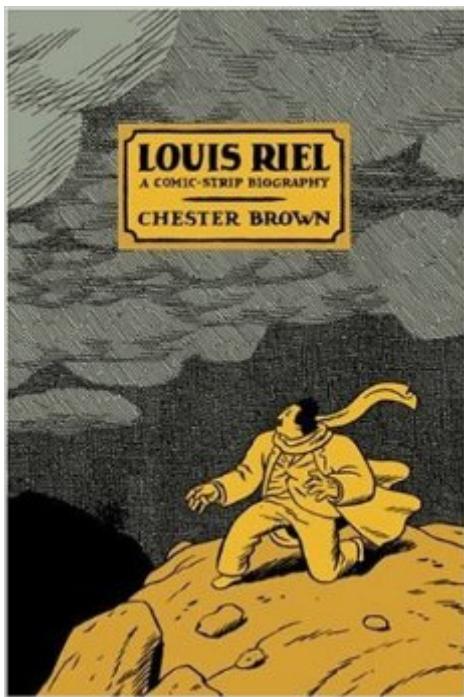


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Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography



Synopsis

"It has the thoroughness of a history book yet reads with the personalized vision of a novel."

â "TimeChester Brown reinvents the comic-book medium to create the critically acclaimed historical biography Louis Riel, winning the Harvey Awards for best writing and best graphic novel for his compelling, meticulous, and dispassionate retelling of the charismatic, and perhaps insane, nineteenth-century MÃ©tis leader. Brown coolly documents with dramatic subtlety the violent rebellion on the Canadian prairie led by Riel, who some regard a martyr who died in the name of freedom, while others consider him a treacherous murderer.

Book Information

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly; 1st edition (August 22, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1894937899

ISBN-13: 978-1894937894

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #521,563 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Canadian #87 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional Canada #102 inÂ Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Drawn and Quarterly

Customer Reviews

Noted Canadian graphic artist Brown here mines his country's less distinguished history to tell the captivating story of Lous Reil, a late 19th-century Metis (mixed French and Indian) leader. The story begins in the 1860s, a time when only a small portion of present-day Canada was actually known by that name, the middle third of present-day Canada (Manitoba and Saskatchewan) was claimed as the property of the British Hudson Bay Company, and the Western third of present-day Canada was claimed by Britain. In the middle of the Hudson Bay Company land, about 50 miles north of the Minnesota border, a loose cluster of English and French parishes known as the Red River Settlement was home to several thousand settlers. When the Canadian government struck a deal with the Hudson Bay Company to purchase their land, it upset the Red River locals. These settlers, many of whom were of mixed French and Indian blood, and some of whom had been there for generations, were concerned (and rightly so) that they would loose their land under this

arrangement. They embarked on a course of self-rule that put them in a state of rebellion against the Canadian government, and the educated, bilingual Louis Riel emerged as their leader. Brown does an admirable job of retelling the fairly complex story of the settlers' 16 year struggle to stave off rule from Ottawa. There's a lot of to-and-fro, as Riel and other key figures move around a lot, including trips to Ottawa, Montreal, Washington, DC, and London. There are also some major time shifts that make the story a bit choppy, but there's no doubt that history comes alive in Brown's hands.

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