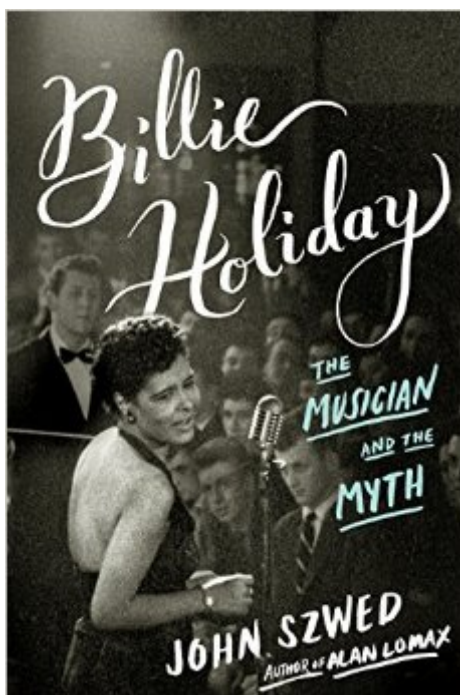


The book was found

Billie Holiday: The Musician And The Myth



Synopsis

â Kirkus Best Books of 2015 selection forÂ BiographyÂ â Published in celebration of Holidayâs centenary, the first biography to focus on the singerâs extraordinary musical talent. When Billie Holiday stepped into Columbiaâs studios in November 1933, it marked the beginning of what is arguably the most remarkable and influential career in twentieth-century popular music. Her voice weathered countless shifts in public taste, and new reincarnations of her continue to arrive, most recently in the form of singers like Amy Winehouse and Adele. Most of the writing on Holiday has focused on the tragic details of her lifeâher prostitution at the age of fourteen, her heroin addiction and alcoholism, her series of abusive relationshipsâor tried to correct the many fabrications of her autobiography. But now, Billie Holiday stays close to the music, to her performance style, and to the self she created and put into print, on record and on stage. Drawing on a vast amount of new material that has surfaced in the last decade, critically acclaimed jazz writer John Szwed considers how her life inflected her art, her influences, her uncanny voice and rhythmic genius, a number of her signature songs, and her legacy.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Viking; 1st Edition edition (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670014729

ISBN-13: 978-0670014729

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.9 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #377,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Jazz #431 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Jazz #867 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > African-American & Black

Customer Reviews

Billie Holiday inspired countless singers and hobnobbed with the likes of Miles Davis, and Orson Welles and even spent an evening on the town with Frank Sinatra, who later claimed she had helped him in his own career with her advice. Nevertheless, Holiday remains an elusive figure, full of contradictions, whose own autobiography was less a work of fact than a story based on true events.

In an effort to get at the true Billie Holiday, Szwed approaches her life as it was, accepting the choices and influences that helped make up who she was and focusing on the symbiotic nature of the music that wove throughout her life, binding it together in a way no other influence could. Szwed seeks to dispel the myth that all of her life was a tragedy that chose her songs for her and instead argues that she chose the songs she did because they spoke to her emotionally. Szwed also analyzes the way that Holiday imbues her music with a part of herself, while at the same time keeping her singing a performance. In essence, stating that while Holiday emotionally connected to the songs that she sung, she was at the same time portraying a stage personality for the audience, not necessarily her personal life. It was this gift that allowed her to sing a song different ways each time, while at the same time making the audience believe she was telling her personal story to them each time. Szwed clearly knows his subject and expertly alludes to other works written about Holiday, comparing and contrasting the different views they presented. By incorporating an in-depth analysis of the musical style and songs of Holiday into the account of her life, Szwed provides a fresh perspective to Holiday's life.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Billie Holiday: The Musician and the Myth Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday Mister and Lady Day: Billie Holiday and the Dog Who Loved Her Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday, Cafe Society, And An Early Cry For Civil Rights Delicious Holiday Treats: A Collection of Healthy Holiday Recipes (Dessert Recipes, Holiday, Seasonal, Desserts, Thanksgiving Recipes, Christmas Recipes) (Volume 1) Billie Holiday: Wishing On The Moon The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis (Second Edition) (The Musician's Guide Series) The Musician's Guide to Aural Skills: Ear Training and Composition (Second Edition) (Vol. 2) (The Musician's Guide Series) Amy Winehouse: R&b, Jazz, & Soul Musician: R & B, Jazz, & Soul Musician (Lives Cut Short) Indirect Procedures: A Musician's Guide to the Alexander Technique (The Integrated Musician) The Musician's Guide to Fundamentals (Second Edition) (The Musician's Guide Series) The E-Myth Architect (E-Myth Expert) Myth-ion Improbable: Myth Adventures, Book 11 The E-Myth Financial Advisor (E-Myth Expert) Ukulele Christmas Song Books 1 & 2 - 40 Holiday Songs with Lyrics and Ukulele Chord Tabs - Bundle of 2 Books: Holiday Songs (Ukulele Christmas Songs) Holiday Kisses and Valentine Wishes: A Fabulous Feel Good Holiday Romance (Christmas Love on Kissing Bridge Mountain Book 2) Billie Jean King: The Battle of the Sexes and Title IX (Game-Changing Athletes) Jump at the Sun: It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Kwanzaa! - Holiday Classics (Jump at the Sun Holiday Classics) The Holiday Kosher Baker: Traditional & Contemporary Holiday Desserts Silent Night: A Spenser Holiday Novel (Spenser Holiday Novels)

