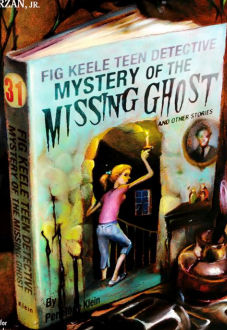


House of MYSTERY

VERTIGO

STURGES
DELL'EDERA
ZARCONI
MARZÁN, JR.



31
Jan '11
2.99 as
suggested for
mature readers
vertigo.com/arc

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HI, I'M FIG KEELE, THE SPUNKY HEROINE OF THIS STORY.

I GOT TRAPPED IN THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY AND NOW IT TURNS OUT THAT I HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE LITTLE UNIVERSES.

NEAT, HUH?

"THIS IS **HARRY BAILEY** WE WERE LOVERS, BUT THEN HE HAD TO GO AWAY. LONG STORY.



"THIS IS **CRESS**. I DON'T KNOW HER LAST NAME. SHE'S A WAITRESS HERE, AND KIND OF A SKANK, IF YOU ASK ME.



"THIS IS **POET**. HE DIED BUT THEN CRESS WENT BACK IN TIME AND GOT HIM FROM WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.



"THIS IS **ANN FOLEY** SHE'S A PIRATE! AND ALSO A BOUNCER AT THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY.



"THIS IS **JORDAN MAYER**. HE'S A FILM STUDENT AT NYU. I SLEPT WITH HIM FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS.



"THIS IS **CAIN**. THE HOUSE USED TO BELONG TO HIM. HE'S CRAZY AND KIND OF EVIL.



"THIS IS **KEELE**. HE'S MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER, AND HE HAS SOME KIND OF SECRET PLAN.



"THIS IS **PETER KEELE**. MY DAD AND A GRADE-A DOUCHEBAG.



"THIS IS **STRAWBERRY**. HE'S MY BROTHER, ALTHOUGH I ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE SORT OF FORGOT THAT HE EXISTED-- BECAUSE HE'S INSANE.



"THIS IS THE **PAIR OF THE CONCEPTION**. THEY'RE MY NEMESSES. NEMESIS. NEMEST! THEY'RE THE BAD GUYS."



THERE ARE A WHOLE BUNCH OF OTHER CHARACTERS-- LIKE THE HAWK GUY, FOR INSTANCE-- BUT **THESE** ARE THE MAIN ONES FOR NOW.

ENJOY THE STORY!





This goes out to the broken ones.

HEY!



To the freaks and the weirdos and the ones who don't fit in.

WHERE'S THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY?



The ones who suffer in silence.

OVER THERE. IT'S THE FUNKY VICTORIAN WITH THE MANGARD ROOF THAT SMELLS LIKE LIQUOR AND... FRIED.



The ones who are miserable and don't know why.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

SCREW YOU, LADY.



The ones who long for something they know not what.

LADY? I'M ONLY TWENTY-TWO!

WHATEVER, LADY.

If you've ever felt so lonely you could die, this is for you.

WHOA.

If you've ever lain awake at night counting the minutes until dawn, this is for you.

HEX FLOPPY HAIR.

CAN I GET A WHISKEY SOUR?

I DON'T KNOW. ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK?

YOU TELL ME. WHAT'S THE DRINKING AGE HERE?

WE DON'T, UM, REALLY HAVE ONE.

WOW. GOOD THING YOU'RE CUTE.

ONE WHISKEY SOUR COMING UP.

If you've ever held a gun to your head and dared yourself to pull the trigger, this one's for you.

GARCON. ANOTHER BOTTLE OF THE BEAULOLAIS, IF YOU PLEASE.

UM, SURE.

WAIT, WHAT?





When you are broken
inside--when you've been
hurt or twisted or you
were just born that way--

--that broken
part opens a
rift.

OUT
OF MY
WAY!

And through that
rift a light shines.

It's a bright, scouring light
that burns away falsehood
and fakery and folly--

--until only the
truth remains.

I CAN'T
GO THROUGH
THIS AGAIN. I
CAN'T.

CAN'T GO
THROUGH WHAT
AGAIN?

NONE OF
YOUR GODDAMN
BUSINESS.

NEW YORK CITY.

YOU SON OF A BITCH!

GET HIM OFF ME!

GET OFF OF HIM, YOU IDIOT!

GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW, PETER, OR I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL KILL YOU.

WE COULD LEAVE NOW, CERTAINLY BUT THEN WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO FIG KEELE, NOW *WOULD* WE?

AH, I *THOUGHT* THAT MIGHT GET YOUR ATTENTION.

I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE MINUTES.

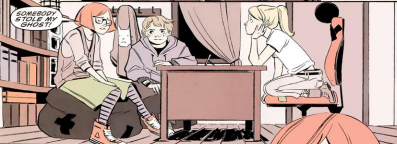








WHAT IS THE
MATTER, ROWENA?
YOU LOOK POSITIVELY
HAUNTED!



SOMEBODY
STOLE MY
GHOST!



HOW DOES
ONE STEAL A
GHOST?

YOU **RIP**
OFF ITS SHEET!
GET IT? "RIP
OFF"?

THIS IS
NO LAUGHING
MATTER, MIKEY
MILLER.



IT'S THE
"GHOST OF CHRISTMAS
YET TO COME" FOR THE
SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF
A CHRISTMAS CAROL. I
MADE IT BY PUTTING A
CLOAK ON THE SKELETON
FROM THE BIOLOGY
LAB.

BUT
SOMEONE STOLE
IT, AND IF I DON'T FIND
THE SKELETON WE'LL HAVE
TO PAY THE SCHOOL **FIVE
HUNDRED DOLLARS**
TO REPLACE IT!



WHO COULD
DO SUCH A THING,
FIRST AND ONLY **THREE
WEEKS UNTIL
CHRISTMAS!**



DON'T
WORRY ROWENA.
MIKEY AND I ARE ON
THE CASE!



DO YOU
KNOW WHY SO
FEW GHOSTS GET
ARRESTED?

WHY?

BECAUSE IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE TO PIN ANY-
THING ON THEM.

EEEEEEK!

JEEZLY CROW!
WHAT THE HECK IS
GOING ON IN
THERE?

HELP!
IT'S AFTER
ME!

WOOOOOOO!
WOOOOOOO!

The Mystery of the Missing Ghost

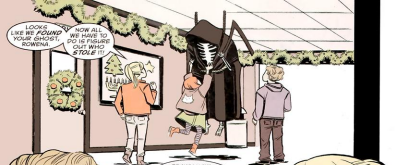
— A Fig Keele Teen Detective Mystery —

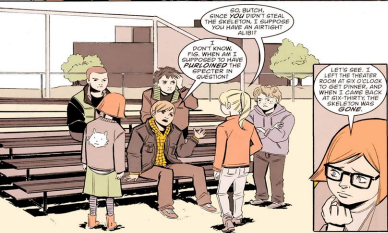
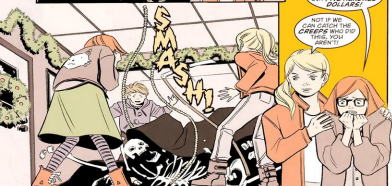
Penelope Klein:
writer

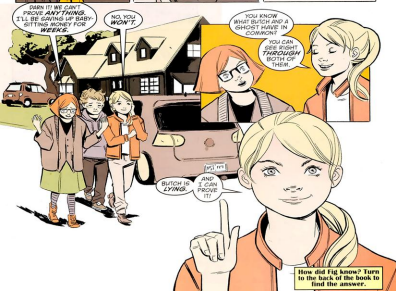
Marley Zarcone:
artist

Todd Klein:
letters

Angela Rufino:
editor













You sometimes find yourself envying those who go through life smiling and unaffected.

The ones who can simply live, without having to hide how they really feel.



You think how nice it must feel to be shallow and simple and happy.

EVERYONE OUT! HURRY!

GET OUT.



And maybe there's some truth to that. Those smiling people might actually be happy.



But keep in mind that some of them are simply as good at hiding their pain as you are.

ARE YOU INSANE? DON'T GO IN THERE!



Deep inside, some small
but desperate part of
us has always longed for
an extraordinary life.

And whether you
like it or not—

—that's exactly
what you got.

COME ON

• Conception, Part 1 of 5 •

Matthew Sturges: writer

Werther Dell'Edera: penciller

José Marzán, Jr.: inker

Todd Klein: letters

Lee Loughridge: colors

Evan Andrews: cover

Angela Rufino: editor



BUTCH INSISTED THAT HE AND HIS GANG WERE PLAYING FOOTBALL OUTSIDE UNTIL SEVEN O'CLOCK THE NIGHT THE GHOST WAS STOLEN.

BUT FIG POINTED OUT THAT IN EARLY DECEMBER THE SUN SETS EARLY--AT 5:52 ON THE DAY IN QUESTION.

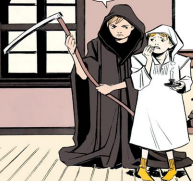


IF BUTCH AND HIS FRIENDS HAD TRULY BEEN PLAYING FOOTBALL AT SEVEN, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN DOING GO IN THE DARK!

FACED WITH THIS INCONSISTENCY, BUTCH ADMITTED THAT HE WAS LYING, AND THAT HE HAD INDEED STOLEN THE SKELETON, WHICH HE AGREED TO PAY FOR.



AH, NUTS!



AND AT FIG'S SUGGESTION, ROWENA WAS ABLE TO FIND A REPLACEMENT GHOST FOR THE PLAY!



ON THE EDGE

EDITORIAL BY SARAH GLIDDEN

The Old City of Jerusalem is crowded. In a relatively small space surrounded by walls there are three major religions, their sects and subsets. There is tourism and noise, garbage and sacred things, ideology, conflict and competing ideas. And, in early March of 2007, there was also me, standing in a narrow street with a notebook thinking to myself: "How the hell am I going to write about all of this?"

The idea was simple: go on a Birthright-Israel tour with all my strong political opinions — but with an attempt to keep an open mind — and then create a comic book about all the confusing and interesting experiences I would inevitably have while there. The trip was definitely confusing and interesting, but what I had not anticipated was how difficult it would be to turn all of that into a comic.

When I started the book as self-published minicomics, I had the impulse to write about EVERYTHING. When Vertigo picked up the project as a graphic novel, I had to rethink if I'd had it my way, the book would have been over 300 pages! That's why a good editor was essential as I went through the process of sifting all the noise of the Middle East into a streamlined script.

One by one I forced myself to cut beloved scenes that didn't move the story along. The morning when it snowed in Jerusalem and it felt like the apocalypse was coming? Cut. The time when we visited the Wailing Wall and a pigeon pooped on my friend Melissa's head at the instant that she put her prayer into the ancient stone? Cut.

In the end, slicing those moments away from the narrative only made the moments at the core of the story stronger. As a result, *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less* is not just an account of a trip I took, it's the story of someone who finds herself battling with confusion in a strange land as well as conflict within her own mind, and must find a path out. I've worked hard to clear a pathway through all the confusion and hopefully, as a reader, you can follow me through it.

— Sarah Glidden

HOW TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL IN 60 DAYS OR LESS

A stunningly accomplished debut graphic novel, *HOW TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL IN 60 DAYS OR LESS* is Sarah Glidden's charming and funny travel memoir of her trip through Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Masada and other historic locales, brought to life with lush watercolors in all of their quirky and breathtaking detail. On sale November 3, 2010



HOT LIST

FABLES #100!

In this fantastic 100-page issue, it's time to put an end to Mister Dark once and for all, and time for the Fables to return home to Fabletown. "Single Combat" unveils a new art style from the stellar team of Buckingham and LeeLotha. It's big, it's epic, and if you live in New York City, you may want to take a quick vacation when this issue comes out, because things are going to get wrecked! Plus a Fables gameboard and a celebrity puppet theatre, short stories and a celebrity burning questions section!



Illustration by Sarah Glidden. Cover art by Sarah Glidden. Fables #100, DC Comics.



THE UNWRITTEN #19

A new storyline begins here! After the shocking return of Wilson Taylor, the Cabal audition a new assassin and Tom seeks out "the source." The source of what? He's not really sure, but it looks like a whale, and it's apparently to be found in the Nantucket farmhouse where *Moby-Dick* was written...

Illustration by Sarah Glidden. Cover art by Sarah Glidden. The Unwritten #19, DC Comics.

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