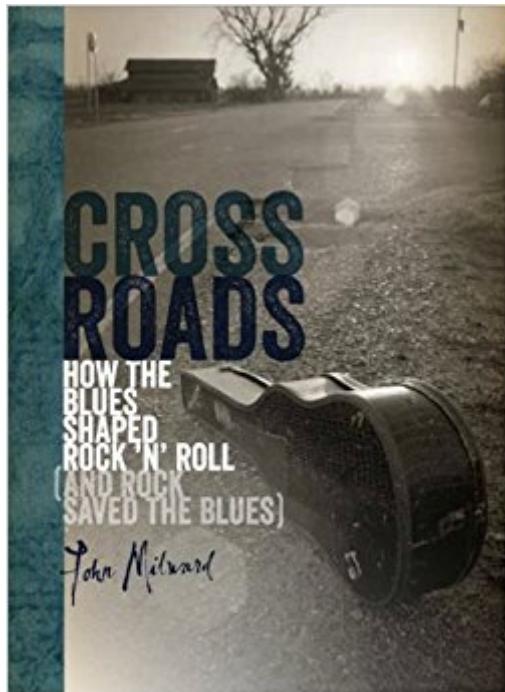


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# Crossroads: How The Blues Shaped Rock 'n' Roll (and Rock Saved The Blues)



## Synopsis

The blues revival of the early 1960s brought new life to a seminal genre of American music and inspired a vast new world of singers, songwriters, and rock bands. The Rolling Stones took their name from a Muddy Waters song; Led Zeppelin forged bluesy riffs into hard rock and heavy metal; and ZZ Top did superstar business with boogie rhythms copped from John Lee Hooker. Crossroads tells the myriad stories of the impact and enduring influence of the early-â™60s blues revival: stories of the record collectors, folkies, beatniks, and pop culture academics; and of the lucky musicians who learned life-changing lessons from the rediscovered Depression-era bluesmen that found hipster renown by playing at coffeehouses, on college campuses, and at the Newport Folk Festival. The blues revival brought notice to these forgotten musicians, and none more so than Robert Johnson, who had his songs covered by Cream and the Rolling Stones, and who sold a million CDs sixty years after dying outside a Mississippi Delta roadhouse. Crossroads is the intersection of blues and rock â™nâ™ roll, a vivid portrait of the fluidity of American folk culture that captures the voices of musicians, promoters, fans, and critics to tell this very American story of how the blues came to rest at the heart of popular music.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was never a big fan of the blues. I can also truthfully say that I was never a fan of reading a book about the blues. I'm more of a horror/science fiction kind of guy but I must say that this book has had quite an impact on me. Not only did this book teach me a great deal about the blues but it

taught me a tremendous amount about music in general. And I thoroughly enjoyed it. I would recommend this book to those who are ignorant of the blues (like myself) as well as to those who are well-versed in the genre. This work was very well-written and made my music education incredibly entertaining. To me, it even reads like a cool song. The author never pretends to be an objective or impartial documenter of the facts. This is obvious from the start. We have a kindred fan of this class of music and clearly a musician to have delved so deeply into the subject matter. We find an artist, composer, entertainer and wordsmith! I relished the experience this book provided for me. After only reading a few chapters I found myself chasing after the music and researching the artists. It was an education in music appreciation on many levels. Before reading this I could honestly say that I always valued good music. I was oblivious to its evolution and this book only covers a small part of it. Music is not only a major component of modern life but it has always been a vital part of human history. The past was definitely not silent! After listening to the music John Milward introduced me to, it has opened my mind, body and soul to the power of the Blues. I can now put music to the names such as Robert Johnson, Son House, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and B.B. King. Music that if properly listened to, tells its own story. Music that defined itself and its artists and will define you.

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