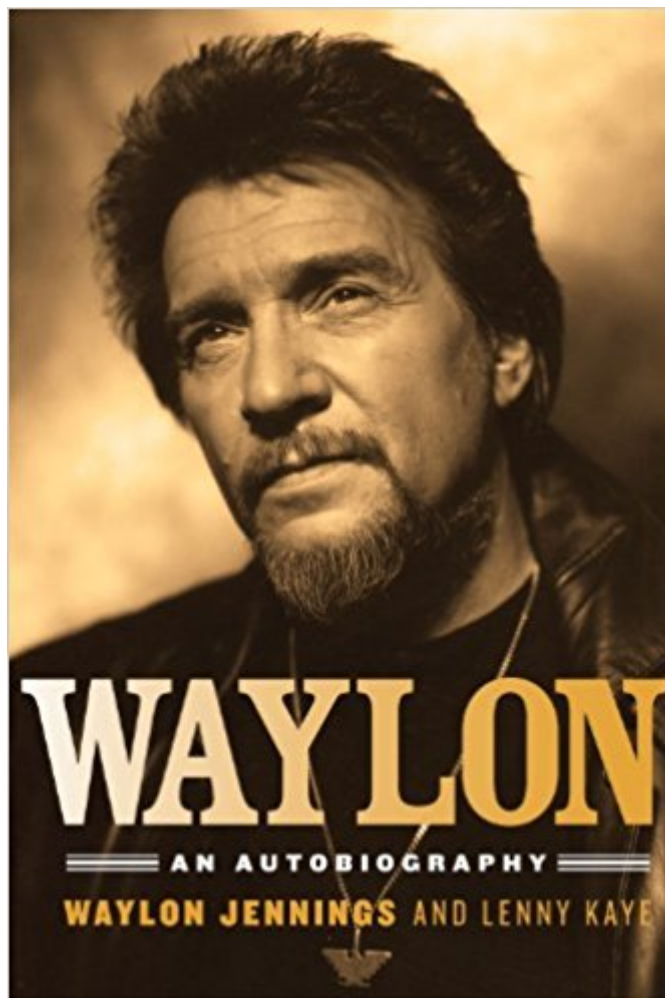


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# Waylon: An Autobiography



## 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

As one of the original "outlaw" country music stars, Jennings (b. 1937) has done his best to live up to the image of the hard-living honky-tonker who doesn't take crap from anybody. With the help of writer and rock guitarist Kaye, an older, calmer, drug-free Jennings now relates his life story, from his childhood in a dirt-floored house in West Texas, through his busted marriages and hard-partying days, to his current existence as happily married man (to country star Jessi Colter) and member of the Highwaymen, the country music supergroup made up of Jennings, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson. The narration reads as if Jennings is relating stories over a beer. There are

wonderfully evocative accounts of playing bass for Buddy Holly on his last tour? Jennings gave up his seat on the plane that crashed, killing Holly and the Big Bopper? and of Jennings and Johnny Cash sharing an apartment in Nashville in the early '60s. There's a little more than most readers need to know about Jennings's money troubles, sex life, personal feuds and various drug habits, and there are a few too many testimonials from younger performers (e.g., Billy Ray Cyrus telling Jennings, "You're like a god to me"). As a raconteur, Jennings is by turns self-deprecating and self-indulgent, but never less than entertaining, and almost always charming. This soulful book should interest most anyone curious about the life of a pop musician, and is likely to be essential reading for country fans. A selected discography of Jennings's recordings is included. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A country music star tells of his poor childhood and rise to stardom. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you love country music like I do this book is a must read. Not only is it an insight to the artist who in my opinion has one of the most incredible voices I have ever heard but he also gives an insight into the country music business (and some rock and roll also) in the 1950s and 1960s and beyond that also. I put off reading it because I was thinking autobiography=boring. Usually I pick fiction to read but this one breaks all those stereotypes. Definitely worth the read.

This is the most fun I have had reading a book in a LONG time. Waylon has had a very interesting life & it felt like he was telling me about it over a beer. Great stories, and great delivery. I especially liked his honesty about his own mistakes/struggles - I could tell that he was sincere in his recollections. Also, he did not trash ANYONE in this book - very rare for an entertainment industry memoir. In the rare occasions that he revealed a falling out with someone, he was very matter of fact & did not disparage anyone else. It was a fun, informative read and made me appreciate the music & the man.

As a general reading book my rating would be lower, but because I am a musician, I am fascinated by what goes on behind the scenes and in the lives of very successful musicians. Because the life is so high energy and stressful, almost all of the musicians ended up on drugs and abused alcohol. Make no mistake this is not the 8 hour day and then come home before the next day, as these guys



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