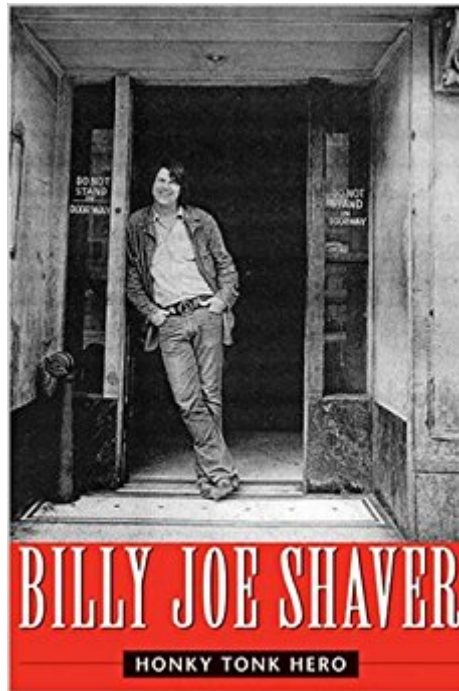




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# Honky Tonk Hero



## Synopsis

Willie Nelson says "Billy Joe Shaver may be the best songwriter alive today," and legions of fans agree that Billy Joe is the real deal. Many describe his songs as pure poetry. Shaver sings about a life that's been full of hard times, wild living, and a forty-year-long passion for his late wife Brenda. His songs are raw, honest, and so true that people hear the story of their own lives in his music. No wonder, then, that his songs have also been recorded by artists such as Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, George Jones, Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, Patty Loveless, John Anderson, Tom T. Hall, the Allman Brothers, the Oak Ridge Boys, and Tex Ritter. In this compelling autobiography written with the assistance of Brad Reagan, Billy Joe Shaver looks back over a life that some might call a miracle of survival. His father abandoned the family before Billy Joe was born. Troubles in school and in the military turned him into a fighter, and a sawmill accident claimed two fingers and part of a third on his right hand. Yet his innate musical talent and the encouragement of an English teacher set him on the road to being a songwriter—and he never looked back. Shaver recounts his long struggle to break into the music business in Nashville and the success that came when Waylon Jennings recorded his songs on the 1973 album *Honky Tonk Heroes*, which became a landmark of outlaw country music. Shaver movingly describes his own thirty-year, up-and-down career as a singer-songwriter in Nashville and Texas, his bouts with alcohol and drugs, his pleasure in touring with his son Eddy and their band Shaver during the 1990s, and the pain of losing Eddy, Brenda, and Billy Joe's mother all within the year 1999-2000. As full of life, heartbreak, and drama as any of Billy Joe Shaver's songs, *Honky Tonk Hero* is the story of a man who not only walked on the wild side and lived to tell about it, but also got it all down in songs that many people consider to be some of the finest country music ever written.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Heâ™s as real a writer as Hemingway. Heâ™s timeless.Kris" (Kristofferson quoted in the Dallas Morning News)

"Heâ™s as real a writer as Hemingway. Heâ™s timeless.Kris" (Kristofferson quoted in the Dallas Morning News)

Billy Joe Shaver pulls no punches, and calls it as he sees it. His songs helped to transform Country Music. Well worth reading.

The life of this man will surprise you - he always had songs in his head. Rubbed elbows with the elite of Country Music, fought in alleys, overcame addictions, never asks for any thing, lived his entire life loving one woman, but dancing with many. Interesting insight into this mans life. The last half of the book are the lyrics of the many many songs he wrote and sang.

Having heard him several times and loved his stories and songs, the book helps understand his past and how he has gotten to where he is now. He's been one crazy dude, but at the same time very likable. I thought the book was great!

Love this book!!! Awesome story of Billy Joe's life!

I am a huge fan of Billy Joe Shaver. This book tells of his difficult childhood and the demons he has fought in his lifetime. The book is short and to the point. If you are a fan and would like to know more about where he comes from and the history that influences his music, this is a must read.

If you are a fan of BJS you need to get this book. If you've ever seen him in concert, reading the book is exactly like listening to his stories on stage.

I loved it! Billy Joe has such talent and has had some really large obstacles to overcome.

The book was like Billy Joe's music; honest and to the point. It was great reading about his relationships with Waylon and other country stars. The lyrics to all his songs was a wonderful bonus. I only wished there was more.

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