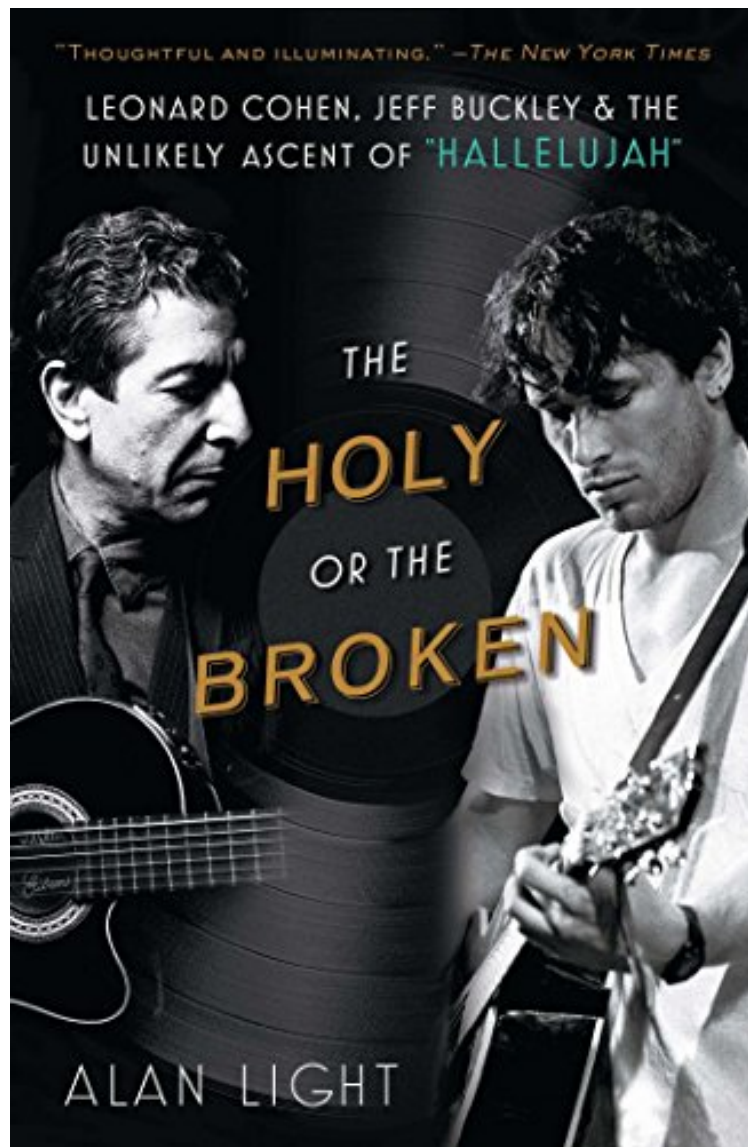


[Free and download] The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"

## The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"

*Alan Light*

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**Alan Light : The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"**  
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley, and the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah":

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read and referenceBy ASVery interesting and I learned a lot. Hard to believe it was that difficult to get this song published. If you are a Leonard Cohen fan, you will enjoy this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just not my cup of tea (with oranges)By B. HotchkissI should have known better. While a real admirer of Leonard Cohen and his songs and poetry, I'm far from sufficiently avid to be willing to read an entire book about a single song. I bought it because "Hallelujah" is one of the most enigmatic popular songs I've ever heard. It can be haunting, heartbreaking, even reassuring, or--and this applies to most performances I've heard--treacly, and I mistakenly thought I could gain some understanding of how such variation in what is basically simple material could be. But the author dwells on the (to my ears) vapid, whiny Jeff Buckley recording and pretty much ignores others that are so much more insightful and thrilling.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. LC and HallelujahBy DrLeeSuch a unique book with so many interesting people all tied together with the song. Very well done and I love the ability to hear so many of the versions discussed.It is powerful that it can be used in so many different scenerios and that different choices can be made from the verse selections. I still like the London DVD version best.

Praised as brilliantly revelatorya masterful work of critical journalism (Kirkus Reviews, starred review), *The Holy or the Broken* is the fascinating account of one of the most-performed rock songs in historyLeonard Cohens heartrending Hallelujah.How did one obscure song become an international anthem for human triumph and tragedy, a song each successive generation seems to feel they have discovered and claimed as uniquely their own? Celebrated music journalist Alan Light follows the improbable journey of Hallelujah straight to the heart of popular culture.

.com Best Books of the Month, December 2012: An entire biography dedicated to a single song might seem excessive at first. But when that song is Hallelujah--a decades-old, epic ode to sex, spirituality, and everything in between--such a spotlight is not only justified but arguably necessary. Leonard Cohen spent years painstakingly penning the lyrics and wound up with more verses than anyone has ever heard. The song has been rerecorded, reimagined, reinvented, and ultimately immortalized through (occasionally) gloriously great and (too often) tragically terrible renditions. It is, as author and music journalist Alan Light puts it in *The Holy or the Broken*, one of the most unexpected and triumphant sagas in the history of popular music. With this complex and fascinating story, Light succeeds in doing for a song what some biographers struggle to accomplish for human subjects: He captures the essence and importance of a living, breathing entity, and his telling is at times as moving as the masterpiece itself. --Robin A. RothmanFrom Booklist\*Starred \* Leonard Cohens mysterious, hymnlike song Hallelujah has been praised by Bob Dylan and compared favorably to the poems of W. H. Auden and James Fenton. It appears on lists of the greatest Canadian songs of all time and the greatest Jewish songs of all time. It has been performed by hundreds of performers, from Justin Timberlake and Celine Dion to Jeff Buckley and, most famously, k.d. lang, at the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics, in Vancouver. What is most remarkable about its history is that it only became a popular sensation decades after its initial release. When Hallelujah first appeared on Cohens 1984 album *Various Positions*, hardly anyone noticed the enigmatic song with its dark Old Testament imagery linking the stories of King David and Samson and Delilah. Author Light calls it not only one of the most loved and performed popular songs of its time but also among the most misunderstood. Is it a celebration or a lament? An international anthem or a statement of national pride? Light chronicles the remarkable trajectory of the song, tracing its improbable popularity over time as it appeared on the soundtrack of *Shrek* (performed by Rufus Wainwright), on countless television dramas, in homemade videos, and even in church services. A must for music fans. --June Sawyers "Thoughtful and illuminating... [Mr. Light] is a fine companion for this journey through one songs changing fortunes." (The New York Times)"A combination mystery tale, detective story, pop critique and sacred psalm of its own." (The Daily News)"Brilliantly revelatory... A masterful work of critical journalism." (Kirkus s (starred review))"A deeply researched mixture of critical analysis and cultural archaeology." (Los Angeles Times)"Keeps the pages turning... A well-constructed, consistently enlightening book, which should have Cohen devotees and music fans alike seeking out their favorite version of the song." (The Boston Globe)"Fresh and compelling." (Entertainment Weekly)"Reverentially details every stage in the [song's] evolutionand along the way, he reveals the compelling stories behind some of its most iconic interpretations." (The Atlantic)"AbsorbingEloquent... Light expertly unpacks the song's long, strange journey to ubiquity." (The Village Voice)"A must for music fans." (Booklist (starred review))