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For Immediate Release

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“J.T. Yost’s stark line work and shades of grey illustrate a world that doesn’t shy away from harsh realities at the same time as it reveals a social conscience and a soft heart.”

- Jeffrey Brown, author of *Clumsy* and *Little Things*

ALONE IN A CROWD

“I find the depths of loneliness one can reach while being simultaneously surrounded by thousands of people fascinating,” admits cartoonist J.T. Yost. After living most of his life in small towns, moving to Manhattan provided a shocking contrast that couldn’t help but creep into his artwork. The title story from *Old Man Winter and Other Sordid Tales*, a collection of Yost’s short comics, examines the incongruity of a widower’s outward demeanor and his inner turmoil.



The protagonist is loosely based on a customer who frequents the art supply store at which Yost works part time. “It breaks my heart every time he comes into the store,” says Yost, “You can tell he just craves human interaction. The absence of his wife has left a huge hole in his life that he desperately wants to fill.”

Themes of alienation and loneliness are matched equally with those of cruelty and dominance, specifically man’s inhumanity toward animals, within the comic collection. “Animal welfare has always been important to me,” remarks Yost, “and I thought it would be a challenge to use a medium typically reserved for humor and entertainment to relate important information.” Respite comes in the form of a humorous autobiographical story of a strange childhood friendship serving as a counterpoint to the rest of the collection.

J.T. Yost has been a self-described “dirty vegan cartoon drawing bed-wetting liberal in desperate need of a haircut” for the majority of his life. His work has been published by a variety of institutions including The New York Press, Young American Comics, Three Rivers Press and Herbivore Magazine.

J.T. Yost’s first collection of comics is alternately humorous and quietly devastating, but is consistently brutally honest. *Old Man Winter and Other Sordid Tales* is available for \$6.95 in comic-book stores nationwide or through Birdcage Bottom Books at www.BirdcageBottomBooks.com.

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