

Gale-Force #2 - "Invasion of the Jinjurians"

Written by Steven Bland

Over the course of a few weeks, after just beginning her career, Gale-Force quickly developed a reputation as a superheroine, saving lives, stopping crimes, thwarting villains and monsters. Her fame even extended to other planets and to other worlds.

On the island of Jinjuria, an island run by Amazon warriors, General Revolta, inside her headquarters and surrounded by her soldiers, who were each armed with fighting needles, plotted to conquer man's world.

"We have successfully conquered other nations and other tribes all over the world, except for America," General Revolta said. "Once we take over America, we will reign supreme."

"How do we take over America?" The Jinjurian colonel asked.

"Someone called the President of the United States rules America," General Revolta answered. "And he lives in a place called the White House. All we have to do is storm the White House and overpower the President."

"But what about Gale-Force?" A Jinjurian colonel asked. "She's a very powerful and formidable foe."

"Yes," General Revolta agreed. "She could very well stand in our way."

Then, the Jinjurian general smiled an evil smile.

"Fortunately, I anticipated that possibility," she said as she directed their attention to a tall woman in battle armor. The woman had pointed ears and a furrowed chin.

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"Meet Mombia," General Revolta said. "She's a mercenary from the planet Elphabia."

"What can *she* do?" The Jinjurian colonel asked.

"Instead of *telling* you," Mombia answered. "I will simply *show* you."

As General Revolta watched, Mombia conjured up monstrous humanoid rats standing on two hind legs and baring sharp claws. The humanoid rat creatures lunged toward the Jinjurians, who, while fearful of the monsters, acted to defend themselves and a battle began. The battle was nothing more than a struggle, and during that struggle, the humanoid rat monsters were clawing at the Jinjurians, who used their fighting needles to cut, stab, and poison their attackers. The needles had no effect on the creatures.

Suddenly, the rat creatures faded away into nothingness.

"Wh-What happened to the rat creatures?" One of the Jinjurian warriors asked. "They just *vanished*."

"And why were our fighting needles useless against them," another Jinjurian warrior asked. "Our needles can cut or stab and poison *any* enemy."

"Your needles had no effect on the rat creatures, because they never existed," Mombia told the Jinjurians. "They were nothing more than psychosomatic illusions I have conjured up. The rat monsters were *not* real, but they *seemed* and *felt* real enough for you to be affected by them."

"Perfect," General Revolta said with an evil smile. "Gale-Force won't have a chance!"

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One night, a costumed individual armed with a special ray gun, was out on the city streets causing a commotion by firing his gun's rays at every inanimate object in sight. All of them suddenly came to life and innocent bystanders in the area ran in sheer panic.

"HA HA HA HAAA! THAT'S IT, YOU FOOLS! *FLEE*," the costumed individual exclaimed. "FLEE BEFORE THE AWESOME POWER OF - - THE *ANIMATOR*!"

Soon, Gale-Force arrived on the scene and saw what was going on.

I-I'm *seeing* it, but I still don't *believe* it, the superheroine thought. He's *actually* bringing inanimate objects, like cars and street lights *to life*.

Then, with the Lion's enhanced senses, Gale-Force spotted the costumed individual's ray gun.

That ray gun of his, she thought. *That's* how he's bringing those inanimate objects to life. I've got to get it *away* from him.

"NO," the Animator shouted. "KEEP HER AWAY FROM ME!"

Every vehicle, parking meter, street light responded to the Animator and attacked Gale-Force.

Using the Lion's enhanced agility, the superheroine managed to evade the animated obstacles and get closer to the Animator's ray gun, which she succeeded in grabbing. Then, she knocked him out.

"By the time you wake up, Animator," Gale-Force told him. "You'll be behind bars."

Now, all that's left is to return everything he animated back to normal, the superheroine thought as she looked at the ray gun in her hands. But *how*?

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She examined the device for a few seconds.

I've got it, a smiling Gale-Force thought.

Using the Scarecrow's intelligence, Gale-Force figured out how to reverse the ray gun's effects.

Soon, every object that the Animator animated was back to normal.

That's that, Gale-Force thought, before she turned her attention to the ray gun she took from the Animator.

I'd better destroy this gizmo, the superheroine thought. It's much too dangerous for anyone to use.

Using the Lion's strength, the superheroine crushed the weapon with her bare hand.

Then, the superheroine heard sirens approaching.

The police can take it from her, she thought as police cars arrived on the scene. Officers emerged from their cars to arrest the costumed criminal.

Right now, I'd better get home, Gale-Force thought. It's a school night for me.

Focusing on the outside of her home, and clicking her heels three times, Gale-Force was transported from the scene of her battle to the outside of her house in an instant.

Made it just in time, she thought. All that's left for me to do is change.

Then, focusing on her desire to resume her civilian identity of Dorothy Donaldson, the superheroine clicked her heels once.

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"WHOOSH!" A magic cyclone rose up around her and the transformation was made. Dorothy Donaldson then entered her house.

The next day, a large group of airships arrived at and landed near 600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest in Washington D.C. The airships lowered ramps to the ground. Walking down the ramps were General Revolta and her Jinjurian armies, equipped with their fighting needles. By Revolta's side, was Mombia.

"We are here," Revolta told her soldiers. "Now for the President!"

Revolta and her army, with Mombia by her side, advanced toward the White House and barged in. Once inside, they found Secret Service agents, who were all male, standing in their way.

"Hold it! Who are you?" One of the Secret Service agents asked.

"I am General Revolta, from the island of Jinjuria," the leader of the Amazonian army answered. "And we are here to take over!"

"Not today, lady," the Secret Service agent said. "Not *ever*!"

Revolta and her soldiers drew their weapons.

"You and your women don't scare us, lady," one of the Secret Service agents said as he and his fellow agents tried to stop Revolta and her army. Unfortunately, the Secret Service agents were soon overpowered.

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With the Secret Service agents defeated, the Jinjurians placed shackles on each of them. Revolta headed toward the Oval Office where the President was giving his speech on television.

"My fellow Americans - -,," the President said in front of the cameras.

Suddenly, General Revolta and her army barged in, attracting the President's attention.

"You can't just barge in here," the President warned. "Who are you?"

"I am General Revolta, from the island of Jinjuria," General Revolta answered.

Revolta's army brought in the Secret Service agents they defeated and shackled.

"And my army has just defeated your warriors," Revolta told the President.

"What is the *meaning* of this?" The President asked.

"It means that your reign is over," General Revolta replied as she easily picked up the President by his neck.

"And mine is just beginning," General Revolta told him before tossing him aside like he was nothing more than a rag doll.

Revolta saw the television cameras and walked toward them until she was in front of them.

"People of America, now hear *this*," Revolta demanded. "I am General Revolta from the island of Jinjuria! I am in *charge* now!"

General Revolta pulled out a crown that she had on her person and placed it on her head.

"KNEEL BEFORE YOUR QUEEN," she demanded.

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Meanwhile, at North Kansas City High School, Dorothy Donaldson, who was wearing her white magic shoes, and her friend Emma were in high school watching Revolta's broadcast to the world in their history class.

"As of today, women everywhere will take over and all men will become slaves," Revolta declared. "And if any men *dare* to resist me, - -"

General Revolta directed the television cameras to show the shackled Secret Service agents.

"- - They will be *dealt* with," she vowed.

Dorothy turned to her teacher, Mr. Baum, who was clearly distraught by General Revolta's televised message as he stared at the television screen.

"Mr. Baum? Can I go to the bathroom, please?" Dorothy asked.

Mr. Baum was still distraught.

Wow. Mr. Baum's really shaken up by that broadcast - - and I don't blame him, Dorothy thought. I've got to get over to the White House and stop Revolta and her army, before they complete their takeover of our country.

"Sir?" Dorothy asked, attracting his attention.

"What? Oh, yes, Dorothy," the teacher said as he excused her. "Yes, of course."

With her teacher's permission, Dorothy left the classroom. Out in the hall, she headed for the girl's bathroom. Approaching her destination, she entered.

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Finding an unoccupied stall, she went inside and closed the door behind her.

Focusing on her benefactors, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, the Lion, and Locasta Tattypoo, Dorothy clicked her heels once.

"WHOOSH!" A magic cyclone rose up around her. Dorothy Donaldson was gone. In her place, was her alter ego, Gale-Force.

The superheroine visualized her intended destination and clicked the heels of her silver boots three times. In an instant, Gale-Force was transported to the inside of the Oval Office of the White House to confront Revolta.

"Not so fast, Revolta," Gale-Force said. "You're not taking over the world on *my watch!*"

"GALE-FORCE," An angry Revolta exclaimed. "WE WERE *EXPECTING YOU TO SHOW UP!*"

Revolta turned to Mombia.

"MOMBIA," Revolta commanded. "*DESTROY HER!*"

"With *pleasure,*" Mombia said with a cruel smile as she confronted Gale-Force with the illusion that she was drowning, and believing it to be real. The superheroine was suffocating despite having no injuries and being in a room with sufficient oxygen.

None of my powers can save me now, the despairing superheroine thought. Soon, she was hearing a female voice inside her head. The voice belonged to Glinda.

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"Hear me, Gale-Force," Glinda said from far away. "What you are experiencing is not real. It is nothing more than an illusion. Resist it."

Calling on every ounce of her willpower, Gale-Force managed to overcome the illusion.

I did it, she thought, before seemingly fleeing the Oval Office.

"AFTER HER," Revolta commanded. "DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!"

The Jinjurians went after the superheroine.

Once she was outside, and in a large, open space, Gale-Force stopped. The Jinjurians caught up to her.

"We have you now," The Jinjurian colonel said. "Your escape was a *most futile* endeavor!"

"Actually, I wasn't trying to escape," Gale-Force said. "I just wanted to lure you out of the Oval Office and away from innocent people so they wouldn't be hurt."

"A most noble gesture," the Jinjurian colonel said. "But now, you are ours!"

"Then come and get me," Gale-Force said.

The Jinjurians hurled their needles, which were tipped with poison, at the superheroine, who quickly used the tin mimicry power she inherited from the Tin Woodsman to transform her body into organic tin, a split-second before the sharp ends of the needles could reach her. The sharp ends of the needles bent upon impact.

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"You ladies *had* your shot," Gale-Force said before reverting back to flesh and blood. "Now, it's *my turn!*"

Using the Lion's strength, speed, and agility, the superheroine attacked and overpowered the Jinjurians who quickly toppled to the ground.

Upon impact with the ground, electrical sparks came from the bodies of the Jinjurians.

What's happening here? Gale-Force wondered.

The Jinjurians' bodies opened up to reveal interiors with advanced gears, circuits, and wires. Inside the torso of each body was a woman who was no more than four feet high. And they were all unconscious.

Well, I'll be, Gale-Force thought. They *weren't* really Amazons. They were all *four feet tall* and they were each operating an exoskeleton that made each of them *appear* to be the same size as an Amazon warrior.

Inside the Oval Office, Revolta waited for her Jinjurian army. The television reporters were still present, covering the story.

"They should be back by now," Revolta said. "With Gale-Force helpless in their clutches."

Soon, Gale-Force arrived.

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"I'm back, but *they* aren't," the superheroine said. "And I'm *not* exactly helpless - - *or* in their clutches, either."

"MOMBIA," Revolta commanded. "DESTROY HER!"

Mombia attempted to confront Gale-Force with the illusion that was surrounded by a horde of demons.

"Nice try, Mombia," Gale-Force said as she resisted her opponent's illusions. "I'm *on* to you, now!"

"No matter," Mombia said. "I can do more than cast realistic illusions."

"I can crush my enemies with my impressive strength, as well," she added as she lunged toward Gale-Force.

The two combatants grappled with each other.

She's - - just as strong - - as I am, Gale-Force thought.

However, with the Scarecrow's intelligence and planning, the superheroine struck at Mombia's pressure points, incapacitating her and rendering her unconscious.

Then, Gale-Force turned her attention to Revolta.

"After fighting and defeating all of your warriors, I learned your real secret," the superheroine said as she advanced toward the Jinjurian general.

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Gale-Force opened Revolta's torso. Inside, was the real Revolta who, like all of the women in her army, was no more than four feet tall.

The superheroine took the diminutive Jinjurian general out of her human-sized exoskeleton.

"It's over, pipsqueak," Gale-Force said. "Now, you and your army go *back* to your island and *never return!*"

Later, Gale-Force watched as Revolta, her Jinjurian soldiers, and Mombia entered their airships. Once they were all on board, the airships took off.

Good riddance, the superheroine thought, before going back inside the Oval Office.

Once inside, Gale-Force turned her attention to the shackled Secret Service agents. Converting her body to organic tin, the superheroine tore the shackles off each of the agents. In minutes, they were all free.

"Thank you, Gale-Force," one of the Secret Service agents told her.

Uh oh, I'd better get back to class before Mr. Baum worries about me.

"All part of the job," the superheroine told them. "Now, if you'll excuse me."

Gale-Force left for a secluded spot, where she visualized the inside of the bathroom stall she used at North Kansas City High School and clicked her heels three times.

She instantly reappeared at her destination. Then, focusing on her desire to return to her civilian identity, Gale-Force clicked her heels once.

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"WHOOSH!" A magic cyclone rose up around her and the transformation was made. Dorothy Donaldson left the stall and rejoined Mr. Baum's history class.

"Miss Donaldson. I hope you had some luck in the bathroom, young lady," Mr. Baum told Dorothy.

"Yes, sir. I did," Dorothy said.

"It turns out that we won't have to worry about that invasion by this Revolta woman and her Amazon warriors, thanks to Gale-Force," Mr. Baum said. "The television news just showed this extraordinary superheroine thwarting Revolta and some woman in body armor with pointed ears and a furrowed chin."

"Wow. That must have been amazing," Dorothy said.

"Too bad I missed it," she added as she smiled to herself.

THE END

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