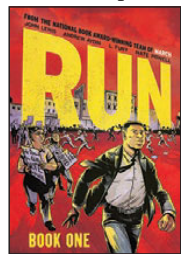


Knock Out! The True Story of Emile Griffith.By Reinhard Kleist. Illus. by the author.
Tr. by Michael Waaler.July 2021. 160p. SelfMadeHero, paper, \$22.99
(9781910593868). 741.5.

Emile Griffith was a Caribbean teenager working in a hat factory in New York when his boss took him to see his trainer friend. Thus began the professional boxing career of Griffith, who would become world champion in three separate weight classes. As we follow the story behind his accomplishments, we see how he was affected by homophobia, most notably in his famous bout against Benny Paret, who taunted Griffith with a slur before the match. Griffith knocked out Paret, who died 10 days later. The book is relayed through Griffith's memories, as his older self shares them with a ghost who appears after he is attacked. The narration succeeds in feeling intimate for the reader as Griffith's guilt over Paret's death is explored, along with the pressure he felt as a bisexual man trying to get by in the sports world. Kleist's (*The Boxer*, 2014; *An Olympic Dream*, 2016) illustrations are dark and raw, fitting for life in the city during the 1950s and '60s. —Suzanne Temple

★ **Run: Book One.**By John Lewis and Andrew Aydin.
Illus. by L. Fury and Nate Powell.Aug. 2021. 160p. Abrams ComicArts, \$24.99
(9781419730696). 741.5.

Lewis, Aydin, and Powell's stirring March trilogy continues in this first installment in a follow-up series tracing Lewis' life and career after the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Lewis is dedicated to but exhausted by his role as chairman of SNCC, and after the success of their earlier actions, the committee is wondering what to do next. Divisions hinted at in the March books bear fruit here, as a schism develops between factions in favor of more direct action and Lewis' commitment to nonviolence, especially as protests against the draft escalate. This is a wordy graphic novel, with abundant speech balloons and voice-overs offering insight into Lewis' motivations, but such a complicated moment in civil rights history deserves this kind of exploration. Particularly poignant is the focus on the limitations of the Voting Rights Act, which did nothing to stop violence directed at Black people or end systemic racism—facts all too relevant to today's current events. Fury balances those words with meaningful scenes, and her faces are expressive and distinct, helping with this volume's lengthy roster of characters. This is a fantastic choice for classrooms, though readers should be familiar with the March trilogy before diving in. Apart from the educational components,

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Spotlight on Biography & Memoir

Art from *Harriet Tubman: Toward Freedom.*

Youth

Harriet Tubman: Toward Freedom.

By Whit Taylor. Illus. by Kazimir Lee.

June 2021. 112p. Little, Brown, \$19.99
(9780759555501); paper, \$12.99 (9780759555518).
Gr. 5–8. 741.5.

The reliable Center for Cartoon Studies Presents series here offers an account of Harriet Tubman's life and work, beginning with her conversations with William Still in 1850. The bulk of the story dramatizes one rescue, during which she escorted her brothers to Canada. Lee's gentle pinks and purples, along with the cartoonishly rounded yet deeply expressive faces, are in compelling contrast to the genuine peril of their escape, but the focus remains squarely on Tubman's quiet, steely heroics rather than the brutality of the conditions they were fleeing. Apart from the biographical interest, Taylor's script is rich in tension and character, cultivating a dynamic story that reads like fiction, and though the scope is narrow, it allows for a more in-depth exploration of Tubman's character and motivations. A handy reference guide in the back matter offers more detailed information about some of the people and places featured in the story, along with other context-building notes and resource lists. This solid biography is a natural choice for classrooms, but it should find a ready audience among more casual readers, too. —Sarah Hunter

Just Pretend.

By Tori Sharp. Illus. by the author.

2021. 320p. Little, Brown, \$24.99 (9780316538893);
paper, \$12.99 (9780316538855). Gr. 6–8. 741.5.

In this coming-of-age memoir, Tori is finishing up her eighth-grade year dealing with a variety of tough situations with her family and friends. Tori lives most of the time with her mom and twin siblings and spends some nights and weekends with her dad, since her parents are divorced. Both of her parents are busy with so many things, however, that she often feels overlooked. She finds comfort in a fantasy story she's writing, which appears within the larger narrative and reflects the struggles she's going through in her life, especially when she feels like she doesn't fit in. Full of the challenges of family, school, and friends, this is a book that will likely resonate with plenty of teens and tweens. The bright, colorful artwork features easy-to-follow paneling and clearly lettered speech balloons, and an afterword clarifies a few fictionalized portions of the story and ties up some loose ends, along with a few pages of back matter. Hand to fans of Shannon Hale, Raina Telgemeier, or Maria Scrivan. —Traci Glass

this will speak powerfully to anyone trying to make sense of their own values in the face of wider movements and calls to action.

—Sarah Hunter

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: March trilogy books are some of the most recognizable graphic novels of the past few decades, thanks to scores of awards, so anticipate a lengthy hold list.

YAJC: *Teens eager for a deep dive into the intricacies of the civil rights movement could do no better than this personal account from one of its preeminent figures. SH.*

We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration.

By Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura. Illus. by Ross Ishikawa and Matt Sasaki.

2021. 160p. Chin Music, paper, \$19.95
(9781634059763). 741.5.

Three months after the Pearl Harbor bombings, rumors of racist mass eviction became reality when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, unlawfully condemning 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent into concentration camps across the western U.S. Following political leaders spouting conspiracy theories and manipulated by the Japanese American Citizens League, the majority of Japanese Americans followed evacuation orders, sacrificing businesses, homes, and their very freedom to live within barbed-wired prisons. Journalist/activist Abe and historian/writer Nimura deftly upend the compliant narrative with impeccably documented stories of resistance and rebellion. Three major voices drive the inspiring history: Seattle college student Jim Akutsu, who witnesses his father's unlawful arrest and refuses to be drafted from prison camp; California high-school graduate Hiroshi Kashiwagi renounces his citizenship to keep his family together; California typist Mitsuye Endo takes her lawsuit to the Supreme Court. Their individual accounts are graphically enhanced by illustrators Ishikawa and Sasaki, who provide distinct artistic identities. Made urgent yet again, the trio's courageous refusals to accept the U.S.—their!—government's heinous miscarriage of justice should irrefutably embolden new generations. —Terry Hong

YAJC: *The three major voices here are all young adults, ranging from 19–21 in 1942; their collective history will resonate with older teens. Also highly recommended for high-school and college classrooms. TH.*