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Thomas Labourot



Elenora Mandradora

Daughter of Merlin



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STORY

Séverine Gauthier

ART

Thomas Labourot



COLORS

Grelin & Thomas Labourot

LETTERING

Ron Estevez

FOREST OF BROCELIANDE. THE MUSHROOMERY.



AS YOU SHALL SEE, ELENORA, TO BE A GOOD DRUID, ONE MUST BE A GOOD MYCOLOGIST. NOW, WHAT'S A MYCOLOGIST AGAIN?

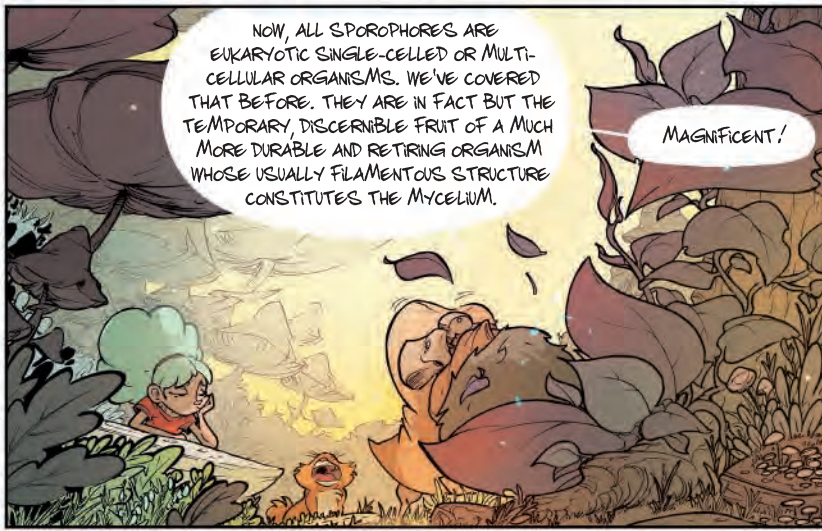
A MYCOLOGIST IS A BOTANIST WHO SPECIALIZES IN STUDYING MUSHROOMS.

EXACTLY. A BOTANIST SPECIALIZING IN MUSHROOMS. IN FACT, WE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE CALLING THEM MUSHROOMS. THAT IS AN OBSOLETE TAXONOMY. OHO!

WHAT WE SO COARSELY CALL "MUSHROOMS" ARE A KINGDOM INCLUDING MYCOTA, COMYCOTA, CHYTRIDIOMYCOTA, AND MYCETOZOA. A PROPER DRUID MIGHT REFER TO THESE AS SPOROPOHORES. REPEAT AFTER ME, ELENORA.

SPOROPOHORES.

VERY GOOD!

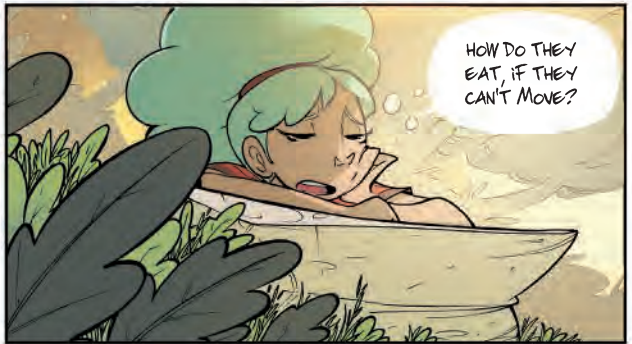


NOW, ALL SPOROPOHORES ARE EUKARYOTIC SINGLE-CELLED OR MULTI-CELLULAR ORGANISMS. THEY ARE IN FACT BUT THE TEMPORARY, DISCERNIBLE FRUIT OF A MUCH MORE DURABLE AND RETIRING ORGANISM WHOSE USUALLY FILAMENTOUS STRUCTURE CONSTITUTES THE MYCELIUM.

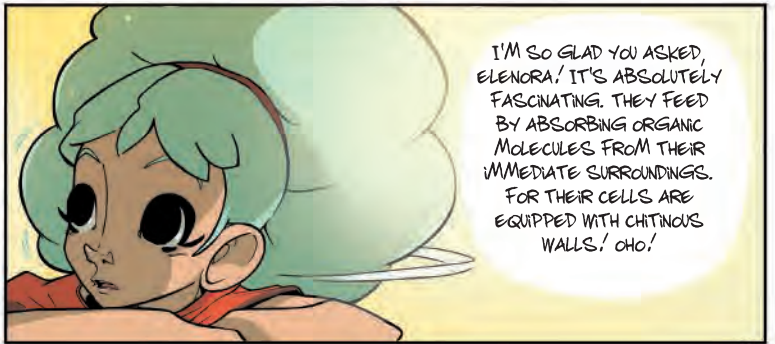
MAGNIFICENT!



DID YOU KNOW THAT SPOROPOHORES CANNOT MOVE? AND YET, IN THIS FOREST, YOU WILL COME ACROSS SPECIMENS CAPABLE OF LOCOMOTION. NOW, YOU MIGHT BE ASKING YOURSELF: HOW DO THEY EAT, IF THEY CAN'T MOVE?



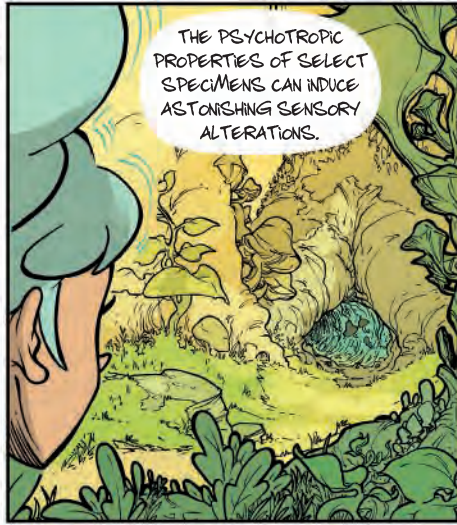
HOW DO THEY EAT, IF THEY CAN'T MOVE?



I'M SO GLAD YOU ASKED, ELENORA! IT'S ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING. THEY FEED BY ABSORBING ORGANIC MOLECULES FROM THEIR IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS. FOR THEIR CELLS ARE EQUIPPED WITH CHITINOUS WALLS! OHO!



MOVING ALONG...
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU
SOME PSYCHOTROPIC
SPECIES QUITE USEFUL
IN BREWING CERTAIN
POTIONS.



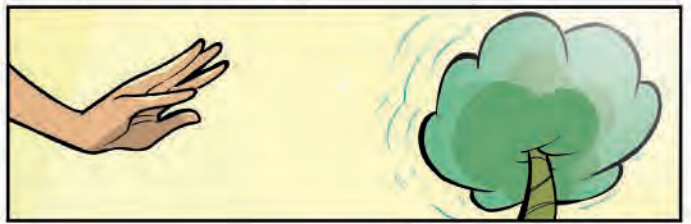
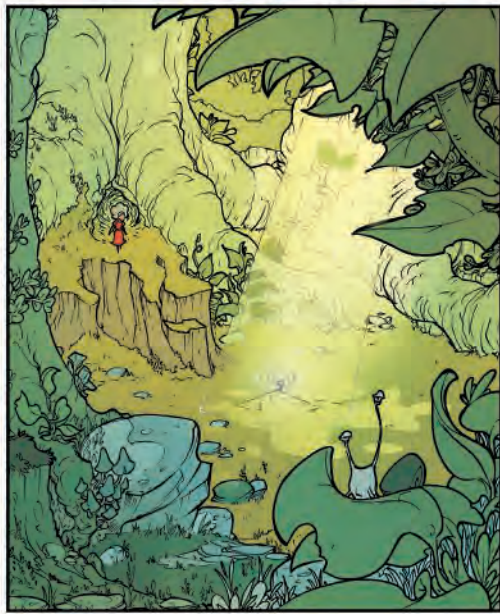
THE PSYCHOTROPIC
PROPERTIES OF SELECT
SPECIMENS CAN INDUCE
ASTONISHING SENSORY
ALTERATIONS.



I SIMPLY MUST
TELL YOU ABOUT THE
TIME MORGANA AND I
BLAH BLAH BLAH...



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DON'T MOVE. I THINK THAT'S A MANDRAKE! MANDRACORA OFFICINARUM!

SO WHAT?



SO WHAT?!

SO WHAT?! DON'T YOU EVER LISTEN TO A THING I SAY? MANDRAKES ARE DANGEROUS! YOU CAN'T JUST PULL ONE OUT OF THE GROUND WITHOUT TAKING SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS! THERE ARE RITUALS!

WHY?

WHY? WHY, YOU ASK? WHY, BECAUSE OF THEIR SCREAMS!



HOW CAN MY VERY OWN DAUGHTER BE SO IGNORANT? WHEN YOU PULL UP A MANDRAKE ROOT, IT LETS OUT A SCREAM SO POWERFUL AS TO KILL THE FIRST LIVING THING IN EARSHOT.

WAIT A MINUTE - HOW DID YOU FIND IT?



I DUNNO. I HEARD ITS VOICE IN MY HEAD.

YOU HEARD ITS VOICE? Hmm...



BY MY BEARD! CAN YOU FIND MORE?

MAYBE... BUT THEN HOW DO YOU GET THEM OUT OF THE GROUND?



BY PULLING!

BUT YOU SAID THE SCREAM...

WOULD KILL US! CHO! MERLIN? KILLED BY A MANDRAKE'S SCREAM? THAT'LL BE THE DAY! THE DEMON BLOOD THAT COURSES THROUGH MY VEINS PROTECTS ME FROM SUCH TRIVIAL MAGIC.



THE SAME BLOOD COURSES THROUGH YOU, ELENORA.



ITS CRY WILL, AT BEST, TICKLE OUR EARS.

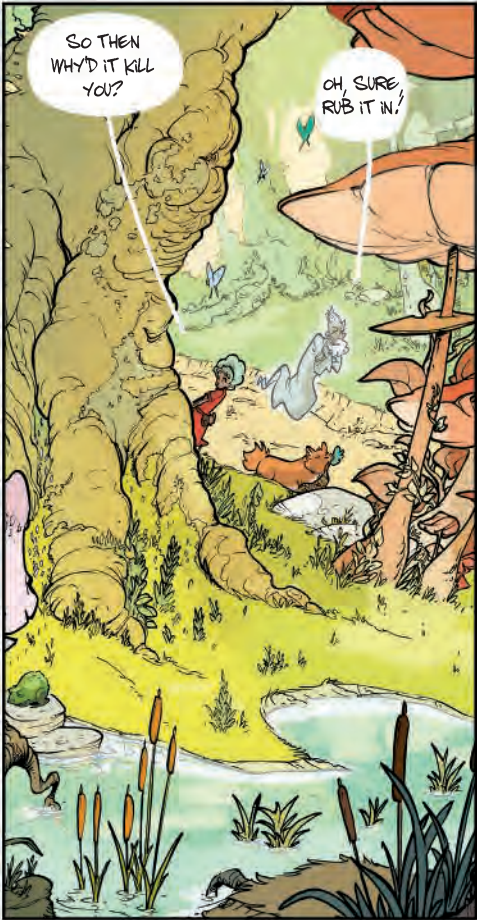






WHY DIDN'T ITS SCREAM KILL ME?

ALREADY TOLD YOU. DEMON BLOOD.



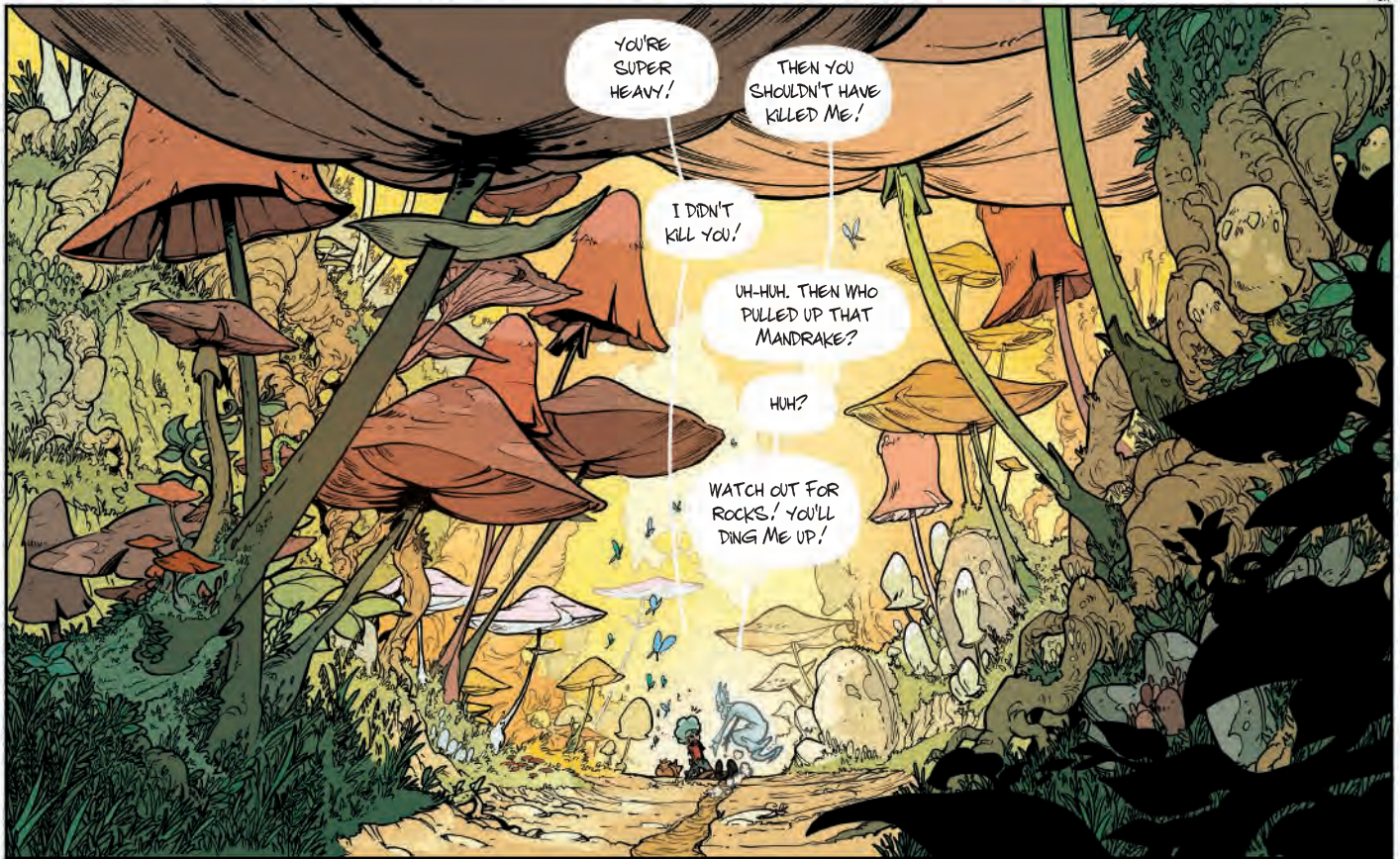
SO THEN WHY'D IT KILL YOU?

OH, SURE, RUB IT IN!



ANYWAY, I WON'T STAY DEAD FOR LONG.

OOF!



YOU'RE SUPER HEAVY!

THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE KILLED ME!

I DIDN'T KILL YOU!

UH-HUH. THEN WHO PULLED UP THAT MANDRAKE?

HUH?

WATCH OUT FOR ROCKS! YOU'LL DING ME UP!