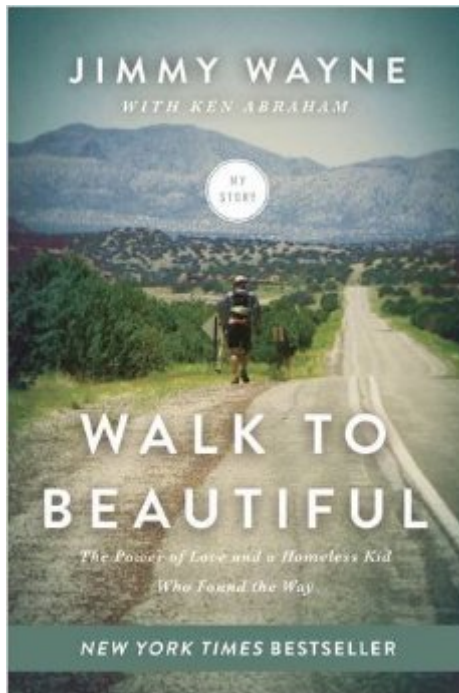


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Walk To Beautiful: The Power Of Love And A Homeless Kid Who Found The Way



Synopsis

Imagine yourself a thirteen-year-old hundreds of miles away from home, in a strange city, and your mom leaves you at a bus station parking lot and drives off into the night with her lover. That's the real life story of country music star Jimmy Wayne. It's a miracle that Jimmy survived being hungry and homeless, bouncing in and out of the foster care system, and sleeping in the streets. But he didn't just overcome great adversity in his life; he now uses his country music platform to help children everywhere, especially teenagers in foster care who are about to age out of the system. *Walk to Beautiful* is the powerfully emotive account of Jimmy's horrendous childhood and the love shown him by Russell and Bea Costner, the elderly couple who gave him a stable home and provided the chance to complete his education. Jimmy says of Bea, "She changed every cell in my body." It also chronicles Jimmy's rise to fame in the music industry and his Meet Me Halfway campaign: his walk halfway across America, 1,700 miles from Nashville to Phoenix, to raise awareness for foster kids. Join Jimmy on his walk to beautiful and see how one person really can make a difference. ENDORSEMENTS "If your story could use a better chapter, take inspiration from Jimmy's." "Max Lucado, *New York Times* Best-Selling Author "It reads like a movie to me, and if so, I'll be the first one in a seat to see it." "Dolly Parton "Walk to Beautiful will open your eyes to the hurting people around you." "Frank Harrison, Chairman and CEO, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated; Chairman and Cofounder, *With Open Eyes* " "

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A special thank you to Thomas Nelson--W Publishing and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review. *Walk to Beautiful, The Power of Love and a Homeless Kid Who Found the Way* is a poignant and inspiring account of Jimmy Wayne's journey, written by Jimmy Wayne and Ken Abraham. "one which will forever change your life!" Jimmy Wayne is known for his altruistic and giving heart. In the country music industry he is known for his song writing, and hit songs, while being supported by his many fans, worldwide. However, readers may not be aware of the horrific childhood and challenges on his way to stardom and adulthood. This is like "Job"; one hurdle, obstacle, disappointment, and challenge after another, and yet Jimmy possessed the drive, talent, determination, and tenacity, even in his darkest moments; to overcome his troubled past. He was fortunate to have some people along the way who took a chance on this remarkable young man, and he desires to give back and pay forward. I will be honest, I am not a country music fan (even though my sister who resides in NC is an avid fan). A great deal of Jimmy's childhood took place in Gastonia, NC area, with some of the crazy people and backward views. Wow, I had no idea the power and impact of this beautifully written and extraordinary book. The more I read, the more intrigued, I became and began reviewing Jimmy Wayne's website, and listened to all the videos and was highly impressed. *Walk to Beautiful* portrays the story of how Wayne was able to rise above his background with the help of supportive, adoptive parents as a teen, and become a successful country singer and in-demand motivational speaker. The book takes you from Jimmy's early years as a boy, left many times on the street alone by his mother, bullied by his peers, to fend for himself; growing up being passed from one foster home to another, with neglect and abuse, tortured, with no food or place to live, or sleep. However, one woman and man took him in, and taught him about love, music and living. When you look at this highly talented musician, good-looking guy, today, and listen to his beautiful words and songs, it is hard to believe the rough road he has traveled. Through his determination, he has not let his past define him, nor his future; however, has used his humble and troubled past to help others going through similar experiences. Jimmy has dedicated the book, his life story to Bea, a wonderful 75-year old woman who took him in when he was 16 years old, after a voice told him to stop and see if she needed help with her yard work. Bea and Russell later asked him to move in, and were instrumental in turning Jimmy's life around. Bea who passed away in 1997, will always be in his heart, and now Jimmy is giving back to the community to help other foster children, who have nowhere to turn. From 2010 when Jimmy walked from Nashville to Phoenix on his Meet Me Halfway campaign, he set out to raise awareness for foster youth who have aged out of the system. The walk in itself helped stem the idea to document certain thoughts and memories, which led to the birth of *Walk to*

Beautiful. Thirty Thousand kids every year age out of the foster care system the moment they turn eighteen. Many of them will become homeless, addicted, or imprisoned. Some will never see their twenty-first birthdays. I knew I wanted to help those kids the way somebody had helped me. But how? Walk to Beautiful is an inspiring and remarkable book. It does not read like a non-fiction, or memoir. As an avid reader of over 350 books a year, a professional reader and blogger Trust me, this is a story you cannot put down! It is so shocking, you feel as though this has to be fiction. How could any one person survive this life? On a Personal Note: I formerly served as a Board Member for an organization in Atlanta for at risk teens, YES Atlanta (Youth Experiencing Success) and commend adults who strive to help these youth, by providing positive role models, and resources in order to change their environment, with an opportunity to lead healthy and rich lives as an adults. Even though the book will bring you to tears, there are many parts which are witty and humorous. I especially loved the parts about growing up in the south. He had such bad role models when it came to Christianity, with the distorted views of church, beliefs, and hypocrisy. It was refreshing to learn he did not lose his faith, through all of this, when he finally got to see firsthand from Bea what faith and love really means. I highly recommend this beautifully written and inspiring book, and well deserving of 5 stars. It will change you. Nashville, and country music fans will love all the stars, names, mentions, and tidbits. Foster children and troubled youth, will find hope and joy in these words, for the future. Congrats, Jimmy, thanks for putting yourself out there, with courage and bravery to tell your story, and relive your past, forgive those who turned their back on you, and share with others while making a difference in lives across the world.

How good is Walk To Beautiful ? Well let me put it this way. In April I pre-ordered a copy from . Saturday I picked up 3 copies from Lifeway Christian store. One for myself and two for friends. Yesterday my husband decided he wanted to really read it after I read him a few passages here and there. Now Brian is not a reader. He has bought books in the past but never has he read past 2 chapters. Anyone doubting the truthfulness of this can either ask his Momma or come look at the collection of unfinished books in our closet. That being said, he wanted to read MY copy. NOPE!!! NOPE!! NOPE!! Any other book (excluding Paper Angels) yes but WTBA NOPE. Every purchase of this book helps a kid. That and we consider Jimmy Wayne a friend so being supportive of this endeavor is critical. That being said I would have thought Brian would just wait until I changed my mind. NO, it is as if a new version of Black Ops had been released and everyone had a copy but him! Brian, my non-reader husband, called several stores until he found the book, drove way across town and not only bought the book but read 14 chapters in about 2

hours. The expressions on his face while reading went from smiling, to laughing, to anger, to sorrow, sadness and so on. His respect for JIMMY WAYNE (this Country Star who is responsible for hits such as 'Stay Gone" and "Do You Believe Me Now") ,his strong, kindhearted sister Patricia and even their mother skyrocketed. My kindhearted, macho husband at times nearly broke down reading #WalktoBeautiful . Brian has heard stories of my childhood. He and many of the his family members were even around when my mother abandoned me at 16. She had done so many times before but at 16 she never came back. Some things I have kept from him and some I have shared but to see in print the reality of what horrors children to this day face tore his heart apart but at the same time gave him this newfound desire to do everything in his power to help today's youth. I could have given you all the short pitch " Hey, our friend and country star Jimmy Wayne wrote this incredible book please buy it. Every copy sold helps a child in need". However I know there are a lot of people who either don't like to read or don't have time. Brian being one of them. PLEASE purchase Walk to Beautiful and READ it. Start with the Prologue. If nothing else just pick the book up off the shelf and read the prologue. I guarantee you won't walk out of the store without it. It is written as if he is sitting in front of you telling the story. Jimmy is a very down to earth, VERY humble guy. I have never met the other Author Ken Abraham but hope to soon. The book is available as an Ebook also. Go download it to your Ipad or Kindle, phone....whatever device you can. Reading this book will change your perspective on a lot of issues. The best thing about it though is it is not written as a poor poor pitiful me story. It is written in a way to encourage. The book shares the events of Jimmy and Patricia's life but also gives a sense of faith and encouragement. My 12 year old dyslexic daughter is now reading this wonderful book.

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