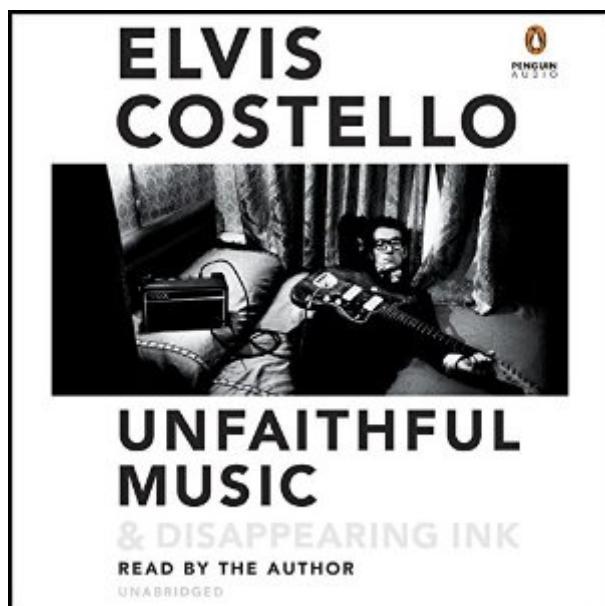


The book was found

Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink



Synopsis

Born Declan Patrick MacManus, Elvis Costello was raised in London and Liverpool, grandson of a trumpet player on the White Star Line and son of a jazz musician who became a successful radio dance band vocalist. Costello went into the family business and had taken the popular music world by storm before he was 24. Costello continues to add to one of the most intriguing and extensive songbooks of the day. His performances have taken him from a cardboard guitar in his front room to fronting a rock and roll band on your television screen and performing in the world's greatest concert halls in a wild variety of company. *Unfaithful Music* describes how Costello's career has somehow endured for almost four decades through a combination of dumb luck and animal cunning, even managing the occasional absurd episode of pop stardom. The memoir, written entirely by Costello himself, offers his unique view of his unlikely and sometimes comical rise to international success, with diversions through the previously undocumented emotional foundations of some of his best known songs and the hits of tomorrow. The book contains many stories and observations about his renowned cowriters and coconspirators, though Costello also pauses along the way for considerations on the less appealing side of infamy. *Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink* is destined to be a classic, idiosyncratic memoir of a singular man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Elvis Costello might have been a fine novelist (or, better, short story writer), historian, or music critic. In this lollapalooza of a terrific memoir, he combines all these aptitudes and then some. Frequently brilliant, sometimes startlingly, this episodic tour of a life in music is funny, sad, touching, insightful

and self-aware, buoyed by a refreshing sense of gratitude, and shot through with even more guilt and self-reproach than you'd expect from this former altar boy. No fan should think of missing it. There's much to learn here about Costello's life and work, and the relationship between the two, even for his most ardent fans. Some revelations have all the more impact for having been hiding in plain sight. Yes, "Alison" is autobiographical, but not in a way you ever guessed. And although there have been plenty of clues along the way -- his one big MTV hit was about his grandmother, after all, and most fans are aware that his father had a career as a musician -- this book reveals the surprising depth to which his sense of himself is rooted in family and how much this has always informed his music and his approach to it. He is, as always, enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the music-making process and the music that has influenced him. But he also reveals links between his songs and his life in ways he has shied away from before, perhaps because he knows that if he wants to tell his story, it's a fool's errand to try to untangle that knot. Don't expect a salacious tell-all. Costello's great passion is music and his approach to other kinds of passion is discreet. His first encounter with the Beatles' music is described not only in more detail than his encounters with his first girlfriend, but with considerably more erotic energy.

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