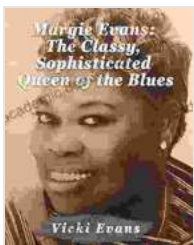


The Classy Sophisticated Queen of the Blues: Bessie Smith

Bessie Smith (1894-1937) was an American blues singer and vaudeville performer. Known as the "Empress of the Blues," she was one of the most popular and influential blues singers of the 1920s and 1930s. Smith's powerful, emotive vocals and masterful phrasing have made her one of the most celebrated and iconic figures in blues history.



Margie Evans: The Classy, Sophisticated Queen of the Blues by Vicki Evans

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Print length : 75 pages

Lending : Enabled



Early Life and Career

Bessie Smith was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1894. Her family was poor, and she began singing for money at a young age. In 1912, she moved to Philadelphia, where she began performing in vaudeville. She quickly gained a reputation for her powerful voice and charismatic stage presence.

In 1923, Smith signed a recording contract with Columbia Records. Her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues," was a huge success and launched her

career as a blues singer.

The "Empress of the Blues"

Over the next decade, Smith recorded dozens of hit songs, including "St. Louis Blues," "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out," and "Baby Doll." She also starred in several films, including "St. Louis Blues" (1929) and "Empress of the Blues" (1930).

Smith's music was deeply rooted in the blues tradition, but she also incorporated elements of jazz and vaudeville into her performances. Her songs were often about love, loss, and the struggles of everyday life. She was known for her powerful vocals and her ability to convey raw emotion in her music.

Personal Life and Legacy

Smith's personal life was often tumultuous. She married several times, but her marriages were often unhappy. She also struggled with alcoholism and drug addiction.

In 1937, Smith died in a car accident at the age of 43. Her death was a major loss to the music world. She was one of the most popular and influential blues singers of her time, and her music continues to inspire and move people to this day.

Influence and Impact

Bessie Smith's influence on the blues and popular music cannot be overstated. She was one of the first blues singers to achieve mainstream success, and her music helped to popularize the genre. She also

influenced a wide range of musicians, including Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin, and Janis Joplin.

Smith's legacy continues to live on through her music. Her recordings are still widely listened to and enjoyed, and her influence can be heard in the music of contemporary blues and jazz artists.

Bessie Smith was a truly unique and extraordinary artist. Her powerful voice, charismatic stage presence, and deeply personal songs made her one of the most celebrated and iconic figures in blues history. Her music continues to inspire and move people to this day, and her legacy as the "Empress of the Blues" is secure.

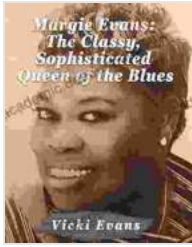


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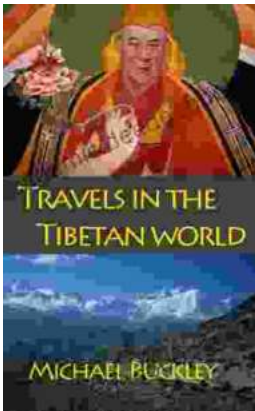
Blues by Vicki Evans

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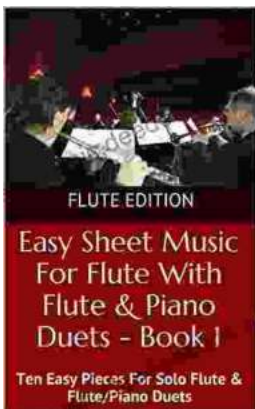


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