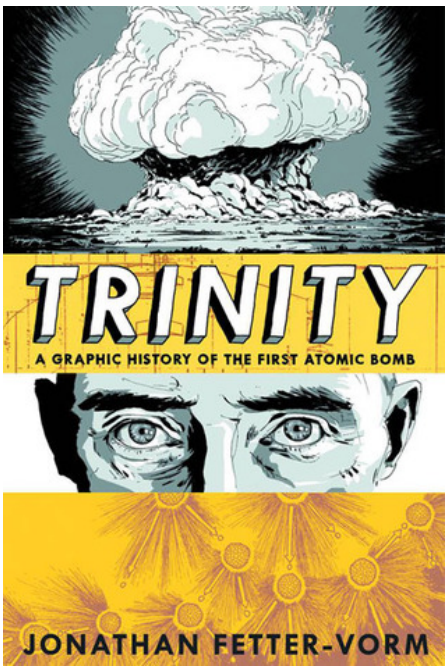

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb

Jonathan Fetter-Vorm

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Trinity, the debut graphic book by the gifted illustrator Jonathan Fetter-Vorm, depicts in vivid detail the dramatic history of the race to build and the decision to drop the first atomic bomb. This sweeping historical narrative traces the spark of invention from the laboratories of nineteenth-century Europe to the massive industrial and scientific efforts of the Manhattan Project. Along the way, Fetter-Vorm takes special care to explain the fundamental science of nuclear reactions. With the clarity and accessibility that only a graphic book can provide, *Trinity* transports the reader into the core of a nuclear reaction—into the splitting atoms themselves.

The power of the atom was harnessed in a top-secret government compound in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where some of the greatest scientific minds in the world gathered together to work on the bomb. Fetter-Vorm showcases J. Robert Oppenheimer, Enrico Fermi, and General Leslie Groves, the fathers of the atomic bomb, whose insights unleashed the most devastating explosion known to humankind. These brilliant scientists wrestled daily with both the difficulty of building an atomic weapon and the moral implications of actually succeeding.

When the first bomb finally went off at a test site code-named Trinity, the world was irreversibly thrust into a new and terrifying age. With powerful renderings of the catastrophic events at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Fetter-Vorm unflinchingly chronicles the far-reaching political, environmental, and ethical effects of this new discovery. Richly illustrated and deeply researched, *Trinity* is a dramatic, informative, and thought-provoking book on one of the most significant and harrowing events in history.

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb Details

Date	:	Published June 5th 2012 by Hill and Wang
ISBN	:	9780809094684
Author	:	Jonathan Fetter-Vorm
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Genre	:	Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, History, Nonfiction, Comics, Science, War

From Reader Review Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb for online ebook

Ryan Potter says

I have two history degrees and have taught social studies for 19 years. I've become a huge fan of non-fiction graphic books and graphic novels the past few years because they draw in reluctant readers in my classroom. But here's the thing about TRINITY: the book is better than a lot of adult works on the subject, and I think it comes down to the riveting pictures and writing style of the author.

TRINITY is impeccably researched and does a splendid job of retelling the story of the Manhattan Project. The author does an especially solid job of presenting the working relationship between General Groves and Dr. Oppenheimer. Furthermore, anybody who is a visual learner will appreciate the simple way the science behind the bomb is presented.

I highly recommend this for high school history teachers, students, and adults who want an outstanding primer on the Manhattan Project. Personally, I can't stand textbooks and would love to see more quality non-fiction graphic books like this one in classrooms.

Chris says

This was absolutely fantastic. I've had a general idea of the history and the horrors of the atom bomb, but this went into detail in an informative and simple way. It briefly went over some history of war and it's escalation. It had a brief history on the build up to the science, chemistry, physics of how fission of an atom was discovered, how it works, and how it translates into a bomb. It was an info dump without feeling like an info dump. It was really well conveyed.

Then it goes on about some of the strategies of the US military, how everything was massively built up (Oak Ridge, TN had the largest building in the world for a while), in secret no less, and all the people involved in the project. It goes through the first test and some of the reactions and what it all meant. Then it talks about how it was used and some of the world politics around it. Again, really well conveyed.

It really showed the terror of the result as well. The massive destruction, with a bit of personal devastation, and the confusion in the Japanese military. It talked about Mutual Assured Destruction and the beginnings of the Cold War. How children became accustomed to training for the worst. It's seriously a scary thing.

The art was nicely done too. In addition to people there were well done, simple, drawings of how things work.

Akira says

This was SoOoOoOo well done ???! I got it from my local library but it’s so good that I MUST OWN it for my personal library ?! This is definitely on my NEED list! It’s a non-fiction graphic novel but it has a kind of poetic essence mixed into it that makes it all the more next level and the artistry complements it perfectly. I

loved it! ?

Cintia Andrade says

Bacana, mas é uma história que não ganha muito no formato gráfico.

Greta says

Great scientific and historical overview of the making of the first atomic bombs and the decision to drop them on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
Well-written and well researched, with simple black and white drawings, this graphic novel was an informative and satisfactory read.
Now I need to find some uranium and plutonium to try this at home.

Sheila says

Prior to this book I had never read a Graphic Novel. I will admit to even being a bit of a book snob, the type who thought Graphic Novels were just glorified comic books, and not real books. I read literature, I read 1000+ page classics. Graphic novels? Pshaw!

But this book has changed my opinion of Graphic Novels. I didn't know they could be this good. I didn't know they could be this emotional. I didn't know they could be this educational.

It could be that I am going through a reading binge on the atomic bomb, Los Alamos, Trinity, etc., so I am interested in this topic, but the way it was presented was incredible. The book tells the story of the scientists, of the development and testing of the bomb at Los Alamos, and then the use of the bomb on Japan.

The black and white drawings are very well done. Some of the pages really made me stop. Yes, stop. Stop, stare at a page. Stare at a picture. Stare at the simple dialogue, or no dialogue, and just think. Imagine. Digest. Absorb. Cringe. Put in a bookmark, set the book down. Think. Open the book back up. Look at the page again. Wow. Really. Intense. And yes, this is from a Graphic Novel, what I used to consider a glorified comic book. But this is no comic book.

So thank you to Mr. Fetter-Vorm for changing my viewpoint on the Graphic Novel. I hope there are other similar educational, non-fiction books of this type. I will now be on the lookout for them. Because it is true, a picture can be worth 1000 words.

Lauren says

More than a history of the atomic bomb, *Trinity* is also a primer on the physics and history behind nuclear fission, and simultaneously a social history of the Manhattan Project. Fetter-Vorm is a storyteller and an educator, seamlessly weaving the story of Oppenheimer and General Groves' collaborative project in the desert of New Mexico (not too far from where I grew up...) with the history of science.

The above panel likens the work of the Manhattan Project with the Greek myth of Prometheus (stated many times before this book... one of Oppenheimer's biographies is called *American Prometheus*). You can see Fetter-Vonn's attention to detail and natural ease of storytelling.

One of the standout sections of the book for me was the countdown to the test explosion in Los Alamos, interspersed with Oppenheimer quoting from the *Bhagavad Gita*. The book states that the conversations and situations within really happened, so Oppenheimer, a scholar of Sanskrit and ancient Indian Literature, truly did quote Krishna's words to Arjuna. Fascinating.

The end of the book was very difficult to read, knowing the history and the end results of this "creation".

Trinity is a very important addition to the growing number of graphic histories. I hope to see more work by Fetter-Vorm.

Grace says

The author did a remarkable job explaining the chemistry, the political context, and the aftermath/guilt of the entire Manhattan Project. Start to finish. I learned so much from this book.

Jeff says

"Inspired" by a breakfast with friends conversation, i decided to read this one now. I'm glad i read it.

I'm tempted to give Barefoot Gen another shot. And i'm tempted to read at least a couple books from Fetter-Vorm's lists of source material and further reading.

Ashley says

I'd never read a graphic story/novel before, so I decided to start with a historical event I know well in order to see if this really is a format I could appreciate and learn from. I liked it more than I expected, though it did take me several tries to really get into it. Much to my surprise, I found that the graphic format required even more focus than usual; this was nothing at all like skimming the comics section. I have a lot more respect for

the medium now. As far as the storytelling itself went, I felt that the author did as good of a job as one can do with limited text and little more than 100 pages. I was pleased to see that women's contributions to the Manhattan Project were pointed out, at least in part, and that the horrifying effects of the bombs and their power were told with such emotional intensity. (There is a vignette at the end featuring two boys that makes the entire reading experience worthwhile.) There was a solid mix of politics, physics, and psychology. All in all, a pretty good introduction to the format for a newbie. And an outstanding overview of the Manhattan Project for students who don't need every little detail.

Sesana says

A really good, if quick, history of the development of the atomic bomb. I don't have much in the way of prior knowledge here, and you don't really need it. There are a few names that are casually thrown out without much, if any, explanation, but those moments were few and far between. The graphic format really works well with the scientific explanations for how and why the bomb works.

Vinayak Hegde says

Part science textbook and part historical documentary. The book is well researched overview of the science of building the first Atomic bomb and the historical circumstances that led to building it. The Manhattan project was started in the deserts of New Mexico (Los Alamos) and led by General Groves (Administration) and Robert Oppenheimer (Science).

The artwork is pretty good though not extraordinary but the given the scientific context it is quite dense with information (especially about nuclear physics). I wish the author had spent some more time dwelling on the personalities of the scientists that made the nuclear bomb. Many of them are mentioned in passing with no details of their contributions or personalities. The only notable exception to this is Robert Oppenheimer and General Groves. The author admits as such in the afterword. It is a good read for someone who is interested in the history and science of making the atomic bomb.

Joanna says

"All this work, whether it's lining up dominoes or enriching uranium, builds toward one single moment: the moment when what was once impossible becomes unavoidable. In that moment the logic of the chain reaction takes over. The fire will only stop when there is nothing left to burn."
-From Trinity, page 51

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm is a graphic telling of how the bombs that were released over Hiroshima and Nagasaki were released. The story starts with Marie Curie and her husband discovering polonium and radium, and Ernest Rutherford's discovery of the nucleus. Fetter-Vorm includes a lot of scientific information such as atomic structure and the properties of different elements. All of this information enriches his story telling, and helps the reader have a better understanding of the work that went into creating the bombs and the resulting destruction.

Moving forward, the key players in the Manhattan Project are introduced: General Leslie Groves, J. Robert

Oppenheimer, and a few others. The level of secrecy of the project is described in detail, as is the large scale: 80,000 people at 4 different locations were involved. Also, the difficulties the scientists faced when creating the atom bombs were included. Things such as separating uranium 238 and uranium 235, and drilling holes in bomb detonators to get rid of air bubbles. The narrative quickly moves on to the test detonations, the decision to bomb Japan, and the aftermath.

I felt Trinity was an excellent and accessible way to learn about the development of the atomic bomb. Fetter-Vorm clearly described the excitement felt in creating something new that would end a war, as well as the terror felt when the bombs were dropped and the level of destruction was realized. There were pages that I read several times over because of how powerful I thought they were. The illustrations were great. They helped with understanding the science aspect of the book, and helped convey feelings during the bomb detonation scenes.

Basically, I loved this book. I had no desire to put it down and read it straight through. It was informative and entertaining. I learned about history and science, and had a lot to think about when I was done. This is not only a book I would read again, it is one that I plan on adding to my personal collection. And use my own money to do so.

Farhana says

a very good graphical history from the discovery of atoms to the first nuclear bomb (y)

Trudie says

I picked this graphic novel up purely because I needed a "book about technology" for a reading challenge, not a topic I naturally gravitate towards in my reading. I certainly don't think I would have come across this particular book without that nudge.

This is a fantastic discovery for me, the power of graphic novels to tell a story like this in a way that doesn't feel dumbed down, yet neither is it obfuscated in dry facts and dense prose. For readers who shy away from reading non-fiction I think this is a perfect introduction to the fascinating story of The Manhattan Project. It presents the science, history and ethical considerations around the development of the first atomic bomb in a way you can digest in one sitting. The quotes come directly from source documents where possible and the imagery is particularly brilliant at explaining concepts like nuclear fission and isotopes of Uranium. I think even the most scientifically adverse would appreciate the domino analogy used to explain the concept of critical mass. Obviously, if this graphic novel sparks your curiosity for the topic there are more in depth works which are cited for interested readers in the back of the book.

There were certain areas of this story I wanted to know more about, I think some of the politics was glossed over and the aftermath was touched on very briefly. However, on the whole I thought this was exceptional.
