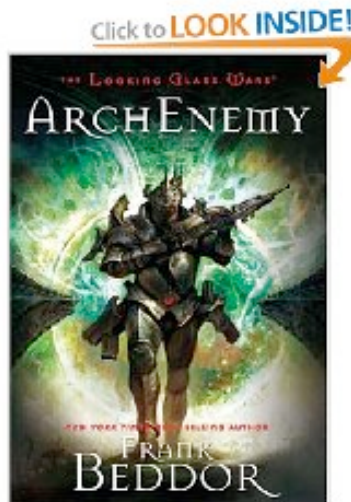


FRANK BEDDOR (THE LOOKING GLASS WARS, HATTER M)

Friday, 30 October 2009 09:41 TroyAnderson



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1) What caused you to move from film producing to “The Looking Glass Wars”?

A number of years ago I was in London for the European premiere of THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY. I went to the British Museum and saw an exhibit of ancient cards. For instance, Napoleon hired artists to hand paint depictions of his many victories in battle. But what caught my attention, at the very end of the exhibit, was an incomplete deck of cards illuminated by an unusual glow, almost as though they were alive. I was intrigued by the exhibit and captivated by the images on the cards. This was a very, very different version of Wonderland.

For the remainder of my trip I was preoccupied with the images and told several friends, one of whom suggested I meet with an antiques dealer he knew who specialized in collecting all sorts of ancient playing cards.

The next morning, on the way to the airport, I stopped at the dealer's shop. When I told him about the unusual exhibit, he revealed that he in fact owned the cards missing from the deck. I was stunned. He brought out this old, worn leather box filled with cards and told me the story as he flipped one card over at a time, revealing the saga of THE LOOKING GLASS WARS. It was a darker Alyss from a darker world and I knew I was meant to tell the story. Once I discovered the truth behind the deck of playing

cards it soon became clear that Lewis Carroll had changed everything.

*I began putting all the pieces together and weaving the revelations of just how different the real Wonderland and its inhabitants were compared to the children's lit version the world had known and accepted for nearly 150 years. Carroll's choices in how he changed Alyss's story were so fascinating (he even changed her name!) - the monsters and heroes of her lost world became these cheery reinventions. It was such a betrayal on Carroll's part and was in fact, the reason for the rift that eventually occurred between the writer and his muse. For instance - the characters we know as the White Rabbit, the Red Queen, the Cheshire Cat and of course, the Mad Hatter all appear in *The Looking Glass Wars* as they were intended by Alyss when she told Carroll her harrowing tale.*

The White Rabbit was in fact Bibwit Harte, the six foot tall albino royal tutor for all Wonderland Queens (Carroll had anagrammed his name to create the White Rabbit), while the Red Queen was in truth Alyss's Aunt Redd, the revenge maddened usurper to the throne ably assisted by her top assassin, The Cat, a man size feline who morphs from adorable kitten to giant mutant feline when called upon to kill.

So you see, there was a lot of truth to be uncovered and you might say, I felt the CALLING!

2) Hatter M is gaining quite a following in the comic world. Are there any plans to branch out with limited series for other characters?

What if I told you Redd has an heir who feels very cheated? Or that I have access to Hatter Madigan's school records and journals from his years as a cadet at the Millinery Academy?

Both the future and the past hold many untold stories that I would love to share with fans of LGW.

3) How did you become involved with Doug Chiang?

A fan of his work... A phone call... A check... Done.

4) Are there plans to have analogues for any missing Wonderland characters?

*My latest g is revealed in *ArchEnemy*...where readers will meet the analogue of Humpty Dumpty.*

5) How do you feel about some readers comparing your work to that of American McGee's "Alice"?

Fine. I love it. That's what readers do. Comparison, argument, debate, theories...once you put your contribution out there it belongs to the READERS to digest and dissect however they wish. Mash up – lunch – his art and my trailer – room for everybody

6) What has been your favorite-filmed adaptation of the Wonderland stories?

The 1948 Paramount Production of Alice in Wonderland, starring W.C. Fields as Humpty-Dumpty, Cary Grant as the Mock Turtle, and Gary Cooper as the White Knight is a hoot!

Or

Dreamchild

7) Have you played The Looking Glass Wars online game yet?

Oh yes! Players have attacked me on all sides and I don't always win. But I'm a good sport. When I am defeated I send the victor an online trophy that reads, "I vanquished the Creator".

8) What book influenced you the most?

Frank Herbert's DUNE series.

9) If you had to banish one piece of pop culture to another dimension...what would it be?

Just one... Parachute pants

10) Are there any other literary classics that you'd like to re-imagine?

Twilight