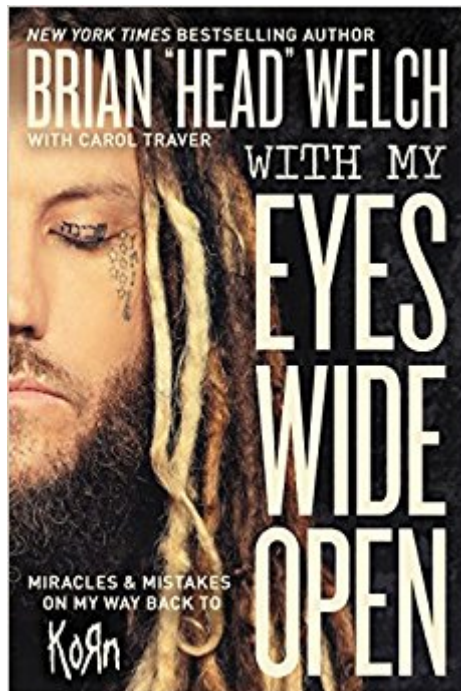


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With My Eyes Wide Open: Miracles And Mistakes On My Way Back To KoRn



Synopsis

He left KoRn to help himself. He went back to help others. And along the way, he nearly lost everything. A life-changing spiritual awakening freed Brian "Head" Welch from a stranglehold of drugs and alcohol and prompted him to leave the highly successful nu-metal band KoRn in 2005. What followed was a decade-long trial by fire, from the perils of fathering a teen lost in depression and self-mutilation to the harsh realities of playing solo and surviving the shattering betrayal of a trusted friend. In this intensely inspiring redemption saga, perhaps most inspiring is Brian's radical decision to rejoin KoRn and reconcile with the tribe of people he once considered family in the metal music scene. Brian returned to his musical roots with a clear head and a devoted heart. Though his story is wild, hilarious, and deeply poignant, the message is simple: God will love you into the freedom of being yourself, as long as you keep the relationship going and never, ever quit.

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Customer Reviews

"Wait! KoRn is a satanic band?" That was my initial thought when I found out that Brian Welch had left KoRn. I was confused: it was a song on *Issues*™ that made me resolve to leave an abusive relationship; it was listening to KoRn that made me want to stay sober. Was I missing something? What happened? I would have given my eye-teeth to have been a rock star™, hugely successful no less, and I couldn't think of one reason why anyone would want to let that go. I binge read his first three books over a weekend and what emerged was a somewhat sad, albeit familiar, story of a boy who grew up angry and with poor self-esteem, and by hard work and a stroke of good fortune started his early adulthood with fame

and wealth complete with all of the privileges and indulgences that accompany it. He was given the golden ticket only to find it took him to a place that was abysmally void. But, as he was to find out, that was the ride, not the destination. He told his story honestly, and at times allowed stabs of unresolved emotion to emerge above the surface, bearing evidence that this was not an autobiography told in full; this was the beginning. WMEWO is what happened during the in between, the life he negotiated with his new found Faith. This is how he fought to be a good father, a successful entrepreneur, continue to engage his talent as a musician, and most of all, be a happy person, and how none of that came easy. I was overjoyed to read about his journey back to KoRn, and the way he can look at his absence not as God taking him away, but as God preparing him to go back. It's very touching to read the stories of him praying with fans alongside his band mate and brother through Christ, Fieldy. Of course ignorant fans would mock them; it can be overwhelming for those who don't know to stand in the presence of the Lord. I appreciate the candor he brings to this book, and that he has retained his humor. He shared some deeply personal stories about financial mishaps and near ruin. The challenges of being a single father to his daughter were heart wrenching, but I couldn't help but find myself thinking how lucky she is to have a father who won't give up on her, or their relationship. His Faith is a driving force for him that he is eager and unashamed to share. Be you Christian or not, reading about his life so far, his ability to fall, to persevere, and to rise again, is admirable. As for me, I have learned that Brian didn't have one reason to walk away from a rock star life...he had a million. And why he came back was backed by a force far greater than money, fame, and possessions. I love to see life come full circle.

What does a meth addicted, well-known rock band member, and Jesus have in common? Quite a bit, as will be discovered in this true story of Brian Welch, also known by the stage name, Head. He was a heavy drug user, often staying high for a week or longer. Brian was one of the co-founders of the metal rock band, KoRn, along with one of the guitarists in that group. KoRn made him millions of dollars, but it didn't bring happiness. Instead he, along with his wife, spent most of their time using meth, along with other drugs, hoping their next high would bring them the nirvana they were seeking. After his wife left them, Brian became a single parent to their young daughter, Jennea. With those new responsibilities, and wanting to be a good dad, Brian brought her on the road with him along with KoRn. But try as he might, he wasn't able to break free from his destructive lifestyle. And then one day he became radically saved by Jesus, and was instantly able to walk away from all the drugs. Despite a contract that was soon to pay the band millions of dollars, Brian also walked away

from KoRn, giving it all up. He wanted to devote himself to the care and raising of Jennea, and the worship of God. This book is the story of what happened to Brian and Jennea since then. The relationship between Brian and Jennea really thrived, and Brian's relationship with God deepened. Traveling for mission work took the place of being on the road with KoRn. He also started various music endeavors on his own, eventually forming the band, Love and Death. But there were hard times, too, that included being lied to by a trusted friend. That led to such a loss of Brian's money, that he and Jennea were forced to search their furniture for lost coins hoping to find enough to buy food. They lost their home, and bankruptcy loomed ahead of them. Slowly, his finances straightened out, and then God surprised Brian by leading him to a reconciliation with his KoRn band members. Could Brian return to life on the road with KoRn, avoid drugs, and be a light for Jesus at the same time? Amazingly, all those things, and more, have taken place. Brian will be the first to say it is happening because he is where God wants him to be. But just as that part of Brian's life starting improving, his relationship with Jennea disintegrated. Their communication consisted of only heated arguments, and Jennea began to hurt herself, too. That crisis caused Brian to make the hardest decision of his life, get help for Jennea--but possibly at the cost of their relationship. I am not a fan of heavy rock music, but Brian's story will grab your attention whether you are a fan of his type of music or not. It is easy to identify with his pain as a parent when Jennea pulled away from him, and started making bad choices. Brian's financial situation, a result of betrayal by a friend, along with his own unwise decisions, is also something that many will relate to. Through it all, though, Brian never turned away from God. His faith is strong, genuine and uplifting to read about. Pick up this 5-star book, and discover the story of a dad who loves both God, and his daughter, with endearing passion. Thomas Nelson Publishing has provided bookreadingtic with a complimentary copy of *With My Eyes Wide Open* for the purpose of review. I have not been compensated in any other manner. All opinions expressed are my own, and I was not required, or influenced, to give anything but an honest appraisal. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Not that many people lay themselves open the way Brian does. Most people would rather not admit the things he admits, or try to dress them up in some way, knock the edges off to make it more palatable. I so appreciate Brian's writing for this reason. I've read a lot of rock bios and most of the time people can admit to some dirt but rarely take on the emotional tolls they had to pay, the books are written more for entertainment, to gawk inside the life of a celebrity and all the crazy stuff they did, than to be inspired by anything. I like looking into Brian's heart and appreciate his showing it.

That's courageous and inspiring in and of itself. He doesn't have to be a superhero with all the answers and everything plastered with a happy smiley face to make this book inspiring. It's inspiring to know you can be in the dirt and cast your eyes to the sky and know something in your heart beyond this human realm is there for you. I hope Brian keep writing about his maturing spiritual journey so I can read about it while I'm on my own journey.

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