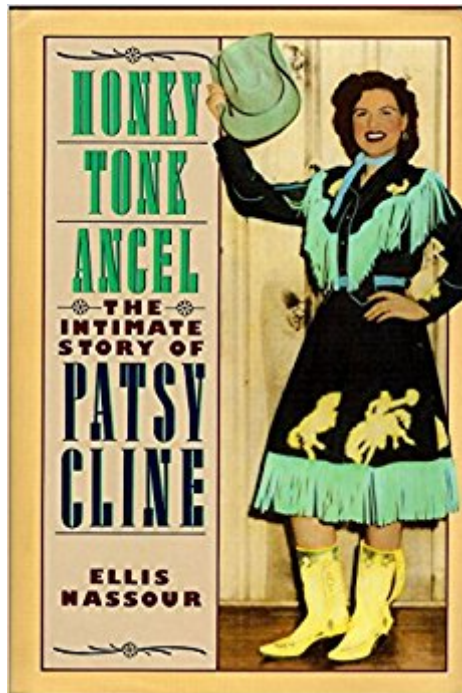




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Honky Tonk Angel: The Intimate Story Of Patsy Cline



Synopsis

A newly revised and abridged edition of the classic Patsy Cline biography retraces her colorful life, including her numerous love affairs, her wise career choices, and her legendary songwriting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This memorable biography of one of country music's most enduring legends is a revised abridgment of Patsy Cline, published in 1981. According to Nassour, Cline (1932-1963) was the first woman to demonstrate that country music could appeal to a wide audience. Bold and ambitious, she was a free-living, earthy performer whom producers sometimes found difficult to work with. She apparently had few close friends, but she showed generosity to any number of people, particularly talented young women singers such as Dottie West and Loretta Lynn. Her long-term association with producer Bill McCall was, financially, "probably the single biggest mistake Patsy made in her professional life," claims Nassour, but he gives McCall great credit for promoting Cline's career. Although Cline died in a plane crash 30 years ago, her musical influence has persisted. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Done with great respect and humor and just enough down-and-dirty detail." [New York Daily News](#)"Patsy Cline's immortal voice sings in Honky Tonk Angel . . . it brings tears streaming down your face. . . . Larger than life, yet still intimate. Honest and respectful."[The Virginian-Pilot](#)"Gazes unflinchingly at its subject. . . . Filled with poignant memories and amazing

detail." *Nashville Tennessean* "With a clear, concise style, Nassour reconstructs Cline's life. . . . [The] painstaking interviews provide an insightful and comprehensive look at one of country music's pioneers. It's a good read." *Rocky Mountain News* "Cline was a woman of great passion, prone to her own style of sexual braggadocio, and Nassour gives us all the earthiness of this most sublime singer." *Phoenix Gazette* "Revealing and absorbing . . . a winner." *Liz Smith* "Ellis Nassour's biography doesn't just paint an image of the Patsy Cline I knew and loved. What really emerges is a poignant tribute to one of our greatest singing legends." *Brenda Lee, American pop singer and member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and Rockabilly Hall of Fame* "Honky Tonk Angel brought back wonderful memories. It brings home the fact that Patsy was an original in her cowboy outfit with red boots and western hat singing her butt off, singing her soul at you. There's been no one quite like her." *Roger Miller* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Honky Tonk Angel has got to be the most definitive book on Patsy Cline ever written. Ellis Nassour starts the book off with a forward by Dottie West, one of Patsy's closest friends, which pretty much summed up Patsy's mercurial personality and enormous talent. The chapters are set up like records, side 1-4, giving Patsy's life in such detail that at times it was hard to keep all the characters separate. Nassour must have interviewed hundreds of Patsy's friends, family and fellow musicians because the detail of this book is amazing. You get every recording she ever did, along with her session players, first band, rumored loves, and of course her relationship with Charlie Dick with whom she had her two children. Charlie doesn't come off particularly good in the book, a lady's man and a probably alcoholic, Dick treats Patsy as if he's both proud of her accomplishments and jealous at the same time. I learned that Patsy was as generous off stage as she was on stage. She helped other singers with no jealousy which is very unusual since it's been my experience that singer/musicians can be very competitive. Patsy helped her mother with money, gave her younger brother and sister everything, which turned out to be disappointing in the end, because the two fought over Patsy's things when their mother died. Patsy was married to Gerrard Cline first, and ended up using his name for the rest of her life, just as Demi Moore and Pat Benatar also did in their careers even though they married other men afterwards. After reading Honky Tonk Angel, I felt as if I really knew the woman behind the voice. All of the heartache and longing you hear in the songs Patsy made famous, are echoes of her life. She tried so hard to first 'make it' as a star, and then to

keep her home life together once she was famous. What was so special about Patsy Cline is how she transcended country music. Her voice was too big for just one type of music and in fact she crossed over into popular music making her accessible to the world. Patsy fought this, thinking that she was betraying her roots, but given that her voice was meant for the world, it was inevitable that she'd move beyond one way of singing. I think the contrast between her pure country ambitions, and her big, glorious voice, caused the wonderful tension in her songs. Ray Charles had the same effect with his mixing of the blues with church music, and Willie Nelson with his Jazz styling with country songs. Informative with encyclopedic-research, *Honky Tonk Angel* is a must for every Patsy fan.

I have listened to Patsy Cline for years but knew little, if anything, about her other than her tragic end. This book showed me everything I need to know about one of the two greatest female vocalists of the 20th century (Billie Holiday being the other). I recommend this book for any Cline or country-music fan. You could feel the love fans and friends had for her, especially at the end when my eyes welled up after the plane crash. I had no idea she was such a vibrant, tough, wild, independent woman. Why do talented people like this often make poor choices in marriage?

Hard to read, kinda all over the place. Only read the first few chapters and got bored;)

This is a good rendition of her life and how she really was, not as she was depicted in her movie about her life. It seems to tell it like it is when it comes to events in her life with men, she was crude sometimes. It didn't tell much about her children who I imagine were brought up by her mother, although it doesn't say so. I would have liked to hear more about them. It did have nice pictures of her in it that probably you won't see anywhere else. I think that Charlie Dick is still alive and I saw him recently on TV talking about her. He was also crude but I guess they made quite a couple.

This is an extensive and thorough study of the short life of the beloved Patsy Cline that any admirer of the famed singer will want on the bookshelf. Patsy was a fireball, She said what she thought in scalding language, and she demanded her way on her journey to stardom. And can she sing! Fifty years after her tragic death in a plane crash at the age of thirty, she still belts out a melody like no one else ever has. If you are a fan of Patsy Cline, this is a must-read book which we highly recommend.

Only thing I have a problem with is the faded text on some of the printed pages. Hard to read. If a person wants to keep this paperback for a long time, the faded text will fade even more. That is if a person has the same problem as I have with this book. Other than that, it's a good read.

If you're a fan of country music...and/or a fan of Patsy Cline, you're in for some rare insight into both. Honkey Tonk Angel is an unexpected flight back to the 30s, 40s, 50, and early 60s that often lands you on your ear but...you'll be amazed, a little shocked and absolutely entertained along your way. It's a doozy of a read and a must have for everyone interested in the intimate and often fiery material. Highly recommended.

If you are a country music fan, this is a must read. Even if you're too young to remember Patsy Cline and many other names in the book, you will come away with a greater appreciation for the sheer gut determination "unknowns" had to muster in order to make their dreams come true. A few made it, but most did not. Patsy Cline was ahead of her time, and her voice makes it clear that she will be a classic for as long as recorded music is available.

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