



The
Eternal
Mountain

CHAPTER 1

JOE LATHAM



The Eternal Mountain

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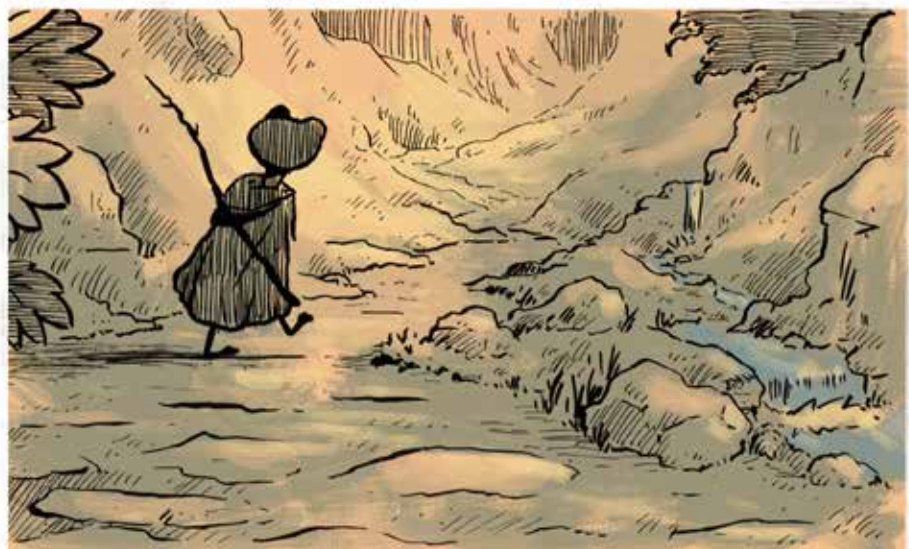
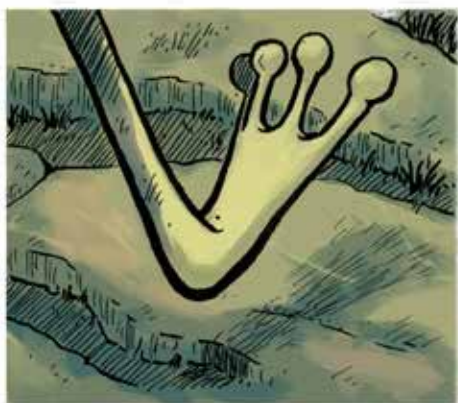
As with so many good stories, Galli's tale begins with intent. She has a focus, drive, a reason to push on. Some nights that's what keeps me awake too, some nights it's the opposite. I think that more often than not, the reason we begin something ends up deviating from the reason we finish something. Life changes us as it happens, doesn't it?!

Thank you for picking up this book.

When I was a teenager I didn't think I'd last this long, and I'm so grateful for every kind face that picks up my work or talks to me at a show or online.

Thank you to Dan Berry, Jeff Smith, Jeff Lemire, Katie Gould, Janna Morishima, Luke Hyde, Nicola Colton, Sophie Marsh, Troy Little, Brenda Hickey, Jacob Phillips, Jens K Styve, Ben Bender.

I struggle sometimes, but having you in my corner has helped keep me going. Thank you.







EVERY SINGLE PART
OF WHAT WAS...



IS A PIECE OF
WHAT SHALL BE.



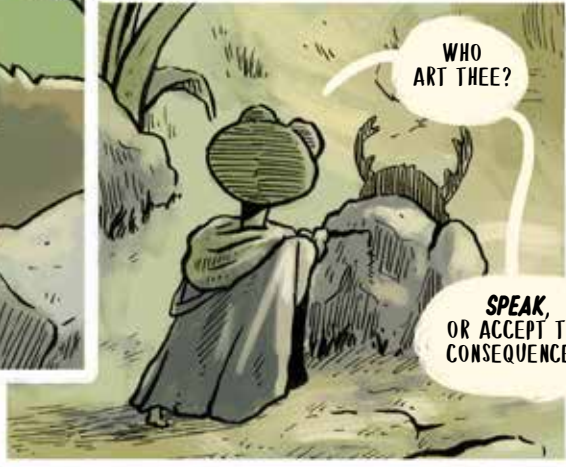
I CAN FEEL THE COOL
AIR CRAWLING OVER
FROM THE STREAM.











WHO
ART THEE?

**SPEAK,
OR ACCEPT THE
CONSEQUENCES!**



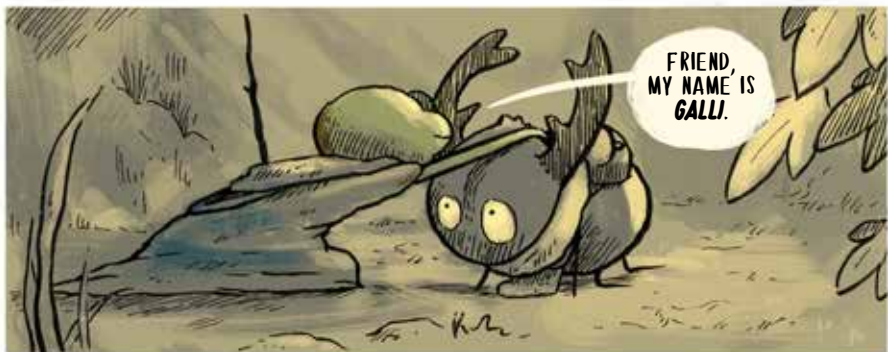
O-O-OH
I'M-UM-UM-UM
MY NAME...

MY NAME IS
M-M-MORD.

I-I-I'VE
LOST MY
FAMILY!

I'VE
LOST THEM
ALL!





FRIEND,
MY NAME IS
GALLI.



WOULD
YOU LIKE SOME
HELP?

GOSH, HE'S TALLER
THAN I THOUGHT.



O-OH
CRUMBS!

OH Y-Y-YES
PLEASE **MA'AM**,
OH MY.

ARE YOU
SURE? THANK YOU
SO MUCH!



FWOOF!

CAN YOU...
GIVE ME A
SECOND?

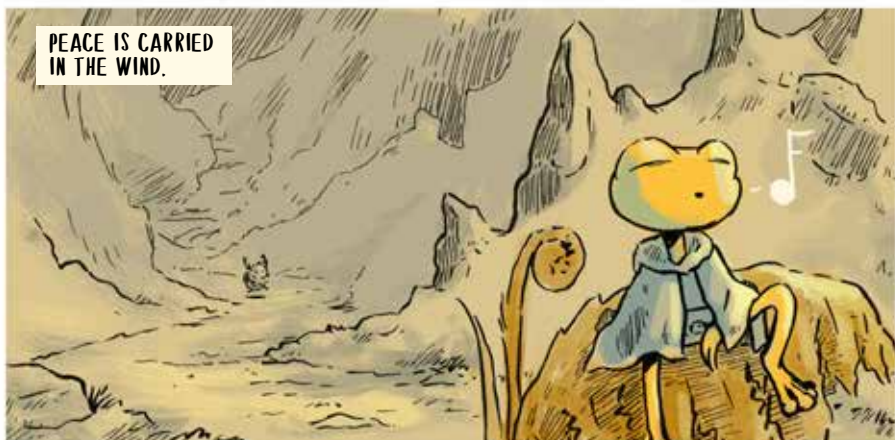


SURE THING,
MORD, I'LL WAIT
JUST UP AHEAD.

WHAT A CURIOUS FELLOW.



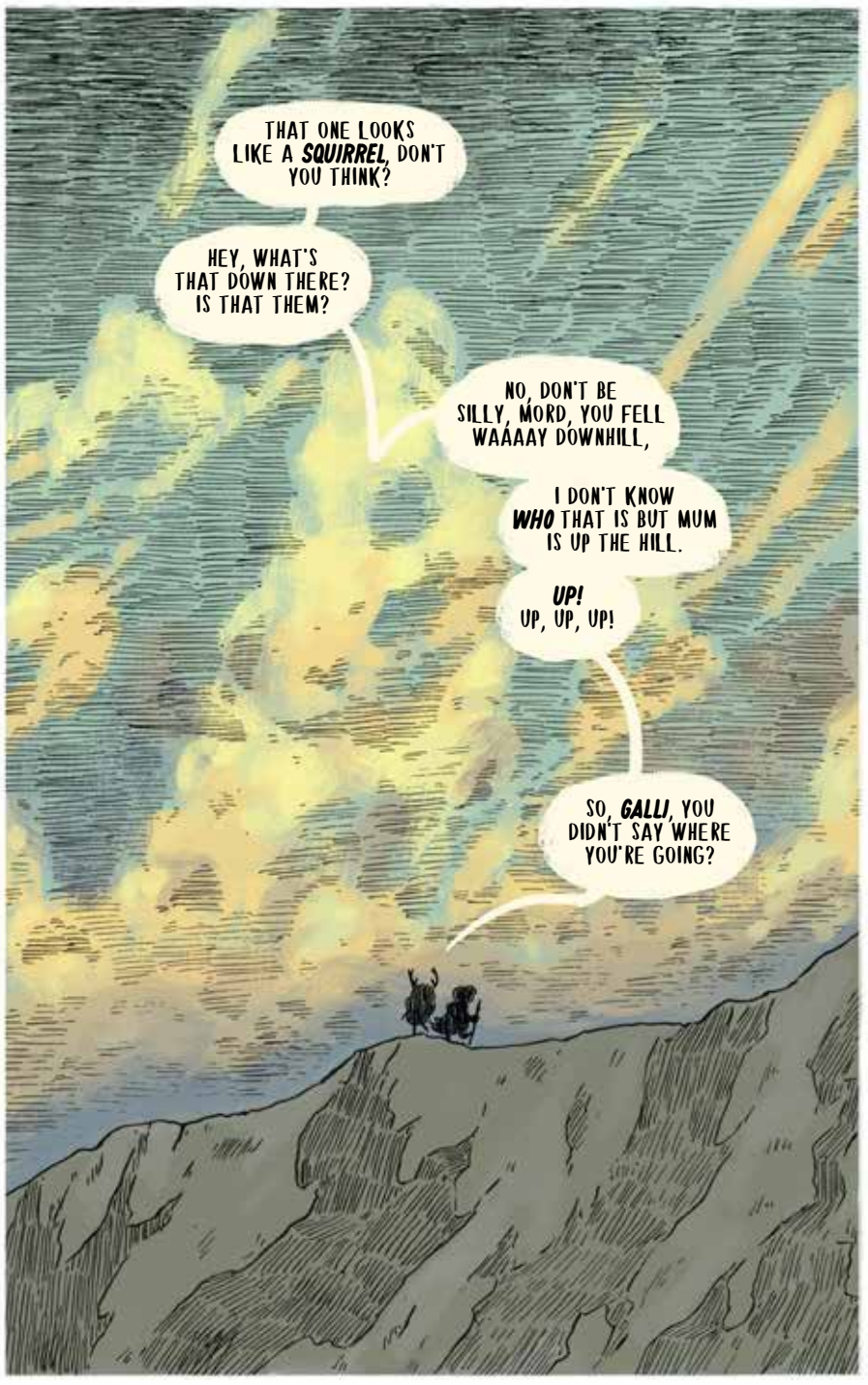
PEACE IS CARRIED
IN THE WIND.



BETWEEN THE HILLS AND FERNS,
TO THE SHORES OF TIME.







THAT ONE LOOKS
LIKE A **SQUIRREL**, DON'T
YOU THINK?

HEY, WHAT'S
THAT DOWN THERE?
IS THAT THEM?

NO, DON'T BE
SILLY, MORD, YOU FELL
WAAAAAY DOWNHILL,

I DON'T KNOW
WHO THAT IS BUT MUM
IS UP THE HILL.

UP!
UP, UP, UP!

SO, **GALLI**, YOU
DIDN'T SAY WHERE
YOU'RE GOING?



A LITTLE GIRL,
COVERED WITH
BRACKEN.

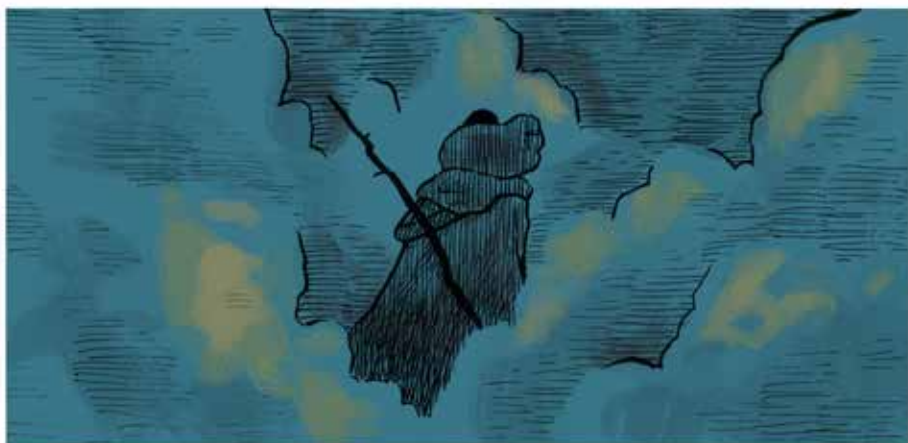


SHE HAS FIRE
IN HER EYES!
















HARK! A BEAST!

FLAMES OF WHITE KICKING
FROM IT'S SPINE...

A close-up illustration of two hands, one appearing to be in a dark, possibly leather, sleeve. The hands are positioned as if one is about to draw a sword from the other's grasp.

I MUST DRAW MY
SWORD ONCE MORE.

A small, brown frog with large, wide eyes is perched on a weathered wooden log. The frog has a slightly nervous or questioning expression.

ANOTHER ONE?

A wide-angle illustration showing the frog in the center, looking up with a wide-eyed, fearful expression. The frog is surrounded by several hounds, some of which are glowing with fire. The scene is set in a dark, rocky or cave-like environment.

SURROUNDED.



I AM **STILL**, LIKE THE GRASS HOPPER.

READY TO LEAP.



BUT THEN IT SPEAKS...

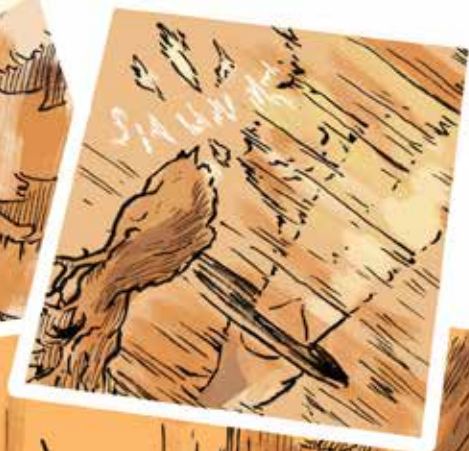


YOUR **DEMISE** AWAITS AT YOUR HOME!

YOUR FATE IS A MASS DESCENT!



I KNOW
MY FATE,



IT IS
WHAT GIVES ME
FREEDOM.





AWAY!





WHAT ARE THOSE
LIGHTS DOING HERE?




BE CAREFUL, *GALLI*.









HEY, YOU NEVER
TOLD ME WHERE
YOU'RE GOING?

I'M
LOOKING FOR THE
LONG-EARED KING.

WHAT FOR?

REVENGE, MORD,
FOR REVENGE.



GOSH, HE TALKS **ALOT.**

JOE LATHAM IS A HUMAN PERSON.
HE MAKES ILLUSTRATIONS AND DESIGNS FOR PEOPLE,
AND HE IS BASED IN THE UK.

JOELATHAMILLUSTRATION.CO.UK





THIS TALE IS A FANTASY ADVENTURE ABOUT
A BRAVE RANGER FROG NAMED **GALLI**, ON HER
RELENETLESS QUEST TO CLIMB **THE ETERNAL
MOUNTAIN**, WITH HER UNLIKELY AND NERVOUS
FRIEND, **MORD**, WHO IS JUST DESPERATE TO BE
REUNITED WITH HIS FAMILY.

STEEPED IN FOLKLORE AND FABLE, THIS
STORY IS A PARABLE ABOUT THE PASSING
OF TIME, AND HOW WE FACE AND ACCEPT
CHANGES THAT HAPPEN TO US AS WE GROW.

LIFE IS WEIRD, ISN'T IT?!