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The Bandit Queen

Who Rebelled Against the Status Quo For Women, Phoolan Devi: A Comics Biography

Phoolan Devi of India was no saint. She was fiery and vengeful. Violently so.

This is her dramatic story from an 11 year old girl forced into marriage and then raped by her much older husband both because of dire poverty and centuries-long tradition, then rejected for having run away from her husband, she had no choice but to join a group of outlaws.

While the bandit groups she joined were living through robbery, she turned her mission with a group she ultimately became a leader of into one of vengeance towards men, righting wrongs forcefully and spreading fear.

Her actions were heroic and pioneering for the rights of women in the very traditionally minded Indian society but Gandhi she was not. She was a Robin Hood for women's rights in her province. She stole from rich men who abused women and gave back to them as reparations. She publicly humiliated and punished severely powerful men guilty of the same. She wasn't just stealing; she had a purpose.

Until the law caught up with her and she was compelled to surrender and face prison for many years.

And then modern day caught up with her when a progressive new political party recruited her to run for the Indian parliament. That enabled her to be freed from prison and peacefully and legally pursue what she had been compelled to pursue violently and illegally.

It's a fascinating story perfect for a visual medium and author Claire Fauvel faithfully renders it from her autobiography, elevating another woman with grit and determination, providing an example even while being forthright about her imperfections.

Next in the NBM Comics Biography series: a portrait of possibly the greatest artist ever: Leonardo da Vinci (July) and the life of the famous country singer Willie Nelson (Sept.).

For further information, please contact our publicist Stefan Blitz at publicity@nbmpub.com. Title info: 8 ½, 11, 224pp., full color HC, \$34.99, ISBN 9781681122519; ebook: \$19.99, 9781681122526. publication: April 2020. Reviewers, please mention our website. Websites, please send us a link to your review. You can find more information and download art and cover on our website nbmpub.com at the 'For Press' page.