

press kit

## DEAD and COLD

*Listen to me," said the Demon, as he placed his hand upon my head. "The region of which I speak is a dreary region in Libya ...*

*Edgar Allan Poe, Silence: A Fable*

*As they neared the coffin lid, the wind picked up dramatically and a massive, black thunder cloud moved over the site. The walls of the tent covering the excavation began to snap loudly, and as the weather continued to worsen the five researchers finally stopped their work and looked at one another. The conditions had suddenly become so strange that Kowal observed, "This is like something out of a horror film."*

*Owen Beattie and John Geiger, Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition*

Canadian author-artist Rob Kovitz commemorates the recent discovery of one of the missing ships from the famously doomed Franklin polar expedition with one of his inimitable super-cut bookwork-novels that imagines what may have happened to this and various other fateful polar peregrinations.

Warning: includes graphic and shocking scenes of boredom, failure, madness, freezing, murder, cannibalism and mysterious things that may or may not be hidden beneath flat, frozen surfaces.

From the Excerpts From *Ice Fishing in Gimli* Series

DEAD and COLD

by Rob Kovitz

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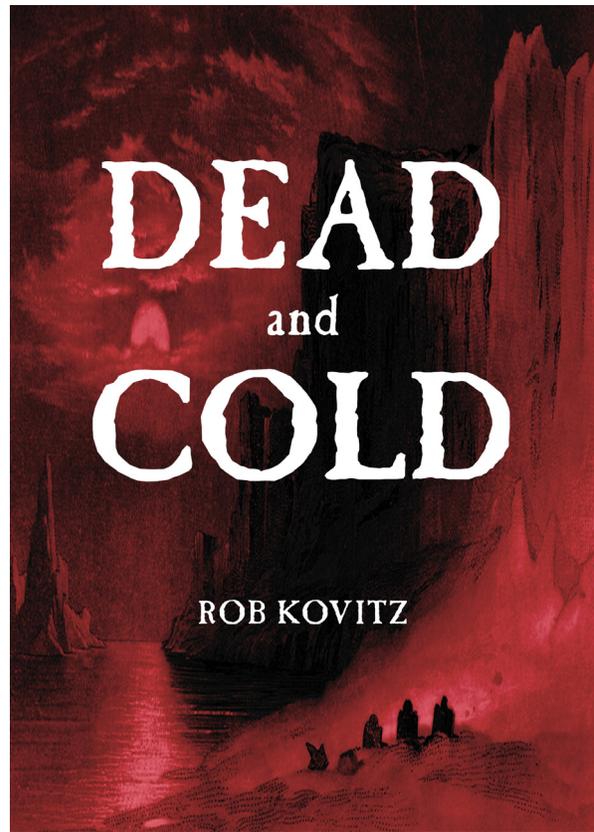
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### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rob Kovitz is the creator of Treyf Books, ingenious montage-appropriation novels that consist of texts and images compiled from various sources, usually obsessively related to one or more themes, and then recombined to form new works of imagination that are both profusely polyphonic and surprisingly cohesive. Kovitz's previous bookworks include *Pig City Model Farm*, *Room Behavior*, the 8-volume appropriation epic *Ice Fishing in Gimli*, and *According to Plan*. Kovitz's bookworks have received a variety of awards and arts grants. He currently lives in Winnipeg, Canada.

"Strange and clever."

*Globe & Mail*

"Funny, but deep."

*Umbrella*

"Is this a new form of discourse in step with its multivalent, chaotic times, or just an excuse for intellectual laziness? Only the author knows for sure."

*Canadian Architect*

## Praise and Blame for Rob Kovitz's Previous Super-Cut Novel *According to Plan*

*Not, therefore, to raise expectation, but to repress it, I here lay before your Lordship the **plan** of my undertaking, that more may not be demanded than I intend; and that, before it is too far advanced to be thrown into a new method, I may be advertised of its defects or superfluities.*

*Samuel Johnson, The **Plan** of a Dictionary of the English Language*

Rob Kovitz's *According to **Plan*** begins with an immoderate interest in the word "**plan**," and every text selection includes the word "**plan**." The result is a funny, disquieting, and thought-provoking exploration of the human obsession with making **plans**.

### REVIEWS

"... catalyzingly ingenious, brilliantly exhausting ..."

*Gary Michael Dault, Border Crossings*

"Kovitz's own **plan** might sound like a harrowingly narrow premise for a 664-page book, but this wonderfully odd and obsessive textual assemblage expands outward to encompass just about everything, from Hegelian world spirit to complicated cinematic bank heists to our own (mostly) futile attempts to arrange our lives ...

"*According to **Plan*** ends up having its own suckerpunch power. Kovitz's bookwork might read at first like a clever collating exercise, but it soon becomes something bigger, stronger and stranger, something Quixotic (Cervantes' masterwork turns out to be one of the **planny**-est works in the Western canon) and just a bit crazy.

"And as Kovitz himself quotes, sometimes a **plan** 'is so crazy it just might work.' This one does."

*Alison Gillmor, The Winnipeg Review*

"This thick paperback (664 pages) has promised plenty of interesting reading on an intriguing topic: **plan**. But reading into it, this reviewer could not understand author Rob Kovitz's idea behind writing *According to **Plan*** or, for that matter, who the targeted readers would be."

*George Erdosh, Portland Book Review*

"There does seem to be a gratuitous amount of adult content ..."

*Gretchen Wagner, San Francisco Book Review*

"This style of book was completely foreign to me, and admittedly, a little overwhelming. Although there is structure to the book, each section laid out in chapters used the copying and pasting of quotes and unsettled my type-A personality—the part of my brain that was trying to fit this style into the traditional format of continuous words."

*Carissa Ainslie, Broken Pencil*

"So how come the 668 pages of *According to **Plan*** make for such an invigorating read? Perhaps because by the time you have read, skimmed, scanned and riffled all the way to the book's final section, "exit **plan**" (each appearance of the words "**plan**" or "**planning**" in the book is printed in bold face), it has become clear that not only have you sojourned sumptuously in the realm of **Plan** but that you have been inescapably privy to the author-compiler's outrageously omni-directional, omnivorous reading practice. Indeed, you feel you have walked every step of the way at his archival side, and you are likely to find yourself aghast at the method in his bibliophilic madness."

*Gary Michael Dault, Border Crossings*

"And what might the book tell us about our field, and the hopeful, limiting, optimistic, outdated, futile, and necessary habit of **planning** at its core? What insight might it contain about the best **plans** for an era of rippling change, one that can produce a wonderful book made of nothing but repurposed words and pictures? Perhaps not a single thing. Or, possibly, that, like Kovitz's book, the best **plans** now are different from what we were taught to make and draw in simpler times: nimble and inclusive, open-ended and brave, unafraid to break the rules."

*Philip Nobel, Architectural Record*

"Worth the read ... absolutely. This is a book that you will want on your shelf."

*Victoria Colotta, Art, Books, & Coffee*

### AWARDS

Alcuin Award for Excellence in Book Design:  
First Prize, Prose Fiction

Manly Library Artists' Book Award