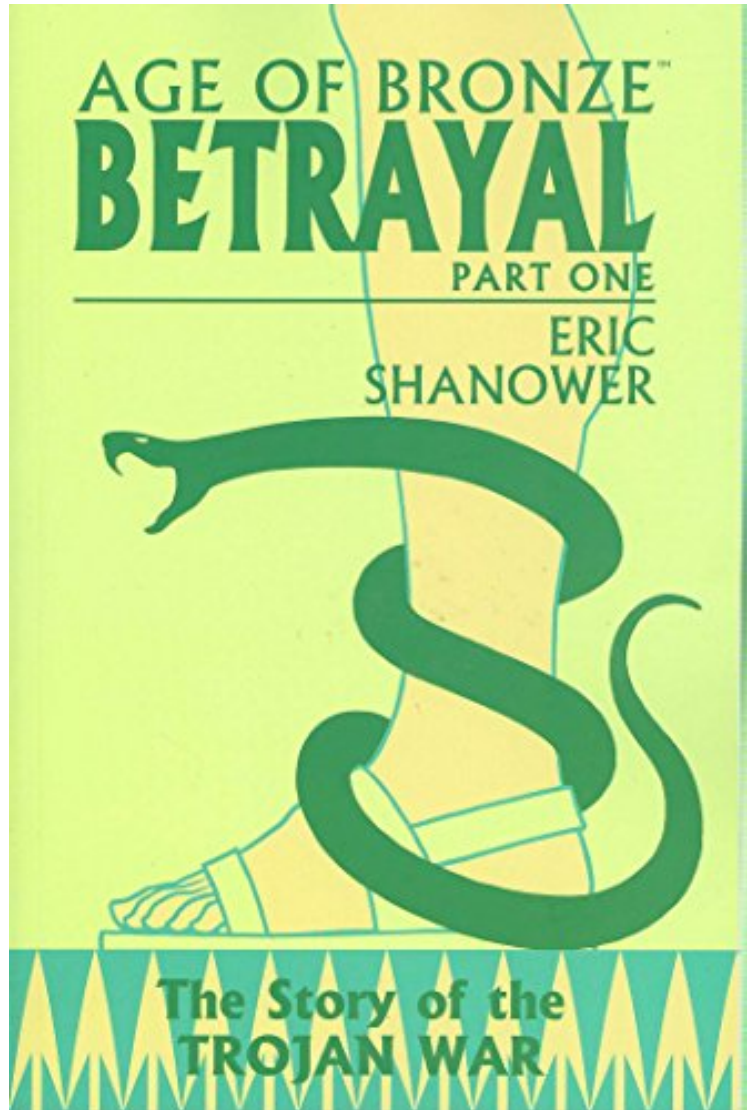


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Age of Bronze, Vol. 3: Betrayal, Part 1

Eric Shanower

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Eric Shanower : Age of Bronze, Vol. 3: Betrayal, Part 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Age of Bronze, Vol. 3: Betrayal, Part 1:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great read By LazylandShanower is sooooo slow getting out the next one. One heck of a good story, and I am relearning my Greek mythology. Thank you Eric. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Astonishing By J. Vincent Never did I think this series could be so good. I would put Age of Bronze with the very best comics ever made... Watchmen, Dark Knight, Sandman, it really is that good. I hope it gets the attention and recognition it deserves. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The disquiet before the

storm...By DJ Joe Sixpack
In this third volume of Eric Shanower's majestic comicbook adaptation of the Trojan War epic, the armies of Troy and Achaia are girding themselves for battle, and although a prophecy has told them it will be a ten-year war, no one knows yet just how gruesome and difficult it will ultimately become. Anyone who has read the original epic as part of a Western Civ class will recognize the detail-heavy, oddly actionless tone of this particular volume -- the classic, mythic stories of Ajax, Hector and Achilles are largely absent here (although they are each part of the giant cast of characters). The main event is a peace delegation that goes to Troy, with Paris and Helen mocking the heartbroken Menelaus, and Odysseus promising a rain of destruction upon Troy as a result. He was right, but we'll have to wait until the next few volumes to see it happen. Despite the relative tedium in this particular volume, Shanower does an amazing job bringing this ancient history to life, and making these dozens of dimly remembered, half-mythical characters stand out as real human beings, filled with a mix of nobility and venality. Once again, any student tackling this material should be overjoyed to come across this adaptation -- it can do wonders to cut through the often obscure, often repetitive, sometimes tedious prose of original text, in its various translations. You can really "get" what's going on with the story in this version. Plus, he draws a pretty dishy Helen. Recommended! (Joe Sixpack, ReadThatAgain book reviews)

High King Agamemnon lusts to conquer the wealthy city of Troy. He leads his army across the sea, fighting all the way. On the island of Tenedos just off the coast of Troy Achilles leads the attack. Spears fly and men die. When the dust settles, Achilles finds himself one step closer to his tragic fate. Meanwhile, the Trojans prepare their defenses and gather allies. Agamemnon's offer of a peace embassy to King Priam reassures few. War appears inevitable. Even Helen dreads to face what lies ahead for her and everyone she loves or once loved.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . In Shanower's latest installment of his monumental, Eisner awardwinning retelling of the Trojan War, the Achaean fleet finally arrives at the shore of Troy. Before the war can begin, the story's many vivid characters get another chance to display their natures, including Achilles impulsively pursuing glory, young Troilus yearning over Cressida, Hektor preaching reasonable compromise in an impossible situation, slippery Odysseus orating, and Helen and Paris so besotted with each other and themselves that they'll let kingdoms drift into ruin. Shanower's people are well drawn in more ways than one, so readers can enjoy picking out the postures and expressions of individuals in a crowd scene. Impressive as the black and white art is, some of the panels are crammed with details, just as the pages are filled with text as the characters have their say. Then, readers notice how cleverly Troilus's lovesick funk is treated in repetitious, mostly silent panels or how subtly the climactic appearance of an Achaean embassy to Trojan King Priam, the last chance to prevent the impending war, is managed with a mixture of closeups and long shots, open line work and encroaching shadows. On all levels, this is a brilliant work. (Jan.)
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From School Library Journal
Grade 10 Up
The many highlights of this book could read like movie credits: original camera placement and lighting; brisk direction and pacing. There is never a dull drawing, and each one carries the excitement and story forward. Shanower captures Helen's beauty in black-and-white images that are rich in design and fine in line. Helen's character, however, is not so lovingly drawn. Her vanity is matched only by the self-absorption of her second husband, Paris, son of Priam and architect of Troy's downfall. Shanower has a talent for drawing facial expressions, and the smug look on Paris's face has readers rooting for Troy's enemies as expressed by Odysseus's spit-spewing venom. The author skillfully weaves together many characters and story lines. Troilus and Cressida make an appearance in the midst of the oncoming war and are featured in an erotic dream tryst with naked breasts (male and female) and bottoms (male). Betrayal also offers a respectable balance of men loving men to go with the more traditional plotlines of men loving women and men killing men. Given the multitude of plots and characters, it is recommended to have the whole series, which is ongoing, available.
Will Marston, Berkeley Public Library, CA
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From Booklist
In an undertaking rivaling the Trojan War itself, Shanower's epic Age of Bronze pushes off into its third collection as King Agamemnon's army sails toward battle with Troy. Combining historical fact and mythology, the six-year (so far) re-telling is a marvel of completeness and complexity. The level of detail makes for an exceedingly dense read at times, but it leaves room for strong character development and insight into the history. Clean, sharp, black-and-white art gives life to the ego and rage of Achilles, the razor intelligence of Odysseus, Paris selfishness and carelessness, and the blinding vanity of Helen (female characters don't come off too well here). Without a battle to close this volume, the climax is a somewhat futile, though still riveting negotiation between King Priam and Agamemnon's envoys, giving evidence of Shanower's grasp of and love for the history and his ability to make it come alive. A record breaker for supplemental material, the book includes a detailed synopsis, maps, genealogies, a vast bibliography, and more. Grades 9-12. --Jesse Karp