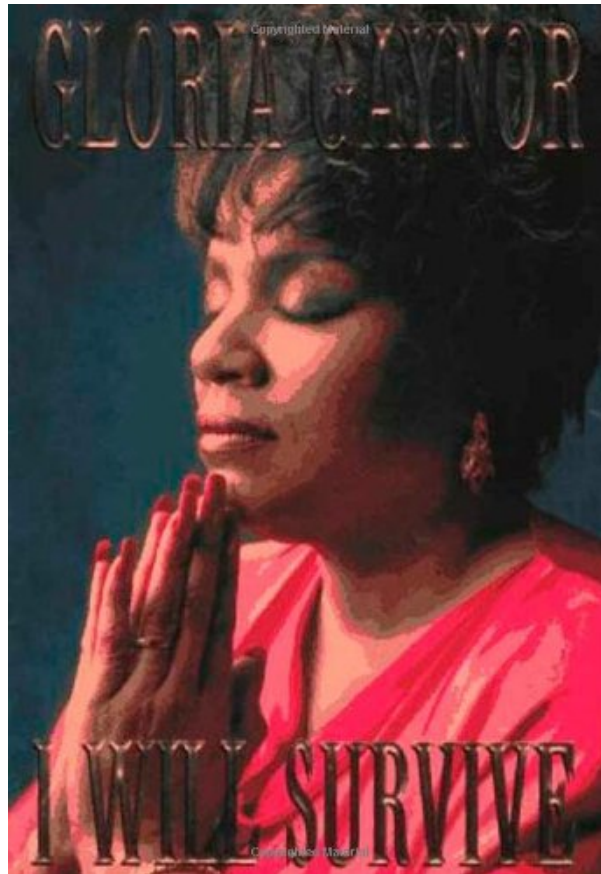
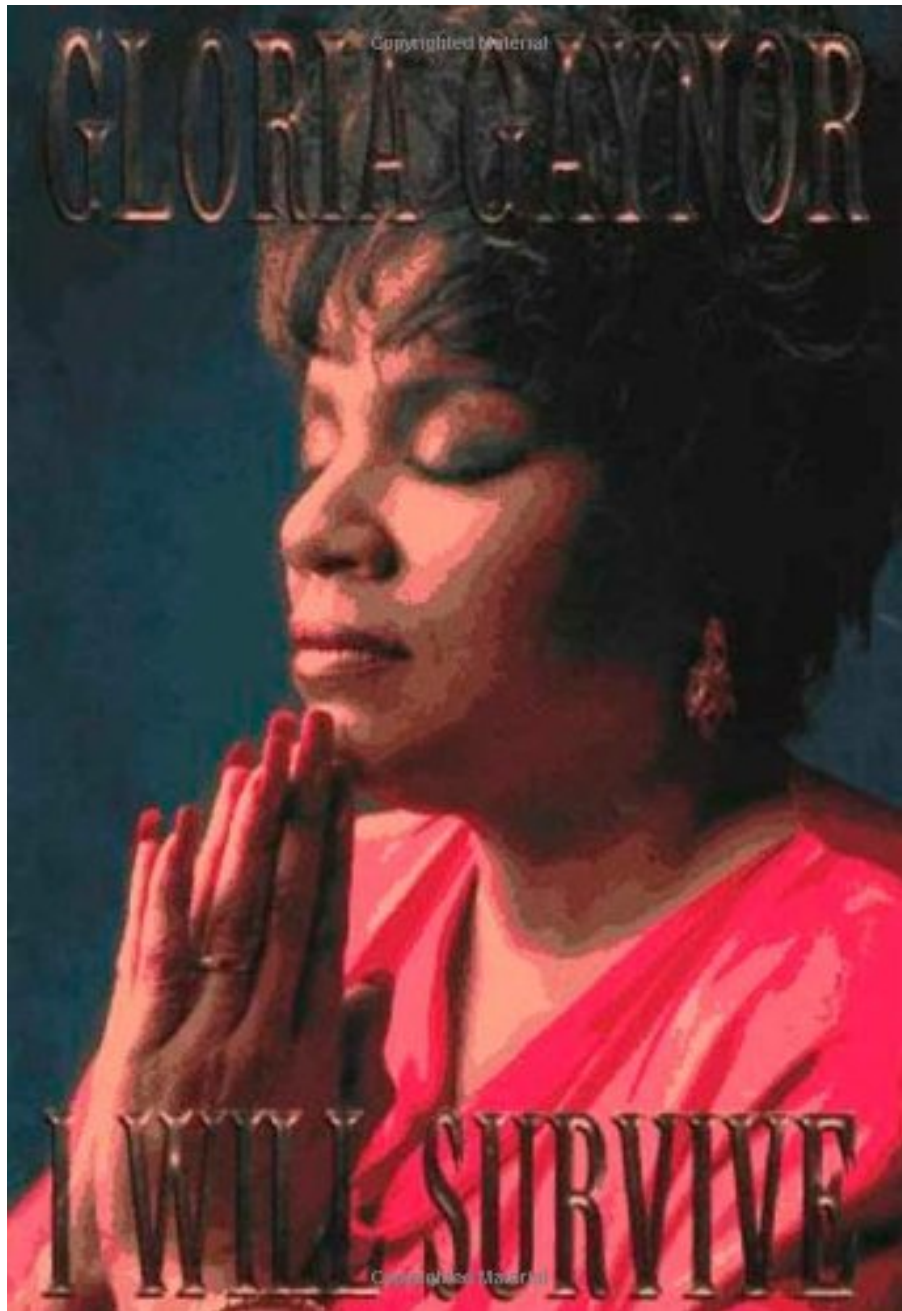


# I WILL SURVIVE: THE BOOK BY GLORIA GAYNOR



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From Library Journal

The legions of baby boomers active in the infamous disco scene during the 1970s remember Gaynor as the creator of such pop hits as "Honey Bee." Here, Gaynor tells of her fall from grace after the collapse of disco and the faith that helped sustain her.

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A tired and preachy autobiography from one of the first queens of disco. This is the kind of celebrity autobiography that serious readers have come to dread--the "become famous, hit bottom, find God" kind. We're told all about Gaynor's "dark" past, which included two abortions, drug use, and marital problems, but all this has become rather trite. Gaynor's tendency toward cliché, is only compounded by the extremely poor detail that is given about any of these experiences. The abortions are mentioned without anything about the discovery of pregnancy; the drug use seems limited completely to marijuana--rather minor in an age in which cocaine and especially crack have taken a much more serious toll. Gaynor is also unable to turn the camera outward, with her analysis of disco music and its impact on popular music in general limited to a few pages. What hampers this autobiography beyond anything else, however, is Gaynor's relentless proselytizing for her newly found Christianity. While normally a reader might feel happy that a person who had suffered had found solace through religion, Gaynor's endless insistence that only through Jesus can one find salvation is egregiously offensive. Even her own brother, one of two of her siblings to join the Nation of Islam, is depicted in the book as being brushed off by her for rejecting Christianity. How this jibes with Gaynor's admission that her own husband is not yet born again is unclear. All of this, on top of the conversations that she claims to regularly have with God (in which the Almighty is an active participant), seems just a little too crackpot for believability. It's ironic that Gaynor states, "There's been a lot of interest in a seventies revival in recent years"; if there were not, this book might never have been published. (16 pages photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

About the Author

Gloria Gaynor is America's "Queen of Disco," and the author of this autobiography, *I Will Survive*.

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# I WILL SURVIVE: THE BOOK BY GLORIA GAYNOR PDF

I Will Survive is the story of America's "Queen of Disco." It is the story of riches and fame, despair, and finally salvation. Her meteoric rise to stardom in the mid-1970s was nothing short of phenomenal, and hits poured forth that pushed her to the top of the charts, including "Honey Bee," "I Got You Under My Skin," "Never Can Say Goodbye," and the song that has immortalized her, "I Will Survive," which became a #1 international gold seller. With that song, Gloria heralded the international rise of disco that became synonymous with a way of life in the fast lane - the sweaty bodies at Studio 54, the lines of cocaine, the indescribable feeling that you could always be at the top of your game and never come down. But down she came after her early stardom, and problems followed in the wake, including the death of her mother, whose love had anchored the young singer, as well as constant battles with weight, drugs, and alcohol. While her fans always imagined her to be rich, her personal finances collapsed due to poor management; and while many envied her, she felt completely empty inside. In the early 1980s, sustained by her marriage to music publisher Linwood Simon, Gloria took three years off and reflected upon her life. She visited churches and revisited her mother's old Bible. Discovering the world of gospel, she made a commitment to Christ that sustains her to this day.

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#### About the Author

Gloria Gaynor is America's "Queen of Disco," and the author of this autobiography, *I Will Survive*.

#### Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Gloria started the disco phenomenon, the book ignores this.

By A Customer

I bought *I Will Survive*, the book, with sincere enthusiasm. I wanted to know everything about how this legend started the entire disco scene, after all she was/is the very first disco queen. And whilst the book provides the reader with a good insight into Gloria's religious convictions and all the many challenges that success and plain old life has sent her way, the book doesn't seem to capture the excitement that the great lady caused around the world with her pioneering disco beat. Frankly, I was left feeling a little let down by the time I reached the end of the book. If anyone is best placed to write the definitive book about the 70's disco scene, it is Gloria Gaynor. I hope she will have another go, because whilst disco was condemned by many in its day (they were jealous), the music has since become highly respected and sought after over the years. I love you Gloria Gaynor, you are my idol, but please 'dish the dirt' on disco in your next book (now there's some encouragement) and tell us a lot more about what went on behind the scenes. *I Will Survive*, thanks to you. Love always, Vernal Scott, London, UK. 6.10.99

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Personal insight to a highly sensitive individual

By A Customer

Having met Gloria and her husband, Linwood, the book pieced the entire puzzle together. A surprising love story that truly sustained thick and thin.

I have realized a new found respect for this couple. Not in their success and the legendary status of Gloria Gaynor, but in how very "normal" they are as people, just like us.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Gloria Gaynor--Rising Like a Phoenix

By Sioux

Gloria Gaynor's song, "I Will Survive" was an anthem for the 70's. Her soaring song brought everyone to their feet. Today, Gaynor continues to rise like a phoenix. Her spirit and her determination came out in song, and now she raises our spirits with memoirs on the printed page. Her story, along with fellow survivors who have overcome a variety of obstacles and set-backs, has resulted in an inspirational collection.

This book would make a wonderful gift for a dear friend or a beloved family member. I am planning on reading it, and then giving it away on my blog, to share the wealth...

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