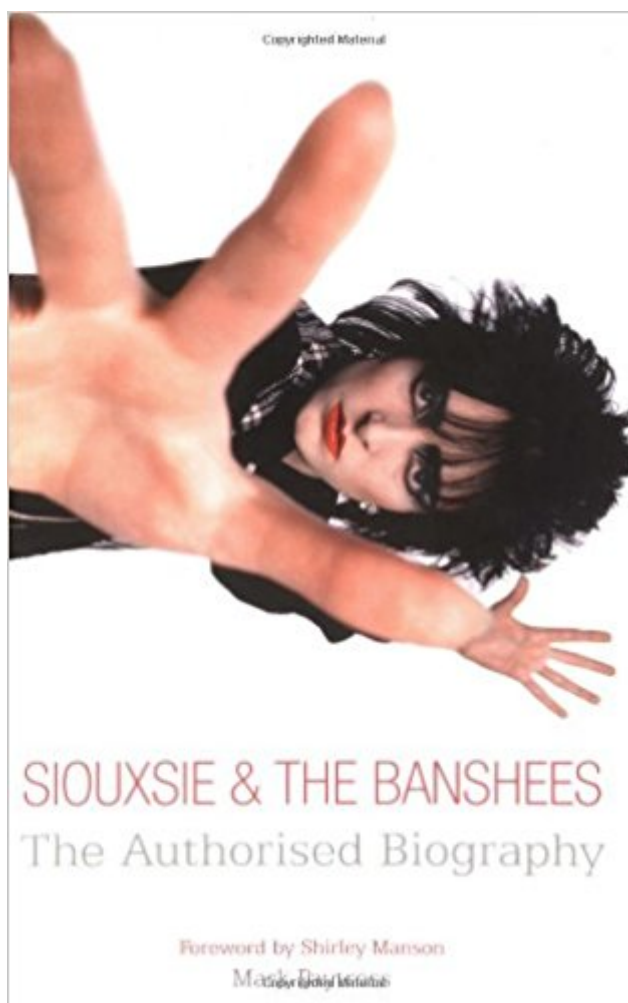


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Siouxsie And The Banshees: The Authorised Biography



Synopsis

This official biography documents Siouxsie and the Banshees' unsteady birth through their creative height with 1993's *Superstition* album and their split in 1996. Now reformed, they are launching their *Best Of...* album in 2002. The book features exclusive interviews and photos and is written by personal friend and journalist Paul Mather, from London.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have loved Siouxsie and the Banshees since discovering them in high school, so of course I was eager to read this book when I heard it was coming out. After reading it, I have to say that it wasn't as enjoyable as I thought it would be. The reason for my discontent lies in the fact that, maybe unlike a lot of fans, I am less interested in reading about the making of the music, i.e. the mechanics of the songwriting, which instruments they used, which producers, etc, than I am in reading about their lives as people, their personalities, their likes and dislikes, their personal lives, what drove them to become who they are, stuff like that. This book contained a little of that in the early chapters discussing the Banshees' biographical information and a little later on, but most of the rest of the book contained lots and lots of info on stuff that I found I didn't really care about. It is not that I am completely disinterested in the nuts and bolts of the music, all the moving around, and all the shows they played, but I found that after I finished the book (and I had to push myself to keep reading as I regularly found myself lost in trying to remember which producer was which and so on), I felt that I didn't really "know" Siouxsie any better than I did at the beginning. To me, she has always

represented the ultimate punk ice queen, visually stunning yet unapproachable, unattainable, and, yes, cold. Even as a fan, I always felt that she was someone that I could not really relate to although I thought her musical output was genius and I admired her. I was hoping this book would change my mind about that and paint a more complete picture of who she is, but it didn't really (basically, I'm saying that I always hoped that she would turn out to be more than the super haughty b@#\$% she always made sure we believed she was). I wanted more about her, less about the band, and I didn't care for the "oral history" writing style with the snippets from interviews pasted together. The pictures also left a lot to be desired.

I have a casual interest in Siouxsie and the Banshees and recently decided to add their 'best of' to my CD collection. On a whim I decided to get this biography to find out the stories behind some excellent songs. I must say how impressed I was with what I learned about the band and the personalities within. I can sum it all up by saying it's a story of chance, hard work, an over-whelming desire to be different, drinking, a seemingly never ending succession of guitar players, more drinking, some drugs, persistence and artistic integrity. With more drinking! Starting from a point of not even knowing how to play their instruments right through to crafting some song arrangements which are quite exquisite, Siouxsie and the crew really made their mark. This book delivers a blunt and to-the-point account of how they managed it. A very interesting read for anyone whose single buying years started in the late 70s and who has an interest in the late punk/new wave/pop genre.

Siouxsie and the Banshees tells you like it is. Period. They talk about everything from their childhood, drugs, alcohol, traumatic experiences, etc in such vivid detail that you literally feel like you are experiencing it! I think all books about celebrities should be just like this: straight to the point and honest! However, Siouxsie and the Banshees draw you in with their colorful way of speaking.....and believe me, their life will be stuck in your head.....no, seriously.GET THE BOOK!!!!

a must have for siouxsie fans

I just finished this and I enjoyed it immensely. Yes, there could have been more pictures, or color pictures, but the "dish" was terrific. Written in interview snippets with band members, associates and friends, you get a clear picture of what was actually going on with the band and behind the scenes while we were all busily worshiping Siouxsie. I learned plenty from things I must have missed reading up on since first stumbling upon the Arabian Knights video around 1981, up to and including

their sad break up in 1995...Who knew that behind Robert Smith's back he was unaffectionately referred to as "Fat Bob," or that PEEPSHOW was fueled most specifically by cocaine, that FEAST was hammered out in two weeks, that Siouxsie ruled the band with an iron fist (well, you HAD to know that). I still worship the music, but now I appreciate the humans who created it, whiny and childish as they seemed at times. It's a great read, I love Siouxsie's occasional foul mouth and the fact that she had the audacity to have been photographed for the cover of the book in a Burberry blouse. And you'll have fun at the end of the book highlighting all the gigs you actually saw and horrified at how many you allowed yourself to miss. (Discography and extensive index included)

Best book ever!

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