



A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Freethinking Roughneck

Trace Adkins

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Country music superstar Trace Adkins isn't exactly known for holding back what's on his mind. And if the millions of albums he's sold are any indication, when Trace talks, people listen. Now, in *A Personal Stand*, Trace Adkins delivers his maverick manifesto on politics, personal responsibility, fame, parenting, being true to yourself, hard work, and the way things oughta be.

In his inimitable pull-no-punches style, Trace gives us the state of the union as he sees it, from the lessons of his boyhood in small-town Louisiana to what he's learned headlining concerts around the world. Trace has worked oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, been shot in the heart, been inducted into the Grand Ole Opry, and braved perhaps the greatest challenge of all: being the father of five daughters. And shaped by these experiences, he's sounding off.

â€¢ I'm incredibly frustrated with the state of American politics. If there were a viable third party, I'd seriously consider joining it.

â€¢ If anybody wonders who the good guys are and who the bad guys are in this world, just look at the way we teach our children as opposed to the way the fundamentalist Muslims teach their children.

â€¢ Organized labor now exists for the sake of organized labor, and not for the workers it once protected.

â€¢ I believe the easiest way to solve the illegal immigration enforcement problem is to go after the employers who hire illegal aliens.

â€¢ As a society, we're unwilling to sacrifice our luxuries and our conveniences in order to conserve. We won't change until we're forced to.

â€¢ The war on terror is like herpes. People can live with it, but it'll flare up from time to time.

Brash, ballsy, persuasive, and controversial, *A Personal Stand* isn't just the story of Trace Adkins' life; it's the story of what life can teach all of us.

A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Freethinking Roughneck Details

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Stacey says

Very political. I like Trace, but this was so much about his political thoughts that it really turned me off. I wish it had been more about him - more details about his wife shooting him would have been interesting!

Buggy says

Opening line: *"It's a damn good thing I wasn't the president after 9/11 because I would have...lets not go there yet"*

This is not really an autobiography but as it states on the cover, *"a collection of observations and opinions from a freethinking roughneck."* That's too bad because the best parts of this book are the stories about his life and this would have been a 5 star read if Trace could have just stopped going off the rails with redneck 'observations' and concentrated on writing his autobiography a little more. However, he writes like he talks and I did get some laughs in during a couple of his life stories. But mainly I just laughed at his views of the world. Trace doesn't hold back here, insulting just about every nationality except Americans.

Having been a fan of his music and after seeing him on Celebrity Apprentice Mr. Adkins seemed like an intelligent, interesting and gentle family man. This book has however changed my view of him and I no longer consider myself a fan. I found Trace's 'views' naive. He admittedly has only been out of America once, playing on an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf and it is my opinion that he needs to get out from behind the windows of his tour bus and see some of the world. This would possibly open up his 'observations' a bit. However even if you don't agree with him he at least tries to explain why he feels that way.

In between his many rants you do get to learn about Trace's life; growing up in Louisiana (pop 924) he spent time working on the oil rigs and playing in honky-tonk bars before he became a country star. You'll learn of his problems with drugs and alcohol, his many brushes with death and his family. An oddly amusing story is how he got shot by his second wife. He describes the history behind some of his hit songs, what fame is like and how he still likes to get his hands dirty on his farm. There is a lot of time spent on politics and oil as well as his dislike of unions, illegal immigration, the tobacco industry and his love of Wal-Mart and NASCAR.

As a well travelled, informed Canadian, I took particular offence to the following quote.(Regrettably it was written in the last 6 pages of the book or I would have stopped reading sooner)

"Supposedly Canada has the cleanest water and the best beer and a whole lot of oil. They've been sucking on our tit for so long now, and that's another thing I would do if I was President. I would make a call to the Canadians and say "look fellas, the only reason the Russkies didn't come over here in the 1970's and kick your ass is because we're your neighbor!" The time is now to start paying for the protection that we provide you. No more free ride eh."

In summery I suppose this was an eye-opening read, about a country singer from small town USA whose

views are completely different than my own. It sure explained a lot about what I see on Fox News anyway.

Steven Bartley says

There were some interesting chapters and some got a little boring. The writing became somewhat preachy at times, but again on the front he said that it was observations and opinions.

Michele says

Honestly, I had to stop reading this book about halfway through. As a big fan of Trace's music, I knew that if I continued I'd never be able to listen to him again. This is the risk you take by "getting to know" celebrities whose work you admire, you find out more about their personalities and politics than you really should. Unfortunately, Mr. Adkins presents himself as a stereotypical huntin' fishin' god fearin' ignorant redneck, not someone I'd want as a friend. So I'll continue to enjoy his amazing voice and lyrics, and try to forget what I've learned about him personally and politically.

Michelle says

While I didn't necessarily agree with his view on everything, I think that he has a great way of expressing his views. It wouldn't hurt for more people to have a look at this book and come up with their own stands.

Walter says

The title of this book says all that you need to know about it. Trace Adkins, a Country music superstar, wrote this book, presumably to tell his life story, but really he wrote it in order to air his views about everything from welfare to religion to world affairs. Like most self-proclaimed "rednecks", Adkins views about all of the above are naïve. But that's OK because he does not claim to be a scholar. He's a father, former oil rig worker and musician whose world views were formed almost exclusively from his southern Protestant upbringing.

Adkins is very good at story telling, and if he had stuck to that, this book would have been an excellent read. He tells his story about working the oil rigs, struggling in the Country music industry and his family life. Throughout the story, Adkins sprinkles in his political and religious views like pepper on an omelet. I found Adkins' views to be pretty funny actually. For example, he says, "if you want to know who the good guys are and who are the bad guys, just compare how we raise our kids compared to how the Muslims raise theirs!" Interesting, until you consider that school children in most Muslim countries do not learn how to use contraceptives in the classroom, while most school children in our country do. Another example, Adkins writes, "If there were a political party other than the Democrats and Republicans, I would certainly join it!" Again, fair enough, but unlike in Adkins simple world, politicians in the real world have to raise a large

amount of cash in order to get elected and build political coalitions in order to pass their agendas after they are elected. Adkins is a tremendous advocate of traditional family values, but his fans know that his songs tell a much different story, as he sings about the "honkytonk bedonkedonk" and about the hard drinking and sex to such an extent that the parents of those young children that he writes about would be wise to not let them listen to Adkins songs.

Still, having said that, Adkins is worth reading for a very significant reason, and that is because those in this world who consider themselves the royalty of tolerance and free thinking have nothing but contempt for Adkins and his ilk. Imagine a hipster in Bucktown or Greenwich Village picking up this book and reading it. How different are Adkins' views than the views of the hipster orthodoxy today. What if the urban liberal actually learned something from Adkins? Just as Adkins could learn a lot from the urban liberal, just the fact of reading this short book would open up the minds of so many. And what if the urban liberals got together at the local Starbucks and discussed Adkins' book? Wow, what a world that would be!

True, Adkins is no Dostoyevsky. But, having said that, I think that if Adkins and Dostoyevsky sat down at the honkytonk bar and had a beer, they would find that they agree about more than they disagree. And the same would be true of Charles Dickens, and even Adkins' fellow Missourian, Mark Twain. Many of the greatest writers in history had very similar values to Adkins, although they were much more adept at expressing those ideas well. Pick up Adkins book and open your mind a little. Even if you disagree with every word of it, at least you have made the effort to understand the political and religious views of many, perhaps most, of your fellow Americans.

Jackie Lane says

This is an autobiography from country legend Trace Adkins. I have to say he told this from his "redneck" point of view, but he is well spoken and has distinct opinions on things.

I enjoyed that he owned any mistakes he made and he told it from his point of view.

4 stars

Jim Caldwell says

If I could write a book about my personal philosophy, this would be it. Trace Adkins is a country music singer, most famous for performing "Honky-Tonk Badonkadonk". I like that song (and the video) so much that it was my ring tone for almost a year. Trace's personal philosophy is a pleasant surprise, and his writing style is very engaging. He is articulate and thoughtful, and rather than espouse some good ole boy rhetoric, he presents a very balanced view of America and its place in the world. I was impressed with his grasp of historical context and the metaphors he used to make his points.

Cheryl says

I like Trace even more after reading this-he is a true American!! He needs to run for President. Plus I liked his comments at end of book-"Sometimes I can't help feeling like somethings lost. While life is faster and supposedly easier ,it's not necessarily a whole lot better..." So very true!

Robert says

Trace talks about his personal life and his ideas on various issues facing the nation such as immigration, the education system, the war on terror and unions. For those liberals that like Trace's music it might be best just to continue to listen to his music and bypass this book. Trace is a very outspoken conservative Republican and tells it like it is. Laced with quite a bit of humor and Trace's personal beliefs this book is a very easy read. I enjoyed it very much and think that a person such as this is what America needs to lead it out of the hell hole the current administration has dug us into.

Terrie says

Country music idol Trace Adkins tells stories of his life and how his experiences have shaped his conservative ideologies. Trace is obviously intelligent. He really knows how he feels about things and isn't afraid to express that opinion. While you may or may not agree with his opinions on the Middle East, immigration, American politics and many more topics, he does give you something to think about. Easy to read, his writing comes across as though you were sitting on the porch just chattin'. Told with lots of emotion, humor, and frustration, he talks about his alcoholism, being shot through the heart and both lungs by his ex-wife, and his true feelings about the music industry. If you like Trace you will like this book.

My favorite part was his explanation of the difference between a conservative and a liberal.

"We access and judge people today in terms of civility rather than morality. Today morality is secondary as long as you are civil, and we have this attitude that it's none of our business what some people do in private as long as they're civil in public. My perceived difference between liberalism and conservatism is this: Liberalism seems less moral, yet civil. which conservatism is more moral and less civil.

P.S. I love the idea of an "I'm cool card."!!!

Nikki (anintrovertedbookworm) says

I really enjoyed reading about Trace's viewpoints on a lot of things we face in our everyday lives - politics especially. What I like about this work is that he doesn't go on a rant about his life-story; it's more about the important things (not trying to say his life isn't important, but I already know all there is to know about him as a fan). He opens up about things that many artists wouldn't. Great job Trace!

Tamara Tilley says

A PERSONAL STAND by Trace Adkins was part autobiographical, part personal commentary, and completely enjoyable.

Anyone who knows Trace Adkins' music knows there are two sides to the country singer. He's got his alcohol induced, rebel rousing anthems, such as Honky Tonk Badonkadonk, One Hot Mama, and I Got My Game On. And then there are his introspective tunes like You're Gonna Miss This, I Wanna Feel Something, She Thinks We're Just Fishing, and the haunting Arlington. And now, in the pages of A PERSONAL STAND, you get to hear Trace Adkins' opinion on hot topics like, Immigration, 911, the wars we are waging on foreign soils, the economy, and you get a feel for his passion for history and his beloved South.

I finished A PERSONAL STAND in one day because it was so different from the fiction I usually read. In a word, I would call the country singer with the bad-boy image a conservative. Though he expresses his disappointment with the Republican Party of late, his values and principles line up with what this country was founded on. Freedom. Not the freedom to burn the flag, abuse free speech, or turn the other cheek when others walk all over our constitution, but the freedom to disagree with the government without personal threat, to put in a hard's day work for a hard's day pay, the importance of military involvement versus tolerance of radicals, why deportation of illegal's is not us as a nation being intolerant, but the U.S. needing to protect its borders and following the laws on the books to protect our own economy, and numerous other topics.

A PERSONAL STAND was a great read! Though Adkins' doesn't sugarcoat his personal abuses of alcohol or the break-up of his marriages, he sure hits the nail on the head in regards to the state of our union. If we could only rally together the Republicans in office right now, and force them to read our constitution for themselves—instead of allowing the liberal media to interpret it for the nation unchallenged—they could get our country back to the basics of why we left Europe hundreds of years ago. Our forefathers wanted a strong, free, republic, not a hand-holding, passive, milk-toast society that is more interested in being everyone's friend then wielding our strength when injustice calls for it.

On a personal note: I could've done without some of the swearing. I feel strongly that someone does not need to swear or use vulgar language to get their point across. In fact, sometimes I feel the use of inappropriate language devalues the speaker's impact. Even if you are a good-ole-boy, allow your passion to speak for yourself instead of the shock value of crude language.

MaryHelen says

Trace Adkins was born and reared in Louisiana and has made it BIG in the country music genre. This book is his biography plus his stand on various and sundry contemporary issues. He is a true conservative and has appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, Hannity & Colmes, and Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher. According to the book's jacket, "he delivers his maverick manifesto on politics, personal responsibility, fame, parenting, being true to yourself, hard work, and the way things ought to be." He is a no-nonsense guy who says exactly what he thinks, writing about his blue-collar background in extreme NW Louisiana, his work ethic, and his circuitous path to where he is today in Nashville's music scene. As the father of five daughters, he is wise, loving, and also funny (he is a man's man, a former college

football player, and very large of stature at 6'6" tall). His contemporary country music crosses country, R&B, rock-n-roll, and honky tonk genres. [If you've never heard or seen his video on You Tube for "This Ain't No Thinking Thing," give yourself a treat! In the video, he dances just like a good old Louisiana boy!:] I think all biographies are worth reading, and this one was interesting to me.

T.M. says

Great book!
