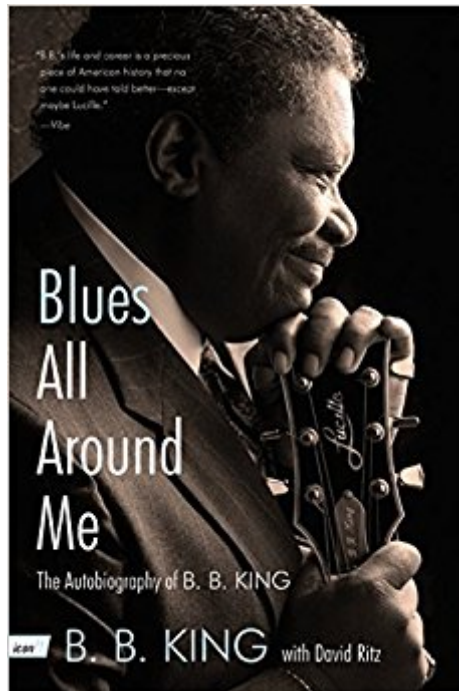




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# Blues All Around Me: The Autobiography Of B. B. King



## Synopsis

“A treasure trove of information told with real feeling.” —Washington Post Book World  
“Charming...honest...transcendent.” It reads like a warm and lengthy conversation with a close friend.  
“The undisputed king of the blues, B.B. King puts his life into words in a story that spans tragedy, triumph, and everything in between—and he tells it just how he plays it, straight from the heart. A true-to-life tale of overcoming monumental odds to succeed as an artist in an often unfriendly world, *Blues All Around Me* is also the story of how blues music changed during its migration from the Mississippi Delta to urban areas such as Chicago. Rolling Stone calls B.B.’s memoir a “very American success story [told] with the lyricism and leisurely pace of a born storyteller.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

His real name is Riley B. King, but the B.B. stands, as any aficionado knows, for Blues Boy, a nickname he was given in the late 1940s when he was a disk jockey in Memphis, Tenn. Of course, he's best known as the King of the Blues to millions of fans throughout the world. At 70, B.B. King is still singing the blues and this is his story, from his childhood growing up in the Mississippi Delta, to the purchase of his first guitar at age 12, from his first real break after his appearance on Sonny Boy Williamson's King Biscuit Time radio show, to his ascent to international acclaim as America's ambassador of the blues. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The long-awaited autobiography. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers

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loved it! david ritz really did an awesome job putting on paper bb's memories... all i have to say that when you are finished reading this book, damn you'll feel like you knew the man, you'll feel like you just have a couple of drinks with him and you were talking... just talking... well written, in a very honest-intimate sort of way

An extraordinary life told with candour and humility. I loved King's straight talking and his ability to define 'the blues'. B.B King is the ultimate definition of a Bluesman, still hooked on spending over 300 days a year on the road. This book is a slice of history, a little bit rough around the edges but the 100% real deal.

I LOVED THIS BOOK!! AND I LOVE DAVID RITZ'S WRITING. AND I LOVE BB KING. IT WAS HONEST, TO THE POINT, REAL, AND SOME PARTS FUNNY AND OTHER PARTS, YOU FELT LIKE CRYING FOR HIM. BUT I'M SO GLAD BB GOT WITH DAVID RITZ TO WRITE THIS WONDERFUL AUTOBIO. LOVE IT TO DEATH AND I WILL ALWAYS LISTEN TO HIM PLAY LUCILLE. YOU CAN FEEL HIS SPIRIT AS HE LETS HER WAIL. GO BB BABY!!

THERE ARE MANY BLUES SINGERS FROM ROBERT JOHNSON TO THE PRESENT, BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE THEY CALLED "THE KING OF THE BLUES" THIS MAN IS A LEGEND HE IS CALLED B.B.KING. THIS POWERFUL BOOK GOES INTO THE HUMBLE BEGINNING OF RILEY B. KING AS A SHARECROPPER, THROUGH THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, RACISM TO PERFECTING THE MUSIC THAT IS HIS FIRST LOVE "THE BLUES" .HERE IS A MAN WHO CAME FROM A SIMPLE HUMBLE BEGINNING TO PERFORMING BEFORE KINGS AND QUEENS AND PRESIDENTS AND EVEN THE POPE. IF YOU HAVE SEEN B.B.KING YOU KNOW WHY HE IS CALLED THE KING OF THE BLUES, IF YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HIM YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON "THE MAN" HIMSELF ALL YOU CAN DO IS READ THIS POWERFUL BOOK

First, let me say that I have been a B.B. King fan since I was a child. My father played jazz records when I was growing up. But, I was drawn to rock and roll, then later, to the blues. It didn't take long to learn that B.B. King was THE man where the blues were concerned. I had the good fortune to see B.B. Perform live twice. They are concerts I will never forget. I have read several biographies

about Mr. King and I have always learned something. But, if you are a true B.B. King fan, this is the book for you. Reading this book made me feel that B.B. was talking directly to me. Since we had only recently lost him, this was really important to me. He tells you his inner-most thoughts and you feel as though you really know the man, not just the musician. Although B.B. was the ultimate blues musician and a composer of great blues songs, I believe he would be the first to admit that he was not a professional writer. That credit must go to David Ritz. He did an amazing job. I am a serious reader, mostly of autobiographies of musicians. This is, I believe, the best one I have ever read.

In biographies, early backgrounds are often the most interesting part, and this is no different. His early years were tragic, growing up on a sharecropper plantation on the Mississippi Delta, losing his mother from untreated diabetes at a very young age, and extreme losses and adversity. Somehow he was able to power through, earned enough money on the cotton fields to move out, and shows no bitterness. Age 7 was the first time he ever touched a guitar, sneaking into a bedroom at a party. Its owner, his reverend, caught him, but let him to pick it up, and showed him a few chords. Then he made his first guitar by stringing wire onto a broom handle, and later bought real guitar from Sears. He describes the Memphis blues scene, at the time when Elvis was also there, picking up blues. How various white managers put their names on first copyright of his songs to get the royalties. These are among other stories, and the book is never dull. Possibly a little too much emphasis on his sex life, however. So, "I stepped out of Mississippi when I was 10 years old, My suit cut sharp as a razor, and a heart made out of gold" [Riding With the King], pretty much describes it. This book would enjoyed by anyone who loves music, period, not just the blues.

B. B. went all around the world and back in telling his story in which I didn't care for. Also, he left out so much information. Maybe his other books are more informative. But I learned things about him that I didn't know and really enjoyed the book. So if you're a fan and wants to learn about B. B., please purchase this book.

A good biography and nice read of the all very human portrait of B.B. is here. He portrays himself as a really humble and kind person- as if he had only one temperament from childhood, adolescence, adult and autumn years, which I find almost remarkable, but you know he is honest as a man in regards to how he pens his relations with women. That and his shying away from his work in regard to bits of his influence- after a little Lonnie Johnson- it's basically road and women and trouble and being human. A pleasant read for historians of an notable figure and fans of music.

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