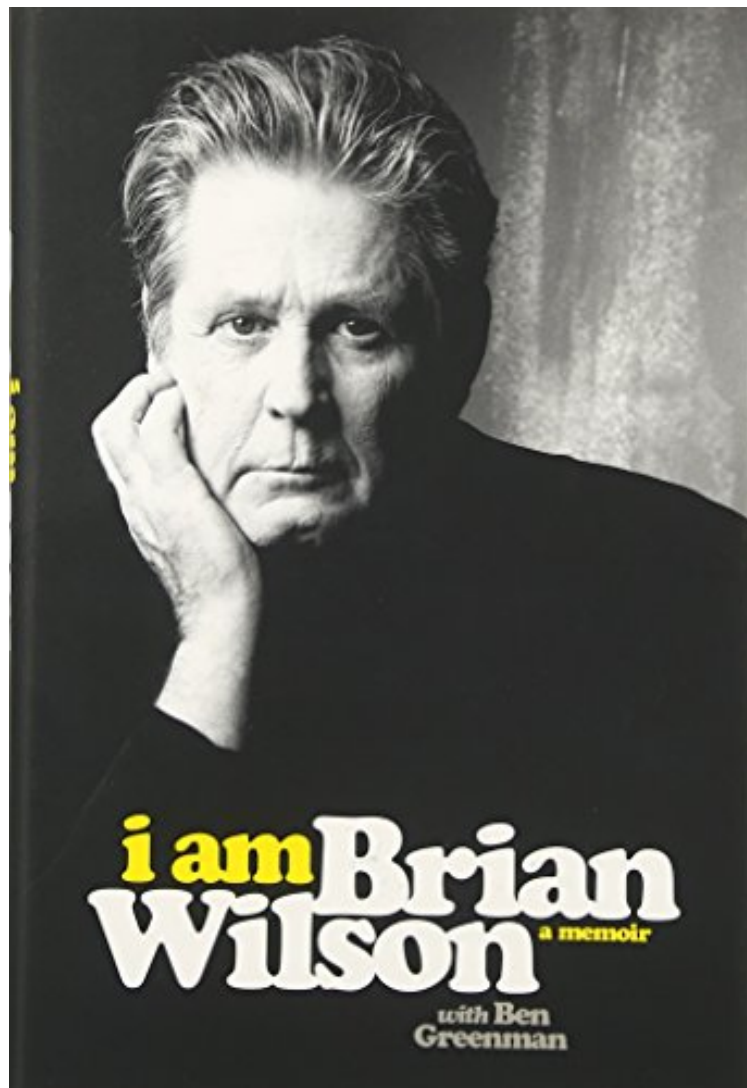


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## I Am Brian Wilson: A Memoir

Brian Wilson

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#27111 in Books Wilson Brian 2016-10-11 2016-10-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 1.13 x 6.45l, .0 #File Name: 0306823063312 pages I Am Brian Wilson A Memoir | File size: 68.Mb

**Brian Wilson : I Am Brian Wilson: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Am Brian Wilson: A Memoir:

79 of 82 people found the following review helpful. A Must For All Music Fans By Richard A. Root This is one of the most moving autobiographies that I have ever read. Brian Wilson, who is one of music's geniuses has finally written HIS story. I've read several books on him before this. Brian verifies many of the stories that I have read or heard, but clarifies others. And he does it with a kind and loving heart. His story is given in an honest light. Was he perfect? No. Did he make mistakes? Of course. But, he is quick to praise others who have heaped abuse on him throughout his life.

The three who are often highly criticized in his life have been his father Murry Wilson, Mike Love and Dr. Eugene Landry. Brian doesn't sugarcoat his treatment by any of them (although he has surprisingly little animosity against Mike Love). He even gives Dr. Landry some credit for helping him initially in the mid-70's. And, he is quick to give credit to his father for giving him the background he had in music as well as the drive to succeed. He credits Mike Love in many ways, including the high energy he gives The Beach Boys live shows, and as a collaborator on many songs. Brian Wilson is a towering figure in the history of Rock and Roll. But, he has suffered for 50 years from mental illness. In this book he makes it clear that he is vitally interested in assisting people to understand the importance of mental illness, and in properly treating the disease. I highly recommend this book for any reader.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great Companion Piece to Brian's Breathtaking Music By Me The man, his music, and his triumph...despite so many obstacles. Written by Ben Greenman, yet obviously in Brian Wilson's own words - a masterful piece of book writing that manages to capture the many hours of interviews with Brian, turning his thoughts and recollections into a fireside chat of sorts. Knowing the history of the Beach Boys - and more importantly, the Wilson brothers, it's obvious that Brian is being completely honest about his life. Although he suffered abuse from his father, his cousin Mike Love (in the form of mental bullying), and Eugene Landry, he goes easy on them (especially his father) - but there's enough here to validate the many instances of such abuse that has previously been reported. But what really shines through is Brian's music, and the times his gift to create such beautiful music shone through the abuse and mental illness. The reader is treated to various accounts of some of his best music production days - throughout multiple decades. Told in a non-linear fashion, the book comes across as a long talk with a close friend. In the end, a heartwarming story of some great friends and a wonderful wife in Melinda Wilson.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worth the wait for true Brian Wilson fans By Customer As a life long Brian Wilson fan, I have waited for this book for a very long time, and it does not disappoint! It reads like an intimate conversation with Brian. The details of his past are revealed not in chronological order, but as part of an overall discussion about his thoughts, fears, observations, and day-to-day life since completing SMiLE in 2004. I am a trained trial attorney and have read the book with a critical eye. I was impressed that Brian did not attempt to rewrite his prior autobiography or otherwise comment on what others have written about his past. Rather, he gives what appears to be a sincere accounting of his life as best as he can remember, taking into account gaps in his memory, his unwillingness to revisit certain painful events, and the overall state of his mental health. This book provides valuable insight into the way in which Brian Wilson presently views his life and his past, and it is a "must read" for all true fans.

They say there are no second acts in American lives, and third acts are almost unheard of. That's part of what makes Brian Wilson's story so astonishing. As a cofounding member of the Beach Boys in the 1960s, Wilson created some of the most groundbreaking and timeless popular music ever recorded. With intricate harmonies, symphonic structures, and wide-eyed lyrics that explored life's most transcendent joys and deepest sorrows, songs like "In My Room," "God Only Knows," and "Good Vibrations" forever expanded the possibilities of pop songwriting. Derailed in the 1970s by mental illness, drug use, and the shifting fortunes of the band, Wilson came back again and again over the next few decades, surviving and -finally- thriving. Now, for the first time, he weighs in on the sources of his creative inspiration and on his struggles, the exhilarating highs and the debilitating lows. *I Am Brian Wilson* reveals as never before the man who fought his way back to stability and creative relevance, who became a mesmerizing live artist, who forced himself to reckon with his own complex legacy, and who finally completed *Smile*, the legendary unfinished Beach Boys record that had become synonymous with both his genius and its destabilization. Today Brian Wilson is older, calmer, and filled with perspective and forgiveness. Whether he's talking about his childhood, his bandmates, or his own inner demons, Wilson's story, told in his own voice and in his own way, unforgettably illuminates the man behind the music, working through the turbulence and discord to achieve, at last, a new harmony.

Chicago Tribune, 10/11/16 Wilson's book documents scattered memories and streamlines them into a series of impressions and anecdotes Offer[s] valuable if unsettling insights into the personal dynamics inside an American band. AXS, 10/13/16 Wilson goes beach-combing through the past, panning the sands of time for the socio-psychological seashells that gave rise to America's most successful singing group and launched Wilson's lifetime bout with mental illness Here Wilson recounts the good, the bad, the ugly, and the beautiful in the straightforward conversational tone of a mature, experienced man reclining in his *Lay-Z-Boy*, albeit tempered with his boyish enthusiasm (and melancholy). Dallas Morning News, 10/14/16 An unflinching portrait. New York Journal of Books, 10/11/16 Immediate, informal, and confessional Behind the wholesome image of shy boys and cute girls in a world of eternal sunshine, the Beach Boys inhabited a much darker reality. Brian Wilson nails it in his latest memoir. The LA Beat, 10/13/16 One of the most honest and forthcoming autobiographies ever written by a musician As you start to read, you really feel less an observer, and more of a participant in [Wilson's] journey If you only read one book this year, it should be Brian's book. Publishers Weekly, 9/12/16 [A] charming and powerfully written memoir that will engage a readership beyond the multitude of Beach Boys fans Despite his fame and success, Wilson comes off as a genuinely modest and gentle soul Wilson's emotional authenticity is beguiling as he takes readers deeply into his mind, voices

and all, to describe his unique manifestation of musical genius. No Depression, 9/16/16 Wilson's memoir offers a more sober glance at the spiritual and physical forces that haunt artists and that often drive them to produce the beautiful, sad, and relentlessly affecting music we often embrace. Wilson's memoir eventually grabs us at a deeper level than Love's. If you're looking for fun, fun, fun, pick up Love, but if you're searching for a more introspective, in my room, experience, pick Wilson. Canadian Living, 9/22/16 In this tell-almost-all memoir, Brian Wilson candidly reflects on his struggles with family, substance abuse and mental illness and digs deep into the inspiration and meaning behind his music. It's a must-read for any fan of The Beach Boys or the '60s pop scene, in general with big-name music icons of the era (Phil Spector, Carole King, Paul McCartney) featuring in many of the stories. Record Collector, Issue 459 His recollections of the abuse he suffered at the hands of life-coach Eugene Landy and his father are told with such blunt economy that they are quite crushing. Wilson's equally candid and plainspoken about his work. There's a good deal of myth-busting. Goldmine, November 2016 Wilson's memoir is streaked with melancholy. Wilson fans will find it a compelling book. Huffington Post, 10/12/16 Wilson takes you on a journey into the life of a creative genius, exploring his turbulent life and creative influences and how, regardless of his inner and outer demons, there is always hope. I Am Brian Wilson: A Memoir isn't the kind of book you can read in a day. Like a summer vacation, you want it to last forever. As a memoir, honest and insightful. But it's very much a memoir of a musician. From reading this book, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the man behind some of the world's greatest hits and for music in general. Forbes.com, 10/11/16 Wilson sets the record straight. His voice definitely comes through. It is a wonderful insight into a troubled genius. Rolling Stone, 9/27/16 Excellent. I Am Brian Wilson is soulful and earnest like spending quality time with a gentle sage with an endearingly erratic attention span. Wilson is heartbreakingly blunt about his mental breakdowns and suffering at the hands of his father. He has startling insights into the music. Rob Sheffield. Time magazine, 9/29/16 Disarmingly personal. Minneapolis Star Tribune, 9/29/16 When you read his new memoir you'll get an even deeper exploration into the mental illness and the rebound, the villains and heroes in his life. Wall Street Journal, 9/30/16 As plain-spoken as its title. Here the band's presiding genius wanders over the terrain of his life as a son, father, husband and supremely gifted musician. Tell[s] us much that we didn't know. Suggest[s] how we might best view the artistic life any life, really. Loud and Quiet, October 2016 In I Am Brian Wilson, Wilson is unflinching in his rendering of the euphoric highs and chaotic lows that have made up the last seven decades. His and the Beach Boys' story has been told many times before and is one we may think we know already, but it has never before been voiced with the clarity, honesty and insight on offer here. A New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly Best Seller! Vanity Fair, September 2016 I Am Brian Wilson slipstreams through the past like a message in a bottle. It has moments of personal testimony that are poignant and indelible. New York Post, 8/11/16 1960s Beach Boy on mental illness, sorrow, drugs, destabilization, demons, turbulence and discord. Booklist, 9/1/16 Music journalist Greenman helps keep this meandering memoir coherent and poignant. CNN.com, 8/24/16 Plenty of authors have written about this Beach Boy and now he'll get his say. Rolling Stone, 9/8/16 Wilson tells his own story: his battles with his abusive father, the pressure to score hits in the Sixties, and his long struggle with mental illness. Billboard, 9/3/16 Wilson delves into his battle with mental illness and how he created the band's pioneering sound.