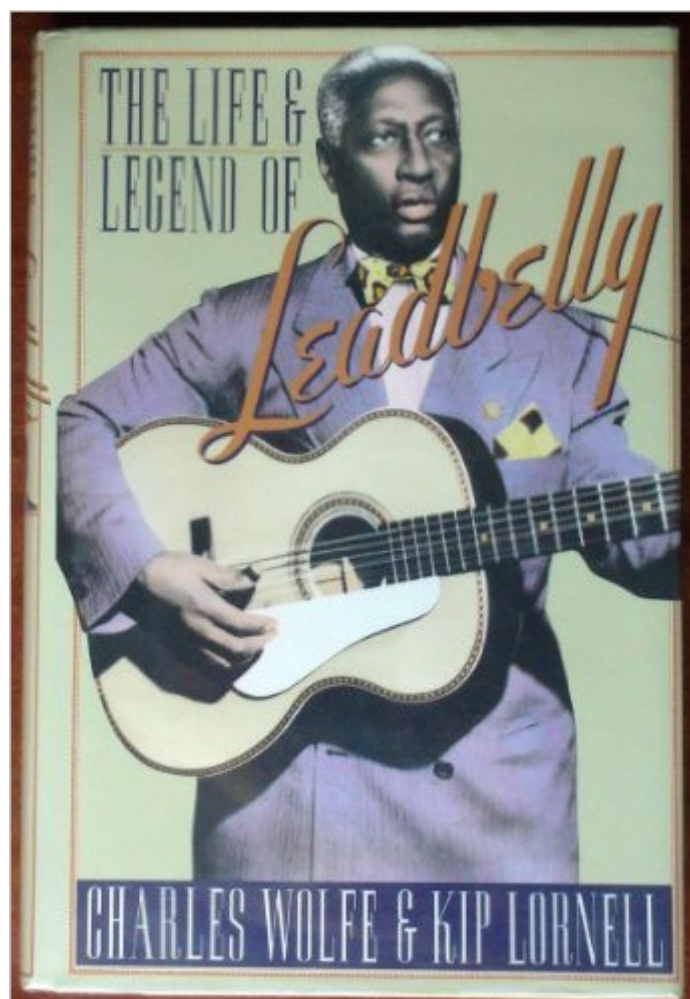


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The Life And Legend Of Leadbelly



Synopsis

A biography of the legendary folk and blues singer discusses his influences; his close relationships with folk greats Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger; his involvement in left-wing politics and the labor movement; and much more. National ad/promo.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Kurt Cobain introduced me and my generation to Lead Belly. I used to feel self-conscious about it because after Cobain's suicide there rose such an industry about him that listening to his recommendations felt like a pose. When you're young, you fear being put in a position of having to defend your own authenticity or the cultural spoils you nourish yourself on. There are few better ways to feel small than when you have a friend admiring your collections and hear, "You have THAT record in your collection?" • I still love Nirvana. One of its greatest gifts was introducing me to The Vaselines and especially Lead Belly -- I still feel a little like a poser because generally I only have Lead Belly records. How many other ways would a white suburbanite (more or less) like me have of being exposed to this work? I don't have much interest in delving further into the Lomax discoveries or the records people populating Cafe Wha might have listened. But that's fine because it's about the songs. That's what drew me to Lead Belly. The power. The passion. The discipline. The perseverance audible in his work. That perseverance particularly is what keeps me coming back to his records. This biography means almost as much to me as the music itself although not quite, ha. Again it's all about the songs and the man. There simply isn't a better

source of information if any that matches the research and reliability. Obviously I have no idea about the sources. It could all be lies for all I know. But I don't think so. I love Cobain's music. I love Bob Dylan. I've read books on them, too, and I've regretted it. I don't see those guys in the music. It's a betrayal in some weird way being confronted with accounts of who these guys are compared to the figures cut by the music.

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