Review of Tammy Wynette: A Daughter Recalls Her Mother’s Tragic Life & Death

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Crowned the “First Lady of Country Music,” Tammy Wynette captured our imagination with her rags to riches story and continual success in Nashville’s cutthroat entertainment industry. Drawing fire from feminists for her 1968 hit “Stand by your man,” Wynette belted out ballads, married several times and entered treatment for substance abuse. Tammy Wynette covers the years since 1979 when Wynette published her autobiography, Stand By Your Man. Co-author Tom Carter specializes in ghost writing biographies of country music stars including George Jones, Reba McEntire, and Merle Haggard. Carter’s familiarity with the genre and audience makes the book accessible to a general audience. Country music fans will find the text a breeze, though the book is confusing early on because there are many non-essential characters introduced to the reader. Never before published personal family photographs are included in the book.

Beginning with the day of Wynette’s death, Daly expresses her frustration and despair with the perplexing details and inconsistencies she encountered at her mother’s home. The majority of the book describes Daly’s experience growing up with a larger than life absentee mother. Special treatment is given to Wynette’s spouse, George Richey, and his growing control over Wynette’s life and his attempt to isolate her from family and friends. Daly supplies reasons for the legal battle forcing an autopsy of Wynette’s body and justifies the daughters’ actions, which polarized Nashville. Allegations against Richey, Wynette’s personal physician Dr. Marsh, and Care Solutions of Nashville, Inc. claiming negligence and wrongful-death are explained.

Daly doesn’t include complete legal documents but does excerpt portions of Wynette’s last will and testament and a consent form she signed authorizing Care Solutions of Nashville to provide at-home medical care. Richey and
Marsh’s viewpoints are not included, thus making the account biased toward Wynette’s daughters. On a positive note, Daly documents Wynette’s dedication to her fans. Despite chronic declining health, Wynette performed with oxygen waiting just off-stage.

This title is recommended for large public libraries or those with country music collections.

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The popular literature of environmental history of North America does not often recognize the influence of either the Native Americans or the early Spanish explorers and colonizers, yet both had a share in the modification of the environment of the Appalachians. It is with these influences that Prof. Donald Davis of Dalton College begins his discussion covering more than 400 years of environmental change from 1500 to 1935. For this purpose, "Southern Appalachia" is defined as the Cumberland Plateau, the Ridge Valley, and the Blue Ridge Mountains, or roughly, from the New River southward to northern Georgia and northwestern Alabama.

It was the Anglo-American settlement of the Appalachians, however, which had the most profound effect on the change of its environment. These changes are detailed here, including the introduction of both new plants and animals, building methods, farming, animal husbandry, deforestation--especially the logging industry during the late 1800's and early 1900's--as well as mining, although the latter receives less attention. The author is himself a product of Appalachia and speaks sensitively of his "homeland," so there is a decided bend toward viewing the environmental change of the centuries as detrimental, but