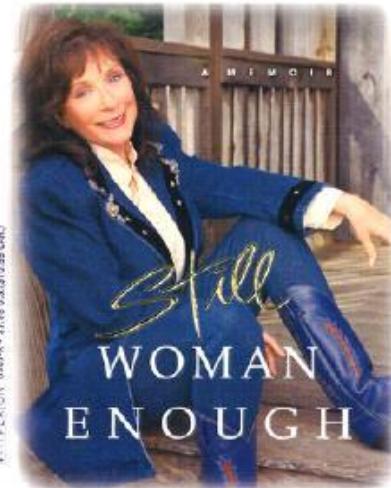


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LORETTA LYNN

WITH PATSI BALE COX



Still Woman Enough: A Memoir

Loretta Lynn , Patsi Bale Cox

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Loretta Lynn's first memoir, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, was a #1 national bestseller that sparked an Oscar-winning movie and left fans hungry for more. Now Loretta finishes that story, and the second half of her life is every bit as remarkable and inspiring as the first.

In a friendly, down-home style that belies her stature as country music's most celebrated performer, Loretta writes candidly about the price of fame and the stresses of stardom; tells of friends and family she's loved and lost along the way; and shares secrets not included in her first book. But at the heart of this memoir is her stormy relationship with Doo, the man she married at thirteen and stayed with until he died, through his drinking, their violent arguments, and their passionate reconciliations. Loretta reveals the devotion behind one of the hardest love stories in the world. Filled with intimate portraits of country legends, and brimming with folksy humor, this personal tale of grit, determination, and loyalty will enthrall Loretta's countless fans and anyone who adores a good old-fashioned love story.

Still Woman Enough: A Memoir Details

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Clay Bryce says

This is one damn good autobiography. It doesn't feel like you're actually reading but rather, having Loretta in front of you, telling you, personally, about the ups and downs of her family and her marriage that she could not tell while her beloved husband Doo was still alive. You can hear her voice in every word.

Loretta's husband and children certainly put her through one emotional wringer after another in these pages. What stands out the most, to me, was the story where, one day, Loretta was out in the yard pulling weeds in front of her dream home that she had finally moved into, only to be approached by a woman who started bossing her around. Loretta told her off only to discover that, the woman was Doo's girlfriend and she had slept in Loretta's marital bed with her husband in Loretta's dream house before Loretta moved in. Loretta said that house, where she still lives, never felt like her own. And that story is just one of many where you'll go, "he did what?"

Hunt this one down. Now.

Indra says

I love Loretta Lynn--I can't help it. She's charming, funny, and real, and she wrote "You Ain't Woman Enough To Take My Man" and a lot of other songs that were really ballsy, especially for the time period they were recorded in. I enjoyed "Coal Miner's Daughter" and it was interesting to read her take on the movie, things she liked about it and didn't, things she felt were left out, and to read about her life since that time. She's an icon. I kind of wish she were my aunt--she and Dolly Parton both. I'd go shopping with Dolly; I'd tell Loretta about my man troubles.

Mary says

I've loved Loretta Lynn since I first discovered her; so much grit, determination and faith. Many times I dipped into her well to find strength for myself. This book is the non-Hollywood version of her story: her issues with her husband, her struggle to keep it all together, her rise to the top. She humbles herself before her readers and doesn't hold anything back; she sets the record straight. Her life was a country song! I loved to read how she kept close tabs on her country roots and even hung out her own laundry on the clothesline when she could have certainly afforded someone to take care of that for her. Even under the glitz and glam is a woman who's strong as nails and my hero.

Jeanne (love2cook) says

I've always been a big fan of Loretta Lynn. Loved Coal Miner's Daughter, both the book and the movie. This book told more of the bad side of her life. The abuse she put up with from Doo, both physical and vocal. Her

sad times, with the loss of her mother, her son, her friends, and her husband. She put up with a lot.....but she gave some too. A hard life even though she made it rich and famous. Not an easy road by any imagination. This was an interesting read.

June 3, 2016

I needed a book for the state's read challenge, so I chose this one. Now that I've finished it, I find that I read it before in 2012. Oh well, I didn't remember it, so it was an interesting read again.

Andre says

If you want to read this book, make sure you read Coal Miner's Daughter first because this is a sequel, and she keeps referring back to her first book. Since it's an update of her biography, Loretta rushes through childhood memories and her early career, and focuses more on what happened since her first book and after the movie came out. It's written like she talks which makes for a fun read, but her life has been anything but fun. I don't think there's an entertainer who has been struck by tragedy as much and as often as Loretta Lynn, and it's amazing that she still puts on a brave face and keeps on singing! Her life is a tale of perseverance and it's no wonder she became the legend she is today.

Arlian says

I loved this book, though I had been hoping that even if she couldn't/wouldn't say she wished she had left her husband that she would at least have become outspoken about domestic violence, and how women shouldn't have to put up with it. As someone who grew up in a fucked up family, I can understand why she rationalizes her relationship and her husband's behaviour the way she does. But that doesn't excuse her from the responsibility to talk the consequences of domestic violence more openly. Her book (and her life story) can definitely be read as excusing and rationalizing abusive men. To be fair, she DOES hint at these things, and a sensitive reader will see her offhand comments as round-about ways to discuss these topics. It seems that she is still protecting....something....by refusing to be more honest, but no memoir is ever completely "True".

Shelley says

Coal Miner's Daughter was one of my favorite movies, watched repeatedly when I was a kid because the movie theater was often my babysitter. Even though I didn't listen to country music, I really enjoyed the film for the strong characters, compelling story and overall likability that Loretta's character had. I also read the book on which it was based at some point years ago. One day earlier this year, I caught part of the movie on TV and it reminded me of how much I loved it, and prompted me to see if Loretta had written anything else. So I ended up with this copy in hand and found a book that was in parts very interesting, and in parts disappointing.

First off, Loretta still has that folksy, honest style. Sometimes it's a bit too folksy -- the woman who helped her write it sprinkled it with poor grammar that I assume is an accurate representation of the singer who, while she has plenty of intelligence, didn't get much schooling. The result both makes you hear Loretta's voice and makes you fear, the longer you read and the more the voice gets into your head, that you'll start saying "them" instead of "those," "done" instead of "did" and so on.

Also, while I felt she was telling a story as honestly as she was willing to (meaning I'm sure there were still plenty of things she glossed over or left out, probably regarding her husband's atrocious behavior, but I can understand that). However, I'd get a little twinge anytime she referenced her age when she was married or had her first baby, and this came up several times in the book. She always claimed she was married at 13 and very shortly after got pregnant, which made a poignant part of her story and I'm sure figured into that story being compelling enough to make into a movie. In 2012, it was discovered that she'd lied about her age by about 3 years -- she was really just shy of 16 when she got married. Since she started her music career after she was well into adulthood, I imagine she shaved those years off thinking she needed to seem as young as possible to succeed, and so she stuck with the lie when she wrote her first book. Why she didn't feel she could come clean at that point I don't know, as she was already successful and famous. Then, with this book, she just continued on. It would've been an ideal time to come clean, but nope, she wasn't having it.

This book came out a decade before her true age was discovered and made public, so since she didn't have to address that issue, she just stuck with what she'd said all along. It does take a little away from her tale, and how open you feel she's being, knowing she still couldn't own up to the fact that she shaved a few years off her age long ago. It wouldn't even be that big of a deal if it weren't for how much more harrowing it made her life story seem. Her story would've been interesting even with the truth, but it revved up the drama and trauma a lot to think of her going through what she did with her husband starting at age 13. Being 15 is still young to get married, but it wasn't all that uncommon at that time and place.

As to the rest of the book, there are lots of interesting and funny stories, and it still seems like it'd be a hoot to sit down for a chat with Loretta. However, an awful lot of stories she shares here depict in greater detail how physically and emotionally abusive her husband could be. Loretta talks about how, before she became a singer, Doo would just take off for a couple of weeks, probably on a bender of drinking and womanizing. And she and the kids would rely on the charity of others and eating dandelion greens (wtf?!) to survive. She comments on how Doo would spend money as he pleased and not worry about the family. They owned a boat but wouldn't have bread to eat. Doo owned camera equipment, but his wife and children are eating grass. He never really seemed to change, either, not until the very end of his life when he was too sick to carry on as he had been. He continued to burn through and waste her money when she was making plenty as a performer, so she always had to keep working hard, and he continued sleeping around, too. One time she came back from the road and was home for a very short stay, so she asked Doo to please not drink as she was there for just one night. He showed how much he thought of her (and everyone else on the road) by starting to drink as he drove her home from the airport.

This book has a lot of engaging insight for fans, whether you love country music and are interested in earlier days, or you just love Loretta Lynn, or you loved the movie Coal Miner's Daughter. I do think reading this took away from some of the rough charm you felt Doo had in the movie -- sure, it showed he could be a horrible person, but he still seemed somewhat likable at times (thanks to the acting skill of Tommy Lee Jones). He doesn't come off that way in this book, and it makes you really sad for Loretta and her kids for what they went through with him. I'm sure they have fond memories of him, though, and that's likely what they try and focus on. That's probably why Loretta's kids didn't want her to write this book, as she admits early on.

Sara says

Part Two of Loretta Lynn's life story, this one goes over some of the material presented in "Coal Miner's Daughter" more in depth, or the "real" story on some of it. Domestic violence, her husband's alcoholism and

unfaithfulness, lots of loss. How she survived and stayed sane is a true testament of her strength.

From a feminist perspective its easy to say "Why on earth did she ever stay?" and judge accordingly. What the reader has to remember is that things were so different in Ms. Lynn's generation that digging your heels into your marriage, no matter how bad or challenging, was how it worked. Add to the mix growing up in poverty and you're twice as bound to hold on at all costs. Women didn't have resources like they do now, and the author even discusses its long after she's famous that she finally gets some control over the money she earned.

One of the things I enjoyed the most about these memoirs is their honesty and strong voice. She doesn't make "excuses" but provides explanations for why things were the way they were.

I hope she is able to find some peace and happiness in old age.

Cindy says

A great autobiography. Couldn't put it down. On page 35 I was deeply touched by Loretta's mother's impoverished childhood:

"Mommy had lost her own mama by the time she was five, and her daddy, my Grandpa Ramey, didn't pay no attention to his kids. He just let 'em root around for their own food, and for places to stay. It didn't take long before her little brother died, and then a sister. I once asked Mommy what they did about a funeral for 'em. She said they didn't have no funeral. She just wrapped 'em up, dug a hole, and buried 'em herself. That is starting life out hard."

I loved this book. I'm gonna buy me a Loretta CD tomorrow.

HeavyReader says

The first thing anyone should know about this book is that it may be triggering to anyone who has experienced domestic violence. The review might be triggering too, so watch out.

So, Loretta Lynn wrote this memoir at least 20 years after writing her famous *Coal Miner's Daughter*. She wrote this one after her husband, Doolittle, died. Doolittle basically acted like a piece of shit for decades, hitting Loretta, cheating on her without even trying to hide it, and emotionally abusing her and their kids. Loretta admits to hitting him back. Dysfunctional all the way! Of course, Loretta never left him, because she *loved* him, and the way she was raised, when you marry a man as a thirteen year old girl, that's for life, for better or for worse. Yuck!

I also learned by reading this book that Loretta is in to god (which didn't really surprise me) and BOTH presidents Bush. Gross! The Bush part really caused me to lose any respect I had left for her.

I'm not sure why I read this book. I felt like I needed to complete my Loretta Lynn memoir reading, I guess.

I'll never again be able to hear her music without thinking of her support for those Bush idiots.

Tanya T says

I loved her first book "Coal Miner's Daughter" and thought that was the end of the story for her. It took a lot of courage for her to reveal the details of her life with her husband Mooney (doolittle). I thought they had a storybook marriage and a great life together, so it was pretty shocking to see the truth of it all. This woman has gone thru so much, i cried when she wrote about her son's death. What an amazing strong woman she is!!!

Jennifer says

Mine is autographed! :)

Ann says

i was surprised at how much I like this book. she's really funny. had me talkin' like i was from kentucky everytime i put the book down

Graceann says

When Doolittle Lynn was still alive, there was plenty he didn't want Loretta Lynn to say in COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER. Here, she tells us just what the book left out and what the movie got wrong, in her own simple, down-home style. The highs and the lows are covered in equal measure and with an unforgettable flair.

Loretta married a hard-drinkin', abusive man, and stayed with him through more nonsense than anyone should ever experience. Ruined awards ceremonies, holidays and tours due to his drinking, his cheating and his outrageous jealousy (heaven forbid that Loretta, who was always faithful but always suspected of not being so, should give the skirt-chaser a taste of his own medicine). Her thoughts as to why she felt the need to remain in the marriage make for compelling reading. Even if I didn't agree with her, at least I was able to understand her motivations.

Also discussed are the sad losses in her life - Patsy Cline, her son Jack Benny, Tammy Wynette, and of course, Doo, whom she forgave in the end, and with whom she had a peaceful final year or two before his passing. At least she has this to remember, and luckily for us, she set it down on paper.

Hats off to the co-writer and editors of this book, who let Loretta's voice shine through. She is a plainspoken woman, who sometimes uses "creative" grammar. Leaving the words just as we know she spoke them only makes the story that much more impressive.

Suzanne says

Loretty will always be woman enough.
