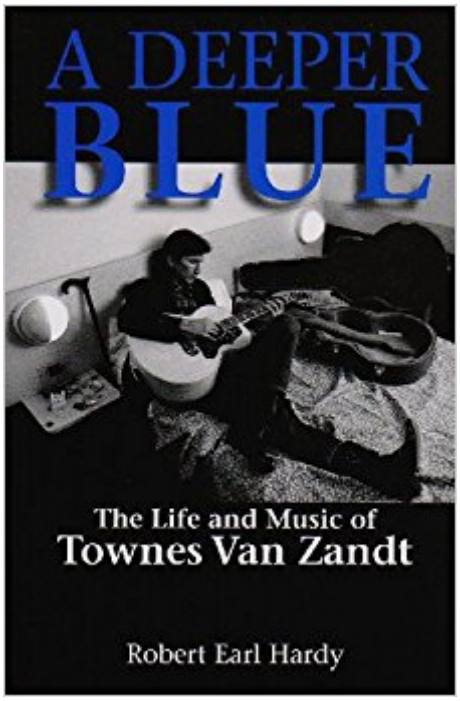
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A Deeper Blue: The Life And Music Of Townes Van Zandt (North Texas Lives Of Musician Series)



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Synopsis

Ã Â This is the first serious biography of a man widely considered one of TexasÃ¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬â •and AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ¢â ¬â •greatest songwriters. Like Jimmie Rodgers, Woody Guthrie, Robert Johnson, and Hank Williams, Townes Van Zandt was the embodiment of that mythic American figure, the troubled troubadour. A Deeper Blue traces Van ZandtÃ¢â ¬â„¢s background as the scion of a prominent Texas family; his troubled early years and his transformation from promising pre-law student to wandering folk singer; his life on the road and the demons that pursued and were pursued by him; the women who loved and inspired him; and the brilliance and enduring beauty of his songs, which are explored in depth.Ã Â The author draws on eight yearsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ extensive research and interviews with TownesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ family and closest friends and colleagues. He looks beyond the legend and paints a colorful portrait of a complex man who embraced the darkness of demons and myth as well as the light of deep compassion and humanity, all Ã¢â ¬Å“for the sake of the song.Ã¢â ¬Â•

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A Deeper Blue ... gives fascinating insight into what inspired this sweetÃ¢â ¬â ˆsinging, tortured genius and what inevitably brought him down. His songs stirred the soul and seemed to well from its darkest depths. He became the patron saint of many a Texas songwriter in his day and will continue to inspire for generations to come. Save a tear for Townes. You'll need it." -- Joe Ely"Hardy

delineates the musician’s chaotic life in honest, often dramatic detail, but always brings the attention and focus back to Van Zandt’s music and the classic songs he penned.... Steering through the myths and legends, the author depicts a troubled individual and gifted artist who inspired many singers and songwriters in the alternative country scene." -- Billboard"Hardy’s sparkling new biography of the tragic, magic life of Townes Van Zandt is a mustÃ¢â ¬â ˆread for anyone who loves music or likes to raise hell. A Deeper Blue demonstrates why Van Zandt has become Texas’ version of Mozart, Van Gogh, and Hank Williams all rolled up into one brilliant and beautiful burrito." -- Kinky Friedman"Honest, unbiased look at the troubled career and existence of one of America’s greatest songwriters.... A poignant, clear and vivid portrait." -- Kirkus ReviewsHardy’s book carefully documents many of the facets of this gem of a life. His love for the music shines through, just as the spirit of Townes shines through each song." -- Kathleen Hudson, founder of the Texas Heritage Music Foundation --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The author talked to many, many people who knew Townes. His work offers a wealth of anecdotes and information." Ã¢â ¬â ˆ Louis Black, editor of the Austin Chronicle and executive producer of Be Here To Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As all dedicated Townes fans already know, our eloquent troubadour and muse had a very dark side.Imagine that!?Like John Lennon, Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, that guy from Alice In Chains and that other guy from Joy Division...There were things I wanted to know, such as in, "Snow Don’t Fall"? Who was the murdered girlfriend? Or, who yanked the gold tooth out of his head with a household pliers?Another thing, who thinks that his third wife was a greedy, low-life skank of a critter who bilked him out of everything he had?This is a courageous effort to tell the story as true as it was and still is. I think Robert Earl Hardy did his job very well. He lays the story down with honesty and heart.I’d rather have it more real than we’ve got, and if the truth be told I’d rather that than not.Recommended.

I grew up in Texas, Houston primarily, and I was a great fan of Townes. I am always interested in the music writing process and what exactly was Townes’ muse. His lyrics were always so deep and you knew that they had a some deeper meaning and sometimes you could place it but just getting to know the man that Robert Earl Hardy wrote about was very good. He obviously researched this book in great depths as there are many quotes. Very good read, helped me love his music even

more. We Texans love, appreciate, and miss TVZ, but thankfully we have his music.

I thought this was a comprehensive biography. It certainly displayed the subject as a poet who employed music to send his messages about life as he lived it.

I love Townes Van Zandt and his music. Until I read this book, I did not know much about him. Information about Townes is sort of hard to find. The author does a great job in getting interviews from the people who knew Townes the best. Townes comes across as an enigmatic, troubled genius. I recommend this book to anyone who appreciates the music of Townes Van Zandt. Steve Earle, friend of Townes, once said, "Townes Van Zandt is the best songwriter in the whole world, and I'll stand on Bob Dylan's coffee table in my cowboy boots and say that." I'm a big Bob Dylan fan, but I agree that Townes was a fantastic song writer. Reading about him was a real pleasure.

Bought as a Christmas gift and he loved it. Good winter reading.

If you're a fan of TVZ (and who wouldn't be?), you'll enjoy this book. The title is accurate -- his life and his music are explored thoroughly. The writing style is reader-friendly.

Sometimes I had trouble keeping all of the names straight, but all-in-all a good read. Unbelievable to me how much drug use there seems to be in musicians.

I love the book sure explains a lot. Great way to follow his work.

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