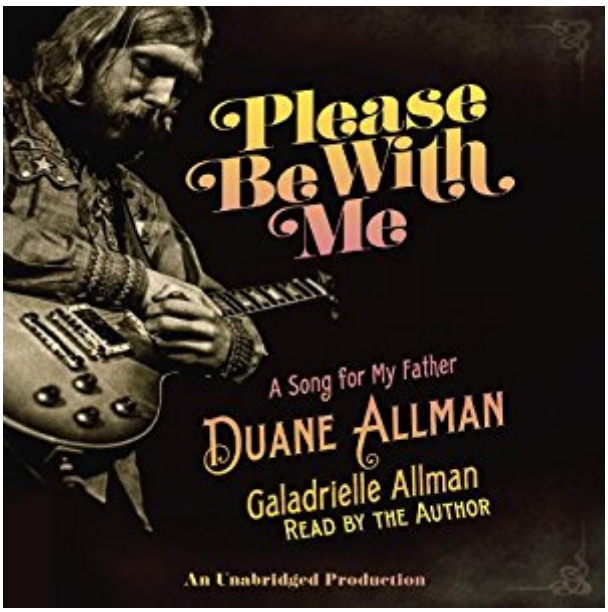
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Please Be With Me: A Song For My Father, Duane Allman



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Synopsis

A deeply personal, revealing, and lyrical portrait of Duane Allman, founder of the legendary Allman Brothers Band, written by his daughter Galadrielle Allman went to her first concert as an infant in diapers, held in her teenage mother’s arms. Playing was her father - Duane Allman, who would become one of the most influential and sought-after musicians of his time. Just a few short years into his remarkable career, he was killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 24. His daughter was two years old. Galadrielle was raised in the shadow of his loss and his fame. Her mother sought solace in a bohemian life. Friends and family found it too painful to talk about Duane. Galadrielle listened intently to his music, read articles about him, steeped herself in the mythic stories, and yet the spotlight rendered him too simple and too perfect to know. She felt a strange kinship to the fans who longed for him, but she needed to know more. It took her many years to accept that his life and his legacy were hers, and when she did, she began to ask for stories - from family, fellow musicians, friends - and they began to flow. Galadrielle Allman’s memoir is at once a rapturous, riveting, and intimate account of one of the greatest guitar prodigies of all time, the story of the birth of a band that redefined the American musical landscape, and a tender inquiry of a daughter searching for her father in the memories of others.

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Customer Reviews

When it comes to the Allman Brothers, I’m as hard core as it gets. I thought I’d picked up all the ephemera about Duane Allman that love and memory of those who knew him would let out. Then

Galadrielle does this. Her prose is lyrical, beautiful, moving. Duane comes across as very human. Then she fills in the gaps. Mama A, Donna, Big Linda, Candy--all the names who were paper dolls in other books. It's the story of a time, of a special place, of change that I lived through. But this book was not written for me, the Allman Brothers fan. It's Galadrielle's personal history and we are privileged to get to share it. She is her father's daughter and her mother's, too.

I have been a devoted fan of Duane Allman and the Allman Brothers ever since I first bought their landmark album Live at the Fillmore East. I bought it exactly one week before Duane died. I must have listened to that album five or six times in that week. Absolutely incredible music. When a friend told me about Duane's motorcycle accident I was devastated. I was a junior in high school then, and I have never forgotten that feeling. And then Berry died a year later - Jesus! I didn't get a chance to see the Brothers in concert until 1973 for the Brothers and Sisters tour, and man they were smokin'! Even with the loss of Duane and Berry they still had it. I didn't learn until many years later what the "it" was they still had in 1973. Drummer Butch Trucks named it: "Duane had given us the religion; we had to carry on."I have bought and read every book written about the Allman Brothers over the years. All are good, and I thank the authors for giving them to us. But none of them come close to what Galadrielle , Duane's only child, has given to us with this book about her father. It is beautifully written and it brought me to tears several times. Made me sad all over again to realize the enormity of Duane's life, and the pain of his loss. But there is also a small sense of healing, of, finally, a kind of acceptance.Thank you, Galadrielle Allman. You have given us a beautiful gift in this very special book. Your father was the greatest guitarist in the world. He still is. What a life he had. He packed so much into his 24 years and touched the lives of countless millions. He is very much alive in the pages of your book - and so in the hearts of all who read it.Today is March 13th - 43 years ago today the Brothers were performing at the Fillmore, and I spent a couple of hours this morning listening to that great and timeless recording, having just finished reading Please Be With Me. Yeah, I cried yet again at the end of Mountain Jam when Duane called out the names of everybody in the band. Finishing, of course, with his own name.Thank you Duane. Thank you all of the Allman Brothers. And thank you once again Galadrielle.

I was very moved by this book. Not only for my long time love of the music of the Duane Allman years of the Allman Brothers Band but also for the deep expressions that Ms. Allman penned. It has an honesty that, to me, is sorely lacking in this fast paced life that we live in now. It seems to me that people now a days are too busy to feel and search for meaning, deep feelings and deep

meaningful topics. Her yearnings for her father are a natural feeling that cannot be suppressed. She handles her loss beautifully though I can't image the pain she felt not having a father to help her.Any old hippie that still believes in love should read this book. It will bring back many a fond memory of what seems to be a by-gone era. Also, anyone who has experienced a profound loss, like the author, can gain immeasurable support from how Ms. Allman handled this challenge of life.Right on, baby girl! Ya woulda done your pop proud!

If you are looking for a feel good book about the ABB, this was not the book. The book chronicles the loss of Duane and the feelings of those he left behind. Having also lost my father at an early age, it was often difficult for me to read. I put this book down countless times only to return and finally finish the manscript. Melisa and other Brother's songs are still the most played music on my iPad/iPhone. I hope writing this book helped The author with her broken heart. The read gives you a insiders look at what happened through a child's eyes. Nearly had me in tears throughout the book. I felt saddened for the women behind the band who were left with memories and like us the music. I would enjoy having an opportunity to have a conversation with the author, as we share some feelings that have often returned throughout life.

Please Be with Me: A Song for My Father, Duane Allman is one of the best biographies I've ever read, and since biographies are one of my favorite genres, I don't say this lightly. Galadrielle Allman paints a lyrical portrait of her father, her family, the music, and the era of the late 1960's-early '70's. Right alongside the Allman family narrative is the story of Galadrielle's own mother, and the rest of the 'old ladies' who kept the home fires burning while the band was out on the road. Mix together love, sex, murder, drugs, rock n' roll and jazz and genius and you're bound to have a few surprises. This book is destined to become a true classic, because it is love and loss on a grand scale. The book mesmerized me! It got me thinking about when my father left my mother, not in a 'poor me' way, but in a way that hindsight has of being philosophical about loss. I hadn't really thought of it's effect in a long time. But revisiting this pain along with Galadrielle proved to be cathartic after all these years. Thank you, Galadrielle! Your writing is something very special. The rare photos and original letters were amazing. The only criticism I have is that not all of the photos included stories. I want to know about the picture of Galadrielle in the Sahara desert. As other readers have said, I hope Ms. Allman writes a sequel.

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