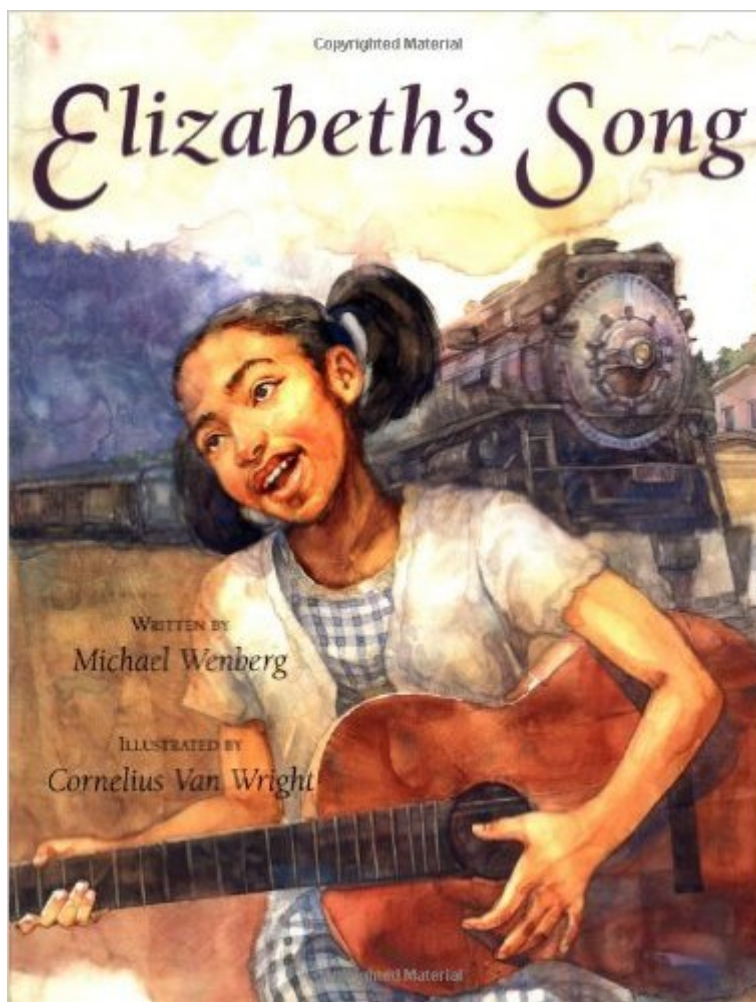


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# Elizabeth's Song



## Synopsis

Elizabethâ€™s Song tells the inspirational story based on the young life of the noted African American folksinger, guitarist, and songwriter, Elizabeth â€œLibbaâ€• Cotten. Elizabeth borrows a guitar from a friend and teaches herself to play it left-handed. Eventually, Elizabeth earns enough money to buy a guitar of her own and, when onlyÂ€ eleven years old, writes her first song. That song, â€œFreight Train,â€• has become a folk music classic. Elizabethâ€™s unique style of playing guitar (upside down and backwards), from which the term â€œcotton-pickingâ€• is derived, has inspired countless other artists.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 30 pages

Publisher: Aladdin/Beyond Words (November 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1582700699

ISBN-13: 978-1582700694

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ€Â€ See all reviewsÂ€ (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,415,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 inÂ€ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism #444 inÂ€ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #1354 inÂ€ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Michael Wenberg's engaging and entertaining Elizabeth's Song is based upon the legendary African-American folksinger, guitarist and songwriter, Elizabeth "Libba" Cotten, and is beautifully enhanced with the superbly crafted artwork of Cornelius Van Wright. Elizabeth is an 11-year old girl who teaches herself to play guitar left-handed on a borrowed instrument. Eventually, she earns enough money to buy a guitar of her very own and is inspired to write her first folk song "Freight Train", which would go on to become a popular classic. It was Elizabeth's unique style of left-handed playing (upside down and backwards) that gave rise to the term "cotton-picking", and emerged as a guitar playing technique that would inspire a generation of musicians. Elizabeth's

Song is a wonderful and prized addition to any family or community library picture book collection, and is especially recommended for an elementary school library's Black History collection.

My kids and I really enjoyed this book about Elizabeth Cotten and her self-taught way of playing the guitar. While the story ends with the composition of "Freight Train," in fact Cotten was not "discovered" as a musician until much later in her life. According to the epilogue, from her mid-teens until her early 50s, Elizabeth almost gave up music -- she was busy with work and raising a family. In the mid-1940s, by chance she got to know the folk-singing Seeger family, and they encouraged her to pick up her guitar again. She released her first album in 1958, at the age of 66. After my kids and I read this book, we wanted to hear her music. We bought the album *Freight Train and Other North Carolina Folk Songs and Tunes*, which includes her famous composition as well as other folk songs that she learned as a child. I have included this book in my online Gender Equality Bookstore.

great story and awesome illustrations

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