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WRITER/ARTIST

TIM KINSELLA WRITER

Thanks for reading this preview of *Cicero*, which will be released in early 2020. Though it might be hard to tell from these few pages, *Cicero* is the story of a 16 year-old who wants to forget a humiliating robbery, and his father who is hell-bent on getting even. They embark on an ill-conceived, all-night manhunt that exposes glaring differences in their attitudes toward conflict, violence, and masculinity.

I wrote *Cicero* with Tim Kinsella back in 2017, and we originally intended it to be a short film. However, even though we thought we were writing with a managable physical production in mind, we eventually realized that we had accumulated 20+ characters, 5 locations, and stunt driving—all of which could only be shot at night during the few weeks of good weather that Chicagoland gets. In short, it was financially beyond our means.

Fortunately, the decision to put the film on the back burner dovetailed with my rejuvinated interest in comics. I got into self-publishing mini-comics in 1989 at the tender age 15. Operating under the moniker Rocco Comics, my friends and I published a slew of titles (some funny, many bad), became friends with underground comics legends like Jay Lynch who would permanently corrupt our worldview, and had an amazing time. Eventually our mini-comics became punk zines, the punk zines beame punk records, and somewhere in the shuffle comics fell out of the mix in our lives.

But now, some 25 years after the last time I actually sat down to draw a comic—and armed with a story that is personal and important to me—I've decided to give it another go. I hope you enjoyed the first act of the story and will come back to see how things shake out for young Justin. Follow @jasonmojicacomics on Instagram to follow the project's progress, and feel free to give me a shout at jason@xylophonemedia.com

A very special thanks to my wife Caryn and my son Fletcher for their eternal encouragement. Thanks also to Ian Ferguson–aka Hydeon–for designing the logo; to Josh Bayer for the adult education; and to Gabe Fowler for providing the crack that helped get me back into all of this.

Yours, Jason

