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A "New York Times" bestseller, this memoir recounts an all-American success story, as Gretchen Wilson shares her childhood memories, her exploits along the road to the top, inspirations, fashion preferences, and more, in an open, honest, and hilarious memoir that will enchant new and old fans alike.

Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life Details

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From Reader Review Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life for online ebook

Jody says

Very very good book. She had a horrible childhood and a rough life..... so glad I bought it... truly was a good book.

Donna says

I bought this book for my Mother one Christmas who was a huge fan of country music. I picked it up at my Mom's home after she had finished it. It laid around my house for a year. Didn't have anything to read one day, picked it up thinking this is just not my subject. I could not put it down, couldn't stop reading it and loved every single word on every page. Not only is this a great read, it's a true story and Gretchen Wilson now has great respect from me. She may be a "red neck woman" but boy has she worked very hard within very difficult life's circumstances and just came out on top. If she came out with another book I'd be standing in line to buy it on the first day of release. If you like reading about people's lives you'll love this one even if you aren't a country music fan.

Jessie Weaver says

Wilson insists that she wrote this to inspire other redneck women and show how she admires them. She covers her family background, from her birth to a sixteen-year-old mother, to moving back and forth from Miami to Southern Illinois seemingly hundreds of times, to her move to Nashville. She throws in names of relatives who supposedly influenced her, but there are so many and so few are given memorable character traits that by the end of the book my head was just spinning with who was who. The only relatives Wilson truly lets her reader see are her grandparents and especially her grandmother, Frances.

Altogether the writing style is confused and repetitive. Wilson feels the need to explain everything, leaving no room for irony and expecting little intelligence from the reader. The cursing throughout adds nothing to the text. Though I did find Wilson's perspective of her grandmother and her reverence for the elderly woman touching - and her many fans will find much of interest in Redneck Woman - my main feeling after reading this autobiography is that its subject would do better to stick to singing.

Christina says

I bought this book on accident (my two year old tossed it in the cart), I love her music and I must say I liked her book quite a bit, it was a easy/good read, and it is definitely something I will be keeping. She really tells it like it is without any added frills. I would most definitely recommend this to anyone who likes bios and anyone who likes her music.

Kaitlyn Rhodes says

Right now I am reading this book. From what I have read already it seems like a really good book. What I have read so far I have read about how her mother was a single mom and how she was very poor. They lived in a one room shack. I have also read that when she went to her first recording. She said she was so scared and as she was standing there singing watching the man she said she saw him write the letters "NO", at that point she lost hope and when she walked out her boss showed her the paper and it said "NOW". She was so relieved that it said what it said instead of it saying "NO". So that is what I have read so far.

Kristin says

Picked this up at a used book sale a few months ago and read it during my workouts at the gym, as I have with the autobiographies of Reba, Lorrie Morgan, and TV personalities Crook and Chase. The format lends itself well to reading in spurts. Unlike those others, Gretchen Wilson's rise to fame occurred while I was already a country fan, so the parts involving the making and releasing of her albums included a lot of information I already knew because it had come out in interviews she did while on media tours. Wilson's story is literally a rags-to-riches tale, from a childhood spent moving between Illinois and Florida as her mom and stepdad sought drugs and moneymaking opportunities, to buying a large ranch in Nashville with royalty checks to give her family the stability they never had. Wilson's story could be that of any woman in blue-collar America, came from nothing, struggled to find enough work to pay the bills, participated in adult activities long before adulthood, and trod a thin line between seeing her dreams come true and being married with a trailerful of children and bouncing between minimum wage jobs. However, she admires those 'Redneck Women' and prides herself in being one because to her, it's normal life and deserves to be celebrated. She is also brutally honest about 'making it' in Nashville, that what seems like overnight success is often a result of years and years of toiling in obscurity. For every singer like her who finds success, there are dozens more in Nashville who are just as talented but haven't been heard by the right executive and are working in some other industry while still holding onto their dreams. What I enjoyed about this book was that honesty. While Reba and Lorrie both came from families who had some degree of fame and thus there was an audience there to discover them, Gretchen did everything pretty much on her own, and had many low points before her first high point. I could envision more people taking her path to fame than the paths of the others.

Preston says

Informative book chronicling the life of Gretchen Wilson, and how she got her start. Full of imagery that makes you smile and know exactly what you are reading even if you didn't experience it yourself.

Mikhaela says

Horrible writing - I am trying to force myself to continue reading. She did have an awful life, but I did expect a better conveyed story since it was co-written with someone else. What was I expecting? A prize winning autobiography? Probably.

This book will be given away when I am finished with it. At least I only paid \$4 for it at Building 19 3/4.

Denise Lamonte says

I learned a new definition for redneck in this book (didn't know rednecks could come from Illinois!) and enjoyed hearing about Gretchen Wilson's life. She brought a unique perspective and it was also interesting to learn about the country music business and how most country singers progress and do their "time" in order to get to the top. An easy read and worthwhile.

Elizabeth says

Loved This Book.

Amber says

My general impression was that this book is a shameless plug for her CD with the same title. The chapters were titled after tracks and time and time again she fills passages by inserting lines from her songs. If I wanted to read lyrics I would read the CD booklet. It was interesting to see where she came from but the book did read almost like a "who's most redneck" contest, and she constantly pointed out how hard done by he was, when yes, she moved around a lot, and yes, her father wasn't really in her life...but from reading the synopsis I expected it to be far worse. The woe-is-me tones soon got old and I found myself rolling my eyes every couple of pages. If you can get past the sob story, it is well written and Gretchen is clearly a smart girl, but I think only die-hard fans would get much out of it.

Amy says

I don't like to read books about current famous people, but I've been meaning to read this one for a long time now.

Poor Gretchen. I guess I should have read it at the height of her two-year career, because now I'm just worried about her. What IS she doing? Singer, she is. Author, she AIN'T. She said it herself, "The more of yourself you put in the music-warts and all-the greater the chance that the audience will take that music into their own hearts." Well, the same goes for writing. She needed a better ghostwriter, or in the very least, a better editor. What could have been a blaze of glory with many more detailed accounts just fell flat as she tried to work in the names of every person who ever pushed her, & plugs for every song she's got out there. Redneck Woman the book is lacking depth, heart, & soul. Redneck Woman the person has a much more vibrant story to tell, I just know it. The only person I got a true picture of was her grandmother who worked like a mule & just wanted to give her dog a spa day. C'mon, GW, give the rednecks what they want---meat & taters!!!

Belinda Fry says

I like her, but what's happened? Is she even still singing or writing???

Blayne says

This was an amazing book. She goes into great detail about how hard her whole life was. Gretchen had very hard life. Then when she got to Nashville her singing career did not just happen over night. She played in a few different little bands. She tended a bar at a very early age at Big O's in Pocahontas Illinois. That is her hometown. She moved to Nashville and kept tending bar and singing with these little bands. She was an alcoholic. She attended AA meetings and overcame that. Later on she had a baby girl. Her name is Grace. It was just a great book. I am a TRUE COUNTRY fan. And I can relate to Gretchen in a lot of the things she talked about in her book. I strongly recommend this book. It is great.

Michelle Akers-dicken says

Let's start with the positive... this was an unexpected read for me. I picked it up at a "Friends of the Library" sale and it looked interesting. And it WAS a very fast read (less than a day to finish). The small parts about the Grandparents of Gretchen Wilson were interesting. Her poor, poor Grandmother. I just wanted to go back in time and save her! I also loved reading about some of the many bars and night clubs I've spent time at, like Pops in Sauget, IL. Being a St. Louis girl, myself, I identified with so many of the places she talks about as well as the attitudes and personalities of Midwestern women. I love that she's a true success story and that she mentions in the last chapter that if it all went away today, she could go back to where she came from... just maybe not being a bartender. I love that she (at least at the time this book was written in '06) was employing many extended family members to work on her farm... taking them out of what was almost a certain poverty level. I'm impressed with the woman... NOT the book.

The book... Ugh. First of all, WHO edited this Warner Brothers book? Because I'm pretty sure my 6 year old niece would have done a better job! I lost count of all the typos and misused words. Maybe it's just me but if you're going to publish a book and hardworking people are going to spend their \$ on your book, shouldn't we expect a certain level of professionalism? But that's not her fault. She admits to dropping out of school when she was 15. She should have been able to trust her editor and publisher. I felt like I wrote a better paper in high school as compared to the writing in "Redneck Woman". I was annoyed. Another major issue of mine was that, other than Gretchen's neighbor Diane Jackson and her 2 trailers which were welded together and Gretchen's grandparents, I couldn't identify with any of the characters. I wish she would have spent more time talking about her colorful childhood and her hometown. THAT'S when I turned pages the quickest. The very drawn out and scattered description of her music career was too confusing. I feel like she didn't want to get too personal. However, she does admit that talking isn't her strong point. She also says that she was still struggling with (as a song writer) that people would really want to know about her "boring" life. Well Ms. Wilson, it's not a boring life. Your story could have been told in so much more a colorful way.

So yeah. I'll probably not be recommending this one. But I do love to hear her sing!
