

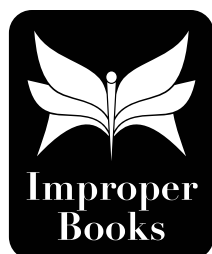


PORCELAIN

BONE CHINA



BENJAMIN READ + CHRIS WILDGOOSE



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THAT'S...
THAT'S 'GENERAL',
M'LADY, AS I HAVE
ALREADY POINTED
OUT.

COLONEL,
GENERAL, YOU ALL
WEAR THE SAME DAFT
HAT, SO WHAT'S IT
MATTER?



WHY
YOU...

WHAT I BELIEVE MY
COMMANDING OFFICER WAS
ABOUT TO SAY, M'LADY, WAS
THAT WE HAD ALREADY
MADE A HANDSOME
OFFER.

WE HAD NATURALLY
TAKEN YOUR SILENCE AS
ACCEPTANCE.



MY SILENCE WAS
BECAUSE I LAUGHED
SO HARD THAT I NEARLY
WET MY KNICKERS AND
HAD TO CLENCH
ACCORDINGLY.



BUT
M'LADY...

BUT **NOTHING.**
I'VE NAMED ME PRICE
FOR THE PORCELAIN
AND I'LL SPIT ON
IT OR YOUR
SHOES.

YOUR
SHOUT.



THE DAMN
HORSES ARE
NOT THE
ISSUE.

IT IS THE
PORCELAIN MEN,
THE **SOLDIERS**,
THAT I WANT.

ALREADY
TOLD YOU, THEY
AIN'T FOR SALE
ANYMORE.

THINGS HAVE
CHANGED.



IF IT'S A
CASE OF MORE
MONEY, WE'LL PAY.
THE AMOUNT IS OF
NO MOMENT.

YOU DEAF
IN THAT EAR?
IT'S A CASE
OF 'NO'.

NOW,
DO YOU WANT
THE HORSES
OR NOT?





URGH.



OH, LADY, BUT YOU ARE UNKIND. THOSE POOR SOLDIERS LOOKED QUITE DISTRESSED.

DID YOU USE THE VOICE?

I'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN, MARIEM.



OH, YOU DID! YOU WICKED WOMAN.

YOU GAVE THEM YOUR BEST URCHIN, DIDN'T YOU?



I FIND THAT THE MORE RIDICULOUS THE *HAT*, THE MORE AWKWARD THEY FEEL WHEN THEY HAVE TO DEAL WITH A RANTING GUTTERSNIPE.

PROPER WRONG FOOTS 'EM, IT DOES.



ANYWAY, IN THE EYES OF POLITE SOCIETY, I'M *STILL* A STINKING URCHIN.

MIGHT AS WELL TALK LIKE ONE.



AFTER PAYING ME ALL THAT LOVELY MONEY SO THAT YOU DON'T?

A WASTE. WE COULD HAVE SAVED TIME AND SPENT IT ON FUN INSTEAD.



ON THE TOPIC OF FUN, THERE'S A PARTY TONIGHT AT—

NO, MARIEM. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

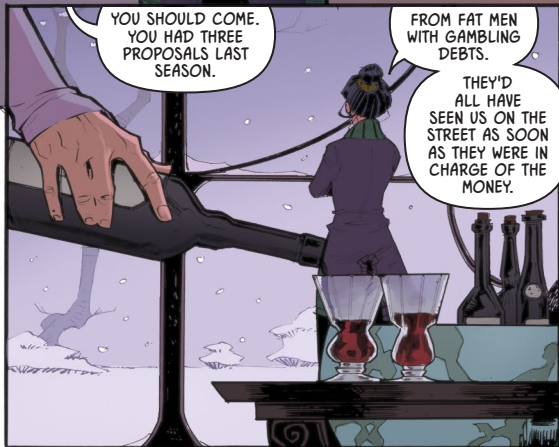
NEVER AGAIN, IN FACT.



I HAVE NO DESIRE TO MEET LORD 'TOUCH YOUR BUM' OR HIS FRIENDS AGAIN.

THEY'RE TORN BETWEEN GETTING THEIR HANDS UP MY DRESS OR IN MY PURSE.

SO IT'S NOT ALL BAD, THEN?



YOU SHOULD COME. YOU HAD THREE PROPOSALS LAST SEASON.

FROM FAT MEN WITH GAMBLING DEBTS.

THEY'D ALL HAVE SEEN US ON THE STREET AS SOON AS THEY WERE IN CHARGE OF THE MONEY.



SO COME OUT WITH ME. FIND A PRETTIER, MORE SOLVENT ONE.

HAVE SOME FUN!

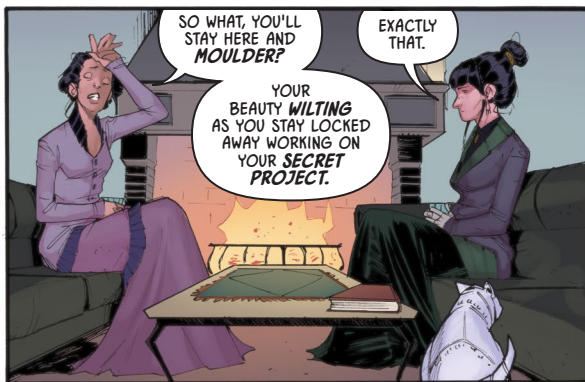
NO.

I'LL HAVE NO PART OF IT.



THEIR PARTS HAVE OCCASIONAL USES IN MY EXPERIENCE.

YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE PROFESSION OF CHAPERONE.



SO WHAT, YOU'LL STAY HERE AND MOULDER?

EXACTLY THAT.

YOUR BEAUTY *WILTING* AS YOU STAY LOCKED AWAY WORKING ON YOUR *SECRET PROJECT*.



WHEN WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN THE GLAZE ROOM?

I'M BURNING TO KNOW.

WHEN I'M READY.

STOP BEING SO ACQ...INQUISITIVE, YOU DREADFUL NOSE.



BAH.

IF YOU WON'T COME OUT, THEN AT LEAST PROMISE ME YOU'LL NOT WORK TONIGHT.

YOU NEVER STOP ANYMORE.

VERY WELL, MARIEM, I PROMISE. I'LL READ INSTEAD.

NOW, BUGGER OFF.













UNHAND HER NOW, OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

I'VE *NO* IDEA WHO THIS IS.



YOU BE SHUSH, LASS.

AND WHY SHOULD WE DO *THAT*, THEN?

BECAUSE I'M A *CAPTAIN* OF THE *REGENT'S GUARD*.



AND I'M THE *DUKE OF SEVEN VEILS*.

OFFICER, THE ARRANGEMENT. I'M *SORRY* FOR THIS *IDIOT*.

A *LARGER* DONATION, PERHAPS?



OH, WE'RE *WELL* PAST SORRY.

WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, CORPORAL?

IT'S *CAPTAIN*.

AND I SAY, GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS *OFF* HER.



REALLY? I THINK YOU'LL BE COMING WITH US.

WELL, *BITS* OF YOU ANYWAY.

I DISAGREE.

BEHIND ME, M'LADY.

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...



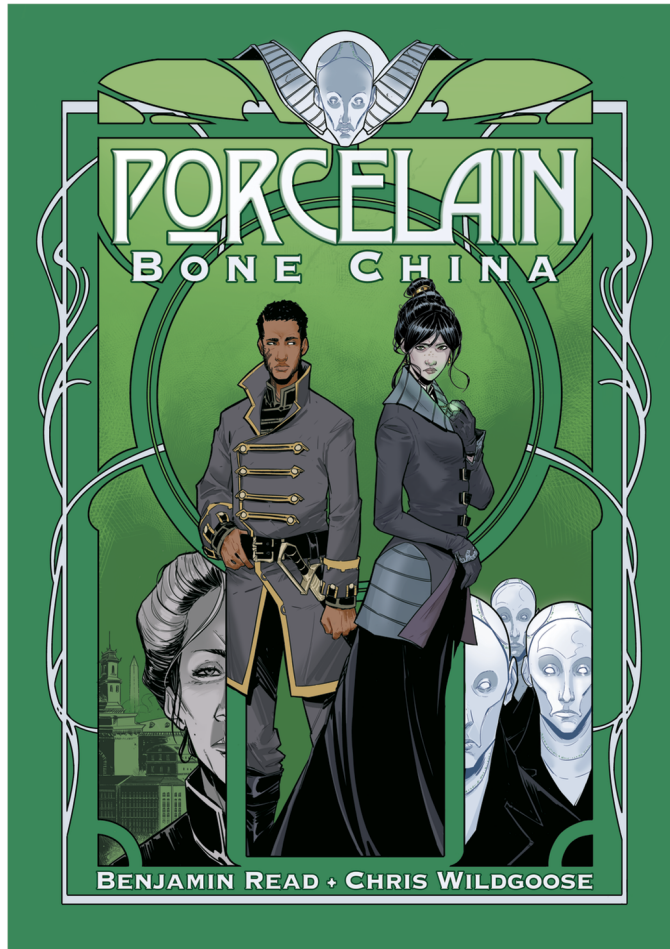
ENOUGH OF THIS!

Thorn!



I DO NOT
WALK ALONE
AT NIGHT.

GRARRRRRRRRRR



Porcelain: Bone China
Available 2015



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@ImproperBooks on twitter.

Benjamin Read writes comics and makes films. He wrote the multiply award-nominated PORCELAIN: A GOTHIC FAIRY TALE, the silent comic BUTTERFLY GATE, and children's book, NIGHT POST, as well as the TRUE GRIT and SUPER 8 comic adaptations. He also wrote and produced the films ARMISTICE and 500 MILES NORTH. He is one of the founder members of the Improper Books comics collective, and is fuelled principally by tea and whimsy. He is currently working on the rest of the Porcelain sequence, alongside writing his first novel.

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Chris Wildgoose is an illustrator, and conceptual and storyboard artist. Northern born, but London based, Chris made his comic debut with the official TRUE GRIT and SUPER 8 comics and has been working towards doing some good in comics ever since.

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André May After briefly attempting to work with digital painting, André May's interest in sequential art made him pursue comic coloring, which led to his participation in series such as PORCELAIN (Improper Books), SIX GUN GORILLA (BOOM!), and LA LEGENDE DOREÉ (Vents d'Ouest). Other than that, his life story is pretty uninteresting. He does hope people enjoy his work, though.

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Jim Campbell is an Eagle and True Believer Award-nominated letterer whose work can be seen in titles from BOOM! Studios, Black Mask, Dark Horse, Image, Madefire, Renegade Arts, Titan and Zenescope. He lives and works in darkest Nottinghamshire and maintains a blog on matters relating to comics, lettering and other random musings.

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Improper Books is a comic and graphic novel studio focusing on stories that have a touch of the fairy tale, the Gothic or the macabre.

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TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED, AND CHILD HAS GROWN INTO A LADY. SOLE INHERITOR OF UNCLE'S SECRETS AND WEALTH, SHE HAS BECOME ISOLATED BEHIND THE HIGH WALLS SHE ONCE CLIMBED.

SET WITHIN A WORLD THAT'S A MAGICAL ECHO OF OUR OWN, BONE CHINA IS THE STORY OF LADY, AN ALCHEMIST, WHO MUST FORGE HER OWN PATH THROUGH THE COMPLEXITIES OF LOVE, POLITICS, AND WAR.



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Suggested for Young Adults and above.