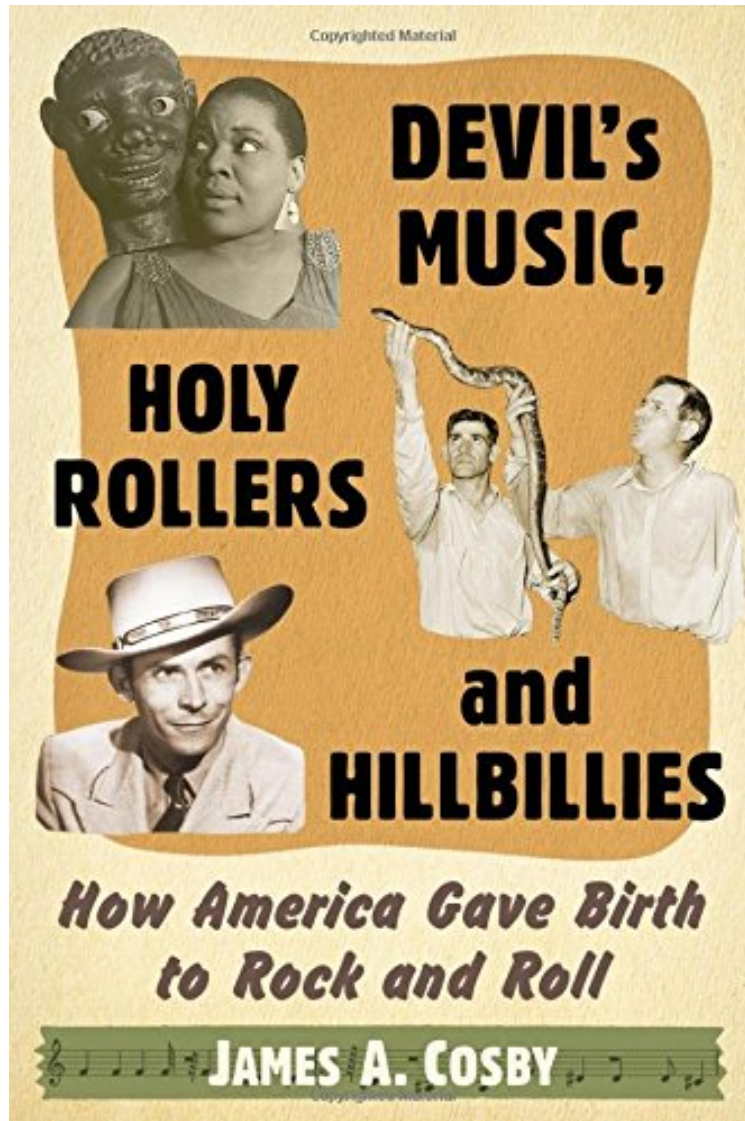


(Download) Devil's Music, Holy Rollers and Hillbillies: How America Gave Birth to Rock and Roll

Devil's Music, Holy Rollers and Hillbillies: How America Gave Birth to Rock and Roll

James A Cosby

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1657644 in Books 2016-05-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 5.901, .0 #File Name:
1476662290264 pages | File size: 51.Mb

James A Cosby : Devil's Music, Holy Rollers and Hillbillies: How America Gave Birth to Rock and Roll before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Devil's Music, Holy Rollers and Hillbillies: How America Gave Birth to Rock and Roll:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A literary mixtape, a musical maritime map.By DMPPPerhaps I should preface this by saying that I know Cosby personally and I know a bit about music. But other than attending one

book reading a few months ago, I read this book with fresh eyes only this week while abroad in Mexico (more on that below). I now know more than a "bit" more about music than when I started. And appreciate the immense amount of work that clearly went into this book. If you are a fan of US history. Human history. Race relations and the origins of today's music this book is essential, educational, straightforward and impactful. A musical journey. In the words of U2's Larry Mullen Jr., a la Rattle and Hum, this book is a musical journey. In fact, much of what is told here was U2's journey chronicled in that very film. (It was hard for critics to accept that the world's biggest rock band in the late Eighties could have so much to learn and gaze upon as students of music, but read this book and watch that film and appreciate both in that light.) This book is more, though. Subversive. Why? It is not just about music. It is a history lesson. A history of America during a lengthy period of ups and downs, racism, poverty, and cultural dynamics that challenge the reader and educate them. The metaphor mentioned in the book about streams and river source is all too true. This is a maritime map of American streams. Winding in and out, flowing into a river, leading to an ocean of rock and roll. Linear the history is not. Sometimes yes, though usually not. Cosby is adept at rewinding the tape where appropriate - reminding you of the etch marks left along the way that you need to revisit as you piece together this history. You are three streams over from the one you sailed 50 pages ago, but the connections are material and while some trees may block your view back to the streams you already navigated, ultimately you reach a place and look back with a nod of understanding, able to see clearly through openings in the branches. And also with a nod of appreciation. Both really. This book also presents a problem for the reader. It is what I will call a literary mixtape. If you are a music person and you don't know all of these tunes and images described throughout, you will be tempted to toggle to your iTunes, to YouTube - to see and hear what Cosby is describing. Or you will flag things for future listening. That's what I have done. Both in fact. For that matter, it doesn't matter if you consider yourself a "music person". It matters that your curiosity is piqued. And that is something that this book accomplishes. I did not know much of the Elvis detail described here. What strikes me is the notion that, to a person, his peers (e.g., BB King) praised him for being a genuinely good person, devoid of racism. Fast forward today to many popular artists who coin him a racist. I have a suspicion they haven't read half as much of Elvis's history as what is presented briefly here. Cosby's point is taken though - go read and form more informed opinions. Perhaps Cosby and the reader could be persuaded that Elvis was every bit the good ol' boy. Fair enough. That just means there is more reading and storytelling to be done. Cirrhosis. Another thing that strikes me about the history told here. How many people in this great story were declared dead from cirrhosis? Seems like a lot. So much that the word should be in the index. It isn't. But note to the publisher. Mexico. It's a fact that I read this while in Mexico. And while doing so, just in one week I saw a restaurant advertising not one, but two, "award-winning" Elvis impersonators. Then I saw a band open a public rock show at the beach with Johnny B. Goode. Reading the story of Lou Reed's "Rock Roll" and the Jenny featured, I tuned to Jane's Addiction's version for the soundtrack as I read. Poignant, all of this. If there is one message Cosby is conveying, it is the transcendent power of rock and roll. It resonates everywhere, clearly, not just in the US. This is not a novel concept but the book gives you a musical lens with which to see the place where you live or work or travel as you read it. Try it yourself as you read through. So what's missing? What's next? Perhaps a good deal to say about Johnny Cash. The British Invasion teed up at the end of the book. Punk. Synth pop. Grunge. And on and on. It is hard to say something new about these topics. It is hard to approach all that has already been written as a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces tell a larger story when properly joined. But that's what this book accomplishes well. And that's why it deserves to be shared, revisited, critiqued and analyzed.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Best book ever written on the roots of Rock (...By sean fThis IS IT!!! Best book ever written on the roots of Rock (in my opinion)0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Attempt At A Big SubjectBy Ghost of Christmas #5The author makes a pretty commendable stab at the sociological history and fruits of the genre of music called Rock Roll. Hopefully this attempt will inspire future books with perhaps a more seriously scholastic approach. The reason for the 3 star rating is that the author all too often runs off in long passages of opinion, and just plain speculation that is not backed up with any facts that might have informed them. And then there are some really silly mistakes for which there are no excuses in this modern age of easy research. One such goof that sticks in my head from early in the book: the author writes about the decimation of the cotton crop in the southern USA by the boll weevil, which he informs us is a rodent. It is not, it is a bug. There is no excuse for that one slipping through the editing process, and there are a few other similar mistakes of facts, figures, and dates. Looking past those relatively minor annoyances, this book is otherwise a nice attempt at examining a facet of the subject of Rock Roll Music that few others have sought to approach.

Rock music today is universal and its popular history is well known. Yet few know how and why it really came about. Taking a fresh look at events long overlooked or misunderstood, this book tells how some of the most disenfranchised people in a free and prosperous nation strove to make themselves heard--and changed the world. Describing the genesis of rock and roll, the author covers everything from its deep roots in the Mississippi Delta, key early figures, like deejay "Daddy-O" Dewey Phillips and gospel star Sister Rosetta Tharpe, and the influence of so-called "holy rollers" of the Pentecostal church who became crucial performers--Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard.

"James A. Cosby's book on the roots of rock and roll is a fascinating look at the historical aspect of this comprehensive music. He carefully traces some of the earliest examples of what later evolved into what we recognize as rock and roll, and the journey on which this book takes us is consistently informative and enlightening. The author covers the music's history with careful, accurate details, and also adds an appreciation for its aesthetics. It allows even those who already have some understanding of the music's roots to learn more details and obtain a deeper understanding. Highly recommended. It is one of the quintessential books on rock music's roots." --Examiner.com "Informative and entertaining" --Penniless Press "Do we really need another book that purports to tell the history of rock music? When the book is as thoughtfully written and meticulously footnoted as James A. Cosby's Devil's Music, Holy Rollers and Hillbillies: How America Gave Birth to Rock and Roll, the answer is a resounding yes." --Broad Street "A lot of useful, thoughtful, and engaging information throughout the work...provides an illuminating and intriguing look at how the genre became a cultural touchstone." --Kirkus s "You can read a hundred histories of early rock and roll, and still not understand exactly how the spark of a century was generated. History can be messy, but is there any way to tell the story concisely? James A. Cosby does a more than creditable job of that in his new book." --Minnesota Public Radio About the Author Attorney James A. Cosby is a regular contributor on pop culture matters for PopMatters.com and other outlets. He lives in Philadelphia.