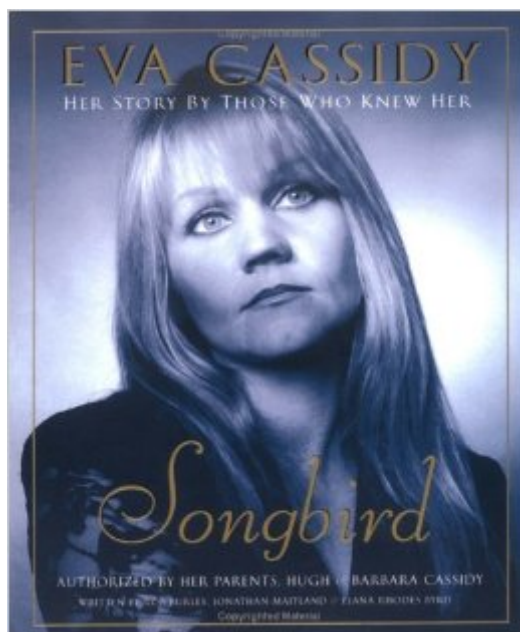


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Eva Cassidy: Songbird: Her Story By Those Who Knew Her



Synopsis

The stirring, full-color oral biography of the singer whose pure, haunting voice came to be loved by millions around the world after her tragically brief life. Eva Cassidy's albums *Songbird*, *Live at Blues Alley*, *Eva By Heart*, *Time After Time*, and *Imagine* have sold over a million and a half copies in the U.S. and millions more worldwide. Her songs have been heard on many television shows and film soundtracks, and the video of her classic performance of "Over the Rainbow" is the most requested in BBC history. Yet she lived to see only one of her solo albums released, a CD she underwrote herself and sold from the trunk of her car before her tragic death. Capturing Eva's essence and tender life story, *Eva Cassidy: Songbird* collects the intimate memories of relatives, close friends, and the musicians who collaborated with her. The book tells the story of her too-brief life and enduring music. Featuring candid full-color photos and reproductions of Eva's original artwork, a vivid portrait emerges of a woman who devoted her energies to the things she truly loved—giving encouragement to those around her, tending to plants at the nursery where she worked, and performing her music at clubs in Washington, D.C. She succumbed to cancer at age thirty-three just as the world was starting to notice her arresting voice. Eva Cassidy's music continues to grow in recognition from critics and legions of fans throughout the world. The rock icon Sting has said her voice possesses "a magical quality. People respond to its purity. It suggests something ethereal—something unattainable." This American edition contains two new chapters about her influences and her posthumous success in her native country. With the publication of *Eva Cassidy: Songbird*, the woman behind the unforgettable voice will at last be known.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Gotham; First Edition edition (September 29, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592400353

ISBN-13: 978-1592400355

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #381,792 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #158 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Music > Biographies > Country & Folk](#) #7320 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature](#)

Customer Reviews

If you love Eva Cassidy's singing and you want to understand her better as a human being, "Songbird" is definitely a great place to start. Tastefully done, filled with life, friends, laughter, and lots of love, this is a beautiful book about a truly beautiful, talented, strong but vulnerable young woman. So who was Eva Cassidy? A woman with incredible talent, of course, and the ability to reach millions of people with that talent. But, as "Songbird" so richly details, Eva Cassidy was also a normal, complicated human being. A sensitive, shy person who loved art and nature. A perfectionist who could be extremely hard on herself and -- sometimes -- on others as well. A person who wanted badly to connect with others but found it difficult, even painful, to do so. A person "filled with emotions" but "closed, really closed," as her friend Anna Karen Kristinsdottir described her. A strong woman but also a "shy, afraid little girl that needed to be hugged." An intensely loyal friend. A person with a great future ahead of her cruelly cut down just as she was taking off into the stratosphere. Although performing in public wasn't easy for Eva Cassidy, thankfully she was able to overcome and share her musical gift(s) with the world. Wow, could this woman sing! From jazz and blues to folk, from gospel to R&B and rock, Eva Cassidy could do it all -- with passion, with love for the music she sang, and with an incredible voice the likes of which don't come along very often. Some adjectives to describe Eva Cassidy's voice? How about: haunting, gorgeous, inspirational, tear-jerking, powerful, tender, melodic, eclectic, amazing, astonishing, heartfelt, intelligent, poignant, original, awe-inspiring, brilliant.

Eva Cassidy, it is stated in the beginning of this book, was not an angel. She had the voice of one, as anyone who has heard her sing a note will attest. Struck down by malignant melanoma at the criminally early age of 33 in 1996, she was virtually unknown in America, though her career was starting to gain notice in other countries. The story of her life is told through the reminiscences of her family and friends. She is universally held to have been a very kind woman, but one with a wall within which she protected herself from pain by not letting too many people in. She had a very difficult time showing her vulnerability, and was extremely fragile in public performance. That we have as much of her on video and CD as we do is a miracle in light of this. Her relationship with her father was a difficult one, though it seems to have been moving in a more positive direction as she was getting older. Her father himself shoulders some of the burden for this state of affairs, indicating that being his child was probably not the easiest thing. Eva, being such a self-critical perfectionist, might have found it more challenging than most. I was heartbroken to discover that she loathed my favorite album, Live at Blues Alley. She thought the quality was not present, and it made her angry.

This is the one I turn to most often when I need an "Eva Fix," so knowing this made me incredibly sad. But then, she constantly doubted any compliments to her singing. She reacted to positive comments with disbelief more often than not. I'm glad she wasn't a diva, but sorry she didn't have some of the confidence she had earned. This book is chock-full of candid photos of Eva from throughout her life, and has a great many examples of her sublime artwork.

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