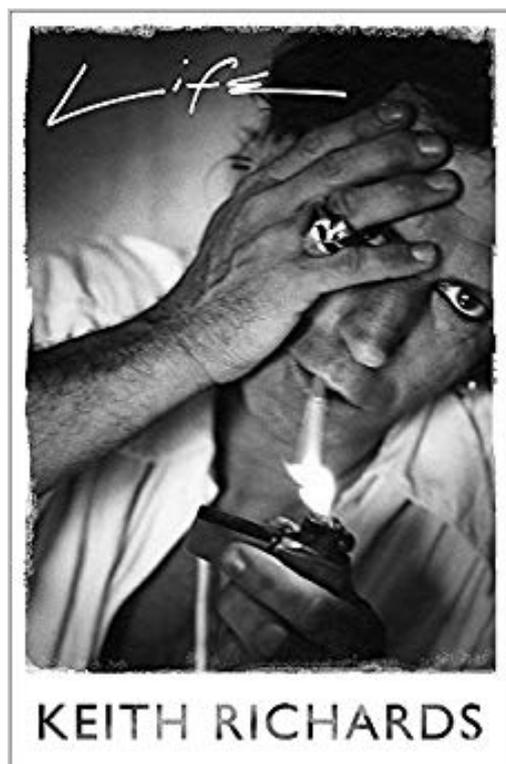


## Life by Keith Richards



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With the Rolling Stones, Keith Richards created the riffs, the lyrics and the songs that roused the world, and over four decades he lived the original rock and roll life: taking the chances he wanted, speaking his mind, and making it all work in a way that no one before him had ever done. Now, at last, the man himself tells us the story of life in the crossfire hurricane. And what a life. Listening obsessively to Chuck Berry and Muddy Waters records as a child in post-war Kent. Learning guitar and forming a band with Mick Jagger and Brian Jones. The Rolling Stones' first fame and success as a bad-boy band. The notorious Redlands drug bust and subsequent series of confrontations with a nervous establishment that led to his enduring image as outlaw and folk hero. Creating immortal riffs such as the ones in 'Jumping Jack Flash' and 'Street Fighting Man' and 'Honky Tonk Women'. Falling in love with Anita Pallenberg and the death of Brian Jones. Tax exile in France, wildfire tours of the US, 'Exile on Main Street' and 'Some Girls'. Ever increasing fame, isolation and addiction. Falling in love with Patti Hansen. Estrangement from Mick Jagger and subsequent reconciliation. Solo albums and performances with his band the Xpensive Winos. Marriage, family and the road that goes on for ever. In a voice that is uniquely and intimately his own, with the disarming honesty that has always been his trademark, Keith Richards brings us the essential life story of our times.



## Reviews of the **Life** by Keith Richards

Efmprof

I thought the biography was well written and kept my interest. I would suggest having access to the internet while reading it since you will be tempted as I was to put the book down and listen to the singers, musicians and Rolling Stones songs cited in the work. This would be particularly true of someone not familiar with the music or artists cited by Richards. James Fox was listed as a 'contributor' to the book. I do not know if contributor equals ghost writer but if it was a biography using a ghost writer to fill in, structure or edit the work, it was done very well. I found myself wondering who wrote what and if you told me Richards wrote the whole thing...I would believe it. Prior to reading the book, I had a completely different impression of Richards, the book caused me to look at him as more than a guitar player. How much of the evidence justifying that change in impression is for others to verify but for me it was an entertaining read. I always ask if I would want to know the people who are subjects of the books I read. Of all the biographies and autobiographies I have read, this was one of the toughest judgements I had to make. My best answer is I would not like to know or meet or talk to the Keith Richards of the first 145 pages of the book, but would be very interested to know the man who wrote the last two pages of the book.

Ericaz

I thought this book was great. I loved every word of it. The only thing that bothered me was Mr Richards's lack of insight into how his drug use impacted those around him especially, Mick Jagger. I can't imagine what it was like for Jagger to watch his friend turn into a junkie. Typical of an addict who gets better, Mr Richards expected those around him to fall in line when he finally decided to quit. "Here I am, I'm better and I expect to be treated with respect!" I love Keith, but he needs to have empathy for his old friend. I don't doubt that Mick is a handful, but he was probably scared senseless that Keith was going to die.

I have always loved the Rolling Stones and I could not put this book down. As for Keith, a little understanding those who put up with his antics would not go astray.

Kupidon

Any legit fan of Rock and Roll is a fan of Keith Richards!

As one half of the driving force behind the Rolling Stones -- the second most celebrated band in Rock and Roll history, clocking in behind only the Beatles -- Keith is true Rock and Roll Royalty. And the view behind the veil into the man's astonishing life and times is incredibly fascinating.

Also, unlike many rock autobiographies, which have clearly been polished by the subject's co-author to generic shine, this book is positively drenched in Keith's voice.

But that said, it's faaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaar too long!

Much of the material covering his early days could have been pared down to a few key moments that foreshadowed his eventual career in music. Additionally, the details about him traipsing around the world and what his life melded into in later years could also have left out.

With so much blather to content with, it took me over two years to finish the book because I absolutely had to take breaks along the way.

But if you're a fan of the Stones or Rock in general, it's definitely a worthwhile read.

Just be prepared to skim, because there's plenty of fat that could have (and should have IMHO) been excised in the editing process.

Itiannta

I really liked this book! I found it to be more entertaining than I expected.

You get a sense of what it has been like to play in very popular rock band for a number of decades.

This is almost like a history book.

Like very autobiography (or biography) you will read about the subject's childhood. That was interesting, but what I found to be the strongpoints of this book was the history of the Richards/Jagger partnership.

How they wrote songs together was detailed, and that was intriguing in itself. That and the turbulent relationship that Keith Richards and Mick Jagger share.

There was a lot of information about Brian Jones leading up to his death.

Another part of music biographies I really like is the origin of songs. "Life" didn't disappoint in that department. Keith Richards dispelled a lot of rumors about the subject of some of the Stones most popular songs. He also explained his approach to writing songs and identified some of his guitars, amps, and effects pedals.

His take on the nuances of recording was interesting also.

There is a lot of info in the book for any Rolling Stones fan.

I give this book 5 stars for being possibly the best autobiography I have read to date.

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