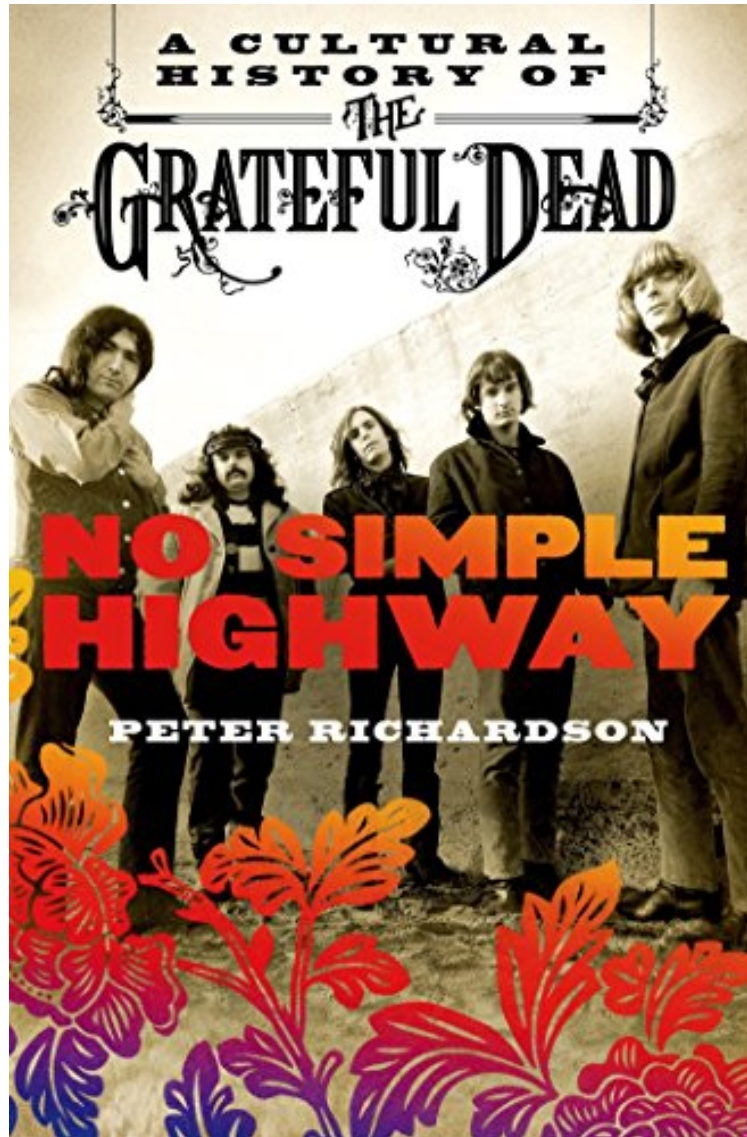


[Download] No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead

## No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead

*Peter Richardson*

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**Peter Richardson : No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. No Simple HighwayBy OBIEThere are 3 types of Grateful Dead books out now for the 50th anniversary, the first is memoirs from the insiders, Like Phil, Bill, Dennis McNally, Rock Scully....,then there's the ones by fans, like David Gans or Blair Jackson that give the view from close to the inner circle but not privy to the inner dealings making them outsiders like most of us, then there's a 3rd type of GD book

something called Grateful Dead studies, this is one of those. Most Grateful Dead studies books are dry and technical as the authors try to make the case that deadheads are a real subculture worth academic study. This one flows well and was an easy summer read. It is well researched and quotes liberally from various inner and fan sources, but manages to come up with some new quotes to keep it interesting enough to look for more unique interviews. The addition of the cultural, political and sociological context to the well known GD narrative reminded me of events I had forgotten which were part of the times. This made it feel more like a history book that happened to be centered on the GD timeline. This is not a bad thing. The thesis of the book was well developed and details were given a fairly unbiased description without gossip or moralizing about the lifestyle choices of the people involved. Seems like a person I would like to have a chat with to continue the conversation. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Written with Insight and Care By Erin Lee Very well written. I like that the book is not only about the band. I am glad that there is a lot of historical information about the general state of the nation and the world at each time in the Dead's history. Richardson also offers new insights and new stories. He really thought about the book rather than just spitting out a book to be sold. I think a lot of people can learn about our town and our nation and the band and its followers from Richardson. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very good look back at 50 years of Grateful Dead history By GRATEFUL DEAD BOOKS LLC A very good look back at 50 years of Grateful Dead history. I learned quite a few new facts about the GD. The research and interviews are first rate. Everything is supported with attributions and sources. The writing style is a sort of stream of conscious factual style interspersed with critical and relevant commentary. Serious Deadheads will find more of a recitation of countless articles but it's great to have all those nuggets in one book....(Why was Jerry's quote bleeped ?)...Anyway good job and a needed text in the ever growing GD library. [www.gratefuldeadbooks.com](http://www.gratefuldeadbooks.com)

For almost three decades, the Grateful Dead was America's most popular touring band. *No Simple Highway* is the first book to ask the simple question of why—and attempt to answer it. Drawing on new research, interviews, and a fresh supply of material from the Grateful Dead archives, author Peter Richardson vividly recounts the Dead's colorful history, adding new insight into everything from the Acid Tests to the band's formation of their own record label to their massive late career success, while probing the riddle of the Dead's vast and durable appeal. Arguing that the band successfully tapped three powerful utopian ideals—for ecstasy, mobility, and community—it also shows how the Dead's lived experience with these ideals struck deep chords with two generations of American youth and continues today. Routinely caricatured by the mainstream media, the Grateful Dead are often portrayed as grizzled hippy throwbacks with a cult following of burned-out stoners. *No Simple Highway* corrects that impression, revealing them to be one of the most popular, versatile, and resilient music ensembles in the second half of the twentieth century. The band's history has been well-documented by insiders, but its unique and sustained appeal has yet to be explored fully. At last, this legendary American musical institution is given the serious and entertaining examination it richly deserves.

Richardson writes with enthusiasm. He paints the Dead as a utopian experiment in a long American tradition. While Dead devotees will revel in the wealth of biographical details here, every reader interested in music and its social repercussions will find Richardson's work both captivating and instructive. [A] far-ranging look at the ultimate jam band in the acid-drenched context of their formative years. An exhaustively researched and entertaining cultural history of one of the most successful yet resolutely iconoclast musical groups ever. The psycho-socio-musical experiment that was the Grateful Dead packed a unique complexity and sheer substantiality into their ongoing if occasionally bumbling attempts to recast the American dream. In *No Simple Highway*, Peter Richardson deftly applies a clear-eyed, insightful, and wide-ranging vision in explicating the reasons that a gaggle of stoned musicians was able to generate one of the most enduring communities in American social history. Dennis McNally, G.D. historian and author, *On Highway 61/Music, Race, and the Evolution of Cultural Freedom* Training his eye through the telescope of cultural history, Peter Richardson's entertaining and well-researched *No Simple Highway* reveals the valleys, craters, and mountains of the moonscape that comprise the history of the Grateful Dead. Peter Connors, author of *Growing Up Dead and in a Dead Man's Shoes* *No Simple Highway* is a rare combination of excellent research and move-it-along readability. This is a book to return to, again and again. Rosie McGee, Author/Photographer, *Dancing with the Dead: A Photographic Memoir About the Author* PETER RICHARDSON is an author and lecturer in the humanities department at San Francisco State University and outgoing chair of the California Studies Association. Before that, he was an editor at the Public Policy Institute of California, a think-tank based in San Francisco; a tenured English professor at the University of North Texas; and an acquisitions editor at Harper Row, Publishers. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Berkeley. He lives in San Francisco. His previous book, *A Bomb in Every Issue*, recounts the rise and fall of Ramparts magazine.