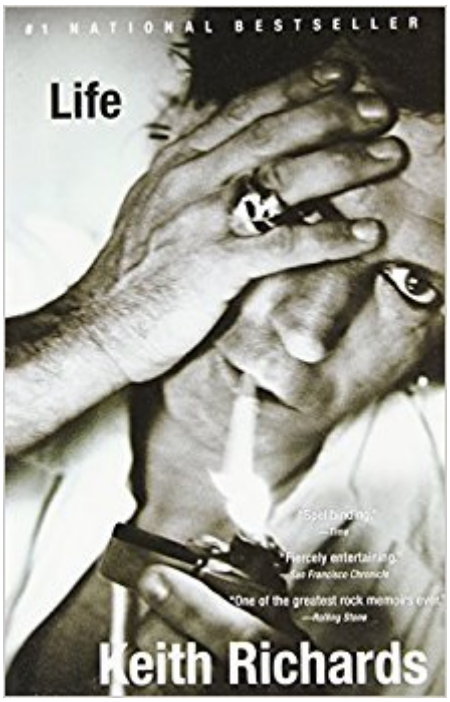
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Life



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Synopsis

The long-awaited autobiography of the guitarist, songwriter, singer, and founding member of the Rolling Stones. Ladies and gentlemen: Keith Richards.With The Rolling Stones, Keith Richards created the songs that roused the world, and he lived the original rock and roll life. Now, at last, the man himself tells his story of life in the crossfire hurricane. Listening obsessively to Chuck Berry and Muddy Waters records, learning guitar and forming a band with Mick Jagger and Brian Jones. The Rolling Stones’s first fame and the notorious drug busts that led to his enduring image as an outlaw folk hero. Creating immortal riffs like the ones in "Jumping Jack Flash" and "Honky Tonk Women." His relationship with Anita Pallenberg and the death of Brian Jones. Tax exile in France, wildfire tours of the U.S., isolation and addiction. Falling in love with Patti Hansen. Estrangement from Jagger and subsequent reconciliation. Marriage, family, solo albums and Xpensive Winos, and the road that goes on forever.With his trademark disarming honesty, Keith Richard brings us the story of a life we have all longed to know more of, unfettered, fearless, and true.

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Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, November 2010: It’s hard to imagine a celebrity memoir--or any memoir for that matter--that is as easy to drink in (so to speak) as Keith Richards’s Life. Die-hard Stones fans will love tales of the band’s ascension from the "interval" band at the Marquee to the headliners at Super Bowl XL; guitar gearheads will scramble to sample the one lick that has eluded Richards for 49 years; and historians and romantics alike will swoon over the raspy, rambling, raucous detail of this portrait of the artist in situ. Yes, some tales are told, but Life is refreshingly not gossipy,

mean-spirited, or sordid--or at least not more than the truth demands. Richards is as comfortable in his bones as a worn pair of boots, and Life captures the rhythm of his voice so effortlessly that reading his tale is like sharing a pint with an old friend--one who happens to be one of the most iconic guitarists of all time. --Daphne Durham --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Johnny Depp and Joe Hurley capture Richards's rock 'n' roll spirit in a wise, charming, and textured narration of the famed guitarist's memoir. Tracing Richards's trajectory from boyhood in England through the formation of the Stones to the band's rise to world domination, this audiobook is chock-full of frank revelations and enlightening stories behind the music. The three readers do superb turnsÃ¢â ¬â •but the seemingly arbitrary switches between them can be jarring and confusing. Depp's narration is steady, well-paced, clear, and grounded. He produces a delicious range of voices for dialogue (most notably a drunk judge in Arkansas), and Richards himself sounds a bit like an elderly, bluesy Jack Sparrow. Hurley captures the voice of Richards throughout, narrating in a gritty, growl that is spot-on. And sections read by Richards are a real treat; his raspy voice is unmistakable and haunting. A Little, Brown hardcover. (Oct.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I couldn't put this book down! Keith bares all in this book, his soul, his life,loves and passions. You want to know everything there is to know about Keith Richards? Well this is the book for you! To add an extra layer tot eh reading experience I made sure to play music that was referenced int he book while I read. It definitely opened my eyes up to many more musicians including more of the Stones' catalog that I never bothered with before. If you are a Stones fan or just want to know more about the man the myth and the legend that is Keith Richards, don't hesitate. If you are a hardcore fan of the Stones and of Keith some of this may seem repetitive. I could tell after reading this book and then watching the Keith Richards documentary Under the Influence that many stories get repeated over and over. He tells many of the same stories in interviews and documentaries. But they never really change which leads me to believe that they were true and they really happened. But this book definitely gives more insight into the whole story and what went on behind the scenes. I really enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone who wants to get to know Keith and what made him the man he is today.

I am Johnny Depp fan, but he should not have been tapped to read this. The book is great, Keith is in top form, great writing. His memory is lucid and his prose throbs with heart, but Johnny

Depp...Johnny Johnny Johnny...t he is way out of his league here. He reads Kieth's story in one monotone, never varies (the same tone Johnny seems to reserve for all his readings of serious and influential rebel artists (aka Jack Kerouac) he never enunciates his words. It gets so bad that I have my speakers full blast struggling to hear consonants! Doesn't he know that there's no camera to show us his lips? His voice has to be everything, meanwhile he's doing that screen acting thing where he doesn't want it to be overdone, but he waaaay underdoes it. When he reads Keith's quotes in the voice of Jack Sparrow I get annoyed. I am completely aware that Keith was the model for Captain Jack but I think Johnny underestimates how distracting that voice can be from the material. Jack Sparrow brings its own goofy and quite famous context I can't get out of my mind and this is supposed to be about KIETH KIETH KIETH delving deeper than just JD's impression of him.Oh well, I can blow til I'm blue in the face but Johnny will probably help sell a few more copies, which is all for the best since the book itself, as I've said is quite a delightful trip down memory lane with a man who paved the way for everything that followed.I'll also mention that when I preordered the audiobook I only did so because it was advertised that Keith would be reading this himself. What a disappointment. Now I realize that Keith Richards could never have sat in a studio and read this entire book...oh well. Keith does a nifty intro and there's even a Stones guitar sound bite, which is cool. I love hearing keith talk about making music. So inspirational. I could have done it without the Depp. Sorry Johnny.(*****The following is an update to the previous review)Since I've begun listening to this audiobook something interesting happened: they switched readers mid-stream. Somewhere after the third disc JOHNNY IS REPLACED!~ The good news is that he is replaced with someone who not only is British but does a wonderfully inflective impression of Keith throughout the rest of the discs. I don't know who this bloke is but he is right on the money. I don't know if this was preplanned or if Johnny didn't have the stamina (not that I could blame him, this is a loooong book) but this other guy who steps in to read the rest is clearly up to the task. He is clearly a theatre or voice actor has a dynamic reflective reading voice that captures the cadence of Keith's speech perfectly - he also switches characters and accents quite well. Excellent stuff!

It appears Keith Richards remembers everything even many of the events from his drugged out years or, perhaps, he had a bit of help in that department (he does, after all, allow those who experienced some of the same events to comment on them as well). Either way LIFE gives us a good overview of the creation, rise to fame and iconic stature of The Rolling Stones as well as Richards' own solo brief solo career.Exhaustively covering his childhood and the early years of the band (including the Stones main "rivals" The Beatles in some sections), the only flaw of the book is

a lack of details about the recording of many of the band's classic albums. I would have liked more details on Richards' songwriting collaboration with Mick Jagger although he does give us interesting tidbits (such as the fact that Mick wrote "Brown Sugar" by himself and that the duo would both work together and apart much like Lennon & McCartney did but would still credit the composition to both wriers).Richards doesn't withhold any criticism in his biography; he can be at turns complimentary and harsh in his assessment of his peers including Mick Jagger in his discussion of his Stones partner's solo career. He also gives a pretty blunt assessment of his own struggle with drug addiction and the descent into drug addiction of band member Brian Jones. I find it incredible that Richards claims to still have no idea why Mick Taylor left the band (did he ever ask him particularly when Taylor guested on one of his solo albums?)and his recollection of a drugged out roadtrip that he and John Lennon made has never been documented anywhere else that I can recall but is a pretty interesting story.He also discusses the writing of some key Stones songs including "As Tears Go By" (which is often incorrectly seen as being inspired by "Yesterday"--it was recorded before McCartney's ballad by Marianne Faithful although the Stones may have been inspired to record it and the arrangement of the string parts may have been influenced by the success of McCartney's ballad there's little the two have in common in terms of their structure), "(I Can't Get No)Satisfaction" and "Wild Horses" (Keith states early on that he could tell that Marianne Faithful had a hand in the writing of the lyrics as he states that many of the lyrics didn't sound like something Mick would write).Although flawed a bit by not giving us more information about the writing/recording of many key Stones classic albums, LIFE manages to be both a candid and vivid account of Richards' charmed (and sometimes cursed)life as a celebrity and musician. Recommended.

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