

WINDMILL DRAGONS

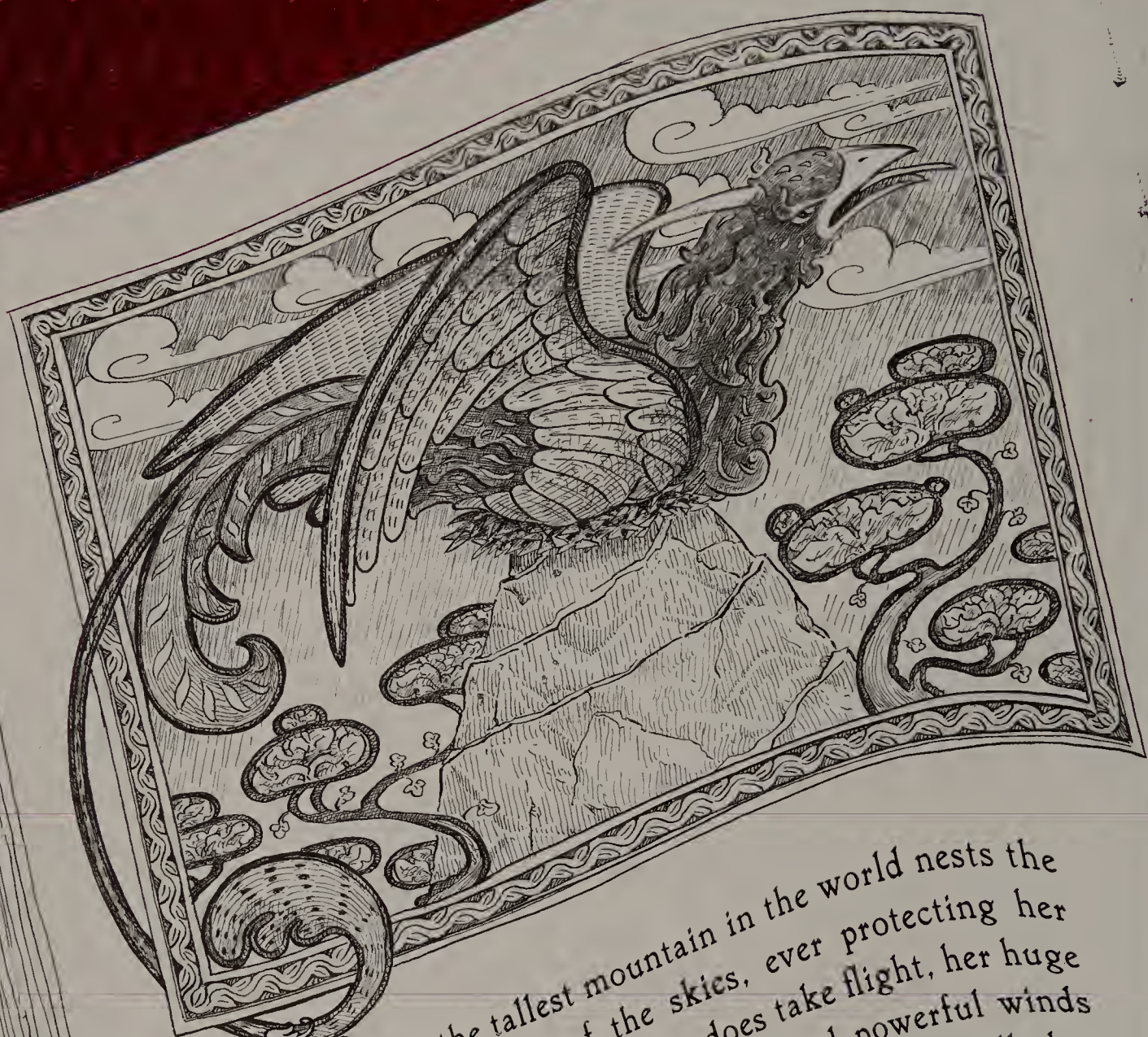
A LEAH AND ALAN ADVENTURE



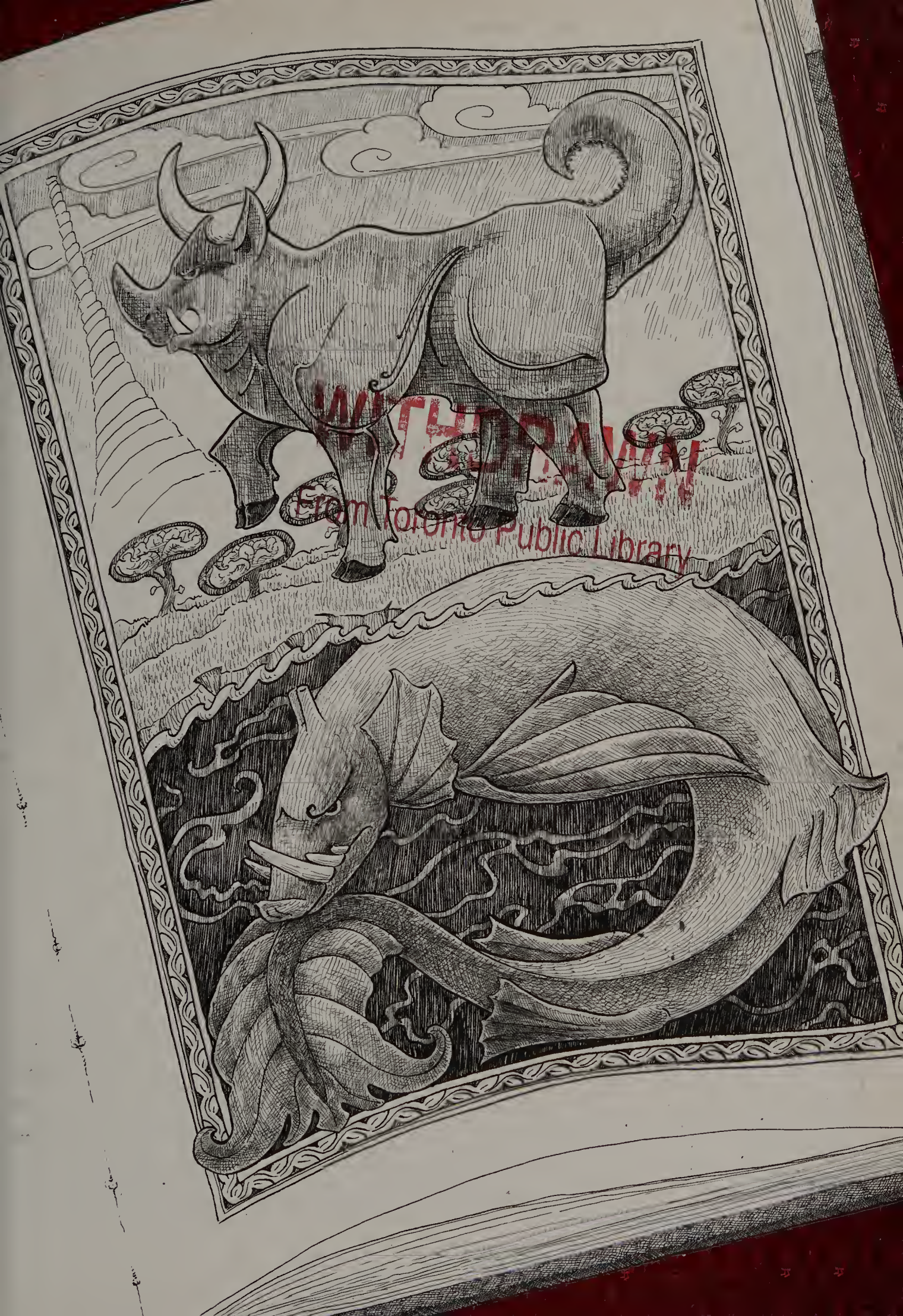
FOR VISUAL READERS

BOOK **BOOK**
GRAPHICS

DAVID NYTRA



Atop the tallest mountain in the world nests the Ziz, queen of the skies, ever protecting her precious eggs. If she does take flight, her huge wings can block out the sun and send powerful winds across the lands—winds that breathe life into all they touch. On earth below roams the Behemoth, a mighty beast that grazes on forests as though they were fields of grass. And in the murky depths of the sea lurks every sailor's nightmare...the terrifying Leviathan. Though these three beasts can be dangerous and chaotic, when they stay in their own domains they live in harmony.







DAVID NYTRA

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A LEAH AND ALAN ADVENTURE



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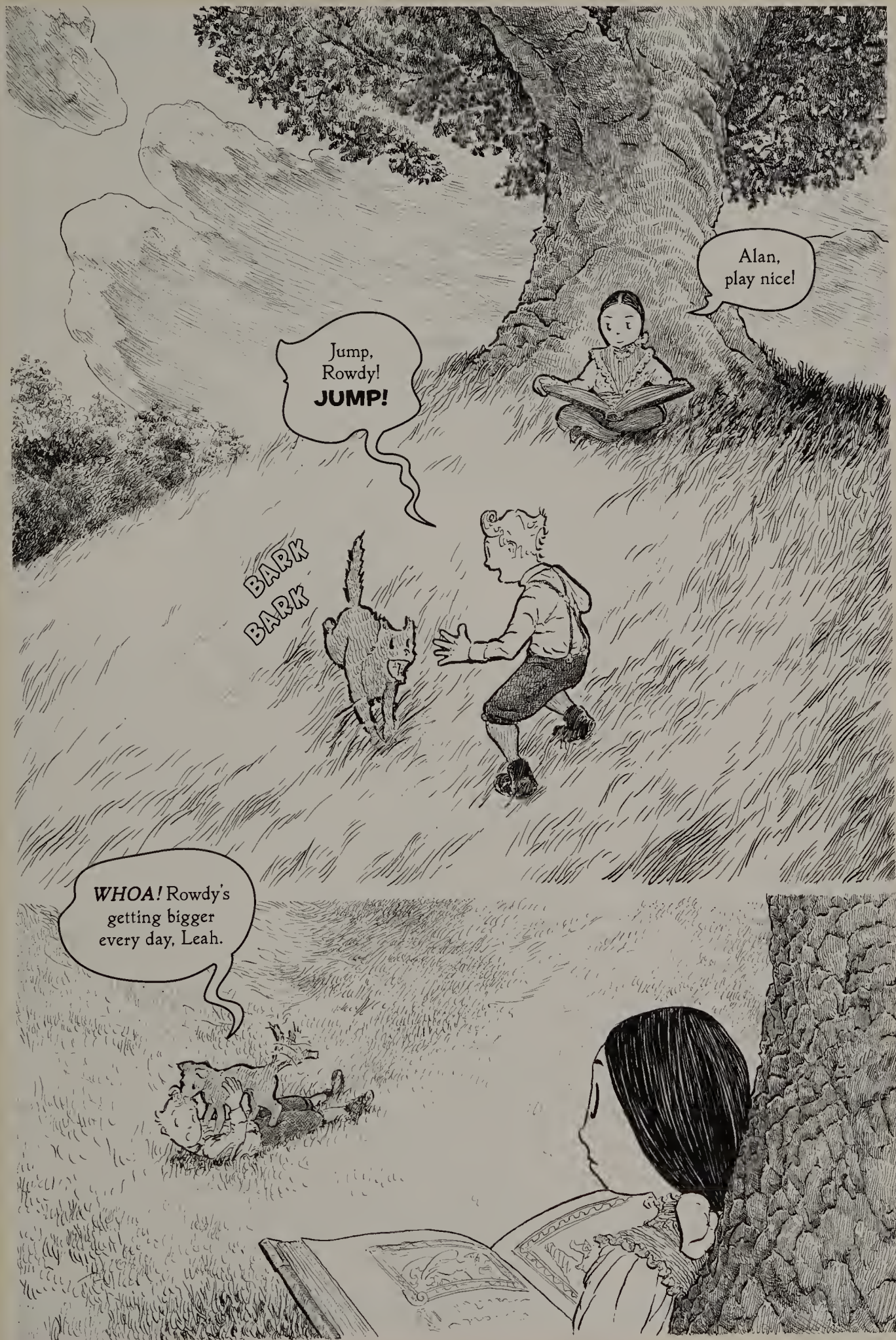
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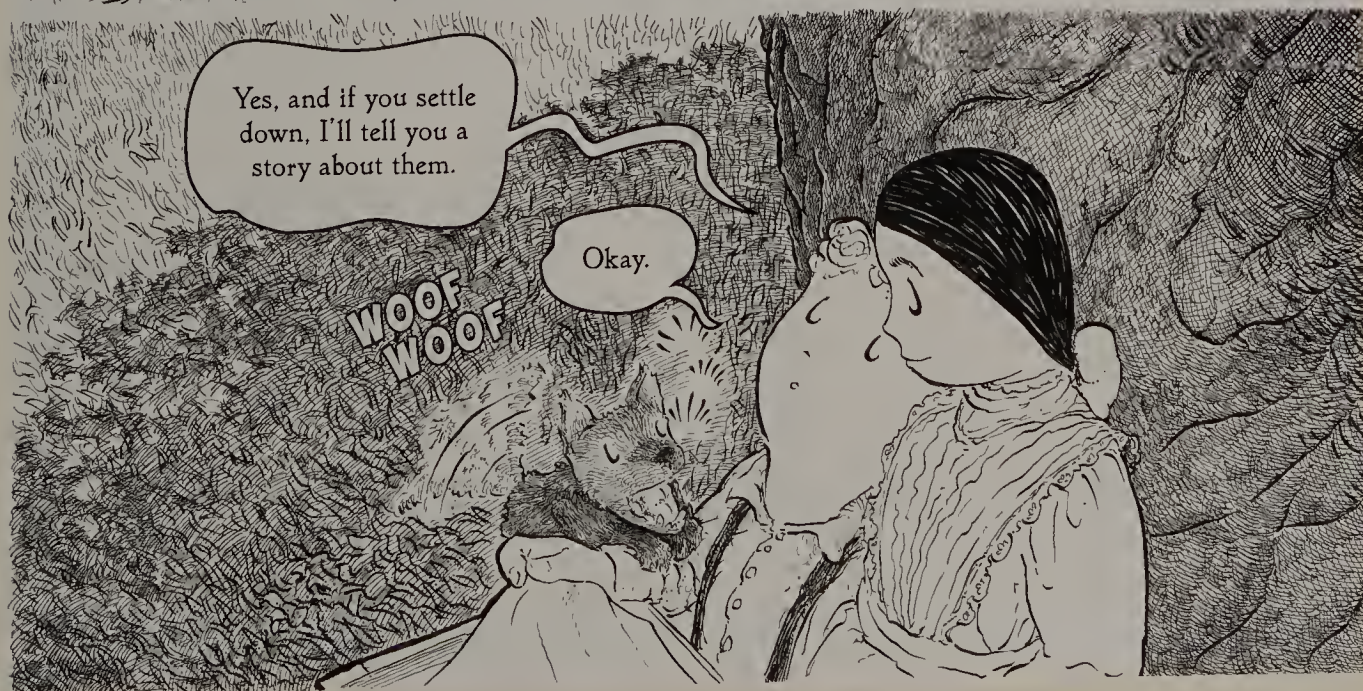
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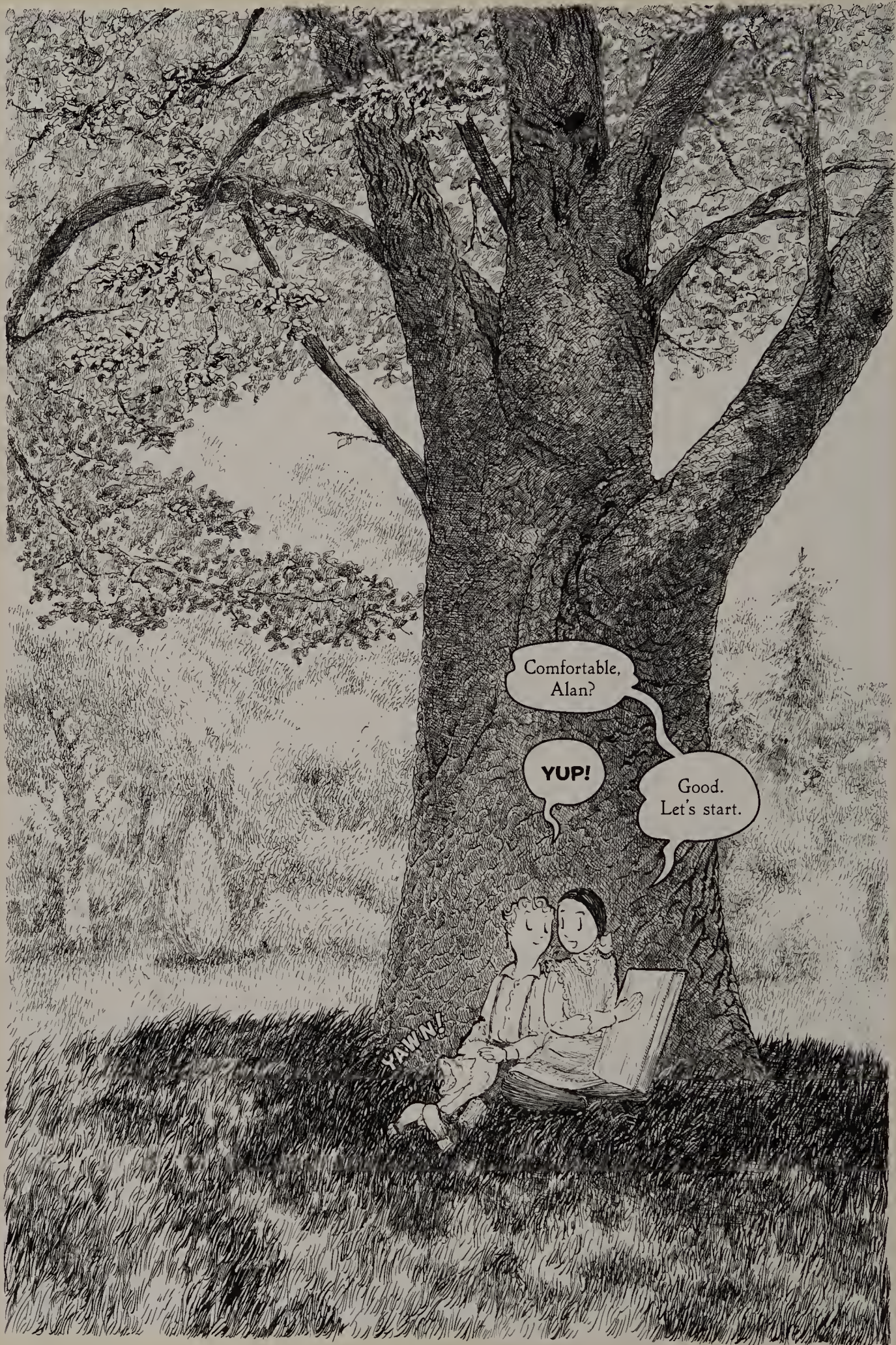
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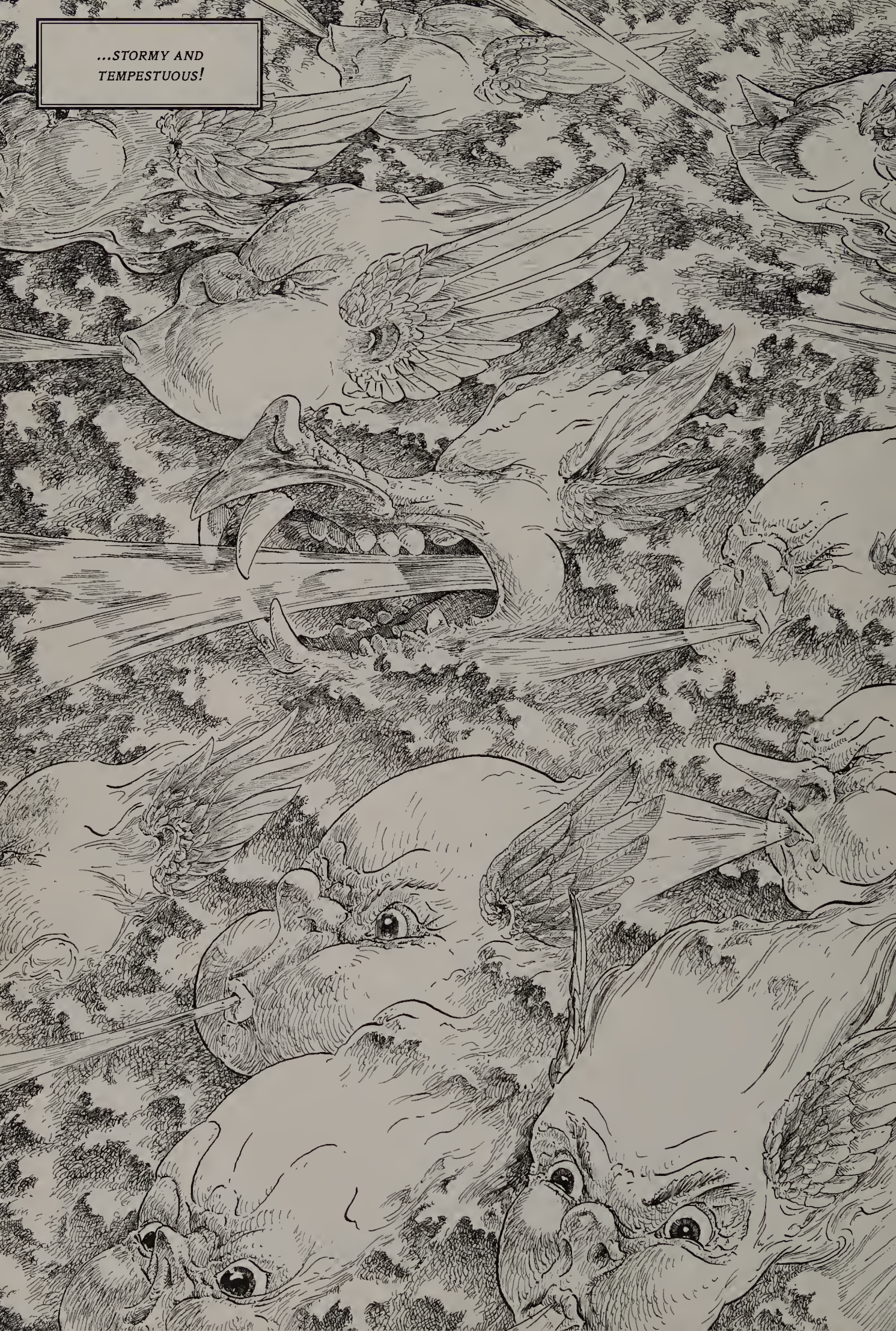




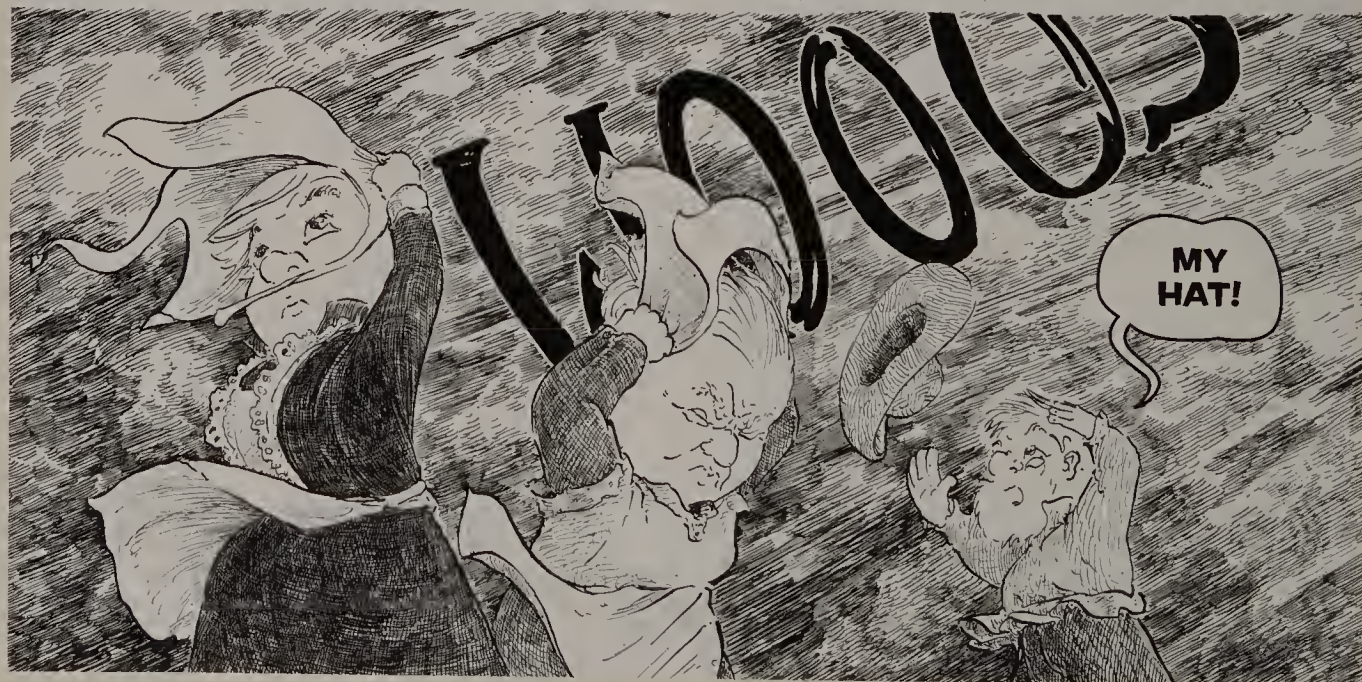


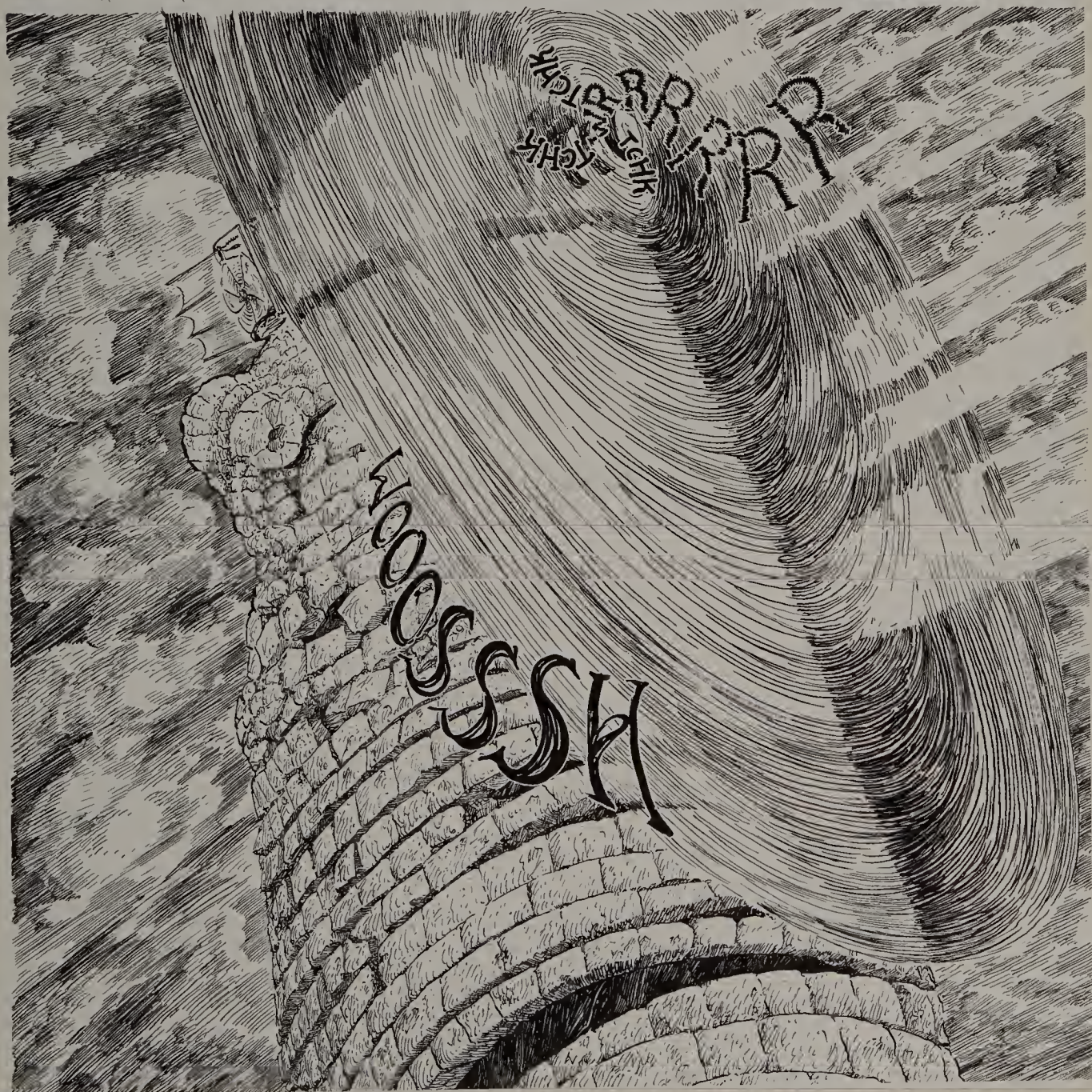
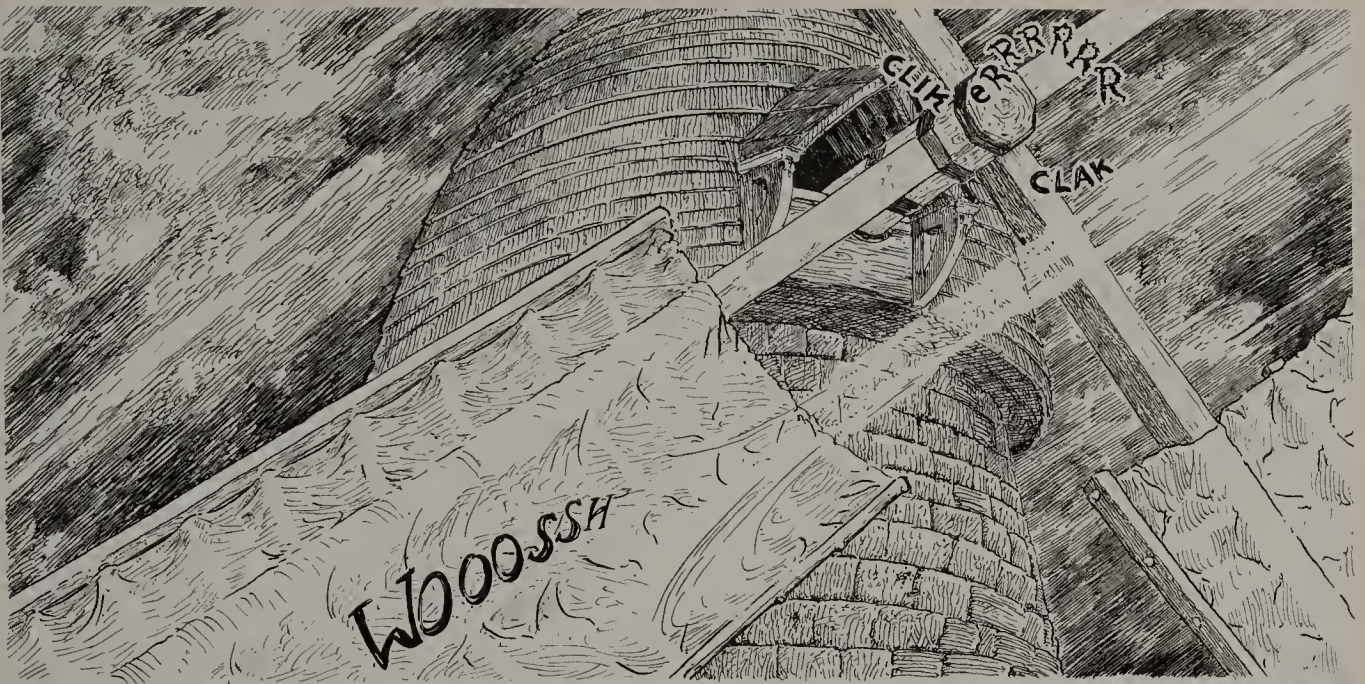
When the harmony
between the forces of nature
is disturbed, the whole world
is sent out of balance, and the
consequences can be...

...STORMY AND
TEMPESTUOUS!









Magical wind storms stir up frightening creatures everywhere they blow.



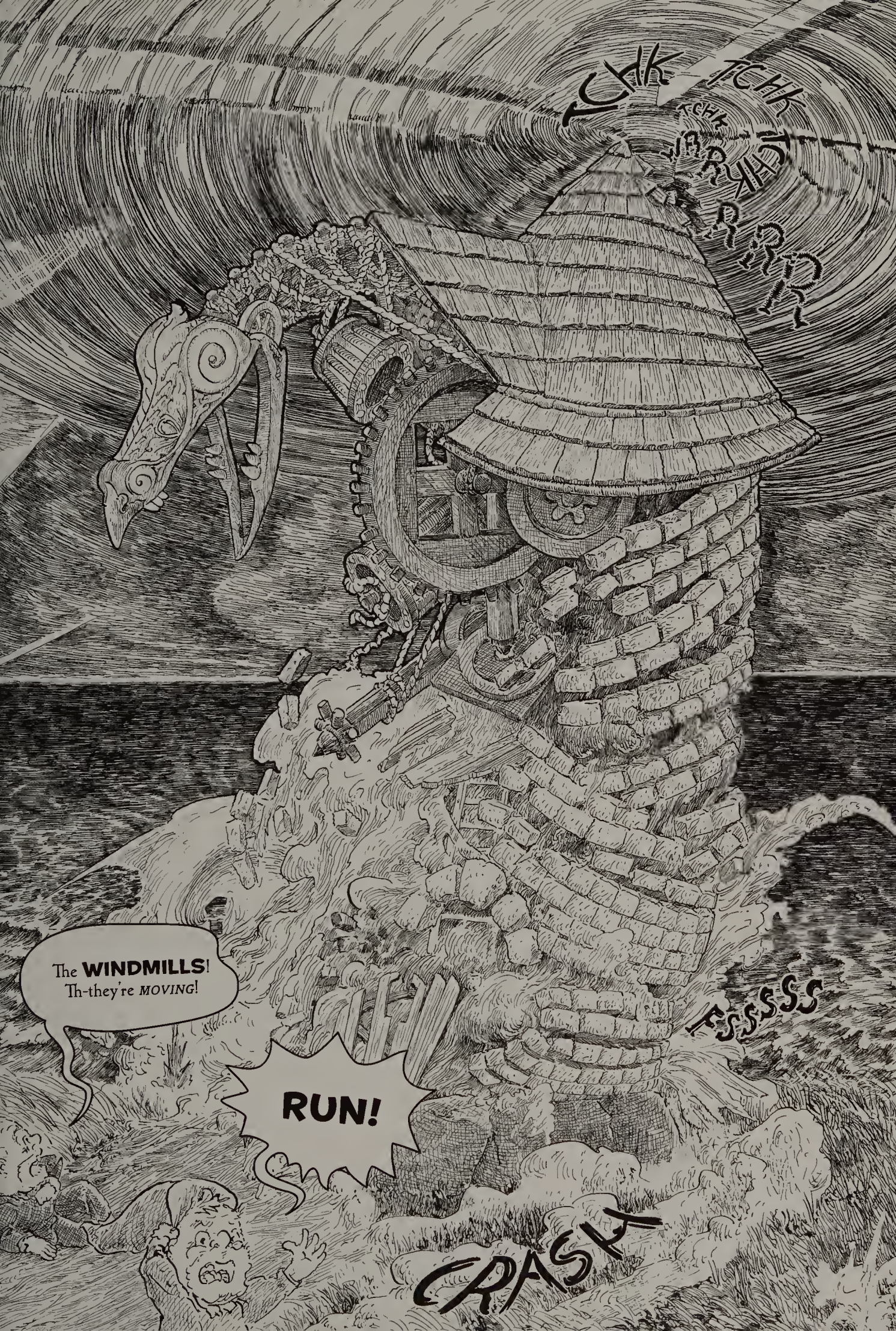
WOOSH

WOOOOOSSSH

WOOOOOSSSH

CRASHH

NEIGH!



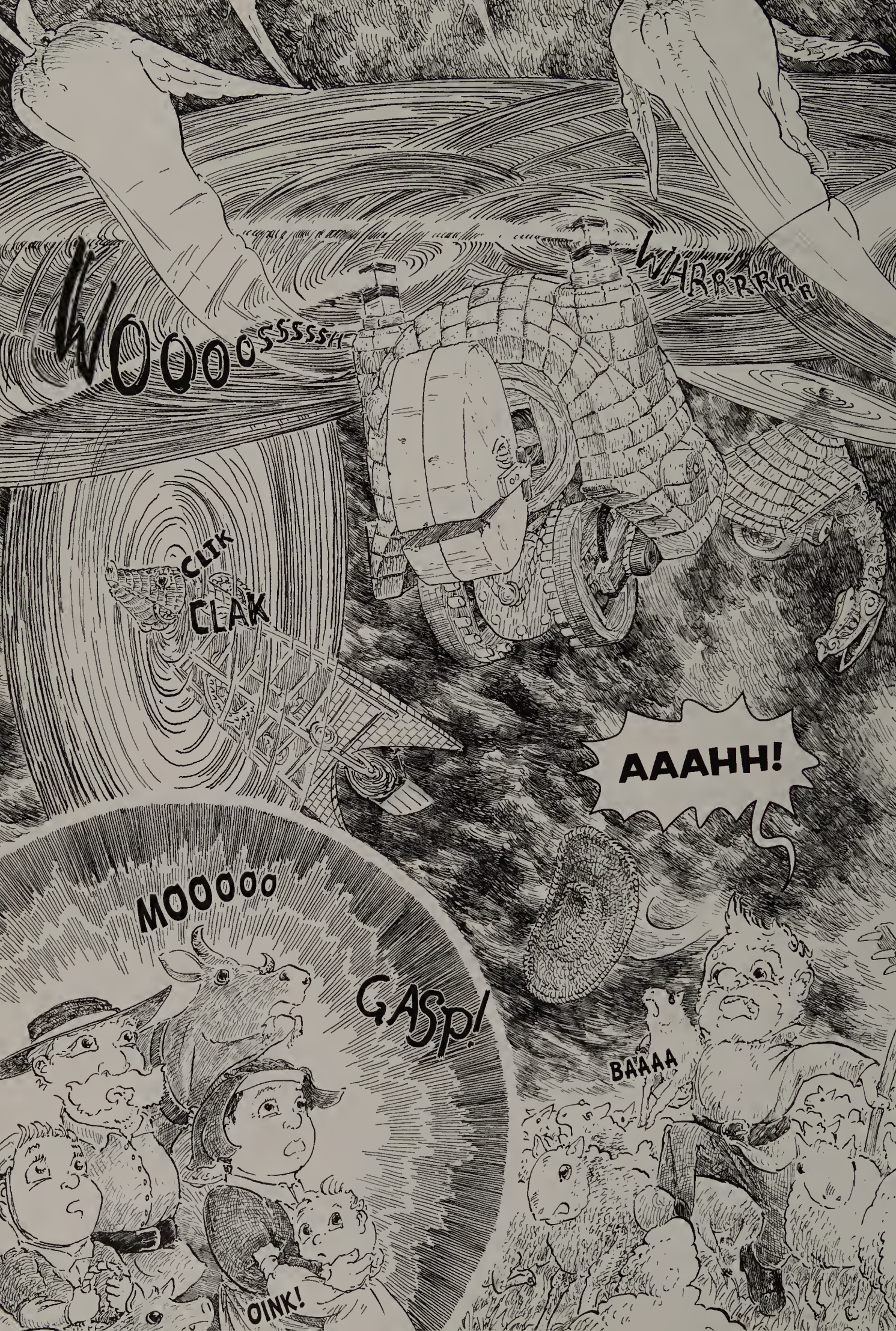
The **WINDMILLS!**
Th-they're **MOVING!**

RUN!

CRASH

FSSSSS

TCH TCH
R R R



WOOOOO

SSSSSS

WARRRRR

CLIK
CLAK

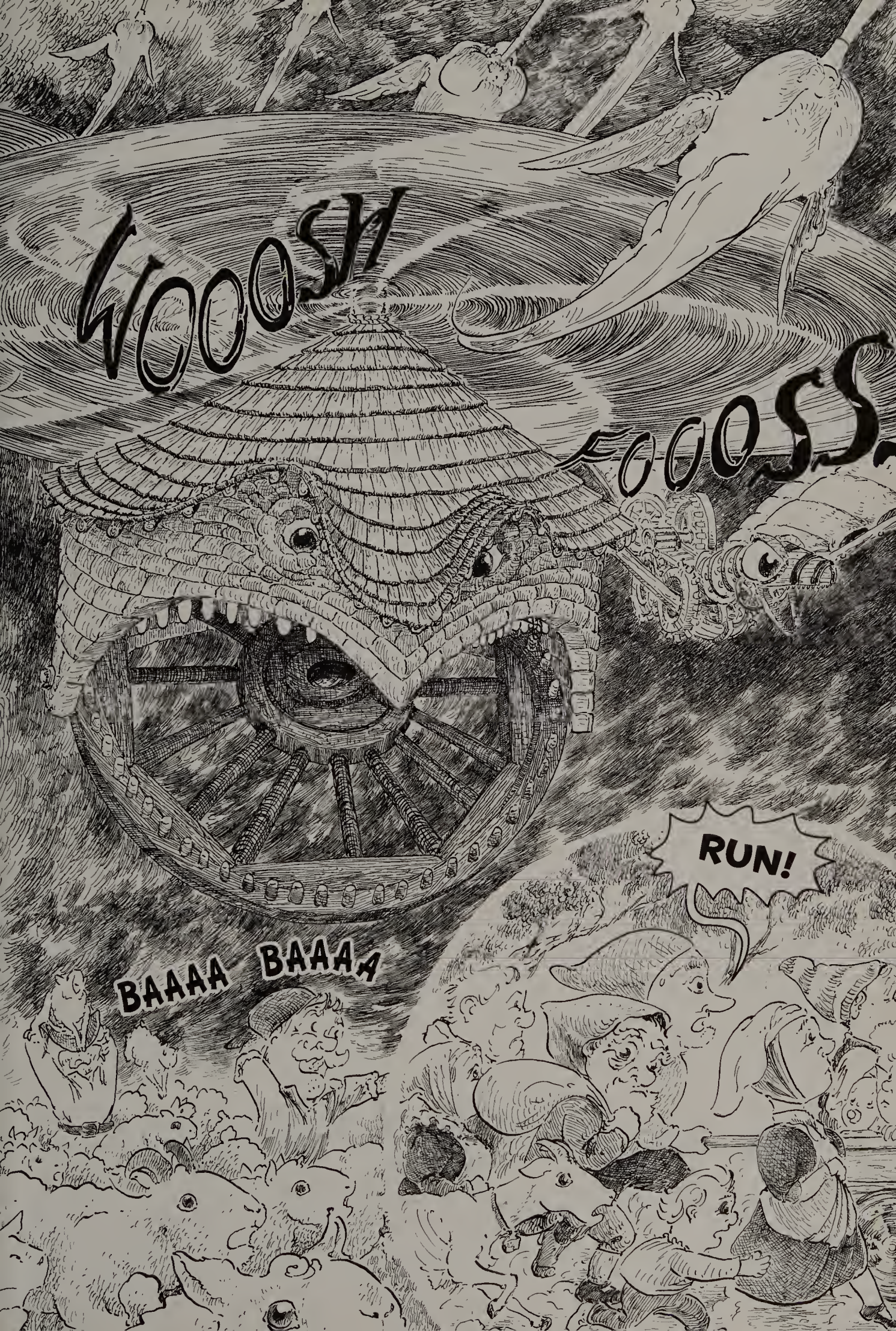
AAAHH!

MOOOOO

GASP!

OINK!

BAAAA



WOOOSH

FOOOSS

BAAAA BAAAA

RUN!

Meanwhile, unaware of the dangerous rift in the natural order, our two heroes are returning from a noble quest to get food for their dog,

...chicken pot pie! That's the *FIRST* thing I want to eat when we get home. No, wait...a steak! *OOH*—maybe a nice filet of fish! I can't decide. All I know is that I'm *HUNGRY*!

Me too, Alan, but we have to *SLOW DOWN*. Your mule is tired, she can't go that fast.



CLIP!
CLOP!

CLIP!
CLOP!



The first thing I want to do is give Rowdy a big **HUG**. How I miss that sweet puppy of ours!

ME TOO!

CLIP!
CLOP!

CLIP!
CLOP!

First I'll give him his **BIG BONE** treat...

and then...
I'LL EAT!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

LEAH! ALAN!
HELP US!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

?

!

THE WINDMILLS!

They've turned
into *DRAGONS*!

WHISS
WHISSSS

ROWDY?! He's trapped!
He was barking at those
monsters, even trying to
FIGHT them!

Dragons?! Is
ROWDY okay?

BAAAA

BAAAA

WAAAA

CLUCK!
CLUCK!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

ATTA BOY, ROWDY!
I'm coming for you!

Alan, **WAIT!**
don't be so
IMPULSIVE!

You need to
THINK before
you rush off!

BAH! Most of my best
work has been done
WITHOUT thinking!

You'd think my brother,
a **KNIGHT**, would be less
impulsive than our **DOG!**

Leah—aren't you always telling me
to **RESPECT** animals? Maybe we can
learn a thing or two from them!

WOAH!

NEIGH!

STOMP!

STOMP!



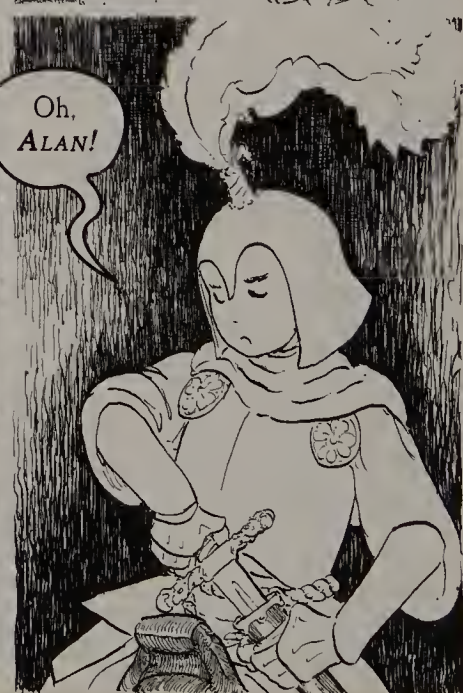
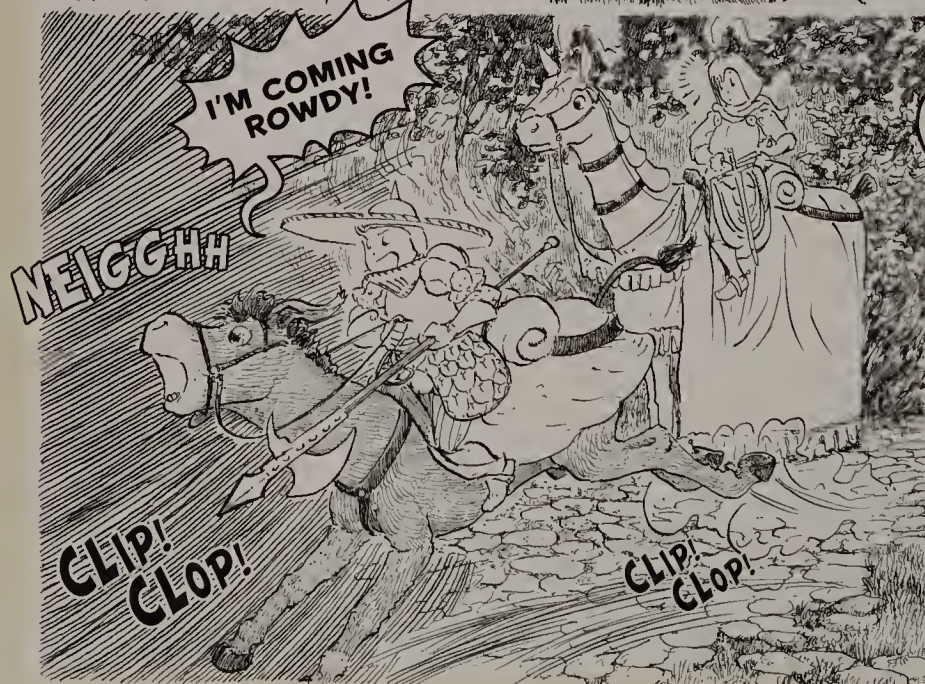
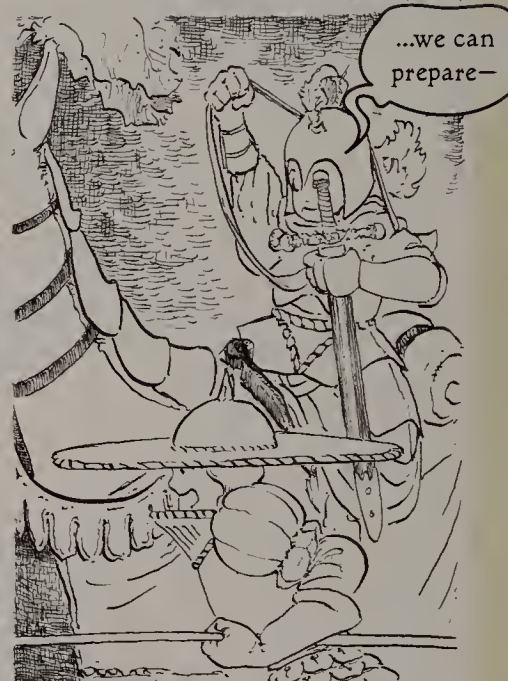
WHRRRRRR

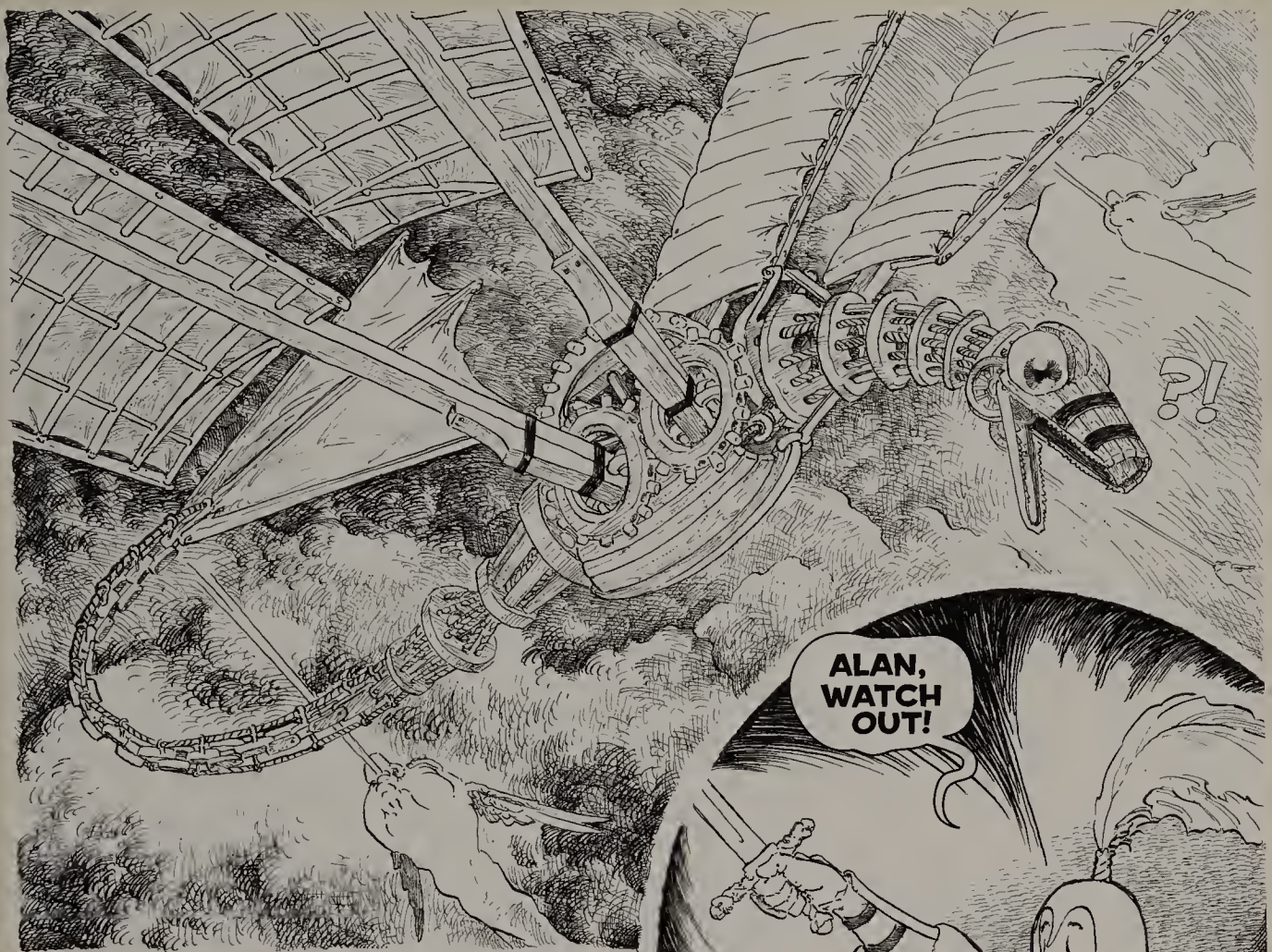
WOOOSH

WOOOSH

WOOF!
WOOF!







ALAN,
WATCH
OUT!

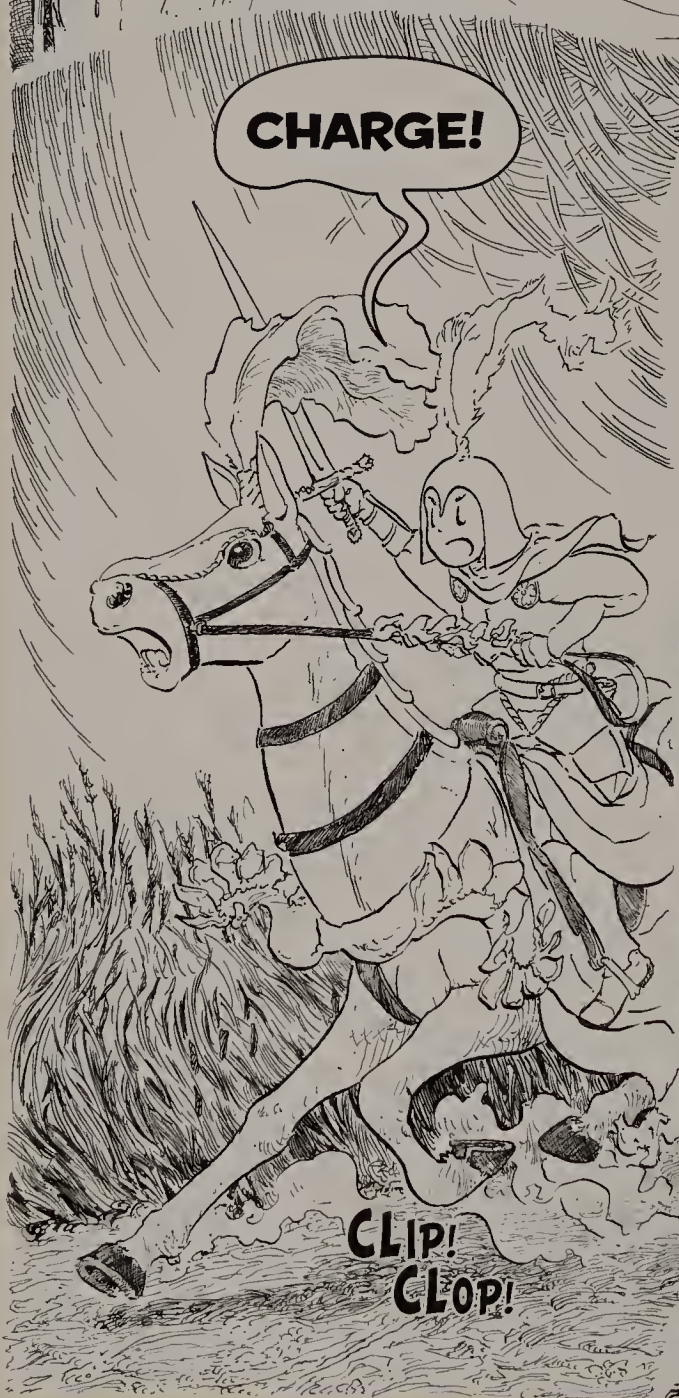




Phew! Let's
stay back till—

LEAH! We have to
be *BRAVE*. Rowdy's
still in there!

All right...
for Rowdy!!



CHARGE!

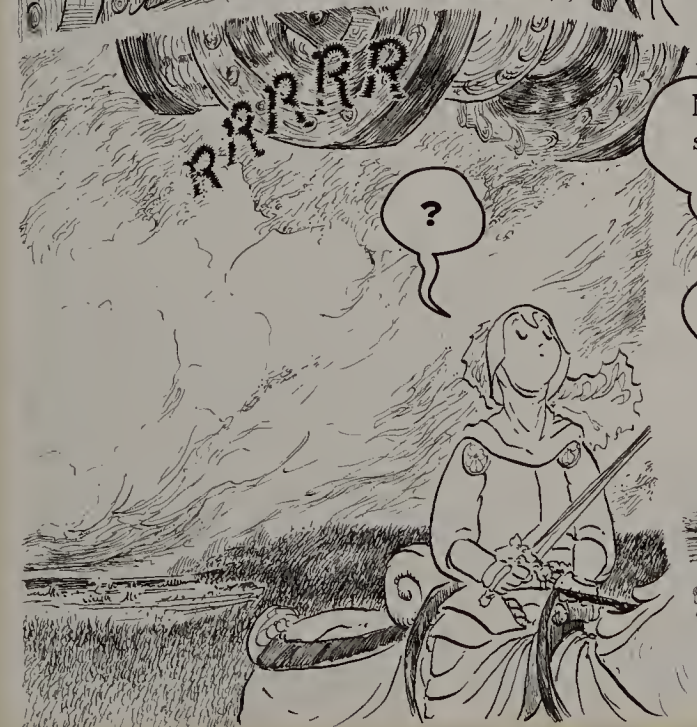
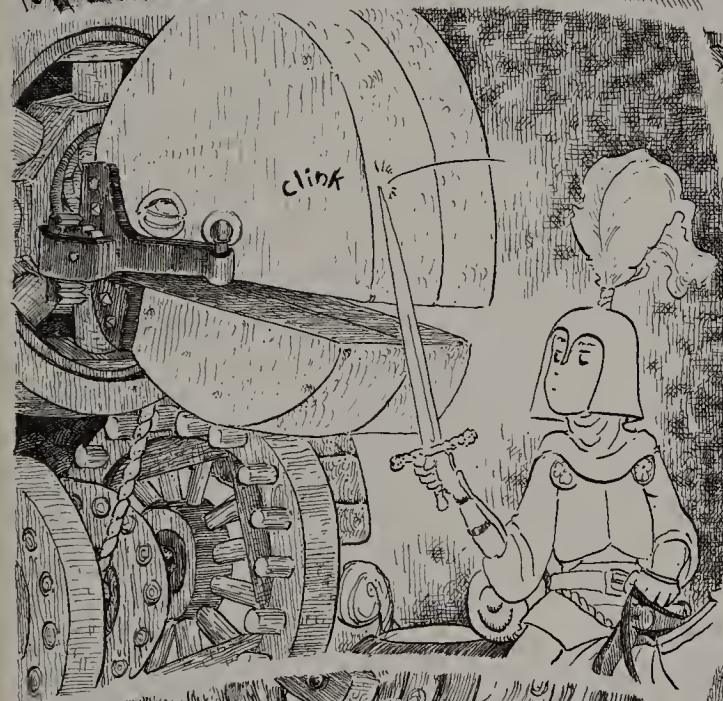
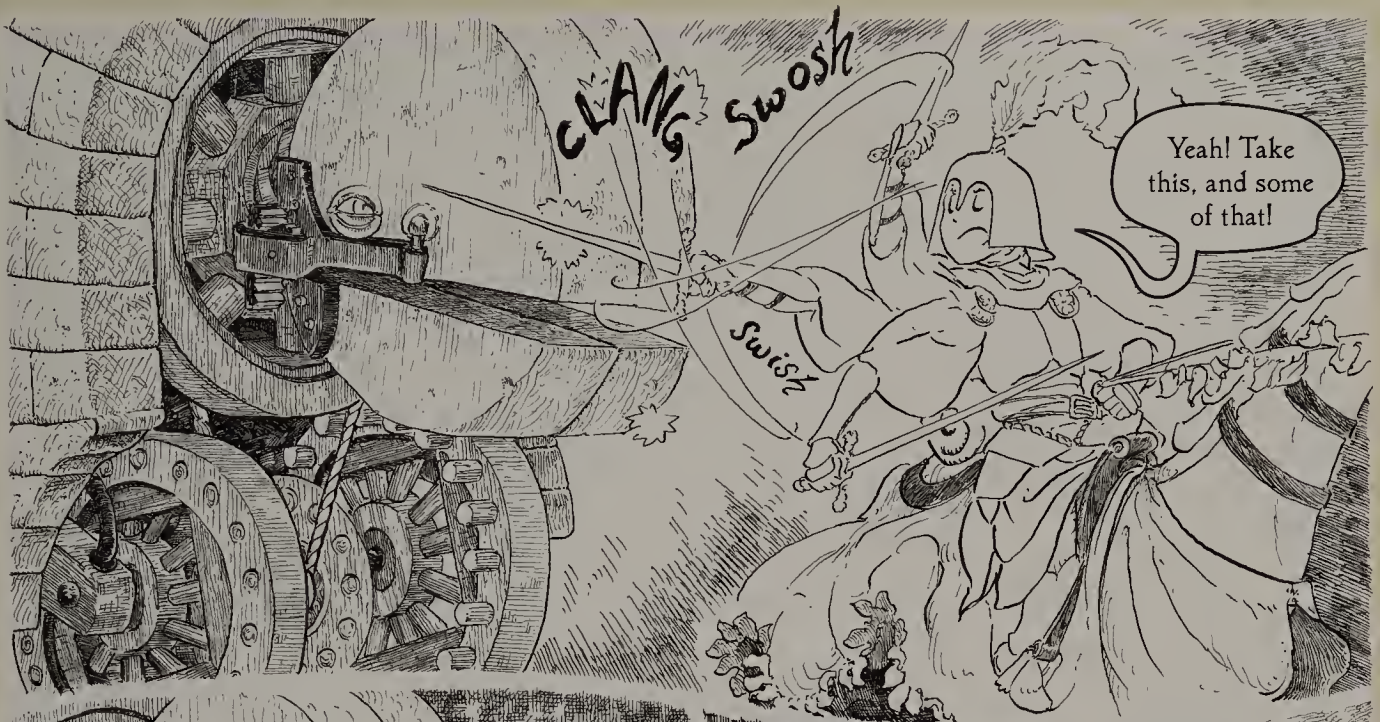


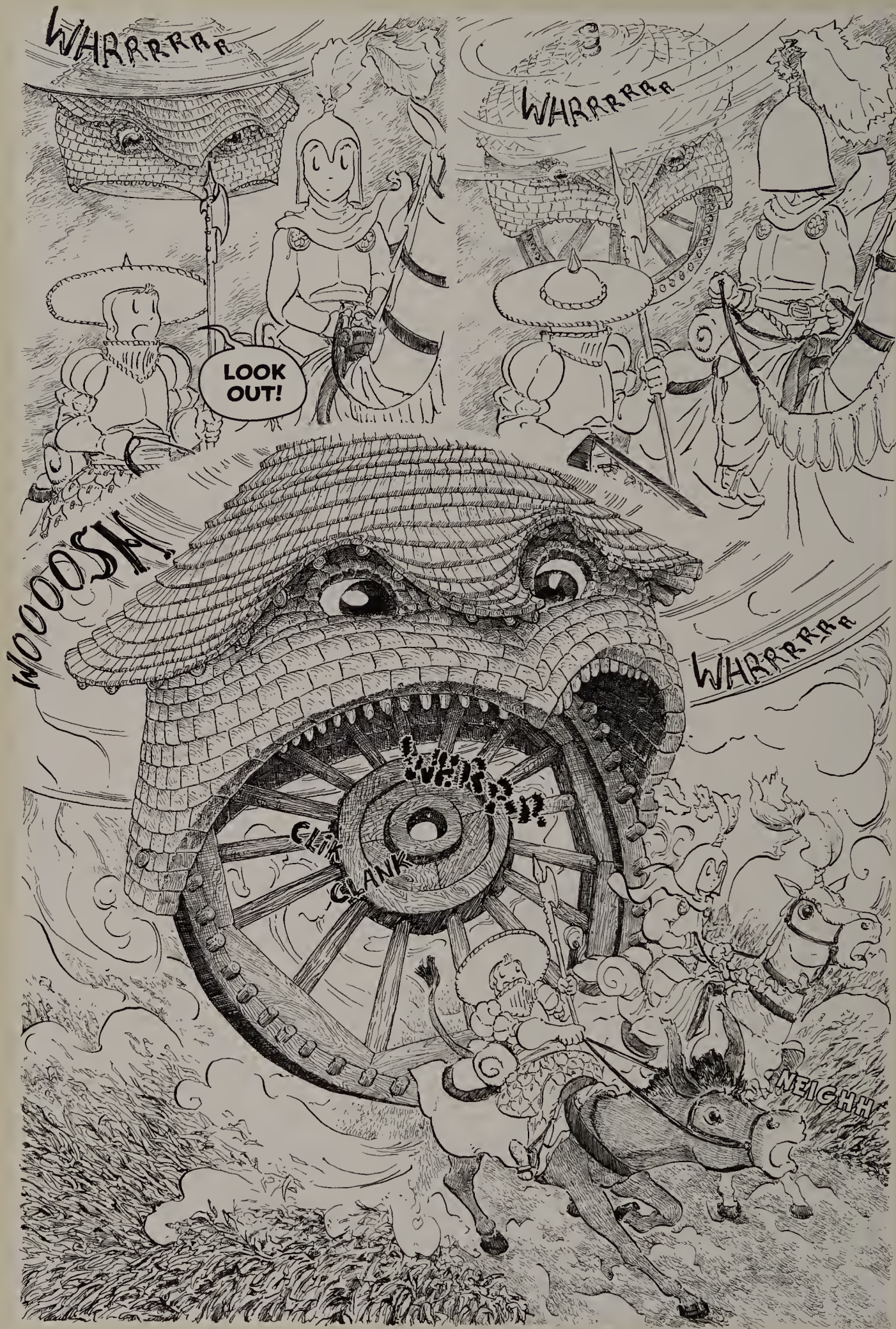
Wooooooooo SSSSS!!



HEY! Come down
here and fight fair!

CLIP!
CLOP!







The trees!
Take cover!

Something isn't
right here...



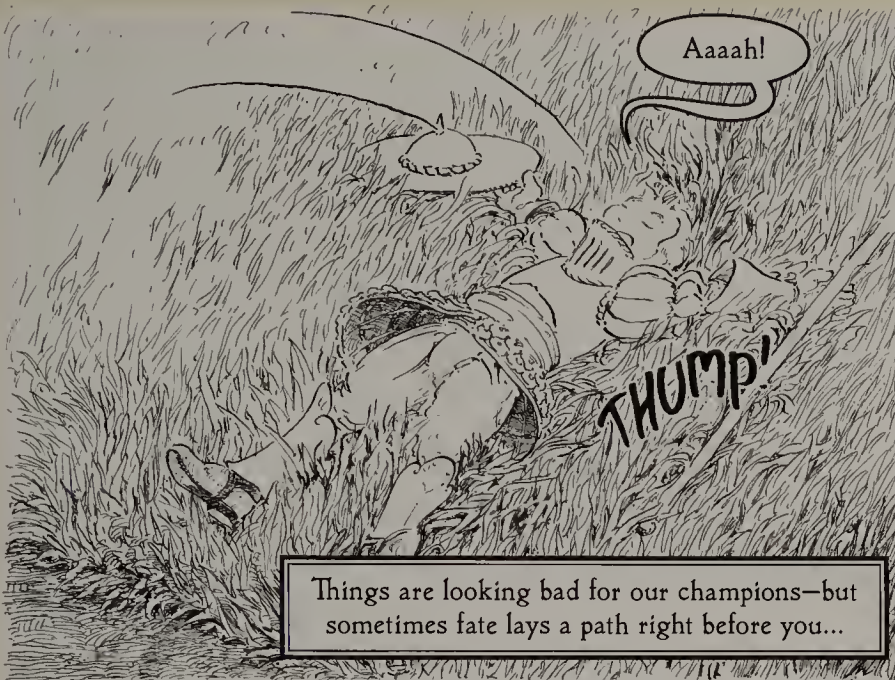
It can't
see us!

I think
we're **SAFE**!

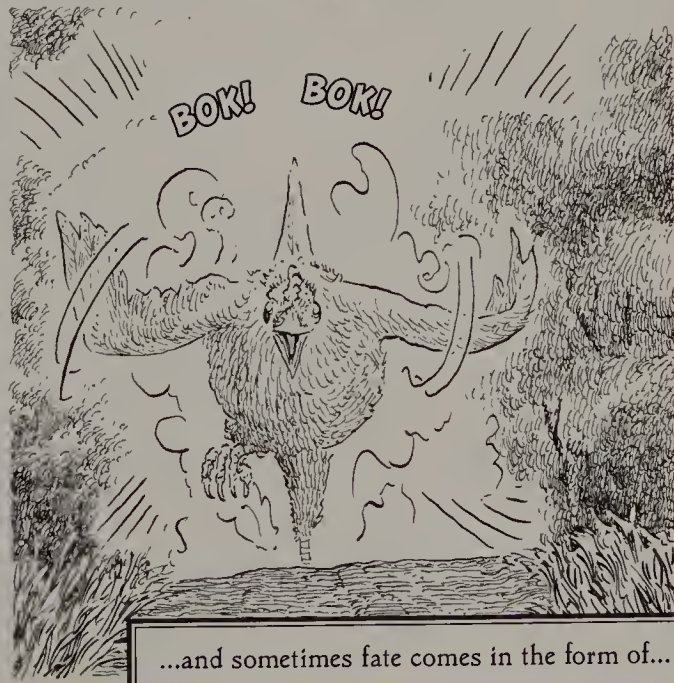
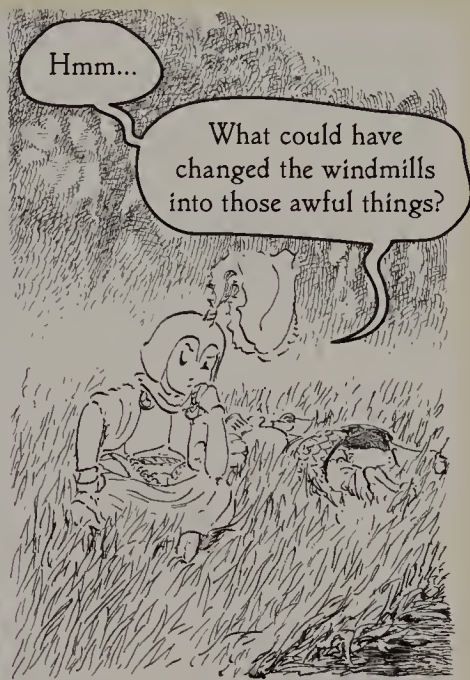
What do we do now, Leah?

I don't know, Alan.
We have to figure out
what's going on here...

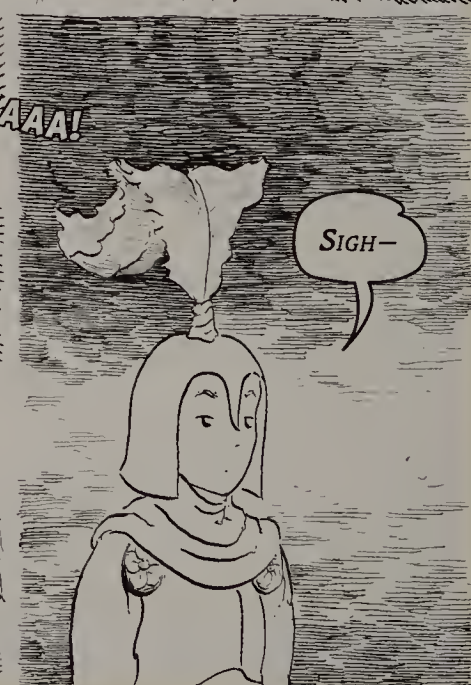
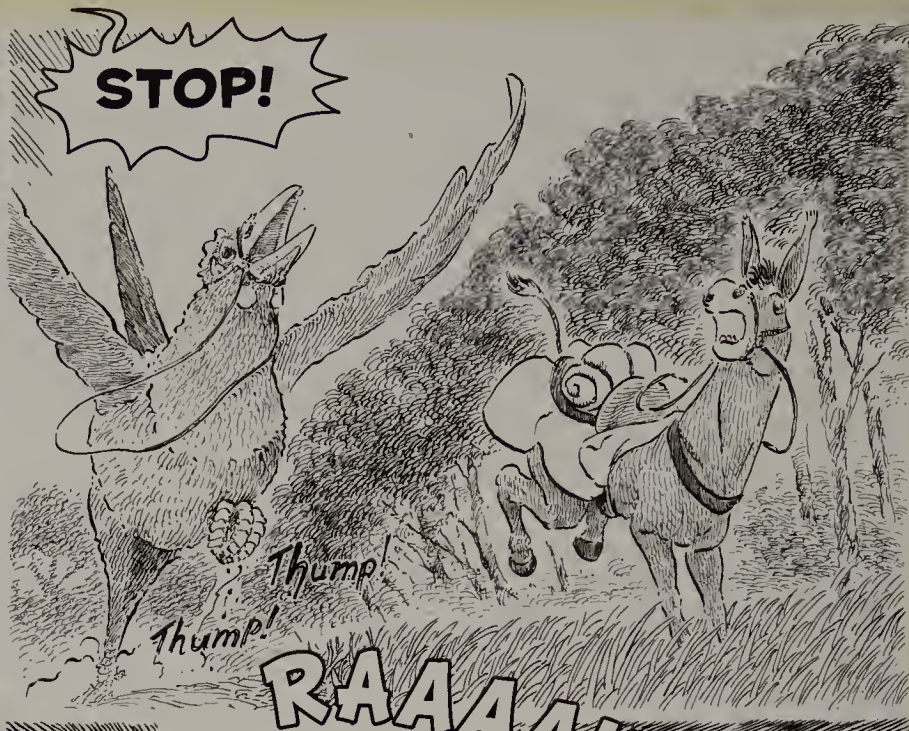
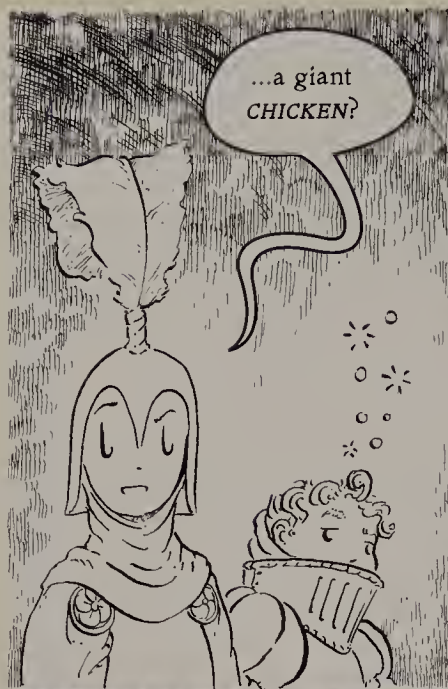
...and then we
have to end it!

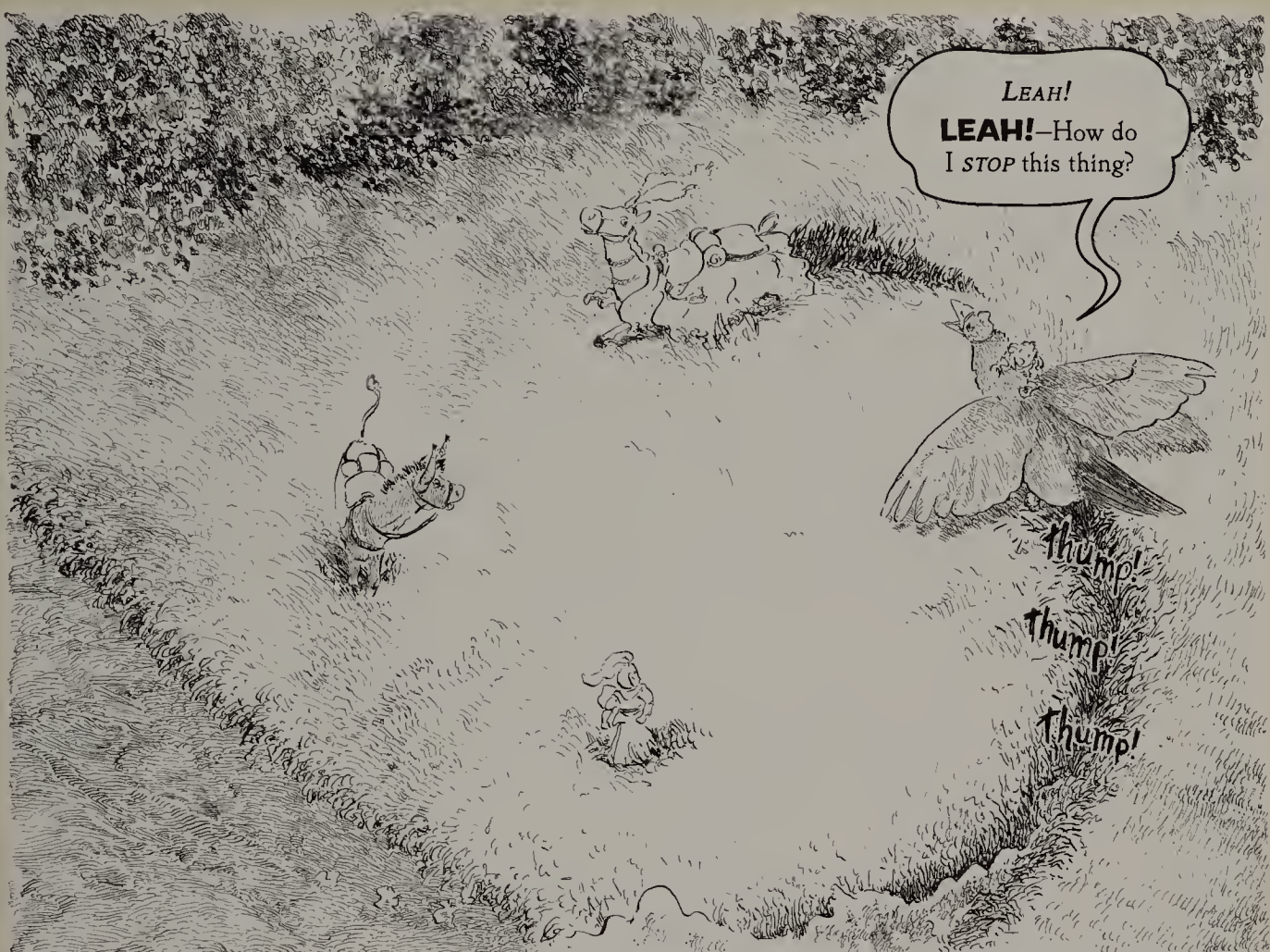


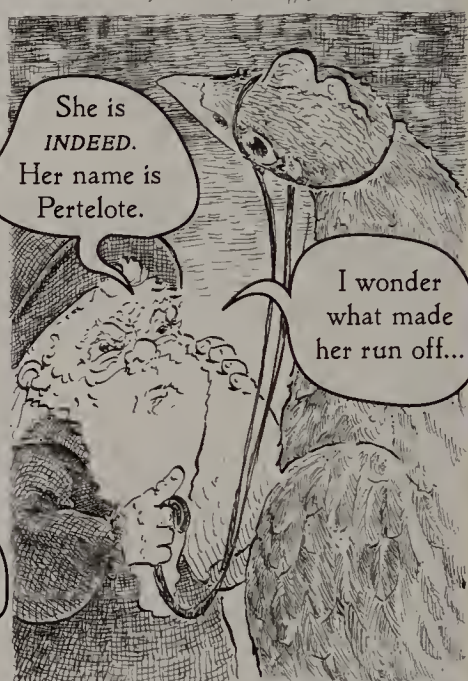
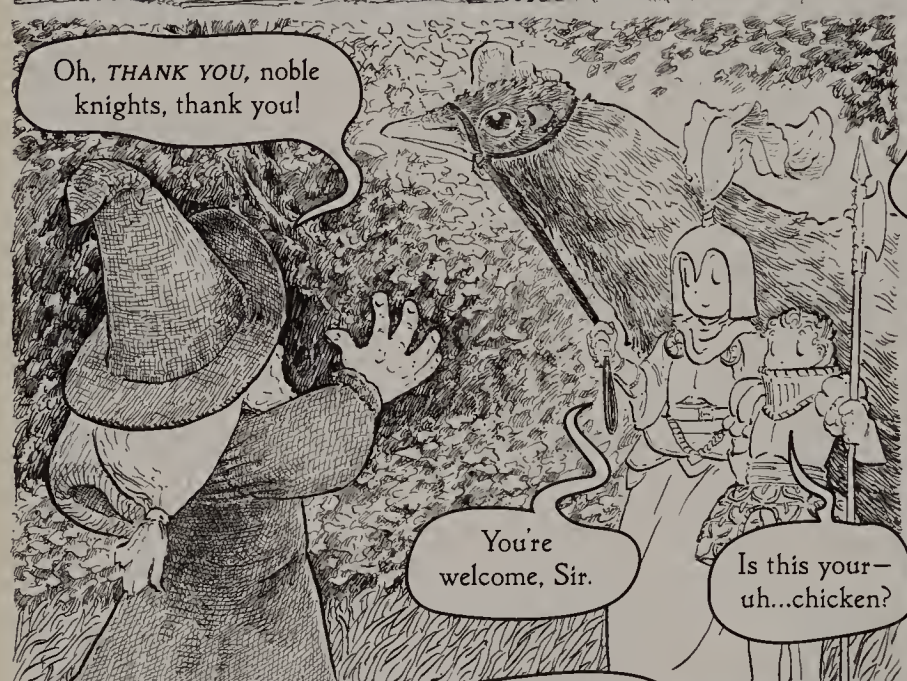
Things are looking bad for our champions—but sometimes fate lays a path right before you...

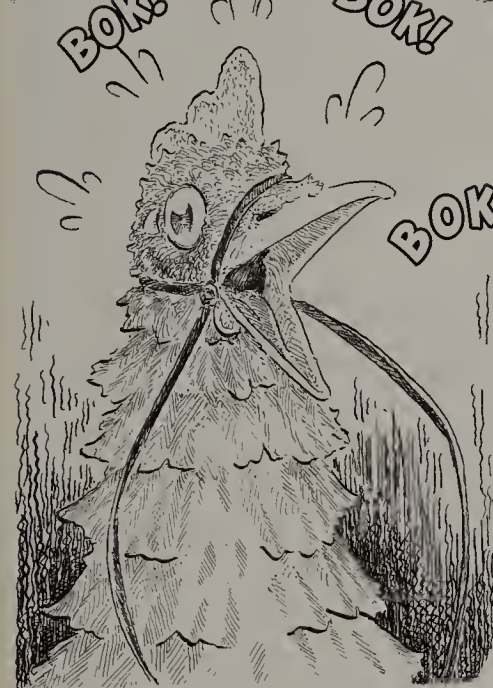


...and sometimes fate comes in the form of...





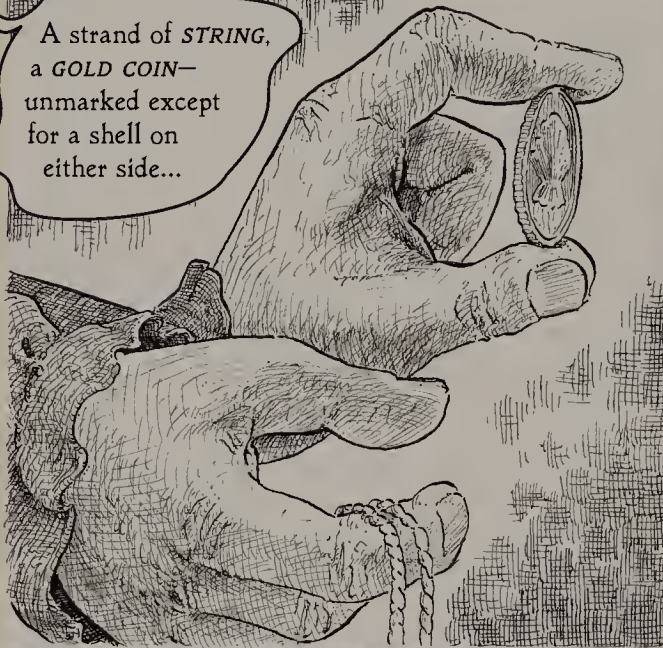




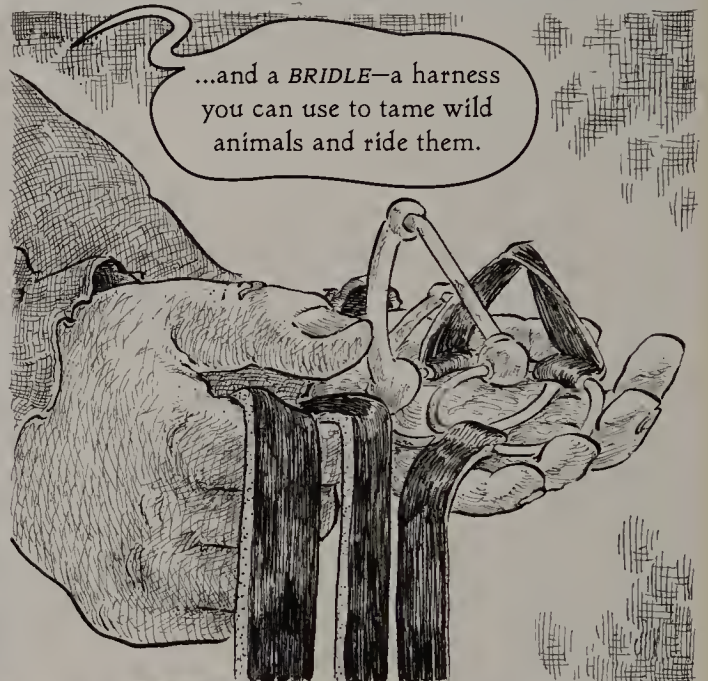
Hmm, what do we have here? It seems that Pertelote left some *GIFTS* she wants you to have.



A strand of *STRING*, a *GOLD COIN*—unmarked except for a shell on either side...



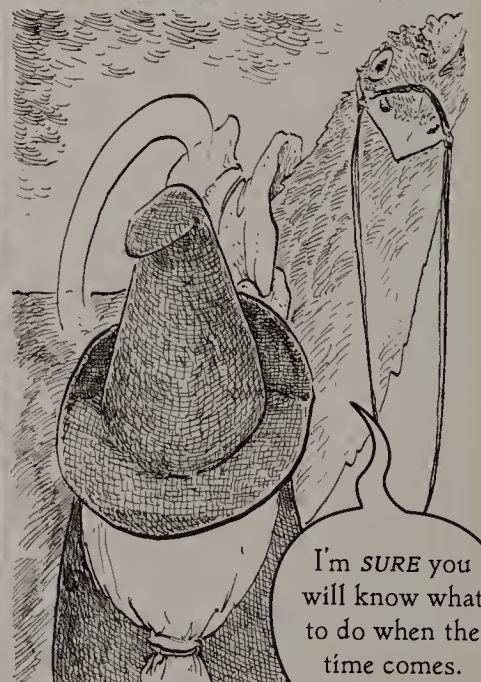
...and a *BRIDLE*—a harness you can use to tame wild animals and ride them.



But what are we supposed to *DO* with these things?



I'm *SURE* you will know what to do when the time comes.



The *MOST* important question now is what's causing all this *CHAOS*? And there's only one man who knows the answer to that.

SIR GEORGE, the dragon slayer...

who *SINGLE-HANDEDLY* slew the mountain-strangling serpent, Yargothop.

But *SADLY*, no one has seen the great Sir George since last year.

Ah well. It's time for Pertelote and me to return home. Good luck on your journey, noble knights, and *THANK YOU* again!

GOODBYE!

Oh, Leah, I can't wait to meet the *GREATEST* of all dragon slayers!

Me neither...but how are we going to *FIND* him?

Once again our two heroes are at a loss for what to do when...

Look, an *INN*! Maybe someone here will know how to find the great Sir George.

Good, and maybe we can *EAT* here. I'm **STARVING!**

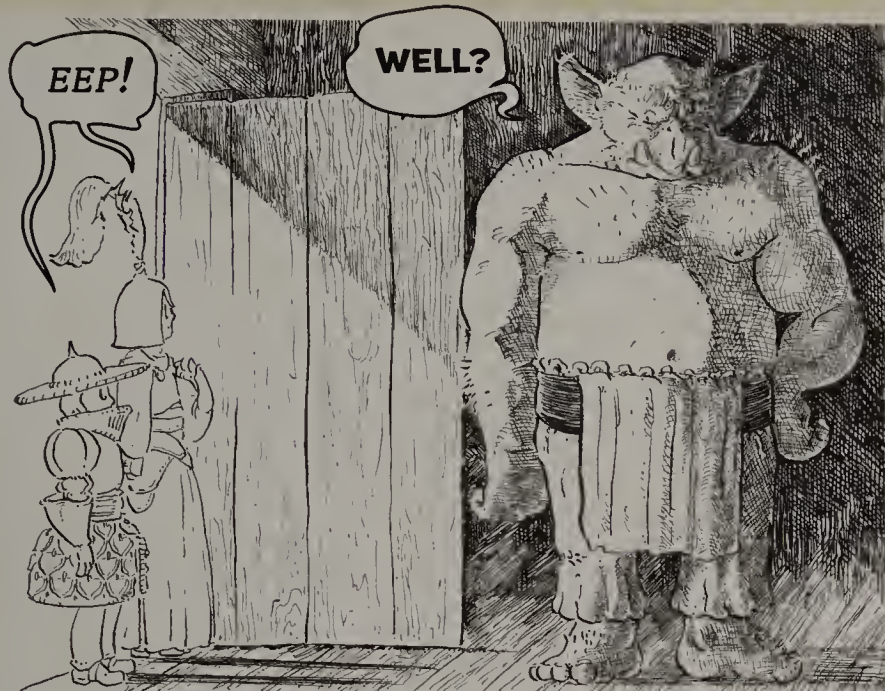
Should we knock first?

No, it's a *PUBLIC HOUSE*. We can just go inside.

But I've always heard a lot of shady characters stay in inns.

GRUNT!

...but sometimes, fate has a way of tying everything together.

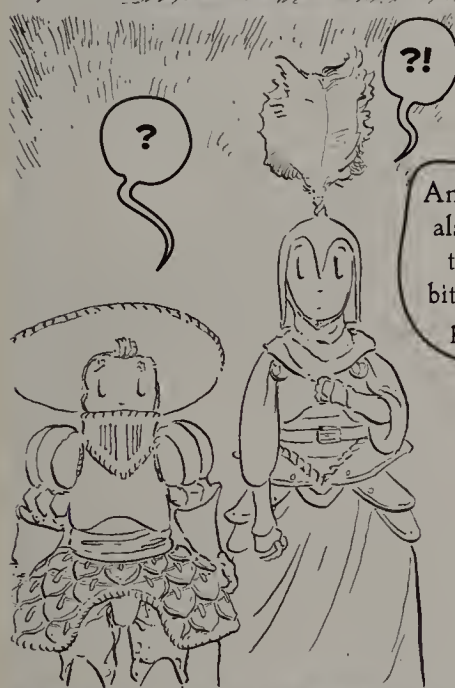


EEP!

WELL?



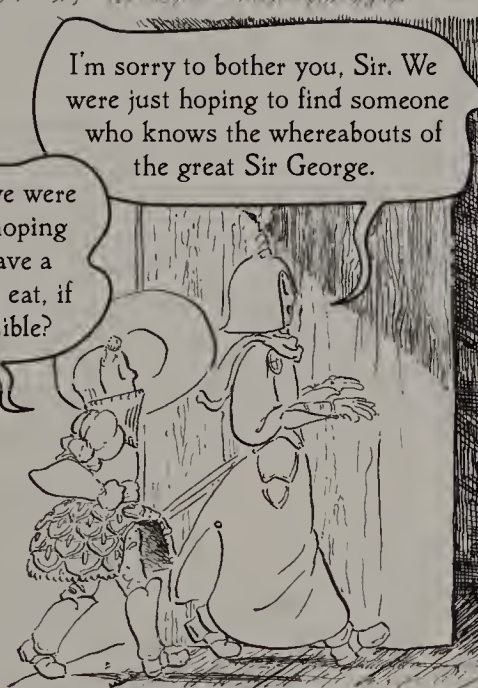
Don't just *STAND*
THERE! Come sit or
GET OUT!



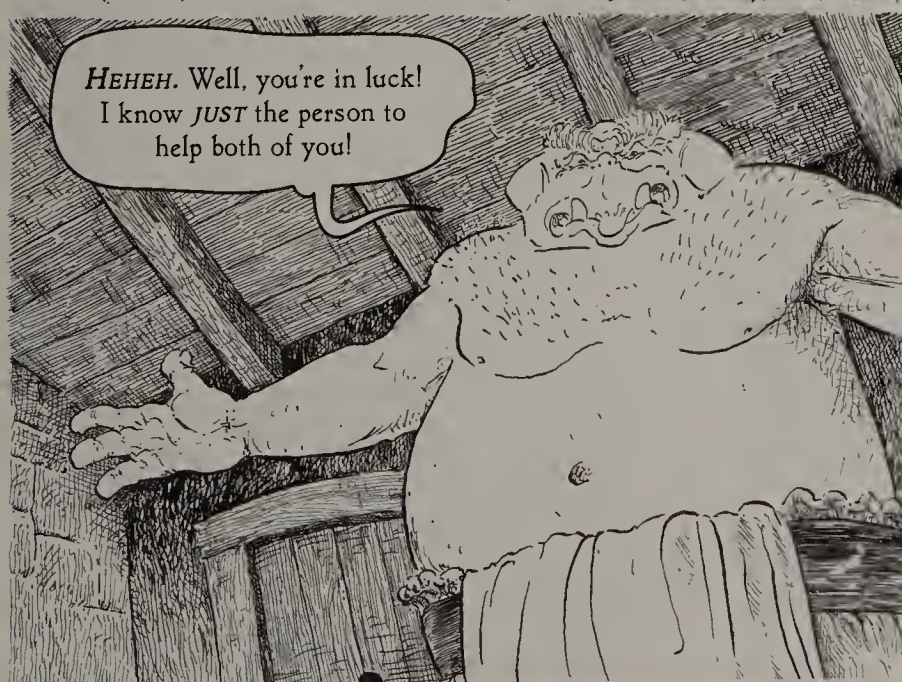
?

?!

And we were
also hoping
to have a
bite to eat, if
possible?



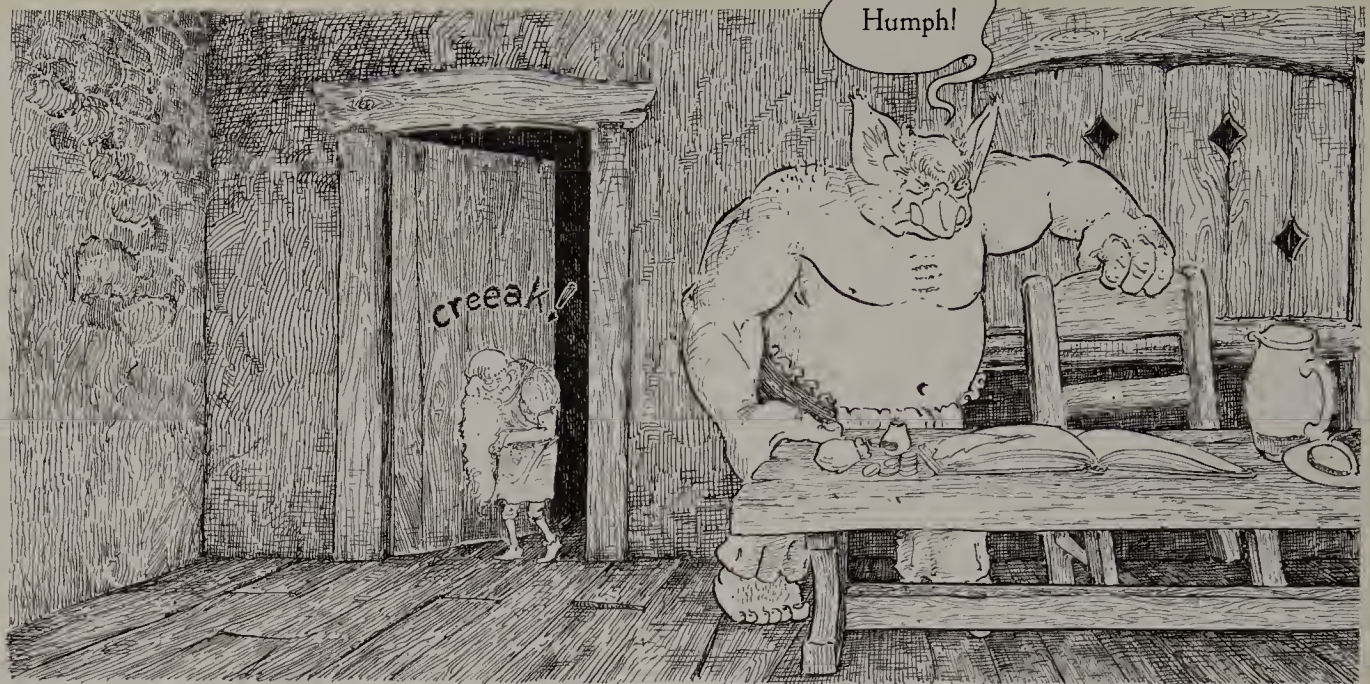
I'm sorry to bother you, Sir. We
were just hoping to find someone
who knows the whereabouts of
the great Sir George.



HEHEH. Well, you're in luck!
I know *JUST* the person to
help both of you!



Would the *GREAT* Sir
George please come
serve our customers?



Humph!

creeak!

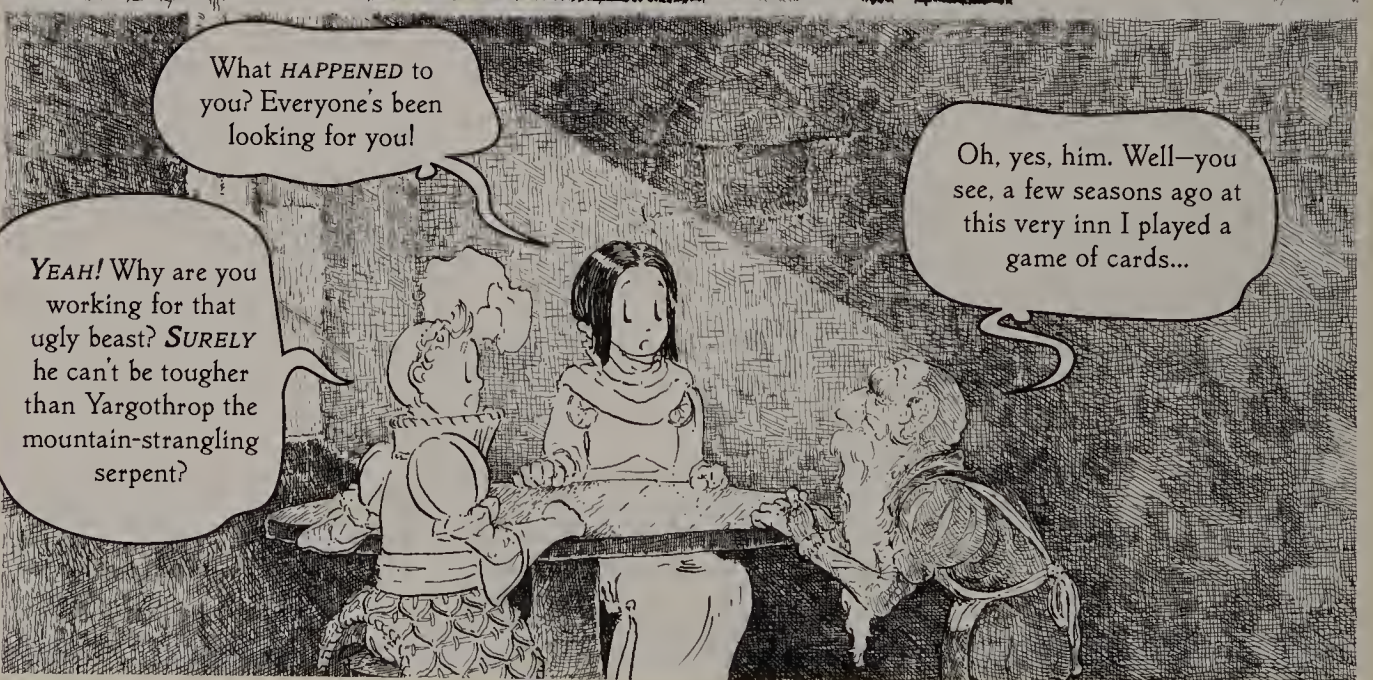


Now, what can I do for you young knights, eh?

Excuse me, sir, but are *YOU* the great Sir George, who *SINGLE-HANDEDLY* slew the mountain-strangling serpent Yargothrop?

Yes, I am he...


Or at least I *USED* to be...




What *HAPPENED* to you? Everyone's been looking for you!

Oh, yes, him. Well—you see, a few seasons ago at this very inn I played a game of cards...

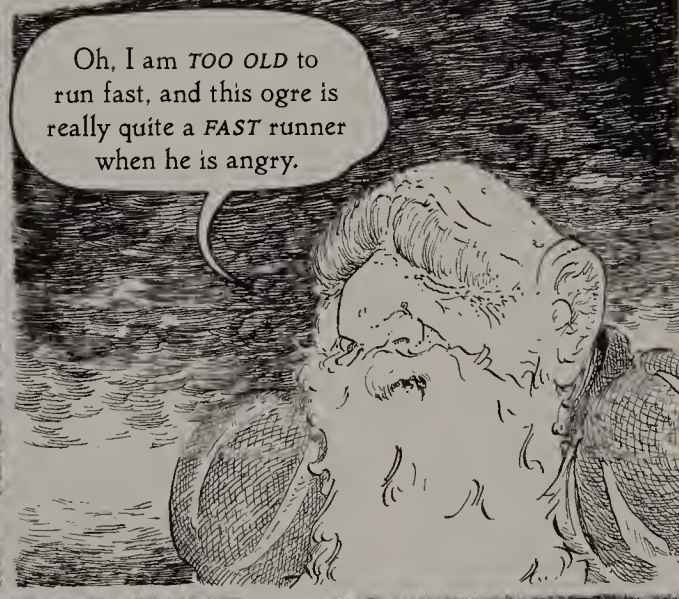
YEAH! Why are you working for that ugly beast? *SURELY* he can't be tougher than Yargothrop the mountain-strangling serpent?



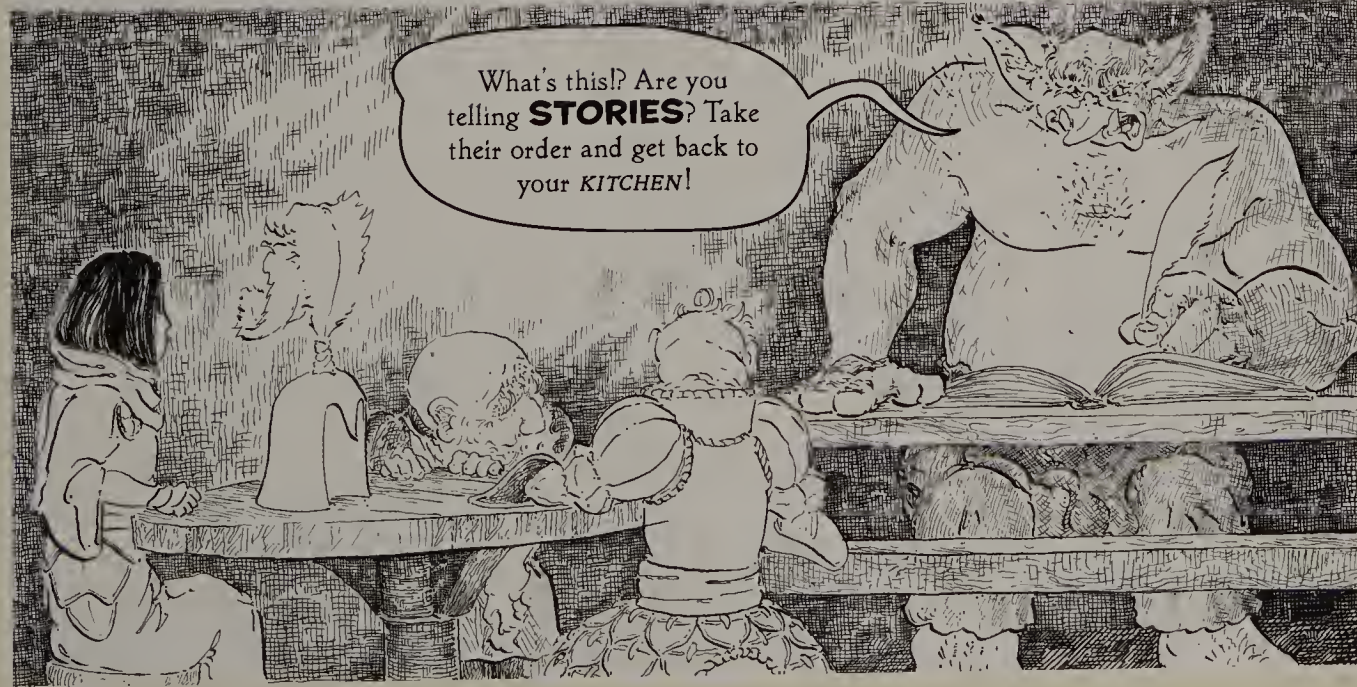
...and won *ONCE* too often. The old ogre didn't take kindly to my winning over him, so he has held me here ever since to work off the *INSULT* to his *PRIDE*.



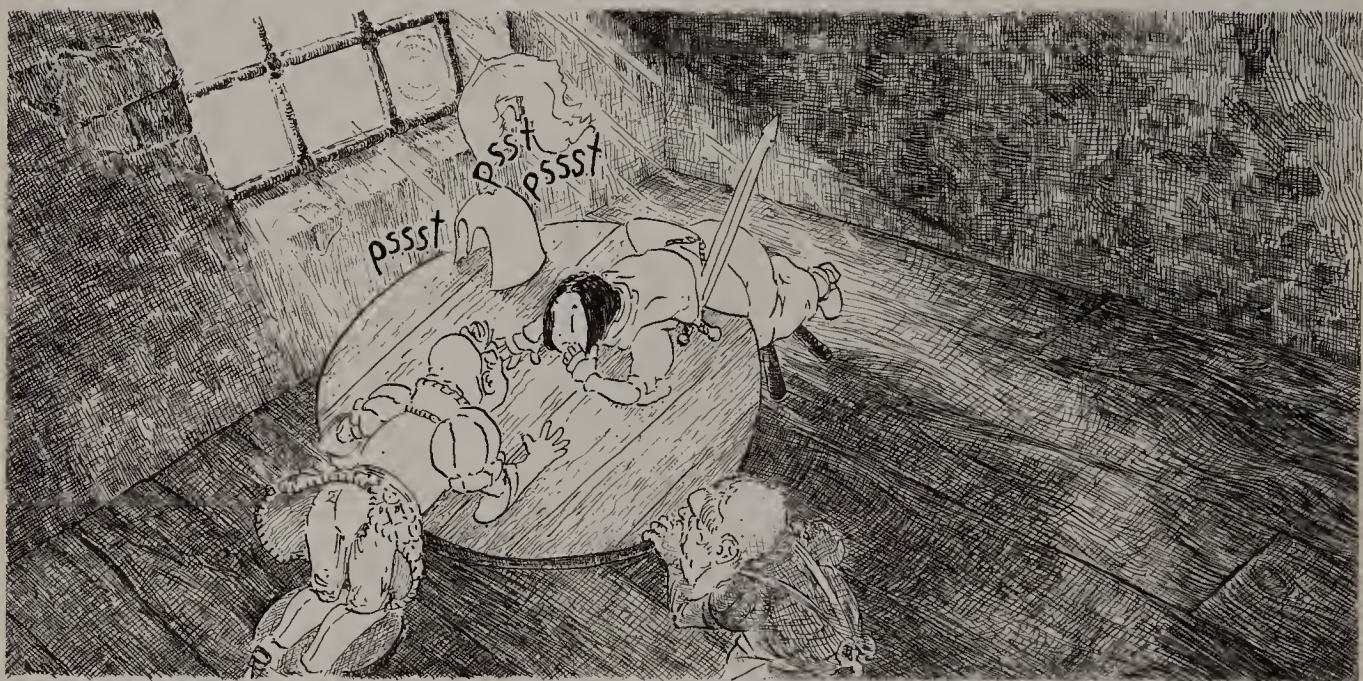
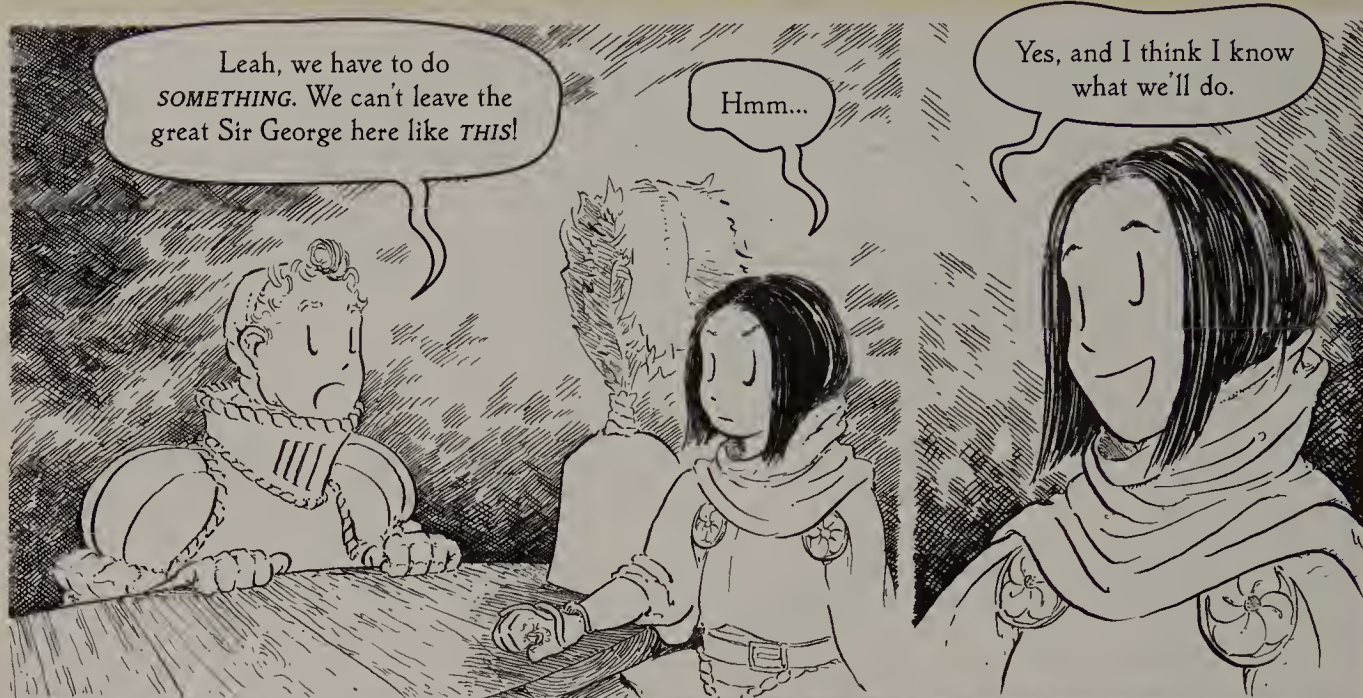
But why don't you just *RUN AWAY*?




Oh, I am *TOO OLD* to run fast, and this ogre is really quite a *FAST* runner when he is angry.

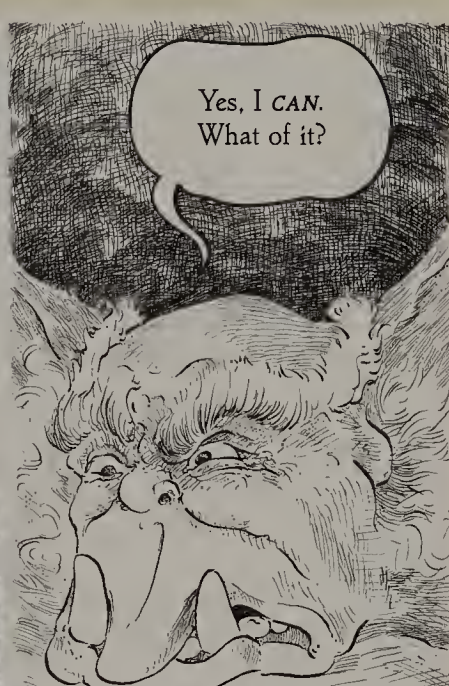


What's this!? Are you telling **STORIES**? Take their order and get back to your *KITCHEN*!






Mr. Ogre, I have heard that you can run **VERY FAST**.




Yes, I **CAN**.
What of it?

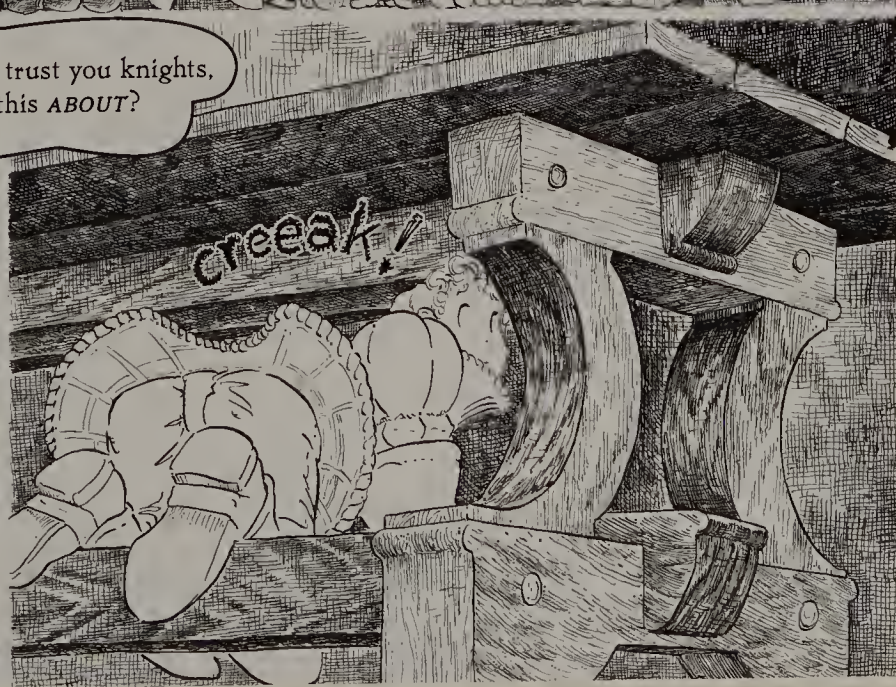


Yes, you must be fast indeed—clever, too—to keep a great knight like Sir George as your captive.

HA!



Quite right. I am **BOTH** of those things!



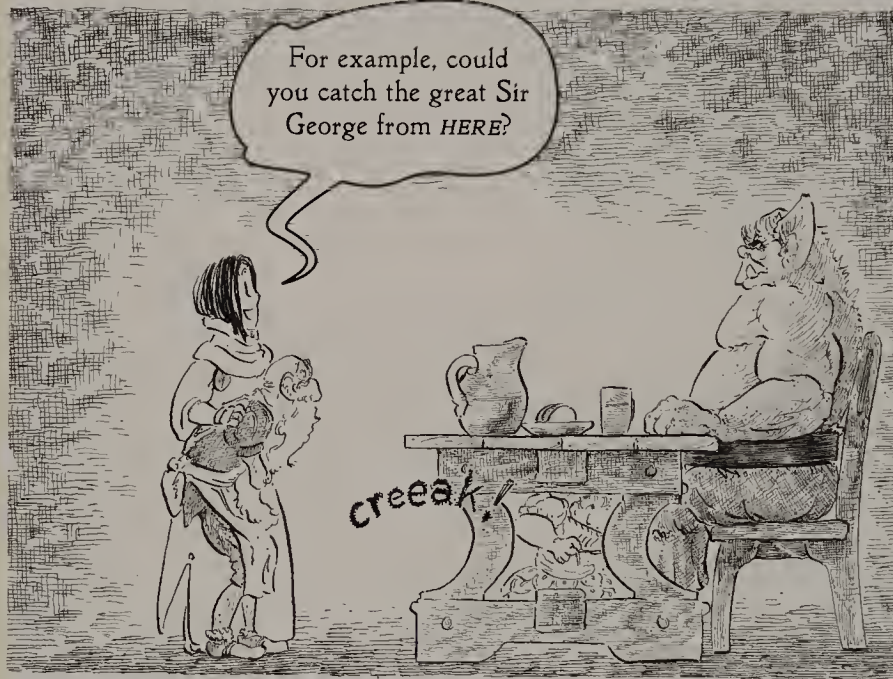
But I don't trust you knights, so what's this **ABOUT**?

creeak!



Oh, nothing sinister, I can assure you. I've only heard of your great *RUNNING* skill.

YES! What of it?



For example, could you catch the great Sir George from *HERE*?

creeak!



FASTER than a running hare.



Could you catch the great Sir George from *HERE*?



FASTER than a blinding flare!



And *FINALLY*,
could you catch the
great Sir George...



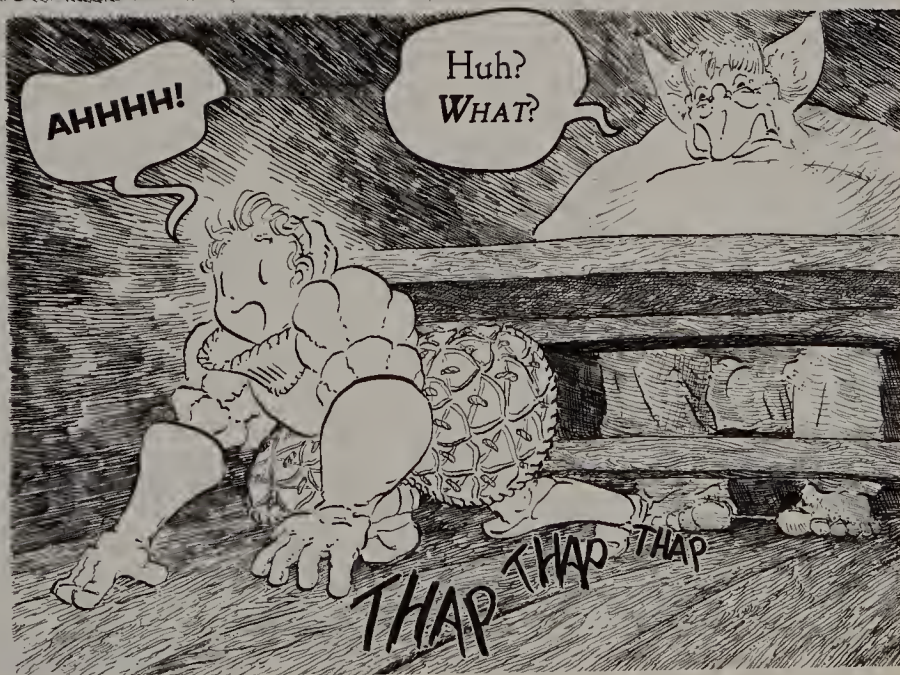
from
HERE?



FASTER than falling
down the stairs.



Now,
Alan,
RUN!



AHHHH!

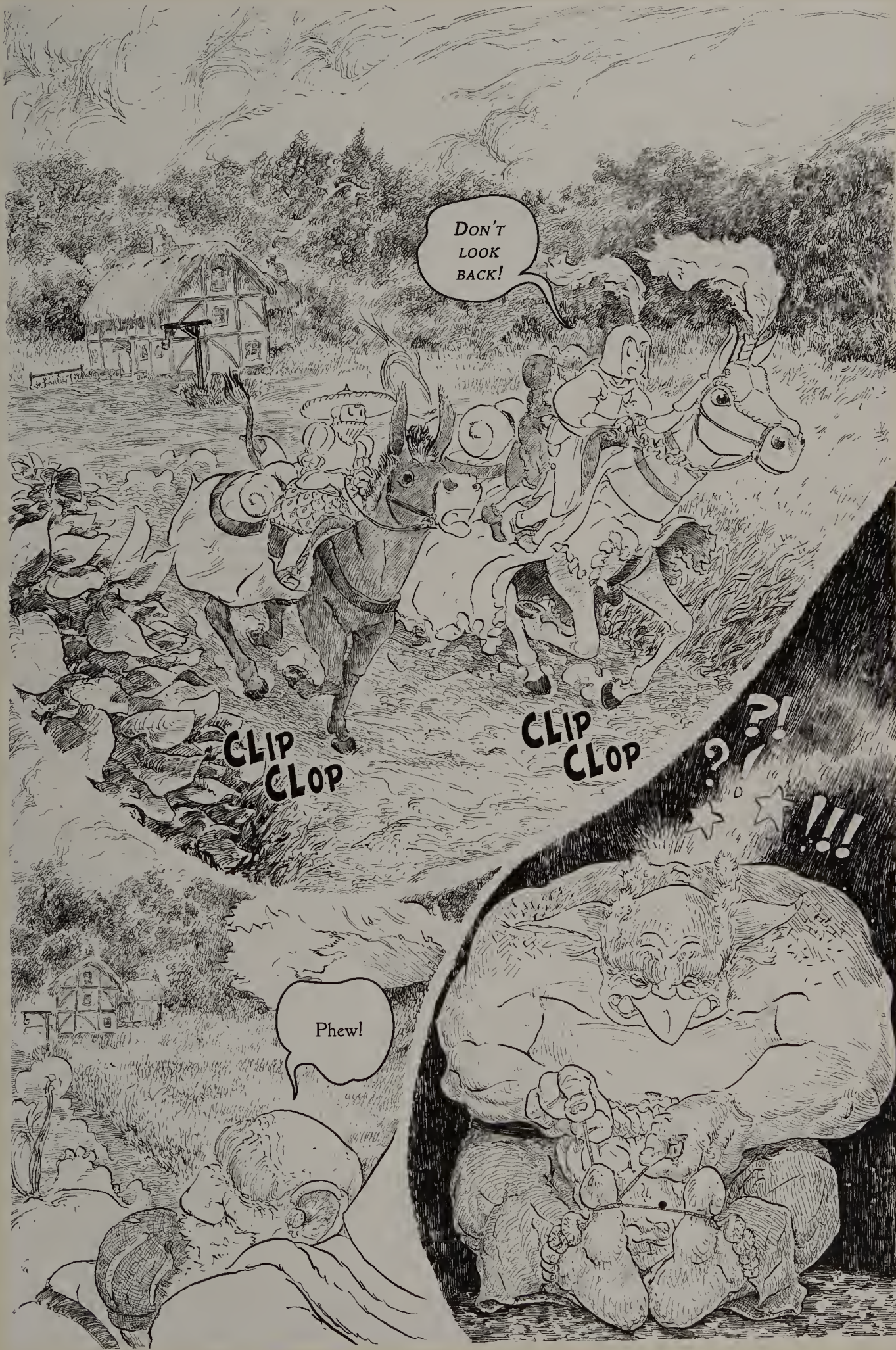
Huh?
WHAT?

THAP THAP THAP

HEY,
STOP!

TWANG

CRASH



Saved by their quick thinking and a gift from a chicken, our heroes are out of danger for now. But have they taken on too formidable a task?

...and then, while the serpent was stunned, I clambered atop its brow and drove my sword right between its eyes—AH! *HERE WE ARE!*

Are you certain we can't carry you *FARTHER*, Sir George?

OH NO! I'm too old to ride a horse these days!

OOF!

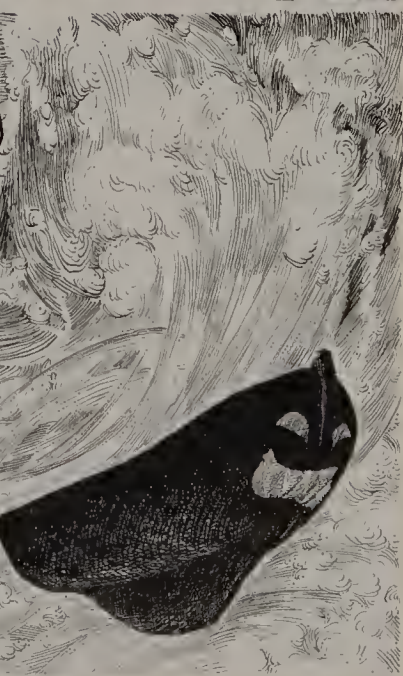
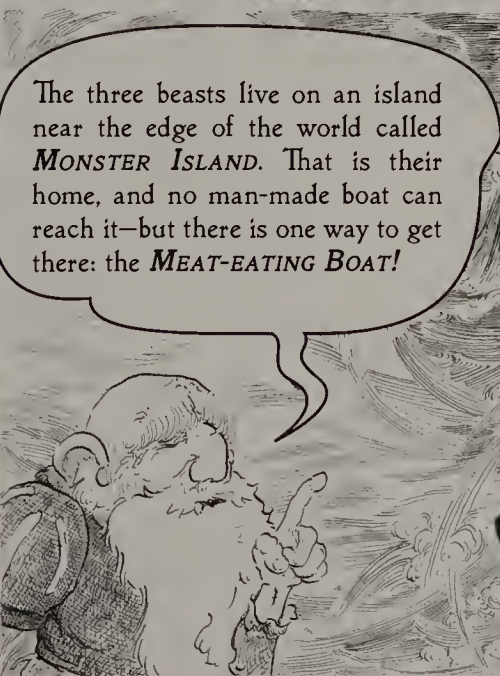
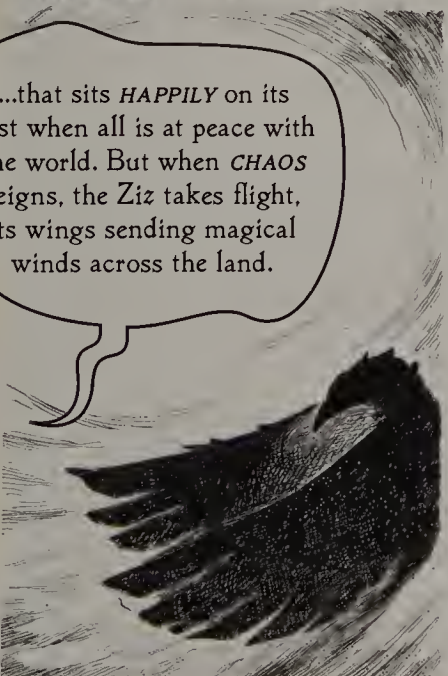
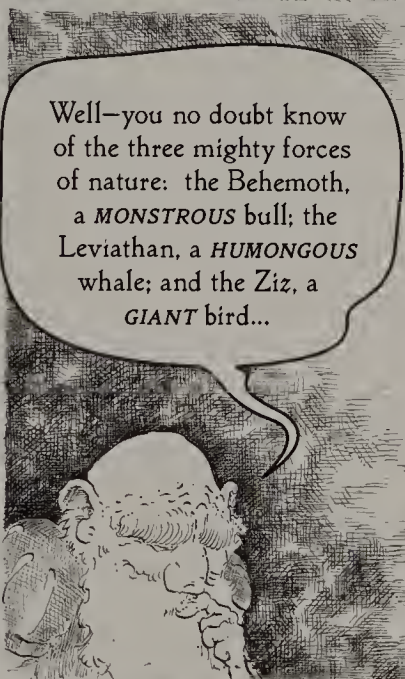
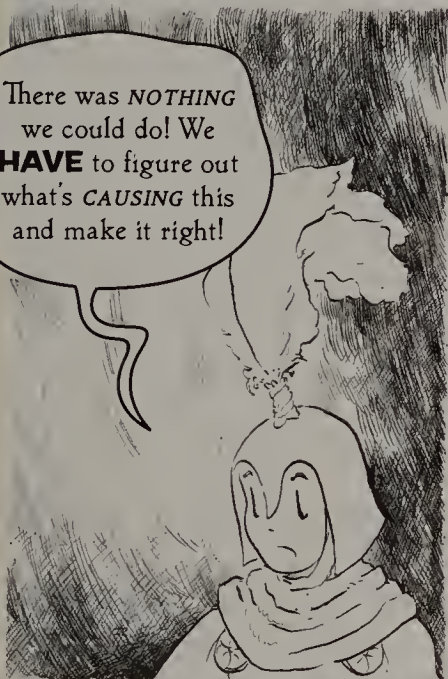
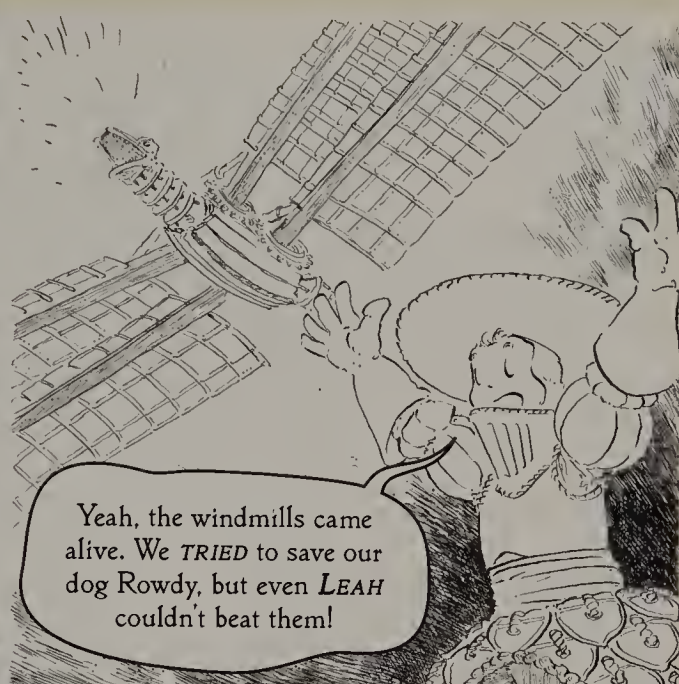
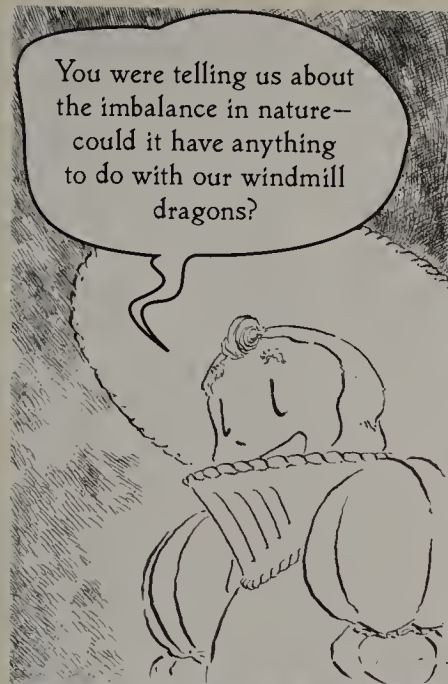
MUCH BETTER down here.

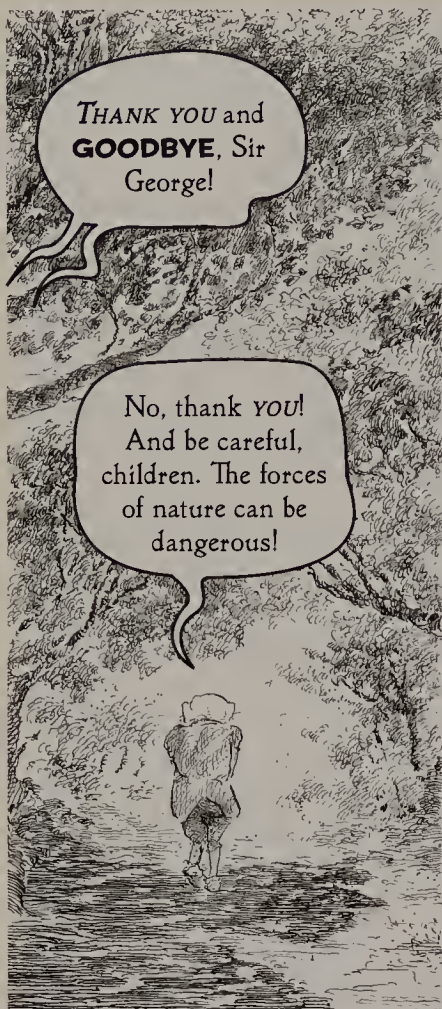
Hmm...*WHAT* was I going to tell you?

About how you vanquished Yargothrop the mountain-strangling serpent?

No, no... *BEFORE* that!

Yeah! By *STABBING* it right between the eyes!





THANK YOU and
GOODBYE, Sir
George!

No, thank you!
And be careful,
children. The forces
of nature can be
dangerous!



Two bags of
jerky, please.

YEAH! We
get to eat—
HURRAY!

Don't get too
excited, Alan.
This isn't for **US...**

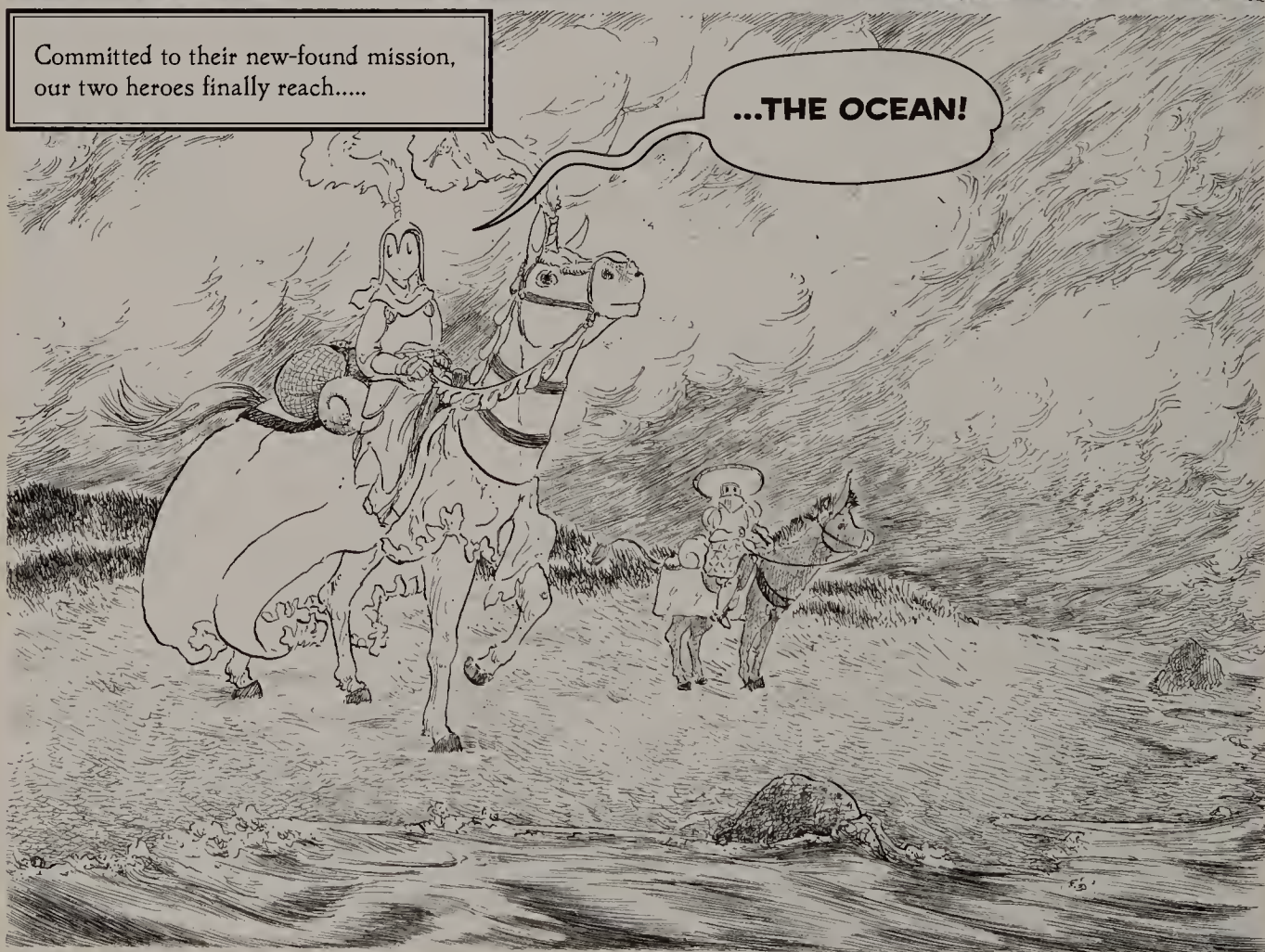


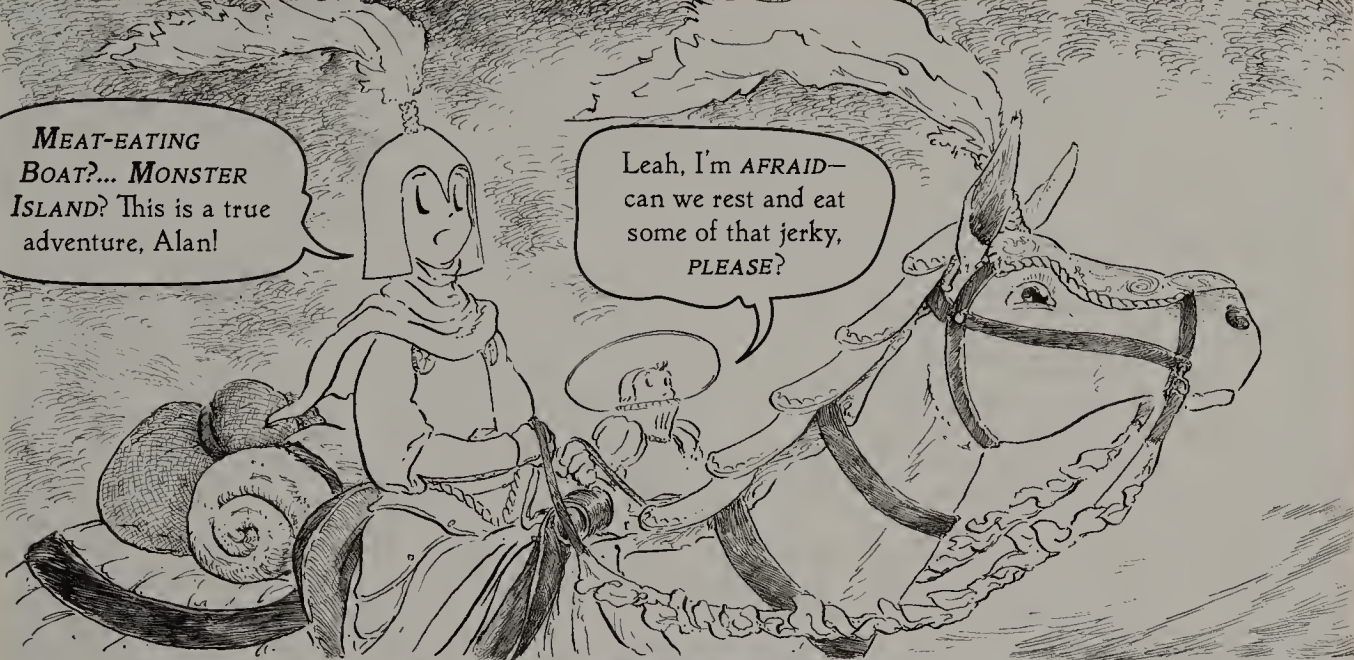
SPLASH!

Sloshh

Committed to their new-found mission,
our two heroes finally reach.....


...THE OCEAN!





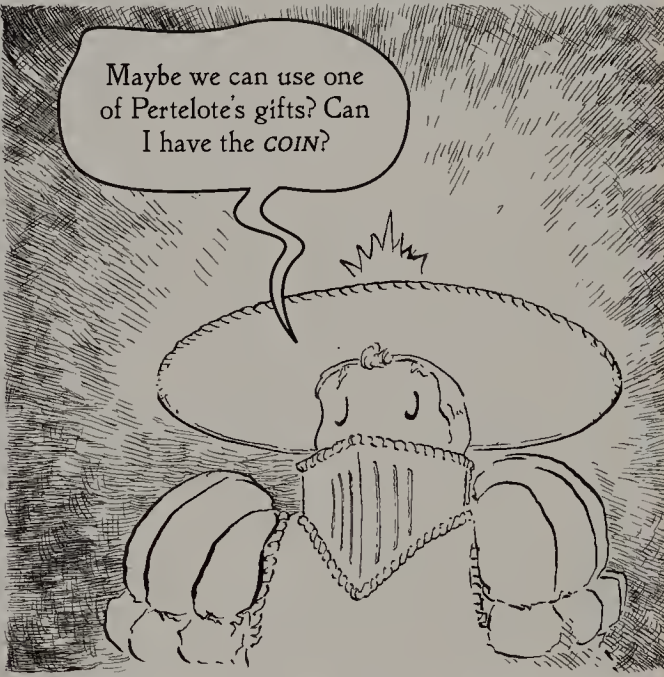
MEAT-EATING
BOAT?... MONSTER
ISLAND? This is a true
adventure, Alan!

Leah, I'm AFRAID—
can we rest and eat
some of that jerky,
PLEASE?

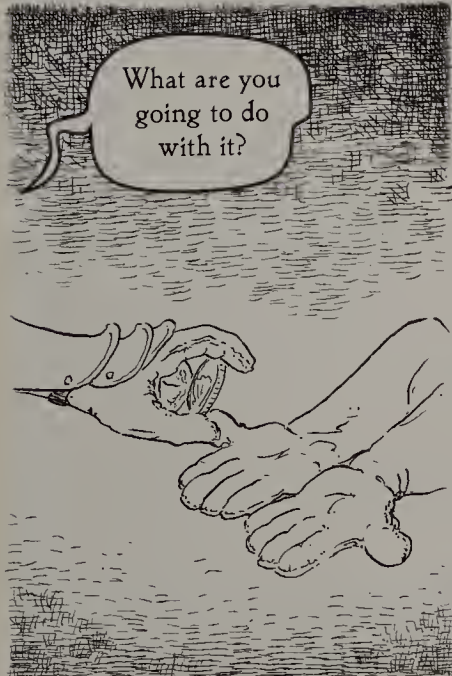


No, Alan. You know
Rowdy is still trapped
back home. We can't rest
even for a little while...

...and we *STILL* have
to find out how to
summon the man-
eating boat!



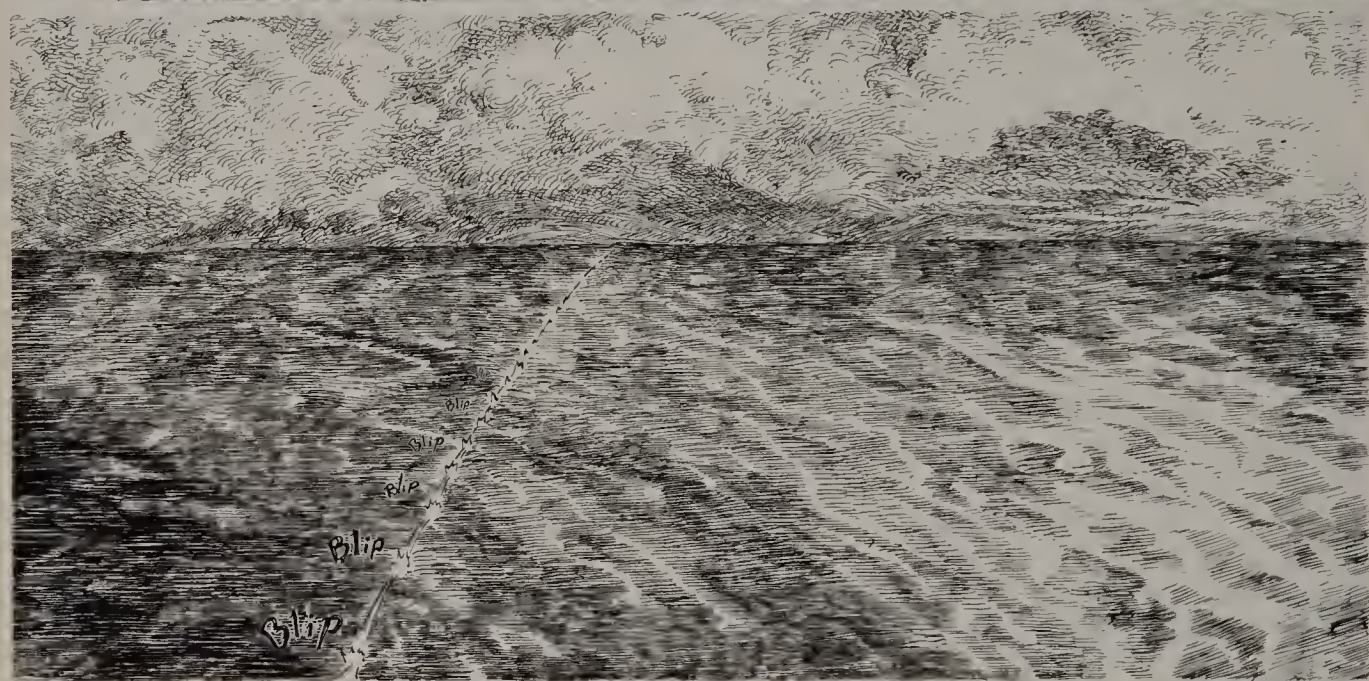
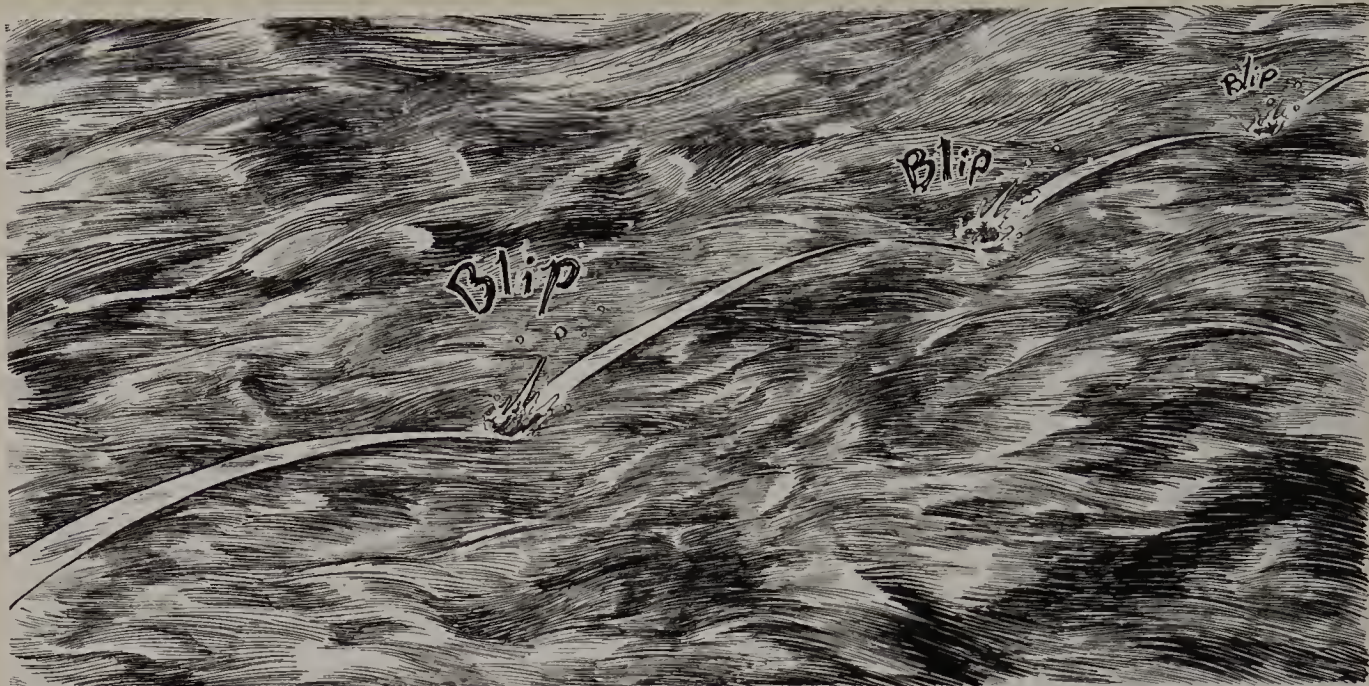
Maybe we can use one
of Pertelote's gifts? Can
I have the *COIN*?

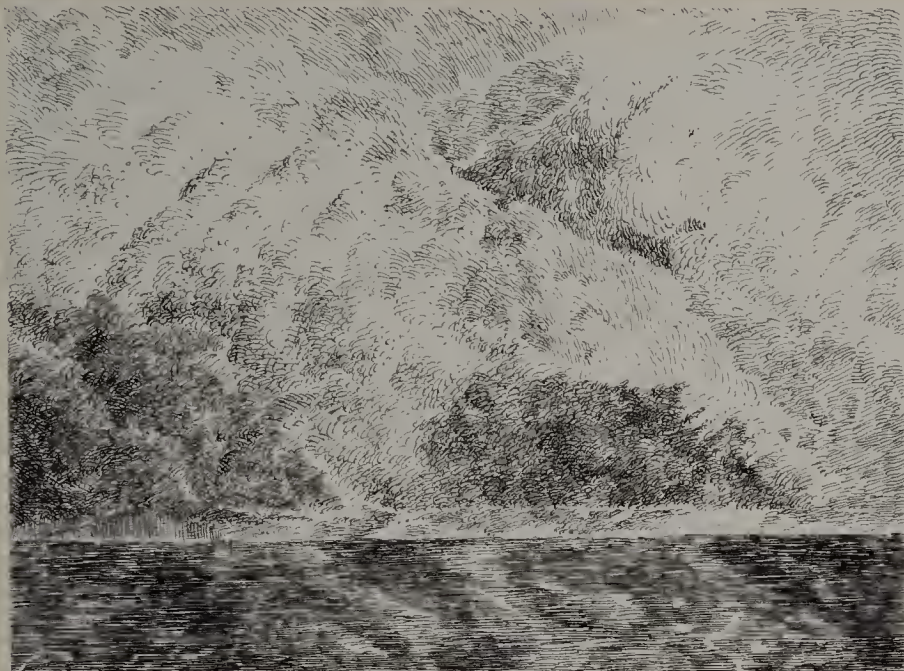


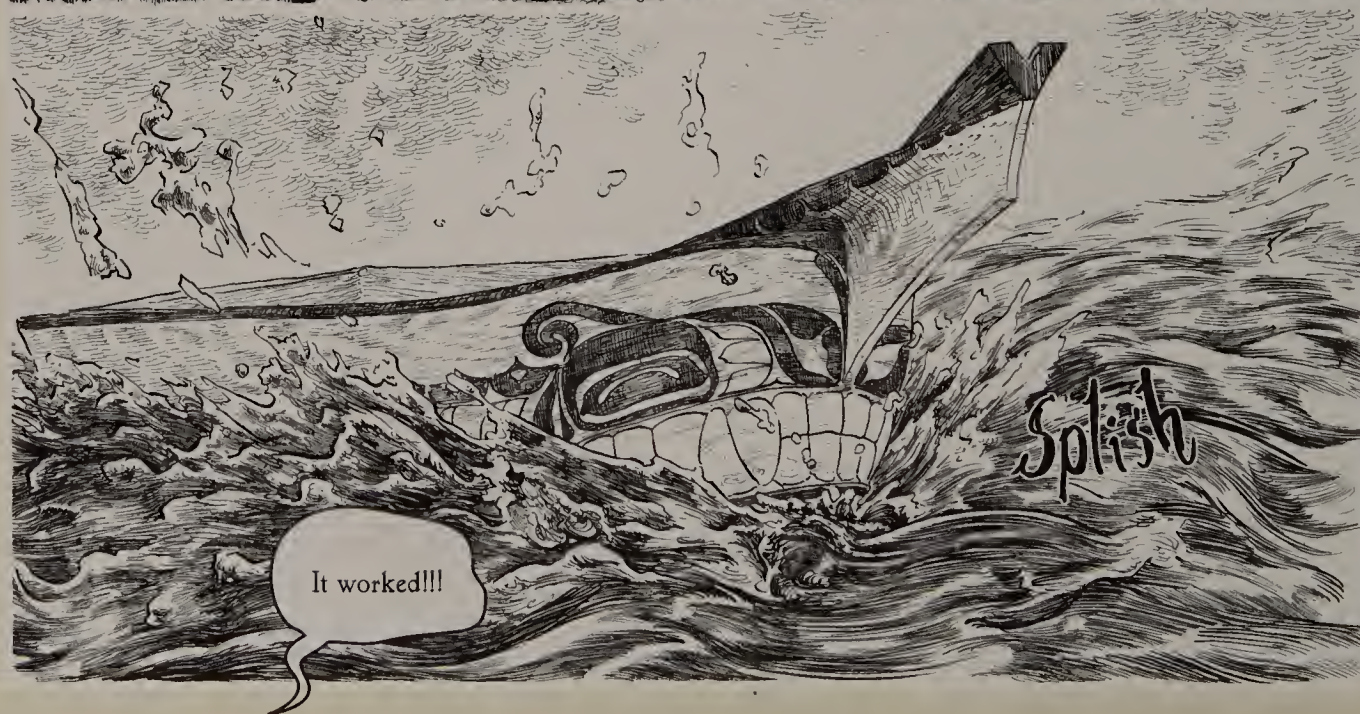
What are you
going to do
with it?

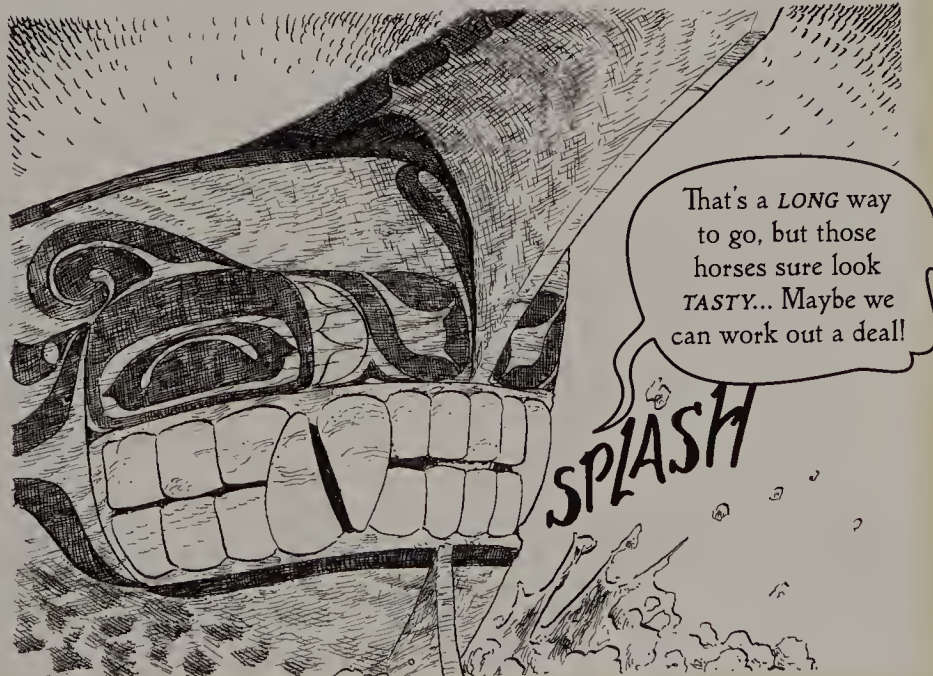
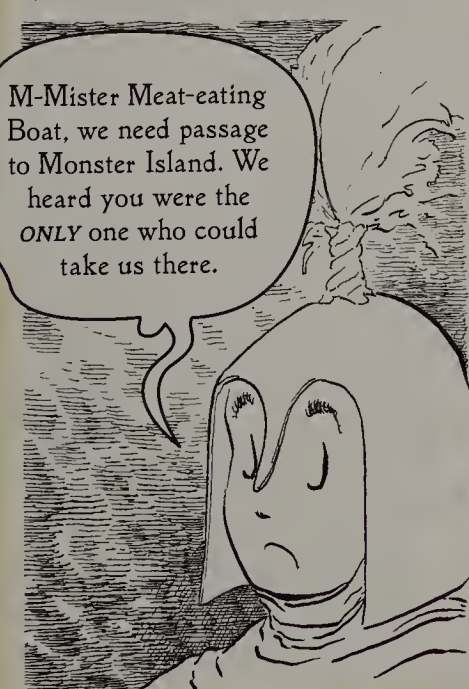
ALAN!

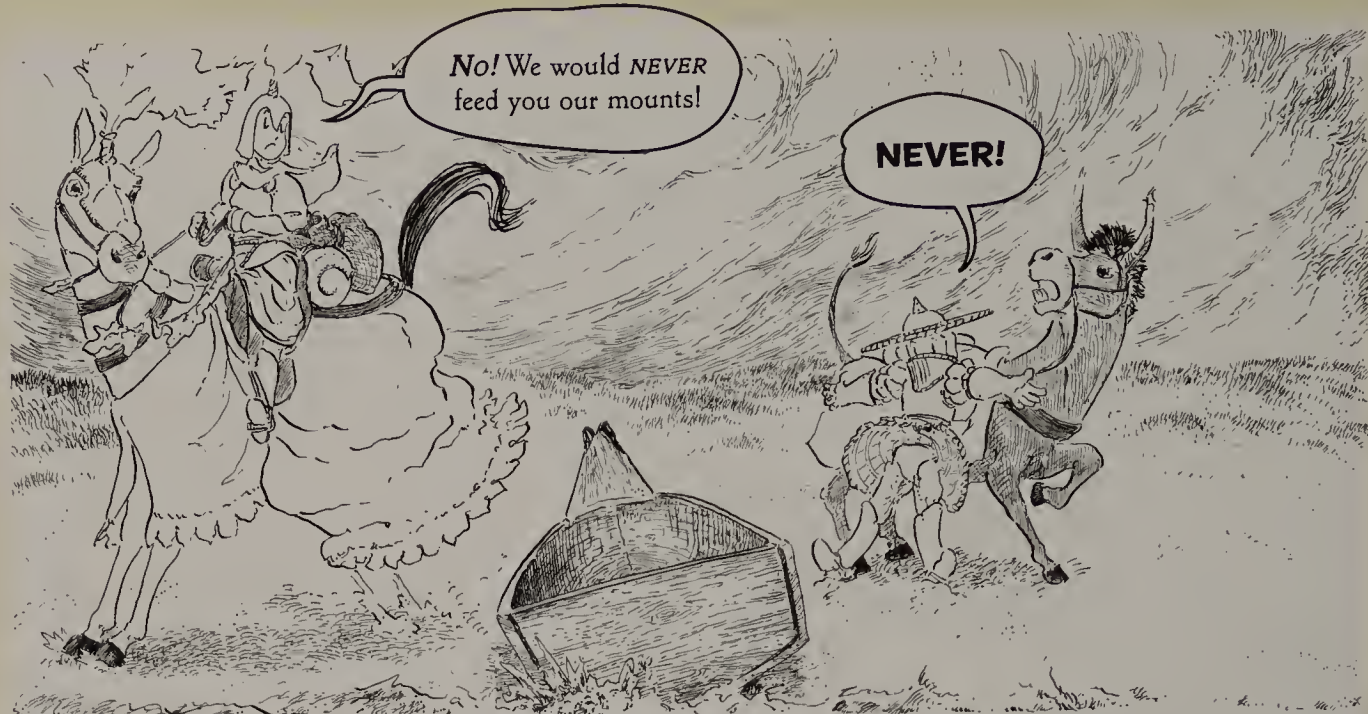
HMPH!







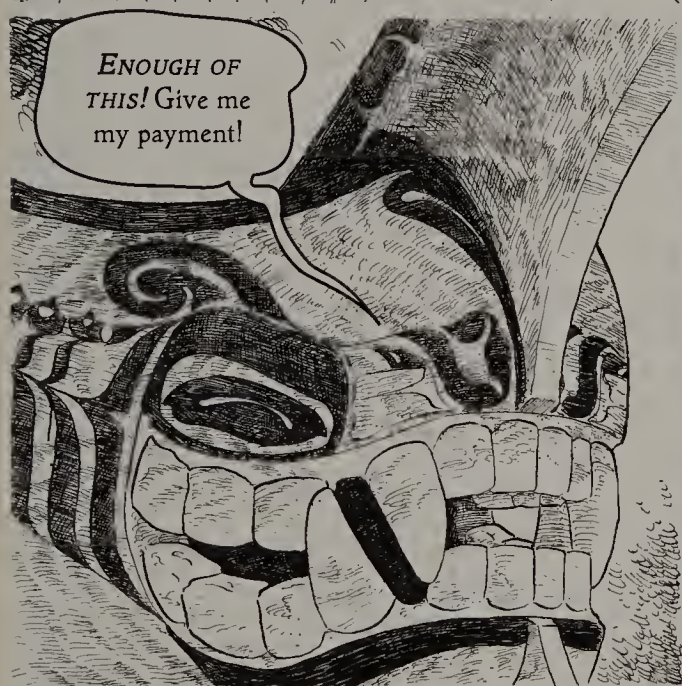






Now Rosen, you return to the village and wait for us, got it?

You be careful, Arundel, and mind Rosen. She knows the way.



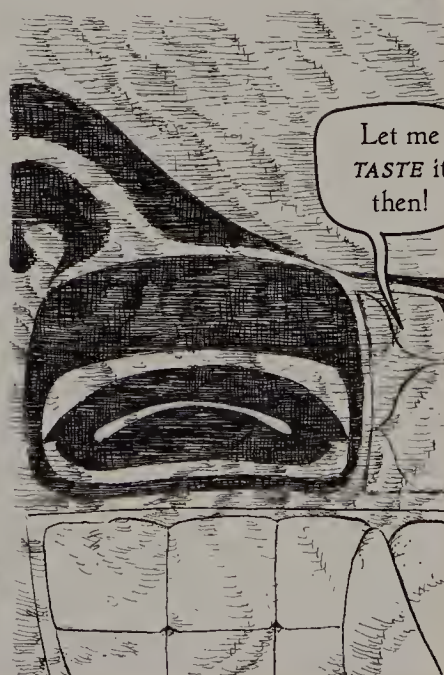
ENOUGH OF THIS! Give me my payment!



No! We will pay *HALF* now and the *REST* when we get to the island.



MY! Aren't we *SHREWD*—
HA!

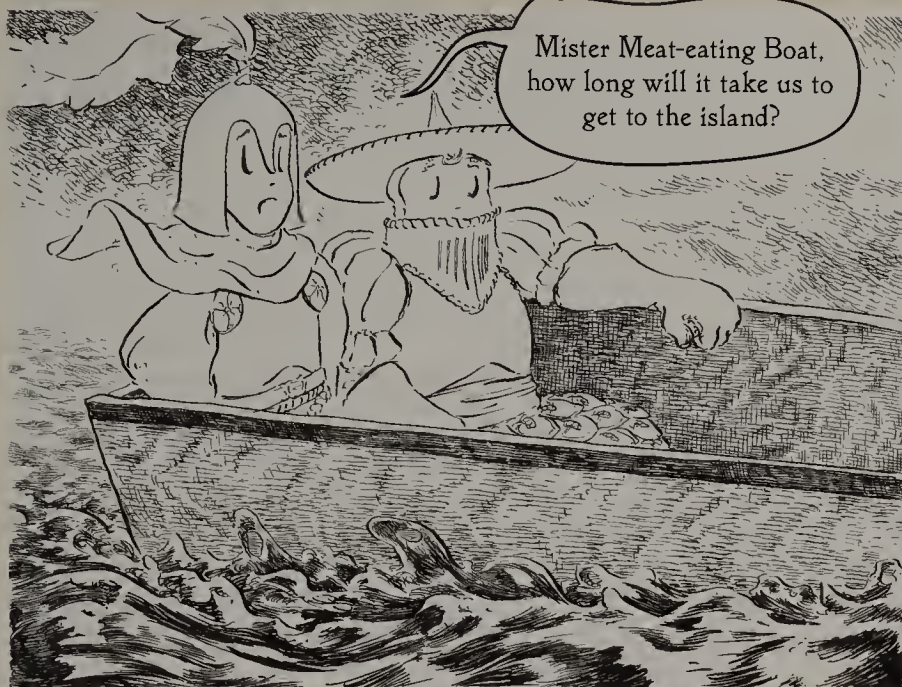


Let me *TASTE* it then!

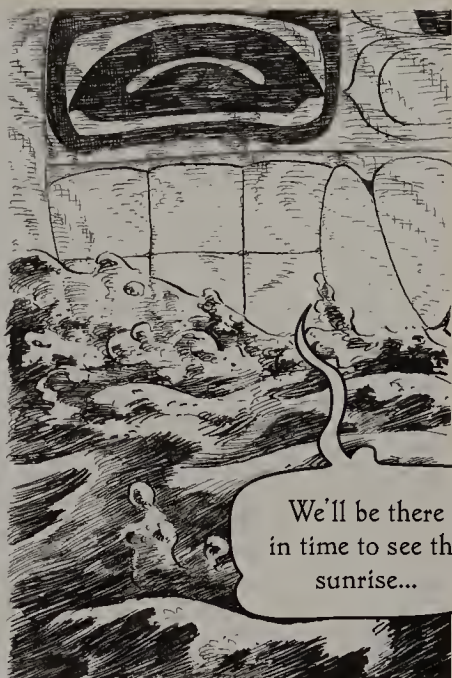


CHOMP!





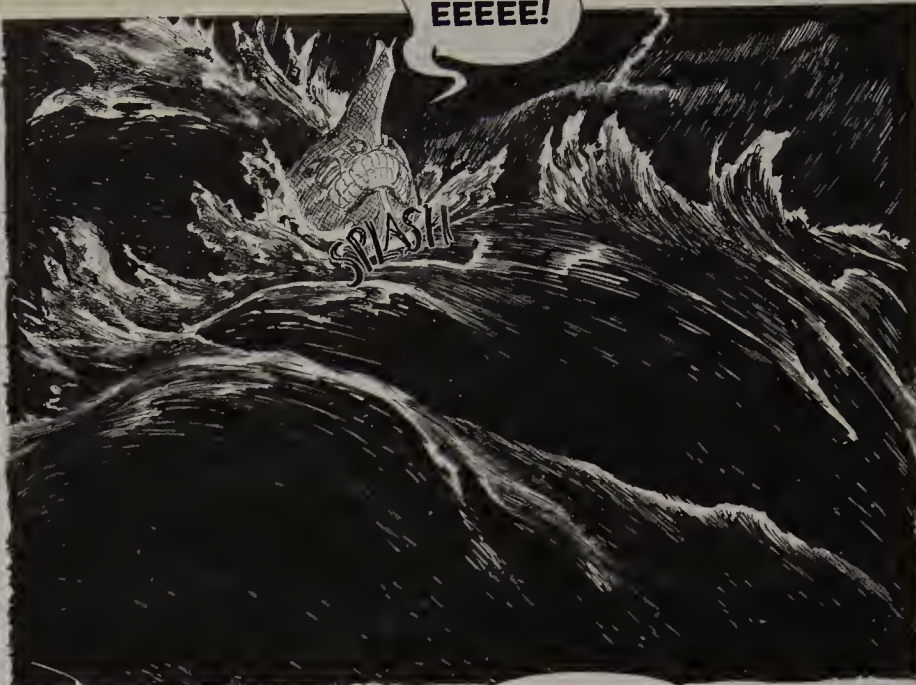
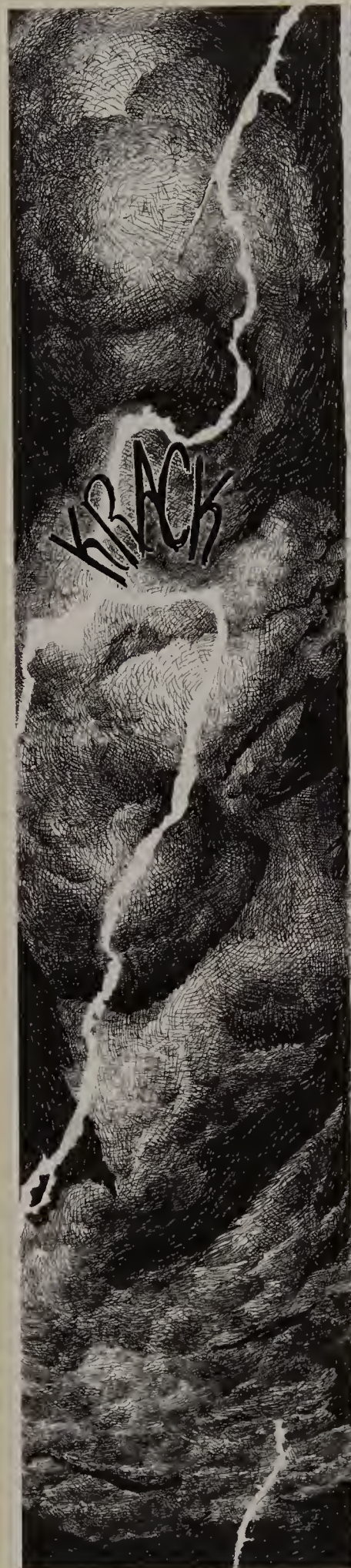
Mister Meat-eating Boat,
how long will it take us to
get to the island?



We'll be there
in time to see the
sunrise...

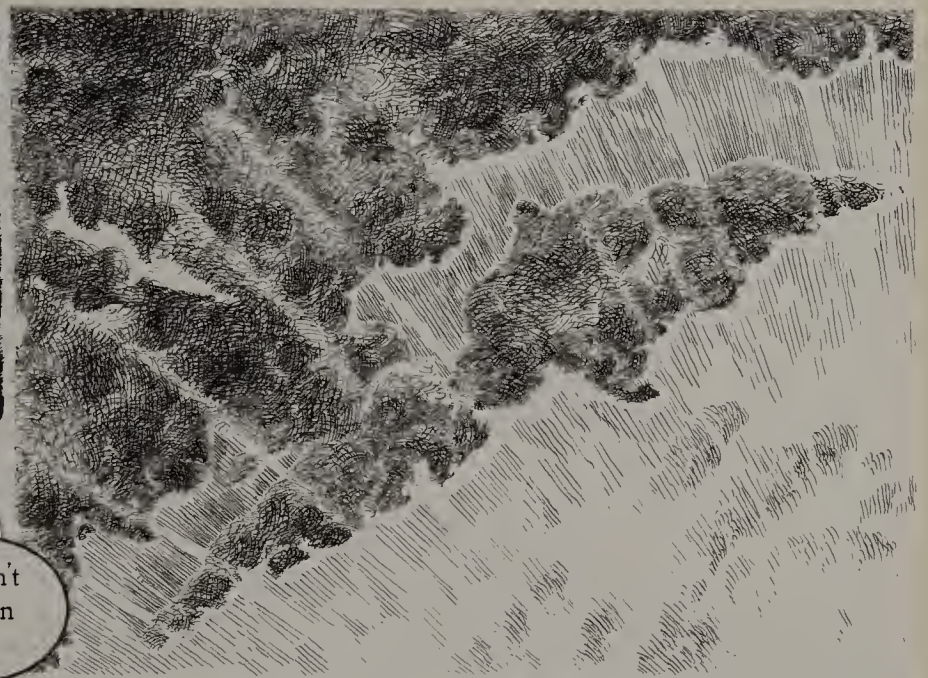


...and it looks like
SMOOTH SAILING
from here on out!





This trip can't be over soon enough!

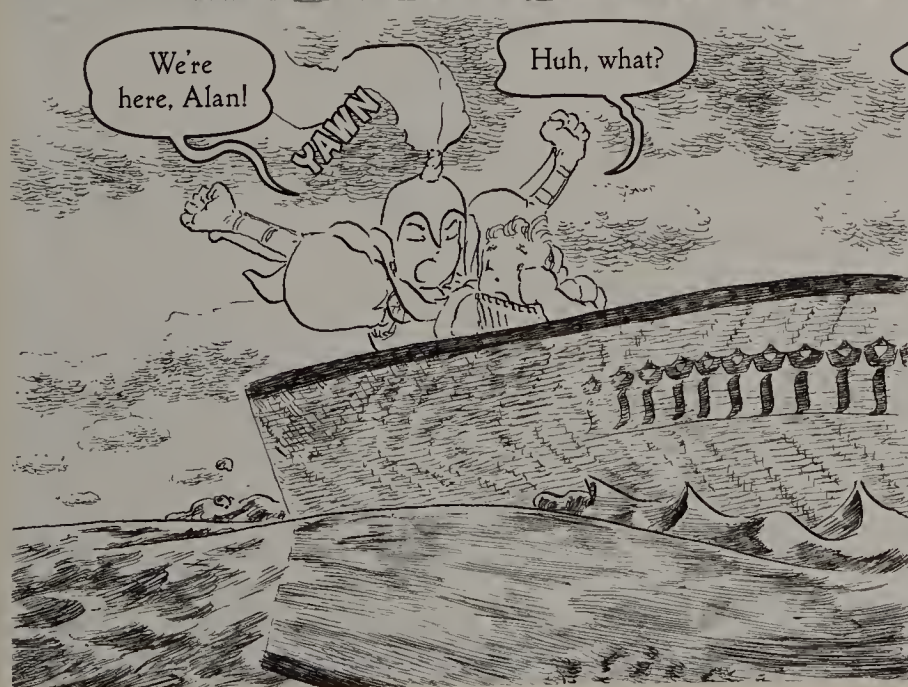


zzzz

zzzz

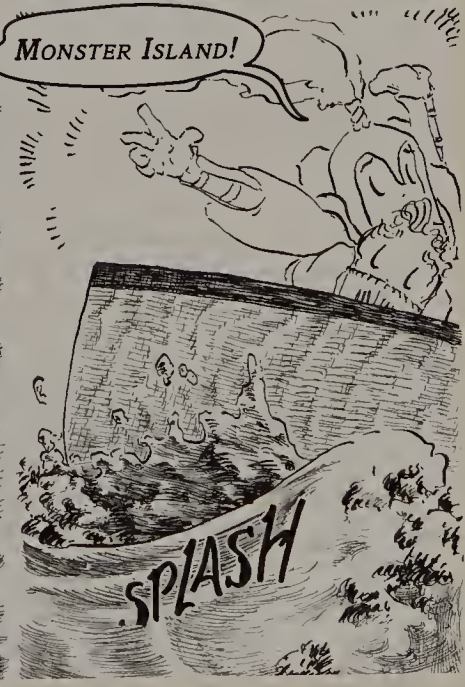


Hey, you **KNIGHTS**, wake up!



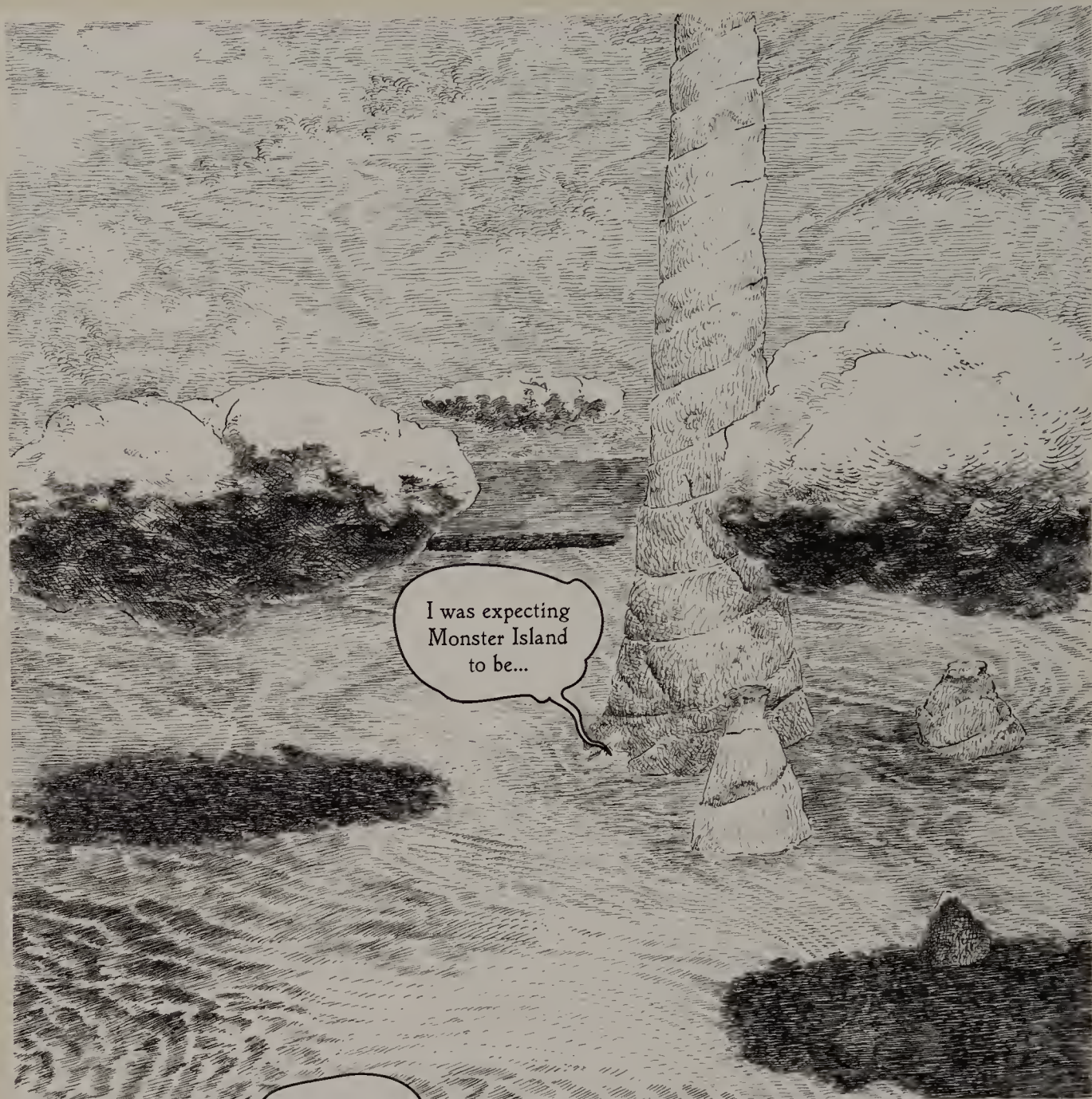
We're here, Alan!

Huh, what?



MONSTER ISLAND!

SPLASH

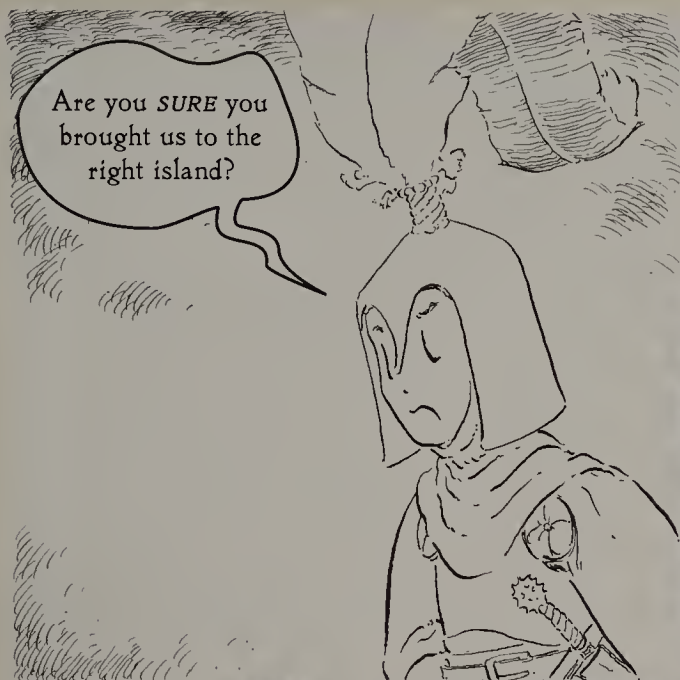


I was expecting
Monster Island
to be...

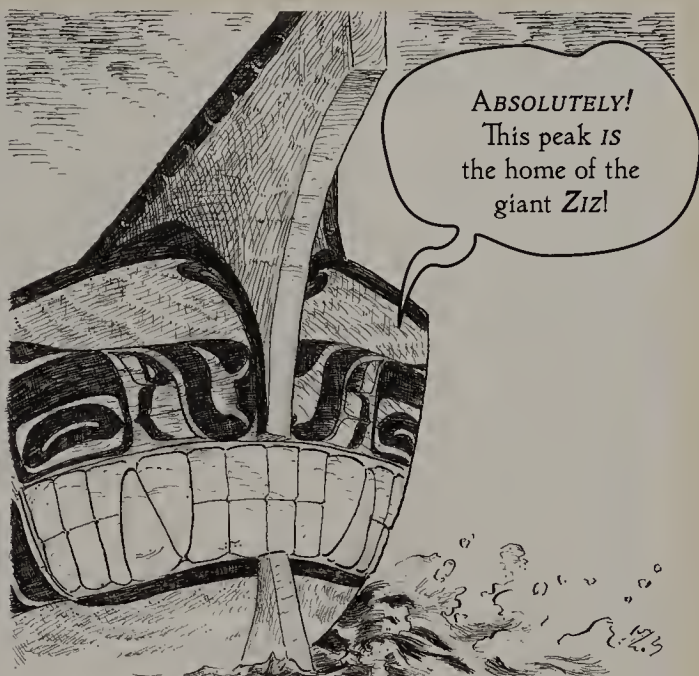


...a great deal
bigger than
THIS!

You're right...
I do remember vast
forests surrounding
this peak..



Are you *SURE* you brought us to the right island?



ABSOLUTELY!
This peak *IS* the home of the giant *ZIZ!*

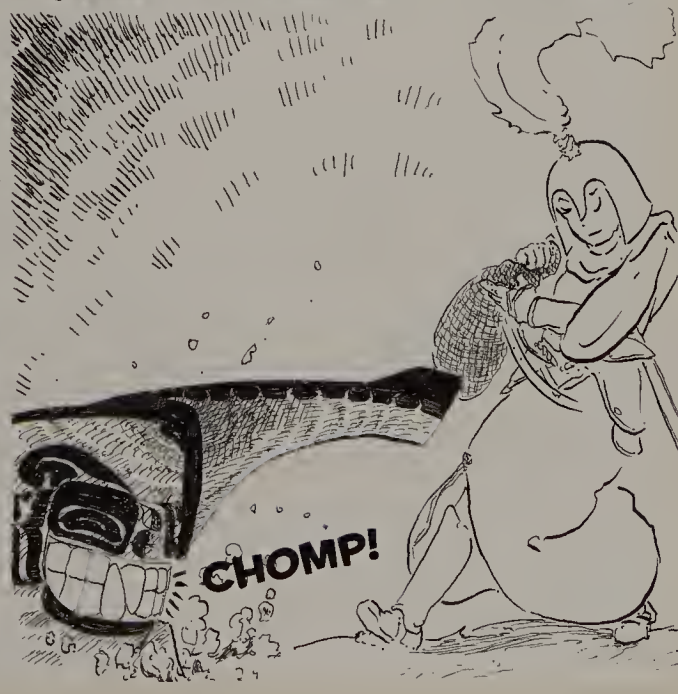


And now, I seem to remember something about a *SECOND* bag of meat...

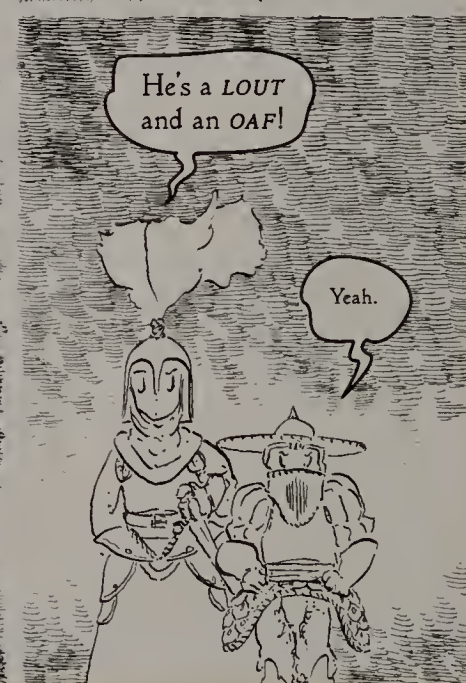
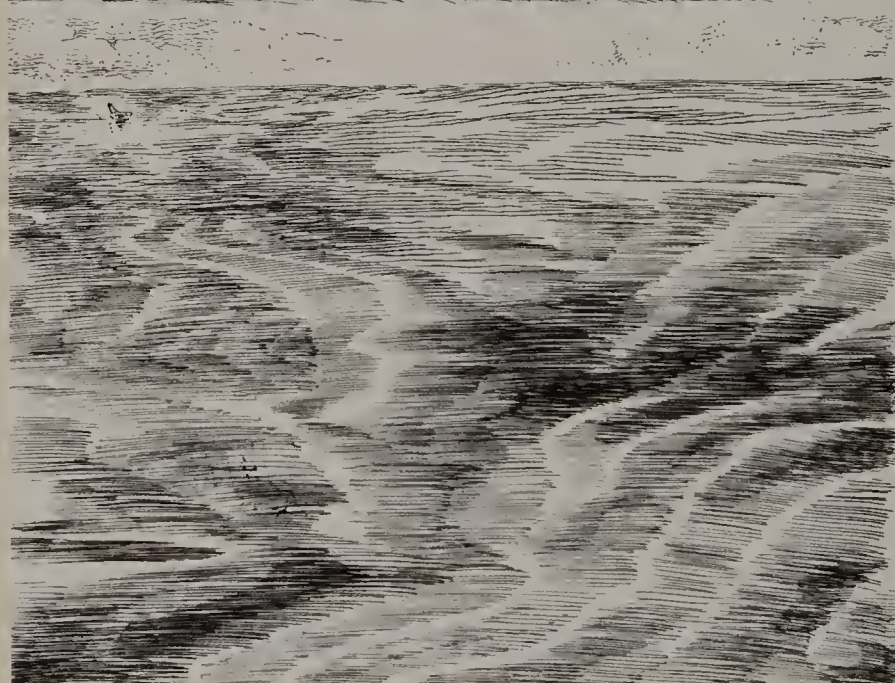
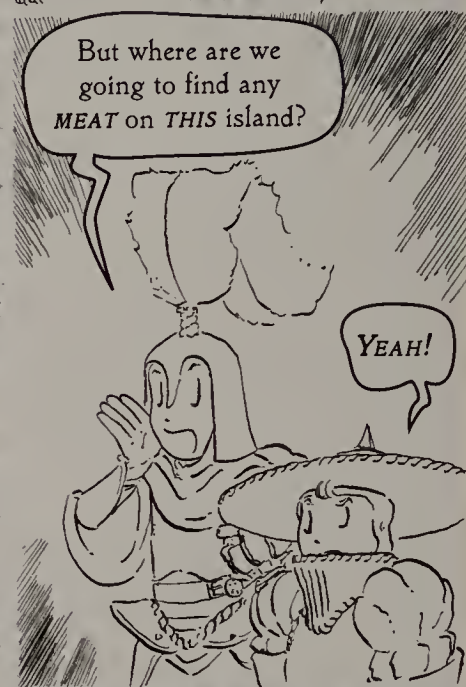
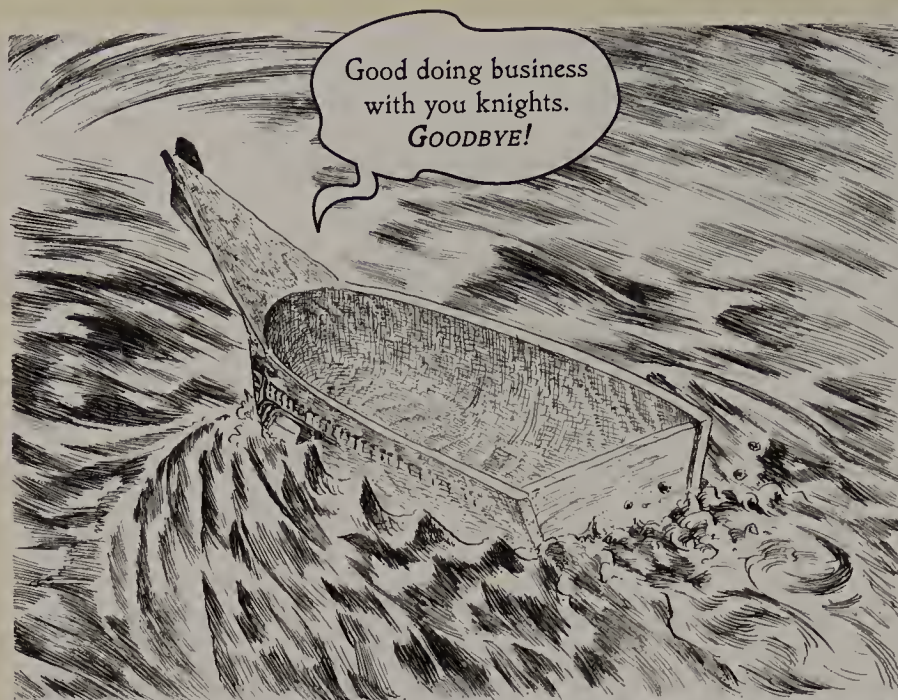
Splish

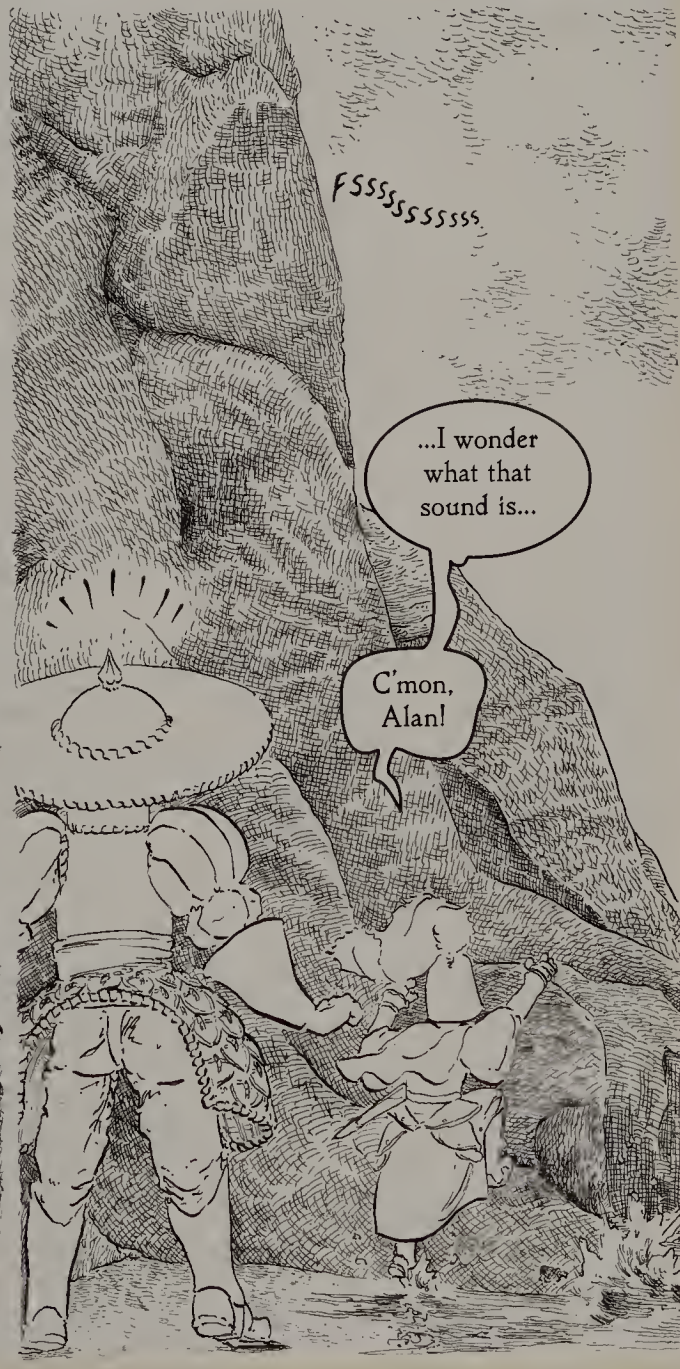
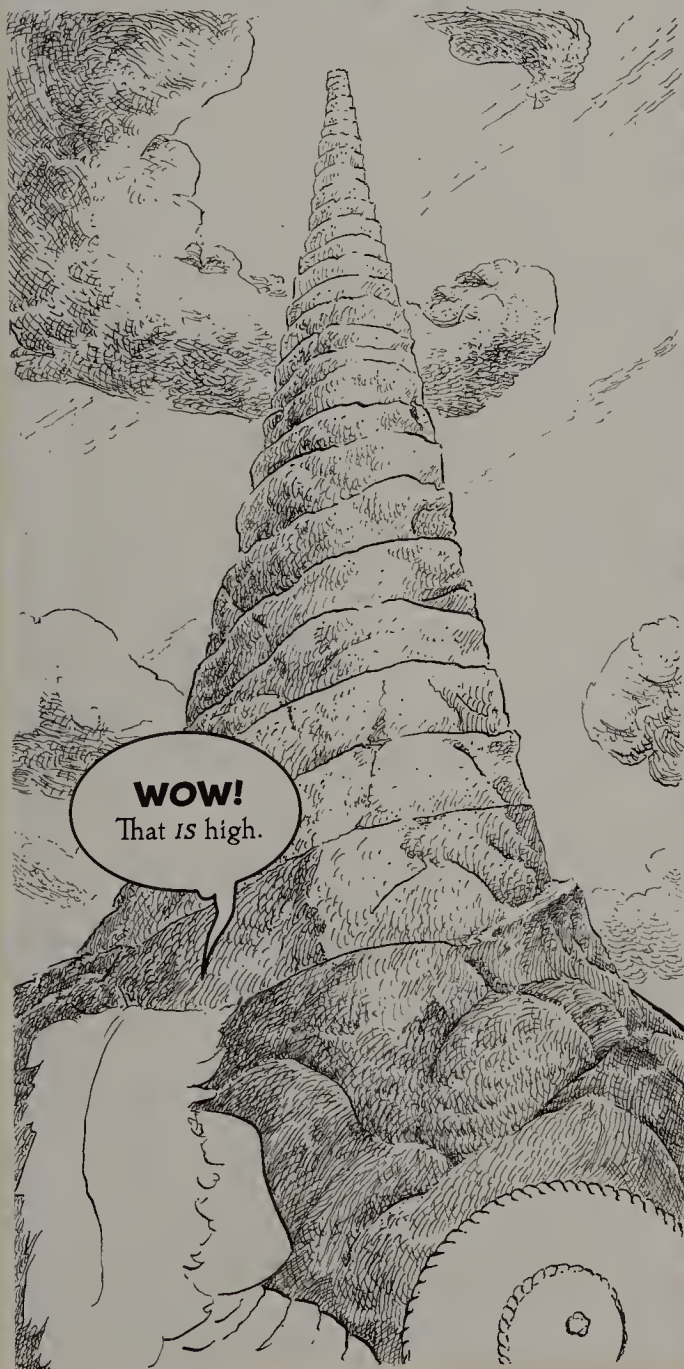
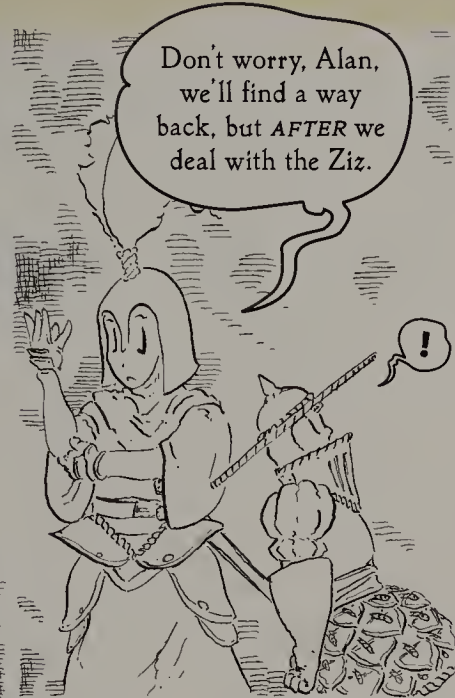
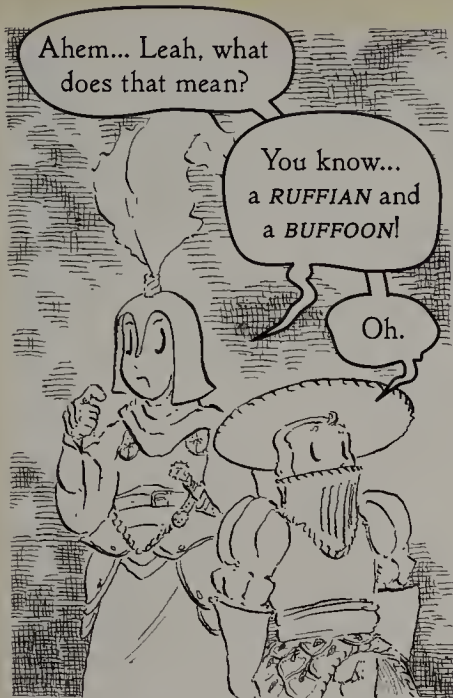


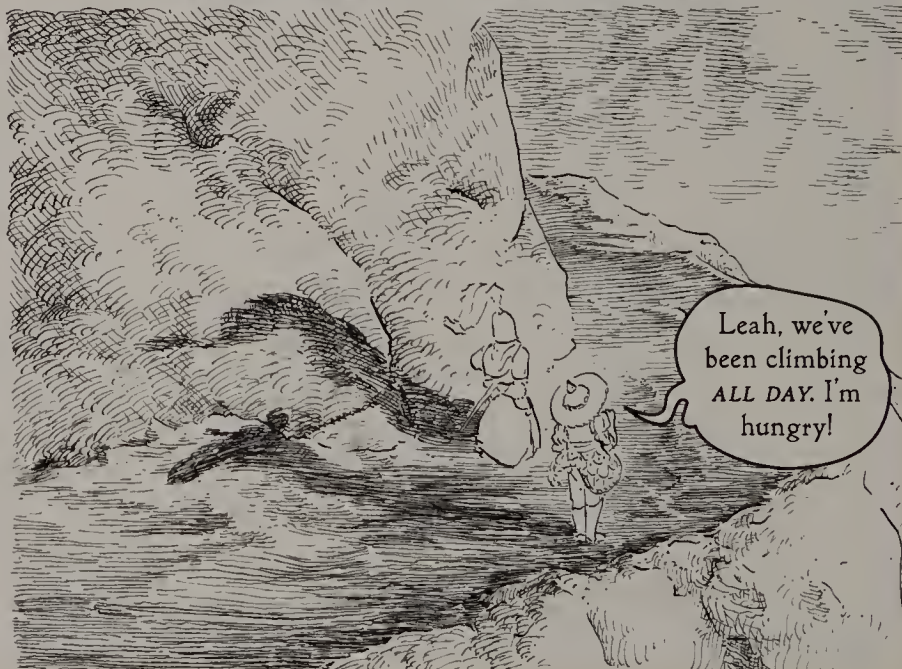
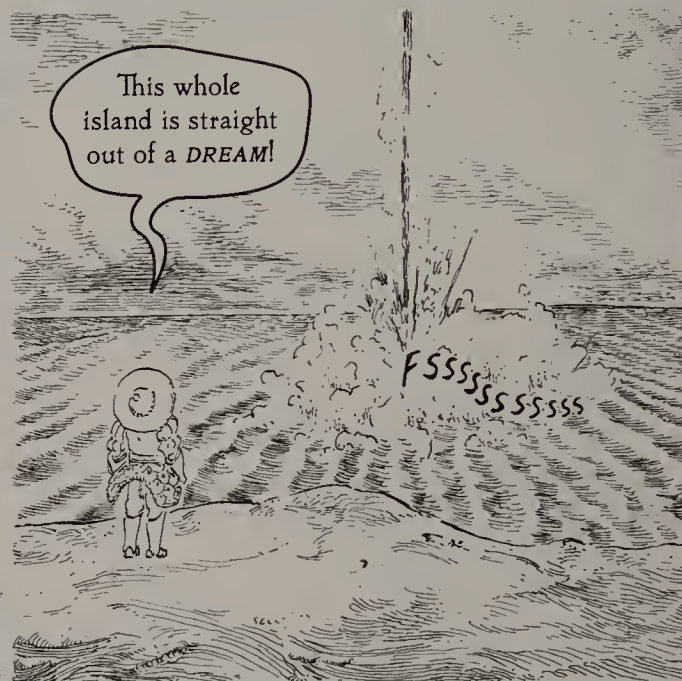
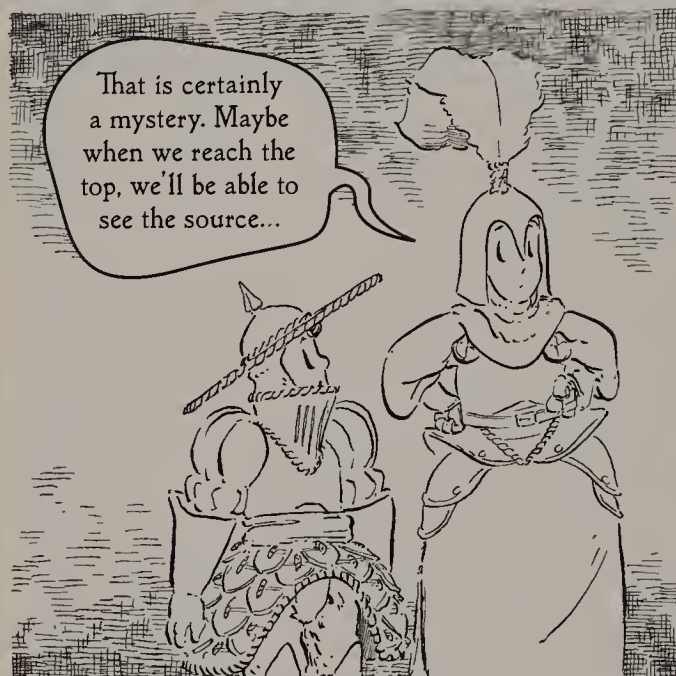
This is almost *ALL* the food we have left, but we gave our word, so here you go.

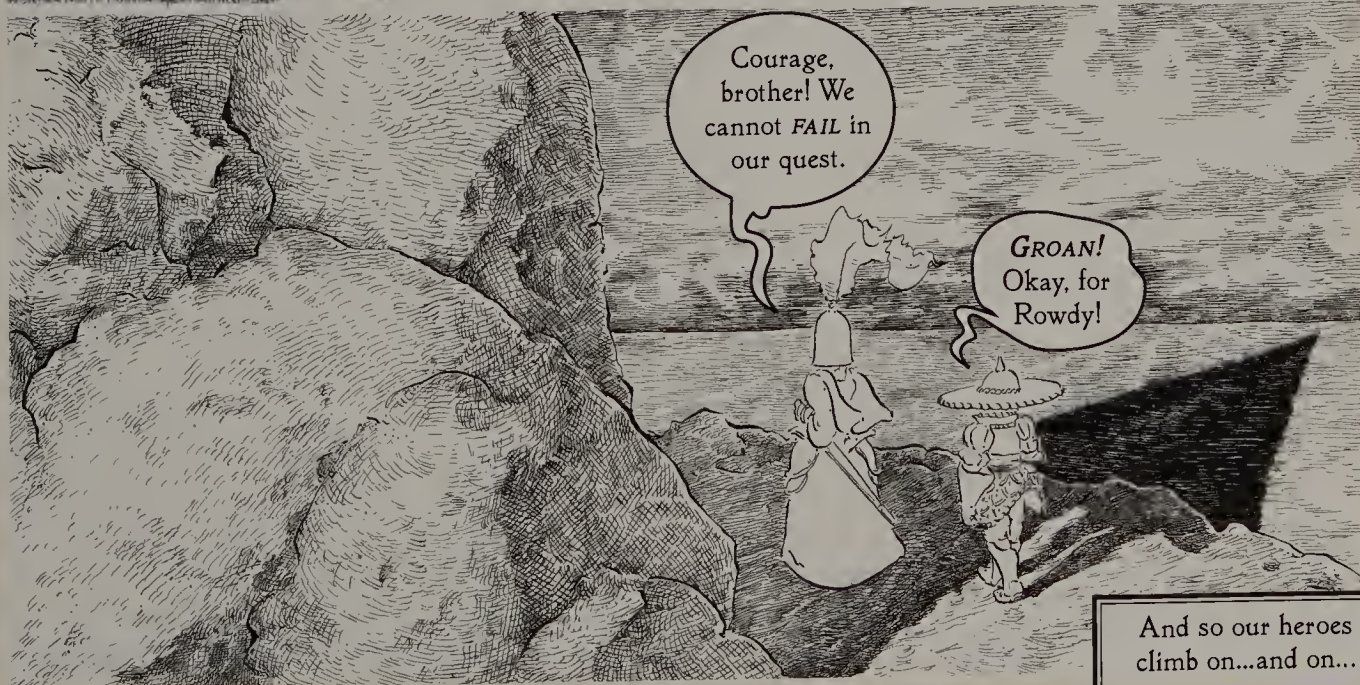


CHOMP!

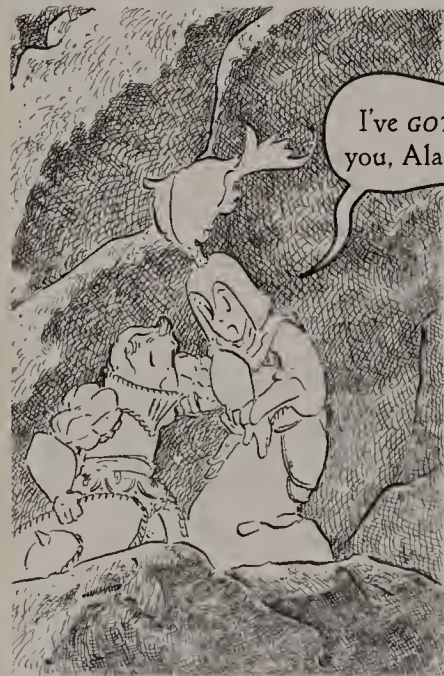
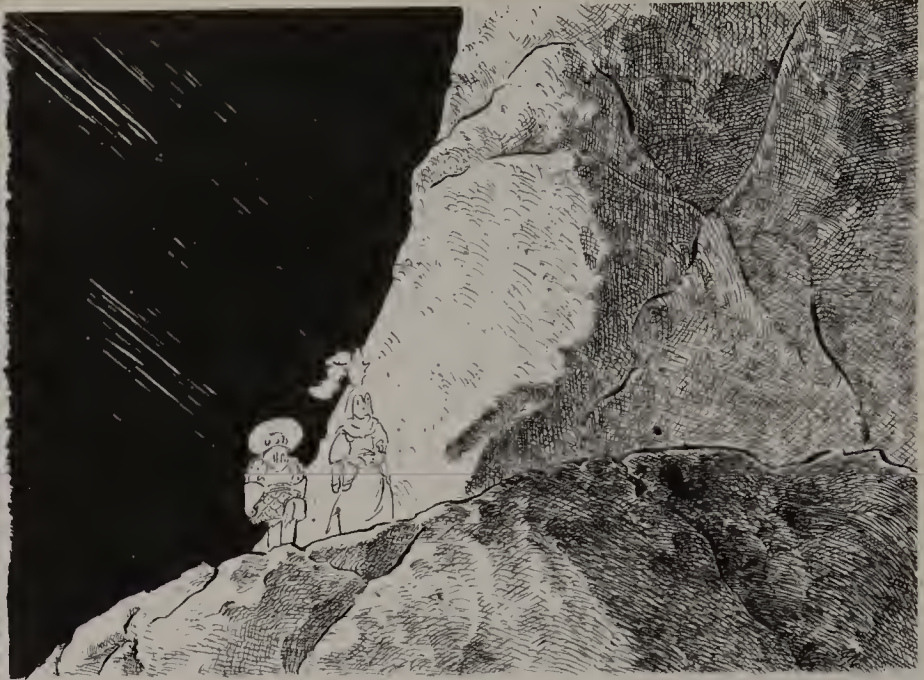
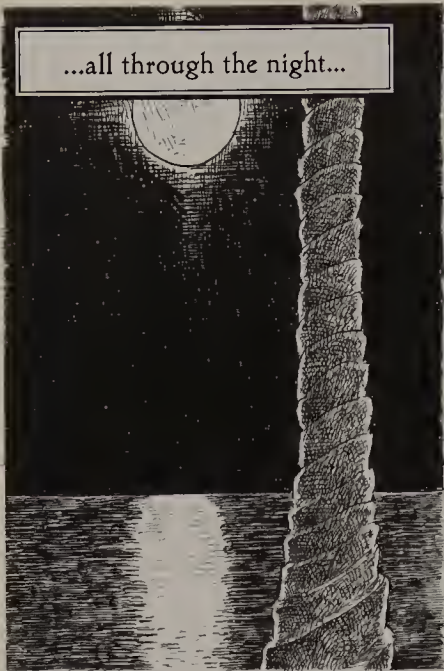








And so our heroes
climb on...and on...



...until morning comes.

Look down, Leah.
We can see the
clouds below us!

Just a *BIT* more, Alan.
I think we've *FINALLY*
made it to the top.

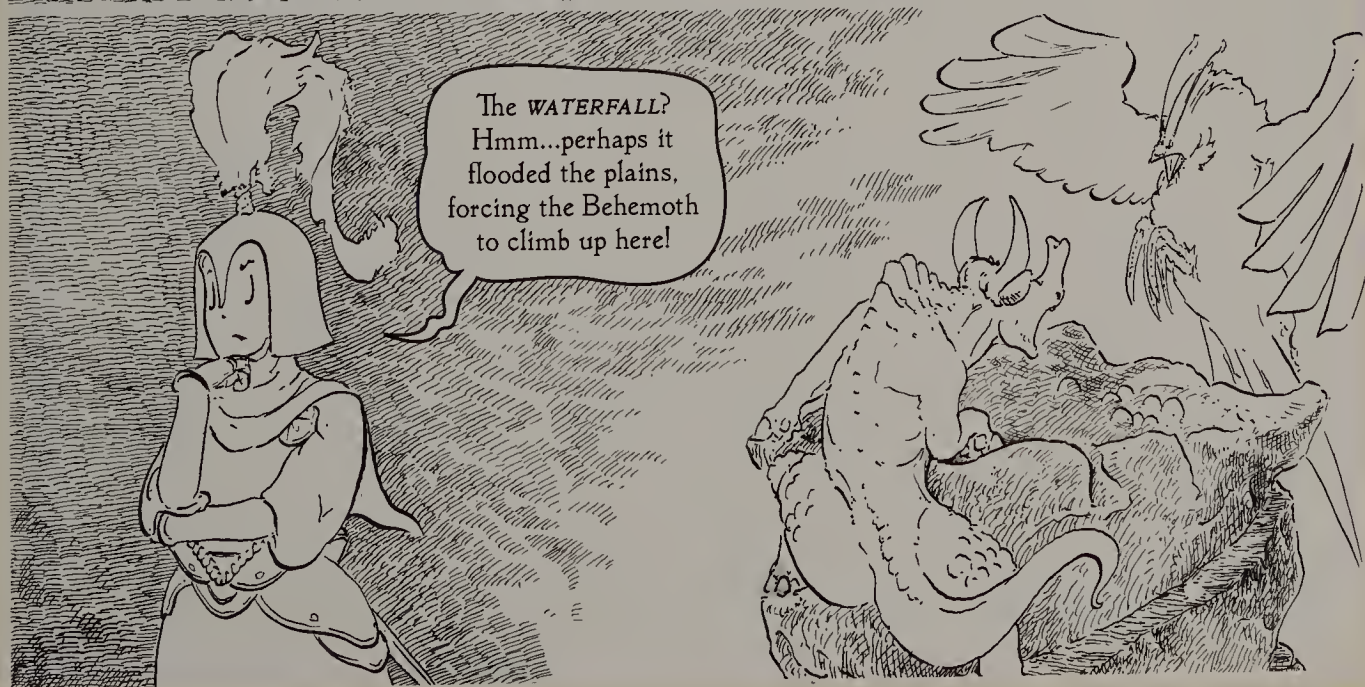
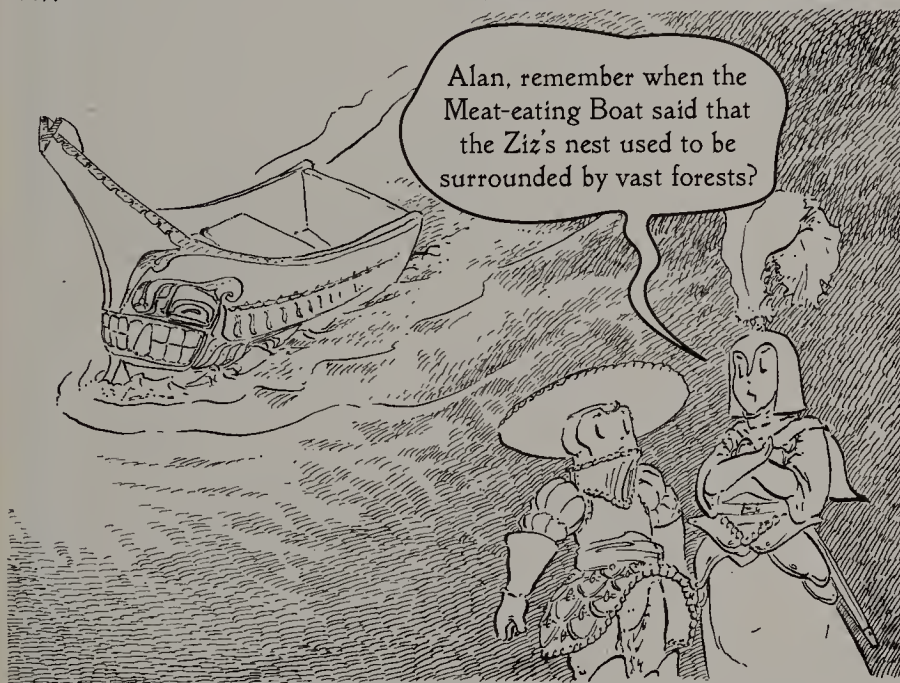
Wow!

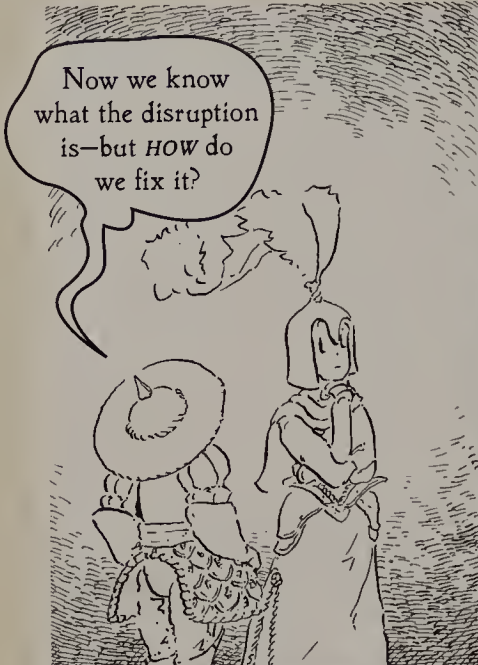





Leah, that
doesn't look like
a *BIRD* to me!








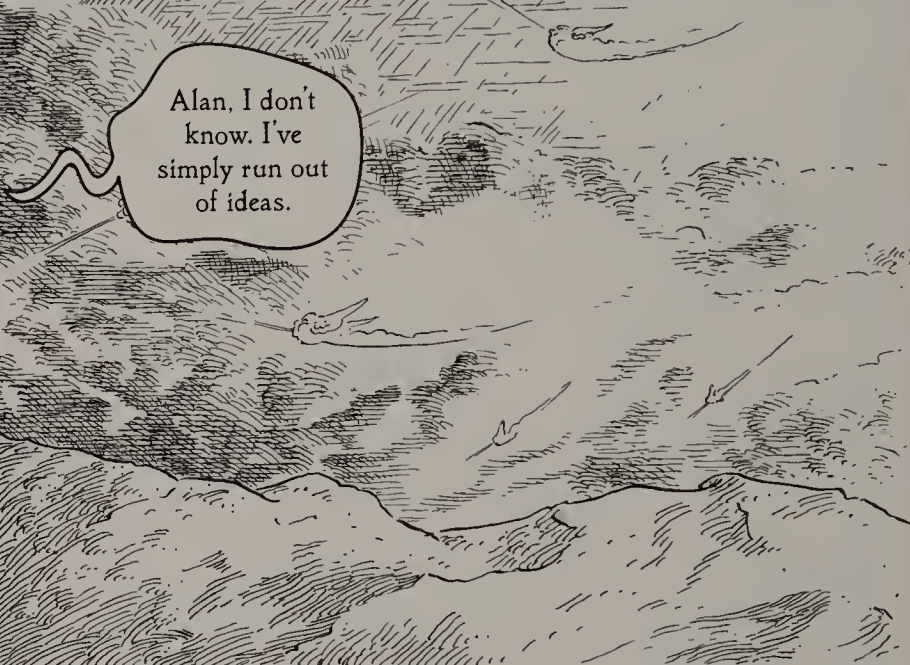
Now we know
what the disruption
is—but *HOW* do
we fix it?



We have only
one thing left...
Pertelote's *MAGIC*
BRIDLE...



But *HOW*
do we put
it on?

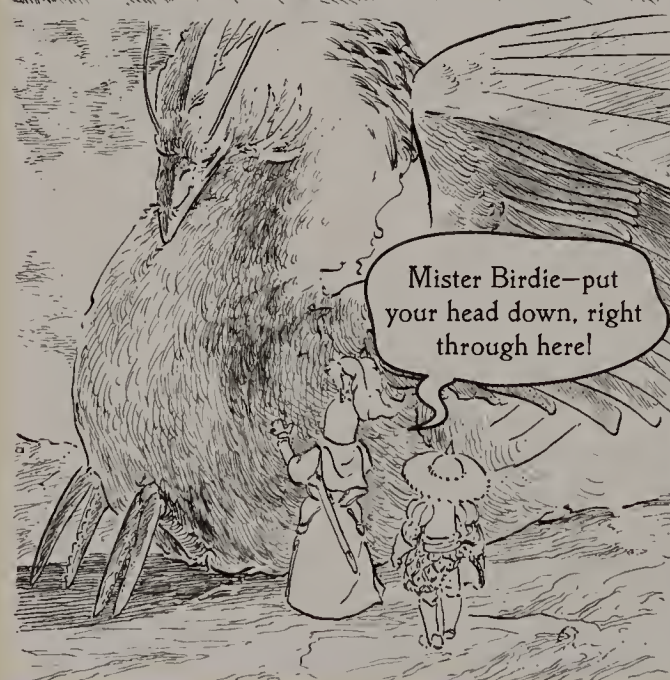
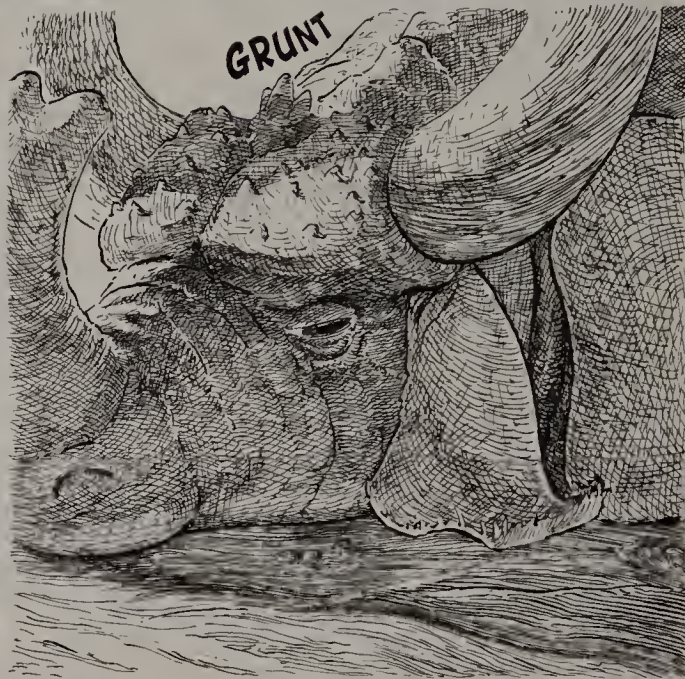
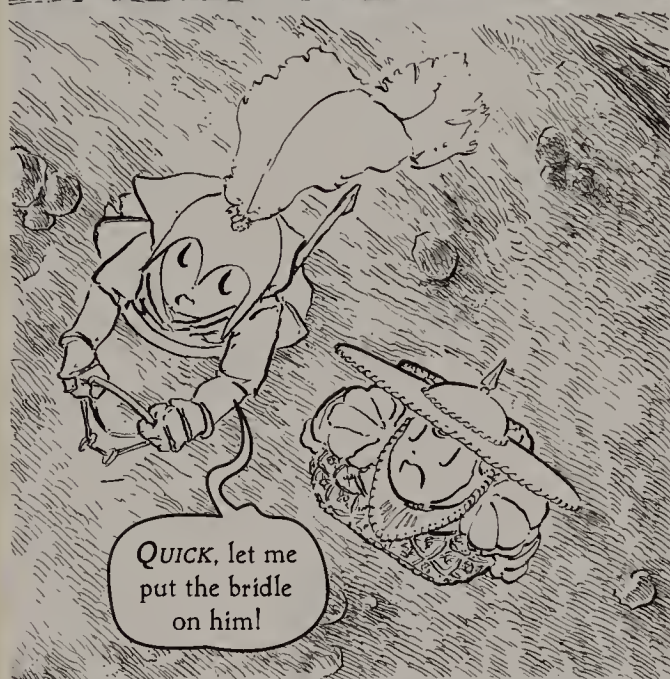
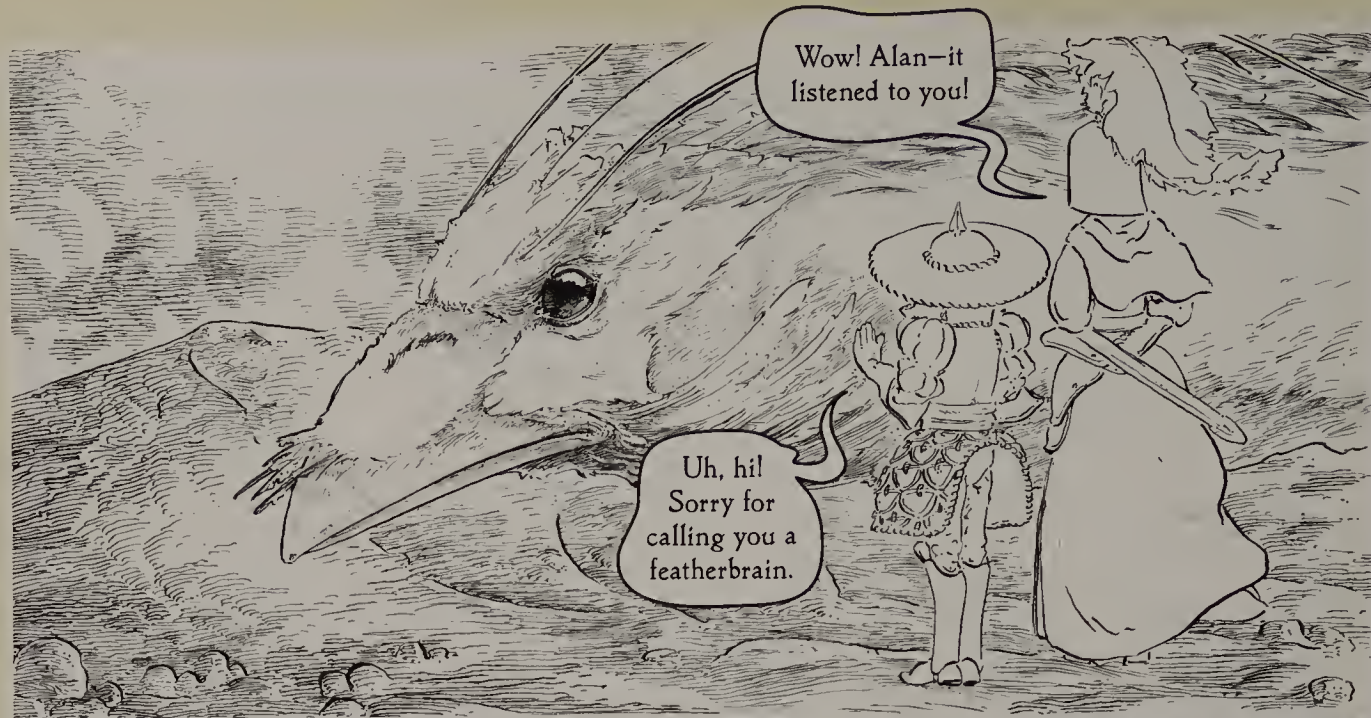


Alan, I don't
know. I've
simply run out
of ideas.

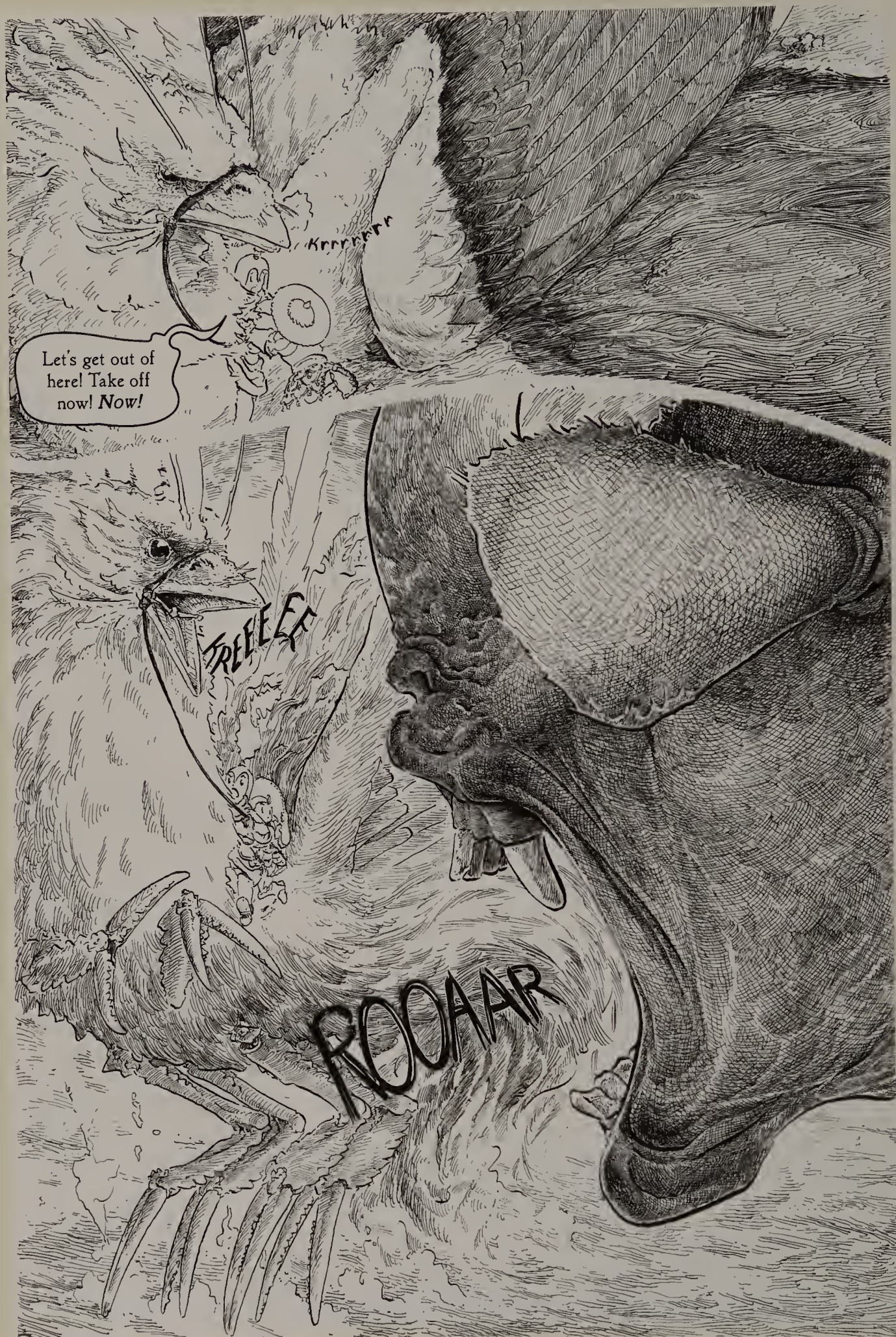


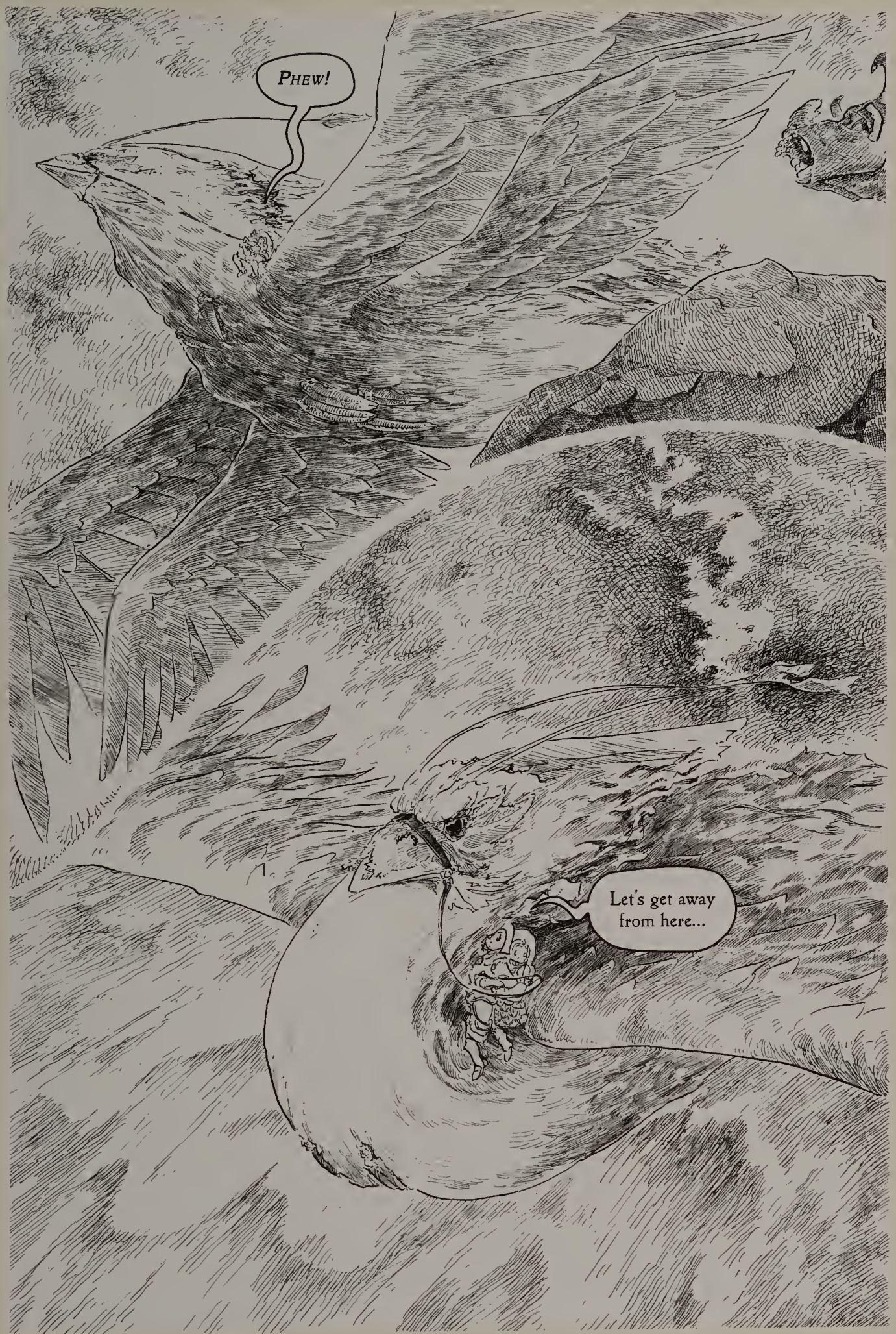
Hey you,
FEATHERBRAIN!
**COME
PUT THIS
THING ON!**

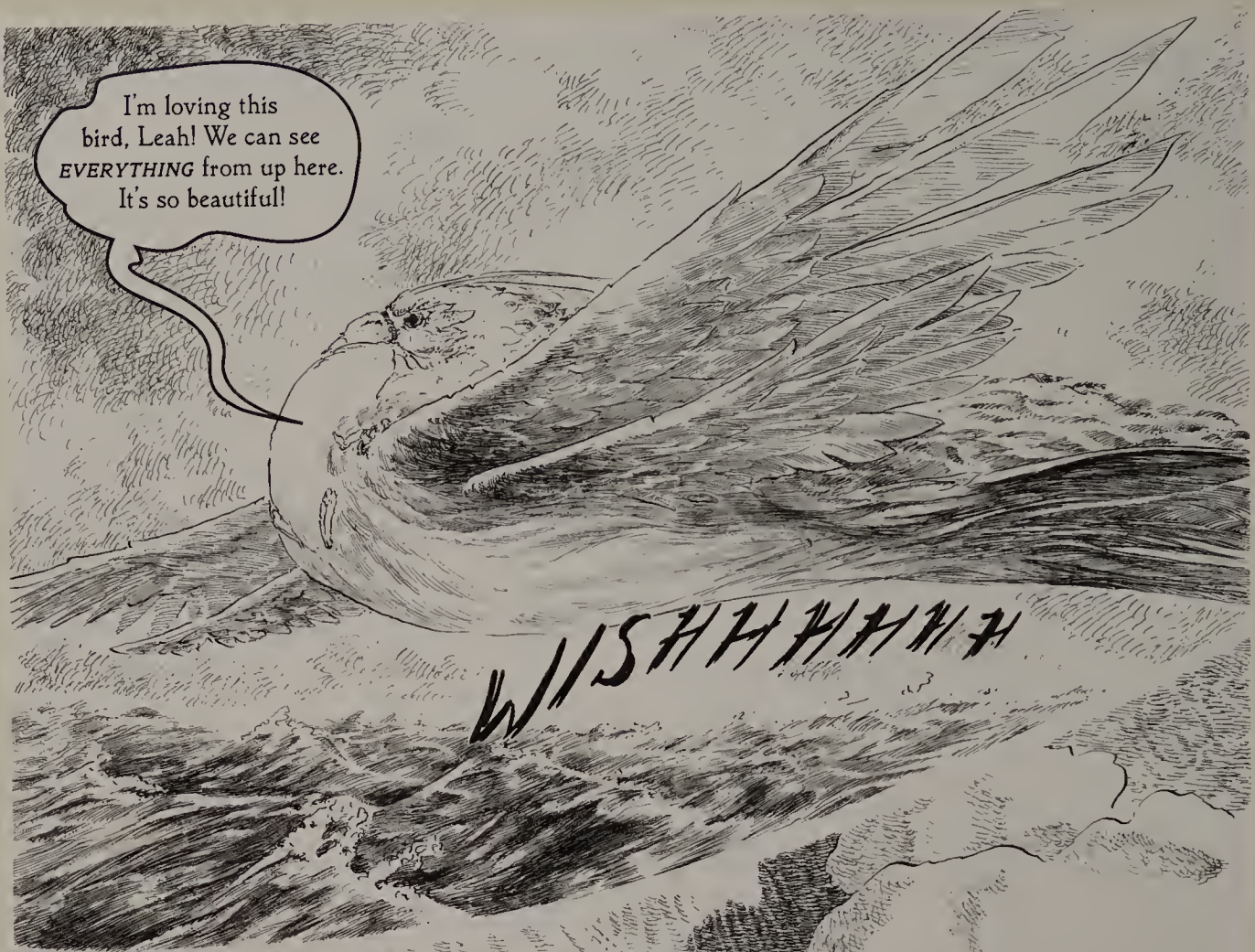












I'm loving this
bird, Leah! We can see
EVERYTHING from up here.
It's so beautiful!

WISHHHHHH

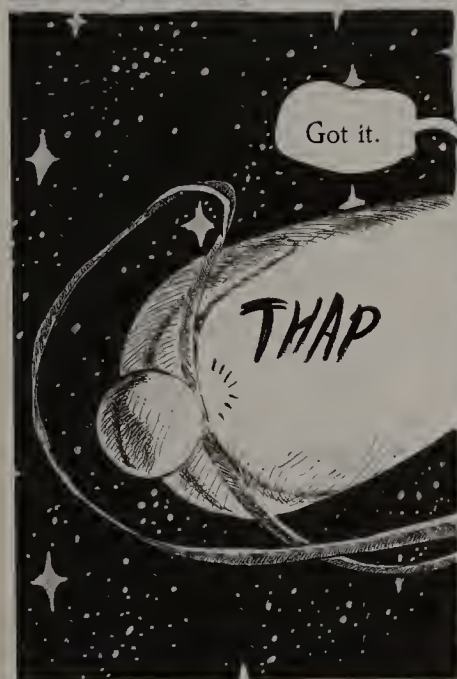
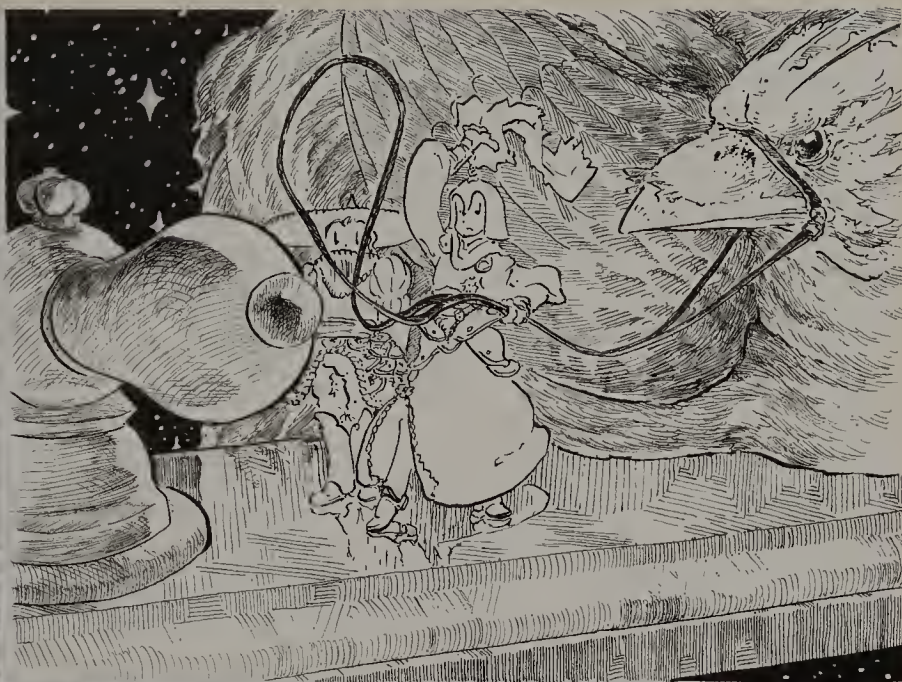


WOOSHH

Well Alan, I'm glad
you're not afraid of
heights, because...









ANOTHER JOB
well done! Now
can we rest?

Not so fast,
Alan. We're
not done YET!

WHAT? But
we stopped
the water.

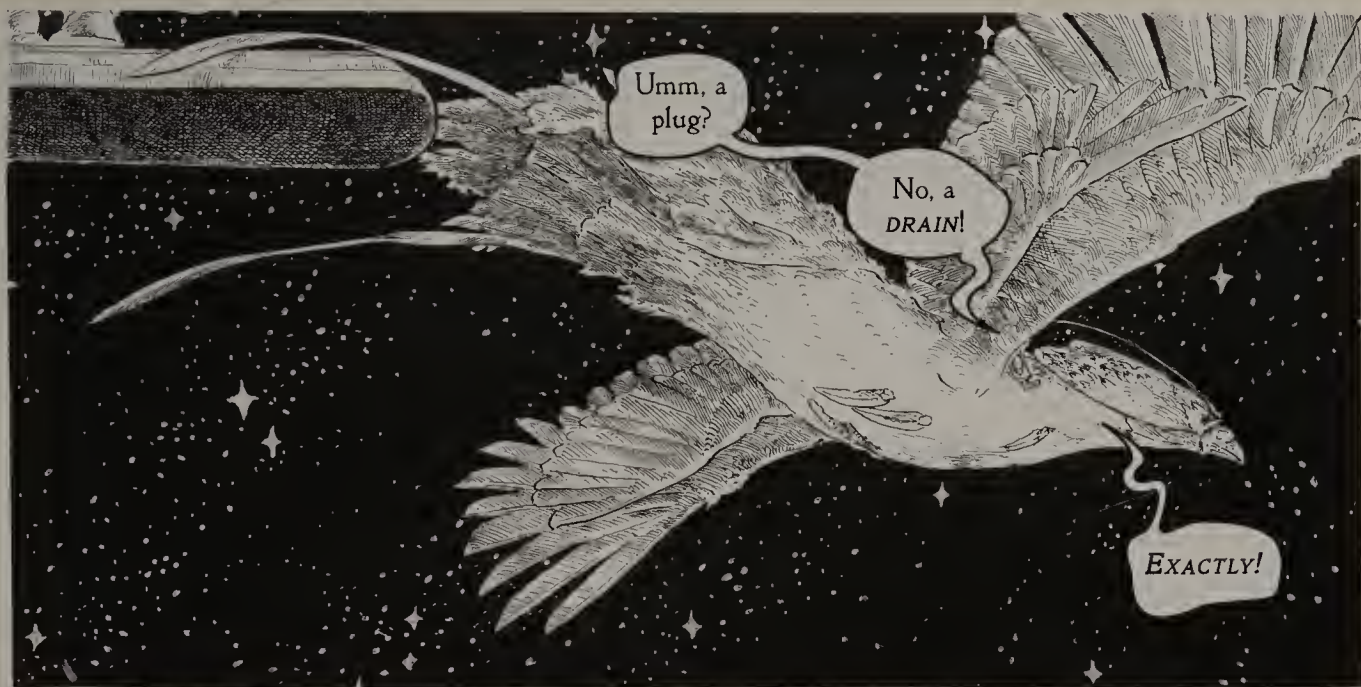
Yes, but the
island is *STILL*
flooded.

But Leah, how
do we fix a
flooded island?

Well, Alan, what
do you usually find
under a faucet?

I don't know,
a sink?

Almost. What's
at the bottom of
a sink?



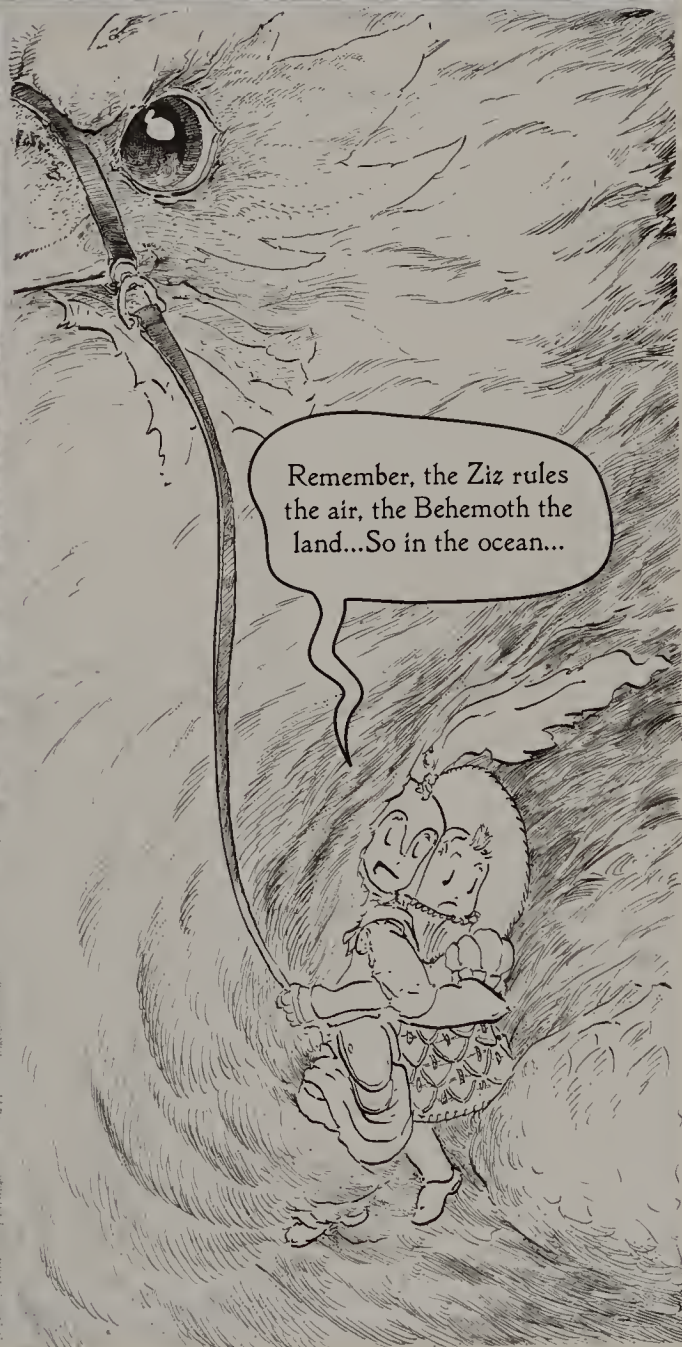
Umm, a
plug?

No, a
DRAIN!

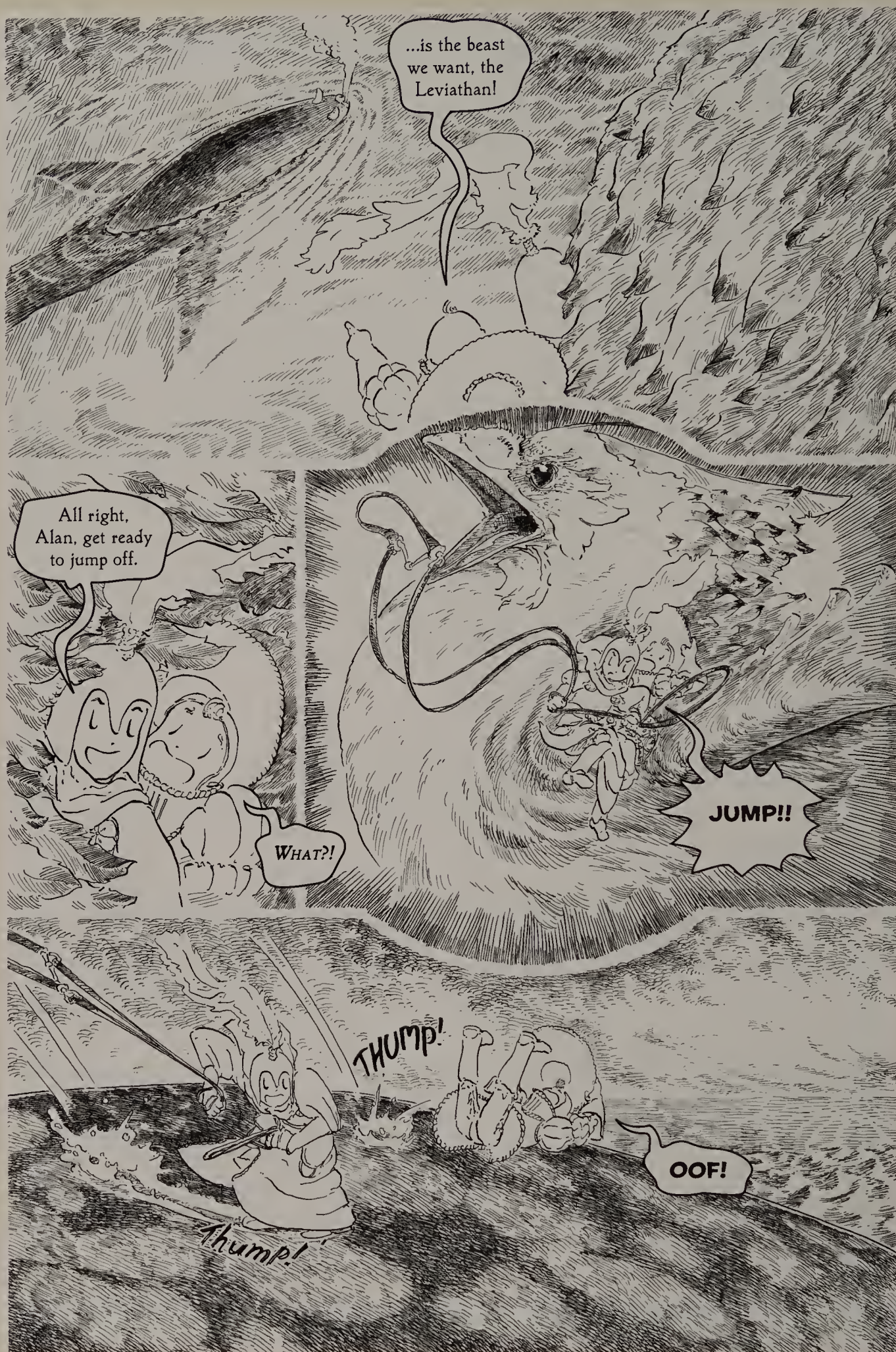
EXACTLY!

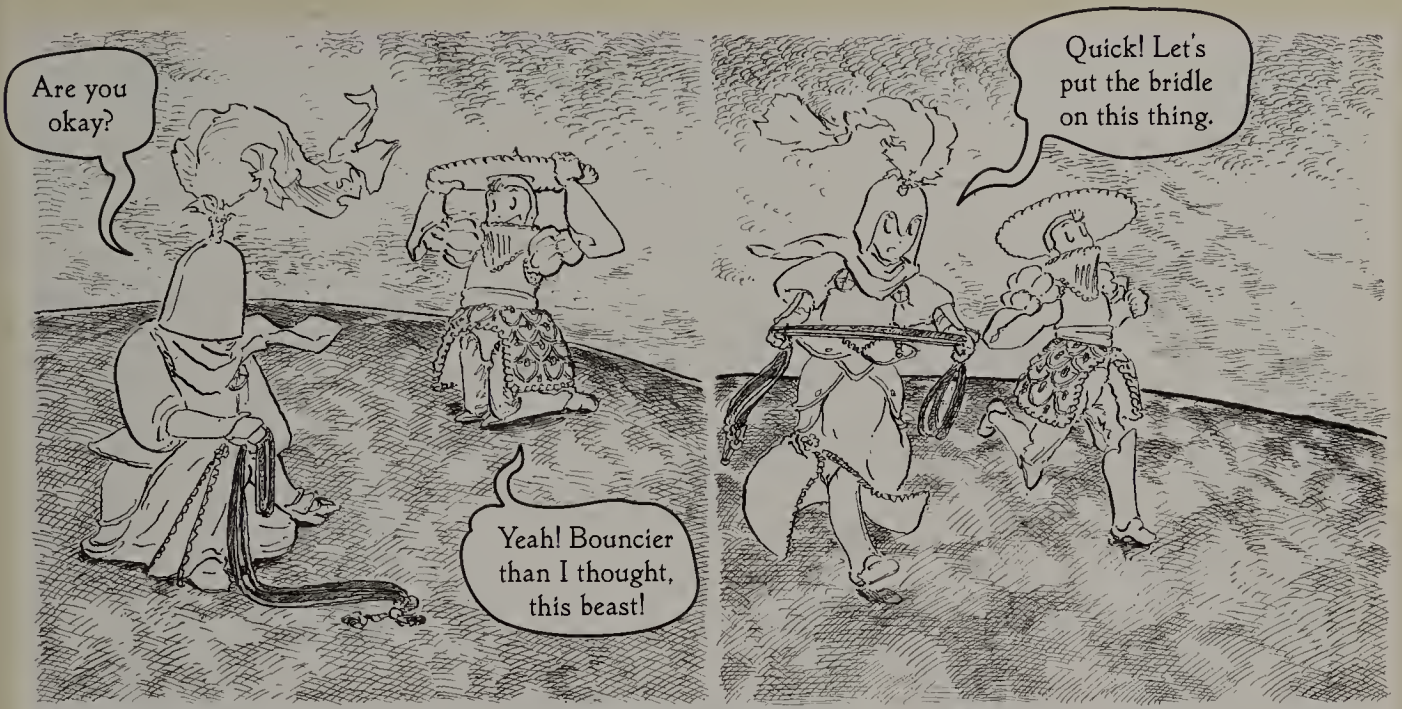


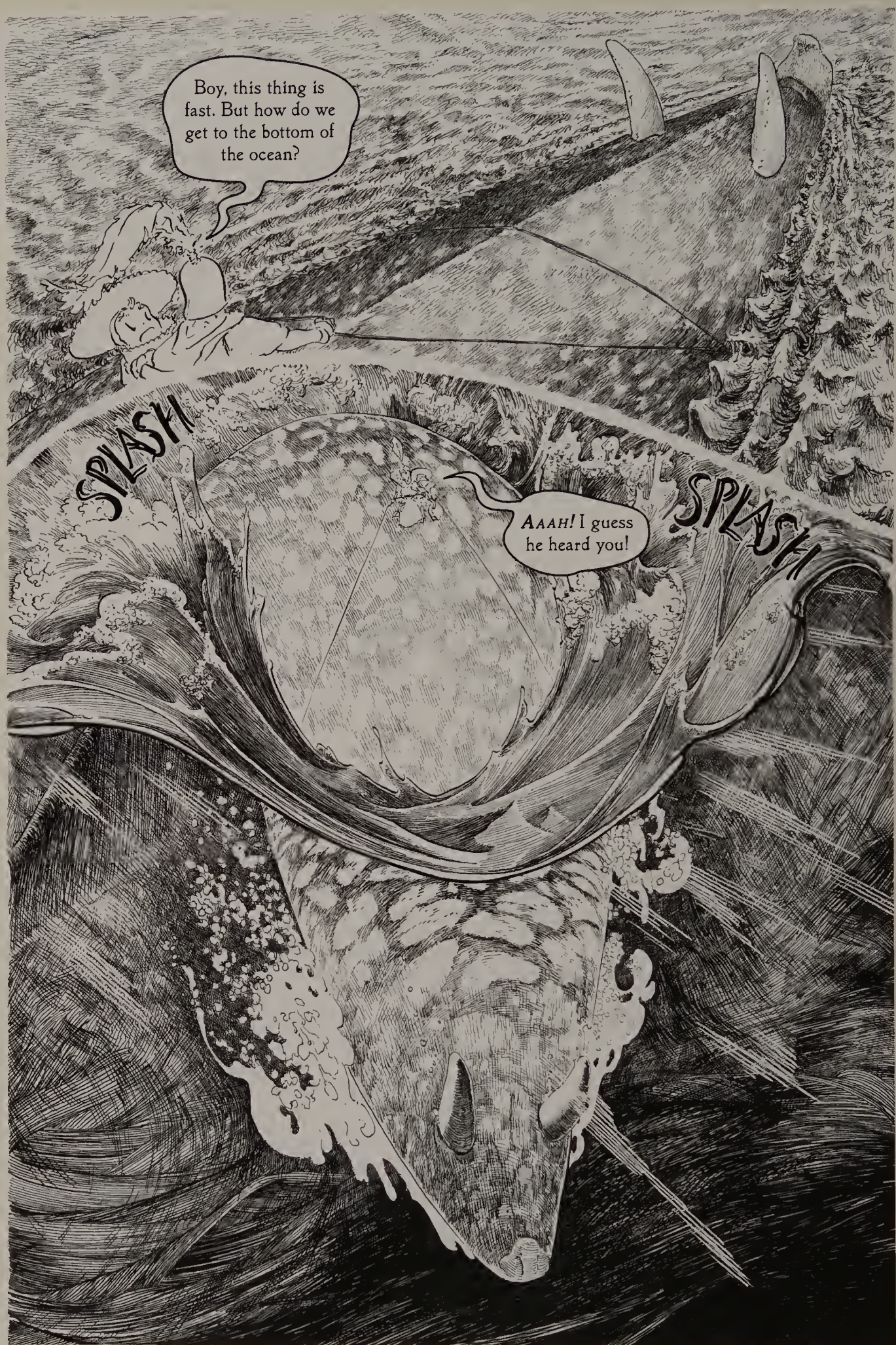
So you want us to find a
DRAIN at the bottom of the
ocean? But how would we
EVER get so far down?



Remember, the Ziz rules
the air, the Behemoth the
land...So in the ocean...





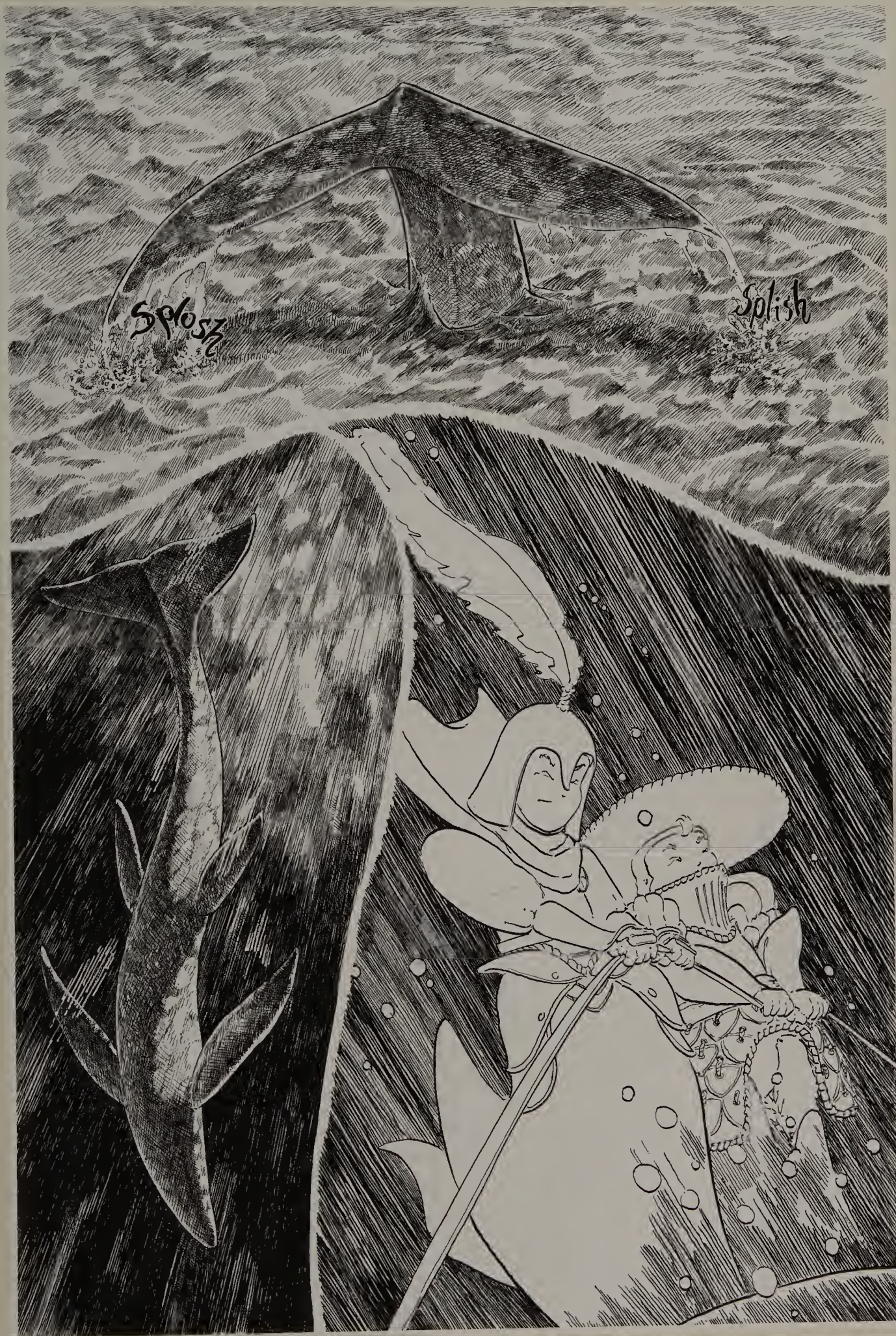


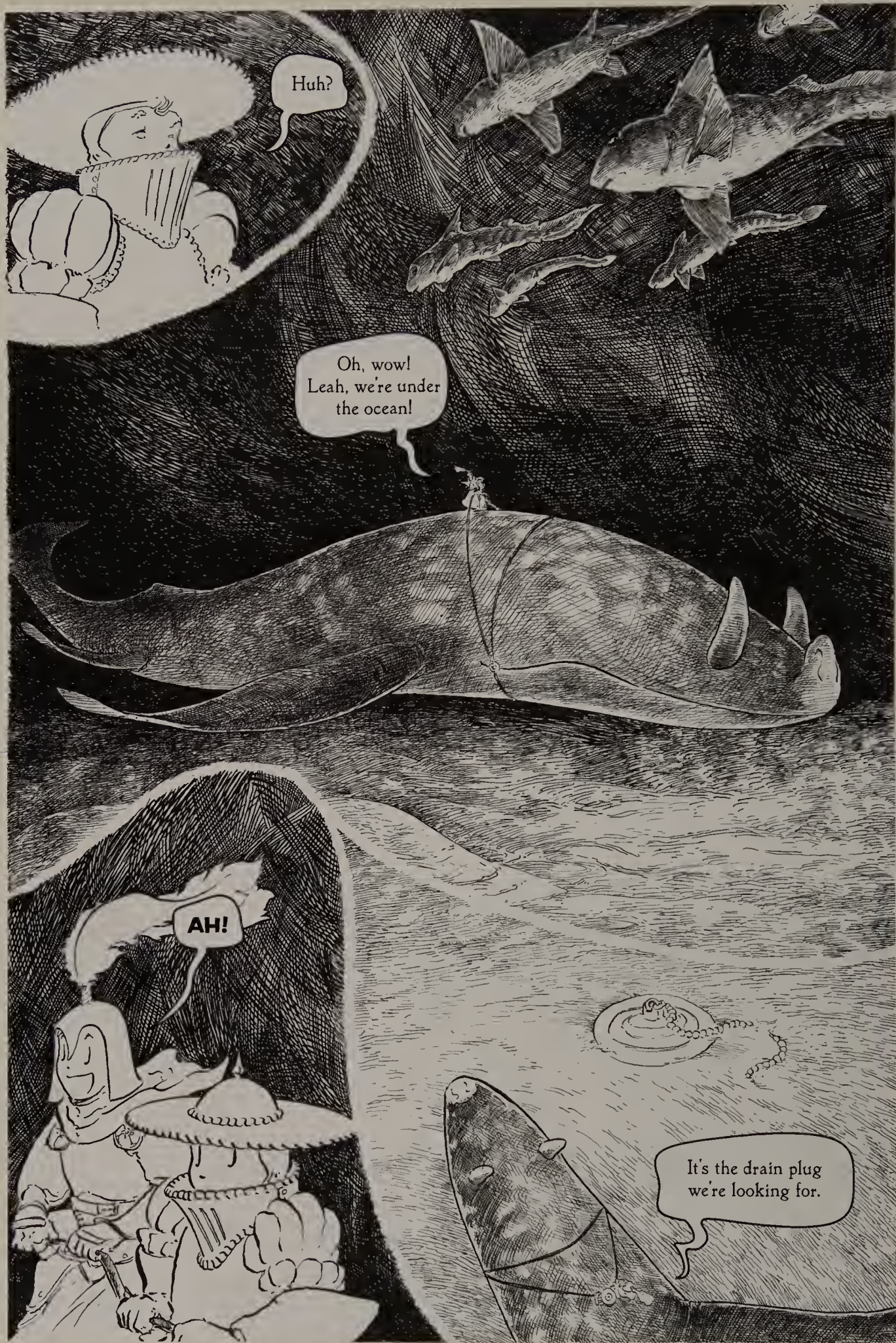
Boy, this thing is fast. But how do we get to the bottom of the ocean?

AAAAH! I guess he heard you!

SPLASH

SPLASH



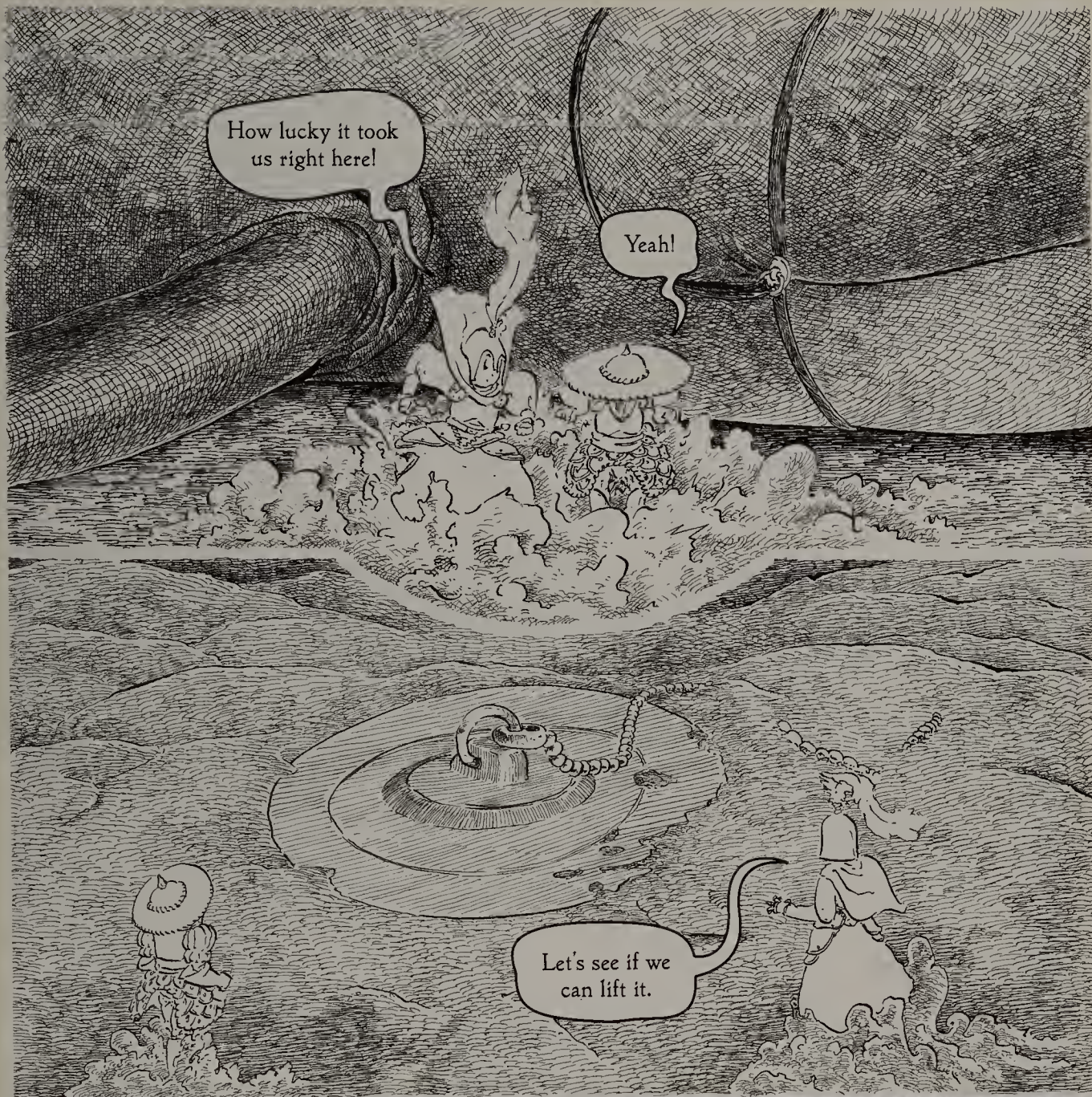


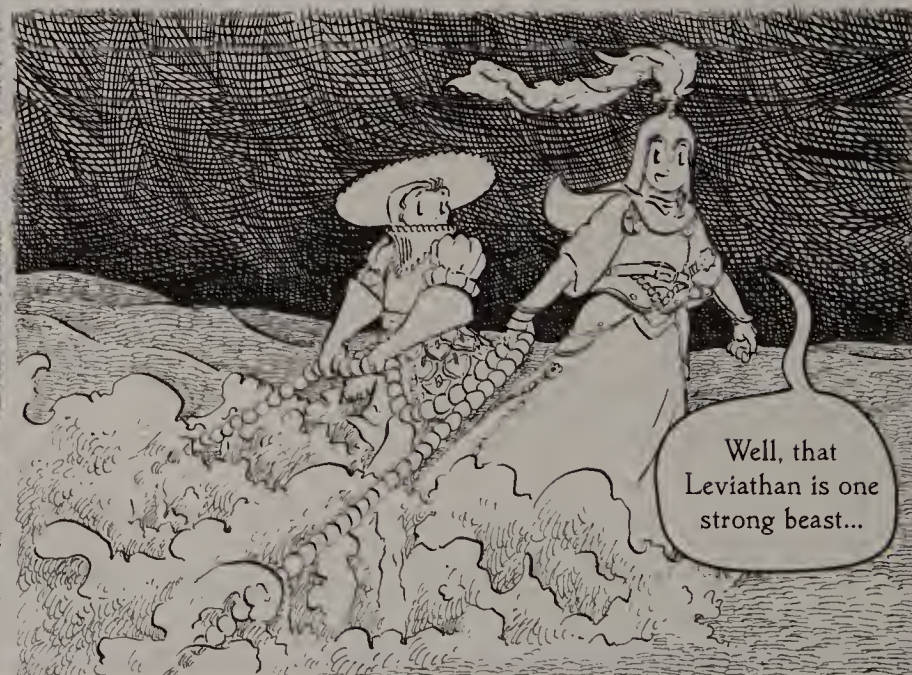
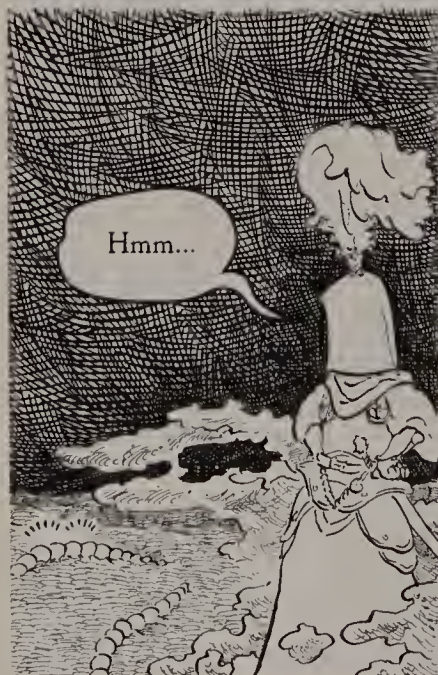
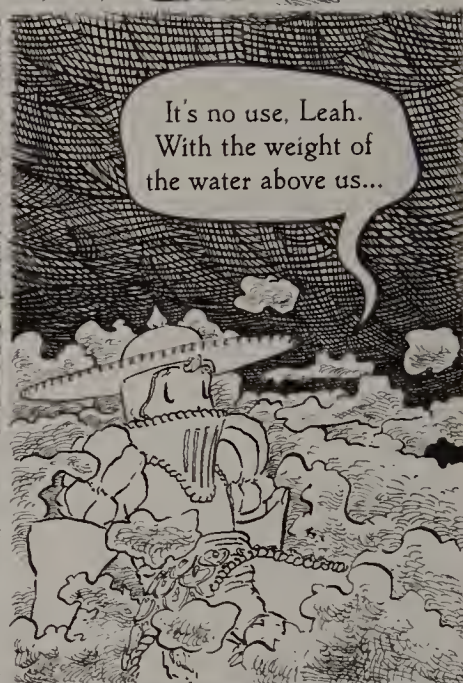
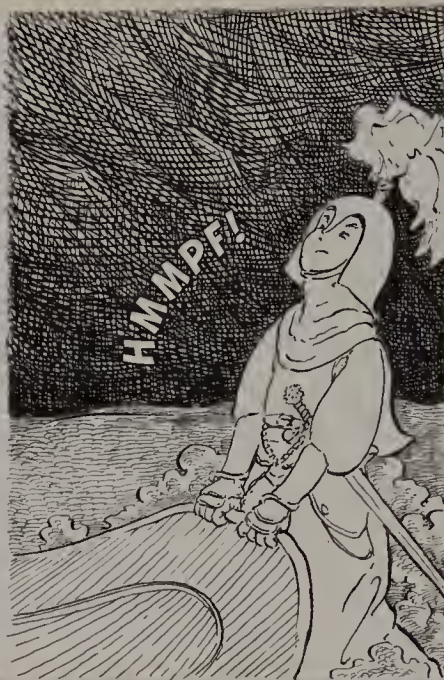
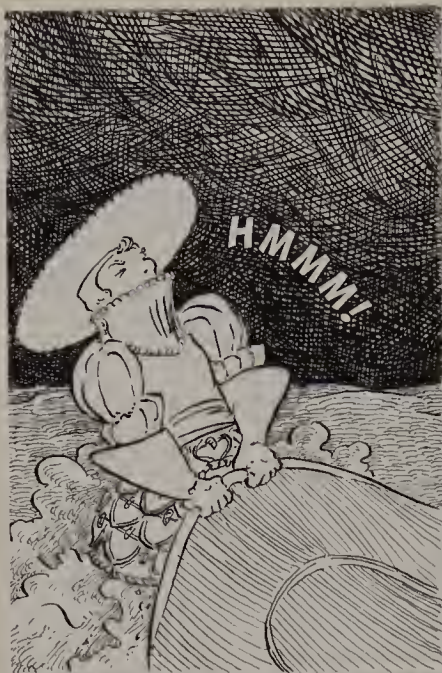
Huh?

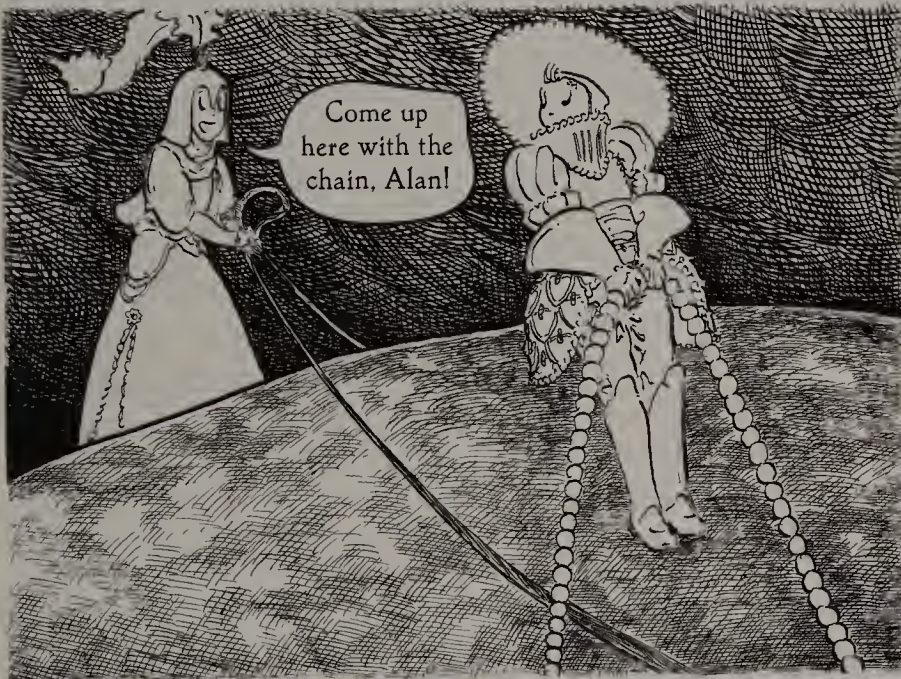
Oh, wow!
Leah, we're under
the ocean!

AH!

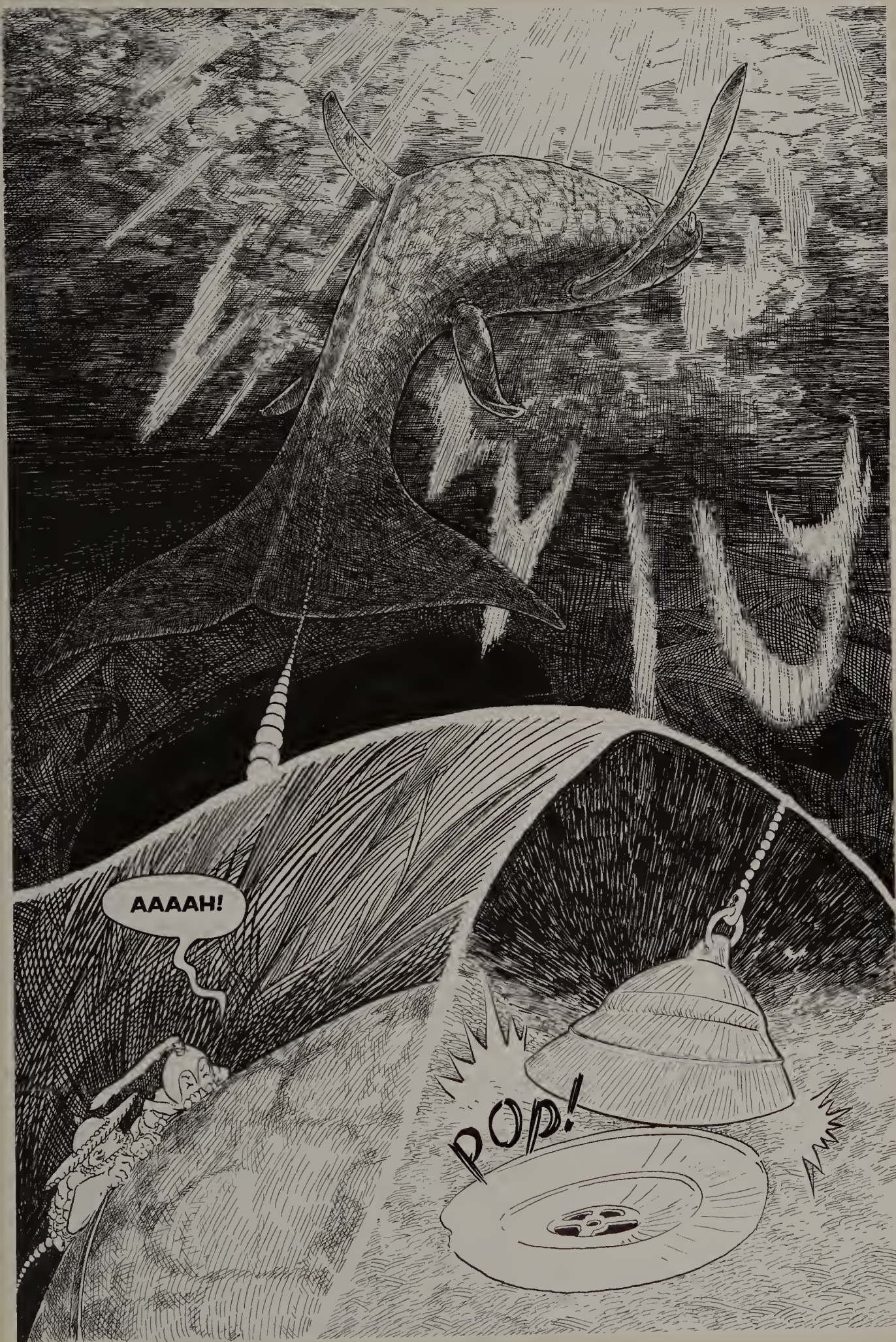
It's the drain plug
we're looking for.

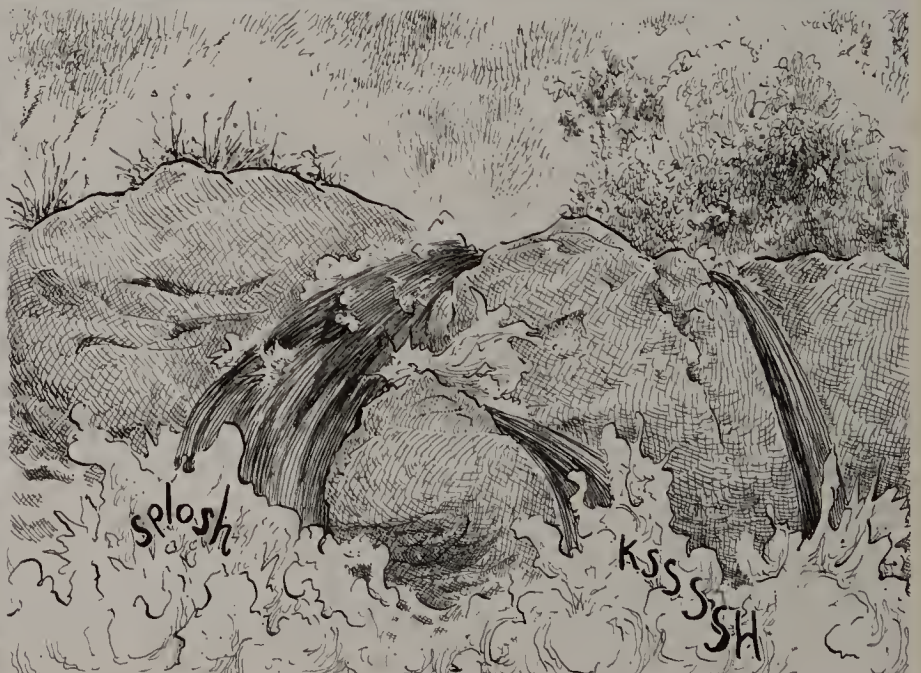
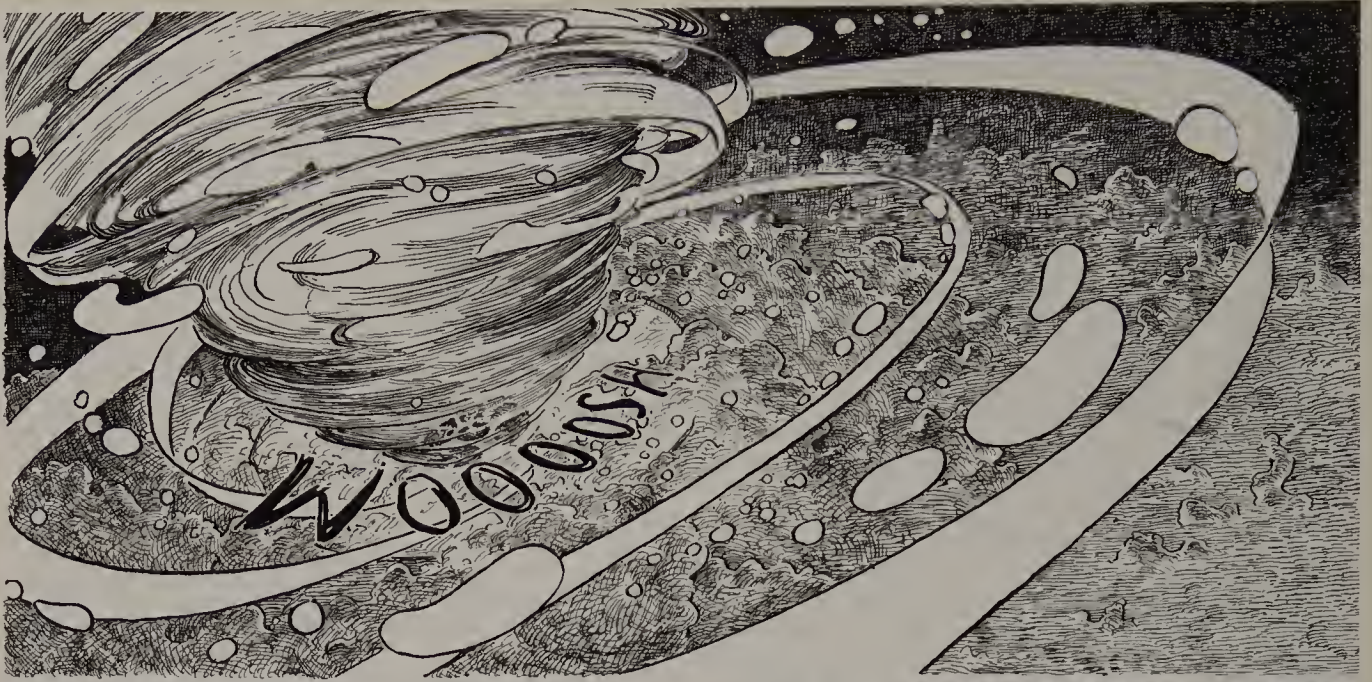


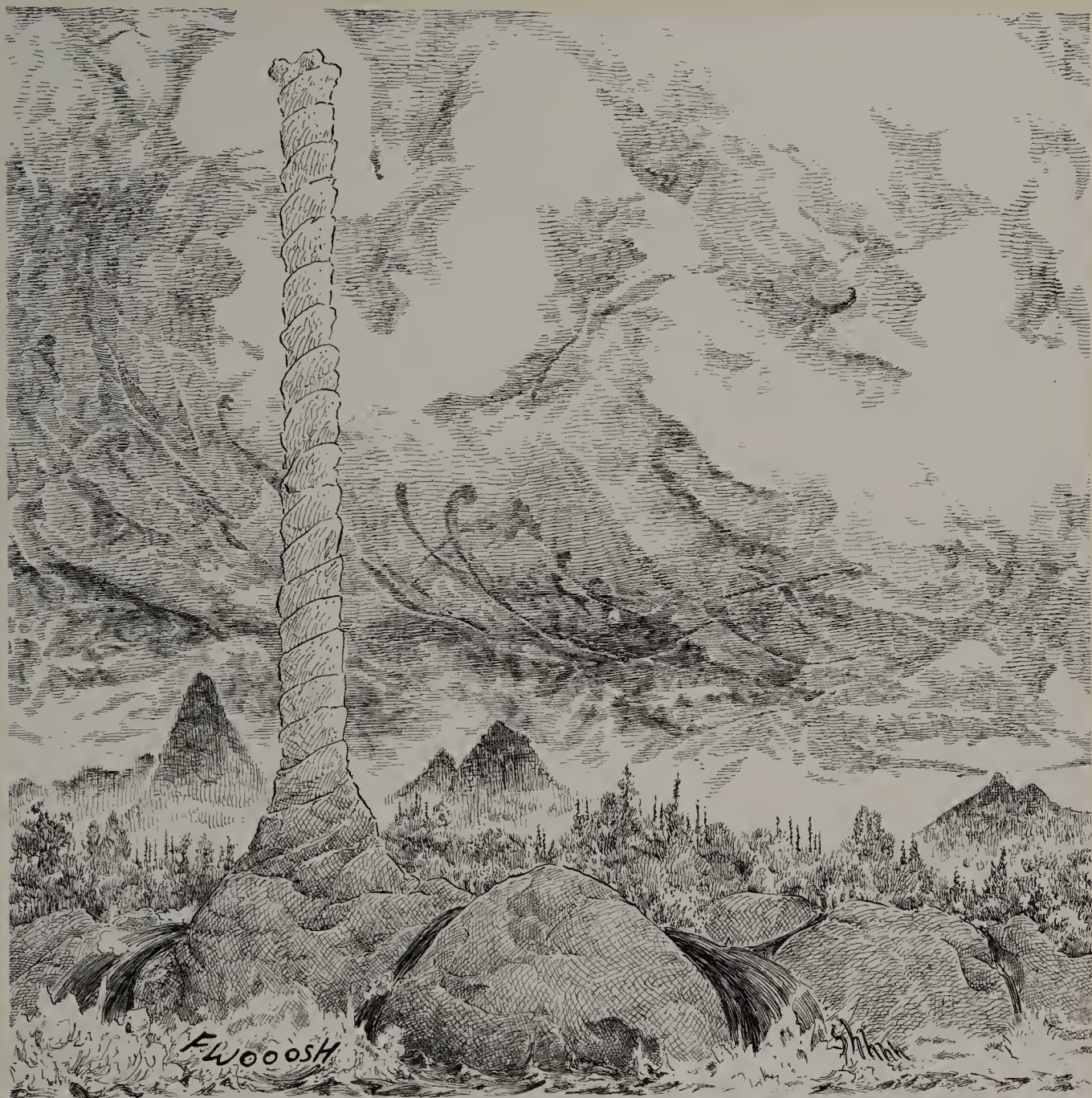


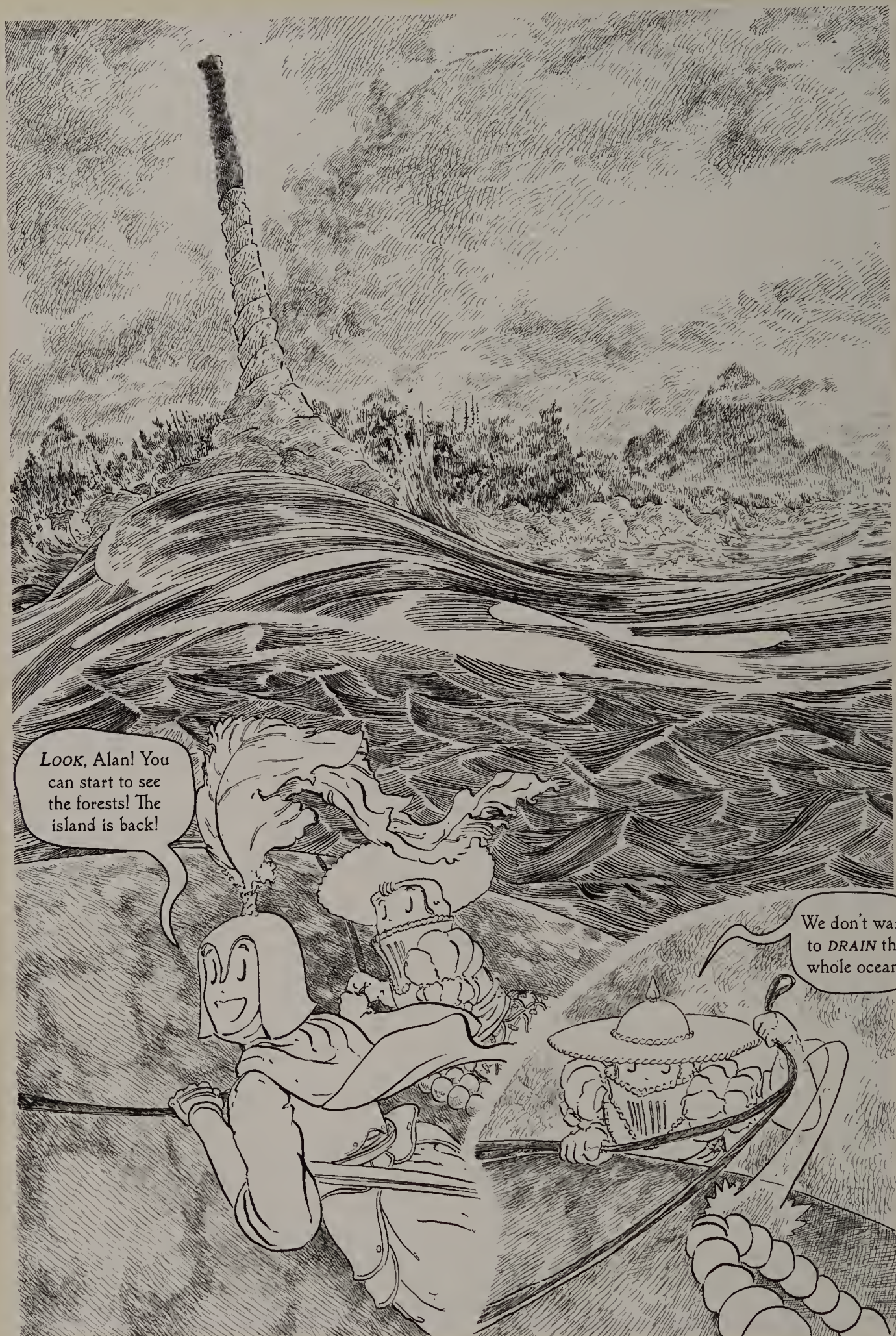






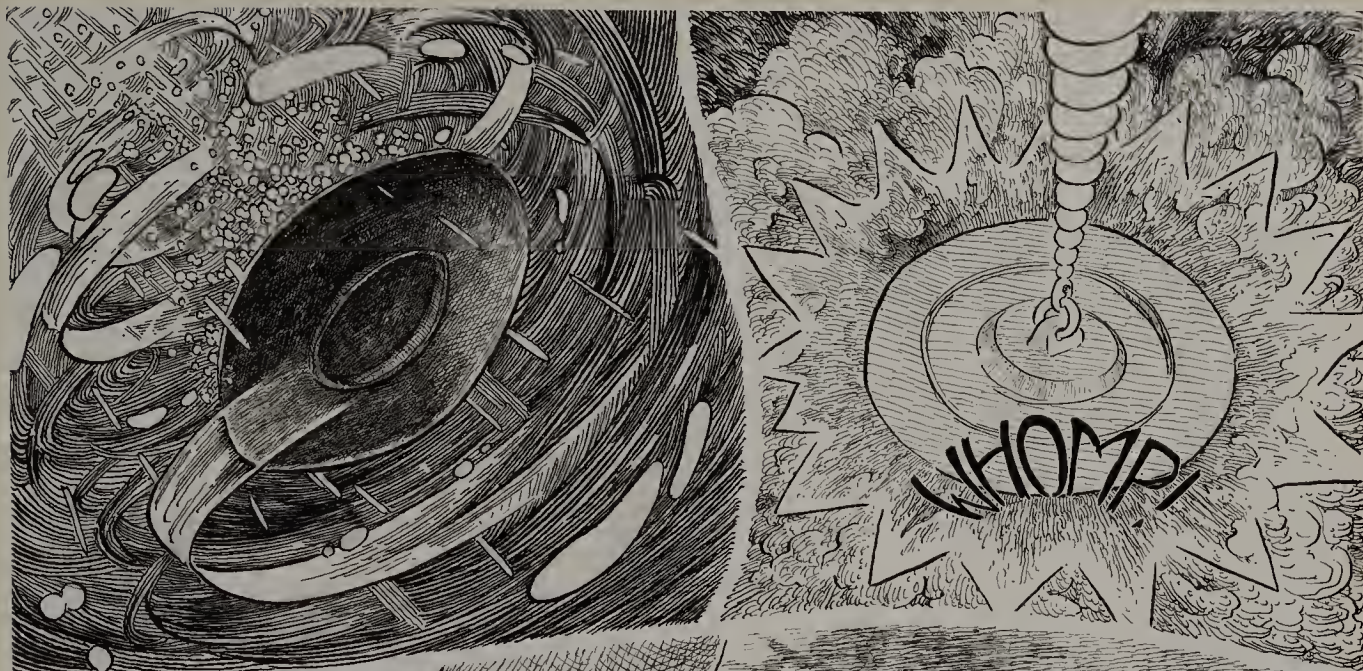




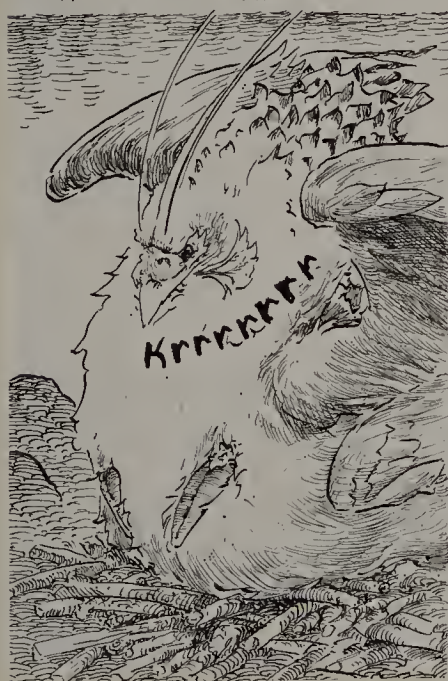


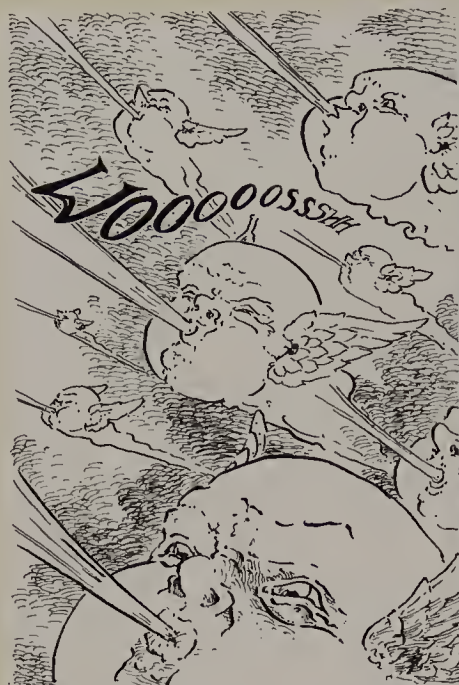
Look, Alan! You
can start to see
the forests! The
island is back!

We don't want
to *DRAIN* the
whole ocean!

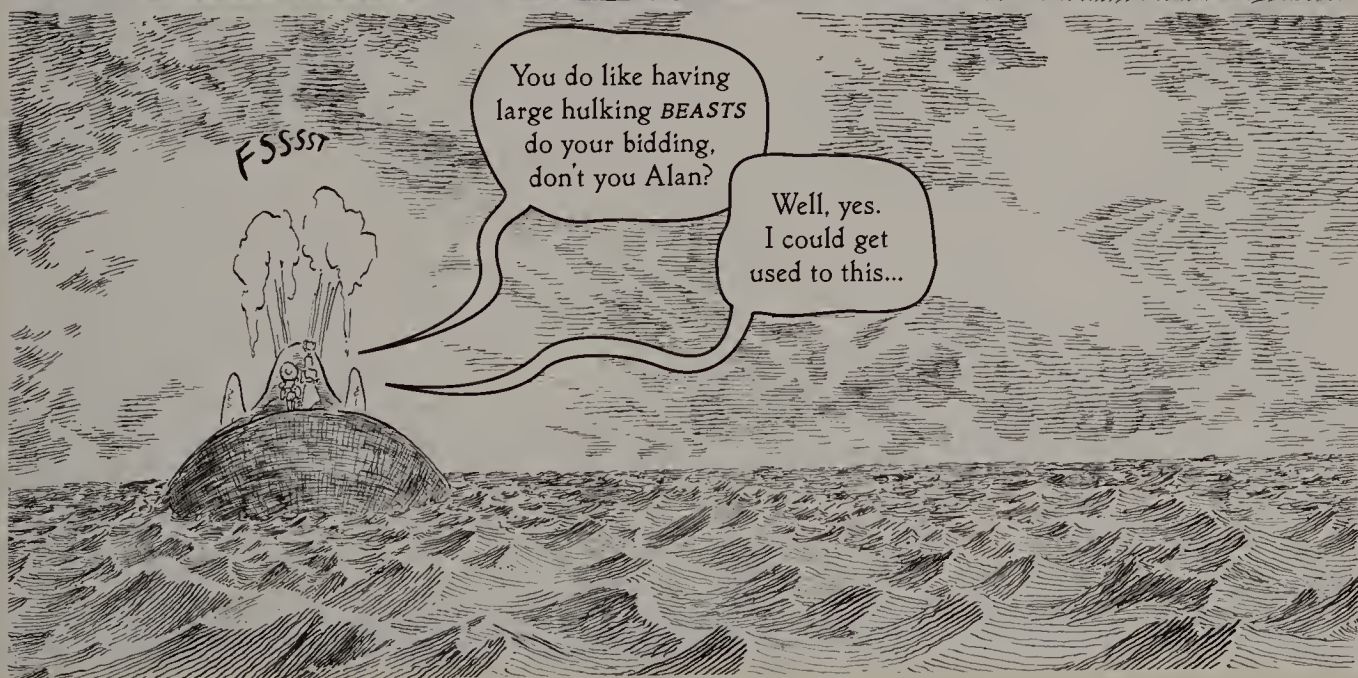


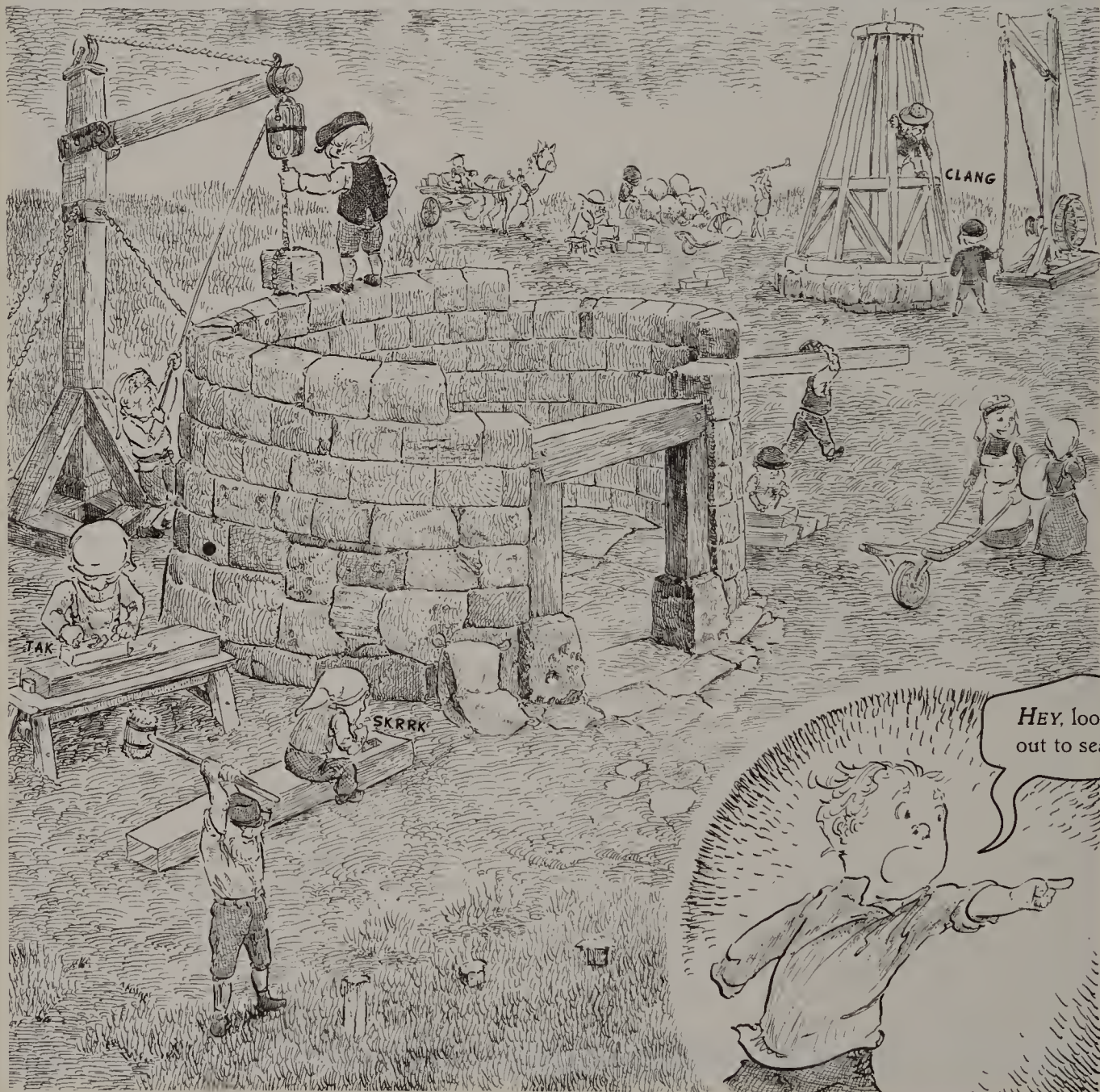


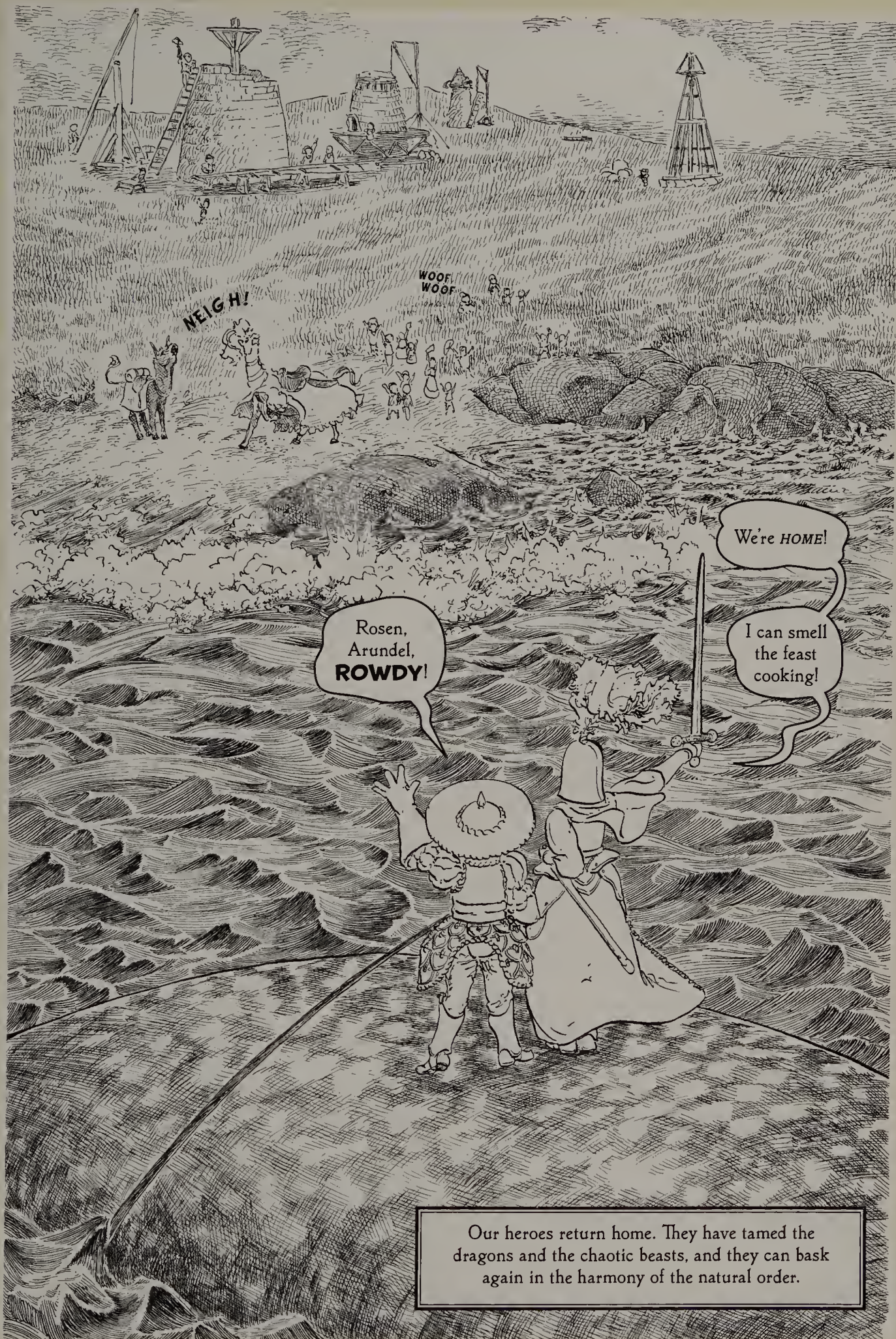












NEIGH!

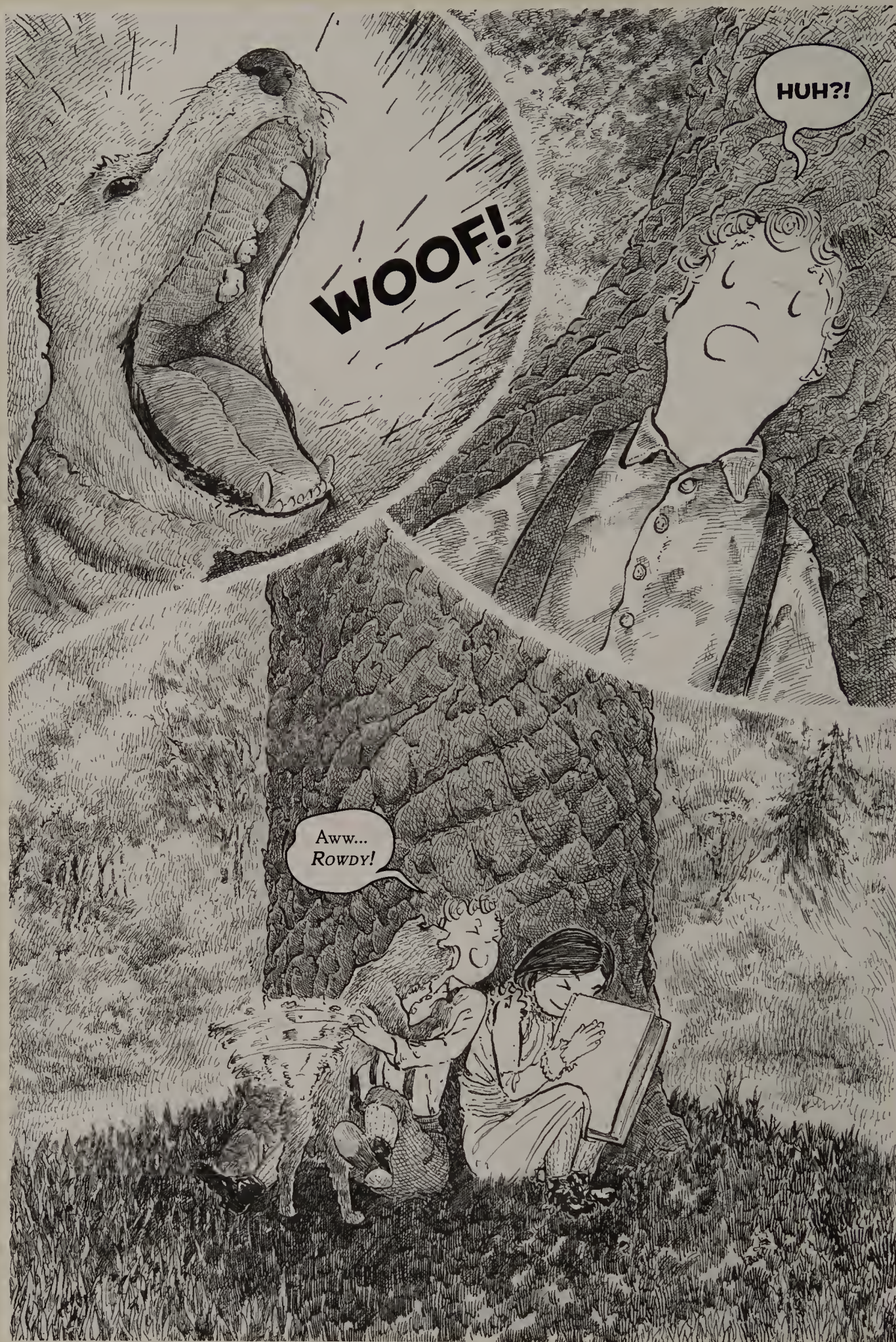
WOOF
WOOF

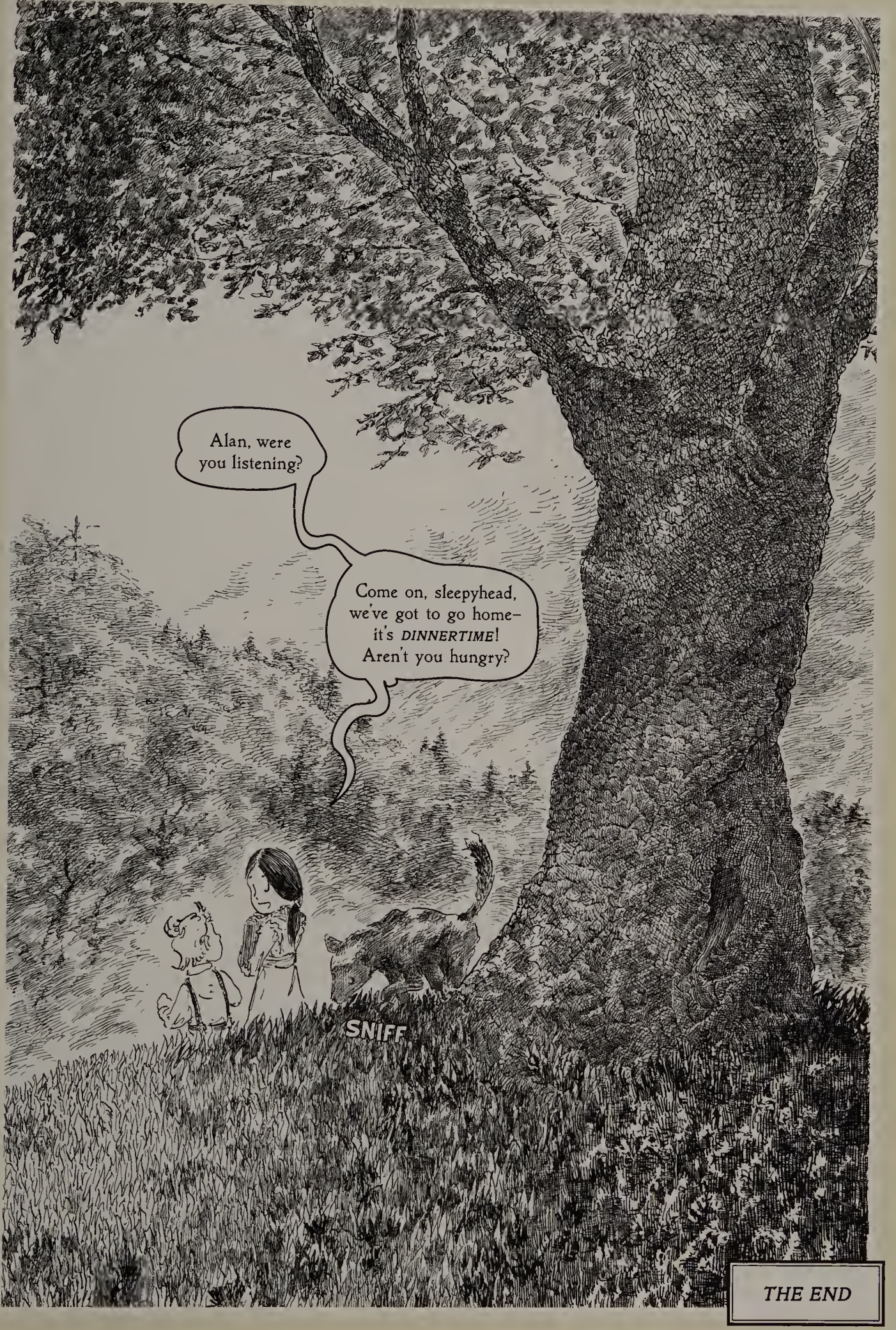
Rosen,
Arundel,
ROWDY!

We're HOME!

I can smell
the feast
cooking!

Our heroes return home. They have tamed the dragons and the chaotic beasts, and they can bask again in the harmony of the natural order.





Alan, were
you listening?

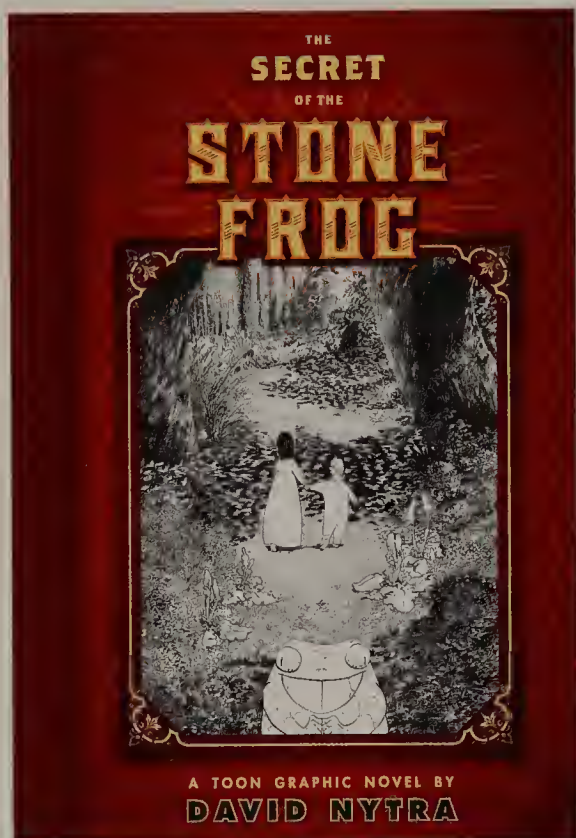
Come on, sleepyhead,
we've got to go home—
it's *DINNERTIME*!
Aren't you hungry?

SNIFF

THE END

The Leah and Alan Adventures

DAVID NYTRA has been drawing since he was old enough to hold a pencil. An artist who works in many media, including clay, wood, and animation, he lives in the small town of 100 Mile House in British Columbia, Canada. As a child, he loved books with many creatures in them and he has tried to fill his *Leah and Alan Adventures* with enough beasts to satisfy even the most demanding reader.



THE SECRET OF THE STONE FROG

David Nytra's award-winning debut book, a TOON Graphic.

When Leah and Alan awaken in an enchanted forest, they have only each other and their wits to guide them. In a world full of pet bees and giant rabbits, they befriend foppish lions and stone frogs. Learning to overcome danger, they find their way home—and their independence. David Nytra's breathtaking pictures break the boundaries of imagination, sending the reader on a wild flight of fantasy that tells a moving and universal coming-of-age story.

"The extraordinarily delicate and fine-lined art incorporates touches of manga aesthetic so that, like the story itself, it merges timeless narrative elements to craft something wonderfully innovative...A smashing success."

-BOOKLIST

- ★ ALSC's Graphic Novel Reading List
- ★ Horvey Award Nominee
- ★ Nutmeg Book Award
- ★ New York Public Library's Children's Book List of 100 Titles for Reading and Shoring
- ★ School Library Journal's Top Ten Graphic Novels of 2012



BEHIND THE STORY

Don Quixote

Don Quixote is a Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes, published in the early 1600s. It tells the story of an old nobleman who has read too many books about knights. He dons a suit of armor, names himself "Don Quixote," and finds a squire to help him on his own knightly adventures. In one episode, Don Quixote tries to attack a field of windmills that he thinks is a group of giants with huge swinging arms. This inspired the expression "tilting at windmills," which means attacking imaginary enemies. ("Tilting" comes from the medieval art of jousting.)



Pablo Picasso, "Don Quixote," 1955, Les Lettres Françaises.



G.A. Harker, "Don Quixote," ca. 1910.

Ziz, Behemoth, Leviathan

The Ziz, the Behemoth, and the Leviathan are huge creatures from Jewish mythology mentioned in the Old Testament. Each rules over a specific kingdom: The Ziz rules the birds, the Behemoth the beasts, and the Leviathan the fish. The Ziz is a giant, griffin-like bird. Her wings are so large they can block out the sun, but they also protect the earth from wind. If one of her eggs falls from her nest, it causes earthquakes and flooding. No one knows exactly what the Behemoth looked like. Some scholars think of it as a hippopotamus, rhinoceros, dinosaur, or crocodile. The word now refers to any large or powerful being. The Leviathan is a sea monster, thought to resemble a giant serpent or whale.



An engraving of the Behemoth and the Leviathan by William Blake, 1826.

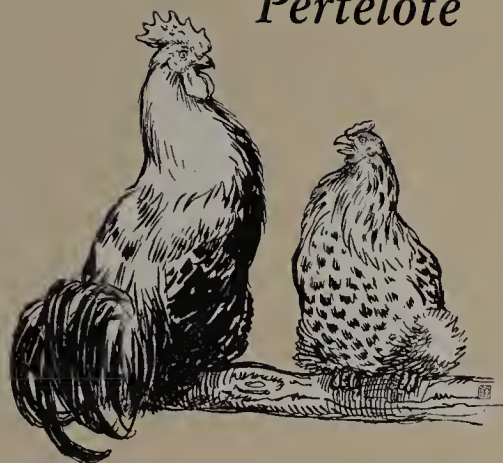
William Blake, Illustration from Book of Job, 1826.

Bestiaries

A bestiary, or *bestiarum vocabulum*, was a medieval European book that listed and described all kinds of animals, including birds, with Christian moral lessons. Imaginary animals, like the unicorn and griffin, were included. Bestiaries were beautifully hand-illustrated as “illuminated manuscripts.”

Dragon entry from the Harley Bestiary, written in Latin ca. 1230.





Pertelote

Pertelote is the name of a hen in *The Canterbury Tales*, a work of medieval literature composed in the late 1300s by Geoffrey Chaucer. It is one of the great works of English literature. The tales follow a group of religious pilgrims who tell each other tales to pass the time on their journey. In one story, a proud rooster dreams that he will be killed by a fox. His favorite wife, Pertelote, pays no attention to his fears. In the end, a fox does try to eat him but is outsmarted by the crafty rooster.

Sir George

Sir George may be related to Saint George, a soldier born in Roman Palestine in the late 200s, who became a Christian and was martyred. He appeared in stories of lives of saints in the early 900s. According to legend, Saint George saved a city from a huge dragon that was killing its young women. With



only his lance, George killed the monster and rescued the king's daughter, its next victim. Saint George and the dragon have been painted hundred of times and appear on the coat of arms of many European cities and the country of Georgia. He is the patron saint of England, and his cross forms its flag.

Paolo Uccello,
"St. George and the
Dragon," 1470.

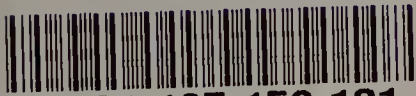
The Man-eating Boat

The design of the Man-eating Boat seems inspired by canoes of Native Americans and Canadians of the Northwest Coast, which stretches from Alaska to northern California. Artists carve canoes from a single log and paint them with animal designs that often honor family members. For First Nations people, creating artistic objects is an important way to transmit beliefs, histories, and stories to future generations.

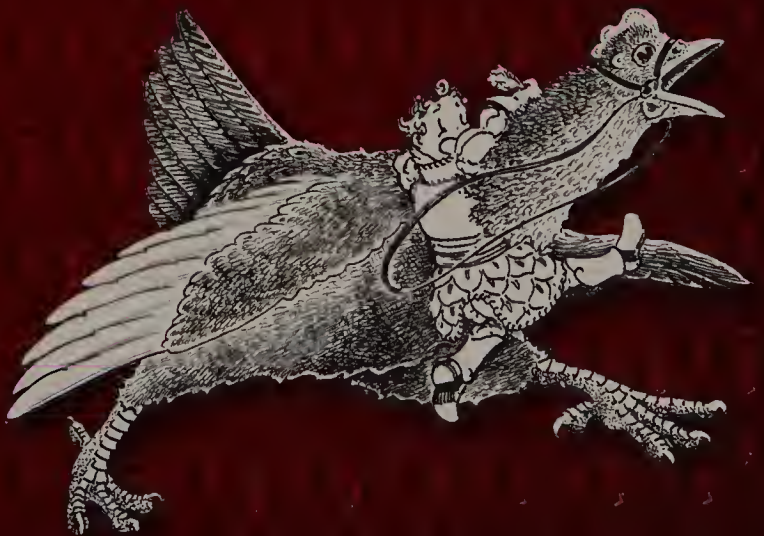


Canoes at the Haida Heritage
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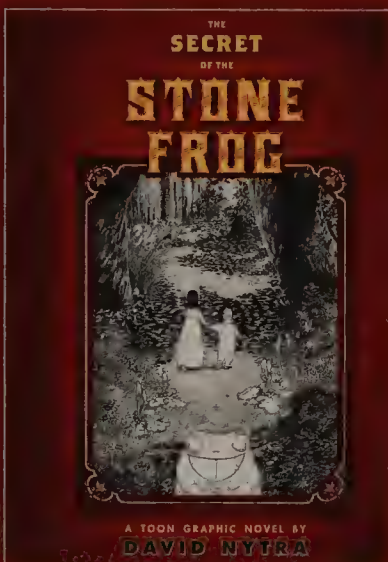
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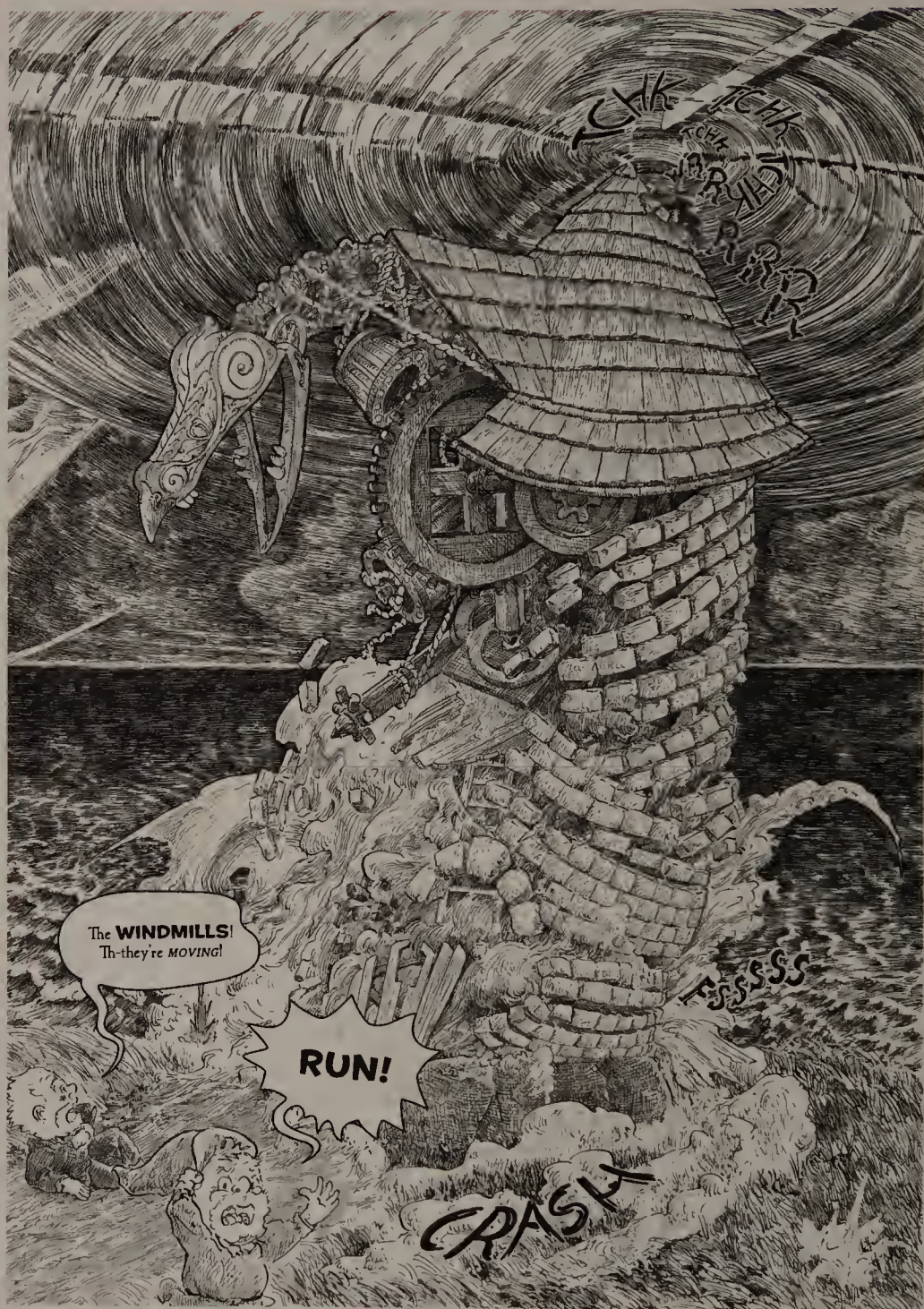
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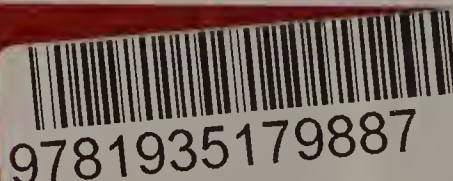
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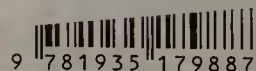


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