



## Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture)

By George Plasketes



Download



Read Online

### Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes

Warren Zevon was one of the most original songwriters to emerge from the prolific 1970s Los Angeles music scene. Beyond his most familiar song—the rollicking 1978 hit “Werewolves of London”—Zevon’s smart, often satirical songbook is rich with cinematic, literary, and comic qualities; dark narratives; complex characters; popular culture references; and tender, romantic ballads of parting and longing.

*Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles* is the first book-length, critical exploration of one of popular music’s most talented and tormented antiheroes. George Plasketes provides a comprehensive chronicle of Zevon’s 40-year, 20-record career and his enduring cultural significance. Beginning with Zevon’s classical training and encounters as a youth with composers Robert Craft and Igor Stravinsky, Plasketes surveys Zevon’s initiation into the 1960s through the Everly Brothers, the Turtles, and the film *Midnight Cowboy*. Plasketes then follows Zevon from his debut album with Asylum Records in 1976, produced by mentor Jackson Browne, through his successes and struggles from a Top Ten album to record label limbo during the 1980s, through a variety of music projects in the 1990s, including soundtracks and scores, culminating with a striking trio of albums in the early 2000s. Despite his reckless lifestyle and personal demons, Zevon made friends and alliances with talk show host David Letterman and such literary figures as Hunter S. Thompson and Carl Hiaasen. It was only after his death in 2003 that Zevon received Grammy recognition for his work.

Throughout this book, Plasketes explores the musical, cinematic, and literary influences that shaped Zevon’s distinctive style and songwriting themes and continue to make Zevon’s work a telling portrait of Los Angeles and American culture.



[Download Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles \(Tempo: A R ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles \(Tempo: A](#)

[...pdf](#)

# Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture)

By George Plasketes

**Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes**

Warren Zevon was one of the most original songwriters to emerge from the prolific 1970s Los Angeles music scene. Beyond his most familiar song—the rollicking 1978 hit “Werewolves of London”—Zevon’s smart, often satirical songbook is rich with cinematic, literary, and comic qualities; dark narratives; complex characters; popular culture references; and tender, romantic ballads of parting and longing.

*Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles* is the first book-length, critical exploration of one of popular music’s most talented and tormented antiheroes. George Plasketes provides a comprehensive chronicle of Zevon’s 40-year, 20-record career and his enduring cultural significance. Beginning with Zevon’s classical training and encounters as a youth with composers Robert Craft and Igor Stravinsky, Plasketes surveys Zevon’s initiation into the 1960s through the Everly Brothers, the Turtles, and the film *Midnight Cowboy*. Plasketes then follows Zevon from his debut album with Asylum Records in 1976, produced by mentor Jackson Browne, through his successes and struggles from a Top Ten album to record label limbo during the 1980s, through a variety of music projects in the 1990s, including soundtracks and scores, culminating with a striking trio of albums in the early 2000s. Despite his reckless lifestyle and personal demons, Zevon made friends and alliances with talk show host David Letterman and such literary figures as Hunter S. Thompson and Carl Hiaasen. It was only after his death in 2003 that Zevon received Grammy recognition for his work.

Throughout this book, Plasketes explores the musical, cinematic, and literary influences that shaped Zevon’s distinctive style and songwriting themes and continue to make Zevon’s work a telling portrait of Los Angeles and American culture.

**Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes Bibliography**

- Rank: #470100 in Books
- Brand: Plasketes George
- Published on: 2016-06-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.14" h x 1.02" w x 6.32" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 296 pages

 [Download Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles \(Tempo: A R ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles \(Tempo: A ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

Warren Zevon (1947–2003) was one of the most innovative songwriters in recent popular music history, and Plasketes captures the full range of Zevon's skills in the first full-length biography of the artist. Plasketes provides a comprehensive analysis of Zevon's entire body of work—from his self-titled debut in 1976 to *The Wind*, recorded and released during his last year alive—that serves as an almost definitive look at his 'legacy of tortured brilliance,' which still attracts new admirers today. Especially fascinating is Plasketes's look at how Zevon's debut 'endures as one of the most delightfully dark visions of Southern California culture, demystifying the Hollywood scene, its desperation and decadence.' Also good are his in-depth looks at some works that critics overlooked at the time of their release, such as 'Transverse City' (Zevon's most ambitious record) and 'Life'll Kill Ya' ('a gem, a modest masterpiece'). Plasketes admits his reliance on 'I'll Sleep When I'm Dead: The Dirty Life and Times of Warren Zevon'—the exhaustive posthumous oral history compiled in 2007 by Zevon's ex-wife, Crystal—but he adds plenty of original work to fully illuminate the art behind the wild stories from Zevon's alcohol and drug binges. (*Publishers Weekly*)

By taking Zevon's music chronologically, pulling each record apart down to its smallest constitutive parts, Plasketes crafts a highly readable account of Zevon's life that is also chock full of information. Even the tangential factoids, such as a lengthy aside about how the rise of MTV led to the reinforcement of the music industry, feel relevant and closely tied to Zevon's under-the-radar career.... What Plasketes has achieved with *Desperado of Los Angeles* is a book that on the whole resides somewhere between the fandom/objectivity continuum, the tenuousness of that construction notwithstanding. Zevon has been long overdue for a scholar's examination, and Plasketes proves himself more than up to the task. This volume is both a helpful bedrock for future studies of Zevon's music and an interesting case study in what it means to do academic music writing. Fans of Zevon's music will quickly gobble up Plasketes' carefully assembled critical history, and curious newcomers to Zevon's oeuvre would do well in using this book as a guide. But Plasketes' research has value beyond the reaches of Zevon's musical output; anyone interested in the business of writing about music critically would learn a great deal from the strengths and weaknesses of analysis in this book. Undoubtedly, Zevon would be proud that his work has inspired conversations like these. (*Popmatters*)

[*Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles* is] one of the most interesting and in-depth books I've ever read about a musician.... Plasketes does an admirable job in exposing this truth in astounding detail while making it a very enjoyable read, giving us a much larger understanding and empathy for one of the most underrated but important musical artists of our time. (*The Corner News*)

*Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles* is a full-on academic analysis of Zevon's discography by a straight-up uber fan of his who happens to be an uber intelligent writer too. Plasketes' unique perspective makes for a wonderful book, a serious study happily colored by the writer's genuine love for Zevon and his work. One wonders why there are not more books like this when it comes to Zevon's canon, which offers much to take apart and delve into. (*Red Paint Hill Publishing & Poetry Journal*)

#### About the Author

George Plasketes is professor of media studies and popular culture in the School of Communication and Journalism at Auburn University in Alabama. He has written on a variety of music, media, and popular culture subjects in books, essays, and journal articles.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Brian Davis:**

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which can be always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

#### **Verla Foster:**

Do you really one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Try and pick one book that you never know the inside because don't determine book by its protect may doesn't work this is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not because fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer could be Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) why because the great cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint you. The inside or content is usually fantastic as the outside or even cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

#### **Howard Foster:**

Reading a book to get new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to learn a book. When you examine a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what types of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) provide you with new experience in examining a book.

#### **Martina Lassiter:**

Reserve is one of source of expertise. We can add our expertise from it. Not only for students but native or citizen want book to know the upgrade information of year to year. As we know those textbooks have many advantages. Beside all of us add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By book Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) we can take more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? To become creative person must want to read a book. Only choose the best book that suitable with your aim. Don't end up being doubt to change your life with this book Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture). You can more appealing than now.

# **Download and Read Online Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes #B9Y7KHI5NGP**

## **Read Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes for online ebook**

Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes books to read online.

### **Online Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes ebook PDF download**

**Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes Doc**

**Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes Mobipocket**

**Warren Zevon: Desperado of Los Angeles (Tempo: A Rowman & Littlefield Music Series on Rock, Pop, and Culture) By George Plasketes EPub**