



Dark Star: The Roy Orbison Story

By Ellis Amburn

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Roy Orbison changed the course of popular music with songs like Pretty Woman, Crying, and Only The Lonely. Rock stars from Elvis to Bruce Springsteen have been profoundly affected by his work. This insightful book examines the power of Orbison's music--from his pioneer days to his fantastic comeback--and the events that lead to his untimely death.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From his rockabilly roots in West Texas, Roy Orbison perfected the operatic rock ballad ("Only the Lonely," "Crying") delivered in a quavering voice that could "scream away the pain of heartbreak." And there was heartache aplenty to sing about: his teenage first wife, whom he began dating when she was 14, died in a motorcycle accident in 1966; two years later, two of his sons died in a fire that destroyed the family home. Already addicted to sleeping pills, amphetamines and fast motorcycles, according to this account, Orbison married a German teenager in 1969 as his personal life spun out of control and his career fell into near-total eclipse. His comeback, cresting in a collaborative album with Tom Petty, Bob Dylan and George Harrison, was cut short by his death in 1988. This well-researched bio provides vivid glimpses of the workaholic rocker's early years with Sun Records, his tours with the Beatles, his self-destructive tendencies. Amburn has collaborated on autobiographies with Shelley Winters and Priscilla Presley. Photos.

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From Library Journal

It is not ironic that Roy Orbison, the man possessing one of pop music's most thrilling voices, sang tear-jerking ballads and hid behind dark glasses. As seen in Amburn's biography, Orbison's life reflects a full range of rock 'n' roll emotions: he rose to stardom in the 1960s, tragically lost his wife and two children, sunk into obscurity, reemerged to great acclaim, was voted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, then worked himself to death on the crest of a huge comeback. This evenly paced, unbiased, well-researched account of the singer's life is based on recollections of family, friends, and colleagues and material gleaned from print and electronic media. Orbison's transcendence of generations of rock, pop, rhythm and blues, and country music will give this book wide appeal.

- Donald W. Maxwell, Carmel Clay P.L., Ind.

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