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Somebody To Love: The Life, Death And Legacy Of Freddie Mercury



Synopsis

For the first time, the final years of one of the world's most captivating rock showman are laid bare. Including interviews from Freddie Mercury's closest friends in the last years of his life, along with personal photographs, *Somebody to Love* is an authoritative biography of the great man. Here are previously unknown and startling facts about the singer and his life, moving detail on his lifelong search for love and personal fulfilment, and of course his tragic contraction of a then killer disease in the mid-1980s. Woven throughout Freddie's life is the shocking story of how the HIV virus came to hold the world in its grip, was cruelly labelled 'The Gay Plague' and the unwitting few who indirectly infected thousands of men, women and children - Freddie Mercury himself being one of the most famous. The death of this vibrant and spectacularly talented rock star, shook the world of medicine as well as the world of music. *Somebody to Love* finally puts the record straight and pays detailed tribute to the man himself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After reading EVERY book on Freddie I was quite surprised by this one. A very different perspective

including a lot of AIDS info. I enjoyed it.

I remembered when I heard the sad news of Freddie Mercury's death. I was listening to WNEW in NY and at around midnight they played Spread Your Wings, one of my personal favorites from News Of The World. I found it unusual because the song is one of those great sleeper deep track songs that was never a big hit. And it certainly wasn't a song that would be played on a classic rock station in heavy rotation like Killer Queen or Bohemian Rhapsody. Then the DJ on WNEW in New York had announced Freddie's tragic passing from complications resulting from AIDS. It was a stunning announcement to me because although there had been rumors going around for a few years that he was suffering from AIDS, it was hard to believe that it was all true. But then again, you could hear that things were somewhat somber with their last two studio albums The Miracle and Innuendo. Songs like Was It All Worth It, Don't Try So Hard and of course The Show Must Go On were all urgently poignant and are some of Queen's best final moments. It is hard to describe the book without being cliched like writing it is a "must read" or "highly recommended" or "hard to put down" but it is all true. No stone is left unturned and everything discussed in the book is fair game but done with a skillful narrative and I think with a lot of dignity. I won't give out any spoiler alerts but I will say it is one of the best rock biographies I have read. Having said that, go buy it! Also go buy a copy of News of The World! Everyone and their grandmother has heard We Will Rock You and We Are The Champions, so skip over to Spread Your Wings and listen to one of Freddie's best vocal performances!

Overall, it surprised me to find that I enjoyed the weaving of the progress of AIDS and the progress of Mercury's career until they finally came together. The storytelling was well done, with me tearing up multiple times in the last 100 pages as we came closer to Mercury's death. It's truly a shame that the editing of the book was the opposite: poor. Not only could this have been better organized at times, but it was often repetitive in a way that really makes one aware of two authors, and the surface-level proofreading was atrocious with often different names or spellings being given to the same person, or different names for the same song ("Exercises in Free Love" is mistakenly also called "...in True Love" in the same paragraph), all the way to small things like a quotation mark instead of a space being used, missing periods, etc. The biggest of all, of course, is the dust jacket which reads that Mercury died in 1992--offensive mistake by the publisher and editor on a book that actually begins with the man's proper death date on (literally) page one. EDIT: I bought a copy for another Freddie enthusiast as a gift and the dust jacket now has the corrected year. Must have

been first run that has the error.

Interesting read... along with Freddie's life it talks about how we lived the 80's with fear and lack of info about a new disease, now known as HIV/AIDS. It felt personal, as I knew people who died of AIDS when we didn't even know how it got spread and there was no treatment to this terrible disease.

Having no prior knowledge of the rise of AIDS or Freddie Mercury's story, I was hooked. A fascinating and heartbreaking read. It stuck to the facts, while telling an interesting story - hard to do, but the authors nailed it. Would recommend for sure.

I grew up in the 80's so while I heard a lot about AIDS I didn't understand it. This biography takes Freddie Mercury's life and brings it into context with the AIDS epidemic, but maintains its pace and kept me interested.

I got this as a Christmas gift for my younger sister who absolutely adores Freddie Mercury and she LOVES it! The book itself is very beautiful in person and there are some great pictures of Freddie included in the book that I've never seen before! I'm very happy with this purchase, and so is my sister!

I was very pleased with my order. My order arrived in a timely manner. I got this for a friend. I think my friend will enjoy reading it.

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