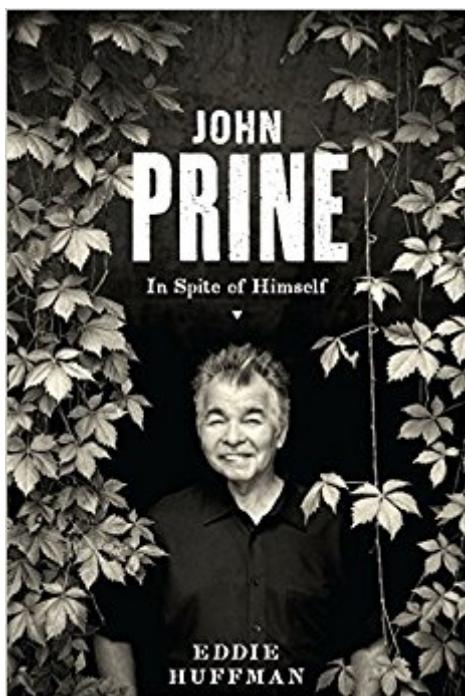


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John Prine: In Spite Of Himself (American Music)



Synopsis

With a range that spans the lyrical, heartfelt songs "Angel from Montgomery," "Sam Stone," and "Paradise" to the classic country music parody "You Never Even Called Me by My Name," John Prine is a songwriter's songwriter. Across five decades, Prine has created critically acclaimed albums-John Prine (one of Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time), Bruised Orange, and The Missing Years-and earned many honors, including two Grammy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting from the Americana Music Association, and induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. His songs have been covered by scores of artists, from Johnny Cash and Miranda Lambert to Bette Midler and 10,000 Maniacs, and have influenced everyone from Roger McGuinn to Kacey Musgraves. Hailed in his early years as the "new Dylan," Prine still counts Bob Dylan among his most enthusiastic fans. In John Prine, Eddie Huffman traces the long arc of Prine's musical career, beginning with his early, seemingly effortless successes, which led paradoxically not to stardom but to a rich and varied career writing songs that other people have made famous. He recounts the stories, many of them humorous, behind Prine's best-known songs and discusses all of Prine's albums as he explores the brilliant records and the ill-advised side trips, the underappreciated gems and the hard-earned comebacks that led Prine to found his own successful record label, Oh Boy Records. This thorough, entertaining treatment gives John Prine his due as one of the most influential songwriters of his generation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book provides behind-the-scenes history of the music industry and engaging anecdotes about musicians, writers and actors, some with whom Prine only rubbed shoulders, and others with whom he built life-long friendships." (No Depression)"The unlikely success of the reluctant performer makes for fascinating reading." (Kirkus ReviewsÂ ¯ 2014-12-29)"Weaving well-known biographical details (Prine was a mail carrier in Chicago when he got his start) into meticulous sketches of the making of each albumÂ ¯ and reviews of those albumsÂ ¯ Huffman offers an admiring portrait of an often restless though always canny songwriter... HuffmanÂ ¯'s book will make us want to pick up PrineÂ ¯'s albums and listen to them once again or for the first time."

(Publishers Weekly 2015-02-02)"An excellent new biography by Eddie Huffman." (The Telegraph (UK) 2015-03-12)"North Carolina music journalistÂ ¯ Eddie HuffmanÂ ¯ wrote the first-ever biography of Prine that traces the musician from his family roots in Kentucky through struggles with alcohol and cancer in his adult life, to where he stands in the music scene today." (The State of Things - WUNC)"...an entertaining and worthwhile read for anyone looking for an introduction to the music of the singing postman." (Rebeat 2015-03-10)"I started, with high hopes, to read HuffmanÂ ¯'s book. I wasnÂ ¯t disappointed . . . This veteran music journalist knows how to write." (Winston-Salem Journal)"Â ¯|provid(es) insight into the singer's most significant musical worksÂ ¯|HuffmanÂ ¯ does a good job of conveying his subjectÂ ¯'s personality, motivations, and ambitions, and heÂ ¯ fills the narrative with humor, mostly by quoting Prine himself." (Choice 2015-10-01)" ...a revealing 2015 biography of the acclaimed mailman-turned-singer-songwriter..." (The Washington Post 2016-09-08)"PrineÂ ¯'s stuff is pure Proustian existentialism. Midwestern mindtrips to the nth degree. And he writes beautiful songs." (Bob Dylan, Huffington Post)"A richly imagistic Midwestern everyguy whose languid good nature defied singer-songwriter smugness." (Rolling Stone)"A songwriterÂ ¯'s songwriter." (Pitchfork)

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For someone who has loved John Prine since hearing his first album decades ago, this book was a joy. The only thing that would have improved it would have been direct input from Al Brunetta, Prine's long-term manager who died in 2015.

Excellent product

What a nice romp through the years. Reading the story of Prine had the effect of opening my own doors and windows to moments in my own life when I was listening to a new album or hearing a song on the radio.

I loved this but it would be good to see an "authorised" biography - I believe one is to be issued by "Oh Boy"?

I love John Prine and his biography helped me love him even more! It really provided insight into his life and how he creates the artistry of his songs. He is truly the best story teller that ever lived.

Good research on a great singer/songwriter. Details of how the songs were recorded and what inspired them.

Excellent read

Gotta love John Prine! This is a wonderful account of a genius' mind!

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