



#230

GOLD DIGGER

FRED PERRY



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We are...
all of us
exhausted,
Lord.

Like you,
we are
weakened
from this
trial.

LORD DREADWING...

AS PER YOUR
INSTRUCTIONS,
EVERY MAGEND AND
MYMIOR HAS BEEN
DRAINED OF MANA
FOR YOUR QUEST.

BUT WE ARE
TOO WEAK TO
FIGHT NOW.

I, MYSELF, BARELY
HAVE STRENGTH ENOUGH
FOR AN ESCAPE SPELL.

B-BUT IF WE
WERE ALLOWED
TO JOURNEY
WITH YOU...

...TO CLAIM SOME
OF THE MANA FROM
THE ANCIENT ONE'S
TREASURE HOARD?

AND
GROW
ENOUGH TO
OVERPOWER
YOUR MASTER?

HA!

THERE ARE NO
MORE THREATS
BETWEEN ME AND
THE ANCIENT ONE'S
COSMIC POWER.

AND THEREFORE, I
DON'T NEED MAGEND
ASSISTANCE!

END OF THE ROAD...

BY FRED PERRY

THE FINAL PASSAGE
ENDS JUST AHEAD.

MY PRIZE
IS NEAR!

BUT DON'T WORRY, I
INTEND TO SHARE...
A LITTLE...

IF IT
PLEASES
ME.

TO TELL THE
TRUTH, I RATHER
PREFER YOU NEAR
STARVATION,
ARRAY.

YOU ARE LESS...
BELLIGERENT.

MORE...
USEFUL.

...

NOW...
BEGONE.

YES...

...LORD
DREADWING.

THERE...
THERE IT IS!

THE CORE OF
JADE-REALM...

...THE GREAT
MANA VAULT!

A LEGENDARY
TREASURE,
UNPROTECTED
NOW THAT THE
ANCIENT ONE
HAS VANISHED
FROM ALL
CREATION!

NOW IT IS MINE!
ALL MINE!

**FINDERS
KEEPERS!!!**

IF SO, O'
ENSLAVER OF
SOULS...

...THEN THOU
ART VERILY A
LOSER AND A
WEEPER.

SUPREMA, YOU
DARE SPEAK...
WITHOUT
PERMISSION?

TO ADVISE IN
STRATEGEM,
AS THY GEAS
COMPELS.

BEHOLD
YON VAULT
PORTAL.

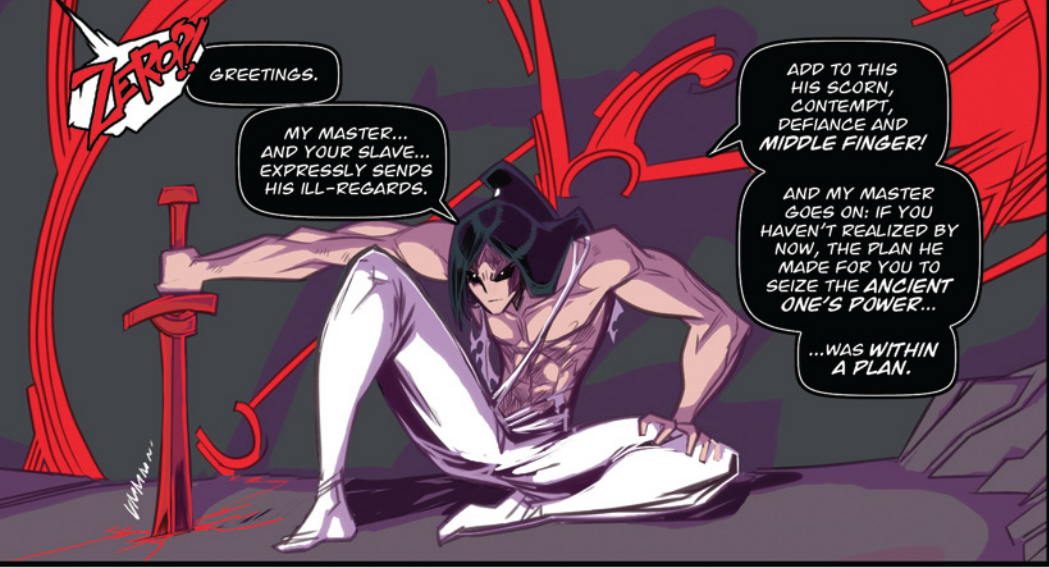
AN ASSASSIN
AWAITS WITH
HIS POWERS
GATHERED.

WHILE THINE
ARE ALL BUT
DEPLETED.

BOOHOO.

POOOOOR
DREADWING.

I...
DON'T...
BELIEVE
THIS!!!



GREETINGS.

MY MASTER... AND YOUR SLAVE... EXPRESSLY SENDS HIS ILL-REGARDS.

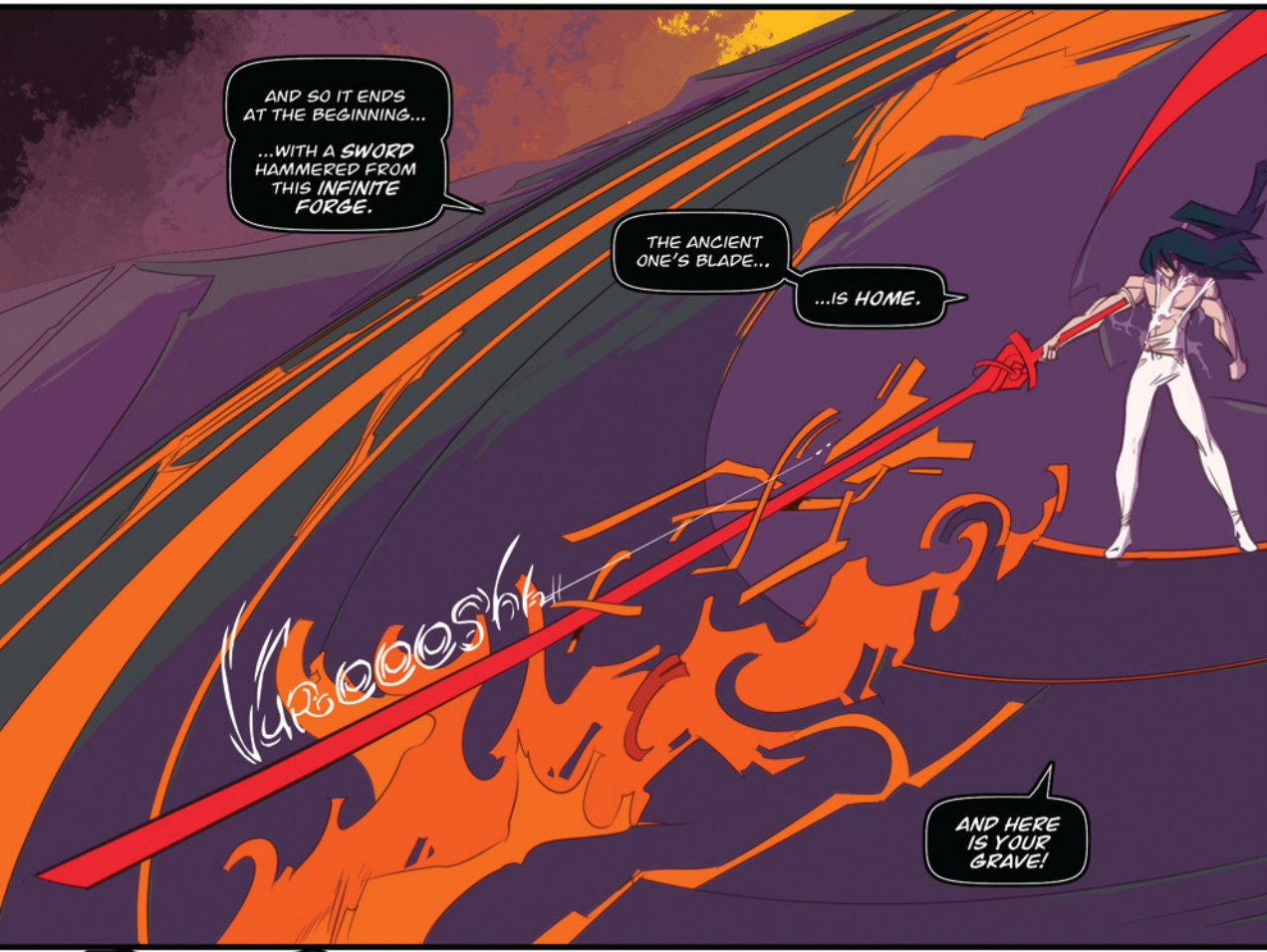
ADD TO THIS HIS SCORN, CONTEMPT, DEFIANCE AND MIDDLE FINGER!

AND MY MASTER GOES ON: IF YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED BY NOW, THE PLAN HE MADE FOR YOU TO SEIZE THE ANCIENT ONE'S POWER...

...WAS WITHIN A PLAN.



A PLOY TO SET HIM FREE...
...BY HAVING YOU UNLOCK THIS PLACE FOR ME, THE UNDEAD REVENANT WHO ENCOMPASSES YOUR DOOM.



AND SO IT ENDS AT THE BEGINNING...
...WITH A SWORD HAMMERED FROM THIS INFINITE FORGE.

THE ANCIENT ONE'S BLADE...

...IS HOME.

Urboosh!

AND HERE IS YOUR GRAVE!

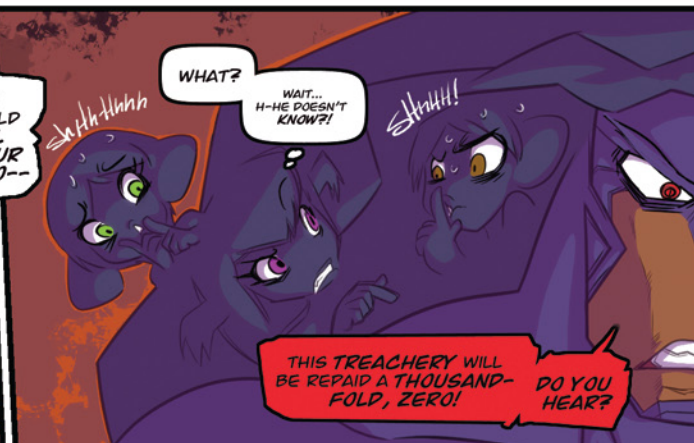


SO... GOTHWRAIN DARES...
YOU... DARE!?!?

ALAS... IT IS MY DUTY TO WARN THEE...

...BEWARE THAT BLADE!

A TRUE BLOW COULD REND ALL FIVE OF OUR SOULS INTO--



Ah-Hhh

WHAT?!

WAIT... H-HE DOESN'T KNOW?!

Shhh!

THIS TREACHERY WILL BE REPAYED A THOUSAND-FOLD, ZERO!

DO YOU HEAR?

BARK AS LONG AND AS LOUD AS YOU PLEASE, DREADWING.

I KNOW YOUR POWER IS ALL BUT GONE!

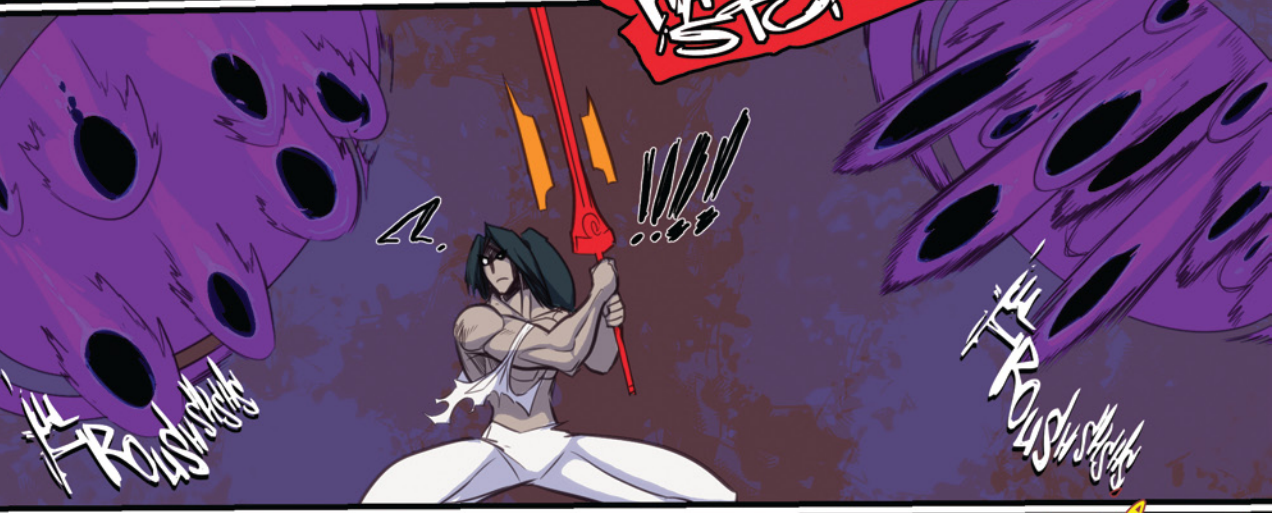
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU!

IS THAT WHAT GOTHWRAIN TOLD YOU!?

THAT I HAVE DEPLETED ALL OF MY RESERVES REACHING THIS GOAL?

THEN WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS!?

HATE STORM!!



KH!

CAN'T BE!!!

YOUR POWER IS GONE!?!?



GONE IS THE MEAGER ENERGY I'VE SAVED AND STORED...

THIS...

...FOR FOOLS SUCH AS YOU!

SIMPLE MANA IS NOTHING TO ME!

...THIS IS MY TRUE POWER!

FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES... EONS... I'VE NURTURED IT!

EACH TIME I HAD TO BEND MY WILL TO THE ANCIENT ONE...

...I'D MANIFEST MY SHEER HATRED INTO ETHEREAL FORM!

Froom

DAMN WIZARD

WHEW!

Froom

CRASHING

I'D SEND PHANTOMS OF MY CONNITIONS INTO A GREAT PHANTASMAL POCKET OF STASIS...

...SAVING FOR THE DAY I CONFRONT THE ANCIENT ONE AND SPILL THAT RAGE INTO HER FACE AS ONE IRRESISTIBLE SHOCKWAVE!



SO, HERE!

HERE IS A TASTE OF WHAT I HAVE IN STORE FOR HER!

I DROWN YOU WITH A MERE TRICKLE FROM MY OCEAN OF RANCOR!

SIX HUNDRED YEARS OF IT SHOULD DO!

A TINY FRAGMENT, I ASSURE YOU!

Hiss...

TSSSS

AN ATTACK WITH THE RAGE OF CENTURIES?

POTENT!

BUT THIS ANGER IS NOT FOCUSED ON ME!

THESE BOLTS WERE FORGED AND SEETHE FOR THE ANCIENT ONE!

ALL I NEED DO IS TO KEEP OUT OF THE WAY!

MEANWHILE, MY ASSASSIN'S FOCUS...

...AIMS UNERRINGLY AT YOUR THROAT...

...SO CLING AS TENACIOUSLY TO LIFE AS YOU CAN!

YOUR RESOURCES ARE SPENT, YOUR MINIONS ARE UNSUMMONED, AND YOUR STRENGTH IS USELESS!

THAT BLADE...

THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO NOW, EXCEPT DIE!

THERE IS NO RESISTING IT!
F-FINISHED...

