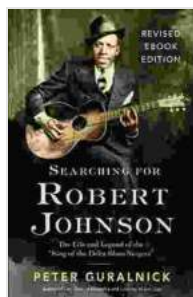


The Life and Legend of Robert Johnson: King of the Delta Blues Singers



Robert Johnson is one of the most influential musicians in the history of American music. His soulful voice and virtuosic guitar playing have inspired generations of musicians, from Eric Clapton to Bob Dylan. But Johnson's life was as tragic as his music was beautiful.



Searching for Robert Johnson: The Life and Legend of the "King of the Delta Blues Singers" by Peter Guralnick

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 20004 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled



Early Life

Robert Johnson was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, in 1911. His mother died when he was young, and he was raised by his grandmother. Johnson showed an early interest in music, and he began playing the guitar at a young age.

In 1929, Johnson married Virginia Travis. The couple had two children, but their marriage was short-lived. Johnson was a restless spirit, and he often left home to play music.

Musical Career

Johnson's musical career began in earnest in the early 1930s. He played at local juke joints and dances, and he quickly developed a reputation as a gifted musician. Johnson's style was a unique blend of Delta blues, gospel, and country music. His songs were often dark and introspective, and they explored themes of love, loss, and redemption.

In 1936, Johnson recorded his first songs for Vocalion Records. These recordings were a critical and commercial success, and they helped to establish Johnson as one of the leading blues musicians of his time.

Death and Legacy

Johnson's career was cut short in 1938 when he was poisoned by a jealous husband. He was only 27 years old.

Despite his short life, Johnson's music has had a profound impact on American culture. His songs have been covered by countless artists, and his influence can be heard in the music of blues, rock, and folk musicians around the world.

Johnson is considered one of the greatest blues musicians of all time. His music is a testament to the power of the human spirit, and it continues to inspire and move listeners to this day.

The Legend of Robert Johnson

In addition to his musical contributions, Johnson is also the subject of a number of legends and tall tales. These stories often portray Johnson as a supernatural figure, and they contribute to his mystique.

One of the most popular legends about Johnson is that he sold his soul to the devil at a crossroads in exchange for his musical talent. This legend is based on a line in Johnson's song "Cross Road Blues":

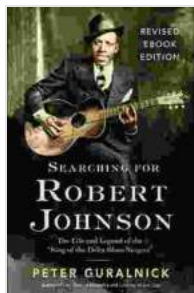
> I went down to the crossroads, fell down on my knees > I begged the
Lord to have mercy on me

Johnson's death has also been the subject of much speculation. Some people believe that he was murdered by a jealous husband, while others believe that he was killed by the devil.

The truth about Johnson's death may never be known, but his music will continue to live on. Robert Johnson is a true American legend, and his music is a gift to the world.

Suggested Reading

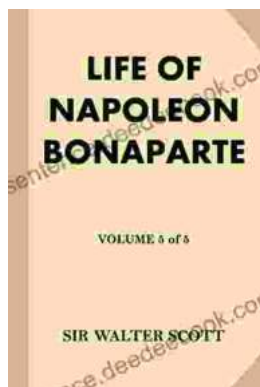
* [Robert Johnson: The Complete Recordings]
(<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Johnson-Complete-Recordings/dp/B000002S5E>) * [Searching for Robert Johnson]
(<https://www.amazon.com/Searching-Robert-Johnson-Peter-Guralnick/dp/0143118933>) * [Robert Johnson: The Life and Music]
(<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Johnson-Life-Music-Elijah-Wald/dp/0760325988>)



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