



Hatter M #2 Review

Mad monkey versus Mad Hatter.

by **Hilary Goldstein**

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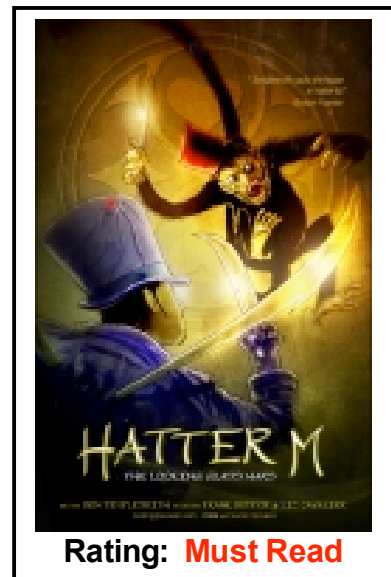
Hatter M #2

Written by Frank Beddor & Liz Cavalier

Art by Ben Templesmith

Hil's Review: Is there anything better than a knife-wielding monkey wearing a fez? That's a rhetorical question, kids. Fans of Frank Beddor's novel *The Looking Glass Wars*, Ben Templesmith's transcendent **talent** or homicidal monkeys will be giddy with delight over the latest issue of *Hatter M*.

For those who haven't had the luck to read Beddor's not-yet-in-America novel, here's the fast take: **Alice in Wonderland** was a hogwash story masking the truth of a magical world fueled by imagination. During a coup, Princess Alyss and her guardian, Hatter M, were forced to flee their home and leap through the Pool of Tears to an unknown world. The two became separated, each landing a continent apart in our hum-drum 19th century. The novel offers little insight into Madigan's decade-long search for Alyss. *Hatter M* reveals, for the first time, Madigan's adventures.



The first issue was, more or less, an accounting of events that were revealed in the novel. This second issue is a great departure and therefore a refreshing action tale of Madigan's desperate search for his charge. This ish we meet all sorts of ghoulish creatures impeding Madigan's progress, including the mad monkey who steals the cover of issue 2. Madigan is less a fish out of water, than a man slowly turning frantic in his quest to find the future **queen**.

You don't have to know the novel in any way to enjoy the comic. In fact, *Hatter M* is meant as a sort of starter drug to the novel (which arrives stateside this fall). Those who've read the **book** will get a bit more from the story. Should you not even possess the ability to read (perhaps you're listening to the audio book of IGN), you can still enjoy Templesmith's electric art, which is the true star of the series.

Hatter M is the **comic book** all the cool kids are reading. Everyone else is doing it, shouldn't you?