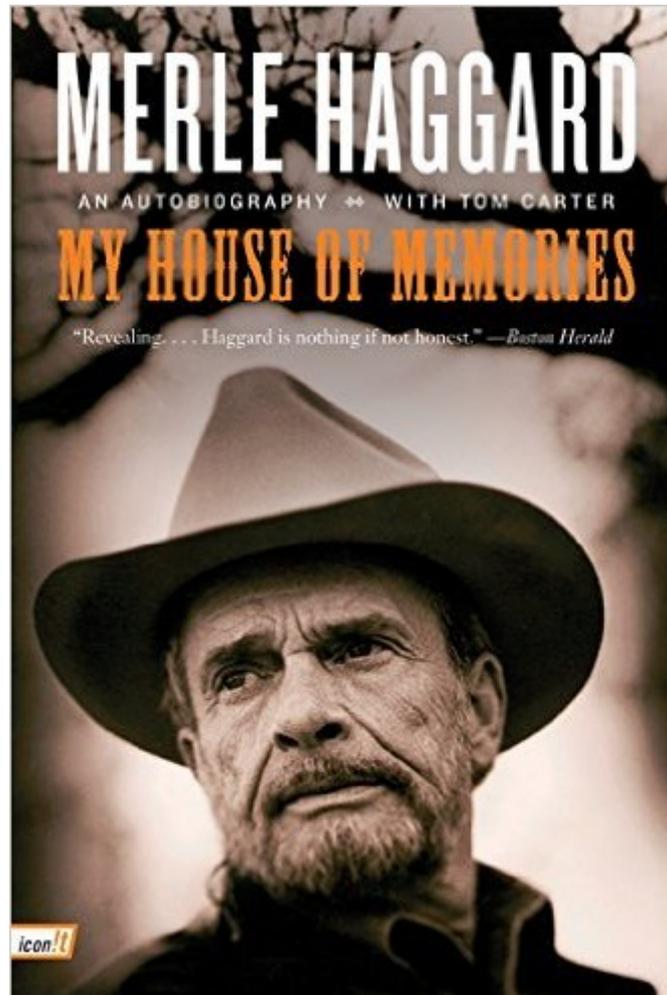


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My House Of Memories: An Autobiography



Synopsis

In this riveting personal story, award-winning, bestselling country music recording artist Merle Haggard takes you on a tour through his house of memories, offering a fascinating look inside his turbulent yet successful life. Merle reveals the true stories about his birth and troubled upbringing in a converted railroad boxcar. He recalls the loss of his father when he was nine, after which his childhood disobedience transformed into full-blown delinquency that eventually landed him behind the cold walls of San Quentin. He gives tribute to his mother and relives the painful memory of her death. He shares the lessons he learned from a life shaped by violence, gambling, and drugs, never shying away from the fact that he continues to pay for decades of reckless living. And he talks about the music he loves "how, ultimately, it has defined the man he is."

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Customer Reviews

Well, thanks to computers, I have been fortunate enough to read Autobiographies written by some of our greatest country music entertainers, Johnny, George, Loretta and Tammy, to name a few. I really liked Merle's book for its honesty/simplicity and thanks for the large font. Merle, I knew that you had been in prison, I really did not care why, I only knew many years ago that I loved your voice and the lyrics that you write. I have seen some similar things here and my blood boiled over the wrongs that you endured. But thanks for the book, one fan here wishes you and your family well. I must say though, that when "It's not love, but it's not bad" came out, the caftan had me confused. Read this book and if it does not make you a little irate with "The Sytem", it should. Regards Cheryl

Merle Haggard goes into great detail about his childhood and change into an adult and famous singer. The famous people that helped him along the way and information about his marriages and children. This is excellently written, easy to understand and paints a great picture of his life.

One of my favorite singer/ songwriters, Merle Haggard has lived an interesting life. While many singers of this genre have recorded classic songs about prison, few have really lived the life they sing about. Haggard is an exception and knows whereof he speaks (sings). Some of Hag's recordings would lead you to believe that he is name arch conservative (Okie from Muskogee, Working Man Blues) but he actually sounds more progressive when he discusses his political views. He has lived a fascinating life and is still touring and selling out concerts throughout the country. Long live this icon of country music!

We all know Merle went to prison, but few of us know why, or the circumstances surrounding his youth. You will after reading this book. Merle tells all and does so in a way that is harmful to no one but himself. It's much easier to understand his songwriting once you know his background. This is a definite "must read" for all Haggard fans.

As a boy, I listened to Merle Haggard from the back seat of our Ford LTD (the color varied, it was always an LTD) on the 8-track. He has always been one of my favorite entertainers. Earlier this year, my wife and I were lucky enough to see him in concert. So much talent packed into one human being is almost unfathomable. I read a lot of biographies and autobiographies, and I can tell you that this one hit me as a bare-knuckled telling of a life. As a lifelong fan, I expected nothing less from the working man's poet. If you want to know about Merle Haggard, this is the book to read. Merle's style of storytelling is well-paced and entertaining. Mixing periods of time within a scene, jumping to the past, then back, is a very tricky thing to pull off (I'm a writer, so I know how hard this is to do well), but Merle makes it seem natural. His style of writing will make you feel like you are sitting and listening to him tell you about his life, and you will be amazed.

I just barely started this book and have read the first few chapters. I loved it! He sure has an interesting past and some of the stuff he had to go thru was pretty bad, but very interesting to read about. There were both thugs and saints passing thru his life. The thugs made for good reading. I cannot wait to get thru the rest of it. He was quite a colorful character and I love reading about his time here in the Valley cause I also am from this part of CA that he lived his early life at.

Merle Haggard has always been high on my list of country music performers. The autobiography tells the story of Merle's life from the very beginning to the present. He did not have much success with matrimony having been married five times but one of his wives (Leona Williams) whose music I really like a lot according to Merle's book really did him dirty and one can only surmise that she married him for monetary reasons and there were many. So while I still like Leona's music my opinion of her as a person has been greatly diminished.

I presume Mr. Haggard thought by having the standard "my kids know I won't lie" prompted him to give us a lot of details about his personal life with women, wives, drugs, and general misbehaving that might well have remained unsaid. My impression is that he hits women. No one with his history of substance abuse remains charming, calm, and reasonable all the time. The last wife, after the initial five years he described so vividly, apparently got a husband who was really too worn down to do much more damage. He wrote great songs, sang songs brilliantly, but I don't find him the least bit likable, and if this book doesn't embarrass his kids, then nothing ever will.

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