

Black Francis
& Josh Frank

with drawings by
Steven Appleby

The GOOD INN



PRESS RELEASE

From Pixies frontman Black Francis, in collaboration with writer Josh Frank and artist Steven Appleby, comes *The Good Inn*, a bold and visually arresting novel about art, conflict and the origins of a certain type of cinema.

Based on a yet-to-be-written soundtrack to a movie that doesn't yet exist, *The Good Inn* is filled with the same eccentricity and imagination as Black Francis' music. In 1907, the battleship *Iéna* exploded off the coast of France. In 1908, *La Bonne Auberge* became the earliest known pornographic film and depicted a French soldier and an innkeeper's daughter. Loosely based on these events, *The Good Inn* follows the lone survivor of the *Iéna* as he makes his way through the French countryside, has a sexual adventure with an innkeeper's daughter and falls into a strange counter-universe. Illustrated throughout, the novel weaves together real historical facts to recreate this piece of lost history.

A unique collaboration between a musical genius, an acclaimed biographer, and one of the UK's best-known artists, *The Good Inn* is a story about the people who made the world's first pornographic film, shaping the film industry for generations to come. It also explores the power of memory and the simultaneously destructive and restorative power of light.

With co-writer Josh Frank, Black Francis brings his brilliantly bizarre imagination to the page in prose complemented by the quirky drawings of Steven Appleby. *The Good Inn* is an unforgettable piece of illustrated fiction that belongs as much to the ranks of absurdist literature as it does to the tradition of books by indie stars like Patti Smith and Nick Cave.

About the creators

Black Francis is the frontman of alternative US rock band Pixies, whose songs have inspired musicians from Thom Yorke to Kurt Cobain. Formed in 1986, the Boston band has an impassioned following in Europe, particularly after their bestselling *Doolittle* album. *The Good Inn* is his first book.

Co-writer **Josh Frank** is a screenwriter, producer and director of theatre and film and author of the Pixies biography *Fool the World*. He is also the author of a biography of the musician Peter Dinklage, *In Heaven Everything is Fine*. He wrote and directed the video for Pixies' latest release "Greens and Blues". And he built, owns, and operates the Blue Starlite Mini-Urban Drive-In Movie Theatre in Austin, Texas, the first Mini-Urban Drive-In Movie Theater in the world.

Steven Appleby is best known as the *Guardian* cartoonist with an absurdist view of the world. Having initially made an impact in the pages of *NME*, he subsequently worked on numerous publications including *The Times* and *Sunday Telegraph*, and contributed to the sleeve art for Pixies' *Trompe le Monde* album. He has published over 20 books, including *Steven Appleby's Guide To Life*, and his "Normal Life" cartoons were adapted into a series on Radio 4. He has also collaborated on a musical stage show, *Crocs In Frocks*. He lives in London.

Notes to editors

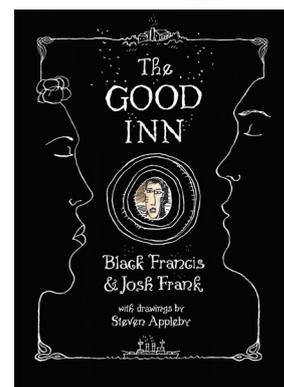
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Release dates

SelfMadeHero is publishing *The Good Inn* in the UK on 12th June 2014.
HarperCollins' It Books is publishing *The Good Inn* in the US in April 2014.

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