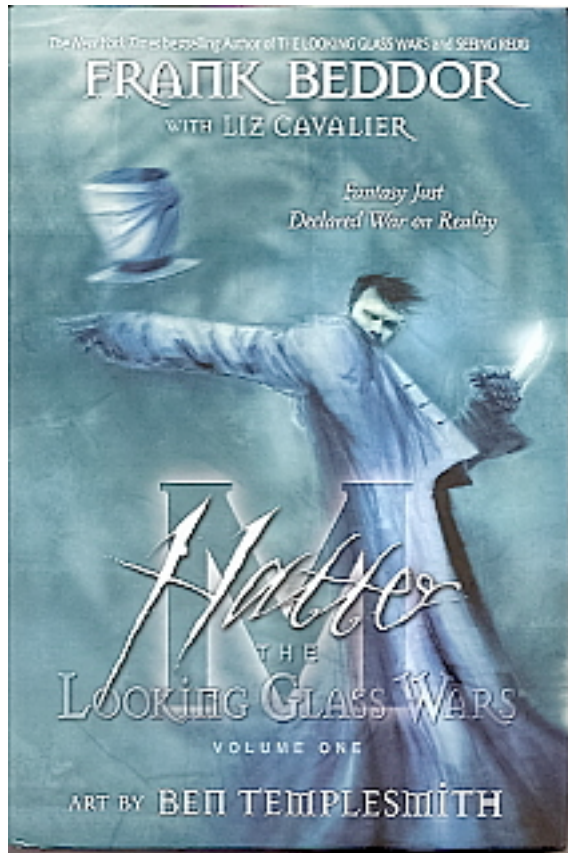


## Tim's Reviews



*Hatter M: The Looking Glass Wars* (Desperado Publishing) Written by Frank Beddor Art by Ben Templesmith The hardcover book reprints issues 1 – 4 of the series and if you haven't checked out this title, it's a very dark and bloody revisionist take on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* storybook. In Beddor's version, it is Alice or Alyss as she is known in the book, who relates her story to Carroll and not the other way around. Alyss is the daughter of Queen Genevieve, the Queen of Hearts. The Queen's sister, Redd, stages a bloody coup with the aid of the Cheshire Cat who is now a savage, predatory beast. Hatter Madigan is the Queen's loyal bodyguard, the Top Cut of the Wonderland Millenary. Madigan, with blades that pop out of his back and arms, has weaponry that makes Wolverine look like he's using butter knives. But his deadliest weapon is his

hat, which becomes a cyclone of razor-sharp death when hurled. The queen orders Madigan to take Alyss and leave Wonderland. They escape through the Pool of Tears to our world but become separated. Now, Hatter M is on a quest to find little Alyss. His trek takes him through Victorian-Era Europe where he encounters friend and foe, including a sinister group known as the Baanskratar that steals children and drains off their imaginations. The trail of Alyss leads to this horrific cartel. *Hatter M* builds its Victorian horror originality cleverly upon the building blocks of a muck-lived children's story. At first it may seem as if Ben Templesmith's art was a strange choice for this take on the children's story, but Templesmith's lavish abstractions fit perfectly with the direction Beddor has taken the tale. Templesmith's gothic color palette is the perfect contrast to the Disney animated film version. *Hatter M* is a fantastic book and totally out of the box compared to so much of the ordinary that clogs the shelves in comic stores today. Grade **A-**