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In The Wings: My Life With Roger McGuinn And The Byrds



Synopsis

The only band member who remains synonymous with the Byrds is front man Roger McGuinn. The person closest to him, who witnessed the band's rise, glittering heyday, and tumultuous clash of wills-artistic and personal within the group-was his wife, Ianthe. Sharing tales of the Byrds' rise to fame from her unique vantage point as the only woman consistently involved with and at the center of the drama and success of the Byrds, Ianthe tells the story of the exploding rock music scene in 1960s Los Angeles. In the Wings is also Ianthe's memoir of being a young and beautiful Latina from Tucson getting a crash course in love, loss, sex and drugs, marriage, and motherhood while being immersed in the aureate and vagaries of celebrity. And of course, it is the love story of Ianthe and Roger, how that love was destroyed, and how she survived to find herself. The Byrds' worldwide hit songs from the 1960s, "Mr. Tambourine Man," "Turn! Turn! Turn!," and "Eight Miles High," are iconic. Today, the group is considered by rock critics one of the most influential bands of the 1960s. The Beatles called them their favorite contemporary American group. Rolling Stone magazine dubbed the Byrds one of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991.

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Customer Reviews

I first met Ianthe when she had gone back to her birth name of Dolores and married my manager Eddie Tickner. I was immediately impressed by this beautiful woman with her serene presence, and we have remained friends over the years. Underneath that calm exterior tho' lay a tensile strength revealed here as she bears witness to her heady days with the Byrds, the emerging L.A.

rock scene of the 60s, to gender and racial bias, and a tumultuous marriage to Roger McGuinn that would end with her raising their two sons alone. In the Wings is the story of a true survivor, told with a keen eye and ultimately, a compassionate heart. Emmylou Harris Dolores (Ianthe) was there at the birth of the Byrds and experienced life as a wife during those triumphant and tempestuous years. Her story is more than a rock memoir, embracing a Mexican-American upbringing at a time of immense social change. Her reinvention as a working mother in the aftermath of the Sixties party is a poignant story of perseverance and survival.: Johnny Rogan, author of Byrds: Requiem For The Timeless, Volumes 1 & 2. In the Wings is a compelling tale of a woman's struggle to maintain a marriage with a celebrity rock roll band leader who becomes wasted on the way, and her ultimate redemption raising two children as a single mother amidst the conflicts of Sixties excess. I followed Ianthe's story with enthusiasm. Her victory was my hope with every turn of the page. Inspirational.: Jesse Lee Kincaid A Rising Sons

Ianthe McGuinn was born Dolores Deleon in Ray, Arizona in 1942. (She changed her name to Ianthe shortly after her husband Jim McGuinn changed his middle name to Roger as they became followers of Subud.) After spending a childhood with her resilient and hard-working mother (she's profiled in Songs My Mother Sang to Me, an oral history by Patricia Martin), she became involved with the 1960s folk music scene in Hollywood, California. During this experience, she met and later married Roger (aka Jim) McGuinn, who was on the threshold of fame and success as the founding member of his rock music group, the Byrds. After divorce and raising two young sons as a single mom, she later remarried and completed a nursing degree in her hometown of Tucson, where she currently writes stories and poetry.

Ianthe McGuinn's book is the story of a young woman who came from humble beginnings and who, as luck would have it, got caught up in the rapid uprising of one of America's foremost bands of the 60s, The Byrds. As the book progresses it's obvious how the onset of world-wide fame and fortune can change someone's personality making them unrecognizable from the person they were before. Add drugs and inflated egos to the mix and it becomes understandable how a marriage once so full of promise fell apart. From a woman's point of view, this reader could empathize all too well with the raw emotions of separation, betrayal and divorce. As a fan of The Byrds, it gives some rare insight from someone in the inner circle to the dynamics of the band in

their formative years. Very enjoyable.

Somewhat interesting to run through if a real Byrds fanatic. You can pass on the early life and personal stuff of the writer and it will not take long. The actual info on the Byrds is superficial and sparse. Maybe 15 full pages on any actual recording or shows.

Not an entirely happy story but an accurate reflection of the time, people and events. A personal behind-the-scenes memoir recalling one of the most creative periods in the LA music scene. Highly recommended.

This book is captivating and I could not turn the pages fast enough, even wanting to flip to some of the scenes at the end. Ianthe McGuinn has done everything a Memoirist is supposed to do - that is, she opened up completely and laid her guts on the table. This juicy story is told with ultimate honesty and nothing is left out. That's what makes it so good. It gives a true depiction of what Ianthe's life was like with Roger McGuinn, both on and off the stage, and even behind closed doors. Reading the story, I was transported back into the era of the sixties, when the Byrds were taking flight to become one of the greatest bands in the history of rock 'n' roll. Ianthe writes about the early days, when the band need her money to buy food, then gives a chronological account of the band's road to success. She writes brilliantly about the Byrd's association and friendship with a multitude of exciting and gifted rock stars and actors. "In the Wings" is more than a rock memoir. It is a love story told with tremendous passion. Ianthe's love for Roger was the kind of love you only experience once in a lifetime. Throughout the memoir, I could feel her yearning for Roger, her devotion to him, and strong determination to do anything to hold on to the love of her life. In spite of many challenges during her marriage to a rock star, Ianthe never once lost her own identity. She held strong to interests in higher education, creative arts, and a philosophy that "helping others is the true source of inner peace."

Ianthe McGuinn's *In the Wings* takes the reader on an exhilarating romp through the 1960s through the lens of a beautiful and adventurous small town Latina girl who has the good fortune to fall in love with and marry Roger McGuinn, a struggling musician on the brink of superstardom. A great beach read, this book dishes on the Hollywood scene of the sixties and 70s peopled by the Byrds, the Beatles, Hendrix, Dylan and many others riding their heady successes to excess. Two children later, it takes a sharp turn into betrayal, chaos and confusion as Roger abandons his little family,

married one of his lovers and leaves Ianthe with little but memories. Ultimately Ianthe forges a new path through life as a single mom and registered nurse--with her feet on the ground and a living network of family and friends. A book not to be missed by rock and roll enthusiasts, those of us who lived and loved in the 60s and 70s, and anyone who has hopes to survive and thrive after epic personal losses.

This book is a wonderful snapshot of the Hollywood rock scene in the 1960's from the viewpoint of Ianthe McGuinn, the ex wife of Roger McGuinn of the Byrds. Ianthe paints a vivid picture of the music scene in Silver Lake, Echo Park, Laurel Canyon and Sherman Oaks during that era. She takes you inside the early rock night clubs in Hollywood and the backstories of bands that went on to make it. There are tales of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Dylan that have not been heard before. It's one of those books you can't put down until you finish it. Ianthe lets you into the rock world she inhabited, introducing you to her friends that also happen to be household names. Her humble tone makes you root for her and her children. It's heart breaking at times and inspirational in others. In the end she is an inspiration to anyone who faced adversity and overcome it. Lucky for us she put her memories in print for us all to read. Highly recommended!

Very easy read. It kept my attention enough to read it all the way through. She offered great insight on the burgeoning rock and roll scene in the 60s from a very personal perspective. I connected with her struggle as a single woman with 2 boys and an absent father. Definitely would recommend it to anyone who is interested in the 60s music scene.

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