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Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Contents -- Preface -- [1] In the Hall of Fame -- [2] Child of the Arizona Desert -- [3] A Drifter -- [4] Music and Marizona -- [5] On Columbia Records -- [6] Mr. Teardrop -- [7] Singing the Blues in a White Sport Coat -- [8] Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs -- [9] Early 1960s -- [10] Cowboy in a Continental Suit -- [11] Still More Gunfighter Ballads and Trail Songs -- [12] From Dirt Track to NASCAR -- [13] A Hot Dog Ready to Pop -- [14] "I Want To Race Again" -- [15] Back in the Groove -- [16] NASCAR 42 -- [17] Twentieth Century Drifter -- [18] Return to the Road -- [19] Back on Columbia Records and in the Spotlight -- [20] The Marty Robbins Band on Tour -- [21] Into the '80s -- [22] NASCAR-Phase Two -- [23] Super Legend -- [24] No Plans of Quitting Any Time Soon -- [25] "I'll Be Drifting Home" -- [26] Some Memories Just Won't Die -- Appendix: Band Members -- Notes -- Index.

Twentieth Century Drifter: The Life of Marty Robbins is the first biography of this legendary country music artist and NASCAR driver who scored sixteen number-one hits and two Grammy awards. Yet even with fame and fortune, Marty Robbins always yearned for more. Drawing from personal interviews and in-depth research, biographer Diane Diekman explains how Robbins saw himself as a drifter, a man always searching for self-fulfillment and inner peace. Born Martin David Robinson to a hardworking mother and an abusive alcoholic father, he never fully escaped the insecurities burned into him by a poverty-stricken nomadic childhood in the Arizona desert. In 1947 he got his first gig as a singer and guitar player. Too nervous to talk, the shy young man walked onstage singing. Soon he changed his name to Marty Robbins, cultivated his magnetic stage presence, and established himself as an entertainer, songwriter, and successful NASCAR driver. For fans of Robbins, NASCAR, and classic country music, Twentieth Century Drifter: The Life of Marty Robbins is a revealing portrait of this well-loved, restless entertainer, a private man who kept those who loved him at a distance.

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