

## Elizabeth Cotten – Live! (1983)

Written by bluesever

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*A1 Freight Train 4:51 A2 Washington Blues 4:58 A3 Jumpin' Jack 3:40 A4 Sugaree 4:26 A5 Sugaree / Banjo Story, Rattler 5:37 B1 Vastopol 4:28 B2 Guitar Story 4:15 B3 Babe, It Ain't No Lie 5:50 B4 Elizabeth Story, Et Al., Honey Babe, Your Papa Cares For You 8:07 B5 Spanish Flangdang 2:35 B6 'Til We Meet Again 1:20*

I'm not lying when I said that I wept when I heard "Freight Train" the first time. Every song on this CD moved me as well as her lovely storytelling. This incredible woman was 85 when it was recorded and she sounds so hip and cool. Her guitar playing was very impressive and very ahead of its time. As a musician myself, I have learned a great deal about "Cotten Picking" and melodies. This album is a must have for Elizabeth fans and for people who have an interest in true blue acoustic music :) ---Rose Natalie Grullon, amazon.com

Elizabeth Cotten, born January 5, 1895 in Chapel Hill, S.C., died June 29, 1987 in Syracuse, N.Y., was a self taught blues and folk musician, singer and songwriter. She developed her own style of playing left-handed by holding a normally tuned guitar upside down so she played the melodies with her thumb and the bass lines with her fingers. Her style of playing became known as "Cotten picking".

Cotten wrote most of her music in her early teens and earlier (she wrote "Freight Train" at age 11). After marrying at 15 and getting work as a maid she stopped playing music for 40 years. It wasn't until she was working as a maid for Charles Seeger, an avid music lover, that she relearned how to play the guitar.

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In the 1950s Mike Seeger began to record Cotten on reel to reel tape. In 1960 she began to play live for the first time, her first show was with Mike Seeger and she went on to perform with musicians such as Mississippi John Hurt, John Lee Hooker, and Muddy Waters. Because of the positive reaction Cotten began to write, record and tour with new material which she continued to do into her 80s. In 1984 she won the Grammy "Best Ethnic or Traditional Recording" for the album Elizabeth Cotten - Live!.

Elizabeth died when she was 92 in Syracuse, New York. ---discogs.com

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