



The Plot: The Secret Story of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion (Will Eisner Library (Hardcover))

By Will Eisner

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A work more disturbing than fiction from "the father of graphic novels" (*The New York Times*). "The ultimate illustration of how absurdly comical and cancerous *The Protocols* has been to mankind."—Thane Rosenbaum, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

The Plot, which examines the astonishing conspiracy and the fabrication of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, has become a worldwide phenomenon since its hardcover publication, taught in classrooms around the globe. Purported to be the actual blueprints by Jewish leaders to take over the world, the *Protocols*, first published in 1902, have become gospel truth to international millions. Presenting a pageant of historical figures from nineteenth-century Russia to today's ideologues, including Tsar Nicholas II, Henry Ford, and Adolf Hitler, Will Eisner unravels and dispels one of the most devastating hoaxes of the twentieth century.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Eisner's final graphic novel examines the tangled history of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a piece of anti-Semitic propaganda (with its origins in several generations of libel and plagiarism) that's been circulating for the past century. Eisner, who died earlier this year, was one of the patron saints of American comics, and his artwork improved as he got older. The ink-wash drawings here are among his most exquisite work, and his characters have the kind of grandly expressive, minutely observed body language that was his specialty. But Eisner was a far better cartoonist than a writer, and it's puzzling why an artist who thought as deeply as he did about visual narrative decided to take on a project that has no reason to be a comic book. There's basically nothing interesting for him to draw, and he adds nothing to well-documented history. The core of Eisner's book is an endless scene of two men comparing passages from it with Maurice Joly's *Dialogue in Hell*, from which it was plagiarized; not even the dramatization of their conversation (in a smoky Constantinople cafe) helps. The rest of the work is gorgeous to look at, but suffers from leaden expository dialogue and disastrous pacing, documenting the history of *The Protocols* without successfully understanding its insidious power.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 10 Up—Published posthumously, this history of the *Protocols* is based on new evidence from the post-Soviet opening of the Russian archives. Mathieu Golovinski, a Russian aristocrat exiled in France, wrote the work for the secret police, to convince Czar Nicholas II that Jews were behind the political unrest in Russia and to persuade him to abandon liberal reforms. Golovinski plagiarized *The Dialogues in Hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu* (1864), a satirical essay by French attorney Maurice Joly, implying that Napoleon III's plans for France were Machiavellian. Following the stories of Joly and Golovinski, the scene shifts to Constantinople, where a Russian exile offers to sell copies of the *Dialogues* and the *Protocols* to a reporter from the *London Times*. A comparison of the two documents leads to the publication of an article in 1921 exposing the *Protocols* as a forgery. Despite this revelation, it continued to be used, from the Nazis to Henry Ford to more contemporary hate groups and governments. Eisner appears as a character: researching his book, discussing why the *Protocols* survive despite repeated debunking, and talking to college students who distribute it. The artwork is occasionally over-the-top; one of Golovinski's superiors is a crazed, Rasputin-like caricature. The side-by-side comparison of sections of the *Dialogues* and the *Protocols* is so long that it risks losing readers completely. Despite these flaws, the book is well researched and, for the most part, accomplishes Eisner's goal of making the information available to a wider audience by using a graphic format.—Sandy Freund, Richard Byrd Library, Fairfax County, VA

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From [Booklist](#)

Besides his 1940s Spirit stories and more recent graphic novels depicting American Jewish life, Eisner (1917-2005) produced instructional strips for the army and other clients. In *The Plot*, completed shortly before his death, he employed his mastery of the medium to once again educate readers, this time on a subject of personal concern, the anti-Semitic nineteenth-century forgery, Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which purported to be a plan by Jewish leaders to take over the world. Although debunked long ago, *Protocols* continues to incite new generations of the gullible. By using comics to depict its true provenance as a publication of Russia's secret police to deflect criticism of the government, Eisner hoped to effectively reach audiences most susceptible to its bigoted propaganda. If it is unlikely that the book will achieve

Eisner's intentions--those who want to believe outlandish slander may do so despite how thoroughly or vividly it is refuted--*The Plot* lives as a vivid confirmation of Eisner's belief in the comics medium's potency for simply, effectively conveying ideas. *Gordon Flagg*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alice Bowers:

Here thing why this *The Plot: The Secret Story of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (Will Eisner Library (Hardcover)) are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. *The Plot: The Secret Story of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (Will Eisner Library (Hardcover)) giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no reserve that similar with *The Plot: The Secret Story of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (Will Eisner Library (Hardcover)). It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your method home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of *The Plot: The Secret Story of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (Will Eisner Library (Hardcover)) in e-book can be your option.

William Devine:

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Randall Wilmes:

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