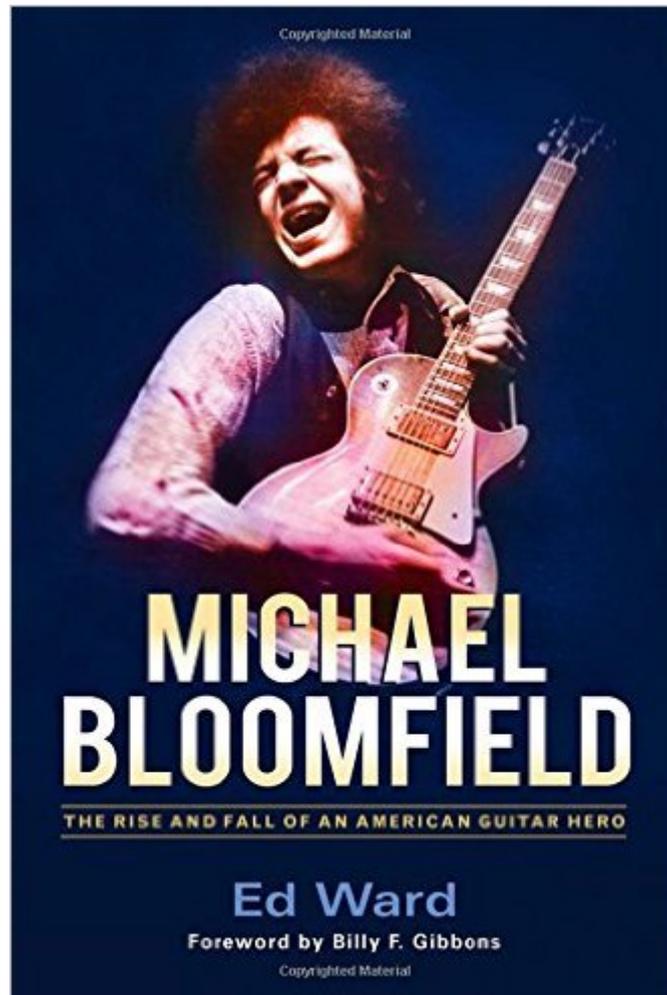


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Michael Bloomfield: The Rise And Fall Of An American Guitar Hero



Synopsis

This is the definitive biography of the legendary guitarist whom eminent figures like Muddy Waters and B. B. King held in high esteem, and who created the prototype for Clapton, Hendrix, Page, and everyone who followed. Bloomfield was one of the first popular music superstars of the 1960s to earn his reputation almost entirely on his instrumental prowess. He was a member of the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, which inspired a generation of white blues players; he played with Bob Dylan in the mid-1960s, when his guitar was a central component of Dylan's new rock sound on "Like a Rolling Stone" and at his earthshaking 1965 Newport Folk Festival performance. He then founded the Electric Flag, recorded "Super Session" with Al Kooper, backed Janis Joplin, and released at least twenty other albums, despite debilitating substance abuse. He died of a mysterious drug overdose in 1981. A very limited edition of a book of this title was first published in 1983, but it has here been so thoroughly revised and expanded that it is essentially a brand-new publication. Based on extensive interviews with Bloomfield himself and with those who knew him best, and including an extensive discography and Bloomfield's memorable 1968 Rolling Stone interview, Michael Bloomfield is an intimate portrait of one of the pioneers of rock guitar.

Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (September 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1613733283

ISBN-13: 978-1613733288

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

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Music > Biographies > Rhythm & Blues #24 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music >

Biographies > Rock #125 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors &

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Customer Reviews

"I started playing the guitar when I was thirteen years old, and I was very bad for two or three years, and when I was about fifteen and a half, I got great." Mike Bloomfield. By the early '70s Mike Bloomfield's work with the Butterfield Blues Band wasn't heard as truly groundbreaking as it was

when the album "East-West" was released because there was so much other good, innovative sounding music that came after it. I still remember hearing this album (being a blues fan) and being blown away by what I heard in those two instrumentals from that album. It had a similar affect that hearing Coltrane solo with his quartet did when first hearing him. So it's no wonder that listening to Bloomfield's solos in 2016 don't bring out all the wonder, amazement, and excitement that was so much a part of that first listening experience. Fans who came later on to this album have the hindsight of all the other music from that era. And that's okay, but hearing this album when it was first released was a truly groundbreaking event. And that's why this book written by Ed Ward is so important. There is another book that deals with Bloomfield's life and music ("If You Love These Blues") that was an oral history with comments from a cross section of people who were there at the time, and included a CD of rare tracks. But Ward's book steps in front of that effort because it's the first in depth biography of Bloomfield. In a relatively short 153 pages of text Ward lays out Bloomfield's short life in music and his sadly early death. Included is a 24 page section of both color and b & w photos that add depth to the story.

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