



Thank You for the Days: A Boy's Own Adventures in Radio and Beyond

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Approaching 50, Mark Radcliffe decided to write about his life, most importantly, his time in music. But crucially, he only wanted to write about the most interesting days and not the dull ones in between. With predictable good taste, Mark takes his title from the Kinks' song and has written an entertaining, funny book worthy of such a pedigree.

Mark's family life is covered by 'The Day My Mother Hit Me With a Golf Club', his school life by 'The Day I Ruined a Perfectly Good Suit' and 'The Day I Got My First Guitar'; through his epiphany of the power of music in 'The Day I Met the Band Who Changed My Life' and his star struck meeting with childhood hero, David Bowie. Many other stars are covered too, for example in 'The Day I Went to Kate Bush's House for Cheese Flan', and 'The Day Mick Jagger Was Taller Than Me'. He's very funny when recounting his days working at the BBC in '80s and '90s (how, when bored, he and colleagues invented a fictional department), winning Stars in Their Eyes as Shane MacGowan and so on. Yet, among the laughter are more sober days, such as the one when he learned John Peel had died.

A cracking read and a potted history of both one man's life and his love affair with music, THANK YOU FOR THE DAYS is a uniquely entertaining memoir that will appeal not just to music fans but to connoisseurs of British popular culture.

Thank You for the Days: A Boy's Own Adventures in Radio and Beyond Details

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From Reader Review Thank You for the Days: A Boy's Own Adventures in Radio and Beyond for online ebook

Rachel Stevenson says

I've been fond of Mark Radcliffe since he presented Out on Blue Six on Radio 1 back in the early '90s, but I'm not sure that he's a writer. Or rather, I had to hear his voice in my head, like a particularly morose schizophrenic, as I read the book because without his sardonic Boltonian wit, it all became a bit too Partridge-esque. Maybe I should have got the audiobook.

It didn't help that the first chapter was about Dr Feelgood, a band whom grizzled old men who should know better get teary about, but whom I loathe, and that whenever Radders introduces a topic, e.g. appearing on Stars In Their Eyes, he has to preface it with a rant about a soft target, in this chapter's case, reality shows and Simon Cowell's stranglehold on the music industry. Or when he writes about meeting his hero, David Bowie, he leads up to it with a long and fairly insulting prologue about how people who have heroes are idiots.

There are a lot of passages that sound like they were written for a book called I, Radcliffe and many could end with: "Needless to say, I had the last laugh."

'I recruited a fellow student, the blonde and beautiful Susan Nightingale.....Susan began to talk about her boyfriend a lot. She'd kept that quiet when I offered her the gig!'

'[Kate Bush] was the kind of girl who looked like she'd come from a good family and had been very well educated but was also a bit of a free spirit.'

'I had studied English and American literatures at University and...so could drop names like Ionesco, Wesker and Marlowe into the conversation.'

'I'm also put off by swimmers and decathletes who are always keen to let you know that they have to get up at five in the morning....well don't then if you don't like it.'

'I have occasionally wondered what it must be like to walk down the street and have builders turn and admire your bottom.'

'I mean I'm not gay or anything, but I know a good-looking chap when I see one.'

However, some of the other chapters are genuinely engaging. He's at his best when writing on subjects that he's genuinely passionate about rather than humblebragging about meeting Madonna or Mick Jagger or giving his opinions on people who like foreign holidays. So the chapters about his love for Man City or walking the Coast to Coast are preferable to the japes he and Lard got up whilst dressing for the annual R1 DJ photo, or tales of him getting drunk with his band(s) (drinking tales are always a lot less interesting to reader than writer). The piece on the indie Diana, John Peel, is moving and the machinations behind Mark and Lard's sacking from the R1 Breakfast Show interesting. But if you were ever a Brosette, just don't read the chapter on Bros.

I think I'll stick to Stuart Maconie in future.

Mira says

Having enjoyed Mark Radcliffe's Mark & Lard shows on Radio One and his book Showbusiness: Diary of a Rock 'n' Roll Nobody I knew this would be a good read.

Check out my YouTube review here : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxvYF9...>

:)

Allan Heron says

Very enjoyable and amusing book from Radcliffe who comes across as a guy you'd like to bump into and chat over a few beers with.

The book is made up of significant days from his life through which you build an understanding of his life. A very engaging read.

Graham Hughes says

An enjoyable, often hilarious collection of anecdotes from the life and career of one of Britain's better music presenters over the last 20 years or so.

In his writing, as well as his broadcasting, Radcliffe sometimes rambles a little (though at least we're spared the 'erm, er, ...' interjections in print); he also occasionally lapses into cliche. Altogether, though, he comes across as warm, likeable, funny and refreshingly ego-free, and his tales are well worth reading.

Edmole says

An easy read by a lovely man about a good life lived happily and well.

Vicky says

I would actually give this a three and a half if I could. It's a lovely collection of anecdotes about Mark Radcliffe's life both on and off air. He's a warm and interesting chap and I enjoyed the book a great deal. A thoroughly nice guy, an honest account and an interesting read.

The anecdotes are not earth-shattering or sensational, but they are written in an amusing and entertaining way and portray Radcliffe as a pretty down-to-earth guy. I like an autobiography that makes you feel like

you could happily go for a pint with the writer by the end of it. And this did just that.

I charts his encounters with John Peel, Paul McCartney, David Bowie, Tony Blair and many more. I would definitely read another of his books.

Emma Cook says

Starting the year with lovely easy to read commutable books, nothing too dreary to a dreary start to 2017. Picked this one up from the book swap shelf at work. It is what it is, really; a few jovial stories of fun and laughable memories of Mark Radcliffe's life. Easy to read en route to work. Worth a look-in.

Alex says

At the top of the cover of this book it bears the legend "'Steal This Book !' - David Bowie". Good advice from the Dame there because you certainly wouldn't want to buy it.

The problem with this book for me was twofold; a) it wasn't about Mark Radcliffe's radio experiences as such, more like tales of his schooldays and situations he found himself in as a result of being a broadcaster, and b) listening to Mark waffle on during his radio shows is quite entertaining, but when it comes to reading him waffling on, well....it becomes tedious.

Another thing I disliked about the book was that Mark displayed, much like Phill Jupitus did in my previous book read, a real snobbery about popular music and popular culture sometimes. When talking about television, he repeatedly referred to TV as the 'idiot box' or 'idiot lantern'. A sweeping generalisation of the medium, and I expected better from him.

I was quite glad to finish this book, which is a shame because I was looking forward to reading it, but for me it was ultimately a let-down. Never mind.

DJ Yossarian says

This made a great, random, late summer read -- humorous, not terribly demanding, peppered with anecdotes about meeting the likes of Kate Bush, Shane MacGowan, George Harrison, and working with the legendary and greatly missed John Peel. Not all of it hits the mark, but it's an entertaining read. Favorite bit: his comment that "The Beatles" was actually a pretty lame name for a group that had had such a profound influence on popular music, and that the Fab Four, rather than Genesis P Orridge & Co, really ought to have been called "Throbbing Gristle", since it was a much better name.

Tresor says

I was hooked from the first few sentences when I read about Mark's love affair with Dr Feelgood - takes me back to my teenage years when I saw Dr Feelgood (a few times) at Cheltenham Town Hall. I guess it's

because he's one of my contemporaries that I enjoy this book and his radio show so much, along with the fact that we seem to share a pretty similar musical taste. The book is like the radio show - warm and funny. What more could anyone want?

Derek Bridge says

I've always enjoyed what Mark Radcliffe does ("talk in between records"), even if he does say um-err too much. I particularly liked the recent evening shows with Stuart Maconie and remain annoyed that they have been moved to an afternoon slot (although if it means less Noddy Holder it can only be a blessing). But I was even a fan of Mark's breakfast show, with Lard, and based my own game (Mad Or Sad) on theirs (Dobbins or Bobbins) - mine was much crueler.

So what am I saying?

I'm saying that Mark has a nice line in gentle, self-deprecating humour, a passion for music, and a liking for people. And it all comes across in this book of anecdotes. An easy and pleasurable read.

Rob says

This is the literary equivalent of a friendly chat in the pub with the genial DJ, Mark Radcliffe. It aspires to be little more than a series of personal anecdotes that roughly, and in no specific order, chart his career through various radio stations. Themed loosely around the idea of key days in his life (e.g. the day I went to Kate Bush's house for cheese flan; the day I ruined a perfectly good suit) the stories he tells are generally entertaining, though as often as not a springboard for good-natured rants and riffs on heroes, holidays and everything in between.

It's hard not to like him, as the book is written in the same low-key, self-deprecating manner that characterises his radio shows. That said, it's not a particularly satisfying read due to his habit of ignoring any sense of chronology. It's probably not for anyone who knows nothing about Radcliffe, but for those who fancy spending a little more time with him than they get on the radio, it works just fine.

Nigeyb says

On the cover David Bowie states "Steal this book". Reason enough to read it. I also recently read and enjoyed *Reelin' in the Years: The Soundtrack of a Northern Life* another autobiographical book by Mark Radcliffe.

Mark Radcliffe is one of the good guys - a man who is passionate about music, down to earth, humorous and someone I would love to meet. This book is as predictably enjoyable as I knew it would be. I didn't enjoy it quite as much as *Reelin' in the Years: The Soundtrack of a Northern Life*. I'm not sure why, perhaps I am becoming blasé about Mark's style, or perhaps it's just not as good.

One part that really struck was when he goes back to his halls of residence at Manchester University as a fifty year old. He states: "Standing in my old bedroom, as alone as I'd been when my mum dropped me off

there in September 1976, was a bittersweet experience. I've never felt my age more keenly than I did at that moment. My spell at Uni was such an exciting and absorbing time, and one I felt a real sense of privilege at having experienced. There was no one telling you what to do or what times you had to come in or go out. The freedom came without much responsibility though, which made it all the more delicious. You had no bills to pay or job to worry about, and everybody wanted to be your friend. Even some girls. It was heaven from the very first day, and standing there as a middle-aged man I was forcibly struck by the realisation that I would never be as free as that ever again, or as intoxicated by the limitlessness of possibility." I could have written that. Not the bit about Manchester University as I didn't go there - but the rest of it.

So there you have it, *Thank You for the Days: A Boy's Own Adventures in Radio and Beyond* by Mark Radcliffe is quite good, and definitely worth reading if you like music and/or biography.

Godzilla says

I left bewildered by some of these other reviews:

"It's not as good as *Pies and Prejudice*" - er, well it's a memoir, not a cultural dissection/travelogue, so it's a different genre entirely!

I had found Mark Radcliffe slightly aloof before reading this book. Clearly now, this is in comparison to the other gushing DJs/media whores who populate our airwaves. He's still not got the warmth and fuzziness of John Peel, but then he was a one off.

There are some great tales, some genuine insights and a warm glow surrounding this book. There's no scandal or blinding revelations, more like a matey chat down the pub, with a few interesting titbits along the way.

The only envy I found myself having, was over the free records he admits readily come his way. He reduces the "celebs" into ordinary characters with different lifestyles, which ultimately is all they are.

Frankly it's left we wanting that sort of chat with Mark Radcliffe, over a few pints of the beer he clearly loves (and has great taste in)

Next time I'm in Great Budworth I'll listen out for the shed with drums!

Steve says

The book's chapters describe either a memorable day from the author's time as a radio DJ, or else from his childhood. They are engaging, but quite lightweight. Sometimes the chapter title actually gives away most of what is in that chapter. Like other Radcliffe books this one is harmless entertainment.
