



# The Beauty of Imperfection, The Dick Contino Story

*Leighton W. Brumble, Richard J. Contino*

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This is the official, no-holds-barred autobiography of superstar accordionist, Dick Contino. The words have been transcribed from audio tape by Dick Contino's long-time friend and associate, Corky Bennett. Mr. Bennett also wrote the Forward and a few of the chapters. Dick became famous on the Horace Heidt Youth Opportunity Radio Show in 1948. He won every contest and became the Elvis of his day. He went on to star in movies and television. He created a national, scandalous scene when he missed his induction in the US Army in 1950. He subsequently was sentenced to Federal Prison. Upon release, he was drafted again and served honorably in Korea, entertaining the troops. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant and received a Presidential pardon. He has tried, for years, to explain his army problem and the reasons behind it. There are still many people that do not believe he served his country. Hopefully, this book will convince them, otherwise. The story reveals Dick's strengths and weaknesses. It deals with his extreme phobias, his rise to superstardom, his army situation and consequent fall from grace. It also gives an inside view of his love of family and his eternal mystical quest to understand life and the human mindset. This is a most compelling and intriguing account of how this great man dealt with his weaknesses and problems.

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