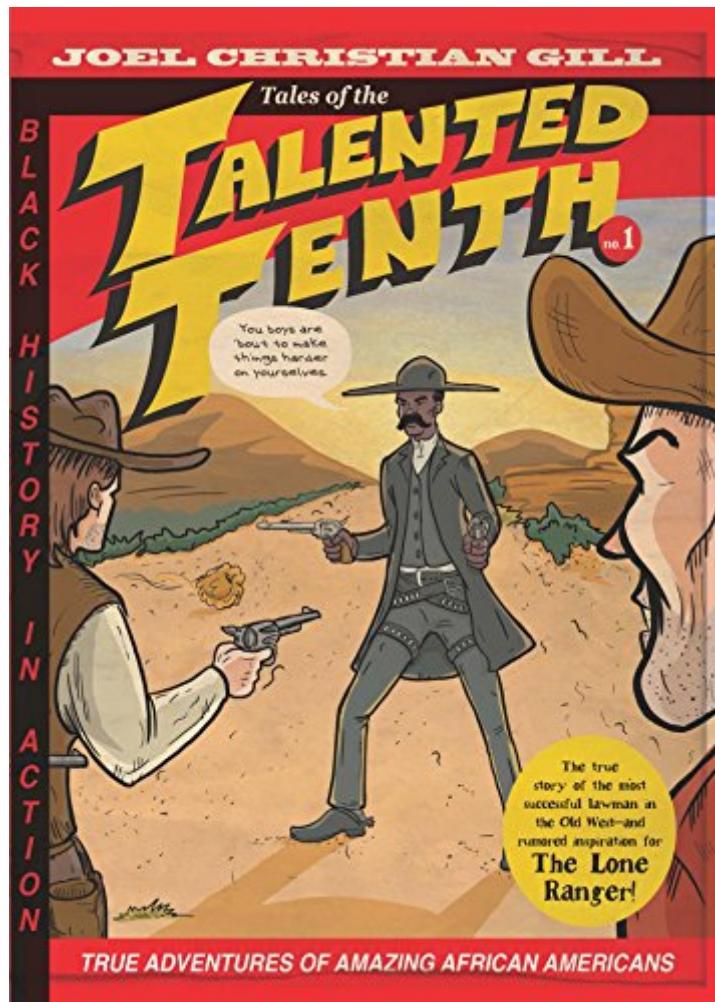


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# Bass Reeves: Tales Of The Talented Tenth, Volume 1



## **Synopsis**

Bass Reeves: Tales of the Talented Tenth tells the story of Bass Reeves, an escaped slave who became one of the most successful lawman of the old west and the rumored inspiration for The Lone Ranger. Volume I chronicles his life from winning shooting matches in early childhood to traveling with his master, living with Native Americans in Indian Territory, and finally becoming a Deputy US Marshal. The Tales of the Talented Tenth series will feature stories about black history in action. Joel Christian Gill is the chairman, CEO, president, director of development, majority and minority stock holder, manager, co-manager, regional manager, assistant to the regional manager, receptionist, senior black correspondent, and janitor of Strange Fruit Comics. In his spare time he is the chair of foundations at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and member of The Boston Comics Roundtable. His secret lair is behind a secret panel in the kitchen of his house (sold separately) in New Boston, New Hampshire, where he lives with his wife, four children, talking dog, and two psychic cats.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Purchased this for my grandson after hearing an interview with the author. Before receiving this graphic novel, my grandson loved to be read to, but was lukewarm about reading on his own. He

actually begged to be allowed to take it into bed with him to continue reading.

Wonderful biography of the black US Marshall, born a slave, who became the most successful lawman of the West and legend has it the stories of the Lone Ranger are based on him. The author's previous book, Strange Fruit, contains a mini-biography on Bass Reeves and this book takes the same story, expounds upon it and fills in more details. Bass led an adventurous life starting off as a slave, living several years with Natives, fighting for the North during the Civil War and finally becoming a US Marshall. An interesting concept used for this book, that I think is quite successful in conveying the racism of the time without using the degrading language is the using of pictographs. Whenever a black man is being referred to as, obviously the n-word, there is a little drawing of a racist blackface type head, also for Indians whenever they are being referred to as perhaps redskins or savages, there is a little drawing of the head of a chief in feathered headdress. For those of us who know the words that were used, the images bring them to mind, for the younger readers who haven't experienced these racist terms, the words aren't introduced and yet they know "bad" or mocking words are being used. An interesting, informative and exciting tale of a man not that well known to history. Looking forward to seeing who the next volume will be about.

Great and original rendering of a largely unknown Western Hero. I was delighted to see an illustrated version of Bass Reeve's story. It would be nice to see Joel Christian Gill put together a treatment for a film of Reeve's exploits. I'm surprised that Tarantino didn't tell his "true" story, instead of patching together an Italian Western version of an African American Gunfighter. The artwork and story telling are original, as well as beautifully arranged. Almost ran into the author "literally" at Tony's store in Harvard Square. Looking forward to more from this talented writer/artist.

This was a well written graphic novel. I enjoyed it greatly. I didn't know he existed until a few weeks ago. There are still heroes out there we do not know about. He seems to be the original basis for the "Lone Ranger."

This story was intriguing. A piece of history unveiled. I loved the use of the raven and, for want of a better word, the emoji's to substitute for the N-word. It was clear to me as an adult reading what that emoji meant, but without the vulgarity of the actual word. The progression of the story and flashbacks made it easy to follow and see that even though decades pass, the story repeats itself. A must read for anyone interested in Black History.

I'm using this now in a 7-8th grade classroom for summer school in my classroom library. The students LOVE graphic novels, and this is culturally relevant and engaging to my students.

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