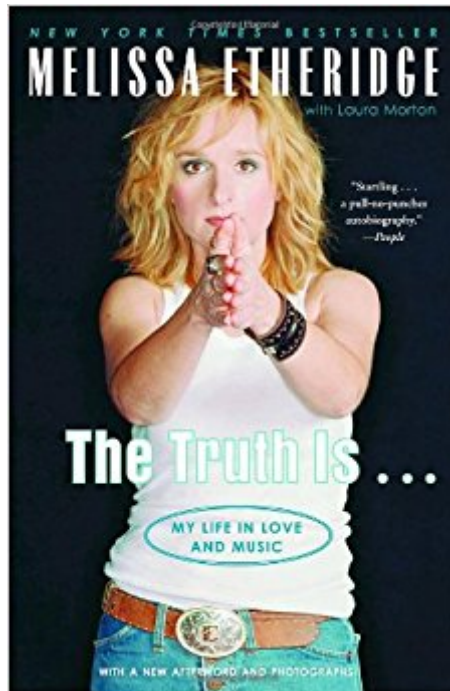




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# The Truth Is . . .: My Life In Love And Music



## Synopsis

Since she first burst onto the international music scene, Melissa Etheridge has released seven albums that have sold more than 25 million copies worldwide, garnering not only public adoration for her uncompromising honesty but numerous critical awards, including two Grammys and the prestigious ASCAP Songwriter of the Year award. *The Truth Is . . .* is a highly charged autobiography – a bold and unflinching account of an extraordinary life that Melissa describes as only she can: from her Kansas roots, through her early love of music, to her brilliant rise to superstardom in a male-dominated rock world. Melissa openly discusses the massive impact of her publicly coming out, a revelation that only increased her popularity, making her a highly visible spokesperson for the gay and lesbian community. *The Truth Is . . .* shares Melissa Etheridge's fascinating story with unprecedented candor and insight.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks; Revised ed. edition (June 11, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375760261

ISBN-13: 978-0375760266

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 167 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #735,659 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Lesbian](#) #1810 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rock](#) #1816 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers](#)

## Customer Reviews

She's not in Kansas anymore! Melissa Etheridge, the gutsy Midwest girl who grew up to be the heartland's gift to rock & roll (and a major gay spokeswoman) tells all in her memoir, *The Truth Is....* With a little help from Laura Morton, the bestselling collaborator of Marilu Henner and Joan Lunden, Etheridge sets the record straight about her life on and off the stage, her coming-out drama, and the stories behind her songs. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Personal news from a hot rock guitarist. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text

refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love her and her music - ever since I heard her first album in 1990. It's an interesting autobiography but the story didn't quite flow or feel cohesive to me. I liked her sharing such personal times in her life and admire the courage that takes. But for some reason, even in spite of the very personal, "none-of-your-business" events from her life that she so generously shared, I never felt like I knew her, especially the musical side. And, as other reviewers have mentioned, there was an undertone of revenge. At any rate, I would have loved to hear more about that wonderful drive she had that got her out of Kansas and into the music/performing world; I would have loved to hear more about her process of creating the music itself. Why this key? Why this tempo? Why a 12-string for one song and an eclectic guitar for another? Did she use a capo? Did she use alternate tunings? I'm probably not in the majority on these questions but I'd love to hear about the actual guitar playing, the guitars she favors and why, and the singing and music writing process. She is such an amazing musician, song writer and person. And her albums (I think I have all of them) were quite literally a soundtrack to my life at times. I hope she's found the love she deserves (and I wish the best for Julie also) and her kids are lucky to have such an amazing mom! Rock on Melissa!

Fans of Melissa Etheridge will no doubt enjoy this. She talks so honestly about all that happened to her in her life from her sister's abusive behavior to the ins and outs of all her significant relationships. I appreciated her honesty and identified with her in growing up in a family where people didn't express their feelings. I cannot figure out why I came away from the book feeling there was something missing. It felt surface-y somehow even though she wrote so honestly about herself and her character flaws and her girlfriends. Maybe it has something to do with there being no fall-out, in a way, from what her sister did to her when she was little. She does say they never had a good relationship and all that. I guess from my experience in life as well as from my reading, tremendous psychic pain and dysfunction normally follow that kind of abuse. I could be totally off base here. I just felt something was missing. But like I say, fans will enjoy it.

A rather dull read, I am sorry to say. I had higher expectations, expecting a larger than life story. But Melissa's life, while set in the entertainment industry, is the same struggle, ups, downs, love, love lost scenario as the rest of us schmucks. She felt a catharsis from the end result. Perhaps that was its purpose all along.

Melissa Etheridge has always been very honest about who she is and the lessons she's learned in life and relationships. This biography details her childhood and upbringing in Leavenworth Kansas her troubled youth and teenage years to and early love of music growing up in a emotionally repressed family "they did not talk about feelings" her coming to terms with her sexuality and the sexual and physical abuse that she had suffered at the hands of her sister from the ages of 7 to 10 years old and the thwarted relationship of an emotionally distant mother. She goes into detail about the meanings behind her most and passionate songs and the many relationships that she's had with the women who inspired them. She has admitted that she has always been attracted to emotionally unavailable types and devotes most of the b

Melissa Etheridge's website identifier includes the words "Speak Truth" and "Be Strong." In this autobiography, she seems driven to do both. It is said that a story often has more of an impact than a statement, and this book demonstrates this philosophy in her exploration of both her life and her music. While the details of her life seem inordinately tied to the specifics of her many lovers, they do so in a way that is classic Etheridge---the woman who "came out" publically apparantly without advanced discussion with her lover, the woman who revealed the father of her first two children without talking to their mother or the sperm donor (David Crosby). One begins to question whether she has an authentic life, or just a very public "voyage" where every detail of the journey must be shared and therefore externally validated. I do not find that such revelations make her strong, although this is clearly her belief. Her examination of her parallel life in music, her lyrics, and the strength she gained from her musical life grounds discussion of lovers. I found the book to be reasonably written for the genre, and a (sadly) accurate statement of Melissa Etheridge's life to date, with a continued "constant searching" to be loved, finding satisfaction only on stage , with fans creating the energy to keep her going. Nonetheless, I will look for her promised update and more attention to her third mantra "Do Good"---which she is certainly doing on many fronts.

Melissa Etheridge has long been my favorite music artist. Even my e-mail address references her. Her music has always touched me in a way other music doesn't. So when I suddenly discovered (I tend to be rather oblivious at times) that she had written a book, I jumped at reading it. I absolutely loved this book. I'd known about her relationship with Julie Cypher, but not any details. Reading that alone made the book worth reading, but everything else that she included just put it over the top. There were many things she shared that surprised me. Not only were they things I just somehow didn't expect from her, but she had a level of honesty that you don't often find in anyone

anymore, much less a public figure. Her mantra is "Speak True" and she really does. I highly recommend this book for any Melissa fan. It gives insight into her as a person as well as into her music. It shows not only how her songs changed from when she wrote them to when they were released, and also just how they changed over time as she grew and matured. It's a very entertaining, thought provoking read.

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