



I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen

By Sylvie Simmons

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Singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen is one of the most important and influential musical artists of the past fifty years—and one of the most elusive. In *I'm Your Man*, journalist Sylvie Simmons, one of the foremost chroniclers of the world of rock 'n' roll and popular music, explores the extraordinary life and creative genius of Leonard Cohen.

I'm Your Man is an intimate and insightful appreciation of the man responsible for “Suzanne,” “Bird on a Wire,” “Hallelujah,” and so many other unforgettable, oft-covered ballads and songs. Based on Simmons’s unparalleled access to Cohen—and written with her hallmark blend of intelligence, integrity, and style—*I'm Your Man* is the definitive biography of a major musical artist widely considered in a league with the great Bob Dylan.

Readers of *Life* by Rolling Stone Keith Richards and Patti Smith’s phenomenal *Just Kids* will be riveted by this fascinating portrait of a singular musical icon.

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I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen By Sylvie Simmons Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review As a teenager in Montreal, Leonard Cohen learned six chords on a guitar from a young Spanish teacher that would form the foundation for all of his songs. In this compelling biography, Simmons chronicles the career of the courtly, elegant—"I was born in a suit"—singer-songwriter, poet, and novelist, from his first band in Montreal (a country-and-western trio, no less) to his early days in New York, where he lived at the famous Chelsea Hotel, to his most recent world tour, during which the seventysomething Cohen literally skipped onstage. Simmons includes fascinating anecdotes—Cohen meeting Judy Collins, who would later record one of his signature songs, "Suzanne"; encountering fellow Canadian Joni Mitchell in Greenwich Village (Mitchell's "A Case of You" was inspired by Cohen); scary recording sessions with the gun-toting record producer Phil Spector, and spending time at a Zen monastery. Simmons also discusses at length Cohen's impressive body of work, including poetry and prose as well as songs (his iconic "Hallelujah" has been covered by more than 300 artists), mentions his numerous bouts of depression, and recounts his unfortunate financial difficulties when his former manager stole funds from his retirement account. A must for anyone interested in one of the most influential songwriters of our time. --June Sawyers

Review

"I'm Your Man is the major, soul-searching biography that Leonard Cohen deserves... a mesmerizing labor of love." (Janet Maslin, New York Times)

"A thoughtful celebration of the artist's life...Simmons has deftly narrated Cohen's evolution... In the end, this biography has the oddest effect: as soon as you finish reading it you feel an overwhelming impulse to go back and begin again, revisiting the story with what you've learned along the way." (A.M. Homes, New York Times Book Review)

"A new gold standard of Cohen bios." (Los Angeles Times)

"This is the bio Cohen has long deserved, and it makes every prior Cohen book practically unnecessary." (Rolling Stone, 4 1/2 Stars)

"The book is a seductive tribute to a master seducer." (The Onion A.V. Club)

"A deep, enlightening book. . . Simmons, a music journalist and short-story writer, knows how to research and write and keep a critical distance from Cohen, who opens up some but uses his usual weapons, politeness and self-deprecation, to maintain an air of mystery." (The Oregonian (Portland))

"Leonard fought darkness through his work and... the light ultimately prevailed when he triumphantly toured the world for three years beginning in 2008... 'You could hear the hairs stand up on people's arms,' writes Simmons of the hushed reverence of his audience. This book demands a similar reaction." (MOJO Magazine, 5 Stars)

"This is a revelatory biography that investigates not just an artist's life, but the life of his art." (Shelf Awareness)

"In *I'm Your Man*, we see not only the life of one man who was transformed by words, but how we ourselves may be transformed by them." (New York Jewish Week)

“Simmons’ rich, compelling and provocative book... is a star-studded but also frank account of how the music industry really works and, at the same time, a discerning portrait of one especially important musician.” (Jewish Journal Los Angeles)

“Simmons is a wonderful writer... the book informs like carefully researched non-fiction, but engages like enchanting fiction... Like listening to one of Cohen’s songs, this complex, beautiful biography requires you to think about it. This book will stay with you. It will change the way you hear Leonard Cohen.” (Paste Magazine)

“[A] vibrant and enthusiastic chronicle... Carefully weaving the threads of all of his songs and albums through the patterns of his life, Simmons craftily explores the themes that regularly mark Cohen’s work: desire, regret, suffering, love, hope, and hamming it up.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“In this elegantly crafted biography, Simmons captures the artist who, in spite of all his highs and lows, is still sharp at the edges, a wise old monk, a trouper offering up himself and his songs.” (BookPage)

“Exquisitely researched and elegantly written.” (Dallas Morning News)

“The success of Simmons’ book is the way it deftly integrates each facet in a unified portrait.” (San Jose Mercury News)

“Cohen is a complex man and Sylvie Simmons has captured every essence of it in her remarkable book. This is a deeply insightful portrait that is guaranteed to haunt the reader much like his “Suzanne” and “Bird on the Wire.” (The Tuscon Citizen)

“Compelling biography. . . A must for anyone interested in one of the most influential songwriters of our time.” (Booklist (starred review))

From the Back Cover

Leonard Cohen, one of the most important and influential artists of our era, is a man of powerful emotion and intelligence whose work has explored the essential issues of human life—sex, religion, power, love. Cohen is also a man of complexities and seeming contradictions: a devout Jew, who is also a sophisticate and a ladies' man, as well as an ordained Buddhist monk whose name, Jikan—"ordinary silence"—is quite the appellation for a writer and singer whose life has been anything but ordinary.

I'm Your Man is the definitive account of that extraordinary life. Starting in Montreal, Cohen's birthplace, acclaimed music journalist Sylvie Simmons follows his trail, via London and the Greek island of Hydra, to New York in the sixties, where Cohen launched his career in music. From there she traces the arc of his prodigious achievements to his remarkable retreat in the mid-nineties and his reemergence for a sold-out world tour almost fifteen years later. Whether navigating Cohen's journeys through the backstreets of Mumbai or his countless hotel rooms along the way, Simmons explores with equal focus every complex, contradictory strand of Cohen's life and presents a deeply insightful portrait of the vision, spirit, depth, and talent of an artist and a man who continues to move people like no one else.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Glenn Hancock:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen, you can enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Guillermo Behler:

Do you really one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Aim to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't determine book by its protect may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside search likes. Maybe you answer might be I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen why because the wonderful cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint anyone. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Garland Thorpe:

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