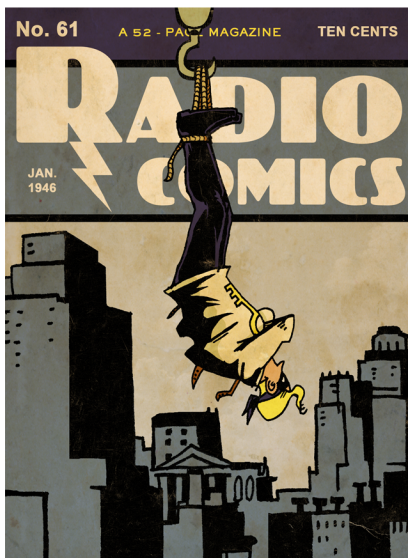


golden boy



As a senior at Pratt Institute a few years ago, Jashar Awan created illustrations for a version of Michael Chabon's 2000 novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. The summer after graduating, Awan met Diana Schutz, editor of Dark Horse Comics, which had just begun publishing *The Amazing Adventures of the Escapist*—the Escapist being the superhero created by Chabon's protagonists. Awan showed his illustrated *Kavalier and Clay* to Schutz, who passed it on to Chabon. "He's written some of the most flattering e-mails that I've ever received," says Awan, whose work often appears in *The New Yorker*. "He even asked for a second copy to give to Stephen Daldry, who's directing the movie." Schutz later commissioned Awan to create faux-classic covers for "Collecting the Golden Age Escapist," an article by Steve Duin that imagines the search for the fictional Kavalier and Clay's comics. The collaboration is now a six-issue series, *The Escapists*, which broke in July. Although its cover price says 10 cents, each copy sells for a dollar. "The 10-cents claim," Awan says, "was just to make my illustrations look more authentic." STEVEN HELLER