



Faithfull: An Autobiography

By Marianne Faithfull

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From pop stardom through the depths of addiction to her punk-rock comeback, Marianne Faithfull's life captures rock 'n' roll at its most decadent and its most destructive. Faithfull's first hit, 1964's "As Tears Go By," opened doors to the hippest circles in London. There she frolicked with the most luminous of the young, rich, and reckless, including Bob Dylan, the Beatles, and the Rolling Stones.

Her legendary affair with Mick Jagger produced one hit single, "Sister Morphine," and countless headlines. Faithfull left the relationship a strung-out junkie. Struggling to kick drugs and revive her musical career, she recorded *Broken English* in 1979, an edgy, hard-hitting, critical triumph. As honest in her autobiography as in her music, *Faithfull* is a searing, intimate portrait of a woman who examines her adventures and misadventures without flinching, without apology.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Early in this engrossing if somewhat disturbing autobiography, rock 'n' roll star Faithfull remarks, "The only way I could handle being on tour with all these weird people was to treat it as a sociological study." This approach aptly describes her dissection of her own life as well. Faithfull is more analytical, ironic, self-scrutinizing and literate than most celebrity autobiographers. Writing with Dalton (Mr. Mojo Risin'), she depicts with penetrating insight the world of "free love, psychedelic drugs, fashion, Zen, Nietzsche, tribal trinkets, customized Existentialism, hedonism and rock 'n' roll" that absorbed her energies from the beginning of her singing career as a teenager in 1960s London. From her tumultuous four-year relationship with Mick Jagger through her descent into junkydom to her "comeback" in the late '70s as a punk-rock diva, Faithfull embodies rock culture at both its most glamorous and most destructive. A self-described "victim of cool," she is nevertheless a tough (and often astutely feminist) commentator on the underside of the rock 'n' roll dream. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A searing autobiography by one of rock 'n' roll's most tragic and romantic figures. A descendant of Austrian novelist Leopold von Sacher-Masoch, the beautiful Faithfull was discovered by Rolling Stones manager Andrew Oldham in 1964 and became an instant pop celebrity with her recording of the brooding "As Tears Go By," a song Oldham asked Mick Jagger and Keith Richards to write for her. In a short time, Faithfull had become an internationally famous music and movie star, but she had little control over her image or artistic output. With the aid of rock biographer Dalton (Mr. Mojo Risin': Jim Morrison, the Last Holy Fool, 1991, etc.), she describes her struggle against the passive "Angel Doll" persona foisted on her by the press and her relationship to the Stones, especially Jagger, for whom she left husband John Dunbar in 1966. A dark romanticism--what she calls a "Walter Pater aestheticism," replete with flashes of everything from astrology to black magic--pervades the narrative, which is chock-full of encounters with pop legends (John Lennon is "amusingly cruel"; Allen Ginsberg "has never been hip"). Faithfull, who's had her own share of same-sex dalliances, suggests it was sexual tensions among the highly repressed Stones that gave them their manic energy: "Who was the great love of [Jagger's] life? Actually, I think it was Keith." The tone is both compelling and pathetic as Faithfull details two decades of drug abuse and numerous lonely attempts to escape her addiction. From watching a lover commit suicide to recent singing and acting successes on her own terms, Faithfull has lived enough for three or four people--yet she is only 47. Despite some trite prose ("Things were happening so fast and we were changing with them"), this holds greater interest than any other recent book about the Stones and their circle. (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

The most honest rock memoir yet published. (*Entertainment Weekly*)

An eyewitness account of the folks who made the decade go round.... Everything's here, everything but the excuses. (*Newsweek*)

Once accused of being part of a coven of witches surrounding the warlock Mick Jagger, pop goddess Marianne Faithfull is wickedly funny and down to earth in this indispensable record of the Swinging London scene. (*Details*)

Compulsively candid, wickedly revealing.... A kaleidoscopic portrait of high times, bed-hopping, chart-topping, and name-dropping guaranteed to keep even the most jaded reader up late. (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Callaway:

This Faithfull: An Autobiography tend to be reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason why of this Faithfull: An Autobiography can be one of the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed anyone with information that maybe will shock your previous knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed people. Beside that this Faithfull: An Autobiography giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Eric Vegas:

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