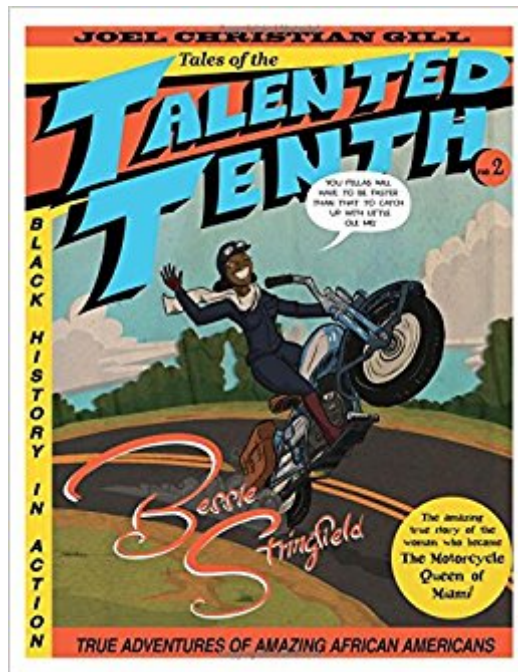




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# Bessie Stringfield: Tales Of The Talented Tenth, No. 2



## Synopsis

Winner: Kirkus Reviews, Best Historical Teen Book of 2016 Imagine a five-foot-two-inch-tall woman riding a Harley eight times across the continental United States. Now imagine she is black and is journeying across the country in the pre-Civil Rights era of the 1930s and 1940s. That is the amazing true story of Bessie Stringfield, the woman known today as The Motorcycle Queen of Miami and the first black woman to be inducted into the American Motorcyclist Association Hall of Fame and the Harley Davidson Hall of Fame. Stringfield was a pioneer in motorcycling during her lifetime; she rode as a civilian courier for the US military and founded the Iron Horse Motorcycle Club in Miami, all while confronting and overcoming Jim Crow in every ride.

## Book Information

Series: Tales of the Talented Tenth

Paperback: 158 pages

Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing (October 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1938486943

ISBN-13: 978-1938486944

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 10 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #134,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #14 in Books > Teens > Literature &

Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biography #38 in Books > Teens > Education &

Reference > History > United States > 20th Century

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"Joel Christian Gill is a modern day graphic griot. His mastery of visual storytelling coupled with his tireless research make him one of the most important artist/scholars working today." —John Jennings, Eisner-nominated comics scholar and award-winning graphic novelist "Even if I were not a Floridian, I would highly promote and strongly suggest that readers pick up and absorb the amazing work being put forth by the graphic novel series about the Talented Tenth. This graphic novel is intoxicating." —Dr. Katie Monnin, Katie's Korner: Graphic Novel Reviews for

Schools and Libraries, Diamond Bookshelf; Associate Professor of Literacy, University of North Florida

"Bessie Stringfield's story is a call to adventure. Joel Christian Gill's gorgeous artwork depicts her dynamic heroics throughout America's lush and beautiful landscapes."

•Box Brown, New York Times best-selling artist, *Andre the Giant: Life and Legend*"Gill delivers the story of her diasporic roots and struggle from childhood to adulthood with artistic brilliance and compelling wit. Like Stringfield, Gill asserts himself as a messenger; he is bringing together multiple generations of readers who now have an opportunity to read and view Blackness and Black historical figures anew."

•Deborah Elizabeth Whaley, author, *Black Women in Sequence: Re-inking Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime*"A great story that should be heard by all, starting with our youngest generations."

•J.A. Micheline, contributor, *A.V. Club* and *Women Write About Comics*"An incredible true story that has as much power as Bessie and the motorcycles she rode."

•Kirkus Reviews

★ starred review

"This quick-paced biography of Bessie Stringfield, the so-called 'Motorcycle Queen of Miami,' is a pocketful of cheerful, hard-fought optimism."

•Publishers Weekly

"The Jamaican-born Stringfield (1911-1993) led a remarkable life as [an] adventurer, stunt performer, U.S. Army courier, cross-country rider, and winning racer. Gill's account appears in colorful, kid-friendly art."

•Library Journal

"The little known story of an African American woman crossing the country eight times during the 1930s and 40s is remarkable enough. The fact that Bessie Stringfield did it alone on a motorcycle is downright astonishing."

•Word of Mouth, NHPR

"This is a great biography for readers 12 and up, and could be a good gift for a Motorcycle Mama of a higher age. For them, or for anyone who wants to learn about an interesting, little-known story, *Bessie Stringfield: Tales of the Talented Tenth*, is the book to see."

•Terri Schlichenmeyer, [postnewsgroup.com](http://postnewsgroup.com)

"Books for Holiday Gift Giving in 2016. A graphic-novel-style biography of Stringfield, known as the Motorcycle Queen of Miami, who roamed the country on her Harley in the pre-Civil rights '30s and '40s. For readers 12 and older."

•Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Joel Christian Gill is the Chair of Foundations at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and recipient of the 2016 Boston University College of Fine Arts Alumni Award. He wrote the words and drew the pictures in *Strange Fruit, Volume I: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* and *Bass Reeves: Tales of the Talented Tenth, No. 1*. Joel received his MFA from Boston University and a BA from Roanoke College. His secret lair is behind a secret panel in the kitchen of his house (sold separately) in New Boston, New Hampshire where he lives with his wife, four children, talking dog,

and two psychic cats. Visit his website at [joelchristiangill.wordpress.com](http://joelchristiangill.wordpress.com) or connect with him on Twitter (@jcg007). Gill believes that 28 days are not enough when it comes to Black History. Join the discussion on social media by following Joel's #28DaysAreNotEnough, his call-to-action about Black History.

This story opens with the story of so many immigrants. It speaks to the excitement, fear, struggle, and loss that so many families suffer as they seek better fortunes. That is the beauty of this story - so many can identify with Bessy - it is a HUMAN story. The writing and artistry make this story accessible for the young, yet deep for even the most advanced reader. The panels are not overdone. They draw in the reader and allow for a sense of belonging and sympathy. A story of hope in the midst of so much despair. A story of adventure and hope, daring, and America. Feminist. African-American pride. Bessy being African-American is the small part of the story. We can all identify with the open road and yearning to be free of society's constraints. The green book is mentioned just as a statement open for research for students. Jim Crow was visualized literally as a crow. This is an example of the power of graphic novels and visual writing. This is not a story about MLK or Rosa Parks. A person of non-mythic proportions with whom so many can identify. This is a great addition for my classroom library.

Everyone, especially kids of all heritages, should read this comic. ESSENTIAL. And very well done! I can't wait for more of this series.

Good light read. Bessie was an incredible lady!

Great inspirational story, however I didn't realise it is a childrens book

Women motorcyclists know the importance of Bessie Stringfield and her impact on motorcycling. I hope that now that this is a graphic novel, her story will be known to those outside of the motorcycle community as well.

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Tales from a Not-So-Talented Pop

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