

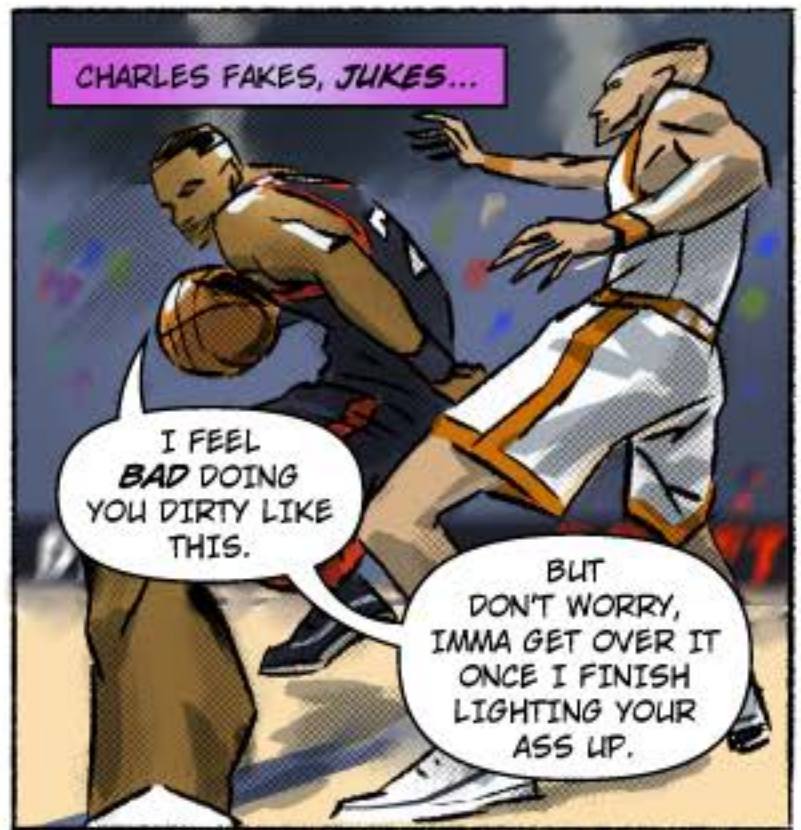


RODRIGUEZ GETS THE REBOUND--

OK, FIVE STARS, WHAT ELSE YOU GOT IN THAT BAG?

CLEARLY WAY TOO MUCH FOR THIS KID TO HANDLE.

--DISHES AN OUTLET PASS TO JAMAAL CHARLES.



CHARLES FAKES, JUKES...

I FEEL BAD DOING YOU DIRTY LIKE THIS.

BUT DON'T WORRY, IMMA GET OVER IT ONCE I FINISH LIGHTING YOUR ASS UP.



FIVE STARS, KID.

SCOOOOOOOOORES!!



SEE WHAT YA GET FOR PUTTING THAT CHILD ON ME ALL GAME?

MY GIFT TO Y'ALL, A CERTIFIED ASS WHOOPIN.



HOLY CRAP, I...I DIDN'T KNOW. PLEASE, I'M SO SORRY. IS HE OKAY?

HE'LL BE ALRIGHT, AND WE KNOW. YOU WERE SCANNED BEFORE THE GAME. IT HAPPENS; YOU'RE JUST A LATE BLOOMER.

NOT TO MENTION, RUNNING HIS MOUTH LIKE THAT, THE BOY WAS DUE FOR AN EGO CHECK.



YOU **SURE** YOU'RE OKAY, SON? THAT'S QUITE THE WELT--

YEAH. I'M FINE. STILL GOT A HEAD-ACHE IS ALL.

YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T GET A CONCUS-SION.



I WISH YOU'D TRY TO BE MORE CAREFUL ON THE COURT, JAMAAL.

I SAID I'M **FINE**. NOTHING I CAN'T SLEEP OFF.



"THE PAIRED REALM IS IN **PERIL**; ITS CRIES FOR HELP GO UNHEEDED."

"FOR THERE ARE NO CHAMPIONS LEFT TO LISTEN."

"WHEN THE WARS OVER THE RIFT CONCLUDED, A FRAGILE BALANCE WAS MET. EACH OF THE TWO WORLDS WERE TO SHARE THE EMERALD SATELLITE."


"A MILLENNIA OF UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY FOLLOWED."



"VERIDAL, THE ARBOREAL HAVEN, EMBRACED ITS FECUNDITY. THE PLANET **BLOSSOMED** UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF ITS SHAMANISTIC TRADITIONS."




"MEANWHILE, THE PRIESTS OF ARESION TAUGHT THEIR FOLLOWERS TO HARNESS THE **MOLTEN CORE** OF THEIR CHARRED WORLD."




"YET EVEN THE MOST ILLUMINATED ERAS ARE FINITE. YERUS, THE SACRED MOON, WAS BREAKING APART."

"WITH DESTRUCTION LOOMING, *SIX EMISSARIES* RETURNED TO THE LUNAR TEMPLE TO REIGNITE ITS DORMANT ALTAR."



"THEIR RITUAL WAS OBSERVED WITH VESTIGIAL SANCTITY; ITS MEANING NEARLY FORGOTTEN AFTER GENERATIONS OF TRANQUILITY."


"GUIDED ONLY BY ECHOES OF A DIMINISHED TRADITION, THE EMISSARIES AWAKENED ANCIENT FORCES THAT ONCE SAVED BOTH WORLDS."



"EXCEPT INSTEAD OF PERMEATING THROUGHOUT THEIR REALM, HEALING THE FRACTURED MOON, THE ENERGIES *FLED*."



"DESTINY CALLED ELSEWHERE."



JAMAAL CHARLES. WHAT IN THE *WORLD* ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR--

THUD





YEAH.  
ALL FIVE OF US DID.

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# PAGES #0

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