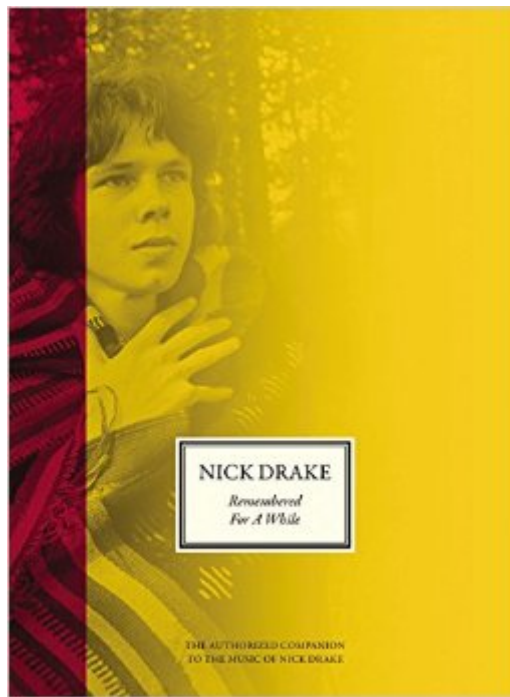


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Remembered For A While



Synopsis

A vivid portrait of the English singer-songwriter and musician Nick Drake Nicholas Rodney "Nick" Drake was an English singer-songwriter and musician, known for his acoustic guitar-based songs. Drake released only three complete albums -- Five Leaves Left (1969), Bryter Layter (1970), Pink Moon (1972) -- and was not well known before his death in 1974. Yet he gained a massive posthumous following, inspiring leading musicians such as R.E.M.'s Peter Buck and Robert Smith of The Cure and bands such as Coldplay and The Black Crowes. Forty years after Nick's death, Remembered for a While peels back some of the mystery surrounding his life. The book will feature gorgeous color photographs, as well as original letters and interviews with family and friends. As Nick's sister writes in the introduction, Remembered for a While will reveal "the poet, the musician, the friend, the son, the brother, who was also more than all of these together, and as indefinable as the morning mist." At long last, Remembered for a While paints a portrait of a visionary musician who inspired a fanatical following and whose legacy continues to inspire future generations of musicians -- and the lives of his fans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sometimes he seems hardly to have existed at all." Mick Brown on Nick Drake. Fans of Nick Drake's music and/or who also might find his troubled life fascinating will want this book. Drake's sister, Gabrielle, has put this in-depth collection together of letters, diary entries, photos, scrapbook entries, newspaper articles, and essays from those who knew Drake during his short life. Plus

there's a Discography and near the very end of the book, some short, nicely written remembrances of Drake by singer Bridget St John, guitarist/singer Michael Chapman, and musicians like Dave Mattacks and Dave Pegg, among a number of others. The lyrics to one of John Martyn's finest songs is here too, which is about Nick Drake, "Solid Air". If you've read Dann's "Darker Than The Deepest Sea", Humphries' "Nick Drake The Biography", and/or Rasmussen's "Pink Moon", this new book is closer to the source than all the others. The book itself is of high quality--from the thick boards used for the covers, to the beautiful endpapers, to the light cream paper stock, to the graphic reproductions, to the layout of the book itself. Even the spine is of good quality. This is, by its nature, a personal view of Drake through the eyes of his family and close friends. But running all through this book you get the feeling that no one--not even his family--really knew Drake simply because he was so self-effacing and withdrawn. But with much intimate observation from his family we see another Drake that other books could only surmise, or at worst, guess about. Humphries "The Biography" is a good start in getting details about Drake, as is Rasmussen's "Pink Moon" which looks at Drake from a different viewpoint. But this coffee table-sized book is quite possibly the last word on who Nick Drake was. But the bottom line, which his sister admits, is that no one really knew the real Nick Drake. The combination of first-hand accounts, diary entries, letters, Drake's handwritten lyrics, and a number of unseen photos is the real meat of this book. The essays are, by and large, insightful and add to the depth of the book, but it's Drake's family's observations that bring Nick Drake closer to our understanding him--if that's even possible. Drake was so withdrawn that communicating with him was at times frustrating or impossible. This book brings us as close as any of us will ever be to who Drake was. Also worth reading is "Nick Drake: The Pink Moon Files", by Jason Creed, who published a fanzine (now defunct) with all things Drake that lasted for a few years. This book is a collection of many of the best pieces from that fanzine, and is a good, personal (from many viewpoints) picture of Drake as remembered by those who knew him. Included are interviews and period reviews of Drake's music and other viewpoints--which taken together--paints a pretty good picture of Nick Drake at various stages of his life. This isn't just some fawning look at Drake aimed at a narrow demographic of Drake followers. It's an effort to place his music in some kind of perspective with nicely written, intelligent, and informative essays which Creed has woven together. If you're reading this review of "Remembered..." you're probably already familiar with Creed's fanzine and/or book, but just in case you're not, I thought I'd (hopefully) make more people aware of this good collection of well written articles.

Nick Drake is a singular talent. His three studio albums, plus the compilation Time of No Reply

exhibit a talent for writing, singing, playing and arranging that has stood the test of time. They are well loved and listened to today because they were perfectly crafted to begin with. Classics. I don't pretend to understand Nick's mental illness, though I have suffered from depression myself for a good deal of my adult life. His father Rodney's diary of Nick's last three years is as heartbreaking as it is illuminating for all who make a study of Nick's life, as many of Nick's fans do. This chapter is the main reason I bought the book. It is a real gift for those seeking insight into Nick's life. Exposing such deeply personal information shows the level of bravery his sister Gabrielle was willing to go to in putting out this book, which was clearly a labor of love. The only real insight I got into depression came from an interview with author Gary Renard, who suffered from depression from the time he was 14 to well into his adult years. He said that he didn't think depressing thoughts because he was depressed, rather, it was the other way around. He was depressed because of the type of junk thoughts he was thinking all the time. Combining mindfulness and carefully watching my thoughts and triggers, I've been able to avoid negative thoughts that naturally arise, and stay away from thinking that leads me back into depression. Of course, applying this to Nick's situation would be an unfair simplification. Nick's depression ran very deep, and I am not convinced that practicing mindfulness would have saved him. Helped him? Probably. Saved him? I am not so sure. From reading Rodney's diary, they certainly did everything they possibly could to help Nick. Had Nick lived through this difficult time to produce more music, he might have looked back on his early work as his blue period. As beautiful and engaging as his albums are, they have a sort of muted quality about them, which is why I think some critics described his music as depressing, which I never agreed with. But they do have a quality of Nick holding something back. Like joy, for instance. I can't help but wonder what his music would have been like had he been able to shed his demons and just let himself run naked and wild (musically speaking) through the beautiful English countryside he grew up in, and sang about what a joy it was to simply be alive. This book, like Nick's music, is stunningly beautiful, a work of art in itself. But I find it sad at the same time.

A great book with recollections of Nick Drake by his sister Gabrielle and many friends! Nick was always for me one of the most important musicians of our time! The book is helping me to know him better. Great!

This seems like a wonderful book but - incredibly for such an expensive, beautifully made book -

every time there is a "ct" or "st" combination of letters in the text, there's a weird character connecting the two letters, similar to an accent symbol. This is throughout the entire book, from the introduction by Gabrielle Drake on page 6 - in fact the corrupted text appears within the first dozen words of the book! - to literally the very last page, where copyright information and the ISBN number appears. That means common words like "first", "fact", "just", "still", "style", "listeners", "least", "interesting", "against", "insistent", "suggested", "suggests", and on and on all have this problem. I have yet to see a single page that does not have this issue. Are all the copies of the book like this? How did this happen? This is on the hardcover edition, not the e-book. For me, this pretty much ruins the book it's so distracting and well, ugly. I would recommend that prospective purchasers buy it from a brick and mortar store so they can verify that it doesn't have this bizarre, annoying problem.

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