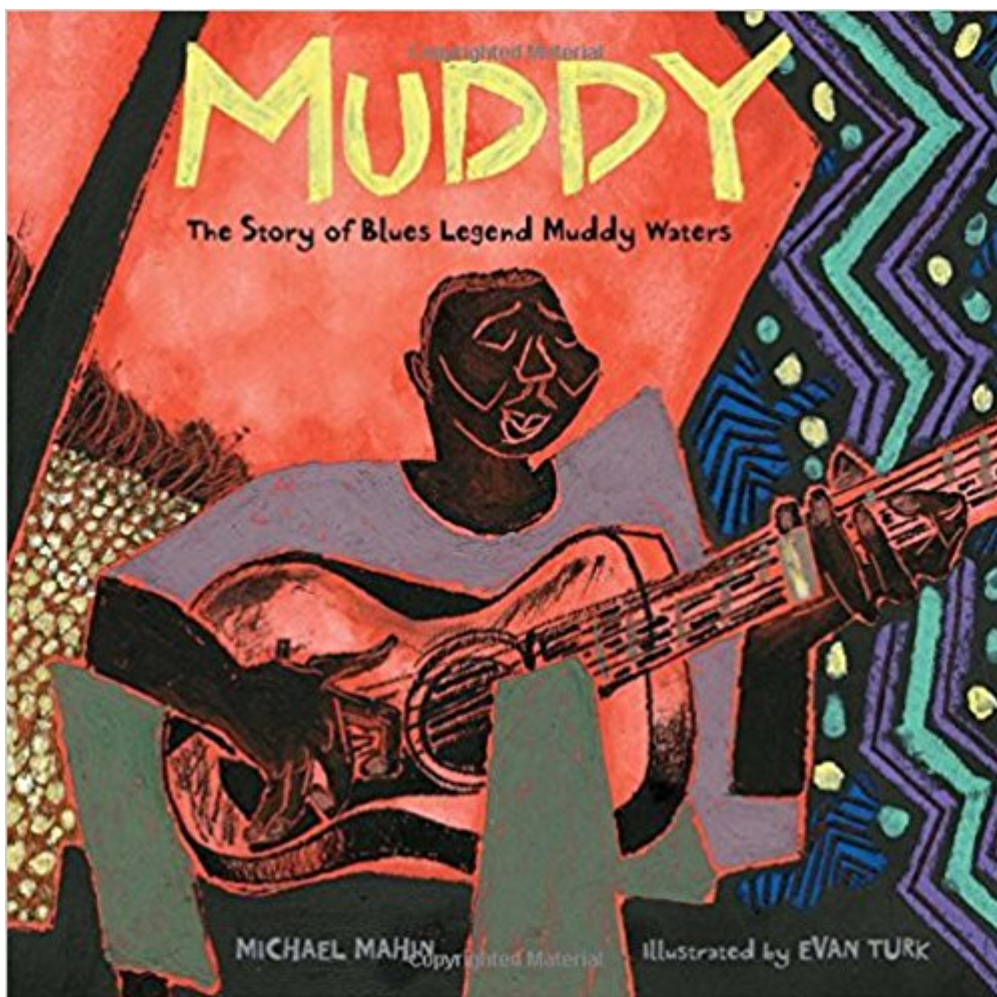


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# Muddy: The Story Of Blues Legend Muddy Waters



## Synopsis

A picture book celebration of the indomitable Muddy Waters, a blues musician whose fierce and electric sound laid the groundwork for what would become rock and roll. Muddy Waters was never good at doing what he was told. When Grandma Della said the blues wouldn't put food on the table, Muddy didn't listen. And when record producers told him no one wanted to listen to a country boy playing country blues, Muddy ignored them as well. This tenacious streak carried Muddy from the hardscrabble fields of Mississippi to the smoky juke joints of Chicago and finally to a recording studio where a landmark record was made. Soon the world fell in love with the tough spirit of Muddy Waters. In blues-infused prose and soulful illustrations, Michael Mahin and award-winning artist Evan Turk tell Muddy's fascinating and inspiring story of struggle, determination, and hope.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (September 5, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481443496

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #144,411 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #131 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music #253 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

\* "The words and pictures here mix exuberance with melancholy. Mahin's words have a beat all their own, capturing the lows and highs with poetic verve. Turk's watercolor, ink, and collage artwork fills pages, exploding with a neon intensity—the equivalent of a dynamic guitar riff . . . Read the book, then get kids the music." (Booklist, Starred Review July 2017) "This poetic celebration of Muddy Waters's musical truth is lifted still higher by Turk's extraordinary art." (Kirkus Reviews 7/1/17) "Lyrically told with a lilting cadence by debut author Mahin. . . . Turk's mixed-media illustrations leap off the page. . . . The soul of the blues sings out through the pages."

(School Library Journal July 2017) "Like Waters' music after landing in the Windy City, Turk's artwork is electric—wild strokes of marker and oil pastel vibrate with energy. And Mahin's equally vivid writing will almost certainly send readers after Waters' catalogue." • (Publishers Weekly August 7, 2017) "Mahin's text is engaging, rhythmic, soulful, and written to reflect the blues that influenced Muddy Waters. . . . Turk's expressionistic mixed-media illustrations, many of them double-page spreads, aptly convey the emotions associated with Muddy Waters' music." • (The Horn Book September/October 2017)\* "Turk's mixed-media and collage artwork roils with waves of darkness and explosive color, even as it models compositional control, and Muddy is always defined with an electric hue that keeps him in sharp focus. . . . Mahin's lyricism and rolling cadence make the text a read-aloud delight." • (BCCB, Starred Review September 2017)

I've been a musician for a long time! Actually, since my grandma gave me my first piano lesson at the age of 5. Since then I've been a first chair violinist (in my elementary school band), a last chair trumpeter (in Jr. Hi), and a lead guitarist and singer in an all-80s cover band! Sadly, my spandex wearing days are over. Along the way, I also had a blues band, and that's where my love of Muddy Waters was born. The blues has always been a music that resonated with something deep in my soul. I think that's because I see the blues as a transformative. As I say in the book, "To have the blues is feel bad. But to play the blues was to take that low-down, skunk-funk, deep-stomach hurt and turn it into something else. Muddy liked that." I liked that, too. My goal is to write books that inspire children and adults to be more creative, more confident, and more compassionate. I admire people like Muddy Waters who, despite great suffering, find the courage to be themselves in a world that wants them to be something else. As a parent, this is a powerful and important lesson to teach our kids. Maybe the most powerful. In the end, I hope my books balance entertainment with learning by providing stories that are not only fun but that also teach kids valuable lessons about history, dreaming big, and believing in themselves.

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