



R. Crumb Draws the Blues

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The collected music related stories from Zap, Arcade, Raw, Weirdo and other comics.

R. Crumb Draws the Blues Details

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Author : Robert Crumb

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From Reader Review R. Crumb Draws the Blues for online ebook

Rebecca Bourgeois says

This is not his most vibrant work but does show his passion for music. It's a good introduction for novice blues fans.

Evan says

This is an oddish collection of R. Crumb panels of varying quality. But the overall effect is a fun one. The best one here is the first, his homage to the life of Delta bluesman Charley Patton, beautifully rendered. Almost of comparable quality is the story of jazzman Jelly Roll Morton's struggle with a career-damaging voodoo curse. Crumb's fondness for pre-war (WWII) country and blues records predominates the panels even when those are not the subjects of the strips. There are several pieces here that are outright screeds against modern music, and by "modern" he means all the way back to swing music, though his venom is especially directed at rock and pop since the 1960s. There are some surreal off-the-cuff doodlings here. They almost seem like filler but provide a refreshing view of Crumb's freewheeling stream-of-consciousness humor. Some of the panels involving rural black folk will probably offend some, though Crumb seems to speak truth in his down and dirty and honest depictions of harsh rural life. The story about Tommy Grady might be one of these, though it's a fascinating account of how an obscure country bluesman left the farm, cut a few sides in Memphis, was immediately shot by a jealous husband, and forgotten for decades, his few remaining records rotting away in attics until their rediscovery by white record enthusiasts in the 1970s. This is a fast read. The Patton story is probably really the only essential work here, but it's all worth a look.

Patrick says

This title is a bit of a misnomer. The book is barely about the blues. The section on Charley Patton has a couple interesting inaccuracies which makes it tough to swallow as a biography (for one it was his wife Bertha who tried to kill Patton by cutting his throat with a butcher knife- he survived and they stayed together, but he had a scar the rest of his life). And the story about Jelly Roll Morton is about his incredible encounter with Voodoo, not about his music. That being said, this book was great. Not to be missed are R.Crumb's struggles with contemporary music and his Cubist Be-Bop Comics.

Matti Karjalainen says

Amerikkalaisen underground-legendan Robert Crumbin musiikkiaiheisia sarjakuvia yhteen kokoavassa albumissa "Blues" (Like, 1993) kerrotaan muun muassa Charley Pattonin elämätarina, pohdiskellaan vaikuttivatko jazzmuusikko Jelly Roll Mortonin ympärillä saatanalliset voodoo-voimat, harmitellaan isovanhempiemme kauniin musiikin katoamista ja kuvitetaan "Purple Hazen" kaltaisia lauluja. Laadukas pakettihan tämä on, ei siitä pääse yli eikä ympäri.

Luca Dipierro says

On of the books of my life. It's far from being the best Crumb, but there's something about this book that I can't define but with the word "pleasure". Plus: one of my musical passions is early, pre-war blues. It's not just music, it's stories, visions. I never care about pure music. On my right arm I have tattooed the first drawing of this book, the face of Charlie Patton. To me it's more about storytelling than about music.

Rena Sherwood says

I never found so many neat books about America until I spent five years in England. I somehow completely missed them when I lived in America. I found more British, Welsh, Scottish and Irish that knew more American history than most Americans I've met (no matter what country I live in.)

A copy of this was being passed around the homeless community in Bath about 2003, of which I was a member. One of Crumb's best. It made me forget I was homeless. Yes, Crumb can be vicious at times but he is always an equal opportunity destroyer.

If you've been reading a bunch of rock history books or biographies of rock music legends (and if not why not?) and may wonder at all of the references to American blues artists. Here is a great way to get a crash course in the blues (crash being the operative word.)

Artur Coelho says

Apesar de indelevelmente conotado com a contra-cultura dos anos 60, Robert Crumb é também um grande amante dos Blues. E não de qualquer género, mas sim dos blues de raiz, dos percusores do género musical que viviam de terra em terra, a tocar as suas violas acústicas e a cantar canções de tristeza ou alegria. *Blues* é a homenagem do autor a este género musical, coligindo contos biográficos sobre algumas personalidades quase desconhecidas, elegias ao coleccionismo de antigos discos e capas de albuns ilustradas por Crumb no seu estilo distinto.

Bert says

Crumb's passion for folk music and Blues just oozes out of this book. A collection of stories all about music and the life of some early blues musicians. Wonderful variation in styles demonstrates Crumbs versatility as an artist. Indeed a priceless book!

Paul Secor says

"Kansas City Frank Melrose in 'Pass the Jug'" is a classic. Gave it an extra star because of that one.
