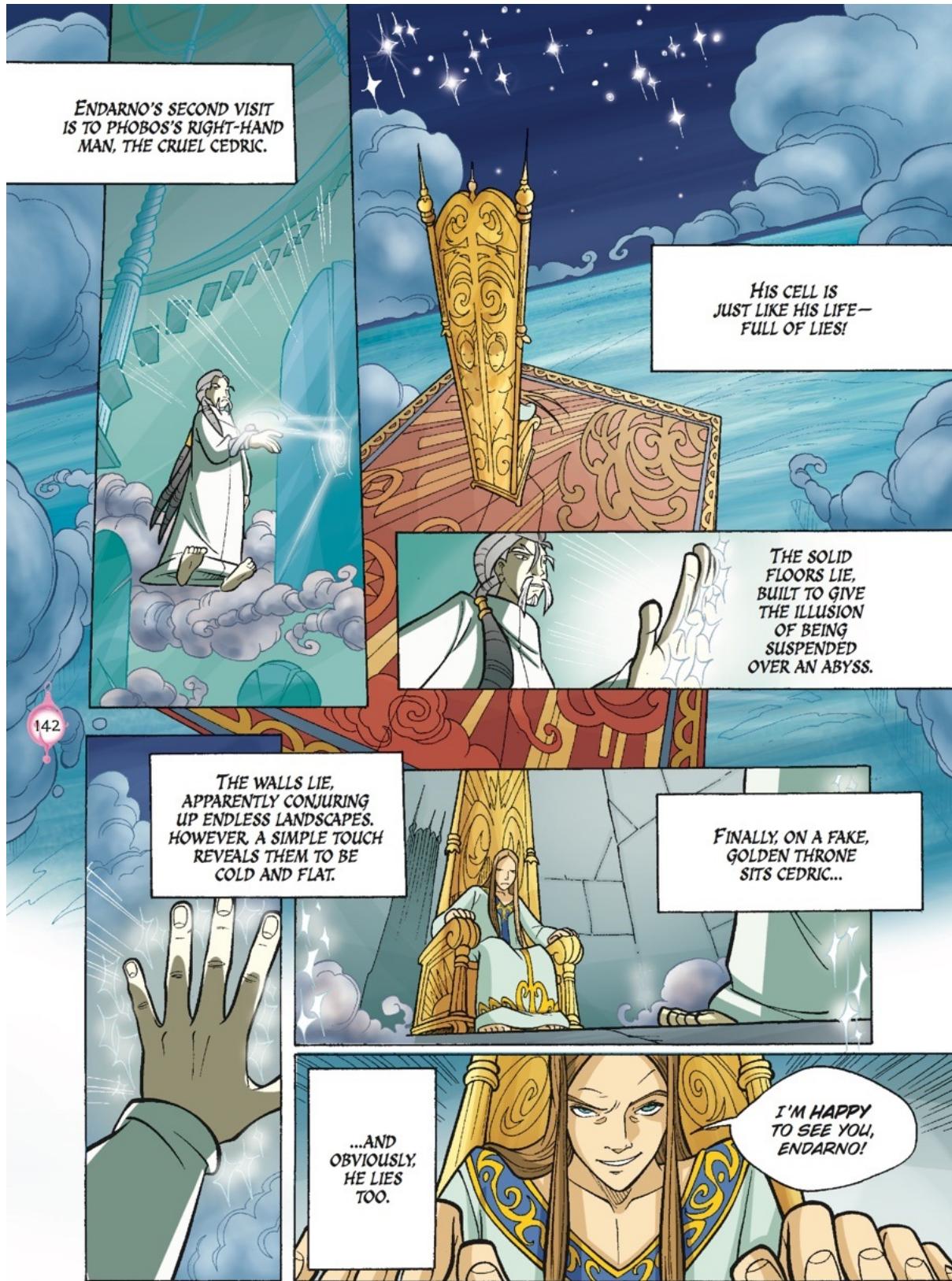
...AT THE MOMENT, HIS ONLY MEANS TO GET IN OR OUT OF KANDRAKAR'S INVOLUBLE PRISON.

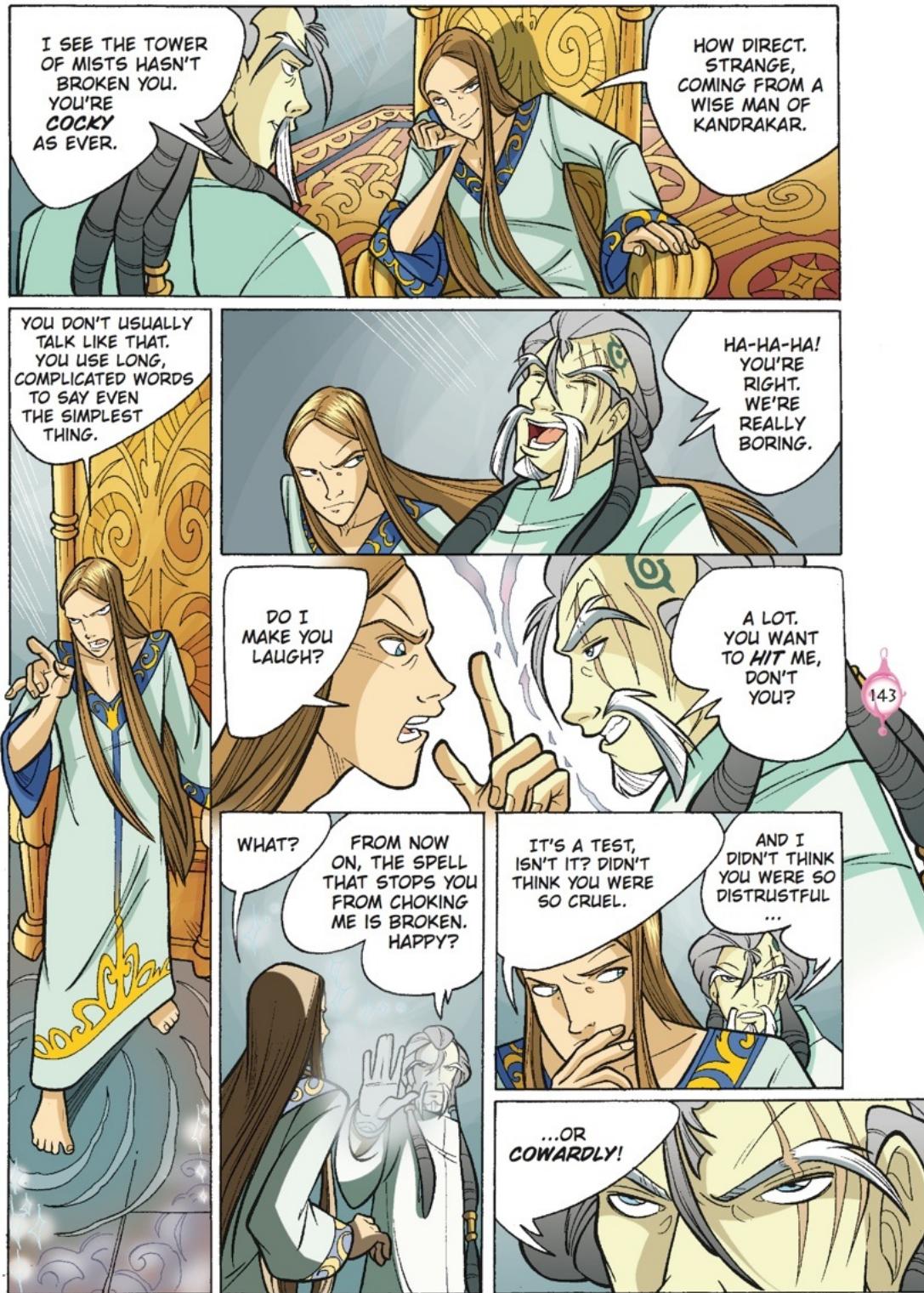
THE EX-CUSTODIAN'S FIRST VISIT IS TO PHOBOS, ELYON'S BROTHER, EVIL TYRANT OF MERIDIAN.

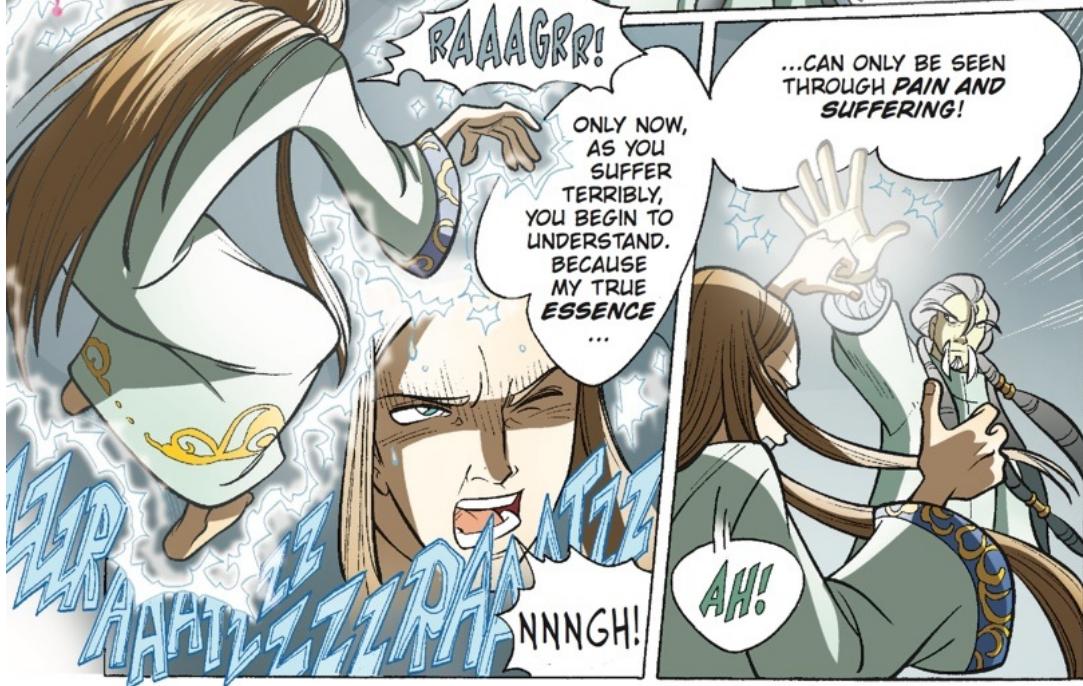
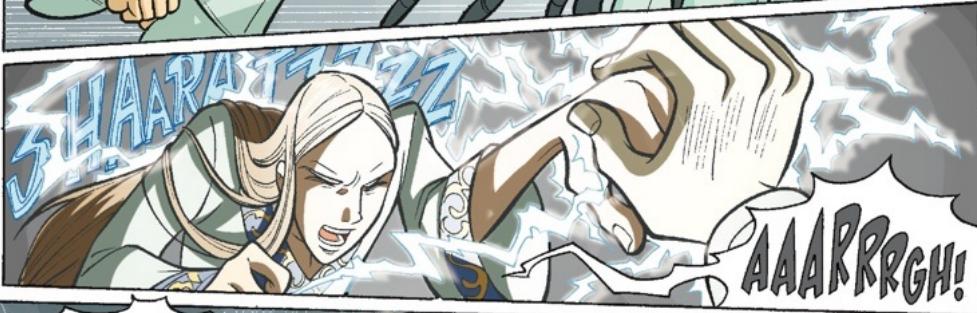
...SPECIALLY CREATED FOR ONE ARROGANT ENOUGH TO DOMINATE AN ENTIRE WORLD!

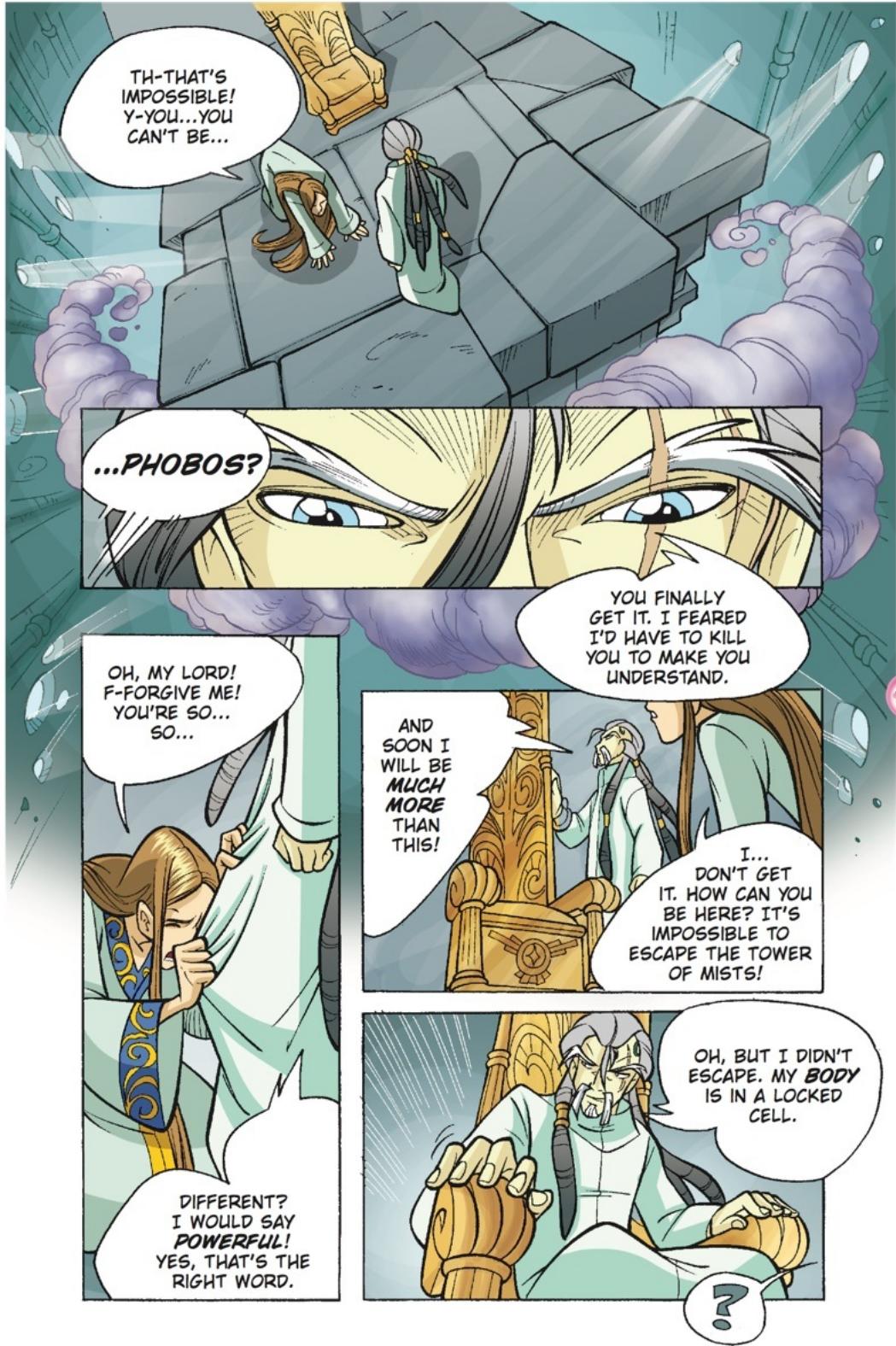
HEAD BOWED. EYES DEAD. THE PRISONER IS BUT A SHADOW OF THE MAN HE WAS.

HIS PRIVATE CELL IS A CHAOTIC PLACE, CONSTANTLY CHANGING ITS APPEARANCE...









"AFTER BEING IMPRISONED, I WAS DRAINED OF ALMOST ALL MY MAGICAL STRENGTH."



"IN TIME, I LEARNED TO FEED OFF MY HATRED AND RESENTMENT. I SAVED MY RESIDUAL ENERGY AND NOURISHED IT..."

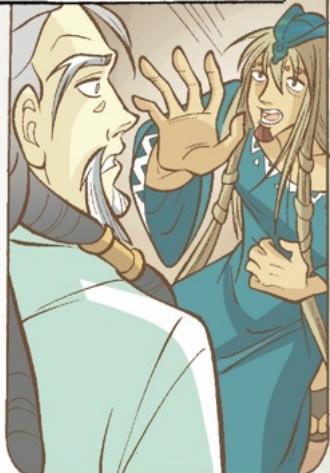


"...AND IN THE DARKNESS OF MY HEART, I FOUND A SPARK OF POWER!"



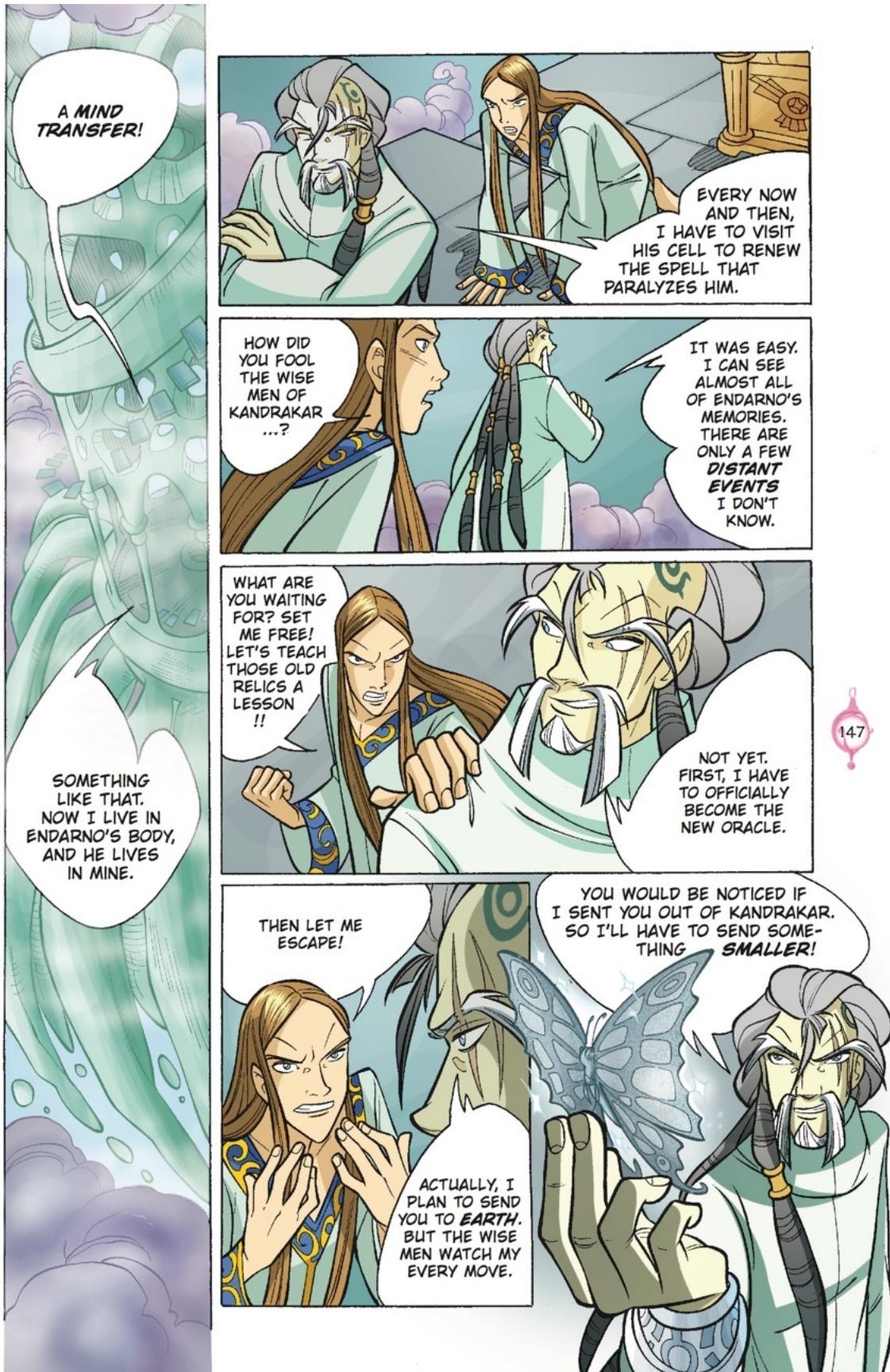
146

"I TRICKED THE REAL ENDARNO INTO APPROACHING ME. I MANAGED TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYES...THEN..."



"...THEN I STARTED SEEING THROUGH HIS!"







EARLY MORNING IN
HEATHERFIELD.
EVERYDAY LIFE—OR
BETTER STILL, THE LIFE
OF THE DAY AFTER...



...THAT IS,
THE DAY AFTER
COMMUNITY SERVICE
AND THE EXHAUSTING
TRUDGING THROUGH
THE CITY MUSEUM.

I
SWEAR,
IT WAS
AWFUL!

EXPLAINING
SCULPTURE
FROM 1100 A.D.
TO TWENTY-
SIX WILD
CHILDREN WAS
SHATTERING.

DON'T
EXAGGERATE,
HAY LIN.

BUT IT'S TRUE,
TARANEE. I EVEN
CONSIDERED USING
MY POWERS TO
SHUT THEM
UP.

GOOD
THING YOU
DIDN'T!

THE NEW ORACLE
WILL COME DOWN ON
US LIKE A TON OF
BRICKS IF WE STEP
OUT OF LINE.

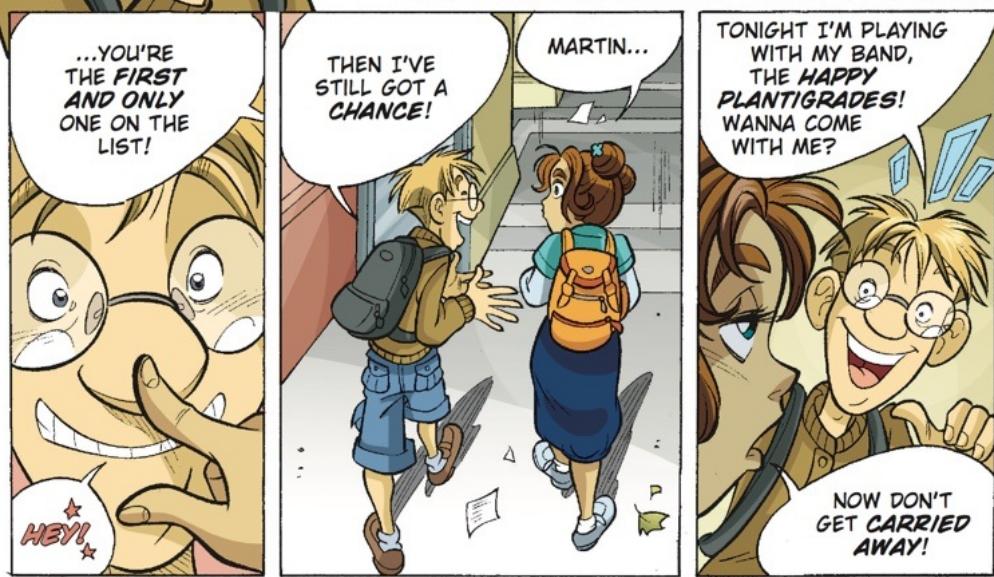
BY THE WAY,
AFTER SCHOOL, WE
SHOULD MEET UP
TO TALK ABOUT
ENDARNO.

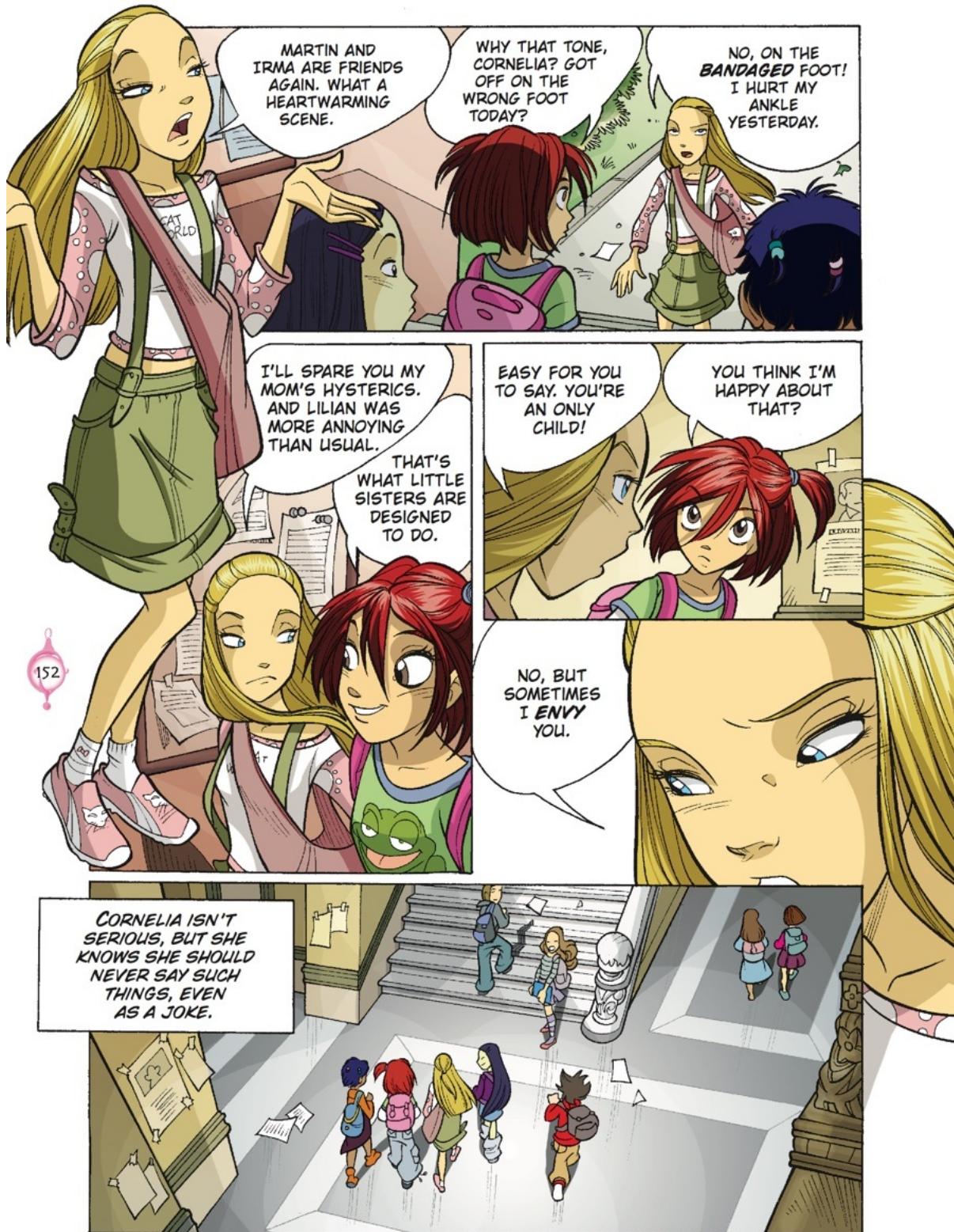
HMM...
SURE, WILL.
LATER,
LATER.





151





ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, IN THE GUARDIAN'S FLAT, THE DOOR OF THE BALCONY BURSTS OPEN...

A SMALL CRYSTAL BUTTERFLY APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE AND GENTLY SETTLES ON A PLANT...

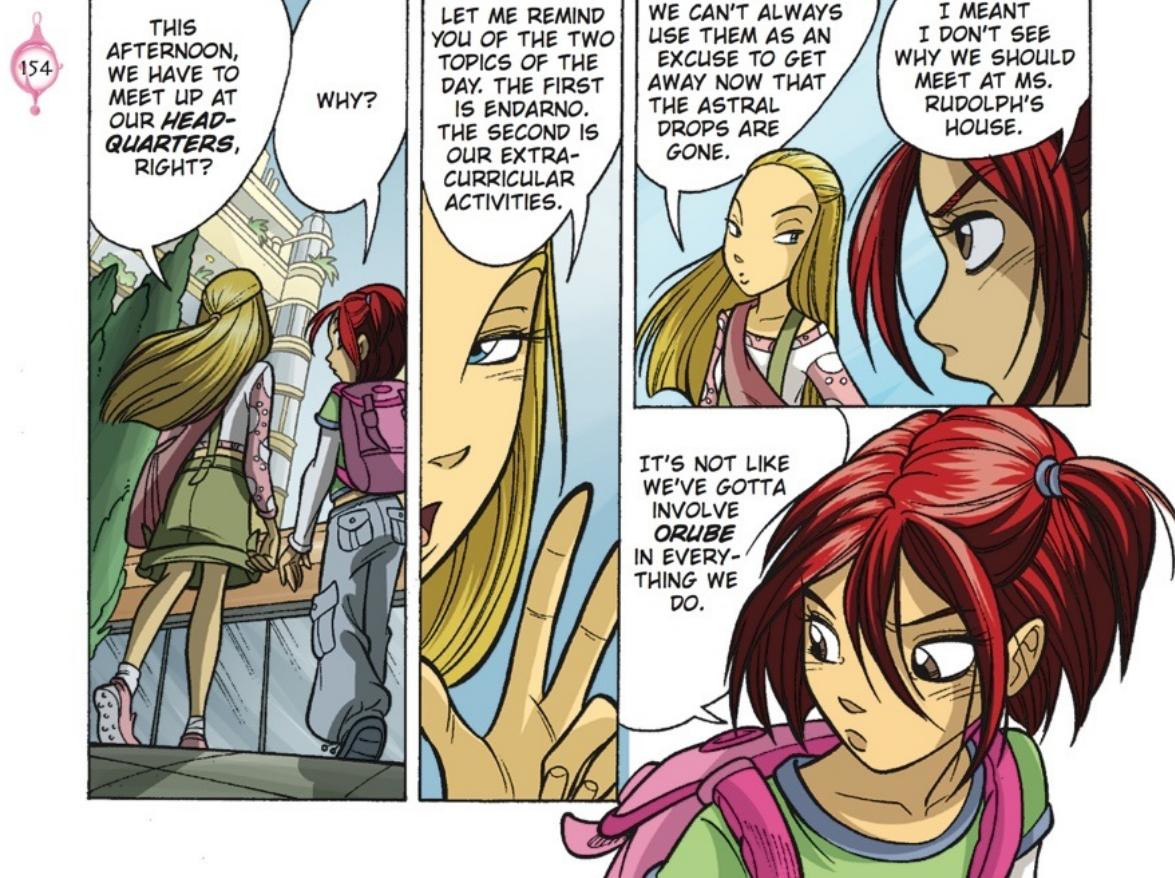
...INCINERATING IT!

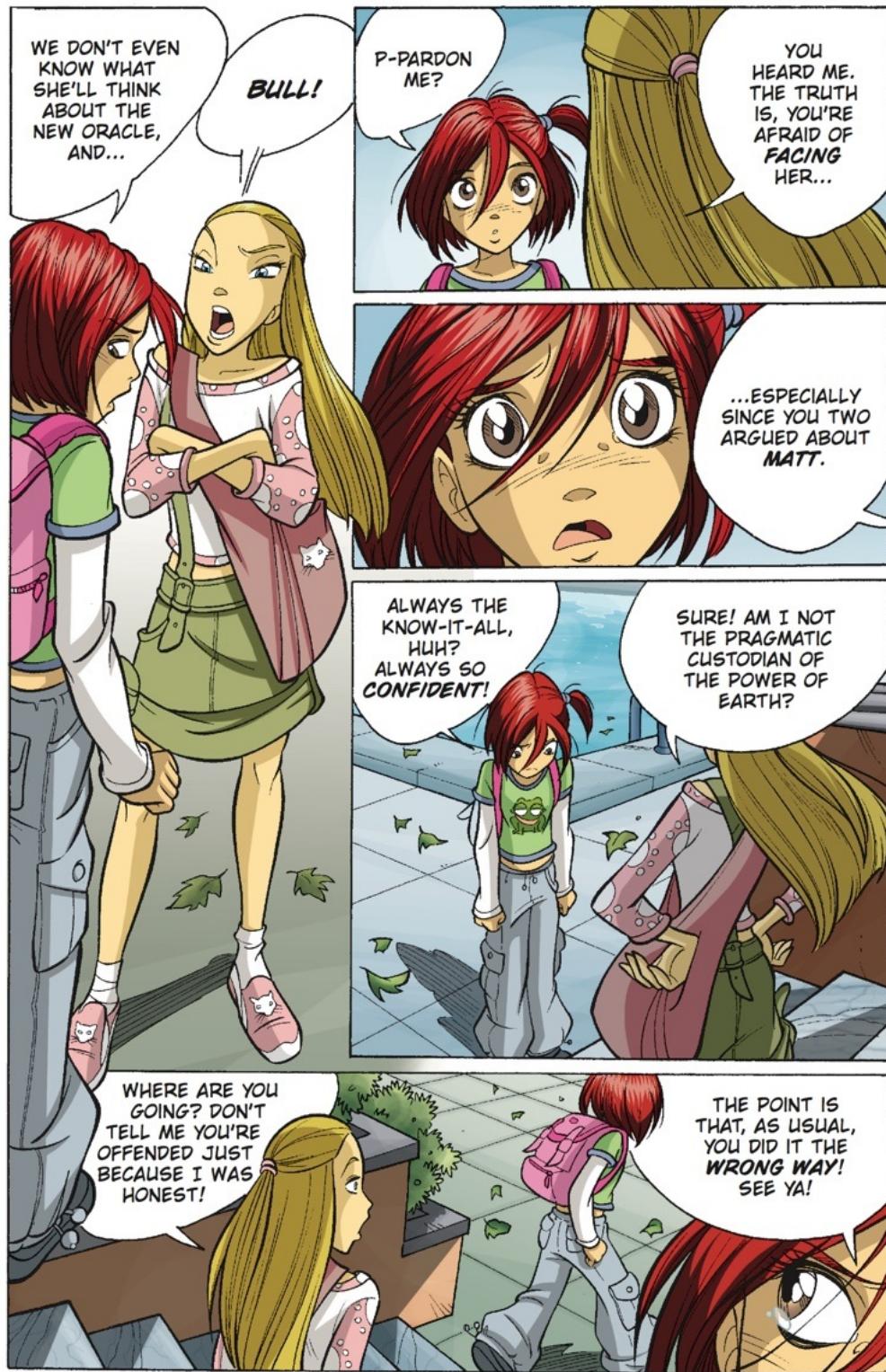
153

THEN, THE LITTLE CREATURE FLIES UNDISTURBED INTO THE EMPTY HOUSE.

IT BRUSHES EVERY ITEM, TOUCHES EVERY PHOTOGRAPH, AND FINDS EVERYTHING RELATED TO CORNELIA...

...MAGICALLY ERASING ANY VITAL TRACE OF THE GUARDIAN!





STUPID, STUPID, STUPID! CORNELIA CAN'T GET ANYTHING RIGHT TODAY.



SHE HAS TO SORT HERSELF OUT BECAUSE SHE MIGHT BE ARGUING WITH HER MOM AGAIN SOON.



156

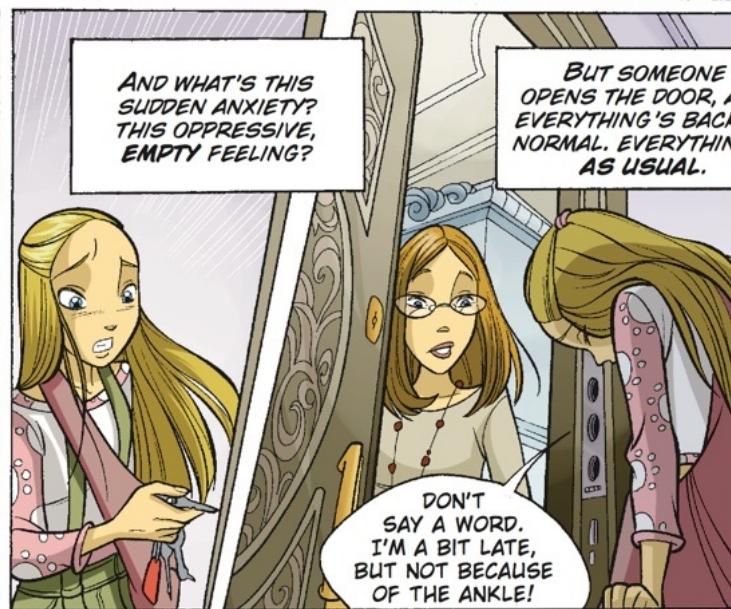
WHEN SHE SLIPS HER KEY IN, SHE FINDS THE LOCK HAS BEEN BEEN CHANGED. WHY DID NO ONE TELL HER?

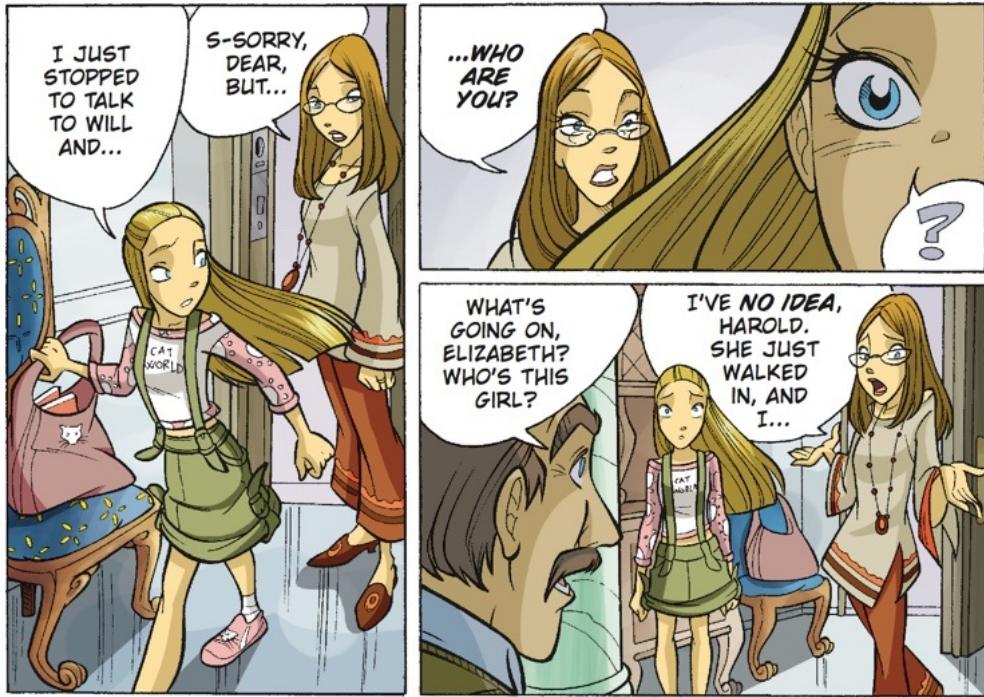


AND WHAT'S THIS SUDDEN ANXIETY? THIS OPPRESSIVE, EMPTY FEELING?

ON THE STAIRS, SHE SAYS HELLO TO A NEIGHBOR, WHO DOESN'T REPLY. HOW RUDE!

BUT SOMEONE OPENS THE DOOR, AND EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL. EVERYTHING'S AS USUAL.





157



WHAT'S HAPPENING,
CORNELIA? WHY IS DAD
SO TENSE? WHY DOESN'T
HE WANT YOU TO GO
INTO YOUR...

...ROOM?

M-MOM!
DAD! WHERE...
WHERE ARE MY
THINGS? MY BED?
MY WARDROBE?

158
I'M SORRY, DEAR.
THIS HAS ALWAYS
BEEN MY OFFICE,
AND WE...

...WE ONLY HAVE
ONE
DAUGHTER!

"LILIAN!"

ONLY NOW, SEEING
THE CONFUSION
AND ANGUISH IN
HIS EYES, DOES
CORNELIA
UNDERSTAND!

WHAT DOES IT FEEL
LIKE, PRAGMATIC
GUARDIAN, WHEN
YOUR OWN ELEMENT
CRUMBLES BENEATH
YOUR FEET?

WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU FIND
OUT YOU NEVER
EXISTED?

ALL YOUR
CERTAINTIES
TURN TO SAND
WHILE HARSH
REALITY REPLACES
MAGIC.

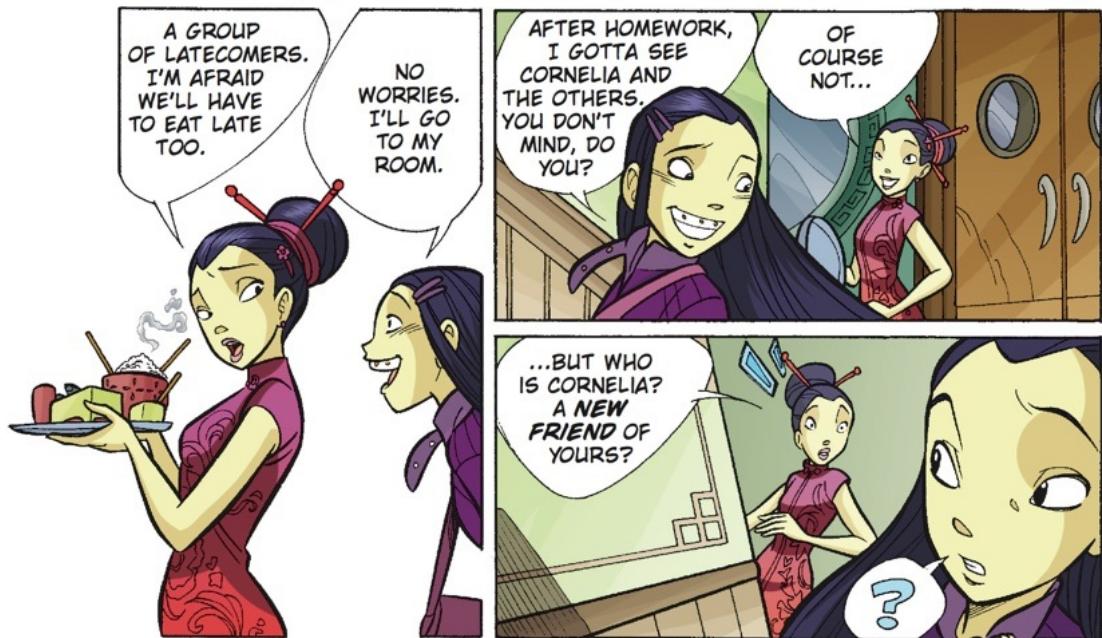
THAT MAGIC
THAT, NOW MORE
THAN EVER, IS
JUST A FLIGHT
OF LIGHTNESS.

THE CRUEL FLIGHT
OF A BUTTERFLY
THAT ONLY NEEDED
TO FLUTTER ITS
WINGS...

...TO ERASE
A WHOLE
EXISTENCE!

UNIMAGINABLE.



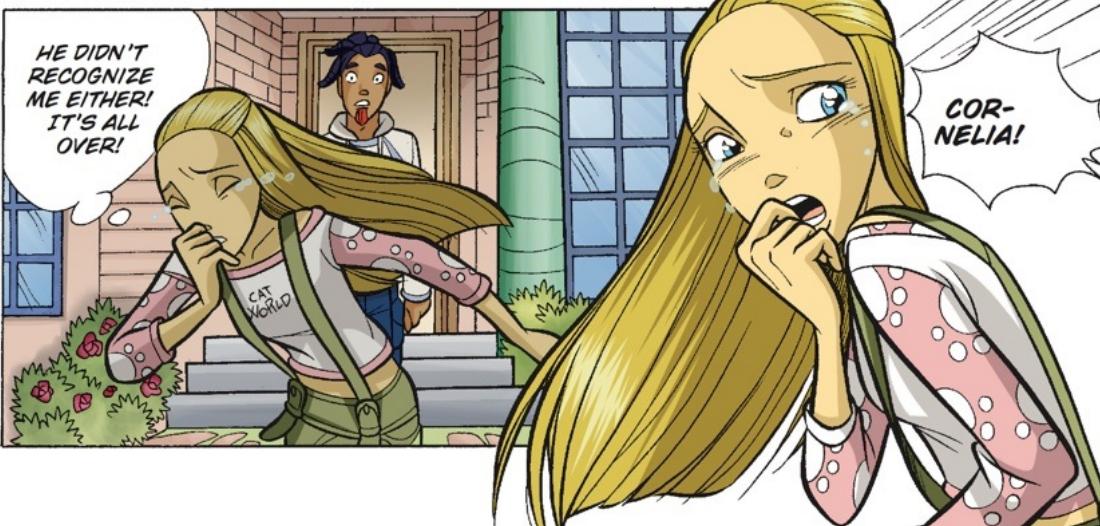


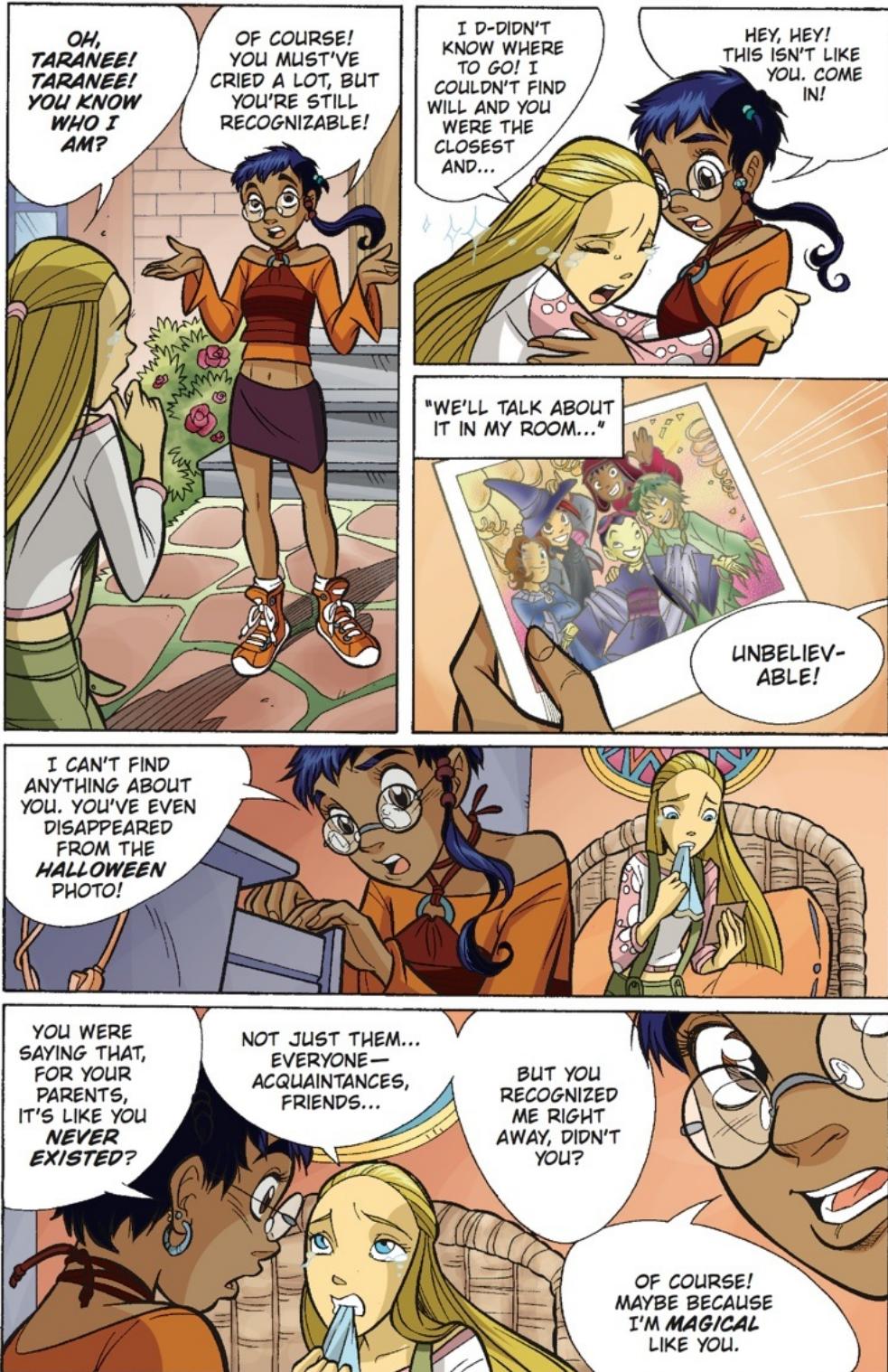
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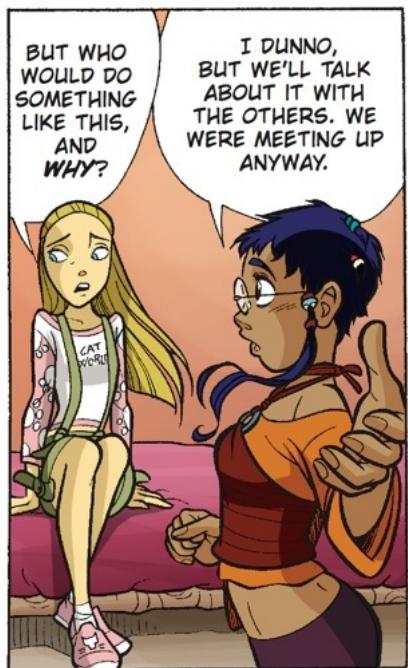
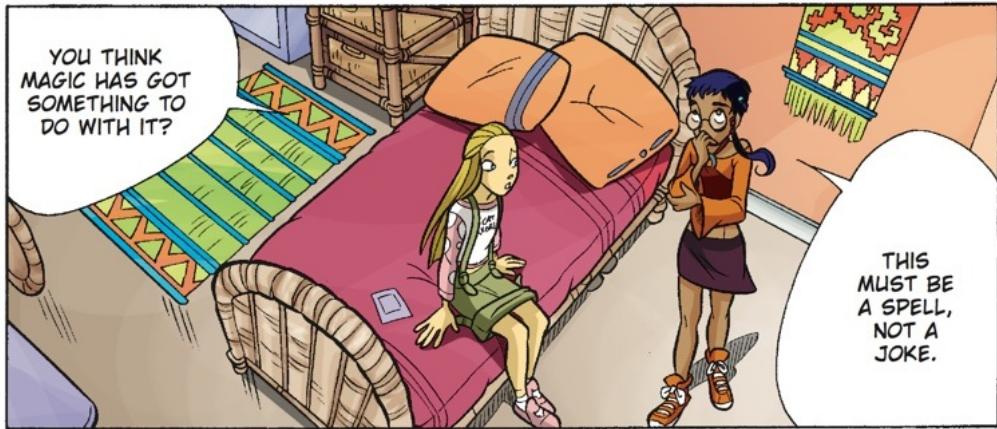












LATER, AT REBECCA RUDOLPH'S (A.K.A. ORUBE'S) HOUSE...

LOOKS LIKE I'M THE FIRST. CAN I COME IN?

OF COURSE. IT'S YOUR HOUSE.

I THOUGHT WE'D SORTED THINGS OUT, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW WHAT. MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT YOU, ME, AND MATT.

TALK ALL YOU WANT. I'M NOT GONNA LISTEN.

WHADDAYA MEAN?

REALLY? GOOD. ME TOO.

THEIR TALK ENDS A BIT ICILY... WHO KNOWS IF THE GIRLS ARE BEING SINCERE ...?

WILL IS STILL IN LOVE WITH MATT, AND ORUBE FEELS SOMETHING FOR HIM TOO.

IN HER CASE, IT'S NOT LOVE BUT SIMPLE GRATITUDE.

THANKS TO MATT AND HIS KINDNESS, NOW ORUBE FEELS A LITTLE LESS ALONE AND A LITTLE LESS...ALIEN.



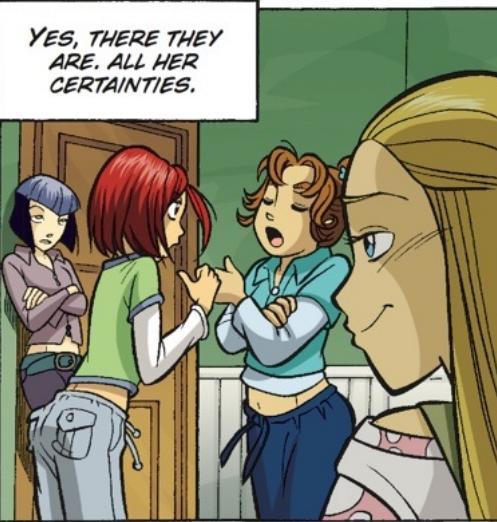
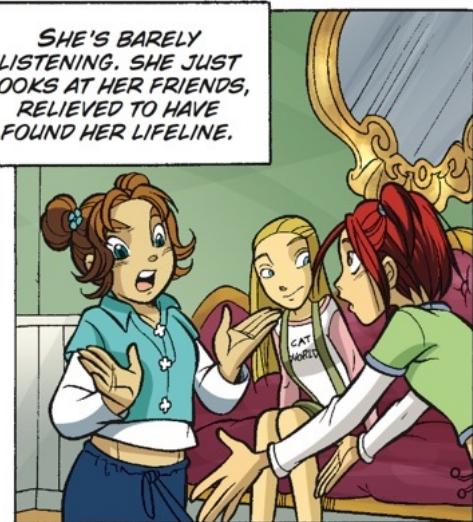
LATER, THE OTHER GUARDIANS ARRIVE, AND THE DISCUSSION SHIFTS TO WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CORNELIA.

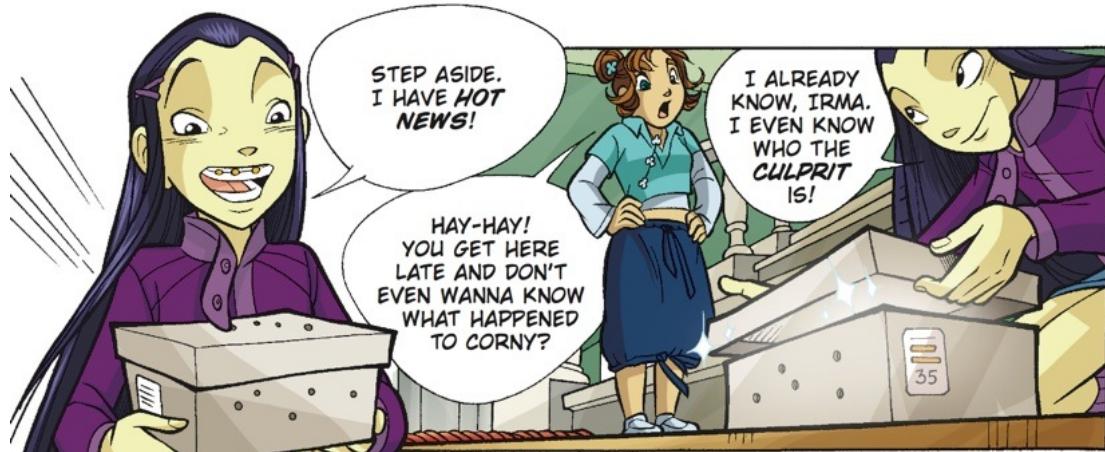
168



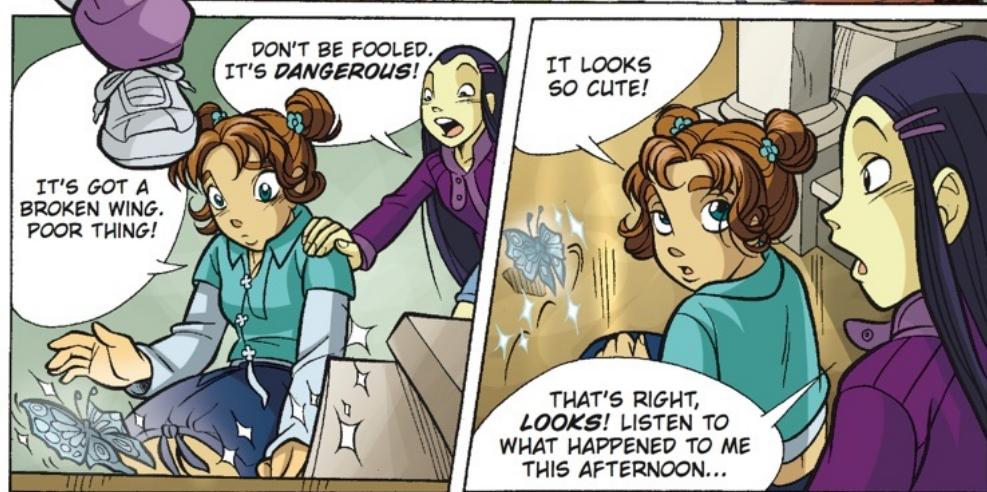
SHE'S BARELY LISTENING. SHE JUST LOOKS AT HER FRIENDS, RELIEVED TO HAVE FOUND HER LIFELINE.

YES, THERE THEY ARE. ALL HER CERTAINTIES.





169



"IT ALL STARTED WITH A LITTLE DRAGON WITH ITS MOUTH OPEN..."

WHAT'S THAT BETWEEN ITS TEETH? LOOKS LIKE A BUTTERFLY...

SNORT

HEY!
SOMEONE'S GRUMPY!

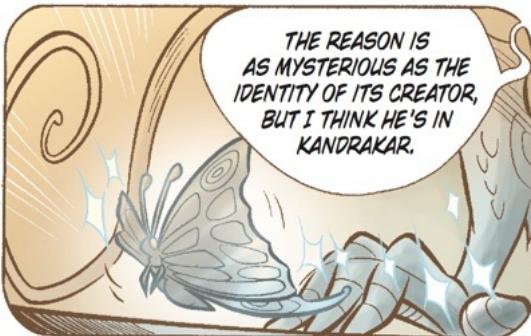
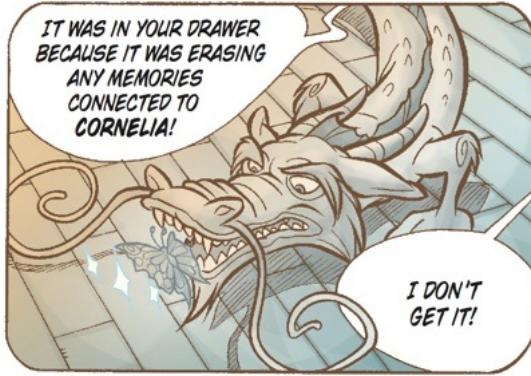
170

IT JUST WANTS TO STOP YOU FROM TOUCHING THAT BUTTERFLY, HAY LIN.

GRANDMA!

WHAT'S UP? IF YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME TO KANDRAKAR?

BECAUSE I SUSPECT THAT EVIL LITTLE CREATURE COMES FROM THERE!



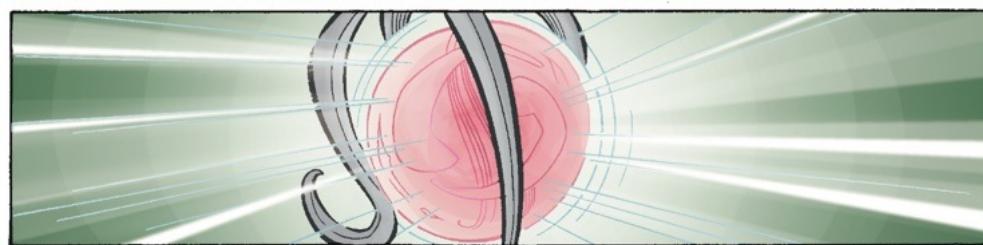
171

...THEN THE HEART WILL GIVE CORNELIA A CHANCE TO GET HER MEMORIES AND HER LIFE BACK!

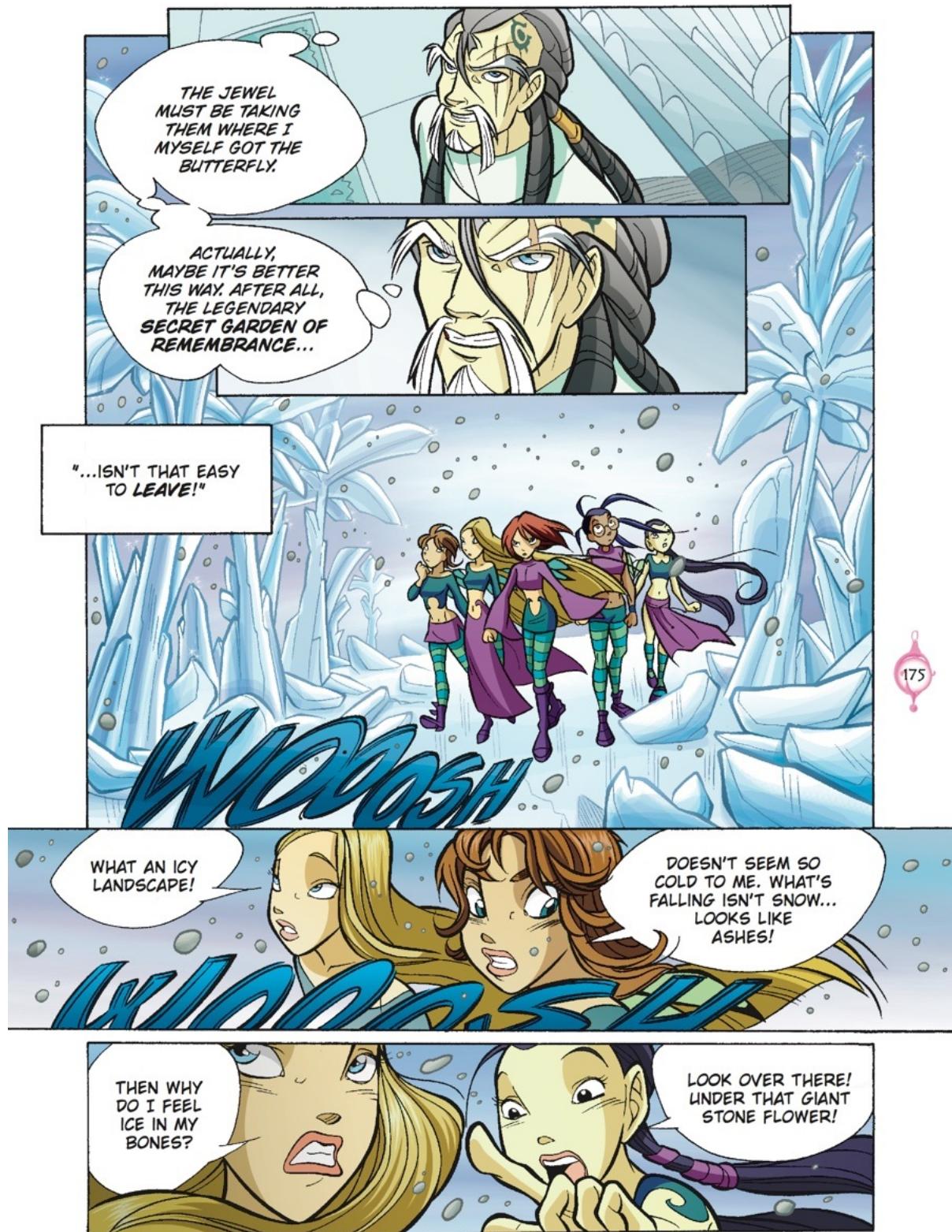
I HAVE TO GO. THIS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION MIGHT BE UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

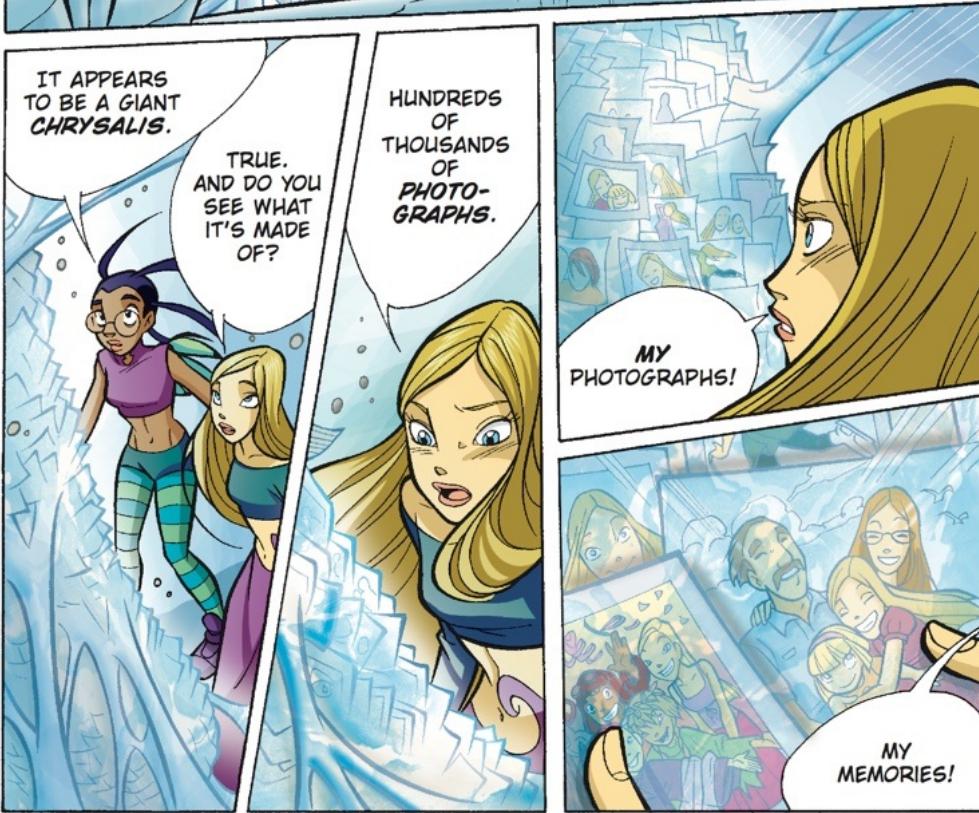
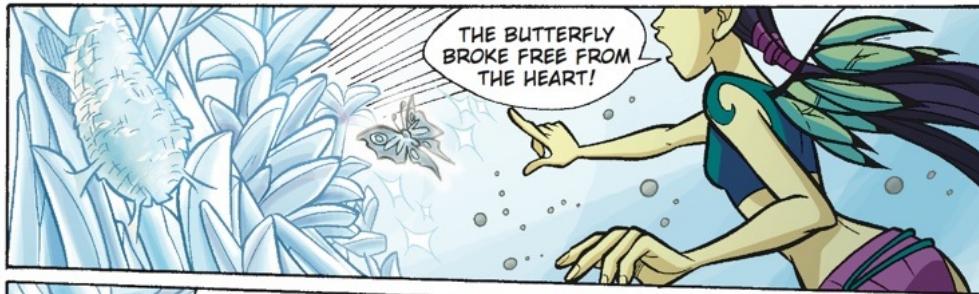
WAIT! YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME...





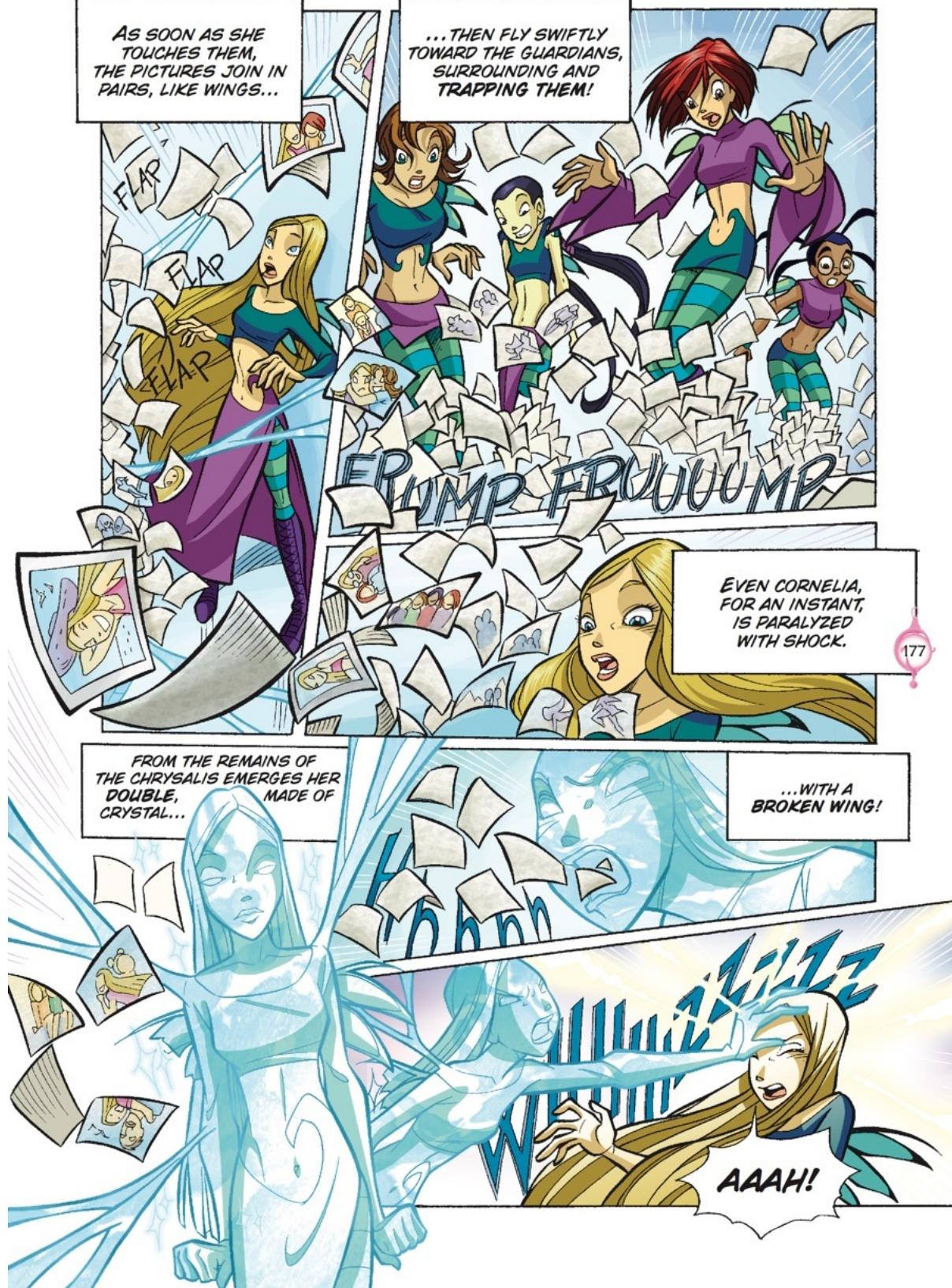


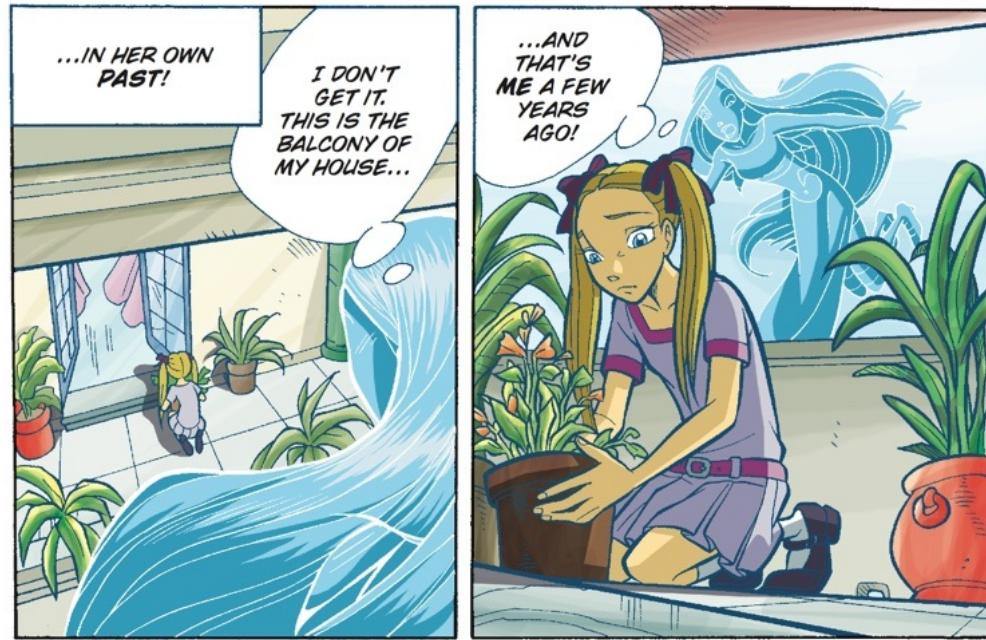
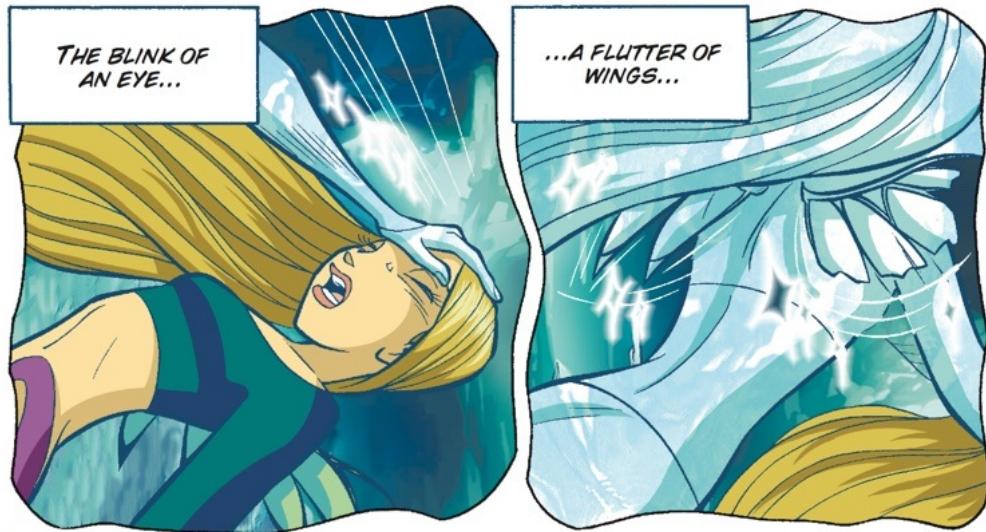


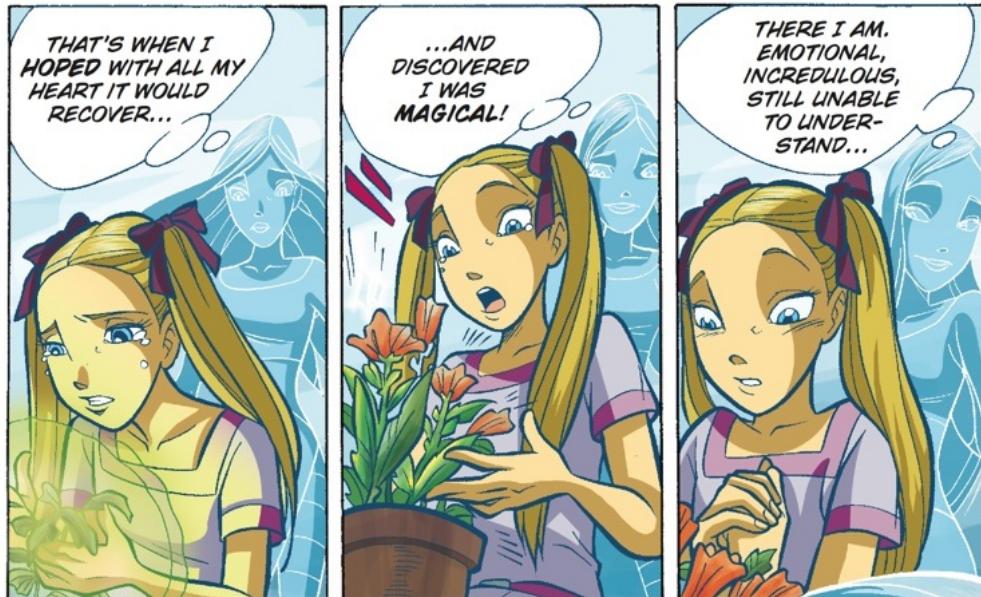
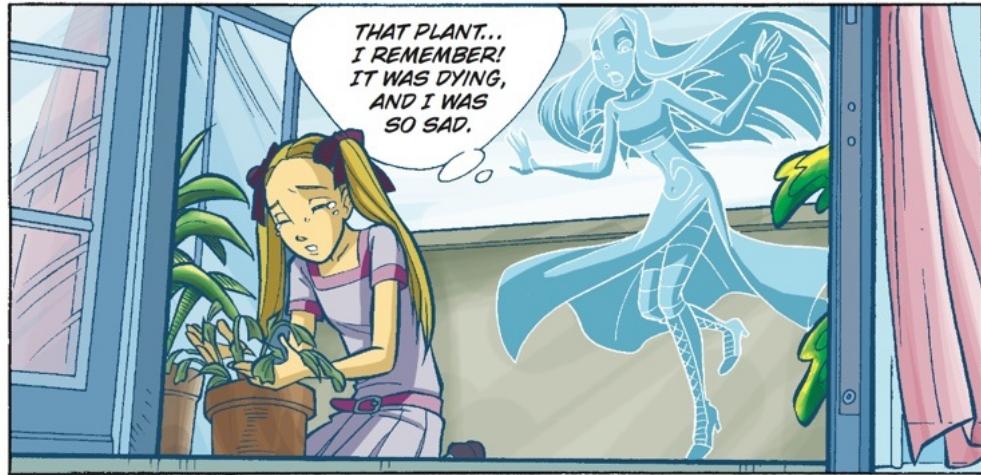


AS SOON AS SHE
TOUCHES THEM,
THE PICTURES JOIN IN
PAIRS, LIKE WINGS...

...THEN FLY SWIFTLY
TOWARD THE GUARDIANS,
SURROUNDING AND
TRAPPING THEM!

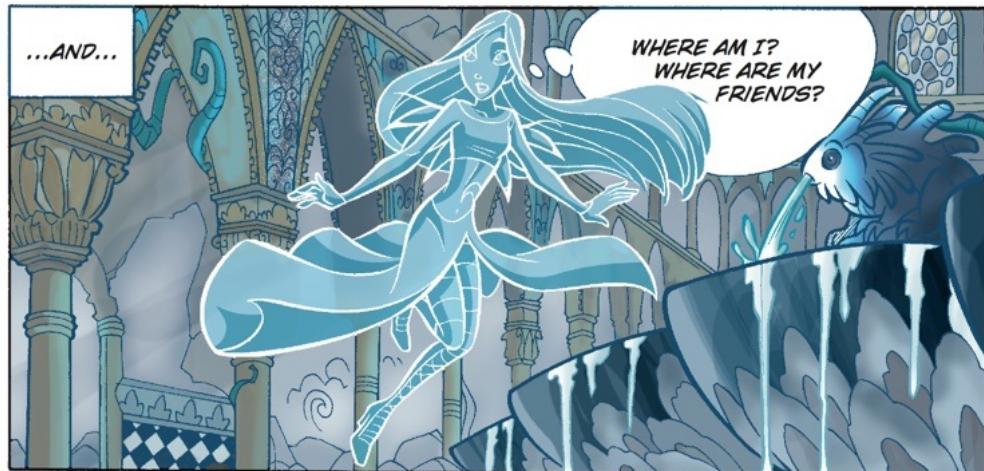




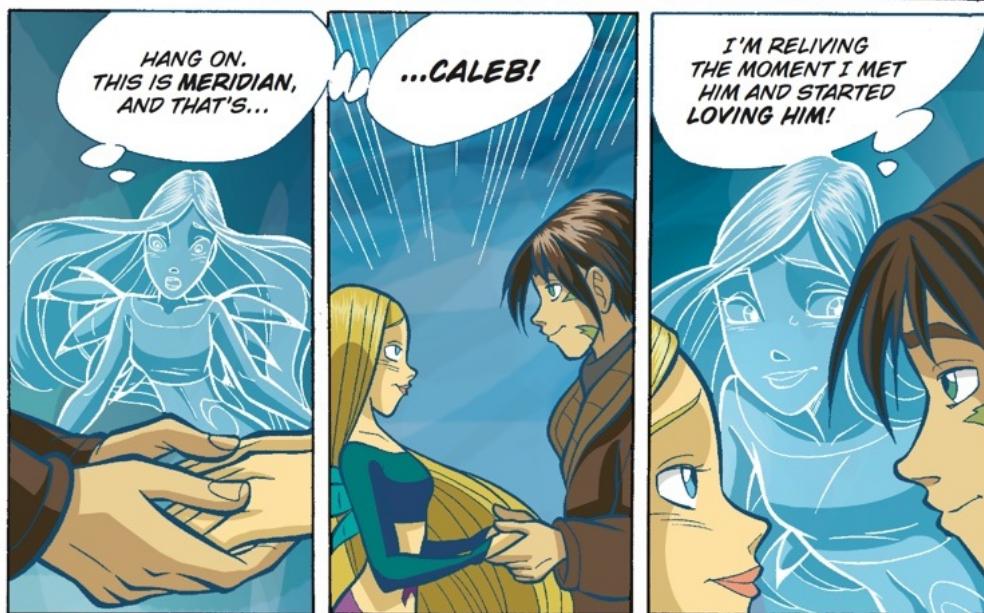


179

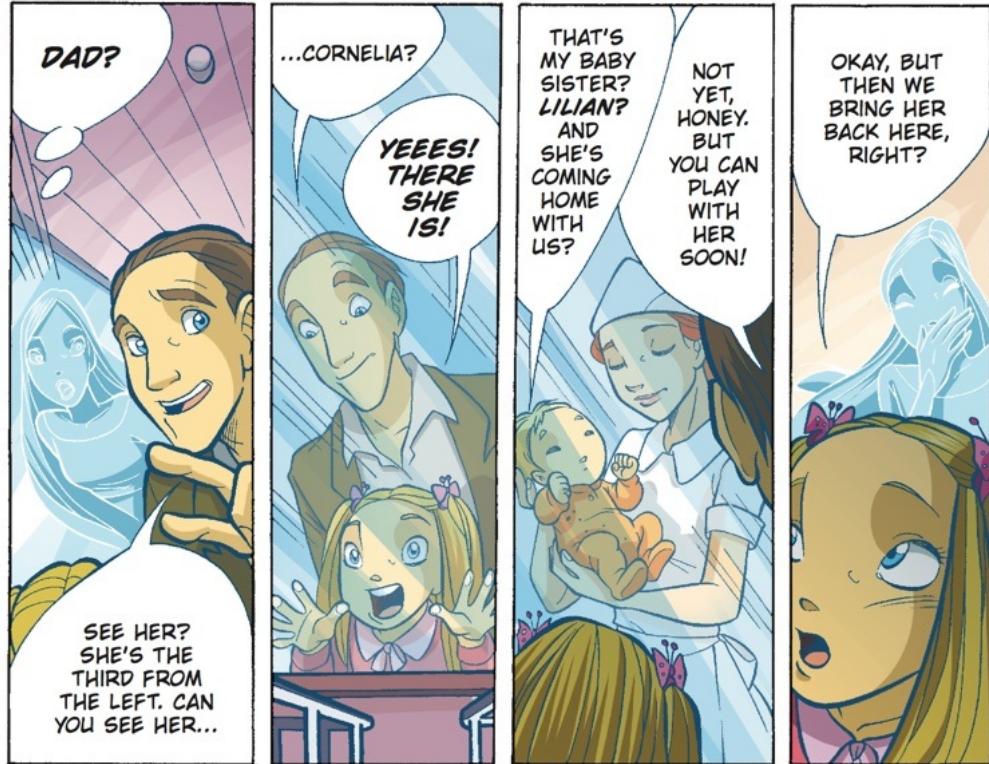


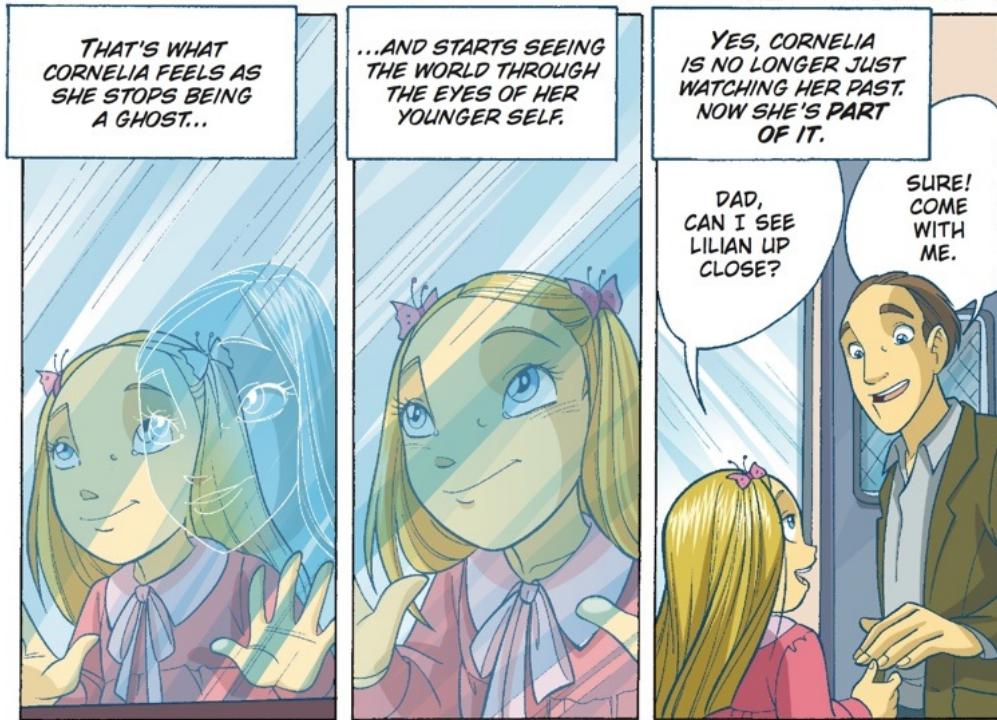


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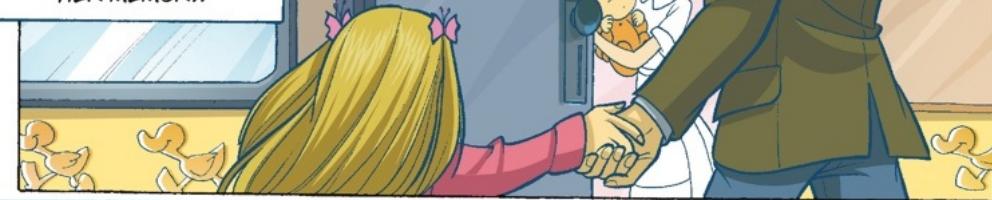








THE EMOTIONS WERE TOO STRONG. CORNELIA COULDN'T RESIST AND WAS ABSORBED BY HER MEMORY.



NOW, SEEING HER BABY SISTER UP CLOSE, SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO FEEL—JEALOUS OR HAPPY?



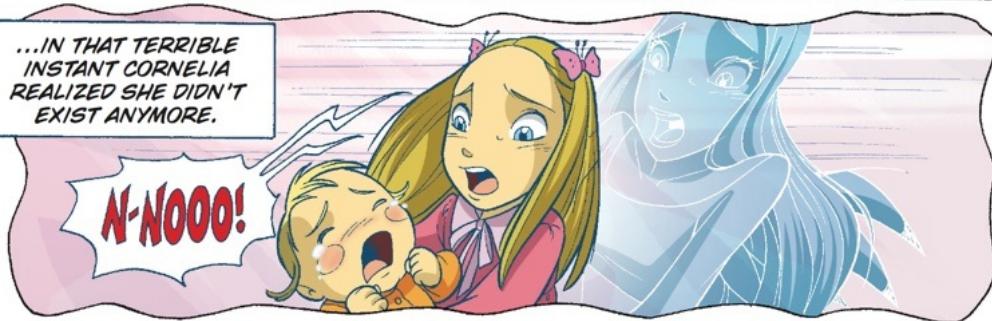
184
BUT WHEN LILIAN STIRS AND CRIES IN HER ARMS, THE GUARDIAN RECOGNIZES THAT LOST LOOK. SHE SEES THE SAME DISMAY AND ANGUISH...



...SHE'S SEEN IN HER SISTER, NOW A LITTLE OLDER, AT HER HOUSE...



...IN THAT TERRIBLE INSTANT CORNELIA REALIZED SHE DIDN'T EXIST ANYMORE.





"WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME?"

"WHO WAS
THAT CREATURE?
WAS SHE GOOD
OR EVIL?"

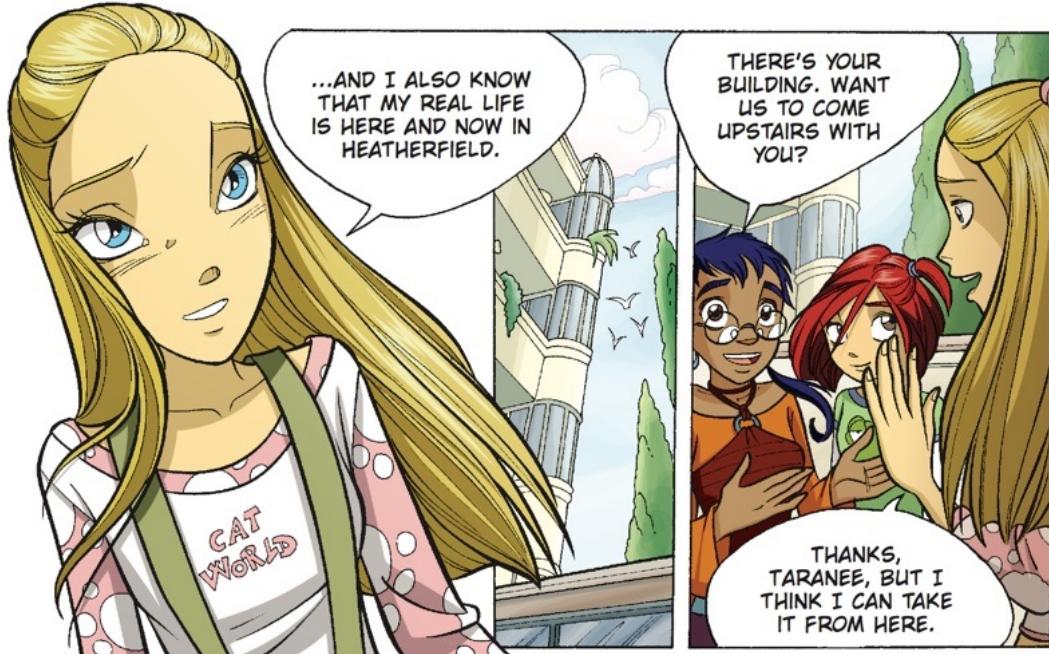
"MOST IMPORTANTLY,
WHAT DID SHE WANT
FROM ME?"

186

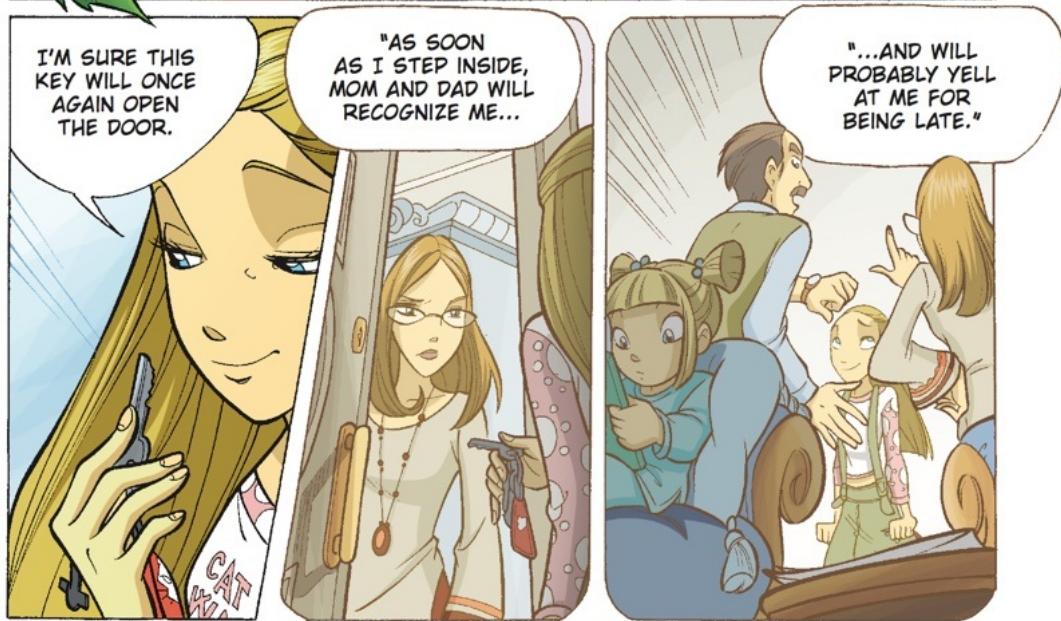
"I DUNNO.
MAYBE SHE JUST
WANTED ME TO
STAY HERE WITH
HER...FOREVER!"

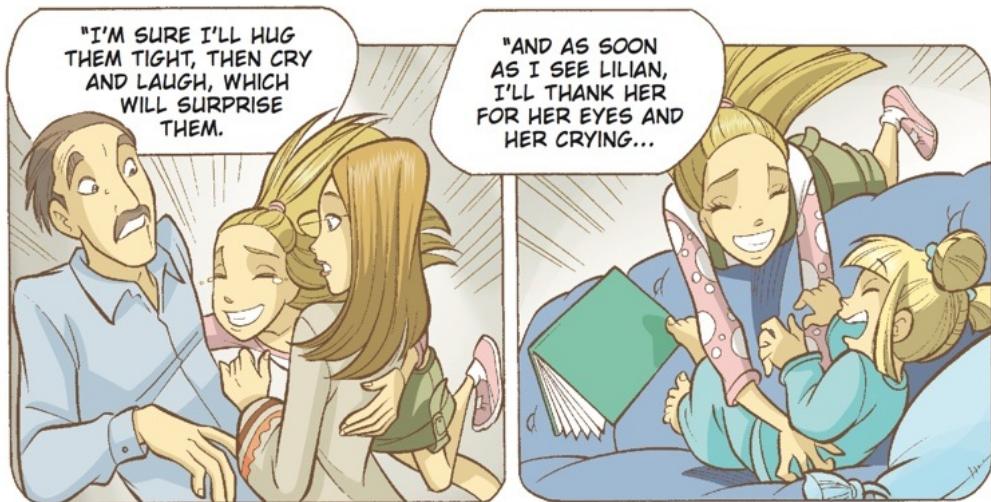
"MAYBE I
WOULD HAVE
BECOME A CRYSTAL
MEMORY TOO,
TRAPPED IN A
GARDEN OF
ASHES."

"WHAT I KNOW
IS WE WERE RIGHT TO
LEAVE THAT ABANDONED,
DESOLATE PLACE..."



187







HMM...TOIL
AND TROUBLE...
THE GUARDIANS
ARE BACK!



NEVER MIND. SOON
THE CONGREGATION
WILL DISCOVER THAT
A WHITE HERALD
HAS
INEXPICABLY
ABANDONED
HIS POST...



...CROSSING
A DIMENSIONAL
PORTAL, HEADED
TO EARTH.



THE WISE MEN
WILL NEVER KNOW
THE REAL HERALD
IS IN A CELL IN THE
TOWER OF MISTS...



...AND THAT HIS
WHITE ARMOR NOW
HIDES A MAN WITH
A BLACK SOUL!



YES. I WISH YOU GOOD
LUCK, MY FAITHFUL
CEDRIC...



...AND GOOD
REVENGE!



END OF
CHAPTER 39







The Last Secret

"Every decision we make leaves a trace..."

EVERY LITTLE GESTURE, EVERY LITTLE DECISION WE MAKE LEAVES A TRACE.

SOMETIMES THEY'RE EASY TO FOLLOW...

...BUT OFTEN, THE SIGNS ARE TOO MANY, CREATING CONFUSION.

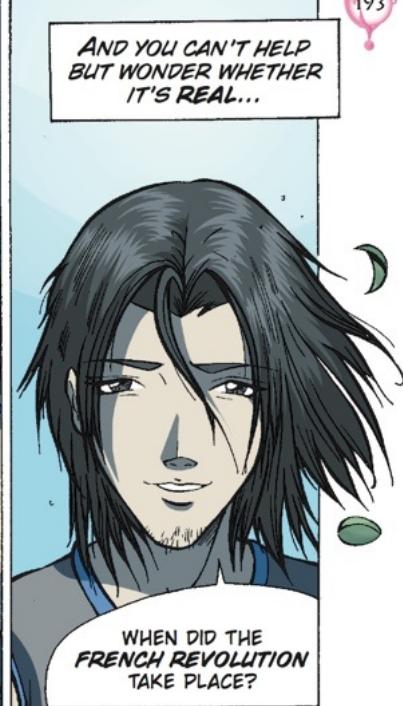
THEN WE MIGHT HAVE TO BE BRAVE, ERASE EVERYTHING, AND START ALL OVER, WITH OUR HEART OPEN TO THE UNEXPECTED...

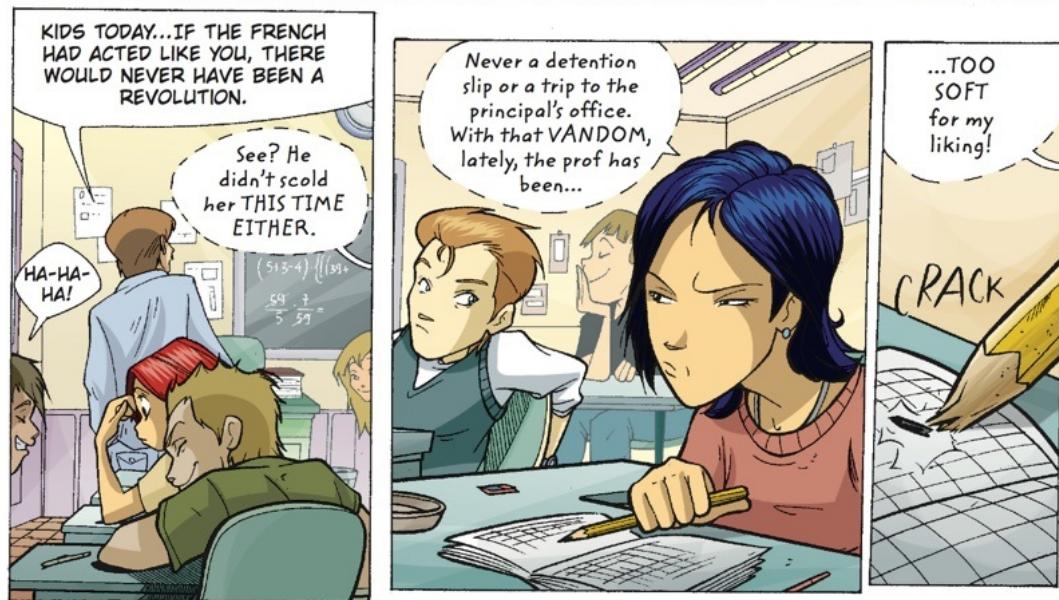
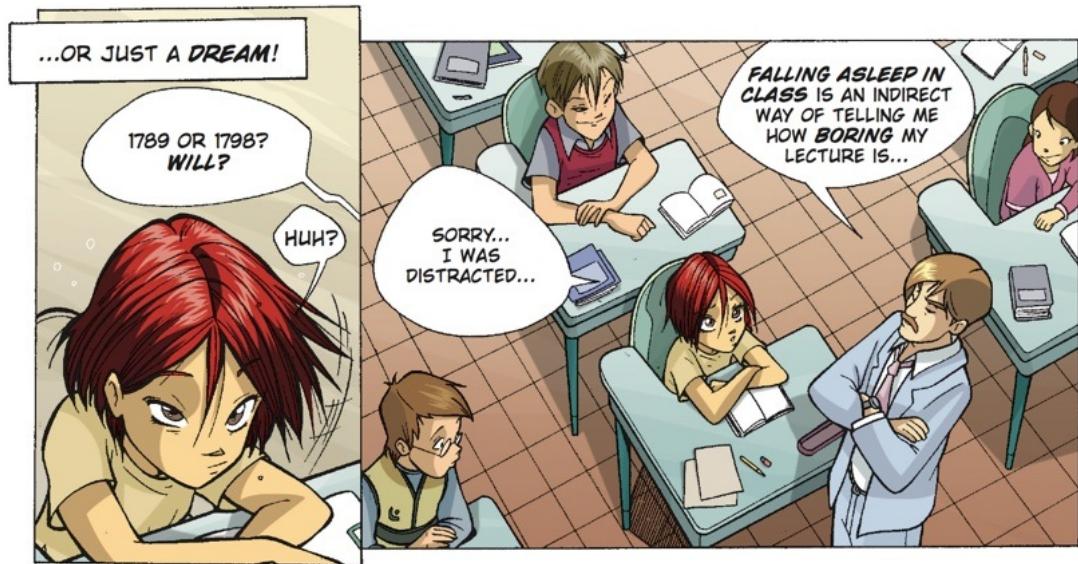
THE MOST INCREDIBLE THINGS OFTEN CATCH YOU UNPREPARED...

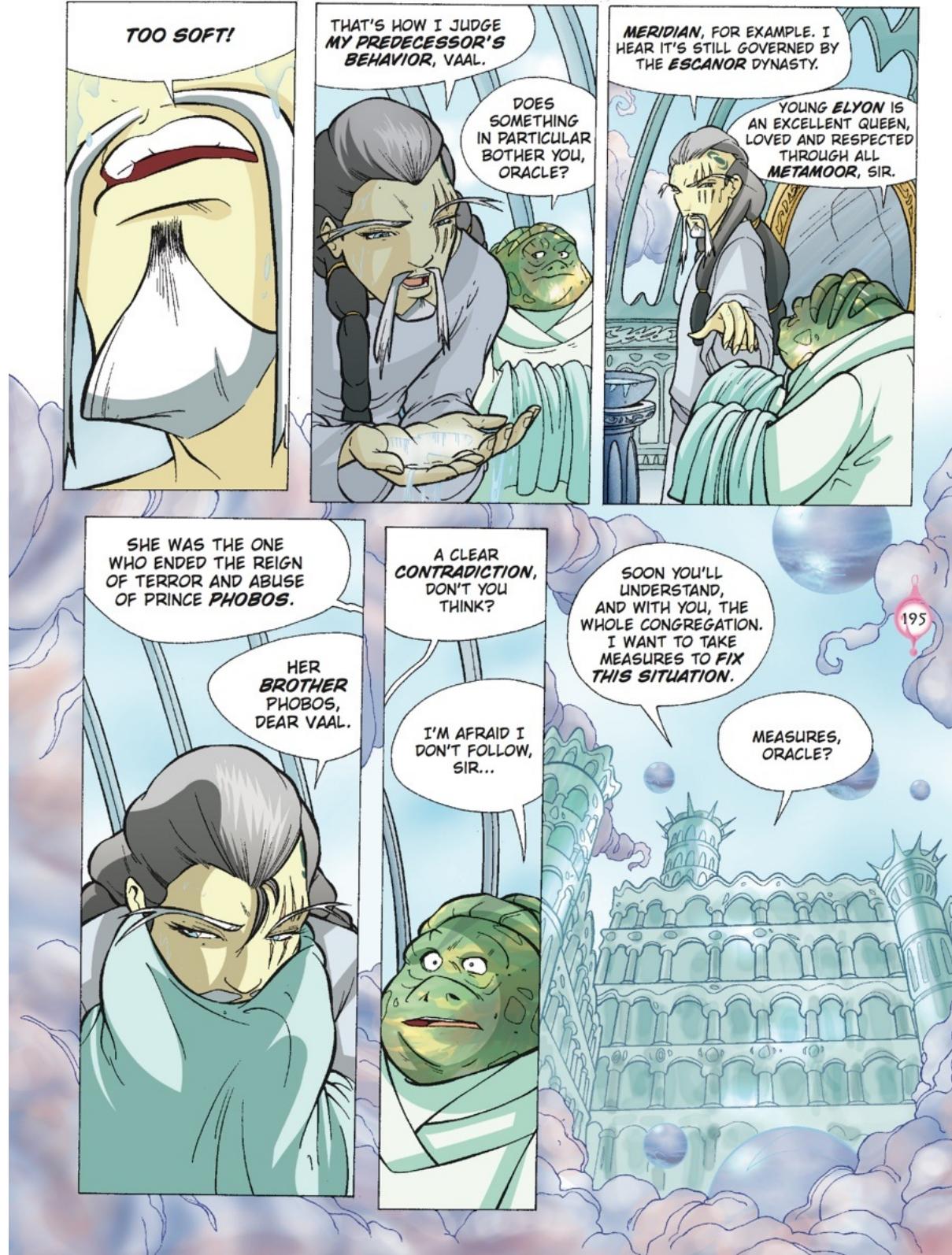
MOMENTS YOU IMAGINED A THOUSAND TIMES TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE.

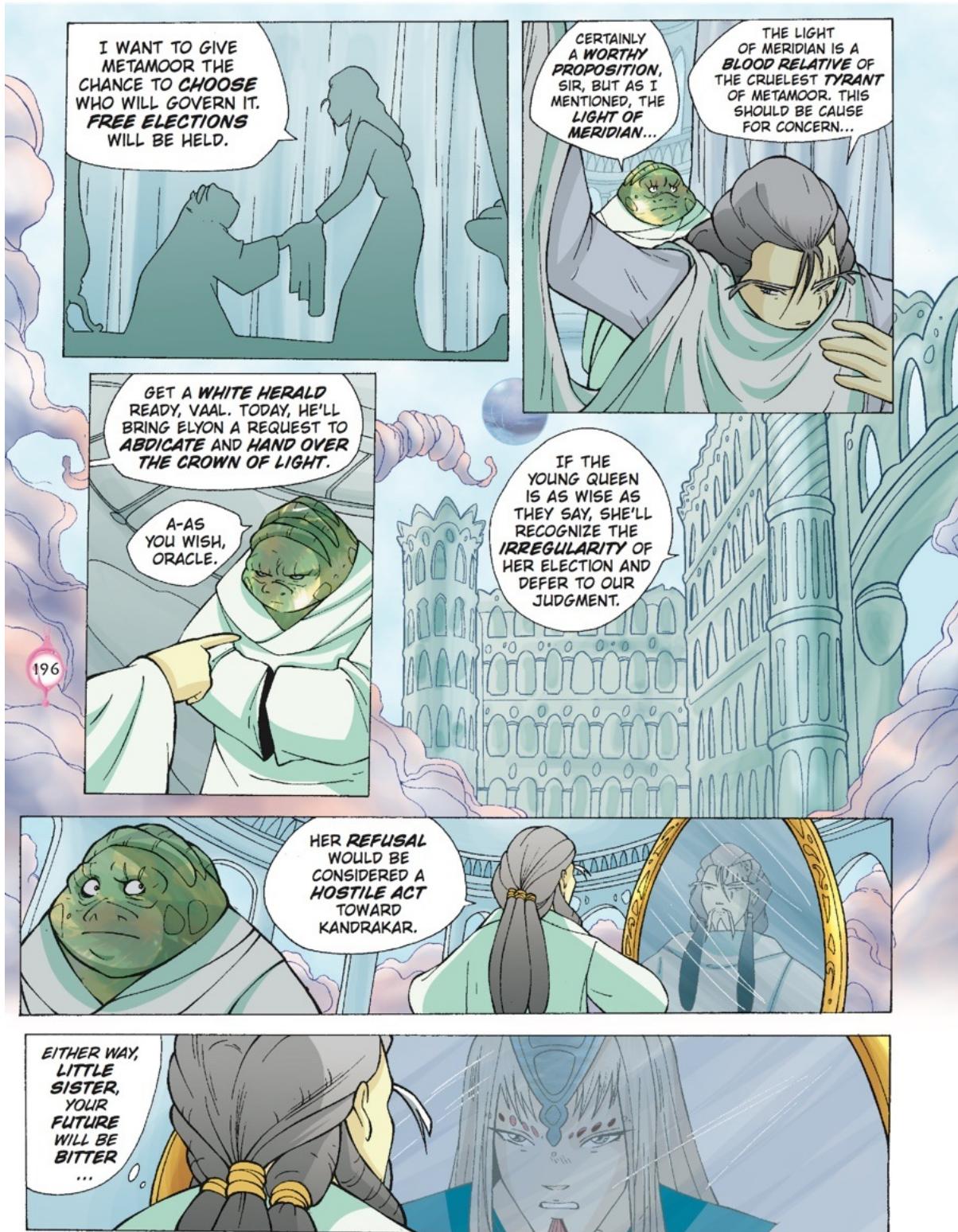
AND YOU CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHETHER IT'S REAL...

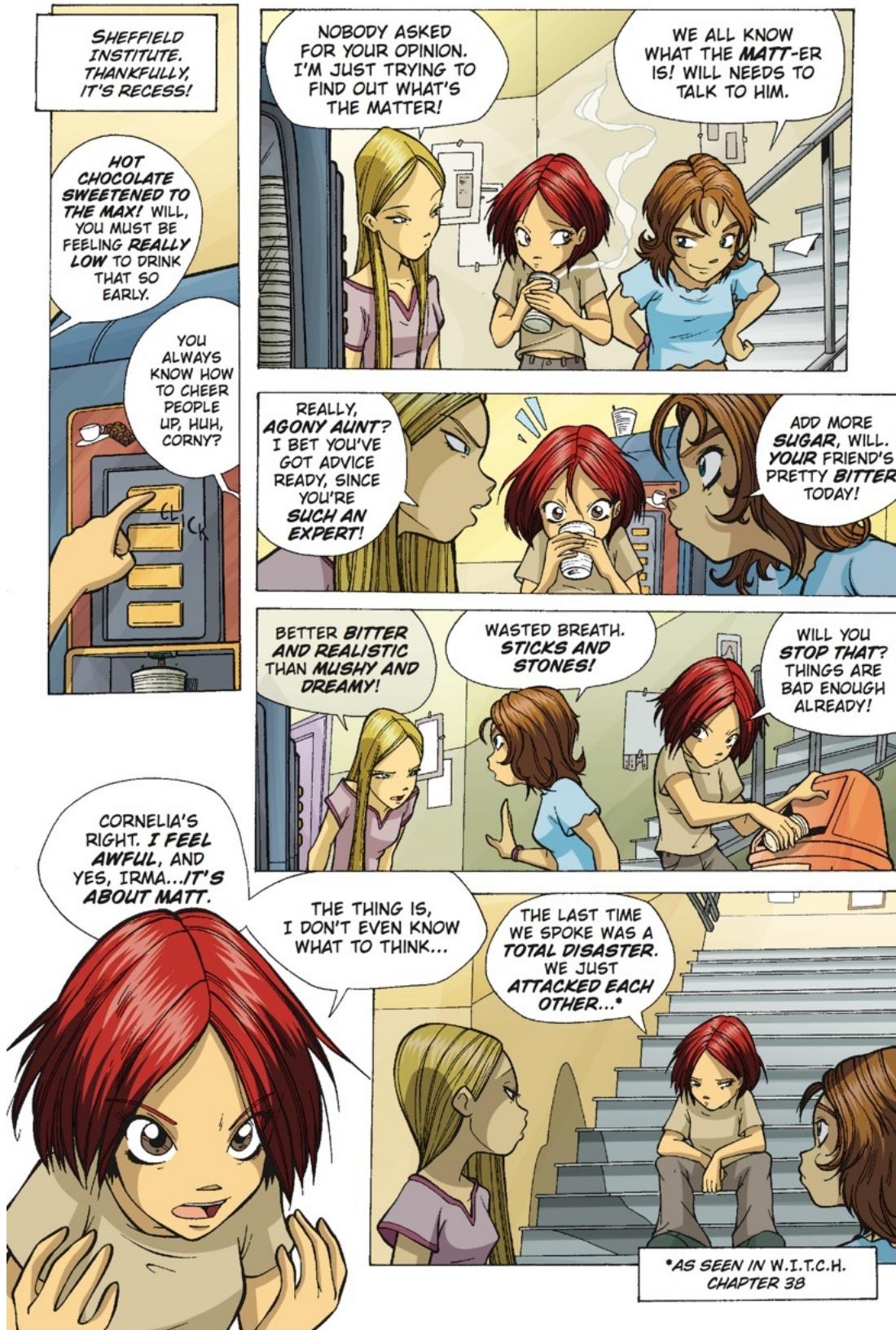
193









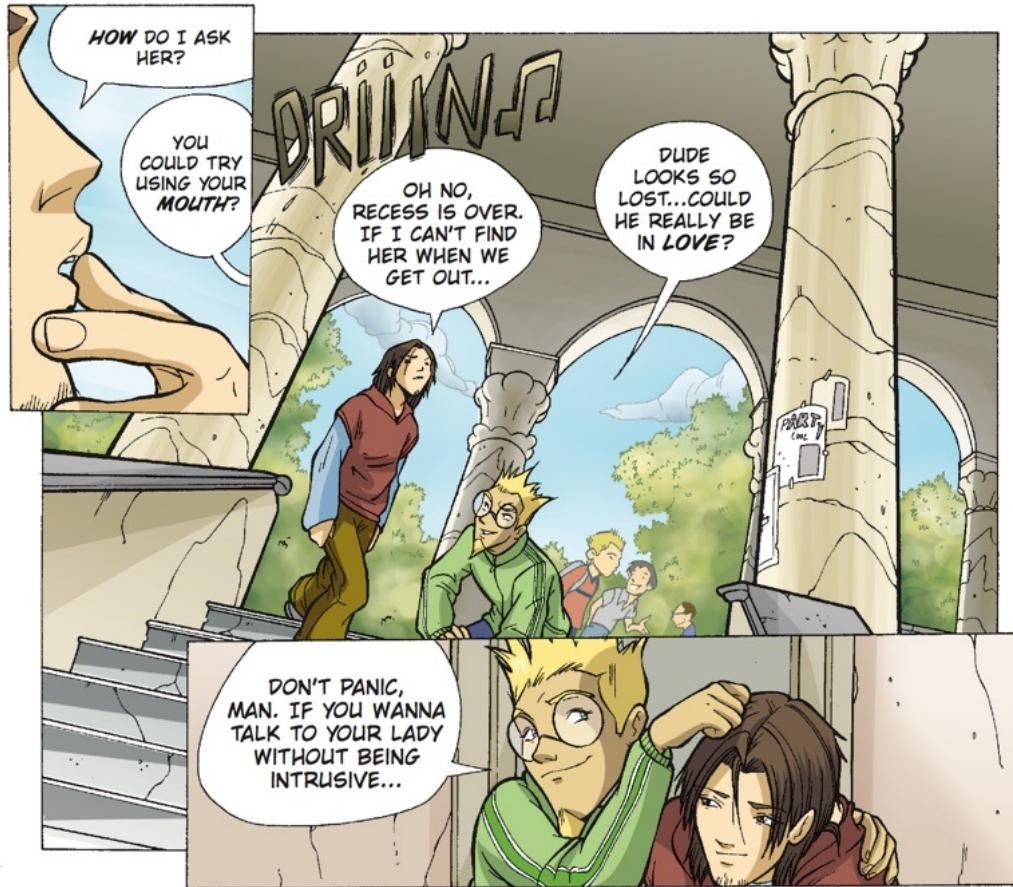
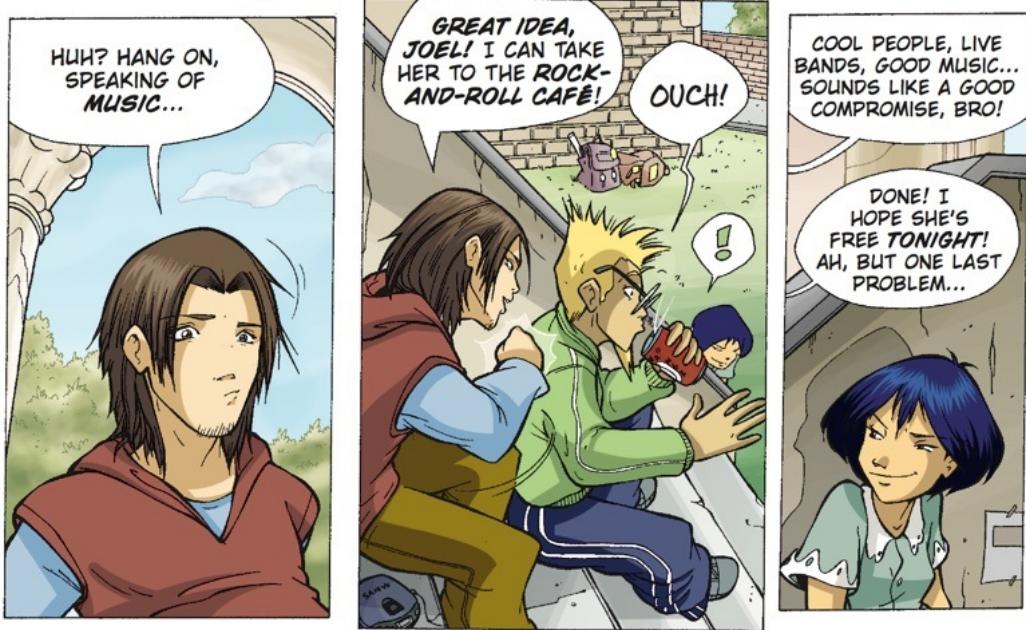


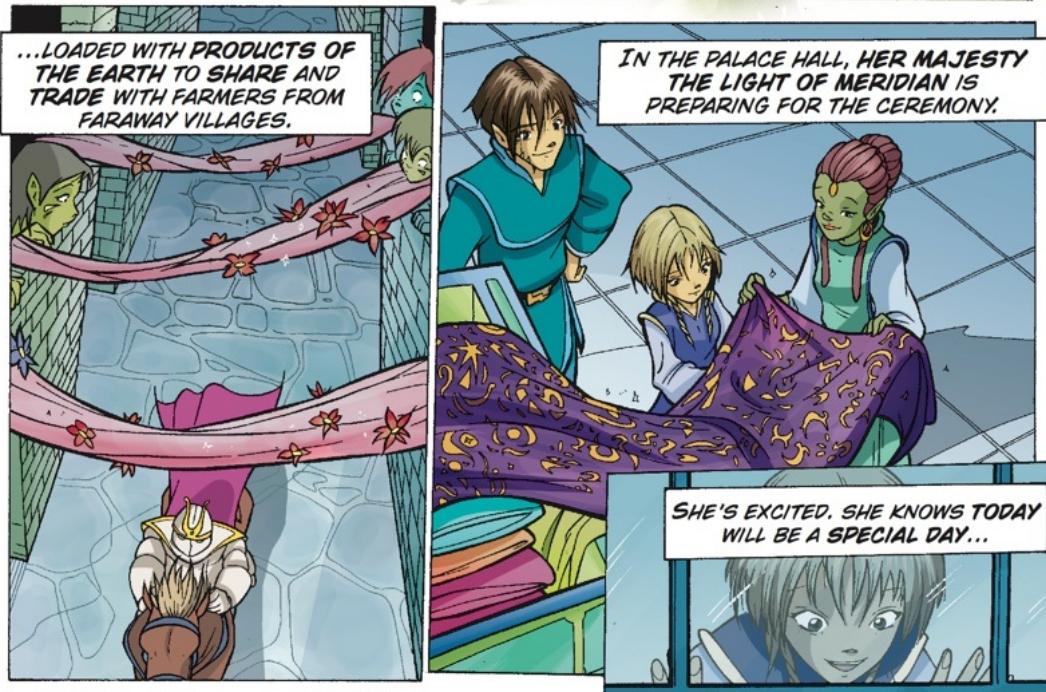
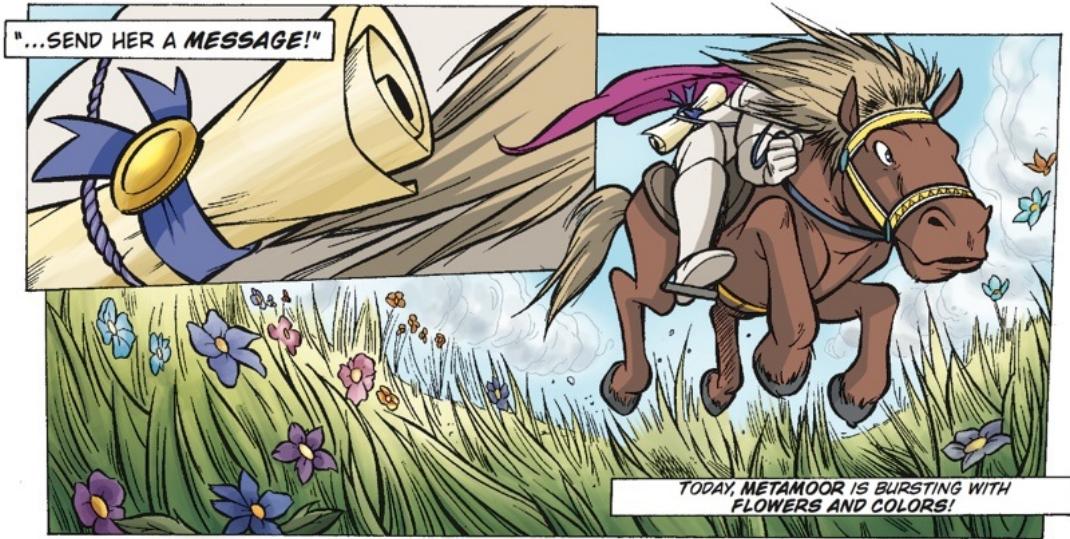


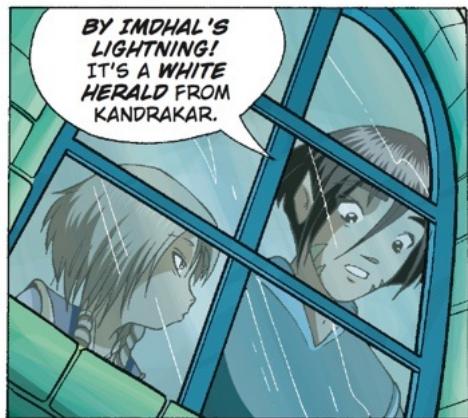
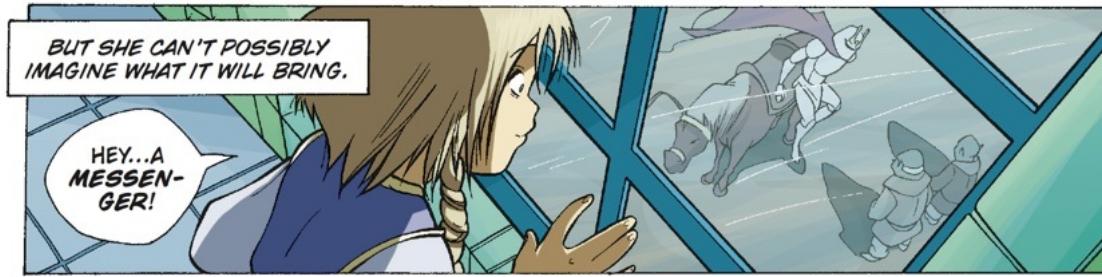
198



*AS SEEN IN
W.I.T.C.H.
CHAPTER 16









IF IT'S TRUE THAT WORDS CAN WOUND LIKE WEAPONS...



...THE BLOW ELYON RECEIVES IS LIKE THAT OF A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.



202
FINDING OUT IN THE SAME INSTANT THAT KANDRAKAR HAS A NEW LORD SHE DOESN'T KNOW...



...AND THAT HE QUESTIONS HER ACTIONS TO THE POINT OF ASKING HER TO RENOUNCE HER CROWN...



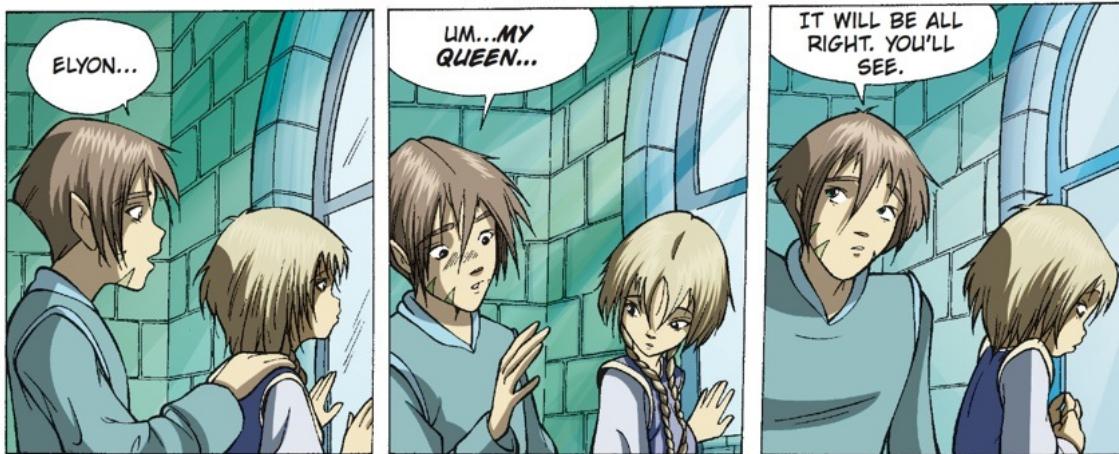
...IS MORE THAN ANYONE COULD BEAR...EVEN A QUEEN.



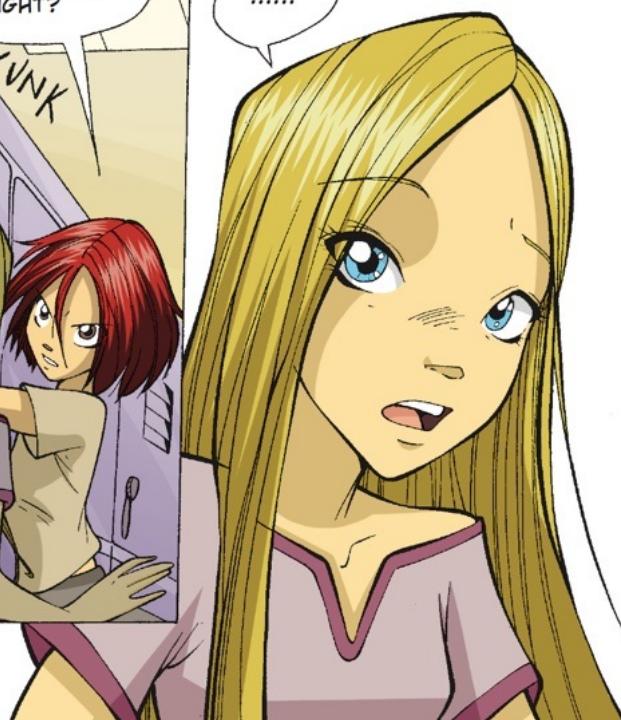
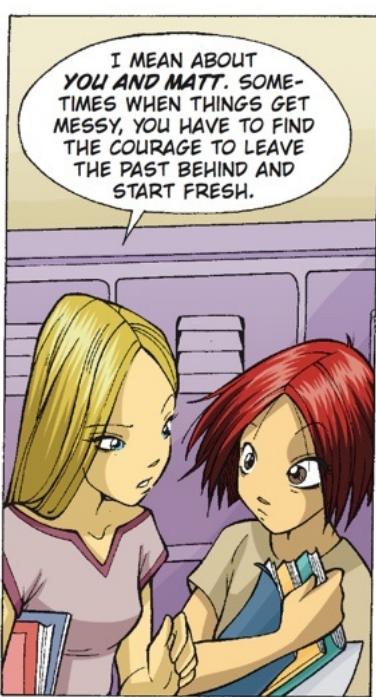
N-NO WAY!



203

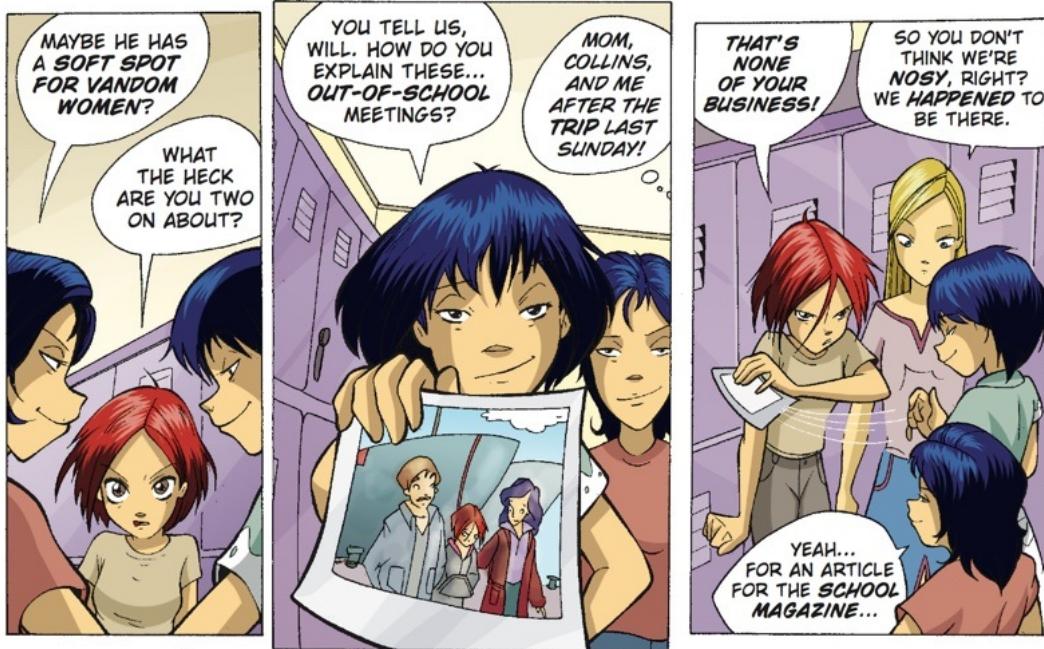


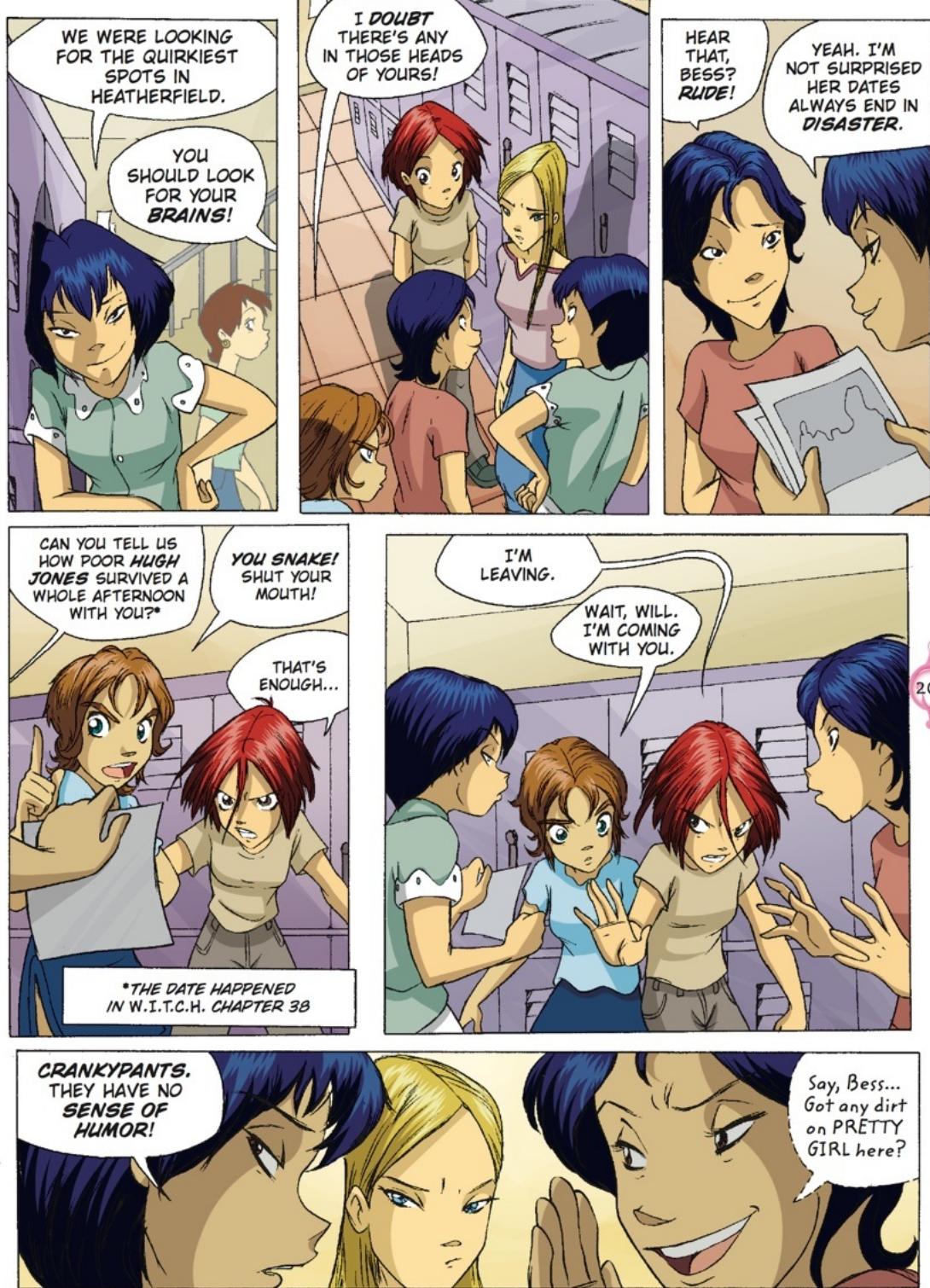


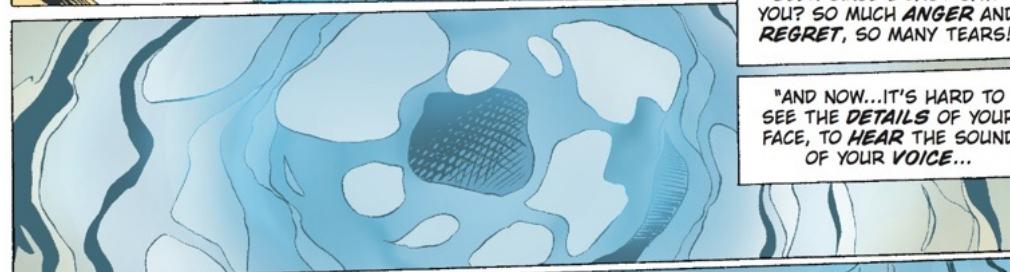
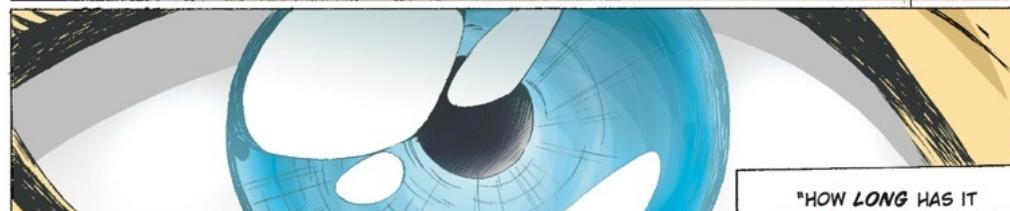
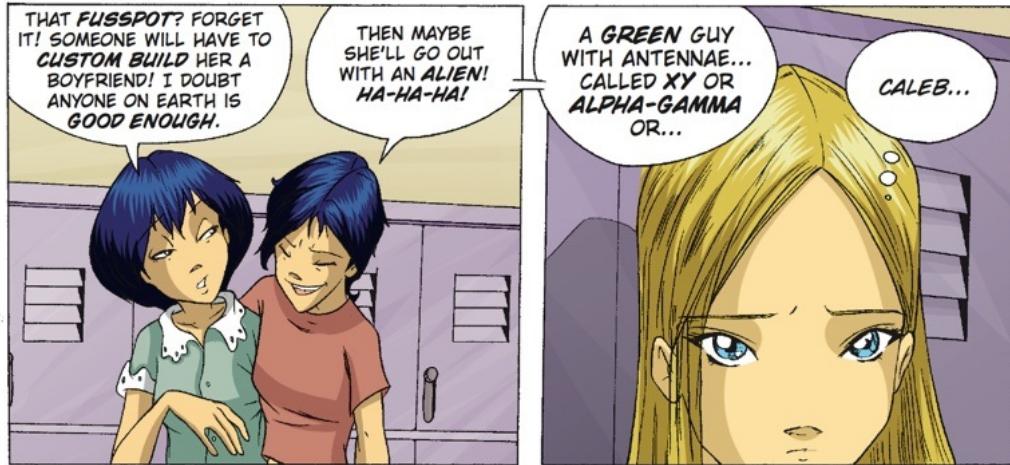


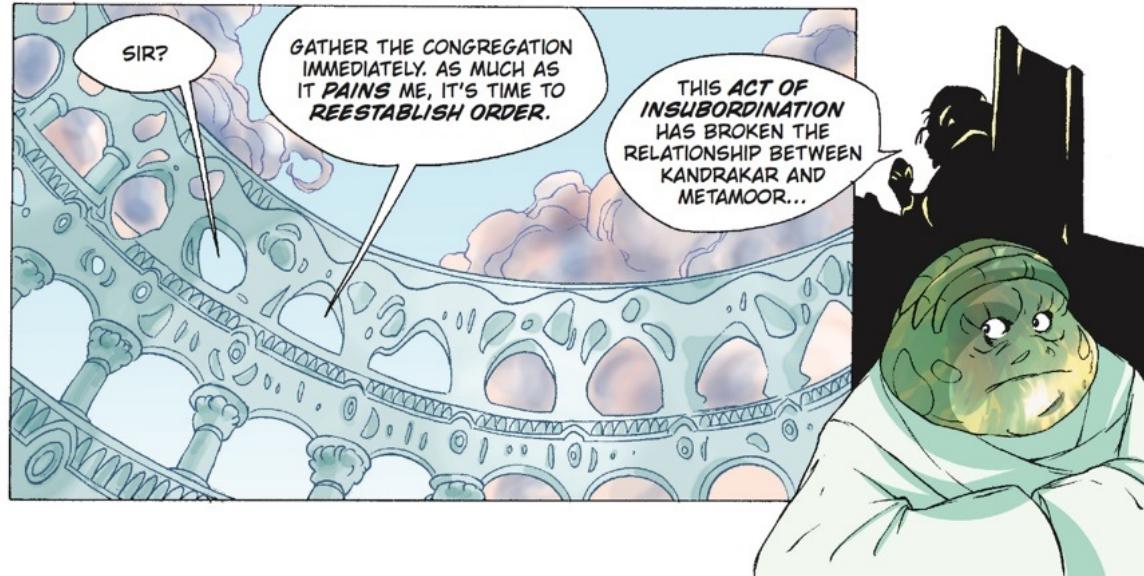
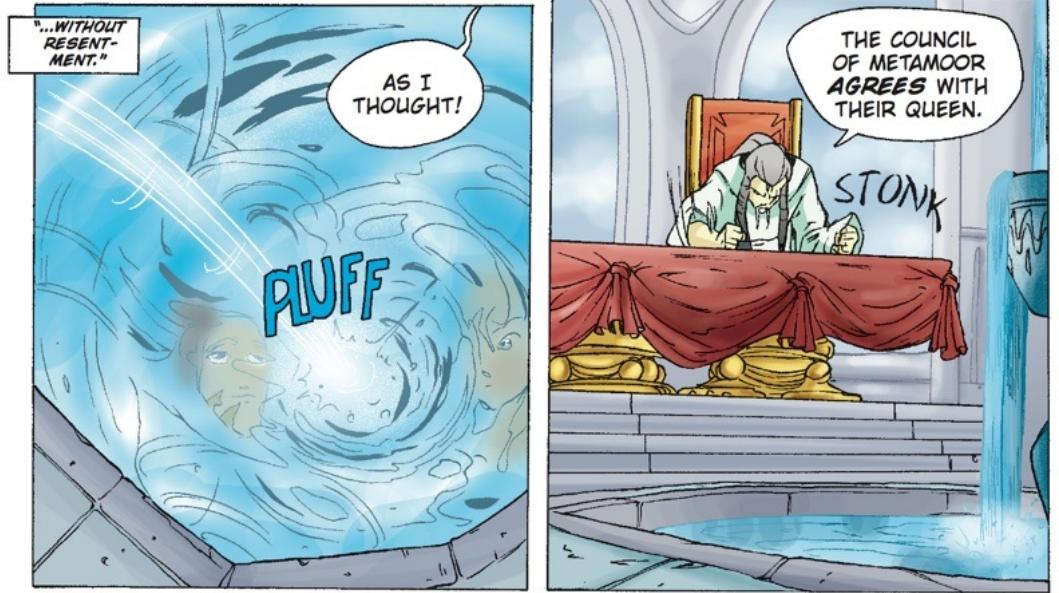


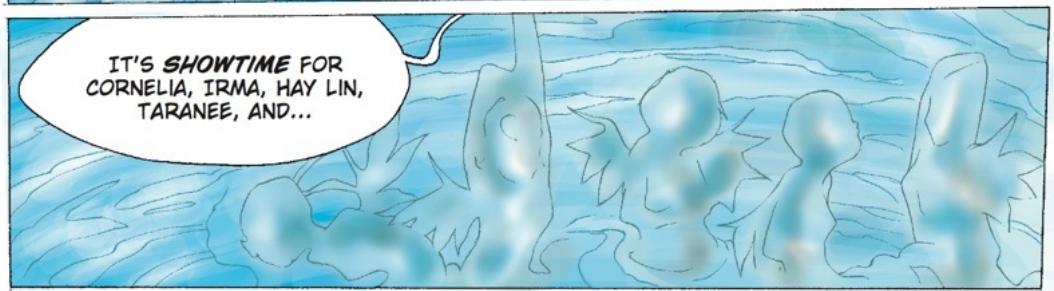
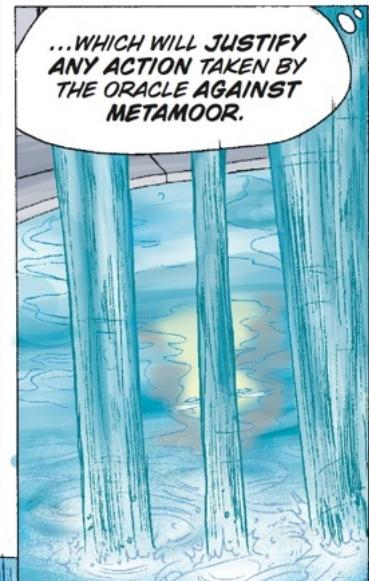
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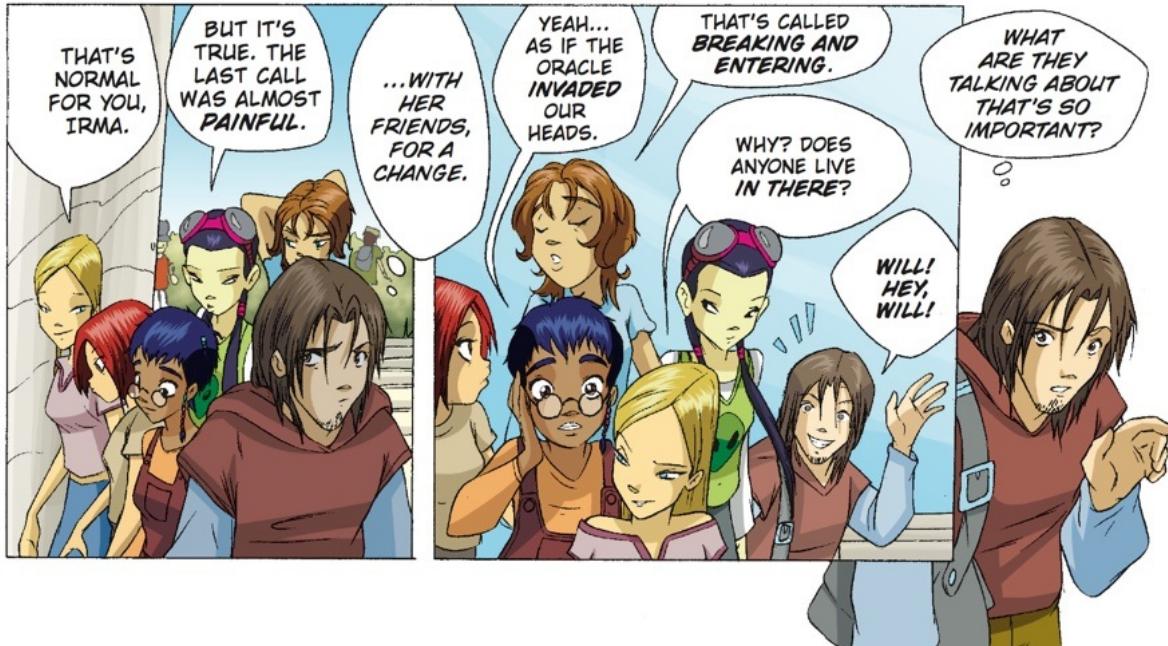


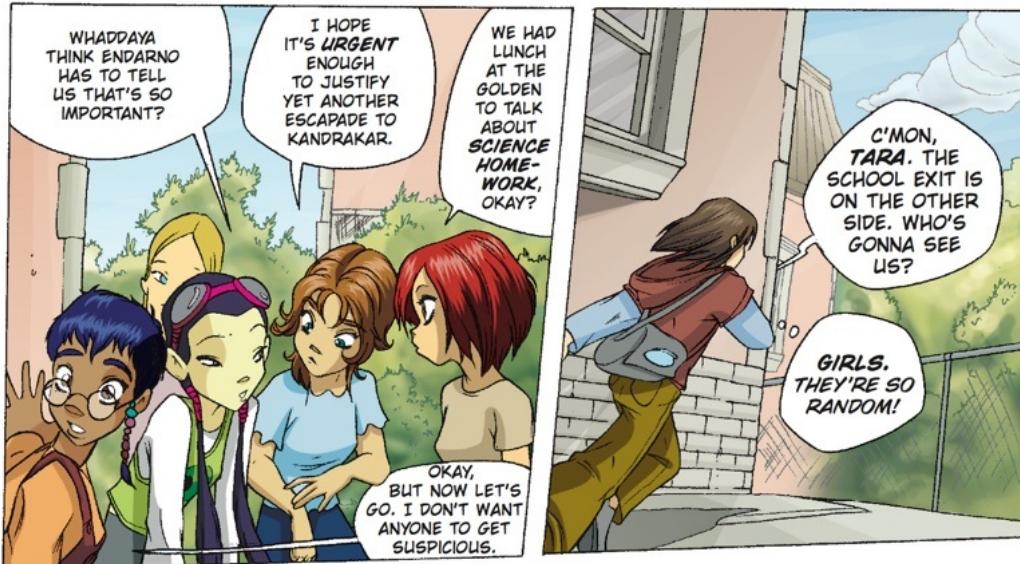


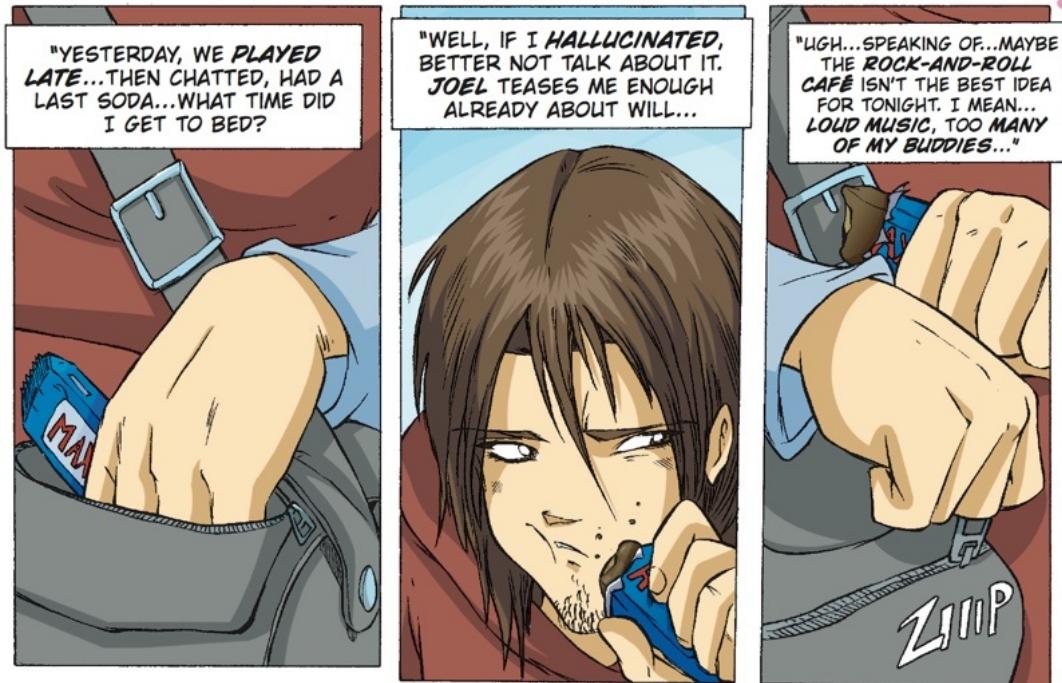
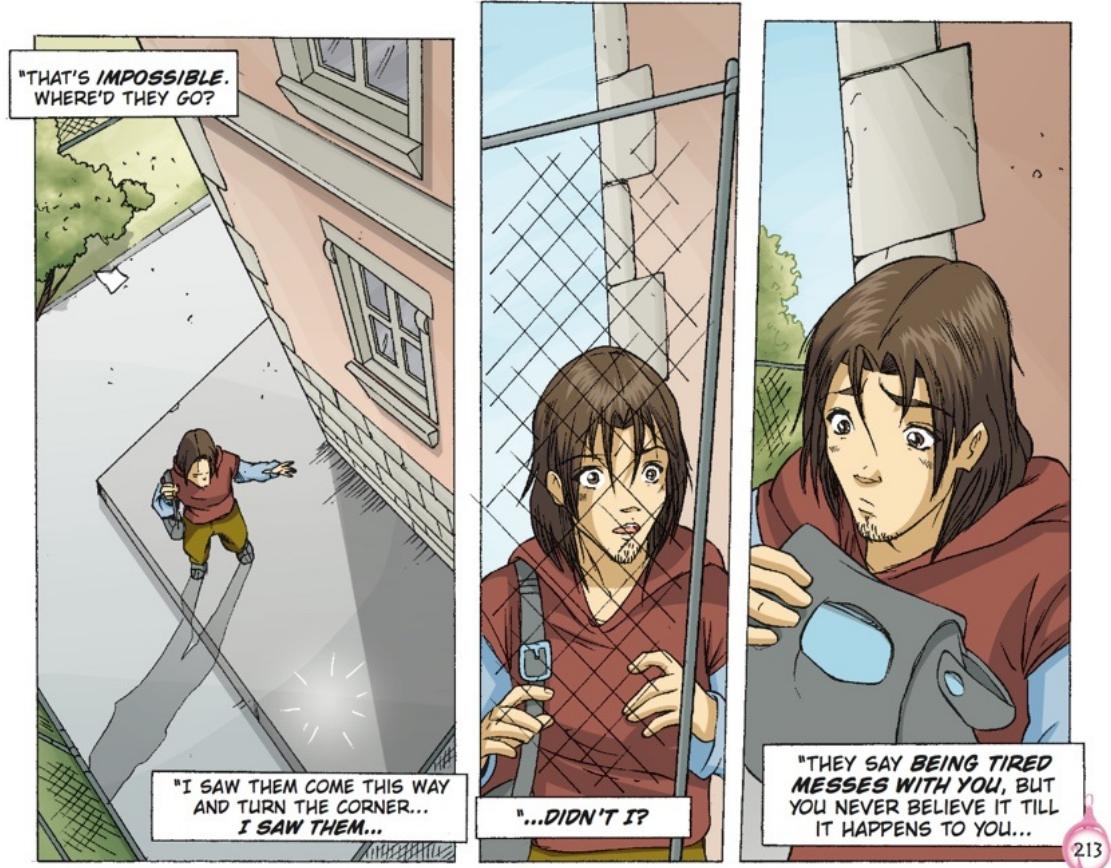






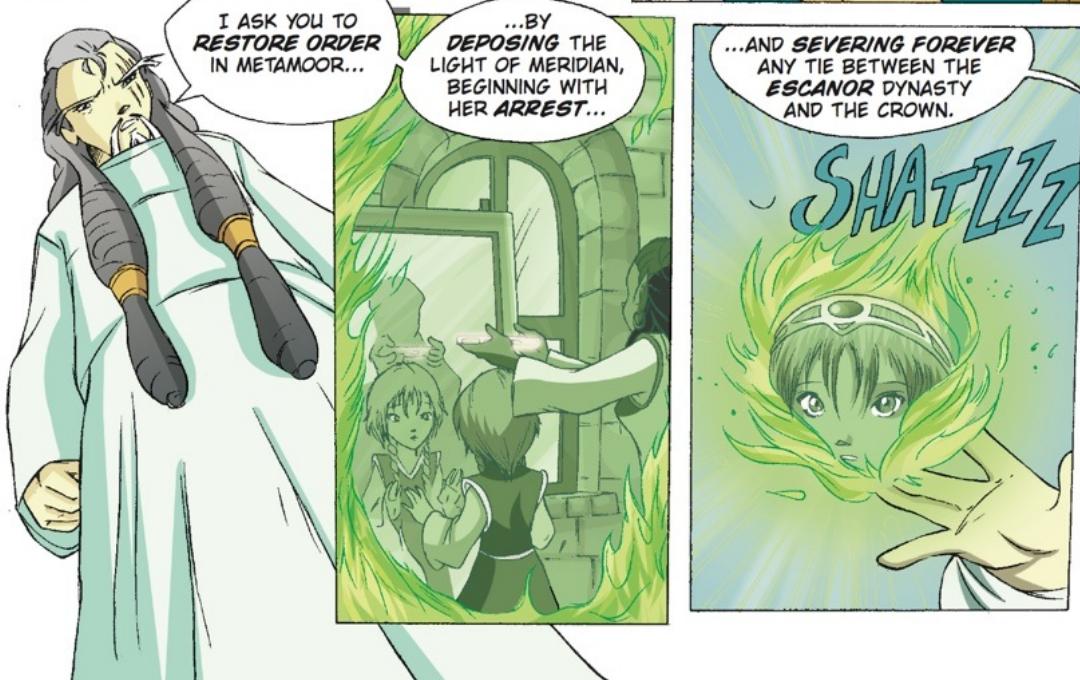


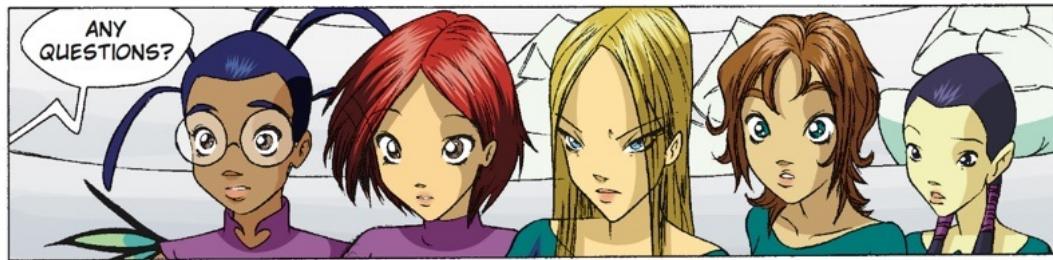




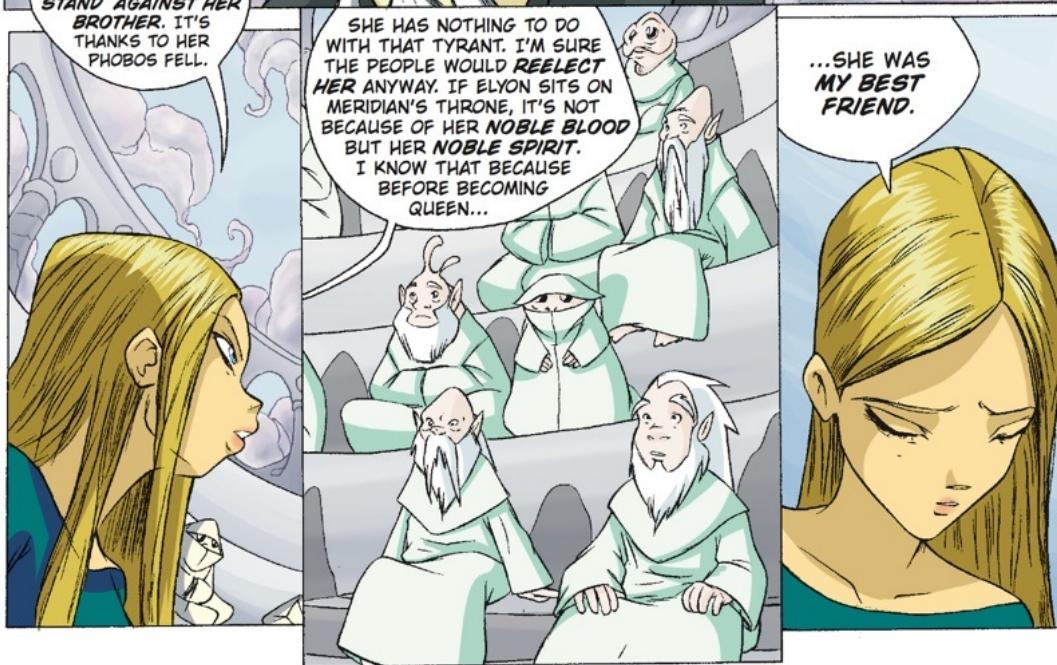








217







...ONE MORE REASON TO DISCREDIT THEM. THAT'S ALL I NEED TO DO AWAY WITH THESE GUARDIANS...



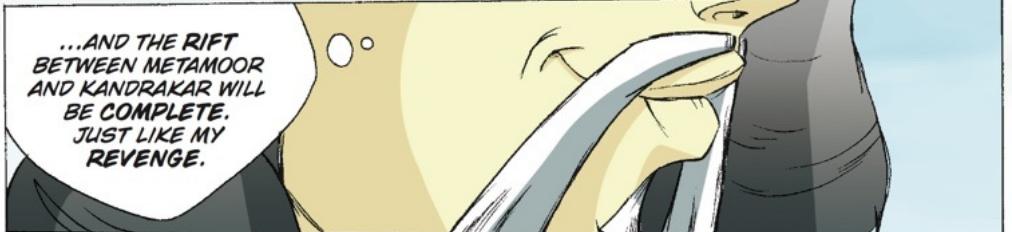
"...AND WITH YOU, ELYON. SOWING DISCORD BETWEEN YOU IS JUST THE FIRST STEP ON THE PATH THAT WILL LEAD ME TO RECONQUERING METAMOOR.



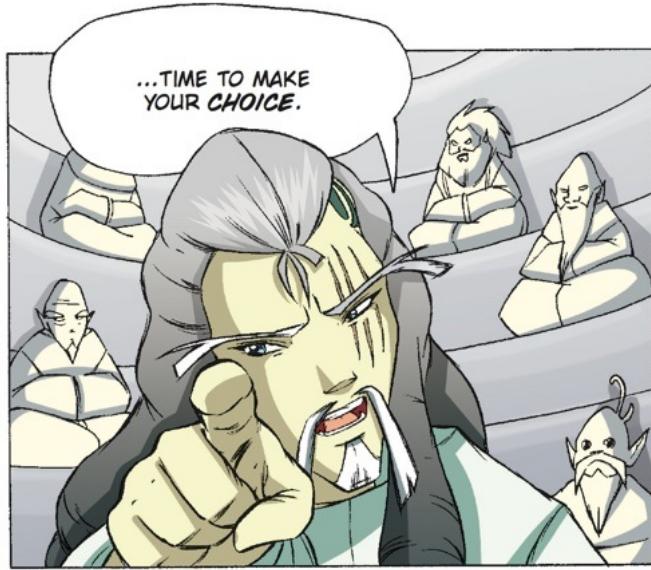
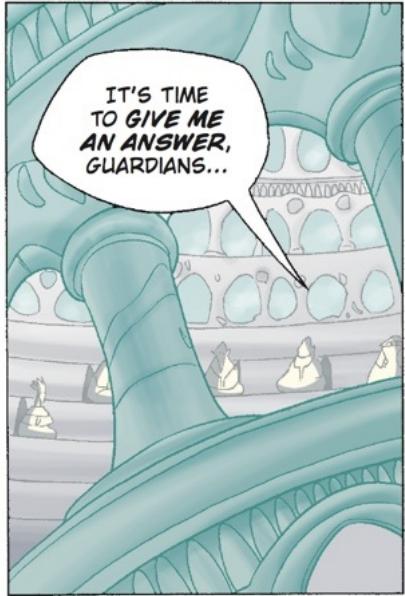
"I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE GRAND FINALE. AN ARMY OF FEROCIOUS SARVAK, TRAINED WHEN I WAS STILL MERIDIAN'S PRINCE, IS READY TO SPRING INTO ACTION AFTER YOUR ARREST.

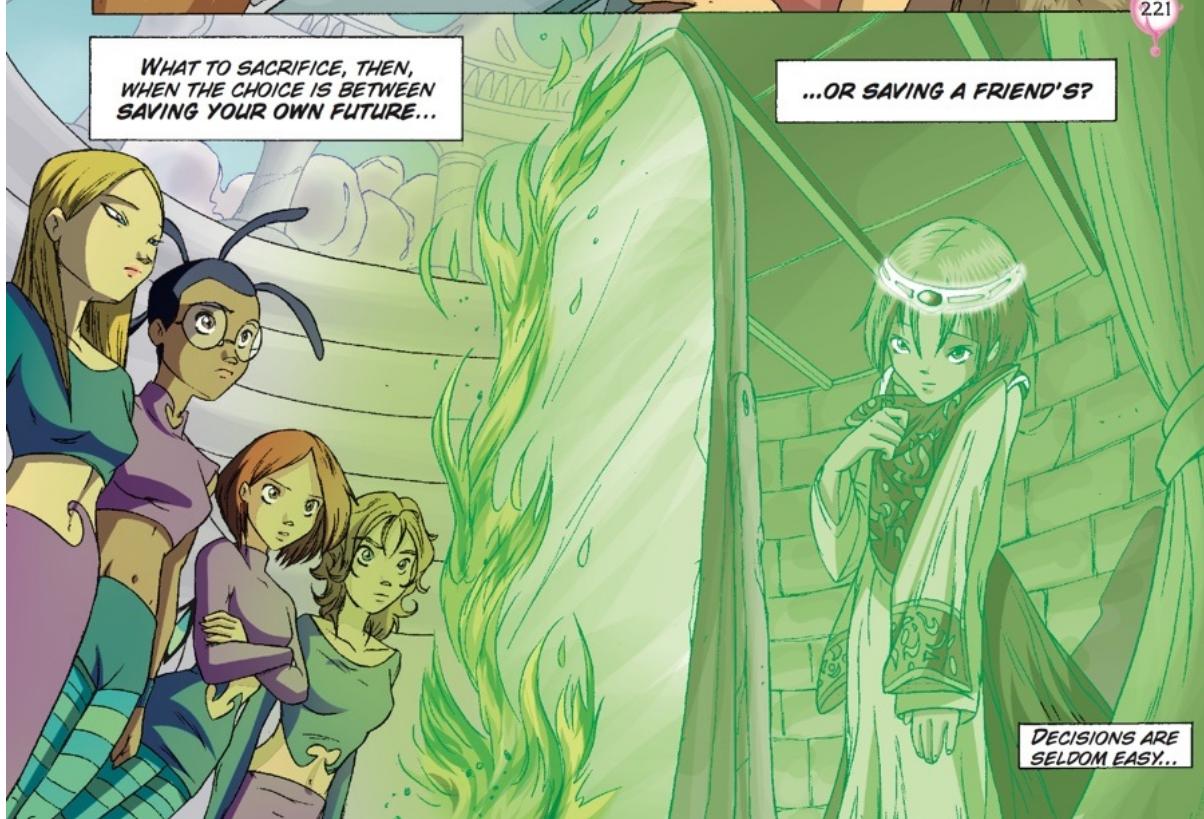
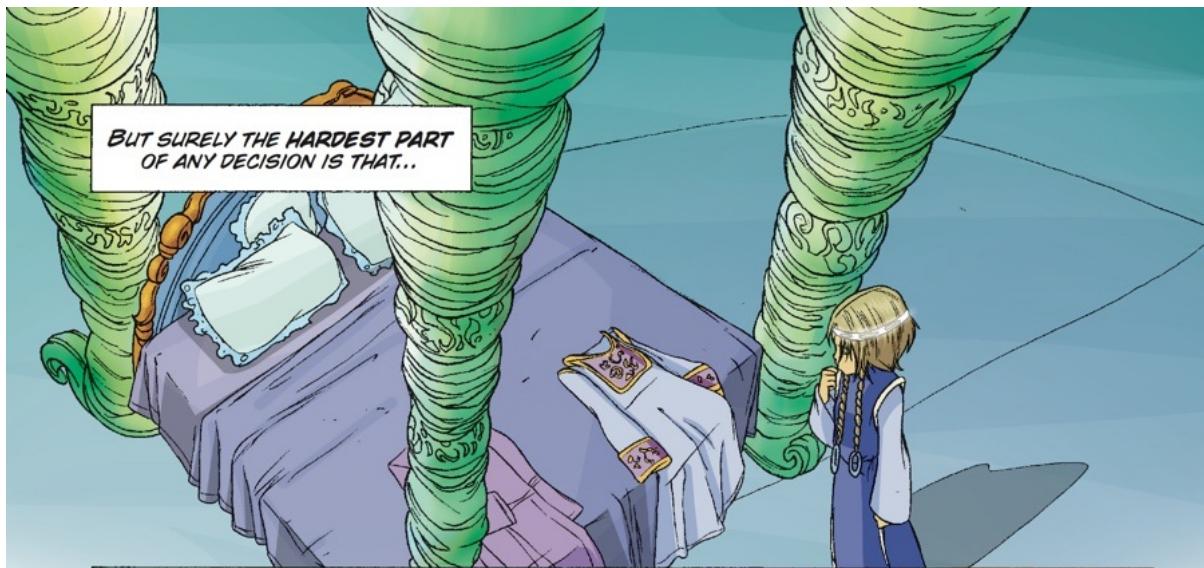
219

"I'LL UNLEASH THEM AGAINST THE GUARDIANS. EVERYONE WILL THINK YOU GAVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK THE FORTRESS'S EMISSARIES, COME TO RECLAIM THE CROWN OF LIGHT..."



...AND THE RIFT BETWEEN METAMOOR AND KANDRAKAR WILL BE COMPLETE. JUST LIKE MY REVENGE.





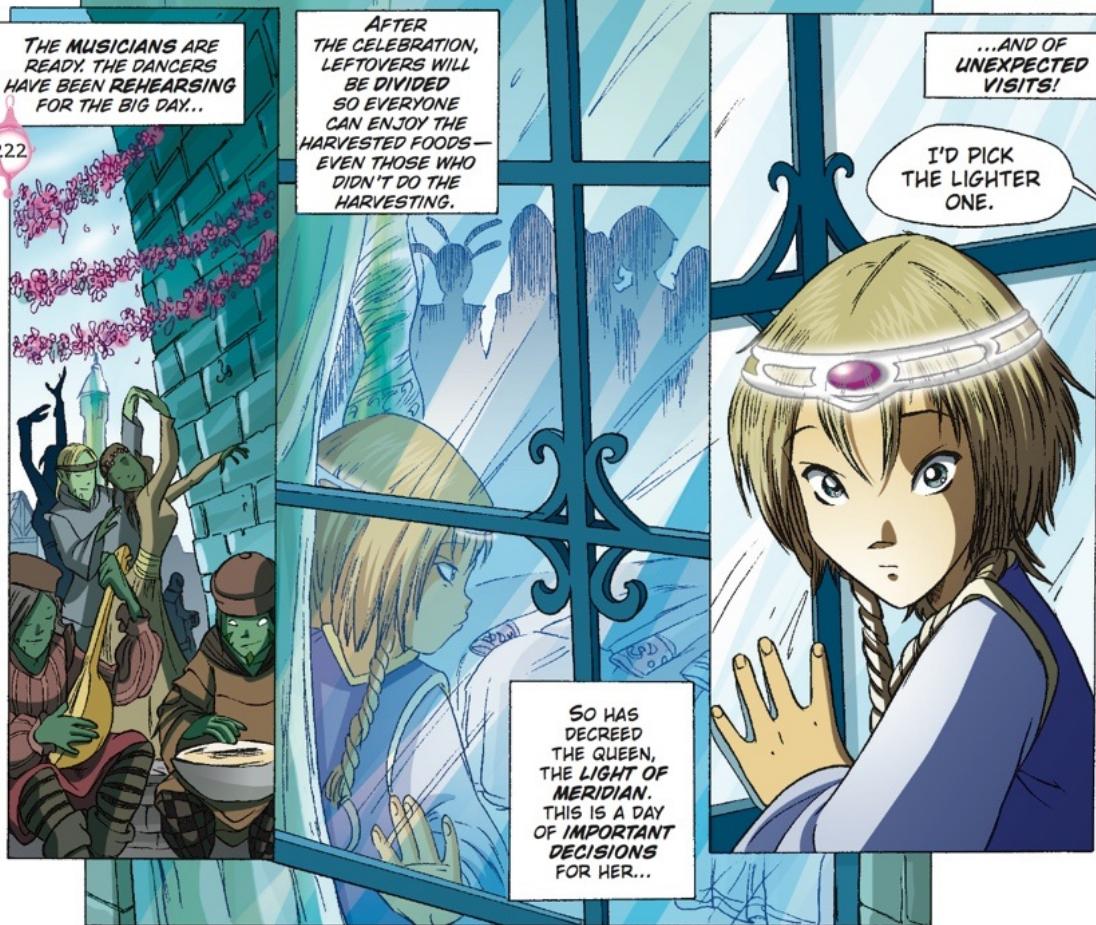
THIS IS MERIDIAN, THE CAPITAL OF METAMOOR, A WORLD THAT TODAY CELEBRATES THE HARVEST FESTIVAL.



CARTS OF PRODUCE TRAVEL TOWARD THE CASTLE, TO BE SHARED IN A GREAT BANQUET TO WHICH EVERYONE IS INVITED.



222.
THE MUSICIANS ARE READY. THE DANCERS HAVE BEEN REHEARSING FOR THE BIG DAY...

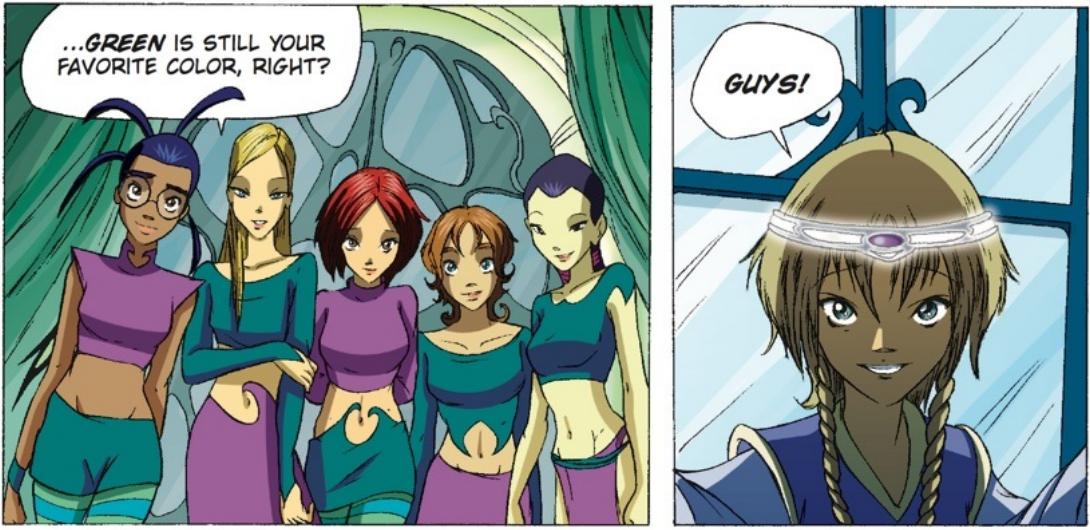


AFTER THE CELEBRATION, LEFTOVERS WILL BE DIVIDED SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE HARVESTED FOODS—EVEN THOSE WHO DIDN'T DO THE HARVESTING.

...AND OF UNEXPECTED VISITS!

I'D PICK THE LIGHTER ONE.

SO HAS DECREED THE QUEEN, THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN. THIS IS A DAY OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR HER...



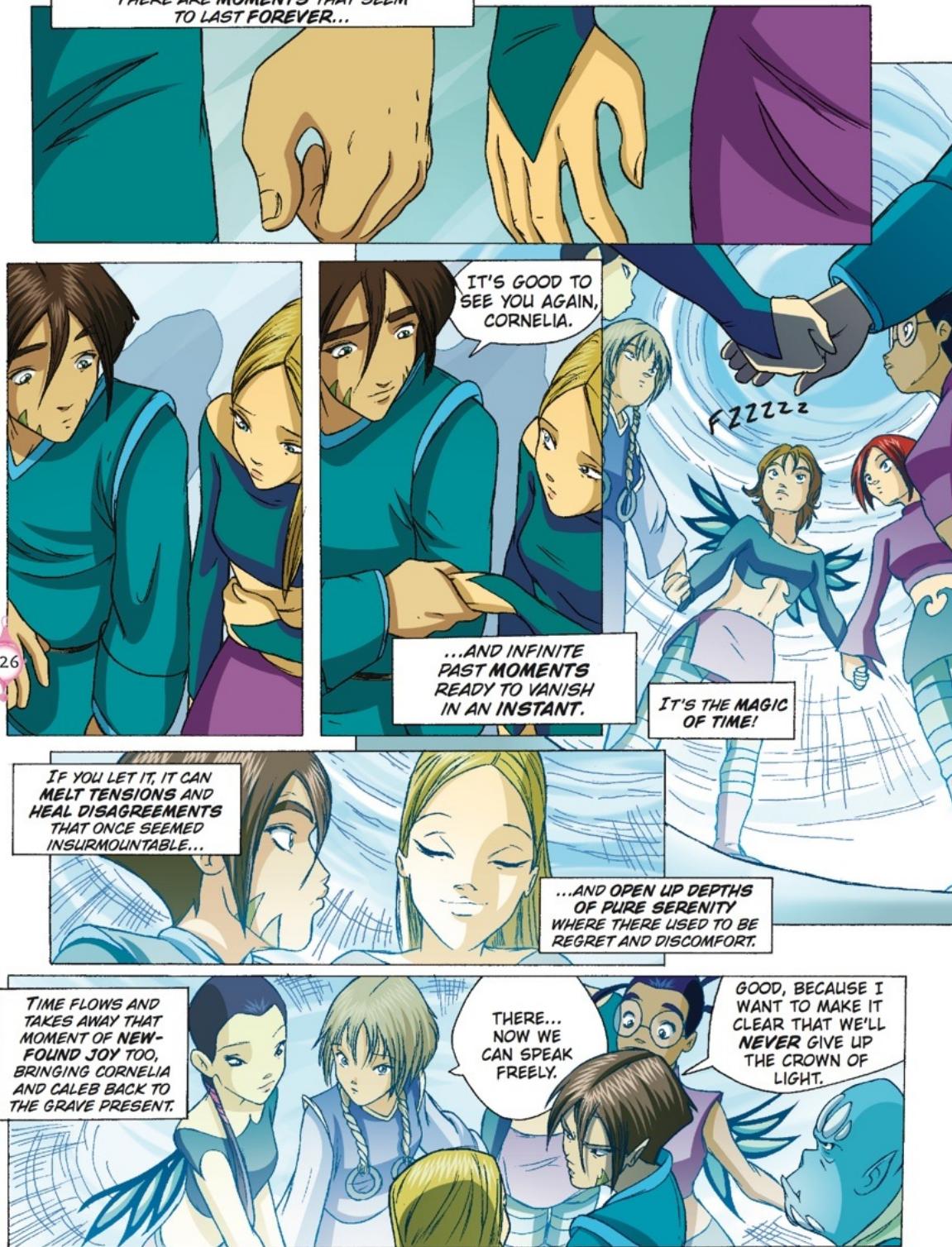




225

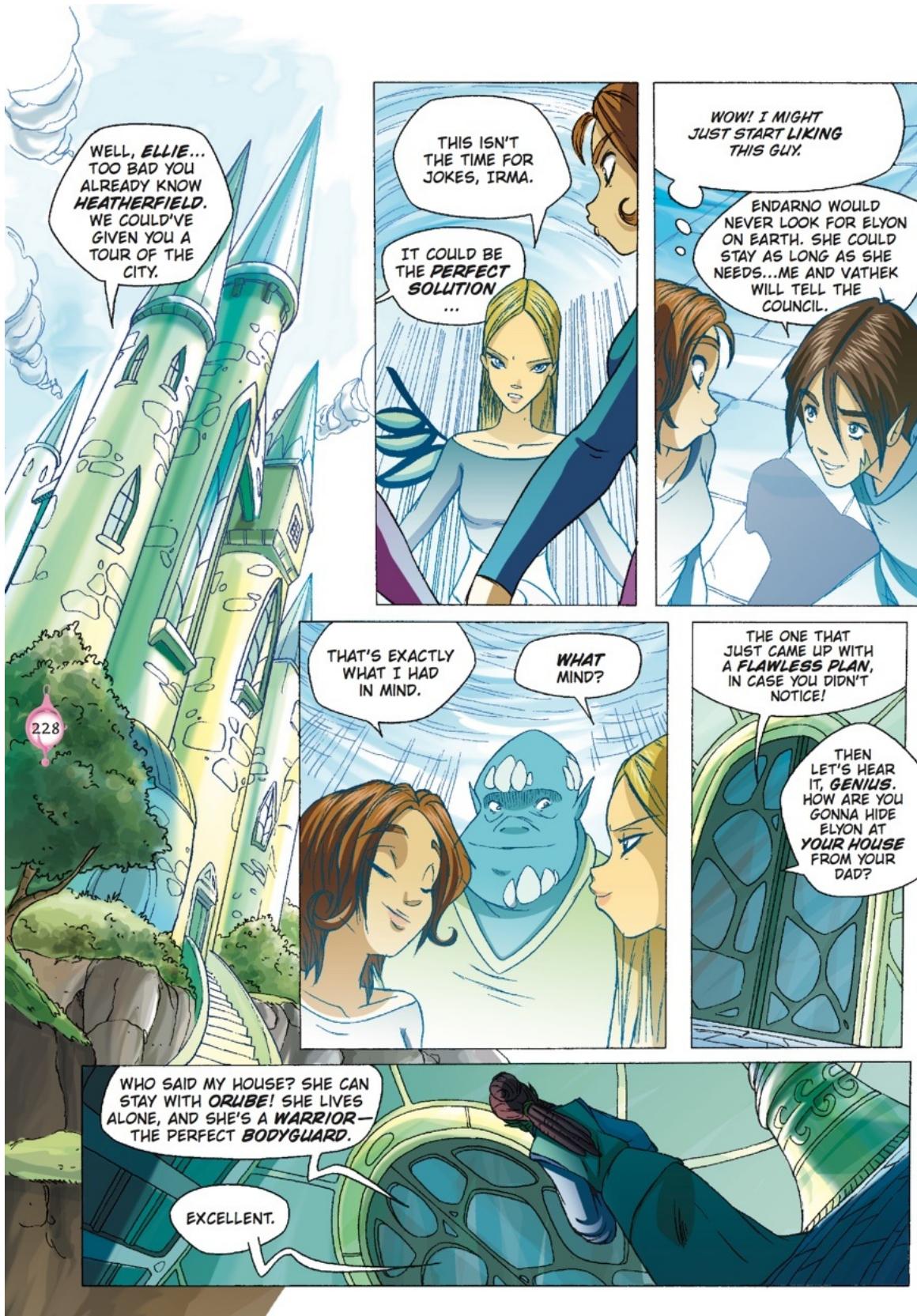


THERE ARE MOMENTS THAT SEEM
TO LAST FOREVER...



226







229







"WHEN THE FESTIVAL'S OVER, THE CARTS WILL HEAD BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES AFTER DIVIDING UP THE LEFTOVER PRODUCE."



"THEY'LL TAKE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, AND ONE WILL HEAD INTO A FOREST..."

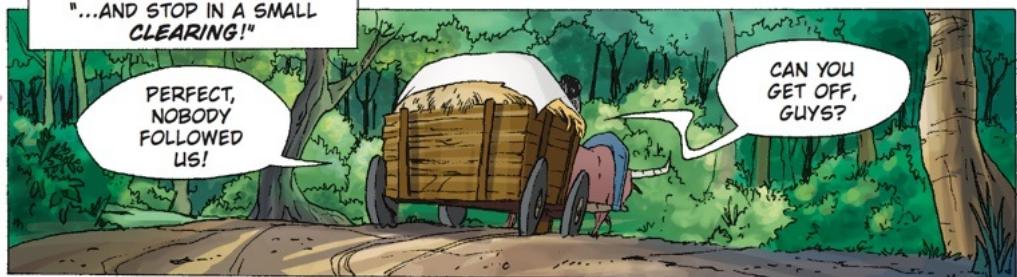


"...AND STOP IN A SMALL CLEARING!"

232

PERFECT,
NOBODY
FOLLOWED
US!

CAN YOU
GET OFF,
GUYS?



CRIPES!
I'VE NEVER
BOUNCHED SO
MUCH WHILE
SITTING
STILL!

I SWEAR I'LL
NEVER COMPLAIN
ABOUT PETER'S
DRIVING AGAIN!

IT WAS WORTH IT.
ENDARNO'LL THINK WE'RE
STILL AT THE CASTLE. WHEN
HE LOOKS FOR ELYON...

THANK YOU
SO MUCH,
GUYS.

QUIT
REMINISCING,
VATHEK. ELYON
MUST BE TAKEN
TO SAFETY
QUICKLY.

CALEB
...

IT'LL BE
LIKE FINDING
A NEEDLE IN A
HAYSTACK,
HEE-HEE!



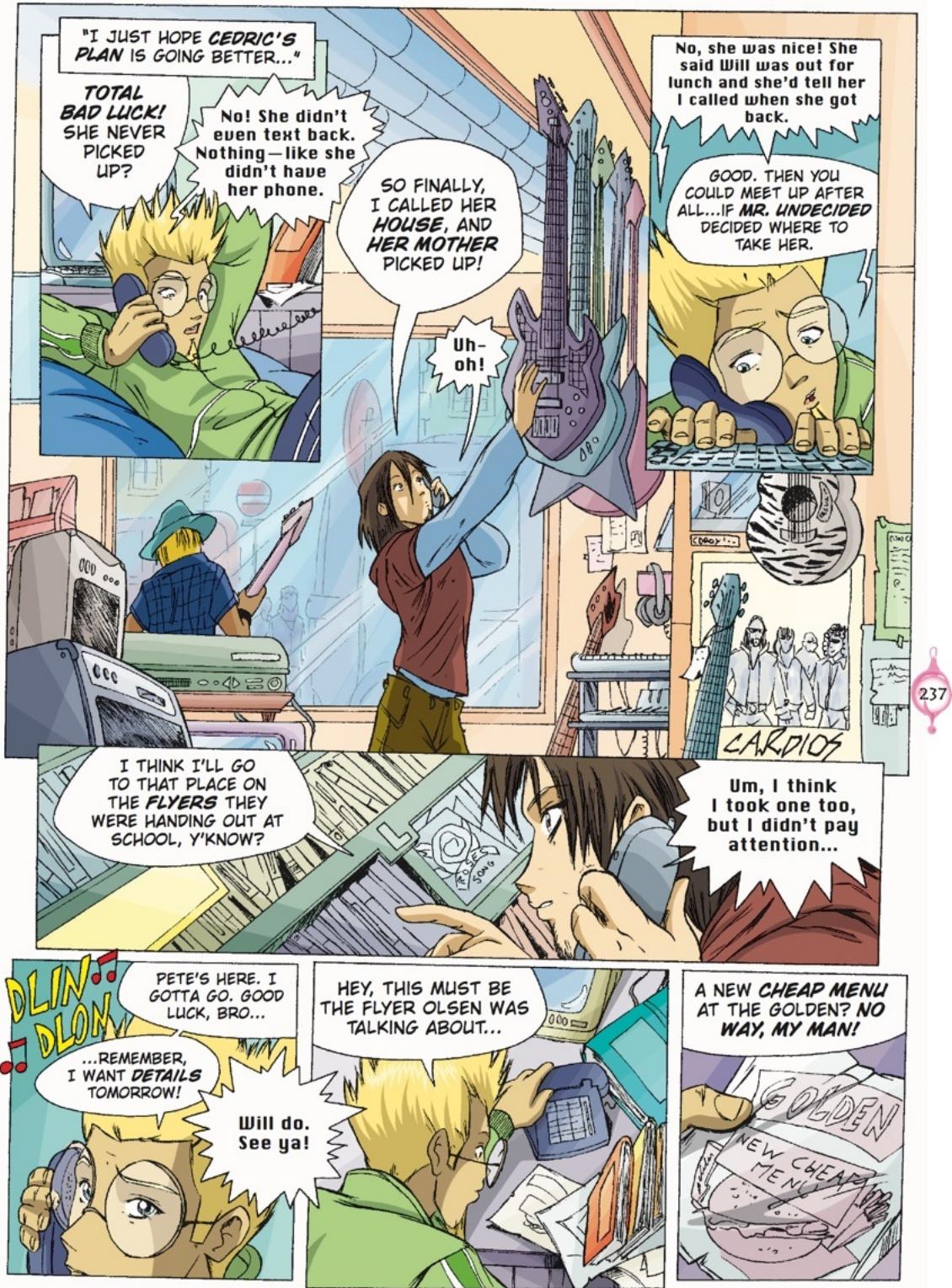
*REMEMBER W.I.T.C.H.
CHAPTER 10?

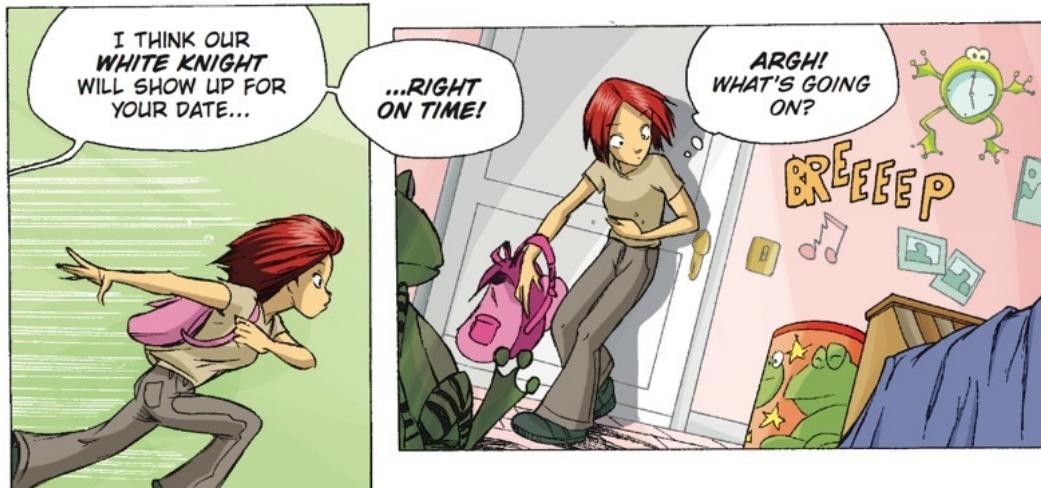
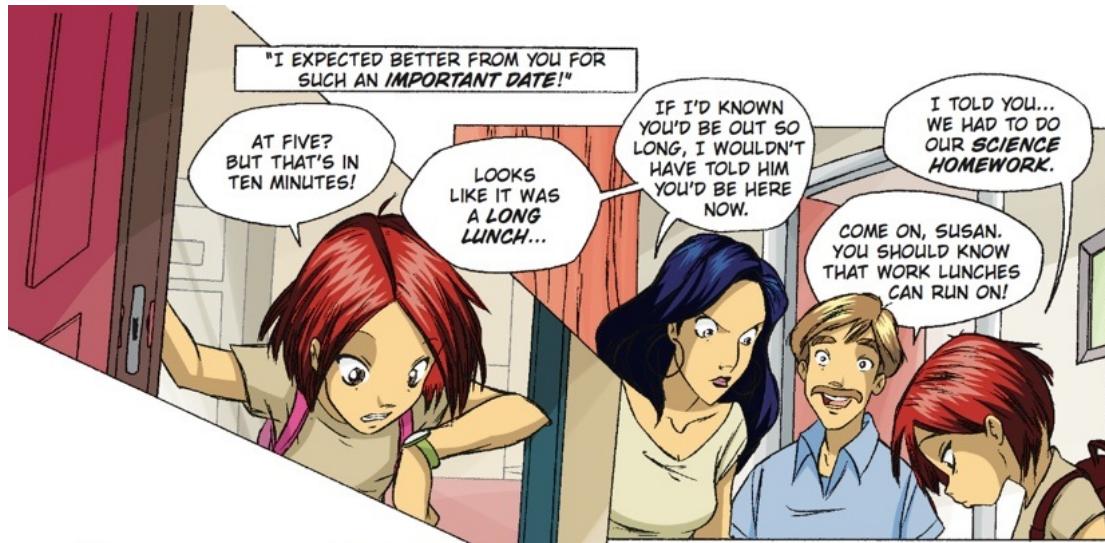






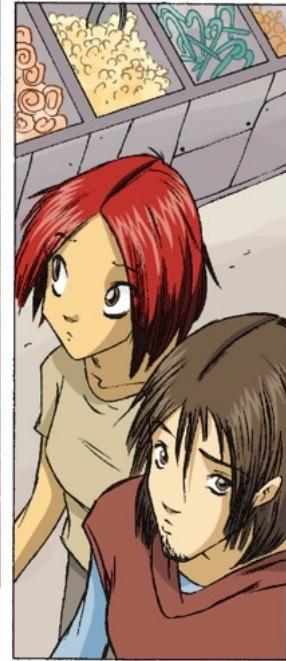
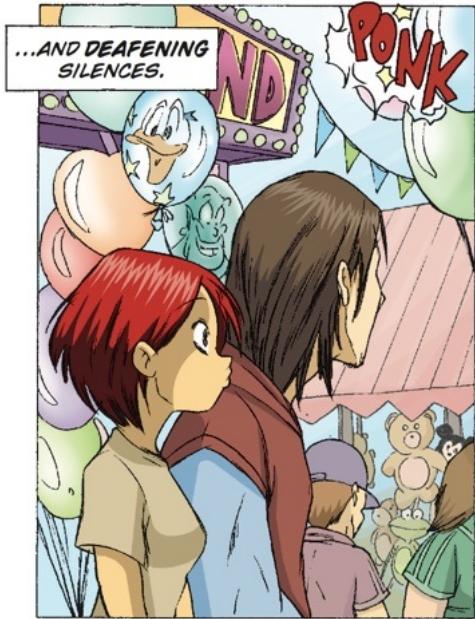




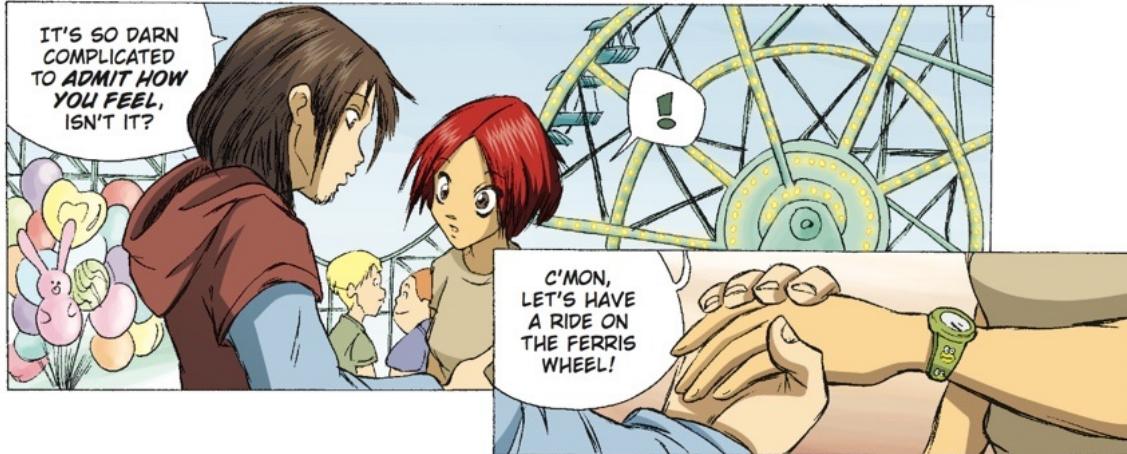


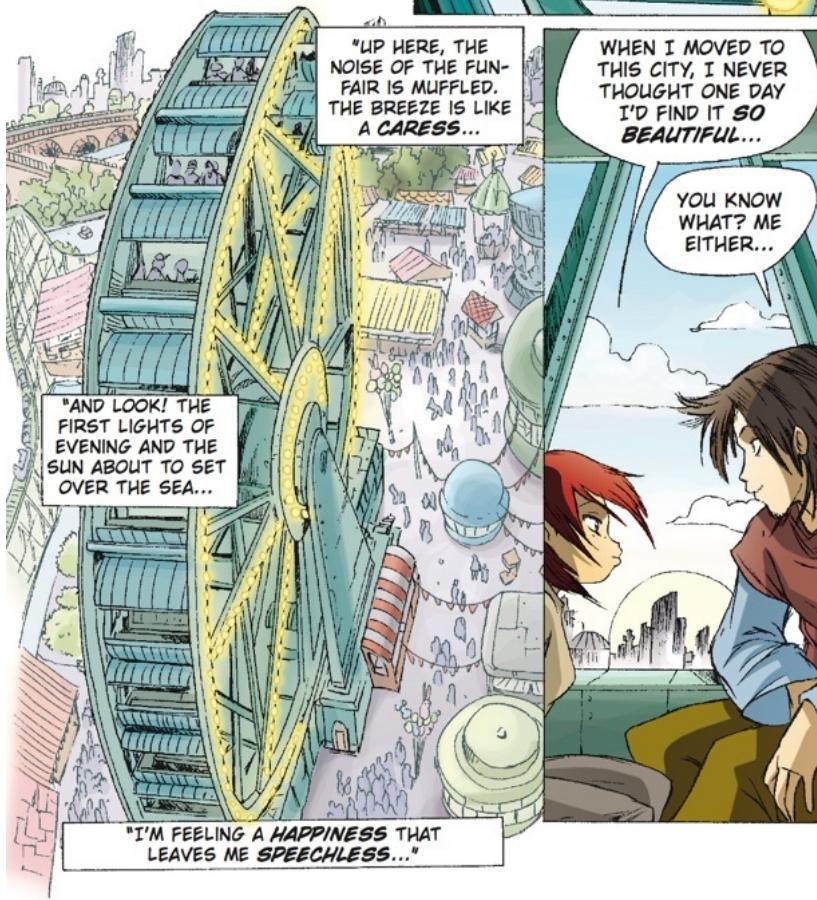




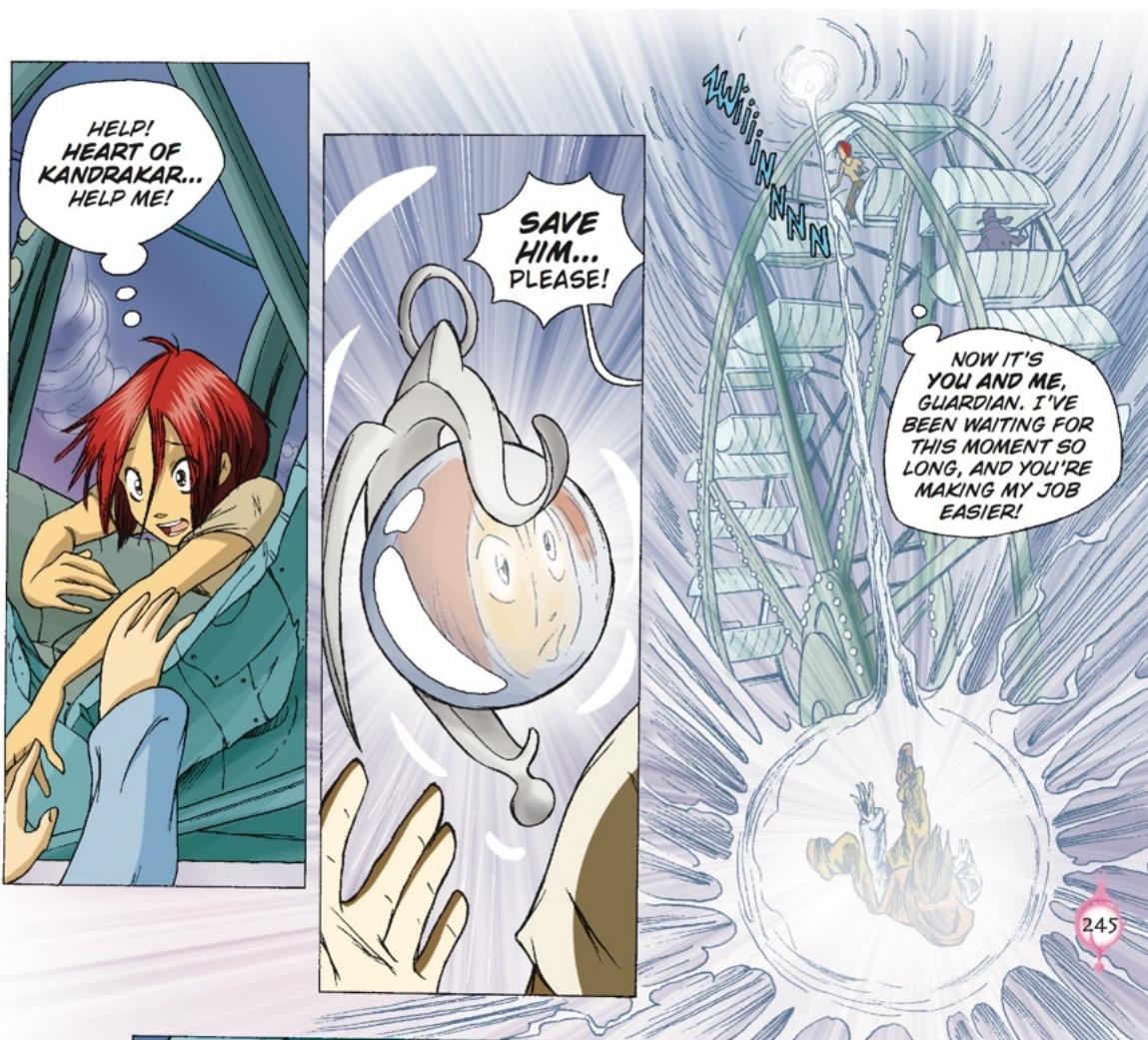


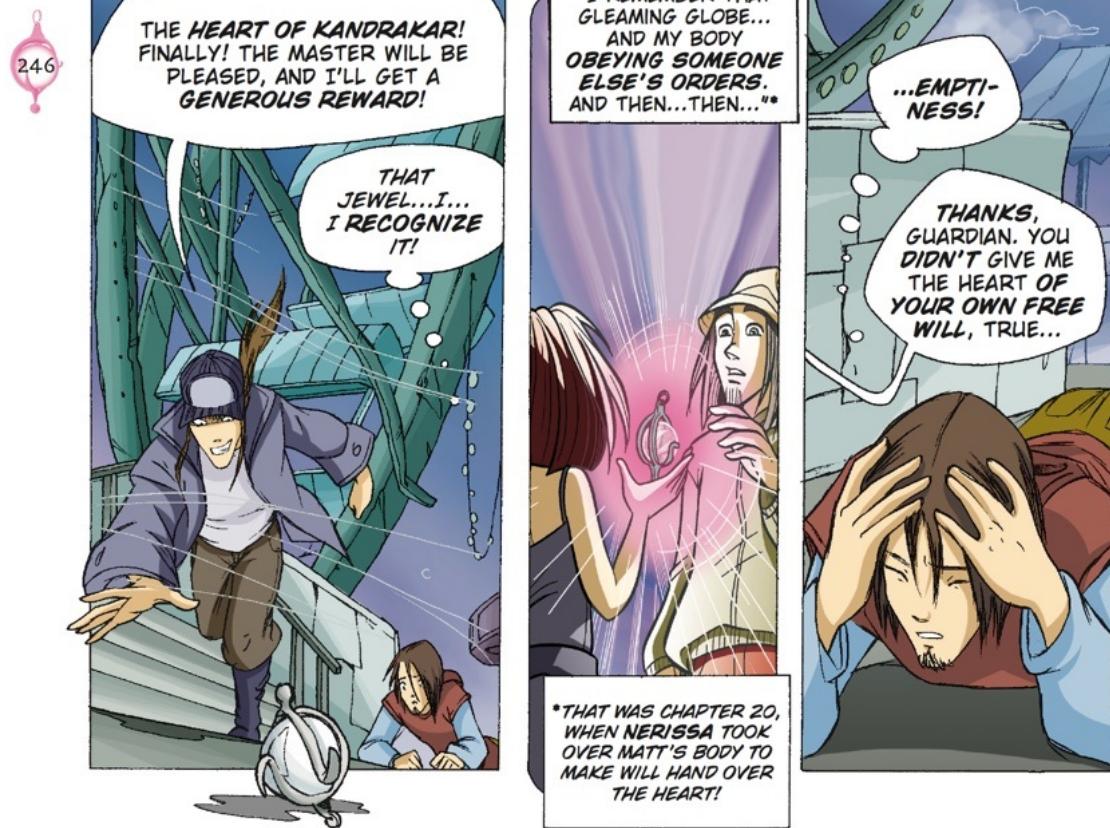
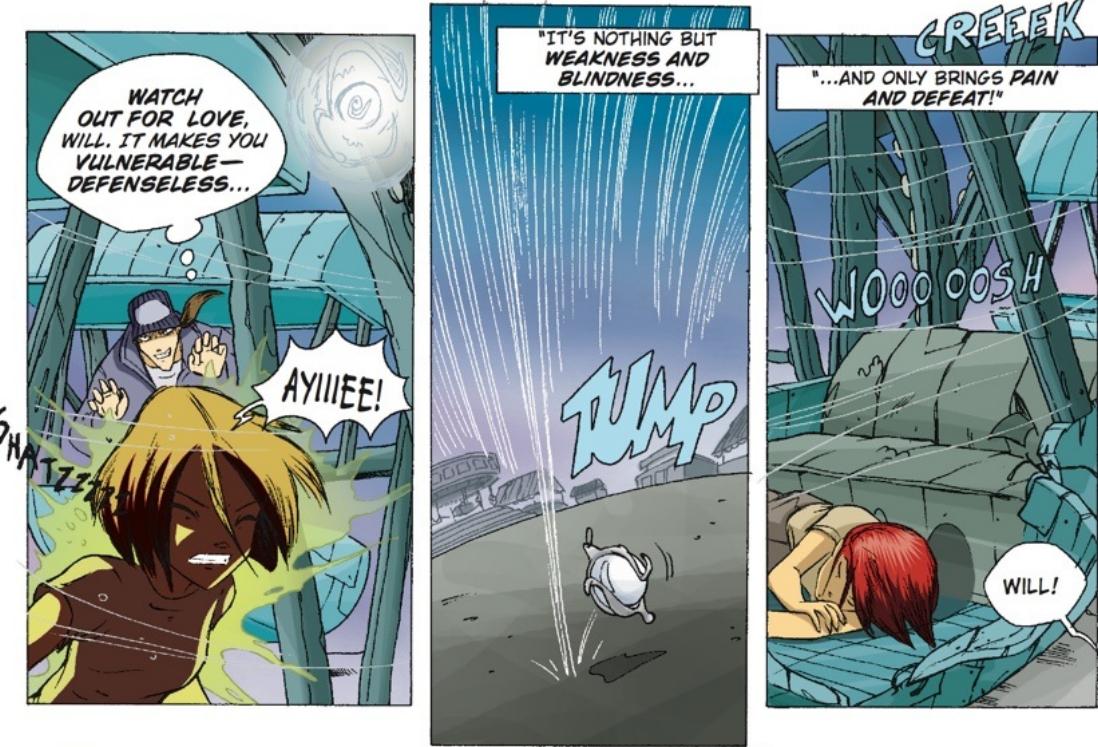
*MATT AND WILL'S
DISCUSSION HAPPENED
IN CHAPTER 38

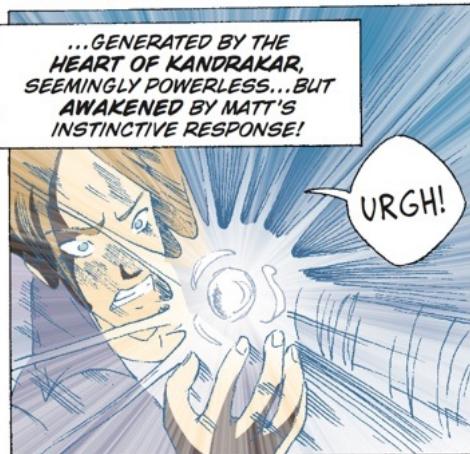


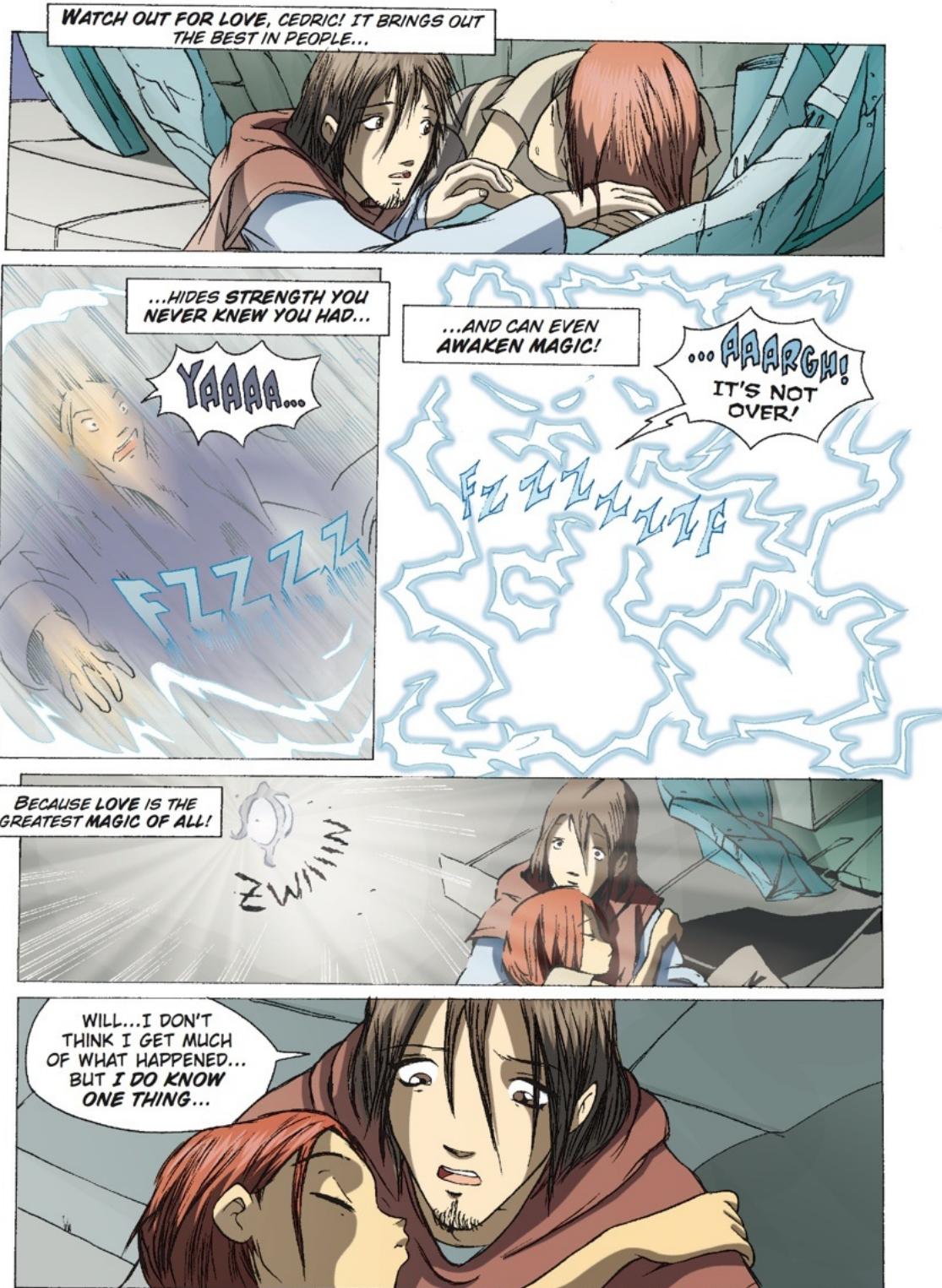




















Taranee's Wardrobe

- ① On the top shelf, Tara keeps her favorite books. They're full of fantastical stories about adventures, traveling, and exploring!
- ② Next to the books there's her photo album: a collection of the most interesting pics she snapped since she got her first roll of film when she was only seven years old.
- ③ Cat ring holder: Tara likes to keep her many trinkets always in order.
- ④ Her mom says a wardrobe is no place to hang photos, but Tara isn't changing her mind. She loves to open the door and see a picture that brings back sweet memories.
- ⑤ Her style is unique, colorful, and very personal, like this handbag made of woven natural fibers.
- ⑥ This is Taranee's winter coat, super warm and with a pink tiger print pattern.



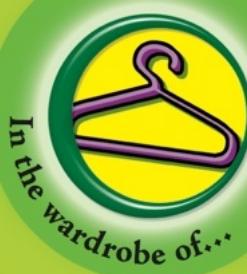


7 Taranee doesn't feel super comfy in a skirt: She usually prefers trousers. But on special occasions, she makes an exception and wears this **dress** she bought after an exhausting afternoon shopping with her mom.

8 On spring days, as soon as a little wind comes out, Taranee runs out into the garden with her **kite**, and it doesn't matter if Peter makes fun of her saying it's a toy for children.

9 She doesn't know why she loves **succulents** so much: maybe because they're strong and can survive in difficult conditions?

10 This **hen** is a present from Peter. Apparently, he saw it in a shop window, and it reminded him of Taranee. If he says so...



Cornelia's Wardrobe

- 1 A straw hat with satin ribbons and lots of flowers. Corny even wore it at the last carnival!
- 2 This is the dress she wore for her twelfth birthday party. She likes it because it's elegant but not too serious.
- 3 Candy handbag. Hay Lin saw one in a shop, but when she went back to buy it, it was gone. So she sewed one herself!
- 4 A sweater she bought in Redstone. Nice color, but her mom says it shows too much of her belly.
- 5 Cornelia loves perfume, especially floral scents. Her bottom drawer is full of little bottles. There are also jars full of seashells.
- 6 Every year, Corny saves the seashells she picks up on the beach. They remind her of summer!





7 Old dolls and teddy bears. Cornelia's secret: She doesn't want to throw them away. When she's feeling sad or can't sleep, she grabs one.

8 They're old and don't fit her anymore, but she'll never throw out her first ice skates.

9 One of the trophies she won. This one has a special meaning because the competition was especially fierce. She never thought she'd take second place.

10 The shawl that belonged to her grandma. It's been passed down from generation to generation. Cornelia wears it when she's feeling insecure.

11 Her latest find: a special dress for a fancy dinner with her dad's colleagues.

12 Heeled shoes. They're gorgeous but so uncomfortable!



Part IV. Trial of the Oracle • Volume I



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