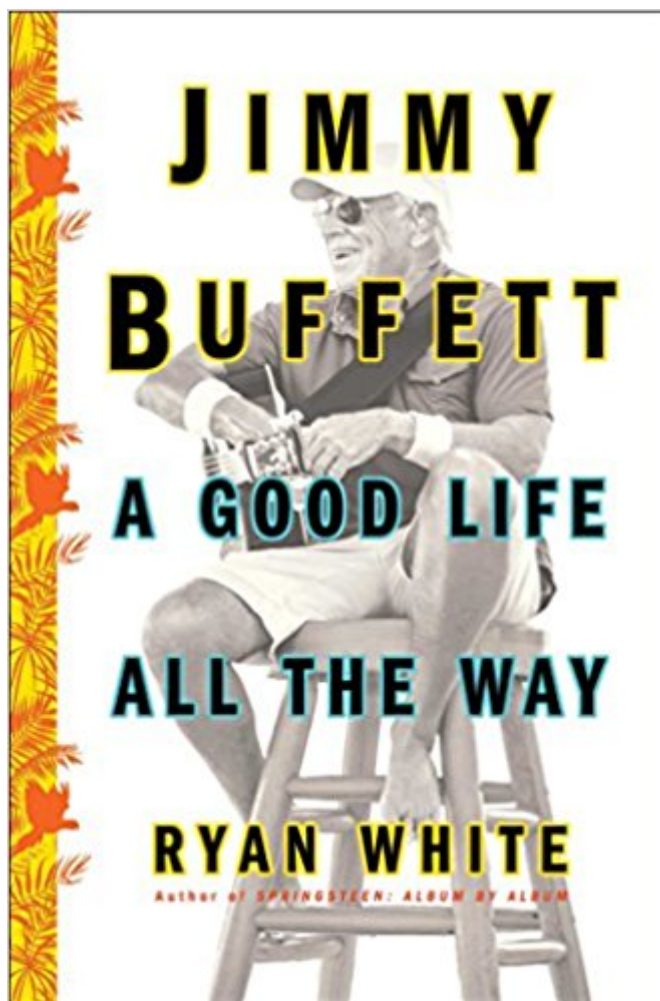


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Jimmy Buffett: A Good Life All The Way



Synopsis

A candid, compelling, and rollicking portrait of the pirate captain of Margaritaville—Jimmy Buffett. In *Jimmy Buffett: A Good Life All the Way*, acclaimed music critic Ryan White has crafted the first definitive account of Buffett's rise from singing songs for beer to his emergence as a tropical icon and CEO behind the Margaritaville industrial complex, a vast network of merchandise, chain restaurants, resorts, and lifestyle products all inspired by his sunny but disillusioned hit "Margaritaville." Filled with interviews from friends, musicians, Coral Reefer Band members past and present, and business partners who were there, this book is a top-down joyride with plenty of side trips and meanderings from Mobile and Pascagoula to New Orleans, Key West, down into the islands aboard the Euphoria and the Euphoria II, and into the studios and onto the stages where the foundation of Buffett's reputation was laid. Buffett wasn't always the pied piper of beaches, bars, and laid-back living. Born on the Gulf Coast, the son of a son of a sailing ship captain, Buffett scuffed around New Orleans in the late sixties, flunked out of Nashville (and a marriage) in 1971, and found refuge among the artists, dopers, shrimpers, and genuine characters who'd collected at the end of the road in Key West. And it was there, in those waning outlaw days at the last American exit, where Buffett, like Hemingway before him, found his voice and eventually brought to life the song that would launch Parrot Head nation. And just where is Margaritaville? It's wherever it's five o'clock; it's wherever there's a breeze and salt in the air; and it's wherever Buffett sets his bare feet, smiles, and sings his songs.

Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Touchstone (May 9, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1501132555

ISBN-13: 978-1501132551

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.3 x 9 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 112 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #22,809 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Rock #94 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs >

Professionals & Academics > Business #180 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts &

Customer Reviews

“A buoyant new Jimmy Buffett biography sings. . . . [White interviewed] dozens of Buffett’s fellow Key West, Florida, barflies, record producers, bandmates, friends, and business associates, and the portrait that emerges is affectionate and admiring but devoid of Parrot Head fawning—the proper key for such a bio. It helps that White’s prose bears a music of its own, vividly evoking Buffett’s formative journey from Mobile, Alabama, to New Orleans, to Nashville, and then to Key West.” —GARDEN & GUN “A gifted storyteller with a beat reporter’s nose for hidden details, Ryan White has crafted a definitive portrait of one of America’s most potent cultural icons. And yet this is so much more than an account of sandy-footed slacker king Jimmy Buffett. It’s also a peek into the yearning heart of overworked Americans searching for their own shaker of salt and helping drive the fantasy that turned Buffett’s tequila-stunned 1977 smash *Margaritaville* into the keystone of a multi-billion dollar leisure industry.” —Peter Ames Carlin, New York Times bestselling author of *Bruce’s* “Finally—a full-length Jimmy Buffett bio that’s accurate and entertaining. Ryan White captures a life of creativity, of strumming songs, taking care of business, and of owning the stage while dancing to the bank. Great writing makes for great reading, and this book outshines all earlier looks at Buffett’s career and lifestyle. White has interviewed dozens of the man’s colleagues, influences and guides, and asked all the right questions. Now we get to enjoy new insights and correct info right down to the sunburn. Thank goodness for Ryan White. He delivers a fine tale and, like Buffett, super entertainment.” —Tom Corcoran, author of *Crime Almost Pays* and *The Quick Adios (Times Six)* “White unravels the tale of America’s favorite pirate with journalistic vigor and an ear for the poetic detail. It turns out that Jimmy Buffett’s real story is as interesting and wild as the countless myths and legends that have grown around him.” —Hayes Carll, Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter “Ryan White has written a highly entertaining and very informative book about Jimmy Buffett; one that manages to go well beyond the mythology and legends while still giving them their just place in the grand design. An excellent read.” —Patterson Hood, *Drive-By Truckers*

Ryan White, the author of *Springsteen: Album by Album* and *Jimmy Buffett: A Good Life All the Way*, has twice been named one of the top feature writers in the country by the Society for Features

Journalism. He spent sixteen years at The Oregonian covering sports, music, and culture.

He's written for The Wall Street Journal, Sports Illustrated, The Sacramento Bee, The Dallas Morning News, and Portland Monthly. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

I enjoyed this book, after I got into it. The beginning is a little heavy on the music biz in general and a lot of people I knew nothing about. However, I enjoyed all those great stories about how some of my favorite Buffett songs got written. It was great to hear some of the inside scoop from friends and people who worked with him. It seems the advent of the Parrothead phenomenon was as much of a surprise to Jimmy as it was to anyone. Fins up!

A fantastic read. I have followed and lived vicariously through Jimmy Buffet since I first heard Come Monday and he jammed with my secretary in the late 60s or early 70s here in Baton Rouge. I had no idea what an interesting and charmed life he has led. Like Willy Nelson, keep on going Jimmy!

Finished the book and all I can say is what a great book. I bought one for my friend as a Birthday present. It was a race to finish but I think I won. I even took it to where I volunteer and when it was slow I snuck in a couple pages.

Very good and interesting book about one of our greatest entertainers in music. I have almost every book written by and about Jimmy Buffett and Ryan White did a very good job writing this book. A must for any Parrothead.

As a Jimmy Buffett fan I had to get this book. I am only about a quarter of the way through it but I am really enjoying it. I love all the history behind Jimmy's rise to fame and also all the references to other musicians like Jerry Jeff Walker. This is a really good book to read if you are a Buffett fan.

Just started... up to page 25...Appears to be a good read...!

Pretty good anthology of the story behind the stories of Jimmy Buffett's music, but not a page turner like "A Pirate Looks at Fifty." Regrettably it's become the book I read between books.

Good read and I particularly like the anecdotes about the inspirations behind the songs. You'll start to pick up more subtleties in Buffett's music after reading this book.

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