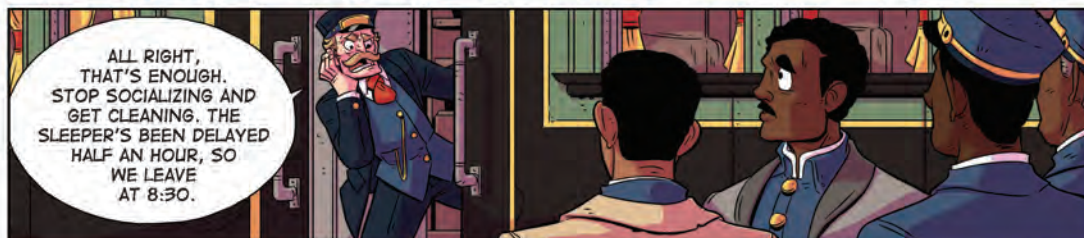
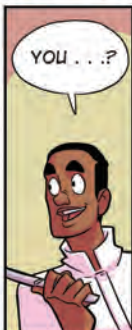
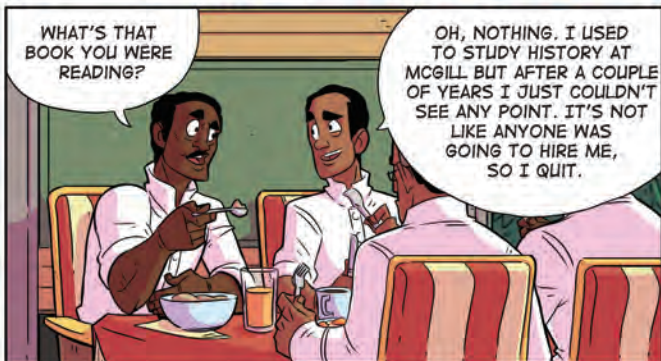


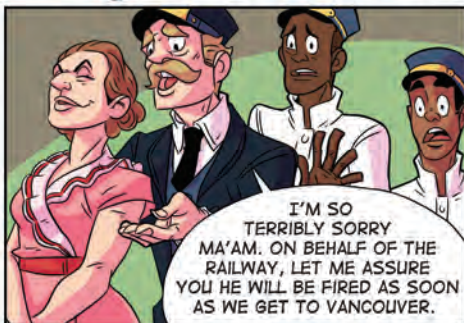
RAILWAY MEN

ALEX DIOCHON

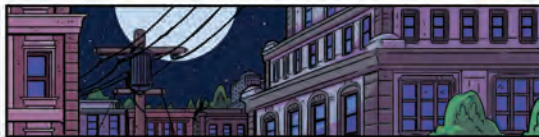












LES PORTEURS FERROVIAIRES ET LEURS SYNDICATS RAILWAY PORTERS AND THEIR UNIONS

FROM THE LATE 1900S TO THE 1950S, BEING A SLEEPING CAR PORTER ON TRAINS WAS ALMOST THE ONLY REASONABLY WELL-PAYING JOB A BLACK MAN COULD GET IN CANADA. MANY WERE WELL-EDUCATED MEN WHO TURNED TO BEING PORTERS WHEN THEY FOUND OTHER DOORS WERE CLOSED TO THEM. BECAUSE THEY HAD STEADY WORK, THEY WERE LOOKED UP TO AND RESPECTED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. PORTERS HAD TO DEAL WITH RACIST PASSENGERS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION BY THE RAILWAY COMPANIES, LONG HOURS AND LOW PAY. THEY COULD BE FIRED IF SOMEONE COMPLAINED ABOUT THEM, AND DID NOT RECEIVE JOB PROMOTIONS TO OTHER POSITIONS SUCH AS CONDUCTOR. IN 1945, AFTER MANY YEARS OF QUIET WORK, THE BROTHERHOOD OF SLEEPING CAR PORTERS IN CANADA WAS FORMED TO HELP BLACK PORTERS GET BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS. THEY HAD TO CREATE THEIR OWN UNION BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT WELCOMED IN UNIONS WITH WHITE MEMBERS. IT WAS THE FIRST UNION OF ALL BLACK MEMBERS TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH ANY EMPLOYER IN CANADA. THE CHARACTER OF STANLEY IN OUR STORY IS BASED ON STANLEY GRIZZLE, A PORTER WHO HELPED FORM THE UNION. (HIS BOOK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES IS TITLED *MY NAME'S NOT GEORGE*.) IN 1953 A PORTER NAMED GEORGE GARRAWAY BECAME THE FIRST BLACK CONDUCTOR IN THE COUNTRY. THERE IS A PLAQUE IN MONTREAL AT THE OLD WINDSOR STATION HONOURING BLACK PORTERS, AND ONE IN TORONTO'S ROUNHOUSE PARK COMMEMORATING THEIR UNION WAS JUST UNVEILED IN NOVEMBER 2017.

pour les droits de la personne, notamment par leur rôle pour éliminer la discrimination dans les emplois ferroviaires.

Railway porters played a major role in the struggle for Black