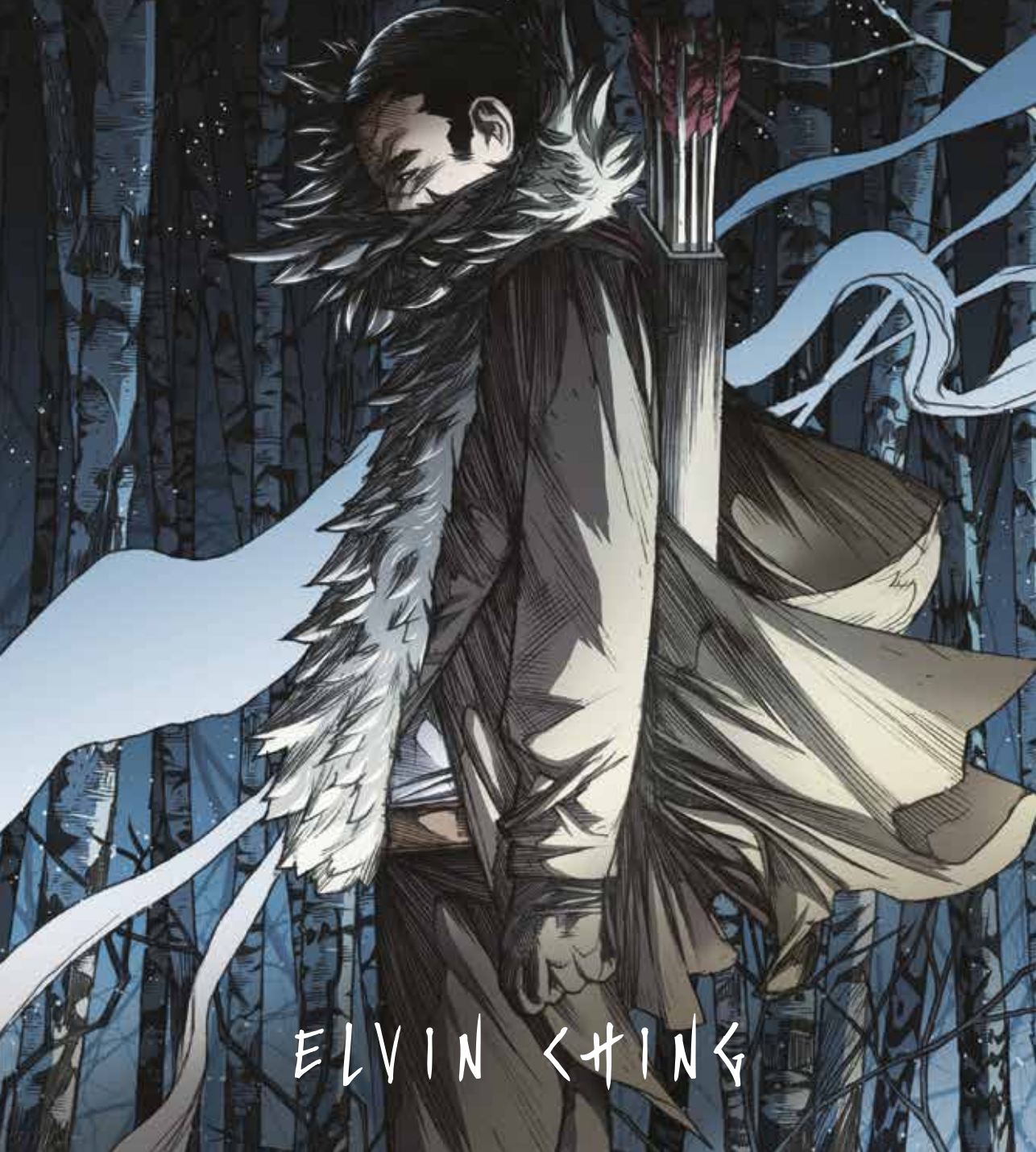


"A glorious read."

DAVE CHUA, author of *Gone Case* and *The Beating and Other Stories*

THE WOODSMAN



ELVIN KHING

"Having worked with Elvin on *Liquid City* and *Unstable Foundations*, I have observed his development. He has grown as an artist and a storyteller. *The Woodsman* is proof of that."

CT LIM

Country Editor (Singapore) of the *International Journal of Comic Art*



"Elvin's art is astoundingly intricate and detailed.
The Woodsman is a glorious read."

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THE WOODSMAN

ELVIN CHING

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

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EPIGRAM

To fourteen-year-old me,
and all the other weird kids



CHAPTER ONE













MEORRW!



SIGH, DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO GO TOMORROW?

FERA, YOU KNOW WE WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH WINTER IF I DON'T.



I KNOW, DRIF... BUT YOU'VE BEEN AWAY A LOT. THE BOY MISSES YOU.

JUST THE BOY?



SORRY, WHAT'S THAT? CAN'T HEAR YOU, THE CAT'S THROWING UP.

HEYYY... I SAID I WAS SORRY!



ANYWAY, THIS SHOULD BE THE LAST TRIP FOR A WHILE.

IT'S JUST THAT... IT'S BEEN A STRANGE SEASON.

THE WOODS HAVE BEEN SCARCE.

THE ANIMALS...



"...IT'S LIKE THEY'RE SCATTERING."



YOU COULD DROP BY THE VILLAGE...

IF IT COMES TO THAT. Hmm... IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE BEEN THERE.

SAY, ISN'T IT TIME YOU PULLED OUT THE REST OF THAT FROZEN BOAR FROM LAST WEEK?

DON'T YOU THINK YOUR WORLD-FAMOUS MEAT STEW WOULD MAKE A GREAT HOMECOMING REWARD FOR YOUR FAVOURITE GUY?



I LET HIM HAVE ANOTHER CAT. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AND... WORLD-FAMOUS?

SURE! I'M ALL OF YOUR WORLD.

SIGH... YOU WERE DOING SO WELL...

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



HEY, KID. BEDTIME! NOW!

AWW!



YOU HEARD ME, BUDDY! BEDTIME!

DRIF, PUT MORE WOOD ON THE FIRE!

GOT IT!





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To my creative peers, seniors and hero auteurs, too numerous to name: Thank you for the education and collaborations.

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And last but not least, thank you, Dad, for giving us all you could give.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elvin Ching works as an illustrator in Singapore while creating comics in his free time. He has illustrated for the Danger Dan and Gadget Girl series and the Ordinary Oliver books. His comics work includes short stories in the anthologies *Liquid City* and *LONTAR*; *Badang*, a six-page comic for Singapore's 51st National Day celebration; as well as the graphic novel *Unstable Foundations*, a full-length collaboration with writer Joelyn Alexandra.

And that is all he can say for now, as he needs to go save his partner from their three needy cats.

Deep in the forest lurks a timeless terror.
One day, a woodsman accidentally
interrupts its ritual sacrifice and finds
himself in a desperate bid to protect
his family from the terror's wrath.



"Having worked with Elvin on *Liquid City* and *Unstable Foundations*, I have observed his development. He has grown as an artist and a storyteller. *The Woodsman* is proof of that."

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