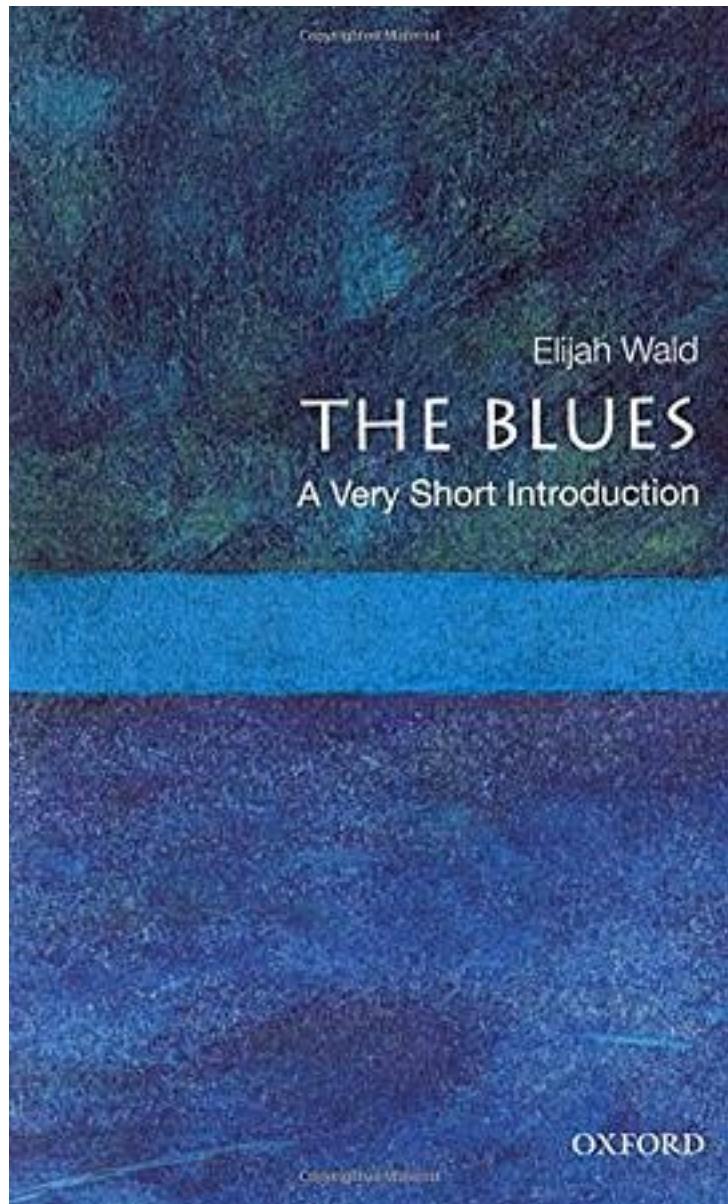


# The Blues



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著者:Elijah Wald

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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.

作者介绍:

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评论

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书评

因为很喜欢听布鲁斯音乐，但是发现相关的中文书籍非常少，所以从2015年4月份开始，到7月份，把Elijah Wald的《The Blues:A Very Short Introduction》这本小书给翻译出来。这本书是牛津大学出版的系列简史丛书中的一本。现在这套丛书国内也有出版社在做，之前是外研社，现在是...

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这本书是本普及读物，是牛津出版社一系列简史中的一部。在北京的pageone书店看到同系列的书，真是薄薄的手掌书。虽然篇幅不大，但是对布鲁斯的历史进行了全面梳理，重要的艺人都做了介绍，还有许多歌曲，后半部分还讲到了布鲁斯与爵士、乡村音乐的发展关系。中文布鲁斯历史的书...

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