

Heroes And Villains: The True Story Of The **Beach Boys**

By Steven Gaines



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The Beach Boys have been rolling, like the tide their great songs evoke, for more than thirty years, reaching professional peaks and tragic personal depths. In this electrifying account Steven Gaines reveals the gothic tale of violence, addiction, greed, genius, madness, and rock 'n' roll behind the wholesome, surf-and-sun image. Through candid interviews with close friends, family, and the Beach Boys themselves, Heroes and Villains portrays and evaluates all those who propelled the California myth, and the group who sang about it, into worldwide prominence: Murry Wilson, the corrosive father who abused them as children and exploited them as adults; Dennis Wilson, who explored every avenue of excess (including welcoming the entire Manson family into his home) to his inevitable self-destruction; the Wilsons' cousin, frontman Mike Love, whose devotion to eastern religion could not quell his violent temper; the wives (more than ten), mistresses, managers, and producers who consumed huge pieces of the "musical pie"; and of course, the band's artistic center, Brian Wilson, the mentally fragile musical genius who achieved so much and then so little. With dozens of photos, Heroes and Villains recounts the bitter saga of the American dream realized and distorted and the music that survived.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Gaines's 1986 book follows the rise and tragic fall of a legendary American pop band whose excesses were camouflaged by their wholesome image.

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From Library Journal

The 25-year history of the Beach Boys has been one of triumph and tragedy. Starting out in 1961 with music that rode the California surfing craze to national popularity, the band projected a cleancut, all-American image. Their sudden success and later fall from popularity resulted in personal and group problems. By the early 1980s the Boys were surviving on nostalgia concert tours. Author Gaines, relying mostly on primary sources, has anecdotally captured all the infighting while dealing deftly with complex business details and treating the songs to thoughtful analysis. Although much of his information is not new (see John Milward's The Beach Boys Silver Anniversary , LJ 8/85) this presentation is vivid and compelling. Photos not seen. Paul G. Feehan, Univ. of Miami Lib., Coral Cables, Fla.

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Review

Winner of the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for best Pop Music Book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine McClellan:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim as well as goal; it means that book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. Consider the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, individual feel need book if they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will want this Heroes And Villains: The True Story Of The Beach Boys.

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Bonnie Howe:

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