



## The Blues: A Very Short Introduction (Paperback)

By Elijah Wald

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. 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...

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