Are You Ready for the Country: Elvis, Dylan, Parsons and the Roots of Country Rock

Peter Doggett

The subtitle (Elvis, Dylan, Parsons and the roots of country rock) is ill-fitting and sounds as if it was pasted on by a Penguin editor or marketing drone because books about Dylan and Elvis sell. I also like the fact that Doggett made me reconsider artists I dismissed 30 years ago (such as Michael Nesmith). Â But this pivotal moment is not the platform upon which Peter Doggett bases his groundbreaking study of the dialog between country music and rock music, Are You Ready for the Country. “Are You Ready for the Country?” is a song written by Neil Young and released on his 1972 Harvest album. The track features Young on piano backed by the studio band dubbed The Stray Gators, comprising Jack Nitzsche on slide guitar, Ben Keith on pedal steel guitar, Tim Drummond on bass, and Kenny Buttrey on drums. Backing vocals on the track are by David Crosby and Graham Nash. The recording was made in a studio set up in a barn on Young's ranch.