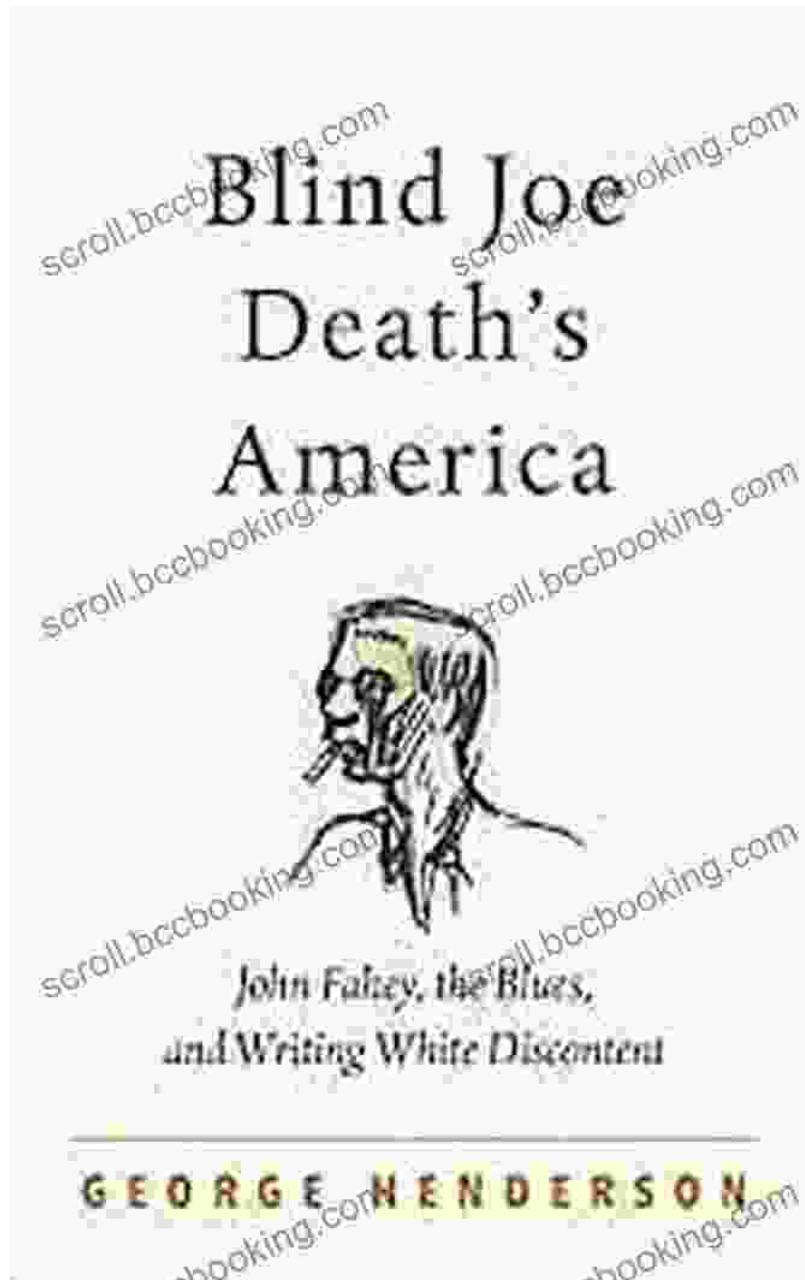
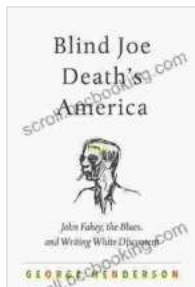


John Fahey: The Blues and Writing White Discontent



John Fahey was a groundbreaking fingerstyle guitarist and composer who emerged from the folk revival scene of the 1960s. Known for his innovative approach to the guitar, Fahey blended elements of folk, blues, and

experimental music to create a unique and captivating sound. Beyond his music, Fahey was also a prolific writer, penning essays, letters, and short stories that explored his personal experiences and social observations.



Blind Joe Death's America: John Fahey, the Blues, and Writing White Discontent by George Henderson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6399 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 228 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



John Fahey: The Blues and Writing White Discontent is a comprehensive and insightful examination of Fahey's life and work. Drawing from his extensive collection of writings, the book delves into Fahey's creative process, his relationships with fellow musicians and writers, and his complex views on race, class, and American culture.

Fahey's Early Life and Musical Influences

John Fahey was born in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1939. His father was a postal worker and his mother a devout Catholic. Fahey grew up in a working-class neighborhood and was exposed to a variety of musical influences from an early age. He became interested in folk music as a teenager and was particularly drawn to the blues.

In the late 1950s, Fahey began playing guitar and writing songs. He was heavily influenced by the music of Blind Lemon Jefferson, Mississippi John Hurt, and other blues legends. However, Fahey also experimented with incorporating elements of classical music, jazz, and Eastern music into his compositions.

The Takoma School of Guitar

In the early 1960s, Fahey became a central figure in the Takoma School of Guitar, a loose collective of folk and blues musicians who were based in the Washington, D.C., area. Along with Fahey, other notable members of the Takoma School included Sandy Bull, Peter Lang, and Robbie Basho.

The Takoma School musicians were known for their innovative approach to the guitar, which emphasized extended techniques such as fingerpicking, slide guitar, and open tunings. Fahey's music was particularly influential, and his unique style was widely imitated by other guitarists.

Fahey's Writings

In addition to his music, Fahey was also a prolific writer. He began publishing essays and short stories in the early 1960s, and his writings continued to appear throughout his life. Fahey's writings are often personal and introspective, and they explore a wide range of topics, including his childhood, his relationships, and his thoughts on music and culture.

Fahey's writings are also notable for their political commentary. Fahey was a strong critic of the Vietnam War and American imperialism, and his writings often expressed his frustration with racial injustice and social inequality.

Fahey's Later Years and Legacy

Fahey continued to record and perform throughout the 1970s and 1980s. He also wrote several books, including *How Blue Can You Get?* and *The Great Santa Barbara Oil Slick*. Fahey's health declined in the 1990s, and he died in 2001 at the age of 61.

Despite his relatively short life, Fahey left behind a remarkable legacy. He was one of the most influential fingerstyle guitarists of all time, and his music continues to inspire and challenge listeners today. Fahey's writings are also a valuable literary contribution, and they offer a unique perspective on American culture and history.

John Fahey: The Blues and Writing White Discontent is an essential resource for anyone interested in Fahey's life and work. The book provides a comprehensive overview of Fahey's music, writings, and personal life, and it offers a valuable insight into the mind of one of the most unique and enigmatic figures in American music.

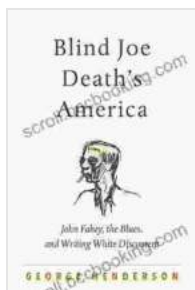
Whether you are a lifelong fan of Fahey or a newcomer to his work, I highly recommend this book. *John Fahey: The Blues and Writing White Discontent* is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of American music, culture, and social change.

Reviews

"A brilliant and comprehensive examination of one of the most important figures in American music." - *The New York Times*

"A masterpiece of scholarship and a fitting tribute to a true American original." - *The Washington Post*

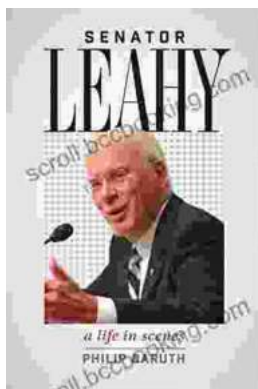
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