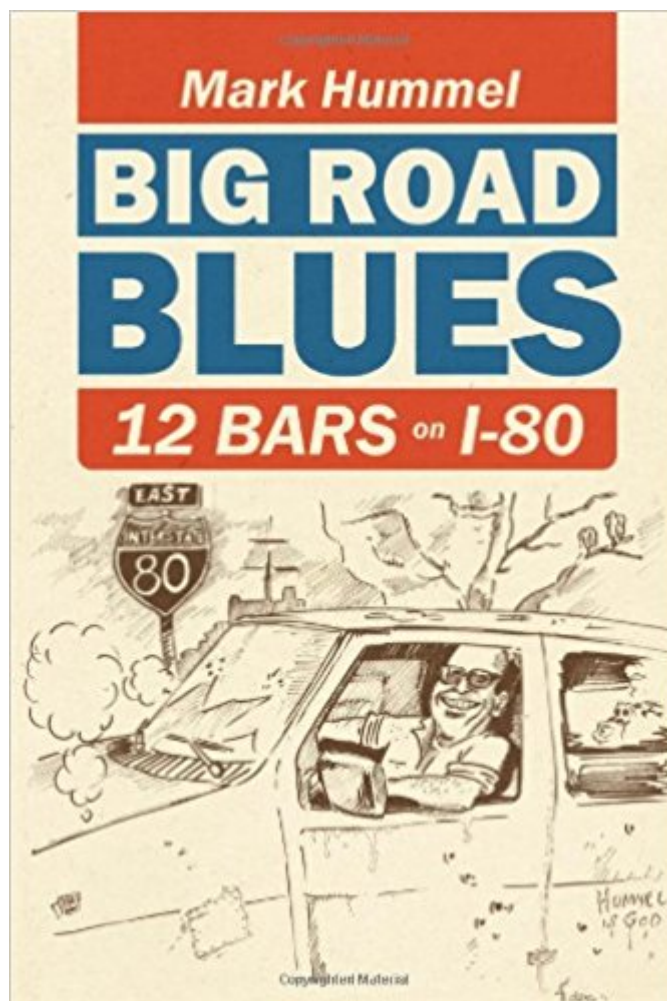




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Big Road Blues - 12 Bars On I-80



Synopsis

Big Road Blues - 12 Bars On I-80 is the often irreverent blues memoir by blues harmonica man Mark Hummel. Fact and fiction combine in this memoir in a variety of hilarious to frustrating incidents taken from twenty six years on the blues highway. Big Road Blues tells the story of a blues musician's life and trials, driving to and entertaining in clubs with his band, as they travel around the USA and the world. Mick Jagger and Sting lead the glamorous life on the road but not so with Hummel and his traveling troubadours of blues survivors. Working their way across the country from one blues venue to the next, in a van packed with the band, instruments, and product, in all degrees of violent weather, and managing a band of often radically troubled musicians in the process! Yet somehow, our harmonica virtuoso and promoter Mark Hummel, manages to play extended tours back and forth across the USA, Canada and overseas on a full time basis. Hummel has been playing over two hundred gigs a year for three decades! Big Road Blues - 12 Bars On I-80 contains some of the tall and small stories that grew from these adventures and misadventures on the Big Road Blues Highway! Throw in Mark Hummel himself, by no means a simple man, and the often insane club owners and you have the savory brew of the real life on the road! Hummel manages and books the tours himself and he has his work cut out for him. Are you ready to meet some of the worldwide network of unethical bar owners and promoters, sleazy motel managers, paranoid highway patrolmen, grumpy toll booth collectors, bored waitresses and convenience store clerks, brain-dead teenage Burger King employees who can't get an order right, vengeful customs officers, unscrupulous mechanics, novice tour directors, drunken fans that regularly insist on singing and dancing on stages (when there even is a stage) that provide no security? Then you're ready for this book!

Book Information

Paperback: 322 pages

Publisher: Mountain Top Prod. (April 20, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0578097672

ISBN-13: 978-0578097671

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,312,778 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 inÂ Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Hummel #323 inÂ Books > Humor &
Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Classical #347 inÂ Books > Arts &
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Customer Reviews

Mark Hummel was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and grew up in Los Angeles, California. He began playing the blues harmonica professionally in 1973 after moving to the San Francisco Bay Area. Mark's extensive career includes traveling the, "Big Roads" and blue highways of the United States and Europe for over thirty years as a harmonica mystro, band leader, music producer, and journal and blog writer. Big Road Blues is his first book.

Great book by one of the genre's true road warriors! Great stories that make you feel like you are right there with Mark for all the stories. A rare glimpse of how life on the road as a musician can be..... A true testament to the saying that once you've gone on the road as a musician, nothing surprises you anymore. Sunshine and lollipops!!!

For those of you who have often dreamed of a life on the road with fellow musicians and how glamorous and exciting that would be this is the book you need to read before you tell your wife you're hitting the road. I know Mark Hummel and there's not a harder working, more dedicated Bluesman out there today. That he is still alive is a testament to his inner strength. By this book. Read this book. You'll be glad you did.

A pretty well written story about the adventures of a traveling musician. Mark has a great memory and his name recall is astounding. In addition to his skills with a harmonica I wish I had that name recall thing too!

Gift for husband, Great just what he needed for his collection and I m the hero...lol never lets me down.

Well written, honest, look into life on and off the road of a working blues musician. Very real and interesting . i suggest you listen to his music , if you haven't already. He rocks

I know Mark Hummel and I already heard from him some of this stories. I'm happy that he decided to

write some of his many stories he collect through his career, and he writes with humour and you feel just like he's telling this stories to you. Easy and smooth reading just like a good conversation with a good friend.

Great reading. Reading the ups and downs come off with Humor, that makes you want to go on.

Great book by a guy working his ass off. Definitely recommended especially if you are a musician.

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