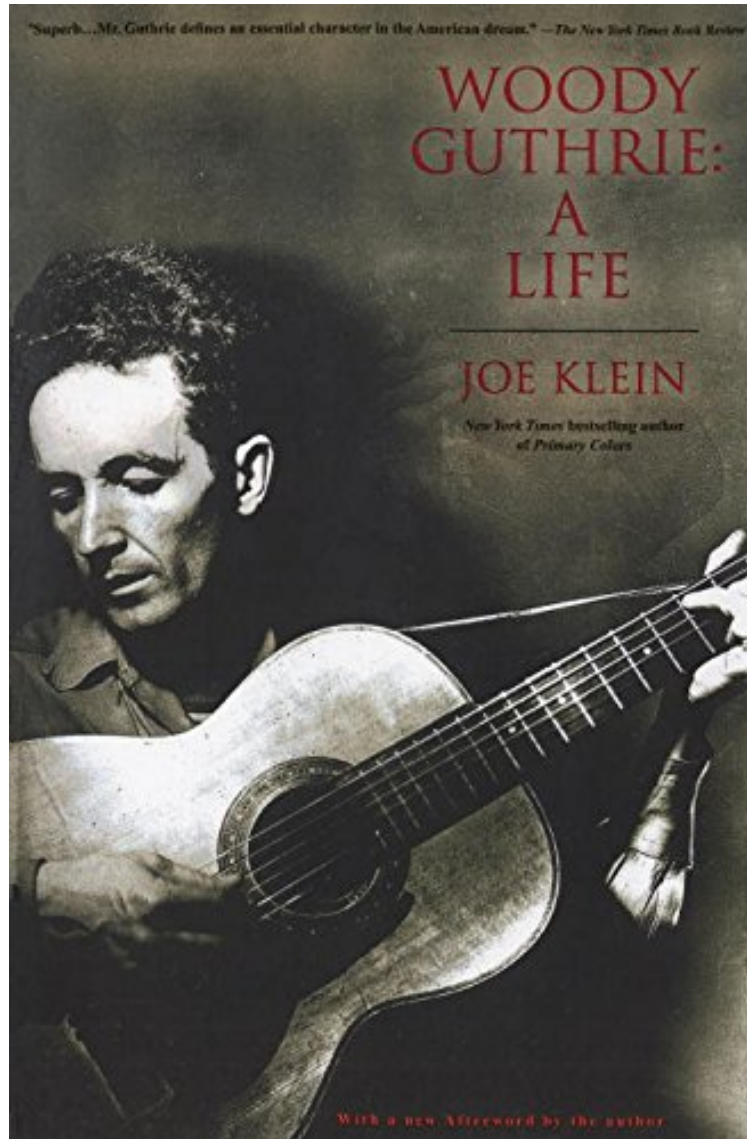


(Download) Woody Guthrie: A Life

Woody Guthrie: A Life

Joe Klein

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Joe Klein : Woody Guthrie: A Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Woody Guthrie: A Life:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. lordy lordy lord, the tears did fall! By Mr. Majesty I finished this book this past summer. Did anyone else who read this great book cry their eyes out during the last 60 or so pages?? I was getting my car fixed one day, waiting for the mechanics to finish, while reading this book in their lobby. Then I got to the part near the end where Klein describes Woody's stay in the hospital as he got sicker and sicker from

Huntington's disease. The lobby was littered with folks waiting just like me and I read those passages, then my eyes started to swell and tear up. "Oh lord," I thought. "I'm gonna lose it." I set the book down and quickly ran into the bathroom where I had a good private sob. I haven't cried like that in years. The last book that did it to me was Cormac McCarthy's "The Road." Woody was such a blast to read about. Every time I picked up the book it was like hanging out with a friend. It was like, "hey I wonder what Woody's up to?" Then you pick up the book and find out. Quite a guy. Quite a life! A life full of high highs, and low lows. Highly recommended. There is a lot of humanity in this book. I'll probably pick it up again in the future when I want to visit my friend Woody once again. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. this land was made for you and me By BbP Woody was born in Okemah, OK. 7/14/1912 As an adult he moved to Calif. and was horrified by how the migrant Okies were treated in the fields. He became a communist originally because of this. Later he really started to believe in what they stood for. I always thought Woody was a hobo and never worked but that is not true. He had a band, he drew cartoons, he had a radio show and he wrote news paper articles. He was in the merchant marines (2x) and the army. Woody was such a simple person that some thought him mentally slow at times. He would marry 3 times and had 8 children but he was never good at family life. In his later years he knew that he was starting to get the same disease that his mother had. It would eventually kill him. Was Woody a good man?... I am not sure.... he never took care of his loved ones and would disappear from their lives for long periods of time. Was he a musical genius... YES. He became a folk hero at a time when he was too sick to be able to enjoy it. I must make a comment on the author--JOE KLEIN.... what a great job he did. This is a fine piece of work. He can be proud. Woody died 10/3/1967. I was 18 yrs old then--I knew who he was because of Bob Dylan he was a proud Okie..... I am also a proud Okie. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Beautiful, Important, Though Slightly Flawed Book By Joseph C. Sweeney Highly recommended. I loved reading this book, especially the first half. The only comment I'd make would be in the lackluster editing of the third hundred pages, in which author Klein included many letters between Guthrie and his wife. It would have better served the book to NOT include so much of that material. A lot of the letters were private correspondence between husband and wife. I don't need to know that much about Guthrie's love for his own penis. Later in the book Klein fairly skips over Guthrie being sent to jail on pornography charges. THOSE letters should have been included in "A Life"'s text. Just a small reservation. Well worth the time. The first 200 pages are about as good as bios get.

A biography of the influential American folk singer, Woody Guthrie, who lived a life on the edge of tragedy but inspired a generation of songwriters, including Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan.

.com Before he became Anonymous, author of the political novel Primary Colors, Joe Klein wrote this intelligent biography of America's legendary folksinger-activist. Klein's first book may not have created the fuss that Primary Colors did, but it attracted the attention of no less a celebrity than Bruce Springsteen, who used to cite it with respect during concerts before singing Guthrie's most famous lyric, "This Land Is Your Land." Klein's unearthing of two politically radical verses usually omitted from that song is just one instance of the solid research underpinning his vivid narrative of Guthrie's often tragic life (1912-67). Before Woody turned 15, his sister died in a fire and his mother was committed to an Oklahoma insane asylum with a mysterious disease he later learned he inherited; Klein's chilling description of Huntington's chorea is one of the book's strong points. Its heart is a full rendering of Guthrie's restless wanderings across Depression-era America, which fired his lifelong radicalism, and a scrupulously unsentimental account of Woody's oft-sentimentalized personality. He may have been a genius and a staunch advocate of the common people, but Guthrie was also a bad husband, neglectful father, and difficult friend, as Klein shows. He pays Woody's life and music the tribute of assuming they need no sanitizing, and this biography is all the more interesting because of it. --Wendy Smith About the Author Joe Klein, a journalist for nearly three decades, is a political correspondent for Time magazine. In addition to Primary Colors, his previous books include Payback: Five Marines After Vietnam and Woody Guthrie: A Life. He has written articles and reviews for The New Republic, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Life, and Rolling Stone.