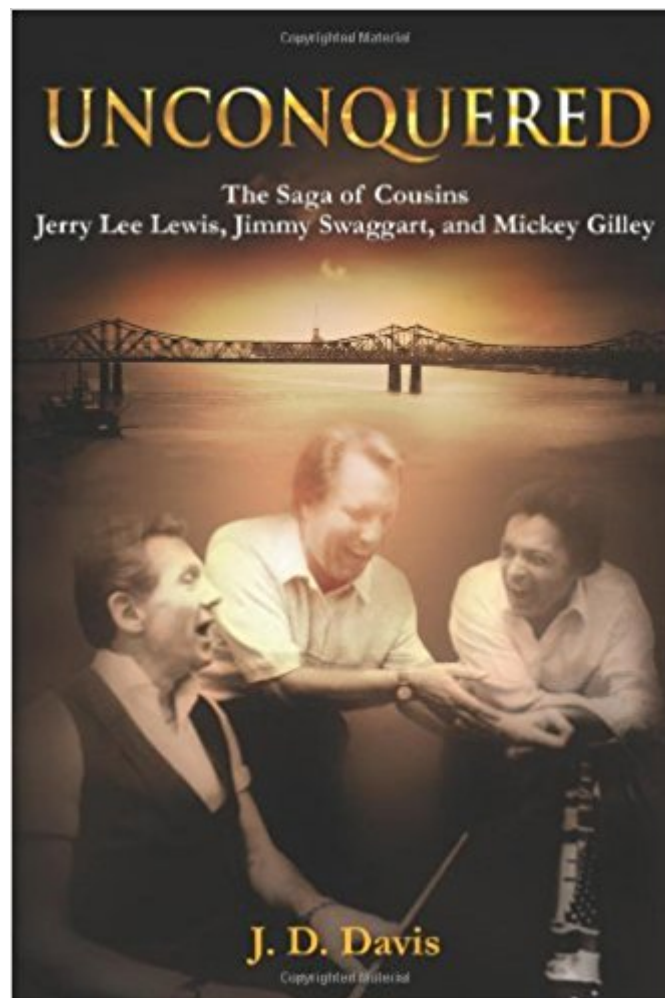




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Unconquered: The Saga Of Cousins Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart, And Mickey Gilley



Synopsis

Three cousins, inseparably bonded through music. Each became a star; their story would become a legend. J. D. Davis's enthralling new biography of famous cousins Jerry Lee Lewis, Jimmy Swaggart, and Mickey Gilley, born within a twelve-month span in small-town Louisiana during the Great Depression, draws from exhaustive research and personal connections with friends and family. Davis recreates the irresistible and life-changing power of music that surrounded the cousins as boys and shaped their engagingly distinct paths to fame. With three personal journeys set alongside important landmarks in pop-culture history, Davis presents a unique tale of American music centered on the trials, tribulations, and achievements of three men who remain truly Unconquered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

. . . this 3-in-1 bio is an entertaining and epic story of perseverance and the power of family ties.
(Reviews, May 25, 2012)

This is a good read, and not just for the hard-core fan. It will appeal to anyone interested in the dynamics of rock 'n' roll, country music, and evangelical Christianity and what happens when the aesthetics and lifestyles of those three worlds collide. Highly recommended. (Reviews, May 1, 2012)

I totally enjoyed this book. It is very well written and I was impressed by the writer's ability to

express himself fully without the use of vulgar language. The story of each man was very interesting and brought the reader into the highs and lows of each man's life. One could almost hear the music and verbal utterances as one read the written word. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes country music, early rock and roll, and gospel music and those who created it.

For anyone who is a fan of Jerry Lee Lewis and his cousins, you will find this book filled with interesting information, photos, and memories of those who were fans of their music, etc. since the 1950's. I was amazed at all the information on their families and how they were related as well as their lives of shared experiences, etc. I am so glad I had the chance to read this. I was a teenager in the mid-fifties and Jerry's music was very much a part of my memories of the best days of Rock 'N Roll beginnings. Sock hops and records and ponytails.....it was a special time in history. When my daughter became an adult, we took her to see Jerry Lee Lewis in person. She had taken piano lessons as a child and was amazed at his ability to play the piano without ever having lessons. She still talks about that night in California when she had a chance to see the person who was such a huge part of my teenage years. Very Enjoyable reading!

I come from a Pentecostal background and this trio of cousins have been discussed numerous times over coffee and lunch by myself and friends. You think you know things, but this book tells you the truth about things...it confirms the legends and negates the rumors. Mr. Davis does a wonderful job of weaving their lives together (there is no other way to tell their stories) as well as focusing in on personal struggles and private demons of each man. Their talents are unquestionable. The way their individual families handled them is so different, though and the influence of each family had a great deal to do with where they ended up on the success continuum. I love biographies for one major reason: I learn about family dynamics and the psychology behind how people end up where they do in life. It fascinates me and so I gravitate to biographical accounts. This book was very satisfying in that regard. Having been raised in a background similar to these men, it helped me to understand struggles I have encountered (they why factor) and to also reinforce my thinking that our choices are what matter most in this life. You cannot remove religion from the palette that paints these men, so if you are a person who doesn't care to hear about such things, then don't read this book. The ever-present influence of religion and (to a greater degree) Pentecostalism is intrinsic to their story. Without that angle, there is no story. So, I'm letting any potential reader know now, this book dredges those depths. Great book. I learned SO MUCH about these guys, and I have to say I've formed a new-found respect for Mickey Gilley because of this story. I liked him before, but after

this book I do think he is an exceptional person. Excellent work, JD Davis.

While this is essentially a book about the three cousins from Ferriday Louisiana, each of whom became a star in his own way, it is also a book about the strength of family, the impact of "that old time religion", and the ties of blood and memory. I expected a basic biography, but this is, as the title states, a saga, and one that holds the reader's attention from page 1 through page 427 and even into the Appendix. It is a story of three boys who would become icons in their chosen fields despite their failures along the way. This book joins a few of my other books that are reread every four or five years. It is definitely a keeper!

I have really enjoyed this book, it's been one of the best non-fiction I have ever read. I grew up listening to Jerry Lee, then later on Jimmy and then finally Mickey. Three very talented men! The author done a fabulous job bringing their stories to life. I could hear the music from all of them and the church too. I got so into it, I finished the book in a day and a half and have been thinking and talking about it since page 1. In fact, I am thinking of reading it all over again! Also had to listen to the songs mentioned on youtube just to hear them again because some of them it has been awhile. Thank you so much for writing this book!

This book was very good. I couldn't put it down. Being raised in a Pentecostal environment like they were I certainly understood their struggles. I have a great respect for all three. They all battled their own demons and in my opinion conquered the unconquered. Great book.

A gut-wrenching, "Amen!" shouting, Bayou sweat-drenching, midnight jazz club stomping, whiskey-swilling, gravel road car swerving, lady wooing/sin making, God-fearing / Jesus loving masterpiece of a a man who never missed one second of living his life flat out from the music shivering and shaking through his bones. JD Davis has a true gift with words. Cancel life. Read the book while playing Jerry Lee's music. You are in for the ride of his life -- not always pretty but always at full throttle..

Fascinating portrait of all three men. I found it more interesting as I got further into the book and was sorry when the book ended. Stark, but truthful, portrait of the times that fostered these three cousins. Refreshingly real and worth reading even if you are not a fan of any of these men.

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