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Contents Under Pressure: 30 Years of Rush at Home & Away is a detailed history of the exhaustive road experience of Canadian rock icons Rush. Celebrating the band's 30th anniversary, By-Tour features in-depth original interviews with Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson, and Neil Peart. Together, history's loudest Order of Canada recipients conjure the sights and sounds of their strange journey: one that began in the microscopic, sometimes hostile clubs of Ontario and culminated in hockey barns, arenas, and stadiums all over the world. Rush have been headliners for over 20 years. The announcement of an impending Rush tour is major entertainment news all over the world, and a cause for celebration for the fanatical following the band has created with their grace, humour, intellect, focus, and spellbinding musicianship. A visitor to this book will be justly rewarded with fresh, exclusive insights about this enigmatic Canadian institution.

Contents Under Pressure: 30 Years of Rush at Home and Away Details

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From Reader Review Contents Under Pressure: 30 Years of Rush at Home and Away for online ebook

Otto Lehto says

A semi-decent album-by-album coverage of the life of Rush.

Mostly as told by the band members themselves, through interviews.

The author Popoff, according to the blurb, has written over 20 books of this sort about various rock bands. And it shows. For good and bad. He knows how to put things together in an accessible way, but the "rockumentarian," fanboy-serving, flashy style doesn't shine light "beyond the lighted stage."

All the band's tours, producers and studios are accounted for, almost to the point of nausea, and one gets the feeling that the life of a rockstar is almost a clockwork repetition of writing, recording, touring - and, well, the same all over again. That's all fine and good, but it doesn't always make for exciting reading.

The best parts are about the band members' own retrospective thoughts on the albums themselves. Equally interesting are the life details of the band members, but these are only alluded to, not prosecuted at length. Lots of promise is squandered, and this is not a sufficient biography.

Overall, a superficial but entertaining book with some good, but haphazardly organized interview material.

(PS. I was unfortunate enough to read the atrocious Finnish translation.)

Lorraine says

I gave this book 5 stars because author Martin Popoff writes about his (and my) favourite group with unabashed abandon. He describes songs, albums and tours in his own terminology. In describing YYZ(ed) for example, "It is short, obliquely humorous, fired to a smart, tart sheen in the crucible of rhythm, and it is swimmingly enjoyable." I get that much more than some dry description about how the boys trade solos that showcase their musicianship.

The interviews are thoroughly enjoyable and I learned a thing or two. Martin asks from a fan's point of view not just someone who needs words to fill the page and the Boys don't disappoint. I loved the Boys' take on albums, songs, tours and supporting bands. Also there are many exciting photos that are best viewed with an eReader app on your phone or tablet.

Whether you agree with Martin's opinions or not, overall, this book takes you on a 30 year time machine tour that makes you want to listen to their whole discography as each album or song is dissected and watch the live DVDs.

Spencer says

Contents Under Pressure, written by Martin Popoff, tells what happened to Rush since the beginning of their band. The band Rush formed in 1974, consisting of the members Alex Lifeson, Geddy Lee, and Neil Peart. All the band members hail from Canada and are credited with creating the rock genre of progressive rock. This book gave me a lot of information about the band and what happened during their years.

This book is written in the genre of a biography, so the plot basically tells the reader what happened on Rush's tours. Rush began in the year of 1976 actually making albums, the first album the band ever made was entitled Rush. After the first album the band started to gain fame, so John Rustier quit the band, because of his diabetes that he had at the time. The two other members left then began looking for a new drummer, and in this process they found Neil Peart. The first album the band released, when Neil Peart became the drummer, was Fly by Night. On this album the band did not gain any fame, but they did widen their fan base. After Fly by Night, Rush came out with Caress of Steel, which many considered to be a horrible album. Throughout 1975 to 1980 Rush came out with the albums 2112, Farewell to Kings, and Hemispheres. In 1980 the band moved into a different type of rock genre when the album, Permanent Waves, which created a even bigger fan base. This album was played on the radio quite often, so people that had never heard of Rush now knew of the band. Permanent Waves set the stage for Moving Pictures, which the band released in 1981 featuring their most popular song, "Tom Sawyer". The song "Tom Sawyer" brought Rush to the attention of many people, and by now the band created one of the most loyal fan bases ever. After Moving Pictures, the band went into their synthesizer years, which started with Signals, released in 1982. Throughout these years, Rush came out with Grace Under Pressure, Power Windows, and Hold Your Fire. Then in 1991, Rush released the album Roll the Bones, and since 90's music had made an appearance on the musical world, Rush decide to go into the grunge sound. During their grunge records, Counterparts and Test for Echo, Rush not only had their huge fan base, but they also got big support from regular grunge listeners. Now the band has released Snakes and Arrows in 2007. Rush actually is third in all time albums sold.

Rush consists of three members: Alex Lifeson, Geddy Lee, and Neil Peart. Alex Lifeson is the guitarist for Rush. His nickname is "King of Prog" since he laid the foundation for progressive rock. Even though he is not considered a great guitarist, he has more technical skill. Geddy Lee plays bass and sings. Lee is considered by many to be one of the top bassists of all time, and his vocals are high and shrieking. Neil Peart approaches drumming intellectually rather than just feeling the song; the reason for this claim is that "rock experts" say that he is the best drummer in the history of rock. When these elements are combined together, they sound like a six man band, which is why they impress so many people.

Contents Under Pressure gave me a huge insight into Rush's albums. Martin Popoff gave a ton of information on the band Rush and what has happened in their lives since the beginning. This is a must read for Rush fans, and if you want to know more about the band, read the book. I give the book two thumbs up. Martin Popoff did an excellent job with this book.

Michael Abbattista says

Another great book from Martin Popoff (one of his earliest) that profiles Rush in an "album per chapter" format. Thoughts on every album and accompanying tour from all three band members and a ton of great pictures as well. No one does these types of books better than Popoff.

Scott Holstad says

I thoroughly enjoyed this authorized biography of Rush, as would any fan I think. Even people who aren't big Rush fans might find it an interesting read. The book starts from the first album, Rush, back in the early

1970s. This book celebrates 30 years of Rush, and it covers every album -- including live ones -- all the way up through 2002's Vapor Trails. The book equally covers each album -- and each song on each album -- and the accompanying tour that went with it, starting from Rush opening for KISS to headlining major festivals around the world. I already knew quite a bit about the band, but this book really filled in some gaps for me and added some personality with all of the quotes from Geddy, Alex, and Neil. It was pretty good stuff! I enjoyed reading about what their favorite songs were, as well as albums, particularly the lesser known later albums, which I've developed a late appreciation for over time. I only have two areas of disappointment, one of which couldn't be helped. First, the book was published in 2004, so it couldn't cover the very good Snakes & Arrows album from 2007 and it obviously couldn't cover this year's masterful Clockwork Angels. I would have liked to read what the band had to say about that one. Thus the one "real" area of disappointment with the book is the fact that the band's always original album art is rarely discussed and I would have loved to know how the covers for Hemispheres, Permanent Waves, and A Farewell to Kings came about. What was the thinking behind them? How were they produced? It does touch briefly on the Moving Pictures shoot, but really, there's not much there on the album cover art. The book does delve deeply into the song writing process, and I found that interesting because I had always heard Neil did all the writing, but apparently all three do, Geddy more so than Alex, with Neil carrying the bulk of it. But Geddy's got to be able to sing his songs with conviction, so there's real collaboration. That was interesting. I also found it interesting to note how different they are from so many other bands, for one thing, in wanting to stick to studio-style songs in their concerts rather than improvising. They want their performances to mirror the mastery of their albums, which they put a lot into. I'm not sure how I feel about that, but I guess I can respect that. The book briefly covers Neil's tragedy of losing his wife and daughter to death in the same year and how the band didn't know if they'd ever play again. Vapor Trails was their first album back together again after four years apart and it's a surprisingly strong album. I like it very much, and they do too. Though I think they view Moving Pictures - with the song, "Tom Sawyer," -- as their true defining moment. It's what separated their past prog rock clubs and small arenas popularity to their later huge arena-filling popularity. That's the album that got me listening to Rush way back when. It was a defining album for me too.

This fall, I've read a decent book on Journey and now on Rush. Next I have one on Queen lined up, and it's huge! It covers every album and every song Queen ever did, in greater detail than this Rush book does. This book was hugely enjoyable and while I feel it could have been three times longer with much more material, I do feel it captured the essence of the band fairly well and even though I would rarely give a band bio five stars, I'm doing so this time because my complaints are minimal and my enjoyment was great. Recommended.

Michael Lello says

Exhaustive but a quick read. Nice, structured rundown of every Rush album and tour, up to and including R30, with in-depth interviews with all three members. Lots of illuminating facts and opinions, even for the knowledgeable fan. Would have liked to read about Peart's decision to return after his personal tragedies, but I assume he chose not to talk about it.

Erik says

Hmm. I am torn about this one. I am a huge Rush fan and learned a few things about the band, though I can't

say I am huge fan of Popoff's writing, which is overblown in his introductions to each album. It is almost like liner-note language times ten. The book definitely gets stronger towards the late 1990s and early 2000s, where the chapters are longer and more detailed.

Janne Paananen says

Martin Popoffin Rush-historiikki keskittyy levytyksiin ja kiertueisiin. Hän on haastatellut Rush-kolmikkoä käyden läpi kronologisesti heidän koko uran Vapor Trails-levyyn ja sitä seuranneeseen 30-vuotiskiartueeseen asti. Geddyn, Alexin ja Neilin ääni kuuluu läpi koko kirjan. Hyvin yksinkertainen rakenne on erittäin toimiva ja simppeli. Koko pakettiin on taitettu messevä määrä Andrew MacNaughtanin valokuvia. Tässä ei siis voi isommin nillittää mistään muusta kuin, että ihan valtavan syvälle bändin jäsenten ihon alle päästä, eikä pyritäkään. Mutta tämän opus antaa erinomaisen kokonaiskuvat Rushin musiikista.

Tom Schulte says

In the midst of Rush's 40-city tour to promote its 30th anniversary, this book looks back on the progressive rock bands progress through intertwining discography with gigography. This authorized tour overview is replete with candid remarks and insight garnered from interviews with Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson, and Neil Peart. The book also features many photographs from official band photographer Andrew MacNaughtan. Conveniently broken into a chapter dedicated for each release and the corresponding tour, this book serves not only as band biography, but also excellent reading while enjoying classic albums from the Canadian prog rock trio.

Don Murphy says

An album-by-album, tour-by-tour dissection of the first 30 years of Rush. Popoff interviews the Boys and brings forth their recollections and opinions of each step of the adventure. He reveals some pretty new and interesting details and helps provide a deeper glimpse into the band.

Some of the chapters feel incomplete, writing-wise. Overall, a good read if you are into Rush. Some of the interviews are similar - if not exact - statements from other sources, but there are instances where it is quite obvious that Popoff was directly interviewing the Boys and is quite new.

Karen says

Great book about the band I love, Rush. It goes through each album up to the R30 (maybe we will get an update to include R40?). I love the pictures and the guys describing their memories of the writing/recording of their albums. Author put tour info in and other interesting tidbits. Learned a few new things and thoroughly enjoyed it.

pianogal says

Good read - especially for those of us who are novices. Good place to start with Rush.

g-na says

That's right, I read a book about a band I like :P This wasn't a fan club "Omg what kind of stuff do they like?!" book. Instead, the author spoke with the band about how it was to record and tour for each of the album they had released up to this point (2004, the 30th anniversary of the release of their first album). Being familiar with all of the albums in question, it was fun to hear things like why they chose to go in a particular direction, and how their live show has evolved over the years. Recommended for fans of the band.

Benjamin Kahn says

An official book, so Popoff wrote this with the band's approval. Unfortunately, you can tell as he has written glowing reviews of albums that he was much more disparaging of elsewhere. Every album is great and unique in this book, unfortunately, the official status costs Popoff his journalistic integrity.

Jessica says

This was a great quick read, chronologically covering the entire Rush catalog up until Rush In Rio. Each chapter followed more or less the same structure, covering first the progress leading up to recording the record, a bit about the inspiration and influences of the album, the breadth of the tour, brief observations about the opening bands, and some personal insights from the band via Popoff's interviews with them. These interviews are the real gold of the book, interesting little anecdotes and candid expressions of their thoughts and feelings about their music, the process behind making it, and the touring experience in all its variety. The photography throughout the book adds a great deal of satisfaction as one can watch as well as read about the progress in their music, their fashion and their age. Popoff's writing reflects his admiration of the band without losing itself in fawning fanhood, and it's really a pleasure to read as he slyly and sometimes not so slyly slips in lyrical references throughout.
