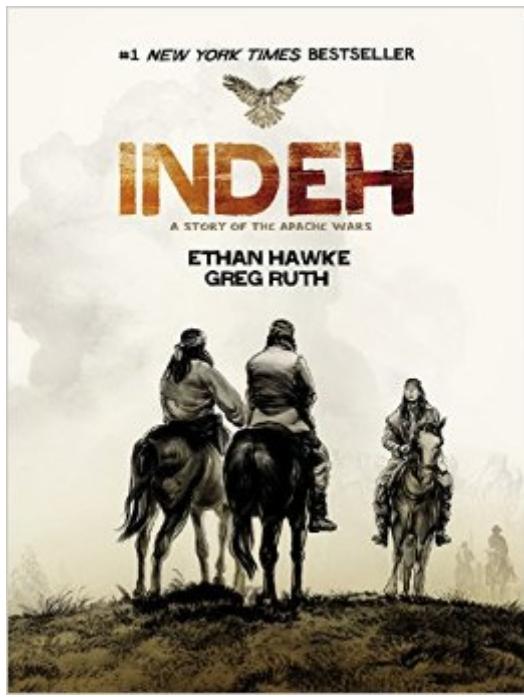


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# Indeh: A Story Of The Apache Wars



## Synopsis

INSTANT #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERThe year is 1872. The place, the Apache nations, a region torn apart by decades of war. The people, like Goyahkla, lose his family and everything he loves. After having a vision, the young Goyahkla approaches the Apache leader Cochise, and the entire Apache nation, to lead an attack against the Mexican village of Azripe. It is this wild display of courage that transforms the young brave Goyakhla into the Native American hero Geronimo. But the war wages on. As they battle their enemies, lose loved ones, and desperately cling on to their land and culture, they would utter, "Indeh," or "the dead." When it looks like lasting peace has been reached, it seems like the war is over. Or is it?INDEH captures the deeply rich narrative of two nations at war-as told through the eyes of Naiches and Geronimo-who then try to find peace and forgiveness. INDEH not only paints a picture of some of the most magnificent characters in the history of our country, but it also reveals the spiritual and emotional cost of the Apache Wars. Based on exhaustive research, INDEH offers a remarkable glimpse into the raw themes of cultural differences, the horrors of war, the search for peace, and, ultimately, retribution. The Apache left an indelible mark on our perceptions about the American West, and INDEH shows us why.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Indeh is a fictionalized, graphic novel account of the Apache-American battles of the 1870s.

Although told primarily from the Apache perspective, time and presence are also given to the non native Americans: from explorers to settlers to US government troops, The Apache faced what

would be later recognized as an unstoppable onslaught. But notable is that neither the whites nor the Apache are vilified here - both were pushed and pushed back and performed terrible acts as a result. The introduction by author Hawke notes that this was a labor of love he wished to one day turn into a movie. That falling through, the concept was fleshed out through the work of illustrator Greg Ruth. His clean black and white work complements the story perfectly and focuses on reality rather than idealization. There are no pretty characters here, just a lot of misunderstandings, betrayals, and bloodshed. The purpose of the book was to dispel so many of the myths about that time and place - ironically, eschewing Hollywood sentimentality and over-generalizations. For the most part, it succeeds in that we have a balanced view of terrible acts committed by both sides. E.g., an Apache will just as quickly shoot an unarmed friend for trying to talk sense about a situation - as an American soldier will lie and betray in order to put down the 'Apache menace'. Where it fails is that we still have underpinnings of 'Indian mysticism' - e.g., Apache talking to animals and knowing their time of death. For me, I respected that this wasn't preachy and set out the story in a straightforward fashion that clearly was based on historical evidence and facts. The story did not drag and there were great moments of pathos throughout. The artwork was beautiful and something to be enjoyed rather than glossed over. Great for both its historical perspective as well as a good story. If I rate this 4 rather than 5 stars, it is because I felt the great stories lacked cohesion a bit and were too scattershot. I highly recommend *Indeh*. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

4.5 of 5 Stars

Full Disclosure: I got this book for free from a Goodreads Giveaway in exchange for an honest review.

Second disclosure: I didn't really read the description of the book before I entered the giveaway. I saw that it was a history book, and clicked. As such, I was immensely surprised when a beautifully illustrated graphic novel showed up on my doorstep a few days later.

*Indeh* is a work of art. Greg Ruth's black and white images are beautifully done and arrestingly composed. There is so much detail to each panel, whether in the subtleties of expression in a character close up, or in the grim background details of a two page spread depicting a massacre. You feel yourself lingering on each page, soaking in as much as you can.

As to the story, Ethan Hawke (yes, that one. No "Gattaca" jokes, please) brings us the story of Goyahkla, later to be known as Geronimo, as the Apache people struggle to survive a war against the grinding machine of the American Army. The story is based on real events, though I am (I'm ashamed to say) unfamiliar with the Apache Wars. For those history-minded folks like me, Hawke provides a decent bibliography at the end of the book, allowing the reader to dive deeper in the story if they want. I expect I'll be reading quite a few

of these books in the future. (As an aside, I love it when authors do this, even in fiction. The most recent example that comes to mind is the gloriously dark *The Trench Angel* by Michael Keenan Gutierrez) The narrative of "Indeh" is told primarily from the Apache point of view, focusing primarily on the deeds of Geronimo and Naiches (son of the Apache Chief). There are occasional flips over to the point of view of the American army officers tasked with subduing and "pacifying" the Apache, but this story is meant to be a primarily Apache one. In my view, the central Apache characters are treated well by Hawke. The Apache are eminently sympathetic; after all, their land, culture, and people are being systematically crushed by an armed force that considers them nuisances and savages. But Hawke doesn't fall into the trap of resting with the "noble savage" or "spiritual warrior" trope that so many (white) authors seem to. His Apache characters are sympathetic, and they are brutal. They are heroes, and they are ruthless. In other words, they are fully, simply, human. They are not perfect, but they are doing all they can to preserve their people and way of life. In the afterward, Hawke tells us that *Indeh* started as a failed screenplay. It seems that Hollywood felt that a movie about the Apache Wars, with a primarily Native American cast, would never get off the ground. From this disappointment, the book was born. I am glad this story is out there in this form. The visceral style of Ruth's illustrations paired well with the brutal realities of war, and the story, advanced through dialogue rather than exposition, is engaging. After reading "*Indeh*," I think there might be a market for narrative historical graphic novels (raise your hand if you'd like to see *The Devil in the White City* turned into a graphic novel). I also wonder if this would be a good medium for native artists to get these histories out in the public sphere. As I've said, Hawke does a wonderful job of telling this story from an Apache viewpoint, but I do wonder how an Apache author or artist would have told it. In sum, this is a great afternoon's read (and on top of that, you'll probably learn something). If you're into history, graphic novels, or war stories, this is probably a good bet for you. Just be warned that due to the limitations of the medium, Hawke has to simplify or skip over some bits, so you'll probably find yourself moving to the bibliography afterward, looking for more.

So much I did not know so much more I didn't realize about the struggles of the Apache Nation. A story of our history, of our Nations history told from a perspective unknown to most of us and I'm curious as to why. This book is written as it should be as the story is told through the eyes and heart of not a white eye but a true Apache.

This book was never intended to be a children's book ! - Other reviews already highlight the contents of the book. I would just add that this book highlights the contents that are in very many

other books, along with points in time of real american history ( the ones not taught in schools ). anybody can research, if they want, certain historical ideas represented in this book. I have read way/way many books than I care to list, along with Online history documents and stories. It was great to see a lot of content detailed in an easy book format, and first thought when reading it was, "gorgeous" - i am sure some will say it is very graphic, but you can say the same of most movies, or even tv shows. you can't pretty up certain parts of history. in the same way that you can not pretty up war ! - Only complain would be about the spanish sections in the book, should have input translation notes about what was being said ( for those of you who do not understand spanish ) but I wouldn't deduct anything because of that. It still earns an excellent rating from me. Great to see something like this written in this current time period of 2016

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