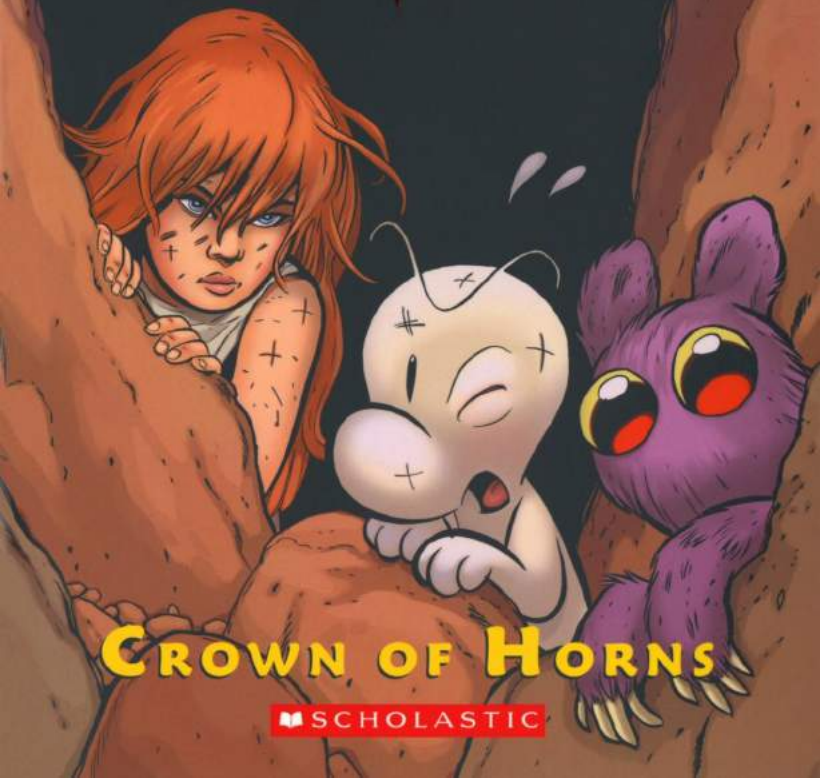


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CROWN OF HORNS

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BONE

CROWN OF HORNS




BY **JEFF SMITH**

WITH COLOR BY **STEVE HAMAKER**



An Imprint of

 **SCHOLASTIC**

New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney Mexico City New Delhi Hong Kong Buenos Aires

This book is for Paul Pope and Terry Moore



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BONE

THORN?

ARE YOU
OKAY?
WAKE UP!

SNICK!

SKITTER!
SKITTER!

SKRIT KRITCH KRITCH



SNICK SKRITCH
SKITTER
SKATTER



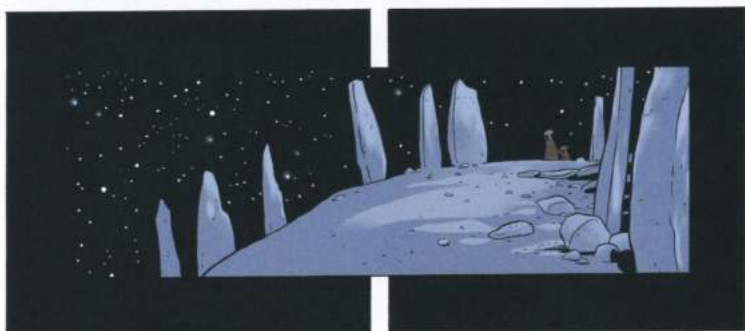




CROWN OF HORNS



THE DUNGEON & THE PARAPET



CROWN OF HORNS



THE DUNGEON & THE PARAPET



CROWN OF HORNS



THE DUNGEON & THE PARAPET



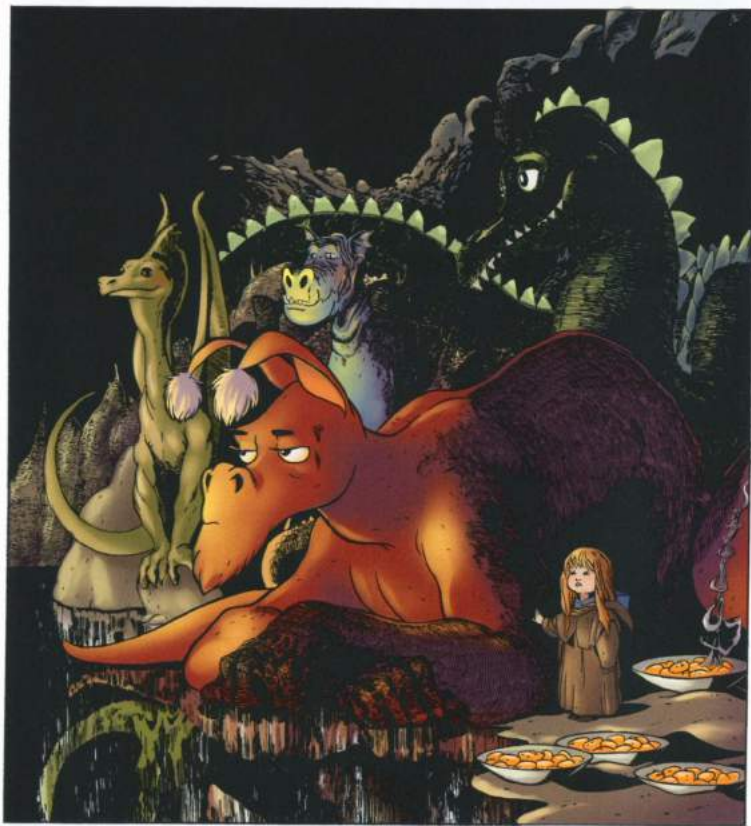
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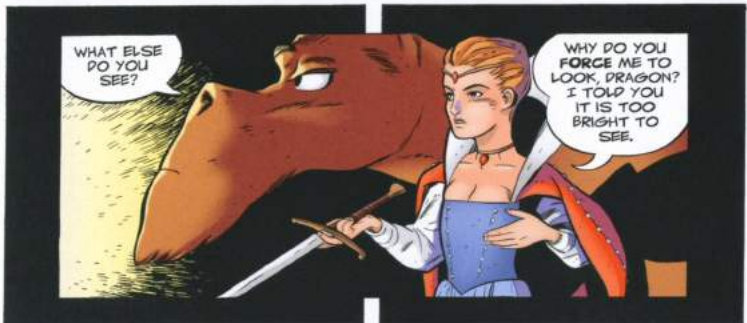


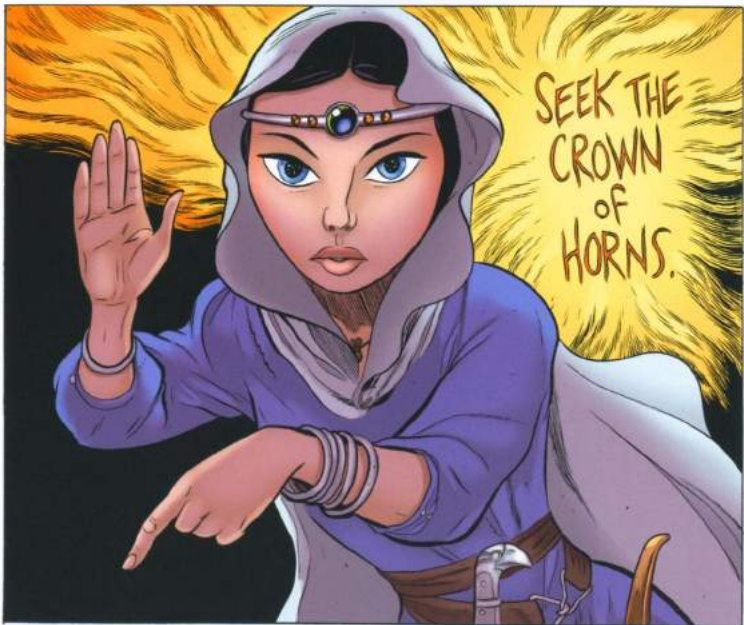
THE DUNGEON & THE PARAPET

WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. YOU MAY CLIMB ON MY BACK.











THORN,
ARE YOU
AWAKE?



WHA -- ?

WHAT
HAPPENED?

TARSIL'S SOLDIERS BEAT
THE TAR OUT OF US AND
LOCKED US IN THE DUNGEON.
YOU MUST'VE BLACKED OUT
OR SOMETHING.



I HAD THE
DREAM AGAIN.

SAME ONE YOU'VE
HAD SINCE YOU
WERE A KID?



YEAH, THE ONE WHERE
MY PARENTS GIVE ME
TO THE DRAGONS.

IT WAS WEIRD ...
FOR THE FIRST TIME
EVER, I SAW MY
MOTHER'S
FACE ...



BUT WHEN THE DRAGONS TOOK ME TO THE UNDERGROUND CHAMBER FULL OF LIGHT, I STILL COULDN'T MAKE OUT WHAT THEY WERE TRYING TO SHOW ME.

WHERE'S GRAN'MA BEN?



SHE WENT TO RESCUE PHONEY BONE AND DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HAPPENED TO US.

OH, I REMEMBER.

WE WERE UP ON THE RAMPARTS LOOKING FOR --



OHMYGOSH

BRIAR AND THE RAT CREATURES! THEY'RE COMING TO ATTACK US!

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE AND HELP GRAN'MA BEN! SHE CAN'T DEFEND THE CITY BY HERSELF --

WELL, IT'S A CINCINCH WE CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT FROM HERE.

HOW IRONIC THAT WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE CITY, AND THE CITY'S OWN SOLDIERS ARE TRYING TO STOP US!



HEY...

WHAT'S WRONG?

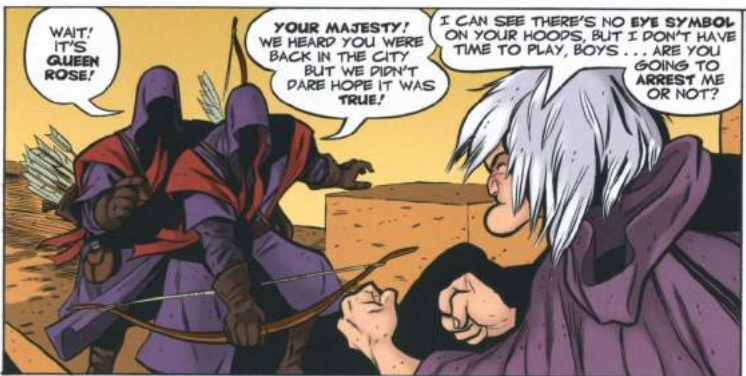


I THINK ONE OF MY TEETH IS --

oh, no...



























WE HEAR YA,
CUZ!

SMILEY?



















AAH!

THORN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

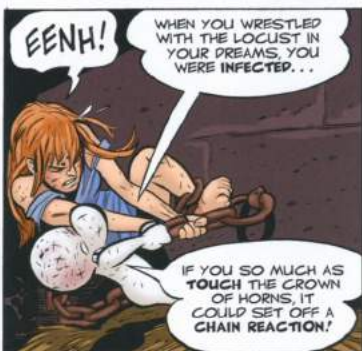
TRYING TO GET OUT.

RRR.



YOU KNOW I'D FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE -- BUT THE CROWN OF HORNS IS OFF-LIMITS!

GRAB THIS CHAIN -- MAYBE WE CAN PULL IT LOOSE.



EENH!

WHEN YOU WRESTLED WITH THE LOCUST IN YOUR DREAMS, YOU WERE INFECTED...

IF YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH THE CROWN OF HORNS, IT COULD SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION!



A CHAIN REACTION THAT WILL KILL EVERYTHING!

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

LET'S TRY AGAIN.



YOU DON'T?

MY MOTHER WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD ME TO FIND IT IF IT WAS GOING TO KILL EVERYTHING.























CROWN OF HORNS





WHEN THE WORLD
WAS NEW,
AND DREAMS HAD
NOT YET
RECEDED FROM THE
WAKING DAY...

... DRAGONS RULED
THE EARTH.



THE FIRST
DRAGON
WAS A QUEEN
NAMED MIM.

MIM WAS
KEEPER
OF ALL
WHO
DREAMED.



SHE NURTURED
THE DREAMING
BY ENCIRCLING
THE WORLD
AND HOLDING
HER TAIL
IN HER
MOUTH ...



AS LONG AS MIM
HELD HER TAIL
IN THIS WAY,
THERE WOULD BE BALANCE
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH,
AND GOOD AND EVIL ...

AND THE
DREAMING
WOULD
FLOURISH.

MIM WATCHED THE DREAMING WITH CARE,
AND ALL CREATURES LIVED TOGETHER IN
PEACE AND HARMONY.



UNTIL ONE DAY, A SPIRIT KNOWN
ONLY AS THE LOCUST
BECAME UNHAPPY.



THE LOCUST WAS A NIGHTMARE
CREATURE WITHOUT SHAPE OR FORM
WHO COULD EXIST ONLY
IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.

TO MOVE ON THE FACE
OF THIS WORLD,
HE MUST TAKE
POSSESSION OF
A MORTAL
BEING'S
FLESH.



HE CHOSE THE MOST
POWERFUL MORTAL OF
ALL -- MIM, QUEEN
OF THE DRAGONS.

THE LOCUST ENTERED
HER MIND AND THE QUEEN
WENT MAD.

BALANCE
WAS LOST, AND
THE WORLD
GREW
DARK.



THE DREAM BECAME
A NIGHTMARE.

TO SAVE THE WORLD, THE OTHER DRAGONS WERE FORCED TO MOVE AGAINST HER.



A TERRIBLE BATTLE ENSUED.



AS THE DRAGONS FOUGHT, THEY CRASHED BACK AND FORTH PUSHING UP ROCKS AND MOUNTAINS.



ON AND ON THEY STRUGGLED, WITH MANY VALIANT DRAGONS LOSING THEIR LIVES ...



UNTIL AT LAST THE DRAGONS DESPAIRED OF SAVING THEIR QUEEN, AND WERE FORCED TO TAKE DESPERATE MEASURES.





THEY KNEW IT
WOULD BE THE END
OF THEIR
BELOVED MIM ...



... BUT FOR
THE GOOD
OF THE WORLD,
AND TO
DESTROY THE
TRUE
ENEMY ...

...THEY TURNED THEIR QUEEN INTO STONE --



-- TRAPPING THE LOCUST INSIDE HER UNTIL THE
END OF TIMES.



LATER, THE LAND COOLED,
AND THE VALLEY WAS BORN.



NEVER AGAIN WOULD THE BALANCE BE PERFECT,
FOR THE LOCUST LIES HIDDEN BELOW THE SURFACE ...

... WAITING FOR
THE
END OF TIMES.



WHERE TH' HECK ARE WE GOING, SMILEY? WE'RE SITTING PUCKS UP HERE!

DON'T WORRY, PHONEY! THE RAT CREATURES RAN AWAY WHEN THE GHOST CIRCLES APPEARED.

DID THEY RUN FAR?! ARROWS GO A LONG WAY, YOU KNOW.

I GUESS THAT'S WHAT GRAN'MA BEN WANTS TO CHECK OUT...







EVEN AROUND
THE CLIFFS?

YES,
AND THEY
ARE VERY
CLOSE...

OHMYGOSH, WE'RE TRAPPED!
CAN THE GHOST CIRCLES
HURT US?

THE GHOST CIRCLES
CAN COME NO NEARER
FOR THE MOMENT.



THERE IS TOO MUCH LIFE
IN THIS CITY. PRINCESS BRIAR
DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH
TO SNUFF IT OUT. . .

FOR THAT, SHE
WILL NEED HER MASTER,
THE LOCUST.



BRIAR MUST BE USING THE CIRCLES
TO KEEP US FROM ESCAPING --
THE ONLY OPENINGS ARE DIRECTLY
IN FRONT OF US.



WHERE?

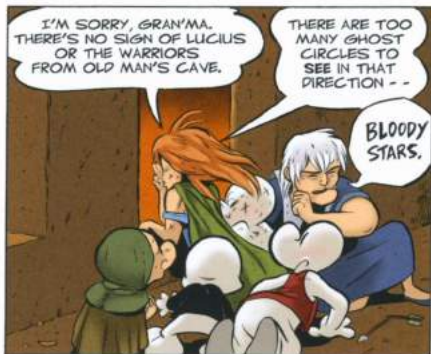
THERE ARE FOUR GAPS.
ONE FOR EACH ARMY. . .



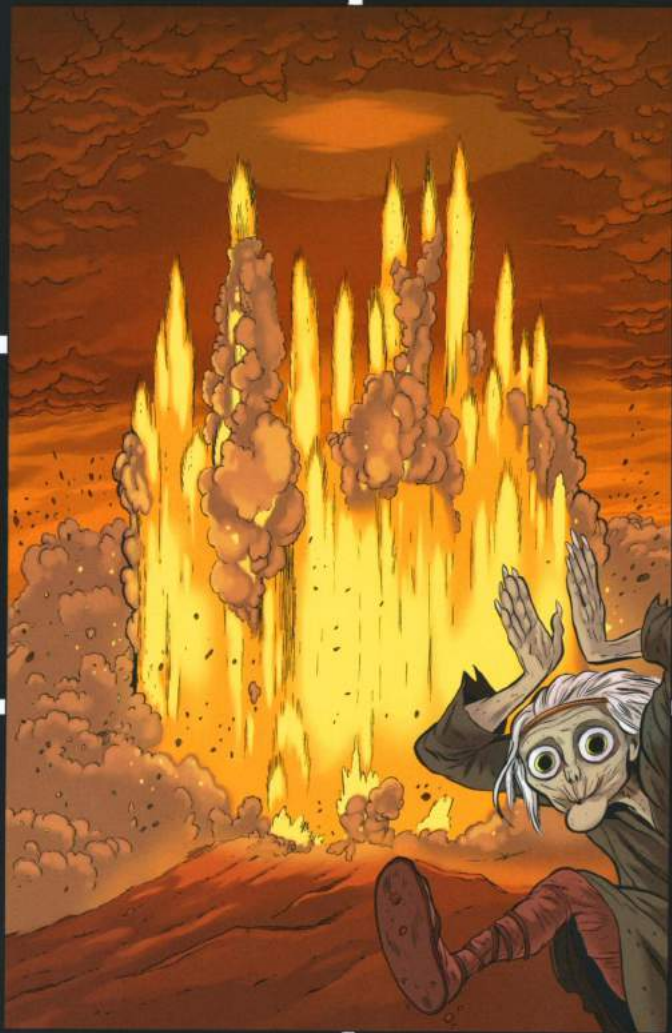
THE FIRST IS IN THE WEST,
UNDER SINNER'S ROCK. THE OTHER THREE
ARE SPACED OUT ACROSS THE PLAIN
TO THE EASTERN MOUNTAINS.

CROWN OF HORNS



















THORN, BABY, LOOK AT ME --
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, GRAN'MA. I'M FINE! THE LOCUST HAS FOUND A NEW HOST, BUT IT ISN'T ME.

WAIT--!



I THOUGHT THE WHOLE DEAL WAS HE NEEDED YOU TO BE HIS HOST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE VENI-YAN-CARI.

HE FOUND A VENI-YAN-CARI FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN ME. MERMIE WAS RIGHT...



THE GHOST CIRCLES HAVE TIPPED THE BALANCE OF THE DREAMING ENOUGH FOR THE LOCUST TO FREE HIMSELF -- AND HIS ORIGINAL HOST.

HIS ORIGINAL HOST?



MAY WE BE EQUAL TO THE BURDEN.

BUT THE ORIGINAL HOST WAS MIM ... THE QUEEN WHO TURNED TO STONE.

THE EARTHQUAKE WE FELT WAS THE CRUST OF THE EARTH BREAKING OPEN -- SPEWING GAS, DIRT, AND LOCUSTS. I SAW IT IN A VISION.



RIGHT NOW THERE IS A SWARM OF LOCUSTS AS WIDE AS THE VALLEY HEADED THIS WAY, AND INSIDE IT...

... IS A GIANT DRAGON.

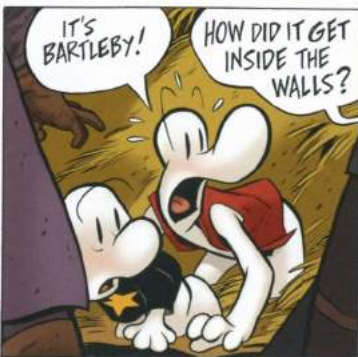
















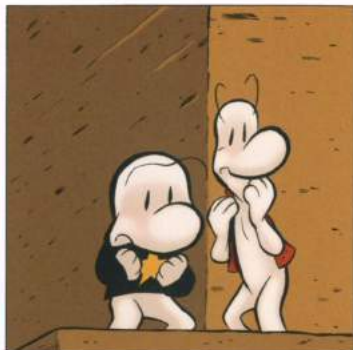


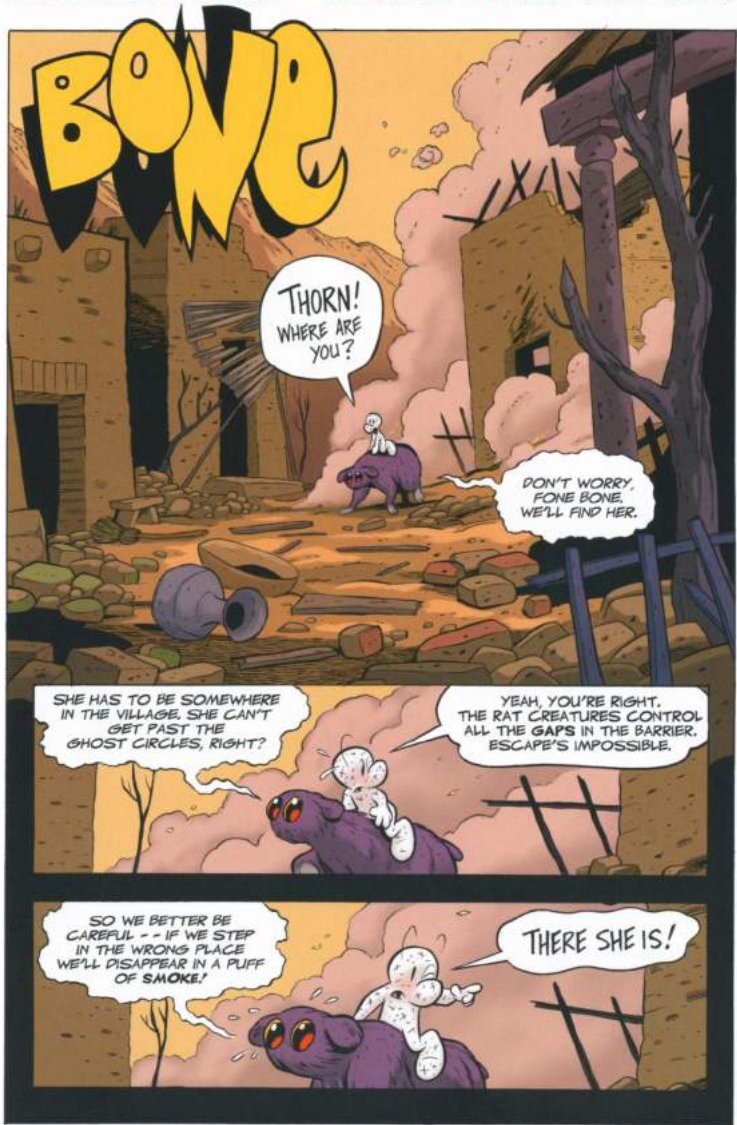














ESCAPE FROM THE CITY





YOU CAN DO IT, THORN --

GET ON YOUR FEET.



THAT'S IT ---
NOW WALK.



JUST TO THE OTHER SIDE ...

UH, OH. MY HEAD'S GETTING DIZZY.

YOU DO NOT HAVE FAR TO GO.



WHO SAID THAT?

MY NAME WAS TEAR RAHJAN, A FARMER'S DAUGHTER ...



MY FAMILY AND I WERE REFUGEES TRAPPED INSIDE THE VILLAGE WHEN THE GHOST CIRCLES APPEARED ...

TEAR RAHJAN --



I AM TRYING TO REACH
TANEN GARD AND FIND
THE CROWN OF HORNS.

ONCE I TOUCH THAT
SACRED OBJECT,
THE GHOST CIRCLES WILL
BE UNDONE --
FREEDING YOU AND HEALING
OUR LAND.



IS THIS
TRUE?

YOU CAN BRING
US BACK TO
LIFE?



IF I CAN,
I WILL,
BUT I MUST
GET THROUGH
THE VILLAGE
FIRST --



WHAT'S
THAT?

SSZZKRAK!



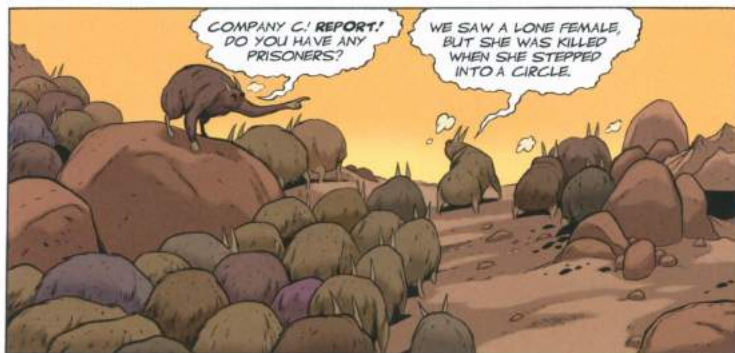
IT IS THE LOCUST!
HE KNOWS YOU
ARE HERE!

HELP
US.

PAIR.

YOU MUST
FLEE!













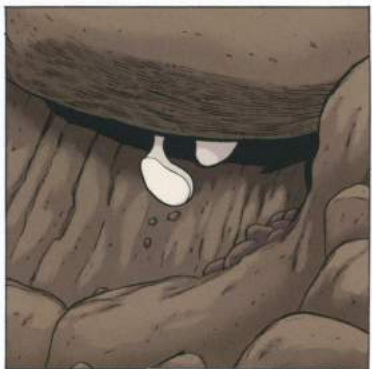
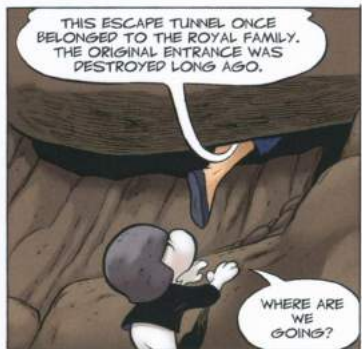




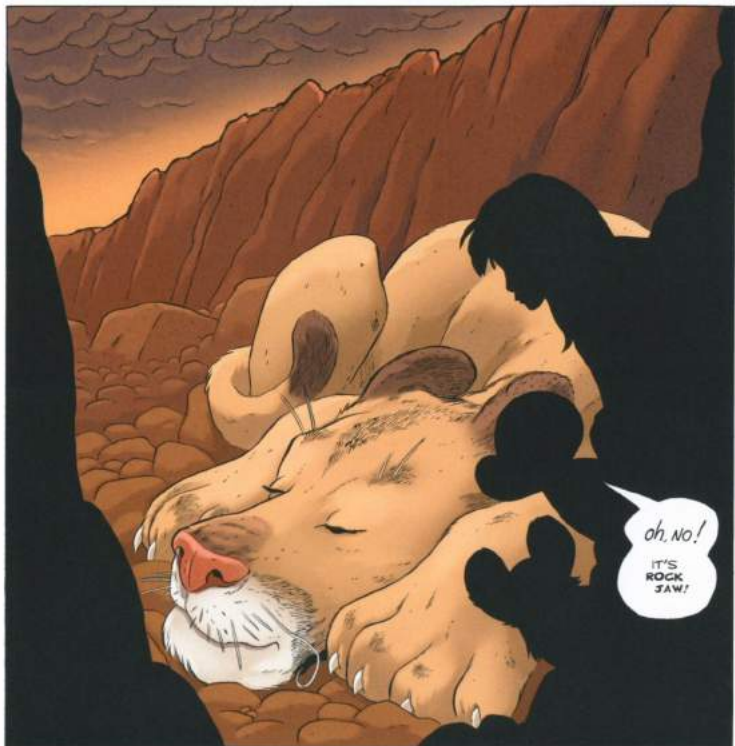


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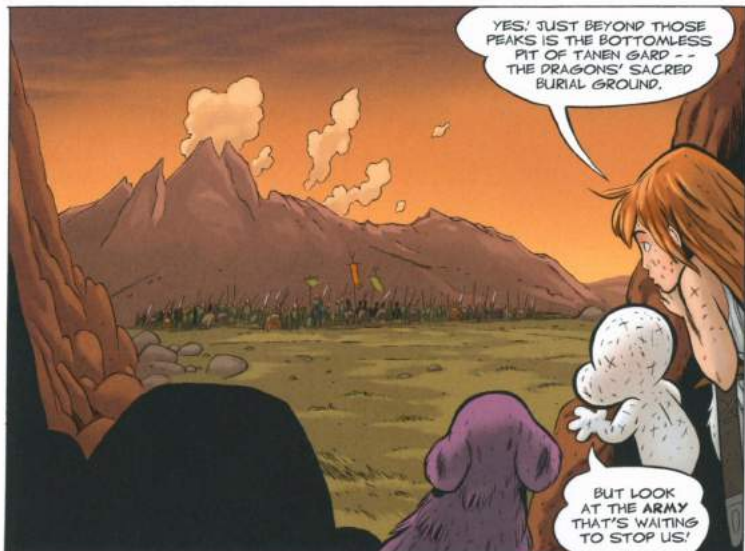


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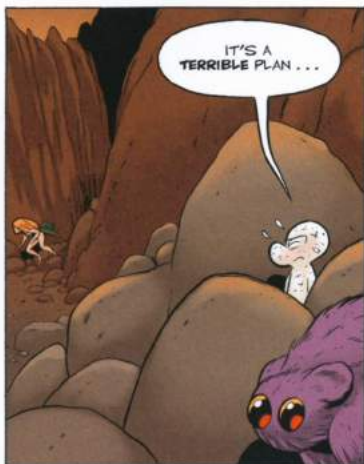
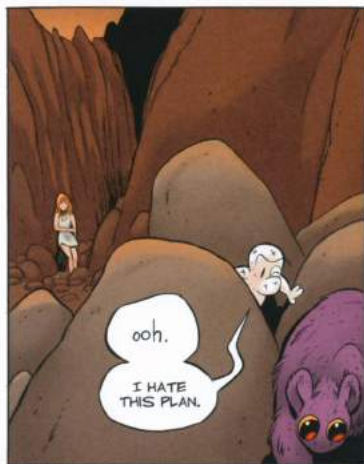


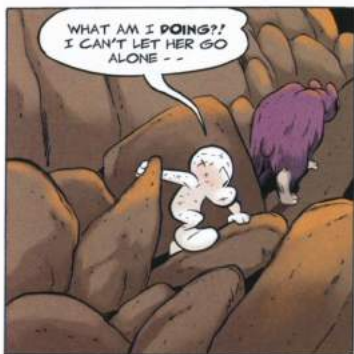






ESCAPE FROM THE CITY









ESCAPE FROM THE CITY





ESCAPE FROM THE CITY













CHAMBER OF HORNS





CHAMBER OF HORNS





SINCE WE CAN'T STOP THAT STORM CLOUD OF LOCUSTS, OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO SLIP BEHIND ENEMY LINES AND ATTACK MY SISTER BRIAR FROM THE REAR...

SHE'S THE ONE CONTROLLING ALL OF THIS.



YEAH, BUT WHY RISK OUR LIVES? FONE BONE AND THORN ARE LOOKING FOR THE CROWN OF HORNS... ALL THEY GOTTA DO IS TOUGH IT AND THE EVIL LOCUST-THINGIE PIES...

... OR GETS SUCKED INTO ITS OWN DIMENSION OR WHATEVER.



YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME, PHONEY? YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE CROWN OF HORNS IS -- OR WHERE IT IS, BUT ON A HUNCH, YOU SENT THORN SEARCHING FOR IT IN THE DRAGONS' BURIAL GROUNDS!



IT WAS AN EDUCATED GUESS BASED ON SOUND PRINCIPLES OF WEALTH AND POWER--

NO ONE HAS EVER PENETRATED THE SULFUR PITS OF TANEN GARD AND LIVED -- THE DRAGONS KILL ALL TRESPASSERS.



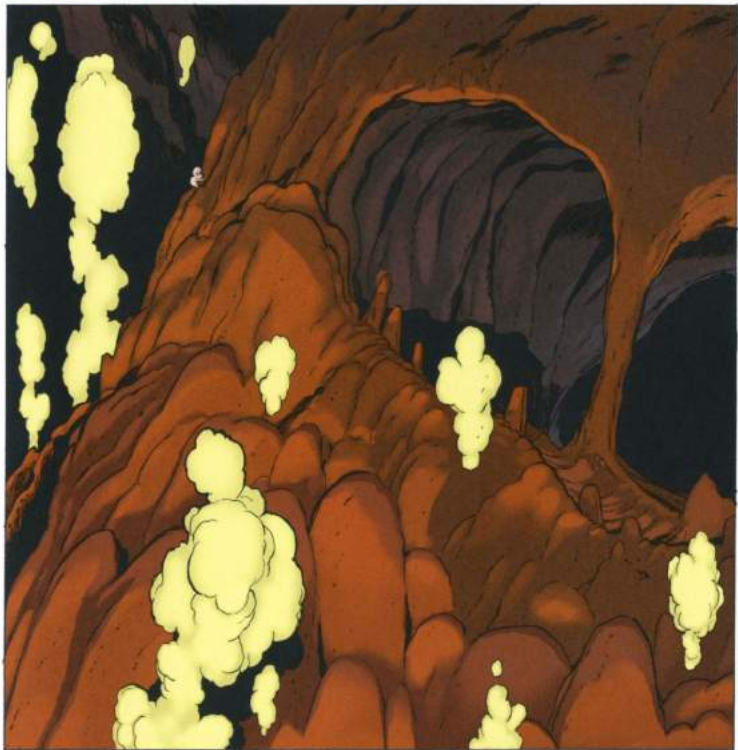
YOU'VE SENT MY GRANDDAUGHTER AND YOUR COUSIN TO THEIR POOM.



THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME STOP MY SISTER, IF IT KILLS YOU DOING IT.

GULP.

CHAMBER OF HORNS

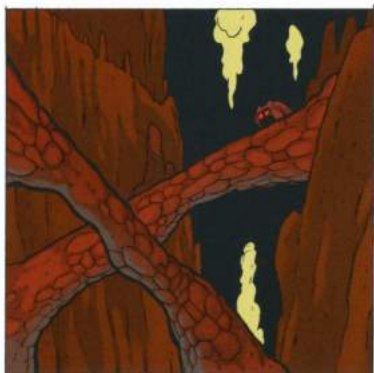












CHAMBER OF HORNS



CROWN OF HORNS







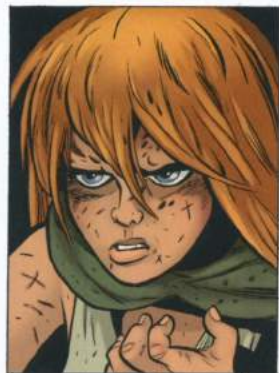












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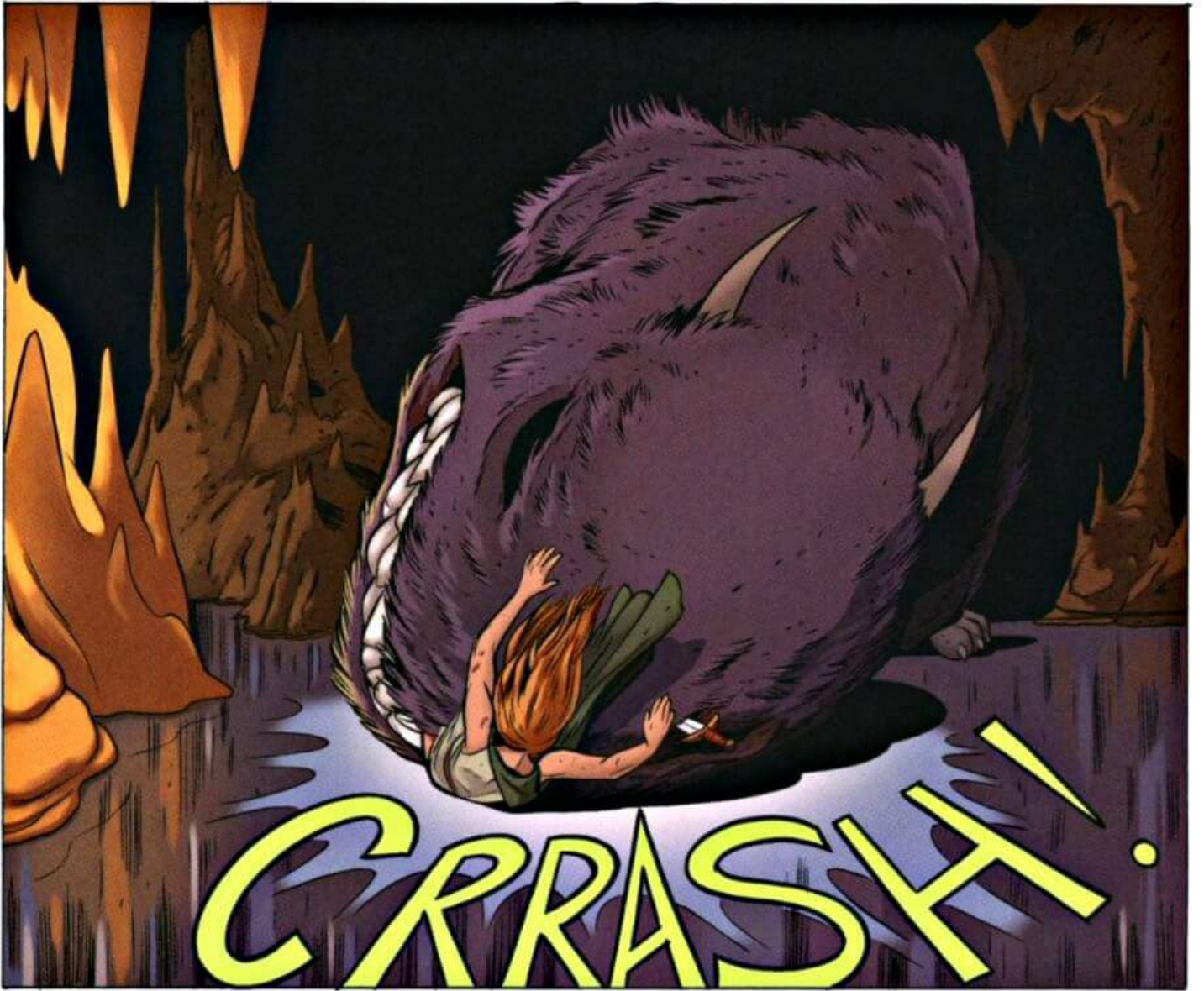
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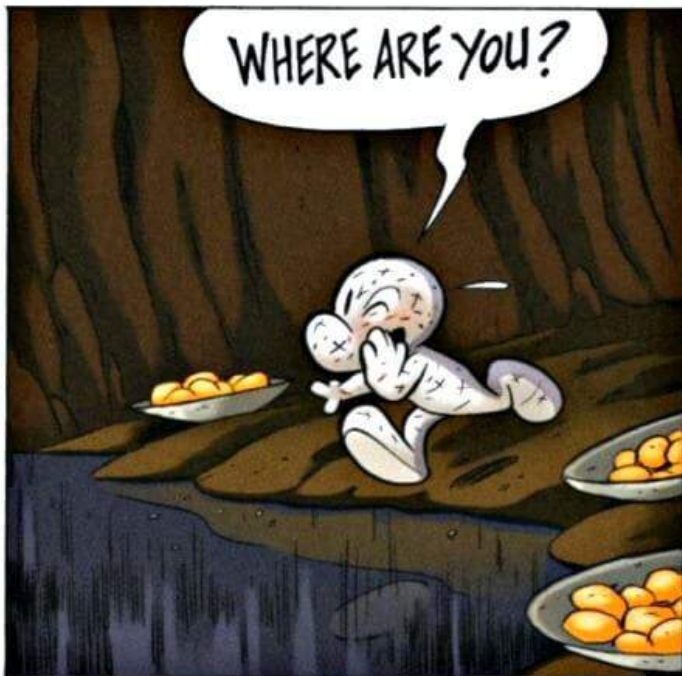


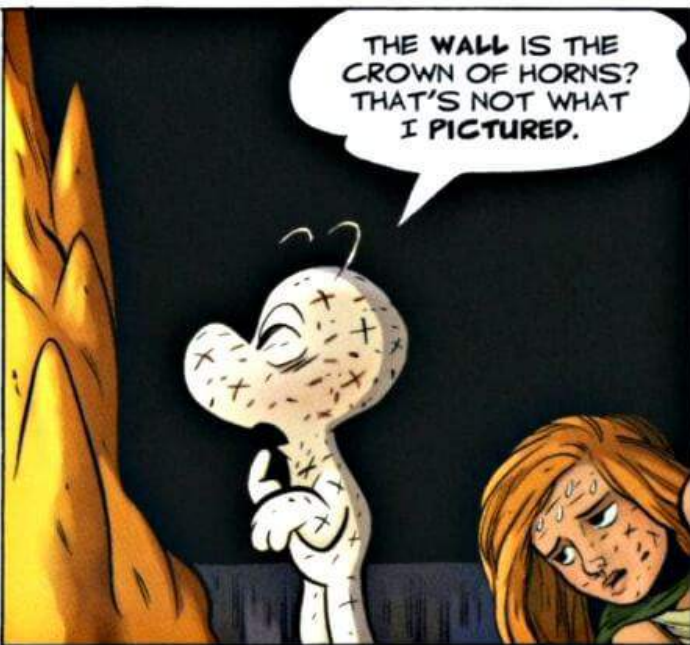


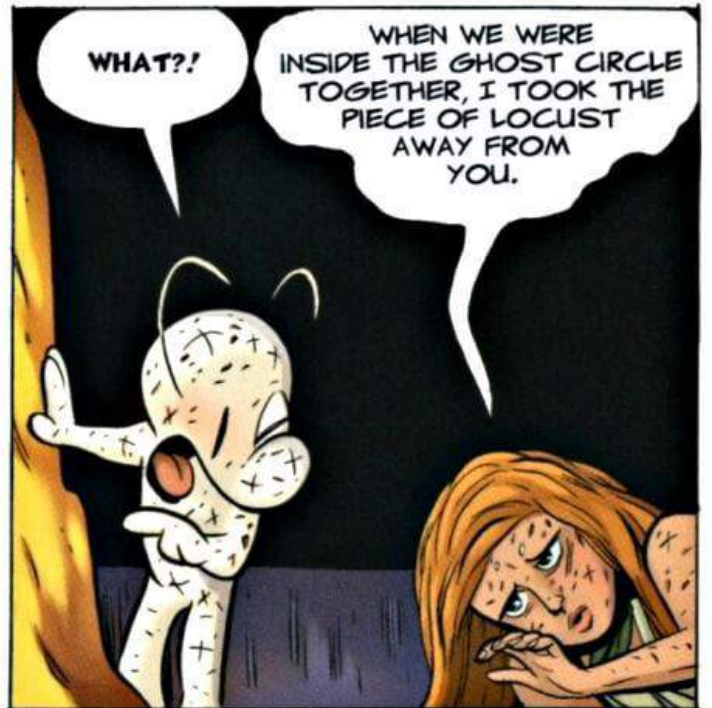
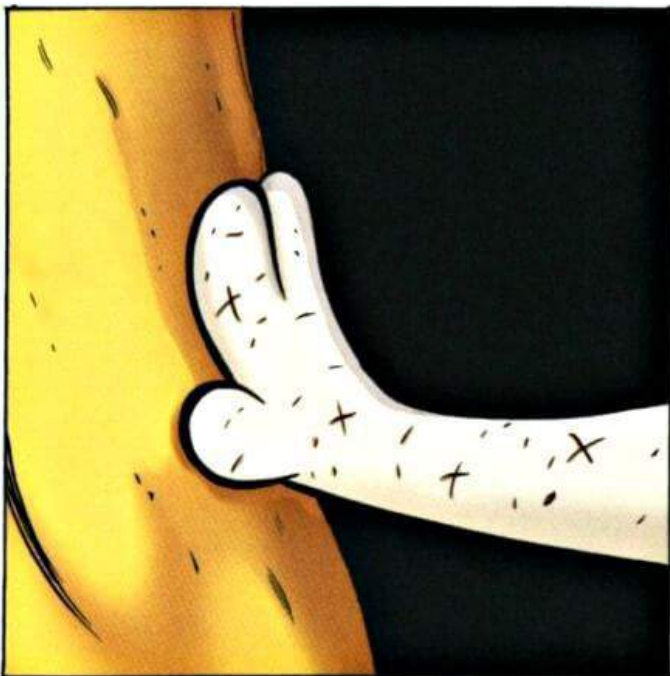










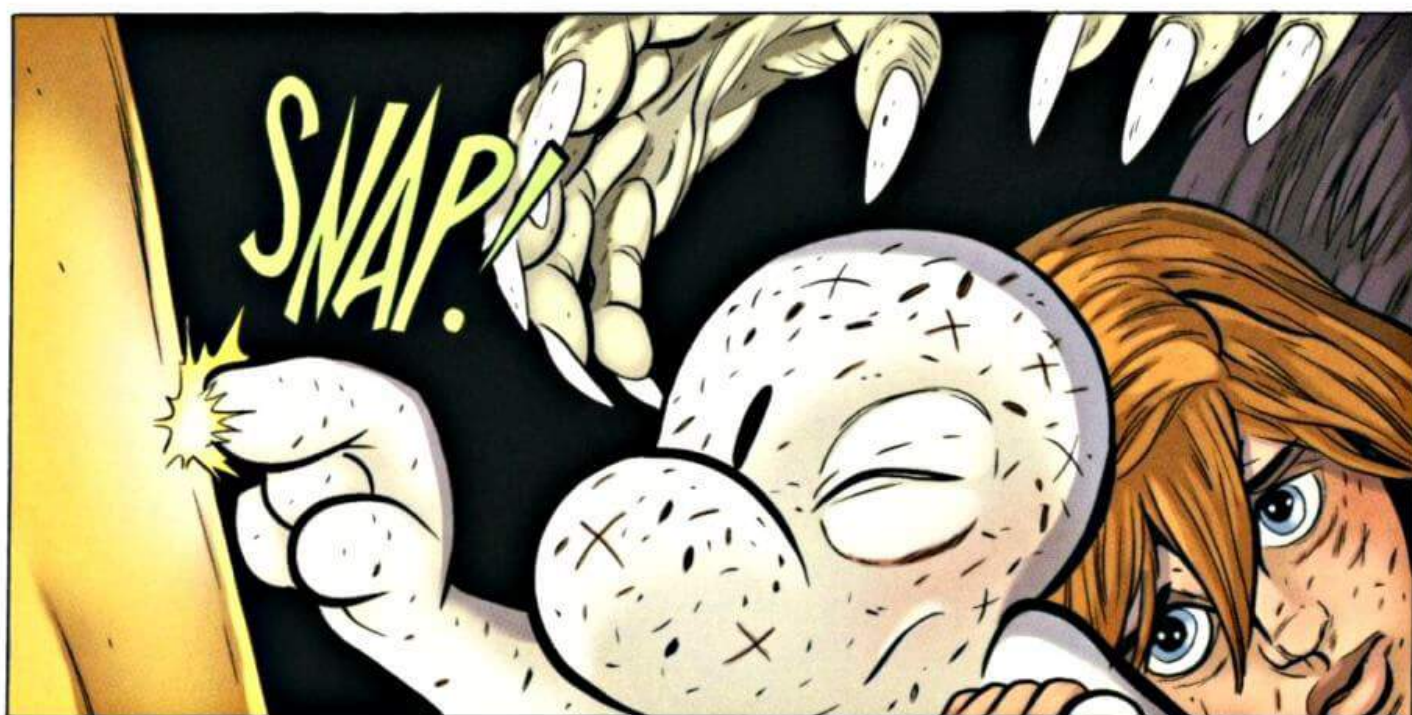
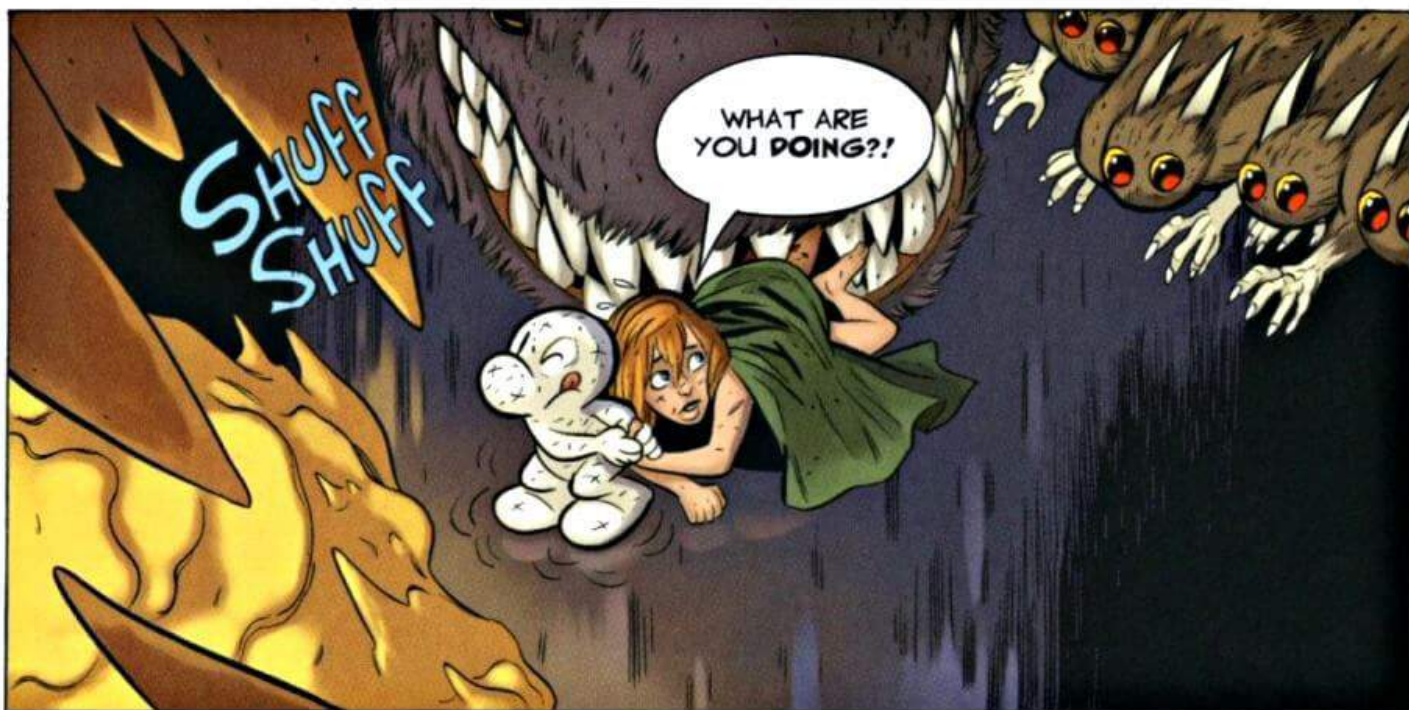




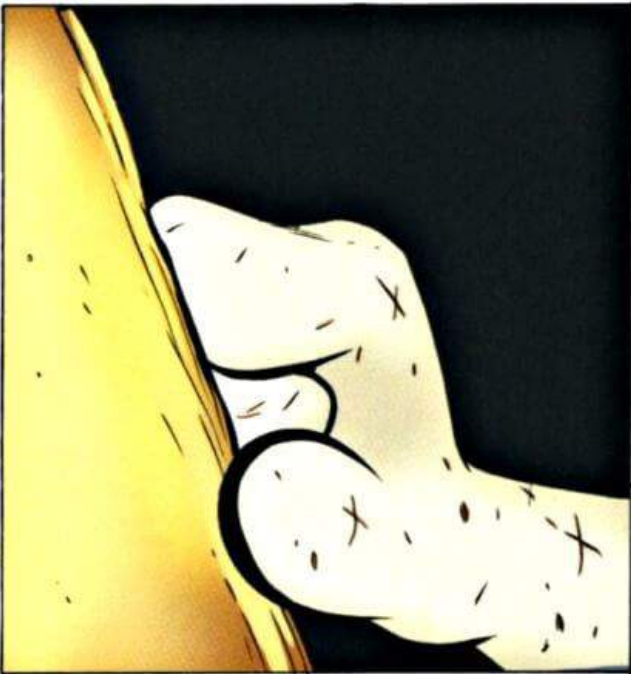


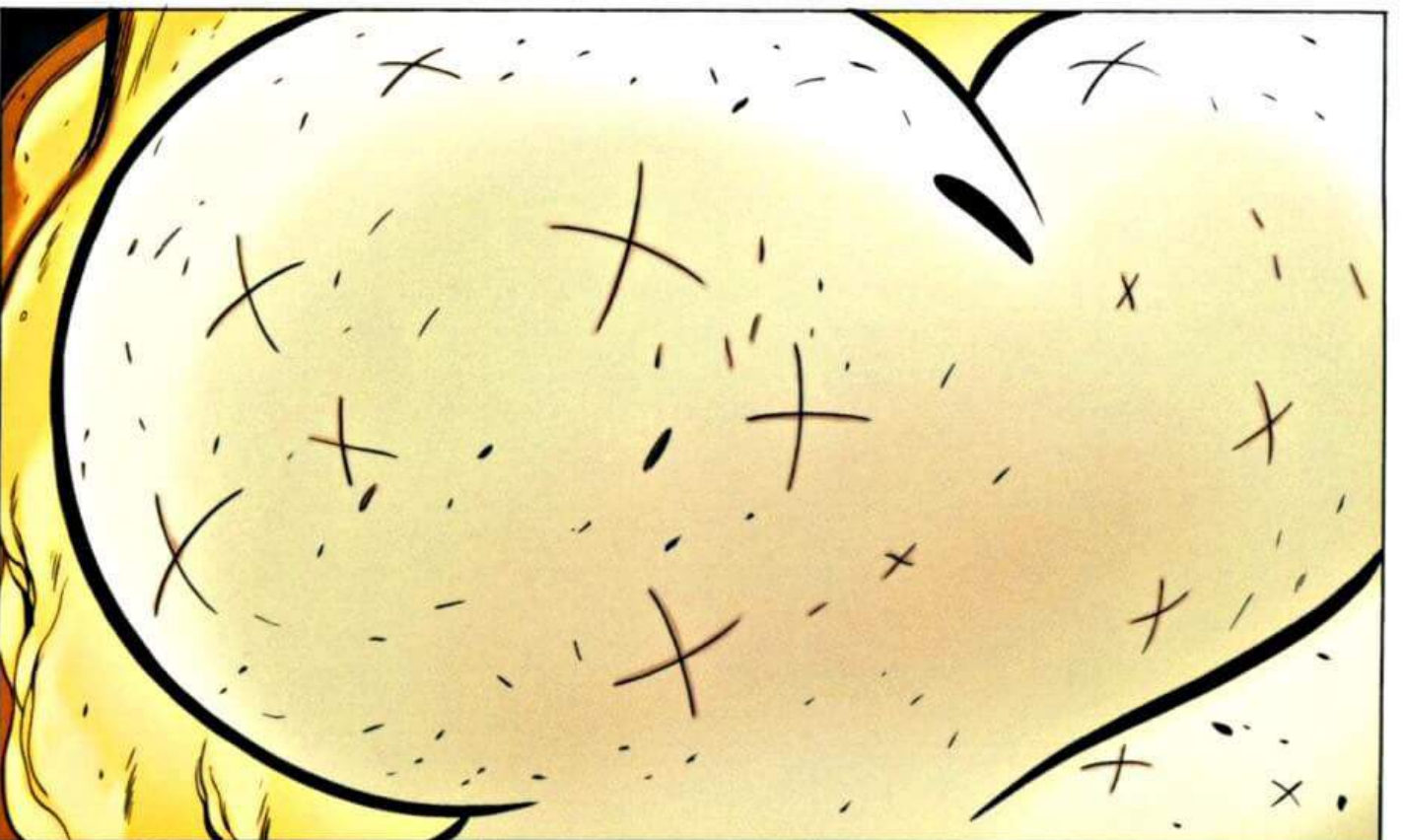
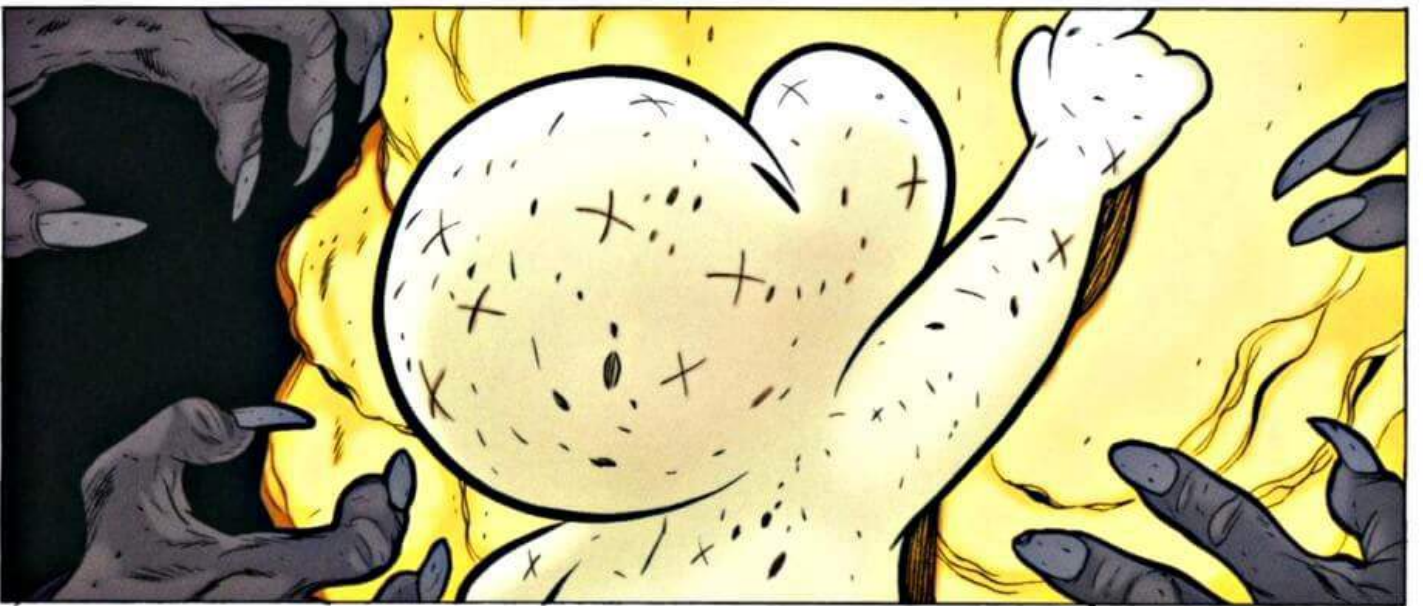


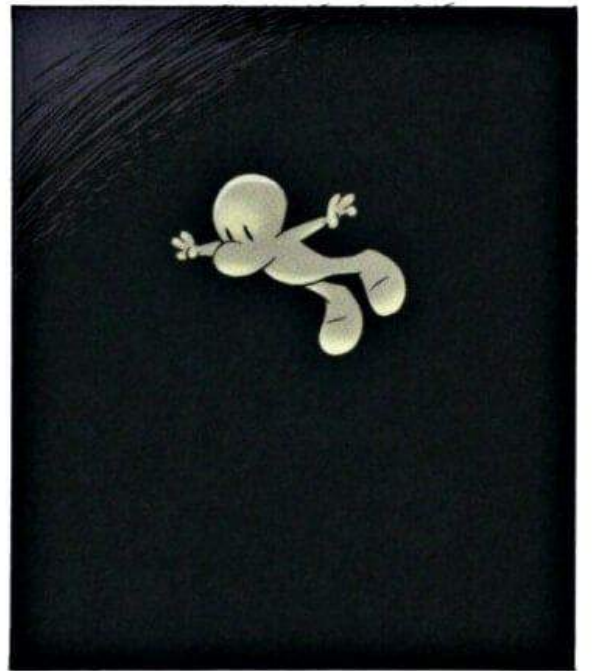
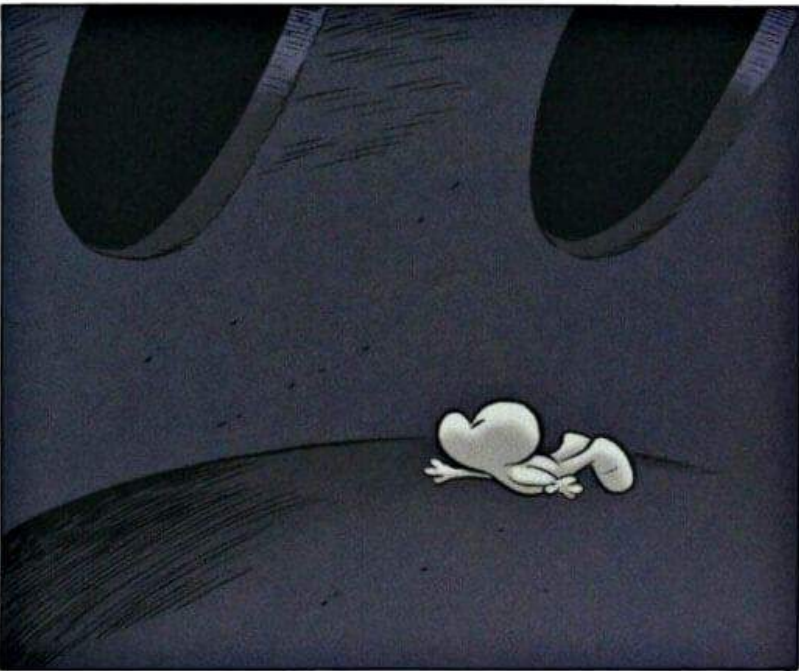
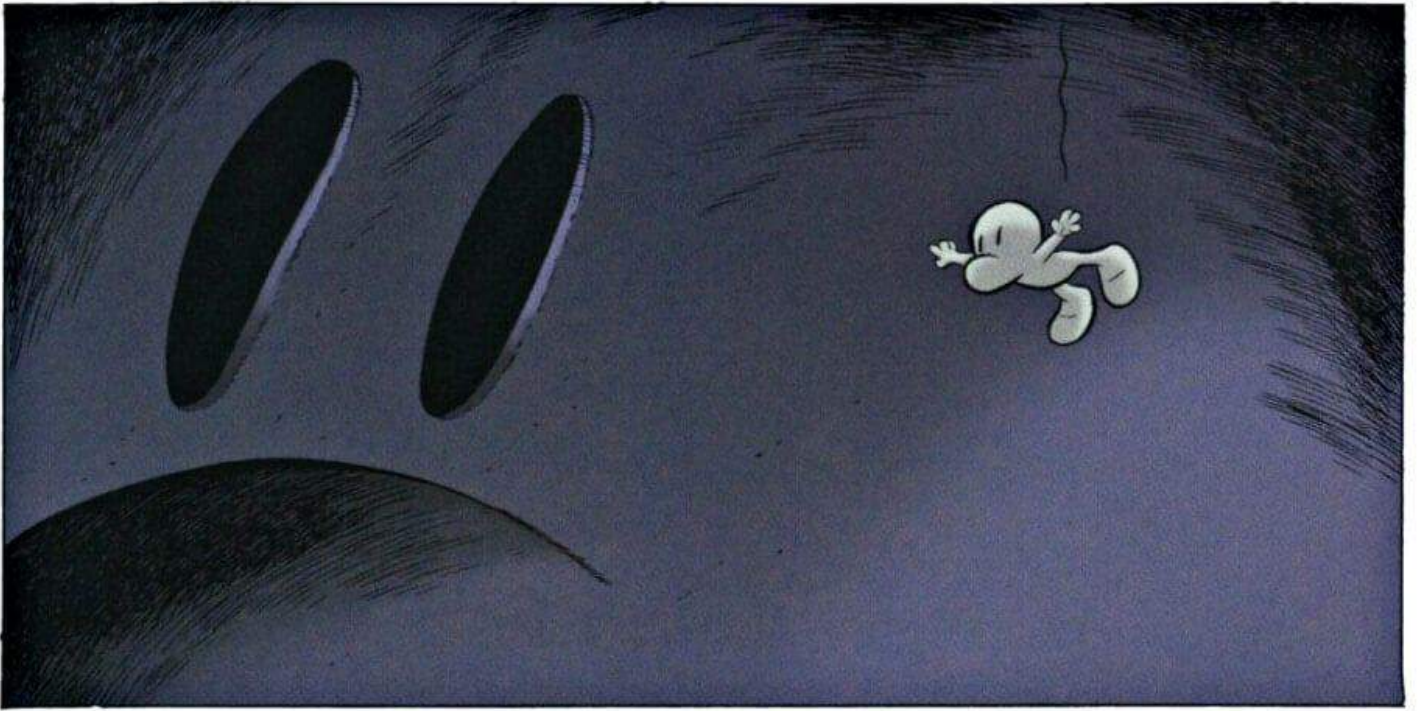


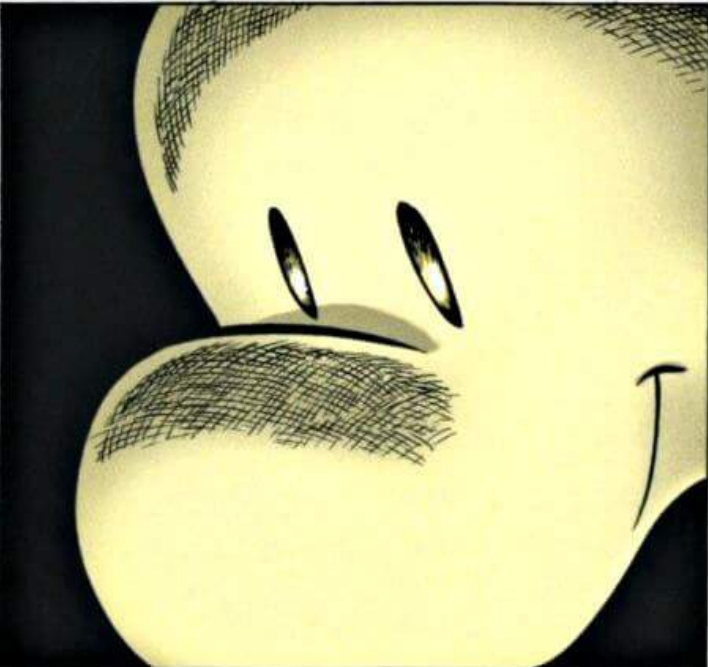
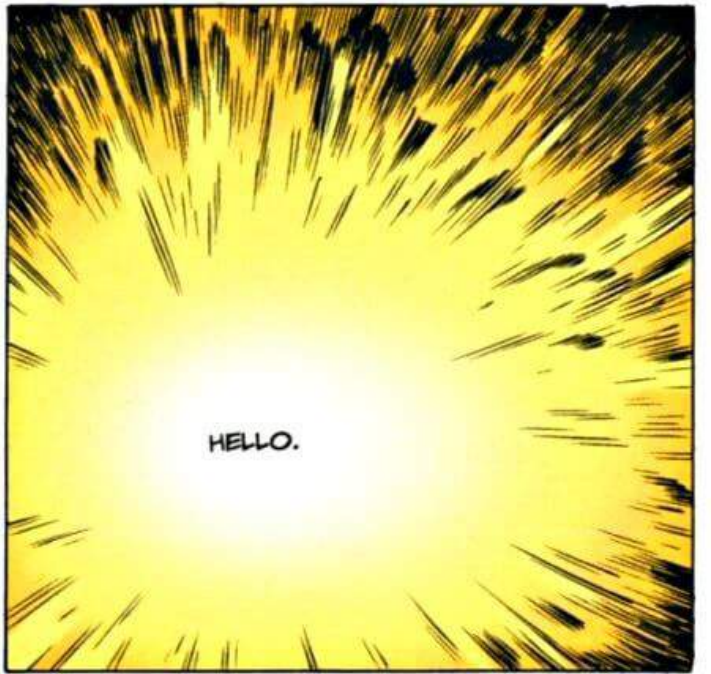
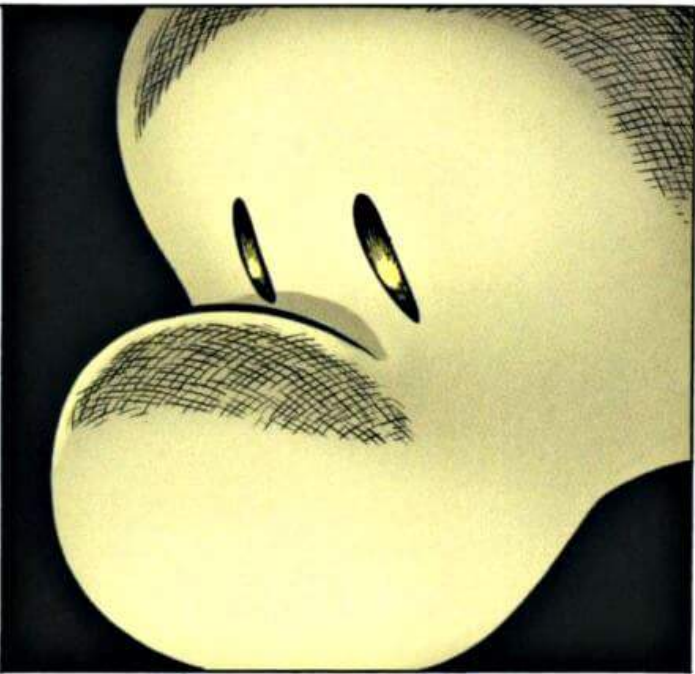
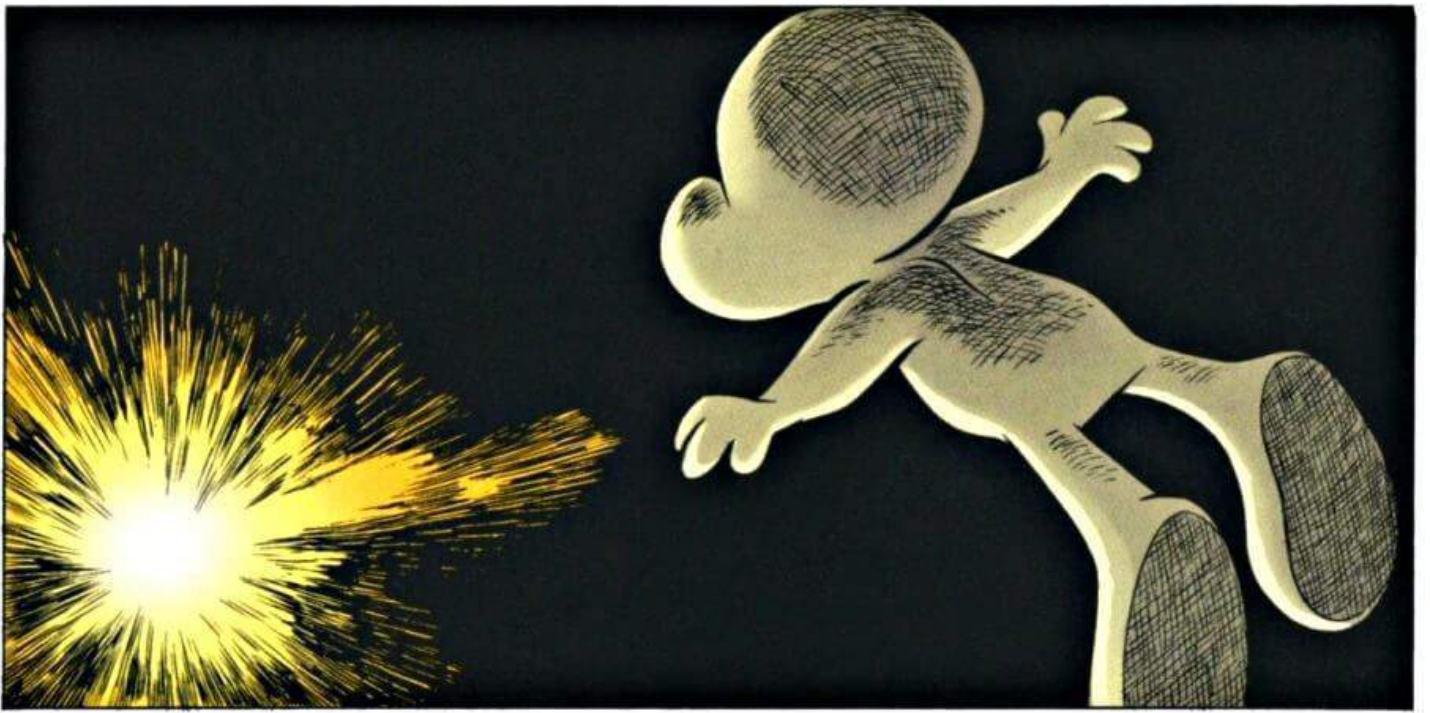


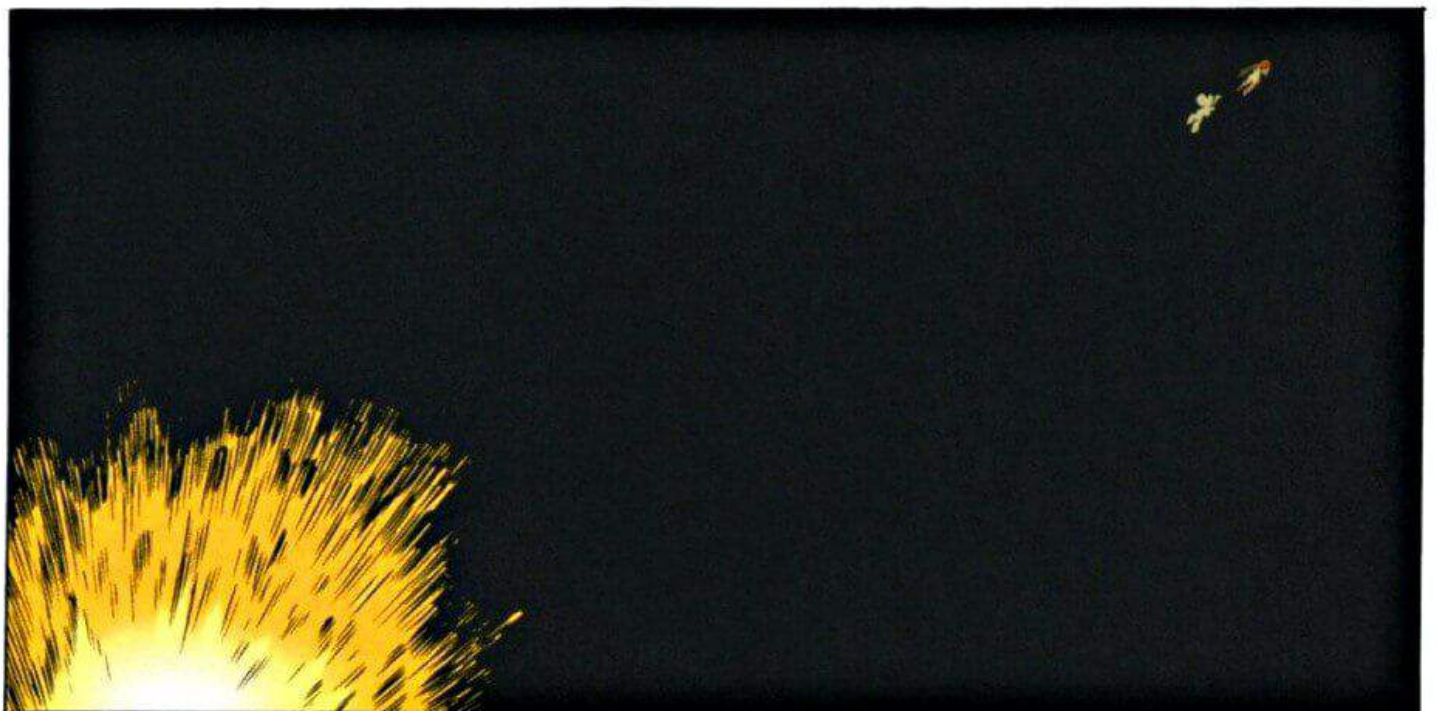
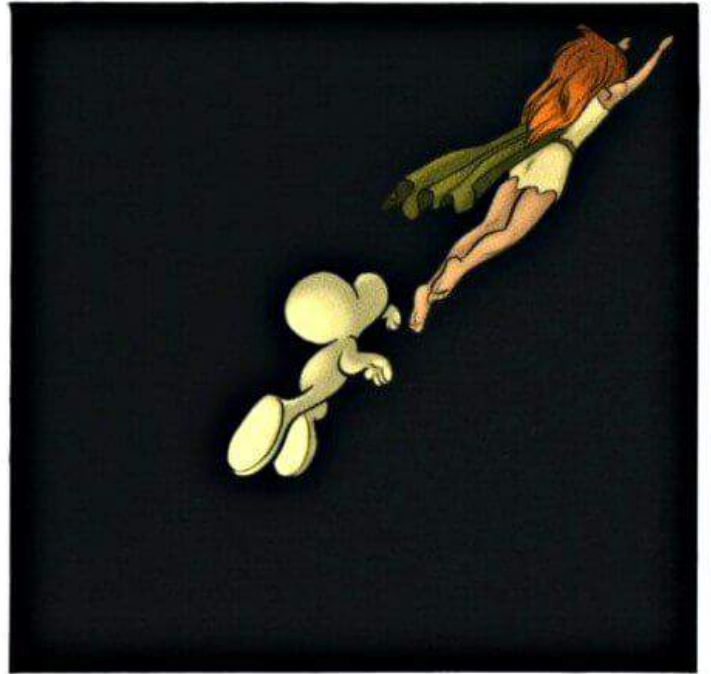
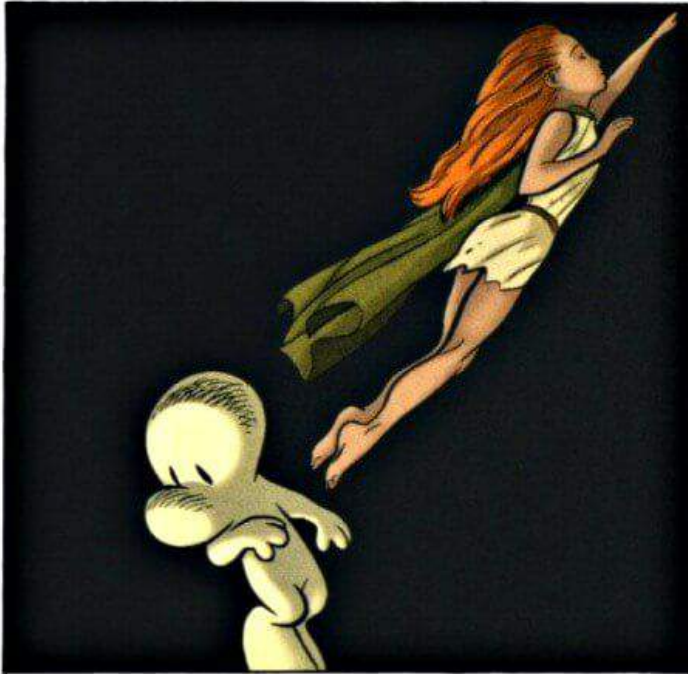


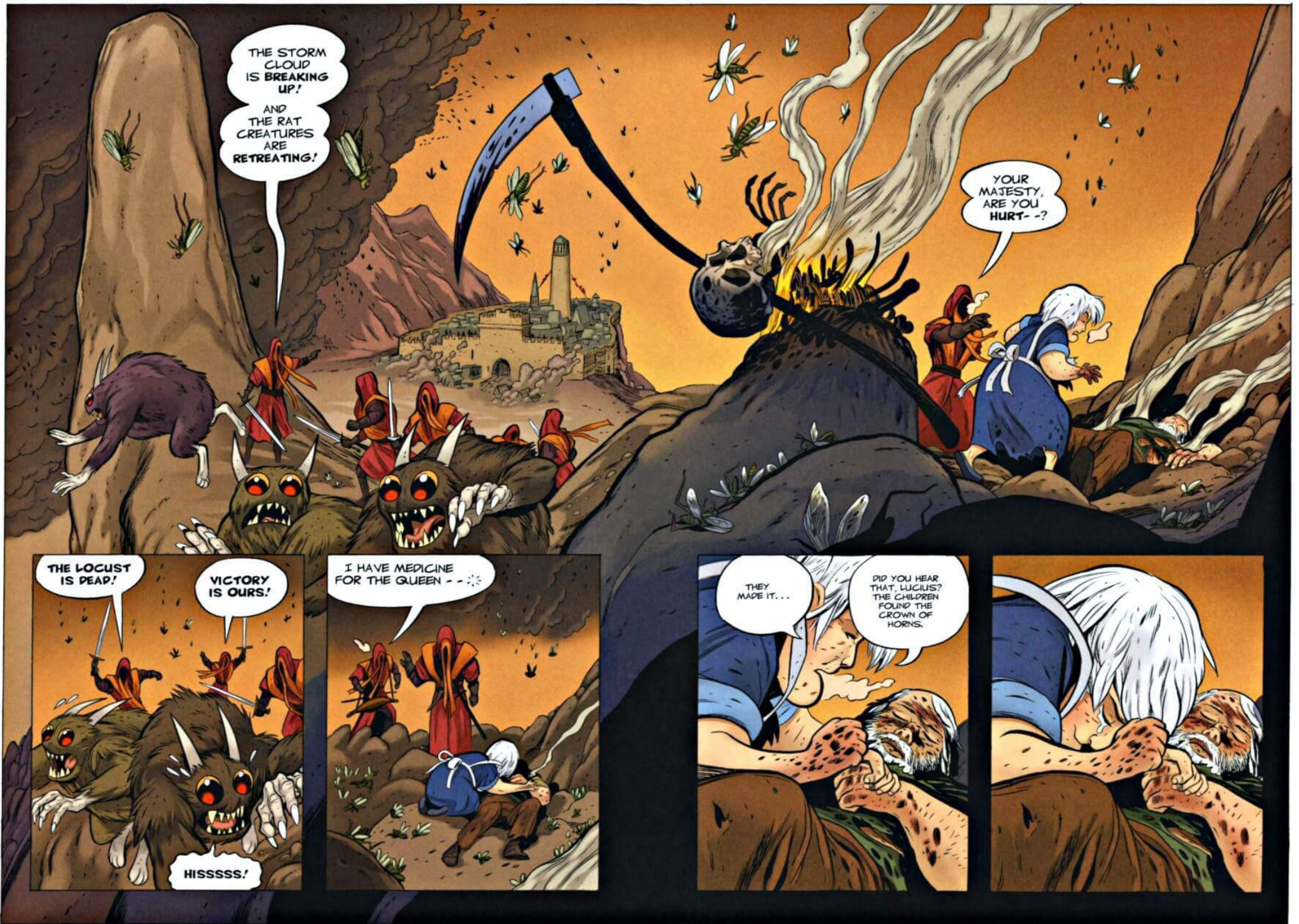












THE STORM
CLOUD
IS BREAKING
UP!
AND
THE RAT
CREATURES
ARE
RETREATING!

YOUR
MAJESTY,
ARE YOU
HURT--?

THE LOCUST
IS DEAD!

VICTORY
IS OURS!

I HAVE MEDICINE
FOR THE QUEEN -- ✨

THEY
MADE IT...

DID YOU HEAR
THAT, LUCIUS?
THE CHILDREN
FOUND THE
CROWN OF
HORNS.

HISSESS!



FONE BONE--

WAKE UP!
WE HAVE TO
GO!

WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE ARE THE
RAT CREATURES? *



HOLY SMOKES!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT FEELS LIKE AN
EARTHQUAKE --

IT'S THE DRAGONS!
THEY'RE COMING FROM
ALL DIRECTIONS!
THAT'S WHY THE
RAT CREATURES LEFT!



COMING
HERE?!
WHY?

WE WOKE
THEM UP
AND THEY'RE
ANGRY.



HOW MANY DRAGONS
DID WE WAKE UP?

ALL OF
THEM.



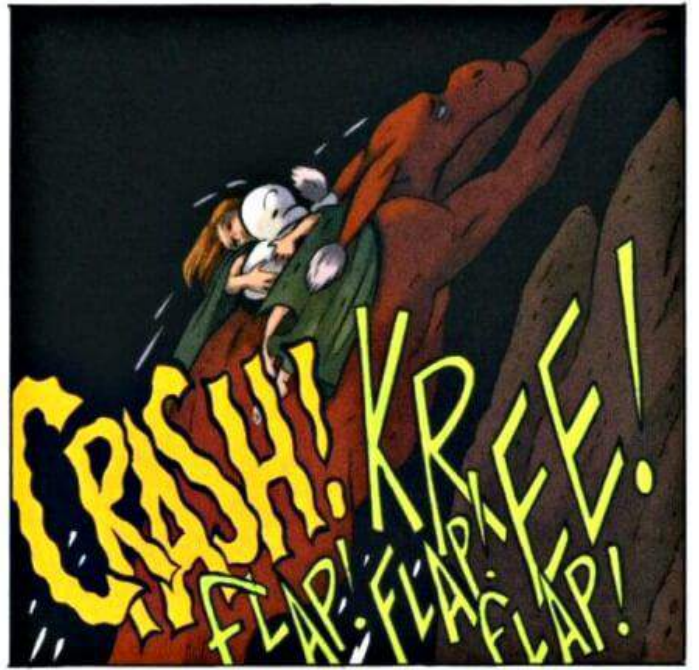
ALL OF THEM... OH, BOY.

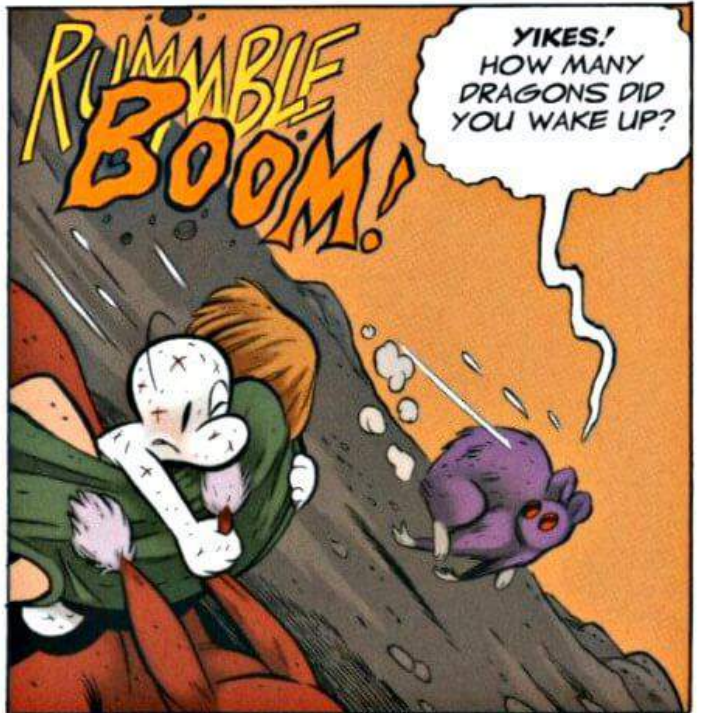
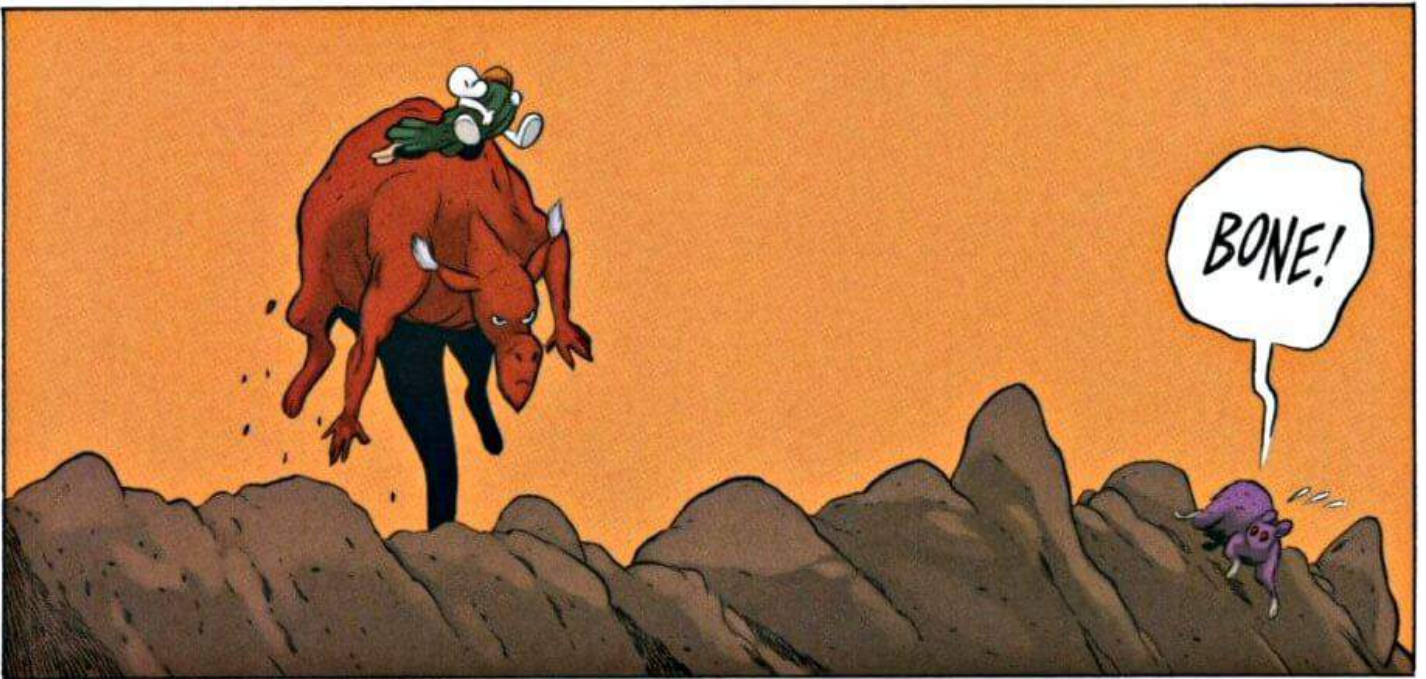
HURRY, FONE BONE.
I'M STARTING TO
GET SCARED.

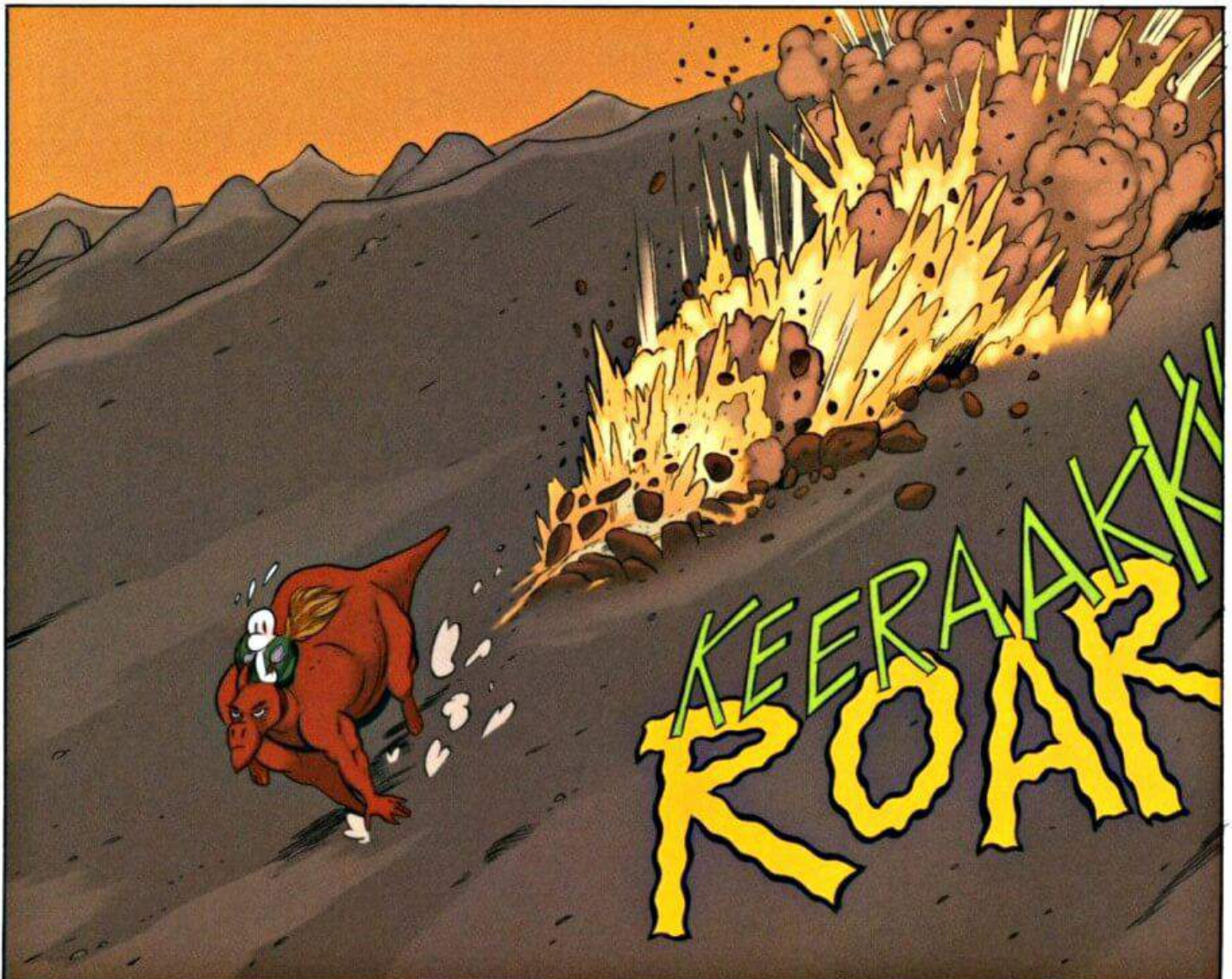
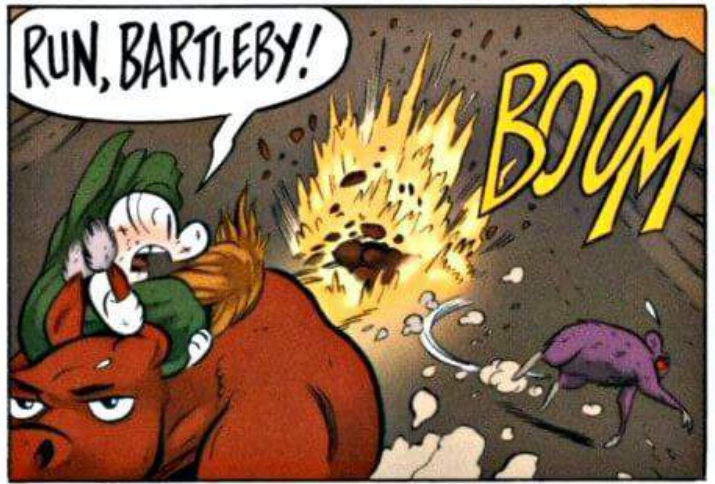










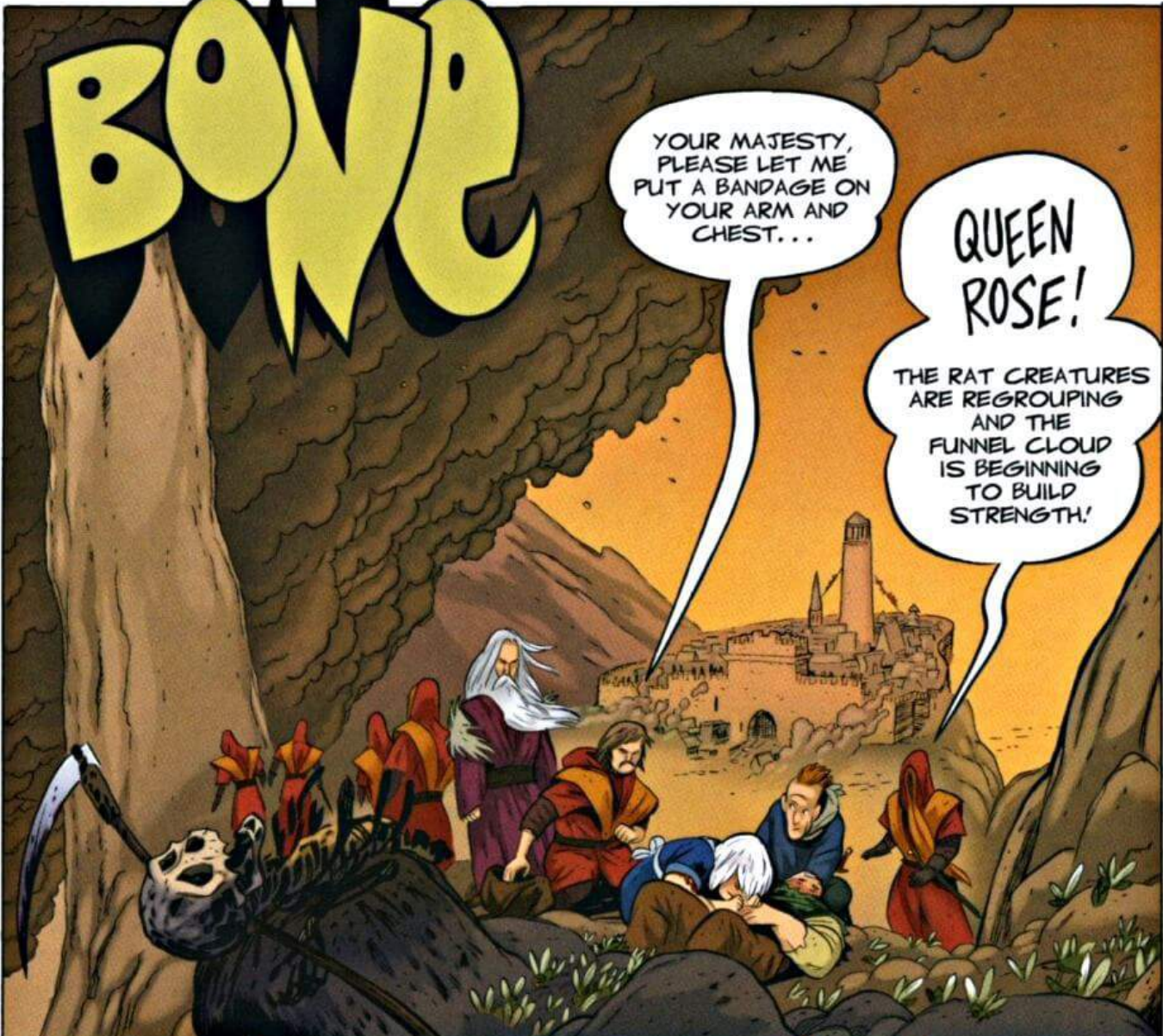


BOWE

YOUR MAJESTY,
PLEASE LET ME
PUT A BANDAGE ON
YOUR ARM AND
CHEST...

QUEEN
ROSE!

THE RAT CREATURES
ARE REGROUPING
AND THE
FUNNEL CLOUD
IS BEGINNING
TO BUILD
STRENGTH!



WHAT?

LOOK! THE
CLOUD IS STILL
CHURNING!



BUT THE LOCUSTS
ARE DEAD. WHAT'S
MOVING IT?

THERE IS
SOMETHING
INSIDE THE
STORM...

SOMETHING
VERY BIG.





SOMETHING BIG ... ? THORN WARNED ME THAT THE LOCUST WAS SENDING MIM AGAINST US.

MIM? THE MAD QUEEN OF THE DRAGONS?!



IT'S HER! HEADMASTER, WARN YOUR PEOPLE THAT WE ARE STILL UNDER ATTACK!

YOUR MAJESTY!!



RAT CREATURES ARE ASCENDING THE NORTH SLOPE!

WHERE ARE THE PAWANS?



COMING UP THE SOUTHERN SLOPE.

WE'RE SURROUNDED!



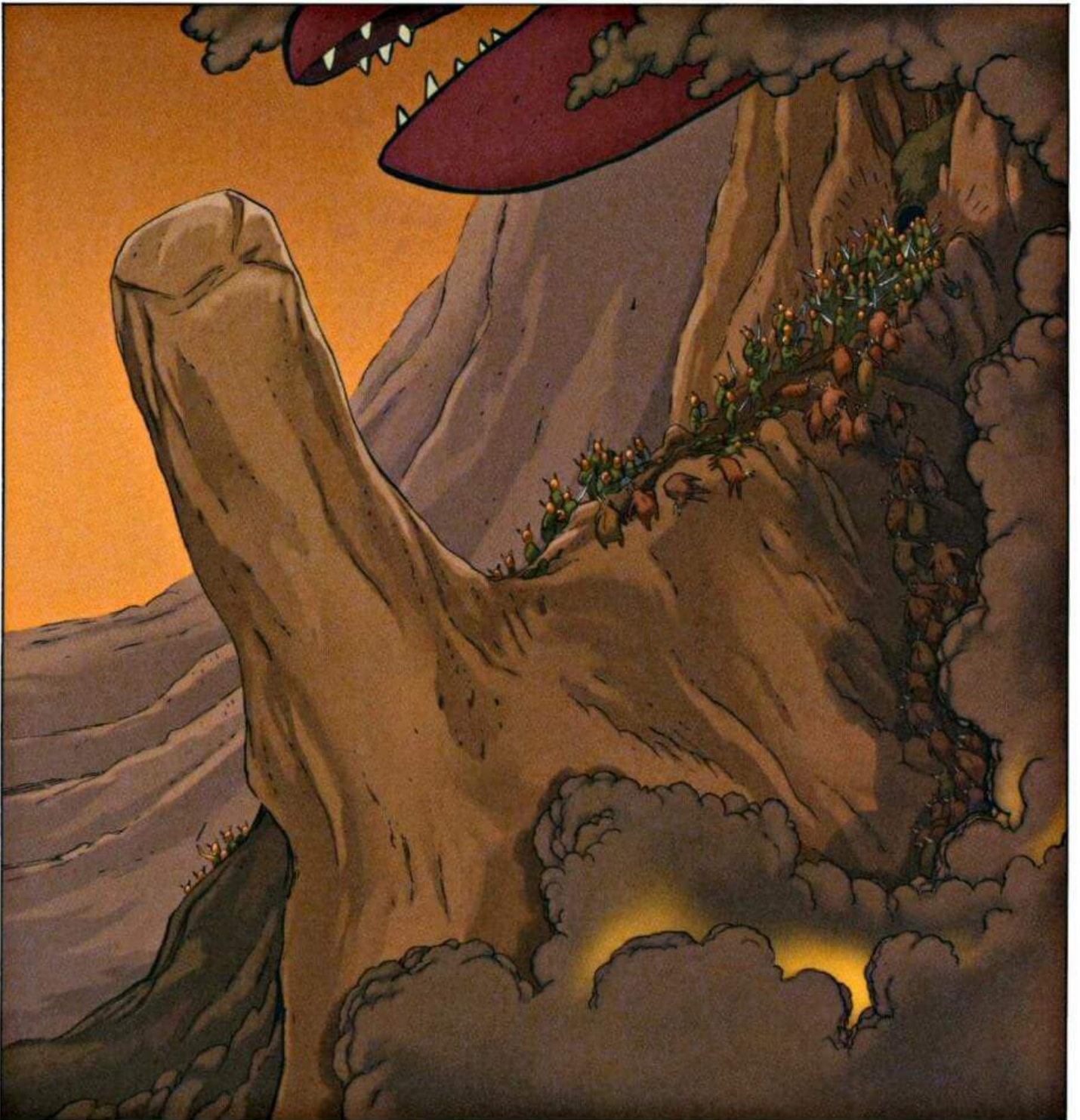
THEY MUST KNOW YOU'RE HERE.



EVERYONE MOVE TOWARD THE TUNNEL! WE'RE LEAVING!

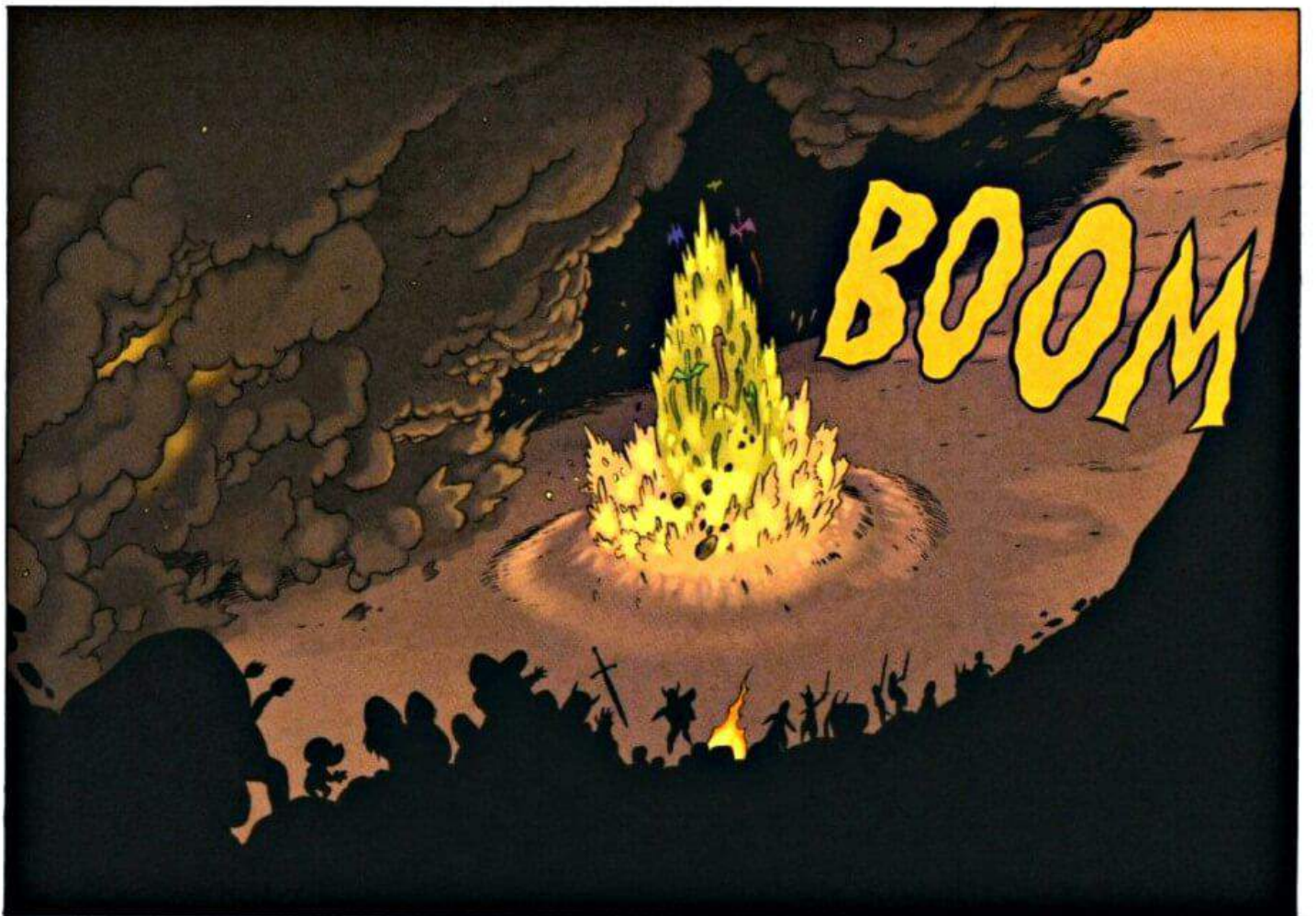
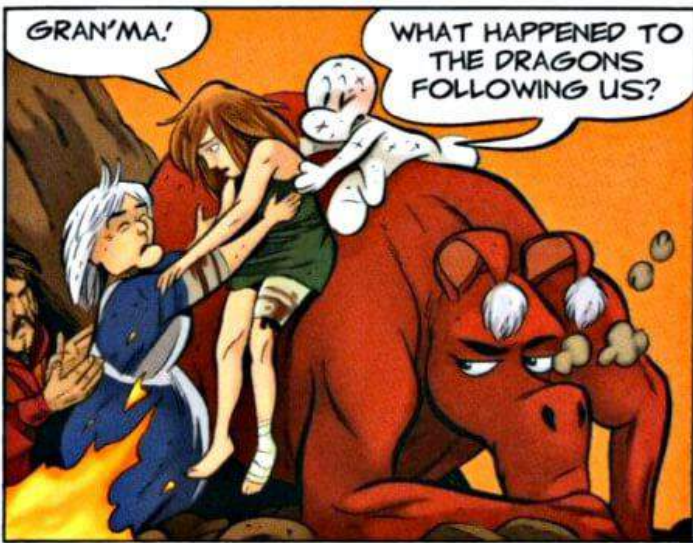
HELP ME GET LUCIUS TO HIS FEET --

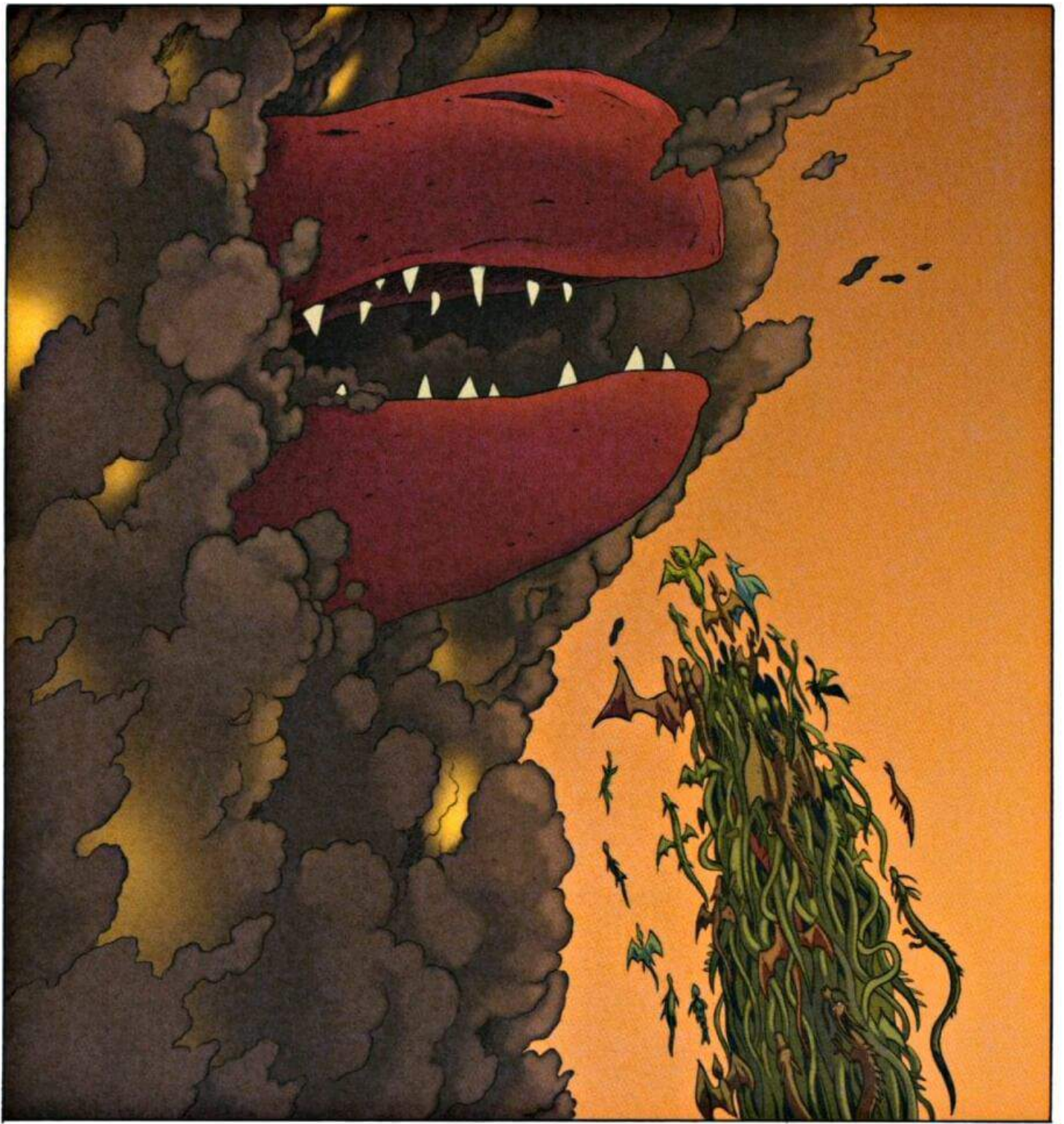
ROSE ... LUCIUS IS DEAD.

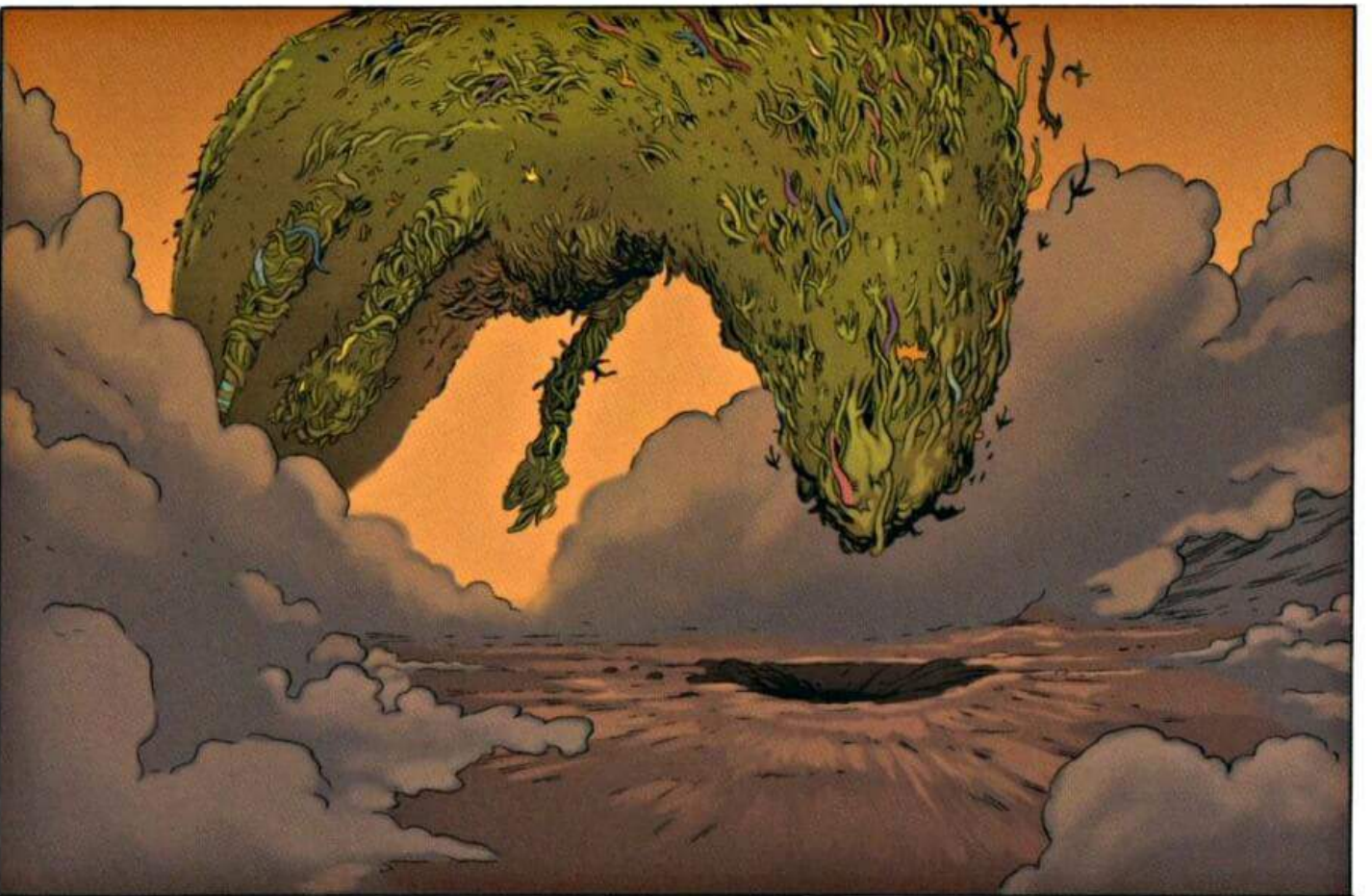






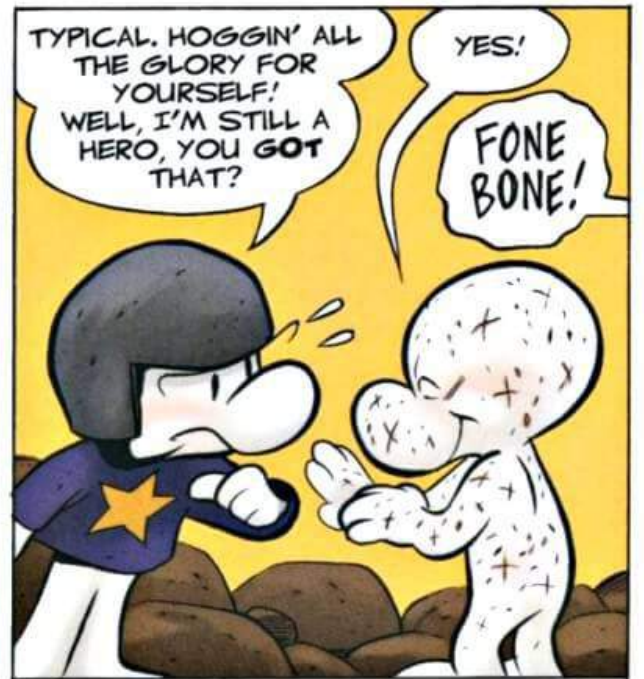
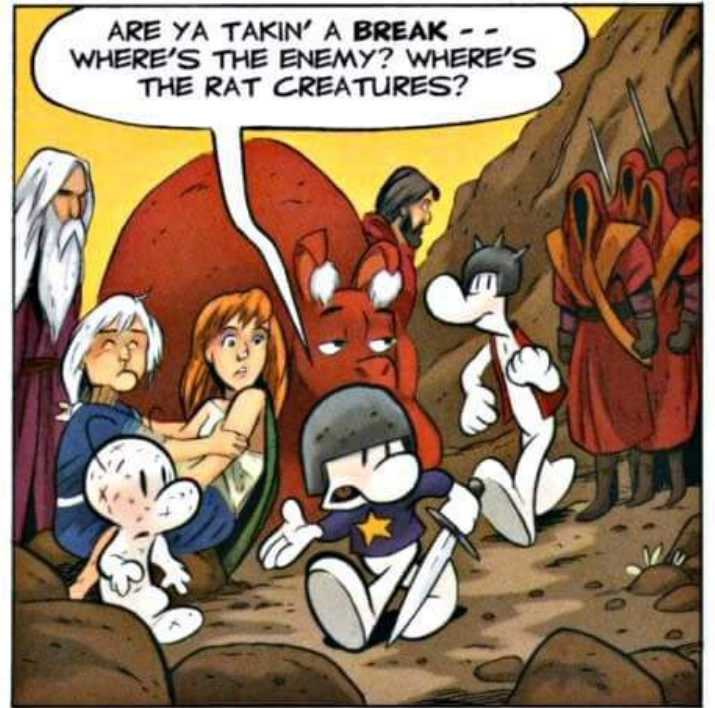
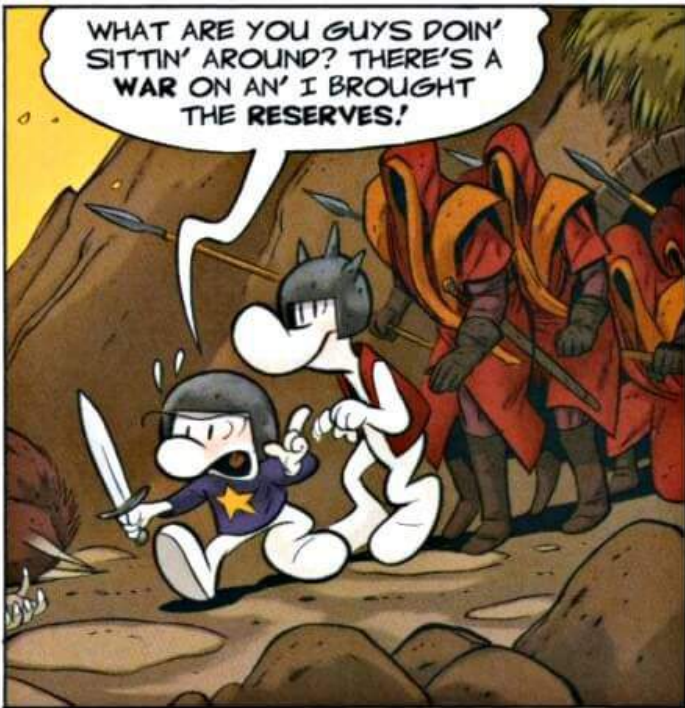
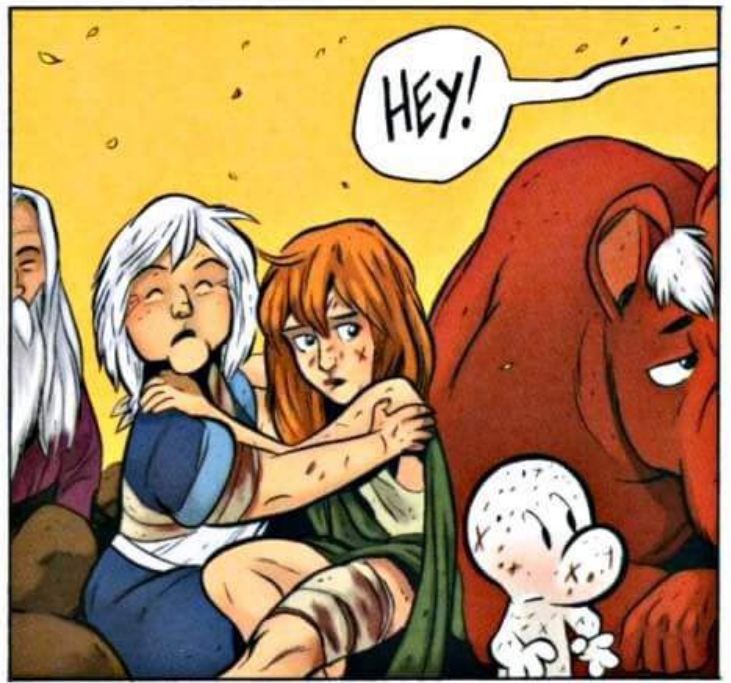




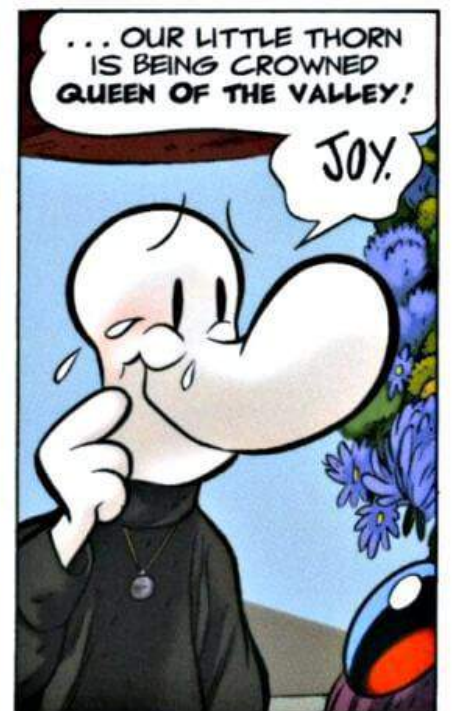
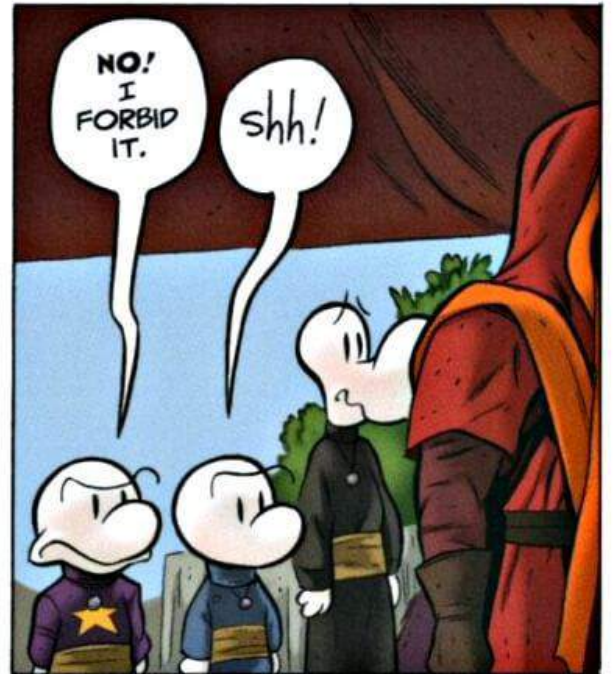


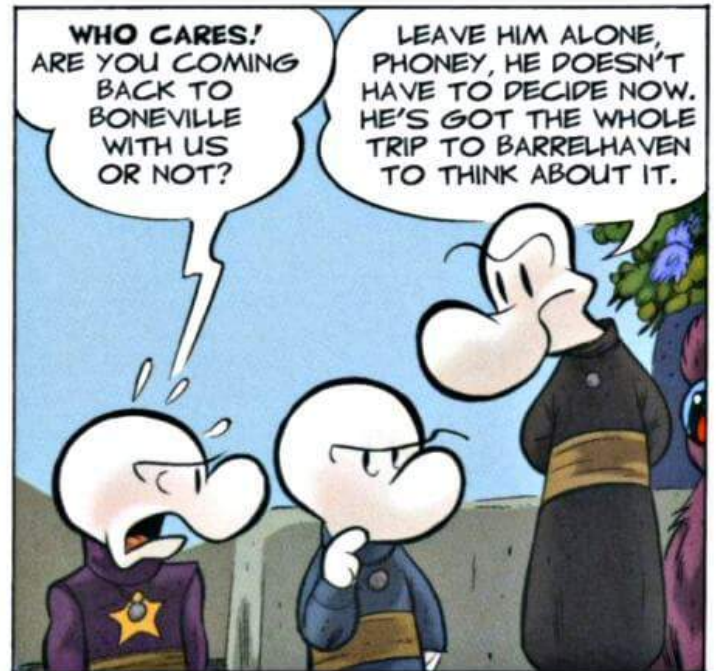
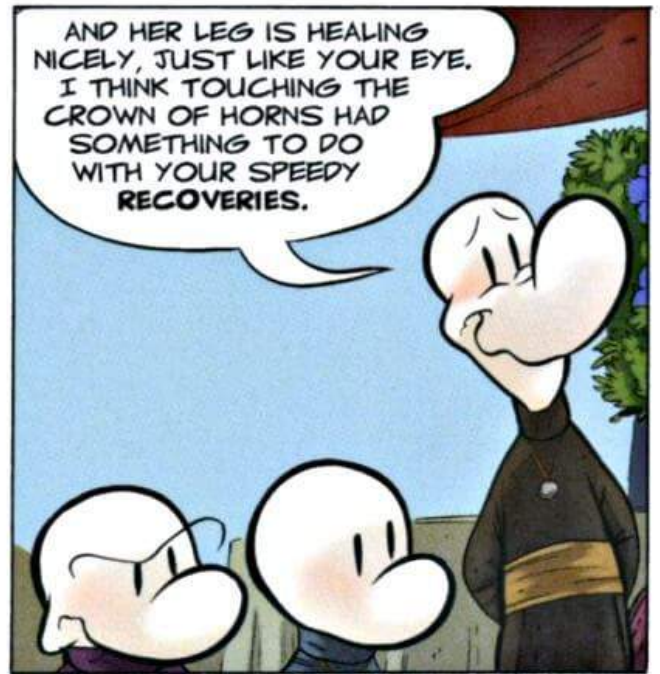
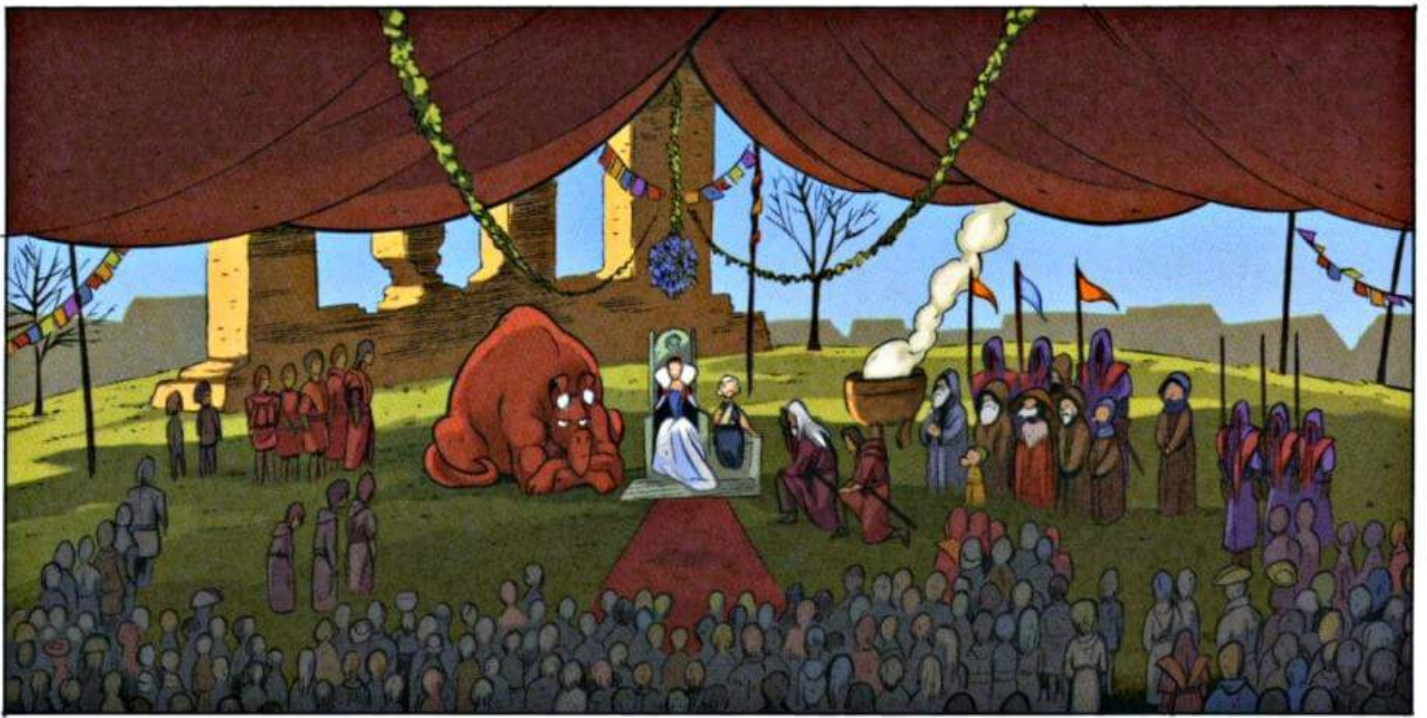


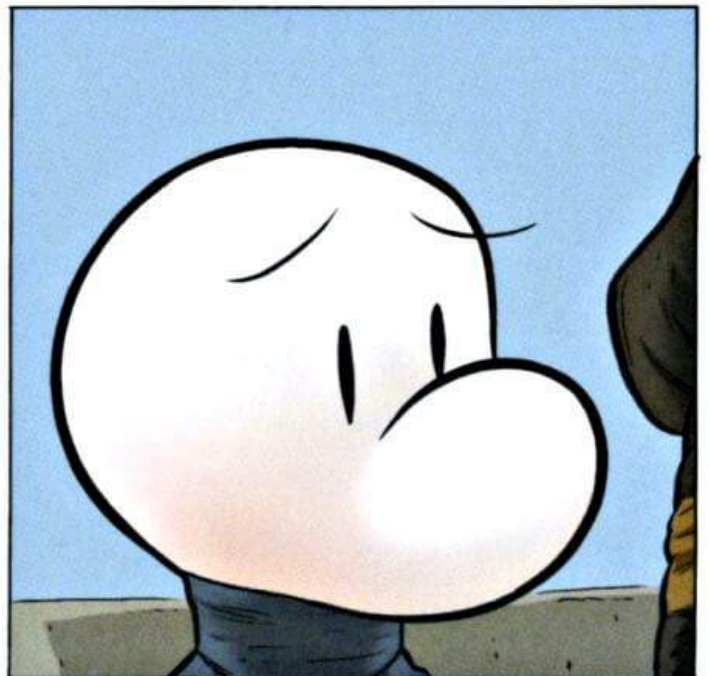
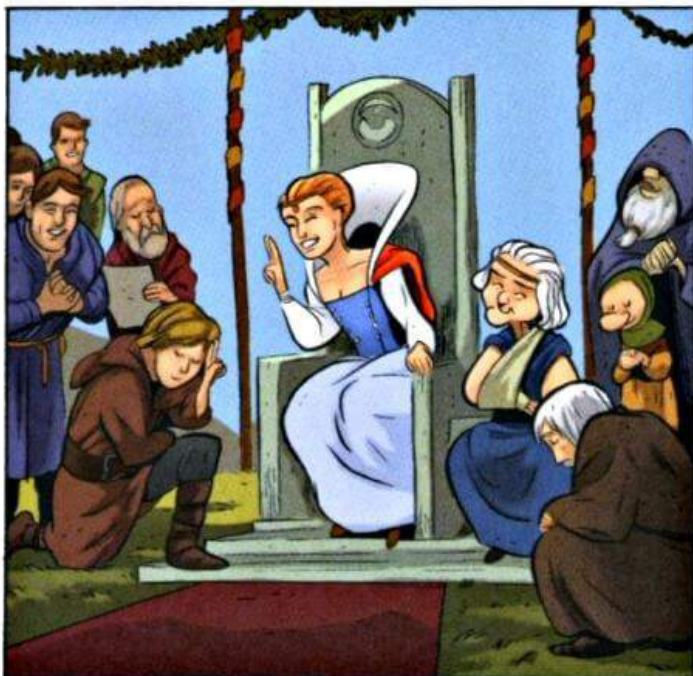
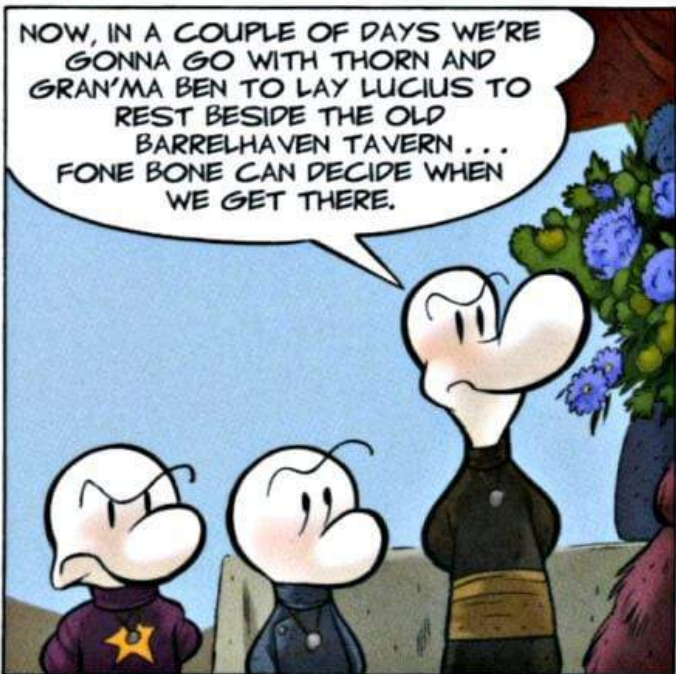
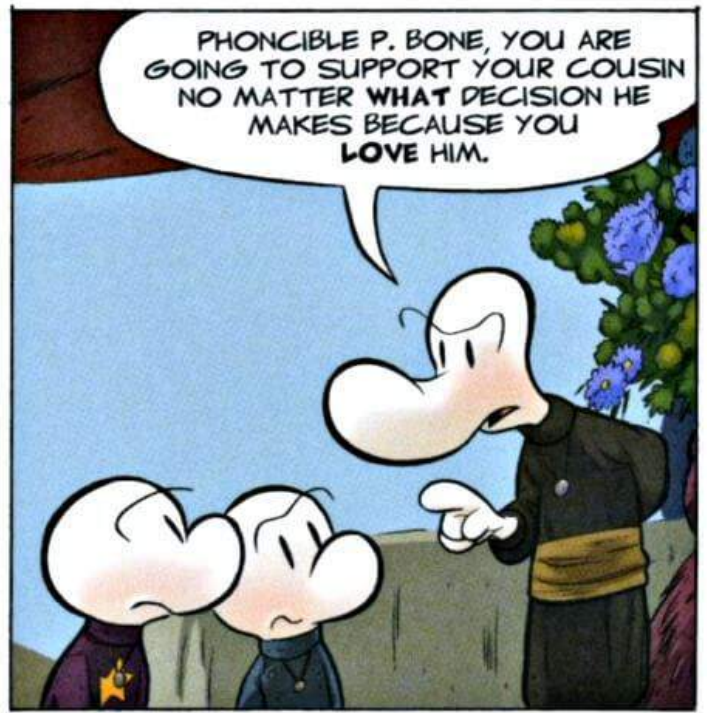








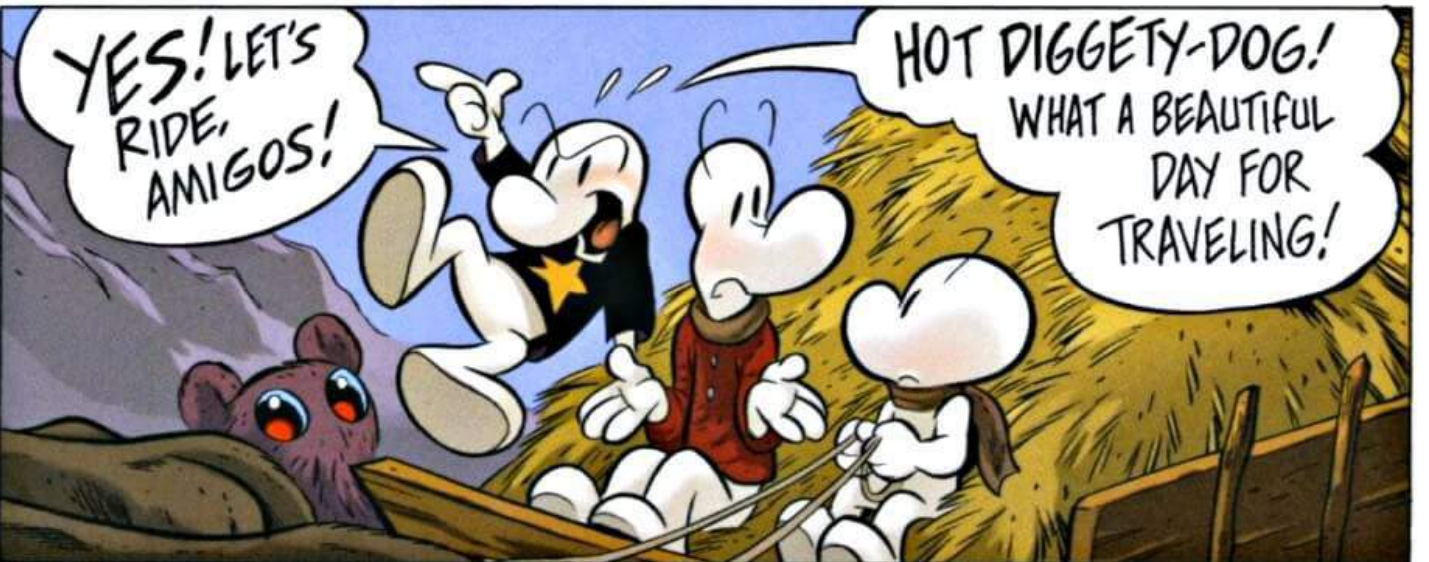


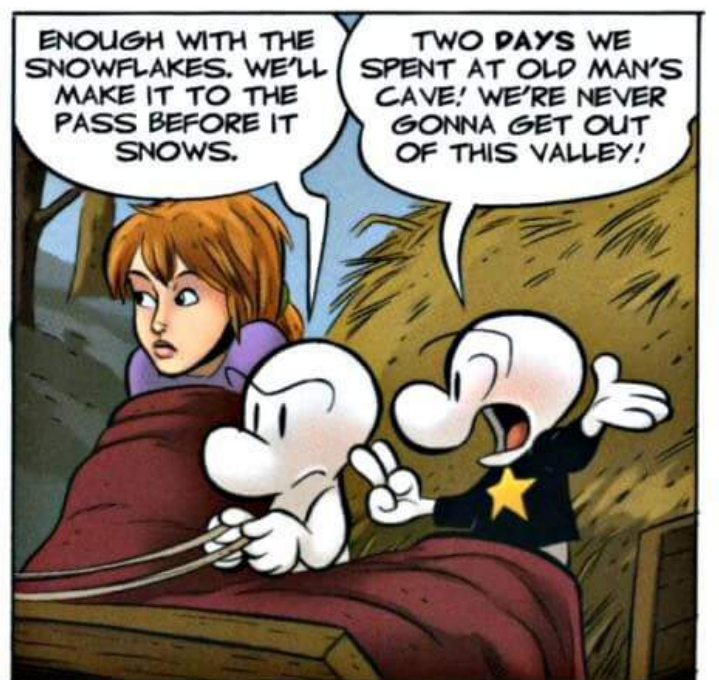


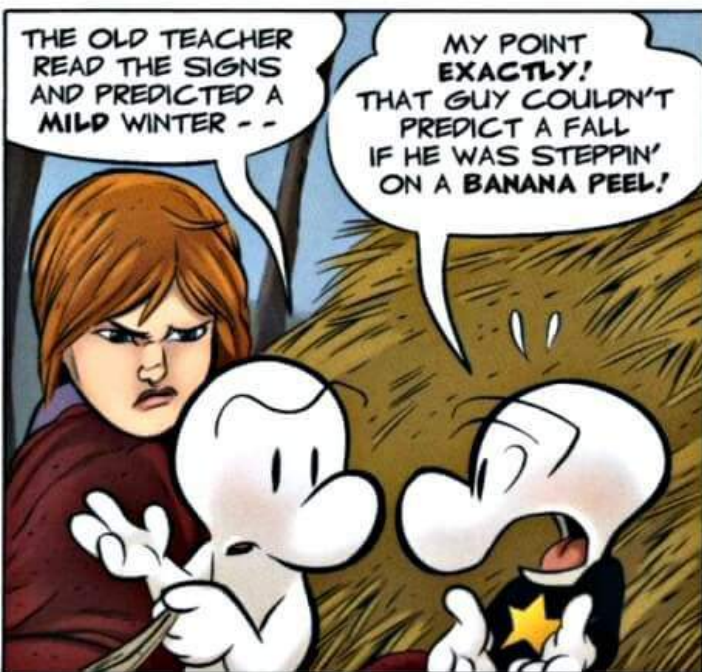


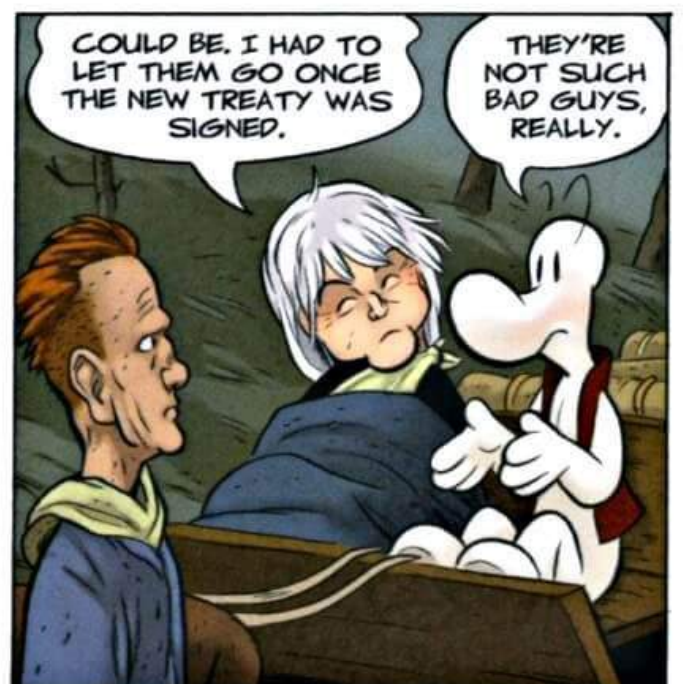
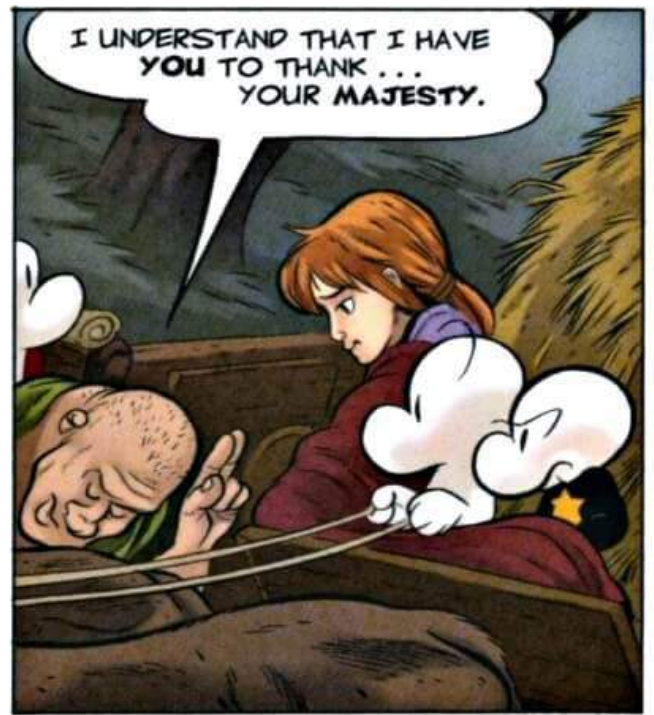






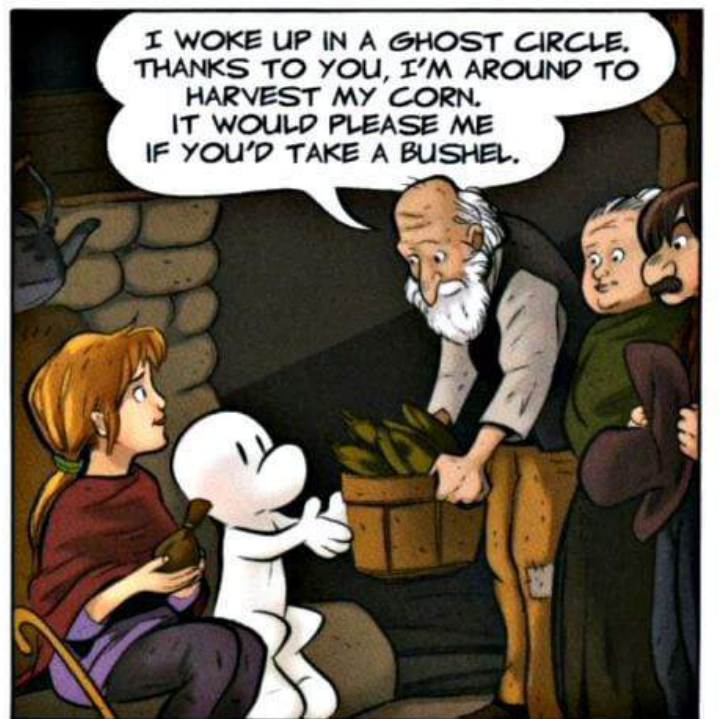
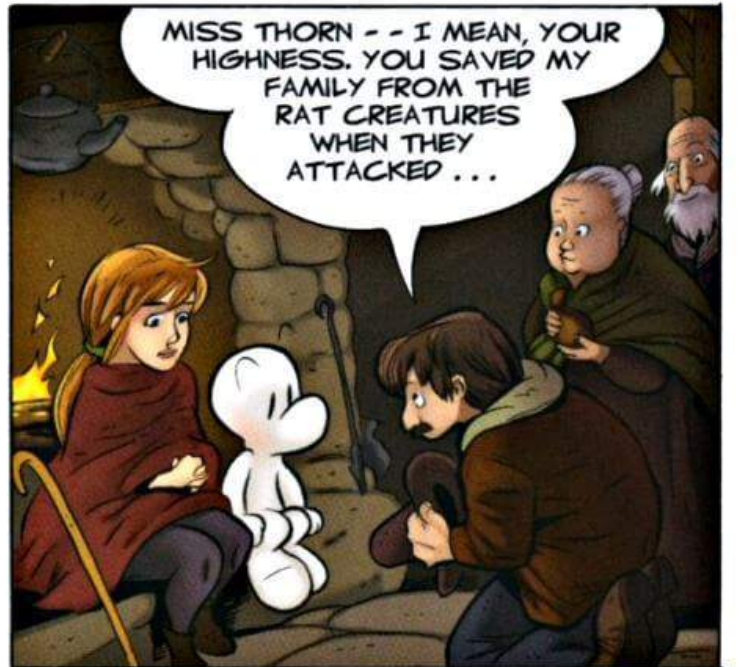






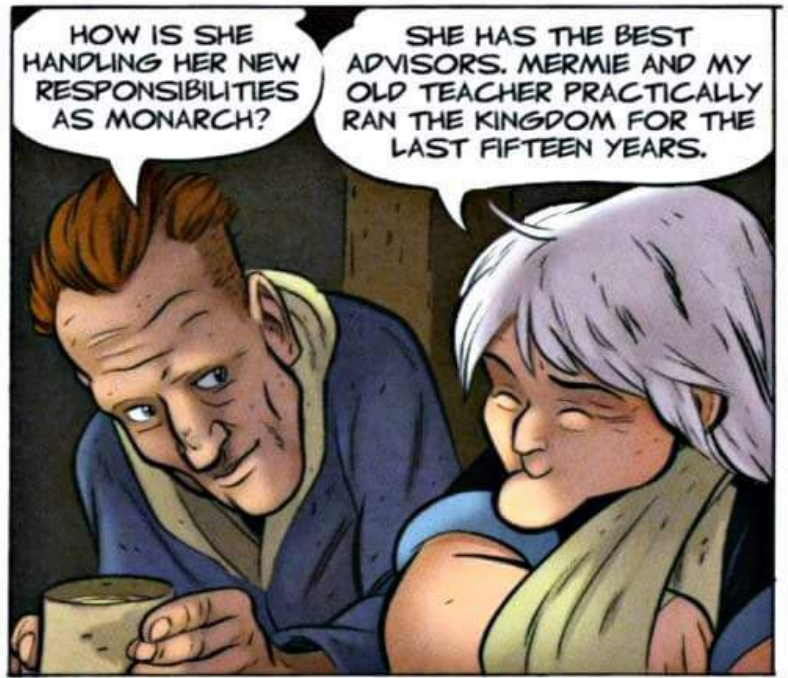








SHE'S GOING TO HAVE TO GET USED TO THIS KIND OF TREATMENT.



HOW IS SHE HANDLING HER NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AS MONARCH?

SHE HAS THE BEST ADVISORS. MERMIE AND MY OLD TEACHER PRACTICALLY RAN THE KINGDOM FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.



THE ONLY PROBLEM IS WE CAN'T FIND THE CITY'S TREASURE THAT TARSIL HID. BUT WE'LL HAVE TO -- WE CAN'T RUN THE KINGDOM WITHOUT IT.

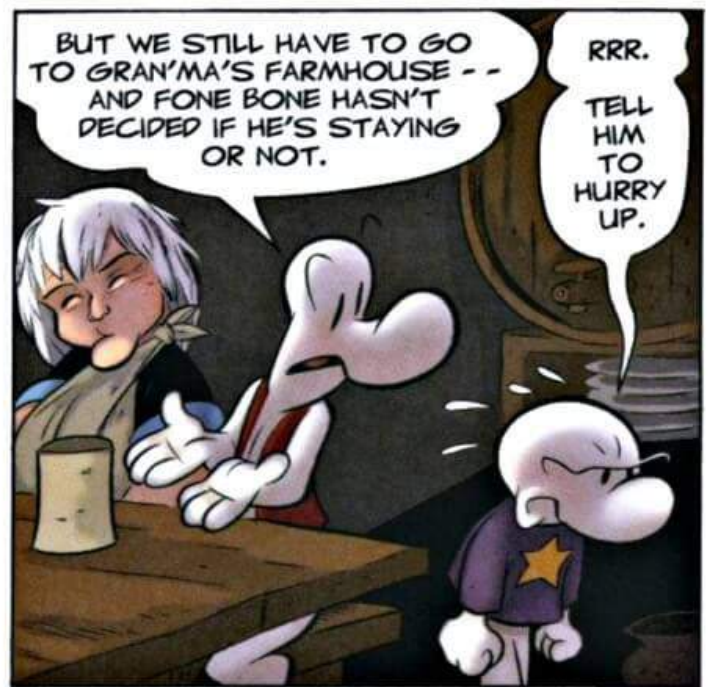


HEY! IT SMELLS LIKE SNOW OUTSIDE.



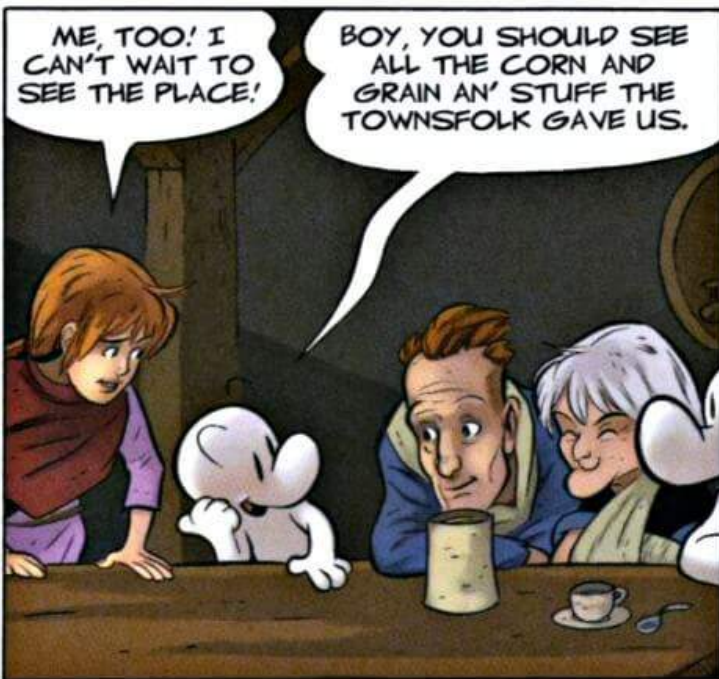
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S COLD AN' SMELLS LIKE IT'S GONNA SNOW. C'MON, WE GOTTA LEAVE.

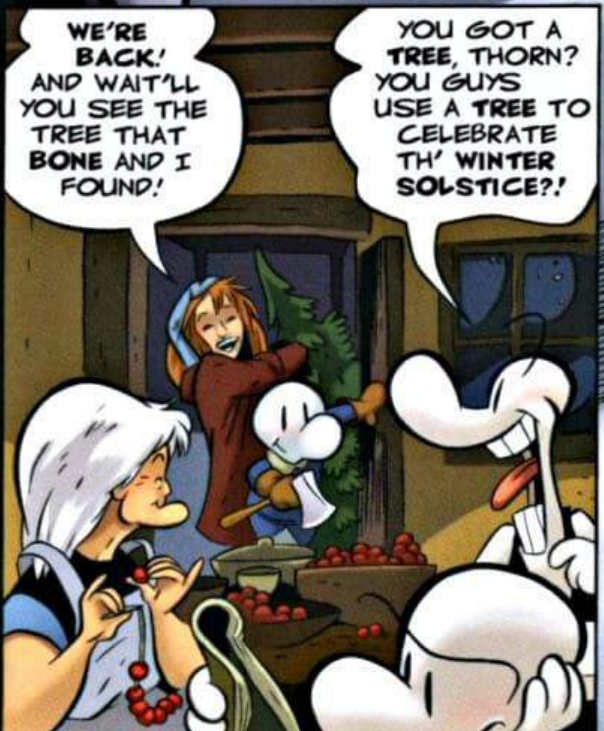
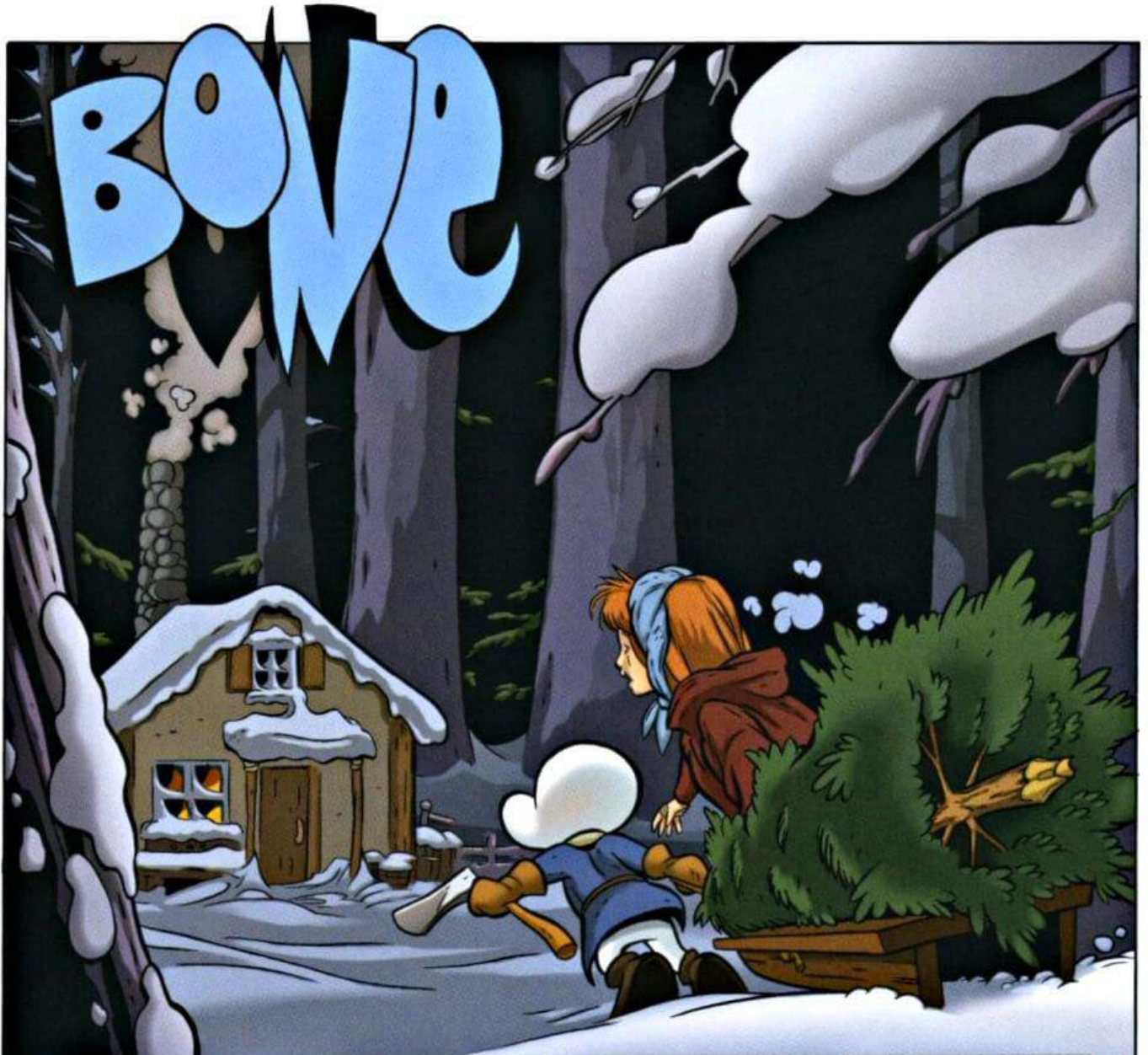


BUT WE STILL HAVE TO GO TO GRAN'MA'S FARMHOUSE -- AND FONE BONE HASN'T DECIDED IF HE'S STAYING OR NOT.

RRR. TELL HIM TO HURRY UP.







WE'RE BACK! AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE TREE THAT BONE AND I FOUND!

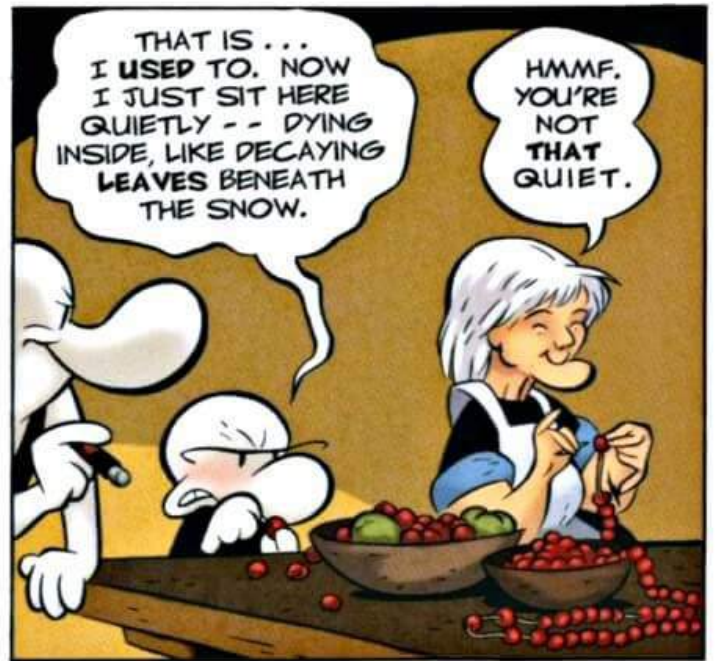
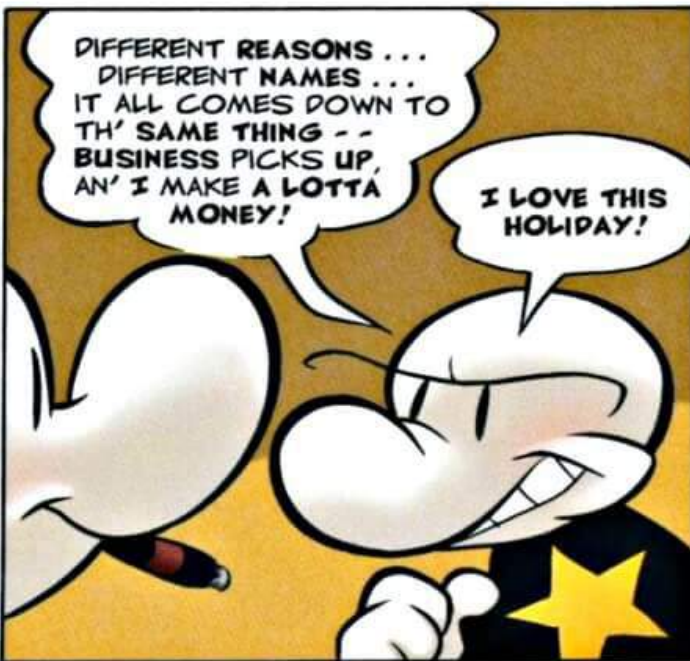
YOU GOT A TREE, THORN? YOU GUYS USE A TREE TO CELEBRATE TH' WINTER SOLSTICE?!



OF COURSE WE DO, SMILEY! BRINGING AN EVERGREEN INTO THE HOUSE ON THE SHORTEST, DARKEST DAY OF WINTER IS A VERY OLD TRADITION!

BOY, IS THAT A RELIEF! NOW WE HAVE SOMEWHERE TO PUT OUR PRIZES!

LEMME MAKE SURE THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM!









FINALLY!

YES! IT'S SPRING!

LET'S GO, PEOPLE! WE GOT SOME LEAVIN' TO DO...



TIME'S UP, FONE BONE!
ARE YOU STAYIN' OR COMING
WITH SMILEY AN' ME?

WELL, ACTUALLY...

A-HEM



NOW, I DON'T WANT TO SWAY YOU, BUT
WHEN I GET HOME TO BONEVILLE,
I'M GOIN' TO CORN DOG HUT™.

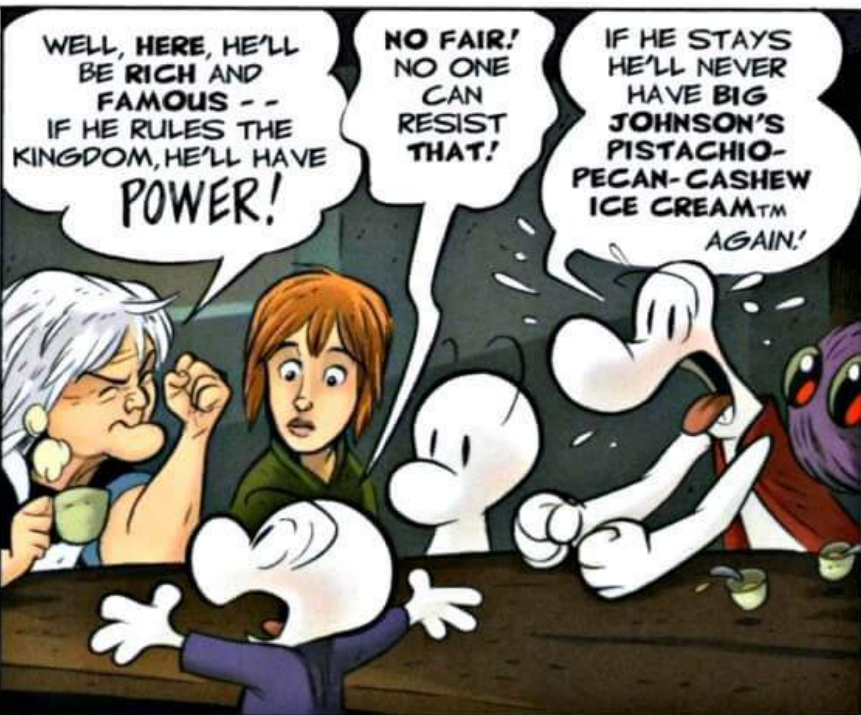
ooh!
CORN DOGS --



SMILEY!
ARE YOU TRYING
TO TEMPT
FONE BONE WITH
BONEVILLE
DELICACIES?

WHAT? NO!
I'M JUST SAYIN'...
PIZZA-IN-A-CUP™!

YUM YUM
YUM!



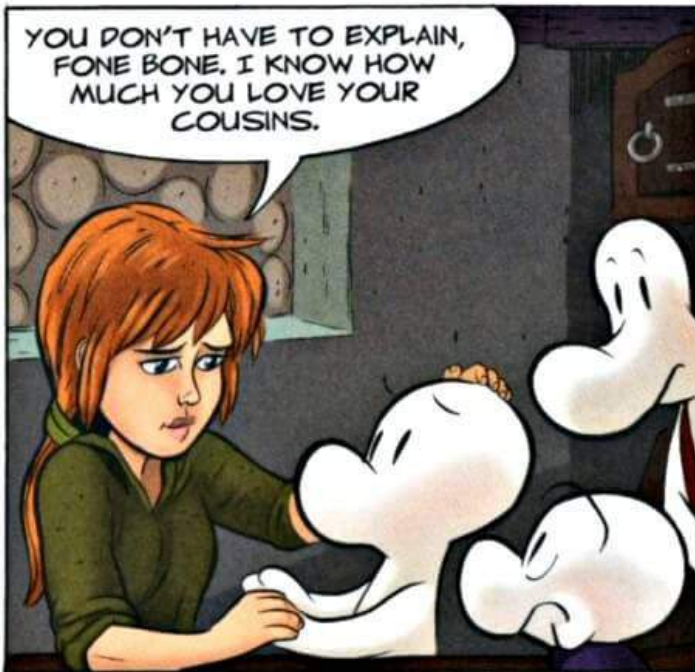
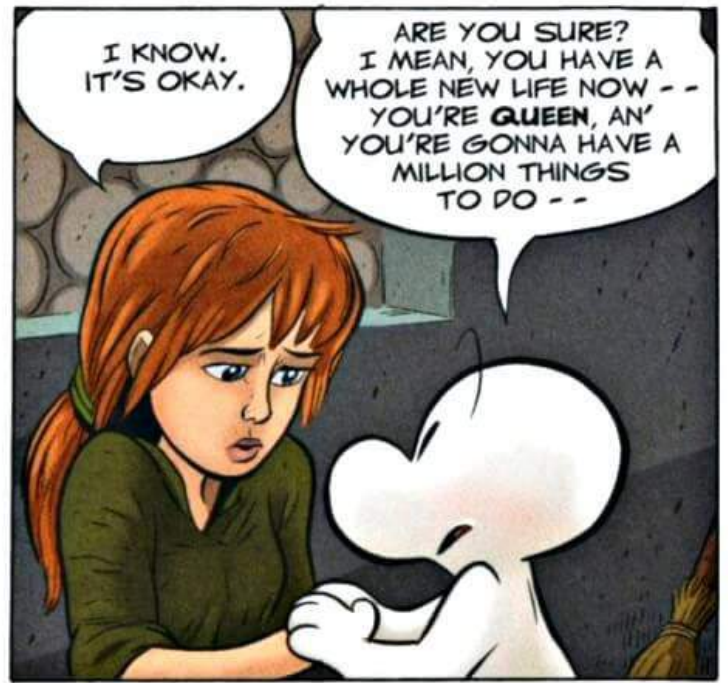
WELL, HERE, HE'LL
BE RICH AND
FAMOUS --
IF HE RULES THE
KINGDOM, HE'LL HAVE
POWER!

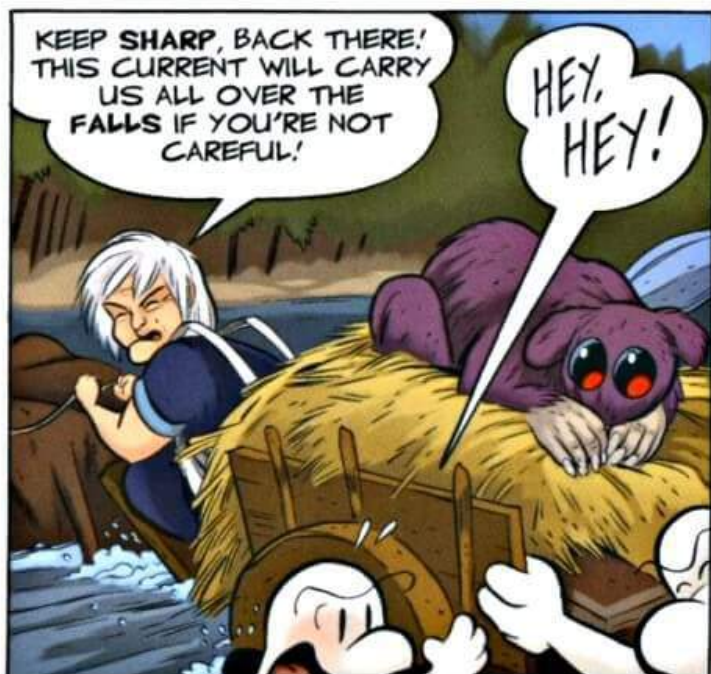
NO FAIR!
NO ONE
CAN
RESIST
THAT!

IF HE STAYS
HE'LL NEVER
HAVE BIG
JOHNSON'S
PISTACHIO-
PECAN-CASHEW
ICE CREAM™
AGAIN!



HEY, GUYS,
I APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S
HELP, BUT I'VE ALREADY
MADE UP MY MIND...

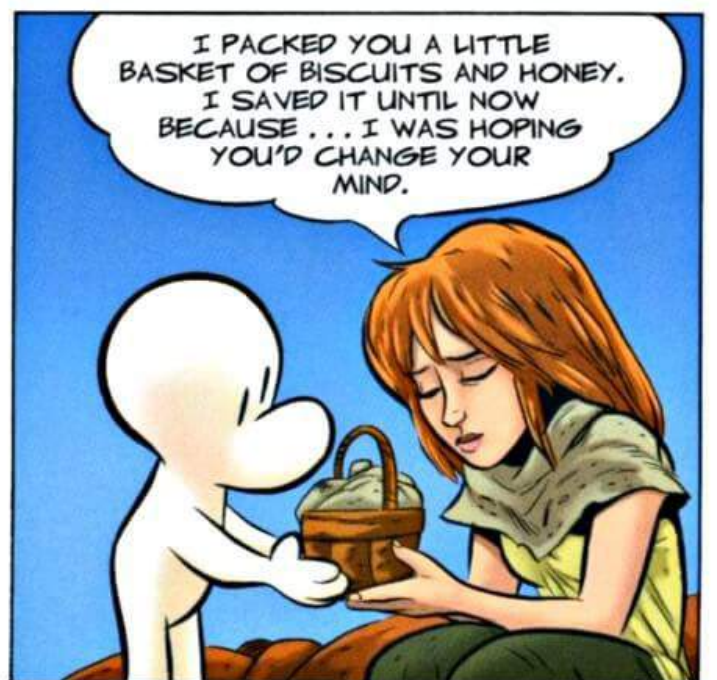
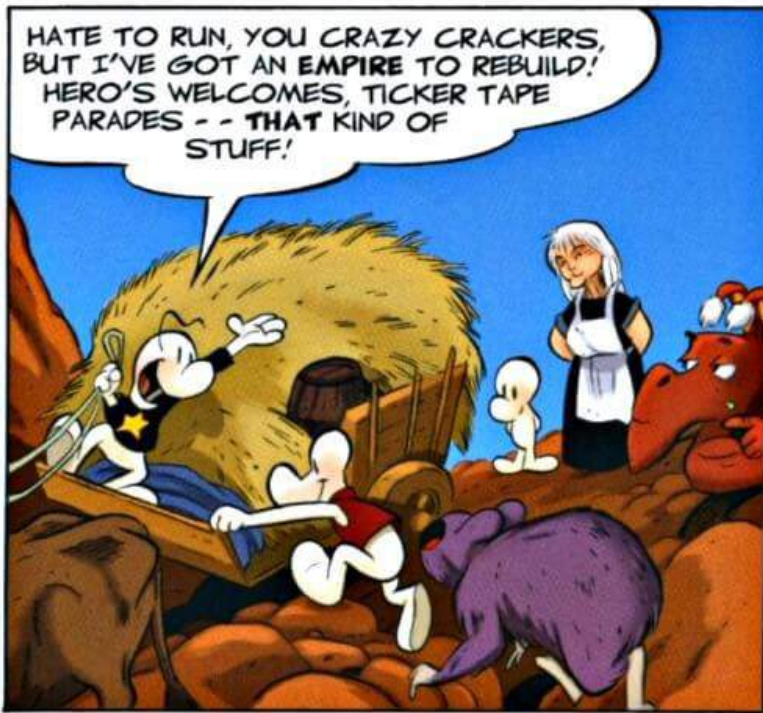


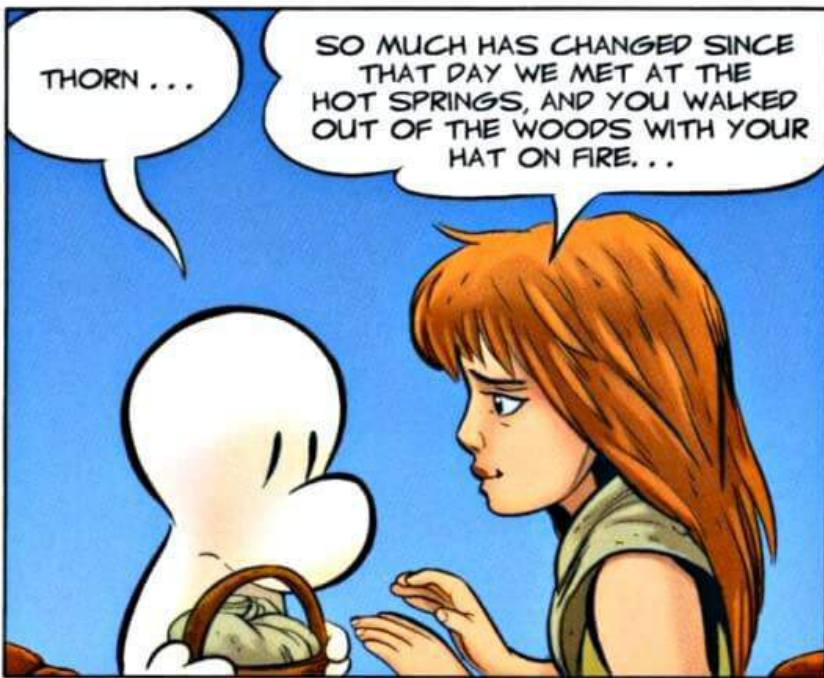


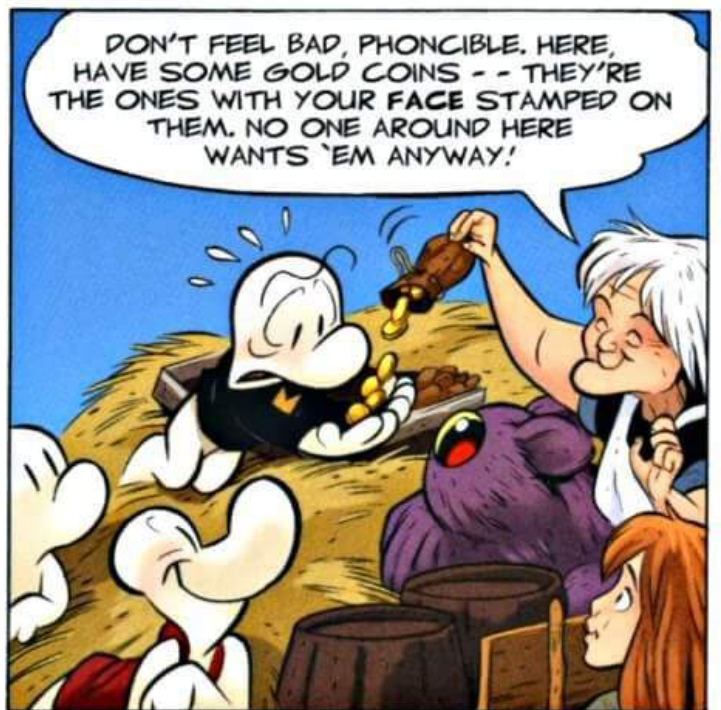
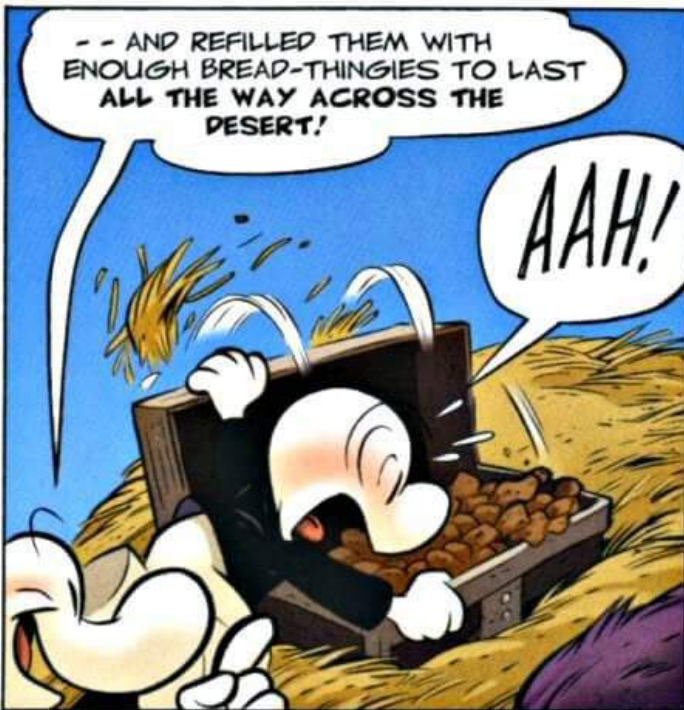
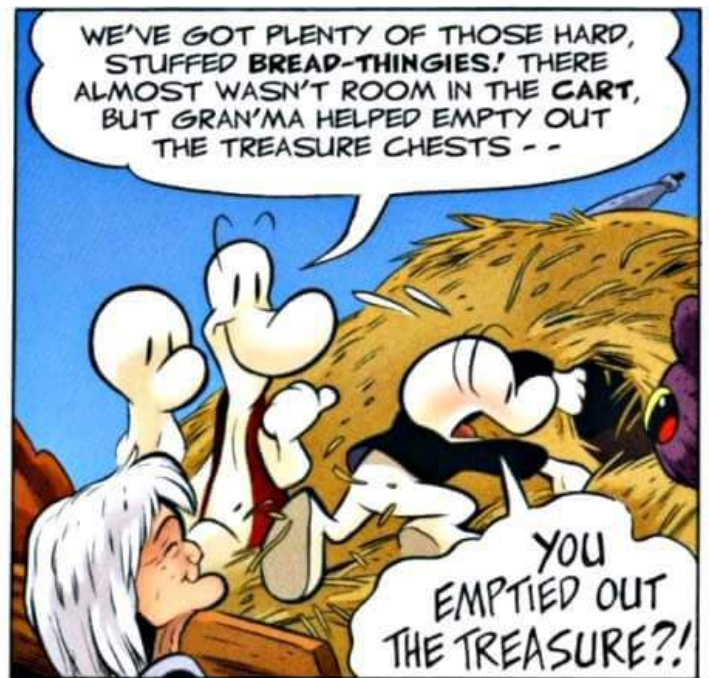
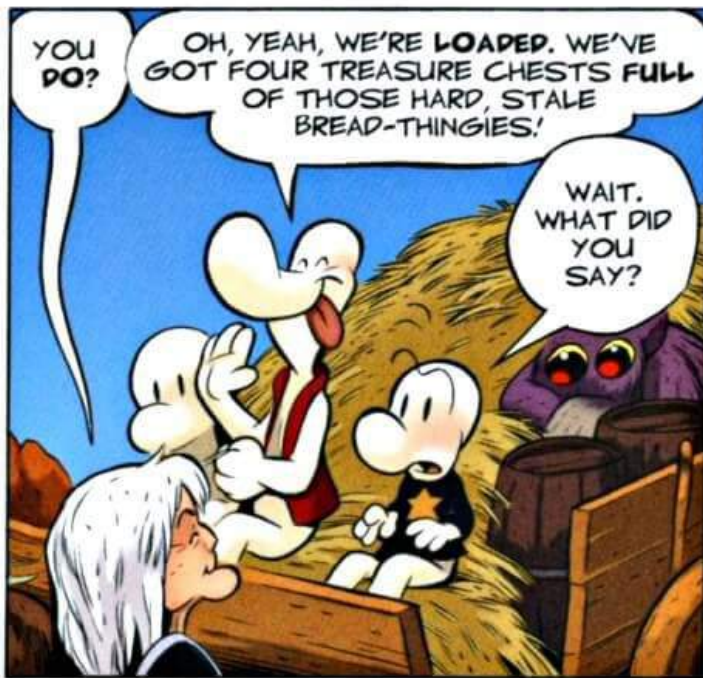


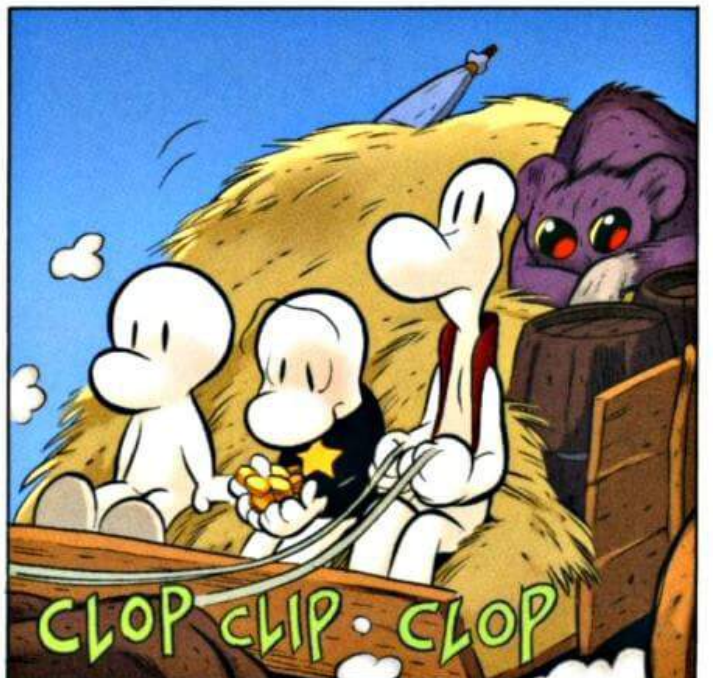
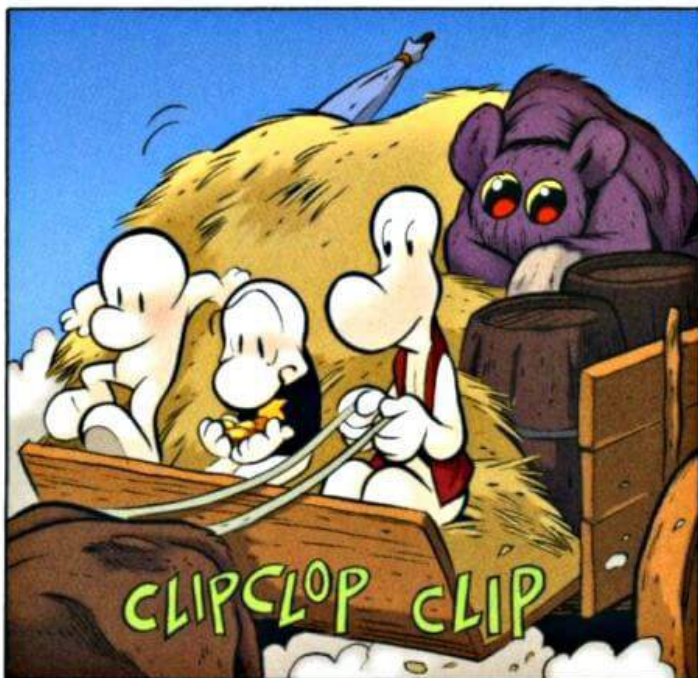
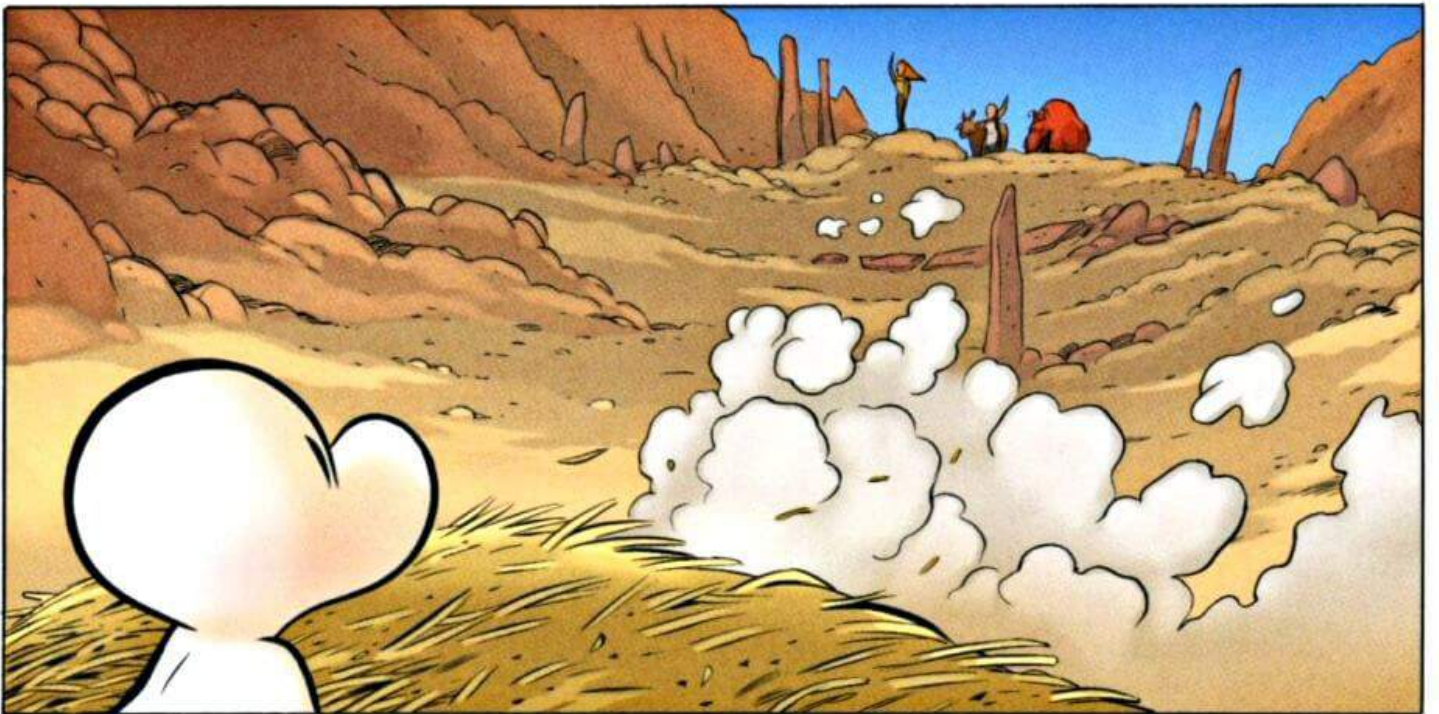


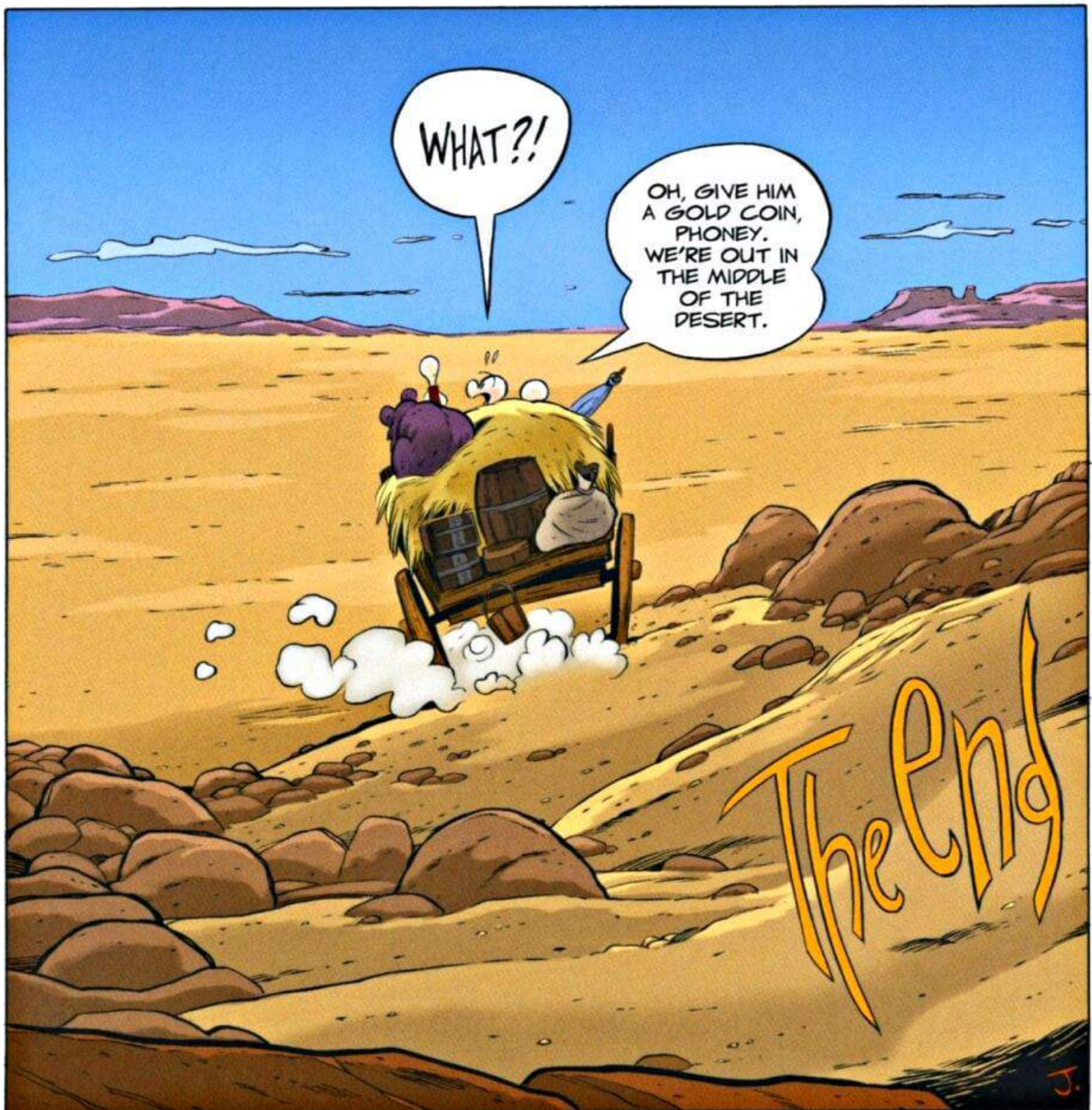
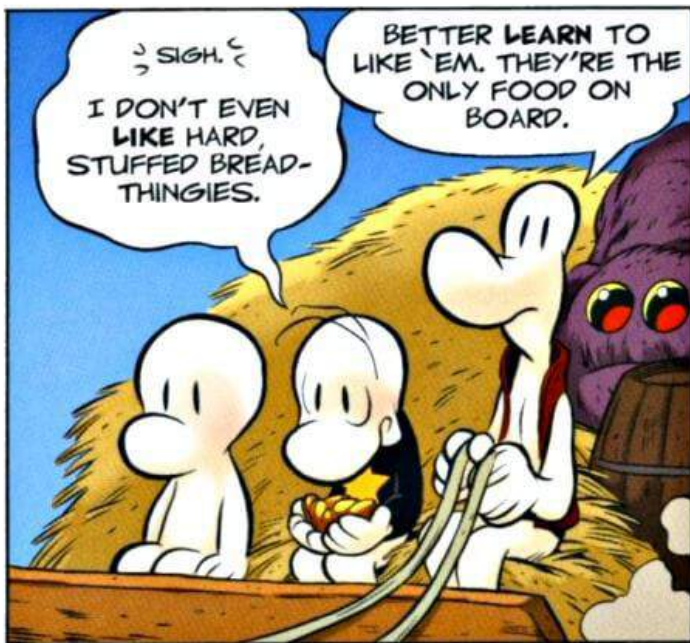














TANEAL'S SCULPTURE, QUEEN'S SQUARE, ATHEIA

ABOUT JEFF SMITH

JEFF SMITH was born and raised in the American Midwest and learned about cartooning from comic strips, comic books, and watching animated shorts on TV. After four years of drawing comic strips for The Ohio State University's student newspaper and co-founding Character Builders animation studio in 1986, Smith launched the comic book *BONE* in 1991. Between *BONE* and other comics projects, Smith spends much of his time on the international guest circuit promoting comics and the art of graphic novels.

MORE ABOUT BONE

An instant classic when it first appeared in the U.S. as an underground comic book in 1991, *BONE* has since garnered 38 international awards and sold millions of copies in 15 languages. Now, Scholastic's GRAPHIX imprint is publishing full-color graphic novel editions of the nine-book *BONE* series.

Look for the exciting prequel to the amazing *BONE* series, *ROSE*, written by Jeff Smith and illustrated by award-winning artist Charles Vess.