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HATTER'S NOT MAD, IT'S ONLY HIS NAME

“For no matter what the world, men who deal in headwear are men to be trusted above any others.”
– H. Madigan

written by Frank Beddor & Liz Cavalier
art & cover by Ben Templesmith

I've never read Frank Beddor's [The Looking Glass Wars](#) but Hatter M, the recently released mini-series from **Image** and **Desperado**, has assured that I will.



Hatter M focuses on Hatter Madigan—Beddor's perfectly rousing renovation of the **Mad Hatter**—who has come to old-world Paris to rescue his charge and future queen **Alyss**. It seems Alyss fled **Wonderland** after the deaths of her entire family in an “off with their heads” coup by the murderous **Redd** (see *Queen of Hearts*) and has now been exploited by **Lewis Carroll** in his LSD fogged retelling of her back-story. *Whew!* I'm out of breath but definitely in.

The first of four-issues begins with Hatter exploding through a puddle after being separated from Alyss in their escape through the **Pool of Tears**. A run in with Paris police, a bit of (*literally*) funny business with some kites, the search for his hat, a tussle with local thugs, some more funny business (*this time in a courtroom*) and a dance of the macabre (*yep, that's right*) all ensue. We even get an introduction to a villain from this side of the looking glass. Upcoming issues will reveal Alyss's 13-year exile and Hatter's equally long, globe-spanning, puddle jumping search to save her. Good Stuff.

Hatter is quite a creation and, because of his preternatural command of hidden blades—not to mention the *SHINK* sound they make when unleashed—, feels a bit like a tongue-in-cheek **Wolverine**. He's intrepid, loyal, quick of wit and of movement, and best of all hell-bent on the mission at hand. The latter making for his sometimes comedic but always swift disposal of obstacles. Let's not forget his trademark top-hat which when thrown unfurls into a boomerang of blades, "carnage accomplished" it returns to it's master in millinery form.

Ben Templesmith's (*30 Days of Night*) color palette and richly painted artwork enhance both the action and tone, which gives the book the feeling of the darkly twisted fairytale it is.

I dig it. Check it out. Let me know what you thought.

POSTED BY SHERIN

FAN RATING (11): 