

Two Gargoyles began in 1996 with Calgarians *Michael McAdam* and *Mike Rieger* deciding to create a webcomic about a superhero who wore diapers—*Diaperman!* Finding joy in creating silliness, they decided to branch out to see if they could handle un-silly stories.

"Twogargs" grew, and as the stories diversified, so did the creative team. Michael continued the writing duties for all Two Gargoyles titles; Calgarian *Kyle Burles* joined as the artist for *Gloaming*, the brothers *Mark* and *Marvin Marvida* took on the task of drawing Canadian superhero *Thunder*; *Jeremy Thew* helped realize *Twilight Detective Agency*, and then passed the drawing duties on to *Miguel Puerta*, as he helped launch LGBTQ comic *Spectrum*. *MJ San Juan* arrived on the scene to draw *The Magickal Mister Punch*, as well as handling the illustrations for Michael's novel, *Special Proper Magic*.

Although there are many more than just two, Two Gargoyles Comics is entering its 27th year of publishing independent comics and still going strong.

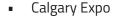
Speaking of publishing, Twogargs' first notwritten-by-Michael comic, *Twilight Detective Agency: Girls Out*, is written and drawn entirely by Mike Rieger and published by Twogargs!

Coming in 2023, watch out for *Agents of P.A.W.* and *Xanthus, the Light of Joy*— two brand new titles from Twogargs, drawn by *Myke Guisinga* and *Mark Marvida*, respectively.





Two Gargoyles Comics is a proud member of the Canadian Comic Book Alliance (*www.theccba.ca*), and can be found at conventions all around western Canada, including:







- Vernon Comic-Con
- Calgary Horror-Con

Additionally, Twogargs comics can be purchased digitally or in print form via Indyplanet and Drive-Thru Comics, or through our own site at *www.twogargs.com*, and several have been published online on Webtoon Canvas!

To schedule an interview and/or receive a review copy of one of Twogargs' comics, please email Michael at *michael@twogargs.com* or contact by cell at 403-828-5483.







"I write comics that I hope are different enough to entertain."

Two Gargoyles Comics is the brainchild of *Michael McAdam*, a Canadian author, actor, comedian, voice-over artist and virally famous flight attendant who is never happy doing just one thing. He is the father of two grown children and his own inner child is much more "outer" than inner! He lives in Airdrie, Alberta with his comic book collection and arcade machine.

Since 1996, Michael's been creating stories and working with artists to bring those visions to life.

Michael has written six separate titles with more on the way. These include: *Diaperman*, a superhero parody (his first project); *Twilight Detective Agency*, a supernatural noir detective story; *Gloaming*, a small-town horror book; *Thunder*, a Canadian superhero; the awardnominated *Spectrum*, an LGBT teen hero, and *The Magickal Mister Punch*, a British mage who defends the world with his magic.

Michael is always writing, always expanding his ideas, and with over sixteen individual issues under his belt has no desire to stop anytime soon. In 2022, Michael debuted his first novel, a young adult fiction entitled *Special Proper Magic*, about two cousins with magical powers who solve the mystery of a missing boy. It received rave reviews from Midwest Review and Reader's Favorite.

Michael has also written two murder mysteries as stage plays - *Death of a Cellsman* and *My Big Fat Geek Wedding*; he also wrote a radio play, *The Rinso Flakes Comedy Hour*, that was performed live on stage. He has also written dialogue for a Bollywood film not yet produced.

Michael is also an actor and voice-over artist with advanced improv training and has appeared on film, television and in radio commercials.





Local comic book writer premieres work at Calgary Horror Con

Gloaming, a horror series, was inspired by Airdrie and a sense of mystery

JENNIFER WILL

Michael McAdam is based in Airdrie, Alta. and is an independent comic writer, who has been creating comics since 1996.

McAdam has always had a love of comics ever since he was a kid

He is looking for a child prodigy that everyone says never existed, even though he has documented proof that he did. So, he gets pulled into a mystery and it spirals down the rabbit hole from there. Gloaming holds more than just a few secrets.

and he still reads them to this day.
"It's a medium that I enjoy be-

cause you get to see your imagination come to life visually on the page," McAdam said.

He says that a lot of his inspiration to create always starts with a scene in his head or conversations that he's had.

He also gets inspiration from different horror films that he sees and ones he wishes he could see.

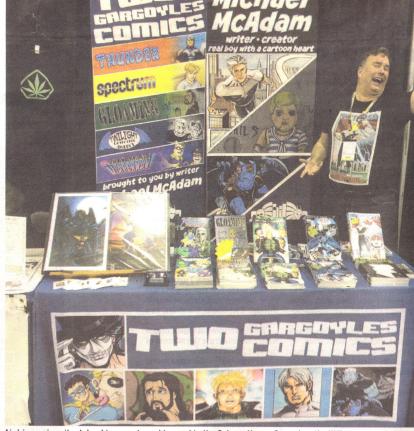
"For Gloaming, because I'm such a horror fan, there are always things that I have wanted to see in horror movies that I may have not seen," said McAdam.

"So, it usually starts like that."
McAdams has been hard at work
in production with his newest
comic Gloaming that he plans to
premiere at the Calgary Horror
Convention on June 22 and 23.

Gloaming is a comic series and this will be its third installment for McAdam and his Calgary-based co-creator, Kyle Burles.

"Gloaming is a small town, in which a famous rock star journalist comes," said McAdam.

"He is looking for a child prodigy that everyone says never existed, even though he has documented proof that he did. So, he gets pulled into a mystery and it spirals down the rabbit hole from there. Gloaming holds more than just a



Airdrie comic writer takes his newest graphic novel to the Calgary Horror Con. - Jennifer Will

few secrets.'

McAdams says this third installment of the series doesn't skimp on the thrills and horrors that readers saw in the first two issues.

"It certainly has taken a darker turn," he said.

"There is a villain that comes fully out into the light causing some horror reactions. There is a battle with the villain and terrible things happen and the truth is revealed."

McAdams added that Airdrie has been a significant source of inspiration for the series.

"Âirdrie has such an amazing vibe, and every small town has both similar and distinct personality traits," he said. "What I love about Airdrie i I can walk downtown and feel sense of mystery from back in th day when it was smaller."

You can find McAdam's wor at the upcoming Calgary Horro convention, or alternatively yo can find it at local comic stores i Calgary or on his website www twogargs.com.

Podcast Interviews:



Invasion of the Remake, 2022



GeekNerdNet.com, 2020



GeekNerdNet.com, 2018

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEWS NEW

INTERVIEW: Michael McAdam on THUNDER



By Jude Deluca

interview, kickstarter, Michael McAdam, Thunder, Two Gargoyles Comics

Our Score



Currently over on Kickstarter, creator Michael McAdam has a campaign going to fund the the third issue of *Thunder*, a superhero series about a Canadian thunder God and one of several titles Michael's created as part of his comic group *Two Gargoyles Comics*. Coming off several successful Kickstarter campaigns, I sat down with Michael and asked him a few questions regarding the creation of *Thunder*.

Jude: Hiya Michael, thanks for taking the time to answer some questions for your adoring public. You've been working on Thunder since 2011, and as of right now you've got a Kickstarter going for its third issue. How does it feel to have been working on the concept for this long?

MM: I love working on something that has a history, that is dear to me, that has a life of its own. *Thunder's* longevity in terms of development and refreshing

the story and art helped me find the right tone for the book, so I know I'm putting my best foot forward with it.

Jude: Tell us a little bit about why you created *Thunder* and what the character means to you.

MM: I was desperate to create a Canadian voice in the superhero market; we have precious few (though more are being added all the time)! Thunder is a person, first and foremost,

we have precious new (mough more are being added air the time): Infunder is a person, first and foremost, and I wanted to tell a story about an interesting person who just happens to have superpowers, rather than the other way around; Thunder is someone with hopes, dreams and feelings, and also someone with incredible gifts. How he uses them defines who he is.

Jude: Tell us about his supporting cast as well

MM: Code Monkey (Glenn Malone) is his best friend (newly made) and number one fan. He is obsessed with Thunder and everything he does! He is going to be Thunder's guide in the world of the present day — Thunder's not very streetwise. Korun, meanwhile, the enigmatic man from another world, seems intent on staving around Thunder, but whether it's to help him or ultimately betray him remains to be seen.

Jude: What's gonna be happening in this specific issue following the previous two?

MM: Thunder fights a Frost Giant that has suddenly appeared off the coast of Vancouver, surprising him (not to mention the city). Against his wishes, Korun and Code Monkey follow him to the site of the battle— Korun seems to be appraising Thunder's ability to fight, but his reasons aren't clear. As if the giant weren't



Jude: What do you plan to do with Thunder moving

MM: Thunder has to figure out his living situation he now has someone who knows his secret identity, and a super-potential-villain that no jail can hold, sitting in his living room. Also, not only does Korun reveal an horrific secret, but Thunder realizes a terrible truth next issue which sets up issue #5, and launches the second major story arc.

Jude: Thunder's not your only comic. For Two Gargoyles Comics you've got several different titles you've been working on at the same time. Diaperman, Twilight Detective Agency, Spectrum, that's really impressive, Michael.

MM: Not to mention Gloaming, my horror comic with artist Kyle Burles; issue 4 is just finishing being posted on Patreon. Kyle and I are ardent horror fans individually so doing a horror comic together just felt like kismet! But thank you — I can't seem to stop telling stories, and wanting to tell even more; it's like I'm never satisfied being where I am, I've always got

to keep moving forward.

Jude: Tell us about what it's been like working with such a variety of artists over the years

MM: I've learned to communicate, to spot trends in artistic behaviour (mostly how to handle delays!), and to better understand what each artist needs to be able to fulfill their part of the comics journey as we work together.

Community

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Airdrie comic writer debuts new book



SUBMITTED/For Rocky View Publishing

HORROR CON - Airdrie-based comic book writer Michael McAdam will be releasing his latest issue of a series called Gloaming at the Calgary Horror Convention June 22 to 23.

NATHAN WOOLRIDGE

Rocky View Publishing

Airdrie-based comic writer Michael McAdam was on vacation with his friends in Orlando, Fla., when he and Calgary illustrator Kyle Burles came upon an abandoned motel. The facility instantly gave McAdam and Burles an unsettled vibe, with its coffin-shaped pool, creepy gazebo and a large gathering of seemingly-homeless cats.

As fans of the horror genre, the two knew this would be the inspiration for their next book.

"It was the coolest, creepiest thing ever," McAdam said. "There was so much inspiration there,"

McAdam and Burles each took a number from one of the hotel rooms to bring back as souvenirs to display in their homes. McAdam said once they got back, they started working together on Gloaming – a small-town horror about a rock 'n' roll journalist working to track down a child prodigy evervone else claims doesn't exist.

McAdam has been writing comic books since 1996, he said, and has worked with different illustrators on a variety of projects. But, he added, it was particularly fun working with Burles on this series. McAdam wrote the comic, while Burles brought the story to life through his illustrations. McAdam said they both drew inspiration from the motel, their experiences and their pop-culture preferences.

"We both come at it from different directions. I like supernatural, [Burles] likes serial killers and insanity - like the mental madness aspect of it," he said.

As an independent comic publisher, McAdam works until the title Two Gargoyles, which refers to himself and the illustrator he is working with at the time. He said he mostly sells his comics locally, including at several stores in Calgary. McAdam said he writes stories he, as a horror-comic fan, would like to read - something. that appears to resonate with readers.

"I'm not saying that I have an audience of thousands of screaming fans, [but] even just one person saying, 'I can't wait for the next one,' is a huge thing and makes it all worthwhile," he said. "You don't even know if people are listening or reading or if they care. Then, some stranger will come up to you and say, 'I saw your thing,' or, 'I heard your thing,' or, 'read your thing and I really liked it."

McAdam said he has been surprised with the support from the area. The local scene is growing, he said, and is now supported by events like the

Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo and the Calgary Horror Convention.

"A convention the size of the Calgary Expo was so wonderful because I grew up going to smaller conventions in Calgary in the '80s. There was this feeling [that] Calgary isn't big or important enough in the comics world to ever have a big convention," he said. "I'm just really glad that the organizers of the Calgary Expo thought differently and proved to the world that Calgary's a destination, no matter what the topic is.

He said the Calgary comic book community can be "vanilla" at times but is often open to reading and trying new things.

"Let's say that Calgary is optimistic, but cautious. You have to sort of lead them to different ideas," he said.

For example, McAdam said, his superhero books are well-received, but some of his books, such as Gloaming and Spectrum - an LGBT series – usually attract niche groups. He said that makes it fitting Gloaming's third issue will be released at the Calgary Horror Convention June 22 to 23.

"The Calgary Horror Con is an amazing surprise for conventions because it is geared specifically towards horror," he said.

To find out more about McAdam, Two Gargoyles or to purchase comics, visit twogargs.com



Tlouey Dudenhoeffer
 May 13, 2022 4 min read

Meet Local Writer, Michael McAdam

You may recognize him as that famous Westjet Flight Attendant on YouTube or maybe as the Airport Gate Keeper on Jann, however, Michael McAdam doesn't need an airplane to take you places.

Michael McAdam (he/him) is a prolific comic book writer with multiple titles spanning multiple genres including superheroes, fantasy, horror, and comedy. He is a queer, independent writer publishing right here in Alberta under his own company, Two Gargoyles Comics. His comic titles include Twilight Detective Agency, Thunder, Spectrum, Gloaming, Diaperman, and The Magickal Mister Punch. And now, he's branching out into novels with the release of his young adult fiction novel, Special Proper Magic!

In every world that McAdam takes us to through his creative storytelling, there is always a diverse cast of characters. One of McAdam's goals as a storyteller is to present LGBTQIA+ characters who aren't just campy stereotypes, but who are real and dynamic and possess individual personalities and goals. "One of the reasons I began writing LGBTQ characters is because I didn't see anyone like me in any of the books I was reading," he explained during our chat. "At the time, gay comics were either camp or porn, with very little in between. I wanted to write about people like me, who were experiencing the world at their own pace, without falling into stereotypes." (M. McAdam, personal communication, 2022)

McAdam has long been an advocate for queer rights. He was part of the first Pride Parade in Calgary and even made it onto the news! He loves to attend Pride, but these days his activism is writing and creating stories that showcase the kind of world he would like to see. McAdam also enjoys speaking on panels at comic conventions to further conversations about LGBTQIA+ characters and representation in media. McAdam's comic <u>Spectrum</u> is an excellent example of such representation as it follows a newly-out gay teen named Richie Sorensen who gets whisked away into the world of superheroes after gaining light-based

Comic books today are more than just classic superheroes. They are a beautiful and engaging medium for active, visual storytelling that can

capture the attention of both avid and hesitant readers, alike. For that reason, they are an effective method for getting your message out into the world. McAdam knows this well, having grown up as an avid comic book reader and collector. When asked 'why comics?', he had much to say, but narrowed it down to "that anticipation of a new issue, seeing something on the rack that you recognize is for you, and being whisked off to a colourful world with characters you know and love. I had that growing up, and now I want to give it to everyone who reads my work." (M. McAdam, personal communication, 2022).

Already an absolute pro at writing and publishing comics, McAdam is now delving into writing novels. His first novel, <u>Special Proper Magic</u>, is about two teenage cousins, Holly and Adrian, who discover they have magical abilities upon meeting for the first time. Holly can see ghosts and Adrian can move things with his mind.

The switch in mediums was "fascinating" to McAdam and it allowed him "to more fully develop my ideas and paint my own pictures with my words." (M. McAdam, personal communication, 2022). Being that McAdam doesn't illustrate his comics, this ultimately gave him more control over the visuals created through his narration. With comic books, his words "influence the artist's choices, but the pictures are not my own". Even though he enjoys working collaboratively with the many fantastic comic artists on his *Two Gargs* team, getting to paint his own pictures with his words was an exciting new experience.

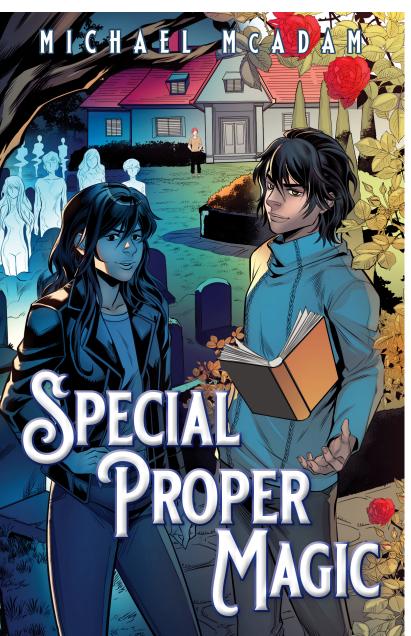


"We're magic, you and me, special proper magic, and this is now going to be the best summer ever!"









She can see and speak to ghosts. He can move things with his mind. Now there's a missing boy only they can find.

"We're magic, you and me, special proper magic, and this is now going to be the best summer ever!"

Adrian and Holly are two cousins who have never met, until one English summer they are introduced, and discover each other's secrets: Holly can see and speak to ghosts, and Adrian can move things with his mind.

On the heels of that discovery, a boy their age goes missing—and together they decide to find him, no matter what ghostly spirits may stand in their way!

The first novel by Canadian indie comics writer Michael McAdam, *Special Proper Magic* is a middle-grade fantasy adventure novel about friendship, family and truth; evoking memories of British classic childhood books. Each chapter is headed with a beautiful illustration by M.J. San Juan.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"...highly recommended reading for young adults looking for magical stories of connection."

—D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

"An enchanting and entertaining read with great characters...l didn't want it to end."

—Brucine, age 76

"...really thought out and planned... one of my favourite books I've ever read other than Harry Potter!"

—Brooklyn, age 11



Chapter 1: The Boy (excerpt)

"There was a boy. A very strange, enchanted boy." —eden ahbez

...Some people may have had eyes that were amber or pale green, but Adrian's eyes were yellow like a wolf's, or perhaps a hawk's. They stood out in contrast to his otherwise silent features, giving him a striking and unsettling look when he made direct eye contact with anyone.

His friends at school called them "witch's eyes," and they had earned him the nickname of "Spooky." Far from being put off by this, thirteen-year-old Adrian found it to be rather cool.

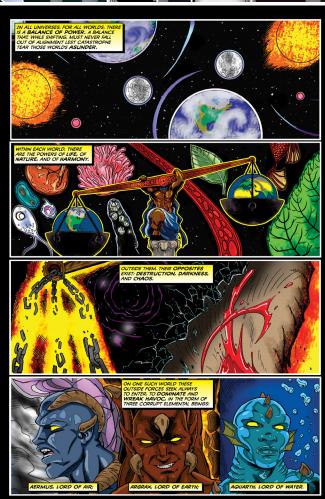
Finally, there was a trait he possessed which was somewhat less obvious: Adrian could move things with his mind. His mother and father did not know he could do this. Even at his age, Adrian knew such inexplicable things were considered too strange even for him, and wanted to avoid any awkward, unpleasant questions.

It had begun at school, where he had stood a pencil on its point during a boring moment in class, and it had not fallen down. In fact, as long as he kept looking at it, it continued to stand. Once he'd looked away, it toppled over as it should have done.

He'd experimented, to see if it was all really *real*, and had been able to move the pencil from one side of the desk to the other just by thinking about it.

It had been difficult to find time alone to practice this talent while at school, since there were always people about, but he would find quiet places like the library or the chapel and try his ability there. He found he could move books, lamps; open and close doors and windows; he could move anything smaller than a trunk, it seemed....







Dashing. Daring. Diapered.

Diaperman, along with his best friend and trusted companion Sleepers, strive to make the city of Megopolis free of the controlling influences of such villains as the Spanker, a rubber-clad ne'er-do-well with a penchant for paddling, and the Black Whip, a demented dominatrix who craves subservience from her minions at the tip of her whip! Other fetishistic characters make up the setting of the city of Megopolis, leaving it up to Diaperman, the Padded Paladin, to fight for justice in his own unique and soggy way.

DIAPERMAN focusses on poking fun at the superhero industry by making all the heroes and villains into fetishists in a humorous way; they aren't aware of what they are, and the rest of the world shakes its collective head as they pass by. Jokes and innuendo suitable for an audience from the late teens on up!

Written and lettered by *Michael McAdam* Art by *Jeremy Thew*



GLOAMING

Every town has secrets. One has too many.

A determined journalist comes to the small town of Gloaming to find a missing child rock star...who never existed.

Doug Carter's career in rock journalism led him to write a book about Tommy Jordan, a young prodigy on the music scene. Just as he's about to publish, he's met with denial that there was ever any such person. Determined to prove himself, he comes to the town of Gloaming for answers—but unprepared for what he'll uncover!

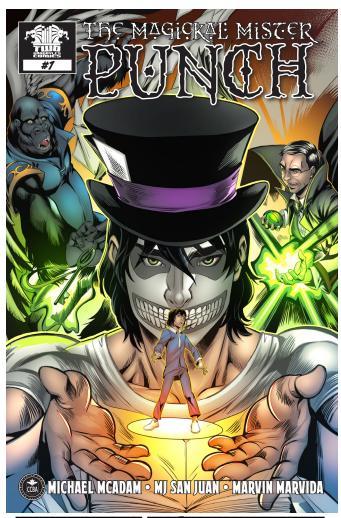
Small town secrets, corruption, murder and the supernatural are all uncovered by Carter, leading inexorably down a path towards an answer to questions he does not yet know to ask.

GLOAMING is an ongoing series focussing on Doug Carter's discoveries of the hidden world contained in a small town that is everywhere and nowhere, and from which there is no escape.

Art & Story by *Kyle Burles* Story,Script and Lettering by *Michael McAdam*









PUNCH PUNCH

Tricks and trouble in a top hat!

A charismatic British mage charms us with tales of his magical adventures through the ages.

Adrian Whitingham was an exceptional boy; clever, a loner, and with the extraordinary ability to move things with his mind.

Then he discovered a mysterious key which would unlock his future—a future filled with wizards, magic, strange new worlds and beings from beyond!

He became Mr. Punch, a sly, grinning mage with any number of tricks up his sleeve!

Magic and mayhem combine in this ongoing series about a trickster mage who is trying to maintain a balance between the forces of order and chaos.

Written and Lettered by *Michael McAdam*Art by *MJ San Juan*Colours by *Marvin Marvida*



SPECTURE

Coming out is a rainbow of experiences. Especially with superpowers.

What if you had to "come out" twice?

Richie Sorensen is an average teen just learning about what it means to be gay. Then one night he is enveloped by the Northern Lights and his world begins to change around him—he gains powers of light, making him both a literal and a figurative spectrum— a rainbow of colour and of life.

The government involves itself very quickly and Richie is introduced to a world of super-citizens who are trained to use their powers for the good of society.

SPECTRUM is an ongoing series focussing on teenage experiences with coming out, diversity, ethical and personal dilemmas that all contribute to the rainbow of experience that is life for LGBT people.

Written by *Michael McAdam* Art by *Jeremy Thew*









THUNDER

Half Norse God. Half Canadian. Super Polite.

Half-mortal, half Norse God, Devon Wells returns home to Canada after a youth spent in Asgard and steps onto the path to becoming a hero.

A terrorist is threatening to blow up a dam. Called to action, Devon arrives as Thunder, setting in motion a world-changing chain of events that include a villain in technological armor, old gods, magical powers, monkey-faced computer geeks and beings from other dimensions!

THUNDER is an ongoing series focussing on a young man's journey to herohood, reacclimating to life on Midgard (Earth), and overcoming the obstacles to being whole again.

Written and Lettered by *Michael McAdam*Art by *Mark Marvida*Colours by *Marvin Marvida*





Magic, mysteries, and monsters. And we're the monsters.

"Welcome to the Twilight Detective Agency, where Mr. Riverdale and Mr. Hawkstone will investigate your case for a nominal fee. To preserve their anonymity, all business will be conducted over the phone or via email. In our line of work, keeping our identities a secret helps us do a better job for you. Please leave a message and a number where you can be reached after the beep."

Of course, there's a reason that Mssrs. Riverdale and Hawkstone conduct their business anonymously: They aren't human. They're Gargoyles, supernatural creatures of the night bent on protecting humanity...for a price.

In a cynical modern world of the night, our heroes, much to the annoyance of their elders, move through humanity's doings, their presence felt but not seen, facing the world one case at a time. From the simple to the supernatural, there's no case too big or too small for the *Twilight Detective Agency*.

Written by *Michael McAdam* Pencils by *Miguel Puerta* Inks by *Mike Rieger*









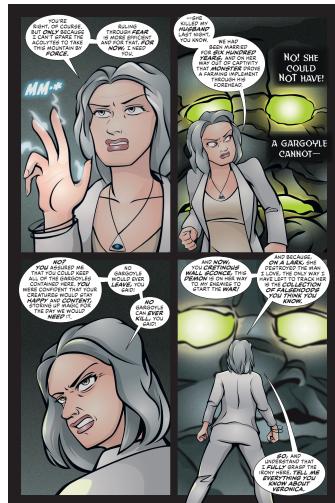
Mythical, fun, and on the run.

Half a world away from Mssrs. Riverdale and Hawkstone, secret gargoyle proprietors of the Twilight Detective Agency, an ancient society of gargoyles cowers within a remote mountain, living in fear of discovery by the human mages who created them centuries ago.

Veronica and Maeve have grown up in this underground sect. But Veronica longs for the outside world, and feels out of place in the only home she's ever known. However, leaving a cult can be very dangerous, especially when you're a gargoyle!

Twilight Detective Agency: Girls Out is a spin-off book to Twilight Detective Agency, and the first Twogargs book to be created by a different writer!

Written, Drawn, Coloured and Lettered by *Mike Rieger*



THE LIGHT OF JOY

What if joy itself were a living being?

Xanthus, an alien energy being composed entirely of yellow energy whose frequency is that of joy itself, comes to Earth just in time to rescue a man named Sean Preston from his terrible fate, by merging its essence with his.

Sean, formerly depressed and seeking his own end, finds the merging rejuvenates him and allows him to hope again. Xanthus' energy bolsters his own, and a good thing too—because where there is light, there must also be shadow; a dark energy creature named Nubilus hungers for the light in every human soul, and now it is up to Sean and Xanthus to combat its darkness as Xanthus, the Light of Joy.

Written and Lettered by *Michael McAdam*Art by *Mark Marvida*Colours by *Marvin Marvida*

