



Biographies of Country Music Stars

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Chet Atkins: Me and My Guitars by Chet Atkins

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 4 hours, 5 minutes

Autobiography written with longtime friends the Cochran brothers. The guitarist recalls his career, beginning with his early days in Tennessee and Georgia, by focusing on guitars he's had over the years. Describes the evolution of his guitars' construction and includes anecdotes about favorite instruments.

Introduction by Jerry Reed.

[Download from BARD: Chet Atkins: Me and My Guitars](#)

Also available on cassette RC059270

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Man in Black by Johnny Cash.

Read by Alec Volz

Reading time 6 hours, 47 minutes

In this candid autobiography, legendary country-western singer Johnny Cash revisits the "good and bad times" of his life and career. Describes his rural Arkansas childhood, older brother Jack's death, seven nightmarish years of drug addiction, marriage to June Carter, and the faith in God he ultimately found.

[Download from BARD: Man in Black](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058372

Also available on cassette RC058372

Composed a Memoir by Rosanne Cash

Read by Celeste Lawson

Reading time 7 hours, 20 minutes

Self-portrait of award-winning singer/songwriter Rosanne Cash (born 1955), the eldest daughter of country music legend Johnny Cash. Reminisces about her extensive musical family, including stepmother June Carter. Discusses her career, two marriages, five children, and collaborations with other artists. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Composed a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071836

Chinaberry Sidewalks By Rodney Crowell

Read by Andy Pyle

Reading time 9 hours, 34 minutes

Autobiography of Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Crowell (born 1950) evokes his hardscrabble Texas upbringing by volatile parents. Details the relationship between his epileptic, Pentecostal mother and alcoholic, honky-tonk father. Recounts the start of his own career and discusses his marriage to Rosanne Cash. Strong language and some violence. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Chinaberry Sidewalks](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073893

Hillbilly Heart By Billy Ray Cyrus

Read by Eric G. Dove

Reading time 7 hours, 37 minutes

Autobiography of country singer and songwriter Billy Ray Cyrus, father of Disney star Miley Cyrus. Discusses growing up in Kentucky, working in night clubs from Nashville to Los Angeles, and his success with the 1992 song "Achy Breaky Heart." Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Hillbilly Heart](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076810

Live Fast, Love Hard: the Faron Young Story by Diane Diekman

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 8 hours, 55 minutes

Biography of honky-tonk singer Faron Young (1932-1996) traces his forty-year career that culminated in his posthumous 2000 induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Includes insights from Young's family and colleagues revealing his abusive side and discusses the history of country music. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Live Fast, Love Hard: the Faron Young Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069523

River of No Return Tennessee Ernie Ford and the Woman he Loved: a Memoir By Jeffrey Buckner Ford

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 10 hours, 27 minutes

The son of entertainer Ernie Ford (1919-1991) chronicles his father's career--including his television show and such hits as "Sixteen Tons"--and his parents' long marriage. Discusses his mother's suicide in 1989 and his father's death, two years later, from an alcohol-induced condition. Some strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: River of No Return Tennessee Ernie Ford and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075651

Sing Me Back Home: Love, Death, and Country Music by Dana Andrew Jennings

Read by Jeremy Gage

Reading time 9 hours, 21 minutes

New York Times editor explains the ways the classic country music of the 1950s to 1970s resonated with the rural, working-class lives of his New Hampshire family and neighbors. Discusses legendary musicians like Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, and Loretta Lynn and their effect on audiences. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Sing Me Back Home: Love, Death, and Country...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068110

The Three of Us Growing Up with Tammy and George By Georgette Jones

Read by Eva Wilhelm

Reading time 7 hours, 31 minutes

Memoir by the only child of country-western singer/songwriters Tammy Wynette and George Jones. Georgette, born in 1970, chronicles her parent's relationship, including their careers, divorce, and subsequent remarriages. Recalls Tammy's death in 1998 and discusses her own path and pursuit of a singing career. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Three of Us Growing Up with Tammy and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076171

Coming Home to Myself by Wynonna Judd

Read by Constance Crawford Reading time 10 hours, 58 minutes

Autobiography of award-winning country singer. Recalls her impoverished childhood and her sudden success singing duets with her mom, Naomi, who wrote Love Can Build a Bridge (RC 37934). Wynonna describes her personal and professional life and her continuing efforts to improve mentally, spiritually, and physically.

[Download from BARD: Coming Home to Myself](#)

Also available on cassette RC062059

Still Woman Enough: a Memoir by Loretta Lynn

Read by Madelyn Buzzard Reading time 8 hours, 42 minutes

Country singer continues her autobiography begun in Coal Miner's Daughter (RC 47599). Includes reminiscences of her career and friendship with Conway Twitty, Tammy Wynette, and other entertainers; her stormy marriage to her late husband, Doolittle Lynn; and her relationships with her children. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Still Woman Enough: a Memoir](#)

Also available on cassette RC054166

Tammy Wynette: Tragic Country Queen by Jimmy McDonough

Read by Kristin Allison Reading time 16 hours, 59 minutes

Biography of Tammy Wynette (1942-1998), the first country-music performer to go platinum. Discusses Wynette's Mississippi childhood, her five marriages, and her work as a recording artist. Examines the health problems that led to her decades-long drug addiction and premature death. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Tammy Wynette: Tragic Country Queen](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071383

Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die: Musings from the Road By Willie Nelson

Read by Bruce Huntley Reading time 3 hours, 43 minutes

Country and folk music superstar reflects on the influences of his career. Discusses growing up in Texas, moving to Nashville, loving his family, and more. Memories and commentary contributed by friends and relatives are sprinkled throughout. Includes foreword by Kinky Friedman. Strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BAR: Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die: Musings...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075901

Born Country: How Faith, Family, and Music Brought Me Home by Randy Owen

Read by Bob Moore

Reading time 7 hours, 30 minutes

Randy Owen, lead singer for the award-winning country-and-western band Alabama, provides an autobiographical account of his life. Owen describes his family's southern heritage, the band's rise to fame and fortune in the 1980s, and the faith and values that have sustained him personally and in his career.

[Download from BARD: Born Country: How Faith, Family, and Music...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068466

Dolly: My Life and Other Unfinished Business by Dolly Parton.

Read by Pam Ward

Reading time 9 hours, 33 minutes

Parton, born on January 19, 1946, in a one-room cabin in East Tennessee, was the fourth child in a family that would eventually number twelve children. Parton discusses her early years, especially her schooling and love for music; the strong ties that kept the family together; her relationship with her best friend Judy Ogle; her rise to fame in Nashville; and her marriage of twenty-eight years to Carl Dean.

[Download from BARD: Dolly: My Life and Other Unfinished Business](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB039868

Also available on cassette RC039868

The Statler Brothers: Random Memories by Harold W. Reid

Read by Richard Davidson

Reading time 9 hours 16 minutes

Memoir by brothers Harold and Don Reid who, along with some teenage friends, formed a country and gospel quartet in 1950s Staunton, Virginia. They recall their rise to fame as Johnny Cash's opening act, their tours with other stars, their long-running television show, and the inspiration behind their hits.

[Download from BARD: The Statler Brothers: Random Memories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072430

Man of Constant Sorrow: My Life and Times By Ralph Stanley

Read by Roy Avers

Reading time 17 hours, 20 minutes

Autobiography of bluegrass banjoist Ralph Stanley (born 1927 in southwest Virginia). Describes his hardscrabble upbringing, the band he formed with his brother Carter, six decades of performing, and fellow musicians. Recounts having the title song and his Grammy-winning "O Death" featured on the O Brother, Where Art Thou! soundtrack. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Man of Constant Sorrow: My Life and Times](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071760

Johnny Cash: the Biography by Michael Streissguth

Read by Conrad Feininger

Reading time 11 hours, 45 minutes

Author uses archives and interviews to document the life of the country-western singer Johnny Cash (1932-2003). Traces Cash's childhood as the son of an impoverished Arkansas sharecropper, his musical rise in 1950s Memphis after a stint in the air force, and his family life.

[Download from BARD: Johnny Cash: the Biography](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063854

Also available on cassette RC063854

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From this Moment On By Shania Twain

Read by Anne Hancock

Reading time 15 hours, 29 minutes

Forty-five-year-old Grammy-Award-winning Canadian singer Shania Twain details her impoverished childhood, her mother and stepfather's tumultuous relationship and their accidental deaths when Shania was twenty-two, and the painful betrayal in her own first marriage two decades later. Discusses relishing her career, second marriage, and role as a mother. Strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: From this Moment On](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074444

Moon River and Me a Memoir by Andy Williams

Read by Patrick Downer

Reading time 11 hours, 45 minutes

Autobiography of singer Andy Williams, born in Iowa in 1927, who began his career performing with his brothers. Williams describes his rise to fame as a solo act on television shows and in Las Vegas. Discusses his early marriage to French dancer Claudine Longet and his friendship with the Kennedys. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Moon River and Me a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070492

Ain't Nothin' as Sweet as my Baby: the Story of Hank Williams' Lost Daughter by Jett Williams

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

Reading time 12 hours, 28 minutes

A country singer chronicles her heritage as the daughter of Bobbie Jett and superstar Hank Williams. Jett traces her childhood--as an infant taken in by a grandmother, placed in foster care, and adopted by an Alabama family at age three. She describes her attempts to establish her identity, to reconcile with siblings, and to claim her share of family estates.

[Download from BARD: Ain't Nothin' as Sweet as My Baby: the Story of...](#)

Also available on cassette RC036119

Classic Country: Legends of Country Music by Charles K. Wolfe.

Read by Gregory Gorton

Reading time 13 hours, 53 minutes

The author of *A Good-Natured Riot: The Birth of the Grand Ole Opry* (RC 50736) presents more than fifty portraits of past and present country music notables, based largely on interviews and recollections. Includes obscure performers and studio musicians as well as such stars as Hank Snow and Roy Acuff.

[Download from BARD: Classic Country: Legends of Country Music](#)

Also available on cassette RC056780