



Rock Monster: My Life with Joe Walsh

Kristin Casey

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Far from bitter or self-pitying, *Rock Monster* is an honest account of one woman's life-changing experience in a relationship with rock legend Joe Walsh. At once envious, glamorous, debauched and disturbing, it's her long and winding journey from life in the fast lane to sobriety and redemption.

Set in the late-eighties and nineties, these are some of Walsh's darkest years, from spiraling addiction to a stunning comeback with the Eagles' *Hell Freezes Over* tour. Loaded with true stories never before heard, *Rock Monster* is essential reading for classic rock fans and anyone touched by addiction. Kristin Casey pulls no punches, sharing gritty details with self-awareness, humor, and affection. Sharply written, bold and incisive, it's the worldly-wise tome only an ex-addict, ex-stripper, and ex-rock-chick could give us.

In the tradition of women-in-rock survivor tales—by Marianne Faithful, Crystal Zevon, or Mackenzie Phillips—Kristin Casey pulls a veil on the enduring myth of the lifestyle's glamorous decadence. *Rock Monster* is a sexy, crazy, cautionary tale of two addicts in love without a single relationship skill.

Rock Monster: My Life with Joe Walsh Details

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Author : Kristin Casey

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From Reader Review Rock Monster: My Life with Joe Walsh for online ebook

Randy Austin-cardona says

I enjoyed this book. But be warned, this is not Joe Walsh's story. If you're looking for an insider's perspective to Joe Walsh's musical career during the 90s you'll be a little disappointed with this book. Instead this is Ms. Casey's story. It's a story of rock and roll, some sex, but mostly drugs. It's a rollercoaster ride of substance abuse – meth, cocaine, crack, and alcohol – interspersed with tales of life with a faltering rock star. Ms. Casey took it to the edge and somehow managed to step back when all else seemed lost. This book also details some of Mr. Walsh's own path of self-destruction. We get a taste of the rocker's life during the time between the Eagles' break-up and just into the reunion for the Hell Freezes Over tour. There are appearances from several of Mr. Walsh's musical friends and family – all told from Ms. Casey's hazy perspective.

I'm a music geek and was hoping for more musical tidbits. But this is an important account of one woman's journey through hell and back. I listened to the audio version and was a little annoyed at several mispronunciations of names throughout the book.

It doesn't take long once you're into this book for it to appear like a continuing train wreck. Such details of continual drug consumption can be a bit draining at times. However, in the end Ms. Casey shakes herself free. The Phoenix rises from the ashes of what seems like an unescapable fire.

This is merely a high-level overview of Ms. Casey's book. There are many other interwoven stories, characters, and details. But I'm not going to give it away in this review. Instead I recommend you pick up this book, strap in, and be prepared for a incredible and scary ride.

Lisa says

An incredible book. Easily the best memoir I've read this year.

Brandi says

Glad I randomly found this book. A great read

Glad I found this book as it was a great read. That's all I want to say besides so sorry it

Rex McCulloch says

Interesting only in that it provides a rare semi-glimpse into Joe Walsh's private life. Otherwise a well-written but typical tale of two people in the entertainment business who had nothing in common in a relationship other than lust and drugs.

Elizabeth says

Disclaimer: I know the author of this book from professional contacts. My complete review can be found on my blog.

I am one of the most musically un-hip people in Austin. Hence, I'm not one who would normally pick up a book to read it because it's about a rock star. However, I've really enjoyed the blog posts of Casey's that I've read in the past. I knew she was a skilled writer, so I was curious to read her book. I was not at all disappointed. As the book flap summarizes so concisely, *Rock Monster* is the "sexy, crazy, cautionary tale of two addicts in love without a single relationship skill." For me, the book felt as though the masquerade ball scene from *Labyrinth* was taking place in the Upside Down of *Stranger Things*. Casey's life with Walsh was filled with fame and luxury. She describes accompanying him on tours domestically and abroad while staying in hotels such as The Plaza. Their social lives involve contacts and friends from among the rich and famous.

Yet despite all the opulence of the seeming fairy tale of romance and fame, there was a very dark side to the life that Casey and Walsh shared that was permeated with emotional, physical and substance abuse. At one point they were living in a penthouse, but there were few usable areas in the space due to Walsh's clutter and mess. That outward physical disorder symbolically represented the rest of their relationship as well as Casey struggled to find her place in Walsh's life despite being soulmates. They shared a kinky sex life, but one that met his needs more than hers. Casey painfully discovers that she is not and will not be Walsh's creative muse. Often left on the sidelines waiting for him to beckon her, Casey loses her connection to herself in favor of following Walsh in his world.

And then there are the drugs. As the relationship continues, their drug use escalates and begins to destroy Casey. Despite knowing that Casey is alive and well today, I read with trepidation as the book progressed because I knew rock bottom was coming, and I was worried about how bad it would be for her. As with most people with severe addiction issues, her rock bottom was truly horrendous, though it happened in a way I didn't expect.

I was truly captivated by Casey's story: I had to force myself to put *Rock Monster* down and go to bed on two nights before finally finishing it on the third night. As with many well-written memoirs, the prose pulls the reader into the world of the author leaving them wanting more. Learning how Casey overcame her substance abuse after hitting rock bottom is a tale that many can benefit from hearing.

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Sarah says

a really excellent book on addiction & the perils of two addicts in love and incapable of taking care of themselves, much less each other.

I have a full review on the BookPeople blog: <https://bookpeopleblog.com/2018/03/19...>

Michele Miles Gardiner says

Riveting. I stayed up after midnight, a few nights in a row, unable to tear myself away from Kristin's story. I'd put it down, only to feel like I was withdrawing from drugs--as if experiencing a literary contact high. I've read many memoirs and biographies, and so many rock and roll bios, but Kristin's book may be one of the rawest tales of the rock world and addiction I've ever read. She shares her thought process as she spiraled into darkness...deeper and deeper. I wanted to reach in and pull her out.

Heartbreaking and fascinating.

Yes, Joe is an important part of the book. But this is her story. She places no blame. Makes no excuses. On these pages, she's torn open her heart, her fears, her hopes and dreams.

This isn't a book you'd read for a few laughs, so I was happily surprised to read a kooky experience involving Joe Walsh, Burton Cummings and Zak Starkey. I wrote to Kristin the next morning. I know Burton and Zak! This happened? It's not just a rock and roll myth? My husband, a friend and former band mate of Burton's, confirmed--"Oh yeah. That happened."

Thank you for such an honest book and incredible story. What a life!

I highlighted and saved many excerpts I found worth saving to ponder.

This one really got me:

"I shut down inside, unaware that in detaching from pain, I would lose touch with joy and therein plant the seeds of my alcoholism."

That's really insightful.

This idea works for life in general, when we avoid feeling life and all its ups and downs--thinking, dealing, facing anything difficult--we also avoid the ability to feel to happiness. Without the dark there is no light.

Life is yin and yang. Without feeling it ALL, life can become gray. Or, in some lives, completely colorless.

In "Rock Monster," you WILL read what daily life in the rock star world is like. But here's how Kristin experienced it...up close and extremely personal.

Patrick O'Neil says

Damn! Kristin Casey goes straight for the jugular with high-octane tales of rock and roll, addiction, a highly dysfunctional celebrity relationship, and finally recovery. Casey's *Rock Monster* is so much more than a "life-changing experience in a relationship with rock legend Joe Walsh." There's a depth to Casey's introspection that elevates it above your average "tell all" books. Hers is ultimately a story of survival that doesn't disappoint. Buy this book!
