



Cow Boy: A Boy and His Horse

Nate Cosby , Chris Eliopoulos (Illustrations)

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Justice ain't got no age..

Nate Cosby (Pigs, Jim Henson's The Storyteller) and Chris Eliopoulos (Franklin Richards, Misery Loves Sherman) present Cow Boy, the story of a young bounty hunter determined to send his entire outlaw family to jail. He travels the Old West on a horse that ain't his, and won't stop 'til every one'a his kin's in the clink. Also included are short stories by the likes of Roger Langridge (The Muppet Show), Brian Clevinger and Scott Wegener (Atomic Robo), and Mike Maihack (Cleopatra in Space) and Colleen Coover (Jim Henson's The Storyteller).

Cow Boy: A Boy and His Horse Details

Date : Published May 23rd 2012 by Archaia (first published April 10th 2012)

ISBN : 9781936393671

Author : Nate Cosby , Chris Eliopoulos (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 96 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Westerns, Fiction, Adventure, Humor, Childrens, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Cow Boy: A Boy and His Horse for online ebook

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

This is one cowboy you don't want to mess with! A cross between Charlie Brown and High Plains Drifter!

Rikki says

First of all, this book is gorgeous. Do yourself a favor and get this hardcover as soon as you can. Before I even started reading, I took a few minutes just to look at.

This book isn't the sort of thing you expect it to be. Chris Eliopolis's style is cute and cartoony so you kind of expect the book to have that sort of tone. It doesn't. Boyd Linney, despite his small size and cuteness, is force to be reckoned with. He is a serious child in a serious world and it's best not to turn your back on him or get in the way of his mission.

Boyd is a bounty hunter. A reasonably good egg from a family full of rotten ones. And instead of doing wrong like they do, he chooses to right their wrongs and turn his kin into the law. He does this in some surprisingly clever way. This story should be ridiculous but it isn't. You feel for Boyd and you want him to succeed.

Boyd Linney isn't perfect. He's full of anger and he makes a mistake that is kind of heartbreaking. But this character makes so much sense and Nate Crosby makes him so believable that you want nothing more than to see him prevail (and get a big hug).

Maria says

"Justice ain't got no age" is the perfect tag line for Cow Boy, a new all ages comic about a ten year old boy in the Wild West. As the introductory page explains, "Boyd's exploits ain't for those with weak bellies and genteel dispositions.." Good thing I don't know any kids like that! Written by Nate Cosby and illustrated by Chris Eliopoulos, and published by Archaia, Cow Boy will appeal to kids and adults alike.

The Cow Boy himself, Boyd, is introduced as he heads off to capture his first bounty, Dub Linney. As the storyline unfolds, we learn that each bounty on his list is actually a member of his family, and Dub is his father. Boyd's sense of justice overrides any family ties, though, and his fierce independence requires him to take them in, one by one.

Boyd's voice shines through from the very first line, "Bounty huntin's simple. A man done wrong. You get that man." I found myself reading his words out loud, just to hear him speaking. His voice was incredibly appealing to the two boys in my own house, and I'm excited to find out what my students think about it in the fall. The writing could also be a wonderful model for students on how dialect enhances character development, if teachers wanted to use a portion as a mentor text.

Boyd stands up for his beliefs, and he's a charming little rogue while he does it. I heard echoes of some of my favorite scoundrels in many of his lines. Like Han Solo, he tosses down some coins and apologizes for the trouble he's caused. With each story in the book, we get small glimpses into Boyd's past. It's clear his sense of fair play wasn't inherited or taught at home. Kids will love his spunk and commitment to his ideals.

The art is a perfect match for the story. The simple lines, wonderful lettering, and slightly washed out colors gives it a rugged feel, and every picture feels like I've jumped into the old West. Even the end papers and the appearance of faded leather on the cover add to the overall experience of becoming a Wild West bounty hunter. The panels flow easily from one to the next; making it a graphic novel even a new fan of the format could follow with ease.

The book is labeled E for everyone, and recommended to kids second grade and up. While Boyd does carry what looks like a rifle in the shape of a ride on horse, he refers to it as a "pea shooter with a loud holler", and none of the gun fights have casualties.

Nate and Chris took a huge risk and released most of the content for free online at Cowboycomic.net prior to publication. That content is still available for you to check out for yourself. Their hope was that people who read it would be hooked and want to own a copy. I'll tell you what, it worked for me. I grabbed two copies, and had to fight my sons to get them back to read for this review. I can't wait to bring it to my classroom in the fall, and I'm sure it won't spend very much time on the shelves. Get your very own copy of Cow Boy, by Nate Cosby and Chris Eliopoulos.

Brad says

Cow Boy is awesome.

I heard about it on Comics Alliance and again during Nate Cosby's interview on War Rocket Ajax. The art is very Calvin & Hobbes-esque, but the story has shades of Watterson too. Remember how Calvin & Hobbes could be oddly serious and deep? The same thing applies here. Yes, this is a cute, fun, all-ages story, but there are moments of genuine sadness. Little Boyd is bringing in his family of outlaws. Worst case scenario is he fails. Best case scenario is his family ends up in prison.

Boyd himself is just a kid, though. And sometimes he makes mistakes. And sometimes he's let down. And it all works because Cosby doesn't talk down to his readers.

And if this isn't enough, there are mini-comics between chapters that are weird, wonderful, and whimsical--everything that comics should be.

Melissa Mcavoy says

This is an odd one. Great illustrations and some deadpan humor that is hilarious. Boyd Linney is a ten year-old bounty hunter, with a rotten family and a score to settle. The dialogue is crisp and the comic timing excellent. This, while visually very appealing to kids is not really for them. I have to agree with another reviewer that commented that the two-page stand-alone comics that appear between chapters don't add, and

actually detract from Cow Boy. The first one knocked it off my must-buy list by picturing a happy ending that will have some children up at night. The other uncomfortable bit, which is at least justified by meaningful content, is a scene in which Boyd interrupts three kids tormenting an African American free-man, who had been illegally taken as a slave and is trying to get back to his family in Philadelphia. There is some interesting stuff here, but it is likely more adult than most 7th and 8th graders can easily process, especially without any context. (Imagine four pages pulled out of one of the Asian stereotype scenes in American Born Chinese: awesome stuff, but without context has the high likelihood of being misinterpreted and causing offense.

Bottom line: I will need to pass this in front of some kids I know before deciding if it should sit on the shelves. Double thumbs up for grown-ups though.

Rob Kristoffersen says

When someone recommends you check out an “all ages” comic, at least if you’re an adult, some begin to cringe, while others just shove it off entirely. The rest, reminded of their love of Peanuts, and Calvin & Hobbes will embrace it fully unto their own. With similar love, I embraced the pages of Cow Boy: A Boy and His Horse like I would any of the select comics that I do own.

I was fortunate enough to learn of this comic’s existence from War Rocket Ajax, episode 107, where the previously mentioned Nate Cosby was interviewed. Granted, it wasn’t the idea of the comic that drew me to it, but it was the passion with which he spoke about it that guided me to Amazon.com to place a pre-order. My elation grew when I heard it would be released sooner than expected, this coming at a WWE house show I was attending in Syracuse. Phones can be wonderful can’t they?

When I finally received it in the mail, two days ahead of schedule I dove in, impressed with the packaging and such from the start. The story of Boyd Linney, the ten year old bounty hunter, is one that will catch you off guard. How Linney feels and deals with his family is hilarious and tragic all at the same time. Everything about this kid is badass, his horse, his custom gun; Linney feels like Rorschach as a child, with justice on the brain, violence in mind, but a lesser form. He’s also got the walk, talk, and disposition of John Wayne right out of The Searchers.

The graphic novels greatest attribute lies in it’s ability to actually please all readers. The artwork, characters, and plot will appeal to the young readers, but the story’s deeper meaning, similar to those moments going back, re-reading Calvin & Hobbes and discovering those deep life moments, are found here as well. Simply, if you don’t have your family, then who do you have? With a sense of justice similar to Bass Reeves, you only have yourself.

Woven throughout as chapter breaks are great little short stories from varying writers, all of them listed above. The subjects range from underwear, to futuristic cow boy fighting, to a very sweet marriage proposal. These little shorts offer up some great laughs, especially when a penguin steps into one of them.

What Nate Cosby and Chris Eliopoulos accomplish is simple, but powerful: they capture that young spirit of comics, for those who discovered them as a child; this is a great place to start for them. At the same time, it embodies all of the elements that keep adults re-reading Peanuts strips in their local newspapers. Cow Boy has earned it’s place, to be uttered in the same sentence as the aforementioned comics, and it deserves to be discovered by all, young and old, new and common to the comic book world.

Ava Butzu says

Be sure to savor the experience of ambling through this gem. From the tactile experience of the cover to the gorgeous hues and color tints of each section to the terse but emotive language (think "True Grit") to the quirky hand-drawn fonts and onomatopoeic sounds, you will be affected on many levels by reading this book.

And don't be fooled by its seeming simplicity. "Cow Boy" starts and ends with Boyd's adage, "Justice ain't got no age," but upon finishing the book, you'll be catapulted back into Plato's cave, chewing on the cud of what true Justice means in our world. Even Boyd's aggressive line to bullies, "I ain't tired. Let's dance all night," is a loaded gun.

There is much worth considering in these gritty pages about perspective, integrity, and justice, which are hot fires that sear the soul.

Kate Sherry says

From the cover to the book to the very last page, I couldn't stop smiling. The voice of little, rough and tough cowboy Boyd was just so fun to read! His first line even just captures his "ferocious" voice saying, "Bounty huntin's simple. A man done wrong. You get that man." He just seemed like a little boy who likes to put on his dad's work shoes and pretend that he is forty, working at a desk. It was so...endearing...for the most part :) While the book, for me, had an overall just fun and playful feel, there were parts that seemed very mature. Moments of loneliness. Moments of having to choose what was "right"-follow the "law" or family ties. That one was the reason I couldn't give this book five stars. It seemed like such an easy decision for him to choose to follow the law over his family ties and I just wanted to see more love to his family. Maybe that's nit picking; but, hey, it's my opinion right?!

I would still definitely recommend this book and would love to have this in my classroom because the pictures do an awesome job not just supporting the text but carrying on the story line on it's own! Loved little Boyd :)

Sharon Tyler says

Cow Boy: A Boy and His Horse is a graphic novel by Nate Cosby and Chris Eliopoulos which is both suitable and enjoyable for all ages. The hero of this story is a young cowboy taking on the role of bounty hunter. He travels through the wild west on a well trained horse that is not his, and carrying a sidearm unique to him. An added twist to the story is that his bounties are not just random criminals, they are his own family members which all seem bent on leading lives steeped in criminal activity

Cow Boy is truly a graphic novel for all ages. It is fun, with a young hero with no real violence or disturbing moments for the youngest of readers. However, there is also the story of a boy doing the right thing, going against a criminal family, while also leaving the question open to whether he is doing the right thing for revenge rather than for the sake of doing the right thing. There is also the fun of figuring out the

relationships, what happened in the past, and how this young boy is going to come out on top. The artwork has the same blend of simple fun and emotional layers as the story itself.

I highly recommend Cow Boy to graphic novel fans of all ages. I also think readers that have yet to discover how wonderful a graphic novel can be when done right, or enjoy graphic novels without the sex and violence that seem inherent to the format, should take a serious look at this book. Cow Boy offers readers all the good things about graphic novels, without the blood, guts, or sex that turn some readers away or being boring or less entertaining without those aspects, so it will truly interest all readers.

Blair says

Initially, the word that sprung to mind as I began to read was "adorable." Please don't interpret this in its patronizing connotation. I mean that in a joy-giving, irrepressible wide grin kind of way. A ten year old bounty hunter on a horse he can't mount without assistance is adorable.

But as I read on, Boyd's backstory and his encounters with his family and with other travelers revealed a child resolved to do the right thing, sticking to his own rigid code of morals while ridding society of his good-for-nothin family members.

There are several moments that tug at your heartstrings and almost make you wish he'd make an exception, just this once. There are many bittersweet moments where his loneliness breaks your heart.

I love the art in the story. The panels give us time to get to know Boyd and to see his reactions and interpret what he's feeling. And the style of art supports the tone of the story. I love the design of the book...Get the hard cover.

The support stories are fun as well, and I enjoyed their placement in the story!

Bonnie says

This graphic novel had an interesting story line that I think could be fitted into many of today's family problems. Here was a boy left to his own care that was tossed out into the pen with the pigs by his brother who didn't want to listen to his cry. This act of disregard was then compounded by the rest of his family and it seemed that eventually at a very young age, he was left to care for himself and straighten out his family problems. The only person that at first seemed to give him joy was his grandfather, who turned out to have taken stolen goods from his mother and that disappointed him and also disillusioned his view of this grandfather. This book would be suited for fifth and sixth grade readers because the pictures and the character's expressions would need to be understood as well as the text. I totally love his rifle that had a horse head stock to it because it showed the tender child inside this gruff, western talking bounty hunter who is determine to clean up the Ole' West of his lawless family.

The Styling Librarian says

Cow Boy A Boy and His Horse A Western Graphic Novel by Nate Cosby and Chris Eliopoulos - tonight I

eagerly sat down with my son to read this book. We had previously enjoyed a few other cowboy books and I personally was excited to have something to link with Rapunzel's Revenge and Calamity Jack (even though it was written for a different age range.) So we read our way through the book. We loved the man missing his underwear and the twists with the little 10 year old bounty hunter. Pretty fun read aloud for us... overall. My main problem as a reader is that it was slightly disjointed. And I sat and compared it with Bad Kitty because in that one there are different voices/transitions as well but I think what I missed was the clear deliniation between the portions/stories in the book with Cow Boy. When I finished the book my son said, huh, that was a weird ending, it wasn't really done was it mom? Yet it was, if you had watched Westerns in the past and know how those leave you hanging a little... I think mostly my son didn't identify with the character having such a strong sense of right and wrong that he brought one particular character in for a bounty. Cow Boy certainly did stay true to the form of a Western but I now am concerned with how it will be received by my graphic novel readers. I enjoyed it, especially with my past experience but I feel like there would be some pre-teaching to appreciate the book vs. interpreting the book on its own. Funny to read other reviews from reader friends I admire on Goodreads, feel like I'm alone in this experience!

Sam Quixote says

Justice ain't got no age...

Set in frontier times, Boyd is a ten year old kid who sets out with his horses - his custom popgun with a horse-head handle and his steed, Cee Cee - to take down the thievin', no-good Linney family and put them behind bars where they belong. Only - the Linney family is his kin! In this first volume, Boyd aims for his paw Dub Linney, his scumbag brother Zeke, and his kindly but greedy grandpa. And they ain't comin' quiet!

I really liked this one. I can't improve on Kurt Busiek's blurb that this is a cross between Frank Miller and Charles Schulz because that is bang on what this comic is. I will say though that it's 80s/early 90s Miller (the good years) and not late 90s/present day Miller (the crazy years). Other comparisons that spring to mind are Calvin & Hobbes (though Calvin imagined stuff like being cowboys and this isn't fantasy to Boyd) and True Grit (though there's no Rooster Cogburn; Boyd's on his lonesome).

Though Frank Miller is a fine comparison, this is an all-ages comic that's totally appropriate and, while Boyd is a tough cookie, he's definitely not a hyper-violent lunatic like many of Miller's protagonists! There are gunfights galore but no blood or any real suffering. A whorehouse is one of the settings but isn't acknowledged as such and a young reader wouldn't guess what it was from its bare depiction. There's no cussin' and slavery is mentioned once but in a smart way that's informative.

Nate Crosby's script is terrific. It's convincing and feels genuinely of its time as well as being engaging for older readers like myself while importantly being accessible for a younger audience too. It certainly doesn't talk down to the reader and aims for straight drama rather than pandering with Disney-esque side characters.

It's also really fun to read aloud. I'd read a page and usually come across a line that tickled me and I'd repeat it to one of my dogs (who both stopped looking up from their sleep after a while - philistines!). I love Boyd's character too. He's a pint-size Judge Dredd who's resourceful and unstoppable but also has moments of vulnerability that show his age.

I particularly liked the scene where Boyd saves a black man from a group of young men hurling rocks at him in a stable. The man explains his situation and how Boyd actually didn't help him because he's now lost his

bedding for the night. It's clever because it highlights the slavery issue of the time in an articulate way while underlining violence as not the answer to situations, but not in a preachy tone. And the scene ends with Boyd crying silently to himself against Cee Cee, his limitations of understanding as a child and that he IS a child devastatingly highlighted. It's such a beautifully written/presented sequence – moments like these are why I read comics.

Chris Eliopoulos' art is fitting for an all-ages book. It does have that Peanuts look to it as well as a touch of Bill Watterson and the characters' faces are especially expressive. Eliopoulos and Crosby work well together with Crosby knowing when to let the art tell the story by not jamming up the action panels with words. Eliopoulos also adopts the traditional grid panel look to emphasise story over style, though he's still able everything he needs to with the space he has.

I would say that while I liked the art, it wasn't too eye-catching or unique and some pages were a bit too soft a touch that didn't leave much of an impression. That and the boring backups written by various writers and artists included at the end were the only flaws with this book.

Otherwise, saddle up for a terrific all-ages wild west adventure with Boyd and Cee Cee! Crosby/Eliopoulos have created a fantastic character in Boyd and this first Cow Boy book is one hell of a start from them. Whether you're a kid or a grown up, this is one "arresting" comic (yuk yuk)!

Skye Kilaen says

Boyd Linney is a bounty hunter. A ten year old bounty hunter. He comes from a family of criminals, and he aims to put them away. At first it seems like a funny comic, and it is, but there are also deep layers of emotion here. Especially in brief flashbacks to Boyd's younger childhood, where it's clear he was abused and neglected. It's not a pain and angst book or presented in an upsetting way, but his history informs his mission. I don't usually go out of my way for Western settings, either in books or movies, but this is such a profound, moving little book and I'm glad I took a chance.

Nick says

This is a great graphic novel, slightly flawed by the varying age range of the short stories included.

The basic premise is that a little boy named Boyd has turned to bounty hunting, with his primary targets the various members of his own family, a criminal bunch. One digression involves finding an escaped slave in a livery stable. That and other parts of this odd story are about the main character's quest, and about growing up in spite of your family.

Thanks to the artwork of Chris Eliopoulos, the story has a visual style that would entertain readers of things like Calvin & Hobbes, but the core of the stories is a bit more serious. One very short text piece tells how Boyd first became a bounty hunter. The graphic segments show various aspects of how despicable his family is. The story is a bit grim, but his quest is intriguing. I think it will appeal to kids who have read Lemony Snicket and other such stories, in addition to ones who like westerns.
