



The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"

Alan Light

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A fascinating account of the making, remaking, and unlikely popularizing of one of the most played and recorded rock songs in history—Leonard Cohen’s beautiful and heartrending “Hallelujah.”

“A venerated creator. An adored, tragic interpreter. An uncomplicated, memorable melody. Ambiguous, evocative words. Faith and uncertainty. Pain and pleasure.”

Today, “Hallelujah” is one of the most-performed rock songs in history. It has become a staple of movies and television shows as diverse as *Shrek* and *The West Wing*, of tribute videos and telethons. It has been covered by hundreds of artists, including Bob Dylan, U2, Justin Timberlake, and k.d. lang, and it is played every year at countless events—both sacred and secular—around the world.

Yet when music legend Leonard Cohen first wrote and recorded “Hallelujah,” it was for an album rejected by his longtime record label. Ten years later, charismatic newcomer Jeff Buckley reimagined the song for his much-anticipated debut album, *Grace*. Three years after that, Buckley would be dead, his album largely unknown, and “Hallelujah” still unreleased as a single. After two such commercially disappointing outings, how did one obscure song become an international anthem for human triumph and tragedy, a song each successive generation seems to feel they have discovered and claimed as uniquely their own?

Through in-depth interviews with its interpreters and the key figures who were actually there for its original recordings, acclaimed music journalist Alan Light follows the improbable journey of “Hallelujah” straight to the heart of popular culture. *The Holy or the Broken* gives insight into how great songs come to be, how they come to be listened to, and how they can be forever reinterpreted.

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Sonja Johnson:

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Alberta Smith:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a e-book. The book *The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"* it is very good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

Susan Arnold:

Exactly why? Because this *The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Suzanne Robbins:

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