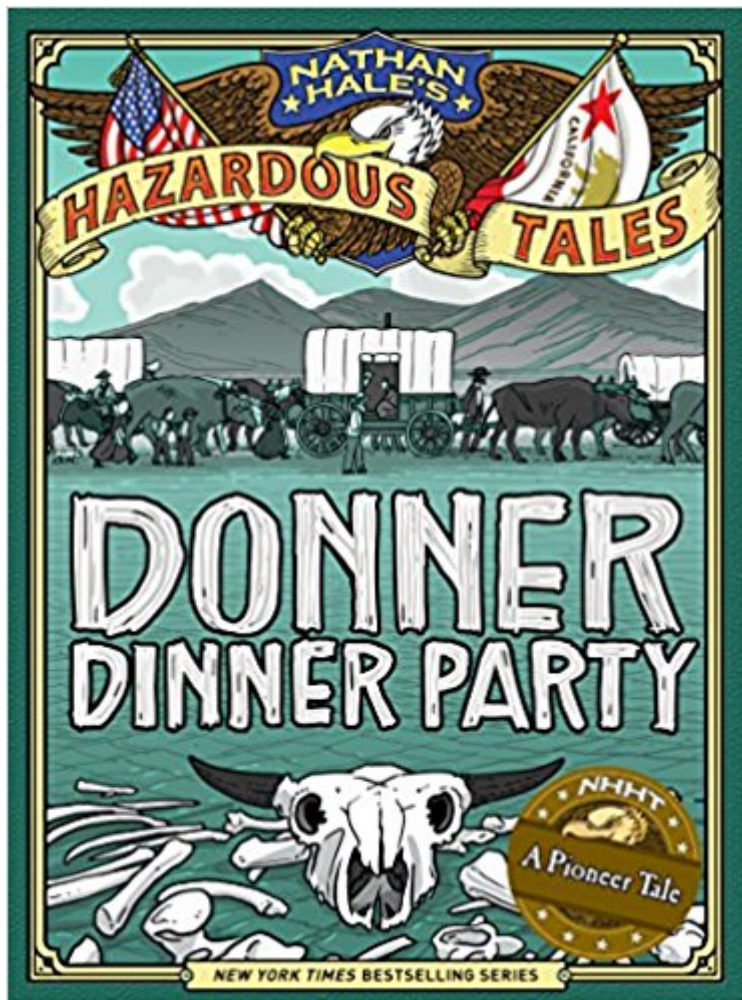


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Donner Dinner Party (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #3)



Synopsis

Â The Donner Party expedition is one of the most notorious stories in all of American history. It's also a fascinating snapshot of the westward expansion of the United States, and the families and individuals who sacrificed so much to build new lives in a largely unknown landscape. From the preparation for the journey to each disastrous leg of the trip, this book shows the specific bad decisions that led to the party's predicament in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The graphic novel focuses on the struggles of the Reed family to tell the true story of the catastrophic journey. This popular topic is a perfect addition to the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales brand, and a great showcase for Hale's storytelling skills. Â Praise for Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Donner Dinner Party "This informative graphic novel capitalizes on enticingly gross history to great effect, balancing raw facts with strong storytelling." --Booklist Â Awards YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens List 2014 New York Public Library's list: Children's Books list: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing 2013 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2014

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 330L (What's this?)

Series: Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales (Book 3)

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Amulet Books; 7.2.2013 edition (August 6, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419708562

ISBN-13: 978-1419708565

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 84 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,083 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #10 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #38 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Humor > General

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Hale, still narrating juicy history tales (after *One Dead Spy*, 2011) with the help of a British soldier and an effusive, bumbling executioner, tells the harrowing story of the ill-fated Donner party.

Beginning with their departure from Springfield, Illinois, in 1846, Hale depicts the party's progress in small but clear panels and includes lots of factual details, such as a roster of everyone in the party, how they died, and a helpful map showing just how tantalizingly close they came to California before meeting their grisly end. It's a difficult story, and Hale makes allowances for sensitive readers: "Horrible things are going to happen. If you are easily upset, skip ahead." But despite the gruesome facts, Hale keeps it relatively light and lifts the mood with some much-needed humor, thanks in no small part to the over-the-top executioner "who, for instance, is outrageously sensitive to the death of cute and fuzzy animals but surprisingly nonchalant about cannibalism. This informative graphic novel capitalizes on enticingly gross history to great effect, balancing raw facts with strong storytelling. Grades 3-6. --Sarah Hunter

Nathan Hale is the author of *Big Bad Ironclad* and *One Dead Spy*, as well as the illustrator of the graphic novel *Rapunzel's Revenge*, which was an AL Roker Book Club for Kids selection, an ALA notable book, a YALSA Great Graphic Novel for Teens, and the recipient of three starred reviews. He lives in Provo, Utah.

I bought my son the *Hazardous Tales* series for his 8th birthday, and we have both absolutely loved them. I was a little worried this one might be too dark, but that just betrayed my very limited knowledge of what happened with the Donner party. Of course, the cannibalism was sad (although tastefully handled), but I learned much more about pioneer life in general than I expected. I'm glad to know that my son will go into 3rd grade with a broader knowledge of American history than most adults, and I'm happy to finally be learning this stuff myself!

I write this review as an actual real-life descendent of the Donners (yes, really; yes, those Donners). Like most members of our family, I know the story extremely well because it's our family history, NOT just a story. And, like many members of our family, I take a perverse pleasure in offering the name Donner to a restaurant host so they have to call for "Donner Party of..." Anyway, I checked this book out from the public library, read it, and then bought it because I liked it so well. I found it both accurate and respectful, not overly gory but without glossing over the true horror of the situation. Then I shared info about it on social media with many other Donners who also appreciated it. It's on my shelf at home with many other books about the Donners.

I am a self-proclaimed ignoramus when it comes to history. This tale was something I knew nothing

about and was surprised by the twist in the title! The graphic novel made learning about history much more enjoyable....if I can say that with the scenarios that occurred during the Donner Party's travels across the Colorado mountains. A required read for a college Young Adult Lit class. Even engaging for an adult.

This is a great graphic novel for fifth grade on up to high school. The story of the infamous Donner Party is interesting, fast-paced, and creatively told in graphic novel form. Many people who saw me reading this worried it would be "too graphic" or "too difficult to tell in graphic novel form

My son loves these books. We've had a hard time finding a series that he enjoys reading, but he has really enjoyed the Nathan Hale series and sits and reads on his own now without my having to remind him to do so. These are fun and informative books. I was a little concerned about how this one might affect him, given the subject matter, but it was handled well and was age appropriate.

Nathan Hale came to my little boys' (grades 3 and 5) elementary school, and they both got interested in his books, starting with "Treaties, Trenches, Mud and Blood." My 3rd grader had fallen into a little slump and wasn't too interested in reading, and these books totally got him interested again! Even though the books are comic strip style (I prefer they reach chapter books), they have lots of history in them, which I loved. Since then, both boys have asked for and read all of his books! Thank you, Nathan Hale!!

My kids are eating these books up. They finish them within two days after they find them (tried to hide them). It has really sparked my 8 year olds interest in that time period and is helping him figure out where states are on the map. I am so thrilled I found these books. I only have a few left to order.

I LOVE these "Hazardous Tales!" I found them entertaining and accurate as an adult, and my students can't get enough of their engaging drawings and dialogue. Many of them have gone out and bought their own copies since I only have one each of the series. The children love the narration by the quirky character "The Hangman." Despite the tongue-in-cheek titles, the content is well-researched and beautifully drawn. It is far more "kid-friendly" than I had anticipated. I cannot recommend them enough.

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