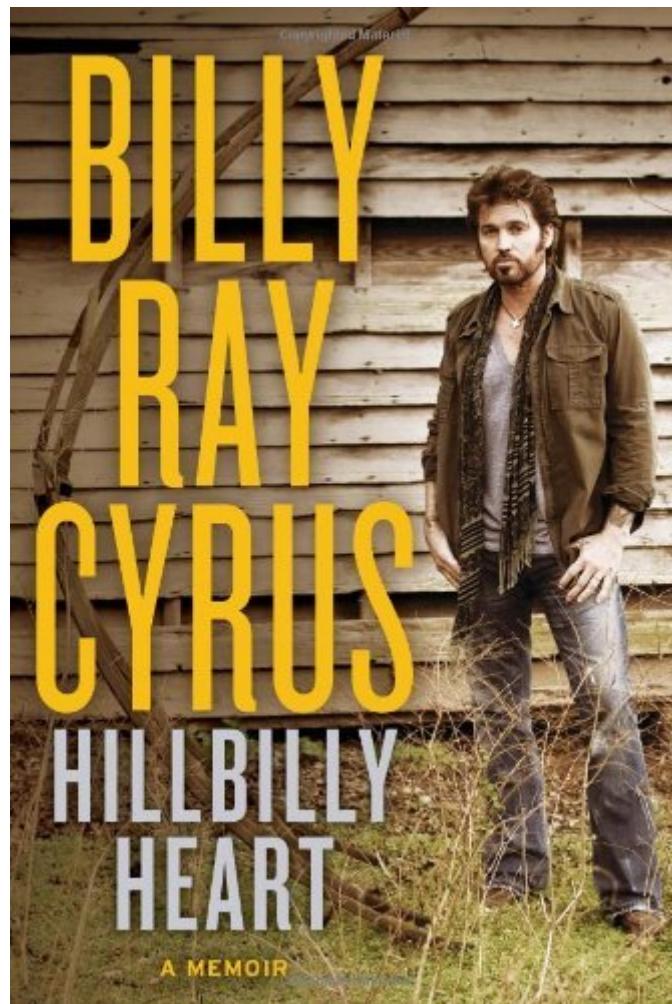


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# Hillbilly Heart



## **Synopsis**

Billy Ray Cyrus is an award-winning country music legend whose "Achy Breaky Heart" • propelled his debut album, "Some Gave All," • to the top of the charts for a record-breaking seventeen weeks. He's also father of Miley Cyrus, one of Hollywood's most successful young stars, who grew up on stage and on screen, most famously as the lead on the Disney Channel's "Hannah Montana," • where Billy Ray Cyrus played her father. But sometimes the truth is even better than fiction. Now, for the first time, fans can read about Cyrus's tenacious and inspiring struggle to find his own way to faith, family, and the power of music. *Hillbilly Heart* opens during Cyrus's turbulent childhood in Kentucky, where he sought refuge in music and sports after his parents' divorce. He was a troublemaker in training, known more for pulling pranks than for following in his preacher grandfather's much-vaunted footsteps. But when he heard a voice telling him to get a left-handed guitar and start a band, this rebel found his cause. Ten years later, after tirelessly working the club circuit and knocking on the closed doors of music executives from Nashville to Los Angeles, Cyrus finally made a stratospheric breakthrough, becoming a multi-platinum selling artist and taking his rock-and-roll twist on country music to the world's stage. Cyrus fans have always been able to piece together the details of his life through his lyrics' "the ups and downs, adventures and disappointments" but *Hillbilly Heart* gives them a front row seat for his most candid performance ever.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

This is an okay memoir. I never heard this guy's music, but I saw him on The Haunting of... plus I read celeb memoirs. I wasn't bored, wasn't riveted. He seems like a very good person, although his God seems kind of harsh. Billy Ray hears voices from the other side. One of the early voices said, when he was very young and stole something, that he would be killed if he did that a second time, as in instantly murdered! Billy Ray said that was God talking for a fact. I dig books where the person gets other-side info, but I don't think that was God he had on the line. At least He wasn't as bad as Dog the Bounty Hunter's God who took vengeance on the guy who dated Dog's first wife while Dog was in prison by having the guy's mother blow her brains out in front of him years later. That's some angry God!!! Mine is quiet, but unconditionally loving and compassionate. If you like Billy Ray, I think you'll like this book.

Billy Ray Cyrus' autobiography was, as the title of this review says, a strangely compelling read. It is simply a compelling read, and not one I expected to be nearly as interesting. The tone and pacing were very well established and drove the narrative along so well that I was halfway through the book before I realized it. It's not the usual self-aggrandizing fluff that most autobiographies tend to be. It's a surprisingly honest reflection of how Mr. Cyrus remembers his career and in a very relatable and conversational tone. Mr. Cyrus covers everything from his rise in the country music scene, his transition into other media (such as TV), recreational use of marijuana, his family interactions, and much more. I fully expected him to gloss over much of the controversies and media that have occasionally probed into his family life. Instead, he seems very candid when addressing those personal issues and states his feelings quite plainly. Naturally, he does mention his famous daughter and their relationship. He doesn't mention the other children quite as much, but that is probably because they aren't as in the spotlight. I had to assume that he was either trying to protect them to some degree or the editor cut those parts out. Still, none of this seemed to be for shameless self promotion. It was more like any other parent talking about what their kids were doing. As autobiographies go, this is one of the best I've ever read. I wasn't bored and I learned quite a bit about Mr. Cyrus that I didn't know before. With a career as varied and long as his, I'd recommend

this book not just for fans of country music, but also for fans of entertainment history. I found it to be a well-paced book that didn't leave me bored and I learned a lot. That's generally a good accomplishment when people are talking about themselves.

I was honestly surprised by the telling of B.R.'s early life. For a celebrity to admit to so many episodes of illegal, unfaithful, and self-destructive activities, is to me an example of strength of character not often associated with Kentucky hillbillies. I am from, born and raised, KY. Most of the stories of B.R.'s youth are experiences that are the autobiography of most 'country boys. For him to overcome his indiscretions is remarkable. For someone to admit to them in a public forum is a very brave thing. Most of the stories of youth are only mentioned as bragging rights during a "sit around and shoot the shit get drunk" session for country boys. As a literary work, this is not a masterpiece. As an enjoyable tale of one man's life and problems of a superstar and his family, it is well worth the price and time.

Overall, this was a "good" book - but didn't really open a lot of doors. Everything that I read in here was the same things I've heard and read in the news and seen in the media. He talks about his life, his problems, his rise to fame and his family life. Unfortunately, we've read all the trash we really want to read about Miley and the lifestyle that she's chosen to lead. He doesn't go into the cheating details of his wife with Butt Michaels of Poison fame, nor does he really touch on much of the personal trash we've already read. But he makes his life sound like a pretty A+ perfect country style down home on the farm, one we all know isn't to be true. A bit too "pretty" for me. But overall, not too shabby. I wouldn't want to hear or see a sequel.

I have been a fan of Billy Ray Cyrus for as long as I can remember! He is multi-talented and has a heart of gold. He may have grown up in a rough and tumble sort of way, but he never lost sight of his goals and writes about all of that in this true story of his life - so far. The misconceptions printed in the media regarding Billy he counters with vivid stories and recollections. He is a gifted writer which is NO surprise since he writes most if not all of his own music. And tends to listen to that inner voice of his as he marches to his own beat. The one aspect of the book that delighted me is that he writes with a sense of humor and does not glorify himself as some other stars have done. You will not be sorry if you purchase this book either for your kindle or in hard back cover. Way to go Billy Ray! Once again you have re-invented yourself. Can't keep a good man down!!

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to others if you like stories of peoples lives. It was not intended to be great literature and seemed to be very much in his own words. I felt he was very honest in showing he makes mistakes like everyone else. He did not try to make himself out to be a saint like so many people in the public eye. He also proved how hard like can be in show business and that even when you "make it big" you are not allowed to make your own decisions.

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