

The Wizard of Quippley



BOOK ONE
BY ADAM CASALINO



I NEED
A SWORD.



YOUR SWORD.



DID YA HEAR
THAT BOYS?
THE OLD MAN
WANTS MY
SWORD!

PLEASE DON'T
MAKE THIS
DIFFICULT FOR
YOURSELF



WHO DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE?
I AINT GUNNA GIVE
YOU MY SWORD!
WHAT ARE YOU
GUNNA DO
ABOUT IT?



AHEM...
"PULLUS VIR"

FA-
POOF!



THANK YOU FOR
THE SWORD, MY FRIEND!

BARMAN, MAKE SURE HE
IS WELL-FEED. I BELIEVE
THE USUAL PROVISIONS
ARE BREADCRUMBS!



PIP!



I AM THE
MIGHTY
BORBANOTH

CONQUEROR
OF VILLAGES!

COWER IN
FEAR AT
MY MAJESTY!!

WHO AMONG YOU
CAN FACE ME
AND SURVIVE?
WHO I ASK, WHO?!

AHEM...

HELLO.

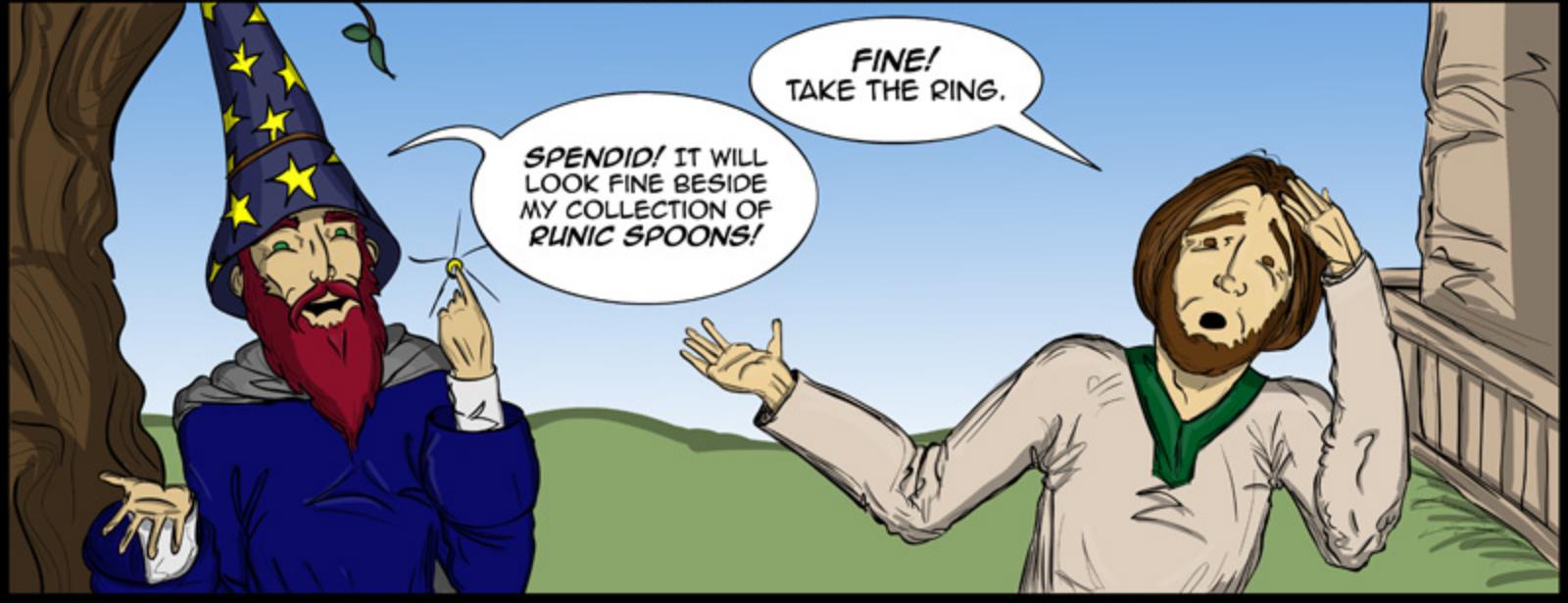
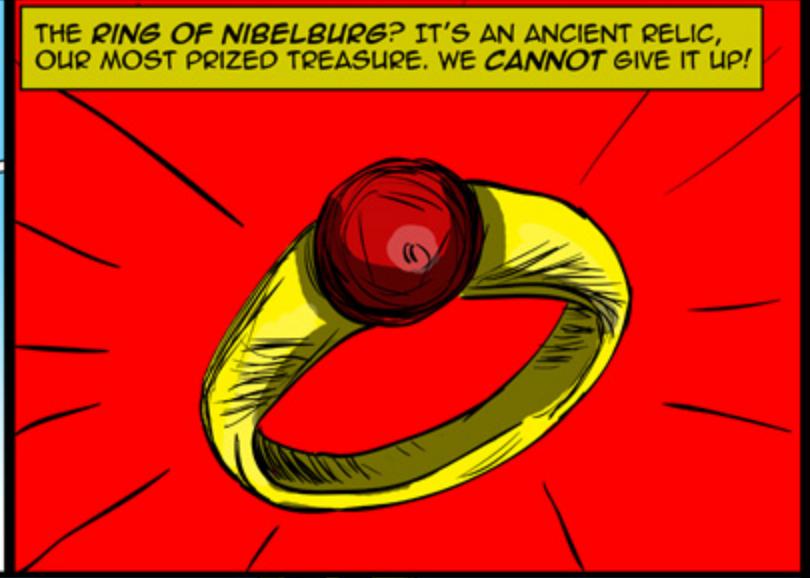
YOU, OLD MAN?
YOU DARE
CHALLENGE
BORBANOTH??
WHAT WEAPON DO
YOU POSSESS
THAT CAN MATCH
MY POWER?

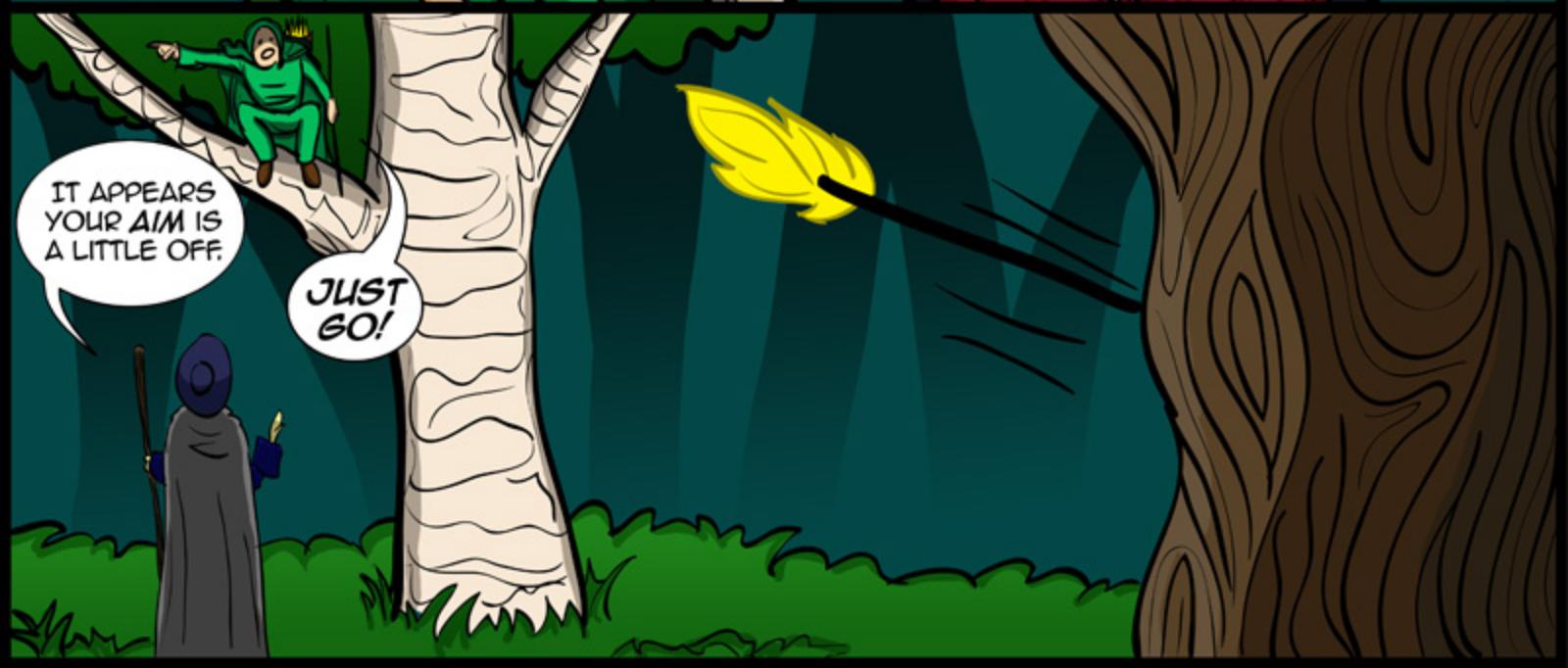
WELL, I HAVE
A SWORD.
I DARE SAY,
I THINK THIS IS
HOW YOU USE IT.

AAH!!
FOOSH!

A BIT SLOPPY
FOR MY TASTE,
BUT I SUPPOSE
IT'LL DO...

WHAT IS IT THAT
THE HEROES SAY?
OH RIGHT: VILLAGERS,
YOU ARE FREE!







THE WIZARD OF QUIPPY

BY ADAM CASALINO



WELL I'M HERE!
ARE YOU GOING
TO RETURN TO ME
WHAT'S MINE?



AHHH!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER...







I'M HERE
FOR THE
DWARF!



YOU WANT THE DWARF?
BLESS YOU! WE'VE BEEN
PRAYING FOR DAYS THAT
SOMEONE WOULD
GET RID OF HIM!

YOU'RE NOT
HOLDING HIM
CAPTIVE!

NEVER!
HE'S A ROTTEN
NUISANCE,
RUNNING OFF ALL
MY PATRONS WITH
HIS DISGUSTING
BEHAVIOR!

OH... WELL
WHERE IS HE?

HE'S THAT
STINKING HEAP
IN THE CORNER!

BURP!!



SO YOU NEED
A MERCENARY?
GREAT SCOTT!
YOU'LL FIND
NONE BETTER.

SPLENDID!
LET US GO,
I NEED YOU
RIGHT
AWAY.



VERY WELL.
ALLOW ME TO
GATHER MY THINGS
AND WE'LL
BE OFF!

BY THE WAY,
WHAT IS
YOUR NAME?



NJORKVIND-
WALURR.



THAT'S WITH
TWO "R'S."

I'M CALLING
YOU PETER.

WE GO
INTO DANGER,
MAKE SURE
YOUR AXE
IS SHARP!

OH, I
DON'T HAVE
ANY OF
THAT
STUFF.

WHA-
YOU'RE A
MERCENARY
WITH NO
WEAPONS?

AYE,
LOST
'EM ALL
YEARS
AGO!

SPLENDID!

HEY,
YOU SEE
THIS SHIRT?
IT'S THE
DRAGON-BLOOD
CLAN.
THEY ONLY
GIVE IT TO
THEIR FIERCEST
WARRIOR.

HOW DID
YOU
GET IT?

MARKET
SQUARE.
THEY'RE NEXT
TO THE
SAUSAGES.



SO
YOU'RE
ONE OF 'EM
BONE FIDE
MAGES?

QUITE
RIGHT.

AMAZING!

POP!



SO YOU MUST
HAVE GONE TO
ONE OF EM
SPECIAL SCHOOLS
OF MAGIC.
THE KIND IN
HILL-TOP CASTLES,
HIDDEN FROM
VIEW BY POWERFUL
SPELLS!



NON-
SENSE!
THERE ARE NO
SUCH SCHOOLS.
I LEARNED THE
ARTS THROUGH
YEARS OF
RESEARCH.



YOU
NEVER GOT IN,
DID YOU?

IT WAS
MAGIC DAY-CAMP
AND I DIDN'T
WANT IN!

SUUURE!



WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

SOMEWHERE
WE CAN GET
YOU A
WEAPON.

YOU
HAVE ANY
MONEY?

NO.

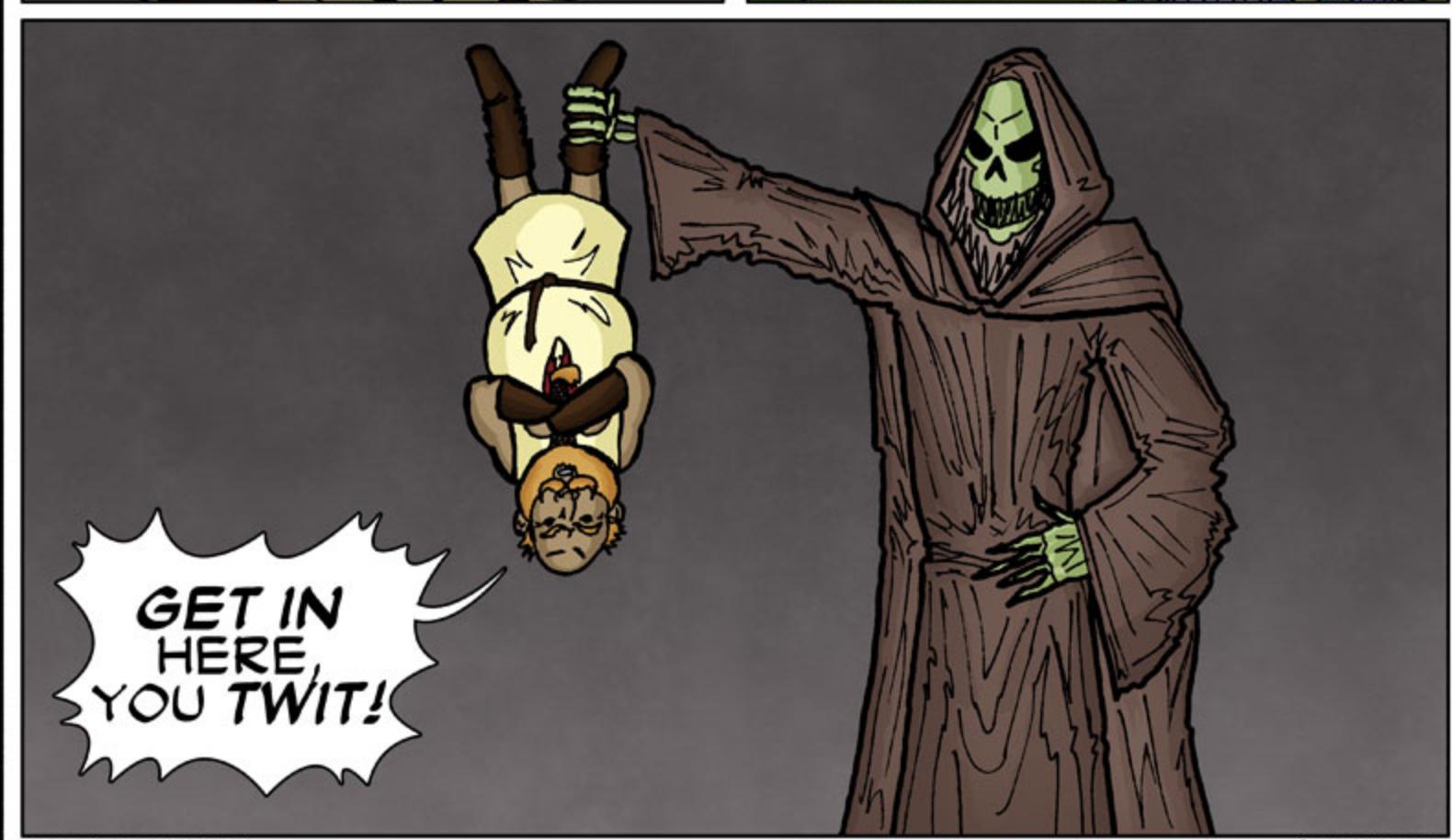
THEN
HOW
DO YOU
SUPPOSE
WE GET
ONE?

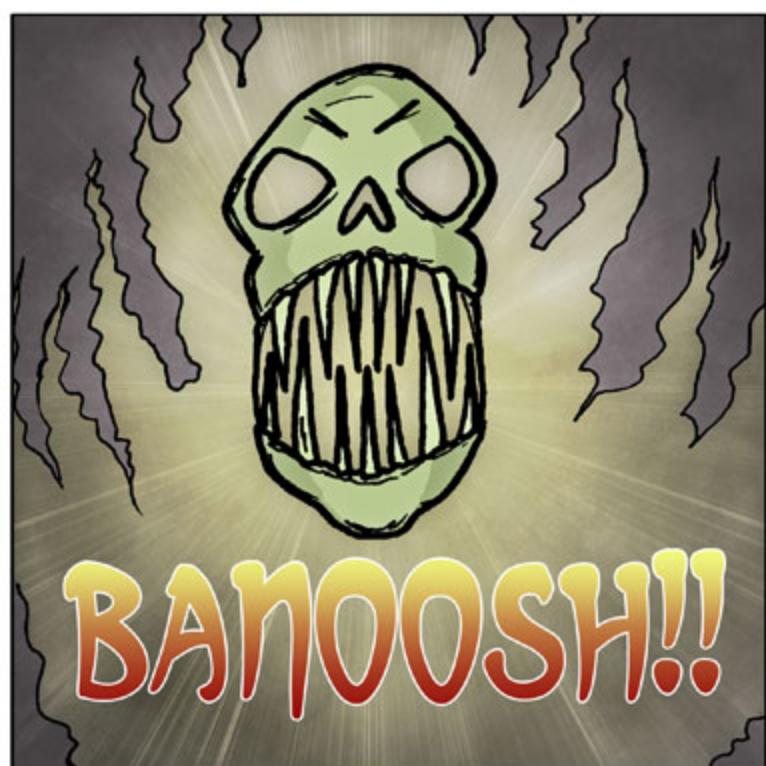
THE SAME
WAY I GOT
MINE, WE
STEAL IT!

TO BE CONTINUED...











THESE
LOOK LIKE
YOUR SIZE,
TRY THEM
ON.

NO
THANKS!
ALREADY
FOUND
SOME.

WELL,
LET'S HAVE
A LOOK.



THIS'LL DO JUST FINE! NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

VERY WELL, I JUST NEED TO CONSULT MY MAP.



The Wizard of Quippley



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I'LL PROVE
TO YOU THERE'S
NOTHING WRONG
WITH THIS
VILLAGE!

SURE
THING, BOSS!
I'LL BE RIGHT
HERE.

HELLO,
GOOD SIR.
WE ARE ON A
JOURNEY AND
DESIRE TO ENTER
YOUR FAIR
TOWN.

OKAY,
PETER. YOU MAY
HAVE BEEN
RIGHT.

YOU LIMEY
COWARD!

IT'S
THE BARROW
ALL OVER
AGAIN!

The Wizard of Quippley





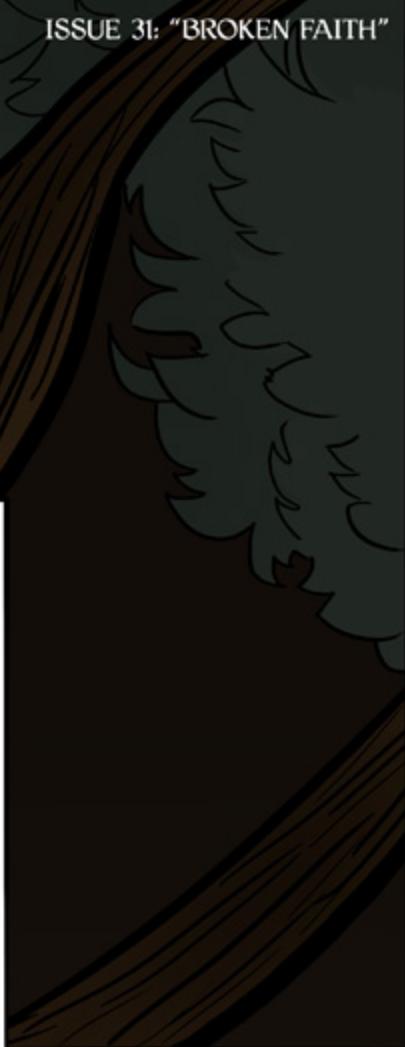


HUARR!!!



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ISSUE 31: "BROKEN FAITH"



NOW
WILL YOU
LISTEN
TO ME?!



FOOSSSH

The Wizard of
Quippley

"THE GREATEST RIVAL OF
MY YOUTH WAS MORDRED, A DARK
WIZARD OF TERRIBLE POWER."



"IN MY PRIDE I
REACHED TOO FAR TO
DEFEAT HIM, AND IT
COST ME MY
BELOVED WIFE."



"NOW HE HAS SENT ME ON A
SERIES OF DEADLY TRIALS AS
RANSOM FOR THE ONLY THING LEFT
I TREASURE IN THE WORLD."

"WHAT?"



MY DAUGHTER.



The Wizard of Quippley



SO YOU SEE,
MORDRED HAS
BEEN FORCING ME
TO DO THIS
ALL ALONG.

I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT HE
INTENDED FOR YOU.
I **NEVER**
MEANT YOU ANY
HARM.



I'LL TELL YA
WHAT! WE GO
TO FEL'QAD AND
TEACH THIS LOUSE
A LESSON HE'LL
NEVER
FORGET!



WE'RE LEAVING THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND. SOON WE'LL ENTER THE REGION OF FEL'QAD.

HOW LONG UNTIL WE GET THERE?

I'D SAY FIVE DAYS, IF WE TAKE THE HARD ROAD.

AND IF WE TAKE THE EASY ROAD?

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF ADVENTURER IN YOU, ISN'T THERE?

WE'RE WALKING TO OUR DOOM. MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY IT!

COULD
REALLY USE A
COUPLE OF
HORSES RIGHT
ABOUT NOW!

I REGRET-
ABLY LEFT THE
HORSES IN MY
OTHER HAT!



I'M
JUST SAYING,
HORSES WOULD
MAKE THIS
TRIP A LOT
EASIER!

...YES, BUT
MOST PEOPLE
HAVE THE
DECENCY NOT TO
MENTION IT!

OH
Brother!

IT'S JUST
RUDE!

AREN'T
YOU TOO **SHORT**
FOR A HORSE?
WOULDN'T A
ONY BETTER
SUIT YOU?



PHEW!
ALMOST CLEAR
OF THE BRAMBLES.
I SWEAR I GOT
SOME THORNS
IN ME WHITIES!

YOU'RE
GUNNA WISH FOR
MORE **BRAMBLES**
IN A MINUTE.

HUH?
WHY?





LET US NOT
DAWdle. OUR
RENDEZVOUS
AWAITS.



WHY DOES
MORDRED WANT
US *HERE*?



IT'S A PLACE
OF DARKNESS AND
SORROW. WHERE
COUNTLESS LIVES WERE
EXTINGUISHED.
JUST THE PLACE
MORDRED WOULD
DWELL.



I DON'T
LIKE IT
ONE BIT.

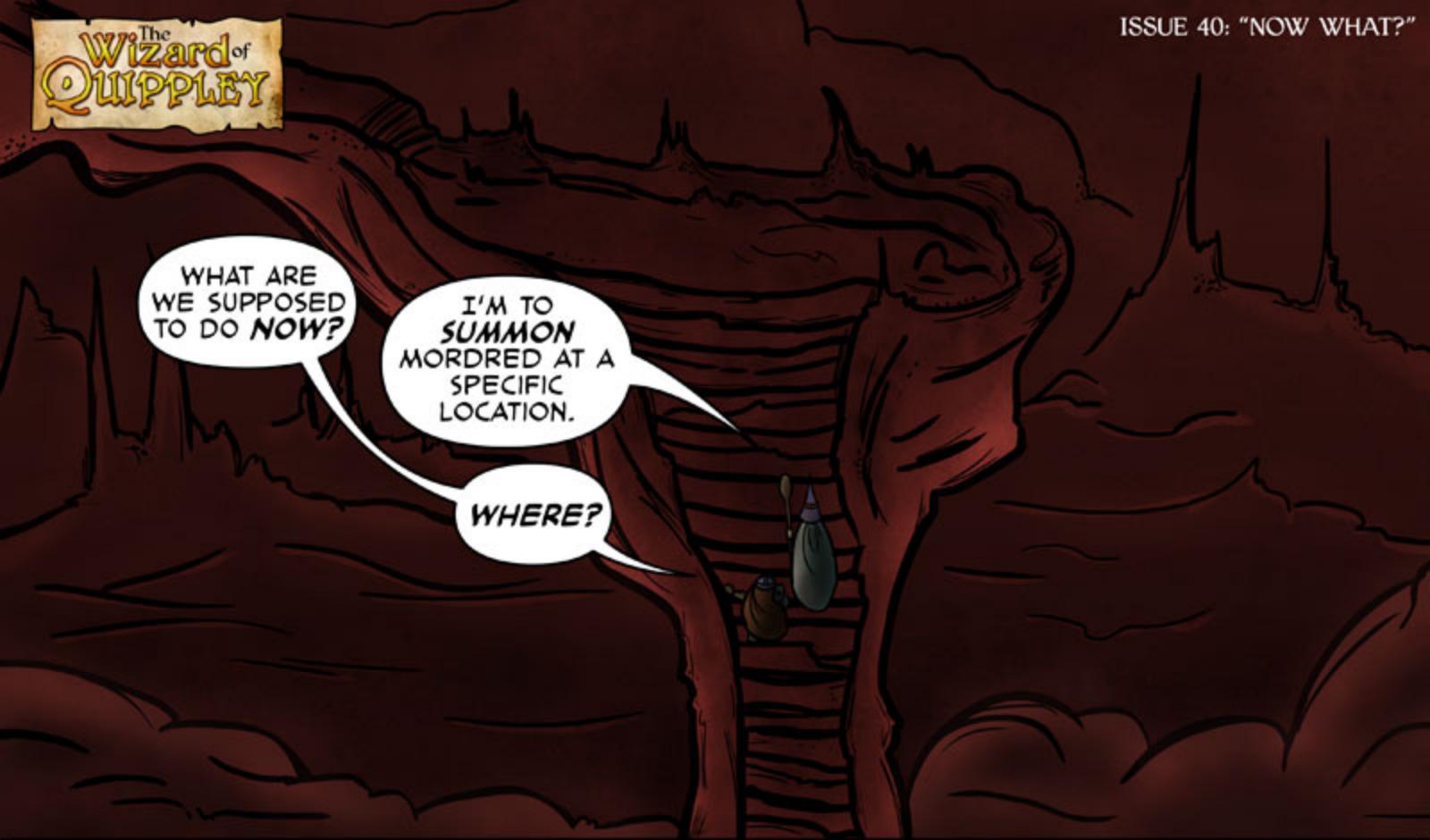


JUST WAIT 'TIL
YOU SEE THE
UNDER-CRATER!





The Wizard of Quippley



NOW
THERE'S NOTHING
TO **FEAR** FROM A
SMOKE SEER. HE'S MERELY
PROJECTING
HIMSELF THROUGH
AN AVATAR.

DO STEP
BACK, THOUGH.



The Wizard of Quippley

HELLO,
SIR DWARF.
NO DOUBT YOU'RE
WONDERING WHY
YOU'RE HERE.

THE PLANS
HAVE CHANGED,
MORDRED. I WON'T
COOPERATE WITH
YOU.



ALWAYS THE
FOOL, EH AL?
YOU'RE WILLING TO
LOSE YOUR DAUGHTER
TO SPARE YOUR
PRIDE?

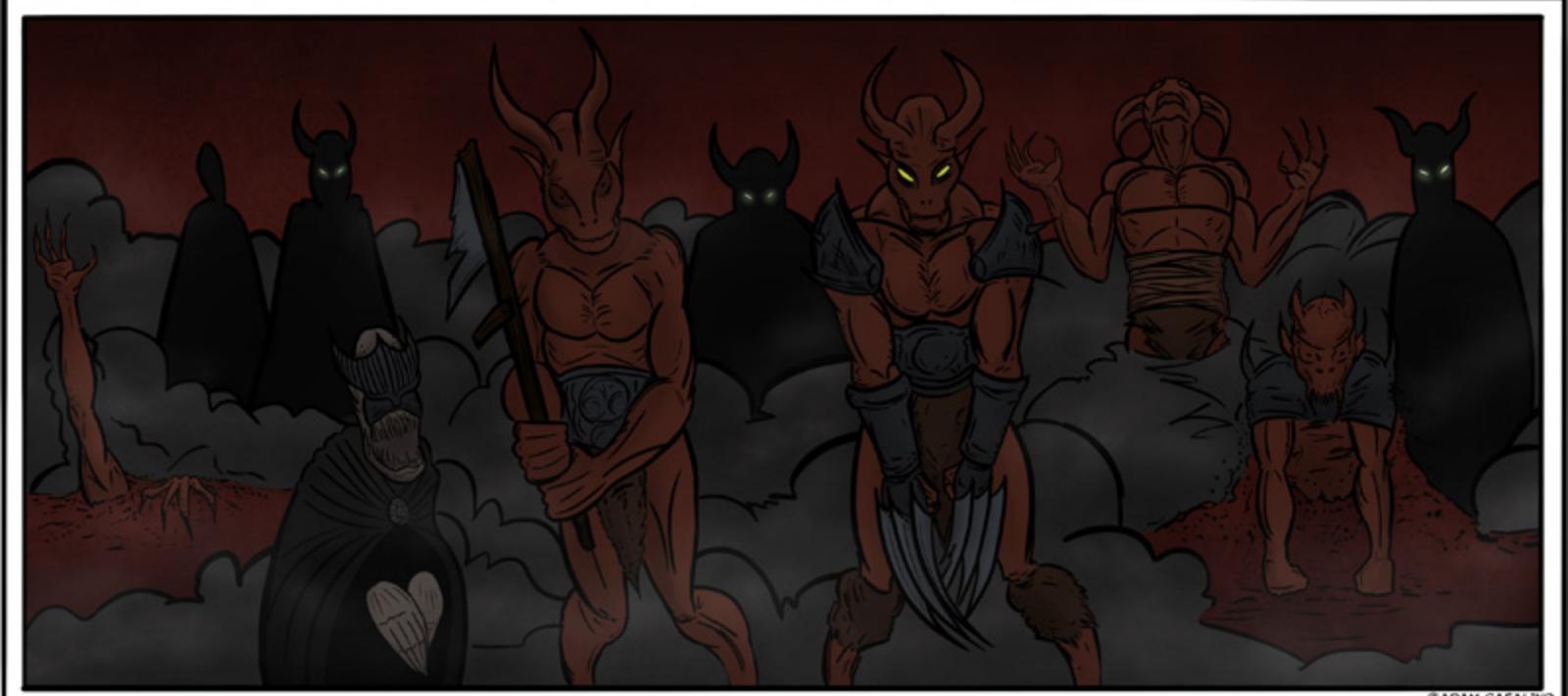
HE AIN'T
LOSING **NOTHING**!
WE'RE GUNNA TAKE
BACK AL'S DAUGHTER
AND GIVE YOU THE
THUMPIN' YOU
DESERVE!



IT IS A **FIGHT** YOU DESIRE?
THEN IT IS A **FIGHT** YOU'LL GET!

BRACE
YOURSELF, PETER.
HERE IT COMES!



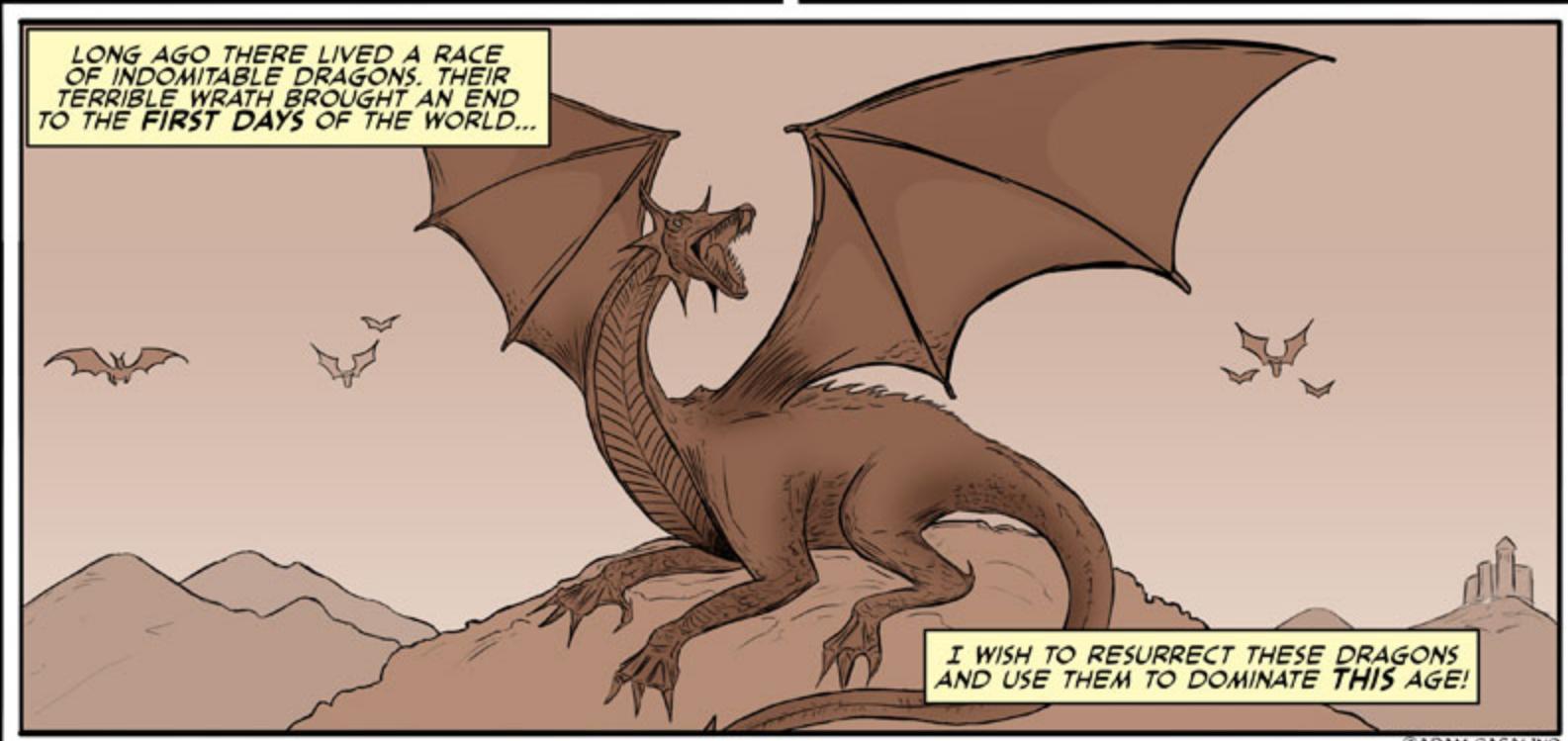
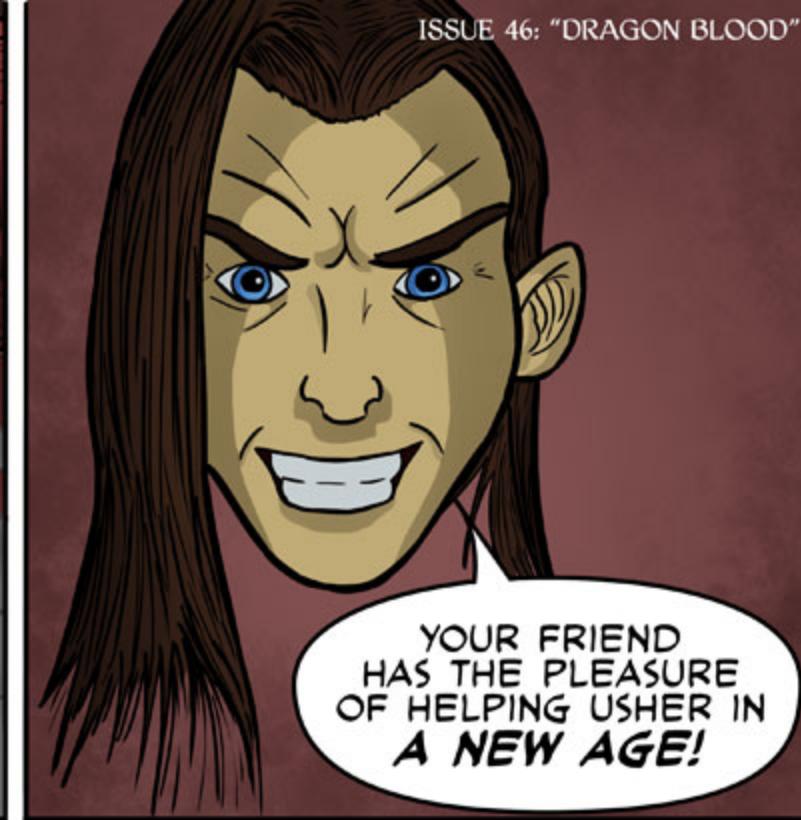


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NOW THAT I HAVE WHAT I WANT, I NO LONGER NEED YOU.



YOU SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY ORDERS, ALGERBANE. YOU WOULD BE WITH YOU'RE DAUGHTER RIGHT NOW!

I KNOW YOUR **BLACK HEART**, MORDRED. YOU WOULD **NEVER** HAVE RETURNED HER TO ME.

WELL... YOU'RE NOT AS **DUMB** AS I THOUGHT!

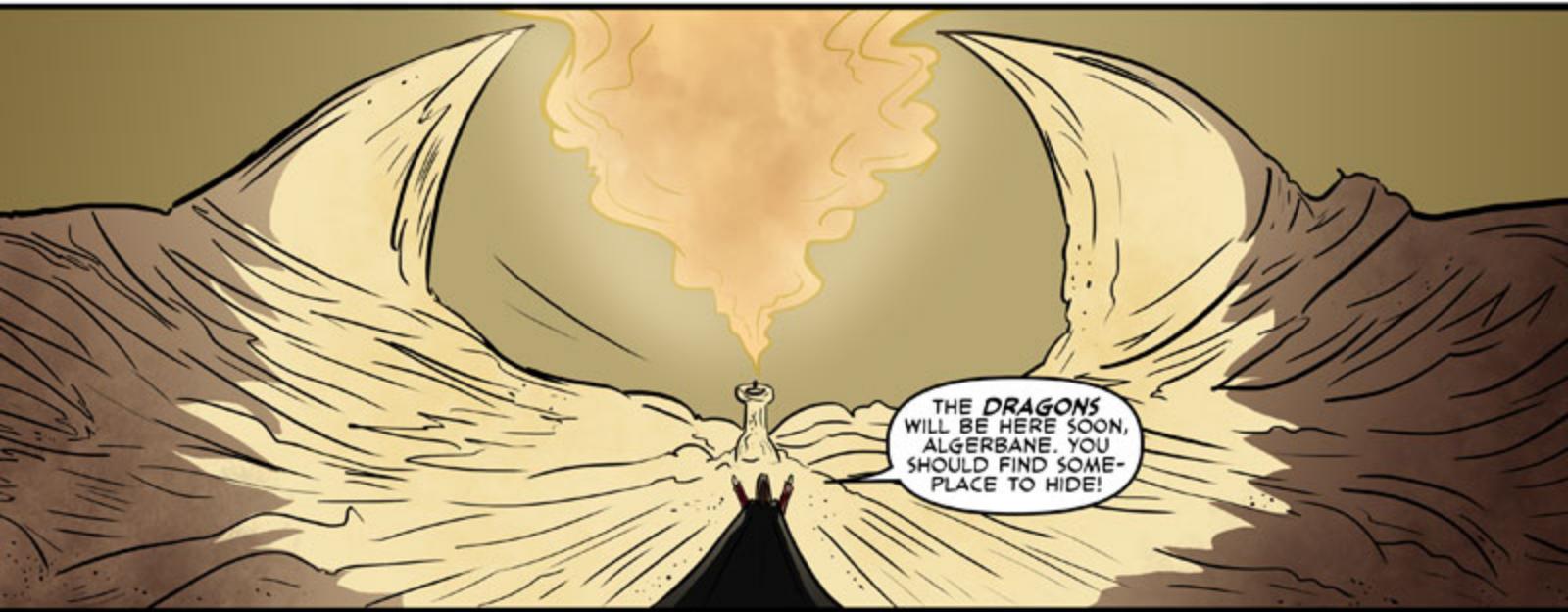
THE TRUTH IS, I HAD TO **PUNISH** YOU FOR MEDDLING WITH THINGS BEYOND YOUR **COMPREHENSION**.

YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE **POWERS** YOU ARE DEALING WITH, ALGERBANE.

BUT NOW I HAVE WHAT I WANT AND **NOTHING** WILL STOP ME FROM **DESTROYING** THIS WORLD...

THE SAME WAY I DESTROYED **FEL'QAD**!



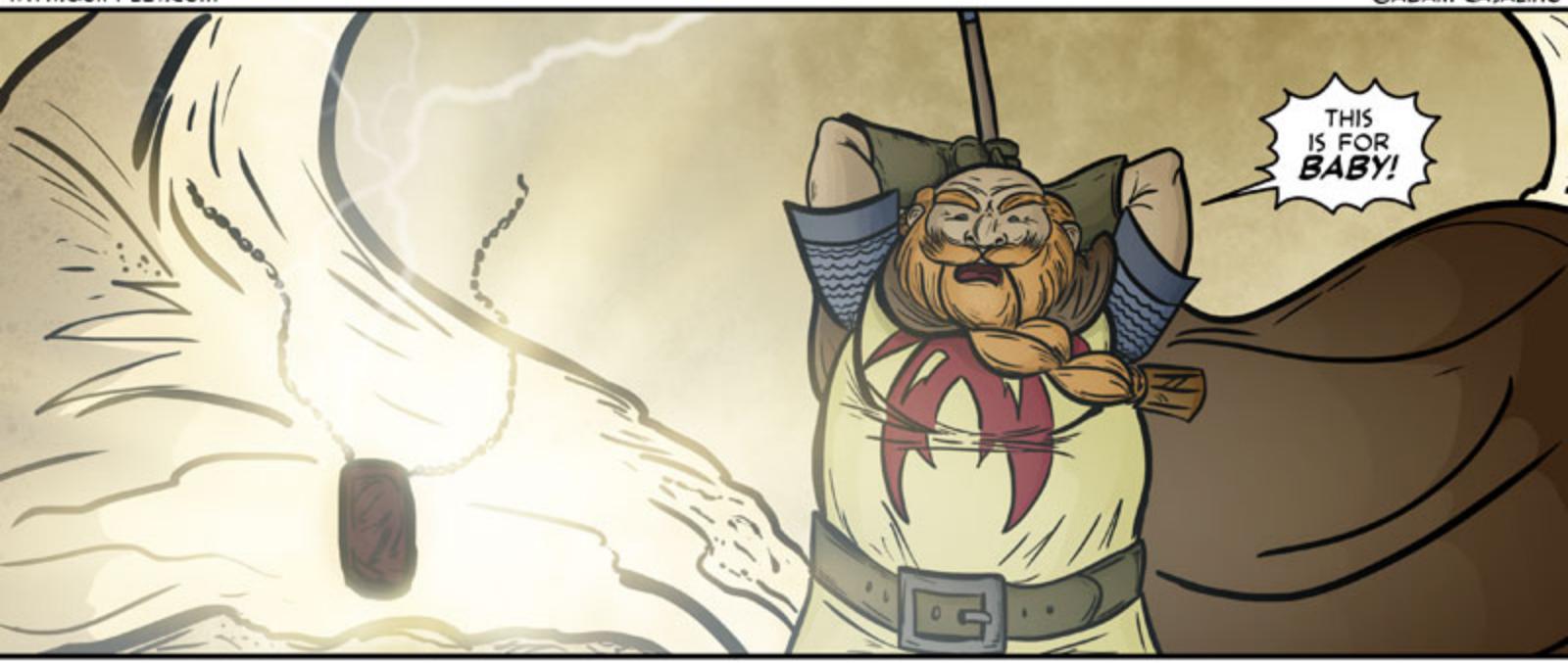






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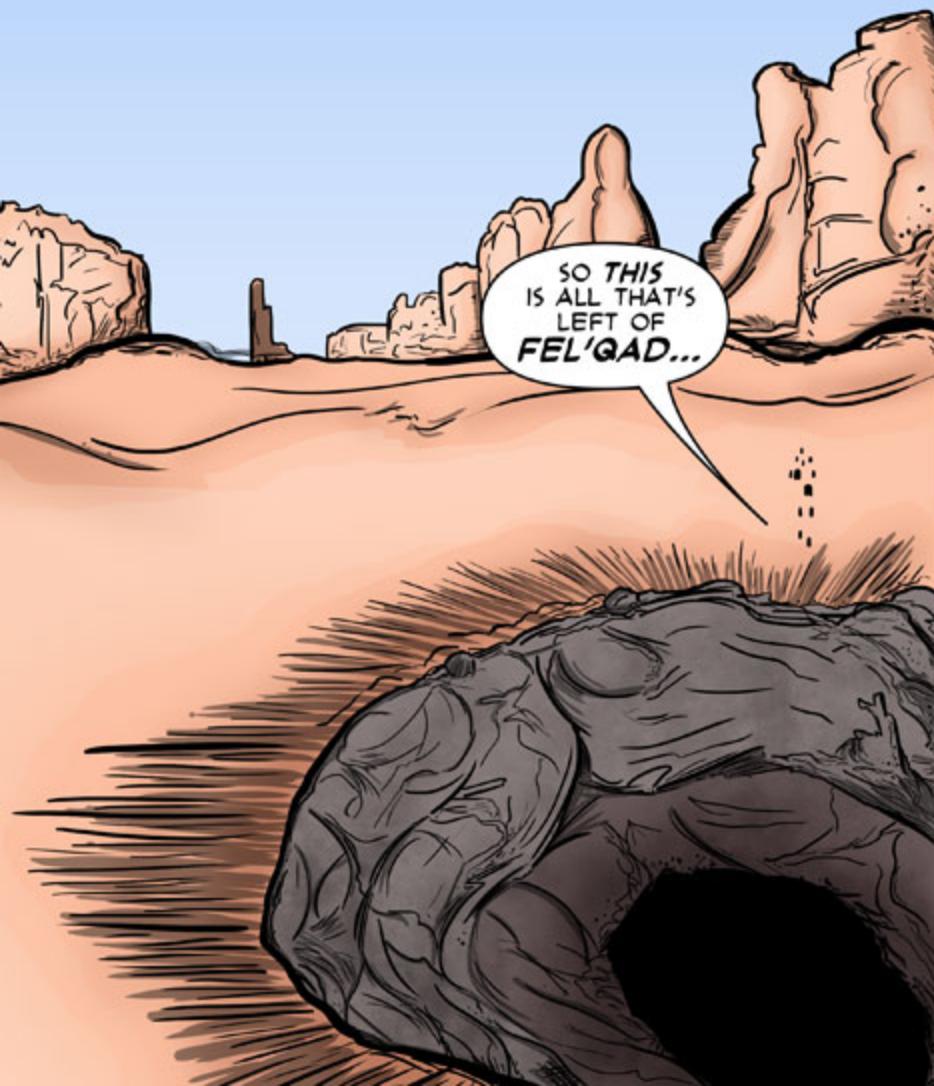


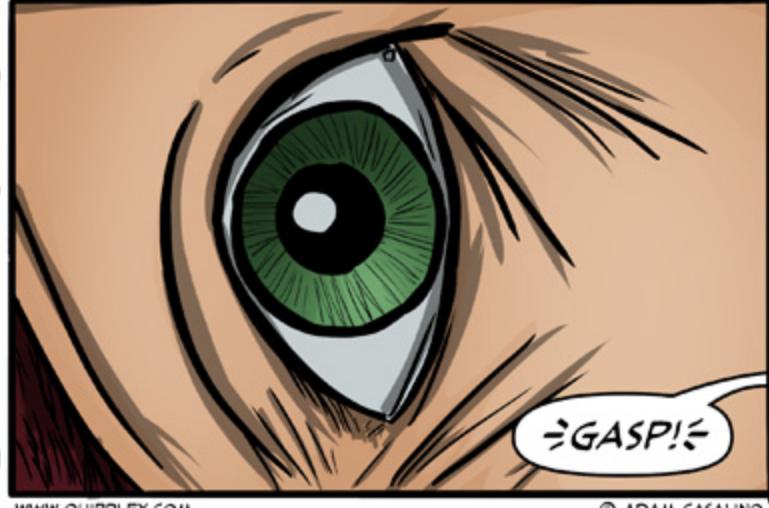
BOOM

THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY

YEAR TWO

PART I: THE TRIAL OF ALGERBANE











HA! I'M BARBAROSA,
TERROR OF THE MIDL'N SEA.
COWER BEFORE MY WRATH,
YE SCALLYWAGS!

GUT HIMMEL,
YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU KNOW HOW
WORRIED YOU'VE
MADE ME!?

MY GOD, YOU'RE
CRAZIER THAN I
REMEMBERED!

YES, YOU
SEEM ABSOLUTELY
DISTRAUGHT.

BUT I SEE
YOU'VE FOUND A WAY
TO PASS THE TIME...

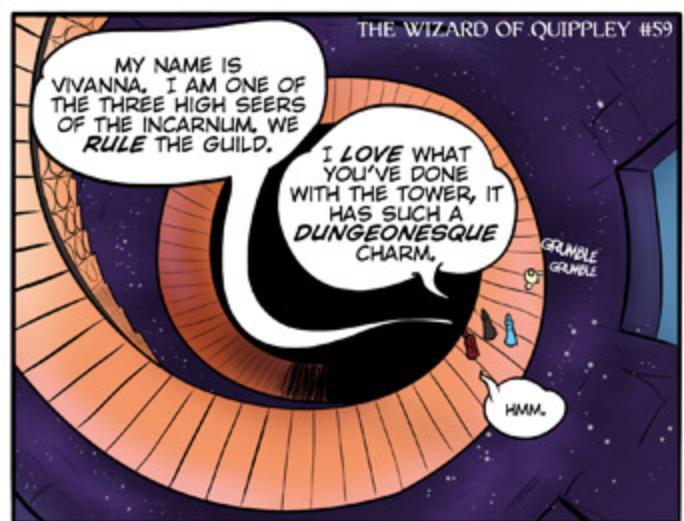
EH?

I HAD TO
BLOW OFF SOME
STEAM AFTER
THAT BUSINESS
IN TH'CRATER.

YES... HOW
DID WE SURVIVE
THAT?

THAT'S
WHAT I'D LIKE
TO KNOW!

GENTLEMEN,
IF YOU WOULD
PLEASE COME
WITH ME!







THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #61



I HAVE VERY LITTLE CAUSE TO DIVULGE MY GOINGS-ON WITH THE LIKES OF YOU! I WAS NOT TRAINED BY YOUR GUILD. I OWE YOU NOTHING. SUFFICE IT TO SAY I WAS COMPELLED TO FEL'QAD, MY COMPANION AS WELL, IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS THE MACHINATIONS OF A MUTIAL ENEMY.



AND I ASSUME THIS ENEMY WAS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR QADORIEN'S DESTRUCTION?

YOU CONTINUE TO CALL FEL'QAD BY ITS EXPIRED NAME, GIVING IT A SIGNIFICANCE IT HAS NOT POSSESSED FOR EONS. I WONDER WHY THIS GUILD FINDS THE ROTTEN STONES OF A DEAD CITY SO IMPORTANT. DID YOU TRULY INTEND TO SCAVENGE FOR WHAT LITTLE LORE HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN FOUND? OR WERE YOUR EYES ON FEL'QAD'S FABLED LOST GOLD?



OR PERHAPS THE GRAND INCARNUM HAD MUCH CRIEELER MOTIVES? TELL ME, HAS THE GUILD BEEN CONJURING MANY SMOKE SEERS AS OF LATE?



THAT IS ENOUGH!



I WILL NOT STAND BY AND ALLOW YOU TO ACCUSE US! WE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO DETERMINE YOUR CULPABILITY IN THE DESTRUCTION OF AN ANCIENT SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE, BUT ALL YOU HAVE DONE IS FRUSTRATE US AND GIVE A FLIMSY STORY ABOUT A VILLAIN!

'TIS NOT FLIMSY, 'TIS TRUE! WE TUSSLED WITH A REAL MONSTER, WHO MEANS TO RUIN US ALL. NONE OTHER THAN THE DARK WIZARD MORDRED!

THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #63

BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT, MISSY, BUT HE'S RETURNED. WE ONLY MANAGED TO SURVIVE BECAUSE I, A MEMBER OF THE DRAGON-BLOOD CLAN, WAS ABLE TO DISRUPT HIS SPELL.

YOU WAIT UNTIL NOW TO MENTION THIS?!

HMM, YOU HAVE GIVEN US MUCH TO PONDER, SARION. WE MUST DECIDE IF YOUR STORY HOLDS WATER. IN THE MEANTIME YOU ARE PROHIBITED FROM LEAVING THIS TOWER!

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY PREPOSTEROUS. I WILL NOT LISTEN TO ANOTHER WORD!

THE HIGH COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FOR YOU TO VISIT THE VILLAGE OF ALIGURY.

IT IS A BUSTLING COMMUNITY. YOU'LL FIND IT AMPLY SUPPLIED WITH VIRTUALLY ANYTHING YOU NEED.

DO THEY HAVE BLUEBERRY, BUTTER-RUM PUNCH?

...NO.

COME ON, YOU!

WHAT?! THEIR SMALL BACKS CAN HANDLE A LOT MORE WEIGHT THAN YOU THINK, AND WE CAN ALWAYS USE EXTRA LABOR!

WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE ARRESTED NOW!



IT'S QUITE BOLD OF YOU TO SUMMON ME, A STEWARD SUCH AS YOURSELF...

...REQUESTING AUDIENCE WITH ONE OF THE HIGH COUNCIL.

WELL, I KNEW YOU WOULD SPEAK WITH ME...

...BROTHER!

WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS QUICK, MAYATHA, WHAT DO YOU NEED?

YOU HAVE TO HELP ME EXONERATE THE SARION.

ARE YOU CRAZY? WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?

I KNOW HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH. WE MUST PREPARE FOR WHAT'S TO COME--AND WE NEED HIS HELP.

I CAN'T CHANGE THE MINDS OF THE COUNCIL, THE ONLY WAY TO FREE HIM IS TO PROVE HIS INNOCENCE.

BUT HOW?

YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!

THE TREASURY IS AT THE VERY **BOTTOM** OF THE TOWER. ALL OF THE INCARNUM'S MOST RARE-AND VOLATILE-ARTIFACTS ARE LOCKED AWAY THERE. IT IS NOT GUARDED, BUT WE MUST BE **FAST**.



WHAT WILL WE FIND THERE?



I'M NOT SURE, BUT IF WHAT FABIAN TOLD YOU WAS TRUE, THE FEL'QAD RELICS SHOULD BE THERE.



WHY IS SUCH A CHAMBER UNGUARDED?

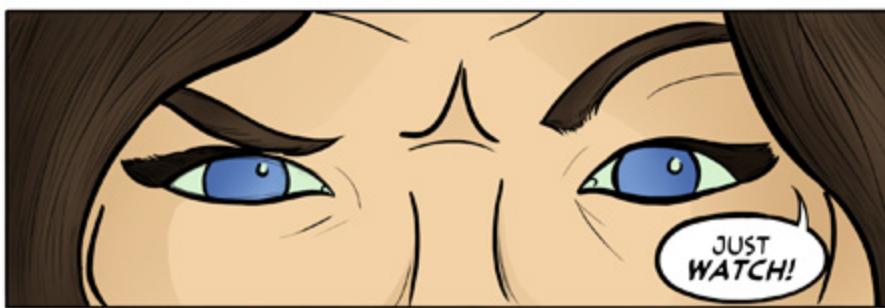
IT'S LOCKED...



THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #67

...BEHIND THAT DOOR!





THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #68









WHAT'S
HAPPENING
NOW?

THE
PENDANT IS
REACTION TO
SOMEONE IN
THE ROOM!

GAH!

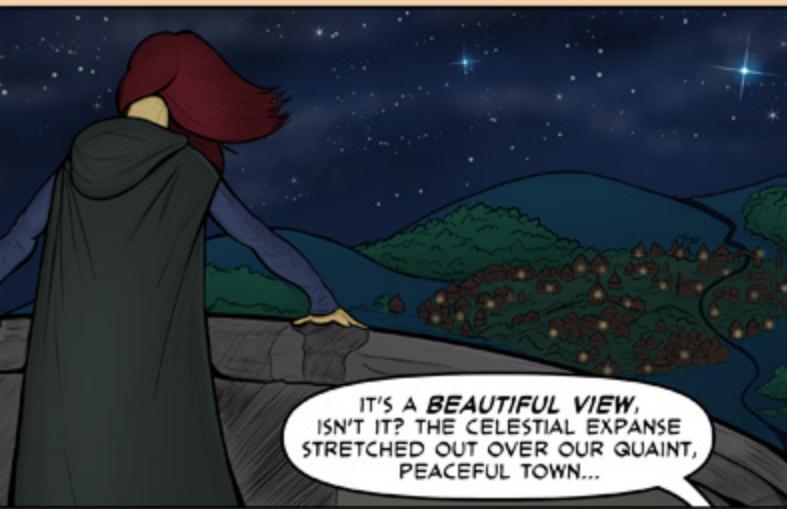
FOOOOSH

You have been a
faithful servant, but you
must **prove** your devotion
once again. The Guild of Seers
must **not** prevent my
return to power.

I WILL **BLOCK** THE
SEERS FROM RECEIVING ANY
VISIONS CONCERNING YOUR PLAN.
THE INCARNUM WILL ONE
DAY SERVE **YOU**,
LORD MORDRED!











THE SUN IS **BRIGHT**
AND THE WIND IS IN THE
EAST; A PRIME MOMENT TO
SET OFF! WE'RE READY
WHEN YOU ARE.



ONE LAST THING.
MAYATHA, I WANT YOU
TO HAVE THIS. IT IS AN
EVERSTAFF. ITS STONE
WILL HELP YOU CHANNEL
THE FORCES OF NATURE.
USE IT WELL.



HMM...
I WONDER IF A
WIZARD STAFF WILL
SUITE ME. SAY, SOMETHING
WITH A **LIGHTNING**
BOLT?



SNAP!

OH NO
YOU DON'T!
HERE.



WHAT
IS THIS?

IT IS A
WALKING STICK
AND IT WILL
KEEP
YOU FROM GETTING
US KILLED!

BAH,
YOU'RE NO
FUN!

WE'LL TRAVEL SOUTH FOR SOME MILES BEFORE WE REACH THE START OF THE BLØ MOUNTAINS.

THE ROAD SPLITS INTO SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AT THAT POINT.

WE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH COURSE IS BEST.

THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #78

I THINK THERE'S A **BROOK** OVER THAT HILL. I'LL GO CHECK.

Pst! Do you think it's a good idea to take her along?

PLEASE! IT WILL BE NICE TO TRAVEL WITH SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T CARRY SPIDERS IN THEIR **UNDERWEAR**!

IT'S **TERAPEUTIC!**

THERE ARE SHALLOWS HERE WE CAN CROSS, THEN A SHORT TRIP THROUGH THAT WOOD.

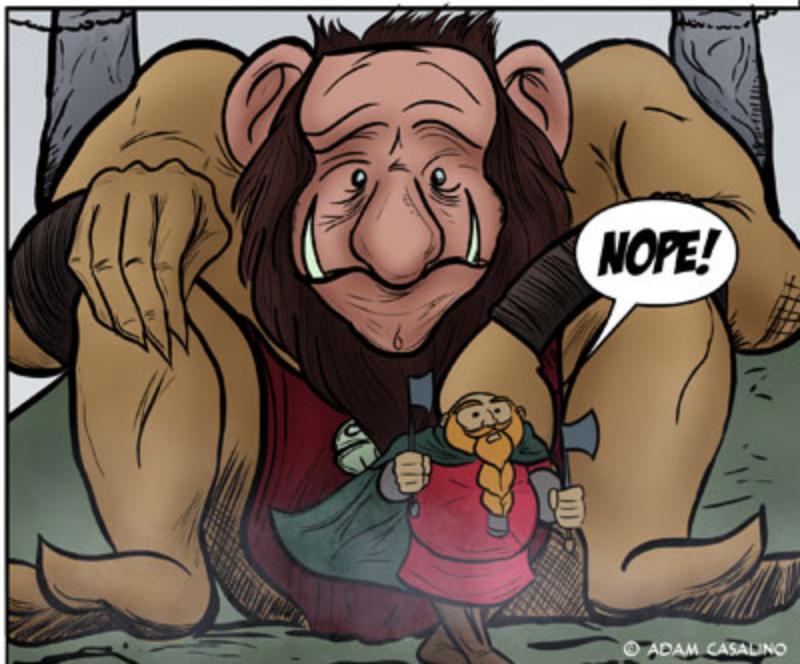
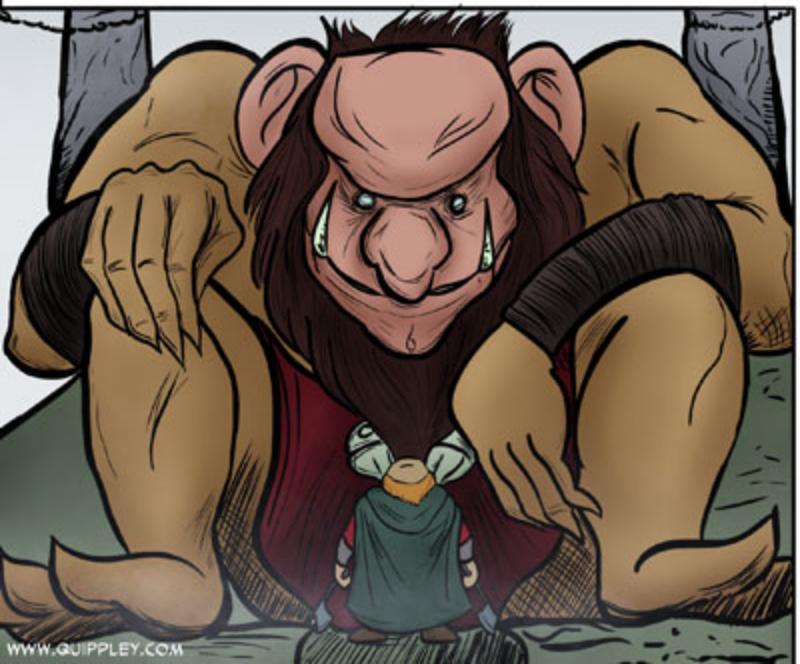
SAY, MAYATH! THE OPEN ROAD CAN BE MIGHTY DANGEROUS. I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR ANY--

HAHAH!

FASHOOM

YEAH... I CAN HANDLE MYSELF!











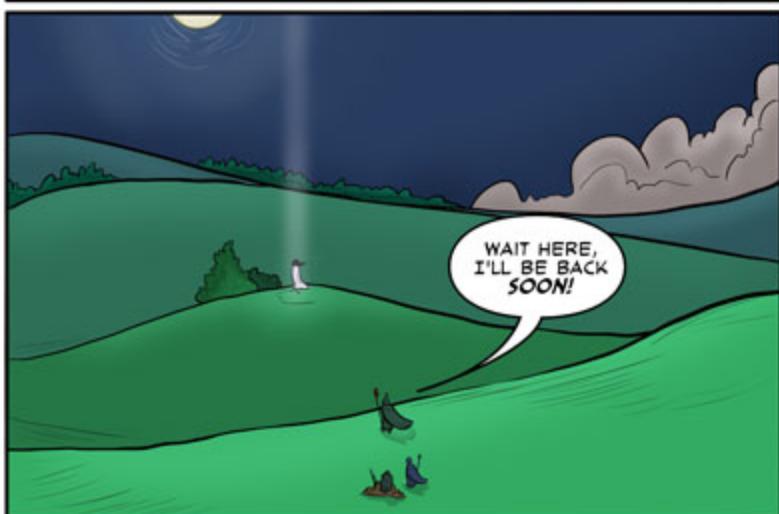
JUST KEEP YOUR HEAD TOGETHER!

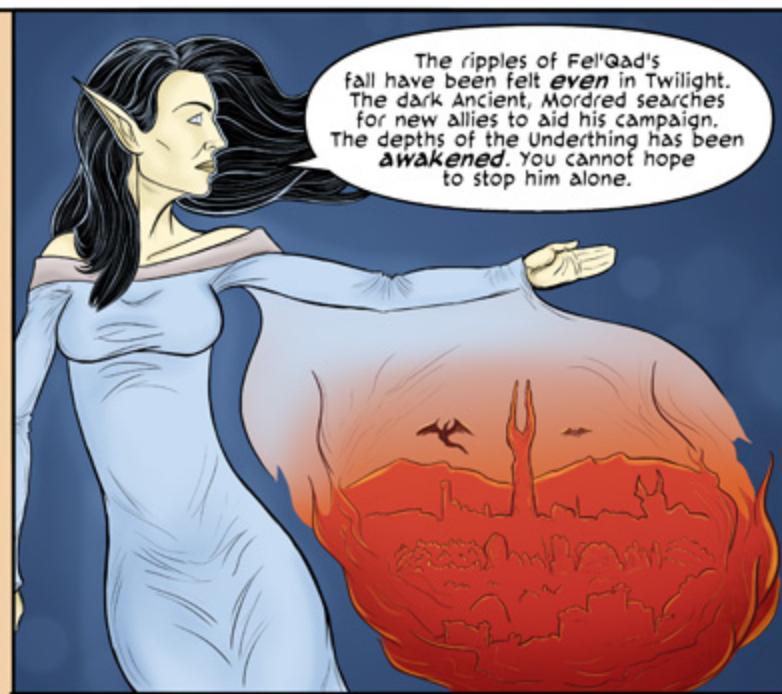






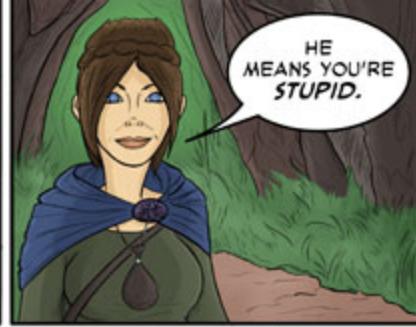










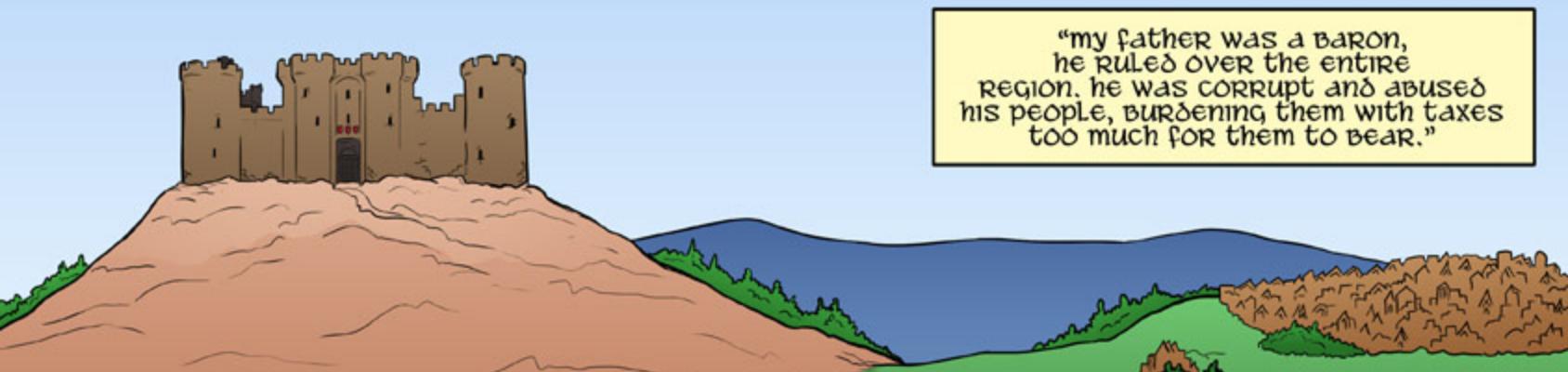












OH GOOD,
THEY LEFT THE
DOOR OPEN
FOR US!

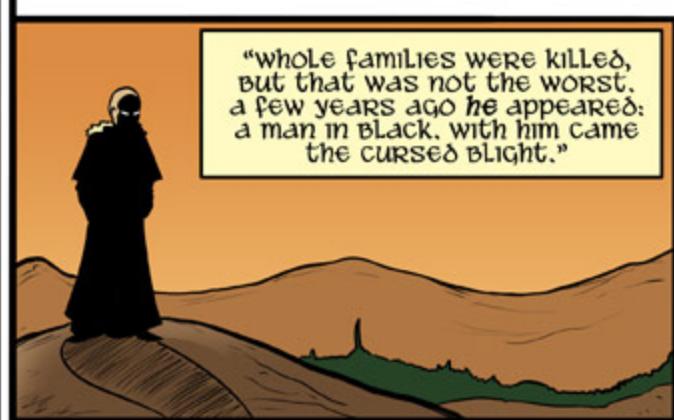
SO,
WHAT ARE
WE LOOKING
FOR?

I'LL TRY AN
INCANTATION OR
TWO, BUT I'M NO
DIVINER. I MIGHT
NOT HAVE MUCH
LUCK.

SUBSISTO
IN VESTRI
SEMITA!

AH!

PLEASE
DON'T HURT
ME!











MANY YEARS AGO...

LORD
aLASANDE
hilome!

you are found
guilty of crimes
against the Land
and are hereby
evicted!

AAHHH!

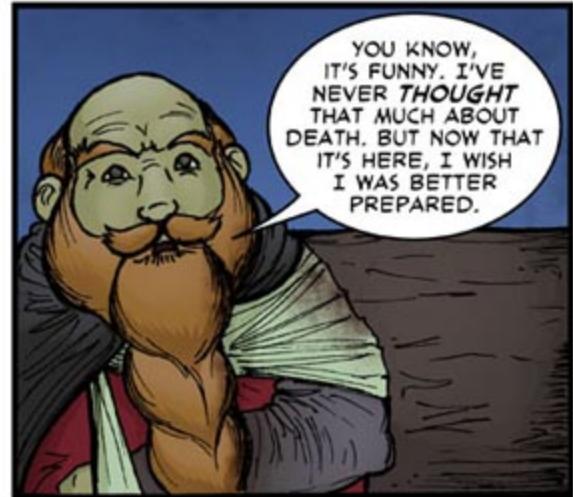
BARON
hilome...

YOUR LIFE IS
fleeing you. YOUR
LEGACY IS BROKEN. I,
the great Lord MORDRED,
am the only one who
can save you
now.

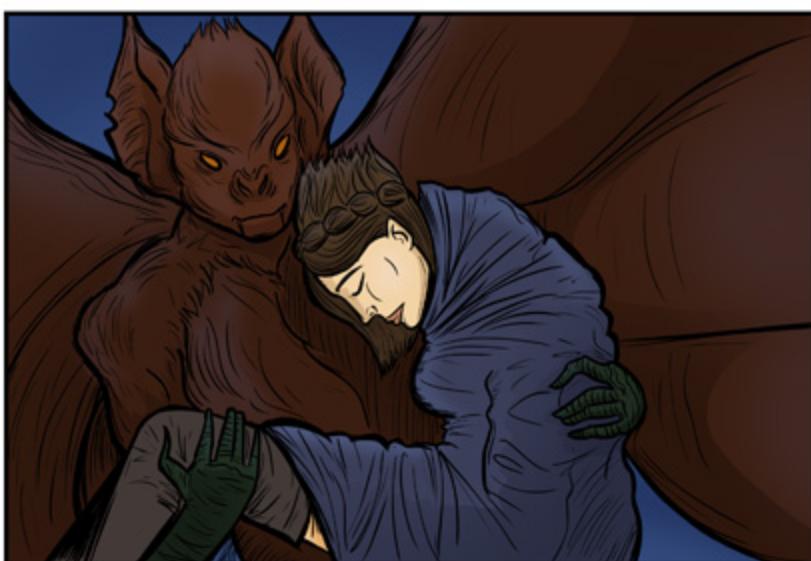
together,
we will force
this Land to
obey us!

GIVE YOUR
SOUL TO ME AND I
WILL GRANT YOU
POWER TO STRIKE
BACK AT YOUR
ENEMIES.









THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #108



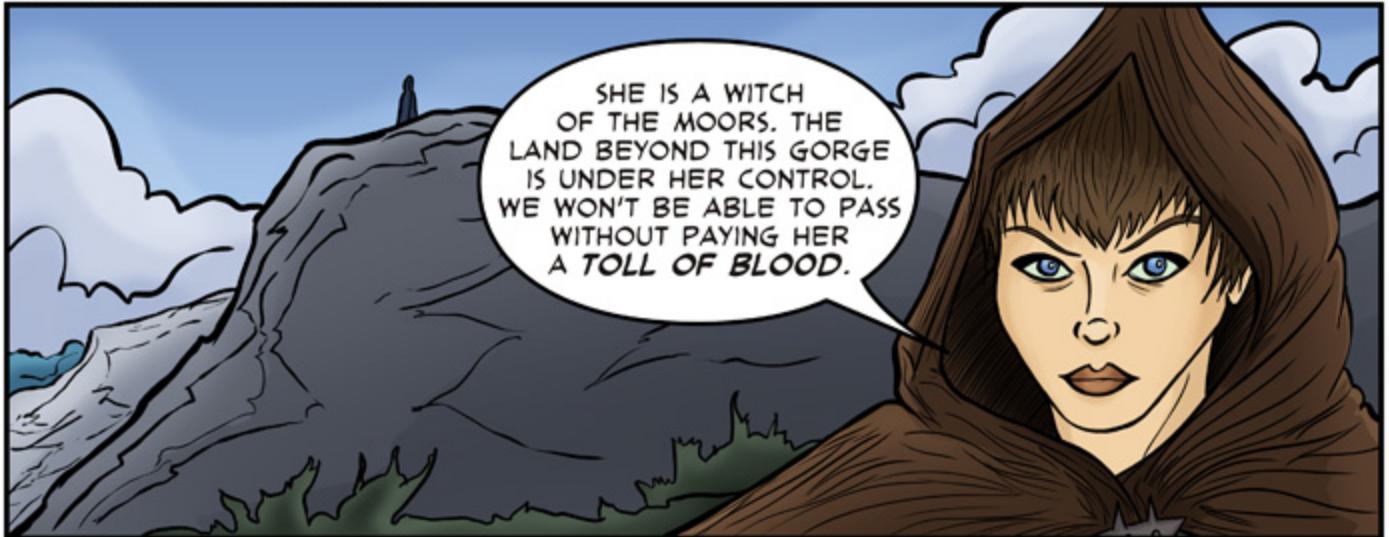
THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #109



THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #110







TOO LATE,
SWEETCAKE!





ERRRRRAAAAHHHH!

OH.



I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MISSY!

AL, AREN'T YOU GOING TO STOP HIM?

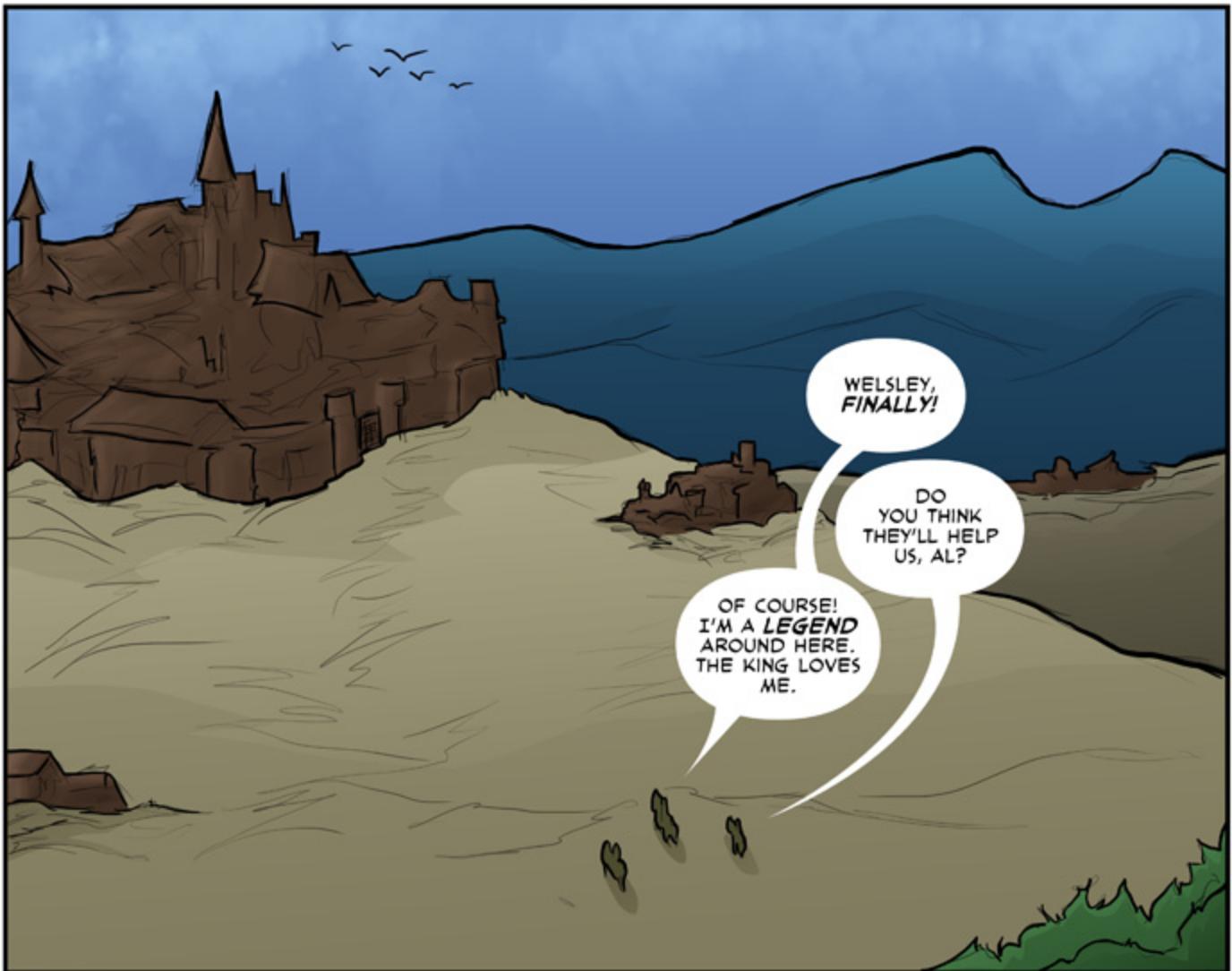
OH NO. I WANT TO SEE THIS.

THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #115





THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #117

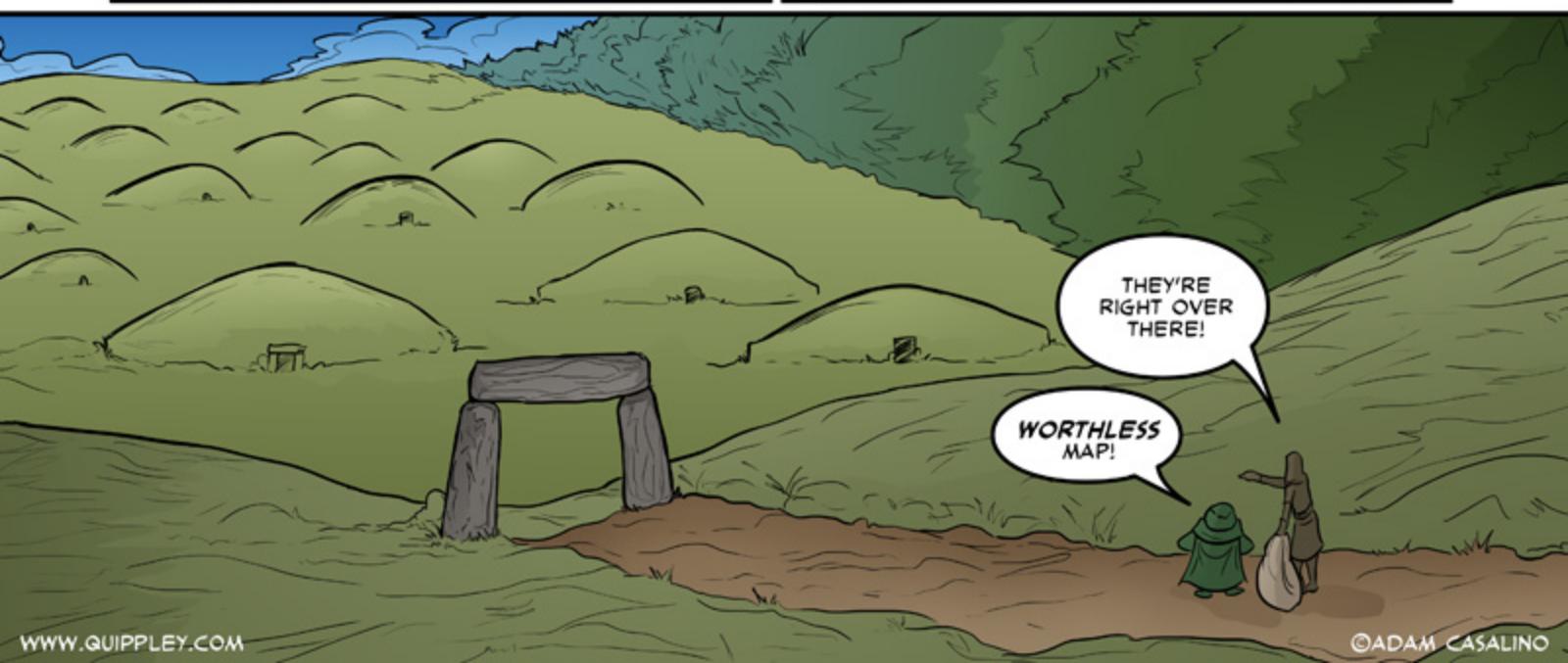
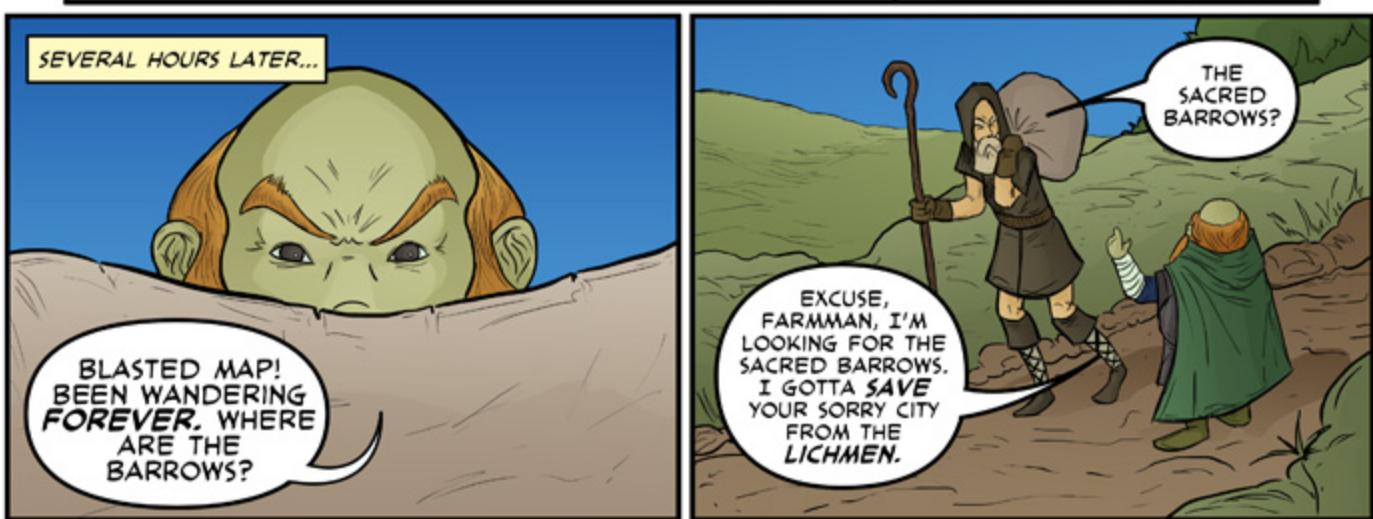




THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #119

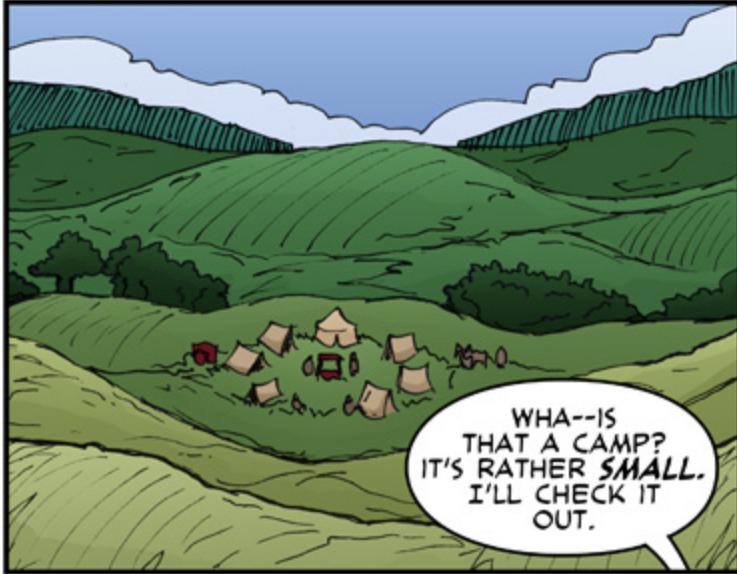


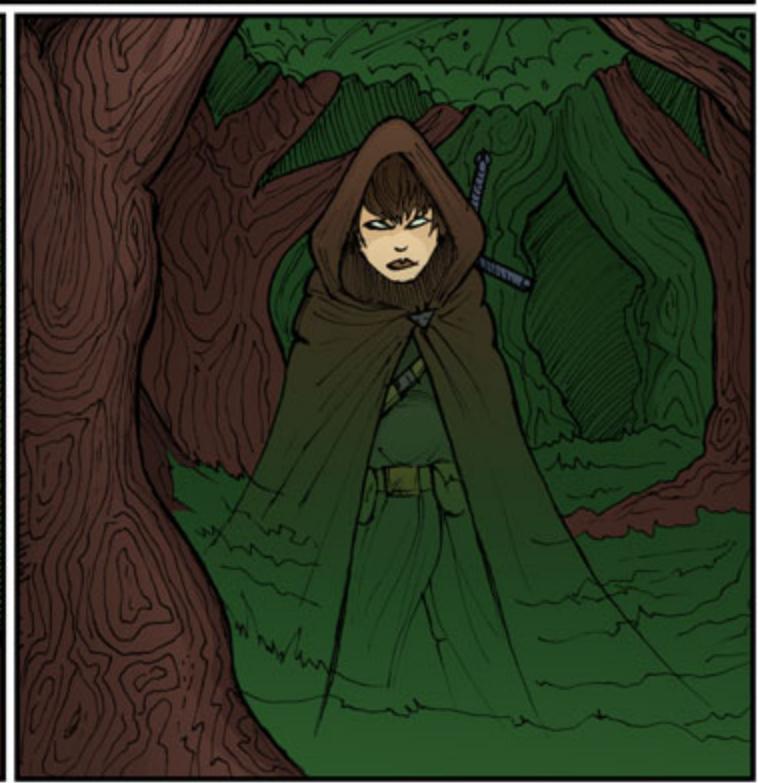
THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #120

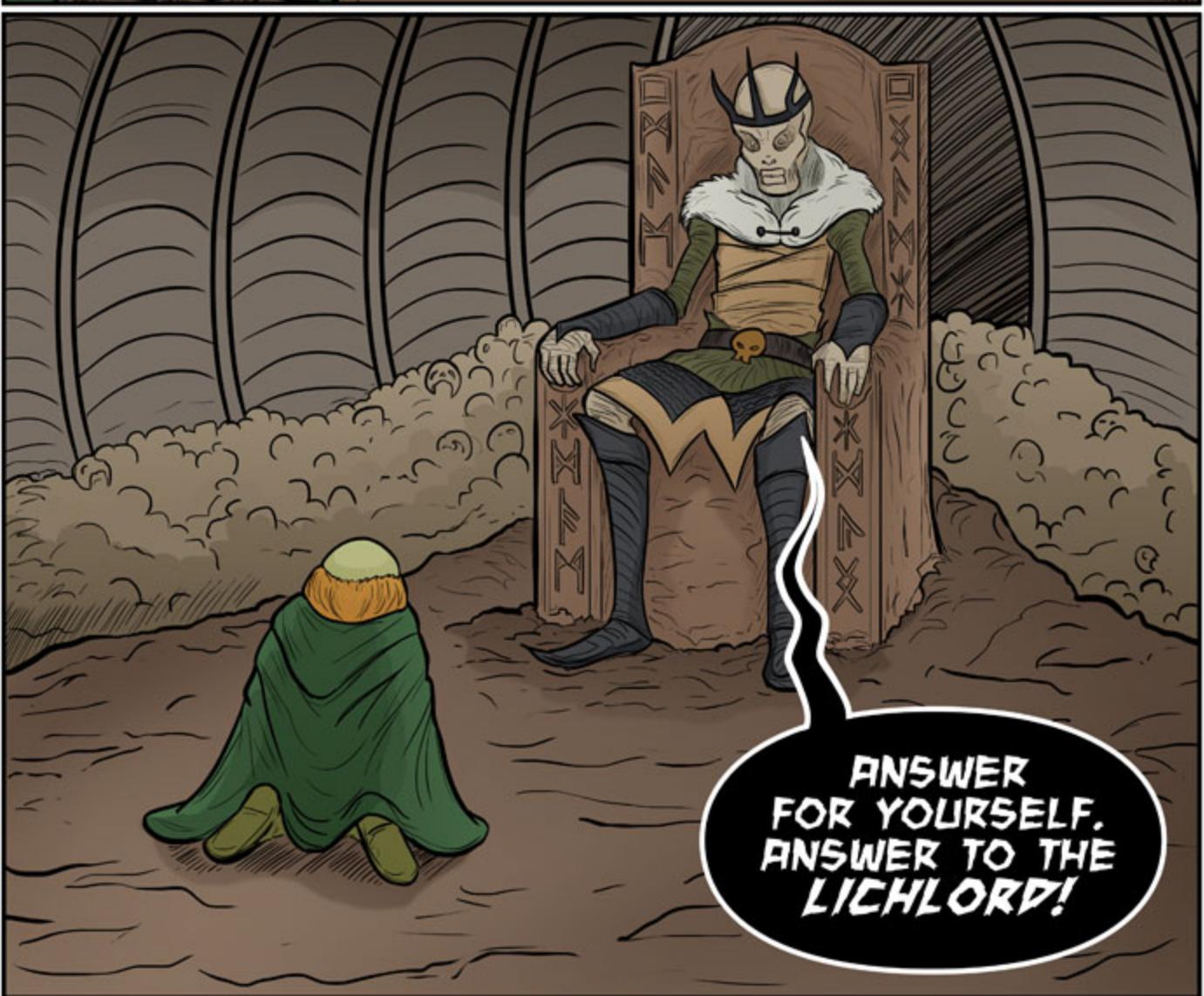




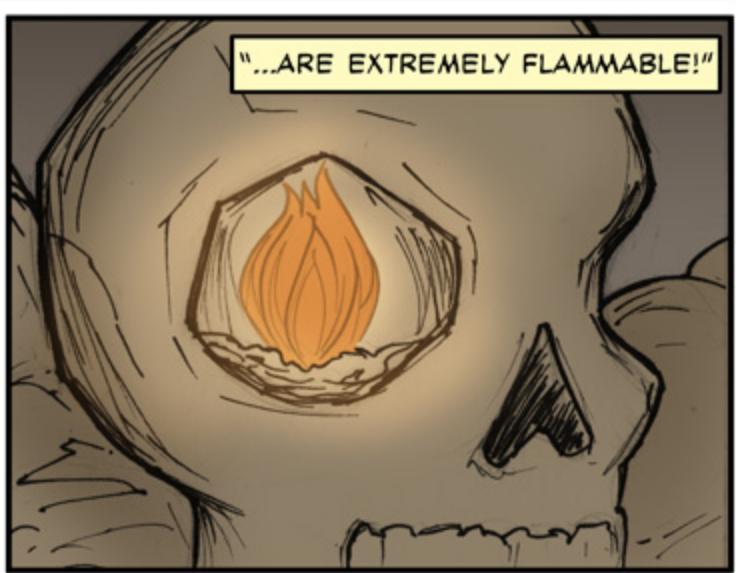
THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #122

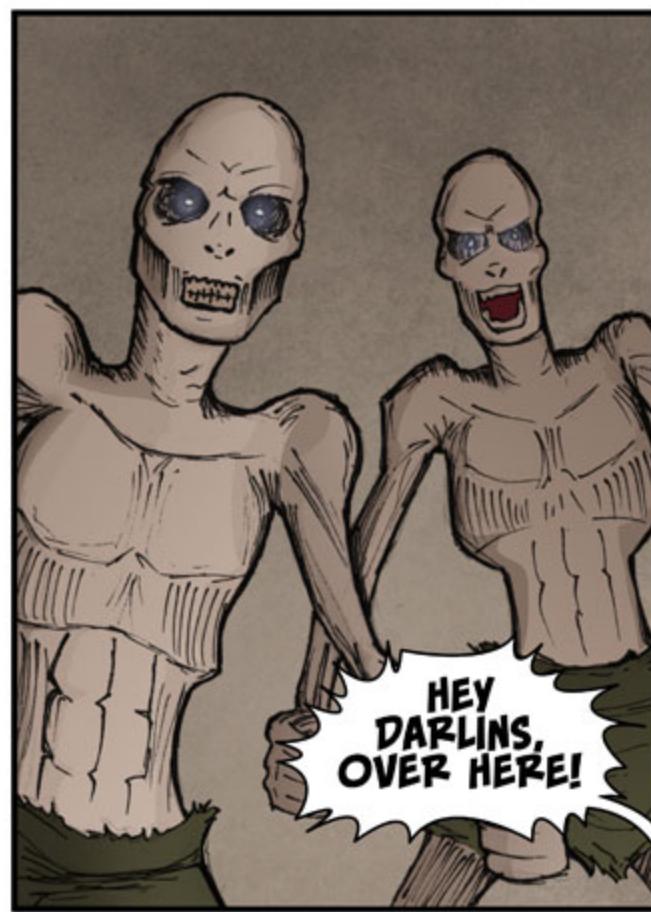




















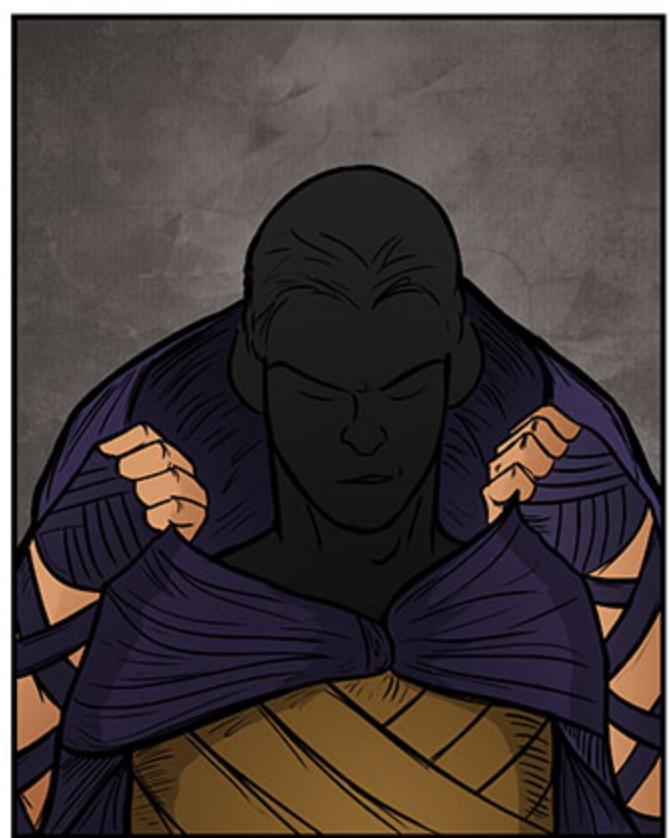


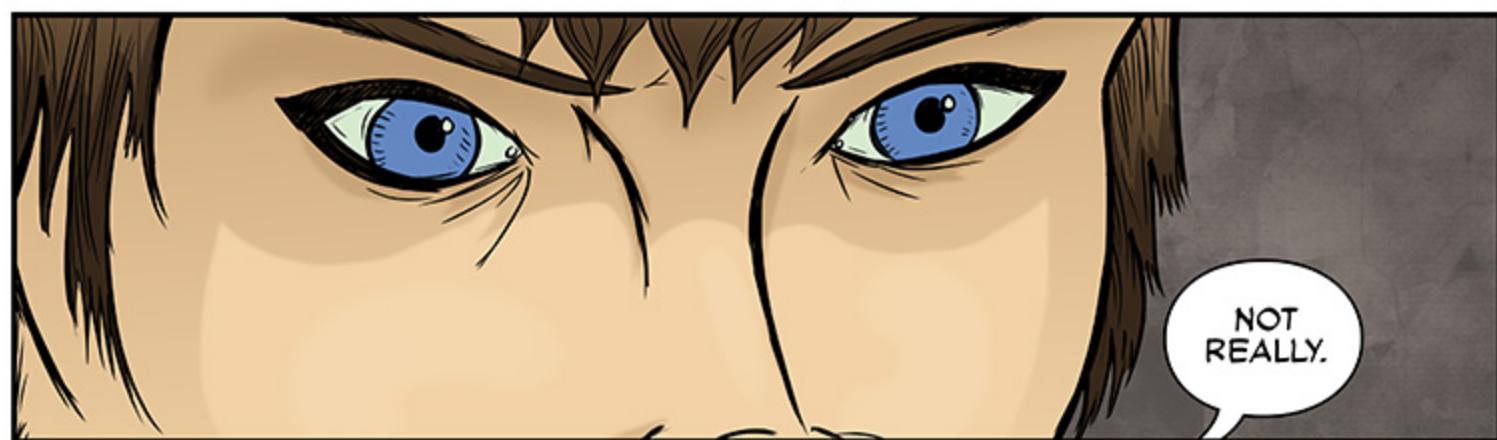


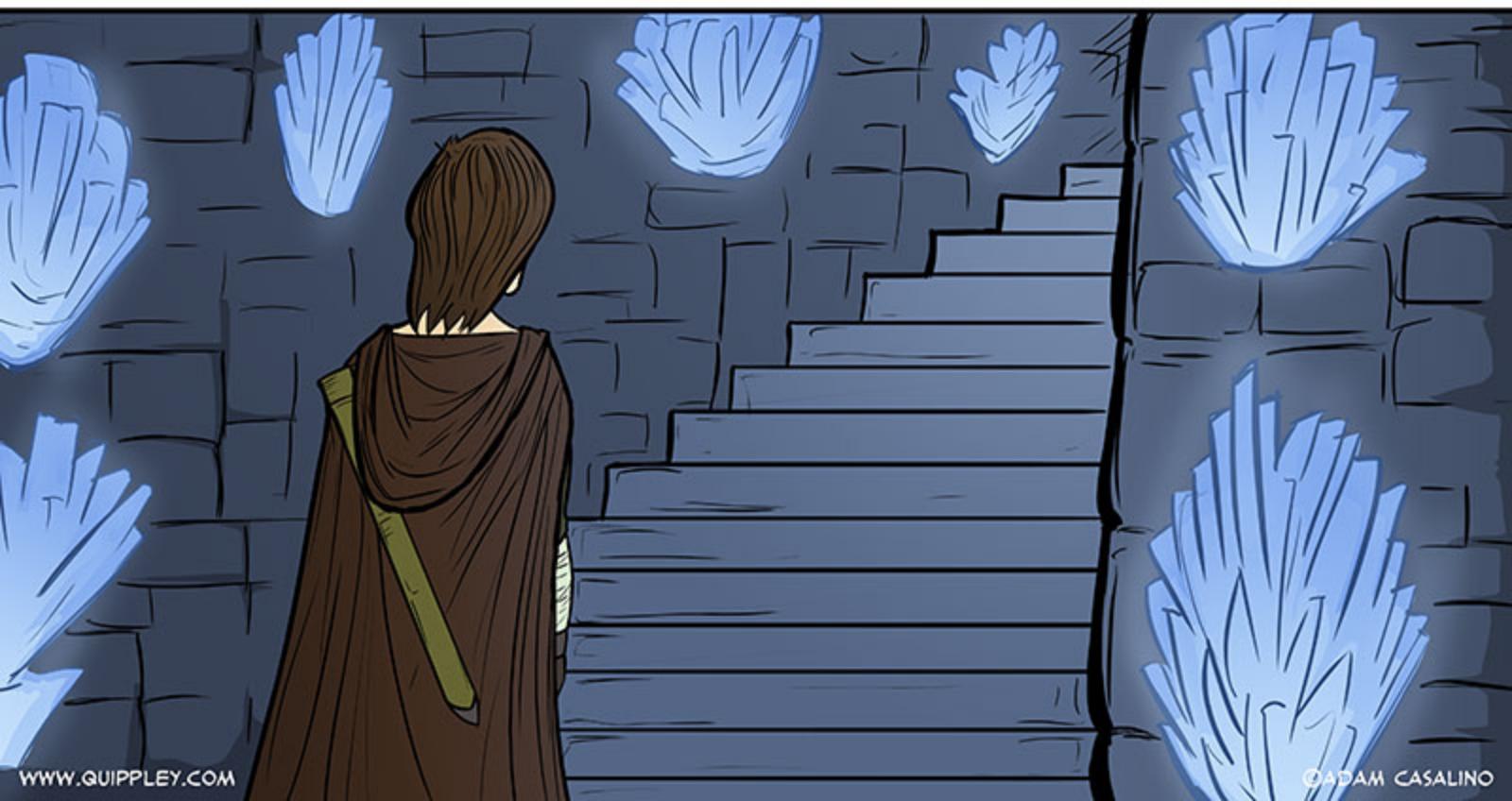
THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY









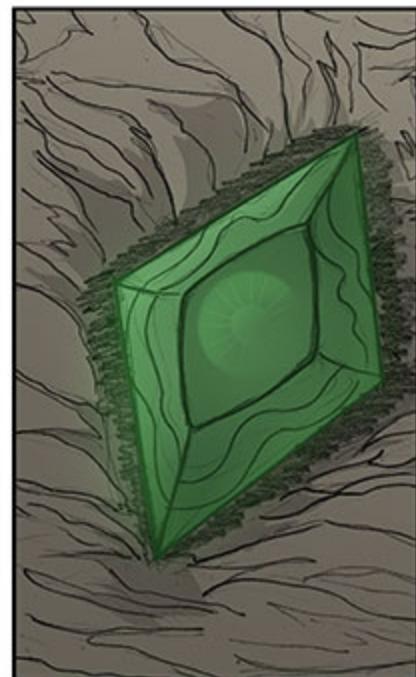








RURHH

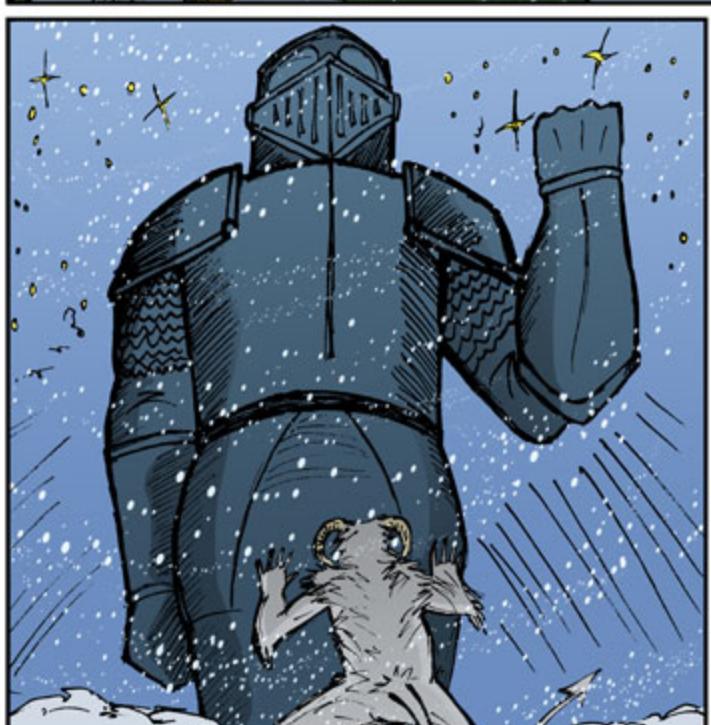


















THE WIZARD OF QUIPPLEY #151

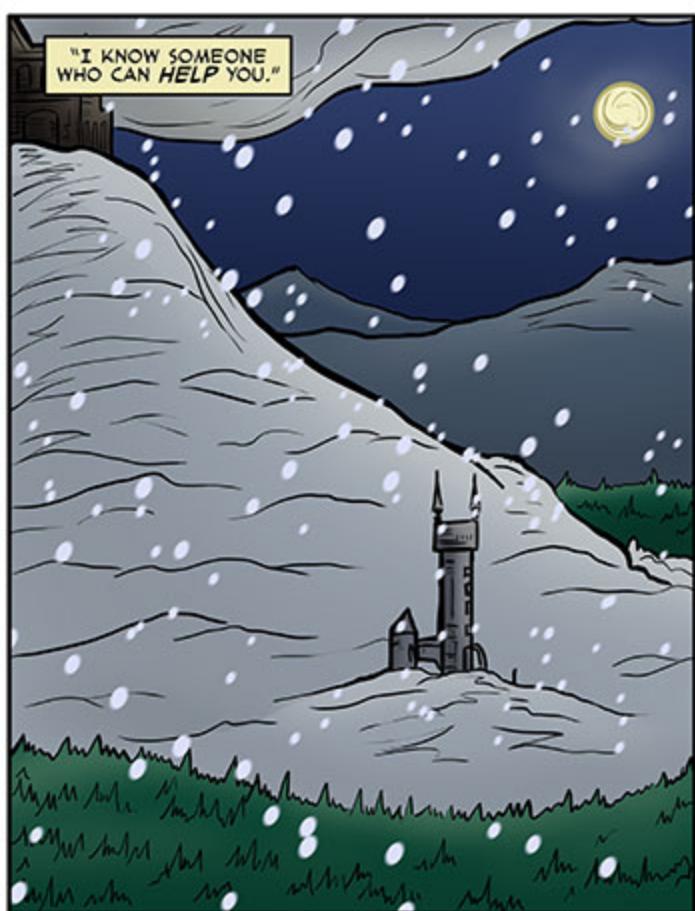




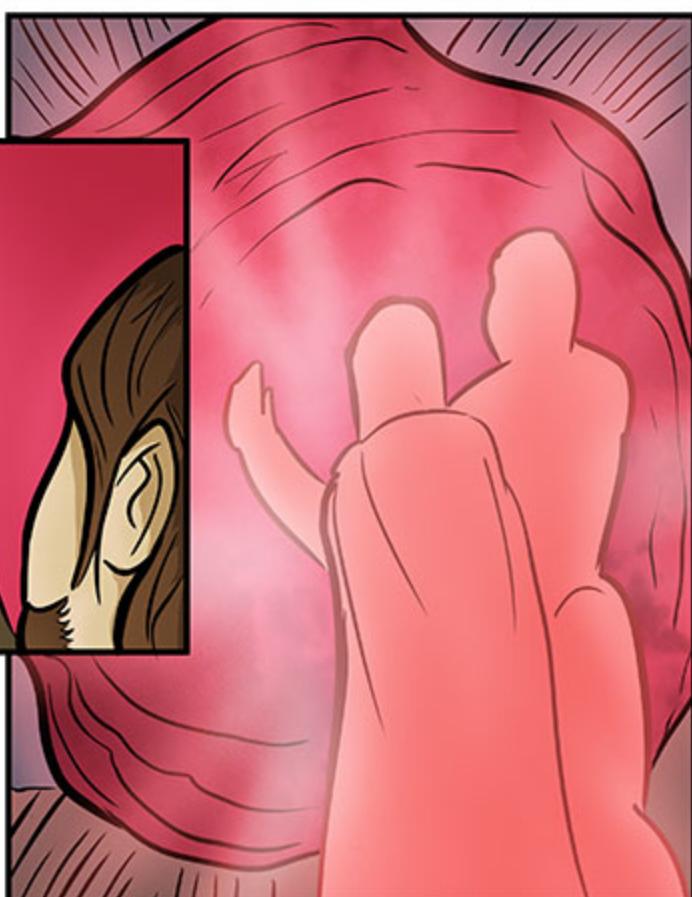




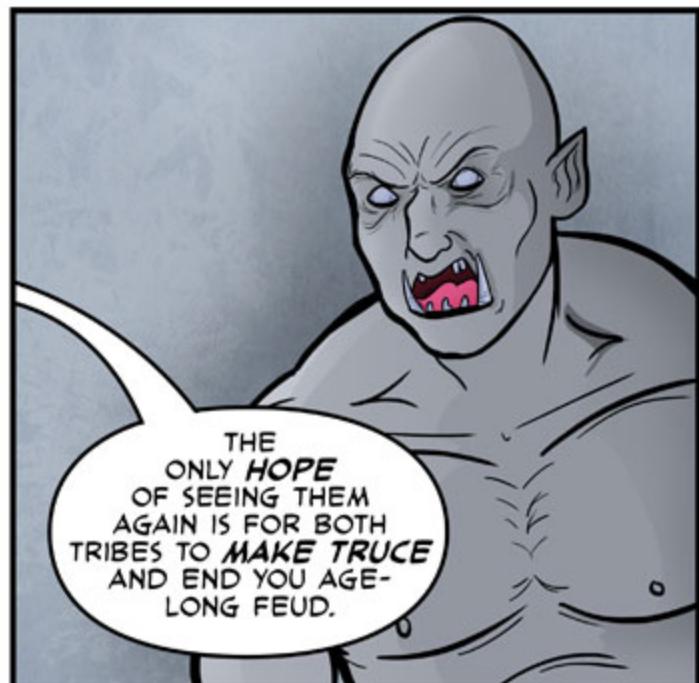










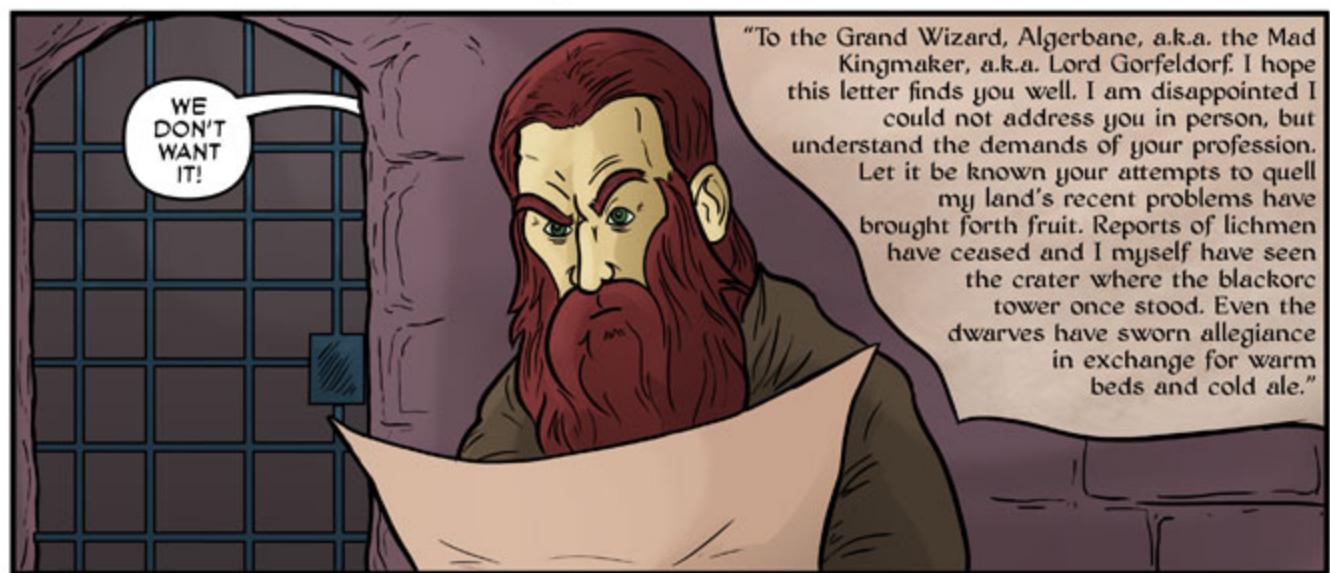














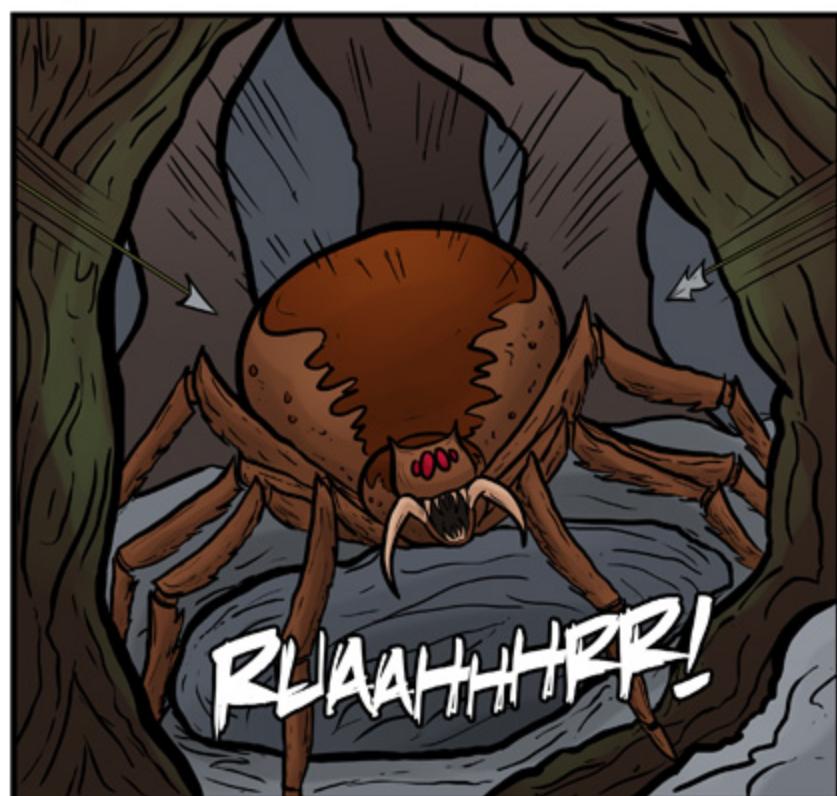
WELL
THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO
FIND OUT, ISN'T
THERE?

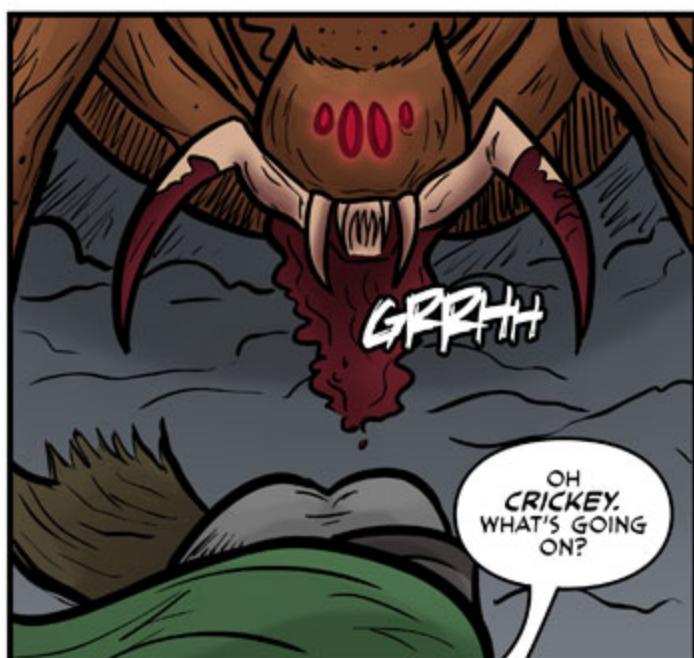


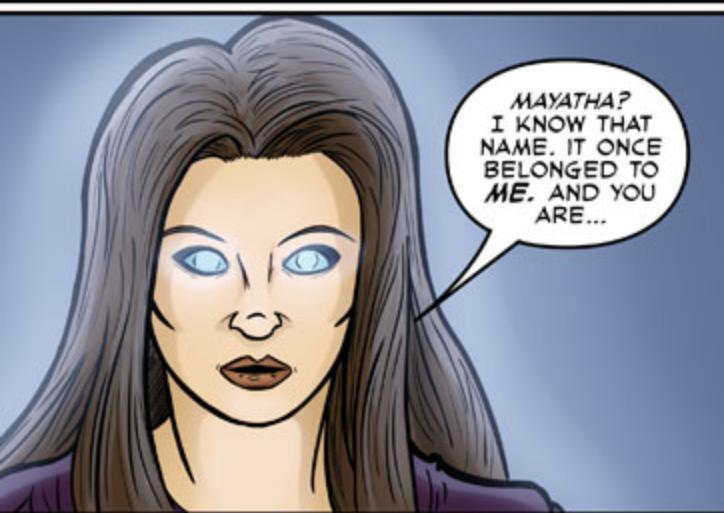
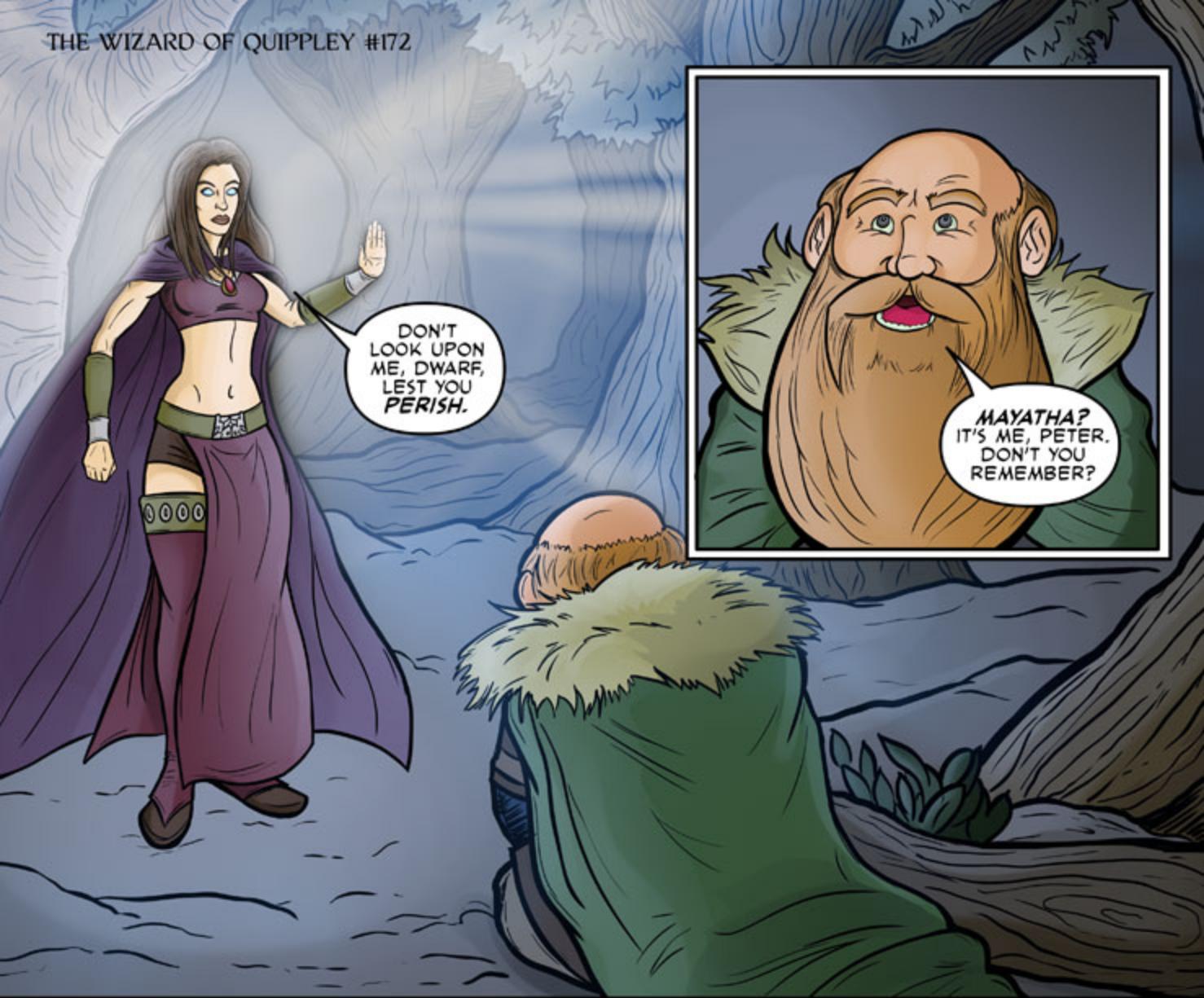


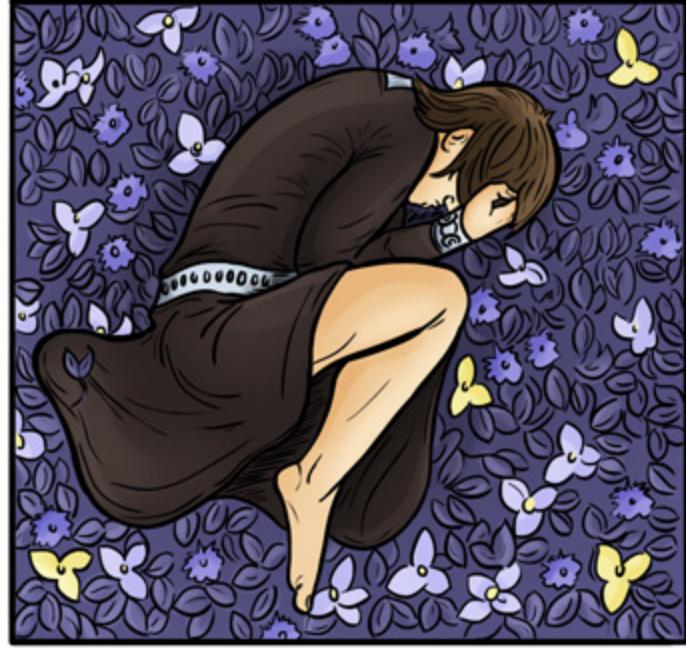










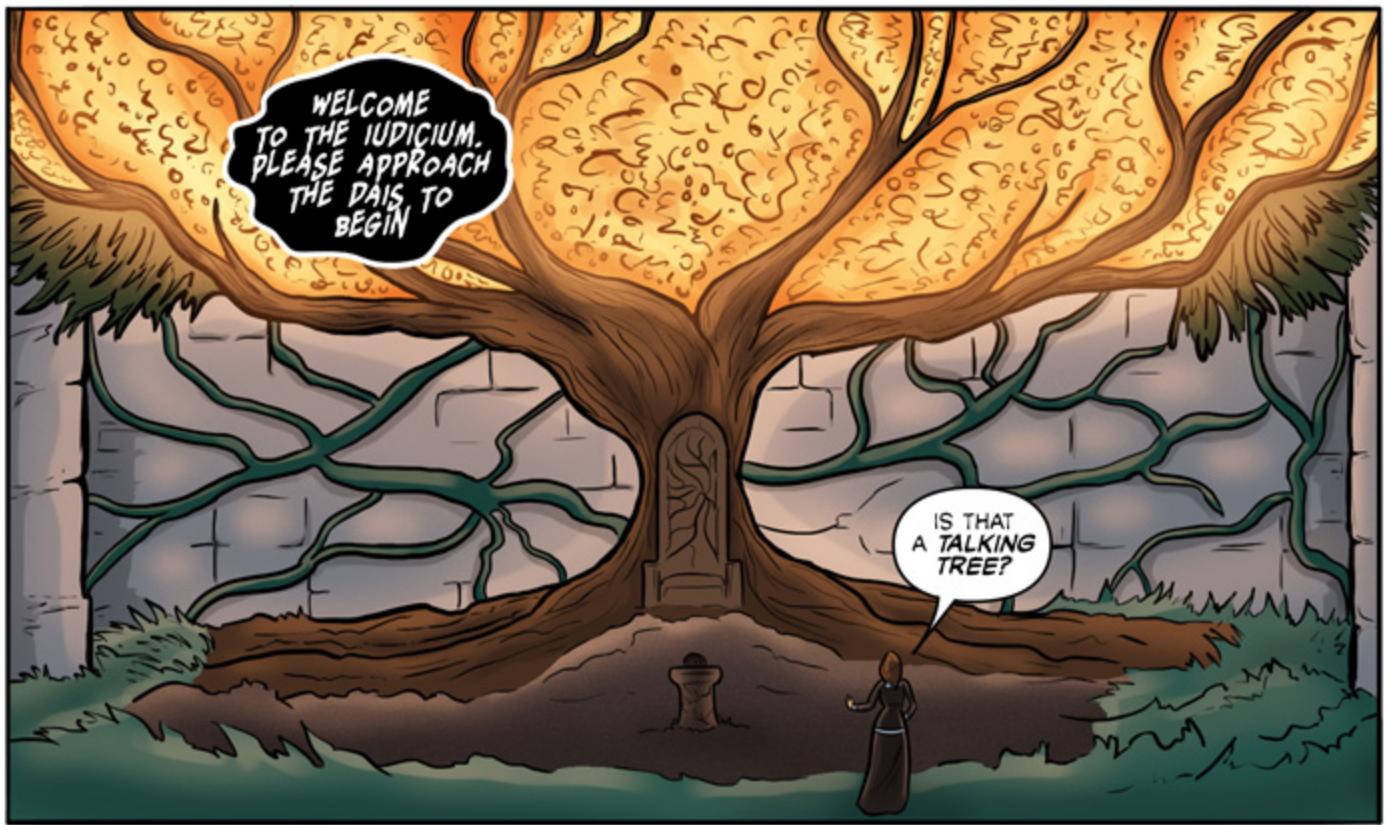
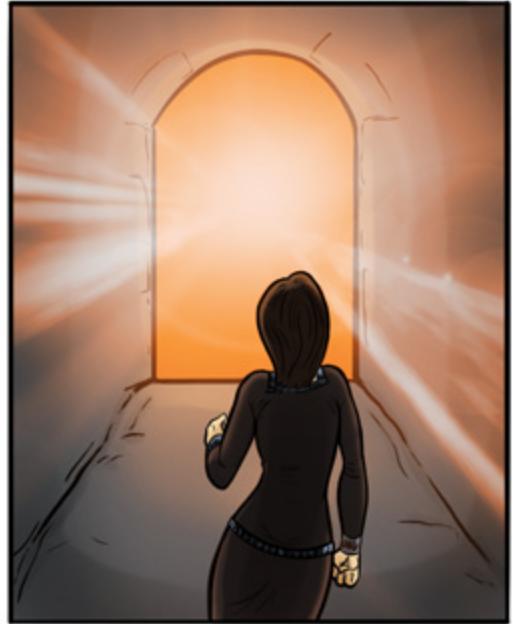


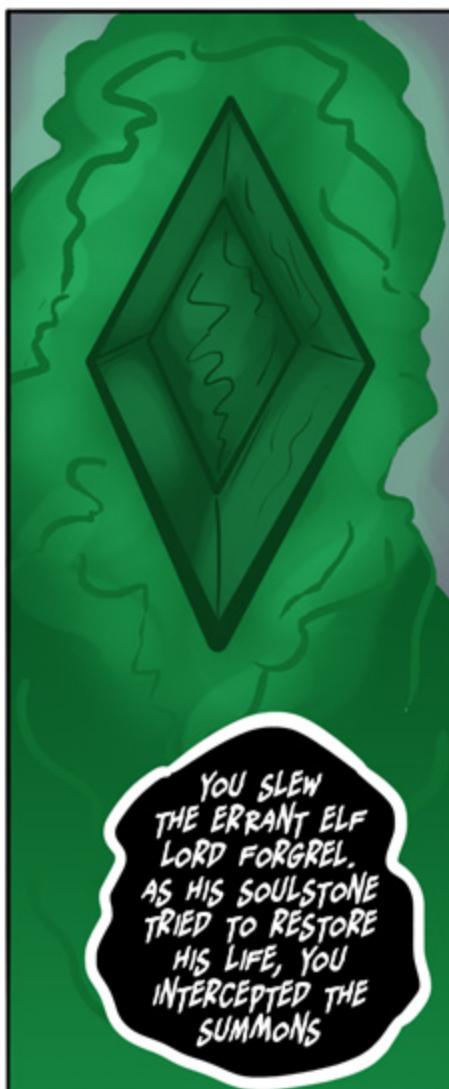
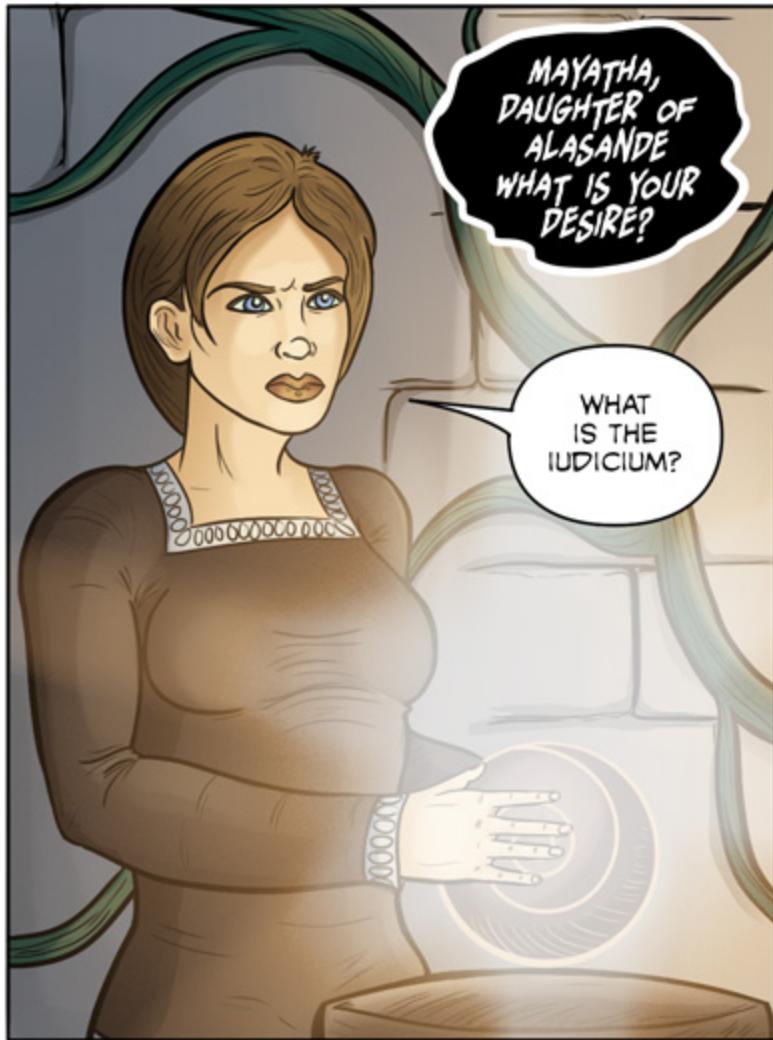


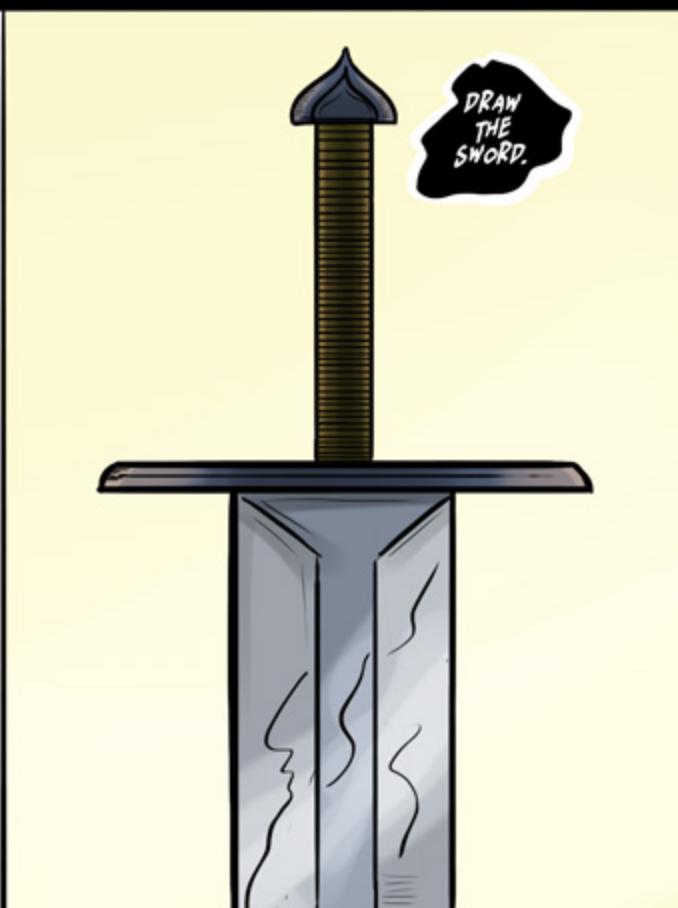
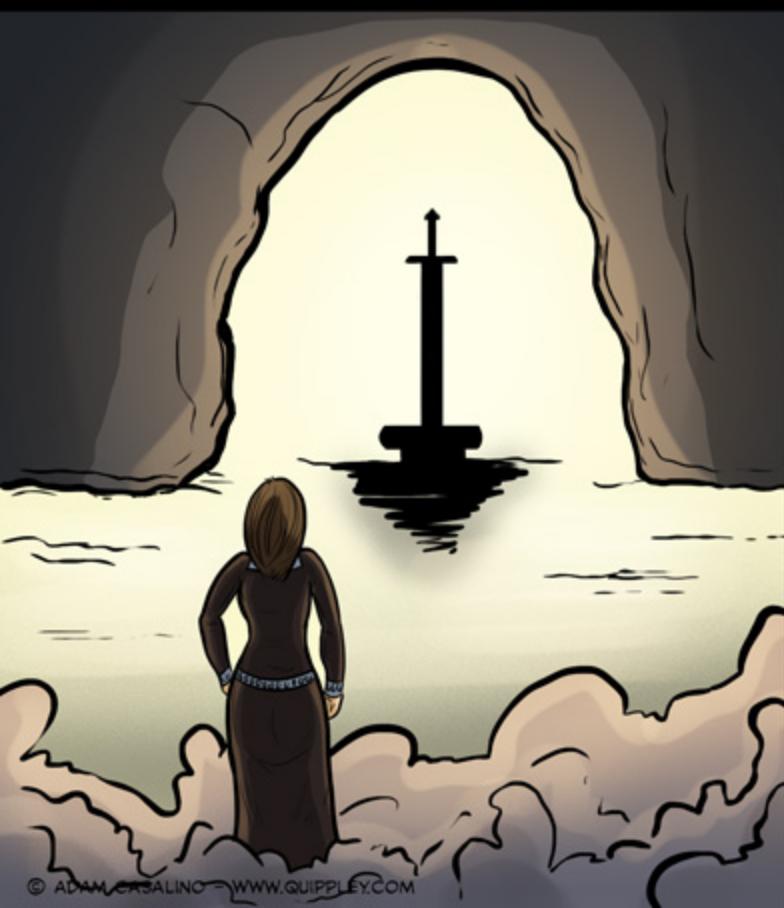


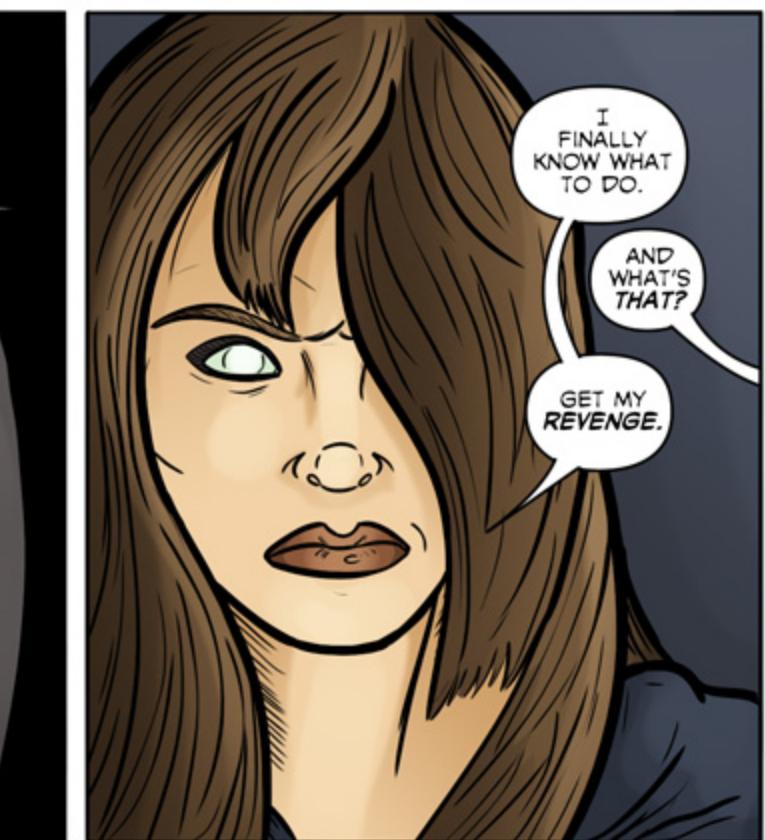




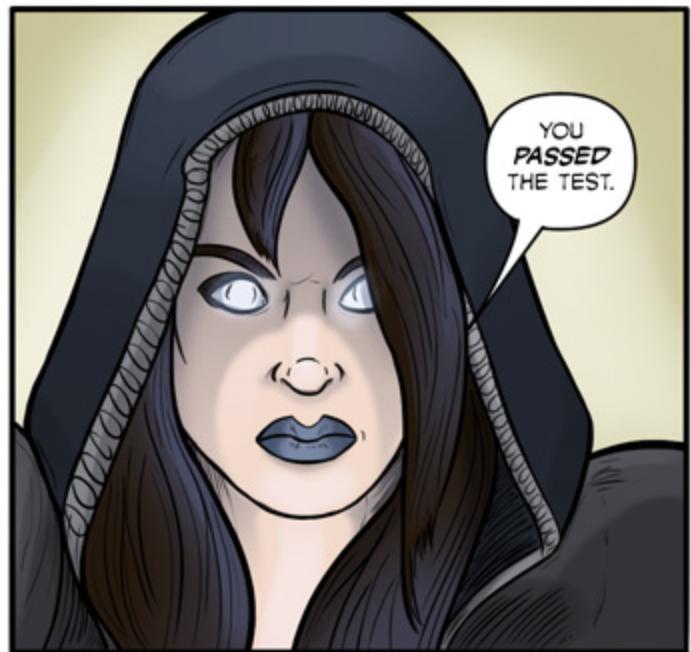
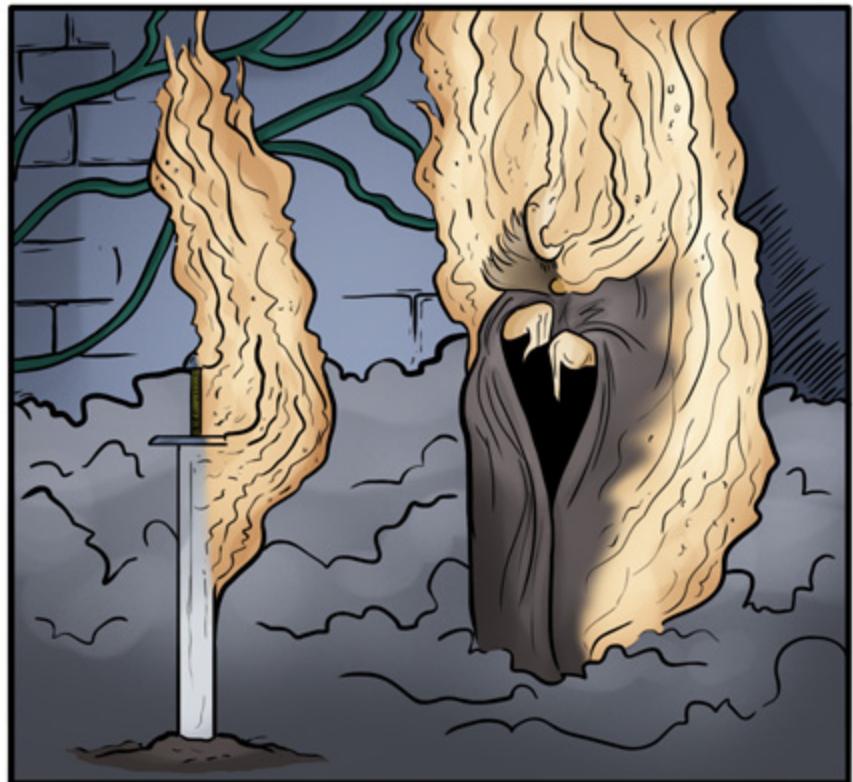




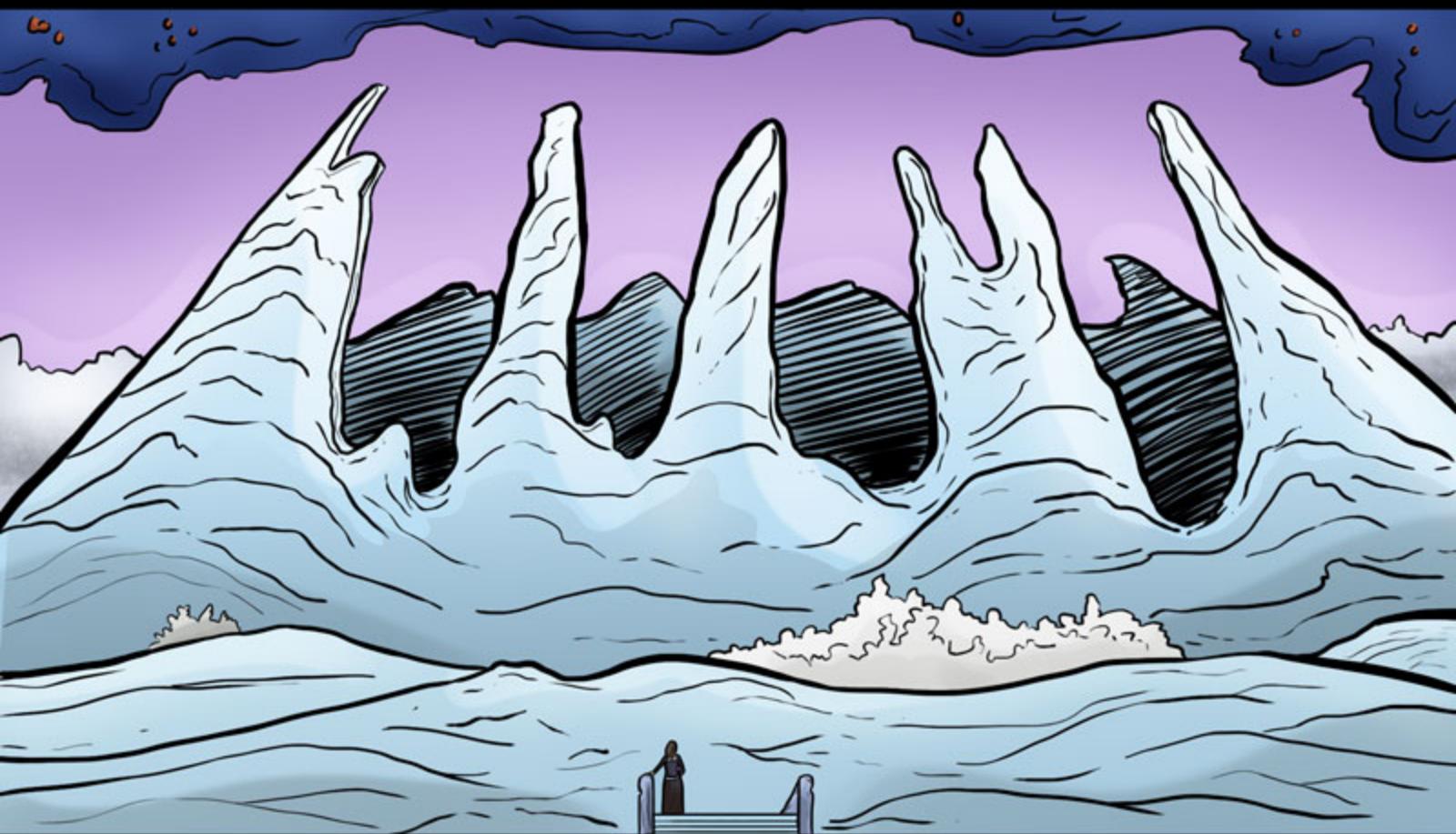


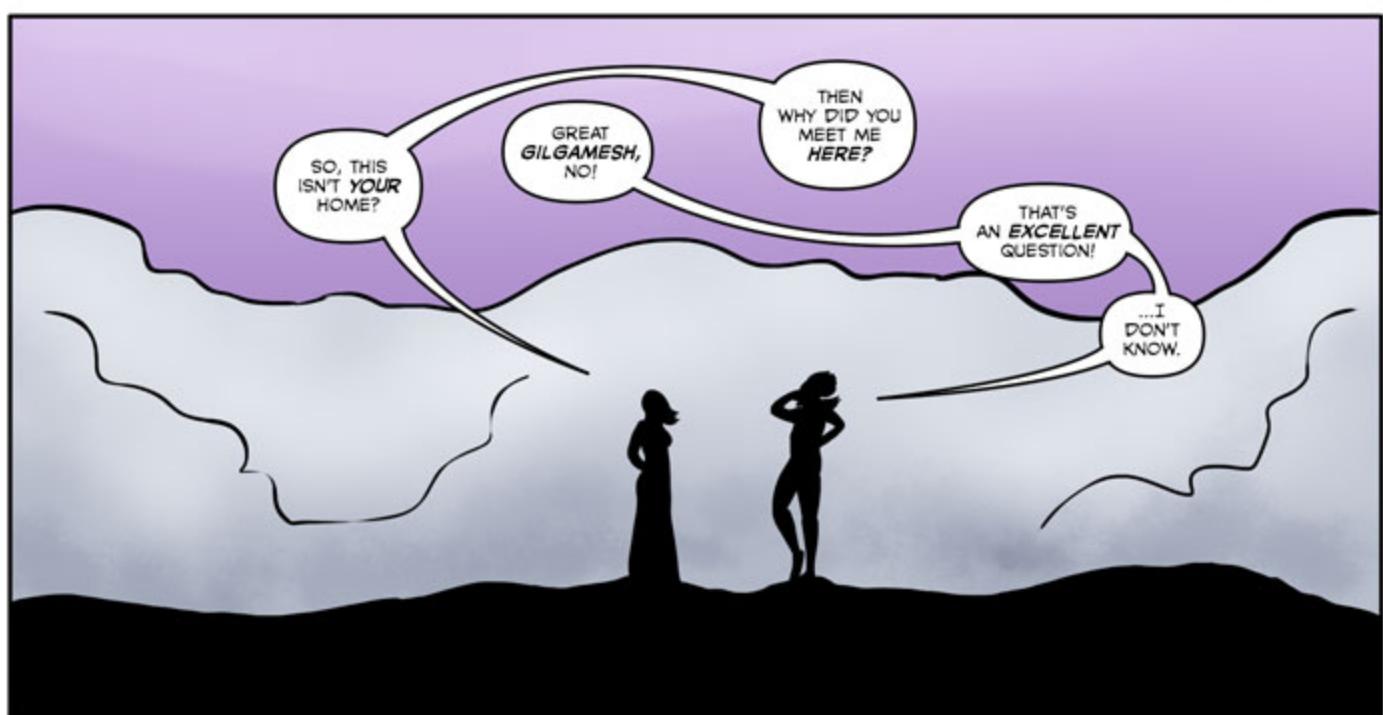
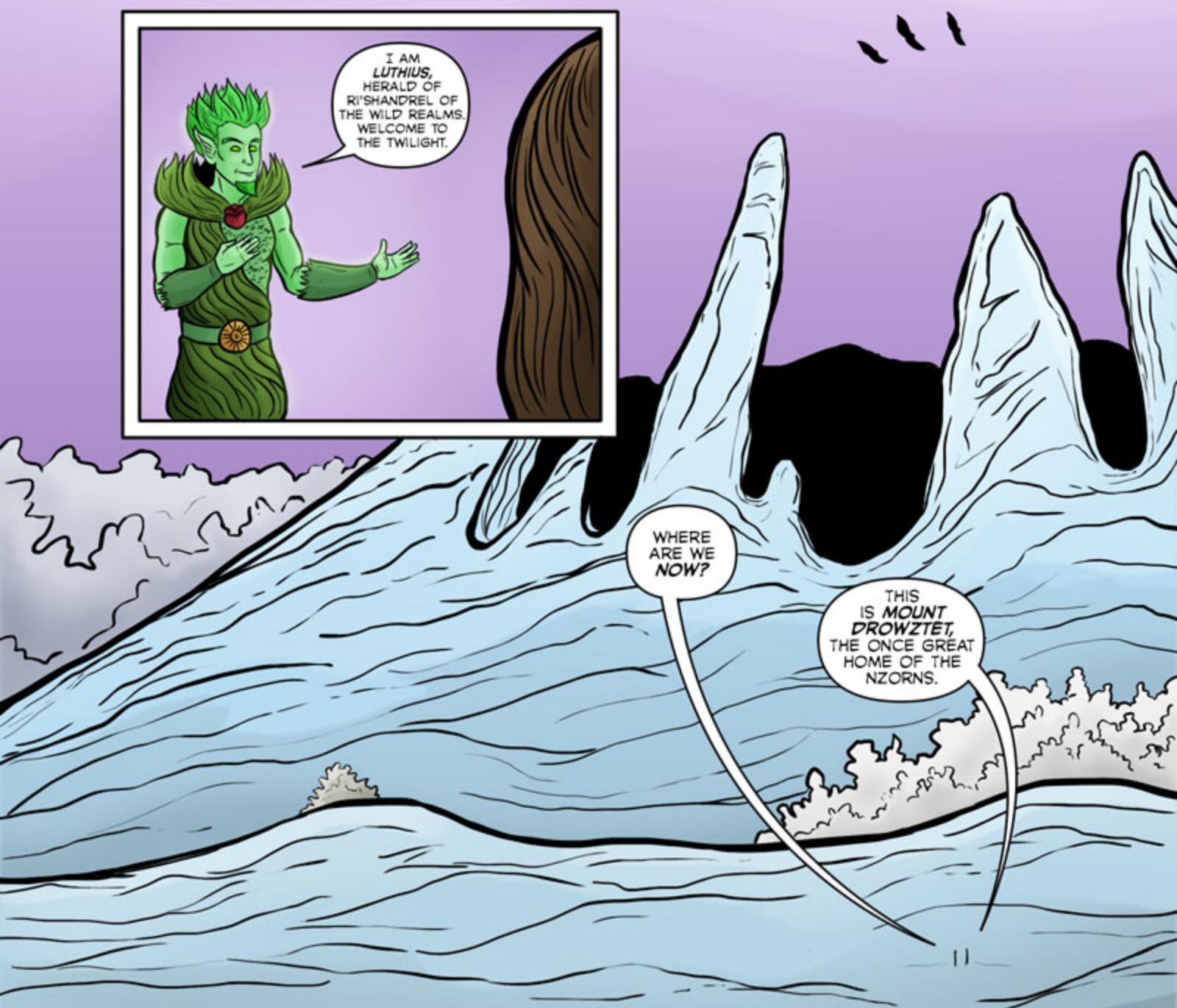


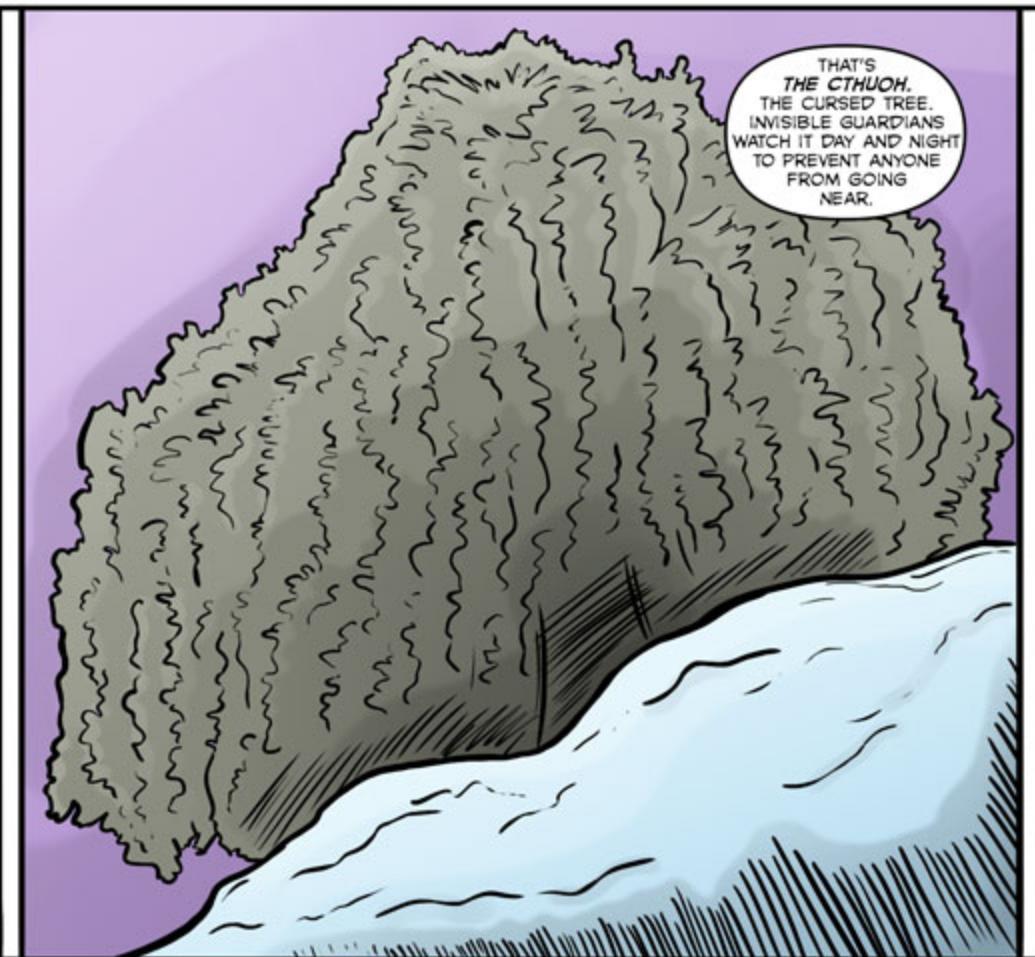


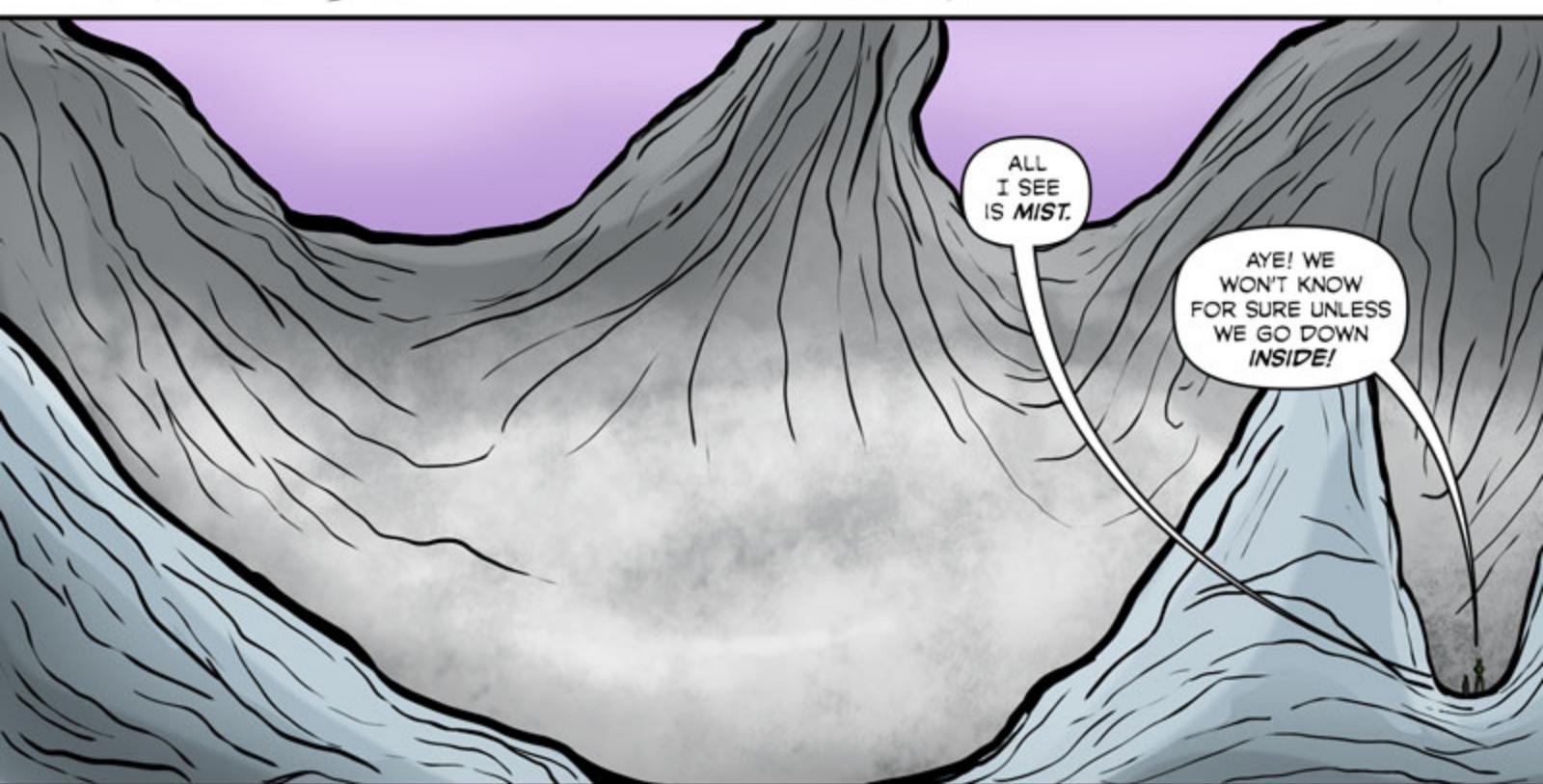


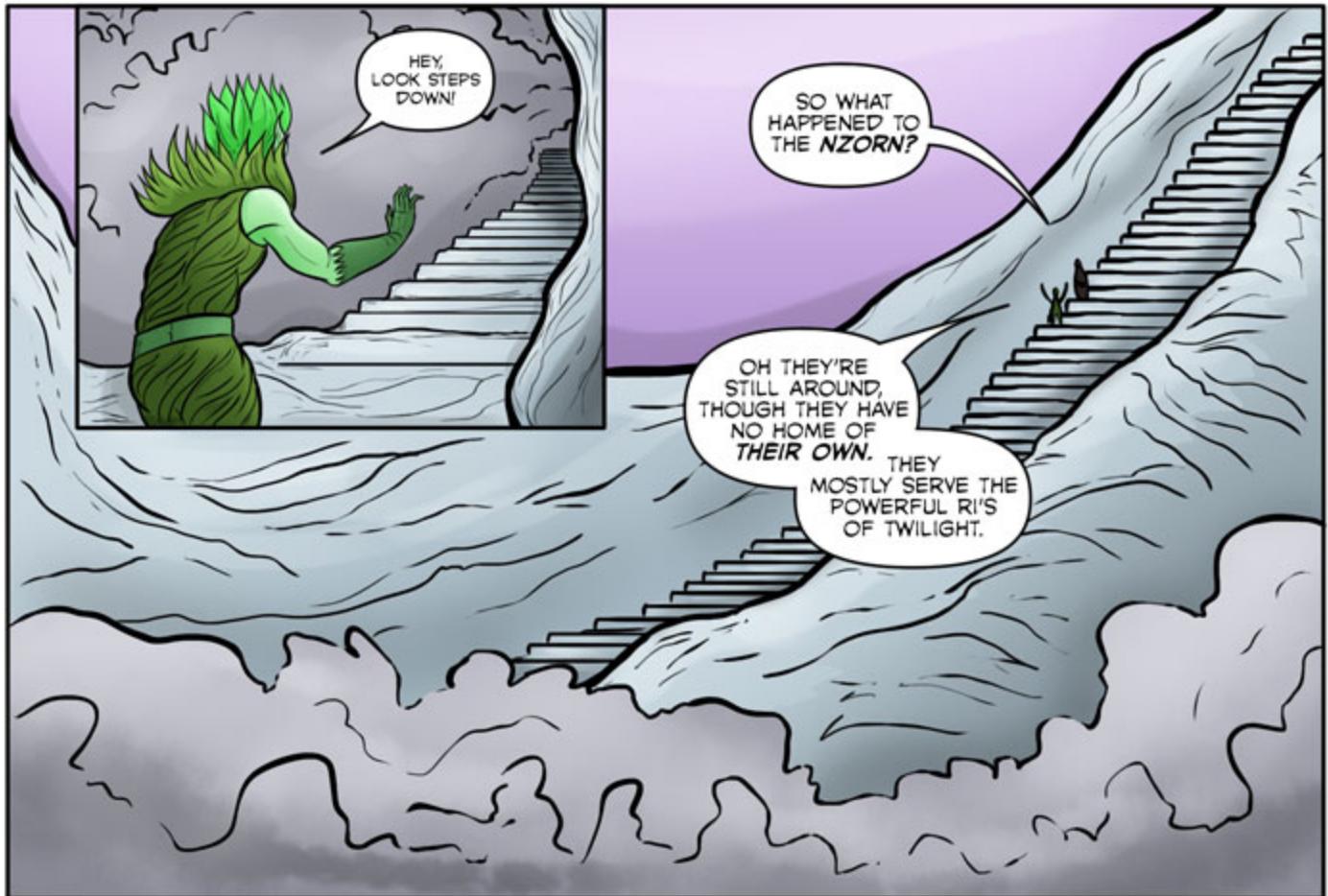








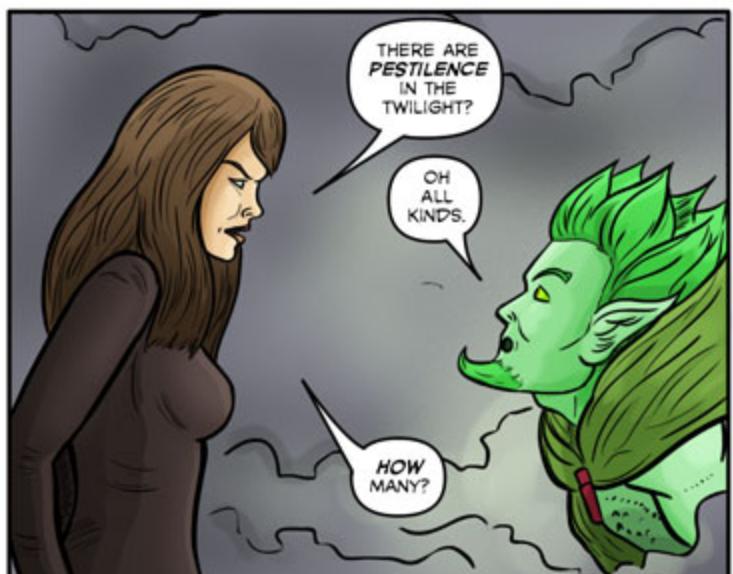


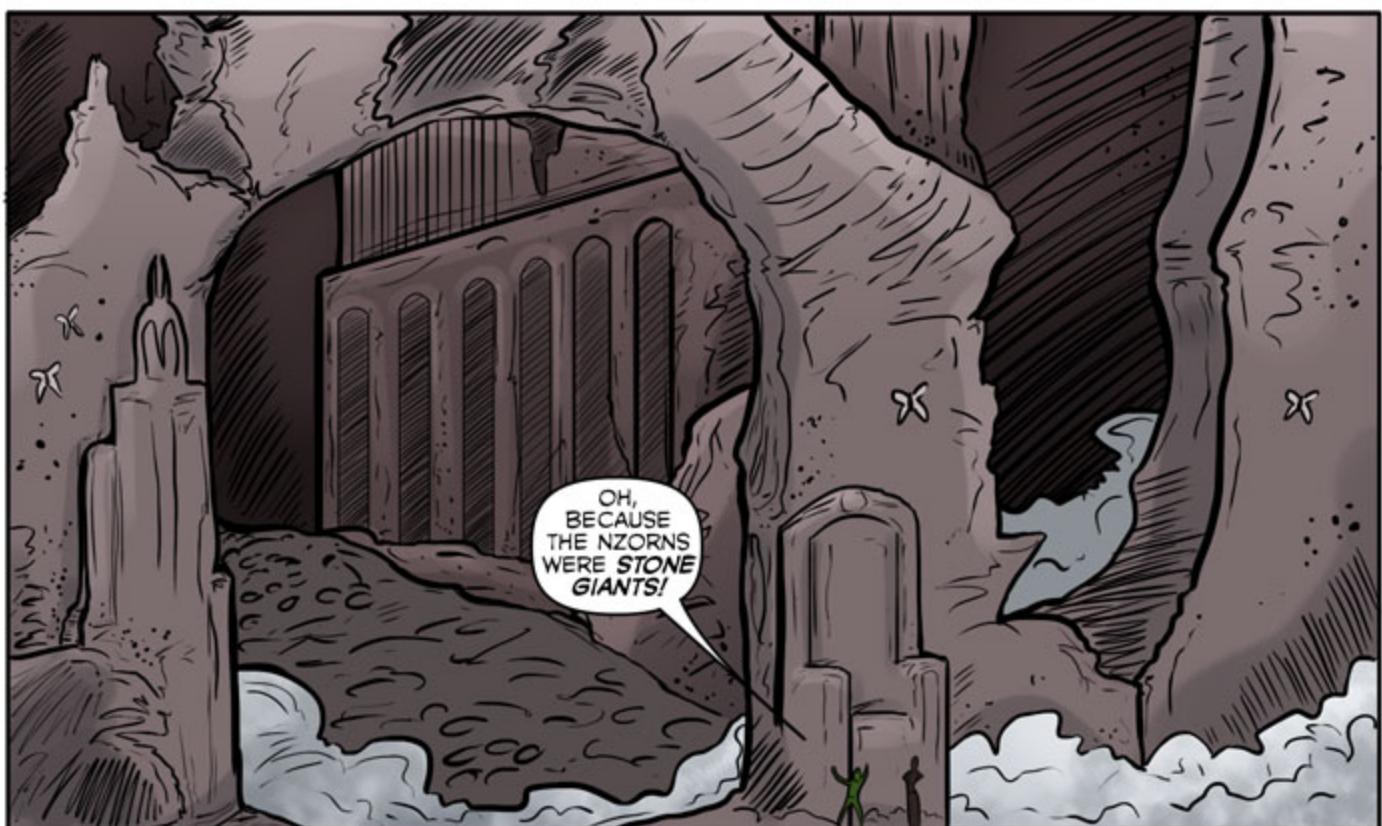


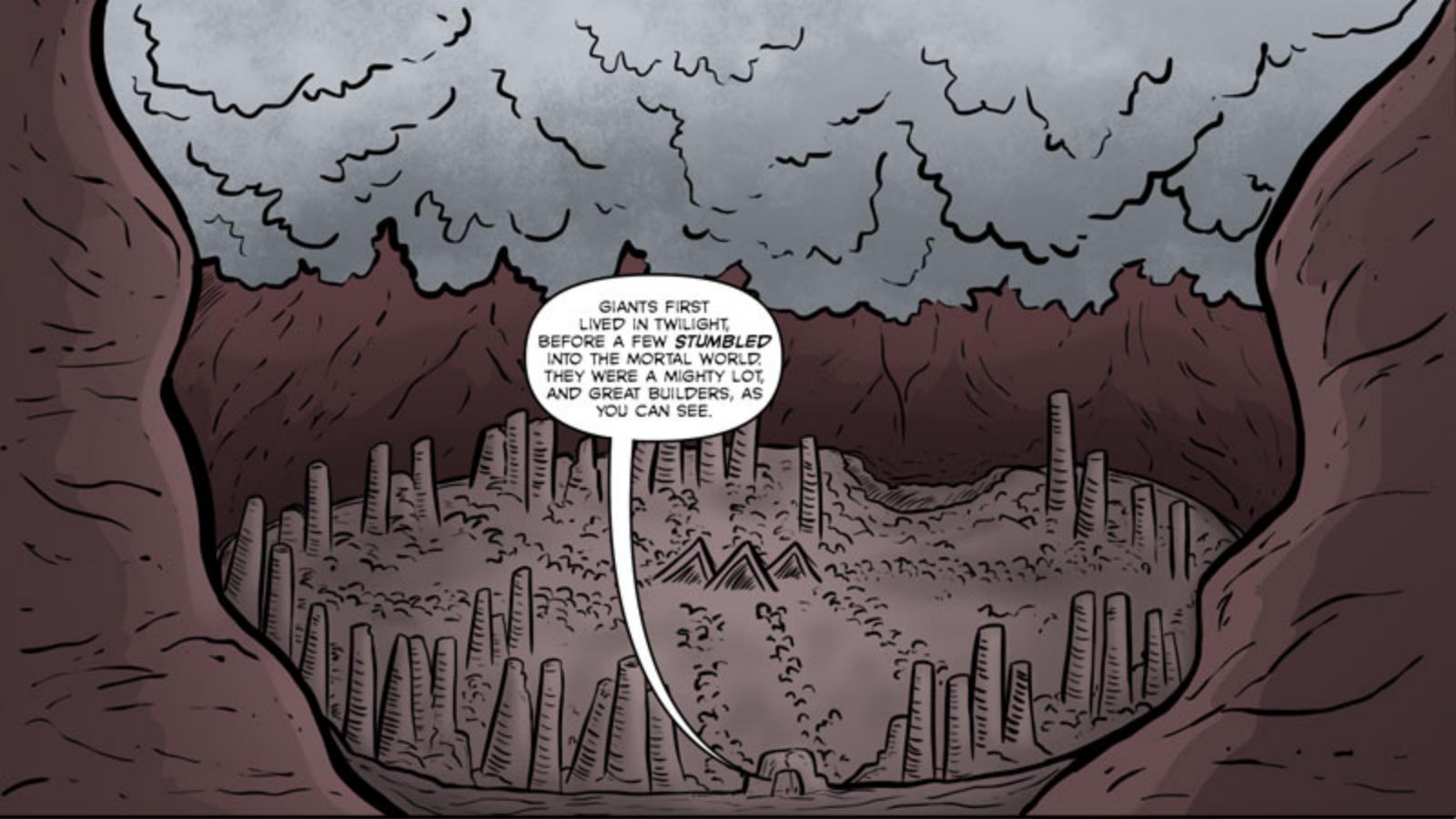
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NZORN?

OH THEY'RE STILL AROUND, THOUGH THEY HAVE NO HOME OF THEIR OWN.

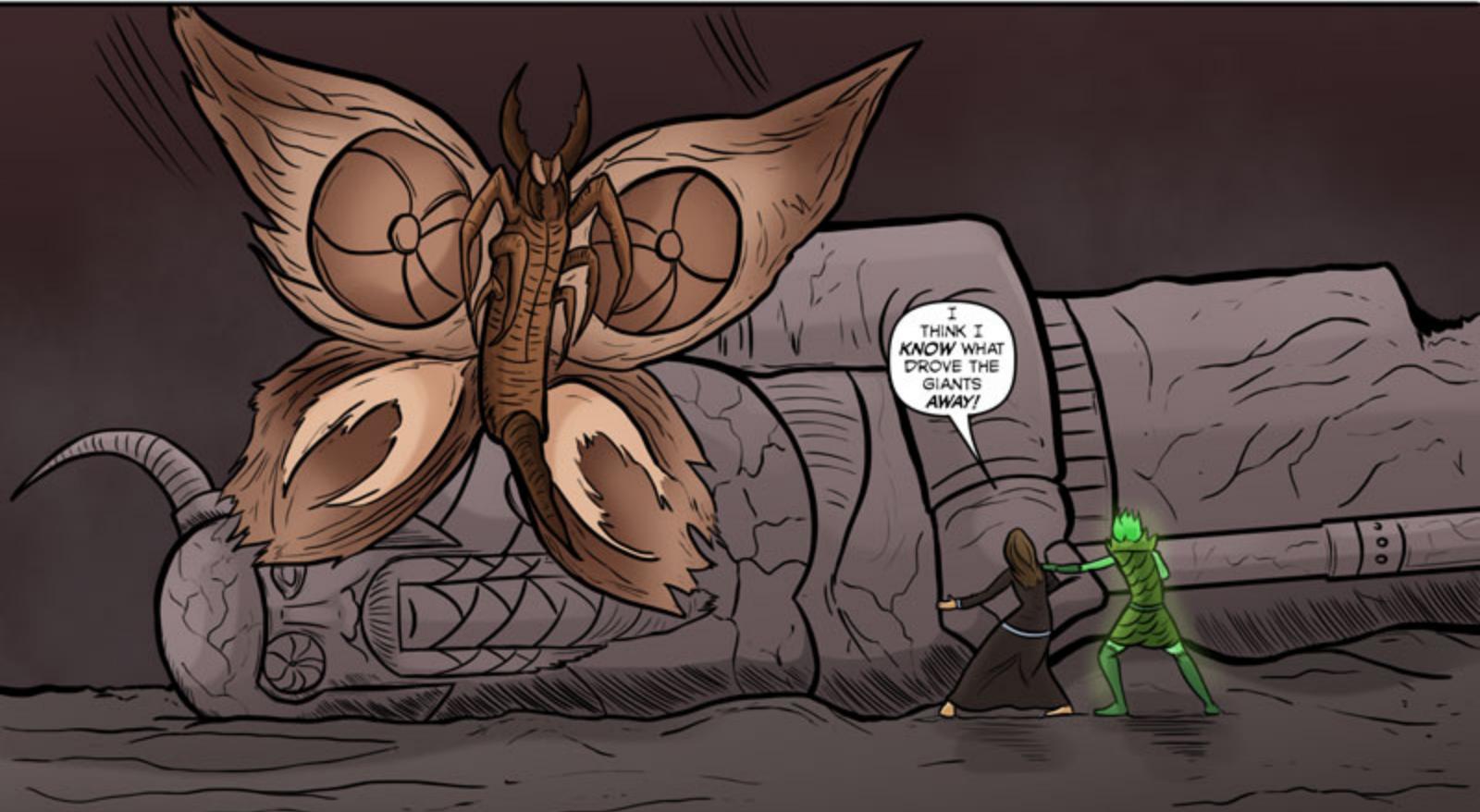
THEY MOSTLY SERVE THE POWERFUL RI'S OF TWILIGHT.

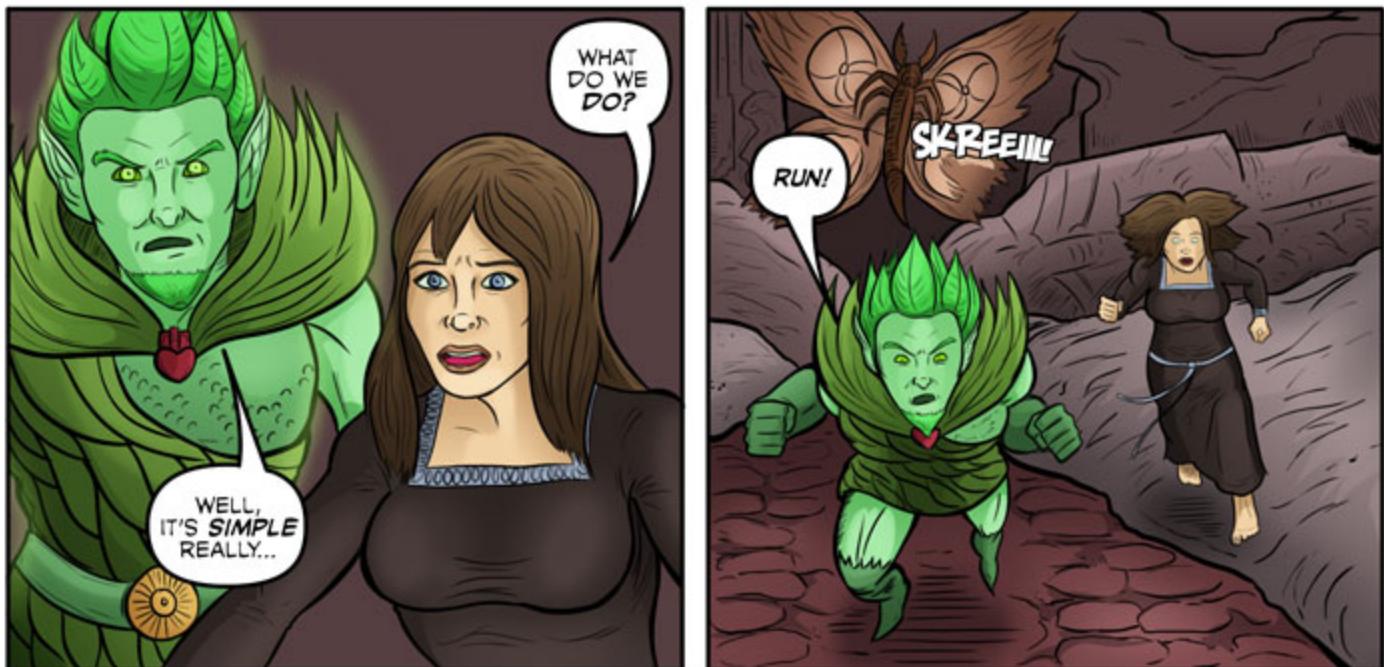




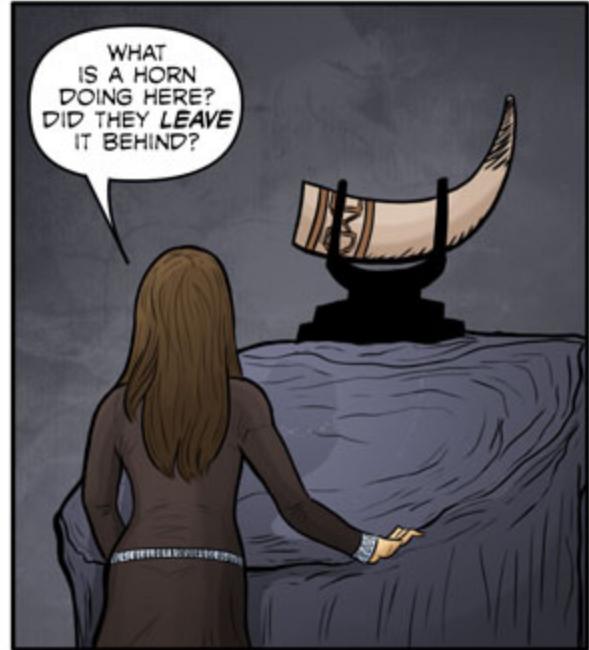


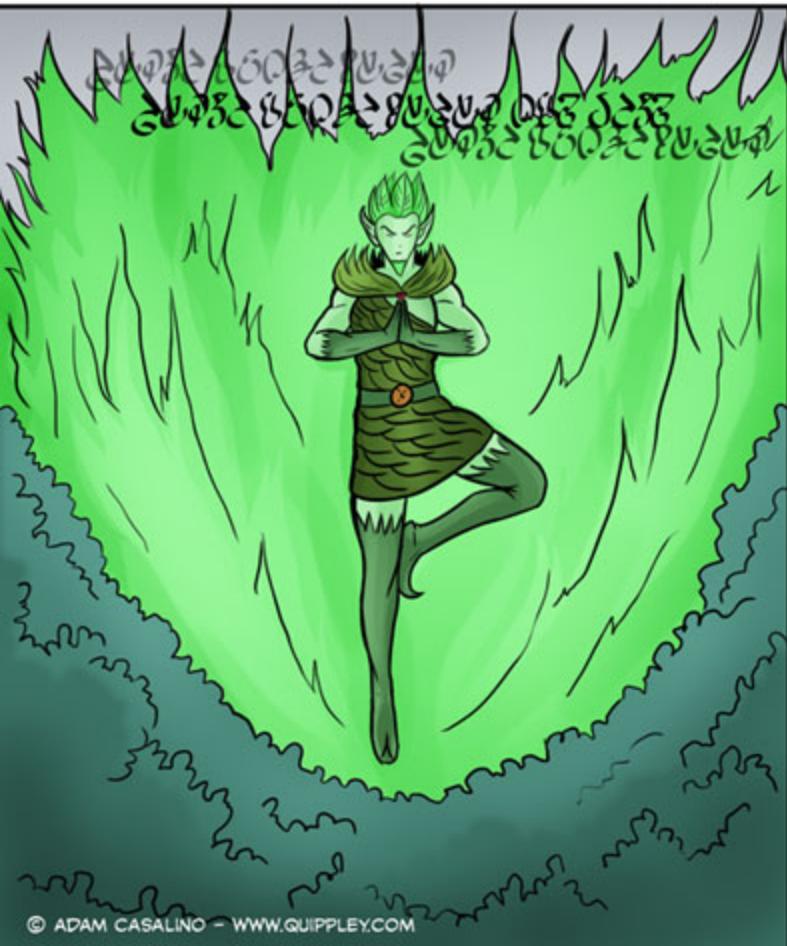
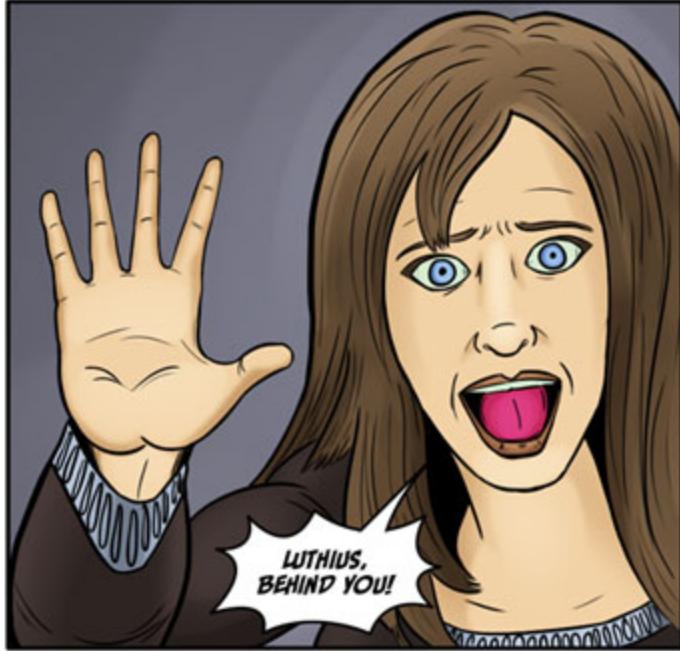
GIANTS FIRST
LIVED IN TWILIGHT,
BEFORE A FEW STUMBLED
INTO THE MORTAL WORLD.
THEY WERE A MIGHTY LOT,
AND GREAT BUILDERS, AS
YOU CAN SEE.



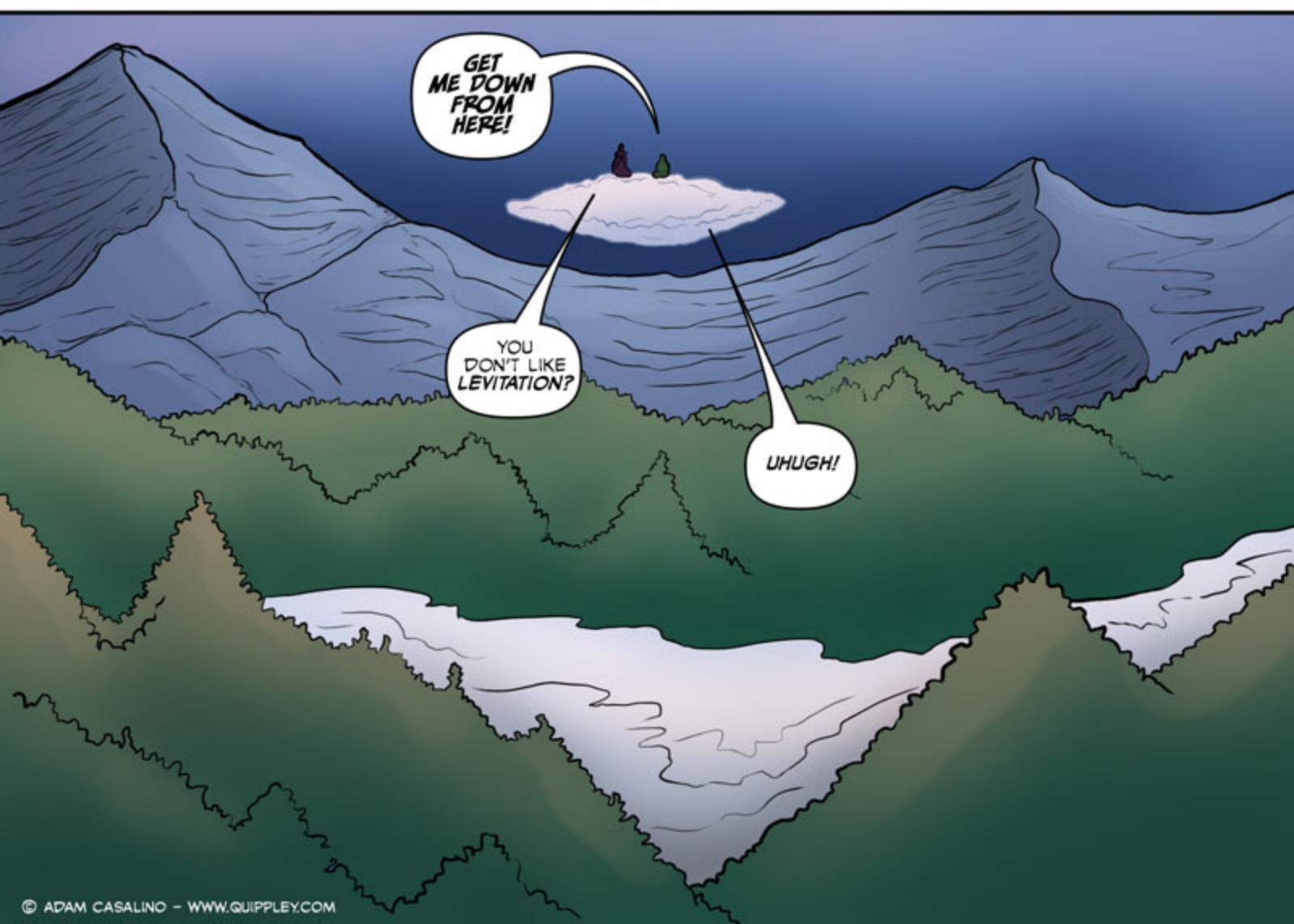




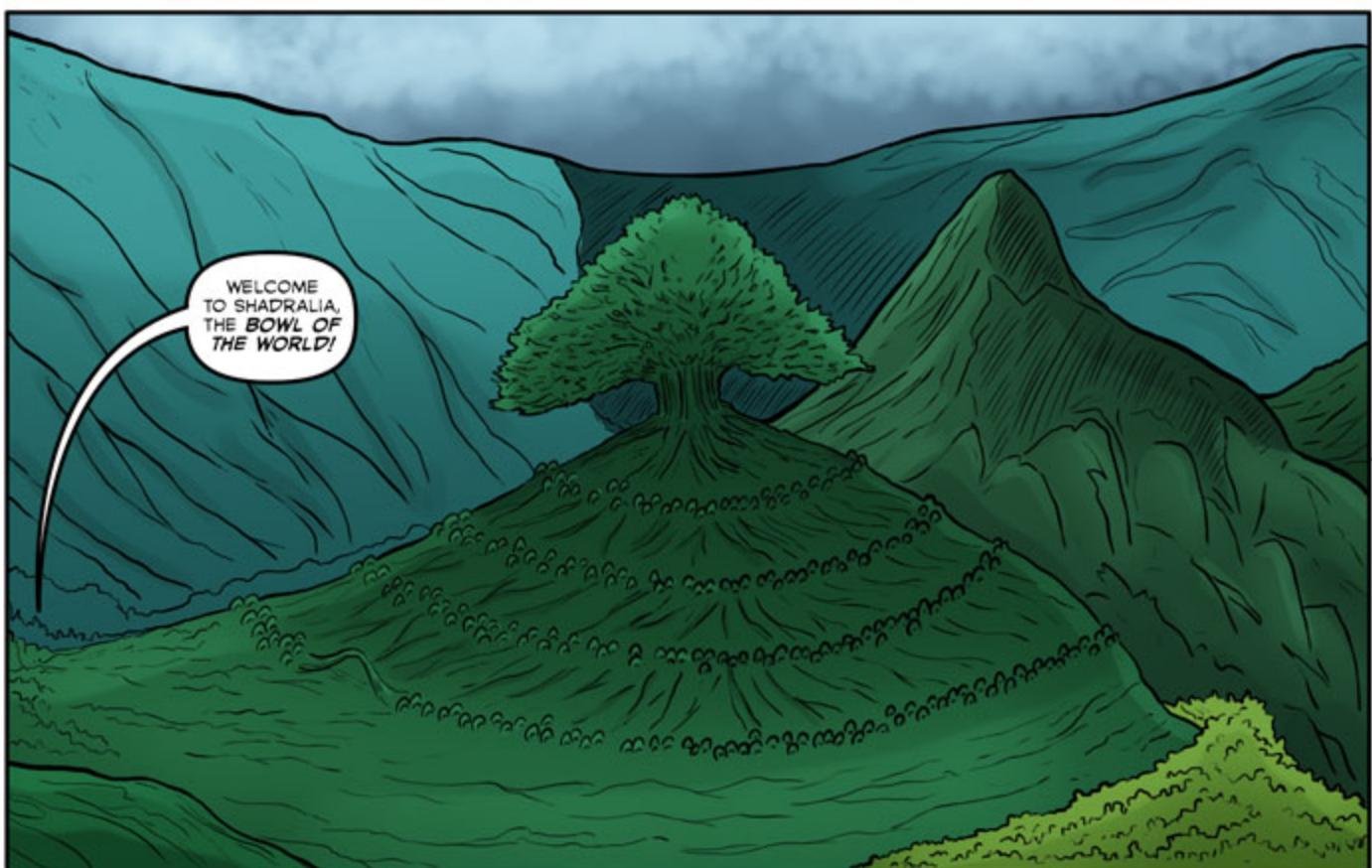


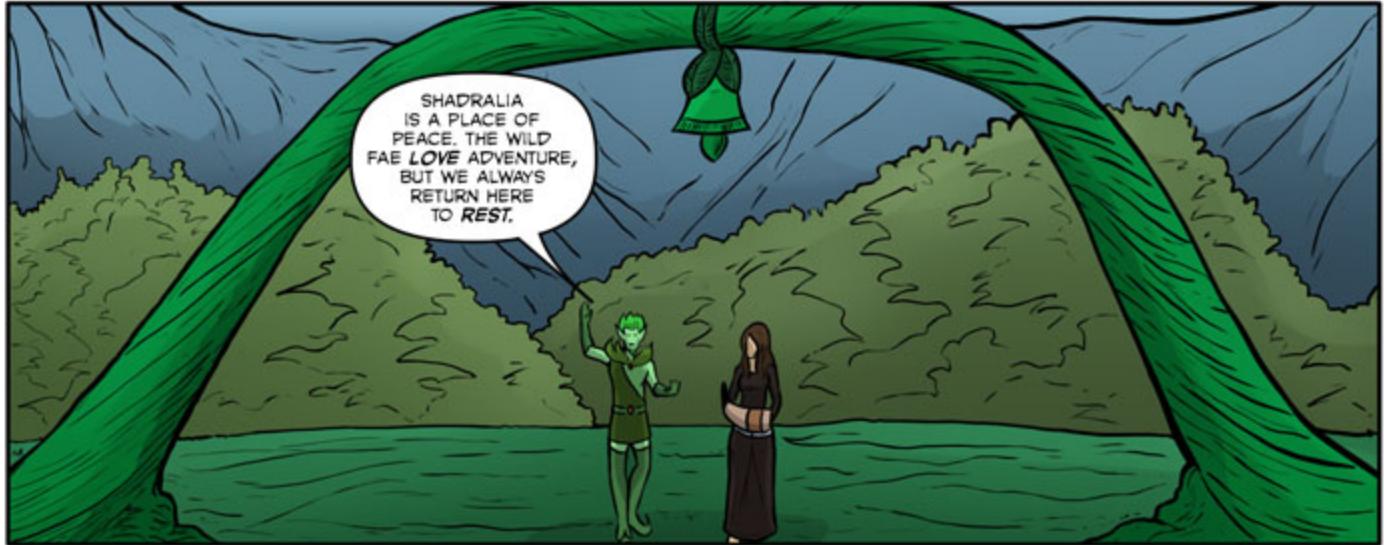














"THIS IS THE HORN
OF LUGH LÁMHFHADA."



LUGH
WAS A MIGHTY
HERO, THE FIRST RI',
FATHER OF ALL THE FAE.
THIS HORN USHERED IN THE
DAWN IN THE INFINITE
REALMS, BEFORE
WE CAME TO
TWILIGHT.



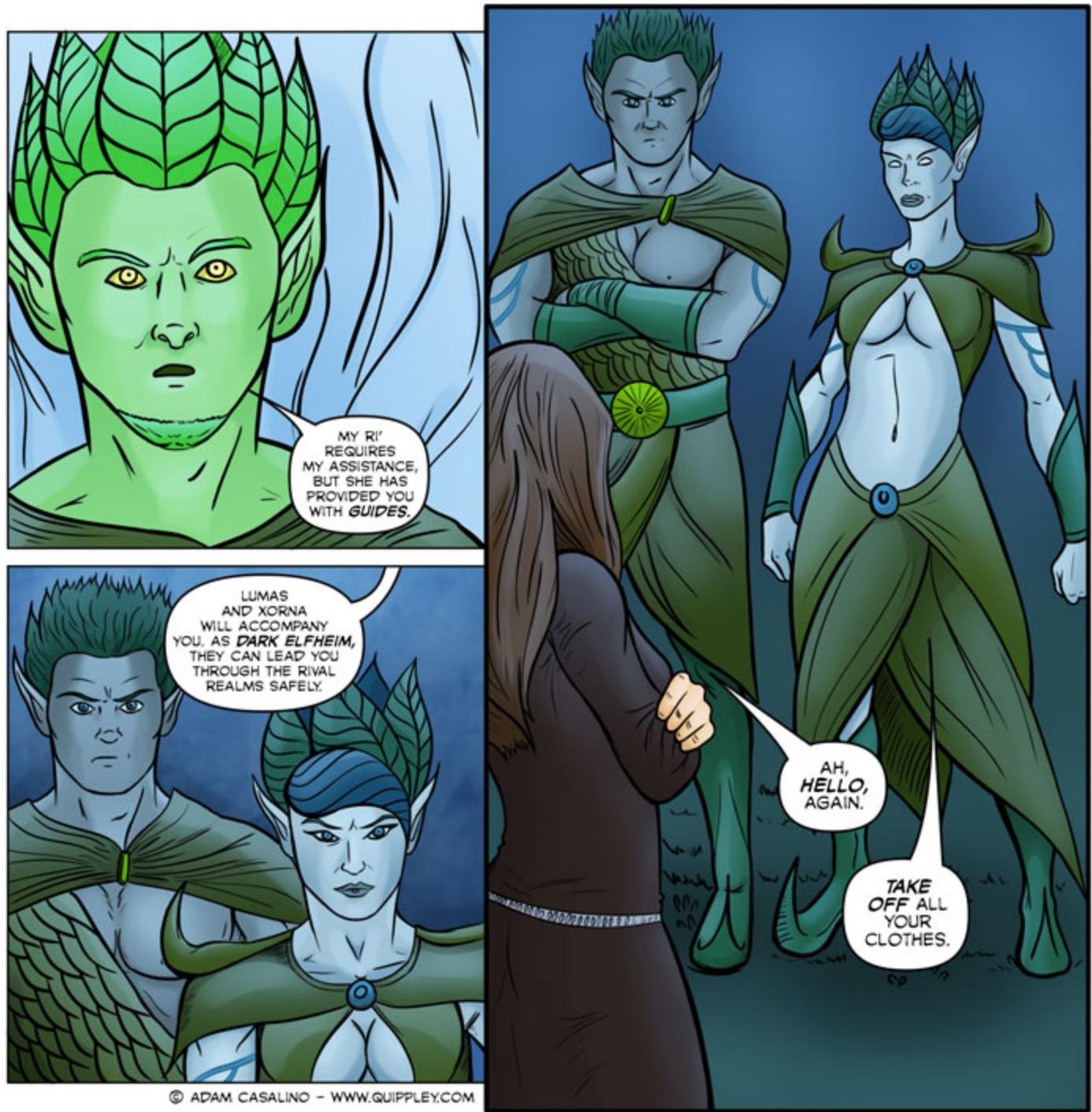
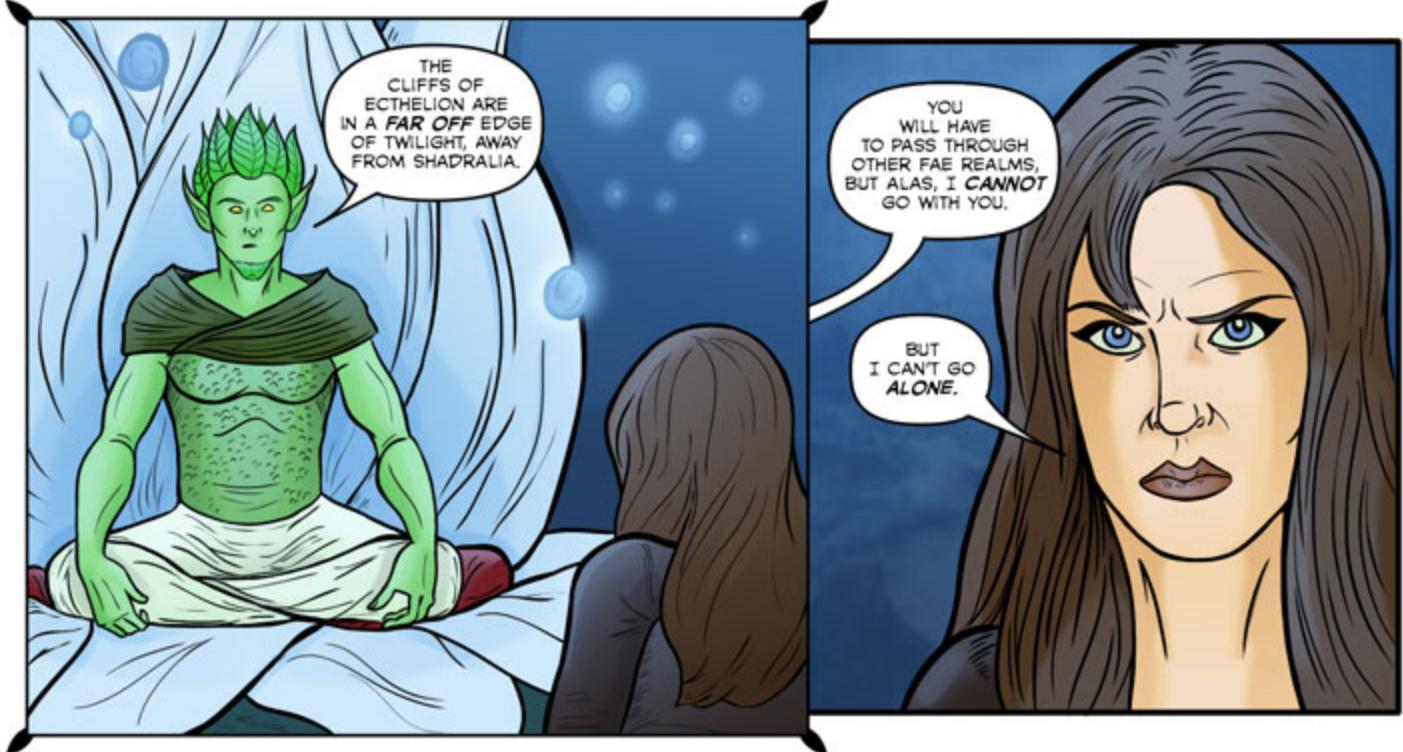
THE HORN
HAS BEEN LOST
FOR AGES. FOR IT TO
HAVE BEEN REVEALED
TO YOU, DAUGHTER,
YOU MUST BE
SPECIAL, INDEED.



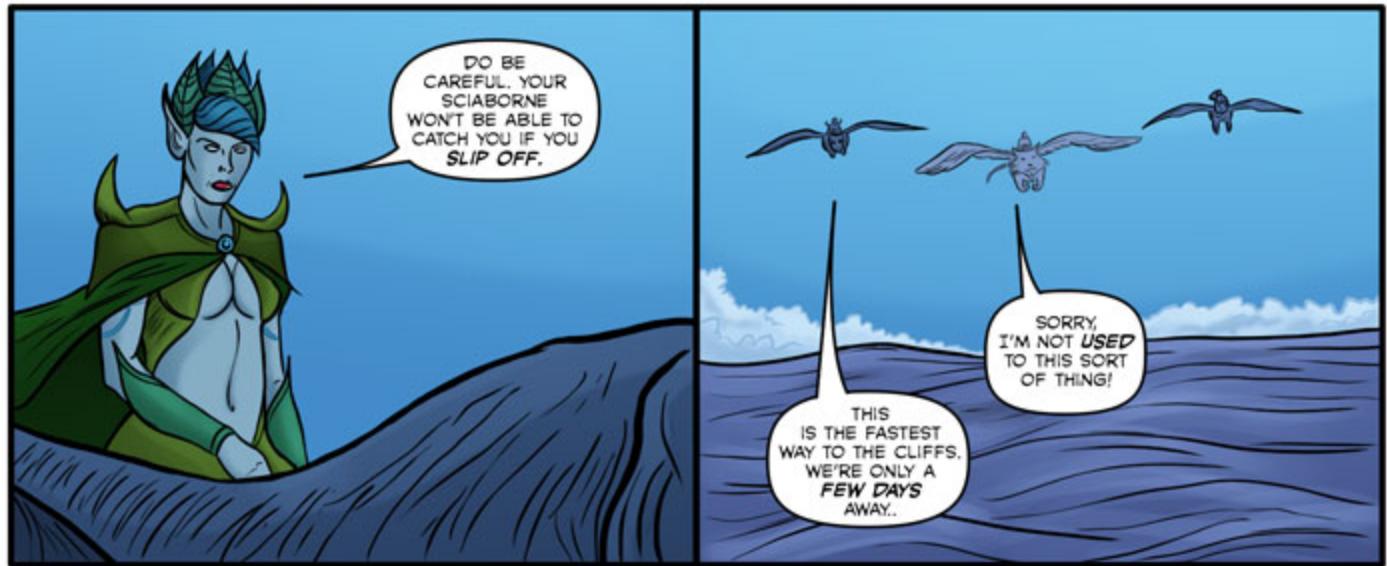
WHAT
DOES IT MEAN,
RI'SHANREL?
WHY WOULD THE
HORN APPEAR
TO ME?



THERE
MAY BE A
WAY TO FIND
OUT. TAKE THE HORN
TO THE CLIFFS OF
ECTHELION. CALL TO
THE ENDLESS SEA,
AND LUGH MAY
APPEAR TO
YOU.



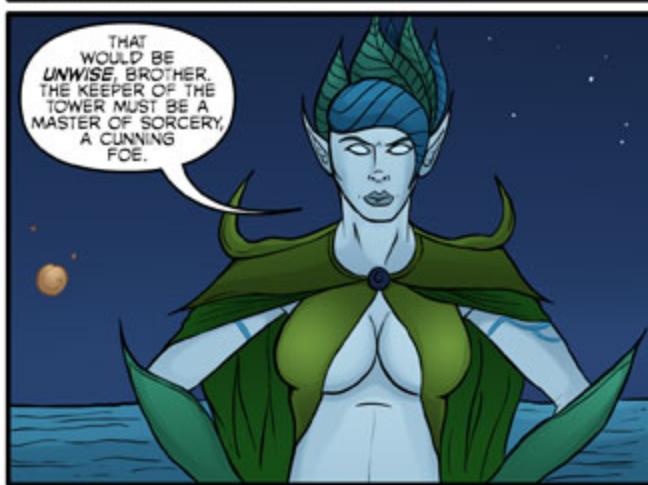
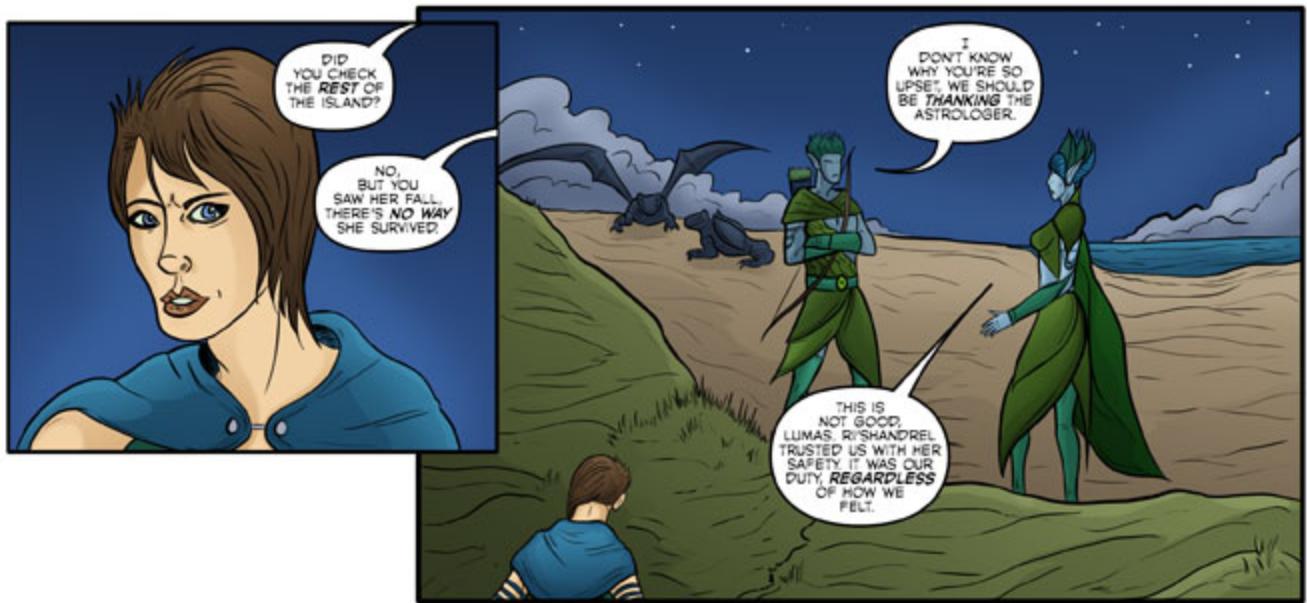


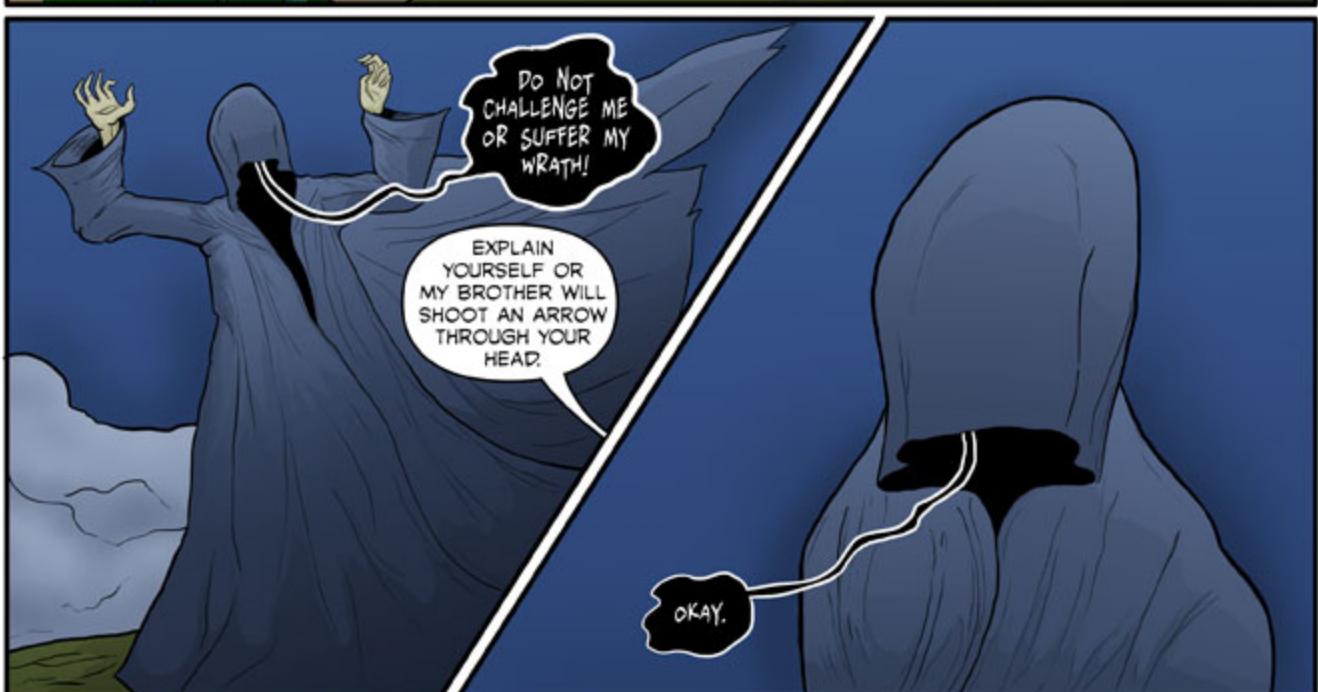
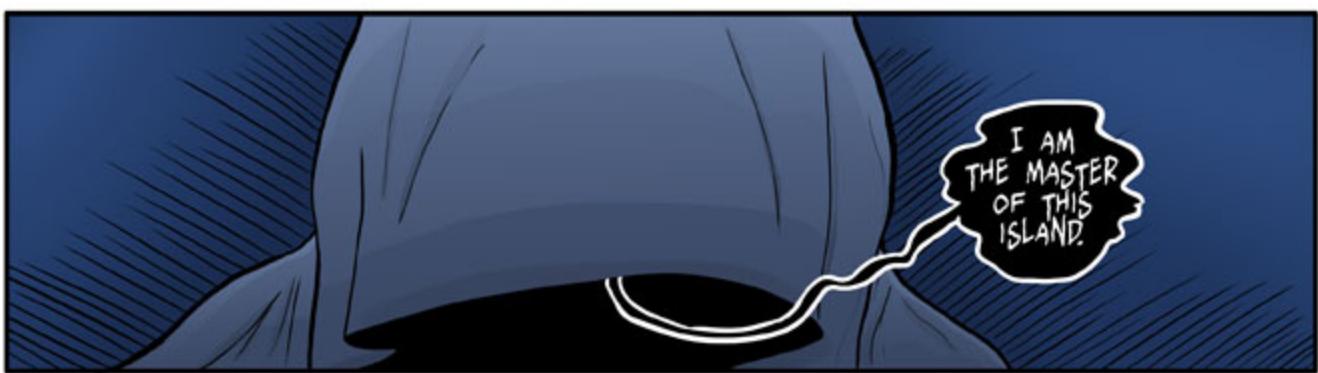


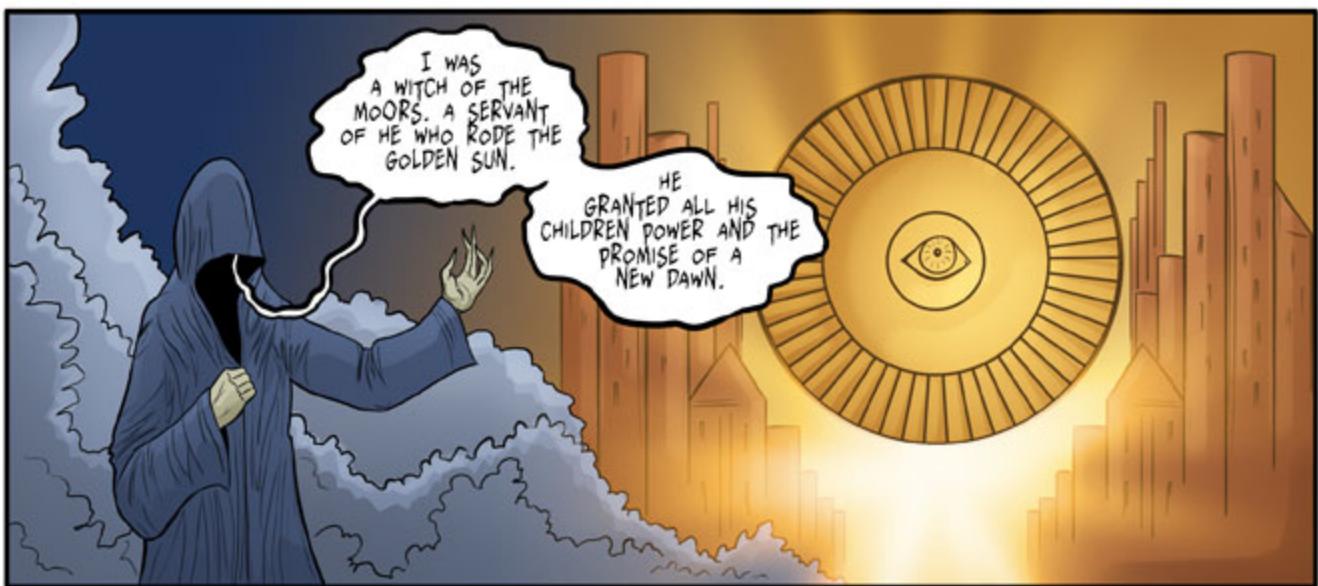






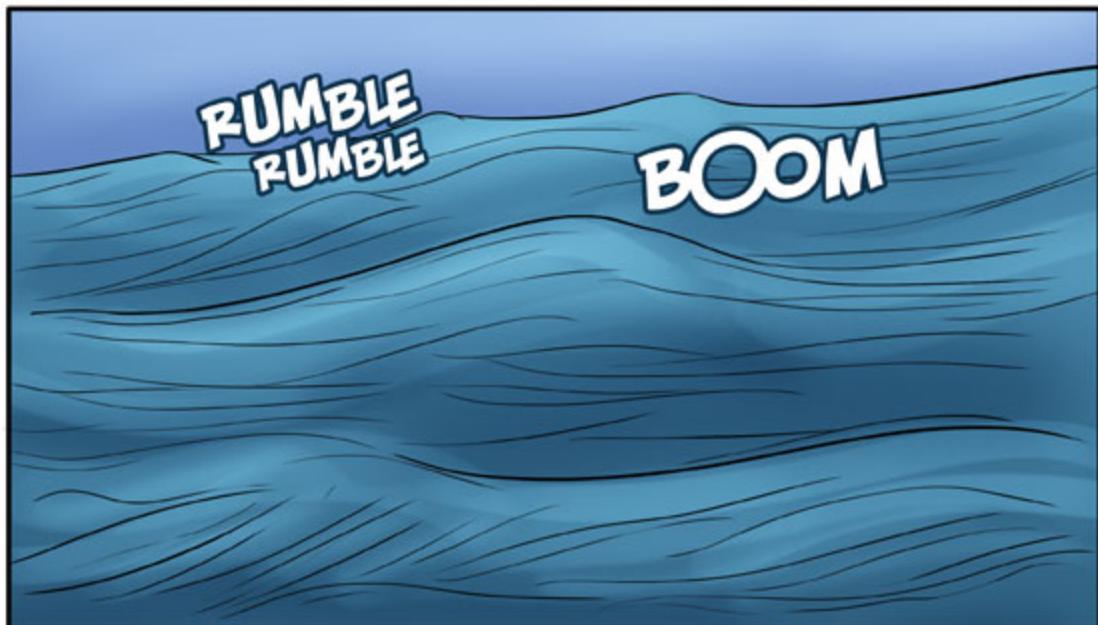
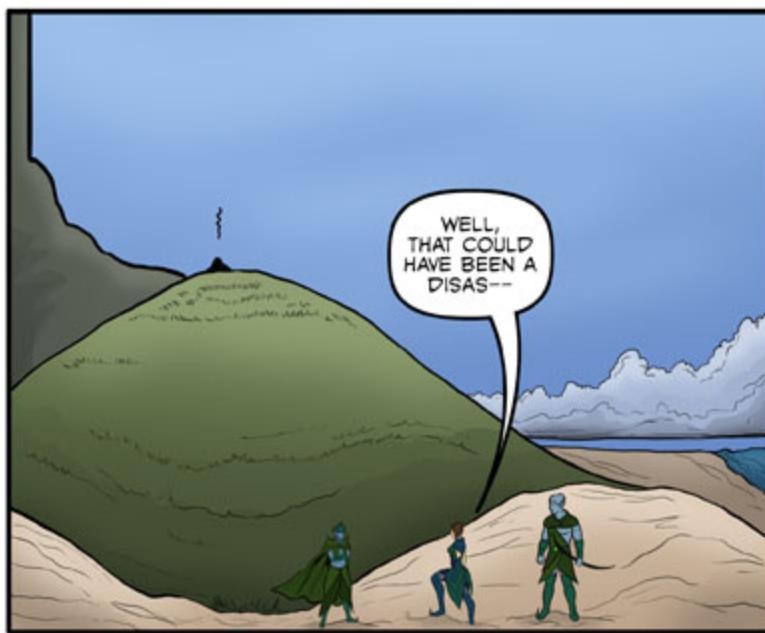




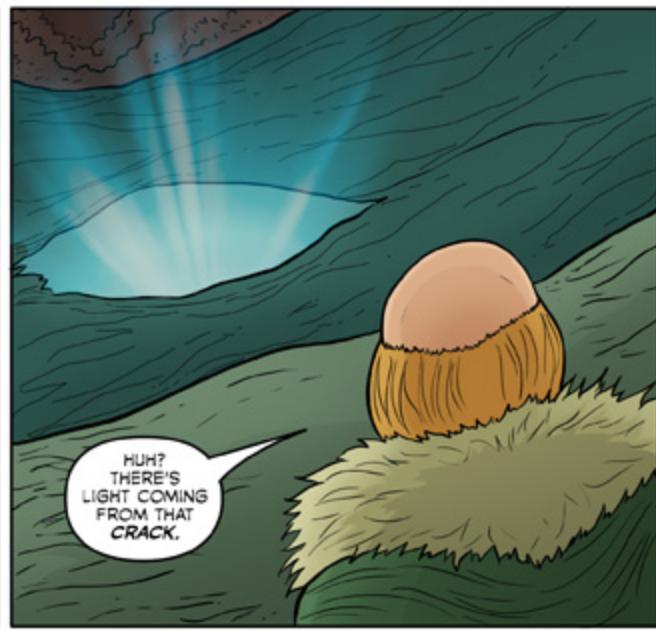




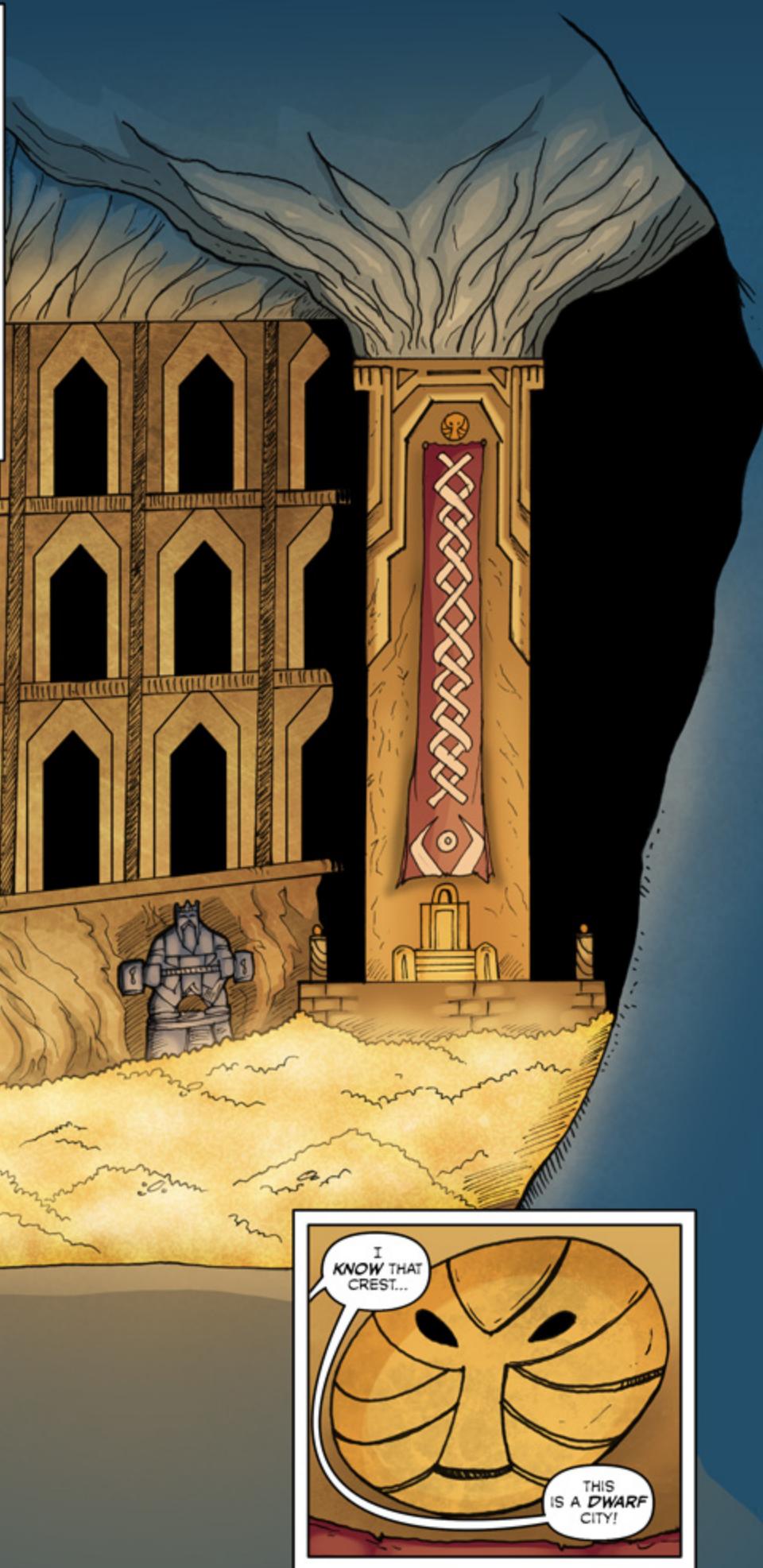


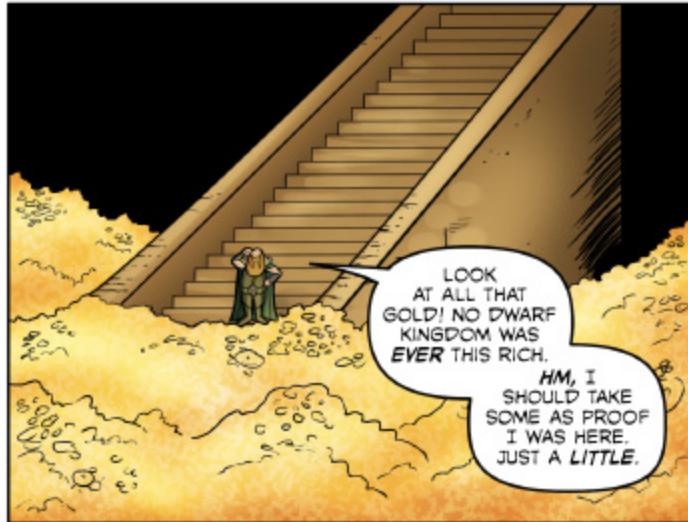




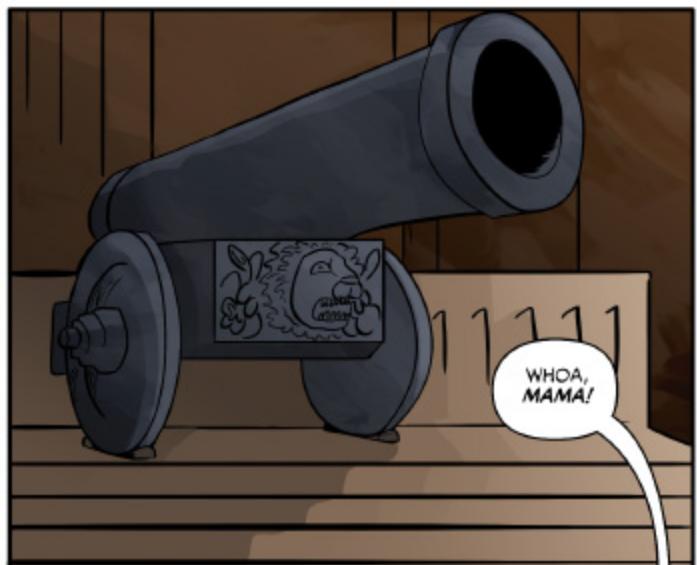
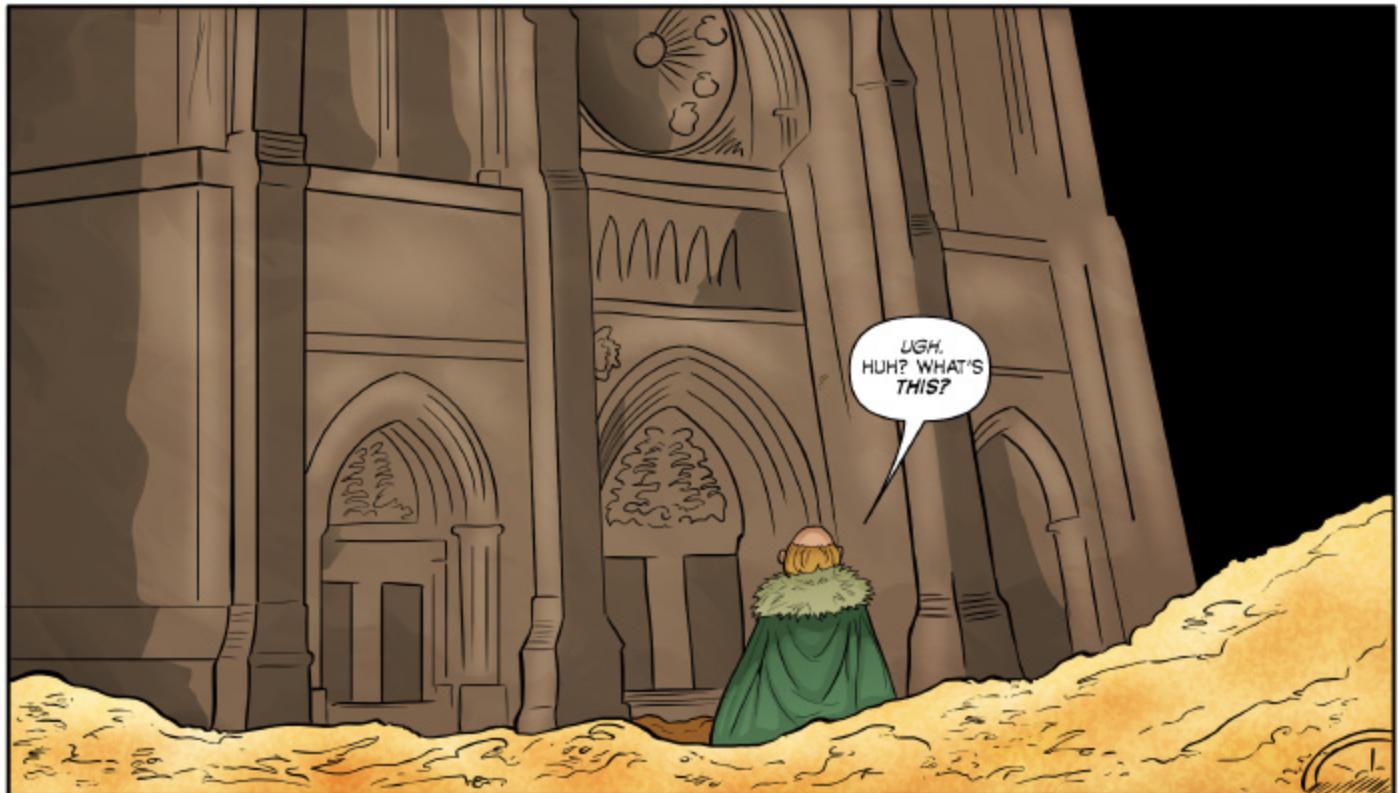


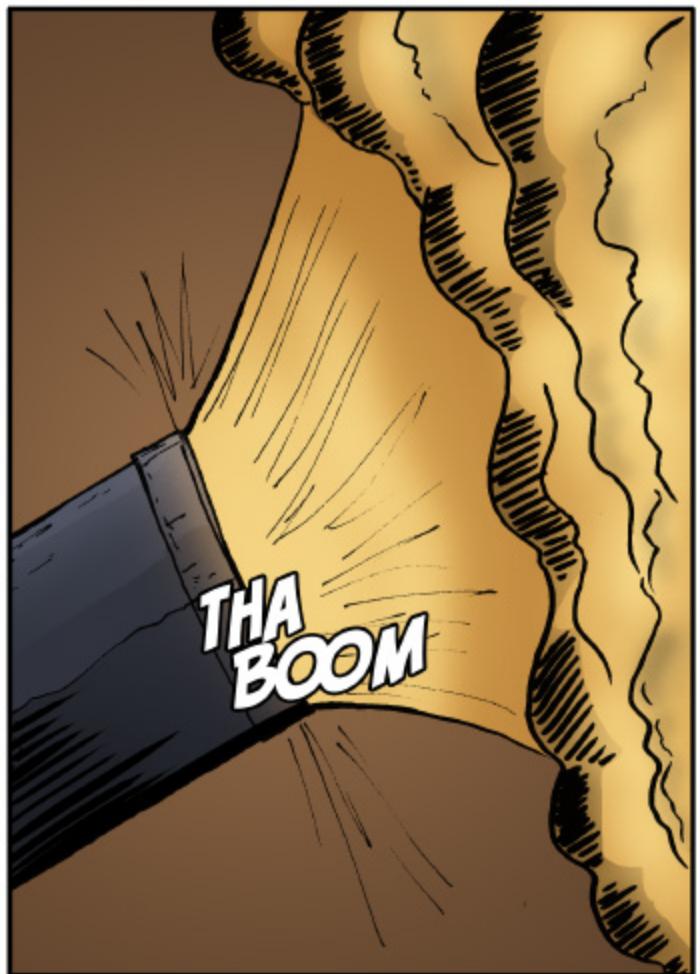


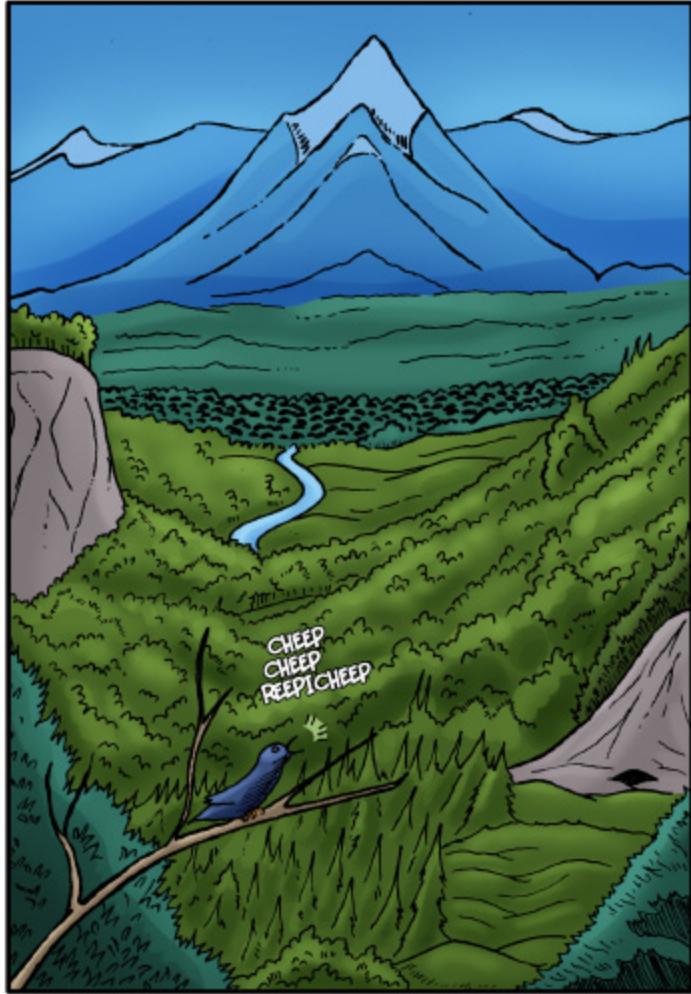












WHO
ATE ALL THE
PIE?!

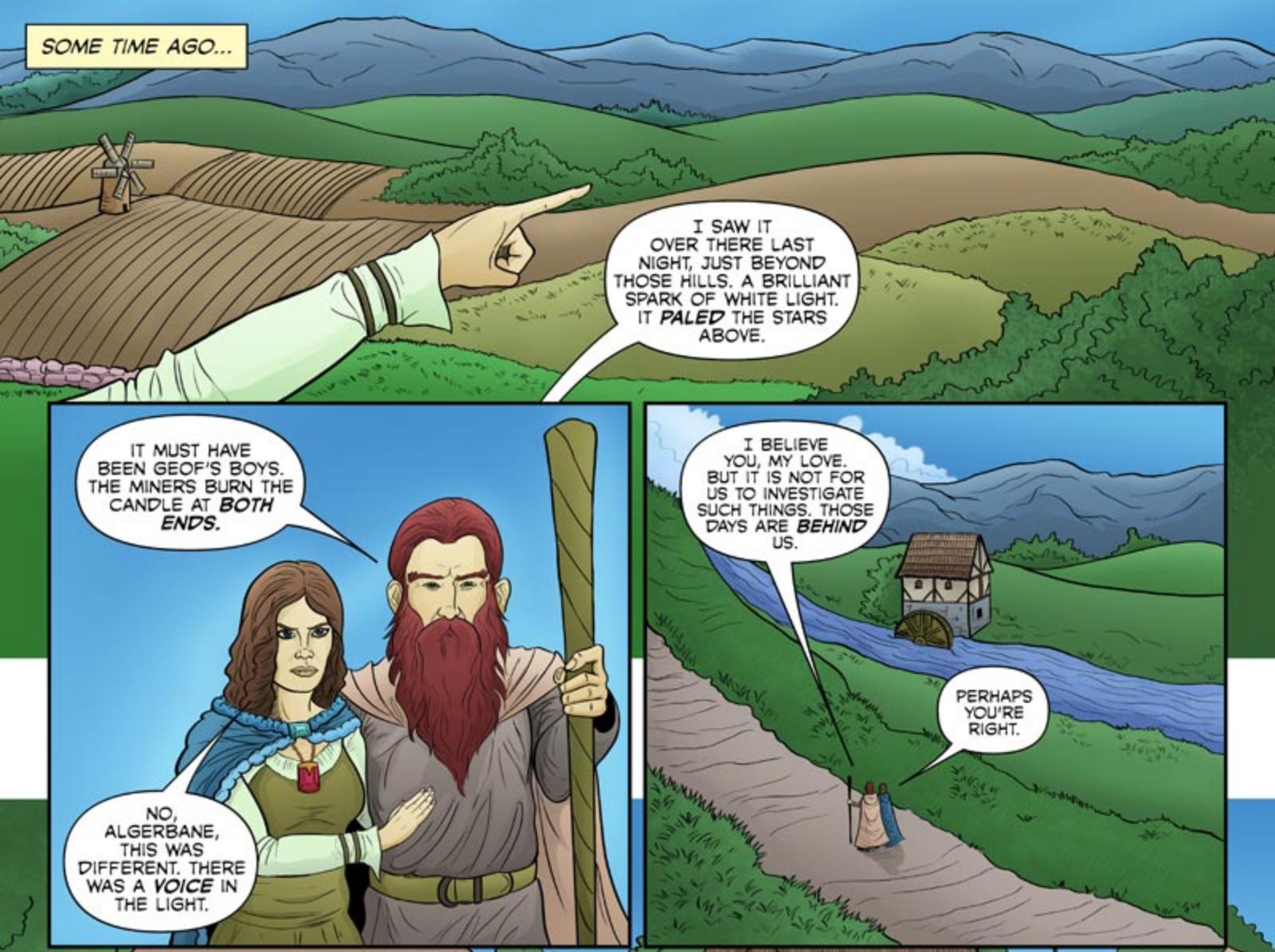
OH.
UM, I'D ASK
THAT SKINNY
BLOKE BY
THE BAR.

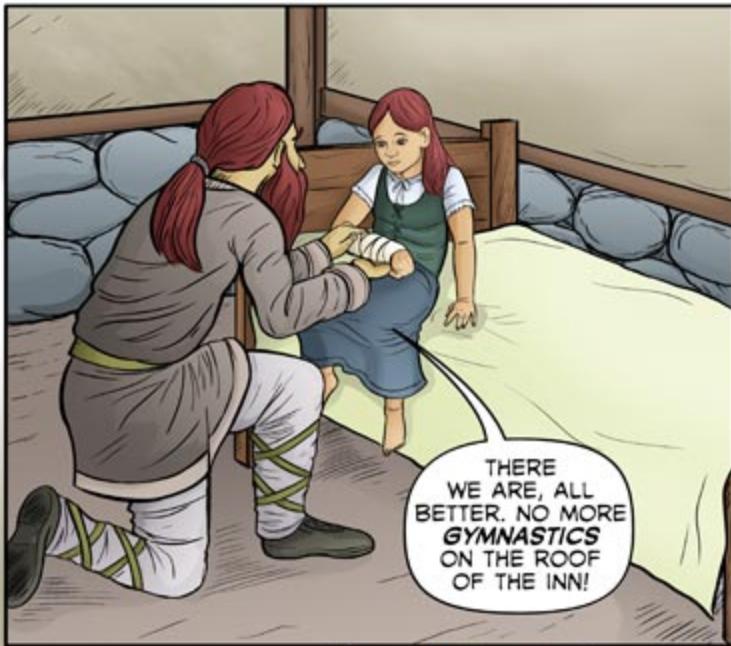


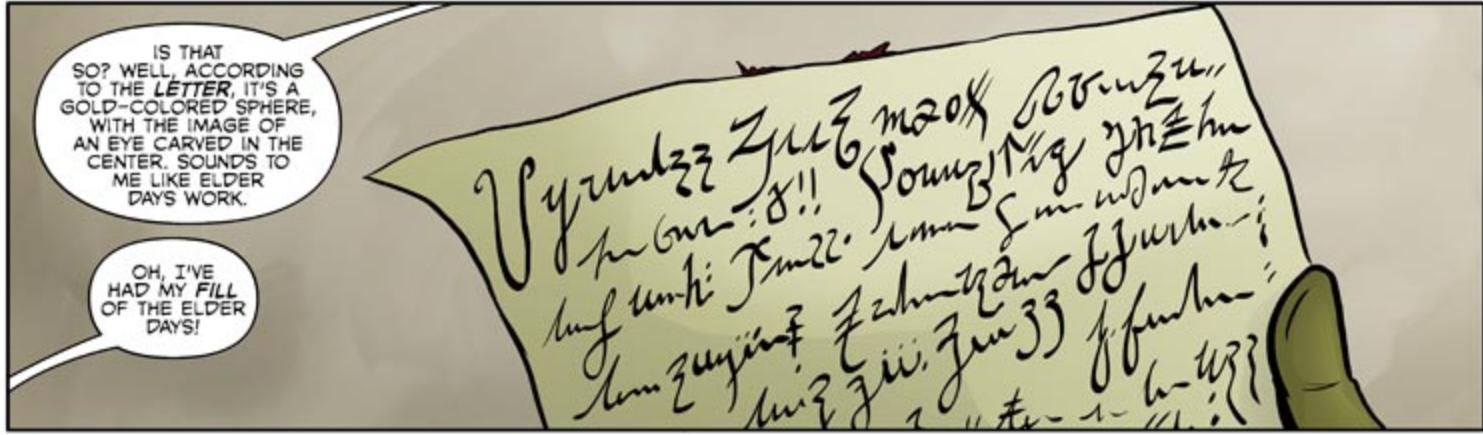
Carto
© ADAM CASALINO - WWW.TALESOFMAORA.COM

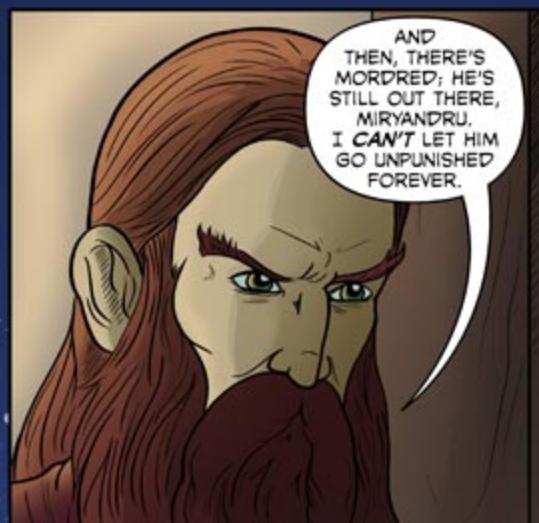


SOME TIME AGO...











I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE LIVING OUT HERE IN THE BOONDOCKS.

THE AIR IS FRESH AND I DON'T HAVE TO KISS ANY BOTTOMS.



BY THE WAY, WHY DID THE MINERS SEND FOR YOU, INSTEAD OF COMING TO ME FIRST?

ARE YOU KIDDING? THEY WANTED SOMEONE FROM THE NEW SCHOOL. DO THEY EVEN KNOW THERE'S A WIZARD IN QUIPPLEY?



HERE WE ARE. THE MINE'S OVER THERE. THIS MUST HAVE BEEN THEIR DAY CAMP.

THEY CERTAINLY LEFT IN A HURRY.



THEY SAID THE STONE IS IN A CAVE THEY KNOCKED INTO WHILE DIGGING. THERE!



THIS PLACE IS OLD, THE ROCKS SPEAK. THE MINERS WOULD HAVE DONE WELL TO AVOID IT.

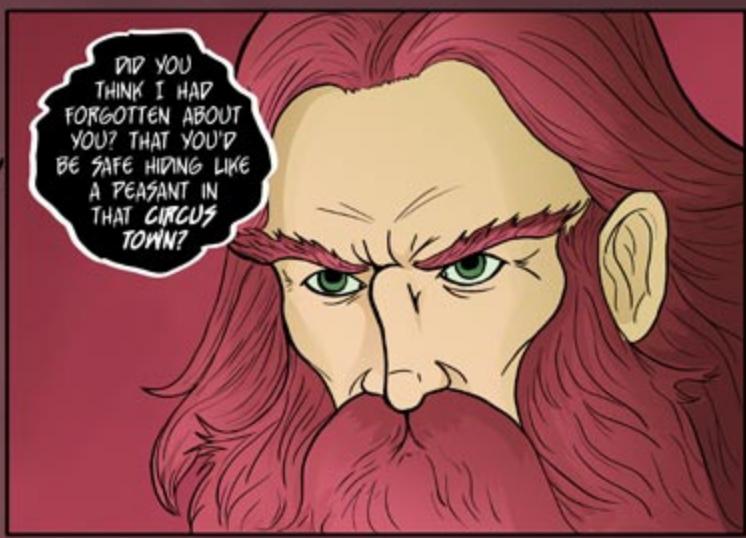
WELL, THIS ANSWERS A FEW QUESTIONS!



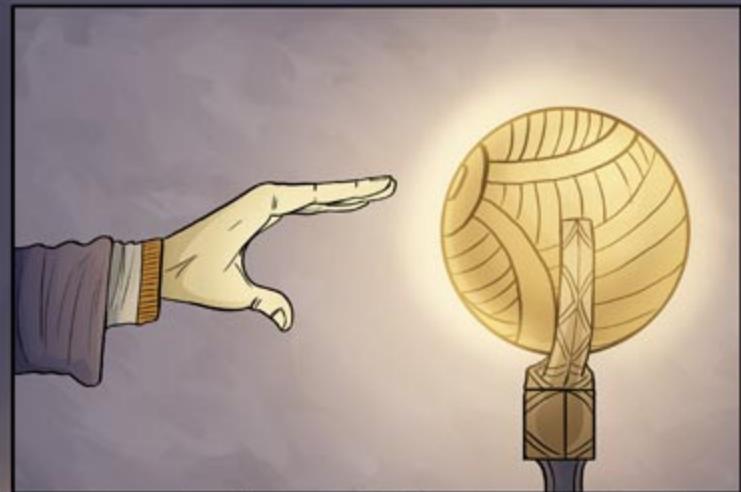
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.

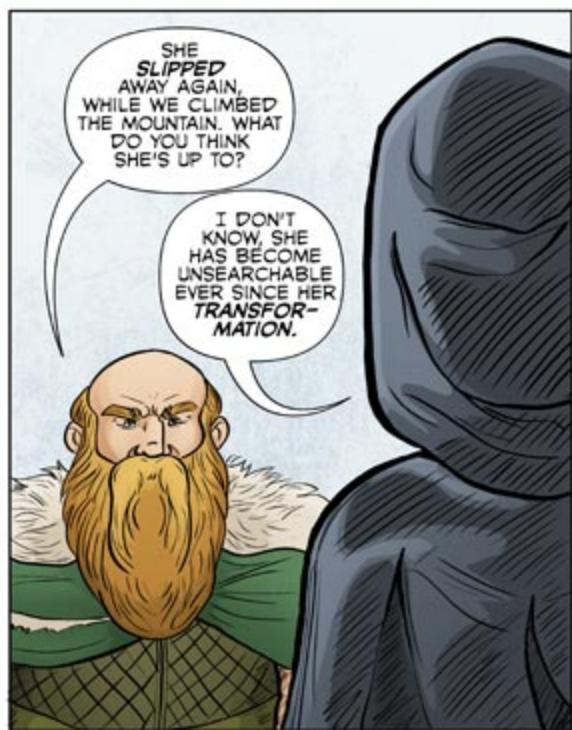






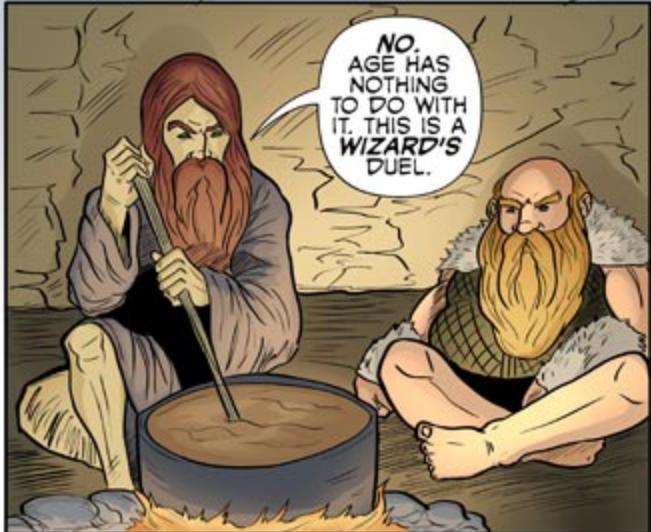








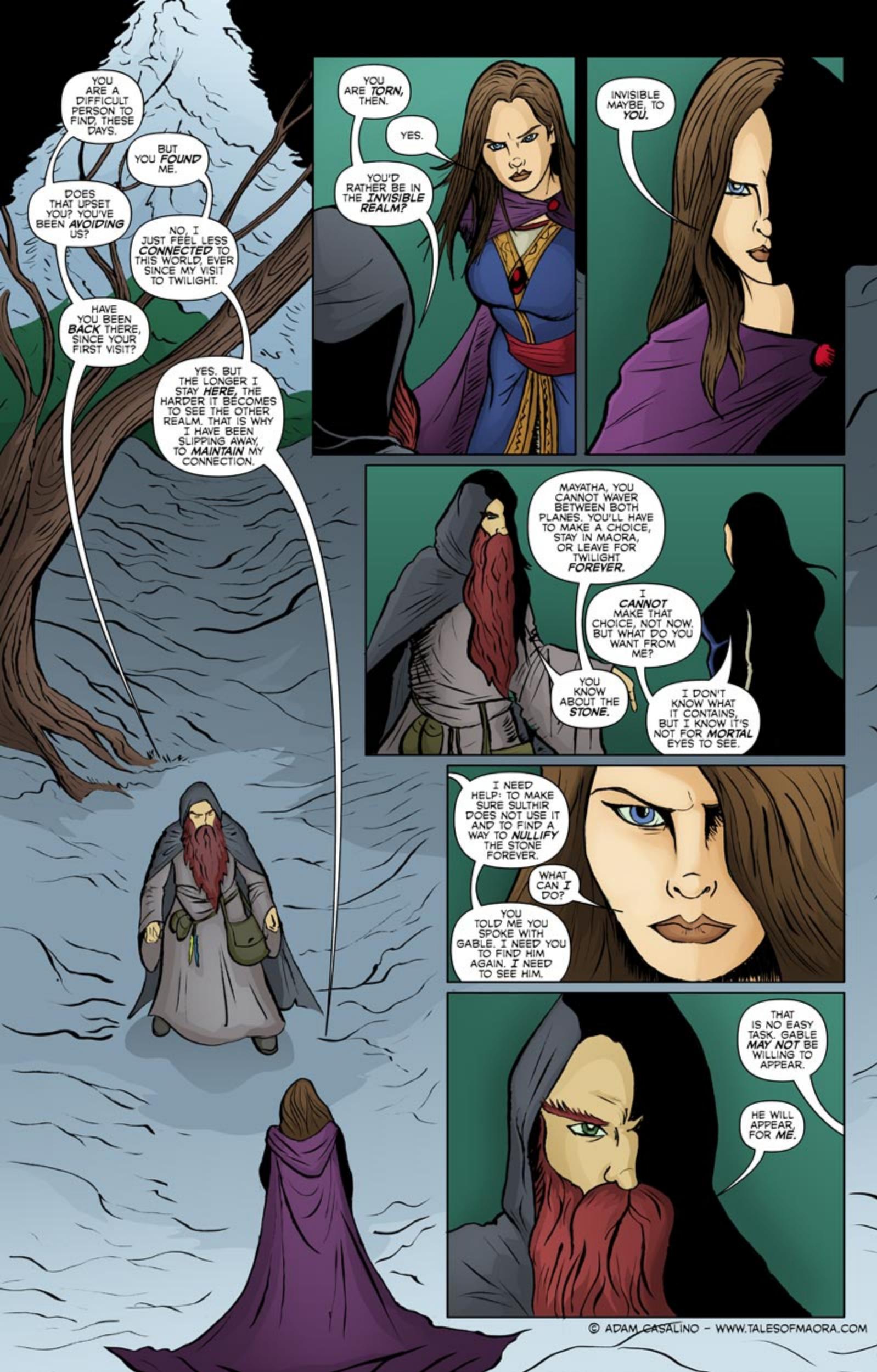














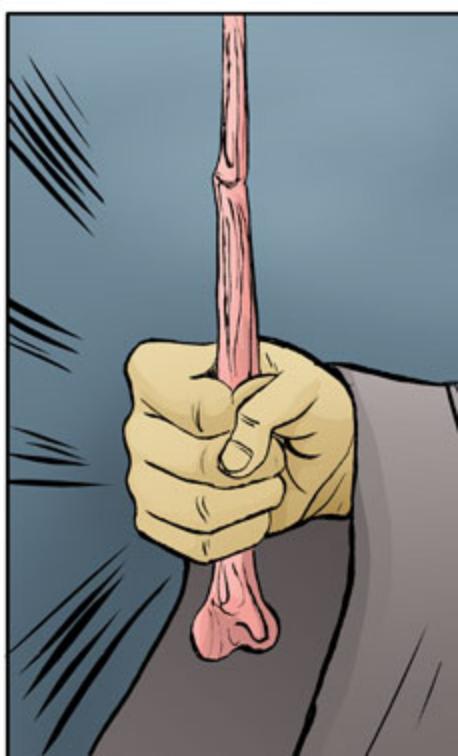
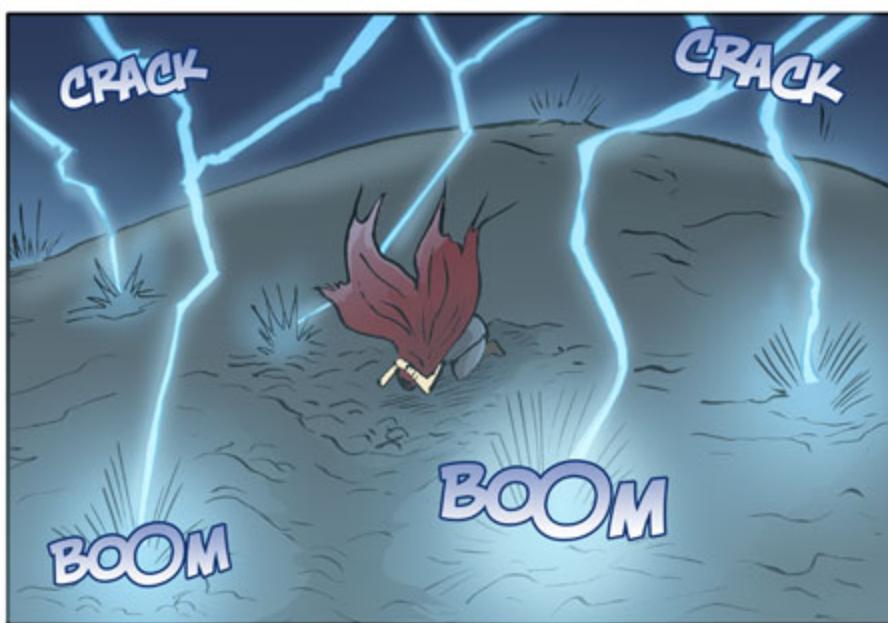




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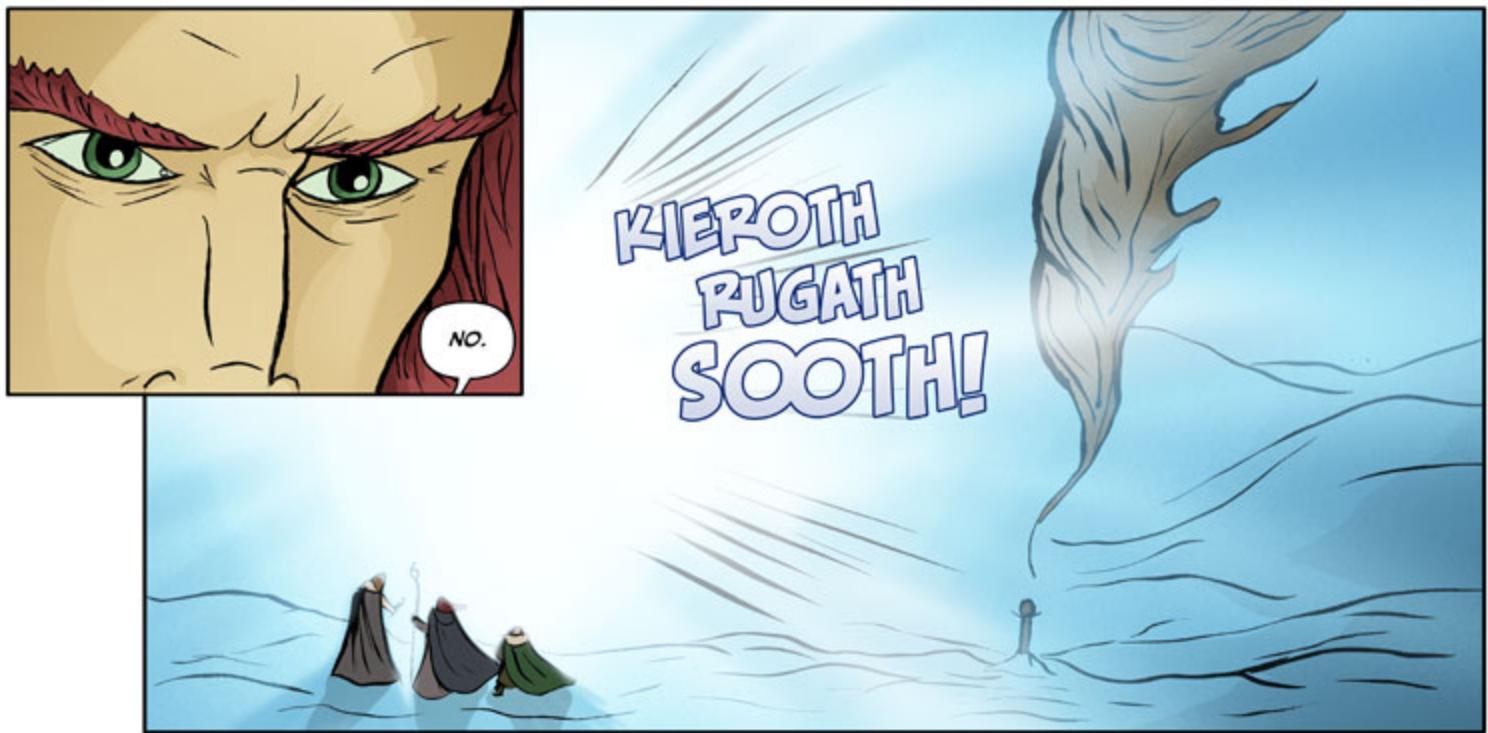
IT MUST BE SEALED AWAY SO NO ONE CAN TOUCH IT.

HOW CAN YOU ENSURE THAT?

I WILL SEND IT SOMEWHERE NO MORTAL CAN REACH IT.











EPilogue

ERAGH!

HELP
ME!

THE
WAND YOUR
MEN GAVE ME
FAILED, I COULD
NOT DEFEAT THE
WIZARD. AND THE
STONE... DID THIS
TO ME!

PLEASE,
HELP ME.

WHY
SHOULD I
HELP YOU?
ARE YOU ABLE
TO SURRENDER
YOUR WILL FOR
MY POWER?

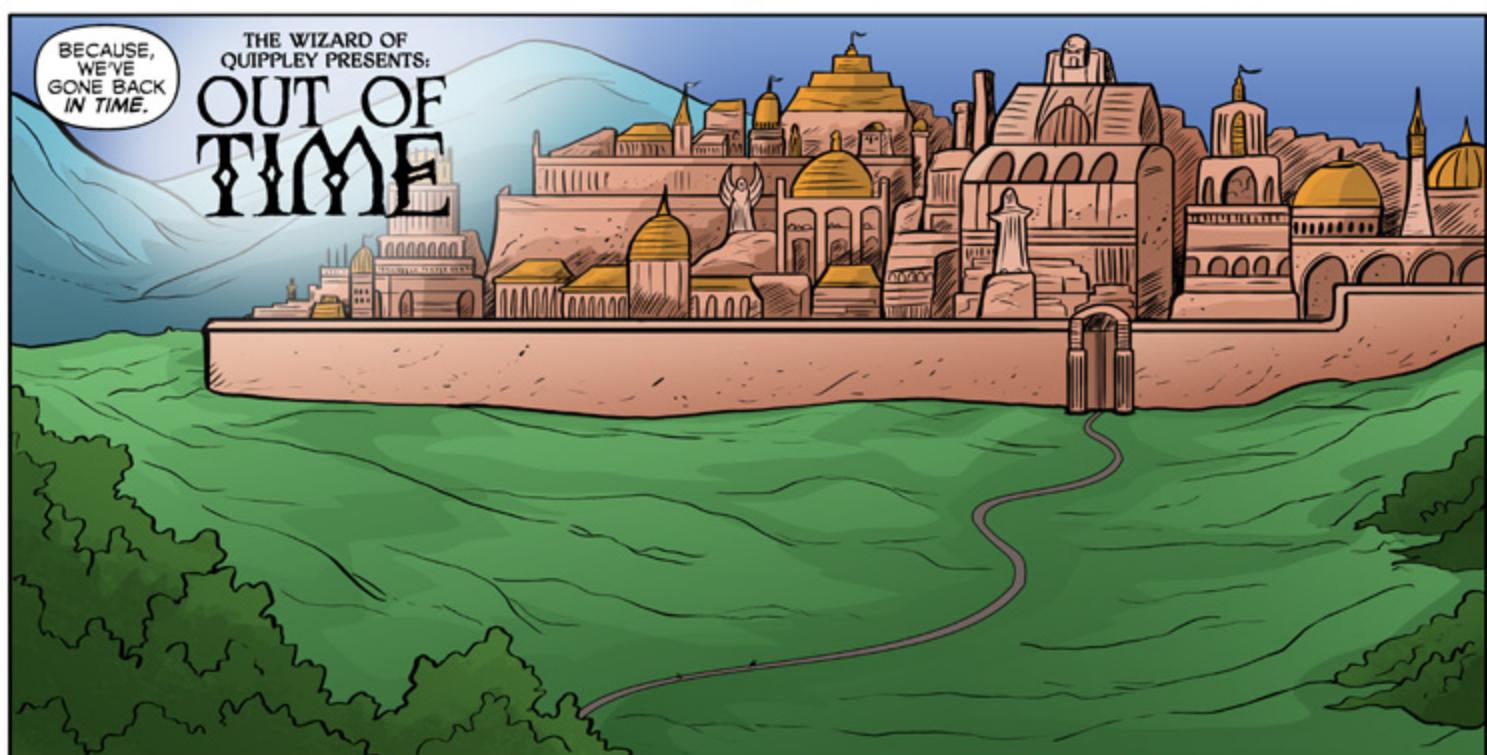
YES.

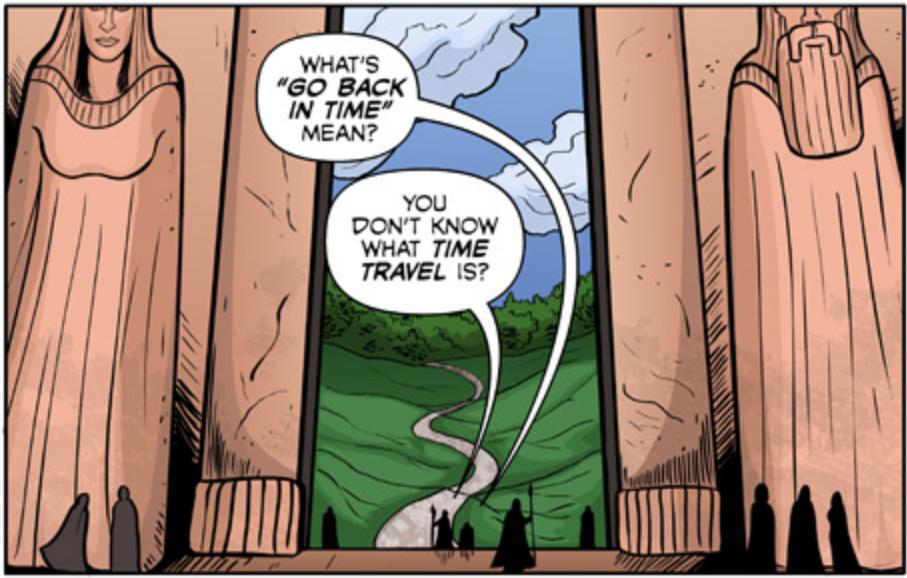
THEN
LET US
BEGIN.







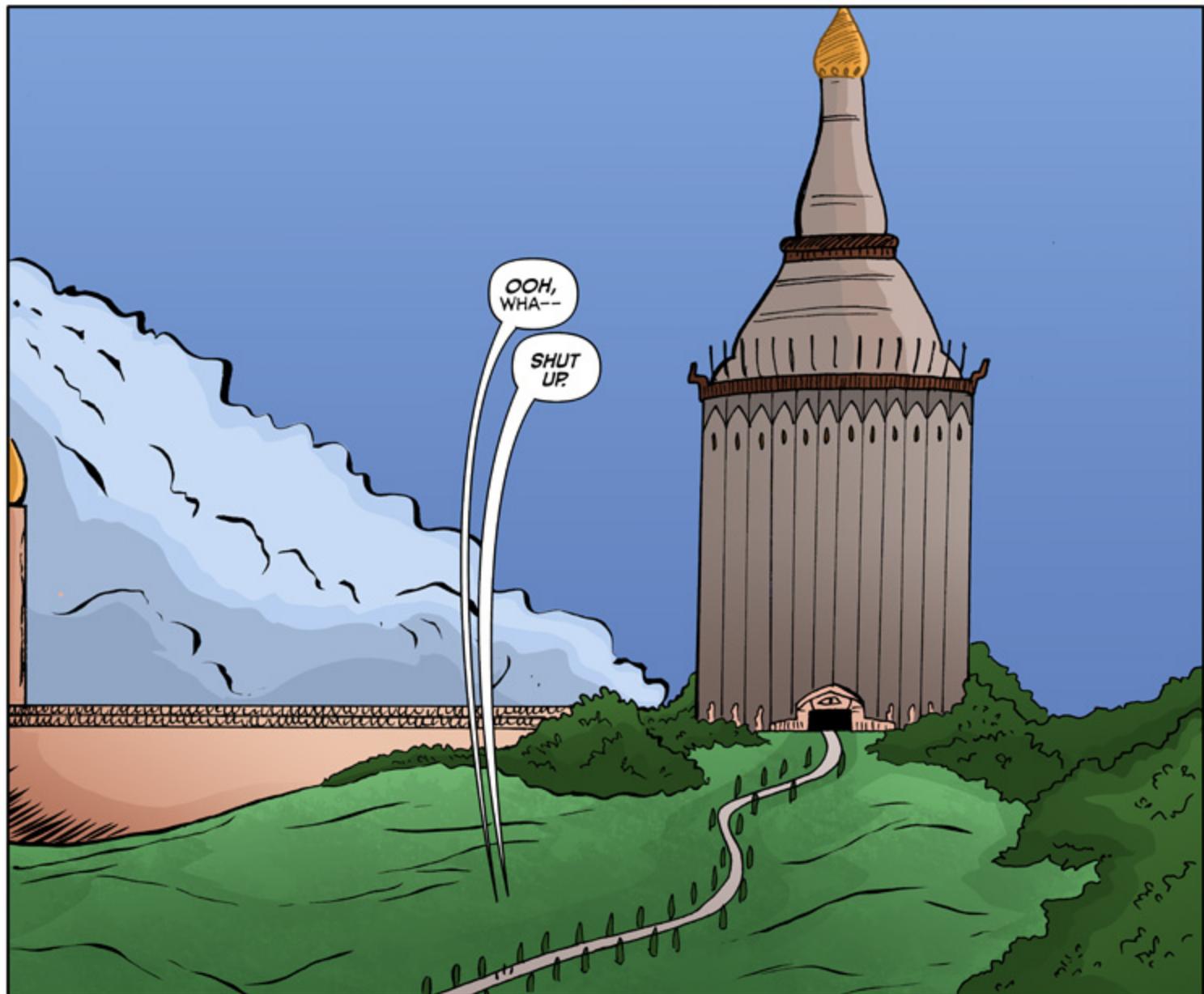


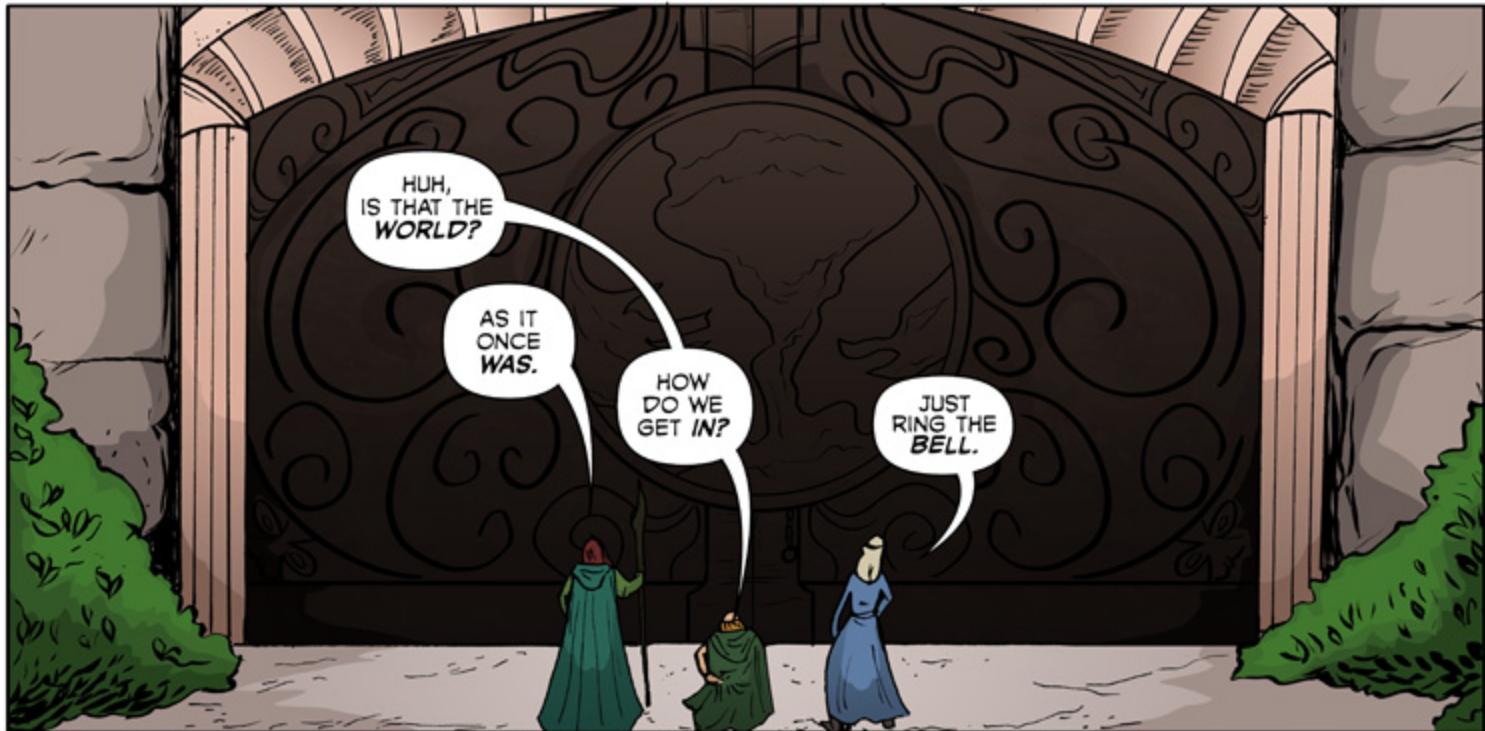


















THIS IS
QUITE A
SPECTACULAR
VIEW.

YES, I
DON'T COME
UP HERE
ENOUGH.



THE
CROWN
MOUNTAINS
SEEM SO
CLOSE.



MOVE
CLOSER,
THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU SHOULD
SEE.

HUH?



OH, THOSE
BUILDING?

YES!
THAT IS
THE SANCTUARY.
A PLACE OF DEEP
LEARNING FOR
THE SEEKERS.



THE
ARCHITECTURE
IS DIFFERENT
THAN THE
CITY'S.

IT WAS
BUILT BY
OUR BROTHERS
FROM THE
EAST.

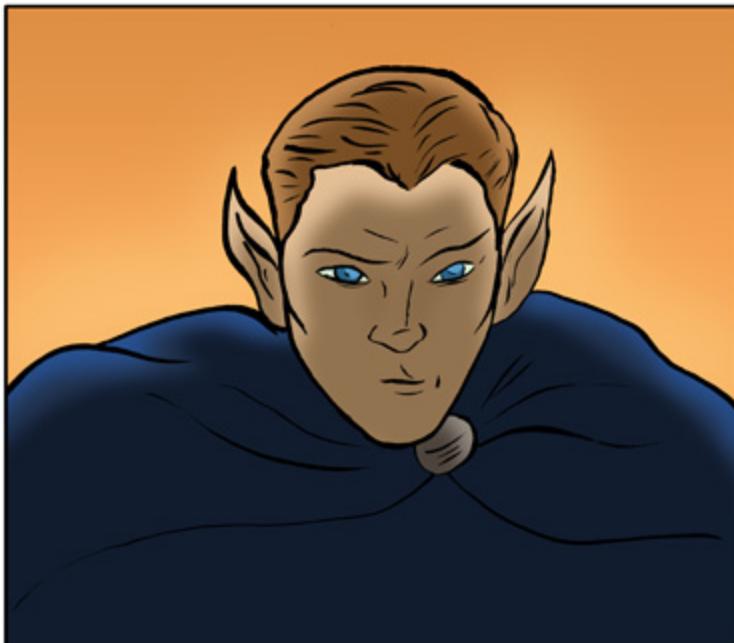
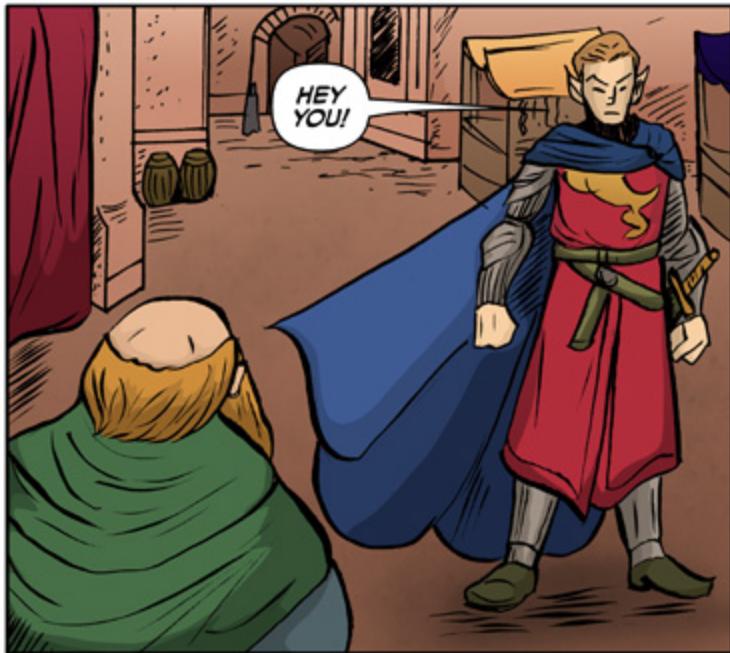
COME
LET ME
TAKE YOU
THERE.

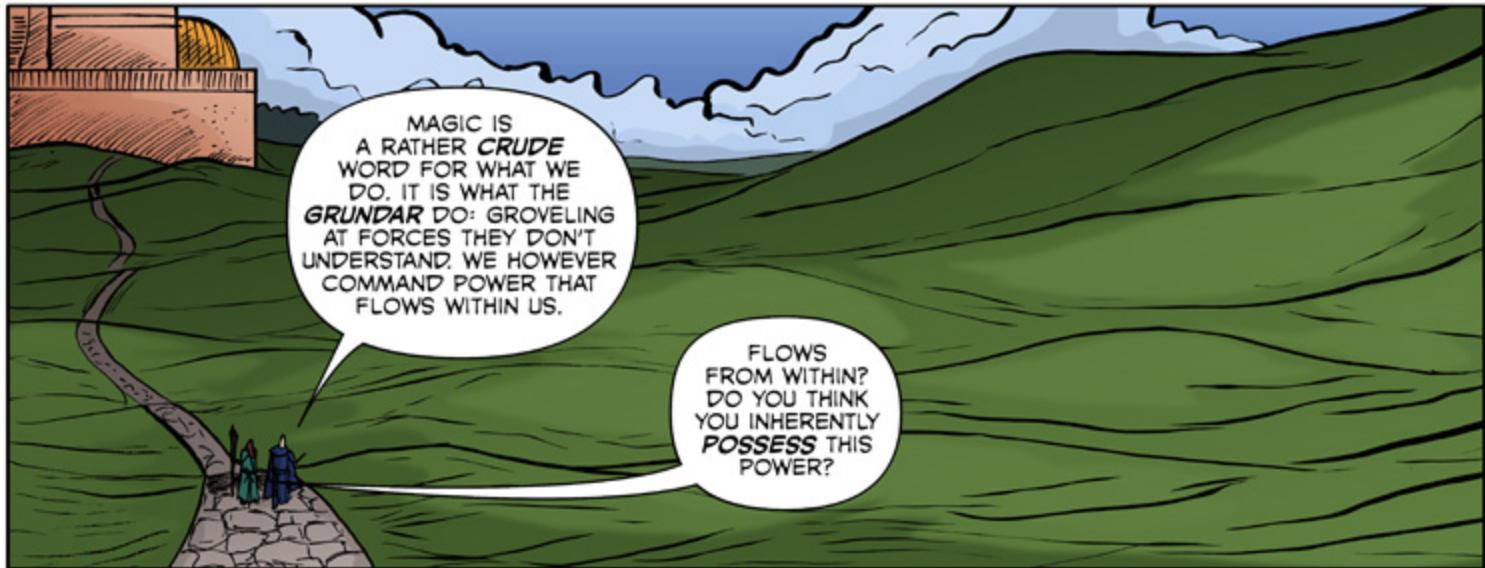
WELL,
I WISH TO
USE THE
ORERRY.

NONSENSE!
I HAVE SO MUCH
TO SHOW YOU. IT'S
RARE I HAVE
SOMEONE NEW TO
TEACH.

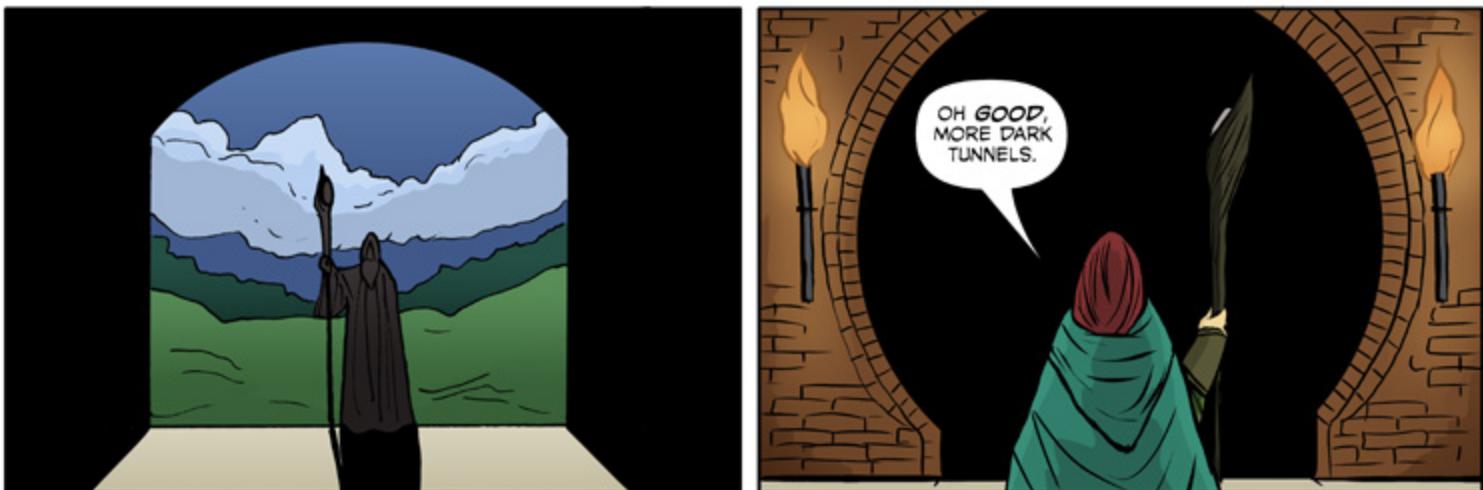
...BE
CAREFUL OF
THAT EDGE,
THOUGH. WE'RE
UP SUPER
HIGH

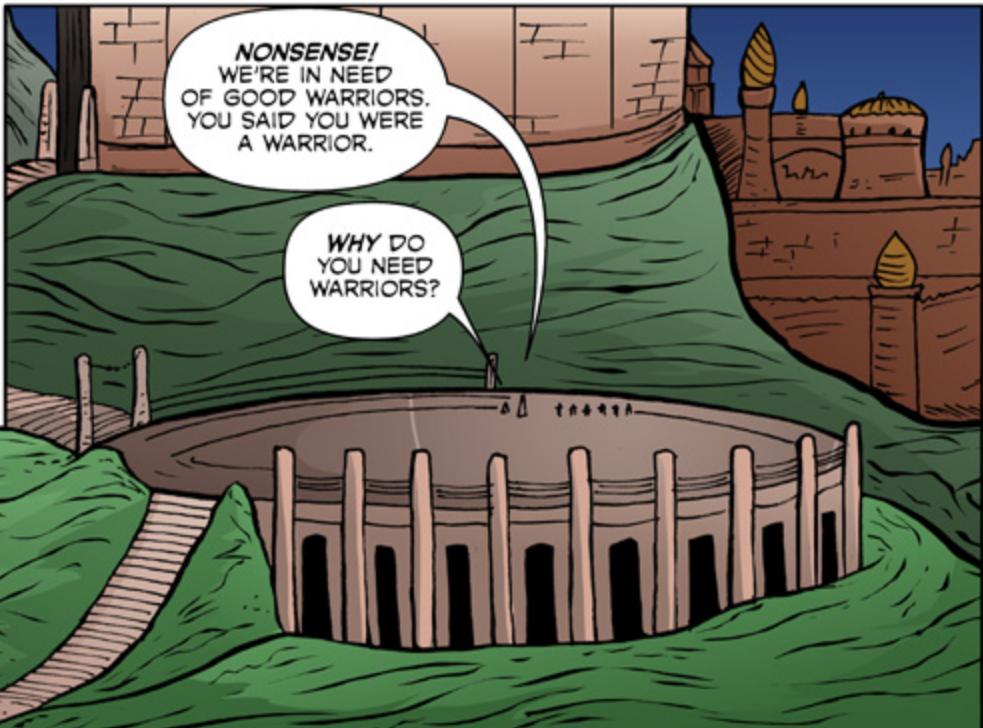






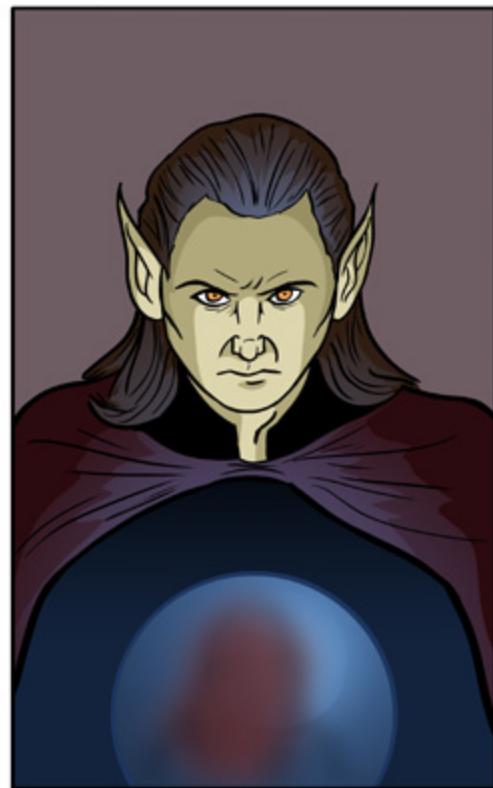




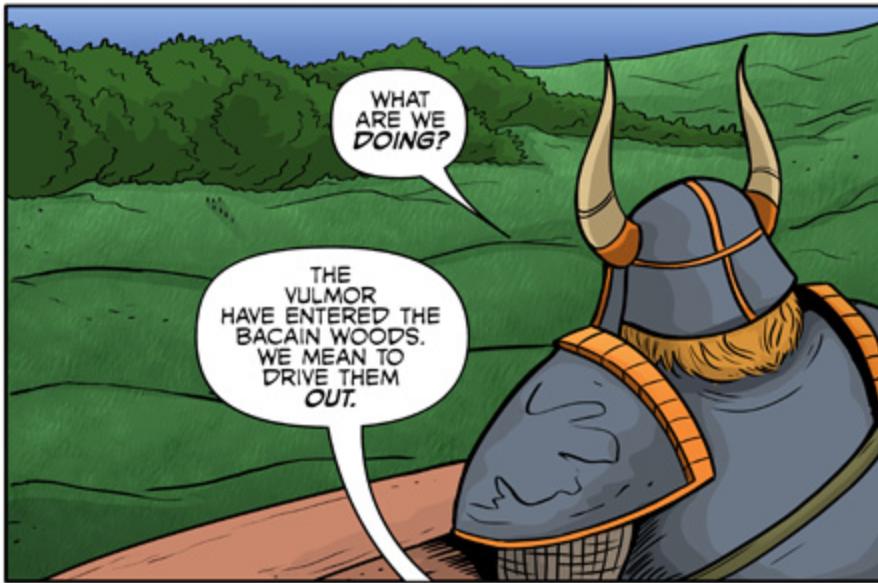




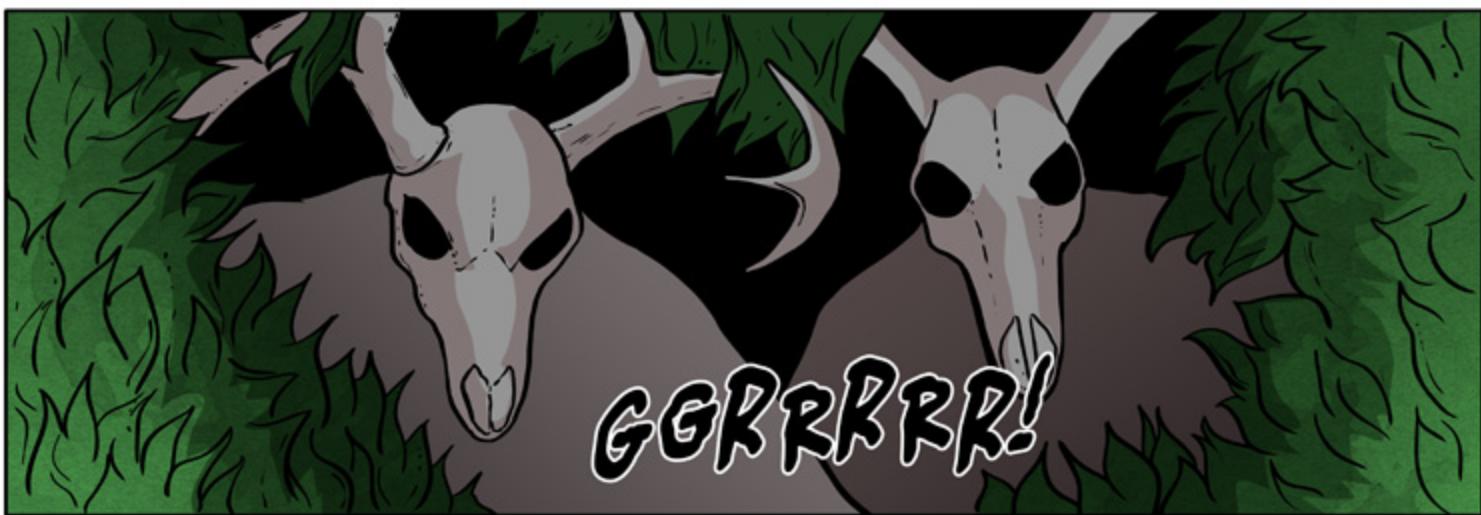








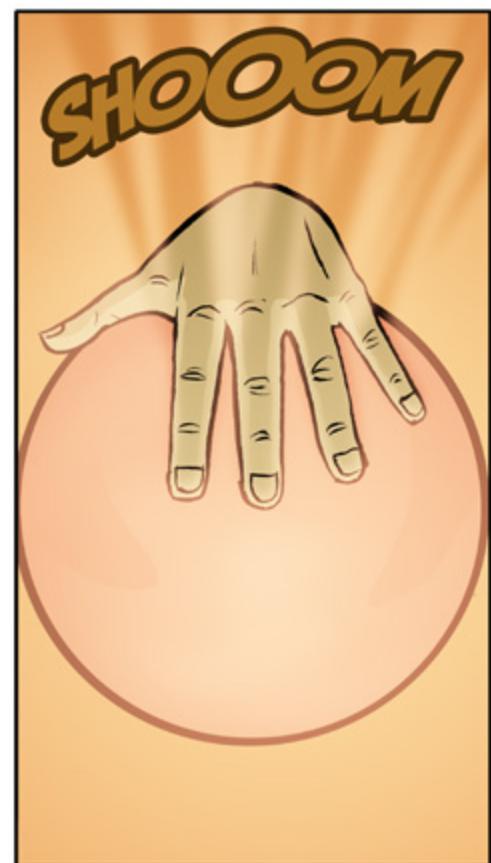
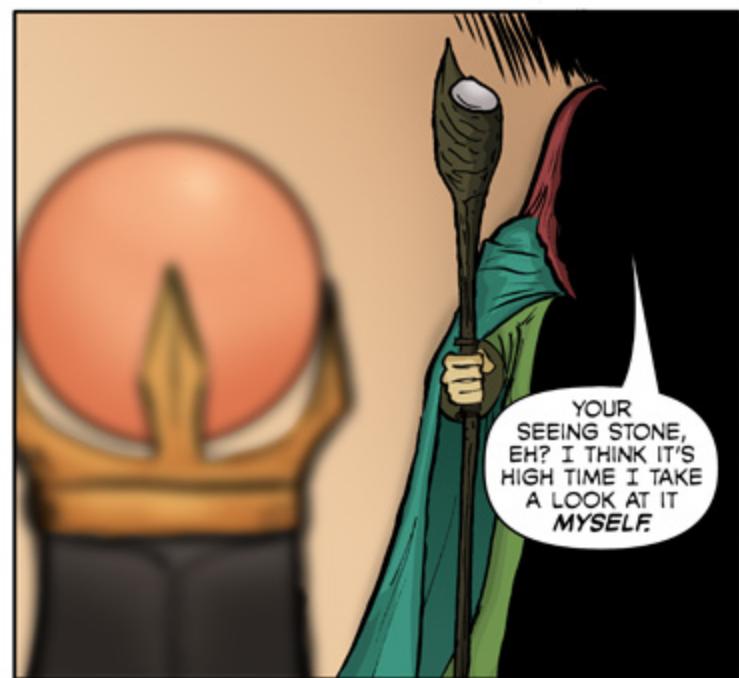
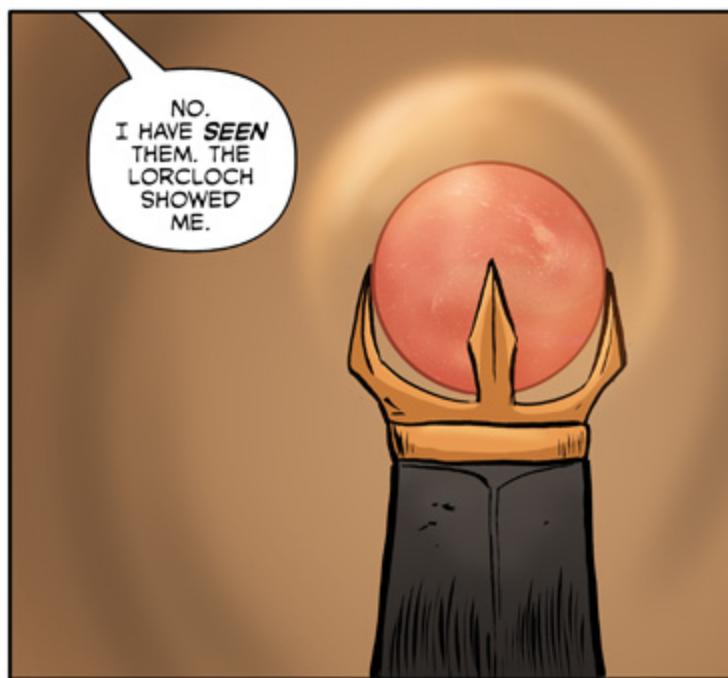


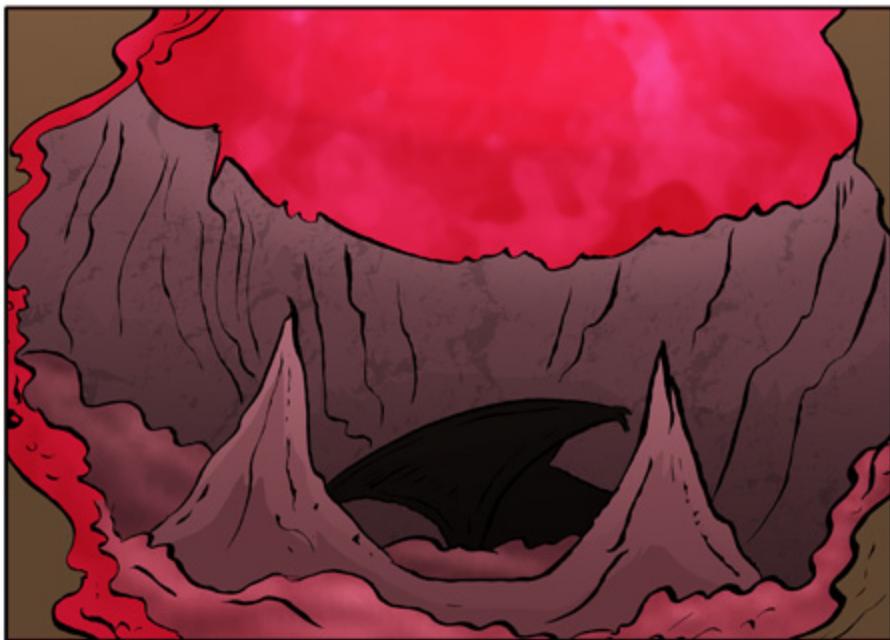




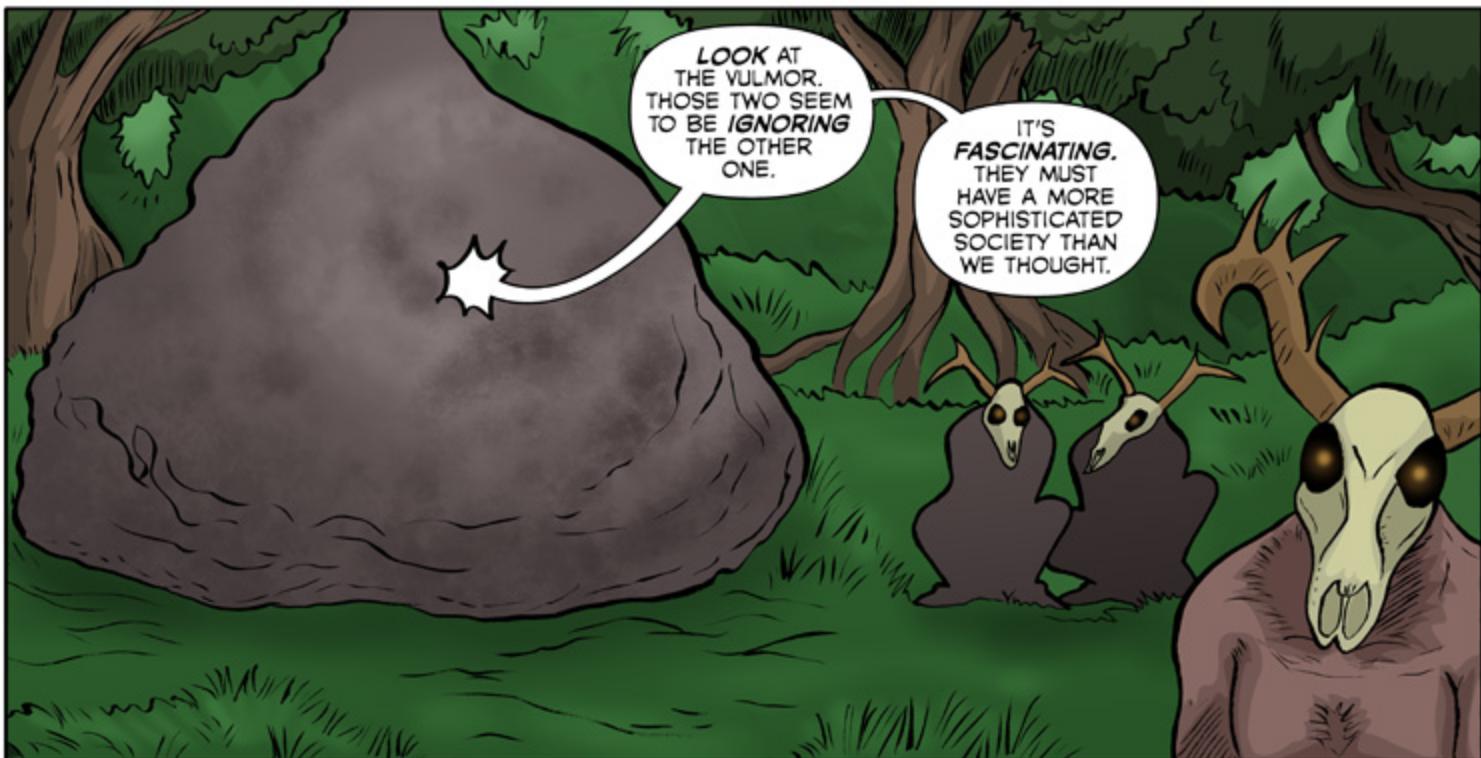


















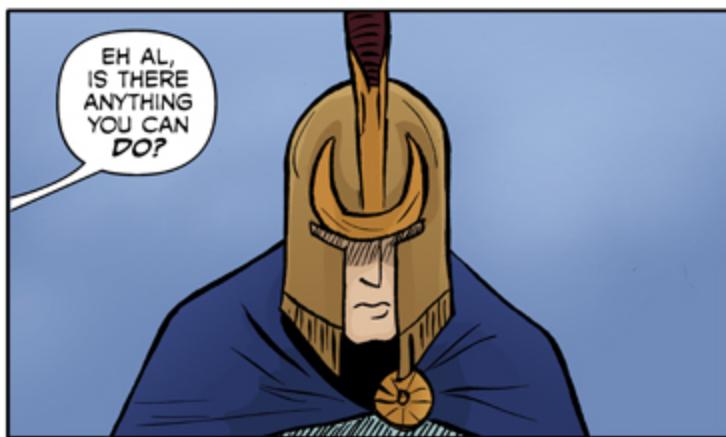
FATHER I BROUGHT THESE VISITORS. I DO NOT THINK THEY MEAN ILL.



THE FIRST BORN CAN CHANGE THEIR APPEARANCE. IT'S ONE OF THEIR *GIFTS*.









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