

A book and record tell the story of a troubled life in search of redemption

God, Forgive these Bastards

Book & vinyl LP set by Rob Morton & The Taxpayers

"The stories are well-told with bright, colorful language describing things that are dark, scary, sad, and like the author states, the more unbelievable they are, the more they are grounded in truth. This is a powerful book and I highly recommend it." —Razorcake

"Fucking bizarre...I like it!" —Jeff Rosenstock, Bomb the Music Industry

"Here's how I see the reception of this project going: First, people are going to ignore it. Then, people are going to be confused by it. Some are going to hate it. Then, years later, long after the creators have forgotten about the whole thing, people are going to call this weird tribute to Henry Turner the most important thing to come out of punk since Zen Arcade. And other such hyperbole. But they're still going to be confused by it." —Dan Sizemore, Leviticus Press

"A massive endeavor, beautifully orchestrated." —Sarah Kenning, author of 1,000 Eyes

God, Forgive these Bastards is a jazz punk album by The Taxpayers and an experimental novel by Taxpayer vocalist Rob Morton. It's about a life filled with contradictions—cowardice and bravery, falsehoods and candidness, glory and failure—told from the perspective of Henry Turner, a baseball hero turned psych ward street minstrel. In the late 1970s, Turner went from being a local hero and star pitcher of the Georgia Tech Wildcats to an abusive, alcoholic drifter. After spending his later years in homeless encampments and psych wards, Turner turned his demons to his advantage and became a kind, beloved street story-teller, a friend of the down-and-out, and a public transit angel. *God, Forgive These Bastards* explores the brief moments that can shape or lives and the power of forgiving even the most wretched actions with compassion and understanding. Taken together, the effects of this book + vinyl LP set are profound and unlike anything you've read and heard before.

SUBJECT: Noir Fiction / Baseball / Punk

PUBLICATION: **August 9, 2016**

PRICE: **\$19.95**

ISBN: 978-1-62106-218-9

FORMAT: Paperback + vinyl record, 96 pages, 12x12"

CARTON QTY: 20

Marketing Notes

1. Vinyl music records are enjoying a huge resurgence
2. The Taxpayers have played hundreds of shows around the US since 2007
3. A hard-luck, all-American baseball story

Comparative Titles

- *God, Forgive these Bastards* Rob Morton 9781621068761 (Microcosm) \$7.95, 2012
- *Meal Deal with the Devil* (book & cd) Dan Abbott 9781621066880 (Microcosm) \$12.95, 2013
- *The Stuntman* (book & LP) Brian Laidlaw 9781571314642 (Milkweed Editions) \$16, 2015



Rob Morton teaches GED classes to prisoners and writes and plays music, often with his band the Taxpayers. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana with his partner Elise and an assortment of cats and chickens.



The Taxpayers is a punk band that formed in Portland, Oregon in 2007. They are known for their interactive performances and stylistic influences from diverse genres.

A small, innovative publishing house, **Microcosm Publishing** specializes in work designed to make the reader feel good about being alive, take an active role in bettering their life, and impact the world around them. Microcosm has developed a reputation for teaching self-empowerment, showing hidden histories, and fostering creativity through challenging conventional publishing wisdom with books and zines about DIY skills, food, politics, and art.



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