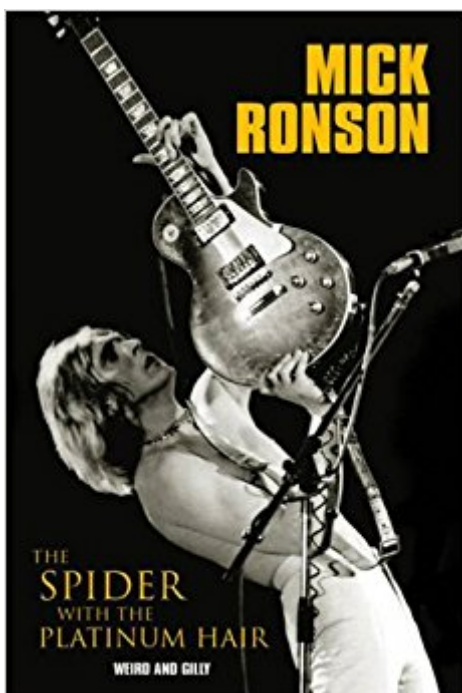


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Mick Ronson: The Spider With The Platinum Hair



Synopsis

Mick Ronson was the guitarist for Ziggy Stardust, but he was also a whole lot more. This biography is crammed with numerous first-hand recollections by those who were closest to him. During the five years it has taken to collate this work, the authors have spoken to over 50 family members, close friends and colleagues including interviews with Suzi Ronson (wife), David and Maggi Ronson (brother and sister), Minnie Ronson (mother), Steve Popovich (manager), Lou Reed, Mick Jones, Ian Hunter, Chrissie Hynde, Glen Matlock, Cherry Vanilla (PR), Steve Harley, Bob Harris, Joe Elliott and a host of others. As a result, the book provides a deeply intimate insight into the life and times of an extraordinarily talented guitarist. A man who was tender and caring off the stage, yet fierce and electrifying on it. Jeff Beck, David Bowie, Ian Hunter and Annette Peacock are just a few of the names that were to become associated with the Mick Ronson legend. He toured with Bob Dylan, played with Mott the Hoople, worked with Lou Reed and produced an impressive number of albums with arresting originality. After losing his battle with cancer, Mick died in the spring of 1993 at the young age of 46. This book is a salute to his remarkable music and legacy.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Independent Music Press (January 27, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0953994236

ISBN-13: 978-0953994236

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #672,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #333 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Pop](#) #1033 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular](#) #1683 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers](#)

Customer Reviews

Let me start by saying that my 3 star review is not a reflection on Mick Ronson or his music - we do love Ronno. I found this book less interesting than I had hoped. The book is clearly a labor of love, but it fails to engage and move the reader the way a Mick Ronson biography deserves. This was partly due to the style of writing: many sections are simply pieces of interviews stitched together

back to front, and there is a tendency to list details without much thought for presentation. The authors fail to present and structure the research material gathered in a moving narrative, instead simply listing their details in a blunt chronological order. Another part of the 'problem' seems to be, from reading the book, that Ronno did not lead a particularly interesting life - the exciting anecdotes are far between, and the bulk of the text consists of a detailed account of what Mick Ronson did at any particular time. A typical section could read something like this: "This month Mick traveled to [insert city] and collaborated on [insert band]'s studio album [name of album], but alas, in the end his contribution was not used although everybody agreed that Mick was a darling to work with. The following month, Mick traveled to [insert city] to jam with [insert musicians] on a project that never materialized - still, everybody agreed they had a swell time with Mick. Next month Mick joined up with [insert musicians] and discussed the possibility of them doing a project together, although [insert circumstances] prevented the project from lifting off. But when interviewed a few years back, [musicians] admitted they had never worked with a nicer guy than Mick. Then Mick..." Ad nauseam... Much reads like a long stream of people remembering how nice Mick was, which I am sure he was but it doesn't make for a very engaging reading. Actually, the book reads a bit like a family saga, not something intended for public consumption. The most interesting stories are in the Spiders chapters, and after that the narrative suffers a bit. The last chapter and a half on the other hand, is heart breaking and quite good; painfully good actually. I came away from reading this book with a strong compassion and love for Ronno; he was probably one of the nicest rock stars there ever was. I just wish his biography was a bit more engaging. The book also made me want to visit Hull... By all means, DO BUY this book. It is a labor of love to which Mick's army of friends and family (particularly his daughter, Lisa) contributes, and they deserve your money. Just don't expect a powerful account of Ronno's life. My best to Micks family and friends.

This is an absolutely amazing book - not least because it's the only one out there devoted to Mick Ronson, an amazing guitarist and - as is made abundantly clear in the book - an amazing person as well. You get a sense of his kindness, warmth, humility, and brilliance. A beautiful person. It's full of stories, recollections, recording details, very comprehensive discography, and more. Anyone interested in Mick will find it a treasure trove of information and a really enjoyable read. Anyone interested in the people he's worked with - Bowie, Ian Hunter, Lou Reed, and a host of other artists - will also find much to enjoy. Can't say enough good about the book. Deserves more than 5 stars.

I agree with the positive reviews on this book. I'm a big Mick Ronson fan and was very discouraged

when I first saw that this book was out of print and several individuals were charging \$60 plus for used copies. I have good news for the Mick Ronson fans out there! The book "IS IN PRINT", updated and available for less than the \$60 plus asking price for used copies. Weird and Gilly have updated "The Spider with the Platinum Hair" and can be ordered from their website. There's also supposed to be a DVD documentary in the making on Mick.

After reading this poorly written tome I am still no closer to knowing anything about who the real Mick Ronson was. While the Authors seem to have a good knowledge of Mick and his life I was always left feeling that they were not going to give us anything other than an outline. Apart from a brief interview with Dale Buffin (drummer in Mott the Hoople) where we see an inkling of Ronson's personality this book really lacks any bite, it is all just too polite and as I said poorly written. We get no sense of anticipation about what is going to happen next and no sense of what I call the need to read. Mick Ronson deserves a better book than this. All in all this is yet another rock book which fails to Rock.

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