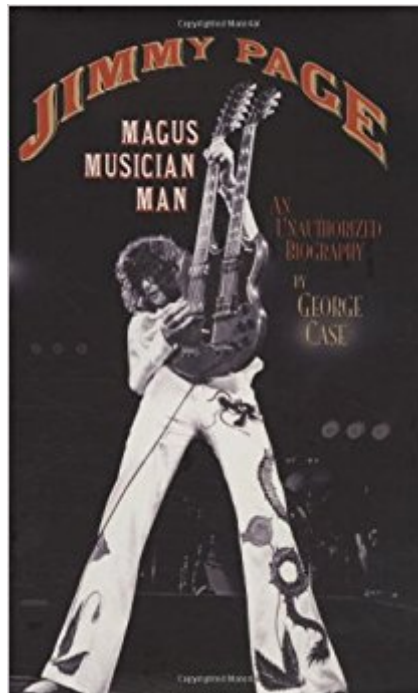




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Jimmy Page: Magus, Musician, Man: An Unauthorized Biography



Synopsis

Jimmy Page - Magus, Musician, Man is a meticulously researched life story of Led Zeppelin's legendary guitarist and producer. From his childhood in war-torn Britain and his pivotal role in the recording studios that launched the British Invasion of the '60s to his milestone achievements, his dark, nefarious excesses with Led Zeppelin, and his emergence as a revered cultural icon and honored philanthropist, this biography - the first ever written about Jimmy Page - portrays all his spiritual, artistic, and personal dimensions. Swinging London, the Sunset Strip, Bron-yr-Aur, Kashmir, and Clarksdale: Magus, Musician, Man traverses through all of Page's hallowed stomping grounds and tells, at last, the complete story of one of rock 'n' roll's most enigmatic and influential talents.

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Customer Reviews

As long as there are teenage boys in the world, there will be an audience for Led Zeppelin, the '70s-era hard rock legend whose "Stairway to Heaven" is still one of the most-ever-played songs in the history of American FM radio. Jimmy Page was the mastermind of the Zeppelin juggernaut, and as one of the three most influential British rock guitarists of the late '60s, he certainly deserves Case's detailed and informed look at his past and present work. In this unauthorized biography, freelance writer Case focuses on Page's music as much as he does on Zeppelin's lurid touring lifestyle, and he is good at reporting Page's early work playing on countless recording sessions (ranging from Tom Jones's "It's Not Unusual" to the Kinks' "You Really Got Me"), as well as detailing

the formation of Zeppelin, where Page combined his blues-based rock with singer Robert Plant's "soaring tenor moan" to create a radically new sound. While his enthusiasm sometimes overwhelms his writing ("The Teutonic implications of the airship's family surname invested a gothic sensibility to the ensemble's work"), Case successfully shows how Page and his Zeppelin's musical influence became "so broad and so established that even players who had never consciously emulated his techniques had been affected by them." (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Case's book reminds me why I fell in love with Led Zeppelin in the first place. --Robert J. Wiersema, Vancouver Sun
There is great depth here...Case particularly shines when he recounts the creation of Led Zeppelin and the music that influenced so many. --Tyler Langness, Paste magazine
Deftly synthesizes the extant material on Page...Long on entertainment value...always readable --Mojo magazine

Jimmy Page: Magus Musician Man (an unauthorised biography) by George Case I am reassured by this being an "unauthorized" biography as it has not been impinged upon by the subject or his minders. Case has been scrupulous in his research and his presentation of Page as a musician and band leader. The "magus" in the subtitle is a bit misleading as there is not much about Page's involvement with magick or the Crowley and Anger connections are not dwelt on. Instead, Case presents Page's qualities as inherent in his music and in the band's profound influence at the time and over the years. Page's musicianship, as a guitarist naturally, but also as a producer and arranger, is a key element in the story. Case is also a musician and so we are given plenty of details about the musical aspects of Page's guitar work and in the studio. This material will interest musicians and those looking for a story that goes into aspects of Page's and Led Zeppelin's legacy that moves beyond stories of sharks and similar debauchery. Not that Case elides this kind of material. The band's artistic decline is placed within the circumstances and events of the time. While factually there may not be much that is new here, Case's book is important because he analyses his subject. Their grinding schedule of recording and touring caused Page "psychic dislocation" from which he would never recover, according to Case. He offers considerable insight into

Page's life and the band's triumphs and tragedies.

NOTE: I bought, read n' reviewed this book in 2014. I just re-read this book this past week and was not happy with my past review... so I re-wrote this and deleted the prior review. This is June 3, 2016

A book about a musical genius/icon, and his passion for whatever he was doing. His interest in music began from the melodies of our Black American Southern blues roots. He twisted them into rock n' roll beats, then played his masterpieces louder than any other band-- at the time. As well, he was loved on stage by the way he wore his guitars to 'how' he wore his outfits, to his guitar riffs, as well as the way he could bow-play in a magical way that was just awesome to watch, and not done by any other guitarist. As relating to his stage costumes, he appeared and proved to be a magic man. This book gives a bit of introductory history, then employs his time in The Yardbirds band. Later he divides with who some say are his genus equals, Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck, for something different on the rock and roll scene. He and manager Peter Grant needed to find 3 needles in a haystack, and they do without a fault. Zeppelin proved to be that of a dynamic force that no other rock and roll band could compare with (so say Zeppelin fans)! Some call them the first in Heavy Metal, but I don't. They were just a LOUD, musically inclined rock n' roll band, who gave all to their gift of instruments and vocal. If you are looking for chapters dealing with a lot of involvement regarding love interests, you won't find them at length, though those important to him are included. As for his mentor, Aleister Crowley, Page's interests are somewhat told in this book. But the majority of the book is about his ability to play, as a success with Led Zeppelin, and in short, it's ending, then new beginnings....not only for him, but for the three of them who were left and decided not to continue without drummer John Bonham. (It's interesting to know when Zep does get together every so often, to know who their drummer takes Bonzo's place!) So not a bad book to read, if you are interested in more of Jimmy Page.

I really was pretty eager to read this book. You hear so many things about Page that you figured he would be interesting on many levels, too bad the book didn't come through. You see the "unauthorized biography" thing and you expect to get all the details and controversies but instead you get nothing new at all. I feel like I know nothing more about the guy after reading the book. It's obvious why it's so flawed because it is simply a rehash of pieced together interviews and articles and published quotes that anyone could have obtained. The author doesn't interview anyone or get anything from any sources to give us anything new. Really just not a good book. The only thing interesting were the tidbits about the equipment he used, but even that was too little and will

probably only interest guitarists or musicians.

I found this book to be very well written, and very knowledgeable about studio techniques and music composition. Along with Brad Tolinsky's "Light and Shade," I would recommend this to anyone wanting to understand the music. Fortunately, the sensationalist factor was not a major focus, so one could really learn more about the genius of Jimmy's vision.

Lot of junk but some good information

Great read on Jimmy Page.

A good read

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