

nick kent the dark stuff

Nick Kent The Dark Stuff: Exploring the Depths of a Cult Cinematic Classic

nick kent the dark stuff is a phrase that might not ring immediate bells for everyone, but for aficionados of film history and cult classics, it resonates deeply. Nick Kent, a renowned British rock journalist and writer, is often associated with incisive cultural commentary, especially on music and cinema. "The Dark Stuff," meanwhile, is the title of a distinctive documentary exploring the life and work of Mick Jagger and The Rolling Stones during the 1970s. When these two elements come together in conversation, it opens a fascinating window into the gritty, raw, and transformative era of rock music and its cinematic portrayals. In this article, we will delve into Nick Kent's connection to "The Dark Stuff," unpack the cultural significance of the film, and explore how this intersection highlights the darker, more complex side of rock history.

Who Is Nick Kent and Why Does He Matter?

Nick Kent is best known as one of the pioneering rock journalists of the 1970s, contributing to influential publications such as NME (New Musical Express). His writing style was candid, often controversial, and deeply immersive, giving readers a backstage pass to the lives of their favorite musicians. Kent's work didn't just chronicle events; it captured atmospheres, emotions, and the unvarnished truth behind the glamor.

Nick Kent's Influence on Rock Journalism

Kent's approach to journalism was revolutionary for the time. Unlike many contemporaries who focused on sanitized celebrity profiles, Kent embraced the messiness of rock 'n' roll life. His writing featured raw, often dark narratives about addiction, excess, and the toll of fame. This style has been credited with helping to shape modern music journalism, influencing writers who seek to go beyond surface-level coverage.

Connection to "The Dark Stuff"

While Nick Kent was not directly involved in the creation of "The Dark Stuff," his ethos and journalistic style mirror the themes explored in the documentary. The film offers an unfiltered look at The Rolling Stones during a tumultuous period, revealing the complexities behind the band's public image. Kent's writings and perspectives provide a critical framework for understanding the cultural and emotional layers that "The Dark Stuff" portrays.

Understanding "The Dark Stuff": The Documentary and

Its Themes

"The Dark Stuff" is a documentary film that dives into the 1970s era of The Rolling Stones, often considered their most creatively fertile yet personally chaotic period. It takes its name from a phrase used by the band to describe their blues roots and the emotional intensity embedded in their music.

What Makes "The Dark Stuff" Stand Out?

Unlike typical music documentaries that focus on chronological biographies, "The Dark Stuff" emphasizes mood, atmosphere, and the darker side of rock stardom. It features rare archival footage, candid interviews, and a narrative that explores themes of addiction, artistic struggle, and the price of fame.

Exploring the Blues Influence

A central element of "The Dark Stuff" is its homage to the blues—the genre that heavily influenced The Rolling Stones. The documentary reveals how this "dark stuff" shaped their sound, identity, and lyrical themes. For viewers and music lovers, it's a vivid reminder of how blues music carries emotional weight and cultural history, which the Stones channeled into their work.

Nick Kent The Dark Stuff: The Intersection of Music and Cultural Commentary

When considering Nick Kent, "The Dark Stuff" together, it becomes clear that both the journalist and the documentary are engaged in peeling back layers to reveal deeper truths. Kent's essays and reportage often dissect the glam facade to expose vulnerability and chaos beneath. Similarly, "The Dark Stuff" film interrogates the mythos of rock stardom, offering a more nuanced portrayal than typical hero worship.

The Role of Authenticity in Rock Culture

Authenticity is a crucial concept both for Kent's writing and the documentary. Kent sought to capture the unvarnished realities of musicians' lives, while "The Dark Stuff" aims to present an honest portrayal of The Rolling Stones' journey. This shared commitment to truth-telling challenges audiences to reconsider romanticized versions of rock history.

Lessons for Modern Music Fans and Creators

For contemporary music fans and creators, engaging with Nick Kent, "The Dark Stuff" offers valuable

lessons:

- Appreciate the complexity of artistry beyond commercial success.
- Understand the emotional and psychological toll of fame.
- Recognize the importance of musical roots, such as the blues, in shaping genres.
- Value journalistic integrity and honest storytelling in cultural narratives.

These insights deepen appreciation for both the music and the stories behind it.

The Legacy of Nick Kent and "The Dark Stuff" in Today's Cultural Landscape

Though decades have passed since Nick Kent rose to prominence and since the era chronicled in "The Dark Stuff," their impact continues to reverberate. Modern music journalism often echoes Kent's fearless style, while music documentaries increasingly aim to explore the shadows behind the spotlight.

How Contemporary Documentaries Reflect "The Dark Stuff"'s Influence

Recent documentaries on musicians and bands often adopt a more introspective and critical tone, examining issues such as mental health, addiction, and personal sacrifice. This owes much to trailblazers like "The Dark Stuff," which showed audiences that rock stories could be complex and multi-dimensional.

Nick Kent's Enduring Voice

Though no longer a mainstream figure, Nick Kent's writings remain essential reading for anyone interested in rock history and cultural critique. His ability to blend empathy with hard truths encourages readers to engage with music on a deeper level, beyond just entertainment.

Final Reflections on Nick Kent The Dark Stuff

Exploring Nick Kent The Dark Stuff reveals a rich tapestry of rock history, journalism, and cultural storytelling. Both the man and the film represent a commitment to peeling back the glamorous veneer of rock 'n' roll to reveal its raw, sometimes painful core. For those willing to venture into

these depths, the rewards are profound: a greater understanding of music's power to reflect human experience in all its complexity. Whether you're a fan of The Rolling Stones, a student of music journalism, or simply curious about rock culture's darker side, the intersection of Nick Kent and "The Dark Stuff" offers a compelling journey into the heart of a transformative era.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Nick Kent in relation to 'The Dark Stuff'?

Nick Kent is a British journalist and writer known for his work on music and culture, and 'The Dark Stuff' is a book he authored that explores the history and impact of punk rock.

What is the main theme of Nick Kent's book 'The Dark Stuff'?

'The Dark Stuff' focuses on the evolution of punk rock music, its cultural significance, and the personal stories of those involved in the punk movement.

When was 'The Dark Stuff' by Nick Kent published?

'The Dark Stuff' was published in 2018.

What inspired Nick Kent to write 'The Dark Stuff'?

Nick Kent was inspired by his own experiences as a music journalist during the punk era and his desire to document the raw and rebellious spirit of punk rock.

Does 'The Dark Stuff' cover specific punk bands or artists?

Yes, 'The Dark Stuff' delves into the stories of influential punk bands and artists, including the Sex Pistols, The Clash, and other key figures in the punk scene.

How is Nick Kent's writing style described in 'The Dark Stuff'?

Nick Kent's writing style in 'The Dark Stuff' is often described as immersive, candid, and evocative, providing an insider's perspective on punk culture.

Is 'The Dark Stuff' by Nick Kent suitable for readers new to punk rock?

Yes, the book provides a comprehensive overview of punk rock history and culture, making it accessible to both newcomers and longtime fans.

What makes 'The Dark Stuff' stand out among punk rock literature?

Nick Kent's firsthand experience as a music journalist during the punk era and his detailed

storytelling give 'The Dark Stuff' a unique authenticity and depth.

Are there any notable reviews or receptions of 'The Dark Stuff'?

The book received positive reviews for its vivid portrayal of punk rock's raw energy and for shedding light on lesser-known aspects of the movement.

Where can readers find 'The Dark Stuff' by Nick Kent?

'The Dark Stuff' is available for purchase through major book retailers, both online and in physical stores, as well as in some libraries.

Additional Resources

Nick Kent The Dark Stuff: An Analytical Review of the Iconic Music Biography

nick kent the dark stuff stands as a significant work in the realm of music journalism and biography. This book, penned by the renowned British music journalist Nick Kent, delves into the tumultuous and enigmatic world of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, offering readers a vivid portrait of the band's evolution, artistry, and darker thematic elements. Over the years, "The Dark Stuff" has garnered attention not only for its detailed chronicling of a legendary band but also for its raw, unfiltered exploration of the complexities surrounding music, fame, and personal struggle. This article aims to provide a comprehensive, investigative review of Nick Kent's work, highlighting its critical features, contextual relevance, and lasting impact on music literature.

Understanding the Essence of Nick Kent The Dark Stuff

Nick Kent's reputation as a pioneering music journalist is well established, having contributed to influential publications such as New Musical Express (NME) during the height of punk and post-punk eras. "The Dark Stuff" represents a culmination of his career-long engagement with rock music's more intense and shadowy dimensions. The book focuses primarily on Nick Cave, a figure whose music and persona embody a blend of gothic lyricism, brooding intensity, and artistic bravery.

The title itself, "The Dark Stuff," metaphorically references the profound emotional and existential themes explored throughout Cave's work. Kent's narrative does not merely recount chronological events; instead, it investigates the psychological and cultural layers that have shaped Cave and his band's output. This approach aligns with modern music biography trends, which prioritize nuanced storytelling over simple celebrity hagiography.

The Narrative Style and Journalistic Approach

Nick Kent's writing style in "The Dark Stuff" is characterized by its investigative rigor combined with a deeply empathetic tone. Unlike many traditional biographies that adopt a detached or overly

celebratory voice, Kent's narrative is introspective and occasionally critical, providing a balanced perspective on Cave's complex personality and artistic choices.

The investigative nature of the book is evident in Kent's extensive interviews, archival research, and behind-the-scenes insights. He captures the essence of the band's creative process, internal conflicts, and evolving soundscapes. The prose is imbued with a sense of intimacy, reflecting Kent's own long-standing engagement with the music scene and his personal encounters with Cave and the Bad Seeds.

Exploring the Themes in Nick Kent The Dark Stuff

One of the core strengths of "The Dark Stuff" lies in its thematic exploration. Nick Cave's music is often described as a fusion of darkness and beauty, combining elements of gothic storytelling, blues, and rock with existential motifs. Kent's work meticulously traces these themes and situates them within broader cultural and historical contexts.

Darkness and Redemption

A recurring motif in the book is the interplay between darkness and redemption, a duality that permeates Cave's songwriting. Kent illustrates how Cave's lyrics navigate through pain, loss, and spiritual searching, often evoking biblical and literary references. This thematic exploration extends beyond the music itself to encompass the personal lives of the band members, their struggles with addiction, grief, and creativity.

The Evolution of Sound and Style

Kent's analysis also emphasizes the band's musical evolution, from the raw post-punk energy of early albums to the more refined, atmospheric compositions of later works. The book highlights key albums such as "The Boatman's Call" and "Murder Ballads," situating them within the trajectory of alternative rock and demonstrating how the Bad Seeds have continually redefined their sound.

Nick Kent The Dark Stuff in the Context of Music Literature

The biography's significance is further underscored when compared to other works in music journalism. Unlike celebrity memoirs or promotional biographies, Kent's book stands out for its depth and critical perspective. It shares some thematic similarities with works like Greil Marcus's "Mystery Train" or Simon Reynolds's "Rip It Up and Start Again," which also dissect the cultural and sonic transformations within rock music.

Comparative Strengths

- **Depth of Research:** Kent's extensive interviews and archival material provide a rich factual basis, lending credibility and authenticity to the narrative.
- **Analytical Insight:** The book's focus on thematic analysis offers readers a deeper understanding of Nick Cave's artistic motivations and cultural impact.
- **Engaging Prose:** Kent's journalistic experience ensures a compelling storytelling style that avoids dry academic tones.

Potential Limitations

While "The Dark Stuff" excels in many areas, some readers might find its dense thematic content challenging, especially those unfamiliar with Nick Cave's discography or the broader alternative rock milieu. Additionally, the book's intimate focus on Cave may limit its appeal to a wider audience seeking a more general history of rock music.

The Impact and Reception of Nick Kent The Dark Stuff

Since its release, "Nick Kent The Dark Stuff" has attracted critical acclaim for its insightful portrayal of a unique musical figure. Critics have praised Kent's ability to humanize Cave without diminishing his mythic aura, offering a nuanced portrait that resonates with both fans and scholars.

The book has influenced subsequent music biographies by setting a benchmark for combining investigative journalism with literary craftsmanship. It also contributes to the ongoing discourse about the role of darkness and vulnerability in popular music, encouraging readers to reconsider the boundaries between artistic expression and personal demons.

Audience Engagement and Cultural Relevance

Nick Kent's work appeals primarily to readers interested in music history, biography, and cultural studies. Its detailed exploration of themes like addiction, creativity, and spirituality connects with broader societal conversations about mental health and artistic authenticity. Moreover, the book's focus on a non-mainstream artist like Nick Cave challenges conventional narratives dominated by pop icons, thereby enriching the diversity of music literature.

Final Thoughts on Nick Kent The Dark Stuff

In sum, "Nick Kent The Dark Stuff" offers a compelling, multifaceted examination of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, standing out as a vital contribution to music biography. Kent's investigative approach and thematic depth provide readers with a profound understanding of both the man and his music. While the book demands a certain level of engagement and familiarity with its subject, it rewards readers with rich insights and a textured narrative that goes beyond the surface of rock stardom.

For enthusiasts of music journalism, cultural analysis, or those intrigued by the darker dimensions of artistic creativity, Nick Kent's "The Dark Stuff" remains an essential and thought-provoking read. Its enduring relevance in the landscape of music literature affirms the importance of critical storytelling in capturing the complexities of legendary artists.

Nick Kent The Dark Stuff

nick kent the dark stuff: *The Dark Stuff* Nick Kent, 2007 Seminal collection of rock journalism, updated including new material.

nick kent the dark stuff: Dark Stuff Nick Kent, 1995-10-26

nick kent the dark stuff: *The Dark Stuff* Nick Kent, 1994

nick kent the dark stuff: Dark Stuff Nick Kent, 2013 In *The Dark Stuff* Nick Kent profiles twenty-two of the most gifted and self-destructive talents in rock history. From Brian Wilson to Syd Barrett, the Rolling Stones to Neil Young, Iggy Pop to Lou Reed, he offers intimate portraits that are unimaginable in the world of today's market driven music business.

nick kent the dark stuff: The Dark Stuff Nick Kent, Iggy Pop, 2009-03-04 Rock journalism on: Brian Wilson, Guns' N' Roses, Roky Erickson, The New York Dolls, Sid Vicious, Roy Orbison, Elvis Costello, The Smiths, Neil Young, Jerry Lee Lewis, Miles Davis, The Pogues, Lou Reed, Syd Barrett, The Rolling Stones, Iggy Pop, Kurt Cobain

nick kent the dark stuff: *Great British Editorial* Emeyele (Firm), 2008

nick kent the dark stuff: *Dark Side of the Tune: Popular Music and Violence* Professor Bruce Johnson, Professor Martin Cloonan, 2013-01-28 Written against the academically dominant but simplistic romanticization of popular music as a positive force, this book focuses on the 'dark side' of the subject. It is a pioneering examination of the ways in which popular music has been deployed in association with violence, ranging from what appears to be an incidental relationship, to one in which music is explicitly applied as an instrument of violence. A preliminary overview of the physiological and cognitive foundations of sounding/hearing which are distinctive within the sensorium, discloses in particular their potential for organic and psychic violence. The study then elaborates working definitions of key terms (including the vexed idea of the 'popular') for the purposes of this investigation, and provides a historical survey of examples of the nexus between music and violence, from (pre)Biblical times to the late nineteenth century. The second half of the book concentrates on the modern era, marked in this case by the emergence of technologies by which music can be electronically augmented, generated, and disseminated, beginning with the advent of sound recording from the 1870s, and proceeding to audio-internet and other contemporary audio-technologies. Johnson and Cloonan argue that these technologies have transformed the potential of music to mediate cultural confrontations from the local to the global, particularly through violence. The authors present a taxonomy of case histories in the connection between popular music and violence, through increasingly intense forms of that relationship, culminating in the topical examples of music and torture, including those in Bosnia, Darfur, and by US forces in Iraq and Guantánamo Bay. This, however, is not simply a succession of data, but an argumentative synthesis. Thus, the final section debates the implications of this nexus both for popular music studies itself, and also in cultural policy and regulation, the ethics of citizenship, and arguments

about human rights.

nick kent the dark stuff: Creepy Crawling Jeffrey Melnick, 2018-07-17 Creepy crawling was the Manson Family's practice of secretly entering someone's home and, without harming anyone, leaving only a trace of evidence that they had been there, some reminder that the sanctity of the private home had been breached. Now, author Jeffrey Melnick reveals just how much the Family creepy crawled their way through Los Angeles in the sixties and then on through American social, political, and cultural life for close to fifty years, firmly lodging themselves in our minds. Even now, it is almost impossible to discuss the sixties, teenage runaways, sexuality, drugs, music, California, and even the concept of family without referencing Manson and his girls. Not just another history of Charles Manson, *Creepy Crawling* explores how the Family weren't so much outsiders but emblematic of the Los Angeles counterculture freak scene, and how Manson worked to connect himself to the mainstream of the time. Ever since they spent two nights killing seven residents of Los Angeles—what we now know as the Tate-LaBianca murders—the Manson family has rarely slipped from the American radar for long. From Emma Cline's *The Girls* to the recent TV show *Aquarius*, the family continues to find an audience. What is it about Charles Manson and his family that captivates us still? Author Jeffrey Melnick sets out to answer this question in this fascinating and compulsively readable cultural history of the Family and their influence from 1969 to the present.

nick kent the dark stuff: What's Wrong With Christian Rock? Creation Liberty Evangelism, Christopher J.E. Johnson, 2014-08-04 Learn the true origin of rock-n-roll, and how Christians are using the wrong toolset.

nick kent the dark stuff: The Velvet Underground Sean Albiez, David Pattie, 2022-09-08 Though The Velvet Underground were critically and commercially unsuccessful in their time, in ensuing decades they have become a constant touchstone in art rock, punk, post-punk, indie, avant pop and alternative rock. In the 1970s and 80s Lou Reed, John Cale and Nico produced a number of works that traveled a path between art and pop. In 1993 the original band members of Reed, Cale, Morrison and Tucker briefly reunited for live appearances, and afterwards Reed, Cale and briefly Tucker, continued to produce music that travelled the idiosyncratic path begun in New York in the mid-1960s. The influence of the band and band members, mediated and promoted through famous fans such as David Bowie and Brian Eno, seems only to have expanded since the late 1960s. In 1996 the Velvet Underground were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, demonstrating how far the band had traveled in 30 years from an avant-garde cult to the mainstream recognition of their key contributions to popular music. In these collected essays, Pattie and Albiez present the first academic book-length collection on The Velvet Underground. The book covers a range of topics including the band's relationship to US literature, to youth and cultural movements of the 1960s and beyond and to European culture - and examines these contexts from the 1960s through to the present day.

nick kent the dark stuff: The Clash Marcus Gray, 2004-10-01 Revised and updated to cover the Clash's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the band members' post-Clash careers, *The Clash: Return of the Last Gang in Town* now includes the first full account of Joe Strummer's Wilderness Years, his triumphant comeback with the Mescaleros, and his sudden and tragic early death. Extensively revised and updated from both its 1995 and 2001 incarnations, *The Clash* traces the band members' progress from dispiriting rehearsals in damp London basements to packed American stadiums. A fascinatingly detailed account of the first band to take punk's radical politics to the masses and survive for a decade against all the odds, it also offers an intriguing investigation into the gap between rock mythology and rock reality.

nick kent the dark stuff: Iggy Pop: Open Up and Bleed Paul Trynka, 2011-12-07 "Fellow rock stars, casual members of the public, lords and media magnates, countless thousands of people will talk of their encounters with this driven, talented, indomitable creature, a man who has plumbed the depths of depravity, yet emerged with an indisputable nobility. Each of them will share an admiration and appreciation of the contradictions and ironies of his incredible life. Even so, they are unlikely to fully comprehend both the heights and the depths of his experience, for the extremes are

simply beyond the realms of most people's understanding." —from the Prologue The first full biography of one of rock 'n' roll's greatest pioneers and legendary wild men Born James Newell Osterberg Jr., Iggy Pop transcended life in Ypsilanti, Michigan, to become a member of the punk band the Stooges, thereby earning the nickname "the Godfather of Punk." He is one of the most riveting and reckless performers in music history, with a commitment to his art that is perilously total. But his personal life was often a shambles, as he struggled with drug addiction, mental illness, and the ever-problematic question of commercial success in the music world. That he is even alive today, let alone performing with undiminished energy, is a wonder. The musical genres of punk, glam, and New Wave were all anticipated and profoundly influenced by his work. Paul Trynka, former editor of Mojo magazine, has spent much time with Iggy's childhood friends, lovers, and fellow musicians, gaining a profound understanding of the particular artistic culture of Ann Arbor, where Iggy and the Stooges were formed in the mid to late sixties. Trynka has conducted over 250 interviews, has traveled to Michigan, New York, California, London, and Berlin, and, in the course of the last decade or so at Mojo, has spoken to dozens of musicians who count Iggy as an influence. This has allowed him to depict, via real-life stories from members of bands like New Order and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Iggy's huge influence on the music scene of the '70s, '80s, and '90s, as well as to portray in unprecedented detail Iggy's relationship with his enigmatic friend and mentor David Bowie. Trynka has also interviewed Iggy Pop himself at his home in Miami for this book. What emerges is a fascinating psychological study of a Jekyll/Hyde personality: the quietly charismatic, thoughtful, well-read Jim Osterberg hitched to the banshee creation and alter ego that is Iggy Pop. Iggy Pop: Open Up and Bleed is a truly definitive work—not just about Iggy Pop's life and music but also about the death of the hippie dream, the influence of drugs on human creativity, the nature of comradeship, and the depredations of fame.

nick kent the dark stuff: Songbooks Eric Weisbard, 2021-04-23 In Songbooks, critic and scholar Eric Weisbard offers a critical guide to books on American popular music from William Billings's 1770 New-England Psalm-Singer to Jay-Z's 2010 memoir Decoded. Drawing on his background editing the Village Voice music section, coediting the Journal of Popular Music Studies, and organizing the Pop Conference, Weisbard connects American music writing from memoirs, biographies, and song compilations to blues novels, magazine essays, and academic studies. The authors of these works are as diverse as the music itself: women, people of color, queer writers, self-educated scholars, poets, musicians, and elites discarding their social norms. Whether analyzing books on Louis Armstrong, the Beatles, and Madonna; the novels of Theodore Dreiser, Gayl Jones, and Jennifer Egan; or varying takes on blackface minstrelsy, Weisbard charts an alternative history of American music as told through its writing. As Weisbard demonstrates, the most enduring work pursues questions that linger across time period and genre—cultural studies in the form of notes on the fly, on sounds that never cease to change meaning.

nick kent the dark stuff: The Magazine Girls 1960s - 1980s The Magazine Girls, 2023-03-28 The Magazine Girls captures a flash-bulb moment in counter-culture in a time of raw excitement, great creativity, opportunity and sheer magical zeitgeist. This unique multi-narrative memoir presents a rare perspective on publishing just as the media youth market was set to boom. Through seven personal stories, it charts, from the 1960s and into the 1990s, the lives and times of young women who, as teenage school leavers, found themselves working on the top teen magazines of the day: Rave, Mirabelle, Valentine, Loving, Petticoat, and 19. Opportunities abounded in the 1960s and the girls were soon writing about and mixing with a new kind of aristocracy - the bands, the fashion designers, photographers, make-up artists and models. Famous names they interviewed included David Bowie, David Cassidy, Marc Bolan, Elton John, the Who and Bob Marley, amongst others. They were to mature into high-profile fashion and beauty editors, PRs, stylists, features and showbusiness writers, working on best-selling women's magazines such as Woman's Own, Woman, and Good Housekeeping, Hello! and national newspapers. The Magazine Girls strikes a chord, not only with those who lived through those extraordinary decades but also with younger generations of today who wish they'd been there.

nick kent the dark stuff: *Elvis Costello and Thatcherism* David Pilgrim, Richard Ormrod, 2016-04-29 The emergence of Thatcherism around 1980, which ushered in a period of neo-liberalism in British politics that still resonates today, led musicians, like other artists, to respond to their context of production. This book uses the early work of one of these musicians, Elvis Costello, to explore the relationship between popular music and politics in one historical period. It is not a biography but an exploration of the interaction between a creative musician's works and their context of constraint and opportunity. Pilgrim and Ormrod unpack the political meaning of Thatcherism and deal with matters arising in that political context about Costello's life but which had resonance for many others at the time (and still do). These topics include the politics of race, class, gender and ageing, emphasising the recurring theme of nostalgia in modern and post-modern life. Throughout the book examples are provided of Costello's songs and how they work musically to illustrate or stimulate the contextual discussion. The book will be of significant interest to musicologists, sociologists and social psychologists.

nick kent the dark stuff: *Wired for Sound* Tom Bromley, 2012-06-07 The eighties was a golden era for British pop: Radio One served as the soundtrack of the nation; the chart run-down on Sunday evenings was compulsory listening - ditto watching Top of the Pops and reading Smash Hits. It also saw the launch of the Now That's What I Call Music series. In the States, the arrival of MTV helped usher in what became known as the 'Second British Invasion', echoing the success of the Beatles twenty years earlier. *Wired For Sound* tells the remarkable story of the great eighties British bands (and Kajagoogoo) and how their music captured the nation's imagination: the more radical beginnings in the early eighties (the new romanticisms of Duran and Spandau, the 'protest pop' of early Wham!); the full pomp of their mid-eighties success (the worldwide tours, the glamorous video shoots, the ubiquitous 'Choose Life' and 'Relax' T-shirts); and their fall from the top of pop's pedestal (the splitting up of Wham!, Boy George's drug problems). *Wired for Sound* will describe the subsequent descent to Band Aid II (Bros, Wet Wet Wet, Stock, Aitken and Waterman), which bookended the low point of the pop music that followed. *Wired For Sound* will be the affectionate celebration of both a musical youth and the era when young guns went for it. This is a book for anyone who grew up reading Smash Hits, soundtracked their teenage years on C90 cassettes and remembers a time when it really mattered who was number one.

nick kent the dark stuff: *Complicated Shadows: The Life And Music Of Elvis Costello* Graeme Thomson, 2013-03-07 *Complicated Shadows* paints a detailed and accurate portrait of an intensely private and complex individual. It draws on nearly 50 exclusive interviews with schoolmates, pre-fame friends, early band members, journalists as well as members of The Attractions, producers, collaborators and musicians from all stages of his life and career. Thomson also unearths many previously unknown details about Costello's early years and his personal life, as well as examining his entire musical output using the recollections of those who were there at the time, the majority of whom have never talked on the subject before.

nick kent the dark stuff: *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones* Rich Cohen, 2016-05-10 A gritty, one-of-a-kind backstage account of the world's greatest touring band, from the opinionated music journalist who was along for the ride as a young reporter for Rolling Stone in the 1990s ONE OF THE TOP FIVE ROCK BIOGRAPHIES OF THE YEAR—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR—KIRKUS REVIEWS A book inspired by a lifelong appreciation of the music that borders on obsession, Rich Cohen's fresh and galvanizing narrative history of the Rolling Stones begins with the fateful meeting of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards on a train platform in 1961—and goes on to span decades, with a focus on the golden run—from the albums *Beggars Banquet* (1968) to *Exile on Main Street* (1972)—when the Stones were at the height of their powers. Cohen is equally as good on the low points as the highs, and he puts his finger on the moments that not only defined the Stones as gifted musicians schooled in the blues, but as the avatars of so much in our modern culture. In the end, though, after the drugs and the girlfriends and the bitter disputes, there is the music—which will define, once and forever, why the Stones will always matter. Praise for *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones* "Fabulous . . . The research is meticulous. . . .

Cohen's own interviews even yield some new Stones lore."—The Wall Street Journal "[Cohen] can catch the way a record can seem to remake the world [and] how songs make a world you can't escape."—Pitchfork "No one can tell this story, wringing new life even from the leathery faces of mummies like the Rolling Stones, like Rich Cohen. . . . The book beautifully details the very meaning of rock 'n' roll."—New York Observer "Masterful . . . Hundreds of books have been written about this particular band and [Cohen's] will rank among the very best of the bunch."—Chicago Tribune "Cohen, who has shown time and time again he can take any history lesson and make it personal and interesting . . . somehow tells the [Stones'] story in a whole different way. This might be the best music book of 2016."—Men's Journal "[Cohen's] account of the band's rise from 'footloose' kids to 'old, clean, prosperous' stars is, like the Stones, irresistible."—People "You will, as with the best music bios, want to follow along on vinyl."—The Washington Post "A fresh take on dusty topics like Altamont and the Stones' relationship with the Beatles . . . Cohen takes pilgrimages to places like Nellcôte, the French mansion where the Stones made Exile on Main Street, and recounts fascinating moments from his time on tour."—Rolling Stone "On the short list of worthwhile books about the Stones . . . The book is stuffed with insights."—San Francisco Chronicle

nick kent the dark stuff: MC5 Brad Tolinski, Jaan Uhelszki, Ben Edmonds, 2024-10-08 A riveting oral biography of the proto-punk Detroit rockers MC5, based on original interviews with the band and key members of their inner circle Few bands have dared to ignite a revolution through their fusion of activism and art like MC5. Managed by the charismatic radical and hippie spokesman, John Sinclair, MC5 wasn't just a band; they were a thunderous proclamation of dissent, amplifying the voices of the marginalized long before it was fashionable. From championing Black Lives Matter to rallying for cannabis legalization, they fearlessly thrust their beliefs onto the world stage. For their efforts, the rabble-rousing musical arm of the White Panther Party, the scourge of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and other defenders of public decency, were often beaten with clubs, threatened at gunpoint, tossed into jail, and even unceremoniously dumped by their record company, right as their album was storming up the charts—and all while the Sex Pistols were still on training wheels. What has been lost amidst this notoriety is MC5 itself, a band worth remembering not because they were bad boys, but because they were so damn good. In MC5: An Oral Biography of Rock's Most Revolutionary Band, music journalists Brad Tolinski and Jaan Uhelszki invite readers to reconsider this legendary group. Centered around a series of interviews with MC5, their manager, and their inner circle—many of whom are no longer with us—that Tolinski and Uhelszki inherited from CREEM Magazine founding staffer and Mojo's US editor Ben Edmonds prior to his death, this book presents a genuinely candid, funny, and moving portrait of rock's most uncompromising and articulate band. MC5 also features a virtual "who's who" of 1960s rockers, including Iggy and the Stooges, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, promoter Bill Graham, John Lennon, the Jefferson Airplane, and political firebrands like Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, Tom Hayden, and Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver. As innovative, insightful, and inspiring as the band itself, MC5 is a fitting testament to the legacy of these iconic rock pioneers—told in their very own words.

nick kent the dark stuff: Love in Vain J. M. Dupont, 2016-10-04 From 'Crossroads Blues' to 'Sweet Home Chicago', 'Hellhound on My Trail' to 'Come On In My Kitchen', Robert Johnson wrote some of the most enduring and formative songs of the original blues era, songs that would go on to help shape the birth of rock'n'roll in the 1960s. Beloved of Clapton, Dylan and the Stones, Robert Johnson remains one of the most iconic and mythologised figures in popular music (and the first of many to die at the age of 27). Born in the in the South in Mississippi, Johnson made his way to the urban North as a travelling musician, but it was only when he returned to the South that he recorded the twenty-nine songs, in two sessions, which would create his legacy. Exploring the stories and legends that surround his life and death - his childhood, his womanising, his pact with the devil at the crossroads - Mezzo and DuPont have produced a fittingly creative and beautiful depiction of this most extraordinary life.

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