

23, May 1804. Set out early.
Expect to make La Charette within
one or two days. Current has been mild.
Haven't seen sign of man (or creature)
for over one week. We continue to
carry out the public aspect of
our mission.





This morning I saw
a new sort of bird.



It was too
high for a
detailed
sketch.



BAM!!

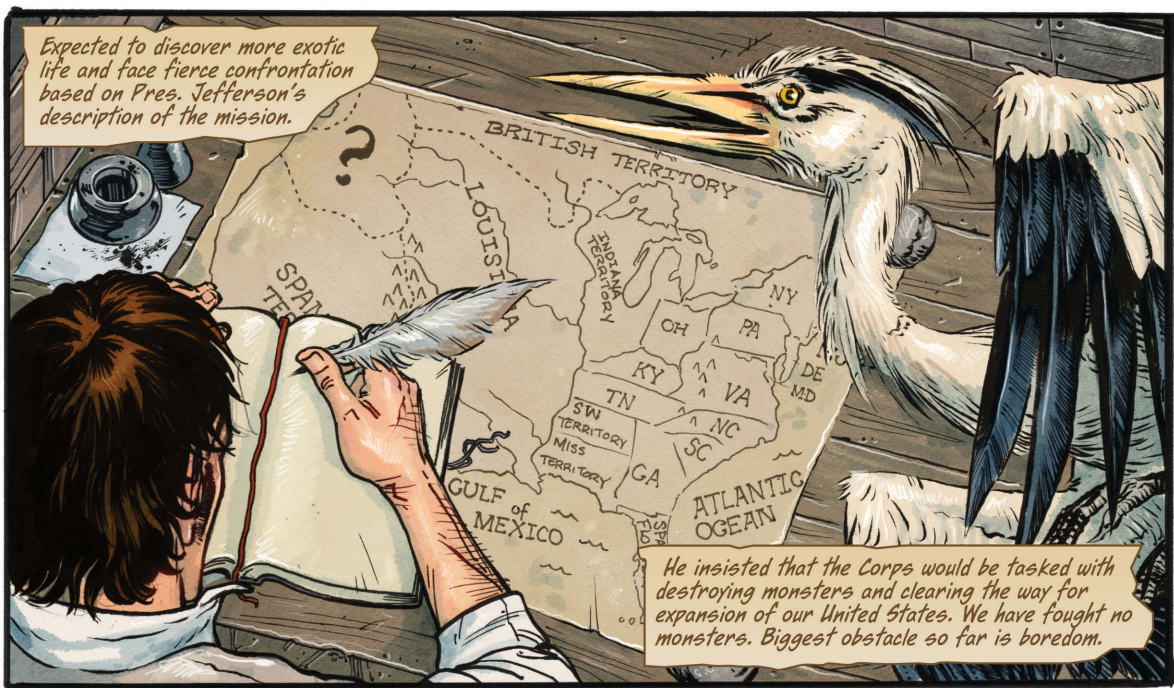


SHRRIP!!

Clark assisted
in obtaining
the bird. I will
present it with
other samples.

I fear that birds,
small game and
Indians will be the
only creatures we
come across.





Expected to discover more exotic life and face fierce confrontation based on Pres. Jefferson's description of the mission.

He insisted that the Corps would be tasked with destroying monsters and clearing the way for expansion of our United States. We have fought no monsters. Biggest obstacle so far is boredom.



The volunteer army doesn't seem to have a problem with it. Regular duties seem to be enough to fill their day. It's the others I'm concerned about.



The mercenaries. The convicts. They were brought in as expendable manpower for struggles that aren't occurring.

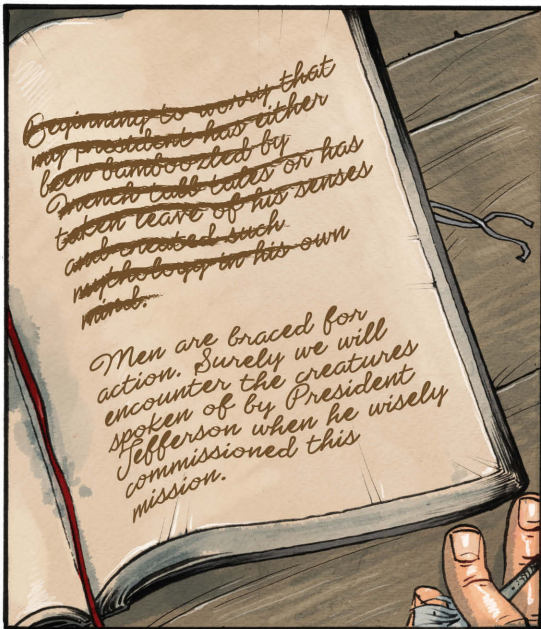
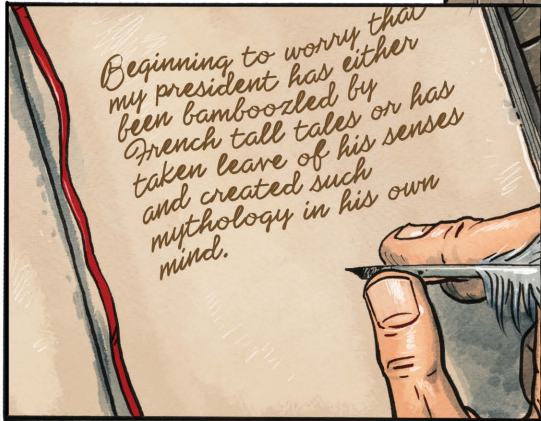
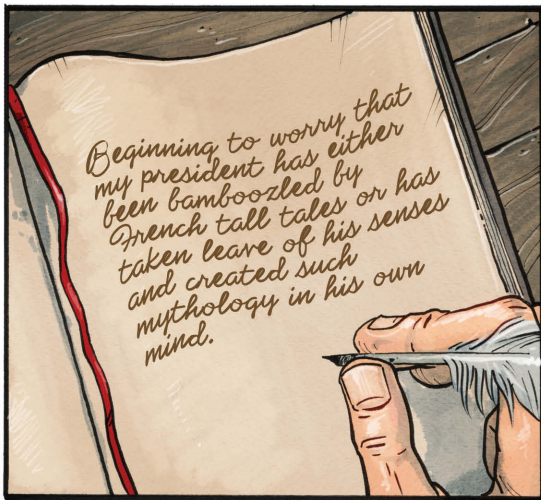
The devil seems to have sway over their idle hands. Jensen, one of those men Clark retrieved from the stockade, stole rum from the mess.

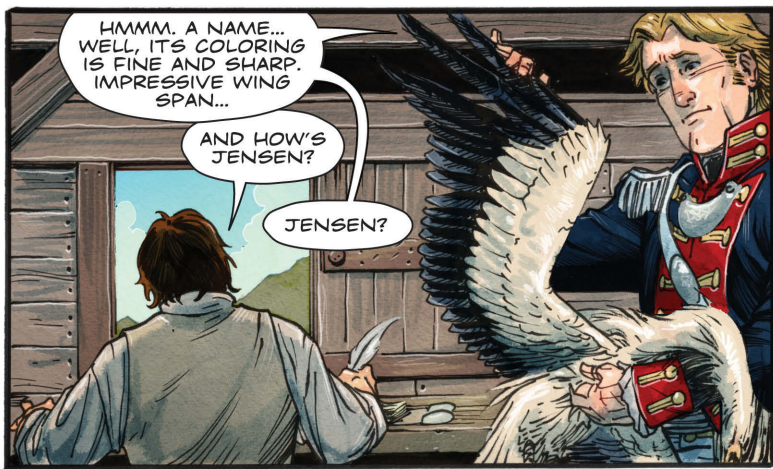


He was disciplined by Captain Clark. Twenty lashes.

At first, I had apprehensions about our decision to keep the men uninformed as to the real reason for the mission.

Now I am glad we didn't, or they might think us mad.

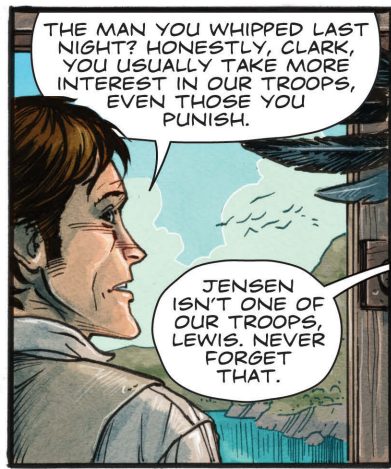




HMMM. A NAME... WELL, ITS COLORING IS FINE AND SHARP. IMPRESSIVE WING SPAN...

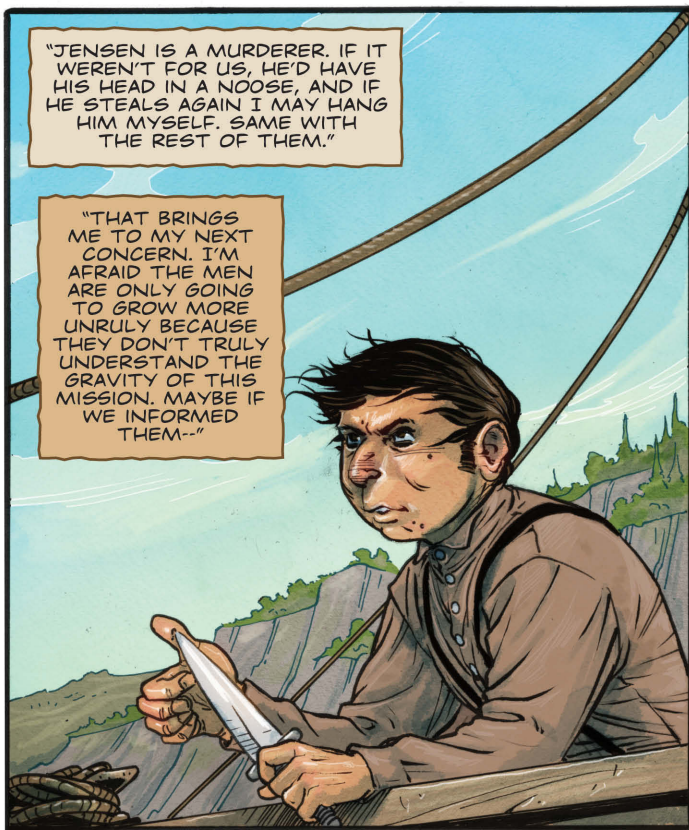
AND HOW'S JENSEN?

JENSEN?



THE MAN YOU WHIPPED LAST NIGHT? HONESTLY, CLARK, YOU USUALLY TAKE MORE INTEREST IN OUR TROOPS, EVEN THOSE YOU PUNISH.

JENSEN ISN'T ONE OF OUR TROOPS, LEWIS. NEVER FORGET THAT.



"JENSEN IS A MURDERER. IF IT WEREN'T FOR US, HE'D HAVE HIS HEAD IN A NOOSE, AND IF HE STEALS AGAIN I MAY HANG HIM MYSELF. SAME WITH THE REST OF THEM."

"THAT BRINGS ME TO MY NEXT CONCERN. I'M AFRAID THE MEN ARE ONLY GOING TO GROW MORE UNRULY BECAUSE THEY DON'T TRULY UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THIS MISSION. MAYBE IF WE INFORMED THEM--"



"THAT THEY'RE OUT HERE HUNTING MONSTERS? ARE YOU MAD? BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WOULD BELIEVE. I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHY WE'RE ON THIS GOOSE CHASE ANYMORE."

"YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHY ALL OF US ARE HERE. THE ENLISTED MEN WANT PROMOTIONS AND MONEY. THE CONVICTS WANT PARDONS, AND PRESIDENT JEFFERSON PROMISED US EACH A STAKE IN THIS NEW LAND ONCE WE'VE PURGED IT."



CLARK'S HERON.

WHAT?

THE BIRD. CALL IT CLARK'S HERON. ONLY FAIR. I SHOT IT.



IF EVERY ANIMAL YOU BLASTED BEARED YOUR NAME, YOU'D HAVE YOUR OWN MENAGERIE. YOU ARE--

CAPTAIN LEWIS! CAPTAIN CLARK! YOU NEED TO SEE THIS!