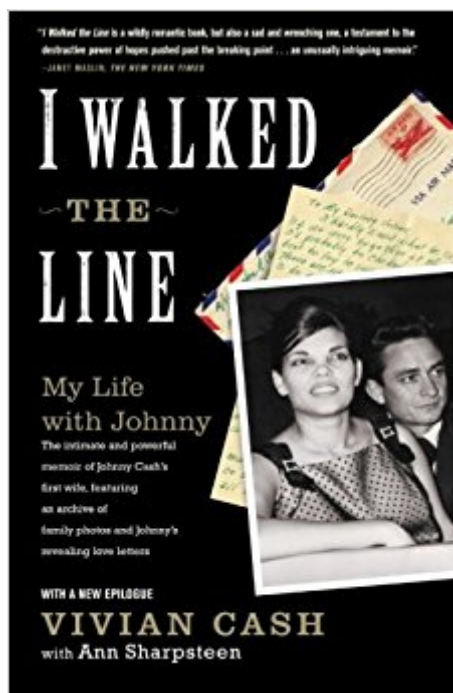


The book was found

I Walked The Line: My Life With Johnny



Synopsis

I Walked the Line is a chronicle of first love, long-kept secrets, betrayal, forgiveness, and the truth--told at last by Johnny Cash's first wife, the mother of his four daughters. It is a book that had the full support of Johnny Cash, who insisted it was time for their story to be told, despite any painful revelations that might come to light as a result. Many myths and contradictions regarding the life of Johnny and his family have been perpetuated for decades in film and literature. Vivian exposes previously untold stories involving Johnny's drug addiction, his fraught family life, and their divorce in 1968, as well as the truth behind the writing of two of Johnny's most famous songs, "I Walk the Line" and "Ring of Fire." Supplemented by a never-before-published archive of love letters and family photos, *I Walked the Line* offers a deeper look at one of the most significant artists in music history. Here, fans and readers can experience the extraordinary account of love and heartbreak between Johnny and Vivian, and come to understand Vivian's dignified silence over the years. Through this elegant, revealing, and powerful memoir, Vivian Cash's voice is finally heard.

Book Information

Paperback: 341 pages

Publisher: Scribner; Reprint edition (October 21, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416532951

ISBN-13: 978-1416532958

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 192 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #175,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Country & Folk #1426 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Actors & Entertainers #1451 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Movies > Biographies

Customer Reviews

A little-known prequel to the late great Man in Black's famous life is adoringly revealed by his first wife and mother of his four daughters. Before there was June, there was Vivian, the 17-year-old girl from San Antonio, Tex., who met Cash in the summer of 1951 as he was headed overseas in the army. Three years of ardent letter writing sustained them--indeed, a good part of this book consists of Johnny's aching letters from 1951 to 1954, revealing his attempts to keep himself away from

drinking and loose women, while begging her to wait for him and pray together. Finally wedded, the couple set out for Memphis, where Cash worked as a door-to-door salesman. After Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Two began to travel, Vivian, pregnant from year to year, moved with him constantly, sewed his performance clothes and scribbled lyrics for *I Walk the Line* as he drove in the car. By 1961, as Vivian Cash tells it, when Johnny was drinking and popping pills heavily, June Carter joined Johnny's tour and tenaciously pursued him. Johnny and Vivian divorced in 1966. Vivian, who died in 2005, has told her story candidly to TV producer Sharpsteen, disclosing myriad tender details and an affecting ability to forgive. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"This book is the greatest part of my mother's legacy as a wife, a grandmother, a matriarch, a mother, and most important, a woman in love." -- Kathy Cash "Vivian was there from the beginning with Johnny. I loved reading *I Walked the Line*. It brought back memories of our good times together and how crazy it was back then." -- George Jones "Just when you thought you had a good idea who Johnny Cash was, in this book we get inside the heart of the Man in Black. Only a very few knew Johnny Cash like his beloved Vivian. Now for the first time we get the full picture of who Johnny Cash really was. His pen and heart expose this very complicated man. If you think you knew Johnny Cash, think again. You see the side he never let anyone on the outside see. The love letters of Johnny Cash will make even the biggest man sneak a tear." -- Jimmy Carter, host of *The Jimmy Carter Entertainment Report* "Here's a love story that encompasses ten thousand pages of love letters. I'm glad I was there to see a lot of that love in the early years in California. Vivian was a very special person in my life." -- Johnny Western "We all thought we knew everything about Johnny Cash, but this book clearly reveals more secrets than ever before. In an age of email and IMs it is sweet to read the tender love letters a heartsore young man wrote to his very young girlfriend. They are full of tenderness and sweetness and caring. It is sad to see how once success, alcohol, and drugs enter the picture, everything changes. We live through the heartaches of their shattered marriage, his addictions, and a turbulent life. Vivian, the first lover and wife of this musical legend, tells the tale in a powerful way, and I am sure that all the readers will get as much from reading it as I did." -- Ivana Trump "I Walked the Line is a wildly romantic book, but also a sad and wrenching one...an unusually intriguing memoir." -- Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* "It's a mesmerizing story, complete with a bittersweet ending." -- *The Tennessean* "Riveting and dishy." -- *The Washington Post* "Viv's pained version of events depicted in *Walk the Line* deserves a hearing." --

This was a really good book. All the love letters that John wrote while he was overseas fighting for our country. He wrote such beautiful letters to Viv. He was such a romantic!!!!!! This is a must have for any Cash fan!!!!!!!!!!

Wow. What we don't know about people in the light.

What a gift to read Vivian's side of the story. Half the book was Johnny's letter written to Vivian. Wish there was more from Vivian. Still a good book.

This book is rife with Cash's love letters. Here and there they provide brief insights into the man's early struggles that were previously unknown to this reader. The format is disjointed: Early-on is some much too brief information about the pre-military couple; then, too they are one-sided letters; then a too brief overview of their marriage (much personal detail is missing; i.e., Cash's reaction to the untimely death of Luther Perkins would have been interesting); then the book concludes with more love letters that come out of nowhere. I found Vivian's take on her competitor, hotsy June Carter, candid and interesting as was her brief story behind the creation of the hit song, "Ring of Fire."

I am a huge johnny cash fan and i enjoyed the perspective of this book very much. It was very cool to read words that johnny actually wrote himself at a very young age. im happy vivian decided to share that with the world. That definately made this book truley amazing

I'm very glad that I chose this as the first book I read about Johnny Cash. There isn't a better place to start than at the beginning.

Now that some time has passed, I'll mention my current response to this book. If there'd only been about three Johnny letters, I'd give it five stars. It was time overdue for Vivian to speak candidly of her experiences. It took much courage to do this, and was probably impossible to express the full extent of painful complexities. Johnny's own writings tell of his boyhood dream to sing with the Carter family. When the chance came he took it. Vivian trying harder would never have merged their contrasting life styles. She was put in an excruciating position. There was no avoiding him and the

"other woman", due to her daughters visiting them, plus continuing public media exposure. Vivian deserves huge credit for handling all this far better than most people could manage.

I am a HUGE Johnny Cash fan, and I thought I knew everything about the man in the black, but something about reading his letters to Vivian revealed something about him. His compulsions, his inner battle. Amazing. I always had a soft spot for Vivian.

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