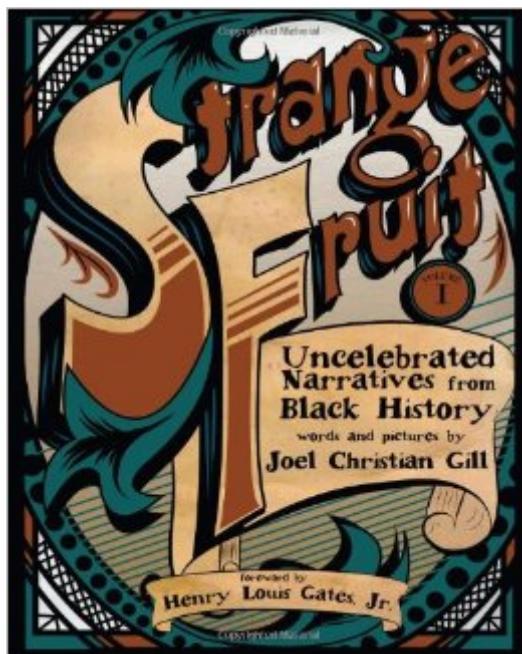


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Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives From Black History



Synopsis

Strange Fruit Volume I is a collection of stories from early African American history that represent the oddity of success in the face of great adversity. Each of the nine illustrated chapters chronicles an uncelebrated African American hero or event. From the adventures of lawman Bass Reeves, to Henry "Box" Brown's daring escape from slavery.

Book Information

Series: Strange Fruit (Book 1)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing (May 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938486293

ISBN-13: 978-1938486296

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #134,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #51 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Anthologies #80 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels > Educational & Nonfiction

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

For those familiar with "Strange Fruit," a song performed most famously by Billie Holiday, one may assume that this title is a collection of lynching stories --- victims of the rope. Far from the truth! As Gill states, his debut graphic novel "tells stories of people who, in spite of the 'strange fruit' society where they lived, liberated themselves from the magnolia trees and tried to do something amazing...Billie Holiday sang about the time in which she lived. These stories are about amazing people during those times who, in many ways, cut their own rope." In this first volume, Gill has assembled and unfurled a wonderful set of nine stories, infused with brilliantly elaborate illustrations, accompanied by painstakingly handwritten descriptions. There are a handful of stories that are not totally unfamiliar to readers of black history, such as Henry "Box" Brown, Marshall "Major" Taylor and Bass Reeves. But most portray obscure people and events, such as Harry "Bucky" Lew, the

first competitive black basketball player; Richard Potter, the first black stage magician; and Theophilus Thompson, the first competitive chess player. Most notable are the horrific accounts of Malaga Island, Noyes Academy and the audacious letter of a black Union soldier to a slaveholder. Gill's depictions are nothing short of inspiring as well as entertaining. The narratives are but a small yet powerful representation of emancipation. Most importantly, they are essential puzzle pieces critical to the completion of American history. Gill ends each story on a positive note, especially after such blatantly appalling accounts like Malaga Island and Noyes Academy.

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