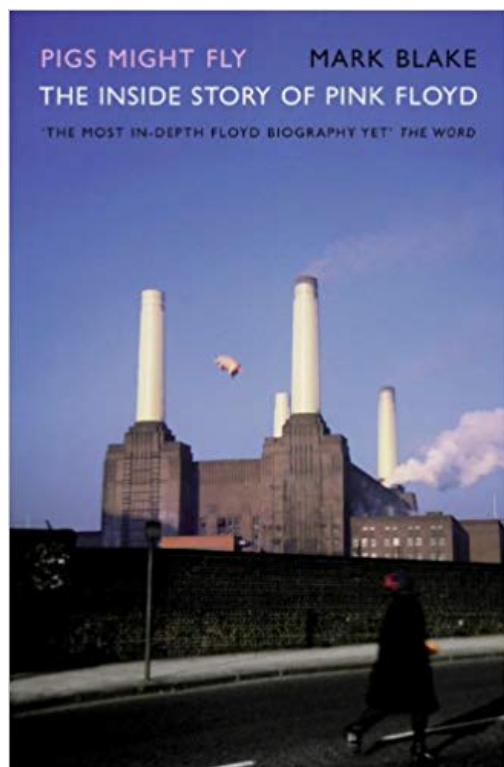


Pigs Might Fly: The Inside Story of Pink Floyd *by* Mark Blake



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ISBN: 1845133668

ISBN13: 978-1845133665

Author: Mark Blake

Book title: Pigs Might Fly: The Inside Story of Pink Floyd

Pages: 416

Publisher: Aurum Press (October 25, 2008)

Language: English

Category: Music

Size PDF version: 1995 kb

Size ePUB version: 1892 kb

Size FB2 version: 1701 kb

Other formats: rtf lit mbr txt

Incorporating more than 100 new and exclusive interviews, this definitive guide covers Pink Floyd from their Cambridge beginnings in the early 1960s to their triumphant re-formation at Live 8 in 2005—24 years after their last live performance together and the death of their troubled founder-member Syd Barrett. Highlighting how Pink Floyd's albums such as *Dark Side of the Moon* and *The Wall* consistently remain some of rock's biggest sellers of all every year on CD, and how both David Gilmour and Roger Waters continue to command impressive crowds on live tours, this remarkable account of a band that has acquired cult status amongst its audience over several decades is essential reading for Pink Floyd fans and appreciators of music alike.



Reviews of the **Pigs Might Fly: The Inside Story of Pink Floyd** *by* Mark Blake

Orevise

It's not just a great narrative of the 5 characters that made up the band, their views of the band and the roles they played. Just as interesting is how the music came about, where the inspiration came

from, and which of the members played and voted on the songs to include. It was fascinating to read that the band took a vote between doing *The Wall* or *The Pros and Cons of Hitchhiking*, which Roger Waters would go on to do as a solo. The book does a superb job of upending many of the notions that are out there (e.g. Waters, after spurning the band, was desperate to reunite but it was David Gilmour who demurred; Syd Barrett's contributions were limited to a single record, more limited than I thought; the 1980s Floyd was not about raking money but about proving Waters wrong).

The book is strongest after Gilmour enters the picture, and Blake gets to concentrate on the band and its music, rather than the circles around them. The personalities are truly interesting, the talented but lazy Rick Wright, the happy go lucky Nick Mason, who becomes alienated from best pal Waters, the stoic Gilmour, who soldiers on as best as he can, and Waters, who comes out awfully from this history. From the early Barrett years, Waters was already being difficult and a bully, and his narcissism and ego ends up blowing up group dynamics.

Superb read, couldn't recommend it any more.

Lilegha

A wonderful book. I echo many of the sentiments already put forth, namely in that Roger Waters was arrogant and yet the prime driving force behind what gave Pink Floyd its depth, and that he was better with David Gilmour than he was alone -- and the same goes for Gilmour, despite what the large Floyd concertgoer numbers show to the contrary in the years following Waters's departure. I saw Roger Waters and the Wall in Louisville in 2013, and I was blown away. He truly plumbs the depths of the human condition in a way that few rock artists have ever been able to do, and for that, I am thankful for the man. I'm also pleased that as he is now in his 70s, he sees some of the errors of his younger days, times when he was, by many accounts, a prick. Blake also explores effectively the romance, the tragedy, and the reality of Syd Barrett's decades away from Pink Floyd. Though largely reclusive, he pops up in different portions throughout the book, and Blake conveys just the basic sadness of his demise. I love all of the members of Pink Floyd, and *The Wall* remains my favorite album of all time. Blake has done a great job of showing the brilliance and the sometime-misery of this rock band.

Blueshaper

Pink Floyd had always been elusive to the rest of the world, namely music critics and the fans who gobbled up their albums with no real knowledge of who they were. Syd Barrett played a significant role first as song writer and lead guitarist, then acid casualty who was dismissed from the band after their first album. This exhaustive book revisits those people and places that made Pink Floyd a household name in rock music. I was impressed at the sheer volume of research concerning Syd Barrett and his downfall from the world of pop music. Equally impressive was the inclusion of Dave Gilmour, who taught Syd how to play guitar when they were just teenagers in late 1950's Britain. The stroke of genius was Dave Gilmour joining the band in 1968, saving the Floyd from being a footnote to the psychedelic music craze that briefly saw "Swinging London" rave ups, and hemp smoke filled dance halls. Pink Floyd would create a new direction with Gilmour, and albums such as *Atom Heart Mother*, *Meddle*, and the universally accepted *Dark Side of the Moon* forever brought them fame and fortune, all the while Syd's specter loomed in the background, as lyricist Roger Waters would build a career on isolation and madness from his departed friend. This fine book covers all the history of Pink Floyd from the early jams in 1964 right up to 2007. No stone is left unturned in this literary history of one of the greatest rock bands of all time. A must read for any hard core or casual Floyd fan. All of your questions will be answered.

Anarasida

This is a very well-researched bookumentary (don't bother Googling that word; I just now made it up) spanning from the early 60s when they were just teenagers through the passing of Richard Wright in 2008, including much coverage about Syd Barrett before, during, and after his time with Pink Floyd. This book shares a lot of behind the scenes stories and details about the inner-band

disputes that eventually broke up the band after The Wall before reforming sans Roger Waters.

Use_Death

A bit long winded, although it does give a good appreciation of the personalities involved and the ups and downs of this talented bunch of guys. It covers the tragedy that Sid Barrett's life became and Roger Waters doesn't come out smelling of roses generally, him being at the centre of much of the band's arguments and political posturing, seeking to dominate and dictate no matter what the consequences. His driving need to be the leader and dominant figure coupled with the lack of empathy with the other band members and their ideas and opinions, probably cost them dearly. You can totally understand why they didn't stay together and the acrimony, especially between Waters and Gilmour, was very evident. Shame really, you can only imagine what could have been produced creatively had they remained as a band for a longer period, in addition to the fabulous catalogue they produced when they were together.

AnnyMars

I enjoyed this book and learned a lot about the Floyd. I wanted to go on reading as it sort of lured me on and on. Perhaps it is slightly biased against Roger Waters but it is hard to say. My biggest regret is that I haven't seen any of the shows.

Kazracage

This is definitely the most comprehensive of the Pink Floyd biographies I have seen. Lots of insights on what may have happened to Syd (and Rick Wright for that matter), and a lot on the ego war that eventually tore the band apart. Unlike a lot of the bands that came out of London at the time, these guys came from the intelligentsia and artisans of Cambridge and London, and were not from the working classes at all.

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