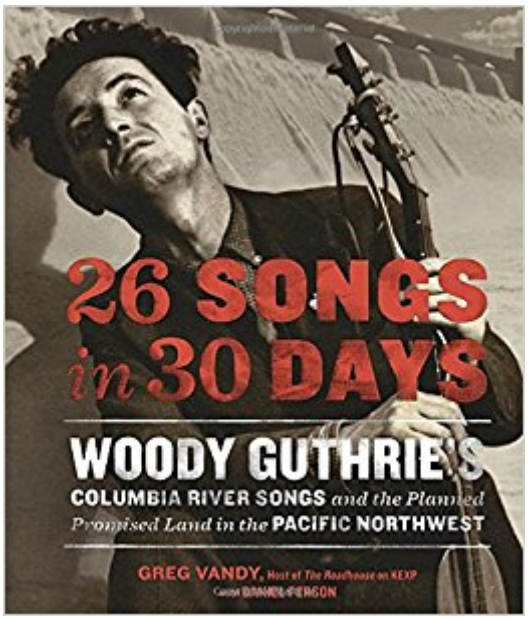
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26 Songs In 30 Days: Woody Guthrie's Columbia River Songs And The Planned Promised Land In The Pacific Northwest



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Synopsis

In 1941, Woody Guthrie wrote 26 songs in 30 days--including classics like "Roll On Columbia" and "Pastures of Plenty"--when he was hired by the Bonneville Power Administration to promote the benefits of cheap hydroelectric power, irrigation, and the Grand Coulee Dam. Timed to celebrate the 75th anniversary of his employment by the federal government, KEXP DJ Greg Vandy takes readers inside the unusual partnership between one of America's great folk artists and the federal government, and shows how the first American folk revival of the 1930's was a response to hard times. The new bookÃ Â 26 Songs In 30 DaysÃ Â plunges deeply into the historical contextÃ Â of the time and the progressive politics that embraced Social DemocracyÃ Â during an era in which the United States severely suffered from The Great Depression. And though this is a musical history of a vibrant American musical icon and a specific part of the country, it couldn't be a better reminder of how relevant such topics are in today's political discourse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“I canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t get enough of Woody Guthrie, and Greg Vandy reveals him afresh in the context of a project that piques the best in Woody, and maybe the best in America. Read, learn, enjoyÃ¢â ¬â •and sing.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Robert Gordon, author of Respect YourselfÃ¢â ¬Å“26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â is a valuable addition to the Woody Guthrie library, not to mention a great read. Greg VandyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s love of the topic reveals itself on every page. The story he tells

provides insight and clarity about a period in the life of Guthrie that hasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t gotten its dueÃ¢â ¬â •until nowÃ¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Robert Santelli, author ofÃ Â This Land Is Your Land:Ã Â Woody Guthrie and the Journey of an American Folk Song "Greg Vandy, known for his engaging KEXP roots-music show, Ã¢â ¬Å“The Roadhouse,Ã¢â ¬Â• lovingly unravels that tale in this cleanly written, handsomely designed and liberally illustrated book about GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s month-plus tenure based in Portland in 1941. In the bargain, Vandy contextualizes GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story with a ton of other fascinating facts about Northwest history."Ã¢â ¬â •The Seattle Times"Greg Vandy'sÃ Â 26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â examines the period in 1941 when Woody Guthrie spent a month writing a song a day about hydroelectric power, irrigation, and the Grand Coulee Dam for the Bonneville Power Administration, and is a fascinating glimpse of the musician's life as well as the social politics of the time."Ã¢â ¬â •Largehearted Boy"Knowing the story behind these songs enriches them, but the real value and enjoyment ofÃ Â 26 SongsÃ Â is the surprisingly relevant connections between past and present political issues it offers you to make through the lens of GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s music."Ã¢â ¬â •The StrangerÃ¢â ¬Å“This fascinating tome details a period in GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life when he was hired by the Bonneville Power Administration to promote the benefits of cheap hydroelectric power, irrigation, and the Grand Coulee Dam.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •KEXPÃ¢â ¬Å“One of KEXPÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most noted DJs explores the relationship between Guthrie and the Bonneville Power Administration that yielded timeless folk songs.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Shelf Talk, The Seattle Public LibraryÃ¢â ¬Å“Greg Vandy's "26 Songs in 30 Days" is a fascinating book that explores the folk musician Woody Guthrie's month-long employment by the Bonneville Power Administration in 1941 when Guthrie was assigned to write one song per day while being driven all along the Columbia River.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •The Grand Coulee StarÃ¢â ¬Å“26 SongsÃ Â in 30 Days...Ã Â [is]Ã Â the revelatory history of GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work as a commissioned songwriter for the Pacific NW...Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Northwest Music SceneÃ¢â ¬Å“26 Songs In 30 DaysÃ Â plunges deeply into the historical context of the time and the progressive politics that embraced Social Democracy during an era in which the United States had been severely suffering from The Great Depression. And though this is a musical history of a vibrant American musical icon and a specific part of the country, it couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t be a better reminder of how timeless and expansive such topics are in todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s political discourse.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •The Columbia Riverkeeper"26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â is powerful. Vandy and Person do expansive justice to their narrow subject, swerving outside their coffee table book lane and crucially, big-upping Guthrie while filleting the notion of his unassailable musical-ethical integrity. This is a book that raises

philosophical, artistic and ethical questions."Ã¢â ¬â •Seattle Review of BooksÃ¢â ¬Å“75 years ago, America's greatest folk singer spent a month in the Northwest where he wrote some of his most famous songs. Now [26 Songs in 30 Days]Ã Â tells the story of Woody Guthrie's Columbia River song cycle.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Evening Magazine"This is a terrific read and Woody Guthrie is really part of the American traditional song book"Ã¢â ¬â •Nancy Guppy, ArtZone"Vandy takes readers inside the unusual partnership between one of America's great folk artists and the federal government, and shows how the first American folk revival of the 1930's was a response to hard times."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •The West Seattle Herald"Context for the complex fight for public power in the Pacific Northwest...is well provided by Greg Vandy in his book" Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons"26 Songs In 30 Days plunges deeply into the historical contextÃ Â of the transformative vision and the progressive politics thatÃ Â embraced social democracy during an era that led America out ofÃ Â theÃ Â severe suffering ofÃ Â the Great Depression."Ã¢â ¬â •Bainbridge Community Podcast"26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â is splendidly illustrated with images of GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s typed and handwritten lyrics and letters, postcards, historical photos, and marvelous BPA posters."Ã¢â ¬â •The Bellingham Herald"The book [is] well-researched and well-written...and makes a very specialized topic not only broadly accessible, butÃ Â interesting to an audience that may not be remotely invested its subject."-Ã¢â ¬â •Three Imaginary Girls"Celebrate[s] the 104thÃ Â birthday of Woody Guthrie and the 75thÃ Â anniversary of his one month of BPA employment."Ã¢â ¬â •The AssociatesÃ Â "VandyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s storytelling is effortless and uncomplicated. Like the river, it rolls on."Ã¢â ¬â •WA List"[Guthrie's] 'love letters' to the Northwest."Ã¢â ¬â •The Oregonian"[A] tribute to Guthrie's Washington work."Ã¢â ¬â •Seattle P.I."Vandy...tells the story behind Woody Guthrie's Columbia River songs."Ã¢â ¬â •Alaska Beyond"[Highlights]Ã Â the history of GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s songwriting for BPA."Ã¢â ¬â •Bonneville Power Administration"Authors Greg Vandy and Dan Person offer a breezy yet informative read, and there are some terrific rarely-seen photos"Ã¢â ¬â •KPFK "Fascinating...a really great story."Ã¢â ¬â •Air-Raid"26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â is a history of an American folk music icon and of our state."Ã¢â ¬â •The Herald "AÃ Â riveting discussion about Woody Guthrie."Ã¢â ¬â •Bainbridge Island Review"Greg Vandy, a Seattle author and KEXP DJ, describes Guthrie's journey to the Northwest and reveals what he calls the 'beauty of his simplicity."Ã¢â ¬â •KPLU "AÃ Â tactile chronicle of the timeless friction between art and commerce."Ã¢â ¬â •The SunBreakÃ Â "AÃ Â lively history that combines biography, music, public policy and social and environmental concerns."Ã¢â ¬â •Kitsap Sun"26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â [is] about GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s legendary place in Americana culture andÃ Â Grand Coulee DamÃ Â history."Ã¢â ¬â •Grand Coulee Star"[26

Songs in 30 Days] chronicles the history and cultural impact of GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey."Ã¢â ¬â •KUOW"To celebrate the 75th anniversary of [Guthrie's] project, Seattle author and KEXP DJ Greg Vandy has penned 26 Songs in 30 Days."Ã¢â ¬â •Inlander"26 Songs in 30 DaysÃ Â focuses on a chapter in regional Pacific Northwest historyÃ¢â ¬Â¦in concise and engaging prose."Ã¢â ¬â •Baja ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Not a rehashing of GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s early life and travels, the book includes just enough biography and local folklore to keep this month of 1941 in context.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •MarkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 365 Days of Vinyl "Tribute to [a] famous folk singer."Ã¢â ¬â •Columbia Basin Herald"[26 Songs in 30 Days]Ã Â explores Woody GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Columbia RiverÃ Â songs."Ã¢â ¬â •Wenatchee World "Brilliant"Ã¢â ¬â •MyNorthwestÃ¢â ¬Å“This is a story that should be shared.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Sightline InstituteÃ¢â ¬Å“[A] folk legendÃ¢â ¬â„¢s time in the PacificÃ Â Northwest.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Oregon Public BroadcastingÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“[The story of] GuthrieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fertile 30-day sojourn in the Pacific Northwest, when he road-tripped throughout the Columbia River basinÃ¢â ¬â •composing 26 songs celebrating the rugged landscape, the majestic river, and the Grand Coulee DamÃ¢â ¬â„¢s promise of prosperity through irrigation and affordable electricity.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Acoustic GuitarÃ¢â ¬Å“[A] folk icon.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The TennesseanÃ¢â ¬Å“Highly regarded.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •No Depression Ã¢â ¬Å“[Shows] the relationship between Social Democracy and progressive politics.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Stranger Ã¢â ¬Å“A rich part of folk music history.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Portland Tribune Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Keep it local.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Shelf Talk"...a beautiful book that deserves to be read, observed, and left on your coffee table for friends to see."Ã¢â ¬â •Darryl HolterÃ Â "Greg VandyÃ Â is a man of many talents."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Hey Human"Moving, inspiring, and uplifting, the songs of Woody Guthrie took the rural grassroots to the entire nation through folk music Ã¢â ¬â œ and, as a result, warmed up their hearts and minds, respectively, in unity."Ã¢â ¬â •Heed the Hedonist" A more in-depth look at the story of [WoodyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] songs and Guthrie's partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration."Ã¢â ¬â •NewsOK Ã¢â ¬Å“This is a never told before story of how the first American folk revival of the 1930s was a response to hard times, and how Guthrie championed a new Social Democracy in Portland.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Hood River News"That it was all bought and paid for by Bonneville was a funny thing to discover, but it didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t make it any less cool or discredit the songs in any way."Ã¢â ¬â •The Bluegrass SituationÃ Â

Greg Vandy is host of The Roadhouse, a weekly radio show on KEXP Seattle and the publisher of American Standard Time, a blog dedicated to American music and vintage lifestyle. He also curates

for the Pickathon music festival in Portland, Oregon, produces short films, and collects records. The combined effects has established Vandy as a tastemaker in the world of new indie roots and American music in general. This is his first book.

Great book that clears up a confused and poorly documented part of Guthrie's life and how many lost acetates of these songs were discovered in the mid eightes. A must have for fans of Guthrie's music.

Woody Guthrie is an American treasure and his sojourn in the Pacific Northwest is legendary. Anyone old enough to appreciate Woody Guthrie's songs will enjoy this book.

Great book, even for non-Guthrie fans. The background on Roosevelt's vision on how government can help and enrich lives, and the knowledge of how that vision was mostly dismantled over the next 70 years, was an unexpected bonus not always found in Guthrie books. Highly recommended.

We love Woody Guthrie and his story. So we were very attracted to this album when we heard about it. It's not for everybody. But if you appreciate folk really authentic old music with no frills, you will likely enjoy it as much as we do. It is a compilation of his actual voice recordings so some of the songs are a bit scratchy and sometimes not so clear. Really listen and you really get a flavor of the times that it reflects.

Rating w/o review

See above. Good book but could have covered the effects of Guthrie's communist leanings on the Columbia River Project. Great read.

Great photos and read. Particularly interesting book to me because I have family roots in the area.

Great book, Interesting and well written, Good photos to go along with the text, A very attractive coffee table book.

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