



RICHARD VAN CAMP

SCOTT B. HENDERSON

DONOVAN YACIUK

# The SPIRIT of DENENDEH

VOLUME 2

AS I ENFOLD  
YOU IN PETALS



RICHARD VAN CAMP

SCOTT B. HENDERSON

DONOVAN YACIUK

# The SPIRIT of DENENDEH

VOLUME 2



# AS I ENFOLD YOU IN PETALS

  
HIGHWATER  
PRESS

© 2023 Richard Van Camp (text)  
© 2023 Scott B. Henderson (line art)

Excerpts from this publication may be reproduced under licence from Access Copyright, or with the express written permission of HighWater Press, or as permitted by law.

All rights are otherwise reserved, and no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, scanning, recording or otherwise—except as specifically authorized.

### Usage Licence

With the purchase of this ebook, you are granted the non-commercial right to install the product on up to three (3) devices.

You are not permitted to

- rent, loan, sell, distribute, or redistribute the product, or make the product available in any other way, to any other person or entity
- make the product available on any file-sharing or application-hosting service
- electronically send the product to another person
- copy the materials other than as necessary to support the uses permitted

Please purchase only authorized electronic editions, and do not participate in or encourage electronic piracy of copyrighted materials. Your support of the author's rights is appreciated.

HighWater Press gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada and Canada Council for the Arts as well as the Province of Manitoba through the Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage and the Manitoba Book Publishing Tax Credit for our publishing activities.

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada

HighWater Press is an imprint of Portage & Main Press.

Design by Jennifer Lum

Cover Art by Scott B. Henderson

Colours by Donovan Yaciuk

Lettering by Nickolej Villiger

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: As I unfold you in petals / Richard Van Camp ; Scott B. Henderson ; Donovan Yaciuk.

Names: Van Camp, Richard, author. | Henderson, Scott B., artist. | Yaciuk, Donovan, 1975- colourist.

Description: Series statement: The spirit of Denendeh ; volume 2

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20230141951 | Canadiana (ebook) 20230142249

ISBN 9781774920411 (softcover) | ISBN 9781774920633 (EPUB) | ISBN 9781774920640 (PDF)

Subjects: LCGFT: Graphic novels. Classification: LCC PN6733.V36 A91 2023 | DDC J741.5/971—dc23

26 25 24 23      1 2 3 4 5



THE DEBWE SERIES

Exceptional Indigenous Writing from Across Canada



[www.highwaterpress.com](http://www.highwaterpress.com)

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Treaty 1 Territory and homeland of the Métis Nation

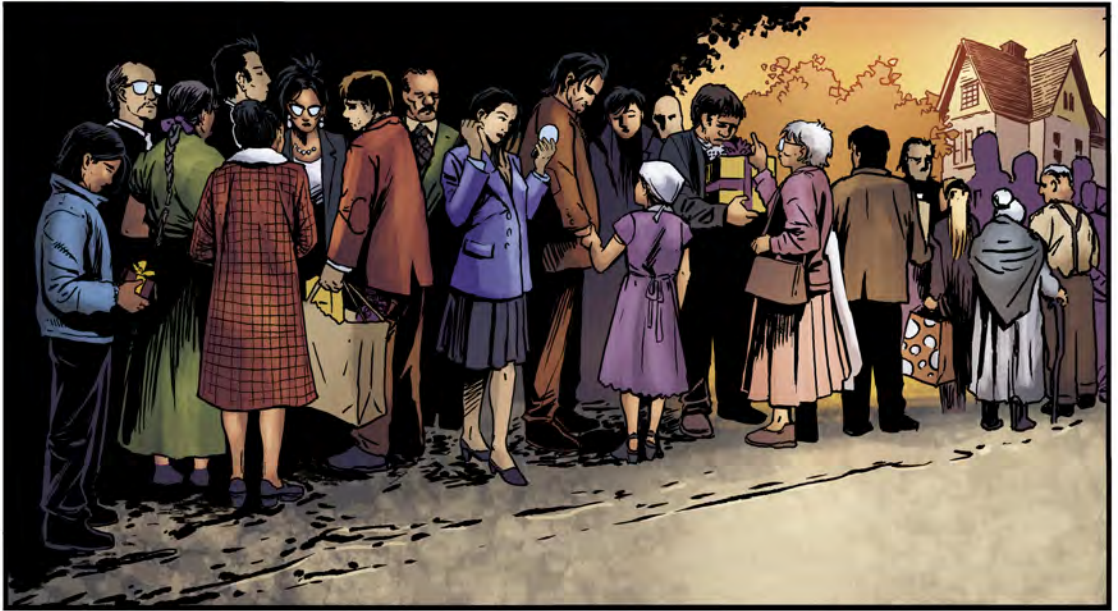
*Dedicated with love and respect to  
Dr. Roger C. Bordeaux and his family.—Richard Van Camp*

---

*A special thank you to the individuals who lent their time  
and expertise to this text to help readers understand the history,  
importance, and representation of traditional Inuit tattooing: Hovak  
Johnston, Inuit, from the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut; Ellen Ittunga,  
Inuit, residing in Taloyoak, Nunavut; and Mike Austin of Longwoods  
Trail Tattoo, in London, Ontario.*

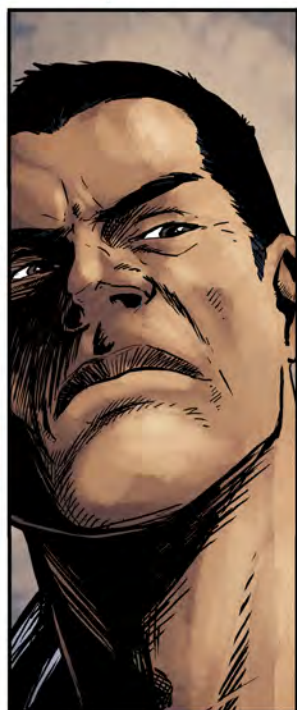
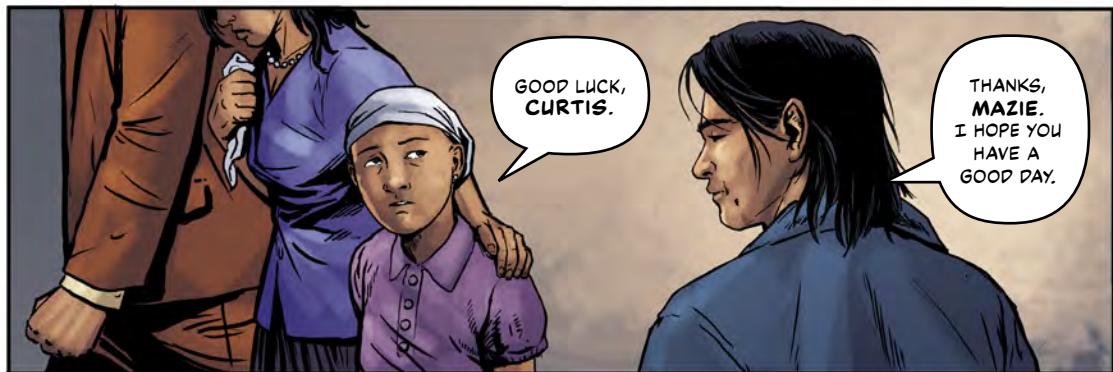




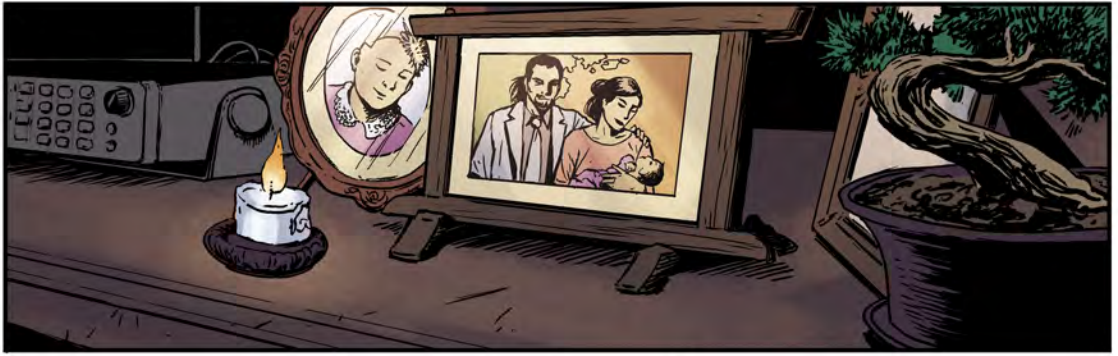
















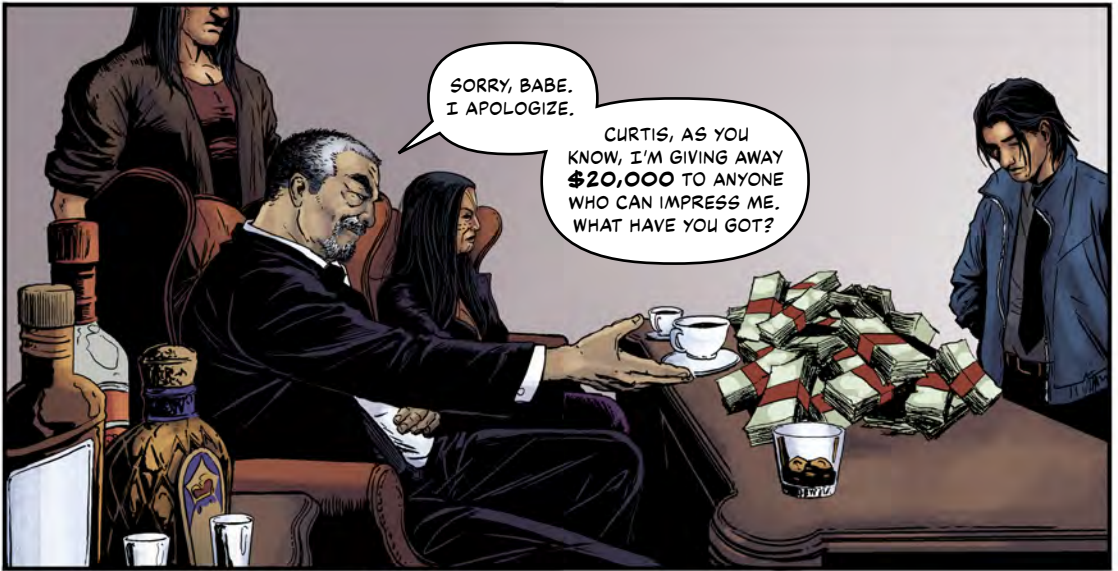
I'M WORKING ON IT.

IN THE END, THAT'S WHAT WE ALL WANT: PEACE.



BENNY, BE NICE.

HE HAS SOMETHING...





WATCH IT, RUNT. YOU AND I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

I NEVER TOUCHED YOU.

SO, HOW THE HELL DID YOU THROW ME?



OKAY, BOYS. KNOCK IT OFF.

I CAN SMELL SMOKE IN WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT WRAPPED UP THERE, CURTIS. IT'S NOT A BOMB, IS IT?



IT'S SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED BACK.



MAY I?

GO FOR IT.



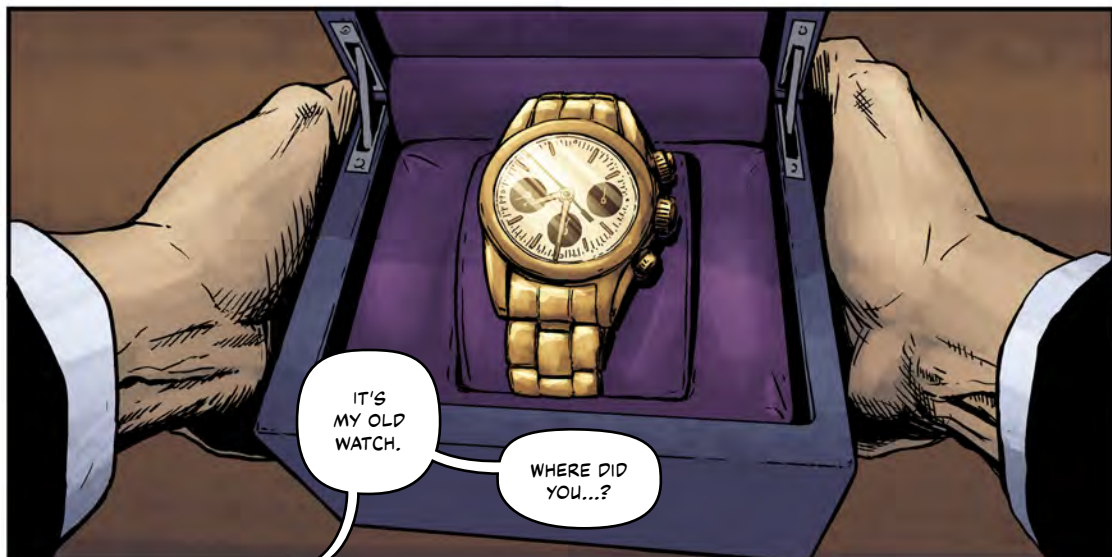
NO...!



MY GOD...

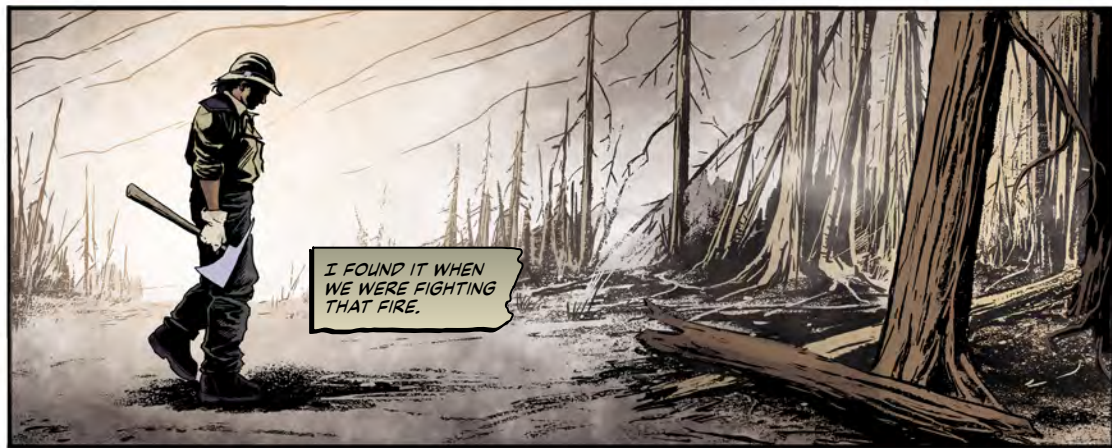
HOW DID YOU FIND IT?

BABE, WHAT IS IT?



IT'S MY OLD WATCH.

WHERE DID YOU...?



I FOUND IT WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING THAT FIRE.



OUR CREW LEADER SAID YOU OFFERED FIVE GRAND TO ANYONE WHO COULD RETURN IT.



I'M... ASTONISHED.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BENNY.

THIS IS A GOOD TRICK. NOW, HOW DID YOU FIND IT?



I LOOKED DOWN AND THERE IT WAS.





CAN I SEE?

WHOA!  
IS THAT  
GOLD?!  
WHAT'S THE  
STORY,  
UNCLE?



A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE CURTIS WAS BORN, HIS DADDY AND I WERE BOTH ON THE KEEMOOC FOR RUNT'S MOM. RONNY WAS A BETTER HUNTER THAN I WAS, BUT I THOUGHT IF I WORE THIS GOLD WATCH, I'D GIVE EMELIA A SENSE OF WHAT A SWEET LIFE SHE COULD HAVE WITH ME. RONNY WAS A GOOD MAN, BUT HE WAS POOR.



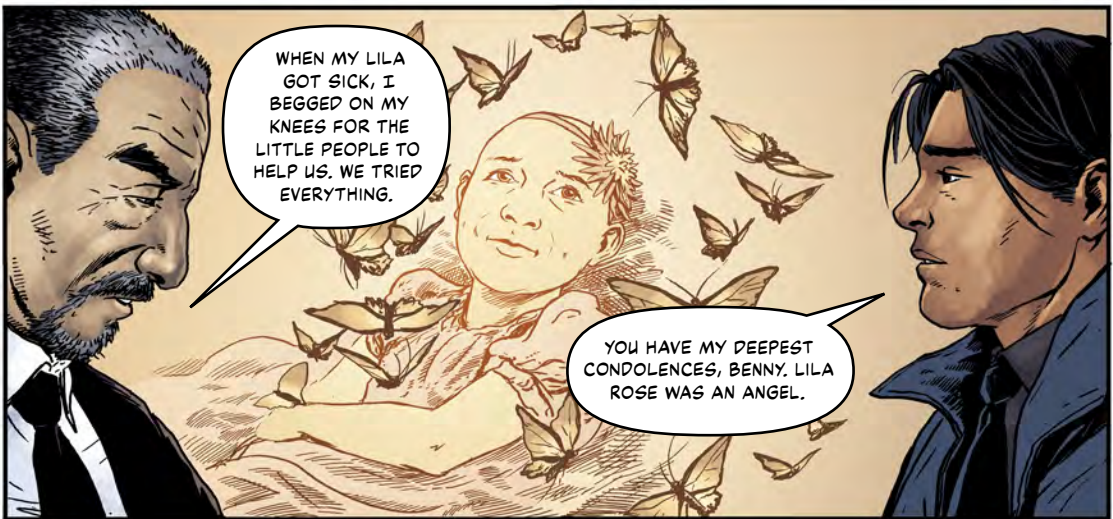
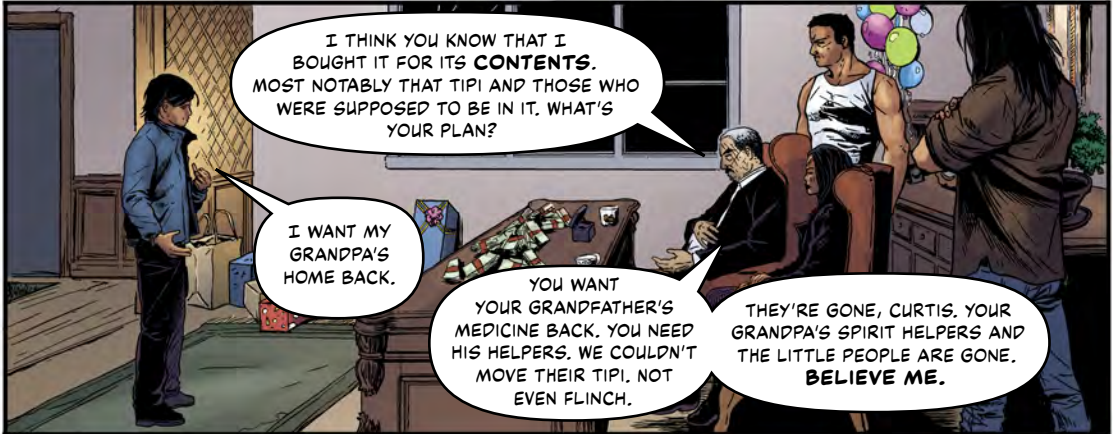
POOR IN TOWN, MAYBE.



TRUE, HE WAS A KING ON THE LAND AND A POET WITH WORDS, BOY WE BOTH FIRED ON A MOOSE AND I SWEAR I GOT IT, BUT IT RAN. WE CHASED IT. I LOST MY WATCH.









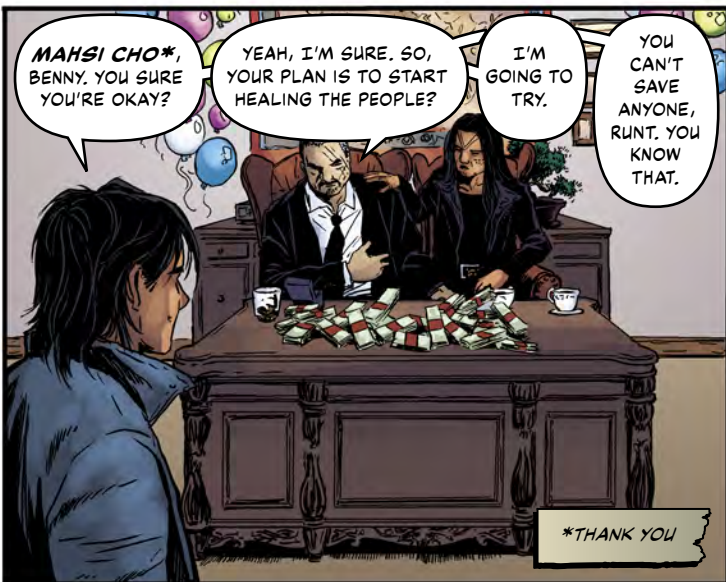
OKAY. THE HOUSE IS YOURS. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PAPERWORK TOMORROW.



BABE?



I'M OKAY. TORCH, GET THE KEY FOR HIM.



MAHSI CHO\*, BENNY, YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

YEAH, I'M SURE. SO, YOUR PLAN IS TO START HEALING THE PEOPLE?

I'M GOING TO TRY.

YOU CAN'T SAVE ANYONE, RUNT. YOU KNOW THAT.

\*THANK YOU



MAYBE I CAN SAVE MYSELF.



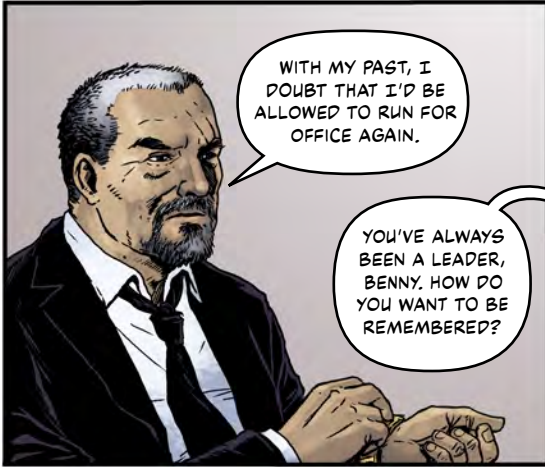
YOU SHOULD DONATE THAT MONEY TO THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE.

NOW, WHY WOULD I DO THAT?



OUR TOWN IS DYING, BENNY. THE KIDS HERE NEED HELP. PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR SOBRIETY NEED A PLACE TO GO.

FORT SMITH GAVE YOU YOUR FAMILY. MY FIRST MEMORY IS OF YOU COMING TO TOWN AND EVERYONE LINING UP TO SHAKE YOUR HAND AT THE CANADA DAY PARADE WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING FOR MAYOR.



THAT NIGHT.







**RICHARD VAN CAMP** (he/him/his) is a proud member of the Tłı̨chǫ Nation from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. He is the author of more than 25 books including *The Lesser Blessed* (also a feature film), the Eisner Award–nominated graphic novel *A Blanket of Butterflies* (with Scott B. Henderson), and *Three Feathers* (also a feature film). He is a contributor to the groundbreaking graphic novel anthology *This Place: 150 Years Retold*. Richard is also the author of five collections of short stories, including *Night Moves*, and six baby books, including the award-winning *Little You* (with Julie Flett).

**SCOTT B. HENDERSON** (he/him/his) is author/artist of the sci-fi/fantasy comic *The Chronicles of Era* and has illustrated select titles in the *Tales from Big Spirit* series, as well as the *A Girl Called Echo*, *The Reckoner Rises*, and *7 Generations* series. He is also the artist for AIYLA Honor Book *Fire Starters*, Eisner Award nominee *A Blanket of Butterflies*, and select stories in *This Place: 150 Years Retold*. In 2016, he was the recipient of the C4 Central Canada Comic Con Storyteller Award. Find Scott on social media with @ouroboros09.

**DONOVAN YACIUK** (he/him/his) has done colouring work on books published by Marvel, DC, Dark Horse comics, and HighWater Press including the *A Girl Called Echo* and *The Reckoner Rises* series, as well as select stories in *This Place: 150 Years Retold*. Donovan holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the University of Manitoba and began his career as part of the legendary, now-defunct Digital Chameleon colouring studio. He lives in Winnipeg with his wife and two daughters.

**NICKOLEJ VILLIGER** (he/him/his) is a visual artist focusing on comic books and illustration. Nickolej is also a musician and has composed, produced, and arranged for video games and film. Dedicated to his family and fans of his work, he is most fulfilled when creating something that is uniquely his own, unfettered and unobstructed by the outside world. Nickolej lives and works in Lethbridge, Alberta.