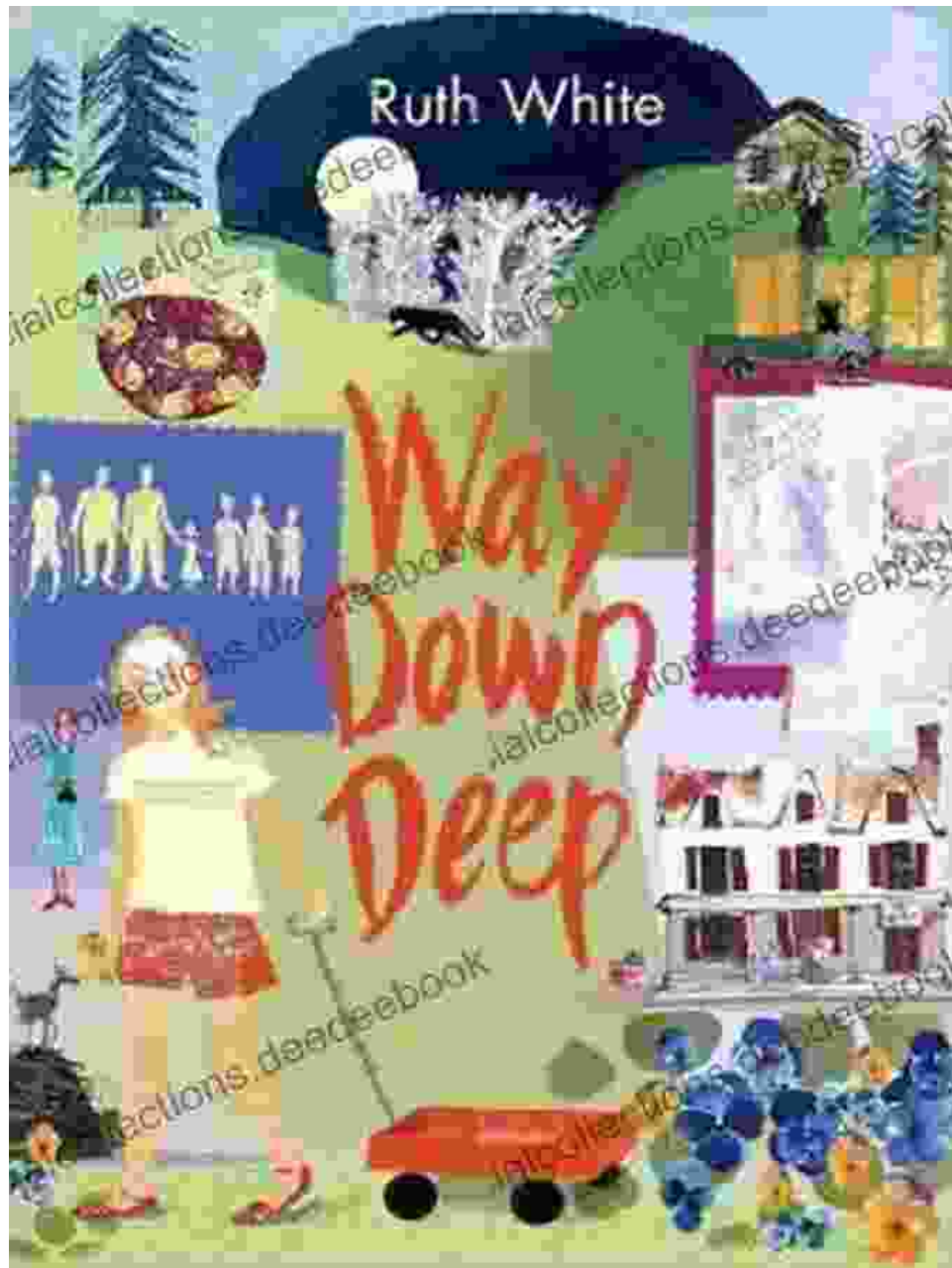


# Way Down Deep Ruth White: A Journey Through the Blues



**Way Down Deep** by Ruth White

★★★★★ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 312 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 225 pages



Way Down Deep Ruth White, born Ruth Augusta White in 1925, was an extraordinary blues singer whose voice and music resonated with the struggles and triumphs of the human experience. Her journey from the cotton fields of Mississippi to the stages of Chicago blues clubs is a testament to her unwavering determination and the transformative power of music.

## **Early Life and Rural Blues Roots**

Growing up in rural Mississippi, Ruth White worked alongside her family as a sharecropper. At a young age, she developed a passion for music, singing in local churches and gatherings. Her early influences included spirituals, field hollers, and the blues traditions of the Mississippi Delta. Her raw and powerful voice, infused with both pain and resilience, captured the essence of rural blues.

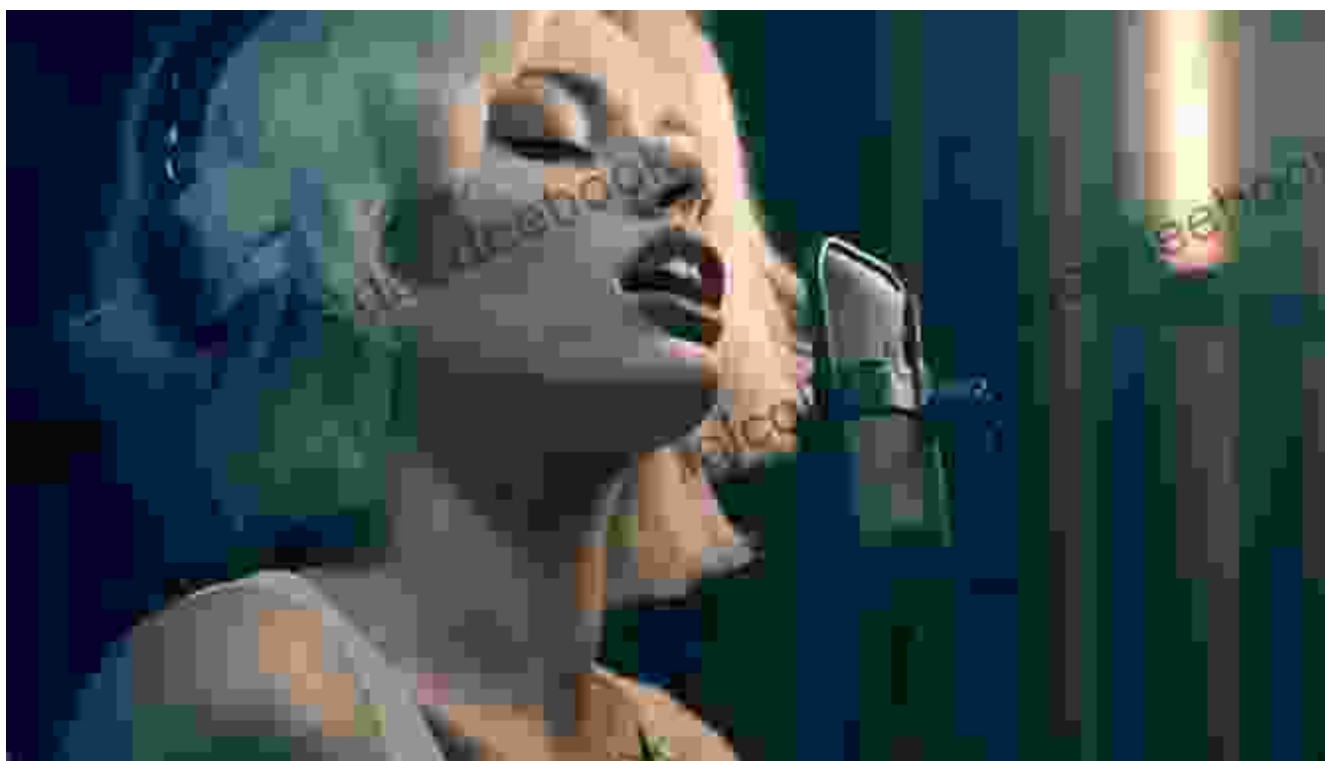
## **Move to Chicago and Urban Blues**

In the 1940s, seeking better opportunities, Ruth White migrated to Chicago, the bustling hub of urban blues. She found work as a domestic worker while immersing herself in the vibrant blues scene. In clubs like the Blue Flame Lounge and the Big Wheel, she honed her craft, sharing the stage

with renowned blues musicians such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Koko Taylor.

### **Notable Performances**

Despite facing racial and gender barriers, Ruth White's talent and charisma earned her a loyal following. Her performances were characterized by fiery vocals, intuitive guitar playing, and an infectious stage presence. She became known for her signature songs, including "Way Down Deep," "I Want You to Marry the Blues," and "My Dear Mister Mailman."



### **The Documentary Film**

In 1992, acclaimed filmmaker Robert Mugge released the documentary "Way Down Deep: The Story of Ruth White," which chronicled the singer's life and music. The film introduced Ruth White to a global audience, showcasing her indomitable spirit and the enduring power of her blues.

## Legacy and Impact

Ruth White's music transcended geographical boundaries and generations. Her raw and soulful blues influenced countless artists, including Bonnie Raitt, Keb' Mo', and Lucinda Williams. She became a symbol of resilience and the importance of preserving African American musical traditions.

Her life and music continue to inspire and resonate with audiences around the world. Ruth White's legacy as a pioneering blues singer who broke down barriers and touched the hearts of many will forever be cherished.

Way Down Deep Ruth White was a true pioneer in the world of blues music. Her voice, her spirit, and her unwavering determination have left an indelible mark on the genre. Her journey from the cotton fields of Mississippi to the stages of Chicago blues clubs is a testament to the transformative power of music and the resilience of the human spirit. Ruth White's legacy continues to inspire, reminding us of the enduring power of blues and the importance of preserving cultural traditions.



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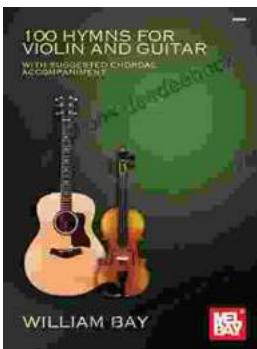
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