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## BILLIE HOLIDAY A Striking Biography in Comics

Internationally renowned artists Jose Muñoz and Carlos Sampayo bring a singular look to legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday. Jose Muñoz' immediately recognizable art with harsh heavy blacks and inspired by German expressionist painting who reveled in the grotesque is matched up perfectly with the tragic life of a singer who has achieved mythical proportions.

Holiday, who seemed and sounded angelic, was victim in her lifetime of abuse, racism and police brutality, drugs, alcohol...the latter two probably led to by the former. She was not only a superlative singer but also a remarkable composer including two classics: *God Bless the Child* and *Strange Fruit*, maybe her only 'activist' protest song on the lynching of blacks. For more on her difficult life, which she didn't help by associating with abusive men, see the introduction.

Sampayo & Muñoz distill the essence of the impact of Holiday and her life in a few very powerful poignant pages that don't shy away from the ugly truth. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but an impression that can lead to further exploration.

The authors, Argentines from within a strong comics tradition in that country that has generated many superlative internationally known artists who went on to stellar careers in Europe, have received many awards culminating in Muñoz induction into the pantheon of top world artists in 2007 when he was elected to receive the *Grand Prix* of the City of Angouleme at their yearly widely influential festival. Their best known series, *Alack Sinner*, is presently being brought back by IDW. Sinner in fact, plays a role in this book.

This biography was previously published by Fantagraphics in 1993 and did get an Eisner nomination for best graphic album. This edition has a different cover in black, red and gold, another introduction on Holiday and a back portfolio of studies and art by Muñoz on the subject.

The overall result of this book is both instructional but also visually outstanding enough to make this not just any biography but an art book sketch of a remarkable performer whose early death made her a kind of martyr.

For her race and for stardom.

For further information and to possibly arrange an interview with the artists (selectively available), please be in touch with our publicist Stefan Blitz: [publicity@nbmpub.com](mailto:publicity@nbmpub.com).

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