



# The Death Of Johnny Ace

**Dave Henderson**

## **The Death Of Johnny Ace:**

The Death of Johnny Ace Steve Bergsman,2014-03-01 R B singer s life cut short too soon The tale of Johnny Ace starts in the late 1940s as a young man returns from the Navy to his hometown of Memphis to try and figure out what to do with his life The man Johnny Alexander will eventually make his way to Beale Street the epicenter of the blues culture in the United States successfully launch his recording career as Johnny Ace and battle against his record company owned by African American music mogul Don Robey Along the way he ll cross paths with musical giants such as B B King Ike Turner Bobby Bland Roscoe Gordon Johnny Otis Junior Parker Rufus Thomas and Big Mama Thornton Eventually Johnny Ace works his way to the fateful concert in the Houston Auditorium where a moment of violence ends his life Did Johnny Ace think he could beat Russian roulette one more time Or did something else happen in that backstage dressing room crowded with girlfriends record people and a very angry Don Robey The Death of Johnny Ace is based on the life of a real person rhythm blues singer Johnny Ace whose meteoric career was cut short by his unexpected death He allegedly blew his brains out playing Russian roulette just before he was to appear on stage at a Christmas concert in 1954 Although largely forgotten now Johnny Ace was the biggest star in R B a teen idol in the early 1950s

## **The Late Great Johnny Ace and the Transition from R&B to**

**Rock 'n' Roll** James M. Salem,2001 Johnny Ace s crooning style and stirring ballads made him the first postwar African American artist to cross over to a white audience After a string of R B hits Ace released the million selling Pledging My Love a song headed to the top of the charts when the singer accidentally shot himself in his dressing room between sets at a show James M Salem captures the enigmatic captivating and influential R B legend Venturing from raucous Beale Street to Houston s vibrant Fourth Ward Salem places Johnny Ace within a multifaceted world of postwar rhythm and blues that included B B King Johnny Otis Big Mama Thornton and Gatemouth Brown Salem also examines how entrepreneur Don D Robey and his wife Evelyn Johnson promoted Ace to the top of the charts Yet fame as always had a price Ace s tours on the Chitlin Circuit meant endless one night stands and a grueling schedule that kept him on the road 340 days per year Comprehensive and filled with anecdotes The Late Great Johnny Ace and the Transition from R B to Rock n Roll tells the story of the star who fused black and white styles and changed American popular music forever

## **Big Mama Thornton**

Michael Spörke,2014-08-05 You ain t nothing but a Hound Dog with these words shouted into the microphone she will always be remembered Big Mama Thornton Who is this woman who sang the megahit Hound Dog before Elvis Presley and who wrote Ball Chain the song that catapulted Janis Joplin to sudden fame The story begins with her first musical attempts in the Hot Harlem Revue as a girl of 14 Then the book follows her journey into the Mecca of Texas Blues Houston where Big Mama Thornton met Johnny Otis with whom she recorded her greatest success Hound Dog With the slowdown of the blues in the early sixties this book follows Big Mama Thornton s way to California discusses her struggle to survive and celebrates her impressive musical comeback in the course of the blues revival and the hippie movement With the end of the sixties facing a

declining interest in the old school blues the book shows how Big Mama Thornton found her niche in clubs and festivals in the U S and Europe The book then follows Big Mama Thornton through the seventies and eighties until her untimely death

**What a Difference a Day Makes** Steve Bergsman, 2023-10-30 In What a Difference a Day Makes Women Who Conquered 1950s Music Steve Bergsman highlights the Black female artists of the 1950s a time that predated the chart topping girl groups of the early 1960s Many of the singers of this era became wildly famous and respected and even made it into the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame However there were many others such as Margie Day Helen Humes Nellie Lutcher Jewel King and Savannah Churchill who made one or two great records in the 1950s and then disappeared from the scene The era featured former jazz and blues singers who first came to prominence in the 1940s and others who pioneered early forms of rock n roll In a companion volume Bergsman has written the history of white women singers of the same era Although song styles were parallel the careers of Black and white female singers of the period ran in very different directions as the decade progressed The songs of African American vocalists like Dinah Washington and Etta James were segregated to the R B charts or covered by pop singers in the early and mid 1950s but burst into prominence in the last part of the decade and well into the 1960s White singers on the other hand excelled in the early 1950s but saw their careers decline with the advent of rock music In this volume Bergsman takes an encyclopedic look at both the renowned and the sadly faded stars of the 1950s placing them and their music back in the spotlight

**The Popular Music Teaching Handbook** B. Lee Cooper, Rebecca A. Condon, 2004-04-30 The function of print resources as instructional guides and descriptors of popular music pedagogy are addressed in this concise volume Increasingly public school teachers and college level faculty members are introducing and utilizing music related educational approaches in their classrooms This book lists reports dealing with popular music resources as classroom teaching materials and will stimulate further thought among students and teachers It focuses on the growing spectrum of published scholarship available to instructors in specific teaching fields art geography social studies urban studies and so on as well as on the multitude of general resources including biographical directories and encyclopedias of artist profiles Building on two recent publications Teaching with Popular Music Resources A Bibliography of Interdisciplinary Instructional Approaches Popular Music and Society XXII no 2 Summer 1998 and American Culture Interpreted through Popular Music Interdisciplinary Teaching Approaches Bowling Green State University Popular Press 2000 this volume focuses on the growing spectrum of published scholarship that is available to instructors in specific teaching fields art geography social studies urban studies and so on as well as on the multitude of general resources including biographical directories and encyclopedias of artist profiles

**Little Richard** Spencer Leigh, 2023-10-27 Born Richard Wayne Penniman Little Richard said he invented rock n roll Spencer Leigh claims he didn't but the world would have been very different without Tutti Frutti two minutes of wild exhibitionism recorded in 1955 It transformed American music and world culture There still would have been the Beatles Jimi Hendrix David Bowie and Prince without Little Richard but

their careers would have been different Little Richard Send Me Some Lovin is a fun packed biography about an influential and charismatic man who lived his life as though he were continually on stage An influential and charismatic man who lived his life as though he were continually on stage Page after page you will be proclaiming Ooh My Soul Come and meet Lucille Long Tall Sally Jenny Jenny Miss Ann and Good Golly Miss Molly Come and enjoy the company *The Chitlin' Circuit* Preston Lauterbach,2011-07-11 Lauterbach's tribute is welcome and overdue Jonathan Yardley Washington Post For generations chitlin circuit has meant second tier brash performers in raucous nightspots far from the big city limelight Now music journalist Preston Lauterbach combines terrific firsthand reportage with deep historical research to offer a groundbreaking account of the birth of rock n roll in black America *Earth Angels* Steve Bergsman,2023-04-12 Recording and performing in the early 1950s Jesse Belvin Guitar Slim and Johnny Ace produced at least thirteen top 25 hits between the three of them All but forgotten in the annals of rock n roll these artists have influenced musicians as varied as Elvis Presley Jimi Hendrix Frank Zappa and generations of soul singers Their songs have been covered by artists like Bob Dylan Joan Baez Luther Vandross and Paul Simon In Earth Angels The Short Lives and Controversial Deaths of Three R he was 27 Guitar Slim whose million selling song The Things I Used to Do has been re recorded by both Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan died in New York City at the age of 32 due to pneumonia that was possibly induced by alcoholism Johnny Ace's Pledging My Love spent ten weeks at the top position on Billboard's R B chart He died of a self inflicted gunshot wound at age 25 Bergsman's meticulous research and entertaining narrative style seeks to restore the credit denied these artists by their untimely deaths

**Rock'n'Roll's Strangest Moments** Mike Evans,2014-03-28 Rock music since its pre history in blues country music and 40s and early 50s pop through to the well publicised excesses of touring bands of today has left a legacy of thousands of weird and wonderful stories in its wake We've all read about the Who's Keith Moon driving a Rolls Royce into a hotel swimming pool but far more bizarre tales of on the road mayhem have never been widely told Likewise Svengali like managers have manipulated starstruck musicians since rock began though hanging your well known client from a third floor window was a less usual way of ensuring their loyalty And just where was the stalled hotel lift in which all four Beatles according to legend were turned on to marijuana There are the unsung heroes of rock pioneering eccentrics who helped make the music what it is and ended up as mere footnotes in the history books Men such as UK producer Joe Meek who created seminal classics from a bed sit above a cleaners on the Holloway Road and the New York DJ who originally coined the phrase rock n roll and died in alcoholic poverty Not to mention the stories behind the stars when Debbie Harry was a Playboy Bunny Paul Simon wrote Homeward Bound on Widnes railway station in Lancashire and the Gallagher brothers so they claim were petty thieves **A Blues Bibliography** Robert Ford,2008-03-31 A Blues Bibliography Second Edition is a revised and enlarged version of the definitive blues bibliography first published in 1999 Material previously omitted from the first edition has now been included and the bibliography has been expanded to include works published since then In

addition to biographical references this work includes entries on the history and background of the blues instruments record labels reference sources regional variations and lyric transcriptions and musical analysis The Blues Bibliography is an invaluable guide to the enthusiastic market among libraries specializing in music and African American culture and among individual blues scholars The Life Story of the Blues Musician Barry Lee Pearson,1977 Ebony ,1955 **Living Blues** ,1999 **Suicide in the Entertainment Industry** David K. Frasier,2002 This work covers 840 intentional suicide cases initially reported in Daily Variety the entertainment industry s trade journal but also drawing attention from mainstream news media These cases are taken from the ranks of vaudeville film theatre dance music literature writers with direct connections to film and other allied fields in the entertainment industry from 1905 through 2000 Accidentally self inflicted deaths are omitted except for a few controversial cases It includes the suicides of well known personalities such as actress Peg Entwistle who is the only person to ever commit suicide by jumping from the top of the Hollywood Sign Marilyn Monroe and Dorothy Dandridge who are believed to have overdosed on drugs and Richard Farnsworth and Brian Keith who shot themselves to end the misery of terminal cancer Also mentioned but in less detail are the suicides of unknown and lesser known members of the entertainment industry Arranged alphabetically each entry covers the person s personal and professional background method of suicide place of burial and in some instances includes actual statements taken from the suicide note Goldmine Roots of Rock Digest Goldmine Magazine,1999 Introduces the lives of the great musicians who made significant contributions to rock and roll music **Selections from the American Collections of the Museum of Fine Arts and the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum** Museum of Fine Arts (Springfield, Mass.),1999 The Village Voice Anthology (1956-1980) Geoffrey Stokes,1982 The Book of Rock Lists Dave Marsh,Kevin Stein,1981 **The Beatles Uncovered** Dave Henderson,2001-09 The bizarre world of Beatles cover versions taking in the Good the Bad and The Ugly Meeting the Blues Alan B. Govenar,1988 A book that not only vividly documents the rise of Texas blues but also gives it life through the words of the men and women who sing the lyrics and play the music With more than 200 rare and new photographs

This book delves into The Death Of Johnny Ace. The Death Of Johnny Ace is a vital topic that needs to be grasped by everyone, ranging from students and scholars to the general public. This book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into The Death Of Johnny Ace, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

1. The book is structured into several chapters, namely:

- Chapter 1: Introduction to The Death Of Johnny Ace
- Chapter 2: Essential Elements of The Death Of Johnny Ace
- Chapter 3: The Death Of Johnny Ace in Everyday Life
- Chapter 4: The Death Of Johnny Ace in Specific Contexts
- Chapter 5: Conclusion

2. In chapter 1, this book will provide an overview of The Death Of Johnny Ace. This chapter will explore what The Death Of Johnny Ace is, why The Death Of Johnny Ace is vital, and how to effectively learn about The Death Of Johnny Ace.
3. In chapter 2, the author will delve into the foundational concepts of The Death Of Johnny Ace. The second chapter will elucidate the essential principles that need to be understood to grasp The Death Of Johnny Ace in its entirety.
4. In chapter 3, the author will examine the practical applications of The Death Of Johnny Ace in daily life. This chapter will showcase real-world examples of how The Death Of Johnny Ace can be effectively utilized in everyday scenarios.
5. In chapter 4, this book will scrutinize the relevance of The Death Of Johnny Ace in specific contexts. This chapter will explore how The Death Of Johnny Ace is applied in specialized fields, such as education, business, and technology.
6. In chapter 5, this book will draw a conclusion about The Death Of Johnny Ace. The final chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.

This book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. It is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of The Death Of Johnny Ace.

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## **The Death Of Johnny Ace Introduction**

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