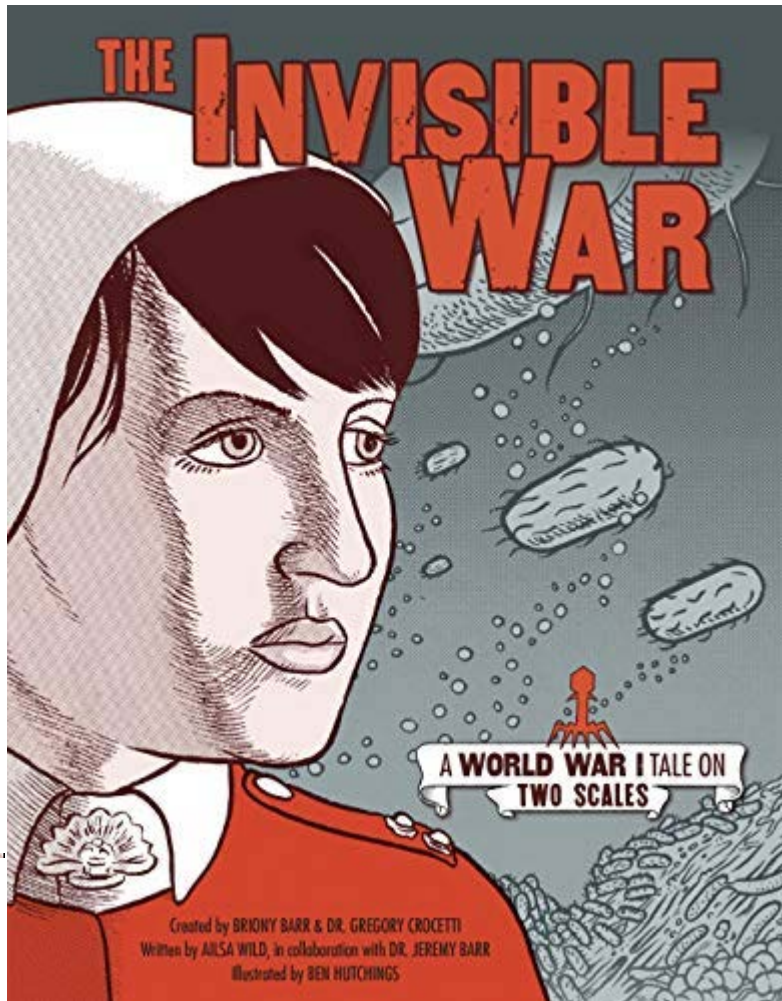


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Invisible War: A World War I Tale on Two Scales, by Ailsa Wild | Booklist Online



Illustrated by Ben Hutchings.

Apr. 2019. 80p. Lerner/Graphic Universe, lib. ed., \$29.32 ([9781541541559](https://www.booklistonline.com/9781541541559)); Lerner/Graphic Universe, paper, \$9.99 ([9781541545281](https://www.booklistonline.com/9781541545281)). Grades 4-7. 741.5.

REVIEW. First published May 15, 2019 (Booklist).

Here's the most bizarre concept of the year, possibly ever: splitting the story's perspective between a WWI nurse who contracts a deadly case of dysentery and the dysentery itself. Yes, you read that correctly. While we follow Sister Annie, an empathic nurse, through rounds in a WWI Casualty Clearing Center, we also follow the Shiga Gang, the Shigella Flexner bacteria infecting her innards ("Sweet! Now we gonna partay!" shout the bacteria) as her immune system mounts a counterattack. Perhaps this inner struggle is a metaphor for the devastating war raging outside, and then, perhaps, it's actually the other way around. In any case, it could be difficult to sell such a concept to most tween readers, and not just because bloody feces play such a central role.

However, Wild and Barr have a contagious passion for their subject, and leaving this out for casual browsing could work wonders—the cool/gross supermagnified depictions of bacteria and viruses help considerably. Includes explanatory text on both the history and the science, which it will be very helpful to read first.

— Jesse Karp