

ZIYAAD RAHMAN


AWALI COMICS™

秘密
の人々

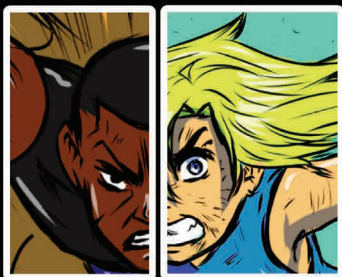
VOLUME

2

BOOKS
7-9

SIRI WATU

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST AFRO-MANGA



SIRI WATU

AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR
AND COLORIST
ZIYAAD RAHMAN

PRINT MANAGER
SHAMEEG BAZA

CREATED BY
ZIYAAD RAHMAN
AND
KARRIEM SEDICK

PUBLISHER
AWALI COMICS



NON-ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS

INYONI (IN-YOR-NEE) -
BIRD

LEKKER (LEH-KUH) -
"NICE" OR "GOOD"

NEH/EH (LEAF-LIN-G) -
AN EXPRESSION OF ASSERTION TO
A PREVIOUS POINT ("DO YOU AGREE?")

UBABA (OO-BABA) (ZULU) -
FATHER

YOR -
AN EXPRESSION OF SURPRISE

SIES -
AN EXPRESSION OF DISGUST

EISH (AY - SH) -
MY BAD, AN EX[PRESSION OF SURPRISE, DISAPPROVAL OR
REGRET

OMBESKOF (OM-BER-SK-OFF) -
RUDE

SOEMA (SUE-MAH) -
AN EXPRESSION TO EMPHASIS AN ONCOMING OR PREVIOUS
STATEMENT, LOOSELY EQUIVELANT TO THE PHRASE "JUST BECAUSE"

SUBS -
SHORTENED FOR SUBTITLES. IN WESTERN ANIME CULTURE, ANIME
SPOKEN IN THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE AND READ THROUGH SUBTITLES
IS CONSIDERED THE MORE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE. A STIGMA MAY
EXIST AGAINST THOSE WHO WATCH ANIME IN ENGLISH, THIS IS USUALLY
A LIGHT-HEARTED STIGMA.

EINA (AY - NAH) -
EXCLAMATION OF PAIN

SISI -
SISTER, A TERM OF RESPECT WHEN ADDRESSING
FEMALE FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS, COMRADES AND ELDERS

SIRI WATU ISSUES

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Issue 9:	THOSE WE BECOME	67



Issue #7

5 YEARS BEFORE MEETING AT CAMP TSHUKUDU

NO FAIR! I SHOULD
NOT BE AWAY FROM
YOU THIS LONG!
I MISS YOU SO MUCH!



I'M STILL UPSET
WITH YOU...
WHY DOES THIS ONE
HAVE TO TAKE
SO LONG?



TO BE HONEST,
LOVE, THIS ONE'S A
HEAD SCRATCHER FOR YOUR
FATHER AND HIS TEAM.

THAT'S WHY
THEY BROUGHT
YOUR EXPERT SUPER
MUM. BUT I PROMISE--

!!KRRR!!



SHEW! LIGHTNING!
THAT GAVE
ME A FRIGHT...



BE CAREFUL,
MAMA.



YOU ARE THE CUTEST!
YOUR MUM WILL COME
BACK TO YOU AS SOON
AS SHE CAN. STRAIGHT
AFTER WE SPEAK TO THE
FAMILY OF THE MISSING,
WE'LL GET ON A PLANE
AND BE HOME.
PROMISE.



TELL HER I HAVE THE BIGGEST
HUG TO GIVE HER WHEN WE SEE
HER TOMORROW.

YOUR FATHER SAYS HE'LL BUY
YOU THE BIGGEST PLUSHIE
WHEN HE GETS HOME.

HA! HA! I WILL DO THAT, TOO.
I MISS YOU, MY LIL' INYONI.



I MISS YOU BOTH--





KRRKOOOM!!!



-- SO MUCH MORE...

CURRENTLY

WAKE UP

WAKE UP,

WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU...

WAKE UP...

YOU HAVE BEEN ASLEEP TOO LONG.

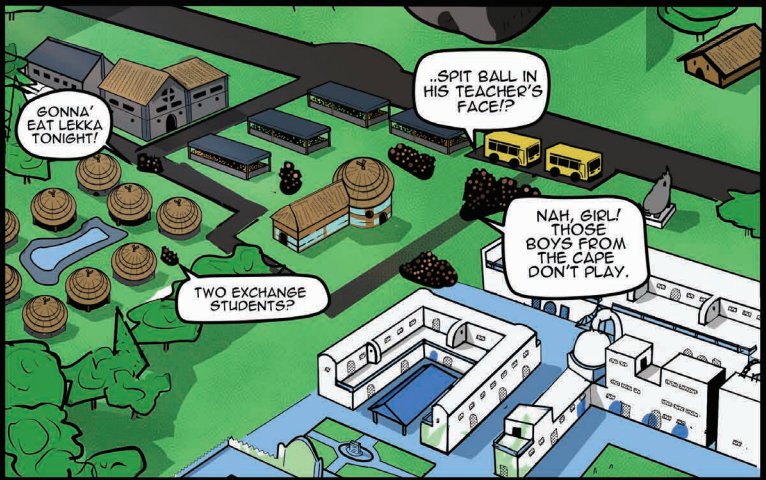
THEY ARE COMING

WE ARE HERE

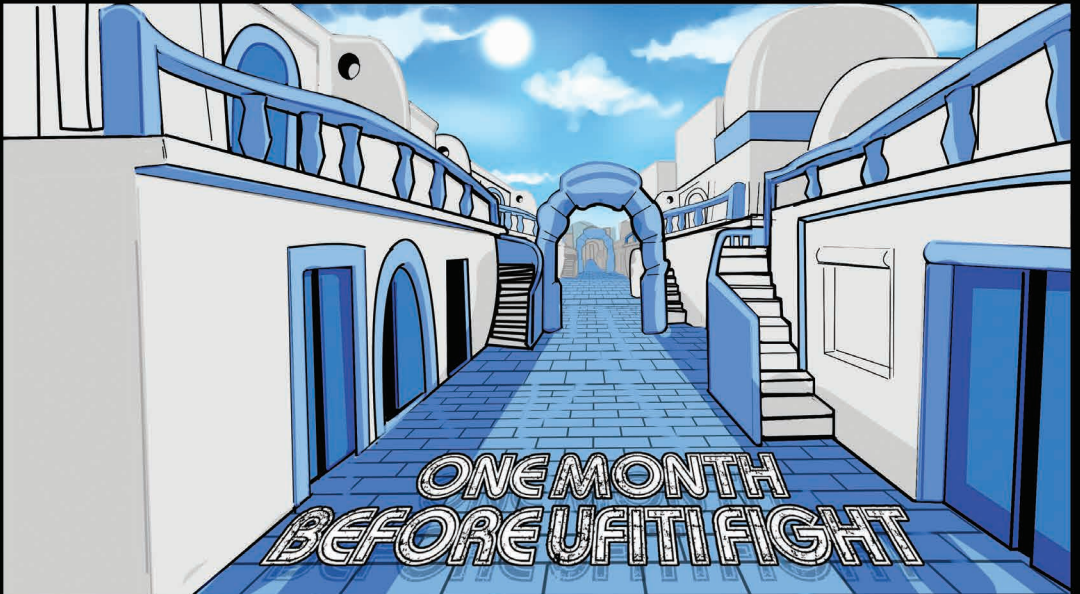
WAKE UP...

WAKE UP

CAMP TSHUKUDU, NAMED AFTER THE RHINOS THEY OFFER SANCTUARY FOR, HOME TO THE LOST, THE SILENT, AND THE DISAPPEARED. A PLACE BIRTHED OUT OF A DESIRE TO UNITE THE FORGOTTEN... THE SIRI WATU.

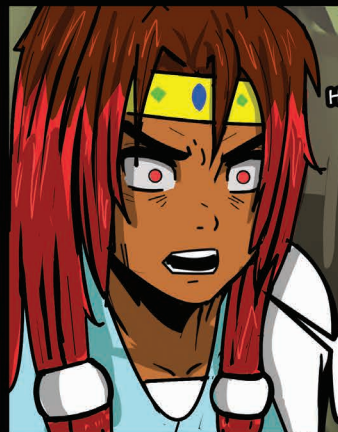


UNKNOTTING A WORLD OF WHISPERING LEGENDS, THIS IS THE TALE OF DIALO, AYANDA, SENZO AND ZITA, WHO UNCOVER A HISTORY BANISHED TO THE CHASMS OF SECRET.





EXCITING,
NEH?



HOLY
WORLD BUILDING
HEADACHE, BATMA--

WHAT DID YOU
JUST DO? WHAT
WAS THAT?



JUST A BIT OF VISION
MAISHA, EH. THE FIRST
TIME IS ALWAYS
A BIT ROUGH.



OLD MAN

I DON'T KNOW WHO
YOU ARE OR WHY
THIS IS ALL
HAPPENING, BUT...



I AM PRETTY
SURE HOLDING
FOUR CHILDREN
HOSTAGE IN A
CAVE ISN'T PART
OF THE CAMP
EXPERIENCE.



RABI DIDN'T LIE, EH...
YOU ARE EXACTLY
LIKE HER...



YOU KNOW
UNCLE RABI?



MORE THAN
YOU KNOW,
YOUNG MEHRA.



HE WAS
A GOOD
STUDENT
AND AN
EVEN BETTER
FRIEND.



YOU KNOW
ME, TOO?



YOU ARE NOT
HERE BY CHANCE,
EH.



WHO ARE YOU,
OLD MAN?



HMM!

EISH, I SOEMA
WANT TO TEAR UP
THINKING ABOUT
HOW I MISS
THEM NOW.



I ASKED YOU A
QUESTION, OLD MAN.
WHO ARE YOU?

GOOD! ALWAYS BE
CAUTIOUS, YOUNG MEHRA.
MY NAME IS TSHIKELELE,
AND, IF YOU ALLOW,
A SHORT STORY WILL
EXPLAIN IT ALL, NEH.

IF YOU ALLOW,
I CAN HELP YOU KNOW,
AT LEAST IN PART,
ABOUT YOUR NEW
ABILITIES.

STOP
WASTING
TIME,
OLD
MAN!





EVEN NEGOTIATING
LIKE HER, NEH!
FAIR FAIR, EH.
MAKE THE PATH.



A LOT OF PEOPLE
ARE ABOUT TO BE
HAPPY...

I WAS THINKING IT
WOULD TAKE MORE TO
CONVINCE YOU, NEH.
YOU ARE A LOT LESS
STUBBORN THAN HER...

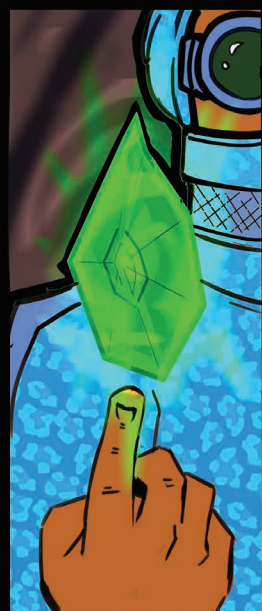


YOU ARE
NOT WRONG.



RUN!







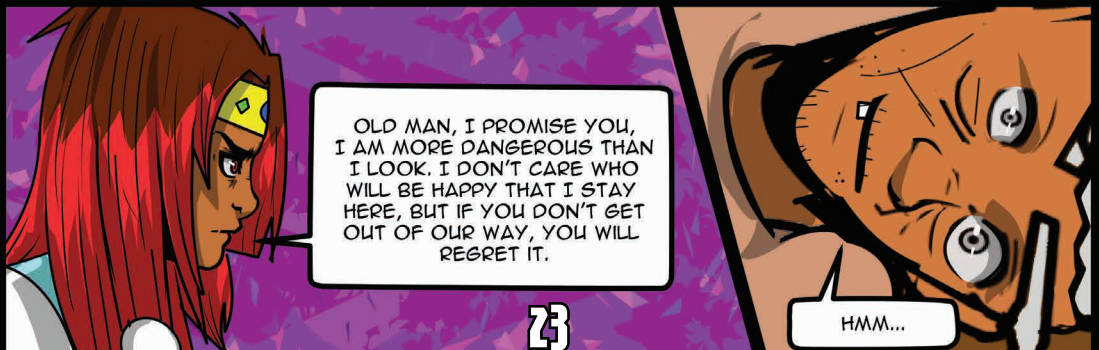
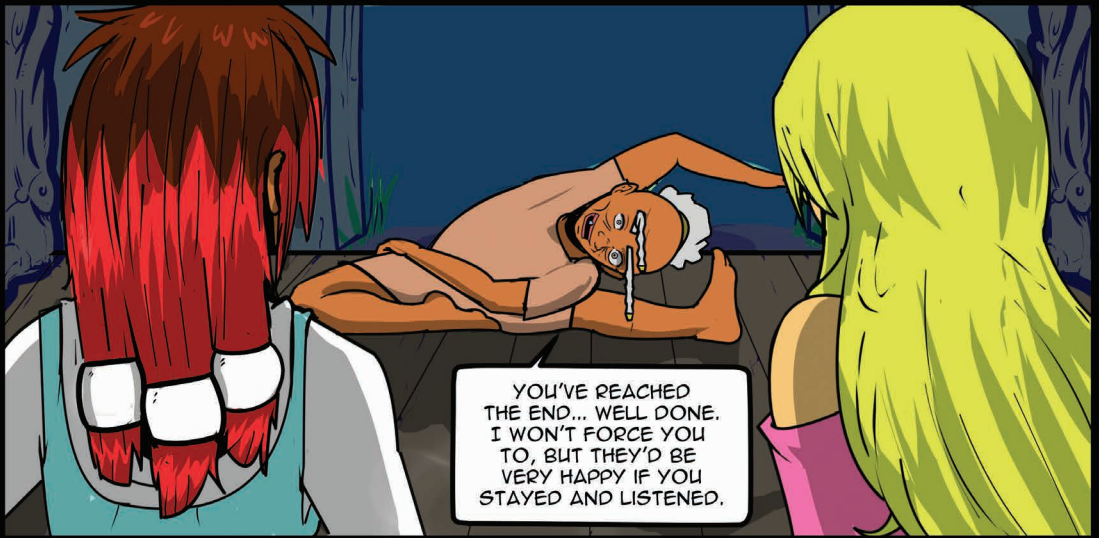


THANK YOU, MEHRA,
FOR LEAVING A MEMORY
OF YOU BEHIND.









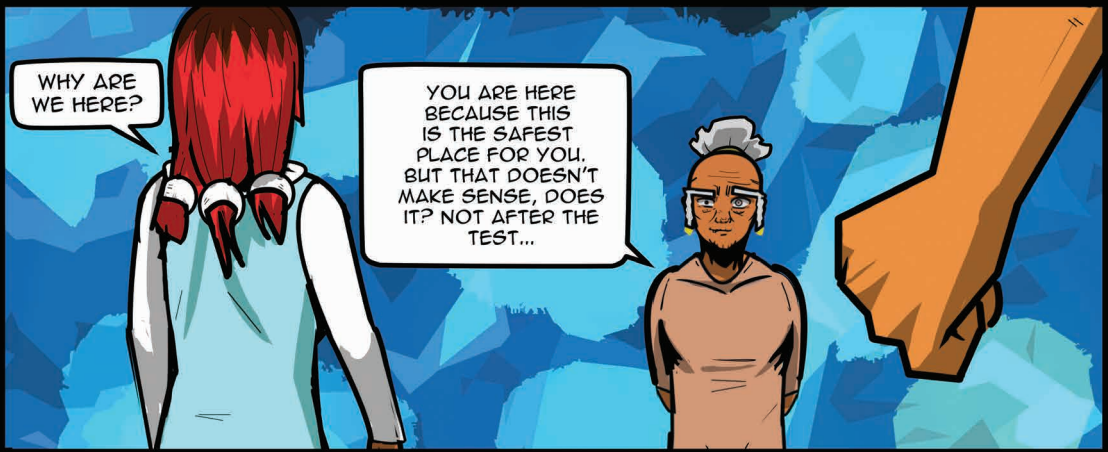


THEY SHOULD HAVE
BEEN BACK BY NOW.

GUESS I'LL HAVE
TO RESCUE THEM...



HMM...
WHY EVEN TRY TO JOKE...
I'M THE ONE WHOSE LOST.
HE'LL END UP BEING THE
ONE TO RESCUE ME, AND
PROBABLY WITH THAT
STUPID GRIN ON HIS FACE.

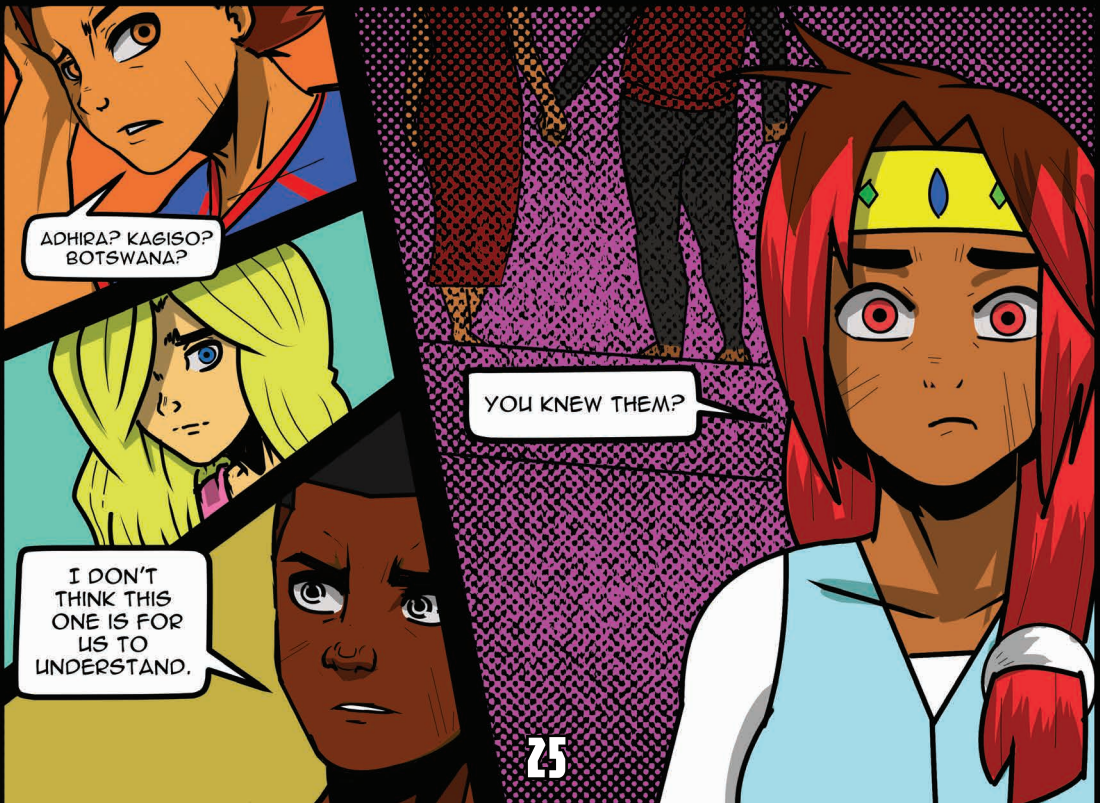


WHY ARE
WE HERE?

YOU ARE HERE
BECAUSE THIS
IS THE SAFEST
PLACE FOR YOU.
BUT THAT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE, DOES
IT? NOT AFTER THE
TEST...



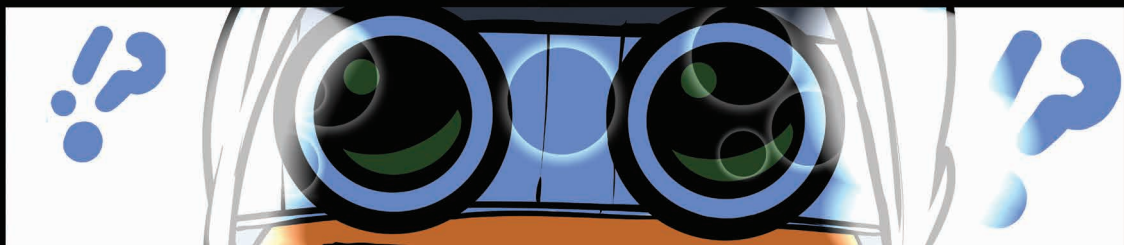
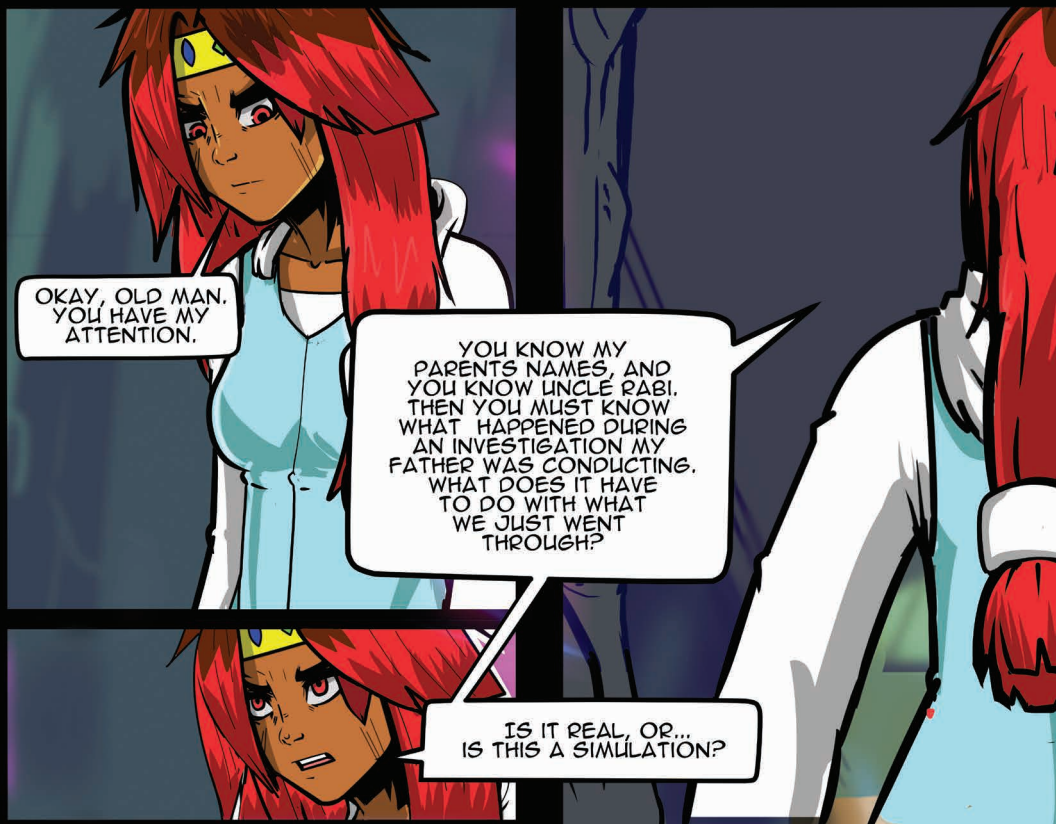
FORGIVE ME FOR
USING THEM TO
CONVINCE YOU,
BUT YOU WILL STAY
BECAUSE WITH US
I WILL BE ABLE TO
KEEP MY PROMISE THAT
I MADE FIVE YEARS AGO
TO ADHIRA AND KAGISO
AT THE BORDER OF
BOTSWANA, IN THE
TOWN OF MMABATHO.




ADHIRA? KAGISO?
BOTSWANA?


YOU KNEW THEM?

I DON'T
THINK THIS
ONE IS FOR
US TO
UNDERSTAND.





DO YOU THINK WE'RE IN ANOTHER
WORLD AT THE MOMENT? WHEN
DO YOU THINK IT HAPPENED?
DOES THE CREEPY GUY WANT
US TO BE NOBLE SUPER HEROES,
OR, YOU KNOW, LIKE SUPER
SHOUNEN HEROES?



ARI! ARI! ARI!

KAMEHA.!

BANKAI!

SASUKE!



SHOUNEN?



IT'S AN
ACTION-ADVENTURE
COMING OF AGE STORY,
USUALLY ABOUT A YOUNG
BOY WHO NEEDS TO
SAVE THE WORLD.

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT ANIME
IS!? AS YOUR NEW
BEST FRIEND, I HAVE
A THOUSAND SHOWS
THAT I HAVE TO MAKE
YOU WATCH!




I WATCH ANIME...
I JUST DON'T
KNOW JAPANESE,
SO I WATCH
THEM IN ENGLISH.




BLASPHEMY!!


YOU D-DON'T
KNOW.. THE BEAUTY
..NAY! THE PURITY
OF SUBS?
NANI!!!!



YOU ARE NOT IN
AN ISEKAI, VIRTUAL
WORLD, OR ANY
TYPE OF SIMULATION.
THIS IS REAL.
WHAT YOU JUST
WENT THROUGH...
WHAT YOU JUST
DID... THAT WAS
ALL YOU, EH.

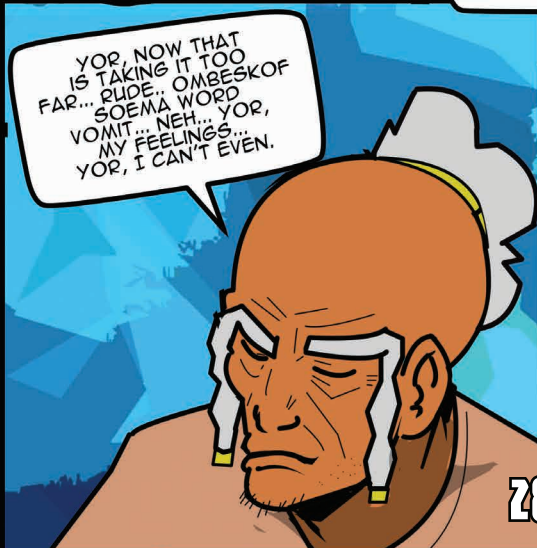


WELL, THEN AGAIN... HMM...
THIS PLACE ITSELF
MIGHT NOT BE REAL...
I MEAN... EISH... NOW THAT
I THINK ABOUT IT... THIS
ISN'T THE ONLY WORLD...
AND YOU DID KIND OF
CROSS INTO THE PART
OF YOU THAT IS LINKED TO
ANOTHER WORLD...




SO IS THIS AN ISEKAI?
OR ARE YOU REALIZING
MORE OF AN ALREADY
EXISTING REALITY? EH... WITH
THE CONSTANT CHANGE
OF LANGUAGE IN TODAY'S
WORLD... I NEVER REALIZE
HOW OFTEN I HAVE TO
CHANGE MY EXPLANATIONS
OF THINGS... NEH.

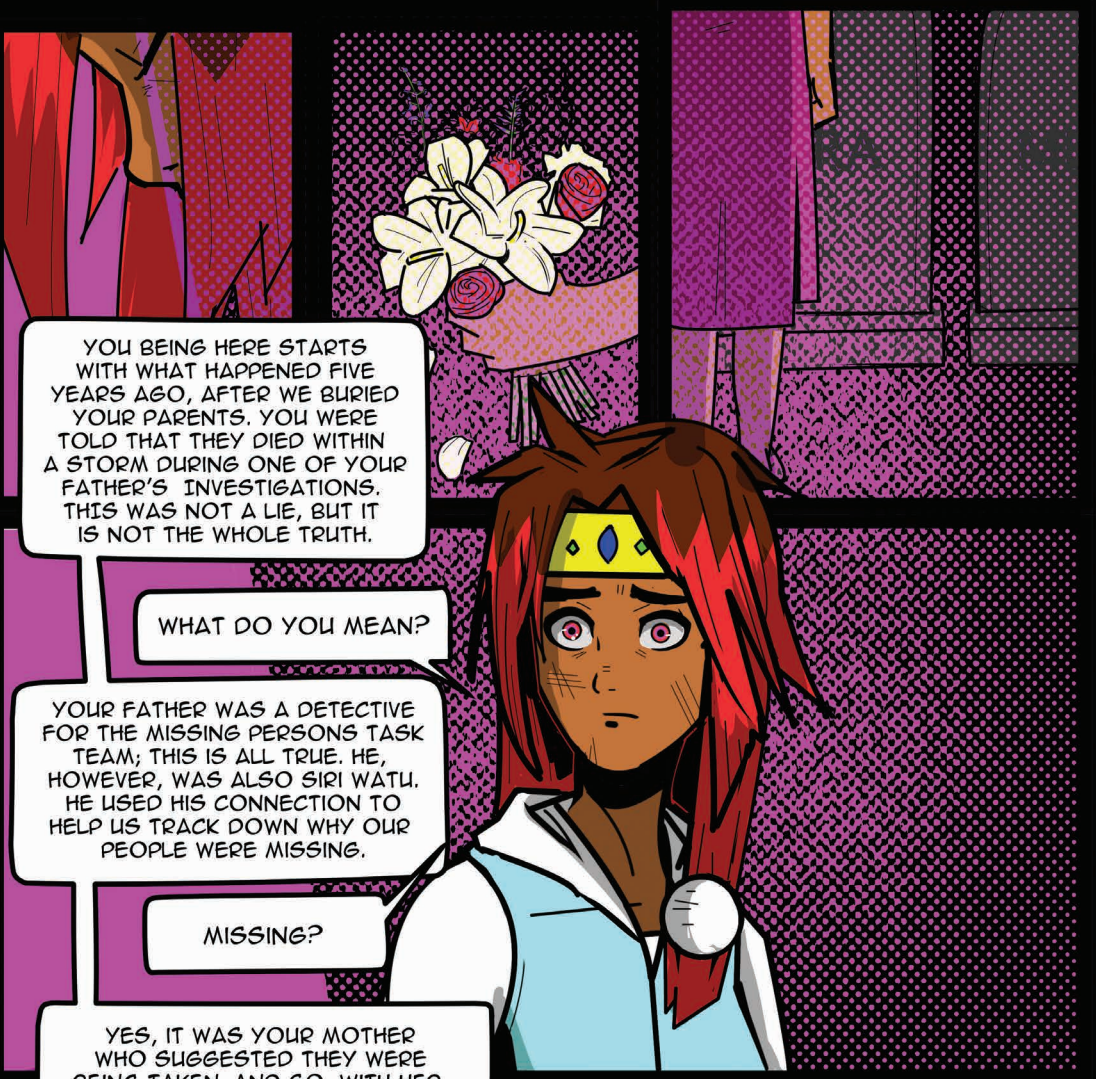
OLD MAN, I AM
LOSING INTEREST IN
YOUR WORD VOMIT.
YOUR TIME'S RUNNING
OUT. FINISH WHAT YOU
HAVE TO SAY IN THE
NEXT 30 SECONDS,
OR WE ARE DONE.



YOR, NOW THAT
IS TAKING IT TOO
FAR... RUDE... OMBESKOP
SOEMA WORD
VOMIT... NEH... YOR,
MY FEELINGS...
YOR, I CAN'T EVEN.



EISH... OKAY... I WISH
THERE WAS A BETTER
TIME AND PLACE TO
TELL YOU. AT LEAST THIS
WAY I CAN BEGIN
KEEPING THE PROMISE
I MADE.



YOU BEING HERE STARTS WITH WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO, AFTER WE BURIED YOUR PARENTS. YOU WERE TOLD THAT THEY DIED WITHIN A STORM DURING ONE OF YOUR FATHER'S INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WAS NOT A LIE, BUT IT IS NOT THE WHOLE TRUTH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOUR FATHER WAS A DETECTIVE FOR THE MISSING PERSONS TASK TEAM; THIS IS ALL TRUE. HE, HOWEVER, WAS ALSO SIRI WATU. HE USED HIS CONNECTION TO HELP US TRACK DOWN WHY OUR PEOPLE WERE MISSING.

MISSING?

YES, IT WAS YOUR MOTHER WHO SUGGESTED THEY WERE BEING TAKEN. AND SO, WITH HER, WE BEGUN TO LOOK INTO RUMOURS OF A GROUP WHO WERE SECRETLY DISAPPEARING THE SIRI WATU.

I WAS PART OF THIS TEAM. WE WERE LED TO THE BORDERS OF BOTSWANA IN THE MAFIKING. THEY WERE LOOKING INTO WHISPERS COMING OUT OF THE TOWN OF MMABOTHA, AND I, THE CITY OF GABRONE.




UNFORTUNATELY, WE FIGURED OUT TOO LATE THAT YOUR PARENTS WERE THEIR TARGETS, TOO. BY THE TIME I ARRIVED, IT WAS TOO LATE...

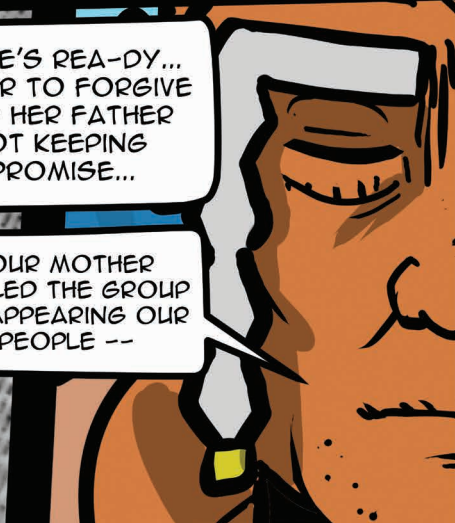


FORGIVE ME, CHILD...

I-I'M SORRY, OLD MAN.
PLEASE MAKE SURE SHE
IS OKAY AND DO ME A
FINAL FAVOUR, WILL YOU?



WHEN SHE'S REA-DY...
G-GET HER TO FORGIVE
ME AND HER FATHER
FOR NOT KEEPING
OUR PROMISE...



YOUR MOTHER
CALLED THE GROUP
DISAPPEARING OUR
PEOPLE --

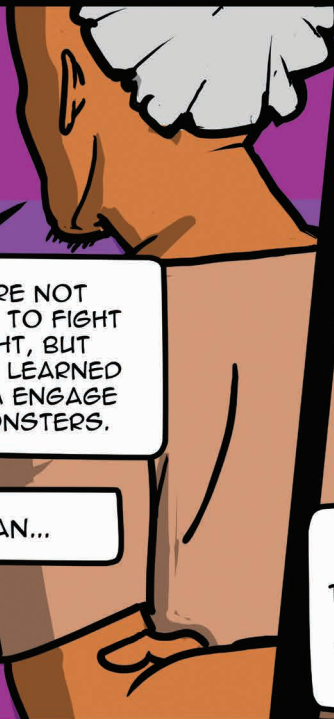
THE IRAKSA



YOUR MOTHER TRUSTED THAT
WHEN THE TIME CAME, YOU'D BE ABLE
TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT DECISION
OF WHAT THEY FELT THEY HAD TO DO.




WHAT DO YOU MEAN?




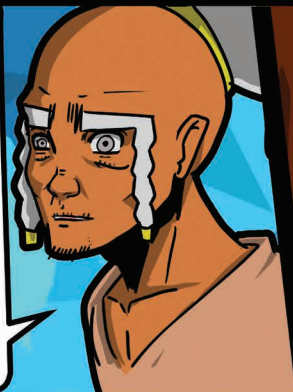
THEY WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO FIGHT THAT NIGHT, BUT WHAT THEY LEARNED MADE THEM ENGAGE THESE MONSTERS.

OLD MAN...



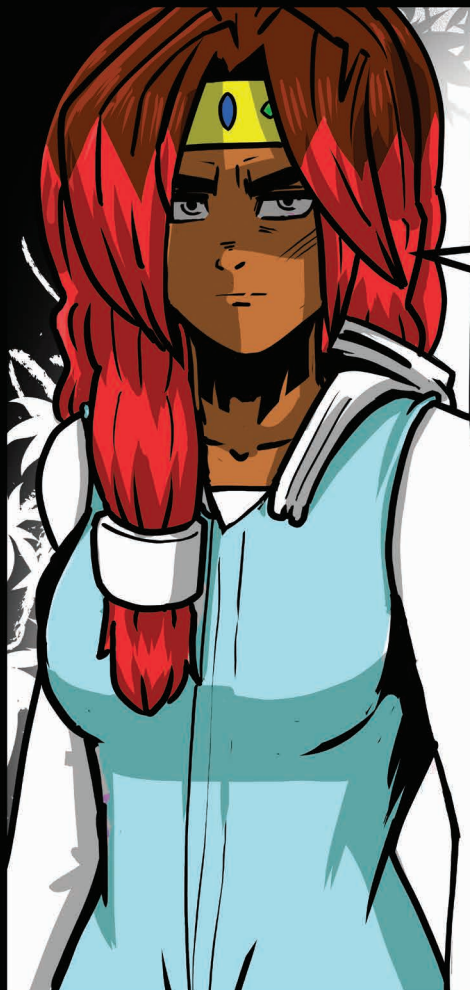
THE REASON YOU ARE HERE IS BECAUSE THEY LEARN'T THAT THE IRAKSA'S PLANS ARE TO COME AFTER ALL OF THE SIRI WATU... INCLUDING THOSE WE TRIED TO HIDE... YOU.

AT FIRST, WE THOUGHT KEEPING YOU OUT OF THIS WORLD WOULD KEEP YOU SAFE. WE LEARNED RECENTLY THAT WE WERE WRONG. THE IRAKSA'S PLANS GIVE US AT LEAST THREE YEARS TO PREPARE. A DECISION WAS THEREFORE MADE TO BRING YOU HERE AND PREPARE YOU... INCASE OF THE WORST.



THE WORST, HUH... IS THIS WHY YOU DID WHAT YOU DID FOR ME GROWING UP, UBABA AND MAMA? WHY I WENT TO ALL THOSE CLASSES? DID YOU KNOW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN?

I'M SO SORRY. YOU DIED FEELING LIKE YOU NEEDED MY FORGIVENESS.

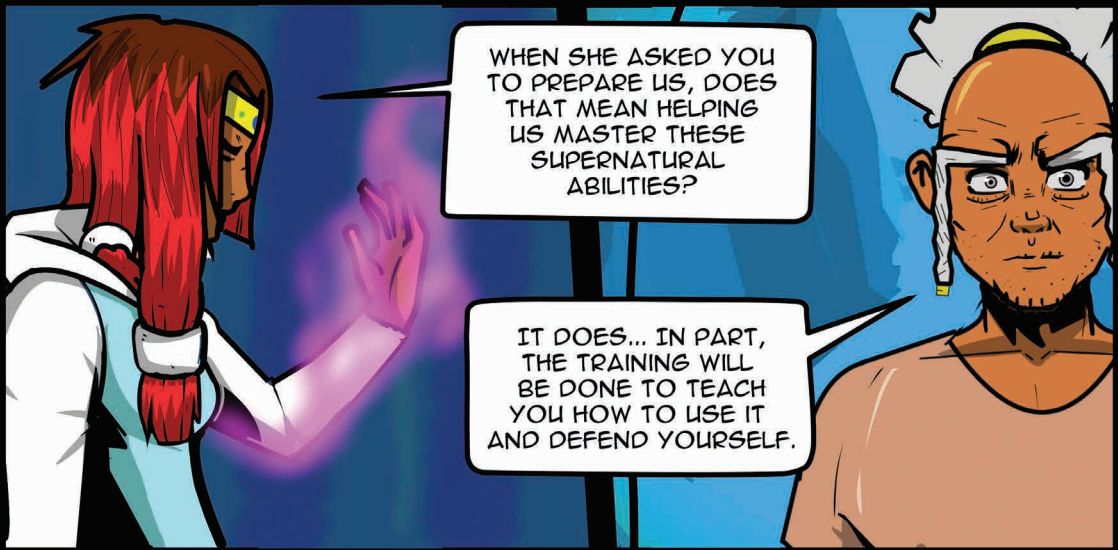


THANK YOU, OLD MAN.
I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED,
SINCE THAT DAY AT THE FUNERAL.
SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
NEVER MADE SENSE TO ME.
I GUESS I THOUGHT UNCLE RABI
SENT ME HERE TO GET AWAY
FROM ALL OF THAT.

I AM
GLAD I WAS WRONG.
NOW I KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO.
THIS GROUP, THE IRAKSA,
WANT US, I ASSUME BECAUSE
OF WHAT WE DISPLAYED
TODAY...

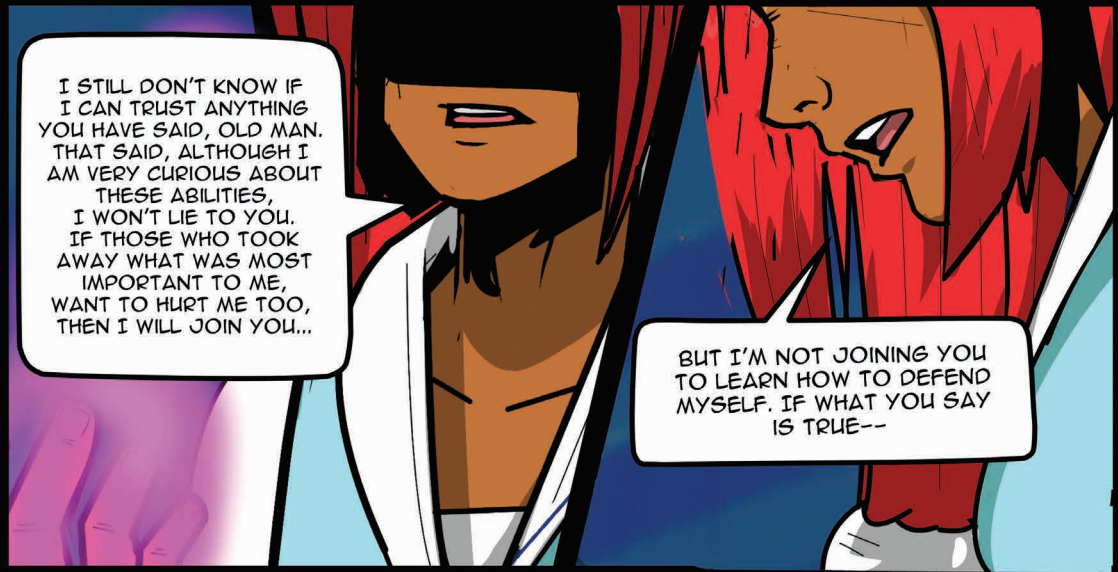
TELL ME,
OLD MAN...





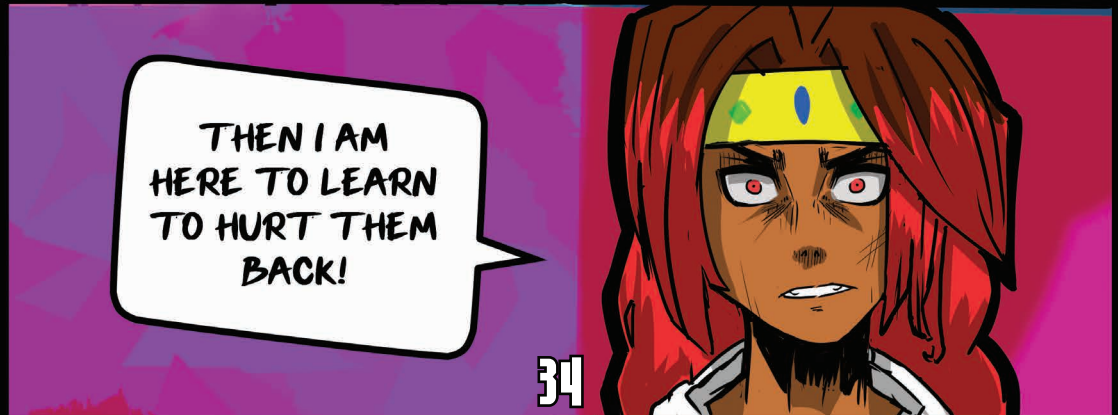
WHEN SHE ASKED YOU
TO PREPARE US, DOES
THAT MEAN HELPING
US MASTER THESE
SUPERNATURAL
ABILITIES?

IT DOES... IN PART,
THE TRAINING WILL
BE DONE TO TEACH
YOU HOW TO USE IT
AND DEFEND YOURSELF.



I STILL DON'T KNOW IF
I CAN TRUST ANYTHING
YOU HAVE SAID, OLD MAN.
THAT SAID, ALTHOUGH I
AM VERY CURIOUS ABOUT
THESE ABILITIES,
I WON'T LIE TO YOU.
IF THOSE WHO TOOK
AWAY WHAT WAS MOST
IMPORTANT TO ME,
WANT TO HURT ME TOO,
THEN I WILL JOIN YOU...

BUT I'M NOT JOINING YOU
TO LEARN HOW TO DEFEND
MYSELF. IF WHAT YOU SAY
IS TRUE--



THEN I AM
HERE TO LEARN
TO HURT THEM
BACK!





WE'RE GOING
TO BE IN A
MANGA!



I'M ALREADY
REGRETTING
MY DECISION.



MA WOULD KILL ME
IF I LET YOU DO
THIS ALONE...



THIS COULD
BE FUN.



ZITA,
ARE YOU
GOING TO
JOIN OUR
MANGA
GANG,
TOO?



REALLY,
REALLY
REGRETTING
IT.



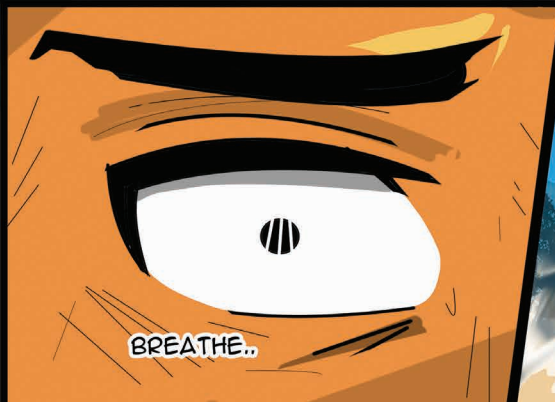
...I THOUGHT,
I WAS ALREADY
PART OF IT...



Y--YES. I'M
C--CURIOUS,
TOO.



NOTHIN' LEFT TO
SAY THEN, IS THERE!?
IN THE NEXT
EPISODE,
WE TRAIN!





NEAR FUTURE




TO BE
CONTINUED



**SIRI
WATU**

Issue #8





THIS GAME'S OVER.
WE WILL FIND HER SOON.
YOU WILL FAIL.

PLAY WITH US

PLAY WITH US

FIND US

PLAY

WE HAVE SO MANY GAMES

THEY WILL COME

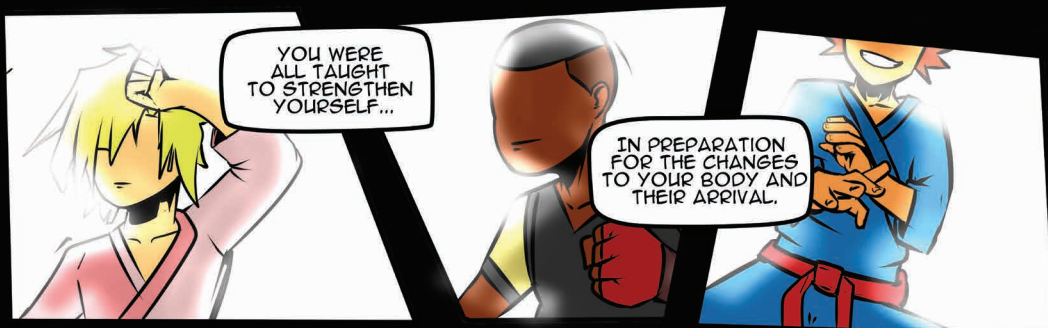
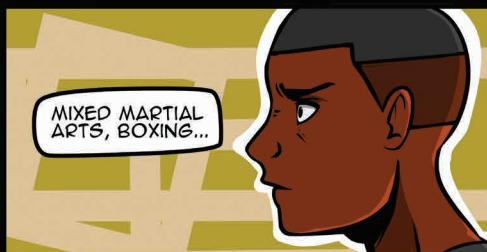
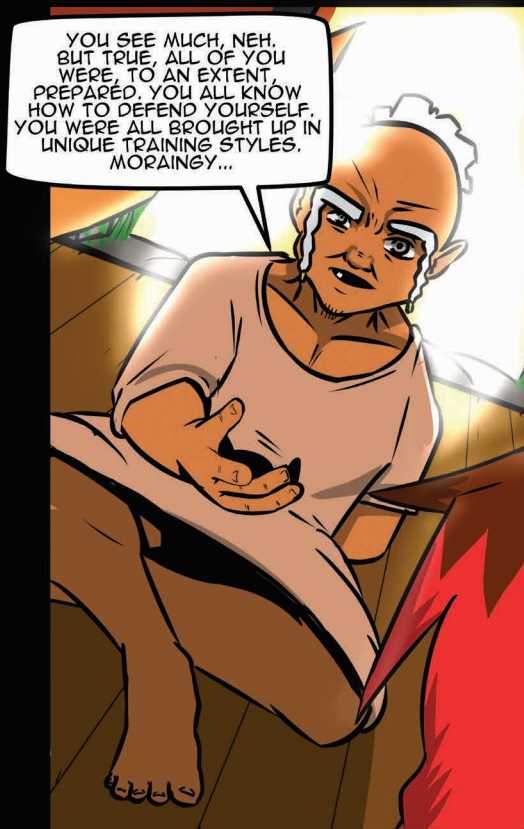
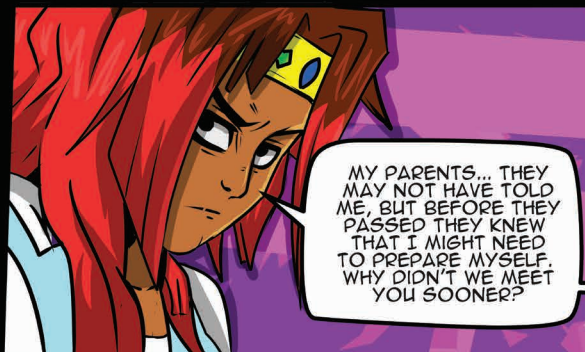
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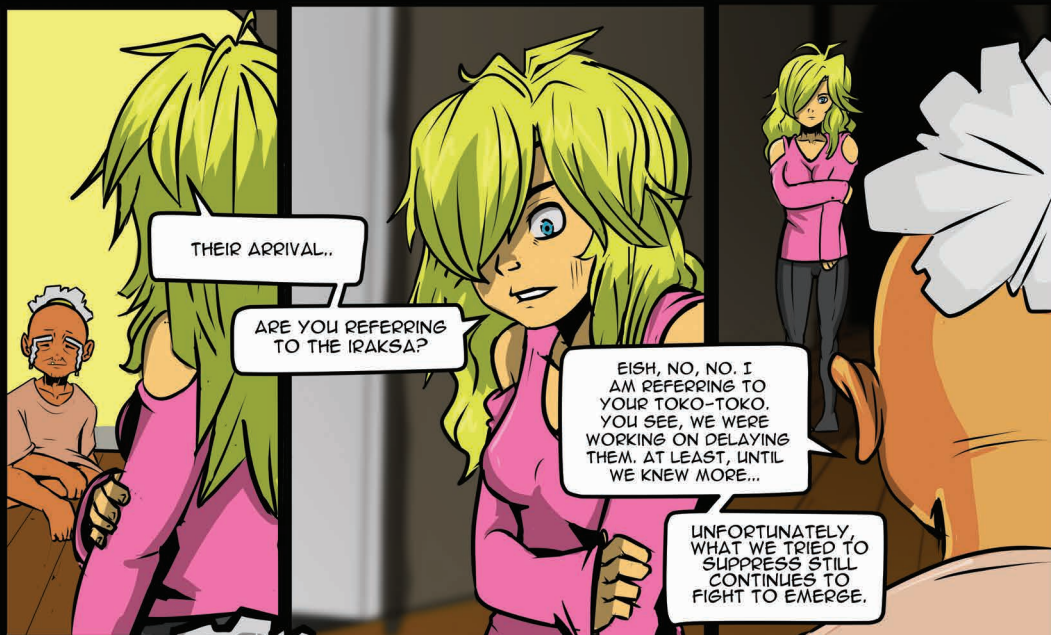
WE ARE HERE

PLAY

PLAY WITH US





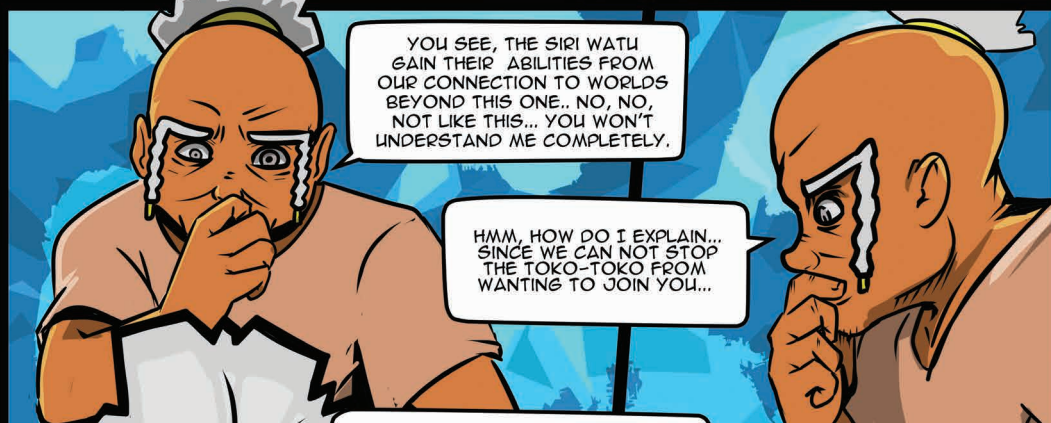


THEIR ARRIVAL..

ARE YOU REFERRING
TO THE IRAKSA?

EISH, NO, NO. I
AM REFERRING TO
YOUR TOKO-TOKO.
YOU SEE, WE WERE
WORKING ON DELAYING
THEM. AT LEAST, UNTIL
WE KNEW MORE...

UNFORTUNATELY,
WHAT WE TRIED TO
SUPPRESS STILL
CONTINUES TO
FIGHT TO EMERGE.



YOU SEE, THE SIRI WATU
GAIN THEIR ABILITIES FROM
OUR CONNECTION TO WORLDS
BEYOND THIS ONE.. NO, NO,
NOT LIKE THIS... YOU WON'T
UNDERSTAND ME COMPLETELY.

HMM, HOW DO I EXPLAIN...
SINCE WE CAN NOT STOP
THE TOKO-TOKO FROM
WANTING TO JOIN YOU...


YOUR ABILITIES COME FROM A
CONNECTION TO ANOTHER WORLD
THAT, AT TIMES, HAS ENTITIES
THAT CALL UPON THAT
CONNECTION TO BE
ANSWERED. LIKE THIS?



I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

TOKO-TOKO?


THE NAME OF
OUR ABILITIES?



THIS IS HARD, NEH.
EXPLAINING THIS WORLD,
ESPECIALLY SINCE A DECISION
WAS MADE TO KEEP YOU OUT
OF IT. BUT, I GUESS IT
CAN'T BE HELPED. ONCE
THE SIGNS OF THEIR
ARRIVAL BEGAN EMERGING,
YOU HAD TO BE BROUGHT
HERE FOR THEM TO TEST YOU.




OLD MAN, YOU ARE NOT
MAKING ANY SENSE. WHY
WERE YOU TRYING TO STOP
OUR ABILITIES FROM EMERGING?

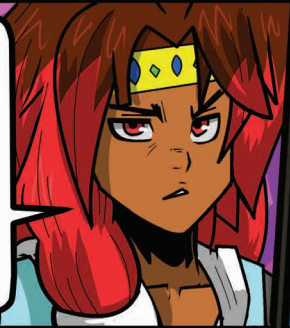


WE WERE NOT. WE TRIED
DELAYING YOUR CONNECTION
TO THE OTHER WORLD. BUT
YOUR TOKO-TOKO WANTS
TO JOIN YOU, AND WE,
UNFORTUNATELY, CAN
NO LONGER PREVENT
THAT FROM HAPPENING.

YOU SEE, YOU WERE NOT BEING
TRAINED FOR THE IRAKSA.
YOU WERE BEING PREPARED FOR
THE TOKO-TOKO'S EMERGENCE.
YOUR PARENTS DISCOVERING
THE IRAKSA'S EXISTENCE AND
THEIR GOALS IS WHAT PUSHED
US TO THINK IT WAS THE
CORRECT CHOICE. WE LEARNED,
HOWEVER, FROM ANOTHER
THAT WE WERE WRONG IN
DOING THAT. AND THEREFORE,
YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE.



THE IRAKSA ARE AS
SECRETIVE AS WE ARE... MAYBE MORE
SO, EH. SOME OF THEM HAVE ABILITIES
AND MAY CONNECT TO THE
SAME SOURCES OF POWER WE DO.
WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT YOUR
TOKO-TOKO EMERGING MAY UNCOVER
SECRETS THE IRAKSA WISH TO HIDE
MORE THAN THEIR OWN EXISTENCE.
MANY, LIKE YOUR PARENTS, HAVE
DISAPPEARED, OR WORSE, TO FIND
JUST THIS OUT.



OLD MAN,
YOU ARE STILL
SPEAKING IN RIDDLES.
WHAT ARE
TOKO-TOKO AND WHY
ARE THE IRAKSA
DISAPPEARING SIRI WATU
BECAUSE OF THEM?
AND, IF THEY ARE
HUNTING US, WHY
ARE YOU THE ONE
WHO ATTACKED US?



EISH... HOW DO I
EXPLAIN... THE TEST...



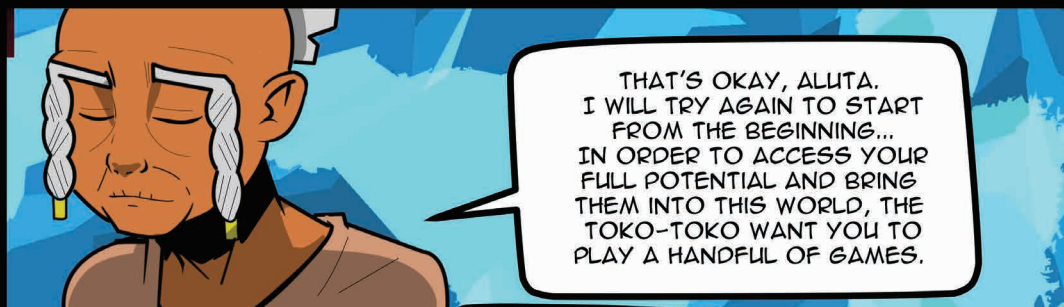
UH... SORRY.
MAYBE I CAN EXPLAIN.
HI, I'M ALUTA.



THE HANDS!



NICE TO MEET YE'.
NAME'S YUSUF.



THAT'S OKAY, ALUTA.
I WILL TRY AGAIN TO START
FROM THE BEGINNING...
IN ORDER TO ACCESS YOUR
FULL POTENTIAL AND BRING
THEM INTO THIS WORLD, THE
TOKO-TOKO WANT YOU TO
PLAY A HANDFUL OF GAMES.



NOT ME... I'M ALREADY
IN THIS WORLD.
I'M JUST A CONDUIT
FOR THOSE DJINNS'
GAMES...



DJINN?

WHAT
DO FAIRY TALES
HAVE TO DO WITH
ALL OF THIS?



WE REALLY ARE
EXPLAINING THINGS IN THE
MOST ROUNDABOUT WAY.



I MEAN, THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME FOR
US, AND YOU DID
ATTACK THEM
WITH YOUR MUD
ARMS. FOR ALL THEY
KNOW, YOU JUST
CONFERRED.

SHUT UP; THIS IS HARD.



I AM MORE
CONFUSED NOW
THAN I WAS A
MINUTE AGO. I
DON'T KNOW IF
ANY OF MY
QUESTIONS WERE
ANSWERED.

WHY, UNTIL THIS
VERY MOMENT,
DID EVERYONE
AROUND US
KEEP THIS A
SECRET?
IF YOU ARE
NOT THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE,
WHO IS? WHAT
ARE THE
TOKO-TOKO?
AND WHAT
DOES A FAIRYTALE
HAVE TO DO
WITH THE IRAKSA?



I'D PROBABLY BE
ASKING THE EXACT
SAME QUESTIONS
IF I WERE IN YOUR
SHOES. THIS IS A
LOT TO TAKE IN.



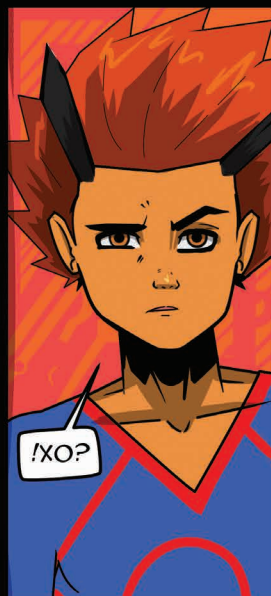
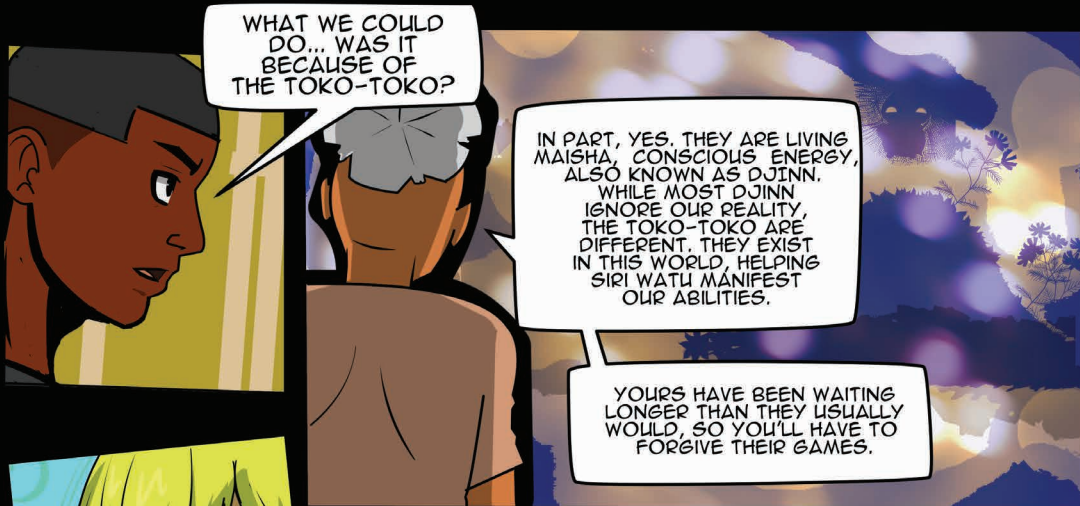
AND, IT APPEARS, ALL
OF US ARE USELESS AT
EXPLAINING ANY OF THIS.



ALL OF YOU SAW
YOUR MAISHA WAKE,
AND, I ASSUME,
WHILE IN THE GAME,
ONE OF YOU HEARD
A VOICE?

THEY HAVE A TENDENCY
TO ECHO IN YOUR EAR
WHEN THEY FIRST
MEET THEIR PARTNERS.







NOT WISH-GRANTING DJINN;
THOSE ARE DIFFERENT TO
THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN
WAITING FOR YOU.

THE TOKO-TOKO ARE
DJINN BORN BETWEEN
REALMS: THEIR OWN
AND OURS.

THEY GRANT YOU ACCESS
TO ABILITIES THAT ARE ALREADY
YOURS, SUPPRESSED TO KEEP
YOU SAFE.

WHEN THEIR
GAMES ARE PLAYED,
YOUR BONDS WILL
GROW.


AS FOR THE WOMAN YOU
SAW, WE KNOW HER AS THE
!XO ECOMA AND !XO ISN'T A
DJINN. DJINN EXIST IN ANOTHER
REALM. SHE IS A MOTHER OF
NATURAL ENERGY EXISTING IN
THIS REALM. ALTHOUGH SHE
DOES EXIST BEYOND THIS
WORLD.

YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE,
THROUGH !XO, THE LOCKS
THAT SEPARATED YOU FROM
THE TOKO-TOKO COULD
BE UNDONE. IN TIME,
WE WILL SHOW YOU
HOW THIS WAS DONE.




WE REALLY CAN'T
EXPLAIN !XO, BECAUSE
WE DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT HER
EITHER.

SEEING !XO IS RARE.
SOME OF US HAVE LAID
OUR EYES ON HER; SOME OF
US HAVE NOT. AND THOSE
WHO HAVE, EXPLAIN !XO
DIFFERENTLY. SOME SEE
HER AS A GIRL, SOME A WOMAN.
I'VE HEARD THAT !XO MAY EVEN
APPEAR AS AN EXPECTING MOTHER.
WHAT WE KNOW IS THAT SHE IS AN
ENTITY OF CREATION, WHO
SOME BELIEVE IS A CELESTIAL.



SHE DEFINITELY IS.
THE WAY MOTHER DESCRIBED
HER, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO.
THIS MOMENT REALLY IS
THAT IMPORTANT, HUH? I
WAS TOLD !XO'S PRESENCE
IS IMPORTANT TO THEIR
CONNECTION BEING
DISRUPTED.



WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW
IS !XO'S PRESENCE IS A VERY
GOOD SIGN, EH. IT MEANS
THAT THERE IS NO LONGER A
DISRUPTION STOPPING YOU
FROM KNOWING YOUR
BIRTHRIGHT.

WHEN YOU SAW HER, SHE UNLOCKED THE TOKO-TOKO'S SUPPRESSED CONNECTION TO YOU. THEN, THE OLD MAN, HE HAD US BE CONDUITS FOR THE ON-ON GAME THEY WANTED YOU TO PLAY IN THE PIT.



SIRI WATUP? IRAKSA? TOKO-TOKO? ABILITIES? /XO...



LUCKY, EH. IT'S LIKE OPENING UP A MYSTERY BOX OF FANTASTICAL IMPOSSIBILITIES.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT LUCKY. I DON'T AGREE THAT OUR HERITAGE HAD TO BE HIDDEN FROM THEM. NOW, IT JUST SEEMS LIKE A BURDEN ON THEM TO ME.



WE REALLY ARE LEGENDARY ANIME HEROES! MY DREAM... IT'S COMING TRUE!



SIGH...

WELL... OKAY, MAYBE NOT ALL OF THEM.



HA! HA! HA!

THIS DUDE! I LOVE HIM!





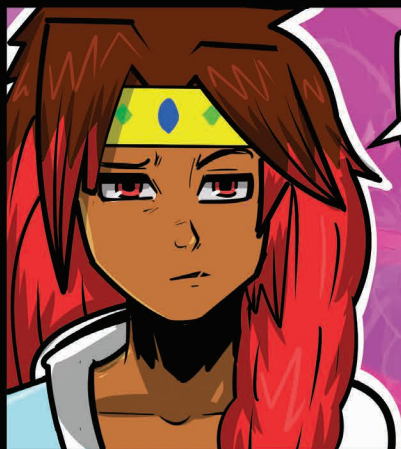
THIS ALL STILL SOUNDS
MADE-UP TO ME, BUT I
SAW WHAT I SAW. WHEN,
THEN, DO WE GET TO
ACTUALLY MEET THESE
DJINN?



THE TOKO-TOKO,
WHO WAIT FOR YOU,
HAVE THEIR REASONS
FOR INTERACTING WITH
YOU THE WAY THEY
DO.

WE, SIRI WATU, ARE GRANTED
TIES TO THE LIFE FORCE OF
OTHER REALMS. THESE
BEINGS ARE WITH YOU
ALREADY.

THOSE OF THIS WORLD
BORN TOGETHER WITH
THOSE OF ANOTHER
THEIRS. THIS IS THE
SECRET OF THE
SIRI WATU.



BORN A PART OF
ANOTHER WORLD?
ARE WE HUMAN?

ALIENS...





EISH...
THAT CAME
OUT WRONG.




YOU ARE HUMAN, JUST
A TYPE OF HUMAN WHO
HAS A CONNECTION WITH
ENTITIES THAT ARE NOT.
THE FOUR OF YOU HAVE
A CONNECTION, LIKE US,
TO THE REALMS OF DJINN,
WHERE THE TOKO-TOKO
COME FROM. THE IRAKSA,
WE HAVE DISCOVERED,
ARE INTERESTED IN THIS
CONNECTION OF OURS.
WE HAVE BEEN TOLD,
ACCORDING TO OUR
SOURCE, IT THREATENS
TO UNCOVER SOMETHING
THEY WISH TO KEEP HIDDEN.



LOOK AT YOU
ACTUALLY EXPLAINING
THINGS! WELL DONE!

I'M TRYING.
SHUT UP.



I STILL DON'T REALLY
UNDERSTAND... BUT
BASICALLY, YOU WANT
TO PREPARE US TO KEEP
US SAFE FROM A GROUP
DISAPPEARING YOUR...
OUR PEOPLE.

SOMETHING
TO DO WITH DJINN,
WHO ARE TESTING US
AND OUR RELATIONSHIP
BECAUSE THEY WANT
OUR POWERS TO
GROW SO THEY
CAN JOIN US?



ALL CAUGHT
UP!




SO ARE THE DJINN
JUST VOICES? OR DO
WE HAVE TO RUB A LAMP
TO SEE THEM?



NOT AT ALL!
THOSE LITTLE
NIGHTMARE FUEL
BUGGERS, YOU
SHOULD MEET THEM
VERY SOON!




WELL, OKAY,
TO BE FAIR,
YOU'LL HAVE
TO PLAY A FEW
MORE GAMES,
SO SOONISH...




EISH...
THEY ARE EAGER,
IT WILL ONLY TAKE
A LITTLE GUIDANCE
TO GET YOU READY.
I WILL HELP YOU
WITH THAT.




AND, WE'RE
HERE TO HELP HIM.



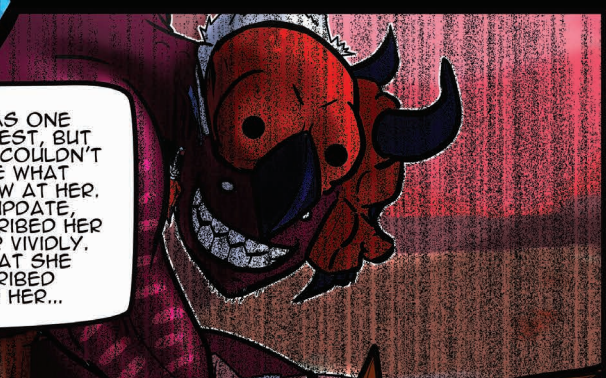
I HAVE ONE LAST
QUESTION: IF IT WAS
NOT MY PARENTS, THEN
WHO WAS YOUR SOURCE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW
WE ONLY HAVE
THREE YEARS TO PREPARE?




YOU ARE NOT
THE ONLY PERSON
IN HERE THAT
THE IRAKSA HAS
AFFECTED.



UNFORTUNATELY, OUR SOURCE DISAPPEARED, HERSELF, A YEAR AGO. SIX MONTHS AGO, WHAT SHE HAD LEARNT MADE ITS WAY TO US. SHE WASN'T ABLE TO LET US KNOW EVERYTHING, BUT SHE LET US KNOW SHE DELAYED THEIR PLANS BY THREE YEARS.




SHE WAS ONE OF THE BEST, BUT EVEN SHE COULDN'T HANDLE WHAT THEY THREW AT HER. IN HER UPDATE, SHE DESCRIBED HER CAPTURER VIVIDLY, AND WHAT SHE DESCRIBED SCARED HER...



THE FACT THAT WE RECEIVED AN UPDATE FROM HER SIX MONTHS AGO, MEANS SHE MUST BE ALIVE, NEH.

WE WILL FIND HER, I SWEAR IT.



SHE'S DEFINITELY ALIVE. SHE ISN'T ONE TO LEAVE US THAT EASILY.



SHE SOUNDS VERY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF YOU.



SHE IS, AND SHE IS
IMPORTANT TO ONE OF YOU, TOO.
I AM SORRY, YOUNG ONE, THAT
YOU HAD TO FIND OUT THIS
WAY.



MY SISTER...



YOUR SISTER,
ZITA?



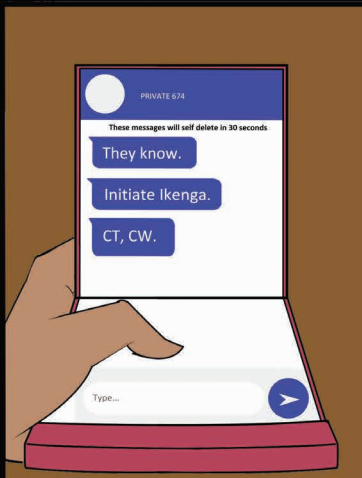
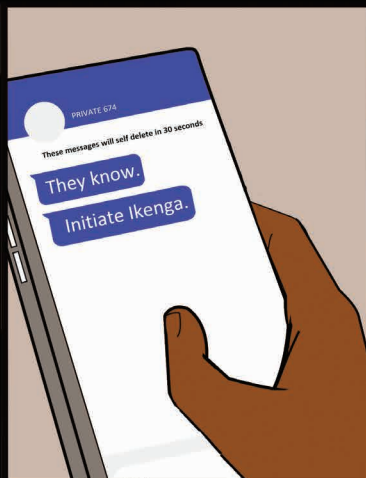
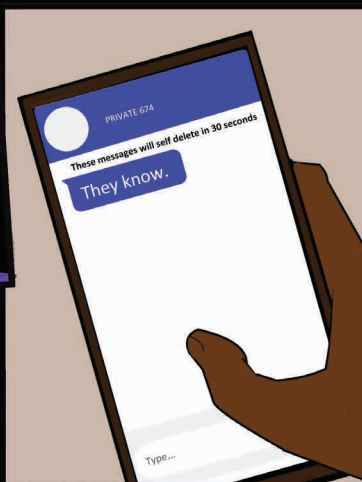
SHE'S BEEN
MISSING FOR
THE LAST YEAR.
IT'S WHY MY
PARENTS
BROUGHT ME
HERE... AT LEAST,
THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT...



I SEE...



SO --






I KNOW YOU
ALL TRIED TO KEEP
US SAFE BY KEEPING
US OUT OF THIS
WORLD. I UNDERSTAND
THE DANGER AND WHY
MY PARENTS MAY
HAVE WANTED TO NOT
SHARE THIS WITH ME.
BUT IF THIS IS ALL TRUE,
I MAKE THIS PROMISE.
I WILL PASS YOUR TESTS.
I WILL PLAY YOUR GAMES.
AND, IN EXCHANGE,
I WILL USE THIS POWER
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME TODAY.
I WILL TAKE MORE
FROM THEM THAN THEY
DARED TO TAKE FROM ME
...FROM US.





CAN WE TELL PEOPLE
WHO WE ARE?



EVERYONE WOULD
KNOW WHO WOULD
BE HERE, BUT THE
LATEST CHANGES
TO THE CAMP MEAN
SOME ARE NOT
SIRI WATU. THEIR
EXISTENCE HERE
IS TO KEEP
OUR EXISTENCE
A SECRET FROM
THE REST OF THE
WORLD.



SO NO?



THE SECRET
KEEPS US ALL
SAFE. SO, FOR
NOW, IT'S BEST
YOU TELL NO
ONE.

LHM...





SIRI
WATU

NEAR FUTURE

GET AWAY
FROM HIM!!!!



GOOD...
YOU CAN
STILL FIGHT.



BUT...
YOU MISSED!
DON'T WORRY...

I WON'T.

Issue #9





FIND US

FIND US

WE ARE SO CLOSE

FIND US

WE ARE HAVING SO MUCH FUN

DON'T LET THEM FIND US

!

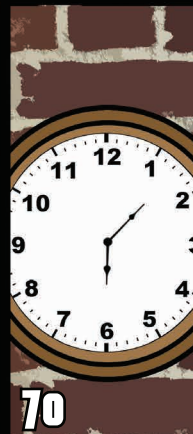
WE ARE HERE

FIND US

IN A

US

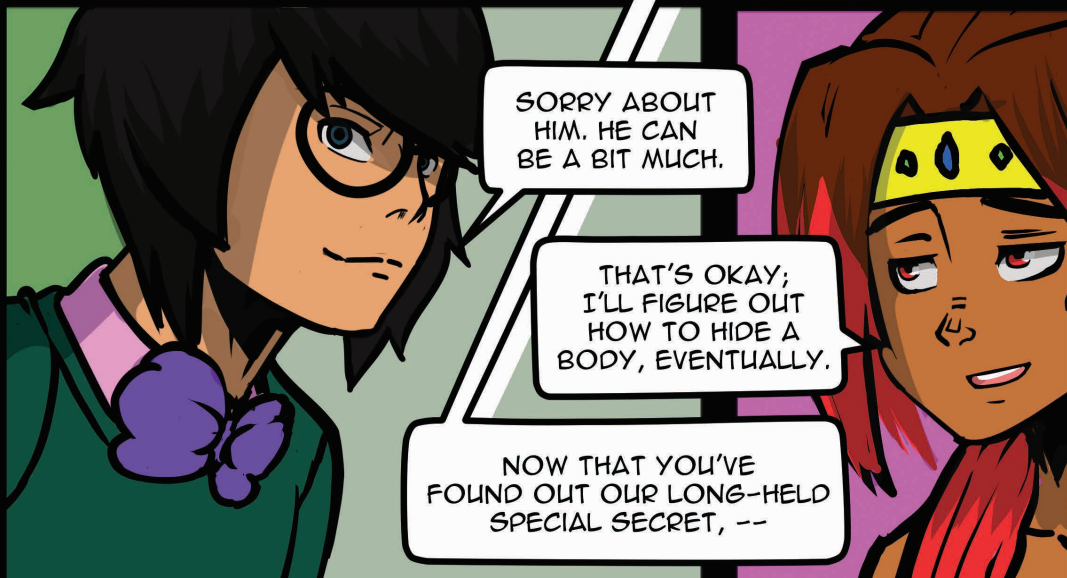
FIND US





***CHITTER!
*CHATTER!**

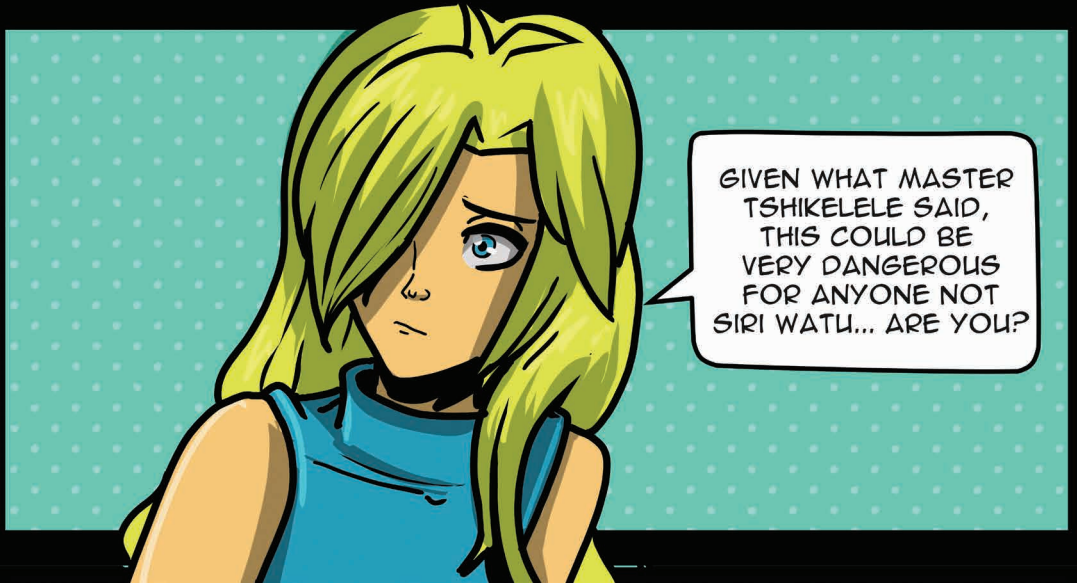
SO! VAUGHN!




SORRY ABOUT
HIM. HE CAN
BE A BIT MUCH.

THAT'S OKAY;
I'LL FIGURE OUT
HOW TO HIDE A
BODY, EVENTUALLY.

NOW THAT YOU'VE
FOUND OUT OUR LONG-HELD
SPECIAL SECRET, --






NO, I DON'T HAVE
THE SPECIAL POWERS
THE FOUR OF YOU SEEM
TO HAVE. EVEN IF I DID,
I'M NOT THE TYPE OF
PERSON TO BE A HERO.
WHAT I OVER HEARD,
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S
GOING TO BE TOUGH
ON THE FOUR OF YOU.




BUT THAT'S HALF THE FUN!
JUST IMAGINE IT: SNEAKING
AWAY FROM EVERYONE ELSE,
SAVING THE WORLD, BEATING
BAD GUYS, LIVING A SPY LIKE
DOUBLE LIFE. GETTING
STRONGER AND EVENTUALLY
SAVING EVERYONE.



YOUR WORDS ARE
NOT COMFORTING...
IF YOU WERE WISER,
YOU'D GIVE UP ON
BEING ANYONE'S
SAVIOUR. I'D LET
THE SCARY PEOPLE
IN THE MUSEUM
HANDLE ANYTHING
HEROIC, D.



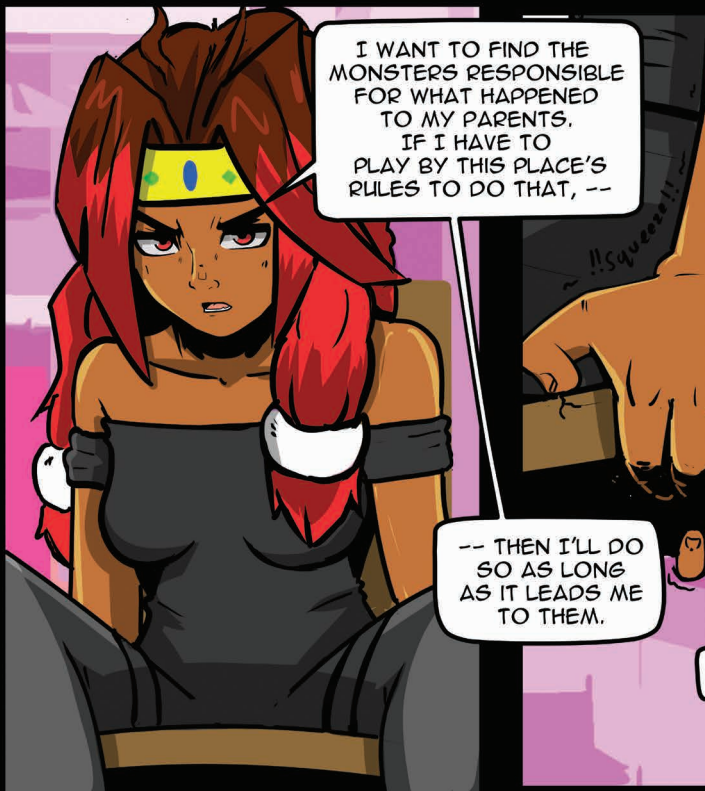
HEROIC, HUH...



BESIDES, BEING A
HERO MEANS
SUFFERING AND
GETTING HURT FOR
OTHERS. THERE IS
NO REWARD IN
THAT, ONLY PAIN.



TO BE CLEAR,
I'M NOT HERE TO
BE A SAVIOUR.

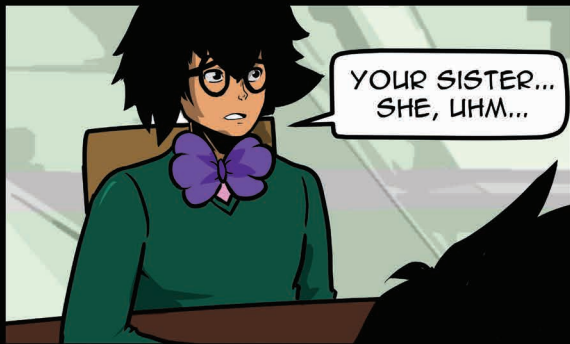


I WANT TO FIND THE MONSTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO MY PARENTS. IF I HAVE TO PLAY BY THIS PLACE'S RULES TO DO THAT, --

-- THEN I'LL DO SO AS LONG AS IT LEADS ME TO THEM.



I, UH...



YOUR SISTER... SHE, UHM...



YEAH.



I DON'T AGREE TO ANY OF THIS FOR ANY OF YOU, BUT I UNDERSTAND.

JUST, WELL, SENZO, MAKE SURE DIALO DOESN'T, YOU KNOW...



YOU IDIOT!
NOT LIKE THAT!!!



WE ARE SUPPOSED TO
BE TRAINING TO AVOID
THESE THINGS!

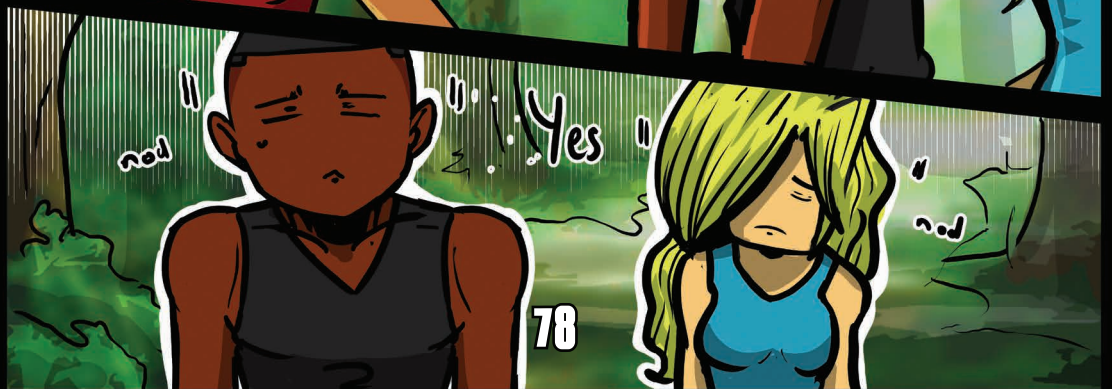
I REALLY THOUGHT JUMPING
DIRECTLY INTO IT WOULD WORK,
JUST LIKE LAST TIME!



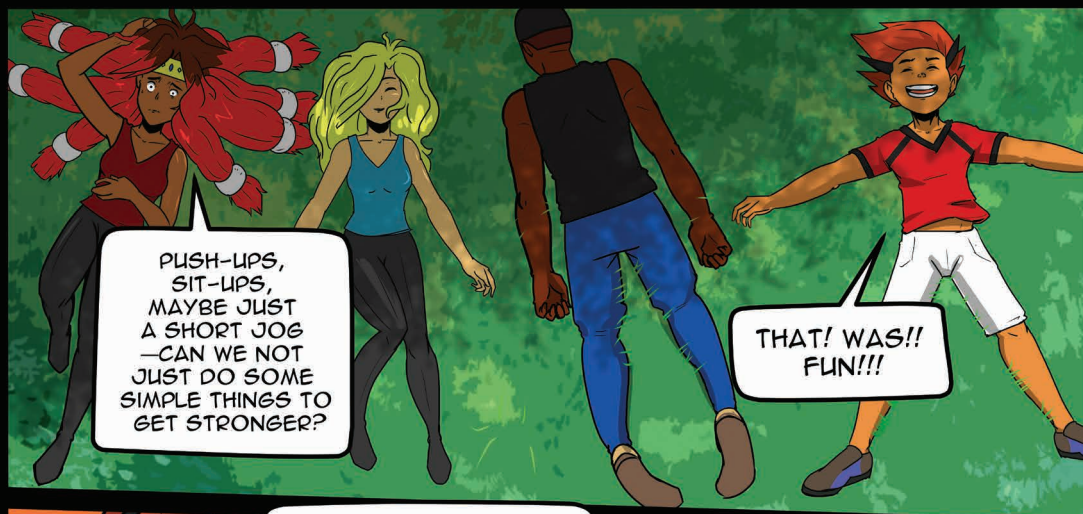
I'M OKAY!



DO THE TWO OF YOU HAVE ENERGY TO SAVE THE IDIOT?



no! Yes no!

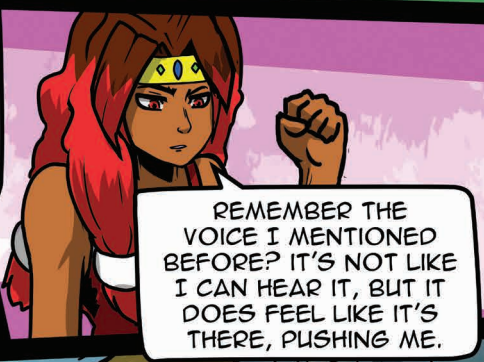


PUSH-UPS,
SIT-UPS,
MAYBE JUST
A SHORT JOG
—CAN WE NOT
JUST DO SOME
SIMPLE THINGS TO
GET STRONGER?

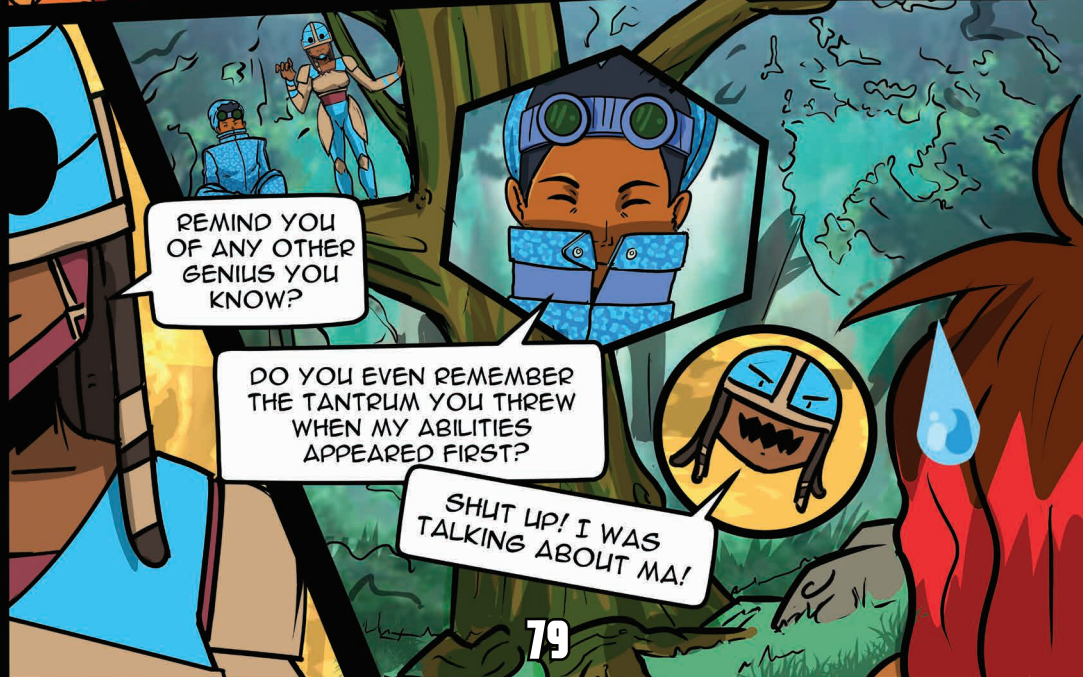
THAT! WAS!!
FUN!!!



I STILL CAN'T MAKE
THEM LIGHT UP. YOU
AND ZITA SEEM TO
BE ABLE TO MAKE
YOUR ABILITIES APPEAR
AT ANY TIME. HOW DO
YOU DO IT?



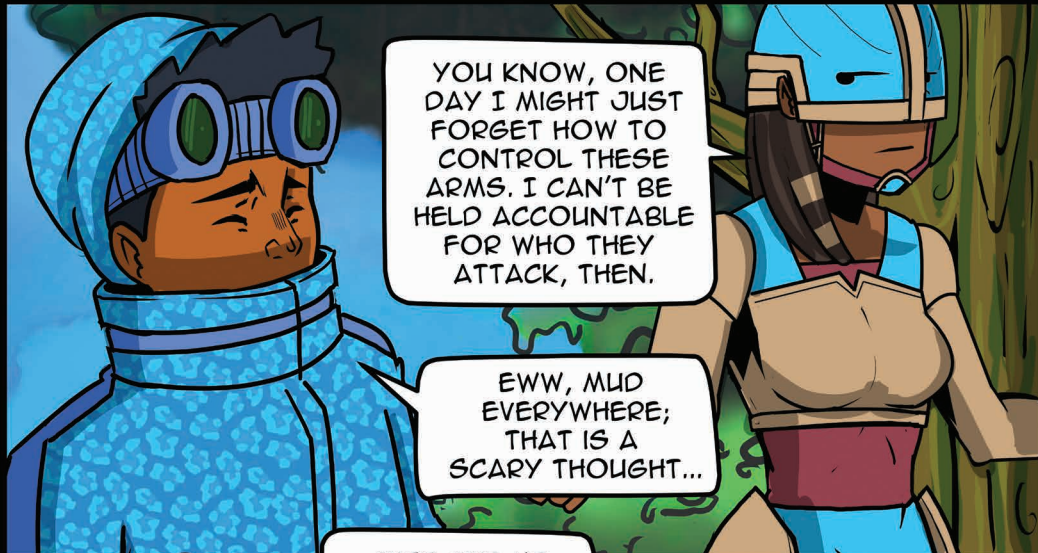
REMEMBER THE
VOICE I MENTIONED
BEFORE? IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN HEAR IT, BUT IT
DOES FEEL LIKE IT'S
THERE, PUSHING ME.



REMAND YOU
OF ANY OTHER
GENIUS YOU
KNOW?

DO YOU EVEN REMEMBER
THE TANTRUM YOU THREW
WHEN MY ABILITIES
APPEARED FIRST?

SHUT UP! I WAS
TALKING ABOUT MA!



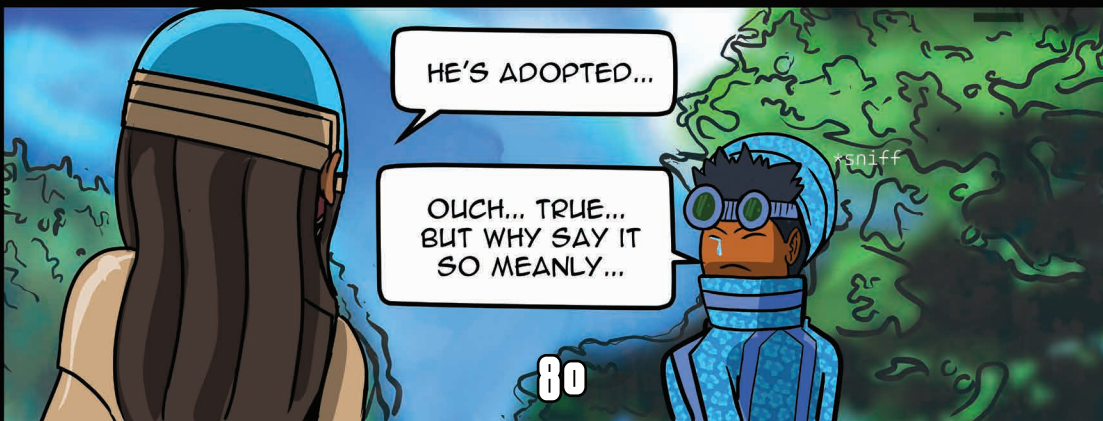
YOU KNOW, ONE DAY I MIGHT JUST FORGET HOW TO CONTROL THESE ARMS. I CAN'T BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHO THEY ATTACK, THEN.

EW, MUD EVERYWHERE; THAT IS A SCARY THOUGHT...

JUST GIVE ME ONE SECOND DOWN THERE. I JUST NEED TO TEACH MY BROTHER A QUICK SOMETHING.




YOU TWO ARE RELATED?




HE'S ADOPTED...

OUCH... TRUE... BUT WHY SAY IT SO MEANLY...

*sniff



WE GREW UP TOGETHER,
BUT I AM ADOPTED.
MY VILLAGE DESTROYED,
REFUGEE, FOREIGNER.
I NEVER KNEW MY REAL
PARENTS, YADA YADA,
SO FORTH, SO ON, AND
WHAT HAVE YOU...




AND YOU'D THINK HE'D
BE A MORE SERIOUS
HUMAN BEING WITH
COMPLEX, DEEP
THOUGHTS, BUT NO...



I TAKE
OFFENSE TO THAT!
I AM A VERY
SERIOUS PERSON.

WHAT YOU
ARE IS A
BANANA.



I FEEL LIKE
I SHOULD BE
ASKING YOU MORE
ABOUT THAT...



YOU HAVE AN ANIME
BACKSTORY? THAT'S
SO COOL!

KID, NEVER CHANGE!
BARELY A BACKSTORY,
MISTER OTAKU. WHAT I SAID,
THAT'S ABOUT IT. BEEN WITH
THIS PLACE LONGER THAN EVER.
YOU DEFINITELY MAKE ME
EXCITED TO SHOW YOU MY
ABILITIES!

WHAT ARE
YOUR ABILITIES?

I WILL SHOW YOU
AS SOON AS
YOU ARE DONE
PLAYING WITH
HERS, PROMISE!

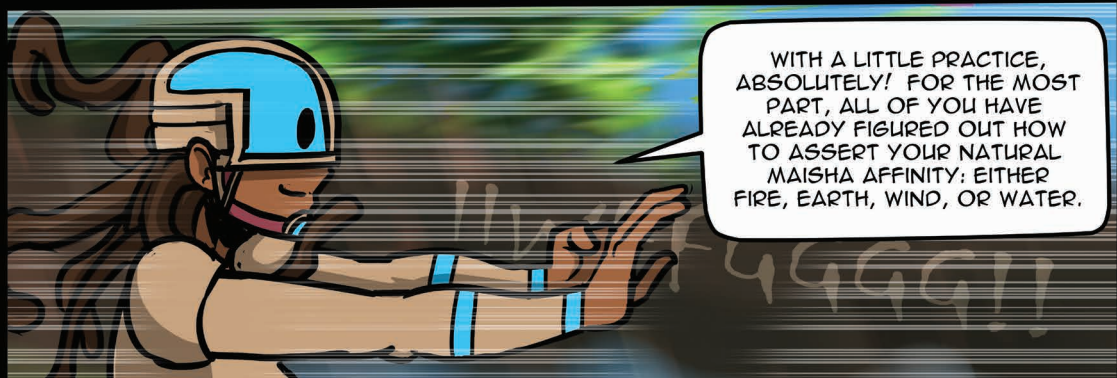





OUR
ABILITIES...
HOW DO THEY
WORK?



CAN WE WIELD
AND SHAPE IT IN THE
WAY YOU CAN?



WITH A LITTLE PRACTICE,
ABSOLUTELY! FOR THE MOST
PART, ALL OF YOU HAVE
ALREADY FIGURED OUT HOW
TO ASSERT YOUR NATURAL
MAISHA AFFINITY: EITHER
FIRE, EARTH, WIND, OR WATER.



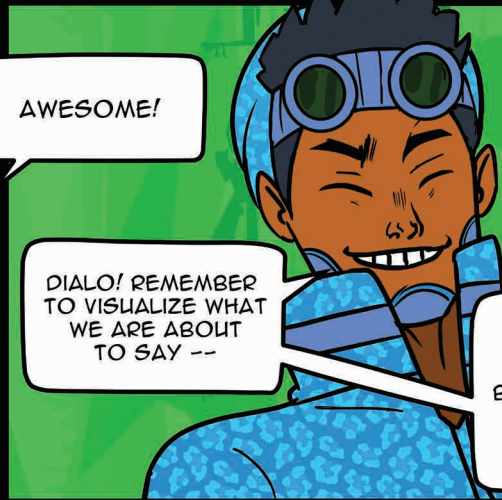
AND BY NOW, YOU'VE
ALREADY FIGURED OUT
WHAT YOUR MAISHA'S
NATURAL AFFINITY IS.
HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY
THE FIRST LAYER OF
HOW YOUR ABILITIES WORK.
AT THIS STAGE, THEY
ARE RAW, FLOWING OUT
OF YOU WITHOUT
DIRECTION.



TODAY, WE WILL
HELP YOU WORK
TO MASTER THIS
FIRST LAYER.



AWESOME!



DIALO! REMEMBER
TO VISUALIZE WHAT
WE ARE ABOUT
TO SAY --

-- AS IF AN
ANIME SKETCH, WITH
CHIBI DRAWINGS,
BOOM SOUND EFFECTS,
AND HYPER-SPECIAL,
IN-YOUR-FACE
COLOURS.



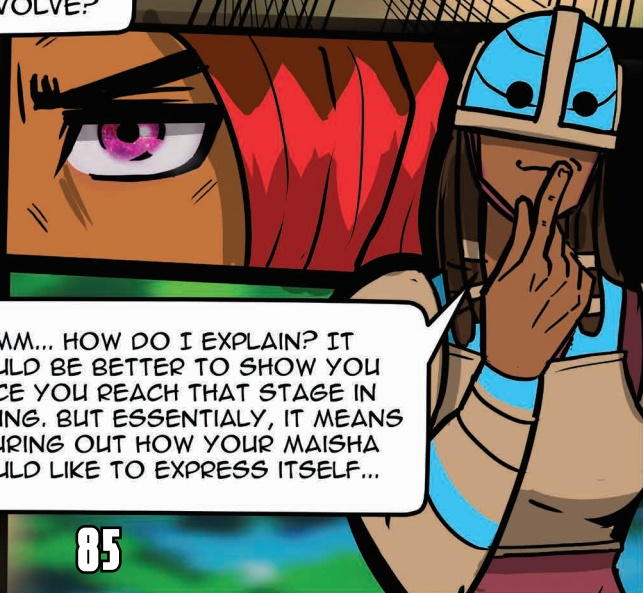
OKAAAYY!





ONCE YOU HAVE MASTERED
RELEASING MAISHA IN ITS MOST
IMMATURE STATE WITHOUT STRUGGLE,
THEN WE CAN MOVE ON TO HOW
TO EXPRESS THAT INTO A TOOL.
WHETHER THAT TOOL'S A WEAPON
OR SHIELD, THAT IS UP TO YOU.

WHAT WOULD
THAT INVOLVE?



HMM... HOW DO I EXPLAIN? IT
WOULD BE BETTER TO SHOW YOU
ONCE YOU REACH THAT STAGE IN
TRAINING. BUT ESSENTIALLY, IT MEANS
FIGURING OUT HOW YOUR MAISHA
WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITSELF...

USUALLY, THIS IS THROUGH FIVE PATHWAYS EXISTING IN YOUR BODY: OUR ONO-TSHU, MITL'A, ATATSI, ATAMA, AND K'XA, BETTER KNOWN AS WIELDS.



THE FIRST ARE PATHWAYS EXISTING IN YOUR MIND, CALLED THE ONO-TSHU. THESE WIELDSERS HAVE STRONG PERCEPTUAL ABILITIES.

THE SECOND ARE PATHWAYS EXISTING IN YOUR BONES, CALLED THE MITL'A. MITL'A WIELDSERS USUALLY HAVE STRONG DURABILITY AND STRENGTH-BASED ABILITIES.



THEN THERE ARE ATATSI/ATAMA WIELDSERS, OR THE PATHWAYS THAT EXIST IN THE HEART AND BLOOD. THESE WIELDSERS HAVE A STRONG INCLINATION TO ABILITIES THAT CAN DEGRADE AND SUSTAIN THE BODY. WHILE THEY ARE TECHNICALLY ONE PATHWAY, ATATSI AND ATAMA CAN BE SEPARATED AS WIELDER TYPES BASED ON HOW THEIR ABILITIES ARE EXPRESSED.

THE FINAL PATHWAYS EXIST WITHIN OUR BREATH CONTROL, KNOWN AS K'XA. K'XA WIELDSERS USUALLY HAVE GREATER MAISHA REGULATION AND ARE BETTER AT CREATING UNIQUE MAISHA CONSTRUCTS.

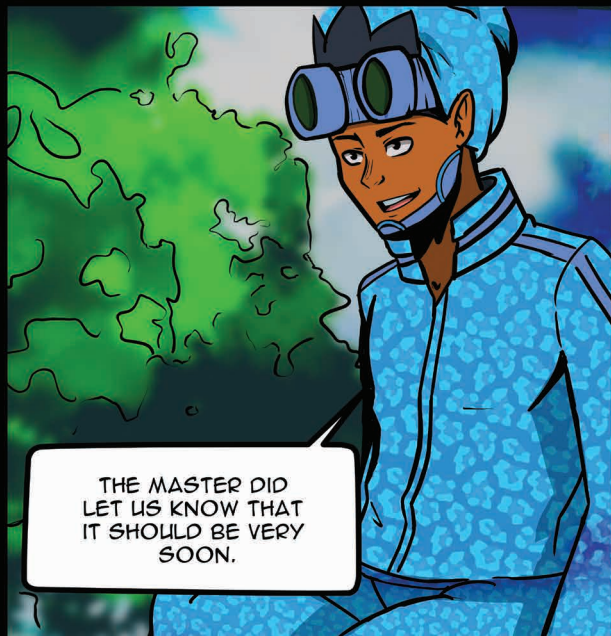


THIS IS A ROUGH SUMMARY OF THE FIVE TYPES OF WIELDS YOUR MAISHA CAN BE EXPRESSED THROUGH. BUT --





SO WHEN
IS OUR
TEST?



THE MASTER DID
LET US KNOW THAT
IT SHOULD BE VERY
SOON.



WHICH MEANS, OUR LITTLE
GENIUS, PUSH AS HARD AS
YOU CAN TO MASTER THIS
STAGE. FOR THE SOONER
YOU DO, THE FASTER YOU
GROW, THE STRONGER
YOU BECOME AS SIRI WATH,
AND THE CLOSER YOU GET
TOWARDS ACHIEVING
YOUR GOALS HERE.



SO TO RECAP LESSON ONE, WE WILL SIMPLY BE TEACHING YOU TO HONE YOUR AFFINITY. WE WILL GO MORE IN DEPTH AND TEACH YOU TO MANIFEST YOUR UNIQUE ABILITIES, LIKE HER SWAMP ARMS, AFTER YOU PASS TSHIKELELE'S NEXT TEST.



SWAMP ARMS?



SO... ARE THE FOUR OF YOU FEELING HEALED UP YET? ALLITA'S TRUE ABILITY SHOULD BE KICKING IN BY NOW...





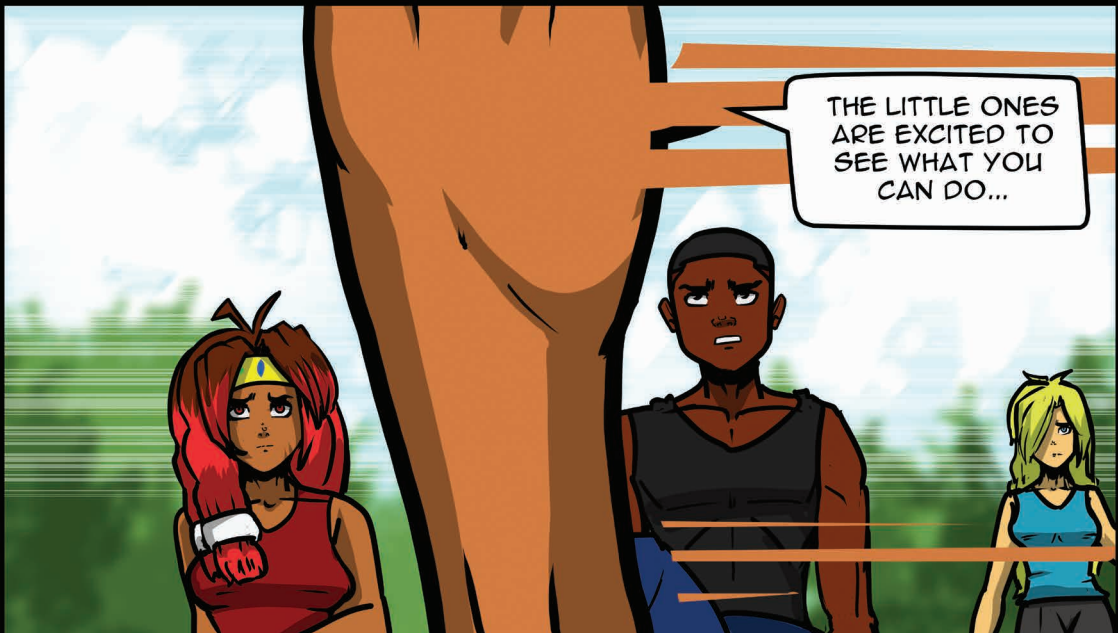
STRANGELY,
YEAH, I DO.



GOOD!



THEN WE
CAN BEGIN
THE NEXT
GAME!



THE LITTLE ONES
ARE EXCITED TO
SEE WHAT YOU
CAN DO...



ARE YOU
READY..?



FOR A LITTLE
HIDE N' SEEK?



HIDE 'N SEEK,
HUH? THAT'S
OUR QUEUE...



I STILL HAVE
SO MUCH FUN I
WANT TO HAVE
WITH THE FOUR
OF YOU.





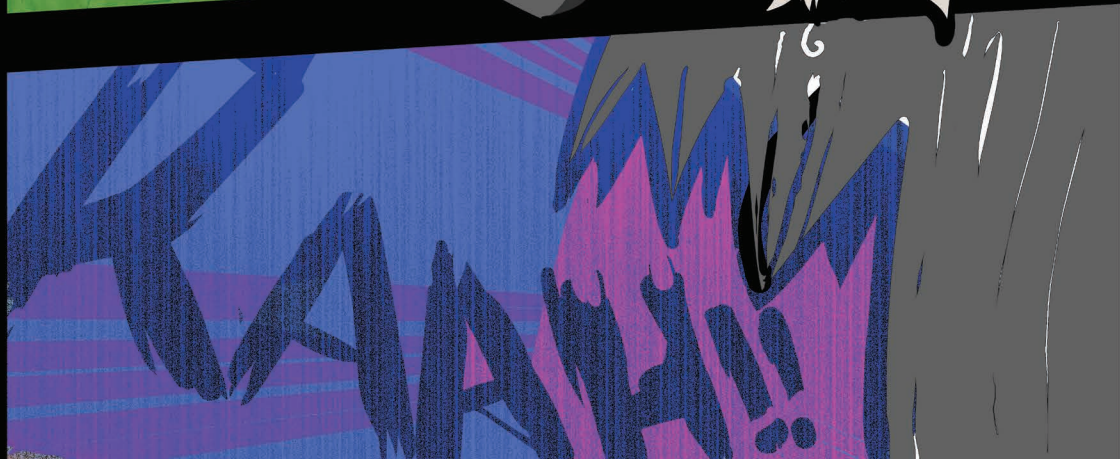
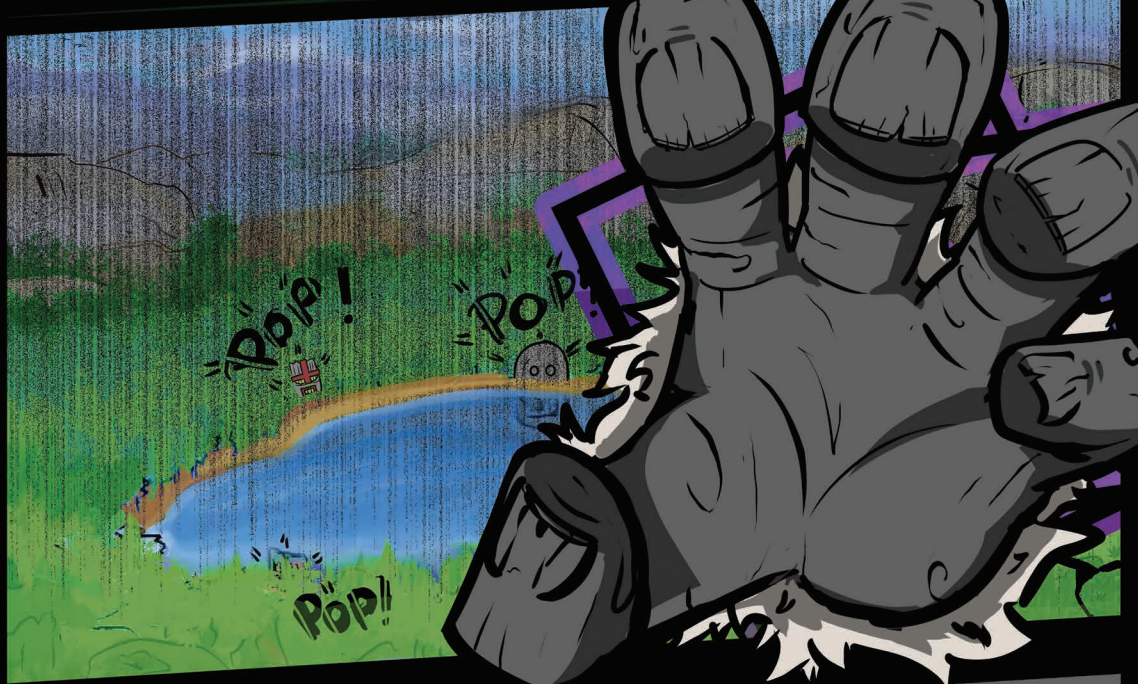
HEY KID, CALL YOUR BROTHER FOR ME.



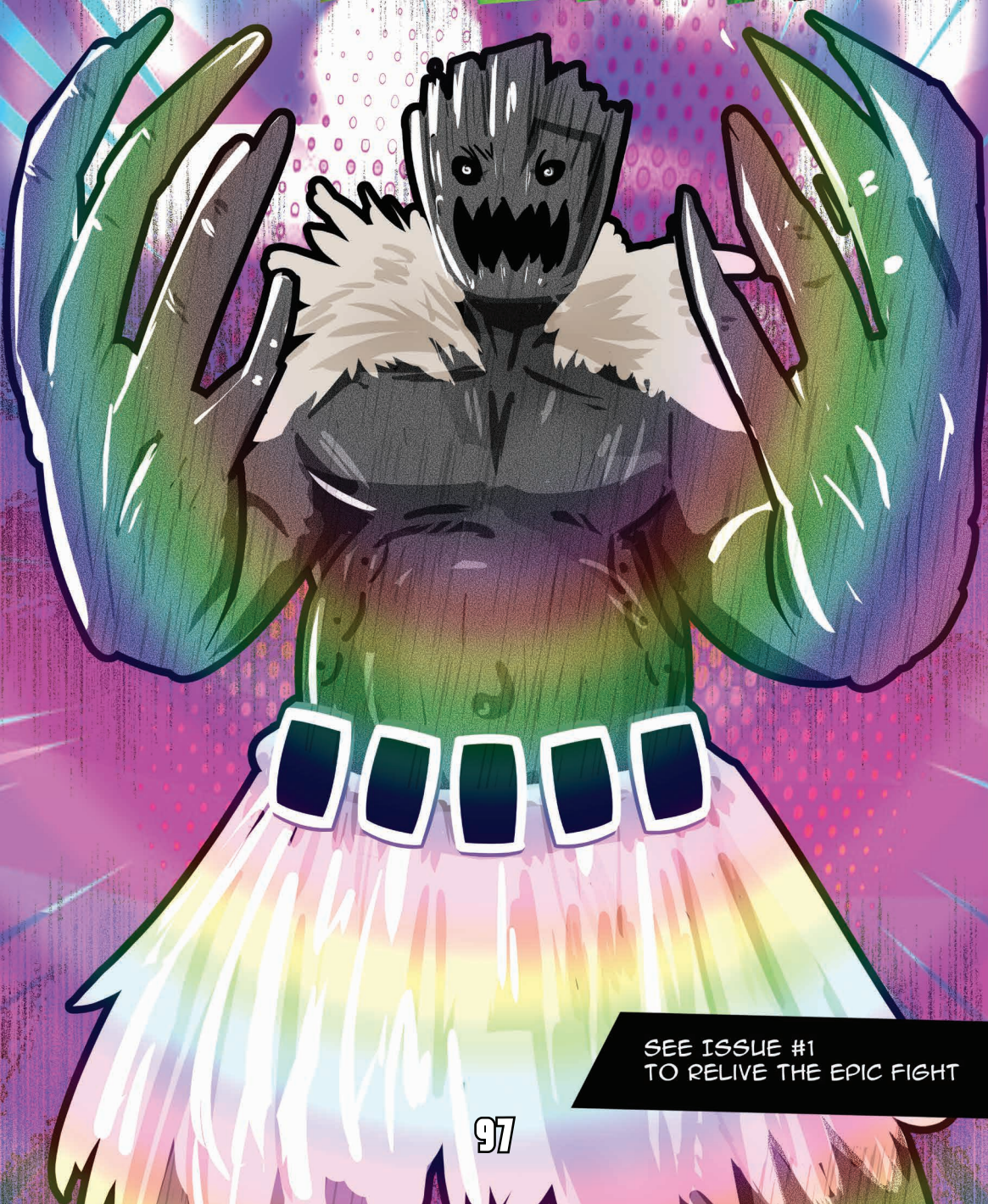
GOOD LUCK, Y'ALL!
THIS WAS AWESOME.
TRY TO SURVIVE THE
NEXT PART, EH!







THE UFFA



SEE ISSUE #1
TO RELIVE THE EPIC FIGHT

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE ARE HERE

WE

ARE

HERE

WE ARE HERE



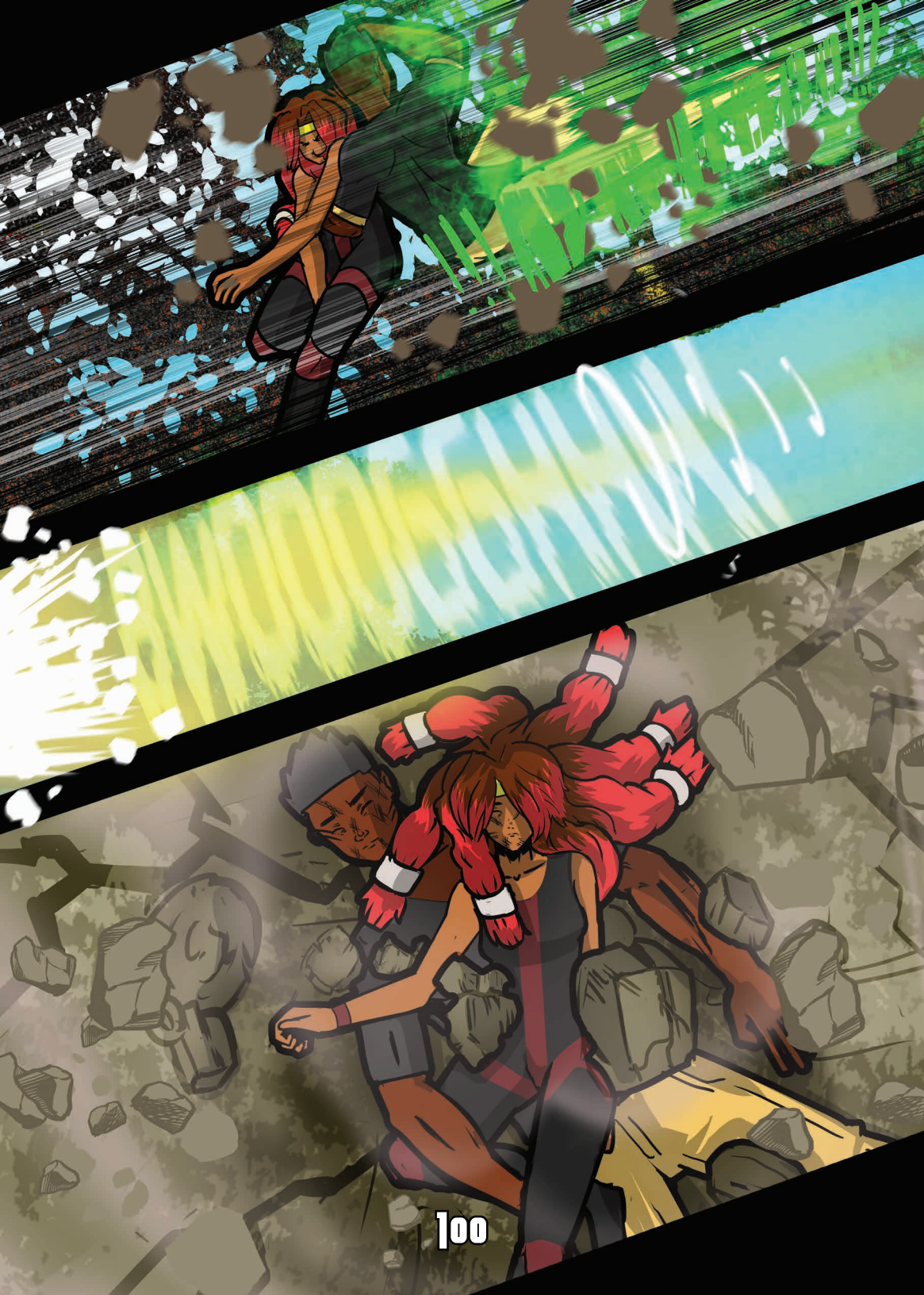
NEAR FUTURE

SENZO?

HOLD ON, SISI.



I MEAN,
YOU CAN
TRY TO...





YOU
KNOW,
I STAND
BY WHAT
I ONCE
SAID...

BEING A HERO,
A REAL HERO, THAT
DOES JUST CAUSE
PAIN AND SUFFERING.

BEING THE OPPOSITE,
THOUGH, THAT... THAT
JUST BRINGS JOY.



WOULDN'T
YOU AGREE,
DIALO?







**SIRI
WATU**

SIRI WATU VOLUME #2

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DIALO, AYANDA, SENZO AND ZITA
DISCOVER WHO THEY ARE. NOW, TO
EARN THE FAVOUR OF ENTITIES THEY
BELIEVED WERE IMPOSSIBLE MYTHS,
PERILOUS GAMES MAY HAVE TO
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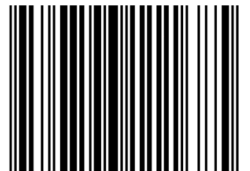


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