

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

by Helen Marketti

Toni Tennille discusses her memoir and more ...

Toni Tennille's recent memoir about her life and career with former husband, Daryl Dragon is an eye opening account of what life was like once the stage lights went dark and the fans went home. Fans loved the hits by the Captain & Tennille, which included *Love Will Keep Us Together*, *The Way I Want to Touch You*, *Muskrat Love* and *Do That to Me One More Time*. Daryl was a talented musician but not capable of being fully present in a loving relationship that lasted 39 years. Toni opens up about why she decided to finally leave the relationship and write her memoirs.

"I stayed in the marriage for 39 years because I had hoped that eventually I would be able to unlock Daryl's heart. I always had hoped that I could bring him into the light and joy I had experienced in my own life," explains Toni. "We started living together in 1972 and during the entire time we were together, I never heard him belly laugh. I never saw him express any emotion, he never cried. He was uncomfortable in situations where there were many people around even if they were people he knew."

Daryl had a rough childhood that carried over into his adult years. "I thought he was brilliant and a genius. I imagined what it would be like if he could open up like a flower and open up to the world. Unfortunately, I was never able to break the barrier," said Toni. "He was my 'project' for the last several decades. I had made a vow that he was my husband and I was going to stick with him no matter what. It finally sunk in that I was not going to change him. Through trying so hard to get closer to him, I was losing my own joy and positive outlook. I felt like I was being dragged down into a miasma that Daryl lived in all the time. It scared me because I did not want to become a bitter old lady."

"One thing Daryl and I did have was the great music we created together. During the time we were creating the music, he was my muse and I was his. He did think I was a great singer and songwriter. He knew I would be good at being the person in the front so he could stay in the background and play the keyboards," explains Toni. "When we signed the contract for the 'Captain & Tennille Show', Daryl had to stand up next to me and be the costar which was difficult for him. I had previous experience because I had performed in theater, sang in front of people since I was a child and watched my mother when she had her own television show. Our television show was easier for me than it was for Daryl. He would have much rather stayed in the background. He was never able to express affection. I don't blame him for that, as my upbringing was supportive and close. Daryl never had that support system. He always went inside himself. Ever since I have known him, he has lived inside his own thoughts. He sees situations in a negative perspective. He doesn't look at the glass as half full; he looks at the glass as empty."

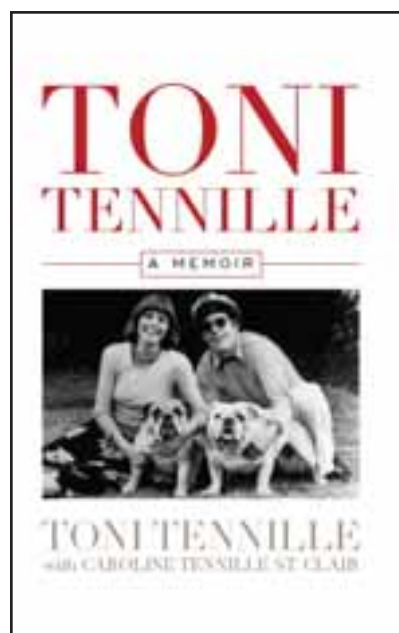
"Daryl is a hypochondriac. He is his own worst enemy. He goes into a panic over everything. He was always tied up with a strict diet regiment when we were together and is still obsessing over what he eats," said Toni. "I had learned over time not to engage him over a disagreement because it would not solve anything. I always had to watch what I did and said so as not to upset him."

39 years is a long time to stay with someone when clearly the relationship was never on track with love and intimacy. "I am a stubborn and loyal Taurus. I planned to stay with him when I took those wedding vows. The main reason I wrote the book was for the fans who loved us at the Captain & Tennille. They would be upset at the decision I made to end the marriage. It was from my own perspective. I wanted people to understand the decision I made and why it took me so long to make it," said Toni. "My niece Caroline was my co-writer. I would have never written this book without her. I would write something, send it to her and she would add her magic while still keeping it in my voice which is her gift."

"The book has been out since the first week of April. I have received the most incredible letters from people who have gone through similar situations. I had to go through all of those years and experiences to arrive where I am today. I do not regret anything that happened or the choices I made. Everything I did made me the woman I am now."

"Daryl and I talk at least once a week. I still care about him. Whenever I ask him how he is doing he usually says, 'Oh, I'm about a C minus.' He has been a C minus ever since I have known him. It's who he is," said Toni. "I told Daryl that I was writing a book and explained to him that it was going to be from my point of view. I encouraged him to write his own memoirs from his perspective or at least keep a blog on the internet. He had no interest. His statement to me when he learned I was writing the book was, 'I'm not worried because I know you're a straight shooter.' I am comfortable with who I am. I am in a good place."

Toni Tennille's Memoir is available at Amazon.com
Fans can follow Toni on her Facebook page.



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We are collecting school supplies and cash for our local elementary school

July 1.....Lyle Heath 8-11

July 2Larry, Daryl, Daryl & Sheryl 8-12

July 3.... Rob Covert 8-12

July 4.... Fireworks (usually visible from our patio)

**July 8.... Great Lakes Christmas Ale on Draft
while it lasts**

July 16... Rhythm Connection 8-11

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Tue: Wing Night

**Wed: 2 Tiders or
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Thur: Taco Night

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