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Dare to Know

Historical Comics

Comics set during a recognizable historical period prior to the time in which they were written.

A genre in which stories take place in the past, typically fifty years before the time of publication. Another common distinction is that the author is writing from research rather than personal experience. These books often center around imaginary characters who experience real historical events and interact with real-life figures. The genre is often enriched by historically accurate details from the specific time period. Indeed, the goal of historical comics is to maintain authenticity around the time period, with a focus on accurately portraying customs, traditions, and events of the time. If anachronisms do occur, their presence is often in service to a narrative purpose. Protagonists could be depicted as being responsible, perhaps secretly, for pivotal moments that affect the historical events in which they become entangled; however, the author will normally not allow them to alter the course of known history. Hal Foster's *Prince Valiant in the Days of King Arthur* (1937-ongoing), Peyo's *Lord Basenhau's Punishment* (1952), Victor Mora and Miguel Ambrosio Zaragoza's *El Capitán Trueno* (1956-1968), and Jean-Michel Charlier and Victor Hubinon's *Barbe-Rouge* (1959) are classic examples.

Common Elements

Authentic periods in history	Plots that mix real situations and fictional events	Vivid descriptions
Real historical places		Realistic characters
Historical conflicts	Accurate dialogue	

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>300</i> (1998) by Frank Miller	<i>The Groo Chronicles Volume 1</i> (1989) by Sergio Aragonés
<i>Age of Bronze: A Thousand Ships</i> (2001) by Eric Shanower	<i>Hark! A Vagrant</i> (2011) by Kate Beaton
<i>Alvar Mayor Book 1: The Legend of El Dorado</i> (2022) by Carlos Trillo and Enrique Breccia	<i>Hicksville</i> (1998) by Dylan Horrocks
<i>Babylon Berlin</i> (2018) by Arne Jysch	<i>The Journey Saga Volume One: Tall Tales</i> (1987) by William Messner-Loebs
<i>Berlin: City of Stones Book One</i> (1996) by Jason Lutes	<i>Laika</i> (2007) by Nick Abadzis
<i>Boxers</i> (2013) by Gene Luen Yang	<i>Northlanders Book One: Sven the Returned</i> (2008) by Brian Wood and Davide Gianfelice
<i>Civil War Adventure</i> (2015) by Chuck Dixon and Gary Kwapisz	<i>Prince Valiant Volume 1</i> (2009) by Hal Foster
	<i>Queen of the Sea</i> (2019) by Dylan Meconis

The Storm in the Barn (2009) by Matt Phelan

Three Volume 1 (2014) by Kieron Gillen,
Ryan Kelly, and Jordie Bellair
