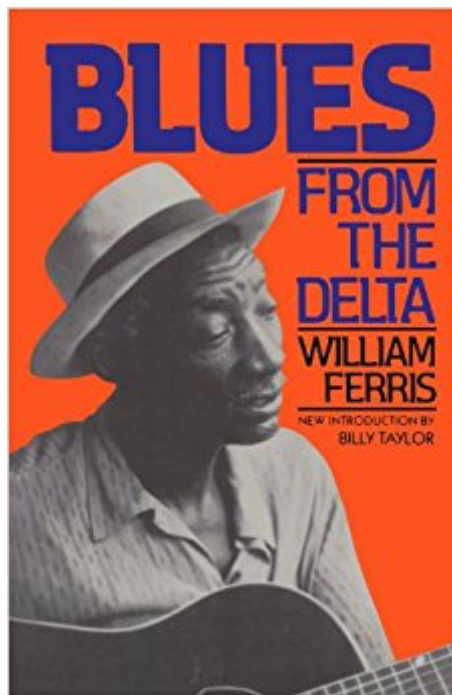


The book was found

# Blues From The Delta



## Synopsis

William Ferris, director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, has written a book as deep as the blues: rich in conversation, reference, history, and firsthand experience with blues musicians and the culture that informs the music. The poetry, games, house parties, religious and secular traditions of black life in the Delta are explored in living prose that is also a work of immense scholarship.

## Book Information

Paperback: 250 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; Revised edition (August 22, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306803275

ISBN-13: 978-0306803277

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #483,479 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #182 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Blues](#) #799 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music](#)

[> Theory, Composition & Performance > Theory](#) #1246 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment >](#)

[Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Popular](#)

## Customer Reviews

William Ferris is Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History and senior associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Ferris coedited the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture and is the author of Blues from the Delta. In 1991, Rolling Stone magazine named him among the top ten professors in the United States.

This study on the Mississippi Delta is a great addition to the study of folklife. Ferris uses the tools of this interdisciplinary to deconstruct this genre.

Ferris's book is a well-recognized classic study of blues music. The first section, entitled "Blues Roots," provides a highly readable and interesting overview of the history of blues music, and most of Ferris's conclusions have been supported by subsequent research within the past 30 years. The

second section, "Blues Composition," is a careful analysis of the various techniques for creating and performing blues music. Ferris avoids arcane ethnomusicological analysis, but he still provides readers with a good feel for the musicianship and lyricism of blues players. The final section is a presentation of a night at a blues house party, featuring lyrics, stage patter, jokes, speech play, and even some toasts by Pine Top Johnson, Floyd Thomas, Jasper Love, and Maudie Shirley. This presentation is an interesting depiction of ways in which blues music is performed in context, and it is an especially important historical documentation of an informal event held at Floyd Thomas's home in the Brickyard section of Clarksdale, Mississippi. Ferris's skill at presenting a slice-of-life portrait of a living tradition is clearly evident in this section of the book, and it's clear how he honed this type of research approach in subsequent documentary films. I also enjoyed reading this section while thinking about the recorded performances of the various blues songs that the musicians perform. The dialogue really creates a good feel for sitting in the shotgun house right along with these musicians. Although the research and the interviews were conducted in the 1960s and 70s, the book doesn't feel that dated. In fact, it is especially interesting to read the vivid accounts of Ferris's interviews with musicians like B. B. King, James "Son" Thomas, and other blues musicians during this time period. The book is also illustrated with excellent black and white photographs that portray a vivid feel for Ferris's impressions about the people and community of the musicians about whom he is writing.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Blues Traveling: The Holy Sites of Delta Blues, Third Edition  
Blues Traveling: The Holy Sites of Delta Blues  
Blues Harmonica Method, Level 2 Book/CD Set  
An Essential Study of Blues for the Intermediate Player in the Tongue Block Style (School of the Blues)  
The Caged System and 100 Licks for Blues Guitar: Complete With 1 hour of Audio Examples: Master Blues Guitar (Play Blues Guitar Book 5)  
48 Razor-Sharp 12-Bar Blues Riffs for Swing Bands and Blues Bands: B Flat Instruments Edition (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Series)  
48 Razor-Sharp 12-Bar Blues Riffs for Swing Bands and Blues Bands: Guitar Edition (Red Dog Music Books Razor-Sharp Blues Series)  
Blues Harmonica, Level 1: An Essential Study of Blues for the Beginning Player in the Tongue (School of Blues)  
Uptempo Blues: Blues Play-Along Volume 10 (Hal Leonard Blues Play-Along)  
Christmas Blues - Blues Play-Along Volume 11 (Book/Cd) (Hal Leonard Blues Play-Along)  
Texas Blues: Blues Play-Along Volume 2 (Hal Leonard Blues Play-Along)  
Escaping the Delta: Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues  
Searching for Robert Johnson: The Life and Legend of the "King of the Delta Blues Singers"  
Deep Blues: A Musical and Cultural History of the Mississippi Delta  
Development Arrested: Race, Power and the Blues in the Mississippi Delta Blues

From The Delta State of the Blues: The Living Legacy of the Delta Robert Johnson - King of the Delta Blues: Guitar Transcriptions and Detailed Lessons for 29 Songs Explorer's Guide Memphis & the Delta Blues Trail: A Great Destination (Explorer's Great Destinations) Early Blues: The First Stars of Blues Guitar Roots and Blues Mandolin: Learn the Essentials of Blues Mandolin - Rhythm & Lead - By Playing Classic Songs (Acoustic Guitar Private Lessons)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)