

PRESS RELEASE

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Calvin University Professor Brings Family Back Into the Picture

Professor Geert Heetebrij spins epic tales in his graphic novel *The Undergrounds*

Grand Rapids, MI - Geert Heetebrij saw a hole in the graphic novel community. He realized that plenty of graphic novels focus on the point of view of either the children protagonists or adult superheroes, but are lacking in the perspective from the family as a whole. He wanted that to change, leading to the creation of his fantasy graphic novel *The Undergrounds*.

At the time of his idea, Professor Heetebrij was working as a screenwriter in Hollywood. He decided to turn the story into a screenplay for a film targeted toward families. At this point, Jonathan Lareva, a friend of Heetebrij, began to illustrate the story and adapted it into a graphic novel.

In 2015, Heetebrij funded the first of nine issues via Kickstarter for his graphic novel adventure. Since the release of the first issue, there has been much anticipation for the rest of the story to make its debut. After his first campaign, Heetebrij decided to make the adventure series into one graphic novel. The novel features the escapades of a family of six that stumble upon a hole in their backyard. The bickering children, their parents, and family dog, Cash, wind up in separate worlds where they encounter creatures and characters of all types while they try to make it back to one another.

When asked about his inspiration for the series Heetebrij said, "It all started as a bedtime story for my kids. They loved it, and hounded me for a long time to write it down. Last year, I finally did. And then my friend Jonathan Lareva ran with it. His beautiful artwork brings each world to life."

Recently, the highly credited Kirkus review called *The Undergrounds* "A vibrant, entertaining, and memorable adventure with strong characters." Heetebrij is very excited to announce his plans to publish the rest of the novel with the help of public fundraising. To help bring *The Undergrounds* to life, visit: "website"