

Guests.

Mesdames et Messieurs, gourmets and chefs de cuisines. Please take your seats, dinner will be served shortly.

Let us, your hosts, take you on a journey of ghastly gastronomic delight.

On this evenings tasting menu we have;

Cheek of man, served on the bone with oesophageal foam.

Family-style entrail tartare with a bodily jus reduction.

A pulled pork to die for.

For dessert we will be serving a selection of fresh fruits grown using the latest in genetic modification technology and recipient of the 2018 Innovation In Agriculture Award.

For your after-dinner entertainment; an astounding feat of self-cannibalism to amaze and delight.

So ladies and gentlemen, eat and drink your fill, feast and rejoice, binge and purge, for who knows when our last supper will be served?

Bon appetit Katie and Tom 2018



## Who's There?

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In the romantic candlelight only her beautiful face could be seen in the glow. Rather. What was left of it anyway.











@ @GRUESOME COMICS

@@novarellanovarella

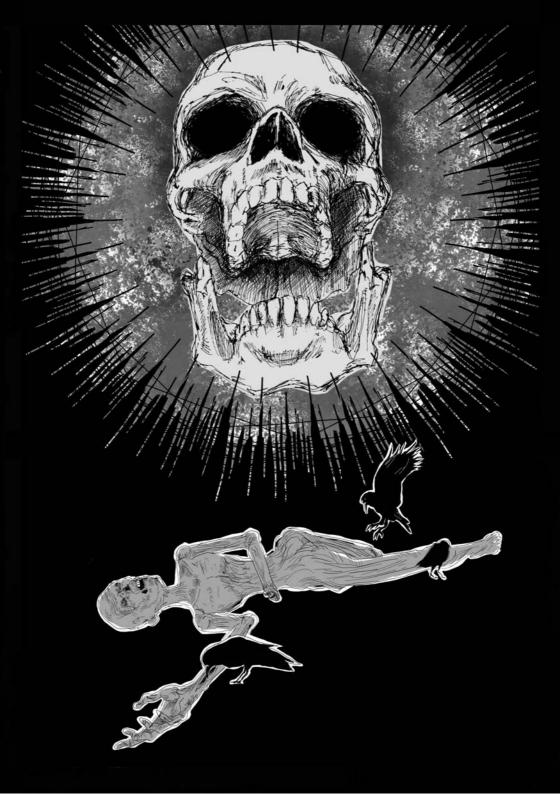












# Family Dinner

SERVED BY

Heather Palmer & AD MacRitchie





























# Undo Lugay

By Matt Smith & James Francis



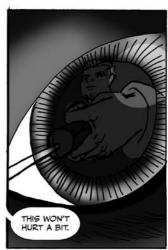
"I know Uncle Lucky wasn't yer parents' FIRST choice for babysitter... but if ya quit yer CRYIN' I'll find us some BREAKFAST!"





























## A Pie In The Face By Kevin T. Rogers

Charles Hogg liked to eat – many people do. But Charlie really did – and he was very good at it – something he had only learned later in life. For – born to the criminal classes in the poverty slums of Victorian London – he had been raised on a strictly subsistence diet. A circumstance barely changed by his adult career as a petty – and inept – thief. Until, that is, Fate stepped in and elevated him to the giddy heights of gastronomic repute! By way of the murky depths of murder.

He hadn't meant to kill the man – not at all. He'd simply hit him too hard from behind with a lead pipe – and broken his neck. Not that it mattered to Charlie – he merely continued with his intention of stealing his victim's wallet. Then dragged the body farther into the shadows of the alley, and fled to the Raven's Head to check on his booty.

Which led to the discovery of his marvellous talent! For amongst the slim pickings, he found an entry ticket to a Pie Eating Contest taking place the next day. So Charlie thought he'd pop along and see if he could sell on the ticket at a reduced fee. Any amount would be welcome to a man of his deficient means. But on finding no takers – nor any success in his ham-fisted attempts to dip a few pockets – he settled for the best of a bad job. A free meal was a free meal, after all. So he entered the hall – and the competition.

Which he won by a country mile! Because once Charlie began consuming the non-stop supply of comestibles, he unleashed a relentless appetite! And claimed not only the £10.00. Prize, but afterwards, an ever-increasing domination in the world of competitive eating. Charlie 'Chew' Hogg (as the press re-named him) soon became a by-word for glamorous gluttony! And no sooner did the trappings of success come rolling in, than the squalid secrets of his former life lay buried in the past. Now he was the people's champion – 'King of the Pies' – nobody could beat him! Well, nobody perhaps, except a certain Mr Walter P. Edelbaum.

He was a much younger man from America, but no less an expert gorger. And now he had sailed the mighty ocean to pit his stomach against 'Charlie Chew'! Not that Charlie was worried – he had total belief in his own abilities. At least he did, until their first encounter – when the Young Pretender beat him, 30 Meat & Potato Shortcrusts to 25! Charlie was shaken, but dismissed it as, 'a hiccup – a one-off'. And swore that at their next meeting he would 'devour the Yank as well as the pies!' But he didn't – Edelbaum won again. And again at the next. And the next . . .

Charlie sat alone in the Raven's Head, staring at his glass of stout. His fall from grace had been spectacular. Gone were the heady days of champagne and upper crust hangers-on. His loss of regular winnings meant his savings soon dwindled, which led to the unmanageable upkeep of the town house, servants, and horse and carriage, all of which disappeared. As did his social standing – nobody wanted to know a has-been.

Charlie knew who was to blame and hated him for it, but with the shadow of his

conqueor always

looming, he saw no prospect of recovery. His confidence – and his remarkable appetite – seemed lost. Yet he believed that if that baleful presence could only be removed, his old powers might re-ignite and launch him back to the top! And that conviction soured into the blackest of thoughts, and to a memory of a dark night in an alley when he'd found out how easy it was to kill a man. And so he was resolved. He had just enough money left for entry into the next big competition two weeks hence, and he knew that Edelbaum had taken a suite at the Rochester Hotel. Which gave him a fortnight to keep watch – and to wait for an opportunity. And finally it came.

Charlie had never been a great thief but always good at one of the skills required – fading into the background. So Edelbaum hadn't been aware of being followed for the last ten days. Even on those constitutional walks that he took every evening, which never varied in time or route – always at dusk, and always through the lonelier environs around his lodgings. Both conditions helping him to avoid irritating admirers demanding autographs. And tonight was no exception.

Black clouds crawled over a white moon, turning it into a death's head. The ex-champion stood in the shadows of a disused warehouse, lead pipe in hand. Edelbaum should be here soon and when he passed, Charlie would strike from behind. And now footsteps were approaching – he gripped his weapon and – it wasn't him! No, it was a very large roughneck, seeking an unwary traveller to rob.

The lout might have missed Charlie in the near-blackness, but he was on the look out for prey, eyes darting around. And when he saw a man lurking, with weapon in hand, he

instinctively drew his own – a very long bayonet. And lunged at Charlie who scarcely managed to step out of range to swipe back with his lead pipe. But he knew this was a losing battle – the man was younger, big and well armed. Things looked bleak

'Hey, you two! What's going on, there?'

Walter P. Edelbaum arrived, running, and waving the blade of a swordstick that he always carried when out alone. He squinted into the gloom and thought he recognised one of the figures. 'Hoga? Is that you?'

'Yes,' Charlie almost screamed, 'I'm being assaulted!'

His attacker turned, and realising that the odds were now stacked against him, began to run past this new arrival, slashing at him as he went. But Edelbaum was skilled with his own weapon and thrust it between his opponent's ribs. The stricken man staggered, groaned and toppled like a felled tree.

'Thank God,' Charlie cried with false sincerity, 'you saved my life!'

'Maybe,' Edelbaum replied, 'but I think I've ended this man's.' And he knelt down to check for a heartbeat.

Charlie considered, dropped his lead pipe - and picked up the discarded bayonet. Then approached the kneeling man from behind and drove the blade deeply into his back.

Edelbaum stiffened, shuddered horribly, and keeled over – dead. Charlie smiled, dropped the bayonet – and vanished back into the shadows. And it was only later

that he cursed himself for not having taken the chance to steal the dead man's wallet. Old habits die hard. But all in all, luck was with him. For when the bodies were discovered, investigators concluded that the ruffian had demanded the gentleman's valuables, the victim had resisted, and the ensuing confrontation had resulted in the death of both. Case closed.

Charlie though, still remained a little apprehensive about the imminent competition — he'd become accustomed to losing — but he needn't have worried. Without Edelbaum's debilitating presence, the old warhorse stormed to victory! Although he had to admit that his success also owed something to the quality of the pies — they were unique in flavour — and absolutely delicious!

And the following morning, he set out to meet the person who had supplied them. Mrs Lovett was a newly local businesswoman who had sponsored the contest in order to promote the opening of LOVETT'S SAVOURY PIE PARLOUR. And she'd invited Charlie here today to receive his Prize money, along with reporters and photographers set to record the event for posterity. Only when he got there, the Pressmen had not yet arrived. So his hostess made a suggestion.

'I hope you won't mind me saying, but as your image is to feature in the newspapers, perhaps you might like to have a little trim and shave while you're waiting?'

Charlie felt embarrassed by his unkempt appearance, and loath to admit that until receiving the Prize money, he couldn't afford such luxries. But Mrs Lovett

forestalled his blushes. 'Only, my friend runs the barbershop next door, and if you mention my name, there will be no charge?'

Charlie nodded his acceptance and left with a spring in his step. 'Prize money and a free haircut,' he thought, 'the Devil surely looks after his own!' And smiled contentedly as he looked up to the sign above the door:

### S. TODD'S TRADITIONAL BARBERSHOP

Strangely, Charles Hogg was never seen again. So Mrs Lovett never got to present him with his Prize money. But she did continue to sell her scrumptious pies. Until several months later when she and Mr Todd were compelled to move from their premises due to an evil, sickly stench that seemed to be coming from their shared connecting cellars.













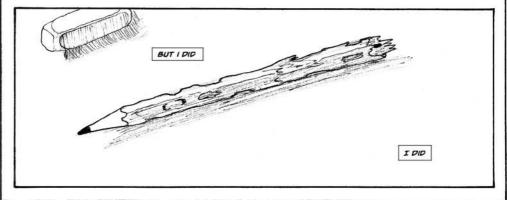
Olloyd Davies

EATMYPAINT
(Made in Microsoft Paint)

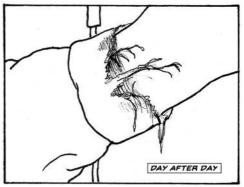


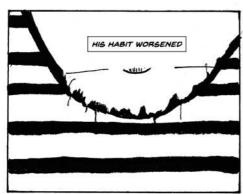








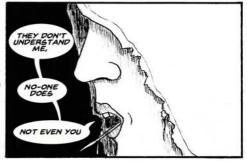




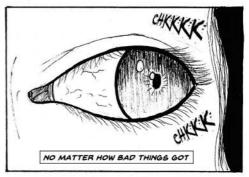


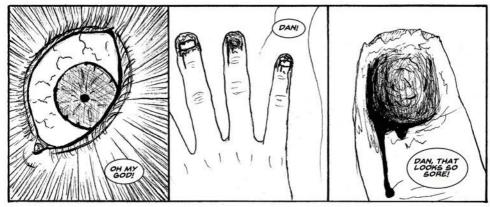
























HIS AIR OF MELANCHOLY WAS REPLACED WITH A SINGLE-MINDED LOOK OF DETERMINATION

> I WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS DETERMINED TO GET BETTER, TO BEAT HIS COMPULSION ONCE AND FOR ALL

BUT DEEP DOWN I FELT THAT THINGS WERE WORSE THAN EVER

I DIDN'T BELIEVE FOR ONE SECOND THAT WHAT HE WAS DOING COULD FEEL GOOD LIKE HE SAID

HE STOPPED COMMUNICATING WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS ALL TOGETHER

