ON THE BOOKS
A Graphic Tale of Working Woes at NYC’s Strand Bookstore by GREG FARRELL

“A fine addition to the great history of comics and labor” —Tom Hart, Hutch Owen

“A revealing look at the inner dynamics of a labor struggle, this comic is valuable not only as an engaging story, but also as a historical record of a particular event, and in addition, an insightful look at a dynamic playing itself out on a global scale.”
—Stephanie McMillan, Robert F Kennedy journalism award winner

Audience: Fans of the Strand, people interested in organized labor, people curious about the book industry, readers of graphic novels, students, and get an insider’s perspective on a changing book industry and world.

On the Books is the firsthand comic strip account of the labor struggle at New York City’s legendary Strand bookstore in the summer of 2012. Told by Greg Farrell—an employee of the store who interviewed numerous other staff members—the book examines the motives and actions of those involved, including the management, the staff, the union local, and the people of New York City. Through interstitial comic portraits, Farrell gives voice to his comrades, who often share a nuance of the story that would have otherwise gone overlooked, and provide a depth of opinion and fairness to accompany Farrell’s often very personal interpretation of events. The book explores at once the inner workings of our national retail environment, the struggles as a young working person, and the current state of the book trade.

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A combination of labor studies, memoirs, graphic novel, and journalism offering a first hand, hard eyed account of the union negotiations with NYC’s Strand bookstore.

Greg Farrell is a cartoonist and rapper whose other works include the comics Attaboy, Brendon: A Coming of Age Story, Going Rate, and the illustrated prison diary of Ho Chi Minh. He works at Strand bookstore. He lives in Brooklyn.

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