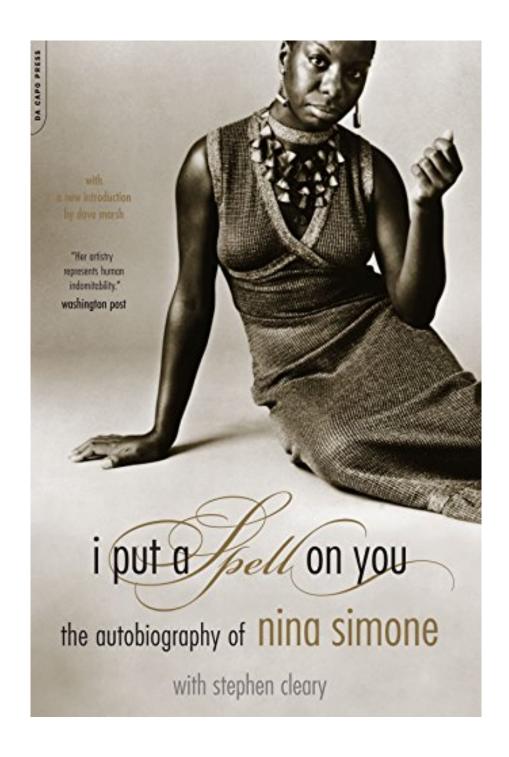


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From Publishers Weekly

Simone grew up during the Depression in a small North Carolina town where, thanks to a farsighted music teacher and caring neighbors who paid for her lessons, she was trained as a classical pianist. After attending Juilliard on a scholarship she was rejected by the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia (a setback she attributes to the fact that she is black), and she became a nightclub entertainer, singing and accompanying herself on the piano and, with her skillful improvisations of popular songs in classical style, quickly becoming a star. In the 1960s she joined the civil rights movement and became well known as a protest singer. Then, in the 1970s and '80s, disillusioned with the U.S., she went into self-imposed exile in Africa and Europe. Unfortunately, written with freelancer Cleary, her account of these later years, in which she concentrates on personal problems and a number of tiresome love affairs, lacks the interest of the early part of the book, which describes her unusual childhood and remarkable rise to fame. Photos not seen by PW.

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Review

Lincoln Center Institute Resource Center blog, 7/9/09

"Compelling, honest, and powerful. It is meticulously packed with historical information on America during some of its ugliest times, coming from the voice of someone who lived through it everyday...a voice of a woman who devoted her adult life to changing the face of society.... From a musical standpoint alone, I Put a Spell On You is an extremely valuable read. However, this would also be a unique, relevant, and worthwhile addition to any high-school or collegiate history library, or anyone with an interest in the civil rights movement both politically and artistically."

About the Author

Stephen Cleary is a filmmaker living in London.

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The inimitable, gorgeously talented Nina Simone (1933-2003)--the "high priestess of soul"--sets the story of her tumultuous, passionate life straight in I Put a Spell on You.

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in small-town North Carolina, Nina Simone changed the face of both music and race relations in America. She struck a chord with bluesy jazz ballads like "Put a Little Sugar in My Bowl" and powerful protest songs such as "Mississippi Goddam" and "To Be Young, Gifted, and Black," the anthem of the American Civil Rights movement.

Here are the many lives and loves of Nina Simone, recounted in her unshakable voice.

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• Dimensions: 9.00" h x .50" w x 6.00" l, .67 pounds

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movement both politically and artistically."

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Stephen Cleary is a filmmaker living in London.

Most helpful customer reviews

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Worth Reading

By S.Dobbs

This review is primarily a response to "Lemas Mitchell's" review entitled "A case study in mental illness, stupidity and pure insanity":

The point is not to ponder how Nina Simone could have, or should have lived her life, but to discover how she did live her life. I don't think Nina Simone had to prove anything or give us any more - she already gave so much of herself through her music. And had she not suffered, her music might not have had the depth and richness that is has. If anything, the rest of us should never forget that we get all the benefits of her suffering without the pain.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

She Put A Spell on Me

By Patti

Nina Simone led a really interesting life, perhaps not what you would quite expect from a star. I went into this book expecting to read a lot more about her songs, so it was a little disappointing to not learn much about specific songs other than "Mississippi Goddamn", but this book leaves you with a lot to think about. It's sad that, with so many fans who adored the "star", the private Nina Simone spent her whole life looking for love. How different would Nina be if her mother had shown her the love she so desperately needed? If you are interested in the real Nina, Eunice Waymon, I recommend this book. I think it will leave you wondering, as it did me, and perhaps with an appreciation or understanding about other eras and other ways of life.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Nina Simone Compelling In Depth

By Johnni

Fantastic read. If you are a fan of the great Nina Simone you need this book in your collection. You get a glimpse inside her chaotic world and learn more in depth of who this woman really was. This book is a spell bound.

See all 47 customer reviews...

Yeah, reading a publication I Put A Spell On You: The Autobiography Of Nina Simone By Nina Simone can add your pals lists. This is just one of the solutions for you to be successful. As understood, success does not mean that you have fantastic points. Understanding as well as recognizing more compared to various other will offer each success. Next to, the message as well as impression of this I Put A Spell On You: The Autobiography Of Nina Simone By Nina Simone can be taken as well as chosen to act.

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