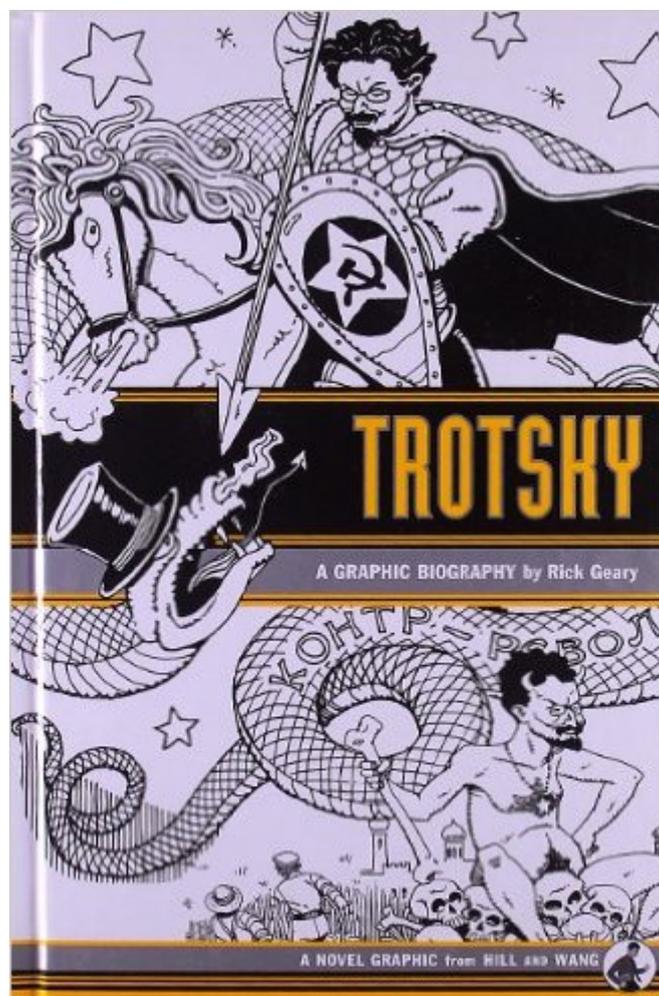


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Trotsky: A Graphic Biography



Synopsis

Trotsky was a hero to some, a ruthless demon to others. To Stalin, he was such a threat that he warranted murder by pickaxe. This polarizing figure set up a world conflict that lasted through the twentieth century, and in *Trotsky: A Graphic Biography*, the renowned comic artist Rick Geary uses his distinct style to depict the stark reality of the man and his times. Trotsky's life becomes a guide to the creation of the Soviet Union, the horrors of World War I, and the establishment of international communism as he, Lenin, and their fellow Bolsheviks rise from persecution and a life underground to the height of political power. Ranging from his boyhood in the Ukraine to his fallout with Stalin and his moonlight romance with Frida Kahlo, *Trotsky* is a stunning look at one of the twentieth century's most important thinkers and the far-reaching political trends that he launched.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Leon Trotsky. To know him was to love him. Or to hate him. It was hardly a simple matter, and he was hardly a simple man (men who die by pickaxe rarely are--there's a reason they elicit so much emotion from their fellow human beings). Of course, saying Trotsky was a complicated person is understating everything, but saying that Trotsky, Rick Geary's new graphic biography, is simple is a pure compliment. Geary uses graphic novels to breeze through history with such grace and charm that he makes you want to live it yourself. His gift is that he makes his intricately textured panels look easy, and they usher you through page after page of important social and cultural upheaval. If you look closer, though, you see the details in many of his panels. The important lines and

perspectives that he employs throughout are the mark of a fine artist. He's a fine writer as well. I admit, I've always loved his cheeky style. In Trotsky, he's more serious than in much of his previous work. He guides us through the Soviet Revolution of the early 20th century and shows how Trotsky helped form the Soviet Union while inspiring critical dialogue and political thinking. Geary is nicely suited to the task at hand. As writer, he stays mostly impartial, presenting just the facts of Trotsky's life along with his layered artwork. As an educational tool, Trotsky works wonderfully. As an introduction to Trotsky's political ideas and the life he lived, Trotsky is top-notch.-- John Hogan

Rick Geary is probably my favourite graphic artist. I just love his style of detailed b/w drawings and the use of lines to fill in space. I'd read anything he illustrated but fortunately I have an interest in Communist Russia and the evils of communism in general. First off, this is not a children's book by any means, not because of anything that may offend but because it is highly detailed in history, politics and warfare. I knew nothing about Trotsky going into this book as my interests lie in the sociological affects of communism on the everyday people rather than the politics of the leaders, so I found it highly enlightening. The leaders were just as ruthless and turned against each other as violently as they did on the people. Geary does in my opinion come off a bit too neutral; the reader will view the politics from their own worldview (left or right). Guess which is mine? LOL Anyway I found it highly enlightening and informative but decidedly heavy on politics and would only recommend to those who know something of Marxism, Leninism and Socialist Communism. The art is divine! There is a companion book to this one that I will read next on J. Edgar Hoover whom I have read quite a bit about already.

Trotsky is a well-researched and engagingly told (if, inevitably, very wordy) graphic account of the life of the loser of most of the great Communist power struggles of the early 20th century. I have the vague sense that the audience for books like this are mostly schoolchildren looking for the subjects of a report, but I'd be surprised if school systems in at least half of this country would be particularly amenable to a book on Trotsky. (Of course, that assumes they remember Trotsky, which I doubt anyone to the right of Teddy Kennedy does, these days.) Geary is excellent with historical material as always, though I do miss the sly humor of his early short strips. Perhaps some enterprising publisher can hire Geary for a project that merges all of his strengths -- maybe a story about the mole-men's invasion of the Columbian Exhibition or something equally unlikely?

A dispassionate and even-handed account, complete with pick-axe finale. Needless to say, this is a

very graphic history. (As reviewed in *Russian Life*

Superb work by Rick Geary! Trotsky is often mentioned, but seldom discussed on realistic basis. This work helps change this situation.

Prompt delivery and Product was as described. Thanks. Act to remove Money from Politics and Move to Amend.

This graphic novel looks at Leon Trotsky, the War Commissar of the Communist Revolution, Lenin's confidant and Stalin's rival. Rick Geary's unique style does well in this treatment, although this book does not really discuss the Ukrainian famine or Stalin's labor camps... both direct results of the revolution that Trotsky worked tirelessly for. Communism under Trotsky would only have differed from Stalin's brand in the names and the methods, not the results.

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