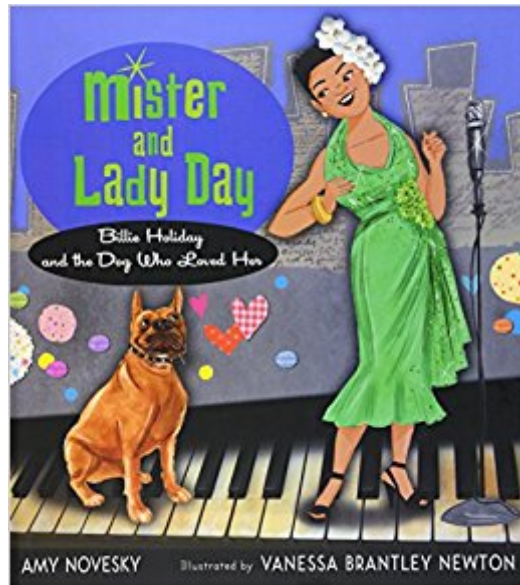




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# Mister And Lady Day: Billie Holiday And The Dog Who Loved Her



## Synopsis

Billie Holiday—also known as Lady Day—had fame, style, a stellar voice, big gardenias in her hair, and lots of dogs. She had a coat-pocket poodle, a beagle, Chihuahuas, a Great Dane, and more, but her favorite was a boxer named Mister. Mister was always there to bolster her courage through good times and bad, even before her legendary appearance at New York's Carnegie Hall. Newton's stylish illustrations keep the simply told story focused on the loving bond between Billie Holiday and her treasured boxer. An author's note deals more directly with the singer's troubled life, and includes a little-known photo of Mister and Lady Day!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (June 18, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152058060

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #423,440 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #89 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #113 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5-This introduction to the jazz great has tons of kid appeal. Capitalizing on her indulgent devotion to her pet dogs, Lady Day is presented with lighthearted whimsy: a little white poodle in her coat pocket; two bottle-fed Chihuahuas; and her beloved boxer, Mister, sporting a mink coat and waiting in the wings at every performance, to name a few. From the little girl who loved to sing along to her favorite recordings to the grown woman who became a star, Holiday will capture the imagination of young music lovers. Even the lowest times of her life are presented in terms of her pups: "...just when her career was at the top, Lady got into trouble. She had to leave home for a

year and a day. And Mister couldn't come. Lady knew what it was like to be left, and it made her heartsick." Older children who read the appended biographical note learn that these simple lines refer to Holiday's abandonment as a child and to the drug addiction that would take her life. The generously sized gouache-and-charcoal illustrations capture the glamour and humor of this singer and dog-lover's experiences. Bright colors, full spreads, and collage combine to paint a larger-than-life portrait. Pair this title with Sue Stauffacher's *Bessie Smith and the Night Riders* (Putnam, 2006) for units on black or women's history or an introduction to jazz and blues.-Barbara Auerbach, New York City Public Schools  
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True to Billie Holiday's life and music, the rhythmic free verse and bright pictures mix joy and melancholy in this picture-book introduction to the great jazz singer known as Lady Day. Always distant from people, Holiday chose dogs as her closest companions, and the gouache-and-charcoal images show the poodle she carried in her coat pocket, the Chihuahuas she fed with a baby bottle, and Mac Moocho, who wagged his tail like a metronome. Her bond is strongest with a boxer dog, Mister, and one scene shows both of them walking in fur coats on the midnight streets. Scowling Mister guards her, keeping fans at a polite distance. Then, Holiday gets in trouble (the afterword fills in that she spends a year in prison for drugs), and when she returns, she's greeted with Mister's joyful leap to lick her face. A final double-page spread shows her triumphant performance at Carnegie Hall. Kids will love the focus on the pet bond - bittersweet, just like Holiday's voice - and many will want to hear her music. Grades 2-5, --Hazel Rochman

I wanted to love this book. I love her music. My kids love reading about real people. However... midway through the book Lady goes away for a long time and it doesn't explain what's so important that the dog is abandoned... So naturally my first-grader reads the story in the back... Lady went to jail for drugs! ... (I didn't know that and I didn't read ahead of time). So now we read this story and my kids believe jail is a glamorous thing that stars do. When I try to explain that even good people do bad things sometimes and need to learn their lessons, my kids point out that it doesn't say that in the book, so I must be confused over the issue... ugh!!! Note to author... if you have to go there, why not explain and make a teaching point out of it? But if you are creating a story for elementary school kids and don't want to discuss jail and drugs, please know that simply 'going away' will not do it for curious little minds!

sweet book for children. lovely illustrations.

Pretty pics...not much story!!

Whimsical and entertaining

My grandchildren love it and I love it too. Lady Day was quite a singer in the 40's. Her songs are still being played on the radio.

Very cute.

I read the book to my dogs, It was cute but I was not aware that this book was like a child's book. I read it in 3 seconds. So I have it as a keepsake

This book covers two ends of the spectrum - it's a good story for kids AND being a Billie fan, it's good for me. I like it.

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