Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

opening extract from

Glister: The House Hunt

written by

Andi Watson

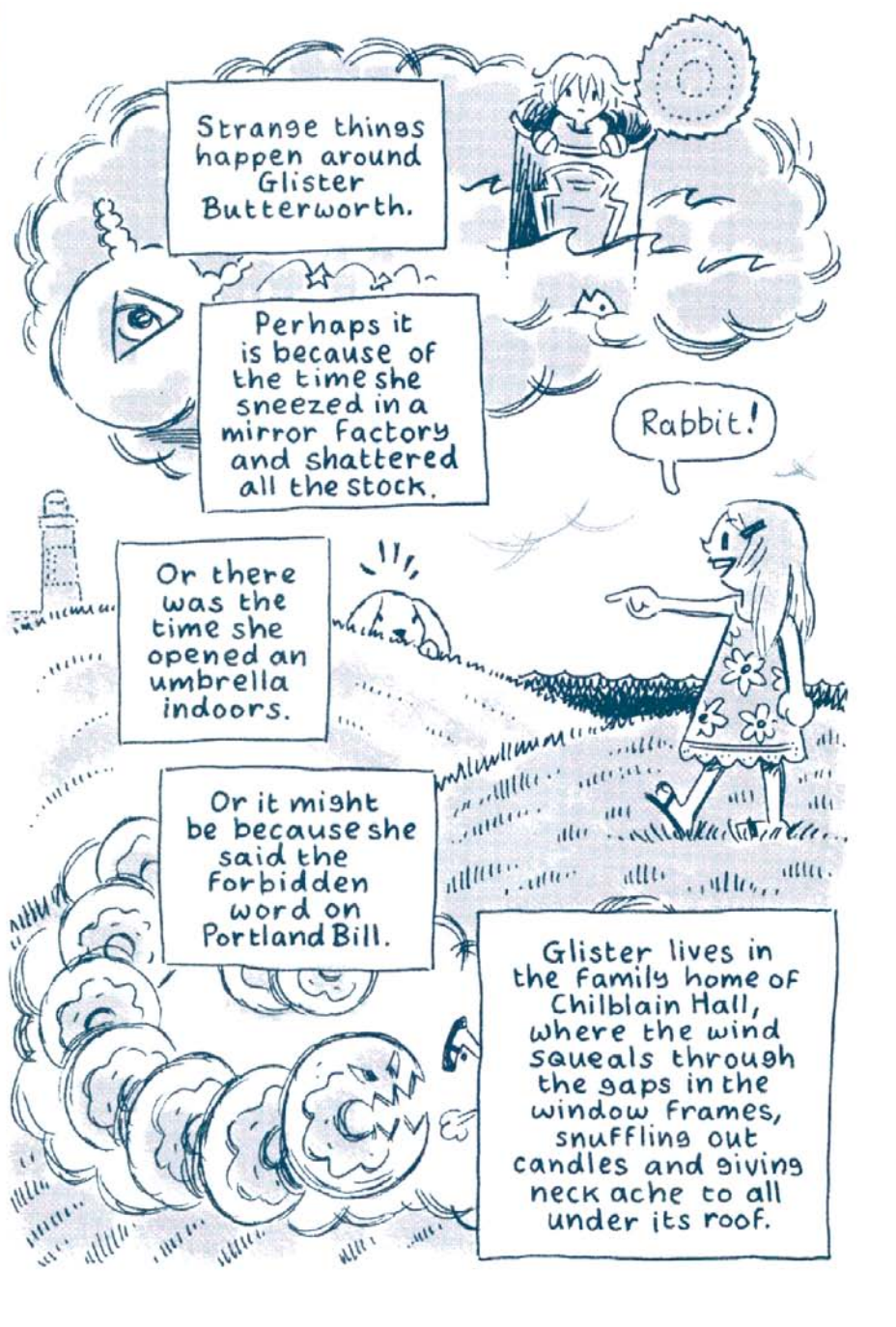
published by

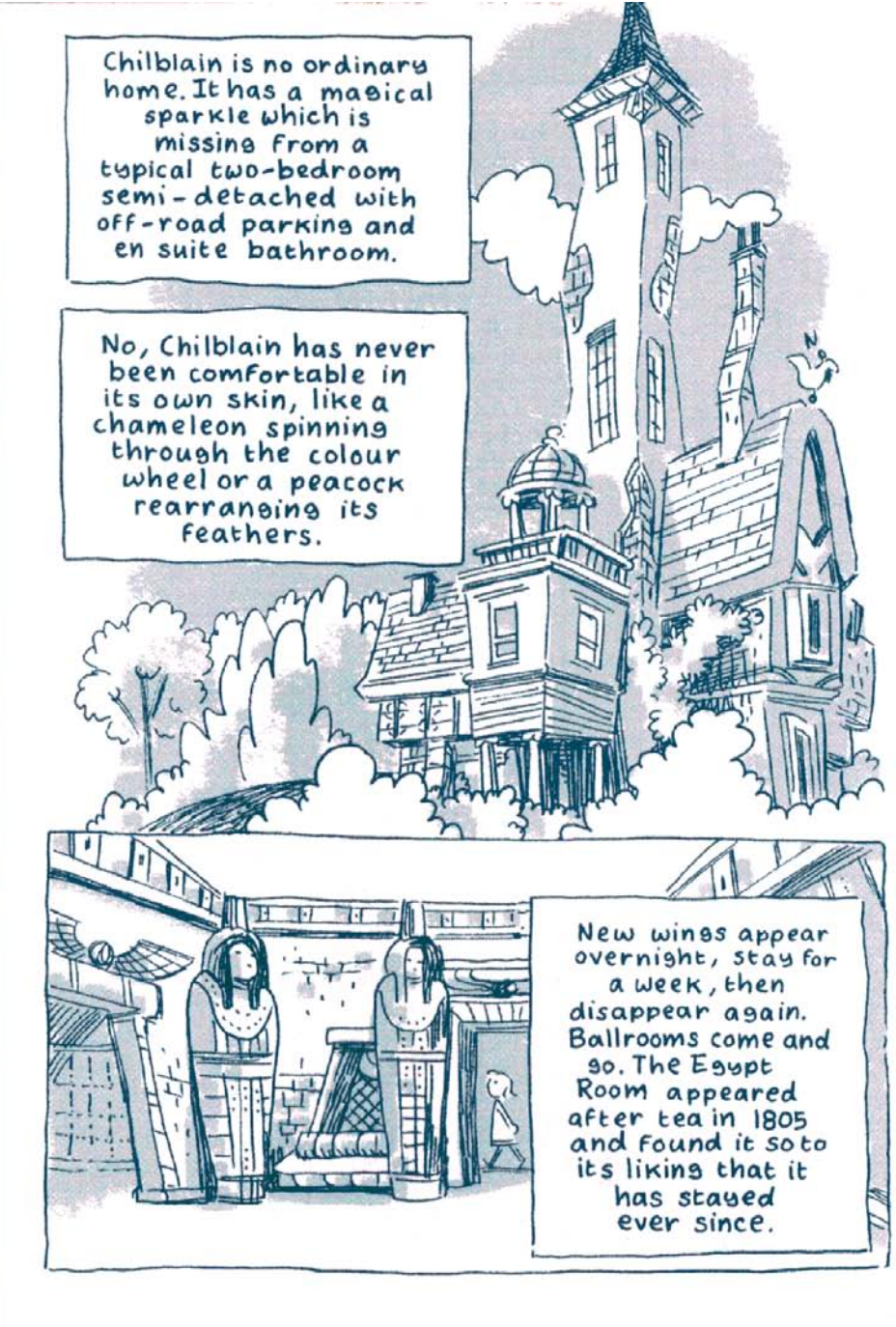
Walker Books

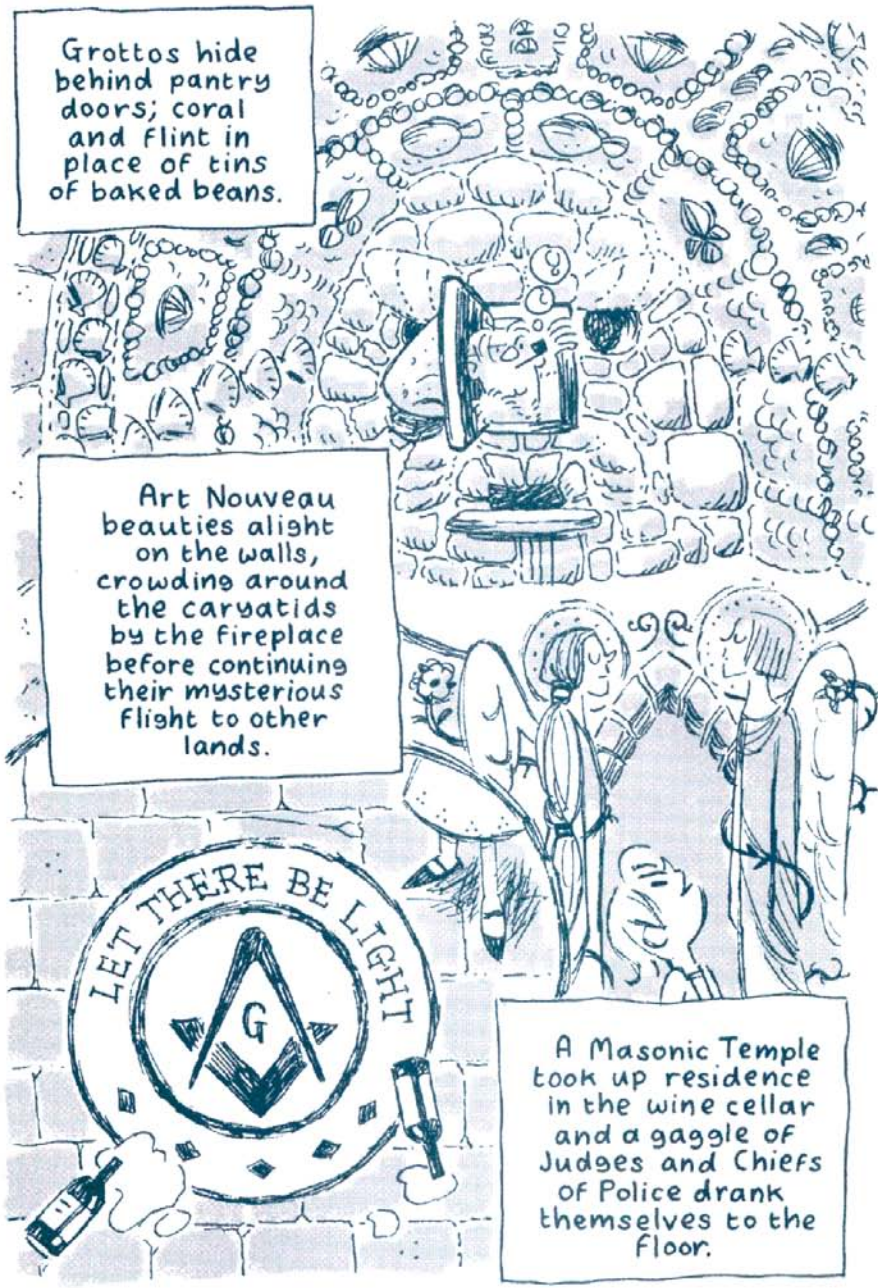
All text is copyright of the author and / or the illustrator

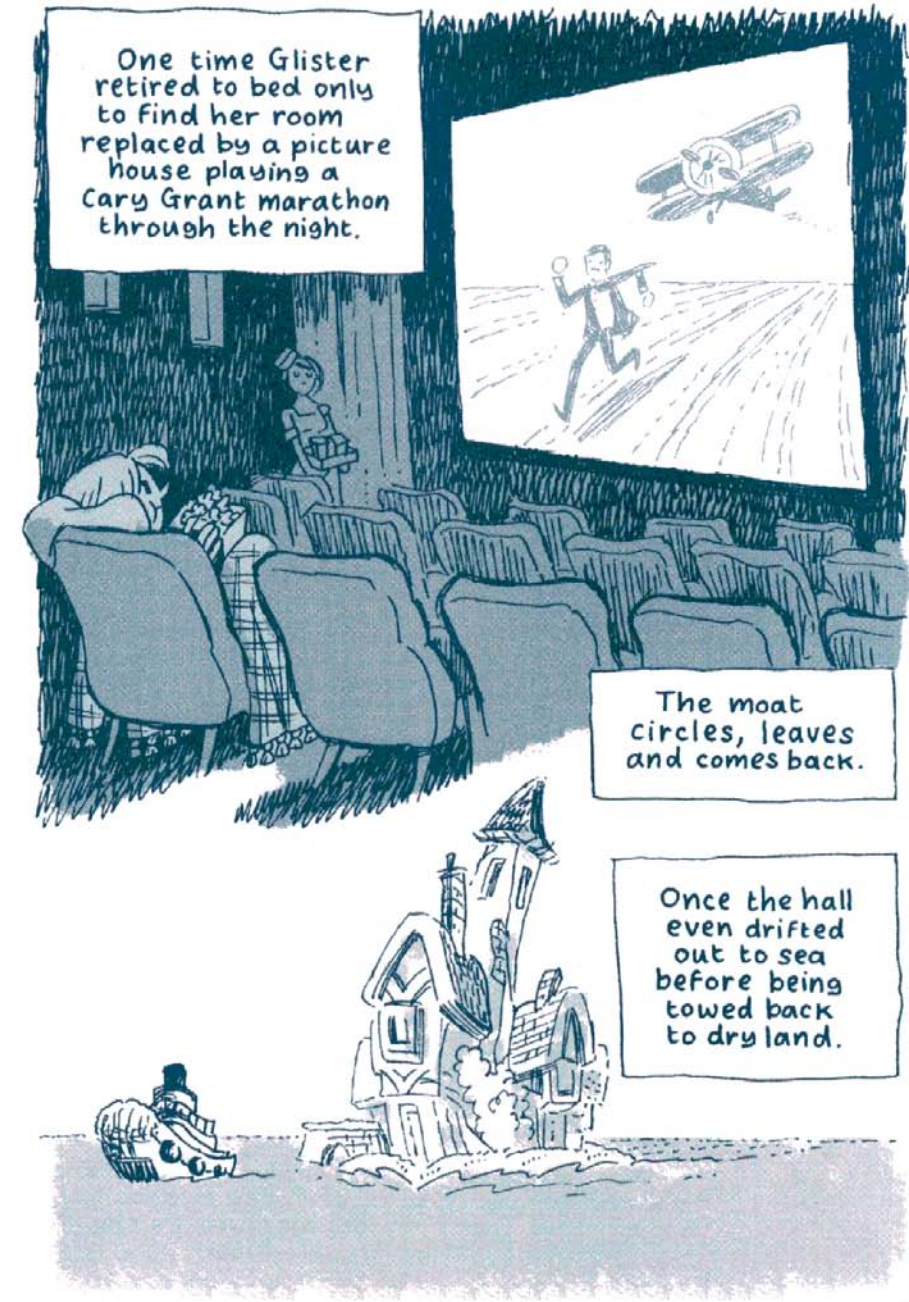
please print off and read at your leisure.

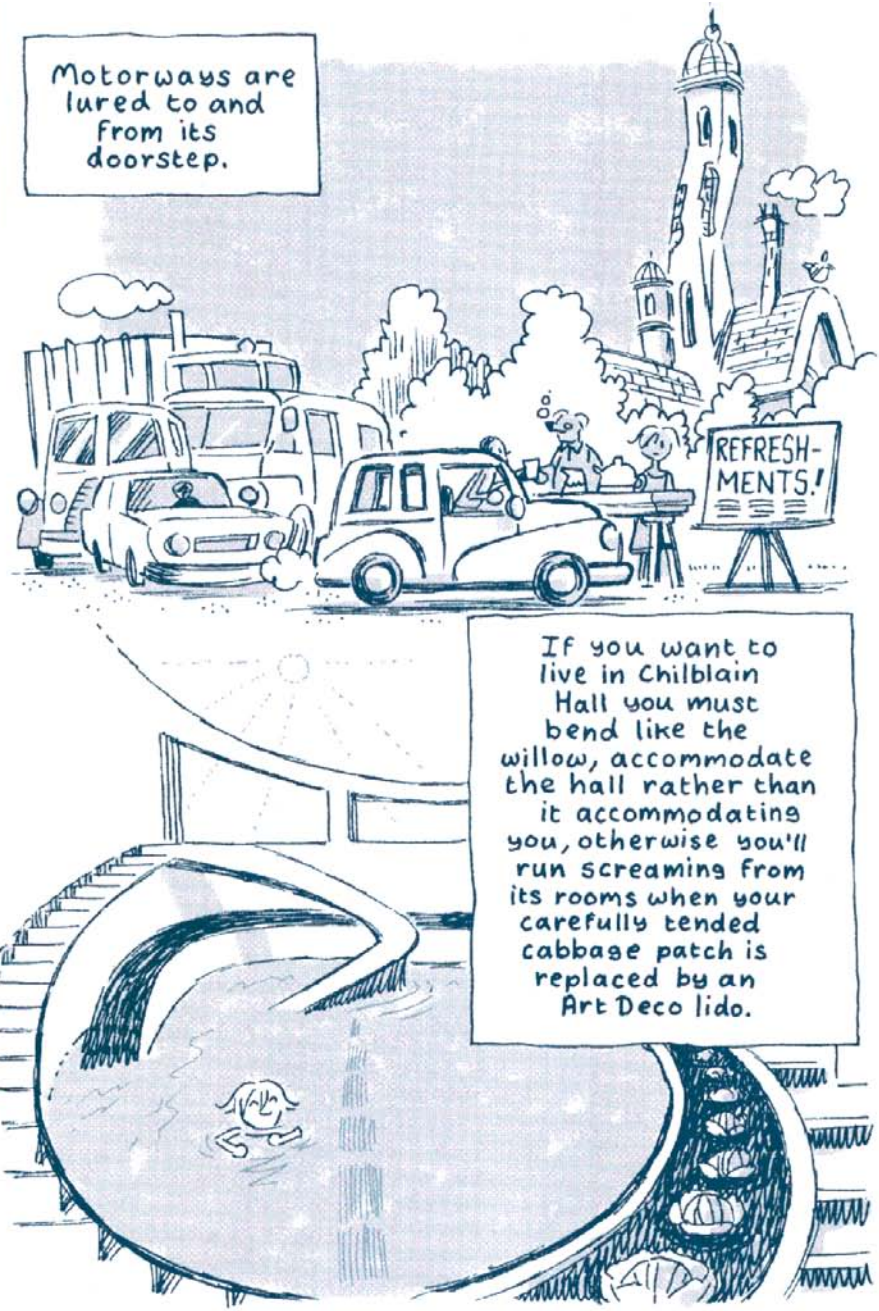
Lovereading4kids.co.uk

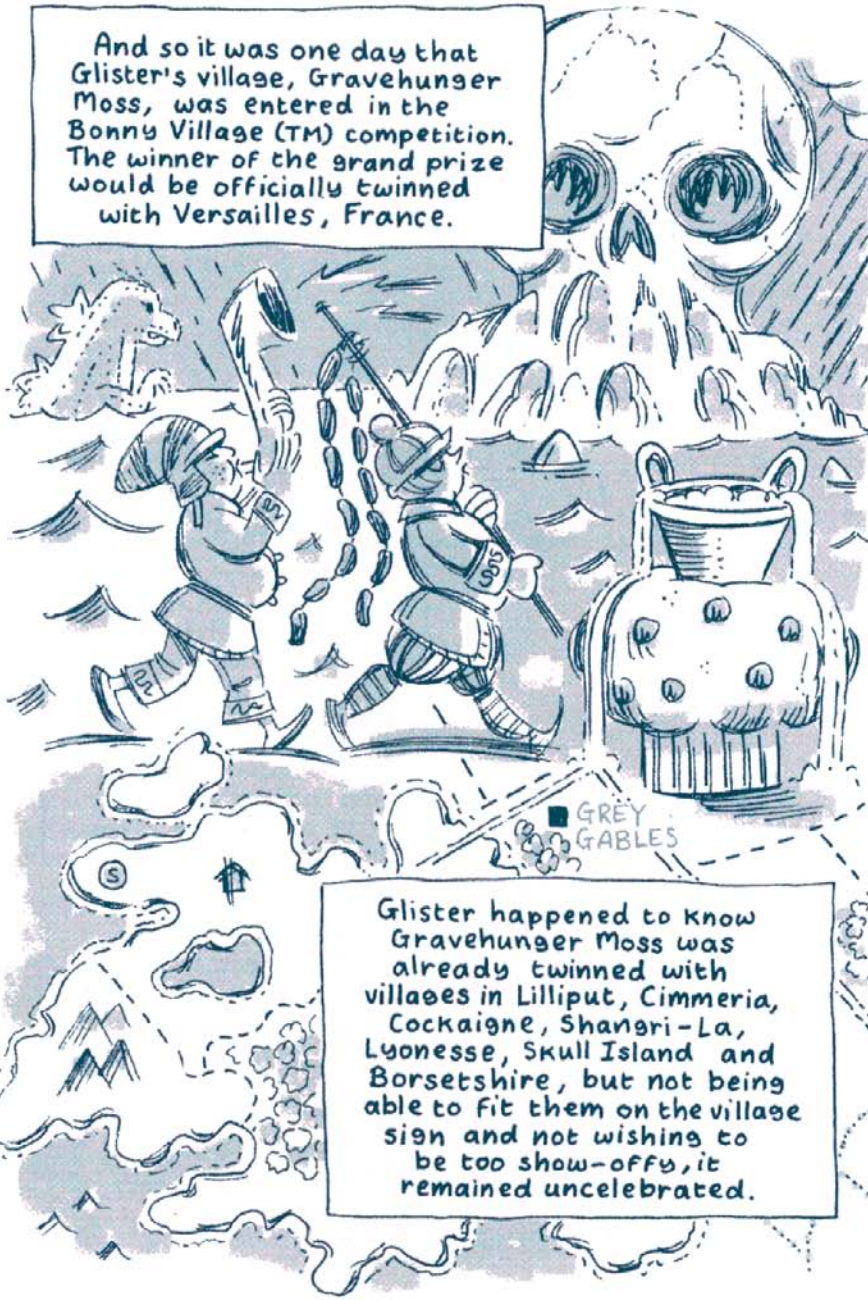

Strange things happen around Glister Butterworth.
Perhaps it is because of the time she sneezed in a mirror factory and shattered all the stock.
Rabbit!
Or there was the time she opened an umbrella indoors.
Or it might be because she said the forbidden word on Portland Bill.
Glister lives in the family home of Chilblain Hall, where the wind squeals through the gaps in the window frames, snuffling out candles and giving neck ache to all under its roof.


Chilblain is no ordinary home. It has a magical sparkle which is missing from a typical two-bedroom semi-detached with off-road parking and en suite bathroom.
No, Chilblain has never been comfortable in its own skin, like a chameleon spinning through the colour wheel or a peacock rearranging its feathers.
New wings appear overnight, stay for a week, then disappear again. Ballrooms come and go. The Egypt Room appeared after tea in 1805 and found it so to its liking that it has stayed ever since.

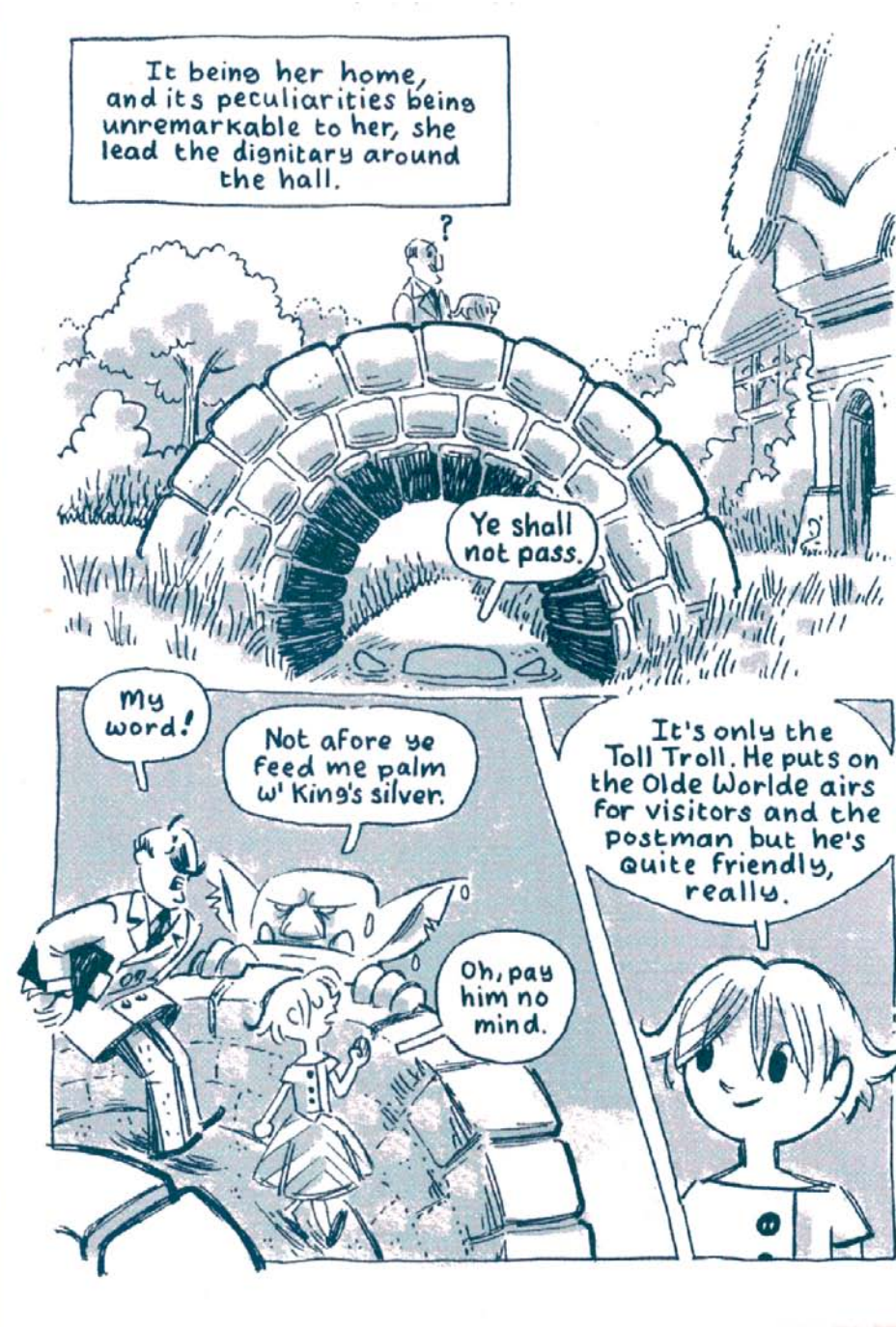

Grottos hide behind pantry doors; coral and flint in place of tins of baked beans.
Art Nouveau beauties alight on the walls, crowding around the caryatids by the fireplace before continuing their mysterious flight to other lands.
LET THERE BE LIGHT
G
A Masonic Temple took up residence in the wine cellar and a gaggle of Judges and Chiefs of Police drank themselves to the floor.

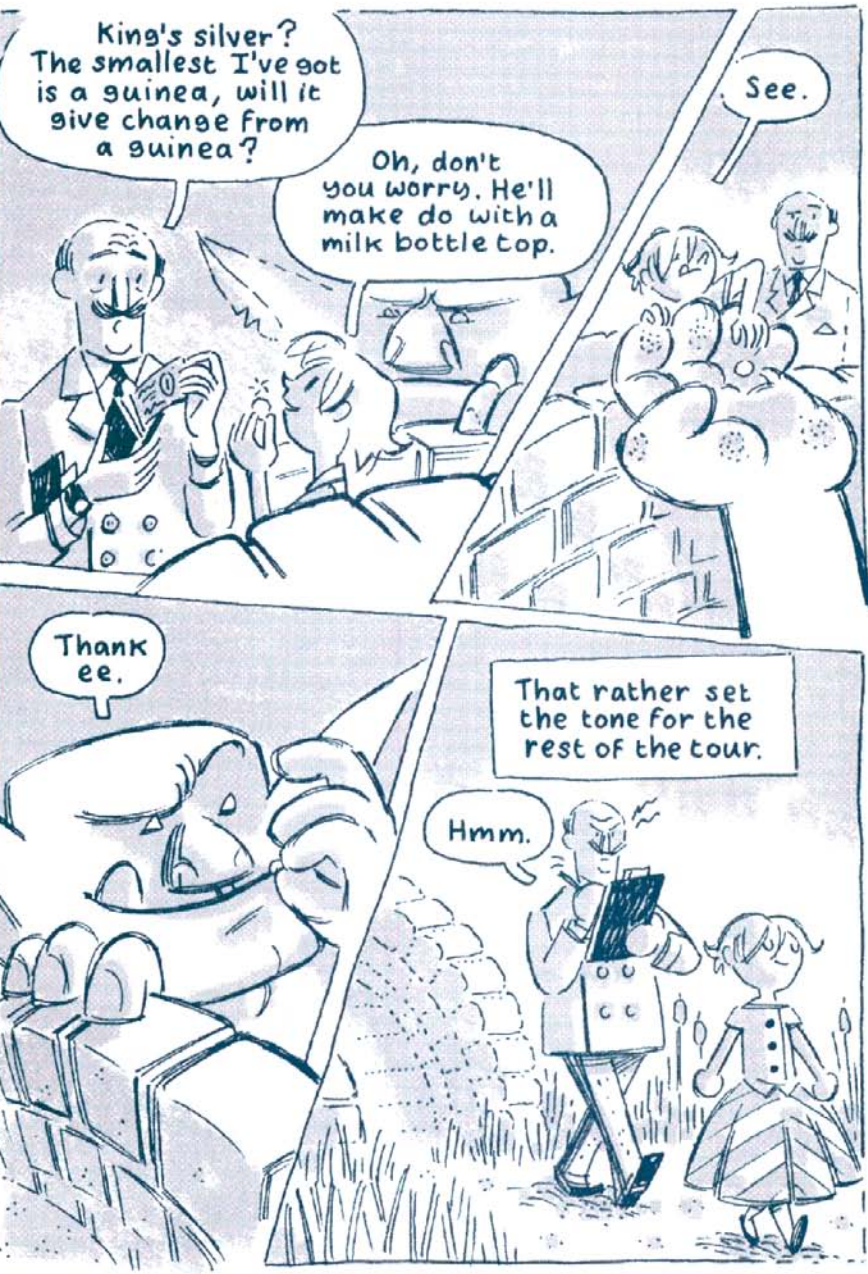

One time Glister retired to bed only to find her room replaced by a picture house playing a Cary Grant marathon through the night.
The moat circles, leaves and comes back.
Once the hall even drifted out to sea before being towed back to dry land.


Motorways are lured to and from its doorstep.
REFRESH-MENTS!
If you want to live in Chilblain Hall you must bend like the willow, accommodate the hall rather than it accommodating you, otherwise you'll run screaming from its rooms when your carefully tended cabbage patch is replaced by an Art Deco lido.


And so it was one day that Glister's village, Gravehunger Moss, was entered in the Bonny Village (TM) competition. The winner of the grand prize would be officially twinned with Versailles, France.
GREY GABLES
Glister happened to know Gravehunger Moss was already twinned with villages in Lilliput, Cimmeria, Cockaigne, Shangri-La, Lyonesse, Skull Island and Borsetshire, but not being able to fit them on the village sign and not wishing to be too show-offy, it remained uncelebrated.


The village was frantic with window washing, flower planting and lawn cutting.
Mrs Poppleton, we clearly laid down in the guidelines that you absolutely must cut north to south, not east to west.
This is Mr Leonard Swarkstone, the Lord Lieutenant of Whixleyshire and head of the Gravehunger Moss Bonny Village task force.
So, Miss Butterworth, Chilblain Hall, I presume. Perhaps you could give me the tour?
My pleasure.
Mr Swarkstone was terribly efficient but of a tidy mind.


It being her home, and its peculiarities being unremarkable to her, she lead the dignitary around the hall.
?
Ye shall not pass.
My word!
Not afore ye feed me palm w' King's silver.
Oh, pay him no mind.
It's only the Toll Troll. He puts on the Olde Worlde airs for visitors and the postman but he's quite friendly, really.


King's silver? The smallest I've got is a guinea, will it give change from a guinea?
Oh, don't you worry. He'll make do with a milk bottle top.
See.
Thank ee.
That rather set the tone for the rest of the tour.
Hmm.