



Title  
Author





# Witch

Will Irma Taranea Cornelia Hay Lin

Part V.  
The Book of Elements  
Volume 2





# Witch

Will Irma Taranea Gernellia Hay Lin

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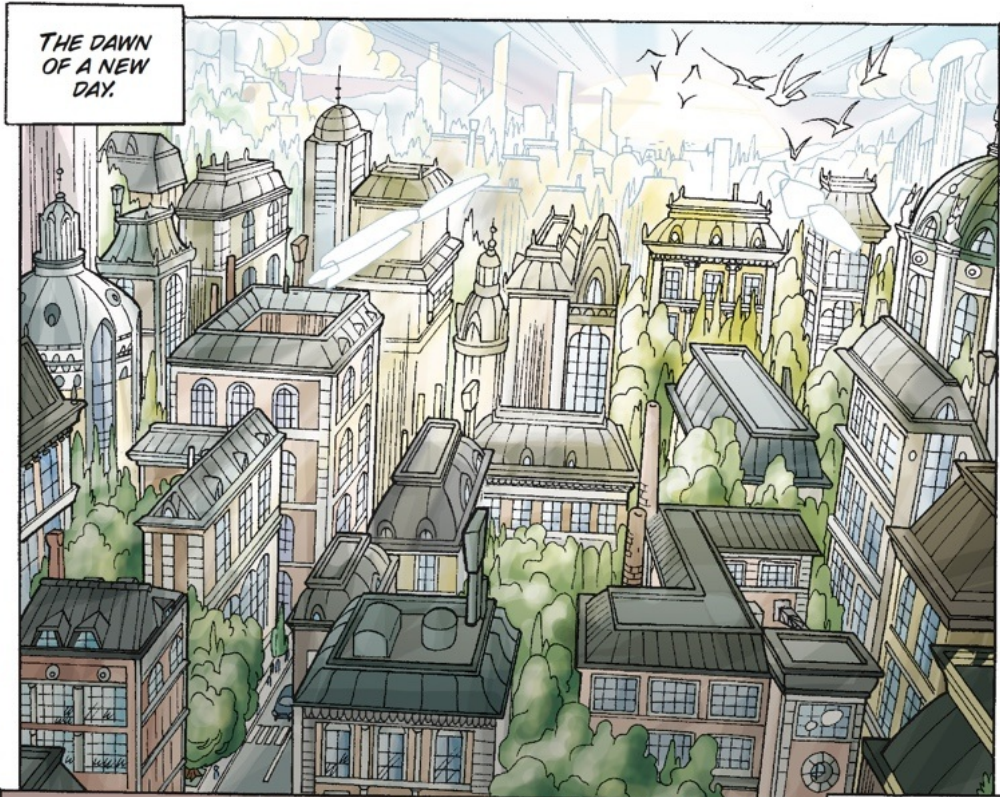


# Dancing to a Different Tune

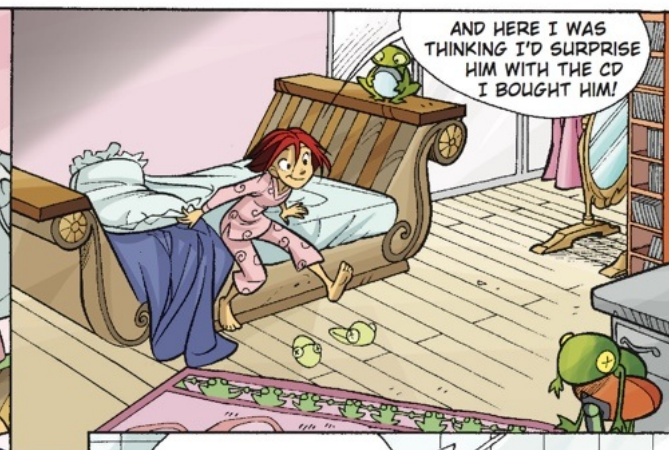
"There's nothing better than everyone  
being happy together..."







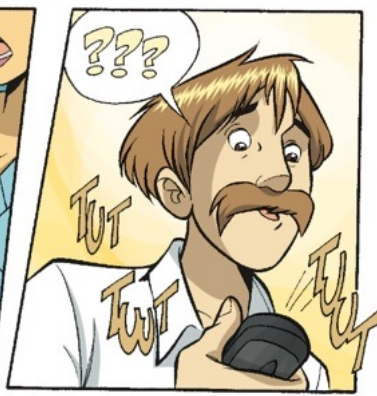
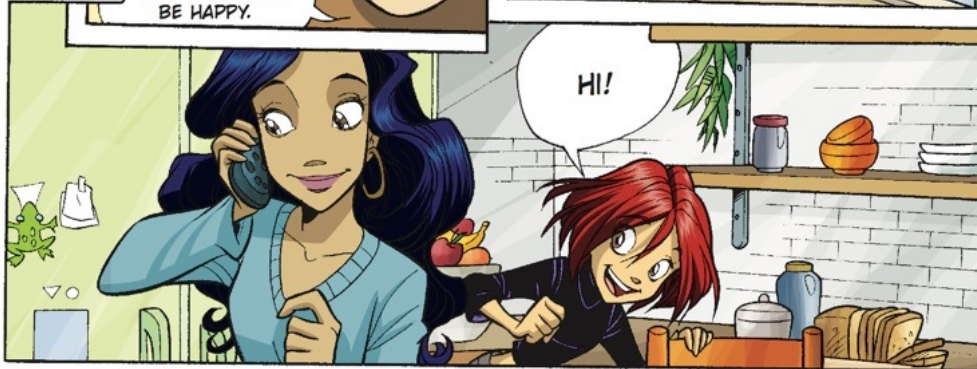
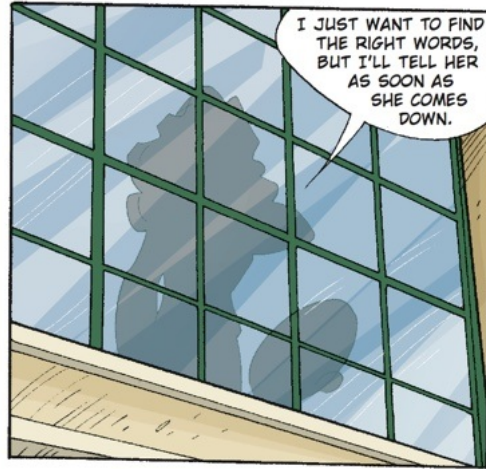




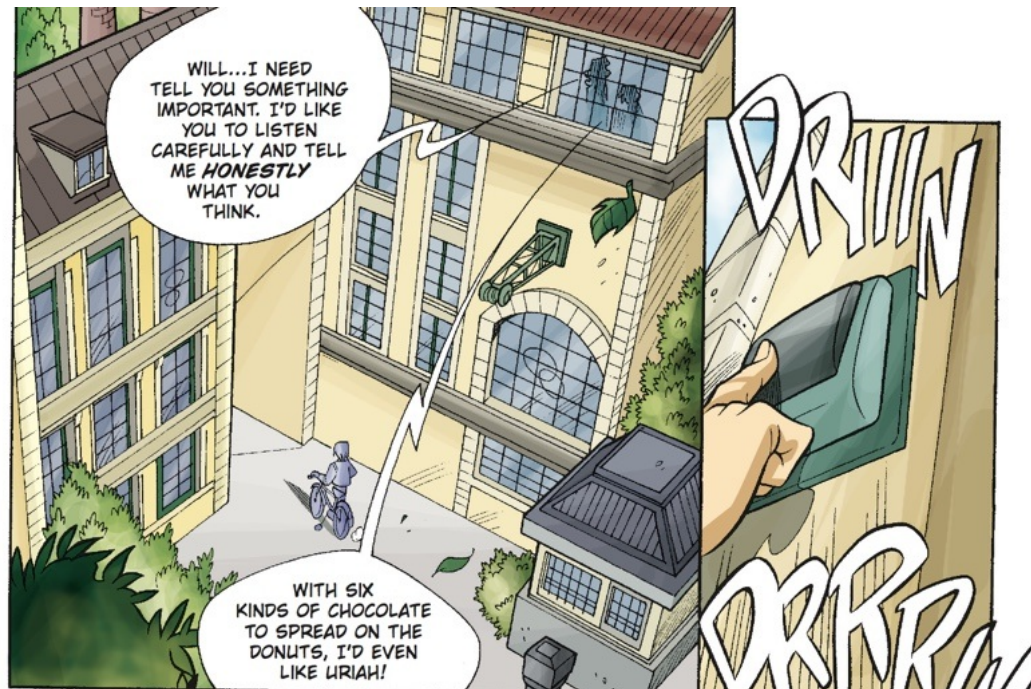












WILL...I NEED  
TELL YOU SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT. I'D LIKE  
YOU TO LISTEN  
CAREFULLY AND TELL  
ME **HONESTLY**  
WHAT YOU  
THINK.

WITH SIX  
KINDS OF CHOCOLATE  
TO SPREAD ON THE  
DONUTS, I'D EVEN  
LIKE **URIAH!**

DRINN  
ORRR



HERE  
HE IS!

DON'T  
TELL ME  
YOU'RE GOING  
OUT WITH  
MATT...  
**NOW!**

UM, ACTUALLY I AM!  
BUT TELL ME, MOM—  
I'M LISTENING!



WELL, I  
JUST WANTED  
TO ASK YOU...

...WHY  
DON'T  
WE HAVE  
A QUIET  
LUNCH  
TOGETHER?

COOL! SEE  
YA AT ONE AT  
RICHMOON!

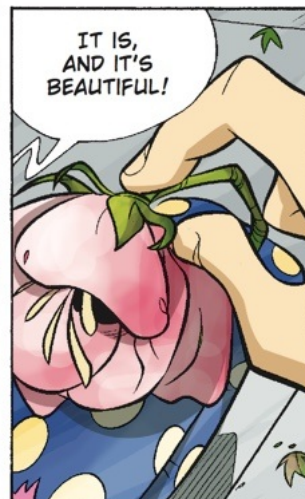
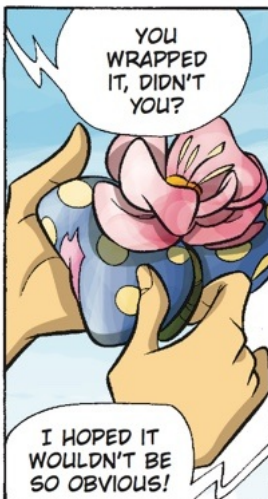


BYE—AND THANKS  
FOR THE **ME-GA-  
BREAK-FAST!**



OOF!   
ALWAYS  
IN A  
RUSH!









A FROG-PATTERN BANDANNA! I LOVE FROGS AND BANDANNAS!

SOMETHING WENT WRONG! I HOPED YOU'D BE HORRIFIED!



WAIT... NOT LIKE THAT.



LIKE THIS!

WHY?



TRUST ME! IT'S A SURPRISE.



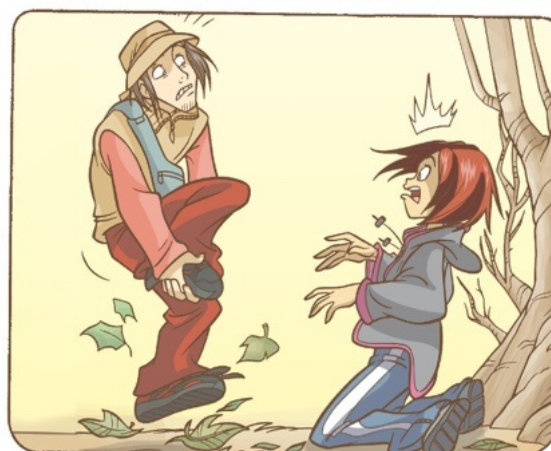
ANOTHER ONE?



YUP! IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, I TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING I'M THE **CHEESIEST** MAN IN THE UNIVERSE!



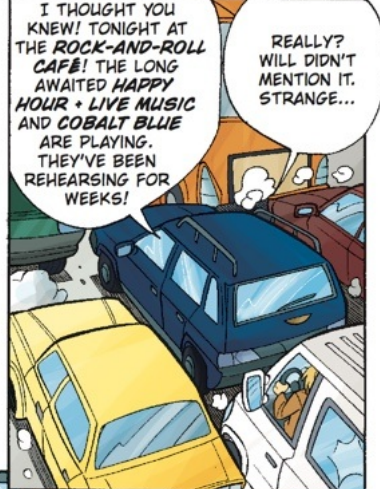
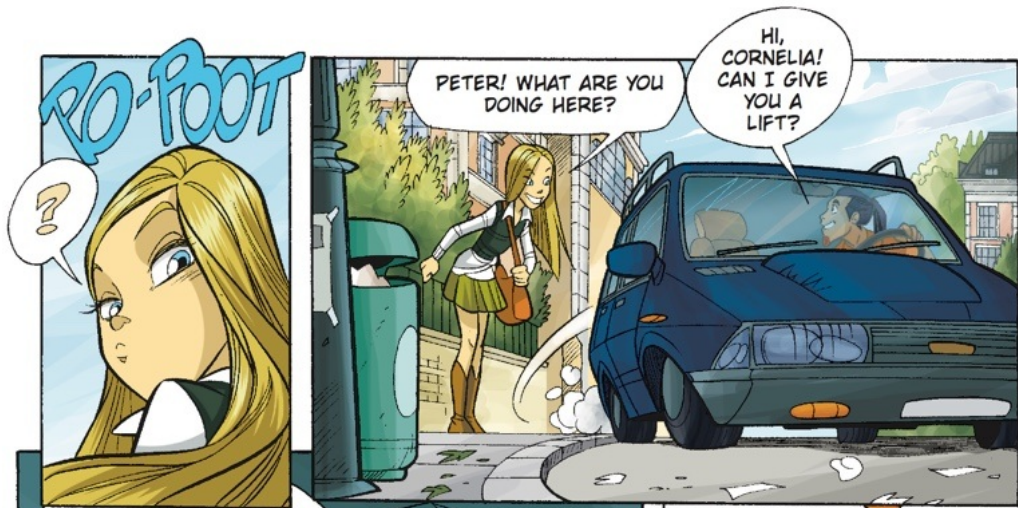




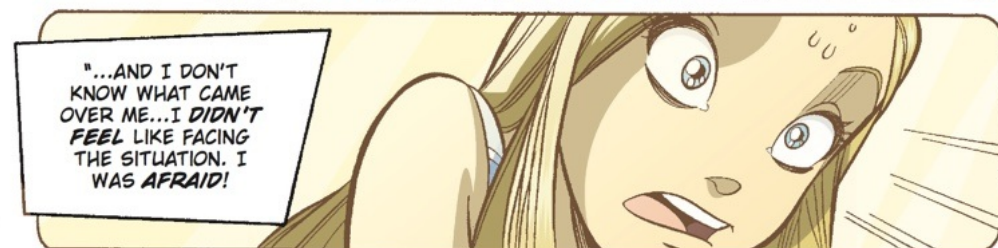
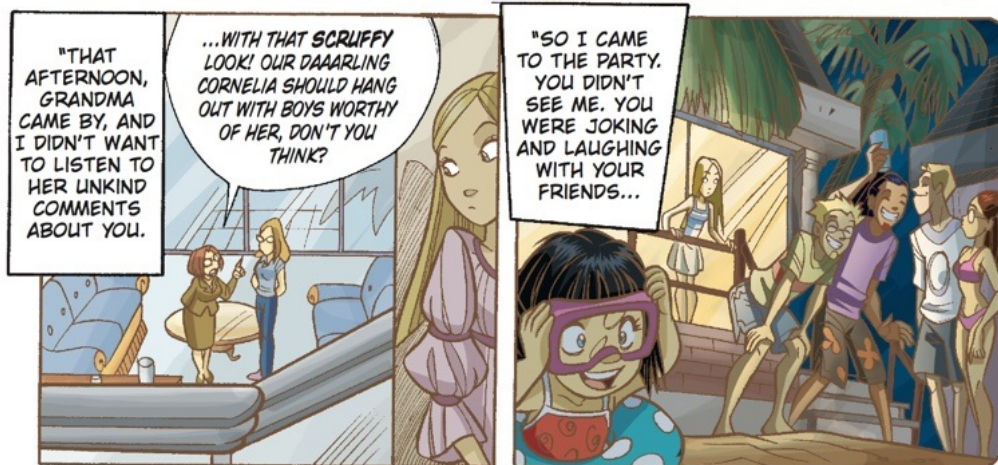
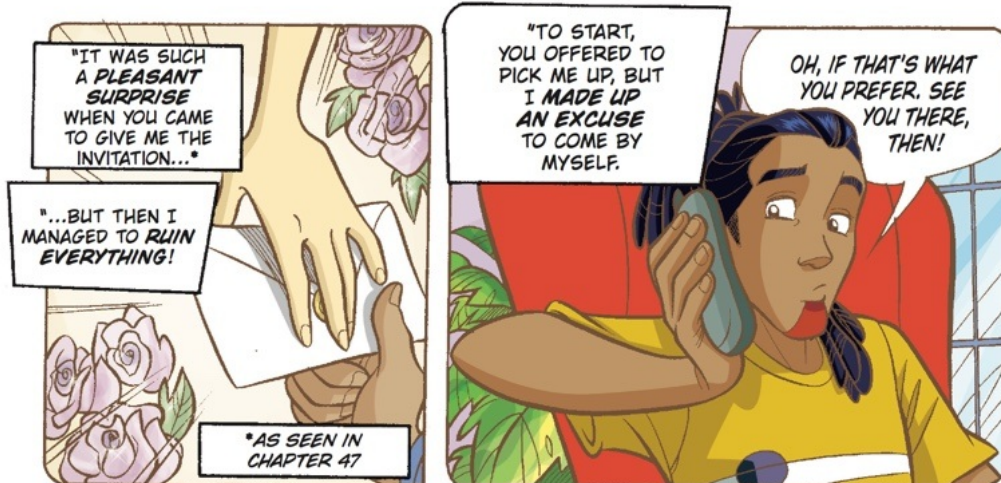




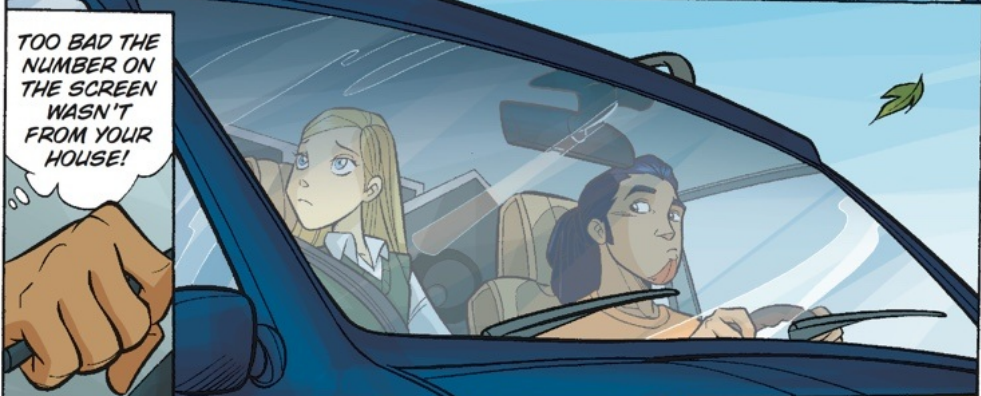




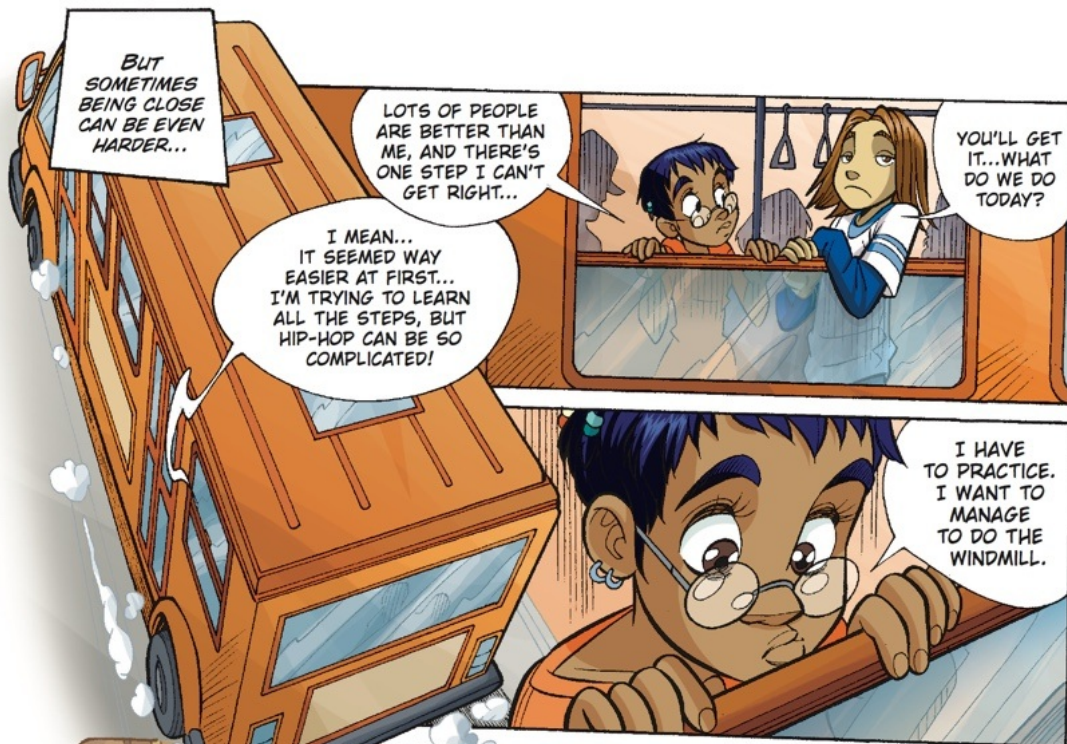












BUT SOMETIMES BEING CLOSE CAN BE EVEN HARDER...

LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE BETTER THAN ME, AND THERE'S ONE STEP I CAN'T GET RIGHT...

YOU'LL GET IT...WHAT DO WE DO TODAY?

I MEAN... IT SEEMED WAY EASIER AT FIRST... I'M TRYING TO LEARN ALL THE STEPS, BUT HIP-HOP CAN BE SO COMPLICATED!

I HAVE TO PRACTICE. I WANT TO MANAGE TO DO THE WINDMILL.



THE LAST TIME I TRIED WAS A DISASTER.

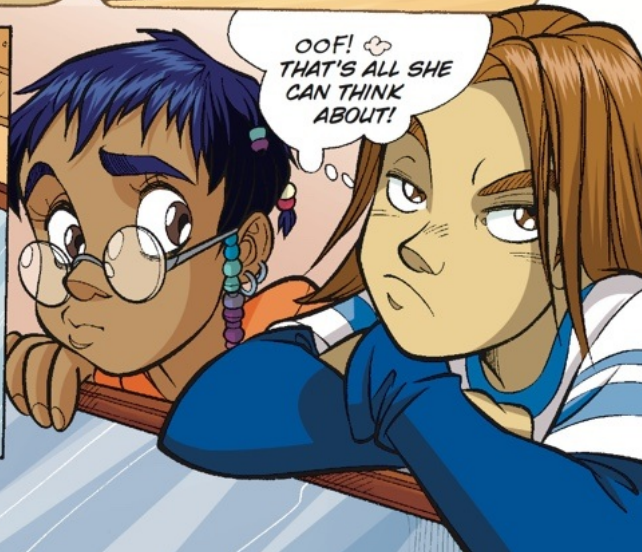


I FELL AND HAD TO GIVE UP.



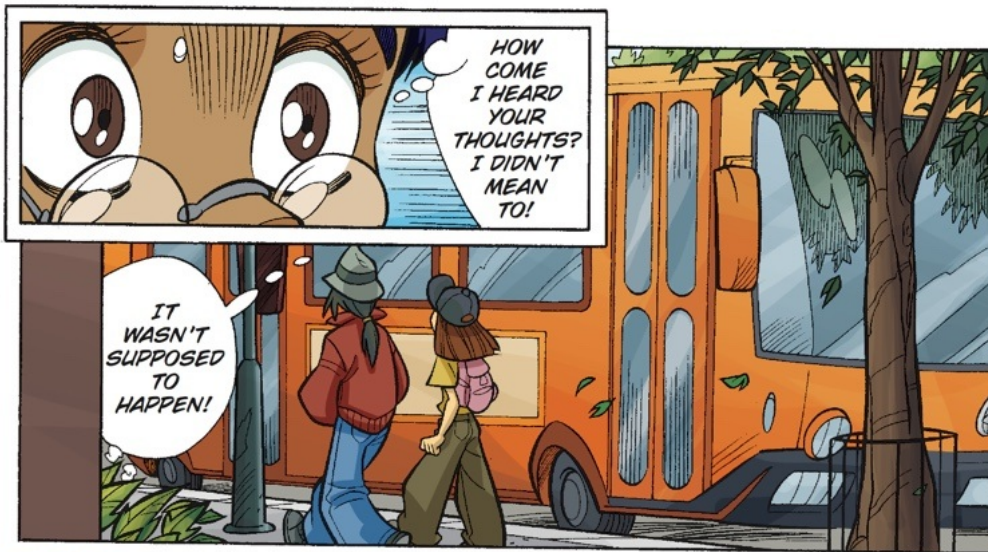
WHEN WILL YOU BE DONE?

I DON'T KNOW. SOME CLASSMATES ARE GOING TO HELP ME. THEY'RE REALLY GOOD, AND IF I WORK HARD...



OOF! ♡ THAT'S ALL SHE CAN THINK ABOUT!

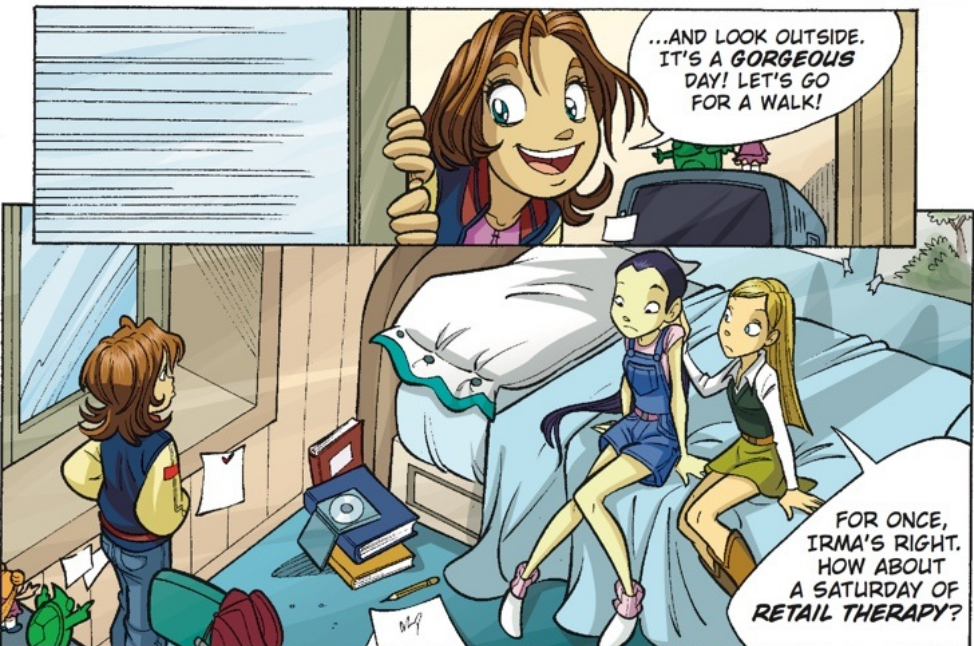
















I NEED IT  
MORE THAN  
AIR!

HAY LIN, CALM  
DOWN! YOU'LL  
DESTROY  
THE PLACE!

...I SAY  
WE LEAVE BEFORE THE  
TORNADO FLINGS  
US OUT!

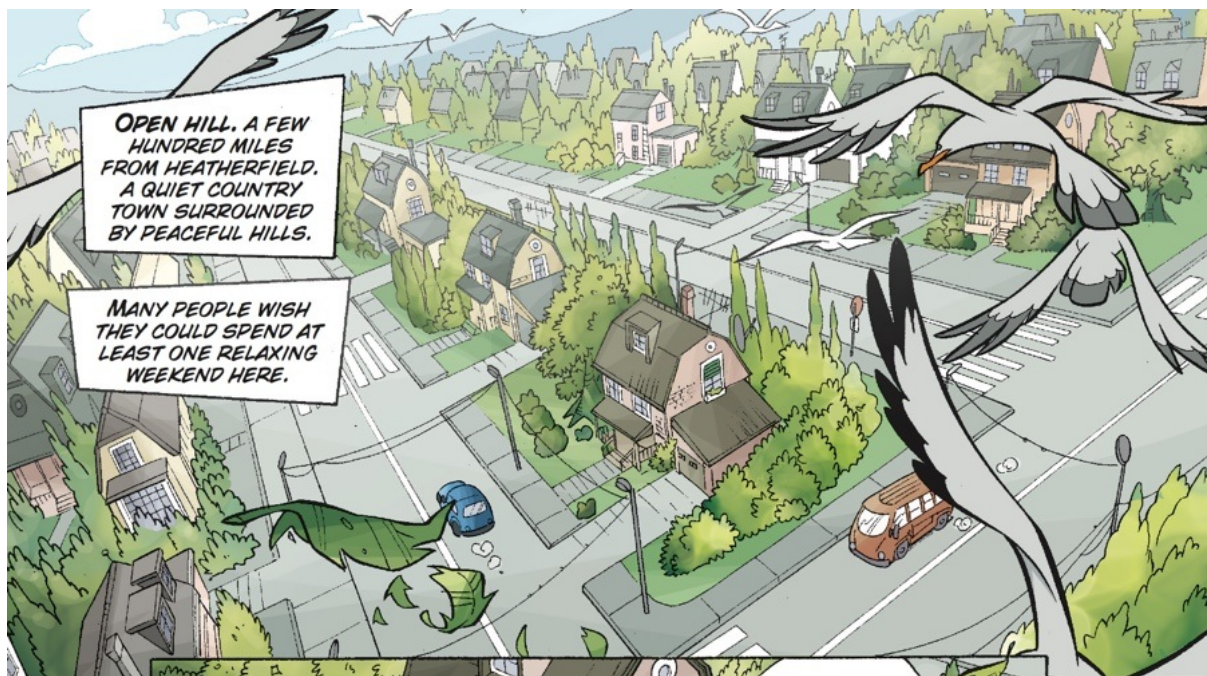
I BET ERIC WOULD  
LOVE TO SEE  
US AGAIN.  
WHADDAYA  
SAY?

YEAH! AND  
SINCE THERE'S A  
STORM BREWING  
IN HERE...

IF YOU'RE  
SUGGESTING  
**TELEPORTATION**,  
FORGET IT, IRMA!  
YOU KNOW WE CAN'T  
USE OUR POWERS  
FOR PERSONAL  
REASONS!

BUT THIS  
ISN'T A PERSONAL  
MOTIVE, CORNY!  
THIS IS AN ACTUAL  
**EMERGENCY!**





OPEN HILL. A FEW HUNDRED MILES FROM HEATHERFIELD. A QUIET COUNTRY TOWN SURROUNDED BY PEACEFUL HILLS.

MANY PEOPLE WISH THEY COULD SPEND AT LEAST ONE RELAXING WEEKEND HERE.

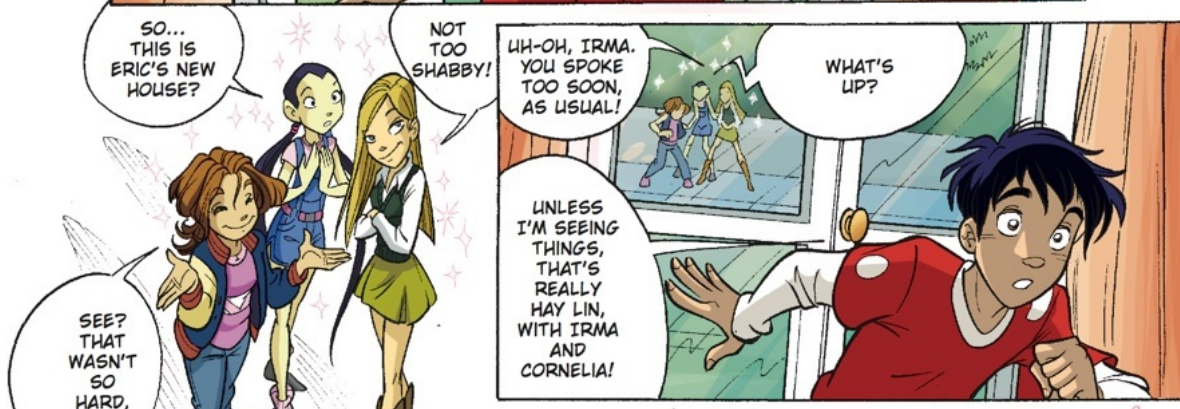
BUT SOME ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE IN THIS LITTLE PARADISE YET CAN'T APPRECIATE IT.

I HATE THIS PLACE!

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SOME THINGS LEAVE US SPEECHLESS. IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS BOOKSHOP, CEDRIC KNOWS WHAT THAT'S LIKE.



HE CAN'T WRAP HIS HEAD AROUND THE CHAT HE HAD WITH THE MYSTERIOUS BOOK THAT CAN SPEAK METAMOR'S LANGUAGE.

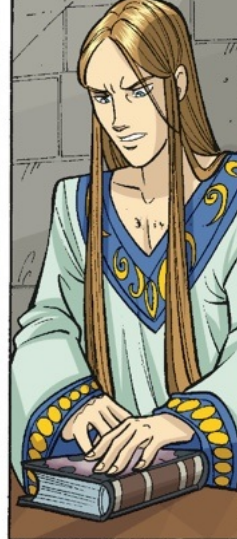


CEDRIC HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF HIS POWERS, BUT HE CAN STILL SENSE MAGIC.



UNLIKE ALL THE FAKE BOOKS HE'S FOUND, HE KNOWS FOR SURE THAT THIS ONE IS SPECIAL AND VERY POWERFUL.

HE'S STARTING TO HOPE THAT THE BOOK MIGHT ACTUALLY HELP HIM. IT COULD READ HIS THOUGHTS, GIVE A NAME TO HIS PAIN....



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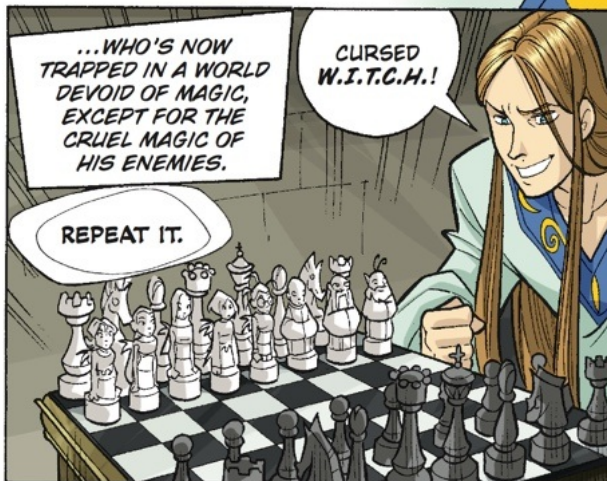
THE PAIN OF A MAN WHO DOESN'T RECOGNIZE HIMSELF...



...WHO'S NOW TRAPPED IN A WORLD DEVOID OF MAGIC, EXCEPT FOR THE CRUEL MAGIC OF HIS ENEMIES.

CURSED W.I.T.C.H.!

REPEAT IT.

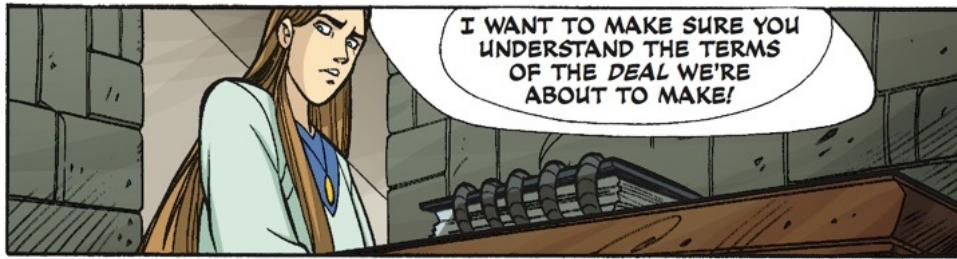


HUH?

REPEAT WHAT I TOLD YOU!







I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF THE DEAL WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE!



THAT FIRM VOICE, THAT COMMANDING TONE, THAT SUPERIOR MANNER...

CEDRIC IS ANNOYED BY THE MYSTERIOUS BOOK'S ATTITUDE...



...BUT HE CAN'T HELP FOLLOWING ITS ORDERS, AS IF HE'S BEEN HYPNOTIZED.

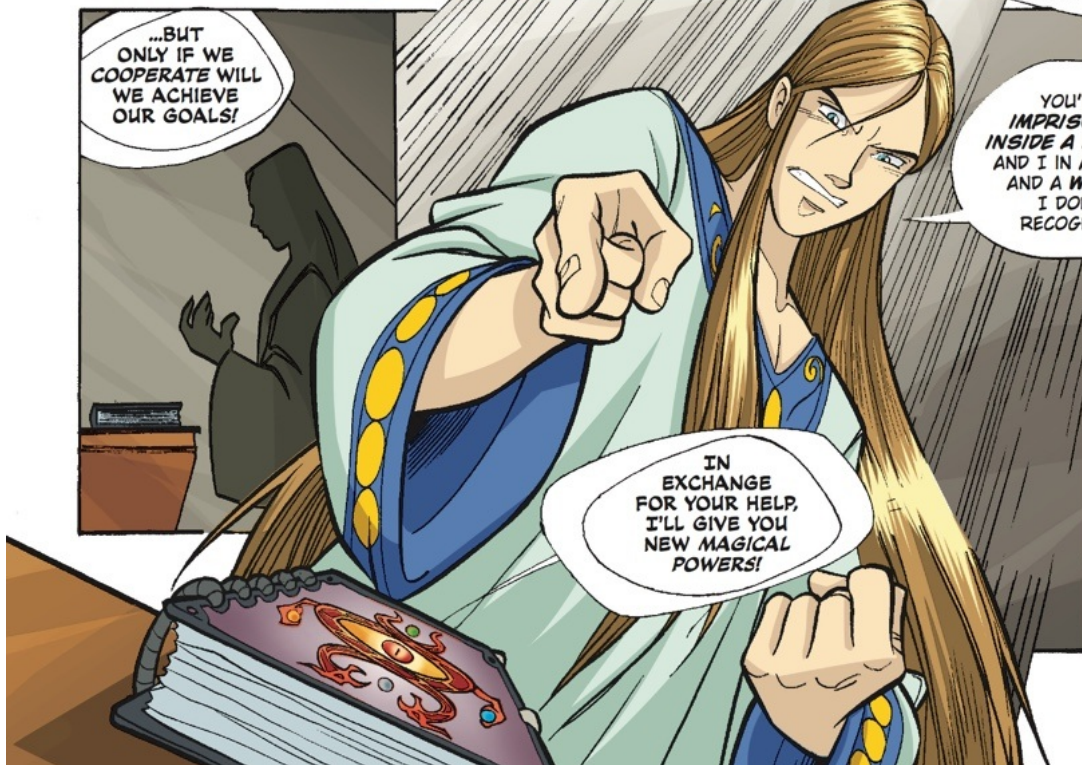
HE CAN'T HELP REPEATING THE OFFER THE BOOK MADE—THAT HE WANTS TO ACCEPT!



THE CREATURE TRAPPED IN THE BOOK WANTS TO BE FREED ON METAMOOR, CEDRIC'S WORLD.

WE'RE COMPATRIOTS!

WE'RE TWO SOULS SHARING THE SAME HATRED AND DESIRE FOR REVENGE...

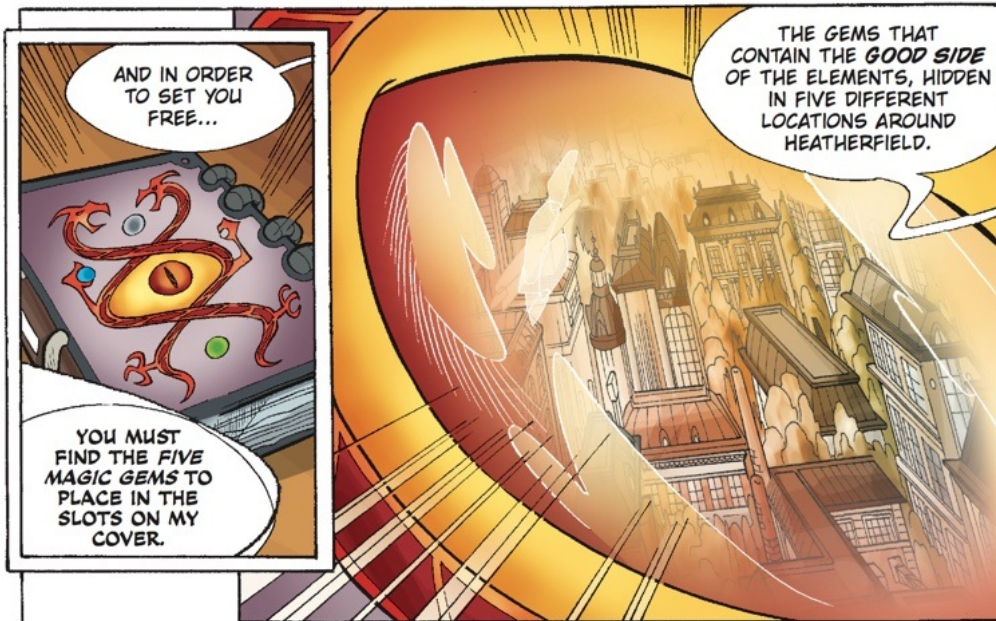


...BUT ONLY IF WE COOPERATE WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS!

YOU'RE IMPRISONED INSIDE A BOOK... AND I IN A BODY AND A WORLD I DON'T RECOGNIZE.

IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR HELP, I'LL GIVE YOU NEW MAGICAL POWERS!





AND IN ORDER  
TO SET YOU  
FREE...

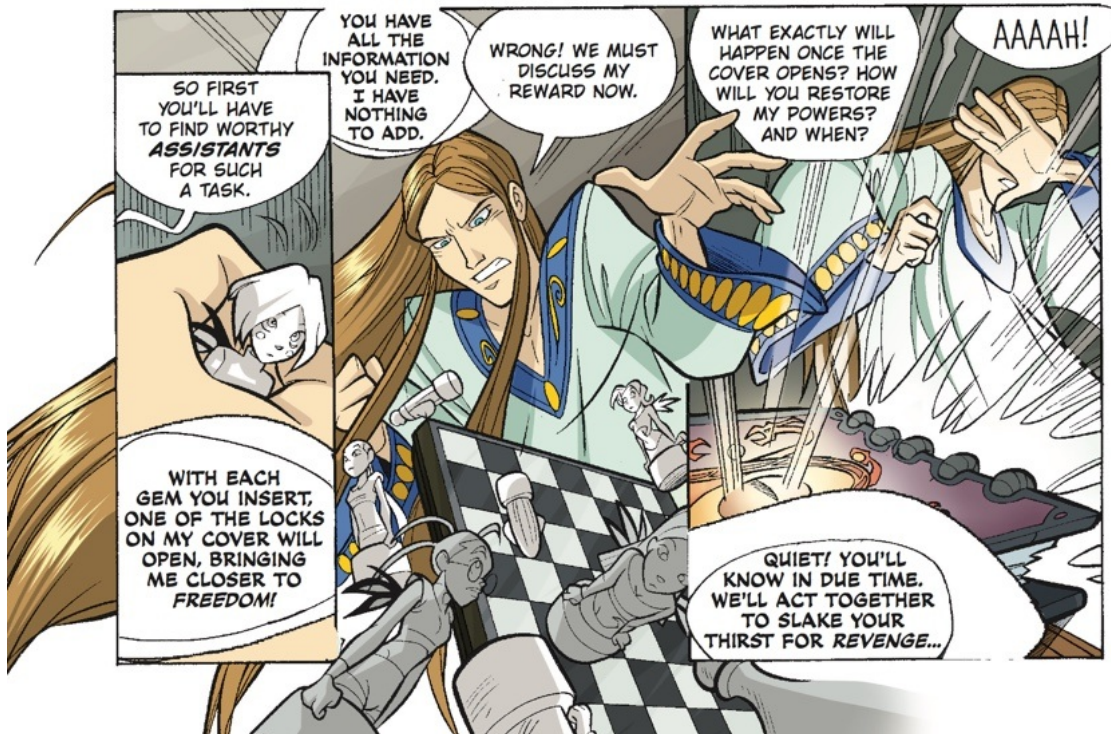
THE GEMS THAT  
CONTAIN THE *GOOD SIDE*  
OF THE ELEMENTS, HIDDEN  
IN FIVE DIFFERENT  
LOCATIONS AROUND  
HEATHERFIELD.

YOU MUST  
FIND THE *FIVE*  
MAGIC GEMS TO  
PLACE IN THE  
SLOTS ON MY  
COVER.

PRECISELY!  
BUT BE CAREFUL.  
ONLY *ELEMENTAL*  
CREATURES  
CAN...

...FIGHT  
THE  
TERRIBLE  
*CUSTODIANS*  
GUARDING THE  
SYMBOLS AND  
RETRIEVE  
THE GEMS.  
I KNOW!

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SO FIRST  
YOU'LL HAVE  
TO FIND WORTHY  
*ASSISTANTS*  
FOR SUCH  
A TASK.

YOU HAVE  
ALL THE  
INFORMATION  
YOU NEED.  
I HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO ADD.

WRONG! WE MUST  
DISCUSS MY  
REWARD NOW.

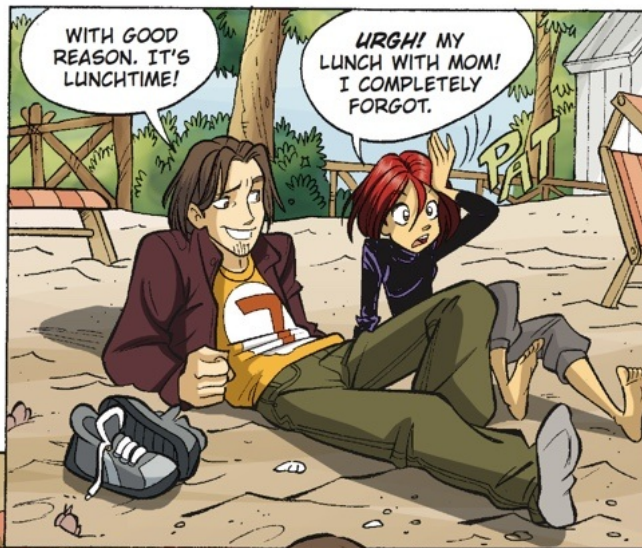
WHAT EXACTLY WILL  
HAPPEN ONCE THE  
COVER OPENS? HOW  
WILL YOU RESTORE  
MY POWERS?  
AND WHEN?

AAAAH!

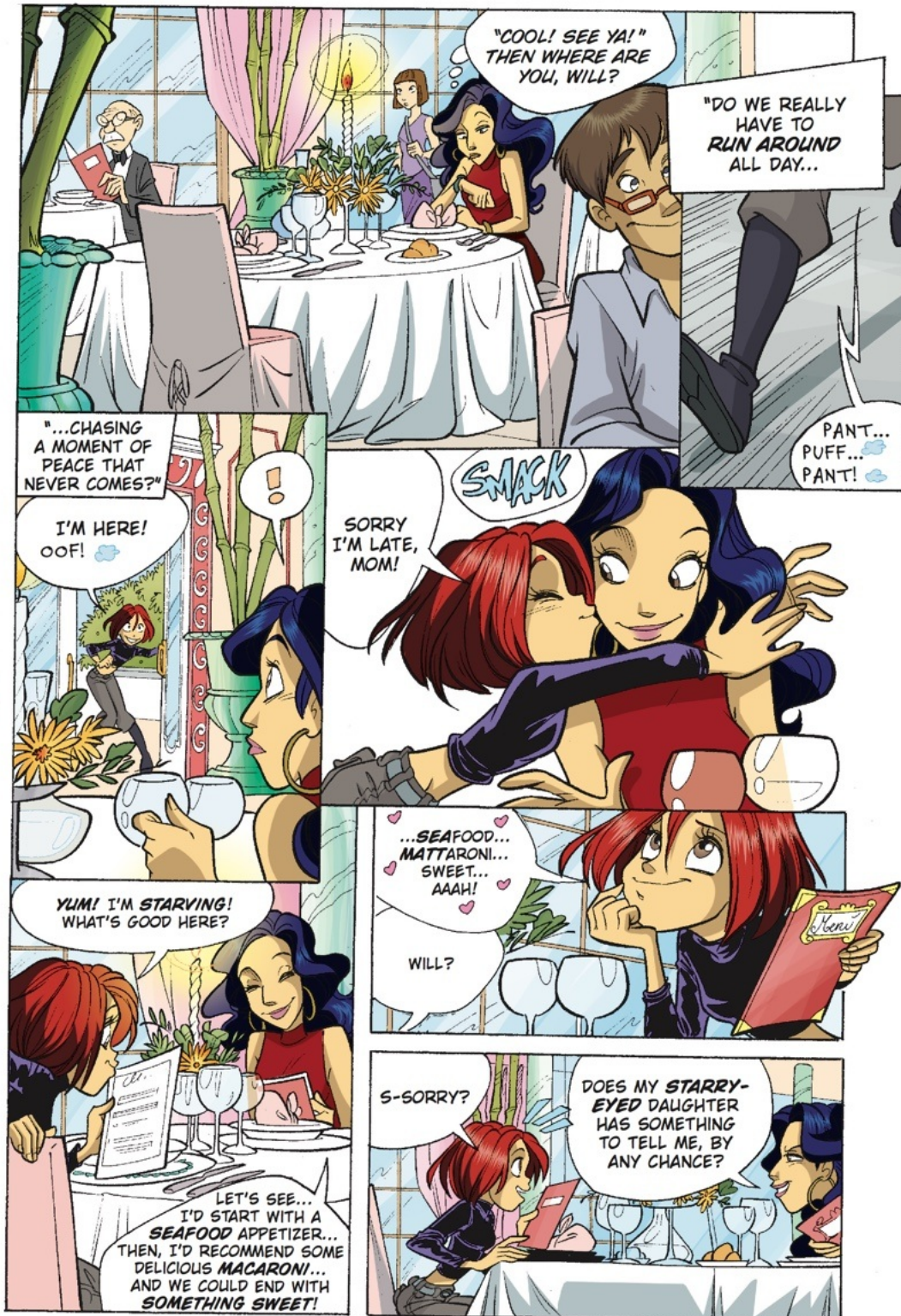
WITH EACH  
GEM YOU INSERT,  
ONE OF THE LOCKS  
ON MY COVER WILL  
OPEN, BRINGING  
ME CLOSER TO  
FREEDOM!

QUIET! YOU'LL  
KNOW IN DUE TIME.  
WE'LL ACT TOGETHER  
TO SLAKE YOUR  
THIRST FOR REVENGE...

















YOU KNOW, HONEY, **TWO THINGS** MAKE A MOM REALLY **HAPPY**: KNOWING THAT HER DAUGHTER IS HAPPY...



...AND BEING ABLE TO **SHARE** THAT **HAPPINESS** WITH HER!



YOU TELLING ME ABOUT YOURSELF, **SHARING** YOUR JOY WITH ME, MEANS A LOT TO ME. MAYBE IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT...

IT'S NOT, MOM!



I'M HAPPY TO HEAR WHEN YOU HAVE GOOD NEWS TOO, LIKE WHEN YOUR BOSS GIVES YOU A RAISE OR EXTRA VACATION! I LOVE HAVING SOMETHING TO **CELEBRATE TOGETHER**.

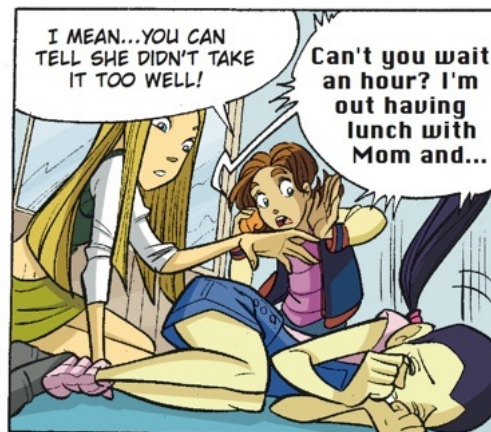
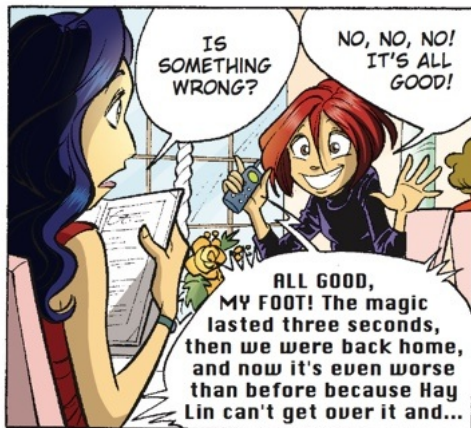


WELL...SPEAKING OF WHICH, WILL, I WANTED TO TELL YOU...

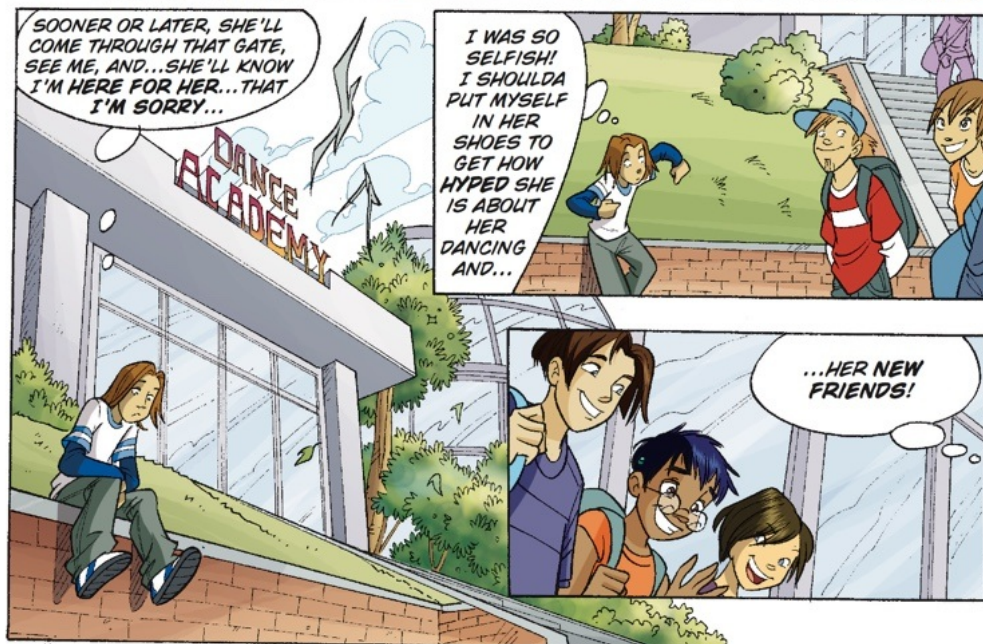


WHOOOPS... HANG ON A SEC!

















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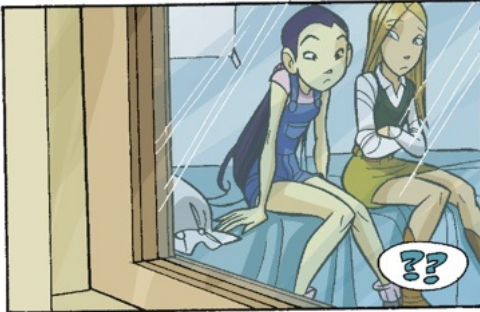


I SAY WE  
GO TO **KANDRAKAR**  
AND ASK FOR AN  
EXPLANATION.



WE CAN'T KEEP  
PRETENDING  
NOTHING'S  
HAPPENING!

AND I SAY  
IF WE DO THAT  
NOW, THE ORACLE  
WILL WANT AN  
EXPLANATION  
FROM **US!**



??



36



WHY THAT LOOK?  
HAVE YOU COUNTED  
HOW MANY PEOPLE  
ARE IN THIS  
ROOM?



WILL'S ON HER WAY,  
AND THE ONLY REASON  
**TARANEE** ISN'T HERE  
IS BECAUSE OF  
**DANCE CLASS.**

PRECISELY.  
SHE'S CLEARLY FOUND  
**SOMETHING THAT'S  
MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN US...**

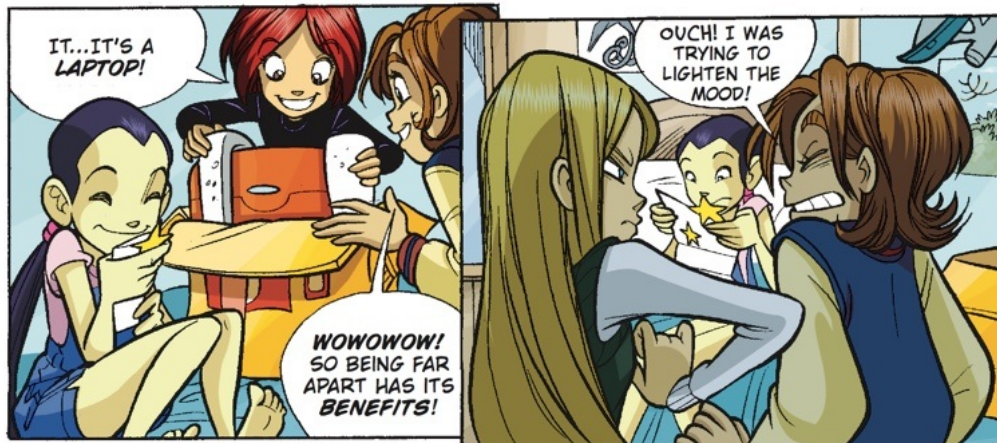


UM...SPEAKING OF  
**CARDBOARD...**

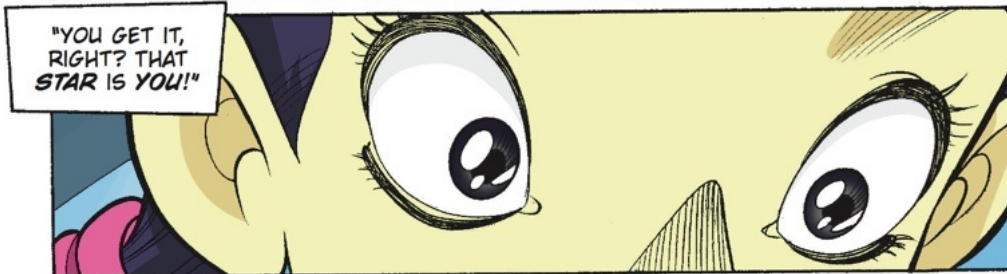
THERE'S A  
CARDBOARD BOX  
HERE. THE  
DELIVERY GUY  
GAVE IT TO ME  
DOWNSTAIRS.

OR **SOMEONE...**  
SINCE SHE'S STARTED  
HANGING OUT WITH  
THAT **CARDBOARD  
CUT-OUT JENSEN  
GIRL!**











"I ALSO WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH IT HURT TO LEAVE SO SUDDENLY, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME AND **APOLOGIZE** FOR ONLY DOING IT NOW.

"I LIKE TO THINK I'VE SUBCONSCIOUSLY LEFT THINGS HANGING... SO I CAN COME BACK SOON AND PICK UP WHERE I LEFT OFF...

"...AND SEE YOUR **SMILING EYES** AGAIN AND TELL YOU WITHOUT HESITATION THAT...

...I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, HAY LIN!

"OH, BY THE WAY, THE LAPTOP IN THE BOX IS MY MOM'S. SHE GAVE IT TO ME BECAUSE HERE IN OPEN HILL SHE CAN USE A COMPUTER AT UNIVERSITY.

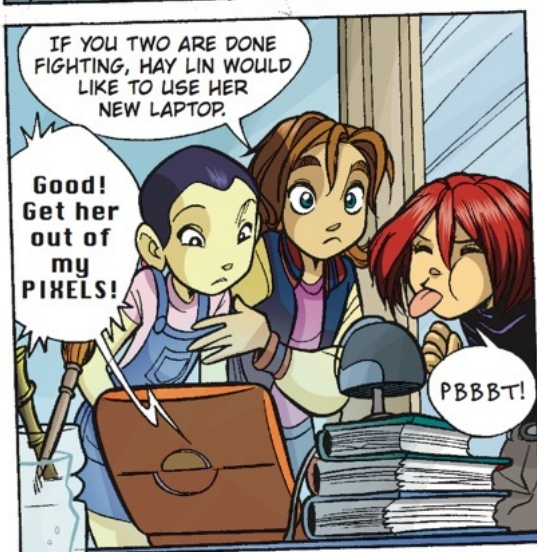
"...AND I THOUGHT I'D LEND IT TO YOU WHILE WE'RE APART. IT'LL BE EASIER TO KEEP IN..."

...CONTACT! CONNECTION ON AND WEBCAM WORKING!

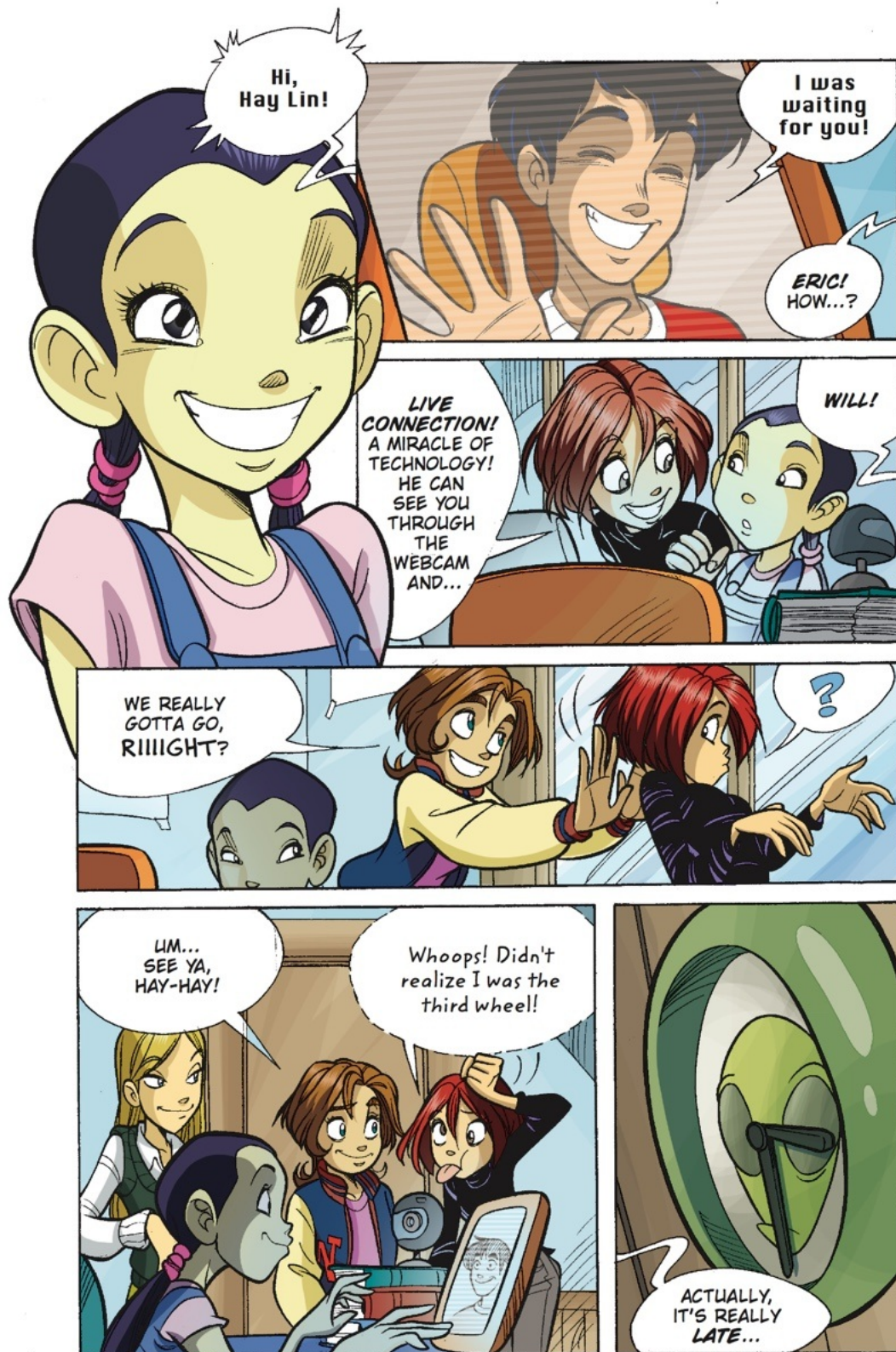
ON!

AM I A COMPUTER GENIUS OR WHAT?













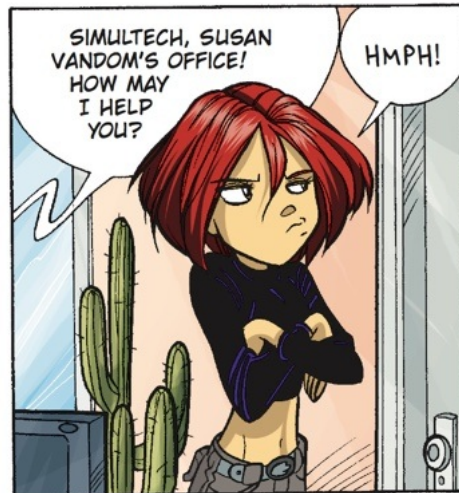
42











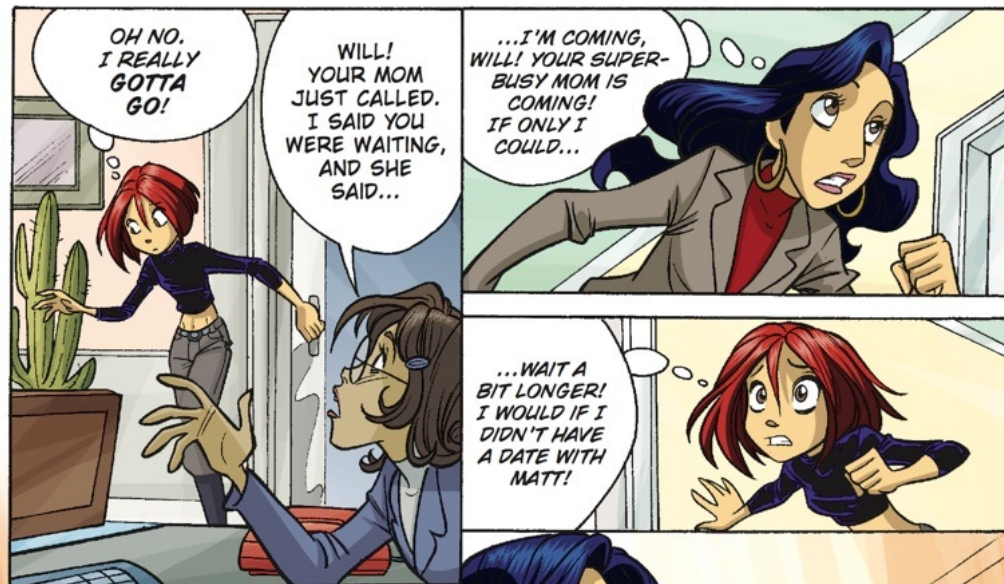
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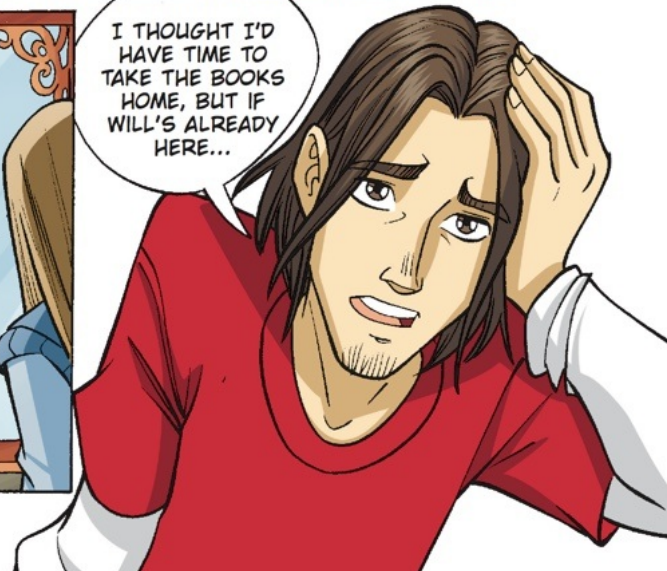
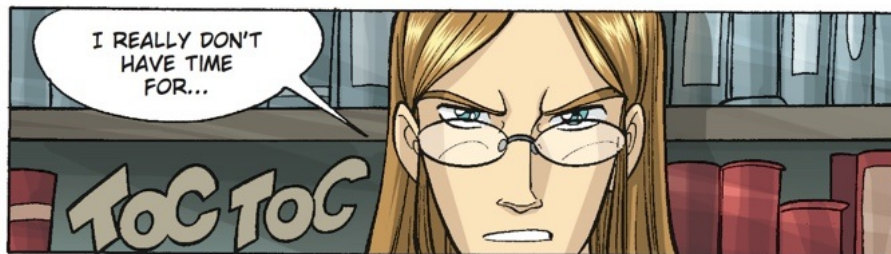
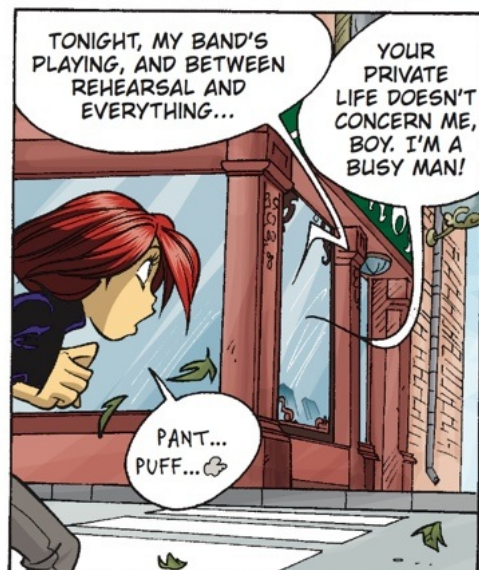








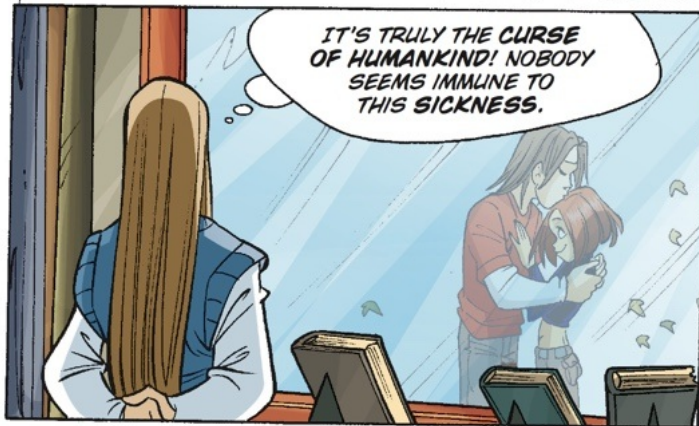
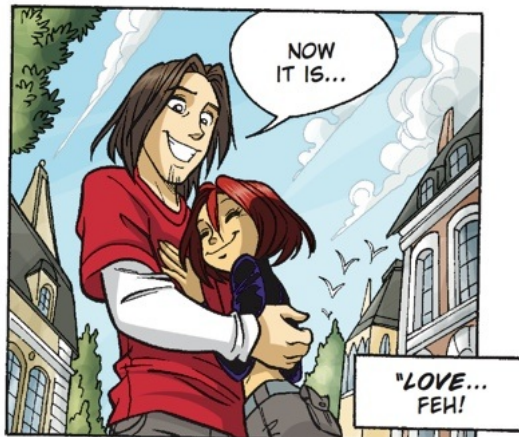
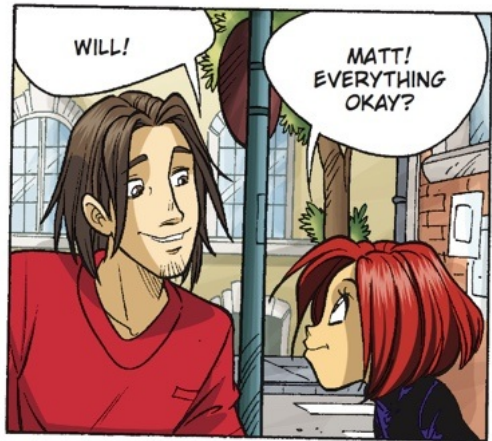




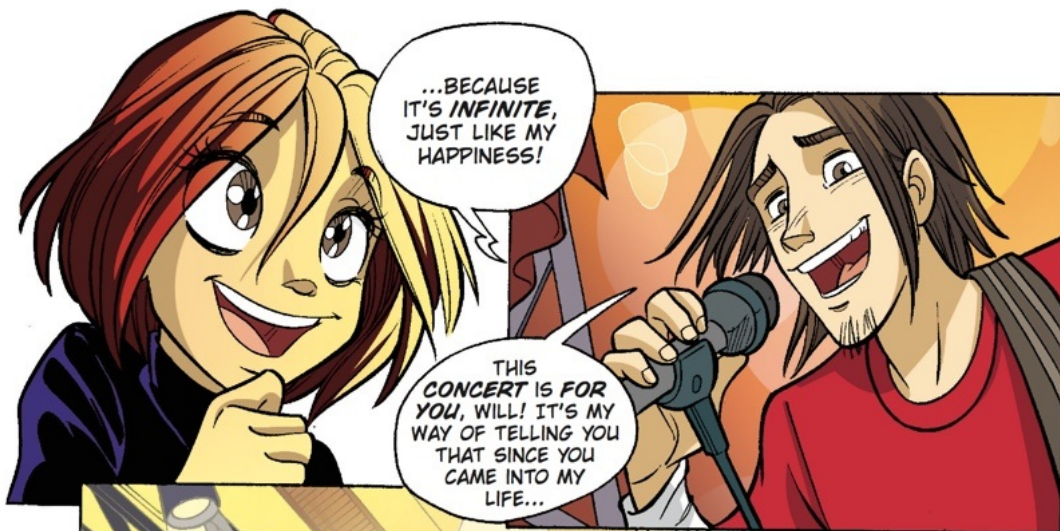




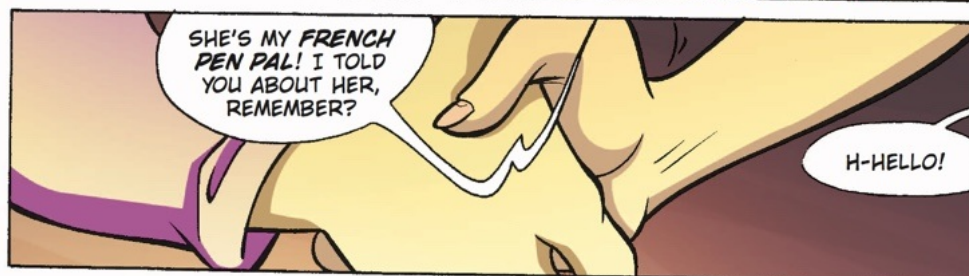




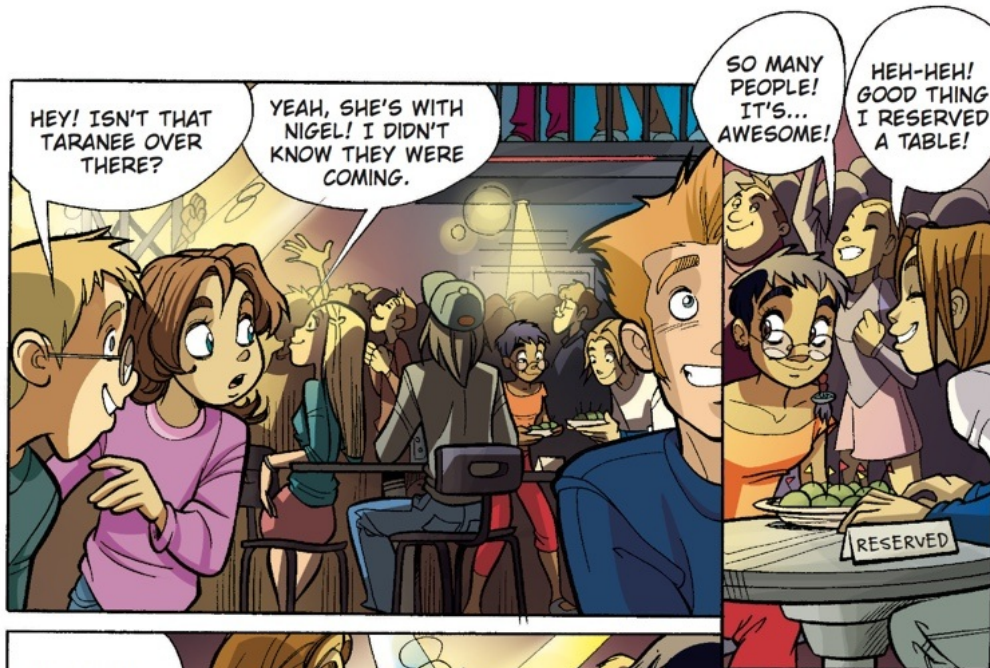
























♪ UUU-UH,  
MY FRIENDS...♪  
TRUST ME ONCE  
AGAIN!

SURE  
YOU'RE OKAY,  
TARANEE?  
YOU LOOK  
STRANGE...

I'M JUST...  
**SURPRISED** TO  
SEE YOU HERE! WHY  
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME  
THIS AFTERNOON?



BECAUSE I DIDN'T  
KNOW THEN!  
**LUKE** ORGANIZED  
EVERYTHING.



HE GOT THE  
TICKETS FROM  
A FRIEND AND  
SHOWED UP  
AT MY PLACE  
ASKING IF I  
WANTED TO  
COME WITH  
HIM.



I TOTALLY  
DID. I DON'T  
KNOW MANY  
PEOPLE AND  
NEVER GO  
OUT ALONE.

IT WAS REALLY  
**SWEET** OF HIM!  
THERE AREN'T MANY  
GUYS LIKE LUKE,  
DON'T YOU THINK,  
TARANEE?

YOU LIKE  
HIM! JUST  
SAY IT!



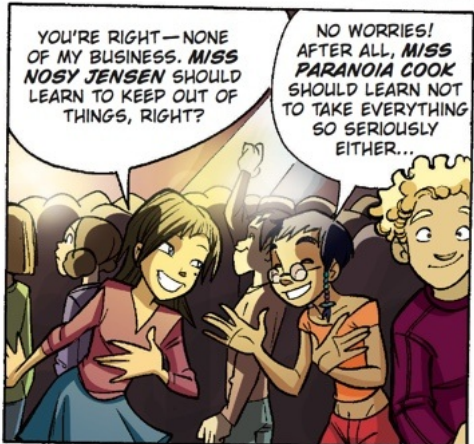
AND  
HE WAS SO  
**BUMMED**  
HE COULDN'T  
GET AHEAD  
OF YOU ON  
THE PHONE!

WHAT, WHAT,  
WHAT?











TARANEE'S SUDDENLY GLAD FOR THE COLORFUL LIGHTS ON THE DANCE FLOOR, WHICH HIDE HER BLUSHING...

LISTEN TO ME, BABY.  
♪ I WAS FEELIN' ♪  
REALLY BLUE...

...BUT SINCE  
♪ THE DAY I  
MET YOU, I'VE  
BEEN LIVIN'  
SOMETHIN' ♪  
NEW!



THESE  
COBALT GLUE  
GUYS ARE  
REALLY COOL!

COBALT  
BLUE,  
SHEILA!

OH...WELL...  
THEIR SOUND  
REALLY PULLS  
YOU IN, DON'T  
YOU THINK?

WHAT TO SAY?  
RIGHT NOW, THE NOISE  
INSIDE OF TARANEE  
IS MUCH LOUDER  
THAN THAT FILLING  
THE ROCK-AND-ROLL  
CAFÉ...

...AND HER  
HEART BEATS  
LIKE CRAZY TO  
THE RHYTHM OF  
THE BAND'S  
DRUMS.

YES, COBALT  
BLUE'S SOUND  
REALLY PULLS  
YOU IN, AS  
SHEILA SAID...

...BUT TARANEE  
HAS THE FEELING  
THAT THE BEST  
MUSIC IS THE ONE  
THAT LETS YOU  
LISTEN TO  
YOUR SPIRIT...

...THE MUSIC  
OF SILENCE!

TURUPU  
TURUTU  
DSHHH  
DSHHHH





SILENCE.

IT'S NIGHT. THE BOOKSHOP'S CLOSED, AND CEDRIC FEELS HE COULD ALMOST TOUCH THE SILENCE WHILE IT TAKES OVER THE EMPTY ROOMS.

NOW THAT THE ONLY SOUNDS ARE THE CREAKING OF THE WOODEN SHELVES...

KREEER

...AND THE TICKING OF THE PENDULUM CLOCK...

TIC  
TAC  
TIC  
TAC

...CEDRIC'S ASTONISHED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED A FEW HOURS AGO. HE SPOKE WITH A BOOK, MADE A DEAL WITH A TALKING OBJECT...

TIC TAC TIC

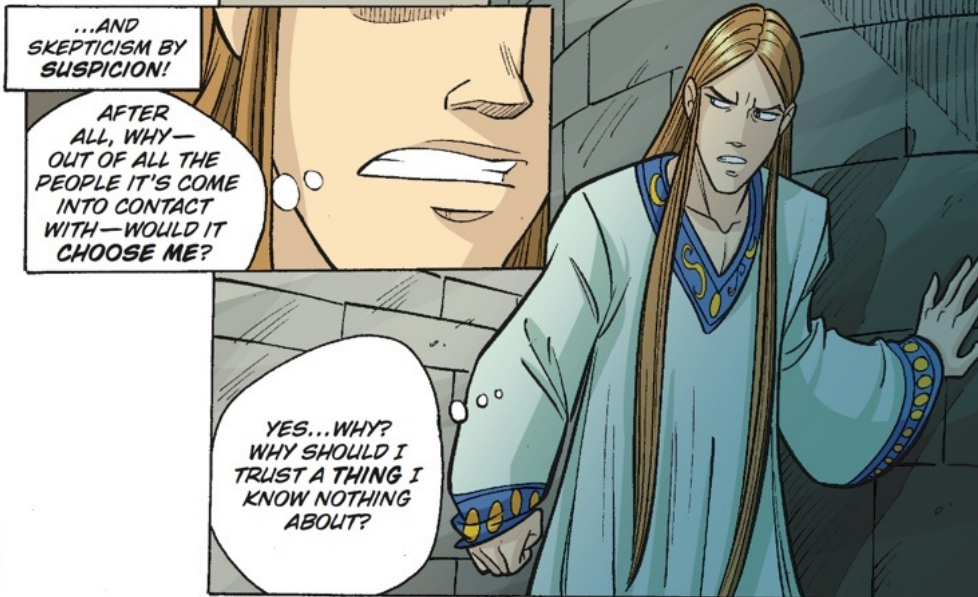
...AND WHAT A DEAL!





HE THINKS  
BACK TO THOSE  
MOMENTS...AND  
ASTONISHMENT  
IS REPLACED BY  
SKEPTICISM...

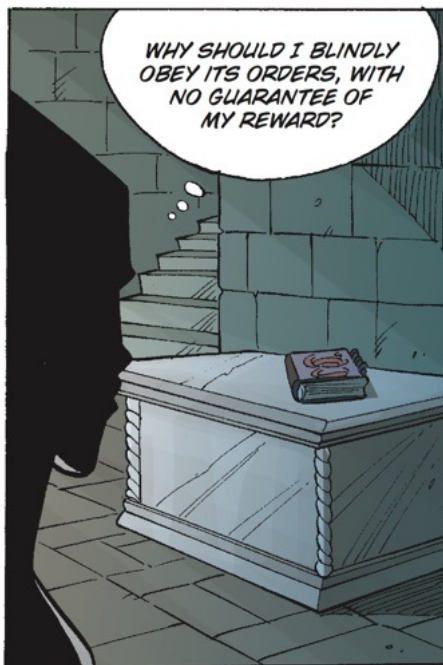
MAYBE  
I WAS  
IMAGINING  
THINGS...  
MY CONTACT  
WITH THE  
EARTHLINGS IS  
LIKELY TO BLAME!



...AND  
SKEPTICISM BY  
SUSPICION!

AFTER  
ALL, WHY—  
OUT OF ALL THE  
PEOPLE IT'S COME  
INTO CONTACT  
WITH—WOULD IT  
CHOOSE ME?

YES...WHY?  
WHY SHOULD I  
TRUST A THING I  
KNOW NOTHING  
ABOUT?



WHY SHOULD I BLINDLY  
OBEY ITS ORDERS, WITH  
NO GUARANTEE OF  
MY REWARD?

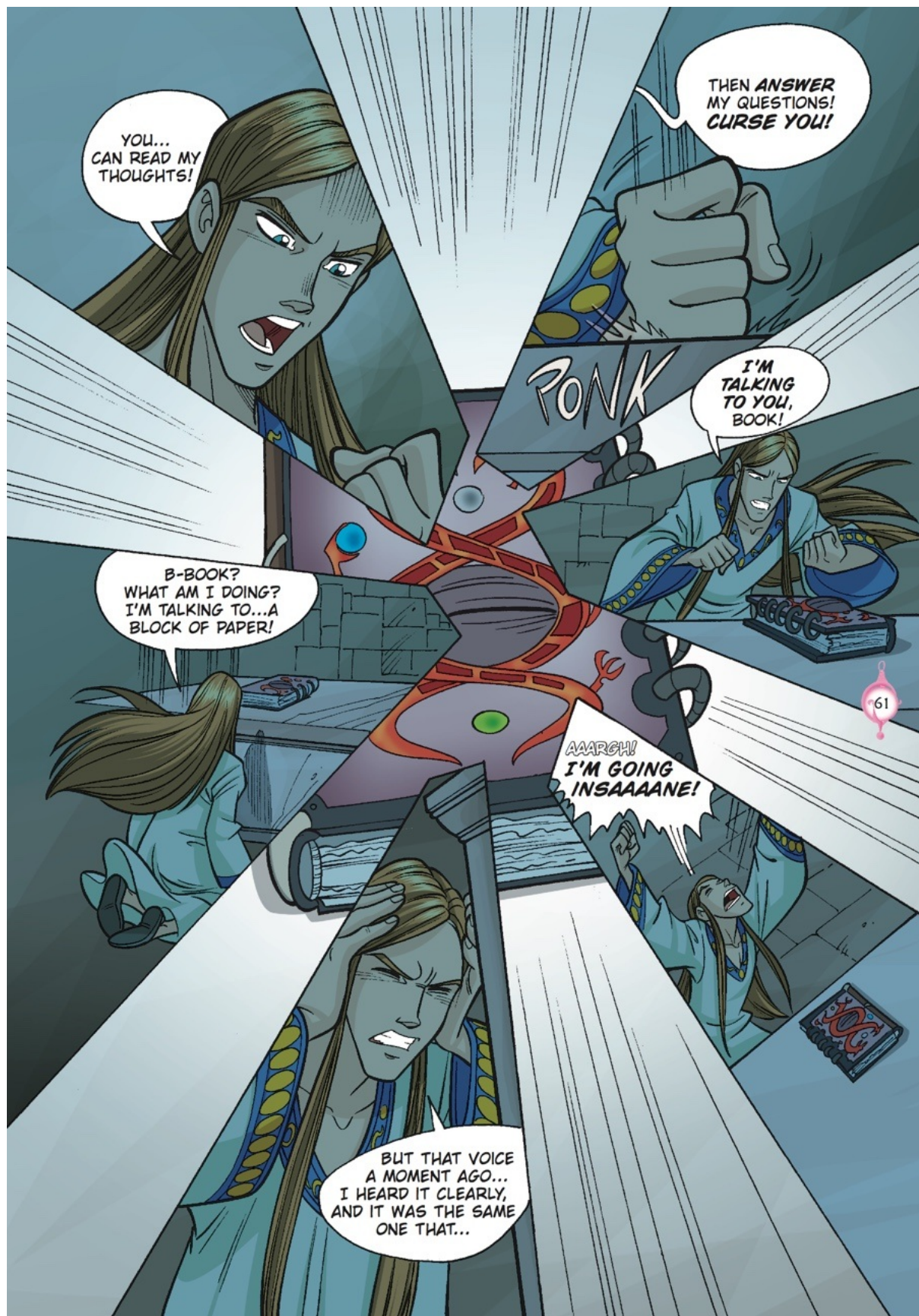


WHY SHOULD I  
BELIEVE THAT IT  
CAN DETERMINE  
MY FUTURE, THAT  
MY SALVATION  
LIES BETWEEN  
ITS PAGES?



BECAUSE  
YOU HAVE NO  
CHOICE, LORD  
CEDRIC!





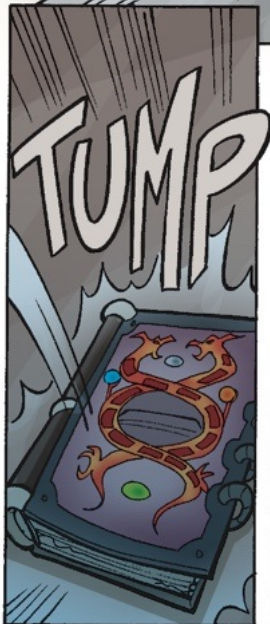




OPEN THAT EYE!  
OPEN THOSE  
PAGES...



...OR I'LL DO IT  
MYSELF WITHOUT  
YOUR PERMISSION!



**TUMP**



WITH YOUR  
SILENCE, YOU'VE  
SEALED YOUR FATE,  
**CURSED TALKING  
BOOK!**



I'LL FIND OUT  
WHAT YOU'RE  
HIDING, AND  
I'LL DO SO...



**...NOW!**



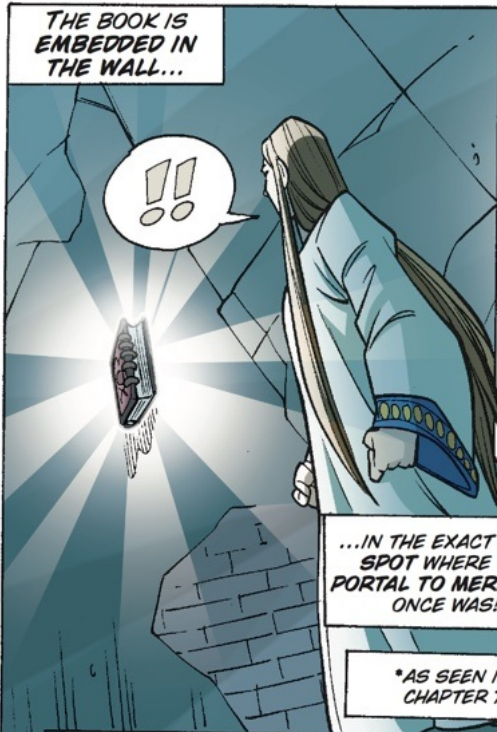


AS QUICKLY AS IT IS UNLEASHED, THE POWERFUL ENERGY VANISHES, LEAVING THE BOOKSHOP BASEMENT COMPLETELY DEVASTATED.

THE BOOK'S FURY SUBSIDES, BUT ONE LAST SHOCKING SURPRISE AWAITS THE MAN FROM METAMOR...







THE BOOK IS  
EMBEDDED IN  
THE WALL...



...IN THE EXACT SAME  
SPOT WHERE THE  
PORTAL TO MERIDIAN\*  
ONCE WAS!

\*AS SEEN IN  
CHAPTER 7



IT IS WRITTEN:  
"THE FOOLISH  
MORTALS WHO  
TRY TO OPEN  
THE BOOK  
WILL BE  
SUCKED  
INSIDE  
IT."

SO  
CONSIDER  
YOURSELF  
LUCKY I'VE  
SPARED YOU...



...FOOLISH  
EARTHLING!



HOW DARE  
YOU! I'M  
NOT...



CEDRIC  
HAS TO HOLD  
HIS TONGUE.  
THE WETNESS  
BLURRING HIS  
SIGHT REMINDS  
HIM OF THE  
CRUEL TRUTH.

THEY'RE TEARS.  
HUMAN TEARS.



TEARS OF  
FURY AND  
DESPAIR.  
ONCE AGAIN,  
AS WITH  
PHOBOS,  
LORD CEDRIC  
HAS TO PLAY  
ALONG AND  
IS NOT THE  
ONE PULLING  
THE STRINGS.

END OF  
CHAPTER 53





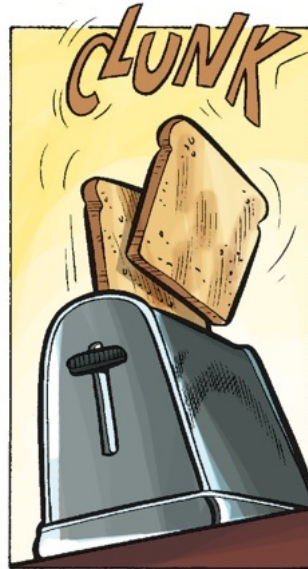
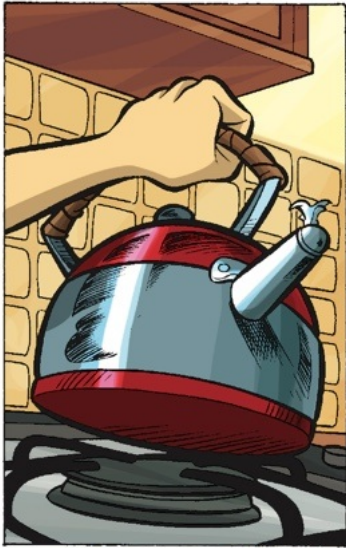


## One More Hug

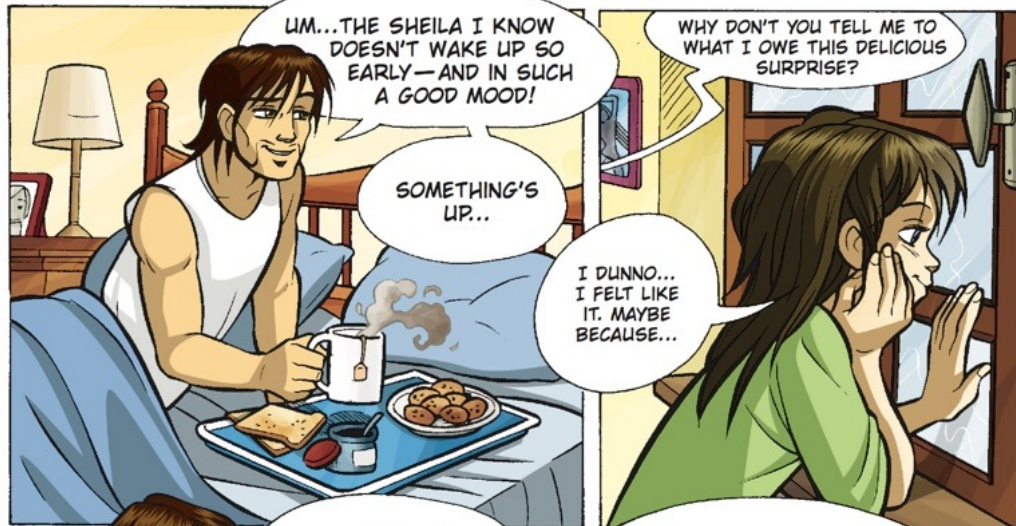
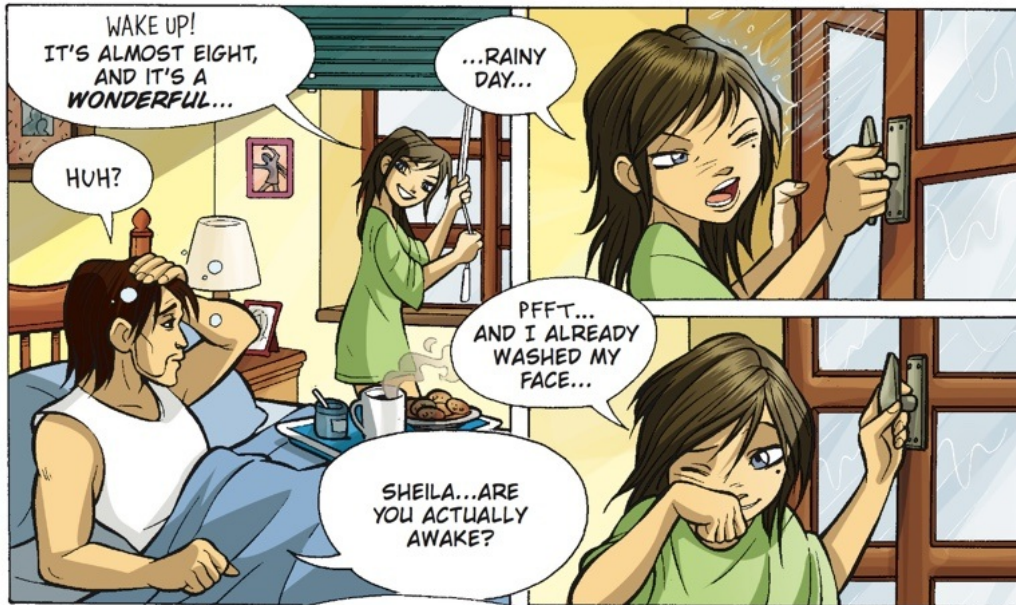
"I gotta find out what's  
going on around here..."



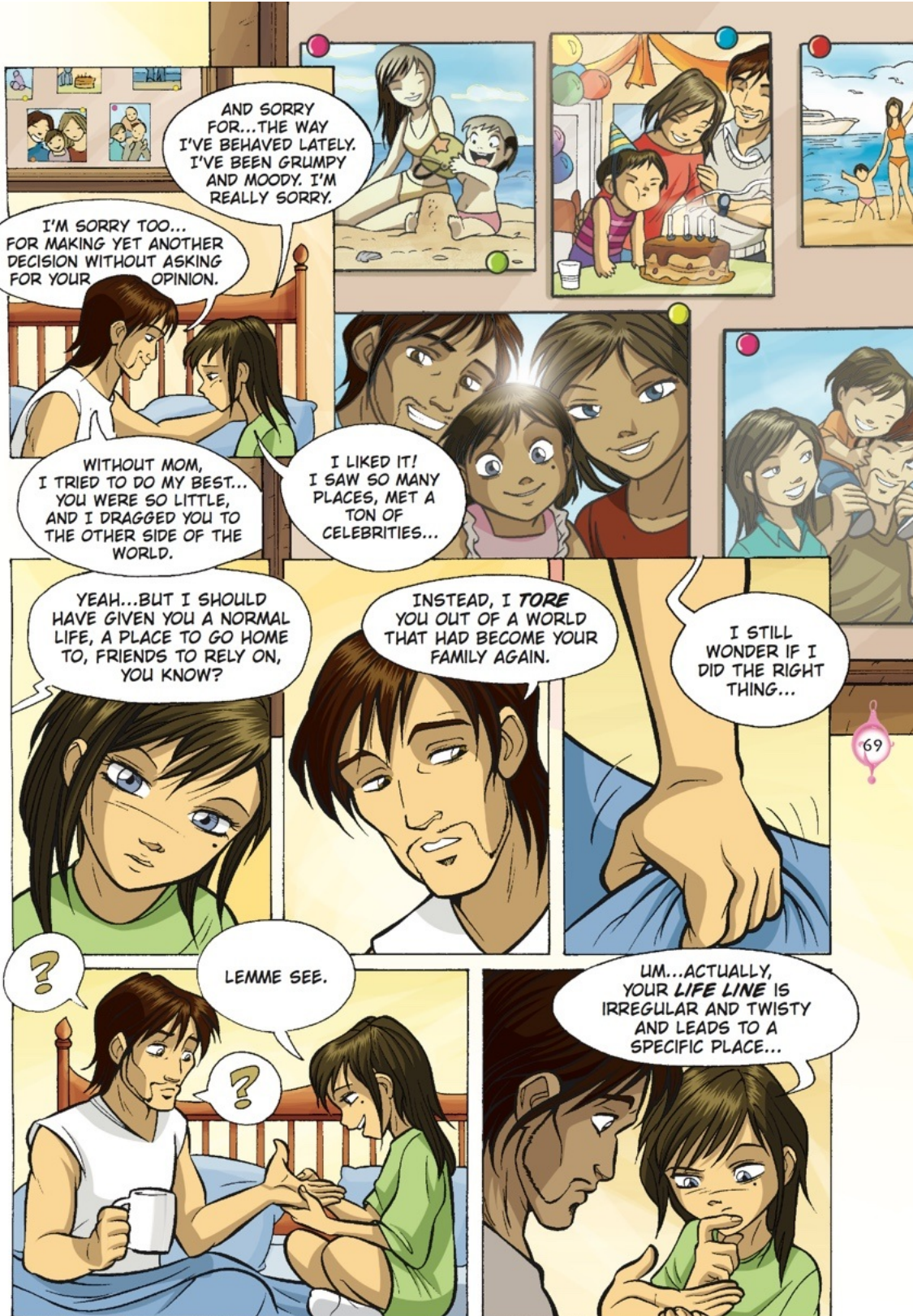












AND SORRY FOR...THE WAY I'VE BEHAVED LATELY. I'VE BEEN GRUMPY AND MOODY. I'M REALLY SORRY.

I'M SORRY TOO... FOR MAKING YET ANOTHER DECISION WITHOUT ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION.

WITHOUT MOM, I TRIED TO DO MY BEST... YOU WERE SO LITTLE, AND I DRAGGED YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

I LIKED IT! I SAW SO MANY PLACES, MET A TON OF CELEBRITIES...

YEAH...BUT I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A NORMAL LIFE, A PLACE TO GO HOME TO, FRIENDS TO RELY ON, YOU KNOW?

INSTEAD, I **TORE** YOU OUT OF A WORLD THAT HAD BECOME YOUR FAMILY AGAIN.

I STILL WONDER IF I DID THE RIGHT THING...

69

LEMME SEE.

UM...ACTUALLY, YOUR **LIFE LINE** IS IRREGULAR AND TWISTY AND LEADS TO A SPECIFIC PLACE...



...A SEASIDE TOWN CALLED HEATHERFIELD!

HERE, **STUBBORN** YOUNG SHEILA (AFTER **SULKING** FOR A BIT) BEGINS TO UNDERSTAND THAT SETTLING DOWN ISN'T AS BAD AS SHE THOUGHT.

SHE CAN MAKE **FRIENDS HER OWN AGE** AND HANG OUT WITH THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, **LUKE** TAKES HER TO A MEGA-PARTY IN A BAR WHERE AN AWESOME ROCK BAND IS PLAYING.

MY PALM SAYS ALL THAT?

AND **TARANEE** INVITES HER TO STUDY TOGETHER. SHE MEETS WITH HER FRIENDS EVERY DAY AT THE **OLD LIBRARY** DOWNTOWN.

MORE OR LESS. WHAT IT DOESN'T SAY IS THAT, **FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE**, **STUBBORN YOUNG SHEILA**...

...IS REALLY STARTING TO FEEL AT HOME!

NOW THAT WE'RE SETTLED, I'D LIKE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU, HONEY.

ALL THE TIME YOU WANT, DADDY.

MAYBE WE CAN TAKE A NICE **TRIP** AS SOON AS WE CAN FIT IT IN. WHADDAYA SAY?



A RAINY MORNING  
AND A STORMY  
AFTERNOON...

...A TRIP?

YEAH.  
THAT'S WHAT  
SHE WAS TRYING  
TO TELL ME.

IN HER OFFICE,  
SHE HAD A TON OF  
BROCHURES ABOUT  
EXOTIC, GORGEOUS  
PLACES.

THAT'S ODD.  
THE HOLIDAYS ARE STILL  
WAY OFF, AND IT'S NOT  
LIKE YOUR MOM LET YOU  
MISS SCHOOL...

MAYBE SHE'S  
JUST ORGANIZING  
THINGS EARLY.

IF ONLY I'D LISTENED,  
SHE'D HAVE EXPLAINED.

YOU CAN MAKE UP  
FOR IT TONIGHT. SUSAN  
WON'T EXPECT YOU GOT HER  
A **PRESENT** TO APOLOGIZE  
FOR NOT MAKING  
TIME TO  
TALK.

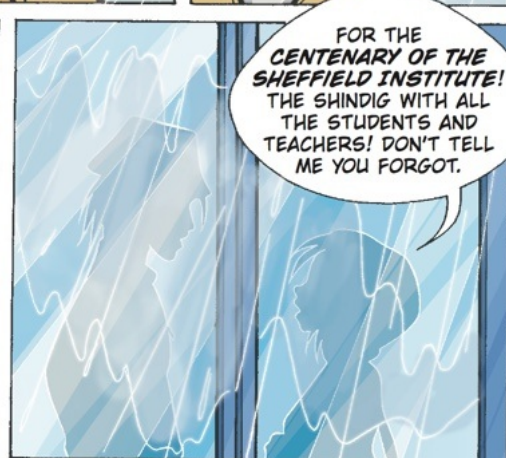
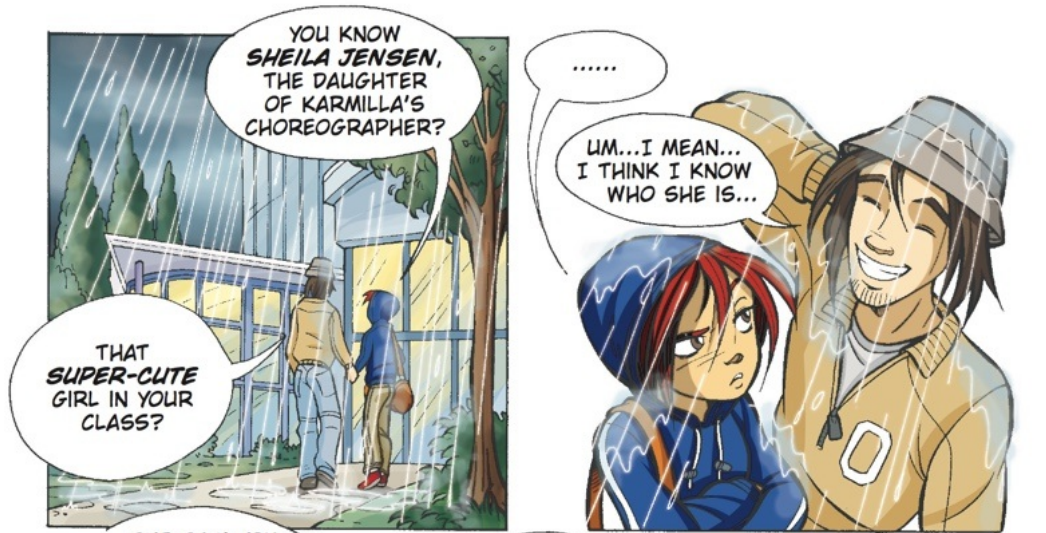
THINK SHE'LL  
LIKE IT?

WHO DOESN'T  
LIKE SURPRISES?

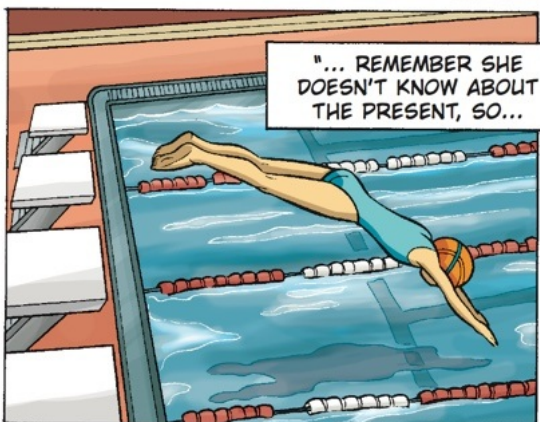
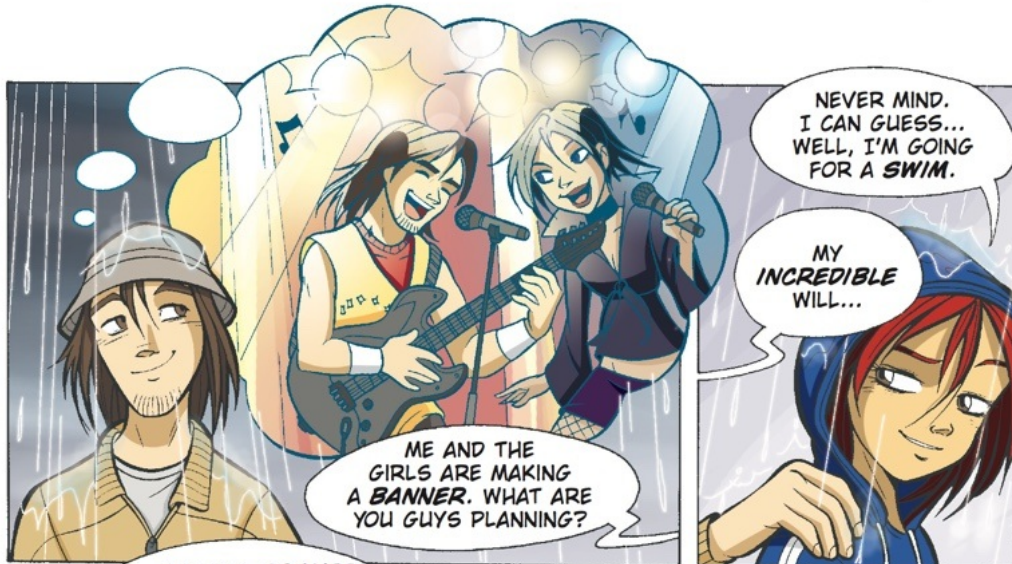
BY THE WAY...  
I'VE GOT ONE FOR  
YOU TOO!

?





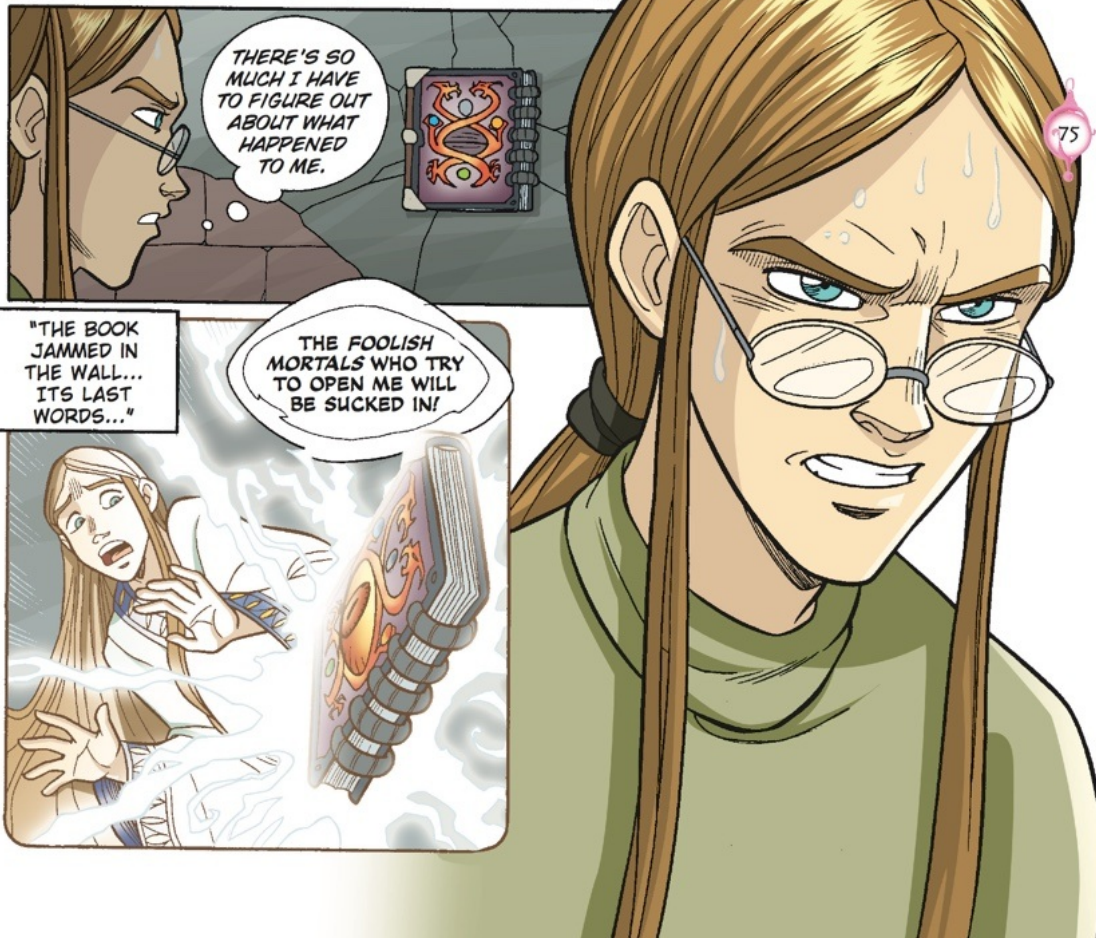
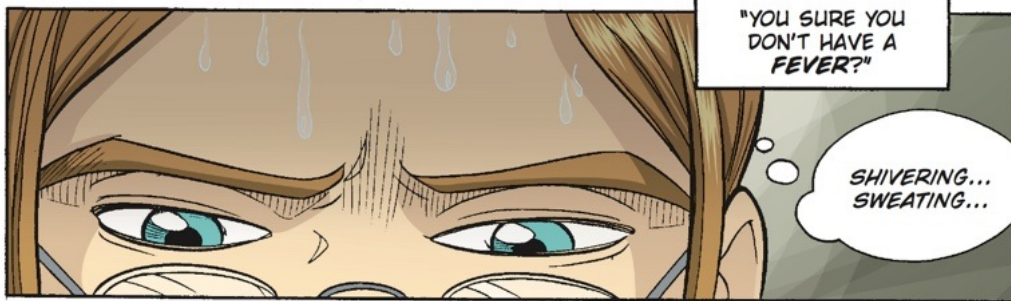




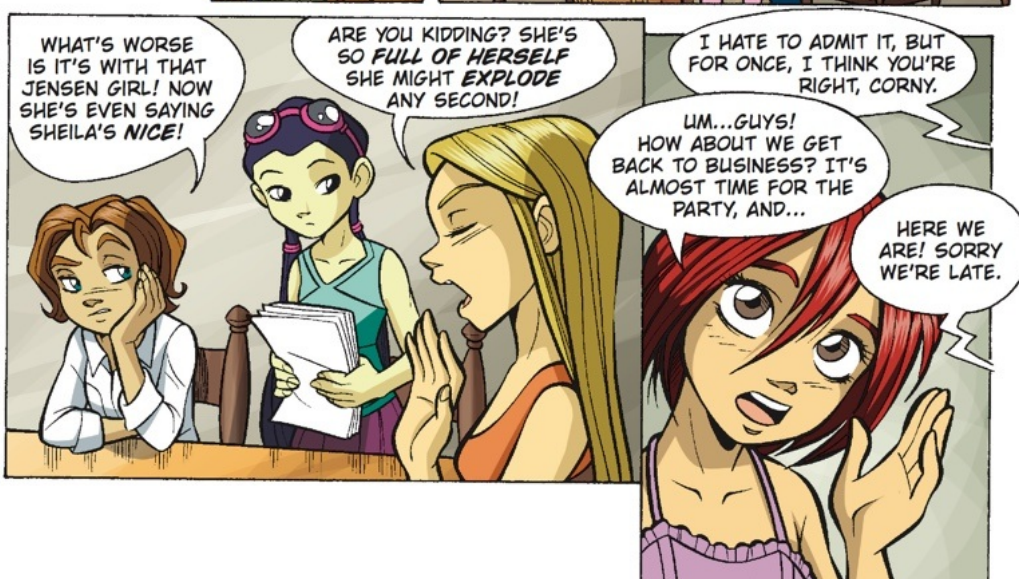
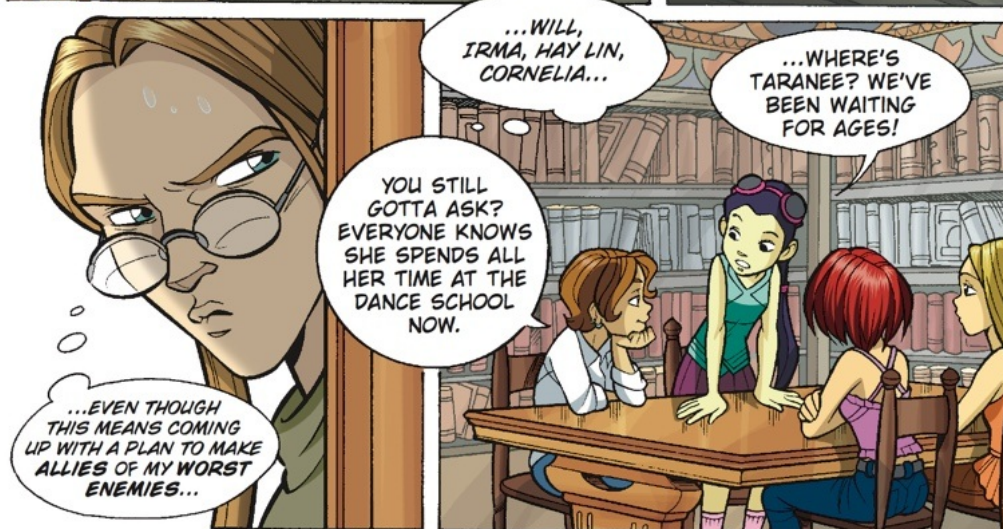
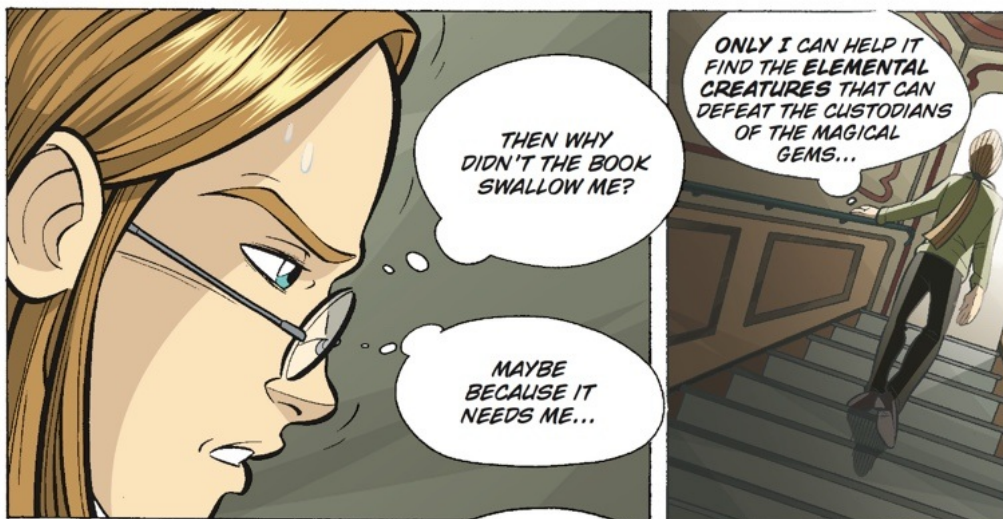




















UM...YOU WERE SAYING, HAY LIN?

WELL...I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE...

THAT'S **BRILLIANT!** WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHEILA?



I THINK IT'S TOO NOISY IN HERE!



HUH?

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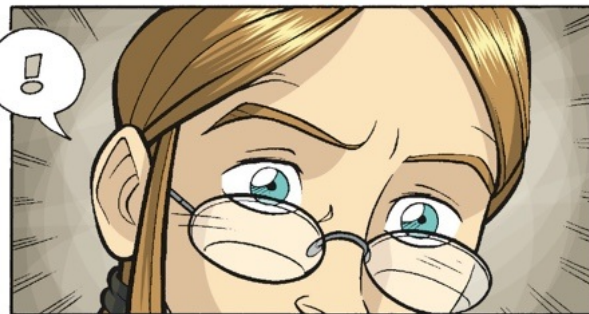


LET ME REMIND YOU THIS IS A READING ROOM, NOT THE MARKET-PLACE!



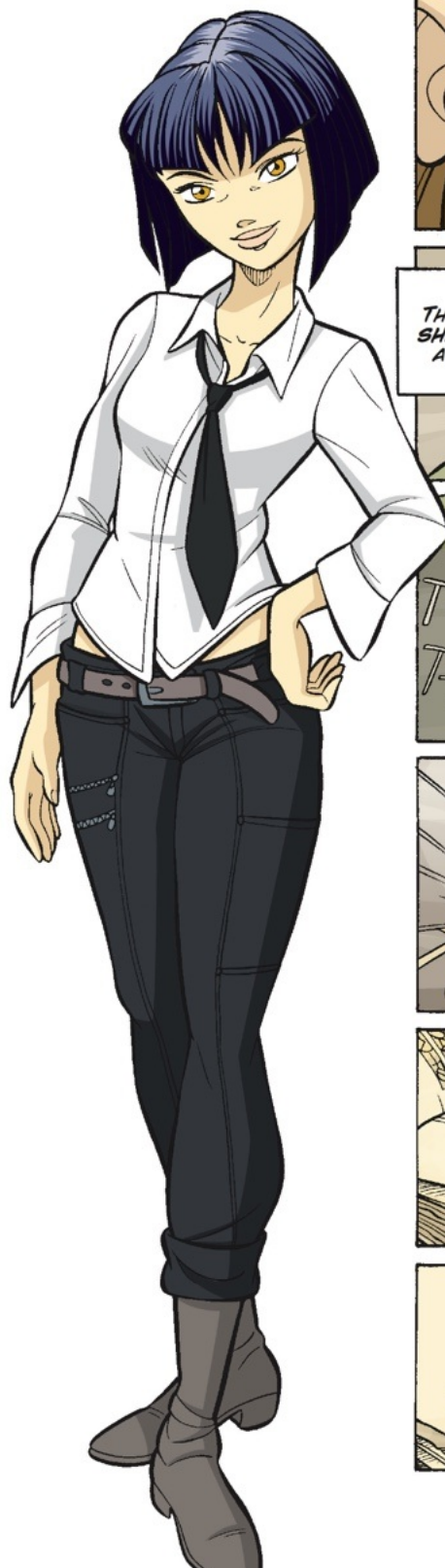
AND I CAN KICK YOU OUT ANY TIME WITHOUT EVEN...

HELLO!



!





HEARING THAT VOICE, CEDRIC RELAXES. HE'S SUDDENLY FILLED WITH A STRANGE, PEACEFUL FEELING...



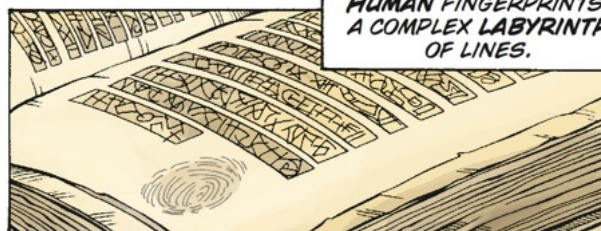
THEN HE'S SHIVERING AGAIN...

...BUT THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE TREMORS CAUSED BY THE SHOCKING CONFRONTATION WITH THE MAGICAL BOOK.

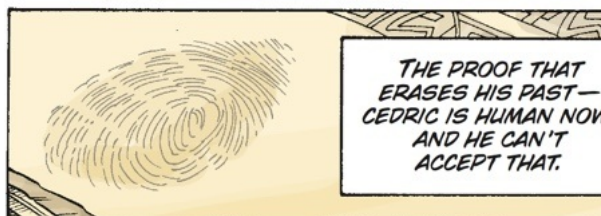
NOW HIS CHILLS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER STRANGE SYMPTOMS: DRY MOUTH, PALPITATIONS, A KNOTTED STOMACH.



CEDRIC'S SWEATY FINGERS LEAVE PRINTS ON THE ANCIENT VOLUME HE'D BEEN READING.

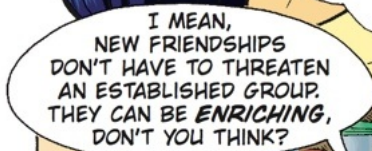


HUMAN FINGERPRINTS, A COMPLEX LABYRINTH OF LINES.

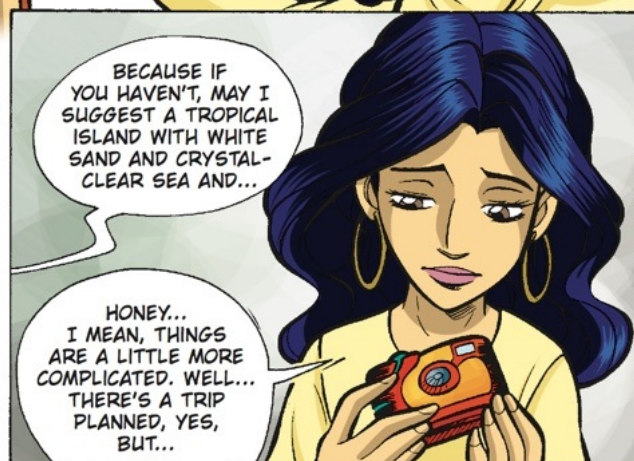


THE PROOF THAT ERASES HIS PAST—CEDRIC IS HUMAN NOW. AND HE CAN'T ACCEPT THAT.

















...BECAUSE **WE**... FOR A WHILE NOW, WE'VE BEEN THINKING... I MEAN...WE MADE A DECISION, AND...

...IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT...AFTER ALL, I THINK YOU AND **DEAN** GET ON OKAY, RIGHT?



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"... I WISH I WAS  
ALREADY THERE!"



"I PRONOUNCE  
YOU HUSBAND  
AND WIFE!"

?



CHEESE!

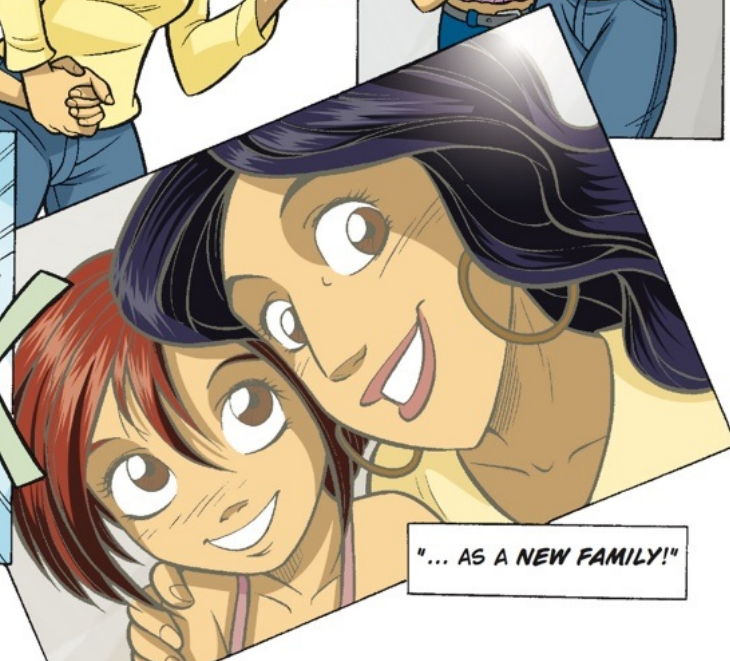
HEY, WHATCHA  
DOIN'? YOU HAVEN'T  
SET OFF YET!

OH, YES...  
AND WE HAVE TO  
IMMORTALIZE THE  
MOMENT!



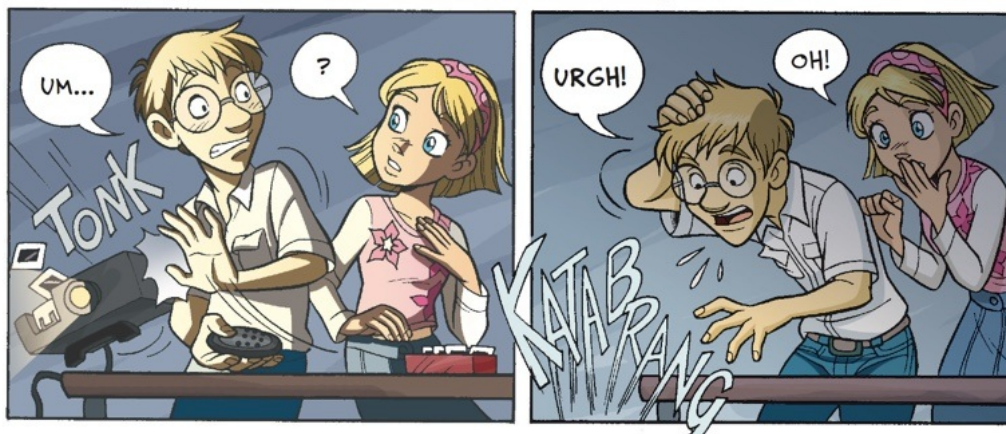
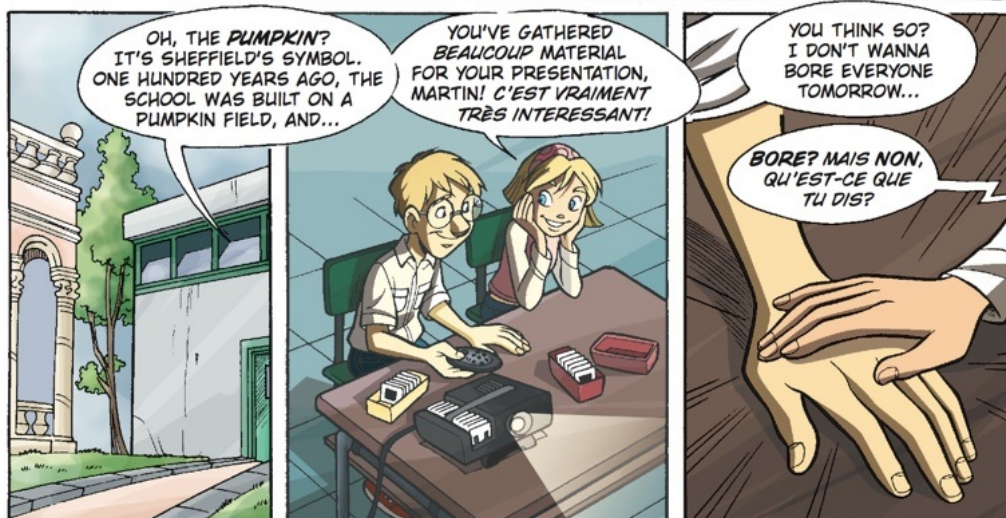
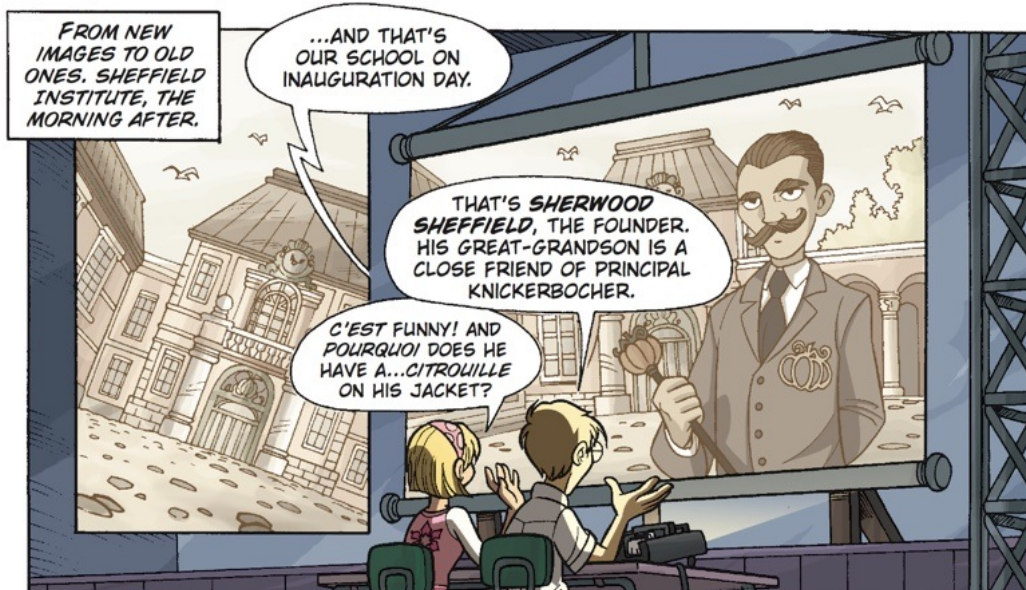
HONEY, THIS IS  
THE BEGINNING OF OUR  
BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY  
TOGETHER...

CLICK

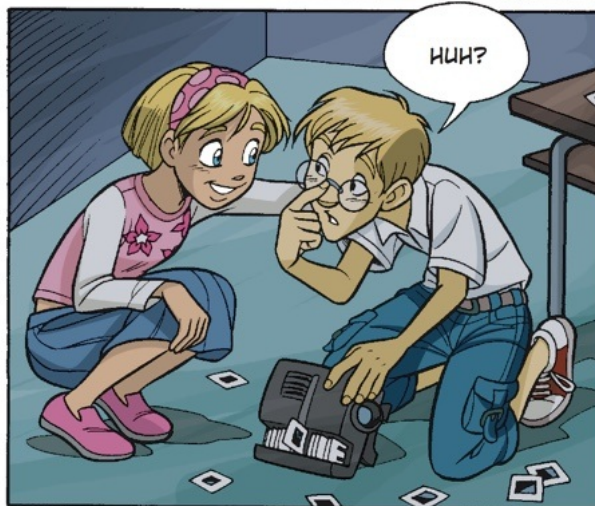
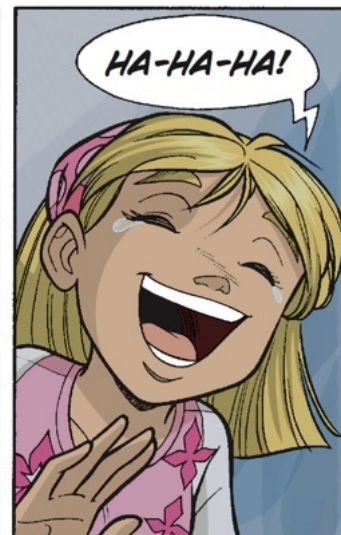
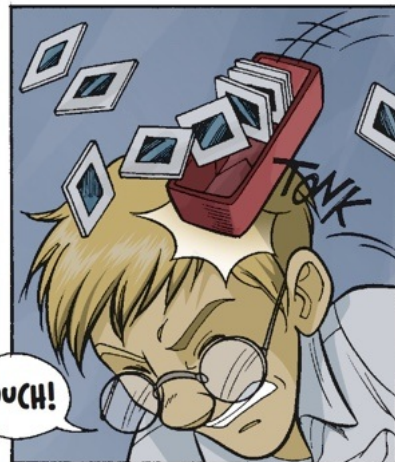
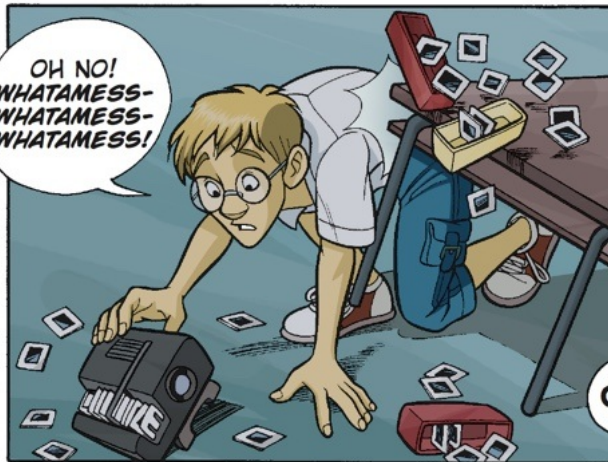


"... AS A NEW FAMILY!"









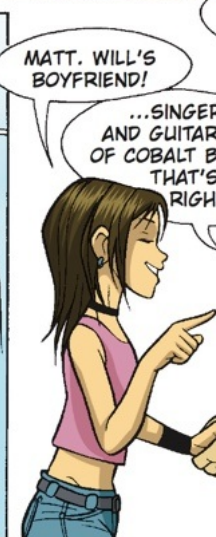
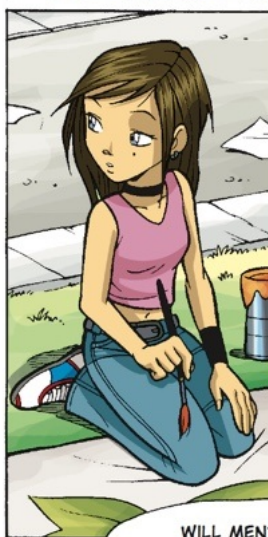












UM...SHEILA,  
RIGHT?

HI! UM,  
YEAH.

HUH?

MATT. WILL'S  
BOYFRIEND!

...SINGER  
AND GUITARIST  
OF COBALT BLUE,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

WILL MENTIONED...  
WELL, I BROUGHT YOU...

...YOUR  
TAPE!  
THAT'S GREAT,  
THANKS.

I'd keep an eye on  
him if I were you, Will!  
He's chatting with  
the DIVA!

I know.  
I sent him!

You have no idea  
how hard it was to  
convince him to take  
the FIRST STEP!

??

He was  
embarrassed!  
He didn't think he  
was good enough, my...  
ADORABLE, CLUMSY  
Matt!





...USELESS,  
GOOD-FOR-  
NOTHING!



I D-DON'T UNDERSTAND.  
WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK THAT I...?

THAT'S HOW  
YOU SEE ME,  
RIGHT?



DON'T MESS  
ME AROUND! YOU'VE  
DONE THAT ENOUGH  
ALREADY!



YOU THINK I HAVEN'T NOTICED  
HOW YOU'VE BEEN TREATING  
ME LATELY? LIKE HAVING ME  
AROUND **BOTHERS** YOU,  
LIKE I'M...A **BURDEN**!

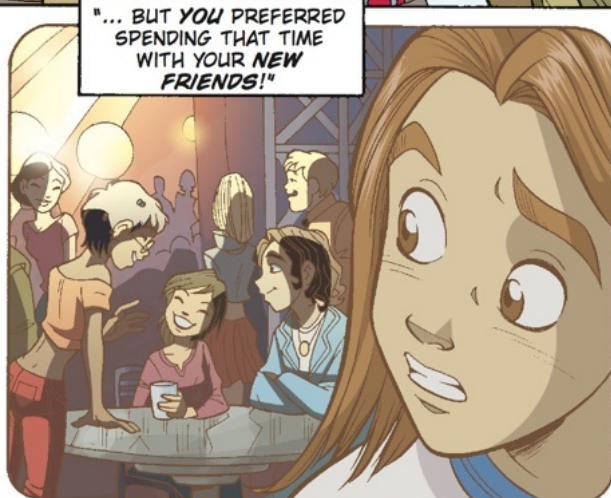
THAT'S NOT  
TRUE!



IT ISN'T?  
THEN HOW DO YOU  
EXPLAIN THE OTHER  
NIGHT AT THE  
ROCK-AND-ROLL  
CAFÉ?

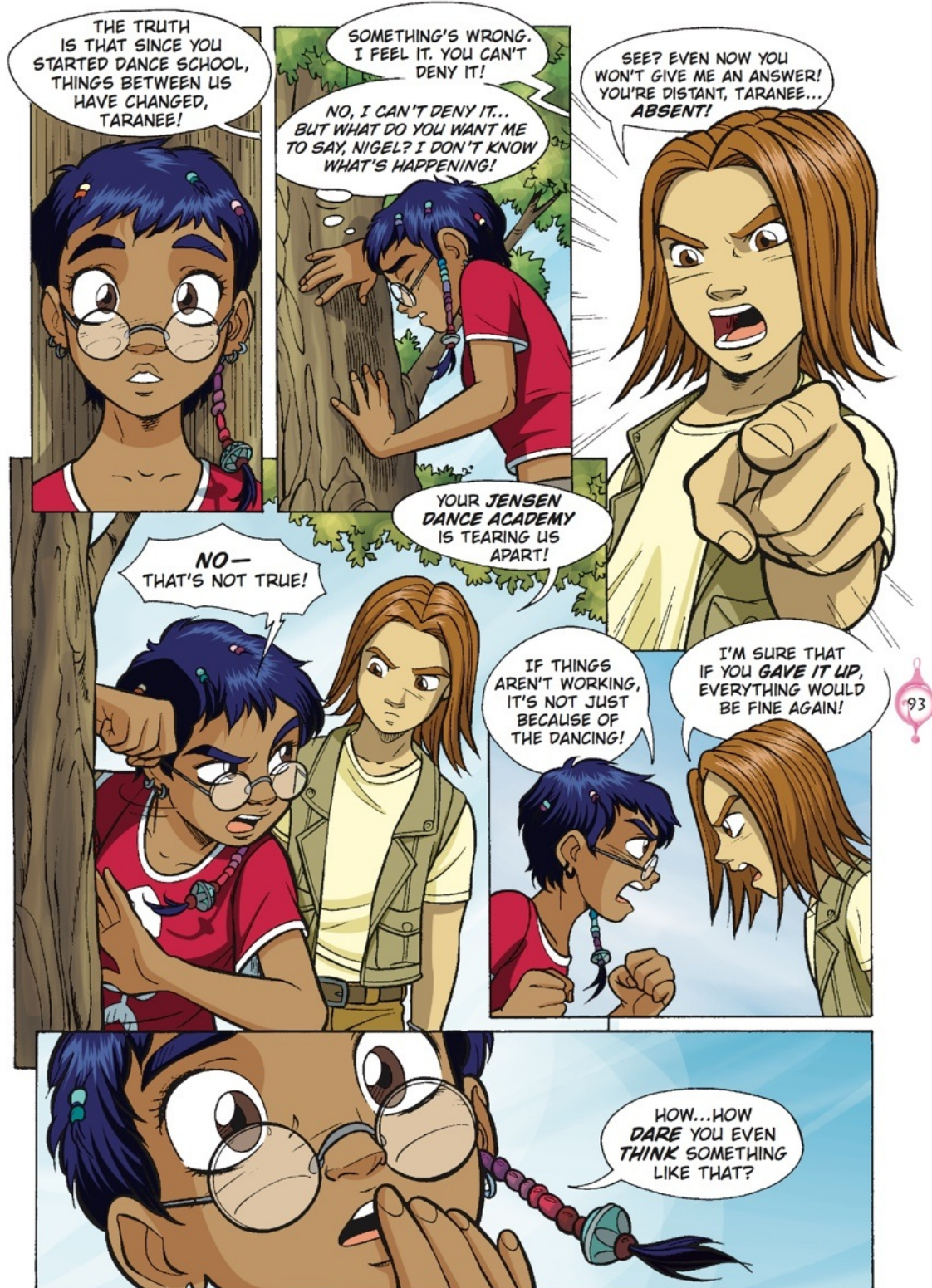


"I TOOK YOU  
THERE TO SPEND  
SOME TIME  
TOGETHER..."



"... BUT **YOU** PREFERRED  
SPENDING THAT TIME  
WITH YOUR **NEW**  
**FRIENDS**!"





THE TRUTH IS THAT SINCE YOU STARTED DANCE SCHOOL, THINGS BETWEEN US HAVE CHANGED, TARANEE!

SOMETHING'S WRONG. I FEEL IT. YOU CAN'T DENY IT!

NO, I CAN'T DENY IT... BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY, NIGEL? I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING!

SEE? EVEN NOW YOU WON'T GIVE ME AN ANSWER! YOU'RE DISTANT, TARANEE... **ABSENT!**

YOUR JENSEN DANCE ACADEMY IS TEARING US APART!

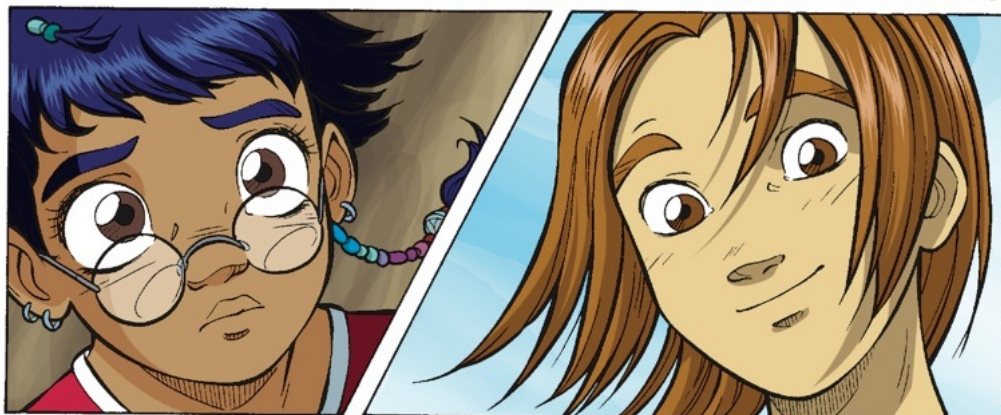
**NO—**  
THAT'S NOT TRUE!

IF THINGS AREN'T WORKING, IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE DANCING!

I'M SURE THAT IF YOU **GAVE IT UP**, EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE AGAIN!

HOW...HOW **DARE** YOU EVEN **THINK** SOMETHING LIKE THAT?







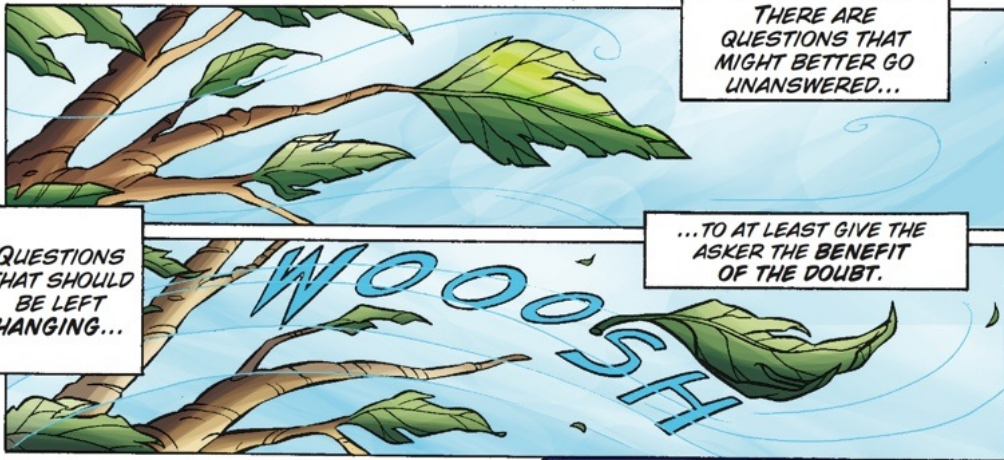


THEIR WORDS  
LINGER IN THE AIR...









THERE ARE  
QUESTIONS THAT  
MIGHT BETTER GO  
UNANSWERED...

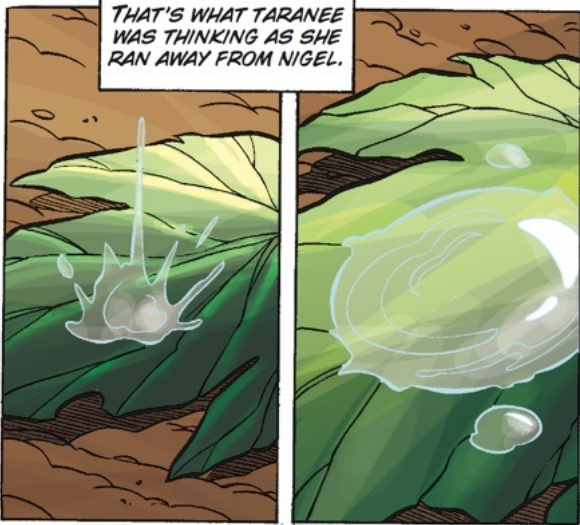
QUESTIONS  
THAT SHOULD  
BE LEFT  
HANGING...

...TO AT LEAST GIVE THE  
ASKER THE BENEFIT  
OF THE DOUBT.



THE TRUTH  
CAN HURT.

SOMETIMES,  
HONESTY  
INEVITABLY  
CAUSES PAIN.



THAT'S WHAT TARANEE  
WAS THINKING AS SHE  
RAN AWAY FROM NIGEL.





THAT'S WHAT  
THE ORACLE  
THINKS TOO...



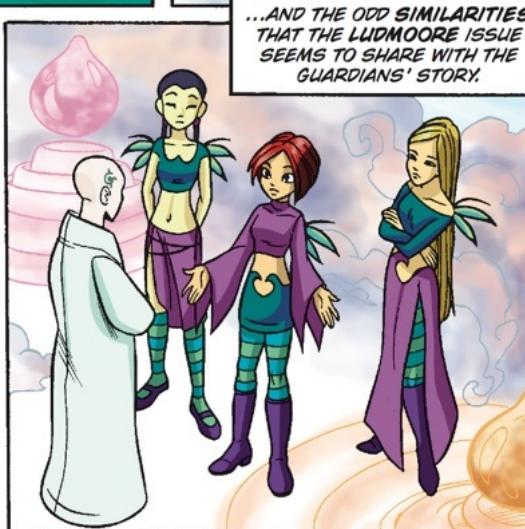
...WHEN WISE  
YAN LIN TELLS HIM  
THAT W.I.T.C.H.  
HAS ARRIVED IN  
KANDRAKAR...



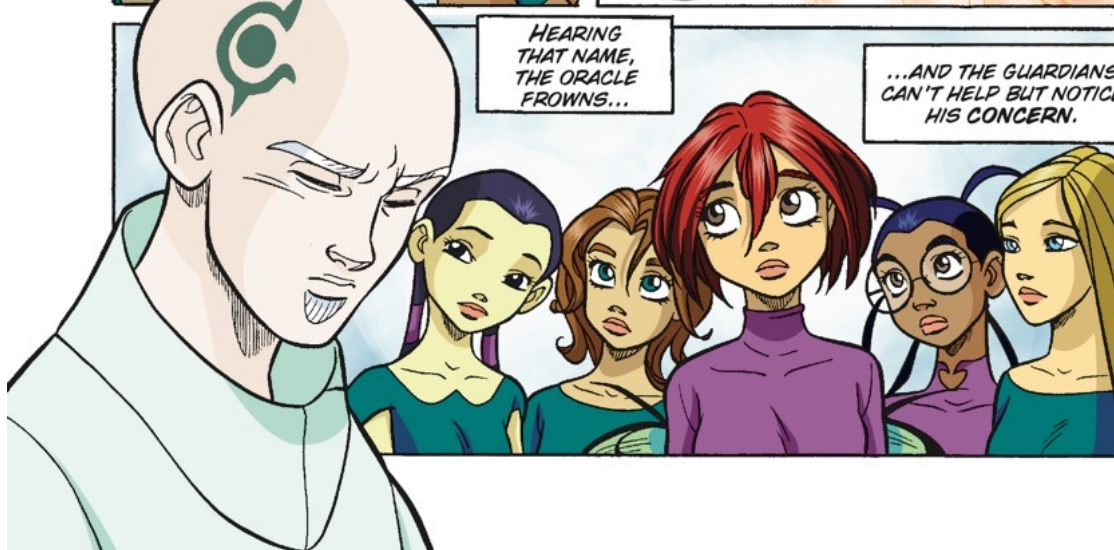
...WITH A LOT  
OF IMPORTANT  
QUESTIONS.



QUESTIONS ABOUT  
THE **STRANGE PHENOMENA**  
CONCERNING THEIR POWERS...



...AND THE ODD SIMILARITIES  
THAT THE LUDMOORE ISSUE  
SEEMS TO SHARE WITH THE  
GUARDIANS' STORY.

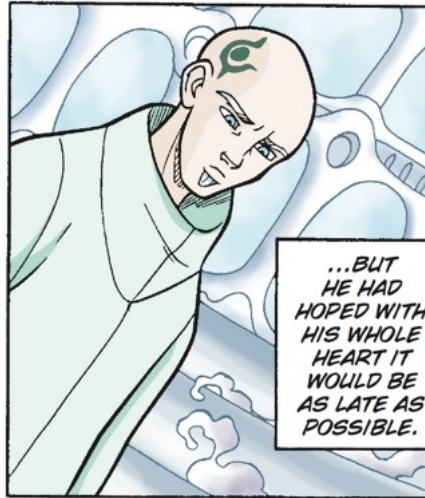


HEARING  
THAT NAME,  
THE ORACLE  
FROWNS...

...AND THE GUARDIANS  
CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE  
HIS CONCERN.



HE KNEW THAT, SOONER OR LATER, SOME THINGS WOULD RESURFACE FROM THE PAST...



...BUT HE HAD HOPED WITH HIS WHOLE HEART IT WOULD BE AS LATE AS POSSIBLE.

NOW THAT THE MOMENT HAS COME, THE ORACLE CAN'T PLEAD IGNORANCE, BUT HE ALSO KNOWS HIS ADMISSION WON'T SATISFY THE GIRLS' CURIOSITY...



THE INFORMATION I AM ABOUT TO SHARE MIGHT BE CONFUSING...



IT CONCERNS **DARK TIMES** KANDRAKAR HOPED TO FORGET...



...BECAUSE THEY REOPEN A PAINFUL WOUND IN THE HISTORY OF THE FORTRESS.





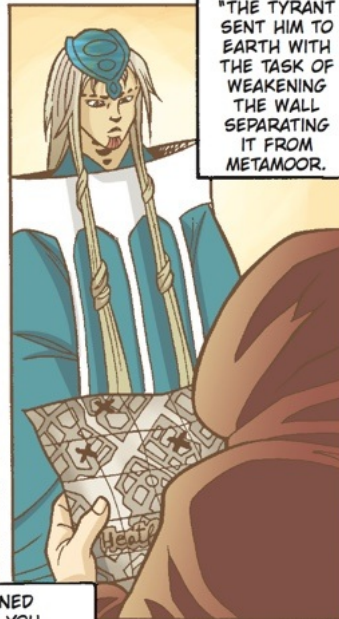
"YES, THE LEGENDARY  
LUDMOORE *REALLY*  
*EXISTED*."



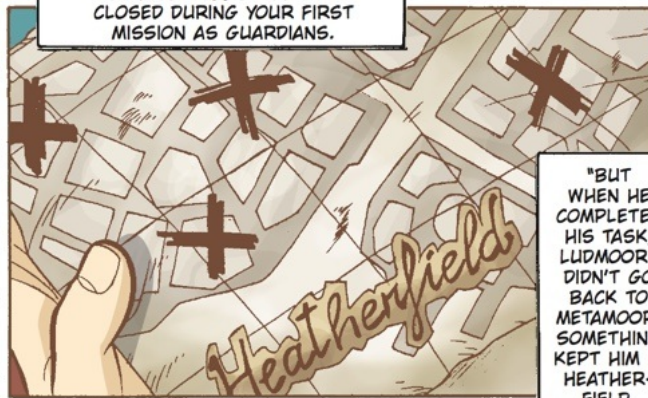
"HE CAME FROM  
*MERIDIAN* AND WAS A  
SERVANT OF PHOBOS."



"THE TYRANT  
SENT HIM TO  
EARTH WITH  
THE TASK OF  
WEAKENING  
THE WALL  
SEPARATING  
IT FROM  
METAMOR."



"IT WAS HE WHO OPENED  
THE *PASSAGES* THAT YOU  
CLOSED DURING YOUR FIRST  
MISSION AS GUARDIANS."



"BUT  
WHEN HE  
COMPLETED  
HIS TASK,  
LUDMOORE  
DIDN'T GO  
BACK TO  
METAMOR.  
SOMETHING  
KEPT HIM IN  
HEATHER-  
FIELD."

"STRONGER  
THAN HIS TIES  
TO HIS WORLD OR  
LOYALTY TO  
HIS MASTER...  
SOMETHING  
*MYSTERIOUS*  
AND  
*INEXPLICABLE*..."



"... JUST AS MYSTERIOUS  
AND INEXPLICABLE AS HIS  
SUDDEN *DISAPPEARANCE*,  
ACCOMPANIED BY STRANGE  
*DISPLAYS OF LIGHT*."







YOU GOTTA TELL US MORE. THE LEGEND COLLINS TOLD WAS A LOT MORE COMPLEX THAN YOUR LITTLE STORY.

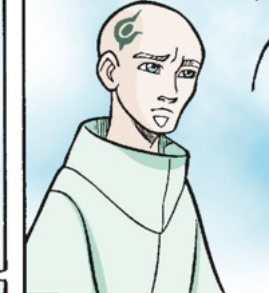
YEAH...THERE'S THE ISSUE OF HEATHERFIELD AS A CITY WHERE THE **FIVE ELEMENTAL FORCES** CONVERGE. NOT TO MENTION LUDMOORE'S EXPERIMENTS TO ENSNARE THEM...

...AND THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE GOOD AND THE BAD PARTS OF THE ELEMENTS.



YOU HAVE TO TELL US WHY...

...OUR POWERS ARE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL. A LOT'S MISSING!



THAT IS ALL. NOW IT IS UP TO YOU!

ARE YOU KIDDING?



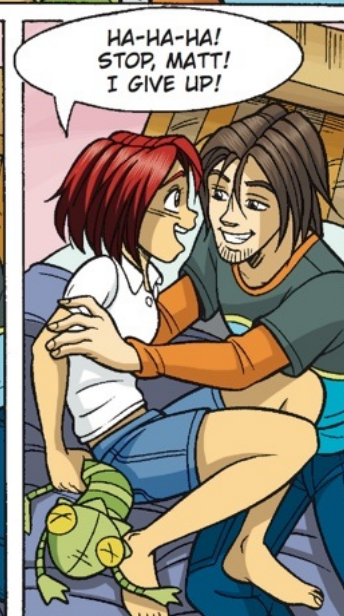
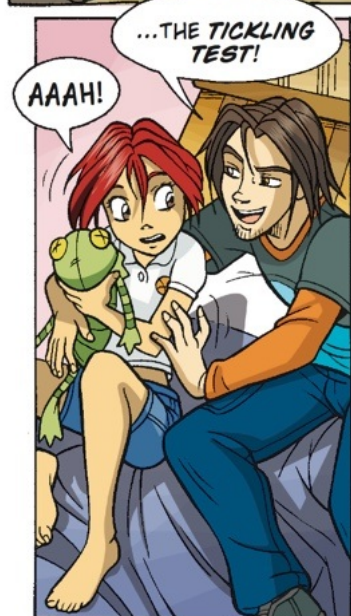
I CANNOT CAST FURTHER LIGHT ON THOSE ISSUES.

THE CHANGES YOU NOTICED HAVE **NOTHING TO DO WITH ME**, AND THE **FORTRESS IS BLIND** TO THEM.



REMEMBER THE TEACHINGS OF THE **TRANSMUTING CARDS**? IT'S NOT KANDRAKAR BUT THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES THAT...

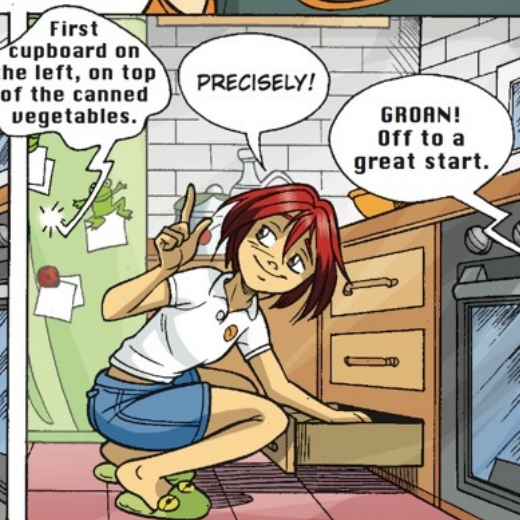
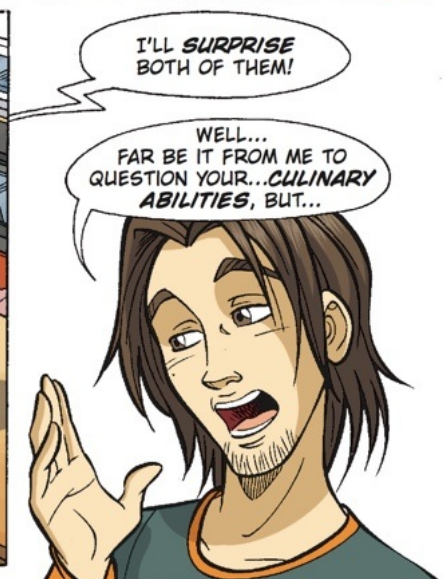
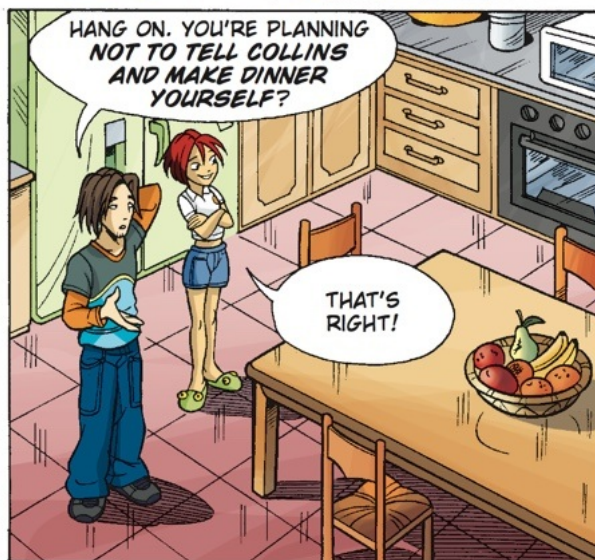




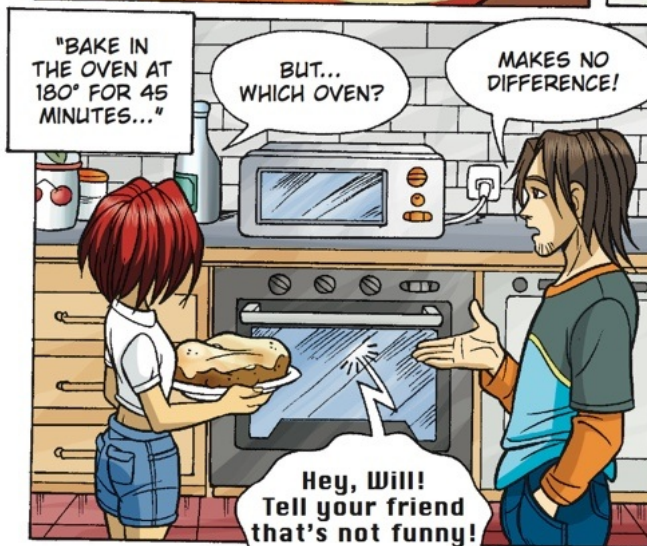




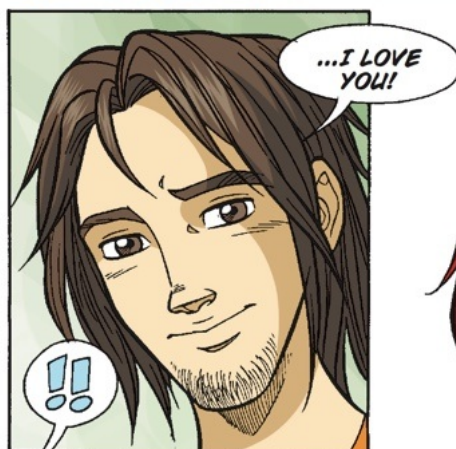
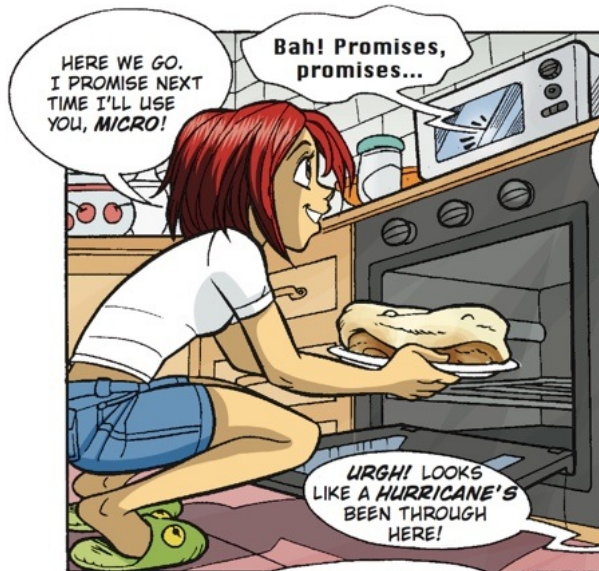




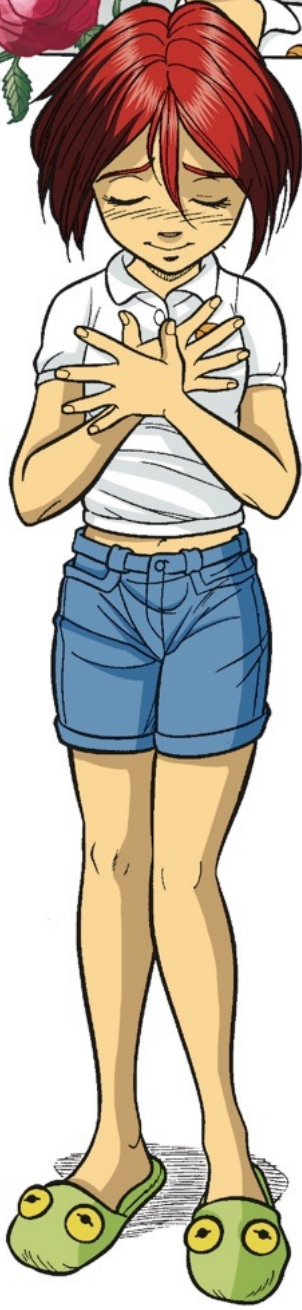
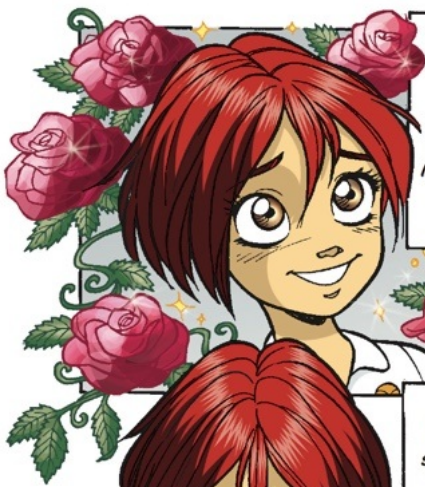












"I LOVE YOU!"  
MATT AND WILL HAVE THOUGHT IT OFTEN... BUT SO FAR NEITHER HAS BEEN ABLE TO SAY IT OUT LOUD.

BUT NOW MATT HAS FOUND THE COURAGE... AND THE EMOTIONS HIS WORDS INSPIRE ECHO INSIDE OF WILL.



OVER-WHELMING, LIKE THE STORMY SEA. BLINDING, LIKE THE MIDDAY SUN. SWEET, LIKE BIRDS SINGING IN THE SPRING. PERFUMED, LIKE A GARDEN IN BLOOM...

WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS BRIGHT FEELING? HAPPINESS!

MATT... WAIT!



ONE LAST HUG...



"... BEFORE I LET YOU GO!"

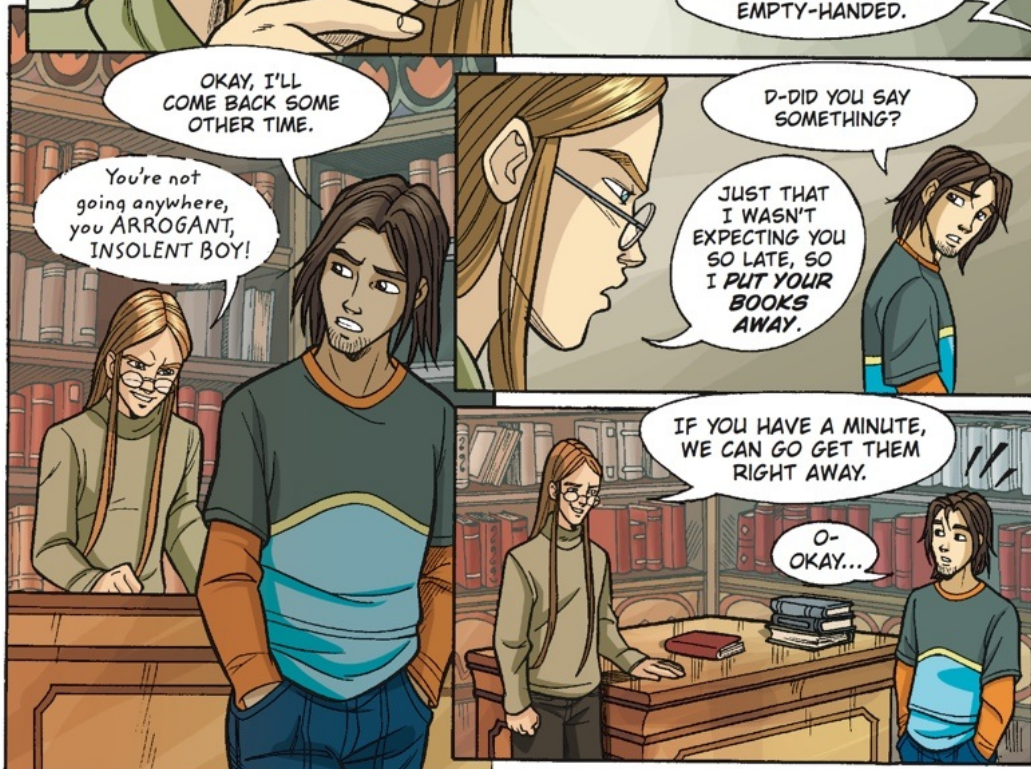
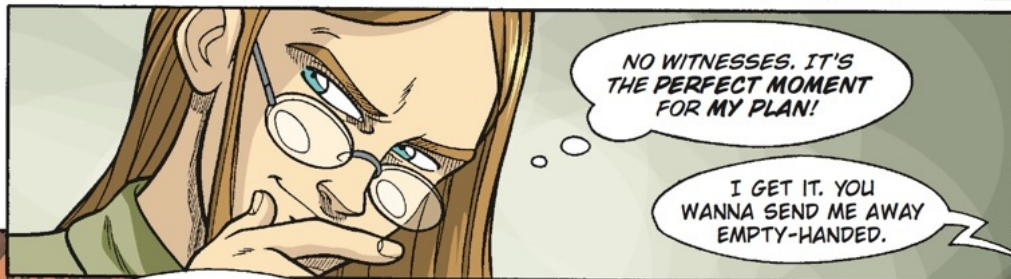




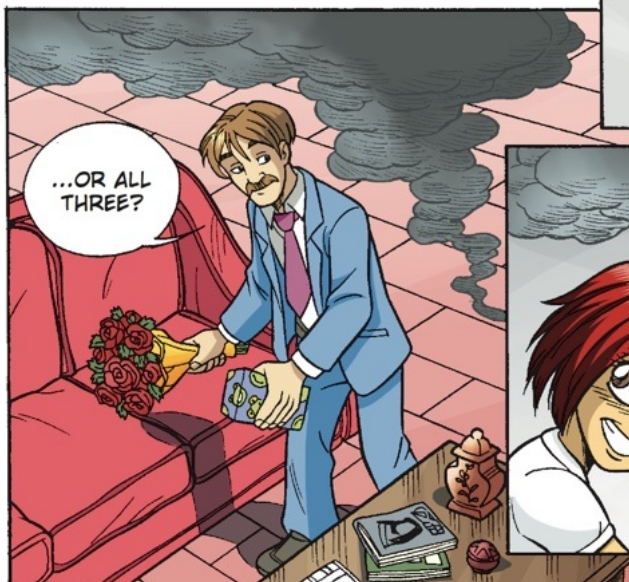
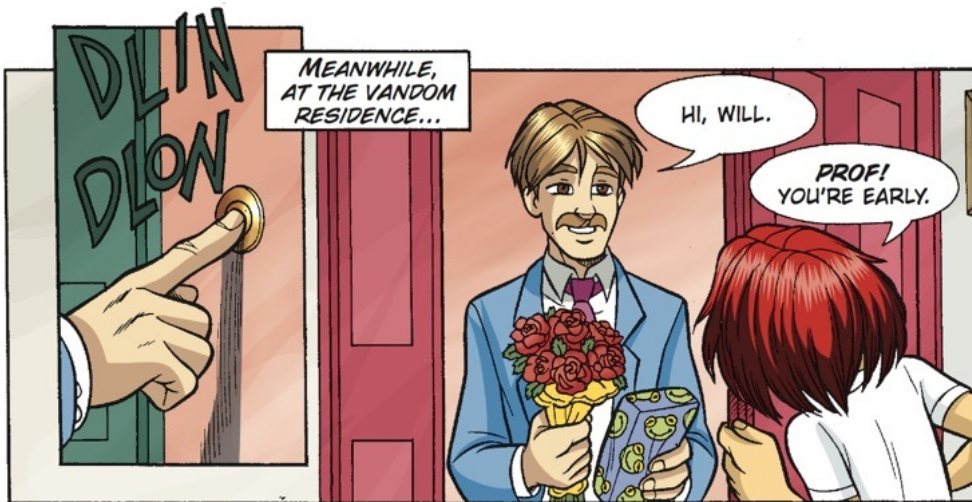
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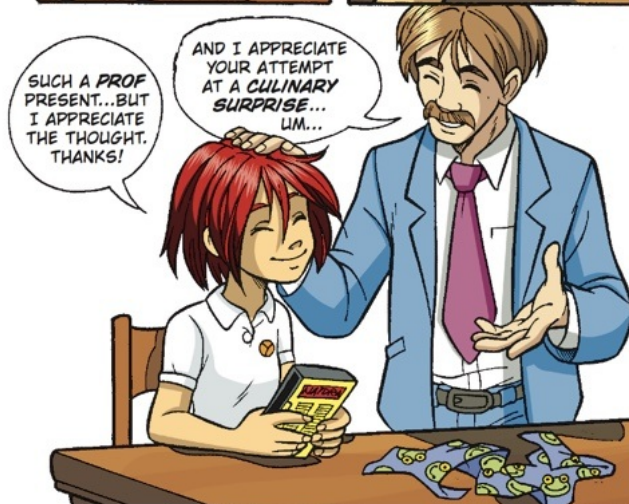


















"CONGRATULATIONS, LORD CEDRIC. YOUR DEVILISH PLAN IS WORKING!"



"BEING ALONE WITH MATT IN THE BOOKSHOP AND LURING HIM INTO THE BASEMENT."

"TICKLING HIS CURIOSITY ABOUT THE BOOK..."



"... TO THE POINT THAT HE'LL TRY TO OPEN IT AS SOON AS I FIND AN EXCUSE TO LEAVE!"



"THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, BOY."

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"NOW STEP AWAY FROM THAT WALL!"

!!

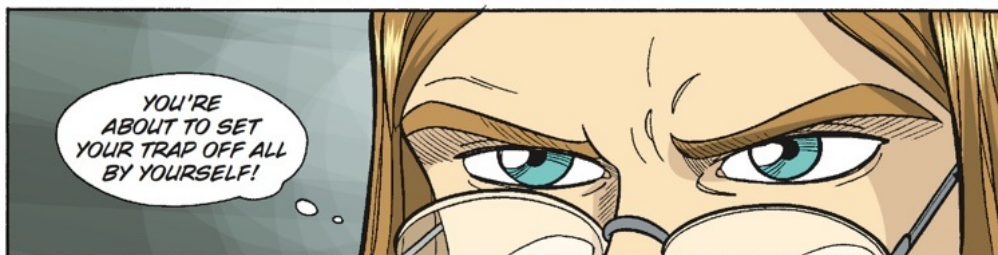


"THAT'S... A MAGICAL BOOK, ISN'T IT?"

"WELL DONE, OLSEN. STRAIGHT INTO THE SPIDER'S WEB!"



"YOU'RE ABOUT TO SET YOUR TRAP OFF ALL BY YOURSELF!"





"I JUST HAD TO PRETEND  
TO WANT YOU TO STAY  
AWAY FROM THE BOOK TO  
MAKE YOU *SUSPICIOUS*..."

"THAT BOOK!  
IT MUST CONTAIN  
*SUPER-SECRET* INFO  
IF CEDRIC IS AFRAID OF  
ME LOOKING AT IT.

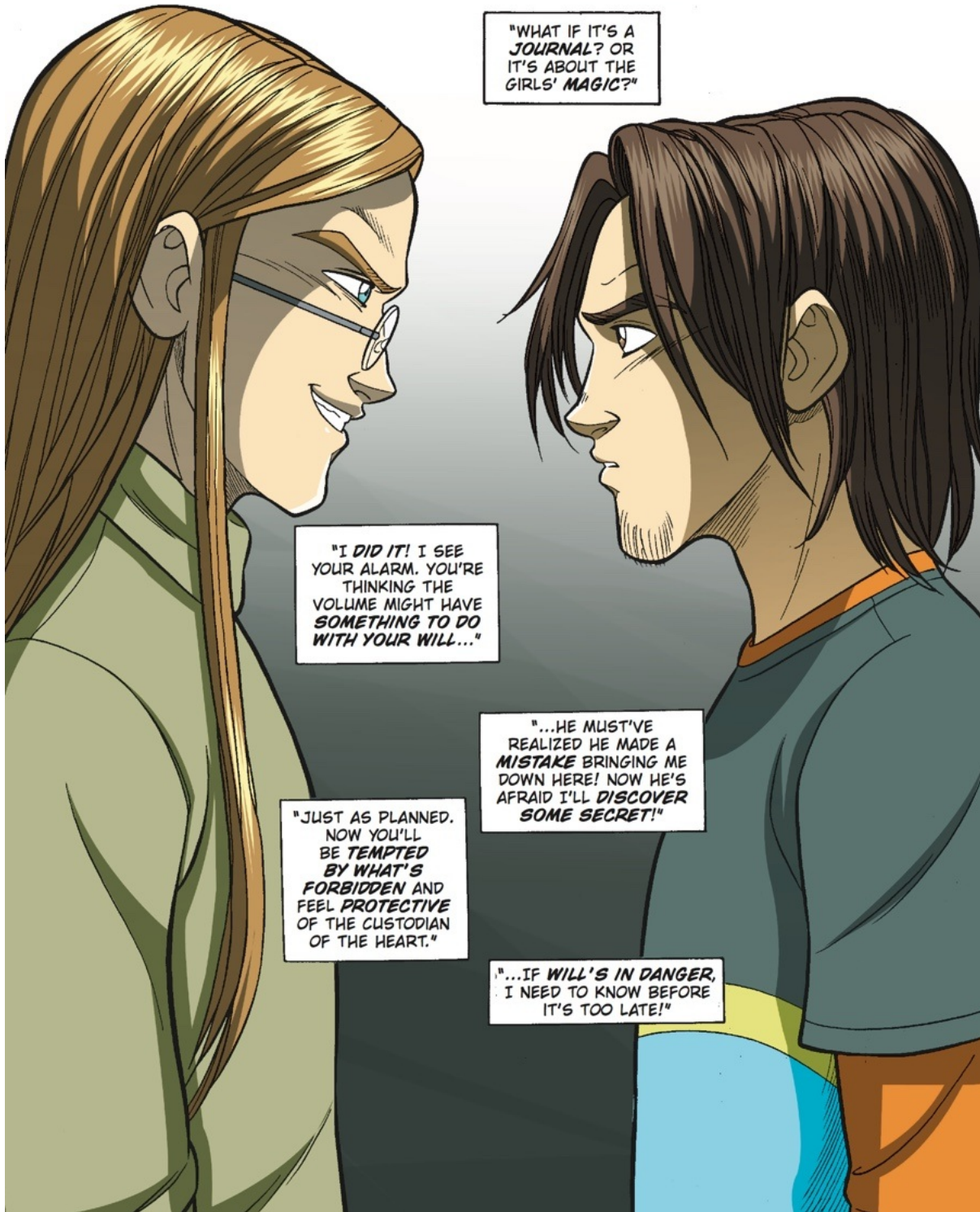
"WHAT IF IT'S A  
*JOURNAL*? OR  
IT'S ABOUT THE  
GIRLS' *MAGIC*?"

"I DID IT! I SEE  
YOUR ALARM. YOU'RE  
THINKING THE  
VOLUME MIGHT HAVE  
*SOMETHING TO DO*  
WITH YOUR WILL..."

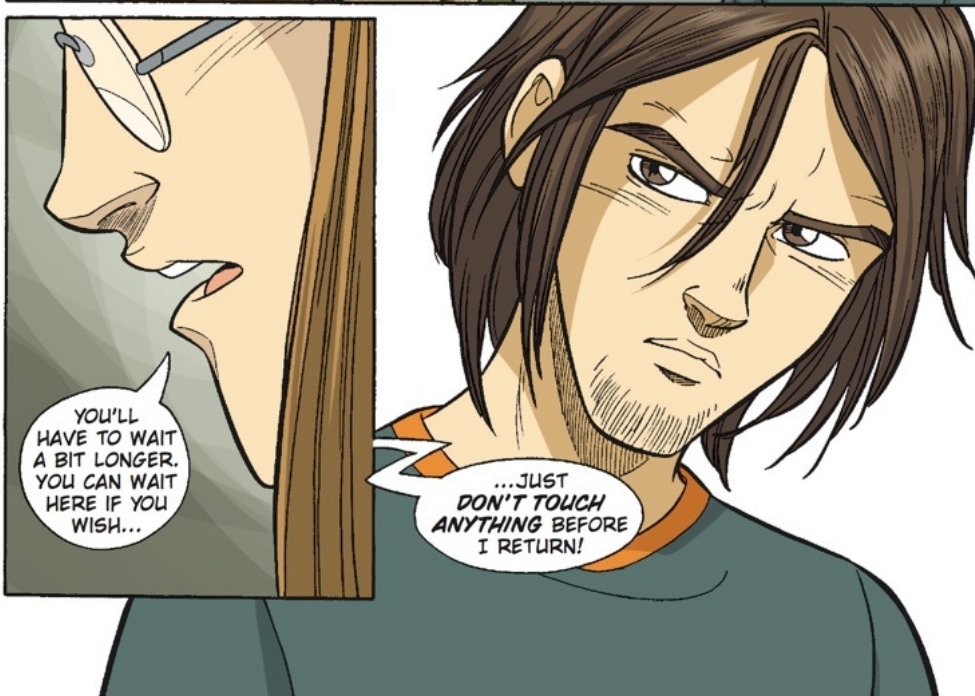
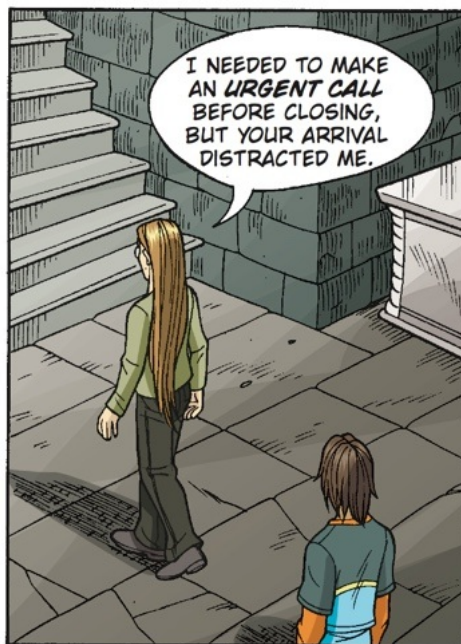
"JUST AS PLANNED.  
NOW YOU'LL  
BE *TEMPTED*  
BY *WHAT'S*  
*FORBIDDEN* AND  
FEEL *PROTECTIVE*  
OF THE CUSTODIAN  
OF THE HEART."

"...HE MUST'VE  
REALIZED HE MADE A  
*MISTAKE* BRINGING ME  
DOWN HERE! NOW HE'S  
AFRAID I'LL *DISCOVER*  
*SOME SECRET*!"

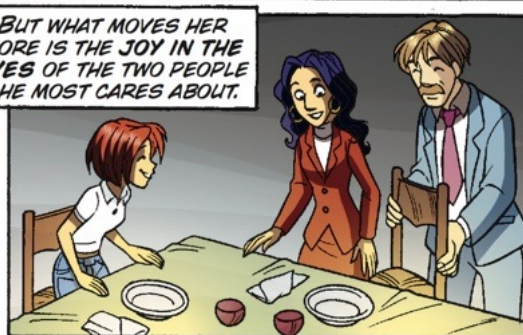
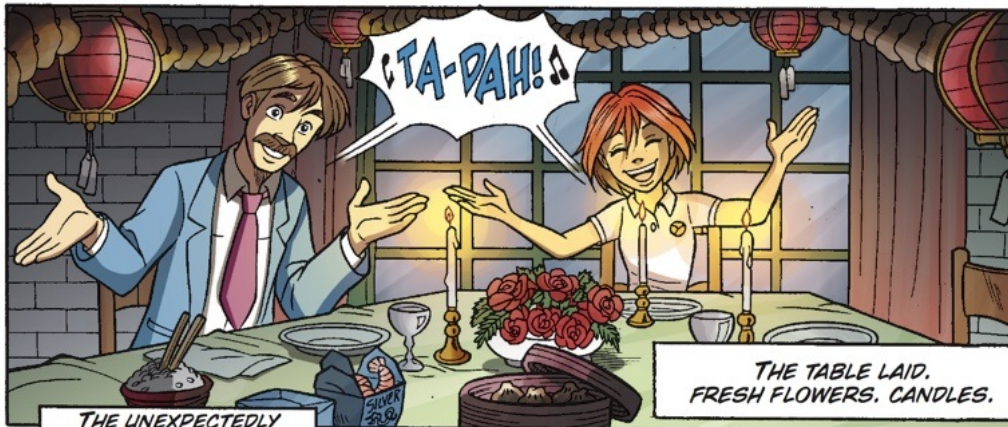
"...IF *WILL'S* IN DANGER,  
I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE  
IT'S TOO LATE!"



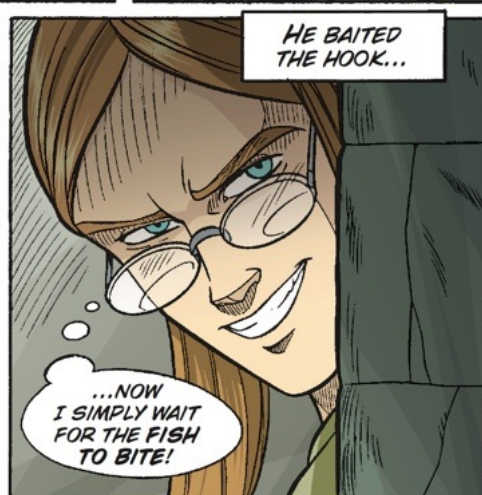








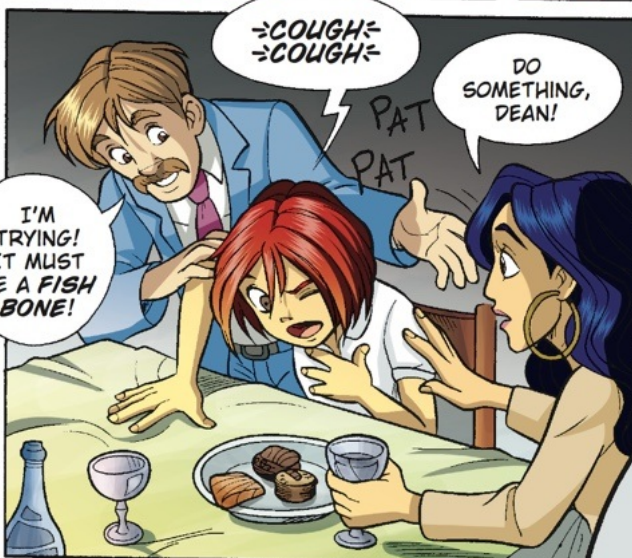
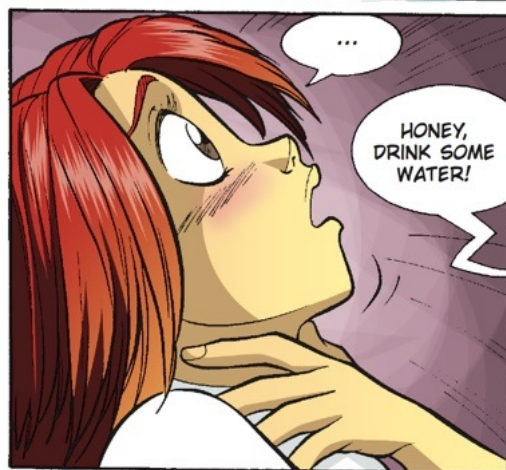




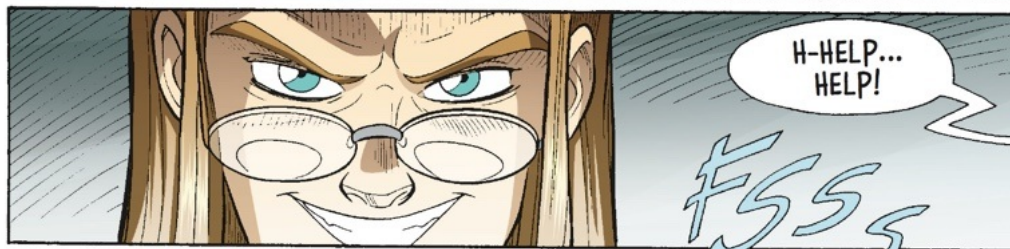




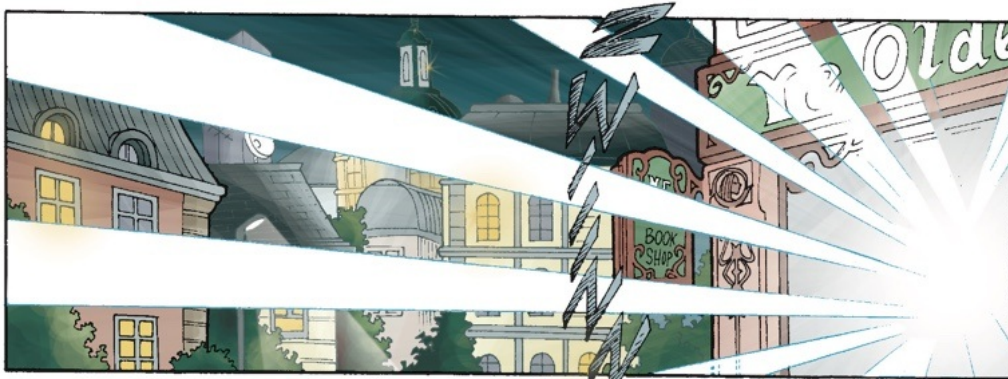




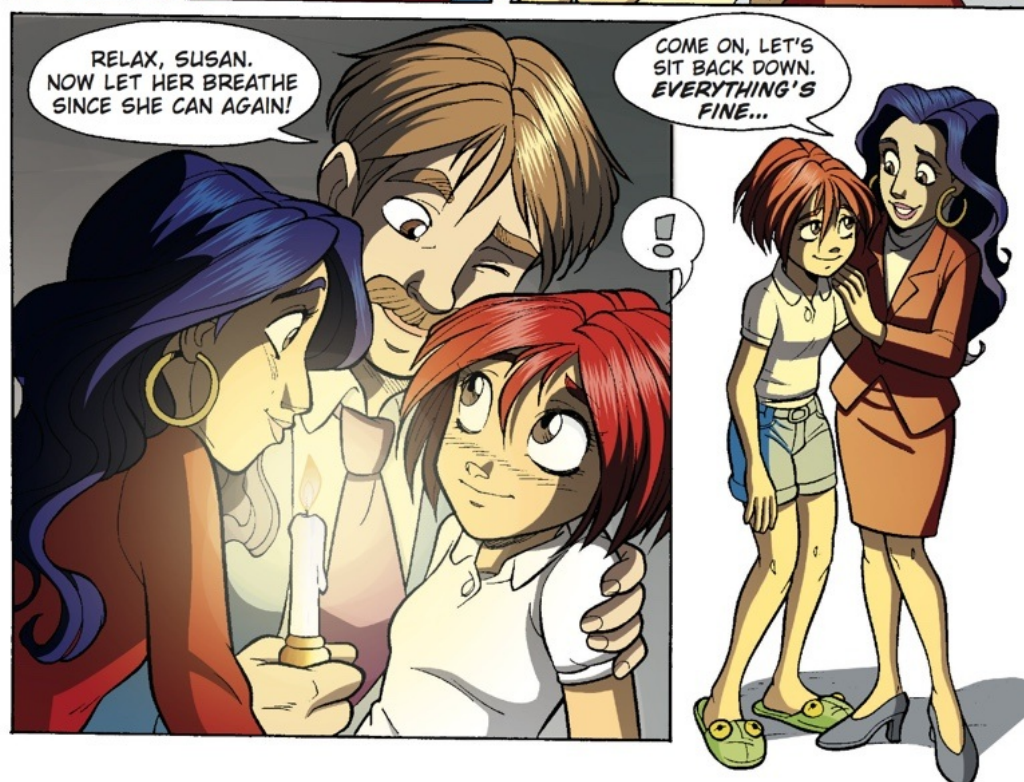
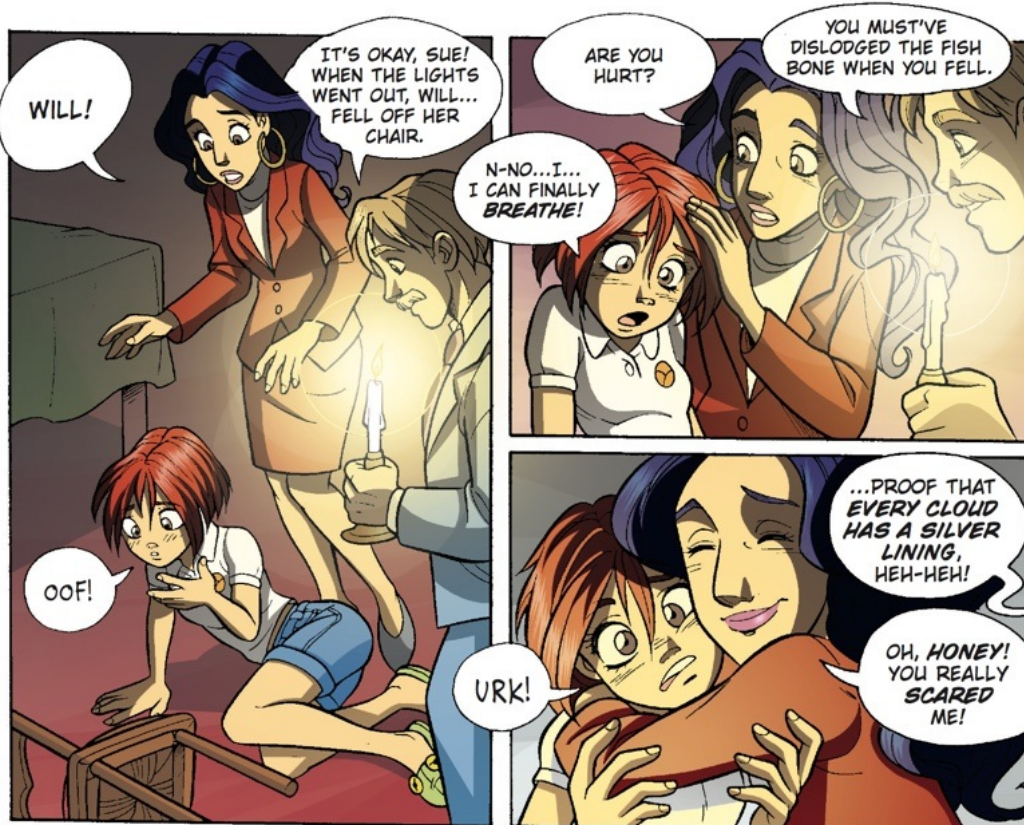
















GOOD,  
GOOD...



JUST  
AS I'D  
HOPED!

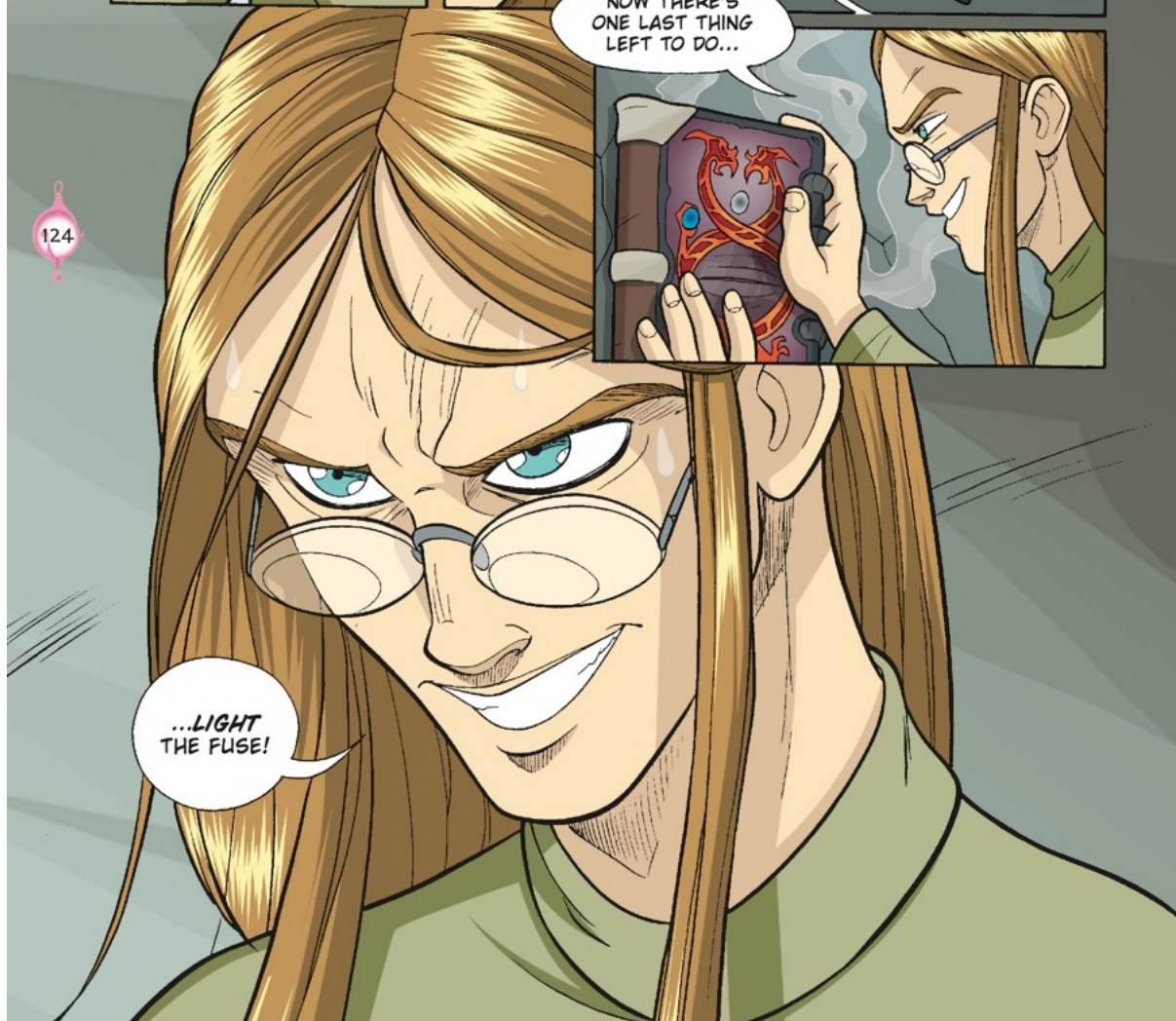


THE FIRST  
PART OF THE  
PLAN WORKED  
PERFECTLY.

NOW THERE'S  
ONE LAST THING  
LEFT TO DO...

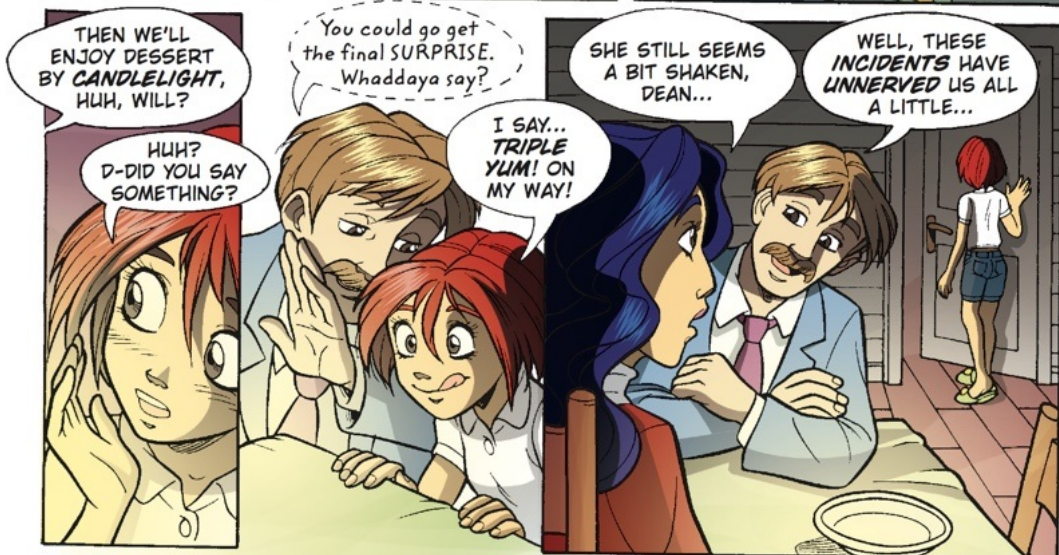
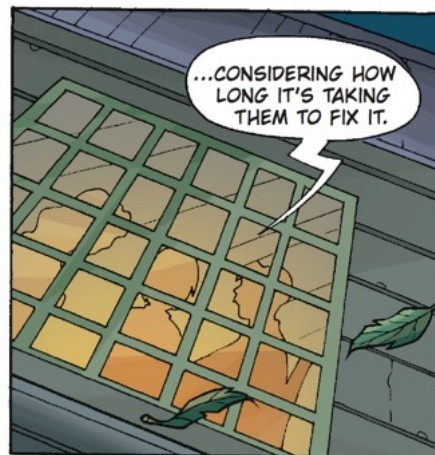


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...LIGHT  
THE FUSE!

















## The Day After

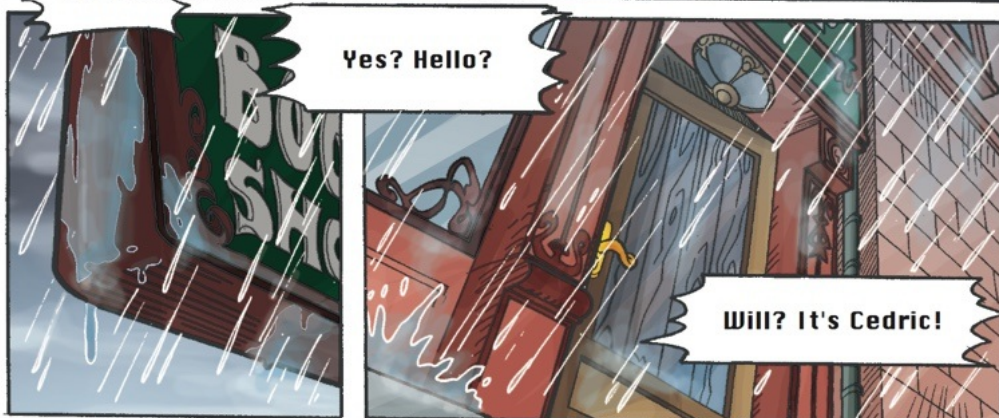
"When facts are clear and opinions are out in the open...that's when the cracks appear."





Breeep...Breeep...

»Click«



Yes? Hello?

Will? It's Cedric!



You have to come to  
the bookshop right  
away...



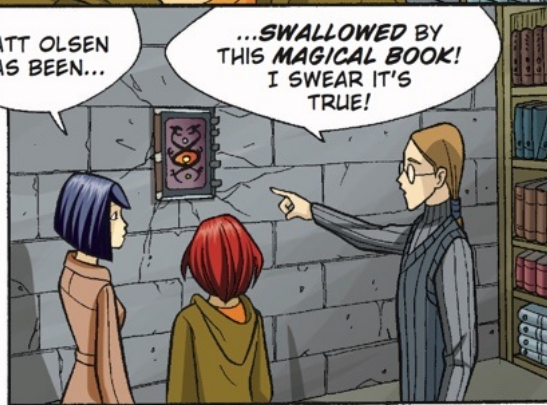
There...  
There's been  
an INCIDENT!





TELL ME AGAIN, CEDRIC, BUT SLOWLY THIS TIME!

MATT OLSEN HAS BEEN...



...**SWALLOWED BY THIS MAGICAL BOOK!** I SWEAR IT'S TRUE!

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I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT...

LIKE, DUH. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LIAR!



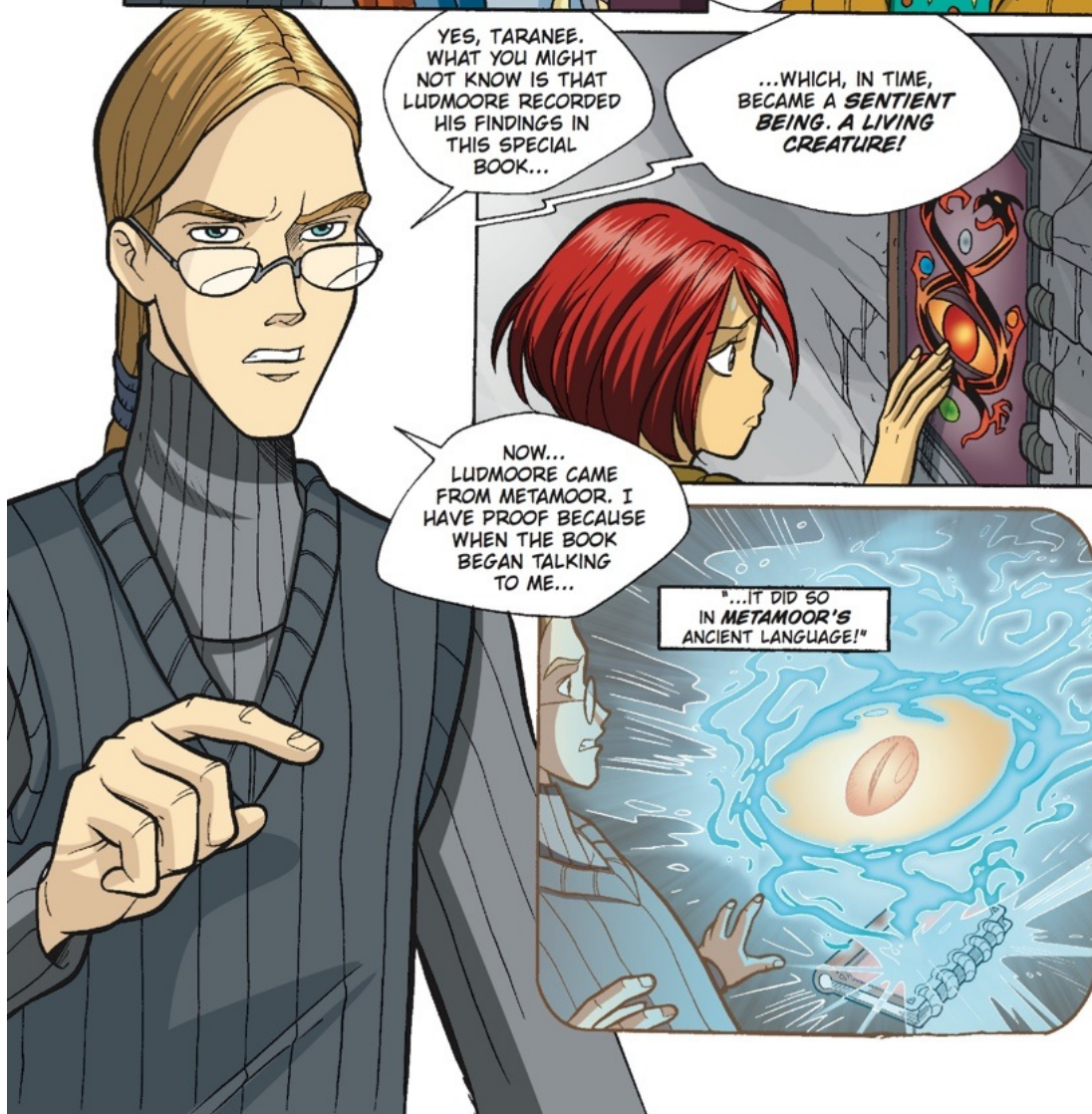
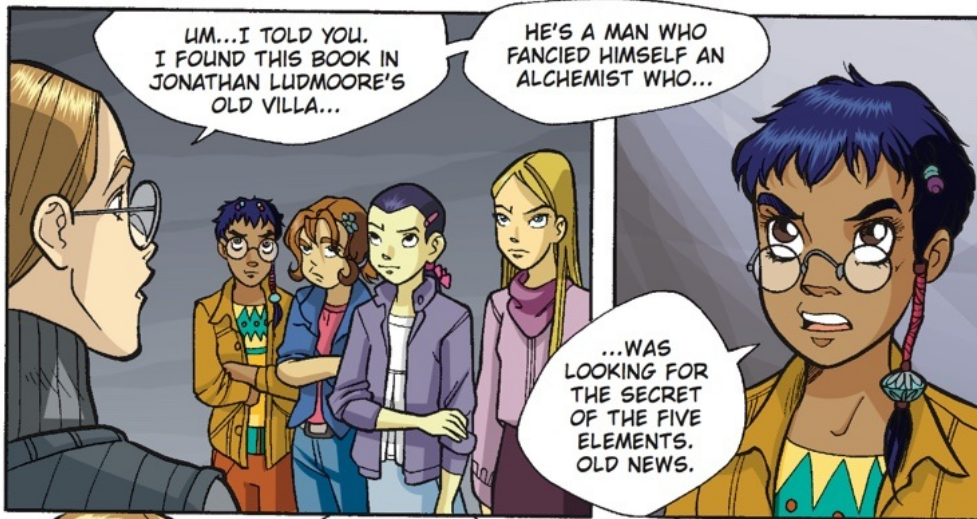
CALM DOWN, IRMA. LET HIM SPEAK.

THANKS, ORUBE. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

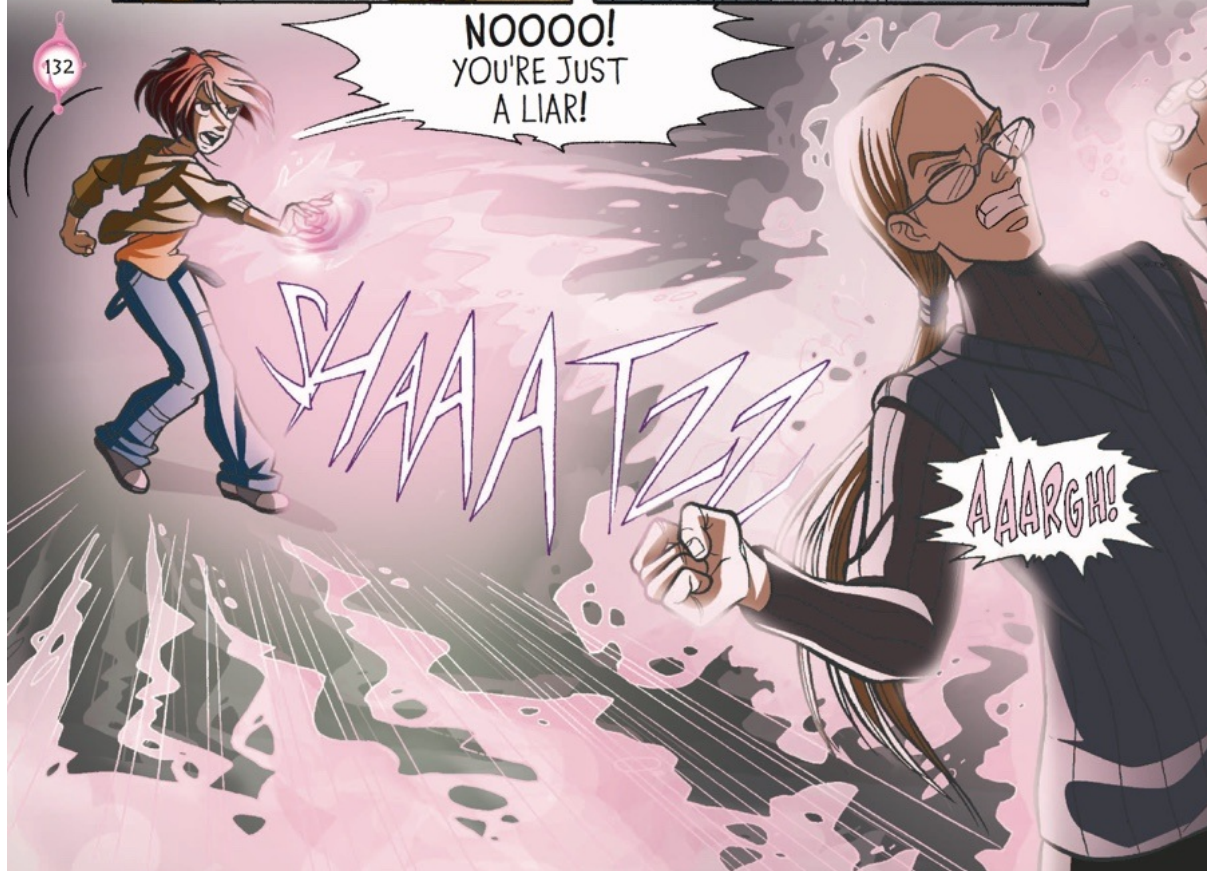


YOU CAN'T COUNT ON ANYONE! SO YOU'D BETTER BE CONVINCING!

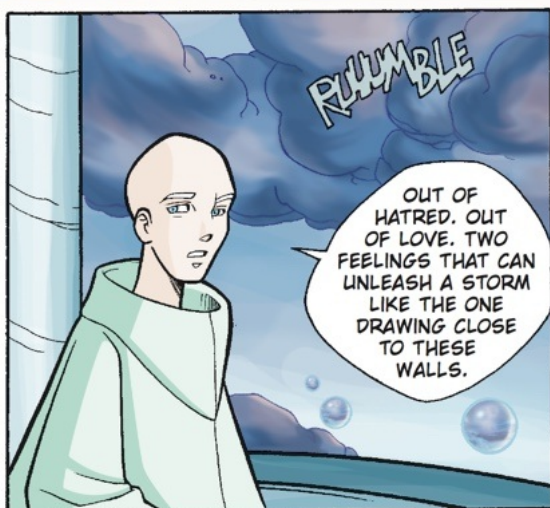
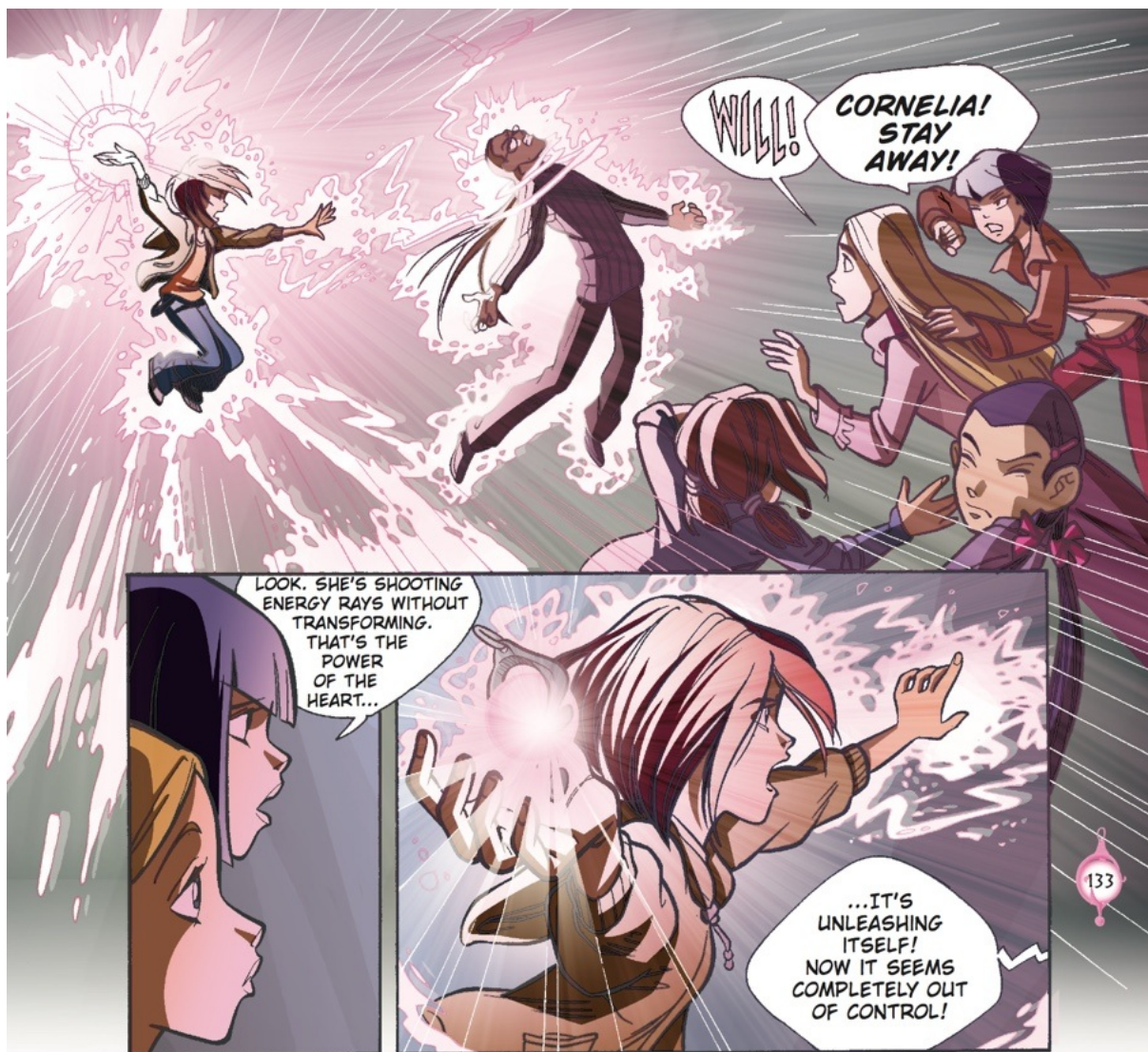




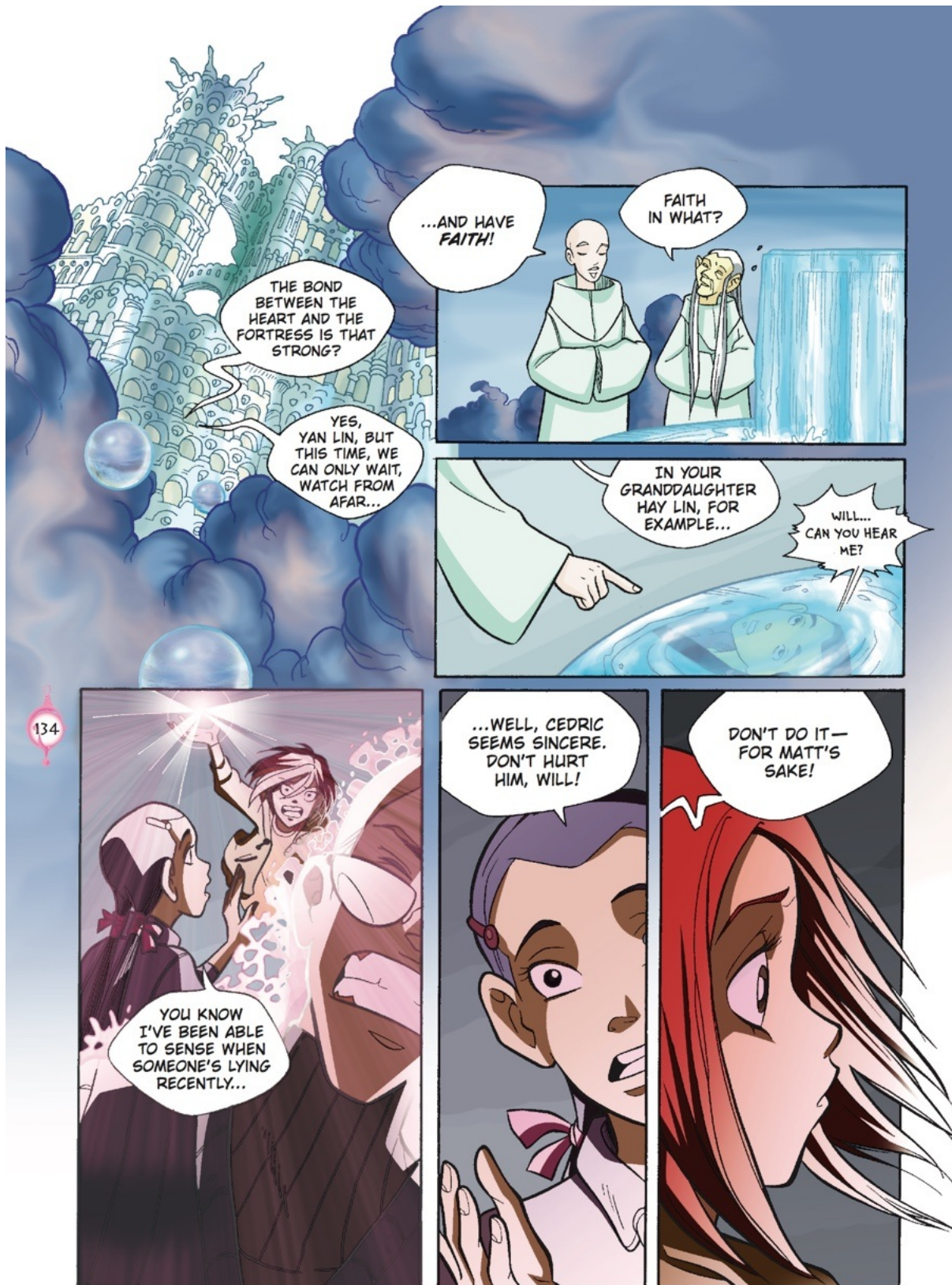




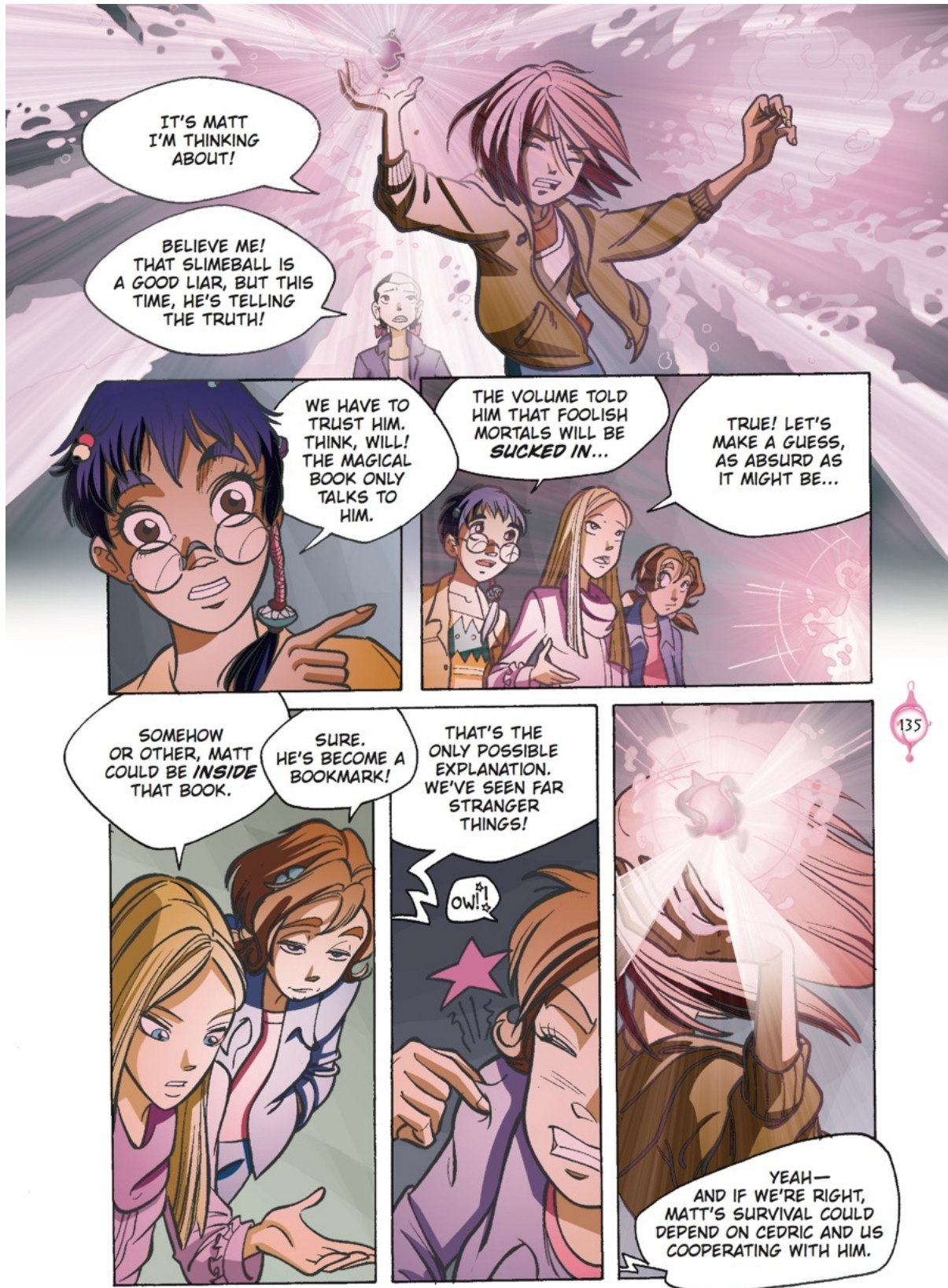




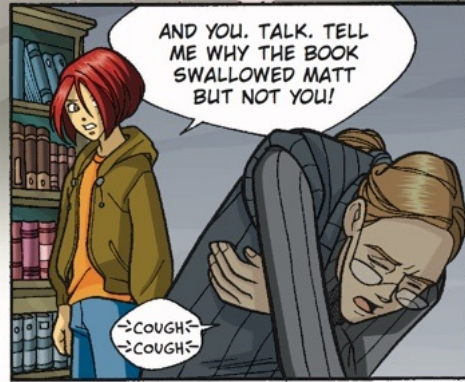
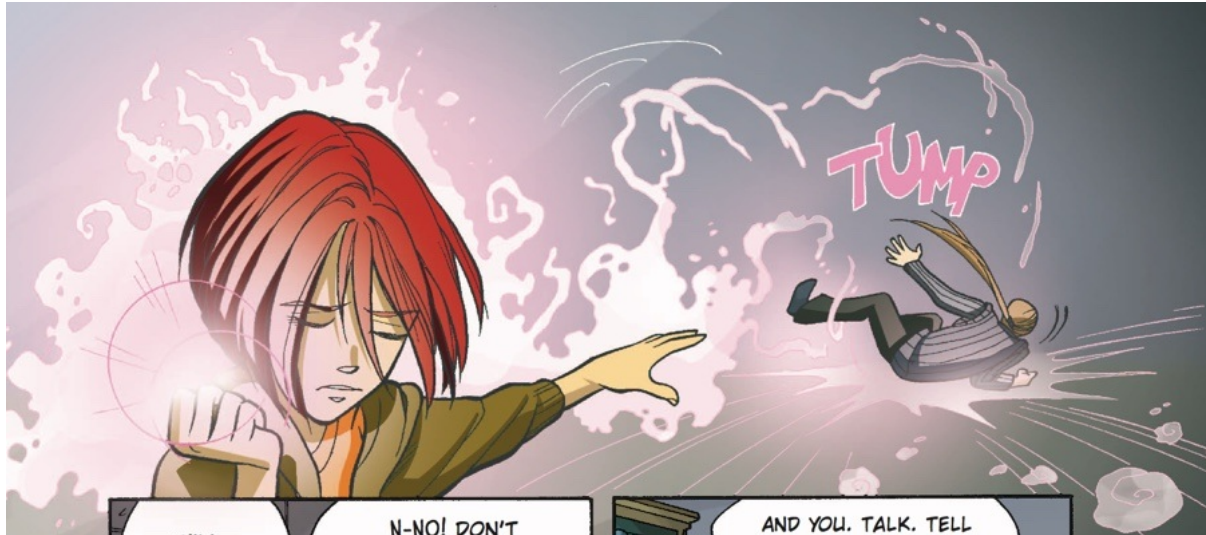








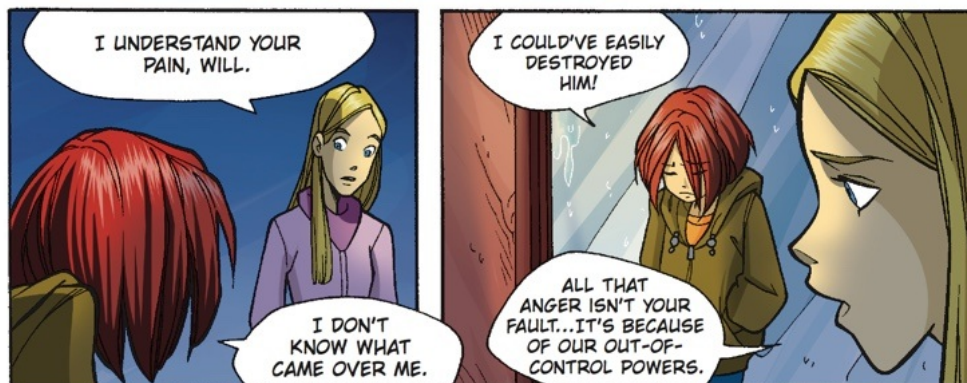




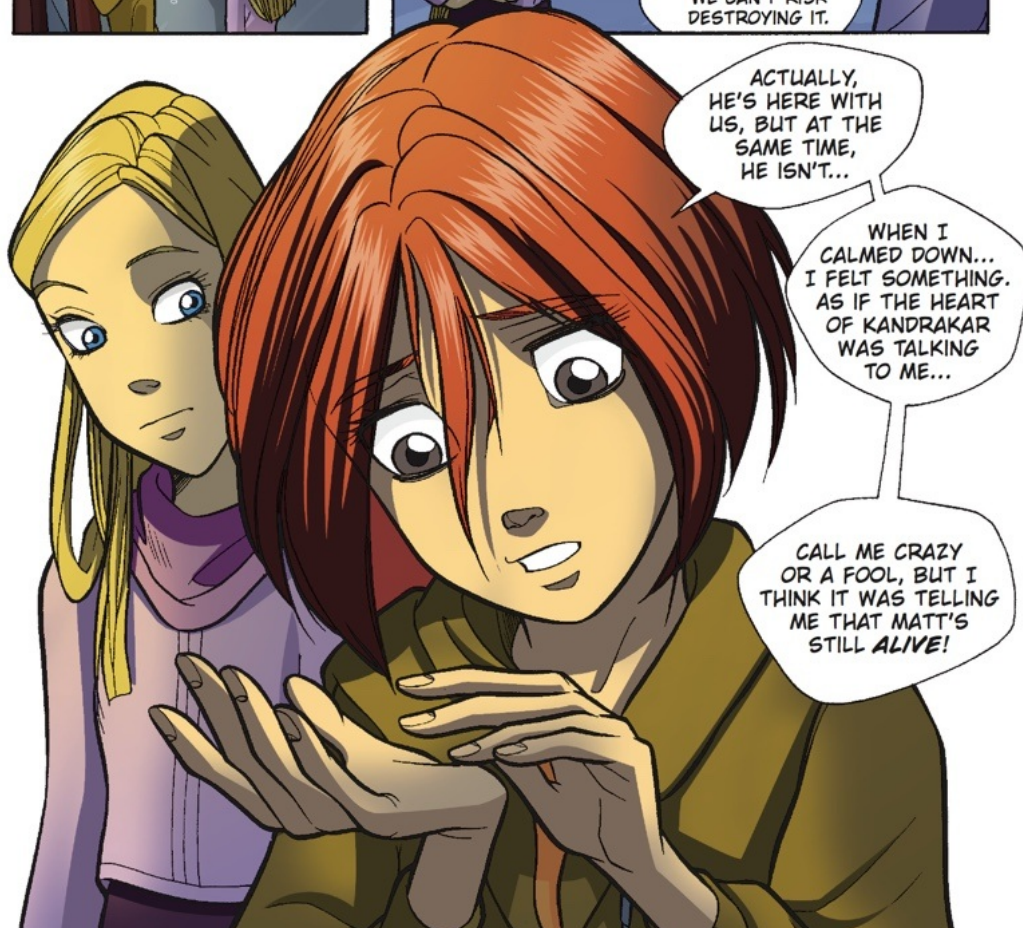
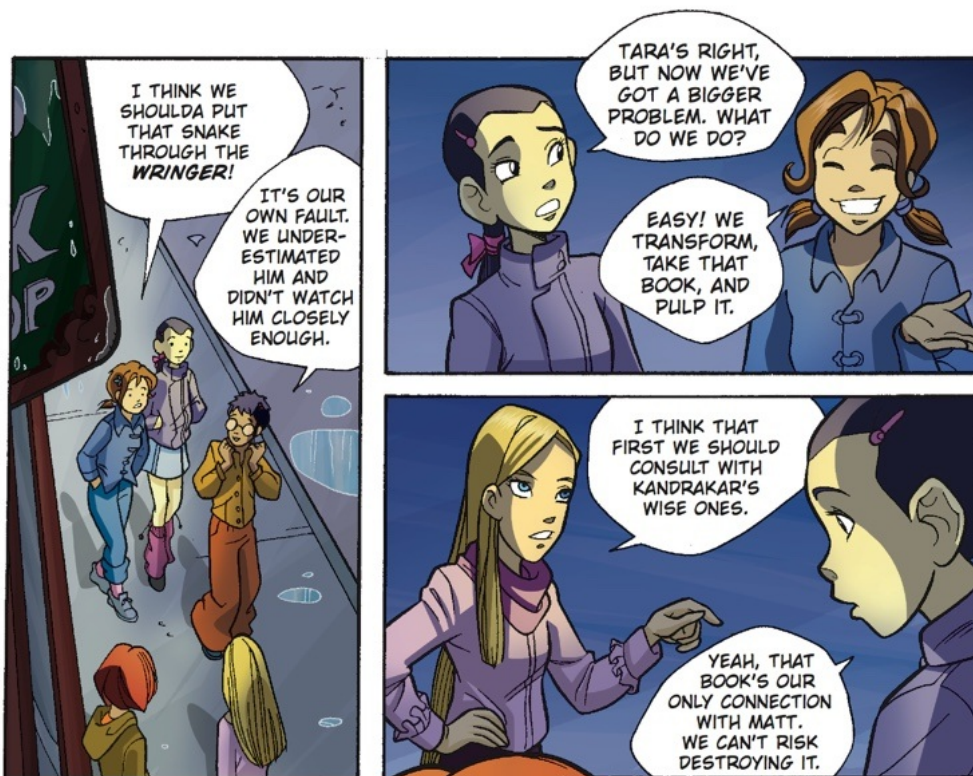
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LOOK AT THEM,  
ALL SCARED AND  
CONFUSED. I WISH I  
COULD CELEBRATE  
RIGHT NOW...

I WAS EXCELLENT,  
JUST LIKE I USED TO  
BE WHEN I COULD  
BE MYSELF!

I TOLD THE GUARDIANS  
THE TRUTH BUT LEFT  
OUT SOME IMPORTANT  
DETAILS...

LIKE,  
FOR INSTANCE,  
THE FACT THAT I  
MADE A DEAL WITH THE  
CREATURE TRAPPED  
INSIDE THE BOOK.

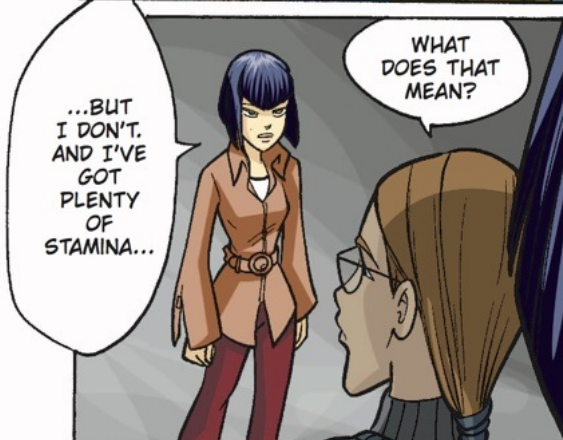
IF I OPEN  
THE MAGICAL  
LOCKS ON THE  
COVER AND ALLOW  
IT TO BREAK  
FREE...

...THAT MYSTERIOUS  
BEING HAS PROMISED  
TO GIVE ME BACK  
THE POWERS  
I'VE LOST.





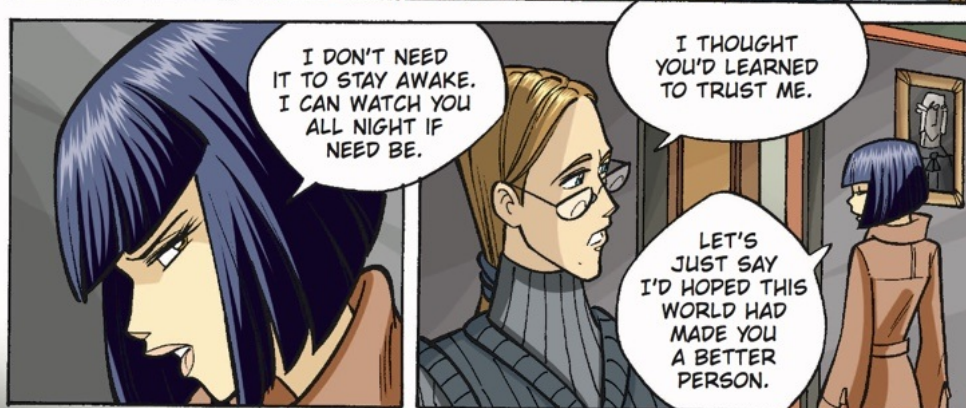
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SO I'LL WAIT  
HERE WITH YOU. ONE  
SIGN. A WORD FROM  
THE BOOK—ANYTHING...









THIS BEGINS THE  
LONGEST NIGHT,  
WHICH PROCEEDS IN  
UTTER SILENCE...

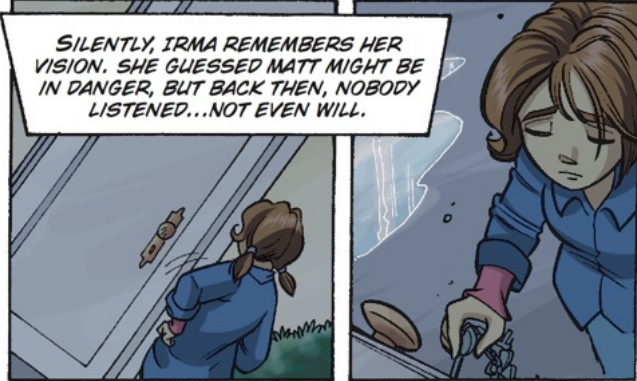


SILENTLY, ORUBE WAITS  
AND WATCHES CEDRIC IN  
THE DARK, LIKE A TIGRESS  
STALKING HER PREY.



SILENTLY, CEDRIC DEBATES  
HOW TO EARN THE GIRL'S  
TRUST AGAIN.

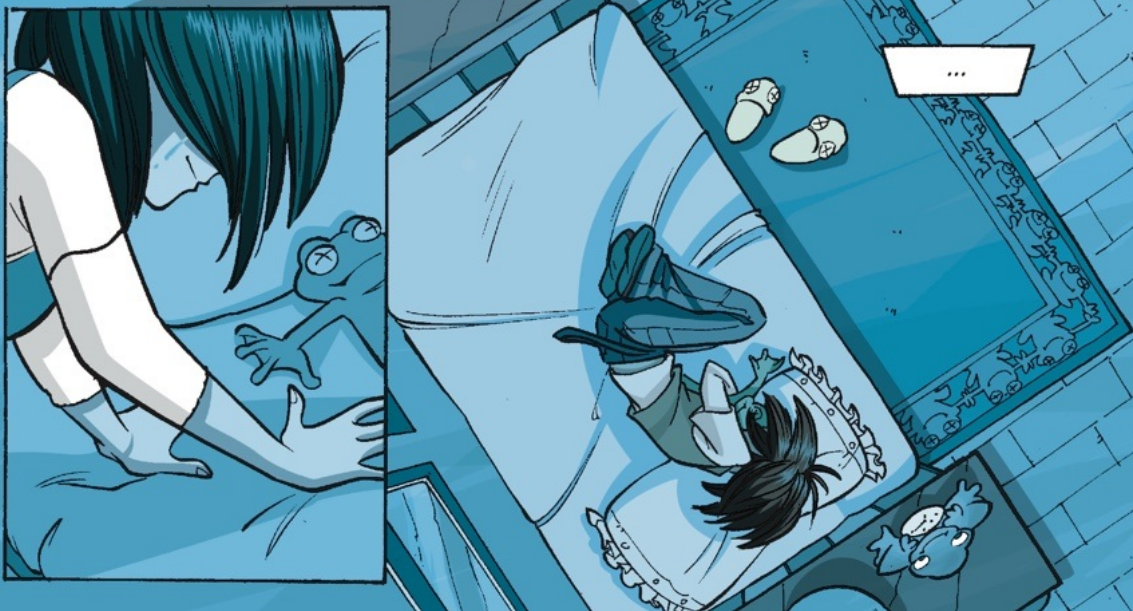
SILENTLY, IRMA REMEMBERS HER  
VISION. SHE GUESSED MATT MIGHT BE  
IN DANGER, BUT BACK THEN, NOBODY  
LISTENED...NOT EVEN WILL.



SILENTLY, HAY LIN THINKS ABOUT ERIC,  
TARANEE ABOUT NIGEL, AND CORNELIA  
ABOUT PETER. WHAT WOULD THEY  
DO IF THIS HAPPENED TO THEM?









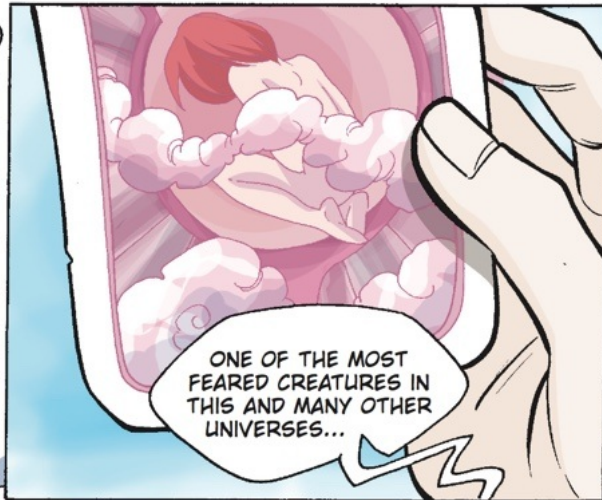


THE SILENCE OF DREAMS  
SPEAKS TO WILL'S HEART...





WILL VANDOM,  
THE CUSTODIAN OF  
THE HEART OF  
KANDRAKAR.

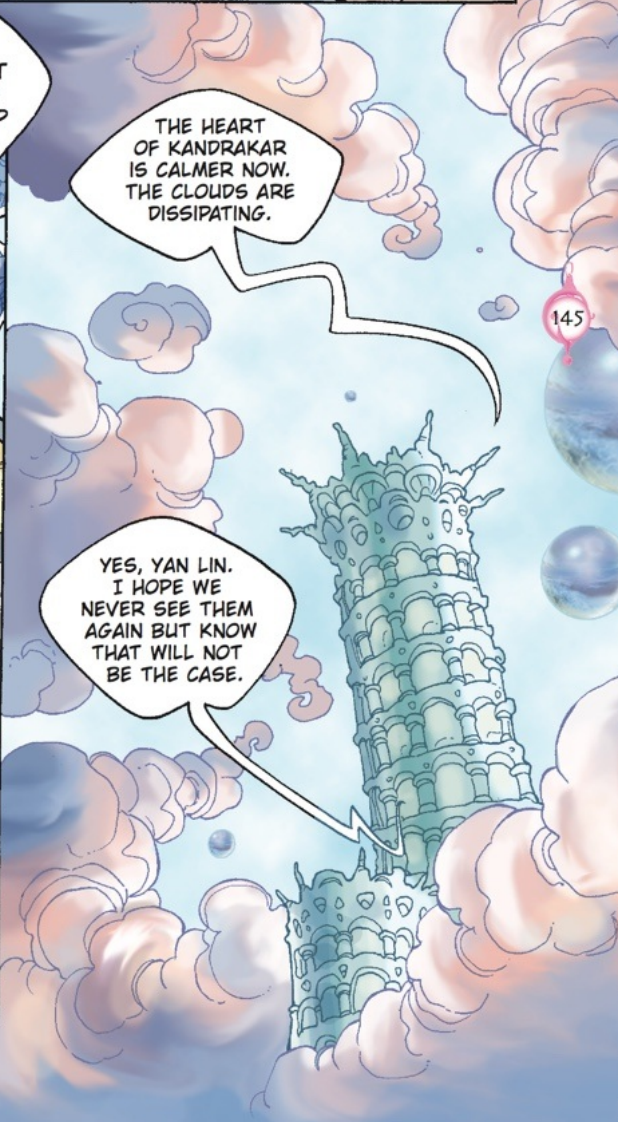


ONE OF THE MOST  
FEARED CREATURES IN  
THIS AND MANY OTHER  
UNIVERSES...



NOW SHE  
JUST LOOKS LIKE  
A FRIGHTENED  
CHILD.

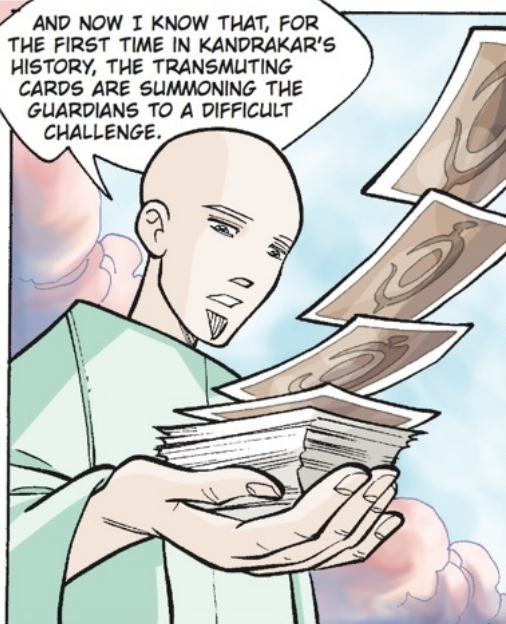
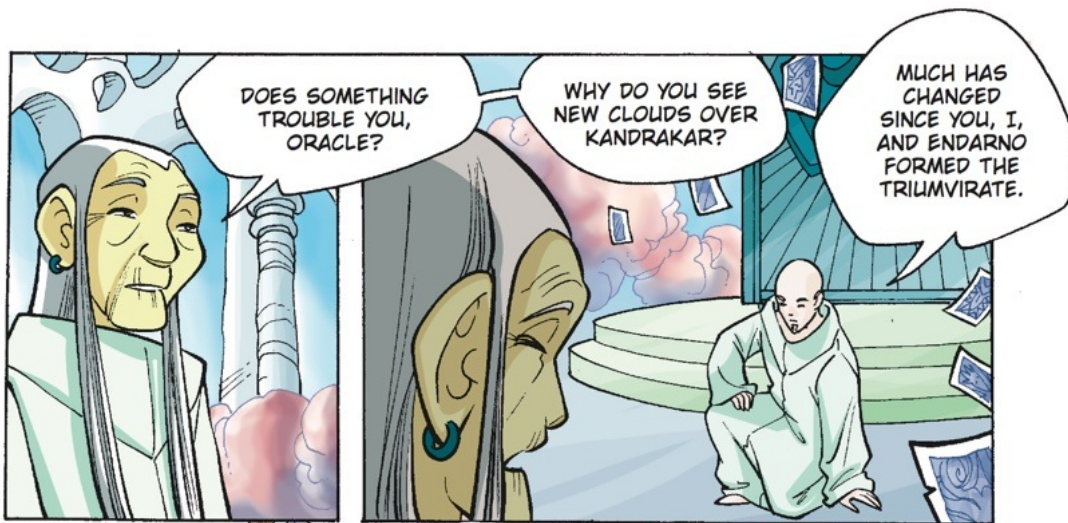
SHE HUGS THE  
PLUSH TOY MATT  
GAVE HER. SHE  
WANTS TO SLEEP  
BUT CANNOT...



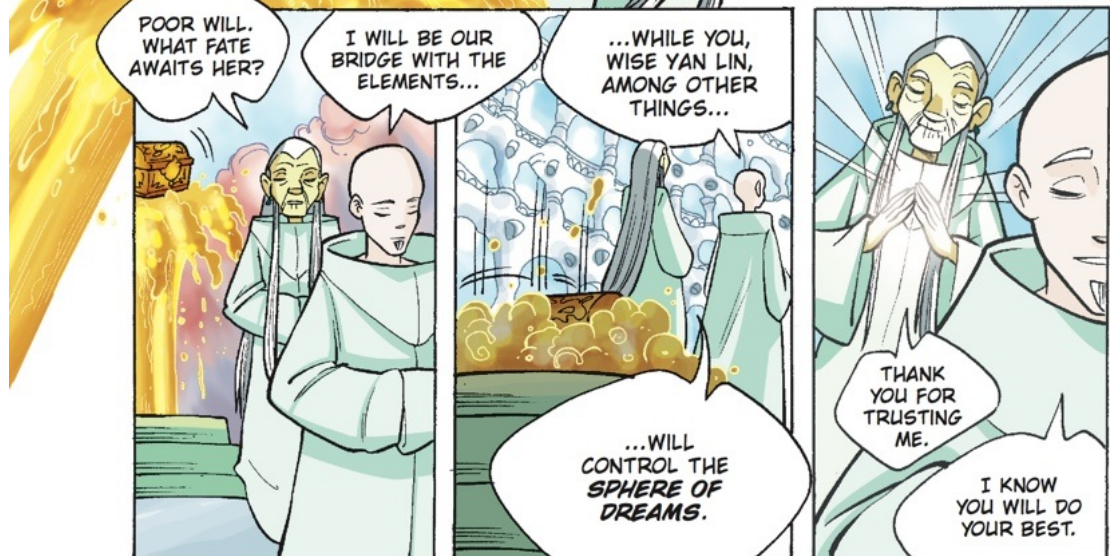
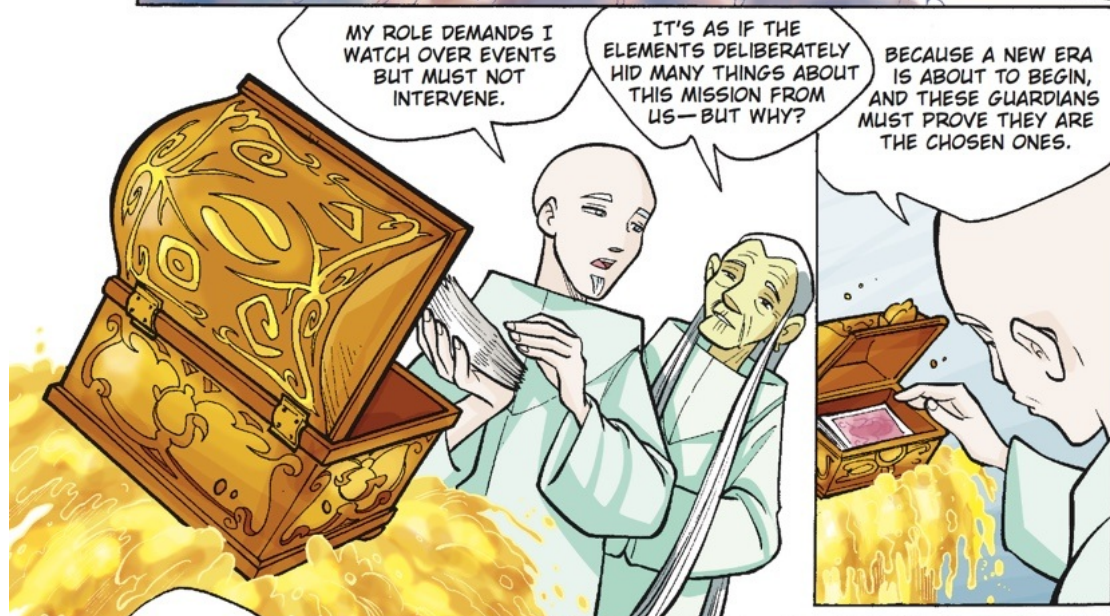
THE HEART  
OF KANDRAKAR  
IS CALMER NOW.  
THE CLOUDS ARE  
DISSIPATING.

YES, YAN LIN.  
I HOPE WE  
NEVER SEE THEM  
AGAIN BUT KNOW  
THAT WILL NOT  
BE THE CASE.

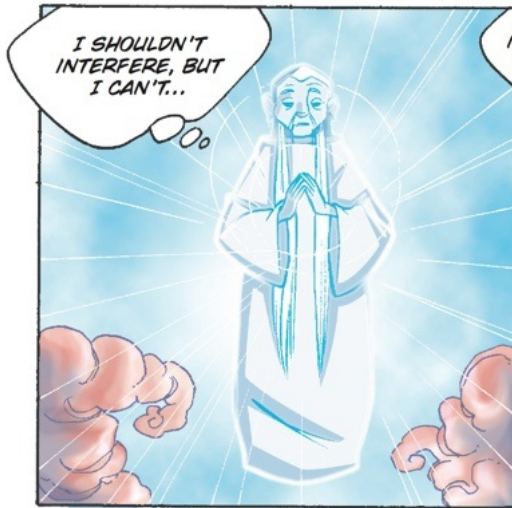












I SHOULDN'T  
INTERFERE, BUT  
I CAN'T...



...SIT HERE AND DO  
NOTHING. MY GRAND-  
DAUGHTER, HAY LIN,  
IS A GUARDIAN.



I'M HERE, WILL.  
YOU CAN'T SEE OR  
HEAR ME, BUT MAYBE YOU  
CAN SENSE MY PRESENCE,  
LIKE A WARM BREEZE...

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I SENSE YOU'RE  
THINKING ABOUT ME.  
TOMORROW YOU'LL WAKE  
UP EARLY AND COME TO  
KANDRAKAR FOR AN  
EXPLANATION.

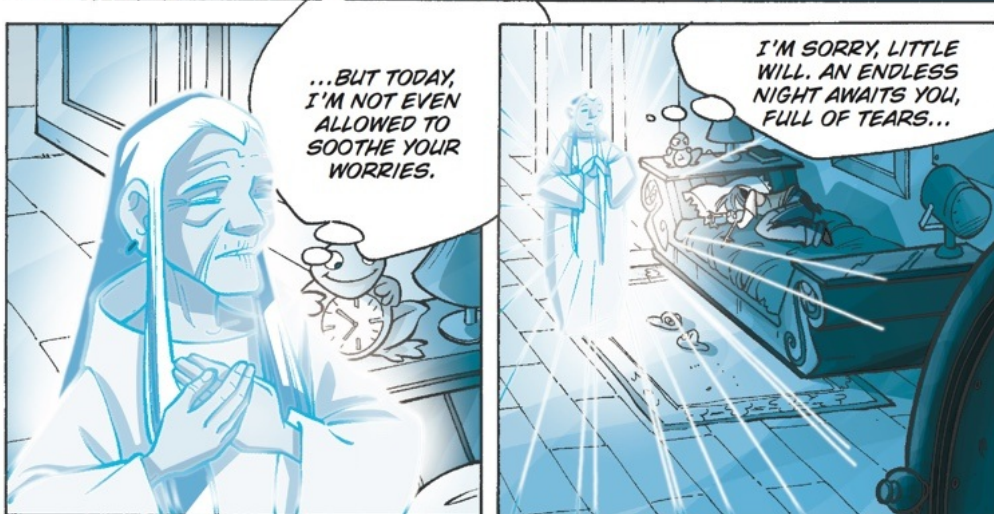
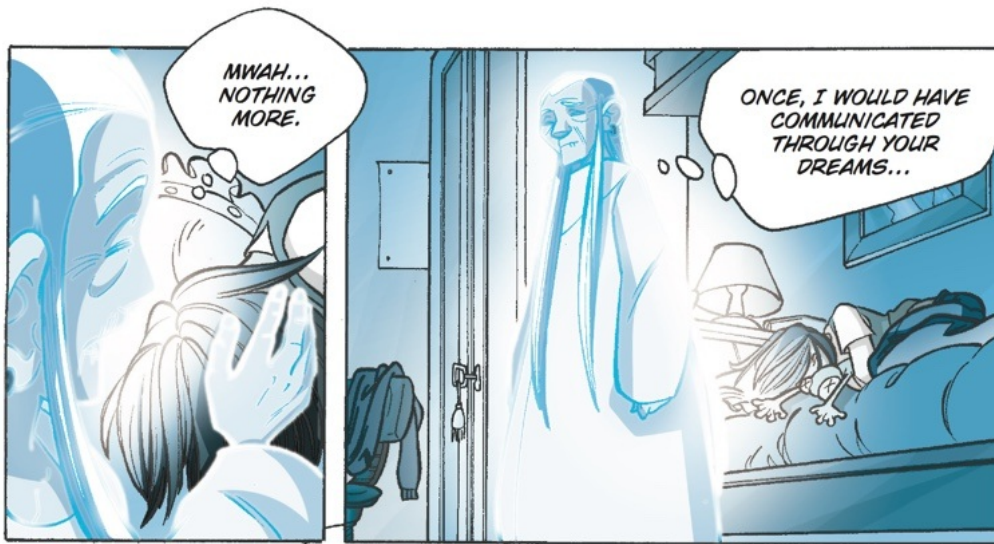


I WISH I COULD  
HELP YOU, BUT I'M  
NOT ALLOWED TO.



TONIGHT,  
ALL I CAN DO IS  
TRY TO GIVE YOU  
SOME PEACE.

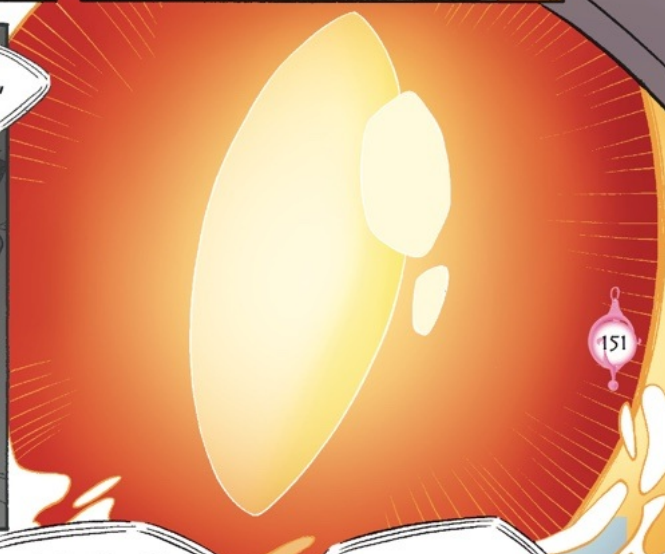




















IT'S NEITHER  
HOT NOR COLD,  
BUT IT'S BLINDING  
LIKE SNOW. I LEAVE  
FOOTPRINTS, LIKE  
ON SAND...

...BUT  
THEY DISAPPEAR  
IMMEDIATELY.

AND  
SOMETIMES,  
I GET THAT  
HORRIBLE  
FEELING...

...OF  
BEING...

...WATCHED!





WHO IS IT?  
WHO'S WATCHING  
ME? IS ANYONE  
HERE?

N-NOTHING.  
NOT EVEN  
AN ECHO.

I GOTTA  
KEEP CALM.  
CALM! BY NOW  
I OUGHTA KNOW  
SCREAMING IS  
USELESS.

AT LEAST IN THIS  
PLACE, I DON'T FEEL  
HUNGRY OR THIRSTY.  
EVERYTHING SEEMS...  
SUSPENDED.

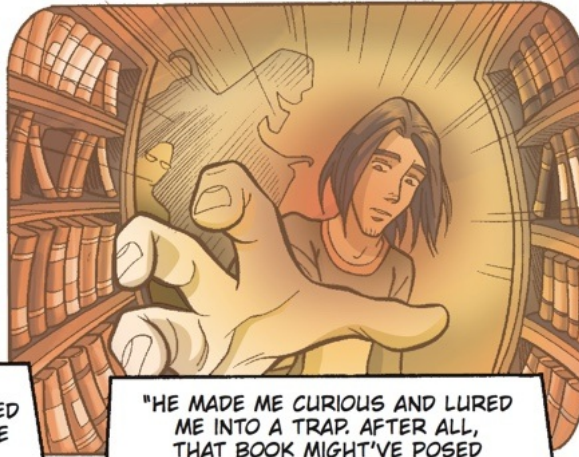
I'D BETTER  
THINK FOR A WHILE.  
TRY AND UNDER-  
STAND...AND NOT  
LOSE MY MIND!

CEDRIC!  
IT WAS HIM.  
THAT SLEAZEBALL  
TRICKED ME!

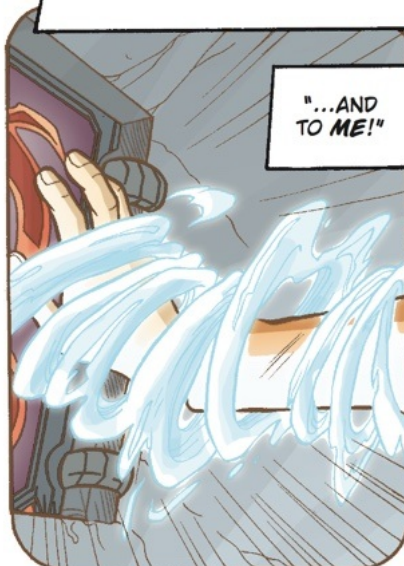




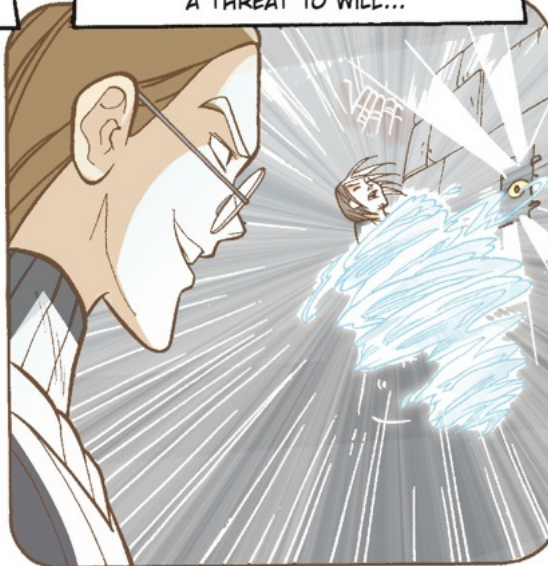
"OF COURSE. HE EVEN WARNED  
ME NOT TO TOUCH IT. BUT HE  
ACTUALLY **WANTED** ME TO."



"HE MADE ME CURIOUS AND LURED  
ME INTO A TRAP. AFTER ALL,  
THAT BOOK MIGHT'VE POSED  
A THREAT TO WILL..."



"...AND  
TO ME!"







SO IT'S ALL TRUE.  
THIS STRANGE WORLD...  
REALLY  
EXISTS.

THEN I  
SHOULDN'T BE  
AFRAID. WILL AND  
THE GIRLS WILL COME  
LOOKING FOR ME.

BUT WHEN WILL  
THEY NOTICE I'M GONE? HOW  
LONG HAS IT BEEN? AN ETERNITY  
OR JUST A MOMENT?

TIME  
DOESN'T EXIST  
HERE EITHER...BUT  
IT DOESN'T MATTER.  
I CAN'T GIVE UP  
HOPE.

GOTTA SAVE MY  
STRENGTH. GOTTA SLOW  
MY THOUGHTS. SLEEP...  
DREAM.

MAYBE SHE'S  
SLEEPING TOO. MAYBE  
HUGGING MY PICTURE  
OR A PRESENT I  
GAVE HER.



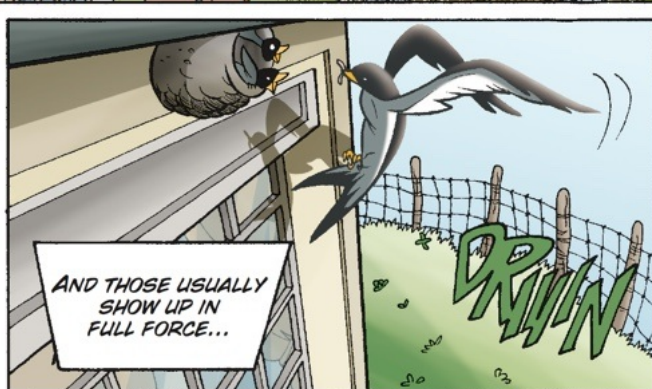
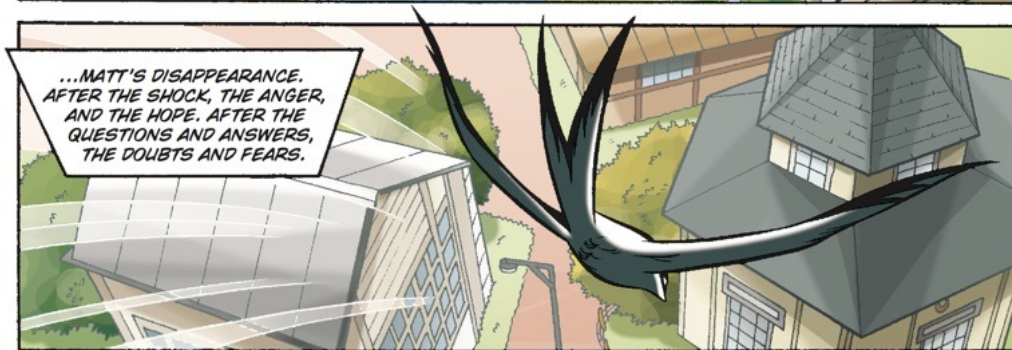
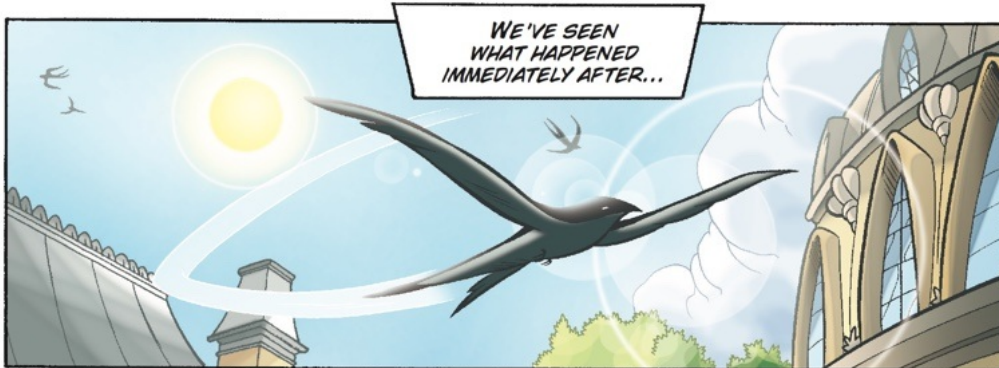


I'LL TRY TO REST.  
MAYBE THIS WAY WE'LL  
DREAM ABOUT EACH  
OTHER.

YES, WILL.  
CLOSE YOUR EYES  
TOO, AND IF YOU CAN  
HEAR ME, KNOW  
THAT...

"...I'M WAITING  
FOR YOU!"

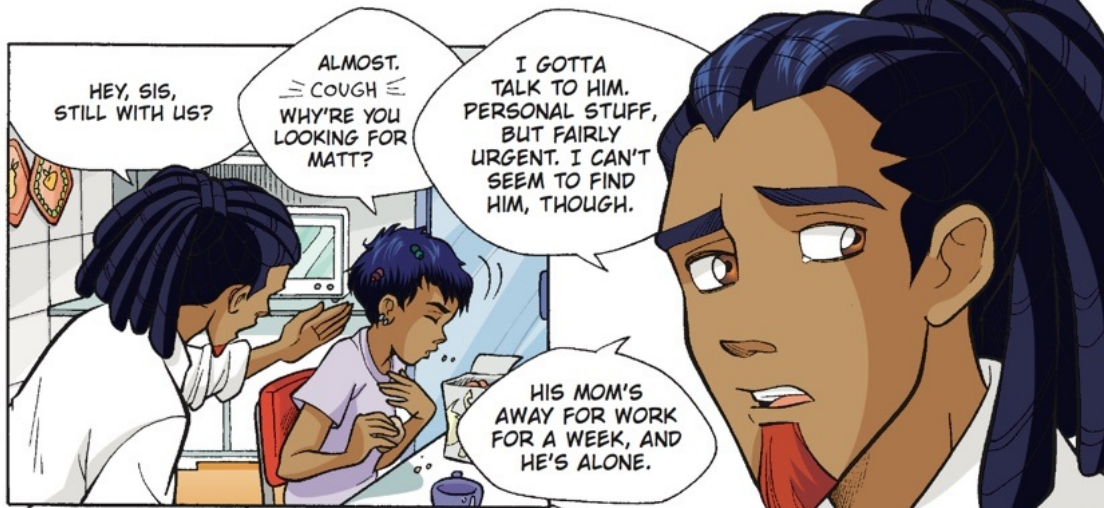




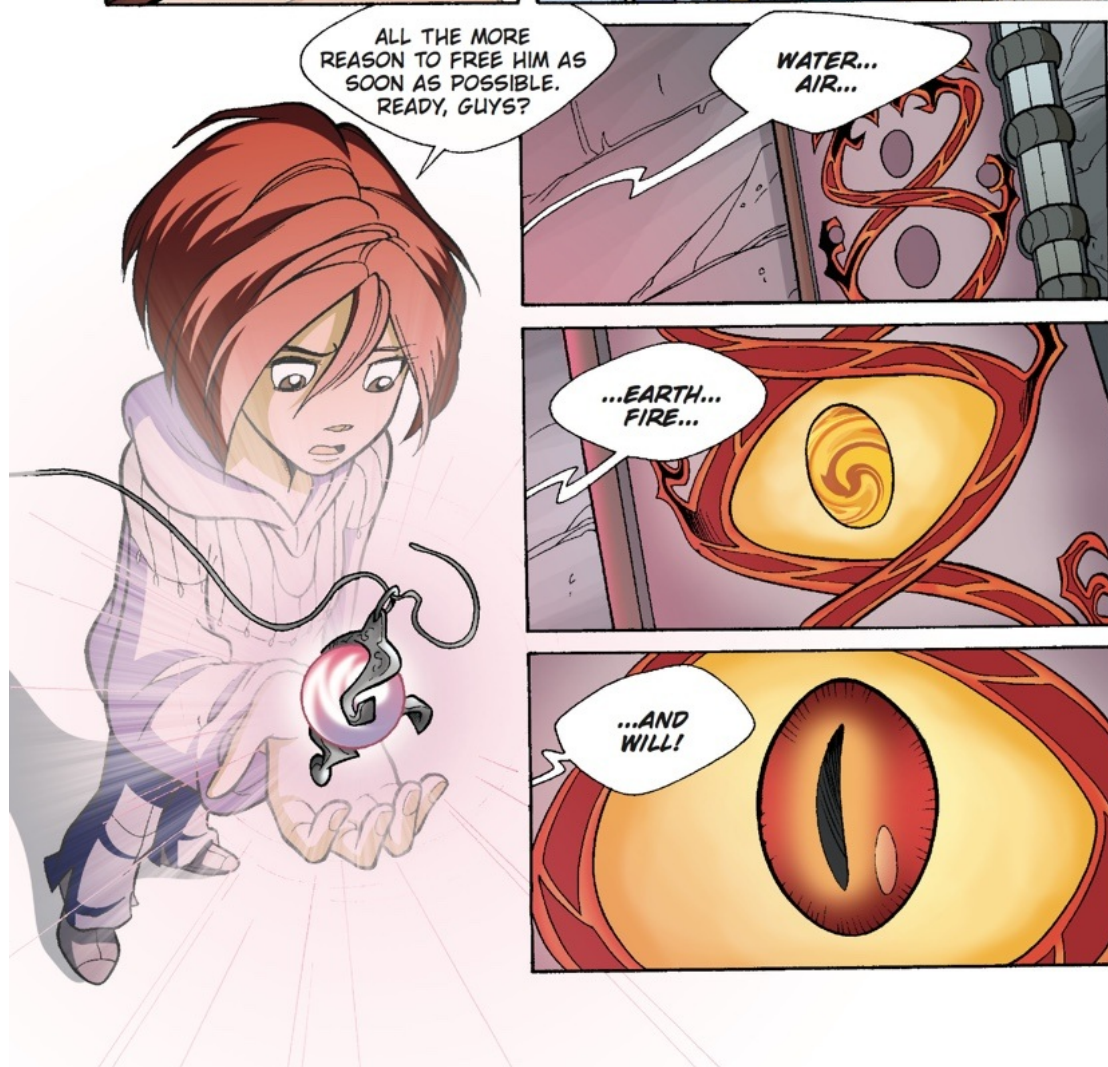
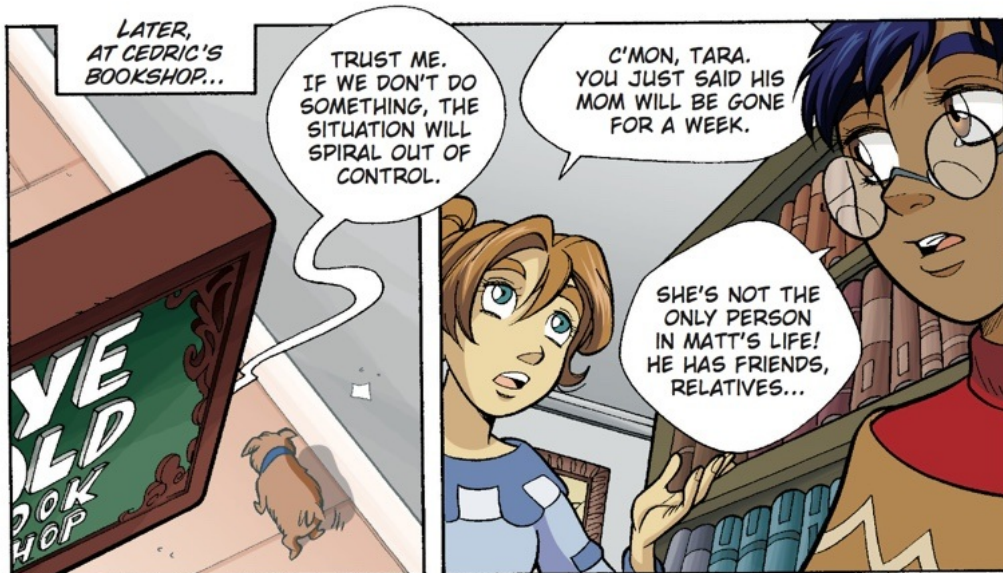




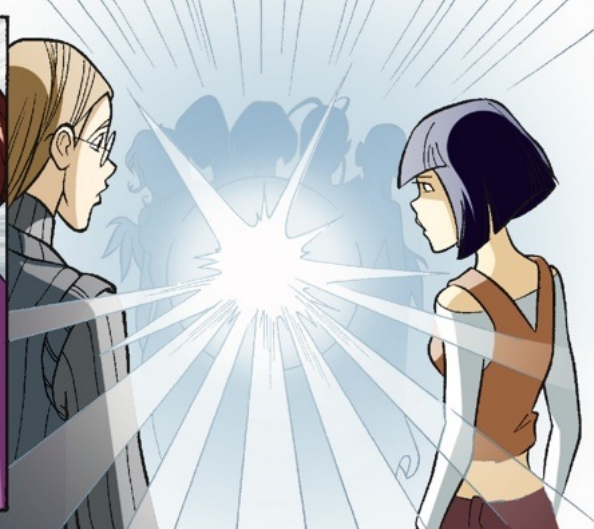
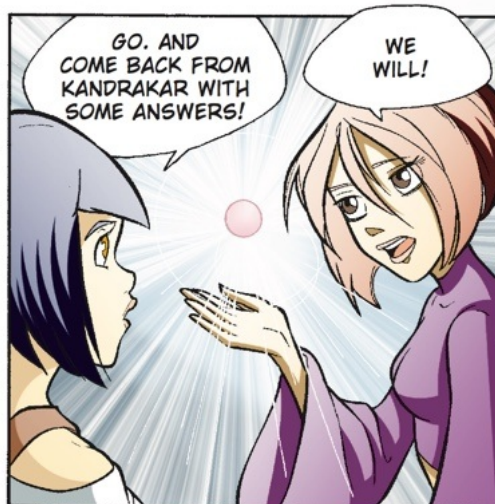




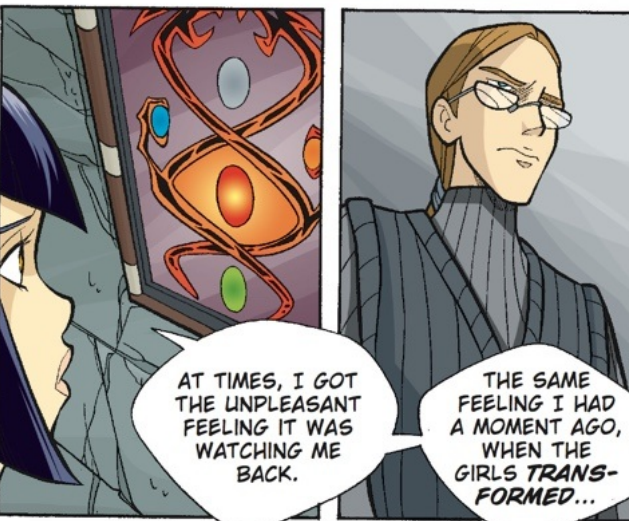
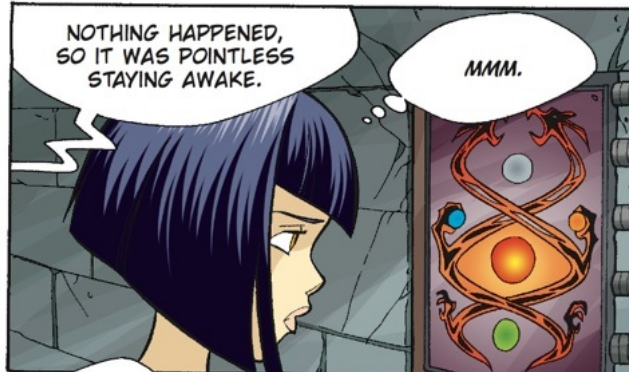




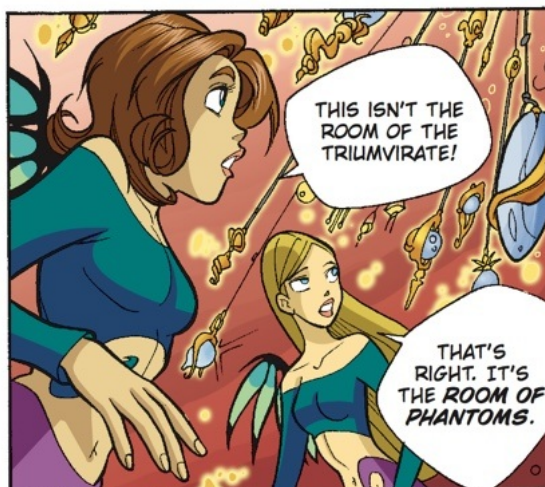




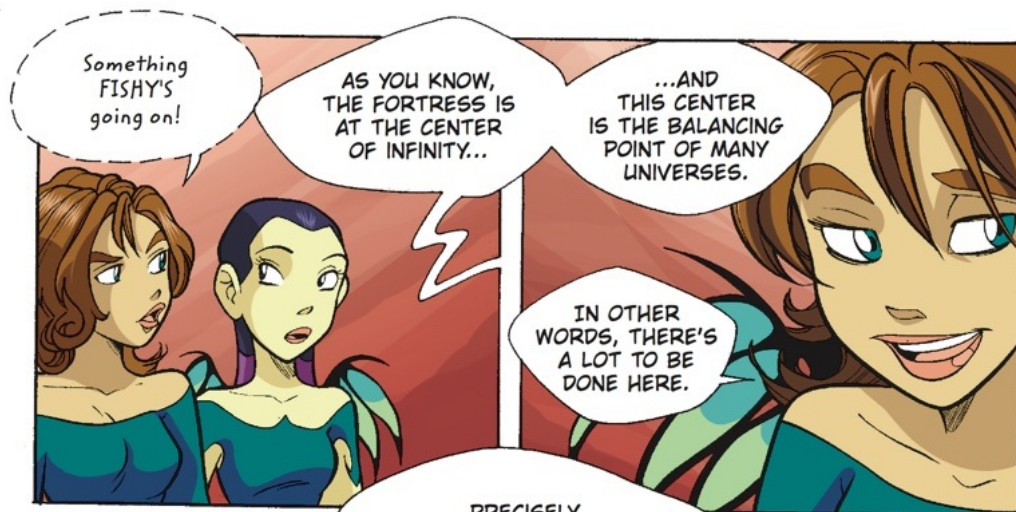
















HONESTLY,  
THIS IS GETTING  
ON MY NERVES.  
I WANT MATT  
BACK!

E-EXCUSE  
ME?

GET WITH IT. WHEN  
WILL LOSES HER  
COOL...THINGS  
GET HOT!

WATCH YOUR MOUTH,  
GUARDIAN. I WON'T  
TOLERATE YOUR  
INSOLENCE.

UH-OH! DON'T  
SAY I DIDN'T WARN  
YOU. YOU'RE NOT  
SO WISE FOR A  
WISE ONE...

LISTEN UP.  
THIS IS WHERE  
WE SHOULD GET  
ANSWERS,  
ISN'T IT?



OF COURSE, BUT  
THIS TIME, IT'S AT  
THE BIDDING OF THE  
PURE ESSENCE  
OF THE  
**ELEMENTS!**

WELL, I'VE  
ALWAYS DONE  
AS I WAS TOLD,  
BUT I THINK THEY  
SHOULD START  
RESPECTING  
ME TOO!



I DON'T CARE WHO  
THEY WANT ME TO TALK TO.  
FOR ONCE, I WANT SOME  
**ACTUAL ANSWERS...**

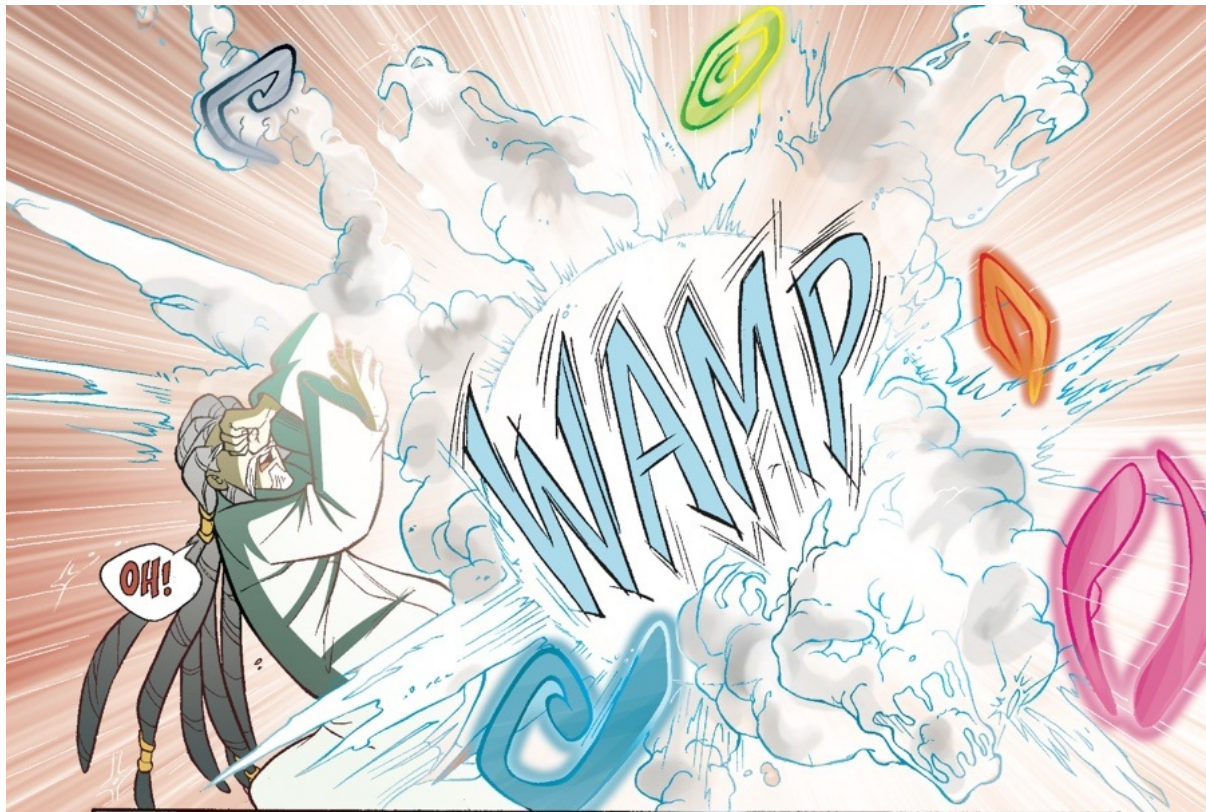




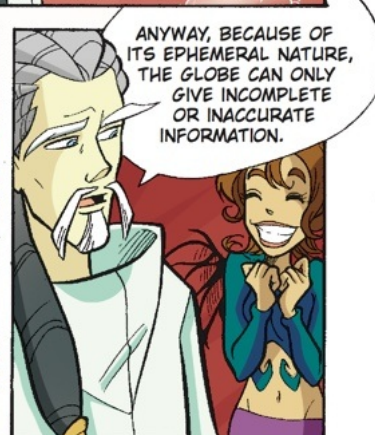
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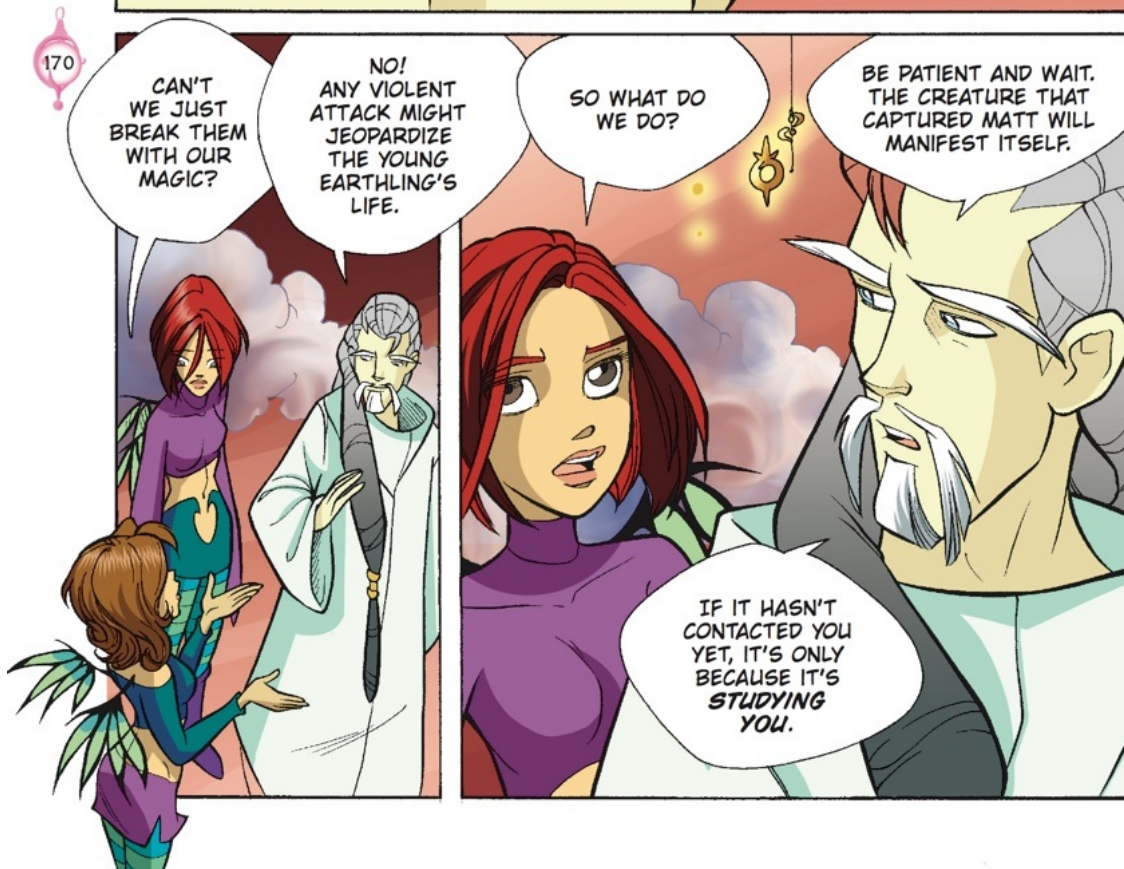
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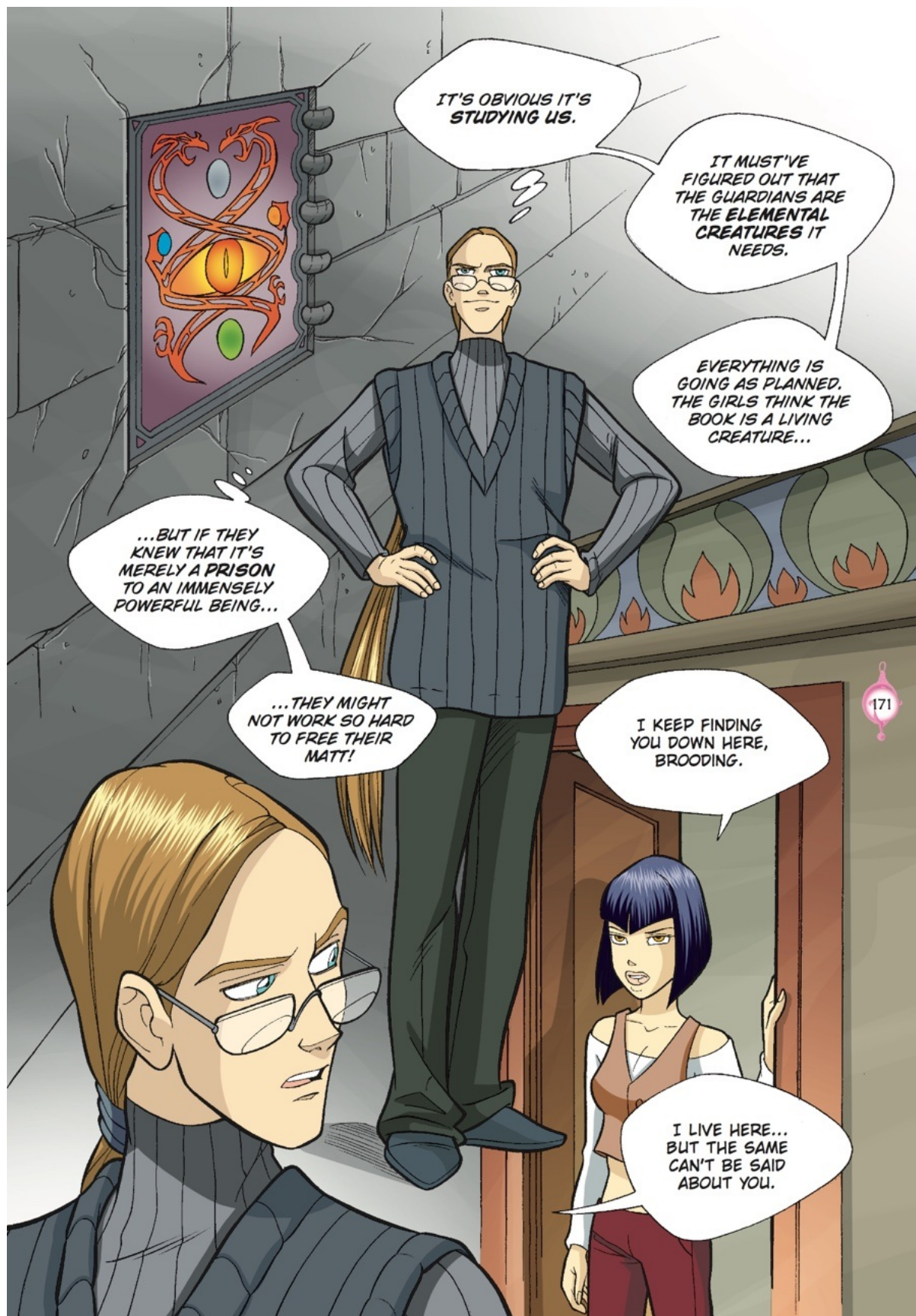












IT'S OBVIOUS IT'S  
STUDYING US.

IT MUST'VE  
FIGURED OUT THAT  
THE GUARDIANS ARE  
THE ELEMENTAL  
CREATURES IT  
NEEDS.

EVERYTHING IS  
GOING AS PLANNED.  
THE GIRLS THINK THE  
BOOK IS A LIVING  
CREATURE...

...BUT IF THEY  
KNEW THAT IT'S  
MERELY A PRISON  
TO AN IMMENSELY  
POWERFUL BEING...

...THEY MIGHT  
NOT WORK SO HARD  
TO FREE THEIR  
MATT!

I KEEP FINDING  
YOU DOWN HERE,  
BROODING.

I LIVE HERE...  
BUT THE SAME  
CAN'T BE SAID  
ABOUT YOU.





ONCE THIS EMERGENCY'S OVER, I'LL GET BACK TO MY JOB AND MY LIFE.



YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL BE OVER SOON?

I HOPE SO FOR YOUR SAKE, BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SEEN WILL THIS ANGRY.

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SO YOU WERE SCARED. ADMIT IT... YOU NEED ME.

OF COURSE... YOU'RE AS USEFUL...



...AS A FINGER POKING ME IN THE EYE!

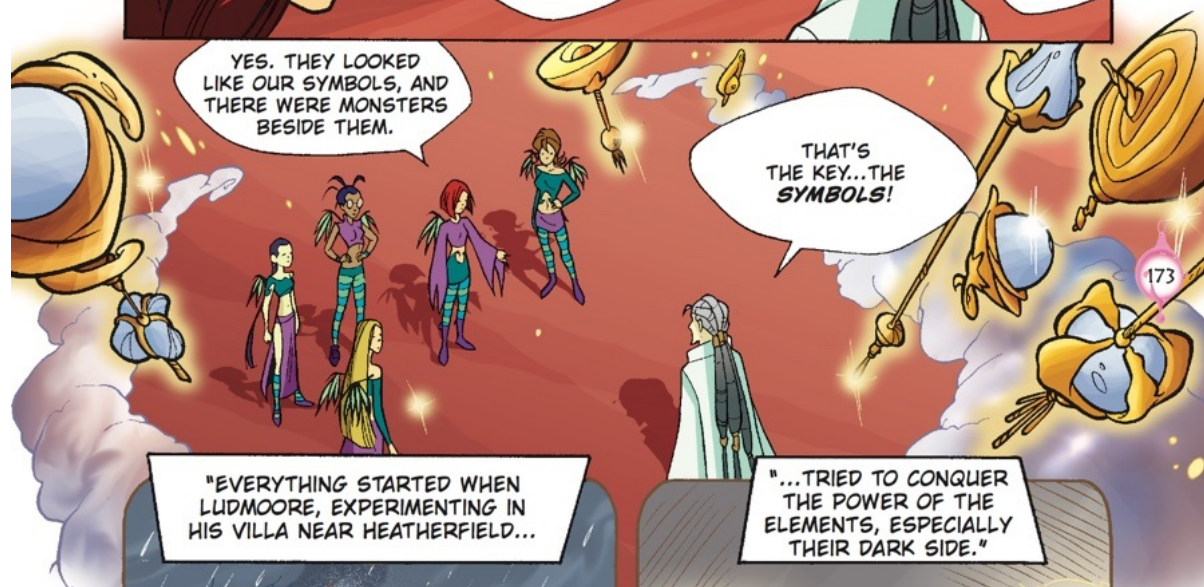
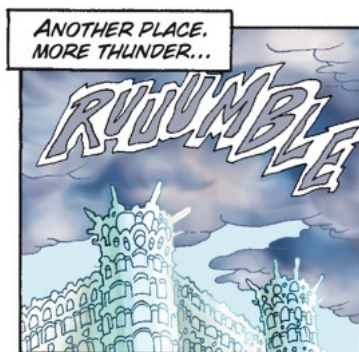


FRUMP

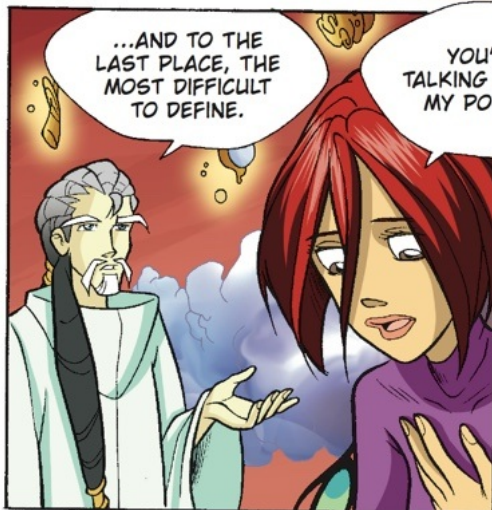
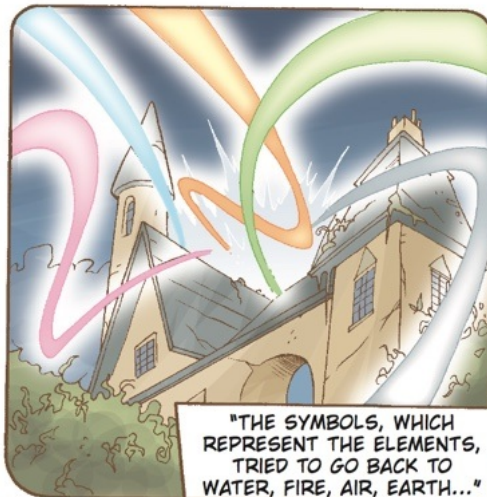
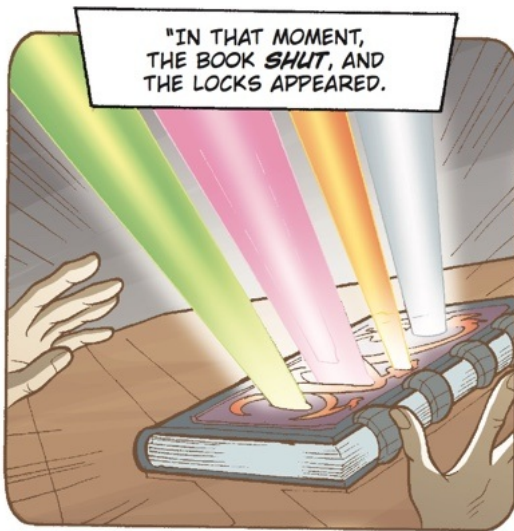


RUMBLE













THE CUSTODIANS  
ARE THE CREATURES  
YOU SAW. MAGICAL  
BEINGS...

...SUMMONED  
BY THE SYMBOLS  
TO PROTECT THEM. TO  
OPEN THE LOCKS, YOU'LL  
THEREFORE HAVE TO  
FIGHT THOSE  
CUSTODIANS...

WE'RE NOT  
AFRAID OF  
THEM.

FOR MATT,  
I'D FIGHT  
THE ELEMENTS  
THEMSELVES.

GOOD. BECAUSE  
THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL  
HAVE TO DO...

NOW THE REASON  
YOU'VE BEEN  
BROUGHT TO THIS  
ROOM...

...BECOMES  
CLEARER.

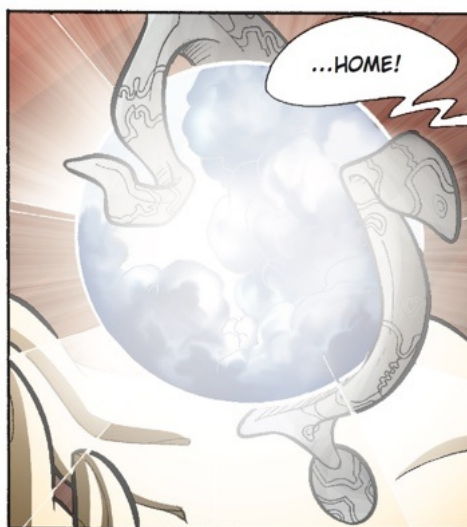
IT WASN'T  
TO SEE THAT  
CRYSTAL  
BALL?

OH, NO. IF  
YOU UNDERSTAND  
WHY, IT'LL BE EASIER  
TO GRASP THE  
MEANING OF  
MY GIFT.





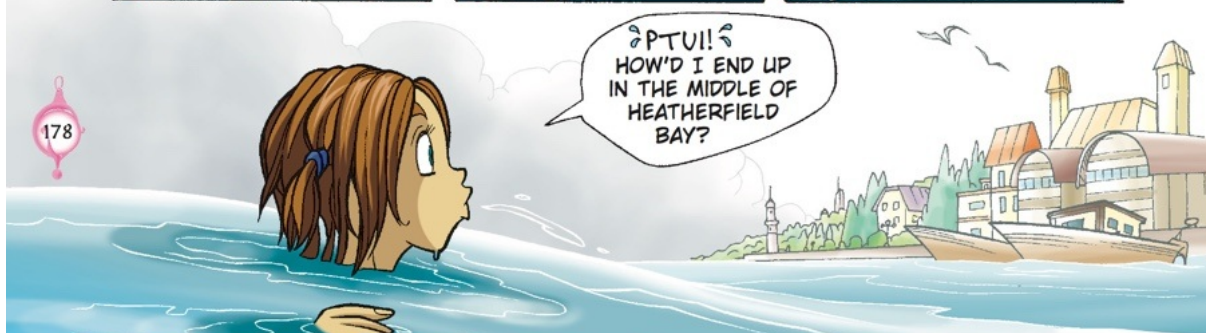




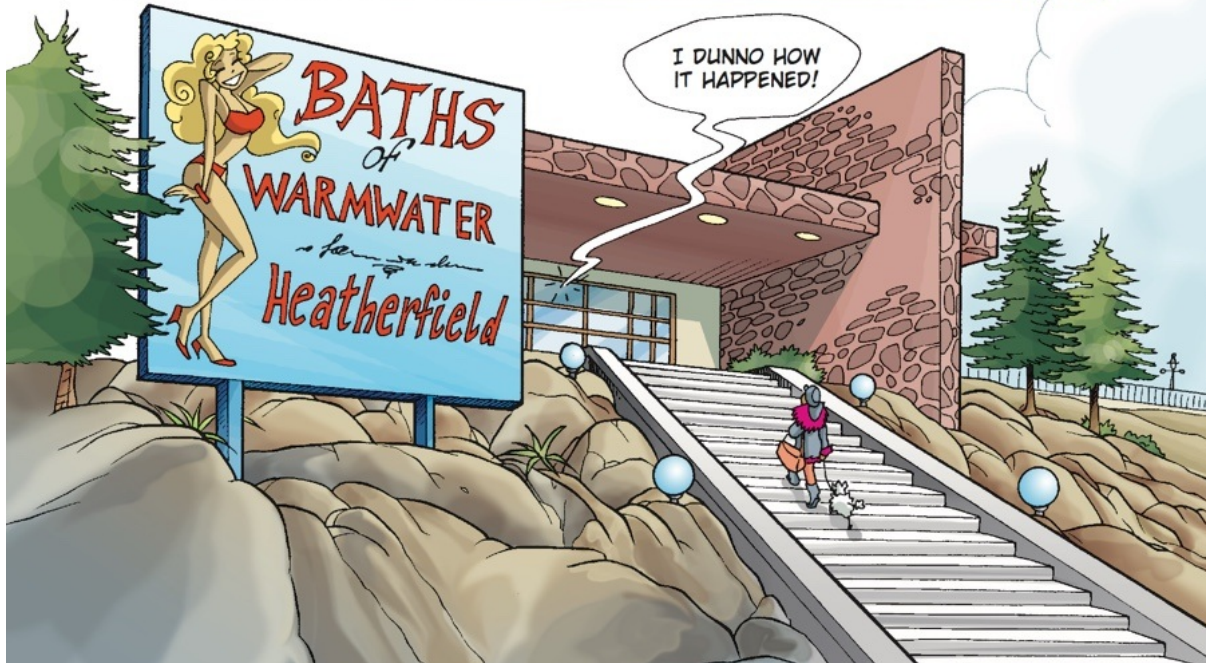




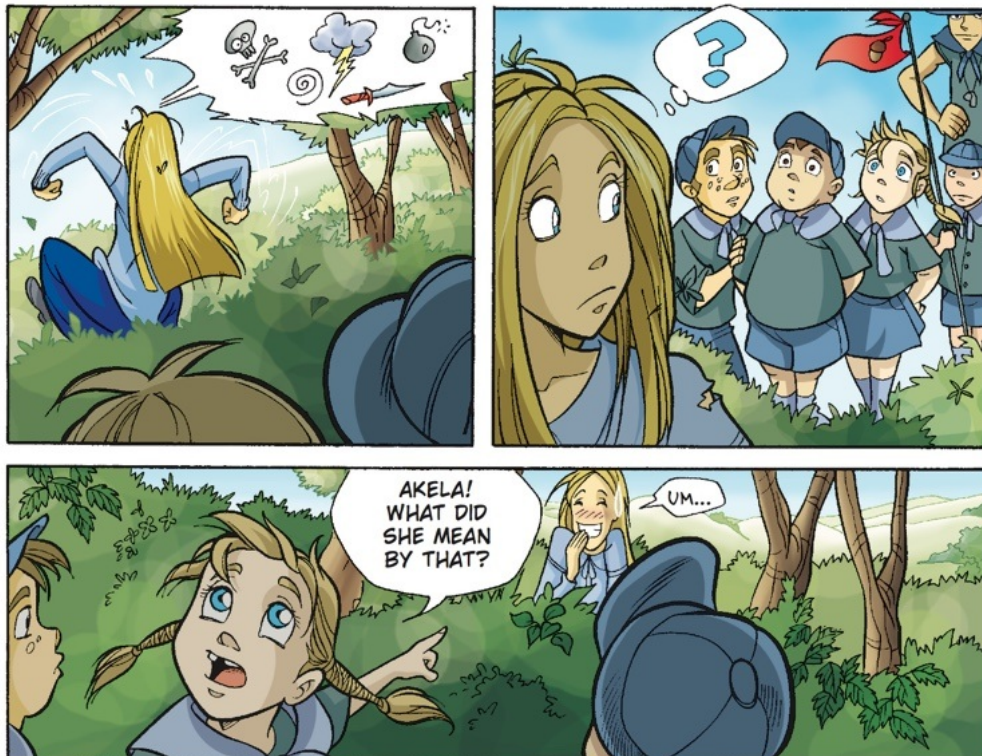
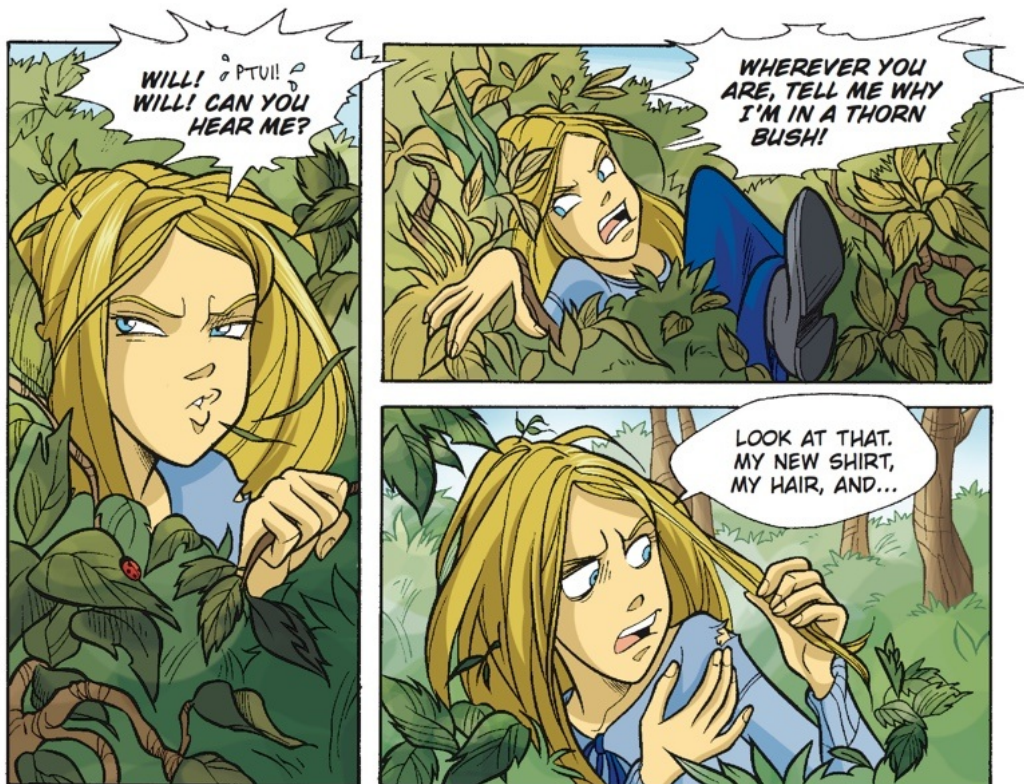
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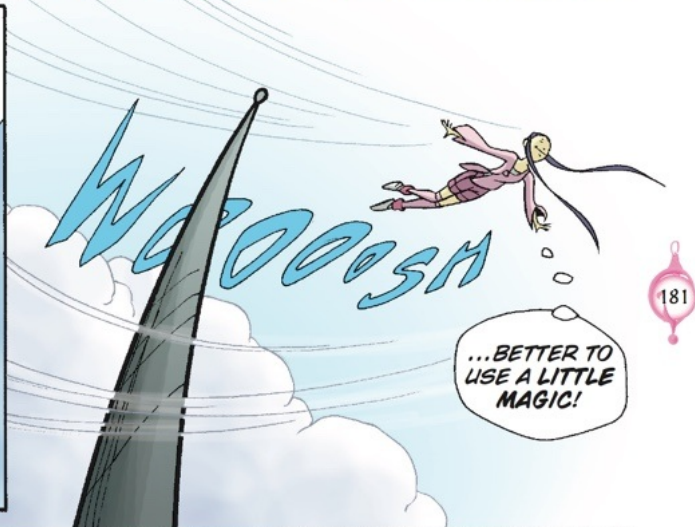




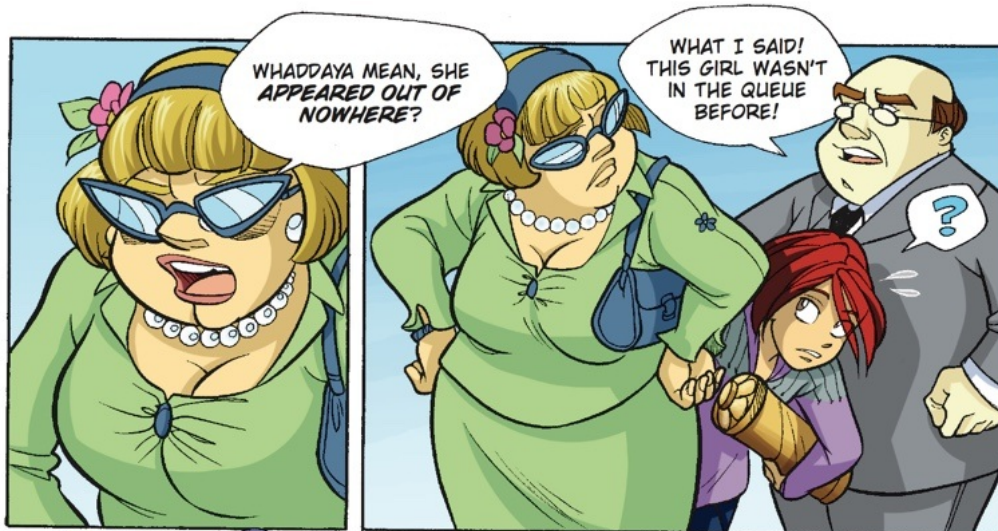














THAT AFTERNOON, AT  
CEDRIC'S BOOKSHOP...

ON LINE AT  
CITY HALL?  
THAT'S  
TERRIBLE!

IT WAS A NIGHTMARE...  
AND WHEN I GOT TO THE  
DESK, I HAD NO IDEA  
WHAT TO SAY!

WELL,  
WE'VE *ALL*  
GOT A STORY  
TO TELL...

AIN'T THAT  
THE TRUTH!

IRMA!  
WHAT'S  
THAT  
STINK?

A SOUVENIR FROM  
THE *FISHING BOAT*  
THAT BROUGHT  
ME BACK TO  
SHORE!

I HOPE WE'VE GOT  
A WARRANTY ON  
TELEPORTATION.  
I WANT MY MONEY  
BACK!

COME ON!  
WE ENDED UP IN FIVE  
DIFFERENT PLACES  
BUT STILL NEAR  
HEATHERFIELD.

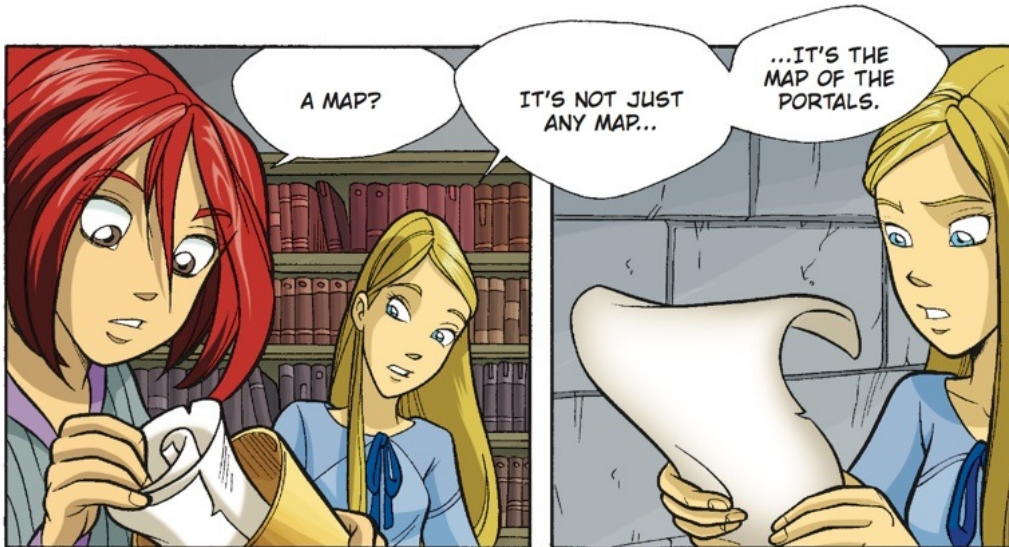
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CEDRIC AND I  
DIDN'T GO SO FAR,  
BUT WE'VE STILL GOT  
SOMETHING TO  
SHARE...





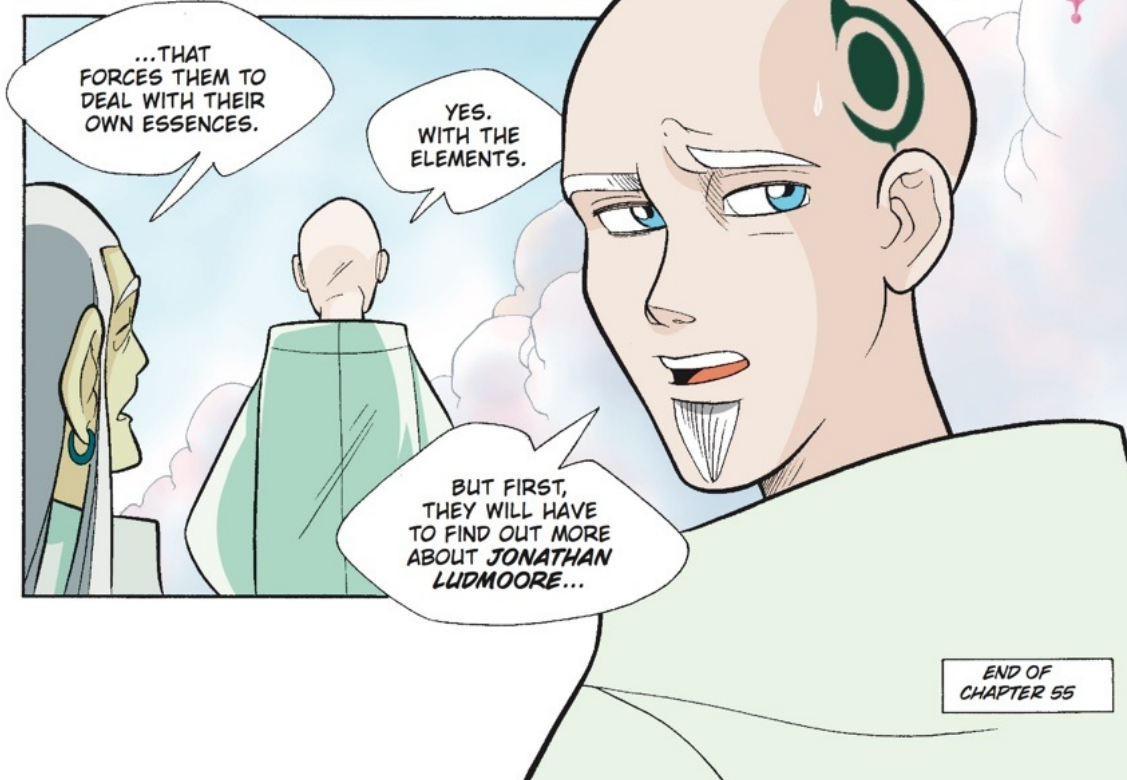
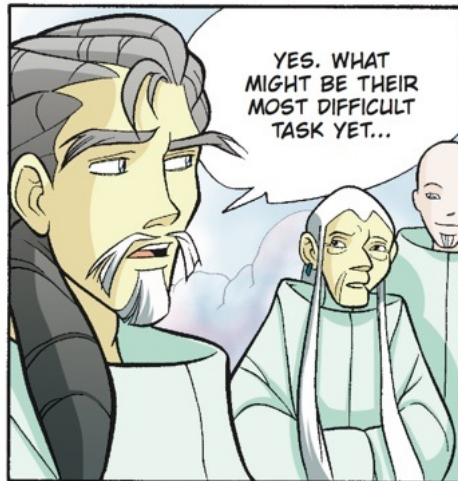
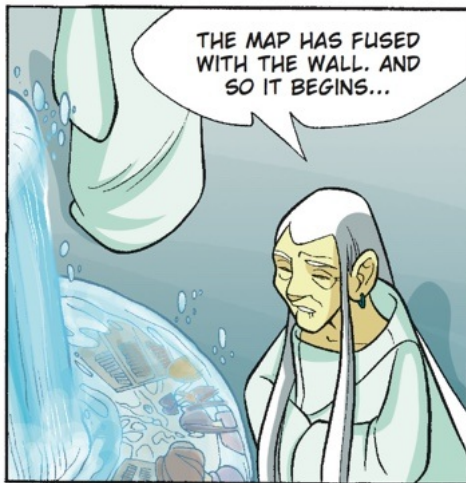






















# The Riddle

"She looks so sweet and  
helpless when she's asleep."















WE WERE WAITING  
FOR YOU, GUARDIAN.  
YOU'VE COME TO  
KEEP US COMPANY.



TOO BAD  
YOUR FRIEND  
CAN'T TALK!  
HA-HA-HA!



MATT!

HOW  
HEART-  
BREAKING!



SBAM

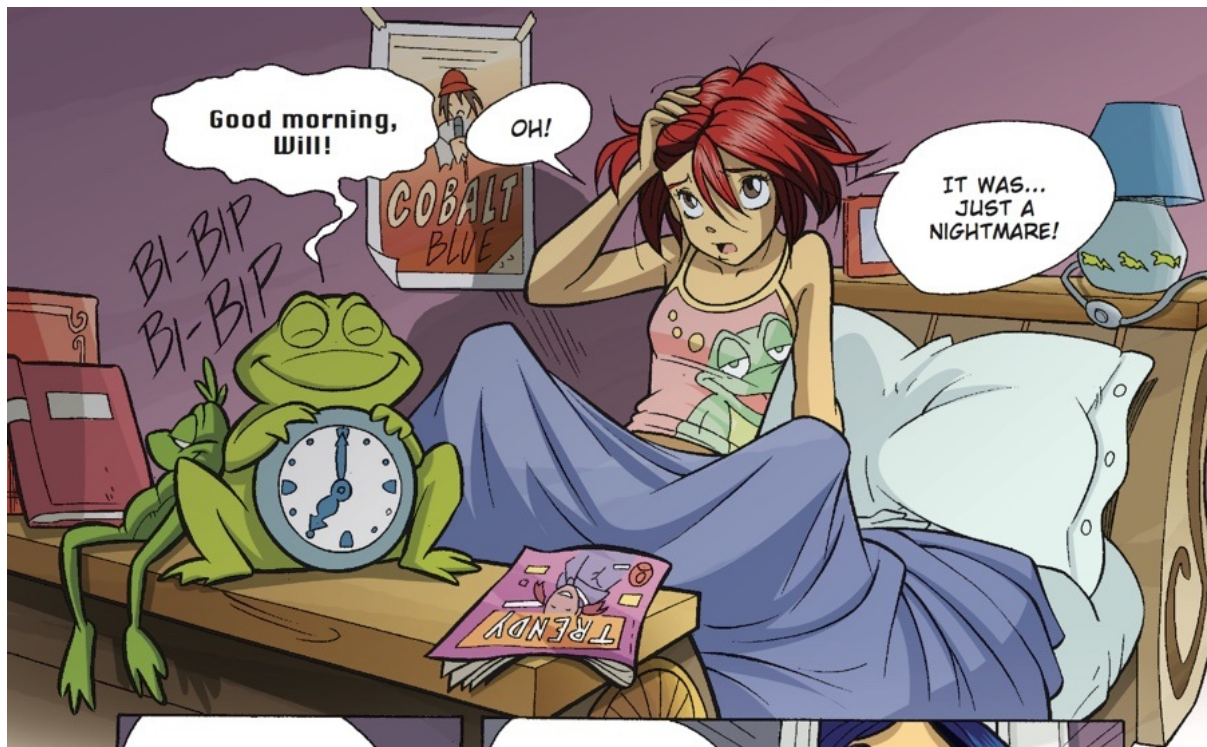


YOU CAN  
STOP WORRYING  
ABOUT HIM. I'VE  
SQUASHED HIM  
LIKE A FLY!

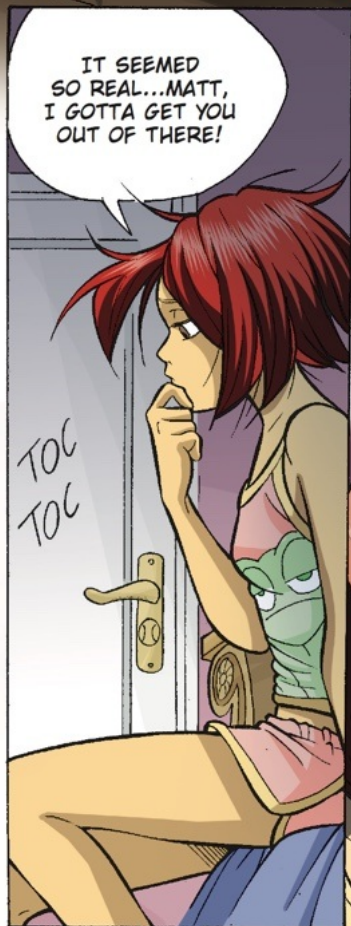


No!!



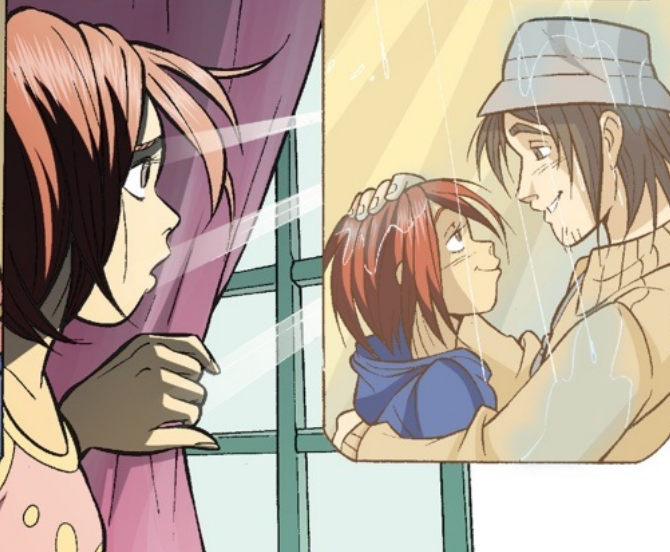


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THE LAST TIME WILL SAW MATT, IT WAS RAINING.

THE LAST TIME HE HELD HER...





THE MEMORY OF  
THAT LAST HUG  
HURTS.

OKAY...LET'S PRETEND  
IT'S ANY OLD DAY.  
GOOD MORNING,  
HONEY!

HOW CAN IT BE A  
GOOD MORNING WHEN  
MATT'S BEEN TAKEN  
FROM HER?

HUH?  
ABOUT  
WHAT?

YOU SHOULD  
REPLY "GOOD  
MORNING, MOM,"  
AND I NEED TO  
REMIND YOU ABOUT  
SOMETHING.

BEEEEEP!  
WRONG ANSWER!  
BUT I UNDERSTAND.  
WE'VE GOT A MILLION  
THINGS TO DO AND  
A BILLION TO  
ORGANIZE...

TODAY, I HAVE  
TO PICK THE  
INVITATIONS FOR  
THE WEDDING.  
THERE ARE SO  
MANY KINDS,  
BUT I'D LIKE  
SOMETHING  
SIMPLE.

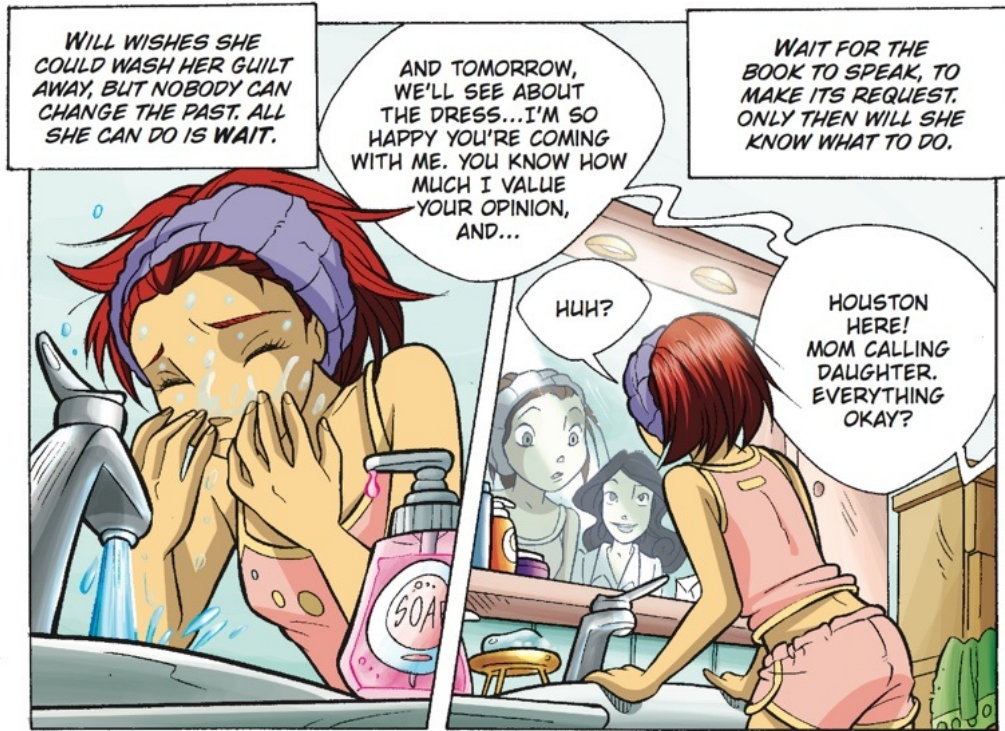
I WISH  
GETTING  
YOU OUT OF  
THERE WAS  
SIMPLE...

HEE-HEE! I FEEL  
ALL JUMPY, LIKE  
A LITTLE GIRL!

I'M SUCH A  
STUPID GIRL!  
HOW COULD I  
UNDERESTIMATE  
CEDRIC?  
WHY WASN'T I  
SUSPICIOUS?

UM...  
YOU HAVEN'T  
TOUCHED YOUR  
BREAKFAST.  
NOT HUNGRY?

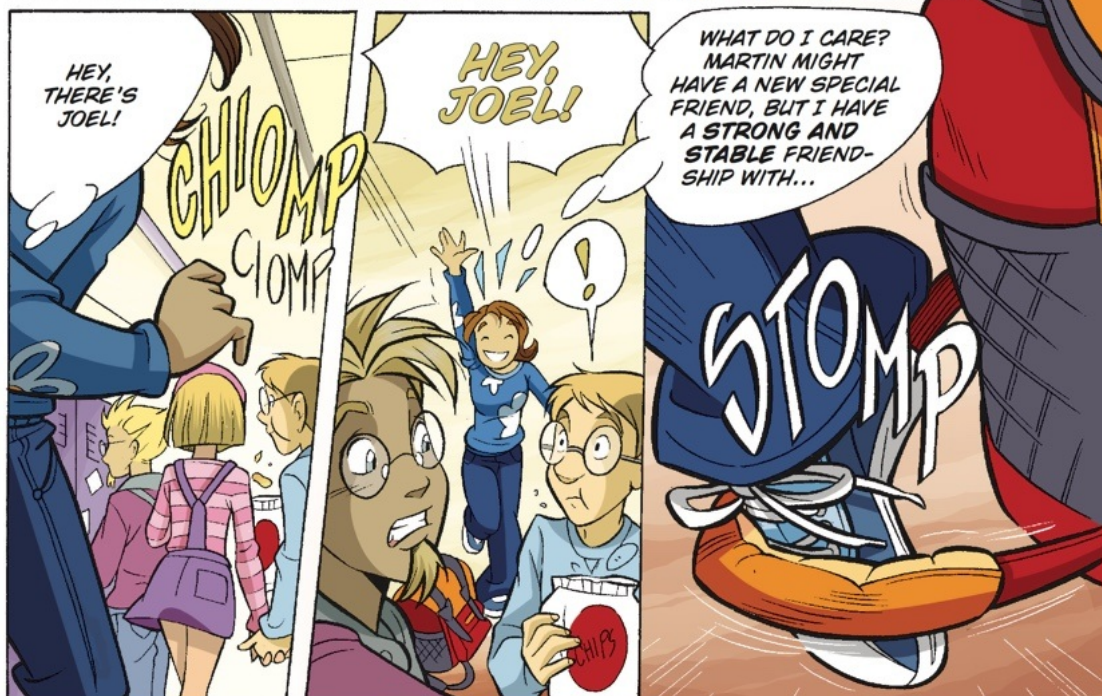
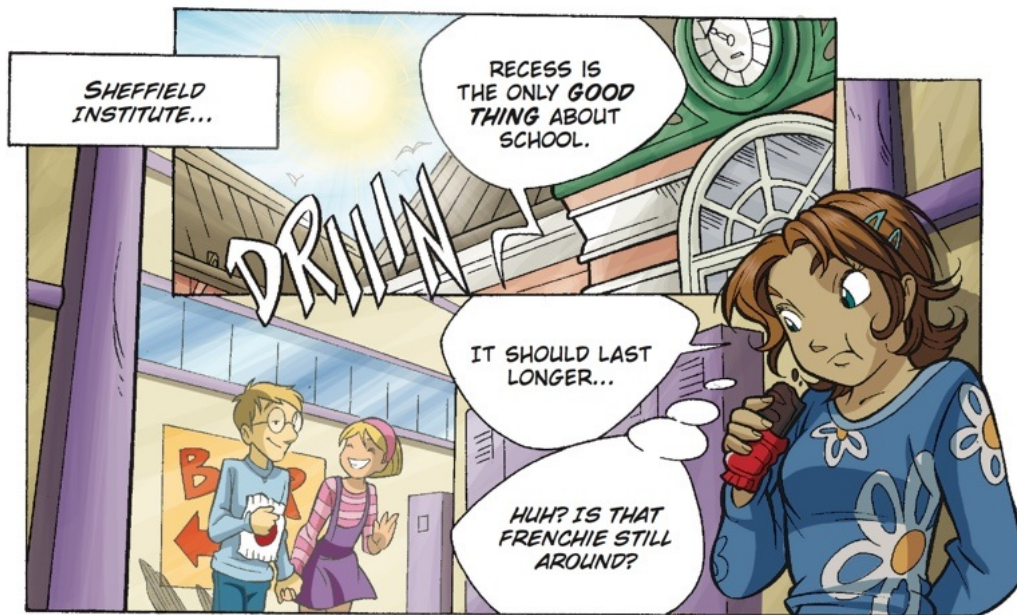




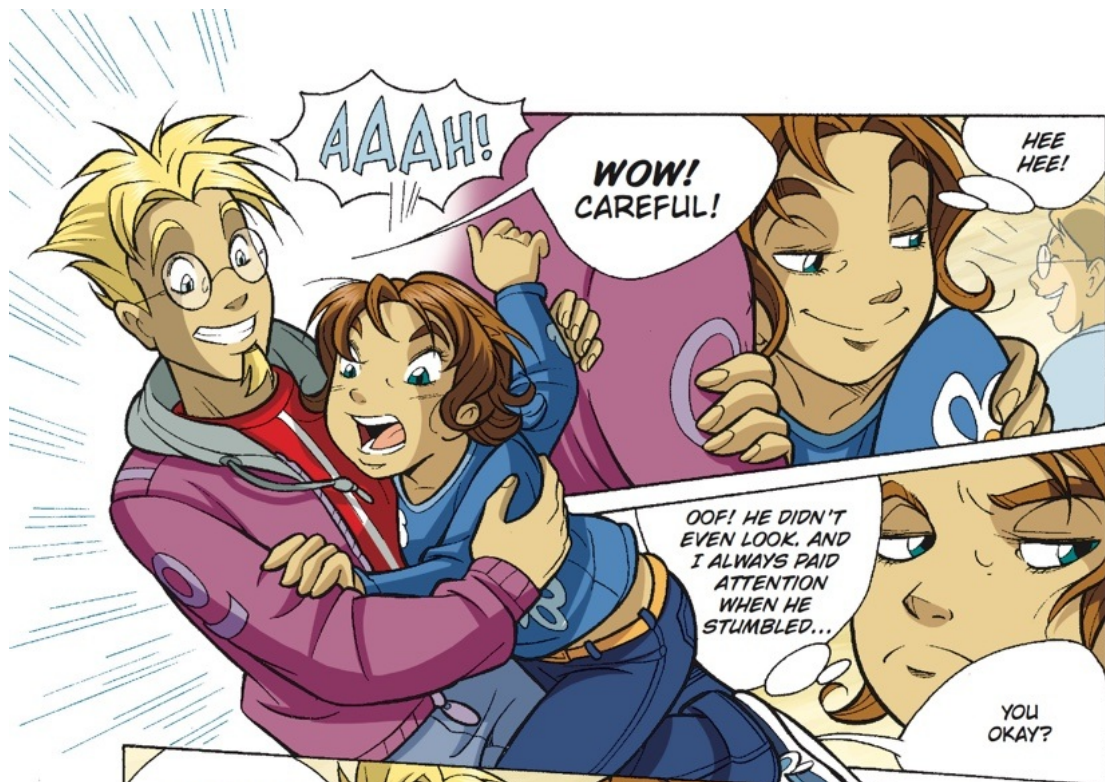




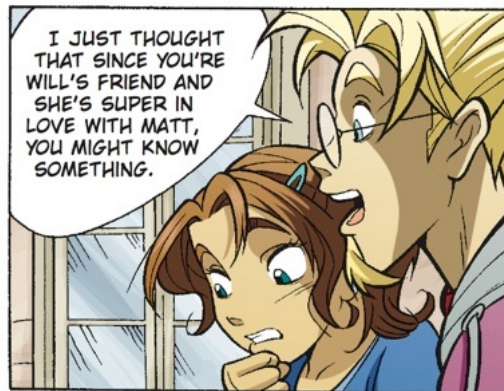
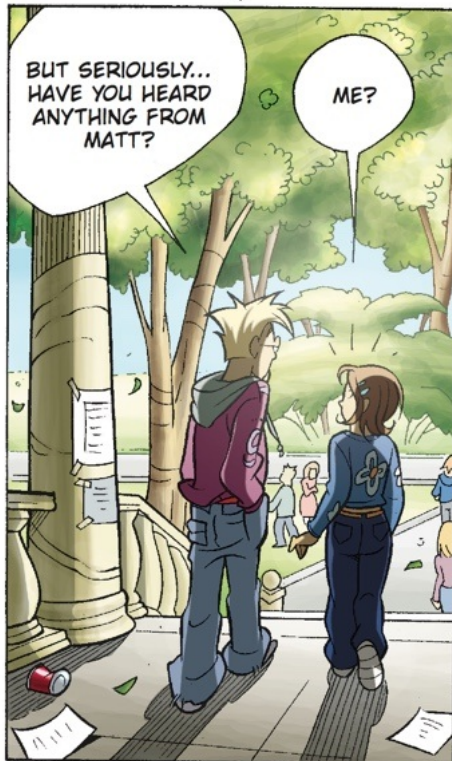




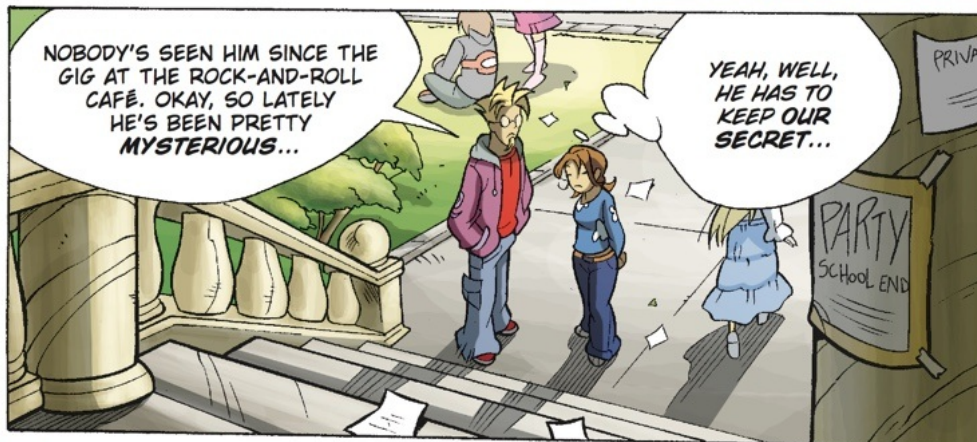




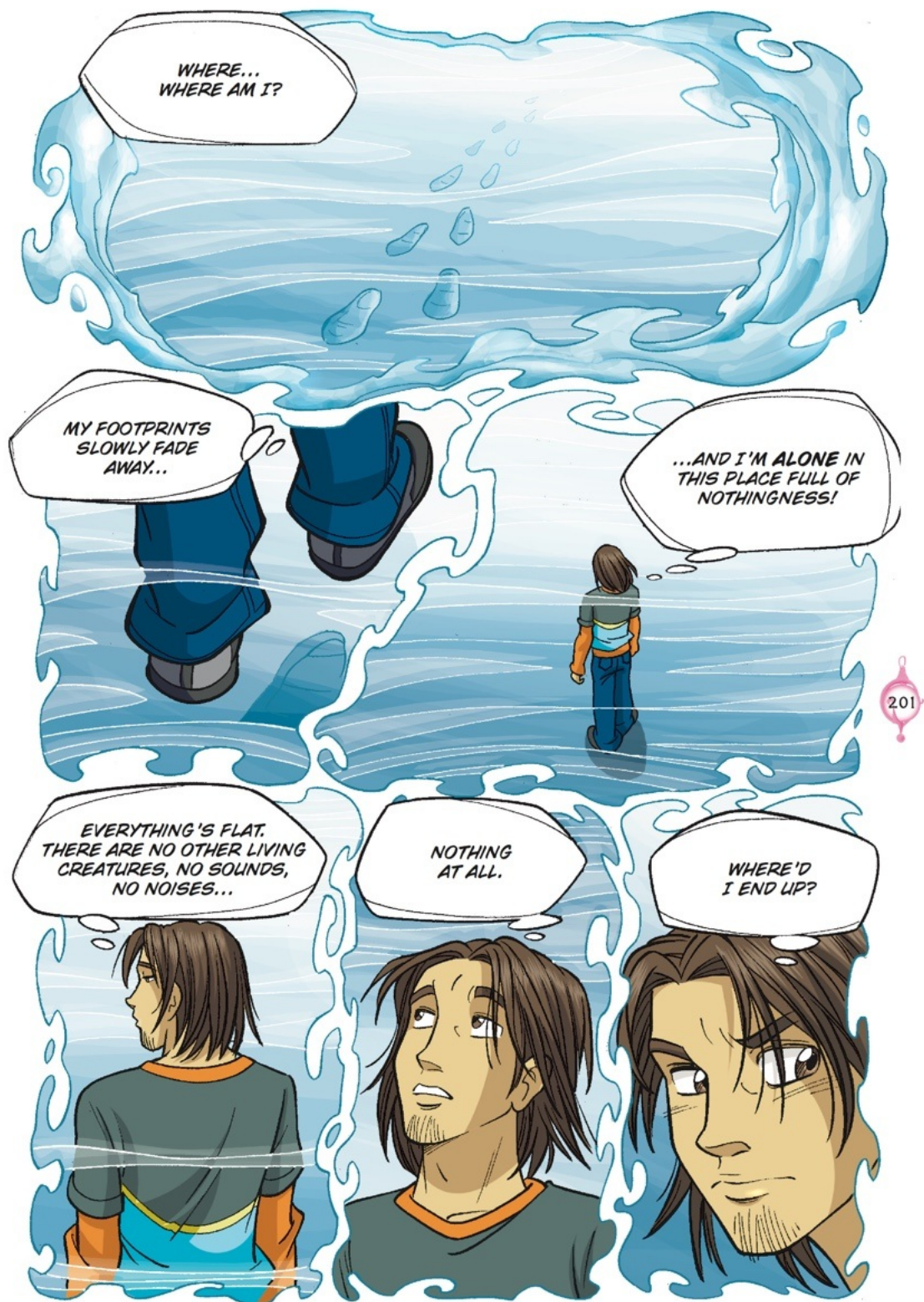




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HOW LONG  
HAVE I BEEN HERE?  
MINUTES? HOURS?  
DAYS?

WHERE ARE YOU, WILL?  
AT TIMES, I FEEL LIKE  
I'M GOING CRAZY WITH  
LONELINESS...

...AND OTHERS,  
I FEEL LIKE I'M  
BEING WATCHED...

...LIKE NOW!

AAAH!  
WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

ANSWER! I FEEL  
EYES FIXED ON ME,  
FOLLOWING ME...

I KNOW YOU'RE  
THERE, SOMEWHERE IN  
THE EMPTINESS... BUT  
THE CRAZIEST THING...

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

...IS THAT YOUR  
PRESENCE IS  
THE ONLY THING  
KEEPING ME  
COMPANY.





I LIKE YOUR COMPANY!

MEANWHILE, IN CEDRIC'S BOOKSHOP, SHARING THE SAME SPACE WITH ORUBE IS BECOMING A TEST OF STAMINA.



YOU'RE NOT FUNNY. GET USED TO HAVING ME AROUND, CEDRIC.

OH, LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE.

ORUBE HAS BEEN WAITING AGES FOR THE BOOK TO MAKE CONTACT WITH CEDRIC...



HMM. I MUST EARN BACK HER TRUST, OR I MIGHT LOSE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

...AND CEDRIC HAS BEEN WAITING AGES FOR THE BOOK TO TALK TO HIM NOW THAT THEIR DEAL IS SEALED.

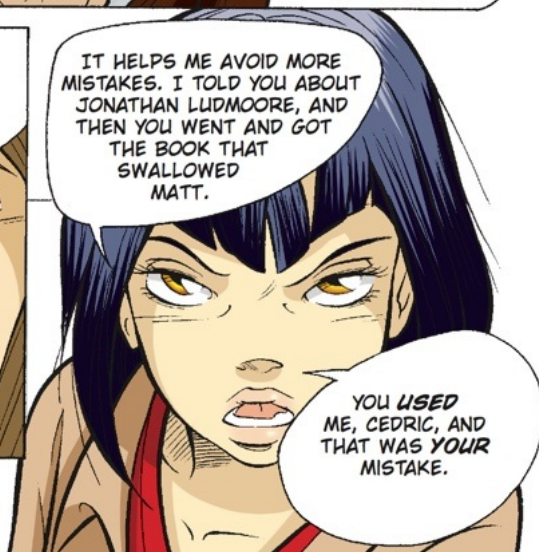


REMEMBER THAT I'M HERE WAITING FOR THE BOOK TO SPEAK, NOT FOR CHIT-CHAT.

AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE BOOK SAYS...



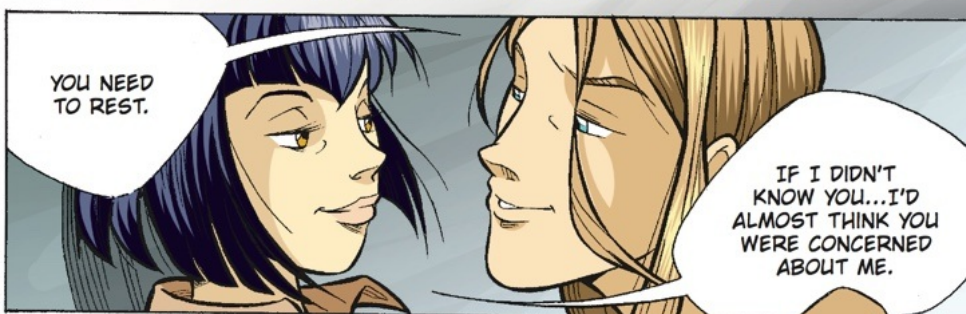
...SO WE COULD AT LEAST BE CIVIL, DON'T YOU THINK? YOUR HOSTILITY DOESN'T HELP.



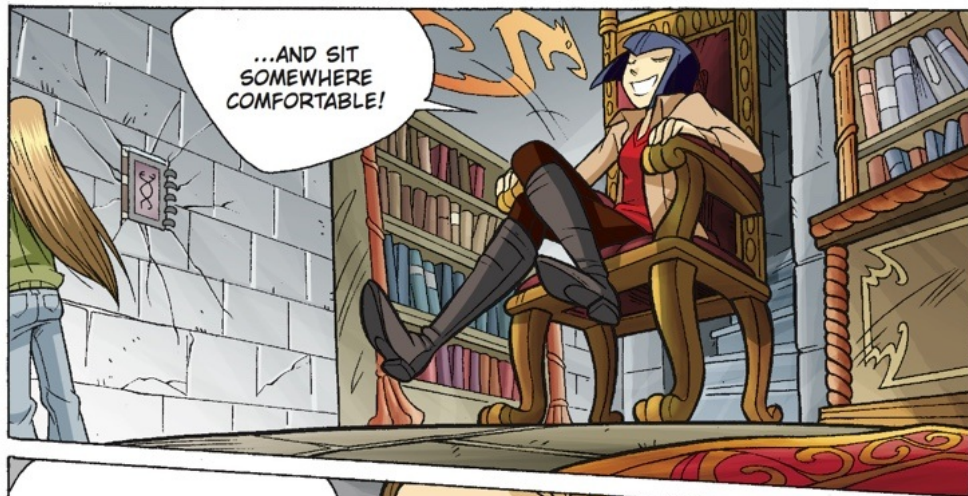
IT HELPS ME AVOID MORE MISTAKES. I TOLD YOU ABOUT JONATHAN LUDMOORE, AND THEN YOU WENT AND GOT THE BOOK THAT SWALLOWED MATT.

YOU USED ME, CEDRIC, AND THAT WAS YOUR MISTAKE.









...AND SIT  
SOMEWHERE  
COMFORTABLE!



GOOD. I HAVE TO  
BE CAREFUL. IT'S  
IMPORTANT THAT  
SHE TRUSTS  
ME...



MAY  
I OFFER  
YOU SOME  
HOT TEA?

HMM...  
WHY NOT.



THE **EARTHLINGS'** GOOD  
MANNERS ALWAYS WEAR US  
DOWN. YOU'RE INTEGRATING  
PERFECTLY INTO THIS  
WORLD.

**NEVER SAY THAT!**  
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE  
AND NEVER WILL!



IT'S A  
**HORRIBLE**  
**PRISON**  
FOR ME.

I'VE BEEN  
THROUGH IT  
MYSELF. YOU  
KNOW THAT...





AND I ASSURE YOU,  
YOU'LL LEARN TO ACCEPT  
THE SITUATION. IT'S  
NOT SO TERRIBLE  
DOWN HERE.



BUT IT'S  
AN **ALIEN**  
WORLD!  
HOW CAN  
I ACCEPT  
THAT?



WE ARE THE ALIENS.  
ONCE YOU GET  
THAT, YOU'LL FEEL  
LESS ALONE.



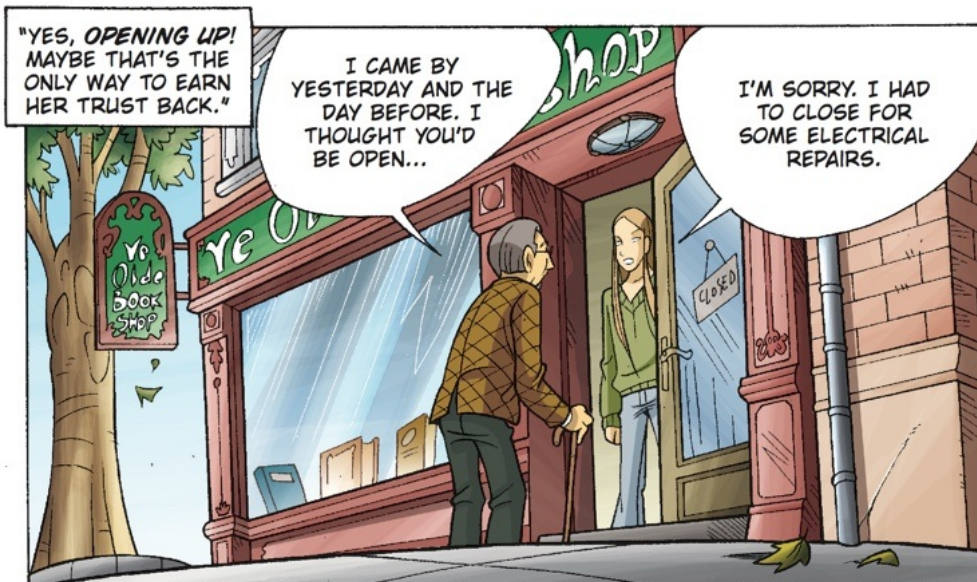
I...I'M FINE  
WITH BEING  
**ALONE.**



YOU'D BETTER  
GET THE DOOR...  
IT WAS WISE TO  
KEEP THE SHOP  
CLOSED FOR  
A WHILE.

"BUT YOUR CUSTOMERS  
WILL GET FED UP IF  
YOU NEVER **OPEN!**"







BUT HE IS AFRAID OF ORUBE. SOMETHING ABOUT HER FRIGHTENS HIM. HE BLAMES HER INTELLIGENCE, HER EYES, SO DIFFERENT AND PIERCING...

HE'S BLIND TO THE FACT THAT HIS FEELINGS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS EVIL PLANS!

SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION...  
OH!

SHE'S DIFFERENT.  
SHE'S NOT HUMAN.

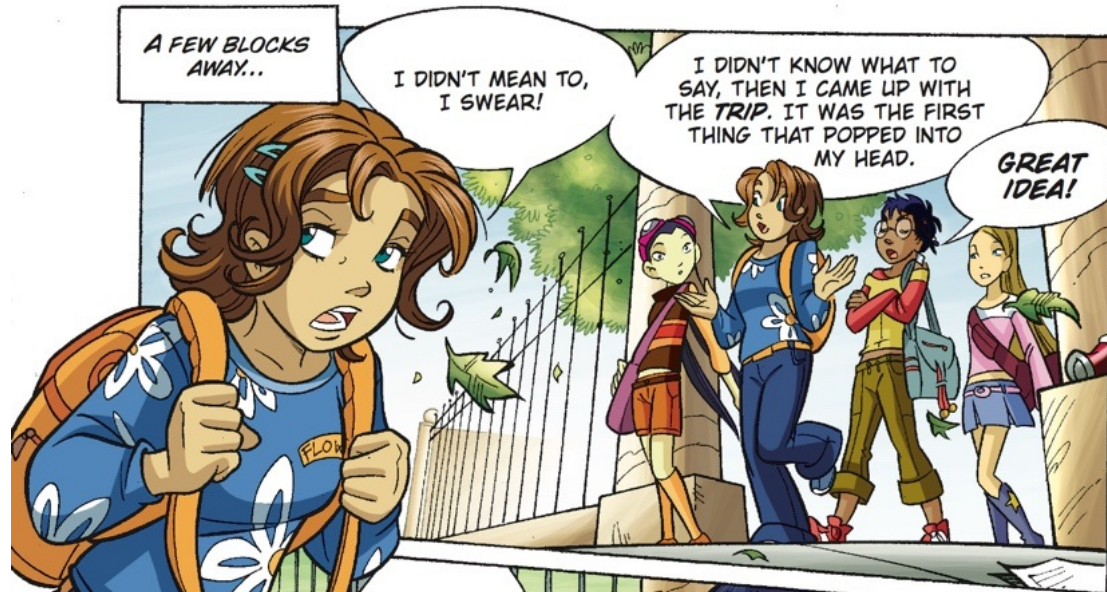
SHE'S FINALLY ASLEEP.

FUNNY. WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP, SHE SEEMS HARMLESS.

SHE LOOKS SO SWEET...

...AND HELPLESS!





A FEW BLOCKS  
AWAY...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO,  
I SWEAR!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO  
SAY, THEN I CAME UP WITH  
THE *TRIP*. IT WAS THE FIRST  
THING THAT POPPED INTO  
MY HEAD.

GREAT  
IDEA!



I TRIPPED,  
AND THEN...

LEAPING  
INTO JOEL'S  
ARMS TO TALK  
ABOUT MATT  
IS THE WORST  
THING YOU  
COULD'VE  
DONE.



DO YOU  
REALIZE  
YOU JUST  
COMPLICATED  
THINGS? AS IF  
THEY WEREN'T  
BAD ENOUGH  
ALREADY!

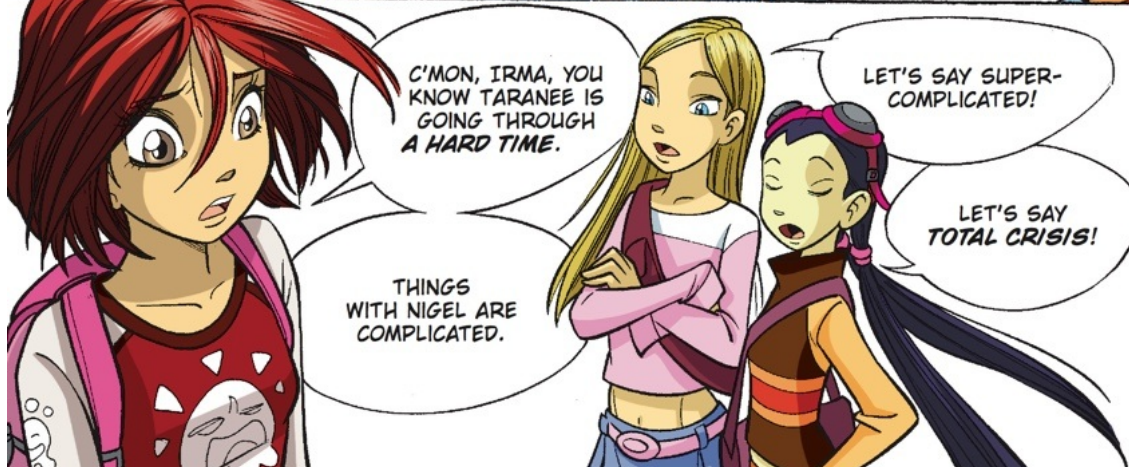


NOW JOEL  
THINKS MATT  
IS TRAVELING  
SOMEWHERE.

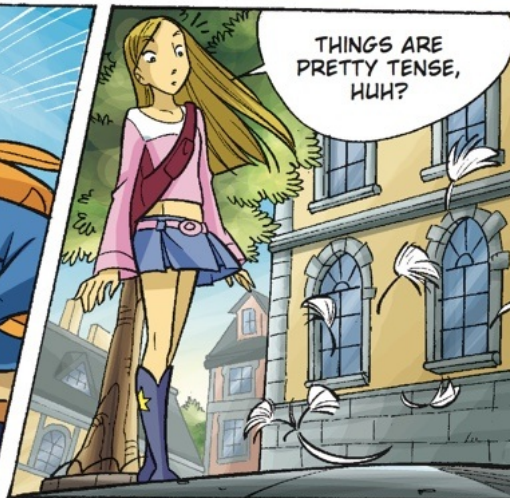
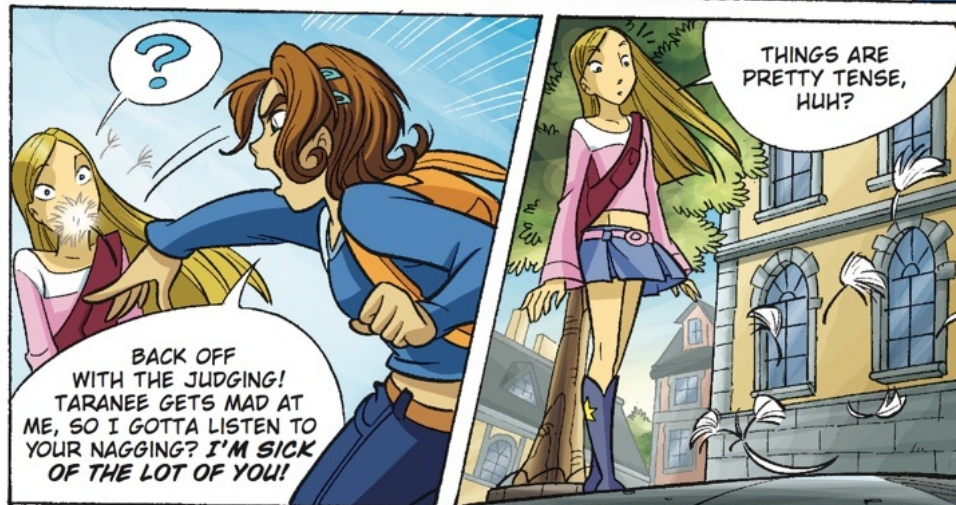
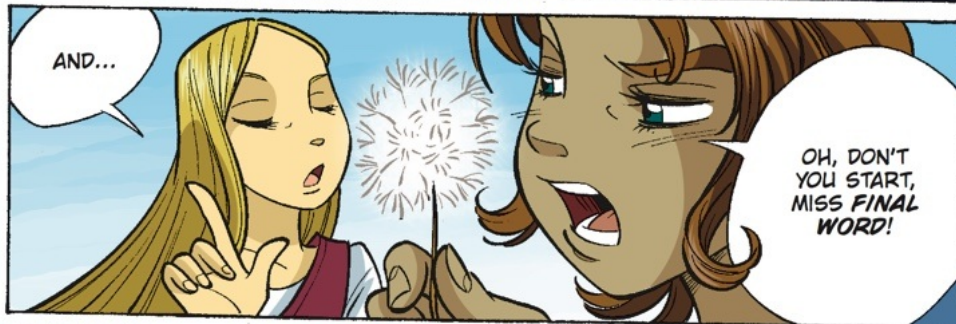
UH-OH!  
MISS COOK  
IS GRUMPY  
TODAY.

NOW SHE ONLY  
GETS ALONG WITH  
"SNAKE JENSEN"  
AND CAN'T PUT UP WITH  
HER OLD FRIENDS'  
MISTAKES!











THAT AFTERNOON,  
THE HALE RESIDENCE.

IT'S TRUE, WILL.  
WE'RE ALL TENSE—  
YOU MORE  
THAN ANYONE,  
OBVIOUSLY!

WELL, YOU KNOW, MY  
BOYFRIEND'S TRAPPED  
IN A MAGICAL BOOK, AND  
IF THAT'S NOT BAD ENOUGH,  
SOON EVERYONE  
WILL THINK HE'S  
DISAPPEARED...

THAT'S WHY  
WE'RE GOING  
TO SEND A NICE  
**E-MAIL** TO ALL  
HIS FRIENDS,  
SIGNED BY  
MATT.

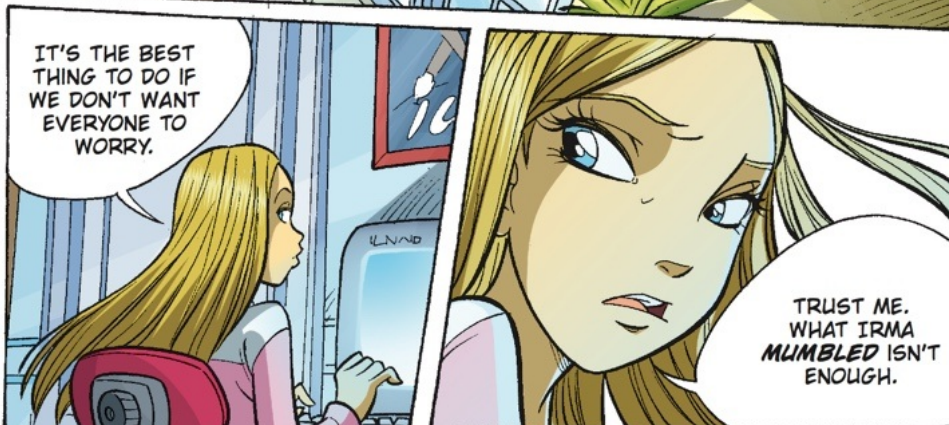
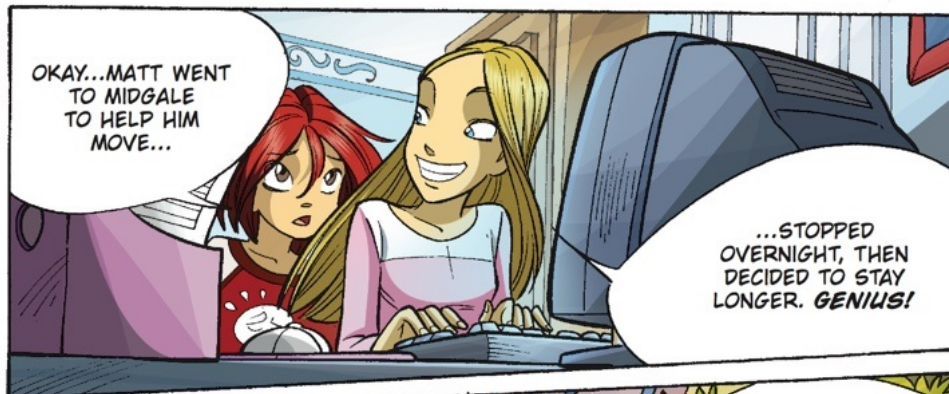
I'M NOT SO  
SURE IT'S A  
GOOD IDEA.

AU CONTRAIRE.  
IT'S THE PERFECT WAY  
TO REASSURE EVERYONE.  
LET'S WRITE THAT MATT  
MET AN OLD PAL...

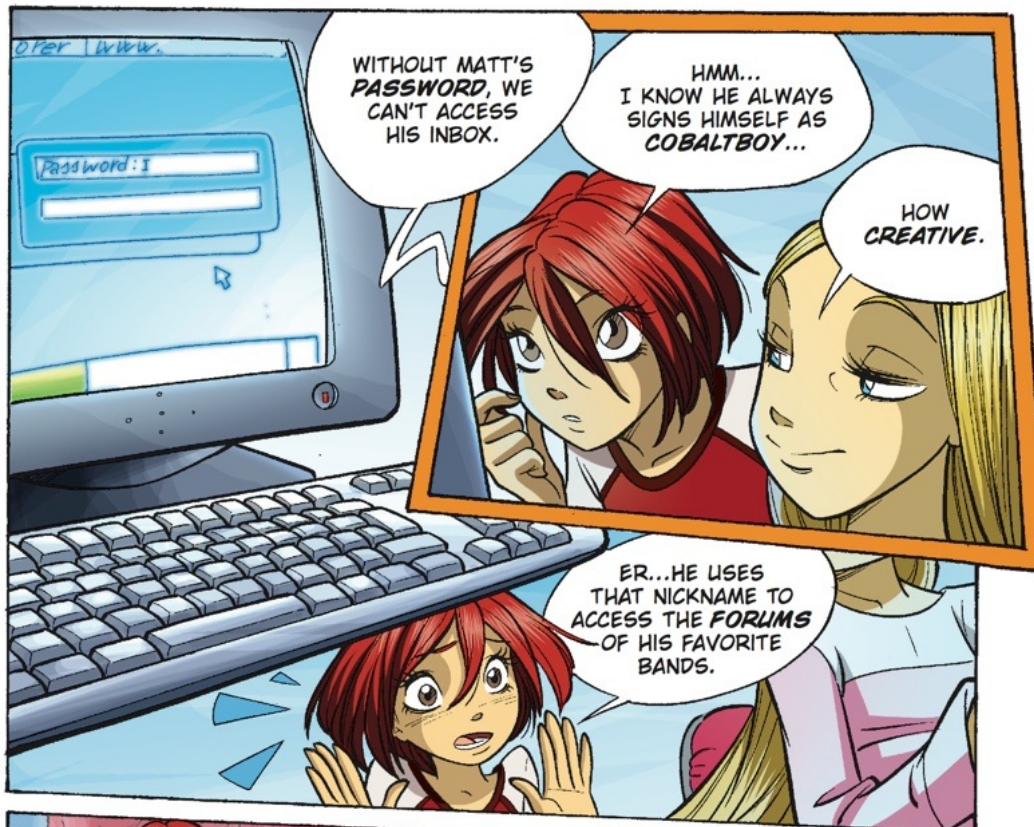
HMM,  
WHAT SHALL  
WE CALL HIM...?  
STEVEN?

ciao gente,  
ho incontrato un vecchio  
amico, forse ve lo ricordate  
Si chiama

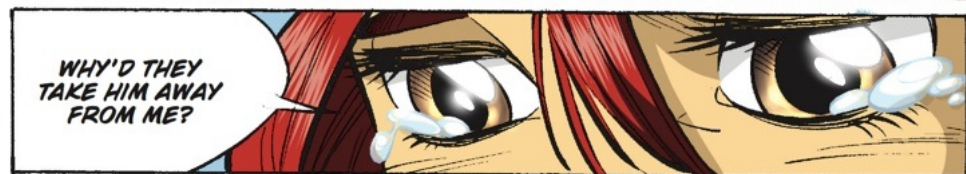
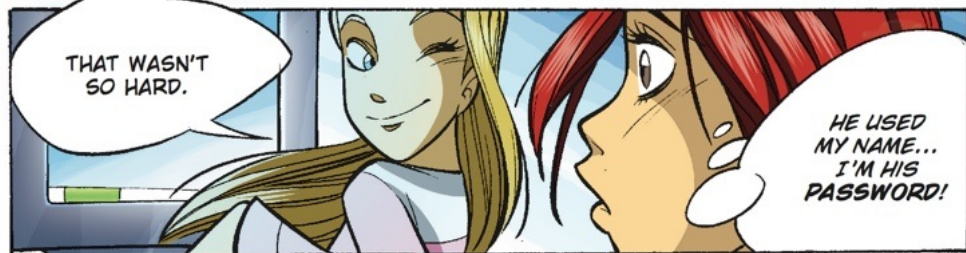




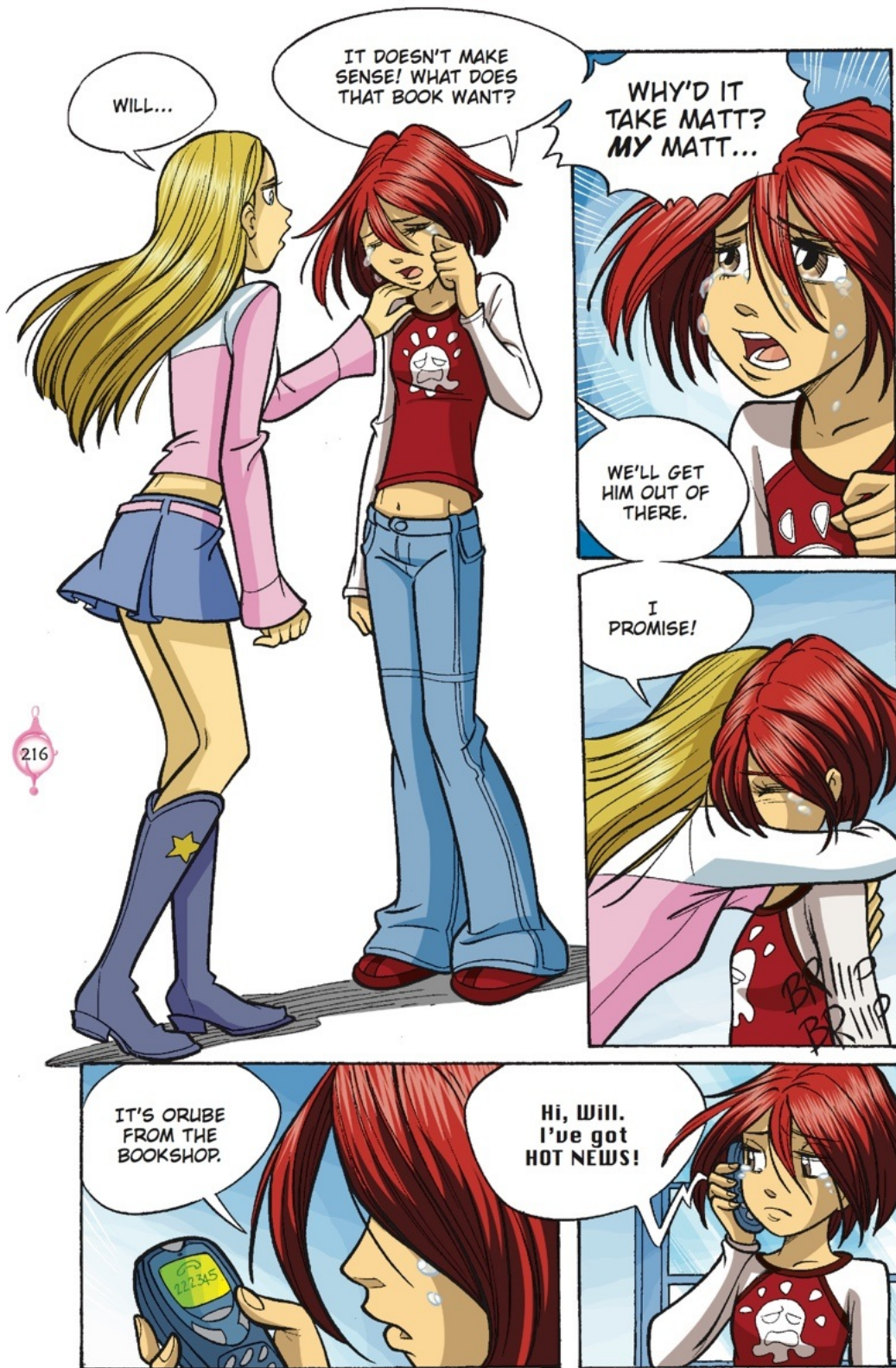




























I'VE  
ALWAYS HATED  
RIDDLES.

WE JUST HAD  
TO GET THE BOOK  
THAT LIKES TO PLAY  
**MYSTERIOUS!**

IT'S  
NONSENSE.

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IT **MUST** MEAN  
SOMETHING...  
BUT WHAT?



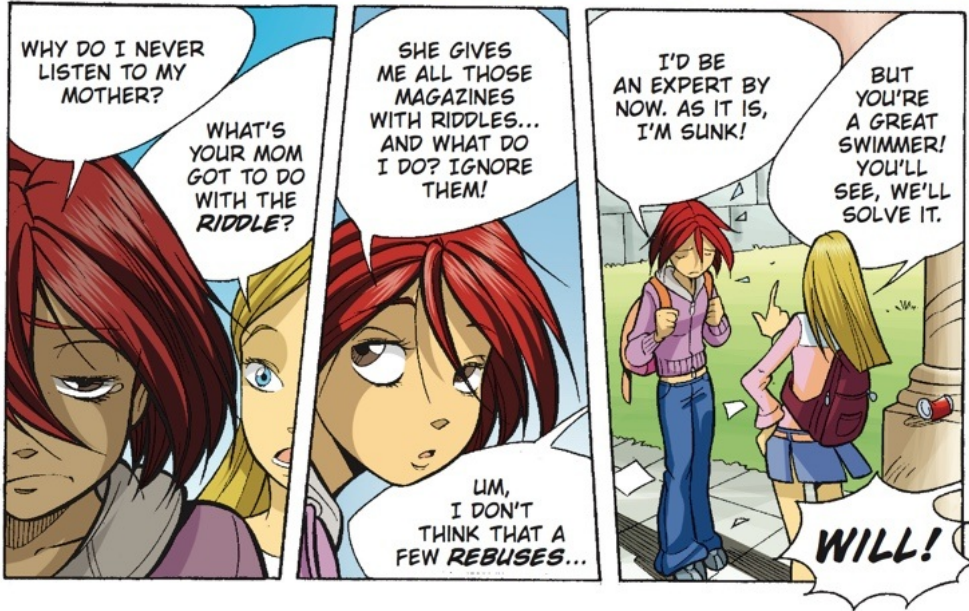
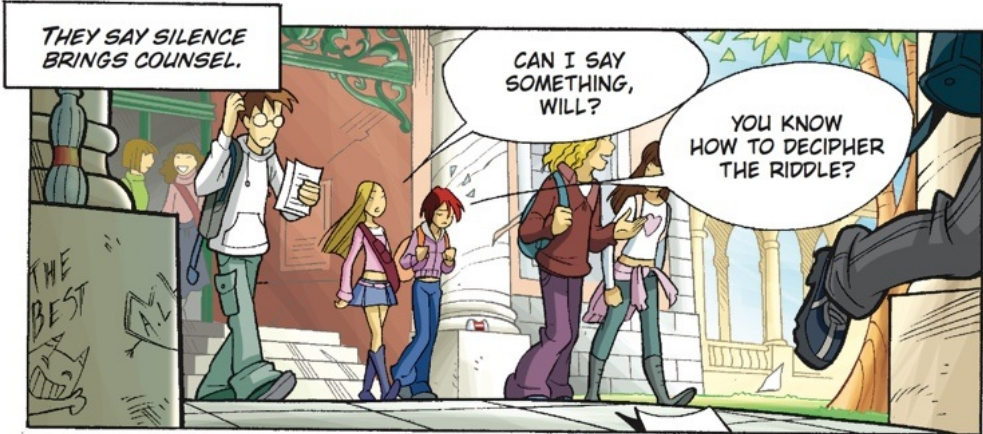
"THE GLEAM IN THE  
LIQUID ABYSS..."

"... LIGHTS UP THE VOICES  
OF THE ENCHANTRESSES."

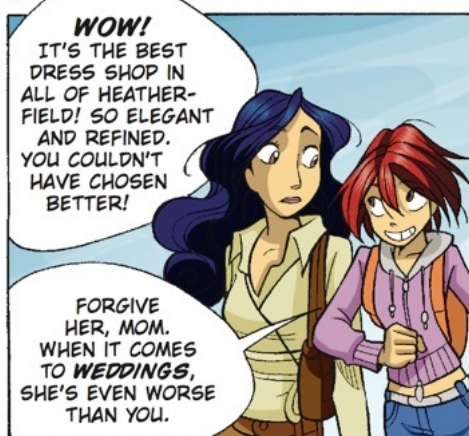


**MYSTERIOUS INDEED...**

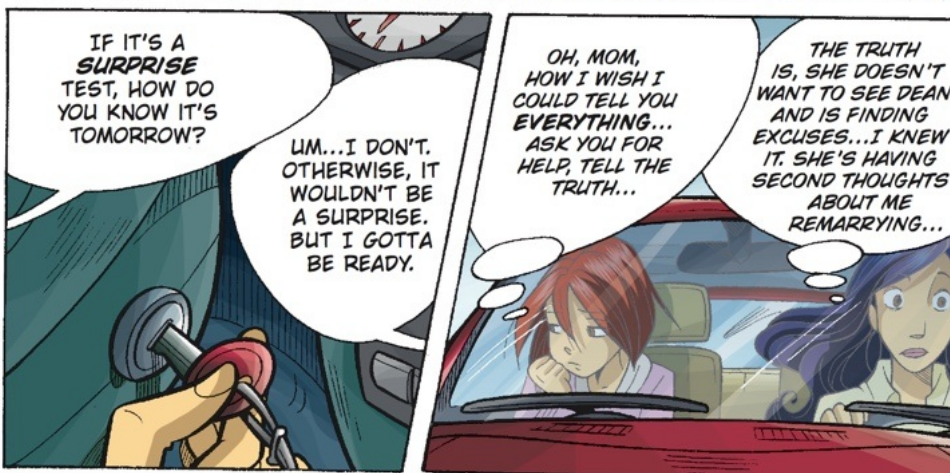
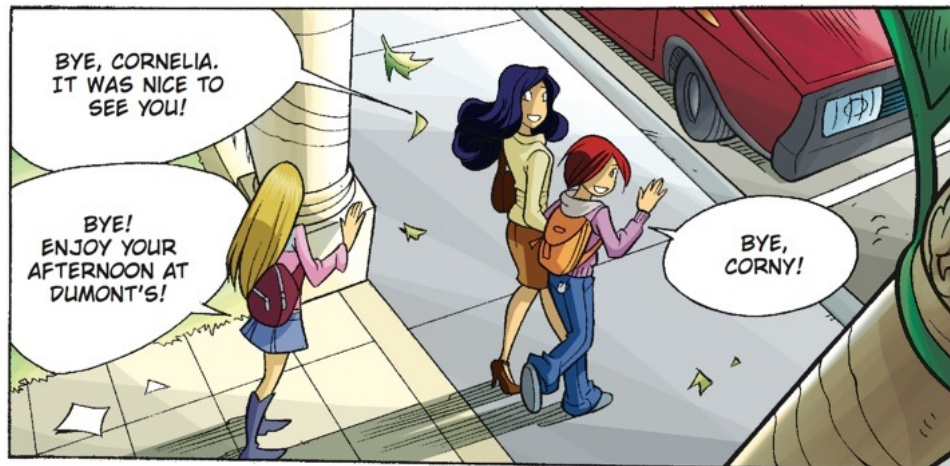




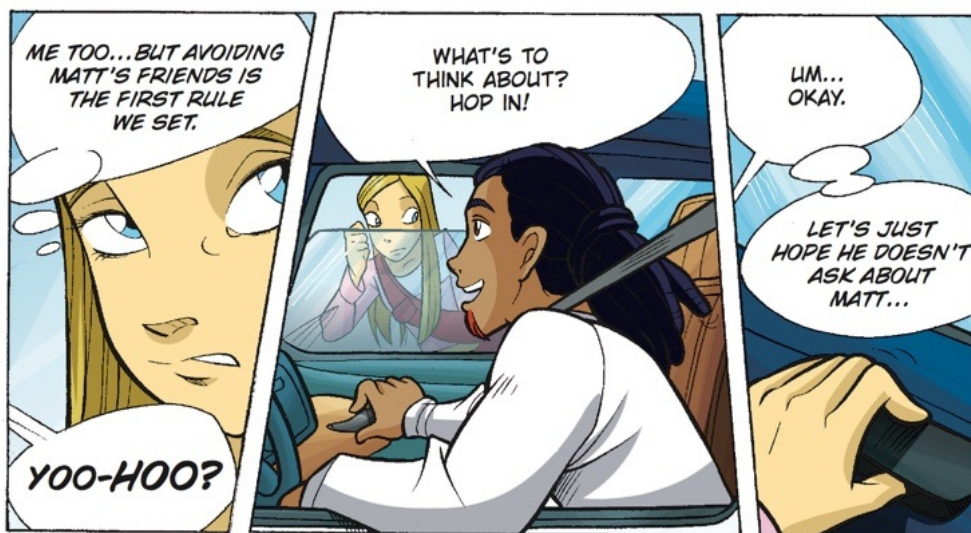
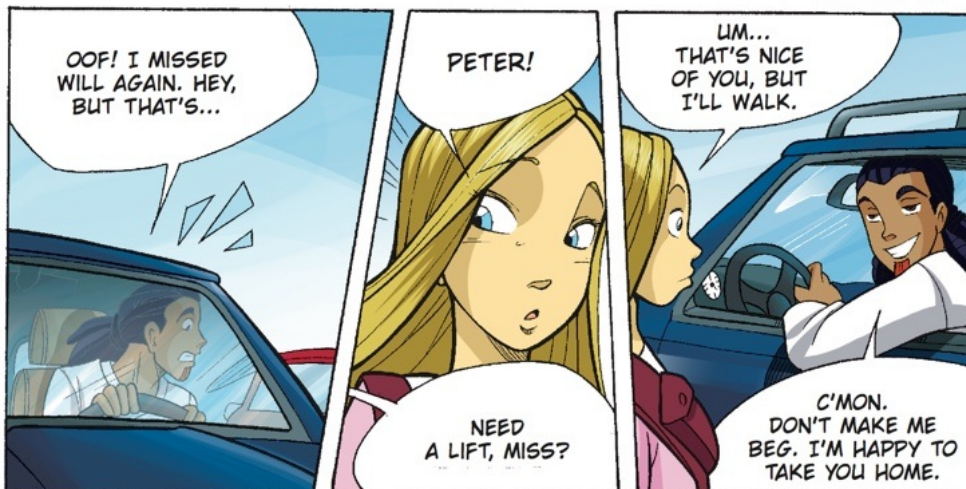
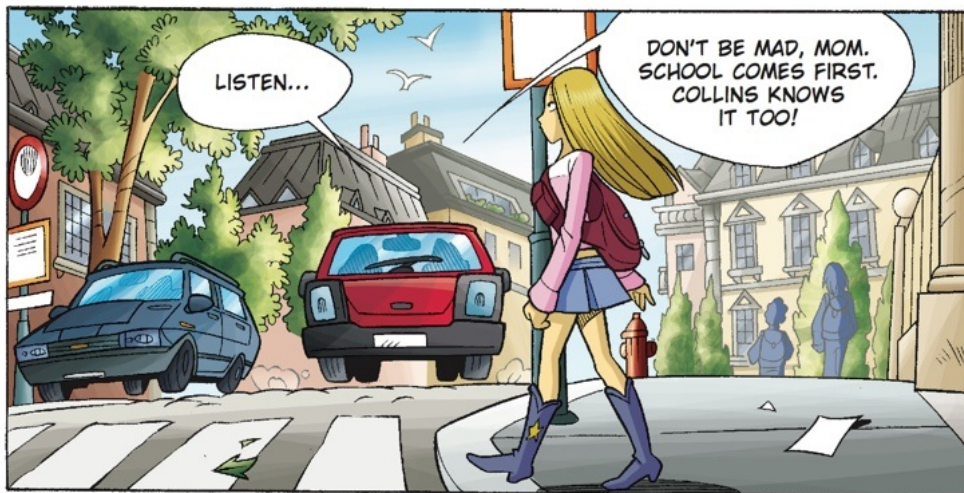




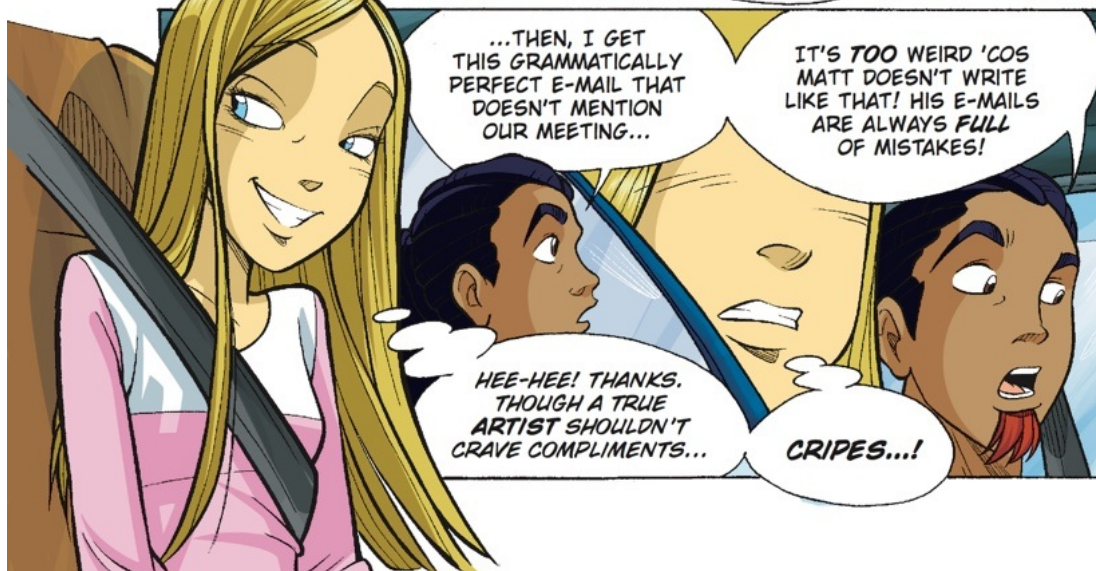
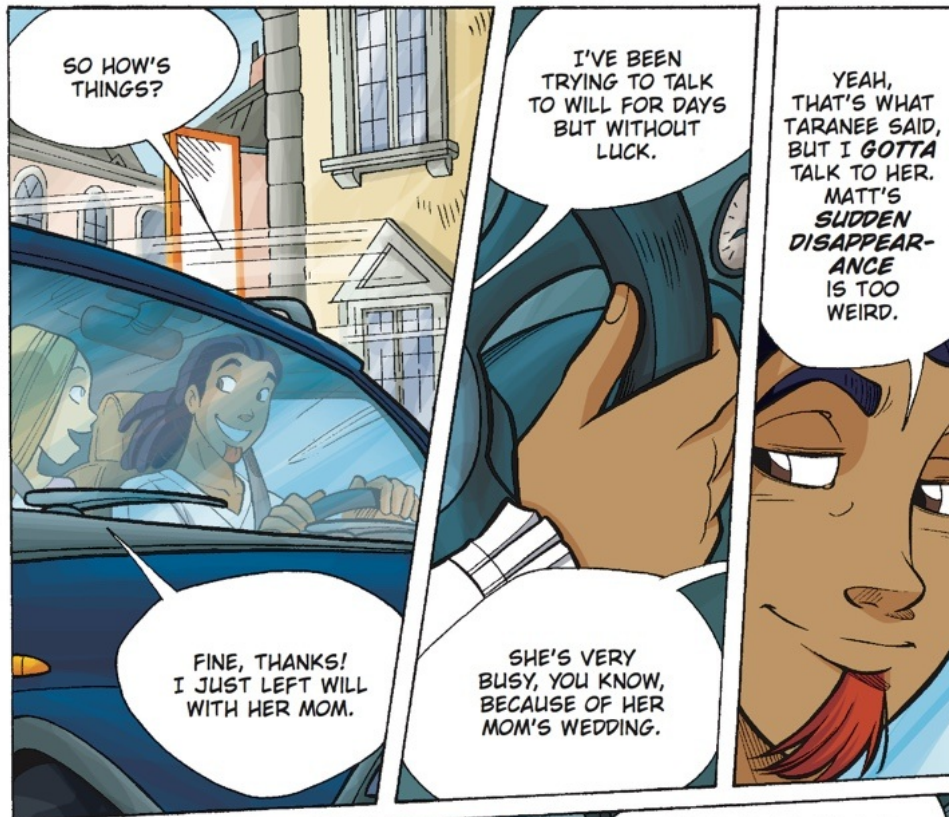




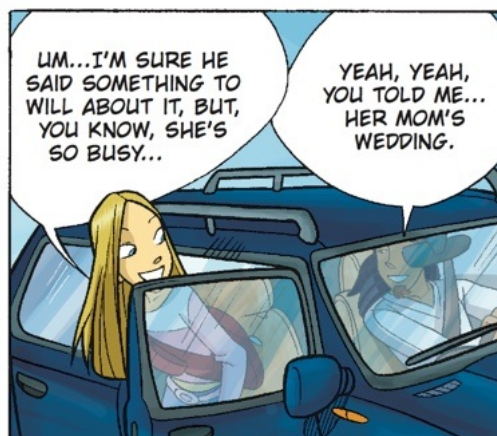
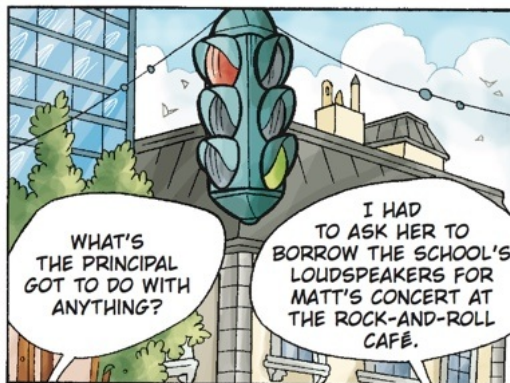




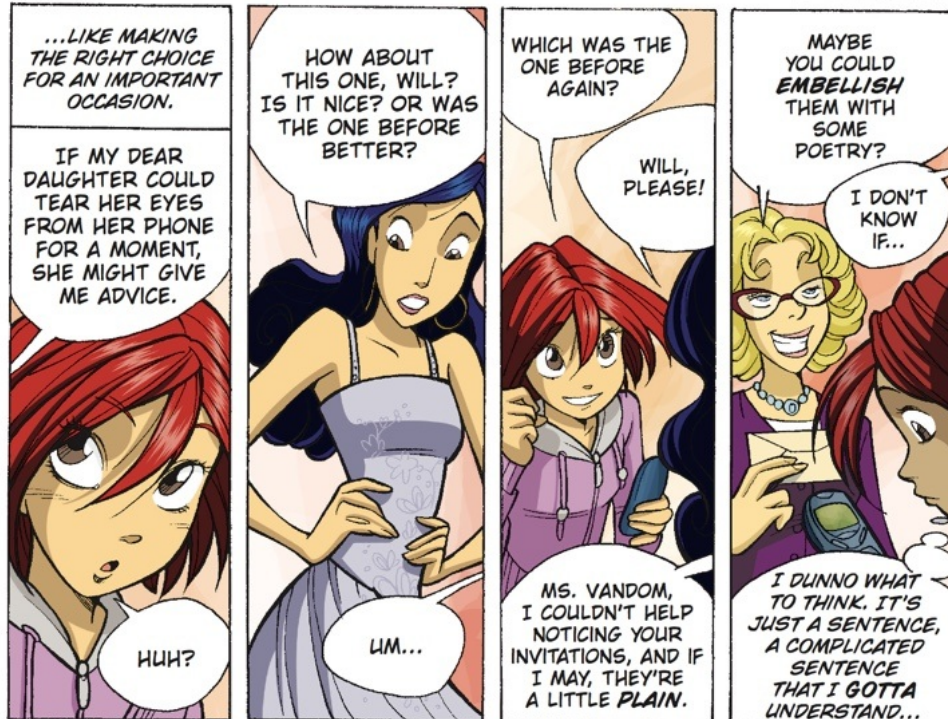


















A LITTLE  
LATER...

I'VE SEEN TOO MANY  
DRESSES FOR TODAY.  
MS. DUMONT IS A  
BIT ANNOYING. SHE  
SAYS THEY'RE ALL  
WONDERFUL!

WHAT AN AMAZING  
DISCOVERY!  
THERE MUST BE  
A CONNECTION  
BETWEEN LOWITT  
AND THE PLACE  
WE GOTTA  
FIND.

PLANET MOM  
TO DAUGHTER!  
ARE YOU  
LISTENING?

OF COURSE!  
THEY WERE ALL  
WONDERFUL!

DON'T YOU  
START TOO!  
AT THOSE  
PRICES,  
MY PJ'S  
WOULD BE  
TOO.

"I THINK  
I SHOULD TALK  
TO DEAN BEFORE  
PICKING ONE."

I'LL  
TAKE YOU  
HOME.

CAS OH, THANKS, DARLING,  
BUT I CAN'T GO HOME  
UNTIL SIX!  
HERE'S YOUR  
CHANGE.

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...

CASHIER

GOOD-BYE!

...

UM...YOU KNOW WHAT, MOM?  
I'LL STUDY LATER. RIGHT  
NOW I REALLY WANNA SEE  
MY FAVORITE PROF!

WHO BETTER  
THAN HIM TO TELL  
ME ABOUT LOWITT?

YOU SAID  
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO  
COME...OH WELL. I MUST  
REMEMBER TO *IGNORE*  
YOUR MOOD SWINGS!



IN THE MEANTIME...

DON'T YOU GET IT? IT'S A HUGE MESS!

CALM DOWN, CORNY. START OVER—I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD!

WHAT'S NOT TO UNDERSTAND? PETER'S SUSPICIOUS, AND THE EQUIPMENT HE HAS TO RETURN IS IN MATT'S HOUSE!

AND YOU'RE ALL WOUND UP. AFTER ALL, YOU WERE WITH PETER...

STOP IT, HAY LIN. I'M BEING SERIOUS!

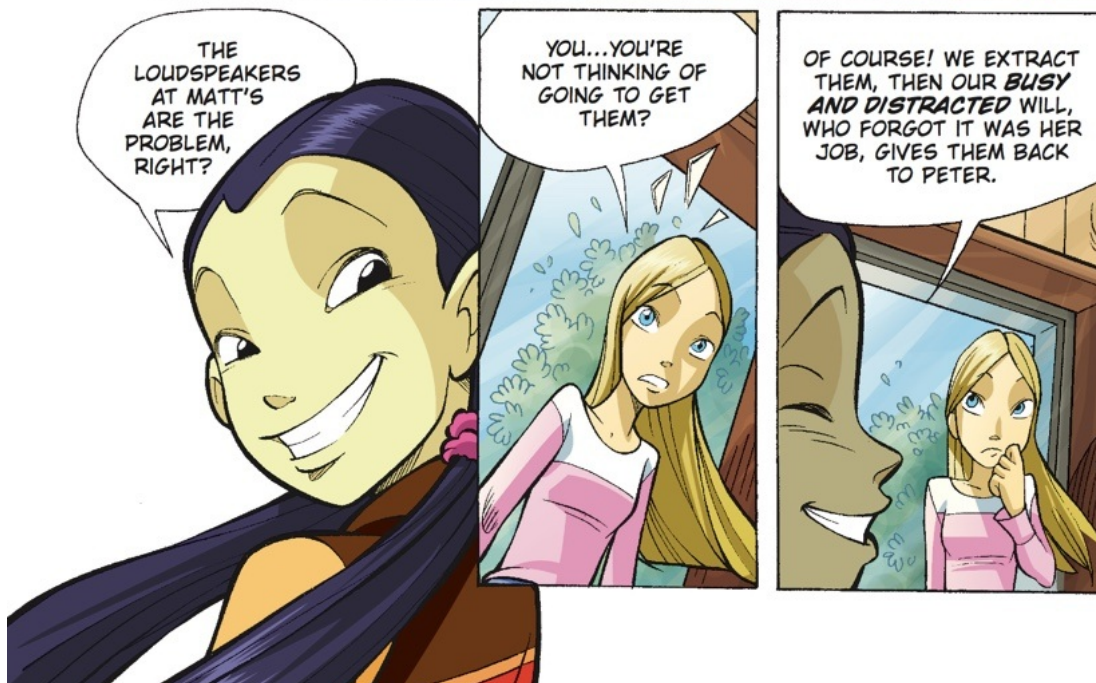
I TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM BUT....

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS ANYWAY?

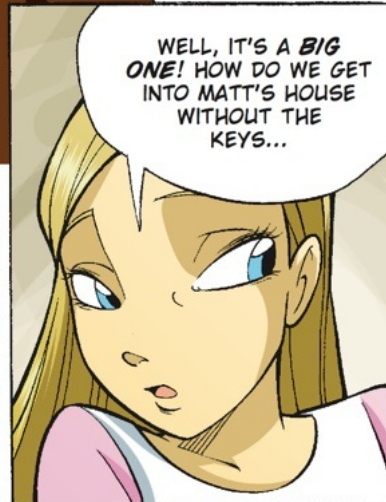
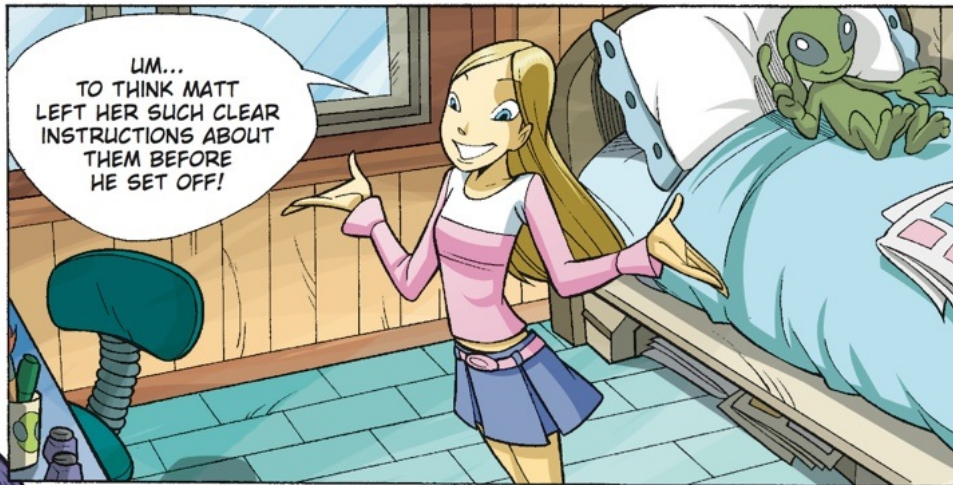
WAIT. DON'T TELL ME. TARANEE'S AT DANCE CLASS? SHE PRACTICALLY LIVES AT JENSEN'S SCHOOL!

DON'T BE SO GRUMPY. YOU KNOW THEY'RE REHEARSING LIKE CRAZY THESE DAYS.

















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SOMETIMES  
THE ANSWERS ARE  
UNDER OUR NOSES...

THOMAS LOWITT  
LIVED IN OUR CITY  
AT THE END  
OF THE 19TH  
CENTURY.



WE DESPERATELY LOOK  
FOR THEM, HOPING  
A LIGHT WILL CLEAR  
THE DARKNESS...



HE WAS INCREDIBLY  
SUCCESSFUL, BUT BEFORE  
BECOMING A FAMOUS POET,  
HE WAS THE CUSTODIAN  
OF THE LIGHTHOUSE.

AT LIGHTHOUSE  
CAPE?

...THEN, THE ANSWERS  
COME SUDDENLY!

WELL, BACK IN THE DAY,  
IT WASN'T THERE, BUT IN  
A SMALL BAY CALLED  
SIREN ISLAND.



I'M GONNA  
FAINT!

ARE  
YOU OKAY,  
WILL?

YEAH,  
IT'S NOTHING!  
MR. COLLINS'S  
STORIES ARE  
ALWAYS SO  
EXCITING...



CARRY ON!

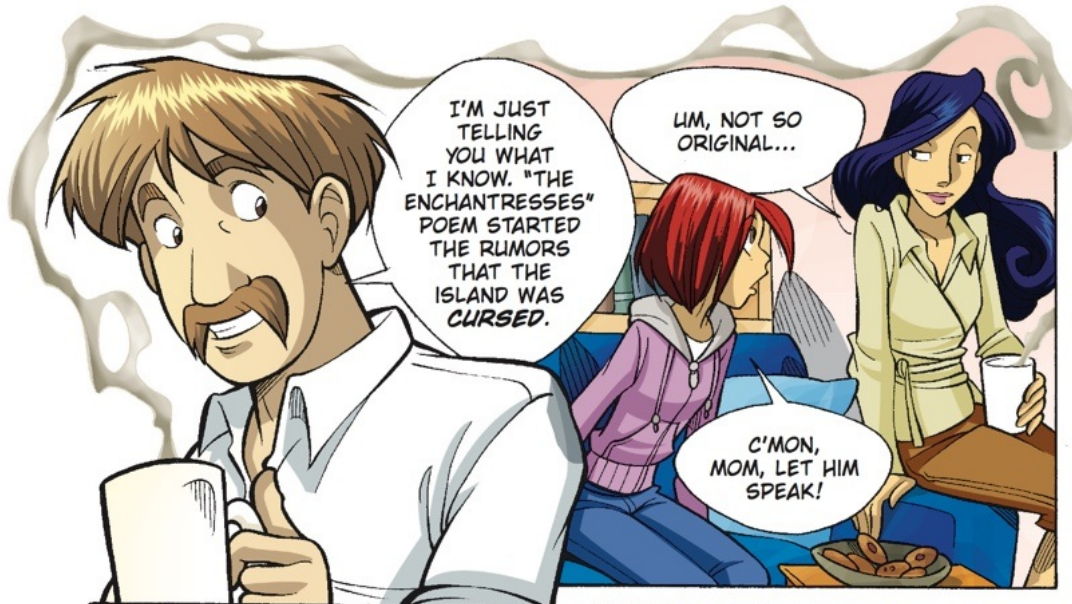
SIREN ISLAND WASN'T  
VERY POPULAR, AND IT  
DIDN'T HAVE MANY  
CUSTODIANS.

ANOTHER  
CURSE?



THANKS,  
MOM.





I'M JUST TELLING YOU WHAT I KNOW. "THE ENCHANTRESSES" POEM STARTED THE RUMORS THAT THE ISLAND WAS CURSED.

UM, NOT SO ORIGINAL...

C'MON, MOM, LET HIM SPEAK!



WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO INTO POETRY!

ACTUALLY, MAYBE I COULD TALK ABOUT LOWITT IN CLASS TOO...

PROF!



OKAY, I'LL CONTINUE. THEY SAY THE ISLAND WAS INHABITED BY STRANGE CREATURES, BUT THAT'S ALL WE KNOW.



AND ANYWAY, THE ISLAND DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE.

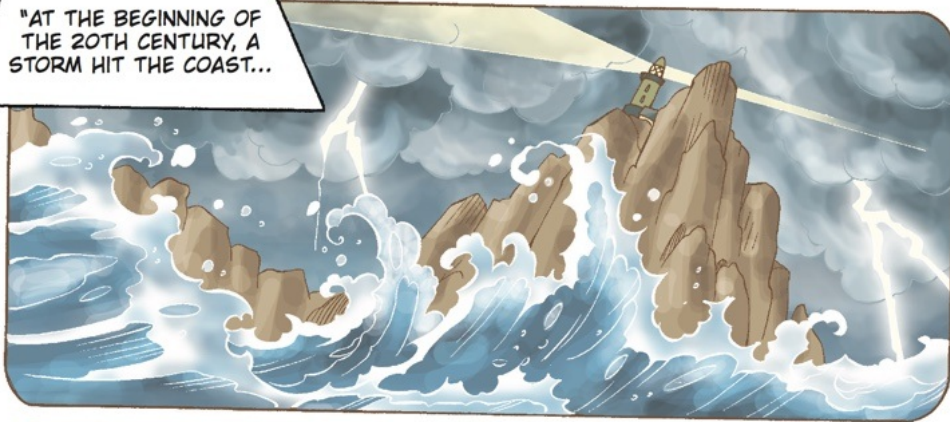
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



WELL...YOU'RE RIGHT. IT DOESN'T EXIST *ON THE SURFACE*! YOU CAN STILL SEE SOME ROCKS, BUT...



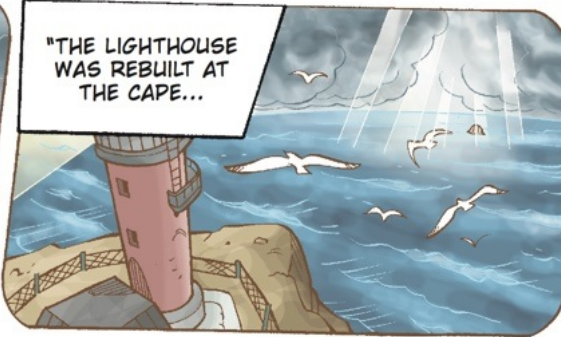
"AT THE BEGINNING OF  
THE 20TH CENTURY, A  
STORM HIT THE COAST...



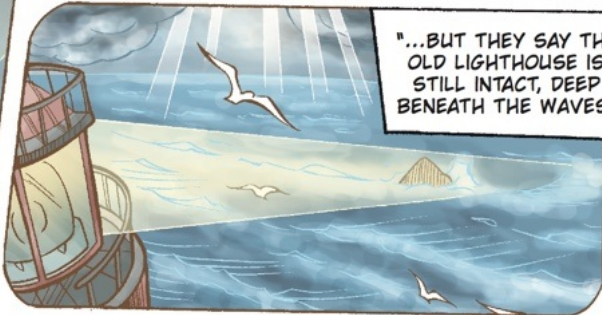
"...AND SIREN  
ISLAND SANK  
INTO THE ABYSS.



"THE LIGHTHOUSE  
WAS REBUILT AT  
THE CAPE...



"...BUT THEY SAY THE  
OLD LIGHTHOUSE IS  
STILL INTACT, DEEP  
BENEATH THE WAVES.



IT WOULD BE  
COOL TO FIND OUT  
IT STILL WORKS!

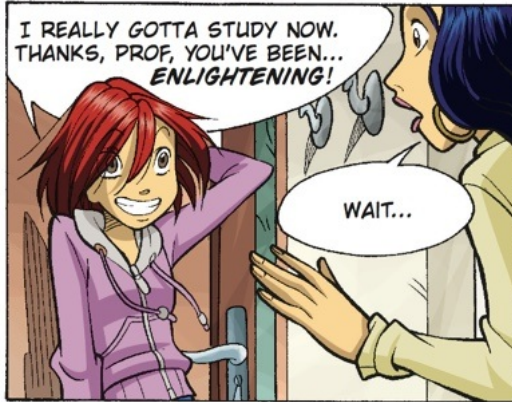


THE  
GLEAM IN THE  
LIQUID ABYSS  
LIGHTS UP THE  
VOICES OF THE  
ENCHANTRESSES...

YOU REALLY  
LIKE THIS  
POET.









WILL MAY HAVE MADE HER  
DISCOVERY, BUT THERE'S  
SOMEONE NEAR THE  
OLSEN RESIDENCE WHO  
CAN'T AFFORD TO  
BE DISCOVERED!

AGENT CORNELIA, WE  
GOTTA RECOVER TWO  
**LOUDSPEAKERS**. ARE  
YOU UP FOR THIS  
MISSION?



HOW CAN YOU  
JOKE ABOUT  
THIS?

HEE-HEE...



IT'S  
THE ONLY  
WAY I CAN  
COPE WITH  
BREAKING  
AND  
ENTERING!

OKAY, I'LL PEAK IN MATT'S  
BEDROOM WINDOW AND SEE  
IF I CAN SPOT ANYTHING.  
YOU CHECK THE  
GARAGE.

YESSIR!



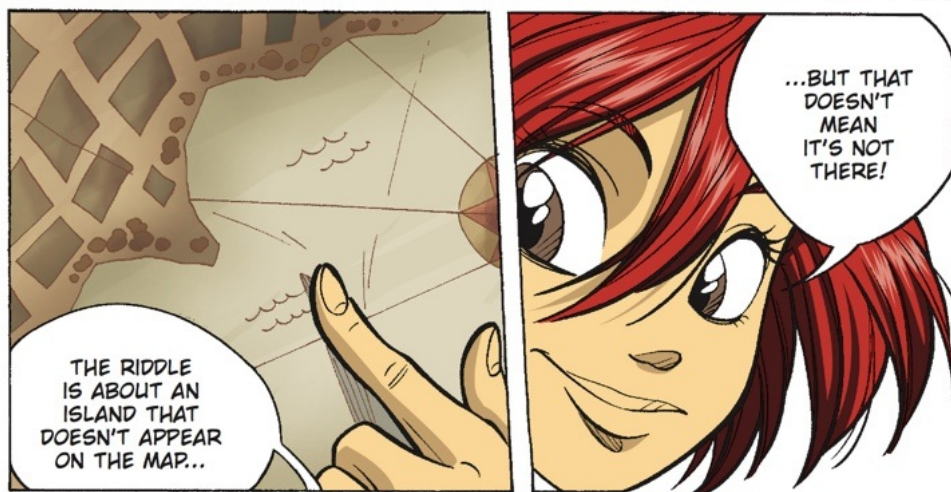
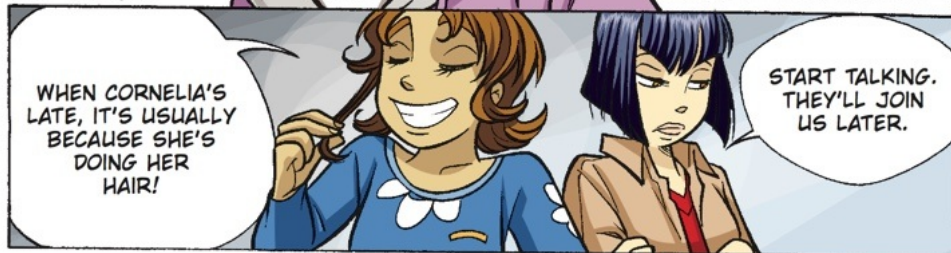
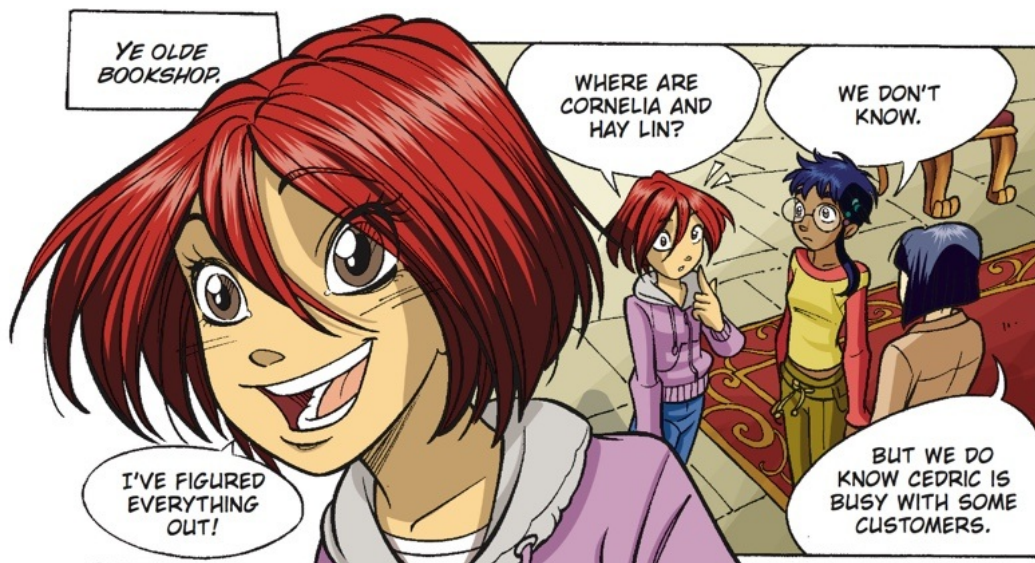
"THE FIRST ONE  
TO FIND SOMETHING  
TELLS THE OTHER!"



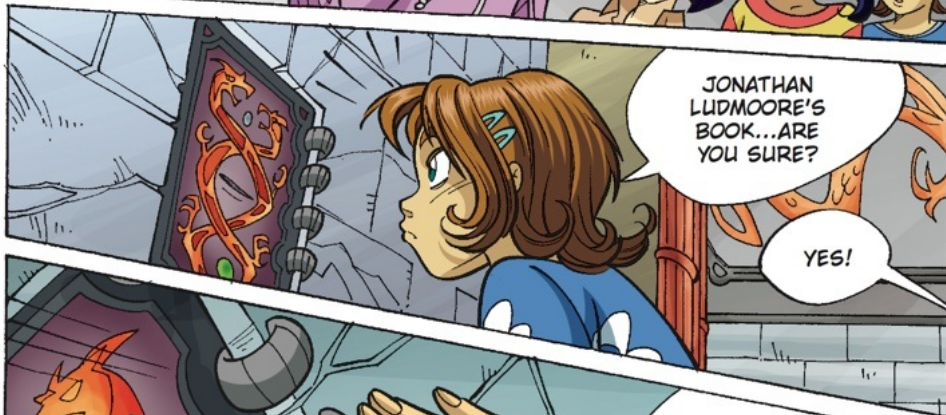




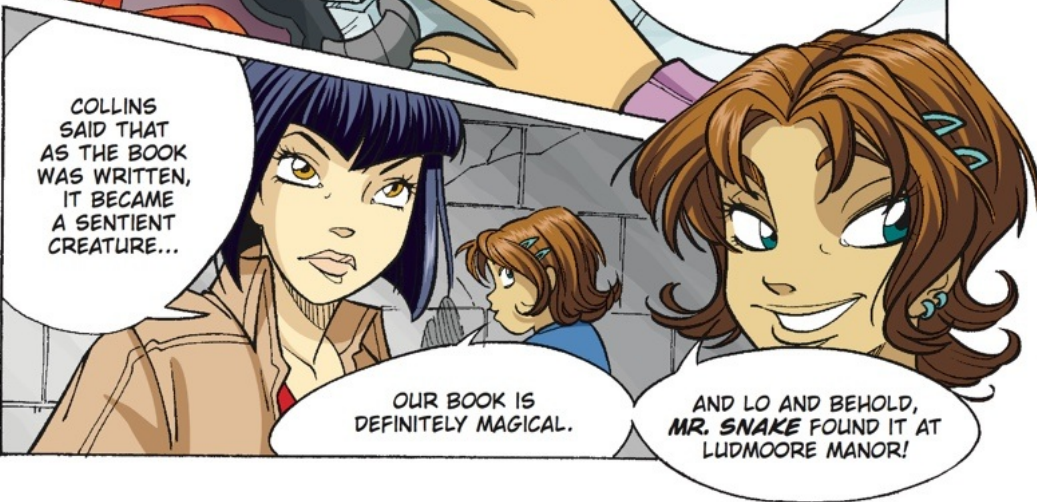








YES!





SINCE THEY  
DIDN'T TELL  
US MUCH IN  
KANDRAKAR...

...IT'S  
CLEAR WE  
HAVE TO  
HANDLE IT  
OURSELVES  
THIS TIME.

AND WE GOTTA  
RECOVER THE FIVE  
STONES OF THE FIVE  
ELEMENTS AND PLACE  
THEM IN THE BOOK'S  
COVER SO WE  
CAN OPEN IT.

NOW LOOK  
AT THE MAP OF  
THE PORTALS...

NOTICE WHERE  
THE CRACK IN THE  
WALL ENDS...

HEY...

IT POINTS  
TO A SMALL  
ISLAND.

THAT'S  
*SIREN*  
ISLAND.



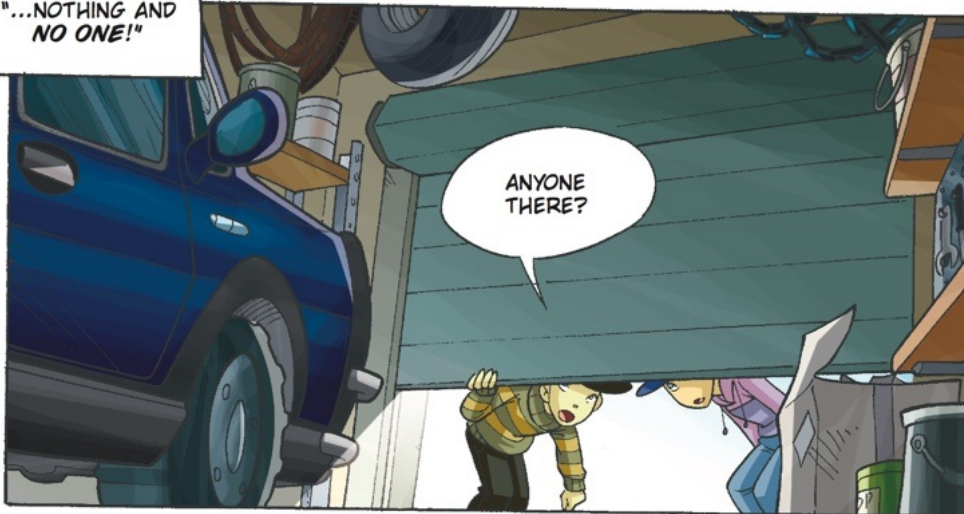


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"...NOTHING AND  
NO ONE!"



WOW! THERE'S  
SO MUCH STUFF  
IN HERE.

YEAH. WE'RE  
LUCKY TO HAVE  
FOUND THE LOUD-  
SPEAKERS.



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WHAT'S *LUCKY* IS  
THAT THE GARAGE  
WAS OPEN!



LET ME  
SEE!



BABY MATT HAVING  
A BATH! THAT WOULD  
EVEN MAKE WILL  
SMILE.

DO YOU  
THINK MATT  
IS OKAY?

UM...











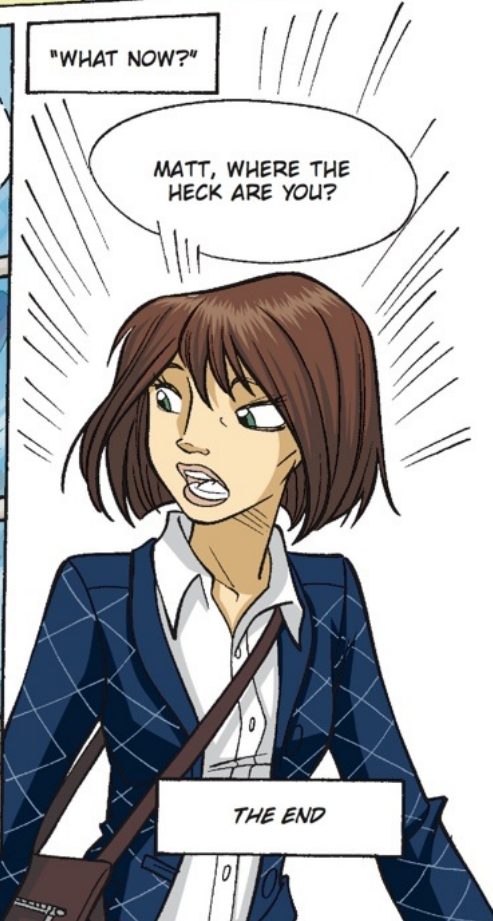
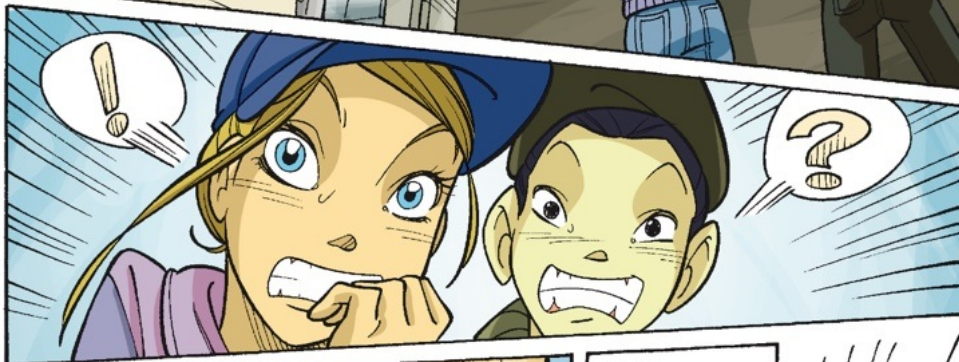
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Read on in Volume 15!





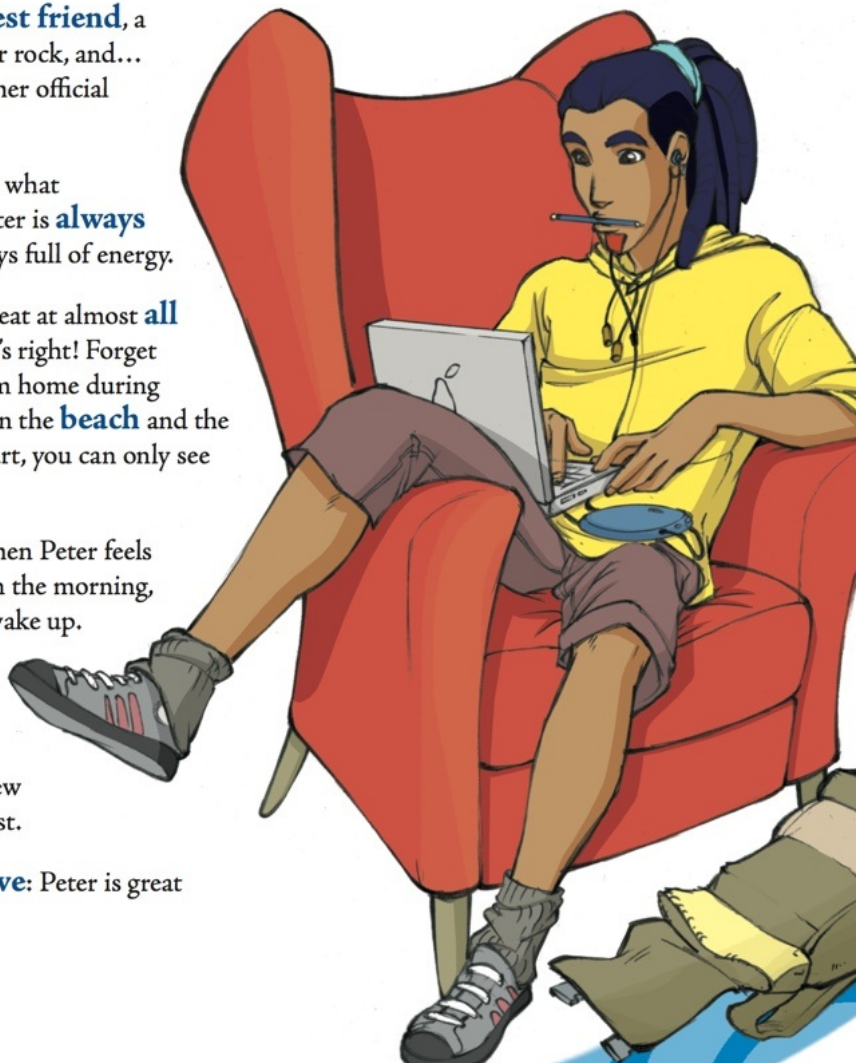




## Explore Peter's Room

Taraneer's big brother is friendly, funny, sporty, and absolutely irresistible! Let's explore his room.

- **Positive and cheerful** (and secretly vain), Peter Lancelot Cook is the big brother every girl would love to have!
- He's Taraneer's **best friend**, a precious "ally", her rock, and... sometimes even her official driver!
- He doesn't know what "boredom" is: Peter is **always busy**! And always full of energy.
- He thinks he's great at almost **all sports**...and he's right! Forget about finding him home during summer: Between the **beach** and the **basketball** court, you can only see him at dinner.
- The only time when Peter feels **super lazy** is in the morning, when he has to wake up.
- Peter is a **bottomless well of ideas**: He always has new projects to suggest.
- He's very **creative**: Peter is great at drawing.
- He goes to Heatherfield Art Institute and isn't too fond of studying (but he's super smart). Sometimes, he gets away with it because he's so **cheeky**!







# Exploring Peter's Room

Peter proudly displays the trophies he won at the high school basketball tournaments. He's an excellent player (and he loves to brag about it)!

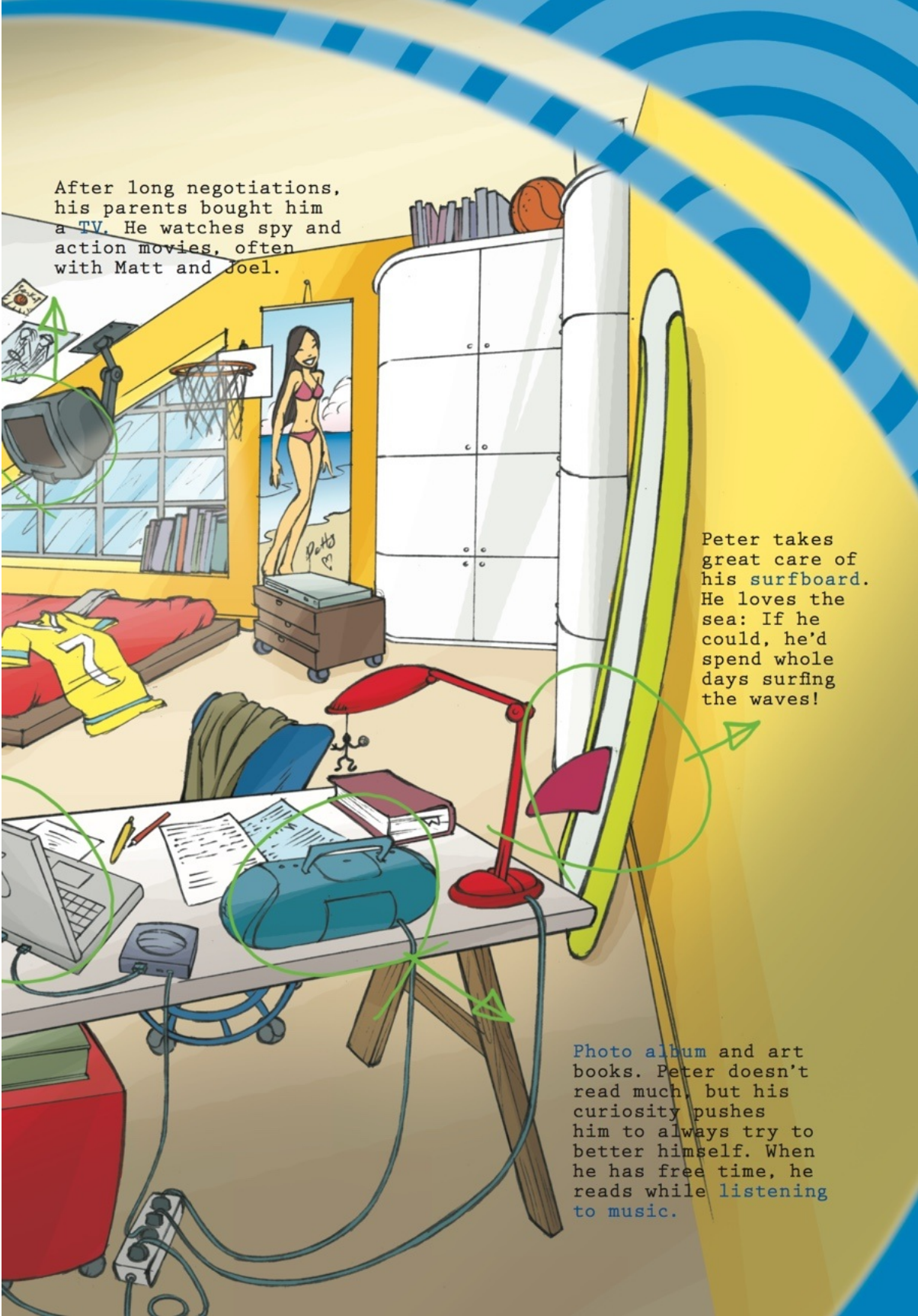
He's also learning to play tennis!

His basket-trash-can is a present from Taranee. When she saw it in the shop, she instantly thought of her big brother. After opening the present, Peter laughed for half an hour.

Peter uses the computer to keep in touch with his friends around the world and check the weather forecast before he goes surfing!







After long negotiations, his parents bought him a TV. He watches spy and action movies, often with Matt and Joel.

Peter takes great care of his surfboard. He loves the sea: If he could, he'd spend whole days surfing the waves!

Photo album and art books. Peter doesn't read much, but his curiosity pushes him to always try to better himself. When he has free time, he reads while listening to music.





## Part V. The Book of Elements • Volume 2

14

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

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