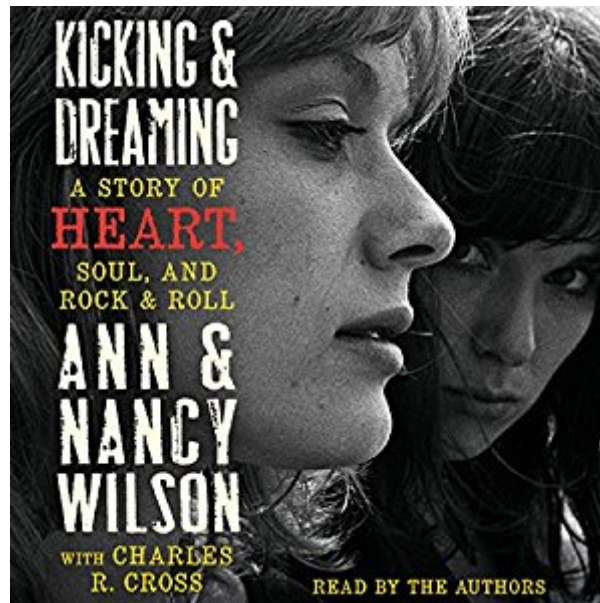




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Kicking And Dreaming: A Story Of Heart, Soul, And Rock And Roll



Synopsis

Two sisters. Two voices. One Heart. The mystery of "Magic Man". The wicked riff of "Barracuda". The sadness and beauty of "Alone". The raw energy of "Crazy On You". These songs, and so many more, are part of the fabric of American music. Heart, fronted by Ann and Nancy Wilson, has given fans everywhere classic, raw, and pure badass rock and roll for more than three decades. As the only sisters in rock who write their own music and play their own instruments, Ann and Nancy have always stood apart - certainly from their male counterparts but also from their female peers. By refusing to let themselves and their music be defined by their gender, and by never allowing their sexuality to overshadow their talent, the Wilson sisters have made their mark, and in the process paved the way for many of today's female artists. In *Kicking and Dreaming*, Ann and Nancy, with the help of critically acclaimed and best-selling music biographer Charles R. Cross, recount a journey that has taken them from a gypsy-like life as the children of a globe-trotting Marine to the frozen back roads of Vancouver, where they got their start as a band, to the pinnacle of success - and sometimes excess. In these pages, readers will learn the truth about the relationship that inspired "Magic Man" and "Crazy On You", the turmoil of inter-band romances gone awry, the reality of life on the road as single women and then as mothers of small children, and the thrill of performing and in some cases partying with the likes of the Rolling Stones, Stevie Nicks, Van Halen, Def Leppard, and other rock legends. It has not always been an easy path. Ann struggled with and triumphed over a childhood stutter, body image, and alcoholism; Nancy suffered the pain and disappointment of fertility issues and a failed marriage but ultimately found love again and happiness as a mom. Through it all, the sisters drew from the strength of a family bond that trumps everything else, as told in this intimate, honest, and uniquely female take on the rock and roll life. Throughout their career, Ann and Nancy have never found an answer to the question they are most frequently asked: "What is it like to be a woman in rock and roll?" *Kicking and Dreaming* puts that question to bed, once and for all.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 51 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: September 18, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B009CMO4ZY

Best Sellers Rank: #42 in [Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Music](#) #84 in [Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians](#) #128 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rock](#)

Customer Reviews

Real stories, well told- both the Audible and written versions. The audio is actually Ann&Nancy, Sue&Lynn. What a treat! (The guys are the narrator.) Unlike most 'stars', the Wilson girls had a very different view of achieving success. Like many of us who saw John&Paul on Ed Sullivan, playing a guitar/bass on stage became our passion and our job. Hearing each sister's story is both sad and refreshing. If anyone deserved to create the best sounding, most successful rock band to the world, it was the Wilson sisters! Sharing about their caring parents, Lou and John and their long-suffering guidance, provided that solid family background and that has never vanished. Reading this book, and hearing the girl's voices reminds one to re-listen to their songs and to watch their performance live on the recent reunion video with Steve, D'Rosh, Rog and the amazing Howman!-that will always give a lift to one's day, if not bring tears to your eyes and joy to your heart. The power and determination of Ann&Nancy are obvious-and this work shows that it was extremely hard work and had many setbacks and worldly conflicts which they overcame. For anyone who cares about Heart, this book will make you care more about Ann&Nancy than any ordinary 'fan' could. A meaningful showbiz tale. Thanks girls for documenting these decades of joy, setbacks and rewards for all of us!

I am a Heart fan. I only learned of Heart/Ann and Nancy in the mid 1980s when I was introduced to the song "Never". I was drawn to their vocals. And when this happened, I purchased all their albums. Only once did I hear of them in the late 70s with the song Straight On. In any case, I'm not a Heart, or Ann and Nancy historian, but I have to say this book was eloquently written. The two sisters as well as Sue Ennis and some of the band members, share their life and their love for music. Also their experiences with other artists. The sisters are open, articulate very well their feelings, reflections, experiences: triumphs and challenges. They are introspective on their experiences. The set up of the book is great. The format is that the author indicates who is speaking first. For example, a chapter will start the header Ann. Then with Nancy. It's nice to see how their lives constantly intertwined, overlap. And how close they are. The book has given me opportunities

to laugh out loud and say Yeah! Also this book, filled in some gaping wholes for me. For example, a coffee commercial, I remember seeing them in. Or at least what I thought was them. They explain all about it. I highly recommend this book.

I liked this book. Ann and Nancy strike me as very hardworking, down to earth gals just trying to make a living. It's very hard to work with a sibling, but they managed always to work things out. It's a shame now that they are estranged, but they are both level headed gals & I hope they can work things out. Book a good read.

As a life-long fan of Heart, this was essential reading. Some stories I knew from old articles and others were new to me. The overwhelming feeling of sadness comes from knowing the turmoil surrounding Heart now, and the feeling of loss...Will Heart ever be a band again? Worth every penny, however. If you love the band, you will love the book.

The book is a first-person narrative of Ann and Nancy's life stories. They start with their childhood and take turns recalling home life, Mom and Dad, Ann's childhood struggles with her weight, and the night they saw the Beatles on Ed Sullivan, an event that changed their lives. There is Ann's first guitar, the young sisters performing for their teenage friends (Nancy wasn't even twelve), and so on. The book continues in like fashion through more than forty years, all the way to present (2012 is the latest date in the book, I think). If anyone is hoping for titillating Women of Rock debauchery, forget it. It isn't here. The Wilson sisters tell their stories the way anyone would. They recall people and events, and they reflect on how forces sometimes co-mingled and nudged their lives this way and that. They recall decisions they made and the outcomes of those decisions. They recall good times and not so good times. And, they reflect on the way things turned out. I came away from the book thinking of them more as people with a home life who just also happen to perform in a band. So much so, that I was sometimes surprised when some other Rock icon would pop in at one of their homes, which reminded me that these ladies are Rock Royalty!

Folk music was always open for females with their acoustic guitars and mournful voices. Women were allowed to sing the Blues or dress up and croon songs of love and angst, but Rock music? Hardly ever. Especially those who played their own electric guitars. So I always admired Heart and still do air guitar, in the privacy of my car, to my favorite: Crazy On You. But I never really paid attention to the actual women although when a fuss was made over Ann Wilson's weight in the past

I felt pretty upset for her and all women who aren't allowed to gain weight or have gray hair and worst of all, wrinkle! What does that have to do with the gifts we give? Kicking and Dreaming filled in the blanks for me: a life of glamor? Well, they also struggled, like us other humans, with relationships, family, shyness, put-downs and addictions. Yet their creativity in writing words and music, performing, and bringing joy to many of us via their talent encourages us to reach for excellence in our own lives and so that sometimes over-used expression "Role Models" must be used by me about them. I recommend that you buy the Enhanced version because it includes an audio track of their new song and some short videos spanning their young life to recent times.

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