

Gertrude Chandler Warner's

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

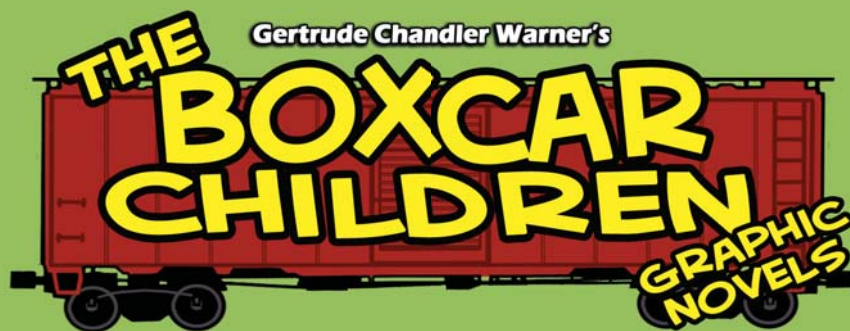
GRAPHIC
NOVELS

THE WOODSHED MYSTERY



Joeming Dunn

Ben Dunn



BOOK THIRTEEN

THE WOODSHED MYSTERY

The Alden Children are staying at the New England farmhouse where their grandfather grew up. There are many legends about the old farm, especially about a woodshed near the house. Can the Boxcar Children discover the secret of the woodshed—one that goes back to the Revolutionary War?

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- 1. THE BOXCAR CHILDREN**
- 2. SURPRISE ISLAND**
- 3. THE YELLOW HOUSE MYSTERY**
- 4. MYSTERY RANCH**
- 5. MIKE'S MYSTERY**
- 6. BLUE BAY MYSTERY**
- 7. SNOWBOUND MYSTERY**
- 8. TREE HOUSE MYSTERY**
- 9. THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY**
- 10. THE AMUSEMENT PARK MYSTERY**
- 11. THE PIZZA MYSTERY**
- 12. THE CASTLE MYSTERY**
- 13. THE WOODSHED MYSTERY**
- 14. THE LIGHTHOUSE MYSTERY**
- 15. MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY**
- 16. HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY**
- 17. BICYCLE MYSTERY**
- 18. MYSTERY IN THE SAND**

Gertrude Chandler Warner's
THE BOXCAR CHILDREN
THE WOODSHED MYSTERY

Adapted by Joeming Dunn
Illustrated by Ben Dunn



Henry Alden



Jessie Alden



Watch



Violet Alden



Benny Alden



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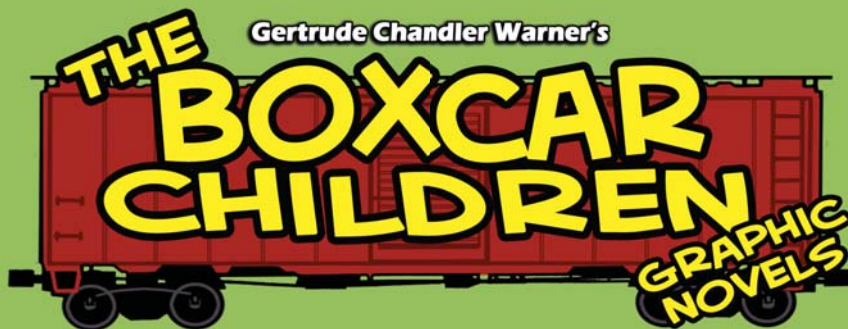
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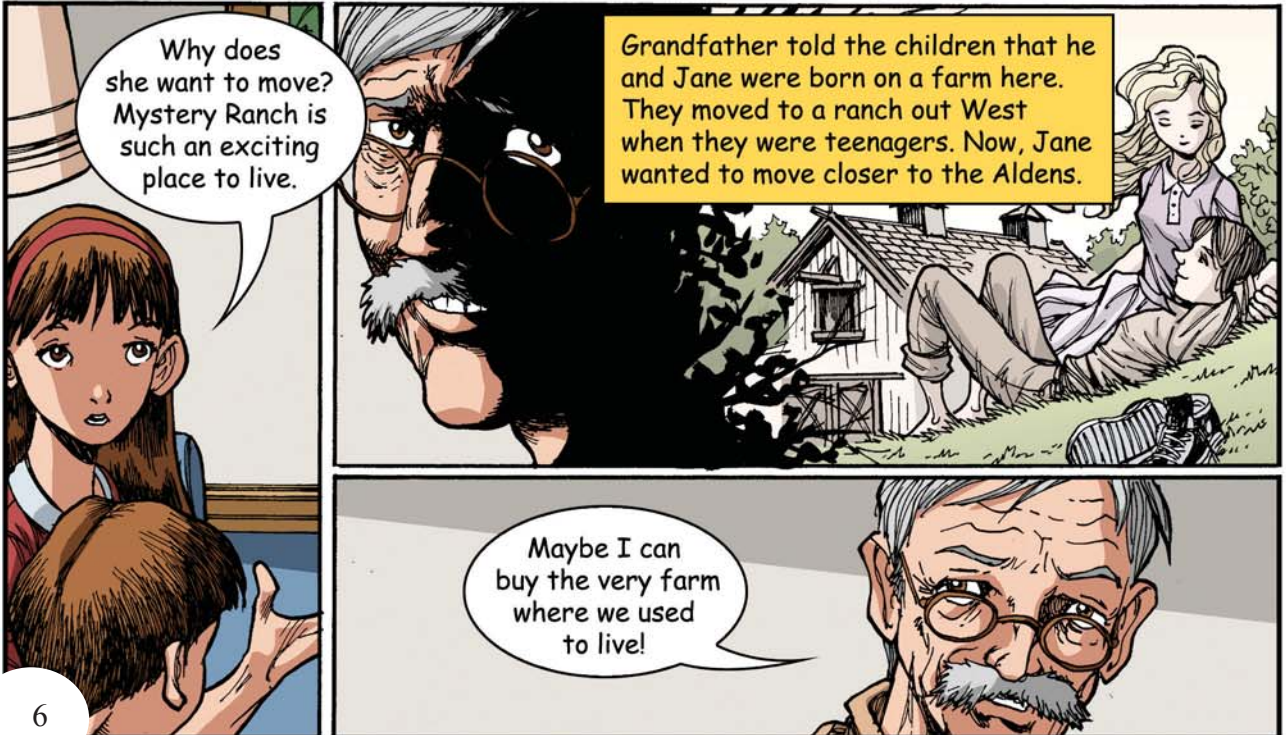
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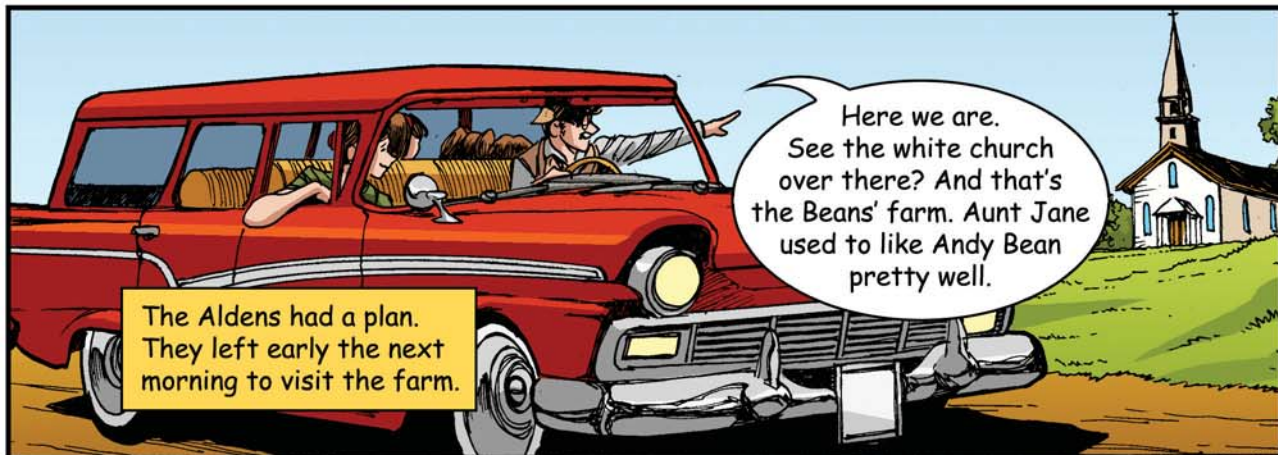


BOOK THIRTEEN
THE WOODSHED MYSTERY

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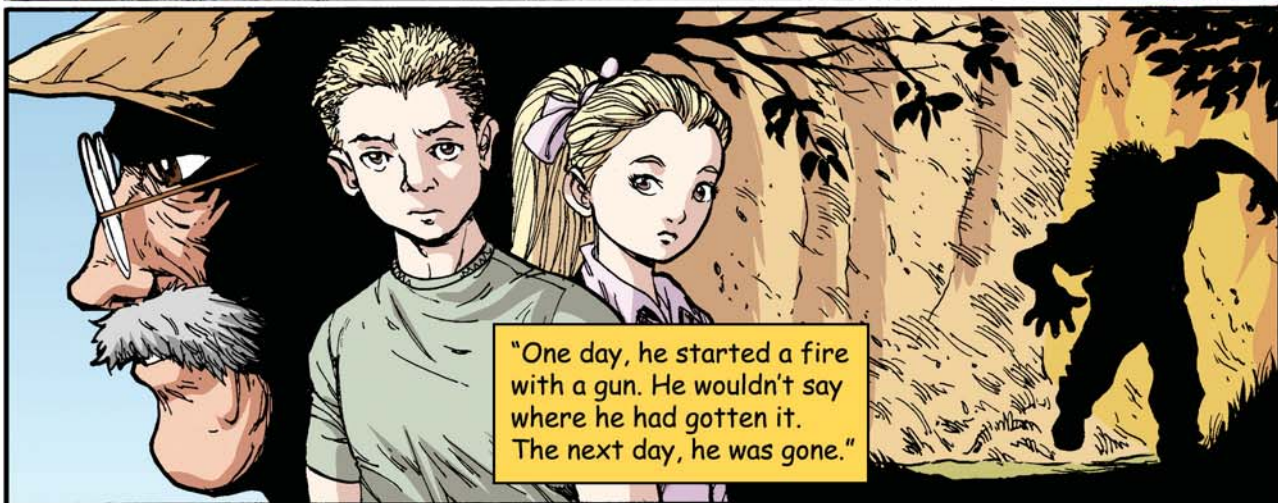
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The Aldens had a plan. They left early the next morning to visit the farm.

Here we are. See the white church over there? And that's the Beans' farm. Aunt Jane used to like Andy Bean pretty well.

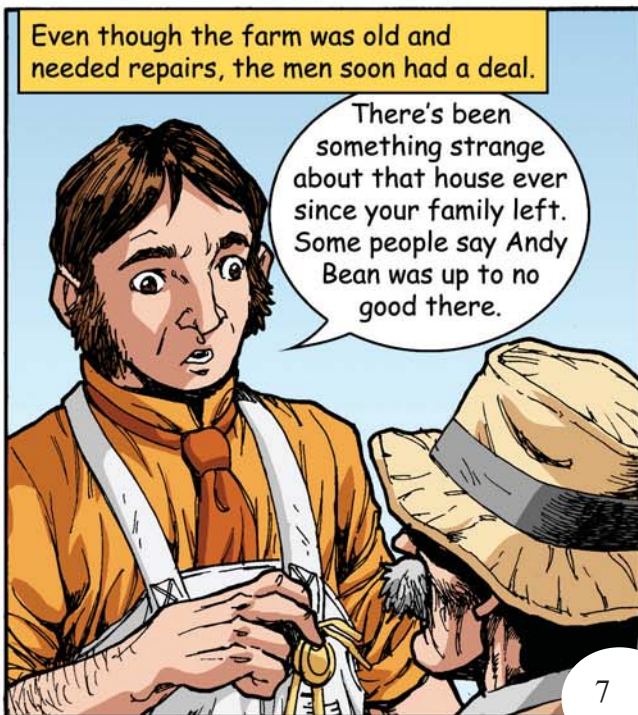


"One day, he started a fire with a gun. He wouldn't say where he had gotten it. The next day, he was gone."



Mr. Morse owned the town store. He also owned the farm.

I bet you're James Alden. I'm Elisha Morse.



Even though the farm was old and needed repairs, the men soon had a deal.

There's been something strange about that house ever since your family left. Some people say Andy Bean was up to no good there.

The Aldens made their way to the farm.



Oh!



This house was built in 1750. Before the Revolutionary War!



What an enormous fireplace! Look at the old brick ovens on both sides.

GRANDFATHER TAKES OVER

Soon the house was busy with workers.



The Aldens quickly tired of watching the work. They began to explore the house.

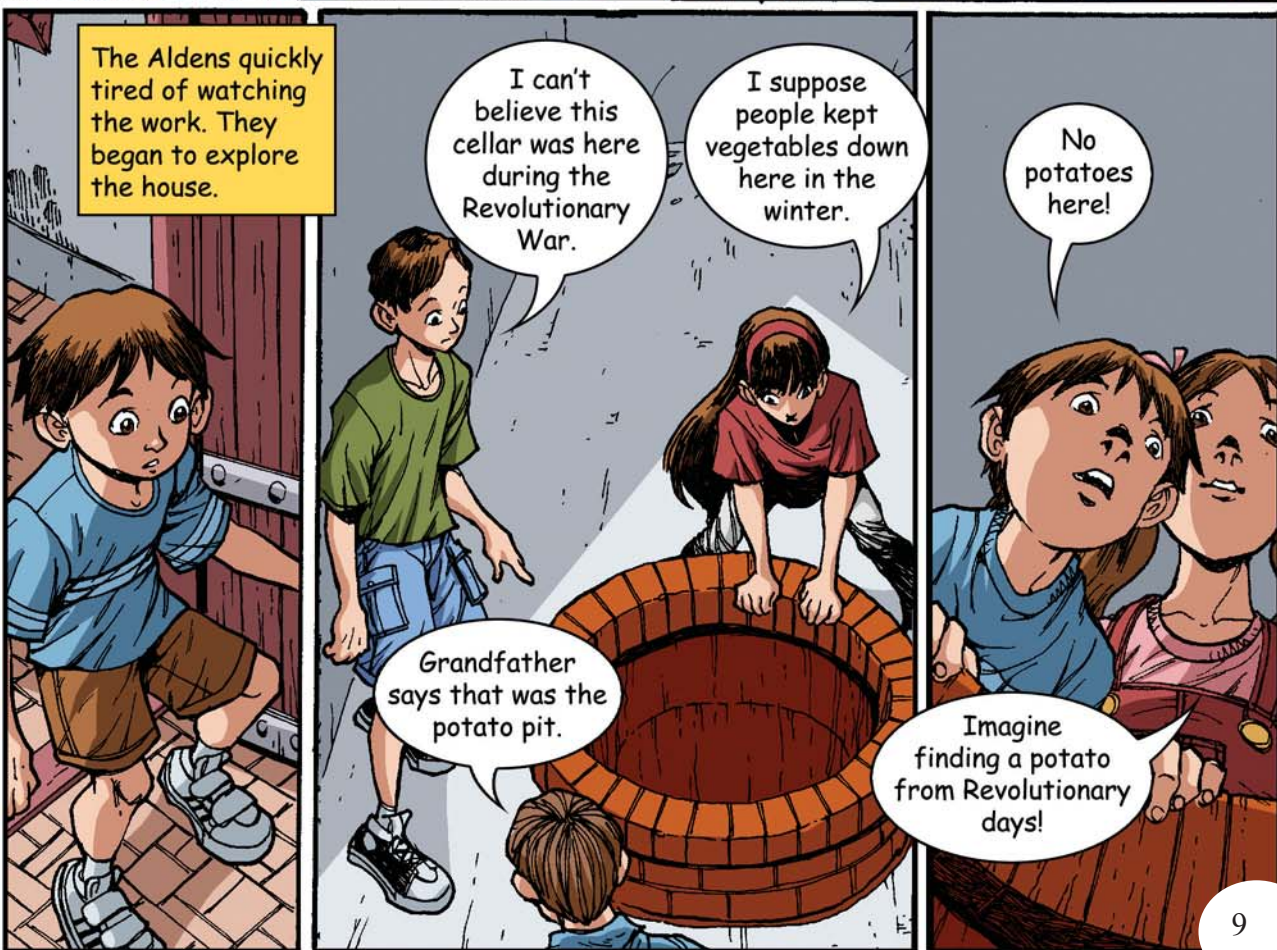
I can't believe this cellar was here during the Revolutionary War.

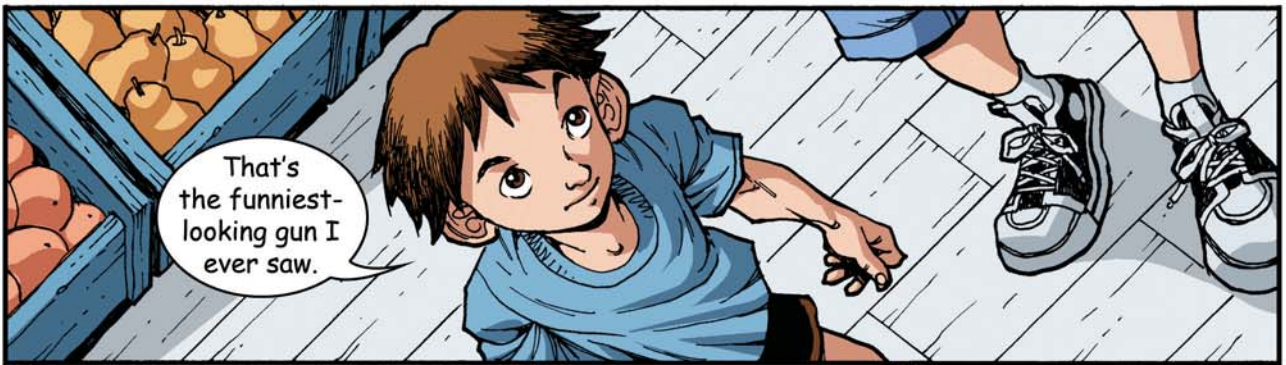
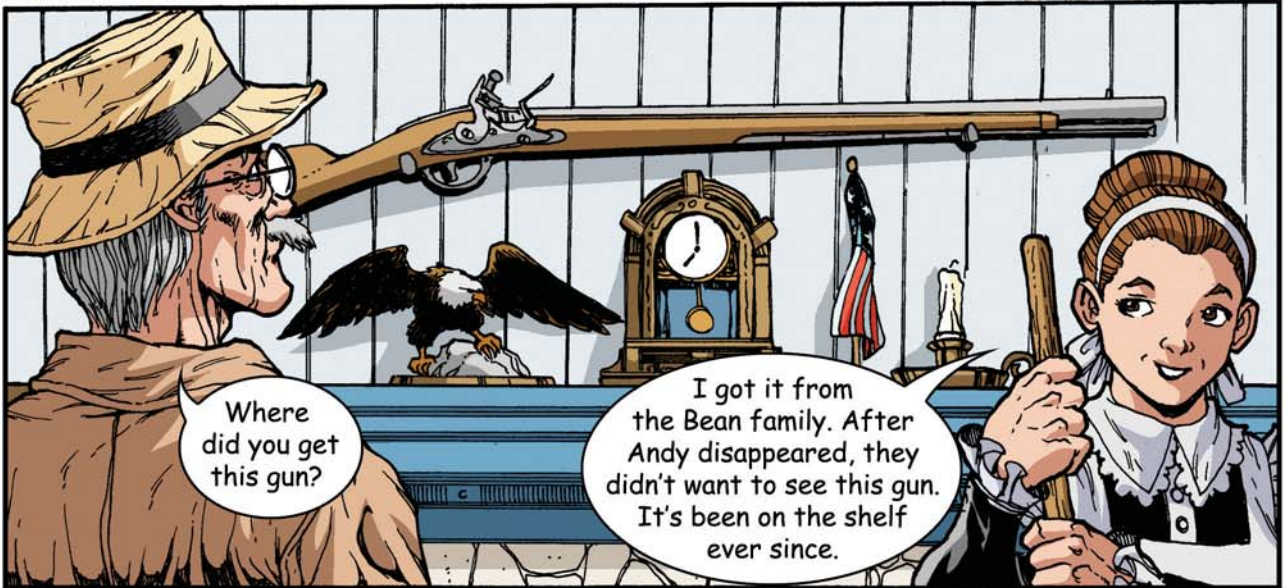
I suppose people kept vegetables down here in the winter.

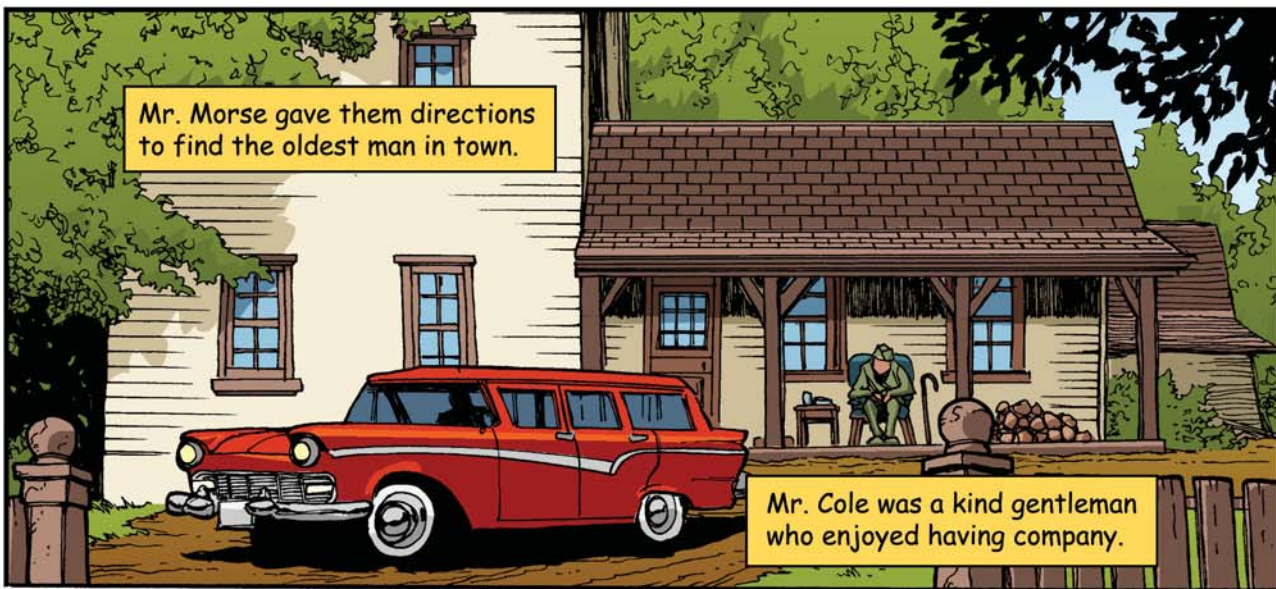
No potatoes here!

Grandfather says that was the potato pit.

Imagine finding a potato from Revolutionary days!









EXPLORING THE WOODSHED

A few weeks later, the house was done. Aunt Jane had arrived!

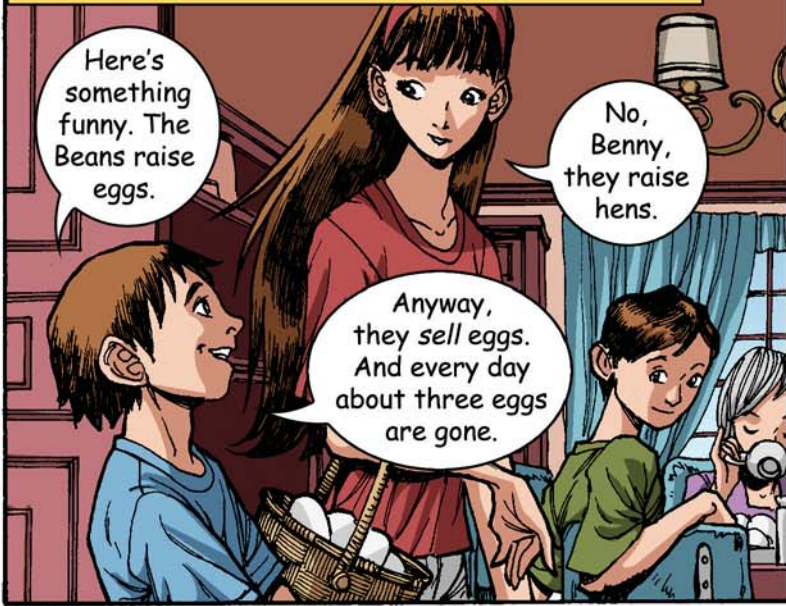


James, how did you ever get this farm back?

Very easily. Nobody wanted it.

Well, I want it. What a fine summer we'll have with the children.

Aunt Jane and the kids settled in for the summer. Everyone in town now knew the four young Aldens. Benny had just returned from visiting the Bean Farm.



Here's something funny. The Beans raise eggs.

No, Benny, they raise hens.

Anyway, they sell eggs. And every day about three eggs are gone.



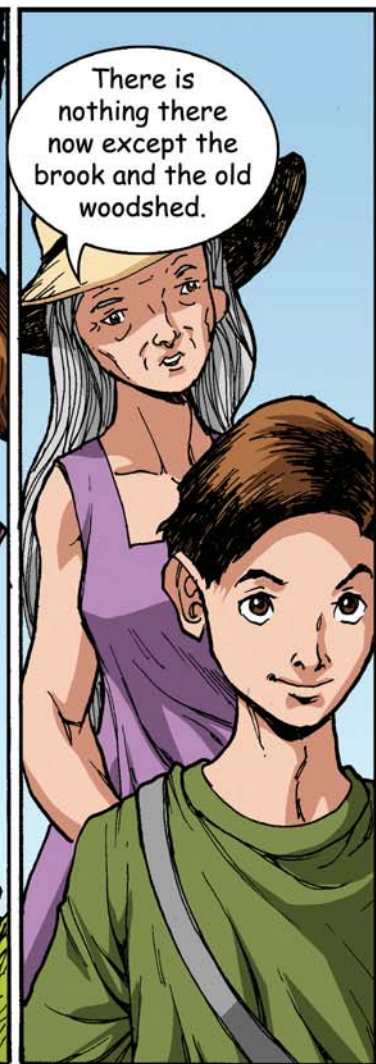
How do the Beans know?

They keep track of how many eggs they have. They think somebody is stealing eggs.

A mystery!



We've been everywhere in this town except the woods. Let's go in the woods today.



There is nothing there now except the brook and the old woodshed.



The kids were soon all off to see the woodshed.



It isn't much.



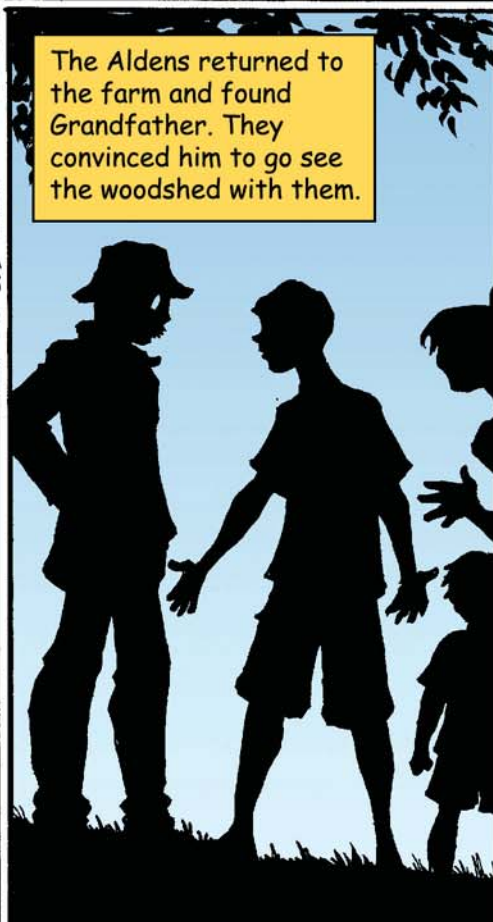


An egg!
This is where
the eggs
go!



Henry, now a bit worried,
guided the kids out of the shed.

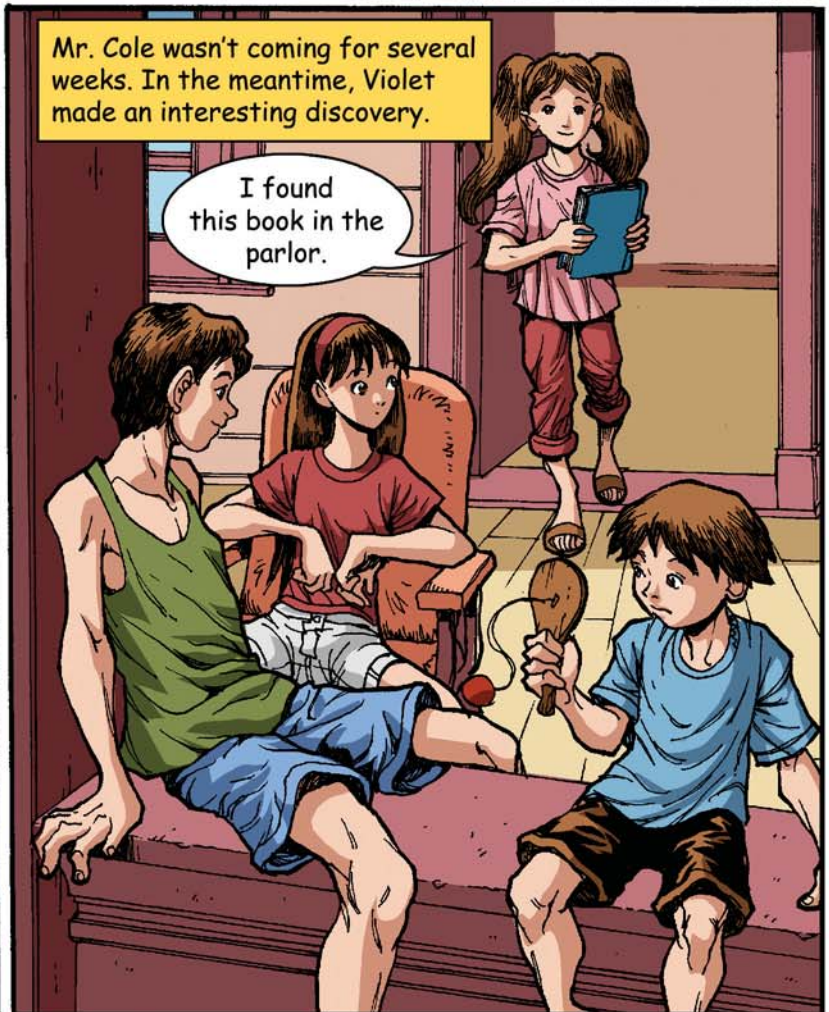
Now we have
two mysteries: who
takes the eggs and
who lives here?
Let's go.

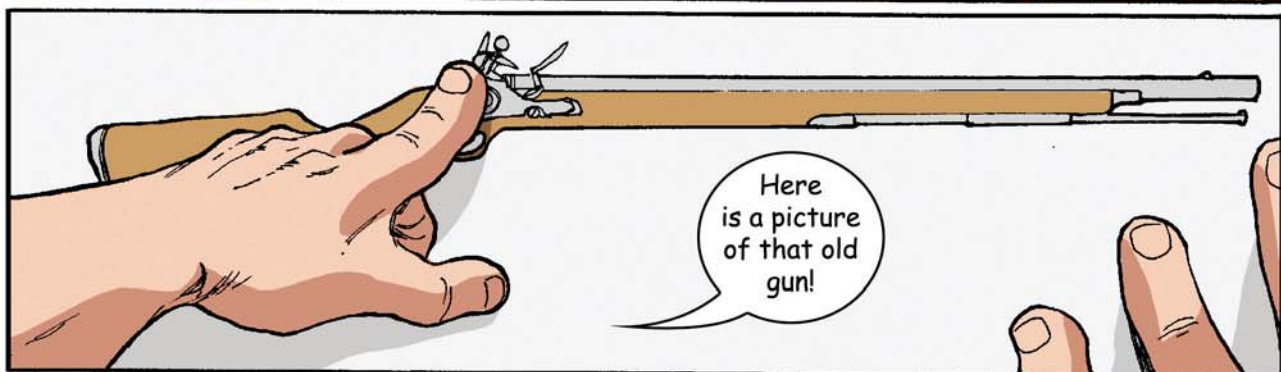
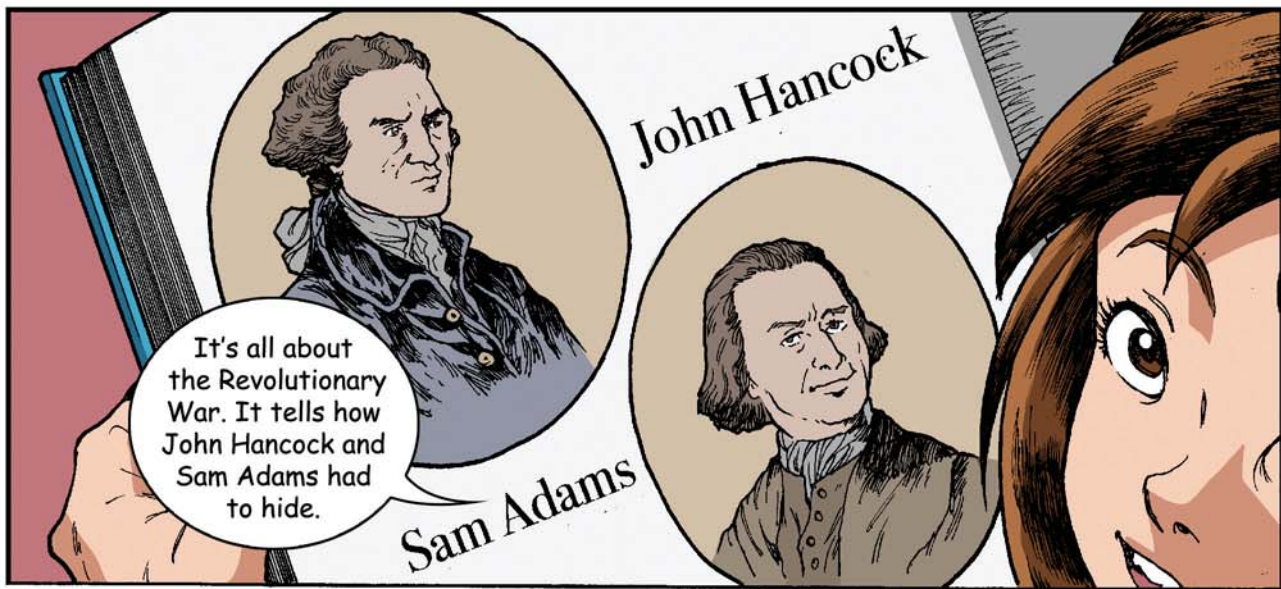


The Aldens returned to
the farm and found
Grandfather. They
convinced him to go see
the woodshed with them.



You'll
see for yourself.
Go in and look
around.







John Hancock's men gathered all the guns, bullets, and gunpowder they could. One time they hid guns in a load of hay. The Redcoats just stood and watched the hay go by.



Do you think any of those men hid in our woodshed?

Maybe.

Let's go back to the woodshed. This time we'll take a flashlight.

BACK TO THE WOODSHED



The Aldens brought Watch to the woodshed to explore. They wanted all the help they could get!



When they looked inside, the table, dishes, and food were back.



Somebody's living here. His hiding place can't be very far away.

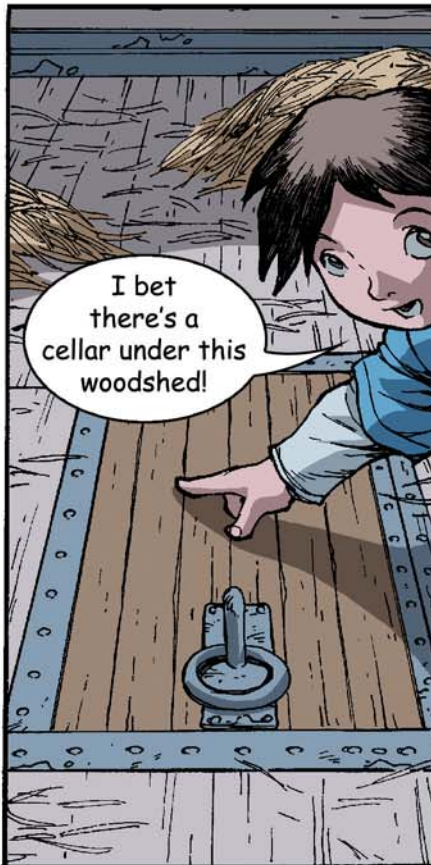


Hay! Just like in the book!

Henry moved the hay aside to look more closely...



I bet there's a cellar under this woodshed!



Henry led the way down the stairs they had found.



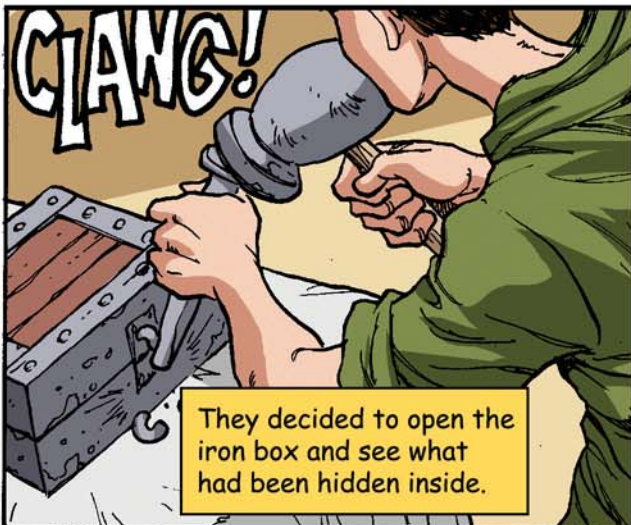
It's spooky down here.





The group went to tell Aunt Jane of their discovery.

What an old candlestick. This is the kind they used at the time of the Revolutionary War.



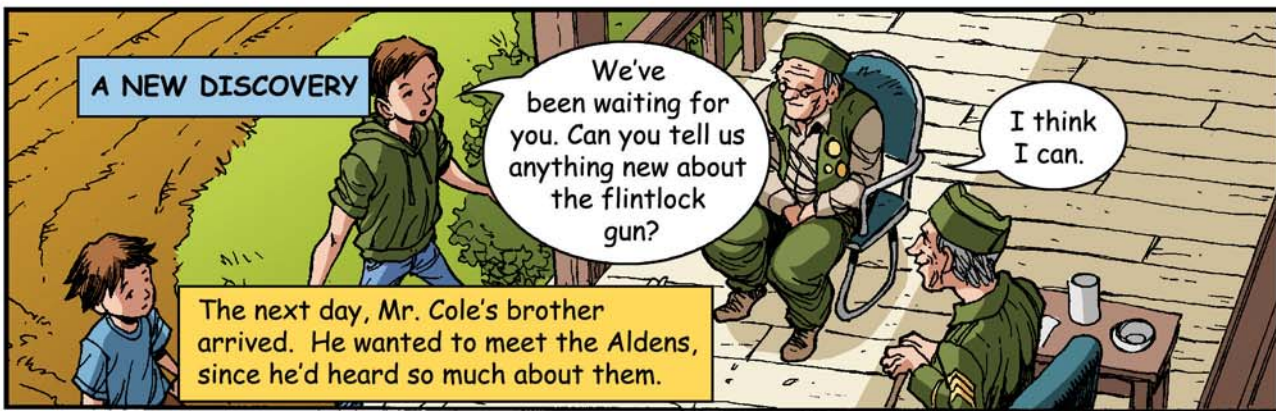
They decided to open the iron box and see what had been hidden inside.

It just has a lot of old black powder.

Gunpowder! Be careful, it's still dangerous.

I think we found where they hid the ammunition!

Aunt Jane, the dirt in the woodshed looked as if it had been moved. There's a stranger around here.

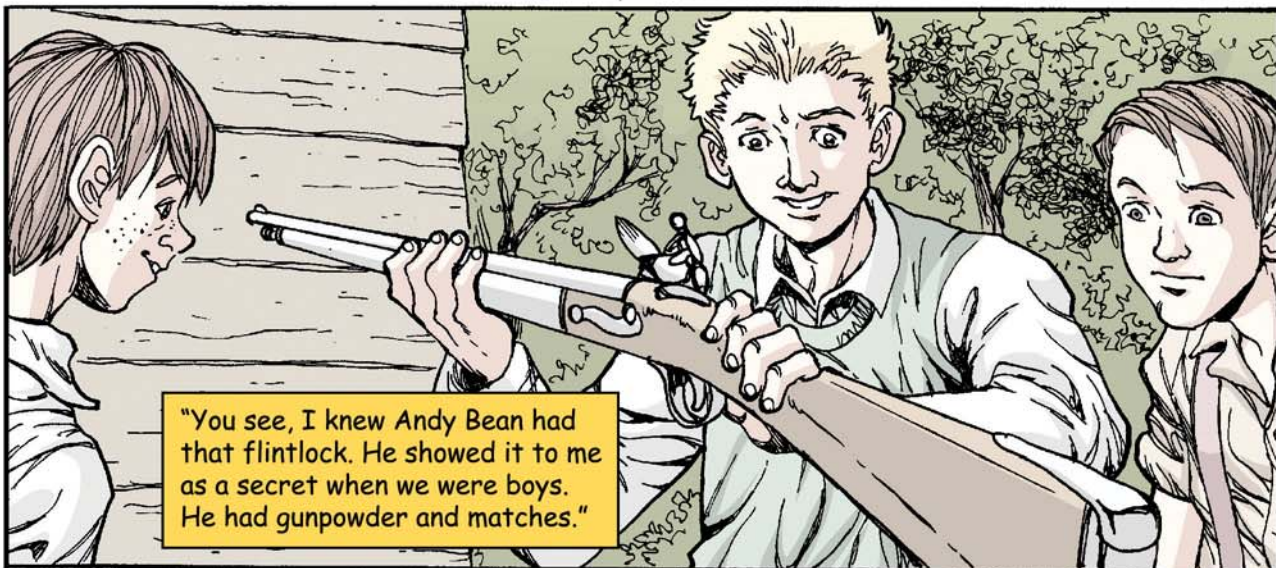


A NEW DISCOVERY

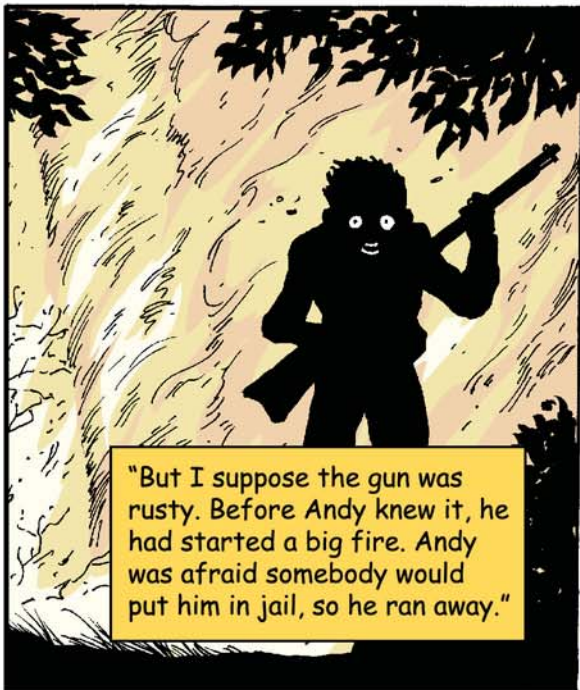
We've been waiting for you. Can you tell us anything new about the flintlock gun?

I think I can.

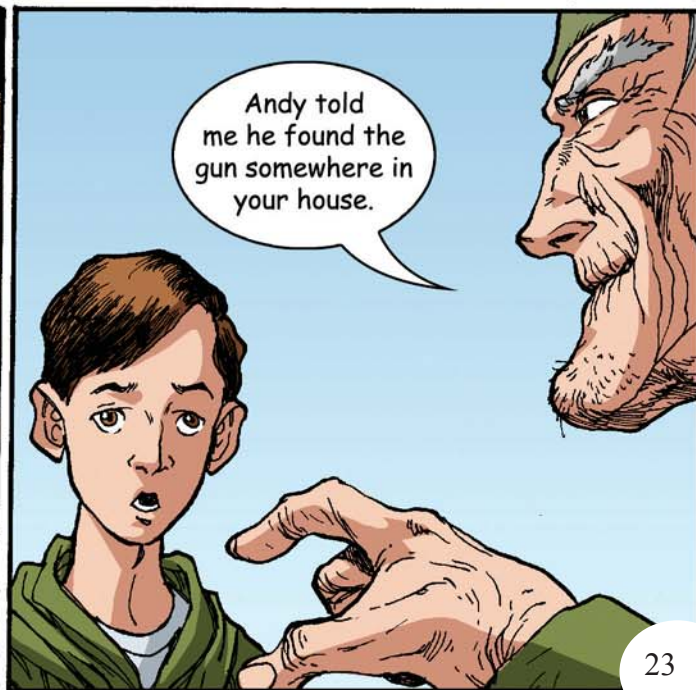
The next day, Mr. Cole's brother arrived. He wanted to meet the Aldens, since he'd heard so much about them.



"You see, I knew Andy Bean had that flintlock. He showed it to me as a secret when we were boys. He had gunpowder and matches."



"But I suppose the gun was rusty. Before Andy knew it, he had started a big fire. Andy was afraid somebody would put him in jail, so he ran away."



Andy told me he found the gun somewhere in your house.

After that interesting story, the Aldens started to piece together the puzzle of where Andy found the gun.

Benny,
where would
you begin?

The
potato
pit.



The group quickly
went down into the
farm's potato pit.

Look over
here!



Jessie and Henry
removed the dirt
from the wall.

There was a
door, just like in
the woodshed!





Grandfather helped them haul their new discoveries out to the yard to show Aunt Jane.

All these years we lived here, nobody ever found that door.

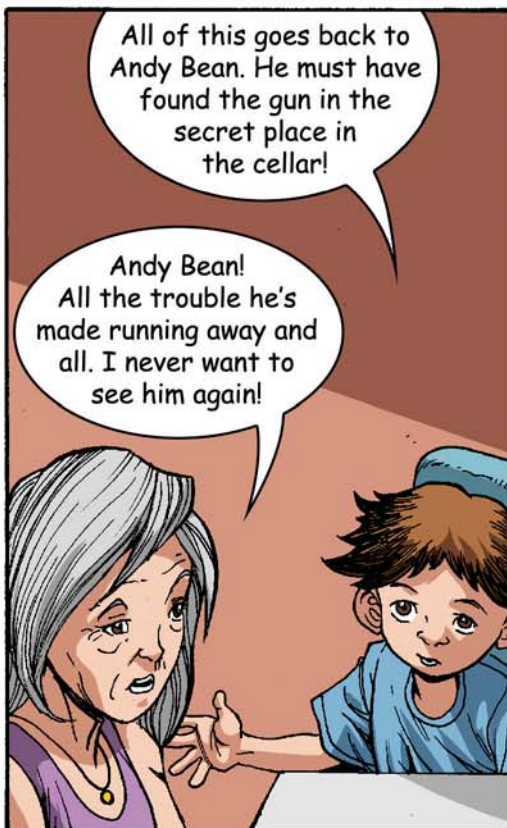
I'm sure someone hid from the Redcoats in those caves!

Oh, I'm tired out thinking!



All of this goes back to Andy Bean. He must have found the gun in the secret place in the cellar!

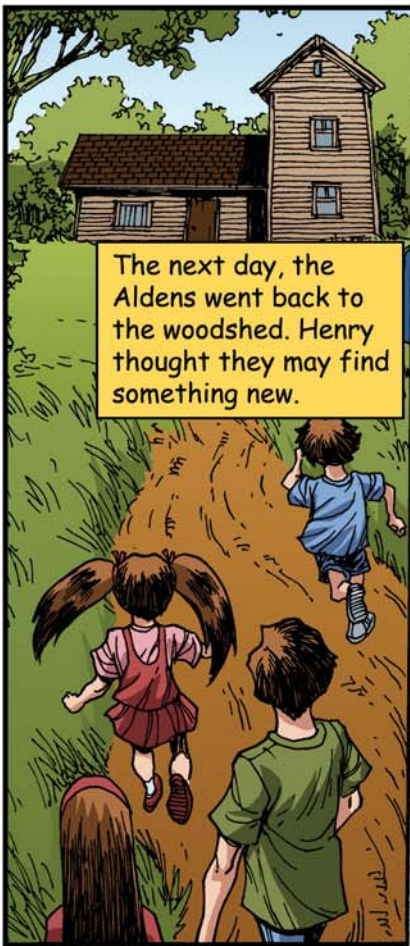
Andy Bean!
All the trouble he's made running away and all. I never want to see him again!



The children were surprised! Aunt Jane never said things like that.

I'm so sorry. I just got to thinking how nice it would have been if Andy hadn't run away.







She hates me! She never wants to see me again.

The children weren't sure who the man was talking about...



After the man left, the Aldens continued to the woodshed.

That man was strange! I wonder who he was...



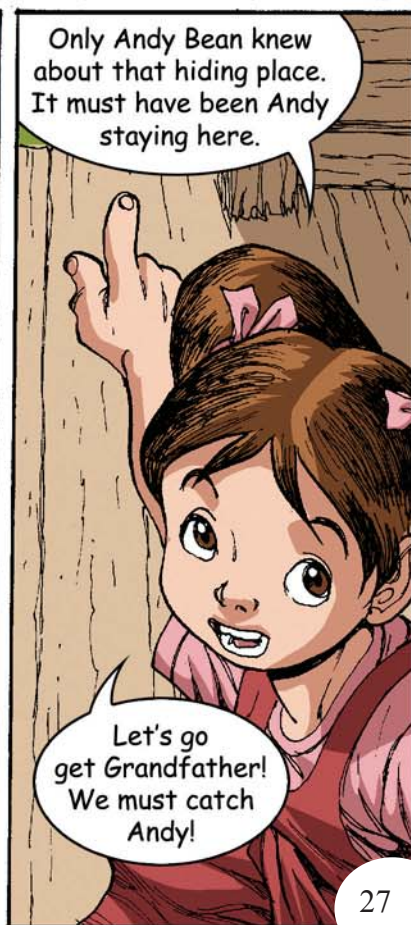
When they arrived, they found it empty again.

We've explored all around here. There isn't anywhere else a person could stay.

I bet that man was staying here!



All his things are gone now.

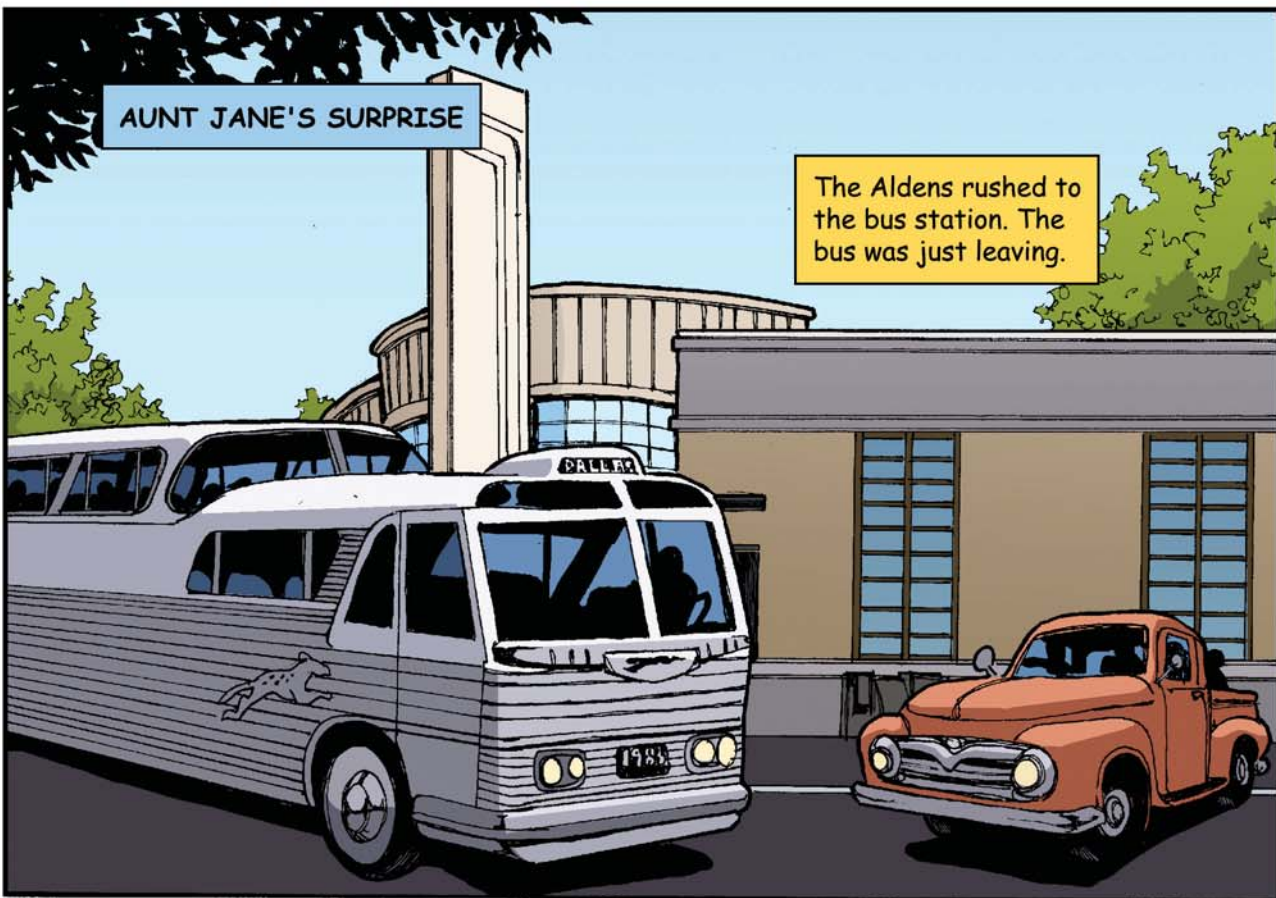


Only Andy Bean knew about that hiding place. It must have been Andy staying here.

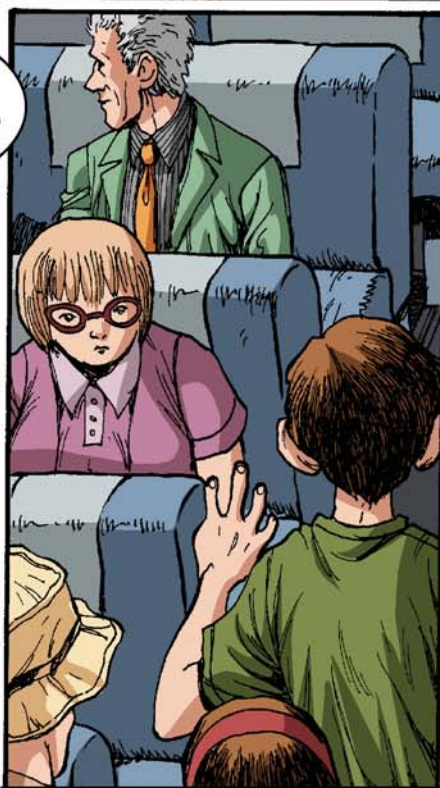
Let's go get Grandfather! We must catch Andy!

AUNT JANE'S SURPRISE

The Aldens rushed to the bus station. The bus was just leaving.



Thank you for stopping! We're looking for someone.



Are you Andy Bean?

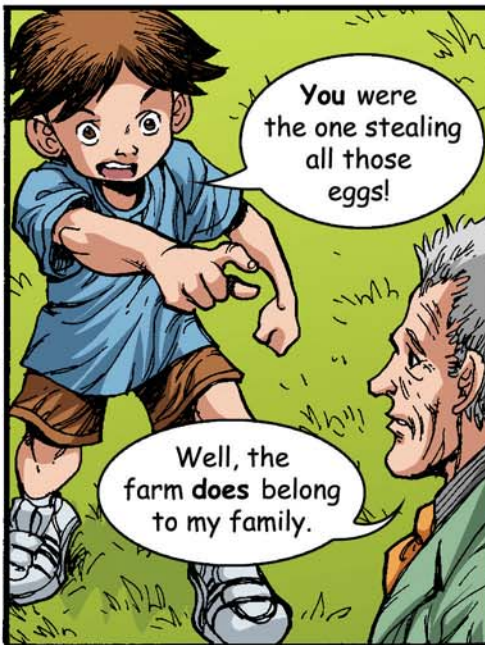
Yes, I am.



The Aldens brought Andy back to the farm. There, Andy told them he had read in the paper that the Aldens had bought the old house.



He came up to see if he was welcome.

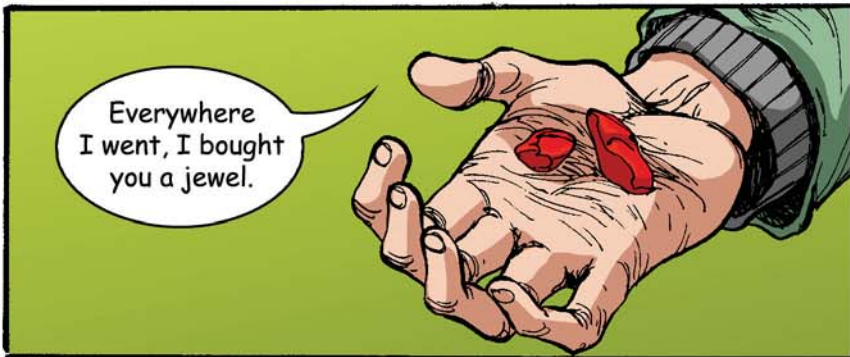


You were the one stealing all those eggs!

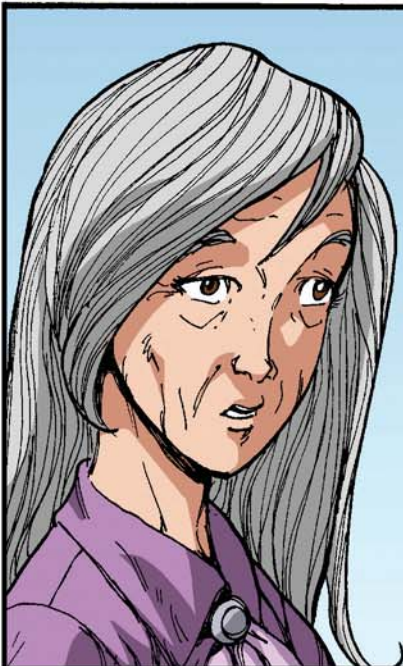
Well, the farm **does** belong to my family.



I have a long story to tell. But first I have something for you.



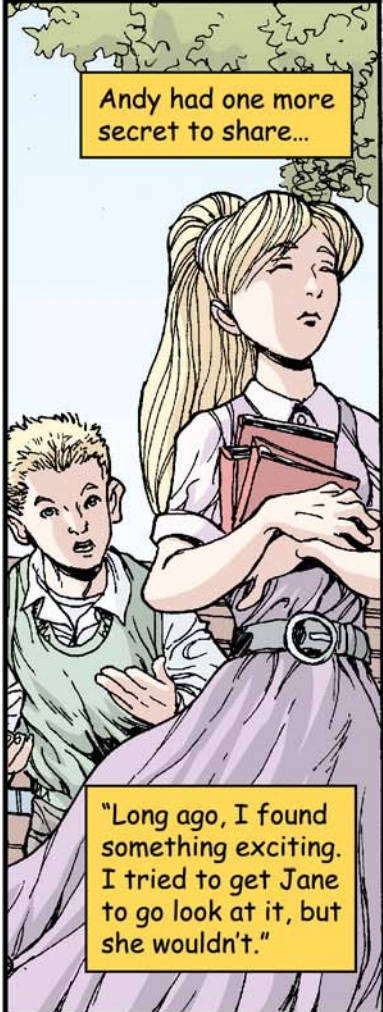
Everywhere I went, I bought you a jewel.



Why didn't you come home?

I was afraid. Then when you moved, I didn't have a reason to come back.





Andy had one more secret to share...

"Long ago, I found something exciting. I tried to get Jane to go look at it, but she wouldn't."

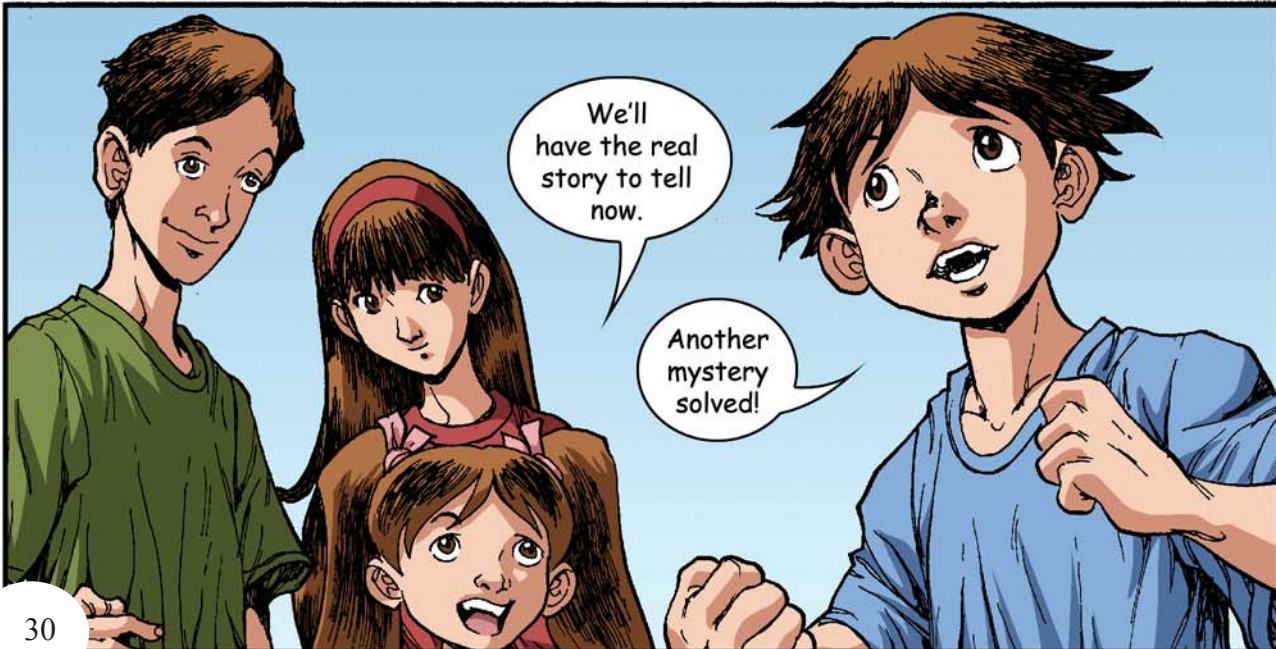


Andy shared a letter that told of the Coopers, who lived on the farm during the Revolutionary War.

They hid weapons, ammunition, and sometimes people in the woodshed and potato pit. They hoped to help make this country free.



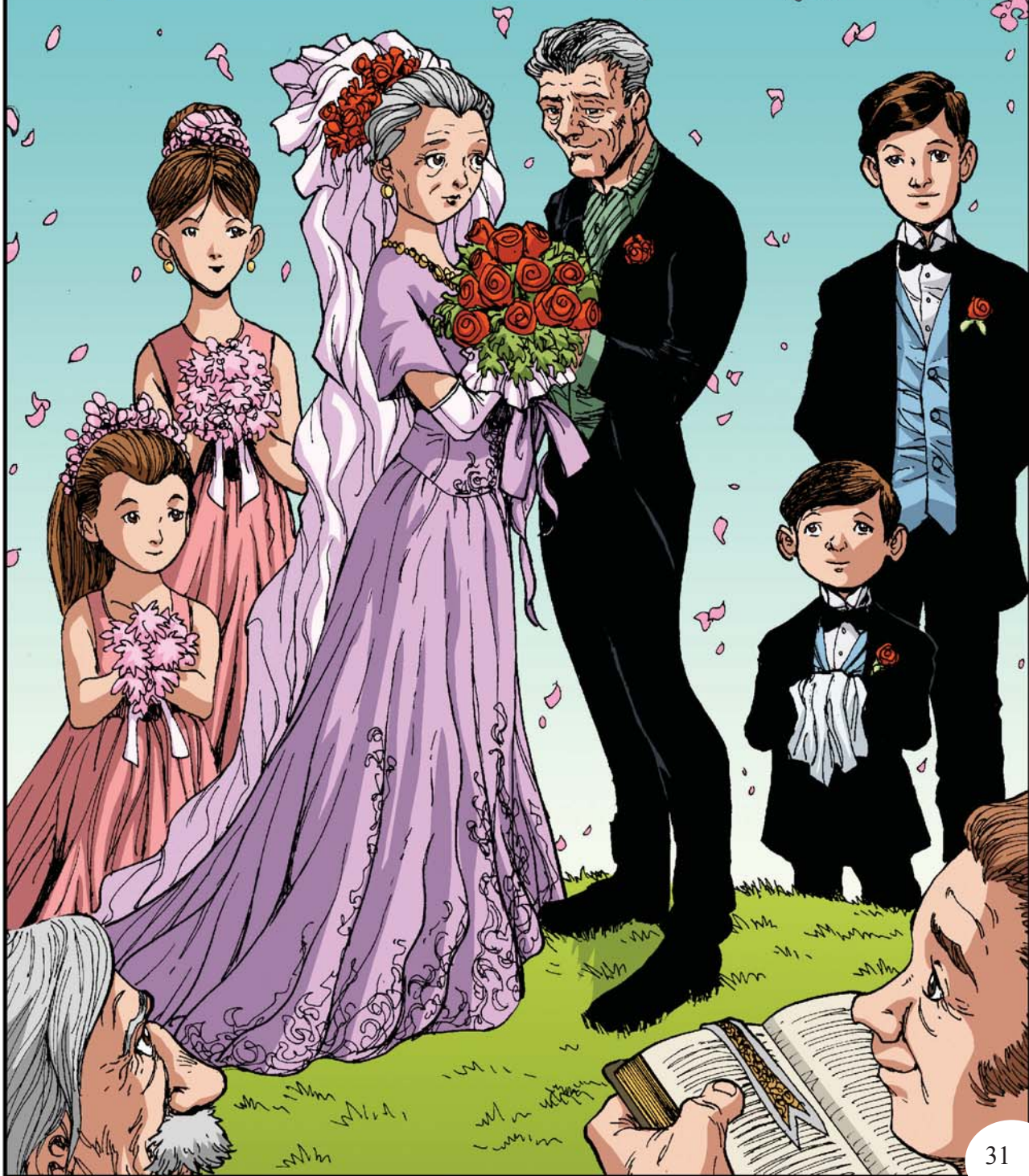
I suppose the Coopers acted strangely and many people would make up stories about this place.



We'll have the real story to tell now.

Another mystery solved!

Even though Andy and Jane were no longer young, they knew that they were meant for each other. Soon they married, and everyone celebrated.



ABOUT THE CREATOR

Gertrude Chandler Warner was born on April 16, 1890, in Putnam, Connecticut. In 1918, Warner began teaching at Israel Putnam School. As a teacher, she discovered that many readers who liked an exciting story could not find books that were both easy and fun to read. She decided to try to meet this need. In 1942, *The Boxcar Children* was published for these readers.

Warner drew on her own experience to write *The Boxcar Children*. As a child she spent hours watching trains go by on the tracks near her family home. She often dreamed about what it would be like to live in a caboose or freight car—just as the Alden children do.

When readers asked for more Alden adventures, Warner began additional stories. While the mystery element is central to each of the books, she never thought of them as strictly juvenile mysteries. She liked to stress the Aldens' independence. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny go about most of their adventures with as little adult supervision as possible—something that delights young readers.

During her lifetime, Warner received hundreds of letters from fans as she continued the Aldens' adventures, writing nineteen Boxcar Children books in all. After her death in 1979, her publisher, Albert Whitman and Company, carried on Warner's vision. Today, the Boxcar Children series has more than 100 books.

