



Stoned

Andrew Loog Oldham

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'People say I made the Stones. I didn't. They were there already. They only wanted exploiting. They were all bad boys when I found them. I just brought out the worst in them.'

Andrew Loog Oldham was nineteen years old when he discovered and became the manager and producer of an unknown band called The Rolling Stones. His radical vision transformed them from a starving south London blues combo to the Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band That Ever Drew Breath, while the revolutionary strategies he used to get them there provoked both adulation and revulsion throughout British society and beyond.

An ultra-hip mod, flash, brash and schooled in style by Mary Quant, he was a hustler of genius, addicted to scandal, notoriety and innovation.

Stoned Details

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Author : Andrew Loog Oldham

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Bruce says

A tough read due in part to the herky-jerky style of interconnected and random quotes and the many dated British phrases and expressions. It does offer a great history of the period, especially as it pertains to Oldham and his connection with the Stones but... It can get tedious and self congratulatory at times. But then again, it is about HIM.

Rog Harrison says

I quite like reading books about the music industry. This book deals with the author's life up until 1964. Interestingly about a quarter of the text consists of quotes from other people - some lifted from other books and some from interviews presumably solicited for this book. A fascinating read and I have the follow up book to read next.

Chris Taylor says

I have read 3 of ALO's books. This was his first, following by 2Stoned and Stone Free.

Stoned tells how he came to know the Stones and, using a combination of strong will and connection in the Music Biz, set them on the road to stardom.

The format of the book is unique in my experience, consisting entirely of paragraphs of quotes from all the main players, backed up with a massive index... Don't worry though, you'll be used to it after 30 minutes.

I've never been a great fan of Sixties culture (I'm just a little too young), but ALO made me interested in that this book was hard to put down, the sign of a great writer. You can't ask for any more than that...

Tosh says

I love Andrew Loog Oldham. "Stoned" is an uber-fascinating memoir of a talented man in a very gray London circ. 1950's, who helped move that city and pop culture into a world of technicolor.

For those who don't know, Oldham was the manager and record producer for the Rolling Stones circ. the 1960's. I can't think of another book that brings London culture in such sharp focus.

Don Gorman says

(2) I think the best word to describe this book is choppy. I have had this title on my to read list for about 3 or 4 years and I am glad I finally got to it even though I am pretty disappointed in the end. There is about zero flow here, just bits of journal entries. A little bit of family, music and business associates make the text along with about 50% or so from Oldham himself. Lots of very fun photos help ease the pain. The third or more of the book leading up to his encounter and start of the relationship with the Rolling Stones drags pretty hard, and the second half is much more entertaining. This one is for fairly hard core music nuts like me.

Sheila Judson says

Im having a hard time getting through this book. I think the next few are a bit funnier and more in keeping with the ALO on XM radio. The book jumps around from person to person talking about Andrew.

McZine says

Took this one up expecting the same old swinging sixties anecdotes. I love to be proved wrong. A riveting and inspiring read. You can tell where the editor has slashed areas that could very well have been of much interest to us all but overall this book is a keeper.

Solor says

Lucky fad !!! Unforgivable - this bum claimed all rights on Verve's Bitter Sweet Symphony because he owned the paperwork of the instrumental. Every time u hear that tune on boring commercial, Andrew is cashing in!! Sorry for him, but I consider Oldham closer to a Simon Cowell than a Phil Spector.

Leigh Roberts says

Enjoyed

Kevin says

Fascinating glimpse into the life of the manager of the Rolling Stones. The guy is an interesting, ego-mad hustler, but smart as hell (he's also my favorite DJ on Sirius Satellite Radio). A lot of what he did with the Stones was taken to the nth degree later by people like Peter Grant and (especially) Malcolm McLaren with the Sex Pistols. Still this is a breezy, gossipy read with some of the most fascinating rock and roll characters ever, including the Beatles (he was their London publicist for a short while), members of Led Zeppelin (he used Jones and Page in session work), Phil Spector, on and on. The Stones don't even come in until page 180 or so and the book ends in the Spring of 1963 when, career-wise, things are just starting to get interesting.

The structure is unique - he's taken quotes from other people (both interviews and existing works) to provide context of what he was doing. One of them made a comment I hadn't considered before about the Beatles and the Stones - basically saying that the Beatles were lower-to-middle class kids pretending to be upper class while the Stones were upper class kids pretending to be lower class.

Mauberley says

I couldn't even finish it. The thing is lazily constructed as an "oral history", i.e., a collection of comments and recollections from various individuals arranged according to a timeline. Surely Loog Oldham could have more to say about Brian Jones. Top marks for such an inspired title.

Gunnar Hjalmarsson says

Manik-þunglyndissjúklingur og tískufrík sem uppgötvaði Stones og fleiri bönd in ðe sixtís. Mjög nákvæmlega er sagt frá öllu fram að ákveðnum tíma (1964) en svo er bókin bara búin þegar mesta fúttið er að fara að byrja -- frægðin rétt að byrja og karlinn að byrja að verða illasukkaður sukkari. Semsé, þétt framan af en ferlega endaslepp.

Keith Astbury says

A lot of us will never forgive Oldham for his greed when it comes down to The Verve's Bitter Sweet Symphony - have a share by all means, you deserve that, but don't take it all, Andrew - but nonetheless as the manager who helped take The Rolling Stones to the very top, he has a story worth telling. And with the help of a large cast of friends and former colleagues, etc, that story is well told here. OK, Oldham maybe tries a little too hard and comes on a little bit too flowery in his style at times, but overall that isn't too off-putting and there is much to enjoy if you are interested in 60's Pop and fashion. Stoned ends rather suddenly but it does leave us wanting more. So I guess I will have to read the sequel sometime!

Markku says

Fast talkin', jive-flippin, hipster of a book. Great context and interesting characters, nice peek-a-boo to swingin' London. Great testimonials of contemporaries.

Tom Morgan says

It was good and entertaining. Interesting life. I think I'm just rock biography done for a bit. I kept putting this down to start other things and it felt like a chore rather than a joy...Perhaps I'll revisit another time.
