



King: A Comics Biography, Special Edition

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This special edition of a Fantagraphics classic is now being offered at a special price.

Ho Che Anderson has spent over 10 years researching, writing, and drawing *King*, a monumental graphic biography that liberates Martin Luther King Jr. from the saintly, one-dimensional, hagiographic image so prevalent in pop culture. Here is King's father, husband, politician, deal broker, idealist, pragmatist, inspiration to millions—brought to vivid, flesh-and-blood life.

Out of print since 2006, *King* is Fantagraphics' most-requested reprint. In recognition of the advances made in American social equality that has made it possible to elect America's first black President, Fantagraphics Books is publishing *King: The Special Edition*, a newly designed volume that includes the original 240-page graphic biography, as well as nearly a hundred additional pages of "extras," including:

- "Black Dogs" is a 14-page prelude to *King*, a dialogue between a young black couple expecting a child, living in LA in the aftermath of the Rodney King upheaval, a raw and inflected conversation between husband and wife and their racial attitudes in a post-King world;
- Excerpts from the diary and notebook the author kept when researching and writing *King*, with interstitial notes written specifically for this volume commenting on the method he used to conceive and execute the book;
- Preparatory sketches, discarded images and pages, an interview conducted at the time of the third volume's publication, and excerpts from the draft of the script;
- An epilogue titled "Assassin," written and drawn for this new edition, in which Anderson explores the question of whether James Earl Ray actually shot King. Caroline Longstreet, one of the observers who comments on King's life throughout the book, is obsessed with the assassination, won't let it rest, and pursues her own private investigation and ultimately confronts the reasons why it's held her in its grip so long.

Anderson's biography traces King's life from his childhood in Atlanta and his education at Booker T. Washington High School, and his subsequent centrality to the civil rights movement when, in 1955, he organized the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott; his founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957; his Nobel Prize in 1964; his help in organizing the 1966 March on Washington and his "I Have a Dream" speech; and the tragic moment on April 4, 1968 when he was shot dead on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Anderson's expressionistic visual style is wrought with dramatic energy; panels evoke a painterly attention to detail but whose juxtapositions propel King's story with cinematic momentum. Anderson's successful use of the comics form to tell a major work of nonfiction has drawn favorable comparisons to Art Spiegelman's *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* and Joe Sacco's *Safe Area Gorazde: The War In Eastern Bosnia 1992-1995*. *King* won a 1995 Parents' Choice Award. Full-color throughout

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