

Gale-Force #4 - "Fruits and Vegetables"

Written by Steven Bland

A few weeks ago, in a laboratory in Kansas City, Missouri, scientist Oswald Morgan and his young assistant, Franklin Smythe were about to test the former's new invention: a dimensional portal creator.

"Now we shall test my new dimensional portal creator and see if it works," Dr. Morgan said. "If I have succeeded, it will be a *great day* for science."

Dr. Morgan turned toward his assistant.

"Ready to join me, Franklin?" Dr. Morgan asked.

"Wouldn't miss it for the world, Doc," Smythe answered.

Dr. Morgan and Smythe stepped through the dimensional portal. In an instant, they were transported to a magical valley in another dimension.

"It *works*," an overjoyed Dr. Morgan said. "My dimensional portal creator works! I've *done* it!"

"Congratulations, Doc," Smythe said.

Morgan and Smythe surveyed their surroundings.

"*Delightful*," Dr. Morgan said as he marveled at the scenery. "*Absolutely* delightful!"

"Everything's flooded with a clear light," Smythe said.

"CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP!"

"I hear birds chirping," Smythe said. "But I don't *see* any."

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"However, I *do* smell peaches," Dr. Morgan said.

Then, they looked down on the ground and saw a few peach-like fruits.

"They sure smell delicious, Doc," Smythe said as he picked up one of the fruits.

"And I'll bet they *taste* delicious, too," he added before taking a bite and then eating it.

Soon, Smythe started disappearing.

"FRANKLIN," a concerned Dr. Morgan exclaimed. "WHERE ARE YOU?"

"I'm right here, Doc," Smythe answered. "Can't you see me?"

"No," Dr. Morgan answered.

"Then, I must be *invisible*," Smythe said. "And I *got* that way by eating that peach."

"Fascinating," Dr. Morgan said as he picked up another of the peach-like fruits.

Suddenly, they heard tribal warriors.

"DEATH TO THE INTRUDERS!"

Berry like fruits were thrown at the two men. The fruits exploded with powerful force and both Dr. Morgan and his assistant were thrown a good few feet.

The two men looked around but couldn't see them. The warriors were invisible as well.

The invisible warriors went after Dr. Morgan because they could see him but left Smythe alone because he was invisible like they were.

Smythe disarmed the invisible warriors and took their explosive fruits. He used only one of them to incapacitate his and Morgan's attackers.

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These berry-like fruits pack real firepower, Smythe thought with a sinister grin. I can put these to much *better* use!

Still invisible, Smythe attacked Dr. Morgan and then gathered up more of the peach-like fruits.

With the special fruits in his possession, Smythe ran for the dimensional portal and returned to our own dimension.

Once he was back in our dimension, Smythe regained visibility.

He looked at the peach-like and explosive fruits he now held in his possession and smiled an evil smile.

At twelve noon, tellers at the bank were startled by the door seemingly opening by itself and the entrance of an invisible man holding a large, empty sack.

"I-I see a large sack," one of the tellers said. "but it's floating - - and moving - - by itself."

"Actually, it isn't," Smythe said.

Drawing their guns, two bank guards looked around for the perpetrator.

"The robber's here, but I can't see him," one of the bank guards said.

"Neither can I," the other guard said.

Smythe headed for the bank's vault.

Approaching his objective, Smythe got out one of his explosive fruits.

Let's see if one of these babies can open this sucker, he thought as he got out one of the berries.

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The invisible man threw the explosive fruit at the vault door and it was blown off its hinges.

Ohhhh, yeaahhhh, he thought with a smile as his eyes beheld lots of cash.

Quickly, he entered the vault and loaded as much of the cash as he could into his sack.

"Ahem," a female voice said from behind him.

The invisible man turned around and saw Gale-Force standing behind him.

"Sorry, but your withdrawal request has just been denied," the superheroine said.

"G-GALE-FORCE," exclaimed Smythe. "H-HOW CAN YOU SEE ME?"

I can actually sense you, thanks to the enhanced senses from one of my benefactors, the Lion, she thought.

"That's my secret, pal," Gale-Force answered.

And I also have the Lion's enhanced strength, speed, and agility, the superheroine thought as she quickly subdued the invisible man, rendering him unconscious. Upon being knocked out, Smythe became visible again.

Gale-Force noticed bulges from Smythe's jacket.

Hmmm, what have we here? The superheroine wondered as she checked the pockets and pulled out their contents.

Gale-Force looked at the contents and was surprised.

Peaches and a few berries? She wondered as she put them in her jacket pockets.

The bank guards soon approached.

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"It's Gale-Force," one of the guards said.

"Yes," Gale-Force said before directing the guards to the now-visible Smythe.

"And here's your formerly invisible bank robber," the superheroine added.

"Now, if you'll excuse me," Gale-Force said before taking her leave.

I've got to get back to school before my alter ego, Dorothy Donaldson is missed, she thought.

Once she was outside the bank, Gale-Force saw people on the street around her being magically transported one by one.

Oh, my gosh, she thought. Everyone's disappearing! What's going on here?

Soon, the superheroine was being magically transported herself.

Now *I'm* disappearing, too, she thought. What's happening?

An instant later, Gale-Force found herself, along with the people who had just been magically transported, on another planet. The planet was lit by six glowing balls suspended in the air far above the ground. The central and largest of the glowing balls was white. Arranged around that ball were smaller balls of rose, violet, yellow, blue, and orange. The smaller balls generated no heat. The landscape below was splendidly colored by the variegated lights.

The land itself contained mountains and plains, lakes and rivers, and some towns and villages consisting of many glass buildings.

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Soon, Gale-Force and the people who were magically transported with her met the planet's inhabitants, who were well-formed with handsome and beautiful faces and attractive clothing which grows on their bodies. They were also expressionless, showing no emotion on their faces.

"Who *are* you people," Gale-Force asked. "And *why* have you brought us here?"

Soon, the planet's ruler, King Spargos appeared. He had a glistening Star of Royalty on his forehead. By his side was Gwygius, who was more powerful, wore clothes that were bright yellow and had sharp thorns instead of hair on his head. Gwygius was holding a sceptre.

"I am Spargos, King of the Vegethropes," he answered.

"And I am Gwygius, the King's royal sorcerer," Gwygius added.

"And you are in our kingdom," King Spargos added.

"How did we get here?" Gale-Force asked.

"I brought you here," Gwygius responded. "With my magical powers."

"We don't like meatbags like you," the King told the superheroine. "The sight of your protein bodies sickens us!"

"Then *why* did you bring us to your planet, then?" Gale-Force asked.

"To make all of you our *slaves*," King Spargos told her.

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With his scepter, Gwygius conjured up images of the slaves that he, Spargos, and the Vegethropes already have. One image showed the first group of Earth people breaking their backs building new glass buildings as the first group of Vegethropes cracked whips at them.

"You will work to build structures," King Spargos said.

A second image showed a second group of Earth people toiling away on the farms who were also being whipped by a second group of Vegethropes.

"Farm," King Spargos said.

A third image showed a third group of Earth people toiling away inside a mine shaft with a third group of Vegethropes cracking whips at them.

"And mine for us," King Spargos added.

Gale-Force was absolutely appalled by what had been shown to her.

"And you, Gale-Force, with your *great powers*," King Spargos told the superheroine. "You will make a *most excellent* slave!"

"Forget it," the superheroine told the king. "I'm *no one's* slave! And *neither* are the people you and Gwygius transported here against their will!"

"And while *they* may not possess the power to fight Gwygius," she added. "I DO!"

"YOU DARE CHALLENGE ME?" An indignant Gwygius asked before brandishing his scepter.

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"THEN YOU SHALL SOON LEARN THE FATE OF THOSE WHO DO! AND I *PROMISE* YOU, IT WILL BE *MOST UNPLEASANT*," Gwygius said as his scepter fired a destructive energy blast from his scepter at Gale-Force who used the Lion's enhanced agility to evade it.

"Now it's *my turn*," Gale-Force said as she lunged toward Gwygius who willed himself intangible, causing the superheroine to pass right through him. Using the Lion's agility, she easily got back on her feet.

With his magical powers, Gwygius is the biggest threat, Gale-Force thought. But I've got to get the two of us away from these people so that they won't get hurt in the middle of our battle.

"Guess what, Gwygius? I've got a disappearing act of my own! Now, you *see* me," the superheroine said as she began using Locasta Tattypoo's teleport dash.

Suddenly, Gale-Force reappeared behind Gwygius

"Now, you *don't*," she said as she quickly grabbed him.

Thinking of a deserted area on the planet, Gale-Force quickly clicked her heels three times and both she and the Vegethropian sorcerer were transported to her desired location in an instant.

"Now it's just you and me, Gwygius," the superheroine said.

"Wrong, Gale-Force," Gwygius said as he used his magic of his scepter to conjure up humanoid tree warriors. "You also have to deal with my loyal tree minions!"

Gale-Force then used the Lion's speed and agility to put some distance between herself and the tree beings.

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"And they will *destroy* you," Gwygius said.

"Not if I can help it," Gale-Force said before transforming her body into organic tin and then summoning her axe.

"And you'd *better believe I can*," she said as she swung her axe as hard as she could many times, producing cutting winds which sliced through each and all of the humanoid tree warriors at once.

"It's *over*, Gwygius," Gale-Force said. "I've just reduced your human trees to *kindling*!"

"And *now*," the superheroine added as she advanced toward the Vegethropian sorcerer. "I'm going to put *you* out of action!"

"*NO*," Gwygius explained as he fired a barrage of destructive energy bolts from his scepter at Gale-Force. "BY THE POWER OF MY SCEPTER, YOU *WILL NOT STOP ME*!"

His scepter, eh? Gale-Force wondered. That must be the key to defeating him! He must be powerless without it!

Using Locasta Tattypoo's teleport dash ability, the superheroine suddenly got close to the Vegethropian sorcerer. With the Lion's enhanced speed, she quickly seized his scepter.

"MY SCEPTER," Gwygius exclaimed. "GIVE IT BACK!"

"Not a chance," Gale-Force said. "If this scepter *really is* the source of your power - -,"

"- - THEN I'M *DESTROYING* IT," the superheroine exclaimed as she broke the scepter in half.

I *really* hope I'm doing the *right thing* and that this works, a concerned Gale-Force thought.

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All over the planet of the Vegethropes, all of the Earth people, including the superheroine herself vanished and reappeared on Earth.

Well, I'll be, she thought. It *did* work.

Gale-Force again noticed the bulges in the pockets of her jacket

The pieces of fruit I confiscated from that bank robber earlier, she thought. They gave him the power of invisibility and allowed him to blow open bank vaults. But *where* did these fruits come from?

Maybe Glinda may have the answer, she thought as she focused on Glinda's realm and clicked the heels of her magic silver boots three times.

In an instant, she arrived at her intended destination and saw Glinda there.

"Glinda," Gale-Force said. "At twelve noon today, I thwarted a bank robber."

The superheroine took the fruits out of her pocket and showed them to Glinda. Some of the fruits were peach-like and some were berry-like.

"He had these fruits with him," Gale-Force said. "Some of these turned him invisible, some of these blew open bank vaults."

"But the *real question* is," the superheroine added. "*Where* did these fruits come from?"

Glinda directed Gale-Force to the crystal screen which showed the image of a magical valley in another dimension.

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"They came from this valley, my champion," Glinda answered. "In the dimension of Voa."

"I'll go there to return these fruits," the superheroine said. "To make sure they don't end up in the wrong hands again."

Focusing on the magical valley in the dimension of Voa and clicking her heels three times, Gale-Force arrived at her destination.

As the superheroine took the fruits out of her pockets and placed them in a safe space, she picked up Oswald Morgan's scent, thanks to the Lion's enhanced smell.

Someone from Earth visited here, she thought. Looks like I'll be doing a rescue mission.

Using the Lion's enhanced strength, speed, agility, hearing, and smell, Gale-Force began her search and followed Morgan's scent.

Along the way, she was attacked by a large group of flying wooden gargoyles who were swift and noiseless. The creatures were all less than three feet in height, had round bodies with short thick legs and long stout arms. Their faces were varied in design, but equally ugly. They had no hair, but the tops of their heads were carved into fantastic shapes. Their short wooden wings were fastened to their bodies with wooden hinges.

I can't let them stop me now, she thought.

RRROOOAAAARRRRRR, the superheroine shouted. The wooden gargoyles were momentarily startled.

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I've got to summon a cyclone, she thought. I can't use the Lion's roar forever.

Gale-Force clicked her heels twice, summoning a cyclone which sucked in the wooden gargoyles and knocked them into each other.

Clicking her heels twice again, the superheroine stopped the twister and the gargoyles fell to the ground.

Gale-Force unfastened the wooden wings from one of the gargoyles.

I've got a lot of ground to cover, she thought. So these wings, which I'm borrowing, will be a huge help.

With the wooden wings, Gale-Force flew off, using the Lion's enhanced smell and hearing to follow Morgan's scent.

Soon, the trail led the superheroine to a castle.

There he is, she thought. I've found him.

She flew in through the castle's window. Once inside, she removed her wooden wings. She picked up Morgan's scent and followed it.

The trail led her to a room in the castle. The door to the room was closed. She knocked.

"Is anyone in there?" Gale-Force asked.

"Who is it?" A voice from inside asked. The voice belonged to an old man.

"My name is Gale-Force," the superheroine replied. "And I think someone from my dimension is here. I'm here to rescue him."

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The door opened.

Upon entering, Gale-Force was greeted by a very old man who was bent over nearly double. He had white hair and a beard that were so long that they reached his feet, and were plaited into braids, each tied with a bow of colored ribbon.

"How do you do?" The old man asked politely.

"I'm fine," the superheroine answered.

"I will take you to the person you seek," the old man said.

Gale-Force followed the old man who led her a bed where Dr. Oswald Morgan was lying on.

"That's him, alright," the superheroine said before going to Morgan's side.

"Are you all right?" Gale-Force asked. "What happened to you?"

"My assistant Franklin Smythe and I were testing my dimensional portal creator which took us to a valley here, where everything was flooded with a clear light," Morgan answered. "We discovered invisible creatures as well as peach-like fruits that rendered whoever ate them invisible, like the creatures themselves, and berry-like fruits that could explode upon impact."

Then, Franklin Smythe was the bank robber I stopped at noon, Gale-Force thought.

"Suddenly, Franklin attacked me and left me behind in the magical valley," Morgan continued.

"How did you end up here in this castle?" The superheroine asked.

"I brought him here," the old man with the braided hair answered.

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"I was strolling through the valley when I saw this man unconscious," he continued. "So I brought him here, to my castle, to nurse him back to health."

"And I'm *much* better now, thank you," a smiling Morgan told the old man.

"That's good to hear, Doctor - - ?" Gale-Force said.

"Morgan," Morgan answered. "Dr. Oswald Morgan."

"I'm here to take you home," the superheroine said. "Where do you live?"

"Kansas City, Missouri, young lady," Morgan responded.

"I know *exactly* where that is," Gale-Force said with a smile. "Let's go."

Morgan got off the bed and went to the superheroine's side.

"But this castle is guarded by two dragons," the old man told them. "To leave, you would have to get past them."

"Not really," Gale-Force said with a smile as she grabbed Dr. Morgan. "I've got my *own way* of getting to our destination."

"*And* it's much *quicker*," the superheroine added, before turning to Dr. Morgan.

"Ready, Dr. Morgan?" She asked.

"As I'll ever be, young lady," Morgan replied. "I trust you."

"Good luck to you, both," the old man said with a smile. "Farewell."

"Farewell," Gale-Force and Dr. Morgan both said with a smile.

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Focusing on Kansas City, Missouri while holding onto Dr. Morgan, Gale-Force clicked her heels three times.

Instantaneously, Gale-Force and Dr. Oswald Morgan appeared on a city street in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Morgan was momentarily disoriented.

"Ohhh," Morgan said.

"Are you all right, Dr. Morgan?" the superheroine asked.

"This was certainly a most *unusual* way to travel, my dear," Morgan answered. "But, yes, I'm perfectly all right."

"I don't know where your laboratory is, sir," Gale-Force answered. "If you could give me its address, I can get you there."

"No, that's quite all right, young lady. Thank you," Dr. Morgan answered. "I think I'll take a cab instead."

"Okay," the superheroine said.

"TAXI," Dr. Morgan called out.

A taxicab arrived and stopped for the scientist.

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"Thank you again for subduing my assistant, young lady," the scientist said. "and for rescuing me."

"You're welcome," the superheroine said with a smile.

Gale-Force watched as Dr. Morgan opened the passenger side door of the cab and got inside. Once the scientist was inside the vehicle, he closed the door behind him. The cab took off.

Now I'd better get back to school and resume my identity as Dorothy Donaldson. Something tells me I'm in for a *long* detention, the superheroine thought with a chagrin.

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