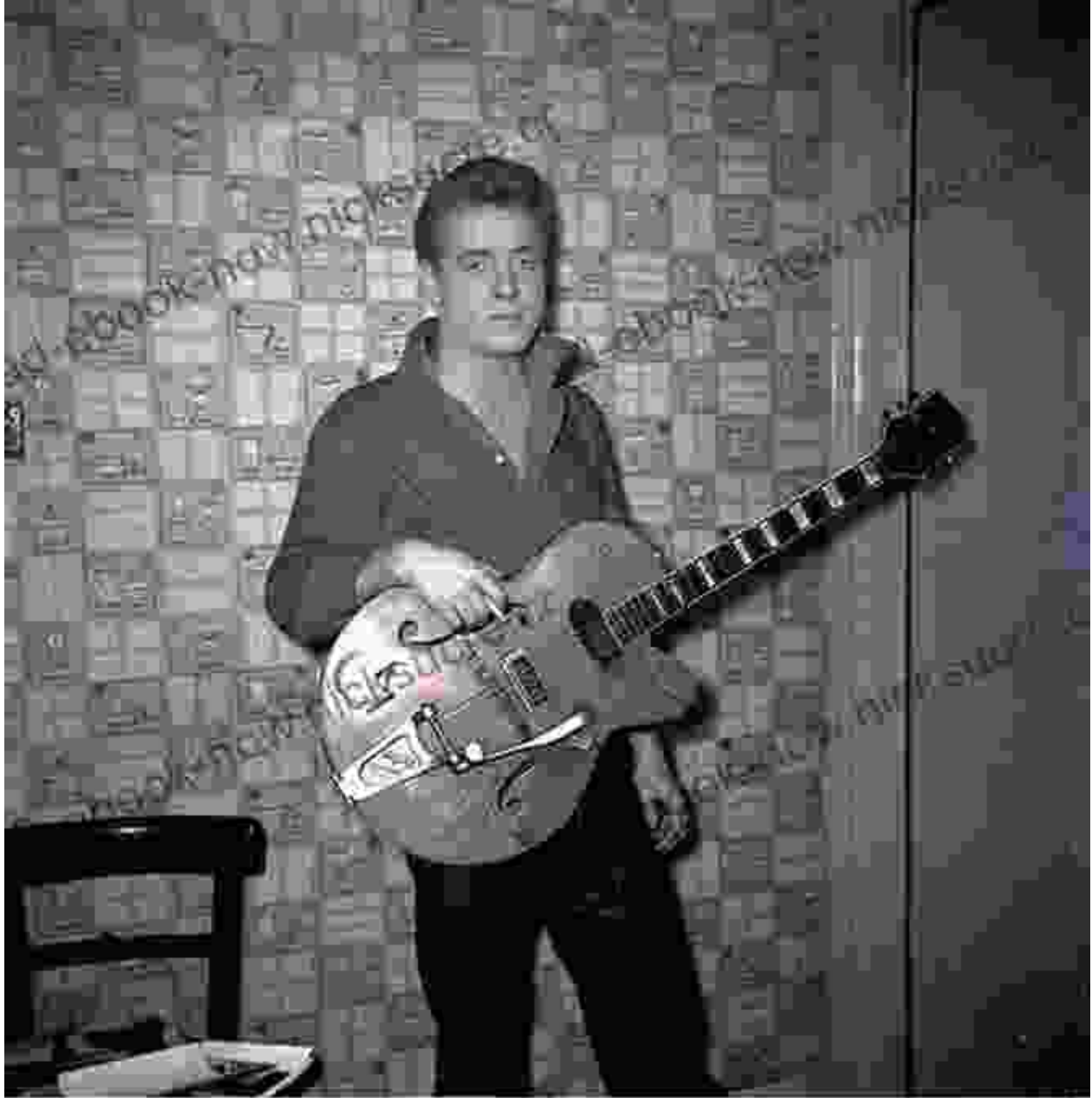


Three Steps to Heaven: The Eddie Cochran Story



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by Bobby Cochran

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Eddie Cochran, one of the most influential rock and roll musicians of all time, left an enduring legacy despite his tragically short life. His innovative guitar playing, distinctive vocals, and timeless songs have inspired generations of musicians and left an unforgettable mark on the hearts of countless fans. In this article, we embark on a journey through Eddie Cochran's extraordinary life and music, exploring the three pivotal steps that led him to rock and roll stardom and the tragic events that ultimately cut short his promising career.

Step 1: The Birth of a Rock and Roll Rebel

Eddie Cochran was born into a musical family in Oklahoma City on October 3, 1938. His father, Bob, taught guitar and played in a local band, while his mother, Alice, sang in the church choir. From a young age, Eddie displayed a natural talent for music and spent countless hours practicing guitar in the family's garage. At the age of 14, he formed his first band, the Cochranes, with his brother Bob Jr. The band played mostly country and western music at local dances and events.

In 1954, Eddie and his family moved to Bell Gardens, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. It was here that Eddie discovered the emerging rock and roll scene. Inspired by the likes of Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and Little

Richard, he began to develop his own unique style, characterized by his rapid-fire guitar licks and rebellious lyrics. In 1956, he met Gene Vincent, another young singer and guitarist who shared his passion for rock and roll. The duo formed the Cochran Brothers and recorded their first single, "I Want a Rock and Roll Guitar," which became a minor hit.

Step 2: Hitting the Charts with Summertime Blues

In 1957, Eddie Cochran signed a solo contract with Liberty Records. His debut single, "Summertime Blues," became an instant sensation, reaching number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The song's infectious melody, catchy lyrics, and Eddie's unforgettable guitar solo captured the frustration and rebellion of teenagers everywhere. "Summertime Blues" remains a rock and roll classic and has been covered by numerous artists over the years.

The success of "Summertime Blues" led to a series of hit singles for Eddie Cochran, including "C'mon Everybody," "Something Else," and "Teenage Heaven." His songs resonated with young audiences, who identified with his raw energy, passion for music, and disdain for authority. Eddie Cochran became a teen idol, appearing on television shows, starring in movies, and touring extensively.

Step 3: Tragedy on the Road

At the height of his career, tragedy struck Eddie Cochran. On April 17, 1960, while traveling in a taxi from a concert in Bristol, England, the car collided with a lamppost. Eddie suffered severe head injuries and died at the scene. He was just 21 years old. His death shocked and saddened the music world, and his legacy continues to inspire musicians and fans alike.

Eddie Cochran's Legacy

Eddie Cochran's contributions to rock and roll are immeasurable. His innovative guitar playing, distinctive vocals, and timeless songs have left an indelible mark on the genre. He is credited with popularizing the use of the whammy bar and was one of the first guitarists to use a Fender Stratocaster. His songs continue to be performed and enjoyed by generations of music lovers.

Eddie Cochran's life was cut short, but his music lives on. His songs have been featured in countless films, television shows, and commercials. He has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. In 1989, his hometown of Bell Gardens dedicated a bronze statue in his honor.

Eddie Cochran's story is a testament to the power of music and the indomitable spirit of rock and roll. His legacy as one of the greatest guitarists and singers of all time is secure, and his songs will continue to inspire and entertain audiences for generations to come.

Eddie Cochran's journey to rock and roll stardom was marked by both triumph and tragedy. From his humble beginnings in Oklahoma to his tragic death in England, he left an unforgettable mark on the music world. His innovative guitar playing, distinctive vocals, and timeless songs have inspired countless musicians and fans alike. Eddie Cochran's legacy as one of the greatest rock and roll pioneers will forever be remembered.

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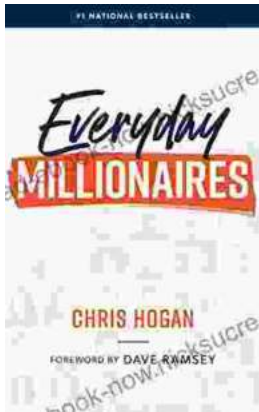
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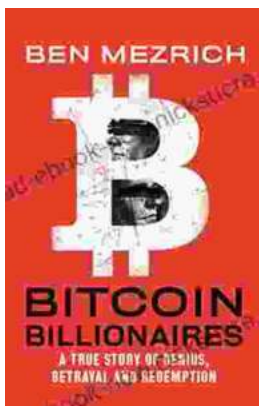


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