

Mad With Wonder: Hatter M Volume 2



Frank Beddor is a mystery.

Having first met Mr Beddor in New York in February of 2009, I was impressed by his unassuming nature and talent. Before him, a stack of Hatter M graphic novels, juvenile novels (Redd et al), and book marks met passers by.

Beneath the polite exterior his imagination runs rampant. He must continually hear “Follow the glow” as he creates the world of Hatter Madigan and Alyss. The big question is though, how soon will we finally get to the point where we too encounter Alyss one more time? Does Mr Beddor even know for sure?

“Mad With Wonder” is a journey through the United States civil war time frame. Madigan uncovers a story about a glow girl discovered in a civil war battle zone who heals. Immediately suspecting Alyss, she travels to America and encounters a healing circus, an insane asylum, and Shiloh. The pathway to Alyss is arduous and filled with danger. Just as the Swamp Thing (courtesy of Alan Moore) explored American decadence, Madigan finds a unique brand of negative energy that Wonderlands’ Queen Redd’s Black Imagination fuels on. This is truly mystery and intrigue at a high level.

The art by Sami Makkonen is outstanding, matching the off the wall (way, way off the wall) search for Alyss. He is truly a worthy successor to Ben

Templesmith. Few craftsmen can follow the Ben. One character stands out among the many, and that is the interim director of the Lunatic Asylum of the Mad and Disillusioned. It turns out he is able to see the glow as well, and only faintly resembles the Joker! A nice touch is the gentleman doing Einsteinian physics in 1865 on the wall, and the company of intellectuals he finds himself with.

Frank always adds the Wonderland pieces in the back of the book that follow the research he does for his work. This is one fellow who really knows how to make readers fall into his fiction.

As usual, this book is hard to put down and it merely teases you for volume three!

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