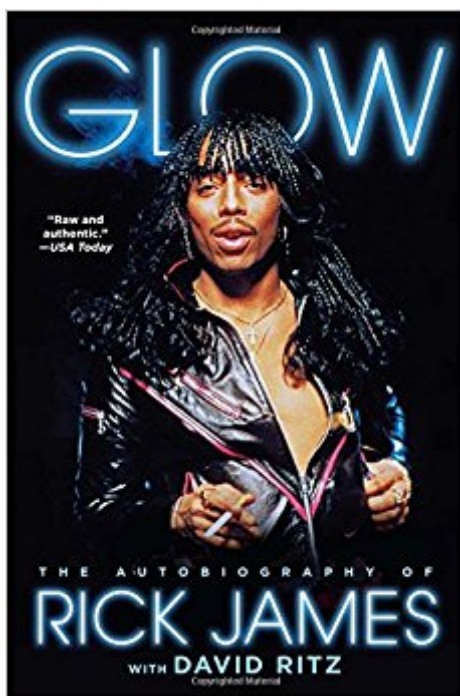


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Glow: The Autobiography Of Rick James



Synopsis

Best known for his song "Super Freak," hitmaker, singer, innovator, producer, award-winning pioneer in the fusion of funk groove and rock, the late Rick James collaborated with music biographer David Ritz in this posthumously published, wildly entertaining, and profound expression of a rock star's life and soul. He was the nephew of Temptations singer Melvin Franklin; a boy who watched and listened, mesmerized from underneath cocktail tables at the shows of Etta James and Miles Davis. He was a vagrant hippie who wandered to Toronto, where he ended up playing with Neil Young and Joni Mitchell, and he became a household name in the 1980s with his hit song "Super Freak." Later in life, he was a bad boy who got caught up in drug smuggling and ended up in prison. But since his passing in August 2004, Rick James has remained a legendary icon whose name is nearly synonymous with funk music and who popularized the genre, creating a lasting influence on pop artists from Prince to Jay-Z to Snoop Dogg, among countless others. In *Glow*, Rick James and acclaimed music biographer David Ritz collaborated to write a no-holds-barred memoir about the boy and the man who became a music superstar in America's disco age. It tells of James's upbringing and how his mother introduced him to musical geniuses of the time. And it reveals details on many universally revered artists, from Marvin Gaye and Prince to Nash, Teena Marie, and Berry Gordy. James himself said, "My journey has taken me through hell and back. It's all in my music—the parties, the pain, the oversized ego, the insane obsessions." But despite his bad boy behavior, James was a tremendous talent and a unique, unforgettable human being. His "glow" was an overriding quality that one of his mentors saw in him and one that will stay with this legendary figure who left an indelible mark on American popular music.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

"A raw and authentic accounting of Rick James' life and times." (USA Today)
"Intriguing as a pipe-filled motel-room breakdown." (Rolling Stone)
"A fast-paced memoir recounting his sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll exploits." (Publishers Weekly)
Unflinching . . . manages to temporarily separate the story of the monster from the story of Rick James, the way Marvel Comics occasionally pulls apart Bruce Banner and the Hulk. (Alex Pappademas, Grantland)
"An engrossing portrait of his life and career." (Vulture.com)
"As close as we'll ever get to the real thing." (Jeff Simon, The Buffalo News)

Rick James was an American singer, songwriter, musician, and record producer, best known for popularizing funk music in the late 1970s and early 1980s thanks to million-selling hits. David Ritz is the only four-time winner of the Gleason Music Book Award.

Not a bad book, but I thought this was another Rick James autobiography. I thought that he covered everything in *The Confessions of Rick James: Memoirs of a Super Freak* and there was no way he had wrote another before his passing and this was the case. This book is simply an edited version of *Memoirs of a Super Freak*. If you read the other years ago, there is no need to read this one. Great book written in Rick's words, but it's more tame and doesn't go into every little detail. There was no need for me to finish reading this book, because I read the other. You can't go wrong with either one of them though.--EDIT
Upon further review, I give the book a 3 out of 5. The book is good, but the problem I have with it is that i compared this with my copy of *Memoirs of a Super Freak* and David Ritz destroyed a good book. *Memoirs* was raw and pulled no punches. This book seems to tone it down as if Ritz did not want to hurt anyone's feelings. In the original book, Rick James really let Prince have it. He even uses the "f word" that refers to gays when he talks about why Eddie Murphy didn't want prince to produce his next album. The sequence of events with Anita Baker is missing and details as small as the song he said he sang in prison to the racist guards is edited. Ritz turned a rated r book into a pg-13 book. *Glow* is still a great read, but having so many of Rick's words deleted was not good.

I just started reading this book, about halfway through. It's enlightening that Rick James didn't take music lessons and that he was a signed artist at Motown 2 times. His mother comes off as an interesting character and I wish we had more mom. He rarely writes about his other brothers and sisters so I assume they were not close. James does a lot of name-dropping and it gets a bit tedious. It's in the first person, and he comes off as in love with himself too much, but he also drops opinion about other musicians and their musicianship. He holds himself in a better light music-wise than his (white) peers and admits that he wanted to be a rock star ala Jimi Hendrix instead of a r&b star. He comes off as a non-stop sex machine, admits to his love of drugs, and living an extreme life. He kicks around the country from Canada to New York to California before he becomes a big star. He does give credit where it's due. The most interesting parts of the book are his faithful and loyal mother who never gave up on him, though he landed in prison enough times for a mother to give up. And his short times at Motown, the conversations he had with the producers and writers. There needed to be more of that. But he glides over those times like he glides over other moments. He was definitely living a fast fast life.

This book deserves nothing but resounding applause for being one of the most interesting autobiographies ever written. I could not stop reading it! From start to finish, Rick kept you wanting more and cringing at what would evolve next. I loved how raw, enigmatic, enlightening and jarring it was. His life was truly one of complete indulgence and almost everything you could encompass in one lifetime plus more. Written through his words and thoughts alone, I could absolutely feel each syllable. He was just who he was and he spoke to that with complete confidence and unparalleled arrogance. Love or hate him, Rick was a cold-blooded brotha and I would have loved to see him perform in his true essence one last time. On that same note, we all possess a Me-Monster within us but through self-discovery and balance, we can cope with it. Rick made that clear. I thank him for his genuine words and strong voice. What a revelation!

I read and wrote about this for English 101. Yeah, my professor is that cool. I really mean it. James first, then Fossey and Wuornos in the same semester. Sex, drugs, murder, music, and gorillas; it doesn't get any better than that. For once, I truly enjoyed writing papers. tl;dr version of this book: James writes songs, gets a great opportunity, freebases, bangs anything with two legs, and then screws everything up. Rinse, repeat, but somehow he just keeps coming back. Then he dies of perfectly natural causes (cocaine is natural amirite?). In all honesty, it was a pretty good read and

goes much deeper than that. If nothing else, James can tell some pretty wild and interesting stories.

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