



Complete Lyrics

Nick Cave

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Spanning Nick Cave's entire career, from his writing for The Birthday Party, through highly acclaimed albums like Murder Ballads, Henry's Dream and Abattoir Blues, up to his latest release, The Proposition, The Complete Lyrics 1978-2007 is a must for all fans of the dark, the beautiful and the defiant - for all the fans of the songs of Nick Cave.

Complete Lyrics Details

Date : Published 2001 by Penguin (first published September 1997)

ISBN : 9780141005157

Author : Nick Cave

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Genre : Music, Poetry, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Complete Lyrics for online ebook

Vale says

Non si può far altro che arrendersi alla poesia di Nick Cave

Adam says

What could be better? - It's got all the lyrics from 'Prayers on Fire' to the first Grinderman album, plus Cave's lecture on 'The Secret Life of the Love Song', and has an introduction by Will Self. Buy this now.

Jade says

I started this in July 2009...and I read a lot. I feel bad giving this a two as some of the lyrics within this book are the most beautiful I've ever read, but as a whole I found it hard to read and couldn't grasp what the hell Nick was going on about at times. I think this would have been a lot easier if I was more familiar with his work, rather than knowing the basics. My favourites, which I would gladly read over and over are: Far From Me, Faraway So Close!, Where the Wild Roses Grow and Into My Arms.

"And the world will turn without you
And history will soon forget you
But the heavens they will reward you
So faraway, so faraway and yet so close"

Niko says

This book is a treasure for any Nick Cave fan. Although with some flaws (so far I found them in two lyrics, guess there are more) it really is a must have for anyone who appreciate Cave and his work. A good thing when you get this book is, that it makes you listen to the albums that were on a side track for a while.

Sarah says

Yes, it's just a collection of song lyrics. But what songs....

Simon Sweetman says

Good to read over this stuff again I guess - the early years are a bit embarrassing and silly; certainly don't mean anything at all on the page. But when this gets good the writing is often very good.

Victoria Rose says

Nick Cave is a fantastic lyricist, and this book is a great one for reading as you listen to his songs. For me at least, reading the words as he croons them take his lyrics to a whole new level, and made me appreciate them a lot more. The only reason this is missing a star is because the Bad Seeds' latest album, *Dig Lazarus Dig*, isn't included. Look out for a new edition sometime in the future though!

Christopher says

Beyond the utter brilliance of Cave's poetry, the narrative of the collection is a moving story of a tortured man's relationship with love, sex, religion and death. And that's just for the words on the page. As a fan of his music for the last 20 years, it gave me new insight into each song, each album and each era of a singularly talented artist.

Shelley says

How do you read the (almost) complete lyrics of Nick Cave?

Choose your favourite album?

Randomly pick a page then read in the bath?

Read it cover to cover?

Have it by your phone and try to read a song lyric every time you get itchy fingers for social media?

More to the point, how do you review the (almost) complete lyrics of Nick Cave?

First of all this is probably just for the fans, though I can imagine curiosity striking and a person falling in love with the lyrics on the page and then seeking out the music. Maybe. I think the fact that I have seen this book on the shelves of a fair few music loving folk is indicative of the love that people feel for this man's wordcraft. Taking lyrics and putting them on the page will work if the lyrics are substantial and poetic. Here they are. By having a full volume of work you can trace imagery that is developed in songs over time. 'Sail your ships around me' is a good example and is repeated in early songs before the classic *The Ship Song*.

If you are looking for a strange read with twisted, romantic and wry symbolism then pick up a copy of this book. You may well turn into a Nick Cave devotee.

Jen says

If you're interested in reading the lyrics to every song Nick Cave has written, this book has you covered.

It also includes the transcript from his "The Secret Life of the Love Song" lecture, which puts the bulk of his works in a new light. To Cave, love songs are as much (or moreso) sad, sorrowful songs because all love

ends. You can't have the positive without the negative; this is the prevading thought that colors his lyrics, tinging even his sweetest lyrics with melancholy and even hatred. Perhaps a bit surprisingly, he tells us that he considers the majority of his oeuvre to be love songs; a thought that would be contested by most casual listeners. But if you take his lecture at face value, you can see/hear/feel the "saudade" and "duende" in songs that most would be hard-pressed to label as "love songs."

The lyrics themselves take up most of the pages, as you'd expect from the book's title. They're divided into chapters by album, with non-album songs included within the time period when they were written. You can see how Cave's lyricism matures throughout his career. While it never loses its hard edges, his writing becomes more coherent and well-crafted. Even then, you can see glimpses of the future in the older songs and echoes of the past in the newer songs.

The only complaint I have is that I'd like to have read additional commentary from Cave about the lyrics themselves. In the opening lecture, he mentions how most of his songs spring from personal experiences and I'd enjoy reading some of the thoughts/experiences/circumstances that spawned some of his lyrics.

Morgane says

I'm a huge Nick Cave fan. This book is flawless.

It also got me to revisit some albums I don't often listen to, like "The Firstborn Is Dead". The man is a genius. Genius, I say!

Philippa says

Really interesting lyrics, and very poetic.

Shelley says

Brilliant collection of Cave's lyrics, as well as a lecture of his from 2009 on the Love Song.

Carmilla Voiez says

An amazing book for any Nick Cave fan. I had the updated copy with over 500 pages but couldn't see it on Goodreads. The rhythm of musical lyrics and the intricate beauty of poetry. A love song as a message to God. I'll dip back into this for years to come.

Ian "Marvin" Graye says

RELEVANCE WARNING

This is not a review of the book.

My comments specifically relate to the use of a Nick Cave song in a scene in and on the soundtrack to the first Deathly Hallows film.

SEXUALITY CONTENT WARNING

I originally posted a version of my comments in a GR discussion about sexuality and Harry Potter.

If you are the sort of reader who thinks these two issues should never be associated with each other, please do not read on. I don't want to spoil your world view.

Sexuality, Adolescence and Harry Potter

One of the funny things about the original discussion and the response to it is the lack of recognition of how important sexuality actually (and overtly) is to HP, especially later in the series.

It defies me how people expect someone to write about or think about or progress through adolescence without considering sex or sexuality.

Heartstring Wands and Love Triangles

For me, HP is a love triangle in which there is enormous sexual tension around who will end up with Hermione by the time they escape the chains of adolescence.

Obviously, JKR for her own reasons avoids the obvious temptation to let Harry end up with Hermione. However, right up until the last moment, there is some doubt as to whether Ron will get the girl.

It's totally misguided to think that HP's adolescent audience isn't right on top of this issue.

In fact, they're probably way ahead of most adults in the audience (including me).

Let's Dance

In the first Deathly Hallows film, Harry and Hermione dance together, while Ron remains banished in the wild.

This was a tipping point in the story, when Hermione might possibly have reversed her sexual selection.

When I saw the film, a whole group of kids burst out laughing in this scene.

I still don't know whether I missed something (was it Harry's seriousness or clumsiness?), but I was too busy concentrating on the soundtrack and trying to work out its significance.

The Ship Song

The song was Nick Cave's "The Ship Song", which was the last thing I expected to hear in a HP film.

It's a great melody, but if you have a look at the lyrics, you have to wonder what was intended by the director, at least.

<http://www.stlyrics.com/songs/n/nickc...>

Did Harry create a "little mystery" with Hermione?

Did Hermione loose her dogs on Harry? Or let her hair hang down?

Did Harry have to remove her wings, so that she could try to fly in her own right?

Did Hermione have to escape Harry's legendary pull, so she could find happiness?

I wish I could have asked those kids.

Post Script:

I just asked my 12 year old daughter why people laughed at that scene, and she said (in this order) "because they weren't together" (i.e., a recognised couple) and "because they were goofy".
