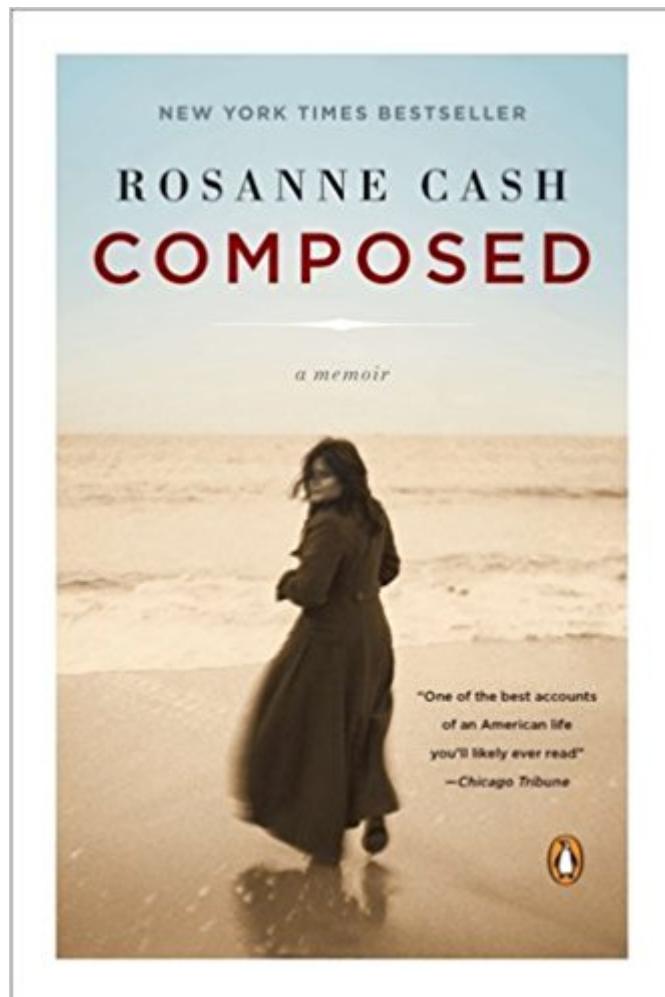


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Composed: A Memoir



Synopsis

"One of the best accounts of an American life you'll likely ever read." -Julia Keller, Chicago Tribune

As moving, disarming, and elusive as one of her classic songs, Composed is Rosanne Cash's testament to the power of art, tradition, and love to transform a life. For more than three decades she has been one of the most compelling figures in popular music, having moved gracefully from Nashville stardom to critical recognition as a singer-songwriter and author of essays and short stories. Her remarkable body of work has often been noted for its emotional acuity, its rich and resonant imagery, and its unsparing honesty. Those qualities have enabled her to establish a unique intimacy with her audiences, and it is those qualities that inform her long-awaited memoir.

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Customer Reviews

Rosanne Cash's Composed Playlist Rosanne Cash looks back on her life as an artist, a songwriter, and an heir to an incredible industry legend in Composed. Here, she's provided readers with a special playlist--along with behind-the-music liner notes--that puts her unique life story to music. You can also sample and download these songs in our custom MP3 playlist.

"Sleeping In Paris" (1993) I wrote this just before I went to Paris in 1990. It became a metaphor for resolving things that could not be resolved. "Seven Year Ache" (1981) This song began as a long poem, three or four pages long, and I distilled it down into the song it became. I wrote it when Rickie Lee Jones first album was out, and it was really influential for me. I was thinking that I didn't know any country songs about being on the streets, or street life, and I wanted to write one. This was my

attempt. "On The Inside" (1990) This is the first track on my album "Interiors." The whole album was about the difference between what is going on inside, and what you show the world on the outside. "Rules of Travel" (2003) I wrote the chorus to this YEARS before the whole song was finished. It became the title song of the album. I still think it is one of the best choruses I've written. "Dreams Are Not My Home" (2006) I was in Cambridge, England, playing at the Folk Festival, and my daughter and I climbed to the top of an ancient church, and I looked out over the River Cam and a picture unfolded in my mind, of the river rising, and Chelsea and I flying away. All the images in the song are dream-like, and the chorus is a longing to break free of the dreams. "House on The Lake" (1980) John Leventhal and I wrote this song, and it's full of detail about the home my dad and stepmother lived in. It's from the album 'Black Cadillac'. Many of those songs are about loss, but this one is also about what remains-- the love and memories. "The Way We Make A Broken Heart" (1987) This song is written by the great John Hiatt, one of my favorite songwriters. It was a big hit for me on the country charts in the 90's. It was an innovative record and just such a beautiful song. "Like Fugitives" (2006) This was the last song I wrote for my album "Black Cadillac," shortly after my mother died. I was angry and sad, and I didn't pull any punches, lyrically. "Black Cadillac" (2006) This was the first song I wrote for my album "Black Cadillac." It was like a 'postcard from the future'. Everyone started dying after I wrote this. "She's Got You" (1986) This song was written by the great songwriter Hank Cochran, and it was made famous by Patsy Cline. I had to get Patsy's voice out of my head to even approach singing this! I finally just asked her to help me. It seemed to work. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. This work is a rare treat, as Cash, firstborn to country music legend Johnny Cash, is not only a hereditary celebrity musician, having made scores of albums and #1 singles, but a terrific writer in her own right. Indeed, her memoir is an intensely reflective, carefully hewn chronicle of her coming-into-her-own as a writer. Born in 1955 to Johnny Cash's littleknown first wife, Vivian, just at the breakthrough of her father's music career with the hit "Cry, Cry, Cry," Cash describes herself as a "pudgy, withdrawn girl" already aware that she was "a counterfeit with a strange, hidden life." That included an anxious mother, three younger sisters, and a father who was frequently absent and erratic, due to his abuse at the time of amphetamines and barbiturates. From growing up in Southern California to visits to her father's house in Hendersonville, Tenn., Cash idolized her father and rarely questioned his authority, such as sending her off to work at CBS Records in London at age 20. At Vanderbilt University, she studied with Walter Sullivan; toyed with Method acting in L.A.; then recorded four demos in Munich, Germany, for Ariola Records, away from the

scrutiny of comparison with her father. Cash depicts pensively her early delight in analogue recording and honing her writing craft. Despite an inordinate preponderance of funeral eulogies and some odd structuring toward the end, Cash's memoir sheds clear light on her talent and drive.

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Excellent writer with humor and originality. She writes lyrically and creatively. She's able to reflect on her career, family and loves with so much style. Roseanne is honest, more reserved than I'd imagined, but with a flair and sense of whimsy intact. Loved this memoir and look forward to more of her writing and music. Wit and Wisdom

Rosanne Cash's "Composed" reads more like a diary than an autobiography. For someone as private as Rosanne, it's amazing how open she is in the pages of this book. The book does provide some "behind the scenes" info about her career, but for the most part the book is more about her private life. The book is very well written which makes it a page turner. One of my favorite chapters is the one dealing with the deaths of her step mother, June Carter, her father, Johnny Cash, and her mother Vivian Liberto. The chapter is emotional and Rosanne reprints the eulogies she gave for each of these people. The one for June Carter is absolutely beautiful. Rosanne does comment a bit about each album from her 1978 German only debut up thru her current release. She says that her "Rhythm & Romance" album from 1985 is one of her least favorites. That album happens to be my personal favorite of her releases and the album that made me a fan. So that was a bit disappointing to read, but it's that kind openness that makes the book so great. "Composed" is one of the best autobiographies I've read and is highly recommended if you're a fan of Rosanne Cash. After reading the book you will appreciate her that much more.

wonderful story by a true artist.WAM

Smart, moving, funny. A totally satisfying read.

I've been a fan of Rosanne Cash since the first time I heard her on the radio. I think it has something to do with being same age and being a musician myself. This book is a quick read and being a fan of the Cash and Carter families, I found it fascinating. It's time to read it again.

About 30 years ago I went to a concert in Seattle. Before the performance some music was played that I was really drawn to. I tried everything to find out who this female singer was; all I had to go on was that Emmylou Harris lent her distinctive vocals to several songs. Every time I went to Tower Records I looked through the stacks of new LPs until several months later I found who this elusive artist with the beautiful voice was--It was Rosanne Cash. Over the years I have purchased all her music in one format or another. I am sorry to say I have not yet seen her perform although she is on my bucket list. When I heard she had written a memoir about her life I knew immediately I had to read it. Cash, whose intelligent and insightful lyrics have made many identify with the themes in her songs, is a wonderful writer. Whether she's telling about growing up in southern California, visiting her father and June at their "House on the Lake" near Nashville, working in London, or more recently living in New York City where she has found her niche, she uses brilliant prose. As a very private person, I was sometimes surprised at some of the stories she shared. At only 244 pages, there isn't one dull point in her memoir. She tells of the hurt and pain she has gone through, particularly in 2003-2005 where she lost so many people close to her and her readers can feel her grief. Then she tells of how proud she is of her daughters and son, how happy she is in her current (second) marriage and readers are able to rejoice with her. One of my favorite stories is of her going to Scotland to the old ancestral sites and serendipitously finding a gentleman who had become friends with her father years earlier. COMPOSED: A MEMOIR is a quick but emotional read. I enjoyed learning not only of Rosanne's life but the music business and just a little about what it takes to put out a CD and then to go on tour, sometimes leaving very little for family time although Rosanne seems to have mixed the two well, now going on the road only in the summer. I highly recommend this book not only to fans of Rosanne Cash, but to those who enjoy a good, well-written memoir. My only complaints were that it wasn't a little longer and that there weren't more pictures, the ones included were just in the frontispiece (note - the captions are found at the very end of the book). But realizing how private she is, it is understandable how she wishes to somehow retain that sense of privacy yet share with the reader her lovely family (it was great to see the picture of her daughters, all grown up, along with her son with her current husband). The only big thing missing was "The List" of songs her father, Johnny, shared with her of the best country songs. Now if Rosanne would just come to the Seattle area so I can see her perform in person, I'd be really happy.

I've always loved Rosanne Cash as a singer songwriter. She's a gifted writer. And she takes you straight into the heart of a complicated life without apology.

This is one of the best books I have ever read. Good insight on Rosanne. She is very talented and intelligent. A must read for any fan and any Johnny Cash fan. She is not only his daughter, but an independent lady. She was determined to do her own thing and did.

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