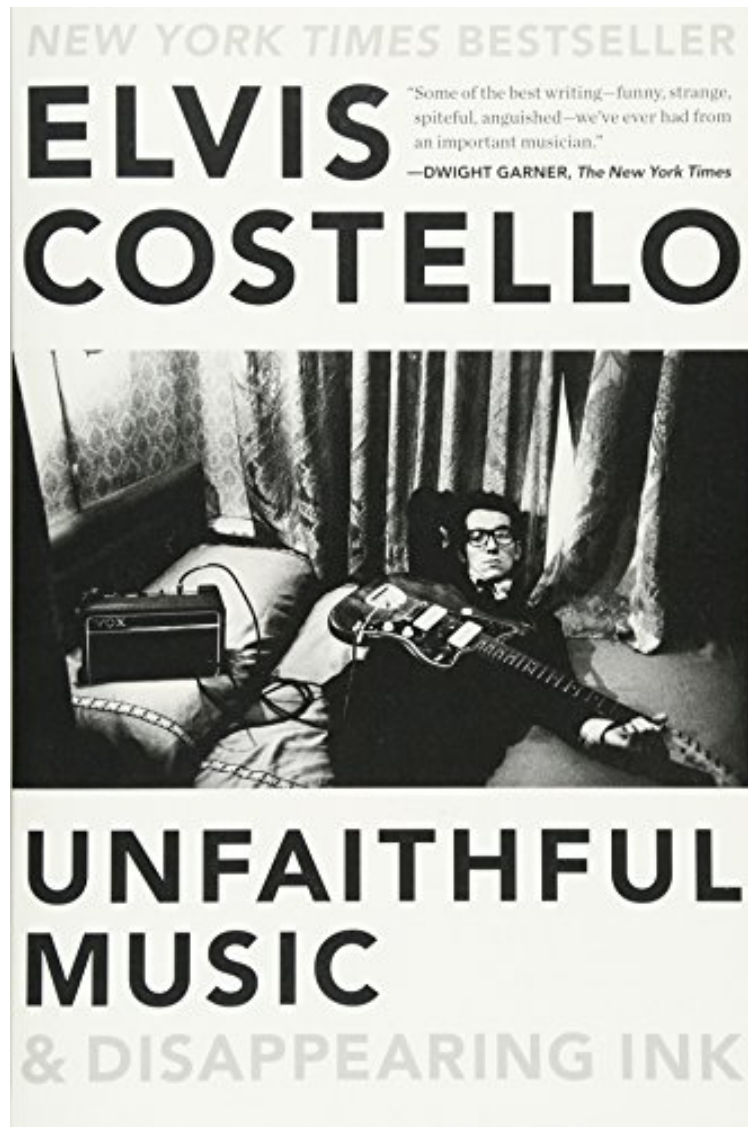


[Free pdf] Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink

## Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink

*Elvis Costello*

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**Elvis Costello : Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite audio book experiences... ever! By B. Lazaroff Whew!!!! Listening to Elvis C. over the course of 15 CDs was a profoundly moving, entertaining, and informing listening experience. I wanted to read the book, and when I discovered that Elvis narrates the audio, I decided to listen. His voice, as reader of his material, is superb. His imitations of other figures are hysterical! (I'm

smiling as I write this remembering his Bob Dylan and George Jones imitations). I've learned so much from this book, about Elvis's life, about his writing craft, and about all the tremendous (and varying) musicians that have inspired him. I enjoyed all the lyrics he stated throughout the text. The book has re-introduced the entire Elvis canon to me, and then some. Elvis albums I've previously dismissed I now look forward to listen to with a newly-learned appreciation. I now want to buy the book to read it again. This book is guaranteed to expand your record collection - among the new records I have purchased (thanks to Unfaithful Music), is Billie Holiday's All or Nothing at All, which EC raves about as one of his necessary recordings (or which there are so many). If you are passionate at all about music, read - better yet listen to - this book!

68 of 73 people found the following review helpful. A must read from one of the great songwriters of our time

By Mr. T. Anderson

I still remember my first encounter with Elvis Costello's music. It was the John Peel show on the radio of course, the song was Less than Zero, and I found it captivating: distinctive voice, catchy melody, and above all words that were evocative, mysterious and vaguely menacing even though I didn't fully understand them. I snapped up the album My Aim is True when it was released a few months later and have been a fan ever since, following the twists and turns of his career from punk rock to RB to country to collaborations with jazz, classical and hip-hop musicians. Costello is an amazing wordsmith and songs pour out of him, such that many of his B sides and outtakes are more than equal to the best work of many others, a characteristic he shares only I think with Bob Dylan who makes a regular appearance here as they encounter each other and end up performing together on a number of occasions.

Now this is his book, 36 chapters (plus postscript) and approaching 700 pages. It is an excellent read, presuming you have some time for the man or an interest in the music scene of the last forty or so years. Writing in short pithy paragraphs (just as you would expect) Costello tells the story of his life, his bands, his writing, his father Ross MacManus who was also a singer, girls girls girls, and along the way recounts many entertaining and often alcoholic incidents of life on the road. The rhythm of the book is somewhat staccato and the sequence of events is only loosely chronological that is, there is more about his earlier years in the first half of the book, and more about his later years in the second, but he constantly jumps back in forth in time making literary counterpoints. His habit of ending an anecdote just when you thought it was getting going can be annoying; but he is never dull. It would be an interesting exercise to rearrange, or attempt to rearrange, the book into chronological order, but I don't fancy doing it with my printed copy. There are black and white photos interspersed throughout the book; they don't look great partly because they are printed on paper designed for text. In addition they have no captions. A shame. Costello writes a lot about his father, and in some ways the book is a tribute to him. He writes of his statement a couple of years ago that he would give up making records, which at the time he said was about spending more time with his children. The real reason was that I needed time to imagine how I could bear to write songs and not be able to play them for my father. Watching him listen to music was irreplaceable to me, he says. Such passages are where Costello shows most emotion. One good reason to read the book is for insight into Costello's songwriting. Some songs are described in detail, often including how they were influenced by or borrow from existing music, and how the words came together. One of my favourite passages (since I am a fan of both) is a conversation with Dylan: One night Bob Dylan said to me: U2! How could they do that to you? How could they take your song like that! It took me a moment to know what he was talking about, and a moment more to realize that he was putting me on. But then, U2's Get on your boots was probably to Pump it up what Subterranean Homesick Blues is to Chuck Berry's Too much monkey business. Costello is a performer and the book is in a way a performance; I wish it were less so, but perhaps if so it would be less entertaining. There is a sharp side to Costello which occasionally goes too far. He writes of early days with Stiff (the independent record label responsible for his first releases) and the threat of being paired with another singer, a horrible little git called Eric, who'd stumbled into the office with a single decent song. Did he have to say that? One thing which comes over powerfully though is his love of music and absolute belief in its importance. Of music he says, There is no superior. There is no high and low. The beautiful thing is, you don't have to choose, you can love it all. Those songs are there to help you when you need them most. That in the end is the great thing about Unfaithful Music and disappearing Ink; it will inspire you to go back to the music, both from Costello and from others, and perhaps even to go beyond your comfort zone and explore some artists you may have missed or dismissed. He did. This is among the most enjoyable music books I have read; recommended

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good overall, Its not really possible to describe all the angles and content in any short paragraph

By Tero

I picked up this book at an airport bookstore. It was easy enough at the start, and I had not had anything but the internet and one field guide to read in English for 10 days. I knew I had a brick in hand, but perhaps it contained some answer to mysteries. The lyrics and origins of many songs are explained. There is an accompanying two CD set you can buy if you do not know the songs. His strength is in his lyrics. He explains collecting fragments in a notebook, phrases heard, that sort of thing. A common way for song writers. Previously I managed the Dylan autobiography and one by George Harrison. Mostly I prefer for someone else to analyze the music for me. This time, this was the only reliable source. The book plods along at times and I may have put it aside for weeks, but always picked it up again. It contains a lot of family history, scattered throughout. You could not read that all in one chapter. Its not really possible to describe all the angles and content in any short paragraph. Lets just jump to page 528. Elvis meets Brodsky quartet. They have been fans of each other. A singer that works with them is always a gift for a string quartet. Lots of concerts and also at times a way to

approach a bigger audience. Crossover, but not in a bad way this time. Read the next 20 pages for a very meaningful musical awakening for Elvis. One thing that was entirely surprising is that he is in fact very musical, like McCartney, though with lesser vocal and instrumental talent. He had a gift for harmony from a child and eventually learned to write simple scores with the Brodskys. The rock band and Attractions era is well enough described as well, so whatever part of his career interests you, you can skip around and read that. The book has no index, so just go chapter by chapter. Each chapter clearly outlines what is in it on the first page. Somehow by one third of the book read, I knew I had to finish it. Many other books were started and stopped in the time between. Nick Hornby gave the book praises, that was enough to buy the book at the airport 5 months ago. CD set of the same name: It's a well balanced collection of the more energetic early years and some of the newer material without his usual side men. The co-written songs are not there much other than Veronica where he had help from McCartney. Any Costello collection is welcome, there are so few now.

Born Declan Patrick MacManus, Elvis Costello was raised in London and Liverpool, grandson of a trumpet player on the White Star Line and son of a jazz musician who became a successful radio dance-band vocalist. Costello went into the family business and before he was twenty-four took the popular music world by storm. Costello continues to add to one of the most intriguing and extensive songbooks of our day. His performances have taken him from strumming a cardboard guitar in his parents front room to fronting a rock and roll band on our television screens and performing in the world's greatest concert halls in a wild variety of company. *Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink* describes how Costello's career has endured for almost four decades through a combination of dumb luck and animal cunning, even managing the occasional absurd episode of pop stardom. This memoir, written entirely by Costello, offers his unique view of his unlikely and sometimes comical rise to international success, with diversions through the previously undocumented emotional foundations of some of his best-known songs and the hits of tomorrow. It features many stories and observations about his renowned cowriters and co-conspirators, though Costello also pauses along the way for considerations of the less appealing side of fame. *Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink* provides readers with a master catalogue of a lifetime of great music. Costello reveals the process behind writing and recording legendary albums like *My Aim Is True*, *This Years Model*, *Armed Forces*, *Almost Blue*, *Imperial Bedroom*, and *King of America*. He tells the detailed stories, experiences, and emotions behind such beloved songs as *Alison*, *Accidents Will Happen*, *Watching the Detectives*, *Oliver's Army*, *Welcome to the Working Week*, *Radio Radio*, *Shipbuilding*, and *Veronica*, the last of which is one of a number of songs revealed to connect to the lives of the previous generations of his family. Costello recounts his collaborations with George Jones, Chet Baker, and T Bone Burnett, and writes about Allen Toussaint's inspiring return to work after the disasters following Hurricane Katrina. He describes writing songs with Paul McCartney, the Brodsky Quartet, Burt Bacharach, and The Roots during moments of intense personal crisis and profound sorrow. He shares curious experiences in the company of The Clash, Tony Bennett, The Specials, Van Morrison, and Aretha Franklin; writing songs for Solomon Burke and Johnny Cash; and touring with Bob Dylan; along with his appreciation of the records of Frank Sinatra, David Bowie, David Ackles, and almost everything on the Tamla Motown label. Costello chronicles his musical apprenticeship, a child's view of his father Ross MacManus' career on radio and in the dancehall; his own initial almost comical steps in folk clubs and cellar dive before his first sessions for Stiff Record, the formation of the Attractions, and his frenetic and ultimately notorious third U.S. tour. He takes readers behind the scenes of *Top of the Pops* and *Saturday Night Live*, and his own show, *Spectacle*, on which he hosted artists such as Lou Reed, Elton John, Levon Helm, Jesse Winchester, Bruce Springsteen, and President Bill Clinton. The idiosyncratic memoir of a singular man, *Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink* is destined to be a classic. From the Hardcover edition.

"Some of the best writing funny, strange, spiteful, anguished we've ever had from an important musician. Dwight Garner, *The New York Times* The book is fantastic - maybe the best about music by a musician that I've read.... The stuff about the collaborations alone - McCartney, Burt Bacharach, Allen Toussaint, the Roots, the Brodsky Quartet - is riveting. Nick Hornby In a world littered with uneven (and largely ghosted) celebrity memoirs, *Disappearing Ink* is a beautifully written revelation. Dare I blaspheme by declaring I liked it even more than the excellent memoirs produced by Bob Dylan and Keith Richards? Costello embraces the basic qualities of good storytelling: the use of detail, tension and humor.... The book is also a gold mine for Costello obsessives who have spent decades dissecting and analyzing his every lyrical zinger. But it's not just for fans, more Angelas Ashes than Motley Crues *The Dirt*. *Unfaithful Music* is a lyrical tale that stretches across generations, geography and a century of popular song. The book serves as both a musical and personal anthropology. Geoff Edgers, *The Washington Post* "Often brilliant and wholly idiosyncratic." David Ulin, *Los Angeles Times* [*Unfaithful Music Disappearing Ink*] is refreshingly free of salacious gossip and needless name-dropping; it's an intelligent self-assessment from a musician who went from angry young man to elder statesman of pop. It's an unexpected memoir from a musician whose creativity and brilliance changed pop rock forever. Michael Schaub, NPR *Revelatory*, evocatively crafted, [and] highly entertaining. David Fricke, *Rolling Stone* A winningly droll and good-natured guide to his life and many works throughout. Entertainment

WeeklyPunctuated with sardonic and self-aware truths. Pitchfork"Just like his music,Unfaithful Musicconstantly defies expectations and the simple pleasures of faraway days. Written in a clipped, biting style, the book reads like Costello's greatest songs, equally lyrical and hard to pin down. It's a constantly illuminating, perpetually idiosyncratic read, fitting for a musician whose entire life has been one long reinvention. For 670 brilliant pages, we're allowed to tag along with one of the greats, witnessing the unchanging beauty of a man who refuses to settle down on his quest of musical self-explorationand we're all better off for it."Chicago ReaderVivid.It's not surprising that one of rock's most literate songwriters would pen such a deep, free-form memoir. Houston ChronicleElvis Costello delivers an impeccably detailed autobiography. Hes often as brilliant at turning a phrase in prose as he is in his lyrics. Paste MagazineEnthralling. This is family history as musical encyclopedia, and to listen to Costello recount his life is to be buttonholed by an enthusiastic fan. Fandom for Costello is inseparable from the compulsion to write songs and, it seems, to understand his own life. Fortunately for the fan of Costellos music the topic of discussion is often his own songs, and he is, unsurprisingly, a witty and eloquent guide.Paul Grimstad, New Republic Long one of music's wittiest, smartest, and most perceptive lyricists, Costello has done his legacy proud with his new book, which, thankfully, goes far beyond his angry-young-man days, most movingly in its frequent reminiscences about the relationship between the singer and his musician father.New York Magazine [Costello] pens books with the same clever writing that he uses in song.Kathy Flanigan, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Costello[s] book is capacious, clever, and full of heart and soul.Dan DeLuca, Philadelphia Inquirer The story unfolds like a movie that jumps across time, more thematic than chronological, as boyhood anecdotes and obsessions intersect with mature songs and adult reckoning. The book doubles as a selective mini-history of 20th century music, as told by a discerning guide. He addresses artists both towering (Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Johnny Cash) and relatively unheralded (David Ackles, Robert Wyatt) with a fan's affection and music scholar's insight. Greg Kot, Chicago Tribune"With an encyclopedic knowledge and appreciation for, and deep love of, music, and with an expressive power and heart, Costellos memoir will take its place in the highest echelons of the genre." --Library Journal (starred review)This is a big book, literally, by one of the best rockers in the business. Given the singular, and eclectic, nature of his career, it is no surprise that Elvis Costellos anecdotal autobiography is an idiosyncraticjourney through his music and the people and places that have inspired himA must for Costello fans everywhere. --Booklist (starred review) Costellos prose cuts with the same spiky wit and observational power as his well-known lyricspacked with great lines, vivid anecdotesa treat for his many fans. Kirkus s Plenty of tales to keep the pages turning. Readers will be fascinated by Costellos storieshis book feels like a discussion between friends over a pint. Publishers Weekly"Costello is one the greatest writers of the 20th Century. It's funny, observant and clear of purpose."--Times "By turns lachrymose, self-flagellating and impassioned. Unsurprisingly, it is beautifully written. It is also often extraordinarily moving."--Dan Cairns,Sunday Times "Written elliptically, episodically beautiful ... this man's knowledge is breath-taking." --Observer "Every page exudes his deep love and knowledge of modern music." --TheGuardian "His witty, word-playing voice transmits loud and clear....there are smart snapshots of vanished worlds...all his sins and virtues are displayed in this stylish, astute book."Victoria Segal,Sunday Times "A truly weighty rock memoir ... There's plenty of insight into his art here, a smattering of gossip, a wealth of pop-cultural knowledge, and just enough self-flagellation to keep things interesting." --NME "A series of wryly comic tales that surely deserve the full Penguin Classic treatment randomly afford Morrissey."--GQ "One of the finest musical biographies I have ever read ... an engrossing and rewarding read." Keith Bruce,The Herald "It really is stunning. Hugely illuminating, fiercely passionate, funny, moving and beautifully written." --Mark BillinghamFrom the Hardcover edition.About the AuthorElvis Costello is a Grammy award-winning musician whose career spans almost four decades. A prolific singer-songwriter, Costello has released several critically-acclaimed albums, and in 2003 was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.