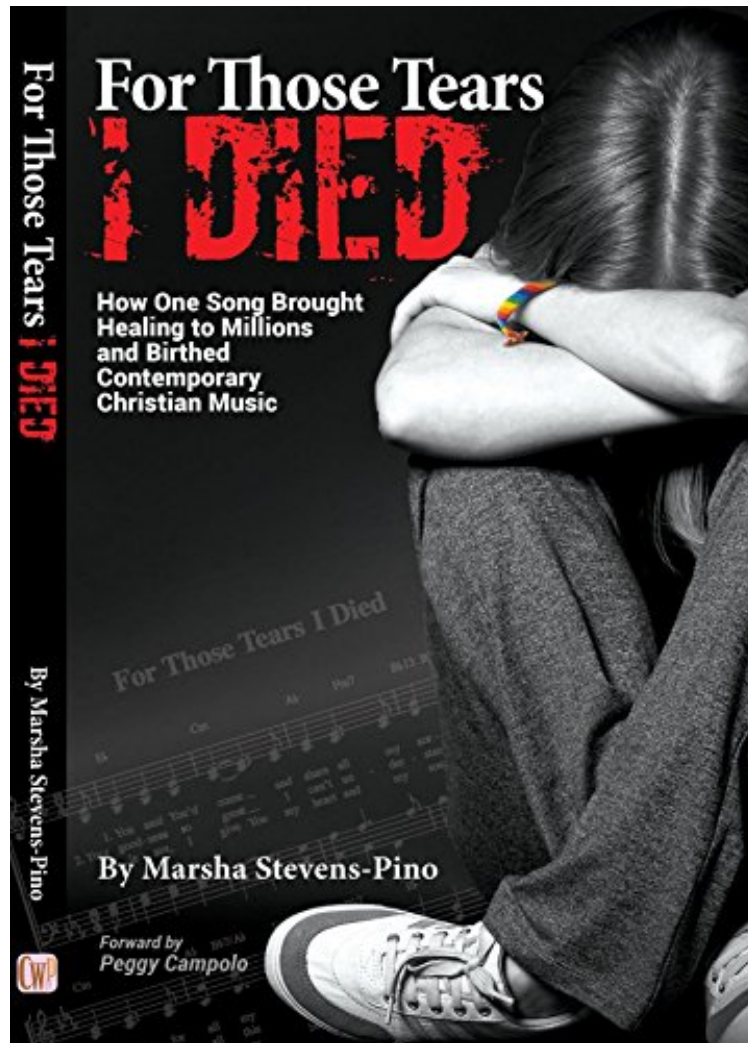


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For Those Tears I Died: The Amazing Story About How One Song Brought Healing to Millions and Birthed Contemporary Christian Music

Marsha Stevens-Pino

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Marsha Stevens-Pino : For Those Tears I Died: The Amazing Story About How One Song Brought Healing to Millions and Birthed Contemporary Christian Music before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised For Those Tears I Died: The Amazing Story About How One Song Brought Healing to Millions and Birthed Contemporary Christian Music:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Read with utter delight By Trudie Barreras To say that I was ecstatic when a friend tipped me off that "For Those Tears I Died", Marsha Stevens-Pino's memoir bearing the

same title as her immortal song, had just been published would be the understatement of the decade. I couldn't log on to the product page fast enough to place my Kindle order, and moments after I began to read with utter delight. Of course, having been to numerous performances by Marsha in the years from the early 1990's to the mid 2000's, I have heard her basic testimony often, but never with the depth and clarity offered in this exceptional book. I have also had a number of rewarding personal encounters with her over the years. The first, at an MCC General Conference in Phoenix, AZ in the summer of 1993, bears sharing because this was when I discovered the absolute authenticity of Marsha's Christian compassion. As it happens, I was very familiar with her music, especially "For Those Tears I Died" and "Like a Falling Star", because we used them so often for AIDS funerals during those years. My own son had been killed a few months before in a car crash. As it happens, driving across Arizona on the way to the Conference, I was playing Marsha's songs as part of my Celebration of Life for my son, while scattering some of his ashes at beautiful sites along the way. When I reached the Conference venue, it turned out that the EXCEL booth I was helping to staff was right beside Marsha's music booth. I told her how much her music had meant to me on this trip, and her empathetic response was a total blessing for me. It is wonderful to know that the work Marsha Stevens-Pino first began in the early Jesus Movement which—as she demonstrates—got so sadly derailed into the excesses of the political "Religious Right" is truly "getting back on track". Through this memoir as well as through her past and present work with Christian music, especially with the new young performers she is mentoring, Marsha continues to show the Love of God in a new and much broader context than was ever possible before. One can only say, with profound reverence, "Thank you, Jesus, for continuing to let Marsha share You in so wonderful a way!"

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This Will Be the Next Stranger at the Gate! By Lana Phillips It is an amazing story! I'm not old enough to remember Children of the Day, but I first sang the song For Those Tears I Died at a Bible study when I was in high school in the early 80's. I remembered the song for years, but was flabbergasted many years later to hear that Marsha was a lesbian. I had recently come out and was still trying to figure things out. I saw her at a concert in Edmonton, Alberta, and knew it was possible to be me and still be a Christian. So earlier tonight I saw Marsha's post on Facebook that this book had come out. I immediately went and bought it, started to read, and here I am four hours later trying to put words on the experience of reading it. I'm glad I read it on Kindle, because I could easily highlight meaningful passages that I probably wouldn't have in a hard copy. (I'm a nerd that way.) I played the music of hers I could find on Youtube while I was reading it. I felt like I had read the story of a good friend when I was done. I hurt when I saw what she had been through, but she writes about it in a way that shows that she is a loving person who truly knows the God she follows. I had kind of quit thinking about her over the years, but God knew I needed this book right now. It's funny that the post even came through on my news feed. I guess it was just a God thing!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Read! By Elaine Cornelius If you have heard Marsha sing, you know she has a beautiful voice. Beyond the voice is an even more beautiful message. Her story is not a light, easy read. Her life has not been easy, but it has been blessed. Her message tells of faith and the movement of God not only in her life, but also in the world. God gave Marsha a song and used it and her experiences to draw His people back to Himself. Every event was used by God to equip her for His plan for her life. He chose Marsha to lead all God's children, the broken, the struggling, the hurting people of God to a place where we can see we are all safe in His arms. I have known Marsha for over 20 years and knew there was more to her story than I heard at her concerts. Her book tells more of her history and how each step of the way God was there. It is a story of hope, the hope that burns within her and why she has an answer for any who may still need to hear. Marsha's story tells of the history of Contemporary Christian music, but instead of feeling like a history lesson, it is more like a conversation with a trusted friend. She is called to share Jesus with the world. Yes, her life has held many forms of tears; but God has used those tears and given her a family in Christ; and tears of joy.

"The mother of contemporary Christian music" - Excerpt from "The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music", Sept. 2002

"She is Conservative Christianity's worst nightmare: a Jesus-loving, Bible-believing, God-fearing lesbian Christian." - Christian Century Magazine

At just 16, Marsha Carter (now Stevens-Pino) shared her newly born-again Christianity with a song that went on to become one of the most widely recognized, and translated hymns in Christian circles: "For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)". Some historians have said it was the first song to be called "Contemporary Christian Music". Since those modest beginnings, Marsha has continued her journey in the world of Christian Music. She shared her music first as a member of Children of the Day, who are considered the first music group in the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) genre. When she came out as a lesbian she experienced severe animosity from those who were conservative Christians, including the Christian music industry. The hostility and behavior by Christians she had ministered to, and with whom she sometimes traveled, did not deter her Christian spirit. More than ever, Stevens-Pino passionately pursues her ministry, producing inspirational and edifying songs and performing widely as a solo artist around the United States to spread the positive Christian word of Love to all of God's creation, especially to the gay and lesbian communities. Marsha has written and recorded dozens of albums under the label of BALM Ministries. The label stood for her commitment of being a Born Again

Lesbian Musician. Marsha is free to follow the path she has chosen and to share her uplifting testimony, without apology. Faithful to the spirit of her faith and with the full support of her spouse Cindy, Marsha lives openly, with the Jesus who invited her to Come to the Water, so many years ago.

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, author, Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches UFMCC: Marsha Stevens tells the story of her encounter with the living God in the passionate days of the Jesus movement - a story that led her to trust the God who made her, and called her, ultimately, to claim her identity and mission as a Born Again Lesbian! This is a story of two movements, a world-class hymn, and the powerful intersection of grace, identity and calling. The faith that birthed "For Those Tears I Died," eventually birthed "Free to Be," and so much more. From the almost surreal accounts of founding "Children of the Day," and ministering with celebrities in the global Jesus movement concerts, to the humblest of venues, Marsha is courageously authentic. She is the "mother of contemporary Christian music," who was at the very center and then driven to the margins. A prophetic poet and lyricist, she never stops reaching out to those who are not sure they can trust God, church or themselves. Her message, is, always, "of course you can!" Of all the things that live on after us, Marsha's music may be what best captures all that we tried to be and do for our community. ----- *Rev. Freda Smith, clergy person who performed the first U.S. same-sex wedding conducted with a government-issued civil marriage license in Denver, Colorado for Richard Adams and Anthony Sullivan in 1975. The marriage is still listed on the Colorado Bureau of Records website: For Those Tears I Died by Marsha Stevens-Pino is a must-read autobiography by an uniquely- gifted songwriter and artist whose music and ministry has touched and changed our world. My church loved Marsha's music long before she entered MCC. She was a spiritual rock star in the Evangelical Christian world, a global traveler who appeared with the contemporary "greats" of the time. I give Marsha credit for being a positive factor in the growth of Sacramento MCC. Music does build the church. Marsha's book, For Those Tears I Died, goes behind the scenes, beyond the glitter of public appearances and acclaim, to introduce us to a very deep and real survivor who by the power and grace of her faith has overcome. "That spark that would not die was You, that strength to finally grieve, The faithfulness to feel the pain, yet still believe..." --- *Rev. Elder Troy Perry, pioneer civil rights activist, Founder of UFMCC - the largest LGBTQ organization in the world: I consider Marsha a colleague and one of my closest friends, but she is also a pioneer in her own right. One thing quickly learned by any pioneer is that there is no one there to cheer when you arrive. Marsha has forged a path for hundreds of Contemporary Christian Music artists and thousands of wounded Christians to find their way back to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I've ministered with her in four countries and watched her music and storytelling lighten hearts, open eyes, and spark recognition of the presence of God's Holy Spirit in people who thought they would never feel that spark again. Reading her story reminds me of the passion of those years of the Jesus Movement and the legacy that Jesus music left for us. I didn't meet Marsha until a few weeks after she came out as a lesbian Christian, but I knew of her music and recognized her the first time she walked into a church where I was preaching. I knew from that moment that the path would be smoother, the way more clear, and the truth more accessible to the LGBTQ community we were both committed to reaching. She paid the price before anybody else in the Christian music world and I will never forget it. And I knew without any doubt, as I told her that night, that she had come into the realm of God for just such a time as this. About the Author At just 16, Marsha Stevens-Pino (ten Marsha Carter) Carter shared her newly born-again Christianity with a song that will go on to become one of the most widely recognized and sung hymns in Christian circles, "For Those Tears I Died (Come to the Water)". This is just the beginning of a wonderful journey for the talented singer/songwriter. The journey is not halted by any of her tribulations including the animosity that was raised against her and her work when she publicly came out as a lesbian. She is recognized by the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music as the mother of the genre, upholding the values and beliefs of Christianity both as a solo artist and the lead of Children of the Day, the band considered as the genre's first music group. The Christian Century Magazine rightly calls her "a Jesus-loving, Bible-believing, God-fearing lesbian Christian": she passionately and humbly works, producing records and touring widely to spread the holy and positively transforming Christian word of Love through her ministry of music and words.