

Wouldn't it be Nice: My Own Story

By Brian Wilson

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Brian Wilson was the creative genius behind The Beach Boys. He turned a suburban California garage into a group that took the world by storm, with the sound of his songs, the sound capturing the laid-back, sunny Southern California lifestyle. But the cheerful image belied what was really going on. This autobiography describes Wilson's 20-year nightmare of drug addiction, alcoholism, obesity and mental illness. He spent three years alone in his room. He lost his family, and he nearly lost his life. It is a frank discussion of what destroyed his life and of the controversial forces which helped to save it.

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Wouldn't it be Nice: My Own Story By Brian Wilson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This autobiography by the creative force of the Beach Boys follows Wilson's quick rise to worldwide fame, his descent into drug-assisted psychosis, and his subsequent (yet shaky) recovery. Coauthor Gold's background as a writer for People magazine is evidenced by individuals occasionally managing to somehow "laugh" or "shrug" an entire sentence. The book is effective in two areas, however. First, Wilson successfully evokes the pain caused by his estrangement from family and band members (his ex-wife refused to cooperate in the writing of the book, as did Beach Boys Mike Love and Carl Wilson, respectively Brian's cousin and brother). Second, the psychologist Eugene Landy, popularly perceived as an evil Svengali, is portrayed as a possible charlatan who nevertheless helped Wilson enormously. While this autobiography is as predictable as the C-Am-F-G7 chord progression, many fans of the Beach Boys will want to read this book and most won't be disappointed. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/15/91.

- *John Smothers, Monmouth Cty. Lib., Manalapan, N.J.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

An express train to hell and back with the leader of the Beach Boys. Wilson begins with his darkest days, in November 1982. Then, weighing over 340 pounds, smoking six packs of cigarettes and snorting five grams of coke a day, failing to bathe for weeks at a time, "I stank. I was dirty...I was insane." How did the founder of "America's band" reach this bottom? According to the equally frank life-review that follows, father Murry Wilson, a would-be but talentless composer, had a lot to do with it, taking out his frustrations on his sensitive son (born in 1942) through mind-twisting beatings and ridicule. And then there were the drugs and the relentless pressure to produce hit tunes; by the late 60's, Wilson, wealthy and renowned for such songs as "Good Vibrations" and "I Get Around," was drifting into a paranoid schizophrenia that would envelop him for 15 years. Salvation finally came in the person of Eugene Landy, an unorthodox psychologist who took Wilson by the hand in 1983 and turned his life around through a rigorous program of diet, exercise, and therapy. Wilson devotes nearly half of his text to his resurrection, and it's an inspiring story (although recent moves by the other Beach Boys to sever him from Landy--for reasons Wilson ascribes to greed and jealousy--find the self-admittedly "brain-damaged" author unsure about his mental future). Most readers, though, will find of even greater interest Wilson's detailing of his early encounters with the Beatles, Elvis, and other rock luminaries; of his stormy relationship with the other Beach Boys; of his now-dead brother Dennis's ties to Charlie Manson; and, in a recurrent motif that illuminates his troubled tale, of how he goes about composing his exquisite music. A bold and genuinely affecting account by a founding father of rock 'n' roll: a must for popular-music fans. (Fifty-plus b&w photographs--not seen.) -- *Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Peter Burnett:

This Wouldn't it be Nice: My Own Story book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This particular Wouldn't it be Nice: My Own Story without we know teach the one who reading it become critical

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Patrick Oneil:

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Nichol Colby:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is usually Wouldn't it be Nice: My Own Story.

Carolyn Lew:

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