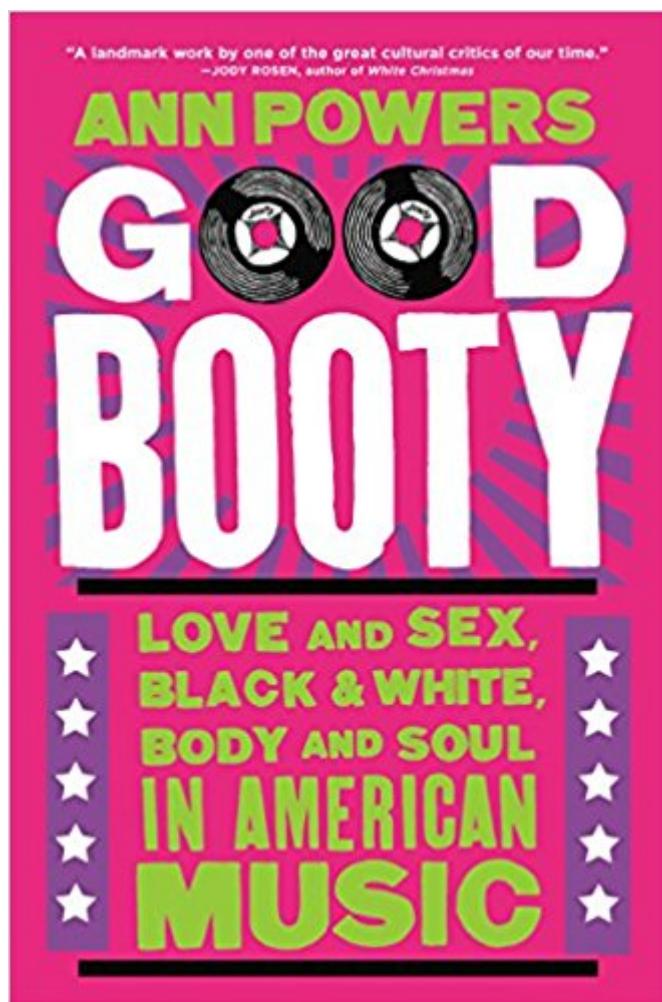


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# Good Booty: Love And Sex, Black And White, Body And Soul In American Music



## Synopsis

In this sweeping history of popular music in the United States, NPRâ™s acclaimed music critic examines how popular music shapes fundamental American ideas and beliefs, allowing us to communicate difficult emotions and truths about our most fraught social issues, most notably sex and race. In *Good Booty*, Ann Powers explores how popular music became Americaâ™s primary erotic art form. Powers takes us from nineteenth-century New Orleans through dance-crazed Jazz Age New York to the teen scream years of mid-twentieth century rock-and-roll to the cutting-edge adventures of todayâ™s web-based pop stars. Drawing on her deep knowledge and insights on gender and sexuality, Powers recounts stories of forbidden lovers, wild shimmy-shakers, orgasmic gospel singers, countercultural perverts, soft-rock sensitivos, punk Puritans, and the cyborg known as Britney Spears to illuminate how eroticismâ™ not merely sex, but love, bodily freedom, and liberating joyâ™ became entwined within the rhythms and melodies of American song. This cohesion, she reveals, touches the heart of America's anxieties and hopes about race, feminism, marriage, youth, and freedom. In a survey that spans more than a century of music, Powers both heralds little known artists such as Florence Mills, a contemporary of Josephine Baker, and gospel queen Dorothy Love Coates, and sheds new light on artists we think we know well, from the Beatles and Jim Morrison to Madonna and BeyoncÃ©. In telling the history of how American popular music and sexuality intersectâ™ a magnum opus over two decades in the makingâ™ Powers offers new insights into our nation psyche and our soul.

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## Customer Reviews

âœNo writer is better equipped than Ann Powers to clarify and dissect the fundamental American myths that power our popular music. Good Booty is an expansive, electrifying, and important book. It changed the way I listen.â • (Amanda Petrusich, author of *Do Not Sell At Any Price*)âœNo writer on music has as keen a mind or as great a heart as Ann Powers. Sex is the subject, but Good Booty is really a tour-de-force history of an entire century of pop, rich in feeling and fierce in insight. Itâ™s a dazzling achievement.â • (Alex Ross, *The Rest is Noise*)âœA revelatory road trip through the erotic fever dreams of American culture . . . tells the whole epic saga of how music became the confessional where we go to share our deepest secrets and desires . . . Only Ann Powers could make this story so head-spinningâ "and often heartbreaking.â • (Rob Sheffield, author of *Dreaming the Beatles*)âœA fearless and often funny, feminist work. I feel like I have been waiting my whole life for this bookâ "Good Booty is glorious!â • (Jessica Hopper, author of *The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic*)âœAn instant, indispensable classic, for a culture that always needs sexual healing.â • (Carl Wilson, author of *Letâ™s Talk About Love*)âœA major, original, comprehensive piece of rock history and analysis.â • (Robert Christgau, author of *Going Into the City*)âœWith precision and wit, and across multiple musical genres, Powers contextualizes the complicated interplay of gender, sex, and race inherent in popular music within and against the backdrop of Americaâ™s puritanical founding.â • (Library Journal, starred review)âœFascinating. . . readers wonâ™t look at Lady Gaga or Nicki Minaj the same way.â • (Kirkus)âœInformative and entertaining ... Powers reveals an extraordinary breadth of knowledge and insight and has produced an absolutely essential addition to any pop-culture collection.â • (Booklist, starred review)âœNPR music critic Ann Powers explores themes of gender, sexuality, race and identity in this sweeping survey of popular music.â • (Chicago Tribune, Summer Reading Round Up)âœA fascinating history of popular music.â • (Bustle, âœBest Nonfiction of the Monthâ•)âœStirring.â • (O Magazine)âœBoth an indispensable guide to American pop music and a damned fine read . . . The best thing about Good Booty is that it reminds us that the right song shows us how to be somebody in a way thatâ™s not possible with any other art form.â • (Wall Street Journal )âœelf for no other reasonâ "though there are lots of other reasonsâ "the book is worth a read for its mapping of the way hope and joy are present even in the darkest times. . . Powersâ™ writing is deeply compassionate and nuanced.â • (Chapter 16)âœA fascinating history of popular music.â • (Bustle, Best Nonfiction Books of August 2017)

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communicate both emotionally and truthfully about ourÂ most fraught social issues, sex and race. InÂ Good Booty, Ann Powers explores how popular music became Americaâ™s primary erotic art form. She takes us from nineteenth-century New Orleans through dance-crazed Jazz Age New York to the teen scream years of mid-twentieth-century rock and roll and the cutting-edge adventures of todayâ™s viral pop stars. Drawing on her deep knowledge of gender and sexuality, Powers recounts stories of forbidden lovers, wild shimmy-shakers, orgasmic gospel singers, countercultural perverts, soft-rock sensitivos, punk Puritans, and the cyborg known as Britney Spears to illuminate how eroticismâ "not merely sex, but love, bodily freedom, and liberating joyâ "became entwined within the rhythms and melodies of American song. This cohesion, she reveals, touches the heart of Americaâ™s anxieties and hopes about race, feminism, marriage, youth, and freedom.Â Spanning more than a century of music, Powers both heralds little-known artistsâ "such as Florence Mills, a contemporary of Josephine Baker, and gospel queen Dorothy Love Coatesâ "and sheds new light on artists we think we know well, from the Beatles and Jim Morrison to Madonna and BeyoncÃ©. In telling the history of how American popular music and sexuality intersect, Good Bootyâ "Powersâ™s magnum opus over two decades in the makingâ "offers new insights into our national psyche and our soul.

Dirty - very, very dirty. And IÃ¢Â™m lovinÃ¢Â™ it! Shake my own booty if it wasnÃ¢Â™t  
Ã¢Â™round my ankles on the floor!

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