

# CAPTAIN AMERICA

## THE GHOST ARMY

Hello super readers!

What you hold in your hands is the culmination of a lifelong dream of mine.

I've been a huge fan of super hero comics since I was a kid, and I've always wanted to write a comic of my own. One of my first attempts at getting published—long before I was writing novels for young readers—involved schlepping my comic book scripts around to show to editors at comic conventions. My writing career ended up taking a different path. A happy and successful one for sure, but one that looked like it might take me away from comics forever.

Enter Marvel's collaboration with Scholastic to create super hero graphic novels for middle grade readers!

My Spidey-sense was tingling. This could be my chance to write comics! But what could I pitch that would best fit with the middle-grade novels I was already writing for Scholastic? And then I had it—*Captain America and his sidekick Bucky Barnes fighting Nazis in World War II*! And I had a great idea for the story too: Cap and Bucky meet the Ghost Army, a real American unit from World War II made up of artists, actors, sound engineers, and advertising professionals, who used inflatable tanks, giant loudspeakers, fake radio transmissions, and other props and tricks to deceive the Axis powers.

And since this was a super hero comic, Cap and Bucky would end up fighting a *literal* ghost army too!

My editor loved it, Scholastic loved it, Marvel loved it, and—WHAM! BAM! POW!—I was writing a super hero graphic novel! It's got tanks and soldiers and magic and ghosts and super heroes and action and adventure and humor and serious stuff—all the things you can find in my middle grade novels. (Except for the magic and ghosts and super heroes, of course.)

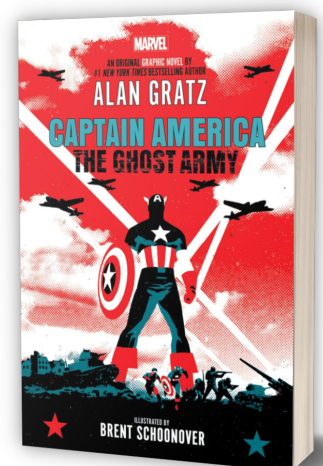
And I couldn't be more thrilled to be writing a Captain America story. I love Cap because he's proud to wear the Stars and Stripes but isn't rah-rah cheerleader for everything America does. Captain America instead represents what we Americans *aspire* to be: courageous yet humble, just but kind, and steadfastly loyal to his friends and allies.

Also, it's a ton of fun when he knocks out three people in one go with his shield.

I hope you love reading *Captain America: The Ghost Army* as much as I loved writing it. For me, at least, it was well worth the wait.



Alan Gratz



 **SCHOLASTIC**

TM & © SCHOLASTIC INC.

On Sale 1/3/2023  
HC: 9781338678857  
PAPERBACK: 9781338775891