



# I Lived to Tell It All

*George Jones*

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## **I Lived to Tell It All** George Jones

Boozing. Womanizing. Brawling. Singing. For the last forty years George Jones has reigned as the country's king--the singer many have called the Frank Sinatra of country. And for most of that time, his career has been marked by hard-living, hard-loving, and hard luck. From his early east Texas recordings through his marriage with Tammy Wynette to his latest acclaim as a solid citizen and "high-tech red-neck," Americans have been fascinated with Jones, never even knowing whether he's going to show up for his next concert.

Now, in **I Lived To Tell It All**, George Jones supplies a no-holds-barred account of his excesses and ecstasies. How alcohol ruled his life and performances. How violence marred many friendships and relationships. How money was something to be made but never held on to. And, finally, how the love of a good woman can ultimately change a man, redeem him, and save his life.

## **I Lived to Tell It All Details**

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Author : George Jones

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## From Reader Review I Lived to Tell It All for online ebook

### Lisa says

Wow, I always knew about George Jones' drinking problems but I never knew he was doing that much cocaine. My dad really liked him and his music but it seems like for a very long time, he was someone who did what he wanted to do and didn't care about other people or what ill effects his actions were having. It makes you wonder if he would have been as famous if he would have been clean and sober and also how much money he would have made if he had not flushed most of it down the toilet. It is really sad that all of the people around him watched all of this going on and didn't try to help him anymore than they did. It sounds like most of them were enabling him to get away with the things he was doing instead.

I had always heard that Nancy saved him, but I never knew how much he put her through before getting clean. I am surprised that she allowed her daughter to go through all of that however. Luckily things turned out for the best but it sounds like they were lucky that nothing worse happened during that time. Some of the situations in the book sounded a little far-fetched, but I guess they could have happened.

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### Jennifer says

Incredible stories. George makes rockers look like teetotalers. It gets kind of repetitive in the middle, (lemmee guess: he's gonna drink a bottle of whiskey, snort a mound of cocaine, smash up a room, shoot up his bus, then not make it to his show)but stick it out because toward the end the story gets really MEGA freaky. I won't spoil anything but truth is definitely stranger than fiction.

I loved the stories of his childhood in rural Texas during the depression, the anecdotes about Faron Young, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Porter Wagoner, etc. Possum has been to hell and back and you gotta give the guy some credit. It's so tempting to give a nugget of some of the particularly bizarro stuff, but better to read it for yourself - it's so worth it.

After I finished reading last night I called my mom up to discuss some of the stuff I read, as her and I and a former stepfather lived in Nashville for a year when I was in 7th grade. The building she worked in also housed the office of Faron Young, whom we both met, and my stepfather was a security guard at Waylon's house. As a teenager I was big into David Bowie and The Pretenders, wanted nothing to do with country music, and had no idea who any of these guys even were. Ah the ignorance of youth - I would never have dreamed that years later I would be singing country music myself and listening to the old greats. Mom tells me that we saw George Jones having lunch with Porter Wagoner in a Shoney's restaurant. I have no recollection of it because I'm sure I rolled my eyes when she pointed them out and had no clue who they were.

Anyway, Jonesy is no Hemingway but he's sure got one hell of a story to tell.

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### Joanne says

I mean, I love George Jones, I could listen to "He Stopped Loving Her Today," all day, but this was a slog. They "forced" him to use drugs ?

## Joy Wingfield says

Very good book. Good page turner. I'm a big fan of George Jones, but I think even if you don't know who he was, it is a very good read. Truly amazing that the man lived to tell it all. I am thankful he found Nancy. What a life.

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## Tyra says

George tells you life stories about himself, sharing the way he remembers & the assistance of a few friends. A must-read for any country music fan, who really enjoys the history of real country music! ?

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## Mike E. says

I grew up listening to this man, Thank God I got to see him live and meet him before he passed. this book is a cherished favorite.

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## Christine says

This was recommended to me as if George Jones was the OG high-livin entertainer, and I was expecting something akin to Zep's Hammer of the Gods, albeit with more silver-dollar encrusted tour vans and lawnmower joy rides. Nay.

GJ, finally clean and sober in his fifties, lived most of his life as a far-gone alcoholic and coke addict, and reading about it was not glamorous or fun, even in a guilty-pleasure sort of way. Like most alcoholics I've known (and I had the misfortune of being briefly married to one), GJ blames all his problems on everyone else. If the cops nail him, he's an outraged! But if the cops look the other way (as they usually did) while he drives drunk, gets entangled with an extremely seedy drug-dealing element, or slaps Tammy Wynette around, then they should have thrown him in jail - how else is he supposed to know he's gone too far? His mismanagement of his own money - earned as a performer, but also as the proud owner of numerous properties, like the trailer park he bought for Tammy when they were married and his THREE DIFFERENT COUNTRY-MUSIC PARKS - was so absurd I found myself actually having to put the book down. Of course, GJ blamed that all on his managers, accountants, booking agents, and drug dealers, all of whom, he claims, conspired to keep his so fucked up on booze and cocaine that he wouldn't know they were swindling him.

Don't even get me started on his convoluted attitudes towards women. Suffice it to say that his reports on his own behavior are conflicting and difficult to believe. He claims, for instance, that he got black-out drunk one night while married to Tammy Wynette and woke up in a straight-jacket in a rehabilitation center. Tammy didn't visit him for 10 whole days!! She just kept all her stupid tour dates like the mean old woman she was. When he got out, he found the house had been completely torn apart. Well! GJ certainly didn't do THAT! Never mind the umpteen previous house-wrecking episodes, the black-out, and GJ's many, many stories of drunken brawls. Never mind that GJ starts off this whole anecdote by saying he didn't remember why he

started drinking or anything leading up to the straight-jacket. OBVIOUSLY, Tammy HIRED someone to TEAR HER OWN HOUSE APART TO TEACH GJ A LESSON. Right? Right.

So anyway, on page 400 or whatever when he's finally getting some help and the rehab center runs various tests and finds that his IQ is 43, I was not surprised. It's a helluva drug, y'all.

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### **Andre says**

Every artist has their ups and downs, but when I read an autobiography the general feeling is that they have lived an amazing life. That is not the case with George Jones, he had a horrible life that is not desirable or enviable in any way, shape, or form. He surrounded himself with the wrong people who took advantage of his fame and money, which left him broke and addicted for over 30 years. Regardless, through it all he managed to make great music and become the definition of what a male country artist should sound like. He tells countless tales of his alcohol-induced bad behaviors, as well as his side on the whole Tammy Wynette marriage/divorce/scandal. I'm glad he managed to make it through his addictions early enough to enjoy his later years with his family while basking in the glow of his musical accomplishments; he was an extremely talented man whose voice and legacy will live forever, and his story, although sad, is an example of perseverance. I'm impressed and amazed by this country legend's mind.

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### **Sue says**

#### **STARTLING SAD\*UNWAVERINGLY HONEST**

At the beginning of this book George Jones said he would be as honest as his memory would allow. I believe he was. This book at times is almost too painful to read. I was born a Country Music fan. I was lucky enough to see George Jones perform twice alone and once with Tammy Wynette back in the 70's. Now I truly know how lucky I was. I think his wife Nancy was out of her ever loving mind. But I think everyone has a soulmate and when it's your time to meet them, God puts you together. I'm glad that Nancy was able to love George and give him the happiness she could in the time they had. If you want a hard honest look at the life of a recording, touring artist. Buy this book and take notes. If your a fan of this Country Music Legend, this might be a little hard to read. I love the music of George Jones and always will. God Bless Nancy and his children.

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### **arterialturns says**

Almost too depressing to bear, this is the often repetitious autobiography of a man who shouldn't have lived to tell the tale, much less an additional twenty years after he did. What is missing from this book, and he admits it, are fond recollections or anecdotes from his life within the world of country music. He had poor recollection of most of it. What is included, and is indeed the bulk of the book, is the crushingly sad tale of a man who was ruined by drugs & alcohol, only to seemingly finally conquer it much later in life. However, true though it may have been, the constant cycles depicted in the book made it hard to get through. My favorite parts of the book are those depicting his early life and career, after that it was just about too much. The whole sordid tale reads almost page by page like the stereotypical country tune, but it could have

perhaps been put together a bit better.

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### **Michelle Santamaria says**

Makes me rethink cocaine. Maybe I won't die after the first try.

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### **Victor says**

I'm not even a huge fan (well, he's badass), but this is the second Jones book I've read along with a Tammy Wynette one (??). It moves along, and is a fun ride, but after 300 pages, the drunken, coke-fueled debauchery gets kinda old (yet the story of him driving the lawn mower to the liquor store when his wife took his car keys is funny), and is really the definition of the auto-bio fail; he tells you what he can remember (obviously not much), and what he wants to tell you (and in this case the drunken debauchery and not much on the music). I would have loved more insight on the man's incomparable interpretive skills/creative process. Oh well, it's George Jones, so it's still pretty cool.

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### **David says**

I'm reading about George Jones buying a moped. Then Johnny Paycheck crashes it --Paycheck also practices karate on a train in this book and puts his fist through a window. It's pretty wild.

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### **Judi Wicker says**

#### **Great Book**

You will enjoy this book. George takes you inside his life the good n the bad. I so enjoyed it I could not put the book down please ask everyone you know to read this book.

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### **Connie says**

Some of this book is so funny! and OMG! The story with Porter Wagner in the restroom is hilarious! Yet it becomes really sad as George continues in his destructive drinking. As I read about all of his antics I kept thinking what it would be like if that stuff happened today. Everyone would have their cell phones out taking pictures, they would have been all over facebook within an hour and he would have been charged with assault, etc

Nancy may have been great for George but what she put her poor daughter Adina through is awful. George is truly one of the greatest country singers ever and I appreciate him and his music even more.

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