The story of Nat Turner and his slave rebellion—which began on August 21, 1831, in Southampton County, Virginia—is known among school children and adults. To some he is a hero, a symbol of Black resistance and a precursor to the civil rights movement; to others he is monster—a murderer whose name is never uttered.

In Nat Turner, acclaimed author and illustrator Kyle Baker depicts the evils of slavery in this moving and historically accurate story of Nat Turner’s slave rebellion. Told nearly wordlessly, every image resonates with the reader as the brutal story unfolds.

This graphic novel collects all four issues of Kyle Baker’s critically acclaimed miniseries together for the first time in hardcover and paperback. The book also includes a new afterword by Baker.

“A hauntingly beautiful historical spotlight. A-” —Entertainment Weekly

“Baker’s storytelling is magnificent.” —Variety

“Intricately expressive faces and trenchant dramatic pacing evoke the diabolic slave trade’s real horrors.” —The Washington Post
“Baker’s drawings are worthy of a critic’s attention.”—Los Angeles Times

“Baker’s suspenseful and violent work documents the slave trade’s atrocities as no textbook can, with an emotional power approaching that of Maus.”—Library Journal, starred review

My Personal Review:
For Kyle Baker, Nat Turner represents a new era of depth and artistic vision. Before, there was no cartoonist wittier but now Baker has taken his talents another step forward by producing one of the most moving graphic novels in print.

I imagine there's a temptation to take an historic event this dramatic, one that starts and ends with heart-rending horror, and tie it up neatly with a cute moral or explanation. Thankfully, Baker offers neither and allows us to think for ourselves about the events described.

From a technical standpoint, the book is a marvel. A massive, moving work told almost completely without dialogue... a technique that enhances the mood rather than squelching it.

Thanks, Kyle, for Nat Turner. The bar has been raised in biographical cartooning.

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