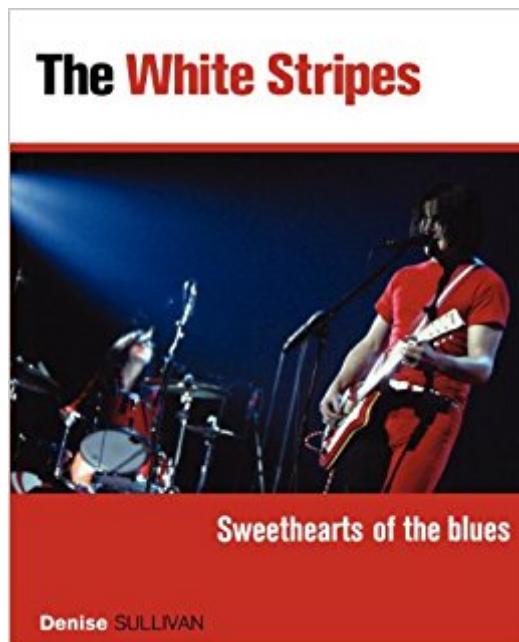


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The White Stripes: Sweethearts Of The Blues



Synopsis

This engrossing book tells the tale of the Detroit duo who shook up the music world with their "candy-colored, gothic-coated world of melody, rhythm and storytelling." These unlikely-looking saviors reinvigorated the blues and blues-rock for a new generation. Writer Denise Sullivan relates The White Stripes' story with a keen eye for detail, a music lover's ear for influences and references, a fan's appreciation of the layers and subtleties, and a journalist's nose for a good story, with all its twists and curves, half-truths, and elaborate theories. Includes dozens of rare photographs, a full discography, and a song concordance. 7-1/4 x 9-1/4, 176 pages

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Highly recommend. A+

Great read. So much amazing information. It's just too bad that it only goes up to the release of 'Elephant'. I hope there's a follow up.

I read this book right through in a handful of hours over a two night span. This is the second book about the White Stripes I've read and I enjoyed this book immensely. Being from a suburb of Windsor, right across from Detroit all my life one would think I'd have a clear understanding of the music there and how being from Detroit impacts local artists. After reading Sweethearts of the Blues, I realized that I should have, could have and would have to delve more deeply into the music

that impacted Jack and Meg White. I was quite surprised to find myself learning even more about the big city I can see from my window...The book is a heartfelt tribute to the band, especially to Jack and a very entertaining read. I'm in my 30s with four children that all love the White Stripes and this is on my teen's "to-read" list also. The author approached her subject with warmth and heart and put many pieces of the Stripes puzzle together in a fast-paced joyful manner. There is a strong coherent understanding of the power of the White Stripes' magic in this book. The undercurrent of appreciation for Jack and Meg shines through and it is a respectful, happy read. It's a must for the Stripes' collectors and those who have a soft spot for Jack and Meg's work. I recommend this book most especially to fans who have just been turned on to the White Stripes and want to know more. My thanks to Ms. Sullivan for putting together a book that reveals a love for the music and the magic of Jack and Meg.

One of the things I liked best about this book is that even though I thought I knew all there was to know about the White Stripes, I came to find out there's way more to explore in their music than meets the eye—and that's kind of the whole point of the "mystery" behind them, isn't it? More than a standard rock bio, Sullivan's book is a guidebook for further exploration into the world of the Stripes. For example, I really didn't know very much about Jack and Meg's love of Bob Dylan till I read this book and now for the first time in my life, I want to know more about Bob Dylan—precisely because he is so important to the White Stripes! Sullivan's personal style which fuses fact with a humorous point-of-view kept me interested even while I read about the stuff I didn't know about (like the fact they aren't really brother and sister...duh!). I even found myself nodding in agreement (which is always a sign to me that I'm reading the right book) to her thoughtful descriptions of the albums and live shows. So if you think you know everything about the White Stripes, think again because this book provides plenty of food for thought: Not only will you find some important clues as to what the band is about, but you'll end up with a list of further questions that you hadn't even thought to ask before you sat down to read it!

I bought this book because I didn't know much about the White Stripes and wanted to know more (including, to some extent, what the big deal is). I got a lot more than I was looking for, and am very glad I read it. In addition to the expected details of their biography, I had the unexpected pleasure of discovering our shared love of their influences. I have to say that understanding the links to their predecessors really helped me develop a lot more respect and understanding for the White Stripes. The book also provides an intimate history of Meg and Jack as well and the "scene" they matured

in. Unlike many rock biographies, this book doesn't feel like an attempt to cash in on a band's popularity or shore up their celebrity mythology. Instead it is an honest analysis of individuals and their music by someone who clearly loves them - but is still capable of being objective when necessary.

The first time I heard The White Stripes, alone in my car, I said aloud to no one, "Well. Where did that come from?" And now, thanks to Denise Sullivan's great, fun, reverent read, we know. Part documentary, part love letter, part Memo To All Music Fans, "Sweethearts of The Blues" is a meticulously researched delight for those of us scrounging for actual roots in today's fallow musical field of all things derivative. Loaded with anecdotes and starry-eyed peer praise, everyone from White's fifth grade pals to Ben Swank to Holly Golightly checks in, creating an intimate mix of recollection, speculation and appropriate adulation. A dissertation-worthy analysis of Dylan's influence on The White Stripes is a must-ponder for anyone who wants to walk their White Stripes talk at cocktail parties. Sullivan separates fact from lore, and adds fascinating historical perspective, but leaves room for theories of alchemy and magic. I have given this book as a gift twice, and received gushing thanks from both parties. Chock-full of candid photos, "Sweethearts" makes a once-discovered-hard-to-put-down addition to any coffee table, and confirms the consensus, "The White Stripes are about the music...and the story-telling." And so is this book.

I bought this book for my husband and son, but ended up reading it first. They're the fans in the family, but I really enjoyed it. I was fascinated at the evolution of the duo and enjoyed learning about their lives and how they became a pair. I knew about Jack White's antics, love life and fledgling acting career, but hardly anything about Meg's. Denise Sullivan did a great job as a historian, describing their childhoods and their coming together. I didn't know much about the Detroit scene (except for Motown, of course) and really got a fast and thorough education on the blues, as well as Iggy, etc. I have to say, while the Stripes aren't my favorites, I do have a new appreciation and enjoy listening with the rest of my family. I've passed the book on to the rest of my family and look forward to what they say!

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