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# The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics



## Synopsis

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."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Do you know the way to Fennario? Or wonder where the Nuthatch winters? What is the "Buck Dancer's Choice?" And where do the four winds dwell? If these are questions that leave you wondering then David Dodd's *The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics* may just be the skeleton key you've been looking for. Every Deadhead knows there is something profound hidden within their lyrics, even if most of the nuances go by unnoticed. Why are the obscure tales of their characters' (Jack Straw, Black Peter, August West, et al) trials and tribulations on the psychedelic Americana landscape so intriguing? What is the deal with the reoccurring imagery that popped in and out of their songs for decades (the crows, light and darkness, rolling rivers, gambling, playing cards, space, and, of course, roses)? It is clear the Grateful Dead's lyricists Robert Hunter and John Barlow tapped into the well of the collective subconscious for material, but rarely were any explanations provided. Fans were basically on their own to put the pieces together themselves, until now. *The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics* began as a research project for David Dodd while he was working at the University of Colorado. Like many fans before him, Dodd spent hours passionately trying to find the deeper meanings in the Dead's songs. In 1994 the Internet may have been in its infancy, but Dodd knew the Web was the perfect tool to help him annotate the entire Dead catalog. So began the building of his incredibly popular Web site. The fruits of his labors lie within the pages of this encyclopedic book. Where Robert Hunter's *A Box of Rain* only includes his lyrical contributions to the Dead's catalog, Dodd's book is expanded to include John Barlow's songs, as well as tunes the Dead covered so many times they became their own. It is worth mentioning, this book should not be viewed as a cheat sheet, but a tool giving lots of background and cross-references. The interpretations are still up to you. Be forewarned, this book can be extremely habit forming. --Rob Bracco --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Even the most hardcore Deadheads will be impressed by this obsessively complete look at the Grateful Dead's lyrics written by Robert Hunter and John Barlow, as well as selected traditional and cover songs that were basic parts of the Dead's repertoire. In 1994, Dodd (*The Grateful Dead Reader*) founded the first Web site of annotated Dead lyrics, and this book is the product of that project, which united academics and fans in finding "new references, resonances, and refractions" in favorites like "Dark Star" and "Uncle John's Band." The annotations range from a look at the influence of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," Stephen Foster's "Oh Susanna," and Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* on Hunter's "New Speedway Boogie" to a recipe for cream puffs by Denver Post food critic John Kessler to illustrate "Cream Puff War," an obscure tune by Jerry Garcia. But the heart of

the book is Hunter's exquisitely written foreword, which is equal parts love letter to the lyric tradition, impassioned argument on the importance of songwriting and creativity, and reverie for the Grateful Dead themselves and his luck in being their primary lyricist: "I lived lyric year in and year out for decades and never lost my taste for it." Illus., photos. (Oct. 27) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I bought The Complete Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics book for my husband for Christmas and I was more pleased than I thought I would be! The cover is bright and vivid. The book is heavy. It is the perfect size and weight for a coffee table book. The interior of the book is full of amazing information! This is definitely a great purchase, and one I would make again.

Outstanding and fun to read through. I wish there were more anecdotal stories on how the songs came to be, but no complaints here!

Who can deny the brilliance in the poetry of the Grateful Dead- no one!!! Amazing all the way!!!

This is the best lyric book on our celestial "box of rain." Perhaps I'm biased to the grandeur of grateful dead lyrics, but the amount of effort that went into making this book the best is very apparent. Major highlights are the extensive interpretations of the song lyrics, historical facts about characters and recurring themes, aesthetically pleasing artwork, and a comprehensive and chronological order of their catalog. After buying this book to find out what the grateful dead is all about, since I'm too young to have ever seen them live, I've learned so much about them and even more about Robert Hunter. Quite plainly, he is an astonishing lyricist. Reading lyrics in this book (in comparison to looking up lyrics online) makes you appreciate them that much more. Like other reviewers have mentioned, this will probably not be a straight through read but rather a reference when you need to look up something, and its easy with a thorough index in the back.

Came earlier than expected and was in great condition. I ordered this for my dad for his birthday and he loved it. All there work is in there, with the lyrics, thoughts on lyrics, and some songs even say what line was written by whom and what it means and references made to other work. 10/10 would buy again.

It was supposed to be a Christmas present.. OOOOps, Doesn't really matter., The Deadhead in this house thought he knew ALL THE LYRICS Almost!!! He gave it the 5 stars! Well, it's nice to get at least one very special Christmas present early. He had nothing but praise.

THIS IS A REVIEW OF THE 2015 EDITION OF THE COMPLETE ANNOTATED GRATEFUL DEAD LYRICS.BEWARE! THIS IS NOTHING BUT A REPRINT OF THE 2005 EDITION WITH A NEW DUST JACKET.There's absolutely nothing new in this latest edition of this book. So if you already own the 2005 edition there's no need to purchase this unless you want the new dust jacket with the cool graphic, or you're a collector. The five "stars" is for the content--NOT because there's anything new or different in the contents. If you check the page for this book the publishing info says "Reissue Edition".But if you don't own this book and are thinking of buying it--it's a very good book with informative annotations which add insight into many of the tunes. The illustrations add to the overall "coolness" of the book. And 's price is very good. But everything--from Hunter's long Foreward to Alan Trist's Preface, to David Dodd's Introduction, to Barlow's Afterword is exactly the same.

Nice to look at this when listening to the many versions of the songs in this book that I have in iTunes. Knowing the origins of phrases in the songs, like "buck dancer's choice," "Majordomo Billy Bojangles," "Ramblin' Rose," is nice. I gave copies to my kids to use when they got stuck doing creative writing assignments in school, and they did. If you like the Dead, this is the first book you want to buy.

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