

1. Tell the readers a little about yourself

I'm Luke W. Henderson. I'm a writer of too many things, often stressing myself out for no good reason. I mainly write comics, short stories and poetry, but I am also a critic, interviewer and essayist for Comic Book Yeti. Unlike many comics writers, I wasn't a comic book fan at a young age. I had a Shonen Jump subscription for a few years in middle school and read some of the popular manga at the time like *One Piece*, *Naruto* and *Yuyu Hakusho*, but it didn't stick. I only became a true comics fan after rereading Art Spiegelman's *Maus* in 2019 and deciding I should read more comics. It was Alan Moore's *Promethea* and *The Sandman* that inspired to try my hand at writing comics. I had mainly written from a journalistic background, but was burnt out in that sphere and wanted to get into fiction, so this was the perfect time. And now here I am running my fifth Kickstarter for a comics project!

2. Describe your artistic decisions with your upcoming comic and your process.

My story in *Summer's End, The Unity of Vapors*, started as a dumb joke in my head about an ice man and a fire man giving each other a hug and how poorly that would turn out. This is where a good chunk of my ideas come from: jokes that I take way too seriously. After thinking about this joke more, I thought it would make a great starcrossed lovers story because their love would be forbidden not only by society, but by their own bodies.

Most of my stories begin with a detailed outline and character profiles, but *Vapors* flowed out of me mostly on its own. I knew which scenes I wanted and that I had 10 pages to get it done, so I didn't do as much outlining as I normally do. For me, a lot of my writing process is allowing my mind to wander and play with different ideas and scenarios until I have a solid idea of where the story needs to go. Sometimes that requires an outline, sometimes it doesn't, but I value this mental work over everything.

3. Who or what are your influences and inspirations?

As I stated earlier, Alan Moore and Neil Gaiman truly sparked my love of comics. Currently, my favorite comic creator is Matt Kindt. I love how he plays with different formats in both art and story while also tackling big ideas from an emotional perspective. I'm very much a lover of great character writing and I think Kindt is one of the best in that regard. Beyond that, I'm also inspired by a lot of creators from all sorts of mediums, but if I had to choose comics people specifically, they'd be Art Spiegelman, Robert Kirkman, Kyle Higgins, Ryan Parrot and James Tynion IV.

4. What are you currently reading, playing, watching, and/or listening to?

So I'm a mess and usually read 5 or 6 books at a time. I'm currently reading Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, a collection of Harvey Kurtzman comics called *Corpse on the Imjim! and other stories*, *Hooked* by Emily McIntire, and the *Jurassic World: Maisey Lockwood Adventures* YA novels.

I just finished playing a game called *Endling: Extinction is Forever* that left me a sobbing mess by the end of it. It's a simple survival game where you play a mother fox in a post-apocalyptic world who has to feed her cubs and one of them is kidnapped by a scavenging human. The genius of this game to me is that there is no dialogue (a fox wouldn't understand human speak anyway) and the backstory of this world is told through background details and interactions with the many human NPCs. Also, it's really sad, but not in a cheesy way.