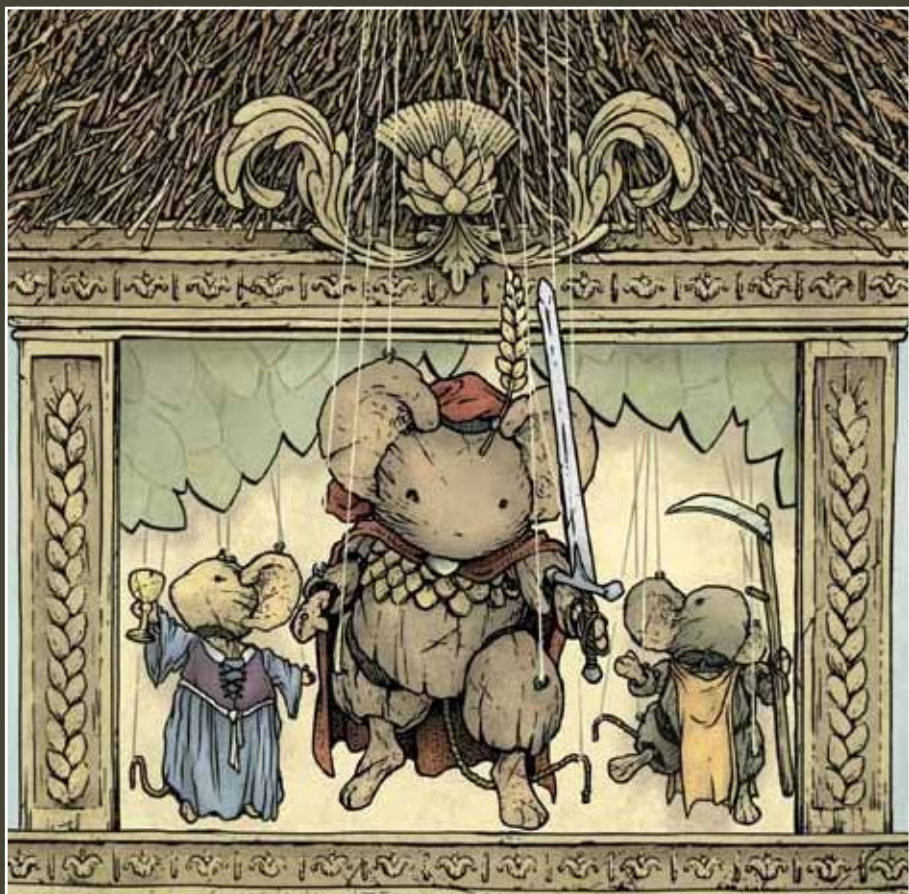


ARCHAIA ENTERTAINMENT Presents









# MOUSE GUARD™

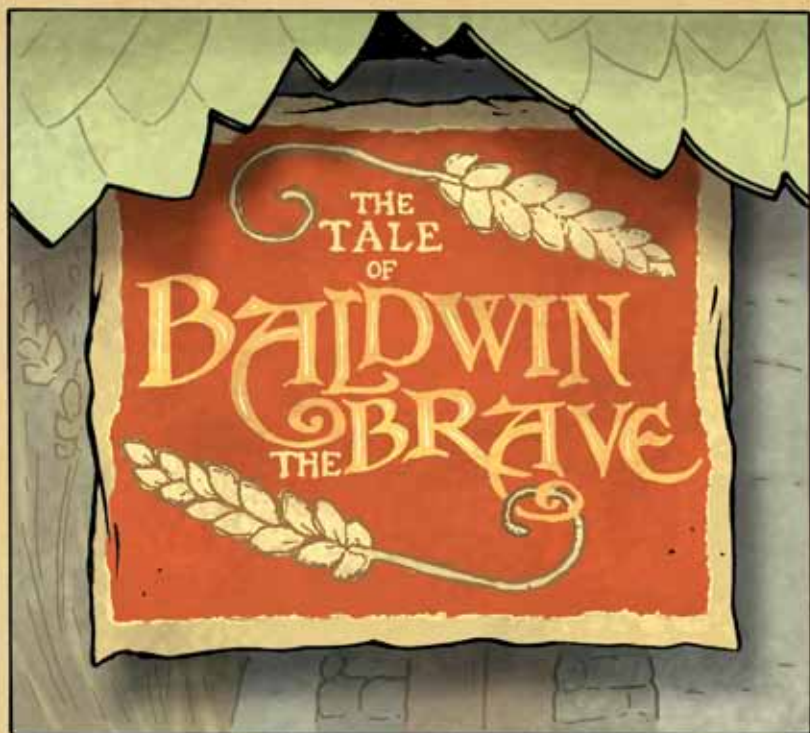
LABYRINTH AND OTHER STORIES  
A FREE COMIC BOOK DAY HARDCOVER ANTHOLOGY

**FREE COMIC BOOK DAY™**

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# MOUSE GUARD:



STORY & ART BY DAVID PETERSEN  
PERFORMED BY THE APPLEKETTLE PUPPET TROUPE

All across the Mouse Territories, its residents struggle to prosper amongst harsh weather conditions and predators. A group of selfless, cloaked mice, called the Mouse Guard, patrol the open country between cities and towns, allowing the common mice not just to survive, but thrive. It takes a mouse of great character to serve in this way, though they often come from humble beginnings...

OAKGROVE  
SUMMER 1131



OUR TALE BEGINS SEASONS AGO, AS BALDWIN, A YOUNG MOUSE ARRIVED AT A TOWN SAID TO BE CURSED. CARVED OVER THE GATES WERE THE WORDS "EVIL PREVAILS". AND SO THE MICE THERE BELIEVED THIS TO BE TRUE. ANY SAD EVENT OR TRAGEDY GAVE THE SAYING FURTHER CREDENCE.

SUCH THINGS DID NOT SWAY BALDWIN THOUGH, AND HE THOUGHT THIS TOWN TO BE A PERFECT PLACE TO SETTLE AND START HIS LIFE.

HE BECAME A HARVESTER, COLLECTING GRAIN WITH GARNER, A MOUSE WHO HAD REAPED THE LAND'S SEED SINCE HE WAS A YOUNGFUR.

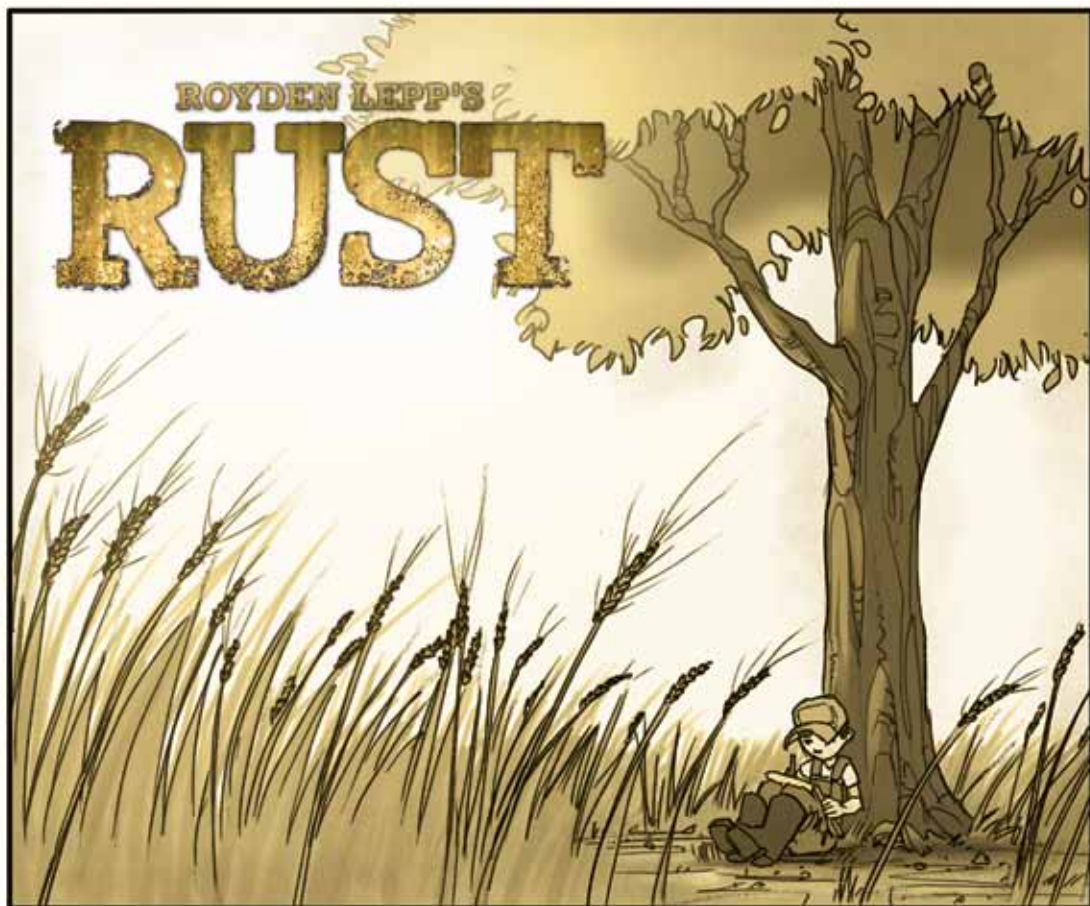


MIDWAY THROUGH THAT FALL'S HARVEST GARNER SHIVERED IN FRIGHT, FOR A GOOSE WAS GOBBLING THE FOOD NEEDED TO KEEP THE TOWN ALIVE OVER THE WINTER WHILE THE GRAIN WAS STILL ON THE SHAFT. BALDWIN SUGGESTED RINGING THE LARGE TOWN BELL IN HOPES OF FRIGHTENING THE HUNGRY FOWL AWAY.



BUT GARNER ADVISED IT WAS BEST TO DO NOTHING, AS THE SOUND OF THAT BELL LURED LARGER PREDATORS WHO WOULD EITHER EAT MORE GRAIN THAN THE GOOSE OR EAT THEM.

ROYDEN LEPP'S  
**RUST**



DEAR DAD,



DEAR DAD



I know Roman writes you a letter everyday, but I don't know what he's telling you.



I thought I'd write you a letter, just to set the record straight.



Things are not going very well here.