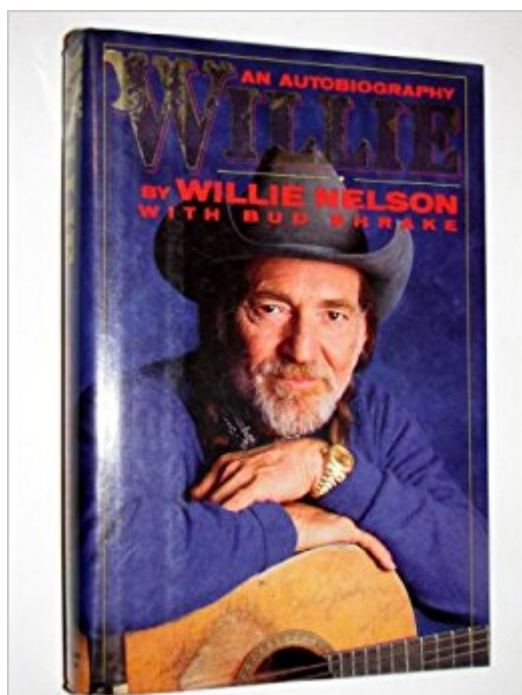


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Willie: An Autobiography



Synopsis

For more than twenty years, Willie Nelson has romanced America with his soul-stirring blend of poetry and country music and carved his unique path as a beloved outlaw with his personal life. Here is Nelson's story as never told before--from his childhood, his early struggles as a songwriter, his stormy marriages, and much more. Pocket Books. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nelson, self-proclaimed "outlaw" of country music, is depicted from many angles in this rambling account of his trajectory into celebrity. Written with freelancer Shrake in salty and sometimes vulgar language, Nelson's reflections on his three wives, children, his country music peers and others in his large, floating entourage reveal a hard-living man. The singer toiled in the fields as a child during the Depression, was left by his teenage parents with grandparents who raised him and his sister in Texas. The experience was pivotal to his career: "My desire to escape from manual labor started in the cotton fields of my childhood and cannot be overstated." Nelson began his road life as "an itinerant singer and guitar picker" on trips punctuated with alcohol, drugs and sex as he climbed to eminence in the world of country music. Now "crossed over," popular with national audiences, Nelson notes that he enjoys all the personal perquisites of his success. Among his revelations here, the singer recalls smoking pot on the roof of the White House after entertaining at a Carter state dinner. Photos not seen by PW. BOMC and QPBC alternates; first serial to Texas Monthly and Golf

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Willie Nelson's impact on American music is indelible. He stands at the crossroads of all the sounds and colors of this country. (Carlton Santana) Willie Nelson is a profound, original songwriter in a class with Stephen Foster who contrives to enrich our lives with classics. (Kris Kristofferson) If America only had one voice, it would be Willie's. (Emmylou Harris) Refreshingly free of bitterness, pettiness and finger-pointing, Willie: An Autobiography is chock full of delightful, hilarious, self-effacing and often revelatory anecdotes. (Bob Allen Country Music Magazine) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Like most country singers Willie's talent was obvious early on. He was given a guitar for Christmas and taught himself how to play. But he was lucky to have perfect pitch. As his fame rose, so did his lifestyle. He had to convince the record producers to make his favorite album, stardust. They said no one would buy it but it went on to become his best selling album. He picked the songs that he grew up on for it, the ones he listened to as a child for the album. It was the Stardust album that turned me on to Willie as his biggest fan. As he has aged, he became more conscious of his health and turned to the wisdom of Tao, and some Buddhist beliefs. He still loves singing and I still love listening.

I bought "Willie" years ago (and I like the old cover with the flag..don't know why they changed that) It's a big, thick book that's just crammed with proof that real life - if it's Willie's - is a whole lot better than any fiction novel. I loaned my copy out one too many times and it came up missing, so was glad to see it on here so I could get another one...only I had my old one so dog-eared, highlighted, etc...I hate having to go buy all those markers again, to do over;) When you get your copy, go to the index and ck it out....grab that highlighter pen before you even get started, here. I'm a truck driver, so I read this and that and here and there, before having a chance to read cover to cover. Then it turned into a reference book of Willie's Wisdom and all sorts of good stuff to good to forget. I kept it handy just to re-read some parts over and over. It's more than one book, somehow or other...yes, it's his autobiography - an All-American tale of rags to riches and all that; but, it's a whole lot more than that, too. If you like Willie, buy it. If you don't, I don't know why you're in here looking at it...but, if you like a dynamite story, or to read real-life accounts at all - you won't put this down, easily. What leaves me amazed is how anyone could cram that much living into the time period that book covers...he's lived nearly 20 more years since then...so I bought his new one, "Facts of Life and

Other Dirty Jokes", to see what he's been up to since the "Willie" book. It's a hoot..sort of a grass-roots type of wisdom, interjected with lots of "mind-f.r.ts" and takes on his varied accumulation of friends and family, to date. Better buy it too, while you're at it...for dessert.

I loved it to a point. At one point he started telling the problems with business side of his life. Sorry, I zoned out. I stopped. I should have continued but I did not. I love Willie Nelson, saw him in Hawaii at the football game. I only went to see Willie not the football game. He was impressive. My husband loves him and his songs as much as I do. He went to see Willie not the football game also.

Refreshing, honest story telling, though painful at times. I didn't know Willie was so loaded with experience, so much adventure and raw living. But in the end the story of on the road sort of drifts off into philosophy and then like a dying fire, it just smokes for a while at his own personal golf course in Austin. Though It took me a few passes to finally finish, his thinking on the purpose of life and matters of everyday decisions is intriguing and worth the read.

I thought this book was about as down to earth in describing the life of Willie Nelson from childhood on up.I also liked the fact that others put their 2 cents in .Willies friends & family have opinions also.I found the parts about his sister Bobby & his Grandparents & Mother interesting reading.I guess he is one laid back person.Also found out that he is very spiritual. I really liked the book even though it was written a few decades back.

Having been a fan of Willie's for most of his career, I found his life very interesting. I don't know how his wives put up with him and still remain on friendly terms with him. I thought there was alot of unnecessary swearing in the book. I'm not above a swear word myself, but it added nothing to his story. He's still one of my favorites.

If you like Willie, you will want to read his life's story. Very informative.

Great read. This book gave me an insight into the personal life of one of my favorite singers. An icon in the country music world, Willie's wild and wooly youth comes alive. He is a truly great singer with a unique style

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