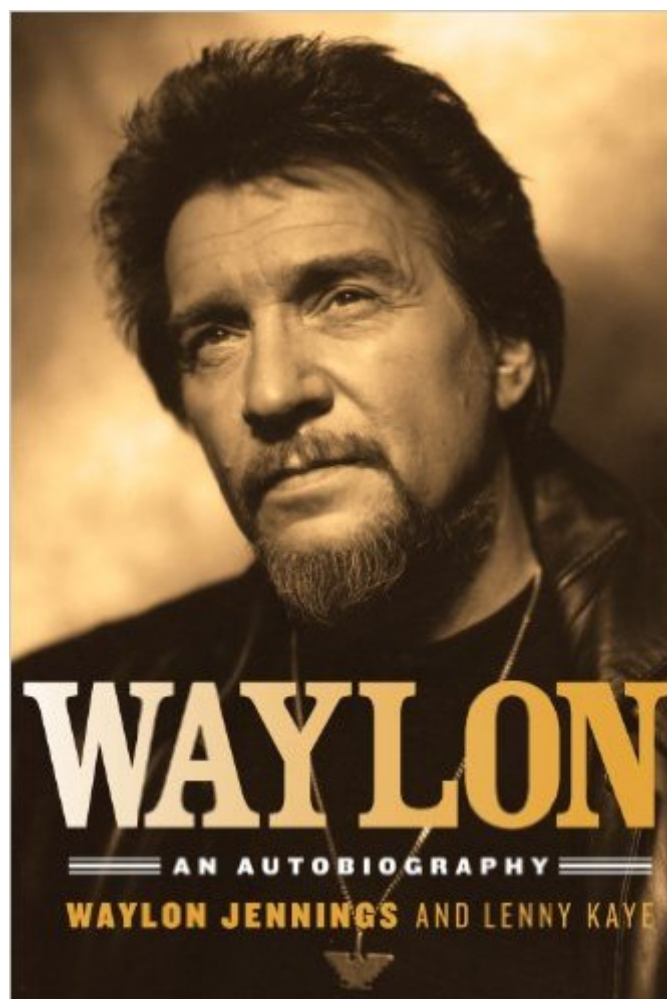


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Waylon: An Autobiography



Synopsis

Equal parts outlaw, renegade, and legend, Waylon Jennings enjoyed a stellar music career for four decades and this no-holds-barred autobiography reveals the story of a man who infused conservative country music traditions with the energy of rock and roll to rewrite the rules of popular music in America. It chronicles all the chapters of Jennings's incredible life, including his beginnings as a dirt-poor son of a farm laborer; his role as Buddy Holly's protégé; his influential friendships with such luminaries as Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and George Jones; the stunning success ushered in by his platinum 1976 anthology album, *Wanted: The Outlaws*; the drug habit that nearly destroyed him; and his three failed marriages and the journey that led him to Jessi Colter, the woman who would become his wife for 25 years. With anecdotes, portraits, and little-known facts about Jennings's fellow country music stars, this book overflows with the honesty, true humor, and down-home charisma of an authentic honky-tonk hero.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is as colorful as Waylon's best songs, with an earthy reality that you can smell, taste and feel in your gut. He didn't have an easy life and the contrast between the good times and the hard times is evident. The straightforward yet descriptive writing makes it easy to feel you were there when it happened. But it's never easy to bring about change, which is what his life has been all about. Some may think he brags too much but the truth is he has plenty to be proud of. I bought the book because I wanted to see how he described his time with Buddy Holly and the evolution of outlaw country and found it to be interesting, illuminating and at times, surprising. Along the way, I

gained a whole new level of respect for Jessi and was reminded again how important it is for a man to have a strong woman. It seems that all autobiographies drag at one point or another but that's just a minor issue here. If I could, I'd give this 4 and 1/2 stars, only because I'm stingy with my 5 star recommendations. My guess is that, if you like the man's music, you'll enjoy reading his story.

Waylon Jennings recorded an album in 1987, which he referred to as an "audiobiography". The album was "A Man Called Hoss", and it was, according to Waylon, "The story of my life, before somebody gets it wrong". It was a good idea, and a fine album. But "Waylon: An Autobiography" really gets the job done. Waylon's fans have always known about his rich sense of humor and storytelling abilities. These are reflected amply through his music. This book, co-written by Lenny Kaye, reveals his inner depth, as well. His friendships, loves, heartbreaks, addictions and many triumphs. The greatest triumph of Waylon's life is arguably his long and loving marriage to Jessi Colter. Colter, a successful recording artist in her own right, wrote one of Waylon's biggest hits, "Storms Never Last". And Waylon should know. He's weathered many a storm, with the help of his friends, his family, and his soulmate, Jessi. Read the book, and hear it all in WAYLON's words.

Reading Keith Richards' LIFE sparked a long trend of music biographies that recently saw this book on top of the pile. I have to say, it really felt like a long heart-felt conversation with Waylon himself, which was a rarity in these types of books. So if you are a fan, this is a great read. Waylon's ability to tell a story, colored with humor and social honesty is part of why we love his music. Another part I enjoyed was having such a detailed description of his times and surroundings. Seeing also his compatriots through his eyes, in particular Johnny Cash, Ritchie Albright, Buddy Holly, Kris Kristofferson, and Willy was amazing. His reverence for each is spoken in only the way Waylon could, in each he saw the spirit of Hank Sr. The stories of the all-night jamming with the Nashville underground of the 70's were as awesome as was Waylon's long trek to being country's best front men of all time. Give it a read and you'll find that his story telling, both compelling and honest, does not let a reader down.

If you read only one book in your life, you HAVE to read this one. I read it several years ago and just recently read it again. I've read a lot of biographies, and this one is the most sincere and most entertaining one yet. This book shows just how much today's country singers should thank their lucky stars that Waylon Jennings EVER came along. You can tell how very much he loved Jessi and his kids. READ IT!!!!

After reading about everything I could get my hands on about what I call the classic country stars, I found Waylon's autobiography one of the most insightful of them all. I am waiting impatiently for a good bio or auto-bio on Kris Kristofferson. Someone please let me know when something comes out beyond what we see on Wikipedia. --Sam Jackson

Waylon Jennings' autobiography stretches from his birth to 1996. Mr. Jennings shares his childhood memories of a large family living in humble, small houses. Like a lot of country music stars of that era, he came from a poor family. He wrote about some of his heroes of country music- Hank Williams, Sr. and Ernest Tubbs. Most everyone that knows who Waylon Jennings was is familiar with his connection to Buddy Holly. Waylon doesn't disappoint the readers that are curious to read about life on the road with Buddy Holly. If not for Buddy Holly and his confidence in a young Waylon Jennings, he may not have the singing career later. Another area of interest was Waylon's career as a disc jockey. He doesn't gloss over the wide-spread use of pills in Nashville and his personal use of drugs during his career. This book also details some of Waylon Jennings' experiences with the record labels and other management types in Nashville and on the road. He got ripped off like a lot of other music artists. It was interesting to read Waylon's take on the difference between playing in a studio vs. playing live in a honky-tonk and his preference for playing live. He shared his view of the "Nashville Sound" and the CMA. On the Nashville Sound he wrote this on page 176- "Nashville was just too insular, too caught up in itself." The reader gets a first-hand glimpse at why Mr. Jennings became a part of "Outlaw Country". Some of his shared experiences with his contemporaries were very humorous. Overall, this is a good autobiography of a true country rebel who played a part in changing country music and the monumental role his wife Jessi played in his overcoming years of drug addiction.

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