



Tom Waits on Tom Waits: Interviews and Encounters (Musicians in Their Own Words)

By Paul Maher

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This autobiographical portrait of Tom Waits takes shape through a selection of more than 50 interviews. Starting with the first interview—on KPFK-FM's *Folkscene* in 1973—Waits speaks out on a variety of topics and shares something truly unique with his readers. In a rap that is a synthesis of inflections—Louis Armstrong, Charles Bukowski, Jack Kerouac, Mark Twain, hobo, pool hall attendant, vaudevillian huckster, musicologist par excellence, and a fresh slathering of the organic word-ooze of William S. Burroughs—Waits comes across as well read, informed, and lucidly aware of current pop culture. He delivers prose as crafted, poetic, potent, brilliant, and haunting as the lyrics of his best songs.

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Review

"This book is filled with verbal fireworks and lyrical bon mots."—*American Songwriter Magazine*

"Absolutely required for Waits fans old and new, this pile of interviews is a magic mountain of weird."—*PopMatters.com*

"Recommended for all Tom Waits fans."—*Library Journal*

About the Author

Paul Maher Jr. is the author of *Jack Kerouac's American Journey* and *Kerouac: His Life and Work*, editor of *Empty Phantoms*, and coeditor (with Michael K. Dorr) of *Miles on Miles*.

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