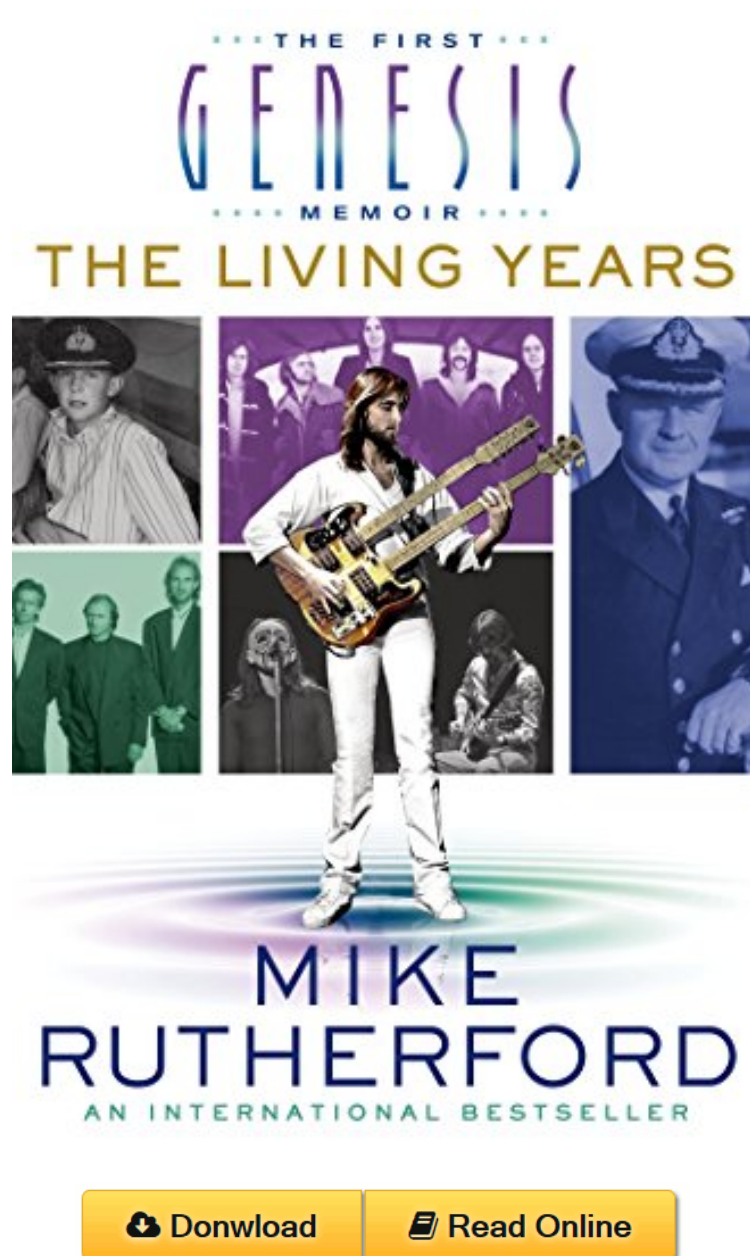


[Read free] The Living Years: The First Genesis Memoir

The Living Years: The First Genesis Memoir

Mike Rutherford

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Mike Rutherford : The Living Years: The First Genesis Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Living Years: The First Genesis Memoir:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A great memoir, but also a missed opportunityBy Chris JamesA great memoir, but also a missed opportunityFor dyed-in-the-wool Genesis fans this book is a must-read: the first memoir by one of only two of the bands's members whorsquo;ve been there since the very beginning. However, for the casual Genesis or Mike + The Mechanics fan, there really isnrsquo;t much which hasnrsquo;t been dealt with in more depth in other biographies. As a genre, the autobiography tends to succeed depending on how controversial it is. While there is the occasional surprising revelation in The Living Years, there are very few indiscretions.The most

entertaining aspect is of course the first-person immediacy; reading about events in Genesis's history from someone who was there, whereas until now Genesis fans have had to make do with third-person biographies (the most thorough being 2007's Chapter and Verse). But Rutherford's life is not only about the music. His father was a captain in the Royal Navy who saw action during World War Two. Interestingly, Rutherford junior draws parallels between his own career and his father's, so at the beginning of the book we get excerpts from Rutherford senior's unpublished memoirs as well. This is a highly enjoyable literary device which, unfortunately, only lasts for around the first third of the book. Once Rutherford junior has joined Genesis, the emphasis is very much on the band, and the author proceeds chronologically through the Genesis discography until his father passes away in 1986, when Rutherford was in the middle of the Invisible Touch tour. Afterwards, he goes through Mike + The Mechanics very quickly, and 2007's Turn It On Again tour is also not dealt with in any depth. I can't help feeling that this memoir should have been substantially longer. The literary device of using excerpts from his late father's unpublished memoirs was excellent, and should have been kept up throughout the whole book. In addition, I think Rutherford could have said a great deal more on how he created his music: we do get descriptions, especially of songs like The Living Years and Land of Confusion, but I finished this book wishing he'd spent several thousand more words going into a lot more depth. On the one hand, perhaps he feels there's not that much more to be said, but on the other I think a lot of people are very interested and would have appreciated a greater creative analysis. Certainly a missed opportunity. Also, on my Kindle version there were around fifteen significant typographical issues: a few repeated words, a number of words which ran together, and - unforgivably for a traditionally published book - two instances of "less" which should have been "fewer". However, these mistakes did not spoil my enjoyment of the book, and I point them out only because, as a traditionally published book, potential readers are being asked to pay top money for it. In summary: absolutely a must-read for serious Genesis fans, it's like having a private interview with Rutherford; some parts are surprisingly personal and more revealing than information in previous Genesis biographies. It is a joy to read about events in Genesis's history from Rutherford's own perspective. For the casual fan, there is still much to enjoy, and this is a wonderful insight into the evolution of the greatest rock band in the world. The only drawback is the book's brevity - it could have, and really should have, been quite a bit longer than it is.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written and very interesting, highly recommended. By D. Powell I've read Phil Collins autobiography (that was OK, but very little about Genesis), also Peter Gabriel "Without Frontiers" biography (that was boring, humorless, and terribly written. Only for die-hard fans). But this book was a real treat. Mike's writing style is exactly what you'd expect; dry British humor. He weaves stories of his father which is a cool story device and very interesting. (His father was an Admiral in the navy.) At one point I thought all the stuff about his father was a guilt trip for not being closer to him before he died. So this probably was very cathartic for Mike. But he goes very methodically through Genesis' whole history with many interesting nuggets. For example... spoiler alert: He didn't like the chorus in "I Like What I Like" ...which I didn't either. I really enjoyed the stories and his writing style. Fun fact: I was in a prog rock band and in 1978 Genesis came to Columbia, MD and about 8 of us hippies went up to their hotel to give them a cassette of our music in hopes they would help us get a deal. (Genesis did essentially the same thing when they started) We went to the front desk to ask for their room and the clerk gave us their room number without hesitation. We merrily skipped down the hall, knocked on the door, and Tony's wife answered the door and invited our gangly group in. "The boys are at sound check", but she took our tape and said she'd pass it on. I knew the music business was messed up but reading about Genesis' debt in this book was a real eye opener. I'm glad we never got a record deal. Disco and new wave killed prog-rock around those times.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fun read for long time Genesis fans. By Ricardo David I'm a life long Genesis fan, own all the albums, and have read I Know What I Like and the Chapter Verse histories of the band. If you know that material Mr. Rutherford doesn't offer up any surprise revelations about the band's history but it's the kind of first hand account that you would never hear in any interview. In particular, I enjoyed the early chapters which highlight how Mike grew up and to this midwestern American it feels like he grew up on another planet... son of a naval officer, boarding school at 8, getting caned by your high school head master... Through it all you get snippets of Mike's father's unpublished memoir and Mike's lifelong journey to shed the stiff upper lip and finally shout out to the world, via this book, how much he loved his Dad. The fun Genesis bits are typical rock-n-roll fodder you don't hear much about with Genesis; the drugs, groupies, life on the road and a bit more of a window into the real personalities of each band member.

The story of Genesis is the rock legend of how a humble schoolboy band grew into a group of global superstars. At its center stood Mike Rutherford, driving the music from pioneering prog rock to chart-topping hits. Now for the first time, he tells the remarkable inside story of Genesis and his own band, Mike + The Mechanics. Against the rhythm of drink, drugs, and lineup changes, Mike's father, a World War II naval officer, always stood in the background. He would watch Genesis grow, supporting them from the very beginning when they toured Britain in the back of a bread van. Through extreme highs and lows, loyal Captain Rutherford was always there, earplugs at the ready. But when his father suddenly died, Mike was forced to reexamine their relationship and only then began to understand how much

their lives had overlapped. *The Living Years* is a revealing memoir of the relationship between father and son and the story of how music, families, and friendship combine.

About the Author Michael Rutherford is a founding member of Genesis, initially as a bassist and backup vocalist. Rutherford often played rhythm guitar and 12-string guitar for the band in the early years. Following the departure of Steve Hackett from Genesis in 1977, he assumed the role of lead guitarist on the band's studio albums, beginning with *And Then There Were Three* in 1978. He is one of only two constant members in Genesis (the other is keyboardist Tony Banks). Rutherford wrote the lyrics to many Genesis songs during their career, including some of the band's biggest international hits, such as "Follow You, Follow Me", "Turn It On Again", "Land of Confusion" and "Throwing It All Away". He also formed Mike + The Mechanics in 1985. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of Genesis in 2010.