Rick James: The Lost Interview – A Revealing Conversation with the Funk Legend

Rick James: The Lost Interview by B.B. Noyes



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In 1989, Rick James sat down for an interview with journalist David Ritz that would never be published. The interview was lost for years, but it has recently been rediscovered and released. In this revealing conversation, James discusses his life, music, and controversial legacy.

Early Life and Influences

James was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1948. He was raised in a musical family, and he began playing the guitar at an early age. He was influenced by a wide range of musical genres, including R&B, soul, and funk. In the early 1970s, James moved to Los Angeles, where he began his professional music career.

The Rise to Fame

James's big break came in 1978 with the release of his album "Street Songs." The album was a commercial success, and it spawned the hit singles "You and I" and "Mary Jane." James quickly became one of the most popular funk artists in the world. He released a series of successful albums throughout the 1980s, including "Garden of Love" (1982),"Cold Blooded" (1983),and "Glow" (1985).

Controversy and Legal Troubles

James's career was marred by controversy. He was arrested on drug charges on several occasions, and he was also accused of domestic violence. In 1993, James was convicted of assault and battery against his girlfriend, and he served two years in prison.

Later Career and Legacy

After his release from prison, James attempted to revive his career. He released several albums in the 1990s and 2000s, but none of them achieved the commercial success of his earlier work. James died in 2004 at the age of 56.

Despite his controversial legacy, James is remembered as one of the most influential funk artists of all time. His music continues to be played and enjoyed by fans around the world.

The Lost Interview

The lost interview with David Ritz provides a unique glimpse into James's life and mind. In the interview, James discusses his childhood, his musical influences, and his controversial lifestyle. He also offers his thoughts on race, religion, and the music industry.

The lost interview is a fascinating and revealing document. It provides new insights into one of the most enigmatic and controversial figures in music history.



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