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Big Star Fallin' Mama: Five Women In Black Music



Synopsis

An updated edition of a popular collection of biographies of five of the most important, influential, and respected African-American female singers profiles Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holliday, and Aretha Franklin.

Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers; Revised edition (February 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670856215

ISBN-13: 978-0670856213

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,195,753 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in [Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Music > History](#) #214 in [Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Music > Biographies](#) #520 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up?A revision of an important book published 20 years ago. Jones provides biographies of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, and Aretha Franklin (brought up to date) that offer special insight into the African American music scene from the 1920s to the present. All of the women are portrayed in terms of their personalities, environments, music, and times. New material about musical trends and performers relevant to today's culture, such as rap and hip-hop, is presented. Good-quality black-and-white reproductions and photographs, an annotated list of other women important to black music, and an updated bibliography and discography are included.?Robin Works Davis, Hurst Public Library, TXCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 7-12. Although billed as a revision, this shows little change from the 1974 edition. After a brief history of the blues, Jones blends biographical discussions of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, and Aretha Franklin--their lives and contributions to American music--with important social history and a deep sense of musical heritage. Revisions include softening the Holiday bio and bringing Franklin into the nineties as well as an updated bibliography and

discography. Although there's a lot more out there on this topic today than there was in 1974, this well-written, thoughtful presentation is still one of the best available for readers of this age group and will be valuable for multicultural, women's studies, biographical, or musical history units. Libraries that don't have a copy should be glad of another opportunity to get one. Jeanne Triner

I used this book to teach my home schooled children about some of the legendary black gospel singers. My reason for choosing a 3 star rating is that there are some details about the lives of these women which needed to be filtered since they do not present these women as moral, godly role models for young girls. My goal in using the book was to excite interest in gospel music, not life choices made which point out the sinful, fallenness of man. That is a topic I deal with on a daily basis in raising and educating my children, but it need not be the focus of a study of gospel music. Apparently, singing gospel music does not necessarily translate into godly living. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes.

i have bought one before, They look amazing and cutting food smoothly. very kind and the best seller. excellent. Very well.

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