Welcome To Erotic City, Go Uptown, Get On Alphabet St & Enter Paisley Park

Few artists have accomplished what Prince Rogers Nelson has: he has topped the R&B, pop, and dance charts; he has overwhelmed musicians and critics with his seemingly endless wealth of talent; he has outraged; and he has inspired. Using sources unavailable to others, author Alex Hahn has created a page-turning biography/pop culture history/work of musical scholarship on one of the most dynamic, talented, and controversial performers ever to don backless pants on national television. Hahn unveils the psychology of this tortured, messianic musician whose ceaseless reinventions have at times rendered him a profoundly original artist, while at other times threatened to become a mockery of himself and his music. Recollections and opinions from friends, employees, and industry insiders place readers right in the middle of some of Princes most awe-inspiring recording and songwriting sessions. They also relate countless and sometimes shocking details about Princes most publicized relationships (with Kim Basinger, Carmen Electra, Vanity, and many, many more); reveal how Prince allegedly plagiarized band members musical
ideas; and explain why he has become such an isolated figure with a compulsion for total control. The most up-to-date, full-scale biography of the performer available, Possessed: The Rise and Fall of Prince is a whirlwind of a read that celebrates the artist and examines the man; its a mesmerizing biography certain to leave readers breathless.

I'm not really a fan of Prince. But ever since Michael Jackson died I felt the need to relive the popcultural wallpaper of the eighties. Wether I liked the guy or not- I allways thought he was a kind of freak - he was there when I grew to adulthood. So that's why I decided to look for a good Prince biography. According to my google research, this book is one of the best. And I must say, I'm not sorry I bought it. The portrait that is painted about Prince is one of a very ambitious, talented guy who is it's own worst enemy. So he was a jerk. Probably it's true that he didn't give people the credits for contributing to his work.

I can't listen to Kiss without thinking about some poor drummer - and also some other guy whose name I can't remember- who doesn't get his royalties for this commercially very succesful song. And one of the few Prince songs that moved me "Sometimes it Snows in April", according to the book Wendy and Lisa did a substantial part of the co-writing and Prince also ripped them of any credit (and thus royalties, I guess).

It could be that a big part of this book is "hear, say", maybe slander. But it doesn't take away the fact that it is a very enjoyable if you like interesting, multi layered characters.

And if even only 10% of the book is true, Prince is major, royal A-hole. But a lovable A-hole. Because he lived for his art. He is indeed the classical American hero. Severely flawed, but sympathetic in his authentic drive to beat his past, racial and social barriers.

And in his cravings to create, he was willing to sell his soul and happiness for that.

The part of the death of his baby and his denial was especially tragic and one may ask himself what kind of identity disorder Prince is suffering from. But then again, I never lost a child so I don't know what kind of madness people who do, have to deal with. And isn't it true that most geniuses are indeed a bit crazy, self centered, anti social?

I can only hope that in the future there will be another biography of Prince. How will he survive his midlife crisis in a world that is now dominated by American Idol and mediocre lipsyncing musical poseurs and reality stars? His recent sue-happy actions on You Tube and other legal actions point out to the possibility that he's a grumpy old man. But I do hope that he will find hapiness: before you know it, life is over. We already lost too much icons in the 2009 Summer of Death.

So Prince, stay alive for some time, please grow up and be happy.

After all, there is a second act in American Life.

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