

# [PDF] The Plot: The Secret Story Of The Protocols Of The Elders Of Zion

Umberto Eco, Will Eisner - pdf download free book

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#### Books Details:

Title: The Plot: The Secret Story of

Author: Umberto Eco, Will Eisner

Released: 2006-05-17

Language:

Pages: 160

ISBN: 0393328600

ISBN13: 978-0393328608

ASIN: 0393328600

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#### Description:

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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