

[PDF] Stories Behind The Best-Loved Songs Of Christmas (Stories Behind Books)

Ace Collins - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Stories Behind the Best-Loved

Author: Ace Collins

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly This year, at least three different titles explore the origins of well-known Christmas carols. Ace Collins's *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* takes on more than 30 popular songs and hymns, from classics such as "O Holy Night" and "Angels We Have Heard on High" to the contemporary Christian hit "Mary, Did You Know?" Secular numbers such as "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" also get their due in this attractively designed gift book.

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From Collins is an ace at song history, dispensing compendiums of song backstories that are nothing if not tasty--quite a feat, given the saccharinity of popular-music commentators in general. His custom is to tell how a song came to be written and popularized, capping the resultant article with a snippet about its commercial track record, if appropriate; quite often in this book, it isn't. Many a Christmas song peaked in popularity long before Bing Crosby or Judy Garland could have had a first-time chart-topper with them. Of course, Bing did make "Silver Bells" a hit, Judy scored with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and Collins is fully in his element with those and other twentieth-century entrants into the Christmas canon. Not that he doesn't tell a good tale about each of the 31 entries in this book. It's just that, with the old songs, he can't impart facts such as the one he drops about "Silver Bells"--to wit, as Der Bingle moaned about many other things, Hope did it first. *Ray Olson*

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