



*My NAME IS
SIMON.*

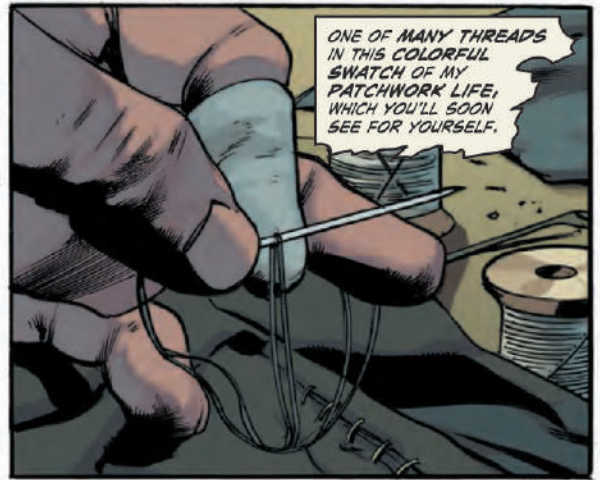
SIMON PLUM.

AND THAT'S THE
TRUTH, AS FAR AS
ANYONE KNOWS.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a busy street scene in 1909. The scene is set on a cobblestone street lined with multi-story brick buildings. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit and bowler hat stands on the left, looking towards the viewer. A group of men in suits and hats are walking across the street. A vintage open-top car with large spoked wheels is parked in the center, with several men sitting in it. To the right, a group of women in long dresses and hats are standing near a shop. The buildings are covered in various signs and advertisements. On the left, a large sign reads "Dine at Crosby's 19 School St." and another below it says "OFFICES TO LET 15 SCHOOL ST." Further down, a sign for "GILL & CO" is visible. The central building has a sign that says "Fine CUSTOM" and another that reads "We Make YOUR Clothes HERE". Below these, a sign for "PANTS SHOP No. 1" is visible. A large sign for "MARTIN SULLIVAN, TAILOR" spans across the front of the building. To the right, another sign for "MARTIN SULLIVAN, TAILOR" is visible. Various other signs for "DRESSMAKING, TAILORING & ALTERATIONS", "Suits EXPERTLY MADE TO ORDER", "LADIES AND GENTS FINE TAILORED SUITS", "CLEANING REPAIRING NEATLY and REASONABLY DONE", "TAILOR", "Clothing Alterations & Repairs", "Dyeing & Dry Cleaning Service", "GENTLEMEN'S SUITS", "Custom Clothing", "D. HEARLE & SON TOBACCONISTS", "HATS", "SHOES", "REPAIRS", and "GARMENTS MADE TO YOUR MEASURE" are visible. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall style is reminiscent of early 20th-century commercial art or a vintage postcard. In the top left corner, a red banner contains the text "August 1, 1909".



"SIMON PLUM?" YOU EXPRESS WITH CONFUSION. WHY, YES, THIS IS A NEW STITCH.



ONE OF MANY THREADS IN THIS COLORFUL SWATCH OF MY PATCHWORK LIFE, WHICH YOU'LL SOON SEE FOR YOURSELF.



BUT LET ME STEP BACK AND ALLOW THIS STORY TO UNFOLD. THE WHOLE CLOTH, AS IT WERE. AFTER ALL, I'M LONG PAST MY ADVENTURING DAYS... OR SO I KEEP TELLING MYSELF.



AND EXCUSE THE PUNS, I'M IN RATHER A GOOD MOOD.

