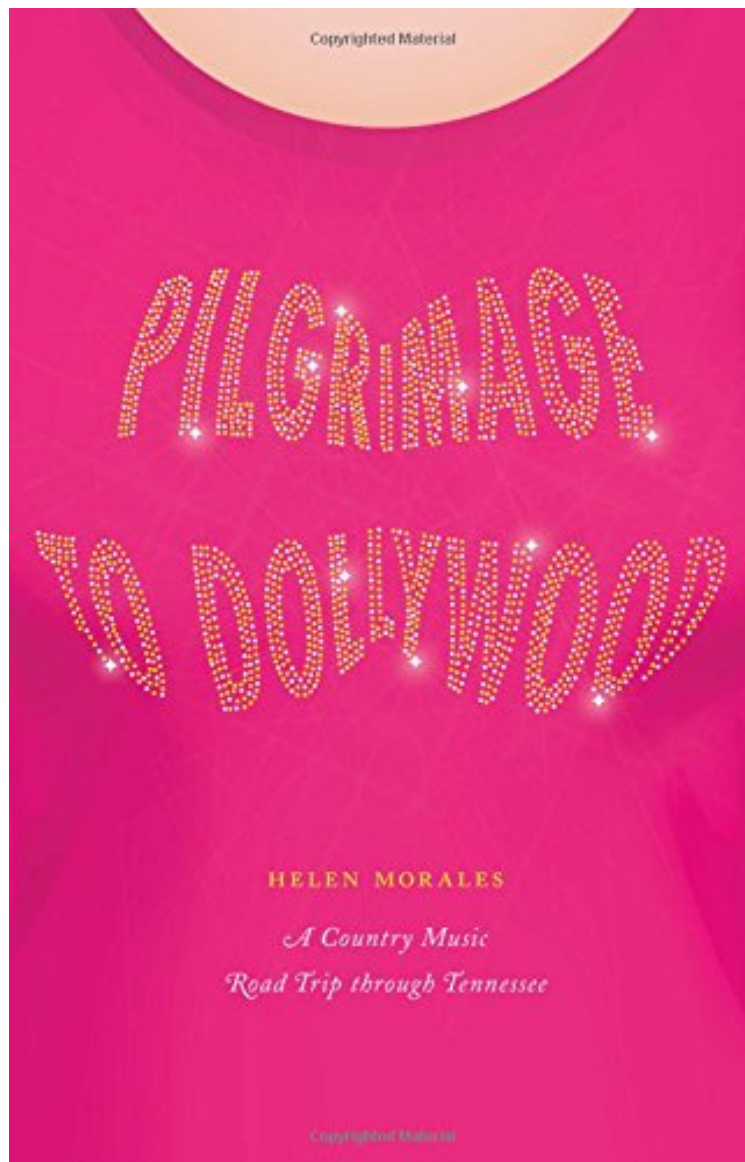


[Ebook pdf] Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee (Culture Trails: Adventures in Travel)

## **Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee (Culture Trails: Adventures in Travel)**

*Helen Morales*

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**Helen Morales : Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee (Culture Trails: Adventures in Travel)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pilgrimage to Dollywood: A Country Music Road Trip through Tennessee (Culture Trails: Adventures in Travel):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This was perfect to read during our road trip from the Blue ...By BalmainKatThis was perfect to read during our road trip from the Blue Ridge Parkway to Nashville and then onto Memphis. Helen's academic mind and analysis made it more than just a light read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting and entertaining read. I know the author ...By Sapphire TintedAn interesting and entertaining read. I know the author couldn't visit the Grand Ole Opry because of catastrophic flooding in Nashville, but including a chapter on the Opry experience would have improved the book.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Ex-pat British woman travels across TennesseeBy Peter Durward HarrisI didn't have any particular expectations of this book, but it left me feeling that it is better for me to dream about Tennessee than to actually go there. The author's original plans were altered because of exceptional floods, but once the journey proper got underway, she and her family learned that Tennessee is not how they imagined it to be.The surprises for them started in Memphis, which contains shrines to Elvis Presley (Graceland) and Martin Luther King (National Civil Rights Museum). Th family visited both, and the author was shocked at some of what she learned. While I find some of it disturbing, I can't say that any of it comes as a complete surprise to me. As this book is really about Dolly, I won't dwell on the issues raised here.The book gets better with a visit to Loretta Lynn's place about halfway between Memphis and Nashville, although I don't think that I'd want to try the replca coal mine even if I were to visit. Another stop in Nashville enables the author to visit Dolly's shop, Trinkets and Treasures.Finally, the family arrive in Pigeon Forge, the home of Dollywood. This is a massive theme park that I've read bits and pieces about. Again, the author found things that she wasn't too keen on, but I suspect that I would enjoy it more than she did.If you are a Dolly Parton fan, you will probably like this. I'm not sure what readers who are not Dolly fans will make of it. I am an Elvis fan too, albeit Dolly is my favorite singer. I suspect that among his fans, those who are not Dolly fans will not like this.

A star par excellence, Dolly Parton is one of country musics most likable personalities. Even a hard-rocking punk or orchestral aesthete cant help cracking a smile or singing along with songs like Jolene and 9 to 5. More than a mere singer or actress, Parton is a true cultural phenomenon, immediately recognizable and beloved for her talent, tinkling laugh, and steel magnolia spirit. She is also the only female star to have her own themed amusement park: Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Every year thousands of fans flock to Dollywood to celebrate the icon, and Helen Morales is one of those fans. In Pilgrimage to Dollywood, Morales sets out to discover Partons Tennessee. Her travels begin at the top celebrity pilgrimage site of Elvis Presleys Graceland, then take her to Loretta Lynns ranch in Hurricane Mills; the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; to Sevierville, Gatlinburg, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and finally to Pigeon Forge, home of the Dolly Homecoming Parade, featuring the star herself as grand marshall. Moraless adventure allows her to compare the imaginary Tennessee of Partons lyrics with the real Tennessee where the singer grew up, looking at essential connections between country music, the land, and a way of life. Its also a personal pilgrimage for Morales. Accompanied by her partner, Tony, and their nine-year-old daughter, Athena (who respectively prefer Mozart and Miley Cyrus), Morales, a recent transplant from England, seeks to understand America and American values through the celebrity sites and attractions of Tennessee. This celebration of Dolly and Americana is for anyone with an old country soul who relies on music to help understand the world, and it is guaranteed to make a Dolly Parton fan of anyone who has not yet fallen for her music or charisma.

Morales has made a moving, provocative pilgrimage through the complex culturemainly southernthat produces country music and some of its outsized performers. I found her very readable.