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Springsteen: Album By Album



Synopsis

With in-depth explorations of 17 studio albums spanning over 40 years of music history, Springsteen is the definitive book on "The Boss." Bruce Springsteen stands astride the rock 'n' roll stage like a colossus. Renowned for his passionate songwriting, galvanizing live shows, and political activism, the iconic rocker shows no signs of slowing down. Richly photographed, and featuring brilliant writing by one of America's top music critics as well as a foreword by Peter Ames Carlin (author of the bestselling biography *Bruce*), this is a must-have for Springsteen's millions of fans.Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have a lot of books about Bruce Springsteen. I have LOTS and LOTS of books about Bruce Springsteen. Some very good ones, and many which rehash the same material. But my god, this one puts them all to shame. The writing, the editing, the knock-em-dead images I've never seen before....WOW! Like a lot of people I've grown weary of all the articles and press thrown at this one guy who has dominated American music for the past four decades. Somehow, Ryan White found a way to tie it all together in a way that hasn't been done before. The maniac-fiend die-hard Springsteen fans will find a lot of new material here, as will Ivy League professors looking for new ways to compare Bruce to John Steinbeck and Mark Twain. When I photographed Bruce and Clarence for the cover of the album "Born to Run", Clarence said "There will be books written about this album!" He was right, of course. Only this book is about Bruce's 17 studio albums, as well as a detailed look at the timeline of his life and career. Written with an intensity of detail that does justice to its subject, it's a breathtaking look at Springsteen as he has evolved over the lifespan of my

generation. If you only own one book about Bruce, this would be the one to have.

Â This is such a wonderful book. I hope my brief video review helps, if you're hesitant to purchase it for yourself or someone else. ANY Springsteen fan will LOVE it!

I'm sure the knee jerk reaction is to discount this as just another Springsteen book. Big mistake. This coffee table-sized tome is a must for any Springsteen fan as it is a perfect retrospective of Bruce's catalogue complete with incredible photographs, legendary quotes and a valuable timeline. This book belongs prominently displayed among your keepsakes and is an essential addition to the Springsteen library.

So the question is: do you need another Springsteen book in your library?The short answer, for the time being, is: you need THIS one.The long answer begins as follows:Ryan White has crafted (in conjunction with the folks at Sterling Publishing) a fine "album by album" summary of Springsteen's career, part history, part review, part opinion...it reads fast and fun.The lovely design of the book though...a mix of familiar and surprisingly fresh photos, often beautifully reproduced...slows you down some. Thanksgiving dinner would be better if you didn't wolf down all the wonderful food, right? Took your time maybe?The way they put this book together forces you to do exactly that. The book almost has a rhythm to it. Very nice.For the big-time Bruce fans (I am proudly one of them...a signed Meola print of Bruce hangs prominently in one of my exam rooms), White manages to fill the spaces between the stories we all know with a number of anecdotes and details you probably won't. There were plenty enough to keep me on my toes...For a newbie, this a-bit-more-than-superficial tour through the Springsteen canon will likely make you seek out further tomes by Marsh, Carlin (who wrote the intro) and others. You WILL want to know more of the story...The book does several things well. New albums place older ones in a new (or just different) context. Thinking about his career from "Born To Run" to "Born In The U.S.A" brings new elements to that period, when you think about what he's done from "The Rising" to "Wrecking Ball".New biographies by necessity ADD more to the story, GOOD biographies re-frame the whole story. It should be presented differently. And better.This is a good one...This is not hagiography. Springsteen "failures" are told alongside his "successes"...without going overboard either way. There is a nice, even tone to the material...again making it quite easy to read...but no less interesting...The book is divided into album chapters, each chapter beginning with a time-line of significant events, releases, concerts.Then comes the discussion about the album's genesis, each song getting a line or two of comment. Each disc's

place in the canon is suggested. The way White writes though, you find yourself making your OWN assessment...again, a very smart way to write this sort of book. Quotes are liberally sprinkled outside of the regular text, in large bold font, adding to or focusing on a particular element of that record's impact. A nice discography and bibliography are presented at the end. Having read this cover to cover, I am now going to use this as a tour guide, and listen to all of these records over again...closely, on headphones or carefree, in the car with windows open.....you HAVE to love a book that makes you love the music more.

Sterling, the company that published this heavy (five pounds!) and thick (288 glossy pages with text and great photos), has made the Bruce fan happy this year. They don't price their books in the \$75. - \$100 range but don't skimp on the quality of either the graphics or the writing. The book covers, not only the timeline of Bruce and the band "but covers every album (and its related tour schedule) right through 2014. There's a discography in the back that also lists compilations and benefit albums Springsteen appeared on. Yes, there are plenty of photos and quotes scattered throughout by Ryan White has done his research and writes in a style that will appeal to even the cursory Bruce fan. This could be one of the big sellers for the holidays this year. If you are a Springsteen fan, get yourself a copy, pull out your old albums (whether CD or vinyl) and play them as you move from chapter to chapter. This'll get you through the cold winter months. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm
• Anything Phonographic •

A nice addition to your Springsteen collection. The product is very high quality. If you don't have a lot of Bruce stuff this is for you because it introduces you to each album and a little bit of where Bruce was musically and personally and also where "music" was at the time. For avid there is a lot of new stuff from later in his career in here that I didn't know. The price was so great I didn't mind. Get it for your coffee table and enjoy it as a conversation starter. The best book cover for sure!

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