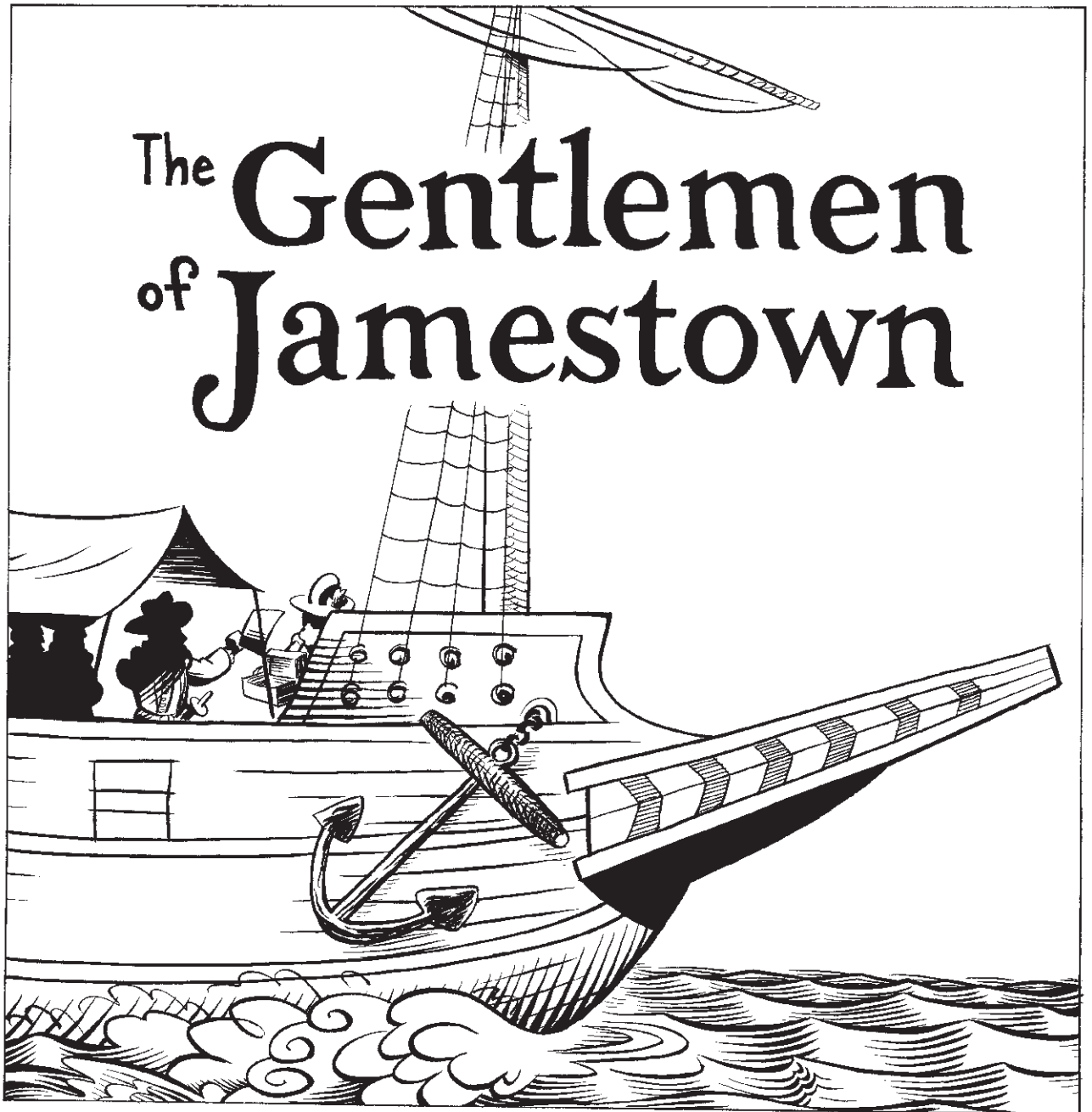


GRAPHIC NOVEL

# The Gentlemen of Jamestown



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THE GENTLEMEN OF JAMESTOWN

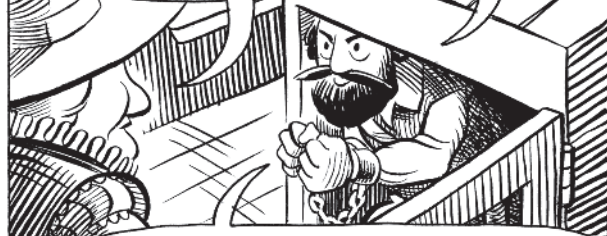
APRIL 26, 1607. AFTER A LONG, DIFFICULT OCEAN VOYAGE, WE ARRIVED IN THE LAND OF VIRGINIA.



GUARDS, RELEASE THE PRISONER.

WELCOME BACK TO DAYLIGHT, SMITH. I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED A LESSON ABOUT QUESTIONING YOUR *BETTERS*.

I WOULDN'T COUNT ON IT, WINGFIELD. WHY ARE YOU LETTING ME OUT?



A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, YOU WERE TRYING TO PERSUADE ME TO STICK MY NECK IN A NOOSE.

SADLY, THAT IS NOT TO BE. CAPTAIN NEWPORT'S ORDERS. HE JUST BROKE THE SEAL ON OUR CHARTER FROM THE VIRGINIA COMPANY.

AND WHAT DOES IT SAY?



OH, ABOUT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT. FIND A COLONY SITE. BE FRIENDLY TO THE LOCALS. LOOK FOR GOLD AND FIND A PASSAGE TO THE INDIES.

NONE OF WHICH REQUIRES LETTING ME OUT.



YES, WELL, THE CHARTER ALSO LISTS THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE COLONY. MOSTLY FINE GENTLEMEN, SUCH AS GOSNOLD AND MYSELF...

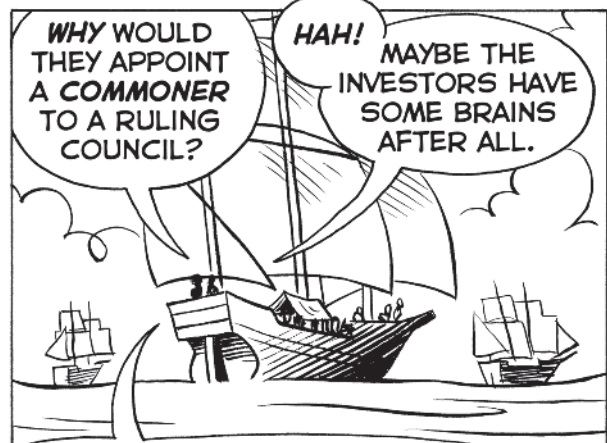
AND?



IT MUST'VE BEEN A MISTAKE. PERHAPS THE INVESTORS MEANT ANOTHER JOHN SMITH.

WHY WOULD THEY APPOINT A *COMMONER* TO A RULING COUNCIL?

HAH! MAYBE THE INVESTORS HAVE SOME BRAINS AFTER ALL.



DON'T GET TOO EXCITED. YOU'RE OUT OF THE BRIG, BUT YOU'RE *STILL* UNDER ARREST UNTIL WE CAN FIND WORK SUITABLE FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

**MAY 14.** IS IT SETTLED THEN, CAPTAIN NEWPORT? IS *THIS* THE COLONY SITE?

YES! IT'S FLAT AND UNINHABITED, NEAR THE WATER, BUT FAR ENOUGH FROM THE SEA THAT THE SPANISH CAN'T ATTACK THE COLONY.

WE LEARNED LATER WHY THIS AREA WAS UNINHABITED. IT WAS MOSTLY MARSHLAND WITH NO SAFE DRINKING WATER. IT WAS HOT, HUMID, AND FILLED WITH GREAT BLACK CLOUDS OF DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES. LITTLE WONDER NO ONE LIVED THERE!

AH, YES.

THIS WILL DO ADMIRABLY.

SMITH, HERE'S A JOB YOU'RE FIT FOR: CONSTRUCTION. WE'LL NEED SOME HUTS OR SOMETHING.

YES, SIR. AND A HIGH FENCE. AND SOME GARDENS.

YOU MEN, GRAB SOME TOOLS. I NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE BUILDING.

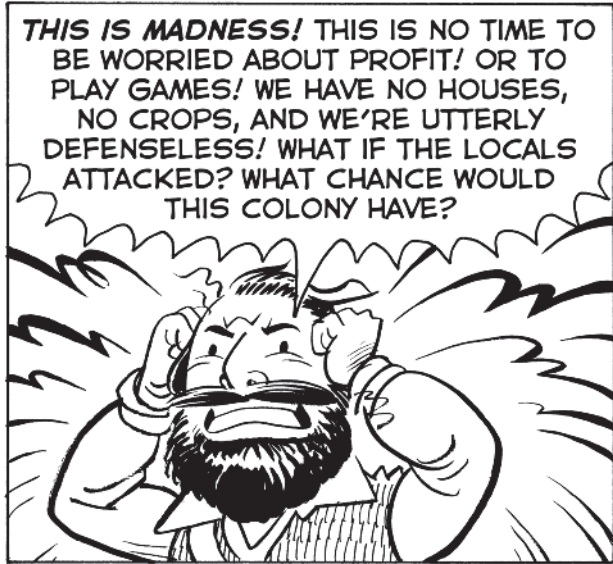
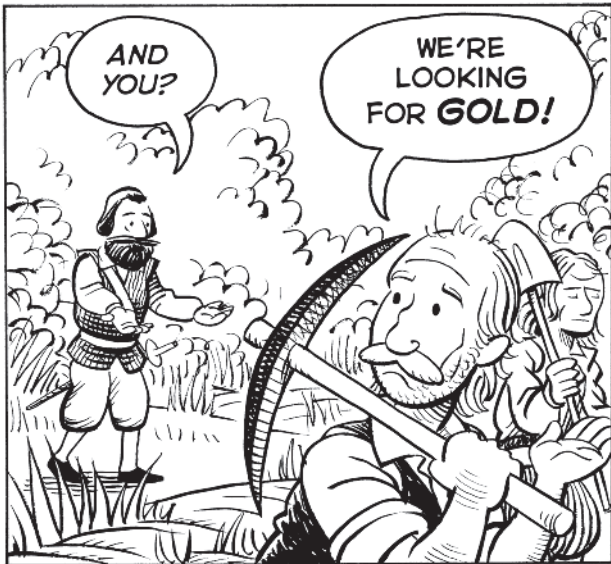
DON'T BE ABSURD. WE'RE GENTRY! WORK IS BENEATH US.

IDLENESS IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT. DIDN'T WE BRING YOUR KIND OVER TO TAKE CARE OF THAT SORT OF THING?

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU MEN WORKING. WE'LL NEED THOSE TREES TO BUILD THE HUTS.

SORRY, CAPTAIN SMITH. WE'RE CUTTING LUMBER TO SHIP BACK HOME.

COMPANY ORDERS. WE NEED TO MAKE A GOOD RETURN FOR OUR INVESTORS, RIGHT?



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MAY 21ST. ONE OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INVESTORS WAS TO LOOK FOR A WATER PASSAGE TO THE INDIES.



CAPTAIN NEWPORT, THERE'S SO MUCH BUILDING TO DO. AND PLANTING. WE NEED ALL THE MEN HERE.

COMPANY ORDERS, SMITH. AND YOU'RE COMING, TOO.

AND SO WE SET OFF WITH 23 MEN TO EXPLORE THE JAMES RIVER.

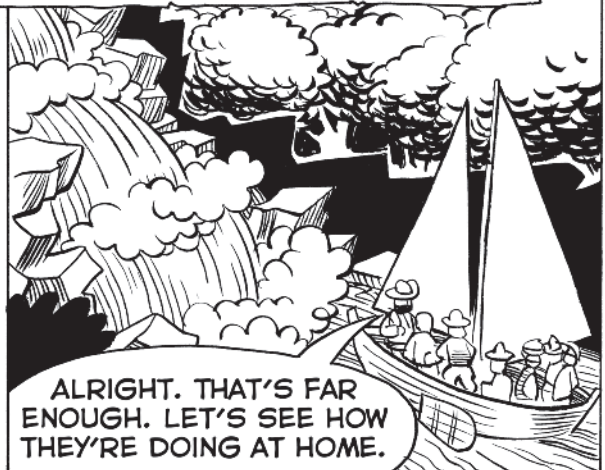


WE SOON MET A HUNTING PARTY WHO DREW US A MAP OF THE AREA.



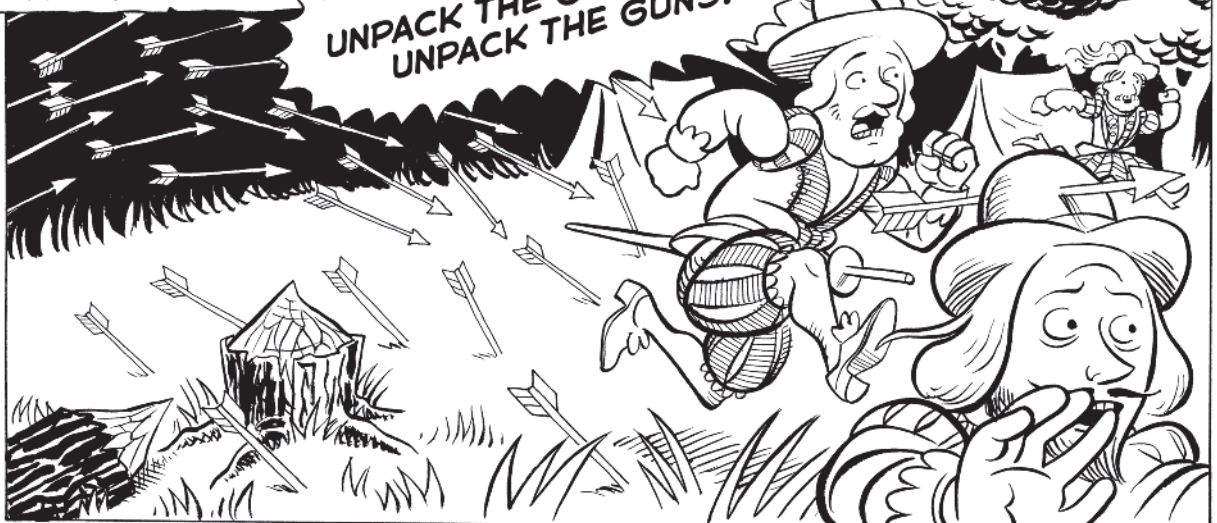
LATER, OTHER LOCALS TOLD US THAT ALL THIS LAND IS CONTROLLED BY ONE GREAT CHIEF. HIS NAME IS POWHATAN.

MAY 27TH. WE REACHED THE WATER-FALL AND COULD GO NO FURTHER.



ALRIGHT. THAT'S FAR ENOUGH. LET'S SEE HOW THEY'RE DOING AT HOME.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT JAMESTOWN...



UNPACK THE GUNS!  
UNPACK THE GUNS!

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AND SO I, PRESIDENT EDWARD-MARIA WINGFIELD, DECLARE THAT WE SHALL BUILD A FORT. WITH A NICE, FORTIFIED WALL...

AND CANNONS!

COULD SOMEONE LOOK INTO A MOAT?

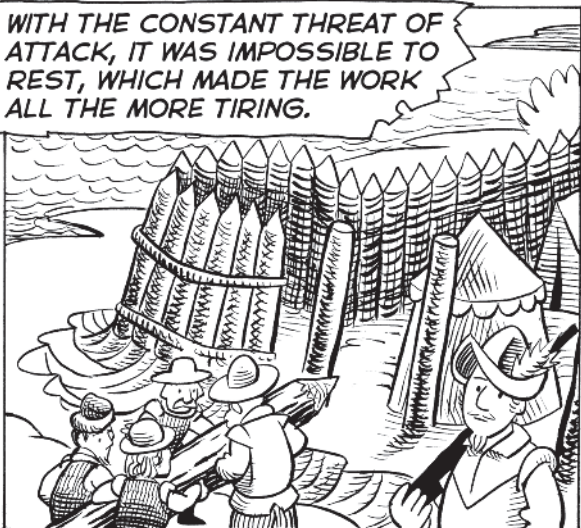


MAY 28, 1607. THE FOLLOWING DAYS WERE FILLED WITH LONG HOURS OF FRANTIC CONSTRUCTION...

IT'S A HAMMER.



PUNCTUATED BY SUDDEN, UNPREDICTABLE ATTACKS BY SMALL PARTIES OF LOCALS.



WITH THE CONSTANT THREAT OF ATTACK, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO REST, WHICH MADE THE WORK ALL THE MORE TIRING.



JUNE 4TH. FINALLY...

AHH. I'LL SLEEP EASIER TONIGHT.

YE GODS! I HAVE A BLISTER!

NOW, YOU LOT, GET BACK TO CUTTING LUMBER!

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JUNE 22ND. WE HAD FINALLY MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A COLONY. THINGS WERE LOOKING UP.

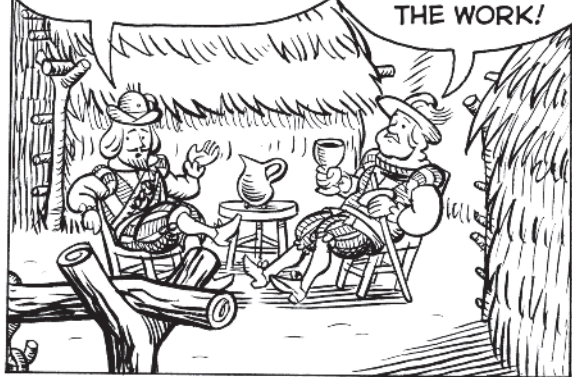


CAPTAIN NEWPORT SAILED FOR ENGLAND TO DELIVER OUR LUMBER.

AND THEN ALL WORK STOPPED.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? ALL THE SAILORS WENT BACK WITH NEWPORT.

THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO DO THE WORK!



BUT WE NEED TO GROW SOME FOOD AND DIG SOME WELLS FOR FRESH WATER!

WHY BOTHER? THE SHIPS WILL BE BACK IN NOVEMBER WITH OODLES OF SUPPLIES.



WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO SEND GENTLEMEN TO START A COLONY? WE'RE STARVING, AND DISEASE IS BEGINNING TO SPREAD. THEY WON'T BREAK A SWEAT, EVEN WHEN THEIR OWN LIVES ARE AT STAKE.

I SAY, WHO'S UP FOR A ROUSING GAME OF CARDS?



SOON I'LL HEAD OUT TO TRY AND FIND THIS CHIEF POWHATAN. WE'LL NEED TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TRADE FOR FOOD IF THIS COLONY IS GOING TO SURVIVE.



THE GENTLEMEN OF JAMESTOWN MAY SCORN ME AS THEIR INFERIOR, BUT I WILL SPEND ALL MY STRENGTH AND EFFORT TRYING TO KEEP THE COLONY ALIVE DESPITE THEM.

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