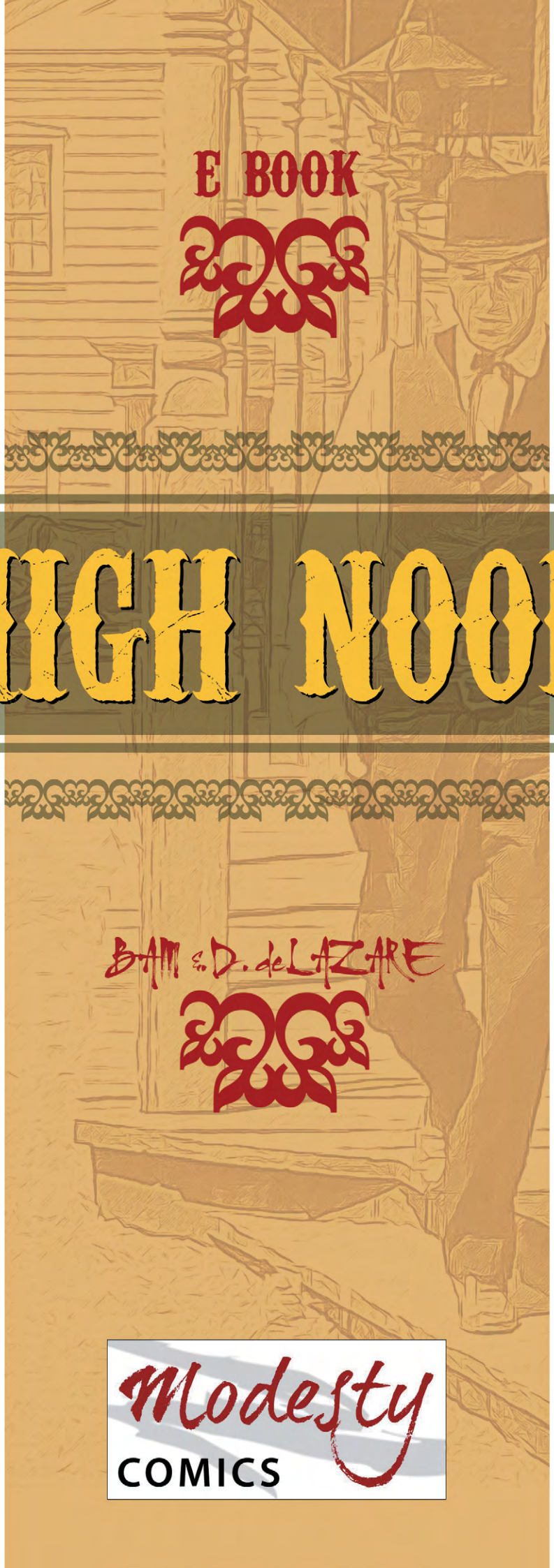
HIGH NOON

BAM & D. deLAZARE

HADLEYVILLE



E BOOK

HIGH NOON

BAM & D. deLAZARE

Modesty COMICS

Bam & D. de Lazare
High Noon

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Graphic design: Bam & D. de Lazare

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High Noon, Revisited

In contrast to the popular trend of many graphic novels being turned into films, this is a graphic novel adaptation of the cult Western classic, High Noon, which featured Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly in the 1952 original.
As an archetypal Western it is very much a product of its time, and yet the story of one man's struggle for justice, when it seems everyone else has turned their back on him is a universal concept and one that will continue to be relevant.

High Noon's adaptability and longevity can be summarised by the 1989 example of Polish graphic designer Tomasz Sarnecki creating a Solidarity election poster for the first partially free elections in communist Poland. It features an image of Cooper armed with a folded ballot, the Solidarity logo and a message at the bottom reading, in translation, 'High Noon: 4 June 1989'.

Poster for Solidarity

Hollywood has been using comics and making them into blockbuster films for decades. They have also been, increasingly, using typically 'comic book' techniques in film, such as the special effects used in Sin City and 300 or the latest trend of interpolated rotoscoping, where each frame of a film is traced over and turned into animation.

This graphic novel is the opposite of that trend and yet uses the same techniques to create a graphic novel using frames from a film. This is definitely an innovation in graphic novel making and artistically creates a very precise and photographic drawing style.

This graphic novel is kept in the film's original black and white, rather than put into colour which most modern adaptations of films tend to do. This is much appreciated, because this famous western stays in our memories precisely for its striking black and white images. This graphic novel is also true to the story line and character portrayal of the film.

The originality Bam and de Lazare bring to the endeavour is rather similar to what a film adaptation brings to a graphic novel – the director. This graphic novel is like having a new director on the set, it's a new 'director's cut' from the same footage, so to speak. Bam and de Lazare made the decisions on which frames to use from the film and how to display them on each page and which camera angles were most appropriate. In this way, they have avoided the static frame of a movie screen and implemented the power of a comics' page montage.

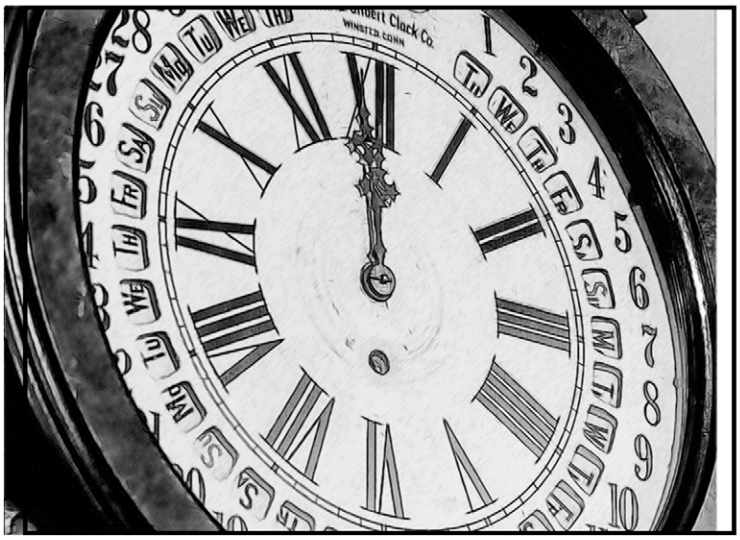
Also, they have added in some character's thoughts and re-wrote various monologues to make them shorter. In this way the psychology of the characters is even more emphasised and defined. Their choices and changes definitely make for a new perspective on the original film.

Character's psychology

High Noon is not simply the story of a Sheriff facing a gang of outlaws alone in the American 'Wild West'. It is a universally applicable tale of bravery, loyalty and never running away from your problems even when everyone else is telling you to. Thus, it is great that this timeless story has been brought back to public attention in 2014, and equally great it has been done in graphic novel format.

Los Angeles, April 2014
Tijana Tamburić,
historian and comics critic

HIGH NOON



BAM & D. deLAZARE

MILLER!... BEN MILLER HAS ARRIVED!
HELLO, BEN!
COLBY!
NO, PIERCE!?
DON'T WORRY, HE'S COMING!

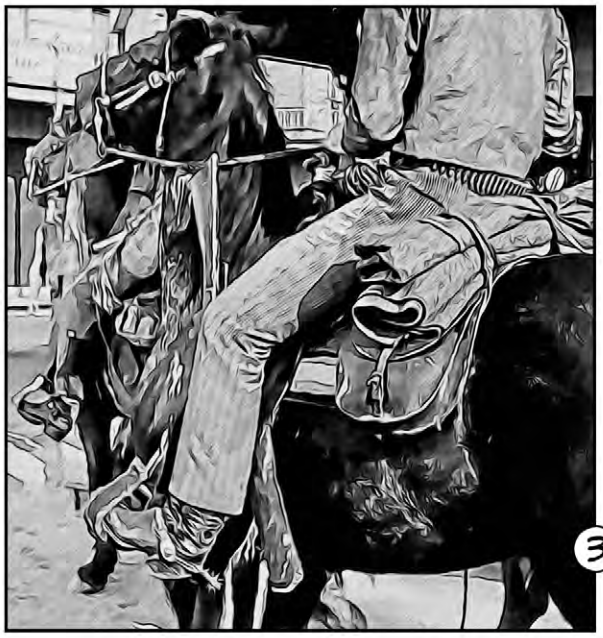
I HOPE HE'S ON TIME!
AH, PIERCE!
LET'S GO!

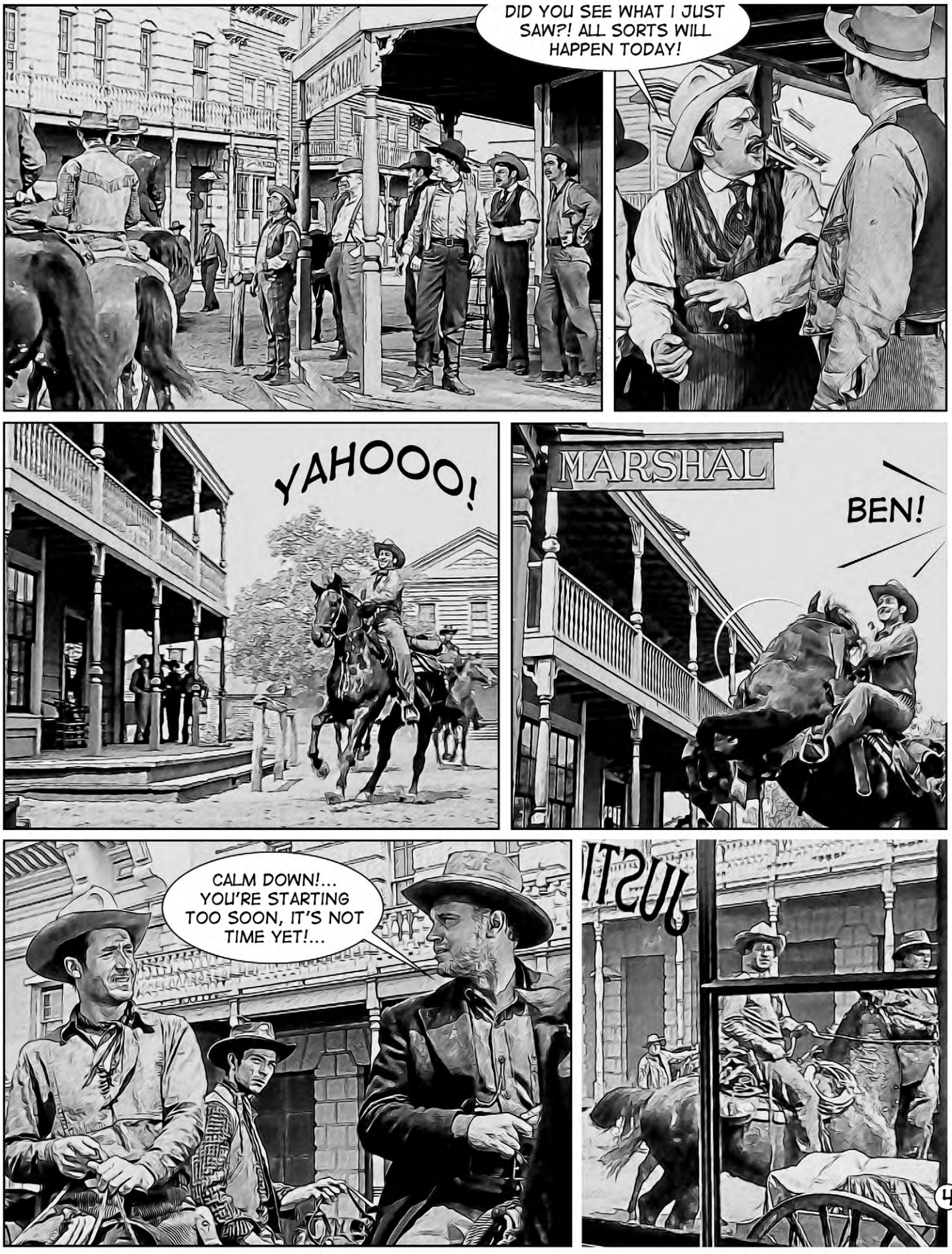
HADLEYVILLE...1888.
SUNDAY...

B·A·M & D. deLAZARE

HIGH NOON

?!
BEN MILLER... JIMMY PIERCE AND JACK COLBY... DEAR GOD!




DID YOU SEE WHAT I JUST SAW?! ALL SORTS WILL HAPPEN TODAY!
YAHOOO!
MARSHAL
BEN!
CALM DOWN!... YOU'RE STARTING TOO SOON, IT'S NOT TIME YET!...

ALRIGHT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...WE BEGIN! LET THE COUPLE STEP FORWARD: WILL KANE AND AMY FOWLER...
...DEARLY BELOVED WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THE HOLY MATRIMONY OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS!
WOWEE!... BOY, IT IS HOT TODAY!
DID I... IMPOSSIBLE!
GENERAL STORE
I THOUGHT I SAW BEN MILLER!...I KNOW THAT'S SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE HE'S SOMEWHERE DOWN IN TEXAS!...
...BUT I ALSO THOUGHT I SAW PIERCE AND COLBY!

FRANK...MILLER ...RELEASED... LAST...WEEK...IS COMING...TO... HADLEYVILLE...
TU...TUT...TUTU... TUTUT...TUTU... TUTUTU...TUT
THE NOON TRAIN ARRIVING ON TIME? HMM?
?!
YES...SIR... IT IS... YES SIR...
...I CAN'T THINK OF ONE REASON WHY IT WOULDN'T BE... MISTER PIERCE!...
...HOW DO YOU DO MISTER MILLER? MISTER COLBY?! ...
IT BETTER NOT BE LATE, OLD MAN, FOR YOUR SAKE!
HADLEYVILLE
OOF!... I HAVE TO TELL THE SHERIFF!

DO YOU, WILL KANE, TAKE AMY FOWLER TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED WIFE, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?
ADLEYVILLE
I DO!
BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME, I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE!
HA-HA
HURRAY
HAHAHA
BRAVO!
UH! OOF! UH!
HE'S IN A RUSH EVEN THOUGH IT'S SUNDAY!

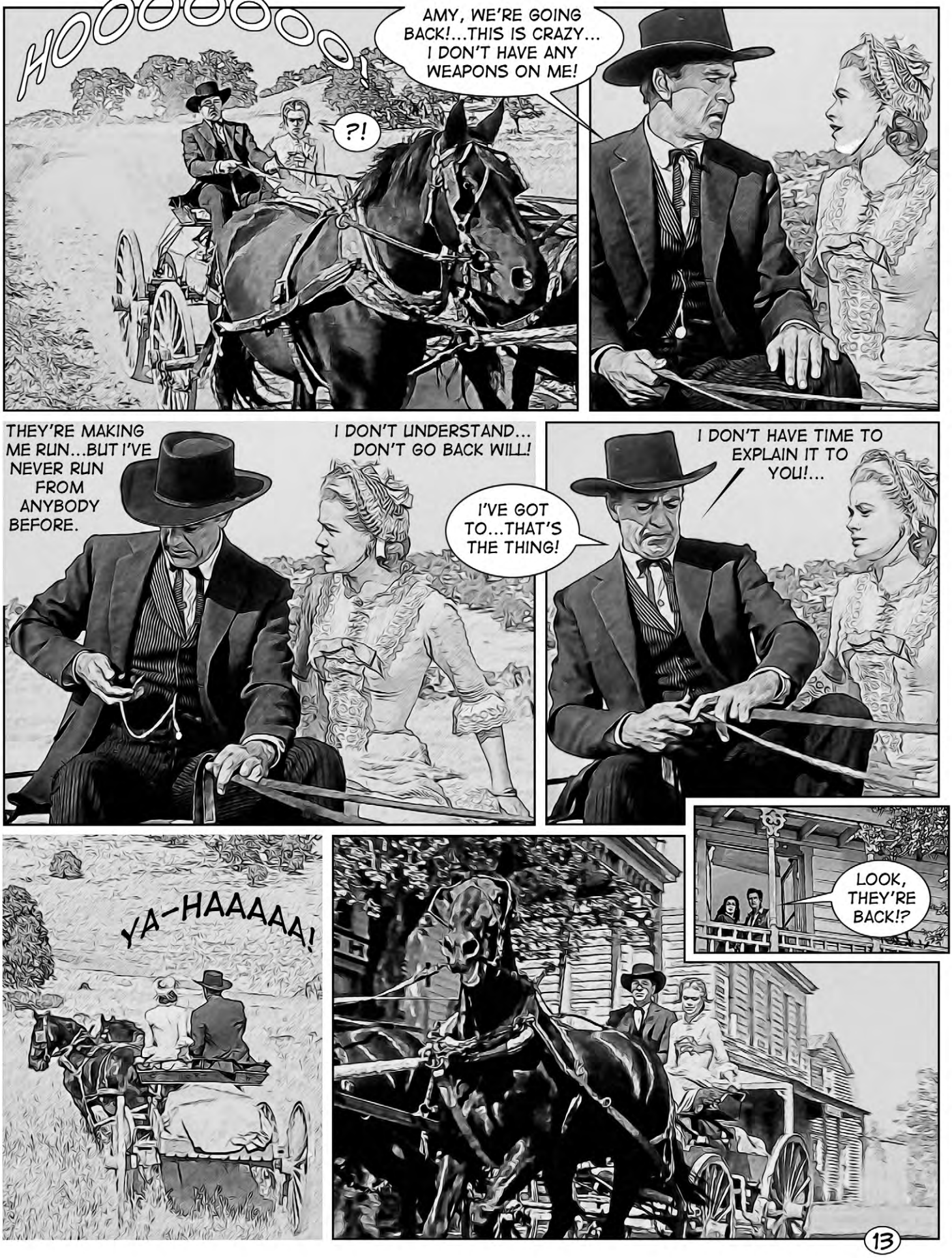
JUST ONE MORE THING SHERIFF... RETURN THE BADGE!
ALRIGHT, BUT YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR MY REPLACEMENT TO ARRIVE!
BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE YOUR JOB SO WELL HERE, WE FROM THE CITY COUNSEL SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL THE CITIZENS, AND AS YOUR FRIENDS, WHEN WE SAY THAT THE CITY WILL BE SAFE UNTIL TOMORROW EVEN WITHOUT A SHERIFF!
YOUR CHOICE!
RELAX, WILL... NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TILL TOMORROW AND THEN THE NEW SHERIFF WILL BE HERE!
SHERIFF!

SHERIFF WILL, A TELEGRAM FOR YOU!
HORRIBLE... AWFUL!
WAR IS DECLARED
FRANK MILLER WAS RELEASED!... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...AND OVER A WEEK AGO!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL...BEN MILLER IS AT THE TRAIN STATION WITH JIM PIERCE AND JACK COLBY! THEY WERE ASKING ABOUT THE NOON TRAIN!
FRANK MILLER IS COMING...ON THE NOON TRAIN!
TICK...TOCK...
TICK...TOCK...
GET OUT OF TOWN... THIS SECOND...WE WILL DEAL WITH THIS!

DON'T STOP TILL YOU GET TO CLARKSBURG!
I THINK I MUST STAY ...
NONSENSE! HAVE YOU GONE MAD?...THINK OF AMY! LEAVE!
GOODBYE FRIENDS!
DON'T WORRY, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE...GO SAFELY AND QUICKLY!
YA!
HA-YA!

STRANGE! IF ONLY YOU SAW THIS... KANE AND HIS WIFE JUST PASSED BY IN A HURRY! ...
YE-HAAA!
WHY IS THAT STRANGE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM STRIKE HIS HORSE LIKE THAT!...
HE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY!
SURELY KANE ISN'T FRIGHTENED OF THOSE THREE CRAZY GUNSLINGERS?

SAM!
SAM, BEN MILLER IS IN TOWN...AND HE'S HERE WITH TWO OTHERS FROM THE GANG!
OK!... I'LL HAVE A WONDER ROUND!
THIS ISN'T OK...I HAVE TO GO BACK...


HOOOOOOO!
?!
AMY, WE'RE GOING BACK!...THIS IS CRAZY... I DON'T HAVE ANY WEAPONS ON ME!
THEY'RE MAKING ME RUN...BUT I'VE NEVER RUN FROM ANYBODY BEFORE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... DON'T GO BACK WILL!
I'VE GOT TO...THAT'S THE THING!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU!...
LOOK, THEY'RE BACK!?
YA-HAAAAA!