

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



BOOTBLACK by Mikael

By the author of the critically acclaimed "Giant."

On the German front, in the spring of 1945: the war leaves only death and destruction in its wake. To escape the horror of the present, Al, an American soldier, the only survivor of his unit, immerses himself in the memories of his New York life. Son of German immigrants, born in the United States, he was not yet ten years old when, in one night, under the approving eyes of anti-immigrant Americans, he lost his parents and his home in a terrible fire. Turning his back on his origins, Al has no choice but to live on the streets; he becomes a Bootblack, a shoe shiner. With his friend Shiny, they somehow manage to survive by sticking together. Six years later, in 1935, they meet Buster and the ambitious Diddle Joe. And then there's Maggie, the girl Al is in love with and whose esteem he ardently longs for. And this, even as she makes it clear to him that they do not live in the same world. New York offers no future for the poor, Al understood that. He is therefore determined to earn more money, whatever the means. But he does not imagine, at that point, that the war which threatens will soon give him an appointment with his past...

Mikael is a French artist who has adopted Quebec, Canada as his new country and shows a predilection for stories of immigrants in the New York of the thirties.

This exceptional graphic novel will be premiered at Rockefeller Center, at a reception at the Quebec Province office, in mid June, as had been planned for *Giant*, our previous release by Mikael when the pandemic hit and cancelled everything. It will also premiere at the Toronto Comic Arts Fair in Toronto at that time.

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