



## Nina Simone in Comics!

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The talent-rich and turbulent life of a legendary American singer is profiled in the graphic biography *Nina Simone in Comics!*

Born poor in North Carolina, Eunice Kathleen Waymon showed musical aptitude early on. She aspired to be a concert pianist but was denied entry to a prestigious music academy—one of many experiences that made her more conscious of race and the ongoing fight for equality in the United States. As she gained popularity as a singer under the stage name Nina Simone, she also became more aggressive in the fight against racism. Erratic personal behavior, later attributed to bipolar disorder, resulted in a series of frayed relationships until her death in 2003, but her body of work and continuing influence mark Nina Simone as a musical immortal.

The book illuminates a fascinating public figure by devoting equal time to the two driving forces in Simone's life: musical ambition and social activism. A variety of artists contribute a pleasing array of styles to its compelling visual narrative, which is supplemented by a brief textual recapitulation at the end of each chapter, along with photographs of Simone, her album covers, and relevant people in her life.

*Nina Simone in Comics!* is the engrossing graphic biography of a passionate performer.

PETER DABBENE (March / April 2024)

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