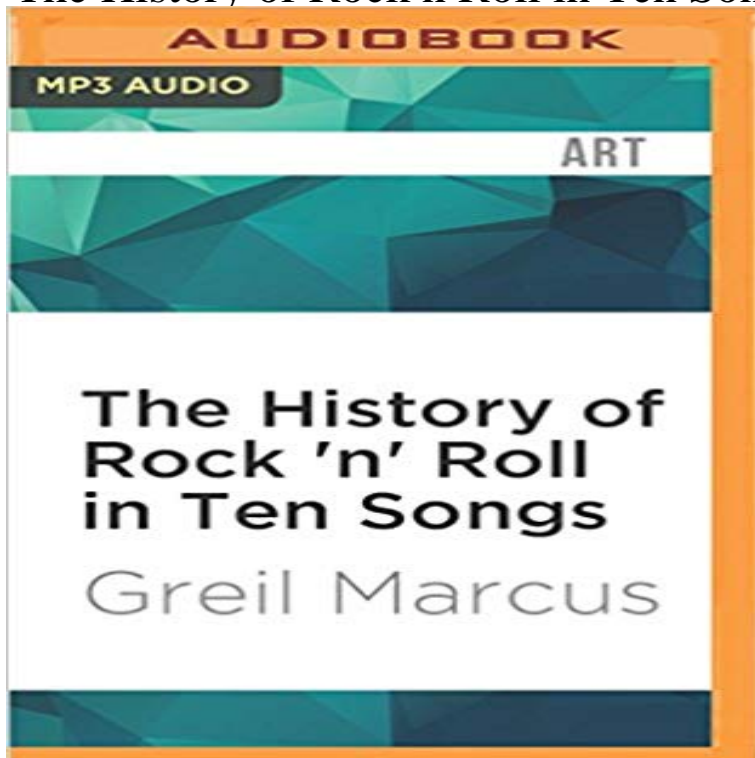


The History of Rock n Roll in Ten Songs



Unlike all previous versions of rock n roll history, this book omits almost every iconic performer and ignores the storied events and turning points everyone knows. Instead, in a daring stroke, Greil Marcus selects 10 songs recorded between 1956 and 2008 and then proceeds to dramatize how each embodies rock n roll as a thing in itself in the story it tells, inhabits, and acts out?a new language, something new under the sun. Transmission by Joy Division. All I Could Do Was Cry by Etta James and then Beyonce. To Know Him Is to Love Him, first by the Teddy Bears and almost half a century later by Amy Winehouse. In Marcus hands these and other songs tell the story of the music, which is, at bottom, the story of the desire for freedom in all its unruly and liberating glory. Slipping the constraints of chronology, Marcus braids together past and present, holding up to the light the ways these striking songs fall through time and circumstance, gaining momentum and meaning, astonishing us by upending our presumptions and prejudices. This audiobook, by a founder of contemporary rock criticism?and its most gifted and incisive practitioner?is destined to become an enduring classic.

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