



## An Interview with Authors Dan Abdo and Jason Patterson

For the past 10 years, award-winning duo Dan Abdo and Jason Patterson have developed numerous animated campaigns, network TV and web series, and critically acclaimed commercial work. Their extensive portfolio has garnered them industrywide recognition, while their humorous sensibility and diverse skill set have landed them jobs for top global brands. Their latest comic, *Barb and the Ghost Blade*, is a sidesplitting graphic novel about a young Berzerker who has to rescue her fellow warriors from the evil villain Witch Head before he destroys the world!

**What has your process been like while working on *Barb the Last Berzerker* and this sequel, *Barb and the Ghost Blade*? How do you decide who works on what?**

We tackle creating a comic using the ancient discipline of teamwork! There are three major steps. First, we throw ideas around in the beginning, coming up with fun story arcs, nefarious plot twists, and delicious banquet scenes! Once we have something solid, we jump into thumbs, super sketchy drawings that we do over and over, using the eraser as much as the pencil! Last, we move on to inking and coloring. Exhausting but super satisfying! At this stage, it turns into the book you see on shelves!



*continued...*

# Dan Abdo and Jason Patterson

## What is Barb's inspiration?

We wanted to create a hit animated TV show, but everyone kept telling us no. So, we created Barb who really doesn't listen when people tell her she can't do something. We decided to take Barb's advice and make a whole awesome graphic novel about her!

## Who is your favorite character, and why?

We love Barb and Porkchop! Can we pick two? No? Well, we don't listen to "no" anymore! See the answer to the previous question. But seriously, we love the dynamic between Barb and Porkchop. Stories about great friendships are totally our jam.

## Do you have any advice for young writers or artists who want to create their own stories?

Tell them! It's easy to get discouraged and never write anything down. The world is full of people telling you that you can't. But you have to listen to that voice inside you that knows you can! Some people call it a muse, others call it insomnia, we call it the Ghost Writer. Meh, that sounded cooler in our heads. Oh well! See – not everything you write is awesome. But write! Every day! It will be awesome. You have the power! You'll see!



### Barb the Last Berzerker (Book 1)

Dan Abdo and Jason Patterson  
Simon & Schuster • 2021 • IL 3-6

Barb is a Berzerker, one of a group of warriors sworn to protect the land of Bailiwick from the scourge of monsters that plagues it. But the fearsome crew seem to have met their match in the nefarious Witch Head. Using power from his magical sword, he tricked the Zerks and took them captive. Only Barb was able to escape – and she took Witch Head's Shadow Blade with her. But the power of the Shadow Blade has a mind of its own, and the deeper Barb gets into her quest, the harder it is to keep the blade's awesome power under control.

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### Barb and the Ghost Blade

### (Barb and the Last Berzerker, Book 2)

Dan Abdo and Jason Patterson  
Simon & Schuster • 2022 • IL 3-6

This ragtag gang must infiltrate Maug Horn, the monster capital where only monsters are allowed, and find Franny Fire Fingers, who they hope will lead them to the Wise Wizards and the power to fight Witch Head. But when even the powerful Shadow Blade sword is no match for the evil Barb encounters, she must learn that her true power comes from her own heart.

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