

The Big Wind-Up

A Story for The Torsobear Anthology

By

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Draft 3.0

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NOTE 2.5.2020: Links to some of the original reference pictures are broken, this comic was written in 2012

In the original comic a serial killer is killing teddy bears by tearing their heads and limbs off. Ruxby is a teddy bear and a stitchologist (kind of a forensic investigator) straight out of the academy, and Hazbrow is an old racist wooden police toy.

THE CHARACTERS

It would be great to keep some resemblance to some of the real-world toys with The Union Bear, Pinkie, Drunk Bear etc. These are real toys people grew up with in the 80's and this would create a great recognition factor nostalgia.

Young Officer Hazbrow

Reference: The original Torsobear story. Hazbrow is younger, more polished, more perky. A little more light in his eyes, his moustache thin and jet black instead of white.

Sergeant Hickory and Hickory Sticks

Sergeant Hickory is a low and squat wooden Bobby. He's a real block of a guy, and in contrast, his squad of wooden toy police (called Hickory Sticks) are tall and slim. The effect should be almost like a bowling ball versus bowling pins. Sergeant Hickory is an old toy, so he is scuffed and gnawed.

An important thing is that these toys don't play nice. There should be an aura of menace or cruelty about them. Sergeant Hickory is a sadistic racist with a modicum of power over people weaker than him, and Hickory Sticks are more than happy to "just follow orders".

Reference:

- http://www.sapolicehistory.org/Bobby_cop000.jpg

- <http://thumbs2.ebaystatic.com/d/l225/m/mhPdAd3CpqfRK2FPdpkIBxg.jpg>

Pinkie

Pinkie is a nice female immigrant bear working at a dockside bar.

Reference: Mary Plain

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_9pEJpQ7tgQk/TNewRwCa9JI/AAAAAAAAAfo/-zt7E3mcef8/s1600/011.JPG

The Union Bear

Reference: Miś Uszatek with a torn ear instead of a floppy one.

http://media.steampowered.com/steamcommunity/public/images/avatars/39/3995701c4586c89499c2c8db0bc34a28da616435_full.jpg

http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_qZmpim9Q1GE/Su4DCmxsCEI/AAAAAAAAADY/o7MxE9UMF2E/s320/luppakorva5.jpg

Jebediah "Tin Brow" Uhrwerk

An old industrialist and a tycoon, a solid block of old-world capitalism. An old toy robot.

Reference:

<http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/SmokingCropped.jpg>

Drunk Bear

An old Harmless wino. Keeps to himself, as long as there's something to drink. A bit dirty and scuffed, but in the end almost sympathetic.

Paddington Bear: <http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I/41%2BPW6wZ7gL.jpg>

The Butler

The butler is a wooden nutcracker. Tall, slender, with vertical nutcracker mouth. The Butler is made for looking down on lesser toys.

Reference:

<http://www.pragmaticphotos.com/justin/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/statues-1-20100509-2-of-3-300x200.jpg>

<http://image.made-in-china.com/2f0j00uEtQZApFOTBi/Nutcracker-NC-003A-B-C-D-.jpg>

http://thumb7.shutterstock.com/display_pic_with_logo/750808/750808,1322801344,1/stock-photo-traditional-looking-nutcracker-doll-isolated-on-a-white-background-89962654.jpg

The Police Officers

The other police officers are generally made of wood or tin. They are old soldier and police toys with quaint uniforms, or a harmless bobby feel to them. There can be other toys also, such as wind-up tin robots and old plastic toys. Generally, not plushy, though.

<http://thumbs.dreamstime.com/z/old-strange-police-car-funny-driver-1802771.jpg>

http://www.spottygreenfrog.co.uk/uploads/images_products_extralarge/lq_771.jpg

http://www.kids-toy-online.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/kids-wooden_toy.jpg

<http://media-cache-cd0.pinimg.com/236x/55/9e/0d/559e0df6804bfd588e74d541116b10e.jpg>

<http://i00.i.aliimg.com/wsphoto/v0/548761660/funny-White-police-car-Tumblekins-somer-saults-vehicle-inertia-roll-wooden-men-educational-toys-wooden-toy-Free.jpg>

The Mole

Krtek in a police uniform.

[http://i00.i.aliimg.com/photo/v0/143193588/Original hand made toy Wooden Magnets Krtek.jpg_250x250.jpg](http://i00.i.aliimg.com/photo/v0/143193588/Original_hand_made_toy_Wooden_Magnets_Krtek.jpg_250x250.jpg)

http://mostpopulargifts.net/images/ebay/krtek_sedici.jpg

Ruxby Bear

See the original Torsobear story.

PAGE 1

PANEL 1

A page wide panel. An alley, low POV. Early morning, sun is just coming up. Steam is rising from the sewers and smoke starting to curl up from chimneys. On the foreground there is a dismembered teddybear, sans head. Towering behind it is SERGEANT HICKORY, hands on his hips, jeering. Next to him stands YOUNG OFFICER HAZBROW, looking absolutely horrified. Behind them we can see a group of HICKORY STICKS.

CAPTION:

'Well now, this sure is the most elaborate fluffbag suicide I've ever laid my eyes on' said Sergeant Hickory, to the laughter of his men.

(cont)

Rookie Hazbrow is fresh out of academy, straight off the block, sap behind his ears.

(cont)

Someone has been ripped apart here! It's just a fluffb- a teddybear, but where is the respect for the victim?

PANEL 2

Alley, POV above eye level. Two HICKORY STICKS start picking up the scattered teddybear limbs into toy boxes. OFFICER HAZBROW is standing against a wall, horrified.

CAPTION:

'Bag it and tag it, boys', says SERGEANT HICKORY cheerfully. 'What's this, the fourth one this month?'

PANEL 3

Alley, POV looking down from roof level. HICKORY STICKS are gathering up the teddybear limbs, there's an old police automobile parked next to the mouth of the alley. We can see a couple of RAGGEDY ANNS and teddybears gawking on the other side of the street.

CAPTION:

'The way I see it, they are solving the problem for us.'

(cont)

'But the fine porcelain ladies in the church, they have other ideas in their empty pretty little heads.' Sergeant Hickory's voice was dribbling with scorn.

(cont)

'So let's get *embettering* their lives.'

PAGE 2

PANEL 1

A page wide panel, an establishing shot. POV high above the roofs. There are cranes, old steam paddlewheel boats, a hustle and bustle of toys. The police car is heading towards the docks, towering with boxes and boxes of toys.

CAPTION (CORNER BOX):

The Olden Times

CAPTION:

The Docks, bustling with the new breeds of toys coming to seek their fortune in the streets of Toyburg.

(cont)

Fresh workers for the Cotton Candy spinneries, the source of the wealth of Tin Downs' wind-up dynasties.

PANEL 2

The docks. Foreground, an IMMIGRANT FAMILY OF TEDDYBEARS. An idyllic family of a mother, father and two little kids. The father has a bindle on his shoulder, everybody is looking enthusiastic and enthralled of the new wonderful world. Background, a stack of empty toy boxes they came from.

CAPTION:

Crates and crates of teddybears, Raggedy Anns and clowns being unloaded on the streets, two buttons in their pocket and a head full of dreams.

PANEL 3

In front of a dockside bar. The police car is parked in front of it. SERGEANT HICKORY, OFFICER HAZBROW and HICKORY STICKS are disembarking. There's a DRUNK TEDDYBEAR lying next to the bar steps, with a can of molasses in its hand.

CAPTION:

Dreams of getting a job in the Candy Cotton Spinneries, of setting up a business of

The Big Windup

your own in the up and coming suburb of
Sugary Hills.

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

Close-up on the DRUNK TEDDYBEAR, with the shadow of SERGEANT HICKORY and HICKORY STICKS cast over it. The DRUNK TEDDYBEAR is just cracking its eyes open, wondering what's blocking the light.

CAPTION:

All too often, those dreams end up turning into nightmares.

PANEL 2

POV is that of the DRUNK TEDDYBEAR, looking up at SERGEANT HICKORY and HICKORY STICKS, all of them brandishing bludgeons.

CAPTION:

'Time to do some police work, lads!' says Sergeant Hickory cheerfully. 'Let's toss some stuffing!'

PANEL 3

Close-up of OFFICER HAZBROW, looking very much ill at ease. There are tufts of stuffing flying around, we can see the can of molasses flying in the background, tracing long droplets of syrup.

CAPTION:

Hazbrow knows that it is the wooden man's burden to teach these people how to live in a civilized society.

(cont)

Stuffed things are not like proper folks of wood, tin and porcelain.

PANEL 4

POV from inside of the dockside bar. The doorway in the middle is framing the silhouettes of SERGEANT HICKORY and HICKORY STICKS. Teddybears are fleeing from the door, running towards us, overturning tables and spilling molasses.

CAPTION:

'But not like this,' Hazbrow thinks. There has to be more to police work than just

tossing stuffing until someone confesses.
(cont) Sergeant Hickory seems to be happy with it,
though.

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

Inside the dockside bar, at night. The place is in shambles, PINKIE is cleaning up the place and lifting overturned tables. OFFICER HAZBROW is peeking in through the door.

CAPTION:

'My time, my dime,' thinks Officer Hazbrow as he embarks on some after-hour investigations of his own.

PANEL 2

PINKIE and OFFICER HAZBROW are talking. Pinkie doesn't look happy at all, arms in a bunch and her demeanor almost hostile. Hazbrow looks apologetic, like he is explaining something. He's holding a notebook.

CAPTION:

It is not easy to get the teddybears to talk, officer Hazbrow finds out.

(cont)

Distrust for the wooden man runs deep.

PANEL 3

Close-up of Hazbrow's palm with a couple of buttons on it.

CAPTION:

Too many Hickory Sticks, not enough carrots.

PANEL 4

OFFICER HAZBROW is talking to two BLUE COLLAR BEARS in a Candy Cotton Spinnery factory floor. There are huge vats of candy cotton behind them, with fluffy clouds being teased out by FACTORY WORKERS.

CAPTION:

Turns out Pinkie Bear from the bar knew most of the victims.

(cont)

'Instead of hitting honest folk with a stick, how about learning who the victims are,' she said, sarcasm dripping like a

popsicle on a sunny day.

PANEL 5

OFFICER HAZBROW is talking to SHOPKEEPER BEAR in Sugary Hills. This is an area of small immigrant shops and carts.

CAPTION:

As Officer Hazbrow made his after hour investigations, one word kept popping up, time and time again.

PAGE 5

PANEL 1

Close-up of SERGEANT HICKORY's face, he's reading a note he's holding.

CAPTION:

Meanwhile Sergeant Hickory has received a surprise summons from high up.

PANEL 2

SERGEANT HICKORY is standing in front of a massively posh manor, being dwarfed by it. A BUTLER has opened the door.

CAPTION:

From as high up as it's possible to get, in most people's opinion.

(cont)

To a manor in the Tin Downs, where the men are clockwork and the women are porcelain.

PANEL 3

The BUTLER is leading the chipped, old and beaten Sergeant Hickory calmly through a hallway filled with beautiful and expensive things. A couple of PORCELAIN LADIES watch him walk, looking amused. Sergeant Hickory looks really out of place.

CAPTION:

A summons from the patriarch of the richest, biggest clockwork dynasty in Toyburg.

(cont)

The manor makes Sergeant Hickory feel like a birch log in a porcelain cabinet.

PANEL 4

A page wide panel. JEBEDIAN "TIN BROW" UHRWERK's study. There is a massive table, with Jebediah sitting behind it. The desk and the old patriarch tower over SERGEANT HICKORY, who is standing on the foreground, looking very humble indeed.

CAPTION:

Jebediah "Tin Brow" Uhrwerk and his

dynasty have been running the Cotton Candy
spinneries since the founding of Toyburg.

(cont)

Uhrwerks are synonymous with money, power
and prestige.

(cont)

When old money says that it doesn't sound
like this investigation is good use of
police resources, Sergeant Hickory
understands where the wind is blowing
from.

(cont)

He understands it perfectly.

PAGE 6

PANEL 1

OFFICER HAZBROW is talking animatedly to PINKIE, who is listening attentively. He's demonstrating something from his notebook. There's enthusiasm in the air.

CAPTION:

Unfortunately Sergeant Hickory has no idea what his young protege has been up to meanwhile.

(cont)

Which is doing some darn fine police work.

PANEL 2

Close-up of Hazbrow's face as he steps into the police department. He's looking very happy and pleased indeed.

CAPTION:

Hazbrow has found a clear link between all the victims.

(cont)

'This is really big!' Hazbrow thinks. 'My first case will make my career, and make the world better for the teddies as well!'

PANEL 3

OFFICER HAZBROW is talking to a group of POLICE OFFICERS. Most of them look quizzical or bemused, but one of them is THE MOLE. He looks dismayed, even a little angry. He is heading for the door.

CAPTIONS:

'Unions!' says Officer Hazbrow triumphantly.

(cont)

'All the dead fluffbags had been talking about forming a union in the Candy Cotton Spinneries.'

PANEL 4

A flashback to an alleyway. THE UNION BEAR is lying on the ground, one arm up to fend off a blow, one eye hanging on a thread and one

ear torn off. He is lying on scattered socialist propoganda posters. The shadow of the killer is cast upon him, formless and hard to make out.

CAPTION:

'We also may have a witness. There are rumors in the Sugary Hills that one of the victims got away, though with many a torn stitch.'

PAGE 7

PANEL 1

Tin Brow's study. A close up of THE MOLE whispering in the ear of JEBEDIAH, who looks ready to explode.

CAPTION:

The old Tin Brow is not amused, not at all. Nobody disobeys his wishes, not even the police.

(cont)

It's time to teach them a lesson.

PANEL 2

THE MOLE is talking to a bunch of CRIMINAL BEARS, holding out a handful of buttons and showing a picture of Sergeant Hickory. This is a nasty bunch with crude stitches, missing eyes, tattoo patches and balding spots on their fur.

CAPTION:

It doesn't take much to hire a few down-on-their-luck fluffbags so whacked out on cheap licorice and raw molasses that they have no fear of the police.

PANEL 3

SERGEANT HICKORY and OFFICER HAZBROW are walking down a narrow street. Behind them we can see the silhouettes of the CRIMINAL BEARS brandishing sticks and hammers.

CAPTION:

Sergeant Hickory is used to being invulnerable. Nobody even thinks about attacking him or the Hickory Sticks.

(cont)

Until someone does.

PANEL 4

OFFICER HAZBROW lies on a haberdasher's work bench, looking *really* bad. His head is cracked, it's glued and held together with a small vise.

CAPTION:

When Hazbrow wakes up, he hears that Sergeant Hickory was smashed to pieces by the ungrateful fluffbags and thrown into the river.

(cont)

His only remains a few splinters in the alley and on the river bank.

PANEL 5

We can see PINKIE dragging a badly cracked OFFICER HAZBROW away from the alley. On the background the CRIMINAL BEARS are beating the sap out of SERGEANT HICKORY with ball point hammers.

CAPTION:

Hazbrow had somehow managed to crawl to a public street, where he was found.

(cont)

The sense of betrayal is crushing. Goddamn fluffbags, darn them and the case to heck. How stupid to try and help them.

(cont)

Let them rip each other apart for all that he cares.

PAGE 8

PANEL 1

The modern day. Ruxby Bear sits in his comfy chair, basking in the light of a TV - an old Nokia phone on its side, with a pixelated picture and a slightly cracked screen. We are looking at him behind the TV set.

CAPTION (CORNER BOX):
The Modern Day

CAPTION:
Ruxby Bear is exhausted and stuck. The case is going cold.
(cont)
Two more victims and no leads.
(cont)
Suddenly the television mutters a word that makes his ears perk up.
(CAPTION (TEXT STYLE: TV)
Stitchpicker.

PANEL 2

Ruxby Bear is leaning forward looking intently at the TV.

CAPTION (TEXT STYLE: TV)
'After the death of Sergeant Hickory the investigation was shelved, as was common in those times when teddybear on teddybear violence was just glossed over' the voiceover says. 'And thus ended the case of the *Dockside Dismemberer.*'
(cont)
'This concludes our episode of Gristly Murders of Yore. Stay tuned next week for the story of Haberdasher of Horrors, who...'

PANEL 3

Evening, at the precinct archive. Ruxby is taking down a pile of old files from a tall shelf. There is dust in the air and Ruxby looks like he's going to sneeze.

CAPTION:

The case of Dockside Dismemberer haunted Ruxby through another fruitless work day. In the evening he went down to the archives to check out the old case files.

(cont)

Just for a lark, he told himself.

PANEL 4

The archive reading room. Ruxby is sitting at a table, the case files strewn around in tall piles. Images and papers and old daguerrotypes, some depicting scenes we have seen earlier.

CAPTION:

The old case sounded uncannily familiar. Ripped stitches, random victims, no apparent motive. To Ruxby's stitchologist eye even the method and tools were similar.

(cont)

There were rumours of a survivor, someone who got away and went into hiding. Why?

(cont)

There was no answer in the dusty old papers.

PANEL 5

Ruxby is asleep at the table, his head resting on a messy pile of papers and daguerrotypes. A picture is hanging out of a pile of papers. It's YOUNG OFFICER HAZBROW and SERGEANT HICKORY, posing side by side, with HICKORY STICKS standing behind them.

CAPTION:

Who cares, anyway. It's an old case, gone cold far before Ruxby was out of the toy box.

(cont)

No-one probably even remembers the victims anymore.

PANEL 6

Outside, looking at the Toyburg Police Station Archive. The lemonade rain beats the streets. A silhouette of THE UNION BEAR is watching the only lit window of the building, behind it Ruxby is snoring at

the table.

CAPTION:

If there was a witness, they are now long gone.

(cont)

Perhaps the victim of a particularly nasty playtime.

(cont)

That case is as cold as the *Torsobear Killer*.

ART DIRECTION

This story happens in The Olden Times. This is not the time of modern flashy toys, but a mix of styles from 19th and early 20th centuries (with a bit of 80's nostalgia thrown in), where toys are a little bit weird, ugly and at times intricate for the modern eye. Jack-in-the-boxes, Raggedy Ann's, wind-up soldiers, *käpylehmas*, porcelain dolls, etc. Don't get too hung up on real world time periods, everything that looks quaint to the reader goes.

There are basically two sets of neighbourhoods in this story, the IMMIGRANT AREAS and THE ARISTOCRAT AREAS.

THE IMMIGRANT AREAS: Streets are full of mostly soft crude toys, such as DIY teddybears, Raggedy Anns, anything that comes to mind from "poor working class toys". Also, clown dolls.

THE ARISTOCRAT AREAS: These are dominated by tin soldiers, wind-up soldiers, porcelain dolls, high quality wooden toys, harlequin dolls. Things you would imagine finding from high-class childrens' toyboxes in Ye Olde Times.

In the final page we return back to the "modern" time and a change in the colour scheme and style should reflect this.

REFERENCE

LOCATIONS

New York Harbour, 1900:

<http://www.tayloroakes.com/wp-content/galleries/2011/09/DSC06226.jpg>

ITEMS AND ELEMENTS

Police car:

http://s1.cdn.autoevolution.com/images/news/history-of-police-lights-and-sirens-the-terrifying-duo-that-scaries-away-criminals-42394_2.jpg

Bindle: http://media.tumblr.com/tumblr_lq38geVIPK1ql8hlt.jpg

Socialist propaganda posters:

http://image.shutterstock.com/display_pic_with_logo/548344/548344,1318793017,26/stock-vector-worker-s-rights-poster-workers-rights-design-86748319.jpg

<http://www.popsiclesandgrenades.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/manifest-hope-workers-rights-poster.jpg>

ARISTOCRAT TOYS

Wind-up soldier:

http://media.liveauctiongroup.net/i/8930/10105774_2.jpg?v=8CD6F25D96F4890

Porcelain doll:

http://fc09.deviantart.net/fs71/i/2010/278/3/f/old_porcelain_doll_by_mortifiera-d304lkf.jpg

Harlequin doll:

https://www.vintagetoyillustrated.com/vintagetoy/forsale/august/2010/1983_DYNASTY_HARLEQUIN_MAUERICE_PORCELAIN_BISQUE_DOLL_JESTER_BODY_COSTUME_TAG.JPG

IMMIGRANT TOYS

Raggedy Ann: http://31.media.tumblr.com/tumblr_m7unn3HHZJ1r3q7iqo1_500.jpg

Käpylehmä: <http://vi08y.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/kapykehma.jpg>

Clown doll: <http://thumbs2.ebaystatic.com/d/l225/m/m51sF817iRNdYD7F-FJHDQA.jpg>

<http://image0-rubylane.s3.amazonaws.com/shops/719320/TFP-3329.1L.jpg>