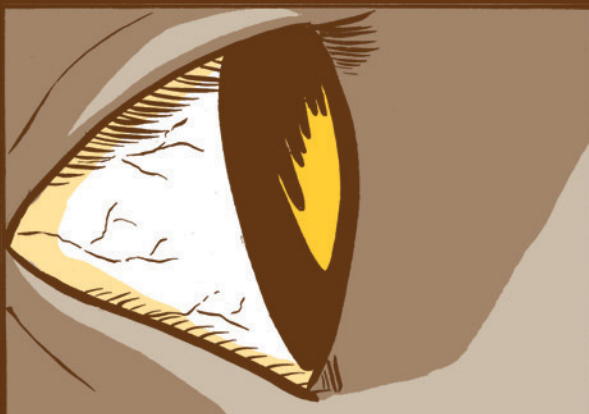




# FREED MAN

PETER QUACH





**THREE FORKS OF THE TRINITY, TEXAS, 1866**



**12 HOURS EARLIER**











THAT DANG WOMAN'S GOT DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR, DON'T SHE! THINKING SHE CAN ORDER MEN AROUND!



I ALWAYS TELL HER, "I AIN'T GOT NO MASSA NOW, WHITE OR WOMAN! I'SE FREE!"



MY WIFE WAS OF LIKE MIND.

"WAS?"



LOOK AT THOSE GODDAMN DARKIES PLOTTING AND CONSPIRING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GODDAMN STREET.



AW, JACK, IT'S JUST THAT NEGRO CARPENTER, EXTER. HE DON'T MEAN NO HARM.

YOU HEAR ONE OF THEM NEGROES LOOKED CROSS-EYED AT CLINTON FISK WHEN CLINTON CALLED HIM "UNCLE?"

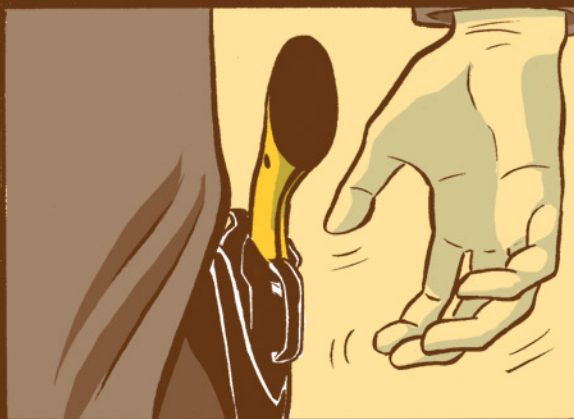
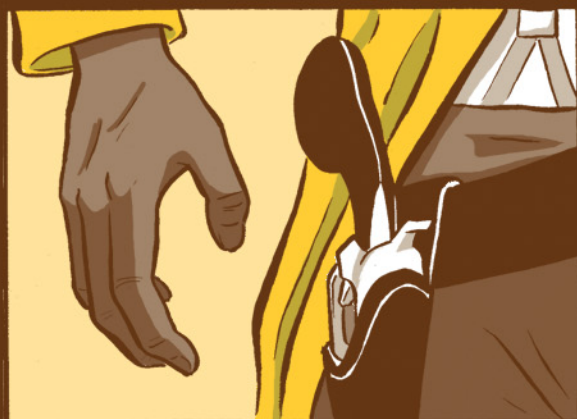


IT'S COME TO THIS, TOM? CAN'T EVEN CALL 'EM UNCLE. THEY'RE GONNA MAKE SLAVES OF THE WHITE MAN-- UNLESS SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT...











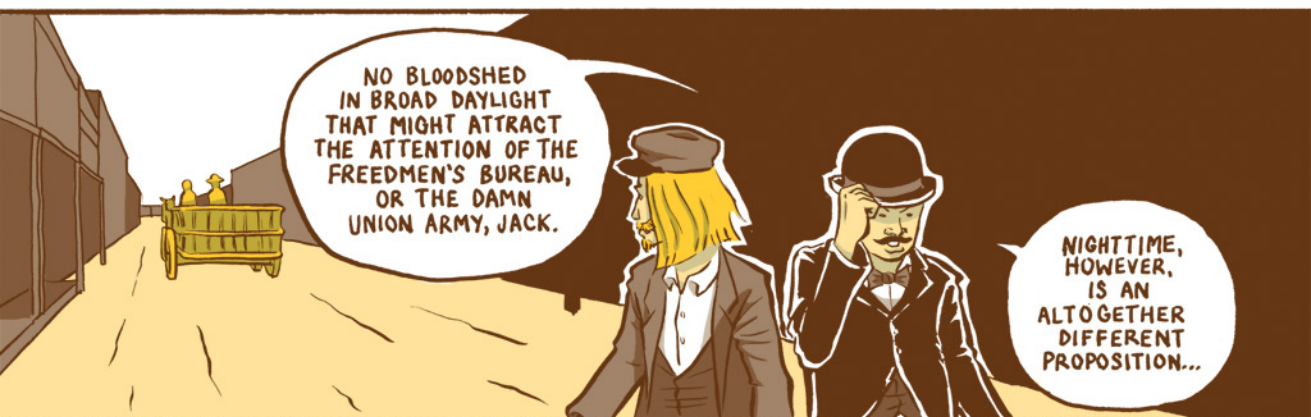
DAMMIT,  
JACK RAVENEL!  
KEEP YOUR BLASTED  
PISTOL HOLSTERED!



I WON'T HAVE NO BLOODSHED  
ON MY STREETS, NO MATTER  
THE COLOR OF THE MAN.



YOU TWO GET  
ON HOME NOW.



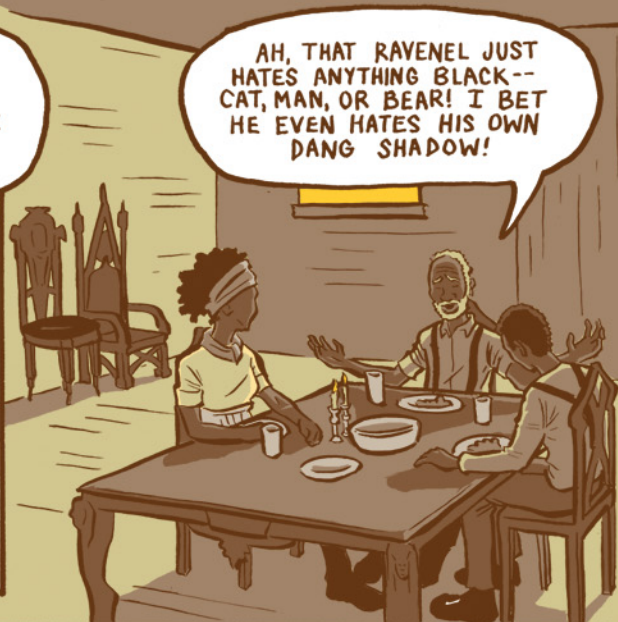
NO BLOODSHED  
IN BROAD DAYLIGHT  
THAT MIGHT ATTRACT  
THE ATTENTION OF THE  
FREEDMEN'S BUREAU,  
OR THE DAMN  
UNION ARMY, JACK.

NIGHTTIME,  
HOWEVER,  
IS AN  
ALTOGETHER  
DIFFERENT  
PROPOSITION...





EXTER TELLADY,  
YOU'RE AS LUCKY AS  
A BLACK CAT THAT DONE  
BROKE 13 MIRRORS!



AH, THAT RAVENEL JUST  
HATES ANYTHING BLACK--  
CAT, MAN, OR BEAR! I BET  
HE EVEN HATES HIS OWN  
DANG SHADOW!



I'SE JUST GLAD YOU  
WERE AROUND TO  
PROTECT MY FOOL  
OF A HUSBAND.

IT'S A  
PRODIGIOUS  
BLESSING  
HAVING YOU  
AROUND,  
CHARLIE  
MOSES.



HONESTLY, I DIDN'T  
DO MUCH, MA'AM.



CHARLIE'S JUST  
BEING MODEST! HE  
DON'T OFF  
PEOPLE--

AW, LET THE  
BOY EAT IN  
PEACE, EXTER!



TCH. YOU KNOW WHY  
I AIN'T SCARED  
OF NO RAVENEL,  
CHARLIE?



WE'SE FREE. I GET TO  
CHOOSE WHAT I DO. I  
CHOOSE TO MAKE THOSE  
CHAIRS OVER THERE, AND  
I SELL 'EM IN DALLAS  
FOR A GOOD LIVING.



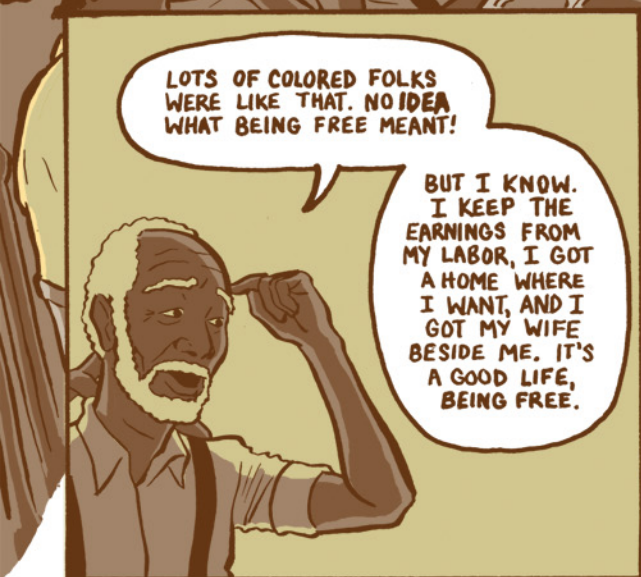


GOOD ENOUGH OF A LIVING TO LET ME AND MAUDE BUILD THIS HOUSE HERE OURSELVES.



MAUDE, REMEMBER WHAT THAT FOOL SQUIRE JACKSON ASKED AFTER WE WERE ALL EMANCIPATED?

SURE DO. HE ASKED IF FREEDOM MEANT WHITES WOULD BE WORKING THE FIELDS WHILE WE COLOREDS WOULD BE SITTING IN THE BIG HOUSE, SIPPING COLD TEA.



LOTS OF COLORED FOLKS WERE LIKE THAT. NO IDEA WHAT BEING FREE MEANT!

BUT I KNOW. I KEEP THE EARNINGS FROM MY LABOR, I GOT A HOME WHERE I WANT, AND I GOT MY WIFE BESIDE ME. IT'S A GOOD LIFE, BEING FREE.



WHATEVER YOU'RE OUT HERE HUNTING, IT AIN'T WORTH YOUR LIFE, CHARLIE.



WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE WITH US? YOU'D BE KEEPING AN OLD COUPLE COMPANY, AND YOU COULD HELP ME WITH MY WORK--



I ... CAN'T. I'M SORRY.



RUSTLE  
RUSTLE

CREEEEK

WHIN-EEEE

SHH, SILVER.  
BE QUIET NOW.









WHEN NEWS OF EMANCIPATION  
FINALLY REACHED HER IN  
TEXAS, I HEAR CALDONIA  
WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO  
STAND UP AND SAY SHE WAS  
FREE. SHE ALWAYS WAS  
MIGHTY BULL-HEADED. BUT  
WHITES DON'T CARE IF YOU  
SAY YOU'RE FREE. YOU'RE  
STILL THEIR PROPERTY,  
NO MATTER WHAT ANY  
PIECE OF PAPER SAYS.



THEY HANGED HER, ALONG  
WITH TWO OTHERS WHO  
CLAIMED THEY WERE FREE.

I HEARD ALL  
THIS WHEN I  
GOT TO TEXAS.  
I ALSO HEAR  
THE UNION  
ARMY'S BEEN  
HUNTING 6 OF  
THE WHITES  
RESPONSIBLE.  
I ONLY KNOW  
ONE OF THEIR  
NAMES--



-- COLONEL  
W.H. CHESNUT.

SO I MADE A PROMISE  
TO MY DEAD WIFE. IF  
THE ARMY CAN'T FIND ALL  
THOSE BASTARDS, I WILL,  
AND I'LL MAKE SURE THEY  
BURN IN HELL LIKE  
THEY DESERVE.



FREEDOM'S A FUNNY  
THING, CHARLIE MOSES.  
NO PIECE OF PAPER  
OR UNION ARMY CAN  
MAKE YOU FREE. YOU'VE  
GOT TO CHOOSE TO  
BE FREE.



MAUDE AND I HAD A BOY,  
YOU KNOW. HENRY WOULD'VE  
BEEN YOUR AGE. BUT MASSA  
TOOK HIM FROM US WHEN HE  
WAS A BABY AND SOLD HIM  
AT AN AUCTION--



--AND WE NEVER  
SAW HIM AGAIN.



WE WERE REAL SAD FOR  
A LONG TIME. BUT NOW  
WE GOT THIS HOUSE  
AND A NEW LIFE. YOU HAVE  
TO MOVE ON AND  
**LIVE** SOMETIME.



IF YOU  
CONTINUE  
DOWN THIS  
ROAD, YOU  
AIN'T NEVER  
GONNA BE  
**FREE**. YOU'LL  
ALWAYS BE  
A **SLAVE**.



THE OFFER  
STILL STANDS.  
COME LIVE  
WITH US  
WHENEVER  
YOU'RE READY  
TO BE **FREE**.

MAUDE  
WOULD BE  
SO HAPPY.  
YOU'RE LIKE  
THE SON  
WE WOULD  
HAVE RAISED.



THANK YOU FOR THE  
OFFER, AND FOR YOUR  
HOSPITALITY. GOOD NIGHT,  
EXTER TELLADY.



GOOD NIGHT  
TO YOU,  
CHARLIE MOSES.











# BANG BANG













AW JESUS COUGH  
DON'T LET ME DIE  
LIKE THIS--

JACK RAVENEL.  
YOU NEVER DID ANSWER  
MY QUESTION.



DID YOU HELP CHESNUT  
HANG THOSE COLOREDS  
IN LIMESTONE?!



GOD NO! COUGH COUGH  
I DON'T KNOW NO CHESNUT!  
I NEVER EVEN BEEN TO  
LIMESTONE! I JUST HEARD  
ABOUT IT!



PLEASE DON'T  
KAFF KILL ME,  
MISTER. YOU  
CAN GO OFF  
FREE AND  
CLEAR, AND  
I'LL JUST LIE  
HERE! WON'T  
HURT A FLY  
FOR THE REST  
OF MY LIFE,  
I SWEAR! HAVE  
MERCY, MISTER!



# BANG









**END.**



# FREEDMAN

PETER QUACH

Peter Quach lives in New York and draws comics for food. He starves a lot. You can reach him at [pbquach@gmail.com](mailto:pbquach@gmail.com) or follow him on Twitter: [@pbquach](https://twitter.com/pbquach).

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