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The Heart Of Rock & Soul



Synopsis

In *The Heart of Rock & Soul*, veteran rock critic Dave Marsh offers a polemical guide to the 1,001 greatest rock and soul singles ever made, encompassing rock, metal, R&B, disco, folk, funk, punk, reggae, rap, soul, country, and any other music that has made a difference over the past fifty years. The illuminating essays—complete with music history, social commentary, and personal appraisals—double as a mini-history of popular music. Here you will find singles by artists as wide-ranging as Aretha Franklin, George Jones, Roy Orbison, the Sex Pistols, Madonna, Run-D.M.C., and Van Halen. Featuring a new preface that covers the hits—and misses—of the '90s, *The Heart of Rock & Soul* remains as provocative, passionate, and timeless as the music it praises.

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Customer Reviews

Rock critic, biographer, and guru Marsh holds court for over 650 pages, pontificating in overwrought prose on the virtues of each single, numbered sequentially from 1 to 1001, he deems worthy of inclusion in the pantheon of rock. The impetus for this self-indulgent work, as explained in the introduction, is to redress historical slights and provide a revisionist approach to Marsh's previous criticism. Almost half the selections come from the Sixties, with a strong emphasis on rock and soul as the creative product of, predominantly, black Americans. This book is pure argument fodder and will precipitate far more knock-down-drag-outs than it will settle (how, for example, can you justify several listings for Donna Summer and yet not include Jonathan Richman and the Modern

Lovers?). Not recommended.- Barry Miller, Austin P.L., Tex.Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dave Marsh is the author of the bestselling Bruce Springsteen biographies, *Born to Run* and *Glory Days*, and over a dozen other books, including *Before I Get Old: The Story of the Who*, *Louie*, *Louie: The History and Myth*, and *The New Book of Rock Lists*. A former editor of *Creem* and *Rolling Stone*, he currently edits the newsletter *Rock & Roll Confidential*. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Books of lists are always a lot of fun. This book is no exception. The author's opinions vary in length and style, but his love for the music shines through. I especially enjoyed his tales of the audience for "Soldier Boy" and his story, what if Buddy Holly's plane didn't crash. I would have given 5 stars, but for a few errors in dates and band member ID.

To benschlomo's review I would add only this element:At the core of this book is Marsh's belief that singles are more important than albums and, by extension, songs are more important than artists.Read it with a pile of records close by. You'll see that Marsh is arguing for a particular aesthetic viewpoint: an argument that good rock requires both roots and honesty. (There is good music that lacks these, but it isn't rock.) That's why some enormously popular songs don't make the cut, why there is more soul music than one might expect, why the Americans generally fare better than the British.The book is a great way to start an argument, a discussion, or an education about the aesthetics of rock.

Excellent.

This is a great book to keep by the chair for those times when you need a few minutes of fun.While obviously just the author's opinion, this review of the 1001 greatest singles brings back lots of memories while providing interesting information to those of us who are music lovers.Naturally I may disagree with many of his suggestions but find the information interesting anyway.Highly recommend this book.

One of the better books on Rock and Roll. Offhand I can't think of a better one.

Dave Marsh makes the reader wish for an old hi-fi and an armful of "45's. The writing takes the reader back to sometimes wonderful, sometimes painful (sometimes wonderfully painful) memories that are all a part of the music we listened to growing up. The intensity comes as much from remembering what was going on when a particular song was on the radio as it does from the memory of the songs themselves. Buy two, and send one to a good friend from back in the day. You will spend many happy hours arguing about whether "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" evokes more memories than "Stay in My Corner"

a really fun read

Not in any particular order. Some I never heard of (but will sample), some I liked, and others not in the book (but I wish they were.)

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