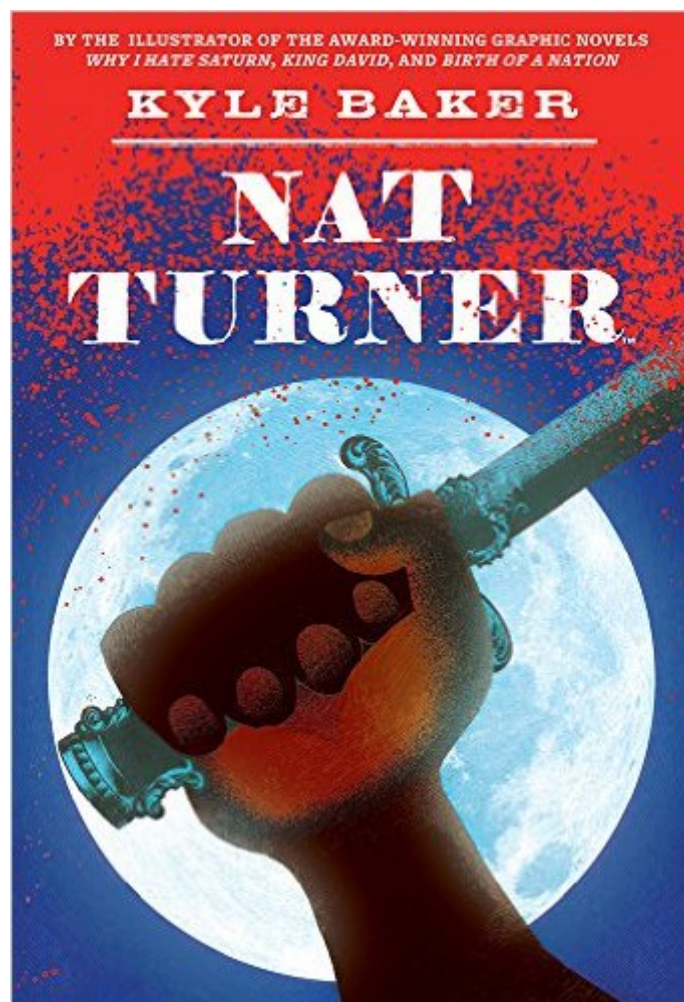


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Nat Turner



Synopsis

The story of Nat Turner and his slave rebellion "which began on August 21, 1831, in Southampton County, Virginia" is known among school children and adults. To some he is a hero, a symbol of Black resistance and a precursor to the civil rights movement; to others he is monster "a murderer whose name is never uttered. In *Nat Turner*, acclaimed author and illustrator Kyle Baker depicts the evils of slavery in this moving and historically accurate story of Nat Turner's slave rebellion. Told nearly wordlessly, every image resonates with the reader as the brutal story unfolds. Find teaching guides for *Nat Turner* and other titles at abramsbooks.com/resources. This graphic novel collects all four issues of Kyle Baker's critically acclaimed miniseries together for the first time in hardcover and paperback. The book also includes a new afterword by Baker. "A hauntingly beautiful historical spotlight. A • "Entertainment Weekly "Baker's storytelling is magnificent." • "Variety "Intricately expressive faces and trenchant dramatic pacing evoke the diabolic slave trade's real horrors." • "The Washington Post "Baker's drawings are worthy of a critic's attention." • "Los Angeles Times "Baker's suspenseful and violent work documents the slave trade's atrocities as no textbook can, with an emotional power approaching that of *Maus*." • "Library Journal, starred review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The story of Nat Turner is, in many respects, a difficult one to come to terms with. Like John Brown, who followed later, he was a man faced with an intolerable truth (even more so, of course, considering Turner had no choice but face it) and responded with extreme measures that, 190 years

later, we here today have trouble justifying to ourselves. It is most decidedly not a pretty picture in any way, shape or form. But there it was. And here it is, in a moving, gut-wrenching graphic work that fuses Turner's own words (as conveyed in his Confession by Thomas Grey) wedded to remarkable visuals by Kyle Baker. What Baker has achieved here is, I think, an emotional masterpiece. This is, yes, a graphically violent book, but unlike some others here, I praise Baker for his restraint. His choice of color palate, size and location of images on the page, serve not to sensationalize the gore here, but rather to mute it. It is here, we look it straight in the face, but we in no way wallow in it. It is in the rest of the story, the rest of the visuals, where we are really forced to confront the horrors of Turner's reality - the reality of millions of men and women around him - and the choice he made to fight back in the only way allowed. Baker's skill allows us to see, often wordlessly, the fear, desperation, anger, sadness and hypocrisy of the world Turner inhabited, at least a little - at least to the extent we can imagine all these years on. Baker does not present Turner as some sort of Super Hero Avenging Angel. Far more compellingly, he presents him as a man living in a nightmare, who's rebellion was a direct consequence of that nightmare. And he does so with a very uncommon grace and visual eloquence that cannot help but touch a sensitive reader.

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