



# March

*John Lewis , Andrew Aydin , Nate Powell (Illustrator)*

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Congressman John Lewis (GA-5) is an American icon, one of the key figures of the civil rights movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence has taken him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress, from a segregated schoolroom to the 1963 March on Washington, and from receiving beatings from state troopers to receiving the Medal of Freedom from the first African-American president.

Now, to share his remarkable story with new generations, Lewis presents March, a graphic novel trilogy, in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell (winner of the Eisner Award and LA Times Book Prize finalist for Swallow Me Whole).

The award-winning, #1 New York Times bestselling trilogy is complete! Celebrate with this commemorative set containing all three volumes of March in a stunning new slipcase designed by Nate Powell and Chris Ross and colored by Jose Villarrubia. "

## March Details

Date : Published September 6th 2016 by Top Shelf Productions

ISBN : 9781603093958

Author : John Lewis , Andrew Aydin , Nate Powell (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 560 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Autobiography, Memoir

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**Download and Read Free Online March John Lewis , Andrew Aydin , Nate Powell (Illustrator)**

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# From Reader Review March for online ebook

## Irene says

Every American should read this series in order to understand the full history and current state of racism in our country. Black Lives Matter is not new. In 1964, Ella Baker gave a speech saying, "Until the killing of black mothers' sons is as important as the killing of white mothers' sons - we must keep on." (Book 3, p. 99)

*March* is a trilogy of graphic novels. This series is first and foremost a history of the Civil Rights Movement. Though written in the first person by John Lewis, it is not an autobiography, and we are given very little insight into John Lewis's personal relationships.

Book 1: This book sets up the model for storytelling. It is the morning of President Barack Obama's inauguration. Brief scenes of John Lewis in Washington, DC are interspersed with flashbacks as he tells stories of his childhood to constituents visiting his office early that morning. Eventually the constituents and John Lewis need to go separate ways, and the reader remains the only audience for the flashbacks. I felt this book was the most accessible in terms of being a narrative, and setting the stage of what's to come. While I knew about the main events of the Civil Rights Movement - like the lunch counter sit-ins - I really did not know, before reading this book, just how much training, preparation, and planning went into them.

Book 2: After the success of the lunch counter sit-ins, civil rights groups initiated a campaign of stand-ins to de-segregate movie theaters. But mostly this book focuses on the Freedom Rides. Again, I was familiar with the general idea, but I had much to learn. By putting themselves into life-threatening danger, participants had to apply and were extensively trained. The horrible treatment they endured is almost unthinkable, and yet, there it was, illustrated on the page. Very powerful. This book ends with the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Book 3: This book is the most intense of the three, explicitly detailing the horrific events surrounding the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL (in which four young girls died), and also of Selma, AL, which I was somewhat more familiar with because of the 2014 movie. The accounts in this book make it clear that the Civil Rights Movement was an agonizing series of demonstrations, arrests, marches, beatings, and funerals. So many funerals. This book also touched upon the internal controversies within the Civil Rights Movement, including disagreements between organizations in regards to methods of protest, and disagreements within organizations in regards to the role of white people in the movement.

It's worth noting that this series is targeted for a teenage audience. Besides the physical violence depicted in the drawings, the first book uses the n-word, the second book uses the s-word, and the third book uses the f-word and makes a passing mention of sex.

While supremely important for everyone to read, I would probably actually give the book just shy of 5 stars because the delivery of names and dates at times felt text-book-like, even despite the graphic novel context. I think the graphic novel medium was a genius method for illustrating - especially to younger audiences - just how violent the Civil Rights Movement was. But even as an adult reading this trilogy, I got lost in the names, particularly in the way every person was introduced solely within their role in the Civil Rights Movement. We did not get to know the private, surely complex people behind the names, and I sometimes felt I would have gotten even more out of the books if I had actually known more about some of the other players already.

Also, the series seemed to end on a cliffhanger. As Book 3 progressed, SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) became increasingly fractured, and one of the last lines of the story is, "It was the last day of the movement as I knew it." The trilogy ends with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, three years before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. But what happened to SNCC? What happened to John Lewis, as he adapted to the changing needs of the movement? An epilogue would have been nice. Guess I'll just have to pick up an actual biography of John Lewis to find out more about the man himself!

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### **Jennifer says**

I have a newfound respect for the graphic novel. It's a great genre for this story, and makes the events Lewis described come alive. Which makes this a pretty emotional book, given the number of times he or other people are beaten until they black out. The whole trilogy is told alternating between Lewis's life and Obama's Inauguration Day, and I cried multiple times. Especially reading it today.

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### **Nicole says**

An epic, cinematic telling of John Lewis' extraordinary contributions to the civil rights movement. A broad but moving telling that should be required school reading.

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### **Lindsey Z says**

A brilliant, beautifully rendered depiction of the Civil Rights Movement. Even though Lewis is at the heart of this story, it's really a celebration and honoring of all of the folks and organizations who were boots on the ground during one of the most difficult and divisive times in our country's history. This trilogy really serves as a crash course history of sorts of the movement. Lewis juxtaposes the inauguration of Barack Obama with his life story in order to trace the progression of the Civil Rights Movement and highlight its ultimate wins for African Americans in this country. I'm not a big graphic novel reader and did find some of the pages and panels to be quite busy (I wasn't sure at times what to read first in many of the panels) but the illustrations are stunning, and Nate Powell, the illustrator, uses color and shading to capture all of the emotions and adversity that were involved with fighting for equality in the 1960s. I would consider this required reading for anyone looking to learn more about the Civil Rights Movement and how events unfolded; the narrative covers a lot of ground: the murder of Emmett Till, the 1963 bombing of the Birmingham church, the founding of SNCC, the founding of SCLC, dozens of imprisonments of activists, the Greensboro sit-ins and subsequent protest of businesses, the assassination of JFK, and the Freedom Summer in Mississippi, just to name a handful of them. The trilogy really offers comprehensive coverage and should be read together (rather than as separate books). I really loved this!

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### **Erika says**

Everyone should read this trilogy. Everyone. A powerful depiction of such an important part of American

history through the experiences of one of the Civil Rights Movement's great figures, John Lewis. The artwork reaches out of the page and grabs you, forces you to face an ugly part of history that many would rather forget. But after completing this set, hopefully people will realize how important it is to remember...to remember that in the face of discrimination, bigotry, and hatred, people banded together, in the name of peace and love, to fight for equality. And because of them, there was change. It happened then, and it can happen again.

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## **Rebecca Wilson says**

This book is definitely all it's cracked up to be. Not overrated. 10/10, would recommend.

First, it's probably the most coherent narrative of the major events of the Civil Rights Movement that I've ever read. This makes sense because John Lewis was there for most of them. Told from his point of view, all of those famous events—Rosa Parks & the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Rides & sit-ins, Medgar Evers & the Birmingham church bombing, the March on Washington & the Selma-to-Montgomery marches—become connected elements of an even bigger story. These are interspersed with lots of arrests and beatings.

One of my biggest takeaways was the radical self-discipline of the early civil rights demonstrators. They *practiced* getting beat up, yelled at, spit on in advance so they understood how to not react in the face of violence. If you couldn't turn the other cheek, you weren't welcome at a sit-in. Among other things, this gave them clear moral high ground and made them immune to provocateurs. It also trained them to show the fuck up week after week, all over the South, and to be extremely focused and tenacious in their activism. Self-discipline is clearly something our society, and our SJWs, could use a lot more of.

The "present" of the book is Obama's first inauguration. It really captures the optimism of the time, a triumph over the completely bonkers voter suppression of just 45 years prior. And it was. But I read this in February 2017, and intense racism is still entrenched at every level of American society today. So that's hard. Bring tissues.

There are some really charming anecdotes too: young Lewis's obsession with his family's chickens, a random run-in with Malcom X in Nairobi, a night spent dancing with Shirley MacLaine and she kept waiting for him to make a move but he never did, LBJ's dirty mouth.

Anyway, the subject matter couldn't be better. This book would have been highly acclaimed even if the art and writing weren't so gorgeous. This book has some of the most beautiful and expressive lettering I've ever seen.

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## **Ed says**

I have been meaning to get to John Lewis' graphic-biography trilogy for some time now and while it would have made a great Black History Month read last month, being a lover of puns/wordplay/etc. it still made a

pretty good reading project for... well, March (of 2018). You often hear the phrase "required reading," but I can not think of a better example than this. While I did know some of the history of the civil rights movement, this trilogy clearly showed I did not know nearly enough. And what a blessing (and not being a religious person, that's saying something!) that we still have Rep. John Lewis around to tell these stories that are not too far removed from my own lifetime.

From the lunch counter sit-in protests to the Freedom Riders to the March on Selma, John Lewis was there and while all this could have been done in a traditional print biography (and I'm guessing it's been done), the visuals of this graphic work bring it up a notch -- sometimes it is not always about the spoken or written word. I have to admit to getting goosebumps a time or two thanks to the combination of the soaring and aspirational words and the visuals on the page.

And while we have come so far, there were also times when it seems we have not. Some of the panels capture some of the racial strife and prejudices that still very much exists today. While capturing these key and iconic moments in the civil rights moment, the book also intersperses scenes for the first Obama inauguration. I'm guessing at the time of the trilogy's original publication one must have had a very different feeling when coming to these sections from 2009. So while it feels like the country is moving backwards in so many ways with Obama's successor, one can not help but still feel inspired and hopeful that in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." -- it just feels like we're in one of the long parts right now.

And go ahead and splurge and purchase the beautiful slipcase set - I can't imagine anyone would want to stop at just one of these books (plus you save a bit of money too vs. buying each individually).

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### **Alberto says**

Una interesante novela gráfica que trata sobre la lucha por los derechos de los afroamericanos en el EEUU de finales de los '50 y principios de los '60, narrado a través de las memorias de John Lewis, uno de los líderes del movimiento. Para alguien como yo, que no está muy puesto en historia de los EEUU y que tiene interés en la lucha por los derechos civiles es una lectura muy recomendable, aunque supongo que si uno ya se sabe lo que pasó, no hay nada nuevo que descubrir aquí.

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### **Bryan says**

Not just an important story, but one told beautifully. It hums with historical resonance and should be required reading for every American.

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### **Book Riot Community says**

I was oh so very, very late to this incredible series. After the third volume won the National Book Award, I knew it was time to pick it up. I read all three books just after the new year and had no idea how absurdly relevant it would be this month. Honestly, at this point what is even left to say about March? It is informative, inspiring, more than a little depressing, and really beautifully drawn. What surprised me the

most is how much more radical SNCC was than Dr. King. I don't think I really understood the differences between the various civil rights organizations active in the 1950s and '60s until reading these books. I've respected John Lewis for a long time but this series gave me a whole new level of appreciation for him. If you, like me, have been avoiding picking up these books, do it now. They are fantastic and (sadly) more relevant than ever.

—Ashley Bowen-Murphy

from The Best Books We Read In January 2017: <http://bookriot.com/2017/02/01/riot-r...>

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## **Melania &#x1f352; says**

4,5/5

March deserves all the stars . It's haunting and important and beautifully made and it even made me cry a handful of times. Graphic memories are one of my favorite things in the world because they create a special relation with the reader ,it engages you in a different, more meaningful way. This is the type of book that it's worth spending time reading ,this is the type of story that needs to be told.

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## **Brian Burmeister says**

Sometimes, it takes a tragedy to open our eyes. The events in Selma, Alabama on “Bloody Sunday” in March of 1965 became such a moment, when, in a mass gathering of civil rights, demonstrators were violently attacked with billy clubs and tear gas as they attempted to march to the state capitol in Montgomery. News crews filmed the violence as state troopers beat the peaceful, unarmed protestors.

For millions of Americans who would see those images, there was no denying what had occurred. Or that it was wrong.

That shocking attack on the Edmund Pettus Bridge forced many of its viewers to grapple with the brutal realities of police responses to protesters. Political will to support the American Civil Rights movement grew in ways not previously seen in this country, and in the months that followed that attack the Voting Rights Act of 1965 would be signed into law. Today, as depicted in the opening scene of the graphic narrative March, “Bloody Sunday” serves as a harrowing reminder of our history but also as encouragement that despite its painful origins, large-scale civic activism can lead to large-scale change.

Co-written by Congressman John Lewis and his Digital Director/Policy Advisor, Andrew Aydin, and illustrated by Eisner Award-winning graphic novelist Nate Powell, March tells the powerful, unforgettable story of the major moments that made up the American Civil Rights Movement.

Spanning three volumes, which are available separately or as a single collection, March covers key years of civil rights leader Lewis's life and the battles for justice he experienced firsthand. The writers skillfully frame the overarching narrative of all three books as Rep. Lewis reflects upon the Civil Rights Movement during President Barack Obama's historic inauguration in 2009.

Presenting his upbringing in deeply segregated Alabama, Book One traces the forces that compelled and inspired Rep. Lewis to join the Movement. Through a juxtaposition of his life as a boy in rural Alabama with the realities he saw and felt during a childhood trip to Ohio, we see a young Lewis awoken to his standing as a second-class citizen. This storyline serves as a foundation for the impact that hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "social gospel" on the radio would have on him as a teenager. Inspired, a young Lewis participates in the fight for integrated colleges and equality at lunch counters; it is a fight that requires patience and self-restraint in the face of degradation and violence.

In Book Two, that violence escalates. As the Movement changes its sights to discrimination on buses and at bus terminals, the Freedom Rides begin. Testing the strength of a Supreme Court decision that banned such discrimination, Lewis and other activists ride buses throughout the South. One of March's most haunting moments is in a depiction of the Freedom Riders fleeing from a fire-bombed bus as an angry mob armed with baseball bats, tire irons, and other makeshift weapons approaches. This visual captures the overwhelming panic, urgency, and threat of the moment. Here, as in much of Book Two, the Movement's efforts are truly challenged. But their endurance and unending faith in a better tomorrow serve them well. Book Two also offers some of the most beautiful and uplifting moments of the trilogy, such as Dr. King's iconic "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Seeing Dr. King's speech come to life through Powell's illustrations reinforces the passion, optimism, and love behind his words.

Book Three sees the narrative arc come full circle. The final act focuses on the march from Selma and the events that surround it. The Movement and the viciousness of its opposition hit a boiling point, forcing President Johnson to take actions to bring justice to millions who had been denied it.

While Rep. Lewis's life is incredible, the events of March never feel self-aggrandizing. He and Aydin regularly credit the work and sacrifices of the Movement's most famous leaders (such as Dr. King and Malcolm X) and cast a spotlight on many of the activists often less remembered by history, including women critical to the movement such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, and Annie Lee Cooper. The books provide a reminder that only when people work together can we begin to face our most overwhelming struggles.

In telling the stories, Powell's beautiful black and white illustrations expertly utilize white and dark space to convey affect. In the most violent, atrocious, and tragic of moments, such as the shooting of 26-year old activist Jimmie Lee Jackson by an Alabama state trooper, the dark of the ink envelops the page, injecting the scene with a powerful, insidious tone. At other times, such as in the representation of President Obama's inauguration, a true lightness takes form, and the joy of celebrating an event that almost certainly seemed impossible up until this point erupts off each page.

March is an emotional, often disturbing ride. At times, Rep. Lewis's story will inspire profound sadness. Throughout these pages, we are reminded that so many lives were lost on the road to justice. Among those remembered are four young girls—Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley—murdered by a bomb while at their Birmingham church. At other times, such as when Governor George Wallace proclaims that "What this country needs is a few first class funerals," March will make you fume with anger for the minds and actions of those fueled by deep hate and ignorance. But ultimately, March will make you feel hope. From integrated schools and lunch counters to the protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, justice is real. Each step of that great march matters, however much there is still work to be done.

Rep. Lewis dedicates each book of the trilogy "To the past and future leaders of the movement..." While the overarching narrative of these books comes to a close with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the



hope of March is that readers will recognize how the work of Dr. King and so many others didn't end with them. Nor did it end with the inauguration of President Barack Obama. From the use of lethal police force to the effort of states to deny voting rights, systemic racism continues to plague this nation. Wherever, whenever, there is injustice, the march must continue.

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## **Daniel Chaikin says**

**17. March (Trilogy) by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell**

**published:** Book One 2013, Book Two 2015, Book Three 2016

**format:** 560 pages over three paperback books

**acquired:** in March

**read:** Apr 15-18

**rating:** \*\*\*\*\*

John Lewis was one of the big six nonviolent civil rights leaders in the 1960's. He was by far the youngest, only in his early 20's when he became the leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC. But on March 7, 1965, he ended up, without the SNCC, leading the march from Selma, Alabama to the state capital that provoked Bloody Sunday. Just outside Selma, on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, Alabama state police waited and then attacked the marchers with billy clubs in front of TV cameras. They were so brutal that Lewis ended up with a cracked skull. Public outrage over the event gave Lyndon Johnson the necessary momentum to push through the Voting Rights Act. Lewis did a lot of things, but literally getting his head cracked that day would be his most important.

Recommended because it's well done, and an amazing and moving story, and because we forget how deep the blind racism in the country was, and, apparently still is. And because of the insight into other civil rights leaders and some of the other leaders of the era. I think what struck me was how alone Lewis was, especially the night he was attacked and later was left by himself in a hospital bed, overnight, in pain. He would give an important speech the next day.

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## **Brad Feld says**

I spent the afternoon on the couch reading March by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. It's a comic book trilogy that is the story of the Civil Right Movement through Congressman Lewis' eyes.

While I'm reading very little current news right now, I am reading a lot of American history. I'm in a Civil Rights phase that started with Devil in the Grove. I'm sure some of my recent work with Defy Ventures had caused me to dig in deeper into this segment of American history. I know that my reaction to the recent election is reinforcing this.

I was born in December 1965 so the Voting Rights Act had already passed. While I was born in Arkansas I grew up in Dallas, Texas so I was somewhat disconnected from the dynamics of race in the deep south and instead got to experience a different dimension of it since there is generally a Texas version of most things.

I've always been confused by the labels Hispanic and Latino and, after living in Boston from 1983 - 1994 and getting a dose of a totally different version of race dynamics than I'd had in Dallas, I realized my

upbringing in fashionable far North Dallas was a comfortably privileged one.

Reading a book like *March* in 2016 helps me realize how far we've come as a country, but at the same time reminds me how much more we can and need to do.

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### **Irene McHugh says**

My review on my blog uses various photos to highlight aspects of this profoundly important graphic novel.

For my thoughts on this trilogy, please visit: <https://www.compulsivelyquirky.com/bl...>

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