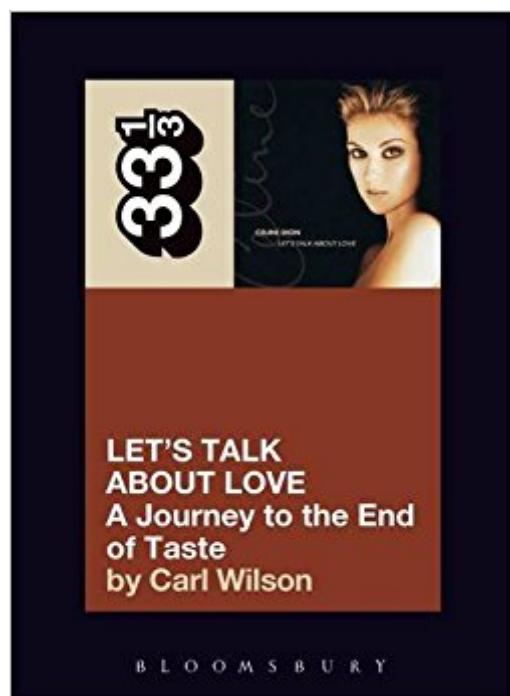


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Celine Dion's Let's Talk About Love: A Journey To The End Of Taste (33 1/3)



Synopsis

Non-fans regard Céline Dion as ersatz and plastic, yet to those who love her, no one could be more real, with her impoverished childhood, her (creepy) manager-husband's struggle with cancer, her knack for howling out raw emotion. There's nothing cool about Céline Dion, and nothing clever. That's part of her appeal as an object of love or hatred — with most critics and committed music fans taking pleasure (or at least geeky solace) in their lofty contempt. This book documents Carl Wilson's brave and unprecedented year-long quest to find his inner Céline Dion fan, and explores how we define ourselves in the light of what we call good and bad, what we love and what we hate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Brilliant." -- Alex Ross, author of *The Rest is Noise* "It's fascinating stuff...By turns hilarious and heartwarming." -- *Guardian Unlimited Arts* blog, March 2008 "A wide-ranging book, one predicated on the possibility that what repels us may say more about us than what attracts us...[an] insightful, engaging, and unexpectedly moving book." -- *The Globe and Mail*, January 19, 2008 "An important study- not just of Dion and pop music but also of the changing nature of criticism in the popular realm." -- *Bookforum*, January 2008 "This could be the best book of the series...razor-sharp and unerringly intelligent." -- John Wenzel, *The Denver Post* "The always critical and erudite Mr. Wilson actually approached *Let's Talk About Love* as a non-fan grappling with questions of "good" and "bad" taste... -- *Idolator.com* "a rigorous,

perceptive and very funny meditation on what happens when you realize that there's more to life than being hip, and begin to grapple with just what that "more" might be. — Montreal Gazette
 "A book pondering the aesthetics of Celine risks going wrong in about 3,000 different ways...Instead, this book goes very deeply right." —Sam Anderson, New York Magazine *

Punk, metal, even social-justice rock such as U2 or Rage Against the Machine, with their emphatic slogans of individuality and independence, are as much "inspirational" or "motivational" music as Céline's is, but for different subcultural groups. They are just as one-sided and unsubtle. Morally you could fairly ask what is more laudable about excess in the name of rage and resentment than immoderation in thrall to love and connection. The likely answer would be that Céline is conformist, quiescent, unsubversive. "Subversion" today is sentimentality's reverse: It is nearly always a term of approval. To show the subversiveness of a song, TV show or movie is tantamount to validating it, not just in pop criticism but in academic scholarship. Tens of millions of people around the world love Céline Dion. Many millions more can't stand her. Why? Carl Wilson, by no means a Céline fan at the start of his quest, searches for the answer in this extraordinary book. Immersing himself in Dion's 1999 hit album *Let's Talk About Love* (the one with that *Titanic* song on it), he examines everything from Céline's Quebec roots to her enormous voice to her tear-jerking sentimentality. As Wilson strives to understand Céline's immense global popularity, he faces the question of what drives personal taste - and whether it's possible to change it.

I normally shy away from reviews but I liked this book so much I wanted to share. This is a humorous, well researched dive into humbling humanity and our taste for the elusive cool or uncool. Through Mr. Wilson's own reflection on his apathy toward one of the queens of mainstream music, the recently widowed Ms. Dion, you become a journeymen. A duo bound for the depths of your shame and judgement. This book led me into deep thought of how I view other's tastes or distastes for that matter. A lot to unpack for a little book. I have to admit I'm a Celine fan and that prompted me to buy this book and I'm happy I did. I don't share some of Mr. Wilson's views regarding matters of faith or God, but it doesn't impede that fact that this book is thought provoking, funny, intelligent, so stinking vulnerable and human.

Witty, engrossing, and provocative. The tyranny of taste given the once over. A brief, brisk read --high recommended to Dion lovers and those of us who simply can't believe that Other People like

her.

Yes. A moving story about the authors personal life and a contemplation on how our divides in taste can become a public, democratic, and empathetic challenge to help each of us grow.

Go Carl Wilson this rocks.

Carl Wilson's "Let's Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste" is among the best books ever written about popular music and its aesthetics. For a short book, it covers significant ground, deftly drawing insights from academic cultural theory, while remaining engaging, personal, and easily comprehensible throughout. The discussions of cultural capital and anger schmaltz alone are worth the price of the book. It's no accident that some reviewers encountered this book in a college class, for it's a great introduction to the discourse around aesthetics. If I was teaching such a class, I'd assign it for sure. It's a shame some of these undergrads didn't like Wilson's book. But don't let their opinions deter you from reading it. Maybe I'm a snob to say so, but I suspect they're not the sharpest tools in the shed.

This book won't convince you to like Celine Dion but it will get you thinking about why you like certain things and hate other things and in the process you will learn tons and tons of things that you will love learning. This book is so fascinating that I bought it for my 22 year old nephew who is a music reviewer. It is just a little skinny book but it is jammed full of brilliance. Bravo!!!

I found this book to be as much of an author's self-reflection as to why he doesn't like something, as much as a look at a particular album and artist. The book does get academic at times, and goes off into tangents that lost me at times. But at least he tries to answer the question of why certain musicians (Dion, Manilow, etc.) are so reviled by those who "know better".

This is a great book. Wilson calls himself out for being a snob and asks why Celine can't get the love, challenging his readers to open their minds. Good stuff from an excellent writer.

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