

In Which We Meet Two Celebrated
Adventurers With A Problem Of Ethics,
And A Young Woman Takes An Urgent Job.
At Four O'Clock In The Morning.

MANY YEARS AGO.

I AM THE
EMPIRE'S FINEST
CRYPTOZOOLOGIST,
ARCTURUS. I CRAVE
EVIDENCE OF MY
FINDINGS.

YOU CRAVE
A PERMANENT
PROFESSORSHIP,
OLD MAN. MY LORD,
BUT THERE'S A
STENCH IN HERE.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO
SEE RIGHT THROUGH
ME. YOU KNOW I'M
RIGHT ABOUT THEM,
THOUGH.

YOU AND GINNY
HAVE ALWAYS WORRIED
TOO MUCH ABOUT THE
OPINIONS OF OUR PEERS.
THE SMELL IS GETTING
WORSE, KEVIN.

HARD EVIDENCE OF MY
FINDS WILL LEAD TO JOB
SECURITY, TO BE SURE--
BUT NO MATTER WHAT
YOU SAY, THE PATH TO
PROFESSIONAL
VALIDATION IS FOUND
IN, WELL...



...BRINGING THE CREATURES OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT.



MY CONTACT IN *CORNWALL* SAID THAT SEVERAL HIKERS SPOTTED TINY, COLORFUL LIGHTS FLITTING ABOUT THE TREES AROUND HERE AT NIGHT. WHEN I ARRIVED YESTERDAY, I FOUND THE *PIXIE SCAT* THAT LED ME IN HERE.

YOU THINK IT'S *ONE*, THEN? OR A COLONY?



I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST.

IF WE CAN FIND A LAIR, PHOTOGRAPH IT-- GET EVIDENCE OF THE CREATURES-- IT'D MAKE A FINE CENTERPIECE FOR MY BOOK.

THE JOB AT OXFORD WOULD BE MINE FOR THE TAKING, AND GINNY'D HAVE HER "BETTER LIFE," EH?



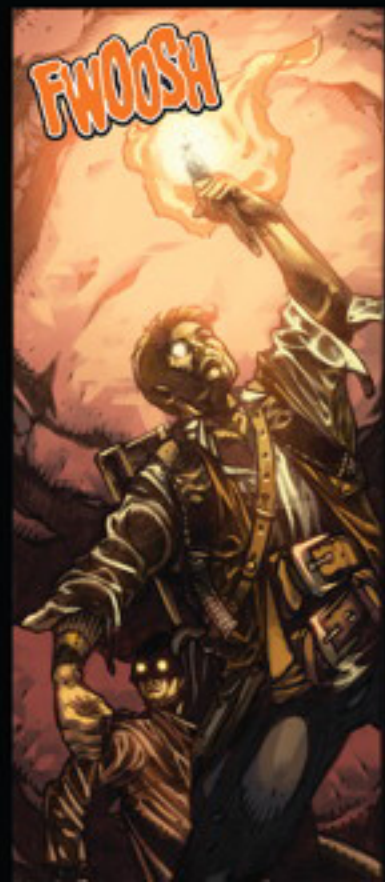
I RECKON OXFORD WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO FORK OUT FINANCING FOR YOUR EXPEDITIONS, AS WELL...

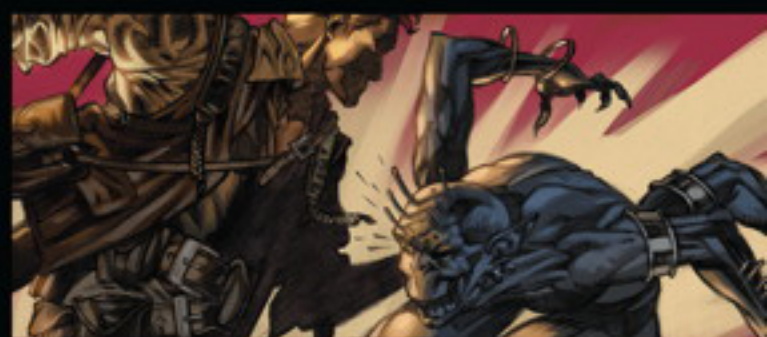


BENEFITS OF RECOGNITION, OLD FRIEND--



OVERHEAD, KEVIN!







THAT WAS IT! JUST LIKE YOU SAID! YOU SAID IT WOULD BE HERE-- AND THERE IT IS!



WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER IT.



WHAT? WELL, OF COURSE. I CAN BRING IN MORE LIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND BETTER PHOTO GEAR. JUST GIVE ME AN HOUR--

NOW. DAMNED THING ACTUALLY GOT MY WEDDING RING. IT WAS GINNY'S GRANDDAD'S. YOU KNOW SHE'LL SUFFER A STROKE IF I LOSE IT.



CAN'T HAVE THAT, NOW, CAN WE?



HWOOSH

DAMMIT!

CHOK
WSSHH

YOU FORGET YOU'RE WEARING ONE OF MY WING PACKS, THICKIE?

YOU HAVEN'T CALLED ME THAT SINCE WE WERE BOARDERS!

YOU HAVEN'T ACTED THIS *THICK* SINCE THEN, OLD BOY!

SKASH

NO!!!



IT'S
GETTING
AWAY!

SKFFFF