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Time & Vine

Thomas F. Zahler



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Time & Vine

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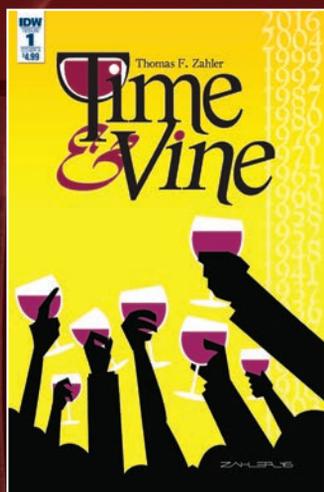
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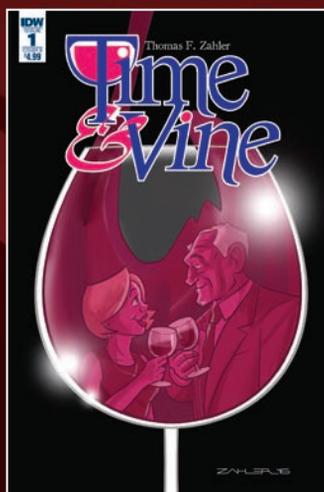
David Hedgecock

publisher

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New York City

--yes, yes, of course I found one, Jack. I *wouldn't* have asked you to trek into the city if I *hadn't*. Just let me have my moment.

You got *lucky*, too. I found it at an *estate sale* in Midland Park.

The collection *itself* was nothing amazing, but he *did* have one of *your* bottles.

Thank you, Patrick.

the County Cork

One of these days, my friend, you're going to have to tell me *why* this *particular* bottle from your *own* winery--

--is so *special*.

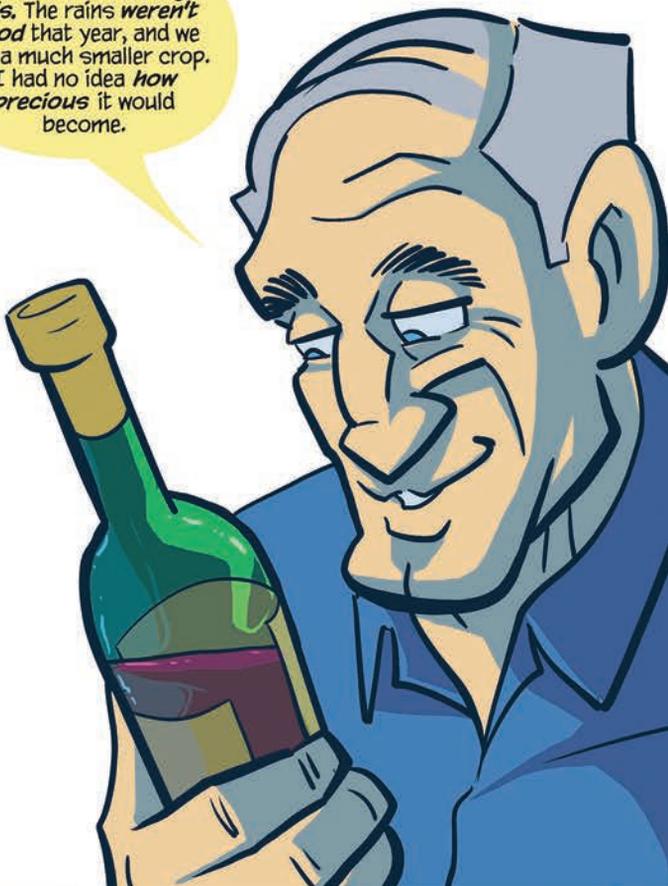




May I see it?

Of course.

I remember *bottling this*. The rains weren't good that year, and we had a much smaller crop. I had no idea *how precious* it would become.



What do I owe you?

You owe me *nothing*, Jack. Except an *explanation*.

Someday, Patrick, I promise--



--just not *today*.

Time & Vine

by Thomas F. Zahler
colors by Luigi Anderson

Aeternum Winery
Jeffersonville, New York



I do so love it when we get the party girl crowd in.

Other people might savor their wine--enjoy it. But no, they chug it like it's party-flavored Gatorade.

I wonder what they are "celebrating".

Me. They're celebrating me.



I *apologize*. That was rude. Sometimes I accidentally slip into my *native snark*.

No, you apparently slip into *truth*. It's fine. These *philistines* really do have *no idea* how to enjoy this wine.



But you'll have to *forgive them*. They're *teachers*.

You handle a room full of delinquents for a week and then watch how *your* alcohol intake goes *up*.



But how is this party for you if you're here and they're there?

Technically, I'm their party *excuse*.

And *what* is it that you need your mind *taken off of*?

They offered to take me out, get my mind off some things... so they had a reason to *guzzle some wine* and get their *groove on*.



If you're going to ask *that*, pour me another *glass*.



Darren, I'm sorry I'm late. I was--

--I know *full well* what you were doing, Jack. And I *understand*, as always.

Thank you. Go, take your break and a *little extra*. I'll take over.



But if you would take this *downstairs* on your way? And Darren--

As careful as can be. *As always*.

Thank you again.

Jack, you should talk to our guest here. Maybe *you* can figure out why she's *hiding out* here at the bar.



Hello, there. I'm Jack. *Jack Cadell*. I own this place.

Hi, Jack, I'm Megan Howe. I'm *drinking* this place.

Drink *all you like*. We'll make more.



I bet you say that to *all* the girls.

I say that to all my *customers*. It's how we stay in business.

So, let's see if I can *guess*:

Your friends suggested coming out to take your mind off *something*, but it's *still on*, isn't it?