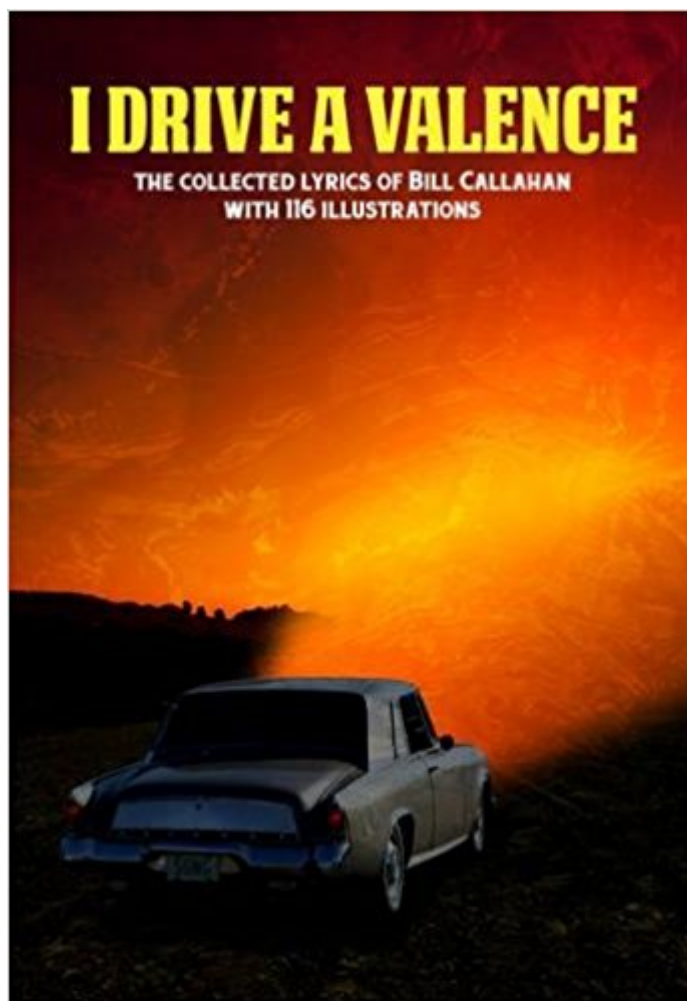


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I Drive A Valence: The Collected Lyrics Of Bill Callahan



Synopsis

Until we have a feature film in which Bill Callahan's words are spoken by the true and deep characters who exist within the songs, the best format will be this lyric book. Wait, no, the best format will always be the albums featuring the songs, since they are sung by Bill Callahan, the author and singer, in his own inimitable and completely individual fashion. *I Drive a Valence*, however, which spans two decades of Smog/ Bill Callahan songs, is a fairly unforgettable look-see; in fact, it's a definitive-yet-concise trip through the mirror, collecting the lyrics to 70 songs and pairing them with 116 dreamy inkwash images by the man himself. The nuances and ambiguities within plain-spoken expression are at the exquisite center of Callahan's gift, and the plain fact of words on paper nails them down in a concrete fashion that signals eternity somehow more concretely than sounds in the air can conjure. *I Drive a Valence* does this for the listener. It makes him/her a reader, while putting Bill Callahan's songs on another shelf where they sit just as entirely as they do on LP shelves around the world.

Book Information

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Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rock

Customer Reviews

Bill Callahan is a singer-songwriter whose albums have been heard by tens of thousands of people around the world over the past three decades. His songs have been covered by a diverse variety of artists such as Cat Power, The Flaming Lips, and Gil-Scott Heron. He is the author of *Letters to Emma Bowlcut*. He lives in Austin, Texas.

A great compendium of ALL (to date) Bill Callahan's song lyrics accompanied by tons of drawings by the man himself that are poignant and oftentimes surreal. We already know how well the words work as songs, but having them all printed in one place in nice sturdy bounding allows one to experience them in a different light- reading them in order (they're arranged alphabetically) with their counterpart illustration on the opposite page is an experience of its own. Not to mention allowing you to skip easily around the book for your favorites. Highly recommended for fans of the man's music or even those interested in an esoteric, poetry-like read. It's worthwhile no matter which way you look at it.

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