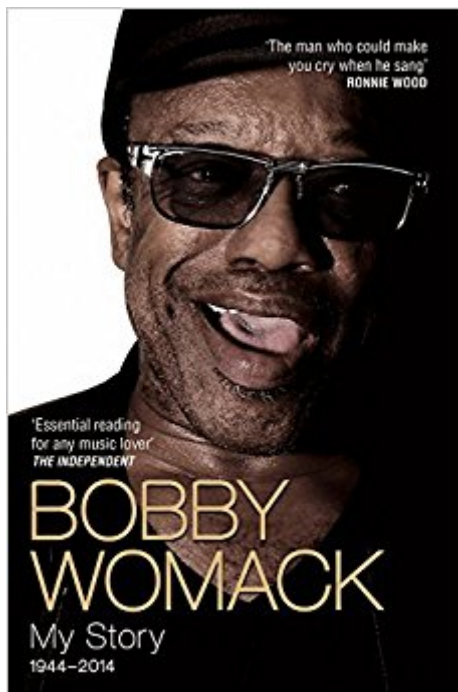


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# Bobby Womack: My Story 1944 - 2014



## Synopsis

Honest, insightful, and unflinching, this is the authentic voice of the Midnight Mover, a hard-working and prolific legend — in the music business who stood shoulder to shoulder with Ray Charles, James Brown, and Marvin Gaye as a true giant of soul, R&B, and blues music Bobby Womack — was a true legend, a phenomenally gifted musician with 40 albums and 30 million record sales to his name. The success of his songs helped him to escape the ghetto and become a star, but battles with the record industry and hard drugs almost wiped him out. From his poor childhood growing up in Cleveland and his early forays into music with his four brothers in the 1950s, Womack tells how he found success with his family gospel group The Valentinos. He describes his act being whipped into shape by James Brown, life on the "chitlin' circuit" with Jimi Hendrix, being on the road with the likes of Sam Cooke and Wilson Pickett, and recording in the studio with Eric Clapton and Elvis Presley. But success came at a price. His personal life was never far from heartache and pain. Womack lost his friend and mentor Sam Cooke when the soul star was gunned down in a motel. He incurred the wrath of many when, at the age of just 21, he married Cooke's widow Barbara. His escape from the criticism was to turn to drugs and his friend Sly Stone, leading him to spend years as one of the biggest party animals in Los Angeles. The years of riotous abuse took its toll on Womack and those closest to him, including Janis Joplin, who spent her last night drinking with the singer. His marriage to Barbara broke up, his brother Harry was brutally murdered, and he lost two sons. But Womack's talent, searing guitar, and soulful voice always shone through. Womack is cited as an influence by myriad musicians, and remains the epitome of cool.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bobby Womack (1944–2014) and his four brothers had a childhood band which became The Valentinos in the early 1960s, one of the most successful gospel groups of all time. As a solo act Womack went on to sell 30 million records, penned the classics "Midnight Mover" and "Across 110th Street" and worked with such all-time greats as Elvis Presley, James Brown, Jimi Hendrix, Ray Charles, The Rolling Stones, Sam Cooke, and Sly Stone. Robert Ashton is the author of three books, *The First Rock n Roll Bodyguard*, *Heroin*, and *Waking Up*. He has also written for numerous magazines and newspapers including *Elle*, *the Independent*, *the Guardian*, *GQ*, and *the Sunday Times*.

I could not and did not put it down. I finished it the same day! The last time I read a more interesting book was *the Help*. There are moments in the book, when you will laugh out loud and look around the room, because you can actually feel Bobby telling the story. He was talented and hilarious. Coming up through the ranks with the greats like Sam, Ike, Ray and Janis and Jimi you know he had a story to tell. He was something special. Bobby was extraordinary.....not just the guy who married Sam Cooke's wife. Finally, the book in his words sets the record straight.

Anything Bobby is a friend of mine!!

I purchased this as a birthday gift for my husband and he was delighted. His birthday was 6-4 and today is 6-8 so he hasn't completely read it but thank you for providing me the ability to locate and purchase items I would have to research hours to find.

Raw! Unapologetic! Intense! I LOVE this book! In true Bobby Womack fashion, this book is rendered in a way that makes it seem like he is telling his story straight to you...and I couldn't have asked for a better delivery! My expectations were exceeded!

Great book! Didn't realize what a great songwriter Bobby Womack was to the music industry!!

Great book on an incredible talent who played and worked with a veritable "who's who" of soul, R n

B, and rock n roll, with plenty of tragedy and bad luck to go with the sex, drugs and rock n roll ! RIP Bobby !

I really like this book because Mr. Womack spoke so honestly, it seemed like he was talking to me personally.

I enjoyed Bobby's book, and it brought back memories of when I first saw him perform in Chicago as a Womack Brother with The Staple Singers.

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