

WICKED THINGS™

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WICKED THINGS No. 1, March 2020. Published by BOOM! Box, a division of Boom Entertainment, Inc., 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679. Wicked Things is ™ & © 2020 John Allison. All rights reserved. BOOM! Box™ and the BOOM! Box logo are trademarks of Boom Entertainment, Inc., registered in various countries and categories. All characters, events, and institutions depicted herein are fictional. Any similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, events, and/or institutions in this publication to actual names, characters, and persons, whether living or dead, events, and/or institutions is unintended and purely coincidental. BOOM! Box does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material, call: (203) 595-3636 and provide reference #RICH - 884734 PRINTED IN USA.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MAYBE HAVING A CLEAR-OUT BEFORE YOU GO TO UNIVERSITY?

MUM, DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO?

CLEAR THIS ROOM OF ITS PROTECTIVE JUNK...

...AND YOU CAN SELL THE ONLY HOME I'VE EVER KNOWN THE SECOND I LEAVE.



LOTTIE LOVE, COME ON. THESE ANCIENT FOLDERS FULL OF GOD-KNOWS-WHAT. GIVE ME SOMETHING.

SNATCH



IF YOU TOUCH MY PRECIOUS MYSTERY FILES...

...I WILL BECOME A **NUN** TO SPITE YOU.



THE CASE OF THE JADE CARTEL MUST NEVER GO IN THE BIN. IT INVOLVED A LOT OF MILD PERIL.

I'M SURE IT DID.



YOU DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS EVER HAPPENED, DO YOU?

LOOK! IT WAS IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

TEENS TOPPLE LOCAL GEM SYNDICATE



THEY USED TO PRINT ANYTHING, THOUGH, DIDN'T THEY?

TALKING OF JOURNALISM BEING DEAD, WHY DON'T WE GET RID OF THESE MAGS?

NO!



YOU'VE NOT EVEN OPENED THE LAST FEW.

FINE. THOSE CHUMPS AT NATIONAL SOLVER NEVER WROTE ABOUT ME ANYWAY.



NATIONAL SOLVER
18 Under 18!
MEADOW MARSH
"I won't stop until I catch the teen who killed my parents."
PHOTOGRAPH BY JACOB ANDREWS

Plus
HARRY BUSCH
SANTIAGO DUPRE
ZAZIE MONK
LATONYA EAGLETON
"BOSS" BIGGS
MURDER ORCHESTRON BY

I COULDN'T COMPETE WITH THE GLITTERING STARS OF THE EUROPEAN TEEN SLEUTH CIRCUIT.



A month later.



CAN YOU TRY NOT TO LOOK SO PLEASED WITH YOURSELF? IT'S *INSUFFERABLE*, CLAIRE.



YOU SHOULD HAVE READ THE BEAUTIFUL TESTIMONIAL I WROTE TO NOMINATE YOU. IT MADE ME WEEP.

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT AT ALL.

IT'S ABOUT THE WORK, NOT AWARDS, FRIEND.



I USED TO NOT CARE THAT I WASN'T NOMINATED, *NOW* IF I DON'T WIN, I'LL BE DISAPPOINTED.



≡SIGH≡

WE GET TO GO ON A NICE FREE TRIP BEFORE YOU GO UP TO UNI IN SCOTLAND AND I GO TO LONDON.



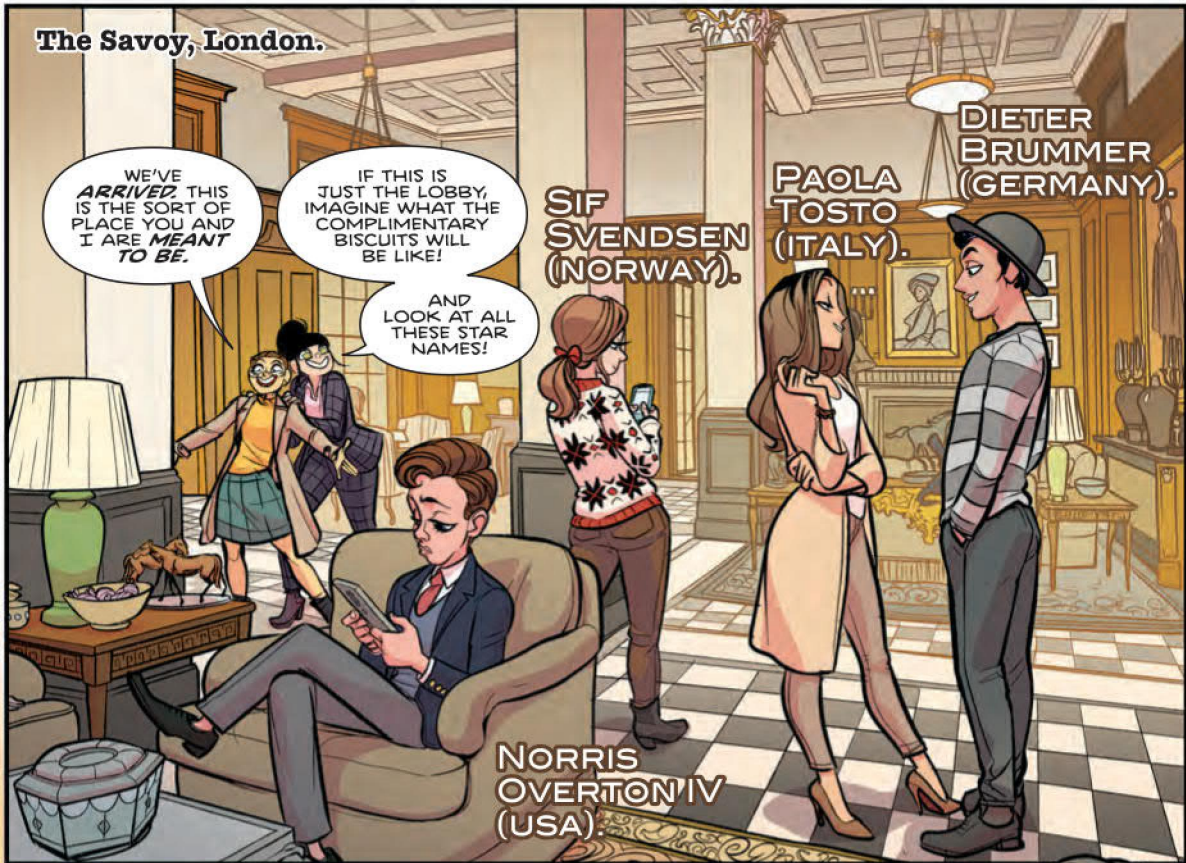
YES. *YES*. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I DON'T WIN. I SHOULD JUST ENJOY IT.

I LOVE BEING YOUR FRIEND, CLAIRE LITTLE.



I SOLEMNLY PREDICT THAT THIS WILL BE AN EXPERIENCE YOU NEVER FORGET.

The Savoy, London.



WE'VE ARRIVED. THIS IS THE SORT OF PLACE YOU AND I ARE MEANT TO BE.

IF THIS IS JUST THE LOBBY, IMAGINE WHAT THE COMPLIMENTARY BISCUITS WILL BE LIKE!

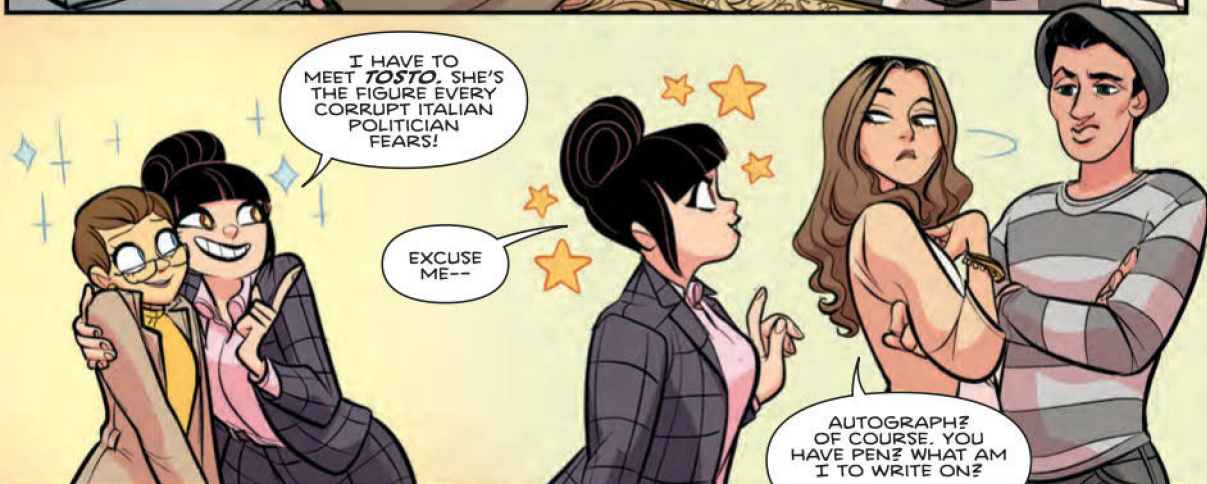
AND LOOK AT ALL THESE STAR NAMES!

SIF SVENDSEN (NORWAY).

PAOLA TOSTO (ITALY).

DIETER BRUMMER (GERMANY).

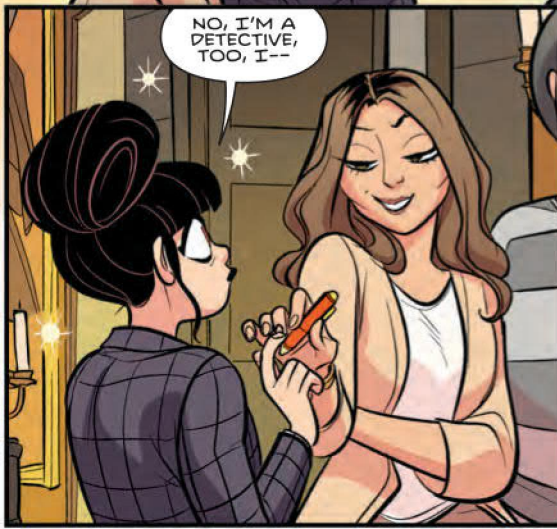
NORRIS OVERTON IV (USA)



I HAVE TO MEET TOSTO. SHE'S THE FIGURE EVERY CORRUPT ITALIAN POLITICIAN FEARS!

EXCUSE ME--

AUTOGRAPH? OF COURSE. YOU HAVE PEN? WHAT AM I TO WRITE ON?



NO, I'M A DETECTIVE, TOO, I--



COME BACK WHEN YOU HAVE PAPER.

