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# Shakey: Neil Young's Biography

By Jimmy McDonough



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Neil Young is one of rock and roll's most important and enigmatic figures, a legend from the sixties who is still hugely influential today. He has never granted a writer access to his inner life – until now. Based on six years of interviews with more than three hundred of Young's associates, and on more than fifty hours of interviews with Young himself, **Shakey** is a fascinating, prodigious account of the singer's life and career. Jimmy McDonough follows Young from his childhood in Canada to his cofounding of Buffalo Springfield to the huge success of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young to his comeback in the nineties. Filled with never-before-published words directly from the artist himself, **Shakey** is an essential addition to the top shelf of rock biographies.



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## Shakey: Neil Young's Biography By Jimmy McDonough Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Cantankerous and secretive, Neil Young has banished authors from his inner sanctum--until now. In *Shakey*, Jimmy McDonough distills more than 300 interviews (including guarded yet revealing interrogations of Young himself) into the definitive biography: the skyrocket success, willful disasters, health horrors and triumphs, stunning comebacks, and highly colorful scuffles with equally impossible characters like Stephen Stills, David Crosby, and the incompetent yet brilliant musicians of Crazy Horse. Young is not quite the noble soul some thought--he's an astounding control freak. But he is never less than fascinating. "As ruthless as I may seem to be," Young tells McDonough, "you gotta do what ya gotta do. Just like a f-----' vampire. Heh heh heh." --*Tim Appelo*

### From Library Journal

More than a biography, this work from journalist McDonough (Village Voice, Variety, Spin) is the re-creation of an era.

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### Review

"Jimmy McDonough's fat, teeming, obsessive, and revelatory biography of Young is a pure shot of all-access pleasure. . . . Hugely original." —*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"Just as unmanageable, hard-headed, overzealous, and ultimately endearing as Young himself . . . A maddening, beguiling portrait of an elusive maverick . . . A glorious mess." —*San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*

"An exhilarating match-up of author and subject makes **Shakey** a great, gripping read. . . . A must-read for anyone who cares about Neil Young." —*Rolling Stone*

"Staggeringly thorough . . . McDonough gets it all: the chaos, the grandeur, the good times and dreary deaths, the alcohol- and drug-besotted recording sessions, the broken hearts, and the sheer unfettered joy of a seriously gifted artist." —*Salon*

"The definitive book on the subject." —*The Washington Post*

"Exhaustive, quarrelsome, and sometimes maddening . . . there are revelations in abundance." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Where the average rock-star biography is a tepid, toothless thing, McDonough has approached his task like a literary Terminator, steaming ahead with lethal thoroughness. One of the most penetrative studies of a rock icon ever written." —*Times* (London)

"A mammoth portrait of the artist and lively exhumation of rock n roll history. . . . [McDonough] traces a rich turbulent career in vivid detail." —*The New York Times*

“Imaginatively written...not only is **Shakey** an extraordinary literary feat of research and affection and endurance, it's an insight into the art of biography itself.”—*Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

“Delves further into the life and motives of one of music's most private individuals than anything previously released. . . surprisingly comprehensive and thoroughly enjoyable. . . The most detailed portrait of this shrouded artist to date.” —*San Jose Mercury News*

“Exhaustively researched, impressively detailed. . . The long passages in which McDonough steps aside to let Young talk are the most revealing. ‘One day I'm a jerk,’ Young says, ‘the next day I'm a genius.’ This book argues artfully for the latter.”—*People*

“Like meeting Brando's Kurtz in a cave at the end of *Apocalypse Now*. . . Young comes across as a Jekyll-and-Hyde loner whose life has unfolded like a reckless chemistry experiment -- a control freak on an endless quest for the uncontrolled moment.” —*Macleans* (Canada)

“McDonough is an avid fan, music critic and impartial journalist all in one. . . [He] deftly weaves Young's life, actions and art together. . . What was known of Young's life before was akin to a series of rough demos. In **Shakey**, McDonough delivers a full double-album.” —*Rocky Mountain News*

“Does what most rock bios don't: It fails to fawn, it delivers the juice, it subjects the hero to the scrutiny and disappointment of a fan. . . A page-turning good read.”—*Houston Chronicle*

“Fascinating reading. . . McDonough gives us as good a look at [Young's] cards as we're likely to get.” —*The Tampa Tribune*

“[Shakey's] unprecedented access makes for an entertaining read: McDonough, more than any music journalist since Peter Guralnick in his authoritative **Careless Love: The Unmaking of Elvis Presley**, has succeeded in stripping a star of his iconography.”—*The Observer* (London)

“Crammed with razor-sharp insights and mind-boggling detail, **Shakey** is a rock-solid literary triumph, as inspired and inspiring as the eccentric figure it evokes with such frustrated devotion.” — *The Guardian* (London)

“McDonough . . . pores through Young's life with vivid prose and blunt detail, and he is unashamed to insert some stinging opinions. In his probing conversations with Young, . . . he challenges the formidable artist in ways that few others would dare.” —*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

“It's hard to imagine anyone trying to better this book. . . It has what Young values above all else. . . passion.”—*Evening Standard* (London)

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#### Willie Long:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled **Shakey: Neil Young's Biography**. Try to make the book **Shakey: Neil Young's Biography** as your pal. It means that it can being your friend when you really feel alone and

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**Clyde Connell:**

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**Mary Quinn:**

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**Gale Coachman:**

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