



Reelin' in the Years: The Soundtrack of a Northern Life, Mark Radcliffe, Simon & Schuster UK, 2011, 0857200518, 9780857200518, 352 pages. When Mark Radcliffe was born in the late 1950s, Britain was trying to find its own version of the dangerously sexy Elvis. We gave the world Cliff Richard but by the time Mark was old enough to recognise pop songs on the radio, the UK was exploding into the world's most exciting place to be for a young music fan. In this, his eagerly awaited new book, Mark Radcliffe takes a record from each year of his life, using the song as a starting point from which to reach out and pull together a wonderfully entertaining catalogue of memories and asides about British culture. And, as one would expect from this unique and popular broadcaster, the tunes he lists are not the usual suspects. From The Kinks' 'See My Friends', through Slade's 'Coz I Luv You' to Kraftwerk's 'Europe Endless' and Joy Division's 'Atmosphere', Mark's selections bring forth a diverse collision of styles from eras uniquely defined by their musical genres and fashions. Bringing his choices right up to the present day, we see the inclusion of artists such as Richard Hawley, Elbow and Fleet Foxes. Mark's hugely entertaining and affectionate trawl through his favourite music of the past 50 years is guaranteed to surprise and delight his many fans..

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A Question of Honour Inside New Labour and the True Story of the Cash for Peerages Scandal, Michael Levy, Jun 10, 2008, Biography & Autobiography, 320 pages. A figure in the alleged "cash for peerages" scandal that rocked Tony Blair's government recounts the story of his life, from his impoverished childhood to his rise to success ....

The Twilight Saga collection cassette 4 ex bevat de titels : Twilight, New moon, Eclipse, Breaking dawn, S. Meyer, Nov 20, 2008, , 2208 pages. 'Twilight', 'New Moon', 'Eclipse' and 'Breaking Dawn' capture the struggle between defying our instincts and satisfying our desires. This set makes a gift for fans of this ....

The World of Karl Pilkington , Karl Pilkington, Stephen Merchant, Ricky Gervais, Feb 16, 2009, Humor, 240 pages. A collection of the best moments from the Ricky Gervais Show, with further musings from Karl Pilkington, star of Sky 1's An Idiot Abroad..

Callsign Hades , Bury, Patrick, Sep 2, 2010, Biography & Autobiography, 320 pages. In summer 2006 Helmand Province erupted into violence as NATO forces struggled to crush Taliban strongholds. For six weeks the Royal Irish Regiment and the Paras defended ....

Problem Child , Caradoc King, Apr 12, 2012, , 400 pages. BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY. Adopted at eighteen months, Caradoc King was brought up in a large and growing family. His adoptive mother, a complex woman, was unable to bond with ....

Thank You for the Days A Boy's Own Adventures in Radio and Beyond, Mark Radcliffe, Apr 6, 2009, Biography & Autobiography, 320 pages. Approaching 50, Mark Radcliffe decided to write about his life, most importantly, his time in music. But crucially, he only wanted to write about the most

interesting days and ....

Neonlicht - Die Kraftwerk Story Kraftwerk - Mensch, Maschine und Musik, Pascal Bussy, 2006, , 208 pages. .

The Zombie Survival Guide Complete Protection from the Living Dead, Max Brooks, Sep 23, 2003, Humor, 240 pages. The Zombie Survival Guide is your key to survival against the hordes of undead who may be stalking you right now. Fully illustrated and exhaustively comprehensive, this book ....

The Heroes [Special Edition] , Joe Abercrombie, May 10, 2012, Fiction, 560 pages. They say Black Dow's killed more men than winter, and clawed his way to the throne of the North up a hill of skulls. The King of the Union, ever a jealous neighbour, is not ....

Northern Sky , Mark Radcliffe, Apr 12, 2012, Fiction, 320 pages. Having been sacked from his university teaching job, Ed has returned to his home town to pick up the threads of his old life with his friends and ex-girlfriend, Jeannie, in the ....

Jail Bird - The Life and Crimes of an Essex Bad Girl , Tracy Mackness, Jun 20, 2013, Biography & Autobiography, 272 pages. Tracy Mackness has always had a flair for business - if not all of it legal. She started work as a youngster on her dad's fruit and veg stall in Romford Market in the early ....

200 Slow Cooker Recipes Hamlyn All Colour Cookbook, Sara Lewis, Sep 16, 2013, Cooking, 240 pages. Would you like to cut down on convenience food? Want to eat home-cooked meals but just don't have the time or energy to prepare them after a busy day? Then a slow cooker could ....

Walk On: My Life in Red , Ronnie Whelan, Sep 8, 2011, Biography & Autobiography, 304 pages. Ronnie Whelan was a mainstay of the iconic 1980s Liverpool FC side that won six League Championships, two FA Cups, three League Cups as well an unforgettable European Cup ....

Mum's Army Love and Adventure From the NAAFI to Civvy Street, Winifred Phillips, Feb 14, 2013, Biography & Autobiography, 304 pages. Winifred Phillips was born in Ilford, Essex, in 1926, one of four children. Sent to a convent boarding school, which she loathed, she trained as a nursery nurse and met George ....

Little Girl Left Behind , Sheena Harrison, Sep 13, 2012, Biography & Autobiography, 272 pages. From the age of three Sheena Harrison was brought up by her grandmother whilst her own mother, Kathleen, sought work in America. Kathleen later returned for her daughter, but ....

Showbusiness - The Diary of a Rock 'n' Roll Nobody , Mark Radcliffe, Apr 12, 2012, Biography & Autobiography, 25 pages. In his first book, Mark Radcliffe recalls his less-than-glittering rock career in a succession of bands which all ended in ignominy and frustration. Combining his trademark ....

The Girl Who Played with Fire Book 2 of the Millennium Trilogy, Stieg Larsson, Jul 28, 2009, Fiction, 512 pages. Part blistering espionage thriller, part riveting police procedural, and part piercing exposé on social injustice, The Girl Who Played with Fire is a masterful, endlessly ....

When Mark Radcliffe was born in the late 1950s, Britain was trying to find its own version of the dangerously sexy Elvis ...we gave the world Cliff Richard but by the time Mark was old enough to recognise pop songs on the radio, the UK was exploding into the world's most exciting place to be for a young music fan. In this, his eagerly awaited new book, Mark Radcliffe takes a record from each year of his life, using the song as a starting point from which to reach out and pull together a wonderfully entertaining catalogue of memories and asides about British culture. And, as one would expect from this unique and popular broadcaster, the tunes he lists are not the usual suspects. From The Kinks' 'See My Friends', through Slade's 'Coz I Luv You' to Kraftwerk's 'Europe Endless' and Joy Division's 'Atmosphere', Mark's selections bring forth a diverse collision of styles from eras uniquely defined by their musical genres and fashions. Bringing his choices right up to the present

day, we see the inclusion of artists such as Richard Hawley, Elbow and Fleet Foxes. Mark's hugely entertaining and affectionate trawl through his favourite music of the past 50 years is guaranteed to surprise and delight his many fans.

'An entertaining new memoir. Starting at 1958, Radcliffe picks a favourite song from each year and uses it as a launch pad for his trademark rambling reverie. The chosen tracks are diverse (everything from Cliff Richard to Prince), and the writing is funny and there's an expert X Factor takedown to savour' --Shortlist

Mark Radcliffe was born in Bolton and attended Manchester University. He has been employed by the BBC to talk in between records for over twenty years, many of these with Lard (aka Marc Riley) and currently with Stuart Maconie on Radio 6. He has won 6 Gold Sony Awards plus Sony's Music Broadcaster of the Year 2009, and has recorded five albums with two bands. He has three daughters and lives in Cheshire.

First up I need to declare I am a big fan of Mark Radcliffe- his and Stuart Maconie's Radio 2 show kept me company on the long drive home when I was working late, until their move to 6 Music and I have previously given very favourable reviews to his previous "Showbusiness" and "Thank You For The Days" offerings, so I want to try and avoid this turning into a hagiography.

This is, however, a well thought out and structured book. Each chapter covers a year in his life since he was born, with each named after a song from that year. There is a clever mix of pop history, autobiography and general history, putting everything into context from the personal to the political, and each chapter has a slightly different angle- in some the actual song takes centre stage and Radcliffe uses his encyclopedic knowledge and wide-ranging tastes to dissect it, whereas in others the track is merely referred to in passing, but still provides a theme. One chapter is simply a letter of apology, starting "Dear Kate", but most people will work out quite quickly who he is addressing.

I know it is a bit of a cliché to talk about laugh out loud moments when reading, but many hackneyed phrases become such because they do contain a basic truth. Radcliffe's great use of the English language in a non-pretentious way shows that you can exhibit intelligence without being ostentatious- that it's okay to be clever and still come across to the common man. There is the odd bit that would probably work better on a radio show than it does on the written page- eg his riff on DJs named after kitchenware (although he does make a good comeback from this one with Mary Anne Hobbs).

Generally this is written as he speaks, so anyone used to his radio show will probably hear his voice reading it to you (although the book doesn't include as many "ummmmmms" and "errrrrs", to be fair!) so as a handy insight into how a DJ who became such because of a true love of music rather than some desire to be famous got to where he is, it is inspirational, especially to those who decry playlist based celeb presenters- (for example- unlike Chris Evans, I don't think Mark would get a question on what the next lines in "Fairytale of New York" are wrong on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire").

In summary this is a funny, well developed and interesting take on the autobiography format. Due to its structure it encourages the reader to think about what would define the years of their lives for themselves, as well as throwing up a few forgotten gems from the past- in effect Radcliffe puts the reader's own lives at the centre of what is supposed to be his autobiography. It is a refreshing escape from celeb-land and X-Factor world, and Mark shows what dedication and an open-minded approach to music, not bound by genre, can make for not only good radio but good books as well. Read more &rsaquo;

No point beating around the bush, Mark Radcliffe's 2009s "Thank you for the days" was not a uniquely entertaining memoir, indeed if truth were told it was rather dull in parts. A shame since he and his ex Fall best mate Marc Riley were an hilarious partnership. I once accidentally spat tea at a passenger on a train as I spluttered laughing at a Mark and Lard's "Beat the clock" and a particularly vicious attack on Kelly Jones of the Stereophonics. Who could also forget "pathological News",

"stone deaf again" and particularly "classic cuts" where their love of music was combined with wicked p-takes. The great news is that in terms of his new book "Reelin in the years: The soundtrack of a Northern life" Radcliffe has decided to concentrate primarily on his first love for the music but obviously throw in plenty of autobiography, history and anecdotes for good measure. His premise is a cracking one to choose a song that soundtracked each of his 53 years on terra firma. This does not mean it will necessarily be the best song of that year. He accepts for example that in 1981 the defining song was the Specials anti Thatcher classic "Ghost Town". Instead he picks the wonderful "Love Action" by the Human League who started as a "four piece of badly dressed occasionally mustachioed and inadvisably coiffured blokes" and went on in their second phase to produce infectiously immaculate pop songs. He also thinks that Phil Oakley and Co have a classic ingredient, a fundamentally great band name, unlike the one judged by he and Marc Riley to be the worst ever - "Grab, Grab the Haddock".

Unsurprisingly Manchester also plays a key part with Joy Division being the only band to feature on consecutive years with respectively "Transmission" and "Atmosphere" chosen for 1979 and 1980. The Stone Roses "Made of Stone" pops up ten years later in 1989 plus an amusing anecdote about a Scouse doorman announcing the arrival of the Greek keyboard conjurer Vangelis (described by Radcliffe "as the Appolion polyphonic Hagrid") over a studio intercom as "there's a Frank Ellis here to see you"

Radcliffe describes these 50 plus essays as "the addled ramblings of a middle aged disc jockey" but they are full of humour and warmth none more so when he is championing Pulp's brilliant 1995 anthem "Sorted for E's & whiz" or greatly enjoying the success of his friend Guy Garvey and Elbow's 2008s "One Day like this". Interestingly his 2010 choice is Band of Horses lush beauty "Factory" and he has also recently stated in an interview that PJ Harvey's "Let England Shake" looks like a "shoe in" for 2011. He concludes by recognizing that right now "someone, somewhere in the world is making my next new favourite record". A perfect sentiment to end a splendid book. Read more &rsquo;

You probably have to be a fan of Mark Radcliffe already to thoroughly enjoy this book, I can't help myself and found it a joyful read from start to last. The previous reviewer said it really well; Mark can use the English language as the expert he undoubtedly is (his use of alliteration is legendary), yet he keeps it all simple and incredibly readable and thoroughly enjoyable. It is true to say he writes as he talks on the "Radcliffe and Maconie" radio show, and you can hear his dulcet Bolton accent jumping off the page.

For me, Mark's trump card is his humour, which shines through in spades in "Reelin' in the Years". Of course humour is a very individual thing and if you are a person from Stoke Poges who takes themselves too seriously, this book is not for you. Mark has been there and bought the t-shirt, you know his stories are from first-hand and he is one class story-teller, without any question. And a very funny one at that.

I was totally fascinated by his choices of the records which he chose, the ones that have punctuated his (up to press) 52 years on this earth. I await the accompanying CD; meanwhile I have set out to collect all the 52 tracks, by one means or another. I have seriously annoyed some of my friends in this pursuit, so nothing new there then. I am convinced that the tracks selected are not necessarily Mark's favourites per se, e.g. From all the fantastic works from the Summer of Love, 1967, he picks "Puppet on a string", seriously? But they all have a very personal meaning for Mark, which is fine by me. He also weaves historical facts and important political events etc into the mix, which adds a great deal to the overall flavour and makes the book well worthwhile if History floats your boat instead of listening to good music.

Mr Radcliffe was in front of an open goal with not even the keeper to beat. Needless to say he slotted the ball home with style and aplomb. Then again, how could he miss? 55 year old DJ, all round good guy, and music obsessive writes a book (when he was 52 years of age) about his favourite songs (one for each year of his life), which is read by a 51 year music obsessive. It was already a pretty good "fit".

It's fair to say I didn't learn anything about the artists or tunes I didn't already know (except the origin of Leadbelly's moniker (chronic constipation triv fans)), however I did read a lot of interesting biographical stuff about Mark, and - as ever - warmed to his dry, matter-of-fact, and quietly witty style.

I liked this, but then I liked Mark's 'Thank You For The Days' which I read a few years back. As a fellow Northerner with a similar taste in music (apart from those over-rated Manc bands, but then Mark's from Bolton and grew up with them, so I'll forgive him for that), what's not to like? I even walked Hadrian's Wall recently, which brought me right up to date with Mark's concluding chapters, so I feel as though I almost know him. We'd easily bond over a pint, that's for sure. Hadn't realised he...more I liked this, but then I liked Mark's 'Thank You For The Days' which I read a few years back. As a fellow Northerner with a similar taste in music (apart from those over-rated Manc bands, but then Mark's from Bolton and grew up with them, so I'll forgive him for that), what's not to like? I even walked Hadrian's Wall recently, which brought me right up to date with Mark's concluding chapters, so I feel as though I almost know him. We'd easily bond over a pint, that's for sure. Hadn't realised he was a drummer - when I saw his band a few years back, supporting Wilko Johnson at the O2 Islington, he was out front, singing and playing really good harp, the bastard! And they were a very tight band too. This book is full of wonderful anecdotes and insightful comments which will mean even more if you love the music, as I do (mostly, but then wouldn't it be boring if our tastes were identical?). If you've a train or a plane to catch, this is the ideal companion.(less)

It is an enjoyable wander around memory lane. He has some funny anecdotes and a great turn of phrase. If you've heard him before then not all the qupis will be new to you. As he reminds us in his sardonic way, he's been lucky to see and speak to luminaries from the music scene and attend memorable concerts. Most of it paid for by us. I think he has been doing too many of those middle-aged moaning shows as seen in his diatribe against t-shirts and his over zealous championing of nice shoes.

For each year of Radcliffe's life, a chapter. For each chapter, a pop record - the title of the chapter - and a meditation that starts from that record. The chapters that take the music seriously are among the most successful; the chapters that take a wry look at the events of Radcliffe's life and career are slight but amusing; the other chapters are mostly fatuous. I like Radcliffe a lot - but this is an obvious conceit and somewhat uneven.

Not sure I completely trust his musical taste in every respect (I'm still not won over by Genesis for example) but Radcliffe certainly gives us an engaging, readable and clearly passionate evocation of the records that have come to represent the stages of his life. His tendency to go off at almost post-modern tangents can be disconcerting at first but as the book progresses, the stream-of-consciousness style not only produces some really funny moments but contributes to the atmosphere of surreal...more Not sure I completely trust his musical taste in every respect (I'm still not won over by Genesis for example) but Radcliffe certainly gives us an engaging, readable and clearly passionate evocation of the records that have come to represent the stages of his life. His tendency to go off at almost post-modern tangents can be disconcerting at first but as the book progresses, the stream-of-consciousness style not only produces some really funny moments but contributes to the atmosphere of surreal energy that is the very thing I love about his radio 6 programme. (less)

I've enjoyed his other books much more than this. I enjoy his radio shows especially his series on northern comics. When he was driving down listenership with Marc Riley was the only time I've regularly listened to the radio one breakfast show. What works when you're driving or preparing supper doesn't always work as well when its got your 100% concentration.

DJ and radio personality Radcliffe uses the conceit of picking his favourite record from every year of his life to weave together snippets of autobiography, social commentary and humorous anecdotes. Interesting and deliciously nostalgic for anyone born in the late Fifties/early Sixties, but a bit too random and self-indulgent to warrant a higher rating.

each year of Radcliffe's life told in light of one song, what that song meant to that version of himself and then whatever he feels like writing about that is funniest, sincerest, most embarrassing etc. Minus the completeness of something like High fidelity, say, it becomes hit an miss but some hits are significant - top ten even...

Radcliffe has a strong voice and is reliably funny. There is the odd overwrought sentence that has you backtracking to get the meaning but that's forgivable. Less so the relentless professional northerner thing where "that there London" is a strange and distant land and Belgium...more Part autobiography, part guide to popular culture, Reelin' in the Years has the original approach of taking a pop song for every year of the author's life and using that as the starting point to riff on events of the time.

Picked this up whilst on a weekend break at a price i couldnt ignore. Having read several "soundtrack to a life" books i pretty much knew what to expect with this: Mark Radcliffe picks a song for each year of his life and writes around it. However, Radcliffe's writing style and mordant wit raise this to the top of the heap . Some of the tracks wouldnt fit into anyones top tunes ever (Puppet on a String anyone?) but the way he presents his selections as emblematic of their wider cultural contexts...more Picked this up whilst on a weekend break at a price i couldnt ignore. Having read several "soundtrack to a life" books i pretty much knew what to expect with this: Mark Radcliffe picks a song for each year of his life and writes around it. However, Radcliffe's writing style and mordant wit raise this to the top of the heap . Some of the tracks wouldnt fit into anyones top tunes ever (Puppet on a String anyone?) but the way he presents his selections as emblematic of their wider cultural contexts is satisfying and sometimes novel . Being a Northerner of a similar age and background i found his insights rang true and his delivery in the main unforced and light. Also liked quite a few of the tunes! Not a game changer but recommended. (less)

A great idea for a book and Radcliffe is knowledgeable and entertaining in the writing, so he manages to pull off what others might fail with. Taking a song a year he looks at his life through the idea of how music has shaped it. Some great stories. Some funny bits. Some sad bits. A nice snapshot of life with a built-in soundtrack.

An intermittently amusing ramble through fifty-odd years of popular music told through the device of a record to represent each year of the author's life, starting with Cliff Richard in 1958 and ending up with Elbow, The Unthanks and Fleet Foxes in 2010, by way of The Kinks, Genesis, Bob Marley, Joy Divison and The Smiths.

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