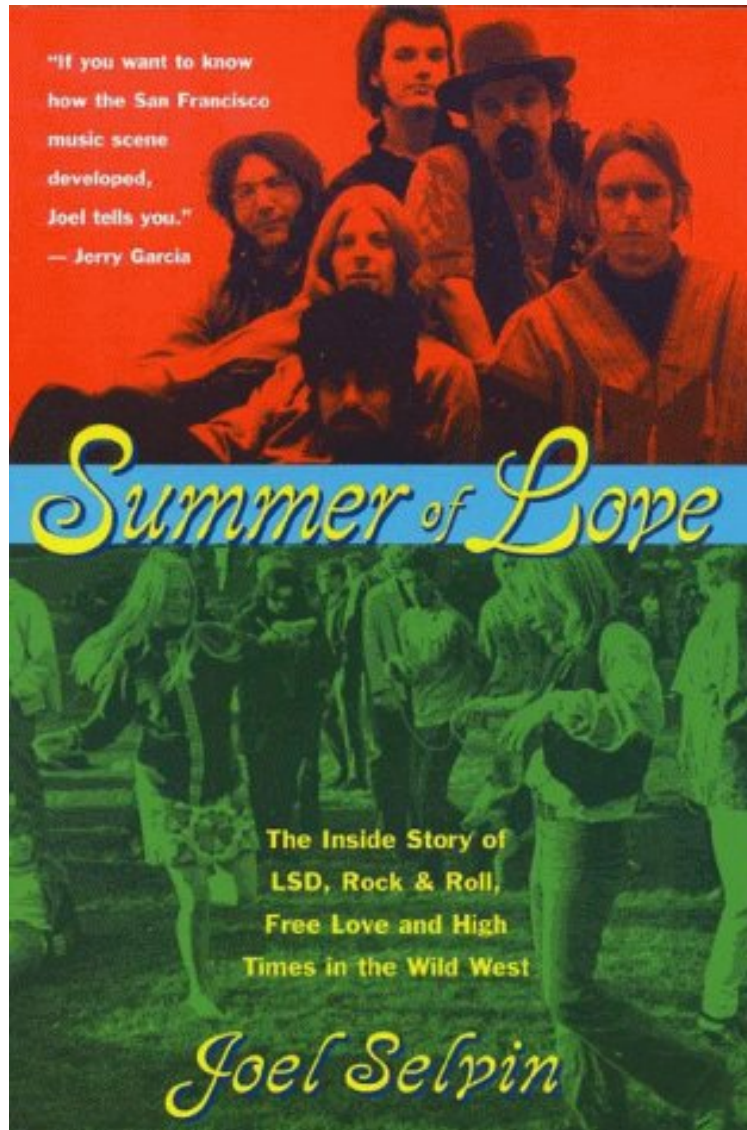


[Free read ebook] Summer of Love: The Inside Story of LSD, Rock Roll, Free Love and High Time in the Wild West

Summer of Love: The Inside Story of LSD, Rock Roll, Free Love and High Time in the Wild West

Joel Selvin

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Joel Selvin : Summer of Love: The Inside Story of LSD, Rock Roll, Free Love and High Time in the Wild West before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Summer of Love: The Inside Story of LSD, Rock Roll, Free Love and High Time in the Wild West:

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In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the West Coast, particularly San Francisco, was the epicenter of rock music. Culled from more than 200 interviews with all the major players, including Jerry Garcia, Grace Slick, David Crosby, and Steve Miller, *Summer of Love* is the definitive book about the Psychedelic Era. Selvin provides an uncensored look at the acid-laced jam sessions, bacchanal parties, crimes of passion, run-ins with ruthless promoters and lawmen, overdoses, rivalries, deaths, and, of course, the music. Filled with never-before-told stories of The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Santana, Janis Joplin, Country Joe and the Fish, Creedance Clearwater Revival, and non-musicians like Bill Graham and Ken Kesey, this book presents an unforgettable, kaleidoscopic portrait of a crucial era in American music.

From Publishers Weekly Selvin (*Monterey Pop*) brings an astonishing amount of anecdotal detail to his history of the late 1960s and early '70s drug and musical scene of hippiedom's hippest city. "The so-called Summer of Love left San Francisco a mess," he notes, but promoter Bill Graham choreographed now-legendary concerts and events there that created a number of stars. For musical acts like the Grateful Dead, success arrived despite the pervasive drug abuse that Selvin describes; the Charlatans and Moby Grape, on the other hand, self-destructed. Selvin's exhaustive supply of anecdotes, however, proves to be his greatest liability, as well as his greatest resource, for he recites every vignette in the same laconic tone, giving his account a plodding pace that contradicts the frenzy of the era. Ultimately, the book, although suffused with a wealth of information, fails to resuscitate its mythic past. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Journalist Selvin (*Monterey Pop*, Chronicle, 1992) offers a popularized history of acid rock. Basing his account on interviews with such musicians as Jerry Garcia and Grace Slick, he chronologically outlines psychedelia from its inception in 1965 to its decline in 1971. Selvin weaves a gossipy tale of the personal lives of major acid rockers as well as cultural notables such as Ken Kesey, but the author seldom places this flurry of events in either musical or historical context. This sensationalist history adds little to Charles Perry's classic *The Haight-Ashbury* (LJ 7/84) and fails to provide much insight into the times, psychedelic music, or the musicians who have been interviewed. David Szatmary, Univ. of Washington, Seattle Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The 1967 San Francisco Summer of Love has so passed into the national mythology that it's an era-defining term like World War II or the Depression. Feeling that much of what is commonly known about it is wrong, Selvin chronicles the real events of the extended Summer of Love, 1967-71, after which the crass 1970s overpowered the national consciousness. Documenting the events of an era that was philosophically opposed to structure is a daunting task, but Selvin succeeds. Names, dates, recording sessions, and concerts are the stuff of much of the documentation, and so are drug busts and jail terms. The cast of characters includes usual suspects Ken Kesey and Bill Graham sharing the spotlight with the likes of John the Motherfucker, "spokesman for the Haight Commune," and Matthew Katz, the manager whom bands loved to hate, as well as plenty of rockers. Entertaining and insightful, full of little-known tidbits but also an important pop culture text, this is a must-have item, especially for the surviving refugees from Summer of Lovesville. Mike Tribby