



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

Title: *The Hot Rock*

Original novel by: Donald Westlake

Adapted by: Christian Lacroix (LAX)

Illustrated by: Christian Lacroix (LAX)

Extent and format: 96 pages, PB w/flaps

Colour: Full colour throughout

Publication date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

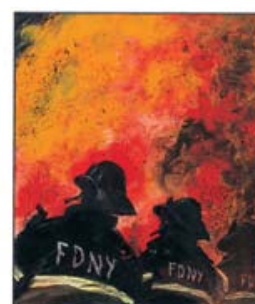
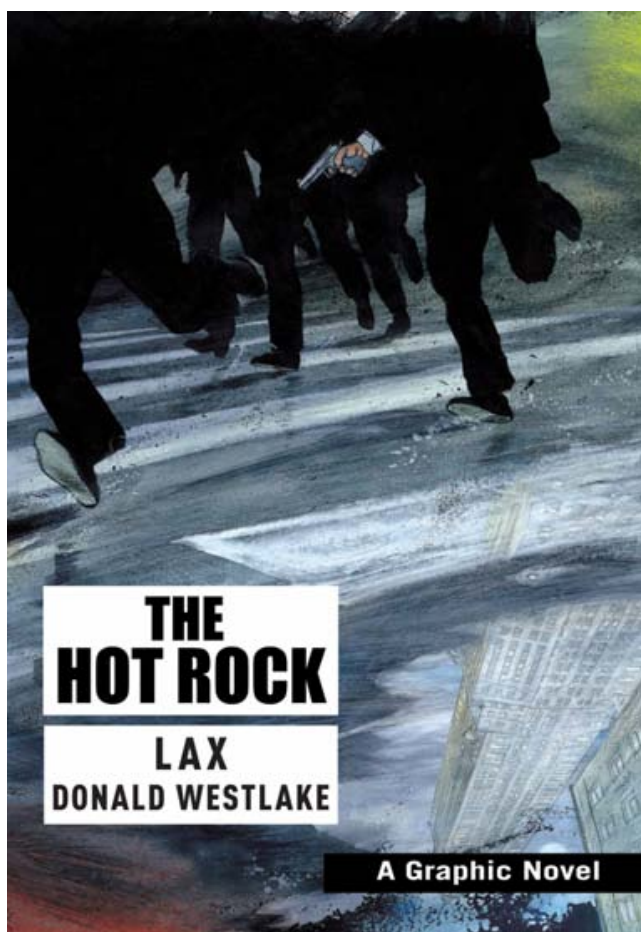
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# Donald Westlake's THE HOT ROCK

– a graphic novel adaptation



June 1969, New York. Fresh out of prison, John Dortmunder is approached to do a heist by one of his former accomplices, Kelp, an expert in stealing cars. The plan is to take advantage of an African Art exhibition to steal its star attraction – an emerald worth half a million dollars – for an obscure African state where the invaluable stone has special importance. Though reluctant to do it, and ill at ease when met with the silent partner behind the operation, Dortmunder lets himself be convinced, and starts to recruit the crack team that will nab the emerald.

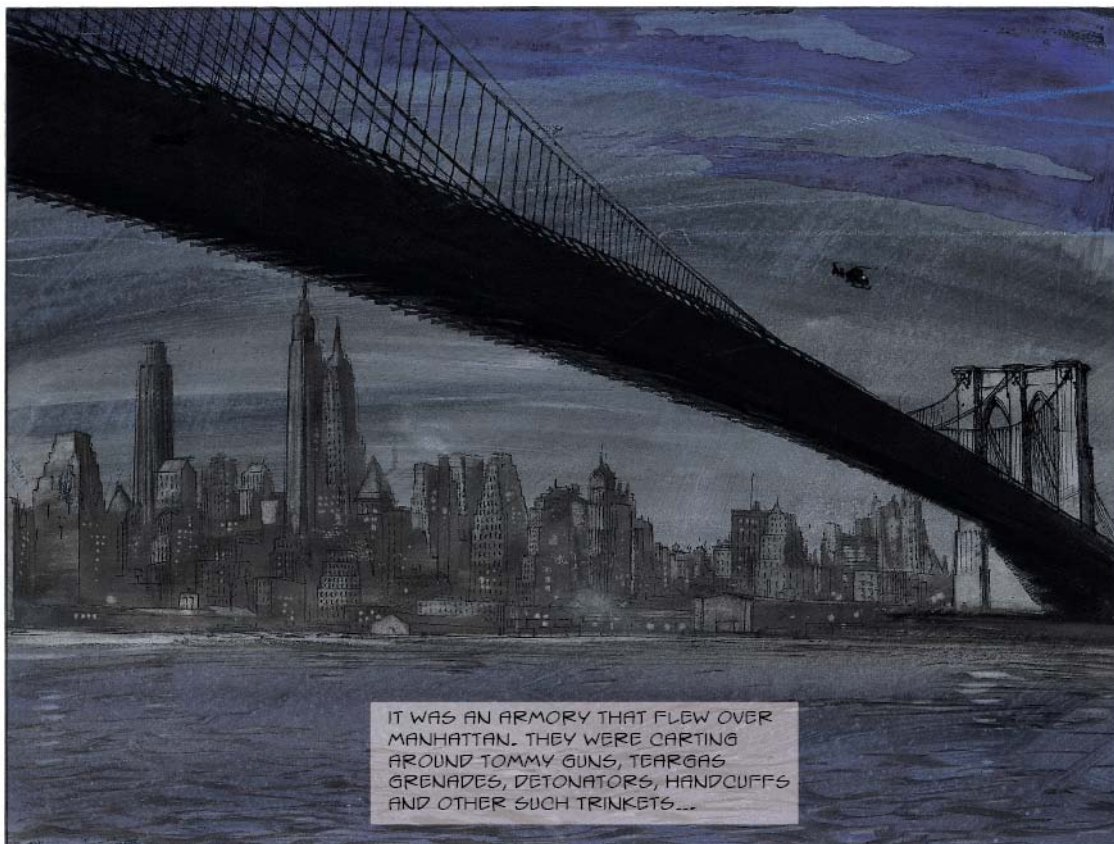
In this first outing for Donald Westlake's infamous "criminal mastermind" – John Dortmunder – he and his team of self-styled experts; "Lockman" Chefwick, "Champion driver" Murch, Kelp "the thief" and "Jack-of-all-trades" Greenwood

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attempt increasingly audacious raids on the New York Coliseum, a prison, a police precinct, a Fifth Avenue Bank and even an insane asylum all in pursuit of the elusive emerald. But will these bungling cons ever pull off the heist?

A masterfully executed, set-piece crime caper laced with black humour – this is classic Westlake.



#### NOTES FOR EDITORS:

##### Artist, adaptor

- Born in 1949, Christian Lacroix – better known as LAX – is one of the best artists of the French realistic-style of *bande dessinée*. He first rose to prominence in 1987 with the publication of *Des maux pour dire* (Vents d'ouest)
- He has created over 25 comic albums, including the critically acclaimed *Marchioness of the Lights* and *Jackdaw*
- Winner of the highly prestigious Grand Prix RTL for his *bande dessinée* *L'Aigle sans Toes* (Dupuis)

##### Author of the original

- Donald Westlake, author of 100+ crime novels was described as “one of the great writers of the C20th” (*Newsweek*)
- Was born in Brooklyn in 1933 and died in Mexico on New Year’s Eve, 2008
- Winner of three Edgar awards and an Academy Award nomination for his screenplay of *The Grifters*
- Under the pseudonym Richard Stark, Westlake wrote *The Hunter*, the first in the *Parker* series which has been published to critical and popular acclaim in graphic novel form
- Many of Westlake’s books have been made into movies, including *The Hunter* (which became the brilliant film noir *Point Blank*) and the 1999 smash hit *Payback*. Robert Redford, George Segal and Moses Gunn starred in the film version of *The Hot Rock*, which was directed by William Goldman in 1972.

**Media pack** (Including PR and a selection of publication cleared images): [www.selfmadehero.com/Hot Rock.zip](http://www.selfmadehero.com/Hot Rock.zip)

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