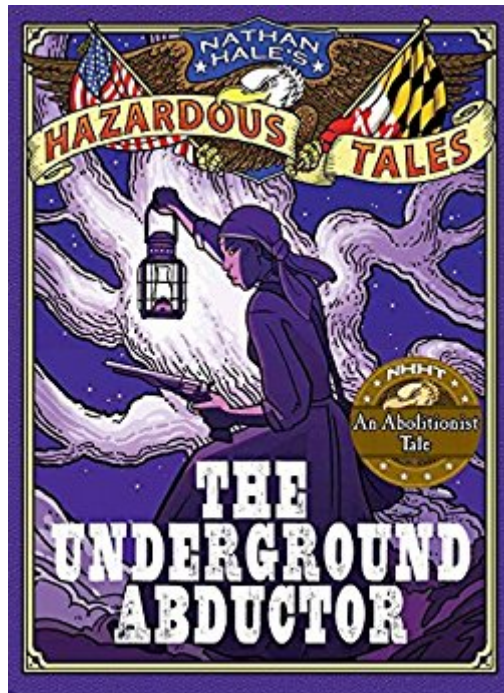


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Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: The Underground Abductor (An Abolitionist Tale)



Synopsis

Araminta Ross was born a slave in Delaware in the early 19th century. Slavery meant that her family could be ripped apart at any time, and that she could be put to work in dangerous places and for abusive people. But north of the Mason-Dixon line, slavery was illegal. If she could run away and make it north without being caught or killed, she'd be free. Facing enormous danger, Araminta made it, and once free, she changed her name to Harriet Tubman. Tubman spent the rest of her life helping slaves run away like she did, every time taking her life in her hands. Nathan Hale tells her incredible true-life story with the humor and sensitivity he's shown in every one of the Hazardous Tales--perfect for reluctant readers and classroom discussions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

About me: I have become a big fan of Nathan Hale's work. I teach high school social studies classes, and I'm always looking for new ways to engage students in history. Some of my students do not read on grade level so reading a "Hazardous Tale" is doable and confidence building. In addition, I always acquire some new information while reading these books. Brief Summary: Like every other Hazardous Tale, (the historical) Nathan Hale tells a British officer and his executioner a

story before he is hung. They want a story which doesn't show that everything America does is perfect. In this tale, the main character is Harriet Tubman, born Araminta "Minty" Ross. We see her grow up, bounce among several owners, resolve to be free, and become the famous conductor on the Underground Railroad we all learned about in school. What I like: -Hale does an excellent job of exposing the dark years of slavery while not divulging too much which might overwhelm a reader relatively new to the subject. -The Adventures of Tiny Fredrick Douglas introduces readers to this very important historical figure while keeping with the flow of the book. -John Brown's importance to the abolitionist movement is also briefly but well explained. -Harriet Tubman's desire to be free and give freedom to others shines through. An old injury didn't make her an ideal guide, but her tenacity to get the job done can be felt in the pages. -Different methods used to smuggle runaways are illustrated and scattered appropriately through the text. -Simple but well planned illustrations make complex situations attainable for all readers. -Inside the front and back covers, a map of North America in 1850 shows free and slave states, as well as marking routes for the Underground Railroad.

It's great when book series I love are doing well. Well enough that the series continues. That doesn't always happen, which makes me hesitate to put all my lovin' into one particular franchise. Happily, one of the current hits among history-based-graphic-novels-for-middle-grades is "Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales." The series is written by to-me local guy Nathan Hale, and he's finding a wider audience than you'd expect for such a narrow piece of the market. The audience is coming because the books are good. Having tackled subjects like the Revolutionary War, Civil War, the Donner Party, and World War I, he's gone back to the 19th Century for his fifth book, "The Underground Abductor." "The Underground Abductor" is the story of Harriet Tubman, and is the first in the series that's a biography of a single person. It's a break in the formula that Hale has established, but is still able to use one woman's story as an exemplar of what's happening in the wider story of American History. In this case, slavery and the abolitionist movement in the antebellum South. The format is the same as the other books in this series: American patriot/spy Nathan Hale is at the gallows, about to be executed by a Hangman and British Provost. As he's about to die, he's able to magically see all of American History, and entertains the Hangman and Provost with the tales, Sheherazade-style. At the beginning of this story, the Provost (stuffy, very British) says essentially "all of these stories are about how America is so great, so special, the best country ever..." which Hale admits to, but does say that the country has made many mistakes, and that slavery is one of the worst.

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