

AS WE VENTURE OUT INTO THE WORLD,
AWAY FROM OUR MOTHER'S HEMS, OUR
ACTIONS BARE CONSEQUENCES.

BAA-A-A-HHH



GASP!



WHILE OUR FIRST INSTINCTS USUALLY
KEPT OUR ANCESTORS ONE STEP
REMOVED FROM ULTIMATE FATES,

...I'VE COME TO REASON THAT
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE SHOULD
RISE ABOVE THEM.



Plights & Preternaturals

Gary Turner: tall tales & runes
Mel Bontrager: illustrative sorcery
Eddy-Swan: scintillating colors

"I, WAGE" CREATED BY GARY TURNER

IF THEY WANT THE HAMMER, THEN BY THE GODS...

...I'LL GIVE THEM THE HAMMER!

KRACK-KOW!

SOME... "OVERQ'SAI"... PLOTS TO USURP MY KINGDOM...

...TO STEAL THIS WEAPON OF LEGACY!

HIS FORCES ARE MARSHALED UPON OUR DOORSTEP, AND YOU SAY--

NOT INTERESTED.

I DO NOT SHARE THIS FIRE IN YOUR GUT GOOD FRIEND.

BESIDES, WHO'S TO SAY IF THE OVERQ'SAI WANTS DARAVON? MAYHAPS THE TAU GAUL WAS MERELY TASKED WITH RETRIEVING YOUR MAUL.

NOT INTERESTED, SAY YOU.

OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T. BECAUSE WAR WOULD BE TOO...

...BARBARIC.

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING OF USE FROM YOUR PRISONERS?



IF I DIDN'T KNOW WELL I'D SAY THE TAU TAKES OUR DUNGEONS AS A HOLIDAY.

HIM AND THE OTHER TWO TRAITORS ARE ODDLY AH-GREE-ABLE.



OR MAYBE IT JUST SEEMS THEY ARE NOT RESISTING.

MAYHAPS THEY FEEL THEIR MASTER HAS LITTLE TO FEAR FROM THE LIKES OF US.



WHAT!?! ONLY A FOOL WOULD DARE TO CHALLENGE US!



EXCUS--

LOOK AT ALL WE HAVE ACHIEVED!



I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THIS OVERG'SAI, GOOD KING.

MY COUNSEL WOULD BE TO GIVE HIM A WIDE BERTH.

UH, YOUR HIGHNESS. I AH--

IT'S ONE THING FOR YOU TO BACK DOWN, BUT DON'T--

BAUDRIC, I BELIEVE YOUR AIDE HAS SOME ISSUES OF IMPORT TO DISCUSS.



I'VE THE LIST OF KINGDOM PLIGHTS M'LORD.



OOO! MIGHT I HAVE A SEE?

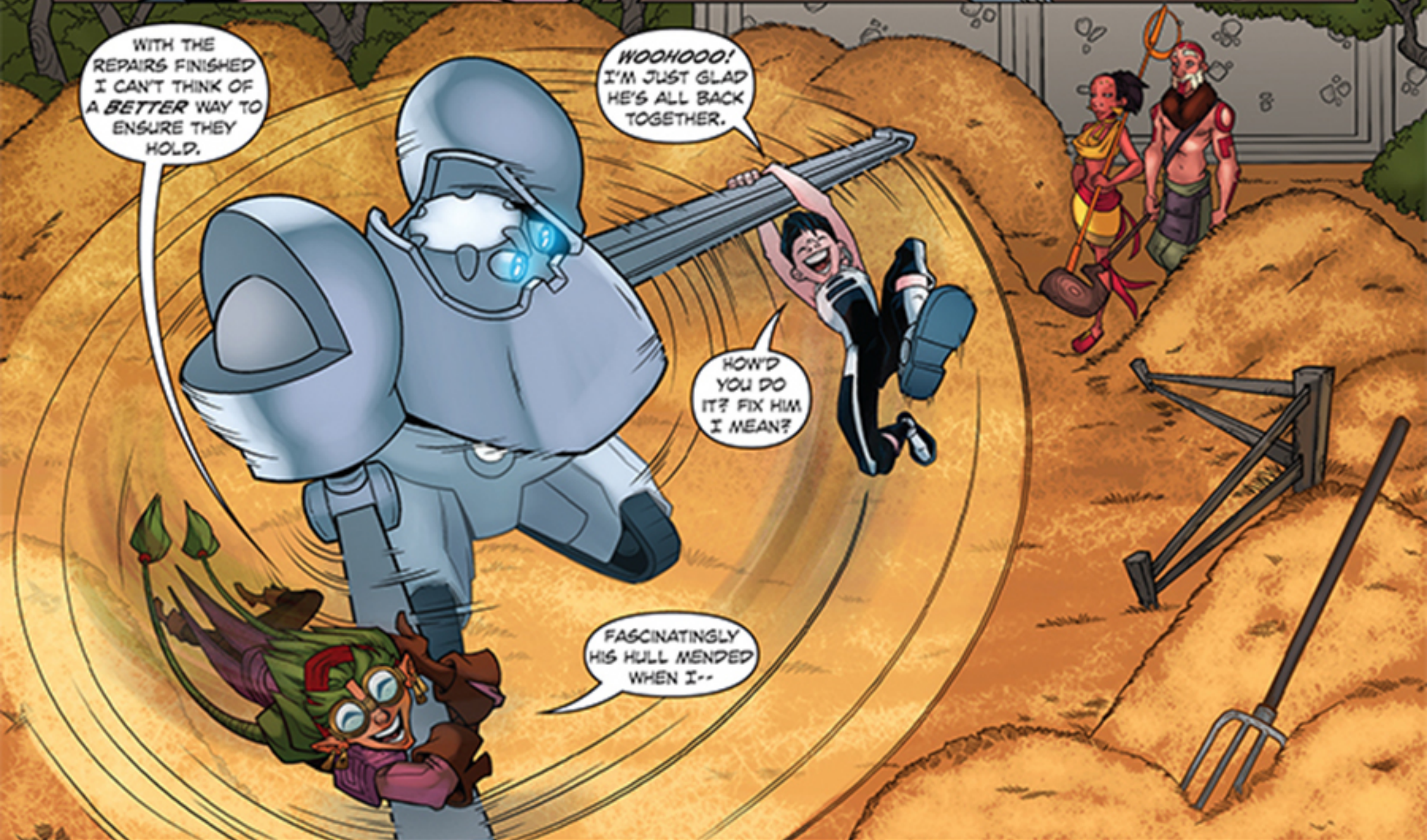


WOOAAAAH!

YOU SAID TO TAKE L'DER OUT FOR A 'SPIN'!

AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING!

YEEHAWW!

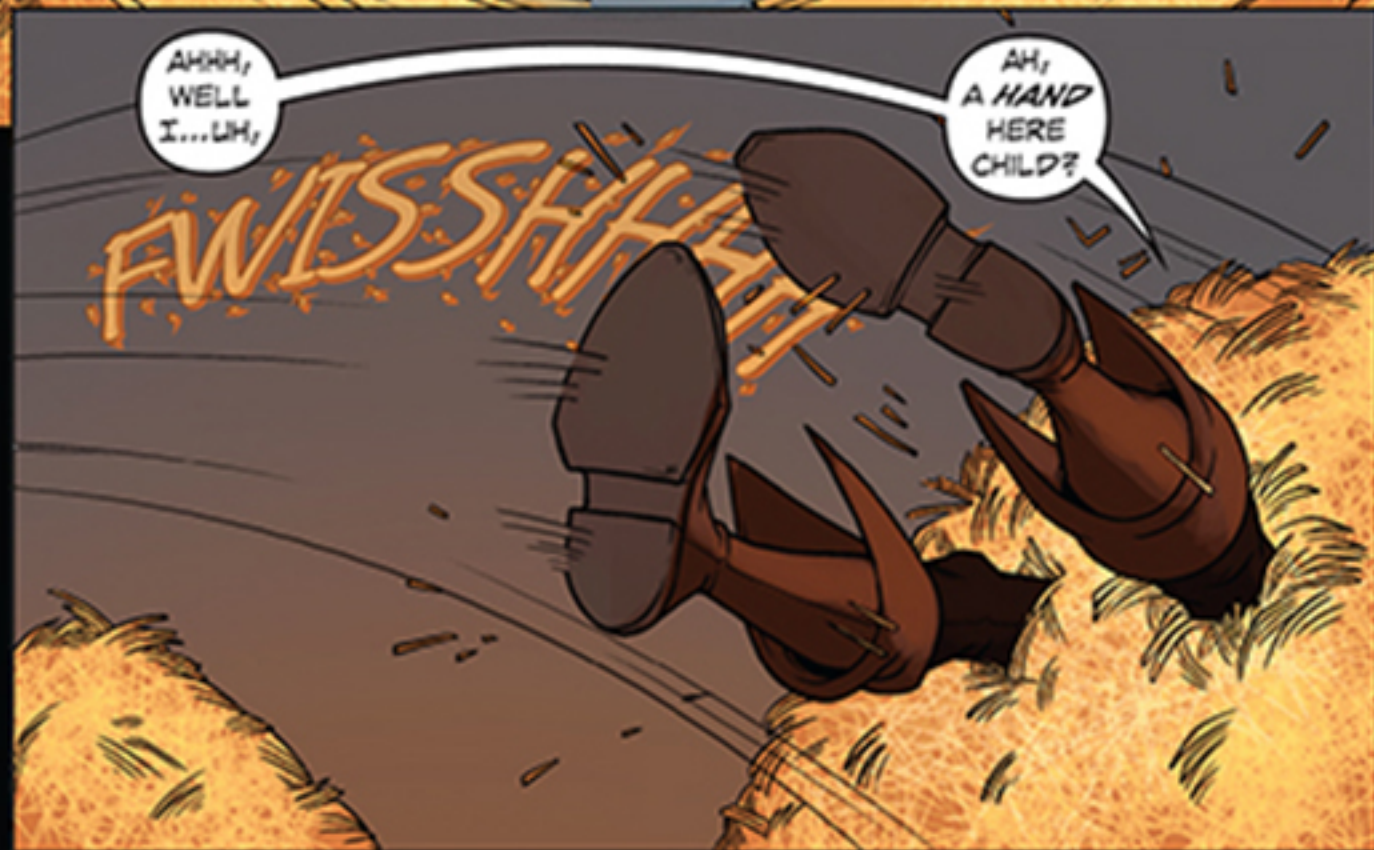


WITH THE REPAIRS FINISHED I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO ENSURE THEY HOLD.

WOOHOOO! I'M JUST GLAD HE'S ALL BACK TOGETHER.

HOW'D YOU DO IT? FIX HIM I MEAN?

FASCINATINGLY HIS HULL MENDED WHEN I--



AHH, WELL I...UH,

AH, A HAND HERE CHILD?



I APPLIED MITHRIL, AND A HEATED IRON BLEND. IT ACTED AS A BANDAGE.

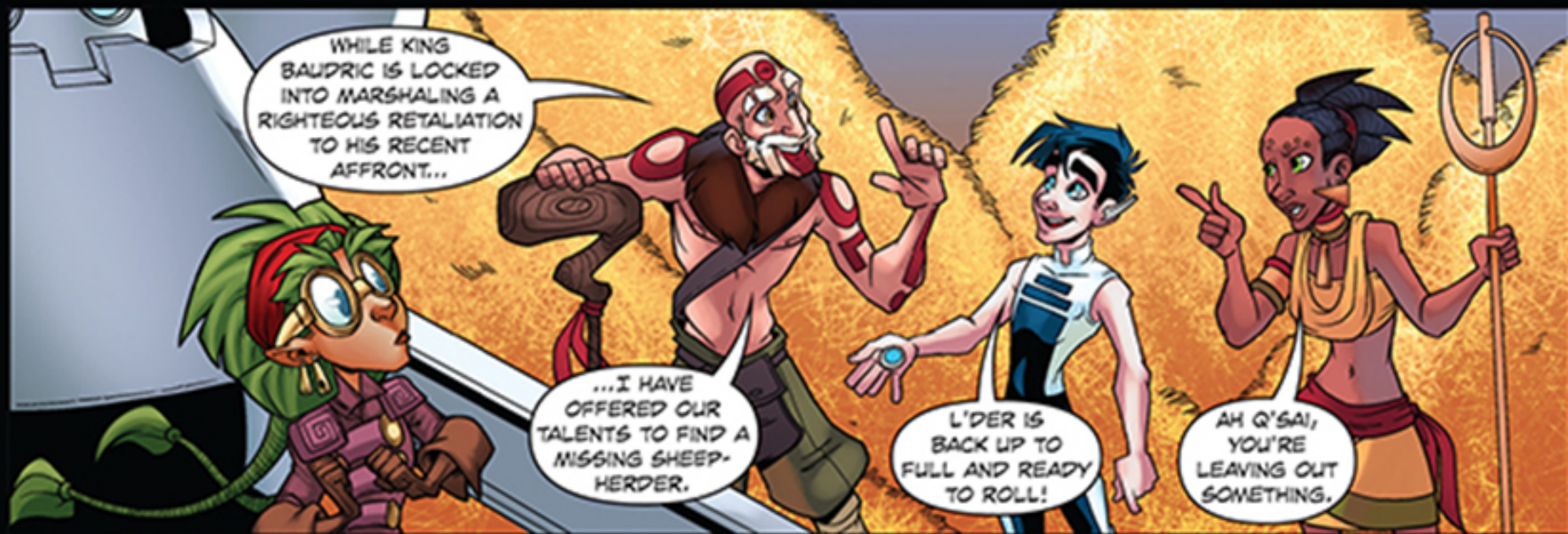
BY MORNING HE WAS HIS POLISHED SELF.



AND THIS WE ARE BLESSED WITH YOUR GEAR LORE VINR.

OH, I CAN'T WAIT TO MAKE A STUDY OF--

UH, APPARENTLY THAT IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT.



WHILE KING BAUDRIC IS LOCKED INTO MARSHALING A RIGHTEOUS RETALIATION TO HIS RECENT AFFRONT...

...I HAVE OFFERED OUR TALENTS TO FIND A MISSING SHEEP-HERDER.

L'DER IS BACK UP TO FULL AND READY TO ROLL!

AH Q'SAI, YOU'RE LEAVING OUT SOMETHING.



OH YES! THERE ARE WHISPERS THAT A FEROCIOUS BEAST OF THE NIGHT IS TO BLAME.



UNDERSTANDABLY THE TOWN WANTS ACTION TAKEN.



A Q'SAI OF MASTERY WOULD LEARN WHAT WAS KNOWABLE...

...PREPARE FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD...



...AND ULTIMATELY, MY M'SAI, FOLLOW THE TRAIL WHEREVER IT LEADS. ONLY THEN DECIDING WHAT *SHOULD* BE DONE.