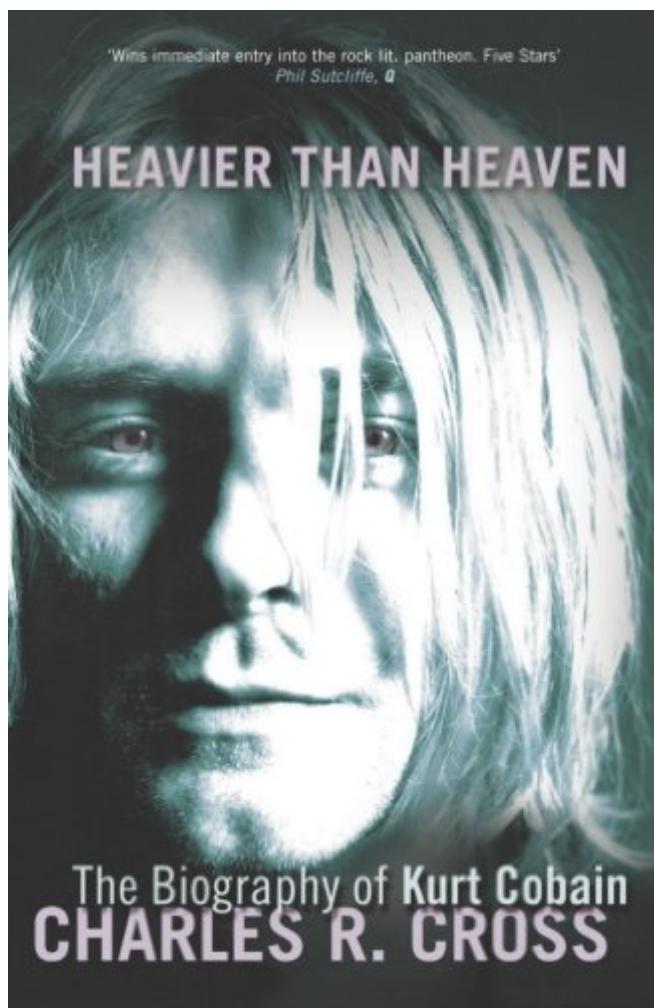


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Heavier Than Heaven: The Biography Of Kurt Cobain (Sceptre 21's)



Synopsis

Alongside the death of Elvis Presley and the assassination of John Lennon, Kurt Cobain's suicide in 1994 ranks as one of the generational milestones of American life - an epochal event in both rock 'n' roll and youth culture. This book is the story of Kurt Cobain's life, from abject poverty to unbelievable wealth, power and fame. It traces the journey from his humble origins in Aberdeen to becoming lead singer of Nirvana, the most popular rock band in the world from 1991 to 1994, and the most influential band of this decade. The beautifully written text is complimented by 16 pages of photographs. Based on over one hundred interviews, Charles Cross allows us to understand Kurt Cobain's personality. This is an incredible tale of a strange, tortured and very talented man.

Book Information

File Size: 1020 KB

Print Length: 400 pages

Publisher: Sceptre; New Ed edition (November 22, 2012)

Publication Date: November 22, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B009W32WR0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #138,388 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Composers & Musicians > Punk Rock #43 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Punk #130 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rock

Customer Reviews

Reads like a mediocre rock magazine. Lots of purple prose and cliches. If you're looking for a work of scholarship on Cobain this is not the place to go.

Very good book! Learned much on a subject that I thought I KNEW much about. I was around when it all happened. Great but ultimately sad. Highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn

more about Kurt! Very happy customer!

Bought this for a girlfriend who is in a state prison. Already bought her journals & montage of heck. She is a fan of Nirvana & loved this book.

This is a comprehensive and definitive biography of Kurt Cobain, the sensitive, conflicted and brilliant leader of the band Nirvana, chronicling his 27 year life in intimate detail from the psychological to the financial aided by the author's extensive research conducted in the Pacific Northwest where he interviewed a large number of people who crossed paths with his subject. Cobain was an incredibly talented musician whose message and music reached millions but he was also a fascinating person who came from an obscure logging community, grew up in a broken home, and was afflicted by an addiction to drugs. Cross admirably dispels the myths about Cobain, many of which were spread by Cobain himself, like the story of him living under a bridge, or the accidental nature of Nirvana's success, but in getting to the truth Cross only makes Cobain that much more fascinating as a subject for this biography as he lays bare the contradictions of Cobain's personality and the way he presented himself and was depicted by the media. The book builds up to a minute by minute account of Cobain's last days and a description of the vigil and funerals that followed his death in April of 1994. It was a media sensation at the time, characterized as the funeral for the spokesman of Generation X, but Cross presents an intimate behind-the-scenes description of the way it affected Kurt's family, adding new details from his research, and he avoids describing its cultural importance, focusing instead on the personal details that make this such a rich and informative biography while leaving it to Nirvana's manager to hint at the great impact Cobain had outside of the small town he came from with this quote: "Kurt came from a town that no one had ever heard of, and he went on to change the world." With thorough research and great psychological depth this biography proves worthy of its subject, one of the greatest rock musicians of all time. Kurt Cobain left an astounding musical legacy and this biography is essential reading for anyone wishing to understand where he came from and what he means.

Excellent book, fast shipping, book arrived undamaged

This book gave a great insight into the troubled soul of Kurt Cobain. I found it very revealing, funny

at times but mostly sad. It's hard to imagine that someone with so much talent could have that much internal conflict and pain. The authors take on Kurt's relationship with Courtney Love gave me a newfound respect for her. She really seemed to work her ass off to get him clean while continuing to battle her own demon's. Great read!!

I need to have a good cry - finishing this book about ten minutes ago. The writing is fairly straightforward: this is the story of a man who most of us knew as a musical genius; someone who made the world better because he made music that was better and a rising tide lifts all boats. But Kurt Cobain wasn't a rising tide; he was someone who wanted to end the pain in his body (and I think that chronic pain really did make living ALMOST - but not quite - unbearable .) and end the pain of having to navigate through life. It's strange. In most accounts of famous people who died badly, there is at least - usually- a small part of their life when their fame, or their new found financial security or an exciting love affair or a much wanted child - serves as an oasis for the reader. No matter the end, we could see the interlude where the person "had Paris." But what amazed me was Kurt's almost uninterrupted death march. There are a few happy moments with Courtney and Francis; a very few good times playing and creating; and of course those first seven or so years before the Cobain's (Kurt's parents) split and most of the sickness in both sides of the family was given free reign to poison what was good or pleasurable. But it's all the same. The crappiness of Kurt's life from seven to early twenties - before fame - was just startling in its crappiness. But his life after becoming KURT COBAIN - really wasn't that different. Cobain spent a lot of time in pain, using, living in filth, alienating any one who tried to come near - before and after . So Kurt was doomed. He did have the suicide gene and that 's just a legacy so sad I can't even write about it. But what's even sadder is that when we learned the world lost Kurt - he had been gone for years. He was already lost. (And he took Courtney , who he loved, down with him. Good luck to you Frances.) This is a very well written book and I think I started to say - the writing is pretty straightforward, but every once in a while, especially toward's the end, you can see the author was very emotionally affected by the experienc of writing the book. That he lets his feelings peek out from the research only occasionally make it very very affecting when he does.

I have always been a fan of Dave Grohl but never really into Nirvana. Then we moved to Seattle and visited the EMP museum and I decided to read up more on Cobain, someone I thought was greatly overrated. The book is raw and emotional. The author did an amazing job with research and interviews. I actually found myself crying at the end. Dave wasn't mentioned very much in this book,

however the friendship between Kurt and Krist was highlighted a lot and I have so much respect for Krist and his musical abilities. I definitely have been listening to Nirvana a lot more since reading and listening more to the lyrics than the sound because of this book. I plan on buying the physical copy, which I only do when I really enjoy the book. I recommend even if you aren't a fan. I wasn't, but now I have a better understanding of who Kurt is.

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