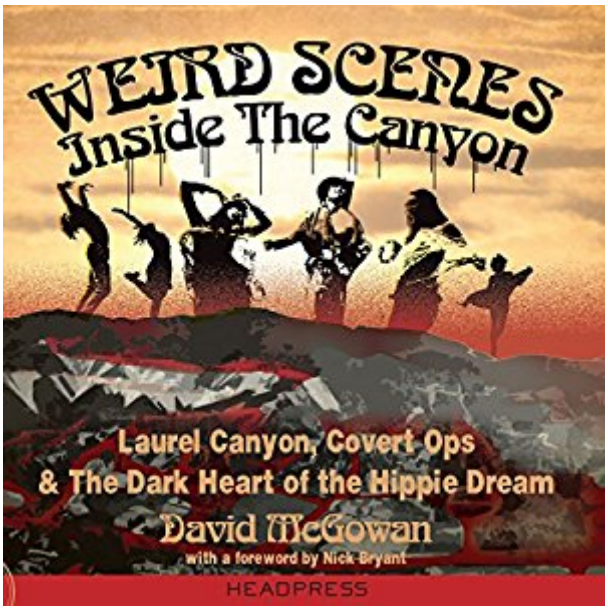
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Weird Scenes Inside The Canyon: Laurel Canyon, Covert Ops, And The Dark Heart Of The Hippie Dream



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Synopsis

The very strange but nevertheless true story of the dark underbelly of a 1960s hippie utopia. Laurel Canyon in the 1960s and early 1970s was a magical place where a dizzying array of musical artists congregated to create much of the music that provided the soundtrack to those turbulent times. Members of bands like the Byrds, the Doors, Buffalo Springfield, the Monkees, the Beach Boys, the Turtles, the Eagles, the Flying Burrito Brothers, Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, Steppenwolf, CSN, Three Dog Night, and Love, along with such singer/songwriters as Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, James Taylor, and Carole King, lived together and jammed together in the bucolic community nestled in the Hollywood Hills. But there was a dark side to that scene as well. Many didn’t make it out alive, and many of those deaths remain shrouded in mystery to this day. Far more integrated into the scene than most would like to admit was a guy by the name of Charles Manson, along with his murderous entourage. Also floating about the periphery were various political operatives, up-and-coming politicians, and intelligence personnel - the same sort of people who gave birth to many of the rock stars populating the canyon. And all the canyon’s colorful characters - rock stars, hippies, murderers, and politicos - happily coexisted alongside a covert military installation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Does our Government control our thoughts and future direction of our country through our kids and their music? Dave McGowan explores the possibilities in this book written in a fast read way with

short chapters that get to the point.The key players are the C.I.A. and U.S.Military using what seems to be Mind Control tactics on the Musicians and their messages in the songs, all the odd connections with Hollywood actors Drug dealers and Satanic Cults and Serial Murderers,some of the connections are astounding going back to original settlers, signers of the Constitution and of course Mr.Crowley along with World leaders and Pedophiles.Dave’s irreverence and sarcastic wit is much appreciated as these people are either drug addled or deranged or both.Some interesting facts in the book are,F.B.I. Director Hoover and his pal Tolson would visit Laurel Canyon resident Billy Bryers a known male madam and producer of Child and Gay Pornography,Rolling Stones Altimont speedway concert was Satanic Sacrifice and Houdini was a spy, all in all a great read with disturbing ramifications for us all.

Hey hey my my, more to the picture than meets the eye. Okay. Arson, murder and suicide and other mysteries in the entertainment capitol along with coincidental ties to the intelligence community. Sounds like Anywhere U.S.A. Actually, I did hear that if Jerry Garcia had given the word, all hell could have broken loose. Bear in mind that the majority of those who dropped out during Viet Nam were too busy smelling flowers and smoking them to get politically involved. I will admit that that could have been a conspiracy put in play by the intelligence community to keep us all complacent with drugs sex and rock and roll. The author has done a lot of research but I failed to find the smoking gun (no pun) unless it was Mr. Stills and whether or not he did serve in Viet Nam. I will admit that is a scary thought but he never did seem to me to be a stoned "peacenik". I think he was more into his music than politics and after all, isn’t that how it should be. Alright, I understand that music is a potent social media that can be used to sway attitudes but really, isn’t music still under the providence of the people as the people decide what they want to hear. Mr. McGowan should really have considered that aspect, it would have made for a much more interesting read. Especially as the artists themselves claim for the most part that "they don’t know where their songs come from. As it is, McGowan;s book seems to get bogged down in all of his research. He constantly digresses from the points he’s trying to make. Whether this is intentional or not it seems that McGowan expects the reader to draw the same conclusions that he has. He makes a strong case but the evidence in the end is all circumstantial. Or is it? I would recommend this as a read because ultimately the questions raised by McGowan are important and do need to considered and discussed. As the line from the song says, "Every thing you do think or say is in the pill you took today."

The late Dave McGowan, better known for his hard nosed investigations into serial killers (Programmed to Kill); mainstream media's pro-corporate slant (Derailing Democracy) and the right wing bias of the corporations that seem to run our lives (Understanding the F-Word); wandered far from his usual subjects with this final book. However, his musings on the degree to which the artists who populated Laurel Canyon from the mid 1960s through the early 1980s claimed that so many events in the history of that canyon were just weird coincidences leads the reader to believe that maybe some unseen hand was behind the rise of Southern California as the center of music industry as well as film and television. And McGowan being McGowan, he rather subjectively and amusingly posits that that unseen hand might be the same National Security/Corporate spook community he spent so much time documenting in his earlier works.If McGowan doesn't cite authoritative sources or present enough evidence to convince a jury, he at least leads the reader on an interesting journey and asks a lot of questions that could be grounds for further research. Many of the stories retold in Weird Scenes Inside the Canyon seem to flesh out the wilder musings from the mind of conspiracy theorist Mae Brussell regarding the entire counterculture being some kind of plot to derail the antiwar movement and channel the kids into dropping acid instead of changing the political and economic system.Most of the chapters in this book started off as musings on McGowan's website, but have been much more fleshed out and better edited here, although the lack of photos is a bit of a letdown. However, the number of wild stories, unexplained deaths passed off as suicides and weirder, spookier stuff make it worth the price of this book. Some recurring themes include questions about how many 60s rock stars seemed to have very sudden outbursts of creativity then faded, were backed by professional musicians for studio recordings; and also about how many of them had backgrounds in the military, law enforcement or intelligence. Some of the key players who come under scrutiny include John Phillips, David Crosby, the Manson family, Stephen Stills, Neil Young, Frank Zappa, Gram Parsons, Harry Houdini(!) and even Arthur Lee. Let's just say the chapters on John Phillips and Houdini are nauseating exposes of creepy stuff that will change your opinions on those men for some time after you read this book. After reading this book, you will never feel the same way driving through that canyon, ever again.

Five stars is a bit of a stretch, except that the author makes the point (both directly and obliquely) that the counter culture of the '60s and '70s was funded and prolonged by people who wanted the Baby Boomers to be distrustful, cynical nincompoops.Many of my friends who, at one time could think sequentially, no longer do so. The result is the current Workers' Paradise. If it was engineered, it was pure genius.

Jaw-dropping. You will never look at your musical heroes or the whole hippie movement the same way again. It was not a grass-roots movement. It was all orchestrated from day 1.

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