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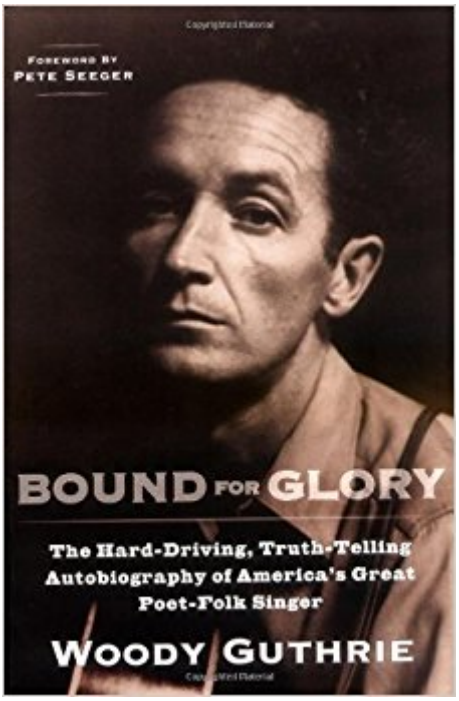
Bound For Glory: The Hard-Driving, Truth-Telling, Autobiography Of America's Great Poet-Folk Singer (Plume)



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Synopsis

First published in 1943, this autobiography is also a superb portrait of America's Depression years, by the folk singer, activist, and man who saw it all.Woody Guthrie was born in OklahomaÃ Â and traveled this whole country overÃ¢â ¬â •not by jet or motorcycle, but by boxcar, thumb, and foot. During the journey of discovery that was his life, he composed and sang words and music that have become a national heritage. His songs, however, are but part of his legacy. Behind him Woody Guthrie left a remarkable autobiography that vividly brings to life both his vibrant personality and a vision of America we cannot afford to let die.Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å"Even readers who never heard Woody or his songs will understand the current esteem in which heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s held after reading just a few pagesÃ¢â ¬Â| Always shockingly immediate and real, as if Woody were telling it out loudÃ¢â ¬Â| A book to make novelists and sociologists jealous.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Nation

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Customer Reviews

The original road novel--even though it takes the form of autobiography. If Guthrie didn't actually invent the footloose, no- strings-attached American hero (remember this guy Twain who wrote something about lighting out for the territory?), he certainly solidified the 20th-century version. Guitar slung over the shoulder as he sprinted to boost himself aboard freight trains, a man of the people equally at home with urban intellectuals, Guthrie incarnated for generations of Americans the artist as free spirit. This is the book that created the legend.

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I like his music and I can relate to his importance as an American archetype. I really wanted to like this book, but I just couldn't. Maybe the problem is that it's called and autobiography when it's so obviously full of tall tales & fancy. The writing is strong, I just couldn't believe hardly a word of it and I finally gave up at the part that graphically describes the mutilation of small animals. Who needs this? I'll stick with his songs.

Very interesting for me personally because he was about the same age as my father and from a town very close to where my father was born. Until he left that area as a young adult I felt that I could have been reading about my father's boyhood. A good read irrespective of that however. I was fascinated by the conditions of the era. Perhaps the most interesting thing about Woody is how (you'll find) he actually loved his lifestyle.

Other reviewers note that "Bound for Glory" is important for the view it gives us of our nation and people in Guthrie's time. It is also a must-read for today, a time when our nation is so divided between rich and poor with a a crashing, shrinking middle class. As in his time, many today have lost jobs, lost homes, gone hungry, and lost hope. Today, we are more removed from the land than in his time and less able to cope with poverty. Many today will find themselves in this book - and perhaps find also coping skills and hope needed to persevere and survive until they reach a better place.

I have known about this book for rears, but finally read it. Woody Guthrie was an incredibly caring

man who had a very hard childhood. His adult life did not get much easier. He cared about the downtrodden souls of this country. He saw no color or religious lines, people's lives and names were important to him. He left a legacy still unfolding.

I'm a big Woody fan. This is a great read

This is a Fascinating autobiography by an American folk singer and legend who rode the rails with and sang about the downtrodden regular folk, their hard lives, struggles, and simple joys. He was one of them.

I loved the vibrant wording and harkening back to the era of trains. There are lots of parallels today of the downtrodden, though these days the white poor are a bit better off than they were.

This is a wonderful book written by an American genius. It provides both insight into Guthrie's life and insight into the times in which he lived.

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