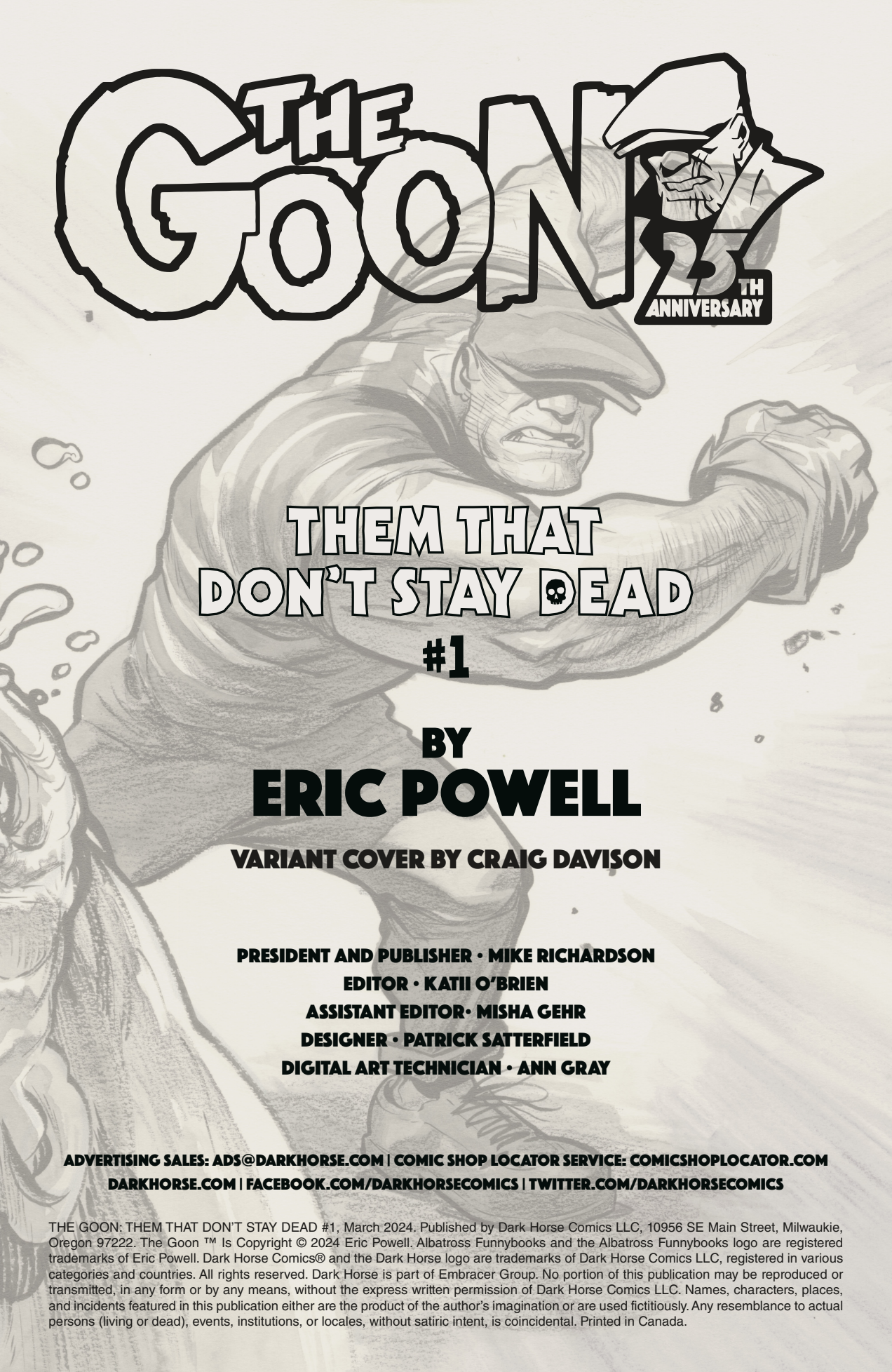




Eric Powell  
23

**THEM THAT  
DON'T STAY DEAD**  
**PART 1 OF 4 BY ERIC POWELL**

# THE GOON



**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**THEM THAT  
DON'T STAY DEAD**

**#1**

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ERIC POWELL**

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**PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER • MIKE RICHARDSON**

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AS THE GOON HAS SPENT MANY A DAY SLAMMING HIS FISTS INTO THE ORBITAL SOCKETS OF FRIGHTFUL MONSTROSITIES, IT MAY BE NO SURPRISE TO YOU TO SEE HIM PUMMELING A BUNCH OF SCHLUBBY VAMPIRES.

BUT THE HOWS AND WHYS OF IT ALL LEAD TO A MUCH MORE CONSEQUENTIAL DILEMMA.



IT ALL STARTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF H.A.R.R.U.M.P.H. (OR THE HEDRO ANGLO RADICAL REVOLUTION UTILIZING MANLY POWER HERITAGE).

AND I SAY THE IMMIGRANTS AND BROWN PEOPLES IS A PLAGUE POISONIN' THE BLOOD OF THE NATION!

HARRUMPH!

HARRUMPH!

HARRUMPH!





AND I SAY MORE MAIL ORDER TACTICAL GEAR SO I CAN DRESS LIKE MY G.I. JERRY DOLL!

HARRUMPH!  
HARRUMPH!  
HARRUMPH!



AND I SAY WE KEEP THE WOMEN IN THE KITCHEN WHERE THEY BELONG!

A WOMAN IS FOR COOKIN', BEDDIN' AND BIRTHIN'! SO SAYETH THE LORD!

HARRUMPH!  
HARRUMPH!  
HARRUMPH!



WELL I SAY LESS WOMEN, MORE LIVESTOCK! GOD MADE SHEEP FLUFFY IN THE RIGHT PLACES FOR A REASON!

MAKE AMERICA MEAN + STUPID

HARRUMPH!  
HARRUMPH!  
HARRUMPH!

BUT BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN OF H.A.R.R.U.M.P.H. COULD ANNOUNCE THE CAKE AND LEMONADE, VINNIE NOSFERATU SHOWED UP AND TURNED ALL THOSE JACKODILIES INTO VAMPIRES.



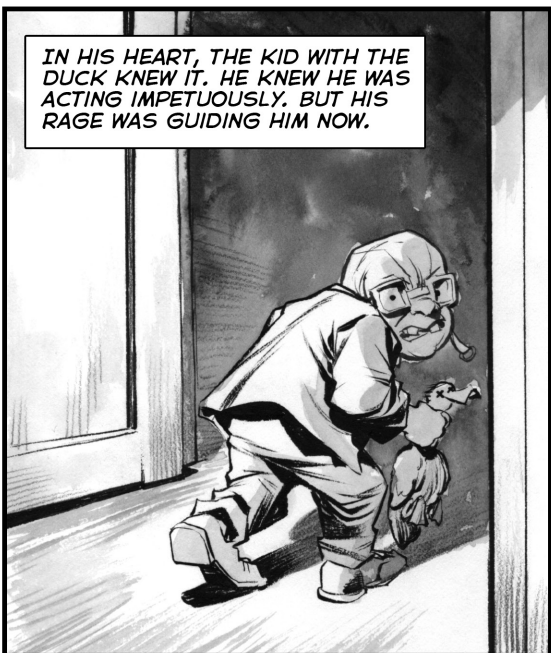
THIS WAS ALL A PLAN DEVISED BY NONE OTHER THAN THAT KID WITH THE DUCK.



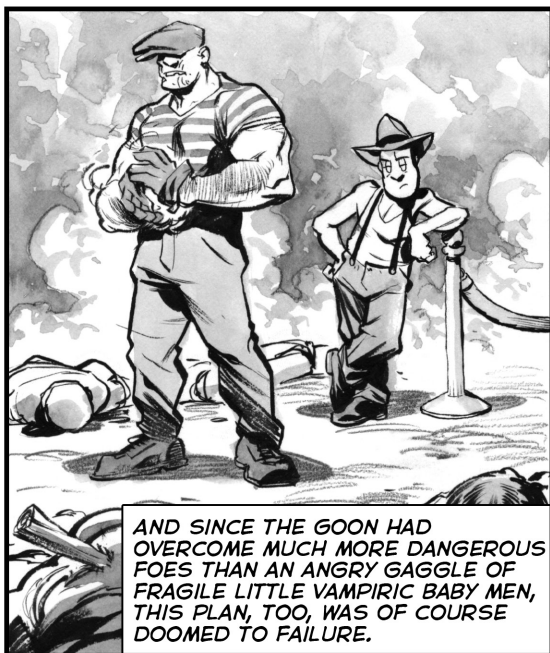
THE KID WITH THE DUCK WAS RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS. WITH EVERY FAILURE HIS ANGER GREW.



IN HIS HEART, THE KID WITH THE DUCK KNEW IT. HE KNEW HE WAS ACTING IMPETUOUSLY, BUT HIS RAGE WAS GUIDING HIM NOW.



AND SINCE THE GOON HAD OVERCOME MUCH MORE DANGEROUS FOES THAN AN ANGRY GAGGLE OF FRAGILE LITTLE VAMPIRIC BABY MEN, THIS PLAN, TOO, WAS OF COURSE DOOMED TO FAILURE.



ALL IN ALL IT WAS JUST ANOTHER NIGHT FOR THE GOON. A MINOR INCONVENIENCE.

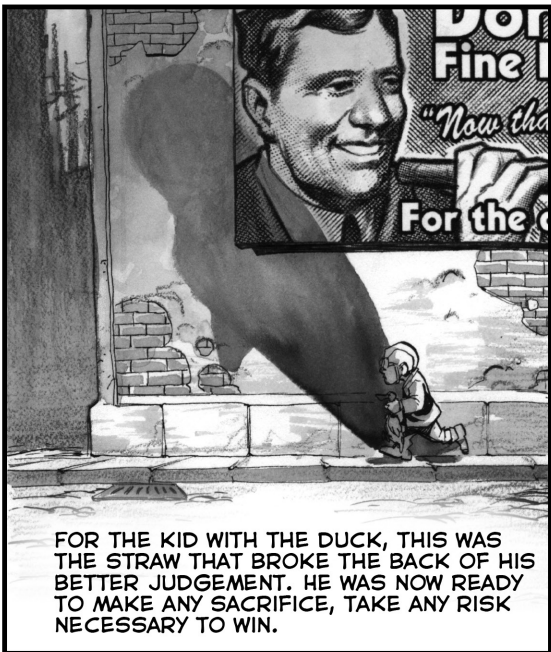
WHAT SHOULD WE EAT?

CHINESE?

LEAD ME TO THE PORK FRIED RICE.

FUNNY, YOU USED TO NEVER GO FOR CHINESE.

EH, TIME CHANGES A GUY.



FOR THE KID WITH THE DUCK, THIS WAS THE STRAW THAT BROKE THE BACK OF HIS BETTER JUDGEMENT. HE WAS NOW READY TO MAKE ANY SACRIFICE, TAKE ANY RISK NECESSARY TO WIN.



FEW KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE.

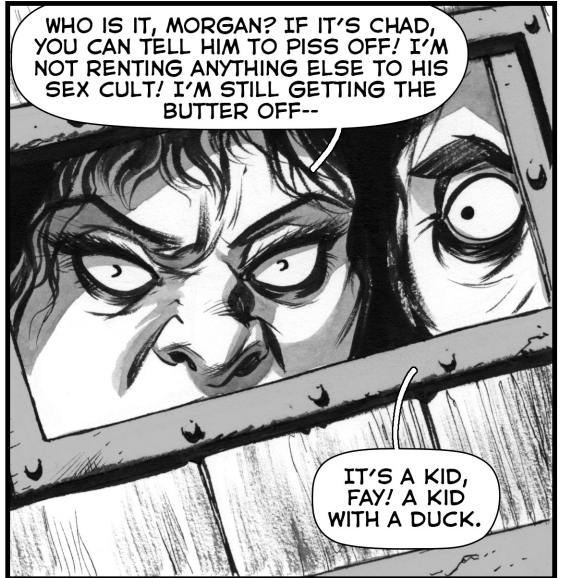


FEWER KNEW HOW TO GAIN ADMITTANCE.

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO LE FAY & MORGAN'S OCCULT BOOKSHOP. HOME OF--



WHAT THE-- WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!



WHO IS IT, MORGAN? IF IT'S CHAD, YOU CAN TELL HIM TO PISS OFF! I'M NOT RENTING ANYTHING ELSE TO HIS SEX CULT! I'M STILL GETTING THE BUTTER OFF--

IT'S A KID, FAY! A KID WITH A DUCK.

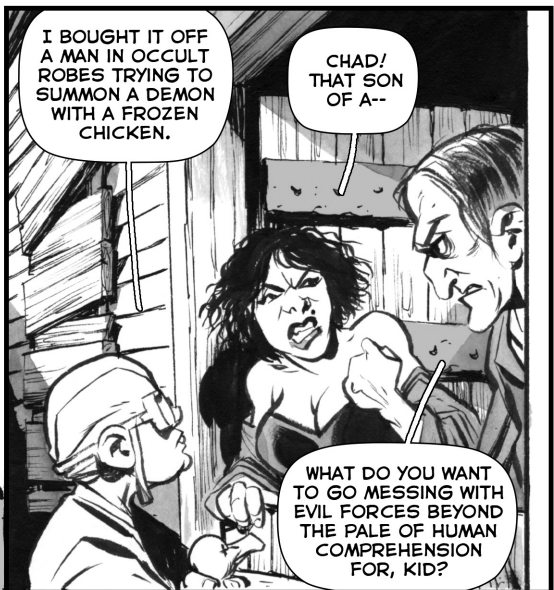


I'D LIKE YOUR BOOK THAT IS FULL OF THE MOST EVILNESS, PLEASE.



OH, WELL, LOOK AT LITTLE JOHNNY-COME-LATELY THINKING HE CAN CRIB NOTE HIS WAY THROUGH THE BLACK ARTS!

HOW DID YOU GET THE SECRET KNOCK?!



I BOUGHT IT OFF A MAN IN OCCULT ROBES TRYING TO SUMMON A DEMON WITH A FROZEN CHICKEN.

CHAD! THAT SON OF A--

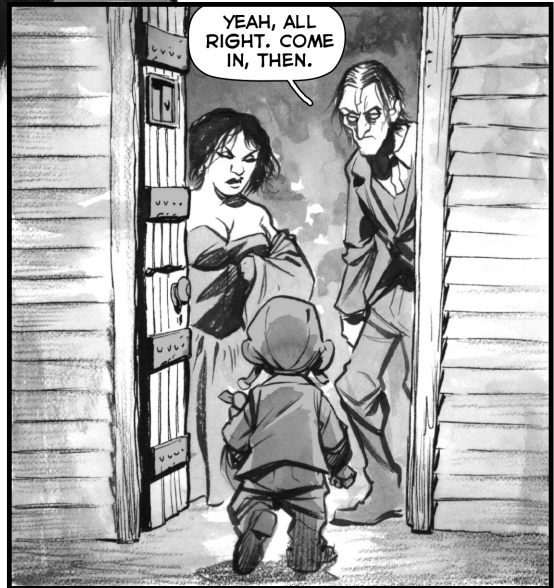
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GO MESSING WITH EVIL FORCES BEYOND THE PALE OF HUMAN COMPREHENSION FOR, KID?




I WISH TO KILL A MAN. UTTERLY DESTROY HIM. LEAVE HIM BROKEN AND SHATTERED MENTALLY, SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY. I WANT HIS LAST MOMENTS TO BE NAUGHT BUT PAINFUL DESPAIR AS HE GASPS AN UNANSWERED PLEA FOR SALVATION AND SLIPS FOREVER INTO THE COLD, NEVER-ENDING OBLIVION OF DEATH.



GOOD REASON.




YEAH, ALL RIGHT. COME IN, THEN.



FIRST OFF, YOU DON'T JUST ASK FOR AN EVIL BOOK. THERE ARE MANY AVENUES OF DARK MAGIC. YOU HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.


WHAT TYPE OF EVIL? DO YOU WANT TO CURSE? HEX? JINX? THEN THERE'S YOUR WHOLE SUB-GENRE OF LOCAL AND GEOPOLITICAL POLITICS. VERY DARK STUFF.



MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE HIM TO THE JUNIORS SECTION? WHAT ABOUT THE POP-UP BOOK OF GROIN HEXES?

NO TRAINING WHEELS, SISTER.

VERY WELL. HE WANTS TO DIVE INTO THE DEEP END OF THE POOL WITHOUT HIS FLOATIES, SO BE IT. RIGHT THIS WAY.



ON THIS SHELF IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL. IT'S THE COLLECTION OF THE NAMELESS MAN HIMSELF. THE ZOMBIE PRIEST.



THE PRIEST?!

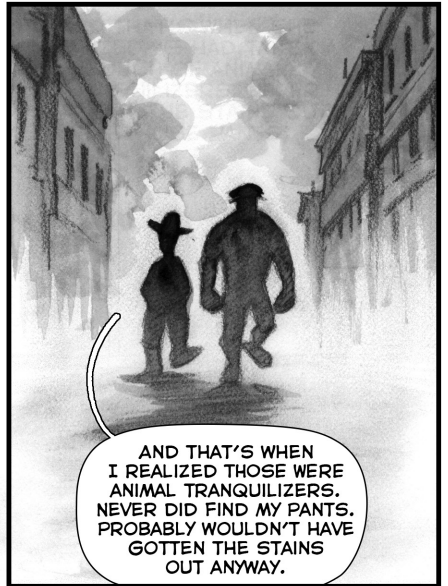
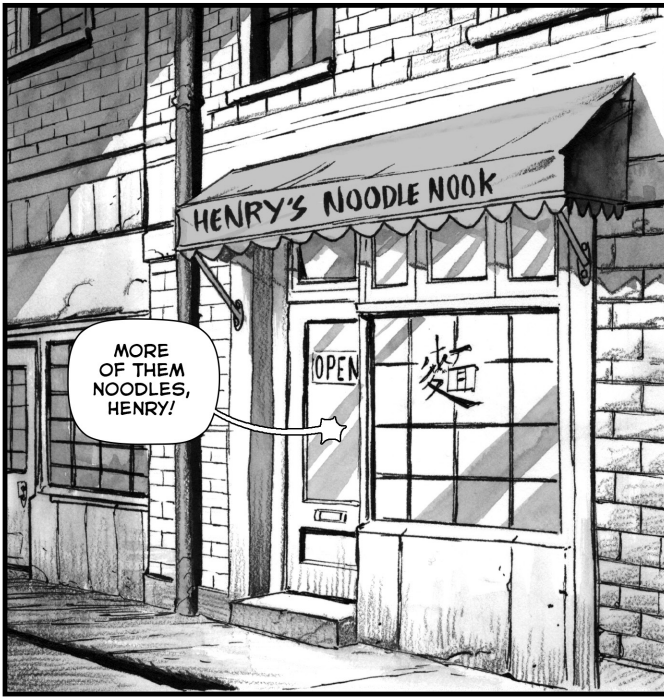
YEP! WE PICKED UP THE WHOLE COLLECTION AFTER THE GOON BUMPED HIM OFF. ESTATE SALE. GOT IT FOR A STEAL!

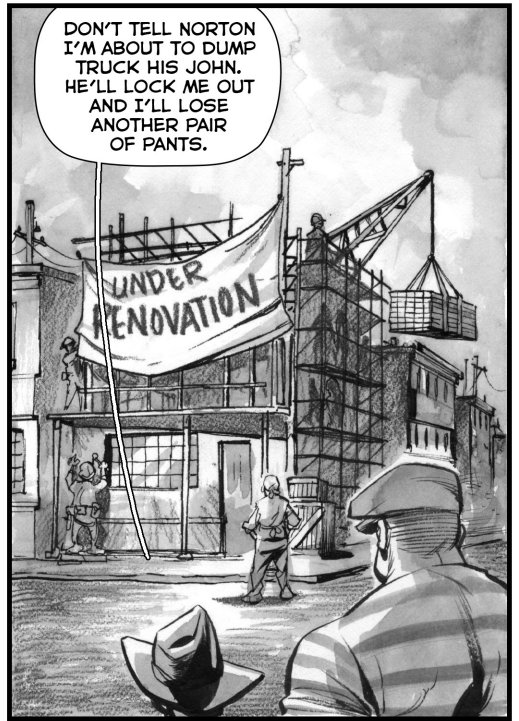


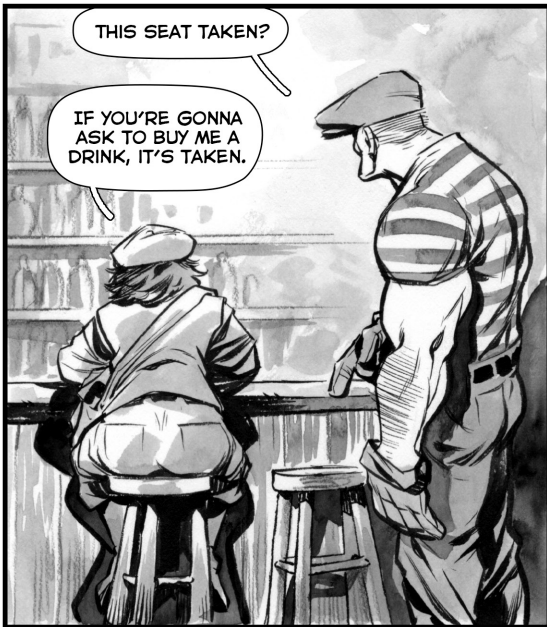
I AM VERY, VERY INTERESTED IN THESE BOOKS.

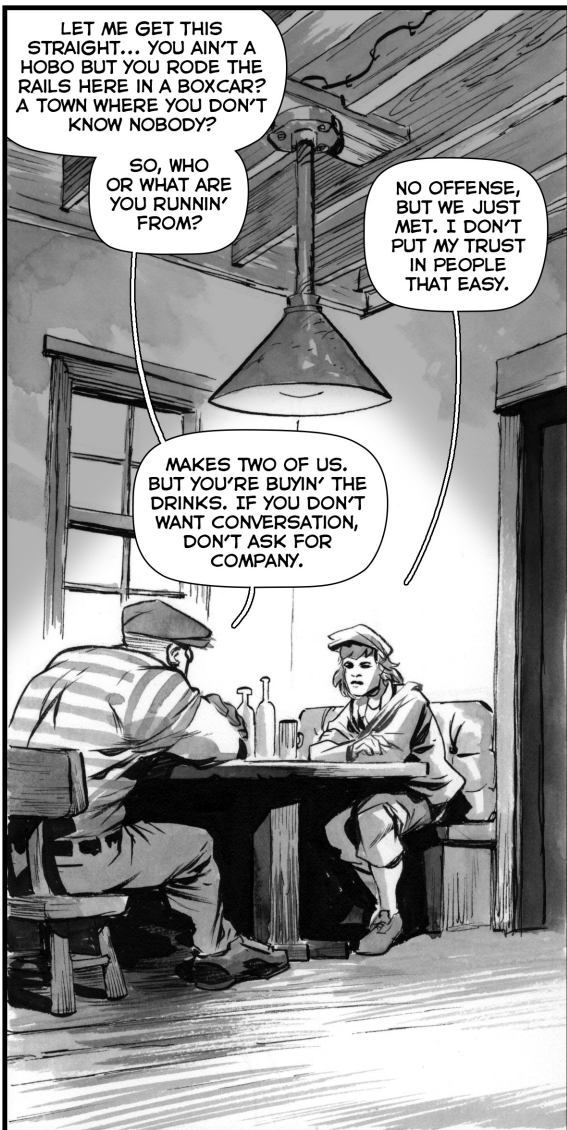
WELL, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT A BAD PLACE TO START.









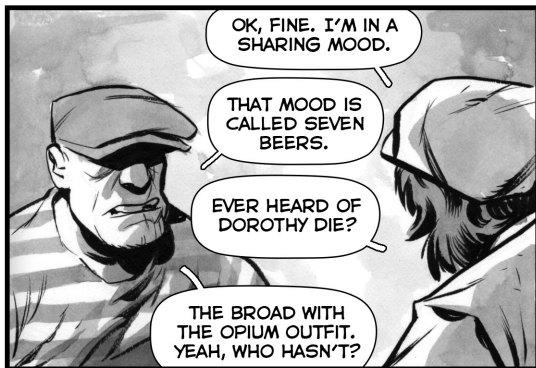


LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU AIN'T A HOBO BUT YOU RODE THE RAILS HERE IN A BOXCAR? A TOWN WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW NOBODY?

SO, WHO OR WHAT ARE YOU RUNNIN' FROM?

NO OFFENSE, BUT WE JUST MET. I DON'T PUT MY TRUST IN PEOPLE THAT EASY.

MAKES TWO OF US. BUT YOU'RE BUYIN' THE DRINKS. IF YOU DON'T WANT CONVERSATION, DON'T ASK FOR COMPANY.



OK, FINE. I'M IN A SHARING MOOD.

THAT MOOD IS CALLED SEVEN BEERS.

EVER HEARD OF DOROTHY DIE?

THE BROAD WITH THE OPIUM OUTFIT. YEAH, WHO HASN'T?



LONG STORY SHORT... MY BROTHER, NOT THE BRIGHTEST BULB BUT I LOVED HIM, WAS WORKING FOR HER. I GUESS HE SCREWED UP AND GOT ON HER BAD SIDE. THINGS... WENT SOUTH.

I'M GUESSIN' FROM THE PAST TENSE--

SHE HAD HIM KILLED.



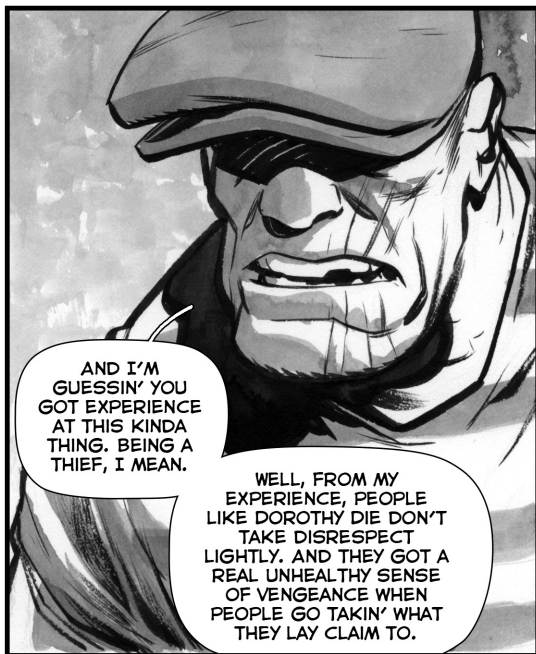
I FIGURE I'M DUE SOME PAYBACK. SHE TOOK SOMETHING OF MINE, SO I TOOK SOMETHING OF HERS.

THIS SOMETHING MUST BE PRETTY VALUABLE TO MAKE YOU GO ON THE LAM.

...



AND THIS BROTHER OF YOURS MUST'VE TOLD YOU ALL ABOUT THIS SOMETHING THAT DIE HELD SO DEAR.



AND I'M GUESSIN' YOU GOT EXPERIENCE AT THIS KINDA THING. BEING A THIEF, I MEAN.

WELL, FROM MY EXPERIENCE, PEOPLE LIKE DOROTHY DIE DON'T TAKE DISRESPECT LIGHTLY. AND THEY GOT A REAL UNHEALTHY SENSE OF VENGEANCE WHEN PEOPLE GO TAKIN' WHAT THEY LAY CLAIM TO.





WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?! GIVE IT BACK?! GET NO COMEUPPANCE FOR MY BROTHER?!



AIN'T MY PLACE TO TELL YOU TO DO ANYTHING. JUST WATCH OUT FOR YOURSELF.



WHAT DO YOU SAY WE FIND A BROOM CLOSET AND MAKE THIS WEIRD?



SO...



...



WELL...



I'M DISEASE-FREE AND HAVE LOW EXPECTATIONS.



IF YER GONNA BE ALL ROMANTIC ABOUT IT.



...





N-N-N-NOOO!



DON'T DO THIS FOOLISHNESS, CHILD! HE IS DEVIUS BEYOND YOUR RECKONING! LOOK WHAT HE DID TO ME! HIS BROTHER! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'LL DO TO YOU?!



HE DOES NOT SHARE POWER! BUT I DO! THE WORLD COULD BE YOURS! YOU AND I, BOY! WE COULD HAVE IT ALL!



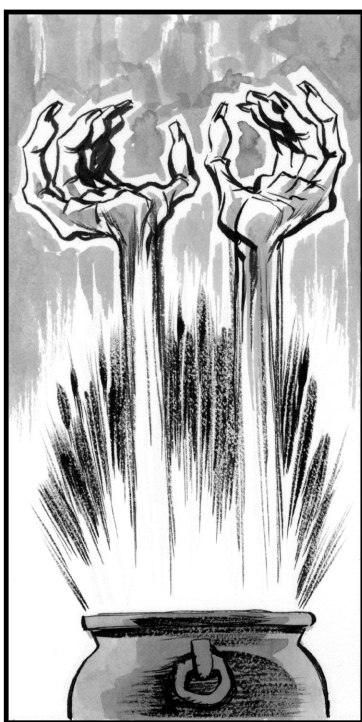
SERIOUSLY??? FOR REALS???

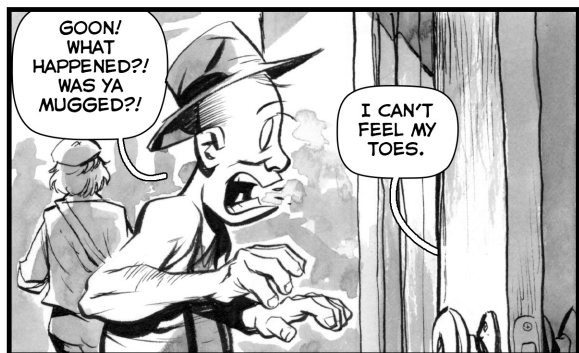


PFFFT!!



HE KILLED YOU AND WORE YOUR FACE AS A HOOD ORNAMENT. WHY WOULD I WANT SECOND BEST?









**BLAM!**



