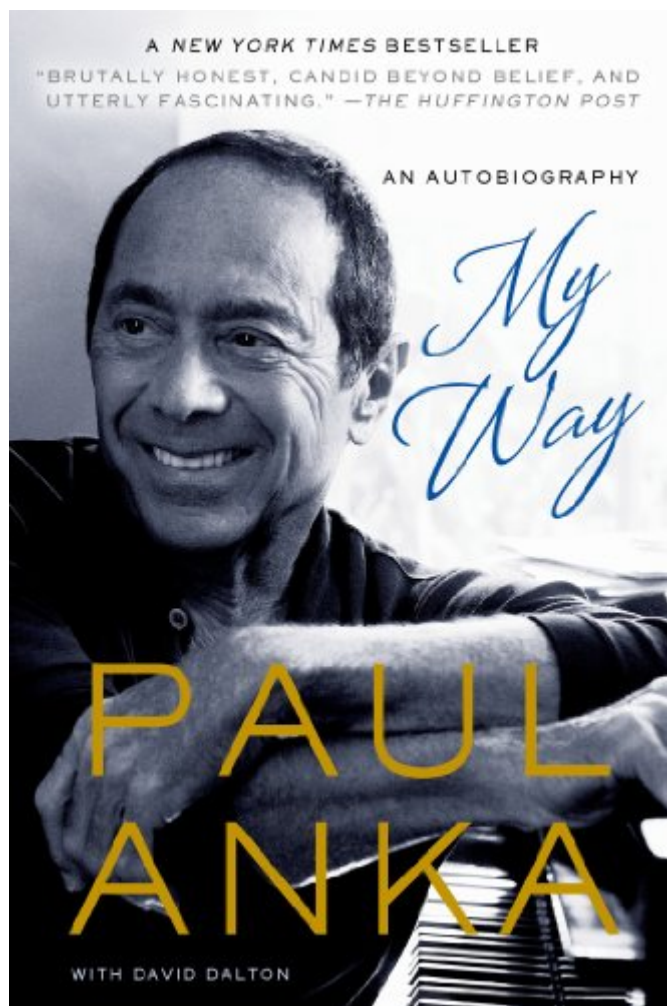


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My Way: An Autobiography



Synopsis

A teen idol of the 1950s who virtually invented the singer/songwriter/heartthrob combination that still tops pop music today, Paul Anka rocketed to fame with a slew of hits-from "Diana" to "Put Your Head on my Shoulder"-that earned him a place touring with the major stars of his era, including Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Buddy Holly. He wrote Holly's last hit, and just missed joining the rocker on his final, fatal plane flight. Anka also stepped in front of the camera in the teen beach-party movie era, scoring the movies and romancing their starlets, including Annette Funicello. When the British invasion made his fans swoon for a new style of music-and musician--Anka made sure he wasn't conquered. A rapier-canny businessman and image-builder who took his career into his own hands-just as he had from the very beginning, swiping his mother's car at fourteen to drive himself, underage, to his first gigs in Quebec-Anka toured the world until he could return home in triumph. A charter member of the Rat Pack, he wrote the theme music for The Tonight Show as well as his friend Frank Sinatra's anthem "My Way". By the 1970s, a multi-decade string of pop chart-toppers, including "Puppy Love" and "(You're) Having My Baby", cemented his status as an icon. My Way is bursting with rich, rollicking stories of the business and the people in Anka's life: Elizabeth Taylor, Dodi Fayed, Tom Jones, Michael Jackson, Adnan Khashoggi, Little Richard, Brooke Shields, Johnny Roselli, Sammy Davis, Jr., Brigitte Bardot, Barnum & Bailey Circus acrobats, and many more. Anka is forthcoming, funny and smart as a whip about the business he's been in for almost six decades. My Way moves from New York to Vegas, from the casino stage to backstage all over the world. It's the most entertaining autobiography of the year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My God what an ego this man has. All he does throughout the whole book is tell the reader how wonderful and smart he is.

I was so very disappointed in this book. Mr. Anka constantly repeats himself about details that the reader has already been told in previous chapters. I thought this was because he was actually writing the book by himself, but then discovered he wrote it with someone who fashions himself an author. Even with this, where was the editor in this publication? I thought I would actually read about Mr. Anka's life -- instead it was a meandering epistle about Las Vegas and his idol, Frank Sinatra. He hardly touched on his life with his wife and family. I found it odd that he said how very much he loved his wife, but had to leave because it was something he had to do for himself! He is very full of himself and thinks he is quite a guy. Unfortunately, after reading this, I don't agree.

I really looked forward to reading the book because I have always liked Paul Anka as a composer and performer. But this book was a huge disappointment. It could have benefited by some serious editing. I expected the ego factor, but in this book it was overboard. However, that being said, the insight into the beginning of rock and roll and the rise of Vegas was extremely interesting from a historical perspective.

Apparently there was no editor available to proof this bio before it went to press. For example, a person living in a country other than that of their birth (an "expatriate") is called an "ex-patriot" in the book. The book's chapters are presented chronologically, but the chapters themselves are chronologically random. In one paragraph Anka tells a story about when he was 16 years old. In the next paragraph he is suddenly 17. In the following paragraph he is again 16. Gets tiresome after a while. Some reviews by other readers saying the book is at times self-serving and mean spirited are right on. Anka implies he deflowered Annette Funicello when she was a teen. Pretty classy, Paul.

Frank Sinatra was an arrogant vindictive horndog, Bob Hope kept a stable of call girls, and JFK banged anything that moved. Guess its OK to dish the dirt on people who aren't around to call you on it. Despite all that the book is fascinating when he discusses the song writing process and chord theory (I'm serious). Many of the anecdotes about his contemporaries ring true and the reader will find much to chuckle at (e.g., the pillow fight with Jerry Lee Lewis). He pays appropriate homage to those who helped him along the way. This is the bio of a guy who always wanted to be the next Sinatra but didn't quite make it. Despite that he was a major second-tier talent for many years with a diverse portfolio of impressive accomplishments. Too bad he had to tear others down while building himself up.

I wanted to be open minded about reading the book, despite many of the other negative reviews on it. Sadly, most of them were dead right. I was very disappointed in him, his repetitiveness page after page, and then going back to repeating text in earlier chapters a number of times, most of all his complete lack of modesty about himself. In Paul's view, Paul is one down from God. He would have to be the biggest ego tripper that drew breath, wow how wonderful I am. I'll bet he goes to bed with a life size photo of himself to send him off to Anka-land. Yes he is a very clever man as far as writing songs are concerned, but he gets 2 out of 10 from me and only that because I was interested in the Rat Pack, Buddy Holly and some of the early true legends of 50's - 60's music. He goes on about the baddies in Vegas, on and on and on! Boring. I got so over his own back patting, and rubbishing of many of the now dead stars that I didn't finish the book and threw it away! I would certainly not recommend this book unless you are deeply in love with Paul, as much as he is.

I don't even know where to start. First, this book needed an editor in the worst way. It jumps around chronologically too much, and it is redundant in too many places. Like the park bench ramblings of an a retiree. Second, for someone who has spent as much time with mobsters, the Rat Pack, corporate robber barons, low level thieves and billionaire crooks - what happened to "omertÃ"? Geez, this guy spills the beans on everybody who ever crossed his path. If Frank was still alive, his legs would be broken. Finally, he's had an admirable career as a songwriter, casino performer, and suck-up to the powerful, rich, and famous...but the guy isn't making any truly great artist or songwriter lose any sleep. He's an accomplished hack at best. Hell of a life though.

A meandering and mean-spirited book that the world could truly do without. I bought it not because I am a fan of Anka's, but to read about how his career intersected with others'. What I got was a book

that meandered all over the place with no chronological thought, almost no detail except on truly juvenile pranks he played on others even as an adult and incredible repetitiveness that any half-skilled editor should have caught and sent back for a rewrite. Egotistical, mean-spirited and boring. Don't waste your money or your time.

He says he was going to be a journalist...REALLY! This book was written in such an amateur fashion, I was very disappointed. He is a poor storyteller & just jumps all over the place, repeating himself frequently. It seems as though this book was rushed to the printer skipping the editor altogether. My guess is that he was not receptive to constructive criticism, as he seems to know everything!

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