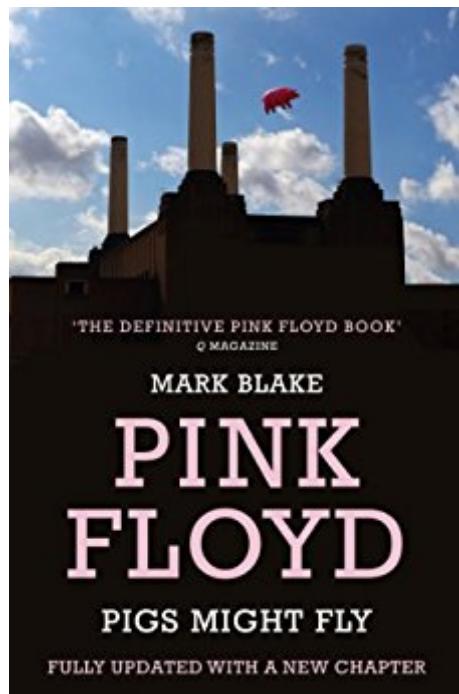


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Pigs Might Fly: The Inside Story Of Pink Floyd



Synopsis

In July 2005 in Hyde Park, Pink Floyd performed together on stage for the first time in 24 years with founder member Roger Waters. Almost a year later, reclusive founder-member Syd Barrett died and then in 2008 the death of keyboard player Rick Wright confirmed there would be no more reunions of one of the world's biggest bands. In this superbly comprehensive and engrossing history of the group, Mark Blake tells how a group of Cambridge school friends went on to conquer the world with classic albums like Dark Side of the Moon and Wish You Were Here, and put on some of the most spectacular shows of all time. Drawing on over a hundred original interviews, Pigs Might Fly follows Pink Floyd all the way from the early psychedelic nights at UFO in the mid-sixties through the acrimonious schism, to the recent appearances of David Gilmour and Nick Mason with Roger Waters at the London date on his The Wall tour. Meticulous, exacting and ambitious as any Pink Floyd album, Pigs Might Fly has rightly been acclaimed as the definitive book on the band.

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Customer Reviews

If you are into Pink Floyd you must read this book. This is by far the best book on this band. As most of you know, Pink Floyd is very guarded when it comes to their past and their personal lives. Floyd drummer Nick Mason's book Inside Out was supposed to be the definitive book about the band. It was learned that he allowed all of the Floyd members to edit out all of the dirt and honest truth he had written about each member. This left his book very lackluster. I can't imagine how long it took Mark Blake to research this book let alone write it. He took quotes and articles from every major book ever written about the band. He got people from each members past to talk on record. A lot of them for the first time in print. Their are stories here that have never seen the light of day. The best part about this book is that he got some of Pink Floyd's inner circle to talk without disclosing their identities. For the first time, problems in each members personal lives are disclosed in great detail. It's about time all Pink Floyd fans got the real stories behind the history of this amazing band. This is a must have for any rock n roll buff.

I have read a fair few Floyd books now including Nick Mason's and I have to say this is by far and away the best and most comprehensive. It starts right back at the beginning in the mid 60's right through to 2007, covering literally everything. It also covers their solo ventures during and after Floyd and also gives great info on how all the albums fared in the US and the UK (Solo's included). He must have been working on this book for years. I was very impressed that he mentioned Dave Gilmour turned up on Michael Parkinson's chat show in 1999 as a session guitarist for Paul McCartney who was having a full show dedicated to him. Dave Gilmour was never mentioned on the show and I only noticed myself that he was there playing. Very impressive research. I learnt a lot about the band and its members that I never knew and will have to read it again as its hard to remember everything. Its a great story and also quite sad (Syd's decline). Roger Waters comes out of it the worst, looks like he gave Gilmour a very hard time and the rest of the band also. His ego and temperament being his main problem. And considering the abuse he has taken, Dave Gilmour comes out of it with dignity in tact. If you're a Floyd fanatic or a casual music listener with a passing interest in the band, its a must buy.

This book is extremely well written and researched. The quality of writing is impeccable. Covering the history of Pink Floyd until the present, it is full of fascinating material and clarifies or fills in stories about the band which have circulated throughout the years. Any PF fan who enjoys learning all about the crafting of the music, the individual personalities and points of view, and how the

miracle of Pink Floyd came about will surely be delighted. I agree with everything that the previous reviewer had to say except for the comment about the Nick Mason book. I am not convinced that Nick's original intent was to go into depth about the band's various personality conflicts over the years. His book with its extensive collection of photographs was written from a loving perspective and with great humor. I value that book very much just as it is. It is a beautiful book with stunning artwork worthy of a true Pink Floyd product. I highly recommend both these wonderful books which compliment each other very nicely.

Quite a few books have been devoted to Pink Floyd and they make for quite a mixed bag. The two best have been Nicholas Shaffner's "A Saucerful of Secrets" and Nick Mason's own "Inside Out." Now we can safely add a third book to that list, perhaps even at the top. What makes this book so great is that Mark Blake has built quite a repository of behind-the-scenes Floyd info, culled from interviews he conducted over many years as a music writer. It seems that he was willing to pull out all the stops in delivering that info within the pages of this book. As a result, even the most die-hard Floyd fan is bound to learn something new here. While I loved Shaffner's book, and really considered it the best on Pink Floyd, it presented a somewhat uneven treatment of the band's history, with everything after the release of "Dark Side of the Moon" being somewhat rushed. Not in this book. Blake really digs in deep in his treatment of the "breakup years" of 1974-81, and even delivers new commentary from many players (including Bob Ezrin) on the post-Waters "litigation years" of 1987-94. I particularly enjoyed the backstage info he presents regarding the reunion at Live 8. And given Rick Wright's untimely passing (while I was in the middle of this book ironically), it would seem that event really marks the end of Pink Floyd. This book covers everything that happened after Live 8 -- essentially the Gilmour and Waters solo tours of 2006-07 -- and the only significant event left out is Rick's death. Really, I can't say enough good things about this book. If you're a Floyd fan, you owe it to yourself to read this book. I guarantee you'll get many new nuggets of information.

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