

Xpress Reviews—First Look at New Books

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Beddor, Frank with Liz Cavalier (text) & Ben Templesmith (illus.). **Hatter M: The Looking Glass Wars. Vol. 1.** Automatic Pub./Desperado. 2007. 165p. ISBN 978-0-97959-395-6. \$24.99. F

Verdict: Fans of Beddor's novels will be in heaven, while those new to his reinterpretation might have a harder time of it. Templesmith's signature moody, dark jewel tones are a perfect match for Beddor's twisted Alice. As bloody as the books, this will fit best in the teen section; other limited series (as yet unannounced) must be on the way since the whole of 1859 is not covered here.



Background: Though he's only midway through "The Looking Glass Wars," his *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*-inspired trilogy of novels (Vol. 2: *Seeing Redd* was just released in the United States), Beddor has spun off Royal Bodyguard Hatter Madigan into his own series of comics. The four issues collected here (which were nominated for a 2007 Eisner Award) take place at the same time as the first volume of Beddor's trilogy. Readers follow Hatter Madigan on his 13-year quest to find Princess Alyss Hart (who, readers of the novel know, is over in England inspiring Lewis Carroll to write his books). Previously, the two escaped a coup in Wonderland but were separated; Hatter M ends up in 1859 Paris without his hat, which he must reclaim because it is his greatest weapon; then, he sets out trailing white imagination with the knowledge that Alyss will shine brightly in our dull world. He search does not go unopposed.—Timothy Capehart, Dayton Metro Lib., OH