



HATTER M: LOOKING GLASS WARS

Writer: Frank Beddor

Artist: Ben Templesmith

IMAGE Comics

The Hatter is a dark character, armed with weapons, ominously wearing a top hat and a woeful look. The Hatter aka Madigan is in Paris France searching for Alyss, lost princess of wonderland. He is a literary character come alive in the pages of a comic depicting a supposed real world Paris France but the conceit of the story is never about the seeming juxtapositions of a literary figure becoming “alive” in another world, yet since we are reading it there is yet another level of separation and irony. There are mad amounts of humor here, followed by a deep mystery and intrigue. Madigan hunts, gets lost in the distractions of Paris, and ends up losing his “damn hat”. The writing here is compelling, but more clever than anything else, and I did not find it as enjoyable in word as I did in picture. Some of that is the writer, but of course, when there is a mystery, the reader almost always needs to distance himself to attempt to understand the story laid out before him. I think the writing was fine, and I am still thinking about the turns the story took. The art on the other hand was quite brilliant. I definitely think that Ben Templesmith proves here that he is among the few artists in today’s comic industry who can evoke mood, with color, line and character. I did not find myself feeling as though I was entering 1858 Paris, but I did find myself being very impressed by the work done, the beauty of it, and the effectiveness of the story telling. This is a book I would buy, and be happy with. It is not a must buy, but clearly worth it for the art alone.

