



The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics

David G. Dodd (Commentary)

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Celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the most popular and enduring band ever: “Even the most hardcore Deadheads will be impressed by this obsessively complete look at the Grateful Dead’s lyrics” (*Publishers Weekly*).

The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics is an authoritative text, providing standard versions of all the original songs you thought you knew forwards and backwards. These are some of the best-loved songs in the modern American songbook. They are hummed and spoken among thousands as counterculture code and recorded by musicians of all stripes for their inimitable singability and obscure accessibility. How do they do all this? To provide a context for this formidable body of work, of which his part is primary, Robert Hunter has written a foreword that goes to the heart of the matter. And the annotations on sources provide a gloss on the lyrics, which goes to the roots of Western culture as they are incorporated into them.

An avid Grateful Dead concertgoer for more than two decades, David Dodd is a librarian who brings to the work a detective’s love of following a clue as far as it will take him. Including essays by Dead lyricists Robert Hunter and John Perry and Jim Carpenter’s original illustrations, whimsical elements in the lyrics are brought to light, showcasing the American legend that is present in so many songs. A gorgeous keepsake edition of the Dead’s official annotated lyrics, *The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics* is an absolute must-have for the fiftieth anniversary—you won’t think of this cultural icon the same way again. In fact, founding band member Bob Weir said: “This book is great. Now I’ll never have to explain myself.”

The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics Details

Date : Published October 13th 2015 by Simon Schuster (first published 2005)

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Author : David G. Dodd (Commentary)

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From Reader Review The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics for online ebook

Neelakantan K.K. says

Lyrics to the songs of my favorite band. What's not to like? Also, lovely illustrations and annotations.

Simon Sweetman says

The most exhaustive - exhausting - book of lyrics I've ever read; full of so many footnotes. A handful of brilliant lyrics - intriguing, elegiac, mercurial - from Robert Hunter. And then a lot of hippie tosh (also from Hunter - and the others). But it's all here. Literally, all of it. So much.

Kelley says

My favorite book of all time

Melissa says

love this book....not only because the lyrics of the dead are sometimes cryptic, but to see others thoughts on what symbolism was used and so on....

i cannot love this book anymore, and continue to refer to it and read it in bits and pieces...

Jack says

Although this does contain the complete annotated Grateful Dead lyrics with the addition of some covers, deadheads might be disappointed to find out it doesn't contain the most well known covers by them such as big river or el paso. Also, the annotations in this book aren't consistent, and I felt some things could've been annotated much more, and some songs much less. However, if you're a deadhead, it's still a good read. Gotta love the forward by Robert Hunter

David Ward says

[The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics](#) by David G. Dodd (Free Press 2005) (782.42166). This is a fascinating work. Every word in every Grateful Dead song has been parsed and referenced - and that's a lot of work. This is a must have for every Deadhead's library. My rating: 7.5/10, finished 2/10/2010.

Lauren says

Love using this while listening to the tunes. Gives you new outlooks and cross references. It goes by other dead song references and in general. I love the endless scope of the annotations! I learn so much every time I pick it up or check them out online. Online it's sometimes even more fun bc you see more feedback from other readers and how they have interpreted the lyrics.

Carlo says

This Is A Must Own for ALL Deadheads & even those who may not consider themselves so, but like their music. It is a fascinating look at what stories and meanings Robert Hunter & John Barlow were portraying in their lyrics. It is what the title says. I find it extremely interesting...although the price tag is not (still worth every penny)....so if you ever see it in a used bookstore....SNAG IT!
For those lyrics you couldn't fully pickup or understand. Very Detailed.

It is a book I refer to again and again - when I'm searching for the sound :-)

May we all be just a little bit kinder, more compassionate and Loving people - and let's try to put on our child glasses - you know the one's that help you see the world through a child's eyes ;-)

"They say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one"

Jonathan says

Robert Hunter's forward could in itself be reason enough to own this book. Listening to someone describe the secrets of lyrical alchemy with such clarity is totally spellbinding. To talk about writing lyrics in a way that is at once parallel to the individual listener's own life in such a deeply personal manner, while providing that same experience to so many different people universally with the very same words and intonation, and with such clarity, is a master stroke. It's amazing when you read or hear another's words ring so true that you must convince yourself that somehow they're not your own.

HeavyReader says

This book rocks! (Well, yeah, literally.)

Anybody who loves The Grateful Dead needs this book.

Anybody who loves poetry needs this book.

Anybody who's ever wondered what the hell Bob or Jerry is singing about needs this book.

This mighty tome (yes, I have always wanted to write "mighty tome") is full of lyrics, stories, explanations, poetry, and love.

Find out what song The Grateful Dead played live most often.

Learn about Neal Cassady's connection to Bob and the rest of the band.

Get the scoop on what piano player got it on with Janis Joplin.

All that's in here, plus a ton more.

You need this book!

Carol Kolceski says

This book is so awesome! It lists all the Grateful Dead lyrics and gives you some insight to what they were all about! I'm 'Grateful' to have gotten my hands on this book. It's nice having the index of all the songs when I want to locate a certain song. I really enjoy all the graphics and photos in the book as well!

Matt says

A Long Strange Trip

Reading a book of lyrics without listening to the songs makes little sense to me. Writing a review about said book is utterly stupid. So, I'm utterly stupid. Hardcore Deadheads own this book anyway. Newdeads shouldn't read the book, but listen to the music (and *then* get the book).

? *Let there be songs to fill the air*

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Dawn says

I love the Grateful Dead!! Jerry Garcia, Robert Hunter, and the others who wrote songs for the Dead are on a level all their own. This is a reference book much more than a book you would sit down and read cover to cover.

Just nothing left to do but smile smile smile.

Geoff says

The best thing about this book is, that it has all the lyrics to the Grateful Dead compositions. A few covers are also included, but only about 3% of the covers are included. This book tries to give meaning to the lyrics, by explaining what a certain reference, or lyric might mean. In general it was helpful, but a lot of it was filler, like going on for three paragraphs about a certain bird that was named in a song. The best parts were when someone like Phil Lesh or Robert Hunter explained what a certain part of the song meant. These came from the source, so these I put more credit in. Although, most of these quotes were lifted from other books.

This was a pretty large volume, around 500 pages, with a lot of good artwork. It includes a foreword and an afterword by Hunter and Barlow, and it just is generally a beautiful book. Reading it through straight wasn't as satisfying as I thought it would have been, though. But I am glad I purchased it, because I do see the value of this book always being used as a reference.

Rob says

Because these songs are special to many, myself included, the origins and stories behind their creation are interesting to me. John Barlow's essay on the writing of Cassidy on page 224 is worth the cost of admission alone.
