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Adele: Soul Music's Magical Voice (USA Today Lifeline Biographies)



Synopsis

USA TODAY, The Nation's No. 1 Newspaper, perfectly captures the way fans feel about Adele and her music: "Adele doesn't just sing; she changes your life, makes you feel like you're not alone, almost like she wrote and sang each song for you and you only." When she was only 19 years old, Adele released her first single, "Hometown Glory." Two years, two albums, and a lot of heartbreak later, she swept the 54th Grammy Awards, winning all six categories for which she was nominated. In her short career, Adele has overcome a terrifying obstacle: a throat condition that many fans worried meant she would never sing again. This insightful biography follows the rise of Adele Laurie Blue Adkins, a girl from north London, into the megastar Adele, a skilled singer-songwriter who proves that "sublime talent and compelling songs can still draw the masses."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The USA Today Lifeline Biographies series has the advantage of working with the titular newspaper, and many articles bolster the text. But as in all biographies of living subjects, the lag time between writing and publication can be a problem. This issue doesn't impact too much on the bio of British singer-songwriter Adele, because in 2012 she spent much of the year out of the public eye, taking time out for a new relationship and a baby—though that does leave most of the emphasis on her early career. The book begins with her stellar evening at the 2012 Grammy Awards and then moves back in time to her lower-middle-class childhood in England, where she first gained notoriety as a singer in a performing-arts high school. Her career took off rather quickly,

and soon Adele was playing gigs around the world. Though there's discussion of her weight issues and her man problems, the focus is always on music, sometimes making the text seem repetitive. Besides newspaper articles, the book's spiffy design offers plenty of color photos and many, many sidebars that often take the text in new and interesting directions—for instance, the effect of social media on musical careers or how the college draft works and affects players. A time line ties events together. Grades 7-12, --Ilene Cooper

Matt Doeden is a writer and editor who lives in New Prague, Minnesota. He has written books for several Twenty-First Century Books series, including Sports Heroes & Legends, USA TODAY's Debate series, USA TODAY's Teen Wise Guides, and the USA TODAY Lifelines. Matt's most recent title is *A Marked Man: The Assassination of Malcolm X* (2013).

Adele was a little girl who "was fascinated by voices." Raised in a single-parent household, she didn't feel deprived. In fact, her collective upbringing by her mother Penny's side of the family was probably a blessing in disguise. Adele dreamed about several different careers when she was growing up in Tottenham, but "music moved her and made her feel connected to people all over the world." She liked a variety of music, but there was something special she found in Etta James's and Ella Fitzgerald's voices. School just didn't cut it for Adele and when she finally was accepted into the London School for the Performing Arts & Technology, the BRIT school, it was there she'd find the confidence she needed. Could she possibly become a singer? It wouldn't be long before she "was convinced that she had what it took to become a vocalist." Her friends were impressed with her work and they helped her put her songs on the Internet. Adele got an e-mail from XL recordings, but because she'd never heard of them she put them on ignore. It wasn't a joke because at the age of eighteen, "Adele and XL agreed to a recording contract in September of 2006." Just who was this Adele? It wouldn't be long before most of the world knew about her. She began to write songs for her album, but even before it was released she began to perform. The buzz was out, "All without releasing a single album," but when her debut album came out there was a roar. Her album "19," raced to the top and she garnered the Critic's Choice award. Fame would prove difficult for her, in fact somewhat depressing, but soon she'd have to head to America to see if she could break into a new market. Adele's first venue was at Joe's Pub in New York City. She had nothing to fear because she was on her way. In this book you'll read about her musical influences, her albums, how she had to promote herself, her Grammys, her relationships, problems with her voice, her achievements, and you'll learn many other interesting things about Adele, "soul music's magical

voice."This is a fascinating biography of Adele, the woman with a mesmerizing voice. Even if you are unfamiliar with Adele, by the time you've finished this book and checked her out on YouTube, you'll probably be a fan. Young readers will undoubtedly be inspired by Adele's work and engaging personality. The book has full-color photographs, period USA Today articles, and numerous informative sidebars. For example, you learn about how many were critical of her style in "Image Isn't Everything." There are several sidebars about people in the music business who have influenced her style including Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James, the Spice Girls, Mary J. Blige, and others. In the back of the book is an index, a timeline (1998 to 2012), a discography, expansive source notes, a selected bibliography, and additional book and website resources to explore. This book courtesy of the publisher.

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