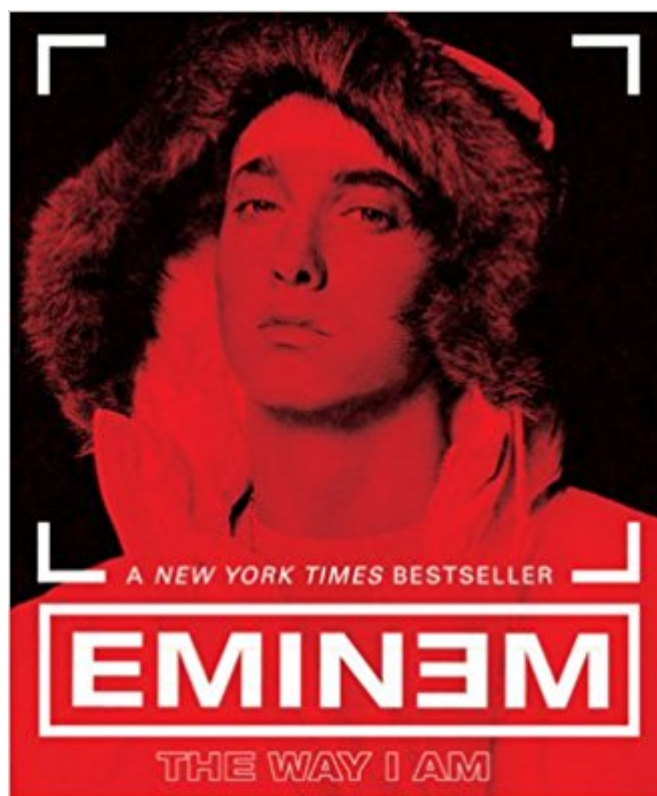


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The Way I Am



Synopsis

Chart topping-and headline-making-rap artist Eminem shares his private reflections, drawings, handwritten lyrics, and photographs in his New York Times bestseller *The Way I Am*. Fiercely intelligent, relentlessly provocative, and prodigiously gifted, Eminem is known as much for his enigmatic persona as for being the fastest-selling rap artist and the first rapper to ever win an Oscar. Everyone wants to know what Eminem is really like-after the curtains go down. In *The Way I Am*, Eminem writes candidly, about how he sees the world. About family and friends; about hip-hop and rap battles and his searing rhymes; about the conflicts and challenges that have made him who he is today. Illustrated with more than 200 full-color and black-and-white photographs-including family snapshots and personal Polaroids, it is a visual self-portrait that spans the rapper's entire life and career, from his early childhood in Missouri to the basement home studio he records in today, from Detroit's famous Hip Hop Shop to sold-out arenas around the globe. Readers who have wondered at Em's intricate, eye-opening rhyme patterns can also see, first-hand, the way his mind works in dozens of reproductions of his original lyric sheets, written in pen, on hotel stationary, on whatever scrap of paper was at hand. These lyric sheets, published for the first time here, show uncut genius at work. Taking readers deep inside his creative process, Eminem reckons with the way that chaos and controversy have fueled his music and helped to give birth to some of his most famous songs (including "Stan," "Without Me," and "Lose Yourself"). Providing a personal tour of Eminem's creative process, *The Way I Am* has been hailed as "fascinating," "compelling," and "candid."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is really great. Since the book is written mostly by him, you will learn A LOT about him, even the most hardcore fans will find somethings new here. He's very open, honest & pretty funny. Also, there's like 20 pages of his lyric sheets with comments on them by him, this was cool for me cause I like seeing how music artist write their stuff (although his handwriting is hard to read). Also there's personal pics (a bunch), drawings (like 4) but mostly this book is like sitting across him and interviewing him.

I am one of Eminem's "older" fans that he references in his book -- but it wasn't "8 Mile" that did it, it was his performance of "Stan" with Elton Jon. He has always intrigued me -- never smiles, seems kind of awkward in interviews, but yet is an artistic genius who is obviously the "real deal" and hence his long staying power. I thought the book was wonderfully written -- a conversational style that sounded just like him, yet wasn't so full of rap jargon that I didn't get it. I loved hearing about his relationship with Proof, who I hadn't known much about. It was interesting, and a little sad, to hear how fame has affected his ability to go out in public without a "posse". The book humanizes him and shows that he's matured; he even apologizes for that dumb Triumph the Insult Dog incident. And the photos of the scrawled lyrics, some on hotel paper, were fascinating. However, I felt key details were missing: He glosses over how he first got involved with Dr. Dre; there's barely anything about his relationship with Kim, how he met her, why they remarried then almost immediately split up again; there's nothing about his addiction to painkillers or going through rehab. The book just comes to an end rather abruptly. If he would have gone into more detail about these aspects of his life, the book would've been perfect, to me.

Even though I'm a huge Eminem fan, I learned a lot from this book. He covers a lot of subjects that he hasn't before and explains a lot of recent events too. I think the book is very well-written, easy to follow, and very interesting. I've been waiting for Eminem to write a biography for a very long time and I think the wait was well worth it. I'm not too big on reading but I finished this book in three days. If you're an Eminem fan, buy this now. You won't regret it because you'll learn a lot from it.

I loved this book. I'm like 20 pages from being done with the whole book. I just couldn't manage to put it down. I felt compelled to keep reading, it was so good. I loved all of the pictures---mostly, it was a lot of pictures of Eminem and Proof, and him and the D12 guys. It also has some pictures he drew, too. It has talked very little about his mom and Kim. Mostly he talks about what he went through getting famous, and what it was like to be famous and the pressures of being on tour, and a

little bit about the movie he was in, 8 Mile. He talks about his kids, Hailie, Alaina, and Whitney too. He also talks about the death of Proof and how hard it was for him to lose his best friend. He talks about his uncles who committed suicide, and some stuff about him getting in trouble with cops and being sued. All around this is a good book. I liked that it had lots of pictures and a documentary disc with it. I like that it shows some of his lyric sheets, and a page of 8 Mile's script. It has TONS of pictures, and I like his writing, he isn't overly-dramatic about everything like most authors (go to the teen section of your library. It sucks. It's all overly-dramatic vampires and stupid crap like that. I know most girls like that kind of books, but I don't). His writing is really casual, and that made the book better. Anyway, if you're a fan of his, then buy this. It's awesome. And if you just want to know more about him before you become a fan, then buy it. It's actually a good book. And the pictures are nice. He uses a lot of block letters and stuff, so that makes it feel more like a picture book. So. Yeah. This is just my opinion, I know his hates are going to say what a dumb book it is, but whatever ;)

Since this book is coming from a professional rappers point of view and not a professional writers point of view, I'm shocked to hear complaints like, "not enough writing." Truthfully, for someone who doesn't write professionally (rap doesn't count, it doesn't follow regular grammar or writing rules), he articulates himself very well. In addition, his memoir is honest and compelling without having to fill a certain page number quota or airing ALL of his dirty laundry. Eminem's book is by far one of the most thorough and informative autobiographies because he doesn't just dwell on his personal struggles but gives us, the fans, a glimpse into his music and music career; all of which should take precedence over any of the smut and BS some "real" fans are looking for in an Eminem memoir. I'm appalled to hear complaints saying, "he didn't get personal enough," or, "I wish he would have told us more about his kids and family," because that's just wrong on so many levels. Just because Eminem is famous doesn't give us the right to complain that maybe he wants to keep some things to himself. Some things are not meant to be shared with the whole world, after all, he DOES have children and family to think of and take care of and whatever he puts out he should be able to be proud of and not have to worry about his daughter picking up the book and maybe finding something out about daddy that he might not want her to know. Overall, excellent book. You don't NEED to know about his relationship with his family or how many drugs he's done. Doesn't change his music and sure as hell doesn't protect his family's best interests.

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