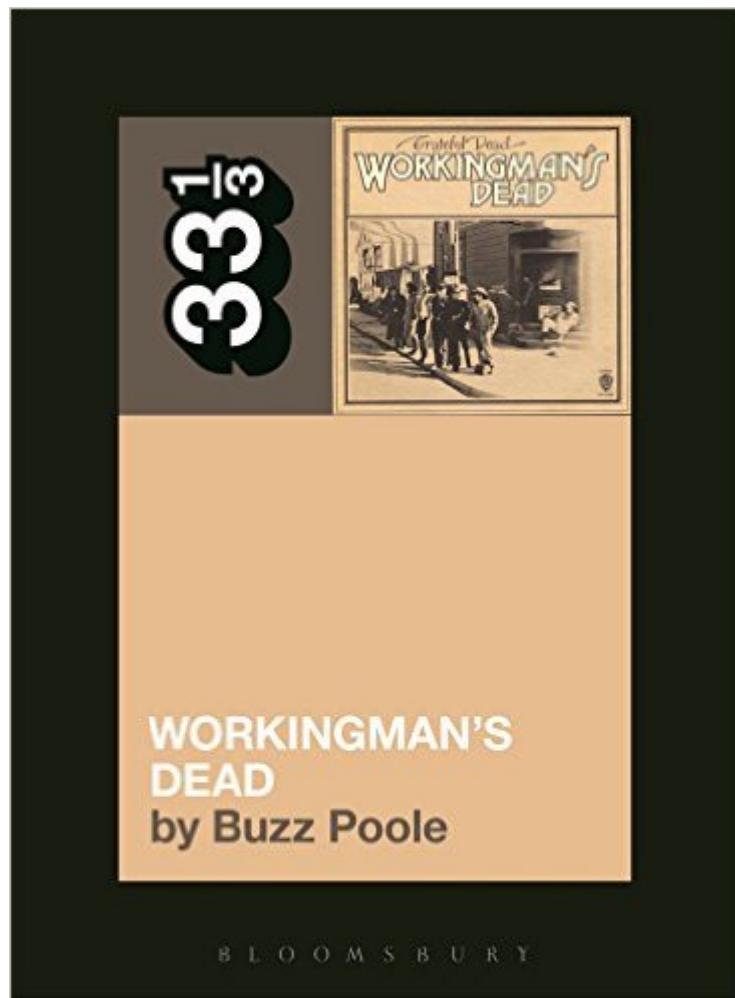


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Grateful Dead's Workingman's Dead (33 1/3)



Synopsis

Released in 1970, *Workingman's Dead* was the breakthrough album for the Grateful Dead, a cold-water-shock departure from the Acid Test madness of the late '60s. It was the band's most commercially and critically successful release to date. More importantly, these songs established the blueprint for how the Dead would maintain and build upon a community held together by the core motivation of rejecting the status quo — "the straight life" — in order to live and work on their own terms. As a unified whole, the album's eight songs serve as points of entry into a fully-rendered portrait of the Grateful Dead within the context of late twentieth-century American history. These songs speak to the attendant cultural and political anxieties that resulted from the idealism of the '60s giving way to the uncomfortable realities of the '70s, and the band's evolving perspective on these changes. Based on research, interviews, and personal experience, this book probes the paradox at the heart of the band's appeal: the Grateful Dead were about much more than music, though they were really just about the music.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The only book to be specifically about one Dead album, in this case "*Workingman's Dead*". Number 112 of a superb series of small books, each about a single groundbreaking album. Check out the rest of the Bloomsbury 33 1/3 series. No album deserves to be analyzed and understood more than *Workingman's Dead*. It came in a crucial time for the band (they were under severe financial

constraints) and in its own way, influenced by Music From Big Pink by The Band,, it started what became the "Americana" movement in current pop music. It was also the most popular album the Dead did to that point. "Uncle John's Band" was a great (though not chart topping) single. Robert Hunter's lyrics were marvelous. Each track is examined in order. Author Buzz Poole examines lyrics, music, contemporary culture, influences, and all factors that made each song tick. The book is very revealing and a good read.

Lots of surprising detail. An elevated, charged reading on one of the Dead's best works. Poole's writing contains a fervent energy and love at once intimate and grand following a seminal moment in American music. I'm not a Deadhead but I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

I've owned this album since it came out. This book added so much insight for me. Excellent.

Great insight not seen in other books about the Dead. A great read!

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