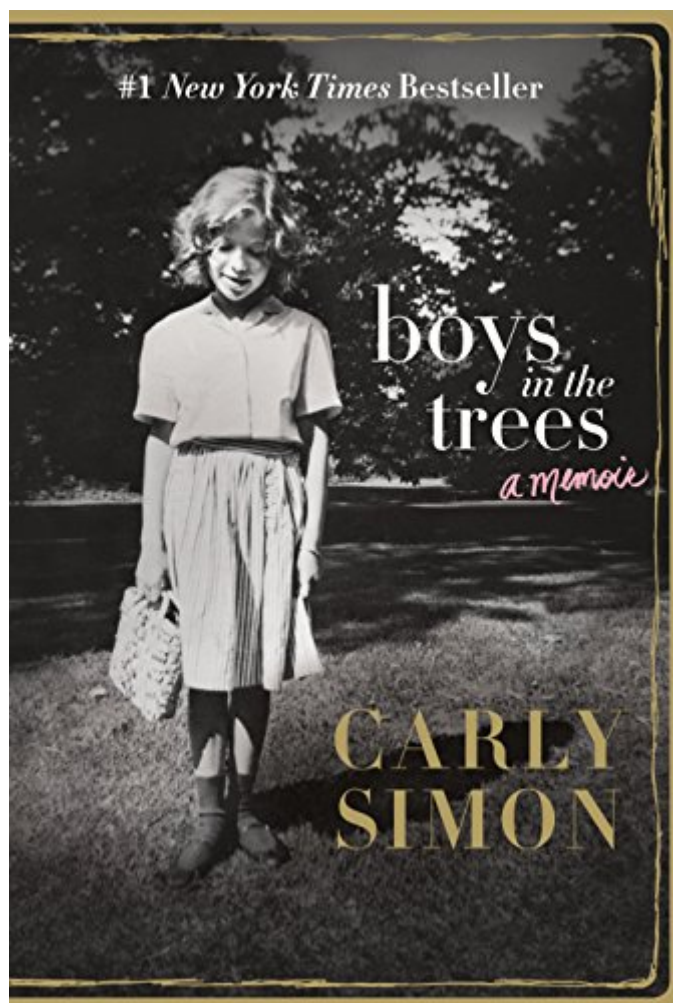


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Boys In The Trees: A Memoir



Synopsis

Carly Simon's New York Times bestselling memoir, *Boys in the Trees*, reveals her remarkable life, beginning with her storied childhood as the third daughter of Richard L. Simon, the co-founder of publishing giant Simon & Schuster, her musical debut as half of The Simon Sisters performing folk songs with her sister Lucy in Greenwich Village, to a meteoric solo career that would result in 13 top 40 hits, including the #1 song "You're So Vain." She was the first artist in history to win a Grammy Award, an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award, for her song "Let the River Run" from the movie *Working Girl*. The memoir recalls a childhood enriched by music and culture, but also one shrouded in secrets that would eventually tear her family apart. Simon brilliantly captures moments of creative inspiration, the sparks of songs, and the stories behind writing "Anticipation" and "We Have No Secrets" among many others. Romantic entanglements with some of the most famous men of the day fueled her confessional lyrics, as well as the unraveling of her storybook marriage to James Taylor.

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Customer Reviews

This downloaded onto my Kindle at around midnight last night and I was awake until 5 or 6 reading it (I'm a little blurry right now but have the day off). First off, this is one of the best memoirs I've ever read in my life. I have been reading the headlines about it and they all seem to focus on sex, sex, sex. And sure, Carly Simon has had her affairs with various guys over the years, but I can't help but wonder if the memoir of a male music star would have those same headlines. I'm guessing the answer is not. What about her music? What about how her voice is the one you hear wherever you go in this world (last week I heard *You Belong to Me* in the supermarket, and *I Haven't Got Time for the Pain* in my doctor's office!). But back to the book - it is not what the headlines make you think it is. It is a serious, beautifully written account of the life of a popular but under appreciated artist, that was charmed in parts, deeply romantic in others and downright upsetting elsewhere. It is riveting too - I can't think of many other books that would have had me reading straight through for five hours until it started getting light out. Mostly it is an account of a difficult marriage, that is to say, between her and James Taylor. They were the king and the queen of the 1970s. A lot of people have wondered what it was really like between them and in this book we finally have the answer. But Carly Simon is always respectful and loving towards him, even though she is also very very frank about what went on. The book ends in the early 80s which makes me wonder if there will be a second book! All in all, this book puts you under a spell that will make you want to play all her music all over again and remember what it was like back then. Highly recommended!

I have just finished *Boys in the Trees* and it is remarkable!!! I was hooked from the very first paragraph. "This day may have been THE day, the very day when my identity was born. Before the incident occurred, I didn't think about who I was. After, I would spend the rest of my life testing myself to see if I had been right." Her writing style is elegant and eloquent. Ms Simon gracefully leads the reader through her life piecing together her self identity all the while keeping the reader riveted with an astonishing storytelling talent. Yes all the fun (and surprises!) of the famous relationships and names are here, framed with the songs and music they inspired, but most important, for me, is the story of a woman coming to terms with her own life long quest for love, understanding and forgiveness.

I was pleasantly surprised by how Carly's talent for telling her life's tales in such poetic and purposeful prose filled my headspace with feelings of connectedness and understanding about the big bad world of life, love and redemption. It is a rewarding read that will leave you feeling there's

another beautiful soul that gets it...Sure, there's the amazing biography told with great detail. And you won't be let down if you're looking for that front seat to her fables of fame. But, more interesting and fulfilling are her deep, beautiful thoughts and memories tangled up with a philosophical peek into a deeply thinking, caring, worrying, artistic lover's soul. I'll never forget that morning in 1973, while getting dressed for school, my mother was singing along with the radio "clouds in my coffee...there were clouds in my coffee" and knowing then and there - at age 6 this was a powerful and poetic that moved me in ways only true music magic can do. I've been in love ever since. Thank, Mr. Simon, for bringing us both your genius and your genes. For it is because of both we have the gift of Carly...Brian Holt
West Hollywood, CA
January 16, 2016

I enjoy memoir so this wonderful Carly Simon memoir hit my satisfaction button. I always enjoy when people have learned to be honest with themselves and are unafraid to tell it all or to tell it like it is or was. I found myself going to youtube to play some of her songs and to listen to some interviews interspersed with my reading. Hard to believe she could sing so well while growing up as a stutterer but music became a lifesaver for her. Breakups with those we love are always hard especially when children are involved. Having grown up in New England and around the wealthy who traveled from New York to Martha's Vineyard on an annual basis I well understood the descriptions and the kind of family life that's led. I felt sad for her kind of poor little rich girl set up. She should have had much more love and self-esteem but I understand that sometimes these families don't understand what that's about as long as there is money for nannies and children are treated as strangers. I have always loved the music of Carly Simon and James Taylor and was sorry not to see her as part of the Kennedy Center honors in his behalf. It is easy to read and offers some excellent life lessons.

It's basically about her relationship with her parents, and their marriage issues. Her anxiety attacks, stammering issue, early sexual encounter as a teen, sexual affairs with certain famous men, and some parts of her life with James Taylor. A very promiscuous woman. Much could have been gathered from interviews read online & youtube. The book filled in the finer details. Much too wordy, though...sometimes dragging on embellishing so long that I skimmed through some paragraphs while looking for her end point. I found a few things a bit unbelievable, such as, how could she remember the details & color of people's shoes or attire from 40+ years ago. Seemed quite made up. I really wish she talked more about the different songs she wrote, who or what inspired the lyrics, etc, as I've always enjoyed her music. How her voice has deepened greatly & became more raspy

over the years. And her life after James Taylor. Being hit with that Kenneth Star ponzi scheme would have been an interesting chapter.

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