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Born to Run Details

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From Reader Review Born to Run for online ebook

Susan says

Great read

Jennifer Cloe says

Such a great read! I think even people not as into Bruce would like it. It's long but each chapter is like a little story all by itself. The chapter about watching Elvis on tv was like a rousing church sermon. I really appreciated his openness about his depression and his father's mental illness.

Dr. Detroit says

In an internet-centric world, an age of diminished returns where millions live their lives as if they're dealing with undiagnosed cases of agoraphobia, Bruce Springsteen is an anachronism. Experiencing life, romance, and many of the other things he used to sing about requires disconnecting from the grid, leaving the house or your local java emporium/internet cafe, and feeling the wind in your face, the pavement under your wheels, and a swelling in your heart. You just can't get that from MySpace or YouTube, even with a vivid imagination and enough Class 1 narcotics to stagger a Clydesdale.

But spooling back 30 years to the pre-punk dark ages, before any of us knew any better, he was just about the greatest thing rolling, a scruffy, street urchin from Jersey with an expansive list of influences and an idealistic spirit who stood tall and sang into the light, mostly about cars, girls, redemption, salvation, and the sight of Freehold in his rearview mirror. Think Bob Dylan with two lungs instead of one, a better band, and without most of the poetic and faux political affectations, and you're getting warm.

Three decades have done little if anything to dull the Spectroresque sheen coating his magnum opus, "Born to Run," now repackaged with a glory-years concert DVD and "making of" documentary. Springsteen's not everyone's cup of grog, most of his oeuvre making you either want to stand up and shout or sit down and weep, but for one brief instant at least he touched down light years beyond majestic, inspirational, and life affirming, the album completely deserving of the extravagant accolades thrown its way by an army of critics, admirers, and sycophants. And perhaps some of the barbs as well.

Cinematic in scope, but not, say, in the same way as Meat Loaf's "Bat Out of Hell" or Stan Ridgway's "The Big Heat," it veers wildly between tender ballads which explode into twanging technicolor Telecasters ("Thunder Road"), multi-layered mission statements (the title track), self-mythologizing seaside swing ("Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out"), hauntingly insistent chug-fests ("She's the One"), orchestrated mini epics ("Jungleland") and fairly straight-forward – for Springsteen, anyway - rock and roll ("Backstreets").

Unfortunately, he would never again be this innocent, pure, naïve, romantic, or unaffected, entirely consumed with dreams, broken hearts, towns full of losers, walks in the sun, death waltzes, velvet rims, and a rogue's gallery of colorful misfits with nicknames to match, content to expose his soul and drag his home movies of a seaside Jersey night across middle America and beyond.

But based on the documentary disc "Wings for Wheels," it's understandable why Springsteen never tried

anything like this again, all those involved in bringing his vision to fruition – even estranged ex-manager Mike Appel – trading horror stories of endless days and nights in the studio filled with countless takes, tweaks, hand wringing, and second guessing, and The Boss’s inability to just let the album go, deliver it to the suits at Columbia, and never look back.

The 1975 London debut, at Hammersmith Odeon, is a literal mash-up of concert, faith healing, and testimonial, Clarence Clemons, Miami Steve Van Zandt, and Roy Bittan pimped-out preachers with hats, suits, and corsages, the pagan Springsteen in a woolie rolling out the Version 1.0 template of his show for the next decade and change. Naturally the set list is skewed toward “Born to Run,” but the band’s garage roots are laid bare with “Rosalita (Come Out Tonight),” the “Detroit Medley,” and “Quarter to Three.”

There are those who would lead you to believe that the only Bruce Springsteen album you need is “Born to Run,” and with good reason. Through damn near all of it, he sounds as if he should rule the world and for most of the latter part of the 1970’s, he did. It’s not an album where the big guns are reeled out at the start and the quality gradually fades until you hit the run-out groove, but a white-knuckle game of chicken between its creator, fate, and the American dream.

He's the last to blink.

Shannon says

I've had a cursory knowledge about Springsteen since my childhood as a result of my father being a huge fan of his. Bruce's music always seemed to be his music of choice when cleaning the house on Friday afternoons! Having FINALLY listened to this very thorough memoir of how he got to where he is today gave me a newfound respect for him, his music and his life in general. He does not attribute his success to his voice or guitar playing skills; in fact, he talks about how there are so many others out there better than him in both areas. He knew it was going to take hard work and put in the time and effort to get the success he has. He surely earned it and appreciates his fans over and over, as evidenced by his regular 3 hour plus concerts. I hope he goes on tour at least one more time so I can see him and the band with this new perspective.

Margie says

That is it. No more autobiography. How can people who tell such interesting stories otherwise tell an uninteresting version of their life? Seriously, did we need to read about the horses?

Elizabeth Fine says

What a way to spend the holiday season. This book is written like Bruce's songs. An amazing story with so much emotion and layering. While at first I thought "Jesus this book is going to take me forever- it's so long", by the end I didn't want it to end. We learn so much about Bruce and his stages of life and his people and how he has been affected by them all. If you are a Brucefan this is a must read. I will probably reread as an audiobook. I feel lucky to be a jersey girl because to share this smart and talented man's home state is an honor. Amazing book.

N.N. Light says

Bruce Springsteen's music is the soundtrack of my youth and I wanted to know more about the man behind "Born to Run". A fantastic autobiography and one I recommend. While he does go on a bit here and there about certain areas of his life, it's honest and I appreciate that.

My Rating: 4.5 stars

Susan says

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