

# Wolf's Head

## Press Kit





Ottawa, Ontario: Von Allan, an Ottawa-based artist and comics creator, is writing/drawing a brand new comic series, 'Wolf's Head.' The story follows a newly created artificial intelligence (AI) on the run from its creators with the unexpected help of a janitor, her ex-police officer daughter, and their dog. Issues of the series recently began arriving in ebook form around the world.

"It was important to me that 'Wolf's Head' be a fun, thrilling, escapist adventure, but I also wanted my characters and their experiences to feel real," said Allan. "My favourite stories, even the most imaginative and fantastical ones, have always grounded themselves in reality. Spider-Man heroically saves the world but, then turn the page; he's home, staring into an empty cupboard because he didn't sell enough photos in today's gig economy and can't afford groceries. This is what I've tried to do in 'Wolf's Head'; it's a fun, action-packed science fiction adventure but my characters are living in contemporary America. And contemporary America can be a hard place."

'Wolf's Head' features Lauren Greene, a young woman who quits her job as a police officer in Metro Detroit after becoming frustrated with growing police violence. At the same time as Lauren is quitting, a secretive corporation across town has managed to create a seemingly perfect AI for war and profit; however, before the corporation can use the AI, Lauren's mother, Patty, a janitor at the corporation accidentally finds it. Patty is literally the kindest person the new lifeform has ever met and, as a result, it bonds to her, rejects its purpose and creators, and orchestrates a huge accident to cover an escape. Patty, overwhelmed, asks her daughter Lauren for help. Despite being broke and a bit lost herself, Lauren agrees to help; two humans, an AI, and a dog versus a warmongering corporation.

'Wolf's Head' is part action- adventure and part sci-fi drama. It also features strong women of colour as the main characters.

"One of the things I love about 'Wolf's Head' is that it's about a different kind of AI," Allan added. "We're used to seeing evil computers and post-apocalyptic storylines; I wanted to flip that cliché on its head and have an AI that loves humanity. And it's fun to contrast the AI's compassion with the flawed people who created it."

**About Von Allan:** Von Allan was born red-headed and freckled in Arnprior, Ontario, just in time for "Star Wars: A New Hope." The single child of two loving but troubled parents, Von split most of his childhood between their two homes. Additional information about Von Allan can be found at <https://www.vonallan.com/>.

Von was featured in "I Am Still Your Child," a documentary film (<http://iamstillyourchild.com/>); was the recipient of the Corel Endowment Fund for the Arts Award in 2014 and the CBC Trailblazer Award in 2019; and was a finalist for the 2020 Peter Honeywell Mid-Career Artist Award.

**About Wolf's Head:** 'Wolf's Head,' in ebook form, has the following specifications:

- ❖ ISBN for Issue 1: 978-0-9952772-9-8
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 2: 978-1-989885-01-7
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 3: 978-1-989885-02-4
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 4: 978-1-989885-03-1
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 5: 978-1-989885-04-8
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 6: 978-1-989885-05-5
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 7: 978-1-989885-06-2
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 8: 978-1-989885-07-9
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 9: 978-1-989885-08-6
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 10: 978-1-989885-09-3
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 11: 978-1-989885-10-9
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 12: 978-1-989885-12-3
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 13: 978-1-989885-14-7
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 14: 978-1-989885-15-4
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 15: 978-1-989885-18-5
- ❖ ISBN for Issue 16: 978-1-989885-19-2
- ❖ Suggested Retail Price: \$1.99 US/\$2.99 CDN
- ❖ Art: Full colour
- ❖ Audience: 10+





### What's this story about?

Von: **WOLF'S HEAD** is the story of Lauren, a young woman who quits her job as a police officer in Detroit and consequently struggles to find her place in society. After her mom makes an astounding discovery, Lauren must fight for their lives against forces that will stop at nothing to stop them.

### What can you tell me about Lauren?

Von: Honestly, I think this is best determined by reading the series. Wait, not good enough for you? Fair enough. Okay, let's see. Lauren is a young woman, in her early twenties, trying to figure out where she's at in life. She thought that being a police officer would be the "right" path for her. Turns out she was wrong. Frustrated, she's been trying to pick up the pieces ever since. But that isn't so easy; she gave up a good paying job and hasn't been able to find something else. Like most of us, she has rent to make and bills to pay. So, she's figuring these out as best she can, muddling through.

### So **WOLF'S HEAD** is a contemporary story?

Von: You bet! Set in present day Detroit and it takes place in our very real world.

### What about Lauren's mom Patty?

Von: She's the beating heart of the story, at least in its initial stages. She loves her daughter very much. And she dearly loves her dog, Sankó.

She's sick (rheumatic heart disease) and she knows it. And that has put a bit of a shadow on some of her life. Well, until something wonderful happens to her.

### What's that?

Von: To answer that, you'll have to start reading the series!

### That's a cop out! Can't you say *anything* about it?

Von: Whew, tough questions here.

Okay, okay.

I've got to answer you *without* giving spoilers, right? Let's see.

Patty makes a discovery. She finds *something* and that something has changed her life. When **WOLF'S HEAD** first starts, in issue 1, Lauren isn't even aware of this discovery. What I love about it is that what Patty finds is profoundly based on her own humanity. Her love and passion for life. I really can't say anything more than that!

### You've been working on this for a long time. What took so long to start spreading the word?

Von: Yup, about three years now. Some of it was that I wanted to take things *very* easy and slow. Some of it was based on just how busy I've been; I was a bit worried that announcing it too early might lead to long lag times between issues (y'know, production delays and all that). Plus, it's not easy publishing. In fact, I really wasn't planning on publishing the series myself, but here's where I am.

### Talk more about this.

Von: Do I have to?

Okay. I've been self-publishing my own work for ages and that's not new. I was hoping **WOLF'S HEAD** might find the right home in comics, especially in what we call the "Direct Market" (comic shops in other words), but that's been a tough battle. As popular as comics are, finding a publisher that believes in you isn't easy. So I decided, after a lot of false starts, to do it myself.

I am pretty pleased with the results. I think the books look great. **WOLF'S HEAD** is in full colour and that was a bit of a learning experience for me, but it really looks fantastic.

### Colour? With a 'u'? Are you Canadian?

Von: Yup! I try to make sure that the issues themselves have American spelling, but I'm born and raised in Canada.

### Are there any difficulties for a Canuck writing and drawing a series based in the United States?

Von: I'd be lying if I said 'no.' It took research and quite a bit of paying attention to try and makes things 'read' correctly. I think I did a good job with it, but it'll come down to readers letting me know. So far, so good, so there's that.



**Alright, let's get to the tricky issue.**

Von: Eh?

**You know what I mean.**

Von: I do?

**You're a white guy.**

Von: Ah. Yes, that's true.

**Lauren, her mom, and a lot of the people in their lives are black.**

Von: Also true.

**So do you think you're qualified to do this?**

Von: I have no idea how to answer that. Short answer is maybe not.

**Well, why do it?**

Von: Because representation matters. Because I was sick of seeing comics, at least mainstream and corporate comics, that featured the same kinds of characters that I saw when I was a kid. Because I think that it's important to do. Because I like pushing myself. Pushing boundaries, especially my own, and see where it takes me. Because I don't think writing only what I know is especially useful to anyone one, including me.

**What about pushback to that?**

Von: What's the alternative? I only write and draw white people? White men? White Canadian men? How does that help anything?

**You don't think it's presumptuous?**

Von: Maybe. But look: my mom, who died at 48, was diagnosed schizophrenic when I was a kid. Am I only supposed to write about that? Well, I did write about that. Hell, I was even in a [beautiful film](#) that talked about that. Am I doomed to only write about that? I don't think so. At the end of the day, I can only do the best I can, with the best sensitivity and storytelling that I can bring, and hope for the best.

**Hope?**

Von: Yeah, hope. I hope that I've done my job right. I hope that readers, in general, believe in Lauren and her mom. Believe them to be real. Cheer for their victories and ache for their losses. If, in the balance, that happens, then I'm content. And if some think I've overstepped my bounds, well...so be it.

**So how do you describe WOLF'S HEAD?**

Von: It's an action-adventure story set in our very real world with characters that have feet of clay. It's the kind of story I love writing. It's the kind of story I love drawing. I think Lauren, her mom, Sankó, and all the characters thrill and challenge readers. I hope people fall in love with the series.

It's a *lot* of fun.

Give it a shot!



# Wolf's Head

By Von Allan

Issue 1



# Wolf's Head

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Issue 2



# Wolf's Head

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Issue 3



# Wolf's Head

By Von Allan

Issue 4





# Wolf's Head

By Von Allan

Issue 5



# Wolf's Head

By Von Allan

Issue 6



# Wolf's Head

By Von Allan

Issue 7



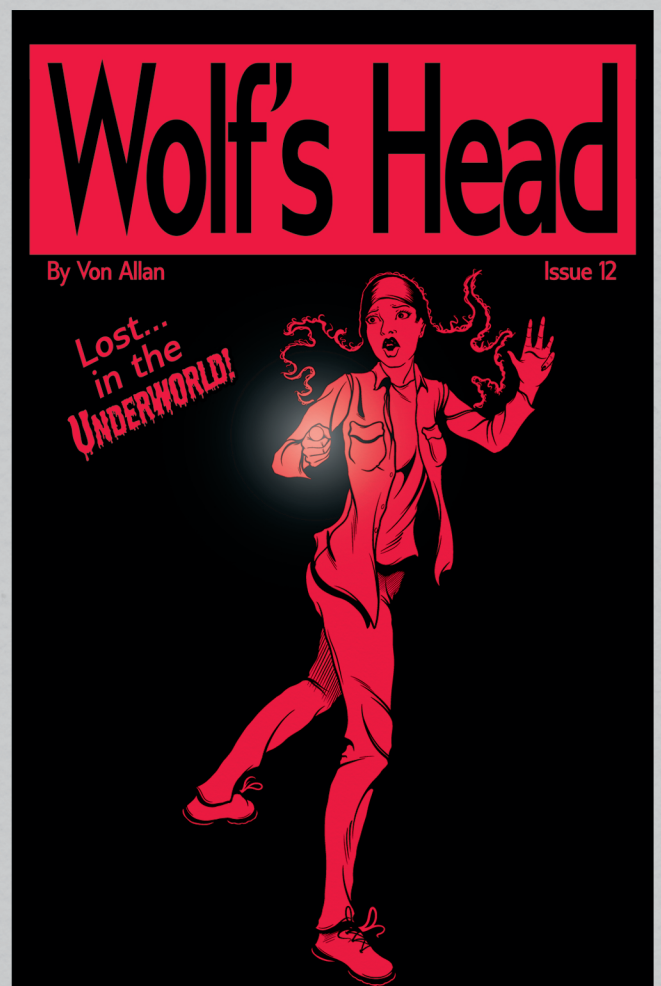
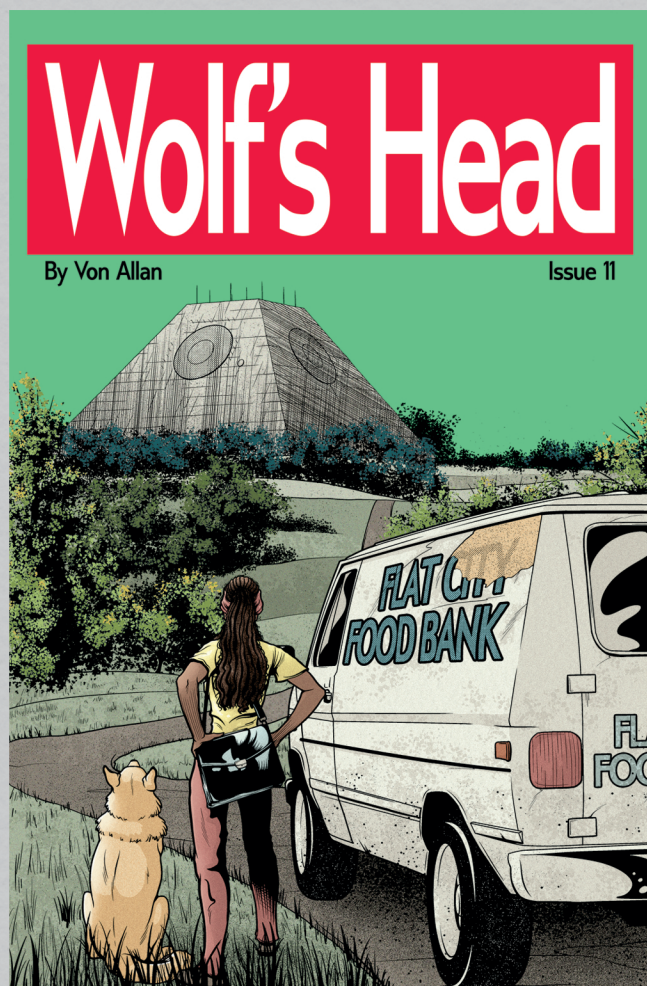
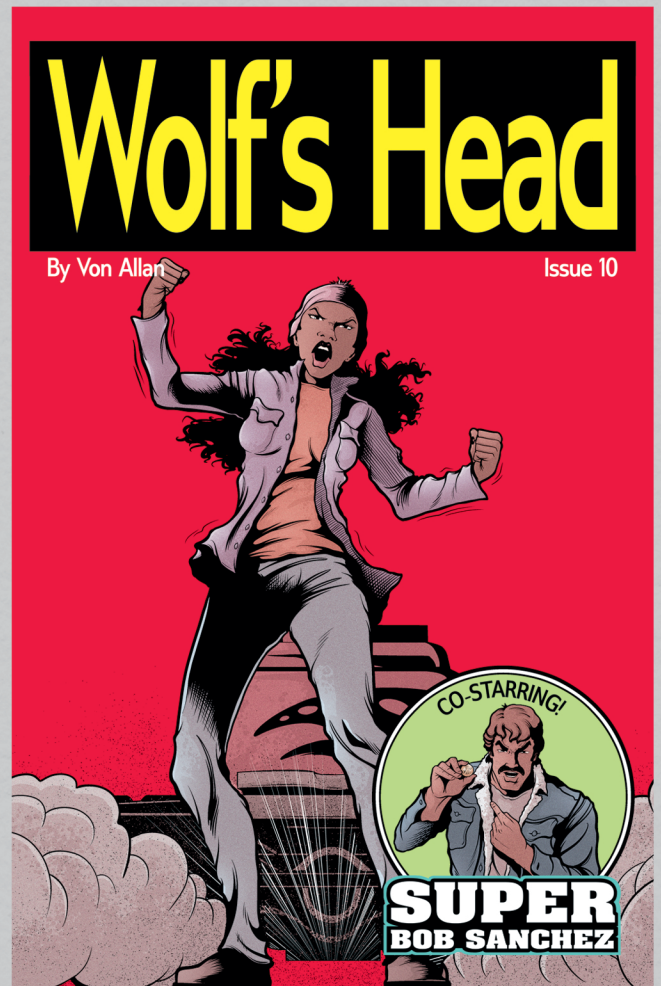
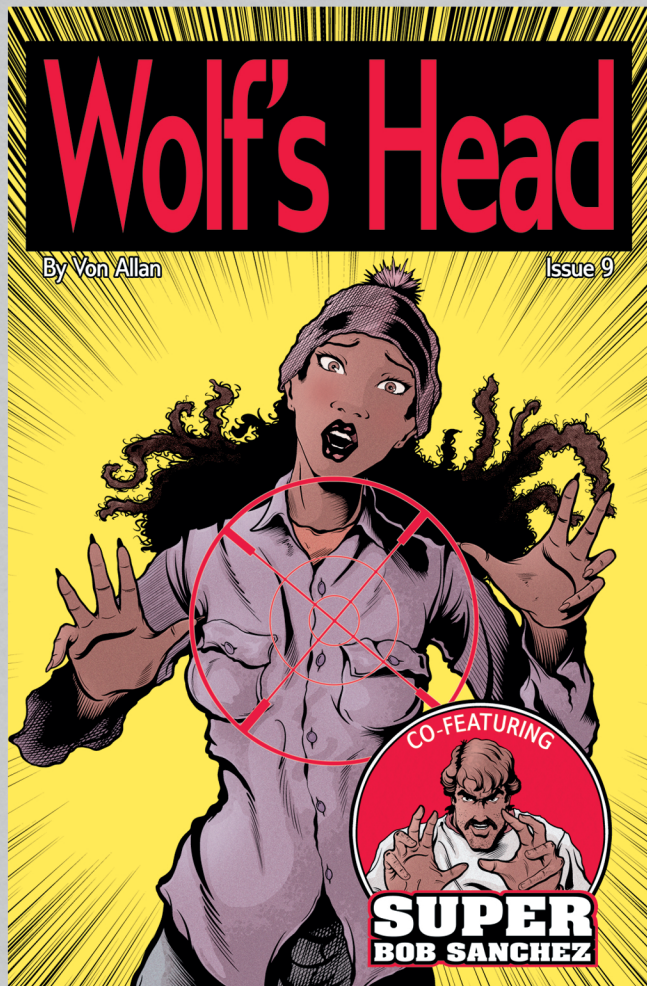
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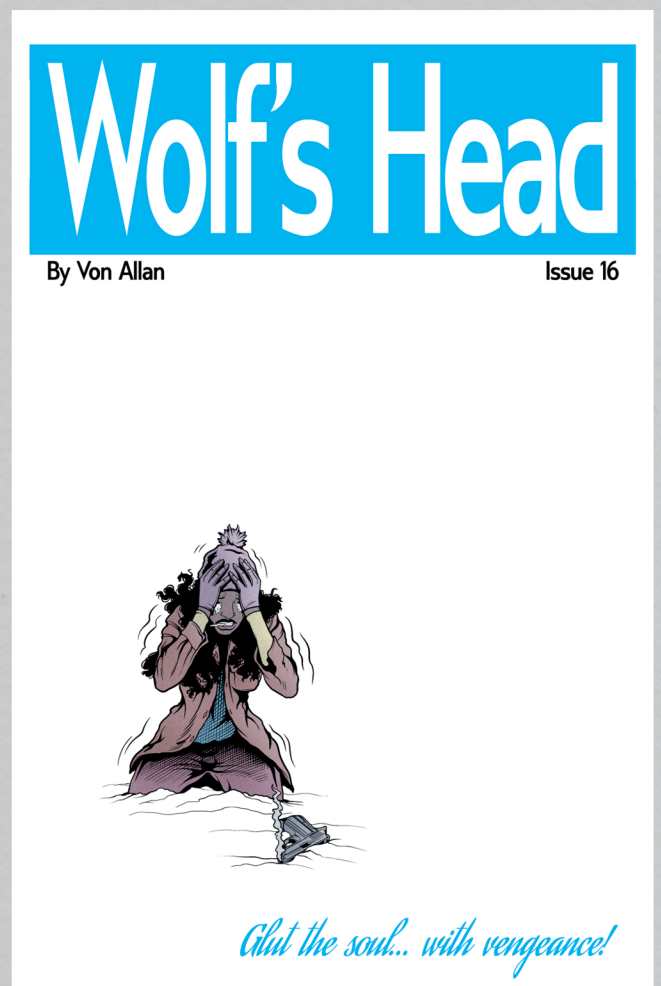
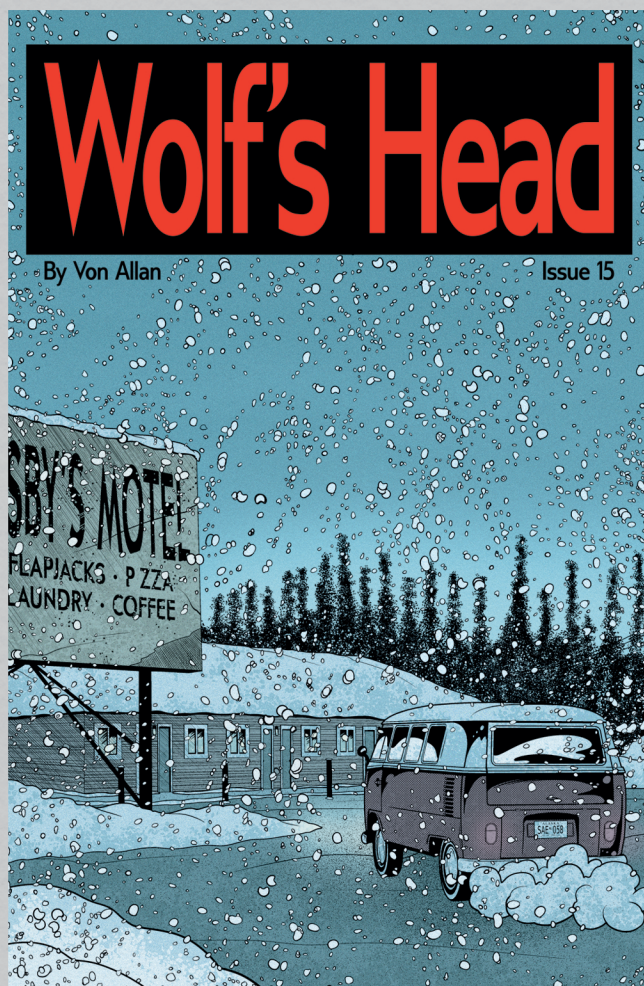
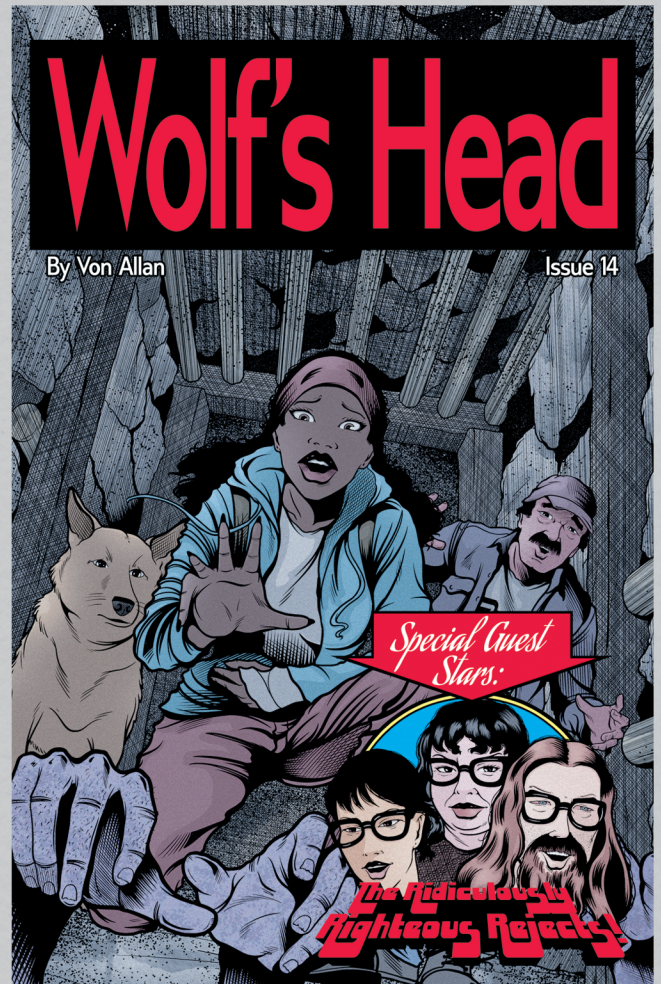
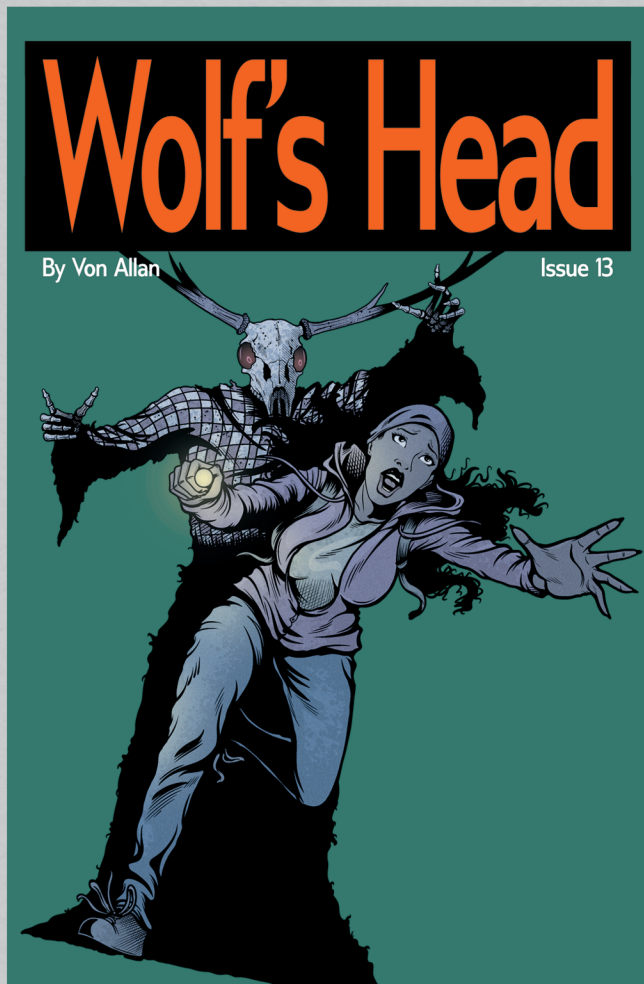
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*Gift the soul... with vengeance!*





## SERIES SYNOPSIS

Lauren Greene is an ex-police officer who turned her badge in after becoming frustrated with the police force's corruption. She's had enough of violence and is thinking about packing her bags and hitting the road to see how she can make a difference out in the larger world, when her mother Patty shows up at her door with a complication. It turns out that Patty's employer — a secretive military corporation — has created an artificial intelligence to fight humanity's wars. Unfortunately for the corporation, the AI fell in love with Patty's humanity and orchestrated its own escape through her. Giddy with excitement, Patty brings the AI straight to Lauren for help, not realizing the danger she's putting herself and her daughter in. But Lauren has dealt with people like this; she knows what they're capable of and she is terrified. Her fears are realized when she and her mother are confronted by corporate goons who want the AI for themselves and are willing to do anything to get it. As Lauren does her best to keep herself, her mom, and her family safe, the tensions over the AI erupt into violence... and suddenly Lauren is on her own.

The new little life form doesn't want to go back to the corporation and Lauren realizes it cannot be forced to live out its life as a war machine. There is already enough corruption, inequality, and violence in the world; the AI has to have a chance to help humanity — peacefully — while figuring out its own existence. Together with the AI, an eccentric cast of friends and family, and her dog, Lauren must figure out her next steps... while keeping herself alive.

## LOG LINE

Lauren Greene has quit her job as a police officer and is struggling to find her place in society. After her mom makes an astounding discovery, Lauren must fight for their lives against forces that will stop at nothing to possess it.

## AUTHOR BIO

Von Allan was born red-headed and freckled in Arnprior, Ontario. The single child of two loving but troubled parents, Von split most of his childhood between their two homes and, consequently, spent a lot of time in the worlds of comics and speculative fiction.

Von was recently featured in the documentary film 'I Am Still Your Child' written and directed by Megan Durnford (<http://iamstillyourchild.com>) and produced by Catbird Films (<http://catbirdfilms.ca>).

## AWARDS

- ❖ Von received the **Corel Endowment Fund for the Arts Award** in 2014 (<https://ottawaartscouncil.ca/en/council-news/two-artists-receive-corel-endowment-arts-awards>)
- ❖ Von received the **CBC Trailblazer Award** in 2019 (<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform/eric-julien>).
- ❖ Von received a \$4,000.00 grant for the creation of 'Wolf's Head' from the **City of Ottawa's 2020 Arts Funding Program** (through the Creation and Production Fund for Professional Artists).

## PUBLISHING SPECS (HARDCOVER)

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-989885-17-8
- ❖ Trim Size: 8.00" by 10.88"
- ❖ Page Count: 176
- ❖ Collects: Issues 1 through 6 of 'Wolf's Head'
- ❖ Suggested Retail Price: \$49.99 US/\$64.99 CDN
- ❖ Art: Full colour
- ❖ Audience: 10+
- ❖ Distribution: Ingram Content Group

## MARKETING

- ❖ Website: <https://wolfs-head.vonallan.com>
- ❖ Social Media: <https://twitter.com/vonallanstudio>

## MEDIA CONTACT

- ❖ Sam Boswell, editor and press liaison, at [media@vonallan.com](mailto:media@vonallan.com)



# Wolf's Head

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Book 1







Please note: links to high-rez versions can be found by clicking each picture