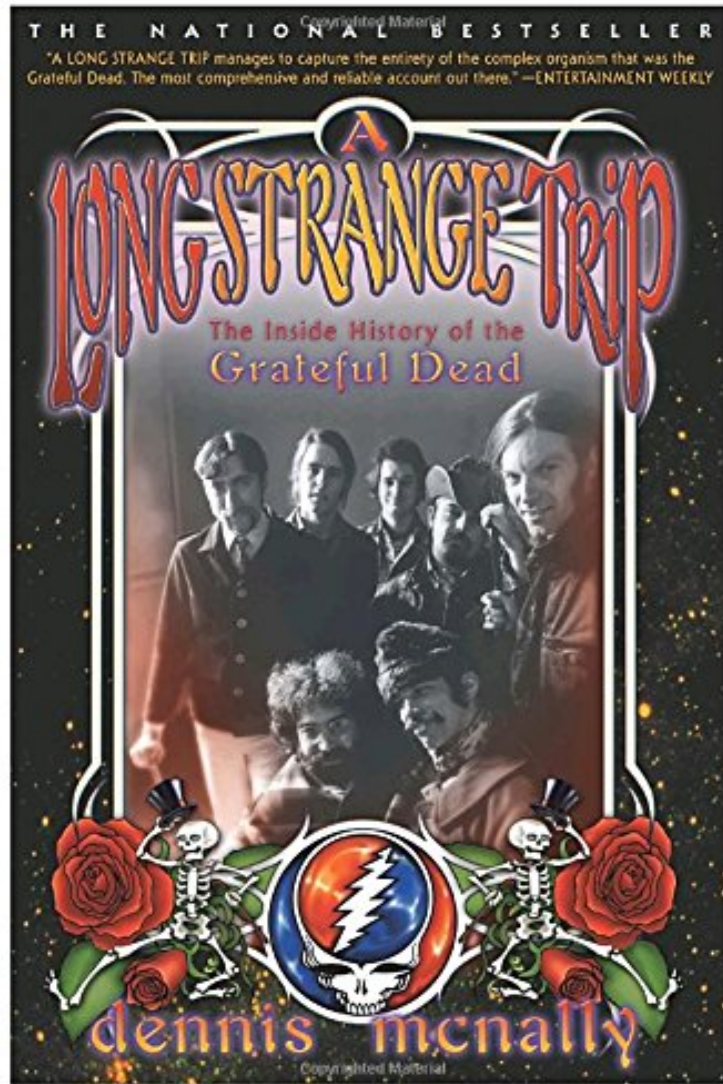


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A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead

Dennis McNally

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Dennis McNally : A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Higher DeaducationBy Danny MackI've read nearly a dozen biographies of the Grateful Dead, but this book is truly a history of the Dead. I learned more from it than all the others combined. The historical information regarding the band member's childhoods contained details I had never heard before. Likewise with the early history of the band. Two aspects really stick out. First, he provides details regarding

practically every song they wrote, which I found fascinating. Second is the details regarding all the musicians and collaborations they were involved with. I had to buy at least 10 CDs because they were described in the book- Miles Davis opened for them and played Bitches Brew, which blew Lesh away, so I bought it. Garcia, Hart and others collaborated with David Crosby, Graham Nash, Paul Kantner and others on albums recorded at Wally Heider's studio just because they were all hanging out there, so I bought them all. Same with the Grateful Dead's recording co.(I knew about those but had to buy a few I previously had on vinyl). The book is long, but it's worth sticking with. It answered some questions I had puzzled over for years. I always thought it was odd that Bobby's guitar didn't present well in concert. Find out why on the bottom of p.549. If you're a real Dead Head, he is sure to mention shows or events you are personally familiar with. I found that incredibly cool. Another cool thing is that if you have a good collection of their music (Dick's Picks was very helpful), you can listen to albums and shows he specifically references and gain a much deeper understanding of what was going on with the band, and the world, at that exact time. One reviewer thought he went a little easy on the drug issues, but I disagree. However, if you want more sex and drugs with your rock and roll, read Steve Parish's Home Before Daylight. Between that and this book, you'll know about as much as you can about my favorite band, the Grateful Dead.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Groovy and GratefulBy sisterearthThis is a great thorough history of The Grateful Dead. I enjoyed reading the book and got more in depth information on many of the stories of the band written about in other books. Starting from the beginning the book goes through the years with the band. A long strange trip indeed. I have read many books about the Dead and Jerry Garcia, this was one of the good ones. Lots of details and insight into the grooviest band on the planet! Such a long long time to be gone and a short time to be there.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great to catch up on everything I missedBy pegasusWell written. Great to catch up on everything I missed.

The complete history of one of the most long-lived and legendary bands in rock history, written by its official historian and publicista must-have chronicle for all Dead Heads, and for students of rock and the 1960s counterculture.From 1965 to 1995, the Grateful Dead flourished as one of the most beloved, unusual, and accomplished musical entities to ever grace American culture. The creative synchronicity among Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann, Mickey Hart, and Ron Pigpen McKernan exploded out of the artistic ferment of the early sixties roots and folk scene, providing the soundtrack for the Dionysian revels of the counterculture. To those in the know, the Dead was an ongoing tour de force: a band whose constant commitment to exploring new realms lay at the center of a thirty-year journey through an ever-shifting array of musical, cultural, and mental landscapes.Dennis McNally, the bands historian and publicist for more than twenty years, takes readers back through the Deads history in A Long Strange Trip. In a kaleidoscopic narrative, McNally not only chronicles their experiences in a fascinatingly detailed fashion, but veers off into side trips on the bands intricate stage setup, the magic of the Grateful Dead concert experience, or metaphysical musings excerpted from a conversation among band members. He brings to vivid life the Deads early days in late-sixties San Franciscoan era of astounding creativity and change that reverberates to this day. Here we see the group at its most raw and powerful, playing as the house band at Ken Kesey's acid tests, mingling with such legendary psychonauts as Neal Cassady and Owsley Bear Stanley, and performing the alchemical experiments, both live and in the studio, that produced some of their most searing and evocative music. But McNally carries the Deads saga through the seventies and into the more recent years of constant touring and incessant musical exploration, which have cemented a unique bond between performers and audience, and created the business enterprise that is much more a family than a corporation.Written with the same zeal and spirit that the Grateful Dead brought to its music for more than thirty years, the book takes readers on a personal tour through the bands inner circle, highlighting its frenetic and very human faces. A Long Strange Trip is not only a wide-ranging cultural history, it is a definitive musical biography.

From Publishers WeeklyThe Grateful Dead forever changed popular music by ushering in the psychedelic sound of the 1960s as they valiantly toured almost nonstop for three decades and consumed loads of illegal substances. Yet the most fascinating, and revealing, thing about the Dead is their fans the Deadheads: tie-dyed, drugged up and devoted in a way that makes Beatlemania look rational. What did the Dead have that fellow San Francisco bands Jefferson Airplane, Quicksilver Messenger Service and Moby Grape lacked? As author McNally (Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, the Beat Generation, and America) explains in this entertaining and well-written book, the Dead built up their loyal following by treating fans as equals, as "companions in an odyssey." After improvisation, writes McNally, "the single largest element in the Dead's weltanschauung was their pursuit of group mind under the influence of LSD...." As the Dead's publicist for more than 20 years, McNally packs this 600-pager full of intimate details otherwise unavailable, such as the time the group's janitor vetoed a suggestion from multimillion-dollar promoter Bill Graham as too "commercial." On the other hand, McNally clearly dodges the more unflattering and controversial aspects of the musicians' lives offstage; indeed, every living member of the original lineup provides glowing endorsements on the book's back cover. But perhaps McNally thinks the Dead's underside has been done to death; in any case, with a little prettifying he still manages to pen the most exhaustively researched book on the band to date.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalMcNally has been the Grateful Dead's

official historian since 1980. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From BooklistMcNally, Grateful Dead historian and publicist for more than 20 years, is well suited to write the group's biography as comprehensively as anyone could, and, naturally, he writes from a very positive, supportive perspective. He says the Dead's music is "an incredible document of American electronic folk music in the late twentieth century." And you thought it was just music to get stoned and dance to. "But the primary legacy of the Grateful Dead," he asserts, consists of its "stylistic and social influence on other bands, the philosophical underpinnings that Dead Heads will carry with them to their graves, and the recorded music that the band left behind. No other American band . . . united the improvisational nature of jazz with rock modalities in quite the same way." So, there you have it. Those looking for a detailed history of the Dead and/or such sweeping pronouncements will greatly enjoy this account of how the band has been truckin' all these years. Mike Tribby Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved