

The Peaceable Kingdom

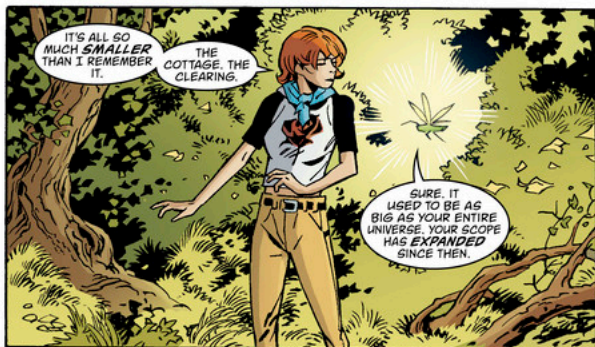
Chapter Seven of HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Bill Willingham
writer/creator
Mark Buckingham
layouts/pencils

Shawn McManus
finishes 5-8, 11-12, 15-16

Steve Leialoha and
Andrew Pepoy, inks
Lee Loughridge, colors
Todd Klein, letters

Nimit Malavia, cover
Rowena Yow, assoc. ed.
Shelly Bond, editor



IT'S ALL SO MUCH **SMALLER** THAN I REMEMBER IT.

THE COTTAGE, THE CLEARING.

SURE, IT USED TO BE AS BIG AS YOUR ENTIRE UNIVERSE. YOUR SCOPE HAS **EXPANDED** SINCE THEN.



WHY ARE WE HERE?

TO LEARN YOUR **FULL STORY**.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHY I WAS MOVED TO **BRING** YOU HERE.



BUT NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, I SEE WE'VE GOT ANOTHER CHOICE.

AN ENTIRELY **DIFFERENT** POSSIBILITY.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

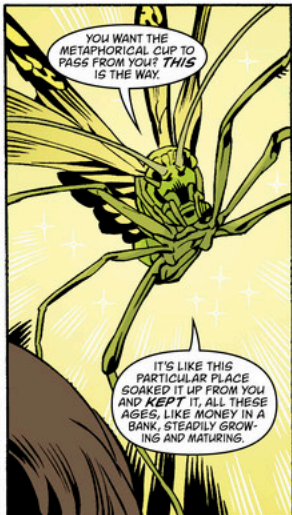
WHAT IF YOU CHOSE RIGHT NOW NOT TO KNOW? **NOT** TO LEARN THE FULL STORY OF YOU, YOUR MOTHER, AND THE GENERATIONS BEHIND YOU?



WHAT IF YOU DECIDE INSTEAD TO FORGO THE DAMASCUS ROAD REVELATION AND REMAIN **PURPOSELY** IGNORANT?

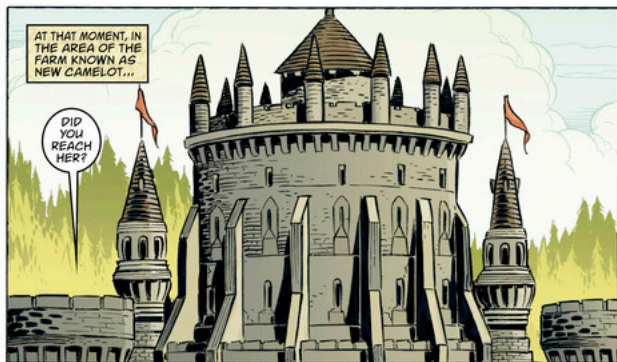
WHY WOULD I EVEN **CONSIDER** THAT?





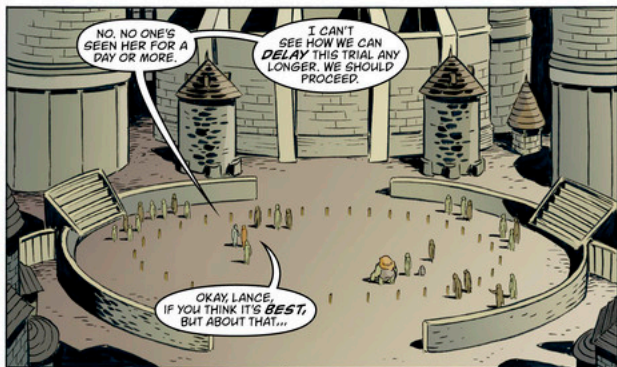
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE AREA OF THE FARM KNOWN AS NEW CAMELOT...

DID YOU REACH HER?



NO. NO ONE'S SEEN HER FOR A DAY OR MORE.

I CAN'T SEE HOW WE CAN **DELAY** THIS TRIAL ANY LONGER. WE SHOULD PROCEED.



OKAY, LANCE, IF YOU THINK IT'S **BEST**, BUT ABOUT THAT...

WEYLAND WAS MY FRIEND AND MY SUBJECT. AS HIS KING, IT'S MY **DUTY** TO FIGHT BRANDISH.

BUT IT'S **MY DUTY** AS THE QUEEN'S OFFICIAL CHAMPION AND FUTURE CONSORT, KING AMBROSE.



AND, IF I CAN BE FORGIVEN THE FAMILIARITY, SIRE, I'VE SEEN YOU IN COMBAT. LACKING EXCALIBUR AND MAGIC ARMOR, I **DOUBT** YOU'D PREVAIL.

BEST IF I DO IT AND WE END THIS FARCE QUICKLY, HMM?

