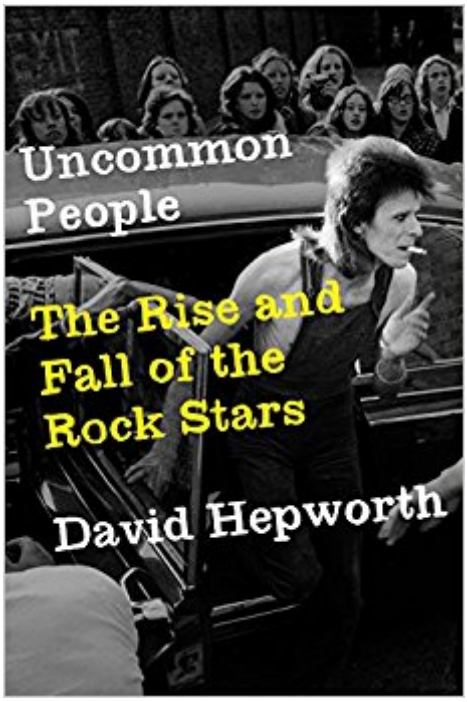
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Uncommon People: The Rise And Fall Of The Rock Stars



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Synopsis

An elegy to the age of the Rock Star, featuring Chuck Berry, Elvis, Madonna, Bowie, Prince, and more, uncommon people whose lives were transformed by rock and who, in turn, shaped our cultureRecklessness, thy name is rock.The age of the rock star, like the age of the cowboy, has passed. Like the cowboy, the idea of the rock star lives on in our imaginations. What did we see in them? Swagger. Recklessness. Sexual charisma. Damn-the-torpedoes self-belief. A certain way of carrying themselves. Good hair. Interesting shoes. Talent we wished we had. What did we want of them? To be larger than life but also like us. To live out their songs. To stay young forever. No wonder many didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t stay the course.In Uncommon People, David Hepworth zeroes in on defining moments and turning points in the lives of forty rock stars from 1955 to 1995, taking us on a journey to burst a hundred myths and create a hundred more.As this tribe of uniquely motivated nobodies went about turning themselves into the ultimate somebodies, they also shaped us, our real lives and our fantasies. Uncommon People isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t just their story. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ours as well.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Hepworth is a music journalist, writer, and publishing industry analyst who has launched several successful British magazines. He presented the definitive BBC rock music program Whistle Test and anchored the coverage of Live Aid in ’85. He has won Editor and Writer of the Year awards from the Professional Publishers Association and the Mark Boxer Award from the British Society of Magazine Editors. He is the radio columnist for the Guardian and a media correspondent for the

newspaper, and the author of Never a Dull Moment.

In this celebration of the rock star, David Hepworth takes us from 1955 to 1995, with every year revolving around one particular story. We begin, in 1955, with Little Richard recording, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Tutti Frutti,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• after the lyrics have been cleaned up for airplay suitability by waitress, and aspiring songwriter, Dorothy LaBostrie. Indeed, often, it is the minor characters revolving around the main artist that are the most interesting (such as The Rolling Stones Ian Stewart) and Hepworth has a way of celebrating music, and of fans reactions to it, that show how important it really is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ and why. Each year also has a playlist of ten songs, meaning this is a book to revel in and giving you an excuse to dig out those tracks you may not have listened to in a while.From John Lennon meeting Paul McCartney at Woolton Village Fete, to Jerry Lee Lewis arriving in London with his teenage bride, the brilliance of the Beatles replacing Pete Best with Ringo Starr, David Bowie retiring Ziggy Stardust, Prince re-branding himself, Bruce Springsteen recording ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Born to Run,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and more, this is a delight to dip into and discover new things. For, even if you are a massive music fan, you probably wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know all the stories in this book and, even if you do, they are so well written ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ full of sly humour, and stories of astounding excess of rock stars on tour, that you will be glued to the pages.At the end of this book, Hepworth concludes with the rise of the internet, the changing face of music and how it is listened to. He argues that these stories cannot happen again, just because of the intrusive nature of social media. In many ways he is right. Bands could never get away with the madness that bands got away with in the Seventies on tour. Bob Dylan could not arrive in New York in 1961 and simply invent himself a back story that would be accepted and believed. Some of the mystique has gone, but the music remains. Hepworth also urges us to see those rock stars who have survived the madness and carried on, for he believes they will not be replaced. I agree and enjoyed this wonderful celebration of the Golden Years of rock and roll through moments in various artists lives very much. I must now go back and read, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“1971ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• by the same author, which has lingered unread on my kindle for far too long.

A great study of rockstars as a tribe, and how we want to see them.Super anecdotes from a master raconteur and fan.

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