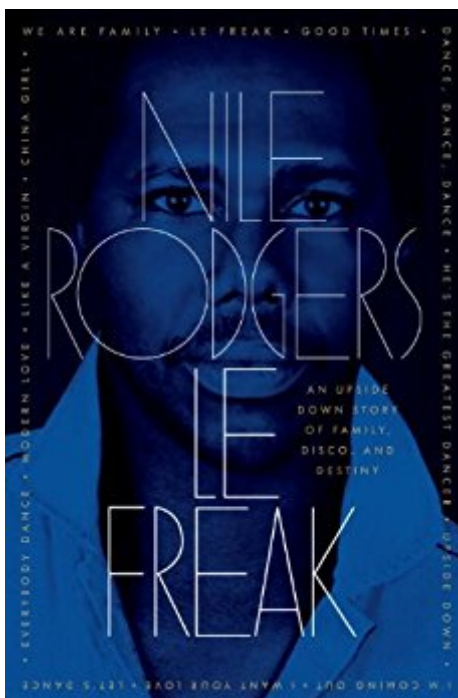


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Le Freak: An Upside Down Story Of Family, Disco, And Destiny



Synopsis

NAMED ONE OF THE TOP 10 ROCK MEMOIRS OF ALL TIME BY ROLLING STONE • From Chic to Daft Punk, Nile Rodgers is the creative force behind some of the biggest hits ever recorded. Here is the story of how global pop's greatest genius transformed his own dramatic life into the brilliantly joyful playlist of a generation. • You will hear a Nile Rodgers song today. It will make you happy. In the 1970s and 1980s, Nile Rodgers wrote and produced the songs that defined the era and everything that came after: "Le Freak," "Good Times," "We Are Family," "Like a Virgin," "Let's Dance," "I'm Coming Out," "Rapper's Delight" and worked with every influential pop star to create a string of enduring hits, from Diana Ross and Madonna to Duran Duran and David Bowie. Even today, he is still musically relevant: writing and performing record-breaking hits like "Get Lucky" with Daft Punk and Pharrell. But before he reinvented pop music, Nile Rodgers invented himself. From jamming with Jimi Hendrix in a Greenwich Village haze to the decadence of the disco era to witnessing the birth of Madonna on the Danceteria dance floor, *Le Freak* traces one of the greatest musical journeys of our time. • Praise for *Le Freak* • "[An] amazing memoir . . . steeped in the incestuous energy of the times: Punk, funk and art rock mixed it up in the downtown clubs, where musicians partied together and shared ideas. . . . *Le Freak* has plenty of sex and drugs. But it's the music that makes it essential. . . . Rodgers gave those dreams a beat" and helped invent pop as we know it today. • "Rob Sheffield, *Rolling Stone* • "This book is an absolute knockout: exhilarating, warm, and courageous, deeply moving and deeply funny. *Le Freak* is as much about the greatness of life as it is about Nile Rodgers's extraordinary musical journey. As Rodgers well knows, the best music is the stuff we feel, the stuff that speaks to us and won't let go. *Le Freak* does all that and much more. This is truly one of the best books ever written about art, music, life, and the way we grow to be exactly who we are. Actually, one of the best books period." • "Cameron Crowe • "A coming-of-age tale every bit as impressive as the musical insights and star-time chronicles that follow." • "The New York Times Book Review • "Consistently entertaining . . . His legacy as a funk-rock visionary is assured, and his autobiography serves as further proof that disco does not suck." • "San Francisco Chronicle • "An unforgettable, gripping book." • "The Sunday Times (UK) • "Name a star and you can bet they're in this book, playing or partying with Rodgers. But far from being a succession of name-dropping anecdotes, this autobiography is a wonderfully funny, moving and wise reflection upon the important things in life: the people you love and the things you create." • "The Sunday Telegraph (UK) • "Rodgers's page-turning memoir is packed with emotionally charged vignettes of a tumultuous childhood and equally dramatic

adulthood that found him awash in cash, cars, and celebrities. . . . His storytelling skills propel the reader through the book, making the ending all the more jarring. Remarkable for its candor, this rags-to-riches story is on the year's shortlist of celebrity memoirs. • "Publishers Weekly (starred review) From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I grew up in the 80s, and I have to admit I had some prejudice against what is generally called "Disco Music". As I started reading this book and understanding the kind of hard work, thought, and musical expertise that went into the making of hits such as "Everybody Dance" and "Le Freak", I listened again to them and several more with an open mind, and that did it for me. That is indeed great music, worth listening to, and feeling good to. Nile Rodgers life's tale is full of exciting things going on and surreal encounters with music legends, and this, combined with fluid and honest writing, makes this book a page turner. From a chance encounter with Tim Leary, Diana Ross watching from the wings, David Bowie alone in a bar, Michael Jackson making confessions, and Madonna, well, being Madonna... you can't wait to see what will happen next. His story of almost dying several times due to drug abuse, and finally overcoming addiction successfully and

permanently is truly inspiring. The absurd coincidence of being saved by hitting the wrong elevator button seems to me as no coincidence at all... as a Spiritist, I'm pretty sure his friends on the "other side" helped him avoid prematurely ending his present life. But since this does not come for free, I guess they already knew that besides bringing joy to the world through music, he would still do charity work, as it indeed turned out to be. This book will delight every music lover. Guaranteed.

I won't discuss the and genius of this artist, or his contribution to the world,, i will focus entirely on the book. Mr. Rodgers gives us a very revealing and open account of his life, spending much time on his childhood, and in doing so, makes everything that has happened to him i n terms of success much like his life, but at some point, it all fit together and it all made sense. The book begins with Nile at around age 7 being raised in a household that did not fit the norm of the day and with parents whose lifestyle was definitely not the norm for their time. Yet he never dwells on his pains and disadvantages - instead he moves on to describe how he setbacks and how he got himself through. I am sure there are people who are critical of this book, his writing or other aspects, but as a longtime fan, I appreciate the insight it gave me into this man's life and how all of the little pieces of childhood that seemed disjointed and irrelevant at the time, all came together to assume their place in the grerater scheme of things and how they contributed to this man's incredible talent.

Never heard of Nile until I watched the rock and roll hall of fame awards. The book is a fascinating story of a man of talent coming from dysfunction and a sometimes sad and downright dangerous childhood. It is hard to put down, with Nile's rising success in the music industry simultaneously occurring with personal struggles. Nile's ability to successfully navigate music's ever changing, unforgiving business side is impressive. Throughout the book, Nile never forgets his roots, nor is he bitter when describing disappointment or when accolades eluded him. Nile is thoughtful and honest about his life and the people who meant so much to him. It's as though you're hearing the true story of an old friend for the first time.

An excellent book by an interesting and very intelligent guy. Nile Rogers takes music seriously, but is personally as far away from pretentious as is imaginable. A man with great musical skill, terrific instincts and a fascinating story to tell. Personally, I was among the "Death to Disco" crowd but it is simply impossible not to respect Nile Rogers if you love music, appreciate talent and value passion. What really struck me was that both Roxy Music and KISS (of all bands) strongly influenced Nile's vision for his band CHIC. Although he says he was awkward and insecure at times he has led an

enviously glamorous life. And although blessed with truly remarkable talents, he is generous with his praise of others. I have ready many "rock star" bios and have enjoyed them very much, but it must be said that this book is probably the best written of them all. Nile's voice comes through the words on the page as if he's telling you his story over a beer on the patio. I'd like to shake his hand someday.

I am a die hard Nile Rodgers fan and I read this book so fast because I wanted to learn about the genius! I was not disappointed! I'm so glad I was born when I was because, I could relate to what was going on when he was rising to stardom!

Okay, if you have any interest at all in dance music of the late 70's and pop music of the 80's onwards, you should read this book. From a wacky childhood to a writer/producer of music that sold somewhere north of 140 million albums, Nile Rodgers was a prime mover in pop music and still makes contributions. Fascinating look at his life and times, I reached a new understanding of his music and ideas. You may rightfully scoff at what became known as disco, but his music is far more interesting than the rest of the stuff, if you know what you are listening to and are understanding of how pop music was created and promoted then. Nile, often times with Bernard Edwards produced some of the biggest stars and often created the greatest selling albums for those artists. We are talking Diana Ross, David Bowie, etc.

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