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!

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.

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

“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!”

“...an exceptional, odd mystery.”
— Publisher’s Weekly (starred review)

“‘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

“‘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

“‘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

Also available:

THE CASE OF THE MISSING MEN

Hobtown Mystery Stories #1
5.5 × 8.5 inches, 304 pages,
b/w, trade paperback,
$20

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

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!

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— Bookshelf.ca

The highly-anticipated follow-up to The Case of the Missing Men
HERE HE COMES...
ANOTHER STEP...
ONE MORE STEP AND IT WILL BE HIS FIFTIETH CROSSING, FOLKS.

WE LOVE THE MEAT BASIN IN THE BALT.

HOBTOWN, N.S.
1996.

AND HE'S MADE IT!

THAT'S IT?

THAT'S IT

IT'S A TRADITION!

THE HERMIT DOES WHAT HE WANTS WHEN HE WANTS.

HE RULES!

DOES HE DO ANYTHING?
SAY ANYTHING?

HE'S MUTE ACTUALLY.
YEAH!
HE'S A HANDICAP LIKE YOU!

I THINK IT'S STUPID TOO, SAM.

BUT SHUT UP.
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.

### 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 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.
TAXI! TAXI? TAXI? TAXI? TAXI?! TAXI?! TAXI?

HONK
HONK
HONK

MERDE! WE'RE NOT MOVING AT ALL!

UNBELIEVABLE...

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A CITY THIS CROWDED?
Take the plunge into a post-apocalyptic nightmare

October 2019

PLUMMET

Sherwin Tjia

6.63 x 10.13 inches, 140 pages
full colour, trade paperback
$20

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
4.25 x 7 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?
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.

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

Set in a generic Fredericton suburb called Skyline Acres, this is the fiction-al 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

5.5 X 8.5 inches, 80 pages
b/w, trade paperback
$15

“\"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
Around Fredericton High School, Martin was known for two things: having diabetes.

And being that Pink Floyd kid.

Eww!

S-sorry!

He had two Pink Floyd shirts that he wore endlessly, and by Grade 10, had all but one of their albums on CD or vinyl.

His binders were covered in Floyd imagery.

And his friends always said that he would grow up to be a real-life forty-year-old virgin.

It filled him with self-confidence.

Although times had changed in the decades since Martin's dad was a child, the memory of growing up with his father persisted, and Martin grew up heavily supervised.

Although it's still important to be cautious.

Even though his endocrinologist said it was alright, Martin wasn't allowed to attend sleepovers.

Well can they come over here?

Or play sports.

He was, however, allowed to go for walks.

How are you feeling?

Fine, Dad.

Although, on one of his later, unsupervised excursions, a police officer ended up driving him home.

Are you Martin?

As a result, Martin grew up with a more limited worldview than other kids his age.
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.

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.
THE DAKWÁKÁDA WARRIORS, TS’ÚRK’I AND AĞAY ARE THE SOUTHERN TUCHONE PROTECTORS OF NÁN’ OBSERVING THROUGH SPACE DZENÚ’ AND NTL’E’.

1. HIGH CLOE PLACE
2. ASW
3. DUNLF
4. LUXMNN
5. OHY
6. NIGH

PASSING THROUGH NÁN’S ORBIT, THE DAKWÁKÁDA WARRIORS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO CHECK ON THE SHA.

EARLIER TODAY, CYBER NÁA’I AND SPACE KWÁDÁY DÁN’ THREATENED TO ANÁ’I THE SHA TO TAKE OVER THE NÁN!!

CYBER NÁA’I AND SPACE KWÁDÁY DÁN’ ARE TWO NEMESSES OF TS’ÚRK’I AND AĞAY’ OBSESSEDLY DRIVEN TO PUT NÁN’ IN DANGER.

© Sánchez & Tomé 2018
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 Kostiuk Williams
- Walter Scott
- Pascal Girard
- Michel Rabagliati
- Ho Che Anderson
- Diane Obom
- Marc Bell
- Kate Beaton
- Gord Hill
- Geneviève Castrée
- Ginette Lapalme
- Ness Lee
- Carel Moiseiwitsch
- Rebecca Rosen
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- Simon Bossé
- Katherine Collins
- Connor Willumsen
- Sami Alwani
- Aminder Dhaliwal
- Jessica Campbell
- Maurice Velkoop
- Cole Pauls
- David Boswell
- Julie Delporte

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


Featuring four of the most well-respected Canadian artists:

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

Co-published by the Art Gallery of Hamilton
November 2019
Howard Chackowicz

5.25 x 6.5 inches, 220 pages
b/w, trade paperback
$18

Like New Yorker gags
gone terribly wrong

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.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN- "YOU'RE OUT," BIG-LOUIE -?
WE HAD AN AGREEMENT.

NOTHING, MA!
MEAT AND BONE
Kat Verhoeven
8.5x5.5 inches, full colour
340 pages, trade paper
$25
LGBTQ

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

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

Young Adult

CHICKEN RISING
D. Boyd
ISBN 978-1-77262-034-4
152 pages, 7x10 inches, b/w
trade paper, $18

AURORA BOREALICE
Joan Steacy
250 pages, 6.5x9 inches, b/w
trade paper, $20

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.

“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
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