

Strange things happen
around Glistler
Butterworth.



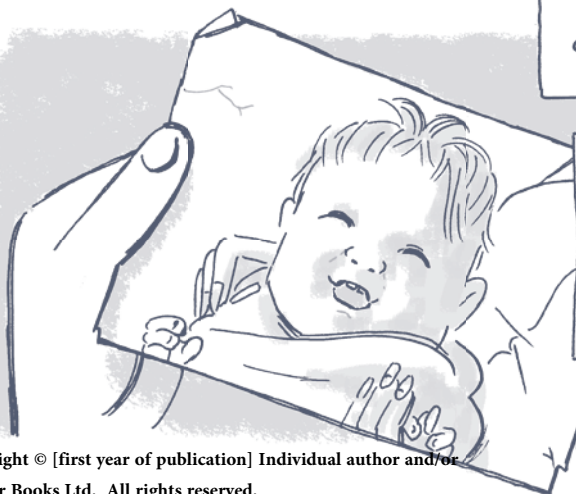
It could be because
of the time she
crossed a parade
of black cats.

Or the time she
took eggs out of
the house after
sunset and didn't
throw them over
the roof.



Or it could be because
her top teeth
came in first when
she was a baby.

Glistler has
always lived in
Chilblain Hall, the
family home
that changes
quicker than
the seasons.

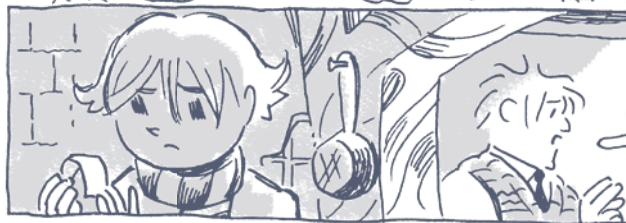


It was Autumn and the leaves were falling from the trees like rust-coloured rain. Hallowe'en was approaching and Glister's dad was busy.

Can you take over? Make me a couple more six-footers to be getting on with while I rummage around the loft for the tree.



Look Sharpish, there's less than two months to go.

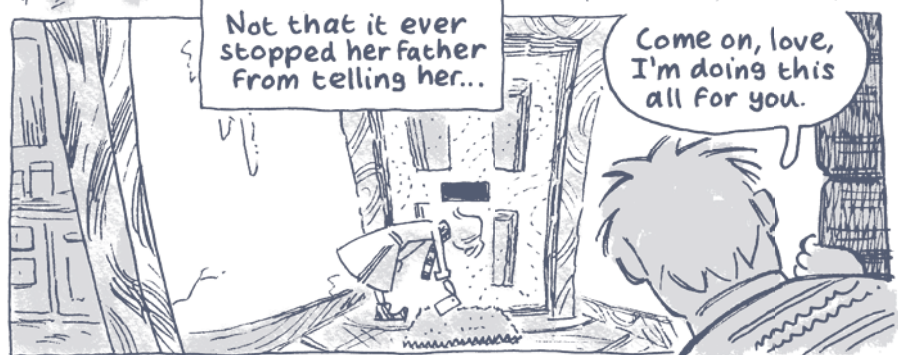
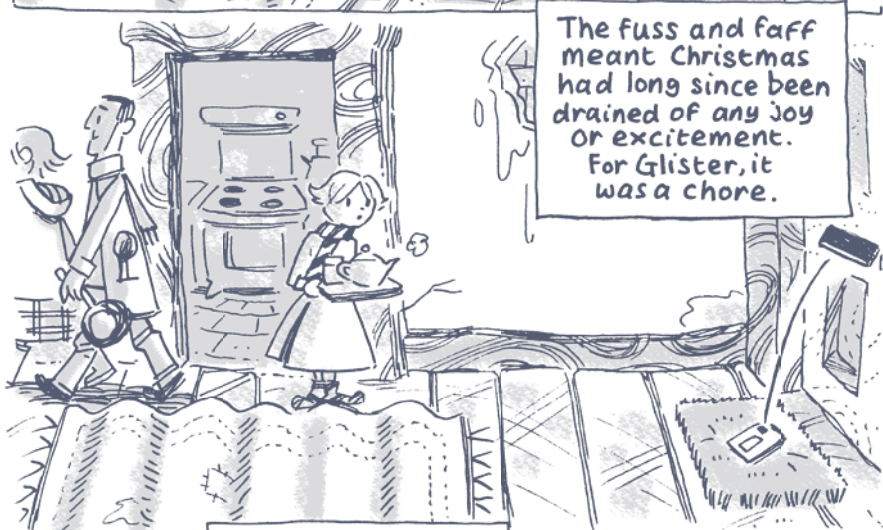
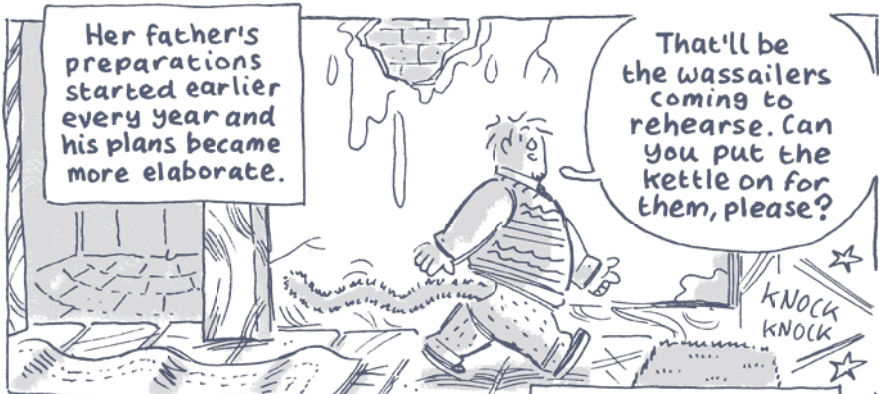


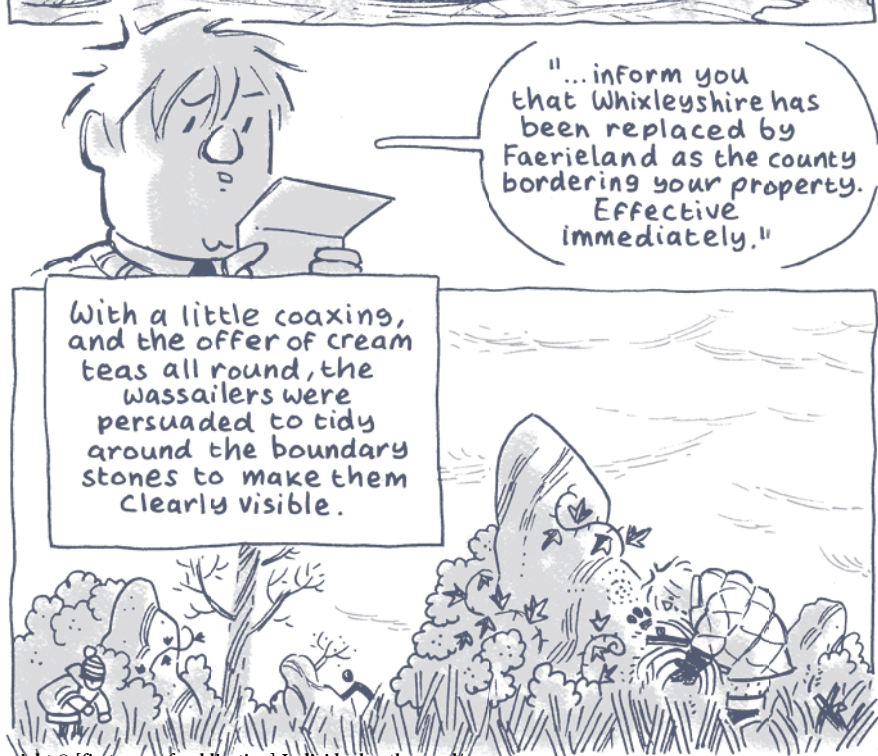
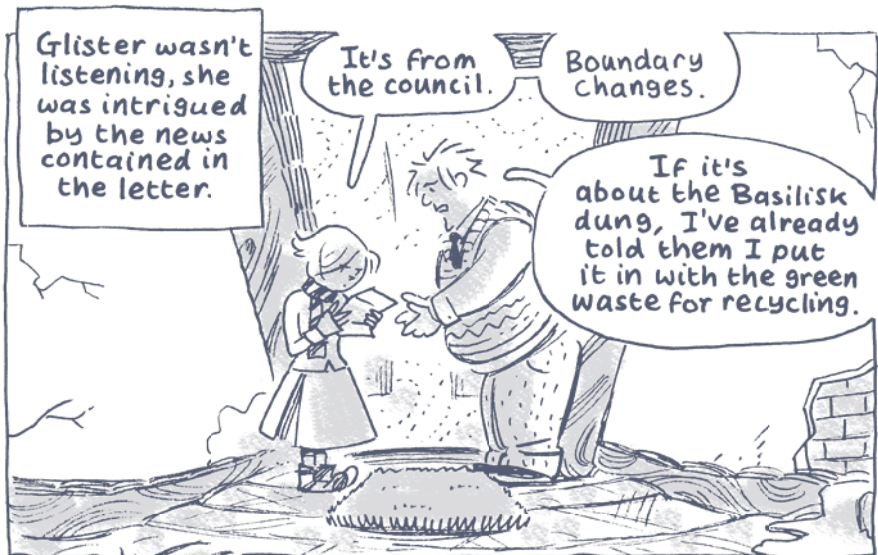
Glister's dad was obsessed with Christmas. He'd finished his shopping mid-summer. In fact, he'd get so far ahead that he often forgot where he'd hidden the presents and had to buy a whole new batch.

Wow!



The following year's Easter egg hunt always turned up some fantastic surprises.



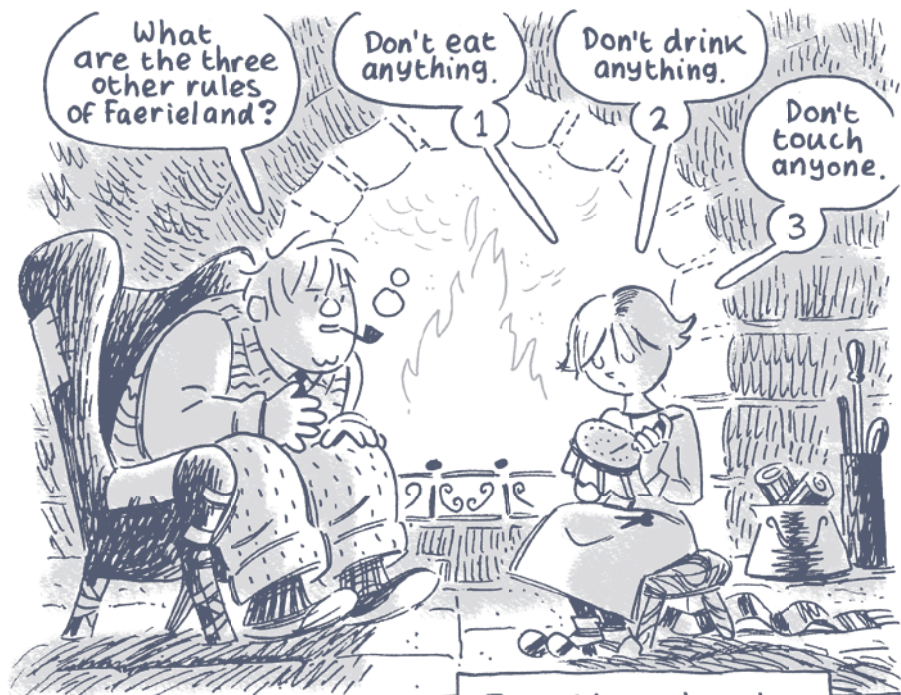




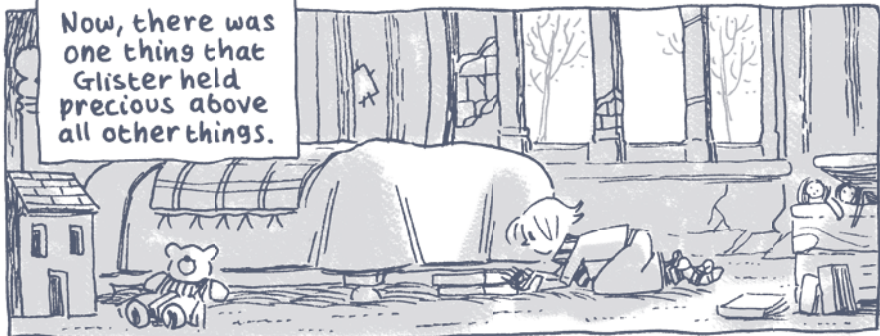
Later on, Glister and her dad had the talk that they had had many times before.

What's the most important rule of Faerieland?

Don't go there.



Now, there was one thing that Glistler held precious above all other things.



Her hoody.

It had been knitted for her by her mother. No matter how many times she washed it, carefully, by hand, it always smelt of her mum.

Whenever she put the cardigan on, it felt like being held close to her mother's chest as a baby. The memory of warm skin against her cheek and her mother's hair falling over her face engulfed her.

The lulling scent of Earl Grey tea and lavender.



It was clear that Glister's mother had knitted something of herself into the garment because, although it had been made for a baby, it always fitted Glister as she grew.

Glister knew why her father tried to make each Christmas more magical than the last. It was because he could never give her the one present she truly wished for.



Her mum.