



Stone Alone: The Story of a Rock 'n' Roll Band

Bill Wyman , Ray Coleman

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During the height of the Rolling Stones' success, Bill Wyman kept a diary, recoding the churning chaos of the band's creative evolution, power plays, recording sessions, tours, romances, drug busts, and financial disarray. *Stone Alone* is a meticulous, shrewd and humorous look at the complex personalities of the Stones and the role they played in the startling cultural revolution of the times.

Stone Alone: The Story of a Rock 'n' Roll Band Details

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From Reader Review Stone Alone: The Story of a Rock 'n' Roll Band for online ebook

Greg says

Some interesting insight into how Charlie, Bill and at the time Mick Taylor felt about the band under Jagger's ego and Richard's drug issues. The book plods on and eventually becomes boring "bitch" session of Wyman's many complaints coupled with his statements that everything he accomplished was wonderful and flawless. Wyman's relationship with a thirteen year old girl and his justification of it is covered in detail and it just comes off creepy. On the one hand Wyman attempts and somewhat succeeds at appearing as the sense of reason within the Stones when things were out of hand. On the other hand Wyman comes off like a spoiled kid who does whatever the heck he pleases cause he's privileged and figures he'll get away with it. I never finished the end of the book cause eventually his prose rambles. Wyman mentions an ex-wife who consulted on the book and rather than acting as an impartial voice of reason holding the author to a higher standard, it seems she was in attendance as window dressing to validate Wyman's truths as he sees them. I only recommend this book for the die-hard Stones fan.

Jen says

Not a big Rolling Stone's fan..had to read it for a class.

Vít Kota?ka says

I druhý díl je nudná biografie Stones.

Brooke says

It took me over a year to read this, as it sat on my bedside table. This has got to be the most boring, uninspired rock autobio ever! I struggled to get through 2 pages a night. Bill's descriptions were so detached and disconnected, it was hard to tell how he felt about or reacted to anything. Where was the excitement (about the band's successes), the rage (about being marginalized), the guilt (about screwing around on each wife or girlfriend he had), etc.?!? I didn't think anyone could make the 1960's Rolling Stones saga feel tedious, but he did. Well done, Bill.

Paul Rosemeyer says

Wyman retained great detail of the early Stones and I believe he can back up most of these details from clippings and saved diaries. His story telling, in this book, lacked warmth, but does paint a very detailed picture of The Rolling Stones in the Brian Jones era.

Just the facts, ma'am, just the facts.

Julie Barrett says

Good to read around the same time as Keith's memoir. Talk about two sides to a story!

Karen says

interesting history of the stones up to 1989. however, in his attempt to make his point about the financial hassles caused by poor management of the stones' business, wyman comes off as unbearably whiny, quoting us the paltry available balance figures of his bank account every other damn page. we get it, the stones fucked up your finances. but one or two examples would have sufficed to illustrate the situation. i wish i had kept a running count of every mention he made of his bank balance. if wyman had a nickel for every time he bitched about his bank balance in that book, he wouldn't have anything to complain about. seriously, there must have been at least a dozen balance quotes, probably more.

that was my biggest issue with the book. it's also not terribly well-written, despite being co-authored by a professional journalist. but its value as a first-hand document of rock history outweighs its literary flaws.

Steve says

Best book on the Stones I have read by one who was there. Goes into meticulous detail about the early band, including lots of info on Stones' founder Brian Jones. Wyman is convinced that Jones was the leader of the band while Keith Richards in his book "Life" gives that accolade to pianist Ian Stewart. Having read many a book on the band, I am convinced that Wyman's view hits closer to the mark. Wyman, while not considered one of the three "frontline" Stones (Jagger, Richards, and Jones) nevertheless was there from the start of their climb to worldwide fame. He has a tendency to recall his many adventures with groupies, but then it WAS the 60's after all, and his background info on what it was like being young in England before the 60's gives a great perspective on why things happened the way they did. A great read.

Alison says

Did read it a few years ago and unfortunately came away with the impression that Bill Wyman was a complete tosser who was obsessed about money and trying to prove that he slept with more women than MJ. What a sad man.

Morten Strømberg says

coming..

Rebecca Mattocks says

I loved the honesty in this book. Being a huge Brian Jones fan as I am, I was over the moon that Mr. Wyman told it straight forward about Brian and how he was dealt a shady hand by the other stones. The cool thing is, that Mr. Wyman wasn't afraid to include Brian Jones faults also. An honest and complete account of the stones life as a group. Worth the read if you are a Stones fan. You will not be disappointed!!

Thomas Strömquist says

Probably as boring as a book about the Stones can get. Sure, there are some good parts, but these do not help, since most of the 600+ pages are taken up by Wyman whining. About how much more he meant and did for the band than was "officially recognized". And about his poor rewards; reports of his meager account holdings are so frequent that I was wondering if I was reading his financial statements rather than diary. But to make sure that we know that it is a rock'n'roll star we're reading about, we are treated to more records; that of woman affairs (which is more numerous than Mick's or Keith's just so you know!). To top this off, there's the defense speak, explaining that Mandy Smith was a very mature 13-year-old (Bill was 48). This is probably the book that I disliked most but still finished.

Mallory says

I'd heard good things about this book but I found it dry. How is it possible that Bill Wyman took Rock and Roll and made it about as interesting as a Kleenex? There are so many better Rock and Roll books out there... you can skip this one.

Scott Golden says

"Meticulous" is the word. Wyman kept a daily diary throughout his entire 30-year tenure with the Stones, and this LONG book reads like a detailed recitation of what those years, especially that first decade in the 60's, was like. Keith's book has more emotion, but Bill's statistic-laden tome gives a clear sense of perspective to how crazy it was to be 'The World's Greatest Rock & Roll Band'.

Bill Baer says

Great view from the eyes of the quiet Stone answers a number of questions about Brian Jones . A must read for Stones fans
