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The Three Graces of Val-Kill: Eleanor Roosevelt, Marion Dickerman and Nancy Cook in the Place They Made Their Own

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recordings of blues music was great fun for me. This book is a treasure for anyone who loves blues music. Gussow led me to appreciate blues music beyond my expectations. He encouraged me to see blues music as a means of expression for life's struggles.

Gussow's research has a double focus which he says is: "a thematic study that pays attention to the lyrics of recorded blues songs and ...a cultural study that seeks to tell a story about blues-invested southern lives, black and white, by mining an extensive array of sources, including government documents, church archives, telephone directories and personal interviews" (p.1). I recommend this 404 page book as a must for academic, public and music libraries.

See www.youtube.blues

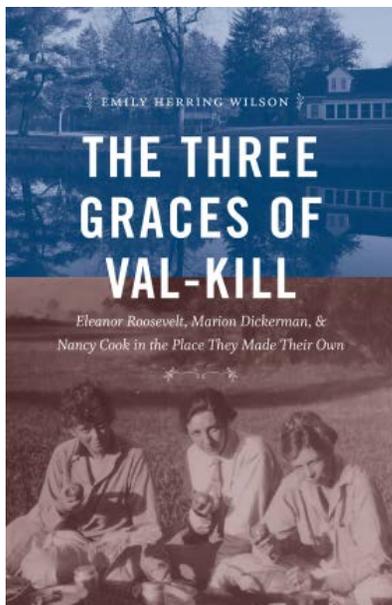
*"The blues is like the devil...it comes on you like a spell
The blues is like the devil...it comes on you like a spell
Blues will leave your heart full of trouble...and your poor
mind full of hell"*

Lonnie Johnson, "Devil's Got The Blues" (1938) (p.1)

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The Three Graces of Val-Kill: Eleanor Roosevelt, Marion Dickerman, and Nancy Cook in the Place They Made Their Own. Emily Herring Wilson Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4696-3583-5 (Hard: \$25); 978-1-4696-3584-2 (Ebook: \$19.99). 232 p.



Women in the United States who were born and grew up in the 40s through the 80s might have come to form strong opinions of Eleanor Roosevelt. I know I did. I developed great respect for her devotion and advocacy of social issues of the lives of poor and underprivileged citizens.

From Eleanor's life, I came to believe that families deserved opportunities to live in safe and dependable housing, work at jobs that provided a livable wage, have access to medical care and medicines, and have equal educational opportunities. To me, Eleanor Roosevelt was a heroine who sacrificed her privileged life as a wealthy patron of society and the arts to become a social advocate to better the lives of men and women who were suffering in our country.

Through Eleanor, I learned and believed that the wealthy of society need to form a government and government programs that secure opportunities for the poor citizens of our country and guarantee the rights laid out in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Little did I know of her personal life of friends, family and acquaintances. Emily Herring's research into those avenues of Eleanor's life opened doors to an Eleanor I did not know. A simple suggestion by Franklin Roosevelt, "Why shouldn't you three have a cottage here of your own?" (p.33) "Here" to Franklin and Eleanor was a piece of property Franklin gave to Eleanor on the Roosevelt estate in Hyde Park in New York. The suggestion that Eleanor have a cottage in which she and two friends might live and develop a private life of away from him, his Mother, her children, and others seemed a completely new "Eleanor" I did not know existed.

Emily Herring Wilson will take you as she took me to discover the Eleanor I did not know. I leave the discovery to you as you will find an Eleanor who learns her interpersonal relational strengths and weaknesses beyond the socialite patron. You will see a political savvy that is tested against personal desires and political American and international responsibilities.

Recommended for university, public and historical society libraries.

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