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Making Rumours: The Inside Story Of The Classic Fleetwood Mac Album



Synopsis

Inside the making of one of the biggest-selling albums of all time: Fleetwood Mac's Rumours. Fleetwood Mac's classic 1977 Rumours album topped the Billboard 200 for 31 weeks and won the Album of the Year Grammy. More recently, Rolling Stone named it the 25th greatest album of all time and the hit TV series Glee devoted an entire episode to songs from Rumours, introducing it to a new generation. Now, for the first time, Ken Caillat, the album's co-producer, tells the full story of what really went into making Rumours - from the endless partying and relationship dramas to the creative struggles to write and record "You Make Loving Fun," "Don't Stop," "Go Your Own Way," "The Chain," and other timeless tracks. Tells the fascinating, behind-the-music story of the making of Fleetwood Mac's Rumours, written by the producer who saw it all happen. Filled with new and surprising details, such as Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham's screaming match while recording "You Make Loving Fun"; how the band coped with the pressures of increasing success; how the master tape nearly disintegrated, and the incredible attention paid to even the tiniest elements of songs, from Lindsey playing a chair to Mick breaking glass.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a mixed review. I'm a huge fan of FMac (all eras) especially Ken's work with them. I know a TON about this record, and still learned much I did not know. It's a great story of HOW things get done, a true behind-the-scenes of something quite important. It seems fair and doesn't slam or flatter anyone too much - some people are shown as moody AND talented, but without malice.

You'll be surprised at things revealed here, and sometimes long for the way things used to be in those days! Sounds fun... and a very creative time. I'd say it's a "good read" for anyone who loves the record - I couldn't put it down! With this book in hand, you'll finally appreciate their very subtle arrangement ideas that add such powerful boost to the songs. But as in almost all such books, it's written by a professional writer, not the famous person whose name sells the cover. So they elaborate the truth, making up conversations and things no one could remember - tiny details to make you feel you are there, but are just fabricated. "Stevie sat down and picked up a half-smoked joint" - these momentary kinds of things no one would remember from 30 years before. It's sad, because you can usually spot these things if you're aware... I know they do it so it feels more like you're there, but it's still Creative Writing sitting next to actual History. So - the book is full of revelations, and some great insights into the records creation. I love to see that things aren't always successful, and sometimes there are mistakes. Great songs, get left off for minor reasons, personal issues cloud how things got done. I'm an engineer/producer too, so I appreciate the technical details - tho it's hard to write for both a technical audience and a listener audience.

The pros and cons: Pros:- If you are a music techie (have recorded before, or genuinely interested in the process), there are a lot of interesting parts on how certain sounds were produced, the types of mic's, amps, instruments used, etc... - The book is very well organized. Chapters are divided by song, so if you are interested in certain songs and not others, it's easy to jump right in. The reference/source guide at the back of the book is extremely detailed, and it's easy to find where any name/part/song/instrument/etc is used in the book. Cons:- Caillat either has the most amazing "Rain Man" like memory in history, or took the most extremely detailed notes on every moment of the day (which would be hard to believe, since his hands were full at the mixing board with five demanding musicians... and admitted he took his share of drugs to boot, which would draw the accuracy of those notes to question). Not humanly possible to recall every last word of every conversation like he recites in the book, and it's quickly obvious that parts were embellished. Even the arguments concerning the crumbling relationships of the band members - which was one of the major issues behind the making the album - don't read as genuine, and seem trite or cooked up. This calls into question the rest of the book, but I'll give Caillat the benefit of the doubt on the recording process and technicalities. He also goes into detail about everything his dog does, which is "cute" (I guess) at first, but quickly gets old. "He licked me on the face as if to say 'everything is going to be fine'". You get the picture.

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