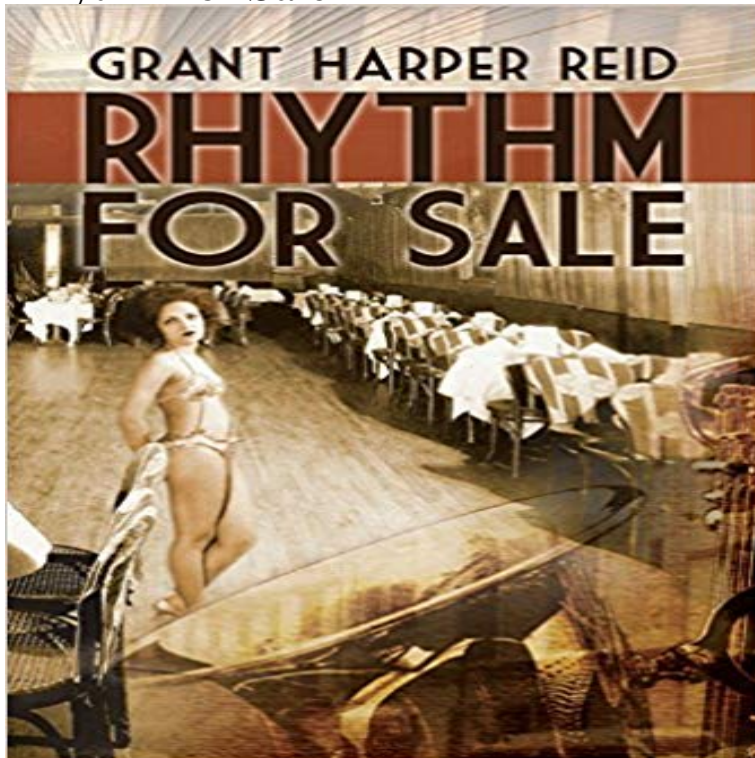


## Rhythm for Sale



Rhythm For Sale the 5 Star Chanticleer Journey Grand Prize Award Winning book that was voted one of the Best Self-Published Books of 2015 by the IndieReader Staff. Its the story of Harlem Renaissance producer Leonard Harpers life in the theater. The author has documented Harpers tale with decades of research and the careful chronological arrangement of the details and facts. Because of this book a Harlem street was named after the authors grandfather. Leonard Harper Way is located where Harper produced most of his legendary Jazz Era works. Reid begins with Harper as a young pickaninny boy dancing in Medicine shows in the racist South. After leaving Alabama, Harper tours the country with his song and dance partner Osceola Blanks, and they wind up performing at the Empire Theater in London. As a married couple Harper and Blanks, arrive back in the States smack dab in the middle of the Harlem Renaissance. Master pianist Duke Ellington moves in with them. Harper is hired to be the main in-house producer at Harlems fabled Connies Inn nightclub. Rhythm For Sale just gets started as Harper opens up his downtown Times Square Dance Studio. He teaches the Marx Brothers, Ruby Keller, Adele Astaire and Busby Berkeleys chorus line in the fine art of (Dirty Colored), dancing with that little extra something in the butt department. He forms his famous chorus-line the Harperettes, who jiggle and joggle in skimpy outfits while setting dance floors on fire. Leonard Harper produces in at least eight nightclubs and theaters just in New York City alone. The Cotton Club, the Hollywood Inn, Al Capones Grand Terrace Cafe, the Lafayette Theater, and the Apollo Theater all owe their status and particular place in nightclub and theater entertainment history to Harper and his fast variety revues. He rules the nightclub and Black Musical Comedy world on The Great White Way and uptown in Harlem.

Black And Blue and Aint Misbehavin all came from Harpers Hot Chocolates and only Rhythm For Sale tells the true story behind the making of that all-time legendary Broadway sensational revue. The book is full of celebrities and real gangsters. Ethel Waters, Cab Calloway, Fats Waller, Chick Webb, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Count Basie, Lena Horne, Dutch Schultz and Lucky Luciano are all integral players in Harpers show business world. These real life characters come to life. No cardboard cutout characters here. Rhythm For Sale finely peels away beyond the surface to reveal what lurks underneath the facade. Like a master chef, the author delves deep inside cooking the ingredients of Harpers complicated personal life. We examine his relationships with his possessive mother, jealous brother, crippled and bitter wife, sexy girlfriends and his loving daughter. The book ends with Harpers 1943 downfall. When Harpers variety revue form of Colored Musical Comedy is deemed out of date with his audience, his time on earth expires. His sad downfall is inevitable as the master Stager is trapped and held captive of his past success. Perhaps the racial pigeonhole that forced him into working for only small-time Harlem nightspots caused his death. Clearly Leonard Harper was just about the most important contributor to the entertainment mystique that enveloped Harlem in the 1920s and 1930s. He essentially invented the nightclub floorshow, Harlem style that everyone, uptown and down, then emulated. Without him, I doubt we would have Broadway musicals as we know them today. Barry Singer author of Black And Blue. Harpers extraordinary accomplishments as an artist and innovator spanned the worlds of vaudeville, cabaret, burlesque and Broadway musical comedy. Harper is also remembered as a pioneer who integrated the all-white Shubert touring circuit and directed Hot Chocolates the first ever Broadway production with an all-black creative team. Jed Bernstein President of Lincoln Center.

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