



Searching for Robert Johnson: The Life and Legend of the King of the Delta Blues Singers

By Peter Guralnick

Plume Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 96 pages. Dimensions: 7.7in. x 5.3in. x 0.4in. Robert Johnson, while probably the most influential of all blues guitarists, is also one of the most obscure. Recognized as an influence on musicians like Eric Clapton and the Rolling Stones, Johnson was poisoned by a jealous husband in 1938--at the age of twenty-seven. This untimely death, his supposed bargain with the devil that enabled him to play guitar, and the ferocity and tormented originality of his work have given rise to a legend that has inspired a Hollywood movie and numerous stories. Peter Guralnick's extended essay about the life of the man and the myth, and of the place and time that produced both, illuminates much of the obscurity around Johnson without forfeiting any of the mystery. This item ships from multiple locations. Your book may arrive from Roseburg, OR, La Vergne, TN. Paperback.



Reviews

Good eBook and helpful one. It really is written in straightforward words and phrases and never confusing. I am just effortlessly could possibly get a enjoyment of looking at a published book.

-- Romaine Rippin

The book is great and fantastic. it absolutely was written very properly and beneficial. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

-- Lyda Davis II

“Robert Johnson” the root source for a whole generation of blues and rock and roll musicians. The most emotionally committed of all blues-singers. The greatest singer, the greatest writer. The greatest folk-blues guitar player that ever lived. The most accomplished and certainly the most influential of all bluesmen. He is a visionary artist. Little wonder then that the man’s life and work have become the stuff of legend. Even the facts of his life are confusing. He was born in Hazelhurst, Mississippi on or around 8 May 1911 and died 27 years later, on 16 August 1938, at Three Forks, near Greenwood, Mississippi; even at a time when life expectancy was shorter, Johnson’s was a short life. Guralnick succeeds in conveying the power of Johnson’s music and delineating both its origins and, ultimately, singular genius. His debts to delta blues avatars Charley Patton and Tommy Johnson are solidified, yet, more crucially, Guralnick roots Johnson’s artistic growth in the specific context of this rural corner of Mississippi, at this particular moment between the world wars. He also frankly addresses the potency of Johnson’s myth and an early death that only glorifies the brief, bright arc of his work. Concise, plenty of quotes from his contemporaries, some photos which add context and help to de-mystify the legend. I like the analysis of his playing style, the apparent inspirational genius yet hardworking musicianship he attributes to Johnson. Very readable and enjoyable book.