



Everything: A Book About Manic Street Preachers

Simon Price , Nicky Wire (Contributor)

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Described as 'Rock Book of the decade' by the Guardian in London, this is the fascinating story of this number one- selling, award-winning UK band. Beginning with their childhoods in South Wales, Simon Price traces the lives of the band through their early days, the mysterious disappearance of their songwriter, Richey Edwards, and concluding with the release of their multi-platinum album "This is My Truth Tell Me Yours." Classic photos, unseen rarities -- including exclusive pictures from the band's official photographer -- and the most comprehensive "Manic Street Preachers" discography ever published, make this book unmissable. Has sold over 20,000 copies since its original publication in 1999 Written with the full co-operation of the band, their families, their friends and colleagues in the music industry.

Everything: A Book About Manic Street Preachers Details

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Author : Simon Price , Nicky Wire (Contributor)

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From Reader Review Everything: A Book About Manic Street Preachers for online ebook

Amy says

Must read book for any fan of the group, comprehensive and articulate yet never overly serious and stale. Price's relationship to the band gives it a nice personal feel and he's got a great, readable writing style. Probably the best band biography out there and seriously recommended.

Rachel McNab says

The best book written about the best band to come out of Wales.

Madeline Cane says

I read this book 12 years ago knowing very little about the MSP and even so, my God it was gripping from the start. The author has such insight and a rare intimacy that nonetheless remains respectful and dignified whilst telling band's funny, unlikely and at times tragic story. I've never forgotten this book, it had such an impact.

Andrea Greene Myers says

Probably the best of the three Manics books I've read this year.

Scott Cumming says

"Libraries gave us power"

I mention the above as it's likely the most famous Manics lyric and because I got this near twenty year old biography from my local library. This review is about to devolve into an autobiographical nature, but bare with me even if you find it a mere self indulgence.

Manic Street Preachers were the first band I discovered myself at the age of 12 upon seeing an advert for the "Everything Must Go" album and I thereafter picked a copy of the single of the same name very cheaply at my local supermarket when it had fallen out of the charts. I listened to music before this, but this was the first time a band had gotten to me purely because of their music with no other foreknowledge influencing things. I got the album that Christmas also.

I had no knowledge of the history they were purging on EMG until my Dad mentioned to me about a reported sighting of the missing member of the Manics. This was a head exploding moment as I knew

nothing about it and in those pre-internet days it took me a while to build up any knowledge. As the years went by I continued to be a fan until my late teens when I was in thrall to the "New Rock Revolution" and then moved on to other music from there leaving the Manics behind. It was only recently when I started an MSP listening binge out of almost nowhere that I realised I still didn't know the full story behind the band and Richey's disappearance. I bought this book not long after its publication, but never got around to reading it only to happily discover there was a copy available in the city's library catalogue.

The book isn't just your standard rock biography much in the same way that MSP aren't your standard rock band. As well as telling the story of the band there are 10 essays included looking at the members of the band and themes associated with them. The writing is engaging and is not afraid to criticise the band when it is thought to be in order especially regarding live performances. There's humour in the writing too, but it's hit and miss and at times just downright misplaced with Price almost missing the tone of what he's writing just to throw in a silly one liner.

Published just 4 years after the disappearance of Richey, he is the main focus of the book and his features and foibles are lengthily explained. Nicky comes in a close second and appears to be just an agent provocateur with many outlandish, mischievous quotes. James and Sean often have large events in their lives passed over in a line, but as the book wore on I realised this had more to do with them guarding their privacy as much as the author not writing about them. There's a transcript of the interview that led to the "4 REAL" incident and 3 quarters of the book really focuses in on Richey as the focal point and heartbeat of the band amidst his trouble and lack of musicianship. The book certainly dispelled myths surrounding the band and especially who Richey was as he wasn't just some drugged rock poseur.

My severe lack of knowledge regarding his disappearance was really rammed home upon reading about it. It's here the writer's affection for him pays off in that you are left to feel the devastating blow that his disappearance was and how it wasn't as simple as it first appeared.

It's a near 20 year old book that covers the most famous years of a one off band that manages to do the job you want it to. It informs and entertains in equal measure. As I came to the end I did wish it would keep going and I could read about those last 20 years of the Manics, but I guess I'll just have to catch up with their back catalogue.

Aeron says

Yes, its written by a hardcore fan, but this book by far includes most everything you need to know about the Manics up to the This is My Truth years. No other band's story is quite like their's...a definite good read for any fan of music

Laura Hopcroft says

Probably the best book on the manics. Well written and the included essays on subjects that arise from the manics life makes the book such a interesting read. If your new to the manics this book will give you a great look at their history. I constantly go back and read this book

Nikki says

I really couldn't have asked for a better book on the Manics. I feel that the author had the perfect amount of personal insight yet professional detachment from the history of the Manics, which went well with the fact that they are a band that have always been intensely personal yet expansively broad in their lyrical references and politics. The author is also skilled in that he was able to pack so much history and information within the book, which would have taken many writers many more hundreds of pages to encompass.

Eric says

This is the first paperback edition, published 1999. There's a second edition, published 2004.

The typesetting is inexcusably ugly, especially given the subject. The writing is pedestrian and cliché-addled. Three consecutive sentences, from page 67: "The Manics were no longer anybody's best-kept secret. They were going overground. [paragraph change] It was time to put up or shut up."

The photo captions are so crass that anyone with an ounce of sympathy for the book's subjects will be disgusted.

Avoid!

Idun says

I award this book five stars not to signify how good I think it is, or how much I enjoyed reading it. On a more personal note, I have no idea how many times I got distressed with this in my hands (which I enjoyed it, and it's even a lot cooler than emo music, lol!). It was also Simon Price's writing that took part in how I deeply affected by the band. Proof that a 'subculture' can afford such intellectual stimulant. Though cautiously with the maturing knowledge, I failed to grow the CoR within myself even bigger. Haha.

I encountered the band first at my twelve, struggling cross-eyed and had never understand their lyrics until I was big enough, of course to pass the stage of a faithful imitation to the heroes' life. What do you say, with all those stages of fidelity? Yes, a disturbing fondness of Rock and Roll myths which somehow followed by gratification: "Thanks to the glamorous suicide and disappearance, because my heroes won't fall from grace."

The obsession I sub-consciously feel a bit wry, it's their refusal to the 'heroic' reputation. The regular baffling and slagging off about this and that political crap, which a bit 'tragic'. I take it as hilarity concern or else they become hateful (seriously, they are). Somehow, watching them nowadays, I get engaged affectionally to those romanticised pathetic old men. They're like that of ironic, 'beautiful-dreams-but-then-failed-pathetically' left ideology. But they had gave this power, an inherited believe to love unobtainable things, curiosity, knowledge addiction, statement greater than death, creativity, rubbishes I love. All these speculative experiences, takes part in my lifetime. Like I just grew up to watch Nicky Wire wrinkling.

It took a while until I could back down and be honest to myself. How very silly, how very 'sassy punk rock', how meek you are to the industrialized devotion, when you privatize it, you'll regard them because they are all yours. Like this part of me that I love.

Rosemary says

Very entertaining, at times affecting, this book only has two problems. Price does tend to gush over Richey Edwards a bit, and there are some fairly major inaccuracies (the year Sean Moore was born for example. I did really enjoy it though. I think it manages to capture why the Manics mean so much to their fans.

Ben Eldridge says

MSP.

Highly literate, and political/socio-political welsh punk band who infamously suffered a severe setback when their chief lyricist, group icon and style arbiter disappeared, never to be seen again in early 1995.

This book, written by a hard-core gay fan-boy of the group, plots their rise to fame, their devastation at Richey James' disappearance and their subsequent decision to carry on as a three piece which led to their scoring a #1 UK hit with the comeback single 'A Design For Life' and being lauded with all sorts of plaudits for the album 'Everything Must Go'.

Well written, engaging stuff. Their story is so exceptional that it makes for highly riveting reading that easily eclipses many paint-by-numbers rock biogs.

Daniel says

Fascinating

Nicholas says

Amazing and instantly readable, lots to take in over larger than average pages and in a smaller, compelling font size. I read A Version Of Reason earlier which was Richey focused and between the two, Everything being as official via Simon Price as you can currently get, the two tell it all in detail. About 5 or 6 other albums later...so updates wanted! Sadly no Richey news :-(

Elisabeth says

At least, the best thing to read about the Manics until Nicky decides to write his own book...
