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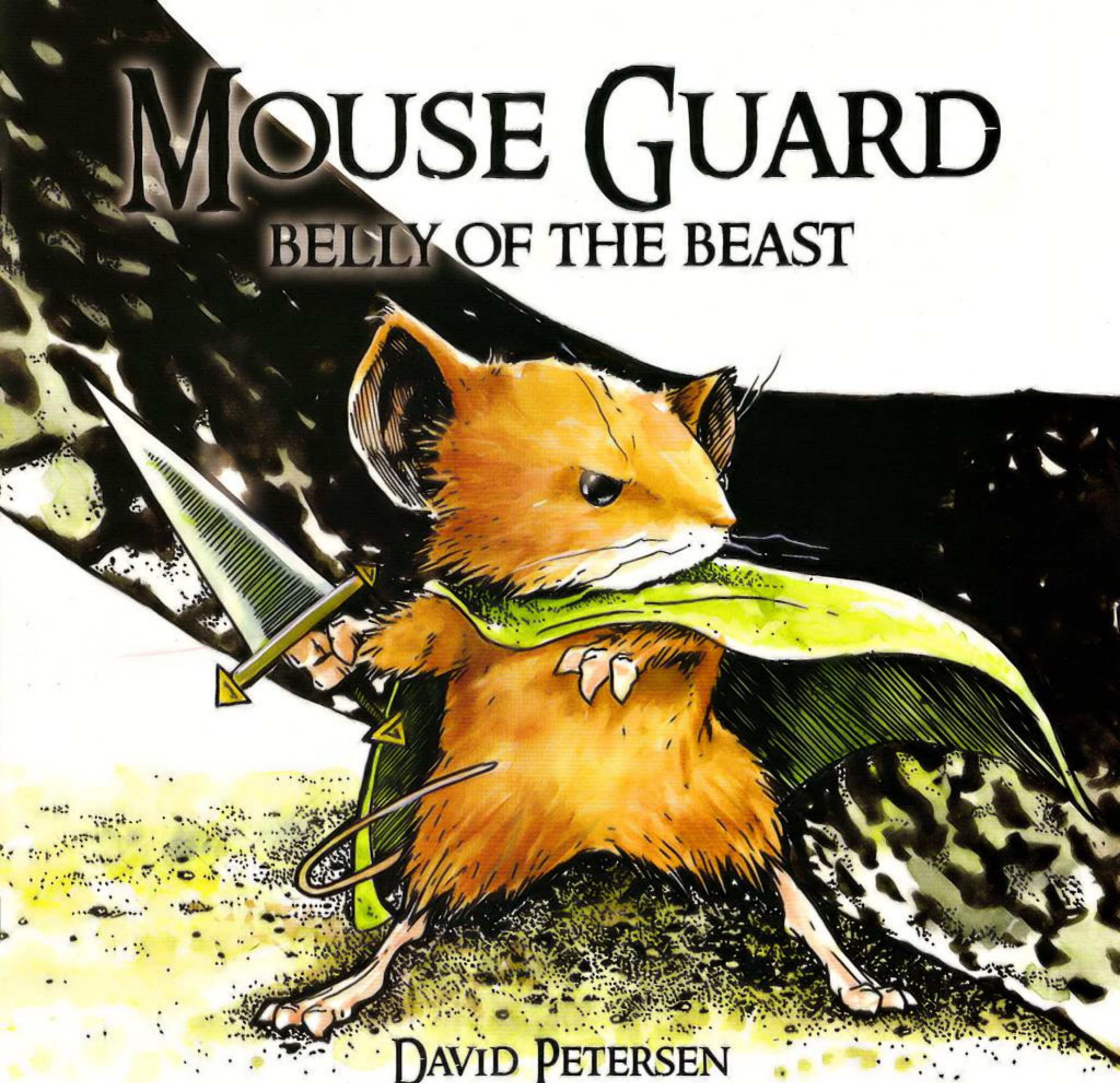


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MOUSE GUARD

BELLY OF THE BEAST



DAVID PETERSEN

MOUSE GUARD

The mice struggle to live safely and prosper among all of the world's harsh conditions and predators. Thus the mouse guard was formed.

After persevering against a weasel warlord in the winter war of 1149, the territories are no longer as troubled. True, the day to day dangers exist, but no longer are the Guard soldiers, instead they are escorts, pathfinders, weather watchers, scouts and body guards for the mice who live among the territories. Many skills are necessary for the guard to keep the borders safe. They must find new safeways and paths from village to village, lead shipments of goods from one town to another, and, in case of attack, guard against all evil and harm to their territories.

*'Hail all those who are able,
any mouse can,
any mouse will,
but the Guard prevail'*

Special thanks to all those who made this book possible:

My wife Julia, My Parents, Jesse Glenn, Mike Davis,
Emerson Jones, Seyth Miersma,
Jeremy Bastian, Maija Graham, The Rubenfeld's,
& Guy Davis

ISBN 1-932386-14-9

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LET ME TELL YE ABOUT THE GUARD.
WE MICE HAVE LITTLE CHANCE IN THIS
WORLD. CONSIDERING ALL THE CRITTERS
THAT EATS US.




WE KNOW TO BUILD OUR CITIES HIDDEN
AND PROTECTED; DEEP WITHIN ROCK
OUTCROPPINGS, IN TANGLED ROOT,
AND BENEATH LOAMY SOIL. WE SURVIVE.



BUT HOW DO WE LIVE?
TRAVEL IN THE OPEN BETWEEN OUR TOWNS
IS DANGEROUS. THE GUARD HAS BEEN
IN EXISTENCE LONGER THAN OUR HISTORY.
THEY ARE THE TRAIL BLAZERS, THE
GUIDES, ESCORTS, AND DEFENDERS OF US.





I SELL GRAIN FROM ROOTWALLOW TO BARKSTONE,
I KNOW THE WAY AND FOLLOW THE PATHS I'VE BEEN SHOWN
THE GUARD IS TOO NECESSARY IN OTHER PLACES
TO TOUR THIS OLDFUR AROUND.

JUST NEED TO STOP FOR A BIT..



MOUSE GUARD: Belly of the Beast

Story & Art: David Petersen

GWENDOLYN SAID YOU WOULD BRIEF US ONCE WE WERE ON THE TRAIL, KENZIE. SO TELL US, WHY HAVE THREE OF THE GUARD'S FINEST BEEN DISPATCHED?



LIEAM

A MOUSE PEDDLING GRAIN TOOK THE PATH FROM ROOTWALLOW TO BARKSTONE ALONE.



WE NEED TO FIND THIS MISSING GRAIN MOUSE...

SEEMS HE NEVER ARRIVED AT HIS DESTINATION.

KENZIE

WE WON'T AT THIS RATE.. IT'S STILL QUITE A WAY TO BARKSTONE AND NO SIGN OF THE LOST FOOL YET.



SAXON



WE
SHOULD
BE PRESSING
ON

I
AGREE, BUT PERHAPS
A VIEW WILL
TELL US *WHERE* TO
PRESS, EH?



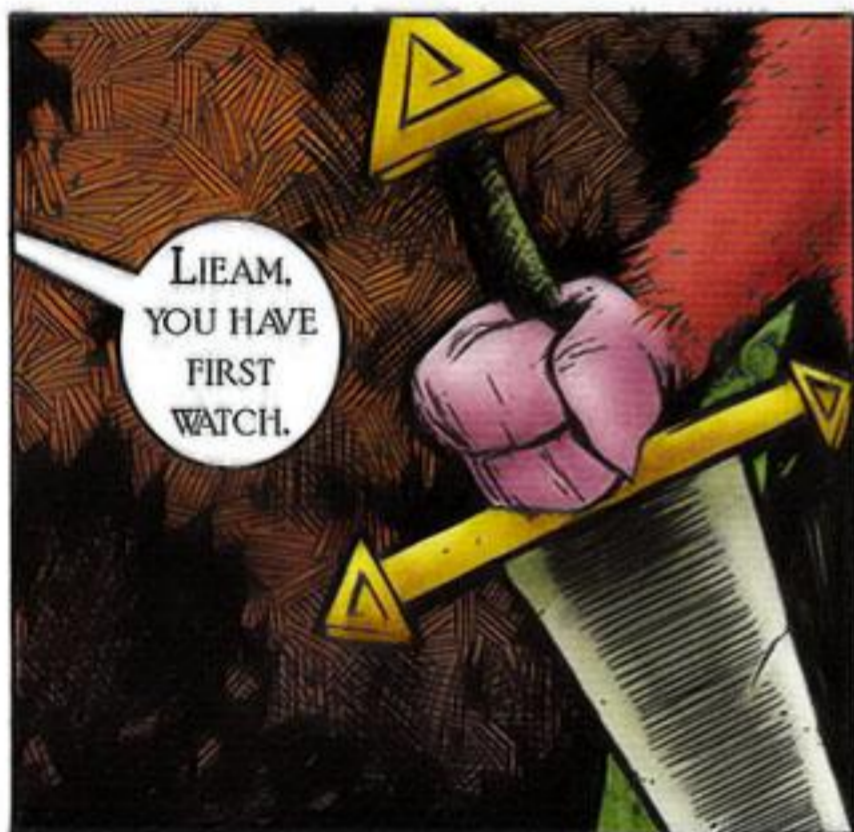
SEE
ANYTHING
UP THERE
REDFUR?



I SEE
A
CART!





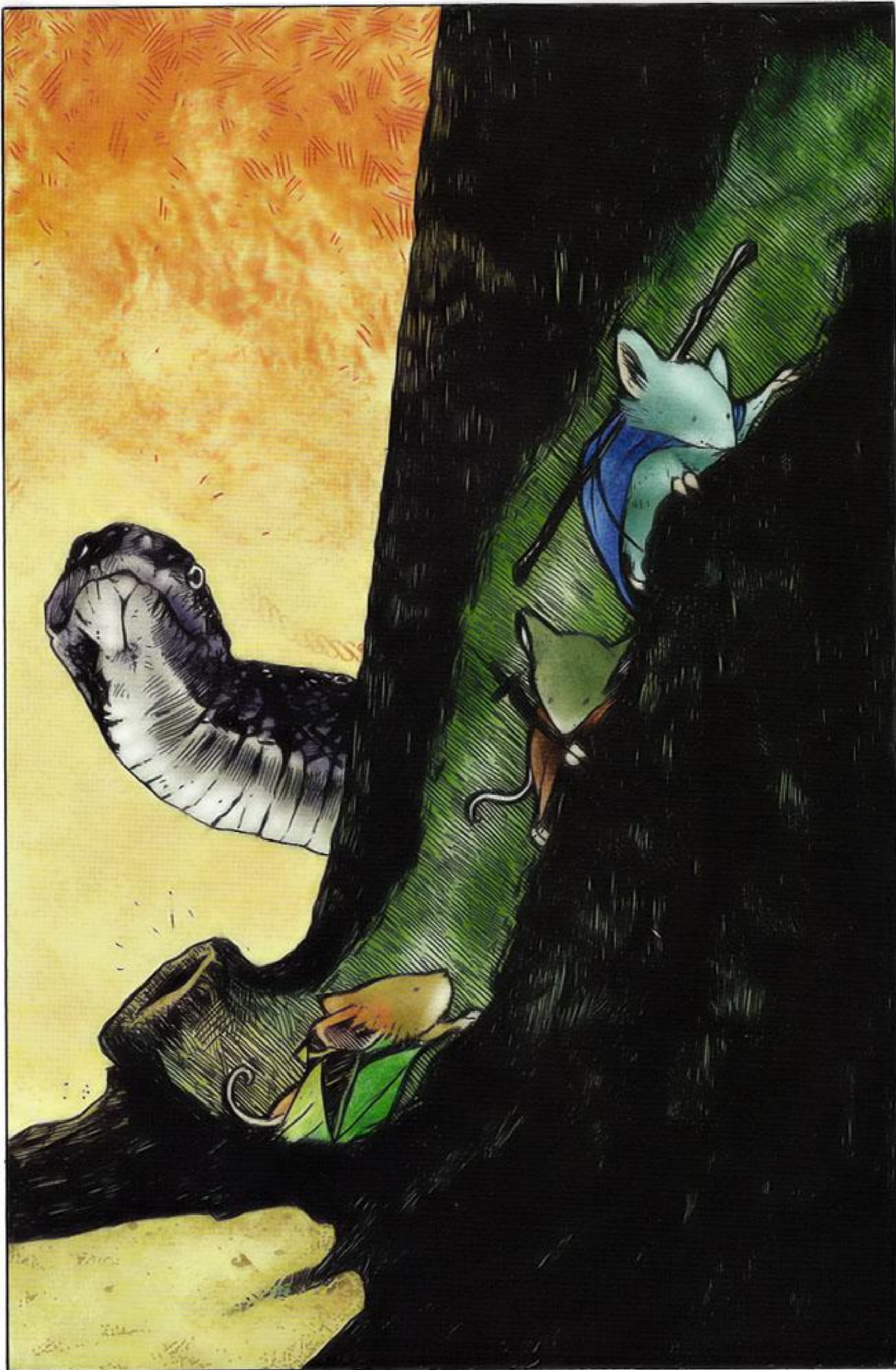












NOT NOW, OR LATER..



YOU FORGET...
IN LOCKHAVEN THERE IS
A SAYING CARVED INTO
THE WALL:

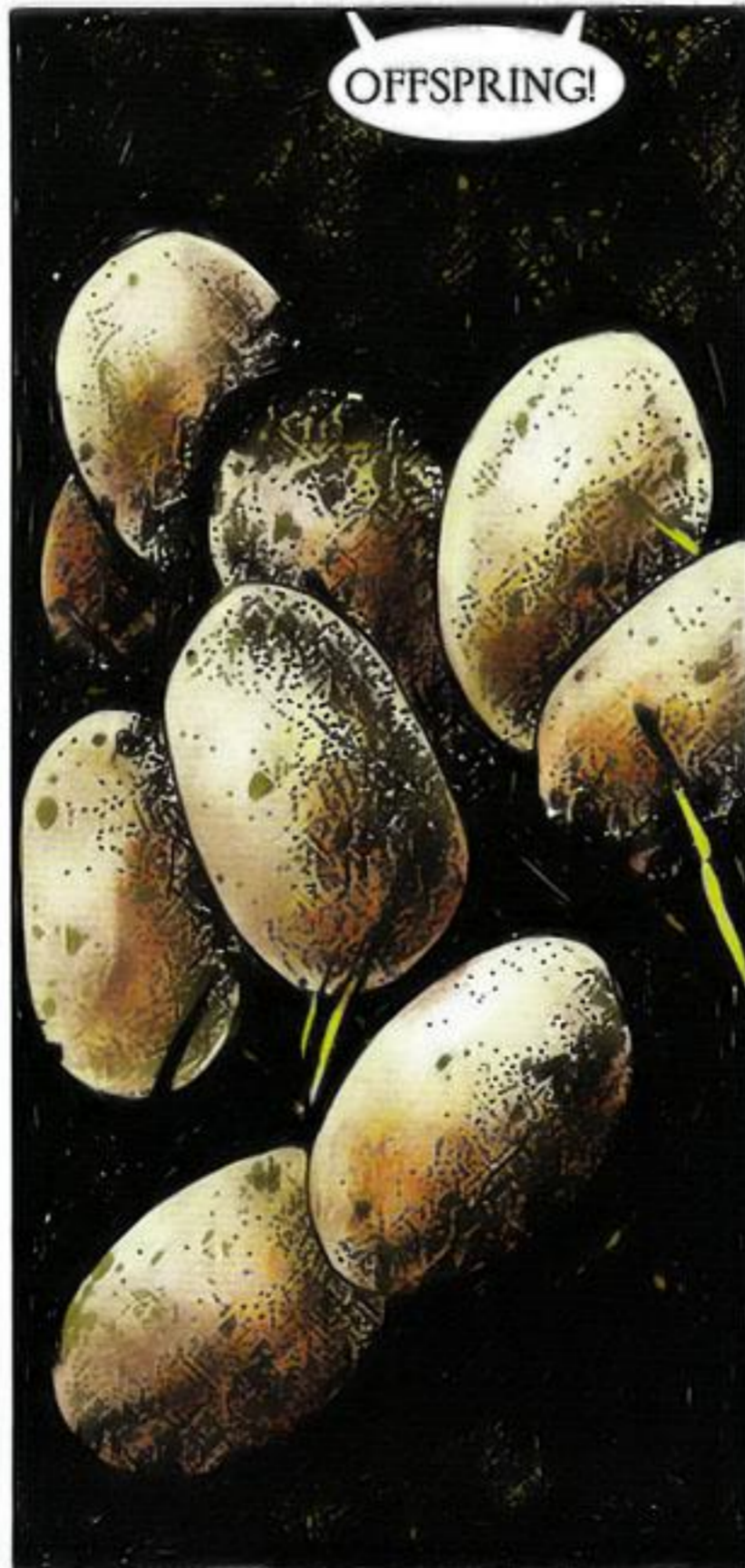
IT MATTERS
NOT *WHAT* YOU
FIGHT BUT *WHAT* YOU
FIGHT FOR.



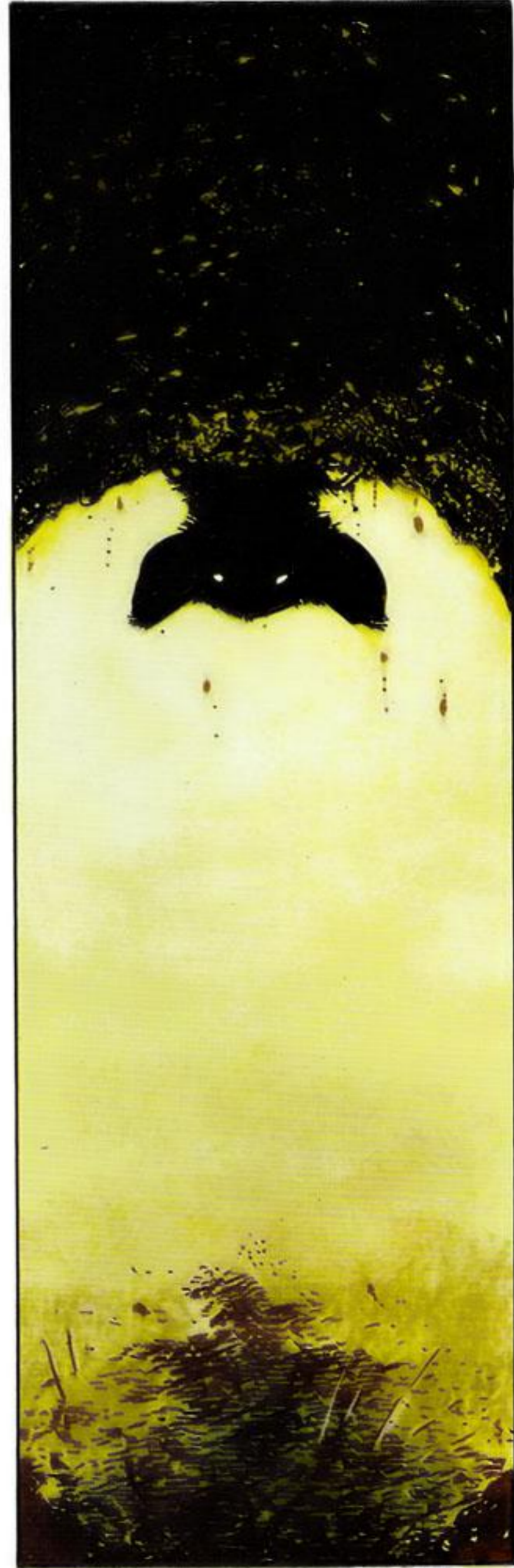
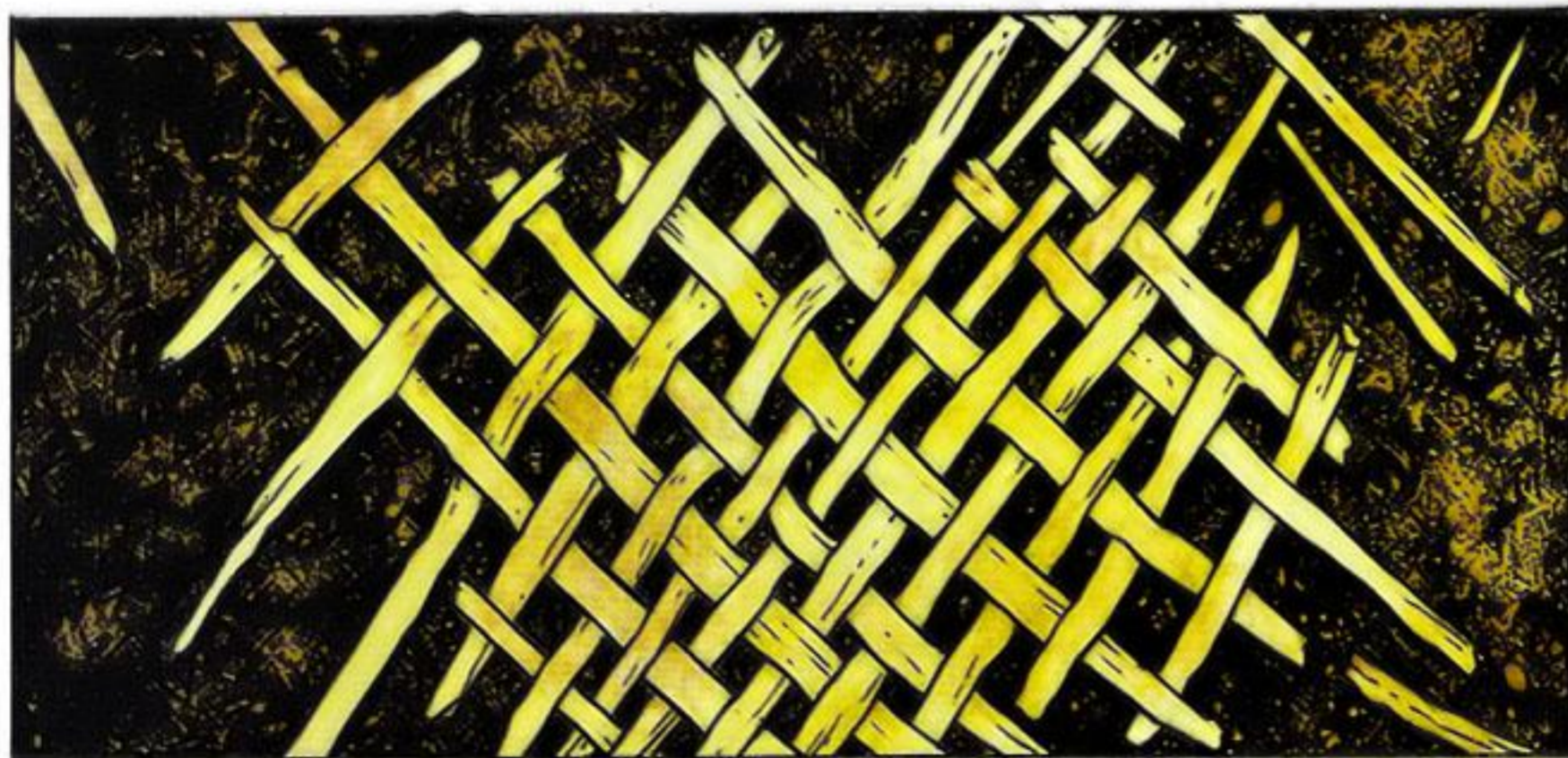
IS IT
STILL THERE,
SAX?

NO SIGN OF IT
ANYMORE

AYE,
AND WE HAVE
A GRAIN MERCHANT
TO FIND

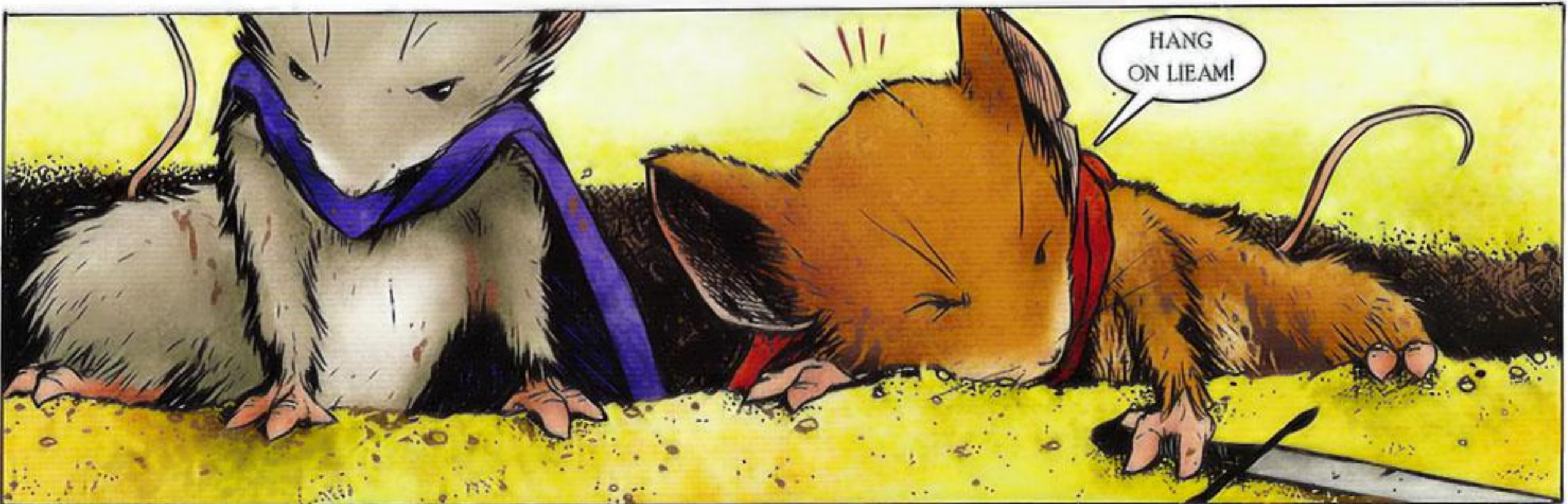



















SHOULDN'T WE HAVE BURIED HIM ELSEWHERE? WHAT OF HIS WIDOW? ARE WE NOT HEADED TO INFORM HER?

NO.

WE ARE HEADED TO BARK-STONE




WHY?



OUR MISSING MOUSE WAS A TRAITOR

I FOUND PROOF WHILE SEARCHING THE GRAIN.



DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT BECAUSE I KNEW SAXON WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM IF WE FOUND HIM ALIVE.

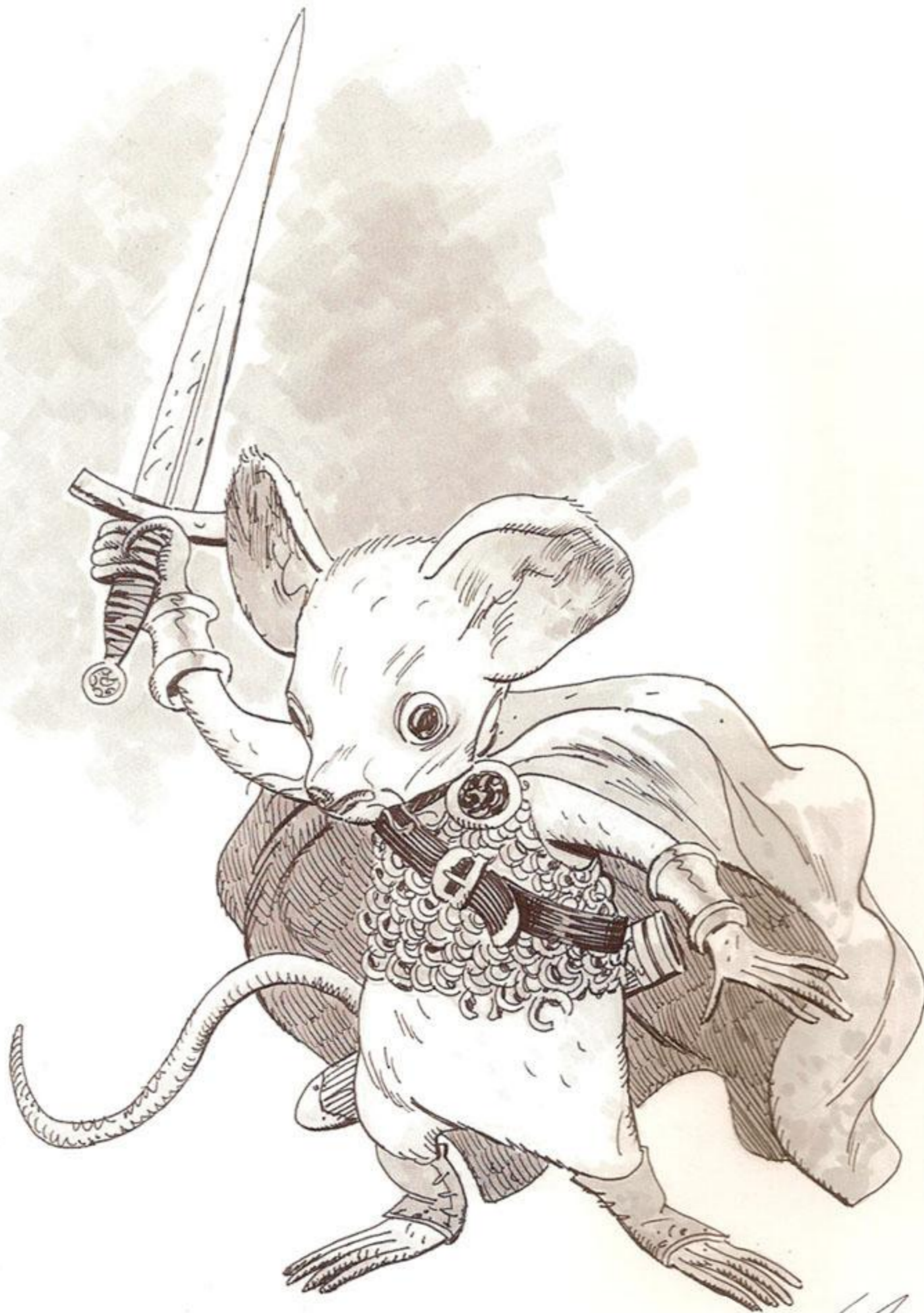


Lock Haven
Home of the Army Guard

AND I
WANT TO FIND OUT
WHO HE WAS GIVING
OUR SECRETS
TO.

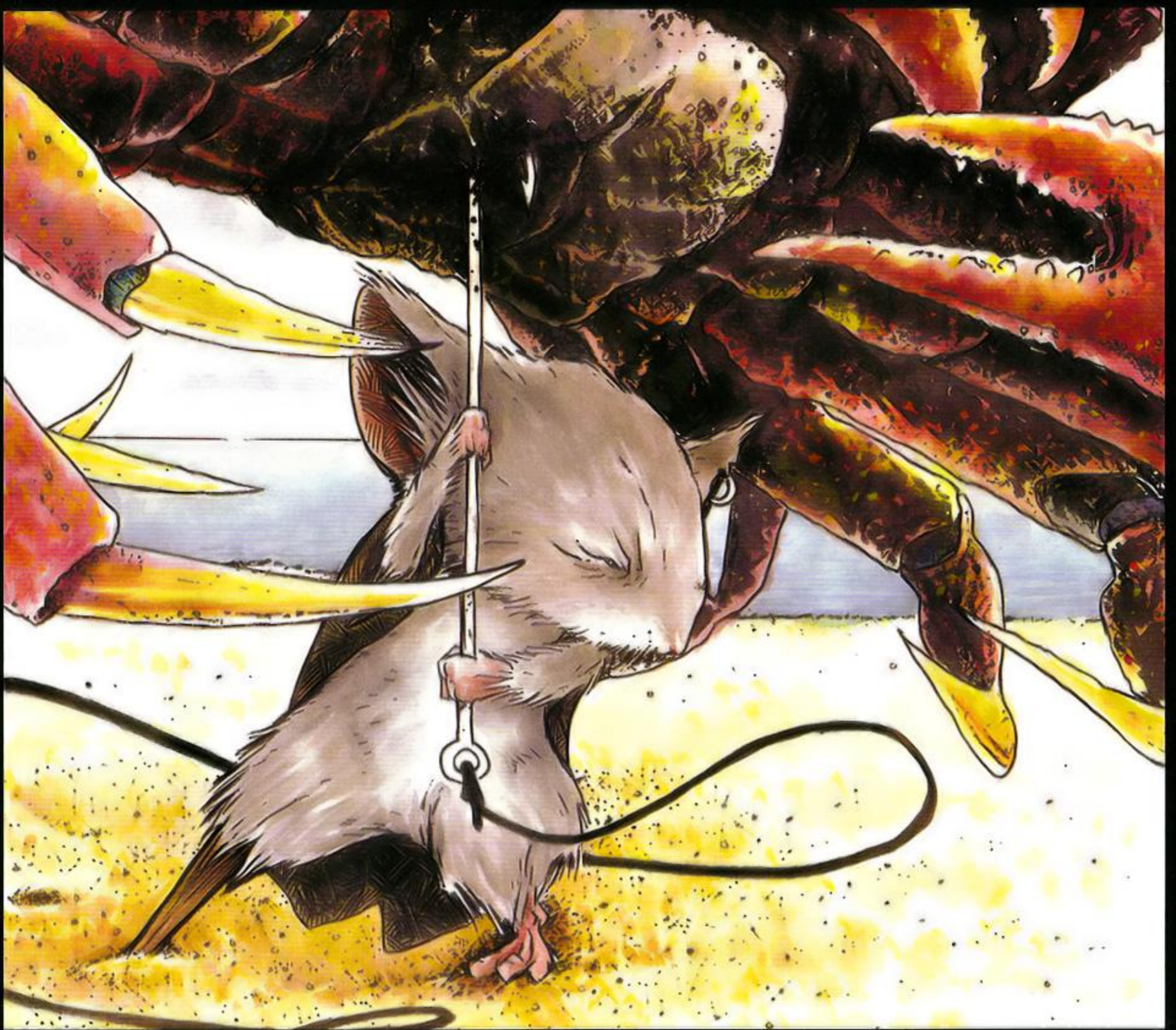


END



Pinup by Guy Davis

Guy Davis



ISSUE 2: SHADOWS WITHIN
APRIL 2006

OTHER ASP OFFERINGS IN 2006

ROBOTIKA + THE LONE AND LEVEL SANDS *Graphic Novel* + ARTESIA BESIEGED





ARCHAEA
STUDIOS
PRESS

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MOUSE GUARD

SHADOWS WITHIN

DAVID PETERSEN

MOUSE GUARD

While Kenzie, Saxon & Lieam were tracking the path of the grain merchant, Gwendoln, head of the Mouse Guard, has sent word to Sadie. Sadie, who once watched a shoreline region of the Mouse Territories, has been asked to make contact with another missing mouse, Guard member Conrad. There has been no outgoing communication from his shoreline dwelling "Caolgero" and the Guard fear the worst....

*'Send any mouse to do the job,
it may or may not be done
ask the Guard to do the task
even death cannot
prevent it from completion'*

Dedicated to Gilbert & Doris

MOUSE GUARD #2: SHADOWS WITHIN
Written and Illustrated by David Petersen

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MOUSE GUARD:
**Shadows
Within**

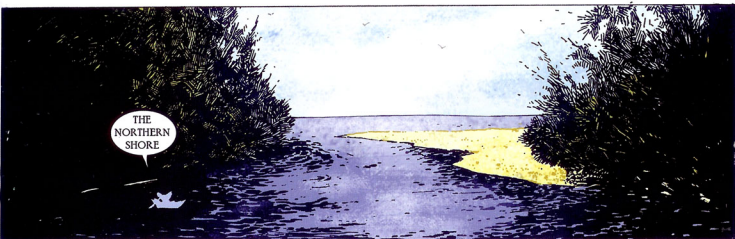
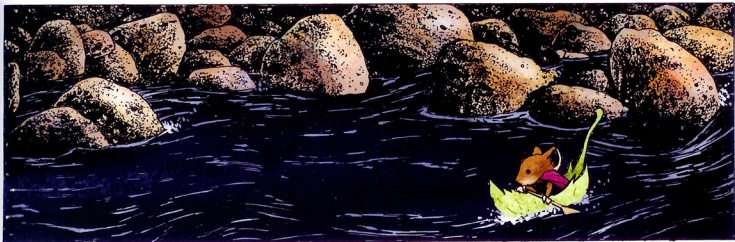
Story & Art: David Petersen



Saak,
Please travel to
the northern shore
post "Calogero".
Stationed there is
Conrad, but we
have received no
communication from
him for over a
season.



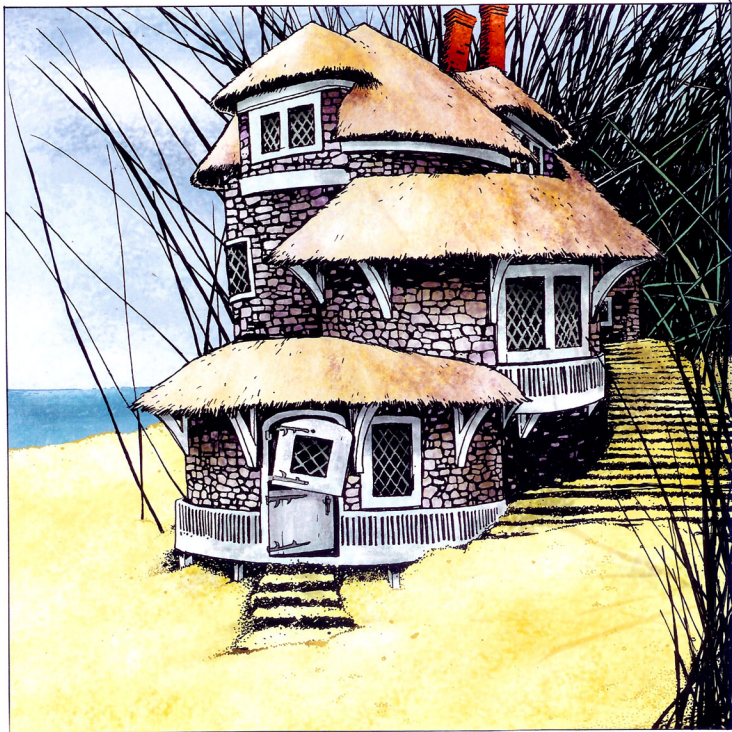


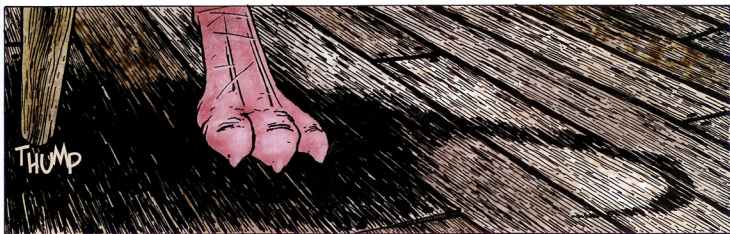
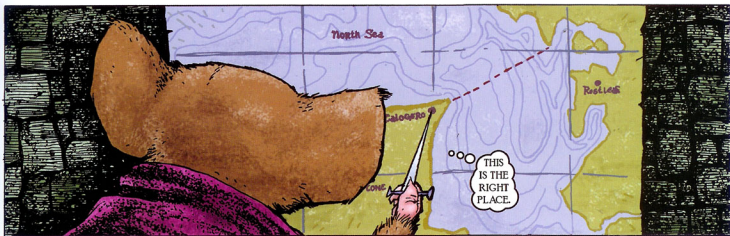
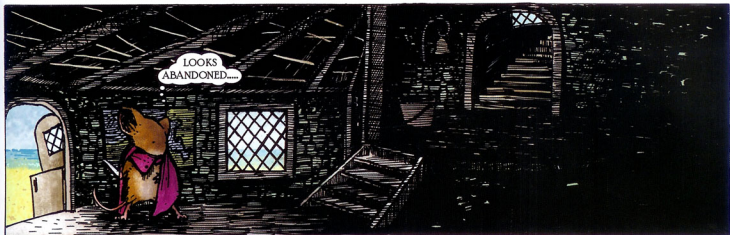


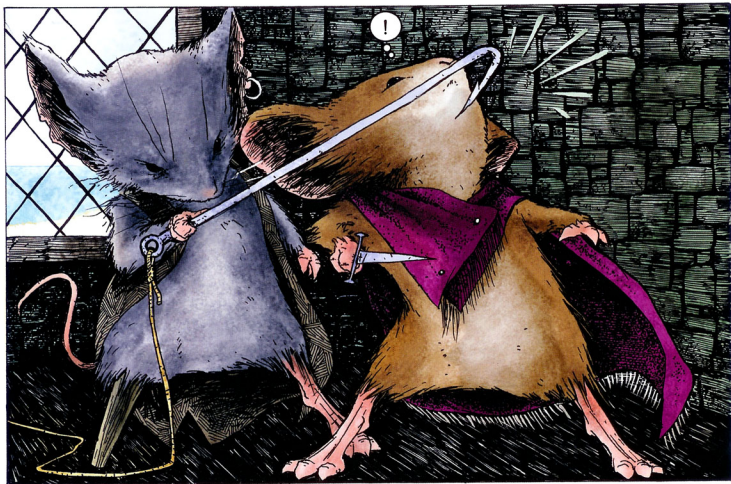
THE
NORTHERN
SHORE







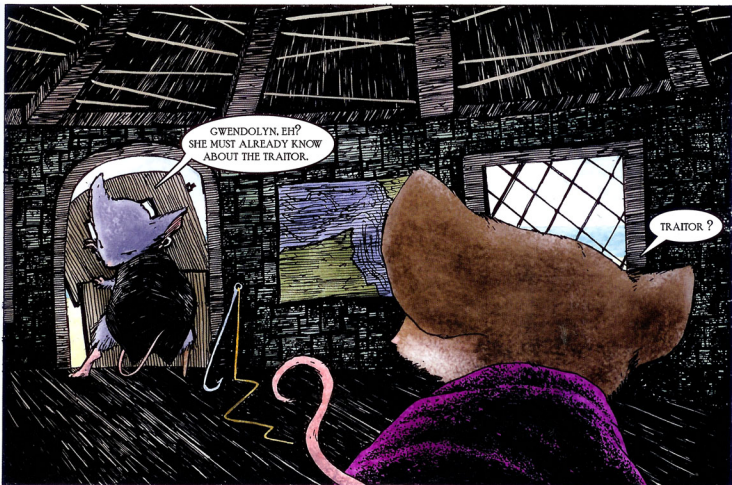






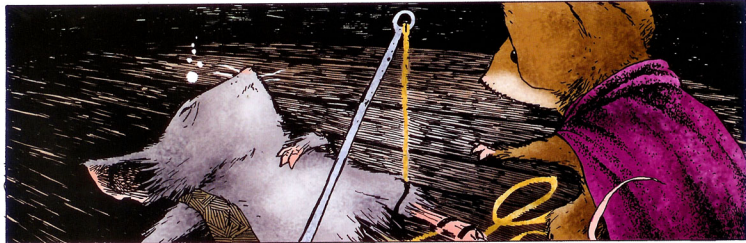
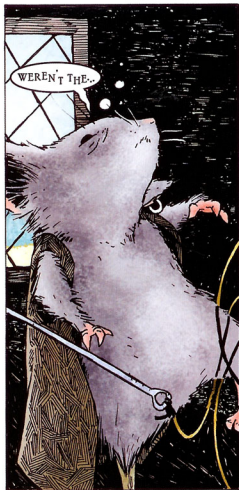
I AM
SADEE OF THE
GUARD.
GWENDOLYN
SENT ME TO FIND
YOU.

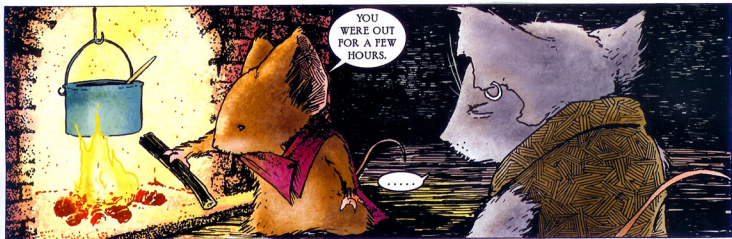
I ORDER
YOU TO STAND
DOWN!



GWENDOLYN, EH?
SHE MUST ALREADY KNOW
ABOUT THE TRAITOR.

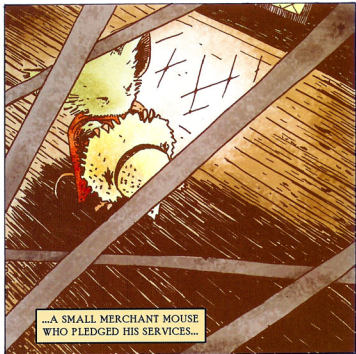
TRAITOR ?



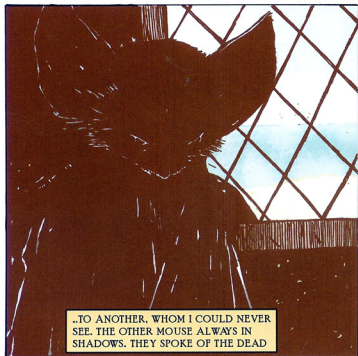




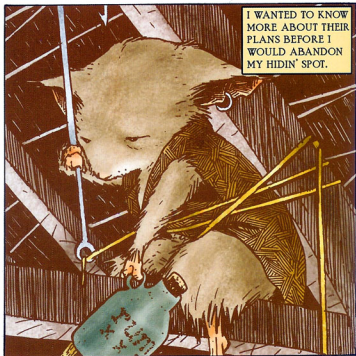
I TUCKED MYSELF AWAY. TWO
MICE CAME TO CALOGERO...



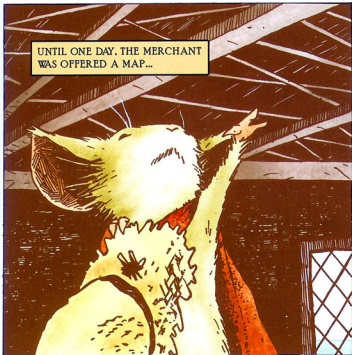
...A SMALL MERCHANT MOUSE
WHO PLEDGED HIS SERVICES...



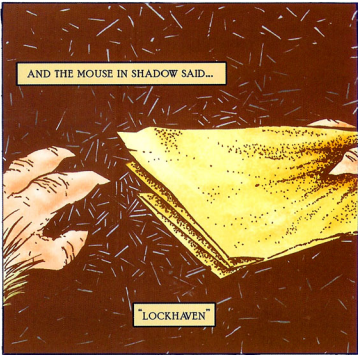
...TO ANOTHER, WHOM I COULD NEVER
SEE. THE OTHER MOUSE ALWAYS IN
SHADOWS. THEY SPOKE OF THE DEAD



I WANTED TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THEIR
PLANS BEFORE I
WOULD ABANDON
MY HIDIN' SPOT.

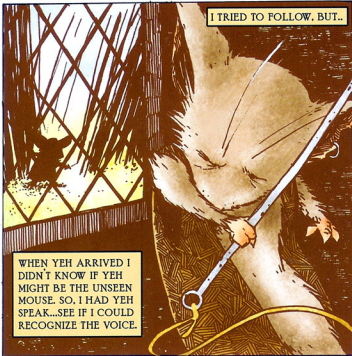


UNTIL ONE DAY, THE MERCHANT
WAS OFFERED A MAP...



AND THE MOUSE IN SHADOW SAID...

"LOCKHAVEN"



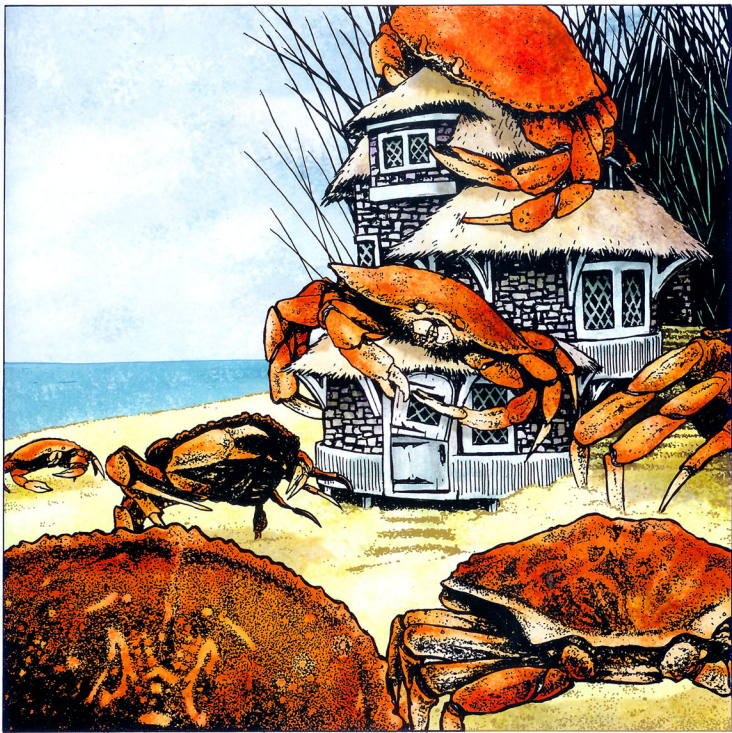
I TRIED TO FOLLOW, BUT...

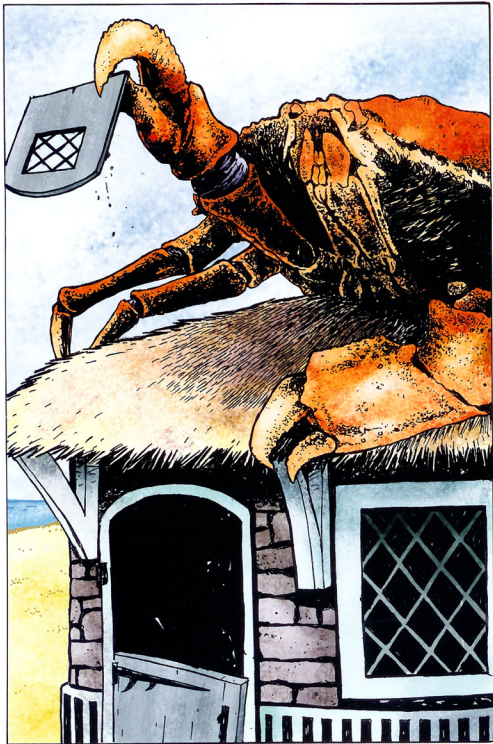
WHEN YEH ARRIVED I
DIDN'T KNOW IF YEH
MIGHT BE THE UNSEEN
MOUSE. SO, I HAD YEH
SPEAK...SEE IF I COULD
RECOGNIZE THE VOICE.

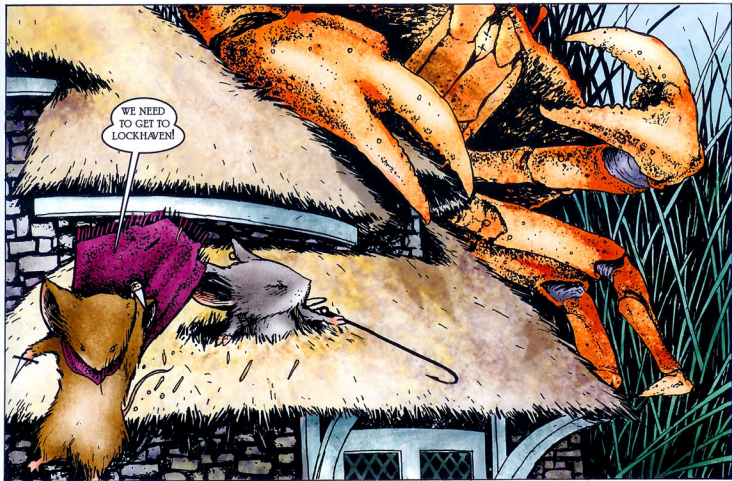


WE WILL
LEAVE FOR
LOCKHAVEN AT
FIRST LIGHT.

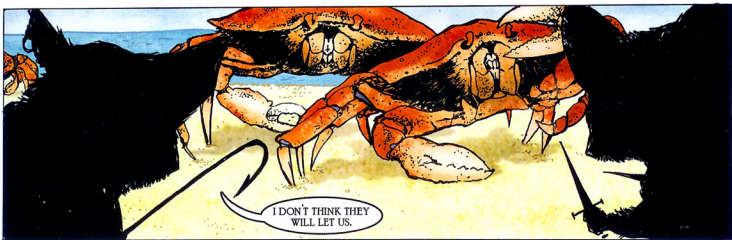




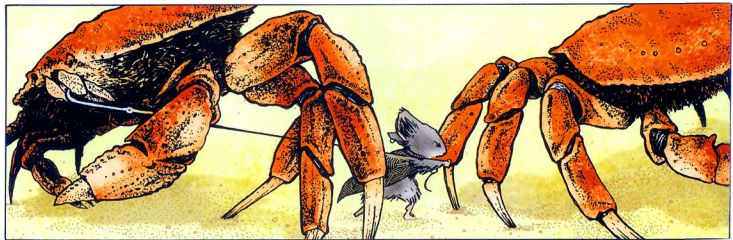
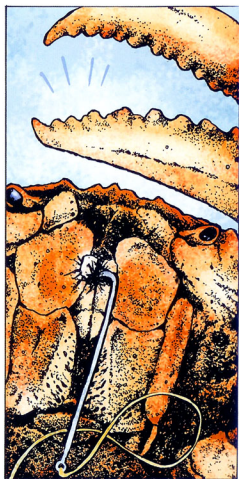
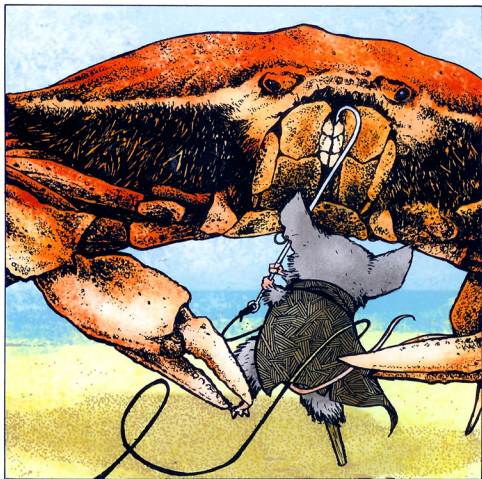


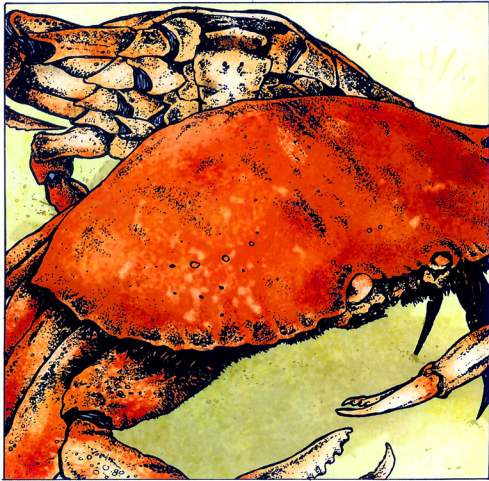
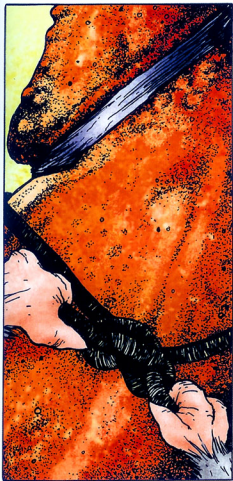


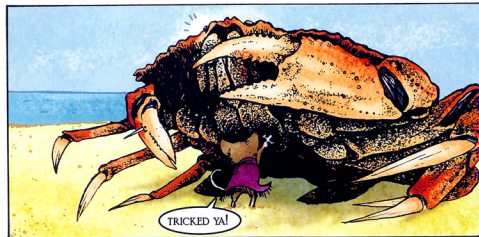
WE NEED
TO GET TO
LOCKHAVEN!

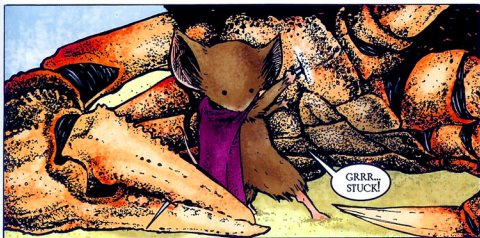


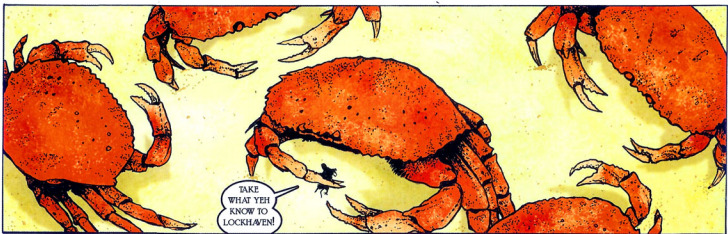
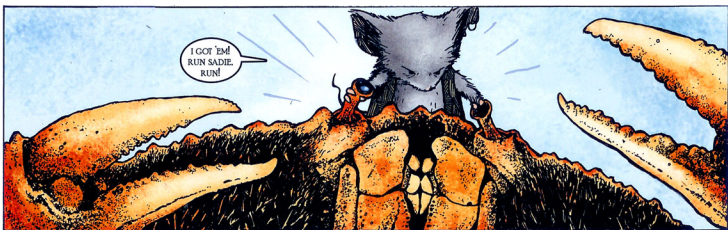
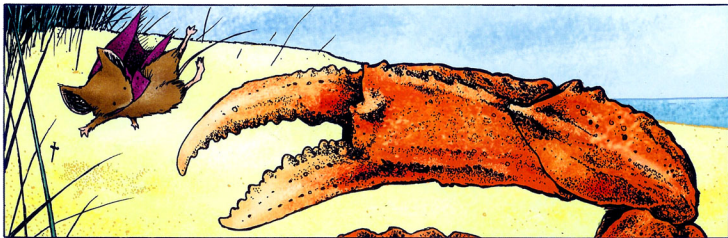
I DON'T THINK THEY
WILL LET US.

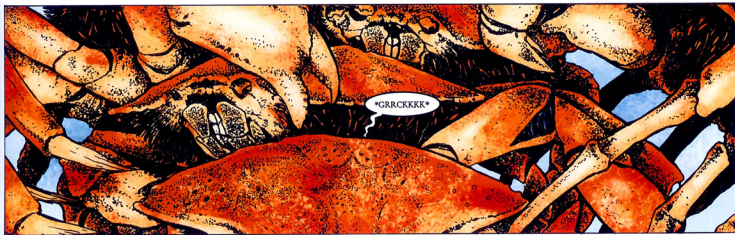
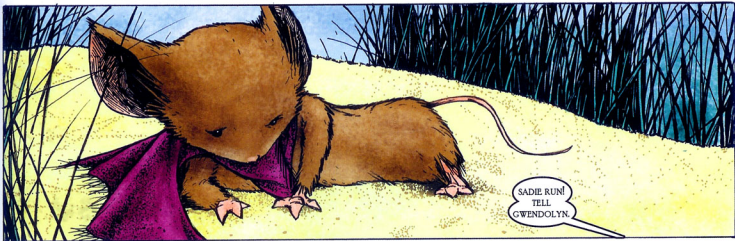


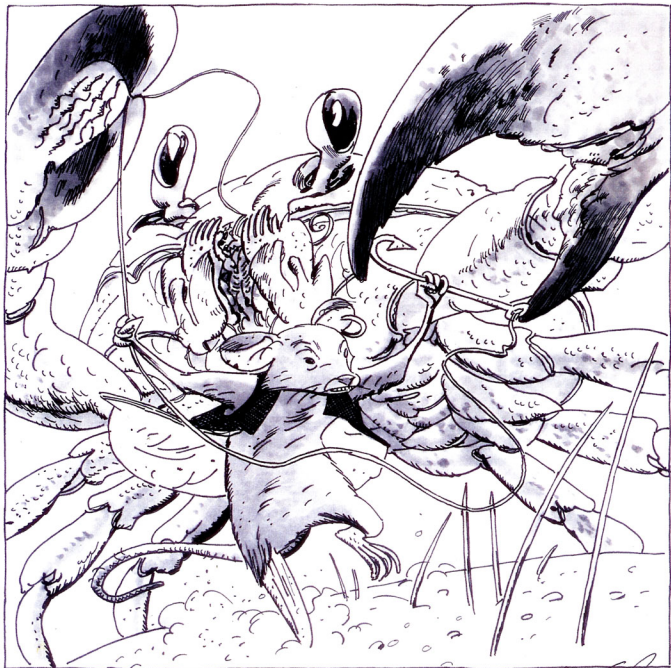












Pinup by Guy Davis

A stylized signature in the bottom right corner, likely reading "Guy Davis".





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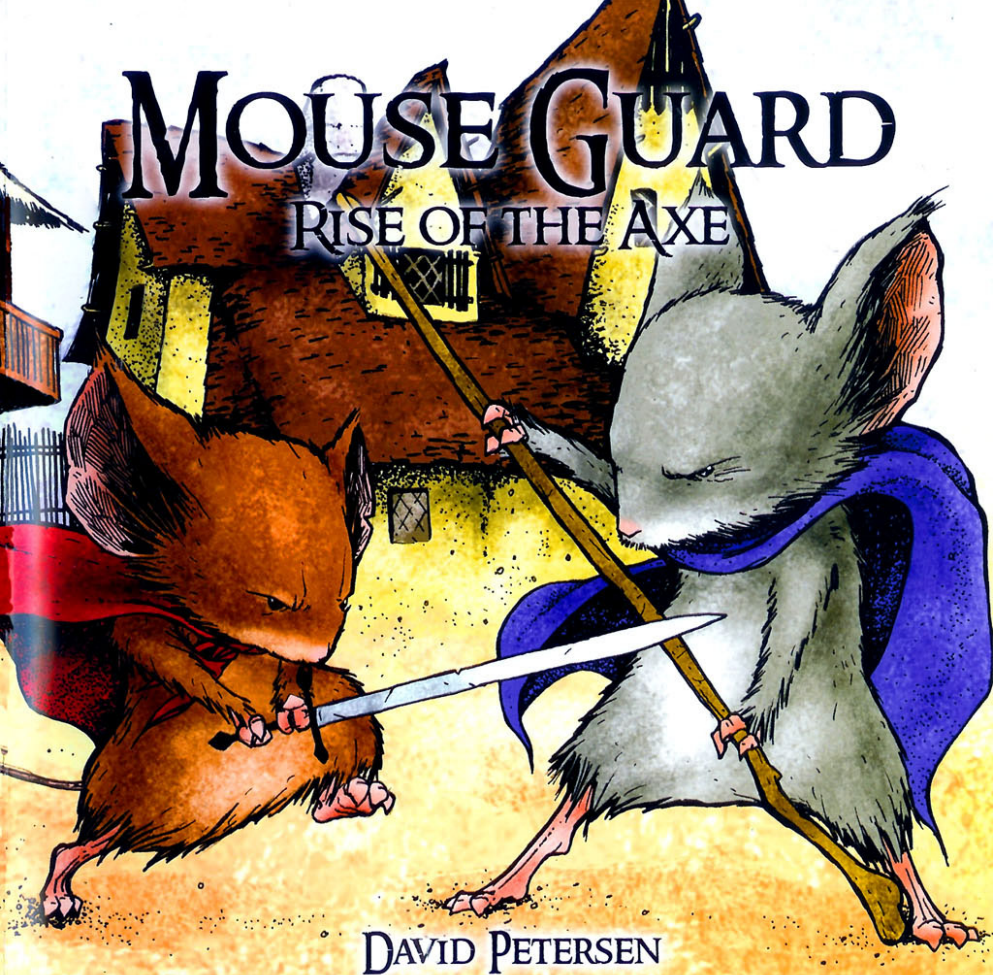
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MOUSE GUARD

RISE OF THE AXE



DAVID PETERSEN

MOUSE GUARD

Saxon, Kenzie, and Lieam, having abandoned the grain cart, have opted to take a lesser known path to the city of Barkstone in hopes to keep as low a profile as possible.

What worries them more than knowing of a traitor, is not knowing who the traitor is.

They are unaware of the information Sadie carries with her to Lockhave, nor the fate of fellow Guard Conrad.

*'Take not the duty of the Guard lightly.
Friends must not be enemies
Just as enemies must not be friends.
Discerning the two is a life's work.'*

*—From the writings of Laria
4th Lockhaven Guard Matron*



MOUSE GUARD #3: RISE OF THE AXE
Written and Illustrated by David Petersen

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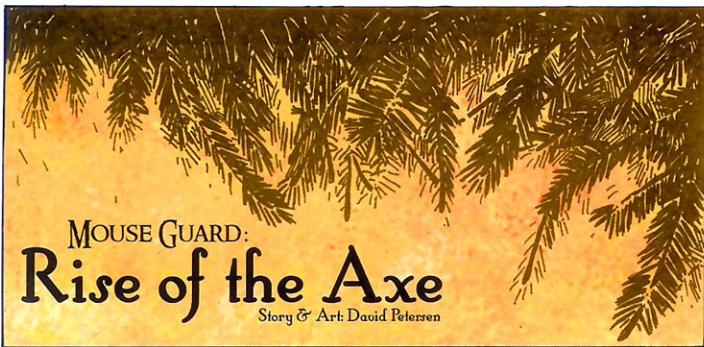
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MOUSE GUARD:
Rise of the Axe
Story & Art: Dauid Petersen



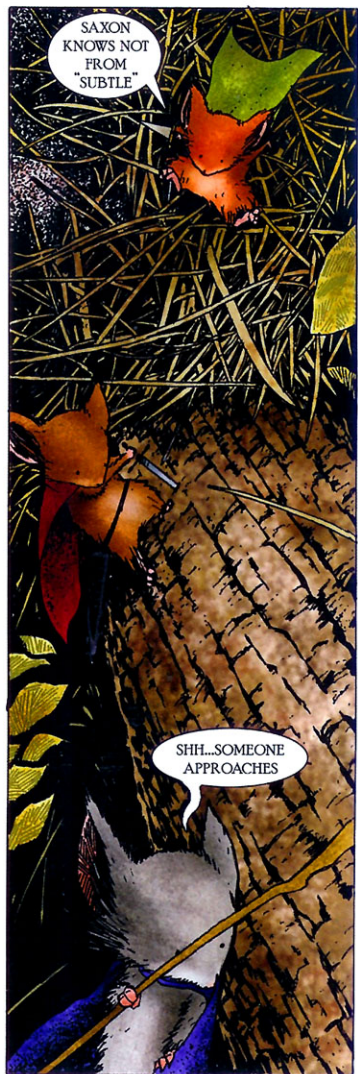
WE STILL
HAVE THE UPPER
HAND.. WE HAVE
THE MAP

WHAT IF OUR WORST
FEARS ARE TRUE?

BARKSTONE
WILL GIVE UP
IT'S SECRETS

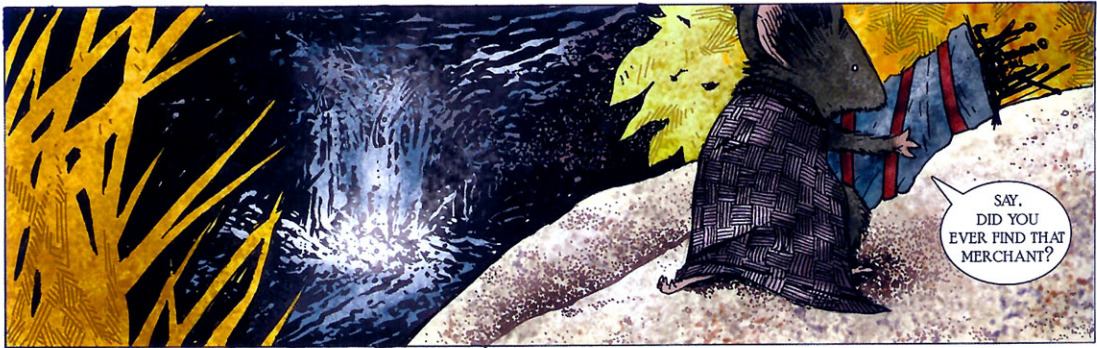


OUR
APPROACH STILL
NEEDS TO BE A
SUBTLE ONE.



SAXON
KNOWS NOT
FROM
'SUBTLE'

SHH...SOMEONE
APPROACHES









GUARDS MICE EH?
OPEN THE GATES!

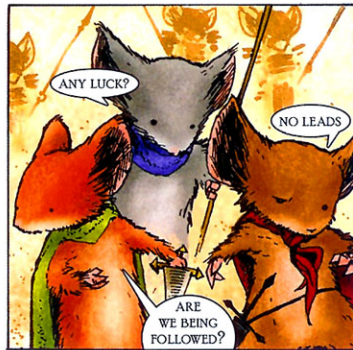
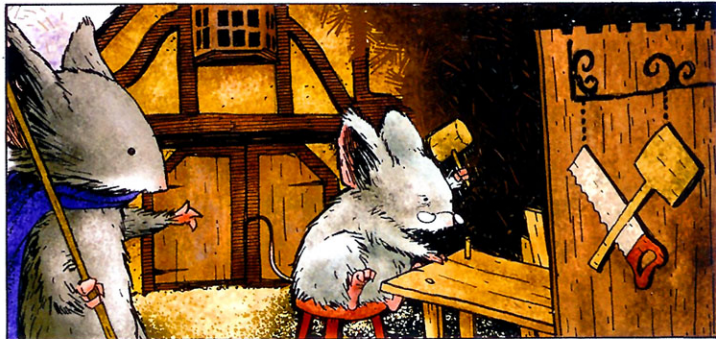
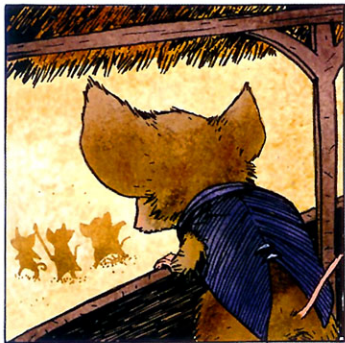
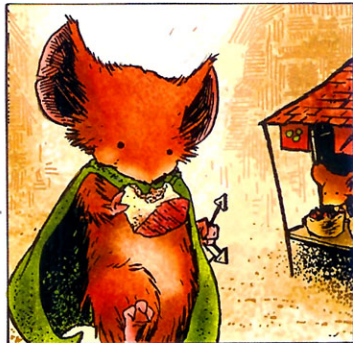
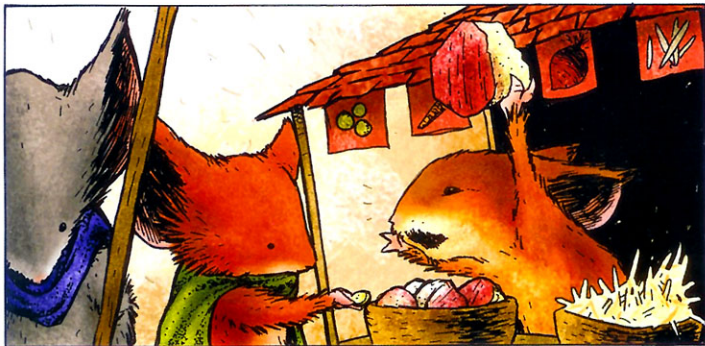


CATCHUNK



BARKSTONE



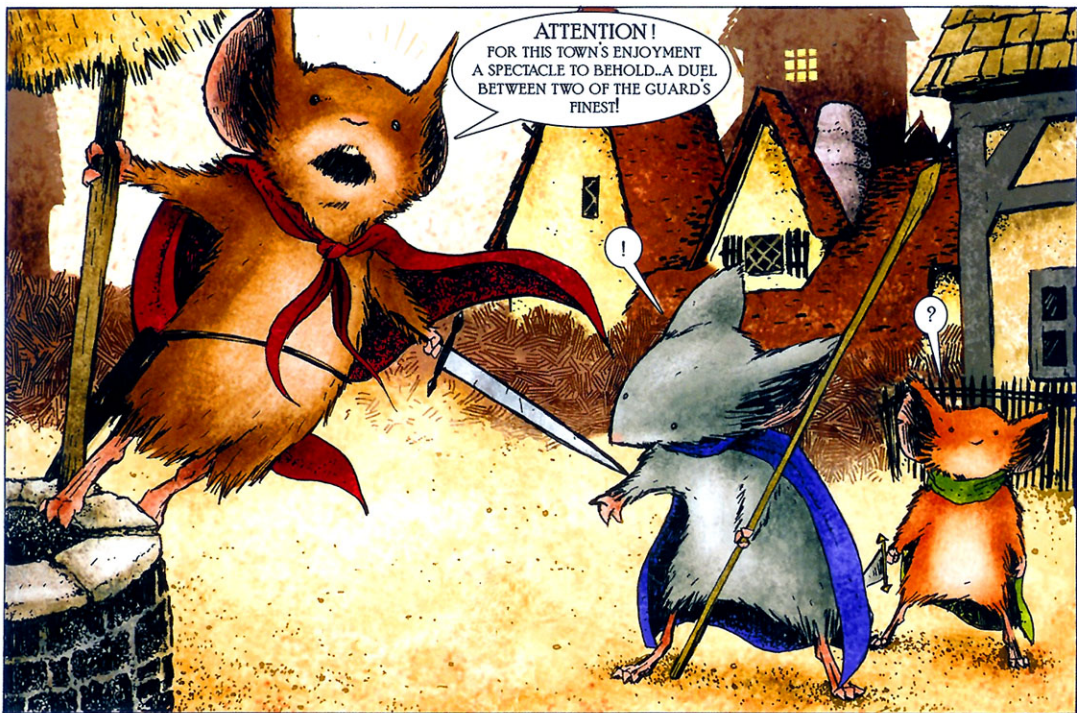


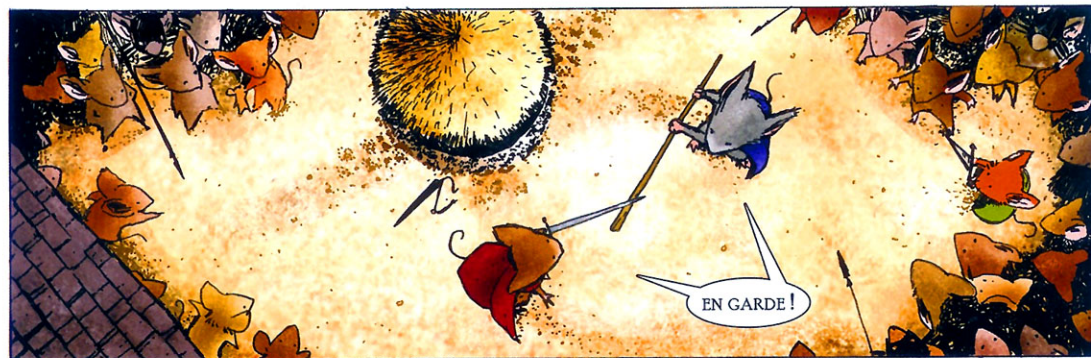
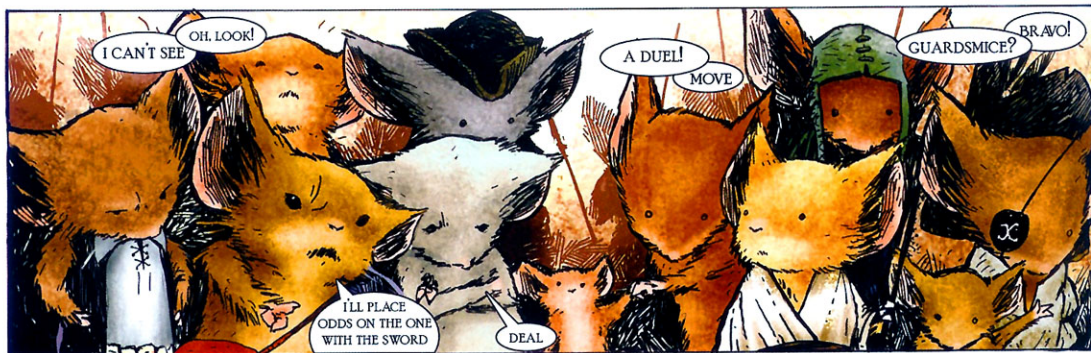


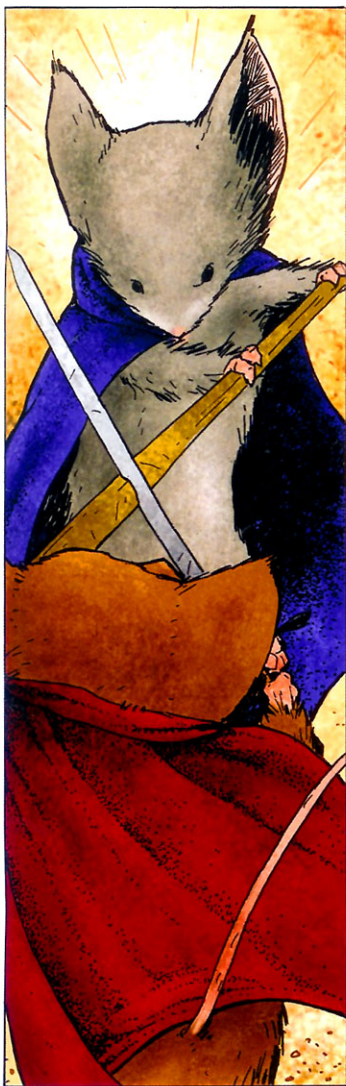
THEY WILL SOON REGRET IT.

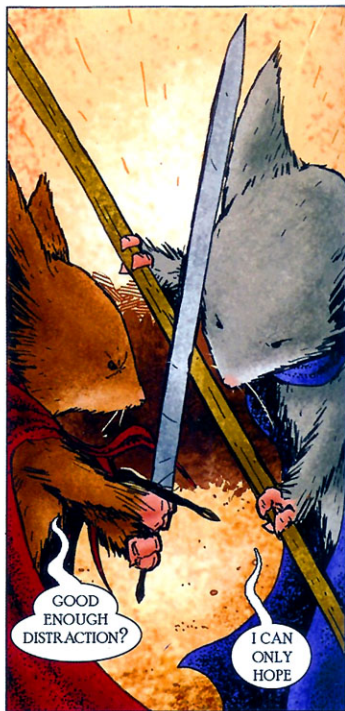


THIS IS NOT OPEN COUNTRY... WE ARE NOT THE LAW HERE. WE HAVE NO AUTHORITY.

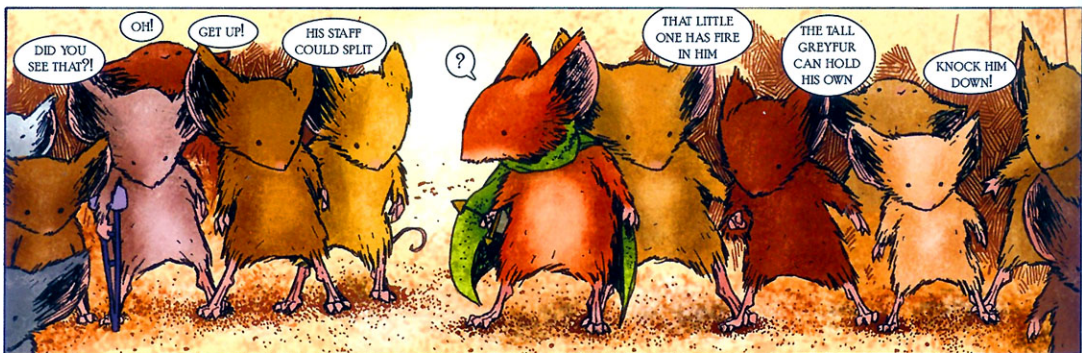


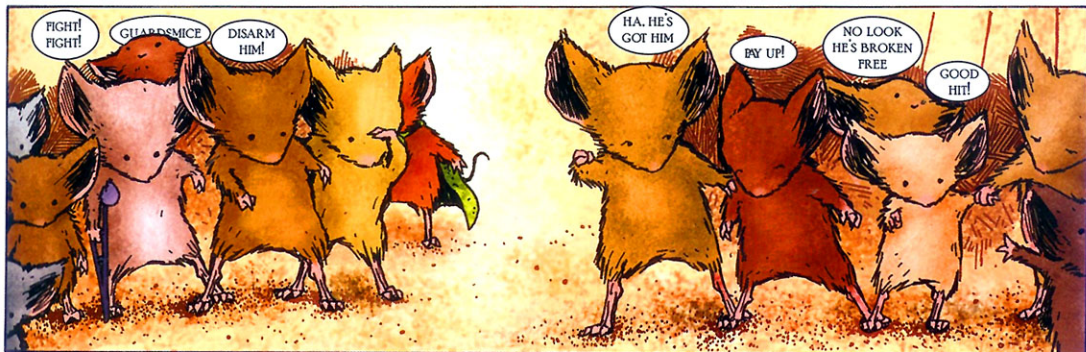


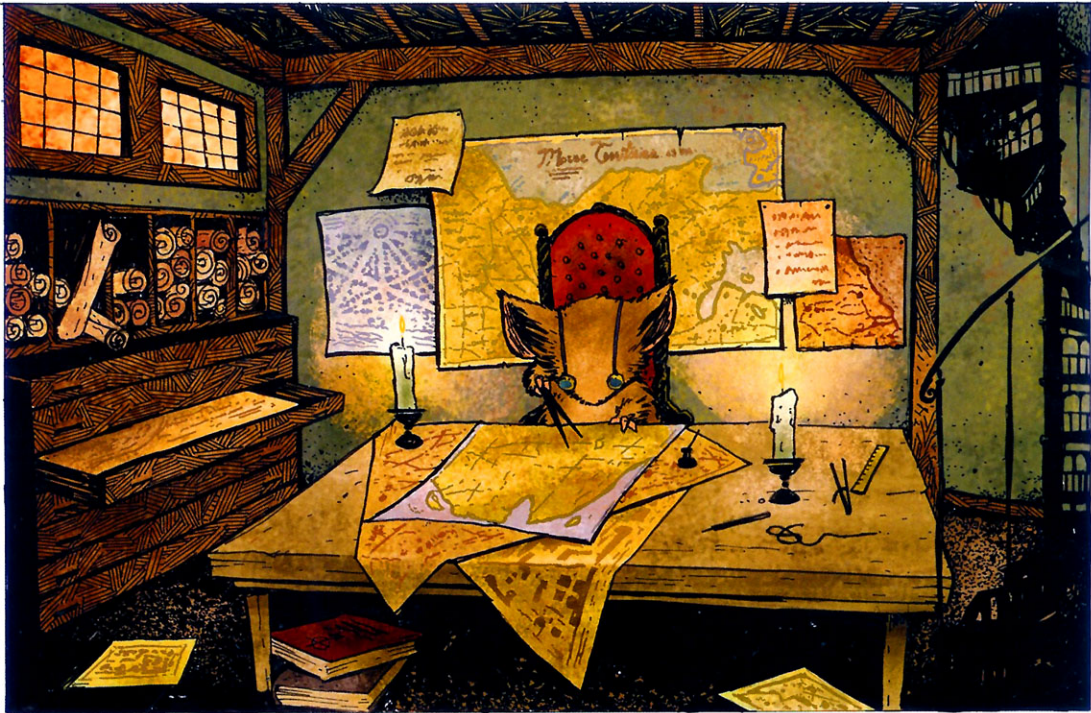




I CAN ONLY HOPE

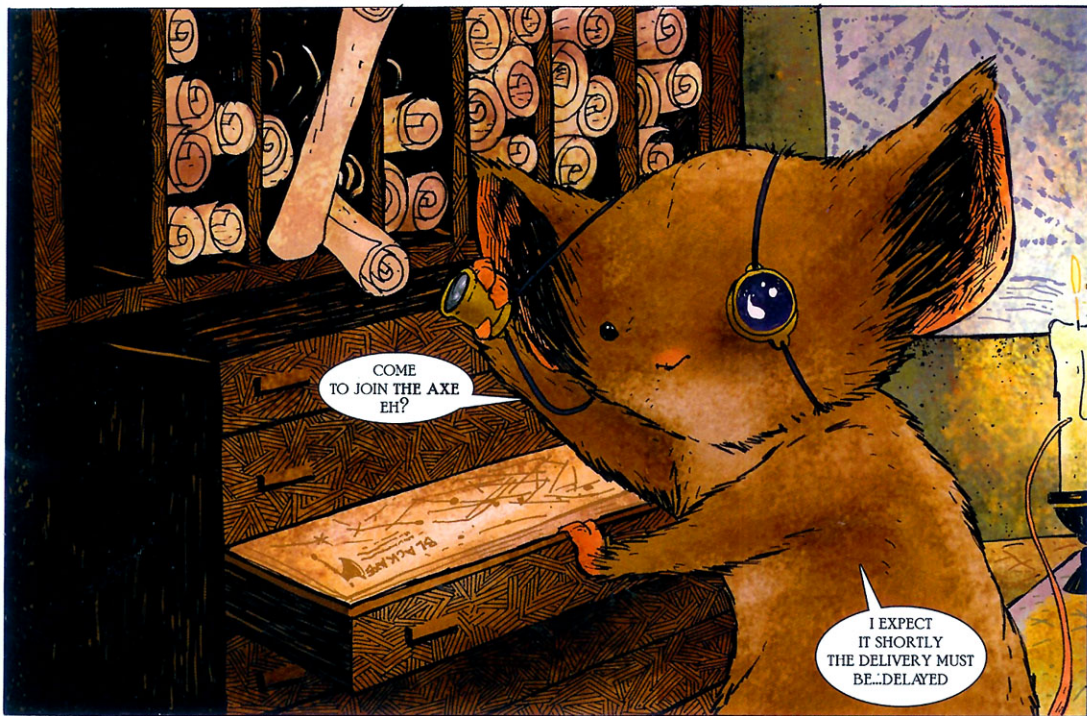








I WAS TOLD
YOU HAVE A
DETAILED MAP OF
LOCKHAVEN
PROPER



COME
TO JOIN THE AXE
EH?

I EXPECT
IT SHORTLY
THE DELIVERY MUST
BE...DELAYED



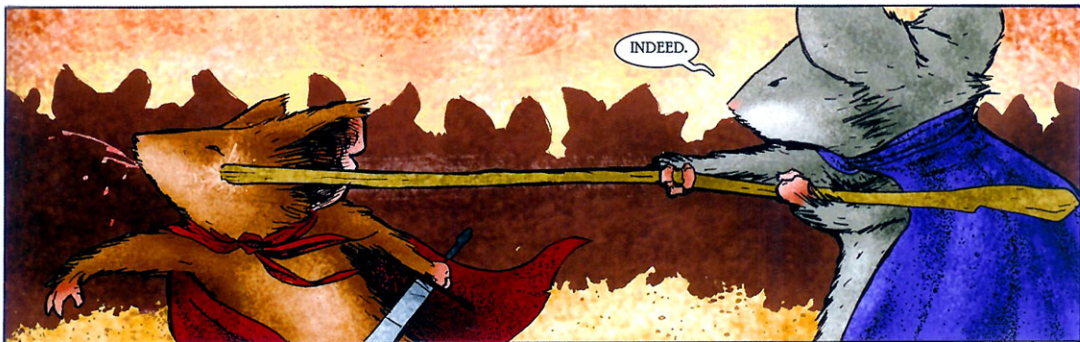
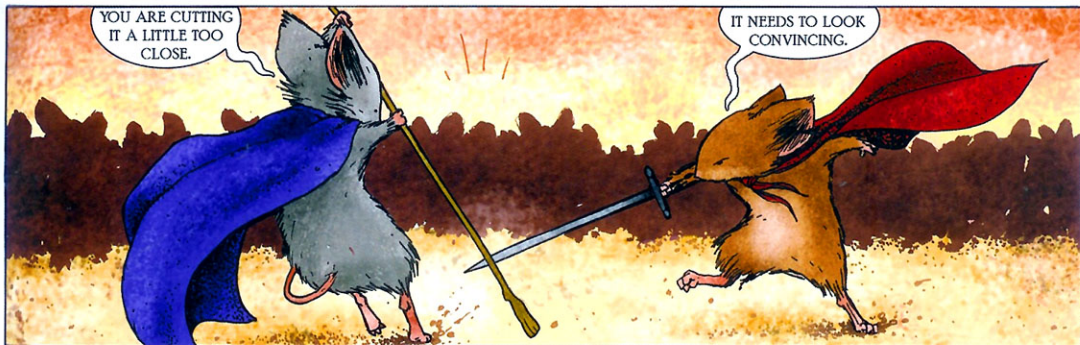
I HEARD
THERE ARE
GUARDS MICE
IN TOWN...

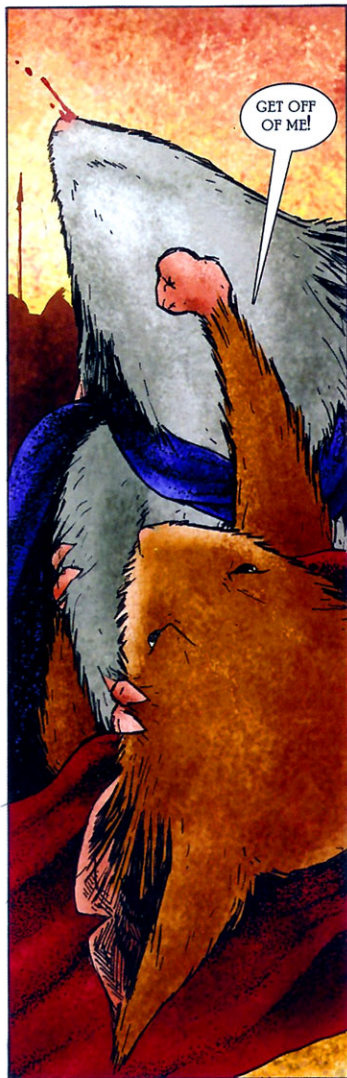


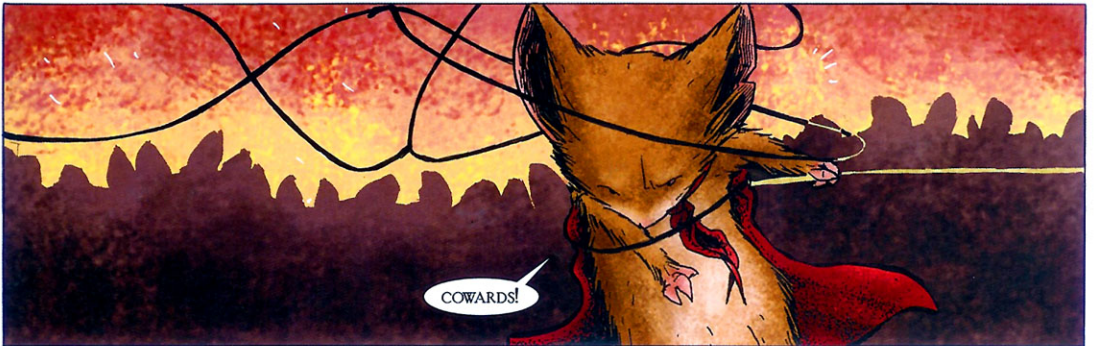
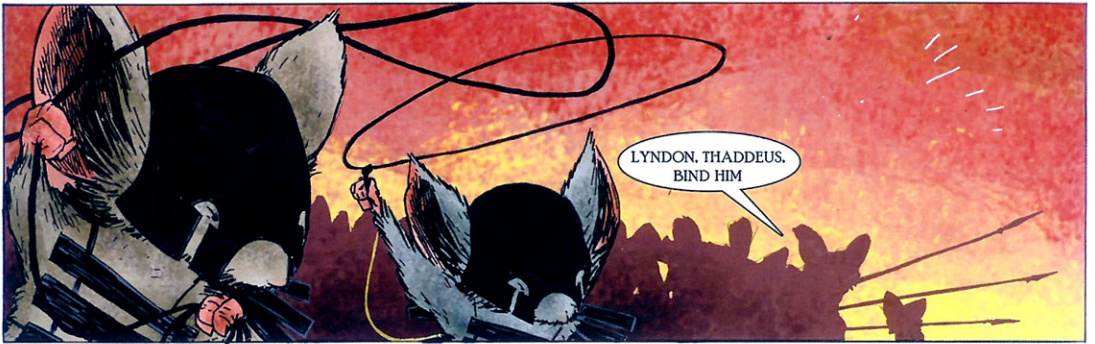
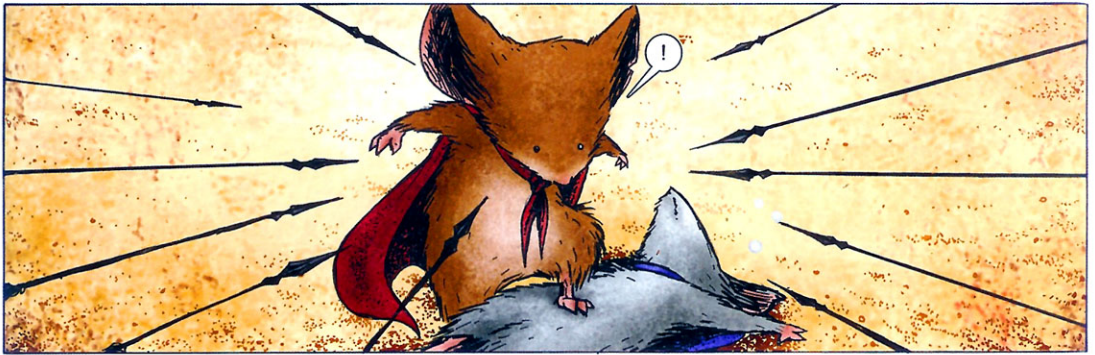
NO MATTER,
WITH OR WITHOUT
THE MAP, WE MARCH
AT DAWN...















NEXT: THE DARK GHOST...





ISSUE 4: THE DARK GHOST
AUGUST 2006

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MOUSE GUARD

THE DARK GHOST

DAVID PETERSEN

MOUSE GUARD

Hiding within the ranks of the mysterious militia known only as 'the Axe', Lieam is unaware that his Guard companions, Kenzie and Saxon, have been left for dead outside Barkstone's gates. Celanawe, a hermit and stranger of the mouse cities, has retrieved the red and blue cloaked mice and dragged them to his secluded home...and a dark plot quietly grows.

*Death is as powerful a weapon
as it is an easy escape.
Heroes can pass in to legend,
Legends into myths,
Myths fuel new heroes.*

*-the last recorded words of the Black Axe:
Champion of the Mouse Guard*



MOUSE GUARD #4: The Dark Ghost
Written and Illustrated by David Petersen

Published by Archaia Studios Press

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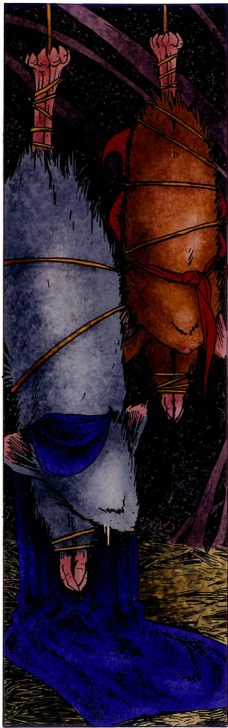
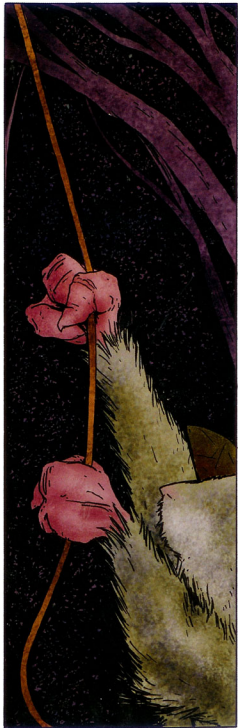
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MOUSE GUARD
The Dark Ghost
Story & Art David Petersen

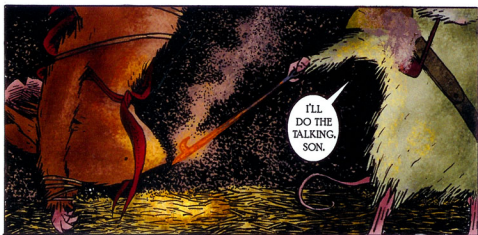








HOW DARE YOU...



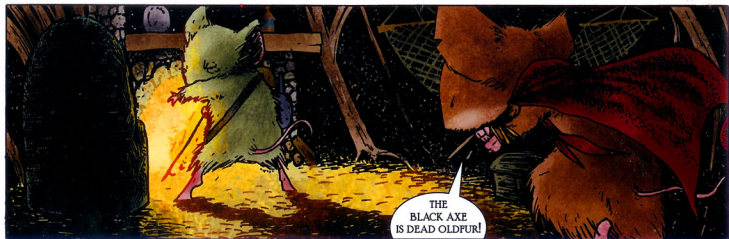
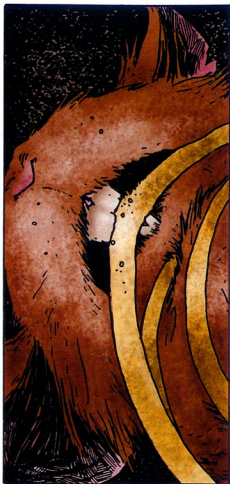
I'LL
DO THE
TALKING,
SON.

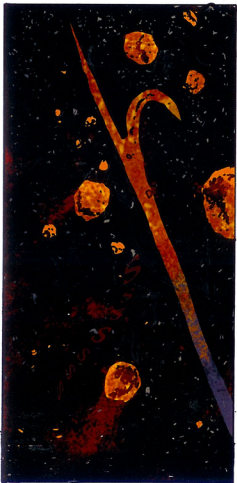


WHAT
HAVE YOU
LITTLE THIEVES
DONE WITH MY
AXE!?

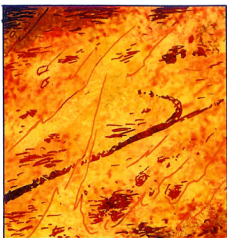











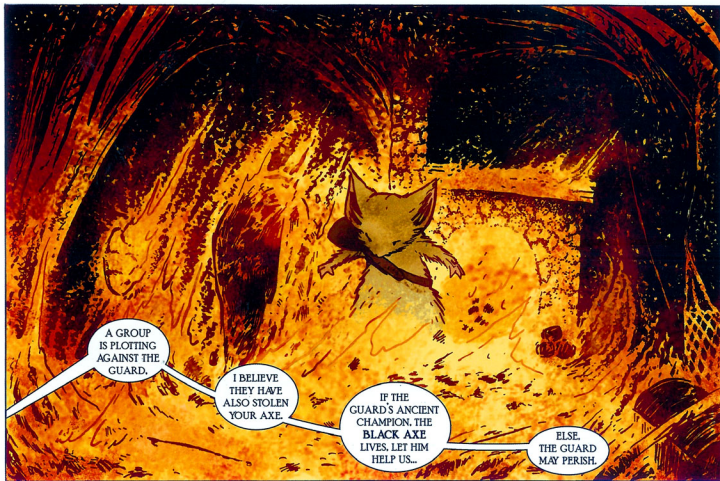




YOU
COULD BE
THE VERY THREAT
YOU SPEAK OF.



IF THE BARKSTONE
MAGISTRATE AGREED, THEY
WOULD NOT HAVE PULLED US JUST
BEYOND THE GATES AND STRIPPED
US OF OUR WEAPONS...





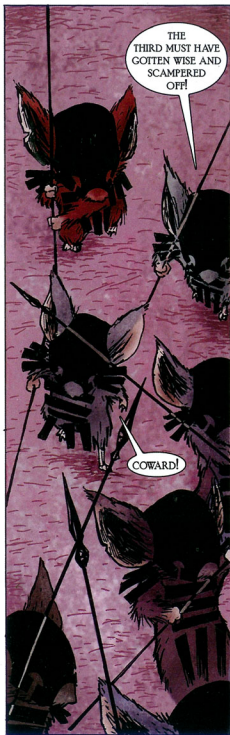
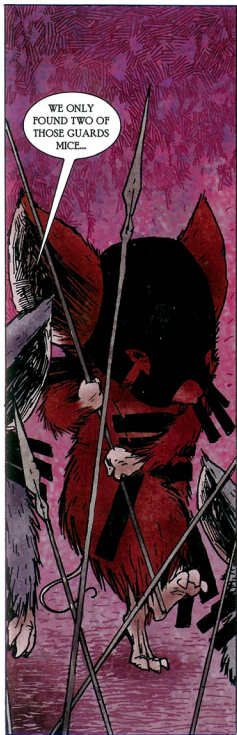
KEEP MOVING.



WE NEED
TO MEET UP WITH
THE REST OF THE AXE
ARMY BEFORE
DAWN.

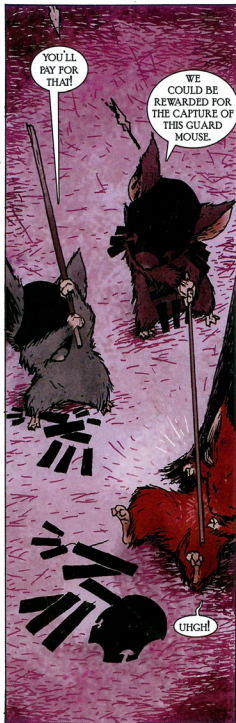


I WOULD
NOT WANT TO BE THE
MOUSE WHO KEEPS
THE COMMANDER
WAITING.













THE
THIRD FROM
BARKSTONE
HAS BEEN
FOUND!

YOUR
COMMANDER
LIVES IN A BOTTEN
LOG?

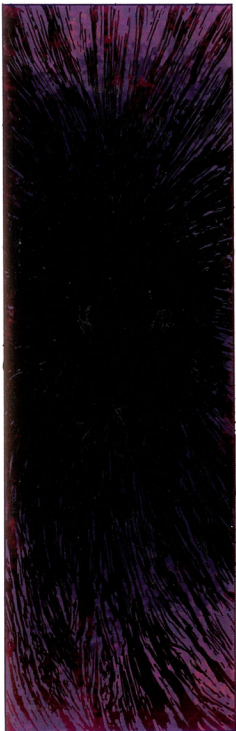


LET'S SEE
THIS LEADER OF
THE AXE...

M'LORD?
WE HAVE BROUGHT
YOU A GUARD
MOUSE!

SILENCE!







YOU TWO
ARE DISMISSED.
I'LL DEAL WITH THIS...
MATTER.



I'LL
SPARE YOUR
LIFE...

IF
YOU AIDE IN
CONQUERING
LOCKHAVEN,
LEAM.

HIS
VOICE SOUNDS
FAMILIAR...



NO.



HOW
DARE YOU!
YOUR CORPSE WOULD
MAKE A GOOD EXAMPLE
TO MY ARMY
OF MICE...

THAT
THE GUARD BLEED
JUST AS EASILY AS
ANY BEAST.



UMPH!

I COULD
BEHEAD YOU
AT THE GATES OF
LOCKHAWEN FOR
GWENDOLYN
TO SEE...



HER
YOUNGEST GUARD
SLAIN BY...



YOU.



BIND THIS
REDFUR FOR
MARCHING...

WE PROCEED TO
LOCKHAWEN.



THIS
RAIN WILL
DOUSE THE
FIRE...

THAT
PLACE LEAKED
LIKE A SIEVE
ANYHOW.

TO THINK,
THE BLACK AXE
LIVES.

ALL
YOUR PROPERTY,
LOST...

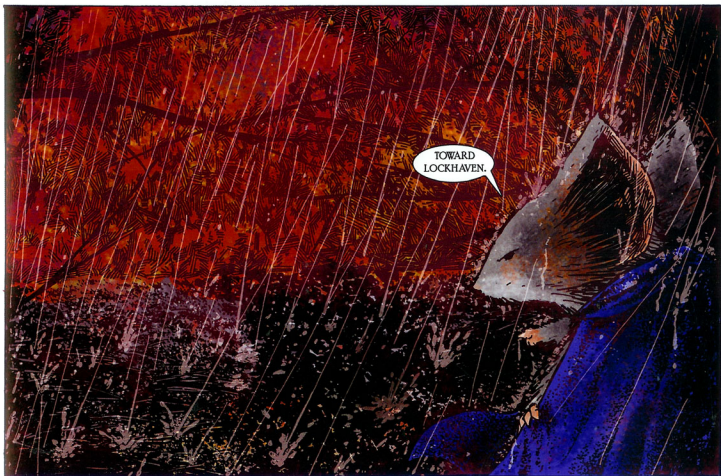
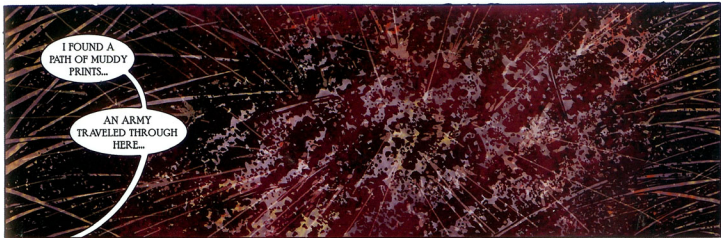


NOT ALL.

WE WILL RECOVER
YOUR LEGENDARY
AXE...

BUT
FIRST, WE
MUST PREVENT
AN ATTACK
ON OUR
HOME...

KENZIE...?



NEXT: MIDNIGHT'S DAWN...



Pinup by Mark Smylie

MS
2006



Fan Art sent to <http://davidpetersen.blogspot.com/>



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MOUSE GUARD

MIDNIGHT'S DAWN

The book cover features a dark, stylized illustration of a mouse warrior in the foreground, holding a large, curved blade with a spiral pattern. The background is a fiery, orange and red landscape with silhouettes of buildings and a large, dark, leafy shape. The title 'MOUSE GUARD' is written in a large, white, serif font at the top, and 'MIDNIGHT'S DAWN' is written in a smaller, white, serif font below it. The author's name 'DAVID PETERSEN' is at the bottom.

DAVID PETERSEN

MOUSE GUARD

In tracking the treacherous Axe army, Saxon and Kenzie found a new ally in an old hermit mouse named Celenawe, claiming to be the ancient hero of the mice: The Black Axe. His fate intertwined with two of the Guard's finest, he offered to aide them in their pursuit, in hopes to hold them to their word of retrieving his missing axe.

All the while, Lieam's captors march him to Lockhaven with only one purpose: to conquer it.

*'Clouds, leaves, soil, and wind
all offer themselves as signals
of changes in the weather.
However, not all the storms of life
can be predicted.'*

*-Excerpt from 'Weather Watcher's Field Guide'
distributed to all Guard Mice*



MOUSE GUARD #5: Midnight's Dawn
Written and Illustrated by David Petersen

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MOUSE GUARD:
Midnight's Dawn
Story & Art: David Roteman



"RED SKY AT NIGHT
GUARD MOUSE'S
DELIGHT."



"RED SKY IN MORNING..."



"GUARD MICE TAKE WARNING."



THE GUARD
HAS BEEN
BETRAYED.

MIDNIGHT, THE
GUARD'S WEAPONSMITH,
REVEALED HIMSELF
AS THE COMMANDER OF
THIS ARMY:

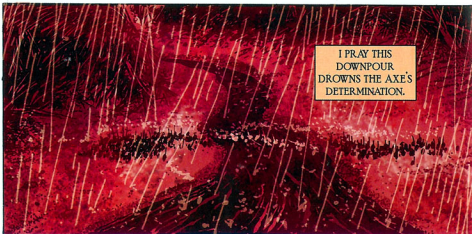
"THE AXE".



HE TAUNTED ME
WITH THREATS OF
DEATH...



BUT MY FEARS ARE FOR THE
MICE OF THE TERRITORIES.



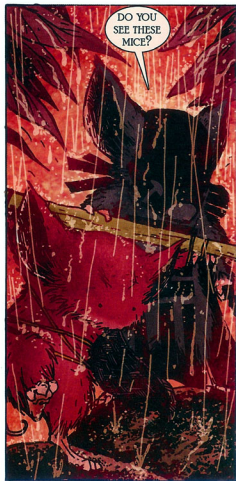
I PRAY THIS
DOWNPOUR
DROWNS THE AXE'S
DETERMINATION.





BRING
HIM
TO ME.

THE
GUARD IS
USELESS.
LEAM.



DO YOU
SEE THESE
MICE?



THEY ALL AGREE.



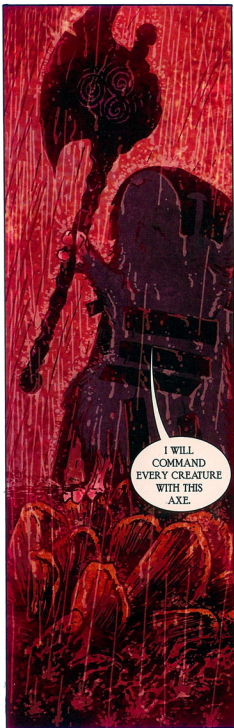
ONE WHO CAN OFFER SECURITY AND PROSPERITY.



ONE WHO IS NOT AFRAID TO HUNT DOWN OUR PREDATORS.



ONE WHO IS MORE THAN A MERE GUARD MOUSE.



I WILL
COMMAND
EVERY CREATURE
WITH THIS
AXE.



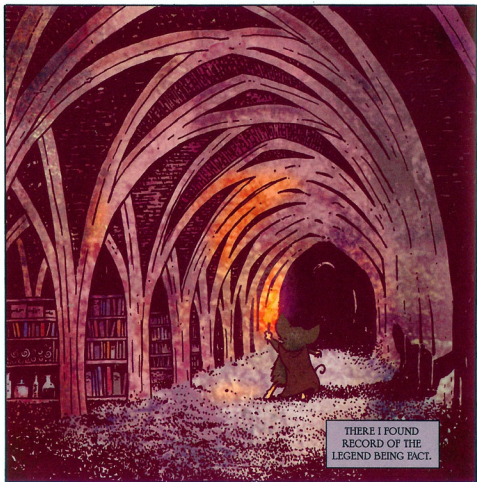
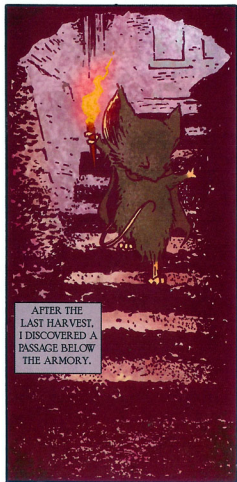
WOLVES
WILL NEVER
THREATEN US.

WE WILL
NEVER HAVE ANOTHER
WAR WITH WEASELS.

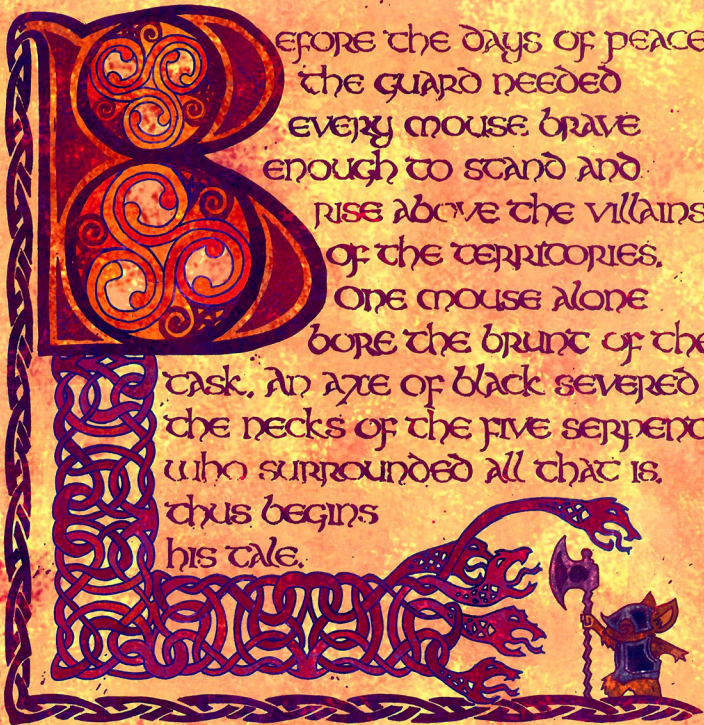
SERPENTS
WILL BECOME
EXTINCT.



THE
SYMBOL OF OUR
PAST WILL FORGE
OUR FUTURE.



Before the days of peace
the guard needed
every mouse brave
enough to stand and
rise above the villains
of the territories.
One mouse alone
bore the brunt of the
task. An axe of black severed
the necks of the five serpents
who surrounded all that is,
thus begins
his tale.



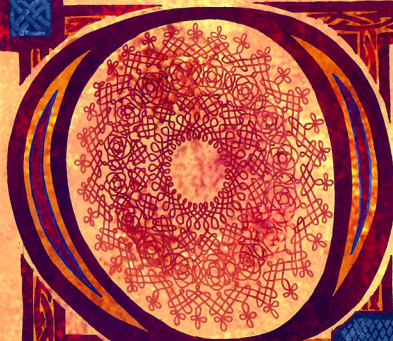
The axe itself was forged into being by the blacksmith farrier. His family had been slain by predators whilst weaponless.

Hotter coals have never since been bellowed and every srike of his hammer into the ore was a strike unto his enemies. Thus the black axe was forged.



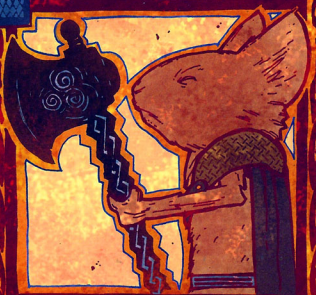


The weapon proved too heavy to wield, it held the burden of all the blacksmith's mourning, to find a true hero it was taken to Lockhaven.



THE MOUSE OF
LOCKHAVEN TOOK
THE GREAT AXE
AND VOWED TO
DEFEND THE
WEAK AND HUNT
HIS PREDATORS

HIS TRUE NAME
KEPT SECRET, HE
TOOK THE TITLE
OF HIS WEAPON
THE
Black
AXE





KENZIE. YOU THINK THAT OLD
CODGER CELANAWE IS
THE BLACK AXE?

PERHAPS.



HE IS OLD, BUT NOT
AS ANCIENT AS
THE LEGEND.

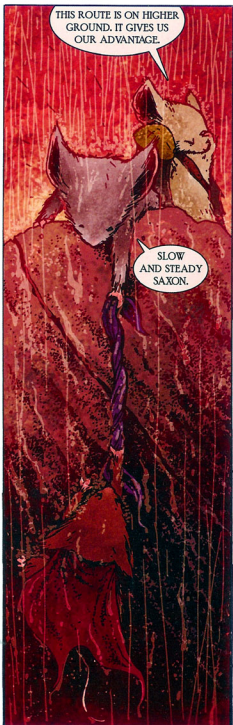
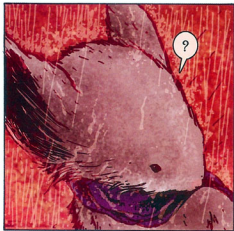
TRUE.



THE
BLACK
AXE HAS BEEN
DEAD LONGER
THAN WE HAVE
BEEN GUARDS-
MICE.

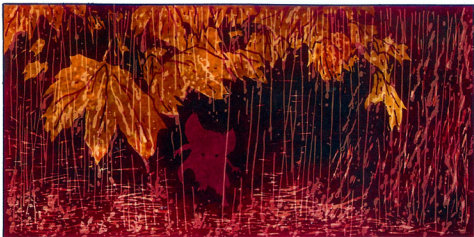


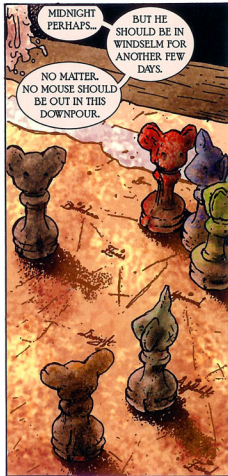
AND YET,
HE IS THE ONE SETTING
THE FACE!





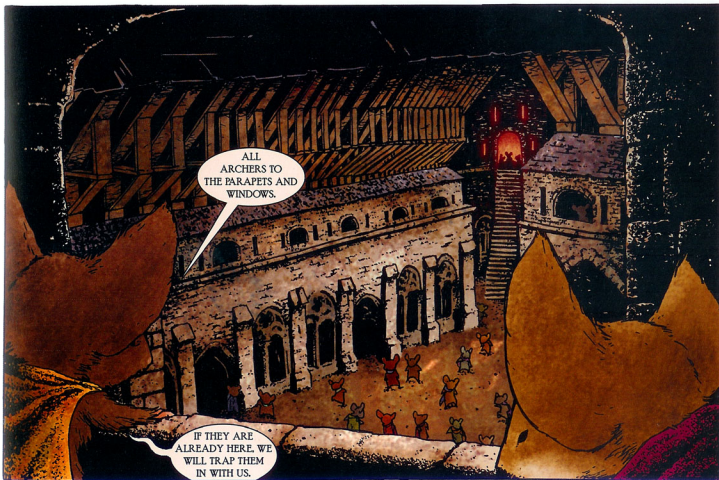
















NEXT: A RETURN TO HONOR...



Pinup by Jeremy Bastian



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MOUSE GUARD

A RETURN TO HONOR

DAVID PETERSEN

MOUSE GUARD

Lockhaven is under siege. The home of the Mouse Guard has been assaulted by many a predator, but rarely has it stood in opposition to mice. Rand, the defense expert of the Guard's home, recieved just enough warning from Sadie to seal the gates and secure the fortress before it came under treasonous attack.

Saxon & Kenzie, along with the oldfur Celanawe, also unable to get into Lockhaven, are forced to hide in the low maples to the east and watch thier beloved home betrayed.

*'Let this stone always stand for
safety and prosperity.
Let it be your conviction,
your pride, and your home.'*

*-Dedication recited by all Mouse Guard Matriarchs
to new Guard mice upon entering Lockhaven*



MOUSE GUARD #6: A RETURN TO HONOR
Written and Illustrated by David Petersen

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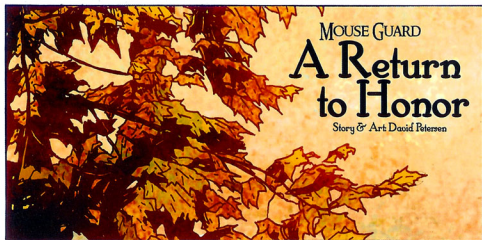
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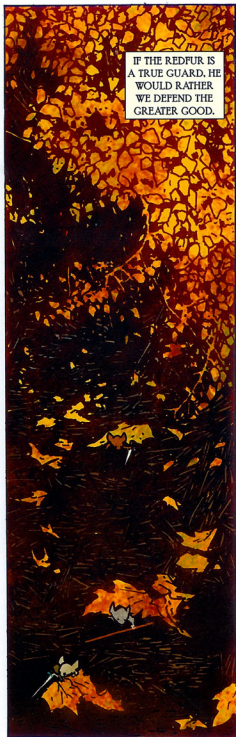
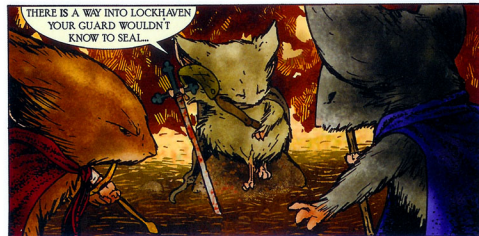
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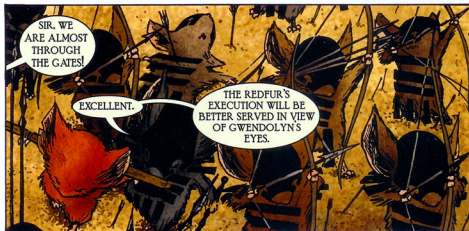
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THEY'VE
BREACHED
THE GATE!

OUR
OBLIGATION
IS TO PROTECT
GWENDOLYN
NOW.





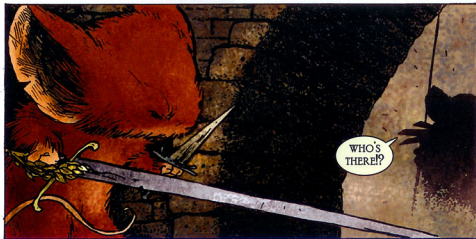
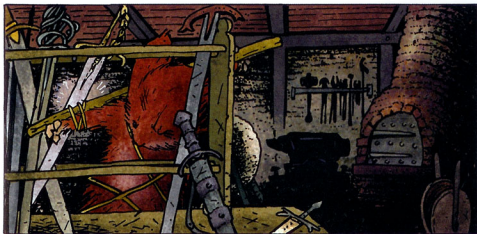


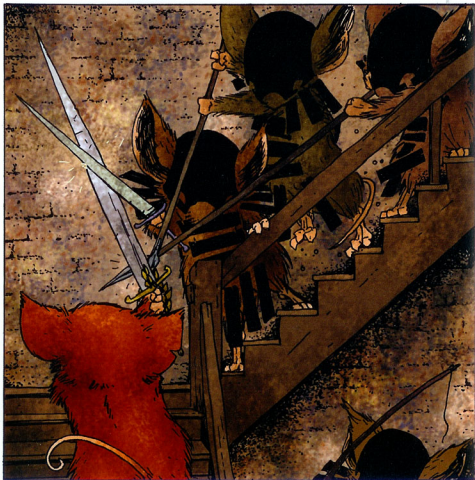


OPEN THE GRATES AND
AGITATE THE HIVES.

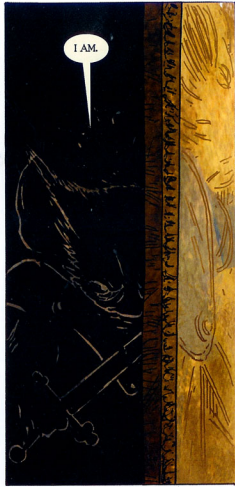


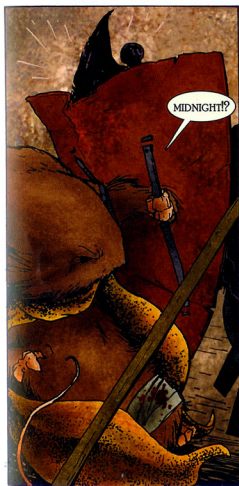


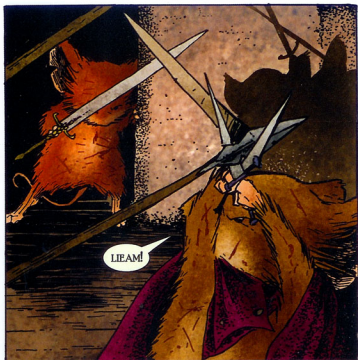


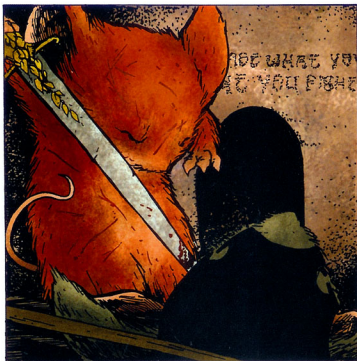


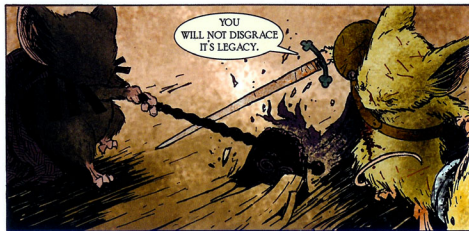


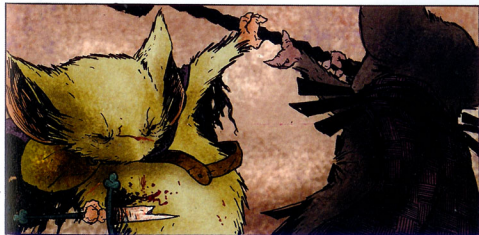
















IF HE DIES,
HE BECOMES A
MARTYR.

AS YOU
WISH, MLADY.



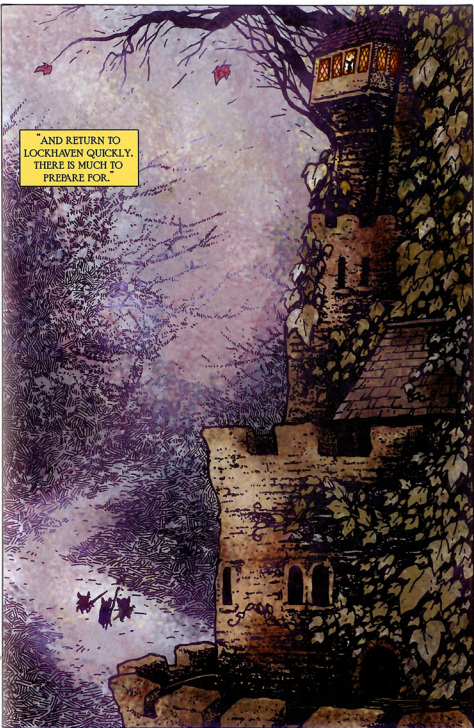
"THE GUARD WILL PROTECT MICE
AND CONTINUE TO ALLOW
THEM TO PROSPER, TO TRAVEL,
EXCHANGE GOODS, AND TO
PREVENT OUR HOMES FROM
BECOMING OUR PRISONS."

"BUT NEVER AT THE
COST OF THE CITIES
AND TOWN'S OWN
LIBERTIES."

"MIDNIGHT'S FATE IS
BANISHMENT,
WITHOUT THE
BENEFITS OF THE
GUARD HE SOUGHT
TO DESTROY."



"MARCH HIM BEYOND THE SCENT
BORDER AND LET HIM BE ALMIGHTY
RULER OUTSIDE OUR TERRITORY."



"AND RETURN TO
LOCKHAVEN QUICKLY.
THERE IS MUCH TO
PREPARE FOR."



"WINTER
IS COMING."

END



Pinup by Jeremy Bastian

