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



## Synopsis

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

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

This story opens with the story of so many immigrants. 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. Bessie 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.

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