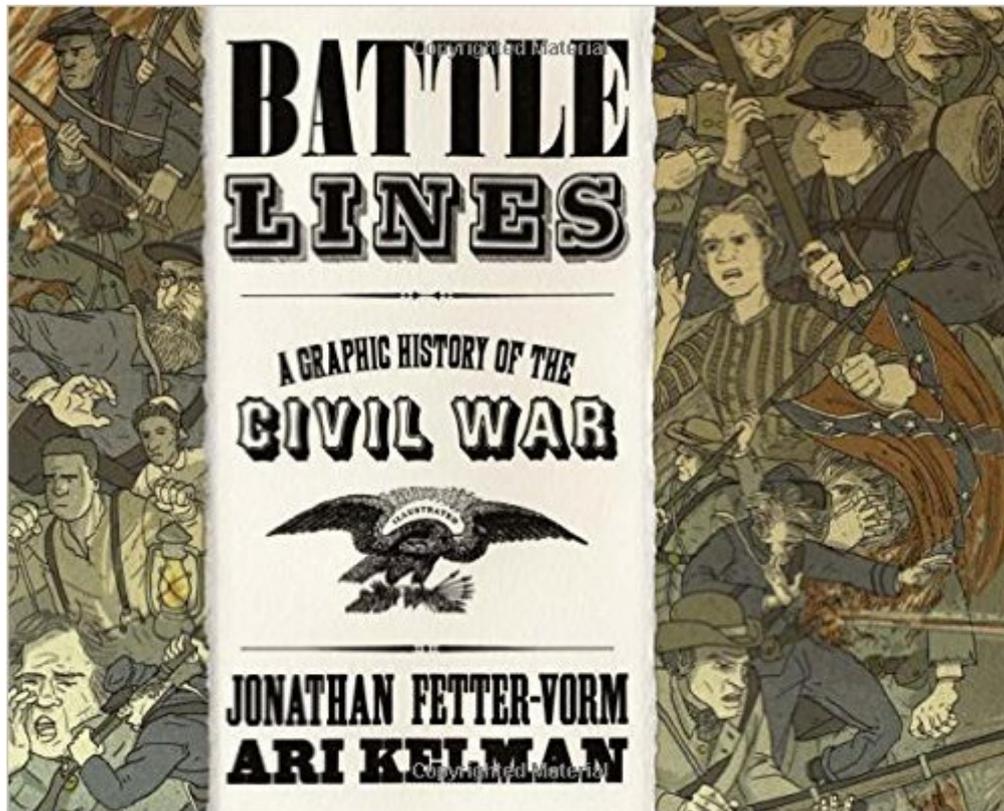


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# Battle Lines: A Graphic History Of The Civil War



## Synopsis

Featuring breathtaking panoramas and revelatory, unforgettable images, *Battle Lines* is an utterly original graphic history of the Civil War. A collaboration between the award-winning historian Ari Kelman and the acclaimed graphic novelist Jonathan Fetter-Vorm, *Battle Lines* showcases various objects from the conflict (a tattered American flag from Fort Sumter, a pair of opera glasses, a bullet, an inkwell, and more), along with a cast of soldiers, farmers, slaves, and well-known figures, to trace an ambitious narrative that extends from the early rumblings of secession to the dark years of Reconstruction. Employing a bold graphic form to illuminate the complex history of this period, Kelman and Fetter-Vorm take the reader from the barren farms of the home front all the way to the front lines of an infantry charge. A daring presentation of the war that nearly tore America apart, *Battle Lines* is a monumental achievement.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Hill and Wang; First Edition edition (May 5, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809094746

ISBN-13: 978-0809094745

Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #71,925 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields](#) #69 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels](#) #662 in [Books > History > Military > United States](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I confess that I have never been deeply interested in The American Civil War. After reading this book, I'm convinced that the only reason I wasn't interested is because of how the topic was presented to me. I am now very interested. *Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War* takes the history and scholarship surrounding the conflict which shaped the United States and which still has an impact on its internal politics and struggles and adds what was always missing for me: the human element. Each chapter takes an ordinary, everyday object from the era and uses that object

to begin a vignette that demonstrates how the war affected real people. We are given solid history, but within a context that gives the facts meaning. As Jonathan Fetter-Vorm did with *Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb*, a difficult and complex topic is deftly broken down into easily digestible portions along with a moving and real sense of why I as a reader should care. The artwork in the book is powerful and evocative. The narrative is cinematic. It is not hyperbole to say that I was transported into the story while reading, to the extent that I often forgot I was reading; I was so moved with emotion that more than once I found myself in tears. Combine this with the solid presentation of historical facts and I am left with a hunger to know more. For this, I say this book belongs in every school library in the country and on the shelf of anyone interested in good art, excellent storytelling, and careful scholarship.

This book is simply superb! This is storytelling at its finest. The illustrations pull you deeper into the personal history of historic events, and they manage to fool your senses into believing you might actually be there. My eyes lingered on them, and I found myself flipping back to previous panels to review them for subtleties I missed the first time. I teach middle school history, and I've been yearning for a book that would dare to cover the scope and breadth of the American Civil War. The authors have written a page turning graphic novel that will appeal to all ages, and will grip even those with a brief knowledge of U.S. history. This should be on the reading list of every American history class, and in the library of every school in the country. The history is first rate.

Love this book! Super entertaining. It doesn't provide a detailed account of the events of the American Civil War, but it gives you the important parts of the war and illustrates them. Really great to read. I needed it for a class and I could have borrowed it from a friend, but I found it here for a great price and I don't regret buying it.

A beautiful and affecting book. The civil war is, at least to me, deeply familiar, but this book focuses on the personal, and conveys with a painful immediacy the ways that the horror of this conflict infiltrated and transformed the day-to-day existence of our not-so-distant ancestors. I was struck as I have never been before by the degree to which the appalling, unprecedented violence of the conflict was "just around the corner" for familiar and modern-seeming Americans.

An extraordinary history. The graphic format works very well, but this is a real history book, not just a piece of art or entertainment. The two media (text and illustration) work beautifully together to

create a work much more visceral and compelling than either medium alone.

Used this in a US History class in college. It was the most useful book we were assigned. You got the sense of the war being in a different world from our own and involving real people instead of just "big names." I didn't sell it back because it was that good!

A terrific tale and a first-class guide to the U.S. Civil War. Combines a broad overview of the war's causes and consequences with gripping stories of individuals caught in the maelstrom. Profound and beautiful.

Battle Lines is one of the best books I've read, in any genre, in a long time. It's beautiful, evocative, and sharply written. The stories it tells are layered and complex, but presented in an engaging way. You can read it in one sitting or enjoy the nuances and details of the images and words more slowly. Either way, it's well worth it.

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