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Glenn Hughes The Autobiography: From Deep Purple To Black Country Communion



Synopsis

Singer, bassist, and songwriter Glenn Hughes is a living, breathing embodiment of British rock, and his is a compelling story. Starting out in the 60s with beat combo Finders Keepers, he formed acclaimed funk-rock band Trapeze, then joined Deep Purple at their commercial peak. Flying around the world in the band's own jet, Hughes enthusiastically embraced the rock 'n' roll lifestyle. He played on three Purple albums, including the classic Burn. When Deep Purple split up in 1976, Hughes embarked on a series of solo albums, collaborations, and even a brief, chaotic spell fronting Black Sabbath. Along the way he battled crack addiction and cocaine psychosis, before surviving a clean-up-or-die crisis and recovering to rebuild his solo career. Hughes recounts his adventures and misadventures with honesty and humour, bringing us up to date with the formation of rock supergroup Black Country Communion. Glenn Hughes is a true original whose music blends hard rock, soul, and funk. Once described by Stevie Wonder as his favourite white singer, he achieved international fame with Deep Purple, and has since collaborated with artists including Tony Iommi, The KLF, and members of The Red Hot Chili Peppers. He formed his new group, Black Country Communion, in 2010.

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Customer Reviews

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Chili Peppers. He formed his new group, Black Country Communion, in 2010. Joel McIver is the bestselling author of *Justice for All: The Truth About Metallica* which has been translated into 9 languages. He has written for *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, *Metal Hammer*, *Classic Rock*, and he is the occasional guest on BBC. He is currently the editor of *Bass Guitar* magazine. *Classic Rock* magazine has called him "by some distance Britain's most prolific hard rock/metal author." He wrote the official biography of the world's biggest death metal band, *Cannibal Corpse* and co-wrote *Megadeth's* bio from bass player David Ellefson.

Effing rock star bios. After you've read enough of them, the booze-n-cocaine tailspin tales get predictable and redundant. While Glenn's book chronicles a criminal amount of wasted (in the truest sense of the word) years, it is ultimately redeemed by the author's triumph over indulgence in its latter pages. Hughes' accounts of his early years in *Trapeze* and *Deep Purple*, meanwhile, are an inspiring portrayal (described in his own refreshingly frank tone of voice) of a young talent in flower and a great snapshot of the times (the 1970s). Although Glenn was a prisoner to his addictions by the time the 1980s hit, he still managed some remarkable music in that decade; namely the underrated Hughes/Thrall project, the *Black Sabbath* album *Seventh Star* and his work with guitar legend Gary Moore. His perspective on those musical events is captivating for fans like me (who are amazed that Glenn Hughes hasn't attained household-name-status considering his prodigious talents). The triumph of sobriety and *Black Country Communion* make for a satisfying end to this tome, which is filled not just with cautionary tales but loads of the kind of highly colourful anecdotes that could only be told by a career rock star. Throughout the book, Hughes displays great humility and grace, always offering praise for the musicians he's worked with along the way (his enduring friendship with David Coverdale over all these years is particularly poignant). If you're a fan of this relatively unheralded talent, you'll finish this book within a few days. Enjoy.

Description: Glen Hughes joined the English rock band *Deep Purple* when they were at their peak. He was a highly talented singer, songwriter and bassist and had previously spent six years in the band *Trapeze*, but as part of *Deep Purple* he immediately achieved worldwide fame. After two years *Deep Purple* split up and Hughes then went on to make a lot of music with a string of bands and as a solo artist, in addition to being a session musician on a long list of recordings by other artists. The book tells the story of Hughes musical career and his relationships with many people in the music industry, both famous and not so famous. It also describes in some detail the lurid lifestyles led by many successful people in the industry. But the main focus on the book is on his introduction to

drugs, his subsequent addiction, his chaotic descent into a personal (and professional) hell, and his eventual return to sobriety and relative normality. He pulls no punches in describing what it is like to be a drug addict and the impact it had on himself and all those around him. The book is liberally laced with quotes from a great range of people who have come into contact with Hughes throughout his life and career. John's thoughts: I loved (and still do love) a lot Deep Purple's music, so I was a very happy camper when Shellie presented me with this book. I read with great interest the content relating to music, musicians and bands. It was interesting to read about who he interacted with and to find out more about some key people in the music scene. What wasn't so interesting was the drug-related content. I soon tired of reading about drug dealers, users, addicts and the impact of addiction. It is obviously important content, and telling that story is no doubt one of the big reasons why Hughes created this book, but reading about someone totally screwing up their lives and often being a jerk while doing it just isn't a lot of fun. Plaudits to Hughes for finally getting his act together, getting clean and recreating his life, and I admire his brutal honesty in telling the tale. I just lost a bit of interest half way through the book. It didn't help that the autobiography wasn't very well put together. It jumped around a lot and contained loads of snippets that just seemed to be patched together. Things didn't really flow smoothly. I'd recommend this book for any big fans of Deep Purple or Hughes' other music, and it would also be a good read for anyone wanting to learn more about the perils of drug use and the travails of an addict. Unfortunately it left me a little cold. I'd rate this book 2.5 stars.

This book, 4 years in the making, takes you on a journey through Glenn's life from childhood, through the "lost" years between Deep Purple's demise and the restarting Glenn's prolific solo career, up to the present day including Black Country Communion. In addition to being arguably the best singer on the planet Glenn Hughes is really the ultimate name-dropper. Whether it was through musical collaboration or while doing mountains of cocaine, he has truly crossed paths with everyone who's anyone in classic rock. Deep Purple (obviously), Plant and Bonham, Bowie, Iggy Pop, Ron Wood, Mick and Keith, Stevie Wonder, Tony Iommi, Ozzy, Sharon Osbourne pre-Ozzy, Ronnie James Dio, Rob Halford, Gary Moore, Steve Lukather, Neal Schon, John Norum, Keith Emerson, Van Halen, Tommy Lee. They all appear in this journey as do affairs with Linda Blair and Cherie Currie. Conspicuously absent is any in-depth discussion regarding his relationship with Tommy Bolin. Given the reverence with which Glenn has always described that relationship over the years

-- often going on about how close he and Tommy were -- the subject is only covered in passing here. I don't doubt Glenn's past characterizations of that relationship, but from this book, one would not get the impression that Glenn was any closer to Tommy Bolin than he was to anyone else. And other than the night Tommy auditioned for Purple, there are really no Glenn & Tommy stories here. Ultimately, this book focuses primarily on Glenn's truly horrendous coke addiction and all the bad behavior that ensued because of it. By all rights, he should be dead. Glenn doesn't pull any punches in this refreshing autobiography. Unlike many bios, Glenn actually does let the reader in. You get his emotions and his motivations. The editing of this book was rather hap-hazard (in my Kindle version anyway). There are chunks of content that seem to be slightly out-of-sequence. However, this is just a minor flaw in an otherwise very good read. Not perfect, but a very interesting and enjoyable page-turner. An absolute must-read for any Glenn Hughes fan.

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