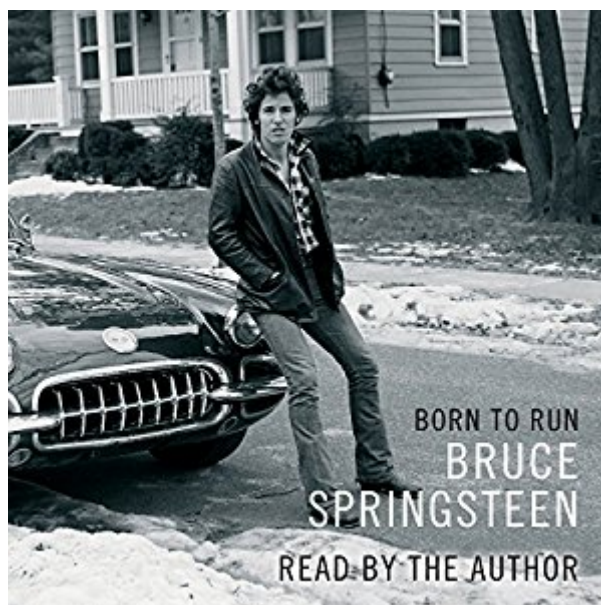


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Born To Run



Synopsis

"Writing about yourself is a funny business.... But in a project like this, the writer has made one promise: to show the reader his mind. In these pages, I've tried to do this." (Bruce Springsteen, from the audio of *Born to Run*) In 2009, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band performed at the Super Bowl's halftime show. The experience was so exhilarating that Bruce decided to write about it. That's how this extraordinary autobiography began. Over the past seven years, Bruce Springsteen has privately devoted himself to writing the story of his life, bringing to this audio the same honesty, humor, and originality found in his songs. He describes growing up Catholic in Freehold, New Jersey, amid the poetry, danger, and darkness that fueled his imagination, leading up to the moment he refers to as "The Big Bang": seeing Elvis Presley's debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. He vividly recounts his relentless drive to become a musician, his early days as a bar-band king in Asbury Park, and the rise of the E Street Band. With disarming candor, he also tells for the first time the story of the personal struggles that inspired his best work and shows us why the song "Born to Run" reveals more than we previously realized. *Born to Run* will be revelatory for anyone who has ever enjoyed Bruce Springsteen, but this book is much more than a legendary rock star's memoir. This is a book for workers and dreamers, parents and children, lovers and loners, artists, freaks, or anyone who has ever wanted to be baptized in the holy river of rock and roll. Rarely has a performer told his own story with such force and sweep. Like many of his songs ("Thunder Road", "Badlands", "Darkness on the Edge of Town", "The River", "Born in the U.S.A.", "The Rising", and "The Ghost of Tom Joad", to name just a few), Bruce Springsteen's autobiography is written with the lyricism of a singular songwriter and the wisdom of a man who has thought deeply about his experiences. Author bio: Bruce Springsteen has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the New Jersey Hall of Fame. He is the recipient of 20 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, and the Kennedy Center Honors. He lives in New Jersey with his family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you have ever actually listened to the lyrics of most Springsteen songs (except maybe *Waitin' on a Sunny Day*), you know that Bruce Springsteen is a really deep guy. There was a book published 15 years ago called *Songs*, which contained all the lyrics of every Springsteen song written to that time. I loved that book. I read it cover to cover, several times. You could read and contemplate all his lyrics. *Born to Run* helps explain the factors that helped Bruce's amazing catalog of music come into creation. Bruce's autobiography, *Born to Run*, gives his fans tremendous insight into what it was that has driven Bruce over the course of his life and career. The motivations, the demons, the anxiety, the joys, the fears, the hopes, the dreams, all the elements that have constituted the Boss's muse over these past 50 years are explained here. And not only is Bruce one of the great writers of lyrics and music, he is a great writer of prose. He amply demonstrates this here for all the world to see. He shares his story in a way only he could. If you intend to purchase and read this book, I will tell you it is a real page turner. I could not put this book down. It has a somewhat imposing profile at 528 pages, but it is an easy read. An inspiring read. I do not want to reveal any of the revelations the reader will discover within the pages of this book, but I can say it was interesting to learn that Bruce possesses many of the same insecurities of us mere mortals. Bruce discloses, in great detail, particulars of his early years, his upbringing, the issues that influenced the way he thinks, his musically formative years, his wide held acclaim, his family, his doubts, his fears, and a treasure trove of personal details I have never heard before. I have been a Springsteen fan for over four decades. I grew up less than 30 miles from Freehold, NJ. I used to go see Bruce in those little seaside bars he used to sing about. I have seen many Springsteen interviews. I have attended over 60 shows. I have read most of the previously published articles and books. Much of the material in this book has never been publicly presented before, and all in his own words. Bruce has obviously spent much time in intense introspection, and he shares many of his insights and conclusions here. Bruce is arguably the world's greatest showman. Now that the great James Brown has passed on, the moniker, "The Hardest Working Man in Show

Business, clearly belongs to Bruce. His unique gifts of lyric writing, musical composition, musicianship, and studio and on stage performance have rarely been seen in a single person. Bruce has won 20 Grammys (out of 49 nominations), 2 Golden Globe Awards, an Academy Award, 2 Emmy Awards, has been inducted into the Rock and Roll hall of Fame, has received a Kennedy Center Honor, and so much more. He now shows himself to be a gifted writer as well. And this book provides tremendous insights into how all that came about. Bruce's drive for perfectionism is explained. Why "good enough" is not in his vocabulary. Bruce is keenly aware the music will last forever. Here he is, 67 years old, and still performing to sold out stadiums and arenas every time he plays. His fans love him. He knows that, and he knows why. He strives to produce and deliver the best product he can, and he almost always succeeds. If you have ever wondered exactly what it is that makes one of the greatest of this or any other generation's musical talents tick, it is all right here.

Bruce's candor is striking. He has generally been a reserved and very private person in the past, but in this book, he puts it all out there. If you are a fan, you will love this book. Bruce Springsteen is not just one of the world's greatest musicians, writers, and performers, he is one of the world's greatest people. Through a lifetime of events he details here, his skills developed and he has evolved into the national and world treasure affectionately referred to as "The Boss."

Bruce Springsteen is the quintessential American songwriter, an impassioned singer, and a great guitarist. The same sensibility and demanding work ethic that he brought to writing song lyrics is evident in the pages of his autobiography. His recollections of details from his early childhood are remarkable. The tale of his personal life, from the child of a mentally disturbed father, to his first failed marriage, to his second successful marriage and fatherhood, give an insight into the man. The course of his musical career, from the Castiles, to Steel Mill, to the Bruce Springsteen Band, to Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, give an insight into the musical superstar. Its 510 pages may seem daunting to the casual Springsteen fan, but I found the book to be a real page-turner. For devoted Springsteen fans, his autobiography is an absolute must-have.

Get ready to learn everything you ever wanted to know about Bruce. His style is conversational, sometimes overly verbose. Kinda like a friend in a bar that tends to over share with a few drinks. But he is brave to share some real troubles in his life as well as his many triumphs. His story harkens back to my own childhood in the 50's and 60's and 70's with a distant alcoholic father and under the

confusing cloud of love and fear brought on by the Catholic church. If not a quick read through, then just keep it around and when you hear a Springsteen song, refer to it to see what was happening in his life to inform and influence the music and the lyrics. This is a curiosity for some, but a must for the Springsteen fan.

I have been a Springsteen fan since the '70's (I was a freshman in HS in 1970). I love his music; I have seen him play many, many times--every appearance I have been to always felt like a personal experience no matter how large the venue. You get glimpses into musicians when you see them play, when you listen to the words they put together with their music and how they interact with each other and with their fans - back in the 70's you had more opportunities for little personal experiences because there didn't seem to be this barrier between them and their fans, somehow. It all coalesces into a relationship, even if the band doesn't know your name and your face is one of many thousands(...millions?) that they've seen. The relationship is that union of audience to a band playing it hard every single time and by the nights cruising in the car or in your room listening to the mystic music that can help soften the rough edges or make you want to shout with joy. In his book, Bruce gave us another gift; he let us in into his great heart and his expansive, flawed and beautiful soul a little bit more; His writing is honest and illuminating and so very moving--you can hear his pleasantly rough voice in your head as you read, you feel his joy, his profound pain, his fear and his ecstasy--this book lets you into a place you never thought you'd see; a human heart that touched so very many people and the world of rock and roll, bringing back the early days and the effect it had on the 70's (and onward!) kids coming of age at that time. You meet his friends and his family - you see his love for all of them. You see how he and his beautiful, talented wife Patti have worked together to raise their children and to support each other,. (I could read a book about Patti...my god, what a strong, tough, talented lady!). Springsteen's writing is engaging and absorbing, a voice instead of a style: I'd love to read a novel from him---as great as his lyrics are, I bet he could find a great voice for a novel. I only wish I could give him something in return for everything that he's given to the world at large and to me personally over the past 4+ decades. I have no idea what that could be, so instead I'll just say, thanks for everything Bruce. I love you, man. If you are a fan, read this book...if you aren't, through some fluke of just somehow missing out on the music, then read the book and become one,,

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