

Robert Johnson's Guitar: British Rock Meets Blues History & Supernatural Mystery in a Darkly Comic Novel

A forgotten rock band, a legendary bluesman, and a mysterious guitar collide in a story spanning the British music scene of the 1960s to the American South

Nottingham, England Sep 17, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Author F. M. Turner introduces readers to the chaotic world of late-1960s British rock with Robert Johnson's Guitar, a darkly humorous novel that combines music, mystery, blues history, and the supernatural.

The story follows Nick, a guitarist and member of the fictional British blues-rock band Heavy Aubergine, whose ambitions of musical success collide with jealousy, betrayal, drugs, violence, and an increasingly inexplicable connection to the legendary bluesman Robert Johnson.

The novel moves between 1968, 1969, 1970, 1982, and 1986, allowing readers to experience both the band's turbulent rise and the lasting consequences of the events that ultimately destroy it.

Heavy Aubergine initially appears destined for success. The band develops its distinctive sound by combining the blues they love with influences ranging from Indian ragas to Scottish folk. Their debut album, Purple Lions Dancing, is intended to establish them as a major force in British rock.

Then they hear a new record by an emerging band called Led Zeppelin.

The similarities between the two groups' music send Heavy Aubergine into a furious confrontation that becomes one of the novel's most memorable episodes. Their attempt to confront Led Zeppelin ends disastrously, with the members of Heavy Aubergine physically beaten and the band's ambitions beginning to unravel.

But the band's problems are far from over.

When Rock 'n' Roll Meets the Supernatural

At the center of the novel is an increasingly mysterious connection between Heavy Aubergine, the blues tradition, and Robert Johnson.

A supernatural figure first appears during a Heavy Aubergine performance in Birmingham in 1968, when a mysterious woman seemingly materializes beside the band's frontman, Glen. The encounter leaves the musicians unsettled—and becomes the first indication that their story may involve forces beyond music and ordinary coincidence.

Nick travels to Mississippi and encounters an elderly blues musician named Sam, who claims not only to have known Robert Johnson, but to possess Johnson's actual guitar. Sam also shares a startling story about the circumstances surrounding Johnson's death and the long-standing mysteries surrounding his identity and burial.

The encounter takes Nick deeper into the mythology surrounding the blues, including the famous crossroads legend. But Sam's response challenges the romanticized idea of a musician selling his soul for supernatural talent.

A Novel About More Than Music

While Robert Johnson's Guitar is steeped in blues and rock history, its story also examines cultural appropriation, racism, artistic identity, ambition, and the complicated relationship between musicians and the music that inspires them.

Nick's journey to Mississippi forces him to reconsider assumptions he once held about the blues and its origins. The novel ultimately connects the music's history to the realities of isolation, slavery, segregation, and the cultural forces that shaped the genre.

The result is a novel that moves between rock-and-roll satire, historical reflection, mystery, and supernatural fiction, while maintaining the irreverent voice of its narrator.

A Story That Refuses to Explain Everything

One of the book's central strengths is its uncertainty. Nick spends decades trying to make sense of what happened in Mississippi, questioning whether the supernatural events were real or whether exhaustion, alcohol, fear, and memory distorted his perception.

Even after Glen's death and the breakup of Heavy Aubergine, the mystery refuses to disappear. Nick eventually establishes a music shop called Aubergine Music, but the past continues to follow him.

And in the novel's final moments, Turner leaves readers with one last unsettling question.

Whether the moment represents something supernatural, something imagined, or something Nick can never fully explain is left for the reader to decide.

About the Book

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Author: F. M. Turner

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About F. M. Turner

F. M. Turner brings a distinctive voice to Robert Johnson's Guitar, using the first-person perspective of Nick to tell a story filled with musical knowledge, irreverent observations, nostalgia, and dark comedy.

Through Nick's memories of Heavy Aubergine and his later life running a music shop, Turner explores what happens when youthful musical ambition collides with the passage of time, and when the past

refuses to stay buried.

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