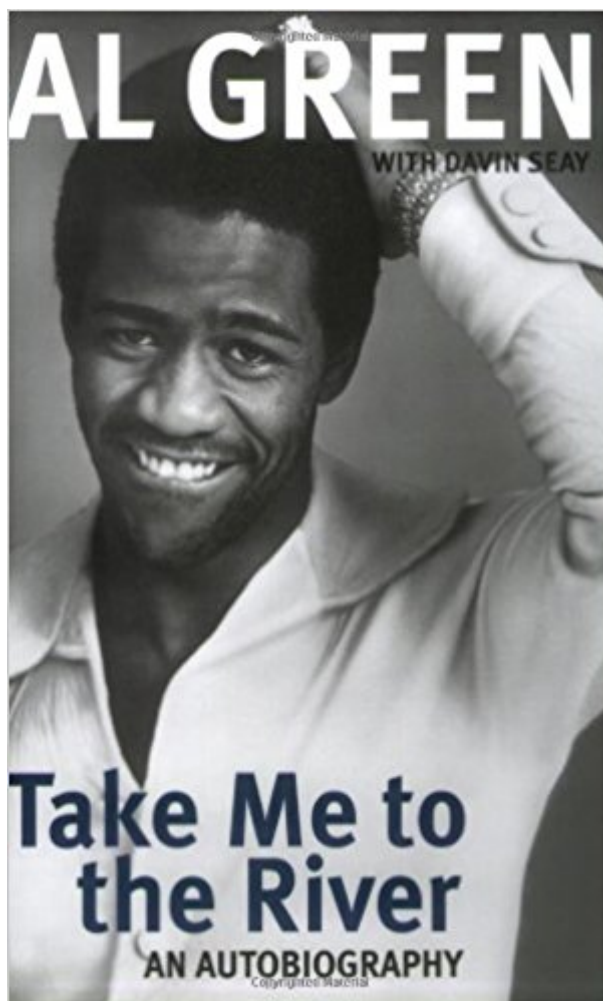


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# Take Me To The River: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

With an extraordinary appeal that has continued unabated since the early 1970s, Al Green remains the quintessential soul man—one of the most enduring, electrifying, and enigmatic artists of our era. But at the very heart of his appeal is the conflict between the devil’s music and God’s calling, a conflict he has wrestled with all his life. This is his story. *Take Me to the River* is an inspiring, unsparing, and ultimately transforming autobiography. From a sharecropper’s shack in Jacknash, Arkansas, to the absolute pinnacle of show-business success, it chronicles Al Green’s career in rich detail. This is the whole story—his early days on the gospel and R&B circuits, his fateful encounter with legendary producer Willie Mitchell, his climb to the top of the charts, the attempted murder and suicide scandal that made headlines worldwide, and his decision to become a pastor and found his own church—the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Memphis, Tennessee. *Take Me to the River* brings Al Green’s epic spiritual struggle; a story of repentance, redemption, and renewal; to life with all the urgency and immediacy of his music.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Labeled by many as the Last Great Soul Man, Green writes modestly and with great spirit about his career. The bulk of the narrative, written with Seay, concentrates on Green’s early life, from his boyhood as a sharecropper’s son in Jacknash, Ark., to his family’s move to the ghetto in Grand Rapids, Mich., to his desperate pursuit of a singing career. While Green quickly established himself as a neighborhood tough and ladies’ man, he never let his reputation as a "badass dude" keep him

from singing in the school and church choirs. Choosing between the secular and the sacred proved a constant struggle for Green. In the end, he writes, "I never did develop a preference for one church over the other. To me, shouting at the top of your lungs while hammering on a tambourine or whispering your prayers as the organ softly played were just two different ways of saying the same thing: We're all down here, Lord, doing the best we can." At 29, Green was already an international superstar when he again questioned his path. Ultimately, he opted to "leave behind the glitter and the glamour of the world to seek out a poor and plain existence," buying a church of his own on the outskirts of Memphis and earning a degree as an ordained minister. Not that Green spurned music altogether; he went on to release several gospel records, along with hit singles with the likes of Annie Lennox and country signer Lyle Lovett, and he appeared in a Broadway show. Rather, Green writes, he simply "stopped running after music to give me the meaning and purpose of my life." In the end, Green's is an inspirational story that tells how an "average high school graduate, sometime singer in a hometown soul band, part-time jazz crooner, former car-wash employee and jack of trades" made good. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this autobiographical work, Green hardly deals with his famed encounters with women. Rather, he details how a kid from the farmlands of Jacknash, AR, developed one of the first voices in a new generation of black musicians. In order to develop his talent, Green reveals that he had to sort out his perpetual longing for pop music success and the need to fulfill his religious calling. Not surprisingly, then, his narrative alternates between confessions of sin and hedonism (he once shacked up with an over-the-hill prostitute) and moments of spiritual enlightenment. His current lifestyle reflects that polarization: he still performs as Al Green, Soul Man, while acting as pastor of the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Memphis, TN. Green's firsthand accounts of teeth-cutting experiences in an unforgiving music industry and lessons in feminine lore give a new perspective to his music and offer the only insight into his career, as no other biographical work on Green is available. Recommended for public libraries. DRobert Morast, Pro Rodeo Sports News, Colorado Springs Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was able to handle the grammatical errors and the "numerous" third person references, but 80% of this book detailed Al Green's life BEFORE he became famous!!! The book was very lacking in detail and content regarding his life after becoming a superstar and sex symbol. I was nearly finished

reading it before reaching the few chapters which highlighted this. I truly expected more.....

Very Spiritual and inspirational.x7overcame scandals and trials and tribulations to become a gospel singer.Al Green , a great sultry singer and sex symbol of the 1970's.Great Read.

Outstanding read and great insight into who the man was and who he is today. Always exciting to read how change affects our personality and lives. We all grow up and growth means life and life means hope.

A very good book

Love Al Green voice and songs. The book was good wishing there had been more, however as he says might be next book. Thanks for sharing!

This man had to have done something right, I love his music which has helped populate the world for many years. Why wouldn't I want to read about him.

Love it's

You will not put this book down if you like Al Green, very good read!!!

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