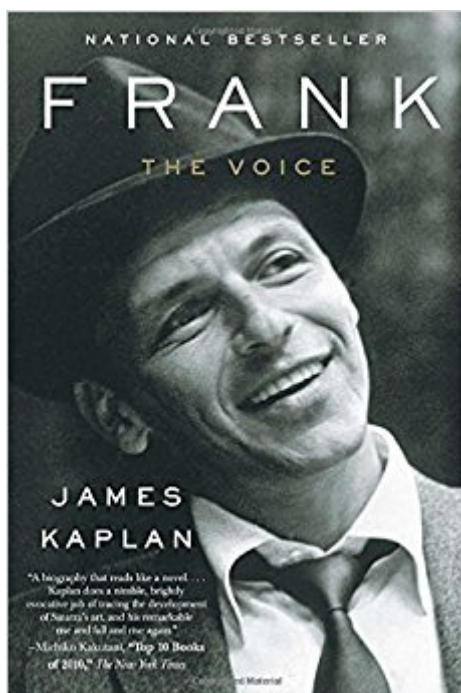


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Frank: The Voice



Synopsis

Frank Sinatra was the best-known entertainer of the twentieth century—infinitely charismatic, lionized and notorious in equal measure. But despite his mammoth fame, Sinatra the man has remained an enigma. Now James Kaplan brings deeper insight than ever before to the complex psyche and turbulent life behind that incomparable voice, from Sinatra's humble beginning in Hoboken to his fall from grace and Oscar-winning return in *From Here to Eternity*. Here at last is the biographer who makes the reader feel what it was really like to be Frank Sinatra—as man, as musician, as tortured genius.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peter Bogdanovich Reviews Frank: The Voice Peter Bogdanovich is an acclaimed director, producer, writer, actor, film critic, and author. He has directed over 25 feature films, including international award winners *The Last Picture Show*, *What's Up, Doc?*, and *Paper Moon*. Read his review of *Frank: The Voice*: There has never been a book of this kind or quality about Frank Sinatra. Like the formidable novelist he is, James Kaplan has somehow managed to get inside the man and the legend, to such a degree that you feel you are living Sinatra's life with him, almost day by day. Yet it is the fastest read. From his violent, deforming, traumatic birth, through his Hoboken childhood with a super-dominating mother and a weak father, through the heady, unprecedented bobby-sox years, his young marriage to the virtually saint-like Nancy, their three kids, his numerous--almost serial--infidelities, through the tumultuous affair with Ava Gardner--detailed as never before--through the much-frowned-on divorce, the suicide attempts,

rivetingly onward through the near total collapse of his career, and right up through the miraculous comeback with the Oscar for *From Here to Eternity*, this book tells it all with the freshness of the first time, in the most engrossing and evocative prose. There is compassion and candor, and a profound sense of real lives being lived. Sinatra the musician has never been taken as seriously or chronicled with such sensitivity and depth; it has never been as clear how very much the singer had to do with all aspects of his recordings and performances. This is a warts-and-all work, with a staggering amount of research to back everything up, revealing Nancy Sr. in all her grace, and Frank in all his moods, but it is never salacious or malicious, only honest, forthright and civilized. Nobody can be prepared for the life of a phenomenon--which Sinatra was--the first show business phenomenon of the 20th century, long before Elvis or the Beatles, and far more complicated and multi-layered. Being very human, Frank did the best he could with it all, and James Kaplan has done a magnificently resonant chronicle of the first half of an incredible journey. It leaves you hungering for the second volume! --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. In this riveting and fast-paced biography, Kaplan, coauthor with Jerry Lewis of *Dean and Me*, chronicles Sinatra's somewhat unlikely meteoric ascent to success, his failures, and his rebirth as a star of song and screen. With exhaustive, and sometimes exhausting, detail, Kaplan engagingly re-creates the young Sinatra's childhood in Hoboken, N.J., where young Frank was born, in 1915. By the time he was 12, Sinatra was singing for quarters on top of the piano in the bar in his father's tavern. At 21, Frankie joined a group that became known as the Hoboken Four, and everyone soon recognized Sinatra's great vocal gift. Kaplan expertly conducts us on a journey through Sinatra's early years with Tommy Dorsey and his long solo career; Sinatra's first marriage to Nancy Barbato and his more famous marriage to Ava Gardner; and through Sinatra's movie career and his rebirth in the early 1950s. Although Sinatra's career often faltered in the late 1940s, his partnership with Nelson Riddle and the release of the song "Young at Heart" in 1953 began Sinatra's comeback. Kaplan's enthralling tale of an American icon serves as an introduction of "old blue eyes" to a new generation of listeners while winning the hearts of Sinatra's diehard fans. (Nov.) (c) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mr. Kaplan's first book of his Frank Sinatra two-volume biography was published in 2011. 'Frank' covers the years from 1915 through 1954. At almost 720 pages, there was never a dull moment while reading it. Heck, even Mr. Sinatra's birth, beginning on page one, was dramatic. Ole Blue

Eyes is a great study of the nature of celebrity and one man's insatiable ego. Sinatra was clearly recognized as a musical genius despite his inability to read music sheets. Each song and performance was unique depending on what was occurring in his personal life. Much like John Wayne, Sinatra's tough guy swagger was hiding an insecure man. Mr. Kaplan's work does an excellent job of explaining how the man-child was a notorious SOB and tolerated for so long because he had the vocal goods. Beyond his music, there are a few things to admire about Mr. Sinatra such as his very progressive and public stances against discrimination towards minorities. However, the good aspects of his character are overwhelmed by the guy's ugly qualities. Mr. Kaplan takes pains to give a balanced view of Sinatra and believes most of his foibles were because of upbringing and a permissive industry more focused on making money from the golden goose from Hoboken. 'Frank' covers such topics as Sinatra's struggle to break into being a Big Band singer, his collaborations with Harry James and Tommy Dorsey, his meteoric rise into an idol for bobby-soxers, his associations with the Mob, his World War II draft deferment, his countless one-night stands despite being married, his first and second marriage, FBI surveillance, his efforts to break into movies, his fall into near celebrity oblivion, and his Oscar-winning performance in 'From Here to Eternity'. It should be noted that his relationship with Ava Gardner is given especially close inspection. Gardner and Sinatra were two spoiled, self-indulgent people. The tempests in a teapot made great tabloid fodder and shows how the harassing of current-day stars by the so-called press is not a new thing. There are black-and-white photos sprinkled through the book. Mr. Sinatra and his handlers spread a lot of BS about him that the author corrects. Ole Blue Eyes was "seething ambition and bottomless need." As times changed and American culture shifted, he struggled to remain a star. 'Frank' is a top-notch biography. It not only tells an interesting story but also gives a feel of the times in which Sinatra's life is covered. If you have a romanticized view of Hollywood, Mr. Kaplan's work will hopefully remove some of that childish hogwash from your head. The book is not depressing and well worth your time. One thing is for sure, if Sinatra (and Gardner) were still alive, Mr. Kaplan's book is the closest I'd ever want to get to them. Now, I'm on to the second volume entitled 'Sinatra: The Chairman.'

I will cut to the chase with this review. Simply one of the most interesting biographies I have read in a very long time. It is a big long book but that was never an issue as each page was just more interesting than the previous page. Absolutely one of the best books I have read in a long time. Hoping they drop the price on the Kindle edition of book 2!

Frank Sinatra, The Voice, is Part 1 of the most comprehensive biography on one of the world's most famous entertainers..While it chronicles Sinatra's life from birth through his triumph in winning the Oscar as best supporting actor in From Here to Eternity, it is also an in depth character study. A domineering mother and a passive father shape an individual very fragile relying on constant success not just with his brilliant singing but also by surrounding himself with a group "friends" to assure he would never be alone as well as a number of women to attempt to satisfy his insatiable desires. Only one, Ava Gardner, came close but even this relationship was doomed. Well researched and superbly written, I recommend "The Voice" and predict that once you finish, you will be ready for Part 2.

A biography of Frank Sinatra from the beginning to 1954, and STILL 800 pages! (Well that includes the bibliography and index.) Since Sinatra is by far and away my favorite singer of all time, I had to read this, even knowing what a messed up jerk he was. Messed up and jerk are terms that now seem tame. He was not a nice man, but I love the voice anyway. No doubt if I had been born 20 years earlier, I'd have been screaming "Frankie" along with all the other bobby-soxers. The voice is just that good.

This is a story of a tortured soul who enjoyed success, suffered failure in both his profession and 2nd marriage, but overcame his downs with an Oscar winning role in "From Here to Eternity." This story of a musical genius with a series of struggles after a great start. It shows his character including the warts, his obsession with his 2nd wife (Ava Gardner) and, his devotion to his kids. It is a long story (over 700 pages), and does not include his life beyond his recovery after his winning the Oscar. I enjoyed my Kindle edition so much, I ordered the book version for my wife..by Nancy,' his first wife, and his triumph as an Oscar winning performance in "From Here to Eternity." His legacy as a great voice of the music of the 30s, 40s, and 50s has endured. This is a good read from a well researched biography.,,

Excellent Book!.....I heard the author on NPR, when the hardcover came out and thought it might be worth a read. This was excellent. I'm no Sinatra buff, but I enjoy most of his music and he's an icon, so I thought it might be interesting to learn something about him - WOW, what a good read - It was one of the best biographies that I have ever read. The size of it seems daunting, but don't be alarmed, it is well worth the effort.

Terrific look at what made Sinatra the way he is, from his Mother to his first wife Nancy and her subtle influence on his career to Ava Gardner, and her not so subtle influence. Their star crossed relationship helped keep him in the spotlight and almost killed him. He and Ava fed off of each other. Since this book ends with his winning the Academy awards for "From here to Eternity". The following years are covered in another book. This Author did his background work and it's a very well written novel. It portrays Frank Sinatra with all his scars, and his beauty, and of course that voice which still mesmerizes us all. Good Book, one of the better Biographies I have read!

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