Acknowledgements

During a graduate seminar at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, we were discussing Foucault when I first doodled the Panopticorn. It wasn’t that I wasn’t paying attention, I just sometimes think better when drawing. For a while I sat on this kernel of an idea, but it seems appropriate that the initial seed that grew into this graphic novel germinated on the campus of the school that still maintains the world’s second oldest experimental agricultural field. Not far from where we discussed institutional surveillance, the remnants of the Morrow Plots still produced corn and data, where they had been since 1876.

At first I had intended The Panopticorn to be a twelve-page experiment to explore the full-page comic format after six years of daily comic striping. My comic Dragon and Goat taught me the discipline of production, churning out four panels five days a week, but I wanted to investigate the possibilities of developing a slower, continuous narrative. As the story unfolded, it became clear that this comic would be more than a dozen pages.

After two years of sketching, writing, penciling, inking, rewriting and coloring, I am glad to finally spread the Panopticorn into the world as my first graphic novel. Making a comic can be a very insular process, but I never would have planted this field of ink without the constant support of my family and friends.

Of course, my parents have always been supportive of my work. I’ve appreciated my mom, dad, step-mom and step-dad having read over The Panopticorn in various stages. I never would have envisioned Cartright’s store without having grown up working in my step-dad’s hardware store and being driven around in his trucks. My mother- and father-in-law have also been supportive and hopefully Wayne will recognize his tractor in Mort’s Jubilee.

Finally I never would have harvested The Panopticorn without my loving wife. Through this entire project and its many tedious stages, Alli has been absolutely encouraging and an indispensable editor- always willing to read through my worlds revision after revision.

Thank you all.

-Adam
For Granny and Poppy
Feldspar County, IL.

It was a county so small that its population would often match the year.

Since before the Civil War, the Heimlich Family had lived in the dusty, Midwestern township.
Morning, Mortimer.
You want one egg or two?

One.

Going to the store shortly.

Well, got some seed.

SEED?! It's drier than a witch's womb out there. We've not had rain since before winter.

Rain'll be here Thursday.

Your earlobes swollen?

'Course.
I'll need shortnin', bakin' soda, and this is the last egg.

Then why'd you ask if I wanted two?

In a few years during a lecture on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean...

I'll have grits in a bit...

You already eat...?
Michel Foucault would discuss how utopias might manifest in the physical world—how paradises might be experienced.

He ended the lecture by saying, "In civilizations without boats, dreams dry up..."

But Feldspar County was a world away from Foucault and French Philosophy.
Mort's great-grandfather Theodor Heimlich was a first generation German immigrant. He had arrived through Charleston and eventually found his way to Southern Illinois.

He arrived as the distant first shots of Fort Sumter sounded, but the long war only reached the farming flatlands, his new home, in the form of dusty, sun-bleached newspapers.
Theodorus boarded with a family that had no sons but plenty of farmland and a handsome daughter.

Fellow immigrants from Swiss stock, they spoke only German...

...which Theodorus, of course, knew quite well.

By the first harvest, his boarders had become his in-laws.

Their marriage produced a crop of six daughters and a single son Johann, Mort's grandfather.
Johann farmed, his son Hollis farmed, and Mort, the last Heimlich in Feldspar County, was doing his best to farm the land that had yielded green life to his family for so long...

But now it seemed completely dried up and was certainly without boats...
What's the word, Cartright?
Dragon and Goat

Dragon and Goat is a comic about a dragon and a goat who go on hilarious adventures while competing in the Beijing Olympics or delivering whales to Pluto. Began as a daily comic strip in 2003 in university papers and one newspaper in China, Dragon and Goat will debut as a full-page comic series in 2013. In the mean time check out the existing D&G treasury:

A. Pi-Rat Island, 2010
B. Snowball’s Chance, 2009
C. Goes to Washington, 2009
D. Journey East, 2009
E. An Utter Dimension, 2008
F. Into the Jelly, 2007

Cloud Arcadia (formerly Cloud Kingdom)

Cloud Arcadia is a weekly(-ish) web-comic following Jack B. Nimbus, an earthling who finds himself in a skyward kingdom amidst a menagerie of characters from knock-off video games and moral-less folk tales.

G. Cloud Arcadia: Infinite Lives (December 2012 Release)
H. Cloud Kingdom: Level Up

Other Books

Children’s Books:
I. The Monkey Prince, 2007

Not So For Children Book:
K. Bicameral Sutra, 2007
About the Artist

Adam Fotos lives in Chicago where he teaches art at Chicago State University and the College of DuPage. Fotos is the author of several comics including *Dragon and Goat* a daily comic strip that ran for six years in university papers and one newspaper in Shenzhen, China. Fotos is also the comicer behind the ongoing web-comic *Cloud Arcadia.*