

5  
ANNIVERSARY  
YEARS

A LITTLE  
VAST  
STUDIOS

#2

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A

# Mage



The adventure begins where science ends.

GARY TURNER • MEL BONTRAGER • EDDY-SWAN



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A LITTLE  
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#2

DAVID STRAUSS

EXCLUSIVE VARIANT

A

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Ἐπιγελοῦς ἀρχαία:

Before the existence of any who could record, the world was here. It came into being by the forces of both elements, and magic. With the flow of the oceans, lava, and winds, also erupted rivers of the arcane shaping the world with blessing and banes alike.

Those effects could only be inferred, until eons later by those that could see. Upon the birth of the fey, the dwellers, and draconic did magic come under the sway of intent. One out of every thousand have the ability to perceive these lines and threads. They harvest and wield them for many causes.

Ever since the world has swung by a pendulum: order & chaos, dark & light, even life, death, & undeath. Such has it been.

Most would have you believe it will always be.

I, MAGE - CREATED BY GARY TURNER

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# MAGE

I, Mage Vol. 1, Issue 2


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An elderly man with a large brown beard, a white headband with a red gem, and a pinkish-purple tunic. He is holding a wooden staff with a large, flat, circular top. He is gesturing with his right hand towards a bright, glowing yellow and orange energy sphere.

LIKE MANY THINGS IN LIFE, GREAT MYSTERIES ARE BIRTHED FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS.

AND THIS ONE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

*fairābē  
āyāpā*

A young boy with dark hair and a white shirt is kneeling next to a large, blue, mechanical golem. The golem has a white face with red eyes and a large, flat top. A green dragon-like creature with wings is breathing fire in the background.

BEHOLD THE ERRANT BOY KAI XANDER, AND HIS MIGHTY GOLEM, THEE ELDER ONE!


HAILING FROM THE DISTANT KINGDOM OF TERRA, WHICH EVEN I'VE FAILED TO HEAR TALE OF.

The Elder One is looking at Kai Xander, who is holding a glowing blue rectangular object. A woman with a headband and a necklace is also looking on.

MOST BEWILDERINGLY, NOT ONLY IS THE BOY OF MAGI BUT IS OF AN UNFAMILIAR SCHOOL.

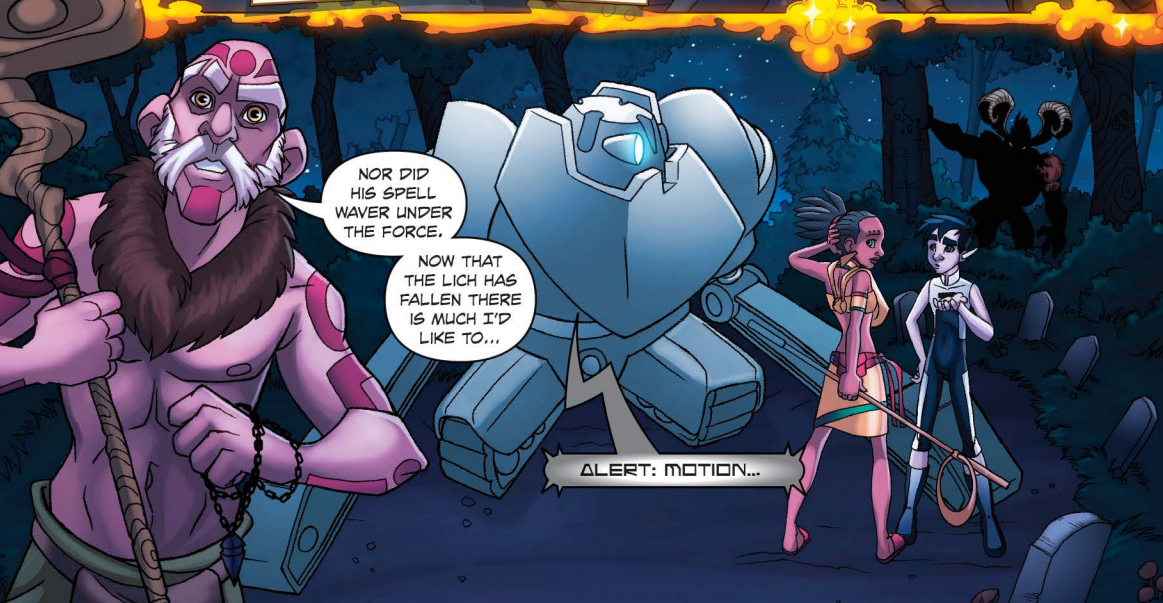
The Elder One is in a combat stance, holding his staff. He is facing a large, undead lich with a black finger of death. Other characters are visible in the background, some appearing to be in a struggle.

WHEN STRUCK BY AN UNDEAD LORD WITH A BLACK FINGER OF DEATH THE SPELL REBOUNDED HARMLESSLY.

The Elder One is looking at the golem, which is now standing upright. The golem has a glowing blue light on its forehead.

NOR DID HIS SPELL WAVER UNDER THE FORCE.

NOW THAT THE LICH HAS FALLEN THERE IS MUCH I'D LIKE TO...

The Elder One is standing in a dark forest. The golem is in the background. A woman and Kai Xander are also present. A black shadowy figure is visible in the distance.

ALERT: MOTION...



...DETECTED.

RRRRARGGH

## Line of Sign

Gary Turner: story & letterer  
Mel Bontrager: lively pencils  
Eddy-Swan: brilliant colors

"I, MAGE" CREATED  
BY GARY TURNER





WHOA THERE BESSIE.



THIS TAU FORM OF GREETING...



...COULD CERTAINLY STILL USE REFINING.



M'SAI, DO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION.

WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?

WELL, *APPEARS* YOU'RE BEING ATTACKED BY A TAU SPY!

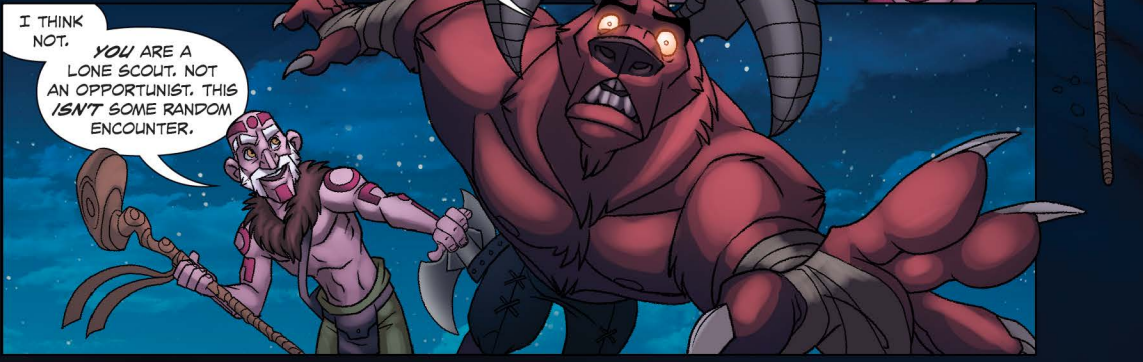
A GOOD START, BUT NOTE HIS USE OF WEIGHT, SWING, AND FOCUS.

WHAT'S THE LIKELY INTENT?

MY GUESS WOULD BE PUMMELED OLD COOT.

~HURCK~

I THINK NOT. YOU ARE A LONE SCOUT, NOT AN OPPORTUNIST. THIS ISN'T SOME RANDOM ENCOUNTER.







**BAKA TOOTHPICK MAGI!**  
GAUL CAN'T GRAB YOU, BUT OTHERS...

...CAN STILL FEEL HIS STEEL!

LOOK AROUND YOU GAUL, MY M'SAI IS CLEARLY READY WITH A SPELL YOU'D FIND MOST HUMBLING.

**SHHHUNK**



AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I HAVE YET TO CAST A SINGLE SPELL. YET HERE YOU ARE ALREADY DISADVANTAGED.

COUPLE THAT WITH MY COMPANIONS, ONE OF WHICH IS A MIGHTY IRON GOLEM...

...YOU TRULY SHOULD CONSIDER MY COUNSEL INSTEAD.

HUMMPH. MAGI WANNA TALK.  
**SO TALK.**



PSST, ZAWA.

SAFE TO ASSUME THIS ISN'T A BUDDY OF YOURS?

THAT'S A TALL SCOUT, A SOLDIER OF THE OVERQ'SAI'S LEGION.

THERE ARE MORE FORMS OF PERSUASION BEYOND TAKING BY FORCE. MAYHAPS IF YOU STATE YOUR GOAL WE CAN FIND A MIDDLE WAY, AN ACCORD BETWEEN US.

**PHEFAWW.** MAGIS NOT SEEK TO GUILF GAUL WITH WORDS.

**OH FOR HELA'S SAKE!** WHAT DO YOU WANT, GAUL?

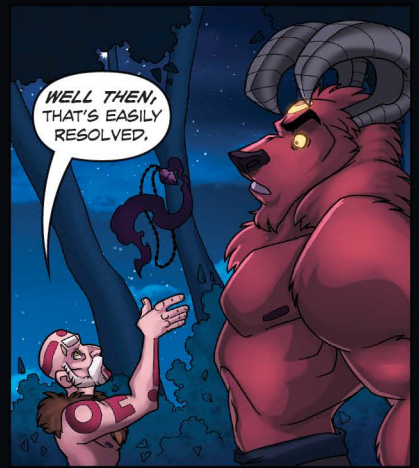




GAUL IS CHARGED WITH BRINGING THE NECRO STONE.



REALLY? SO THEN YOU DON'T TRULY WANT IT. YOU'RE JUST MEANT TO "BRING" IT.



WELL THEN, THAT'S EASILY RESOLVED.



GOOD JOURNEYS TO YOU THEN GAUL OF THE TAU. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AGAIN.

Q'SAI! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?



THERE ARE FEW REASONS WHY A BRUTE LIKE GAUL WOULD BE "BRINGING" AN ITEM SUCH AS THAT.

I'M 5000 HOPING IT'S SOMEONE INTERESTING.



YOU AND THE LAD SHOULD RETURN TO CAMP AND REST 'TIL DAWN.

WHEN YOU CATCH UP TOMORROW I'D EXPECT ANY M'SAI OF MINE TO HAVE FATHOMED THOSE REASONS.





ANND SO...  
...THAT HAPPENED.



COME.  
WE ARE TO DO AS WE ARE TOLD.  
YEAH, BUT...  
...HE'S NOT REALLY LEAVING US HERE IS HE?



COME.



BEST TO REMAIN CLOSE TO THE FIRE WHEN RESTING. IT'LL KEEP AT BAY MUNDANE BEASTS BETTER THAN THE PROTECTIVE WARDS.



I'LL CAST A FEW MORE AS WELL.

UMM...SO I'M KINDA CURIOUS.

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

DO?

DO WHAT?

MAGIC.