

Waging Heavy Peace Study Guide

Waging Heavy Peace by Neil Young

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Plot Summary

Waging Heavy Peace is a collection of Neil Young's thoughts and life stories.

Young loved playing music, working on his model trains, collecting cars, and developing innovative ideas. In his book, he shared his numerous health issues with the reader. As a youngster, he suffered from polio and had epilepsy. More health issues plagued him later in his life. While writing the book, Neil stopped drinking alcohol and smoking weed on his doctor's suggestion. He loved his wife Pegi and his 3 children. He wanted to live his life so that he was not a burden to anyone.

Neil's musical history began when he joined the band called the Squires. He was inspired and impressed by other bands, such as the Company and the Silvertones. He met Stephen Stills, who later became like a brother to him. The Squires was successful, but also fell upon hard times. After the band broke up, Neil was part of the Mynah Birds until the lead singer, Rick James Matthews, was arrested and their manager spent all their money. Neil started to experiment with smoking weed and other drugs while he was playing in the band.

The band Crazy Horse was made up of Danny Whitten, Ralph Molina, Billy Talbott, and Neil Young. Poncho Sampedro joined in 1974 when Danny died. They were still playing in 2011. In 1969, Neil joined Crosby, Stills, and Nash and his last name, Young, was added to the end.

Neil loved cars and collected many of them. They were stored in Mr. Feelgood's Garage, where he also held many of his conferences. His favorite car was his 1953 Buick Skylark, called the Big Kahuna. His mother bought Neil's first car, a 1948 Buick hearse when Neil was 18 years old. The hearse was roomy enough to transport his musical equipment.

Neil had been working on his Lincvolt for the past four years when it was destroyed in an accidental fire. He wanted to make a large car more energy resourceful. Several companies, including Ford motors, decided to support Neil's dream to start over and rebuild the car.

PureTone was an invention idea that Neil wanted to pursue. He believed that it had superior sound quality over iTunes, CDs, and MP3 players. Neil was trying to get his project financed. The title of the book came from a question about PureTone, from one of his son's caregivers. The question asked whether Neil was creating war on Apple with Puretone. Neil's response was that he was waging heavy peace, not war. He was concerned about the sound quality, which he felt was lacking due to the convenience and wide ease of music availability.

Neil's health had been poor over the years. He contracted polio at the age of six years, so he had to relearn how to walk and his back hurt. He also suffered from epileptic seizures and was tested by many doctors before they figured out what was wrong.



Neil's back was painful before he had a double laminectomy in 1971. In 2005, Neil suffered from an aneurysm and had to have surgery. Complications arose and he started to bleed from the surgical site, the femoral artery.

Throughout the book, Neil maintains a positive attitude toward making life better for others. He had wanted to make the Lincvolt to have a better environmentally friendly car and PureTone would enhance the quality of portable music. Neil's personality shines throughout the book as he shares his feelings, regrets, and mistakes with his audience.



1 -12

1 -12 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 1 begins with Neil opening a package that contains a Lionel model train prototype switcher. He collected Lionel model trains and built a set as a hobby. Neil enjoyed working on the trains with his son, Ben, a quadriplegic. He recalled playing music with David Crosby and Graham Nash when he looked over his train collection.

In Feelgood's Garage, Neil stored his music equipment and cars, along with a conference table. He had a large collection of cars, but his favorite was his 1953 Buick Skylark. Neil was going to have a conference with Alex about his start-up company, PureTone. He was seeking financial backing for his idea to make a portable music player with high quality sound of music.

In Chapter 2, Neil admits that he stopped drinking and smoking weed on advice from his doctor. He was concerned about whether or not he could continue to write music since becoming clean. Neil reminisced about his favorite bands and playing music with Crazy Horse. Crazy Horse started in 1969 with Danny Whitten, Ralph Molina, Billy Talbot, and Neil Young. They have continued to play throughout the years. When Danny Whitten died, Poncho Sampedro joined the group in 1974.

Neil made a plan to get Crazy Horse together on his ranch, the White House, in northern California. He wanted to use their old soundboard to make new music, which he anticipated being released by PureTone. Neil went back to the train barn where he fixed a train derailment.

In Chapter 3, Neil successfully demonstrated his idea of the new music player to Craig Kallman and Alex in his 1978 Cadillac Eldorado. Unfortunately, Neil had technical difficulties when he tried to play a video of musicians on his iPad. He was able to get it to play correctly and impressed Alex.

Back at Feelgood's, Neil awaited another meeting with his new partner WMG. He admired his other cars in the garage, which all had a story to tell about their history. Neil was impatient for the meeting to take place. He set up another meeting the following week about the Lincvolt, his big eco-friendly car that ran on ethanol. Neil enjoyed dreaming up plans to make life better. Unfortunately, his dream car burned up, but music still freed him from all his project planning.

Chapter 4 brought childhood memories of his model train set that his father had built for him. When Neil was about 5 years old, he contracted polio and was taken to the hospital where the doctor gave him a lumbar puncture. He had to relearn how to walk again. Neil's older brother, Bob, recounted the frightening experience and also told of their bouts with epilepsy. Bob played hockey and golf, while Neil was not very athletic due to his sore back.



When they lived in Omelee, Ontario, his father was a writer who wrote in the attic. Neil learned how to write from his father, who nicknamed him Windy. Sadly, his father became afflicted with dementia or Alzheimer's disease; Neil was unsure which it was. In 2005, Neil grieved over the death of his father.

In Chapter 5, Neil wrote about David Briggs, his producer and best friend. After David died, filmmaking collaborator Larry Johnson became his best friend. Elliot Roberts managed Neil earlier and also became his best friend.

Neil's impatient behaviors lead him to start many projects that he funded himself, such as films, videos, and development. He liked being in control and in charge. However, his friends have helped him along the way.

Neil wrote about his upcoming trip to Hawaii. His wife Pegi was going to join him later. Some of their friends were going to be there. One time, Neil wrote a song for Marc and Lynne's daughter, named Leia.

Pegi started the Bridge School in 1986 that taught children with severe speech and language challenges. After a board retreat in San Mateo, Neil and Bryan Bell went to Talbot's Toyland where he got a new model train, a Hudson steam locomotive.

Neil worked on the Lionel model train and became an owner. The trains had to be manufactured in China or the business would go under.

Neil returned to finish the rest of the story about the Bridge School. Pegi was disappointed in the local California classroom for the disabled, so she came up with the idea to start their own school. She thought that Bruce Springsteen could play a concert that benefited the school. They were able to get other musicians to play for the concert, too. Unfortunately, both Bruce and Neil lost their right-hand men from their bands because they died. Neil believed that the new players could not re-create the old players' parts. He wrote more about this in Chapter 18.

Chapter 6 brought reminiscing about cars. Neil bought a 1948 Buick hearse so that he could transport his band equipment. He had been borrowing his mother's small English car before he bought the hearse. His mother was supportive of his musical endeavors, but his father was not due to Neil's poor school grades. Neil's mom paid \$125.00 for the hearse and he was appreciative of the fact that he could store his gear and also sleep in his car. He scared his first true love's father by driving the hearse to her house. Pam Smith was her name and Neil had fond memories of her.

The band moved from Winnipeg to Fort William, Ontario in 1963 or 1964. They played six nights a week at the Flamingo Club earning \$325. Neil wrote some R&B songs and enjoyed being free from expectations. Neil dreamed of buying a 1959 Cadillac convertible, which he bought later. David Briggs nicknamed the car "Nanu the Lovesick Moose." Neil and David had amusing experiences in the car, such as flirting with girls and being pulled over by a sheriff in Malibu.

In Chapter 7, Neil explains the reason he wrote this book.



He was celebrating Father's Day at his ranch with his family and he stubbed his little toe. It was, in fact, broken. Neil needed to do something since he could not be on stage and was clean.

Chapter 8 describes the beginning of Neil's first band called the Squires and gives a detailed account of his early musical history.

The musicians were Jack Harper, Allan Bates, Ken Koblun, and Neil Young. They did not make much money, nor did they know where they were headed. There were other bands in town, such as the Galaxies and the Silvertones. The bands impressed and influenced Neil with their style and equipment. The original members of the Squires shifted with new musicians who came and went: Ken Smyth, Doug Campbell, Al Johnston, Bill Edmondson, and Bob Clark. Neil wrote a lot of original songs that led to the success of the Squires. The Squires began playing at other venues, such as the Fourth Dimension Club circuit in Fort William, Winnipeg, and Regina.

Neil continued to be impressed with bands like Two Guys from Boston and the Company. Steve Stills was the soul vocalist and guitar player for the Company. Neil and Steve got along very well and Neil considered Steve to be a brother to him.

After a rough time, some of the Squires and another band, the Bonneville, decided to go to Toronto. On the way there, the hearse broke down and needed repairs. Neil's personality was wrapped up in the hearse and it was difficult to go on without it. After being in North Bay, he headed to his father's house south of Toronto. It was uncomfortable there because his father had remarried and Neil had a young stepsister. The Squires was unable to find successful gigs in Toronto. Ken Koblun broke away from the band and it was a very difficult time for Neil, who bounced around trying to find jobs in different cities.

Back in Toronto, Neil joined the Mynah Birds, smoked his first weed, and tried other drugs. Later in the beginning of 1966, the band received a recording contract in Motown. The lead singer, Ricky James Matthew, was arrested for dodging the Vietnam draft. The manager, Morley Shelman, spent all of the money and OD'd. Neil moved back to Toronto after the band broke up.

Chapter 9 deals with three stories about fires. It starts out telling about a film called Human Highway that Neil had made.

He went on tour after filming in a 1973 Eagle bus, named Pocahontas, that had car parts added to it. For the big CSNY tour, Neil leased a brand new GMC mobile home, but it did not last long due to poor performance of the front tires. Two more vehicles were used for the tour, a 1954 Cadillac limo and a 1960s Flixible bus; however, the Eagle bus replaced them. The Eagle bus was unforgettable with its unique modifications.

Neil and his sons enjoyed riding in Pocahontas while on tour. Sadly, it burned to the ground. They were able to bury her remains at the ranch and built another bus, a 1993



Eagle. On the top were two Buick Fastback cars from 1947. It also had a special lift and bedroom for his son Ben.

Unluckily the second fire took place in 1978, while Neil and his band headed to the Forum in L.A. There were wildfires burning. His Malibu house was destroyed, except for the fireplace and a plaster mask of his face.

The third story is set recently in Desert Hot Springs where Neil received a phone call about the Lincvolt burning. It burned along with tapes and archival materials. Neil watched clips of it burning on the news and later viewed the surveillance footage. The car had accidentally been left plugged in and it was not ready to do that. Another car has since been built.

Neil was hoping that after three fires, it would be the end since the third time is the charm.

In Chapter 10, Neil admits that he could solve the world's energy problems by persisting and accomplishing his dreams. He was hopeful in being part of the solution. Larry Johnson's death in 2010 impacted Neil's life and he thought all was lost. However, he was able to rebuild the Lincvolt from other cars and continued to have hope that it would work with Larry's spirit helping. From research, Neil realized that the new car could be motorized by widely accessible biomass.

A trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil was planned to speak about making a difference. Neil repeated to himself that he ought to prepare for his speech since he wanted to be impressive and do a good job. He did not want to simply ramble on about the Lincvolt.

Chapter 11 brings empathy for Conan O'Brien about his switch from his network show to TBS. Neil points out that O'Brien's staff were clueless and did not protect O'Brien from the road. Neil discusses an audience's expectation, how things can become negative, and how quickly things are posted on YouTube. Neil states that three things were required to be a successful musician: the correct sound, the listeners, and relevancy. Neil's positive thoughts are expressed. He connects this chapter with Chapter 5 by stating he was looking forward to playing music with his friends when he got to Hawaii. Playing clean was going to be a new experience for him.

Chapter 12 is an advertisement-type break in the book to present PureTone. Neil posts an illustration to demonstrate its quality. He adds humor by stating, "It is important to understand that we cannot descend much further in quality or we will hit rock bottom. ... Right now, we all live in a yellow submarine"(pg. 94). Neil states that PureTone has superior sound to iTunes and MP3 players.



13-24

13-24 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 13 opens in 1970 when, at 24 years of age, Neil bought forested property in the Santa Cruz mountains. He called it the Broken Arrow Ranch. Neil wrote the song "Old Man" after the ranch foreman Louis Avila. It was a new beginning for Neil since he had broken up with his first wife, Susan. Friends helped him rebuild the house with magnificent redwood planks that are currently there. The house was remodeled after Neil married Pegi in 1978. Additional space was built after his son Ben was born to house his special gear and assistants.

Neil has enjoyed building and discovering new things. Ken Whiting had a tree house nearby Neil's ranch and one day he rode on the cable car to it.

Neil bought his house in Topanga Canyon. His friend Billy Talbot and wife Susan, along with baby Chris, lived nearby. There was a disturbing painting on the wall that was used for Chris' room. The previous tenant, Charles Manson, had painted it. Billy covered it with wood paneling.

Another friend, Dennis Wilson, of the Beach Boys, lived in a beautiful home on Sunset Boulevard. When Neil went over to visit him, he met three odd girls that Dennis had picked up as hitchhikers. The strange girls' friend, Charles Manson, came over to the house and played on Neil's guitar. He impressed Neil and Neil wanted to help him get a recording contract. A music producer named Terry Melcher looked into Manson's work but decided to pass on him. Bizarrely, Charles Manson was charged with the murder of Sharon Tate, who rented Terry Melcher's home.

In Chapter 14, Neil shares his fascination with the actions and sounds of model trains.

Neil was passionate about making music. He was excited about the new concert film on which he collaborated with Jonathan Demme, a popular filmmaker. This was the third film they had done together.

This chapter was written from Hawaii, where Neil mentioned Poncho Sampedro had taken a microbiological gardening class. Poncho had worked on the TV hit "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno and wanted to reprise Crazy Horse. Neil wanted to contact Billy Talbot, the bass player. Billy was married to Karin, who had been married to Neil's ranch foreman, Larry Markegard. Larry passed away in 1996, which was difficult on everyone. However, knowing that Karin and Billy were in love brought Neil happy thoughts.

Chapter 15's title is "Cars and Guitars" and Neil writes about his 1949 Cadillac convertible.



It was named "Hank" after Hank Williams. Neil reminisced about recording at Sunset Sound on Sunset Boulevard. It was a historical place since many musicians recorded there. In March, 1974, Neil was recording "On the Beach" and he saw an advertisement for the car. He was a material guy and buying the car was a reward for working on his music.

Later, in December 1974, Neil went on his first date with Pegi. She was 22 years old and Neil was attracted to her blue eyes. His son Zeke was two years old at the time and he went on the date, too. Zeke's mom was Carrie Snodgrass. Zeke was born with cerebral palsy and worked for his dad on Neil's tours after growing up. He wanted to become independent, so he began working at Home Depot and became a senior employee. Neil was very proud of him and his accomplishments.

"Hank" was used in the Harvest Moon video. In 1983, Neil toured with the band, The Shocking Pinks. The band was televised leaving the concert in a different Cadillac each night.

Neil's guitar was called "Old Black." It was a 1952 Gibson Les Paul. He bought it in 1968 and it was used in every Crazy Horse recording. He added a Bigsby tremolo arm, also known as a wang bar, to improve its sound. Unfortunately, his pickup was stolen from a guitar shop called Western Avenue in LA. He replaced it with a Gretsch pickup, but he was never really happy with it. Larry Cragg, Neil's friend and a chief guitar specialist, found a replacement pickup called a Firebird. It screamed like a banshee. Neil gave a shout out to Larry for his help.

Neil taped every song he played and a good example is the song "Like a Hurricane." He wrote it in Taylor Phelp's large car, after doing coke. Taylor started One Pass Video, a video production company in San Francisco, and later died of AIDS. Taylor was a friend of Jim Russell. Jim and Neil's kids would play together while the dads were at the bars.

Chapter 16 is a one-page chapter with two paragraphs. Neil expressed that he adored living and he was cognizant that he wrote about people who have perished. He could not change the past and he wanted to be a good person. He quoted Bob Dylan's song "Blowing in the Wind."

In Chapter 17, Neil writes that he first heard Bob Dylan's songs in 1963. He felt connected when he listened to the words. He temporarily stopped listening to Dylan for a while so that he would not copy his style. Neil was currently tired of music and was in a brief funk. The last time that happened, it was the end of 2009 when he felt like slumbering and being dormant. He was, however, still able to hear and appreciate good music. In 1963, Neil tried to get into the United States, but he needed a work visa. He did not think that simply taking his guitar and playing music would be enough for the work visa.

Bass player Bruce Palmer played with the Mynah Birds, which broke up in 1966. Neil and Bruce decided to go to LA. They drove on Route 66 in a newly purchased 1953 Pontiac hearse. After smoking joints, they were pulled over in Texas. They said that they



were going to Vancouver and the cop let them go. Soon they picked up three girl hitchhikers that aggravated Neil. They stopped driving and rested when they got to Albuquerque.

In hindsight, Neil may have had his first epileptic seizure in Albuquerque. He went to the hospital ER but could not remember much besides sleeping for a couple of days. In the middle of the night, Neil and his friends ditched two of the girls and took off for LA. They arrived April 1, 1966 and searched for 77 Sunset Strip, which was the title of a TV show in the late 1950's and early 1960's about a detective. Ironically, there was no actual 77 Sunset Strip. They learned their first lesson that things in Hollywood were not the same in real life. Fortunately they found the Pacific Ocean and the beach.

Neil met Danny Cox much earlier in Winnipeg. Danny had moved to a house off Laurel Canyon in Los Angeles. Since Danny's house was so small, Neil slept in his car near Danny's house and every time he passed by, he remembered that time.

Neil was looking for Steve Stills to put a band together. Steve had played in Winnipeg in a band called The Company. After searching everywhere, he found lots of colorful tie-dyed clothed and rich hippies. Neil also found powerful joints and drug havens. Discouraged, Neil wanted to go to San Francisco when being found by Steve in the middle of traffic on Sunset Boulevard pleasantly surprised him. With all the horns honking, they embraced. It was the beginning of their new band, Buffalo Springfield.

The band was formed with vocalist Richie Furay, who was living with Steve at manager Barry Friedman's house. Dewey Martin joined them as the drummer. Dewey and Steve had different senses of tempo and Dewey often rushed Steve. The name Buffalo Springfield came from seeing a steamroller in West Hollywood with that name printed on it.

Chapter 18 brought about Neil and Steve sharing memories of the past. Neil enjoyed playing for concert fans who were interested in his music, but disliked when people were distracted by talking on their cell phones during the concert.

Neil met Stephen when they were young. Five years before the book's publication, they played with Chad Cromwell and Rick Rosas, with whom Neil had worked a lot in the past. Some of the songs were too political, which made Stephen uneasy.

In 1986, Neil met Niko Bolas, who co-produced the Living with War tour. Neil enjoyed working with him on several albums.

Neil spoke with Bruce Springsteen, who was mourning the loss of Clarence Clemons, Springsteen's saxophonist who died in 2011. Neil had grieved for Ben Keith, who was Neil's pedal steel guitarist. Ben died in 2010. Neil tried to be supportive of Bruce and stated that he would be there when Bruce needed a friend. Neil had also written about Clarence and Ben in Chapter 5.

Neil was thankful for his band Crazy Horse, which allowed him to enter the cosmic world. Music enabled his being to exist.



In Chapter 19, Neil felt that his writing was going well, but his music was not. He repeated parts of Chapter 4 about learning to write from his father. Neil was nostalgic for Canada and he had thoughts of living there again.

Neil has enjoyed writing and might write more books. He was headed toward writing fiction. Back in Chapter 7, he wrote about his broken toe and how it had a lot to do with him writing this book.

Neil enjoyed being around Poncho's Master gardener, who was very knowledgeable. The gardener invited Poncho to a meeting, but Poncho did not feel qualified to go. Neil assured his friend that the Master knew what he was doing. Poncho gave them pieces of apple pie.

Neil shared about more about PureTone, expounding on Chapter 12. The title of the book came from a question from one of his son's caregivers. The question was whether Neil was creating war on Apple with Puretone. Neil's response was that he was waging heavy peace, not war. He was concerned about the sound quality, which he felt was lacking due to the convenience and availability of music. Neil wanted to stop being enraged about the poor sound quality of music. He found living in Hawaii very soothing, healing, and peaceful. Neil was concerned about our harmful effects on the earth.

Chapter 20 deals with Neil's health issues. During the time when he played in the band Buffalo Springfield, Neil fell while at the Teen Fair with a few friends. He was outside of Wallich's Music City, which had lots of music and instruments. Neil was hot and sweaty. He forgot who he was and stared at the crowd around him. Neil felt reborn after he realized who he was, but had relentless fear and anxiety that it would happen again. It inhibited him and his lifestyle. He was afraid to go shopping. At the time, he lived in a little cabin off Laurel Canyon, where he had good times with girls. He gained more confidence over time. Dennis Hopper took a photo of the band outside the cabin. Neil wrote many songs there and listened to a lot of music, too.

Neil's manager's secretary, April Full, took him to UCLA Medical Center for tests. There, he felt flashes and his hearing changed while the doctors were testing him. Neil had another seizure when he went back and had blood drawn. He took a very painful test about which he was still angry, a pneumoencephalogram. Neil copied and pasted Wikipedia's information about the test into his book. The doctors could not give him a proper diagnosis and told him not to take LSD. Neil stated that he never took it and was thankful for the things in his life that made him who he was, even if they were frightening.

Neil starts Chapter 21 by talking about song production and how special it was to him. Unfortunately, Neil was unable to write a song after he stopped smoking weed in January of 2011. He did not think when he wrote songs, as thinking was disruptive to his process. Another disruption was having pressure to write a song.

He wanted to change the subject, and he did, to his 1947 Buick Roadmaster called the Black Queen. A friend bought it for \$650 in Idaho. Its transmission needed work. The car



was used during the recording of "Tonight's the Night," which was a depressing recording, according to Neil. It was written after two friends had OD'd on heroin, Bruce Berry and Danny Whitten. The band would record only after they were wasted from drinking alcohol. It was released one year after it was recorded.

When Neil first got to California, he did not have a driver's license because he was there illegally. One time he got pulled over for broken brake lights and David Briggs handed him his wallet to use when the cop asked for identification. Neil was able to buy a green card for \$5,000 from a NY lawyer and did not have to worry about being deported after getting his green card. He felt relieved.

Chapter 22 is titled "A Note about Ronald Reagan." Neil did not like to have a person painted one color. The scene was on a New Orleans bus backstage during a mid 1980's concert. Background information that Neil provided was his new recording company was suing him. David Geffen was the owner of it. Neil thought he made a fantastic album, but the executives were not happy with what they heard. Two AP reporters came to the bus for an interview and made offensive comments about President Reagan. Neil tried to point out some good in him, because he believed that there is good in most people. The reporters wrote their story saying that he was a Reagan supporter. Neil had a clearer view on how information is now distributed and he learned his lesson not to talk to reporters on a bus.

Chapter 23 is about Danny Whitten who played with the Memories, along with Ralphie, Billy, and Ben Rocco. Neil repeatedly watched a YouTube video of "Land of a Thousand Dances" and was impressed by Danny's dance moves. The band was then transformed into the Rockets. Neil joined them while he was with the band Buffalo Springfield and formed a new band called Crazy Horse. Neil regretted how he took over the singing parts from Danny. He was concerned about the length of his autobiographical book. He ended the chapter early by stating, "End of chapter."

Chapter 24 is titled "Pains" as Neil described his medical problems with his back. One of his favorite doctors was Dr. Peter Lindstrom who performed a double laminectomy in 1971. Neil provided more background information. He bought his first house in Topanga, 611 Skyline Trail. Neil ate breakfast every morning at the Canyon Kitchen, where the beautiful Susan Acevedo was the hostess/owner. Soon they fell in love and Susan introduced Neil to many great artists.

Unfortunately, Neil's instant fame was too much for their marriage, which only lasted for a year.

Neil's foot would not respond when he was driving after doing yard work the day before. He went to a chiropractor but his pain would return later. After he moved to his Broken Arrow Ranch, Neil injured his back again. His leg would not move so he went to a doctor in LA who gave him a prescription for Soma. He saw a picture of Carrie Snodgrass in a magazine and fell in love with her. He was still taking the medicine while he went down to LA and had traction for his back pain. At the time, Neil wore a back brace when he went on tour. He wrote a lot of songs and corresponded with Carrie, who



moved to his Broken Arrow Ranch. While Neil was working on the Harvest album, lots of people were hanging out at his house, which made him feel uncomfortable. Instead of leaving through the door, Neil impulsively jumped through the window.

Surgery was recommended for Neil's back when he visited Dr. Lindstrom in the San Francisco hospital. It was successful and 42 years after the pain began, Neil's back was pain free. Unfortunately he regretted drinking beer and taking prescription medication at the same time. He also felt remorse about his infatuation with Carrie and not getting to know her better before they got in a relationship. Carrie was beautiful and gave Neil his beloved son Zeke.



25-36

25-36 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 25 is a short chapter with two pages about religion. Neil did not follow an organized religion, but he connected with the Great Spirit, the forest, and the moon. Neil was able to relate to a book that Pegi gave him called *The Mists of Avalon* by Marion Zimmer Bradley.

In Chapter 26, Neil describes "Stories from Topanga." In 1968, Neil saw his father in LA after Robert Kennedy had been assassinated there. Both of them were shy and did not talk much, but Neil appreciated seeing him. At the time, Neil was living in Linda Steven's house with his cats. He got busted with several others at Stephen Stills' house for smoking pot. The raid was published in the newspaper since Eric Clapton was also there. Neil and Stephen had two different versions of the events. Shortly after the raid, though, Buffalo Springfield broke up.

One day when Neil was walking to the Topanga Village Shopping Center, he got a ride from hippies wearing army clothes driving an army truck. David Briggs took him to where Stephen Stills used to live and they became great friends. Neil learned that David was a record producer with excellent verbal skills.

Later on, at the annual Topanga Fair, Neil heard good bands and saw art and artisans everywhere. He was about to start his solo career, had no pressure from the recording studio, and enjoyed singing his own songs. Before Buffalo Springfield broke up, Elliot Roberts was the manager. Out of pure selfishness, Neil fired him. Ironically, Elliot asked Neil if he could manage Neil's solo career and Neil agreed. It was not planned since Neil was used to and still continued to let things happen. He signed on at Reprise Records, which is a Warner Brother label and continued to be with them today.

Chapter 27 is another short chapter advertising PureTone. Neil was aware that others are concerned about the competition between Apple and his ideas. He tried to share his ideas with Apple and did not think that Apple should be feared. Neil believed that it was going to be a short time before music lovers would be able to hear high quality sound in the music.

Chapter 28 is about his son Zeke, who was born on September 8, 1972. When Carrie was about to give natural birth to their son, their friend and midwife Beverly Oaks told them to go to the hospital. Neil was thankful for the advice and was excited when Zeke was born. They noticed that he had physical differences with his right foot and right hand. After seeking medical help, Zeke wore a brace but the other kids made fun of him. At the time, Carrie and Neil were breaking up and Zeke had a grand mal seizure. Zeke's life was split between his mom and dad's houses. People magazine interviewed Carrie and wrote a negative article about Neil. Carrie found a great school for Zeke called the Morning Sky School. Jack Weaver, whom Zeke adored, headed it. Unfortunately, Jack



died of an asthma attack. Neil concluded the chapter by stating that he and Zeke have maintained a close relationship.

Chapter 29 is about being near the water, whether it be Hawaii, his houseboat, or his sailboat. Neil was thankful to be in Hawaii while he was writing his book. In the mid 1970's, he lived on a houseboat in Coconut Grove, Florida. Later he bought his own houseboat called The Evening Coconut. He enjoyed sailing on his sailboat, too. Neil remembered the good times when his son Zeke came to visit when he was five years old.

Neil lived on his boat while it was being repaired. He asked Pegi to join him and she did. They found an old 19th century Steinway grand piano and had it restored. They have continued to enjoy it throughout the years.

During 1973, Neil and Carrie's relationship grew distant. He recorded the song "Motion Pictures" while he was high on grass fried in honey. After the recording, Neil went to Hawaii to find Carrie and Zeke, but they were with a friend of Crosby's. Upset and drunk, Neil knew his family was breaking apart. He wrote several songs while he traveled around Europe, Canada, and Hawaii.

Neil was nervous about starting a new relationship, but fell in love with Pegi Morton. She visited him on his boat and became pregnant with their son Ben. Ben was born on November 28, 1978.

After six months, they took Ben to the doctor and found out that he had cerebral palsy. Neil was angry that his two sons had physical challenges. Eventually, Neil and Pegi decided to have more children. They found out that Zeke did not have cerebral palsy, but may have endured a stroke in the womb.

Neil's family would visit on the boat, but did not live on it because it was too much for Ben to handle. They would fly to various locations and meet it there. Neil wanted to sell the boat, but enjoyed the memories from it.

In Chapter 30, Neil writes about what happened after his son Ben was born. They moved to LA to make the comic film Human Highway. Neil needed to take a break from making music. The set was stylized to look like a set. It had a gas station, café, and a train that would occasionally pass by. In the film, the cook was Dennis Hopper, Neil played a dim-witted station mechanic, and Pegi played a biker girl. The film was supposed to have taken place in one day and it took six weeks to film. There was lots of improvising and fun action in the film, which Neil financed. Neil was hoping to get Netflix to release the director's cut, but he wanted to change the dream portion. Larry Johnson's energy as the assistant director was contagious. Unfortunately, Larry died in 2010.

Near the filming conclusion, Pegi had horrible headaches and went to the hospital. Neil felt depressed and got stoned before he went to visit her. As he arrived at the hospital, Pegi recognized that he was stoned and threw him out because her mom was there. The doctors decided that she needed surgery so they went to Stanford University



Medical Center. All of her striking blonde hair was cut off and Neil got scared. Instead of staying strong for Pegi, Neil got stoned with Briggs and felt like he let her down again. The surgery was successful and it took her three months to recover.

Larry Johnson was very helpful to others and often did not do things for himself. Neil did not notice what was going on with Larry because Neil was focused on other things, but Neil has begun to look for signs. Larry loved a lot of different women and juggled them in their different locations.

Chapter 31 is titled "Hawaii," where Neil writes about the vog, when volcanic gasses mix with sunlight, oxygen, and moisture. Luckily it was not present when Neil was writing this book. He ranted about the banning of wood-burning fireplaces and then he stated that he made it up as part of his imagination. Then he flipped back saying that he just learned it was a real law.

Neil was happy to be in Hawaii. He enjoyed collecting things and writing the book. However, he was frustrated with people who thought he was trying to further his fame with his archives.

Neil recently spoke to Billy Talbot about having a Crazy Horse musical session at his ranch. He missed Briggs. Neil talked about the Horse and his muse, stating what one can and cannot do with it.

Bob Dylan called Neil to tell him that he appreciated Neil's work for Hurricane Katrina victims. Earlier Neil's style was described as "comfy" but since then he has made great strides to look fashionable. Bob commented on the cool hat that Neil was wearing during the telecast. Neil described his passion for plaid shirts and patchwork clothes. His first wife, Susan, made a lot of his clothes. After their breakup, Neil saved all his patchwork clothes that she had made. Unfortunately, Carrie took them apart to fix his unused jeans. It bothered Neil, since he believed that "clothes made the man" and he put that quote on page 226.

In Chapter 32, Neil listed some of his favorite bands that gave him positive feelings. In 1995, he worked with Pearl Jam on Mirror Ball. Eric Johnson was working as a road manager and Neil was impressed with his skills. Neil asked him to work with him. Eric was able to get the real fans to meet Neil, not just the professional signature seekers. Eric had been helpful in several ways, such as booking hotel rooms, personally carrying Neil's elder dog through lobbies, and art-related activities such as designing t-shirts and programs.

Chapter 33 was about playing in two successful bands at the same time. The year was 1969 and the bands were Crazy Horse and CSNY. Neil was delighted to be playing with Stephen again. Bruce Palmer joined Stephen and Neil for rehearsals but was busted for pot and deported to Canada. Greg Reeves joined CSNY and they toured a lot of different cities, including Woodstock. Neil was against having cameras onstage when they were performing, so when CSNY was introduced, his name was left out. He met Jim Hendrix and Melvin Belli. The crowd was huge, but they were wasted.



At another festival, Altamont, the crowd blocked the way and the musicians had to drive through them yelling out their band name. The music suffered at the festival because there was too much cocaine use.

When they were recording the *Déjà Vu* album, they practiced over and over again until it was the right relaxed tempo. Neil stayed in the Caravan Motor Inn with his 2 pets. He enjoyed being alone after recording music.

Neil shared memories of visiting Butano Canyon near Pescadero, CA. There were old summer cottages with great views. He met a lot of people, including Grace Slick and Paul Katner. The tragedy at Kent State happened when Neil was in Butano Canyon. Neil and his friends were looking at the Time magazine photo of Allison Krause's death. The Woodstock generation connected the musicians and their audience. Neil wrote a song about the Kent State catastrophe and within the week it was playing on the radio.

Neil enjoyed making political songs but he felt that the present audience was split by the music instead of being united. Crosby had the drive, Graham wrote songs, and Stephen provided the sharpness with his personal battles. CSNY stopped and the members went on to do their own things.

Crosby was a supportive friend to Neil, especially after his breakup with Carrie. Sadly, Crosby and his wife got involved with smoking freebase. Fortunately, they were able to straighten out their lives and had a charming baby son.

Chapter 34 is about Neil's friends who played important roles in his life. Neil played as Conan's last musical guest when Conan was on NBC. He got the news that Larry Johnson had died in Neil's son's van. Larry was going to take Neil's son Ben to a Shark's hockey game. Neil was barely able to perform on Conan's show from his grief. The next night, he performed with Dave Matthews for the Haiti Relief fund. Pegi also grieved Larry's death since they were close, too.

Larry Johnson and David Briggs played major roles in Neil's life. Neil listed others in this chapter, such as Ben Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Will Mitchell, Toshi Onuki, Mark Faulkner, Tim Mulligan, David Lohr, and Joel Bernstein.

In Chapter 35, Neil writes about his son, Ben Young, his caretakers, and Dustin Cline. Dustin was the son of David Cline, Neil's road manager and occasional bus driver. They were on their way to meet Neil and Pegi in Hawaii. Ben was totally reliant on others and had a feeding tube in his stomach. Ben's caretaker, Anne Marie Holmes, created wholesome and beneficial formulas for him. At the time when Neil wrote this book, Ben was 33 years old. The following week, others were scheduled to come and care for Ben. They were Ben Bourdon and Marian Zemla, who was also known as "Uncle Marian." Marian was Ben's senior caregiver, from Poland, and his wife's name was Teresa.

Chapter 36 is about Neil's daughter, Amber Jean Young. She was born May 15, 1984. Amber was timid, artistic, and had a MFA degree. Neil enjoyed her paintings, with their delightful colors and textures. Amber was working in San Francisco galleries and curates exhibitions. She illustrated Jonathan Demme's movie poster and made 3-D art.

Her middle name was from her granny Jean. Amber was upset that her father missed a lot of her childhood while he was away touring.



37-48

37-48 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 37 is called "Another Word from PureTone" and Neil wrote that the current online services such as Spotify were convenient, but could not be felt. PureTone was going to improve sound stream with on-going quality. Neil acknowledged that he was obsessive about PureTone, but he believed that technology was hindering music sound. He thought that wonderful digital sound would happen in the near future.

In Chapter 38, Neil describes more of his musical career. Neil recalled his first recording on July 23, 1963 when he was 17 years old. The instrumental band was called The Squires and Neil was very excited when he first heard his song on the radio.

Neil believed that album cover art was important. Neil's good friend Gary Burden worked on the CSNY covers and continued into the present time. Neil's favorite cover was for the album *On the Beach*, where they used a cutoff 1959 Cadillac tail and cheap beach furniture. Gary and Neil were stoned when they shot the cover on Santa Monica Beach. They were good friends and Neil sold his Topanga house to Gary. Neil was the best man in Gary's wedding.

CD packages were one quarter of the size of an album. Neil believed that CD quality was poor. He stated that music was going more online, like Spotify and Rhapsody. Neil questioned the future of tactile album art and physical books.

Chapter 39 is titled "Meditations." Neil watched the tide for hours, the ebb and flow of the water over the coral. He related that to the change in nature. When he was little, he went to Sunday school, but it did not last long. His dad prayed before meals. Neil remembered family dinners, especially eating spaghetti with his dad's special sauce. He put a copy of the sauce on page 271 and it was hung in his ranch house. Neil had good memories of his dad visiting in 1975, where he cooked spaghetti. He continued to express good memories whenever he returned to Canada. Neil concludes the chapter by noting that he used regular words and not an enhanced vocabulary.

In Chapter 40, Neil writes about his dad. In the mid-1960's, Neil visited his dad who was neither interested in music nor supporting Neil's musical aspirations. Neil had not seen his dad much since his parents' divorce. His father encouraged Neil to get a real job so Neil became a stock boy for Coles Bookstore. Although Neil could walk to work, he only lasted there for two weeks. He did not have any discipline, which provided fodder for a new song.

Neil slept on the floor of Vicki Taylor's flat. She was a popular folksinger and Neil was able to listen to and meet more musicians through her friendship. This caused Neil to start playing his guitar solos with gusto.



Chapter 41 is called "Friends for Life." Neil and his manager, Elliot Roberts, were very loyal and close-knit friends. They worked well together. Neil thought Elliot was very funny and technologically savvy. Before Neil moved to Geffen Records, he was with Reprise Records. David Geffen became his manager, but David was not happy with Neil's album "Island in the Sun." It was the first time that someone did not like what Neil had made. Neil tried to be stimulating by making his next album "Trans," but David and Geffen Records did not like it either. Neil's nonverbal son Ben influenced "Trans" with its non-understandable communication.

Unfortunately, "Trans" was not successful because there was no funding for the video production of it. Neil did not feel like he was true to his art. His next record, "Everyone's Rockin" was based on Geffen's desire for rock and roll. However, it did not please Geffen either. Neil continued to make records that were not published. Geffen Records was not supportive of Neil's newfound creativity and they sued him. They both had different goals. As the title goes, Neil and David were friends for life, since Neil does not have any harsh feelings for David. Neil continued to think of David as one of his best friends.

In Chapter 42, Neil writes about several topics, including his car, neighbors, shopping, Hawaiian property damage, Ben, and his caretakers. On Neil's Hawaiian property, Neil's 1971 Cadillac Eldorado sat in his Aloha Garage. Two of Neil's dreams came true when he bought the property. They were to have land and another car. Earlier when Neil was taking drugs, he wished for relief by wanting to live on an island. The car was in the garage when Pegi found the house and the car was part of the package deal.

Neighbors Marc Benioff and Greg McManus took Neil to Costco and Sports Authority. While at Costco, Neil learned a lot about flat screen TVs and online services for them. Neil was pleased by the amazing looking food there, too. He bought a Sonicare toothbrush replacement and then wanted to buy a guitar for Leia. The trio went to a music store where they found several of Neil's CDs. Sad thoughts entered Neil's brain as he thought about the people who sold or traded his CDs and he became beset with seeing his work reduced to a box labeled with a "Y." Neil did not want to go to the health food store so he waited outside.

Neil was fascinated by nature's power. The Japanese tsunami in the spring of 2011 made Neil wonder if his Hawaiian beach house was affected. Indeed, it was as water went under the house and caused \$10,000 worth of damage. Katy Lowry grew up in the house and Neil enjoyed listening to her stories about it.

Poncho was going to go over to Neil's house so he did not want to leave his beach house to go with a neighbor to Maui. Ben was eating breakfast. Neil wrote that Ben was a very accepting and happy person, but he could become impatient at times. He used a feeding tube to stop his lungs from aspirating. The new team members for Ben's care were scheduled to arrive later that day.

Chapter 43 is about Neil's dad and childhood jobs. In 1993, a school was named after his dad. Neil took his family to the opening ceremonies, where he saw his dad and one



of his grade school teachers. The new school was located behind the train station. Growing up, Neil and his friends would watch pennies being flattened on the railroad tracks. Much had changed since the train station and tracks were gone. Neil still had his good memories from that time.

Neil's dad would go with him on his Sunday morning newspaper route. At the time, Neil's dad hosted a TV program. Neil would use his bike for the remaining 1.5 hours job. The 2-room schoolhouse was on the route. Grades 1st - 4th were in one room and grades 5th - 8th in the other. The school was not there the last time Neil checked, nor was the new school he attended for 5th grade. Neil's friend Marilyn LaBrie lived in the last house on his route. Sometimes he walked her home after school. She was the first girl he kissed.

Along with the newspaper route, Neil had an egg business where he had 50 chickens. He was protective of his chickens and slept in a pup tent near them to keep foxes away. Neil enjoyed eating his dad's pancakes for breakfast.

In Chapter 44, Neil describes more health issues. In 1995, Neil and some others flew to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. On the plane, they smoked weed, which disturbed the pilot. Ten years later, in 2005, Neil went to induct Chrissie Hynde and felt like a glass shard had cut his eye. After the pain got worse, he called Dr. Rock Positano and found out that he needed neurological testing. Neil was scheduled to have surgery, but had to wait for ten days until the surgeon was back in town. During that time, he went to Nashville and recorded "Prairie Wind." Neil received calls and gifts from his friends before Dr. Gobin operated on his aneurysm. He was ordered to take it easy and rest.

After a couple of days, Neil ventured out for a walk when all of a sudden he felt a pop from the surgery sight. Blood gushed out from his femoral artery and Neil's friend Eric Johnson saved his life by putting pressure on the artery. The ambulance came and Neil began to feel cold and started to shake. He did not remember much about what happened except that an old nurse became his guardian angel. Neil was supposed to be in his Canadian hometown at the end of that week for the Juno ceremony but he was able to watch it on his home satellite.

Chapter 45 is written about the Lincvolt. Neil stated that people wanted to drive big cars, but they also wanted to be environmentally responsible. The 1959 Lincoln Continental convertible drew attention, but was a gas-guzzler. Neil referenced the website, www.lincvolt.com. He mentioned an article from the Lincvolt Gazette where design changes and goals were listed. He loved working on the project because he wanted to make a difference. The work done on the car was filmed but the car was destroyed in an accidental fire. After receiving insurance money, they decided to start over and received support from companies. Driving the car to Wichita with Larry Johnson and having Shakey pictures film it were Neil's favorite parts. Many good memories were captured on film and Larry's son Ben was helping to edit it. Neil's two future goals were to complete writing the book and finish the film. He continued to rest in Hawaii before returning to wrap up the film.



In Chapter 46, Neil writes about filmmaking, another creative outlet for him. In 1972, he completed his first film called *Journey Through the Past*. Shakey Pictures was founded and they traveled to different locations, including a junkyard and a radio station to film. The storyline was invented with disconnected events. Neil financed the film by himself, since it was inexpensive to make.

Chapter 47 is about touring with the band Crazy Horse. In 1978, Neil received a songbook proof for *Rust Never Sleeps* from Gary Burden. Inspiration to document his ideas, charts, and sequences came from a school notebook. The concept was about a young boy dreaming and there were strange costumes. The road crew was used as actors while Crazy Horse played. The stage was Neil's lab as they experimented with the live audience. Several beginning performances were filled with mistakes, but after time they improved. Neil included original performance notes and cues from the tour on pages 327 - 329.

In Chapter 48, Neil commented on his quote about burning out versus fading away. He wrote it after Elvis Presley died. Another quote that Neil discussed was from Poncho after the unrest on TV and the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was "Keep on rocking in the free world" and Neil used the quote in a song. Neil continued the chapter by writing about Jimmy Fallon's impressions of him, which Neil enjoyed. The chapter was concluded by remarks about the writing process, how much he has enjoyed writing, and how there was still more to come.



49 - 60

49 - 60 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 49 is about making music. Starting in August 1968, Neil and David Briggs worked well together on Neil's solo record. Neil included a selected part of an interview with David. Briggs stated that he could teach everything he knew in one hour. He really liked the old green board because the new boards had too much stuff that was not needed. The green board was from Wally Heider's on Selma Avenue in Hollywood, where the Beach Boys worked. In order to get a good sound, according to Briggs, you had to have the correct mike and use the shortest possible route. Briggs was 47 at the interview time and Little Richard's concert inspired him. The main thing was to feel, not to think. He simply stated that 14 year-olds get that philosophy and that Neil was very talented.

Neil copied information about Haeo-CSG from Wikipedia about Reprise Records' new technology. Howard Holzer developed it as an analog electronic device and method in the 1960's. It utilized a stereo mix and degrading effect. Neil's first solo record was messed up by the new technology and they learned that they should neither have used it nor remixed it.

Working with his friends Danny, Billy, and Ralphie was enjoyable for Neil. Music was how they communicated and they were not in it for a business. It was the beginning of Crazy Horse. Neil had been sick with the flu when he wrote the song "Cinnamon Girl" and the original lyrics are printed on page 345. He changed the chords to the song and came up with "Down by the River." His next song, "Cowgirl in the Sand" quickly came next.

One time when Crazy Horse was playing in Rhode Island, fights broke out in the audience but the band kept playing. Before Neil recorded *Déjà vu* with CSNY, he confronted the band about not going on if they were going to use heroin. Danny was upset because he was addicted and Crazy Horse stopped playing together for a while. Later, Danny stopped using and the band got back together.

In Chapter 50, Neil describes working with producer Daniel Lanois for his solo record in 2010. They got off to a great start after Neil drove down through the central coast of CA to get to LA. Neil's wishes to record during the full moon were granted. While recording, though, Daniel and his friend Keisha were in a motorcycle accident. Fortunately they recovered, but it reminded Neil of losing his two great friends Larry and Ben the year before. The album was called "LeNoise," which is similar to the producer's last name, and it won awards. Sadly, it was recorded at a low level resolution, which shocked Neil.

Chapter 51 is called "On the Road." Neil wrote about learning about the conception of his first son, Zeke, from Carrie while driving in his 1954 Corvette. They did not want to get married and having Carrie's friends around the house made Neil feel uncomfortable.



In the middle of the chapter he mentioned that he loved road trips and was looking forward to driving with Ben Johnson.

The chapter concludes as he tells the recent story about driving his 1978 Eldorado to LA on interstate 5. It was very hot and when he got gas, he realized that the car had lost water from the radiator. He had been driving with the air conditioning on and he had Pegi's dog, Nina, with him. While driving, alarms went off so he pulled to the side of the highway and called his mechanic. He was told to wait to let the radiator cool off. While waiting, he called AAA and there were problems concerning his membership. A truck was sent to help but Neil worried about dehydration for himself and the dog that would not drink any water. They waited for an hour before the AAA driver came. The driver took them to LA after asking who the Cinnamon Girl was. Neil said it was his wife and he could meet her in LA.

Chapter 52 is titled "Good 'Uns" after what Ben Keith would call good records. It had been one year since Ben "Long Grain" Keith had died when Neil wrote this chapter. They had a 40-year friendship. Throughout the rest of the chapter, Neil describes his solo tour from 1971. He was wearing his back brace, drinking beer, and taking prescription medication. He felt lucky to have met his friends and to have had the opportunity to work with talented people.

In Chapter 53, Neil writes about his 2010 LeNoise tour when he went to help the victims of the oil spill and Hurricane Katrina. He took his Lincvolt down there and enjoyed cruising along the Gulf of Mexico. Neil mentions the clean up deception with the planes dropping off chemicals at night, which killed sea life. He toured in Milwaukee to help benefit Farm Aid and enjoyed his time there with his son Zeke. Neil looked forward to spending time with Amber, his daughter.

Chapter 54 is written about the time in 1974 when Carrie's mom died by committing suicide. He went to Chicago to support Carrie and called his friends to play music while he was there. He drove to Nashville and recorded more there. Next, he went back to LA, continued to write more songs, and recorded Zuma with Poncho who took over after Danny died.

Chapter 55 is about Buffalo Springfield. They played in several different venues. At first, their managers were Charlie Greene and Brian Stone and they were able to book the band to play a lot. The band signed with Atlantic to record their first album. Later they recorded with Columbia with Stan Ross and Tom May. Bruce played a big part in the band and after he got deported, things were not the same. Other members came and went, but the music quality was not the same without Bruce and they disbanded after a while.

In Chapter 56, Neil writes about one of his favorite cars, success, and walking. He found the 1957 Jensen in 1975 when he lived in Florida. Neil was driving it one time when he got pulled over after drinking too much. Surprisingly, the cop let him go without a ticket. Neil shared his thoughts about success and felt that his children were his biggest success. He shared this success with his wife Pegi. He loved his 1959 Cadillac



convertible, Nanu the Lovesick Moose, and had saved up his money to buy it successfully. It was in parts, unfortunately, and Neil was looking forward to getting it put back together. Neil enjoyed walking, but stopped after a while when his feet began to hurt. Having proper posture got rid of his foot pain and he was able to continue receiving benefits from walking, such as considering ideas, songs, and album running orders.

Chapter 57 is a mixture of Neil's thoughts ranging from arrows to his wife's music. The chapter starts off by describing where he got his arrows that he stuck in the wall of each house in which he has lived. He got them outside Albuquerque in an antique shop. Then he wrote about David Briggs' family, friends, and pets in Briggs' Topanga house. Neil considered him to be a fearless musician. In the mid 1970's they drove the bus Pocahontas across country through Colorado, where another car damaged the air conditioner and generator. In the 1990's Neil and Briggs worked on albums together. After Kurt Cobain's suicidal note had Neil's quote about burning or fading out, he wrote the song "Sleeps with Angels" as a response. It was Briggs' last album because he got sick and later died.

Neil wrote about Crazy Horse's 1990 tour where he used equipment from the 1950's and 1960's. He worked on the Ragged Glory album. Every day after smoking weed, Neil started playing music. He jumped to writing about Linda Ronstadt and Nicolette Larson with whom Neil worked in 1977. The ladies had beautiful voices. Nicolette later worked on another album with Neil. Neil mentioned that he had tinnitus. He wraps up the chapter by sharing his enthusiasm for Pegi's career.

In Chapter 58, Neil writes about their strange experiences going to Churchill, an isolated town, on the Squires tour in 1965. Odd events included a bear under the hotel where they were and a man who froze to death walking home from the bar. Neil wrote songs about the town.

Chapter 59 is titled "Life in LA," which describes Neil's early days living in the big city. He writes about his first apartment in Hollywood where he wrote a lot of songs, began to deal with his seizure disorder, had fun with girls, and contracted sexually transmitted diseases. His next place was on Laurel Canyon where he got arrested for not having a license. After talking back to the cop, he was beaten in jail, which still haunts him. There was a radio promotional event where the Big Kahuna came to LA with the finest intoxicating weed called Kahuna grass. Neil became fearful of smoking too much because he did not want to overdose.

In Chapter 60, Neil gives his thoughts about Farm Aid, Pono, his film The Human Highway, and another film with Jonathan Demme. Neil had thought about what he was going to play for Farm Aid for a while and he actually worried about it. Pono was the new name for PureTone, since the rights to that name had already been taken. Pono means righteous and good in Hawaiian. He was trying to maintain control over the situation, but was finding it increasingly difficult.



Neil desired to wrap up old things, such as his movie *The Human Highway*. Although there were three separate versions of the film, it had not been released to the public, which Neil wanted. He also wrote about making a film with Jonathan Demme and costume designer Manuel, who designed for Elvis and Dolly Parton. The film is about Nashville and music.



61 - 68

61 - 68 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 61 covers these topics: the dog Nina, drummers, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Pono. Nina was barking one night while Pegi was away and Neil could not get her to stop. It happened the next morning until Neil was able to calm her down. Drummers were important to Neil and his music. He raved about each one with whom he has played. Neil was not happy when the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame became a TV show on VH1. However, he was very happy to work on Pono and return quality sound to music. He had not been able to write songs, but he was working on other things.

In Chapter 62, Neil writes about bidding for a 1961 Lincoln Continental on eBay. He wanted to buy a Ford car to show his Pono sound system to Bill Ford, the executive chairman of Ford Motor Company. The Lincoln distracted him so he might purchase it. The chapter ends when the time came for him to bid.

Chapter 63 starts out with Neil describing being in Kansas City for Farm Aid 26 where he saw his old friends. Neil did not use the in-ear phones and did not have an easy time during sound checks. He asked for the monitors to be turned off and everything fell into place.

The second part of the chapter deals with paddleboards in Hawaii. His friend Rick Rubin, a record producer, had a lot of experience with them. Neil decided to try it out with another friend and neighbor Greg McManus. Although Neil fell a few times into the ocean, he enjoyed standing on the paddleboard and directing it. Previously Greg had devised an engineering feat to get Neil's son Ben into the ocean with pulleys, but Ben had not been in the ocean lately due to his new feeding tube. Neil concluded the chapter by questioning if it was safe for Ben to go back in the ocean.

In Chapter 64, Neil describes a pleasant drive in his Lincoln to LA. He was listening to music, even though the quality was low, and thinking of his past. Neil then switches topics and writes about walking in the forest, which was a spiritual experience for him. He was used to going with his golden doodle Carl, but now he was going to have to rely on Nina. The subject switches again to streaming music and their royalties. Neil's manager Elliot was going to investigate and Neil later found out that it was still being worked out.

After being clean for seven months, Neil still felt cravings and had not written a song in a year and a half. He had not gotten high per his doctor's orders. Neil was trying to figure out where his clean and sober life was headed.

Chapter 65 is about Neil's lost musical friends. They were David Briggs, Danny Whiten, Tim Drummond, and Jack Nitzsche. Neil writes about David Briggs, his family, and Briggs' influence on his life. Briggs had a mysterious illness that caused him pain. Neil



visited him a week before he died and received sound advice on how to keep his music going. The last time he saw Danny was in 1972, but he was still struggling with his addictions. Neil had invited him to sing with his band, but Neil had to let him go due to his dependence. Danny overdosed shortly after returning to LA. Tim had a lot of expressions that impressed Neil. He was a great musician who stopped playing after he broke up with his wife. Neil missed hearing Tim playing music. Jack worked on the charts for Phil Spector's historical Wall of Sound. He overdosed in 2000 and Neil sent flowers to the funeral because he was touring at that time.

In Chapter 66, Neil writes that he was a seasoned musician trying to find himself again. He was trying to live a life without hurting others and himself. He was looking forward to playing with Crazy Horse again in this fast changing world. He enjoyed keeping party traditions with his family. One year at his party, he gave his friends marshmallow sticks that accidentally gave them poison oak. He was teased severely.

Chapter 67 is about a favorite song that Neil wrote and recorded with David Briggs at Indigo Ranch Studios. The year was 1976 and the song was about salmon swimming upstream. Neil lived in Malibu at the time he recorded the song. Later, Pegi and Neil were married in his Malibu house. The song sounded like he was underwater communicating with the salmon.

In Chapter 68, Neil returns to his drive to LA from Chapter 64. It was around noon and he thought of the various women he had known. He was very glad that he married Pegi. His thoughts wander to his son Ben. Neil dreamed that he could communicate normally. The next day was going to be filled with meetings and hard choices would have to be made about his properties. Neil was thankful for air conditioning as he sat in heavy traffic. Neil decided to get off the interstate and took the back roads.

Neil pulled over by the creek to take a break from driving. He tasted the refreshing creek water and took a short nap. The rest of the chapter is part of Neil's fantasy because upon completing his drive, he pulled into a café where he saw Larry Johnson and David Briggs eating a late breakfast. Larry went to make a phone call, while Briggs looked at him and inquired what he had been doing.

Characters

Neil Young

Neil Young is the main character in the autobiography. His father nicknamed him Windy. He followed in his father's footsteps by writing this book. Neil loved music, cars, inventions, and trains. He had a lot of health issues, including polio, epileptic seizures, an aneurysm, and back pain. Neil was married three times. First he was married to Susan Acevedo, then had a relationship with Carrie Snodgrass, and lastly married Pegi Morton. He fathered three children: Zeke, Ben, and Amber. The first two children had physical problems and caregivers who looked after them.

Neil had many creative outlets, such as filmmaking and his inventions. He financed the film *Human Highway* and collaborated on *PureTone* and the *Lincvolt*. Neil was a very shy person but he enjoyed playing in concerts. Neil was in several bands, such as *The Squires*, *Buffalo Springfield*, and *CSNY: Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young*. He wanted to be a good person and help others.

Pegi (Morton) Young

Pegi was Neil's wife. She cofounded the *Bridge School*. She also was a singer and songwriter. She gave Neil *Lionel* collectibles for the holidays. In December 1974, Neil went on his first date with Pegi. She was 22 years old and Neil was attracted to her blue eyes. Neil's son Zeke bit her on the first date. Pegi is the mother of two of Neil's children: Ben and Amber.

She also had health issues that plagued her. Pegi had horrible headaches and went to the hospital while Neil was filming *Human Highway*. When Pegi was in the hospital, she recognized that Neil was stoned and threw him out because her mom was there. Pegi had surgery at *Stanford University Medical Center*. All of her striking blonde hair was cut off and Neil got scared. Instead of staying strong for Pegi, Neil got stoned with Briggs and felt like he let her down again. The surgery was successful and it took her three months to recover.

Scott Young

Scott Young was Neil's beloved father and a well-known Canadian sportswriter. Neil enjoyed asking his dad questions, but was saddened when his dad had dementia or Alzheimer's disease at about age seventy-five, before he died in 2005. His father did not buy musical instruments for Neil because of Neil's poor school grades. In the mid-1960's, Neil visited his dad who was neither interested in music nor supporting Neil's musical aspirations.



Neil remembered family dinners, where his dad prayed before meals, especially eating his dad's special spaghetti sauce. He put a copy of the sauce on page 271 and it was hung in his ranch house. Neil had good memories of his dad visiting in 1975, when he cooked spaghetti. His father encouraged Neil to get a real job so Neil became a stock boy for Coles Bookstore.

Scott wrote a book called Neil and Me that was published in 1984. Neil's mother disagreed with much of what was written in the book. He was in the film called A Year of the Horse, which was about Crazy Horse.

David Briggs

David Briggs was Neil's producer. Although Neil found it hard to work with David, David became his best friend and best producer. David mentioned Roy Orbison's name to Neil for inspiration because they both enjoyed his music. David called Neil's Cadillac convertible Nanu the Lovesick Moose. One time in LA, David flirted with girls at a gas station and sprayed the windshield washer fluid. The fluid shot out and landed on the back of the car, which made Neil crack up. David was riding in the front passenger seat of Nanu, Neil's Cadillac convertible, when Neil got pulled over on the Pacific Coast highway in Malibu. They had a gram of coke with them, but the cop let them go without seeing it.

David and Neil first met when Neil was walking to the Topanga Village Shopping Center. David, a hippie wearing army clothes, was driving an army truck and took Neil for a ride. David took him to where Stephen Stills used to live and they became great friends. Neil learned that David was a record producer with excellent verbal skills.

Ben Young

Ben Young is Neil's son. He was born a quadriplegic who enjoyed watching his dad put together train layouts. His mother is Pegi.

David Crosby

David Crosby was part of Crosby, Stills, and Nash. He was addicted to freebase and served jail time. He loved the band and music.

Graham Nash

Graham Nash was part of Crosby, Stills, and Nash. He was best friends with David Crosby.



Stephen Stills

Stephen Stills was part of the band Crosby, Stills, and Nash. He joined the group in 1970. Stephen was also called Steve. He was also in the band called Buffalo Springfield with Neil. Steve played in a band called the Company and first heard Neil's band, The Squires, at the Hootenanny in Fort William. Neil and Steve quickly became friends and admired each other's musical talents. Steve moved from Fort William to New York's Greenwich Village. Neil went to LA in search of Steve and almost gave up before being pleasantly surprised by Steve in traffic.

Crazy Horse

Crazy Horse was a band in which Neil played. The members included Danny Whitten, Ralph Molina, Billy Talbot, and Neil Young. They were still together in 2011.

Danny Whitten

Danny Whitten was the guitar player for Crazy Horse. He died in 1974. Poncho Sampedro took over Danny's spot on guitar.

Poncho Sampedro

Poncho Sampedro played with the band Crazy Horse. He worked on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, including taking care of Kevin Eubanks' equipment. He was in Hawaii when Neil went to Hawaii while Neil wrote his book. Poncho took a Korean microbiological gardening class. Poncho had a master gardener who invited Poncho to a gardening meeting for which Poncho did not feel qualified, but Neil reassured his friend that the Master knew what he was doing.

Larry Johnson

Larry Johnson was a filmmaking collaborator and Neil's best friend after David died. He was a board member for the Bridge School and was technologically savvy.

Elliot Roberts

Elliot Roberts was Neil's best friend. Earlier, Elliot was Neil's manager. Neil and Elliot called each other about five times a day.



Friends who lived in houses nearby in Hawaii

Greg and Vicki were friends with Neil and Pegi and were going to see them in Hawaii. They owned the Napa Valley Wine Train.

Marc and Lynne were friends with Neil and Pegi and were going to see them in Hawaii. They owned Salesforce.com. Lynne was in charge of the Homes for the Holidays program. Marc and Lynne had a daughter named Leia and Neil wrote a song for her.

Bruce Springsteen

Bruce Springsteen was a musician who performed to raise money for the Bridge School.

Ben Keith

Ben Keith was Neil's pedal steel guitarist who died in 2010. Neil was devastated when he died.

Clarence Clemons

Clarence Clemons was Bruce Springsteen's saxophonist who died in 2011. Bruce was devastated when he died. Neil had empathy for Bruce because his band member, Ben Keith, had died in 2010.

Pam Smith

Pam Smith was Neil's first true love. They dated for about a year. Neil saw a recent picture of her and had fond memories of her. They met at Falcon Lake when he played with The Squires.

The Squires

The Squires was Neil's first band. Members included: Jack Harper, Allan Bates, Ken Koblun, and Neil Young. They started with local scenes, but soon they were booked out of town. Ken Smyth, who knew Allan in high school, later replaced Jack Harper. Doug Campbell replaced Allan Bates, but did not stay long with the band. Al Johnston, Bill Edmondson, and Bob Clark also played with The Squires.

The breakup of The Squires was very difficult for Neil. Ken Koblun left to play with the Dirty Shames. Neil tried to do some solo gigs before going to New York.



Zeke Young

Zeke Young is Neil's oldest son. He traveled with his dad while his dad was on tour. He loved riding in Pocahontas. Zeke was two years old when he went on Neil's first date with Pegi. Zeke's mom was Carrie Snodgrass. Zeke was born with cerebral palsy and worked for his dad on Neil's tours. He wanted to become independent, so he began working at Home Depot and became a senior employee. Neil was very proud of him and his accomplishments.

Charles Manson

Charles Manson was also known as Charlie Manson. He had rented a house near Topanga where he painted a disturbing painting. Charles lived there with a small group of girls. One day, Charlie showed up at Dennis Wilson's house and played on Neil's guitar. Neil was impressed and asked him if he had a recording contract. Shortly after, Charlie was involved with Sharon Tate, Leno, and Rosemary La Bianca's murders. It was one of the most horrific events in LA's history.

Terry Melcher

Terry Melcher was a producer and chose not to pursue a recording contract with Charlie Manson. Sharon Tate was murdered where Melcher had been living.

Jonathan Demme

Jonathan Demme was a popular filmmaker and had made three movies with Neil. His films include Philadelphia, The Silence of the Lambs, and Stop Making Sense.

Larry Markegard

Larry Markegard was married to Karin, but died in 1996. He had been a ranch foreman on Neil's property before Neil bought it. Larry and Karin had previously lived in the Midwest before moving to California. Everyone loved Larry.

Bruce Palmer

Bruce Palmer was a bass player who played with the Mynah Birds. Neil and Bruce decided to go to LA. They drove on Route 66 in a newly purchased 1953 Pontiac hearse. After smoking joints, they were pulled over in Texas. They said that they were going to Vancouver and the cop let them go.

Dennis Hopper

Dennis Hopper came over to Neil's cabin on Ridpath Avenue and took photos of the band. He was a famous film and TV actor. He was well known for his photographs, too.



Objects/Places

Train barn

Train barn was at his ranch, Plywood Digital. Neil started building train sets with his son, Ben, and had great memories arranging the landscape together.

Feelgood's Garage

Feelgood's Garage was full of music equipment and cars. His beloved 1953 Buick Skylark was there, along with a conference table and a whiteboard. Other cars that were in the garage were a '47 Buick Roadmaster Estate Wagon woodie, a '54 Corvette, a '57 Eldorado Biarritz convertible, a '57 Jensen 541, and a 1913 Baltic Trader. His 1963 Avanti was not there yet because it was in the shop getting ready.

The Bridge School

The Bridge School started in 1986. Students with severe speech and language challenges were taught there. Pegi started the Bridge School.

Fort William

Fort William was in Ontario, Canada. It was located at the head of the Great Lakes. Neil's first band, the Squires, first played at the Flamingo Club in Fort William. It had a Fourth Dimension Club where the band also played.

Pocahontas

Pocahontas was a 1973 Eagle bus that was used for touring. Roger Somers designed the woodwork in the bus and Bart Ehman worked as the mechanic on it. Roy nicknamed it Emily Flowers and got carried away with phallic features. In addition to the whimsical wooded wings on the outside, Neil designed a cow skull on a redwood bark background. It had car tops from a Studebaker and a Hudson on top. Pocahontas had several drivers, a fully equipped kitchen, and comfortable beds. Unfortunately, one day when it was going to Pittsburgh for maintenance, driver Joe McKenna called to tell Neil that the bus burned down. Twice Neil mentioned that he could write a book about Pocahontas.



Sao Paulo, Brazil

Sao Paulo, Brazil was where Neil was going to go to give a discourse to inspire young folks. He wanted to make sure he was prepared before he went there because he didn't want to just talk about the Lincvolt car. He wanted to do a really good job.

The Santa Cruz Mountains

The Santa Cruz Mountains is where Neil bought property in 1970, at the age of 24 years old. He really liked the area after his manager told him about an available piece of property. Louis Avila and his wife Clara lived on the property. It was 140 acres and Neil named it Broken Arrow Ranch. There were two lakes, two houses, and an old barn.

77 Sunset Strip

77 Sunset Strip was a detective TV show during the late 1950's and early 1960's. When Neil first arrived in LA in 1966, he went looking for the location of the spot. It was not there. Neil learned his first lesson about Hollywood — that numbers were not what you thought they were.

Neil's Ridpath Avenue cabin

Neil's Ridpath Avenue cabin was near Utica Drive, off of Laurel Canyon in LA. Dennis Hopper photographed Neil's band outside the cabin. There was a main house, a garage, and a little cabin on the property. Neil wrote, "The shingles were all curved and mystical like a witch's castle. Wonderful" (page 149). John Densmore of The Doors lived in the garage, while the landlord, Kiyo Hodel, lived in the main house. Neil loved his little pine wood cabin. He wrote many songs there and also listened to music.

Morning Sky School

Morning Sky School is where Zeke attended school. His mother, Carrie, found the school and Neil was supportive of Zeke's attendance. Jack Weaver who died unfortunately of an asthma attack, managed the school. Zeke flourished there.



Themes

PureTone/Pono

Neil was impulsive and he often times was not patient. He funded several of his ideas with his own money instead of waiting and meeting with the right people. In the beginning chapters, he was going to meet with executives to talk about his start-up company, PureTone. He was seeking financial backing for his idea to make a portable music player with high quality sound that could be felt.

PureTone was an endeavor that Neil wanted to invent. He believed that it had superior sound quality over iTunes, CDs, and MP3 players. Neil was concerned about the sound quality, which he felt was lacking due to the convenience and wide ease of music availability. Neil wanted to stop being enraged about the poor sound quality of music but it really bothered him. He was obsessed with it.

The title of the book came from a question about PureTone, from one of his son's caregivers. The question was whether Neil was creating war on Apple with Puretone. Neil's response was that he was waging heavy peace, not war. He was aware that others were concerned about the competition between Apple and his ideas. He tried to share his ideas with Apple and did not think that Apple should be feared. Neil believed that it was going to be a short time before music lovers would be able to hear high quality sound.

Pono was the new name for PureTone, since the rights to that name had already been taken. Pono meant righteous and good in Hawaiian. He was trying to maintain control over the situation, but was finding it increasingly difficult.

Cars

Neil was very materialistic and enjoyed owning several cars. He rewarded himself by buying cars. He enjoyed writing details about his cars and distinguishing them with their price and found location. His mother bought him his first car, a 1948 Buick hearse when Neil was 18 years old. The hearse was roomy enough to transport his musical equipment. It did not make a positive impression on his first sweetheart's father when he went to pick her up.

In Feelgood's Garage, Neil stored his music equipment and cars, along with a conference table. He had a large collection of cars, but his favorite was his 1953 Buick Skylark. Other cars that were in the garage were a '47 Buick Roadmaster Estate Wagon woodie, a '54 Corvette, a '57 Eldorado Biarritz convertible, a '57 Jensen 541, and a 1913 Baltic Trader. His 1963 Avanti was not there yet because it was in the shop getting ready.



On Neil's Hawaiian property, Neil's 1971 Cadillac Eldorado sat in his Aloha Garage. Two of Neil's dreams came true when he bought the property. They were to have land and another car. Earlier when Neil was taking drugs, he wished for relief by wanting to live on an island. The car was in the garage when Pegi found the house and the car was part of the package deal.

Neil had been working on the Lincvolt for the past four years. He wanted to make a large car more energy resourceful. Unfortunately, the Lincvolt was destroyed in an accidental fire. Several companies, including Ford motors, decided to support Neil's dream to start over and rebuild the car.

Creativity

Neil was a very creative and productive musician. With his innovative side came many characteristics that defined him. Neil was a fantastic storyteller, which can be seen in his music as well as in his writing. However, he admitted that his thoughts and ideas wander. Neil was not able to stay on task while he was writing. His topics jumped around and sometimes he was able to complete a chapter with one main thought, but not all the time. Although he stated that his dad was a writer and that he learned how to write from his dad, Neil had room for improvement in the writing process, even though this was his first attempt at writing.

Autobiographies usually follow a series of events in a logical and sequential order. Neil's writings were inconsistent as they gave snippets of information in a non-linear fashion. There was no method to his writing, which would have made it easier to understand. Neil started the book writing about receiving gifts from his wife, but quickly transitioned to writing about his inventions, his musical past experiences, the reason why he wrote the book, his current Hawaiian encounters, and what he wanted to do in the near future when he returned to the mainland.

The book reflects insight into Neil Young's mind for those who were curious. His free exploration of whatever he was thinking at the time probably is not the ideal material for an autobiography. Neil goes off on tangents, such as shopping at Costco and a music store, which his audience reader finds him or herself doing on a normal basis. However, to Neil, it was exciting to buy a replacement head for his Sonic toothbrush because of his fame and celebrity status keep him away from everyday life encounters at stores.

Style

Perspective

Neil has written the autobiographical from his perspective. He writes it in the first person narrative without the help or collaboration of another writer. Neil does not simply state dates and events; he included feelings, hindsight, and future dreams and ambitions.

He was a 66 year-old man when he wrote the book.

Neil recollects about his life, his music, and his cars throughout the book. Childhood memories with his parents, his childhood jobs, and juvenile relationships are noted. Neil shares his childhood illnesses, along with his brother's account of Neil's experience with polio. Other illnesses, such as his aneurysm and back pain are also described in the book with details.

Neil writes about his upcoming trip to Hawaii and then shares his casual experiences, such as shopping at Costco and hanging out with his friends, once he got there. In hindsight, Neil could recall how his infatuation with Carrie, combined with his prescription drugs and alcohol was not a good combination for their marriage. In 2010, Neil was distraught with the deaths of two longtime good friends: band mate Ben Keith and filmmaker, producer Larry Johnson. He describes being devastated by the work on the Lincvolt going up in flames, the fire that engulfed the bus Pocahontas, and other terrible experiences.

Neil writes about his relationships with his band members, his friends, and wives. He was close like a brother with Steven Stills and married at different times to Susan and Pegi. Neil and Carrie did not marry but they had a son together. He writes about his children, their births and current lives. Their names are Ben, Zeke, and Amber.

Tone

The tone of the book is very casual. Some of the sentences are very short and concise. He uses very simple words to describe his thoughts and actions. "We used to go to his house every Christmas and play charades at a party. He had a bunch of daughters. Very exciting" (page 5).

Neil's writing perspective is an informal conversation. He reminisces about the past, his life, and his passions. Neil gives a shout out to the people he cares about and even thanks his mom for buying his first car. "I made a choice. The blue interior was the best, so I took that one. Rassy paid the bill. Thank you, Mom!" (page 49)

After writing about his first car and the impression it made on his sweetheart's father, Neil expresses kind wishes to her. "Long and short of it is, she was my first real love, my



first companion of that kind, someone I could talk to, and as old friends there is always going to be a warm feeling there. Sending good thoughts to you, Pam" (page 49).

Neil's personality is reflected in the tone of the book as he shares his feelings, regrets, and mistakes with his audience. He is shy, just like his father. Neil has chosen to stop writing about some topics that made him feel too uncomfortable. He likes to go with the flow and not plan things. Being under pressure causes him too much stress. His laid back and positive attitude influence the tone of the book.

Structure

The autobiography is full of content, feelings, and opinions. It is not organized in chronological order. Instead, it revolves around whatever idea or thought Neil was having at the time. The reader can not predict what is coming up in the next chapter because of Neil's free flowing writing style. Planning and thinking are not part of Neil's personality or lifestyle. His topics include his family, his cars, his hobbies, his inventions, and his past experiences. Neil writes about going to Hawaii for vacation and continues writing about being in Hawaii once he got there.

Almost every chapter begins with a black and white photo from Neil's life. Some of the chapters are titled and others are left untitled. Some of the chapters are specifically about some point, experience, or memory, but others are less obvious. Neil wanders off topic by writing about cars, being pulled over by cops, or telling a funny story. The lengths of the chapters vary greatly. The shortest is one page long, while others are almost too long due to Neil's knack of writing off task.

Neil repeats his drifting thoughts and ideas in many chapters. He writes about his father sporadically in Chapters 4, 6, 8, 19, 26, 39, 40, and 43. Neil notes his broken toe in Chapters 7 and 19. He expresses dealing with the deaths of Ben and Clarence in Chapters 5 and 18. PureTone is written about in Chapters 1, 2, 12, 19, 27, and 37. Chapter 12 is titled "And Now, a Word from PureTone ..." which is like an advertisement for it. Chapter 27 is called "And Now, Another Word from Our Sponsor, PureTone."



Quotes

"Today music is presented as an entertainment medium, like a game, without the full audio quality. It's like a cool pastime or a toy, not like a message to the soul. So things have changed." Chapter 2, page 13

"None of these things would have happened if I hadn't done them myself. No one believes in my ideas until I actually do them. I am never able to get backing for anything I want to do other than records because I am the only one with money who believes in them - and I don't do them to make money. I am entrepreneurial. I do them because I can see it before it happens." Chapter 5, pages 36, 37

"A great friendship rose between Steve Stills and me that goes on to this day. Stephen is a genius. Like any genius, he is sometimes misunderstood, and I misunderstood him many times when we were young. Later on I came to recognize him and understand him better." Chapter 8, page 65

"Like all serious musicians, he is depressed by the quality of sound the people's music is delivered in today. That is the impression I have gotten from every musician I have met. Everyone. After he heard PureTone, Ben Bourdon, one of Ben Young's caregivers, asked me if I was making war on Apple. I said, 'No. I'm waging heavy peace.'" Chapter 19, pages 142, 143

"It is a storm on the senses, weather for the soul, deeper than deep, wider than wide. It is more than what you see or hear. It is what you feel. That is missing in today's technology for music, although many things have come along to replace it and distract from its absence." Chapter 19, page 143

"When I write a song, it starts with a feeling. I can hear something in my head or feel it in my heart. It may be that I just picked up the guitar and mindlessly started playing. That's the way a lot of songs began. When you do that you are not thinking. Thinking is the worst thing for writing a song." Chapter 21, page 158

"It is disconcerting to feel the fear in others that what I am trying to do would somehow provoke Apple into a destructive action against someone trying to serve a quality product. I have consistently reached out to try to assist Apple with true audio quality, and I have even shared my high-resolution masters with them so that they could show me what they could do with them to make their iPod sound great." Chapter 27, page 193

"Have you heard the expression 'How can you miss me if I don't go away?' That expression defines why I do other things. I love the variety, and all the projects are all interrelated anyway. There is no reason to just repeat oneself until further notice." Chapter 30, page 211



"I knew that while I was playing like that I was out of my mind. It felt right, but I don't know what it was. Every note was out of the blue! I went places I had never gone before with no fear." Chapter 40, page 279

"It was \$2,750. I had never seen one before, and it was very beautiful. I needed a car. It was in original condition, faded red, well-worn, but nice. This was and is my favorite combination: beautiful, original, and worn." Chapter 56, page 395

"Someday I would like to write a book, The Life and Times of David Briggs. I could research everyone he touched and really get to the bottom of some things about my mercurial, mysterious brother." Chapter 65, page 471

"Briggs and I had a way of getting to the place. We somehow knew the way. He was the most influential person on my music of anyone I've met." Chapter 65, page 472



Topics for Discussion

Have you been in a band before? What types of experiences did you have? If you have not been in a band before would you like to be in one now or in the future? Would you like to play in the band?

What types of drugs and alcohol did Neil use? What did it do to his body? What can you learn from his experience with drugs and alcohol?

What prior knowledge did you have of Neil and his music? What have you learned about Neil? How has your view of Neil Young changed by reading his autobiography?

How have Neil's personality traits (impulsivity, materialism, and wandering) helped or hindered his musical career? What traits, if any, do you see in yourself?

Neil wanted to do good things, such as producing an environmentally friendly big car and making quality sounding music with PureTone. What were his reasons for wanting to do these things? What are your interests and talents? How are your ambitions similar to Neil's?

Neil's mother supported him in his dreams to become a musician, while his father was not supportive. How did this affect Neil? What level of support have you received from others? Who has supported and who has not been supportive of your dreams?

David Briggs influenced Neil and his music. Who has influenced you in your life? How? Have you told him or her about his or her influence on your life?