



# Queen of the Blues: The Life and Times of Bessie Smith

*Jennifer Warner*

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Nicknamed the Queen of the Blues, Bessie Smith rose up from poverty in the American South to become one of the most famous and respected recording artists of her generation. Smith was at the forefront of transitioning blues music from a rural novelty to a legitimate art form that critics and audiences took seriously.

Behind the scenes of her success, though, Bessie navigated a story family and personal life. She had adult sisters who depended on her for a living and yet disrespected her when she wasn't around. Likewise, she settled with a husband, Jack Gee, who mistreated her in every possible way.

This book looks at the incredible and influential life of Bessie Smith.

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