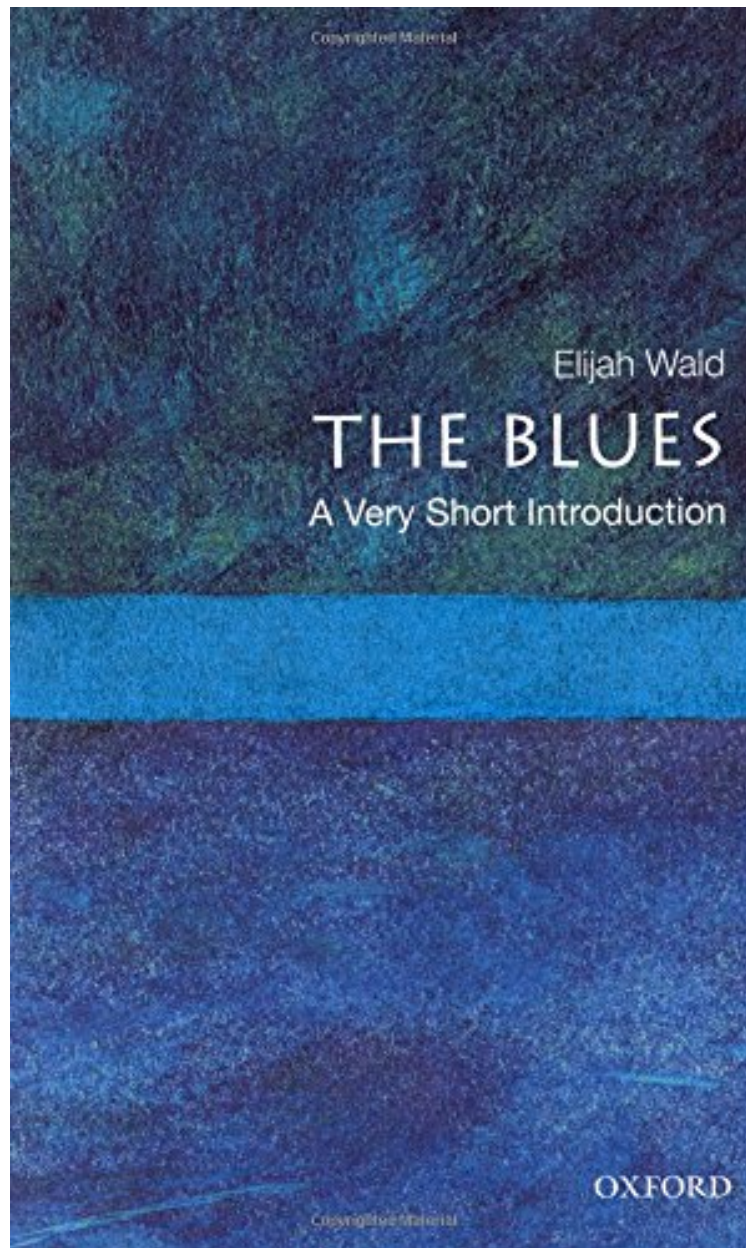


(Read free ebook) The Blues: A Very Short Introduction

## The Blues: A Very Short Introduction

*Elijah Wald*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#172379 in Books imusti 2010-08-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 4.50 x .30 x 6.751, .29 #File Name: 0195398939152 pagesOxford University Press USA | File size: 69.Mb

**Elijah Wald : The Blues: A Very Short Introduction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blues: A Very Short Introduction:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A short but marvellous exploration!By robyn louise durackA very

important book for someone who knows very little about The Blues. Clear and well-written, the author has opened up a music genre as well as provided an accessible and serious insight the history of the USA I felt enlightened from reading it!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerExcellent, concise but comprehensive history of "old" blues up to modern pop music. Couldn't put it down.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended.By Laurence GoldsteinThis was a shockingly good overview, clear and concise. Highly recommended.

Praised as "suave, soulful, ebullient" (Tom Waits) and "a meticulous researcher, a graceful writer, and a committed contrarian" (New York Times Book Review), Elijah Wald is one of the leading popular music critics of his generation. In *The Blues*, Wald surveys a genre at the heart of American culture. It is not an easy thing to pin down. As Howlin' Wolf once described it, "When you ain't got no money and can't pay your house rent and can't buy you no food, you've damn sure got the blues." It has been defined by lyrical structure, or as a progression of chords, or as a set of practices reflecting West African "tonal and rhythmic approaches," using a five-note "blues scale." Wald sees blues less as a style than as a broad musical tradition within a constantly evolving pop culture. He traces its roots in work and praise songs, and shows how it was transformed by such professional performers as W. C. Handy, who first popularized the blues a century ago. He follows its evolution from Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith through Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix; identifies the impact of rural field recordings of Blind Lemon Jefferson, Charley Patton and others; explores the role of blues in the development of both country music and jazz; and looks at the popular rhythm and blues trends of the 1940s and 1950s, from the uptown West Coast style of T-Bone Walker to the "down home" Chicago sound of Muddy Waters. Wald brings the story up to the present, touching on the effects of blues on American poetry, and its connection to modern styles such as rap.As with all of Oxford's Very Short Introductions, *The Blues* tells you--with insight, clarity, and wit--everything you need to know to understand this quintessentially American musical genre.

"The most illuminating short treatment of the blues ever published."--Terry Teachout, *Wall Street Journal*"Both thorough and illuminating. . . . It would be impossible to pack more critical wisdom-or common sense-into a smaller, shapelier package."--*Wall Street Journal*About the AuthorElijah Wald is a musician who teaches blues history at UCLA. His books include *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock 'n' Roll*, *Global Minstrels*, and *Escaping the Delta: Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues*.