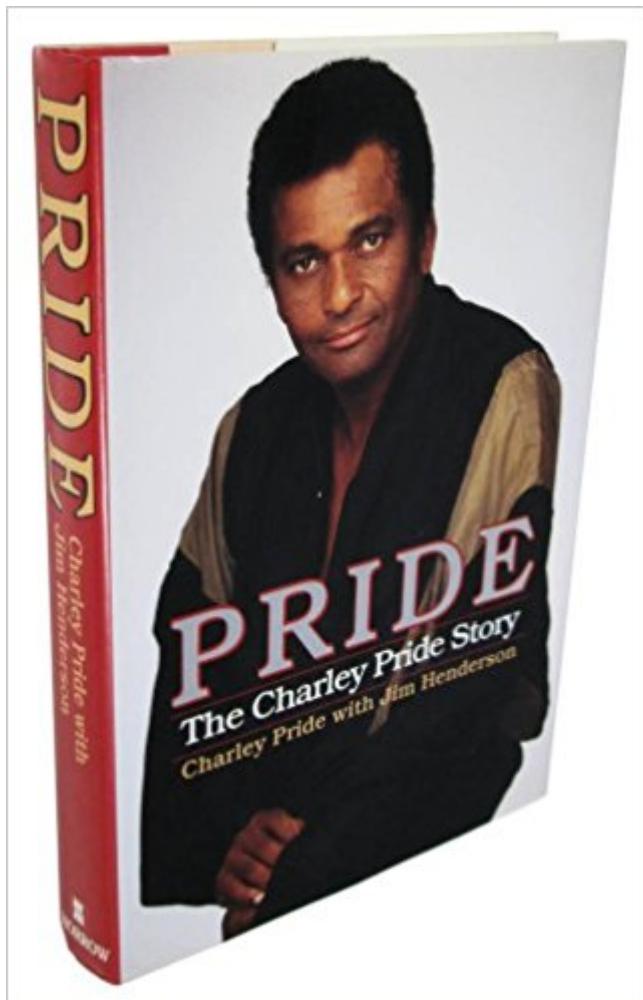


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Pride: The Charley Pride Story



Synopsis

A biography of country music's only black superstar describes his impoverished childhood in Sledge, Mississippi, his three Grammys, and his struggle as virtually the only black star in the country music constellation. 50,000 first printing.

Book Information

Hardcover: 302 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #332,516 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #130 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Country #135 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Country & Folk #793 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Popular

Customer Reviews

Charley Pride may no longer be a fixture on so-called country radio stations, but he has more talent than a slew of those twenty-something rock and roll wannabees who command the airwaves these days. This book proves that Charley is an equally talented author, and what a story he has to tell! From his impoverished childhood, through his military experience through his promising baseball career to country music stardom, the rags to riches tale is told in vivid detail. Readers will put it down feeling like they've made a new friend. It also contains in depth portraits of his wife of 40+ years, family, and associates who include some of Nashville's biggest names back when country music was really country. One question that will definitely be on your mind when you finish is, "Did that soldier from Alabama ever contact him?"

If the purpose of a biography is to introduce the human subject, then "Pride" succeeds admirably. All the bases are touched here, as we follow Charley Pride from a hardscrabble childhood in segregated Mississippi, through a once promising baseball career, by blue collar jobs in Montana to the big time in Nashville. This reader enjoyed a close look at the business side of Country. Does a

singer fly commercial, buy his own plane or use the traditional tour bus? Can you trust your manager-or anyone-to watch your financial back? There is always that payroll to meet! Charley narrates that many guys get in over their heads money-wise their musical talent notwithstanding. There are some gossipy tidbits about Gary Stewart ("She's Actin' Single, (I'm Drinkin' Double")), and that troubled trio Dave and Sugar. Charley even delves into the touchy subject of why commercial radio won't touch country oldies. "Pride" even has tempted this review to buy an astrology book! Charley believes in that stuff! There are a couple of minor factual glitches in "Pride": The unsuccessful tryout with the Mets had to have been in St. Petersburg, not Clearwater. Also, the Broncos were settled in Denver by 1960, not 1969. No harm done. This reviewer fondly remembers listening to "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone" on the jukebox at the Rod and Fun Club in Idar-Oberstein, Germany. That's how many city boys become country fans back in the 70s. "Pride" is simply a very good biography which puts a nice personal touch on its subject. A final point: "Pride" is only available via 3rd party purchase. handles these transactions very capably-no one should hesitate to buy on that account.

Good copy of this book. Although I am NOT a baseball fan I am enjoying reading the background of my favorite country western singer. I am just thrilled that he decided to follow his musical career as opposed to sports.

This is an excellent read, especially for Pride and country-western music fans. Charley gives real insight on who he is, his background, handling racism, and how he made it big.

I only knew Charlie Pride as a country singer, but I had heard something about he had wanted to play major league baseball and as a baseball nut I had to read it this book. What I didn't know was how much character Mr. Pride had. The book is full of great baseball stories, much humor, and of the story of how Charlie worked his way into the country music industry as a minority. But you also discover a man who never gave up on his dreams while at the same time turning racial biases and prejudices in to a non-issue in his own life, by handling it with class, character, a sense of humor and showing everyone that with hard work, talent and a little luck you can achieve anything.

As a long time Charlie Pride fan, I enjoyed reading his rags to riches story. Even though he faced much adversity in his life, he overcame all that and has had a wonderful career in country music, although he excelled in baseball as well. It is refreshing that he gives credit where credit is due to

his beloved wife, Rozene. Reading this book gave me a new respect and admiration for this great talent.

I had gotten this book for my Grandmother for Mothers Day because she is a big Pride fan. I had received it a little late (because I ordered late) and decided to read the first few pages and see what the hype was about. SO, read the whole thing and now listen to Mr. Prides music. It was a good easy read about a dream, the struggle, and the aftermath.

If you like country music and baseball this story about a mans climb to fame should interest you. His race may have given him a rough time but it did not stop him. His bipolar illness, though severe a couple of times didn't stop him either. The marriage to a bright and savvy wife was an asset to his career. I saw Pride early in his career and loved his tunes. He is what I consider a good man.

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