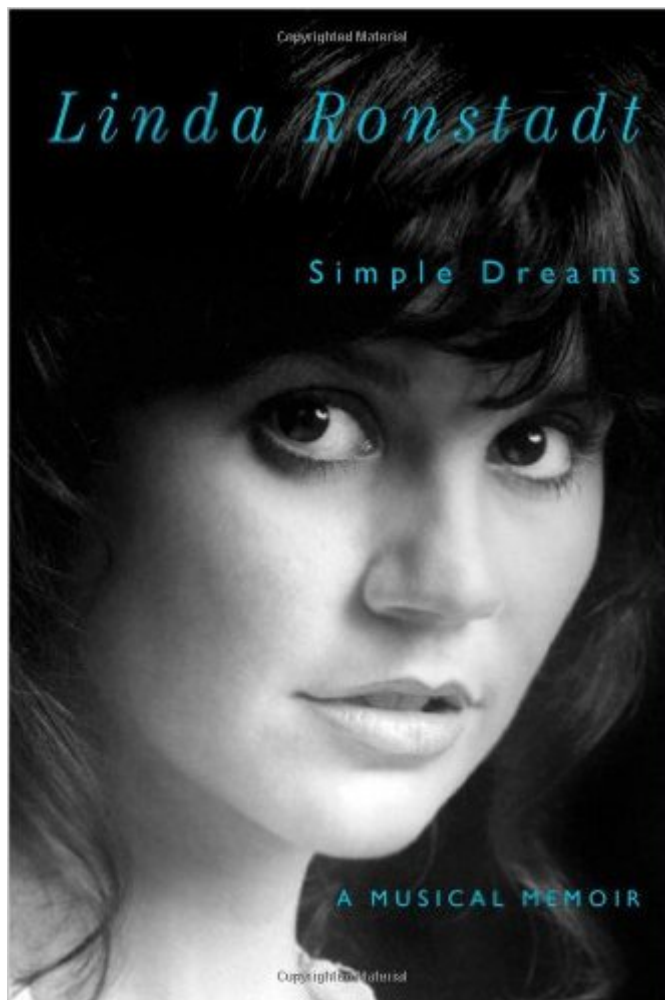


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Simple Dreams: A Musical Memoir



Synopsis

In this memoir, iconic singer Linda Ronstadt weaves together a captivating story of her origins in Tucson, Arizona, and her rise to stardom in the Southern California music scene of the 1960s and '70s. Tracing the timeline of her remarkable life, Linda Ronstadt, whose forty-five year career has encompassed a wide array of musical styles, weaves together a captivating story of her origins in Tucson, Arizona, and her rise to stardom in the Southern California music scene of the 1960s and '70s. Linda Ronstadt was born into a musical family, and her childhood was filled with everything from Gilbert and Sullivan to Mexican folk music to jazz and opera. Her artistic curiosity blossomed early, and she and her siblings began performing their own music for anyone who would listen. Now, in this beautifully crafted memoir, Ronstadt tells the story of her wide-ranging and utterly unique musical journey. Ronstadt arrived in Los Angeles just as the folkrock movement was beginning to bloom, setting the stage for the development of country-rock. As part of the coterie of like-minded artists who played at the famed Troubadour club in West Hollywood, she helped define the musical style that dominated American music in the 1970s. One of her early backup bands went on to become the Eagles, and Linda went on to become the most successful female artist of the decade. In >, Ronstadt reveals the eclectic and fascinating journey that led to her long-lasting success, including stories behind many of her beloved songs. And she describes it all in a voice as beautiful as the one that sang "Heart Like a Wheel" —longing, graceful, and authentic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ronstadt's memoir is remarkable but not for reasons that readers might think; it is remarkable because of its very ordinariness. There are no tales of parental cruelty or substance abuse. She is lucky that her life has been exceedingly normal, or as normal as it can be for someone as talented and famous as she is, having sold more than a million records. Retired from performing since 2009, Ronstadt now looks back fondly to her childhood in Arizona "her Mexican heritage comes from her father's side" and shares anecdotes about life on the road, including her first gigs at area coffeehouses and her decision when still a teenager to move by herself to Los Angeles because that was "where the music was." She writes about her work with the folk-rock band the Stone Poneys, becoming a solo act, exploring the Great American Songbook, recording traditional Mexican folk songs with Rubén Fuentes, and her famous musical friendships, including those with Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris. Ronstadt's fans will love this refreshingly nice and gracious musical memoir. --June Sawyers

"Engaging and interesting. . . . entirely winning." (Jonathan Yardley Washington Post) "True to her subtitle, Ms. Ronstadt delivers a life story stitched to the sails of her eclectic musical voyaging. . . . She has found another way to tell a story: through this winning and informative book, in which her intelligence, passion, humor and commitment shine forth from every page." (Tom Nolan Wall Street Journal) "For anyone fascinated by the cross-pollination of musical talent in Los Angeles' buzzing pre-corporate rock scene, Ronstadt's front-row seat offers a prime view. . . . While this bird can no longer sing, on the page she can still fly." (USA Today) "Ronstadt revisits, with a mixture of fine-grained insight and personal modesty, one of the most remarkable and wide-ranging singing careers in the last century of American popular music." (San Francisco Chronicle) "Musical memories galore." (Boston Globe) "A personable and engagingly written memoir | consistently interesting." (Kirkus) "A well-written glimpse into musical history as it was being made by Ronstadt and her peers." (Publishers Weekly)

One of my all time favorite singers, I really didn't know much else about her ... except that she dated California governor Jerry Brown. This book is written in a relaxed and casual style ... you feel almost like you're sitting with Ms. Ronstadt in her living room listening as she tells you about herself and her career and a little bit about her life and who she is as a person. She spent a bit too much time on the technical details of the recording industry's production technics from my personal perspective ... but, this is a very good "read" and I recommend it to anyone of an age and/or disposition to enjoy Linda Ronstadt's music and persona. She didn't discuss her two adopted children ... perhaps a

personal detail she felt she wanted to keep private.

I've loved Linda Ronstadt's music forever, but I never knew what an incredible life she has led and how beautifully she also expresses herself in words! This is a terrific biography and musical history of her work and that of her peers. Anyone who has appreciated her versatile talent over the years will be impressed with this book and gain a new insight over her evolution as a person. I highly recommend Simple Dreams! ~ Sue

Another interesting book about a fine artist who always tried something new!

Linda Ronstadt is a class act. She chose to tell the story of her life through the music she created over her long career. Whether singing the familiar hits, on Broadway, big band or traditional Mexican songs from her childhood, Linda shares her passion for music by telling story after story of how her ideas found their way to our hearts.

As a young adult I listened to Linda Ronstadt and purchased her albums. In this book she takes you by the hand and you travel with her through a musical adventure. As I read, I would go to YouTube and watch the performances that she so vividly details. It's a blessing that most of her music is documented. She was such a talented artist and a truly amazing person.

Great book

This is one of the best memoirs I've ever read. Linda is a talented writer. She's had a beautiful childhood in the country with horses and a musical family. I highly recommend reading this. It's not just about music, it's about her life. She's intelligent, thoughtful and genuine.

Well, if you're looking to read about the Linda back in her earlier years in rock, you'll be disappointed. I wanted to read more about her times with Stone Pony, her days collaborating with Warren Zevon, Andrew Gold, Jackson Browne, Glenn Frye, Mick Jagger, Jerry Brown, her days on the road, etc...I wanted to read about what really went down those days with all the people in her musical world--instead, the book spends very little time on those days and even then, it doesn't lend itself to many details. I gave this 3 stars because I did find the first half of the book very entertaining--gaining insight to how Linda grew up, her family, her earlier friends--all extremely well

written and truly interesting. However, if you are interested in reading about the later Linda years during her big band days, musicals, and the like, then the book will satisfy you.

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