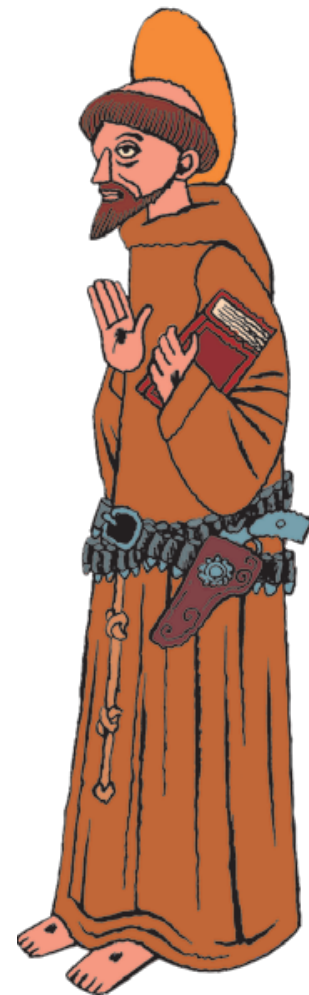


David B.
**BLACK
PATHS**

While the victorious Allies divide the spoils of war at Versailles, a self-styled "Pirate King" D'Annunzio (a poet, war hero and Dadist) storms the port of Fiume with 3000 loyal footsoldiers and declares it a utopian city-state.

As Fiume descends into looting and surreal decadence, the beautiful Mina, a raven-haired, young singer, is lost and alone amidst the chaos, consumed by a love affair with Lauriano, a young soldier. Haunted by the horror of the trenches, Lauriano hunts Fiume in vain for the ghost that haunts his dreams.



In this city gone mad, can Saint Francis of Assisi save Mina and Lauriano from the black paths?

Publication date:	ISBN:	RRP:	Extent & Format:	Colour:	Size:
4th July 2011	978-1-906838-33-1	£14.99	128pp hardback	Full colour	170 x 240 mm



Praise for David B:

Eisner Award for "Best Reality Based Work" 2006

Cartoonist of the Year 2005, The Comics Journal

Ignatz Award for Outstanding Artist 2005

Angouleme Festival Prize for Scenario 2002

Alph'Art Award for Comics Excellence 2000

"Whether traditionalists like it or not, the graphic novel is the first-choice mode of expression for many profound sensibilities, seeking to tell tales as rich and complex as can be found in any narrative form"
Charles Shaar Murray, The Independent

"there shall probably be no more profound a work published this year than David B's *Epileptic*"
Ian Sansom, The Observer

NOTES FOR EDITORS:



- **SelfMadeHero** is an award-winning, independent, graphic novel publishing house, which was established by Emma Hayley in London in 2007. *Black Paths* is the second in their Original Fiction series featuring the very best graphic stories from across the world
- **David B.** is a founding member of L'Association, the fiercely independent publisher, which is a major creative force of the French comics scene. His bestselling, autobiographical work *Epileptic* is universally considered a masterpiece of the graphic novel medium
- **The historical setting** for *Black Paths* is based on historical fact. In the wake of **World War I**, the defeated Austro-Hungarian Empire lost control of the Adriatic port city of Fiume to an eccentric group of idealistic marauders, led by the Italian **Fascist poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, a war hero turned self styled "Pirate King"**. After storming Fiume with thousands of loyal foot soldiers, D'Annunzio declared a free Republic: a Utopian city-state immersed in the art and **Dadaist** chaos of the avant-garde. Surrounded and besieged, the city descended into a bizarre, surrealist enclave. The narrative arc of *Black Paths* spans the period in history between the **Treaty of Versailles** (June 1919) and the first **Treaty of Rapallo** (Nov 1920)
- **Utopia in fiction and philosophy:** from Moore's *Utopia* (1516) through Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), Samuel Johnson's *Erehwon* (1872) and Huxley's *Brave New World* (1932) utopias and dystopias have long fascinated both readers and writers.
- **"Pirate Utopias"** provided inspiration to novelist **William Burroughs** for his novels *The Wild Boys* (1971) and *Cities of the Red Night* (1981) and the American academic **Hakim Bey AKA Peter Lamborn Wilson**, whose seminal work *T.A.Z.* (1991) theorised the idea of **"Temporary Autonomous Zones"**. Bey cites Fiume under D'Annunzio as one of several key examples of time and location-bounded revolutions. Bey's writing on T.A.Z.s made him an unlikely hero for the Rave scene in the 1990s
- **Exclusive:** David B. has illustrated an exclusive print, which will be given away free with the first 250 copies of *Black Paths* sold at the launch and afterwards at selected retailers, full details are available on request. (see the print below)
- **Launch:** David B. will be interviewed at a public event in London on 30th June followed by a drinks reception
Email press@selfmadehero.com for invitations
- **Interviews & Call Ins:** copies of *Black Paths* and author appearances 30th June – 1st July can be arranged along with all other review and interview requests via Doug Wallace at SelfMadeHero, doug@selfmadehero.com
- **Images:** cleared web and print images can be downloaded from bit.ly/BP_MediaPack with alternative images available on request
- **Distribution:** Turnaround
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