

JIMI HENDRIX



STARTING AT ZERO

His Own Story

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Jimi Hendrix

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Starting at Zero Jimi Hendrix

It took just four years in the spotlight for Jimi Hendrix to become an international cultural icon. The sheer impact and originality of his music and his unique mastery of the guitar placed him forever amongst musical giants. But what of the man behind the public image? Modest and intensely private by nature, Jimi was shrouded in intrigue from the moment he first came into the public eye, and the mystery has only grown with time.

Much has been written about him by experts, fans, and critics, some of it true and some of it not. He did, however, leave his own account of himself, locked away like a Chinese puzzle in his many interviews, lyrics, writings, poems, diaries, and even stage raps. *Starting at Zero* brings all these elements together in narrative form. The result is an intimate, funny, and poetic memoir-one that tells, for the first time, Jimi's own story as only he could tell it.

Starting at Zero Details

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From Reader Review Starting at Zero for online ebook

Roberto says

Lamentablemente no es una biografía. Son extractos de las palabras de Hendrix acomodadas (parcialmente) en contextos que tengan sentido. Te da una idea de lo que hubiera sido hablar con el, honestamente le entendería la mirada de las veces. Me quedo con la impresión de Hendrix como un hombre muy sensible, poco coherente, herido, roto y buscando paz en su música. Hipócrita, principalmente consigo mismo. Triste darse cuenta como una estrella de rock de su calibre pasó sus últimos años ansioso y solo. Buscando el sonido perfecto no pudo darse cuenta de que lo que estaba haciendo trascendería increíblemente. Mientras lo leía busque acervo visual de sus interpretaciones y creo que lo conocí aún más. Esencial en una biblioteca musical.

Özgür Tekin says

Hendrix'in günlüklerinden, sa? a sola karalad?klar?ndan, söyle?ilerinden ve mektuplar?ndan olu?turulmu? otobiyografik bir kitap. Kitab?n kurgusu oldukça iyi olu?turulmu?. Zamans?z ölümü yakla?t?kça Hendrix umudunu kaybetmeye ba?lam??. Bir yap?mc? olma iste?i, notasyon ö?renme ihtiyac?, kendi müzi?iyle ilgili vizyonu gayet samimi bir biçimde yans?t?lm??. Jimi'nin duygu dünyas?n?n çok derinlerine gidemiyoruz ama zaten bunu yapman?n yolu da bu kitaptan geçmiyor. Hendrix kendini sözlü olarak ifade etme konusunda yetersiz buluyor, kendi ?ark?lar?n? seslendirirken bile. Onun yar?m kalan hayallerini okumak ve kitab?n kapa?ndaki çocuksu bakan gözlerini görmek üzücüydü. Kitab?n finalindeki vasiyet benzeri sözleri de unutmamak gerek.

Jon says

I bought this at the gift store in the Handel&Hendrix museum in London, and probably should have read up on it before the impulse purchase.

This is essentially an attempt at an unauthorized "autobiography" by editing together a bunch of interviews and letters into a book. It's pretty uneven, and the book's flow is a bit jagged. Hendrix interviews can be entertaining to watch or listen to, but his somewhat nonlinear train of thought don't entirely translate into biographical writing. Also, when you're mixing long-form interviews with quickly-jotted letters to fans and very brief one-sentence diary updates, it makes for a very lopsided read.

Also, the book's "photos" consist of either sketches or tracings of popular photos of Hendrix you've probably seen in other books. I'm not sure if this was done to add an artistic flair, or if the tracing was to get around rights issues.

The book has some information useful to completists, like the diary entries. There's also good reference on the sources used. Otherwise, it wasn't that interesting to me.

Chelsea says

I felt like I had just been through the mind of a genius. I felt so much more empowered and so much more motivated as a musician after reading this book. definitely a must read for fans and musicians alike.

Louise says

This book arranges interviews, letters (presumably full text) to family and fans, a letter to an album cover designer, and an attorney's letter to him into a chronology for Hendrix's life. The editors have short intros to each piece citing what was happening in Hendrix's life at the time.

There are a few photos. A layout has changing text sizes and shades of purple. The wonderful line drawings have a signature that does not match any attribution (probably a copyright holder and not the artist). Were the book to have a larger format, it would be considered a coffee table book.

In the narratives you see Jimi's concern for his father, his daring in leaving steady (for this industry) gigs to work on his own art, his positive attitude, his openness to all music and his overwhelming exhaustion. He speaks and writes a lot about music giving the reader a glimmer of what he might have produced had he lived.

If you didn't know how the story ended, you would not know from the text. There is very little about drugs. His writing is so tame that you are surprised when he wrecks a car in Honolulu.

Fans, hungry for anything Hendrix will most likely want to read this.

The authors claim the narratives are based on Hendrix's letters and words, but the lack of family sanction casts doubts on the authenticity. I was glad to read this; glad it exists, but wish for a better book.

Peter O'Connor says

This one is cobbled together from a mix of letters home, diary entries, interviews and song lyrics so it is not an autobiography in the true sense of the word. Still, what could have been a disjointed mess actually flows along quite nicely and by the end of it you really do get an idea of the man and his music. Admittedly I am too old and cynical to buy into a lot of the spiritual mumbo jumbo but it certainly would have hit home in the summer of love. This book would probably work well alongside a decent biography that tells the story from start to end but overall it is a nice experience.

Nancy Bevilaqua says

Jimi just broke my heart, in passages like this:

"I think I'm a better guitarist than I ever was, but I have never been really good. Every year, like my writing, it slips further and further away. The music I might hear I can't get on the guitar."

On the other hand, I'm glad for him:

"I see miracles every day now...spirituality and things in the head, they're always there. I mean, it gets better and better all the time. I'm always having visions...It's out of what's directing me. What I was here in the first place to do."

And:

"Craziness is like heaven. Once you reach that point where you don't give a damn what everybody else is saying, you're going towards heaven."

I'm really glad I read *Starting at Zero*; I really knew so much less than I thought I did about Hendrix, his music (I really wasn't familiar with much other than the songs that got airplay, astonishing as they are), his life, and the circumstances of his passing. The book is comprised of nothing but his own words, with a few editorial notes tossed in here and there for context, so the reader is left on her own to draw conclusions about who Hendrix was and what happened to him.

My own conclusion is that he was a gentle, modest, brilliant man who gave the world his immeasurable gift and went on. And that he wasn't "crazy" in the least, unless you use his own definition of the word.

But the music industry must be one hell of a vicious machine.

Esagui says

He conocido al gran Hendrix. Reencontré su música. Me apasioné con su vida aunque necesité un poco más. Conocí su mentalidad, y fue esto, cerca del final de su vida, con sus intereses cambios pero fuertes convicciones, lo que me hizo darle una estrella menos; la espiritualidad sigue sin arraigarse en mí. No comprenderla genera esto, despreciarla un poco, fastidiarme más, una estrella menos.

Reem says

This may not be the best biography ever but the composition is spot on. I loved how some events got explained and dates were added so readers won't get lost in timeline.

I enjoyed reading Hendrix's words and I loved my attempts to imagine myself witnessing the era. It was a great experience in general.

Stacy Feters says

"When I get up on stage and sing, that's my whole life. That's my religion. I am Electric Religion."

I have always wanted to crawl around in Jimi's brain and absorb all the information and knowledge he was spinning around. This allows you to do just that. You get a very intimate glimpse at the life of a guitar legend.

As you're reading this, you just close your eyes and imagine the world through his eyes, what he felt and

thought at a time where the world was divided. Absolutely beautiful.

"Those bits of paper called marriage certificates are only for people who feel insecure."

Mark says

Great book here on a great man, better, because the only person talking (besides a number of anonymous interviewers) is the man himself. I always enjoy hearing artists themselves describe their lives, it's so much better than hearing it from those who either love or hate them, with comparable agendas. And since his life was indeed cut short far too soon, the document itself reads pretty close to as good as an autobiography anyone can get from it. Good gift for anyone who loves Hendrix for all that he was. And I would *highly* recommend his *studio* version of "*The Star Spangled Banner*" if you would like to hear a great example of *Handel's* influence on Jimi.

Ryan Madman Reads & Rocks says

Jimi Hendrix is one of my top five favorite guitar players of all time! If it weren't for him... who knows if the awesome distorted sounds of the electric guitar would exist today!

This book is a really great collection of interviews, diary entries, poems, lyrics, musings and other miscellaneous things written by Hendrix himself.

It also offers a glimpse into his mind and expands upon the origins of some of his most popular songs. Apparently, he wrote the lyrics for Purple Haze after reading a short science fiction story about a giant ray gun that had the power to mess with people's minds and cause them to slip into a confused state of mind.

He was also....

Complete review at madmanbookreviews.wordpress.com

Özlem Güzelharcan says

Jimi Hendrix'in yazd??? notlardan ve verdi?i röportajlardan bir araya getirilmi? bir metin S?f?rdan Ba?lamak. Bask? kalitesi muhte?em. ?çinde harika çizimler var. ?çerik, öte yandan, beklentilerimi kar??lamad?. Belki de "hey moruk.. dostum.." tarz? yaz?m?ndand?r. Fazla beklentiyle okumamak laz?m.

Jordi Via says

"La gente sigue de luto cuando la gente muere. Eso es autocompasión. Todos los seres humanos son egoístas hasta cierto punto, y por eso las personas se ponen tan tristes cuando alguien muere. Todavía no habían terminado de usarlo."

"Es gracioso cómo la gente ama a los muertos. Hay que morirse para que piensen que vales algo. Una vez

que te has muerto, lo has conseguido de por vida.
Cuando muera, sólo seguid escuchando mis discos."

Ian says

Shooting stars don't stick around too long but through Jimi's own words you appreciate the brilliance.
