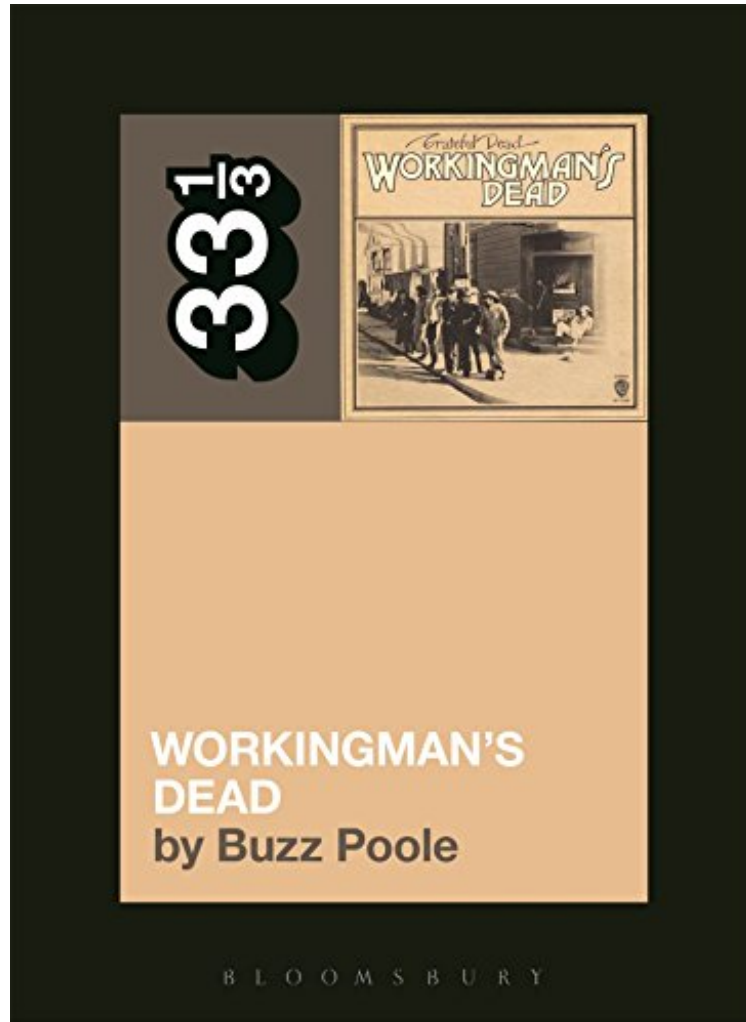


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Buzz Poole

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Buzz Poole : Grateful Dead's Workingman's Dead (33 1/3) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Grateful Dead's Workingman's Dead (33 1/3):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Book on an Essential Album By Nathan D. Backlund Finally the 33 1/3 series looks at a Dead album! I had not heard of Buzz Poole before this book but I was very impressed with his writing. It is very difficult for outsiders to find new and interesting things to say about the Dead at this point. Many readers will inevitably know much of the information contained already. However, Poole expertly puts this album in the context of politics and culture, in a way much more interesting than in the book No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead. Great writing and great observations. One of the best of the series. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dead fans a great read. By Dr. Dream I've owned this album since it came out. This book added so much insight for me. Excellent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Fascinating read
By Customer
Great insight not seen in other books about the Dead. A great read!

Released in 1970, *Workingman's Dead* was the breakthrough album for the Grateful Dead, a cold-water-shock departure from the Acid Test madness of the late '60s. It was the band's most commercially and critically successful release to date. More importantly, these songs established the blueprint for how the Dead would maintain and build upon a community held together by the core motivation of rejecting the status quo the straight life in order to live and work on their own terms. As a unified whole, the album's eight songs serve as points of entry into a fully-rendered portrait of the Grateful Dead within the context of late twentieth-century American history. These songs speak to the attendant cultural and political anxieties that resulted from the idealism of the '60s giving way to the uncomfortable realities of the '70s, and the band's evolving perspective on these changes. Based on research, interviews, and personal experience, this book probes the paradox at the heart of the band's appeal: the Grateful Dead were about much more than music, though they were really just about the music.

"In 1969 the Grateful Dead executed an extraordinary pivot. While playing brilliant, deeply improvisational psychedelic music, they simultaneously began to create a series of traditionally-styled new American folk songs that would be collected in *Workingman's Dead*. It is perhaps the key moment in their storied history, and Buzz Poole explores this evolution with insight and a profound understanding of how these songs fit into American cultural history." - Dennis McNally, author of *A Long Strange Trip* (2003) and *On Highway 61* (2014)"[A] little beauty ... [and] the only Dead book I know of devoted to a single album ... No matter how extensive your Dead library, you should make room for this wee addition." - *Shindig! Magazine* "Buzz Poole nails his take on *Workingman's Dead*, with the song-by-song conceit proving surprisingly agile for the Dead. Poole unpacks and links the mythos attached to the album's eight songs and their histories in the Dead's songbook. Like the Dead, Poole sweeps through the American territories, from the American folklore of 'Casey Jones' to the Manson murders. Good stuff, fun read." Jesse Jarnow, author of *Heads: A Biography of Psychedelic America* (2016) Buzz Poole brings us back to the time before capitalism consumed the counterculture; the musical and cultural moment when the Grateful Dead reluctantly accepted the mantle as the horse pulling the wagon full of hippies, freaks, outlaws and others through the darkness of the world of power, war, and greed Poole does an excellent job in pulling together the diverse and multiple musical, folk and literary influences apparent in the songs on *Workingman's Dead* (and most other Dead albums, too.)
Counterpunch Poole provides a thoughtful, detailed, and passionate look at this seminal album that frames its achievement and demonstrates why it still rewards close listening. It's great to see the Dead represented in this series!
Nicholas Meriwether, Grateful Dead Archivist About the Author Buzz Poole has written about music, design, and culture for numerous outlets, including *The Village Voice*, *The Believer*, *Print*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.