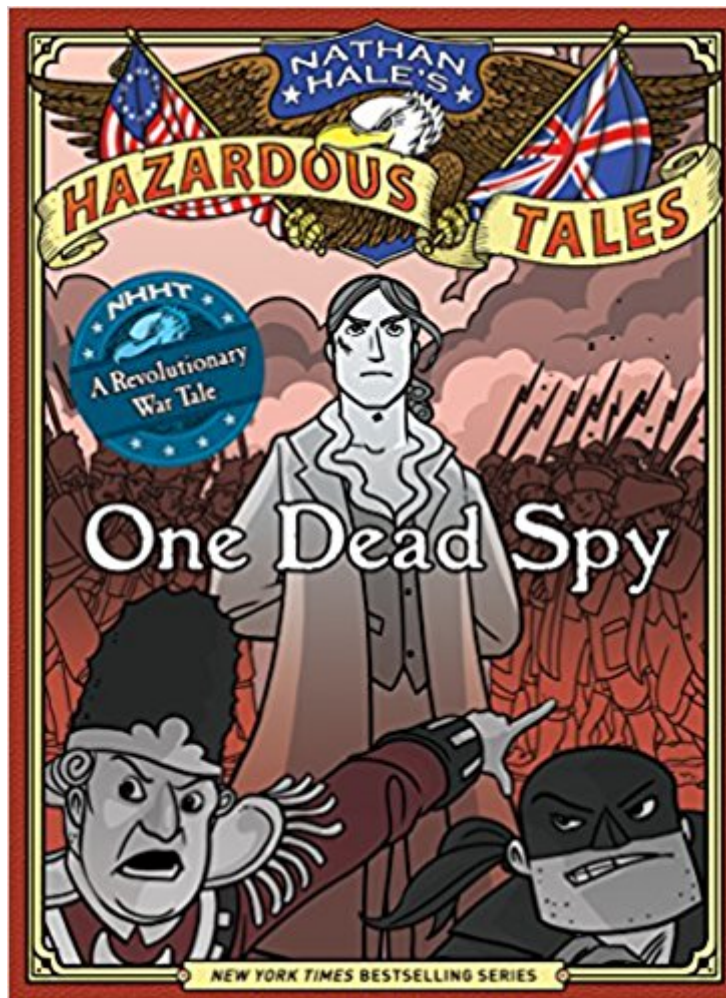




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# One Dead Spy (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #1)



## Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller Nathan Hale, the author's historical namesake, was America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format. One Dead Spy tackles the story of Hale himself, who was an officer and spy for the American rebels during the Revolutionary War. Author Hale highlights the unusual, gruesome, and just plain unbelievable truth of historical Nathan Hale from his early unlucky days at Yale to his later unlucky days as an officer and America during the Revolutionary War. Praise for Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy "An innovative approach to history that will have young people reading with pleasure." Kirkus Reviews "Readers interested in American history will enjoy these graphic novels... Comic panels of varying sizes enhance the real-life events and support the stories... over-the-top humor... the writing is accessible and entertaining; author Hale's style gives readers an insider-y, you-are-there-type scoop." Horn Book

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN270L (What's this?)

Series: Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Amulet Books; First Edition edition (August 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 141970396X

ISBN-13: 978-1419703966

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 90 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #9 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary #25 in Books > Children's Books > Humor > General

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 3-8-One Dead Spy begins as Nathan Hale is about to be hanged. He was not a very good spy. But in the hands of Nathan Hale, the present-day graphic novelist, he makes an excellent narrator. American history is hilarious in these lively, rigorously researched, visually engaging stories.

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Nathan Hale is the illustrator of the graphic novel *Rapunzel's Revenge*, which was an AL Roker Book Club for Kids selection, an ALA Notable Book, and a YALSA Great Graphic Novel for Teens and earned three starred reviews. He is also the illustrator of several picture books. He lives in Provo, Utah, with his wife and their two children.

I've been a fan of Nathan Hale's for a while. Nathan Hale the author and illustrator, not the patriot, although you could be pardoned the confusion. I loved his illustrations for the graphic novels "*Rapunzel's Revenge*" and "*Calamity Jack*," and his picture book "*Yellowbelly and Plum*" was one of my sons' favorites. Hale's current series has moved him to the top of my list. In 2012 Nathan Hale and Amulet Books started a series of graphic novels based on American History, under the banner (literally) "*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*." The first book in the series is "*One Dead Spy*," and it and the following books are interesting, easy to follow, and downright entertaining. I'm buying every one of them. "*One Dead Spy*" is about Nathan Hale (the patriot), executed in 1776, at the very beginning of the American Revolution. The 128-page hardcover comic begins with Manhattan in flames, and a whistling Hangman bringing a noose to a gallows. He shoos a bald eagle away, and prepares Nathan Hale to be hanged. They're soon joined by a British Officer, and these three will be the narrators for the rest of the book. Given an omniscient overview of American History, Hale sees what the destiny of the country is, and even though things look grim for the colonists (and more especially for Hale personally) in September 1776, he knows that there's a brighter future. He proceeds to tell the Hangman and British Officer all about the American Revolution, focusing on the first year, and Hale's role in it. Nathan Hale makes a good narrator for the years 1775-76, and his path crosses with the likes of George Washington, Henry Knox, Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, General Howe and other notable heroes and villains of American History. The author uses these interactions to tell the key events of the revolution, including the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, the

Battle of Bunker Hill (and Breed Hill), the Boston Massacre, and the Declaration of Independence. He leaves a lot of things untold, telling more of his tales in future volumes, but gives us enough information to make this book a solid read. As a parent, a history teacher, a geek, and a promoter of graphic novels, I frigging love this series. I enjoy the humor and the menace in *One Dead Spy*—even as the Hangman provides comic relief, you can’t forget that the real narrator, Nathan Hale, was executed. Some of the humor is in asides, some is in telling the truths of history that are often left out of the dry history books. The illustrations are cartoony but excellent, with no confusion about who’s who in the course of the story. Hale (the author) also doesn’t shy away from telling us when people suffered and died, making this more mature reading than you might expect. I loved it.

My son has been a huge history and comic book buff since he learned to read last year. He is an avid reader - whatever he can get his hands on. I bought this for him thinking he might be a little young still but I was wrong. He has been reading this, *Big Bad Ironclad* and Hale’s newer WWI book over and over and over again. He sleeps with them, they come in the car so he can read them on the way to school and on the way back home. Clearly, Nathan Hale is an entertaining writer. The only one we decided not to buy him yet is *The Donner Party* because of the subject matter (we’ll wait until he’s a little older to get this one). According to my son, Nathan Hale’s books get 5 stars.

We’ve been searching for books to catch our 3rd grade son’s attention, and this series is it! He can’t get enough of it, we’ve read all of the books in this series repeatedly. Its educational, and entertaining with a bit of an edge to it. We’ve found it excellent for a young reader who wants more adult topic material. He uses this book series as inspiration for school projects. I can’t praise the series enough. Thanks Nathan Hale (author and spy!).

In *One Dead Spy*, historical figure Nathan Hale, America’s first spy, tells the story of his life and the American Revolution. The novel brings readers that feeling of “being there” and relates real-life historical events with humor. The illustrations are sepia toned with some red thrown in, as in the uniforms of the British army. This graphic novel is well written, with lots of facts, and humor too. Kids will enjoy learning about history and laughing at the same time. :)

This and any other in the series are excellent for both voracious and reluctant readers. My 3

children, ages 7-13, fight over every single title in this series--even if they have read it 3x before. The plot drives, the dialogue rewards, and the pictures keep it all straight...and history is given a visual place holder for future information to hang on.

It was one of the lists for my daughter's "Battle of Books" competition for high elementary school graders.

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