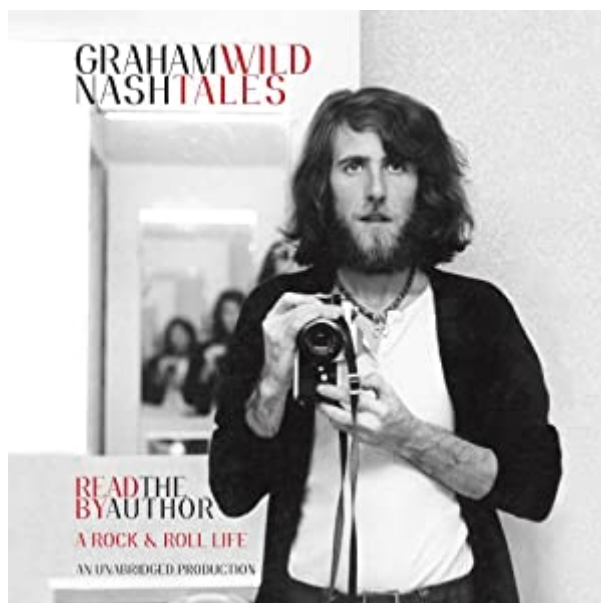


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# Wild Tales: A Rock & Roll Life



## Synopsis

From Graham Nash - the legendary musician and founding member of the iconic bands Crosby, Stills & Nash and The Hollies - comes a candid and riveting autobiography that belongs on the reading list of every classic rock fan. Graham Nash's songs defined a generation and helped shape the history of rock and roll - he's written over 200 songs, including such classic hits as "Carrie Anne," "On A Carousel," "Simple Man," "Our House," "Marrakesh Express," and "Teach Your Children." From the opening salvos of the British Rock Revolution to the last shudders of Woodstock, he has rocked and rolled wherever music mattered. Now Graham is ready to tell his story: his lower-class childhood in post-war England, his early days in the British Invasion group The Hollies; becoming the lover and muse of Joni Mitchell during the halcyon years, when both produced their most introspective and important work; meeting Stephen Stills and David Crosby and reaching superstardom with Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; and his enduring career as a solo musician and political activist. Nash has valuable insights into a world and time many think they know from the outside but few have experienced at its epicenter, and equally wonderful anecdotes about the people around him: the Beatles, the Stones, Hendrix, Cass Elliot, Dylan, and other rock luminaries. From London to Laurel Canyon and beyond, *Wild Tales* is a revealing look back at an extraordinary life - with all the highs and the lows; the love, the sex, and the jealousy; the politics; the drugs; the insanity - and the sanity - of a magical era of music.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you read some of the books written about this era, there is a great deal of emphasis on the mantra of sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll. None more so than this tale. The degree of drug and alcohol use of CSN was more than I had ever conceived. And if the trio could manage to survive long enough, they would eventually grow out of their abuse and become responsible adults. Nash's story jumps around a bit, and the reader has to keep up with what year he is retelling. Clearly Nash is a talented man, not just a musician, and his contributions to the arts, technology, and social causes are remarkable and noteworthy. If there is a great disappointment in the story, it is when he reveals that the music, the creativity, the awakening of the artistic spirit is due not to his own gift, but drugs... and a huge amount of luck that he didn't keel over along the way. If you are a fan of CSN, CSNY, CN, or whatever permutation of those musical artists, this is a valuable background look into men who brought enormous, generation defining music to the front. Once you read this incredible tale, when you hear music from any of them, you'll think, "You are one lucky SOB."

I don't usually post book reviews but this book is outstanding! It's like reading the history of rock and roll told by an insider who was there helping to make it! Graham's writing style is more like having a conversation with an old friend and easy to absorb. Lots of background on everybody who was anybody back in the day, although he goes in depth with his relationship with David Crosby. Ready to pull out all the old vinyl and start listening to all those old great tunes again!

A nice auto biography of Graham Nash covering The Hollies, Crosby, Still and Nash; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, and beyond. This book has plenty of what Linda Ronstadt's Simple Dreams does not: lots of stories about drugs, partying, and what the rock and roll life was like. This book is about David Crosby as much as it is about Graham Nash. Nash took his share of drugs, but Crosby was on a whole other level; free-basing behind a curtain on the stage between songs. It's amazing that David Crosby survived. I suppose to be a big star you have to have an ego. Nash doesn't go against the grain; there are many passages where he extols his many talents. He's not exactly shy. The biggest surprise to me was that my love of CSN(&Y) music is really based on just a couple of years when their two first albums came out. While I bought Nash's first solo album, it didn't grab me and I moved on to other music while he kept up. On the more positive side, this book gave me a better appreciation of The Hollies; I'll be adding some more of their music to my library.

This was an interesting read, I really liked reading about the Hollies, not a huge CSNY fan..But overall, interesting. Seems this man has a huge ego though..

An interesting read about Graham Nash's successful journey as a founding member of the Hollies to the third member of CSN....and then CSNY. I learned a lot about each individual member of this group; Nash didn't neglect his musical partners in these tales..... they starred in most of them! I did find myself wondering how the four of these men ever fit onto a stage together with their giant egos... No matter, to make it in the business requires one of those, it's a chapter in How to be a Rockstar 101. I've always been a huge Neil Young fan (still am), but now the band member I previously knew the least about (GN) seems pretty cool, as a musician, husband, father and man in general. I admire him.

Neither wallowing in the lows or bragging on the highs, Nash has a matter of fact style of writing that pulls you along effortlessly. He is honest about the drug use without minimizing it's affect on both music and lives, while refreshingly avoiding moralizing about it. There are plenty of person stories about relationships, as well as anecdotes about songs that provide insight. A thoroughly enjoyable experience and one of the best r&r memoirs I've read. Oh, yeah, and a lot of great photographs.

I heard about this book while Graham was promoting it on Howard Stern. I was interested because I have been a CSN fan for years and wanted to get more of a sense of what it was like for these guys to have experienced their lives in tock and roll and the road leading up to the success of CSN. The book covers a lot of pre CSN stuff from Graham's early upbringing to his musical career as a club player to the Hollies to CSN and all the various experiences. The guys got a good memory for someone who took as many drugs as He did that's for sure. I liked most Of it, there were a few pieces that felt rushed like there wasn't enough material but that was towards the end of the book. Overall I liked it and would recommend it. I'm now looking for other period books from other artists in the same timeframe.

The title of this book is a little misleading. There weren't actually a lot off "wild tales" included in this memoir. So if you are looking for a kiss and tell all kind of story, then this isn't a book you want to read. But if you are interested in relationships between band members and all the highs and lows of trying to become successful in the world of music, then you will find this a really good read. I am a huge fan of the Hollies and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young and I really enjoyed learning more about them as a group and individually. I loved Graham Nash's honesty about the dynamics of the group. And the stories behind so many of their songs. He has had quite a journey up to this point in his life,

and so glad he shared it in this book. I found myself wishing this book would never end. And very glad I spent the money to buy it!

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