It's been raining for days and the river is rising. "It'll come tide," says Grandma, and it does. But these kinfolks are used to floods in the mountains, to delighted pigs swirling by the swollen creek, to the mess of mud that's always left behind. Then it's time, as Grandma says, to make friends with a shovel. And they do.

Tides are the rise and fall of sea levels caused by the combined effects of the gravitational forces exerted by the Moon and the Sun, and the rotation of the Earth. Tide tables can be used for any given locale to find the predicted times and amplitude (or "tidal range"). The predictions are influenced by many factors including the alignment of the Sun and Moon, the phase and amplitude of the tide (pattern of tides in the deep ocean), the amphidromic systems of the oceans, and the shape of the coastline. It's been raining for days and the river is rising. "It'll come tide," says Grandma, and it does. But these kinfolks are used to floods in the mountains, to delighted pigs swirling by the swollen creek, to the mess of mud that's always left behind. Then it's time, as Grandma says, to "make friends with a shovel." And they do.

"Color me surprised," Hermes starts, coming to a stop a few feet from the stack that's nearly as tall as him. The door to the back of the shop is propped open with a box, giving him a view of the cluttered back room. "Sent you a little something to tide you over till you get back to reality. If he's right, and his brother sent him some booze Hermes claps as he mutters a 'yes!', arms pumping in a self-congratulatory manner, and then giving an awkward hello to the middle aged woman power-walking across the street.