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Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters

Rachel Wadham

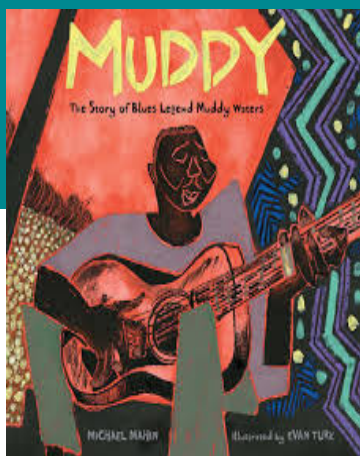
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Book Review

Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters

Author

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Illustrator

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Reviewer

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

Pages

48

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Atheneum Books for

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Muddy Waters was a tenacious young man who really didn't like to take no for an answer. Growing up, he made instruments out of anything and listened to the legends around him like Son House play. Working in the fields by day and playing in music joints at night soon became unsatisfactory for Muddy, who packed up and moved to the big city of Chicago where music was pushing boundaries. Muddy played in lots of clubs and even tried to make a few records, but it was not until he captured his own unique signature sound that he was able to make a record, sold out in twenty-four hours. Through hard work and determination, Muddy helped invent a style called Chicago Blues—the music that inspired generations to come.

Expressively told, this book captures Muddy and his music with rich language that conveys the sounds of the blues but in words. The rich folk-art quality illustrations are stunning and use a mixed media approach with watercolor, oil pastel, marker ink, and newspaper collage, often putting down color on the page and then taking it off with very simple scratched in lines. The use of rich, deep colors with lots of reds, oranges, and yellows, express perfectly Muddy's bold nature and capture the movement and chaos of his life and music. An author's note at the end gives more depth into Muddy's life and caps off the book with a photograph of his smiling face. Taken altogether, this book offers a wonderful look at a great musician who made music from his heart.