



Trevor's Song

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Fame and fortune have destroyed many a rock star, but not Trevor Wolff. ShapeShifter band dynamics will never be the same even before Trevor's two girlfriends, a world tour, and a bunch of secrets complicate life. Trevor may have to make common cause with his worst enemy -- his best friend's girl.

Trevor's Song Details

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From Reader Review Trevor's Song for online ebook

Sharon says

Susan Helene Gottfried's ShapeShifter series is a real gem for music fans, industry insiders, and those who like a well-constructed, character-driven novel.

The first two books were a collection of short stories called "The Demo Tapes," both of which I read and enjoyed thoroughly. "Trevor's Song" brings us a more successful band, with ShapeShifter touring, recording and experiencing the fruits of their labors.

Bassist Trevor Wolff is the focus of Gottfried's full length novel, as he faces unanticipated medical problems that could potentially put the entire band's careers on hold. Despite Wolff's deliberate "unlikeability," he is a sympathetic character grappling with numerous issues.

Gottfried's characters are multi-dimensional and interesting, and her insider knowledge of the music industry shines through to those of us who have also been there. Highly recommended.

Darcia Helle says

I have to admit, I didn't much like Trevor at the start of this book. He took great pleasure in annoying his friends and altered between a spoiled, narcissistic brat and a clingy, scared child. I did like his best friend, Mitchell, and had to wonder why he put up with Trevor's antics.

Despite my annoyance with Trevor, Gottfried's writing style made the story fun. Her familiarity with the music world brought vivid detail to the band's life. The dialogue and characters felt like I could have been reading the journal of a real-life young band.

About midway through the book, the story really got going. Trevor's challenges forced him to make difficult decisions that tamed his self-involved immaturity. In the end, Gottfried leaves the perfect opening for a sequel. I had a sense that all would be well and that Trevor had grown, though we might have to wait to know that for sure.

Pam Godwin says

Gottfried owns the art of delving into a character's head and heart. She especially shone at this with Trevor's voice. I relish this level of deep third writing, but I had two problems with it in this book. One, the majority of the script was inner monologue and narration, specifically in the first half. There'd be a little action, a little external dialogue, then pages of inward thinking would follow before the next action beat. The second issue was the lack of affection I had for Trevor, the main POV. He's a self-absorbed, sniveling imbecile who behaved like a seven-year-old boy around girls. The main conflict in the book could've been averted if he'd just voiced his problem. I was so frustrated with him that by the conclusion, when he finally unclogged the C word from his stubborn throat, my weariness was irreversible. Too late, I thought, as I turned the last page with a grinding of teeth. My favorite dynamic in this book was Kerri. Her odd relationship with Trevor, the

nickname he gave her, perceiving her through his viewpoint. Her character was an ingenious tool to develop Trevor, making her a potent piece of the story--I adored how she shared her marital bed in the end, such a great show of her empathy. If there'd been something more redeeming about Trevor Effing Wolff, some little thing I could identify with as I was able to do with Kerri, I would've been more sympathetic to the amount of time it took to grow his character.

Tammy Ramey says

i relly enjoyed this book, the characters were intriguing and pulled you right into the story with them. i had no problem going along for the ride with Trevor and the rest of the band and the powerful emotions that they all felt were the same ones i felt. it was a thrill of a ride. if you like this type of book then this is a good one for you.

Shelleyrae at Book'd Out says

Susan Helen Gottfried has given the readers of Trevor's Song an all access backstage pass into the scenes of a touring rock star band and the complex life of a man on the edge.

Trevor Wolff is on the edge of super stardom, the edge of self destruction, the edge of life and death. As the man who brought together the band, Shapeshifters, it is a matter of pride that the popular heavy rock band is soaring to super stardom status. Trevor may not be a talented bassist but he is enjoying the benefits of the band lifestyle, women, money, status and well, more women. His childhood friend, Mitchell, is the front man with the looks and talent. Mitchell's family helped Trevor to survive his abusive childhood, and though the scars remain Trevor is mostly content. Then Mitchell meets Kerri and Trevor struggles with the changes that brings to his relationships.

Gottfried explores Trevor's internal conflicts, with humour and honesty. He is happy for, but deeply envious of, the new couples happiness. He wants to hate Kerri but instead is in half in love her. He would never betray his friendship with Mitchell, and Kerri isn't interested, so Trevor finds himself having to negotiate this new situation. It's not an easy thing to do for a man whose idea of love is transient at best. However the newlywed's show Trevor a possibility he hadn't really considered before, love and commitment that makes each half of the relationship a better person. It's both intriguing and fun to watch Trevor essentially discover maturity by observing Mitchell and Kerri. Trevor is such an unique character and it is to the authors credit that the author is able to reconcile his complicated personality and emotions in a way that is genuine and sympathetic. Having witnessed Trevor's growth during the course of the novel, his medical crisis is a threat to a character that is only just starting to find his way.

Gottfried's experience in the music scene shows in the details. It's a unique setting in that Shapeshifter's doesn't have the glamour that is usually exploited as a celebrity lifestyle. Tour buses are cramped and without privacy no matter how expensive they are, and concerts are not just about the music but high pressure situations that demand all the band members can give every time.

Gottfried has a natural style of writing and dialogue that suits her story and characters. There is some language and explicit sexual encounters though they are not gratuitous. I felt that perhaps the pace could have been a smoother, a lot of time in the first half is set on establishing the characters but there isn't enough happening . Seeds of the events that happen in the second half could have planted earlier to hint at the things to come. I also felt that too much of the first half is Mitchell's story to tell rather than Trevor's. Though the relationship between Mitchell and Kerri is an essential part of Trevor's character growth, I think the approach could have been skewed a bit more to ensure that Trevor's perspective stayed central.

Trevor's Song is Trevor's story, he is a complex individual that Susan Helen Gottfried brings to life with cheeky humour and emotional depth. This novel is a well written, contemporary story with unique and appealing characters. Gottfried is currently working on a sequel and so Trevor's refrain will continue.

D.J. Butler says

Dilettante singer falls in love with an artist, putting tension between him and the visionary bassist. Isn't this how every rock band falls apart?

Susan Gottfried's stories about the rock band ShapeShifter are gritty real-world rock fiction, redolent -- almost literally -- with the seedy-decadent-glamorous-pathetic details of the lives and careers of rock and rollers on the cusp of making it. You can smell the bars these guys play in, hear the grunting of the sex-obsessed musicians and see the shiny, too-eager-to-please smiles of the willing fans. This is not a book for the faint of heart or readers who are bothered by sex and profanity, but anyone who has played in a rock band -- and a lot of people who have wanted to do so -- will enjoy the internal and external battles of rock and roll visionary Trevor Wolff against singer Mitchell Voss's new girlfriend, and all the strange places it takes us.

RJ says

The rarest and most valuable pearls are naturally formed when an irritant gets under the folds of a mollusk. Trevor's Song opens with the band, ShapeShifter, approaching the heights of super stardom. The pearl that makes this particular band unique is lead singer/rhythm guitarist Mitchell Voss. The irritant responsible for focusing Mitchell's talents, and forming the band, is bassist Trevor Wolff.

At first, I wasn't sure I was going to make it all the way through Trevor's Song. Trevor was not only irritating Mitchell and everyone else he met along the way; he was irritating me, too. As a writer of rock & roll mysteries, I'm used to a series of action scenes that gradually lead me to uncover a mystery. The only clue I had uncovered after the first few chapters was that I had no idea about the genre of the story or where it was headed. Was it romance? Mitchell appeared to have found the love of his life in a redhead named Kerri. Or perhaps a bromance, since Trevor was obviously crushed that he was taking a back seat to Kerri.

What kept me hanging in there during the setup to the catalyst that drove the story was Susan Gottfried's vivid description of the lifestyle of the group as it neared the top of the rock world. She had my senses firing on all cylinders when she described the band's visit to an "anything goes" club called All Access. Her portrayal of the band's tour bus, and their life on the road, gave me the impression that she had first-hand knowledge of the experience. Unlike the bus driver, a third of the way into the novel I still didn't know where we were going. But, with backstage pass in hand, I continued.

Sometimes our most memorable moments happen when we least expect them. Like the transition of Dorothy and Toto from black & white to color when they reach the Land of Oz, so too is Trevor's Song transformed from the ordinary to the extraordinary when Trevor confronts an obstacle that forces him to see life through new eyes. Suddenly, the gap between his unique alternate lifestyle and the experience of the average reader is closed by a horror that touches way too many of our lives.

The prickly exterior that Gottfried establishes in the first half of the book serves as a gauntlet of obstacles that the reader grudgingly navigates to let Trevor into their hearts. The biggest of those obstacles is that Trevor is still Trevor. He doesn't soften for the sake of sympathy. Instead, he displays a personal code of honor that helps to balance his many faults.

From a reader's perspective, I felt like a gold miner who discovered a few nuggets in the first half of the book, and hit the mother lode in the second half. For example, most novels that use a symbol utilize a physical object. For Trevor, the symbol was a punch. Its interpretation relative to his abusive father and his best friend add a complex texture to the storyline. Its reemergence at two crucial moments in the climax serves to form a nexus for Trevor's inner and outer conflicts.

Too many novels offer little more than an adrenaline rush that is quickly forgotten. Trevor's Song offers a degree of depth that is truly surprising – like walking along the shore, picking up a mollusk, and finding a beautiful pearl inside.

RJ McDonnell
Rock & Roll Mystery Series
www.rjmcdonnell.com

Stacy Juba says

I read this novel in three days and couldn't put it down. It's so original, about the members of a famous rock band, and gives a behind-the-scenes glimpse into their personal lives. If you've ever wished that just once, you could be a fly on the wall to observe what your favorite celebs are like in person, you'll appreciate this book, a blend of serious situations with light moments. I liked the complex characters and their interactions. By the end of the book, you'll consider the characters friends and wish for more - luckily the author has provided more with her Demo Tapes collections, short stories and outtakes showing the characters at different points in their lives. A great read. I wish this band was real so I could hear their music.

Candy says

I was first introduced to Trevor Wolff a few years back. It didn't take long for me to swoon and dedicated myself to full Trevor Groupie status. He's so dreamy and so hot. I mean, hello! He's Trevor Wolff! So you may be asking yourself, who exactly Trevor Wolff is... Trevor is the brainchild of a friend of mine, Susan H Gottfried. He's the bassist for the hottest fictional rock band in history, Shapeshifter, and he's a bad bad bad boy. And well, that, makes my blood boil very nicely indeed.

Susan has had an interesting marketing idea behind her book. She started a blog called the Meet and Greet where we got to know Trevor and his band mates a bit, read some outtakes and swoon over the Wolff hotness. She then took those blog posts together, gave us an intro to each one and released the Demo Tapes 1 and Demo Tapes 2. It took a LONG time (not that I'm bitter) but we finally, at last, have Trevor's Song. Was it worth the wait?

Oh, heck yeah! What a just plain fun read. It will take you back to the early 80s-90s. And for those of you

sitting there shaking your head, you know you got your Poison on back in the day! Susan takes us for a wild ride through the world of Shapeshifter, making us laugh so hard we cry and learning things about Trevor and his band mates along the way. It's a wild ride, so you want to hang on tight!

It's not all fun, there are a few serious things going on that keep the story moving forward to a climax that left me wanting to hang the author from the nearest clothesline and beat her with a wooden broom until she spilled! The ending will leave you wanting more. I really like my stories to have a very definitive ending. I like to see it all wrapped up in a pretty blue bow and she used a pink one. So, it had an ending, but not 100% complete.

The dialogue is very well done in the book, the characters are believable and the writing is really wonderful. I had a few timeline issues and felt like the story jumped a few times and I missed it, but that I'm chalking that up to the fact that I knew so much about them and their lives beforehand. I've spent 4 years with them, after all. It doesn't seem to be an issue with other reviewers. I mention it just in case others had the issue.

This is a definite must-read for anyone that had a thing for hair bands and just really needs a good fun read. Congrats, Susan!

Grace Krispy says

Trevor Wolff is the vision behind ShapeShifter, the hottest new band. What he lacks in musical talent, he makes up for in attitude. He's a love 'em and leave 'em kind of guy, and he plays life according to his own rules. When his best friend and talented band member, Mitchell, finds the girl of his dreams (Kerri, aka "Rusty"), Trevor is forced to reevaluate his own idea of what it means to be Trevor Wolff. His friendship with Mitchell must change, and he begins to wonder if he's ready for a real relationship himself. With a few potentially life-changing decisions in front of him, Trevor has to dig deep and truly question who he is and what's important to him in order to move forward.

The author, Susan Helene Gottfried, has a background in the music industry, and she's given us an inside look at a band on the edge of stardom. The characters of Trevor, Mitchell, and Kerri are well-defined, with Trevor truly as the star of this story. There are several layers of complexity to Trevor in his feelings and his relationships; he doesn't even really understand himself. Conflicted by memories of a hinted past and uncertainty about his future, Trevor's story is an engaging study of emotional growth. It's Trevor's song that reverberates throughout this story, and the background music of other characters is there only to support and reinforce Trevor's own refrain.

In addition to Trevor's other relationships, a special relationship is implied with Kerri; animosity on the outside, but an unexplainable internal connection. I felt this relationship lacked something to help define it. Perhaps it would have been clearer with more backstory on Kerri that could help explain why they had that special connection. Trevor felt Kerri truly understood him, but I wanted to know more about Kerri to find out why that was. There was also a thread of abuse between Trevor and Mitchell that would benefit from some fleshing out, or it could have been left out entirely. It came up enough to make it seem like a stray thread, but not enough to have it be another facet that helped support and round out what we learn of Trevor's past.

The storyline is complex, and a lot of growth can be seen in Trevor's character. The story is really about Trevor and his need to change and adapt in order to continue, and it's an intriguing tale. I felt the beginning of the book dragged, perhaps offering too much of a foundation for the rest of the story. It really picked up in

the latter half of the book as Trevor's character become more defined and I was more clear on the direction we were headed. I read the first half of the story with some detached interest, but in the second half, I was engaged. There is some ambiguity at the end that is very fitting for the story, and is satisfying in its own way. Even without knowing the outcome of the final action, the reader still understands that it will all work out.

3.5 stars @ MotherLode blog

Dana Griffin says

This is the first novel of Ms. Gottfried's that I've read. But it won't be my last. Her writing style sucked me into the story from the start and kept me glued to the story.

This is the story of Trevor Wolfe, bass player for the heavy metal group Shape Shifter, who is a very narcissistic character. If there is a problem with this story, and this is a minor one, is his attitude for the first half of the story became frustrating and tiring. It seemed Trevor would go to any length to piss off those close to him, without any redeeming characteristics.

When Shape Shifter's lead singer, guitarist, and best friend Mitchell begins dating Kerri, an artist who doesn't take any of Trevor's shit, I initially wondered who'd last the relationship, Kerri, or Trevor.

Here is why Ms. Gottfried's writing was so engaging. Kerri grows on Trevor making him reconsider the relationships he has with Mitchell and the women in his life, and begin his own amorous love, instead of the one night flings he's famous for. Although Trevor goes throughout the book attempting to maintain his adversarial relationship with Kerri, the reader learns how much he respects her and admires her for the person she is, and the wife she became to his best friend.

Ms. Gottfried does an excellent job of making this reader go from disliking Trevor, to caring about him. This change comes about gradually and naturally. Putting the reader so deeply into Trevor's, and occasionally Kerri's head, makes for a very engaging story I had a hard time putting down.

L.B. Clark says

Trevor's Song managed to take me completely by surprise. Trevor himself was the biggest surprise, being one of the most dysfunctional leads I've seen in a book in a long, long time. In the beginning, I didn't even like him. He wasn't what you might call a sympathetic character. But by the time I was halfway through the book, I was ready to shank anyone who so much as looked at him sideways. It was very interesting to watch his character grow and change (even if I sometimes wanted to smack some sense into him).

The characters, dialogue, and storyline are all above average, and Gottfried writes in a smooth, straightforward style. Even the minor characters have quirks and traits that make them stand out, and the major characters are fleshed out fairly well. The dialogue is believable (and often amusing), and the storylines are all compelling enough to keep you reading.

My complaints about this book are very minor ones. One was the way the backstory was handled. Fans who

were introduced to the characters through Gottfried's blog might not have the same issues as I did, but I felt like a little more explication would have been nice in places. I was glad, though, that Trevor's entire backstory wasn't hurled at the reader in one fell swoop. However, I felt a little loss now and again in the first quarter or so of the book. Another thing that added to that 'being lost' feeling in the early part of the book was the lack of anything to mark the passage of time. I didn't notice any reference to the month or seasons or anything, but it's obvious quite a bit of time passes in relatively few pages. This was a little confusing, but not enough to distract from the story. The last 'negative' about this book is that it could use another round of proofreading. I believe that almost every book has at least a few typographical errors, but I would be remiss if I didn't point out that there are a number in this book.

Overall, I enjoyed this book quite a lot. Much more, in fact, than I thought I would when I first began reading it. It was a sometimes fun, sometimes heartbreaking story set against an irresistible backdrop of rock and roll and one of the better indie books I've read.

Tanya says

I picked this up for a few reasons. 1) I am familiar with the author from the bookobsessed forum. 2) It has a music backdrop. 3) It's on my Kindle which I am trying to use more. It took me awhile to get into it. Trevor is such an unlikeable prick of a main character! As I kept reading I started to see that this is part of his defense mechanism and eventually I had more positive feelings towards him. I also liked how some chapters were more focused on Kerri's character as well. It started slow, but the last half I just flew through. I am glad to know that there is more to the story. I am also glad that WOM has gotten this published and I wish her well!

Cindi (cheesygiraffe) says

I LOVE Trevor! Excellent read. I didn't want it to end.

C.S. S Bernhardt says

I won this book in a give away. I am not into heavy metal and the rock scene but I finally got around to reading it. I'm glad I did.

I connected with the characters right away. I could see them and hear them battering with each other. Trevor and Mitchel are best friends then Rusty comes along and it's now Mitchel and Rusty. There were times in the book if I'd been Mitchel I would have slapped Trevor a little harder on the head. As the story progressed I really started liking Rusty and how she handled Trevor.

I did feel at one point that I was tired of hearing all the banter and Trevor whinnying. The book seemed to be stuck in that, then when I was about to put it down it picked up again and I couldn't put it down till I finished it.

I would recommend this book. I enjoyed it and I think the author really let you see the life of a band on the road. I'd give it 4 Stars

