



Lackadaisy: Volume 2

Tracy Butler

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Prohibition-era anthropomorphic cats try to operate an illegal speakeasy in the intricate graphic novel *Lackadaisy: Volume 2*, a volume born as a webcomic that has seen animated treatment.

In 1927 in Saint Louis, Missouri, widowed Mitzi struggles against failing finances and a lack of alcohol to maintain her husband's club, the Lackadaisy. When her trusted employee Viktor is injured in a gunfight, Rocky, a musician and a rum runner, steps in to help. Rocky brings his cousin Freckles into the operation too. They join a large cast whose members employ an array of speaking styles and accents; the language is engaging and realistic, even given the talking cats conceit.

A beautiful, hefty hardcover text, the book also features extras like minicomics and a showcase of gorgeous single-page illustrations. The main story benefits from the illustrations' attention to detail, including thoughtful character designs, accurate period architecture and clothing, and sepia-toned coloration. The creature's expressions are masterful, too, while a page of minutiae includes historical notes and references.

Lackadaisy: Volume 2 is a graphic novel epic set in a Roaring Twenties underworld marked by romance, adventure, humor, and intrigue.

PETER DABBENE (July / August 2024)

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