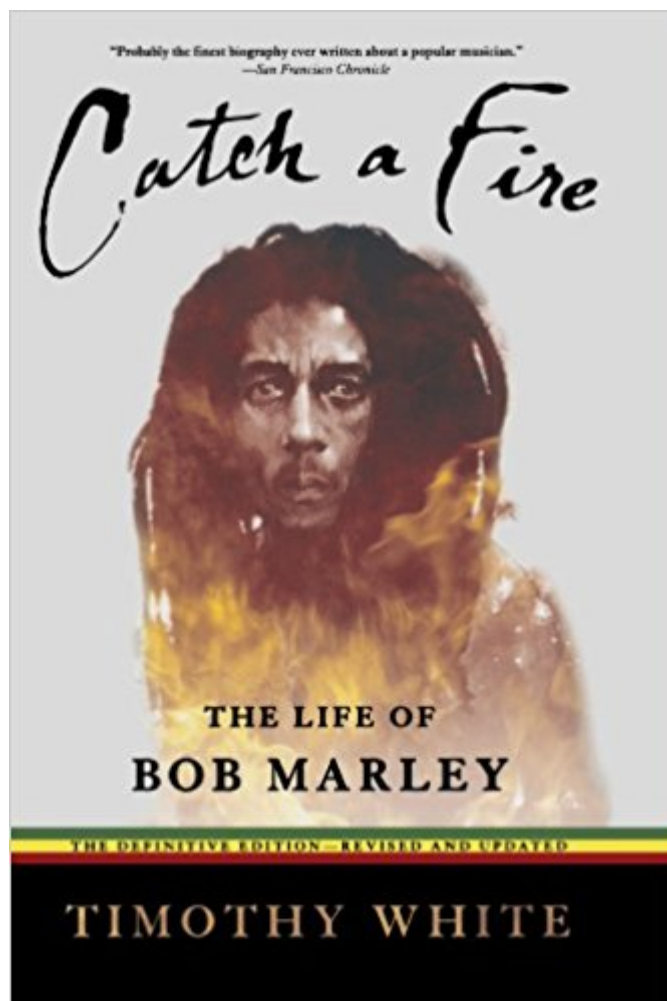


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Catch A Fire: The Life Of Bob Marley



Synopsis

The classic biography of reggae legend Bob Marley, updated and revised for the twenty-fifth anniversary of his death. Bob Marley left an indelible mark on modern music, both as a reggae pioneer and as an enduring cultural icon. *Catch a Fire*, now a classic of rock biography, delves into the life of the leader of a musical, spiritual, and political explosion that continues today. Under the supervision of the author's widow and with the collaboration of a Marley expert, this fourth edition contains a wealth of new material on the Jamaican singer, songwriter and musician, including many revisions made by the author before his untimely death. An appendix to the new edition chronicles Marley's legacy in recent years, as well as the ongoing controversy over the possibility that Marley's remains might be exhumed from Nine Mile, Jamaica, and reburied in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where hundreds of Rastafarians live. The new edition also contains an expanded discography and is factually updated throughout. "Probably the finest biography ever written about a popular musician." —*San Francisco Chronicle* "As close as rock journalism comes to transcendent literature." —*Playboy* "White has a deep appreciation for reggae's immediacy, hypnotic power, and contradictions . . . An exhaustively researched labor of love." —*Chicago Sun-Times*

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Customer Reviews

"Probably the finest biography ever written about a popular musician." —Joel Selvin, *San Francisco Chronicle*

One of the most prominent music journalists of the twentieth century, Timothy White wrote extensively on Marley, reggae, and Caribbean music and culture for Rolling Stone, The New York Times, and other leading publications. His close contact with Marley and his family and inner circle of friends led to White being granted access to private papers, photographs, and memorabilia. White died in 2002.

Ever take a college course because it sounded so interesting and wild in the syllabus and when the time comes to start the actual class you immediately have buyer's remorse? Everyone loves Bob Marley. And surely a 500-page book on Marley is going to be nothing but an amazing experience to learn every nook and cranny related to his life. But you realize the author must've done so much research and had no many notes and interviews and tidbits and facts that he just figured he'd cram them into the book and no one would notice that Bob Marley wouldn't really appear until about page 100 and die a little past page 300. The rest is dense and plodding and felt like homework to get through all the aspects of religion and politics and the economy and... (you get the point, I think) The book is fascinating and you can't help but learn a lot about Bob Marley (who knew he lived in the United States and had a series of menial jobs before making it big?!) but I think the Marley doc from 2012 does just as good a job at a fraction of the time. "Faith in Jah got Marley in touch with his conscience, and faith in himself set him on a course so unlikely and so edifying that no soul around the main remained unmoved by the dimensions and lessons of Bob's self-realization."

as a fan of Bob Marley's I was interested in learning about his life and relationships; what inspired him to write certain songs, etc. Instead, I got a well documented look at the legal wrangling, the murders and exhaustive commentary on Jamaica's socio-economic standing. After I read it I didn't feel as though I knew the real Bob Marley -- but I got a hell of a history lesson!

White wrote a very thorough book about Jamaica and Jamaican music. The Jamaica that Bob Marley grew up in. He provides a detailed account of the Jamaican culture before and during Bob Marley's rise to success. White also chronicles the unfortunate hangers-on that accumulated with Bob's success and blemished his later years. The songs I have been listening to by Bob Marley for the last 20 years now have new meaning after reading this book. Initially, I thought a song was about this or that, but with some background into Marley's tribulations at the time the song was written, that particular song has a whole new meaning. For a true Bob Marley fanatic such as myself, read this book if you want to know him from his boyhood to a man as well as the musician

that broke barriers that were firmly positioned.

Great read. Very interesting...

This book is more than just a biography of the late Bob Marley. It has a lot to offer the reader. Jamaican history and the history of the Rastafarian religion are covered in detail. It's also a ghost story, where as the author tells us how the believe in the supernatural, influences everyday Jamaican life. Marley, of course is the central character in the narrative. The other characters are highly interesting also. Bob's mother and father (the word father is used loosely) are central characters of the story, as are the member of the Wailers and his faithful wife, Rita. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Marley, the Caribbean or Reggae music. RIP Bob

I haven't read it, but my husband really likes it.

I think that the background about Jamaican history provided in this book is interesting for those who have a wider interest in reggae and Jamaican culture but it does interrupt the flow of the biography about Bob. The author really could have edited down the amount of background info to good effect. I am quite happy with the amount of info provided about Bob's childhood and adolescence. Very rewarding for painting a portrait of the artist. The only thing that was lacking was more color about the ten most interesting years of Bob's life when he was recording for Island! There are less than a hundred pages devoted to this period of Bob's life but more than a hundred devoted to the irrelevant BS that happened after he died. The most important time of his life was certainly glossed over. That being said I still enjoyed the book (and this was my second time reading it) but if I ever re-read this book, I will remember to stop reading after the time when he died. RASTAFARI!!!!!!!

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