WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE FORCED TO LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND?

With the civil war raging at their doorstep, Bea and her sister Hannah have no choice but to flee their home with their little brother, Dom.

Hannah is determined not to get caught – but Bea leaves her drawings wherever they go, hoping that their dad is following their trail. With soldiers from both sides closing in and Dom getting weaker every day, will they be able to escape to safety?

And will Dad ever find them again?

THE PHOENIX COMIC BOOKS

An imprint of FICKLING dfb David Fickling Books

FSC

ISBN 978-1-78845-119-2

£10.99

NO REFUGE

PATRICE AGGS AND JOE BRADY

FICKLING dfb David Fickling Books

63325004 GB1941020

NO REFUGE

SEPARATED BY WAR. NOWHERE SAFE TO RUN.
ONE FAMILY FIGHTING TO BE REUNITED.

PATRICE AGGS AND JOE BRADY

NO REFUGE

PATRICE AGGS AND JOE BRADY

THE PHOENIX COMIC BOOKS

An imprint of FICKLING dfb David Fickling Books

No Refuge
is a **PHOENIX COMIC BOOK**
Book 2 in the *No Country* series.

First published in Great Britain in 2025 by The Phoenix Comic Books,
an imprint of David Fickling Books, 31 Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2NP
www.davidficklingbooks.com

EU Rep: Authorised Rep Compliance Ltd., Ground Floor, 71 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, D02 P593, Ireland.
www.arccompliance.com

These comics first appeared in The Phoenix.

Text and illustrations © The Phoenix Comic, 2025
Cover design by Paul Duffield.

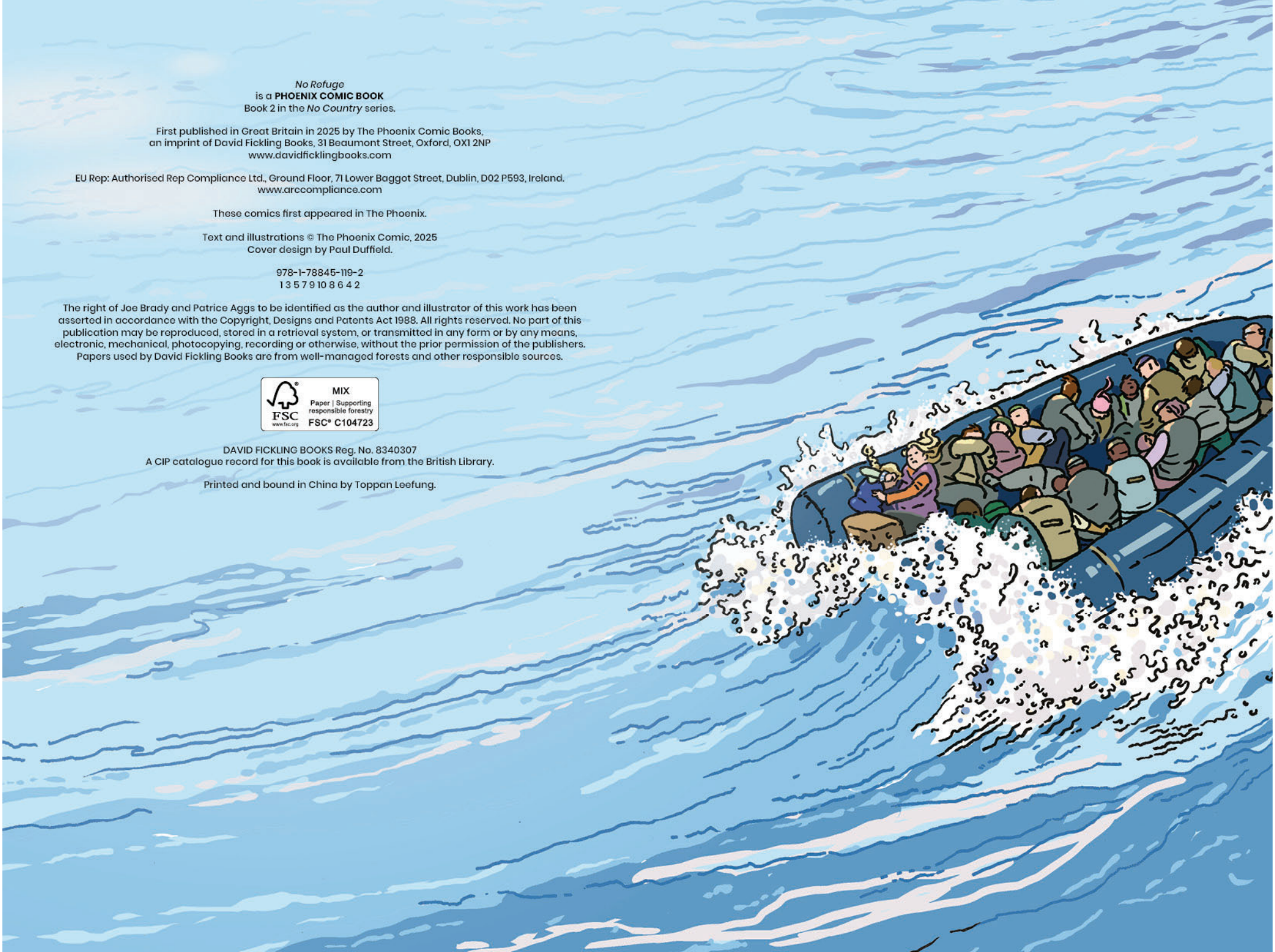
978-1-78845-119-2
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The right of Joe Brady and Patrice Aggs to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.
Papers used by David Fickling Books are from well-managed forests and other responsible sources.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C104723

DAVID FICKLING BOOKS Reg. No. 8340307
A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

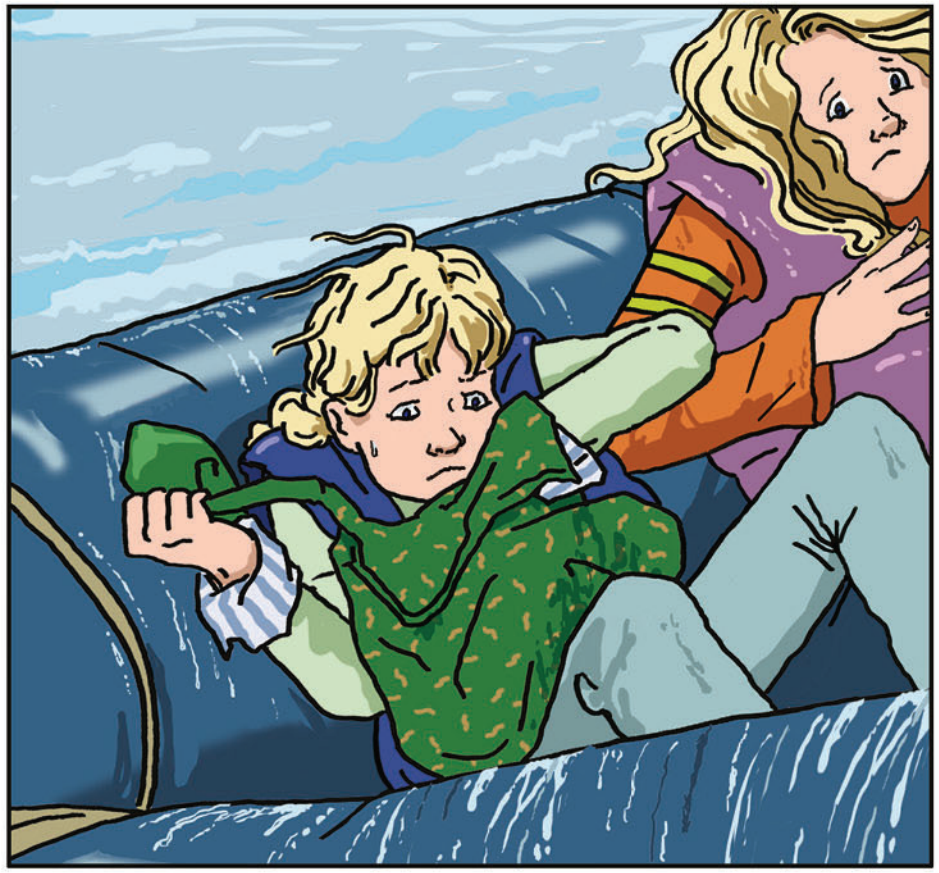
Printed and bound in China by Toppan Leefung.

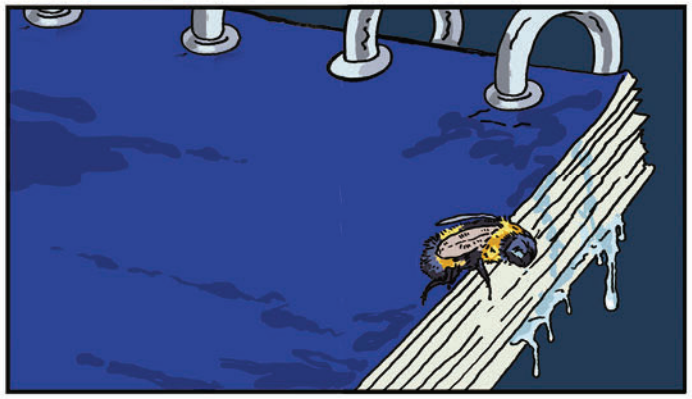


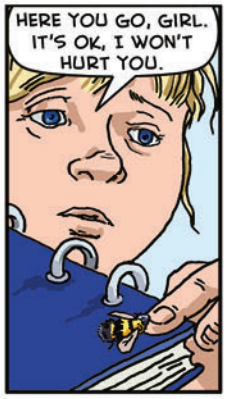
In the world today,
violence, war and persecution
have forced millions of people
from their homes.

Imagine if it was your home.

Imagine if it was you.






HERE YOU GO, GIRL. IT'S OK, I WON'T HURT YOU.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BEA?

JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS EARLIER...

BEA?

BEA?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST MAKING SURE THAT D—
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!

THEY ALMOST GOT US – THOSE FREE KINGDOM SOLDIERS – THEY COULD COME FOR US ANY MINUTE!

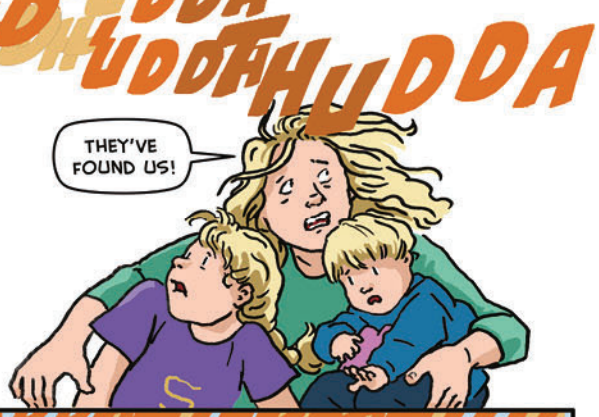
BUT WE'RE LETTING DAD DOWN.

WE'RE NOT LETTING HIM DOWN!
WE'RE LEAVING HIM BEHIND.

WE'RE NOT... BEA!
DADDY!
HANNAH! HE'S DAD! WE CAN'T JUST...

THE FREE KINGDOM SOLDIERS MIGHT HAVE HIM, BECAUSE HE'D NEV—
THUDDA THUDDA

HE'D NEV—

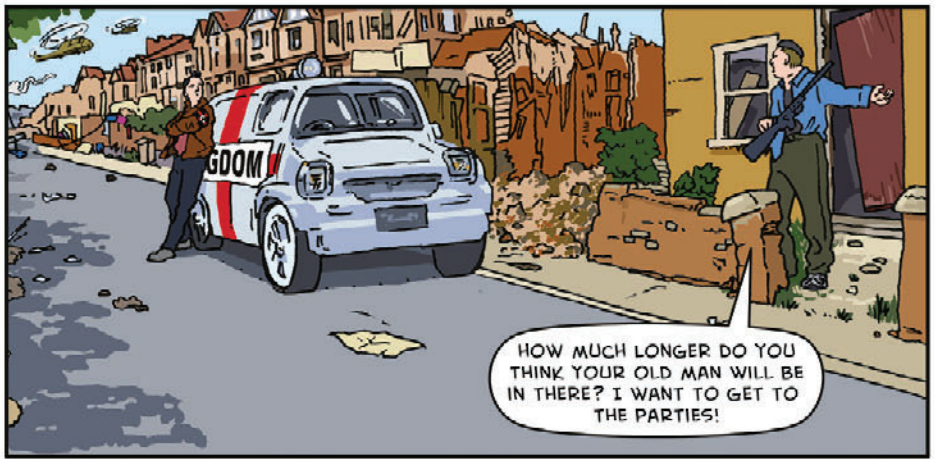

THUDDA THUDDA
THEY'VE FOUND US!

DAD WILL BE FINE! WHY DO YOU THINK HE DRILLED THE PLAN INTO US SO MUCH? HE'LL KNOW HOW TO FIND US.

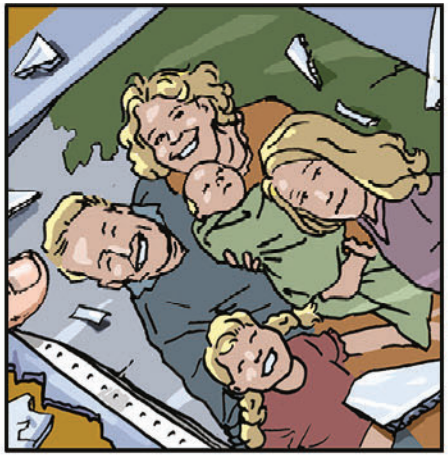
THUDDA
HUDDATHUDDA

...NOR SHALL MY SWORD SLEEP IN MY HAND
TILL WE HAVE BUILT JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND'S GREEN AND PLEASANT LAAAAAND

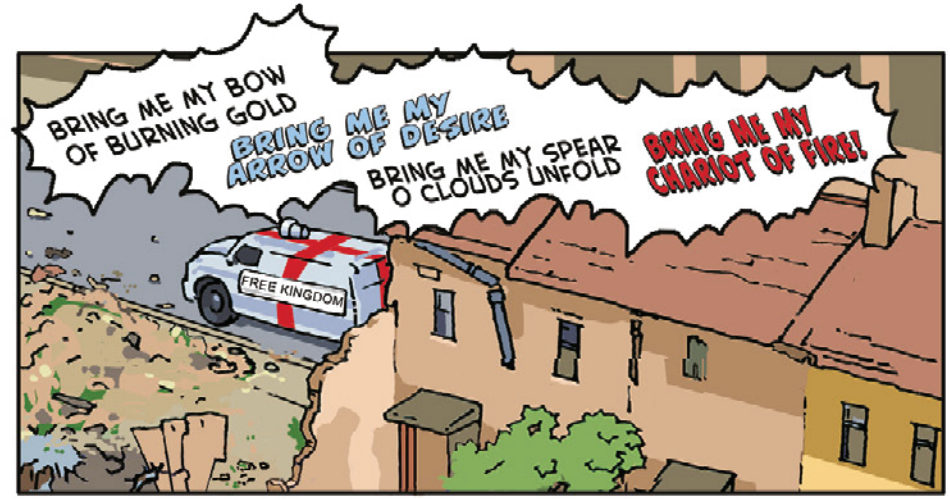
PLEASE! I'M INNOCENT, YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!


GDOM
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU THINK YOUR OLD MAN WILL BE IN THERE? I WANT TO GET TO THE PARTIES!

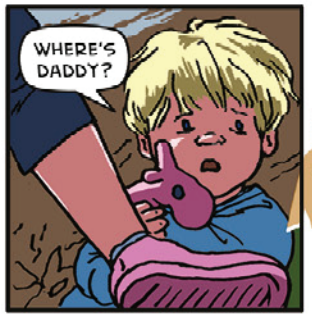
THE WHOLE FAMILY'S GONE. TROOPS, MOVE OUT!



ALISTAIR! SCAN THIS PHOTO AND SEND A COPY TO EVERY COMMAND WITHIN 20 MILES.


BRING ME MY BOW OF BURNING GOLD
BRING ME MY ARROW OF DESIRE
BRING ME MY SPEAR O CLOUDS UNFOLD
BRING ME MY CHARIOT OF FIRE!
FREE KINGDOM

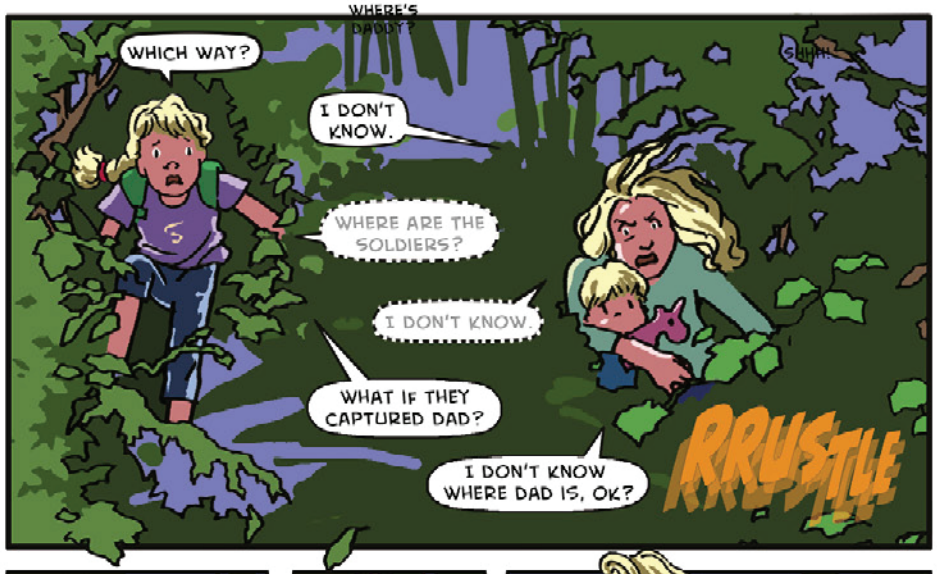
WHERE ARE WE GOING?


WHERE'S DADDY?

RRUSTLE
RRUSTLE

SHHH!

ARE THEY FOLLOWING US?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? IF I LOOK, THEY MIGHT SEE ME.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?


WHERE'S DADDY?
SHHH!
WHICH WAY?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE ARE THE SOLDIERS?
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT IF THEY CAPTURED DAD?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE DAD IS, OK?
RRUSTLE

I DIDN'T SEE THEM...

LET'S GO.
HANNAH?
HANNAH?

HANNAH?
HANNAH? I THINK I LOST YOU...
K-KRRUSTLE
GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

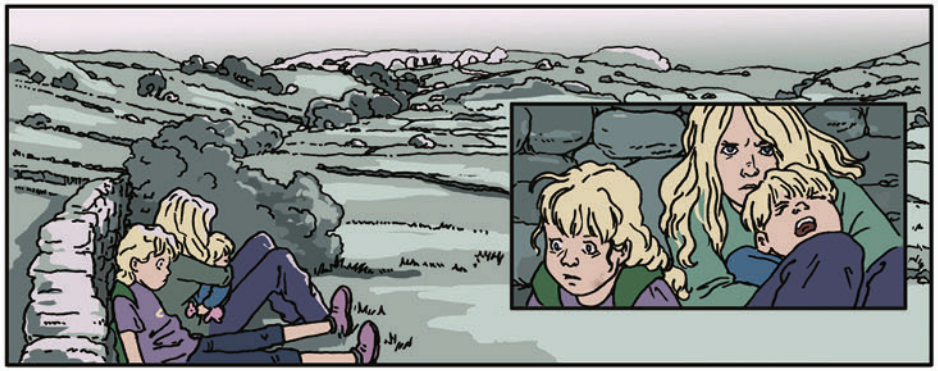
GRRRAAAGGGG
BEA! BEA!
BEA! THERE YOU ARE, WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED I THOUGHT THEY HAD...
OK. THAT'S ENOUGH. WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.
I THOUGHT THAT DOG WAS A FREE KINGDOM SOLDIER.

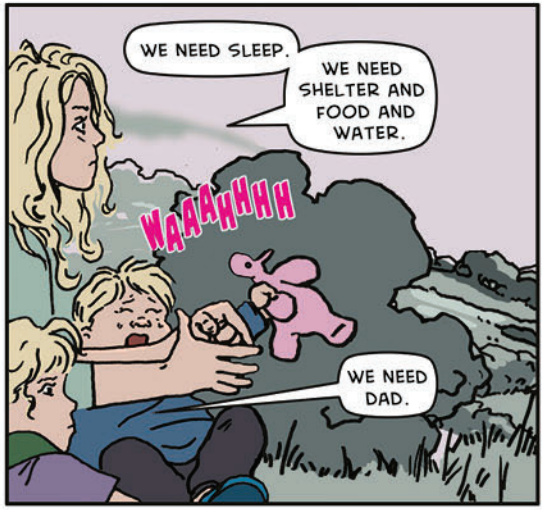
THEY ARE DOGS. ALL OF THEM.
NO. I MEAN A DOG. LIKE A DOG DOG.

WHAT DOG?
IT WAS JUST HERE...

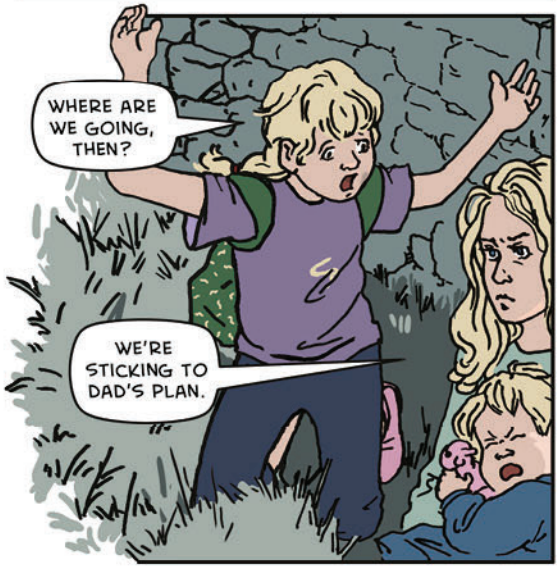
THERE IS NO DOG.
HURRY UP, WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

NO, DOMMY. WE HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM THE SOLDIERS.




WE NEED SLEEP.
WE NEED SHELTER AND FOOD AND WATER.
WAAAHHHH
WE NEED DAD.

WHEN ARE WE GOING HOME?
WE'RE NOT GOING HOME, DOMMY.


WHERE ARE WE GOING, THEN?
WE'RE STICKING TO DAD'S PLAN.

WHERE'S DADDY?

DAD'S PLAN WAS TO DO IT TOGETHER WITH DAD. BUT WE'RE **NOT** TOGETHER, ARE WE, HANNAH? BECAUSE THE FREE KINGDOM SOLIDERS CAME! AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!
I KNOW THAT, BEA!
FREE KINGDOM RUN!

SO IF WE CAN'T FIND DAD WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW, HANNAH?
I DON'T KNOW, OK?

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
I'M GOING HOME AND FINDING DAD, WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.

THUDDA THUDDA
THUDDA THUDDA THUDDA

BEA. I DON'T KNOW IF HOME IS STILL THERE.

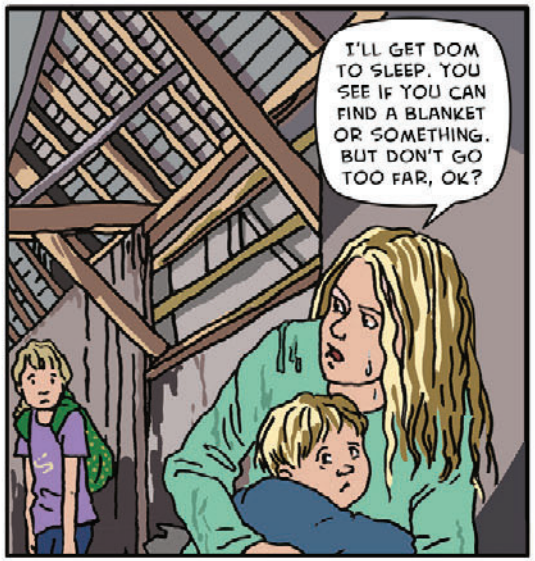
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
WE DO WHAT DAD SAID, WE HEAD TO THE CAPITAL.
TOGETHER.

TOGETHER.
BUT RIGHT NOW WE JUST NEED A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP.

OK.
LET'S GO.

DO YOU THINK ANYONE IS IN THIS FARM? OR AT LEAST SOME FOOD...
IT LOOKS PRETTY BARE AND ABANDONED
BUT BETTER BE SAFE THAN SORRY.

WE STAY HERE FOR TONIGHT.

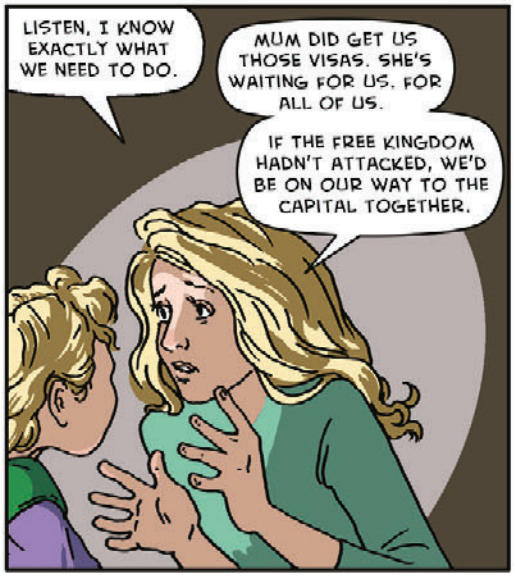

I'LL GET DOM TO SLEEP. YOU SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A BLANKET OR SOMETHING. BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR, OK?

YOU ALL RIGHT?

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE TRAPPED IN A TERRIBLE DREAM.

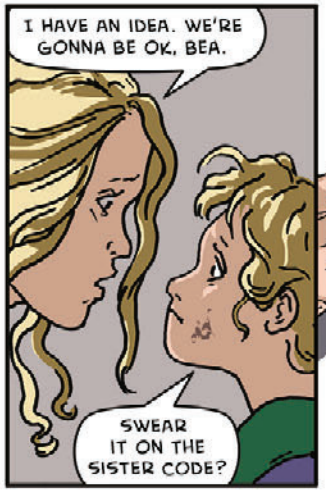
BEA, YOU'RE SO COLD. COME HERE.
DO YOU THINK DAD'S STILL OUT THERE? DO YOU THINK HE'S OK?

OF COURSE HE IS. IT'S DAD.


LISTEN, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED TO DO.
MUM DID GET US THOSE VISAS. SHE'S WAITING FOR US. FOR ALL OF US.
IF THE FREE KINGDOM HADN'T ATTACKED, WE'D BE ON OUR WAY TO THE CAPITAL TOGETHER.

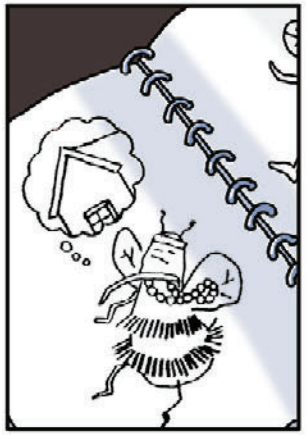
DAD TOLD US WHAT TO DO IF WE GOT SEPARATED. WE STICK TO THE PLAN.
WE COLLECT THE VISAS FROM THE EMBASSY IN THE CAPITAL. DAD WILL MEET US THERE. I KNOW HE WILL.

AND IN THE MEANTIME, I'M WORKING OUT HOW TO GET US ALL SOME FOOD.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT?


I HAVE AN IDEA. WE'RE GONNA BE OK, BEA.
SWEAR IT ON THE SISTER CODE?

SWEAR IT ON THE SISTER CODE.

DON'T BE LONG. DOM'S ASLEEP AND YOU NEED SLEEP, TOO...
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEED EACH OTHER TO KEEP WARM.



DAD TAUGHT ME THE BEES DANCED TO TELL EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR NEW HOME.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, DAD. I HOPE THAT IF YOU FIND THIS YOU KNOW WE'RE OK.

BEA. WAKE UP.

I KNOW WHERE WE ARE.

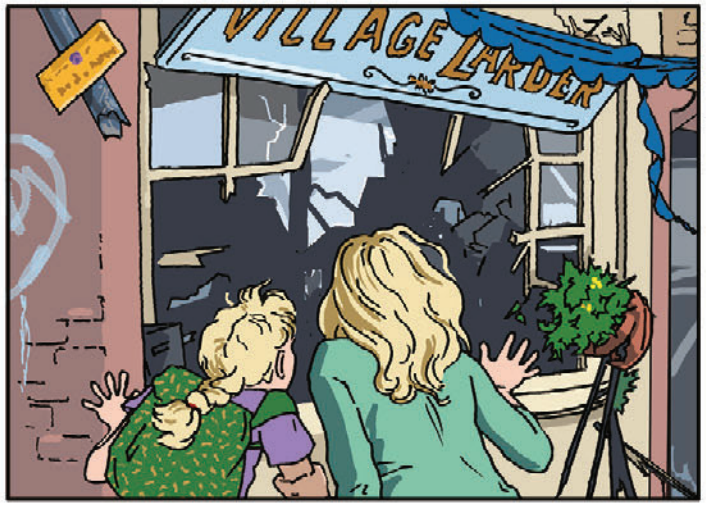
THERE'S A VILLAGE JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL. WITH A LITTLE SHOP.

I'M STARVING.

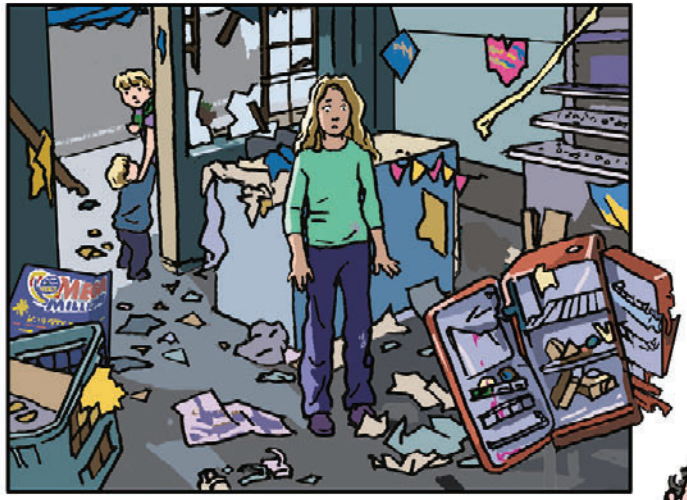
I KNOW, I KNOW. WE NEED FOOD AND WATER AND PROPER CLOTHES. SO LET'S GO.

THE SHOP IS AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE. WE JUST HAVE TO FIND IT.

I GET A BAD FEELING FROM THIS PLACE.
WE HAVE TO GET SUPPLIES.
CLOSED

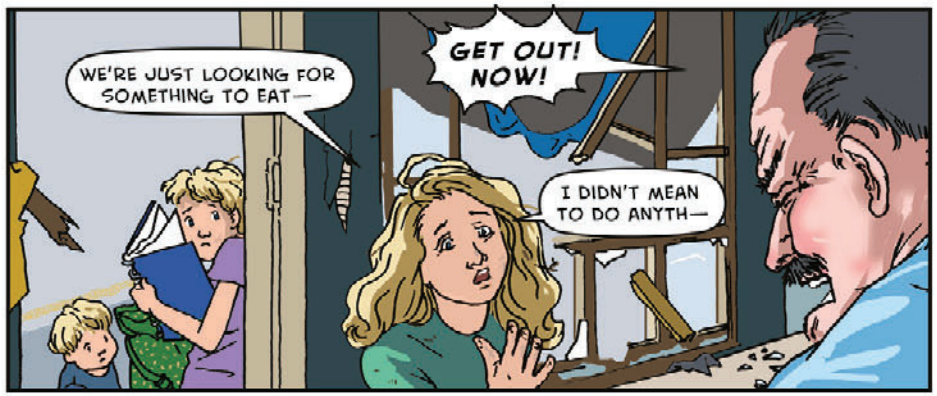

VILLAGE LARDER

I THINK WE SHOULD GO.
NO. STAY WITH DOM. I'LL GO IN.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?

GET OUT OF MY SHOP!
YOU ALREADY DESTROYED EVERYTHING! WHAT MORE CAN YOU TAKE FROM ME?


WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT—
GET OUT! NOW!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO ANYTH—

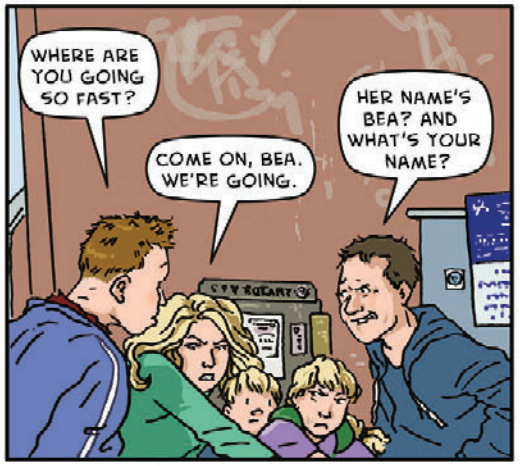
GO ON! GET OUT!
DON'T YELL AT MY SISTER!

LET'S GO
LET'S GO
LET'S GO

YOU WERE RIGHT, BEA, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT FOOD? AND I'M SO THIRSTY.
I'M HUNGRY!
THIS WAY.

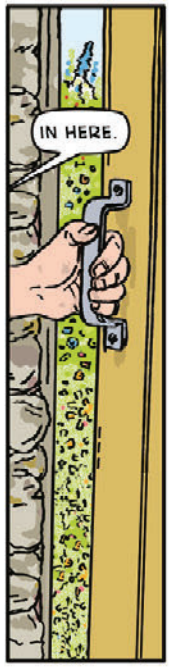
MAYBE THEY CAN HELP.
KEEP MOVING.

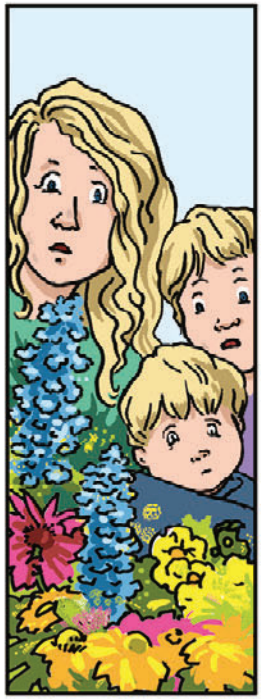
HEY. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE.
NEW TO TOWN?
LEAVE US ALONE.
WHAT? WE JUST WANT TO TALK.

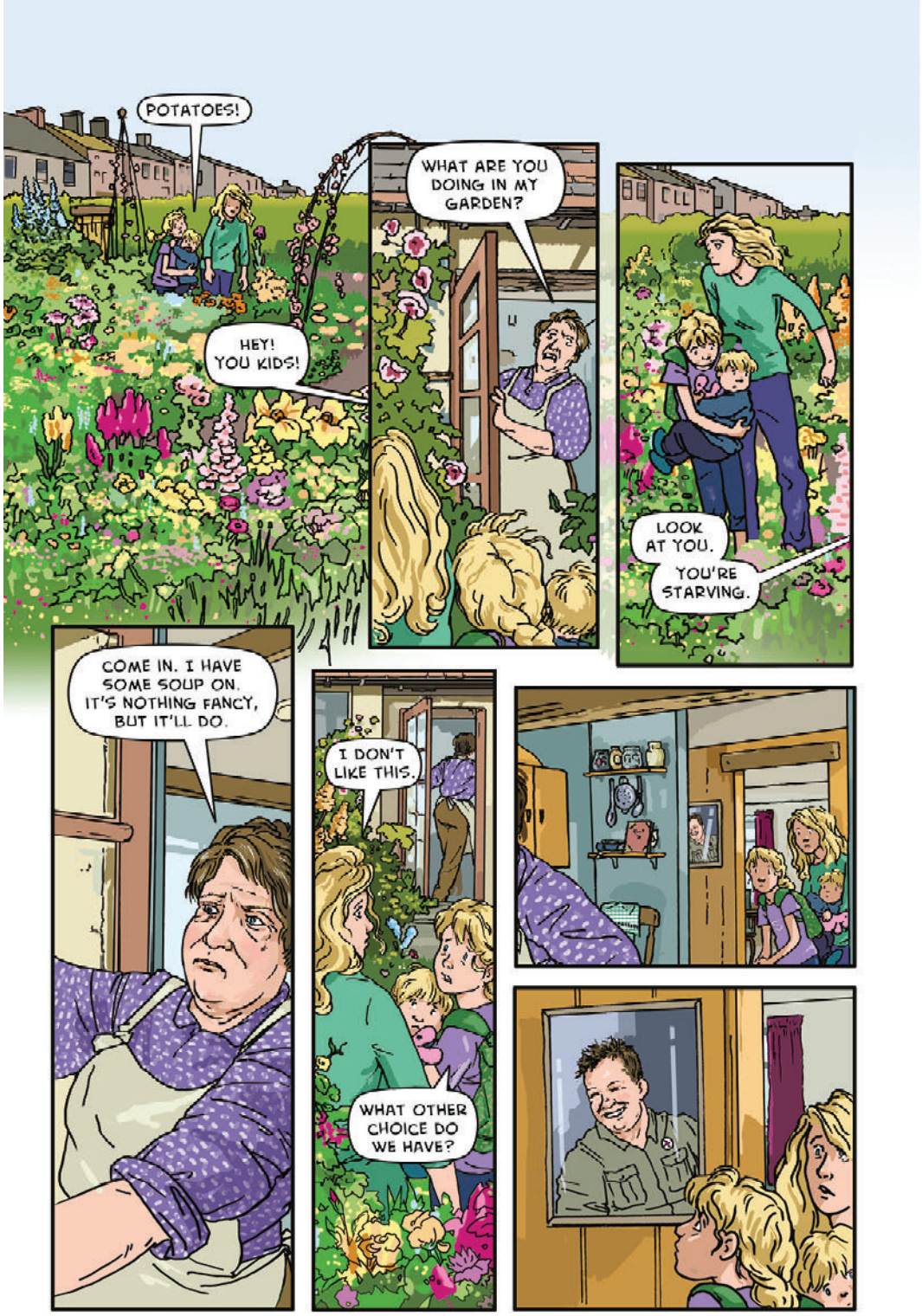

WHERE ARE YOU GOING SO FAST?
COME ON, BEA. WE'RE GOING.
HER NAME'S BEA? AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

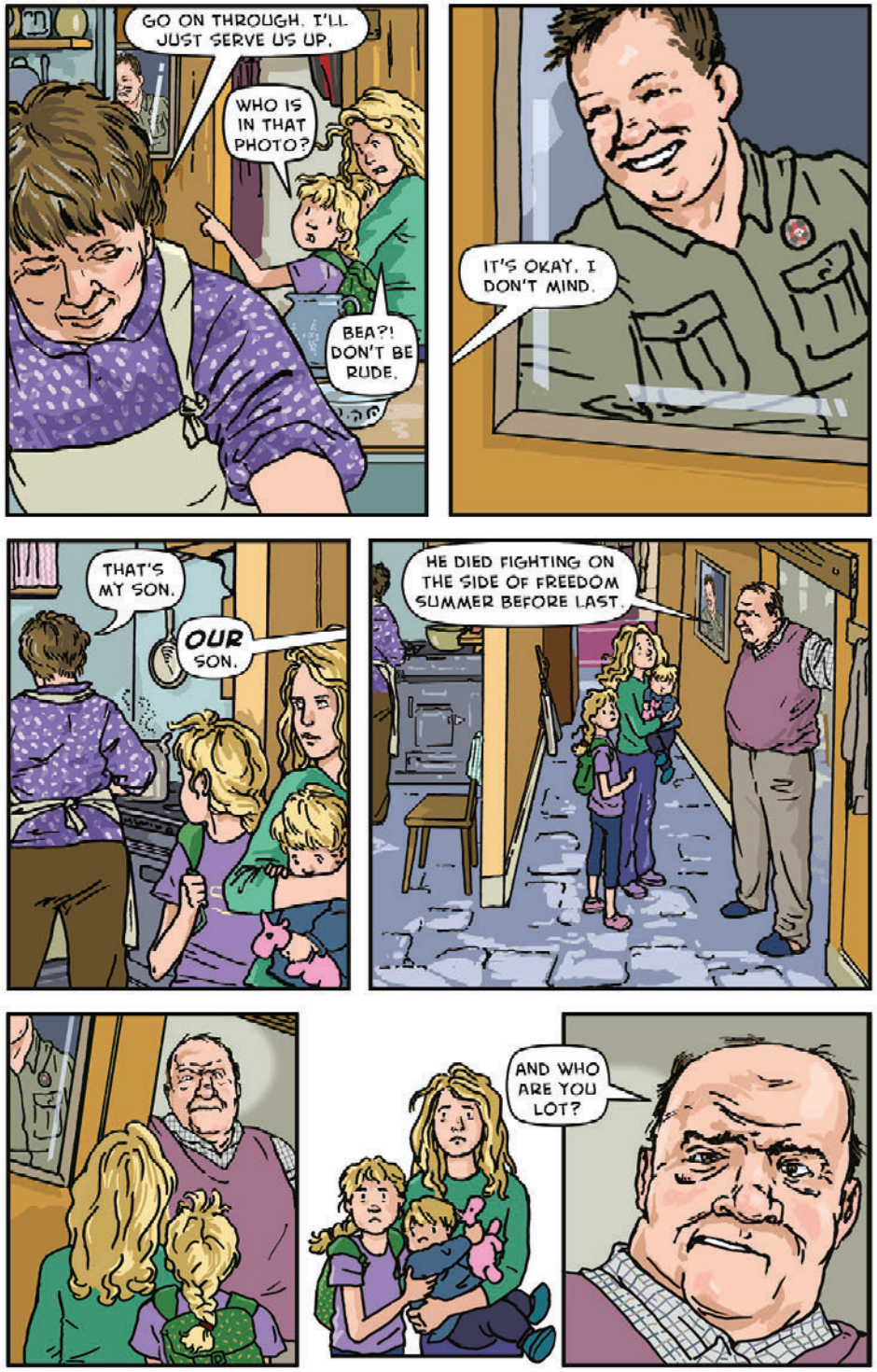
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WE ONLY WANT TO TALK!

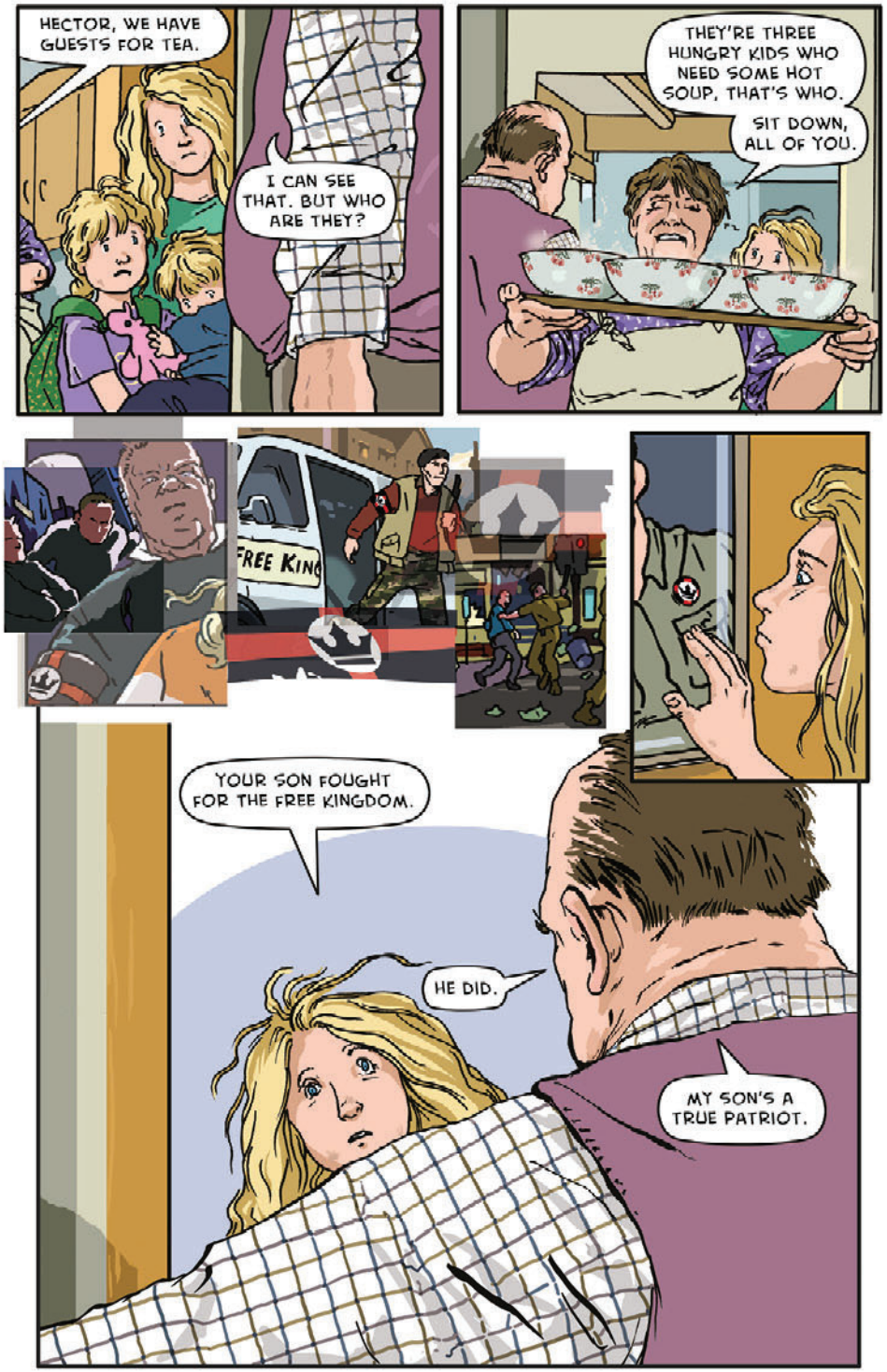
WHAT DO WE DO?

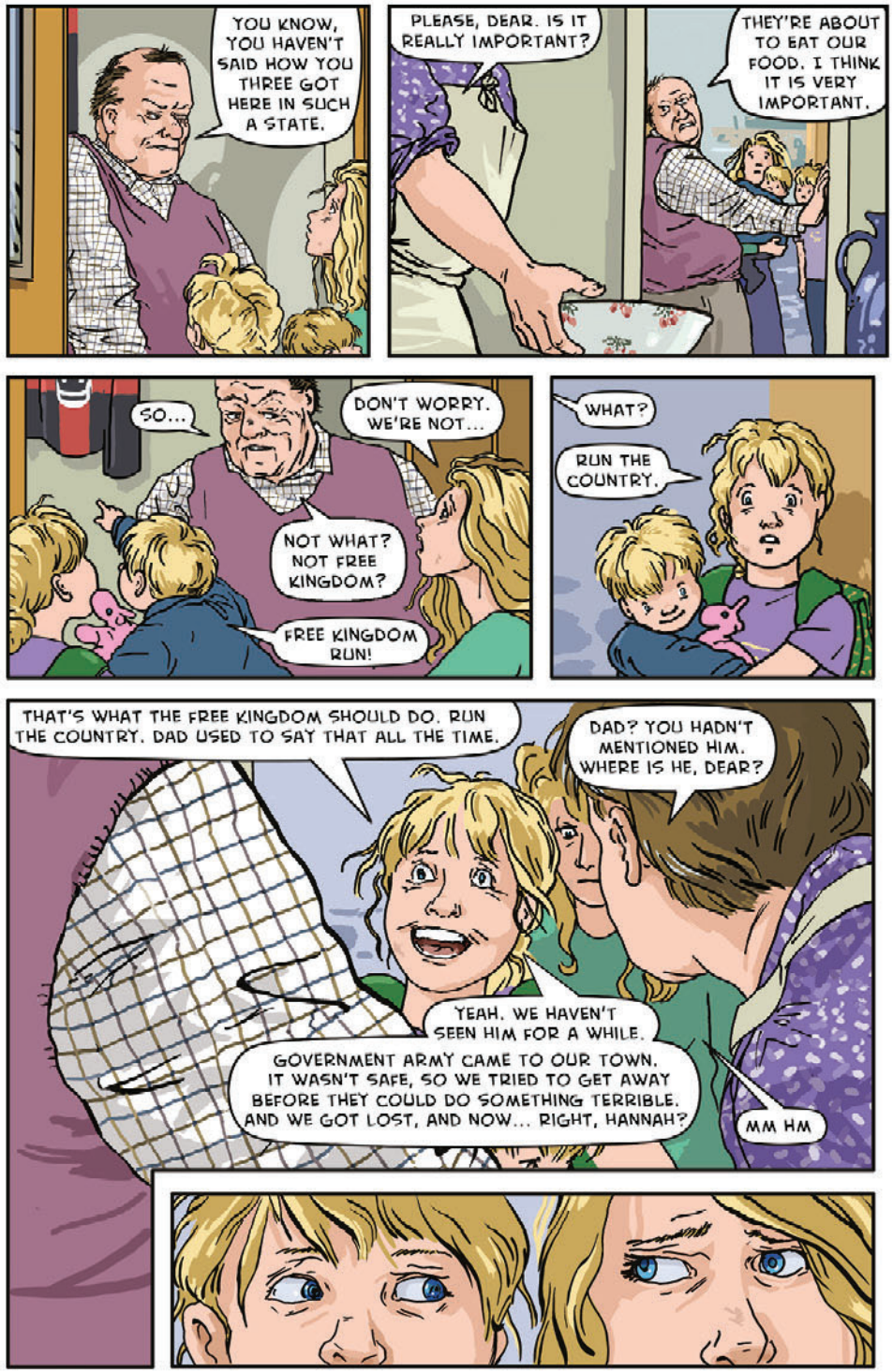

IN HERE.



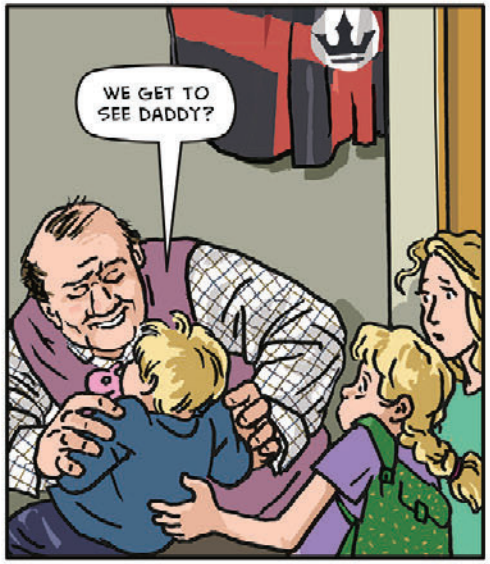

POTATOES!
HEY! YOU KIDS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY GARDEN?
LOOK AT YOU.
YOU'RE STARVING.
COME IN. I HAVE SOME SOUP ON. IT'S NOTHING FANCY, BUT IT'LL DO.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?

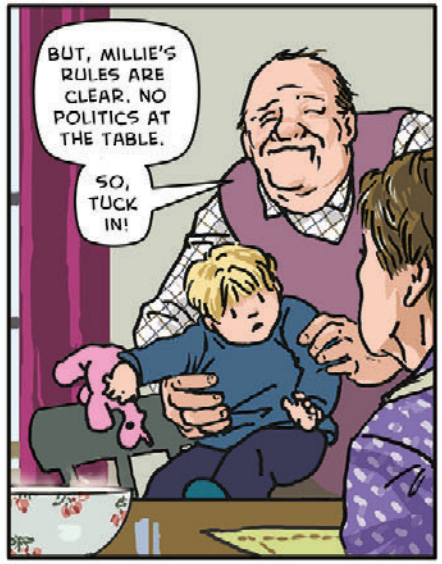

GO ON THROUGH. I'LL JUST SERVE US UP.
WHO IS IN THAT PHOTO?
BEA?! DON'T BE RUDE.
IT'S OKAY. I DON'T MIND.
THAT'S MY SON.
OUR SON.
HE DIED FIGHTING ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM SUMMER BEFORE LAST.
AND WHO ARE YOU LOT?

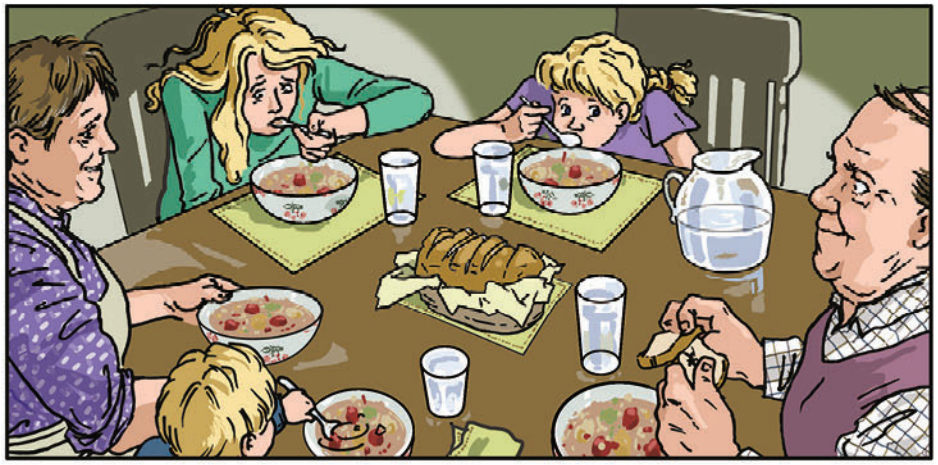

HECTOR, WE HAVE GUESTS FOR TEA.
I CAN SEE THAT. BUT WHO ARE THEY?
THEY'RE THREE HUNGRY KIDS WHO NEED SOME HOT SOUP, THAT'S WHO.
SIT DOWN, ALL OF YOU.
YOUR SON FOUGHT FOR THE FREE KINGDOM.
HE DID.
MY SON'S A TRUE PATRIOT.

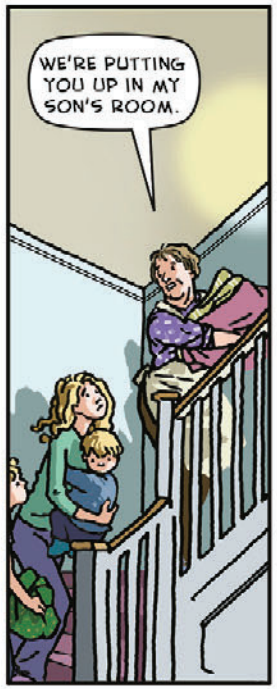

YOU KNOW, YOU HAVEN'T SAID HOW YOU THREE GOT HERE IN SUCH A STATE.
PLEASE, DEAR. IS IT REALLY IMPORTANT?
THEY'RE ABOUT TO EAT OUR FOOD. I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT.
SO...
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE NOT...
NOT WHAT? NOT FREE KINGDOM?
FREE KINGDOM RUN!
WHAT?
RUN THE COUNTRY.
THAT'S WHAT THE FREE KINGDOM SHOULD DO. RUN THE COUNTRY. DAD USED TO SAY THAT ALL THE TIME.
DAD? YOU HADN'T MENTIONED HIM. WHERE IS HE, DEAR?
YEAH. WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A WHILE.
GOVERNMENT ARMY CAME TO OUR TOWN. IT WASN'T SAFE, SO WE TRIED TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY COULD DO SOMETHING TERRIBLE. AND WE GOT LOST, AND NOW... RIGHT, HANNAH?
MM HM

WELL, YOU MADE IT TO THE RIGHT PLACE. THIS IS FREE KINGDOM TERRITORY NOW, THROUGH AND THROUGH.
AND DON'T WORRY, I KNOW PEOPLE. I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR DADDY.


WE GET TO SEE DADDY?


BUT, MILLIE'S RULES ARE CLEAR. NO POLITICS AT THE TABLE.
SO, TUCK IN!




WE'RE PUTTING YOU UP IN MY SON'S ROOM.

GO AHEAD. I STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO IN.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR SON. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
BEA!
NO. IT'S ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU. HE WAS CALLED CHRISTOPHER...

HE WAS A KIND BOY. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD WE'RE HELPING YOU OUT.

LET'S GET SOME SLEEP. WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO TOMORROW.

GOOD NIGHT, BEA.

HEY, HANNAH.
WHAT IS IT?

I THINK WE'RE GONNA BE OK. I REALLY DO.
NIGHT, BEA.