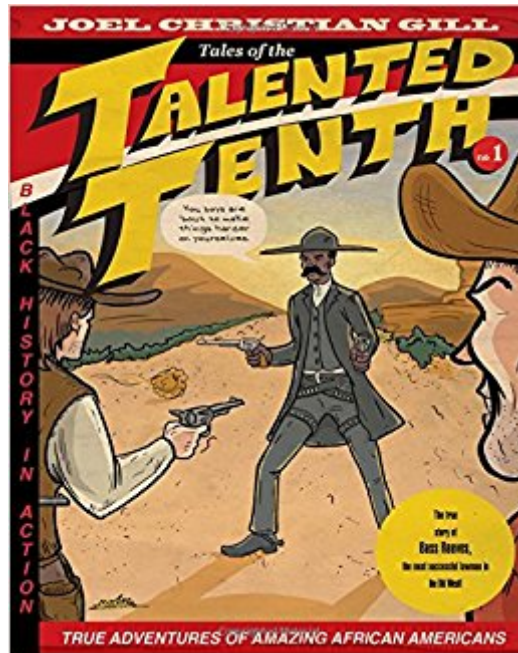


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# Bass Reeves: Tales Of The Talented Tenth, Volume I



## Synopsis

Tales of the Talented Tenth, Volume One tells the story of Bass Reeves, an escaped slave who became one of the most successful lawman of the old west. Volume I chronicles his life from winning shooting matches in early childhood to traveling with his master, living with Native Americans in Indian Territory, and finally becoming a U.S. Marshal.

## Book Information

Series: Tales of the Talented Tenth

Paperback: 158 pages

Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing (October 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938486633

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,278,519 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #106 in Books > Children's Books >

Comics & Graphic Novels > History #593 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels

> Educational & Nonfiction

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up "Expanding upon the short entry that appeared in his *Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* (Fulcrum, 2014), Gill opens his new graphic novels series on African American heroes with a volume about Bass Reeves, a former slave and the first black U.S. Marshall. With alternating full-page spreads and varied panels, the tale switches between 1902 (during his time as a lawman) and the 1840s (when Reeves first learned how to shoot as an enslaved child). The narrative details Reeves's adventures as his master's prized possession, eventual escape, experiences living with Native Americans, fighting for the North in the Civil War, and then as a rough and tough officer of the law (rumored to be the inspiration for *The Lone Ranger*). The folkloric, tall tale tone of the text is enhanced by the earthy illustrations and the pictographs that serve as substitutes for racial slurs—a blackface-type head for the n-word and an

American Indian in headdress for "redskins." Even more striking is a man-size crow character who symbolizes Jim Crow racism and practices of the time and plagues the subject throughout his life. Time jumps are sometimes confusing, as the color schemes of the two time lines are similar, but the format, unique perspective, and back matter make this title a prime candidate for school reports, strengthening American history collections, and reluctant readers of biographies. A much-needed offering and perspective.â "Shelley Diaz, School Library Journal

Gill (Strange Fruit ) launches the Tales of the Talented Tenth series, about notable figures in African-American history, with an entry outlining the life of Bass Reeves, among the first black Deputy U.S. Marshals. Over seven chapters, Gill skillfully shifts (and draws parallels) between Reevesâ™s childhood as a slave and his adult service as a marshal; two hard-hitting motifs are a menacing, avian Jim Crow figure and a pickaninny caricature, the latter used as a rebus-style replacement for racial epithets in the dialogue [...] A bibliography is included for readers seeking to learn more about Reeves. Ages 12&#150;up. (Nov.) - Publisher's WeeklyWonderful biography of the black US Marshall, born a slave, who became the most successful lawman of the West and legend has it the stories of the Lone Ranger are based on him. The author's previous book, Strange Fruit, contains a mini-biography on Bass Reeves and this book takes the same story, expounds upon it and fills in more details. An interesting, informative and exciting tale of a man not that well known to history. Looking forward to seeing who the next volume will be about. - Nicola Mansfield, It's All Comic To Me blogGr 7 Up&#150;Expanding upon the short entry that appeared in his Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History (Fulcrum, 2014), Gill opens his new graphic novels series on African American heroes with a volume about Bass Reeves, a former slave and the first black U.S. Marshall. With alternating full-page spreads and varied panels, the tale switches between 1902 (during his time as a lawman) and the 1840s (when Reeves first learned how to shoot as an enslaved child). The narrative details Reevesâ™s adventures as his masterâ™s prized possession, eventual escape, experiences living with Native Americans, fighting for the North in the Civil War, and then as a rough and tough officer of the law (rumored to be the inspiration for The Lone Ranger). The folkloric, tall tale tone of the text is enhanced by the earthy illustrations and the pictographs that serve as substitutes for racial slurs&#151;a blackface-type head for the n-word and an American Indian in headdress for &#147;redskins.â • Even more striking is a man-size crow character who symbolizes Jim Crow racism and practices of the time and plagues the subject throughout his life. Time jumps are sometimes confusing, as the color schemes of the two time lines are similar, but the format, unique perspective, and back matter make this title

a prime candidate for school reports, strengthening American history collections, and reluctant readers of biographies. A much-needed offering and perspective. &#150; Shelley Diaz, School Library JournalWinner of the East Coast Black Age of Comic Convention's 2015 Glyph Comics Awards for Best Male Character. Featured in the Los Angeles Times' 2014 Holiday Gift GuideU.S. Deputy Marshal, Bass Reeves, is the subject of a forthcoming miniseries from HBOJoel Christian Gill places Reeves directly in reality, and does not try to underplay his place in society as a black man and the relentless way the world reminded him of his color in order to keep him in place in even the most casual of interactions. &#150; John Seven of the Vermicious blogBased on little-known but true events, this is a story of action, honor and the Wild West. Thatâ™s very good, but what equally appealed to me was the way author Gill uses his artistâ™s skills to tell this tale. The illustrations here are fully half the story; they entertain as they inform, and theyâ™re even a little sassy, with dark characters and icons as dialogue.This is a book for teens or adults, including reluctant or struggling 12- to 17-year-olds for whom reading sometimes seems inaccessible. - Terri Schlichenmeyer of The Bookworm SezGillâ™s graphic novel series is a tool with which to discuss African Americans, social justice and a shared history. &#151; The Philadelphia Tribune

Purchased this for my grandson after hearing an interview with the author. Before receiving this graphic novel, my grandson loved to be read to, but was lukewarm about reading on his own. He actually begged to be allowed to take it into bed with him to continue reading.

This story was intriguing. A piece of history unveiled. I loved the use of the raven and, for want of a better word, the emoji's to substitute for the N-word. It was clear to me as an adult reading what that emoji meant, but without the vulgarity of the actual word. The progression of the story and flashbacks made it easy to follow and see that even though decades pass, the story repeats itself. A must read for anyone interested in Black History.

This was a well written graphic novel. I enjoyed it greatly. I didn't know he existed until a few weeks ago. There are still heroes out there we do not know about. He seems to be the original basis for the "Lone Ranger."

I'm using this now in a 7-8th grade classroom for summer school in my classroom library. The students LOVE graphic novels, and this is culturally relevant and engaging to my students.

I'm in the middle of doing research about Bass Reeves. So any information I can get about him is good information.

Comic book flavor based on history, but not a good biography. Uses symbols to represent a word or words that if written out someone might find offensive.

a must read for every young person

Absolutely amazing! I am so glad I picked this up!

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