

freddie mercury the great pretender

Freddie Mercury The Great Pretender: A Glimpse into an Iconic Performance

freddie mercury the great pretender is a phrase that resonates deeply with fans of classic rock and the legendary Queen frontman. This song, originally performed by The Platters in the 1950s, found a unique and unforgettable interpretation through Mercury's voice and style. His rendition not only showcased his extraordinary vocal abilities but also revealed a different, more intimate side of the rock legend. Exploring Freddie Mercury's version of "The Great Pretender" offers fascinating insights into his versatility as a performer and the emotional depth he brought to his music.

The Origins of "The Great Pretender"

Before diving into Freddie Mercury's take, it's important to understand the background of "The Great Pretender." Written by Buck Ram and first recorded by The Platters in 1955, the song became a huge hit, known for its smooth vocal harmonies and poignant lyrics about hiding one's true feelings behind a facade. The theme of pretending to be happy while secretly heartbroken struck a chord with many listeners, making it a timeless classic.

Why Mercury Chose "The Great Pretender"

Freddie Mercury's interest in "The Great Pretender" came from his admiration of classic vocalists and his desire to explore different musical styles beyond Queen's rock anthems. In 1987, Mercury recorded his version as a solo single, which stood out for its theatricality and emotional nuance. His choice to cover this song reflected not only his respect for the original but also his ability to reinterpret it through his unique artistic lens.

Freddie Mercury's Unique Interpretation

Mercury's version of "The Great Pretender" is notable for its dramatic flair and vocal intensity. Where The Platters delivered a smooth, soulful performance, Mercury infused the song with a blend of operatic power and subtle vulnerability. His dynamic vocal range allowed him to express the song's themes of loneliness and pretense with a rawness that felt deeply personal.

Vocal Performance and Arrangement

The arrangement of Mercury's "The Great Pretender" diverges from the doo-wop style of the original. It incorporates lush orchestration, including sweeping strings and bold brass sections, which create a grandiose atmosphere. Mercury's voice takes center stage, moving effortlessly between delicate whispers and powerful belts. This contrast emphasizes the duality of the song's message – the tension between the public mask and private pain.

Visual Presentation: The Music Video

Complementing the song, Mercury's music video for "The Great Pretender" is a visual feast that highlights his flair for theatricality. Dressed in a white suit and surrounded by flamboyant costumes and sets, he channels the spirit of classic Hollywood and cabaret performances. The video captures Mercury's charisma and ability to captivate audiences not just with his voice but also with his presence.

The Song's Place in Freddie Mercury's Solo Career

Freddie Mercury's solo work often showcased different facets of his artistry compared to his work with Queen. "The Great Pretender" fits into this narrative as an exploration of vulnerability and showmanship outside the bombastic rock context. Released during a period when Mercury was experimenting with various genres, the song helped solidify his reputation as a multifaceted artist.

Comparing Solo and Queen Versions

Unlike many Queen songs that feature intricate guitar riffs and complex arrangements, Mercury's solo tracks like "The Great Pretender" tend to focus more on vocal expression and emotional storytelling. This contrast highlights Mercury's ability to adapt his talents to different musical landscapes, proving he was more than just the frontman of a legendary rock band.

Impact on Fans and Critics

At the time of its release, "The Great Pretender" received mixed reactions, with some Queen fans surprised by Mercury's stylistic shift. However, over the years, the song has gained appreciation for its boldness and sincerity. Critics have praised Mercury's vocal interpretation and the sophisticated production, recognizing it as a testament to his artistic bravery.

LSI Keywords Related to Freddie Mercury The Great Pretender

To understand the broader context surrounding Freddie Mercury's version of "The Great Pretender," it helps to consider related themes and terms:

- Freddie Mercury solo career
- Queen frontman performances
- 1980s rock ballads

- Classic rock covers
- Freddie Mercury vocal range
- Music videos of the 1980s
- Showmanship in rock music
- Emotional expression in music
- Orchestration in rock songs
- Freddie Mercury theatrical performance

These keywords help paint a fuller picture of the environment in which "The Great Pretender" was recorded and how Mercury's interpretation fits into his broader legacy.

Exploring the Emotional Depth of the Song

One of the reasons Freddie Mercury's "The Great Pretender" remains memorable is the emotional honesty he brings to the performance. The song's lyrics about hiding pain behind a smile resonate deeply, especially when delivered by someone with Mercury's own history of personal struggles and public persona.

Relatability and Personal Connection

Listeners often find themselves connecting with the song because it captures a universal experience: the need to appear strong or happy even when feeling vulnerable. Mercury's ability to channel this duality is part of what makes his version so compelling. It's a reminder that even larger-than-life figures have private battles.

Lessons in Artistic Vulnerability

For aspiring musicians and performers, Mercury's "The Great Pretender" offers a valuable lesson in embracing vulnerability as a strength. By choosing to cover a song about emotional pretense, he invites audiences to acknowledge their own complexities. His fearless delivery encourages artists to explore different emotional textures in their work.

Legacy of Freddie Mercury's "The Great Pretender"

Though Freddie Mercury is often remembered for Queen's anthems like "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Are the Champions," his solo work, including "The Great Pretender," enriches his legacy by showcasing his versatility. This song

remains a beloved piece that demonstrates how Mercury could transform a classic tune into something uniquely his own.

His interpretation has inspired generations of musicians who admire his vocal prowess and theatrical charisma. Even decades after its release, "The Great Pretender" continues to be celebrated as a standout moment in the career of one of rock's most iconic figures.

Freddie Mercury's rendition of "The Great Pretender" is much more than a cover – it's a powerful statement about identity, performance, and emotional complexity. It reminds us that beneath every showman's dazzling exterior lies a real person with real feelings, making the song's message timeless and deeply human.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Freddie Mercury in the context of 'The Great Pretender'?

Freddie Mercury was the lead vocalist of the rock band Queen and is known for his powerful voice and charismatic stage presence. 'The Great Pretender' is one of the songs he famously covered as a solo artist.

What is 'The Great Pretender' by Freddie Mercury?

'The Great Pretender' is a cover song originally by The Platters. Freddie Mercury released his version in 1987 as part of his solo career, showcasing his unique vocal style and emotional depth.

When was Freddie Mercury's version of 'The Great Pretender' released?

Freddie Mercury's cover of 'The Great Pretender' was released in 1987.

How did Freddie Mercury's rendition of 'The Great Pretender' differ from the original?

Freddie Mercury's version of 'The Great Pretender' features a more dramatic and theatrical style, with his operatic vocal delivery and rock-influenced arrangement, compared to the smooth doo-wop style of the original by The Platters.

Is 'The Great Pretender' included in any Freddie Mercury albums?

Yes, Freddie Mercury's version of 'The Great Pretender' was included in his 1992 compilation album 'The Freddie Mercury Album' and also featured in various Queen compilations.

What is the theme or message of 'The Great Pretender'?

as performed by Freddie Mercury?

The song explores themes of loneliness and the facade people put on to hide their true feelings, which resonated with Freddie Mercury's own experiences as an artist and individual.

Did Freddie Mercury make a music video for 'The Great Pretender'?

Yes, Freddie Mercury made a memorable music video for 'The Great Pretender' that featured his flamboyant style and theatrical performance.

How was 'The Great Pretender' received by fans and critics when Freddie Mercury released it?

The song was well-received for showcasing Mercury's vocal range and emotional expression, becoming a beloved track among fans and critics alike.

Has 'The Great Pretender' been performed live by Freddie Mercury?

Freddie Mercury rarely performed 'The Great Pretender' live, as it was mainly a solo project, but the song remains popular among fans.

What impact did 'The Great Pretender' have on Freddie Mercury's solo career?

'The Great Pretender' helped highlight Freddie Mercury's versatility as a solo artist and expanded his musical identity beyond Queen, solidifying his legacy as a dynamic performer.

Additional Resources

Freddie Mercury The Great Pretender: A Masterpiece of Vocal Prowess and Emotional Depth

freddie mercury the great pretender stands as a testament to the legendary frontman's versatility and profound interpretive skills beyond his iconic role with Queen. Originally a 1955 hit by The Platters, Freddie Mercury's 1987 cover of "The Great Pretender" offers a deeply personal and distinct rendition that highlights his unique vocal capabilities and theatrical flair. This track, often overshadowed by Queen's massive catalogue of rock anthems, deserves a closer examination for its artistic nuances and the insight it provides into Mercury's solo artistry.

Exploring Freddie Mercury's Interpretation of "The Great Pretender"

Freddie Mercury's version of "The Great Pretender" diverges significantly from The Platters' doo-wop original, transforming it into a dramatic ballad

layered with emotion and complexity. Unlike the smooth, romantic tenor of the 1950s hit, Mercury injects a theatrical intensity that reflects his flamboyant persona and emotional vulnerability.

The 1987 single, released as part of his solo endeavors, features lush orchestration with sweeping strings and a poignant piano backdrop. This musical arrangement supports Mercury's dynamic vocal delivery, which oscillates between delicate softness and powerful crescendos. The performance captures the essence of the song's theme – the façade people maintain to mask their true feelings – with Mercury arguably embodying the "great pretender" himself.

Vocal Techniques and Emotional Resonance

Freddie Mercury's vocal performance on "The Great Pretender" exemplifies his extraordinary range and control. His ability to convey both strength and fragility within the same song sets this cover apart. Mercury's use of vibrato, dramatic pauses, and nuanced phrasing adds layers of meaning, making the listener feel the loneliness and isolation behind the song's seemingly upbeat façade.

Moreover, Mercury's interpretation can be seen as autobiographical. Known for his complex identity and public persona, the song's lyrics about pretending and hiding true emotions resonate deeply with his personal life struggles. This connection enriches the song's emotional depth, making it more than a mere cover but rather a poignant artistic statement.

The Production and Visual Presentation

The production quality of Freddie Mercury's "The Great Pretender" is notable for its polished yet emotive soundscape. Produced by Mercury himself alongside Reinhold Mack, the track benefits from meticulous attention to detail in layering instrumental textures and vocal harmonies.

In addition to the audio, the music video for "The Great Pretender" is a vital component of the song's legacy. Directed by David Mallet, the video features Mercury in various flamboyant costumes and makeup, highlighting his theatricality and persona as a performer. The visual presentation complements the song's narrative of masking pain and projecting confidence, reinforcing the theme of pretense on multiple levels.

Comparisons with Other Solo Works and Queen Hits

Freddie Mercury's solo repertoire often explored styles distinct from Queen's signature rock sound. "The Great Pretender" stands alongside other solo tracks like "Living on My Own" and "I Was Born to Love You," where Mercury experiments with pop, disco, and ballad forms. While Queen's music frequently embraced epic rock arrangements and group dynamics, Mercury's solo work allowed for more intimate and personal expressions.

Compared to Queen's anthems such as "Bohemian Rhapsody" or "Somebody to Love," "The Great Pretender" is less bombastic but equally compelling. It showcases Mercury's ability to command attention using subtlety and emotional

nuance rather than sheer vocal power or complex instrumentation.

Legacy and Influence of Freddie Mercury's "The Great Pretender"

Though not as commercially dominant as Queen's hits, Freddie Mercury's rendition of "The Great Pretender" has maintained a cult following and critical appreciation over the years. The track exemplifies Mercury's versatility and his capacity to reinterpret classic material through his unique lens.

Impact on Music and Popular Culture

This single is often cited by fans and music historians as an example of Mercury's theatricality and ability to blur the lines between rock, pop, and cabaret. It has influenced numerous artists who admire Mercury's fearless approach to genre and performance.

In popular culture, "The Great Pretender" video and song have been referenced in documentaries and retrospectives about Mercury's life, illustrating the duality of his public image and private struggles. The song's theme of hiding pain behind a facade continues to resonate, especially in discussions about celebrity vulnerability and identity.

Critical Reception and Chart Performance

Upon release, "The Great Pretender" received positive reviews for Mercury's vocal delivery and the lavish production. It charted moderately well in the UK and several European countries, reflecting interest in Mercury's solo career separate from Queen.

Critics praised the song's emotional honesty and Mercury's ability to bring a fresh perspective to a classic tune. Over time, it has gained recognition as a standout solo effort that complements the broader narrative of Mercury's artistic legacy.

Freddie Mercury The Great Pretender: A Reflection of an Icon's Complexity

Freddie Mercury's cover of "The Great Pretender" is more than a simple homage; it is an introspective work that captures the enigmatic essence of a musical icon. It represents the intersection of performance art, vocal mastery, and personal storytelling that defined Mercury's career.

This track invites listeners to reconsider Mercury not only as the flamboyant frontman of Queen but also as a sensitive artist capable of profound emotional expression. Through careful production, compelling visuals, and a heartfelt vocal performance, Freddie Mercury the great pretender remains a significant piece in understanding the multifaceted nature of his artistry.

Freddie Mercury The Great Pretender

freddie mercury the great pretender: Freddie Mercury - the Great Pretender Richard Gray, Sean O'Hagan, 2019-04-04 This fully authorized, visually stunning tribute to the incomparable Freddie Mercury gives fans unprecedented access to one of the world's greatest performers. Foreword by Rami Malek, Oscar-winning star of *Bohemian Rhapsody* Widely known as an electric showman with no equal, Freddie Mercury's death in 1991 left the world mourning. This colorful, official volume, filled with rare images and insightful text, painstakingly recounts all aspects of Mercury's colorful, fascinating life. It follows his childhood in Zanzibar, his fame as Queen's lead singer, his solo career, and beyond. The photographs come from the private collections of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bulsara, band mate Brian May, and the many notable contemporary photographers who shot Mercury.

freddie mercury the great pretender: The Queen Chronology (2nd Edition) Patrick Lemieux, Adam Unger, 2018-04-11 REVISED & EXPANDED 2ND EDITION The Queen Chronology is a comprehensive account of the studio and live recording and release history of Freddie Mercury, Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor, who joined forces in 1971 as the classic line-up of the rock band Queen. Years of extensive research have gone into the creation of the Chronology, which covers the very beginnings of band members' careers, their earliest songwriting efforts and recording sessions, through the recording and releasing of Queen's 15 original studio albums with their classic line-up, to the present-day solo careers of Brian May and Roger Taylor. All of this information is presented date by date in chronological order, with detailed descriptions of each song version, including those both released and known to be unreleased. Every Queen and solo album, single, non-album track, edit, remix and extended version is examined, as are known demos or outtakes, pre-Queen recordings and guest appearances.

freddie mercury the great pretender: Queen: Complete Works (revised and updated) Georg Purvis, 2018-10-30 Clashing together outrageous musical influences, and extravagant visual imagery, Queen's place in history as the greatest glam band of them all is rock solid. Their fan base continues to grow, over 25 years on from the death of Freddie Mercury, Queen's flamboyant, unforgettable front man. Georg Purvis's meticulous, session-by-session, song-by-song, album-by-album, tour-by-tour record of the band's progress is the complete reference source that Queen fans have been waiting for. If you love the Champions of Rock, it's all here: The Band - detailed insights into Freddie Mercury, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon including bands the members formed outside of Queen and solo endeavours The Albums - detailed production history and analysis of every album, including solo releases The Sessions - In depth coverage from the early days via *A Night at The Opera* all the way to *Made in Heaven* The Songs - hundreds of individual entries on all the famous recordings, as well as obscure, unreleased rarities The Tours - set-lists and histories of every Queen and Queen-related live show including Queen + Adam Lambert The Videos - a complete guide to Queen's groundbreaking video work The Movies - *Flash Gordon*, *Highlander* and 2018's *Bohemian Rhapsody* biopic Plus - the reunion shows with Paul Rodgers, Adam Lambert, the radio sessions, the costumes, the parties and much, much more...

freddie mercury the great pretender: Queen: The Complete Works Georg Purvis, 2012-08-28 Clashing together outrageous musical influences and extravagantly visual imagery, Queen's place in history as the greatest glam band of them all is rock solid. Their fan base continues to grow, a decade and a half on from the death of Freddie Mercury, Queen's super-charismatic front man. Georg Purvis's meticulous, session-by-session, song-by-song, album-by-album, tour-by-tour record of the band's progress is the complete reference source that Queen fans have been waiting for. If you love the Champions of Rock, it's all here: The Band - detailed insights into Freddie Mercury, Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon The Albums - detailed production history and

analysis of every album, including solo releases *The Sessions* - in depth coverage from the early days via *A Night at the Opera* all the way to *Made in Heaven* *The Songs* - hundreds of individual entries on all the famous recordings, as well as obscure, unreleased rarities *The Tours* - set-lists and histories of every live show *The Videos* - a complete guide to Queen's groundbreaking video work *The Movies* - *Flash Gordon*, and other projects *Plus* - the reunion shows with Paul Rodgers, the radio sessions, the costumes, the parties and much, much more...

freddie mercury the great pretender: *The Little Guide to Freddie Mercury* Orange Hippo!, 2023-10-12 A charismatic performer and frontman to Queen, Freddie Mercury is regarded as one of the greatest rock singers in music history. Bursting with all the famed wit, wisdom and wisecracks that made the late, great showman's larger-than-life career so compelling, this tiny tome is home to all of Freddie's most famous, infamous, and funniest flights of spoken fancy. From controversial interview quotes to candid life philosophies, through his legendary performance at Live Aid in 1985 to his final days as a solo artist, everything he ever said (almost) is here. A lot of people slammed 'Bohemian Rhapsody', but who can you compare that to? Name one group that's done an operatic single. Freddie, on 'Bohemian Rhapsody', interview with *Circus* magazine, March 1977. I think Queen songs are pure escapism, like going to see a good film - after that, people can go away, and go back to their problems. Freddie, on the magic of his band's songs, interview with *Melody Maker*, May 1981.

freddie mercury the great pretender: Queen Unseen - My Life with the Greatest Rock Band of the 20th Century: Revised and with Added Material Peter Hince, 2015-10-11 Imagine being alongside one of the greatest bands in the history of rock, touring the world and being there as they perform at some of the best and biggest music venues in the world. Peter Hince didn't have to imagine: for more than a decade, he lived a life that other people can only dream of as he worked with Queen as head of their road crew. In 1973, Queen was the support act for Mott the Hoople, for whom Peter was a roadie. Back then, Queen had to content themselves with being second on the bill and the world had not yet woken up to the flamboyant talent of Freddie Mercury. Peter started working full time for Queen just as they were making *A Night at the Opera*, the album which catapulted them to international stardom. In this intimate and affectionate book, Peter recalls the highlights of his years with the band. He was with Freddie when he composed 'Crazy Little Thing Called Love'; he was responsible for making sure that Freddie's stage performances went without a hitch - and was often there to witness his famed tantrums! He was also party to the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll which are invariably part of life on the road with a rock band.

freddie mercury the great pretender: David Bowie ,

freddie mercury the great pretender: Freddie Mercury: A Kind of Magic Mark Blake, 2016-09-12 Freddie Mercury was rock's most dazzling showman, a legendary entertainer who in 1991, at the age of just forty-five, became the first major music star to die of AIDS. Mercury's soaring four-octave voice was a defining element in Queen's unique sound, crucial to the success of the band's fifteen studio albums, from *Queen* (1973) to *Made in Heaven* (1995). He was also a supremely talented songwriter and musician who wrote many of the band's greatest hits, including 'Killer Queen', 'We Are the Champions' and their biggest triumph, the epic anthem 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. As a solo artist he released two acclaimed albums: *Mr. Bad Guy* in 1985 and the operatic 'Barcelona' with Spanish soprano Montserrat Caballé in 1988. Mercury's extraordinary charisma was perhaps best seen in his imperious live performances, in which he'd hold vast stadium crowds to rapturous attention. His outrageous theatrics, physicality and over-the-top costumes led one commentator to describe him as 'a performer out to tease, shock, and ultimately charm his audience with various extravagant versions of himself'. He pushed the limits of camp in everything he did. His extreme behaviour, in a society in which being gay was only starting to be accepted, just added to Freddie Mercury's allure. With expert understanding, Mark Blake traces Mercury's life from his childhood in Zanzibar and India to his untimely death, and charts his astonishing achievements including in Queen's world-conquering performance at Live Aid in 1985. In the year that marks what would have been his seventieth birthday, *Freddie Mercury: A Life* celebrates a remarkable life, lived

to the fullest. Featuring revealing interviews with fellow musicians, producers and collaborators, and a detailed discography and timeline, this is a memorable tribute to a unique recording artist and an irreplaceable performer who rocked the world.

freddie mercury the great pretender: *Mrs. Paddy's Political Parodies* Mrs Paddy, Paddy, 2009-05 Mrs. Paddy's Political Parodies A Tea Party Songbook for the New Revolution was born from the author's blog on Townhall.com. Mrs. Paddy takes swipes at our politicians and culture, often with a humorous tone. Personalities from Obama to McCain are lampooned, as well as political hot buttons like Global Warming, Immigration and Tax and Spend policies. It is both a retrospective of the last election cycle and a running commentary on current events; all set to familiar tunes.

freddie mercury the great pretender: *The Dead Straight Guide to Queen* Phil Chapman, 2017-10-01 Few bands embodied the pure excess of the Seventies like Queen. Theatrical, brilliant, even mercurial – there has never been another band like them, or a frontman like Freddie Mercury. Their performance at the 1985 Live Aid Concert is the stuff of legend and 'We Will Rock You' and 'We Are the Champions' have become anthems at sporting events around the world. With one of the most iconic videos ever, 'Bohemian Rhapsody' achieved even greater recognition through inclusion in the movie Wayne's World. Their 1981 Greatest Hits album has sold more than 25 million copies to date. Queen were one of the biggest Eighties stadium rock bands of the Eighties but the death of frontman, songwriter and producer Mercury at the start of the Nineties brought the band to a premature halt. This book tells the full story of the band and its members from pre-Queen to post Freddie.

freddie mercury the great pretender: *Freddie Mercury* Alfonso Casas, 2020-05-05 A beautifully illustrated biography of the iconic lead singer of the British rock band, Queen. The music of Queen and powerhouse lead singer Freddie Mercury are best experienced with the volume turned all the way up. Alfonso Casas's Freddie Mercury delivers a sonorous homage to the formidable singer and the turning points that produced a game-changing body of music that continues to inspire fans around the globe. First published in Spain and now available worldwide, this luminous work covers Freddie's three "births:" his birth as Farrokh Bulsara in Zanzibar; his adoption of the last name of Mercury and the launch of Queen with Brian May and Roger Taylor; and the emergence of the lasting legend after Freddie's death at the age of forty-five. Casas's evocative illustrations highlight the key moments in the singer's transformation from child prodigy to superstar, bringing to life the bold innovator who broke free of his conventional upbringing. Chronicling events from Freddie's marriage to Mary Austin and early fame in London's 1970s glam scene, to the making of multiple megahits (including the six-minute chart-topper "Bohemian Rhapsody"), to his final years in a lasting relationship with Jim Hutton, Freddie Mercury is an exhilarating, poignant portrait of a creative genius who lived life to the hilt. "Through Casas' evocative and vibrant illustrations, [Freddie Mercury] tells the story of Freddie Mercury's three "births:" from his childhood, growing up as Farrokh Bulsara in Tanzania, to Queen's launch to his death at 45." —Alcalde "A beautifully illustrated biography of Freddie Mercury . . . Casas lovingly presents a creative take on the life of Freddie Mercury through the use of dozens of vibrant drawings." —OutWord Magazine "[Freddie Mercury] is an appealingly modest book: Casas aims to let Mercury shine, but his striking illustrations shine in their own right as well." —The Current

freddie mercury the great pretender: *Queen* Georg Purvis, 2007 Mixing and clashing an outrageously eclectic set of influences—the close harmonies of the Beatles, the guitar pyrotechnics of Jimi Hendrix, the heavy sound of Led Zeppelin, and the glamour of David Bowie—Queen found a winning formula by channeling this strange cocktail through its charismatic frontman, Freddie Mercury. More than a decade after Mercury's death, Queen's fan base continues to grow. This meticulous, session-by-session, album-by-album, tour-by-tour chronicle of the band is the book that Queen fans have been waiting for.

freddie mercury the great pretender: *Freddie Mercury: An Intimate Memoir by the Man who Knew Him Best* Peter Freestone, 2010-01-07 An intimate memoir of the flamboyant Queen singer by the man who knew him best. Peter Freestone was Freddie Mercury's Personal Assistant for the last

12 years of his life. He lived with Mercury in London, Munich and New York, and he was with him when he died. In this book, the most intimate account of Mercury's life ever written, he reveals the truth behind the scandalous rumours, the outrageous lifestyle and Mercury's relationships with men, women and the other members of Queen. From the famous names - including Elton John, Kenny Everett, Elizabeth Taylor and Rod Stewart - to the shadowy army of lovers, fixers and hangers-on, Peter Freestone saw them all play their part in the tragi-comedy that was Freddie Mercury's life. Freestone lived with Mercury in Europe and America for over a decade. From the East 50s apartment in New York to Kensington Lodge, the house in London where Mercury died - not to mention innumerable international hotel rooms and apartments in between - Freestone was always on hand to serve and protect the man he had first met in the Biba department store in the early 1970s. Then Queen was a largely unknown band. Soon it would be the most glitzy of glam rock bands. Freestone saw the fame arrive and with it the generosity, the excess, and the celebrity friends who came and went. "I was chief cook and bottle washer, waiter, butler, valet, secretary, amanuensis, cleaner, baby-sitter... and agony aunt," he writes. "I shopped for him both at supermarkets and art markets, I travelled the world with him, I was with him at the highs and came through the lows with him. I saw the creative juices flow and I also saw the frustration when life wasn't going well. I acted as his bodyguard when needed and in the end, of course, I was one of his nurses." Freestone's bet-selling account of a talented and extravagant star's life and death is compelling, entertaining and ultimately, very touching. Illustrated with many photos from personal and Freestone's own archives. Press Reviews "An entertaining and thought provoking read" - PRS for Music Sales "This collection of Freddie's own words is the closest thing there is to an autobiography of a man with no regrets. The foreword is written by his mother" - reFRESH magazine, Leading Gay mag in the UK

freddie mercury the great pretender: Mercury Lesley-Ann Jones, 2012-07-03 This rock biography is a revealing, intimate look at the man who would be Queen. The lead vocalist for the iconic rock band Queen, Freddie Mercury's unmatched skills as a songwriter and his flamboyant showmanship made him a superstar and Queen a household name. But despite his worldwide fame, few people ever really glimpsed the man behind the glittering facade. Now, more than twenty years after his death, those closest to Mercury are finally opening up about this pivotal figure in rock 'n roll. Based on more than a hundred interviews with key figures in his life, the author, a rock journalist offers the definitive account of one man's legendary life in the spotlight and behind the scenes. She gained unprecedented access to Mercury's tribe, and she details Queen's slow but steady rise to fame and Mercury's descent into dangerous, pleasure-seeking excesses. This was, after all, a man who once declared, Darling, I'm doing everything with everyone. In her journey to understand Mercury, she traveled to London, Zanzibar, and India, talking with everyone from Mercury's closest friends to the sound engineer at Band Aid (who was responsible for making Queen even louder than the other bands) to second cousins halfway around the world. In the process, an intimate and complicated portrait emerges. It offers an unvarnished look at the extreme highs and lows of life in the fast lane. At the heart of this story is a man and the music he loved.

freddie mercury the great pretender: Bohemian Rhapsody Lesley-Ann Jones, 2011-10-13 'Exactly the sort of tribute Mercury himself would have wanted' SPECTATOR 'No one has captured better than Lesley-Ann Jones the magical, enchanting dualism of Freddie Mercury' THE TIMES 'Truly definitive, truly Freddie, an energetic, entertaining and essential account' SIR TIM RICE 'This book grabs you with its opening, then builds. Insight and anecdote in perfect harmony' SIMON NAPIER-BELL 'At last a massive tribute to a massive talent' STEVE HARLEY, COCKNEY REBEL This is the definitive biography of Freddie Mercury. Written by an award-winning rock journalist, Lesley-Ann Jones toured widely with Queen forming lasting friendships with the band. Now, having secured access to the remaining band members and those who were closest to Freddie, from childhood to death, Lesley-Ann has written the most in depth account of one of music's best loved and most complex figures. Meticulously researched, sympathetic, unsensational, the book will focus on the period in the 1980s when Queen began to fragment, before their Live Aid performance put

them back in the frame. In her journey to understand the man behind the legend, Lesley-Ann Jones has travelled from London to Zanzibar to India. Packed with exclusive interviews and told with the invaluable perspective that the twenty years since Mercury's death presents, Freddie Mercury is the most up to date portrait of a legendary man.

freddie mercury the great pretender: Freddie Mercury Laura Jackson, 2011-10-06 ****THE DEFINITIVE, UP-TO-DATE BIOGRAPHY OF FREDDIE MERCURY**** 'An outstanding biography. . .a fitting testament to the creative genius' -- Daily Mail 'Touches all manner of intriguing rock 'n' roll debauchery. . .fascinating reading' -- Time Out This fascinating biography of Freddie Mercury has received outstanding acclaim from Queen and rock fans worldwide -- now revised and updated to coincide with the release of the film about his life, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Born Farrokh Bulsara on the island of Zanzibar, Freddie Mercury rose to worldwide stardom as the lead singer of Britain's biggest music act of all time. In this bestselling biography, Laura Jackson reveals the reality behind Queen's flamboyant frontman and lead singer, as she looks behind his unique brand of showmanship to discover who Freddie Mercury really was. Featuring exclusive interviews with some of those closest to Freddie right up until his tragic death, original Queen members and many others -- including new and intimate stories from Tim Rice, Richard Branson, Cliff Richard, Bruce Dickinson, Mike Moran, Wayne Eagling, Zandra Rhodes and Susannah York -- this is the definitive biography of one of rock's greatest legends.

freddie mercury the great pretender: Sound of the Crowd: a Discography of the '80s (Fourth Edition) Steve Binnie, 2018-11-05 **SOUND OF THE CROWD: A DISCOGRAPHY OF THE '80s** is the ultimate record collector's guide to the 1980s. In the era of multi-formatting, picture discs, coloured vinyl, multiple remixes, funny shaped records and tiny CDs you could lose down the back of the sofa, this book lists every format of every single, EP and album released in the UK in the 1980s by over 140 of the decade's biggest acts, from ABBA to Paul Young. This fourth edition has been fully revised and expanded to include even more acts than ever before, with additional sections to cover Band Aid-style charity congregations and compilation albums from the early '80s K-Tel efforts through to the Now That's What I Call Music series and its competitors. Compiled by Steve Binnie, editor of the '80s music website Sound of the Crowd and writer, producer and co-host of the unconventional '80s chart show Off The Chart, broadcast weekly on Mad Wasp Radio.

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