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*Toni Tennille*

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**Toni Tennille : Toni Tennille: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Toni Tennille: A Memoir:

83 of 83 people found the following review helpful. Make Your MoveBy DoverPoetAs a 10-year old kid in 1975, my bedroom walls were plastered with Captain and Tennille posters. I loved their music, and Toni's million-watt smile seemed to make life more bearable for this pre-pubescent, short-haired, trumpet-playing geek girl, with an alcoholic dad.Life went on, I survived, the walls got repainted, and years later, enter this book of Toni's. If you were a die-hard fan like I was of theirs back in the day, you approach this book with a pre-determined love/hate relationship: given the news of their divorce and the inevitable flurry of comments and assumptions from the press, you realize that your toes aren't going to be tapping with each page you turn, because you know that "Butterscotch Castle" won't be playing in the background...But, you are intrigued, and years in between youth, with hopefully more insight, coupled with maturity, makes you want to read this book, and that's what I did - in 2 days, to be exact.All of the standard memoir elements are there, and you get to learn a lot about Toni's family - the comedy and the tragedy, and the book progresses on from there. As you read through the book, you also learn that along with her damaged finger from an accident as a little girl, Toni hid many other aspects of her life that were less-than-perfect, and the ultimate shocker is the reality of her "relationship" with the Captain.I think each person needs to read this for themselves to form their own interpretation: some may see it as a tragedy - for all parties involved. You may find yourself saying again and again, "How did she remain in that marriage for so long?" Mind you, Toni is quite matter-of-fact when she writes of the goings-on with Daryl Dragon (AKA The Captain), but she is not disrespectful. Your heart may also break when you witness all the years Toni felt like she had to "prove" herself somehow to Daryl, and how she held on until she couldn't, anymore.Among that heartbreak though, you will find yourself cheering for Toni, as she pursued and achieved many music-related dreams of hers, and in this way, this book segue-ways from a tale of sorrow to one of triumph.What I really learned after finishing this book is that "Happily Ever After" is ultimately possible. The irony is that for so many years, The Captain and Tennille displayed - and what seemed to so many of us - pulled off, this fairy-tale life, and selfishly - I think the type of relationship they purported to have way back then gave a lot of us hope and happiness, along with their music - music from two very talented individuals.Alas, it was mostly all smoke and mirrors.However, by the end of the book, when Toni transitions into her own life away from Daryl - this is the point where you may smile because you are happy for her because you know it is not the end for her, by far - she ends the book with a new beginning.....And you know this time, she is truly happy.76 of 77 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Person, Beautiful Memoir!By Donna HillI felt as though I were living much of this book with Toni. I'll admit that I got bogged down with some of the details involved in the recording industry among other things. But

for the most part I was delighted in the way she tells her story so honestly and thoroughly from the time she is a little girl growing up with a talented but addicted father, a hardworking mother, and three sisters to the many years she shares with Daryl Dragon, her partner in love and business who then becomes her husband and who is obsessed with an extreme diet and addicted to pouring a large amount of money into houses. But these houses weren't love nests. Toni always yearned for more than Daryl could give. Luckily for her, she was able to derive much pleasure from show business and from her cherished dogs and cats. I cried at the end. This memoir has a happy ending. I'm just seven years younger than Toni, and I remember the Captain and Tennille days. I always admired Toni. She's one of those people whose face can light up a room. I'm so happy that she is finally content with her life. Interesting, dramatic, beautiful story. 68 of 69 people found the following review helpful. Toni Tennille's Stunning, Shocking, Soul-Baring Mesmerizing Autobiography By LittleMy17 What if what you believed was fake? If you know who the 70s duo of Captain Tennille are, you're probably envisioning a beautiful, confident, talented gl chanteuse/songwriter; high-energy and smiley with a sultry voice. Her handsome, mute, keyboard-genius husband is in a Captain's hat. She gazes adoringly at him as she sings, he gives her a secret trace of a smile and looks at her with his doe-eyes in a way that obviously means something to this in-sync, madly-in-love couple. They're all about romance, and work together making wonderful music, which they perform to perfection. Grammy Award winners. Their own TV show. Her own Talk Show. He owns a recording studio. She has a successful Jazz and Standards singing career. And she's touring with Victor/Victoria. They have gorgeous houses. Their life is perfect. Right? Wrong. Toni Tennille's autobiography is beautifully written; simultaneously sentimental, agonizing, uplifting, heartbreaking, intriguing, and shocking. She pulls no punches, starting the book with a childhood accident that resulted in the amputation of her fingertip. Learning to disguise this "imperfection" by distracting with a dazzling smile helped her hone her outward image of pure sunshine, bleaching the faccedil;ade of her often difficult personal relationships. From her charming and talented alcoholic father to her utterly unromantic and often-disturbing marriage of 39 years to increasingly eccentric "Captain" Daryl Dragon, Toni Tennille, along with co-author/niece Caroline Tennille St. Clair, tell a story of a life that has experienced the enviable goals of fame and fortune, but not without tremendous personal cost from the high emotional and financial tuition at the School of Hard Knocks. Her admiration, appreciation, and love for her talented sisters run through the book as a sub-current, a stabilizing foil for her relentless career and personal pressures. This is a book that just can't be put down. The Audible audio book features Toni Tennille's story in her own voice, filled with so much feeling that it's like she's having a conversation with just you. Honest and raw, her hypnotic yet expressive voice leaves no guessing as to the meaning of her words.

Since bursting onto the scene in the mid '70s, the pop duo Captain and Tennille have long defined the sparkling, optimistic idea of everlasting love, both in their music and through their image as a happy and, seemingly, unbreakable couple. They were an irresistible pair to millions of fans all over the world, further underscored by the rousing "yes, we can!" gospel of their biggest hit, "Love Will Keep Us Together." But underneath the image was an entirely different story that the fans never saw: a woman who fought a lonely struggle against the controlling and often bizarre behavior of her emotionally inaccessible husband. Toni Tennille: A Memoir is a visceral account of Toni Tennille's life from her childhood in the segregated South to her thrilling rise to fame in the world of pop music to where she is now: no longer one-half of a famed couple, but a stronger woman for all she has experienced—both the good and the bad. Toni hopes that her story will help anyone who feels trapped in a toxic relationship realize that it is never too late to break away from it.

"Love Will Keep Us Together" is one of the last songs I wrote with Howie Greenfield in the early seventies. I'll never forget the day when I received a 45rpm in the mail of my song by a new group "The Captain and Tennille", which by the way, I could not pronounce correctly. I put it on the turntable and almost fell off my chair. It was the most perfect production and performance of a pop song that I had ever heard. I marvel at what a great singer Toni Tennille truly is. Certainly in the league of Ella Fitzgerald and others from years before. Now, she has written a moving memoir filled with the strength and warmth she has always possessed. I will always have a special place in my heart for her as a person and for her as an artist." - Neil Sedaka, legendary recording artist and songwriter. (Neil Sedaka) About the Author Toni Tennille is an icon of American music, having been part of the popular duo Captain and Tennille with her husband at the time, Daryl Dragon.

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