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From This Moment On



Synopsis

Born Eileen Regina Edwards in 1965 in rural Canada, Shania Twain has lived a life rife with triumph and tragedy. By the time she was two, her parents had divorced, and by early childhood, her family of seven was often without food, at times living in a filthy one-bedroom apartment. But when her mother and stepfather were tragically killed in an automobile accident when she was 22, Shania knew that the only way to lift her family out of poverty was to use her God-given singing talent. At an age when most young people have only themselves to think about, Shania moved her entire family to a nearby resort where she began performing, supporting her younger brothers and sisters. In riveting and often heartbreaking prose, Shania takes the listener back to these pivotal moments, revealing the difficulties she and her family faced. Shania writes of being discovered, time spent performing in Nashville, and her sudden, dramatic rise to stardom. She also spares no details about her recent personal struggles and heartbreaks - struggles she's never discussed publicly. This remarkable book is the story of a brave, honest, entirely genuine woman who faced odds most people never experience, yet has succeeded beyond anyone's expectations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

By 1999 Shania Twain was on top of the world: her albums sold in the millions, her tours were sell-outs, she was named "Entertainer of the Year" from the Country Music Association, one of only five female acts to ever achieve that honour in the award's 40 year plus history, she was happily married, and was about to start a family. She was able to put the pain of a tragic childhood behind her after her parents were killed in an automobile crash, help raise her siblings, and make it in a

very competitive industry and go on to be one of the most popular singers ever. Then suddenly everything changed. "From This Moment On" (also the title of one of Shania's most beautiful love songs) is indeed Shania's autobiography, but it is so much more. This is also a book for survivors for people who have been betrayed by those with whom they loved. For the first time she writes about growing up in poverty in northern Canada sometimes having to go through garbage dumps to find cloths, but always having a dream that she would make it one day. She discusses the highs and lows of the music industry, her eventual love for her first husband Mutt Lange, and how that marriage ended a few years ago after he had an affair with her best friend. The book not only was cathartic for Shania to write about, but the message is clear: adultery can happen to anyone, especially someone as beautiful and talented as Shania Twain, but you can and will survive. After reading Shania's book her message to her readers is clear: if someone hurts you eradicate them totally out of your life. She mentions how she doesn't allow her son to see the woman who is now with her former husband (Shania's former best friend).

I devoured this book. The book is riveting and so well written. The honesty with which Shania writes about her life is searing and eye opening. This is a woman who has survived a lot of hardships, but has come out stronger on the other side. I had no doubt that this book would be thoughtfully written, as she is a talented song writer. Her writing is matter of fact and not salacious in any way, but very revealing. I found it very disturbing to read the other reviews that criticized her way of writing about her parents with such compassion, though she grew up with poverty, abuse and too much adult responsibility thrust upon her at an early age. Family relationships are complicated and filled with a lot of gray areas, even if you consider your family to be "typical" or "normal". I think she handled herself unbelievable well as a child given the unstable and dysfunctional environment she was born into. And it is clear that though she knows her parents were not perfect, she loved them nonetheless. All of these people who are critical of her for this need to ask themselves if they were able to turn off the love they feel for people in their lives who mistreated, neglected, manipulated or even abused them in their lives. If they are honest with themselves, they will admit that these people are probably still part of their lives in some capacity. Whether it is a friend you can't rely on or a parent who knows all the right buttons to push and mean words to say to make you feel guilty about something in order to control you or a sibling who constantly takes advantage of you. And the list goes on and on.

You do not have to be a Shania Twain fan to enjoy this book. You just need to be interested in the

struggles that we face in life, and how we can triumph over them, to enjoy this book. Shania's story is extremely interesting. This poor woman describes growing up with hardly anything to eat, a freezing cold house without heat, a stepdad who abused her Mom in front of Shania and the family, going so far as to stick her Mom's head in a toilet bowl. The man had issues. Yet, Shania still finds a way to hold her Stepdad in high regard, despite all this, because "he tried to take care of his family, worked hard, and showed interest in" her music. I am not one to judge, but Shania's stepdad should have forgotten about his pride, and allowed the family to receive welfare and or other benefits while he had a hard time finding work. Shania then goes on to detail the horrible day when both of her parents were killed in a car accident, leaving her to raise her siblings. But since the family was poor, Shania and her siblings couldn't enjoy a hot shower before school. No, Shania had to take them to a nearby stream, and wash them in it, before they went to school. One of the most touching parts of Shania's book was when she was face to face with a Moose, and instead of pulling the trigger on her rifle (her stepdad taught her to hunt when she was young), she realized that He, the Moose, had just as much of a right to live that she did. That, coupled with Shania's hearing a bear in the distance one day, who apparently was cruelly shot by a hunter, but not killed...the poor bear being left to suffer, convinced Shania that the days of killing were over, and she has not only not killed any animals in the last 20 years, but she is a vegetarian as well.

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