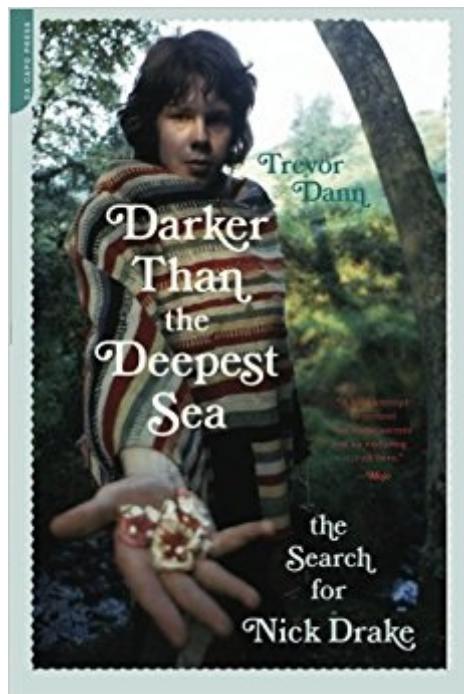


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Darker Than The Deepest Sea: The Search For Nick Drake



Synopsis

When Nick Drake (1948-1974) died of a drug overdose at twenty-six, he left behind three modest-selling albums, including the stark *Pink Moon* and the lush *Bryter Layter*. Three decades later, he is recognized as one of the true geniuses of English acoustic music. Yet Nick Drake--whose music was as gentle and melancholy as the man himself--has always maintained a spectral presence in popular music. This groundbreaking biography reconstructs a vanished life while perfectly capturing the bohemian scenes surrounding the music business in London in the late '60s and early '70s. Using many newly discovered documents and all-new interviews, Trevor Dann reveals more detail on Nick Drake than ever, from his upbringing in a quintessentially English village, through his hash-fueled school days at Cambridge University, to the missed opportunities and mismanagement that defined his career. Friends and colleagues describe the difficulties that he faced as each new album was released, only to fail, and the insidious despair that consumed him. Complete with discography and rare photos, *Darker Than the Deepest Sea* is essential reading for anyone who has been moved by Nick Drake's unforgettable blend of beauty and sadness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was interesting but I absolutely hated the rampant speculation throughout. That's my biggest problem. Speculation about his sexuality or drug use other than marijuana, with having very little to go on is reprehensible. The man is dead and cannot defend himself. To say that "Time Has Told Me"'s "troubled cure for a troubled mind" is about sexual abuse is ridiculous. EVERYONE is

troubled. He's saying that he recognizes nobody is perfect or without their own baggage, not that he's troubled because someone abused him. That is taking analysis to a level that is salacious for no reason. Those are the two issues I have with this book. It's sensationalized with no evidence. It sullies Drake's name for no real reason. It gives people the wrong idea about him. He was very troubled, yes, but he was not schizophrenic. Marijuana use does not make a person schizophrenic. As a person who is struggling with "mental illness" of her own, I recognize things in Drake that point to severe, chronic depression, possibly bipolar 2 (which is what I am). If he had the medications we have now, things would have been so different for him. The armchair psychologist the author spoke to is an idiot. Cognitive behavioral therapy can help but the man clearly needed medication as well. "Climbing ropes" alone is not going to cure a mental illness. Any patient can tell you that. I take umbrage with this "diagnosis" of schizophrenia. It actually pisses me off. The speculations about his sexuality are also baseless. Just because he didn't consummate his relationships with women doesn't mean he was homosexual. Again, the man can't say anything about it in his defense. There are people who just aren't interested in sex. Everyone says he was very shy.

Let us settle here and now that to cover the life of Nick Drake convincingly, without leaning on the endless myth-making which has affected his image for years and which I believe to be largely inaccurate, is not an easy task. Although his life turned out to be all too brief, what makes it difficult to do him justice in the context of a biography is that this brief life became so increasingly painful towards the end, with the young man becoming all the more depressed for reasons of which we cannot be sure. At the same time, Drake's sad and tragic end should not be the thing for which he is remembered in retrospect; what makes this person relevant to so many to this day, nearly four decades after his death, is the fact that he was one of the most brilliant singer-songwriters in history to emerge, resulting in three classic folk-rock albums. With **DARKER THAN THE DEEPEST SEA: THE SEARCH FOR NICK DRAKE**, Trevor Dann has written the second full-length biography on Drake to date (the first one having been authored a decade before by Patrick Humphries), and having read the book from cover to cover two times by now, I'll first and foremost thank him for unveiling much information about Drake of which I wasn't aware previously. Dann's book is an improvement on Humphries' biography in the sense that Dann was able to talk with several more people who knew Nick, most notably his sister Gabrielle. The memories of Nick's sister are of great value not only due to the factual information that they provide, but also because they largely contrast the mythological image of Nick's as an all-tortured soul. By pointing out several happy and fun memories of her brother and their family, Gabrielle helps to humanize Nick in the public eye.

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