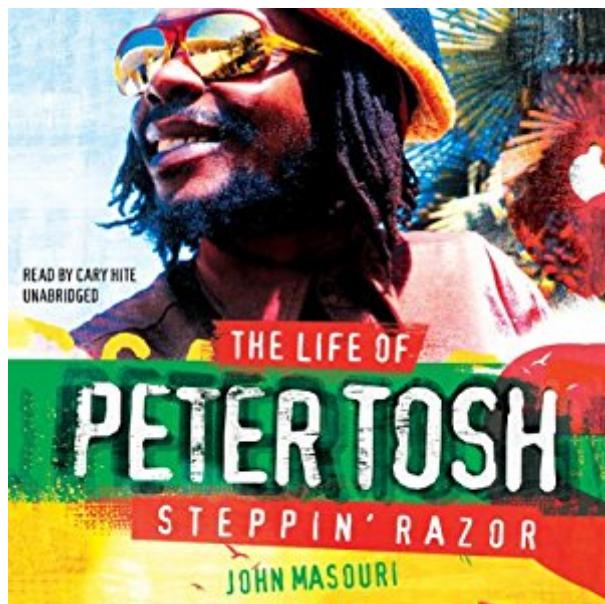


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Steppin' Razor, The Life Of Peter Tosh



Synopsis

One of reggae's most extraordinary stories, the life of Peter Tosh came to an end when he was brutally murdered in 1987. Now revered second only to Bob Marley among reggae audiences worldwide, Tosh was awarded the Order of Merit as Jamaica celebrated fifty years of independence. Set against a backdrop of 1970s Jamaica, Steppin' Razor, the Life of Peter Tosh tells the stories behind such hits as "Legalize It," "Equal Rights," "Get Up, Stand Up," and "Johnny B. Goode." Tosh's famous appearances at the 1978 One Love Peace Concert; and his now legendary adventures with Mick Jagger and Keith Richards are documented. Tracing his recording career, we learn of his encounters with Eric Clapton and Joe Cocker and his volatile relationships with Bob Marley and Lee "Scratch" Perry. We also see Tosh's darker side revealed in tales of the singer's fascination with the occult, and told in unprecedented detail is the story of his untimely and tragic demise.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent and eye opening bio of the much maligned reggae singer/songwriter Peter Tosh. Masouri shows how the music industry, at every turn, works to stifle true artists in exchange for pushing bubble gum music and commercial pop-rock. In so many instances the book shows how unfairly Tosh's music was reviewed by the so-called critics in both the US and UK. I found the book very interesting in exposing the recording process that cover 7 albums in 10 years, and the incredible musical line-up that Tosh gathered to complete his vision. The outstanding work of Sly

Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare is evident throughout and their falling out with Toshis once again a financial and not a musical one..

John did step up to take on a tough, first-time biography of a hugely complicated person/subject. Peter was the sort of person who was larger than life, and so virtually everyone (except, perhaps, John himself) had or has a range of opinions on him. So this book is basically an amalgamation of stories, opinions, perceptions and details, some of which are presented without description (or sometimes misidentification) of where or from whom such information or data had come from, and much of which is conflicting. John leaves the reader to make up her or his own mind, from a heap of such utter raw data, but that is particularly difficult given the fact that readers are blind to so much. John interjects his own opinion in a few parts of the book, but then usually covers that up with many other (often conflicting) accounts, so that (once again) a reader is left bewildered, or else free to move anywhere. I'm not certain that makes for an effective biography. He portrays Tosh as angry and serious, but humorous and witty, and your general impression will probably depend on where you are in the book. This may seem true, but that may be based more on first blush-type accounts--most who knew Peter well describe him as having been very humorous, very intelligent and witty, but with a sense of earnestness and moral righteousness. Some may see this as arrogance or judgmentalism, but others will view it as integrity and a moral foundation. He was playful but respectful, suspicious but also somewhat naive. John's choices of which stories to include, and which ones are NOT included, are curious (and may indicate that he had not spoken to many who knew Peter well, including his family). To be fair, his descriptions of Tosh's reviews by the UK press is particularly interesting and insightful. His reports on Tosh's time in Africa was also interesting, and his discussions of Tosh's time with Marlene Brown was also pretty clear and seems on point. But John does not deal with the alleged "Marley vs. Tosh" media nonsense particularly clearly--he does not indicate what the musicians, friends and family all say: that the core was some hurt feelings of abandonment of what essentially had been a Wailers "family" by Marley, but as with all cases of hurt feelings, it was based upon fundamental love and admiration, all of which otherwise was deeply enshrouded with media fantasy, exploitation and spin (of like ilk to "Lennon vs. McCartney" and other alleged internal squabbles). Tosh, Marley and Livingston were all phenomenally gifted. Tosh and Livingston probably were more gifted vocally, but that just enabled them to harmonize with great sweetness, and Marley had a great voice for lead vocals. Tosh was a naturally gifted musician and artist. Marley had incredible songwriting skills, but so did Tosh. And like Lennon and McCartney, Tosh and Marley had a yin and yang effect on each other in their

songwriting. John blessedly points this out in the first third of his book, but then it becomes lost in all the data dump of conflicting details and reports and opinions. In attempting a magnum opus, sadly, the truth about Peter is lost under all the detritus.

If you like Peter Tosh, I think you'll like this book. I enjoyed it a lot.

I loved this book as much as I loved Peter Tosh. It had a lot of background and insight into the man and made you realize why he was so great.

After reading the author's earlier and much recommended book on Familyman Barrett, I totally looked forward to reading this book. Not only is this the only biography on Peter Tosh at this time, it is the only one. That said if you really are interested in learning more about the very complex man that Peter was, this is the book for you. Many of the questions I've asked over the years about Peter were finally answered after reading this book and I think it would be fair to say that any fan of Peter Tosh will want a copy of this book. After visiting Peter's burial site in Belmont, Jamaica and after seeing first hand what needs to be done to finish the Peter Tosh Memorial Site and Museum is for more fans to come visit but also to help support the family make this dream come true. I've myself spent time learning about Peter first hand from Roger Steffens and Fully Fullwood and a lot of what they've told me matches what I read in this book. It was good to read about Peter producing a Ska band from Chicago called Heavy Manners as well as his work with the Rolling Stones. I'd have to say after reading this Peter was a revolutionary person who suffered for his art. I'd have to say after reading many books about Reggae and music in general, if it makes you want to listen to the music while you are reading then the author has done his job. I'd have to say without any reservations, John Masouri has done the memory a great service to the memory of Wolde Semayat aka Peter Touch aka Peter Tosh aka Winston Hubert McIntosh OM. Don't hesitate get yours today! I'd also recommend getting the Peter Tosh acoustic release called I am that I am to listen to as you read this book

an amazingly informative book about Peter Tosh, the Wailers and global politics during Peter Tosh's life time.

If you are into Peter, Bob and Bunny this book will answer a lot of questions while providing a wonderful story. It's great to finally get a solid look at Peter's life. Now someone (ie: roger steffens)

needs to release his book "old fire sticks" on Bunny so that we can complete an inside story on a truely great band with a great story to tell. I wonder why this book was held up for so long?

John Masouri did an incredible job of neatly presenting the life of Peter Tosh. He did a great job of presenting all side and letting the reader draw their own conclusions. Of course it was not hard to tell that John was wanting and in my opinion succeeded to clearly show what Peter was really like. For any of the negatives he presented he always presented the other side which clearly was more convincing of how Peter was. It's a very interesting page turning book on a genuine musical legend.

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