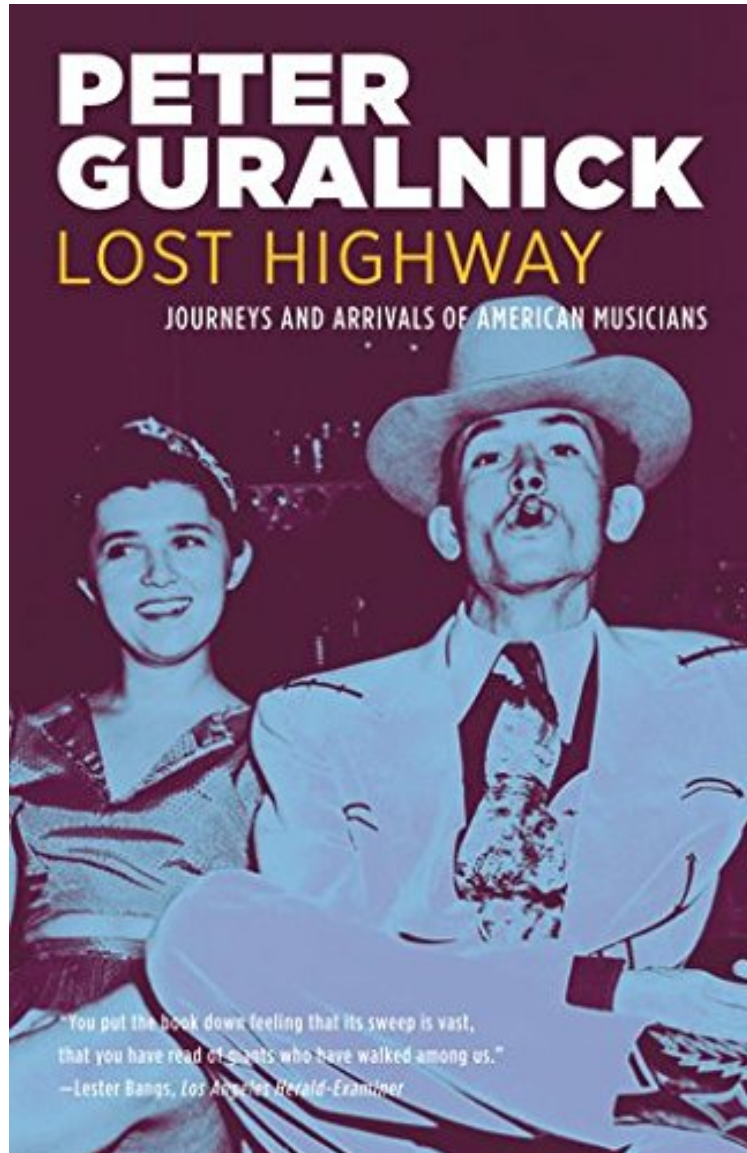


(Free pdf) Lost Highway: Journeys and Arrivals of American Musicians

Lost Highway: Journeys and Arrivals of American Musicians

Peter Guralnick

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Peter Guralnick : Lost Highway: Journeys and Arrivals of American Musicians before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lost Highway: Journeys and Arrivals of American Musicians:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Solid Overview Of Roots Music By Bill Slocum From the Grand Ole Opry aristocracy to the smoky dives of Chicago, Peter Guralnick is our guide through this 1979 examination of what diverse streams have fed American popular music. In parts a celebration, in parts a eulogy, it makes for some

fascinating reading. Those who read and liked Guralnick's earlier, shorter "Feel Like Going Home" will enjoy this second trip to the well. There's calls paid on Rufus Thomas, "the world's oldest teenager" whose blues-centered dances led to some early-'60s chart success; on DeFord Bailey, a harmonica whiz who was the Opry's first major star until folks figured out he was black; Hank Williams Jr., who lives up to his Daddy's tall legacy with the help of artificial stimulants and his own sense of the blues; and Charlie Rich, who was last visited in "Feel Like Going Home" as something of a straggler but grew into one of the biggest country singers of the 1970s, not that we find him here feeling too happy about it. The best writing in this collection comprises several chapters on Elvis Presley, who was still just barely alive when Guralnick wrote his first essay here in 1976 and just dead when he wrote his next right after. Elvis was the one guy Guralnick didn't talk to, but you feel his presence in interviews with his old guitarist Scotty Moore and former mentor Sam Phillips. "He hit like a Pan-American flash, and the reverberations still linger from the shock of his arrival," Guralnick writes. There's a lot of characters, and some seem more interesting for their uniqueness (Jack Clement, Charlie Feathers) while others seem like misses altogether (who was James Talley anyway, and why should we care?) But there's some arresting profiles of those who made it and those who didn't, plus a sense of what got them there. "It has to be the only thing for you - the one thing in your life," says cowboy legend Ernest Tubb. Guralnick makes it all seem worth it, for a few hundred pages at least. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the best, most insightful and respectful guide to American roots ...By David McClureMy original copy went the way of all dog-eared paperbacks. I'm grateful this has been reissued. Peter Guralnick is, along with the late Robert Palmer, the best, most insightful and respectful guide to American roots music that America has produced. "Sweet Soul Music" is his masterpiece, but all his work is excellent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good for people who don't know about rock and roll. By Michael KennedyI bought the book because Hank Williams is on the cover. However, it does not contain any articles about Hank Williams! It's a good book if you don't know much about country or rock and roll, but for the experienced reader, it's nothing new.

This masterful exploration of American roots music--country, rockabilly, and the blues--spotlights the artists who created a distinctly American sound, including Ernest Tubb, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Elvis Presley, Merle Haggard, and Sleepy LaBeef. In incisive portraits based on searching interviews with these legendary performers, Peter Guralnick captures the boundless passion that drove these men to music-making and that kept them determinedly, and sometimes almost desperately, on the road.

.com A companion to the author's 1971 entre to book publishing, *Feel Like Going Home*, *Lost Highway* reveals Peter Guralnick's growth as a chronicler of American roots music. Originally published eight years after *Going Home*, *Lost Highway* tills the same rich soil--the likes of Sun Records chief Sam Phillips, bluesman Howlin' Wolf, and dispirited countrypolitan star Charlie Rich resurface. But here Guralnick also explores the psyches and works of kindred spirits both celebrated (Elvis Presley and Merle Haggard) and obscure (rockabilly journeyman Sleepy LaBeef and the "world's oldest teenager," Rufus Thomas). Guralnick reveals a unifying hook: for each musician, touring has become "journey, arrival, process, definition, virtually replacing in almost every instance the very impetus that set them out on the road in the first place." The author has a knack for finding the insecurities entangled with the talents of his peripatetic idols--perhaps they feel more comfortable opening up to him, sensing he only seeks to understand how their anxiety affects their art. Regardless, you can't read *Lost Highway* without gaining a greater appreciation of the music that prompted its writing. --Steven StolderFrom *Library Journal*Published in 1971 and 1979, respectively, these titles continue Guralnick's analysis of American music. *Feel Like Going Home* concentrates primarily on blues artists, with some borderline rockers thrown in, while *Lost Highway* covers a wide array of artists from several genres, including everyone from Hank Snow to Elvis to Merle Haggard. Both volumes were hits with critics and have a place in popular music collections. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From the PublisherA powerful tribute to the roots of rock and roll, *Lost Highway* celebrates country music, the blues, and their revolutionary offspring, rockabilly.