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Say No to the Devil The Life and Musical Genius of Rev. Gary Davis

By Ian Zack

University Of Chicago Press. Hardcover. Condition: New. 344 pages. Who was the greatest of all American guitarists You probably didnt name Gary Davis, but many of his musical contemporaries considered him without peer. Bob Dylan called Davis one of the wizards of modern music. Bob Weir of the Grateful Deadwho took lessons with Davisclaimed his musical ability transcended any common notion of a bluesman. And the folklorist Alan Lomax called him one of the really great geniuses of American instrumental music, a man who belongs in the company of Louis Armstrong. But you wont find Davis alongside blues legends Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Nor did he make Rolling Stones 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time. Despite almost universal renown among his contemporaries, Davis lives today not so much in his own work but through covers of his songs by Dylan, Jackson Browne, and many others, as well as in the untold number of students whose lives he influencedmany of whom continue to teach his techniques today. The first biography of Davis, Say No to the Devil restores the Revs remarkable story. Drawing on extensive research and interviews with many of Daviss...



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