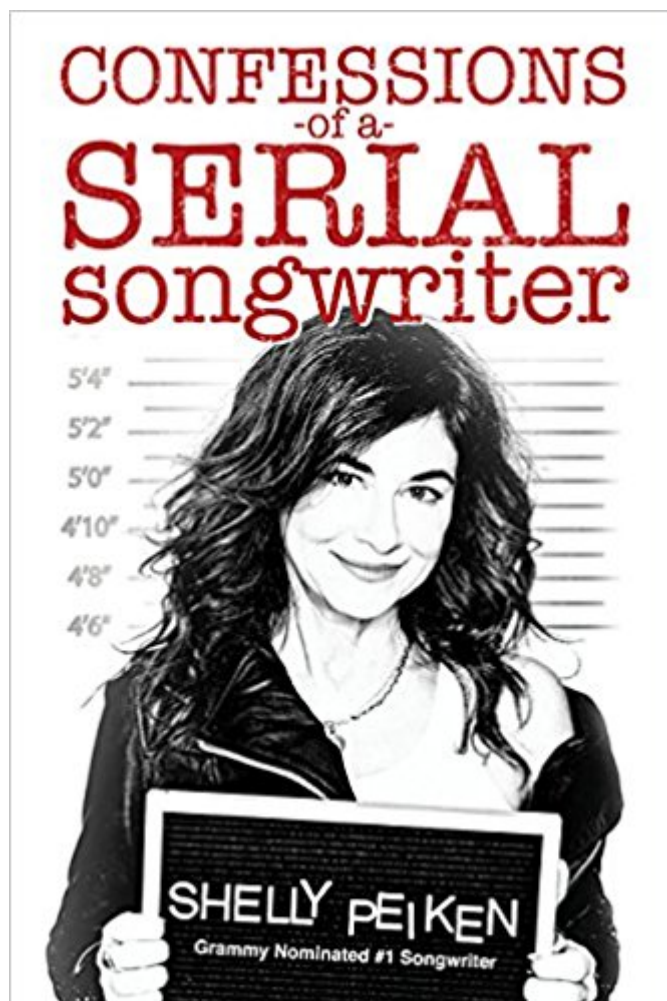


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Confessions Of A Serial Songwriter



Synopsis

(Book). *Confessions of a Serial Songwriter* is an amusing and poignant memoir about songwriter Shelly Peiken's journey from young girl falling under the spell of magical songs to working professional songwriter writing hits of her own, penning culturally resonant, female-empowerment anthems such as Christina Aguilera's No. 1 hit, "What A Girl Wants" and Meredith Brooks' smash, "Bitch." It's about growing up, the creative process the highs and the lows, the conflicts that arise between motherhood and career success, the divas and schemers, but also the talented and remarkable people she's found along the way. It's filled with stories and step-by-step advice about the songwriting process, especially collaboration. And it's about the challenge of staying relevant in a rapidly changing and youth-driven world. As Shelly so eloquently states in *Confessions of a Serial Songwriter* : "If I had to come up with one X factor that I could cite as a characteristic most hit songs have in common (and this excludes hit songs that are put forth by an already well-oiled machine...that is, a recording artist who has so much notoriety and momentum that just about anything he or she releases, as long as it's 'pretty good,' will have a decent shot at succeeding), I would say it would be: A universal sentiment in a unique frame." Peiken has tapped the universal sentiment again and again; her songs have been recorded by such artists as Christina Aguilera, Natalie Cole, Selena Gomez, Celine Dion, the Pretenders, and others. In *Confessions of a Serial Songwriter*, she pulls the curtain back on the music business from the perspective of a behind-the-scenes hit creator and shares invaluable insight into the craft of songwriting.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I'm eternally grateful to professional songwriters, the unsung heroes of many giant careers. Shelly Peiken provides fascinating insight into this least understood profession to the thorough delight of the reader." - Clive Davis "A little bit of Nora Ephron, a little bit Carole King and a whole lot of fun." --David Wild "Few know how challenging it can be to navigate the music business better than the very people who sustain it - hardworking professional songwriters. One writer who lived through that struggle and attained great heights is BMI affiliate Shelly Peiken. By sharing her experience and her journey as a songwriter, Peiken's story is informative and inspirational, but also a compellingly funny read, a must for music industry newcomers and veterans alike." - BMI "In the conversational tone of your BFF, Shelly Peiken tells you everything about the life of a songwriter. The good, the bad, the funny, the sad, what you need to know, what you want to know and even what you wish you didn't know, but are now grateful she told you. Confessions of a Serial Songwriter is the 'must have songwriter's guide to life in the music business.'" --Cynthia Weil "Confessions of a Serial Songwriter reinforces the idea that we can always dream, we can always aspire to do something new and invigorating with our lives; we just have to believe and put one foot in front of the other." --Jorge Hernandez

SHELLY PEIKEN (Los Angeles) is a Grammy-nominated songwriter. She has been a prolific, behind-the-scenes force in the music business for more than two decades. Her songs have sold in excess of 50 million records. She is best known for penning culturally resonant, female-empowerment anthems such as Christina Aguilera's No. 1 hit What a Girl Wants and Meredith Brooks' smash Bitch.

Whether you are an aspiring artist, a CPA or an automotive engineer, Shelly Peiken's CONFESSIONS OF A SERIAL SONGWRITER is a must read for you. Even though Peiken's journey is told through the inspiration of an aspiring songwriter her motivation is universal to all of our life's experience. From Shelly's longing to find a place where she belongs as a college student to the terrible realization that the feeling of her first two lane love left her lonely on a one way street to being at a lost for words upon an unexpected meeting with your lifelong idol, Carly Simon you will laugh out loud and continuously cheer for Shelly as she maintains her focus and never stops moving forward towards her songwriting dreams. We all can relate to the desire to hold on desperately to our innermost wishes in spite of the unforeseen detours life forces us to take. CONFESSIONS OF A SERIAL SONGWRITER is the perfect piece of hope that will give you the

reason to pick yourself up, brush off the dirt of disappointment and try, try again! Phil Elam

Whether you're a seasoned, chart-topping songwriter, a professional musician, an aspiring singer/songwriter or simply a music fan, "Confessions of a Serial Songwriter" provides a fascinating look inside the mind and heart of the immensely talented and successful artist, Shelly Peiken. She describes in great detail the process(es) involved in bringing songs to life, from the first moment of inspiration, collaborations with other artists, recording of demos, placement of material with recording artists, the inherent treachery of the music business, right up to the triumphant moments of hearing her creations on the radio and ultimately seeing them reach the very top of the charts. More than once! All told from the unique perspective of a woman charting her course through an evolving, yet still often-times male dominated industry. Inspiring, hilarious, touching and genuine, "Confessions of a Serial Songwriter" is both entertaining and educational. She makes the leap from writing "3 minutes worth of lyrics" to full-length book flawlessly and sticks the landing. In the interest of full disclosure, it has been my recent good fortune to become acquainted with Shelly and her wonderful family via my work with her husband, Adam. I can attest firsthand that the wit, charm and intellect found within "Confessions of a Serial Songwriter" jumps off the page and into real life. We truly wouldn't have it any other way.

Shelly Peiken had me at Long Island, and piano lessons, and doing her own musical thing, and love songs. All things I was part of or had passions for myself as a songwriter and recording artist in the 70s. She passed me by at song sex and negotiating the new music industry that I was not part of an industry now that has little regard for artists and songwriters and songs. Yet somehow you'll read it here- she not only persevered and survived but succeeded in great fashion and still is. Her story is told through the eyes, ears, heart and experiences of one who passed through several musical decades and more than two generations in the biz and watched it change and stayed in no matter how frustrating, disheartening or challenging it was to exercise her stunning craft and passions. Her take on the songwriting profession, how it has changed and how it has stayed the same is as good a synopsis as I have read and done in a storytelling format that weaves in her own life and family with the family of technobeaters, frankenwriters, demo lovers, topliners, back trackers, auto tuners, producers, so called producers, engineers, and the inevitable hangers on, not to forget the authentic musicians and songwriters like Shelly who still make "music" today.

As someone from the old school I can't say I wasn't uncomfortable reading what Shelly had to put herself through at times, but also inspired and proud of her that she had the chops, emotional stamina and professionalism it takes to keep rockin' and rollin' her way to hit records, Grammy nods and more. It ain't easy, I can tell you. But this serial and serious songwriter makes it fun and takes us on a musical mystery tour you won't forget.

Absolutely loved this book! It was like sitting down for a cup of a coffee with Shelly and hearing her tell honest stories about not just the behind the scenes of the music business, but about living life in the midst of all of that and how as a songwriter you can't separate the two. Reading her stories of past relationships, family, husband, daughter, and general day to day life things and how all of those things show up in the way she writes songs and makes career decisions is really inspiring. Makes the whole being a songwriter thing actually REAL again as opposed to what it feels like it's turned into which is just 20 people in a room trying to find a rhyme for the word "tonight". :-)

She definitely gets across that the craft of songwriting that she fell in love with and that has shaped her biggest hits was never about portraying an image of something you're not, but chasing the feelings and moments that actually make you feel something, whether they are pretty or not. It's refreshing to find people still writing from a real place and encouraging others that that's not only ok, but really the only way to get that songwriting high that we've felt at one point or another and don't ever want to let go of. This is a must read for any songwriter getting lost in the climate of the business or just looking for a little inspiration. Grab a cup of coffee and sit back and enjoy the stories. They are real, honest, sad, funny, edgy, and FAR FAR FAR from ever boring. Definitely recommend this book.

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