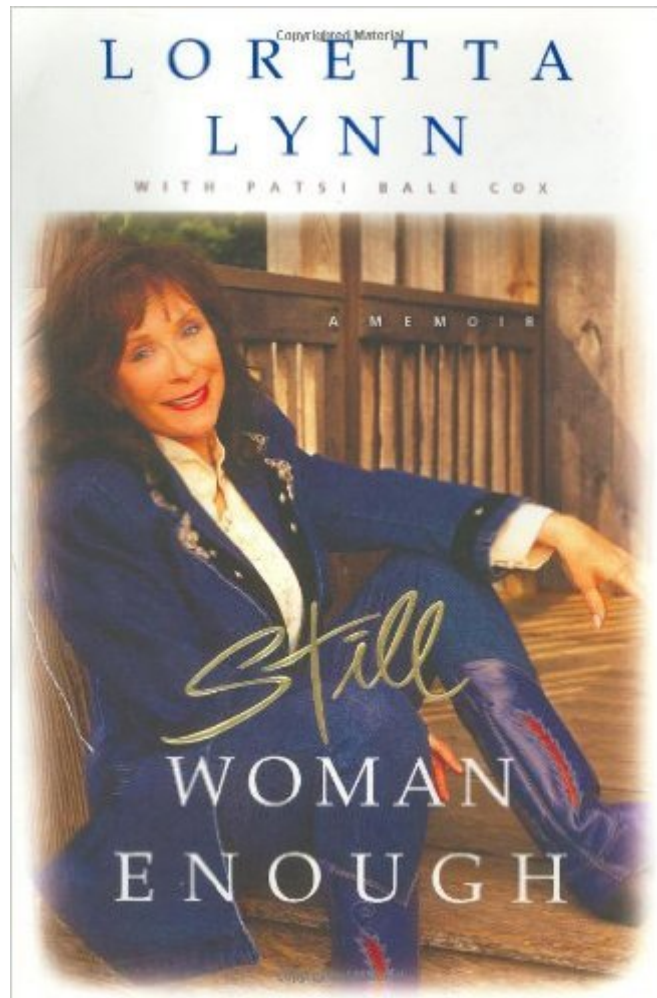


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Still Woman Enough: A Memoir



Synopsis

In this riveting follow-up to her #1 New York Times bestselling memoir, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, Loretta Lynn continues her captivating story about triumph over the odds. Loretta Lynn's first memoir, *Coal Miner's Daughter*, was a #1 national bestseller that sparked an Oscar-winning movie and left fans hungry for more. Now Loretta finishes that story, and the second half of her life is every bit as remarkable and inspiring as the first. In a friendly, down-home style that belies her stature as country music's most celebrated performer, Loretta writes candidly about the price of fame and the stresses of stardom; tells of friends and family she's loved and lost along the way; and shares secrets not included in her first book. But at the heart of this memoir is her stormy relationship with Doo, the man she married at thirteen and stayed with until he died, through his drinking, their violent arguments, and their passionate reconciliations. Loretta reveals the devotion behind "one of the hardest love stories in the world." Filled with intimate portraits of country legends, and brimming with folksy humor, this personal tale of grit, determination, and loyalty will enthrall Loretta's countless fans and anyone who adores a good old-fashioned love story. Loretta Lynn, the most celebrated entertainer in the history of country music has a lot to sing about:--9 gold albums--A national bestselling book and film, *Coal Miner's Daughter*--First female artist to win the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year--First country artist to win the prestigious Golden Plate award given to those who excel in all fields of achievement worldwide--First female recording artist to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame--Longtime member of the Country Music Hall of Fame--One of Entertainment Weekly's 100 Entertainers for 1950-2000--One of Ladies Home Journal's 10 Most Admired Women of the World

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Customer Reviews

We all loved both the book and the movie "Coal Miner's Daughter." And now Loretta Lynn is back with "Still Woman Enough" to not only finish the story since the original book, but to complete and more accurately detail events from the earlier book. As expected, the vivid stories are told in Loretta's appealing brutal honesty, wit, detail, and charm. The biggest change between the two books is that as time and people have passed, Loretta can provide a different perspective on her life. You will openingly laugh at some of the tales. And you will be greatly sadden by the stories of abuse. We have all seen stories of Loretta in the tabloids for years, but nothing I've read in the tabloids is as shocking as what I found in the book. Several parts of this book must have been very difficult for Loretta to write, and I give her a lot of credit for having the guts to do so. Loretta also writes about several country music legends, personally I enjoyed reading about Conway Twitty and Tammy Wynette. All in all this book is fascinating and very satisfying. And, yes, she is still woman enough.

This book really makes you feel that Doolittle Lynn, portrayed as such a hero in the Loretta Lynn's first book, and played by Tommy Lee Jones as a saint in the 1980 movie version of the memoir, was really the devil. Oh, she fell in love with him young, she was not quite fourteen years old, and still Loretta Webb, under 14 just like Juliet in ROMEO AND JULIET, but when push came to shove it was Loretta Lynn who got pushed and shoved sometimes physically and violently. She explains how she was forced to write COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER and put a positive spin on things, by her management and by family pressures, and also she did not see yet how "Doo" and his wayward cheating ways were destroying her family from the top on down. You know how one bad apple can destroy the whole sack? Well in this case it was "Doo." And yet she continued to stay with him and nurse him through his battles with diabetes, etc, heart problems, until his 1996 death. But at that point, as she says, it was like the sun (instead of going down) appeared from behind dark clouds and she found herself able to see a lot more clearly. Doo drank too much, often with her connivance, and slept around, most humiliatingly with women in her own family, and yet she sucked it all up and stood by her man even when she was actually in danger from him. She admits that their children were hurt in this one-sided struggle, and yet as she saw it, it was all part of a mysterious game plan God had for her (and for them). However, STILL WOMAN ENOUGH is not all

about blaming Doo, it is about good friends, good times, the incandescent electricity of being a country star, and many anecdotes about fame and her fellow musicians. On every count you feel that she has pulled up a kitchen chair and she's telling you things in her low voice, intimate things that make you feel you're the only one in on the know.

I happened upon Loretta Lynn's new book by accident and I finished it in ONE DAY! Impossible to put it down. Like "Coal Miner's Daughter" "Still Woman Enough" is written as if Loretta were sitting having a chat with you telling you all that happened. Her memoir is revealing and she holds nothing back. And I was shocked at some of the 'things' she had to go through with her beloved husband. She says often throughout the book that these are things she couldn't tell while he was still alive....and small wonder. Loretta Lynn is a remarkable 'just a person' person! If you don't know why Loretta is universally loved, this book will show you why.

This memoir might be more aptly named a horror story. She has hinted before about Doolittle Lynn's womanizing and drinking, but here Loretta lets loose with the abuse he dished out not only on her, but on their children as well. She tells of going hungry for weeks, feeding her children dandelion greens while Doo spent his paycheck on a fishing boat or a fancy camera because "Doo thought his money was his to spend as he pleased." She tells of him tying their daughter outside to the clothesline and hanging their son by his ankles over the side of a tall bridge. There's even an incident when he "waterboards" her! On top of this, despite him sending Loretta off to work to support him, he felt that her money was his too and he blew most of the money she made on failed business schemes, liquor, and women. Meanwhile, she was not allowed to give her children any money, because Doo said they had to make their own way. The ultimate irony may be that after being named Entertainer of the Year, Loretta still had to play with house bands because Doo wouldn't let her hire her own. My question is, still woman enough for what? Not woman enough to leave an abusive husband, and not woman enough to defend her children either. She seems not to have protected the children from him at all. I finished this book in one sitting, but it left me wanting to know still more: Hey Loretta, why did you take it? You had money - why didn't you leave him? What did you love about him? Why did you leave your children in the hands of an abusive drunk while you went on tour to support him and his girlfriends? He seems to have had no redeeming qualities whatsoever. Doolittle -- an appropriate nickname if there ever was one.

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