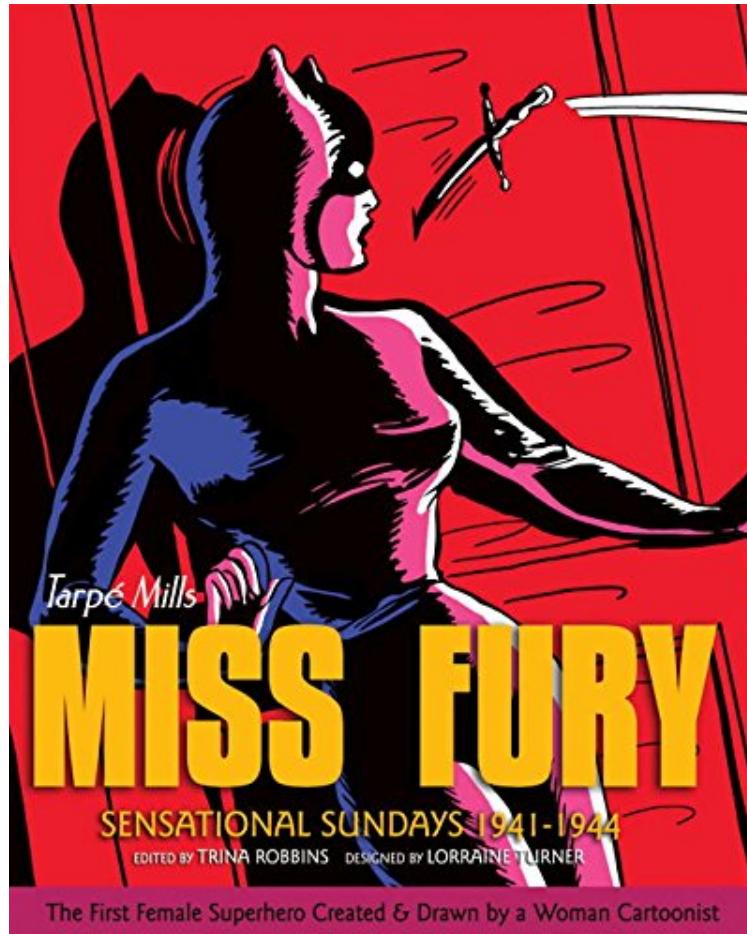


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Miss Fury: Sensational Sundays 1941-1944

Tarpe Mills

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Tarpe Mills : Miss Fury: Sensational Sundays 1941-1944 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miss Fury: Sensational Sundays 1941-1944:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. They Really Are SensationalBy Guy M. BudziakSomething about the whole aura surrounding Tarpe Mills and her creation Miss Fury (originally known as Black Fury, and the name I personally prefer) that I find very alluring. It amazes me that something this idiosyncratic and risqué found its way into the Sunday comic sections of the Forties. I enjoy very much her style of illustration, lush and sensual, and the delightful strangeness of the subject matter, with a cast consisting of a one-armed Nazi officer complete with monacle and bald head, an albino South American Indian with an Ivy League background and a sinister obese transvestite who wears too much fragrance. The only element in all this that I might find fault with are the sometimes less-than-cohesive storylines, but overall the virtues far outweigh the flaws. This is something for the more seasoned collector/purveyor of comic illustration from the Golden Age era. While perhaps not of the caliber of Will Eisner's Spirit, another Sunday strip from the same decade, it still possesses enough in the way of quality to stand on its own

merits. And while I still find it puzzling that they put the cart before the horse, publishing the later strips before the earlier ones, I'm not complaining. That they've been published at all is cause for celebration.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. A superhero with no superpowers By Diego Cordoba Somehow, superheroes never had much of an impact in the newspaper strips until much later after the success of Marvel's Spiderman. Superman and Batman did appear in the 40's, but I guess nobody paid them much attention aside of kids under 12. But "The Phantom" kinda looked like a superhero of sorts, with the tights, and mask and secret identity and all that. The strip had been around for a while (and was quite successful by the way), so why not have a female superhero, right? So it's with trepidation that a syndicate picked up a strip named "Black Fury" and thus have the first costumed female superhero in the newspaper comic strip field. Only Black Fury has no superpowers, and only gets to wear her custom (a black leotard covering all her body, and what a body she has!) because there's someone else wearing a dress like hers for a party, and, girl, you can't go to a party if someone else is also wearing the same dress as you are, yo! But before you can say this stuff's only for girls, I'll let you know that Miss Marla Drake (our hero--or should I say heroine), a wealthy socialite who also happens to be attired in a skin-tight leo--(uh, I've already mentioned that, huh?), lives all sort of wild adventures. The book begins with our lady hero driving for an evening gala, and nearly hitting a car parked in the middle of the road. And that's when all her troubles begin. In fact, it's pretty hard to tell you the whole story, for there's so much going on that at times you're wondering what is it you're actually reading. "Black Fury", which happened to be the name of the strip before it was shortened to "Miss Fury", features all sort of weirdo characters: two being Miss Fury's enemies, a platinum bombshell Baroness with a swastika branded on her forehead (I'm not making this up), and a bold, bullet-headed German general named Bruno. Of course, the Baroness falls for the General, but nonetheless they keep foiling each other and everyone else in the story, taking you to such places as South America and the land of the gauchos (even pre-dating Burne Hogarth's "Drago" strip, which BTW, is in bad need of a reprint), where they encounter Miss Fury and have all sort of adventures, lovers, and what not. Golly, this is the most fun I've had reading a comic strip. The strip's really cool, yet the story's so convoluted that there's no way of knowing what will happen next. It seems as if its author made everything up as she went along. Oh, I believe by now you know that Tarpé Mills is a girl. I only mention it, because this strip dates from way back in the 40's, and I guess there weren't many comic book artist girls back then (even nowadays). The thing is, it's impossible to figure a girl drew this strip, as Ms. Mills usually has her female characters undressing most of the time (but not in a prurient way, mind you, it's just that the girls like dressing and undressing, y'know?). Contrary to what my friend Ajit says in his review, I actually think that Tarpé's drawings are quite good. It sort of reminds me of a cross between Dick Tracy and Tom of Finland. All the girls have a big bust and all the guys broad shoulders, and they all seem to be models from a fashion catalog. However, this strip packs as much action as your average Terry and the pirates, only it's twice as much fun to read. I'll just finish by mentioning that though this is the second book published collecting Miss Fury's adventures, it's in fact the first part (which will probably add more to the confusion). For those of you, who like me, bought the second part first and didn't understand what on earth was going on, now it's time to catch up and buy the first part---and still not know what on earth is going on, lol! All in all, as with all the other books the Library Of American Comics put out, it's lavishly restored, beautifully designed (I mention this because most book publishers think that by just badly scanning some old comic books and haphazardly putting them together, they are doing some sort of work of art), and features some great info by Trina Robbins, who also edits the whole book. My only complaint, as I mentioned to the other reviewer (my friend Ajit, remember?), is that they've included some samples of Ms. Mills' comic book work by publishing them at postcard size, four pages per single page of the actual book, making the whole thing practically unreadable. Why waste up space so unnecessarily? I'm sorry, folks, but wouldn't it have been much cooler to simply reproduce a comic book-like booklet, and stick it inside the covers, or behind the dustjacket? Next time, aside of going diddly-wee with the design, think also of practical ways to make a book. It's cool buying a book and finding out that the publisher has also included a pull-out poster, or a little something extra beyond just printing or reprinting a comic book. That said, I can't recommend this book enough, be it for its beautiful design, masterful restoration (though be aware that it's done using old newspaper tearsheets), or simply for the wonderful adventures contained therein. If you haven't bought the second volume published earlier, do yourself a favor and buy this one and the second one as well. **THE BEST STRIP OF THE YEAR!** 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow! I see what all the hoopla is about! By tm1953 I only recently discovered Miss Fury after reading about Tarpe' Mills in Trina Robbins's book, *A Century of Women Cartoonists*, bought here. I am hooked! "Miss Fury Sensational Sundays: 1941-1944" is an excellent book, well presented with a short but always welcome comment and appreciation from Trina Robbins at the start. Thick matte finish pages for many years of re-reading enjoyment. Beautiful printing and binding, top drawer all the way. I'm becoming a big fan of the Library of American Comics/IDW productions. I'm looking forward to the companion tome, "Tarpe' Mills and Miss Fury".

Eisner Award-nominee for BEST ARCHIVAL COLLECTION! Reprinting every Miss Fury Sunday page from the beginning in April 1941 through April 1944 (where IDW's companion volume picks up), we learn the origins of Miss Fury and her skin-tight panther costume — complete with its sharp claws on her hands and her feet! By day, she was

socialite Marla Drake — by night, the costumed adventuress Miss Fury. These early exploits introduce all of the memorable characters who remained in the strip for the rest of the decade: the one-armed General Bruno, the Baroness Erica Von Kampf (with a swastika branded on her forehead), Albino Jo, and the all-American Gary Hale and Detective Carey, who each vies for Marla's affections. The stories range from downright kinky to all-out action against Nazis, spies, cuthroats, and thieves. Edited by Trina Robbins and designed by Lorraine Turner.

From Booklist Although she did beat Wonder Woman into print by several months, Miss Fury isn't the first female superhero; several obscure distaff costumed crime fighters preceded her, and she's not technically a superhero, since she lacks extrahuman powers. What's more important is that her creator, Mills, was a pioneering female cartoonist and one of the few women who drew an adventure strip. Her creation was wealthy socialite Marla Drake, who donned a form-fitting black leopard-skin suit to become the mysterious adventuress Miss Fury. These first three years of the strip's 1941–52 run are mostly set in an exotic South American locale, where Marla—who spends more time in street clothes than her cat suit—is involved in wartime espionage with sinister Nazis. Mills' art was merely serviceable and the stories contrived and dialogue-heavy, but the strip, and this attractive collection, are of historical interest not only for the gender of its artist but as a rare example of a long-running costumed hero from newspaper strips rather than comic books. --Gordon Flagg About the Author June Tarpe Mills (1915-1988) had been a fashion model and illustrator and contributed minor strips such as The Purple Zombie and Daredevil Barry Finn to comic books for two years when the much more successful Miss Fury made its debut in national newspapers in 1941, beating Wonder Woman to the punch by eight months. From the beginning, Mills signed her comics with her sexually ambiguous middle name because, as she said in a newspaper interview, "It would have been a major let-down to the kids if they found out that the author of such virile and awesome characters was a gal."