

# 10 Essential Bluegrass Songs To Learn On The Mandolin

In the realm of bluegrass music, the mandolin reigns supreme. Its cheerful tones and intricate melodies have captivated audiences for decades, solidifying its place as a cornerstone of the genre. For aspiring mandolinists eager to delve into the heart of bluegrass, mastering these ten essential songs will provide a solid foundation and unlock a world of musical possibilities.



## Ooba Mandolin Essentials: Bluegrass Volume One: 10 Essential Bluegrass Songs to Learn on the Mandolin

by Ioannis Anastassakis

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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### 1. "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" by Flatt & Scruggs



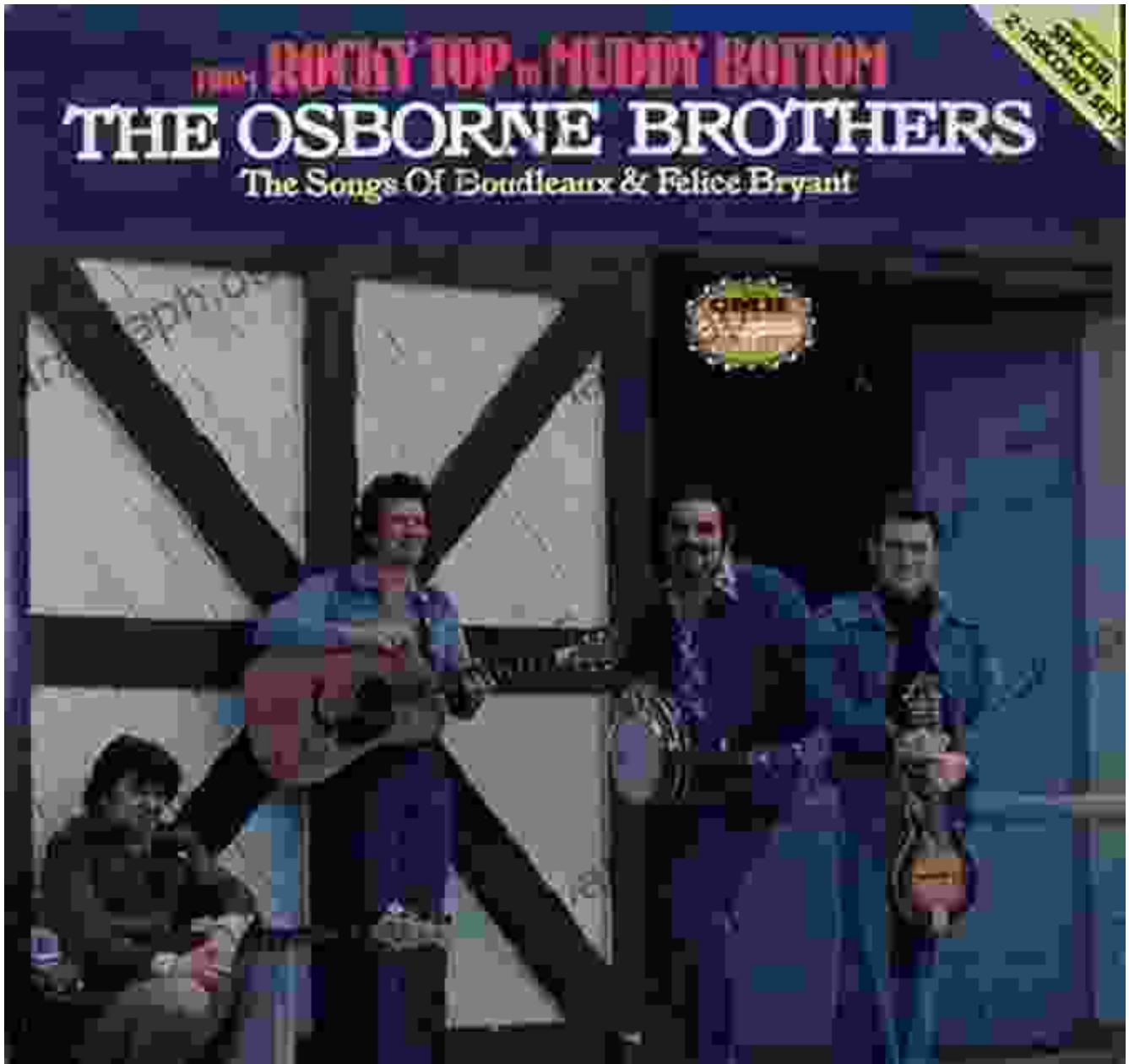
This legendary instrumental piece, popularized by the iconic duo Flatt & Scruggs, is a true bluegrass anthem. Its fast-paced tempo and driving rhythm will challenge your dexterity and coordination, while the catchy melody will leave you humming for days.

## 2. "Orange Blossom Special" by Johnny Cash



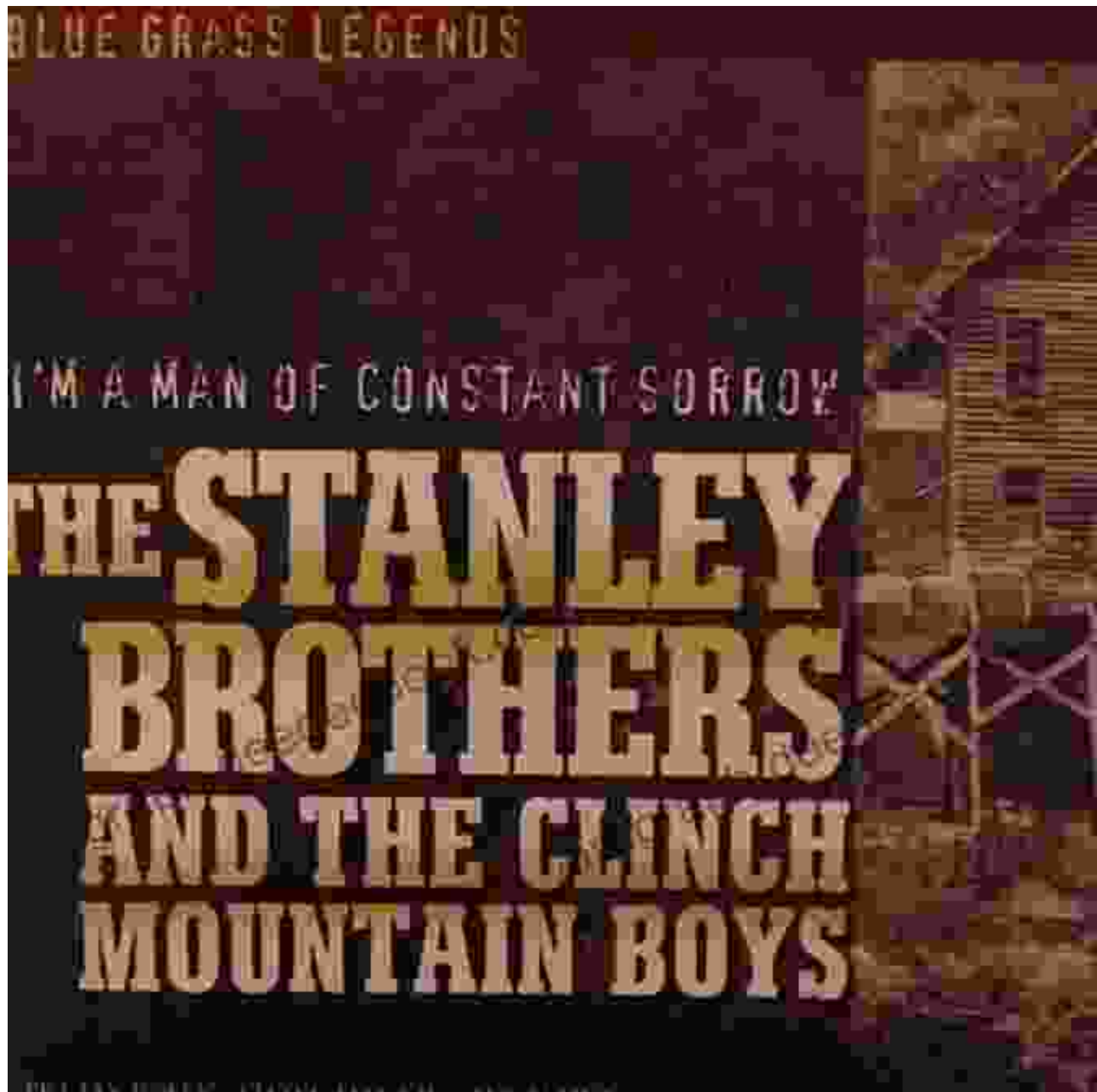
Originally an instrumental train song, "Orange Blossom Special" gained widespread recognition through the haunting vocals of Johnny Cash. The mandolin part in this classic tune showcases the instrument's versatility, combining intricate fingerpicking and melodic solos.

### 3. "Rocky Top" by The Osborne Brothers



Hailing from Tennessee, "Rocky Top" is a bluegrass staple that epitomizes the spirit of the genre. Its infectious melody and lively tempo make it a crowd-pleaser at any bluegrass festival or jam session.

#### **4. "Man of Constant Sorrow" by The Stanley Brothers**



With its haunting melody and poignant lyrics, "Man of Constant Sorrow" has become a timeless bluegrass ballad. The mandolin part in this classic tune captures the raw emotions conveyed by the lyrics, making it a must-learn for any bluegrass enthusiast.

##### **5. "Wildwood Flower" by The Carter Family**



One of the most beloved bluegrass songs of all time, "Wildwood Flower" is a traditional folk ballad that showcases the mandolin's ability to create delicate and ethereal melodies.

**6. "Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms" by Bill Monroe**

# Rolling in My Sweet Baby's Arms<sup>SM</sup>

## (Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms)

Registration: 4  
Rhythm: Bluegrass or Folk Waltz

Work Sheet by  
Gail Fife

Roll in my sweet ba - by's arms.

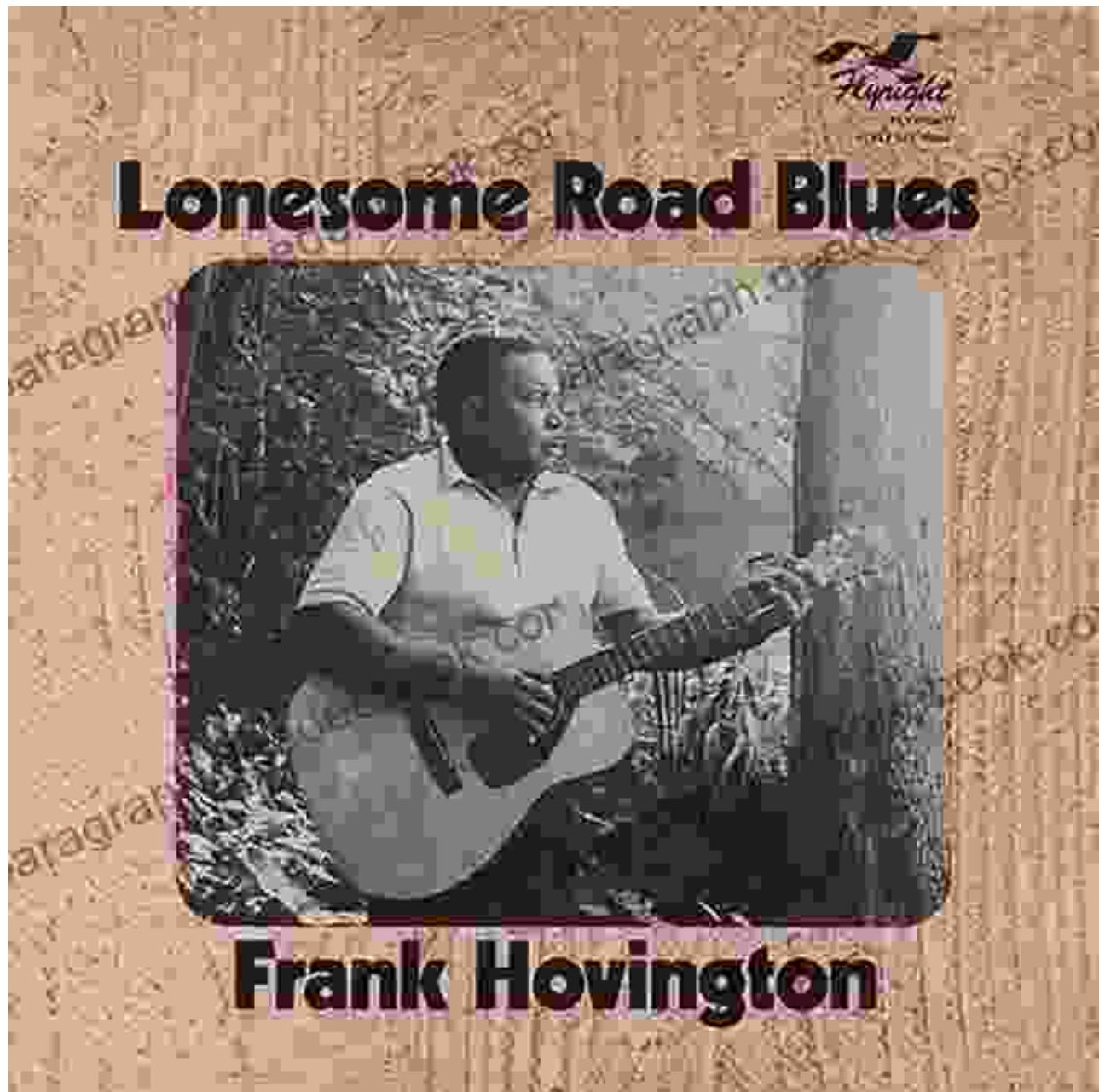
roll in sweet ba - by's arms.

My a - round the shack till the red tail comes back and

My sweet ba - by's arms.

Considered by many to be the "Father of Bluegrass," Bill Monroe's "Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms" is a beautiful waltz that highlights the mandolin's sweet and lyrical qualities.

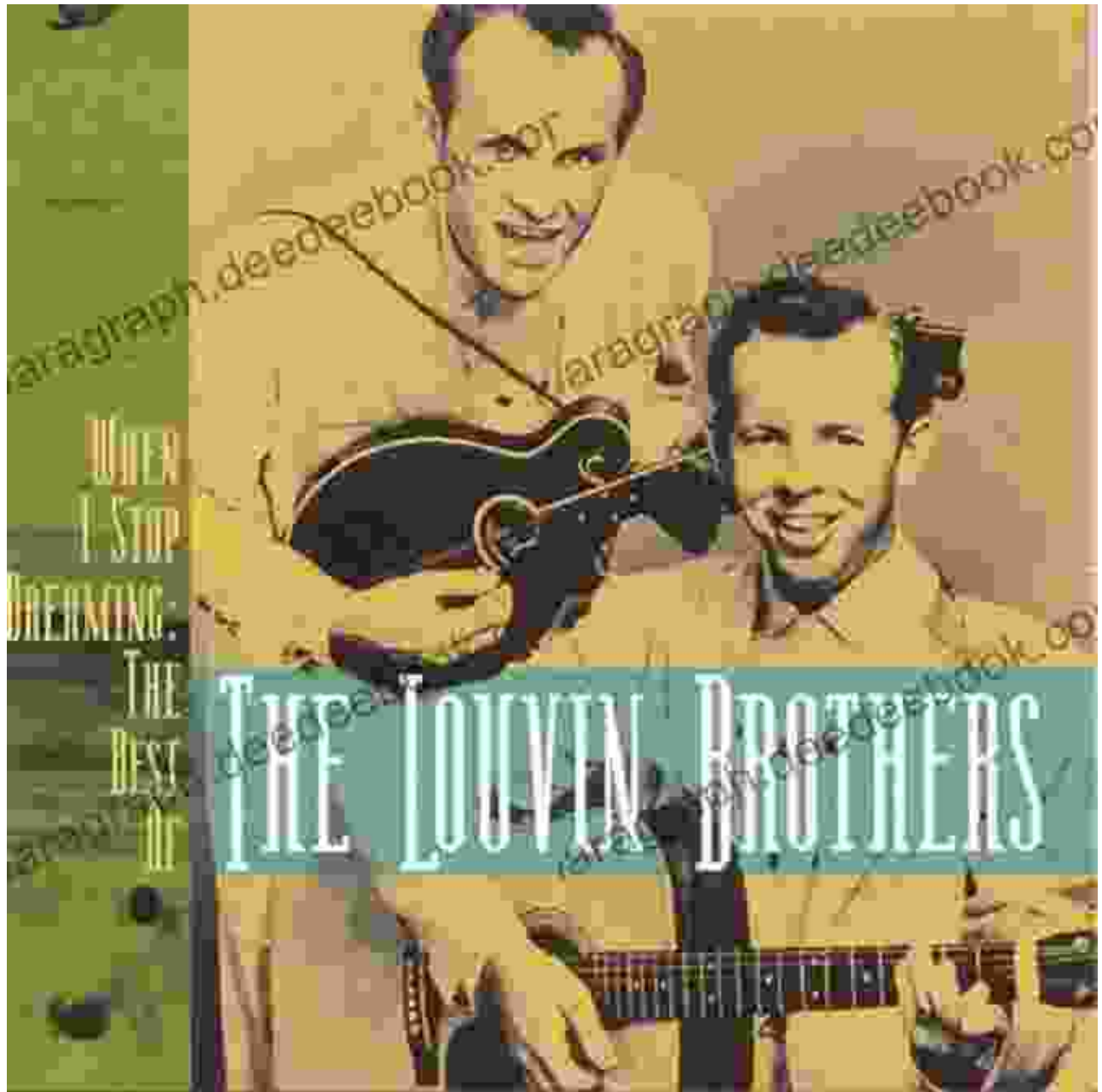
## 7. "Lonesome Road Blues" by The Stanley Brothers



A haunting and introspective ballad, "Lonesome Road Blues" showcases Carter Stanley's masterful mandolin playing. Its intricate runs and melodic solos will captivate any listener.

#### 8. "Sally Goodin" by The Louvin Brothers





A lively and upbeat bluegrass standard, "Sally Goodin" features a driving mandolin part that propels the song forward. Its infectious energy and playful lyrics are sure to get your toes tapping.

**9. "Blue Ridge Mountain Blues" by The Del McCoury Band**



A modern bluegrass classic, "Blue Ridge Mountain Blues" showcases the virtuosic mandolin playing of Ronnie McCoury. Its intricate solos and melodic interplay with the fiddle and banjo are a testament to the enduring power of bluegrass music.

#### **10. "Whiskey Before Breakfast" by The New Grass Revival**

**Whisky Before Breakfast**

Music by Norman Blake

♩ = 100

Capo: 2nd

6

A progressive bluegrass tune that pushes the boundaries of the genre, "Whiskey Before Breakfast" features a driving mandolin part that blends traditional bluegrass with elements of jazz and classical music.

Mastering these ten essential bluegrass songs for mandolin is not only a testament to your musical skills but also a journey into the very heart of this vibrant and enduring genre. Embrace the challenge of these timeless

tunes, and you will unlock a world of musical possibilities that will captivate audiences for generations to come.



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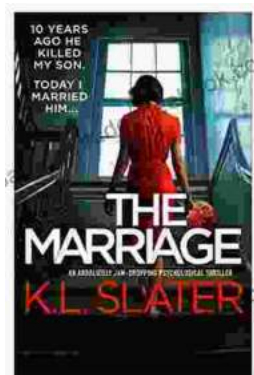
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