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Blues Legends



Synopsis

The blues had a child and they called it rock and roll. But it's impossible to look past the parent when so much unbridled talent has and continues to contribute to this increasingly popular music form. This Blues. So much feeling. So much mood. So well captured. You can feel the soul stirring in 20 stunning photo-biographies featuring Muddy Waters, T-Bone Walker, B. B. King, Memphis Minnie, John Lee Hooker, plus 17 more. Each of their works--their rise to fame--is eloquently captured in every mini-biography. Look at all the stories, from the blues' slavery beginnings through the strains that sparked rock and roll. Then hear it smoldering in the 10-song accompanying CD designed to heighten this unequalled collection.

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Customer Reviews

"The blues had a child and they called it rock and roll." That is the simplified explanation for the relationship between these two musical forms, and it also explains how most people today discover the blues, through its "child." But the blues were and are much more than the midwife of rock and roll. They are a significant part of America's cultural history. Springing from the field songs of African Americans, the blues were born after slavery in juke joints and at dances when the field singers had access to guitars. Blues Legends traces blues history from this birth to the Delta Blues of Mississippi and Arkansas, through those blues strains that evolved independently in the Southwest and South, all the way up to the renewed interest in the blues sparked by rock and roll in the sixties and seventies. Profiled are such great legends as Muddy Waters, T-bone Walker, Memphis Minnie,

and John Lee Hooker. These profiles provide an unpretentious yet informative account of the blues tradition, making this book one that belongs on the shelf of any blues lover.

The fascinating stories of Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Memphis Minnie, Buddy Guy, B.B. King, and more are profiled in a concise yet entertaining look at blues legends. The CD includes "Every Day I Have the Blues," "Long Distance Call," "That's All Right," "Hide Away," "The Thrill is Gone," "Damn Right I've Got the Blues," "I'm in the Mood," and "Goin' Back to Memphis."

This splendid little book is a very nice and compact history of blues, which would make a nice intro for someone not too familiar with the music, but it's the fantastic photos by Rae Flerlage that really set it apart from the competition. Flerlage is a fantastic photographer who was a fixture on the South and West Side club scenes for a long time, and his photos capture something of the essence of the great performances that made the blues from the 20s to the 50s so exciting. Lots of cigarette smoke and sweat in these pictures -- these clubs must have rocked!

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