

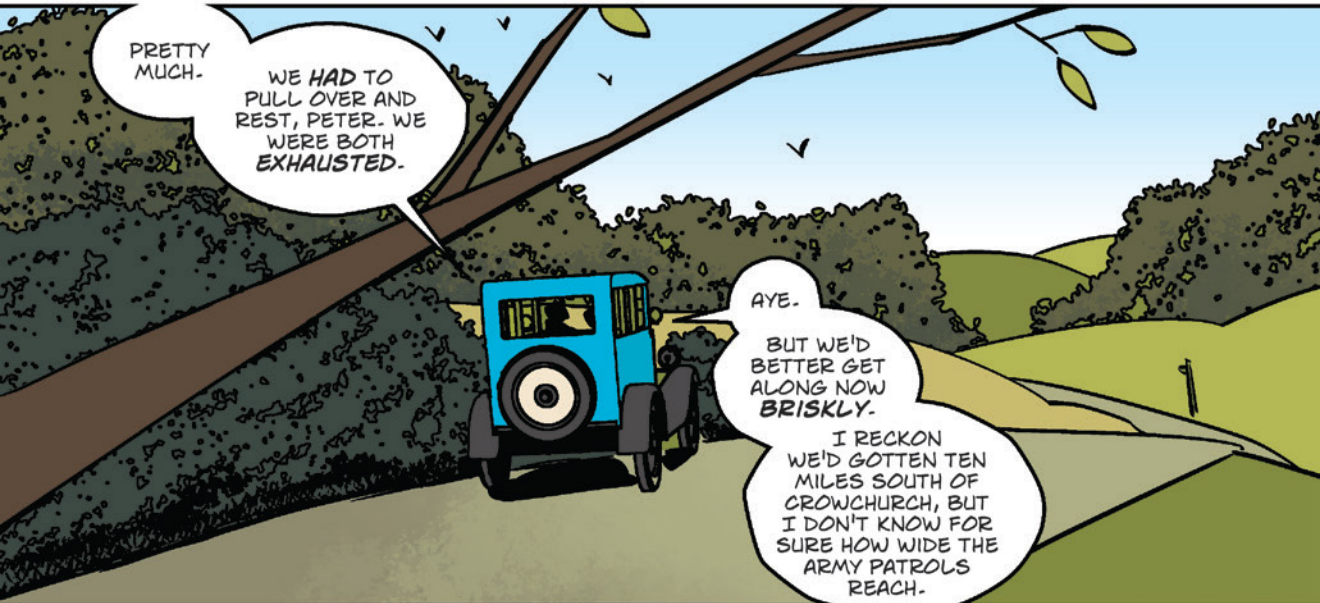
MMMMMH.

WHAT TIME IS IT?



IT'S GOT TO BE NOON... OR LATER.

LAWKS! WE WERE ASLEEP ALL MORNING?



PRETTY MUCH.

WE HAD TO PULL OVER AND REST, PETER. WE WERE BOTH EXHAUSTED.

AYE.

BUT WE'D BETTER GET ALONG NOW BRISKLY.

I RECKON WE'D GOTTEN TEN MILES SOUTH OF CROWCHURCH, BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE HOW WIDE THE ARMY PATROLS REACH.



DO WE HEAD FOR PEAK MINSTER, DO YOU THINK?

I THINK DORCASTER'S A BETTER BET. THERE'S THE NEWS-PAPER OFFICE THERE, AND I KNOW A CHAP OR TWO.

LONGER DRIVE, MIND.



WE'LL BE THERE BY NIGHTFALL.

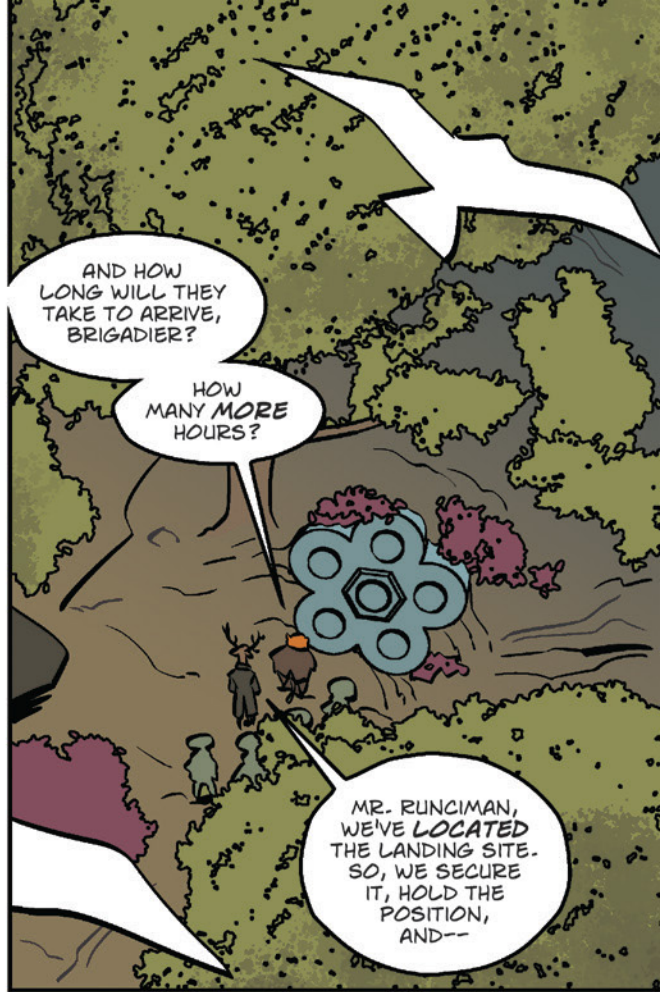
LET'S GET A MOVE ON.



WHAT THE DEVIL ARE WE WAITING FOR? WE'VE BEEN STANDING AROUND ALL DAY.

I'VE SENT FOR REINFORCEMENTS.

I TOLD YOU, SIR. WE SIT TIGHT UNTIL THEY GET HERE.



AND HOW LONG WILL THEY TAKE TO ARRIVE, BRIGADIER?

HOW MANY MORE HOURS?

MR. RUNCIMAN, WE'VE LOCATED THE LANDING SITE. SO, WE SECURE IT, HOLD THE POSITION, AND--



SITES, BRIGADIER. SITES.

THIS ISN'T A SINGULAR LANDING. THIS IS SYSTEMATIC. PLANNED.

I DON'T THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER FOR REINFORCEMENT.

I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, SIR.



HAVE YOU EVER DEALT WITH A SITUATION LIKE THIS BEFORE, BRIGADIER?

I HAVE NOT.



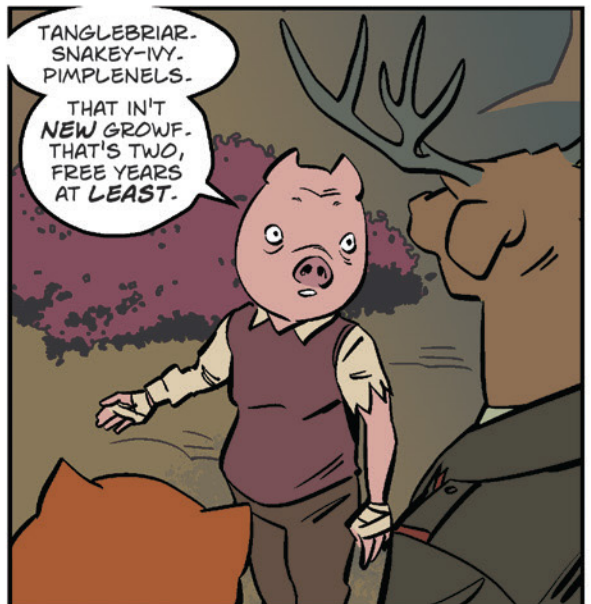
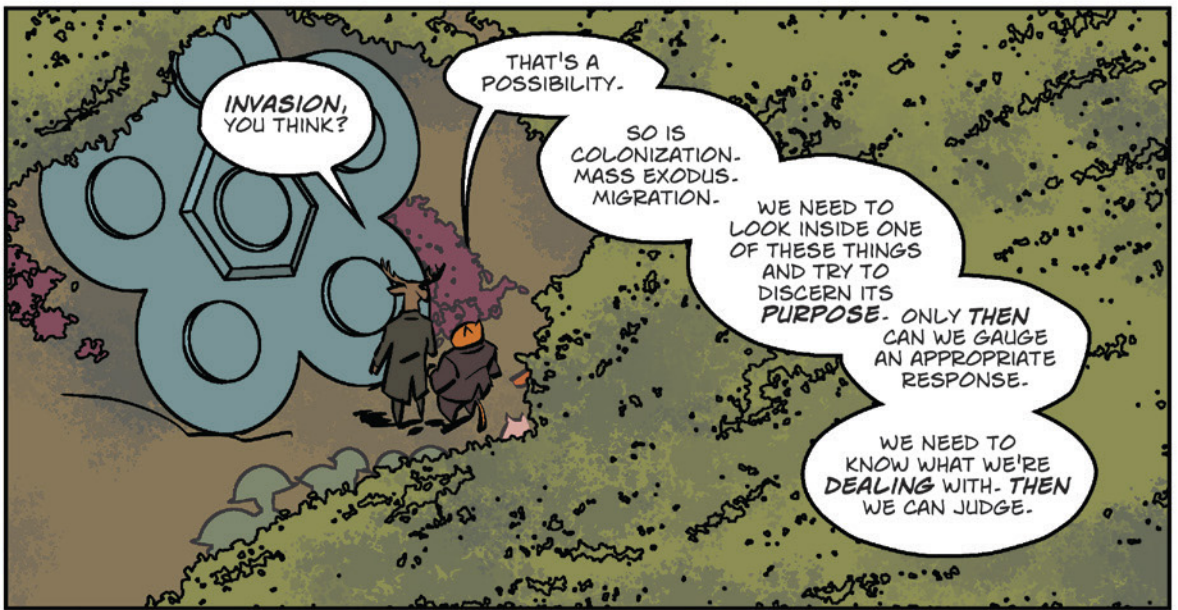
I VERY MUCH DOUBT ANYONE HAS.

SO I DON'T KNOW ON WHAT BASIS WE CAN BE THE JUDGE OF ANYTHING.



ONE SHOOTING STAR MIGHT INDICATE A PROBE OR AN EXPLORATORY SURVEY.

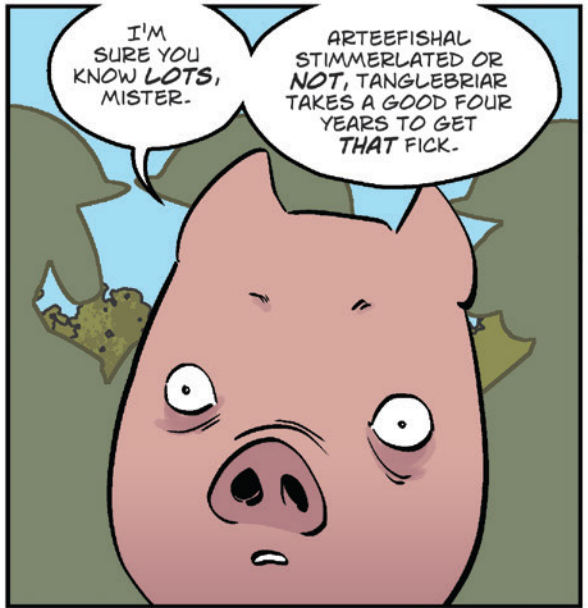
MULTIPLE CRAFTS? THAT SUGGESTS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.





YOUR FRIEND FAWKES SAID HE WAS SURPRISED HOW FAST THE GROUND COVERING HAD GROWN.

I PROPOSED THE VISITORS HAD SOMEHOW ARTIFICIALLY STIMULATED IT, AS CAMOUFLAGE.



I'M SURE YOU KNOW LOTS, MISTER.

ARTEEFISHAL STIMMERLATED OR NOT, TANGLEBRIAR TAKES A GOOD FOUR YEARS TO GET THAT FICK.



ALPHIE'S RIGHT. LAD'S GOT SHARP OL' EYES.

OUR VISITORS HAVE BIN VISITIN' FOR YEARS AND YEARS.



SERGEANT MAJOR COGGLES?

SAH, YES, SAH!



WE'RE OPENING THE HATCH.

