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Lyrics 1964-2016



Synopsis

A landmark compilation of popular music, this collection contains Paul Simon's lyrics from his first album in 1964 to the present, now with 2016's *Stranger to Stranger*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Here's a vote for Paul Simon being appointed Poet Laureate. It would be perfect: Under Barack Obama's tenure as president the Library of Congress chooses someone equally unusual and gifted to be the eloquent voice of this nation. *Lyrics 1964-2008* is just that: The lyrics to Simon's songs. The number of words here is staggering. You forget just how prolific he has been. More impressive is how many of these songs hit close to home. How many you know by heart. There are a few bonuses. The album covers are reproduced (in black and white). A sprinkling of photographs include some with Art Garfunkel and some recent performance shots. Best of all, there are copies of the original hand-written lyrics to some of Simon's best songs: "Mother and Child Reunion," "Me and Julio Down By the Schoolyard," "Kodachrome," "American Tune," "Loves Me Like a Rock," "Still Crazy After All These Years," "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover," "Slip Sliding Away," "Boy in the Bubble," "Graceland," "You Can Call Me Al," "Look at That." You can see Simon having trouble with the end of "American Tune" (he has erased some words, and finally puts a question mark next to the lyric). In the notes for "Graceland," you can see the mournful lines, unused: "For no logical reason, no explanation, something deep inside of me is going to Graceland." There is something redemptive about Simon's work. This book says it all.

THIS IS A REVIEW OF THE 2016 HARDCOVER EDITION."Time it was.And what a time it wasIt was...A time of innocenceA time of confidencesLong ago...it must be...I have a photographPreserve your memoriesThey're all that's left you" "Bookends Theme""You have to be a good host to people's attention spans." Paul Simon.This is one of the few books of it's type that I have added to my library. This sits alongside lyric collections by Bob Dylan, Lou Reed, and the Grateful Dead, just to name a few from the rock/popular genres. You may feel otherwise and have different artist's lyric collections on your shelf. But no matter, because it doesn't take anything away from this nicely made and presented collection of words from Simon from his first stuff from 1964, continuing into the present of 2016.The 8 1/2" X 10 1/2 " hardcover book has a simple b&w photo of Simon on the cover jacket, and inside the presentation follows along the same path. Interspersed throughout the book are b&w photos from various periods along with each album cover (in b&w), and a number of reproductions of hand written lyric sheets. The paper is a creme/white with a matte surface that enhances the look of this book. The lyrics are laid out chronologically--listed in the contents page-- by page numbers. The book is separated into different spans of years (1964-1971 for example) each with a full page listing album titles, and song titles for those particular years. Also included is a Forward by friend/painter Chuck Close ("...his words and music wash over us as an experience..."), and an Introduction by David Remick ("... Simon's best songs... do not date.

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