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David Browne
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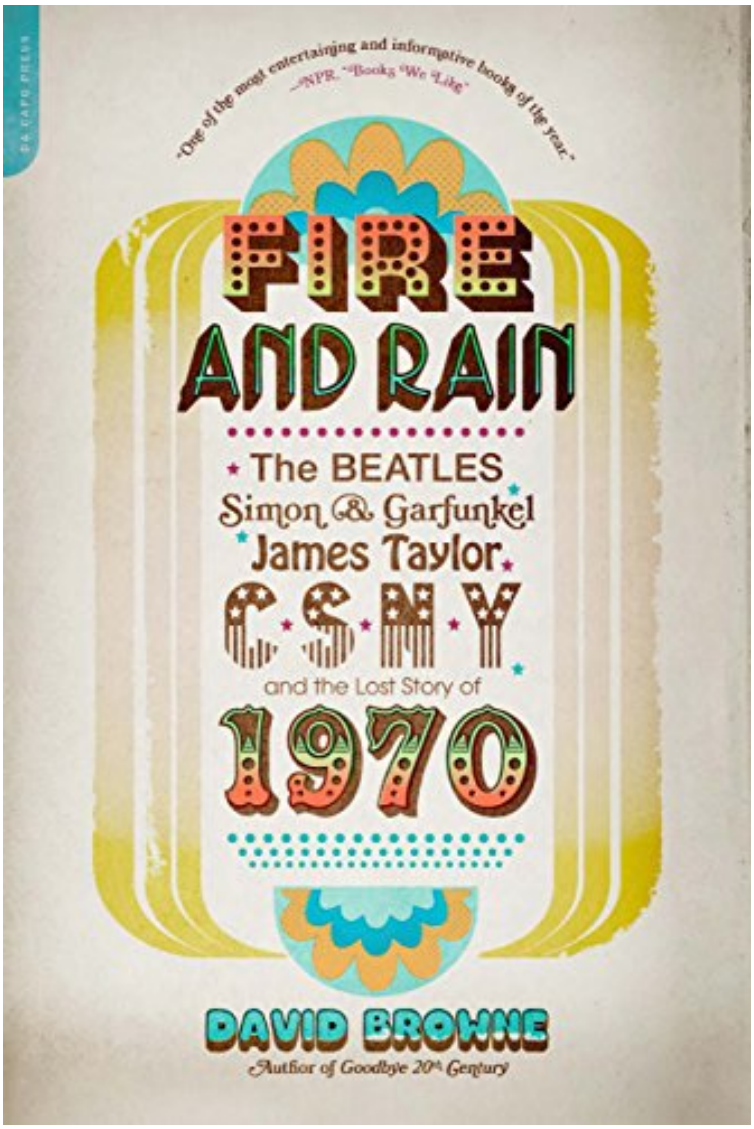

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David Browne : Fire and Rain: The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor, CSNY, and the Lost Story of 1970 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fire and Rain: The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor, CSNY, and the Lost Story of 1970:

45 of 46 people found the following review helpful. If you were there, this book takes you back there.By Tom DupreeIt's been a long time since I had a *better* time reading a book than David Browne's FIRE AND RAIN. I

gulped it down in two sittings and still wanted more.I was 20 in Mr. Browne's target year, I had just gotten my first auto-changing turntable, and we had a groundbreaking FM rock station in town, whose playlists came to be cited in the national trades. I reveled in all the music: I was an intense fan of all four acts he explores, and I read about them and others in the new, hip mag Rolling Stone. Pop music was one of the most important things in my cultural life back then, and I did pay attention to details - but Mr. Browne went far beyond. His research is amazing. I learned stuff I didn't know in every single chapter. He took me onstage for shows I only dreamed about from far-off Mississippi. I personally think the Seventies began in 1972, with McGovern's defeat, but Mr. Browne makes a compelling case for 1970 itself, at least where pop music is concerned. If you care[d] at all about the genre in 1970, you will not be able to put this thing down.Full disclosure: I edited Mr. Browne's first book, DREAM BROTHER, but I had nothing to do with this one. Too bad: it's still a muggafugga.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Rock History of 1970By R.S. Gompertz"Fire and Rain" by Rolling Stone editor David Browne is a fascinating look behind the music that defined 1970. While the focus is on the year's most influential artists, Browne does a good job painting the social landscape and upheavals of that time.Nixon was president. The Beatles were breaking up. The Vietnam war was raging. Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young were touring. Campuses were in revolt. Drugs were everywhere and getting stronger. James Taylor was trending. The albums released in 1970 represent some of the most influential music ever. Bridge Over Troubled Water. Deja Vu. Let it Be. Sweet Baby James. Just to name a few.Rock and roll was moving from smallish venues like the Fillmore East and West to arenas. The music business was getting almost as big as some of the artists' egos and appetites.The sixties were becoming the seventies. The end of innocence had arrived.Browne is a gifted reporter who writes with insight and feeling with a "you are there" approach to the history. His source material is excellent, often first hand. He also provides a great list of web sites and references for those of us who are fascinated with this period in history.Excellent read if you love the music and want to peak behind the curtain of a fascinating time.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Unique Look at a Pivotal Year in Music and Pop CultureBy Old Enough to Know BetterI remember Fire and Rain when it first hit the airwaves in 1970 and I felt that Rock had reached a new level of maturity. 44 years later I feel no different. In 1971 I could sing along with every syllable of Sweet Baby James and Mudslide Slim, most of the album Bridge Over Troubled Water and I loved Teach Your Children with it's Country sound. In the years that followed Country Rock and Soft Rock grew in prominence and some amazing acts came along. By the late '70s the boundaries were indistinct and some music all but defied categorization. But the shift, indeed, seemed to have occurred in 1970.Perhaps the breakup of the Beatles left a vacuum that allowed some of this to happen. Perhaps the creative forces would have come to light even if the Beatles had stayed together. The number of possible causes is off the scale. No matter what, there was a palpable shift that set the stage for much of what happened in music for the rest of the '70s and into the early '80s. This was the soundtrack to my teens and early adulthood and I still love this music.This book is paced well and delivers the information in an interesting manner. The level of detail is realistic, enough to convey the information without belaboring the subject. IOW, it's a good read that neither bores or fatigues its readers. The information seems well researched and accurate, not to mention that the author seems to understand the color of the times he is writing about. Many people writing about the social tumult of the late '60s idealize the time and fail to realize that it wasn't just flower children and love-ins. I felt that this book didn't fall into that trap; it was respectful of the ideals of the time without falling victim to the euphoric recall that seems to have overtaken so many that try to explain it.It was a trying time for people on both sides of the social chasm and the introspective music that emerged in 1970 was a refuge from the angst that had all but defined the late '60s. The problems were still happening but people needed a break. Social consciousness gave way to self consciousness.It's a great book.

Set against a backdrop of world-changing historical and political events, Fire and Rain tells the extraordinary story of one pivotal year in the lives and music of four legendary artists, and reveals how these artists and their songs both shaped and reflected their times. Drawing on interviews, rare recordings, and newly discovered documents, acclaimed journalist David Browne “allows us to see—and to hear—the elusive moment when the '60s became the '70s in a completely fresh wayrdquo; (Mark Harris, author of Pictures at a Revolution).