

Terror Island



<http://www.terrorisland.net/>

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Terror Island (The Comic) (The Book)

*Wyatt S Carpenter's
2023 unofficial
compilation*



Foreword by the compiler (Wyatt S Carpenter)

Hello and welcome to *Terror Island*, the comic from <http://www.terrorisland.net> by Ben Heaton and Lewis Powell, the book. I guess that technically makes this a graphic novel.

I made this book version of *Terror Island* for my own personal use and enjoyment. I didn't want any money or to have to get in contact with the original authors. However, this does mean that the book is not as good as it could be. Specifically, the images are small, and therefore don't look as good as they could (Ben's annotation on Strip #317 implies there are higher-quality photos hoarded, and possibly higher-quality entire strips?).

Also, I didn't try very hard on making every aspect of the book look good — actually, I did try pretty hard, but then I got tired.

Another interesting aspect of this book is that I've included all of the about pages, etc, as front matter. This includes a page called "strips/index.html", which is apparently a table of contents of the comic (and continues the joke of the comic being logically necessary, as it is formatted as though it is the table of contents of a work of mathematical proofs). However, it seems like the authors forgot about this page eventually, so it only goes until strip 30.

If this is your first time reading *Terror Island*, I softly recommend skipping the notes the first time. While the notes are great, you'll be able to speed through the comic breezily the first time, and on subsequent reads you can enjoy the notes as well. This is not an imperative suggestion; if you feel like reading the notes, go ahead. (As a side note, I'm fairly certain that Ben's Notes on Strip 1, which is written as though it's retrospective, was actually written concurrently with the production of the strip, as a joke. The notes were added, as best I can tell, the day the strips went up, and not retroactively.)

Unless I've forgotten to do it, this edition should contain the "title

text” of each strip, which would normally appear on hover on the website, as text underneath the comic.



"some photos of chess pieces don't want to buy groceries?"

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About *Terror Island*

Terror Island is a web-based photocomic by Ben Heaton and Lewis Powell. It's named after the philosophic concept of an island which is distinct from all objects, including itself. *Terror Island* is updated thrice weekly; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

This website was composed using nano, vim, and a limited understanding of html. The images themselves were captured with a Nikon D50 digital SLR camera and adjusted using Adobe Photoshop. The font used in the comic is Gill Sans.

For information about the cast of *Terror Island*, see the Cast page.

If you would like information about the characters in the strip, feel free to view the *Dramatis Personae*.

Do you have other questions? Check out the FAQ.

About the Authors



Ben Heaton is photographer and co-writer for *Terror Island*. He currently resides in Palo Alto, CA and recently graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.S. in Mathematics.

Lewis Powell is co-writer of *Terror Island* and webmaster of terrorisland.net. Lewis graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.A. in Philosophy, and is currently living in Los Angeles, CA pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Southern California.

Contact Us!

Ben Heaton can be reached at:
terrorisland@factitious.net — (*e-mail*)
factition — (*aim*)

Lewis Powell can be reached at:
lewis.powell@gmail.com — (*e-mail*)
ultralewis — (*aim*)

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"some photos of chess pieces don't want to buy groceries?"

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Terror Island's Cast

This page covers the cast of *Terror Island*. For information about the characters in the strip, see our *Dramatis Personae*.



Sid: The role of Sid is played by Professor Plum, from Clue. Plum is a brilliant but absent-minded professor, and was a close friend of the late Reginald Boddy.



Stephen: The role of Stephen is played by White King's Rook, from Chess. Rook has been a stalwart defender of the White King for many years, frequently castling to protect him in battle. He is noted for his mobility.



Liln: The role of Liln is played by Red Foam Piece, from *SnaFooz*. She fits in with the other five red pieces to form a cube.



York Funhaven: The role of York is played by Thimble, from Monopoly. His interests include sewing and real estate.



Jame: The role of Jame is played by Blue Wink, from Tiddlywinks. He is worth three tiddlies in the pot, and one if left unsquopped on the mat.



Aorist: The role of Aorist is played by Large Green Pyramid, from Icehouse. He can be used for a variety of games, including IceTowers, Zendo, and Martian Chess.



First Folio: The role of First Folio is played by Green Cranium Piece. A native of Planet Cranium, she passes through various party games in an attempt to reach Cranium Central.

Omicron: The role of Omicron is played by Ray the cat. He is 12 years old, and resides in Palo Alto.



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Contact Us!

Ben Heaton can be reached at:

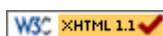
terrorisland@factitious.net — (*e-mail*)

factition — (*aim*)

Lewis Powell can be reached at:

lewis.powell@gmail.com — (*e-mail*)

ultralewis — (*aim*)



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Terror Island's *Dramatis Personae*

This page covers the characters of *Terror Island*. For information about the cast who portray them, see our Cast page.



Sid: Sid Byrahk is a freelance author living in Geography City, CA. He and his roommate Stephen are currently running low on groceries, but neither wishes to go shopping.



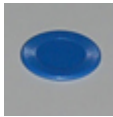
Stephen: Sid's roommate, Stephen Greeter, is a vexillographer. He too is disinclined to end the grocery shortage by shopping. Stephen was recently elected Czar of Geography City.



Liln: Liln Bemular is a close friend of Sid and Stephen's. She is a professional jeweler and is dating Jame Palrose. Sid and Stephen frequently attempt to get Liln to assist with their various schemes, and she is generally reluctant to.



York Funhaven: York Funhaven works at a gaming store. He was originally Sid's friend, but has bonded with the group as a whole. York fancies himself something of a group leader, but the rest of the group hasn't really noticed that, and so has not responded to his power play.



Jame: Jame Palrose is a restaurateur. He is decidedly the least "zany" of the bunch, and has only recently met any of them. He began dating Liln not too long ago, and was introduced by her to Sid, Stephen, &c.



Aorist: Aorist is that guy who no one knows if he has a job or is independently wealthy or what, but he's frequently around, and pleasant enough. Aorist often tries to be helpful, which involves being complicit in various of his friends' schemes.



First Folio: First Folio was so-named because of her parents' love of Shakespeare. First Folio went to college with York at Center of the Earth University (Moon Campus). She keeps kosher and has been known to use some powers of divination.

Omicron: Omicron is Sid's pet cat. He used to be Sid and Stephen's, but Stephen lost his half in a bet about formica.



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Odds & Ends

Links Oh No Robot: Search and Transcription

RSS:Pect: RSS feed

Livejournal RSS feed: Damned if we know what this RSS stuff is,
but all the cool kids have it. (thanks to Angyl)

Factitious.net: Ben's Web site

Lewis Powell dot com: Lewis's Web site

Factitious' LiveJournal: Ben's Livejournal

Maximum Verbosity: Lewis's Livejournal

TimeFan: Ben's Time Discussion Site

OnlineComics.net: A directory of online comics

Photo Web Comics TopSites

The Archipelago of Comics we like: This list is very incomplete.

- Killer Robots from Space
- Starslip Crisis
- Dinosaur Comics
- Achewood
- Irregular Webcomic
- *and many more...*



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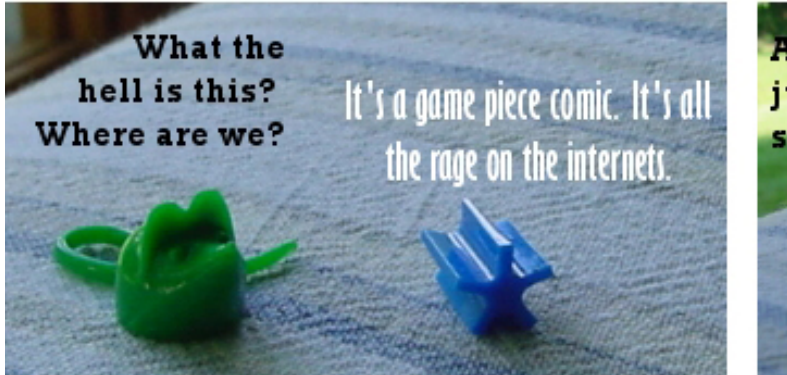
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Fan Art & Related Items

An Homage Strip from David!! Lu

Click the image below to see the entire strip.

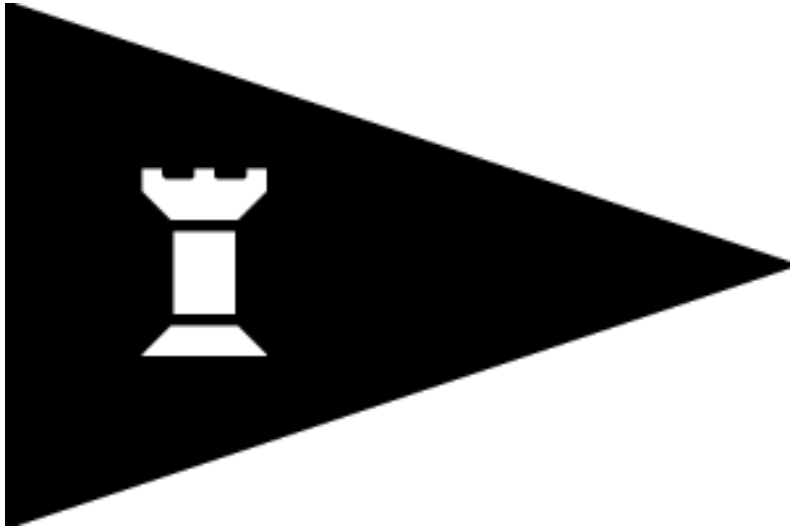
Right Out of Edmund Wells



A Fan Sketch from Spike of the critically acclaimed strip Templar, AZ



Stephen's Flag, as rendered by Obdormio (Stephonian Prime)



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Frequently Asked Questions

Why don't you look like your avatars, Gibbs and Lockley?

Actually, we do look like them, they just don't look like us.

Why a photocomic? *Ben has a camera, and we like the way photographs look.*

Why gamepieces? *Gamepieces tend to be abstract and iconic. Also, they are often colorful.*

What's the deal with Sid and Stephen? *They need groceries, but neither of them wants to be the one to get the groceries.*

Why don't Sid and Stephen resolve their grocery dispute by taking turns?

That would work, except that although Sid and Stephen have both bought groceries before, neither of them was the last to do it! You see, on the first day of June, Sid bought groceries. Then on the next half-day in June, Stephen bought groceries, on the next quarter-day in June, Sid bought groceries again, and so on. During June 2nd, each of them made an infinite number of shopping trips. Then on June 3rd, they realized that this left them in a tricky situation. Since there was no last one (for any given instance of buying groceries, there exists another one that took place later), the turn-taking strategy fails here.

OK, so why don't they go grocery shopping together?

Because that would mean they both lose.

I heard Scott Kurtz was down on your comic, or something, what was

At the 2006 San Diego Comic-Con, we approached Scott Kurtz, who was kind enough to look at some sample strips of ours, and give us feedback. He had some substantive criticisms of our strip, which is described in this forum post. We did and do appreciate Kurtz's input, and it was very nice of him to take the time to give us detailed feedback during the convention.

How do you go about making the strip? *This page contains a detailed guide to our process, broken down step-by-step.*

I like the idea of a photocomic about inanimate objects, but could they

Try Depth of Field, Alien Loves Predator, or Leisuretown.

Wait, not that humanoid. How about one with Lego figures?

You want Irregular Webcomic or Legostar Galactica.

OK, now what if I want a photocomic about actual humans?

We recommend Reprographics or Michael's Exciting Life.

While we're at it, are there any other photocomics you'd like to recom

Yes. Fluff in Brooklyn, Tiny Ghosts, and A Softer World.

What if there's a photocomic I like that you haven't mentioned?

Email us and let us know!



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Terror Island Production and Publishing Guide

Here's our process, carefully presented in such a way that "Art" is divided into three of the five steps:

Step 1: Writing

We start by working out the basic premise and then writing a loose script over AIM. Storyline ideas are worked out months in advance, but without very many details. We bounce ideas off one another until we get something we can agree will work, then try to fit it into four panels. The punchline usually comes last, and often changes during the later steps.

Step 2: Staging

Next, I take the characters the strip needs, as well as whatever props we're using, and set them up on a nearby surface. This can be as simple as "Sid and Stephen standing next to each other on a table" or as complex as Jame's restaurant, where I had tables to arrange, a hat to make, lights to position, &c. Even that wasn't all that intensive, though, since I don't spend anywhere near as much time on this step as a professional-type photographer probably would.

Step 3: Photographing

This is the simplest step. I take a few pictures (generally 10 per panel), moving the pieces in between as required by the plot. I try to keep in mind where the speech bubbles will end up being, so that the composition doesn't get too messed up, but as you may have noticed, I don't focus on this too much. The dialogue tends to change from the initial script anyway.

Step 4: Photoshop

Once I've chosen the pictures that I'll use for the strip, I open them in Photoshop, add text and speech bubbles, scale them down, crop as needed, and put them on a template consisting of a white background with the URL and copyright. Most of the time during this step is spent tweaking the dialogue to be more ellipse-shaped.

Step 5: Webmastering

Once I have the completed file, I send it to Lewis. He lets me know if he sees any problems with it, and then I fix them. We think up several ideas for title text, pick the objectively best one, and then write our comments. Finally, Lewis goes through some process that

puts the strip on the website. I'm not sure how that's set up.



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Strip #00 — The Endtimes



The story of Sid and Stephen has reached its end. If this is your first visit, you may wish to read it from the beginning.

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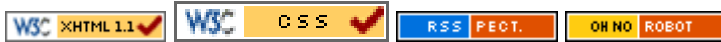
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Notes, Thoughts, &c.

Ben's Notes Thanks for reading, everyone. Working on Terror Island has been a great experience, but we feel it's reached its end. I hope you've enjoyed the comic and will continue to enjoy rereading the archives.

Oh, and if you want to keep up with my webcomic involvement, check out Request Comics. It's not quite the same sort of strip, but it's still a photocomic. You like photocomics, right?

Lewis's Notes Don't worry too much, Ben and I are in the progress of planning our next collaboration, though we don't have a definite timetable yet. So check back here periodically to find out when Ben and I embark on our new adventure!



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