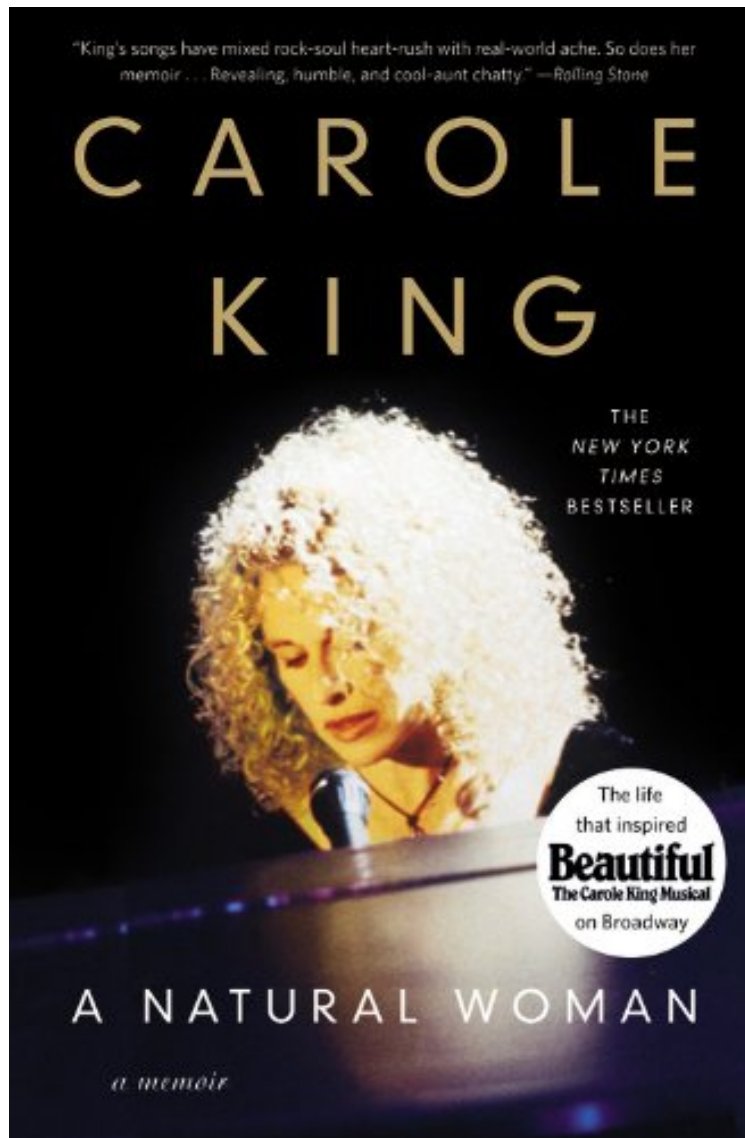


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## A Natural Woman: A Memoir

*Carole King*

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**Carole King : A Natural Woman: A Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Natural Woman: A Memoir:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting life - needed a writer's touch  
By Nancy Mehegan  
Carole has had a fascinating life and it's interesting to see how someone so talented and famous had the same insecurities as the rest of us mortals. Her songwriting ability is phenomenal and many of my memories of the 1970s are triggered by her beautiful songs. That said, I do wish she had partnered with a writer and/or editor when writing the book. The

writing "almost" made a fascinating life seem dull. It only illustrates that you can't be good at everything. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but mixed bag By Customer I kept putting this one down a lot and not getting back to it for long periods. Early chapters concerning her childhood held my interest, but parts of her rise to stardom seemed glossed over. I found her move to rural, off-the-grid living fascinating. Her account of domestic violence is heartbreaking while not overbearing -- often celeb memoirs are completely taken over by an "issue" (domestic violence, drug addiction) so you don't get the full autobiography. On the other hand, after adequately detailing a legal battle over a land dispute in her adopted Idaho, the rest of the tome rambles and becomes less structured. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Read By Don Paske This was an interesting read. We learn about her failure at marriage and, while she purports to be a loving mother, her almost ambivalent work as a mother. I would have liked it more if she would have explained the mechanics of song writing. I kept on waiting for some more information about Carole and James Taylor, but the book just never got there.

The life that inspired Beautiful: The Carole King Musical on Broadway. Carole King takes us from her early beginnings in Brooklyn, to her remarkable success as one of the world's most acclaimed songwriting and performing talents of all time. A NATURAL WOMAN chronicles King's extraordinary life, drawing readers into her musical world, including her phenomenally successful #1 album Tapestry, and into her journey as a performer, mother, wife and present-day activist. Deeply personal, King's long-awaited memoir offers readers a front-row seat to the woman behind the legend. The book includes dozens of photos from King's childhood, her own family, and behind-the-scenes images from her performances.

Weaving a tapestry of rich and royal hue, King's affecting memoir eases readers through her life, from the girlhood in Brooklyn where she was already jotting down lyrics and her teenage years that culminated musically with the hit "Will You Love Me Tomorrow?"; through her tumultuous marriage and songwriting years with her first husband, Gerry Goffin; her moves back and forth between New York and California; her three marriages after Goffin; and her deep commitment to environmental issues bred by her living self-sufficiently with her family in the mountains of Idaho. She confronts the physical abuse she experienced at the hands of her third husband; her disbelief that she would let someone treat her that way, and her incredulousness at her own decision to remain in the relationship; and her eventual decision-with the help of an abuse support group-to leave him. King's passionate engagement with all kinds of music, and her musical genius (her Tapestry album remained on the charts for six years running, a distinction that eluded even the Beatles) flood through these reflections, and she recreates the excitement of working with producers such as Lou Adler, Jerry Wexler, and Ahmet Ertegun, musicians James Taylor, Danny Kortchmar, Russ Kunkel, Leland Sklar, and Aretha Franklin, and songwriters Neil Sedaka, Cynthia Weil, and Barry Mann, among many others. Publishers Weekly An acclaimed singer-songwriter invites fans into her personal life. When King embarked on her Living Room Tour in 2004, she re-created onstage the atmosphere that millions had come to expect from the slew of albums she recorded from the 1970s onward. Tapestry, her breakthrough 1971 album, not only became a bestseller and a benchmark for women's achievements in the music industry but also introduced the down-to-earth, optimistic and liberated worldview of a woman with some timely stories to tell. King's trajectory mirrored that of many of her fellow musical peers. Bitten by the music bug at an early age and subsequently converted to rock 'n' roll in the '50s, she began writing her own songs, landing a record deal at the age of 15. She would experience far greater success, however, when she and co-songwriter Gerry Goffin turned out hit after hit for such artists as Aretha Franklin, the Shirelles and the Monkees. Having married Goffin when she was 17, King spent most of the '60s balancing her career with her responsibilities as a wife and mother. Change was in the air, though, and when her marriage deteriorated, she set off for Los Angeles to seek her own voice. That voice comes through strongly on every page of this memoir, an engaging assortment of recollections comprising a journey that started in her working-class Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn, took her to Manhattan and Laurel Canyon and saw her escape what Joni Mitchell called "the star maker machinery" to settle in rural Idaho. In one of the book's best sections, King explains her decision to retreat from fame in the mid '70s, chronicling the joys and sorrows of going "back to the land" as well as the tempestuous relationships she had with two men during this period. She is also refreshingly candid about her four marriages. A warm, winning read that showcases baby-boomer culture at its best. Kirkus s About the Author Carole King had her first No. 1 hit in 1961, at age 18, with "Will You Love Me Tomorrow". Collaborating with former husband Gerry Goffin, the team went on to write more than two dozen chart-toppers, including "One Fine Day", "The Loco-Motion", "Will You Love Me Tomorrow", and "(You Me Me Feel Like A) Natural Woman." Her 1971 solo-album, Tapestry, won 4 Grammys, and earned her the record for longest time an album by a female artist has remained on the Billboard Charts (6 years), as well as the longest time holding the #1 position (15 consecutive weeks). King, in addition to writing more than 100 top-selling songs has recorded 25 solo albums. In 2007 she and longtime collaborator James Taylor reunited and recorded Live at the Troubadour. Released in 2010 the album debuted at number 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 and The Troubadour Reunion Tour became the second highest grossing Tour of that year. She has won numerous lifetime achievement honors and has been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, "Hit Parade" Hall of Fame, and Rock and Roll Hall

of Fame. Carole King continues to entertain audiences the world over. She released her most recent album in December, 2011, *Carole King: A Holiday Carole*, to rave reviews.