



Man in Black

Johnny Cash

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The popular country-and-western singer chronicles the ups and downs of his life and career, profiling the people involved and describing his hard-found Christian faith

Man in Black Details

Date : Published February 1985 by Chosen Books (first published August 1st 1975)

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Author : Johnny Cash

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From Reader Review Man in Black for online ebook

Spencer says

I enjoyed this book. It's not really an autobiography as much as "some stuff on my mind." The Christian stuff gets pretty boring and freaky superstitious in the last two chapters. It's clear that Johnny Cash has a million stories to tell but not a lot of interest in telling them.

Johnny's voice is clear and human. He's trying to show his own faults while hiding other people's failures. He mostly succeeds leaving the reader feeling like they had a really interesting conversation with an important but humble person.

Elena says

A very inspirational book in which the readers can see how truly Johnny Cash had to fight against his addiction but also where he openly talks about his relationship with faith and religion. Another aspect to be highlighted is the fact that lots of artists and friends were willing to help him and, luckily, he could always count on June Carter, who proved that she was not only a very strong woman but also kindhearted, positive, encouraging and faithful.

Kyle says

I've read many reviews that don't like this book because Johnny Cash was religious and was raised as such. It amazes me. Obviously these people know enough about him to know he was a spiritual person. Most of these bandwagon fans came around 2003 when he died and the famous "Hurt" video came out. A video that I might remind you was loaded with religious imagery, reflecting the artists personal beliefs YET we still get some zombies giving this a low rating because of his faith.

Basically, that's the problem with atheists. Most are no better than the "hell-fire and brimstone" preachers who want to send everyone to Hell (more people I disagree with). Blindly criticizing other mortals for their method in bettering themselves.

I guess it's hard for me to touch on the book because I'm literally too flummoxed by the bad reviews because the man talked about his faith. It's really like going to a pool and complaining about getting wet...if you knew about the subject beforehand, which I'm willing to bet these hipster didn't when they stumbled across the book at Half Priced Books or bought it off Ebay because it's "vintage" and will look good sitting next to their old school Nikon camera.

Jeff says

1st Read: February 23, 2015 - February 24, 2015

I quite enjoyed this story! Throughout it all, his deep voice narrated for me as I read each word. In fact, all the celebrities in this book whom I'd heard speak at some point in my life, either from an interview or TV program, I'd also heard and envisioned. This made it that much more enjoyable.

The story is not descriptive in the sense of how Stephen King or any other great author would write. He gets his point across without having to paint a picture of everything in each second of his life, and this is fine. His words had a way of transporting me back to a simpler time. I still remember small segments from his TV show very vividly, as I have eidetic memory.

As a child of the '70's, many of us grew up to love Johnny Cash and his music. To this day, I still play Johnny's music a few times a month and it never gets old, aside from, "*Walk The Line*" and "*Ring Of Fire*". Great songs, but it is media overkill!

I feel that more could have been told about his life in the 1950's while touring with Elvis, Carl Perkins and others. However, the book is now forty years old, so this may seem why there are omissions and things left out. Those stories may be left for Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard to tell, as there are few left who can testify the tales of that time when Rock and Roll was born.

Why I enjoyed this book so much is how I felt personally connected to his spiritual journey of, "*I can do this by myself*" attitude and his trials and tribulations with addiction. It is odd how I love these types of stories and movies such as the classics from long ago, *The Ten Commandments*, *Ben Hur* and others, yet, I am too stubborn to give in completely to God myself.

I would love to hear the session that was recorded the day "*The Killer*" was introduced to Johnny and Elvis.....if it has ever been released yet!

rinabeana says

In his introduction, Cash refers to this memoir as a "spiritual odyssey." He tells the story of his life with emphasis on his faith. He is honest about his difficult years of drug addiction and the toll it took on his health and his personal relationships. It always comes back to how the Lord works in his life, though. There is also a focus on songs. Many song lyrics are reprinted in the book and it's wonderful to see how they came about and/or how they had an impact on his life.

Nicholas Bobbitt says

Johnny Cash, despite being a fantastic songwriter, cannot seem to make his life as interesting as the biopic, *Walk the Line*.

Sara says

It still blows my mind that my dad hung out with these old cowboys - Cash, Waylon etc. He's one of the last of the gang left - barely.

I tell you what though - if I ever had to throw down, I'd take these dudes in my corner over any of those stupid gang-bangers today. These guys were/are tougher than nails.

Jessie B. says

I remember being amazed by the honesty of Johnny Cash, and his life's story. What an honest, raw, and riveting, first person account! This autobiography made me like autobiographies.

Alberto says

Las memorias de "Juanito efectivo" me han dejado un poco frío, más que "sexo, drogas y rock and roll" aquí vamos a encontrar "Jesús, anfetás y country-rock". El tono beato que sobrevuela por todo el libro acaba siendo muy cansino. El primer tercio del libro en el que cuenta la muerte de su hermano Jack y su mili en Alemania es hartito tedioso, afortunadamente otras partes posteriores resultan algo más interesantes. Me refiero evidentemente a su tremenda adicción a las anfetaminas y barbitúricos que le llevó al borde del colapso. Finalmente pudo escapar de ese infierno gracias a sus amigos y en especial a June Carter (de la Carter family) con la que llevaba años compartiendo escenario y con la que acabó contrayendo matrimonio. Después comenzará su peregrinaje por un par de cárceles: Folsom y San Quintín cuyas actuaciones fueron un éxito comercial sin precedentes. Y poco más... el hecho de que el libro esté escrito en los setenta hace que las memorias queden un poco incompletas, cosa que arregló editando en 1997 "Cash: la autobiografía" que abordaré sin dudar cuanto caiga en mis manos.

Dave says

Wow, does this suck ass! I guess it is my fault because I didn't look closely enough at the cover to see that this book was published by Zondervan Books, the Christian publishing company. Cash (assuming that he actually wrote this, and not some Christian zombie ghostwriter) can't write two sentences without saying How Great God Art, and how all his music was Inspired By The Lord. (Right, because Jesus always said that you should shoot a man in Reno just to watch him die, and that after you take a shot of cocaine and shoot your woman down, you should go to bed and stick that fuckin' .44 beneath your head. Amen!)

Linda says

a vary great read

Jackson Park says

I saw the movie Walk the Line many times and now I see how fictionalized the film was. The true story is an amazing testimony of redemption. God put specific people in Johnny's life to help him overcome drugs and when he did, he lived his life for others and for God. Great autobiography!

Reese Porfirio says

I came across this book accidentally. I thought it was my mother's, but she had no idea whose it was or why it was among the shelves. I'm a meh-fan, respect the dude and know he's talented but never hopped on the Cash-craze train my generation seemed to reignite and embrace. This book made me feel so much for this man, this tough and loving soul. Some moments in this book changed my life and I can only assume it was meant to find me for those reasons.

Antoinette says

I'm not sure what it is about Christians working in the entertainment industry that makes them feel the call to make bad movies about Jesus. It is probably the same thing that makes them feel the need to write lame books about their spiritual journey. I really enjoyed the beginning of this book, and I was starting to enjoy the crazy drug party. It just wasn't written well, and it actually hurt my enjoyment of Cash's music. Just...not a very good read. Especially considering I paid a lot of money for it, since it is out of print. The way he threw around the Gospel was sort of offensive, and dumb. Just very, very dumb.

Sharon says

I read "Cash," which is a later memoir than "Men in Black," and appreciated Johnny Cash's no-holds-barred approach to telling his own story. How grateful I am to see that the earlier book is in much the same vein.

Cash tells the story of his addiction to amphetamines and barbiturates, his early career, and his faith in a plain-spoken, straightforward manner that readers can appreciate. He makes no secret of the challenges he faced as fame and fortune changed his life, and of how he stumbled along the path of recovery.

There is much to be inspired by in Cash's writing, as he overcomes challenges that might fell a lesser person.

Highly recommended for fans of the Man in Black.
