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Face The Music: A Life Exposed



Synopsis

In *Face the Music*, Paul Stanley - the co-founder and famous "Starchild" frontman of KISS - reveals for the first time the incredible highs and equally incredible lows in his life both inside and outside the band. *Face the Music* is the shocking, funny, smart, inspirational story of one of rock's most enduring icons and the group he helped create, define, and immortalize. Stanley mixes compelling personal revelations and gripping, gritty war stories that will surprise even the most steadfast member of the KISS Army. He takes us back to his childhood in the 1950s and '60s, a traumatic time made more painful thanks to a physical deformity. Born with a condition called microtia, he grew up partially deaf, with only one ear. But this instilled in him an inner drive to succeed in the most unlikely of pursuits: Music. Stanley's memoir is a fully realized and unflinching portrait of a rock star, a chronicle of the stories behind the famous anthems, the many brawls and betrayals, and all the drama and pyrotechnics on and off the stage. Raw and confessional, Stanley offers candid insights into his personal relationships, and the turbulent dynamics with his bandmates over the past four decades. And no one comes out unscathed - including Stanley himself. "People say I was brave to write such a revealing book, but I wrote it because I needed to personally reflect on my own life. I know everyone will see themselves somewhere in this audiobook, and where my story might take them is why I'm sharing it." (Paul Stanley)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Of all the original Kiss members, Paul Stanley has long been the most private. His interviews are

always diplomatic and measured, and whatever we heard about his dissatisfaction with Gene, Ace, or Peter were either hearsay or told only from their sides. Now we finally hear Paul's bit of it. The best thing about this book is that Paul is hands-down the most mature and fulfilled. He came from a long road, starting with being neglected at home and bullied at school. This is a typical start for many famous people, and Paul's fits in with those. The road to fame with Kiss is a well-worn path, so Paul skimps details about debauchery. He implies or is matter-of-fact with those stories, unlike Peter and Gene, whom reveled in detailing the disgusting things they'd do in hotel rooms. Much of it you can parse out if you've read the other autobiographies and know about Kiss. Paul couldn't stand Ace and Peter's addict-minded behaviors. They wasted their talents, and ultimately lost their jobs in the band. Twice. I liked Paul's perspective on these matters though because he comes across as not just honest, but logical about the whole thing. Kiss is his job. It's his business. He's put forty years of work into it. Why would he let two addicts ruin that? After reading his account I now understand why two other musicians wear the same makeup made famous by the originals. The originals were too flawed to cut it. They couldn't handle the fame nor the pressure. It happens all the time in other businesses, but because rock bands become personalized by fans, fans feel they have a say in what that band does when they really don't.

I have to admit that my view of Paul is shaped a lot by watching New Kiss's appearance on Jimmy Fallon as well as a recently recorded concert from Zurich, which really puts Paul's comments about earning one's place in the band in perspective. He is a shadow of his former self vocally, and while the showman still is there, it is not easy for me to swallow his constant condescension towards Ace and Peter. I am also an early admirer of Ace, although my view of him changed a lot by reading his autobiography - he comes across as a whiny kid and I was left feeling extremely little of the sympathy he was looking for. However, this is about Paul and his book, so let's get on with it. Nobody should have to endure the bullying Paul had to go through, and reading Paul's own journey of self-discovery is actually quite interesting. He is very right that money doesn't buy happiness, but he was unable to see that it could buy him the breathing space to actually seek happiness and find out what it meant to him until it happened by chance. One thing that I believe that Paul could have spent more time on is his relationship to his dad, which seems like it changed quite a bit throughout the years. There seems to be an acknowledgement of what his dad's life was, but very little was said about where they are today. And Paul's relationships with others are both the most interesting and the weakest aspect of the book. His descriptions of Ace and Peter appear so clouded by later history that there is nothing left to salvage

at all â “ and that also clouds his description of the earlier years together.

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