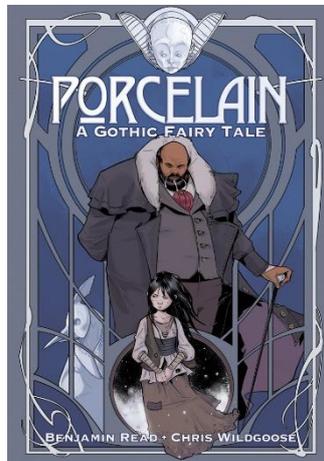




Porcelain by Ben Read & Chris Wildgoose with André May

[Young Adults]

Our biggest-selling series, at Page 45 PORCELAIN's second book even outsold Neil Gaiman's return to SANDMAN, published by DC with its multi-million-dollar advertising budget, while PORCELAIN was published from a British farmhouse with an advertising budget of approximately zero.



PORCELAIN is the steampunk story of a street-thief who discovers a craftsman's creative genius in animating porcelain then strives to build her own determinedly principled legacy whilst under merciless pressure from a military determined to save lives at the expense of those on the other. The arguments will rage. They will enrage. And then...? It's the military. Then they'll give way to force.

PORCELAIN has a heart cast from gold. Your own heart will swell, only to be ripped right from your rib cage, then smashed to smithereens towards the trilogy's end by a writer you presumed far too kind to care so little for your comfort. The Mucha-liked covers narrate the trajectory of our suspicious, defiant and gutsy individual's ascent from orphaned Child to adopted Lady to adoptive Mother. What they conceal is all the adversity. If PORCELAIN's about family, it's also about all the walls.

Book I opens high above the snow-swept rooftops of an affluent European city before settling in front an elaborate wrought-iron gate locked firmly against all intruders. Outside a crowd with no homes gather in patched-up clothing too thin to keep the cold at bay. "This is a bad idea!" The bad idea's to break in. Child is the one volunteered, her initial resistance beaten right out of her. She's hoisted up onto the walls before hopping helter-skelter down the branches of an ancient tree. Immediately twin furnace-fired eyes flash in the dark: the property is protected by panthers.



