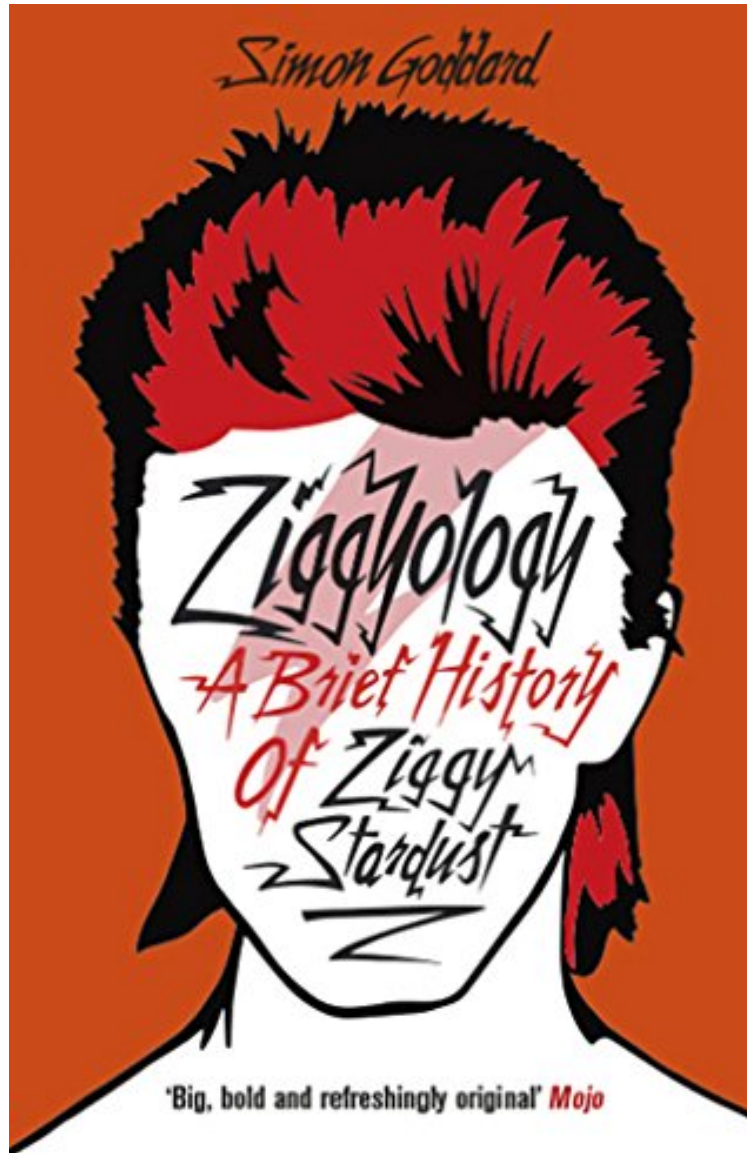


Ziggyology

Simon Goddard

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Simon Goddard : Ziggyology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ziggyology:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fun readBy mikeyThe narrative is hokey, but you can tell the author knows his Ziggy facts. Interesting how he develops all of the ingredients to make our Cosmic Messiah. Ziggy Rules!0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Alden NagelHella bloody good m81 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Revelatory but often overblown in argument and styleBy John PlowrightI was delighted

to receive Simon Goddard's 'Ziggyology: A Brief History of Ziggy Stardust' as part of a Christmas present. I consumed it in a single day, which speaks volumes for its readability. Having said that, it's a rather odd book, with Goddard spending a lot of time exploring the background to Bowie's idea of a Martian falling to earth, and how he'd appear. His investigation considers, amongst others, Copernicus, Giordano Bruno, Galileo, Kepler, the Kabukimono, Gustav Holst, H. G. Wells, Orson Welles and Stanley Kubrick. All of this material makes interesting reading with some fascinating connections but at times Goddard seems chiefly interested in parading his eclectic knowledge and overreaches himself, most notably when he presents Beethoven as the inventor of rock 'n' roll. He is no stranger to hyperbole, his prose is often purple, he doesn't always write in sentences and another aspect of Goddard's writing is a tendency to write about things he can only imagine rather than actually know — something which is most annoying when he repeatedly tells the reader what thoughts were passing through Bowie's head as he looked at himself in the mirror. This is all the more surprising given that the book is meticulously researched, although even here Goddard can't self-edit and on one occasion not only tells us when Bowie appeared on UK TV but provides details of what was available on the other channels at the same time, including all the ITV regional variations. The book, for all its faults, is nevertheless worth reading, not least for the insight which it provides into the often eccentric cast of characters who found themselves within the Starman's orbit, including Andy Warhol, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, Ian Hunter and the Spiders from Mars. Best of all is the way the book charts the friendship and rivalry between Bowie and Marc Bolan: a relationship which for a while briefly mirrored that of Lennon and McCartney in inspiring both of them to excel. To sum up, 'Ziggyology' is often thought provoking and revelatory but equally often overblown in argument and style. Its odd emphases mean that I learned more about the evolution of Bowie's hairstyles and make-up than about his lyrics or music, although I suppose at the time these all contributed to making Ziggy's appearance so extraordinary and long lasting in its impact.

He came from Outer Space... It was the greatest invention in the history of pop music — the rock god who came from the stars — which struck a young David Bowie like a lightning bolt from the heavens. When Ziggy the glam alien messiah fell to Earth, he transformed Bowie from a prodigy to a superstar who changed the face of music forever. But who was Ziggy Stardust? And where did he really come from? In a work of supreme pop archaeology, Simon Goddard unearths every influence that brought Ziggy to life — from HG Wells to Holst, Kabuki to Kubrick, and Elvis to Iggy. Ziggyology documents the epic drama of the Starman's short but eventful time on Planet Earth... and why Bowie eventually had to kill him.

 "Dazzlingly pulls together all the vibrant strands that made up the star-spun cloth of Ziggy. Goddard is the aficionado." --Gary Kemp
 "If 2013 is shaping up to be The Year of David Bowie then Simon Goddard's glorious fantasiz on the theme of Ziggy Stardust should be its key text... A tremendous account." --Q Magazine
About the Author
Simon Goddard is a music journalist and the author of Mozipedia: The Encyclopedia of Morrissey, which was Mojo's book of the year, and The Smiths: Songs that Saved Your Life.