



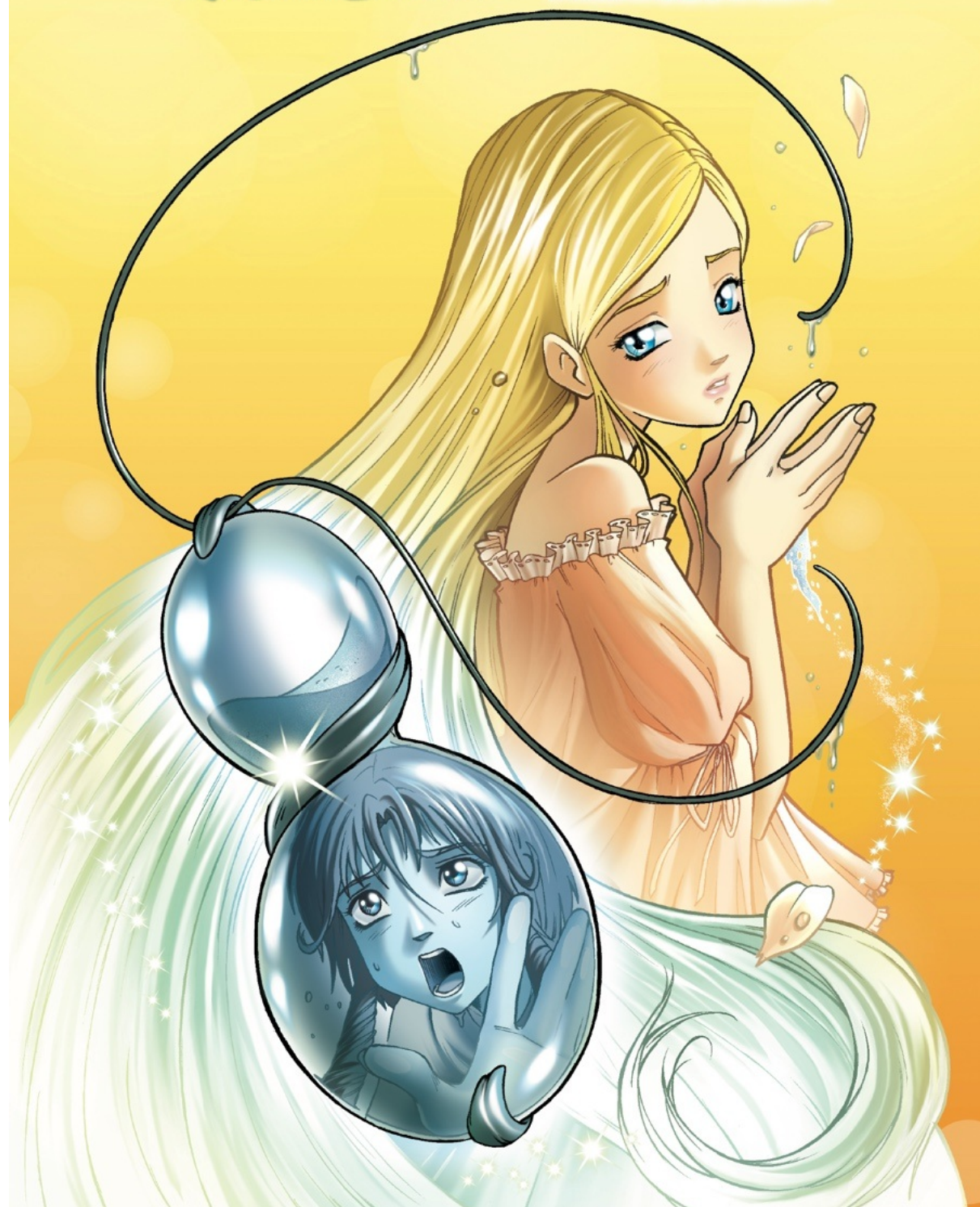
Title
Author

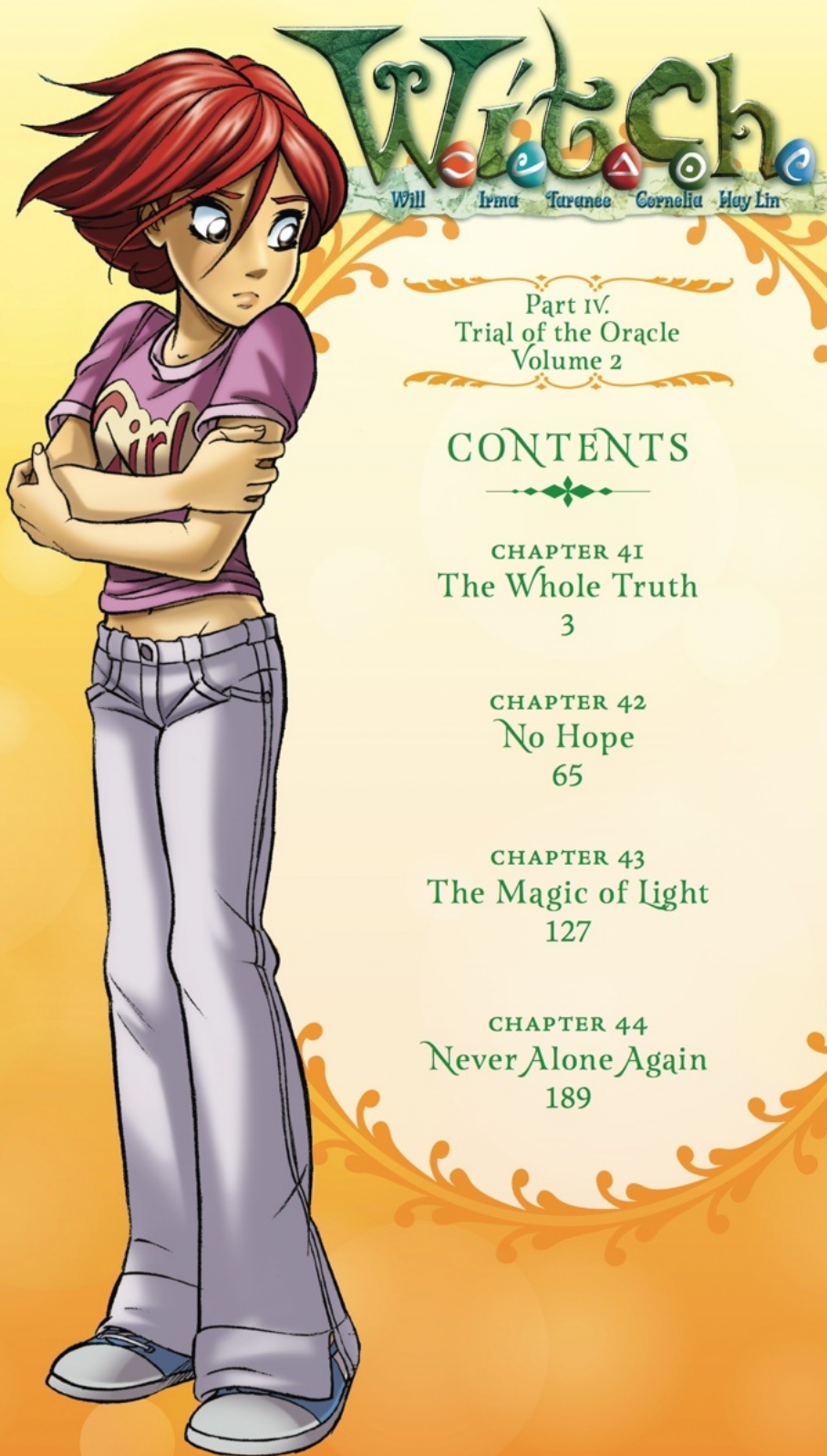


Witch

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

Part IV.
Trial of the Oracle
Volume 2





Part IV.
Trial of the Oracle
Volume 2

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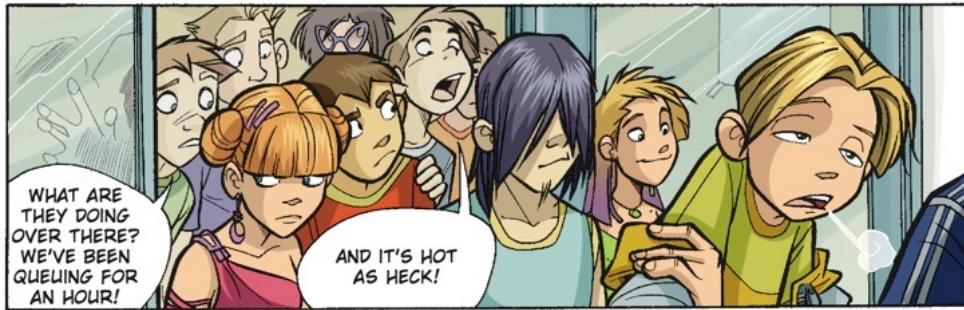


The Whole Truth

"I'm the Custodian of the Heart,
and I was found out!"











BUT MATT HAS A
GOOD REASON FOR NOT
ANSWERING. AN
EXCELLENT REASON...



HERE ARE
TWO HAWAIIAN
SURFER'S
DELIGHTS...
ENJOY!



IT'S...
HUGE!

UH-OH...



HA
HA!

HA
HA!



ERM...

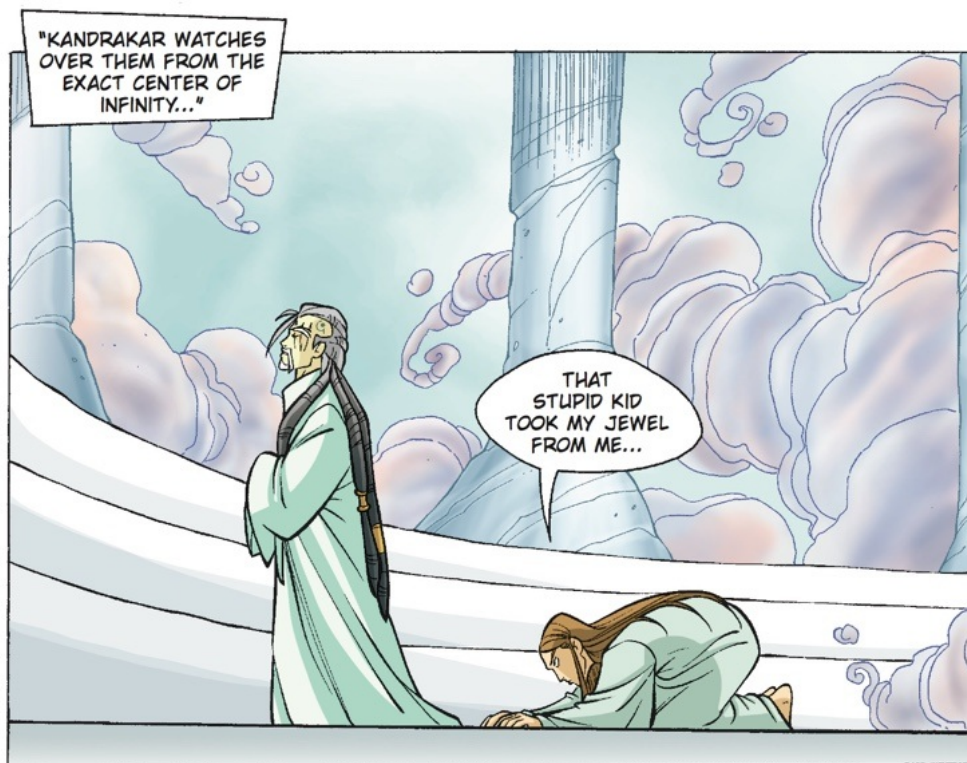


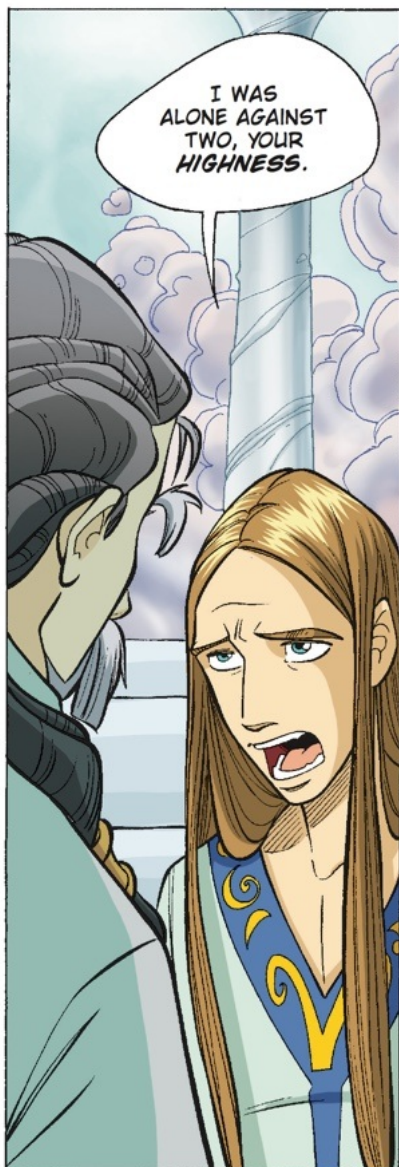
YEAH...

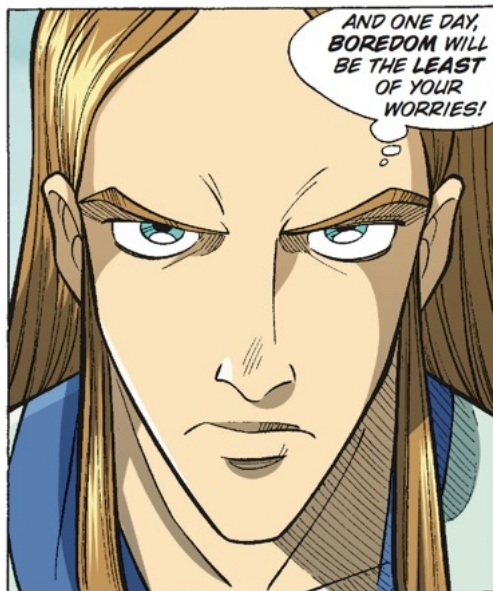
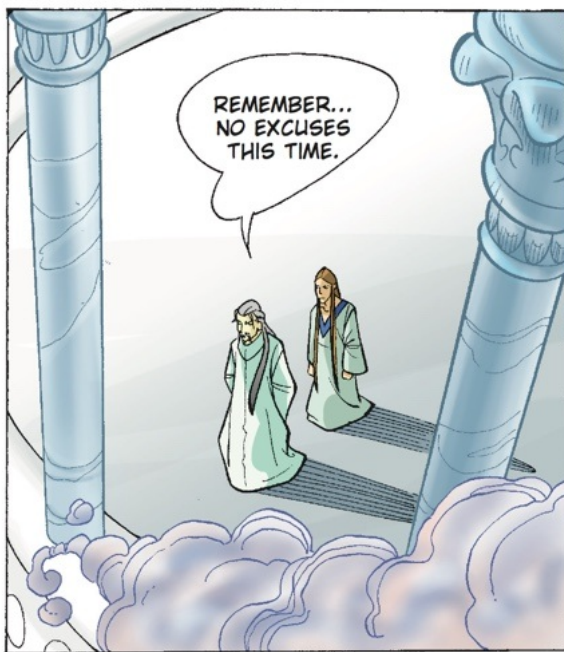
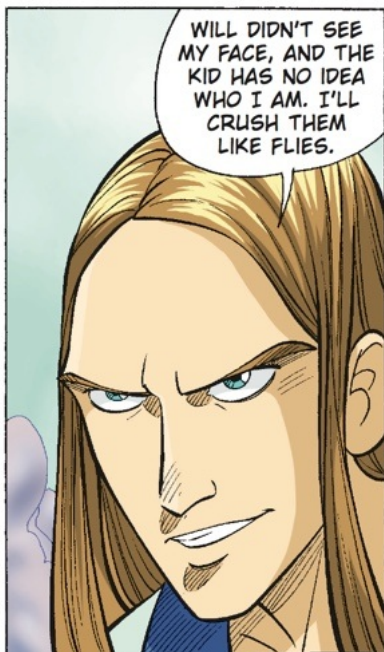


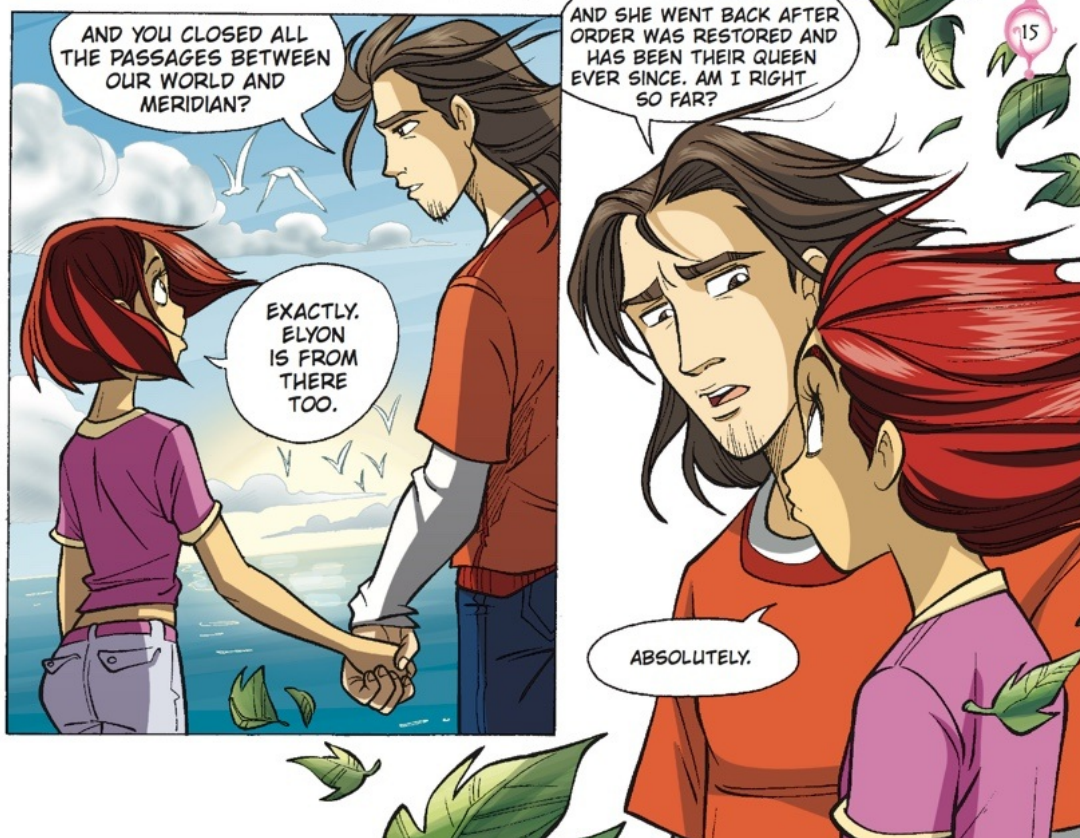
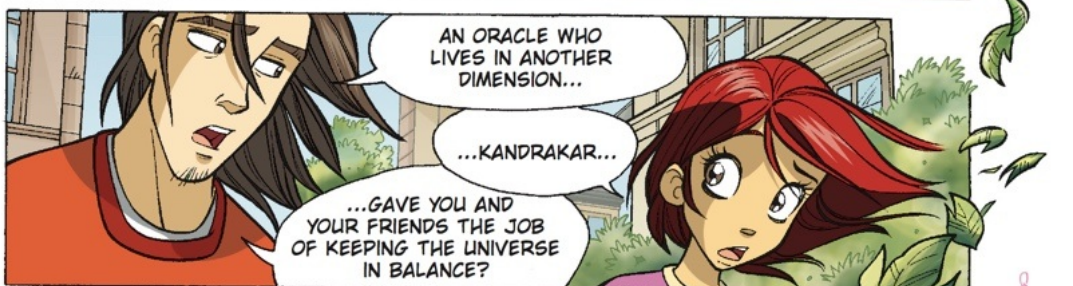




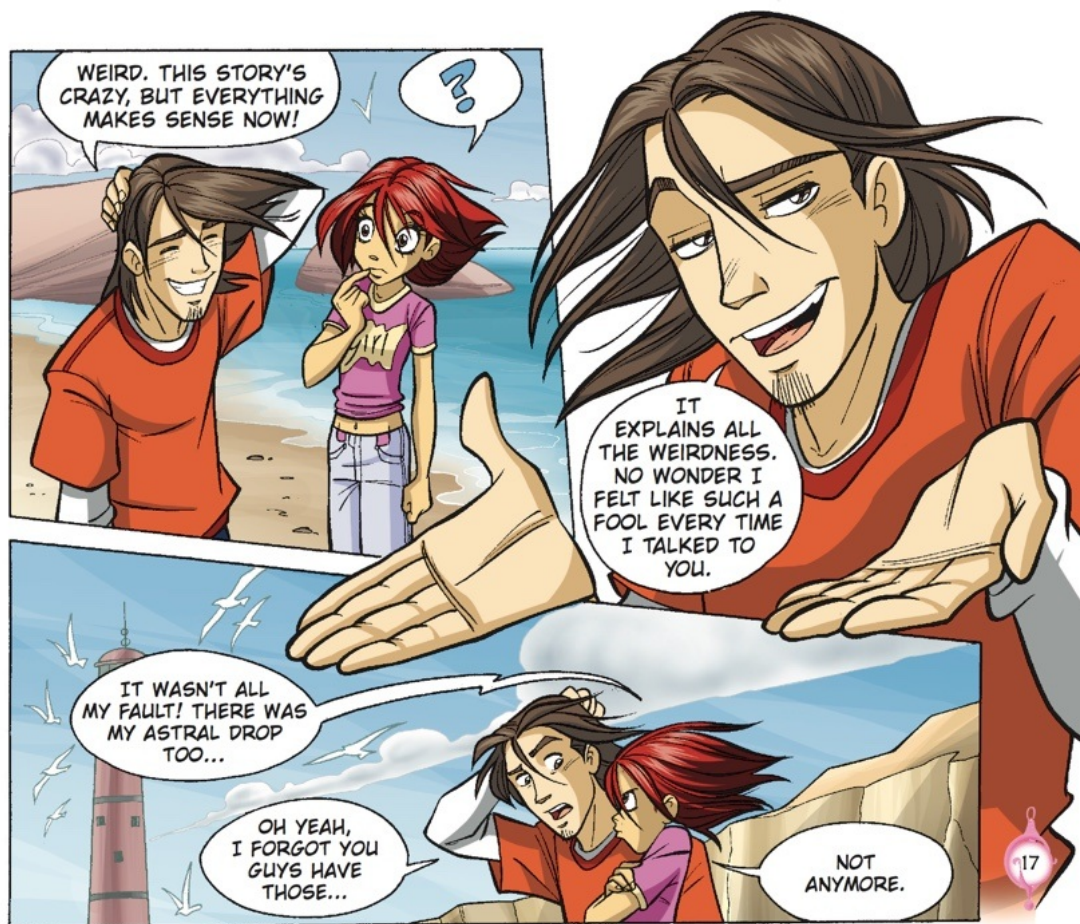




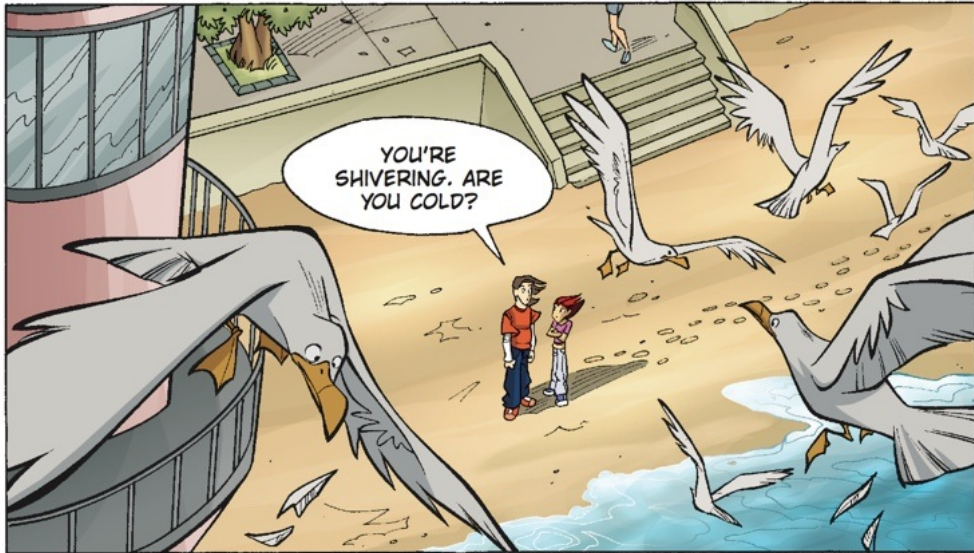














OKAY, WILL. YOU CAN TRUST ME. I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET.



THE ORACLE IS JUST WAITING FOR US TO MAKE A MISTAKE. THE ONLY PERSON I COULD ASK FOR ADVICE IS YAN LIN...



...BUT HOW CAN I ASK HER TO KEEP SOMETHING FROM HER OWN GRANDDAUGHTER? NO. I CAN'T TELL ANYONE.



SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO CRY...

YOU OKAY?



GO ON. PICK UP SO I HAVE TIME TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER.

⇒SNIFF⇒

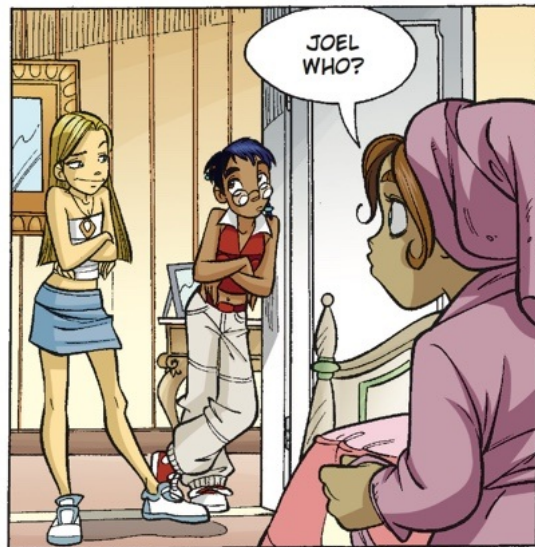
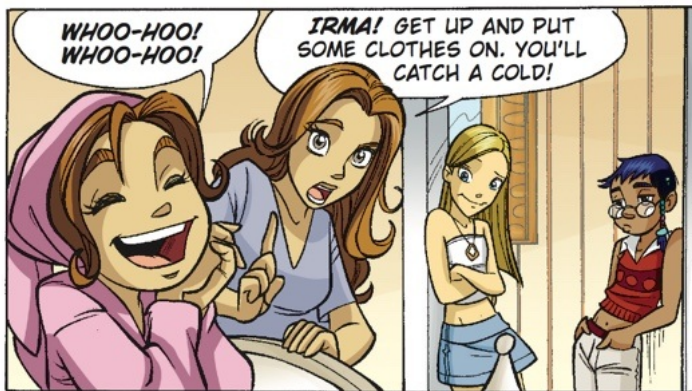


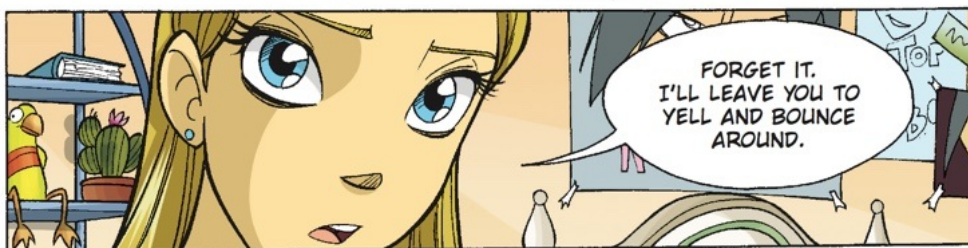
HELLO?

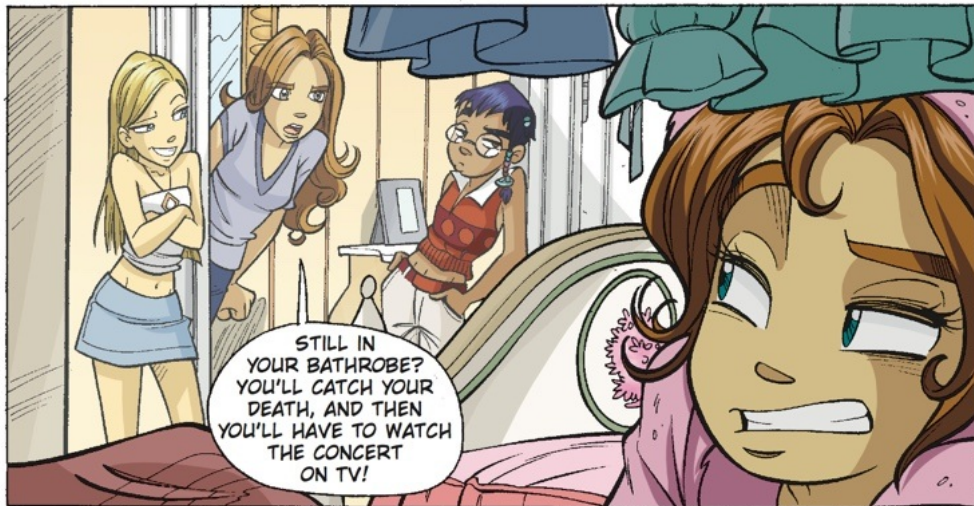
Yoo-hoo!



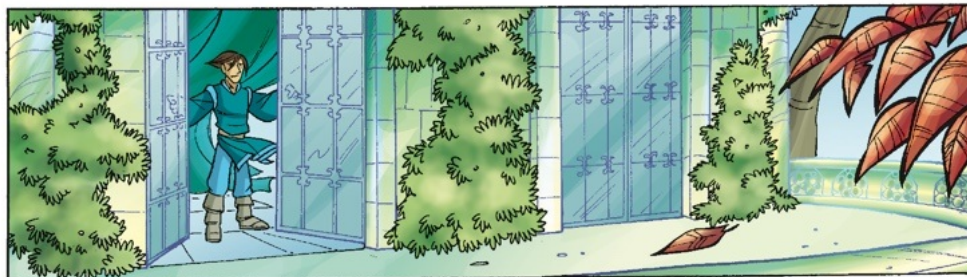




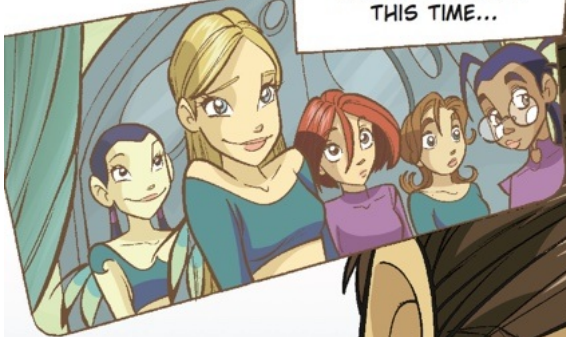








"I SAW HER SMILE
AGAIN AFTER ALL
THIS TIME..."



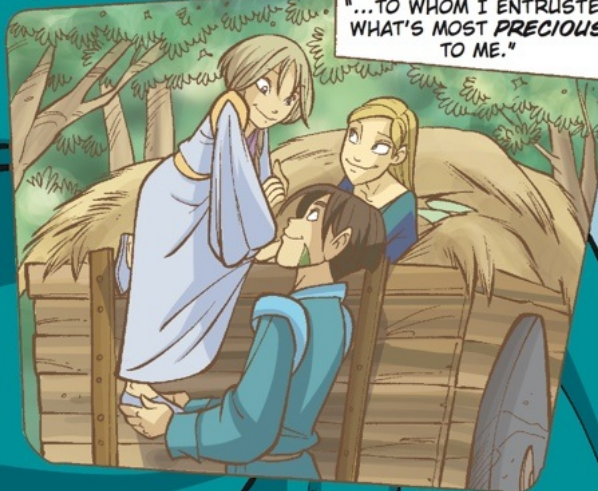
"OUR HANDS BRUSHED,
AND I FELT WHAT I'M SURE
SHE WAS FEELING TOO..."



"OUR HEARTS WILL ALWAYS SHARE A SPECIAL
PLACE FOR EACH OTHER, BUT **EVERYTHING**
CHANGED WHEN I MET A FRIEND..."



"...TO WHOM I ENTRUSTED
WHAT'S MOST **PRECIOUS**
TO ME."



IN THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE,
KANDRAKAR. EVERYONE FEELS THE
TENSION THAT HAS DESCENDED
ON THE FORTRESS...

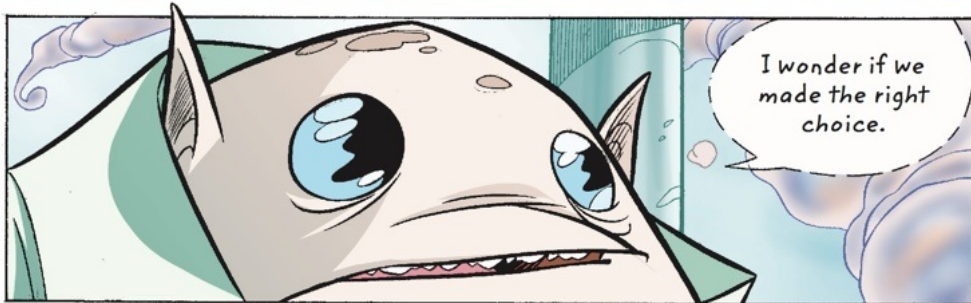


I DON'T LIKE IT.
I don't like it
AT ALL.

Another
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
of the council. It's
becoming a habit.



I wonder if we
made the right
choice.



If you're talking about the
Oracle, I don't even want
to hear it.

Nice.
Bury your head
in the sand...





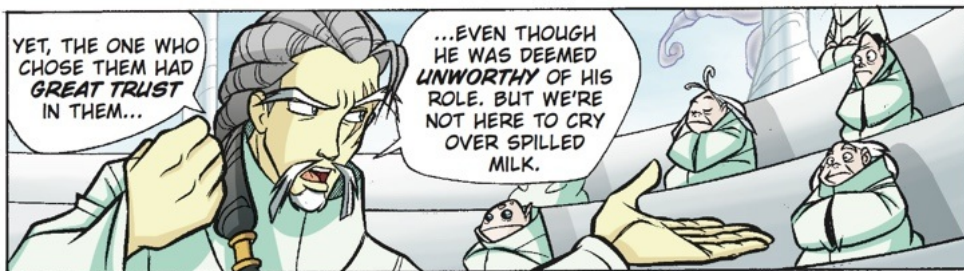
NOW THAT WE'RE
FINALLY ALL
HERE...



IT'S WITH A
HEAVY HEART THAT
I ADDRESS YOU,
WISEST OF
THE WISE.

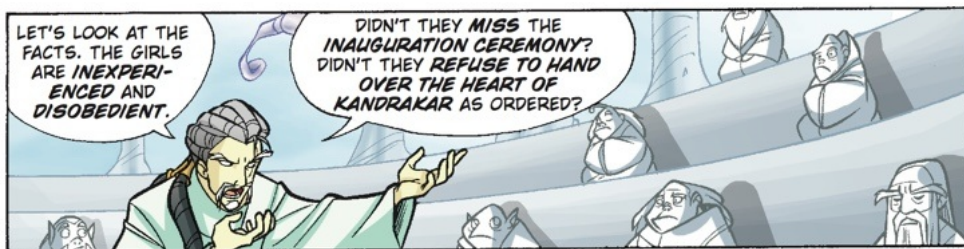


THE GUARDIANS, KEEN
AS THEY ARE, ARE THE
SOURCE OF MY **WORRIES**.
THEIR **IMMATURETY** AND
INCOMPETENCE
ARE GLARING.



YET, THE ONE WHO
CHOSE THEM HAD
GREAT TRUST
IN THEM...

...EVEN THOUGH
HE WAS DEEMED
UNWORTHY OF HIS
ROLE. BUT WE'RE
NOT HERE TO CRY
OVER SPILLED
MILK.



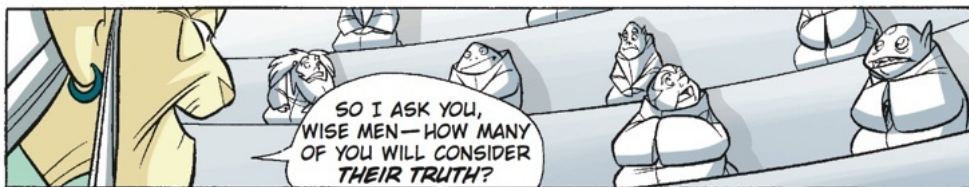
LET'S LOOK AT THE
FACTS. THE GIRLS
ARE **INEXPERI-
ENCED** AND
DISOBEDIENT.

DIDN'T THEY **MISS** THE
INAUGURATION CEREMONY?
DIDN'T THEY **REFUSE** TO HAND
OVER THE HEART OF
KANDRAKAR AS ORDERED?



I NEED YOUR
ADVICE, MY WISE
COUNCIL, SO I WON'T
REPEAT THE
MISTAKES OF
THE PAST.

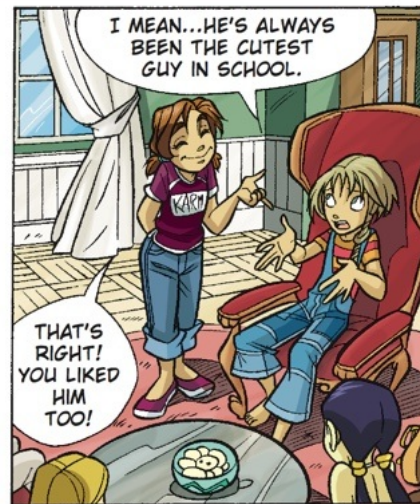
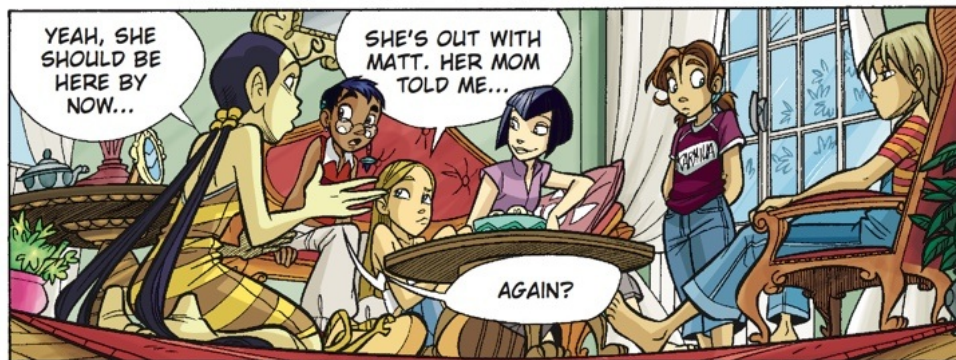
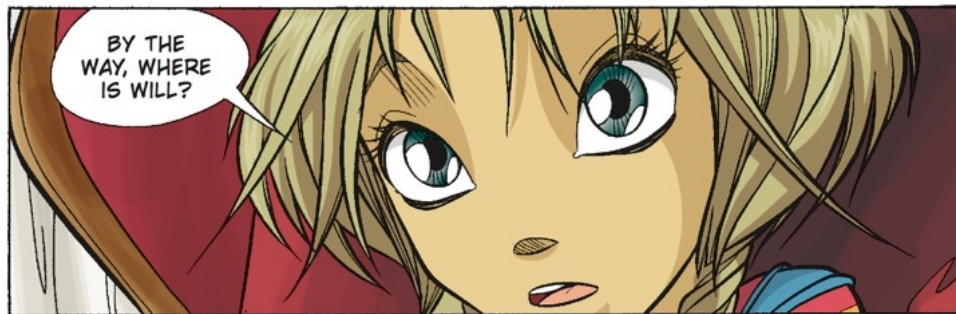


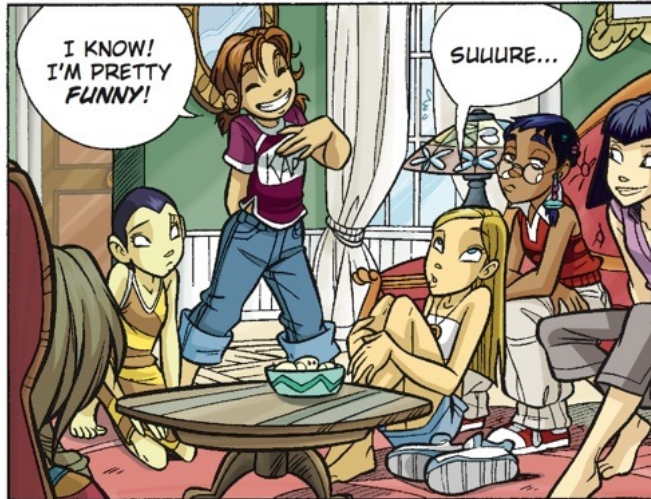


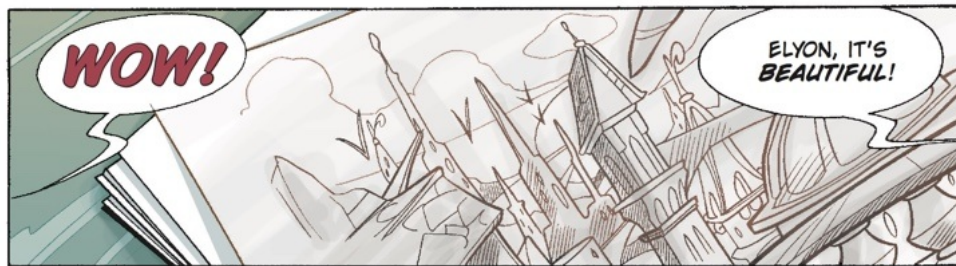


MUCH IS AMISS,
IN KANDRAKAR...







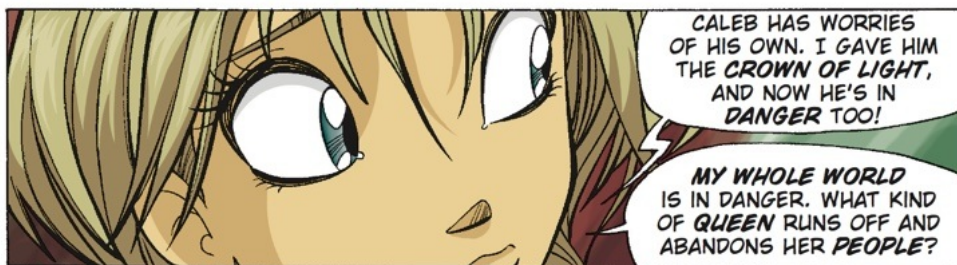




YEAH...BUT I WAS TALKING ABOUT CALEB!

HA-HA!

HA-HA! IF HE COULD HEAR YOU...



CALEB HAS WORRIES OF HIS OWN. I GAVE HIM THE **CROWN OF LIGHT**, AND NOW HE'S IN **DANGER TOO!**

MY WHOLE WORLD IS IN DANGER. WHAT KIND OF **QUEEN** RUNS OFF AND ABANDONS HER **PEOPLE?**

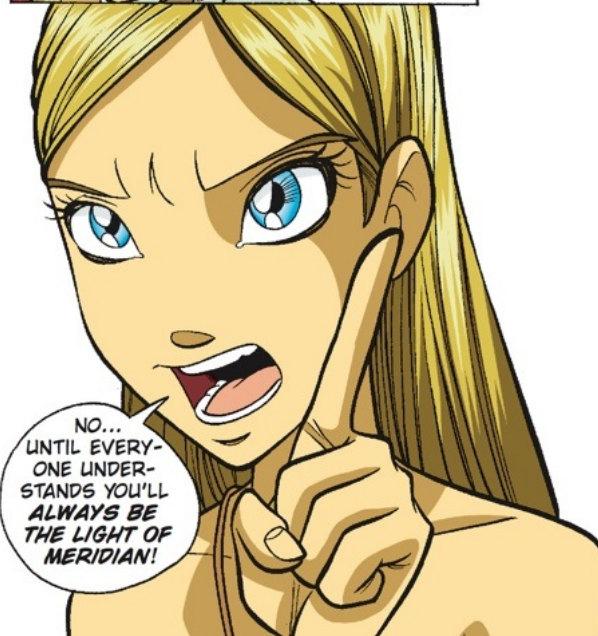


YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU GAVE THE CROWN TO ENDARNO?

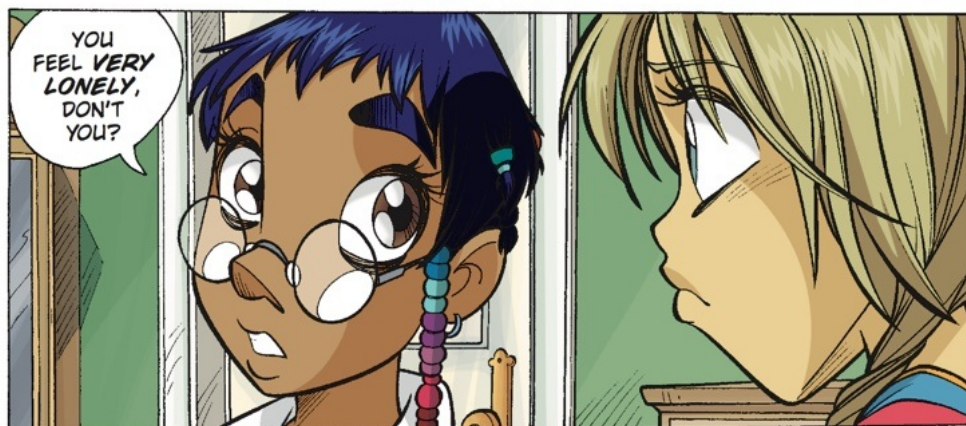
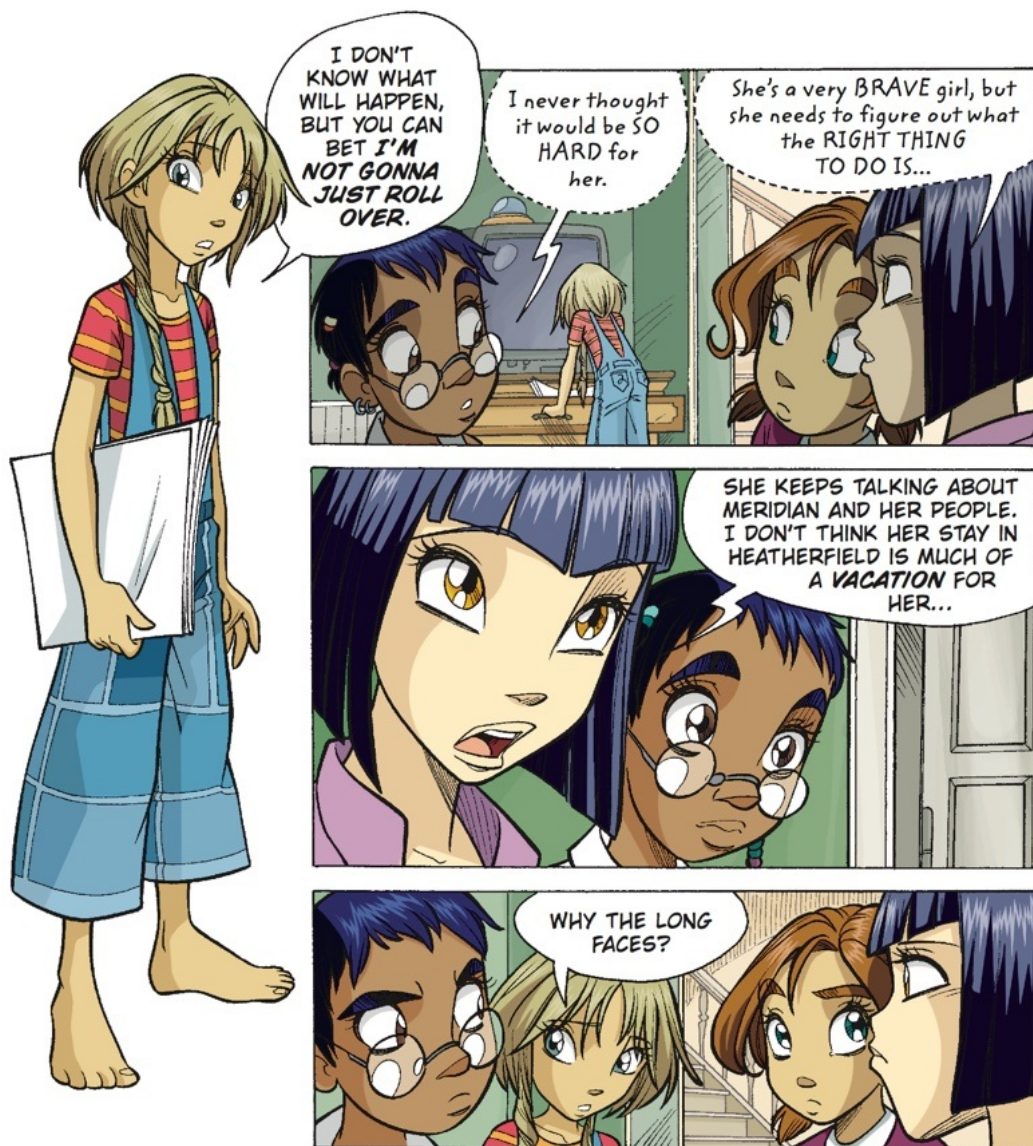
THE **COUNCIL** CAN ACT AS YOUR REPLACEMENT, AT LEAST UNTIL...

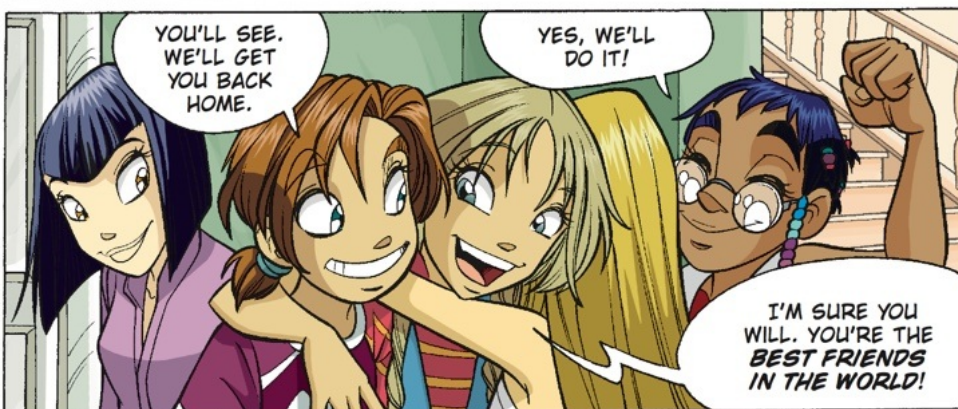
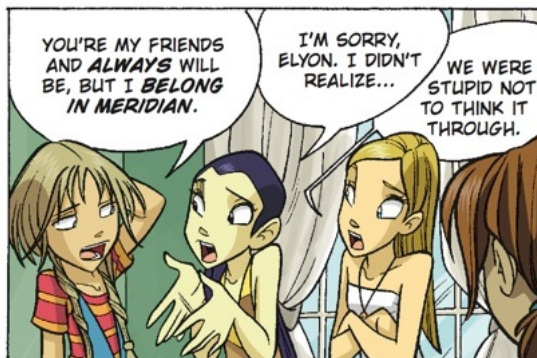


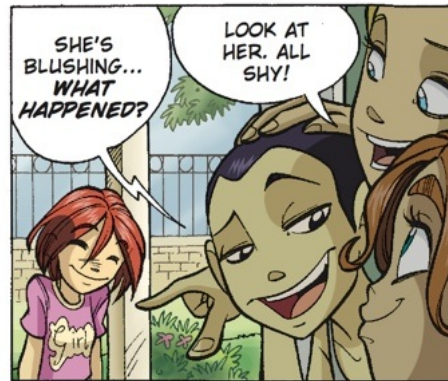
UNTIL I SURRENDER MYSELF TO THE ORACLE?

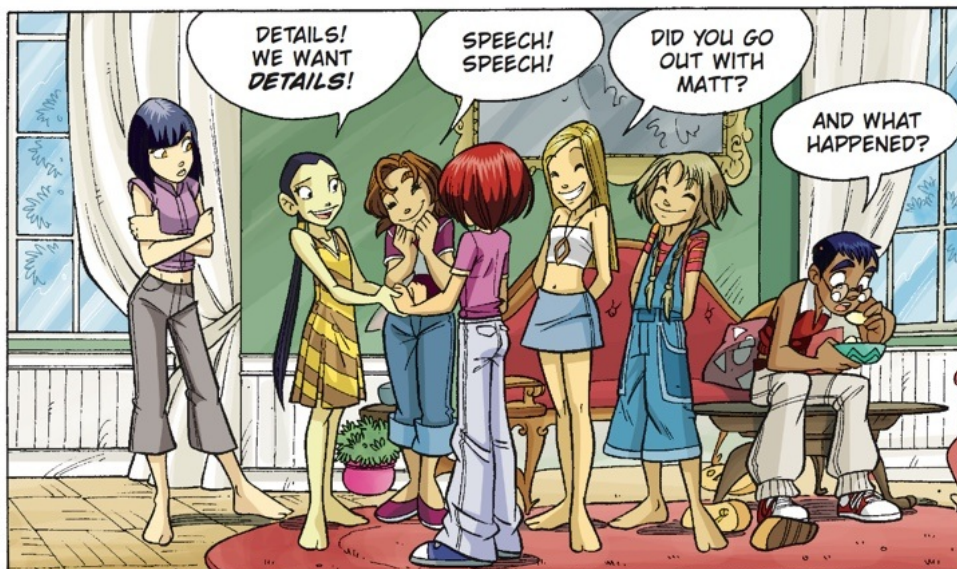


NO... UNTIL EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS YOU'LL **ALWAYS BE THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN!**









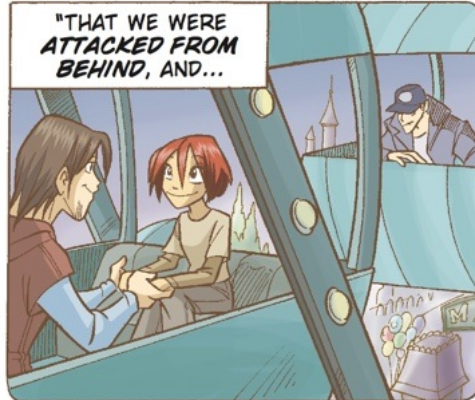
"HOW CAN I TELL
THEM WHAT HAPPENED
AT THE **FUNFAIR**...?"



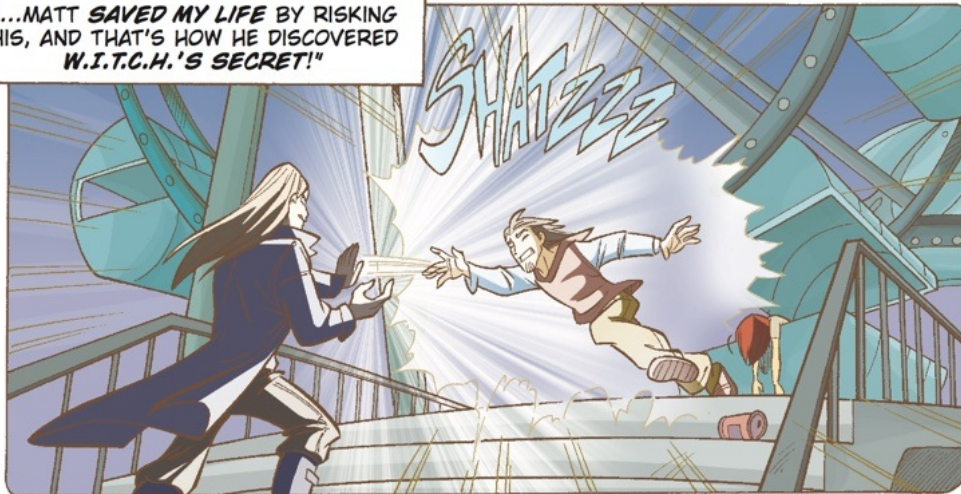
"THAT MATT TOOK ME
THERE, LURED INTO A **TRAP**
BY SOMEONE...BUT WHO?"

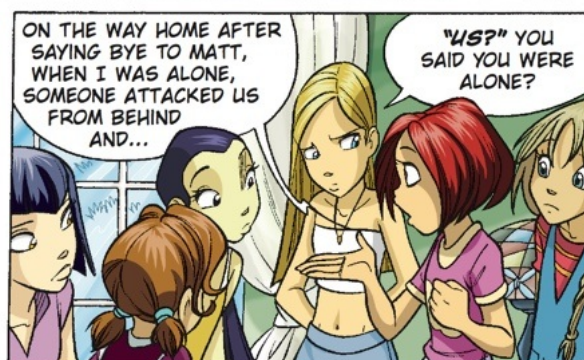


"THAT WE WERE
ATTACKED FROM
BEHIND, AND..."



"...MATT **SAVED MY LIFE** BY RISKING
HIS, AND THAT'S HOW HE DISCOVERED
W.I.T.C.H.'S SECRET!"





MANY CONFUSED
EXPLANATIONS LATER...

I DUNNO WHO
IT WAS, BUT I'M
SURE HE WANTED
THE HEART OF
KANDRAKAR.

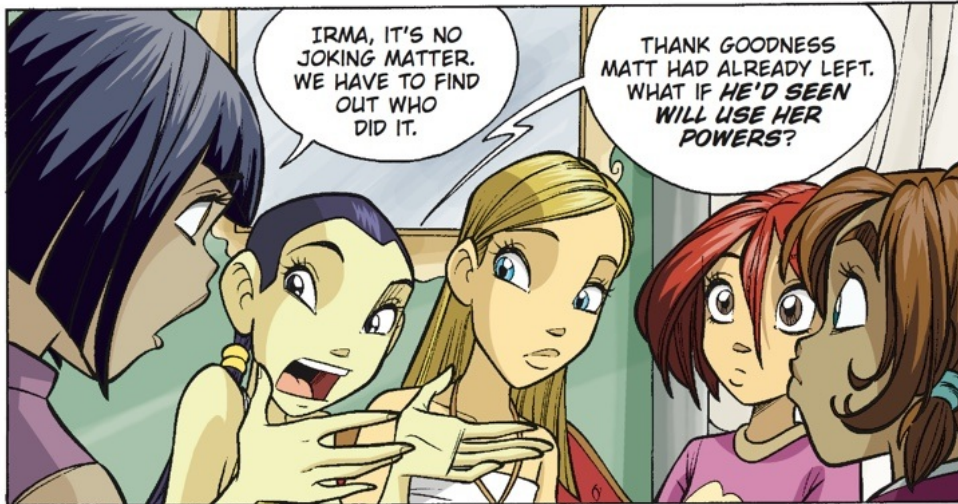


BEING ATTACKED RIGHT
AFTER YOU GET TOGETHER
WITH THE GUY YOU'VE LIKED
FOR YEARS...YOU HAVE
ALL THE FUN.



IRMA, IT'S NO
JOKING MATTER.
WE HAVE TO FIND
OUT WHO
DID IT.

THANK GOODNESS
MATT HAD ALREADY LEFT.
WHAT IF HE'D SEEN
WILL USE HER
POWERS?



YEAH...



LET'S EXAMINE THE FACTS. FIRST THE ATTACK ON CORNELIA.* NOW WILL. THERE'S **SOMETHING BIG** GOING ON.

*SEE
W.I.T.C.H.
CHAPTER 39

THAT'S OBVIOUS. ANY IDEAS?

SEEMS LIKE YOUR TROUBLES STARTED **EXACTLY** WHEN MINE DID.

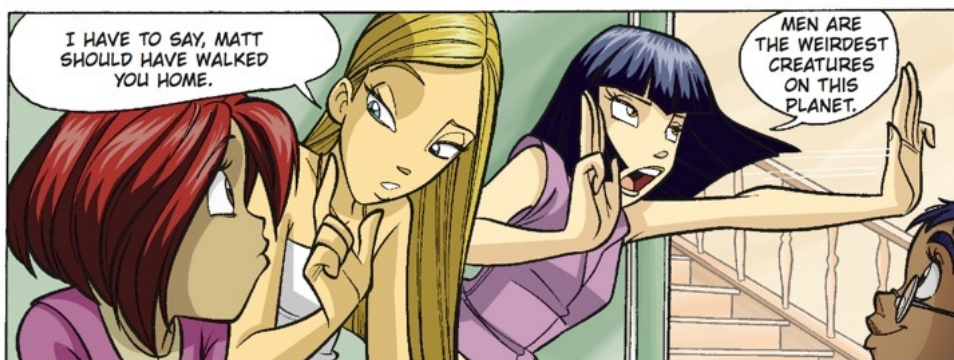
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS **PLOTTING AGAINST US.**

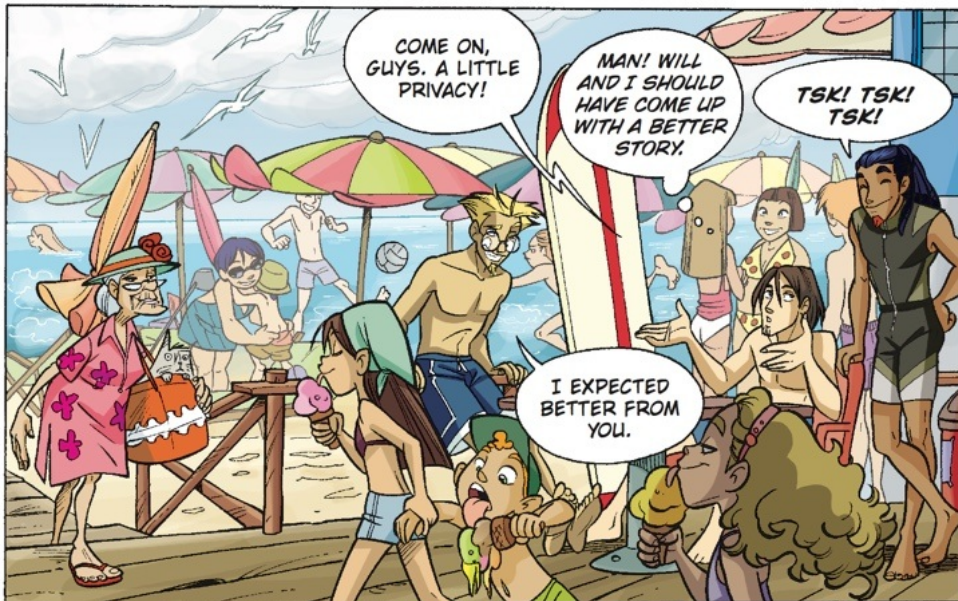
YES, BUT WHO?

WE SHOULD TALK TO GRANDMA. SHE COULD HELP US.

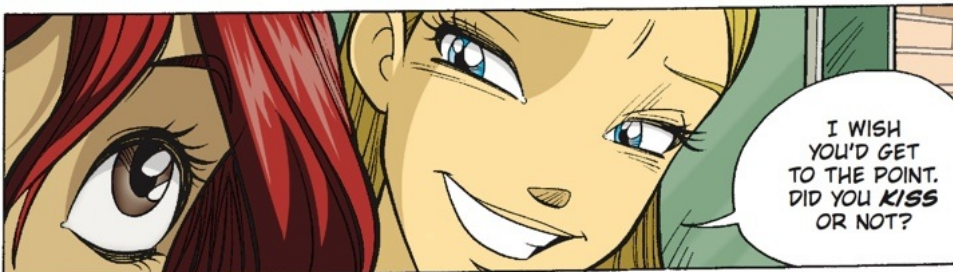
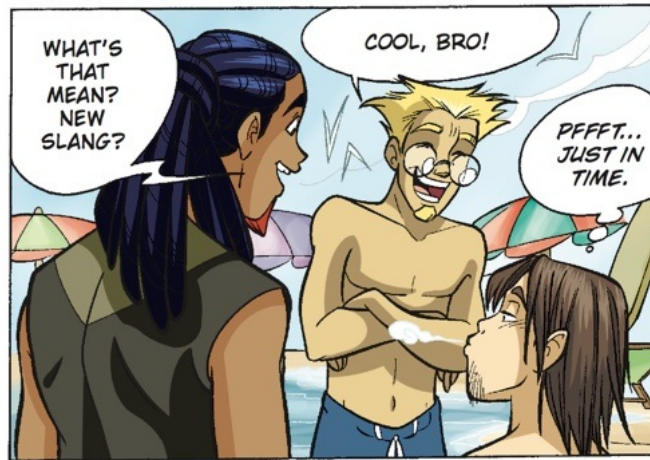
IF THEY ALLOW US TO SEE HER. THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING DOWN THE TUBES IN KANDRAKAR SINCE ENDARNO WAS ELECTED.

SORRY TO DISTRACT YOU FROM ALL THIS CLOAK-AND-DAGGER STUFF, BUT...











IN AN INSTANT,
THE GUARDIANS STAND
BEFORE ENDARNO...

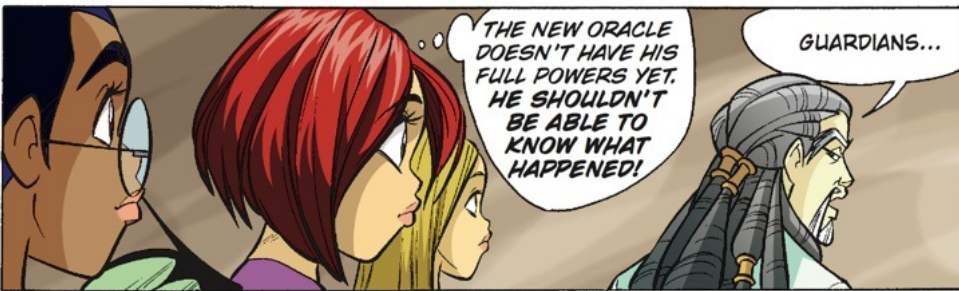


I'M AFRAID
ENDARNO FOUND
OUT ABOUT ME.

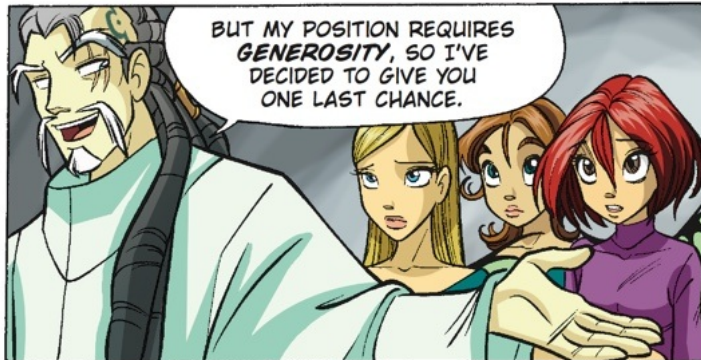


THE NEW ORACLE
DOESN'T HAVE HIS
FULL POWERS YET.
HE SHOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED!

GUARDIANS...



BUT MY POSITION REQUIRES
GENEROSITY, SO I'VE
DECIDED TO GIVE YOU
ONE LAST CHANCE.



I'VE LONG
DOUBTED YOUR
WORTHINESS OF
THE ROLE MY
PREDECESSOR
ASSIGNED YOU.



I BET HE
WAS FORCED
TO.

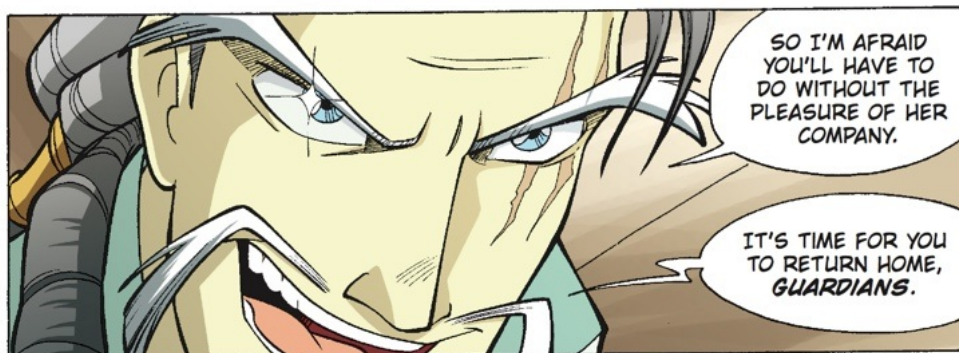
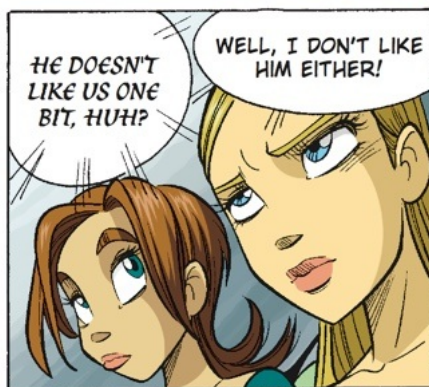
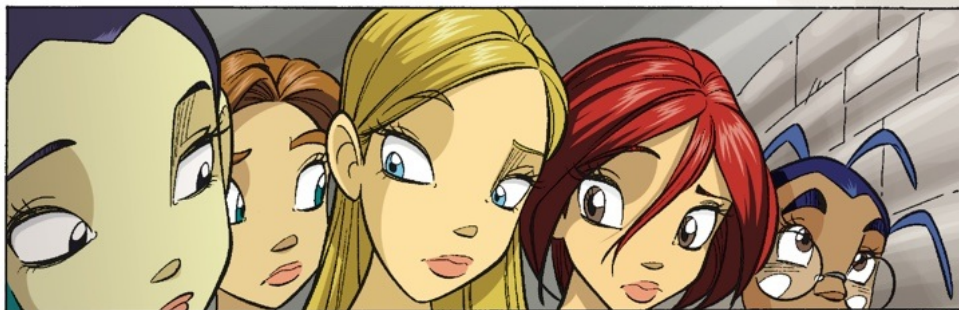
AND THAT
YAN LIN'S
BEHIND IT.

PROVE ME
WRONG, AND
YOU'LL EARN
MY TRUST.

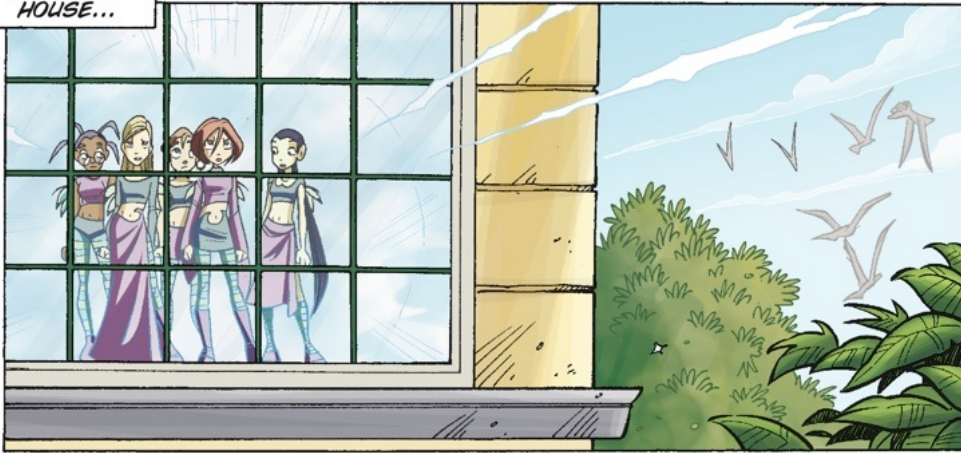








AT WILL'S
HOUSE...



WHAT
NOW?

I'M NOT HANDING ELYON
OVER TO ANYONE!



56

STAY COOL. WE
GOTTA KEEP
CALM.

I DON'T THINK
OUR PLAN WILL
WORK MUCH
LONGER. IF
ANYONE HAS
ANY IDEAS...



**BETRAY ELYON
OR GIVE UP OUR
ROLES AND LOSE
OUR POWERS.**
UM...WE'RE
IN TROUBLE.



WE'LL FIND
A WAY!

I HOPE
SO.

IT'S ALL
GOTTA BE
CONNECTED.
THE ATTACKS
ON ME AND
CORNELIA,
THE ORACLE'S
HOSTILITY...

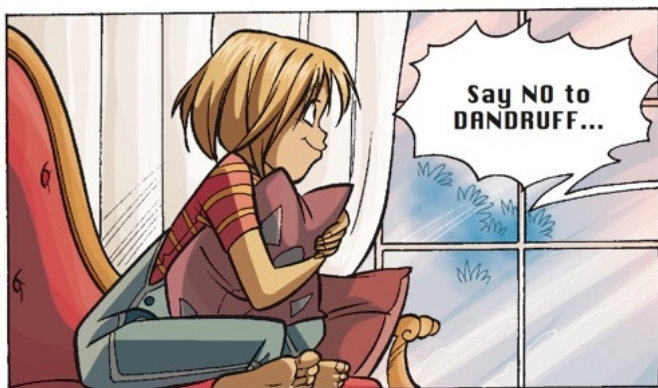


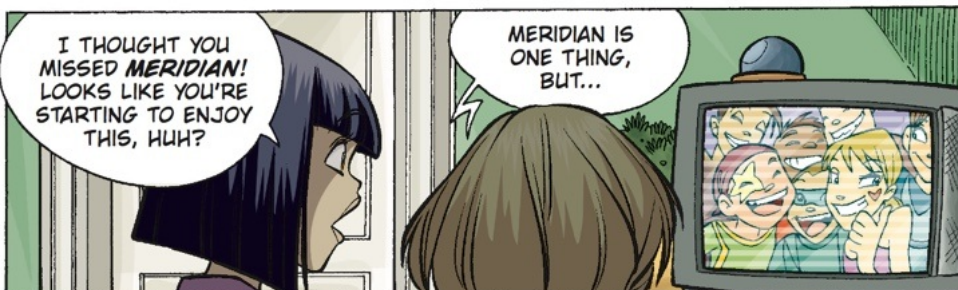
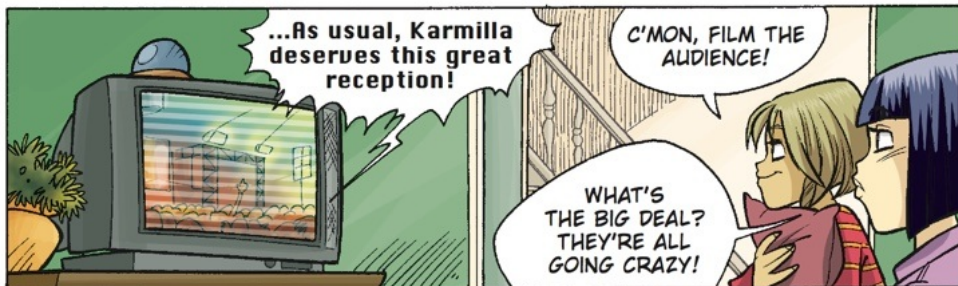
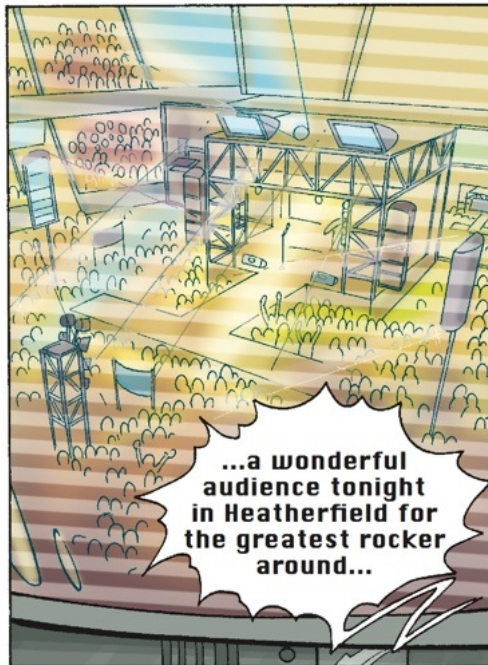
THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY OUT OF THIS.
WE GOTTA **STICK
TOGETHER.**

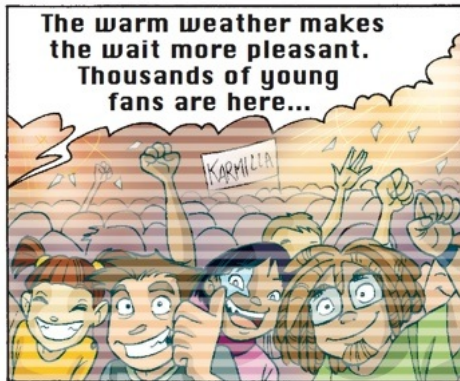


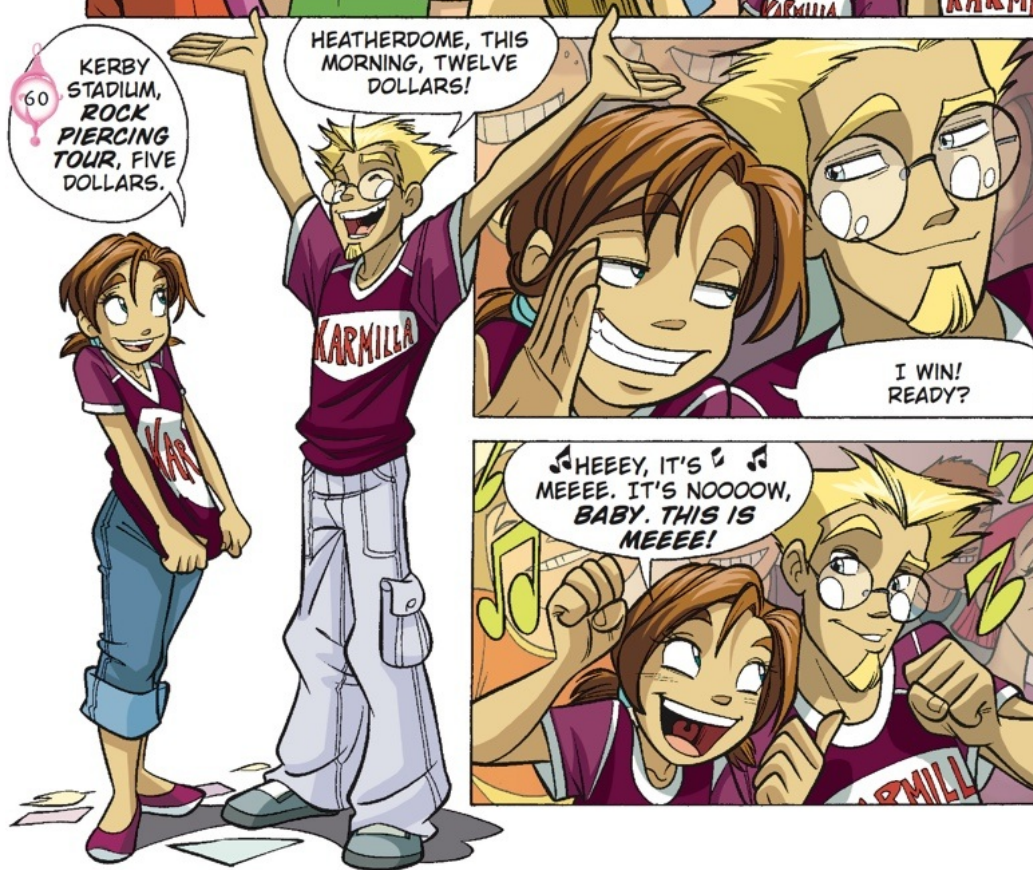
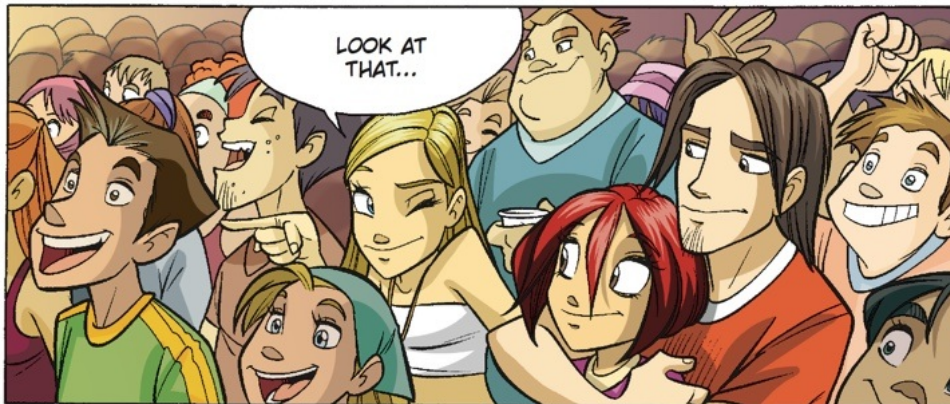
"WE'LL TALK TO ELYON AND
DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED."

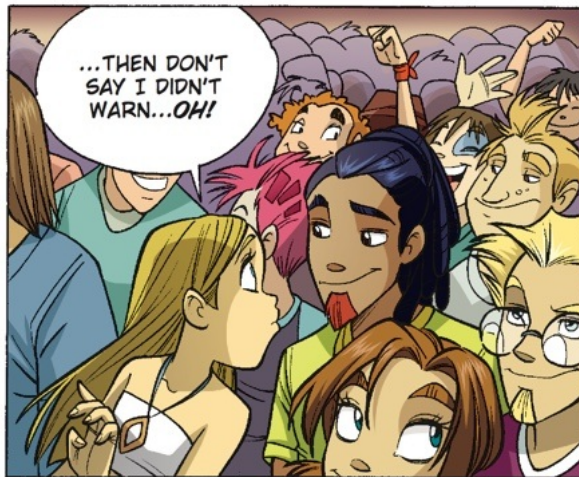


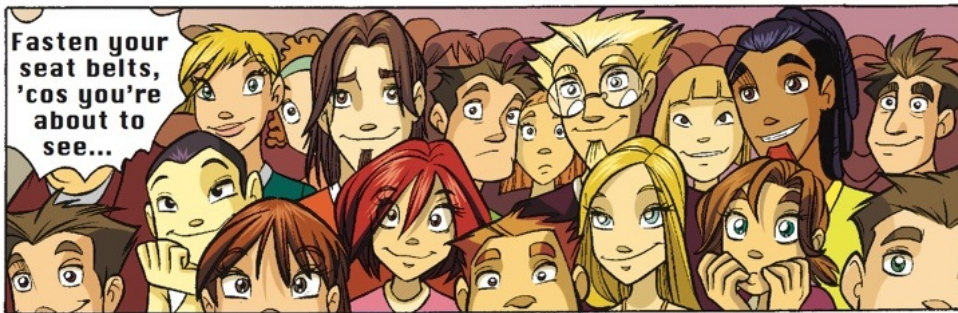
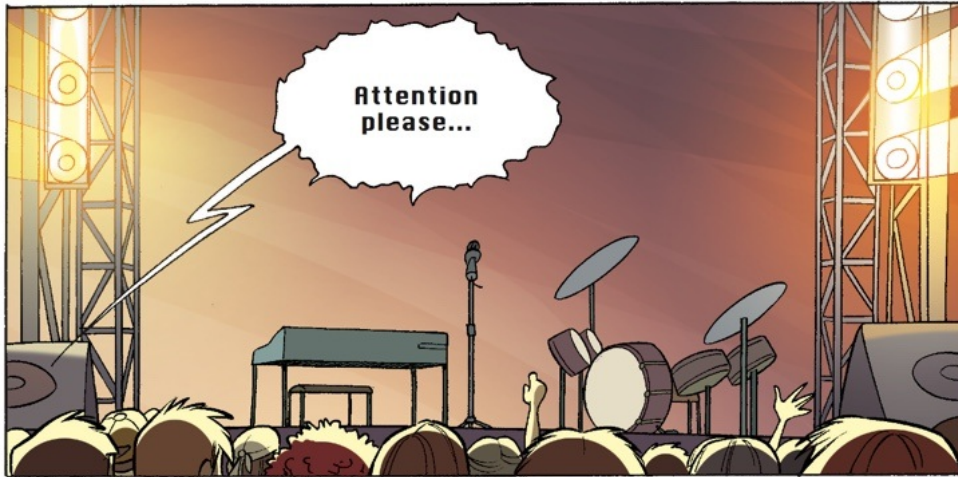


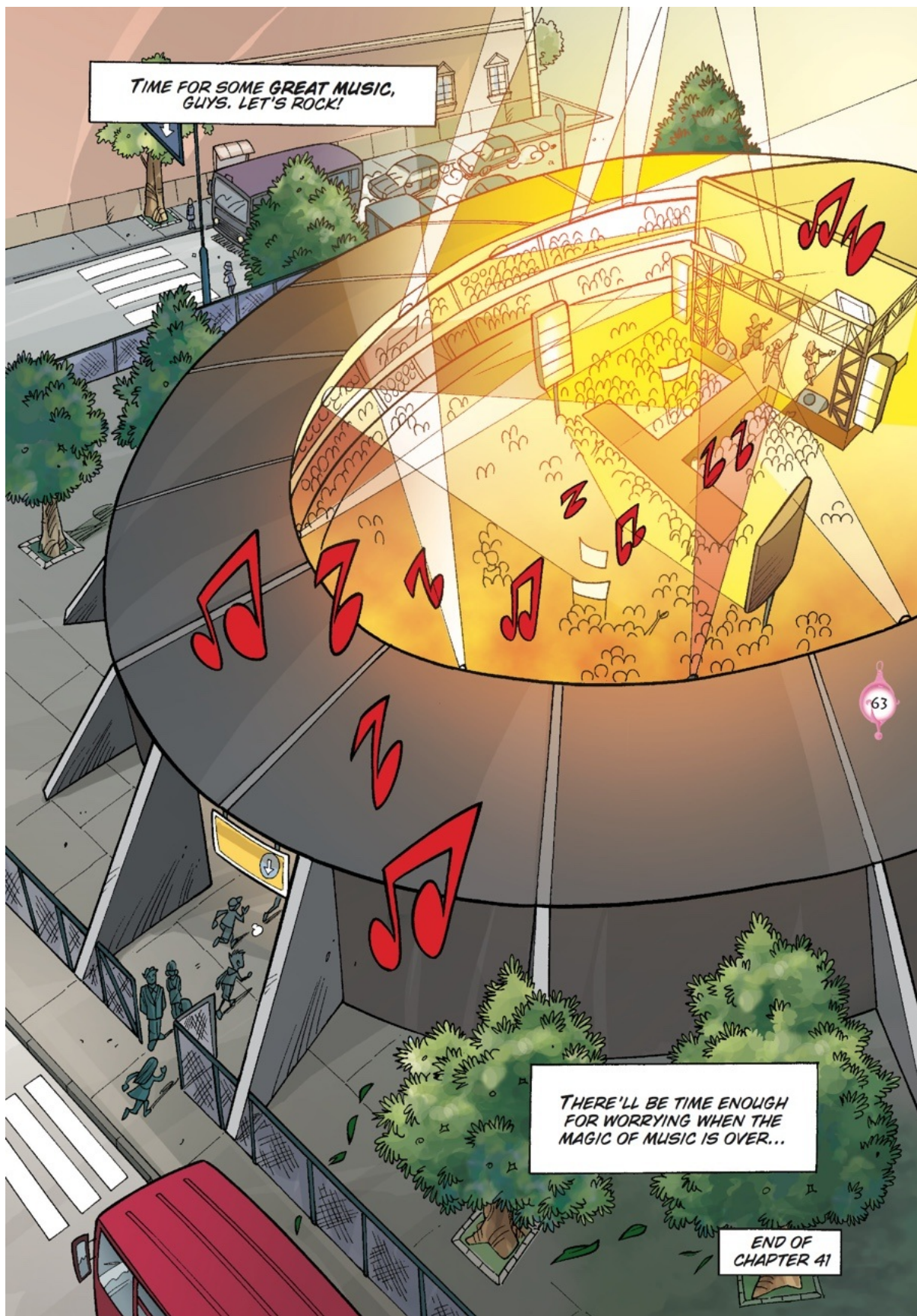












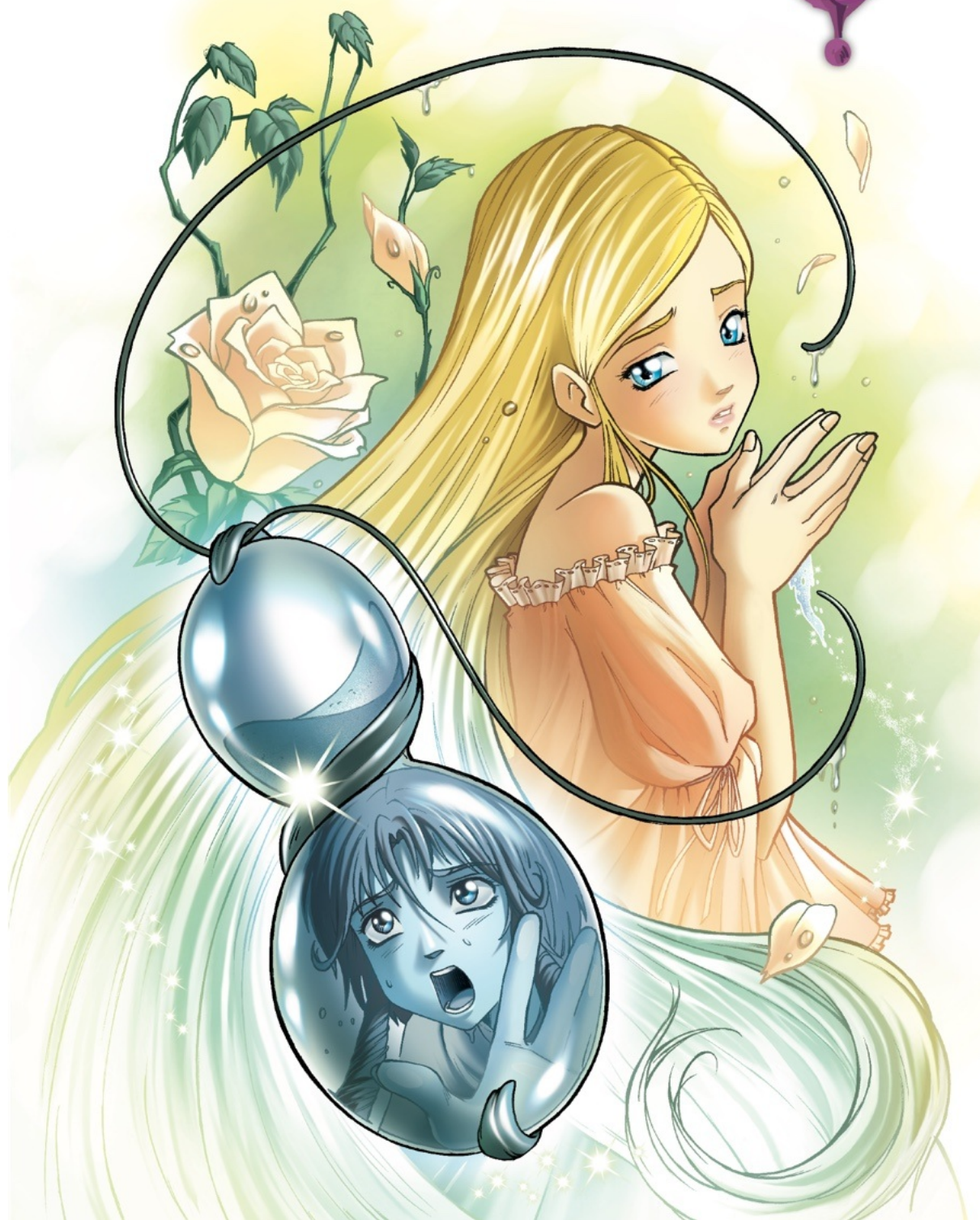
TIME FOR SOME GREAT MUSIC,
GUYS. LET'S ROCK!

63

THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH
FOR WORRYING WHEN THE
MAGIC OF MUSIC IS OVER...

END OF
CHAPTER 41

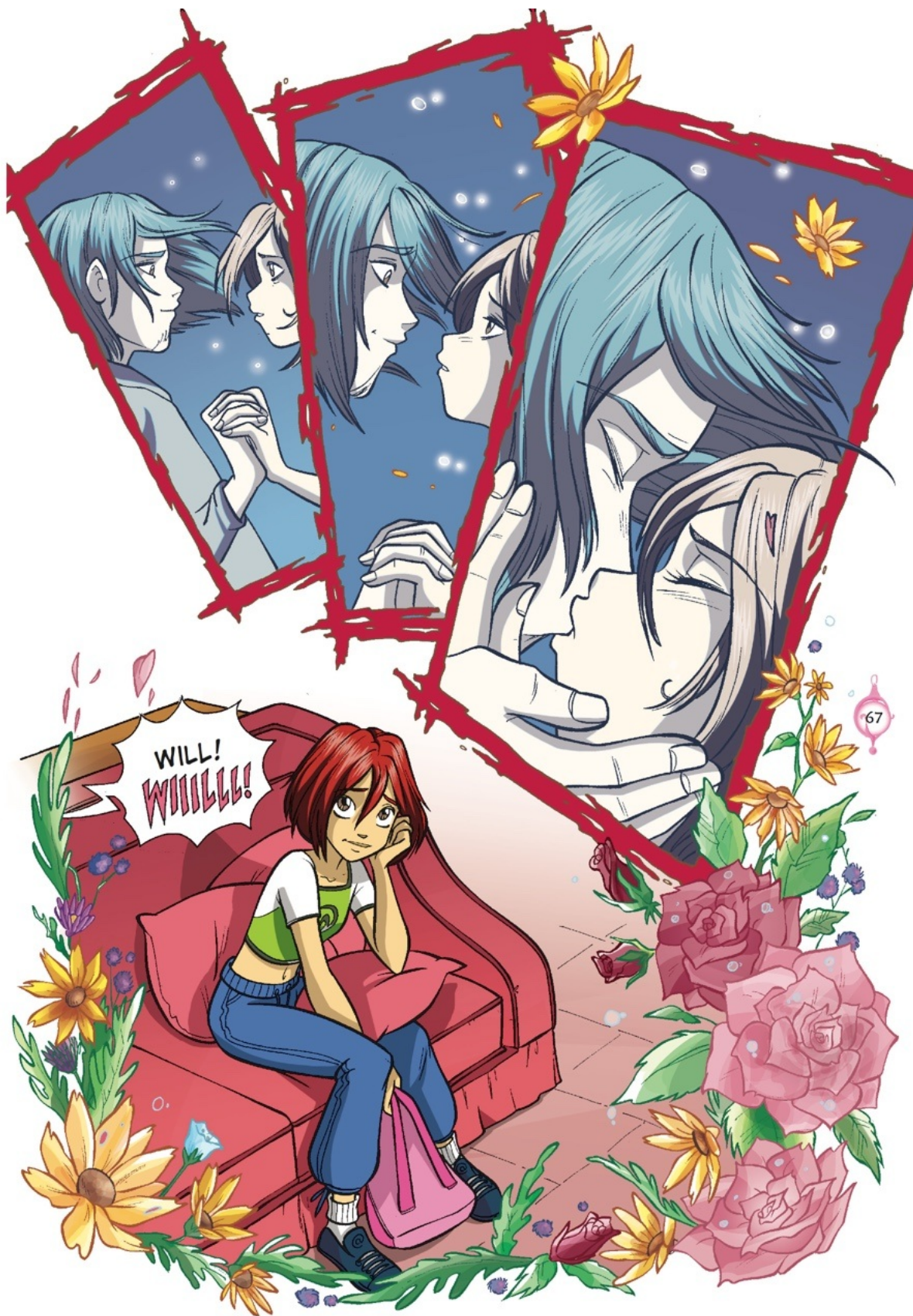




No Hope

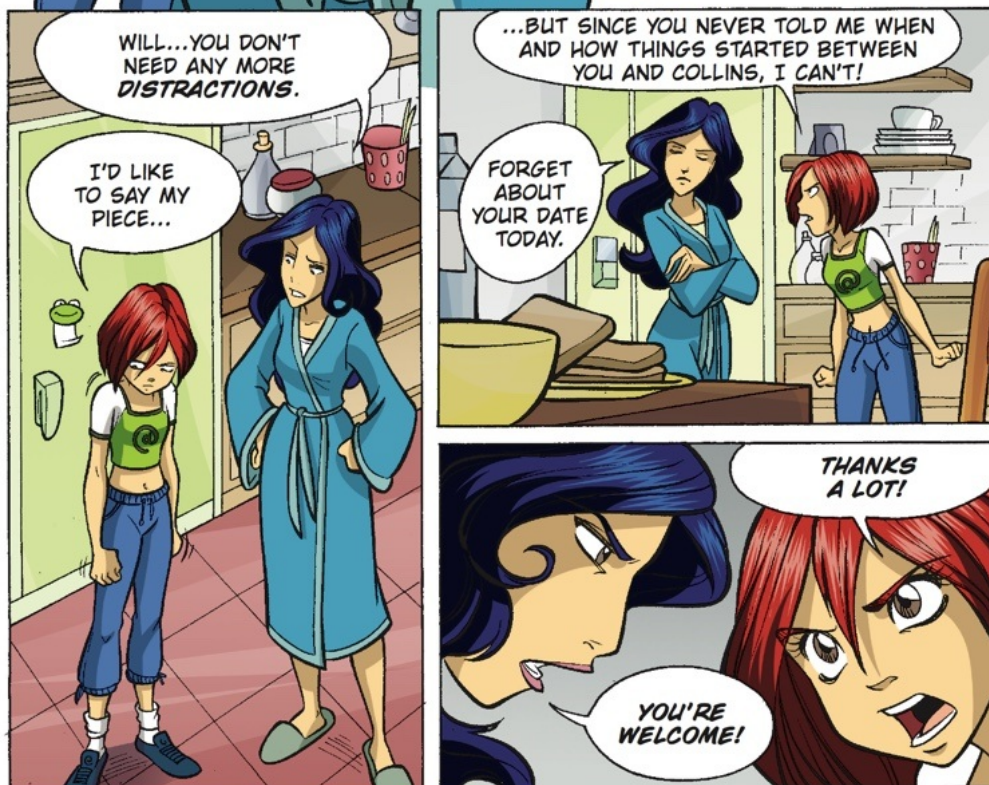
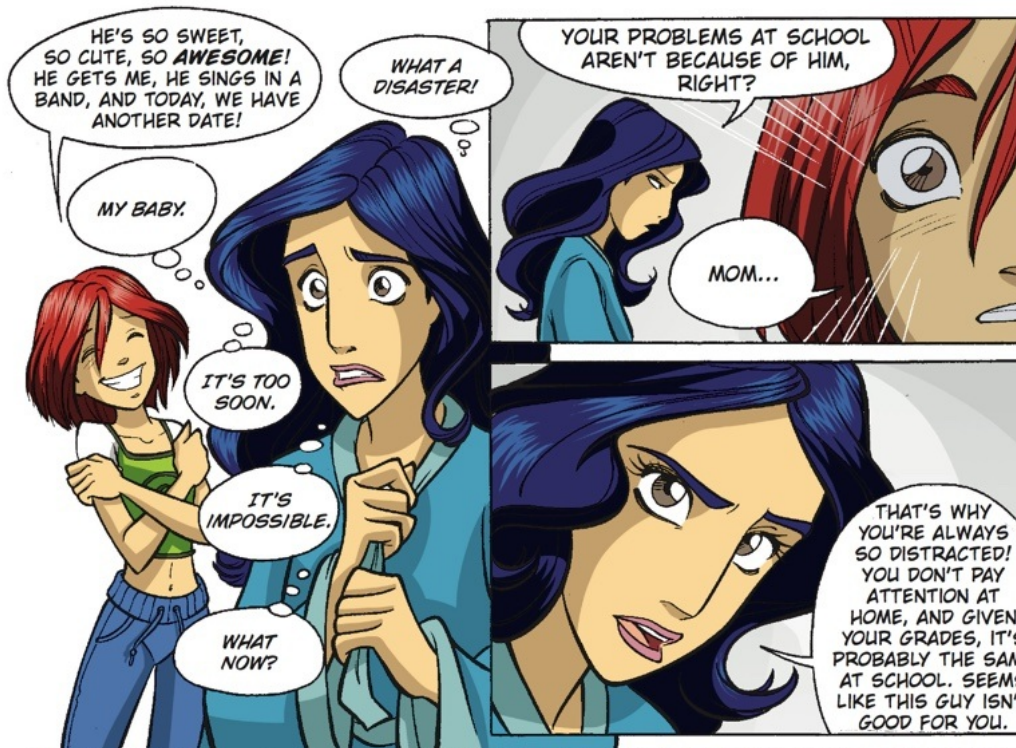
"We've got nothing left—
no weapons, no hope..."















I SHOULD'VE KNOWN. WHY DIDN'T I CONSIDER THIS? MAYBE I'D BE BETTER PREPARED NOW...

WAAAAIT!

IS THAT ENOUGH BREEZE?

HMM...JUST.

TODAY'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!

I HATE CAKES!

RING RING

I'M COMING!

CALM DOWN, SUSAN. YOU'RE OVERREACTING.



I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I SMELL TROUBLE!



YOU! TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT MATT OLSEN. NOW!



SHOULD I BE JEALOUS?

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR JOKES!



OKAY. LET'S START WITH HIS CRIMINAL RECORD.

WHAAT?



I KNEW IT! WILL CAN'T EVER SEE HIM AGAIN! SHE'LL CHANGE SCHOOLS, WE'LL MOVE, I'LL PROTECT HER FROM THAT...

...NICE KID!



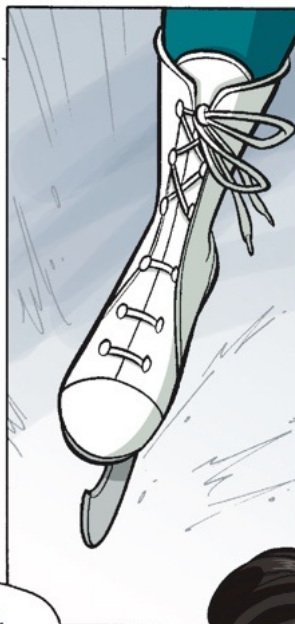
ENOUGH WITH THE JOKES, PLEASE. I'M REALLY WORRIED.

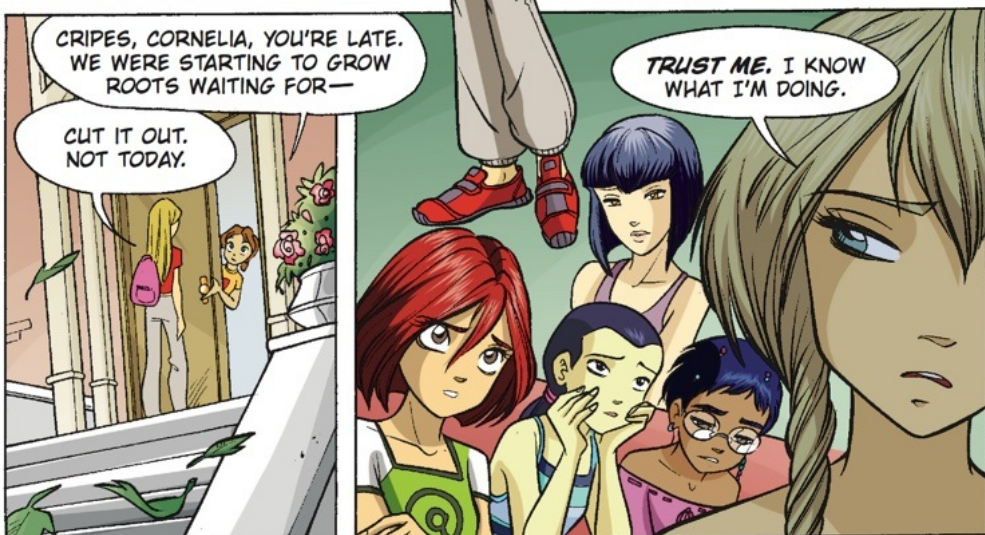
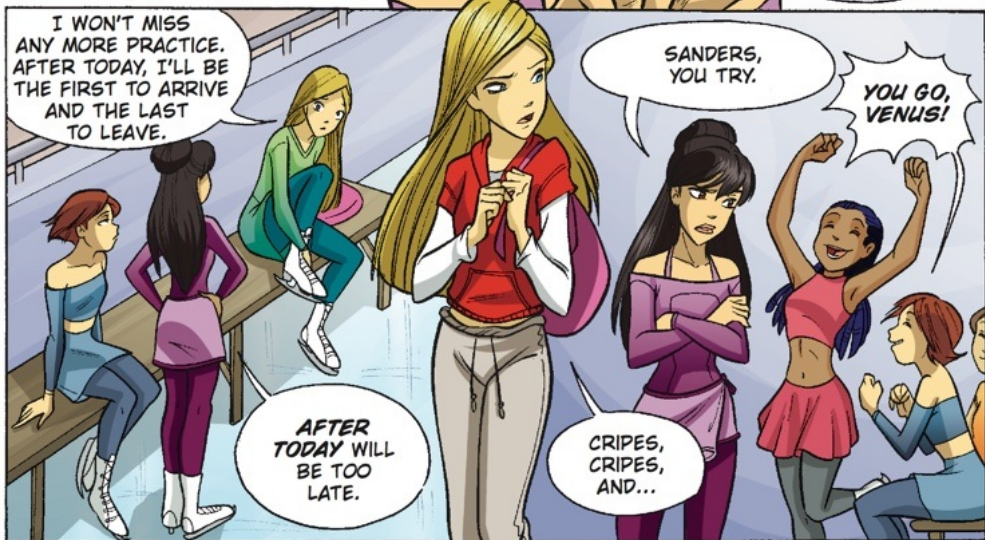
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE.

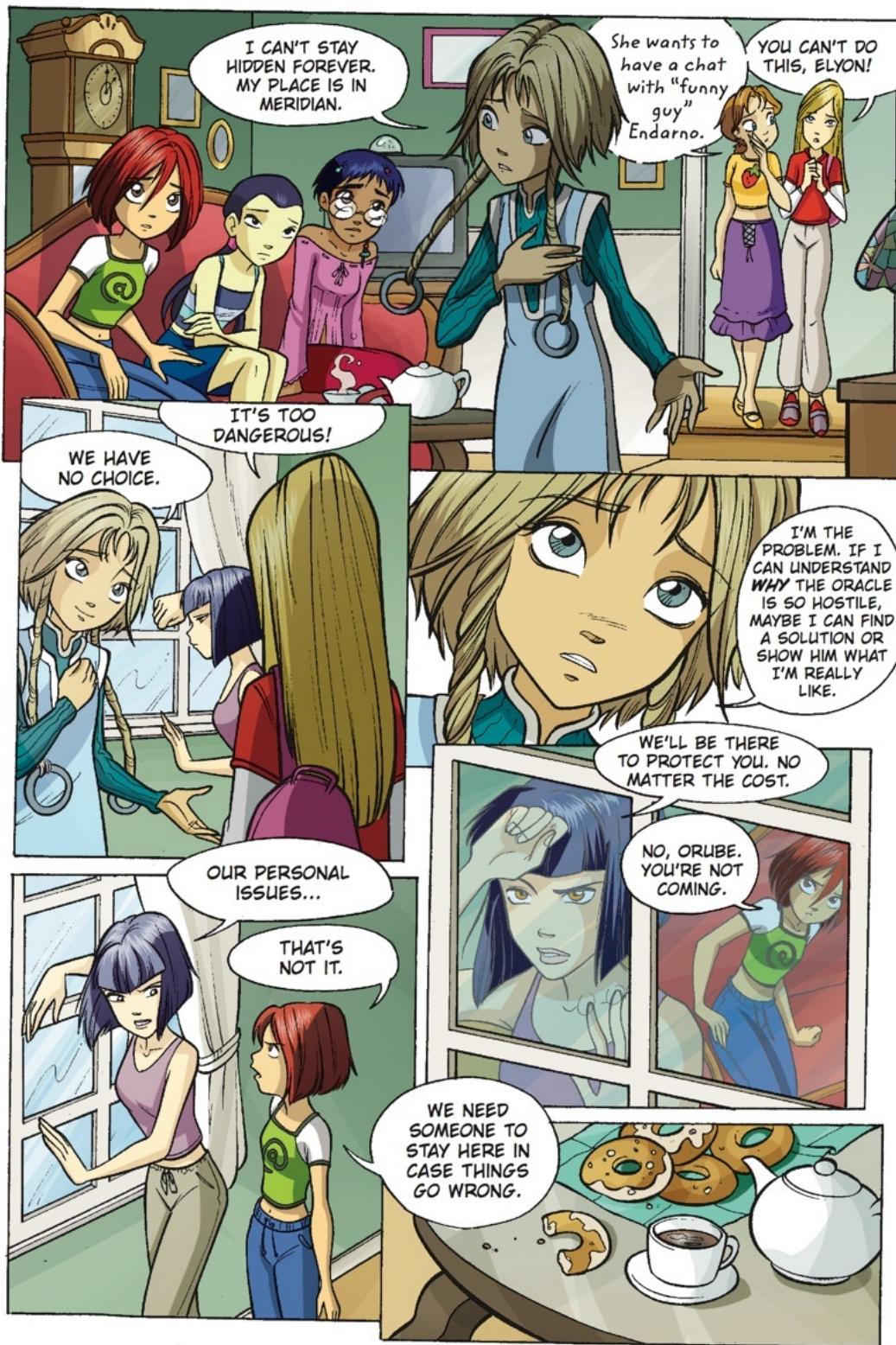


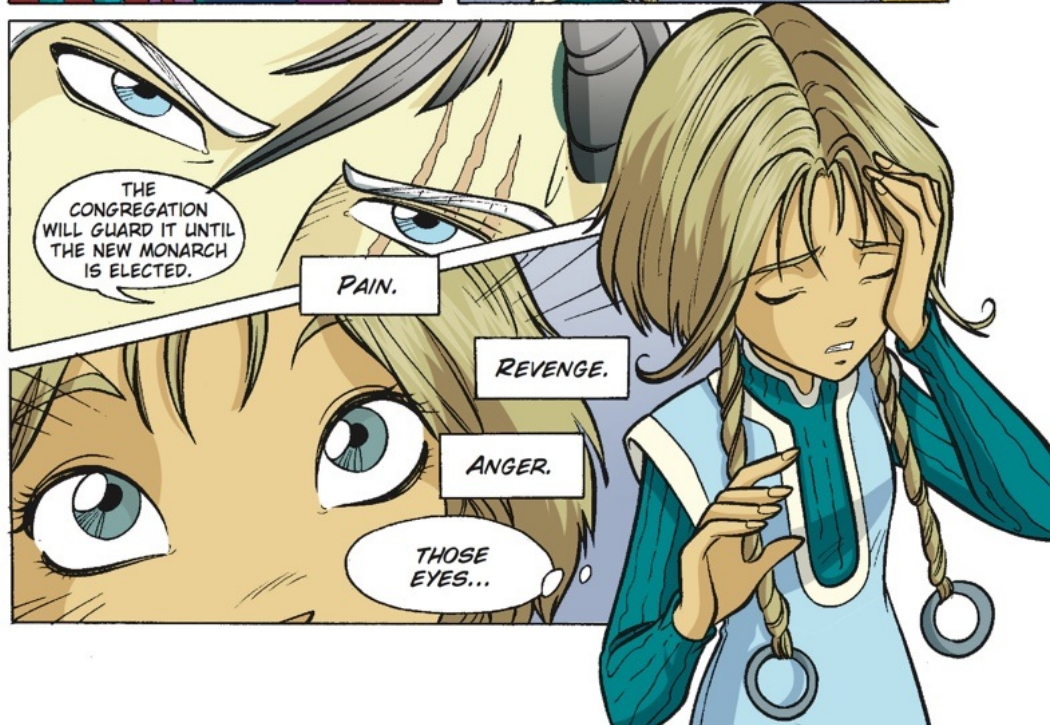
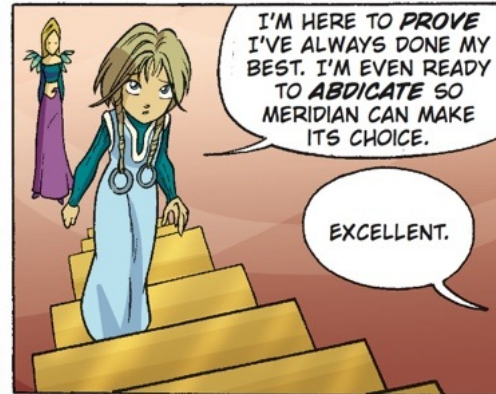
I KNOW HIM, AND I KNOW WILL. YOU CAN TRUST THEM.

BUT HE'S SOME KIND OF SINGER! AND WHO ARE HIS PARENTS? WHAT DO THEY DO? WHERE DO THEY LIVE?









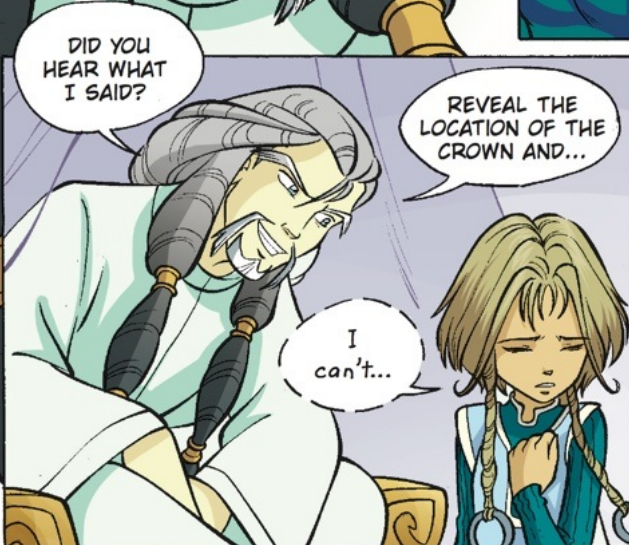


I'LL SEND KANDRAKAR'S GUARDIANS TO FETCH IT.

TELL THEM WHERE IT IS.

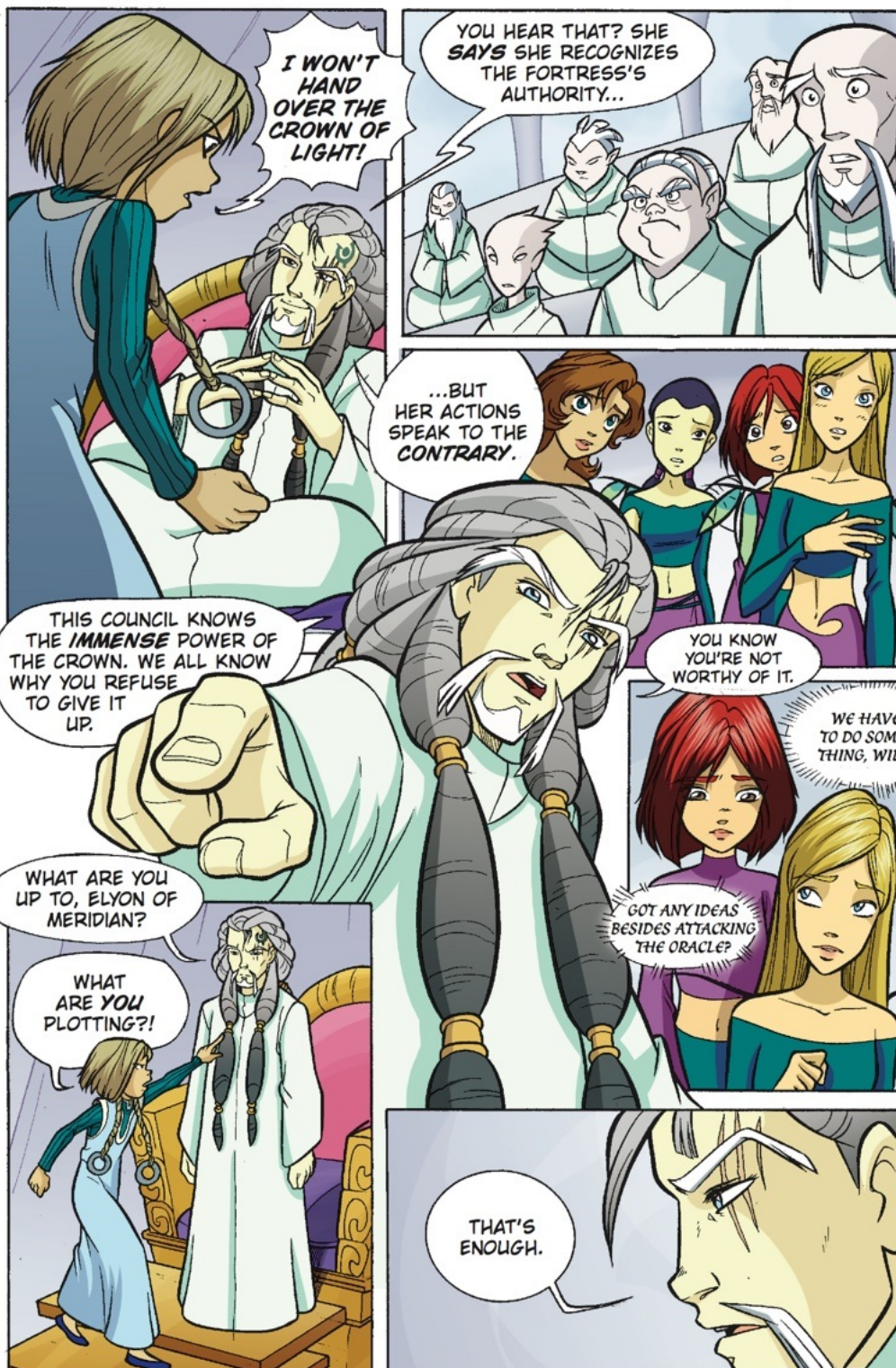
WHAT'S HE GETTING AT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT.



REVEAL THE LOCATION OF THE CROWN AND...





I WON'T
HAND
OVER THE
CROWN OF
LIGHT!

YOU HEAR THAT? SHE
SAYS SHE RECOGNIZES
THE FORTRESS'S
AUTHORITY...

...BUT
HER ACTIONS
SPEAK TO THE
CONTRARY.

THIS COUNCIL KNOWS
THE *IMMENSE* POWER OF
THE CROWN. WE ALL KNOW
WHY YOU REFUSE
TO GIVE IT
UP.

YOU KNOW
YOU'RE NOT
WORTHY OF IT.

WE HAVE
TO DO SOME-
THING, WILL.

WHAT ARE YOU
UP TO, ELYON OF
MERIDIAN?

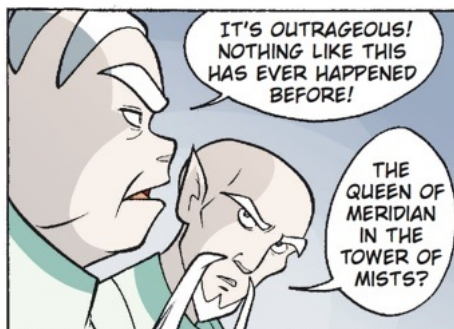
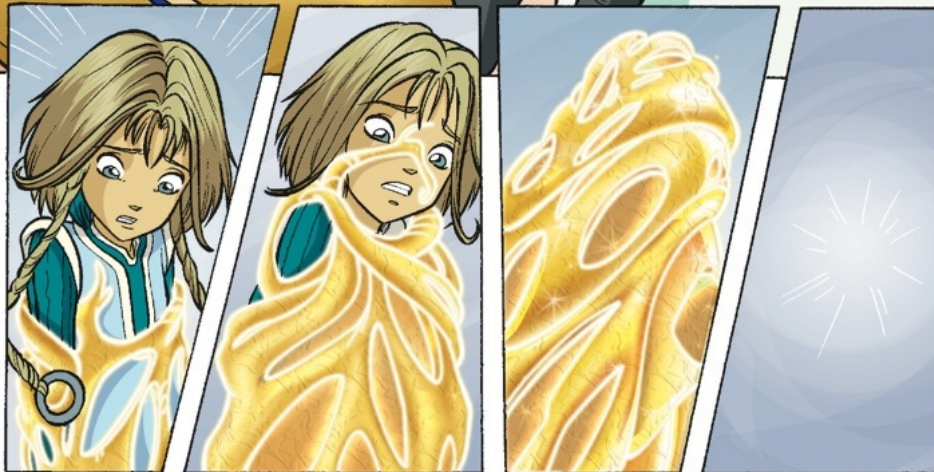
WHAT
ARE *YOU*
PLOTING?!

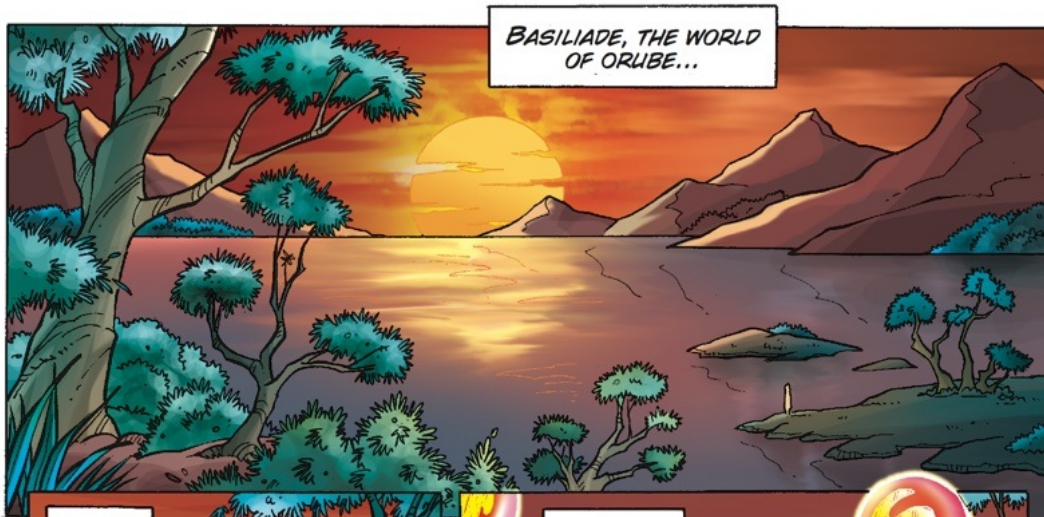
GOT ANY IDEAS
BESIDES ATTACKING
THE ORACLE?

THAT'S
ENOUGH.

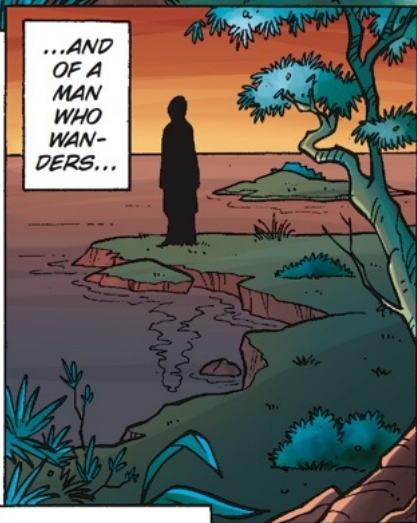


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BASILIADE, THE WORLD
OF ORUBE...



...AND
OF A
MAN
WHO
WAN-
DERS...



ALONE.



WITHOUT A NAME.
WITHOUT MEMORIES.

WHO ARE
YOU?



YOU LOST
YOUR POSITION
AND YOURSELF.



NOW YOU'RE
NOTHING.

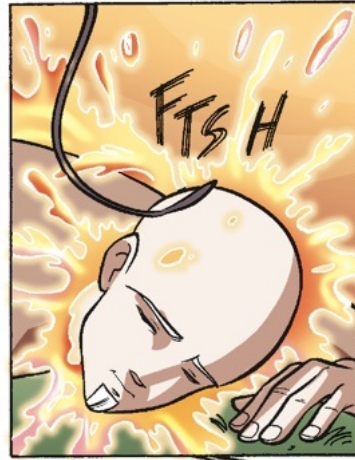
"YOU'VE ALWAYS
BEEN NOTHING."



KILUBI,
QUICK!

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KANDRAKAR.

I SENSE
YOUR WORRY,
BROTHERS, BUT
FEAR NOT...

THE LIGHT OF
MERIDIAN WILL BE IN
THE TOWER ONLY
TEMPORARILY.

WHADDA WE DO,
WILL?

TRY TO FIGURE
OUT HIS
PLANS.

GUARDIANS, GO TO MERIDIAN
AND GET THE CROWN OF LIGHT. YOU'LL
HAND IT TO THE ORACLE AT THE
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

ARE YOU
KIDDING?

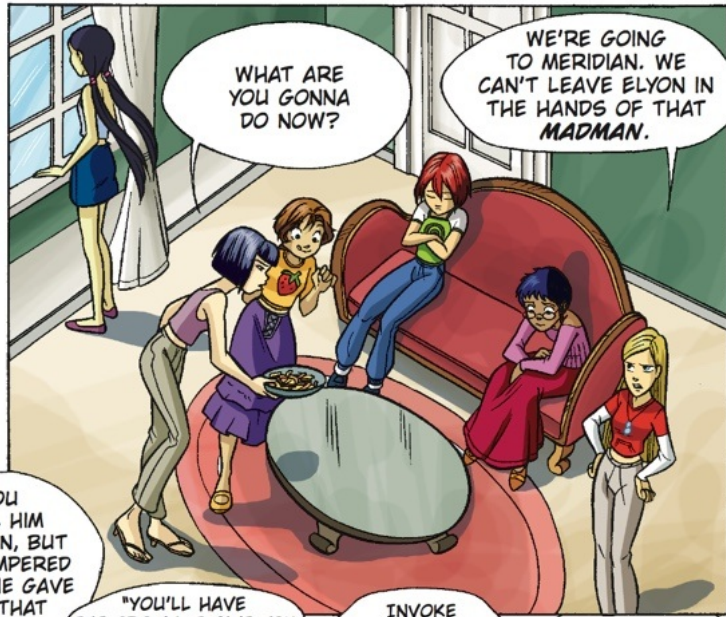
WITHOUT ASTRAL
DROPS, IT'S SUPER-HARD
TO LEAVE HEATHERFIELD.
WE'LL BE DISCOVERED.

THAT'S WHY I
HAVE A GIFT
FOR YOU.

VAAL!



HEATHERFIELD.
BLACK CLOUDS
ARE GATHERING.



WHAT ARE
YOU GONNA
DO NOW?

WE'RE GOING
TO MERIDIAN. WE
CAN'T LEAVE ELYON IN
THE HANDS OF THAT
MADMAN.

YOU
CALL HIM
MADMAN, BUT
YOU SIMPERED
WHEN HE GAVE
YOU THAT
GIFT.

"YOU'LL HAVE
THE CROWN. I GIVE YOU
MY WORD."

VOKE
THE HEART, WILL.
WE SHOULDN'T
EVEN HAVE
COME BACK AND
JUST GONE
STRAIGHT TO
MERIDIAN.

WILL...

I'M NOT SURE
THAT'S THE
RIGHT THING
TO DO.



ELYON IS
BEING HELD
PRISONER!



CALM DOWN,
CORNELIA. MAYBE
WILL HAS
AN IDEA.



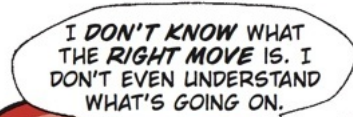
I
KNOW
THAT.



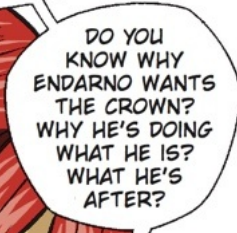


THAT'S ALL YOU EVER SAY!

WHAT DO WE DO?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE *RIGHT* MOVE IS. I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON.



DO YOU KNOW WHY ENDARNO WANTS THE CROWN? WHY HE'S DOING WHAT HE IS? WHAT HE'S AFTER?

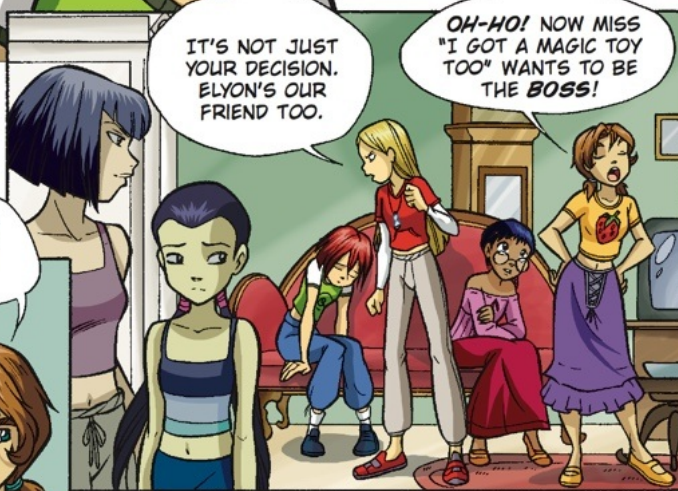


NO—AND NEITHER DO I, AND IF I GOTTA MAKE A DECISION, I WANNA UNDERSTAND BETTER.



THAT'S ENOUGH. IT REALLY WOULD BE BETTER TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

WHAT ABOUT US? WE'VE ONLY GOT OUR POWERS.

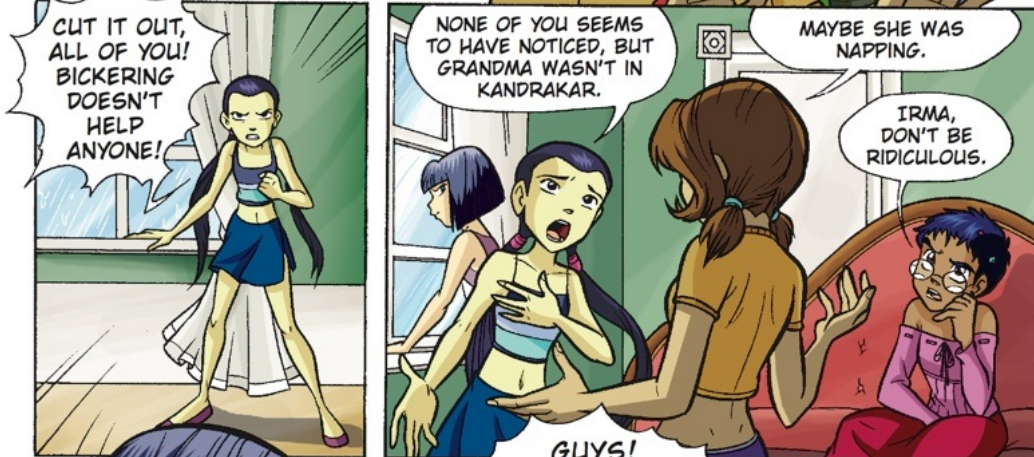


IT'S NOT JUST YOUR DECISION. ELYON'S OUR FRIEND TOO.

OH-HO! NOW MISS "I GOT A MAGIC TOY TOO" WANTS TO BE THE *BOSS*!



FIRST WE RESCUE ELYON. THEN WE'LL HAVE TIME TO THINK.







THE TOWER OF MISTS.
KANDRAKAR'S PRISON.

TOP FLOOR.

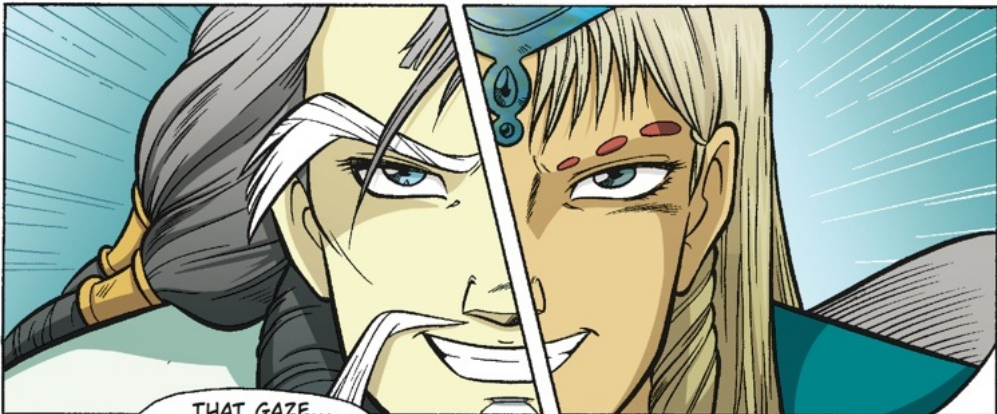
AAAAH!

A SINGLE CELL
CAN RESTRAIN THE
POWER OF THE LIGHT
OF MERIDIAN.

THESE
LIGHTS FEED ON
MY MAGIC. I NEED
TO STAY STILL.

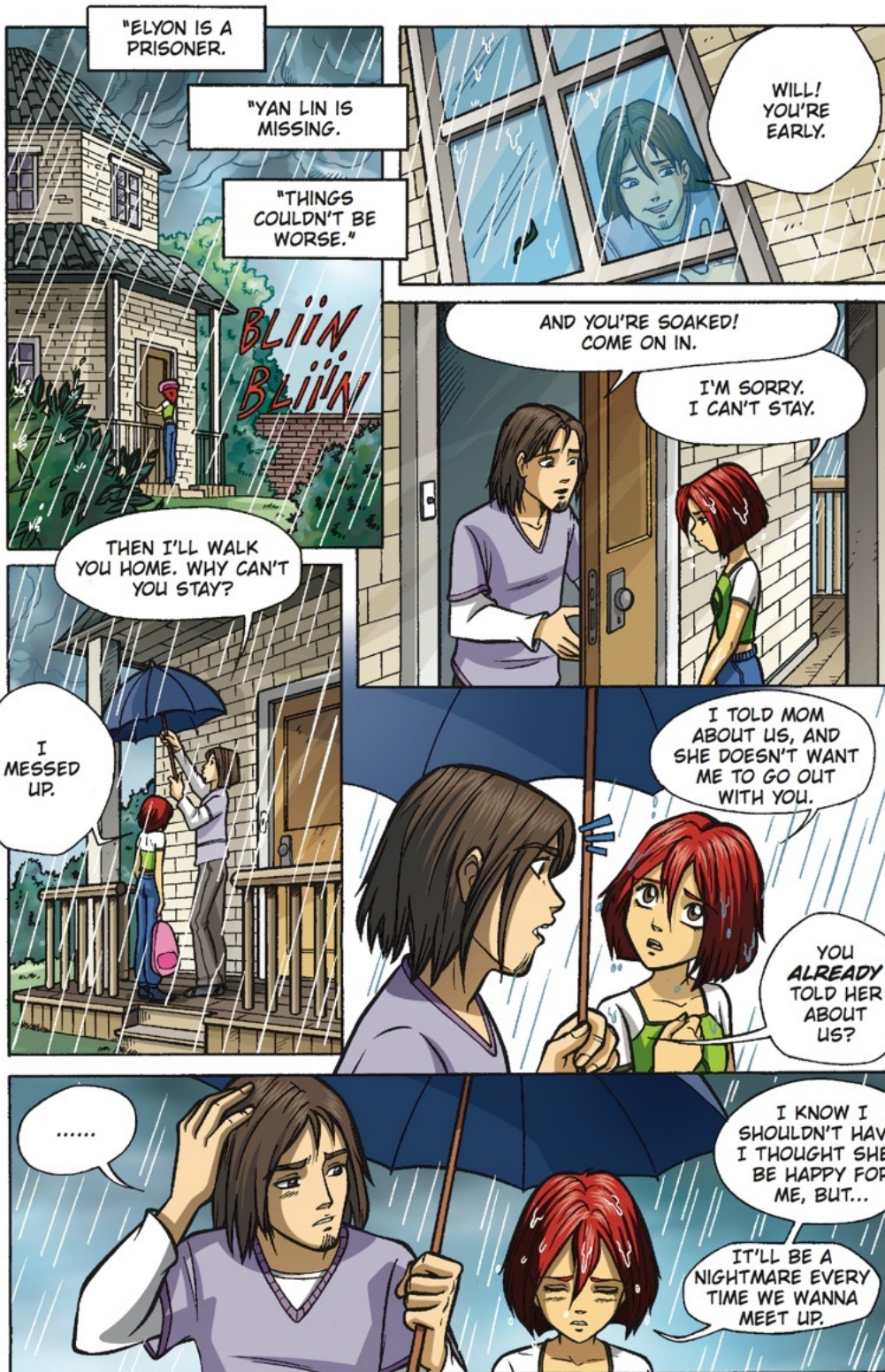
BUT
WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING?

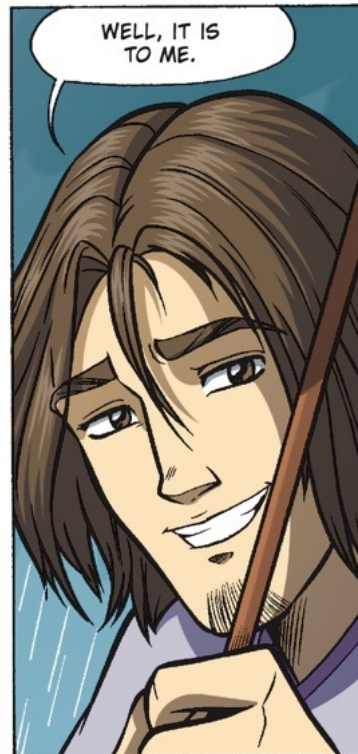
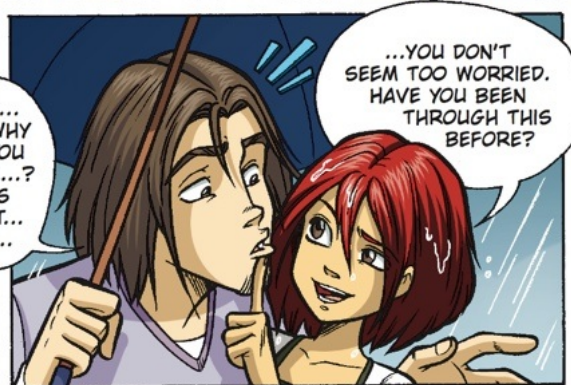
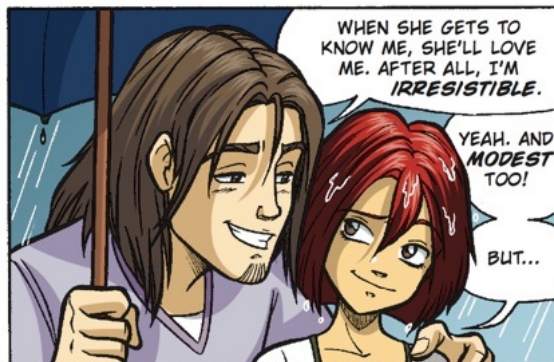
WHY ALL
THIS PAIN?

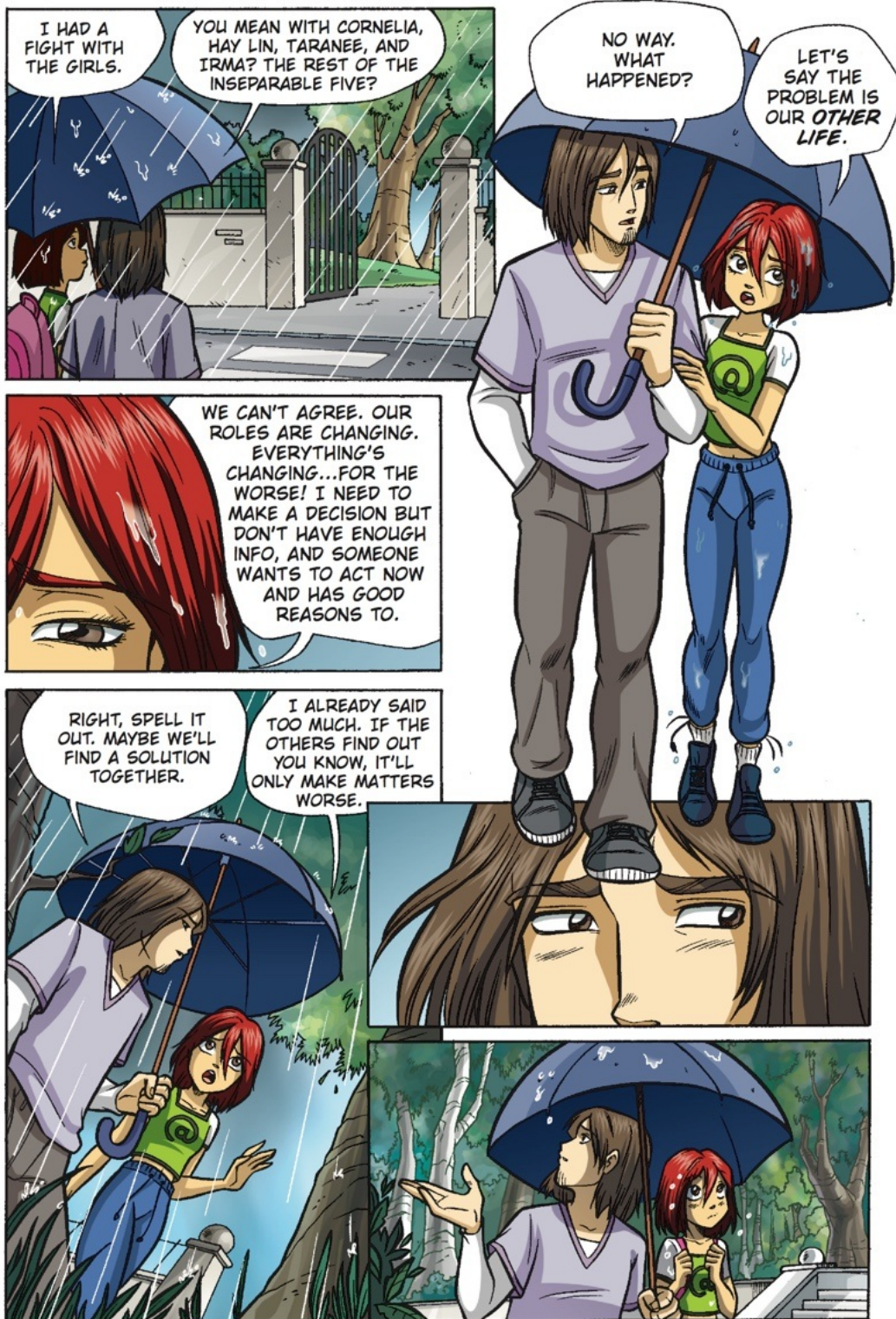


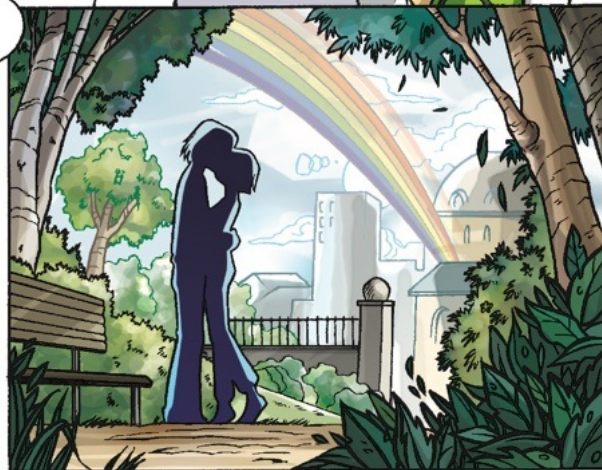
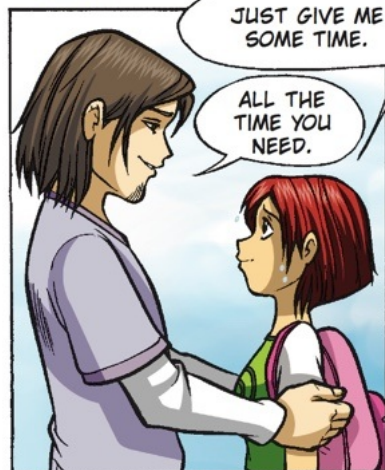
"IT'S OVER."

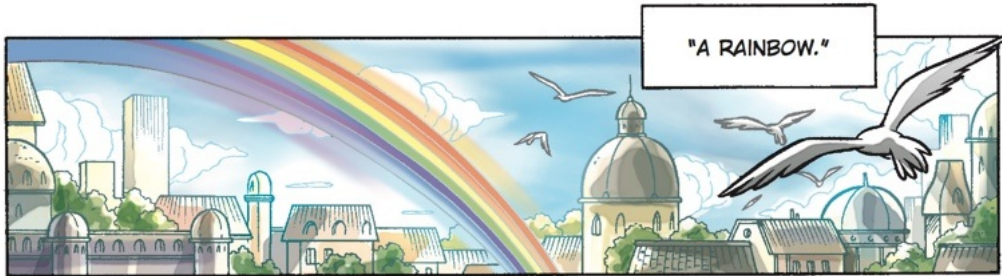
IF ONLY ELYON COULD SHARE HER INSIGHT...

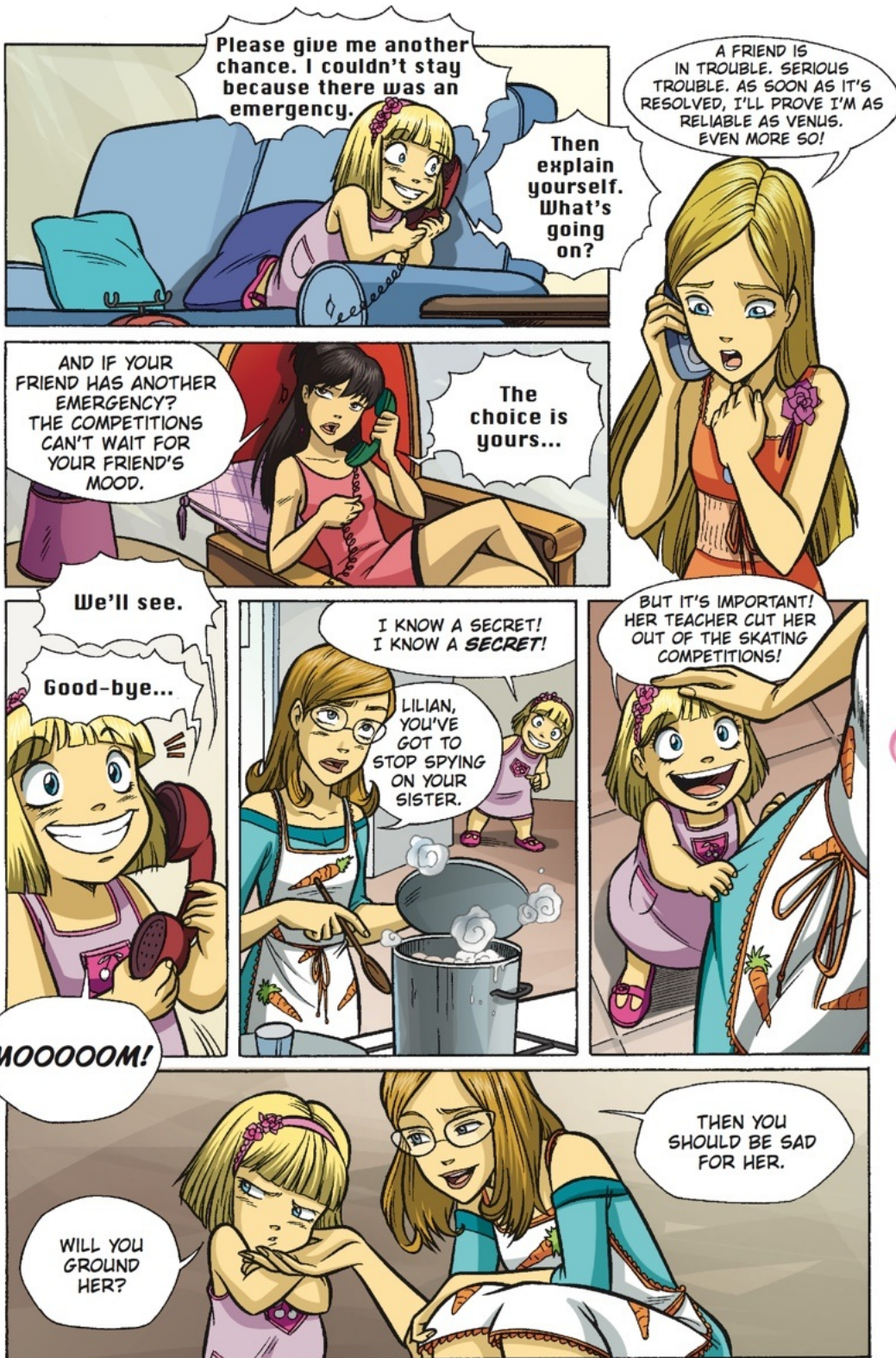












Please give me another chance. I couldn't stay because there was an emergency.

Then explain yourself. What's going on?

A FRIEND IS IN TROUBLE. SERIOUS TROUBLE. AS SOON AS IT'S RESOLVED, I'LL PROVE I'M AS RELIABLE AS VENUS. EVEN MORE SO!

AND IF YOUR FRIEND HAS ANOTHER EMERGENCY? THE COMPETITIONS CAN'T WAIT FOR YOUR FRIEND'S MOOD.

The choice is yours...

We'll see.

Good-bye...

I KNOW A SECRET! I KNOW A *SECRET*!

LILIAN, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP SPYING ON YOUR SISTER.

BUT IT'S IMPORTANT! HER TEACHER CUT HER OUT OF THE SKATING COMPETITIONS!

MOOOOOM!

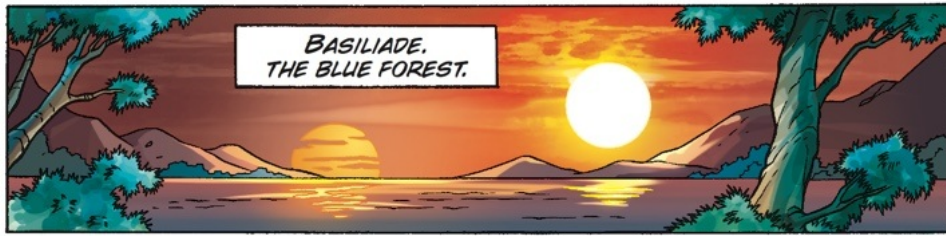
WILL YOU GROUND HER?

THEN YOU SHOULD BE SAD FOR HER.



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BASILIADE.
THE BLUE FOREST.



FOR THE
LAST TIME,
WHO ARE
YOU?



A LONG PATH
ERASED MY NAME
AND MEMORY.

THIS KIND
OF ANSWER JUST
MAKES YOUR
POSITION WORSE.



KILUBI AND IH-SHUI THINK
YOU'RE DANGEROUS. THEY WANT
TO TAKE YOU TO OUR GARDEN
TO BE ISOLATED AND MADE
HARMLESS.

I'LL
ACCEPT
YOUR
DECISION.

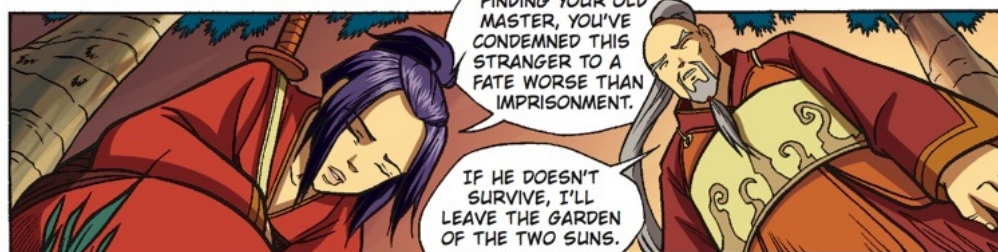


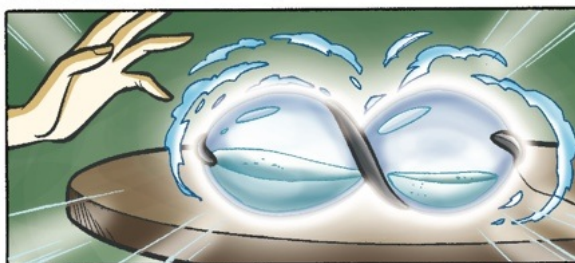
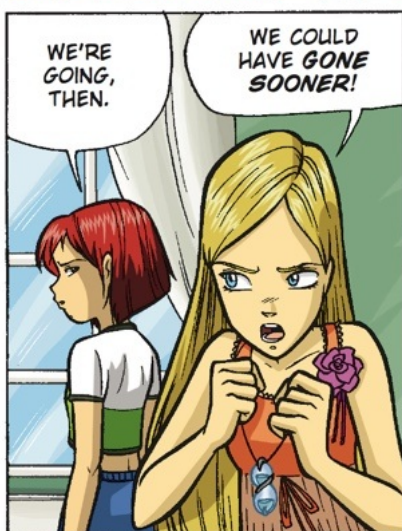
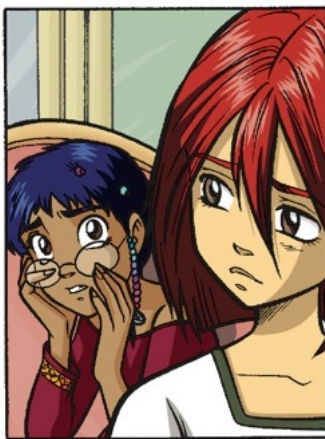
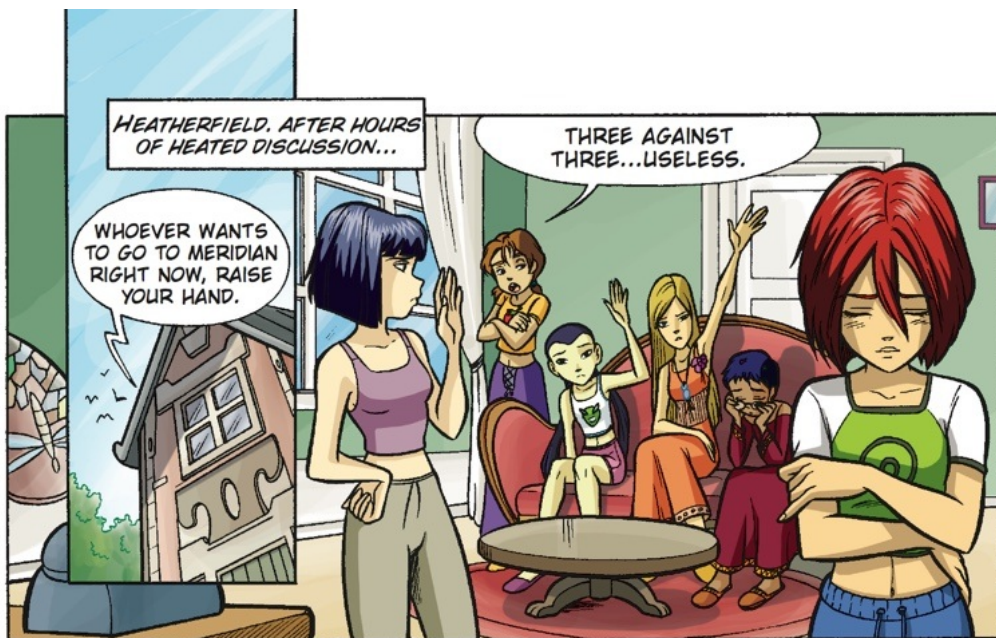
YOUR FACE
ALARMS ME, BUT
HAVING FOUGHT
YOU, YOU HAVE MY
RESPECT.

I GIVE YOU
THE CHANCE TO
FACE THE CREATURE
OF THE LAKE. IT
WILL SHOW YOU
YOURSELF.

YOU'LL
FIND YOUR
NAME AGAIN OR
SUCCUMB...





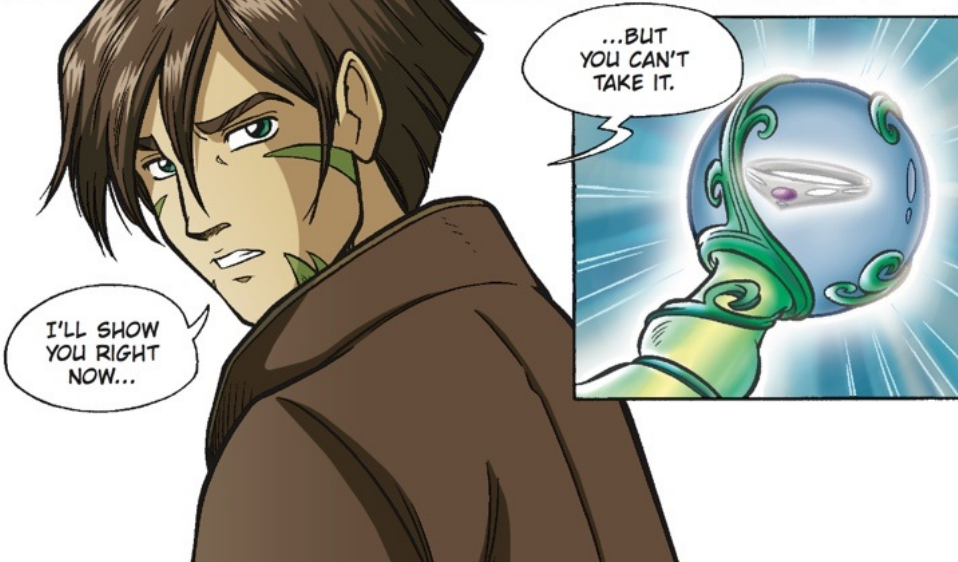


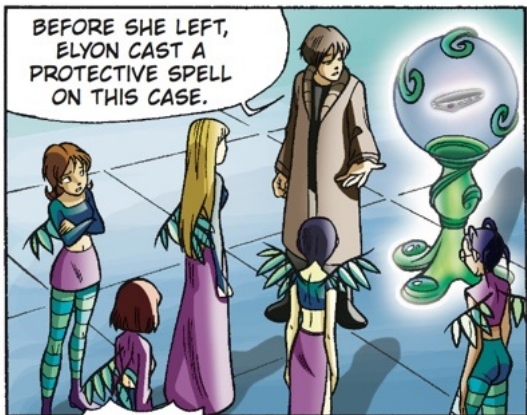


"SINCE ELYON BECAME QUEEN, MERIDIAN HAS BEEN HAPPY.

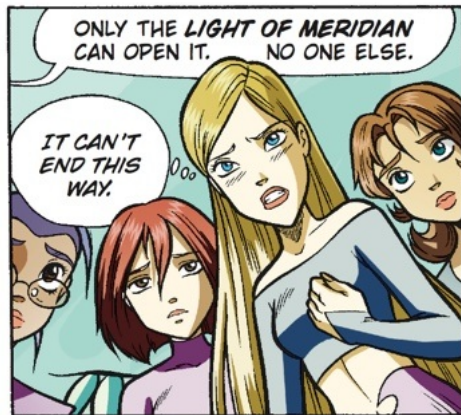


"WHY ISN'T ENDARNO CONTENT WITH HER ABDICATION?"





BEFORE SHE LEFT,
ELYON CAST A
PROTECTIVE SPELL
ON THIS CASE.



ONLY THE *LIGHT OF MERIDIAN*
CAN OPEN IT. NO ONE ELSE.

IT CAN'T
END THIS
WAY.



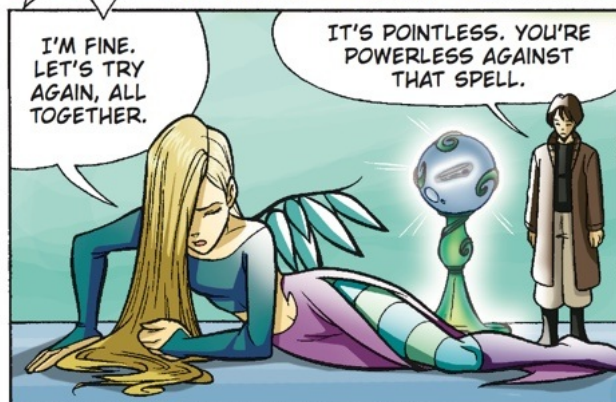
POWER
OF THE
EARTH!

Nooo!

TWOOSH



AAARGH!



I'M FINE.
LET'S TRY
AGAIN, ALL
TOGETHER.

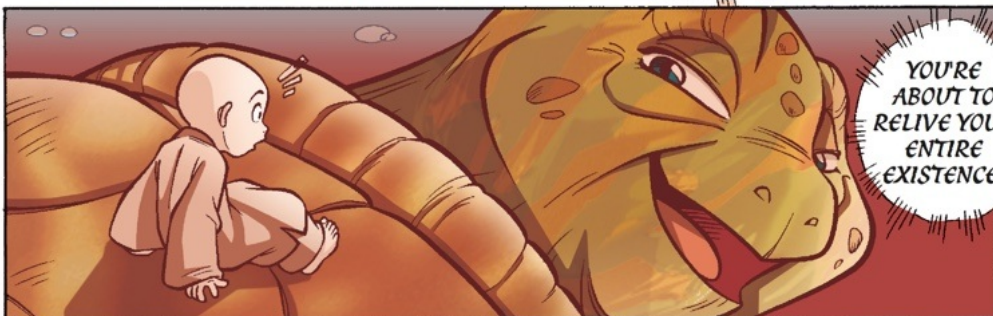
IT'S POINTLESS. YOU'RE
POWERLESS AGAINST
THAT SPELL.

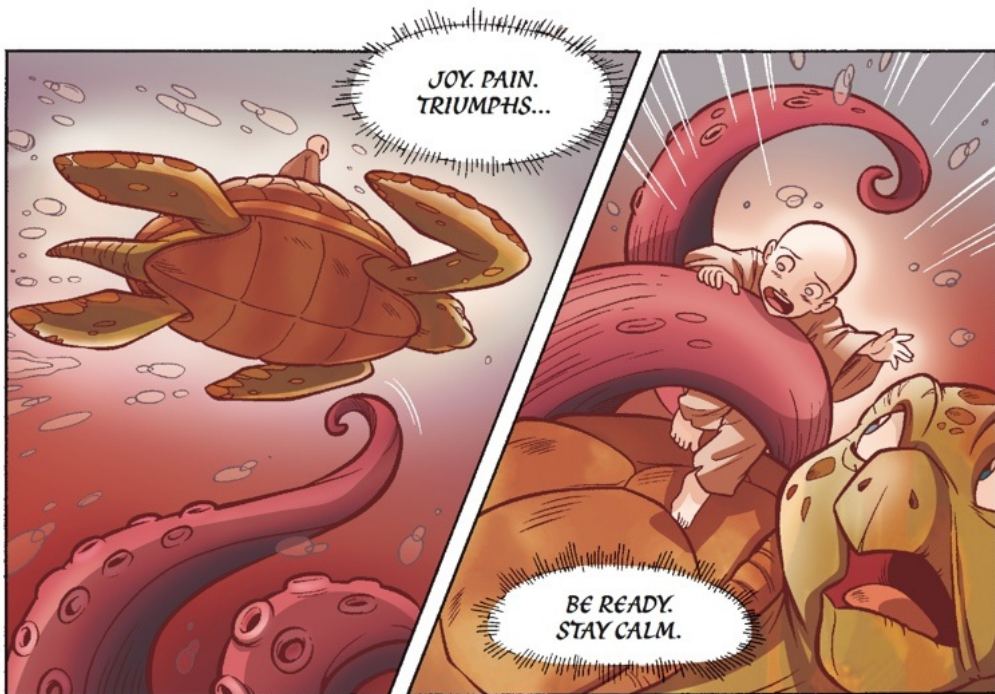


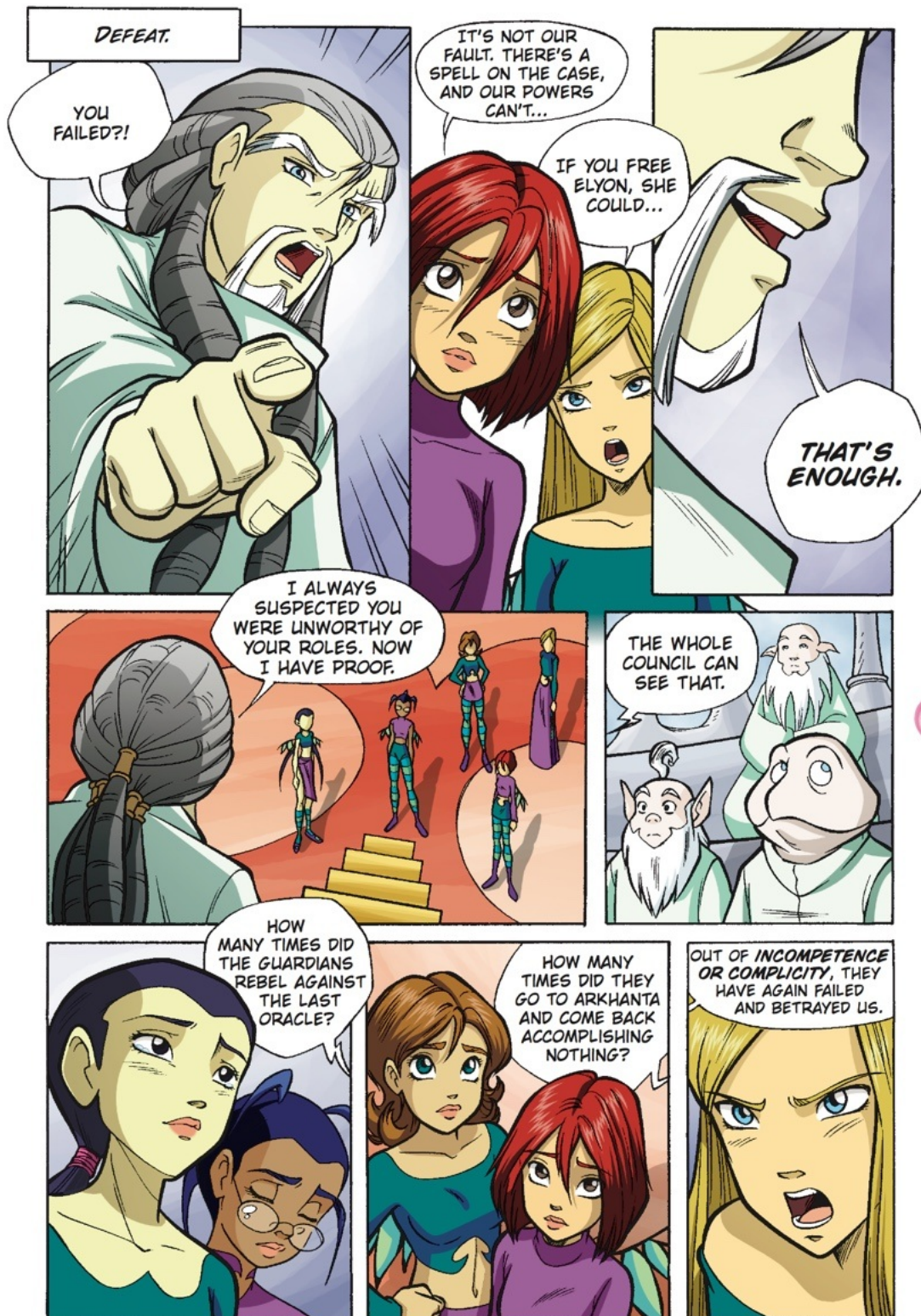
WE'VE GOT
NOTHING LEFT.

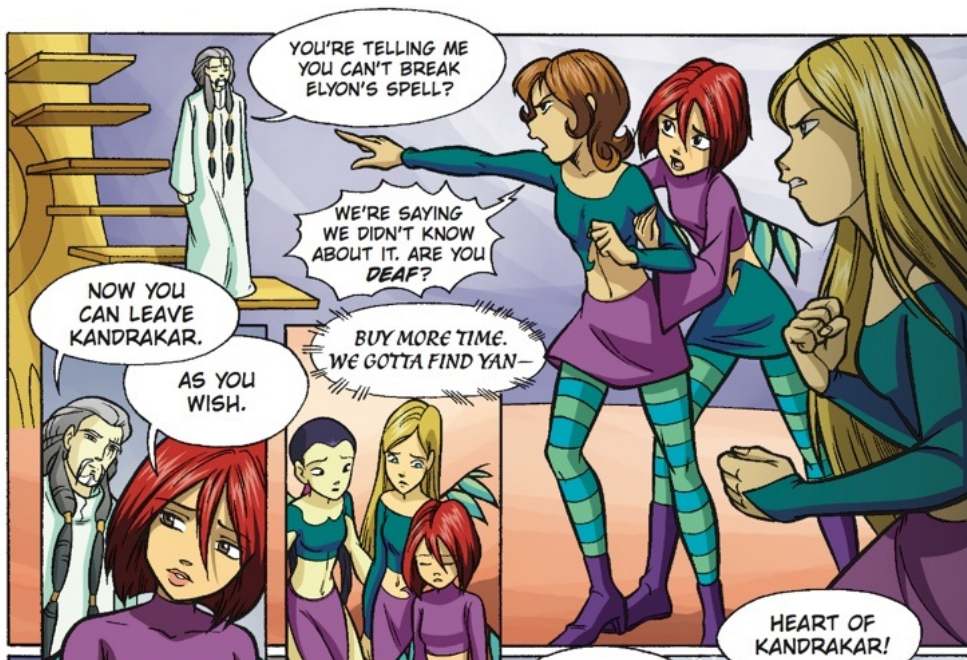
NO
WEAPONS.

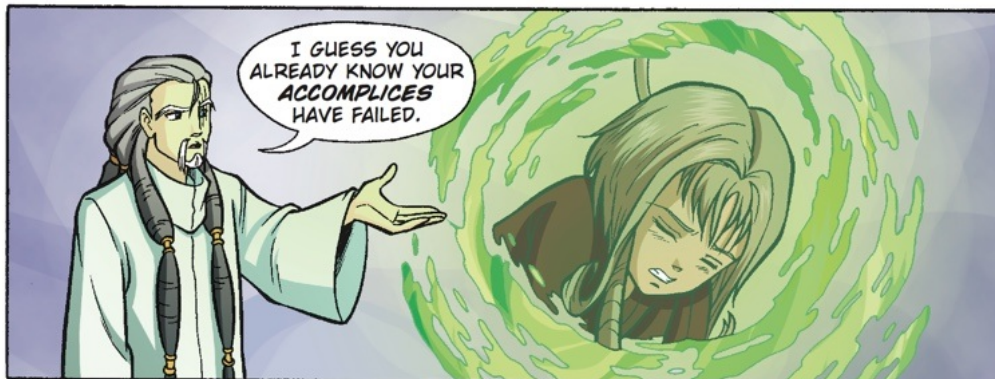
NO
HOPE.













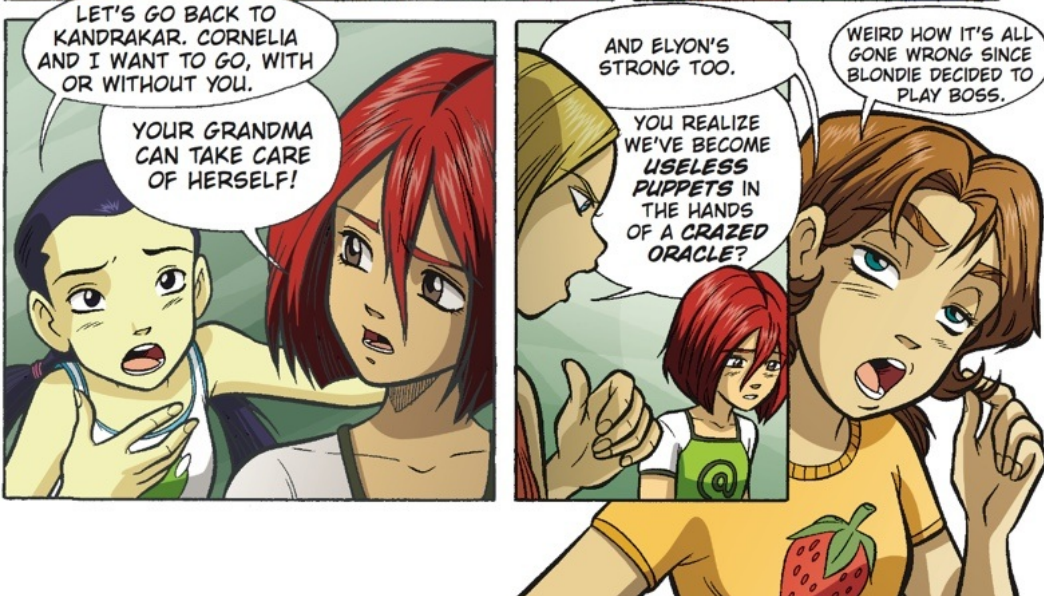
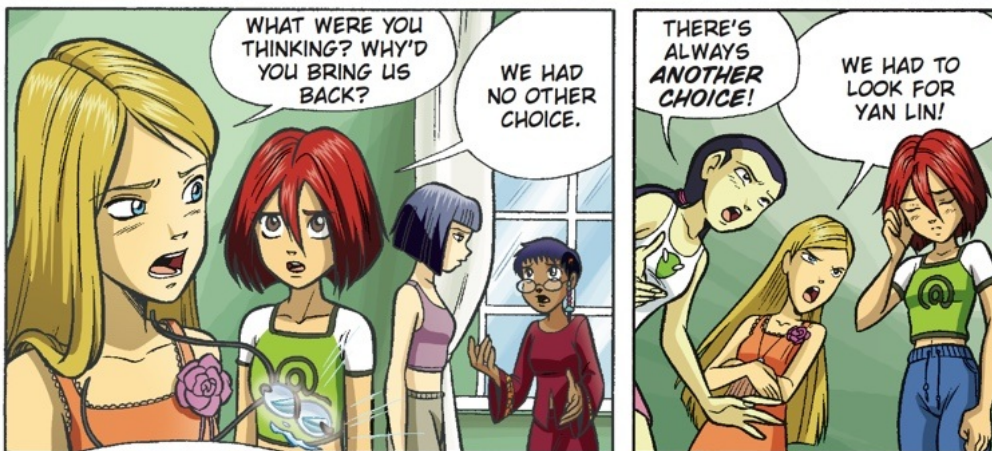
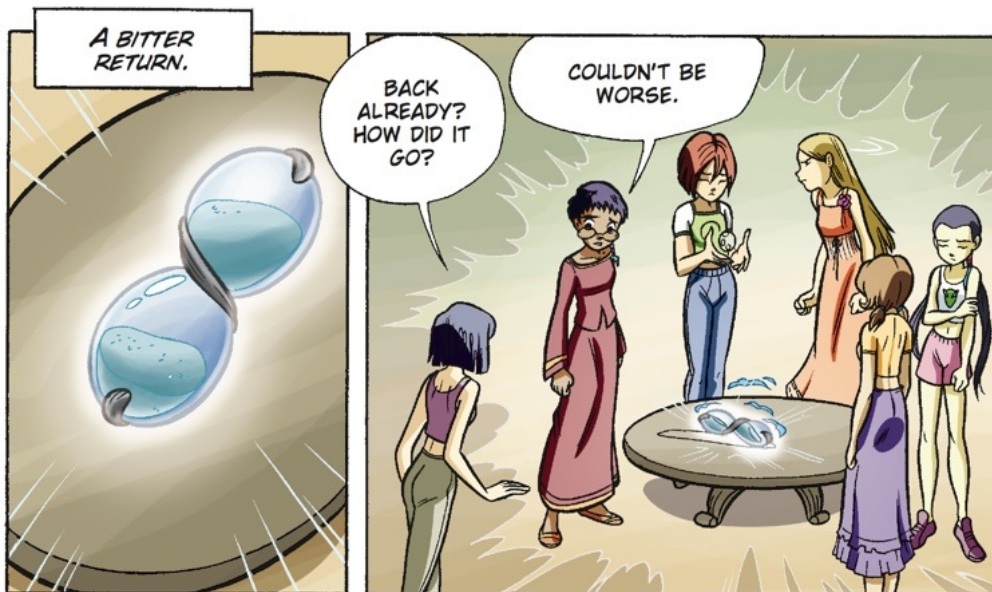
IN DIFFERENT WATERS,
ANOTHER DESTINY IS
FULFILLED.

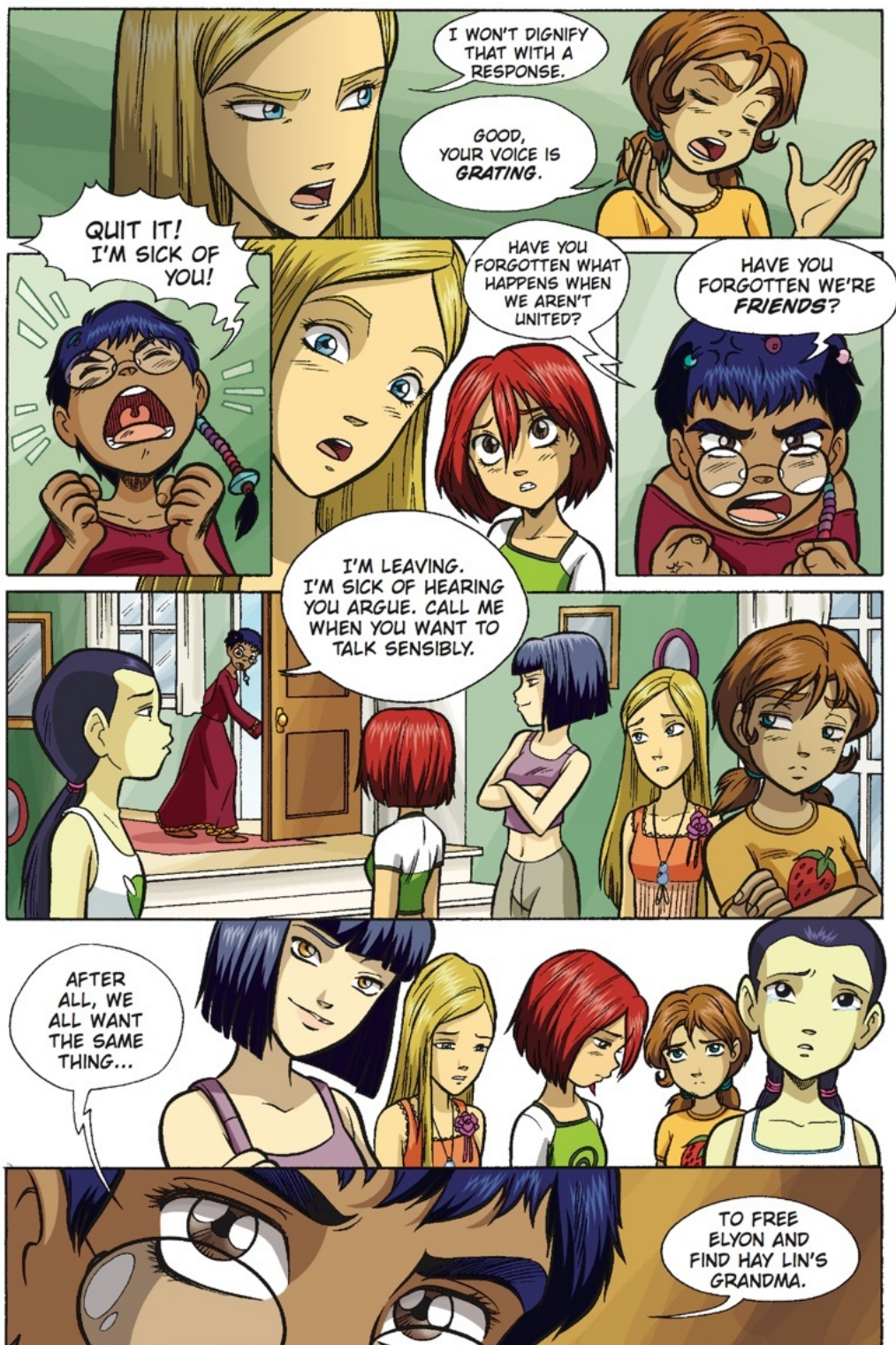


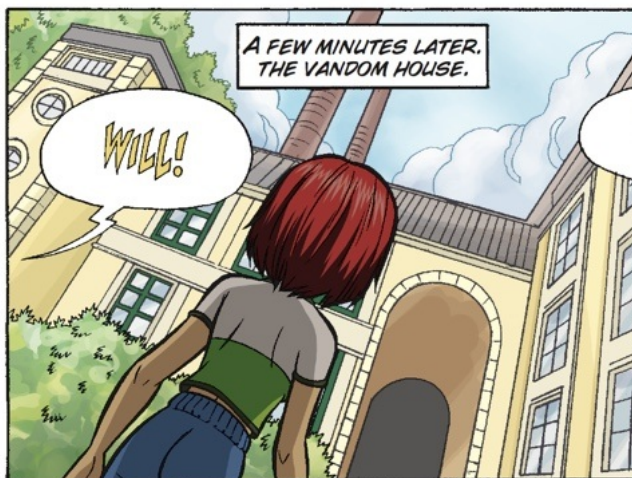
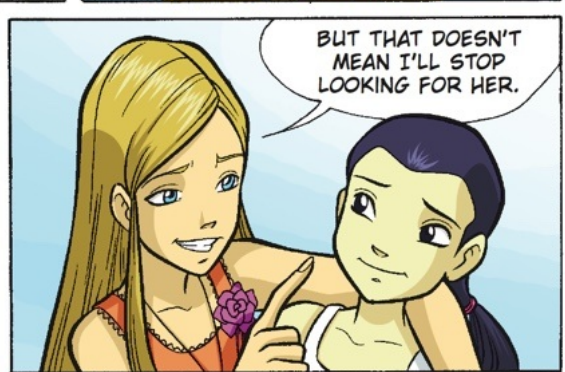
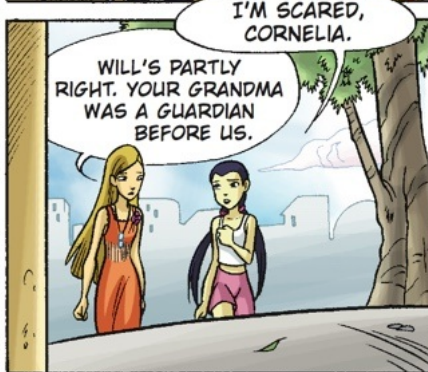
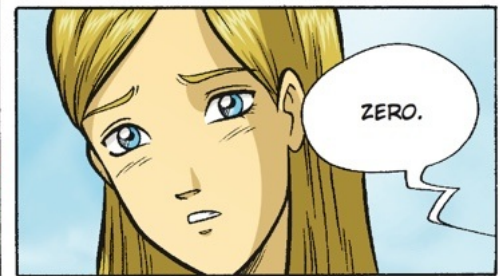
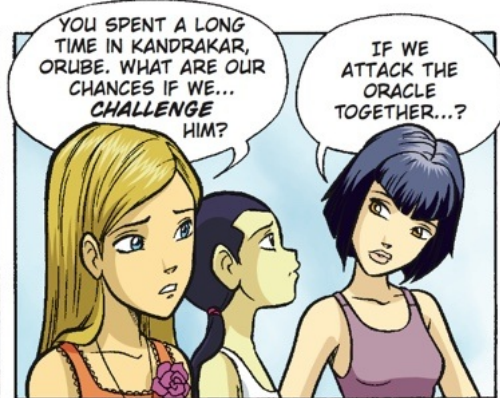
"MY NAME IS
HIMERISH."

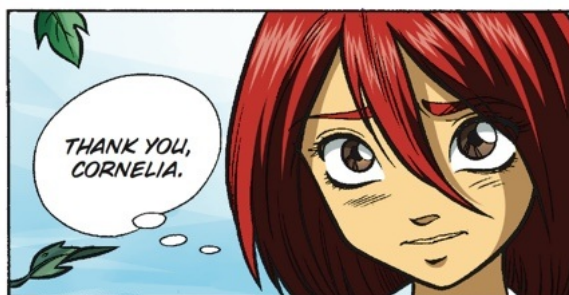
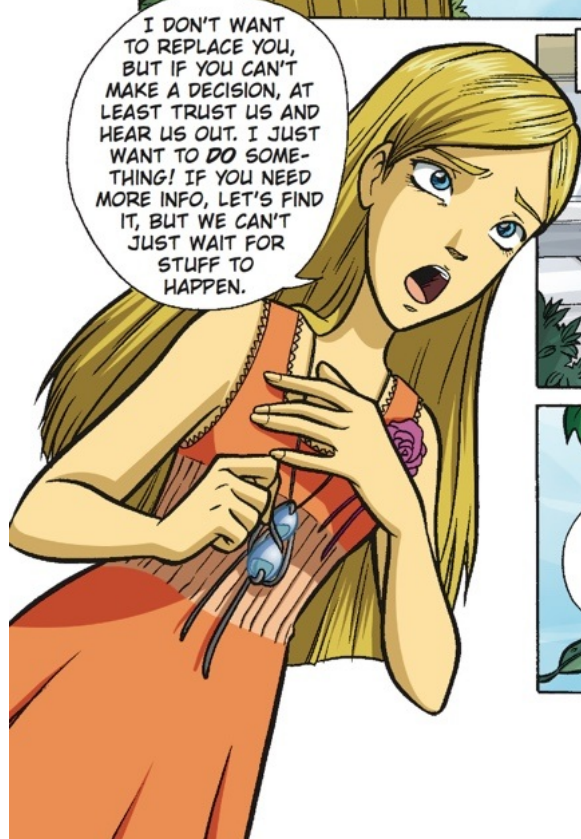


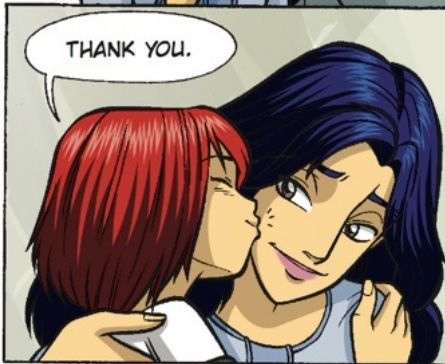
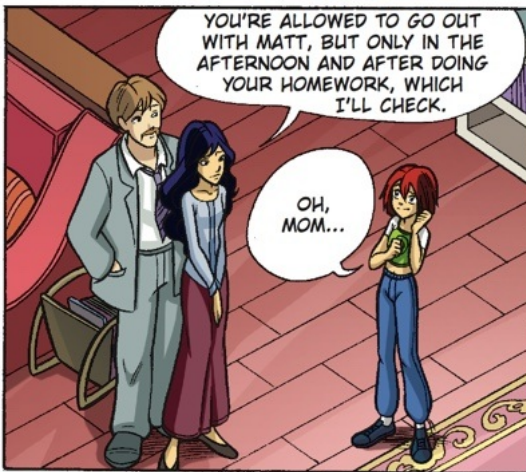
"AND I AM
NOTHING."













THE STRANGER IS LOST.

DON'T OFFEND ME BY REFUSING IT.



YOU WERE RIGHT, IH-SHUI. I GIVE YOU MY SWORD.



I DON'T...



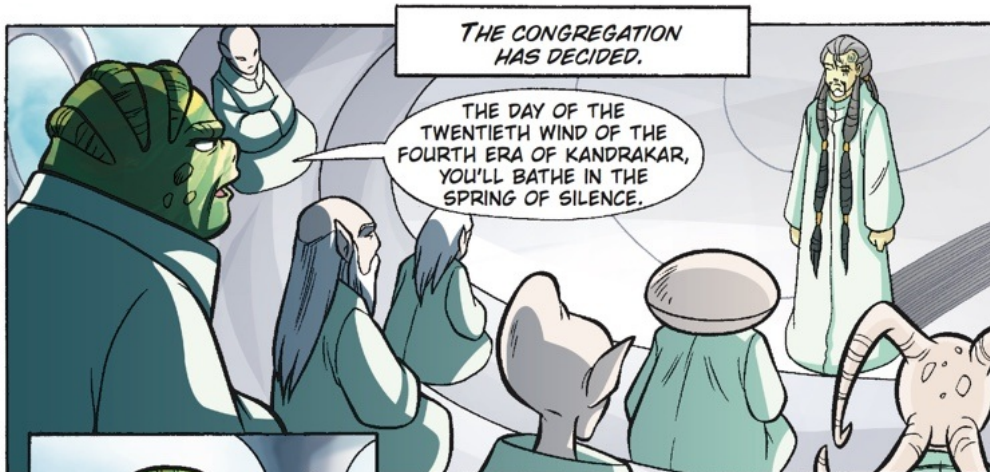
THE GARDEN NEEDS YOU.



I ALREADY TOLD YOU YOU'LL REPLACE ME. I'M NOT WORTHY ANYMORE.

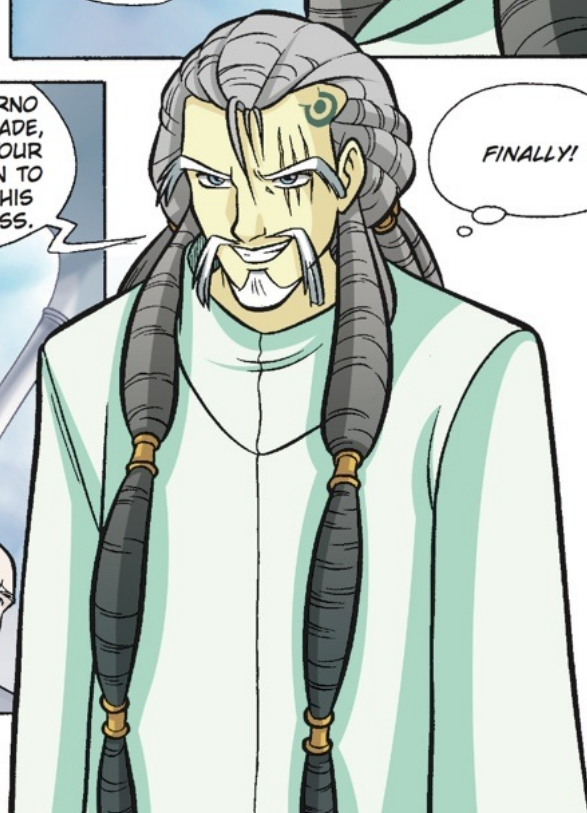


NOW GO.

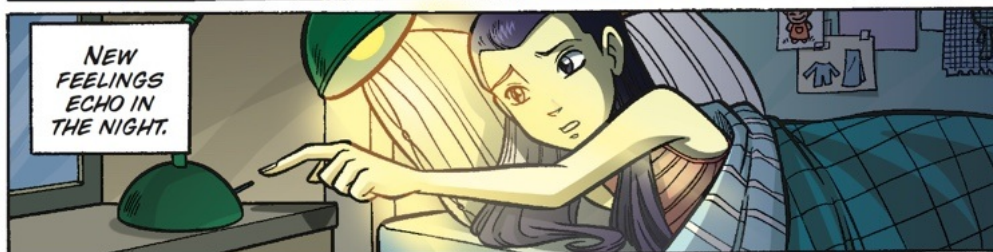


FROM THAT
MOMENT, YOU'LL BE OUR
ORACLE. YOU'LL HAVE
FULL POWERS...

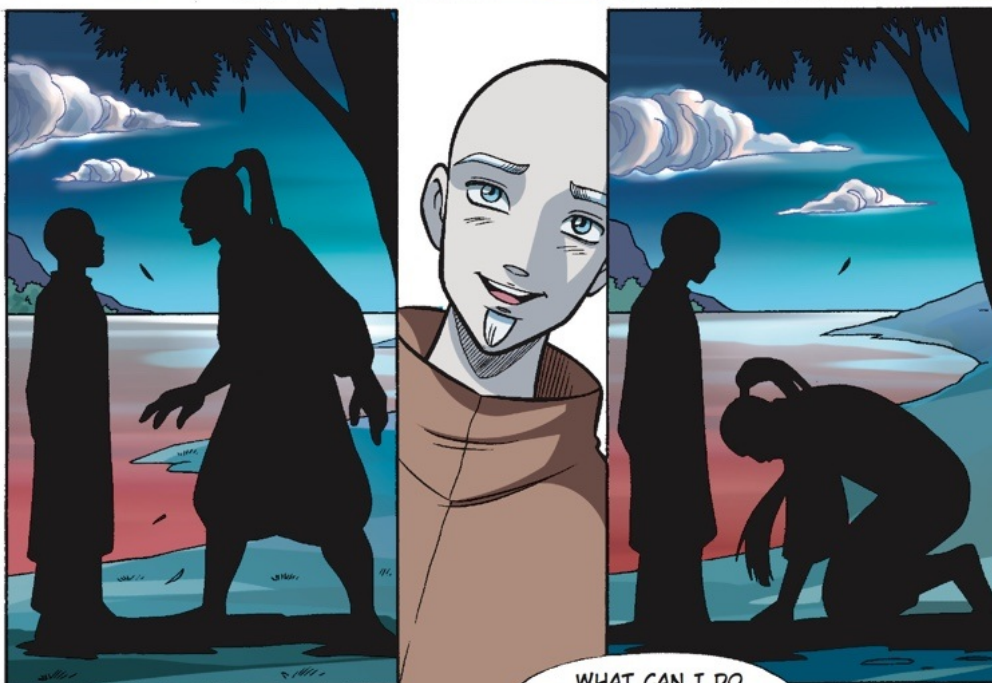
...AND YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO
DESIGNATE *NEW*
GUARDIANS.



FINALLY!

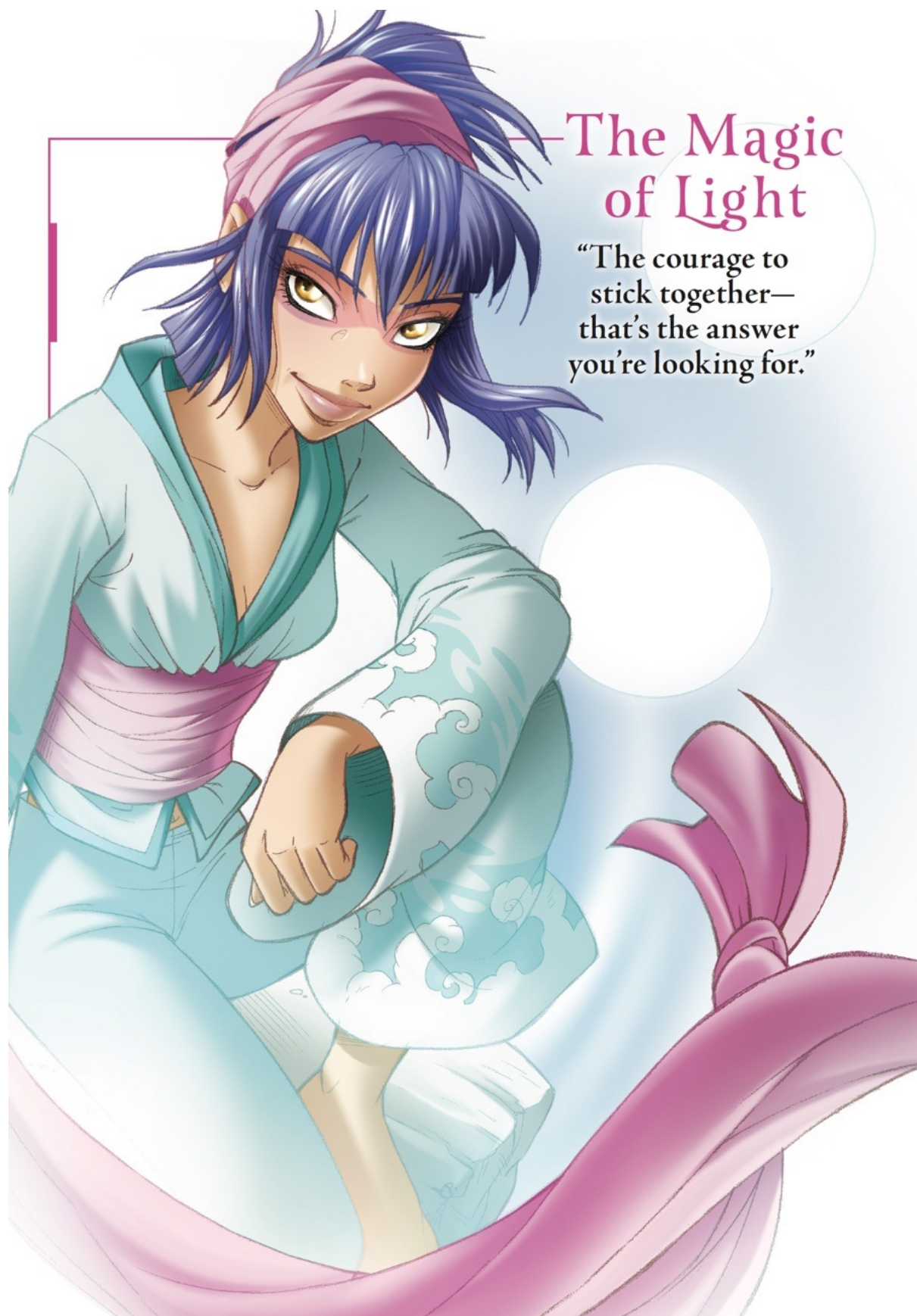












The Magic of Light

"The courage to stick together—that's the answer you're looking for."

"LIGHT, WHERE
ARE YOU?"

"ARE YOU
STILL SHINING
SOMEWHERE?"

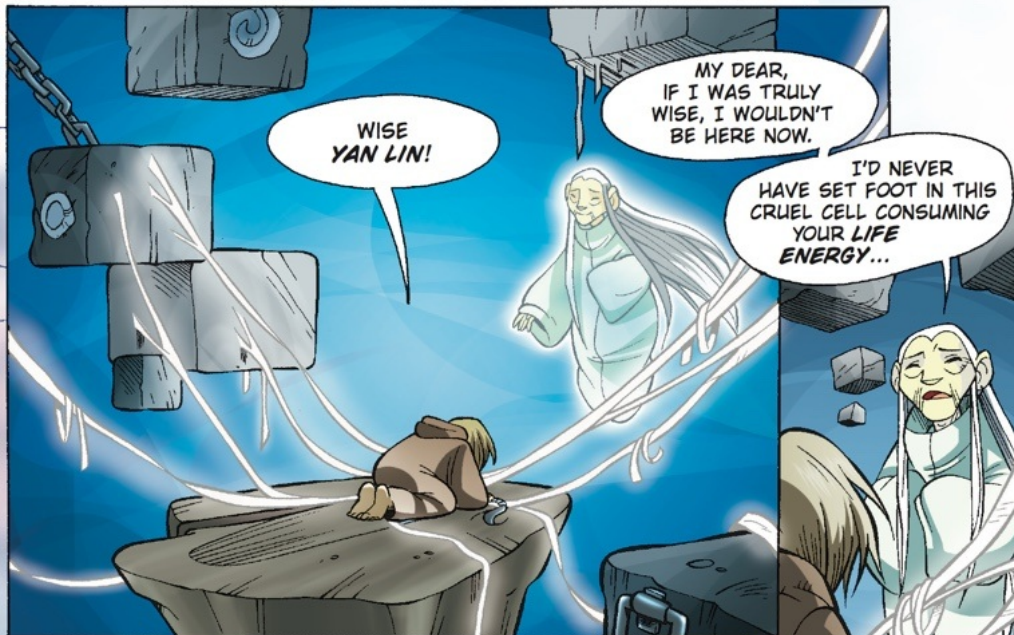
"IF SO, WHY
CAN'T I FEEL
YOUR WARMTH
ANYMORE? WHY
IS DARKNESS
SMOTHERING ME
LIKE A HEAVY
BLANKET?"

DON'T GIVE
UP. NOT NOW!
DEEP INSIDE,
YOU KNOW
DARKNESS
DOESN'T
EXIST.

DARKNESS IS
AN ILLUSION. A
LIE! REALITY IS
STILL IN FRONT
OF YOU. TRY
TOUCHING IT.

REACH
OUT. YOUR
HANDS
WILL BRUSH
MINE. THEN
OPEN YOUR
EYES, AND
MINE WILL
SHINE WITH
JOY.

BECAUSE
YOU'RE
ELYON,
AND I NEED
YOU LIKE
A FLOWER
NEEDS THE
SUN.



WISE
YAN LIN!

MY DEAR,
IF I WAS TRULY
WISE, I WOULDN'T
BE HERE NOW.

I'D NEVER
HAVE SET FOOT IN THIS
CRUEL CELL CONSUMING
YOUR **LIFE**
ENERGY...



...LOCKED IN THE
MOST IMPENETRABLE
OF PRISONS. THE
TOWER OF MISTS
IN KANDRAKAR.

HOW DID YOU GET
IN? I THOUGHT ONLY
THE **ORACLE** COULD
ENTER THIS
PLACE.

SO CAN THE
CUSTODIAN OF
THE TOWER, WITH
A SPECIAL KEY.

THIS
BRACELET.

BUT
I'D BETTER
EXPLAIN
WHAT'S BEEN
GOING ON
WHILE YOU'VE
BEEN LOCKED
IN HERE...

"IN KANDRAKAR, IN THE COUNCIL ROOM."



WISE MEN!
I, ENDARNO,
BOW TO YOU IN
GRATITUDE.



VAAL JUST TOLD
ME YOUR DECISION.
SOON I WILL BATHE
IN THE SPRING OF
SILENCE...



...AND THUS
ACQUIRE FULL POWERS,
FINALLY BECOMING
YOUR ORACLE.



THIS PLEASES ME BUT RAISES
ANOTHER ISSUE. THE TOWER OF
MISTS, OF WHICH I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN THE CUSTODIAN...



...WITH ITS DANGEROUS
GUESTS, INCLUDING ELYON
OF MERIDIAN, NEEDS
A NEW WARDEN.



THAT'S WHY
I RECOMMEND
THE ELECTION
OF MY TRUSTED
AND CAPABLE
VAAL.

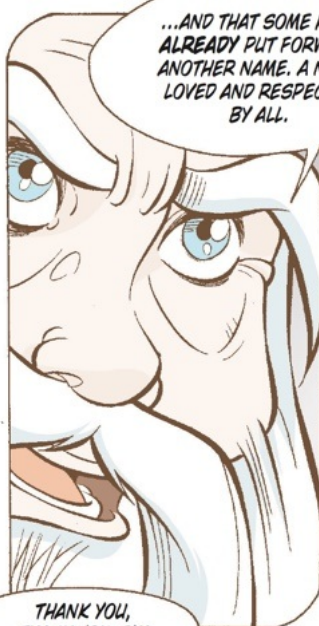


I DON'T THINK
VAAL IS THE ONLY
CANDIDATE.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
TIBOR?

THAT THE
ELECTION OF THE
CUSTODIAN WILL
HAPPEN NOW. THE
CONGREGATION WILL
FOLLOW THE USUAL
PROCEDURE...

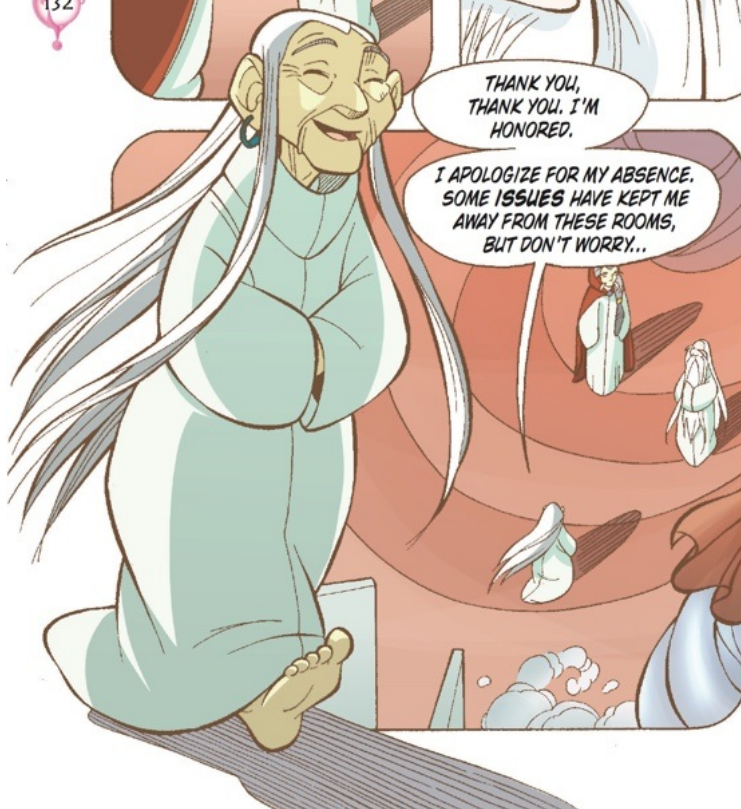


...AND THAT SOME HAVE
ALREADY PUT FORWARD
ANOTHER NAME. A NAME
LOVED AND RESPECTED
BY ALL.



I'M OBVIOUSLY
TALKING ABOUT THE
WISE YAN LIN!

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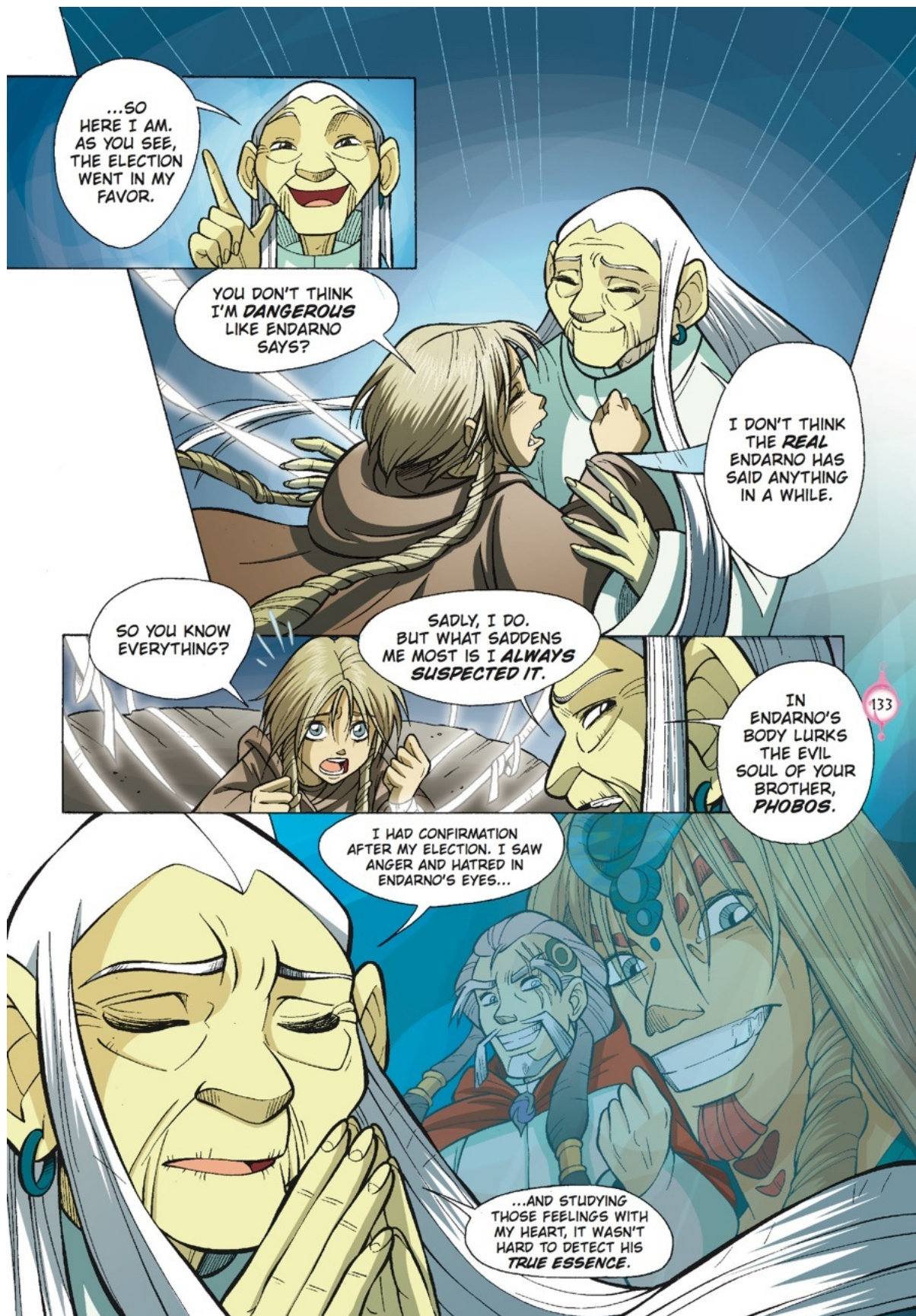


THANK YOU,
THANK YOU. I'M
HONORED.

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY ABSENCE.
SOME ISSUES HAVE KEPT ME
AWAY FROM THESE ROOMS,
BUT DON'T WORRY...



...I PROMISE
I WON'T
DISAPPEAR
SO EASILY
ANYMORE!



...SO
HERE I AM.
AS YOU SEE,
THE ELECTION
WENT IN MY
FAVOR.

YOU DON'T THINK
I'M **DANGEROUS**
LIKE ENDARNO
SAYS?

I DON'T THINK
THE **REAL**
ENDARNO HAS
SAID ANYTHING
IN A WHILE.

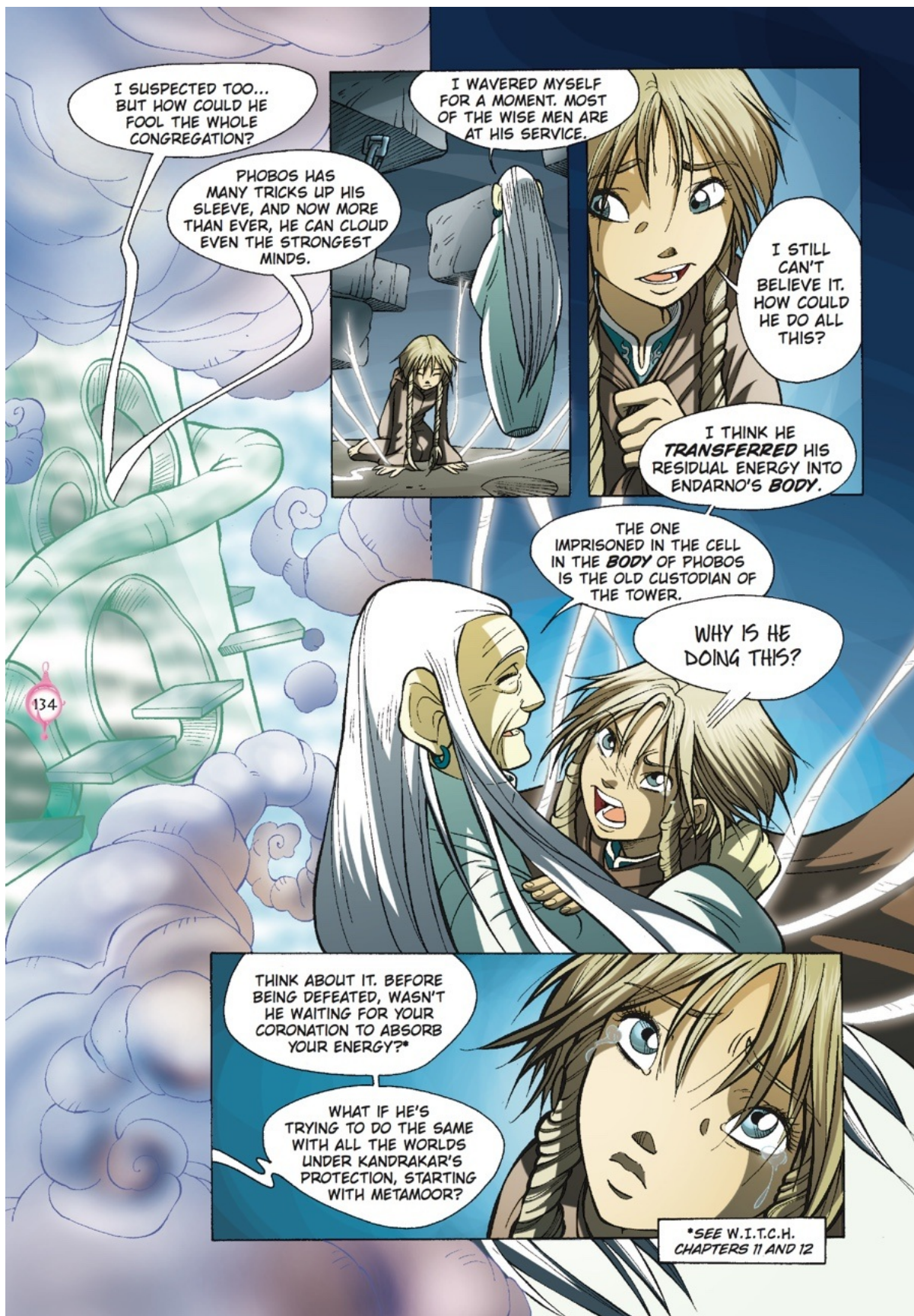
SO YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING?

SADLY, I DO.
BUT WHAT SADDENS
ME MOST IS I **ALWAYS**
SUSPECTED IT.

IN
ENDARNO'S
BODY LURKS
THE EVIL
SOUL OF YOUR
BROTHER,
PHOBOS.

I HAD CONFIRMATION
AFTER MY ELECTION. I SAW
ANGER AND HATRED IN
ENDARNO'S EYES...

...AND STUDYING
THOSE FEELINGS WITH
MY HEART, IT WASN'T
HARD TO DETECT HIS
TRUE ESSENCE.





THE
POWER HE
POSSESSES NOW
ISN'T ENOUGH FOR
HIM. HE ASKS WILL
FOR THE **HEART
OF KANDRAKAR**
BUT KNOWS SHE
MUST GIVE IT
FREELY.

WHILE FROM
YOU HE DEMANDS
NO LESS THAN
THE **CROWN OF
LIGHT!**

HE CAN'T
BREAK THE SPELL
THAT PROTECTS IT
IN ITS CASE ON
MERIDIAN.

TRUE, HE CAN'T.
BUT YOU COULD GIVE
HIM THE **KEY** TO
OPEN IT.

**NO!
NEVER!**

YES.
SOONER
OR LATER,
YOU WILL.
THIS CELL
WAS CREATED
TO SLOWLY
DRAIN YOUR
LIGHT...

...AND YOU
KNOW THAT,
DAY AFTER
DAY, IT'S
DIMMING
YOUR
RESISTANCE.

DON'T
GIVE UP.
I'M HERE
NOW, AND
THINGS WILL
CHANGE. I'M
ALREADY
WORKING
ON IT.

"...VISITING **BASILIADE** AND
TAKING THE SHAPE OF A **TURTLE**
IN THE WATERS OF THE
CRIMSON LAKE...



"...I HELPED
THE **OLD ORACLE**
FIND PART OF HIS
CONSCIOUSNESS."



*LAST CHAPTER!

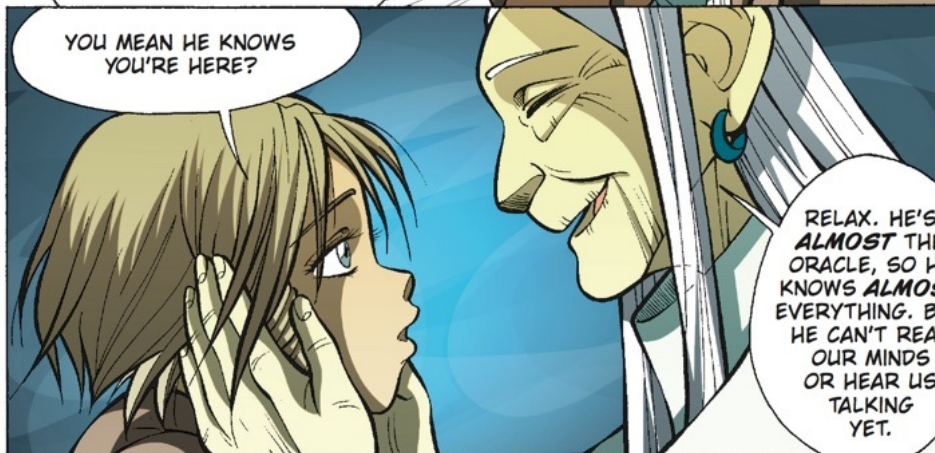
BUT THAT
ORACLE WAS
DEPOSED. WHY
DID YOU TRY
TO CONTACT
HIM?

BECAUSE
I FEEL...MAYBE
I **HOPE**...HE CAN
HELP US. IN THE
PAST, HE'S BEEN
A GUIDE TO
ME.

I COULDN'T
TELL HIM MUCH.
PHOBOS IS WATCHING
ME. HE WANTED THE
ROLE OF CUSTODIAN OF
THE TOWER TO GO
TO VAAL...

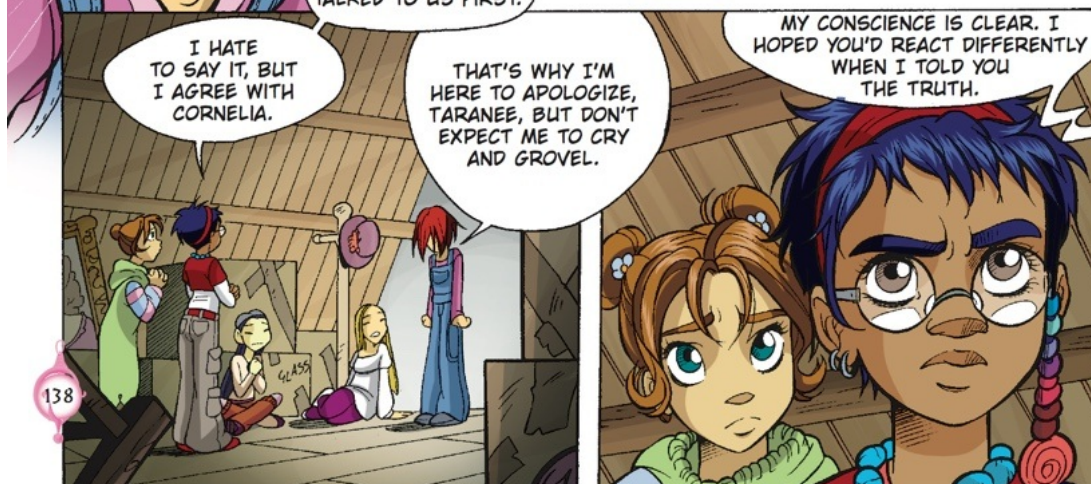
...BUT NOW
HE'S **AFRAID** OF
ME. THE FACT THAT I'M
TALKING TO YOU WORRIES
YOUR BROTHER GREATLY.

YOU MEAN HE KNOWS
YOU'RE HERE?



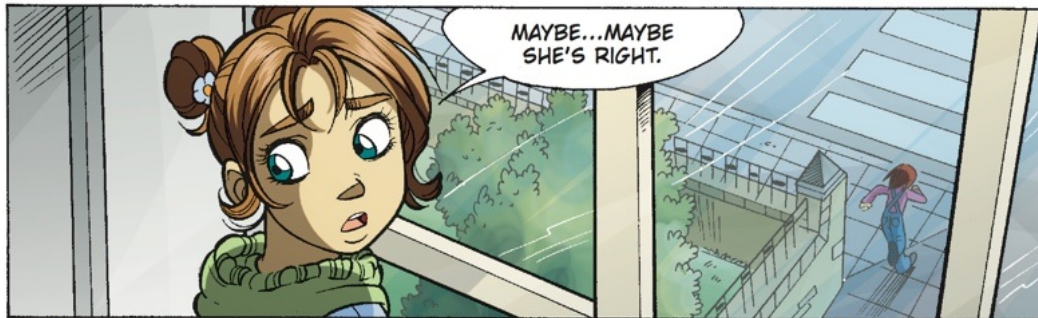
RELAX. HE'S
ALMOST THE
ORACLE, SO HE
KNOWS **ALMOST**
EVERYTHING. BUT
HE CAN'T READ
OUR MINDS
OR HEAR US
TALKING
YET.



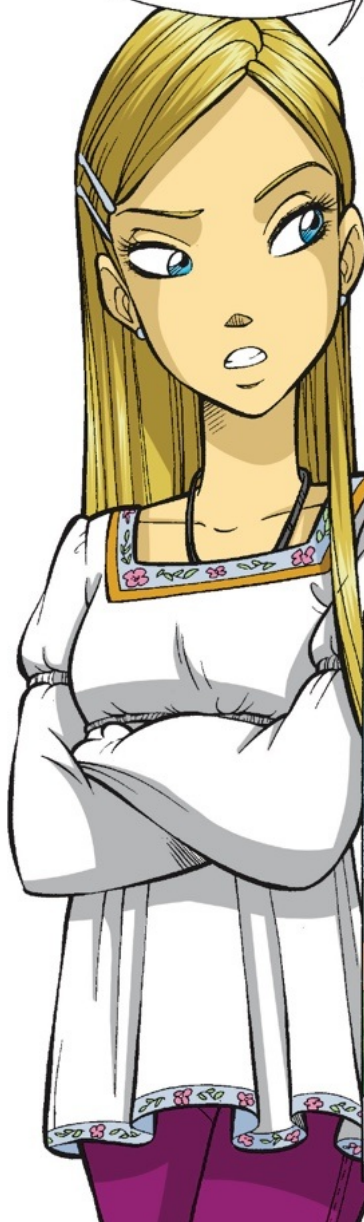
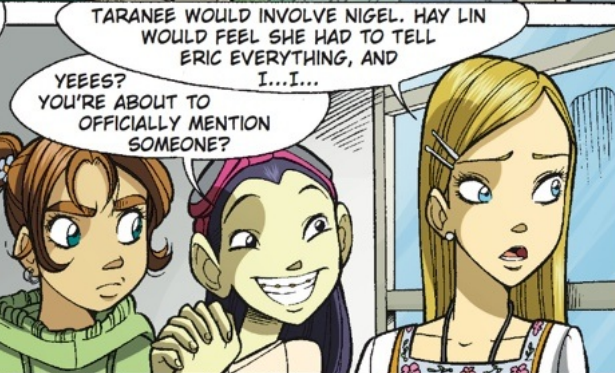


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NO, IRMA. SHE'S DEAD WRONG. IF WE ALL ACTED THAT WAY, THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD KNOW ABOUT US.

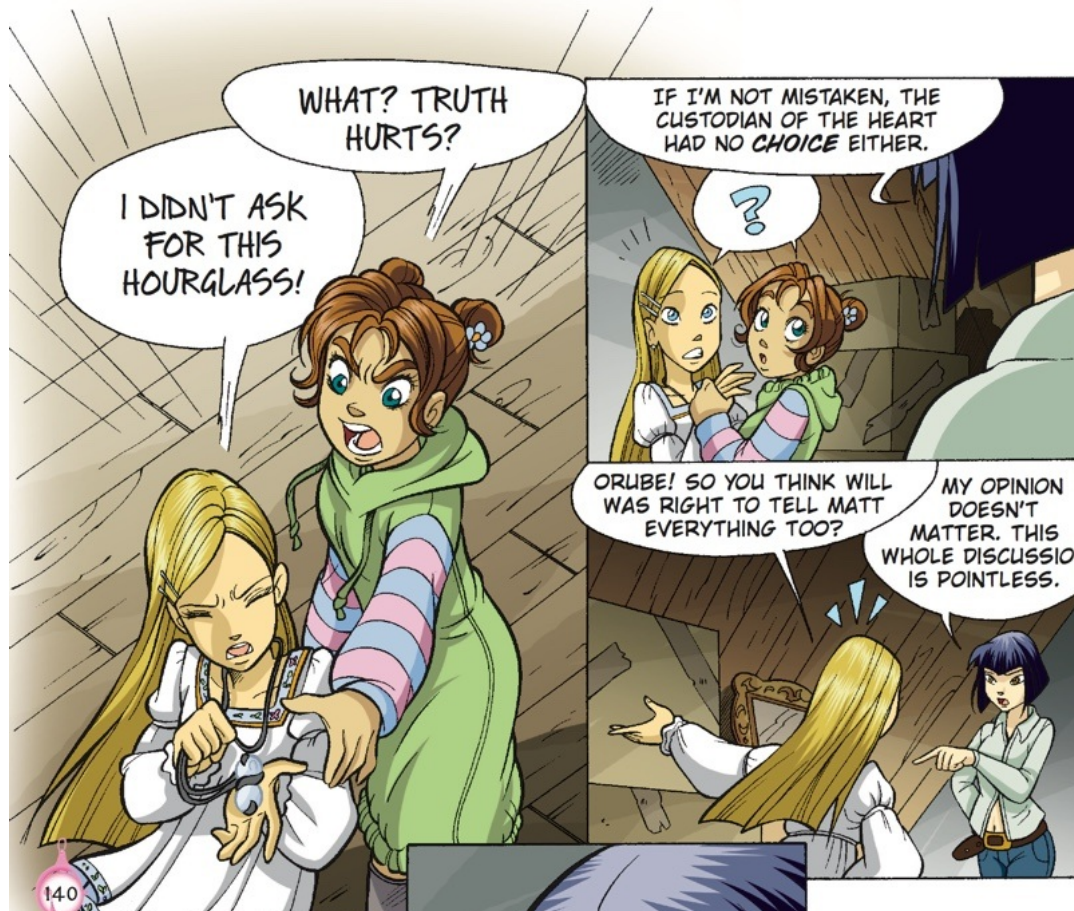


THE FACT IS NONE OF US CAN AFFORD TO DO WHATEVER WE PLEASE.



WELL, LISTEN TO OUR DEPUTY LEADER. SINCE ENDARNO GAVE YOU THE POWER TO STOP TIME, YOU'RE GETTING TOO BIG FOR YOUR BOOTS.





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SOOO...?

SO WHAT?
LOOK IN THE MIRROR.
YOU'VE GOT A SILLY
SMILE ON YOUR
FACE.

C'MON. I SAW IT IN YOUR
EYES WHEN I ASKED IF YOU
WERE GONNA MENTION
SOMEONE. YOU'VE GOT
A CRUSH!

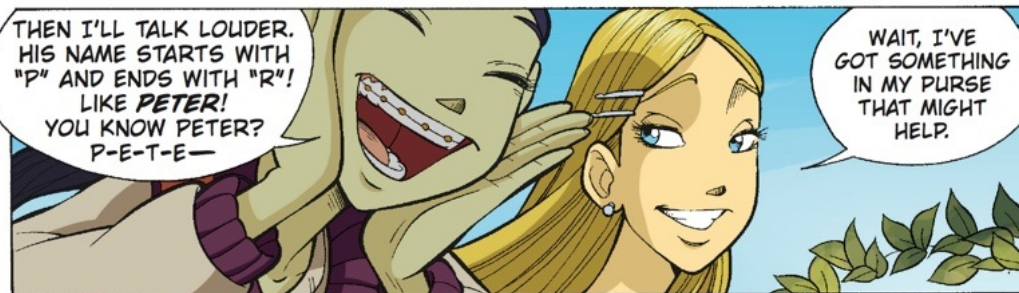
NO COMMENT.



HMM...LET'S
SEE. HE'S GOT
DREADLOCKS.
HE SURFS AND
LOOKS LIKE
TARANEE...

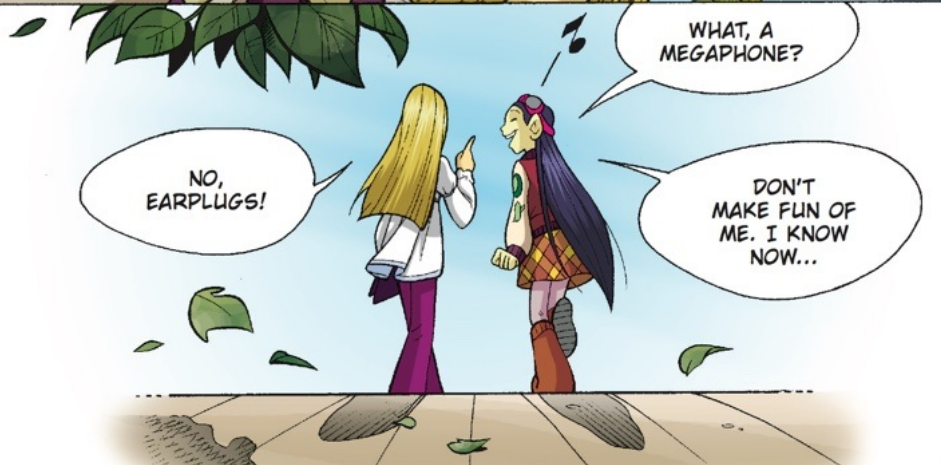
YOU'RE
WASTING
YOUR
BREATH,
HAY LIN.
I'M NOT
EVEN
LISTENING.

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THEN I'LL TALK LOUDER.
HIS NAME STARTS WITH
"P" AND ENDS WITH "R"!
LIKE **PETER**!
YOU KNOW PETER?
P-E-T-E—

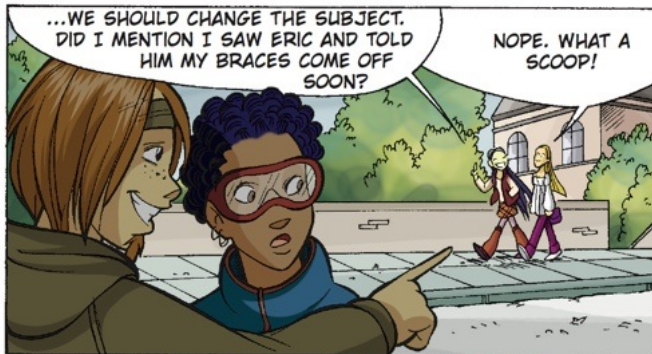
WAIT, I'VE
GOT SOMETHING
IN MY PURSE
THAT MIGHT
HELP.



WHAT, A
MEGAPHONE?

NO,
EARPLUGS!

DON'T
MAKE FUN OF
ME. I KNOW
NOW...







NOW YOU GET UP
AND GO OPEN
THE DOOR.

HUH?



DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME. MOM AND
DAD ARE OUT TO DINNER, AND I'D
MUCH RATHER NOT BE HERE.



BUT I *AM*, AND I
GOTTA GET BACK TO MY
ROOM TO *DOWNLOAD*
SOME STUFF.

**DLIN
DLON**



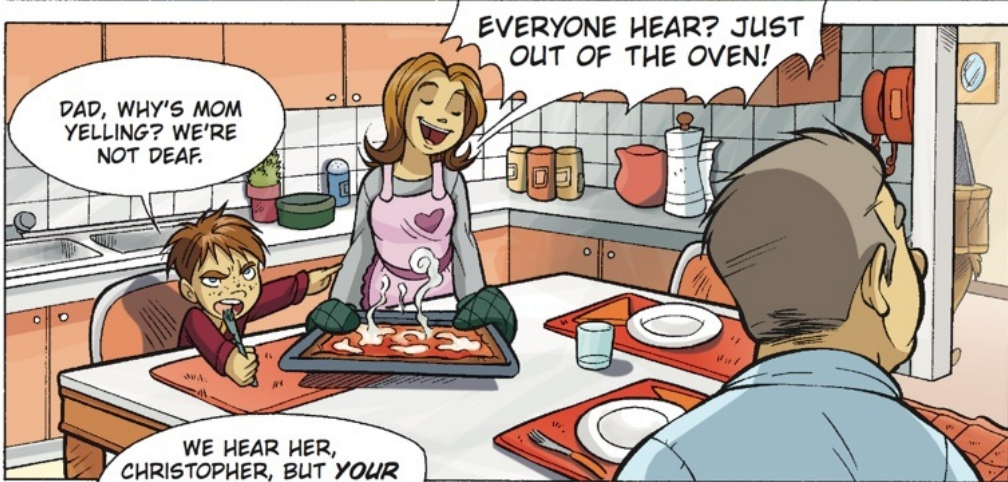
AND WITH ALL THAT YELLING,
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE YOUR
PIZZA IS HERE.

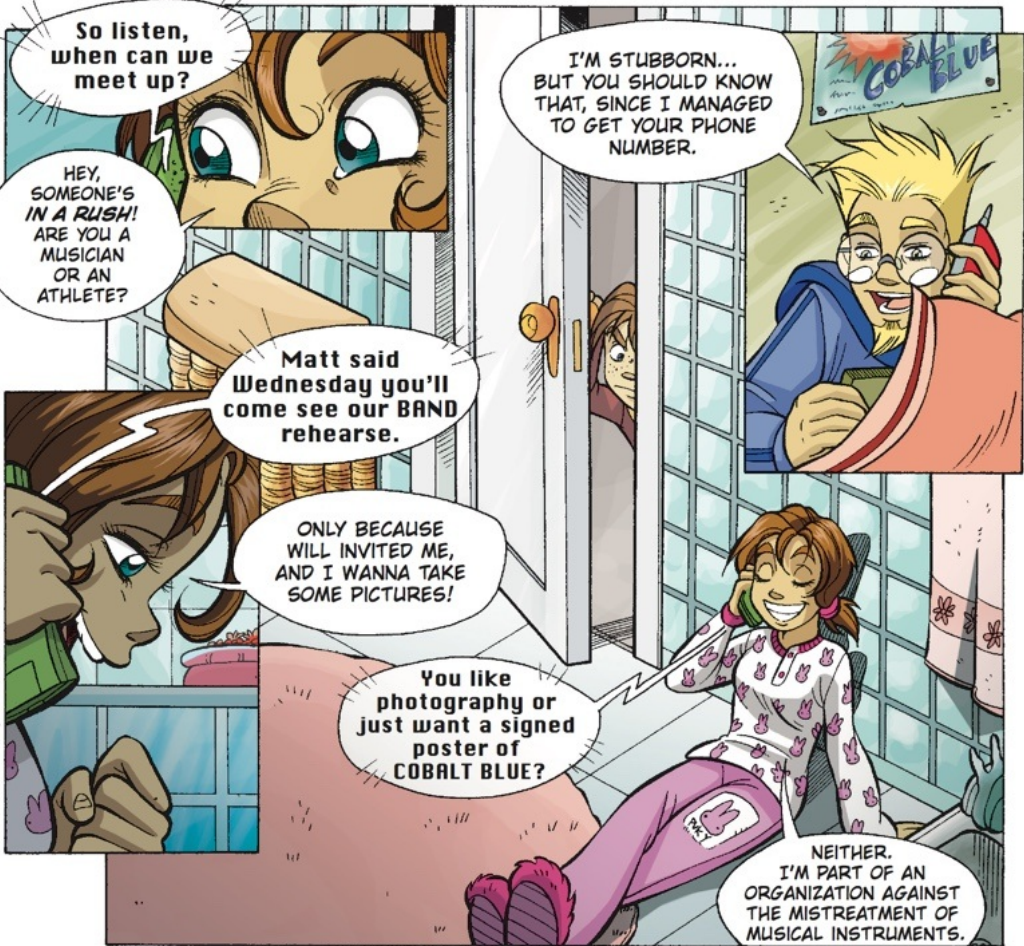
ER...
MAYBE YOUR
BROTHER'S RIGHT,
TARANEE. BETTER
GET THE DOOR.

YEAH,
WE SHOULD...



...SOONER
OR LATER!





IN THE MEANTIME,
ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF HEATHERFIELD...

LOVE. SEEMS LIKE
ON EARTH EVERYTHING
REVOLVES AROUND
THAT FEELING.

EVEN THE
GUARDIANS ALWAYS
PUT IT FIRST.

BEFORE HONOR.
BEFORE FIGHTING.
SOMETIMES
EVEN BEFORE
FRIENDSHIP.

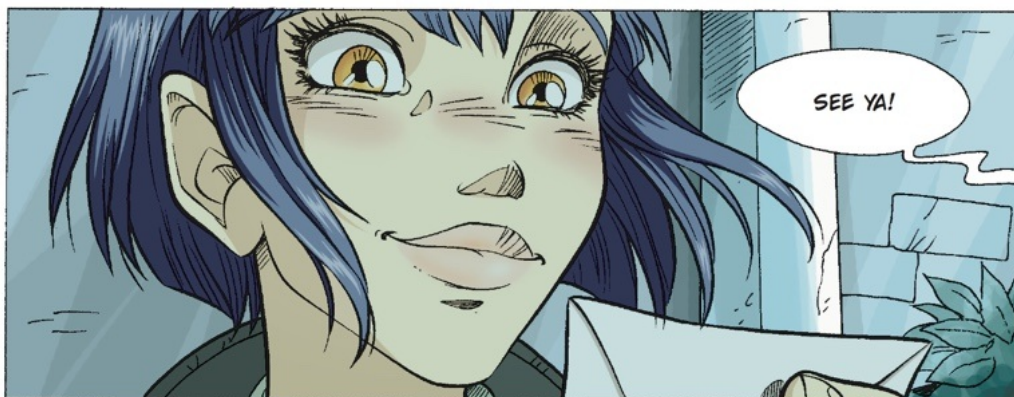
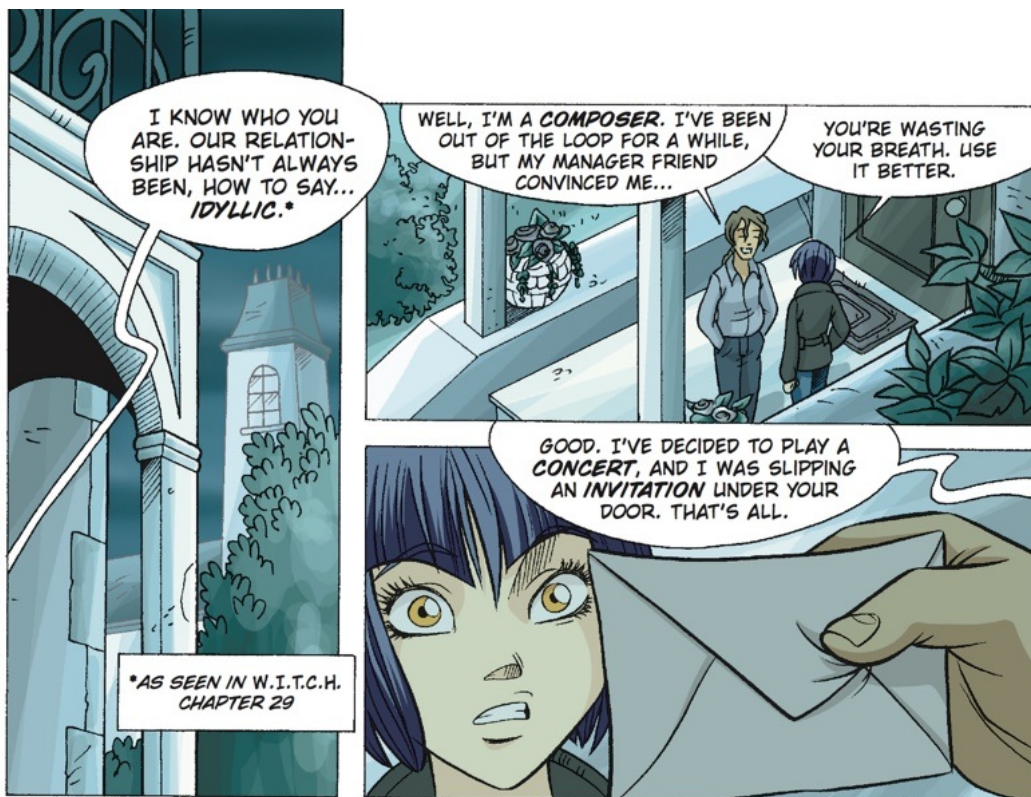
NO, I REALLY
DON'T GET EARTHLINGS.
THEN WHY DON'T I LEAVE?
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR
ON THIS PLANET?

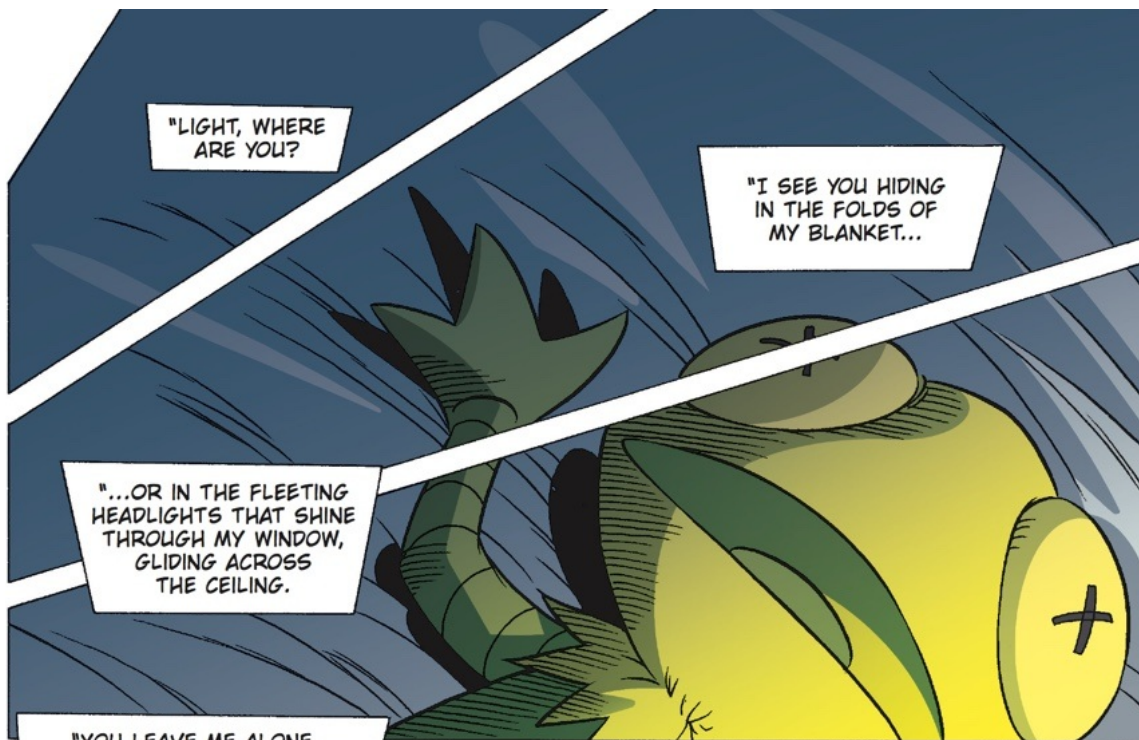
HELLO!

HMM...?

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T
NOTICED, I ALREADY
OWN A **DOORMAT**.

ER...
I...I'M **RAY
FIELDESTAIN**,
YOUR
NEIGHBOR.



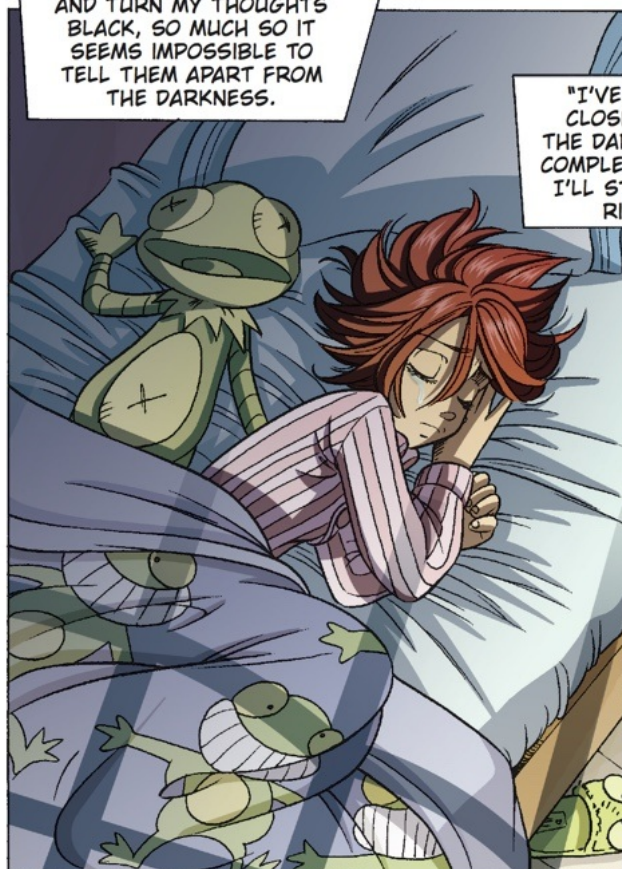


"LIGHT, WHERE ARE YOU?"

"I SEE YOU HIDING IN THE FOLDS OF MY BLANKET..."

"...OR IN THE FLEETING HEADLIGHTS THAT SHINE THROUGH MY WINDOW, GLIDING ACROSS THE CEILING."

"YOU LEAVE ME ALONE AND TURN MY THOUGHTS BLACK, SO MUCH SO IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THEM APART FROM THE DARKNESS."



"I'VE DECIDED. I'LL CLOSE MY EYES SO THE DARKNESS WILL BE COMPLETE. AND, MAYBE, I'LL START DREAMING RIGHT AWAY."



"YES. I'LL DREAM OF MATT AND TELL HIM EVERYTHING. EVEN WHAT I *CAN'T* BECAUSE THE *WHOLE* TRUTH MIGHT HURT."



"I'LL DREAM OF THE GIRLS,
AND THEY'LL **UNDERSTAND**
ME WITHOUT CRITICIZING.
WITHOUT JUDGING ME
FOR ONCE.

"THEN I'LL DREAM
OF THE HEART OF
KANDRAKAR. I'LL
TALK TO IT AND
ENTRUST IT TO THE
DARK SO IT CAN
TAKE IT AWAY..."

NO,
WILL. THAT
WOULDN'T BE
A WISE MOVE.
AFTER ALL, AS
I'VE ALREADY
TOLD ELYON,
DARKNESS
ISN'T
REAL.

150

?

AM I REALLY
DREAMING?

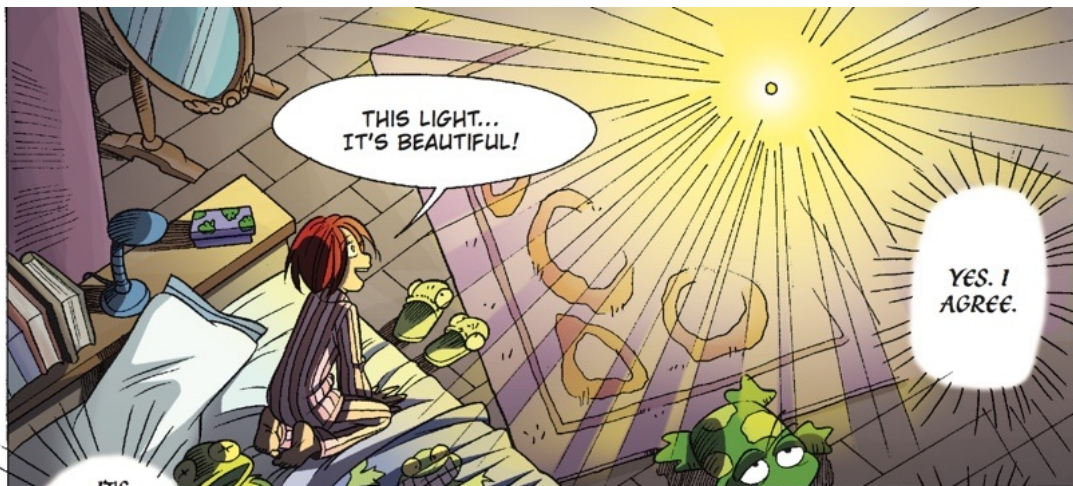
SO ARE
YOU REAL OR
A VISION?

SOMETHING
IN BETWEEN. I
CAME TO BRING YOU
SOMETHING, BUT TO
SEE IT, YOU HAVE TO
OPEN YOUR EYES.

COME ON,
WILL. DO AS
I SAID AND
OPEN YOUR
EYES!

WH-
WHAT...?

MORE
OR LESS.
YOU SHOULD
KNOW BY NOW
THAT DREAMS
ARE A GREAT
MEANS OF
CONTACT.



THIS LIGHT...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

YES. I
AGREE.

IT'S
ALSO VERY
POWERFUL.
SO STRONG,
IT BLURS THE
CONTOURS
OF THINGS,
NOT UNLIKE
DARKNESS.



IF IT
KEEPS
FLOATING IN
YOUR ROOM,
PEOPLE WILL
THINK IT'S
DAYTIME.



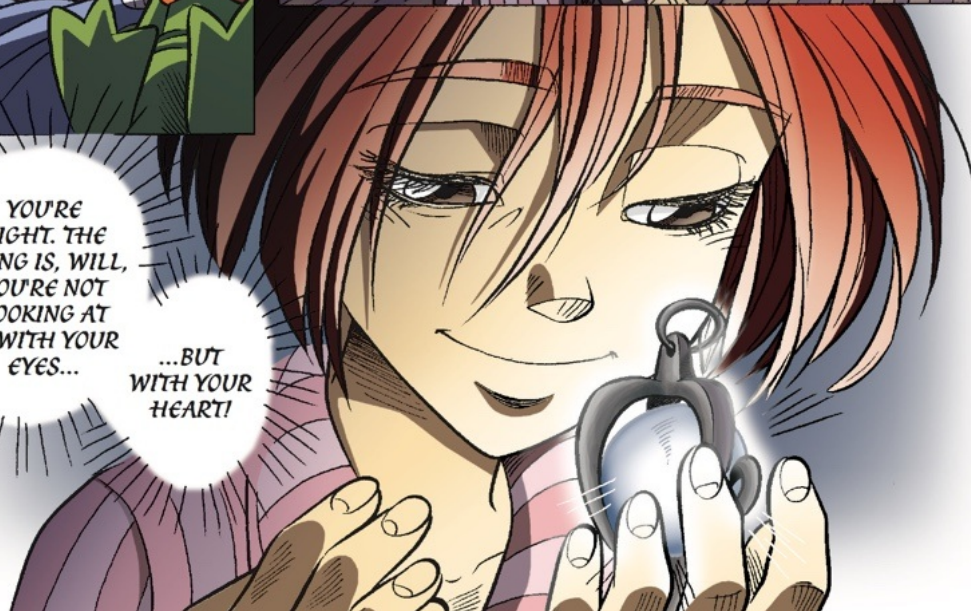
BUT IF
IT'S SO
POWERFUL,
WHY CAN
I SEE IT?
IT SHOULD
BLIND
ME.

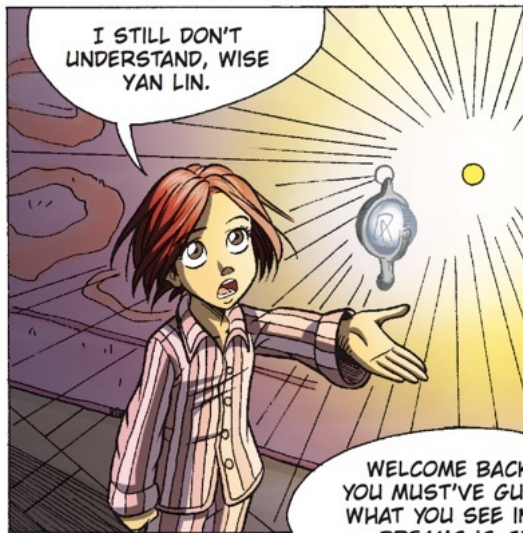


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YOU'RE
RIGHT. THE
THING IS, WILL,
YOU'RE NOT
LOOKING AT
IT WITH YOUR
EYES...

...BUT
WITH YOUR
HEART!





I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, WISE YAN LIN.



NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES SO YOU CAN SEE ME.

WELCOME BACK. AS YOU MUST'VE GUESSED, WHAT YOU SEE IN YOUR DREAMS IS JUST MY IMAGE.

I'M ACTUALLY IN THE TOWER OF MISTS WITH ELYON, AND I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO EXPLAIN.

I'M LISTENING.

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MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER ROOM...

MMPH...WHAT'S HAPPENING?
IS IT DAY ALREADY?



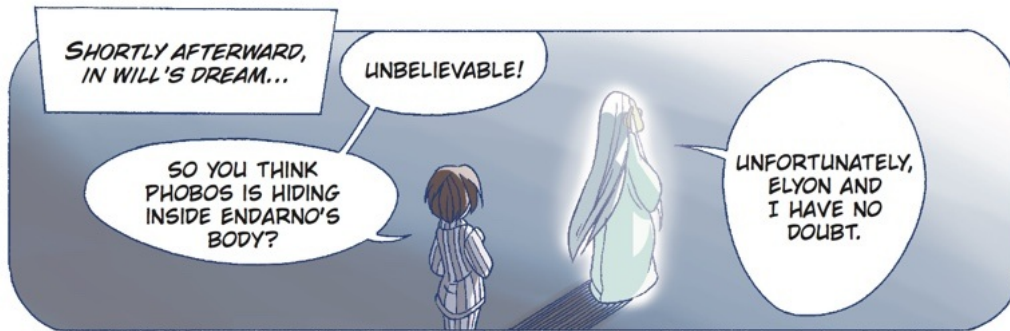
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE ONLY SLEPT HALF AN HOUR!

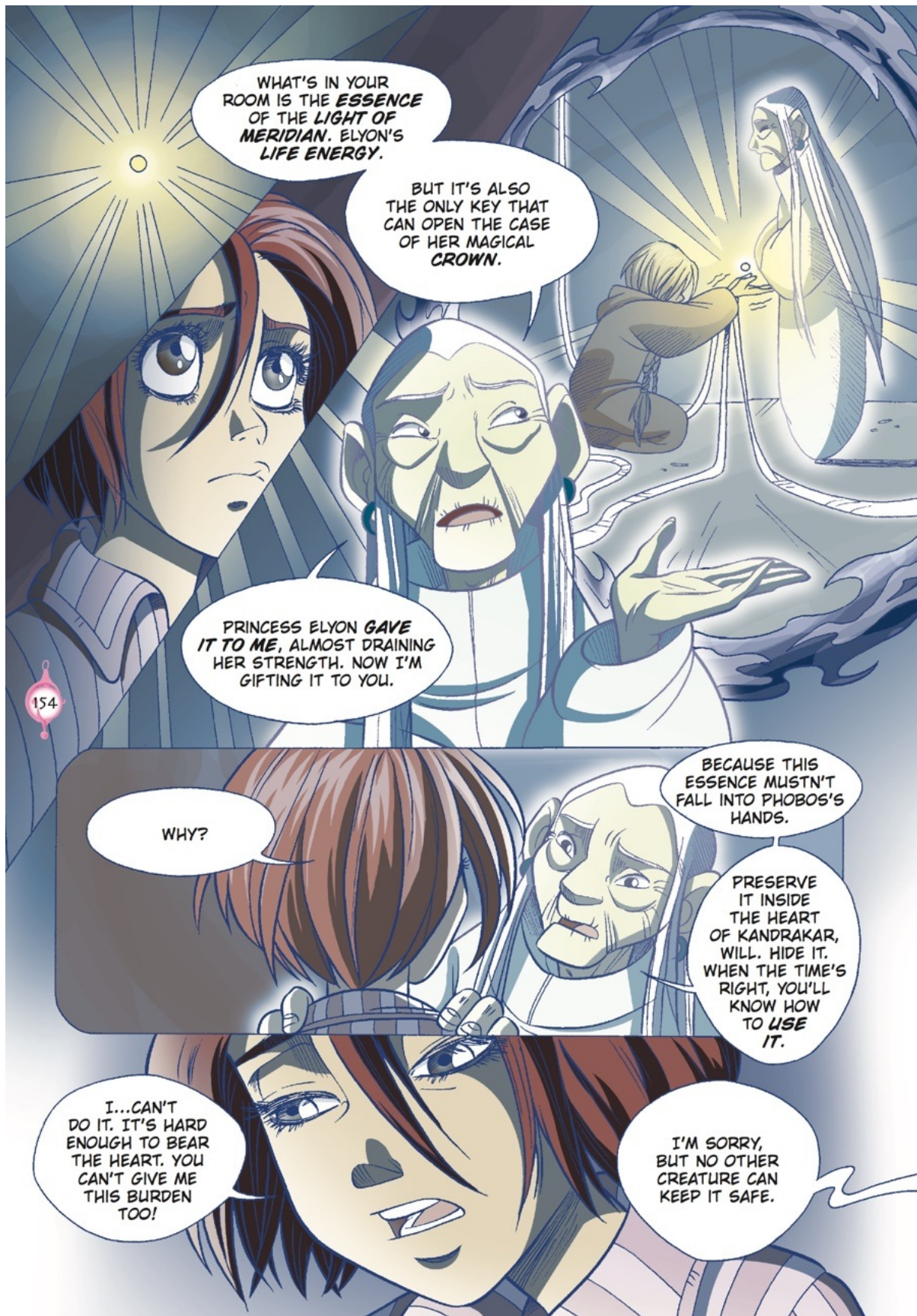
YAAAAZZZ~

WELL, LET'S GET UP, SUSAN. YOU'VE GOT A TON OF STUFF TO DO THIS MORNING.



GRAT
GRAT





WHAT'S IN YOUR ROOM IS THE **ESSENCE** OF THE **LIGHT OF MERIDIAN**. ELYON'S **LIFE ENERGY**.

BUT IT'S ALSO THE ONLY KEY THAT CAN OPEN THE CASE OF HER MAGICAL **CROWN**.

PRINCESS ELYON **GAVE IT TO ME**, ALMOST DRAINING HER STRENGTH. NOW I'M GIFTING IT TO YOU.

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WHY?

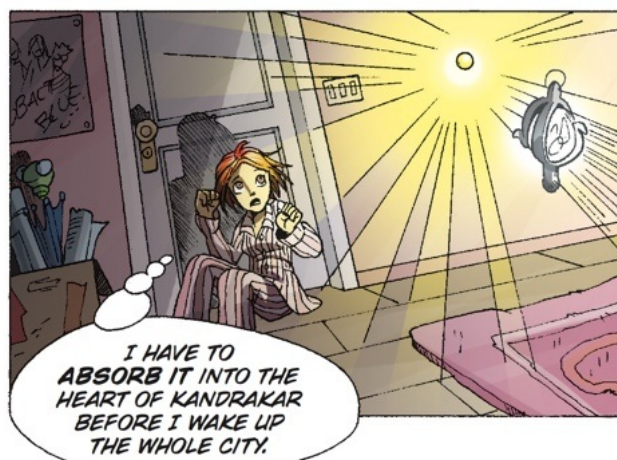
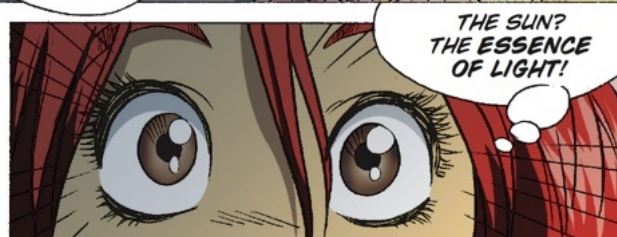
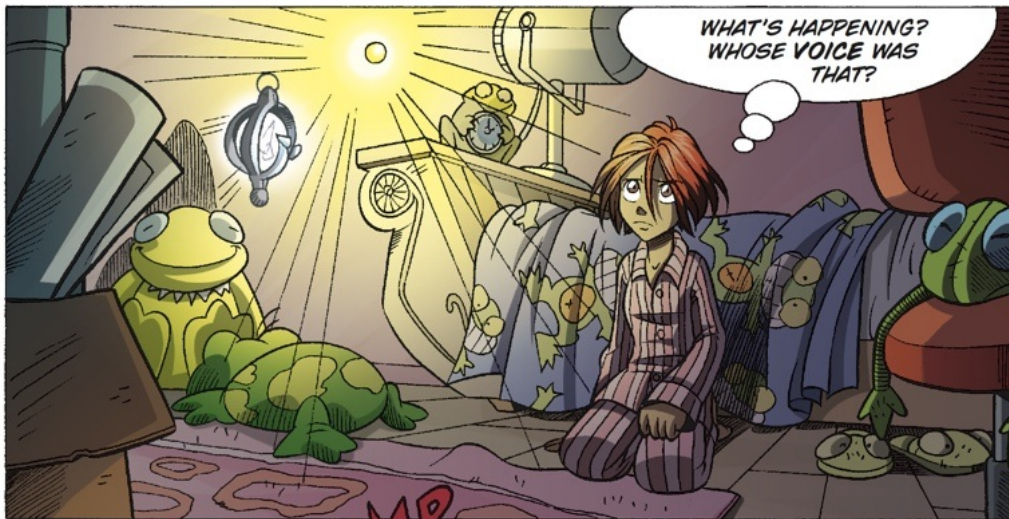
BECAUSE THIS ESSENCE MUSTN'T FALL INTO PHOBOS'S HANDS.

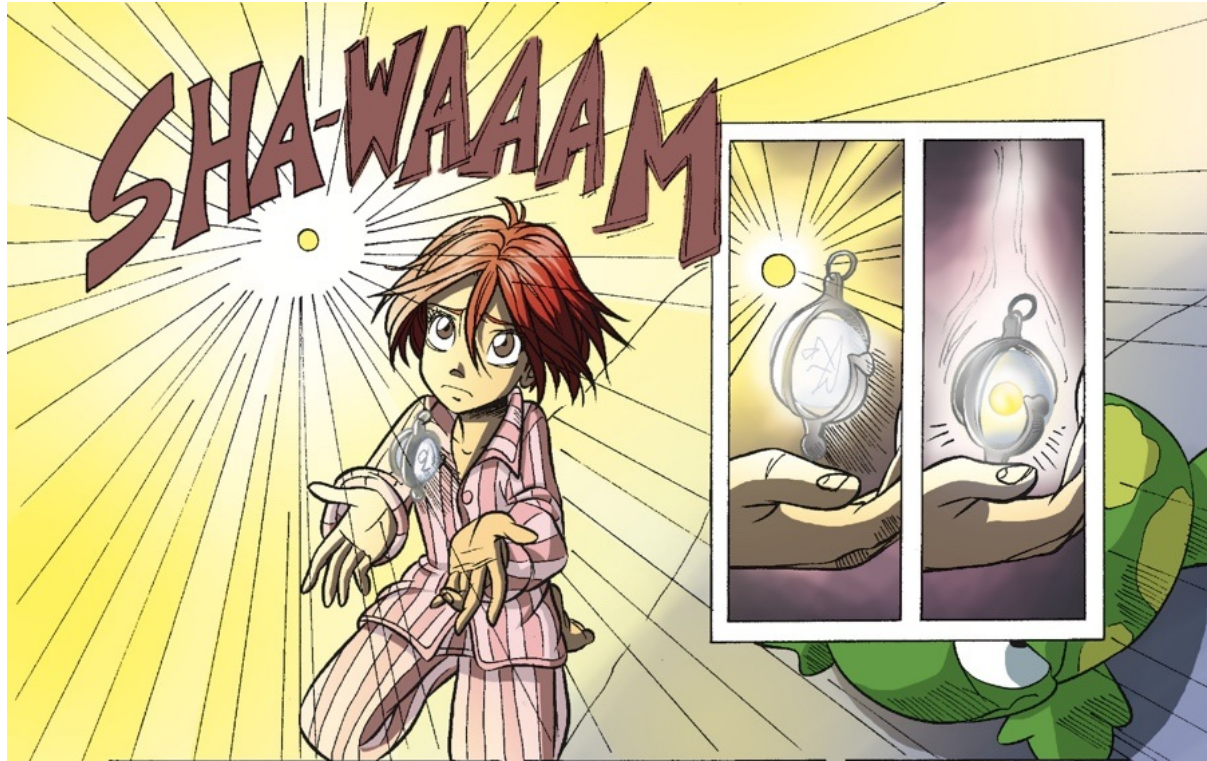
PRESERVE IT INSIDE THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR, WILL. HIDE IT. WHEN THE TIME'S RIGHT, YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO **USE IT**.

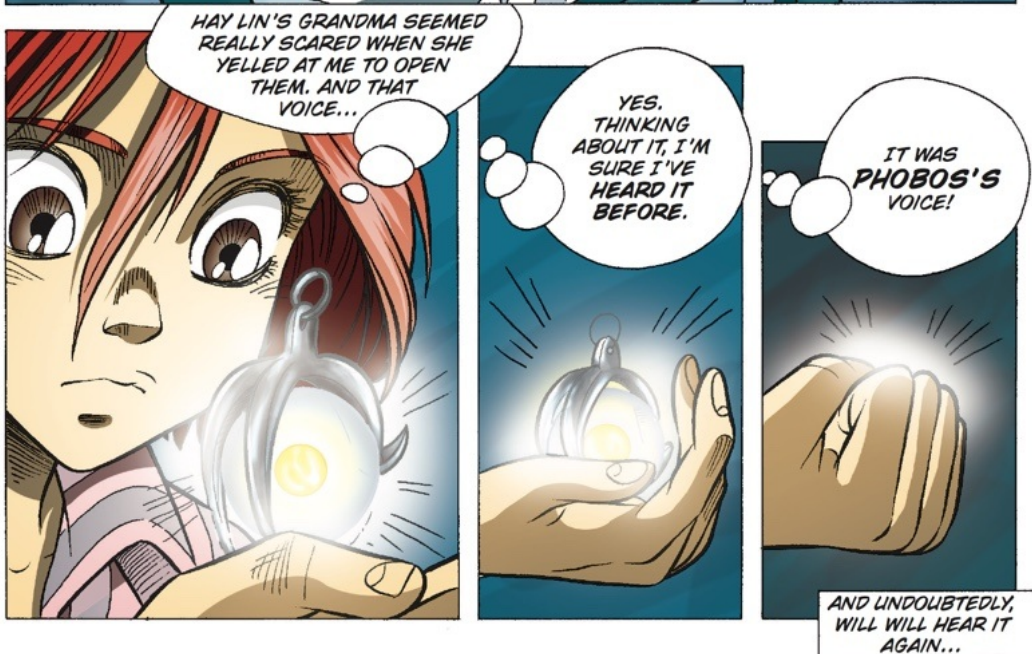
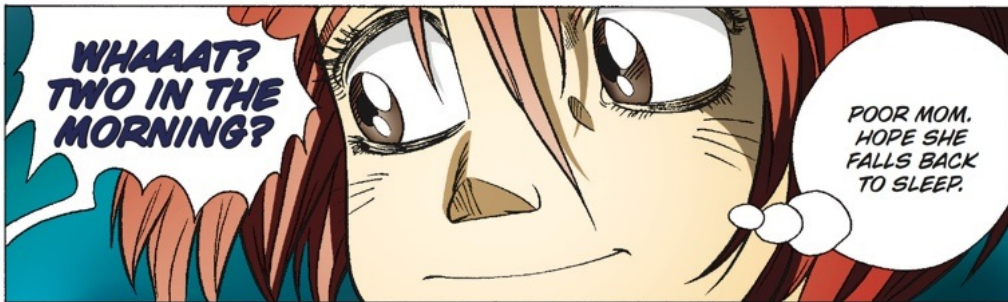
I...CAN'T DO IT. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO BEAR THE HEART. YOU CAN'T GIVE ME THIS BURDEN TOO!

I'M SORRY, BUT NO OTHER CREATURE CAN KEEP IT SAFE.











WHAT? HOW
COULD THIS
HAPPEN?

WE'RE ALL WITH
YOU, BROTHER
TIBOR.

YES.
WE SHARE
YOUR PAIN.

I, ENDARNO,
FUTURE ORACLE OF
KANDRAKAR, PARTAKE
IN THE SUFFERING OF
THE WHOLE
CONGREGATION.

BECAUSE TODAY, A
TRAGEDY HAPPENED
WITHIN OUR ETERNAL
FORTRESS...

...AND OUR SISTER,
THE WISE YAN LIN,
WAS STRUCK
BY EVIL.





"SO USING MY POWERS, I
INTERCEPTED YOUR MIND
ESSENCE AND DISCOVERED
THAT DREAM..."

"...BELONGED
TO WILL!"

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU TOLD
THE HEART'S CUSTODIAN.
YOU PROBABLY TALKED
TO ELYON...

162

"BUT I DISCOVERED
YOUR PLOT *IN TIME*
AND SILENCED YOU..."

...AND HAVING
DISCERNED THE TRUTH,
YOU DECIDED TO WARN
THE GUARDIANS
ABOUT ME.

"...FOREVER!"





NOW I JUST
HAVE TO FIND
OUT HOW MUCH
WILL KNOWS.



WISE
ENDARNO...

YES? WHO
BOTHERS
ME IN THIS
SORROWFUL
MOMENT OF
REFLECTION?



WE UNDERSTAND
AND SHARE YOUR
FEELINGS.

BUT TIME
IS TIGHT, AND
BEFORE BATHING
IN THE SPRING
OF SILENCE...



...YOU HAVE TO ENDURE
A SHORT PERIOD OF...
LET'S CALL IT "MAGICAL
FASTING."

?



YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE
YOUR POWERS AND WILL
STAY IN THE ROOM OF
NOTHINGNESS...

...WHERE
YOU'LL MEDITATE,
AWAY FROM EVERY-
ONE, ABOUT YOUR
NEW ROLE.



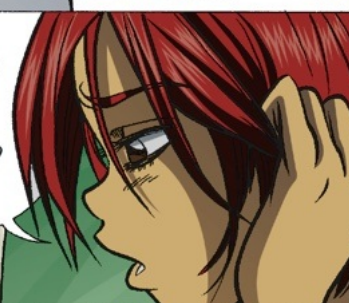
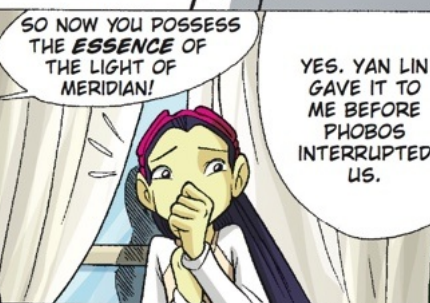
SO BE IT. IF THIS IS
THE WILL OF THE
WISE MEN...

DARN
IT!



164







WE HAVE TO GO TO KANDRAKAR RIGHT NOW!



YES, THAT'S THE *RIGHT* DECISION, BUT WE NEED A PLAN.

ORUBE'S RIGHT. WE NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS, AND WE ABSOLUTELY GOTTA HAVE A PLAN.



IF PHOBOS IS REALLY HIDING INSIDE ENDARNO'S BODY, WE CAN'T FACE HIM *ALONE*.

BUT WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE. WE HAVE SOMETHING HE *WANTS*.

166



YES. HE WANTS THE CROWN OF LIGHT BUT DOESN'T KNOW ONLY I HAVE THE KEY TO GET IT.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE HE DOESN'T?

HE WOULD'VE SUMMONED ME, FORCED ME TO HAND OVER THE ESSENCE OF LIGHT...



...AND MAYBE ACCUSED ME IN FRONT OF THE CONGREGATION OF HAVING PLOTTED AGAINST HIM WITH ELYON.

NO. PHOBOS DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING. HE'S SURE ELYON WILL VOLUNTARILY GIVE HIM THE ESSENCE...

...AFTER HE **CRUSHES** HER SPIRIT.

ANOTHER REASON TO ACT FAST. WE HAVE TO FREE HER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

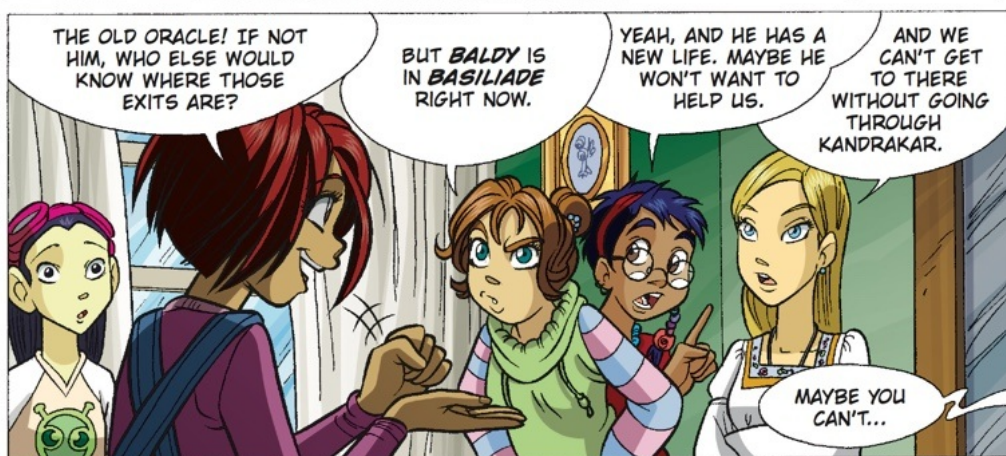
ORUBE. YOU'VE TRAINED IN KANDRAKAR. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET INTO THE TOWER OF MISTS?

ONLY THE ORACLE AND THE CUSTODIAN, THANKS TO THE BRACELET, CAN ENTER THAT PRISON.

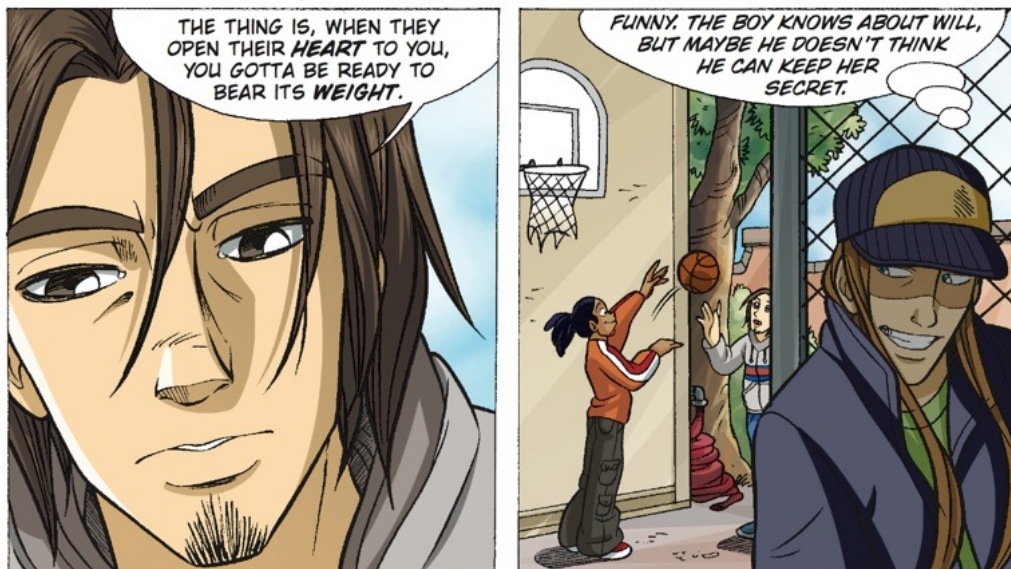
BUT I DO REMEMBER ONE DAY, WHEN LUBA WAS TRAINING ME IN MEDITATION AND COMBAT...

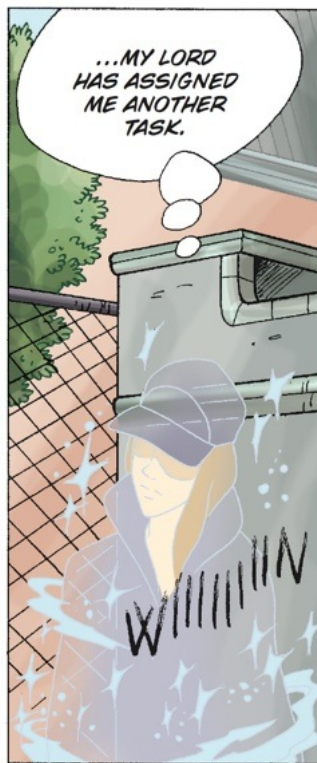
"...SHE POINTED TO THE TOWER, TELLING ME VERY FEW WISE MEN KNEW OF THE EXISTENCE..."

"...OF ONE OR MORE **SECRET GATEWAYS** TO BE USED IN CASE OF AN EVACUATION."











.....



YOU OKAY?

YEAH. I FORGOT TO SAY BYE.



BYE, REBECCA! SEE YOU TOMORROW — AND DON'T WORRY, I'LL CLOSE THE DOOR!

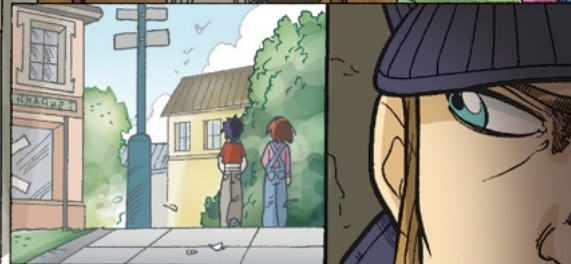
?

I HAVE TO CONTACT YOU TELEPATHICALLY. WHAT'S UP, WILL?

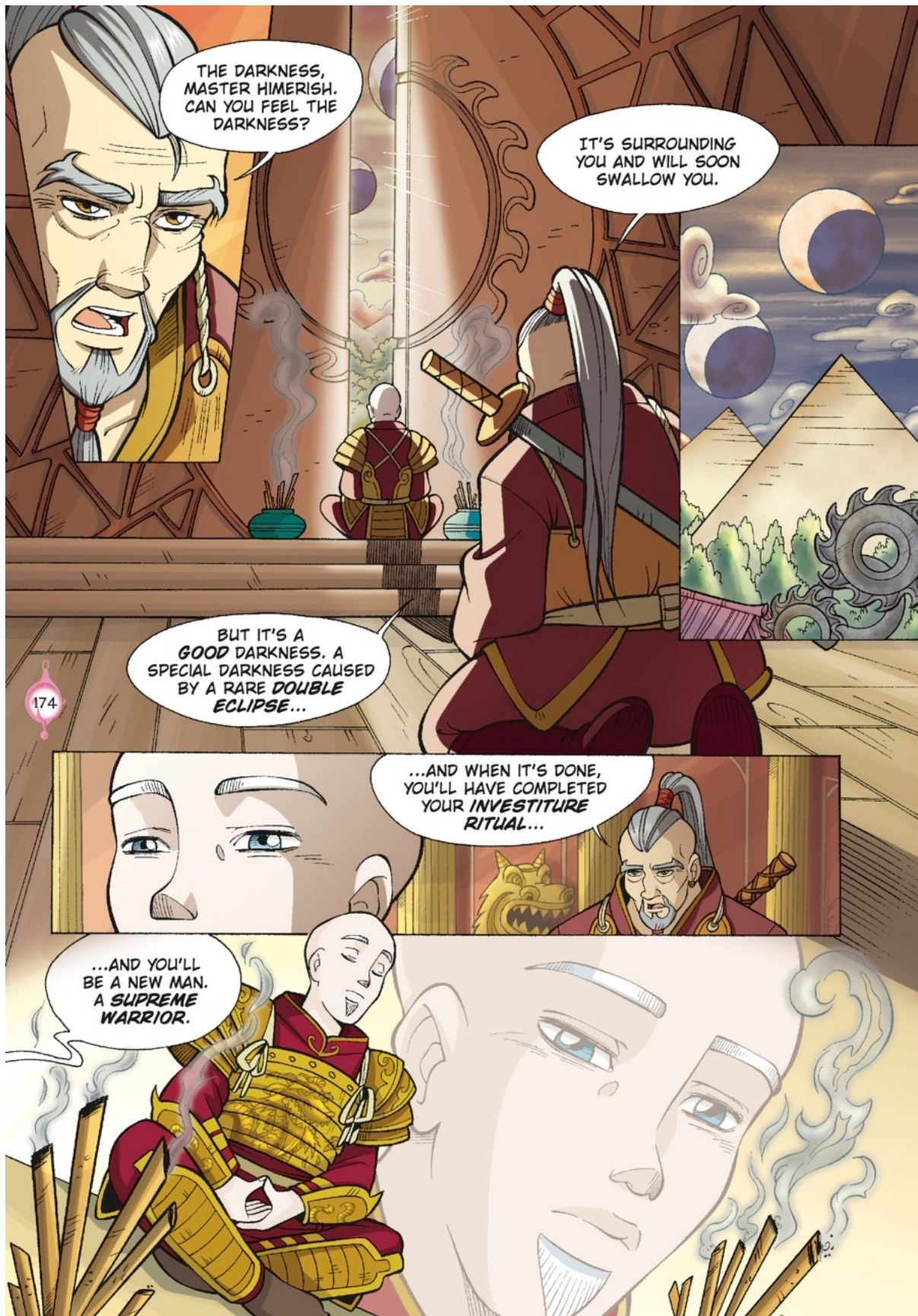
I DUNNO, TARANEE. IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS WATCHING ME.

ORUBE'S NEIGHBOR?

MAYBE. WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME HE SPIED ON US.







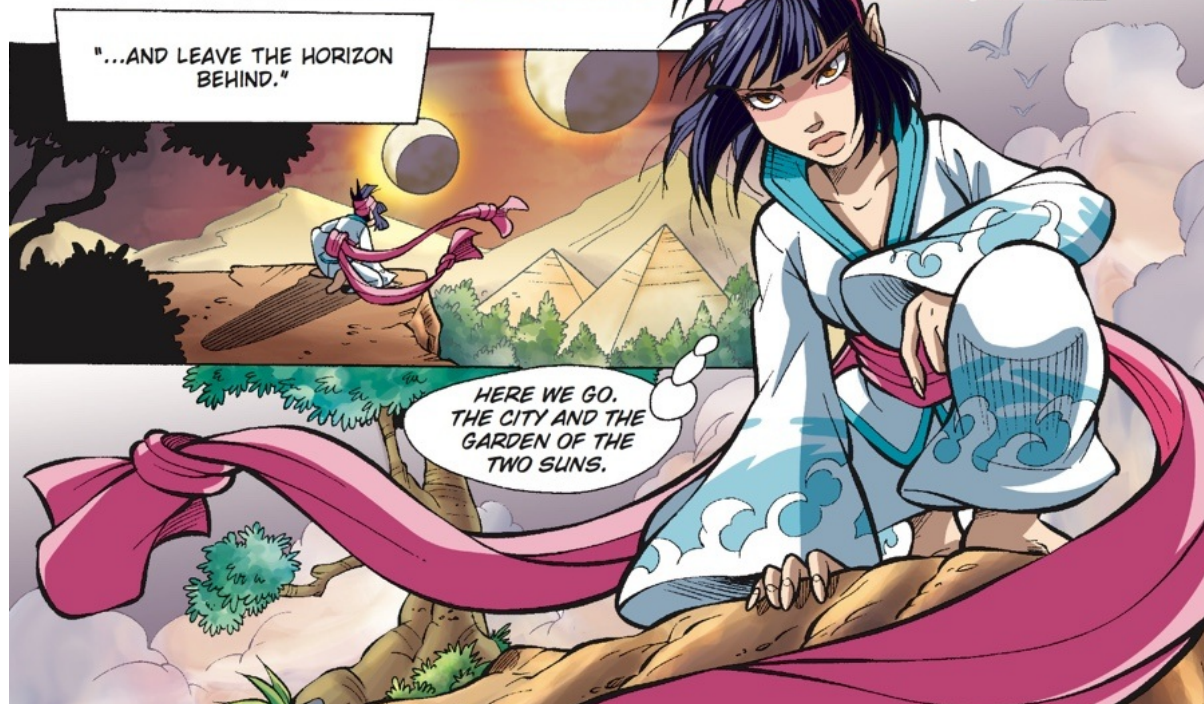
THE DARKNESS,
MASTER HIMERISH.
CAN YOU FEEL THE
DARKNESS?

IT'S SURROUNDING
YOU AND WILL SOON
SWALLOW YOU.

BUT IT'S A
GOOD DARKNESS. A
SPECIAL DARKNESS CAUSED
BY A RARE **DOUBLE
ECLIPSE**...

...AND WHEN IT'S DONE,
YOU'LL HAVE COMPLETED
YOUR **INVESTITURE
RITUAL**...

...AND YOU'LL
BE A NEW MAN.
A **SUPREME
WARRIOR**.









I'M NOT A FOREIGNER. I WAS BORN HERE AND SPENT MY CHILDHOOD IN A GARDEN JUST LIKE THIS ONE.

GOOD.



THEN YOU KNOW YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST ALL OF US!



I SAID I GREW UP ON BASILIADE, BUT I HAD MY REAL **TRAINING** SOMEWHERE ELSE...

178



...KANDRAKAR, TO BE PRECISE.

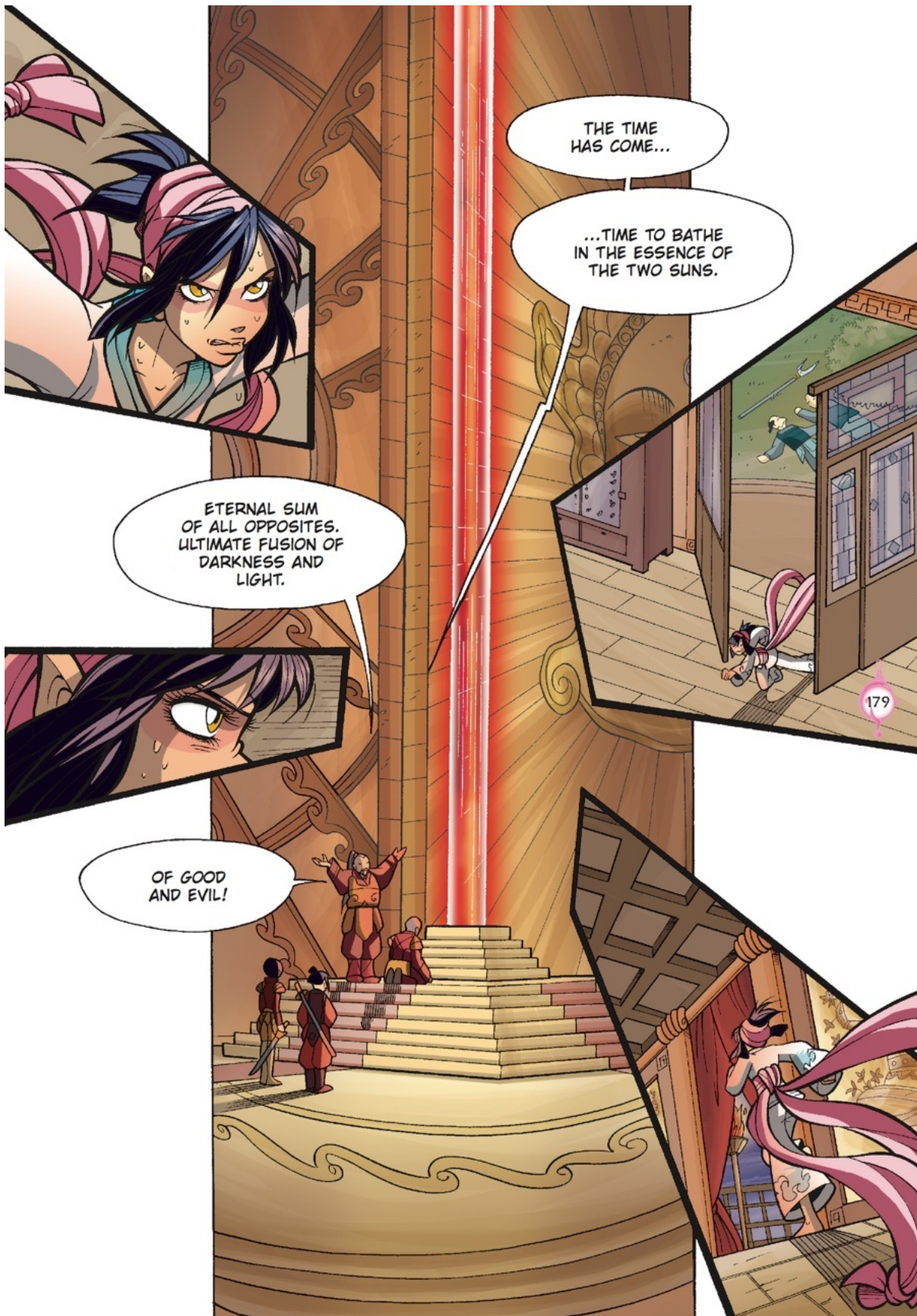
?



Y-YOU'RE LYING. YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THE **CHOSEN ONES**!

ONLY ONE WAY TO VERIFY MY WORD, BUT BEFORE WE FIGHT, LET ME SAY ONE THING...

...IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME!



THE TIME
HAS COME...

...TIME TO BATHE
IN THE ESSENCE OF
THE TWO SUNS.

ETERNAL SUM
OF ALL OPPOSITES.
ULTIMATE FUSION OF
DARKNESS AND
LIGHT.

OF GOOD
AND EVIL!





WHAT DOES MY NAME...
->COUGH->
...MATTER? OR YOURS?
DO THEY HAVE ANY
MEANING?

BUT HIS DOES. HIS HAS A
PRECISE FUNCTION!

IT CAN GIVE HIM A
NEW APPEARANCE, A NEW
LIFE, BUT I WONDER...

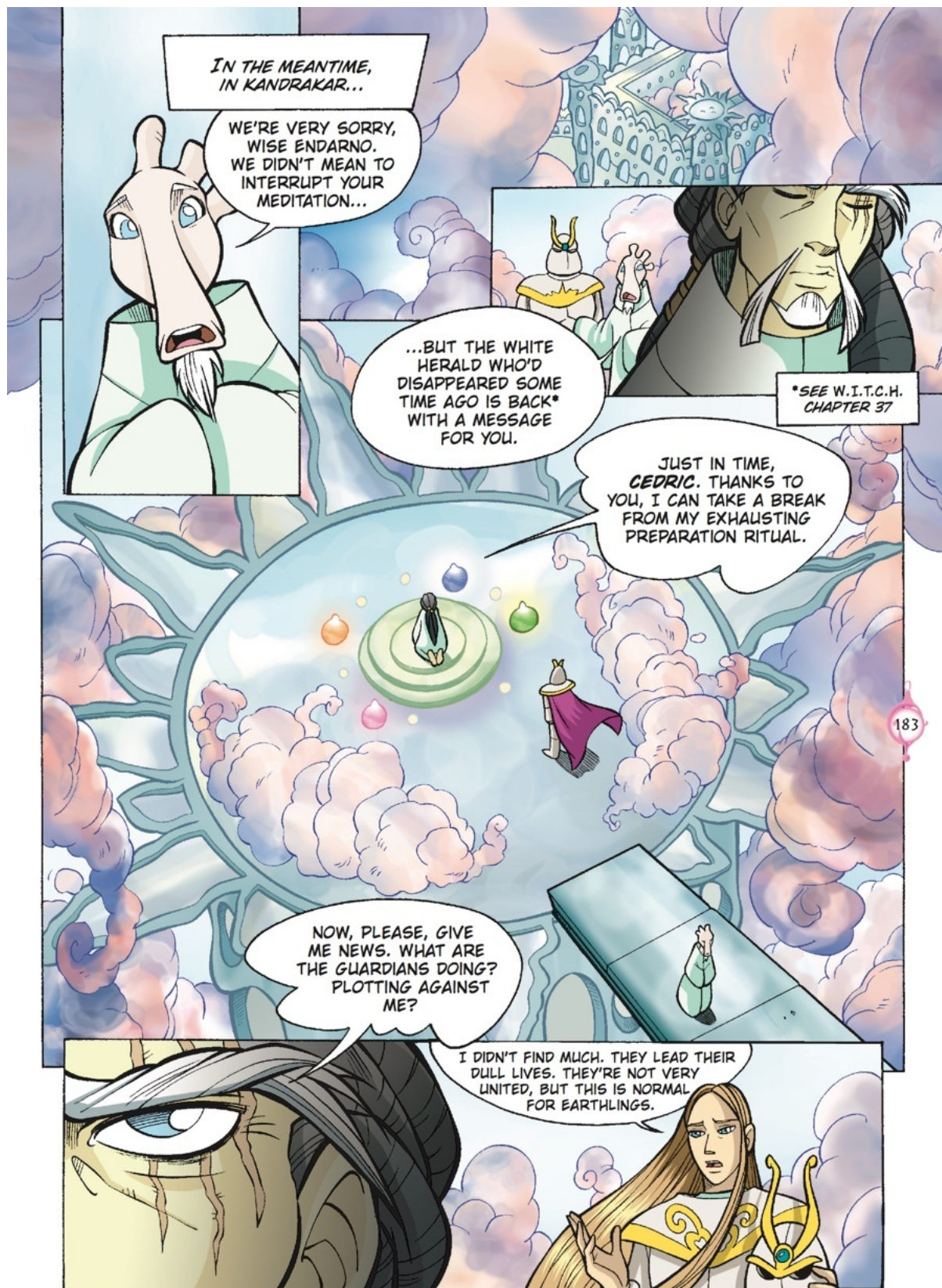
...CAN AN ORACLE OF
KANDRAKAR GO BACK
TO HAVING ANY OLD
NAME AND LIFE?

?

MASTER...THEN YOU...
YOU ARE...

I BEG YOU TO SPARE THIS
BRAVE WARRIOR, YARR.
LET HER THROUGH...

...AND
LET HER
REST!



IN THE MEANTIME,
IN KANDRAKAR...

WE'RE VERY SORRY,
WISE ENDARNO.
WE DIDN'T MEAN TO
INTERRUPT YOUR
MEDITATION...

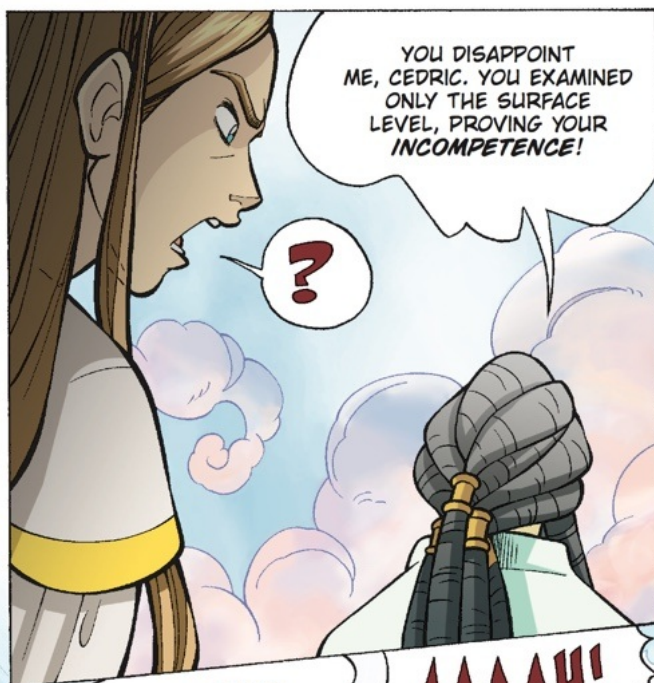
...BUT THE WHITE
HERALD WHO'D
DISAPPEARED SOME
TIME AGO IS BACK*
WITH A MESSAGE
FOR YOU.

*SEE W.I.T.C.H.
CHAPTER 37

JUST IN TIME,
CEDRIC. THANKS TO
YOU, I CAN TAKE A BREAK
FROM MY EXHAUSTING
PREPARATION RITUAL.

NOW, PLEASE, GIVE
ME NEWS. WHAT ARE
THE GUARDIANS DOING?
PLOTING AGAINST
ME?

I DIDN'T FIND MUCH. THEY LEAD THEIR
DULL LIVES. THEY'RE NOT VERY
UNITED, BUT THIS IS NORMAL
FOR EARTHLINGS.



DO YOU? **AAAAH!**

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"THE WISE YAN LIN
IS PROBABLY IN
MORTAL DANGER..."

"THE PRINCESS
ELYON WILL SOON
GIVE UP..."

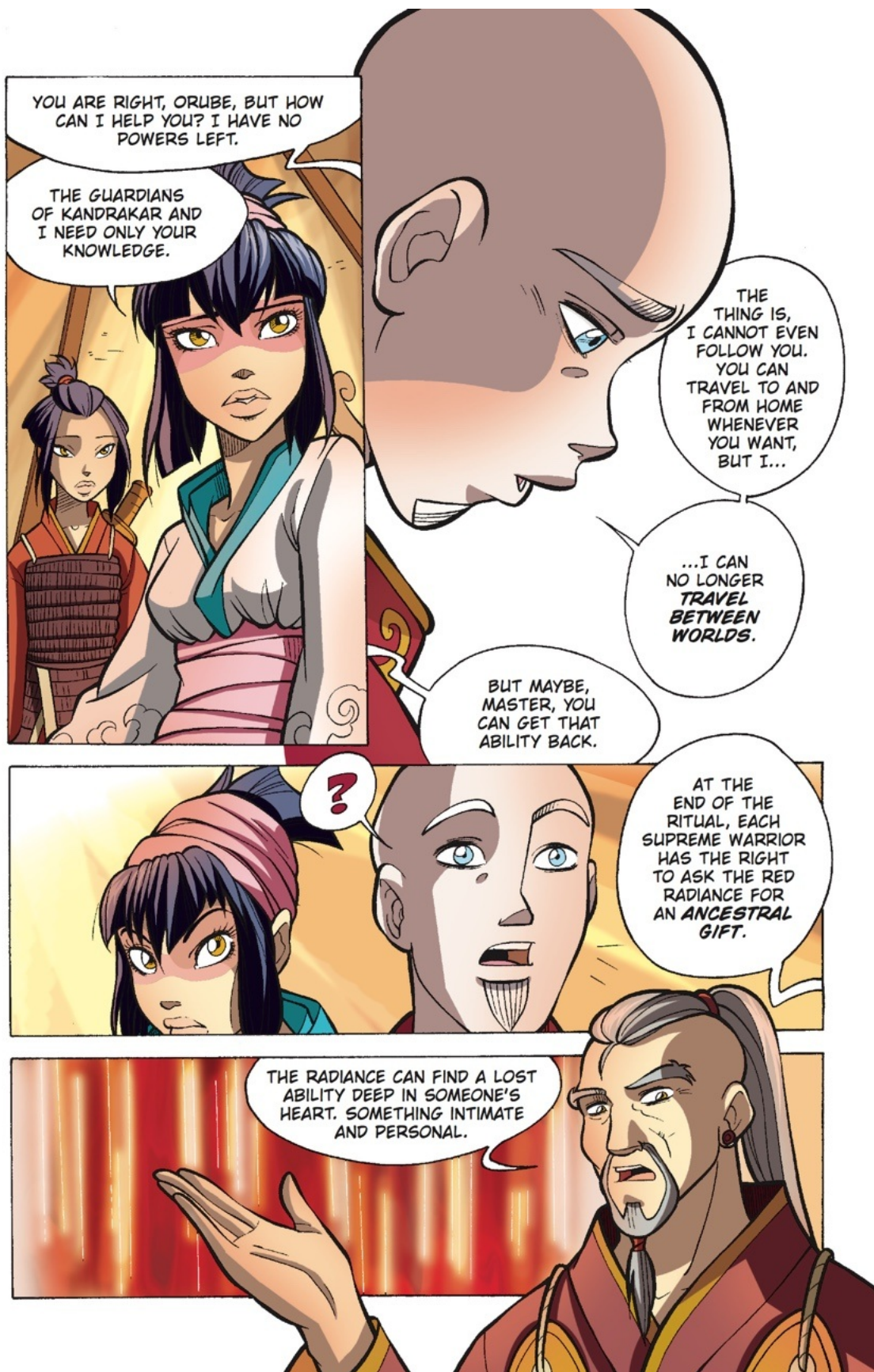
"PHOBOS IS
SHOWING HIS
TRUE, EVIL FACE."

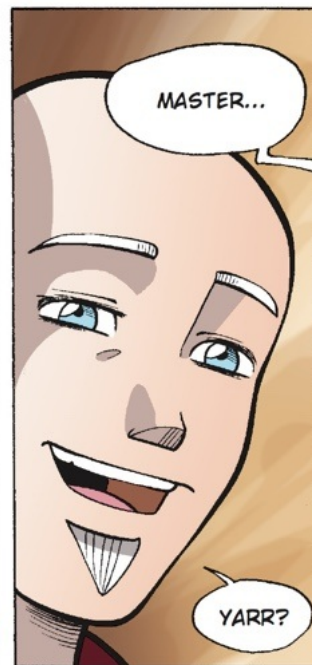
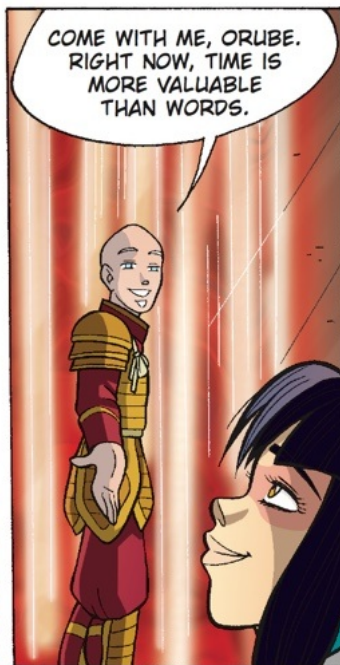
HOW COULD ALL THIS
HAPPEN? HOW COULD
I HAVE BEEN SO
BLIND?

IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. YOU DID
WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS
RIGHT, ORACLE.

DO NOT CALL ME THAT.
I DO NOT DESERVE
THAT TITLE.

PHOBOS
CERTAINLY DESERVES
IT EVEN LESS!







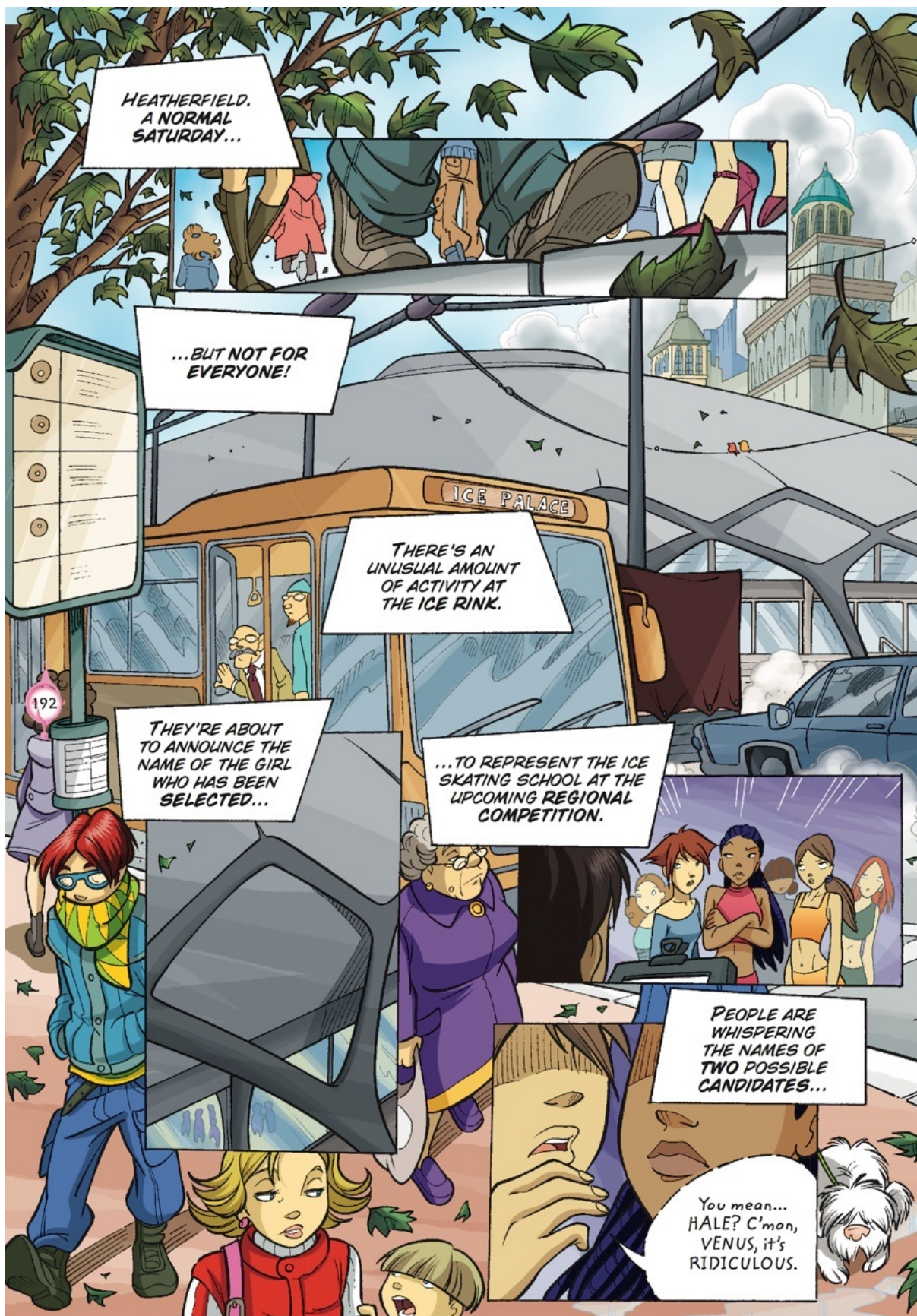




Never Alone Again

"I'd like to be near
you without
making you suffer!"





HEATHERFIELD.
A NORMAL
SATURDAY...

...BUT NOT FOR
EVERYONE!

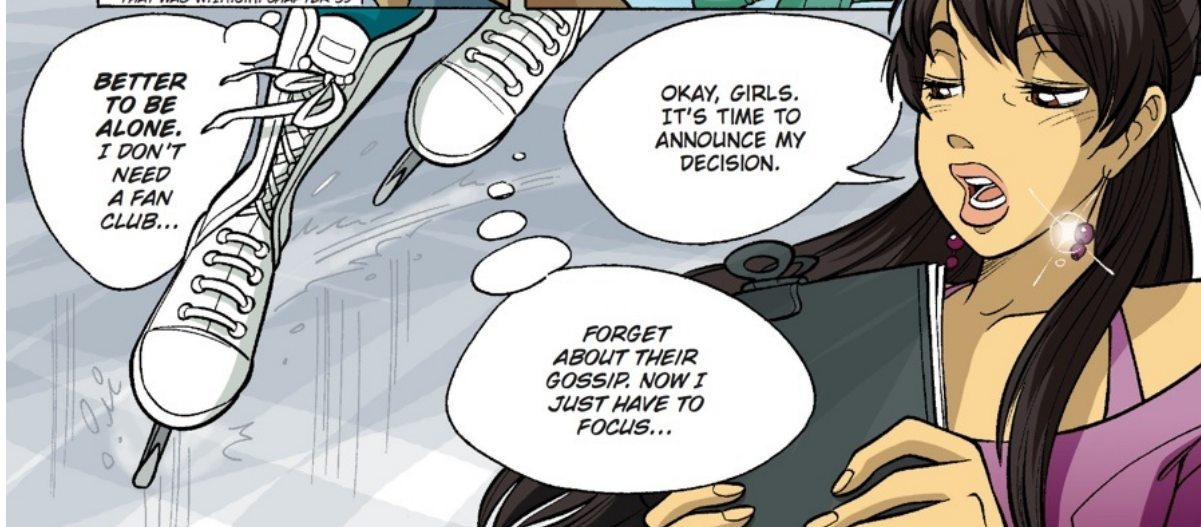
THERE'S AN
UNUSUAL AMOUNT
OF ACTIVITY AT
THE ICE RINK.

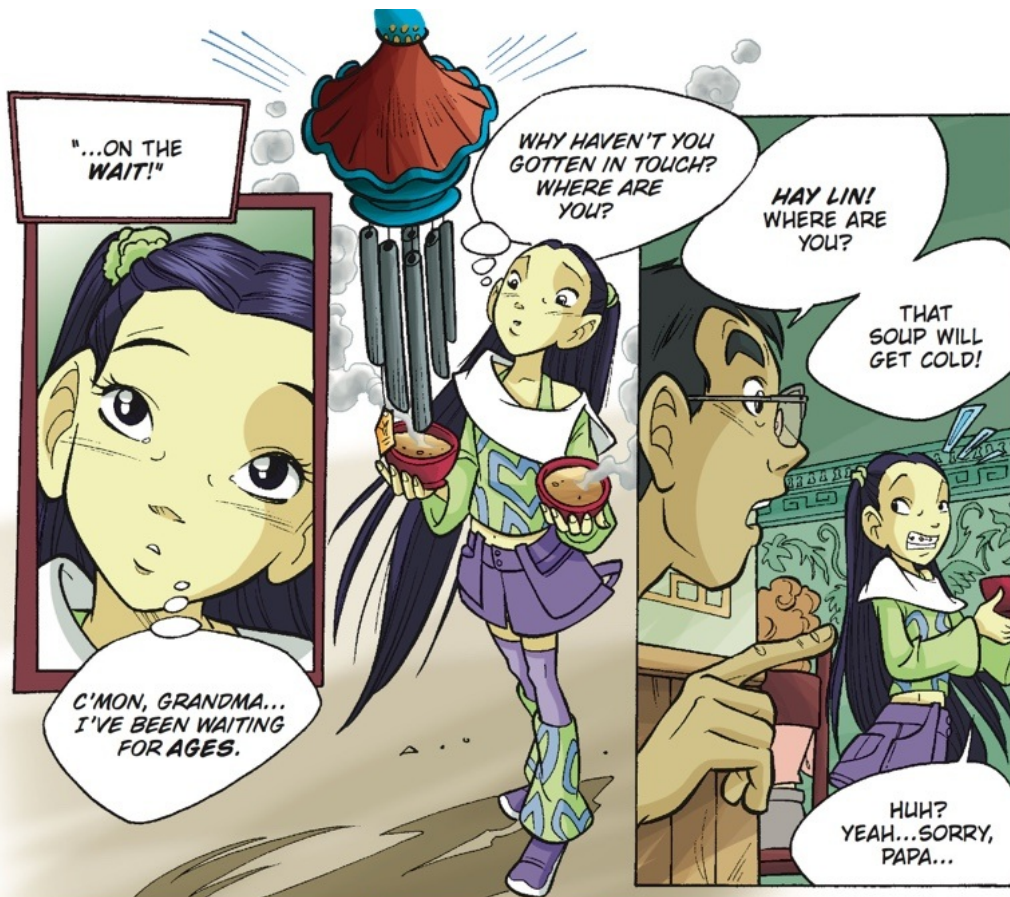
THEY'RE ABOUT
TO ANNOUNCE THE
NAME OF THE GIRL
WHO HAS BEEN
SELECTED...

...TO REPRESENT THE ICE
SKATING SCHOOL AT THE
UPCOMING REGIONAL
COMPETITION.

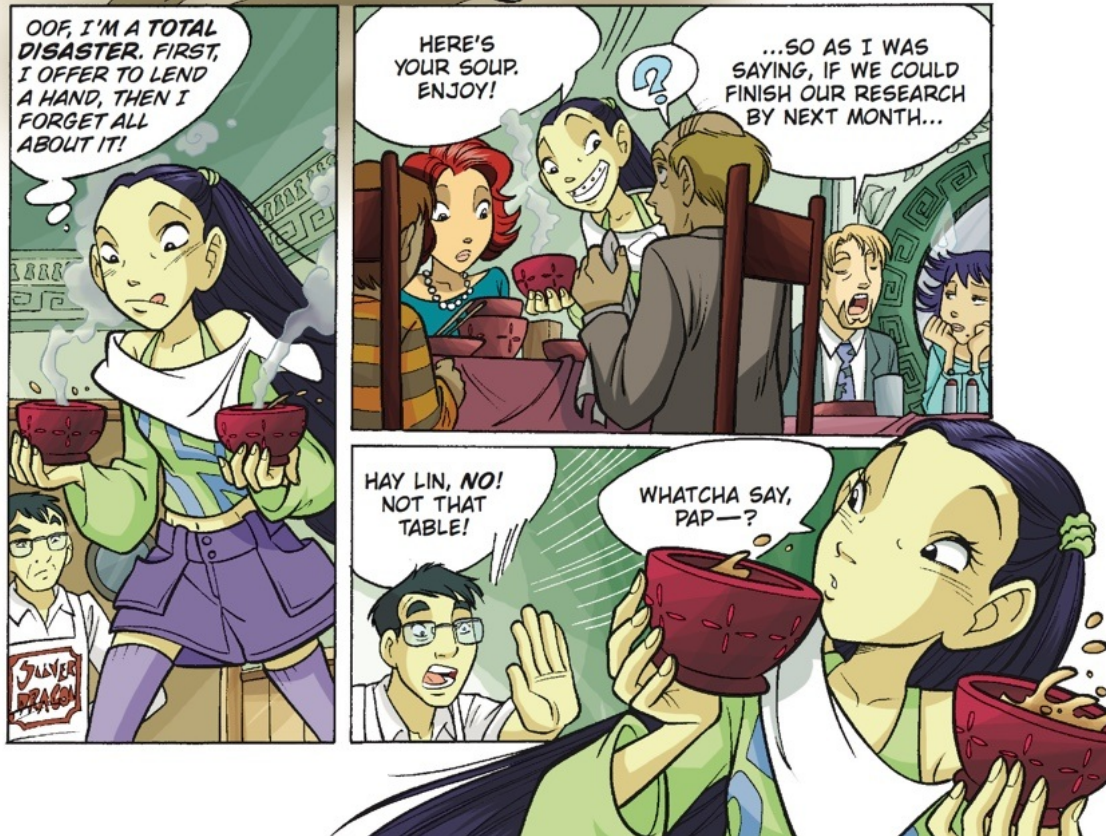
PEOPLE ARE
WHISPERING
THE NAMES OF
TWO POSSIBLE
CANDIDATES...

You mean...
HALE? C'mon,
VENUS, it's
RIDICULOUS.

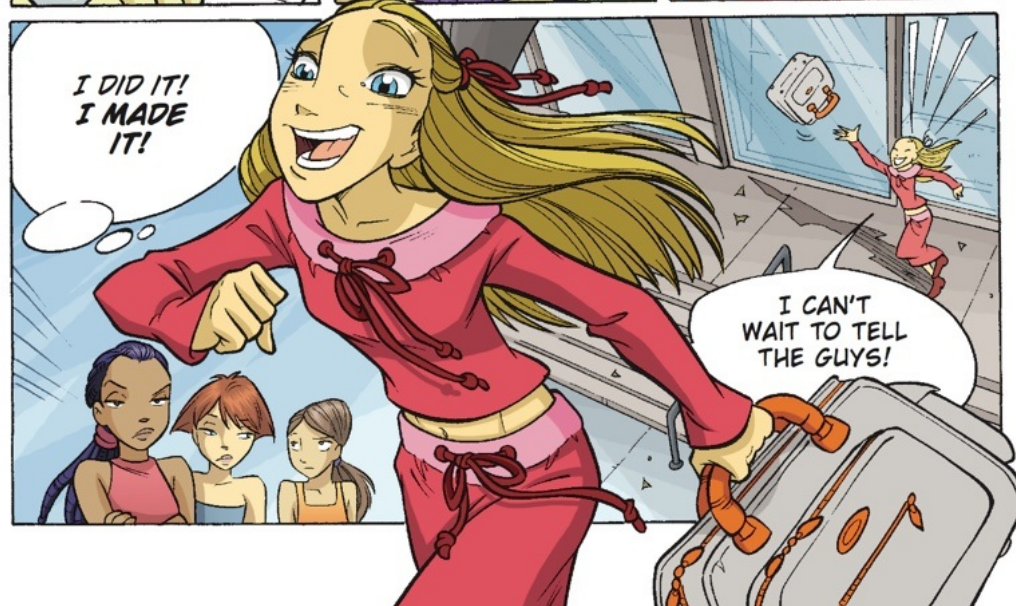
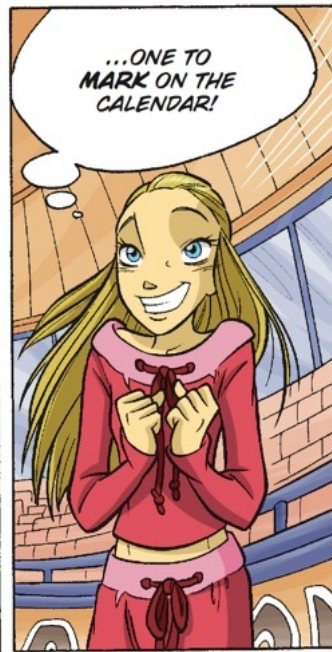


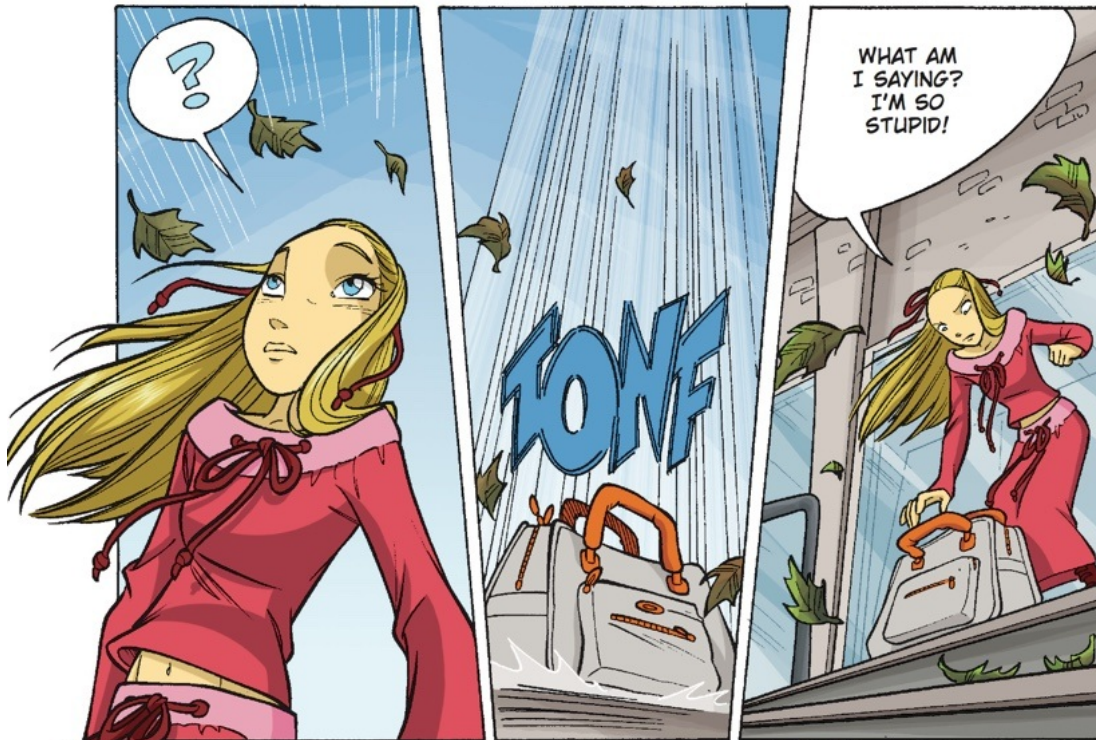


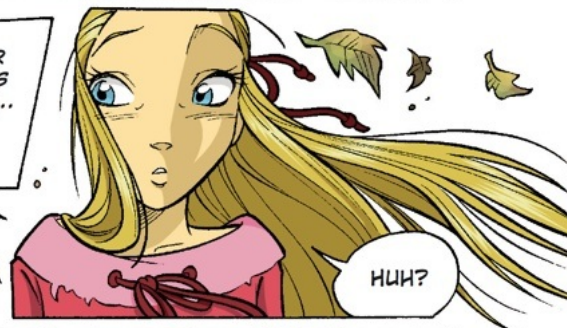
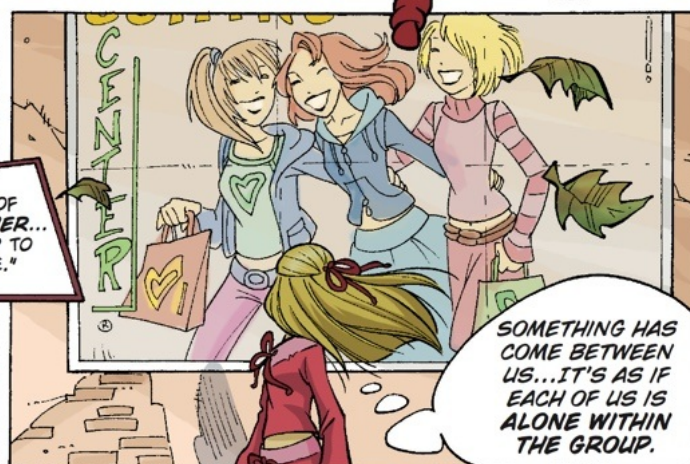
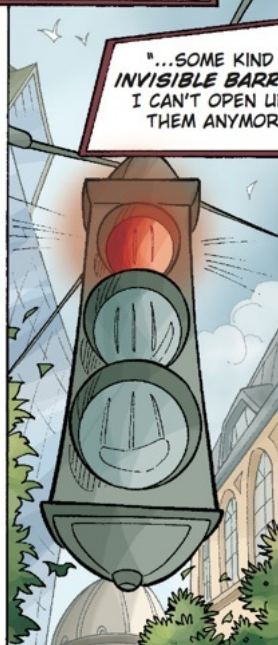
194



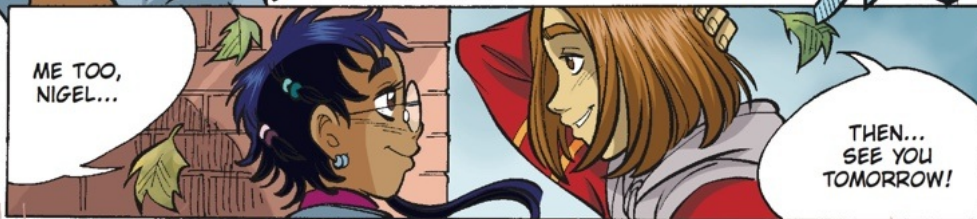




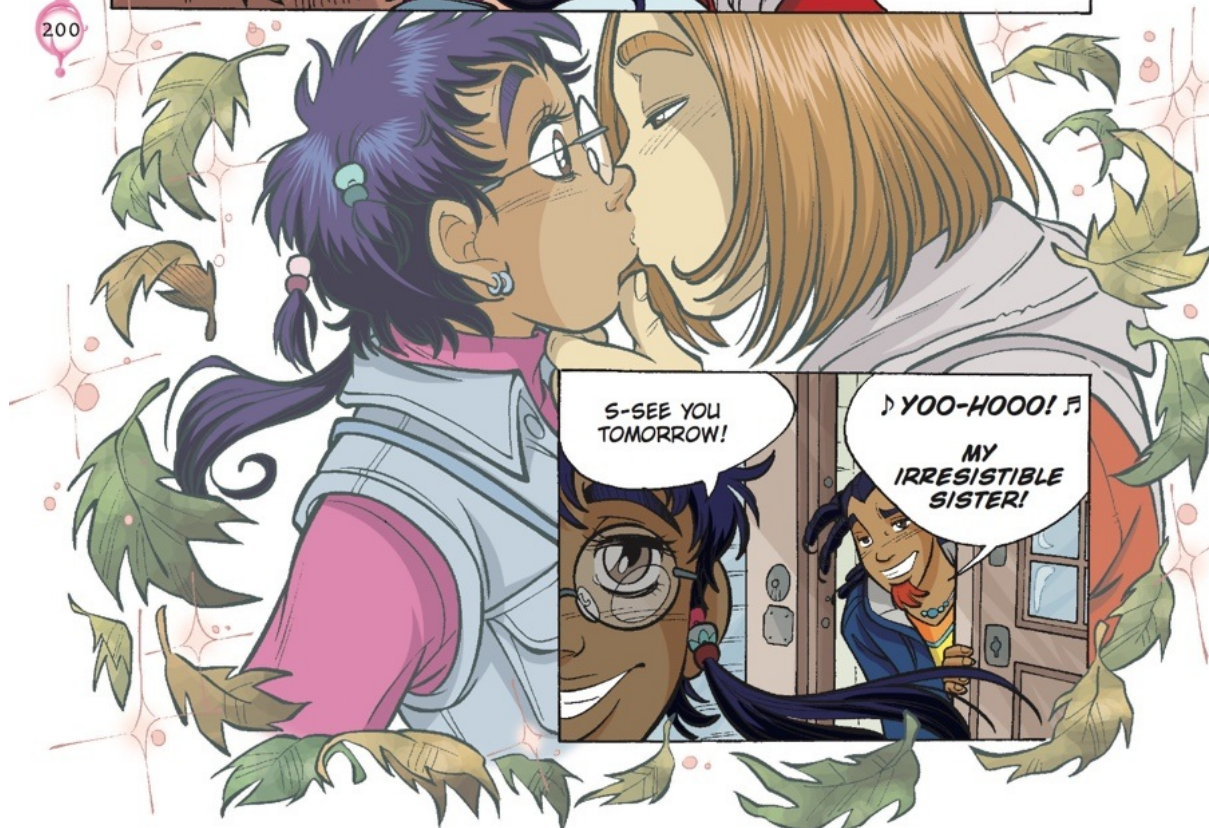








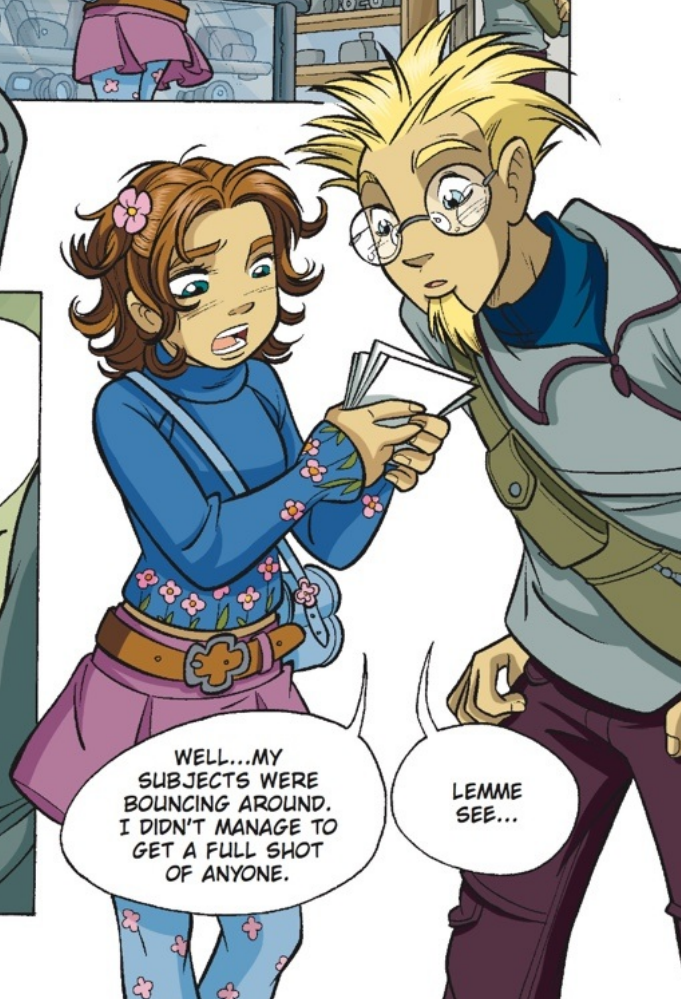
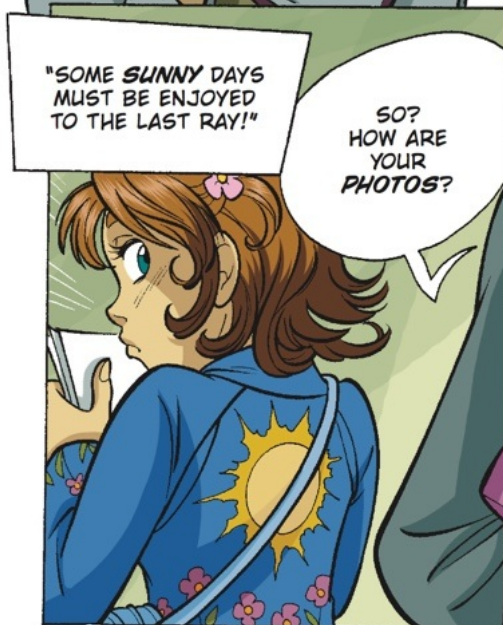
200

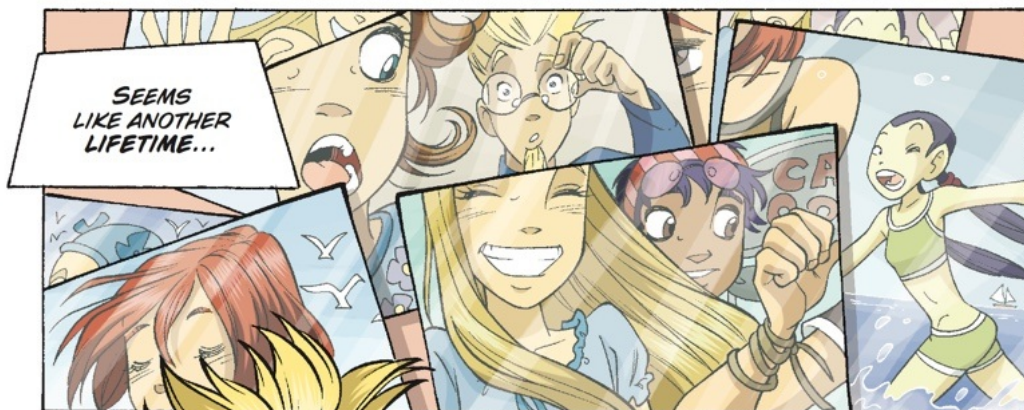






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EYES CLOSED,
FAR FROM EVERYONE
AND EVERYTHING, WILL
SAVORS SOMETHING
COMPLETELY NEW.

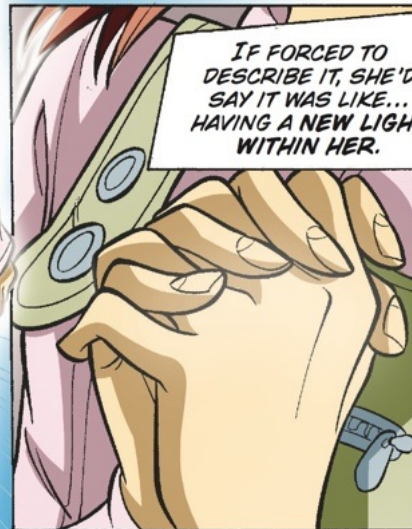


A FEELING OF
COMPLETE WELL-
BEING...SHE'S FILLED
WITH A GOOD, SPIRITUAL,
MAGICAL WARMTH...

...BRINGING HER
UNIMAGINABLE
SERENITY.



IF FORCED TO
DESCRIBE IT, SHE'D
SAY IT WAS LIKE...
HAVING A NEW LIGHT
WITHIN HER.



IT'S THE LIGHT OF
MERIDIAN, ELYON'S
MAGICAL ESSENCE,
WHICH YAN LIN
ENTRUSTED TO HER.

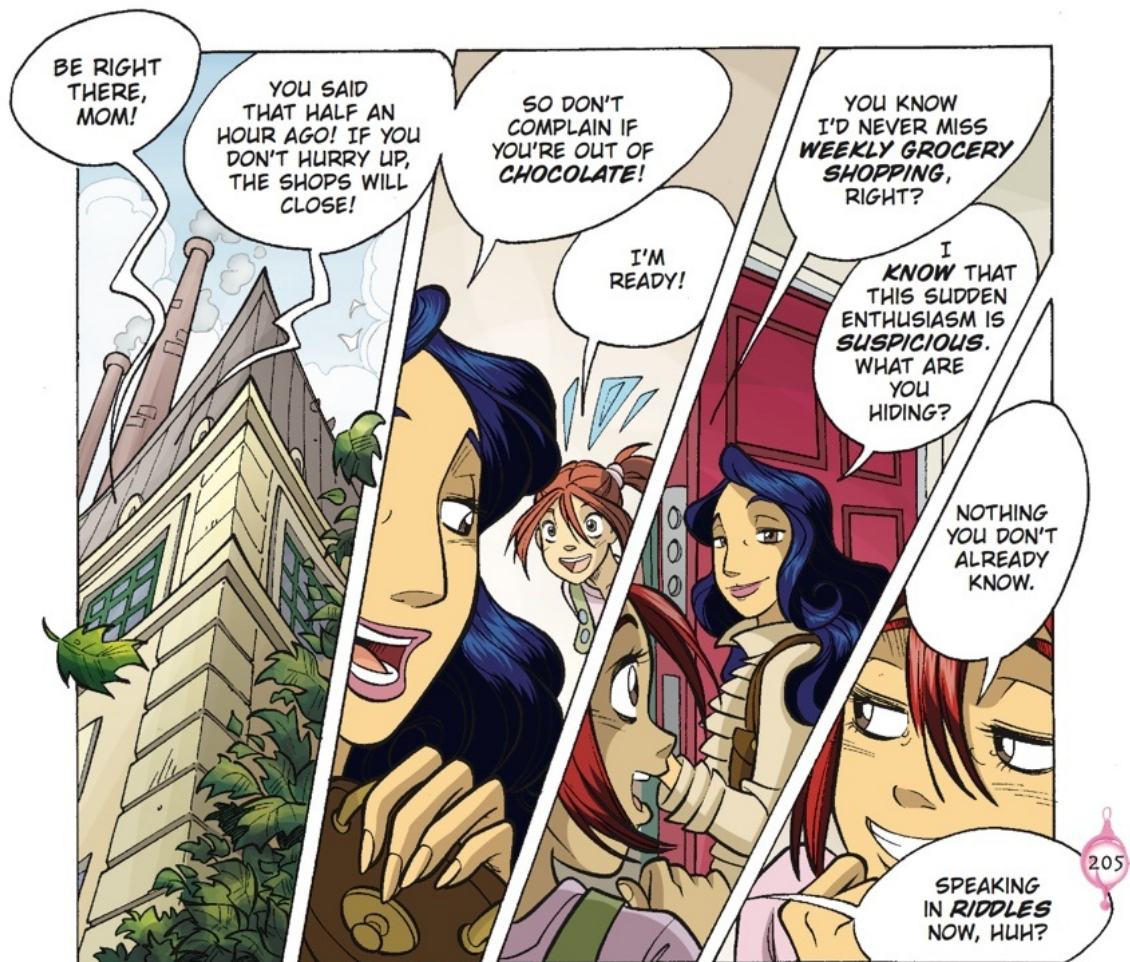


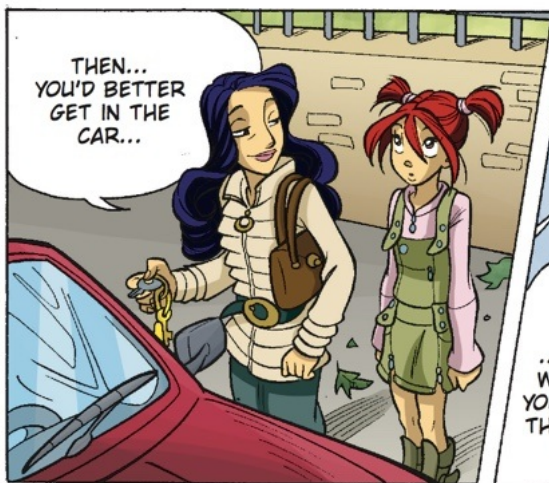
SINCE WILL HAS BEEN
CARRYING IT, IT'S AS IF
NOTHING CAN UPSET
THAT TRANQUILITY...

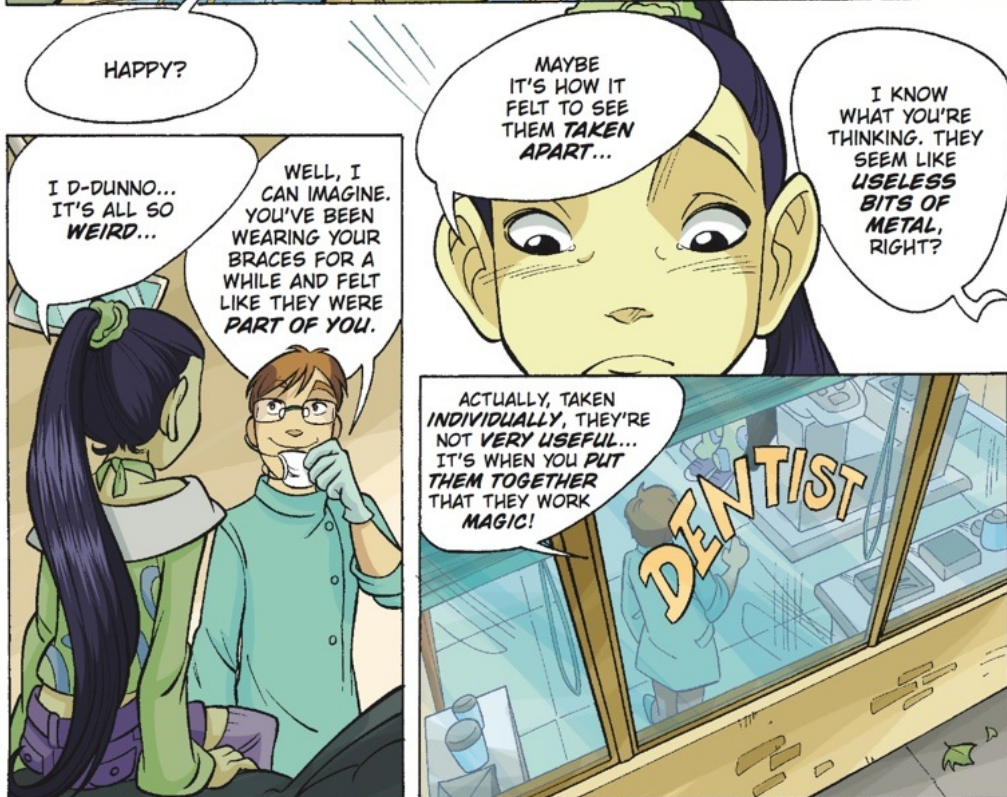
WHIIIIII!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

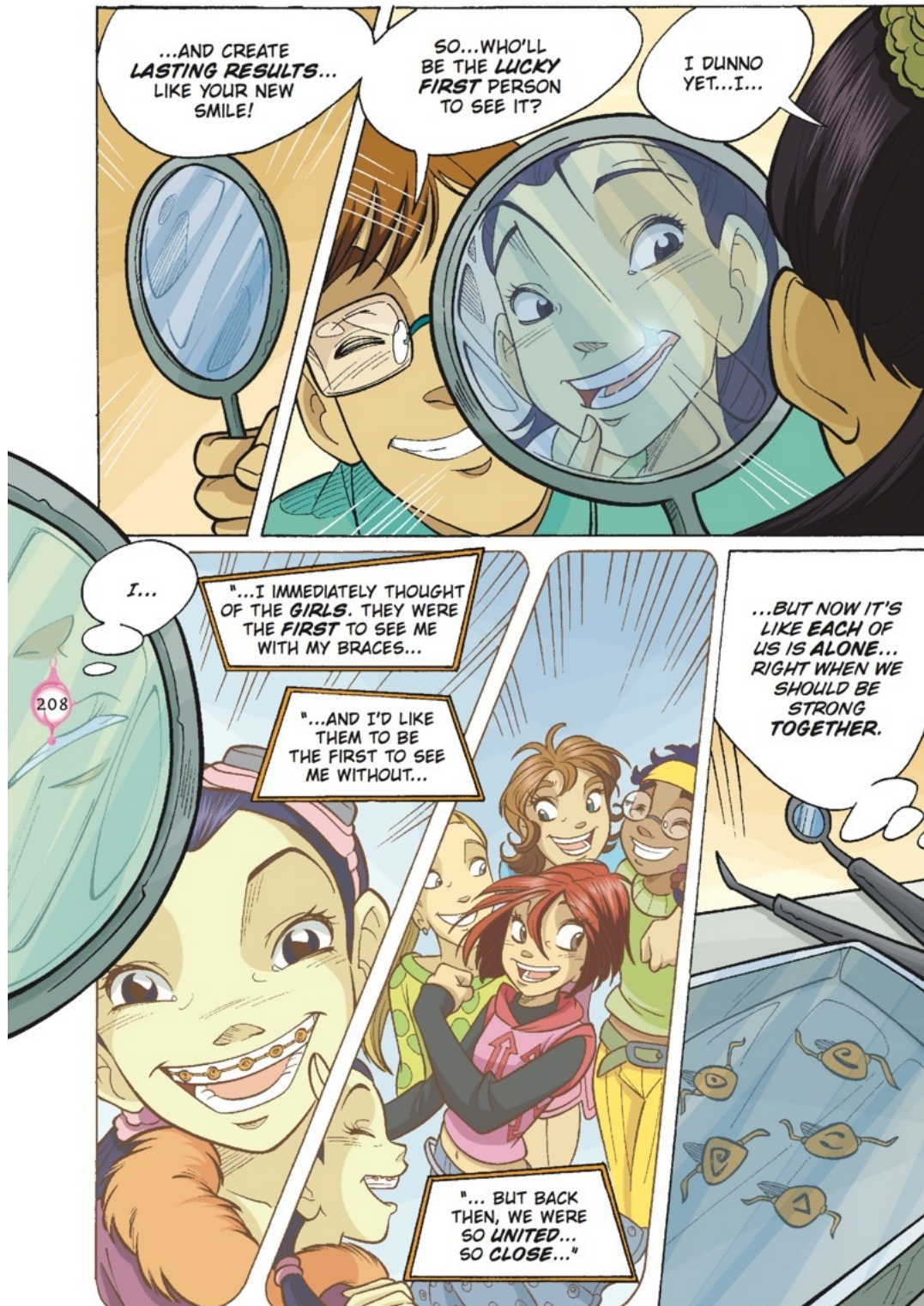


...ALMOST.









TOGETHER. SINCE SHE AND MATT BECAME A COUPLE, WILL SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEEN WHAT THAT MEANS.



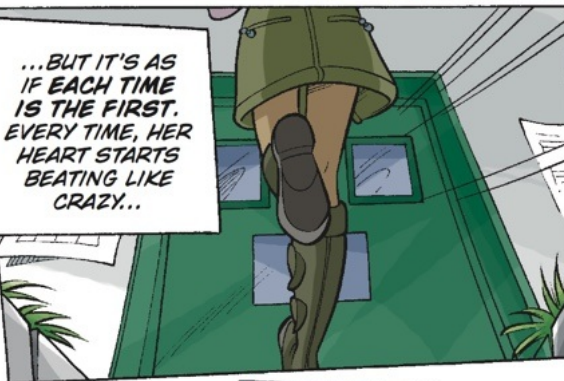
SOMETIMES IT'S ALL SO BRIGHT AND PEACEFUL... OTHER TIMES, SHE FEELS SHE NEEDS AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL.



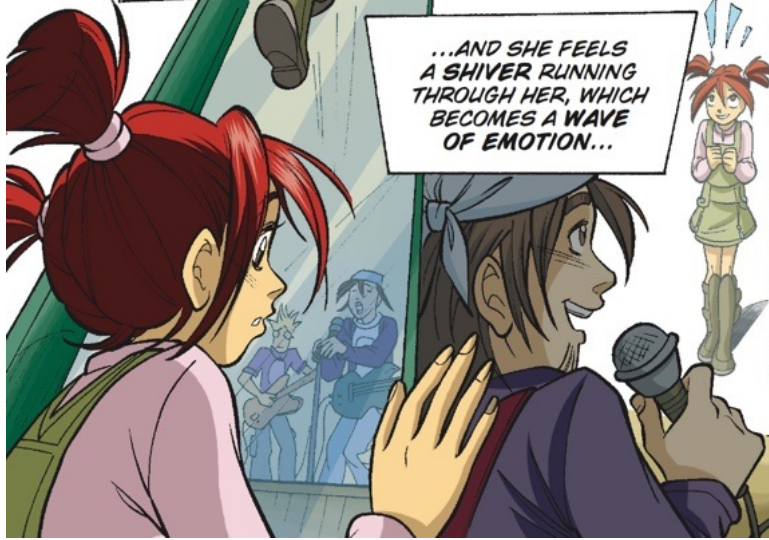
SHE SHOULD BE USED TO THOSE MOMENTS OF EAGER ANTICIPATION BEFORE SHE SEES MATT...



...BUT IT'S AS IF EACH TIME IS THE FIRST. EVERY TIME, HER HEART STARTS BEATING LIKE CRAZY...



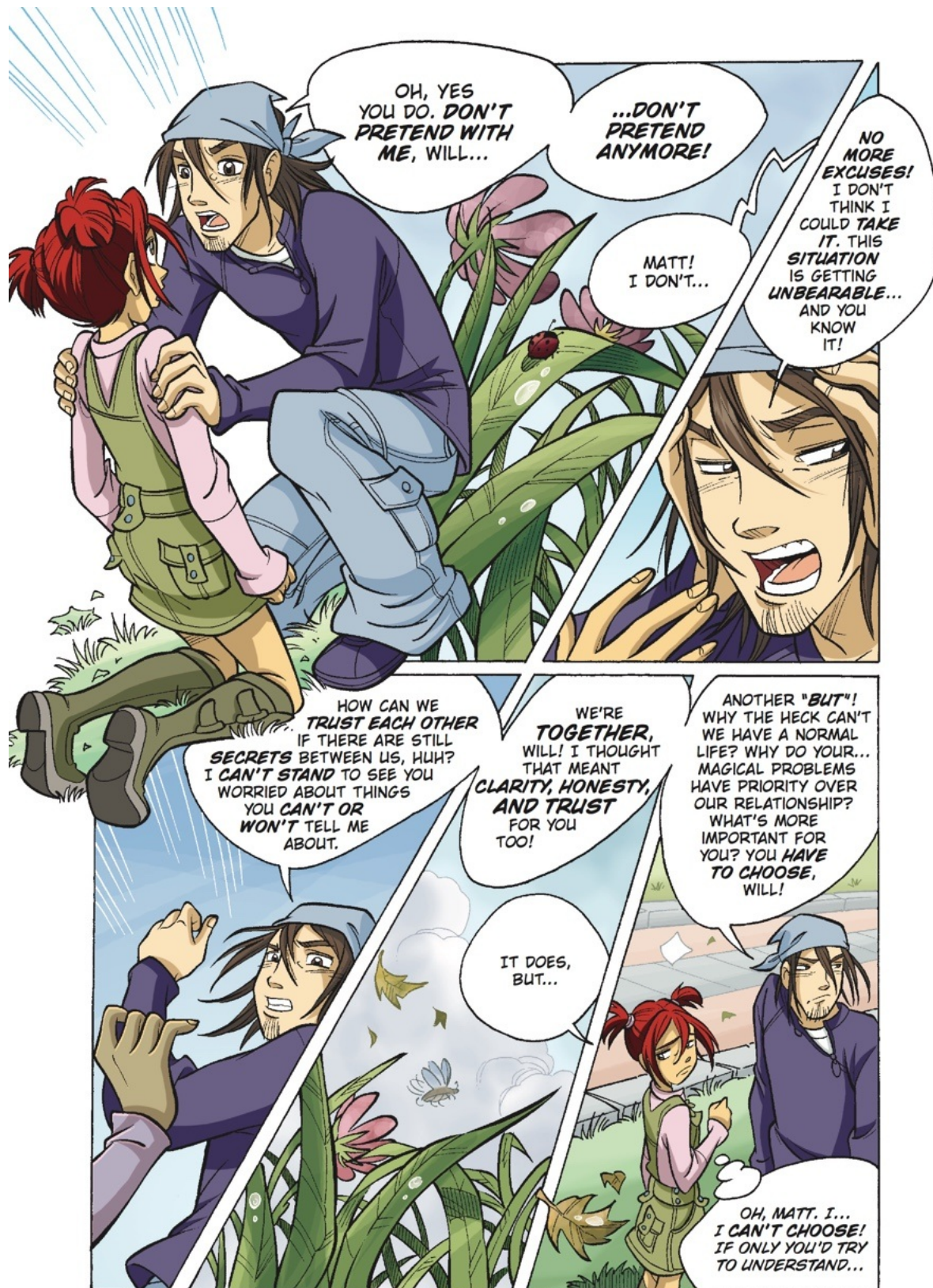
...AND SHE FEELS A SHIVER RUNNING THROUGH HER, WHICH BECOMES A WAVE OF EMOTION...



...AS SOON AS THEIR EYES MEET.







OH, YES
YOU DO. **DON'T
PRETEND WITH
ME, WILL...**

**...DON'T
PRETEND
ANYMORE!**

MATT!
I DON'T...

**NO
MORE
EXCUSES!**
I DON'T
THINK I
COULD TAKE
IT. THIS
SITUATION
IS GETTING
UNBEARABLE...
AND YOU
KNOW
IT!

HOW CAN WE
... **TRUST EACH OTHER**
IF THERE ARE STILL
SECRETS BETWEEN US, HUH?
I **CAN'T STAND** TO SEE YOU
WORRIED ABOUT THINGS
YOU **CAN'T OR**
WON'T TELL ME
ABOUT.

WE'RE
TOGETHER,
WILL! I THOUGHT
THAT MEANT
CLARITY, HONESTY,
AND TRUST
FOR YOU
TOO!

IT DOES,
BUT...

ANOTHER **"BUT"!**
WHY THE HECK CAN'T
WE HAVE A NORMAL
LIFE? WHY DO YOUR...
MAGICAL PROBLEMS
HAVE PRIORITY OVER
OUR RELATIONSHIP?
WHAT'S MORE
IMPORTANT FOR
YOU? YOU **HAVE**
TO CHOOSE,
WILL!

OH, MATT. I...
I CAN'T CHOOSE!
IF ONLY YOU'D TRY
TO UNDERSTAND...



I'M SORRY, WILL, BUT...
I **DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE.**
YOU SEEM SO **DISTANT**
AND **ELUSIVE**, LIKE
YOU'RE TRYING
TO HIDE.

I THOUGHT
I COULD SHARE
YOUR SECRET, BUT
NOW...IT'S LIKE I
HAVE TO CARRY A
WEIGHT INSIDE...

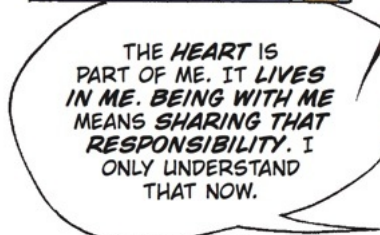


...A WEIGHT THAT
GROWS MORE
OPPRESSIVE
EVERY DAY.

...THE
HEART OF
KANDRAKAR.



I DUNNO HOW TO
EXPLAIN, BUT...I KNOW
THAT FEELING. IT'S
LIKE NOW WE'RE...
CARRYING IT
TOGETHER.



THE **HEART** IS
PART OF ME. IT **LIVES**
IN ME. **BEING WITH ME**
MEANS **SHARING THAT**
RESPONSIBILITY. I
ONLY UNDERSTAND
THAT NOW.



I D-DON'T
FOLLOW,
WILL...



WILL...

OH, MATT. HOW COULD I HAVE
KNOWN I'D CAUSE SO MUCH
PAIN? I HAD NO IDEA
THE **ANGUISH**
YOU'D FEEL.

I'D LOVE TO
HELP YOU...BUT
I **NEED HELP**
TOO!

PLEASE
SAY SOMETHING.
YOU'RE SCARING ME.



"IT'S SO HARD
TO **EXPLAIN**,
MATT...

"...AND I'M NOT
ENOUGH. I'D LIKE
TO BE NEAR YOU
WITHOUT **MAKING**
YOU **SUFFER**!

"MAYBE I COULD
FREE YOU FROM
THIS TORMENT. I'D
JUST HAVE TO **GIVE**
UP THE HEART OF
KANDRAKAR...

"MAYBE I'D
JUST HAVE TO
GIVE UP TRYING TO
UNDERSTAND.

"BUT **I LOVE YOU**,
MATT, AND I **WISH I**
WAS ABLE TO TELL
YOU HOW I FEEL."



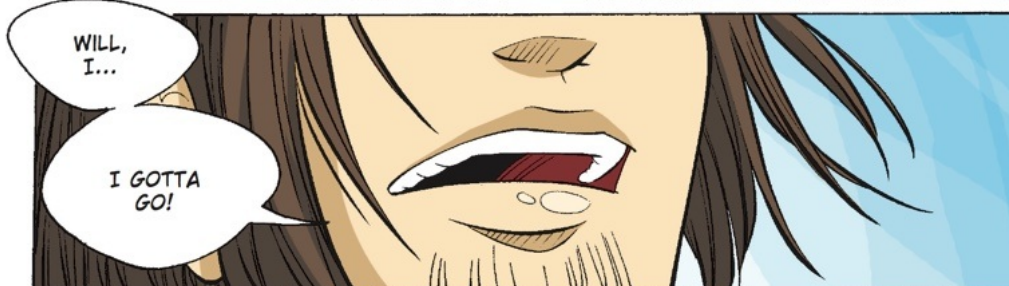
"IT'S SO HARD
TO **UNDERSTAND**,
WILL...

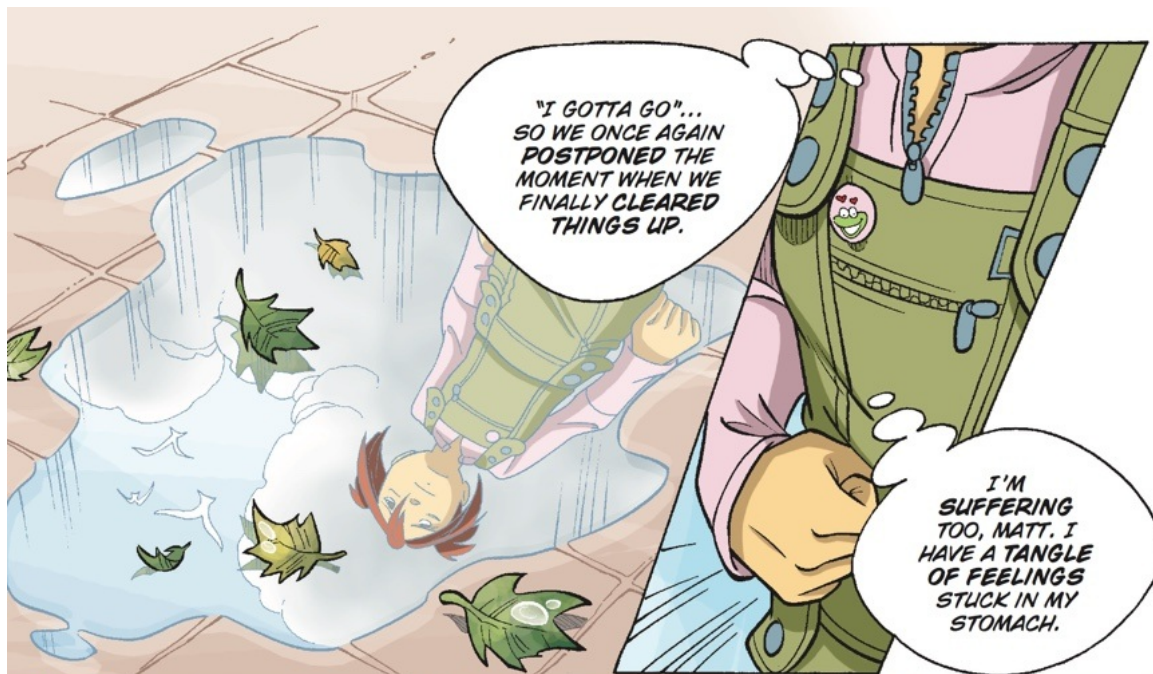
"...AND I'M NOT
ENOUGH. I'D LIKE
TO BE NEAR YOU...
BUT SOMETIMES I
FEEL LIKE I'M
NOT WORTHY.

"I REALLY
DUNNO WHAT
TO THINK. MAYBE I
SHOULD JUST DECIDE
WHETHER TO ACCEPT
YOU AS YOU ARE...

"...OR TO
SIMPLY **GIVE**
YOU UP.

"BUT **I LOVE YOU**,
WILL...**HOW MUCH**
COURAGE IT WOULD
TAKE TO SAY THOSE
WORDS."





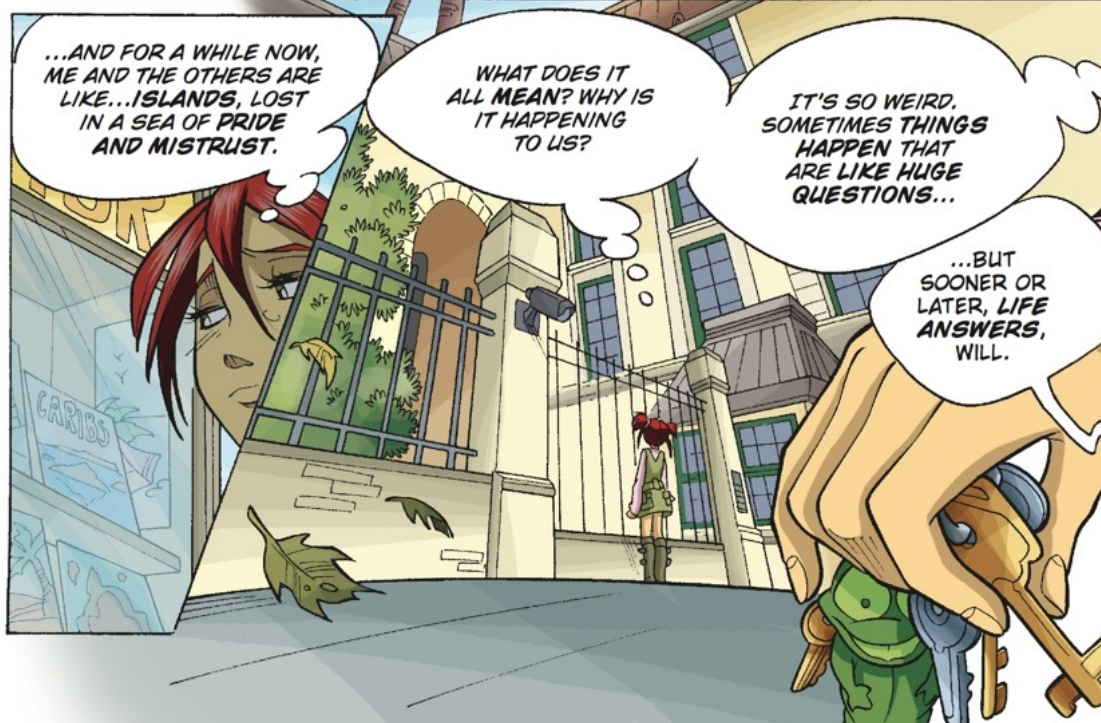
"I GOTTA GO"...
SO WE ONCE AGAIN
POSTPONED THE
MOMENT WHEN WE
FINALLY CLEARED
THINGS UP.

I'M
SUFFERING
TOO, MATT. I
HAVE A TANGLE
OF FEELINGS
STUCK IN MY
STOMACH.



I NEED HELP...AND I'M
COMPLETELY ALONE.
YAN LIN DISAPPEARED
WITHOUT TIME FOR
EXPLANATIONS...

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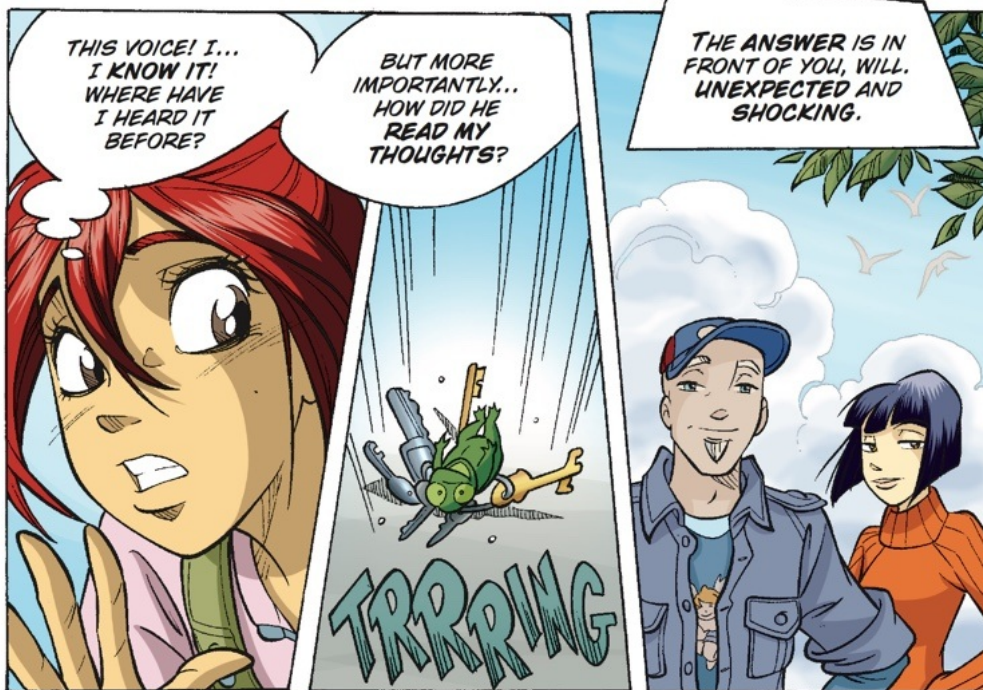


...AND FOR A WHILE NOW,
ME AND THE OTHERS ARE
LIKE...ISLANDS, LOST
IN A SEA OF PRIDE
AND MISTRUST.

WHAT DOES IT
ALL MEAN? WHY IS
IT HAPPENING
TO US?

IT'S SO WEIRD.
SOMETIMES THINGS
HAPPEN THAT
ARE LIKE HUGE
QUESTIONS...

...BUT
SOONER OR
LATER, LIFE
ANSWERS,
WILL.



THIS VOICE! I...
I KNOW IT!
WHERE HAVE
I HEARD IT
BEFORE?

BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY...
HOW DID HE
READ MY
THOUGHTS?

THE ANSWER IS IN
FRONT OF YOU, WILL.
UNEXPECTED AND
SHOCKING.

TRRRING

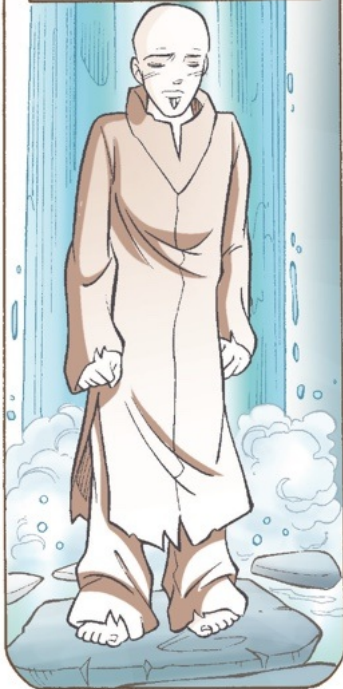
IT'S ONLY THE FIRST
ANSWER TO THE
QUESTIONS YOU AND
THE OTHERS ASKED
IN KANDRAKAR
THE DAY OF THE
DISPUTE...*

...QUESTIONS
THAT HAVE
SO FAR BEEN
UNANSWERED!

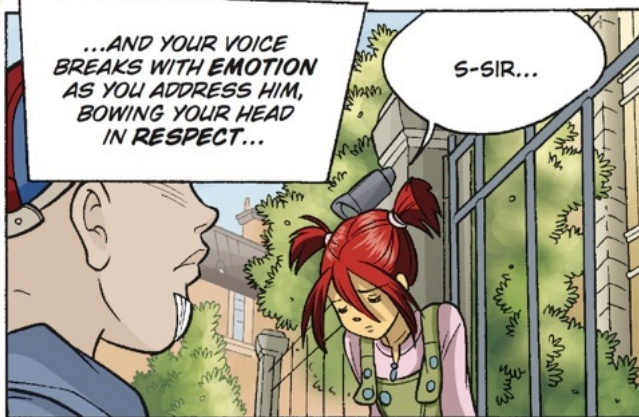
*IT HAPPENED IN
W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 37

DO YOU RECOGNIZE
HIM? THOSE MAGNETIC
EYES, HIS PALE SKIN
AND AUSTERE, SOLEMN
STANCE, DESPITE HIS
EARTHLI CLOTHES!

THE PAINFUL MEMORY
OF THE TORMENTS HE
ENDURED SLICES THROUGH
YOU...SUFFERING THAT
W.I.T.C.H. BOTH CAUSED
AND WITNESSED...



...AND YOUR VOICE
BREAKS WITH EMOTION
AS YOU ADDRESS HIM,
BOWING YOUR HEAD
IN RESPECT...



S-SIR...

YOU CAN
CALL ME
HIMERISH
NOW...



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...SUPREME
WARRIOR OF
BASILIADE!

SO YOU DID IT,
ORUBE! YOU
FOUND HIM!

YEAH...IT WASN'T
EASY, BUT...

SORRY,
GIRLS...

...THE
TIME FOR
EXPLANATIONS
WILL COME. BUT
NOW WE HAVE
TO HURRY.





WE HAVE TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE PERIOD
OF **MAGICAL FASTING**
ENDARNO HAS TO UNDERGO
BEFORE HIS INVESTITURE
AS ORACLE...

...AND OUR
TOP PRIORITY IS
RECOVERING THE CROWN
OF LIGHT, WITHOUT WHICH
WE HAVE NO HOPE OF
FREEING ELYON.

WOW, SO
DECISIVE! WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE
PENSIVE ORACLE
WE KNEW?

ORUBE
MUST'VE TOLD
HIM EVERYTHING...
BUT SEEING HIM SO
ENERGETIC AND
DETERMINED IS
STILL QUITE A
SHOCK!

...ARE
YOU **READY,**
WILL?

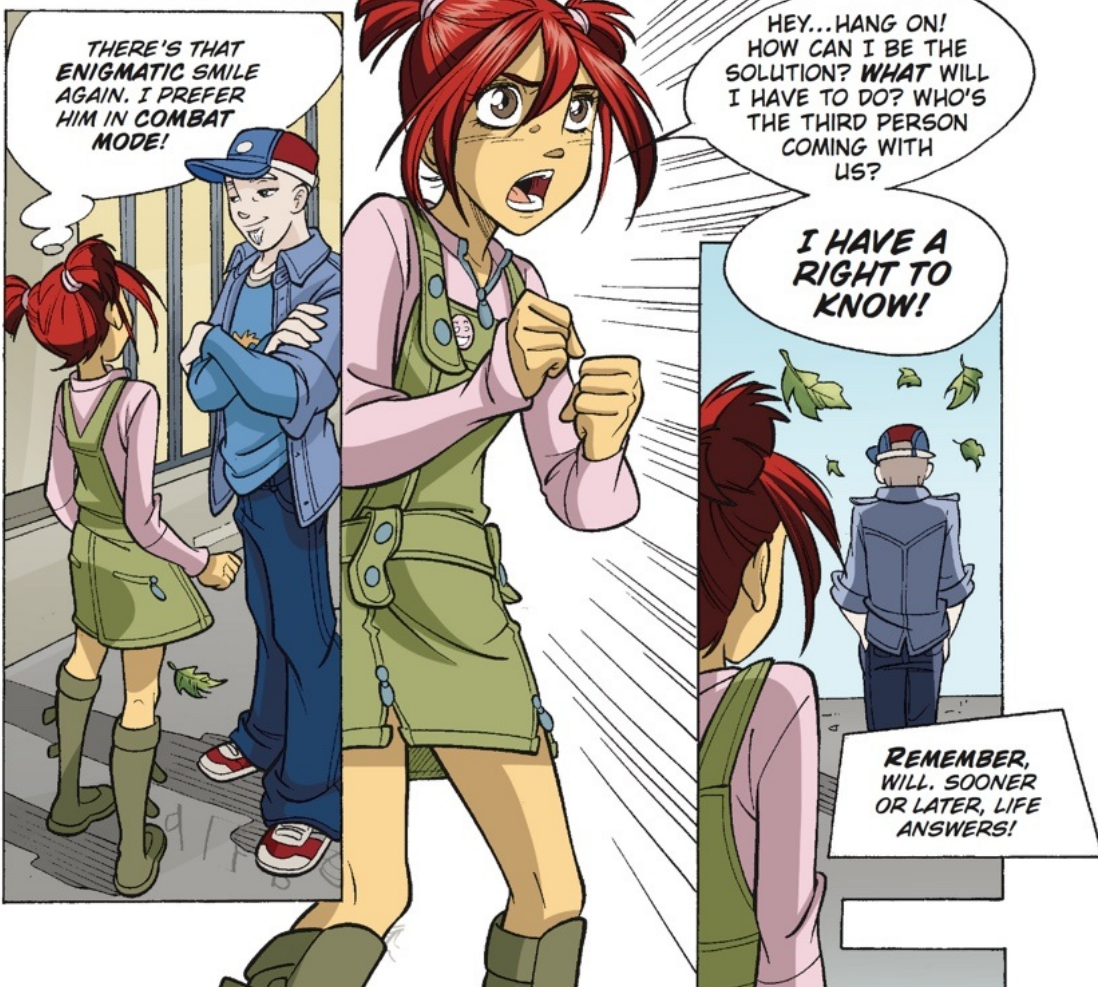
HUH? S-SURE!
WE GOTTA **WARN**
THE OTHERS **RIGHT**
AWAY!

NOT THIS TIME.
IT WILL BE ONLY
THE THREE
OF US.

AND LOOKS
LIKE NUMBER
THREE ISN'T
ORUBE.

BUT... THAT'S
CRAZY! THE SPELL
PROTECTING THE
CASE CAN'T EVEN
BE BROKEN BY
THE POWERS
OF ALL FIVE
W.I.T.C.H.
TOGETHER!

I
KNOW.



GARDEN PLAZA.
DINNERTIME.

IT'S NOT EVERY NIGHT
YOU CELEBRATE BEING
SELECTED FOR THE
REGIONAL SKATING
CHAMPIONSHIP.



THEY'RE GOING
ALL OUT AT THE
HALE RESIDENCE
FOR THE OCCASION.



SOMEONE WHO
NEVER COOKS HAS
TRIED HIS VERY
BEST...



...BUT FOR EVERYTHING
TO BE PERFECT,
THERE'S STILL ONE
LAST DETAIL MISSING...

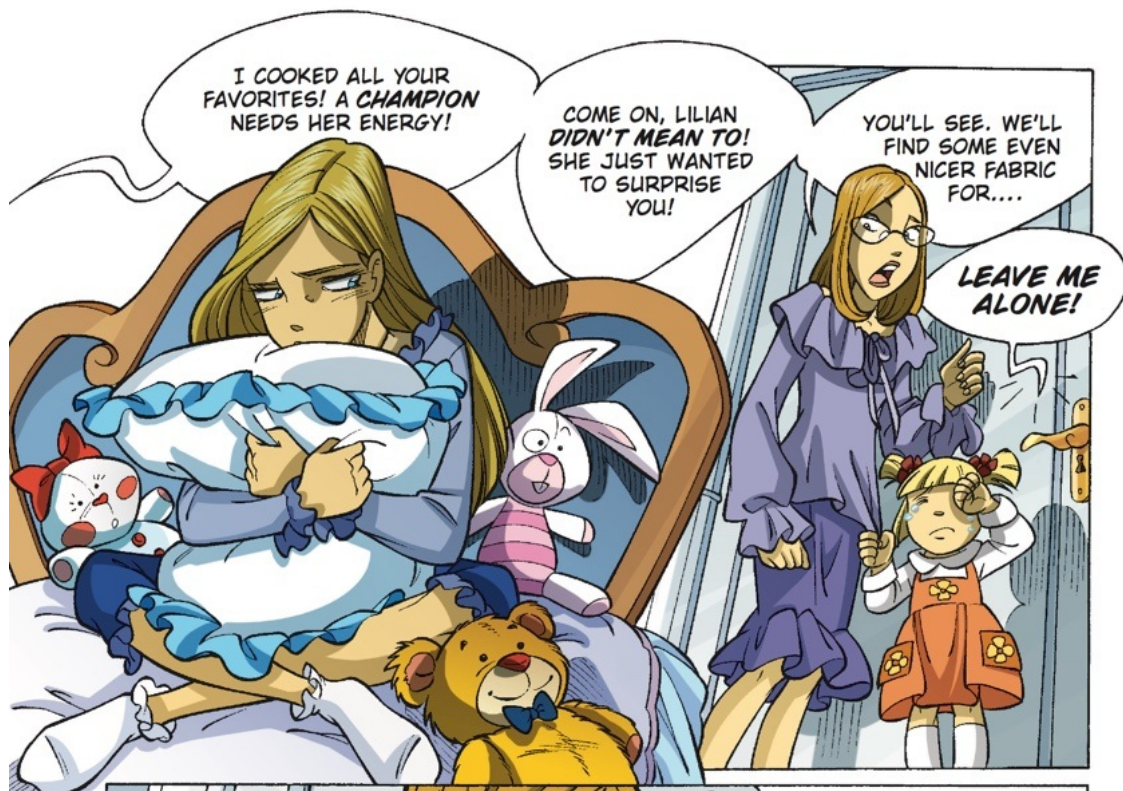


...THE GUEST
OF HONOR!

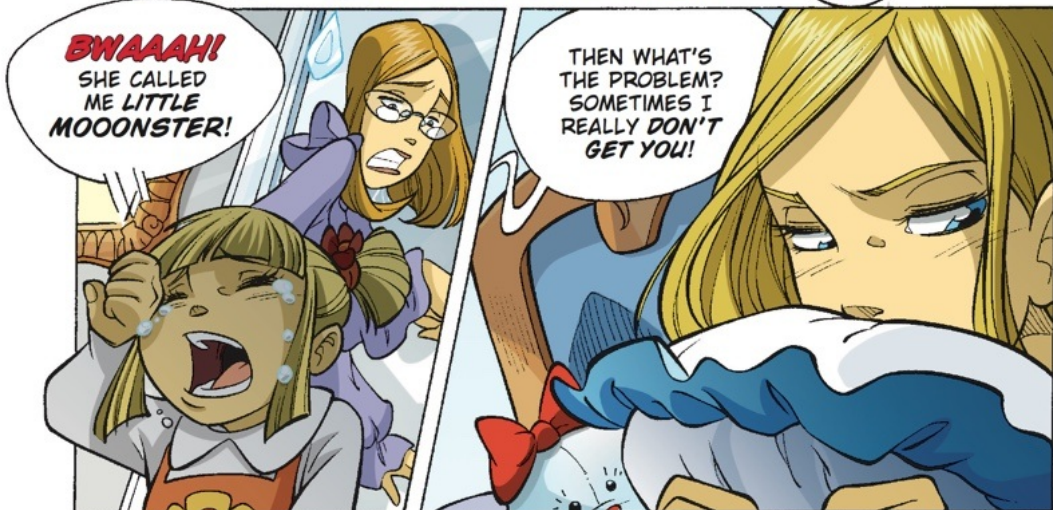
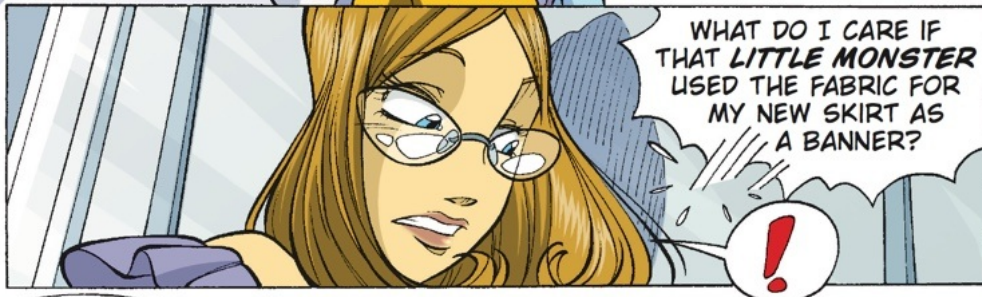
TOC TOC

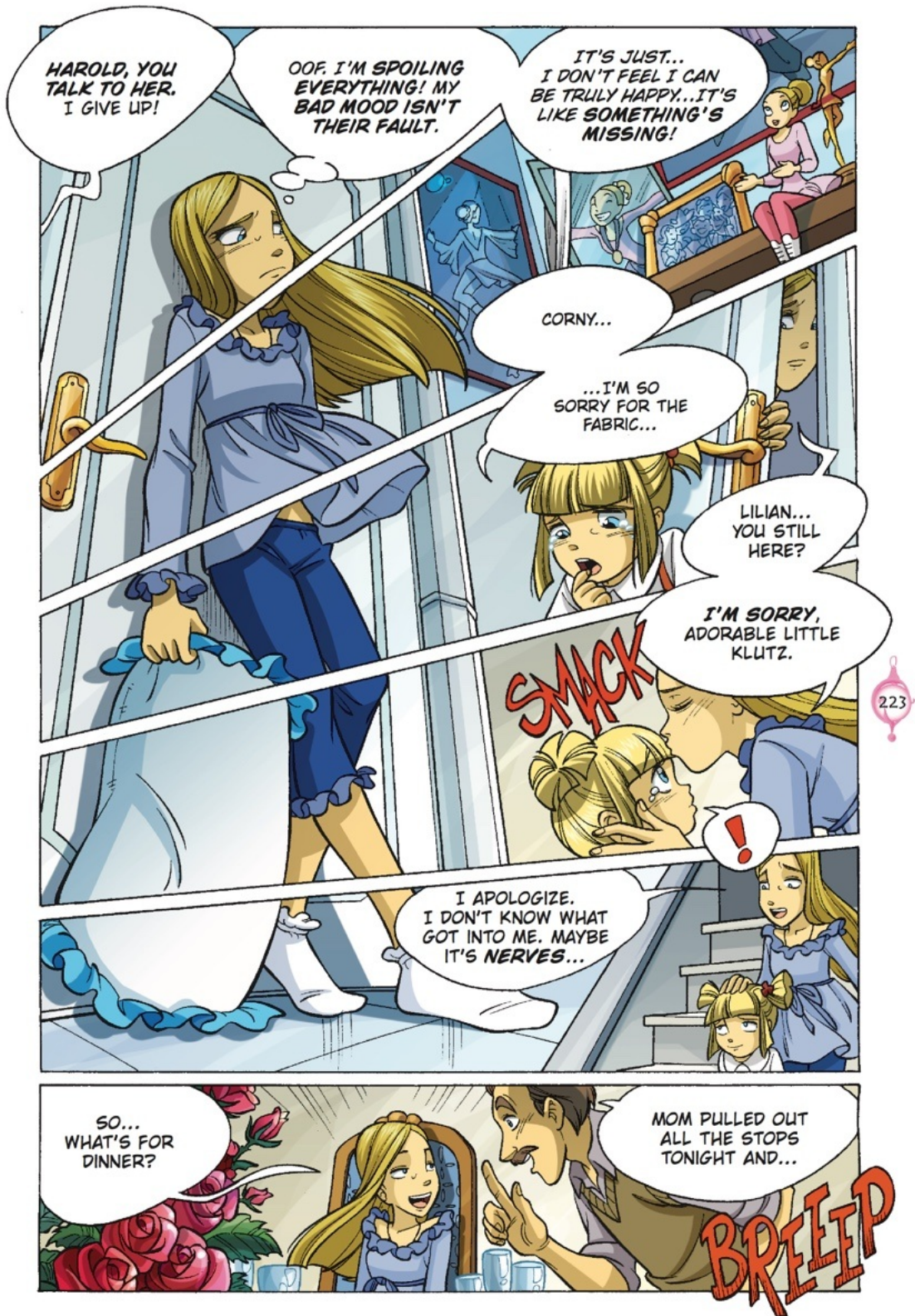
CORNELIA,
COME ON OUT!
IT'S READY!

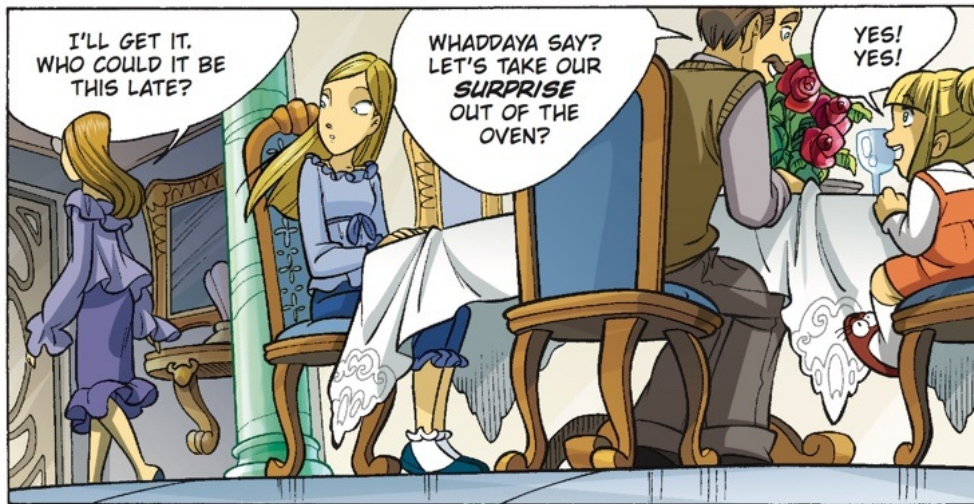
I'M NOT
HUNGRY!

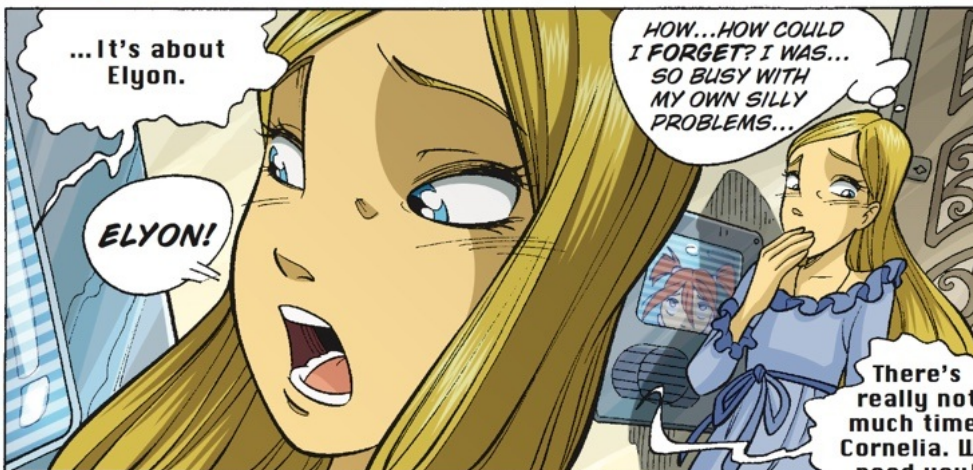
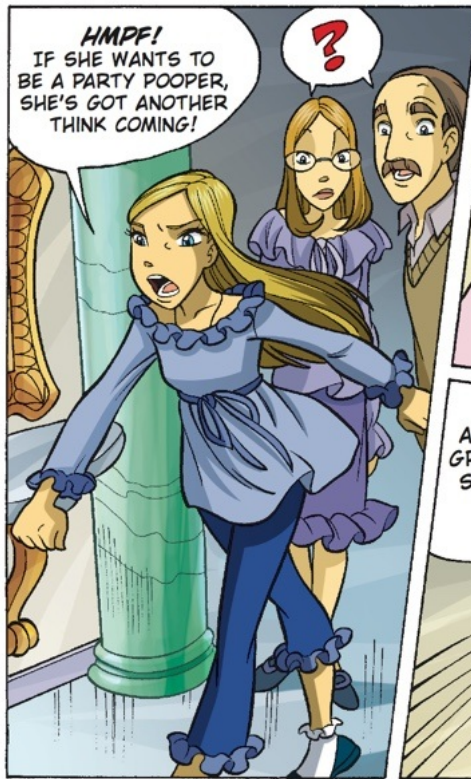


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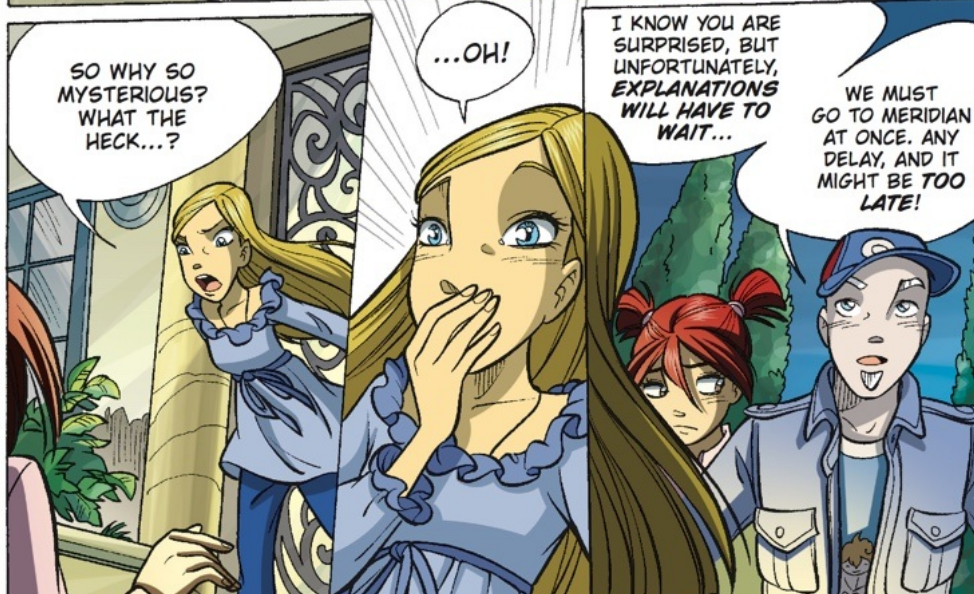


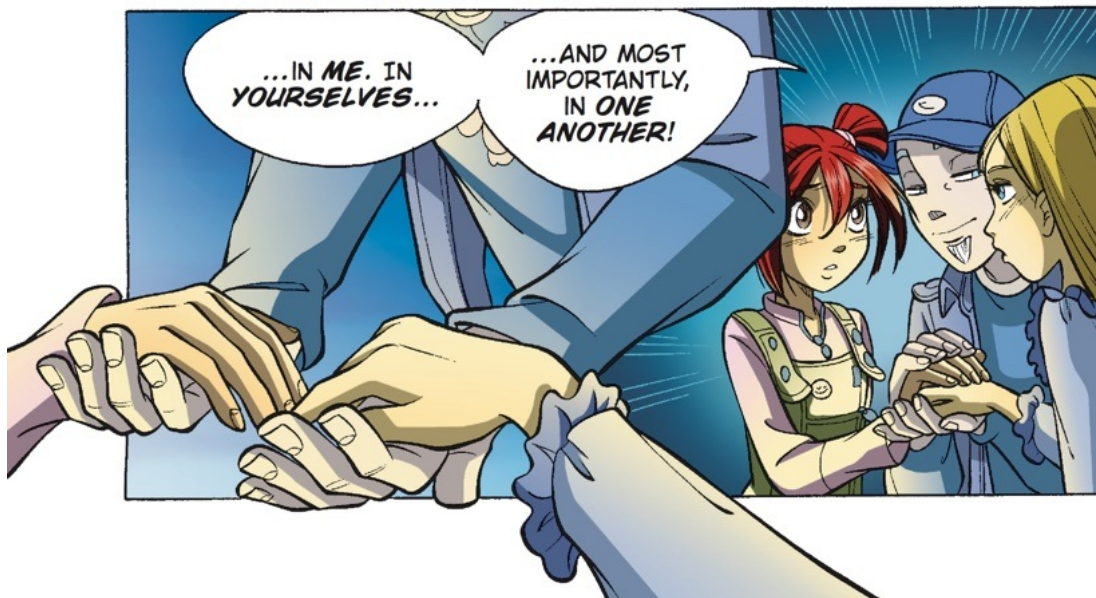
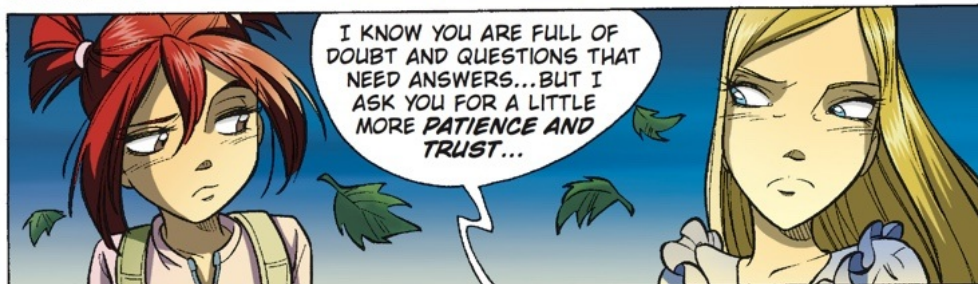


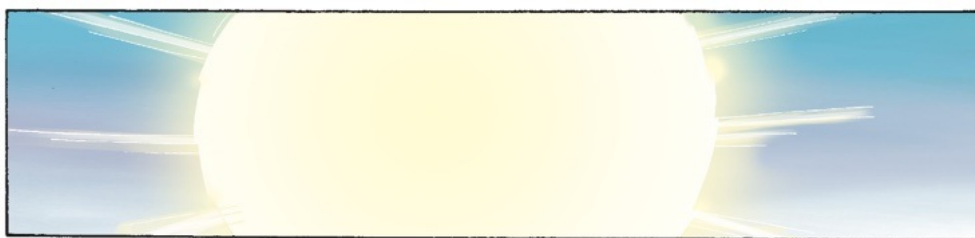
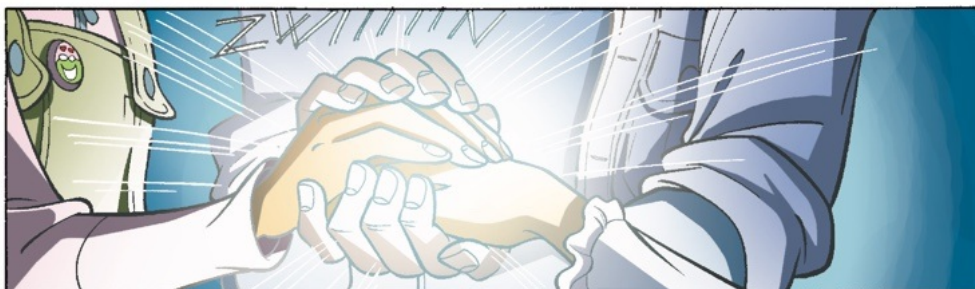


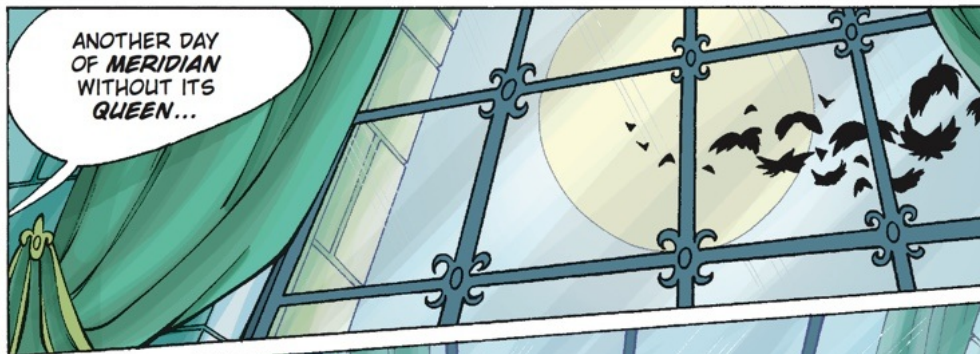
HOW...HOW COULD I FORGET? I WAS... SO BUSY WITH MY OWN SILLY PROBLEMS...

There's really not much time, Cornelia. We need you!





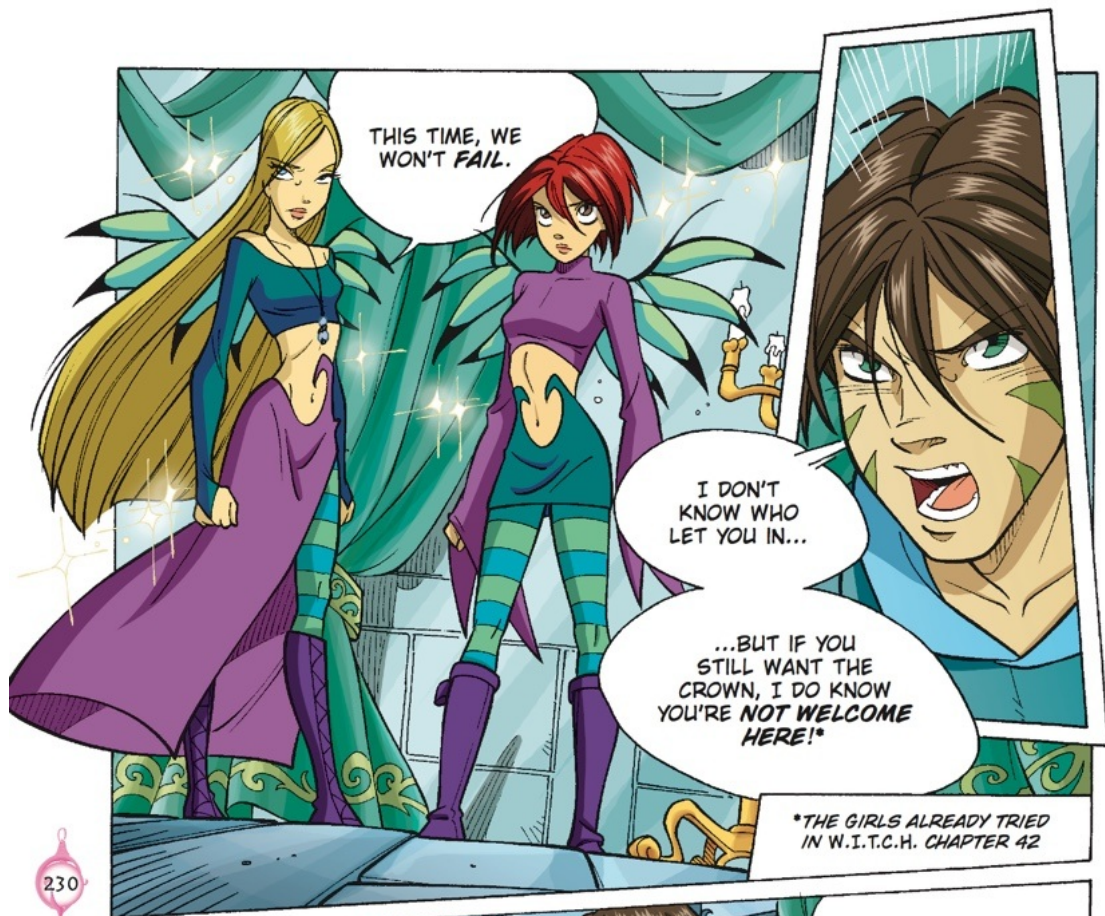




BEING SO
POWERLESS IS
DRIVING ME **INSANE**.
BUT THE MOMENT
WILL COME
WHEN...

THAT
MOMENT
IS NOW,
CALEB.





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...BUT THINGS ARE
NOT ALWAYS WHAT
THEY SEEM.
YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT.



OUR PERCEPTIONS
CAN OFTEN BE CLOUDED
BY OUR FEELINGS...



SIR! I... DIDN'T
THINK... I DIDN'T
KNOW...

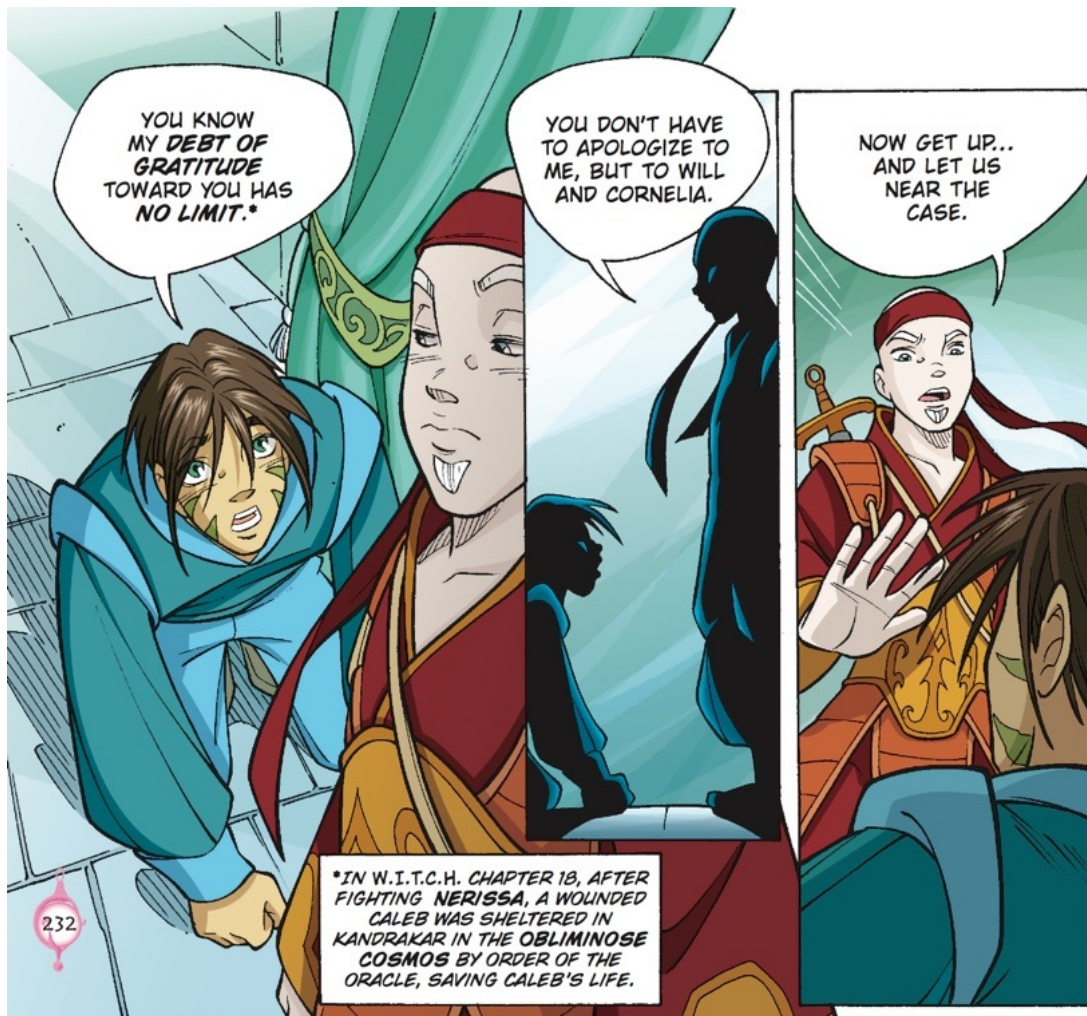


FORGIVE ME
FOR DOUBTING.
ASK ANYTHING,
AND IT'LL BE
DONE.

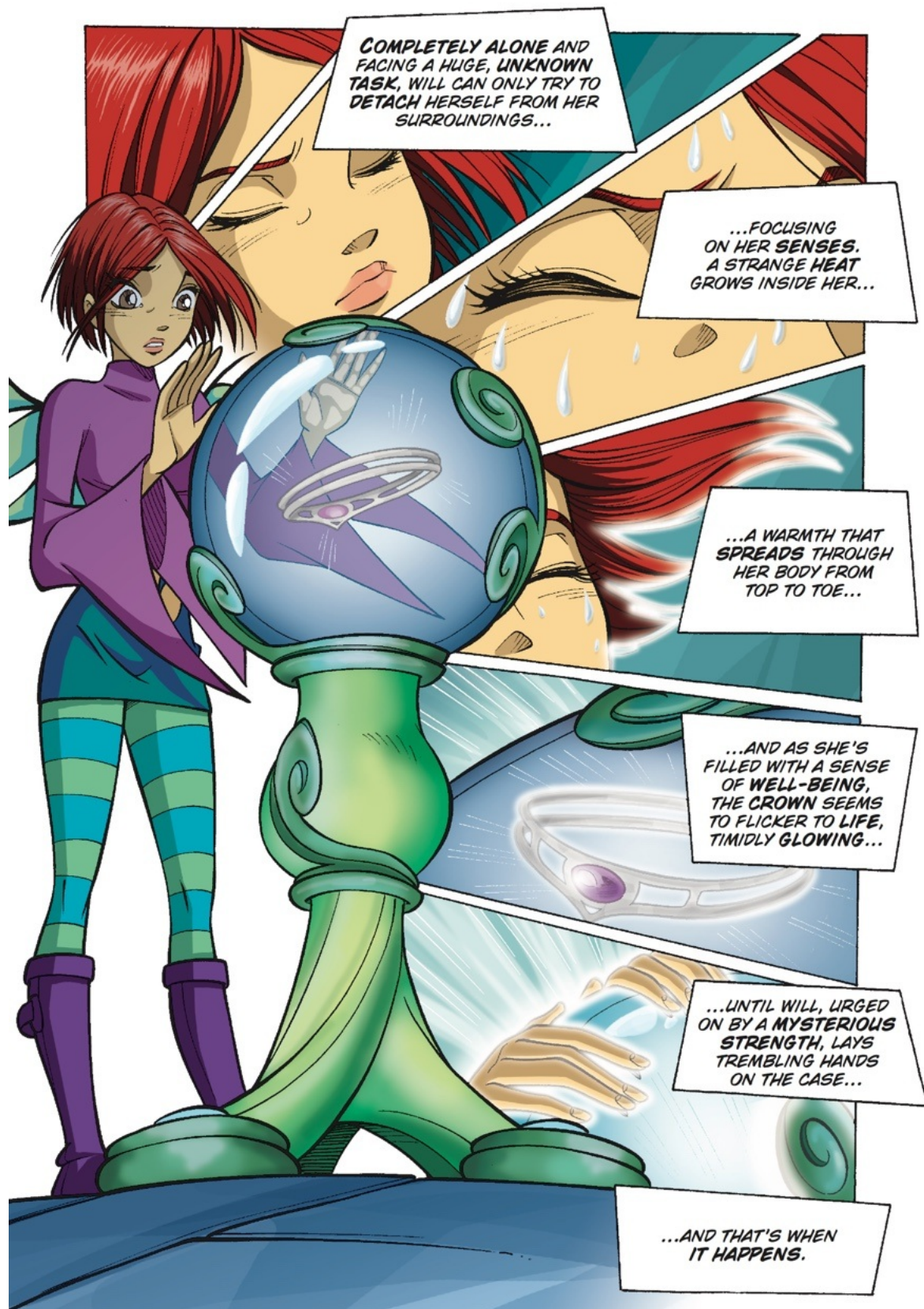


YOU NEED
TO **TRUST**, NOT
HIDE BEHIND ANGER
AND FEAR!









COMPLETELY ALONE AND FACING A HUGE, UNKNOWN TASK, WILL CAN ONLY TRY TO DETACH HERSELF FROM HER SURROUNDINGS...

...FOCUSING ON HER SENSES. A STRANGE HEAT GROWS INSIDE HER...

...A WARMTH THAT SPREADS THROUGH HER BODY FROM TOP TO TOE...

...AND AS SHE'S FILLED WITH A SENSE OF WELL-BEING, THE CROWN SEEMS TO FLICKER TO LIFE, TIMIDLY GLOWING...

...UNTIL WILL, URGED ON BY A MYSTERIOUS STRENGTH, LAYS TREMBLING HANDS ON THE CASE...

...AND THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENS.

THE CROWN,
PROTECTED BY
A SPELL ONLY ITS
OWNER CAN BREAK...



...RECOGNIZES
IN WILL THE
ESSENCE OF
THE QUEEN,
THE LIGHT
OF MERIDIAN
THAT YAN LIN
GAVE HER...

...AND SUMMONS
IT BACK, FIRM AND
DETERMINED!

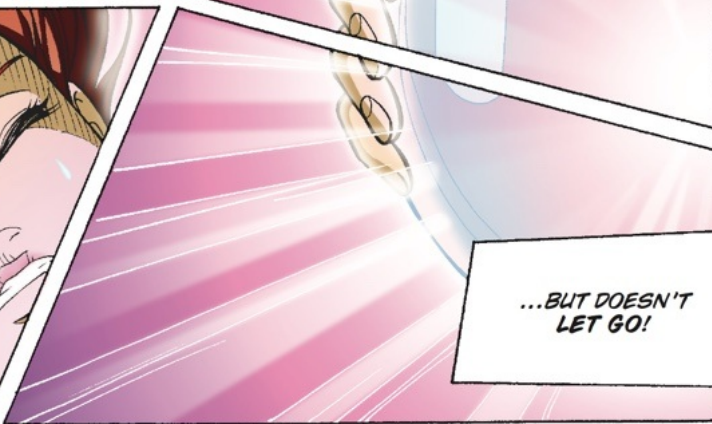
IT STARTS
RECLAIMING IT,
DRAWING THE
ESSENCE OUT
OF WILL...

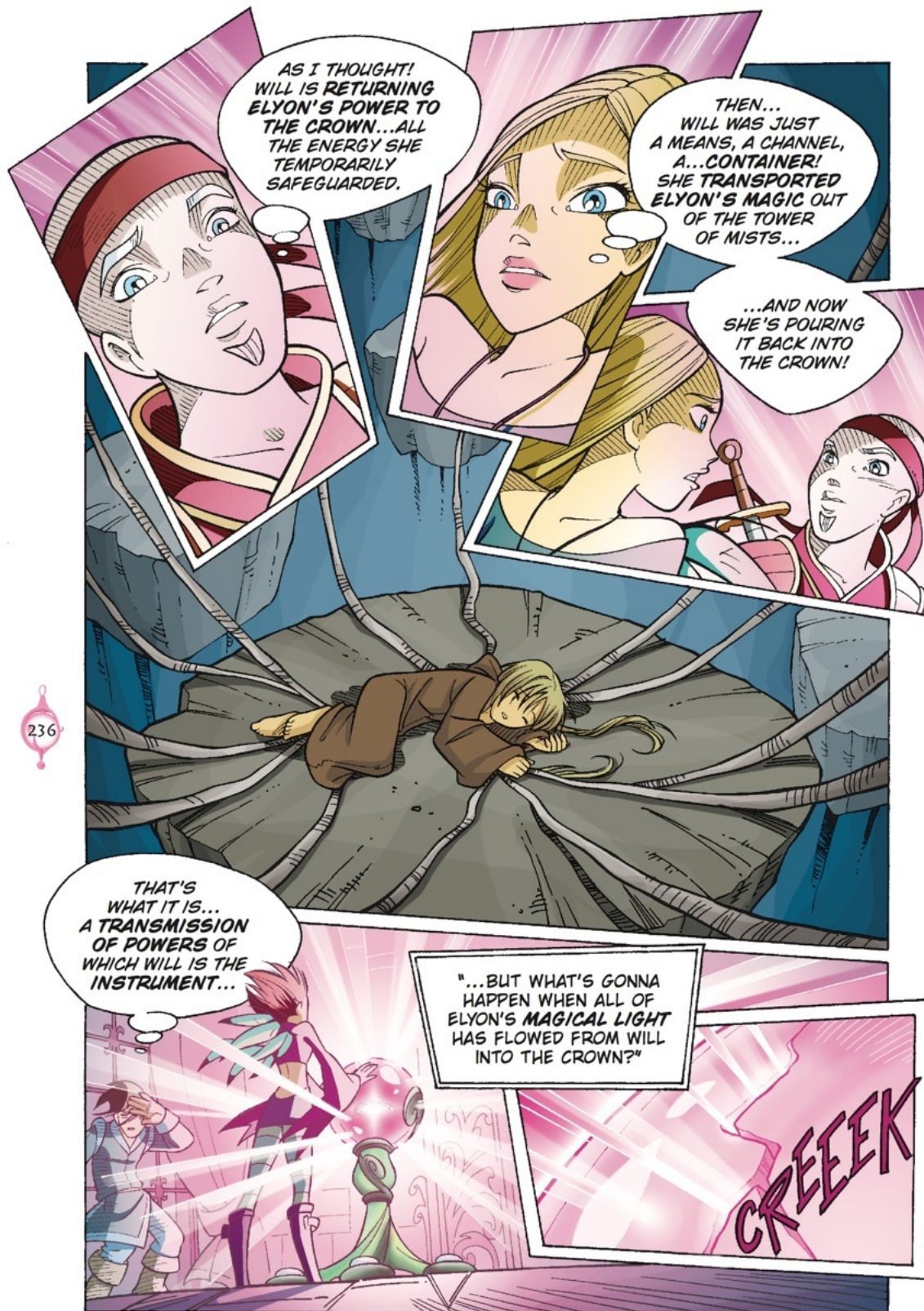


...WHO FEELS AS
IF SOMETHING
IS BEING TORN
FROM INSIDE
HER...

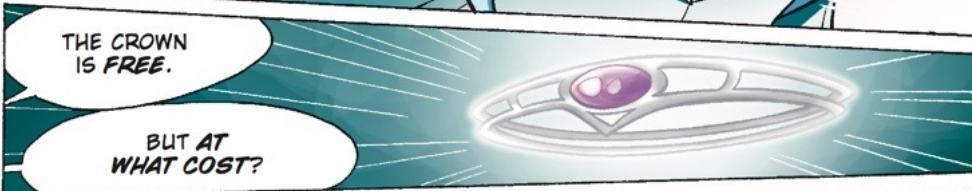


...BUT DOESN'T
LET GO!















THE SINGLE
PIECES BY
THEMSELVES
ARE NOT VERY
USEFUL...

...BUT WHEN
YOU PUT THEM
TOGETHER,
THEY CAN
WORK
MAGIC!

YEAH, TOGETHER...
BUT WE ENDED UP
SEPARATED...

EACH IN HER OWN
SHELL...EACH WITH
HER OWN REACTION TO
RECENT, SHOCKING
EVENTS...

...AND THERE
HAVE BEEN
PLENTY OF
THOSE!

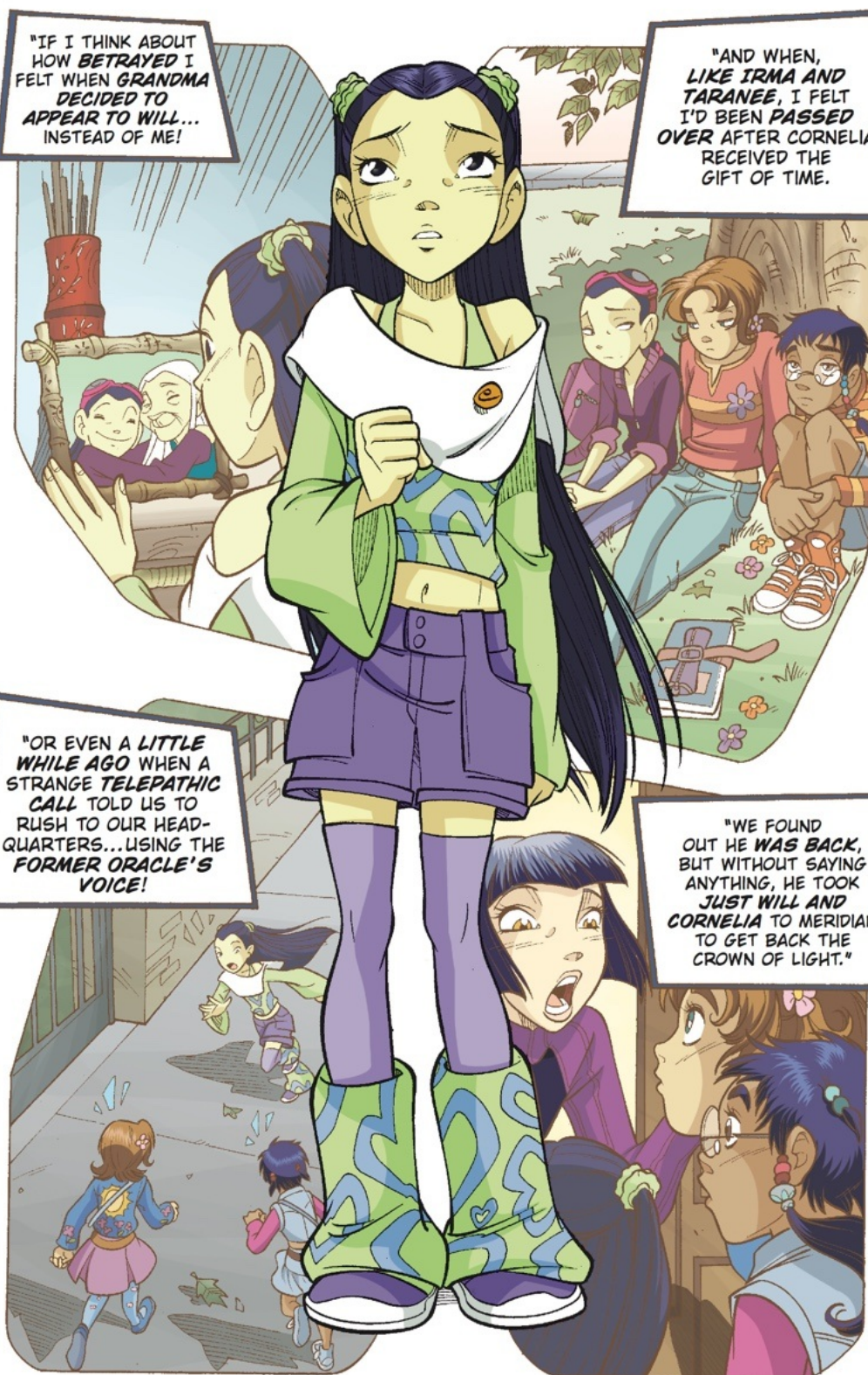
"IF I THINK ABOUT
HOW **BETRAYED** I
FELT WHEN **GRANDMA**
DECIDED TO
APPEAR TO WILL...
INSTEAD OF ME!

"AND WHEN,
LIKE IRMA AND
TARANEE, I FELT
I'D BEEN **PASSED**
OVER AFTER **CORNELIA**
RECEIVED THE
GIFT OF TIME.

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"OR EVEN A **LITTLE**
WHILE AGO WHEN A
STRANGE **TELEPATHIC**
CALL TOLD US TO
RUSH TO OUR HEAD-
QUARTERS...USING THE
FORMER ORACLE'S
VOICE!

"WE FOUND
OUT HE **WAS BACK**,
BUT WITHOUT SAYING
ANYTHING, HE TOOK
JUST WILL AND
CORNELIA TO MERIDIAN
TO GET BACK THE
CROWN OF LIGHT."







AND TO THINK WE
ALL TURNED AGAINST
HER WHEN SHE
TOLD US ABOUT HER
CONFESSION TO
MATT.



WE DIDN'T EVEN
TRY PUTTING
OURSELVES IN
HER SHOES.



THINKING ABOUT IT...
EACH OF US ONLY
EVER SAW THINGS
FROM HER OWN
PERSPECTIVE...



THAT'S HOW WE GOT
ISOLATED...BUT EVEN
AFTER WE REALIZED,
NONE OF US HAD THE
GUTS TO BRING
IT UP FIRST.

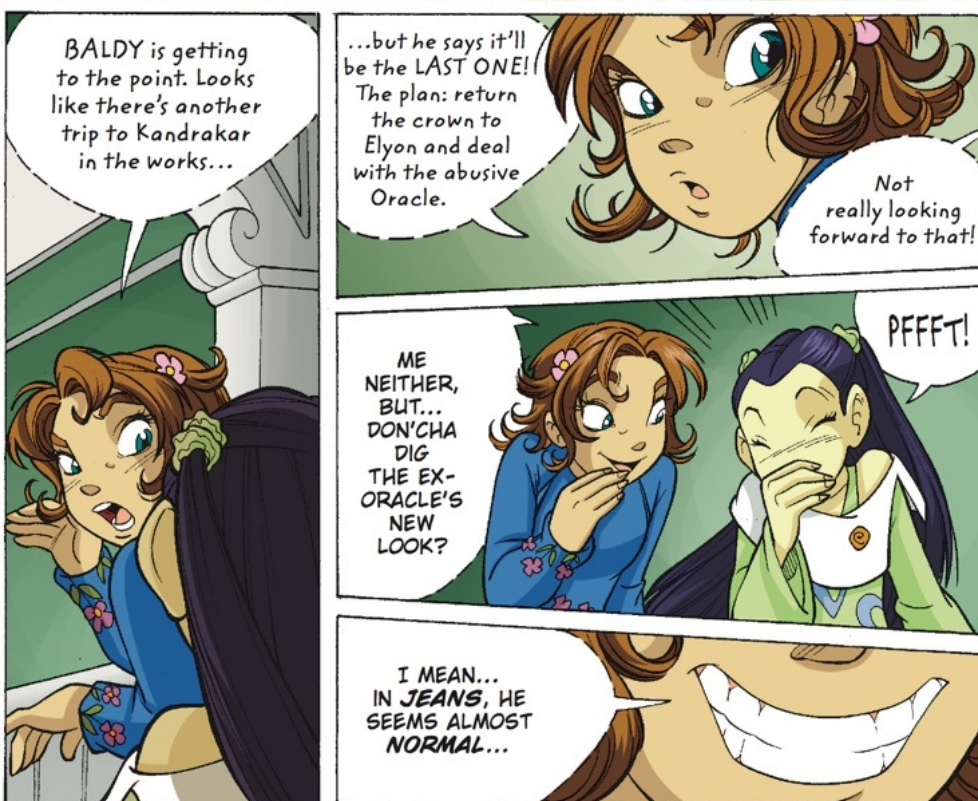


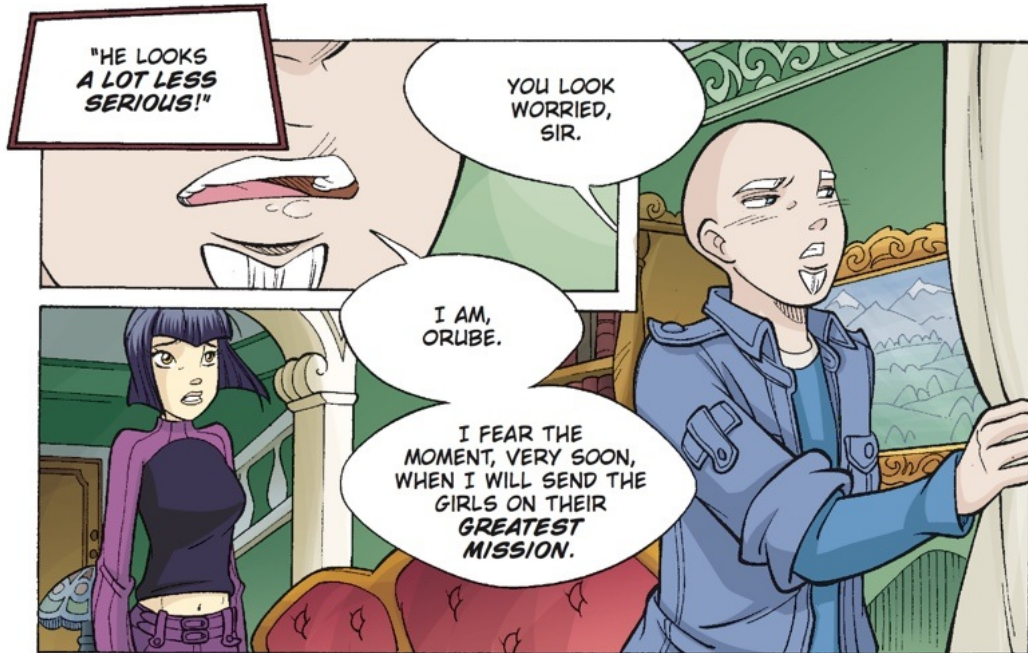
LUCKILY, SOME
THINGS CAN BE
SAID WITHOUT
WORDS TOO!



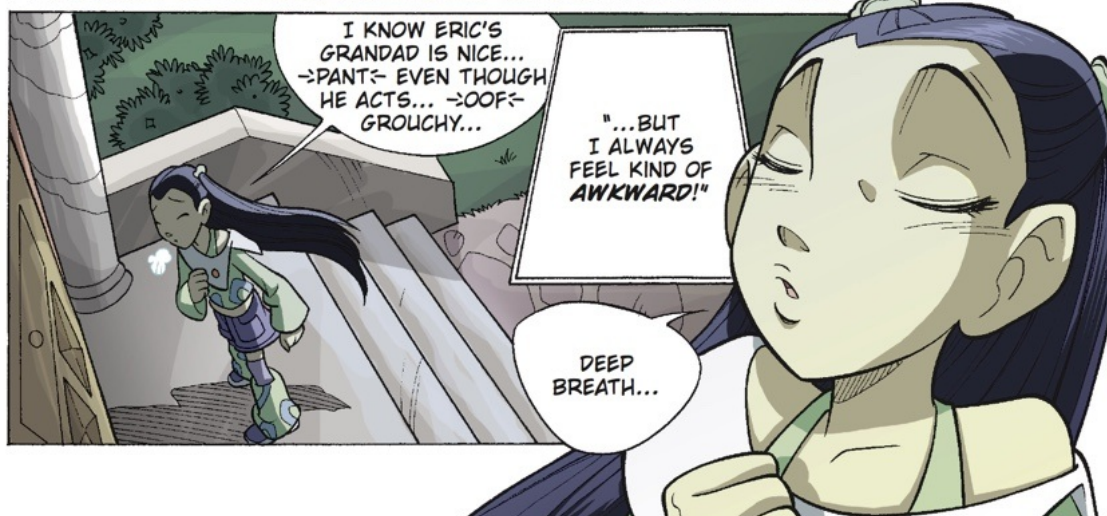
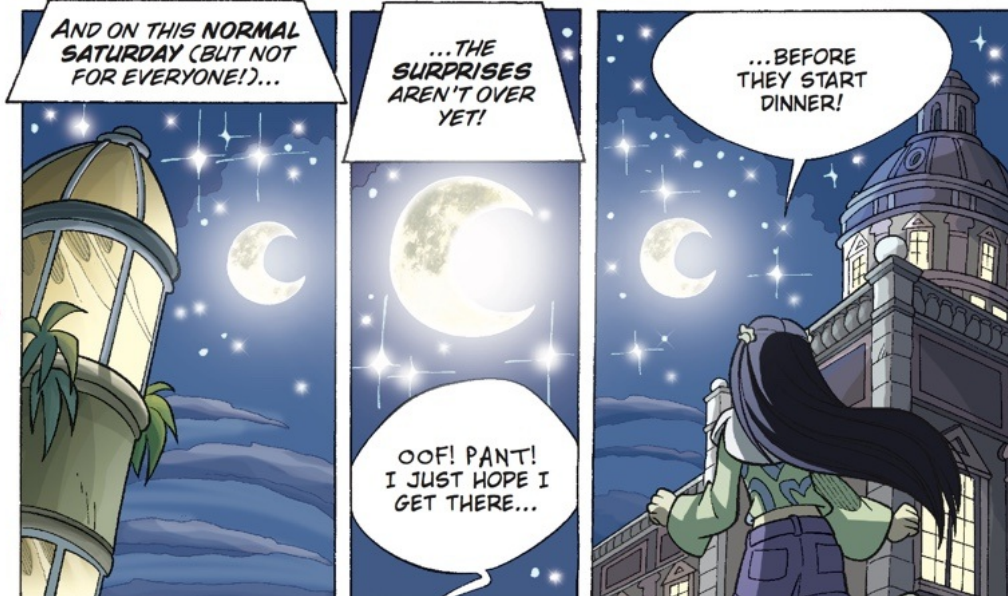
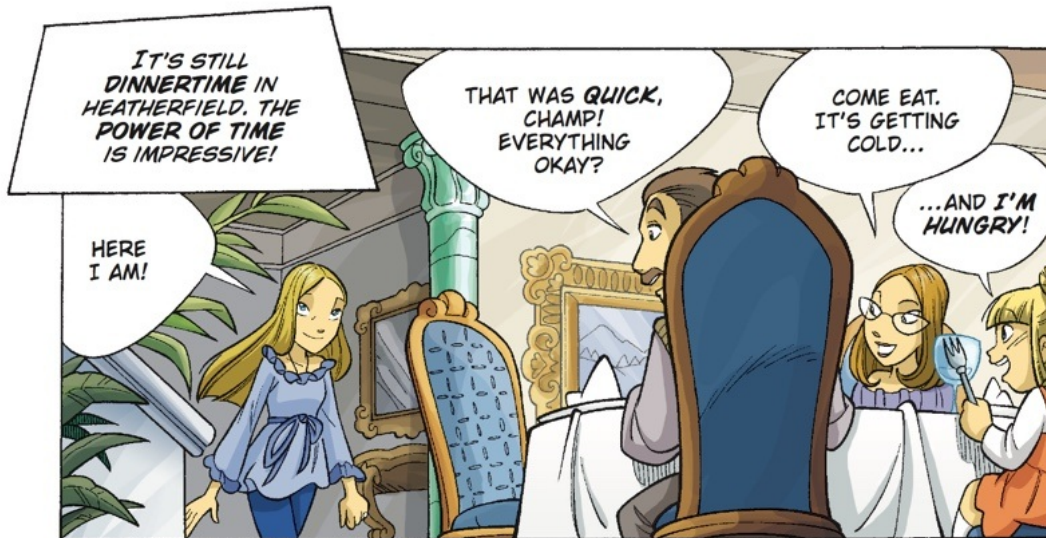
HAY-HAY!
WHATCHA
DOIN'?

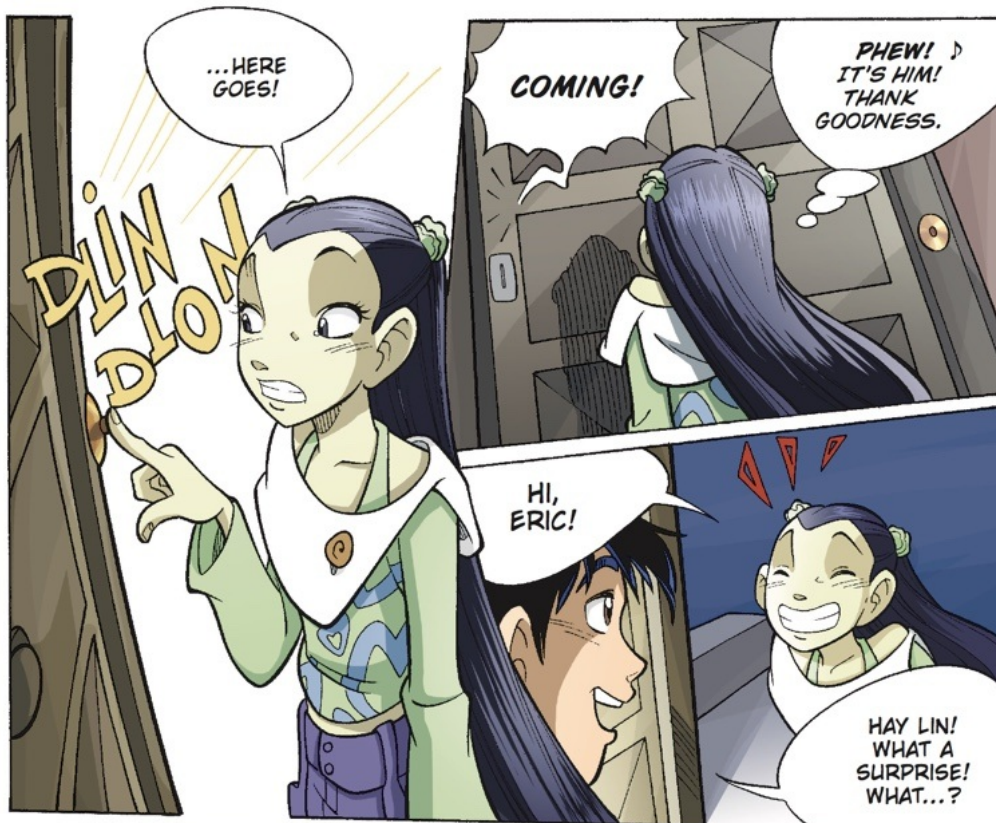
URGH!

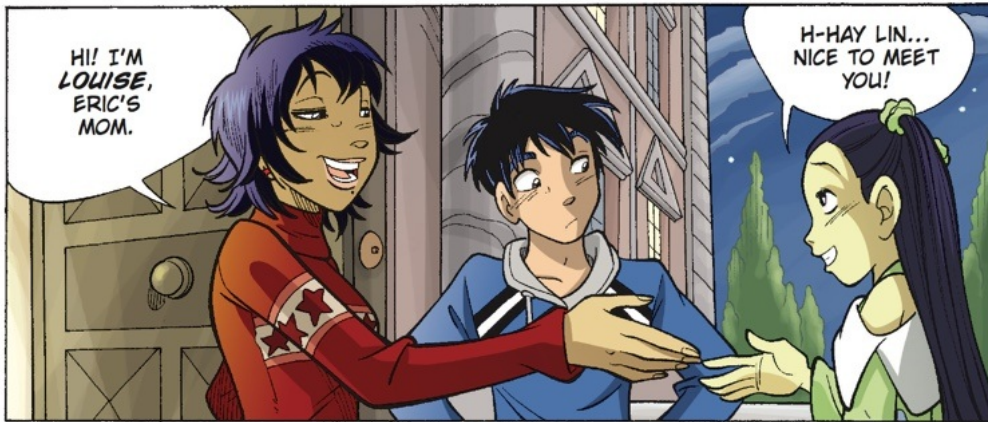




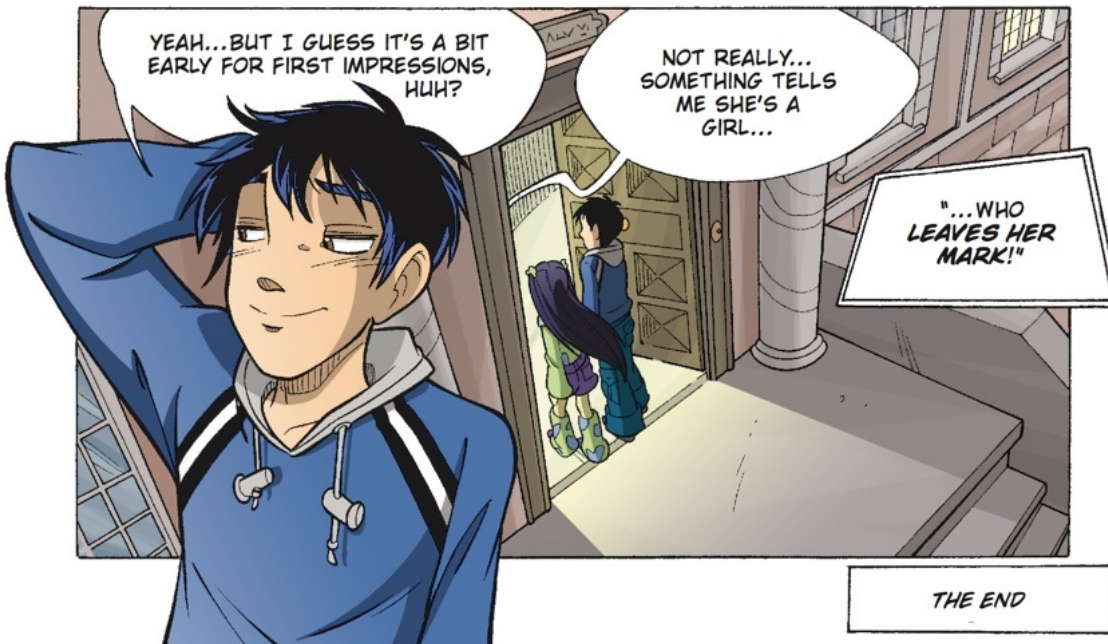








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Read on in Volume 12!



- 1 **Sunglasses:** Hay Lin collects them and seldom goes out without a pair. She has nineteen, and her favorites are the aviator-style ones—huge and with super-dark lenses.
- 2 Her Chinese kimono for traditional celebrations—made of silk and embroidered with flowers. Every girl in Hay Lin's family owns at least one.
- 3 Hay Lin loves UFOs. She's seen every single movie about aliens. She goes to the movies at least once a month with Irma and other friends.
- 4 Hay Lin is an artist. Everyone says she has a special talent for painting. These are her paintbrushes.
- 5 A wicker basket for sarongs, scarves, and scrap fabric. Hay enjoys sewing. She's really good at turning old clothes into new dresses and accessories.
- 6 Hay Lin keeps her leg warmers in these boxes. She uses them often and has them in tons of colors to match her skirts.



Fashion and Creativity with Hay Lin



7 Fake fur maxi-scarf: Hay Lin used it for a school play. Way too flashy to wear offstage!

8 Hay is proud of this dress. She drew the model, and her grandma sewed it. It was her costume for the Halloween party.

9 She is crazy about striped socks. Her mom complains because she has too many, but Hay keeps finding new color combinations.

10 These were a pair of plain winter boots. Colorful fabric paint and glitter turned them into a one-of-a-kind design!

11 The tartan skirt she wore the first time she went to the movies with Eric.

12 Her wardrobe doors were white, but Hay Lin thought it would be nice to spice them up!



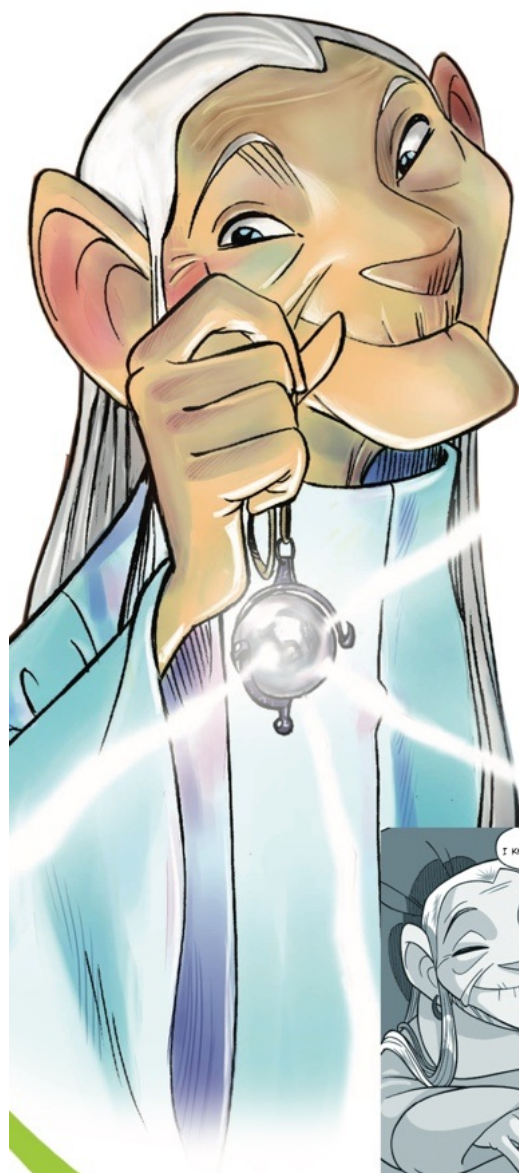
Yan Lin

Former Guardian

When she was young, Yan Lin was a Guardian of Kandrakar along with Nerissa, Kadma, Halinor, and Cassidy. She's the one who gave Will the Heart of Kandrakar, telling W.I.T.C.H. about the fortress and revealing the secrets of their powers. After she fulfilled her duty on Earth, Yan Lin was called back to Kandrakar, where she now sits among the Wise Ones of the Congregation.

A Special Grandma

In Heatherfield as in Kandrakar, Yan Lin is a guide and trusted friend for Hay Lin. The grandma and granddaughter love each other deeply. She's very wise and peaceful. When necessary, Yan Lin can talk to W.I.T.C.H. through their dreams.



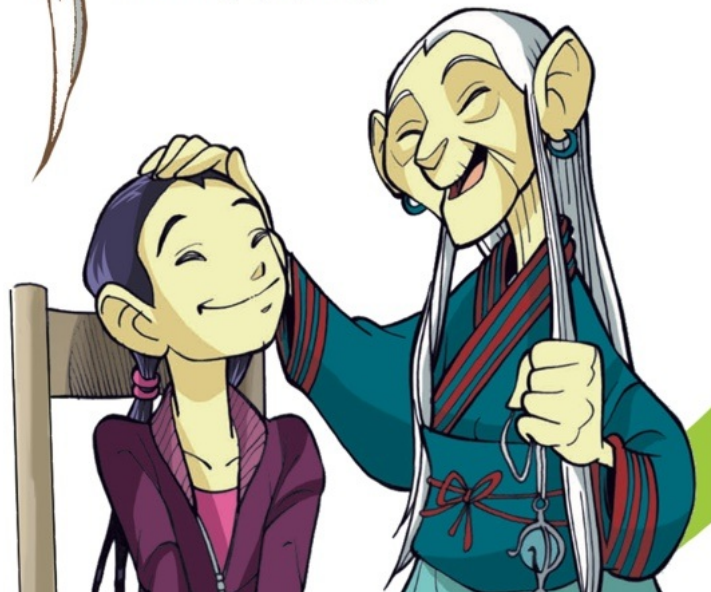
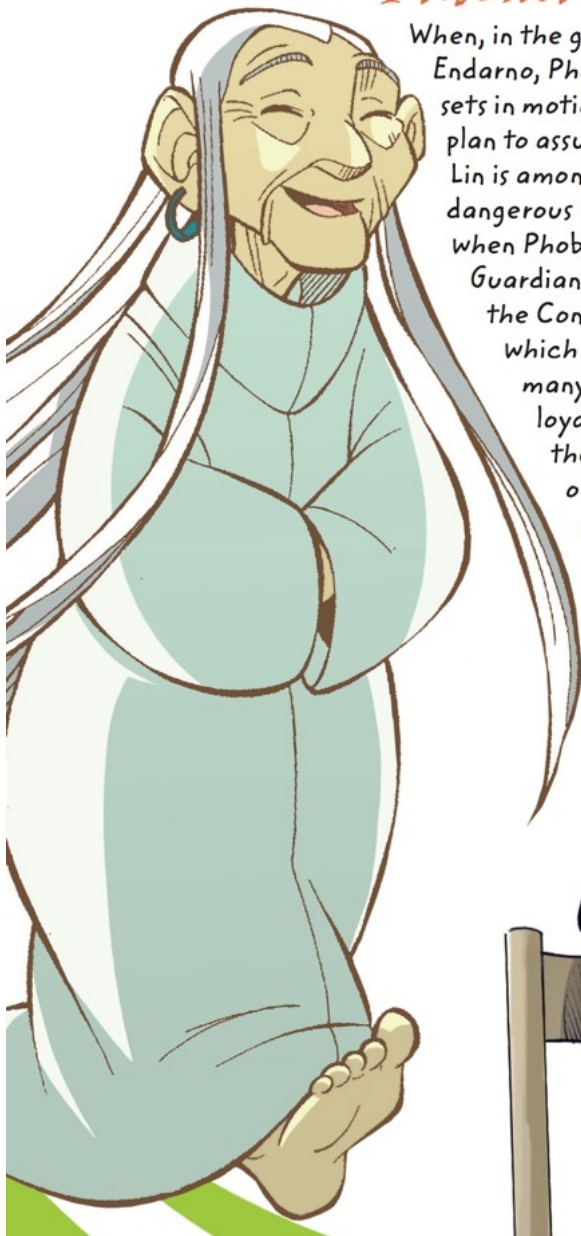


Yan Lin

Phobos's Prisoner



When, in the guise of Endarno, Phobos sets in motion his plan to assume the Oracle's power, Yan Lin is among the first to suspect that something dangerous is happening in Kandrakar. And when Phobos questions the abilities of the five Guardians, Yan Lin defends W.I.T.C.H. before the Congregation with a moving speech in which she asks the Wise Ones to consider how many times the Guardians have proven their loyalty and courage. She takes the side of the former Oracle, Himerish, becoming one of Phobos's greatest enemies. She'll play a key role in helping Elyon defend the Crown of Light. Once again, Yan Lin proves that she really believes in W.I.T.C.H.'s abilities.





Part IV. Trial of the Oracle • Volume 2



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

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