



The World as I Remember It: Through the Eyes of a Ragamuffin

Rich Mullins, Ben Pearson (Photographer)

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Rich Mullins was more than a musician. He was a poet and thinker who left behind a timeless legacy. As a columnist for *Release* magazine for nearly six years, Rich shared his musings on faith and life, conveying the wonder and awesomeness of his God with the same depth and simplicity that characterized his music. *The World As I Remember It* is a collection of these personal writings, complemented by striking photography and some of Rich's most memorable quotations. This one-of-a-kind collection will be cherished not only by his fans, but by anyone who appreciates fresh, deep spiritual nourishment.

Rich Mullins was more than a musician. He was a poet and thinker who left a legacy of deep gratitude, humility, and delight before the dace of an awesome God. Here you'll find a treasury of Rich's engaging, intimate reflections on faith and life. Revealing the spiritual meaning behind the simplest events, Rich muses about subjects ranging from fear to contentment, childlikeness to emptiness, from war to music. This is a feast for anyone who appreciates fresh, deep spiritual nourishment. As you savor the arresting ideas of one of modern Christianity's most ardent pilgrims, you'll find your adoration focused on your Creator, Redeemer, and Inspirer.

Story Behind the Book

For nearly six years, Rich shared his thoughts about faith and life through his columns in *Release* magazine. When his first column was published in the spring of 1991, the editors introduced him this way: "Rich not only has a lot to say...he also has a unique way of saying it. And although Mr. Mullins could easily fit into that intellectual bohemian-type category (we're sure he could hold his own in a discussion with any theologian or philosopher of old), most often, his message is a straightforward call back to the principles of faith. He's a poet, a scholar, a gentleman, and yes, just a little bit off-center. But that's why we like him, and are pleased to welcome Rich to *Release* with this regular column.

We trust you'll love him and what he has to say as much as we do..." Rich had a way with words, and a collection of his writings seems an appropriate tribute to a man who has been referred to as "the greatest songwriter of our time."

The World as I Remember It: Through the Eyes of a Ragamuffin Details

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From Reader Review The World as I Remember It: Through the Eyes of a Ragamuffin for online ebook

Dan Mingo says

I have never read any of Rich Mullins writings until this book. I so wish he was still around to write more. This guy was a deep thinker and we have been blessed to have him leave us the songs and writings he did. So good!

Matt says

Beautiful thoughts about God. A wonderful read...almost like a devotional.

Kristen Kelley says

Many, many nuggets of truth in this little book. "Faith is not a denial of facts -- it is a broadening of focus. It does not deny the hardness of guitar strings, it plucks them into a sweetness of sound." Thankful for this written word of stories behind the songs of the artist.

Jerry says

Before reading this, I knew very little about Rich Mullins other than that he wrote "Awesome God" and that he died in a car accident in 1997. This book is proof that he will live on, not only via his songs, but via his other writings as well, some of which are compiled here.

Keiki Hendrix says

‘A book to remember the writer/poet, Rich Mullins, with exceptional photography’

A collection of articles for RELEASE Magazine written by Rich Mullins and including some beautiful photos by Ben Pearson make The World as I Remember It: Through the Eyes of a Ragamuffin a book to keep in your personal library on the shelf reserved for those ‘special’ books.

Though the articles are all online at kidbrothers.net, having them in one book collection is good for those times you want to read the about the writer/poet Rich Mullins, not just the singer/songwriter.

What's inside? Here is a list of quotes:

From The Way We Were -

“And if the cross is more than a symbol (and it is), and if grace is more than a sentiment (and, thank God, it

is), if Jesus Christ is really God's revelation of Himself and not the product of human imagination (and He is), then we will become the children we once were and must become again."

From Making/Being Made

"Of course, what we make of the Bible will never be as great a thing as what the Bible will – if we let it – make of us."

From His Master's Voice

"If I loved my Master like my dog loves his, I would be more saintly than John the Divine ... more radical than John the Baptizer ... more deeply devoted than St. John of the Cross."

I can't begin to tell you how much I admire Rich Mullins work and compiling a list of praises almost seems distasteful to his memory. It would've almost insulted him to hear such praises. But I can praise the work God did through the man. You will find a sampling of his mindset as you read these articles.

For those who want the view of Christianity from an ordinary but astounding perspective, I recommend this book for the word and the photos. For the admirers of Rich Mullins work, I am sure you already have a copy.

Reviewed by: Keiki Hendrix

Reviewed for: The Vessel Project

Jaclynn says

This book shows a little about Rich and what he did with life along with a collection of his articles/thoughts/reflections. Rich died a sudden and tragic death in an auto accident, he thought his work as a Christian music (most "famous" for the song, Our God Is An Awesome God) was not yet finished, but instead the Lord called him home. I enjoyed the deep thoughts on theology, although not really on theology, but really just on the relationship of man and God. Simple, yet profound.

Enchantress debbcat ? says

Wow. I know that word is so over-used, but I have no other words. I subscribed to Release Magazine back in the day and often devoured Rich's writings like they were my daily food and nourishment. We all have spiritual mentors, and the songbook of our life. Rich was and is that for me. I just discovered this book; I can barely put it down. I am like another reviewer, I just wanna share it with everyone I meet. I am not finished with it yet....work gets in the way. (dang work). But, I don't wanna finish it almost. I don't want this feeling to end. 10-20-12. Finished it yesterday. It was just great. I read it on my kindle but I now plan to buy the book so I can enjoy the photos more and for ease in skipping around to read various essays at times when I feel I need the message for the day. Well worth the money to own it twice.

Jeff says

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from this book, but I knew Rich Mullins wrote it, so I wanted to read it.

It turns out that this book is a collection of articles that Rich wrote for Release Magazine, between 1991 and 1996. Because of that, there is little continuity, as Rich seemed to be writing whatever was on his mind.

It begins with a welcome by Rich's manager, Jim Dunning. This is followed by "A brief glimpse into the life and music of Rich Mullins." I'm not sure who wrote that bit. One thing that struck me in this section was Rich's belief in the connections during communion. "He said if we believe in the communion of the saints, then it is not only communion with the saints that are still in the Body, but also with the saints of old." it's one of the reasons that Rich loved singing the old hymns that people have sung for generations.

The book proceeds from there to the articles, which are grouped chronologically. Rich writes about faith and life, in various scenarios. There are many topics, but all fit into the scope of how faith and life work together. I'll provide some quotes that I highlighted while reading.

"I am a Christian, not because someone explained the nuts and bolts of Christianity to me, but because there were people who were willing to be nuts and bolts, who through their explanation of it, held it together so that I could experience it and be compelled by it to obey."

"And Jesus Christ is, for me, the evidence of God's unreasonable and unsolicited attentiveness, His unearned favor, His incomprehensible love."

Concerning the faith we had when we were children: "When we were little, we gave ourselves over to faith. Now we are big, and too heavy to rise above our own understanding.

"When we were kids we sang for the joy of singing, we colored and cut and pasted for the fun of doing it. We ran for the love of running and laughed and got scared and saw the world as a real place full of real dangers and real beauty and real rights and wrongs."

I love this one: "Faith is not a denial of facts--it is a broadening of focus. It does not deny the hardness of guitar strings, it plucks them into a sweetness of sound."

"I hope you see the faithfulness of God in everything He has made. I hope you learn to trust that all of this is His care sworn to you. But mostly, I hope you know Jesus through whom God has wildly and ferociously loved us. I hope you know and that you become sacramental to your neighbor who God also loves passionately. I hope you leave them little doubt about His love and the victory Jesus won over hate and death."

"Don't stop reading. Don't stop listening. There are many things that are too amazing for all of us, many more that empower us beyond what we can understand." (I will never stop reading, and if I go blind, I will listen to audiobooks.)

"But, if we still ourselves, if we let Him calm us, focus us, equip us for the day, He will remind us of our Father's prodigal generosity and about the pitiful weakness of greedy men. He will remind us (as He reminded the devil) that 'Man does not live by bread alone,' though He may call us (as He called His first disciples) to give bread to the hungry (presumably because man cannot live long without bread). He will remind us about the cares that burden common people, the illusions that blind those the world calls 'lucky,' and the crippling effects of worry. He will give us hope--hope that stretches us (where worry bent us) and faith--faith that sustains us (where greed smothered us) and love--love that is at the bottom of our deepest desires, the loss of which is at the root of all our fears."

"How is it that we can accept that Moses saw a bush that burned and was not consumed, yet we doubt that God can love in a rage and never cool?"

And finally, Rich quoting his uncle's response to his determination to live a life of poverty (and I'm sure that Dallas Willard would agree): "If you're really concerned about the poor, becoming poor isn't going to help them, it's just going to ease your own conscience. If you're really concerned about the poor, go out and make a fortune and spend it on them."

Rich Mullins was, still is, one of my life heroes. I'm thankful that I got to see him twice in a concert setting. Both times, as many others have experienced, he came out on stage in a white t-shirt, blue jean shorts, and barefoot. Both times, he quietly left the stage at the end of the "show" while the audience worshiped, singing "Step by Step."

There will never be another Rich Mullins. Nor does there need to be. We already have one. God decided that he needed Rich in heaven more than we needed him here. It's not my business to understand that. But, in a sense, we still have him here, because we still have him. We have his liturgy, his legacy, and his ragamuffin band.

Sarah Honkanen says

Beautiful words. Heartfelt. Truth.
very touching. I found myself wanting to read a chapter to every one I met.

Sheena says

"The World as I Remember It" is basically a collection of essays, written by songwriter Rich Mullins, reflecting on life and faith. Anyone who has found Mullins' songwriting style captivating or moving will likely enjoy the essays in this collection. As his songs indicate, Rich Mullins is able to take a theological concept (however complex), relate it to real life, and share that process in an engaging manner. The essays are written in a very approachable manner -- reading them is like sitting down with Mullins, a cup of coffee, and just listening to a story.

Heather says

I miss Rich Mullins.

Nathanael says

This little book mainly consists of thoughts, "essays", from a column in a magazine that Rich Mullins wrote for. There are also memoirs from a few who knew him well.

I would not call myself a poet, but people say that Rich Mullins was a poet and a prophet as well as a

singer/songwriter. As such sometimes I found his writing difficult for my uncultured non-poetical mind to get around. But there were times when his way of seeing things, his insights were refreshingly different and thought-provoking.

Nicole says

A collection of writings from Rich Mullins, an extraordinary poet and story teller. He was my favorite song writer before he passed away. This book is a real treasure.

Beth Anne says

Excellent. Rich wrote a column for Release magazine for many years; this book is largely a compilation of those articles. He was brief and poignant, understood people and scripture very well. I thought learning more about him might make me like him less, but it only grew my admiration.

P. 49: So, let us press on with no faith in our own understanding and nothing but faith in the truth that is too great to be diminished by our feeble minds and too great not to transform us. Salvation comes from God not from our cleverness. The Bible is a very great book. Let us submit to it so God made to the great work making us into the great people.

P. 57: We walk by faith and not by sight--not because we are blind, but because faith gives us the courage to face our fears and puts those fears in a context that makes them less frightful. We walk by faith and not by sight because there are places to go that cannot be seen and the scope of our vision is too small for our strides. Status not a denial of facts--it is a broadening focus. It does not deny the hardness of guitar strings, it plucks them into the sweetness of sound.

Samantha says

A treasury of Rich's engaging, intimate reflections on faith and life. You'll find yourself continually focused on the Creator, Redeemer and Inspirer of Life... we serve an Awesome God!
