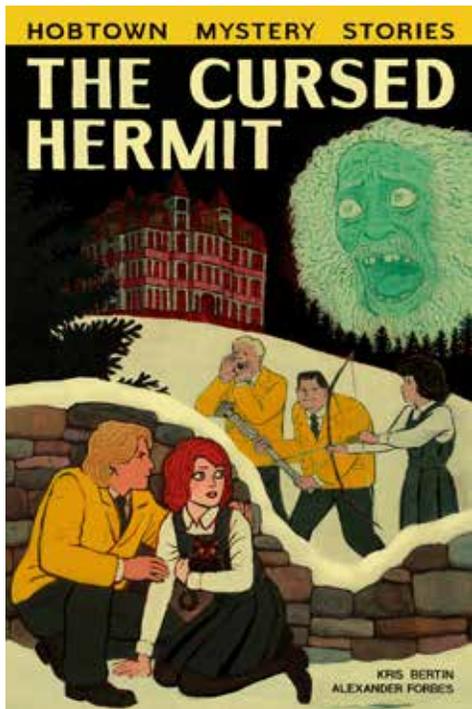


CONUNDRUM PRESS



FALL 2019



THE CURSED HERMIT

Kris Bertin
Alexander Forbes

Hobtown Mystery Stories #2

ISBN 978-1-77262-030-6
5.5 X 8.25 inches, 180 pages
b/w, trade paperback
\$20

October 2019

Will our Teen Detectives untangle the mystery of Knotty Pines — before it's too late? Reeling from the strange and confusing discoveries of their last adventure, the Hobtown Junior Detective Club is looking forward to Christmas break when two of its Teen Detectives — Brennan and Pauline—are made to attend an extra-credit boarding school called Knotty Pines. After attending their first classes, however, they realize they may have stumbled on their weirdest case yet!

The highly-anticipated follow-up to *The Case of the Missing Men*

It's not just that the Headmaster and the Headmistress are unusually strict, it's that they seem to be controlling the students, transforming them into boneheads and bullies. On the final night of their stay, the boys and girls are paired up to pledge eternal allegiance to the long-dead Lord Hobb—and to each other—in unholy matrimony!

Isolated from their fellow sleuths, our intrepid young investigators need to rely on a cast of colourful characters to lift a curse that has plagued the good people of Hobtown for centuries! Bizarre, funny, frightening, and heartwarming, this latest installment of the Hobtown Mystery Stories brings our teens one step closer to uncovering the haunting truth of their funny little east-coast village.

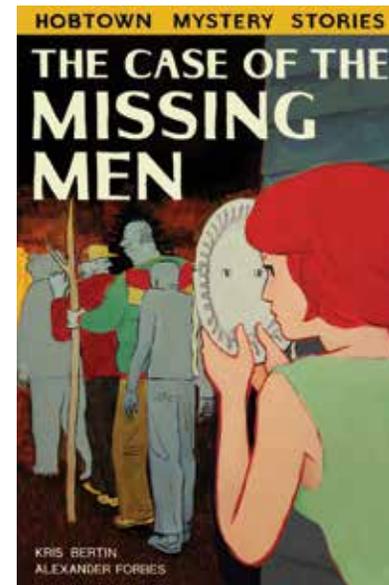
Also available:

THE CASE OF THE MISSING MEN

Hobtown Mystery Stories #1

ISBN 978-1-77262-016-0
5.5x8.5 inches, 304 pages,
b/w, trade paperback,
\$20

**Nominated for a Doug Wright Award
TV rights sold
French rights sold**



"The Case of the Missing Men is an amazing collaboration, unlike anything I have ever seen or read before. Bertin and Forbes, friends for most of their lives, share a vision that is precise but uncanny, scary, yet utterly and disturbingly clear. The story is full of suspense and uncertainty — a true mystery — and it will push you forward and keep you flipping even as each one of these images forces you to slow down and appreciate the craft, the timing, the level of detail and care. Every panel frames an entire world and holds it for one second. As readers, we're lucky this book exists."

— Alexander MacLeod

"...an exceptional, odd mystery."

— [Publisher's Weekly \(starred review\)](#)

*"There's a fullness of vision that makes *The Case of the Missing Men* so readable and rereadable. There are perfect images in here that will stick with you like scars."*

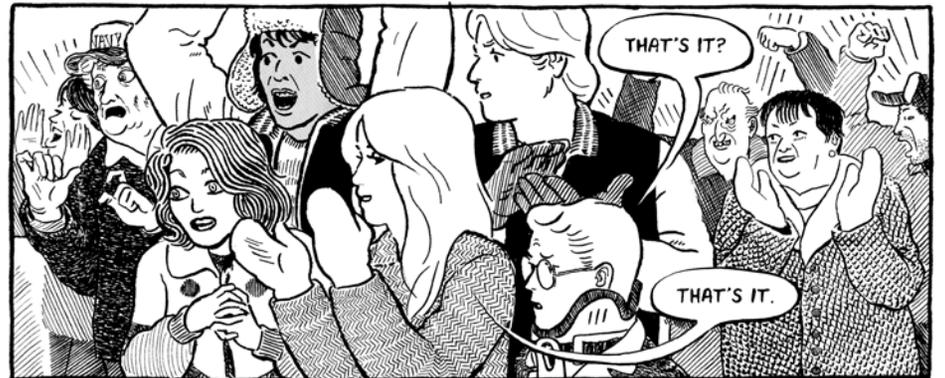
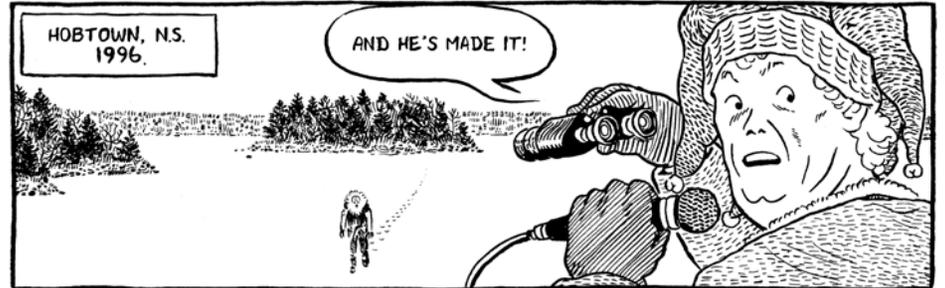
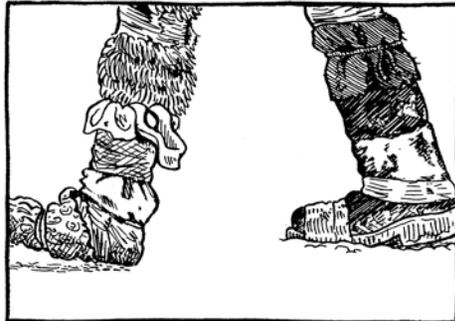
— [Bookshelf.ca](#)

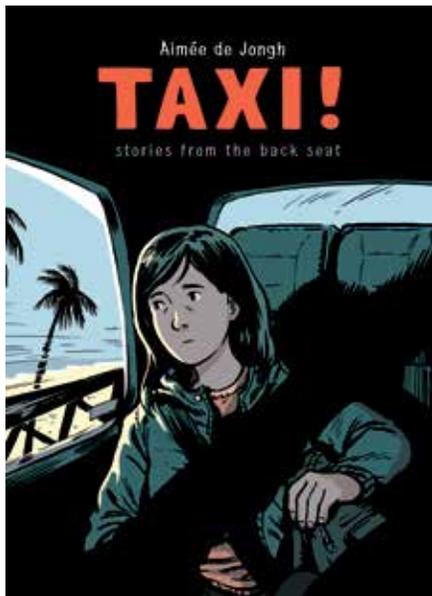
"The Case of the Missing Men is truly a page-turner, with meticulous black-and-white line drawings that are incredibly nuanced and deft at creating suspense."

— [The Coast](#)

"There's a full TV season worth of plot here, but plot isn't really the point. It's Bertin's confident, idiosyncratic tone and Forbes' small, unnerving, almost Jack Chick-like art that makes this such a weirdly warmhearted nightmare."

— [Booklist \(Starred Review\)](#)





TAXI: STORIES FROM THE BACK SEAT

Aimée de Jongh

ISBN 978-1-77262-039-9
5.9x8.27 inches, 96 pages
b/w, trade paperback
\$17

An homage to the taxi driver in the age of Uber

Aimée de Jongh, one of the brightest new talents in Europe, creates her first autobiographic work, focusing on taxi rides from four cities: Los Angeles, Paris, Jakarta, and Washington D.C. She discovers she's more interested in the cab drivers than the view from the backseat. As the drivers slowly open up about their personal lives, she does too—even when it means challenging her own ideas and prejudices. Through these vulnerable—and often humorous—moments, she finds common ground with the people driving her. *TAXI* is an ode to taxi drivers everywhere.

International Imprint
September 2019

"This beautifully woven series of vignettes from the brilliant Aimée de Jongh are a necessary and poignant reminder of our common humanity." — Joe Sacco

"One of the great young cartoonists in the world." — Comic Book Resources

1. Why did you decide to create this comic?

I've been keeping drawing journals for many years now, in which I collect funny conversations I've had or interesting people that I've met. Sometimes I just want to remember the beautiful things people say (though they're often unaware of it), and sometimes things are just too funny to be true. Having several journals filled with these observations, I had been playing with the idea of re-drawing journals and publishing the entries in a comic book. Somehow it struck me how often there were taxi drivers involved in the drawings.

Once you've passed the obligatory "Where to?", and they open up about themselves, they turned out to be great people. They are really a mirror of the culture and the traditions of the country that they are driving you through. With this in mind, I decided to focus only on four taxi-related anecdotes. Taxi drivers have a particular role in our society. People tend to see them as some kind of employee, who drive us from one place to another. Like they are the "extras" in the film of our lives. I think the opposite is true. Taxi drivers are the quiet observers that see the real faces of people. In the backseat of taxis, people reveal who they really are, because they think nobody is watching. Taxi drivers see more of the world than just the streets they are driving through.

2. This is your first graphic novel written originally in English. How do you feel about it?

My previous publications were originally Dutch and French, so this is a big deal for me. In the Netherlands, we all speak English fluently. It's taught in schools and most movies are English-spoken. It made sense for this particular book, too, because the conversations I had with these drivers were all in English as well. It's simply the first language that I communicate in with someone in a foreign country. So it would have been strange to write this book in Dutch; that wouldn't have been true to the facts. I'm thrilled to work with Conundrum Press, and I hope this is not the last book I make with them.

Aimée de Jongh is a Dutch graphic novel author, animator and illustrator. After creating a comic for a daily newspaper for nearly five years, she quit the job in 2017 in order to make graphic novels full time. Her debut, *The Return of the Honey Buzzard*, won the Prix St Michel and was adapted to a live-action film. Her second book *Blossoms in Autumn*, written by the acclaimed Belgian writer Zidrou, was awarded the Prix Atomium. She works and lives in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.



photo by Luuk Aarts



PLUMMET

Sherwin Tjia

ISBN 978-1-77262-040-5
6.63 x 10.13 inches, 140 pages
full colour, trade paperback
\$20

Take the plunge into a post-apocalyptic nightmare

October 2019

When Amelia “Mel” Eichenwald wakes up one morning, she finds herself in endless freefall towards an Earth that is no longer there, surrounded by the junk of human existence. From high heels to houses, billions of random items drop alongside her like fallout from an exploded mall.

She soon discovers she’s not alone. Others have been similarly plucked out of their lives and dropped off in mid-air. But why? For what purpose? And more importantly—and urgently—what is she going to eat? Where can she safely sleep?

Plummet follows Mel as she attempts to survive, find allies, and negotiate the balance between becoming prey or predator. What makes us human—and what keeps us human—when gravity is all there is? How do you take a stand when there is literally no place to sit? *Plummet* will propel readers into a new dimension that’s part fable, part post-apocalyptic nightmare.

1. *Plummet* has such an unusual premise. What inspired you to create it?

To be honest—the tragic falling people of September 11, 2001. Like everyone else, I was rapt by that terrible dilemma—caught between burning to death or falling to the sidewalk. Some jumped together, holding hands. Others dove headfirst. I know that moments of trauma can dilate time and stretch out seconds artificially. I wondered if their time in the air felt like forever. I wished that I could remove the ground, so that they would never hit. This book was an outgrowth and elaboration of that notion.

2. *The post-apocalypse is big right now. How do you think Plummet situates itself in that genre?*

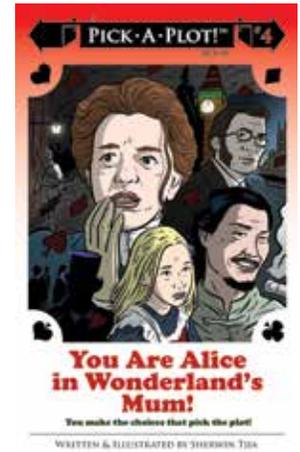
Well, *Plummet* is a kind of natural disaster, but with some dream-like qualities. I mean, Mel gets there through a dream. But at the same time, the experience of living is very concrete. There’s real stuff all around her. And it definitely deals with the kinds of communities we choose to create once the shit hits the fan. Personally I consider *Plummet* part of that genre, but coming at it from an unusual angle.

Also available:

YOU ARE ALICE IN WONDERLAND’S MUM!

ISBN 978-1-77262-017-7
4.25x7 inches, 280 pages,
b/w with 80 illustrations
trade paperback, \$18

Pick-A-Plot #4



Born in Toronto, but living in Montreal, Sherwin Tjia is a writer and illustrator who has made eleven books, including this one. His debut graphic novel, *The Hipless Boy* was nominated for four Ignatz and an Eisner Award, and his Pick a Plot series has won an Expozine Award. For a living he organizes Slowdance Nights, Crowd Karaoke Singalongs, Strip Spelling Bees and other intimate and odd events.





I CAN ALREADY TELL THAT MY DIET'S GOING TO TAKE A MASSIVE NOSEDIVE HERE.

I SAY 'HERE', BUT IT'S NOT A HERE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE. IT'S MORE LIKE A NOT HERE, OR NOWHERE.

I WAS SLEEPING WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED.

I WAS DREAMING I WAS FALLING.

YOU KNOW THOSE DREAMS.

YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD THEM YOURSELF.

YOU'RE FALLING, BUT THEN,

YOU WAKE UP

BEFORE

YOU HIT

THE

GROUND.



AND I DID WAKE UP.

BUT I WAS STILL FALLING.

AND THE BIGGEST SHOCKER WAS WHEN I LOOKED DOWN TO SEE WHAT I WAS FALLING TOWARDS -

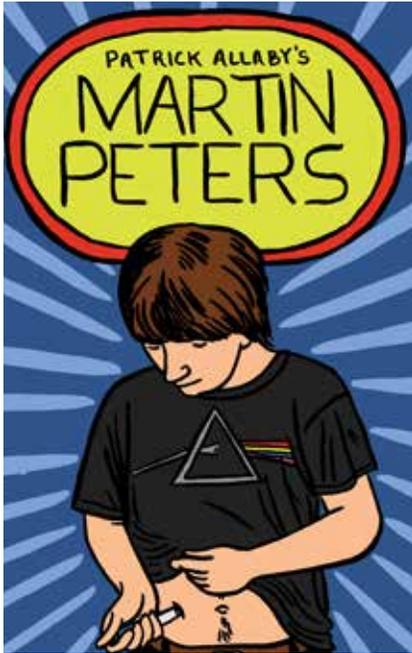
NO GROUND.

NO NOTHING.

JUST JUNK.

DO I JUST KEEP FALLING FOREVER?

I MEAN - WHAT THE HELL?



MARTIN PETERS

Patrick Allaby

ISBN 978-1-77262-038-2
5.5 X 8.5 inches, 80 pages
b/w, trade paperback
\$15

Everyone has a story to tell. Not all of them are true.

September 2019



Set in a generic Fredericton suburb called Skyline Acres, this is the fictional biography of Martin Peters, a teenager with type 1 diabetes. The coming of age story revolves around Martin's relationship with his on-again off-again high school girlfriend, and how, desperate to fit in, he begins neglecting his health. The twisting narrative follows his deteriorating condition until, eventually, he finds himself fighting for his life in the hospital.

Patrick Allaby grew up in Fredericton, New Brunswick and was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in December 2015. He has self-published many short comics, but *Martin Peters* is his first graphic novel. He moved to Kitchener, Ontario in 2017 for health insurance.



"When I told you it was okay to make a book about me growing up with diabetes in Fredericton, I understood it would be about how my parents were so overprotective, about how they were so worried about my ability to manage my blood sugar that they didn't let me play sports or allow me to go to sleepovers. But you barely touch on these things! Instead, you imply that I was some sleaze-bag pothead, desperately in love with someone I dated for, like, a month. Well, I do not appreciate this depiction, and neither does my lawyer. I'm not trying to suppress your artistic creation, but you have crossed a line here, and if you proceed with publishing this garbage, I will commence legal proceedings against you."

– Martin Peters





DAKWÄKÄDA WARRIORS

Cole Pauls

ISBN 978-1-77262-041-2
6.5x10 inches, 112 pages
duotone with full colour insert
of guest artists, trade paperback
\$20

Language revitalization in an allegory of colonialization.

Artist Cole Pauls wanted to reclaim the Southern Tutchone language he had learned as a youth while performing in the traditional song and dance group The Dakwäkäda Dancers, based in Whitehorse (YT). So, he created a comic about two Earth Protectors saving the Earth from evil pioneers and cyborg sasquatches. But he also went to his elders and asked them to translate his comic into the two dialects of Southern Tutchone. The resulting work is an allegory of colonialization done in an accessible format, a whimsical young adult graphic novel which helps to revitalize the language. Pauls includes a “making of” postscript to give context to the project, and invites guest Indigenous Canadian artists to provide “pin-ups” of his characters.

**Young Adult
October 2019**

1. Why did you decide to create this comic?

I wanted to create a sense of identity and strength for the youth from my hometown and the Yukon. To be portrayed in a heroic but also realistic way, where culture is power and the community is stronger because of that. I made Dakwäkäda Warriors to keep Southern Tutchone language and culture alive.

2. What do you hope your work will bring to the Canadian comics canon?

A proper portrayal of Yukon Indigenous culture, we don't live in igloos, ya know!! I want to show the world what Southern Tutchone culture really is and how strong Indigenous culture can be when properly portrayed by someone who lives and practices it.



Cole Pauls is a Tahltan comic artist, illustrator and printmaker hailing from Haines Junction (Yukon Territory) with a BFA in Illustration from Emily Carr University. Residing in Vancouver, Pauls focuses on his two comic series, the first being *Pizza Punks*: a self contained comic strip about punks eating pizza, the other being *Dakwäkäda Warriors*. In 2017, Pauls won Broken Pencil Magazine's Best Comic and Best Zine of the Year Award for *Dakwäkäda Warriors II*.



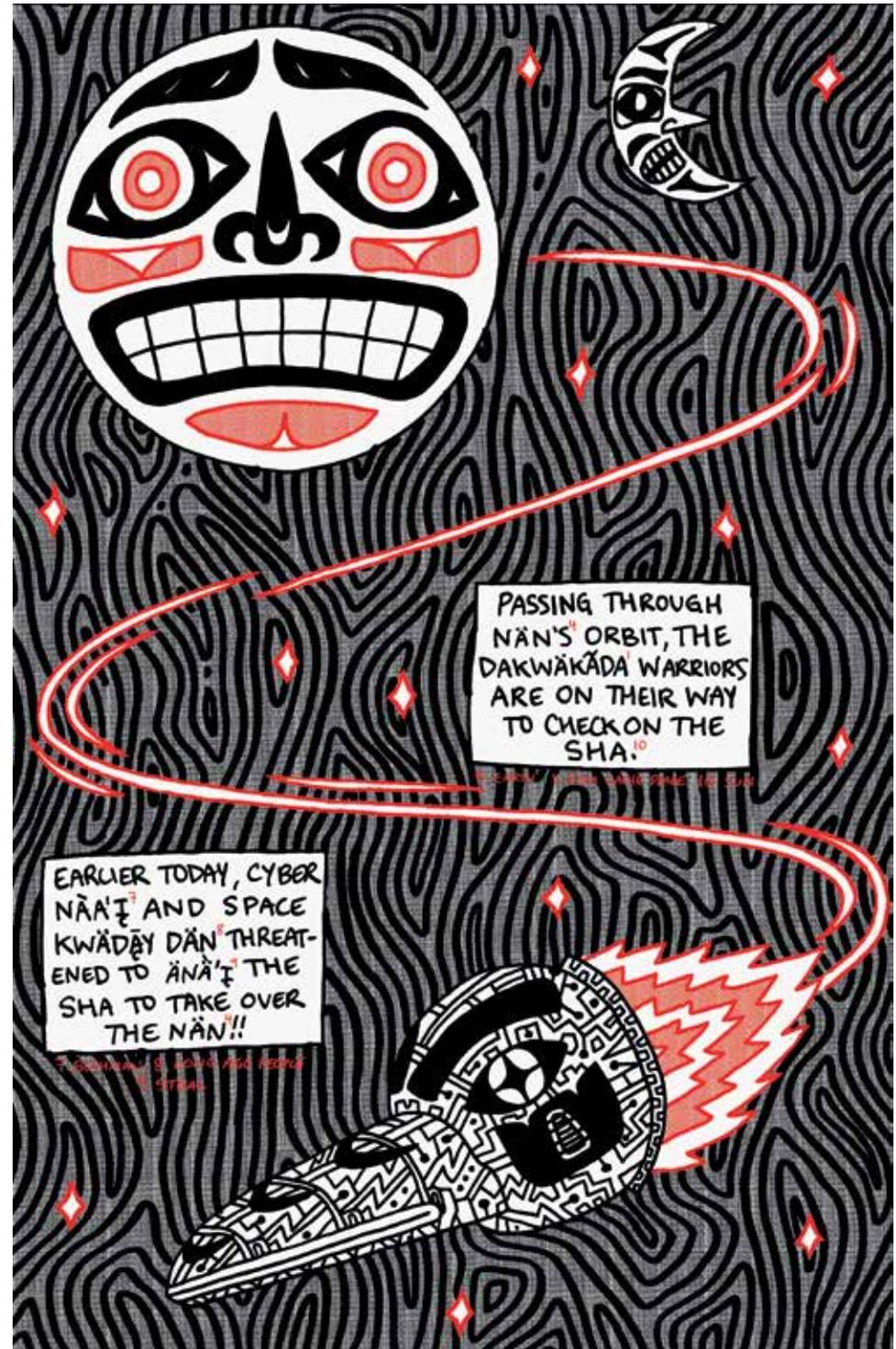
THE DAKWĀKĀDA¹ WARRIORS, TS'ŪRK'I² AND ĀGĀY³
 ARE THE SOUTHERN TUTCHONE PROTECTORS OF NĀN⁴
 OBSERVING THROUGH SPACE DZENŪ⁵ AND ŃTL'E⁶.

1. HIGH CACHE PLACE 2. CROW 3. WOLF 4. EARTH 5. DAY 6. NIGHT



CYBER NĀA'Ź⁷ AND SPACE KWĀDĀY DĀN⁸ ARE TWO
 NEMESSES OF TS'ŪRK'I² AND ĀGĀY³. OBSESSIVELY DRIVEN
 TO PUT NĀN⁴ IN DANGER.

7. BUSHMAN 8. LONG AGO PEOPLE



PASSING THROUGH
 NĀN'S ORBIT, THE
 DAKWĀKĀDA WARRIORS
 ARE ON THEIR WAY
 TO CHECK ON THE
 SHA.¹⁰

EARLIER TODAY, CYBER
 NĀA'Ź AND SPACE
 KWĀDĀY DĀN THREAT-
 ENED TO ĀNĀ'Ź THE
 SHA TO TAKE OVER
 THE NĀN!!

9. SHIP 10. SHIP AND PEOPLE
 11. SHIP



cover art by Julie Doucet

THIS IS SERIOUS: CANADIAN INDIE COMICS

Co-edited by **Alana Traficante** and **Joe Ollmann**
With an introduction by **Jeet Heer** and afterword by **Peggy Burns**

ISBN 978-1-77262-043-6
9x11.5 inches, b/w with full colour insert
trade paperback, \$25

This is Serious reveals the considerable contributions being made by artists from across the country to the greater field of global comics—of which Toronto, Montreal, and Hamilton are significant creative centres. Surveying the work of forty contemporary Canadian artists, *This is Serious* showcases the energy of underground artistic production and indie publishing as expressed through a diverse range of artists. Co-edited by contemporary curator Alana Traficante and award-winning cartoonist Joe Ollmann, *This is Serious* presents the recent arc of production that has helped shaped the current state of graphic storytelling, here and now on home soil.

Also featuring a national survey of artists working today, including:

Jillian Tamaki
Michael DeForge
Patrick Kyle
Marta Chudolinska
Billy Mavreas
Nina Bunjevac
Eric Kostiu Williams
Walter Scott
Pascal Girard
Michel Rabagliati
Ho Che Anderson
Diane Obom
Marc Bell
Kate Beaton
Gord Hill
Geneviève Castrée

Featuring the work of contemporary and historical Hamilton artists such as:

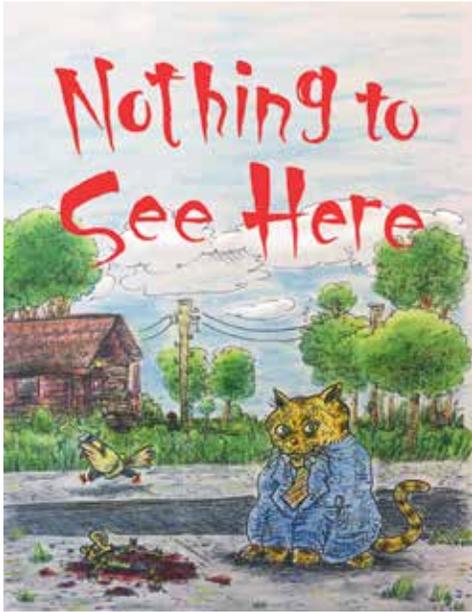
Blaine, David Collier, Jesse Jacobs, Graeme MacKay, Gord Pullar, Sylvia Nickerson, Doug Wright, James Simpkins, Simon Orpana, and Meredith Park.

Featuring four of the most well-respected Canadian artists:

Seth, Julie Doucet, Fiona Smyth, and Chester Brown.

Ginette Lapalme
Ness Lee
Carel Moiseiwitsch
Rebecca Rosen
Hartley Lin
Simon Bossé
Katherine Collins
Connor Willumsen
Sami Alwani
Aminder Dhaliwal
Jessica Campbell
Maurice Velkoop
Cole Pauls
David Boswell
Julie Delporte

Co-published by the Art Gallery of Hamilton
November 2019



NOTHING TO SEE HERE

Howard Chackowicz

ISBN 978-1-77262-042-9
5.25 x 6.5 inches, 220 pages
b/w, trade paperback
\$18

Like New Yorker gags gone terribly wrong

Nothing to See Here is the highly-anticipated continuation of Chackowicz's *Howie Action Comix* series. In the spirit of Ivan Brunetti, his one-page gags convey narrative devices that take fans to strange and dark places that exist well beyond joke territory.

November 2019

"Chackowicz's great trick is making us think that he has merely drawn us comics and cartoons both surreal and laugh-out-loud hilarious, but at a closer glance we can see that he has also crafted honest-to-god poems — lyrical works of poignancy and depth. His art is unexpectedly wistful, and warm-heartedly wise."

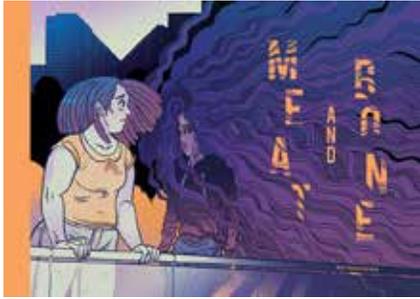
— Jonathan Goldstein
(*Heavyweight, This American Life, WireTap*)



Chackowicz received a Harvey Award nomination for work on Dennis Eichhorn's *Real Stuff* before becoming an Internet sensation. He was a regular on CBC Radio One's comedy program *WireTap* throughout the length of its run from 2004 to 2015. His character was a child in a man's body. Chackowicz plays drums for two long-lived Montreal-based bands: *The American Devices* (1980) and *Nutsak* (1996). Chackowicz has written restaurant reviews for the *Hour* and for *en-route* magazine. He lives and draws in Park Ex, Montreal.



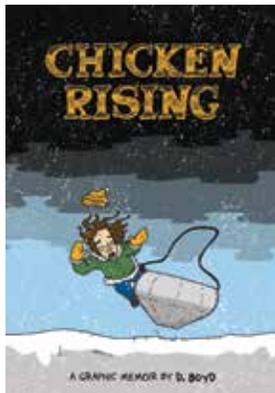
Now Available



MEAT AND BONE

Kat Verhoeven

ISBN 978-1-77262-033-7
8.5x5.5 inches, full colour
340 pages, trade paper
\$25
LGBTQ



CHICKEN RISING

D. Boyd

ISBN 978-1-77262-034-4
152 pages, 7x10 inches, b/w
trade paper, \$18



WAGE SLAVES

Daria Bogdanska

Translation from the Swedish
by **Hanna Strömberg**

ISBN 978-1-77262-036-8
200 pages, 7x10 inches, b/w
trade paper, \$20
International Imprint



AURORA BOREALICE

Joan Steacy

ISBN: 978-1-77262-037-5
250 pages, 6.5x9 inches, b/w
trade paper, \$20

Now Available

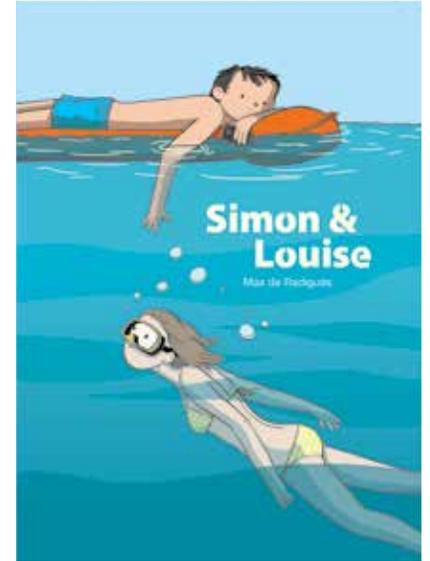
SIMON & LOUISE

Max de Radiguès

Translation by **Aleshia Jensen**

ISBN: 978-1-77262-035-1
120 pages, 6.5x9 inches
full colour, trade paper, \$18

International Imprint
Young Adult



“Will need to go in the beach bag if you have a teenager at home.”
— **Planete BD**

“Tender, funny and touching, this comic book is a real breath of fresh air that for some will evoke memories of youth.” — **La Provence**

It all begins with a relationship update on social media. Summer vacation is about to begin, and Simon discovers the change just as his supposed girlfriend leaves to spend two months in a seaside village.

Determined to find out what went wrong, Simon decides to hitchhike 520 kms to find her. With just his backpack and a few snacks, he sneaks out of the house and hits the road—but he quickly discovers that he isn't quite prepared for the journey.

But that's only half the story. Unaware of the miscommunication, Louise is dealing with social challenges of her own.

Written and illustrated from both points of view by the award-winning creator of *Moose* (nominated for an Eisner Award for Teens), *Simon & Louise* is a story about two people in love and the chaos that happens when technology gets in the way.

DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA:

LITDISTCO

For Customer Service/Orders
Tel: 1-800-591-6250
Fax: 1-800-591-6251
ordering@litdistco.ca

8300 Lawson Rd.
Milton, ON
L9T 0A4

www.litdistco.ca

CONUNDRUM PRESS:

10224 Highway 1
Wolfville, NS, B4P 2R2, Canada

www.conundrumpress.com
T: @ConundrumCanada
F: ConundrumPressCanada

Publisher / Editor: **Andy Brown**
andy@conundrumpress.com

Marketing: **Sarah Sawler**
sarah@conundrumpress.com

Jacques Filippi :
Account Manager
Quebec & Atlantic Provinces
Tel: 1.855.626.3222 x244

Kate Condon-Moriarty:
Account Manager
British Columbia
Tel: 604.662.3511 x247

Caitrin Pilkington: Account Manager,
Special Markets
Tel: 416.516.0911 x228

TRADE REPRESENTATION IN CANADA:

CANADIAN MANDA GROUP

664 Annette Street , Toronto, ON M6S 2C8
www.mandagroup.com
Tel: 1.855.626.3222 (1.855.MANDA CA)
Fax: 1.888.563.8327
Email: info@mandagroup.com

Chris Hickey: Sales Manager
Tel: 416.516.0911 x229

Tim Gain: National Account Manager
Library Market
Tel: 416.516.0911 x231

Dave Nadalin: Account Manager
Ontario
Tel: 416.516.0911 x400

Jean Cichon: Account Manager
Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba
Tel: 403.202.0922 x245

Kristina Koski: Account Manager, Special Markets
Tel: 416.516.0911 x234

David Farag: National Account Coordinator
Tel: 416.516.0911 x248

Emily Patry : Marketing & Communications Manager
Tel: 416.516.0911 x230

Ellen Warwick: National Account Manager, Special Markets
Tel: 416.516.0911 x240

Ryan Muscat: Account Manager
Ontario & Manitoba
Tel: 416.516.0911 x243

Iolanda Millar: Account Manager
British Columbia, Yukon & Northern Territories
Tel: 604.662.3511 x246

Nikki Turner: Account Manager
Trade & Library Market
Tel: 416.516.0911 x225

Anthony Iantorno: National Account Manager, Online Retailers
Tel: 416.516.0911 x242

Joanne Adams
National Account Manager, Mass Market
Tel: 416.516.0911 x224

DISTRIBUTION FOR USA:

CONSORTIUM BOOK SALES & DISTRIBUTION

The Keg House
34 13th Avenue NE, Suite 101
Minneapolis, MN 55413-1007
info@cbsd.com
www.cbsd.com
Phone: 612/746-2600
Fax: 612/746-2606

For orders and customer service:
Phone: 800/283-3572
Fax (for orders only): 800/351-5073
E-mail (for orders only):
orderentry@perseusbooks.com

Mail: 210 American Drive
Jackson, TN, 38301-5037, USA
Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. CST

Electronic ordering:
SAN Number 631-760X
Perseus customers can now order with PubEasy

DISTRIBUTION FOR UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, EUROPE:

General Enquiries:

INGRAM PUBLISHER SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

5th Floor
52 – 54 St John Street
Clerkenwell
London
EC1M 4HF
IPSUK_enquiries@ingramcontent.com

Ordering Information:

GRANTHAM BOOK SERVICES

Trent Road
Grantham, NG31 7XQ, UK
Phone: +44 (0) 1476 541 080
Fax: +44 (0) 1476 541 061
Email: orders@gbs.tbs-ltd.co.uk (UK)
Email: export@gbs.tbs-ltd.co.uk (Export)



art by Aimée de Jongh from *Taxi!*



Conundrum Press recognizes the support of the Province of Nova Scotia. We are pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.

Conundrum Press acknowledges the financial assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Government of Canada toward their publications.

This catalogue is printed by Halcraft in Halifax on 100% recycled Enviro paper.



art © Gord Hill, guest artist in *Dakwākāda Warriors* by Cole Pauls