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A Long Way Home: Twelve Years Of Words



Synopsis

Dwight Yoakam has long been known to country music fans as a musician who is as much artist as he is superstar. Over the course of his fifteen-year career, he has received fourteen Grammy nominations. One reviewer described his work this way: "Yoakam's lyrics--Leonard Cohen meets Ernest Tubb--work so well because they're literary without being high-minded. The artfulness of the words . . . doesn't always hit you until you read them on the lyric sheet." Newsweek called Yoakam's most recent record--titled, like his book, *A Long Way Home*--"a daring departure. It's lush and languid, more introspective than hit-driven. He's looking for subtle emotions, melodic evocations of the distances between people, and he draws on sources as varied as Bobby Darin, Chet Baker, and Buck Owens to get there." *A Long Way Home* is the first collection of Yoakam's lyrics in book form. It spans his career, from such early albums as *Hillbilly Deluxe* and *Buenas Noches from a Lonely Room* to the recently released, critically acclaimed *A Long Way Home*. Yoakam's songwriting is really storytelling--he poetically writes of subjects ranging from God to drinking to love--and proves him to be as fine a writer as he is a musician.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dwight Yoakam is a Grammy Award winner and fourteen-time nominee. He is an acclaimed musician and songwriter and now actor, with critically appraised performances in such films as *Sling Blade* and *The Newton Boys*. His 1998 release *A Long Way Home* made *People* magazine's Best of Song list. A native of Kentucky, Dwight Yoakam now lives in Los Angeles.

I love reading the poetry of Dwight Yoakam's songs, his lyrics. From them I realize he is an extremely intelligent, witty and deep-feeling man who says a lot with an economy of words. He's careful about his subject matter; for example, no politics. On the other hand, he has a beautiful mastery of the English language and a keen, wry wit. His favorite subject matter includes his Kentucky heritage and the general world of heartbreak, which he examines from all sides. He's an astute observer of life and its ironies. His lyrics are a joy to parse and admire if you like your songs strong, clean and with subtle twists thrown in through a clever word here and there. His wordplay is truly brilliant. Nice collection and amazingly insightful and personal preface by Dwight about his songwriting. And he might not appreciate me saying this, being known for his cool reserve, but reading his lyrics carefully reveals Dwight's subtler sensitive side. My dream is for Dwight to one day be recognized and honored as a songwriter. Excellent!!

Dwight Yoakam does not write complex lyrics. What he writes are lyrics of deep emotion and unsurpassed longing. Without the twang-and-swing of his honky-tonk melodies, these songs are reduced to their bared bones, stripped and displayed in all their anguish and despair. From the straightforward "It won't hurt when I fall down from this barstool; it won't hurt when I stumble in the street; it won't hurt 'cause this whiskey eases misery; but even whiskey cannot ease your hurting me" to the more thought-provoking "Don't look inside, don't look there, 'cause you might find yourself somewhere, walking around lost and alone, without one clue that it's a long way home" Dwight speaks to the heart and the mind, and to deeper emotions. "Twelve Years of Words" is printed as a simple, straightforward book of poetry, introduced with Dwight's eloquent, thoughtful prose. It is true that anyone who has the CDs already has the lyrics, printed on each CD insert. But there is a beauty in this presentation, all of his poems gathered together into one slim little volume without the music. I'm very much hoping that, in time, there will be "Twenty Years of Words" and it will be updated as he continues to write those simple, elegant, words.

Yes, I enjoyed the book, like most fans I wish it had more information on his personal life. But he keeps everything real close and private. But that is how he wants it, so it's ok with me.

For a long time Yoakam enjoyer, this collection of poems (lyrics) is a song for the eyes. The quietness of this music vibrates to the depths of your understanding. Like Yoakam? Get this book....

I love this collection of Dwight Yoakam's lyrics presented in poetry form. Simply beautiful. The forward written by Dwight is enlightening as well.

It's just song lyrics or something.

His words are amazing when sung & I love him as a performing artist. However, surprisingly, reading pages & pages of his poetry touches my soul on a very deep level.

Very sweet book to have if you are a Dwight Yoakam fan. To see the written words in lieu of listening to the song, gives one a very powerful insight into the man.

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