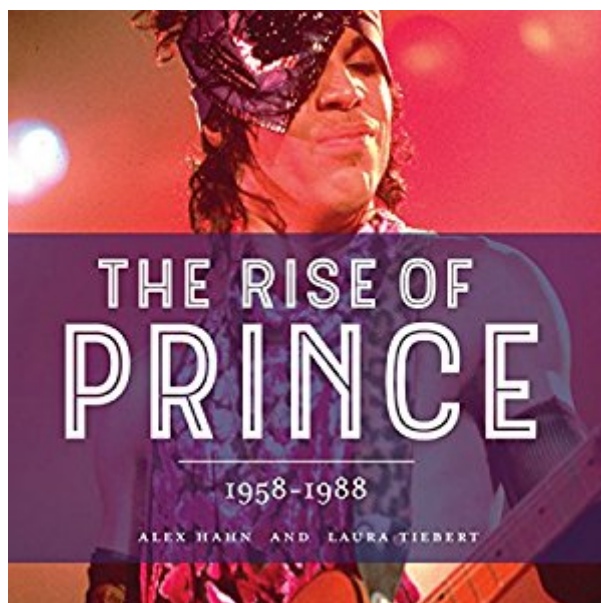


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# The Rise Of Prince: 1958-1988



## Synopsis

The Rise of Prince: 1958-1988 is the definitive account of the formative years of this iconic artist. More so than any previous book, this volume provides a dramatic, compelling narrative of Prince's rise to fame. The prologue provides a gripping, day-to-day account of the events that unfolded between November 2015 and April 21, 2016, when Prince tragically died at Paisley Park. The great distance traveled by Prince during his final months of tours of Australia and New Zealand, a funeral in the Bay Area for former muse and lover Denise Matthews, a tour of Canada, and a final return home mirrored Prince's nomadic childhood, to which the book returns after detailing the events of 2016. Hahn, writing in collaboration with veteran author Tiebert, brings his extraordinary experience to this book, which includes fully updated and expanded elements of his controversial 2003 biography *Possessed*, a sought-after collector's item that remains a classic of Prince literature. The Rise of Prince provides a complete reordering of what is known about Prince's formative years based on previously unavailable documents and persons never before interviewed. It provides newly unearthed information about early relationships and collaborations; a detailed account of the no-holds-barred competition with Rick James on the 1981 tour that set the course for Prince's meteoric rise; a vivid depiction of the recording of Prince's album at Sunset Sound, including a little-known encounter with Sly Stone; and much more. Ultimately, The Rise of Prince tells the very human story of how Prince overcame adversity to achieve one of the greatest runs of creativity in pop history, creating an unparalleled universe of side projects, alter-egos and lovers along the way.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm thoroughly enjoying this book. It's very well written, and contains great information of Prince's first 30 years as well as the last year of his life. We all know Prince had peaks and valleys as far as commercial success, people relationships, business relationships, etc. The book certainly addresses all those, but does so in a manner that is factual and informative, but not salacious or disparaging. It doesn't hide anything, but presents his life within the context of an artist that was one of the most gifted humans ever, but also human like everyone else. I would definitely recommend this book for anyone wanting to learn more about Prince and his life during this era.

First of all I would like to give a big thank you to Alex Hahn and Laura Timbert giving their time, effort and spirit in creating this project. I just finished reading this book and I am about to start reading it again...right now! Lol. As a fan, this has brought the early formative years that had a huge influence in shaping the person Prince became to the forefront and then goes through (in detail) the first 10 years of his career which is universally considered by most fans to be his "golden or classic period". This book isn't a salacious money grab nor is it some hazy, lazy rumor filled book. In my opinion, this is a love letter researched and written by Alex and Laura to Prince and co-signed by us, the fans. This book is truly a must! Again, thank you Alex and Laura...and most of all Prince. You are truly missed.

A thorough and forthright account of one of the greatest musical and philanthropic artists of our time. Unlike other biographies, this account includes great detail from the early years; including much information this hard-core fan was not aware of, as well as an updated account of his soul-searching final months. Poignant, descriptive, and at times heart wrenching, the narrative addresses the rise to greatness, and perhaps more importantly, the sometimes painful portions of the legacy. It's a beautiful journey that ultimately culminated in his "Way Back Home".

I purchased this book shortly upon its release. I was hoping there was updated information from his last book, but unfortunately, there was not too much. Mr. Hahn relied on information and opinion from Susan Rogers, who I believe is heavily biased in many respects including her admiration for Wendy Melvoin and her sister, Susannah Melvoin. I was particularly disappointed that Mr. Hahn incorrectly attributed inspiration for song "The Beautiful Ones" to Susannah, when Prince in late 2015 was clear, in an Ebony Magazine interview, that the song was created in part for a specific

scene in the movie and was also partly inspired by Vanity (Denise Matthews), who had just left Prince shortly before the production of the movie. Mr. Hahn conveniently avoided questions by fans on this issue on the Prince.org (Prince fan site forum). It was very disappointing that he did not offer explanation, apology, or correction.

If you miss Prince then you'll like this biography. It crackles with life. And it's not fawning biography either. Prince scholar Alex Hahn brings his full powers as a journalist, lawyer, musician, and discerning fan to place Prince in the context of his times and, since he now belongs to the ages, within musical history. It's a warts-and-all moving portrait of the artist; the man in full. You don't have to be a fan to enjoy this book. The scenes are lively and compelling and the accompanying analysis of Prince and his emotions fit naturally. Hahn and collaborator Laura Tiebert have laid down an impressive track of biography. They may even turn non-fans into fans (well, that's the direction I'm leaning, any way). The only thing that might throw the traditional reader is the title "The Rise of Prince: 1958-1988." If you're expected something chronological with Prince's baby picture appearing on page 3 then that's not this book.

"Rise" is decidedly non-linear and ranges through all of Prince's life including his last days in 2016. The book's lively eclectic fits with Prince's music and persona and only a longtime student of the artist would grasp this and make it actual. Hahn, who also wrote "Possessed: The Rise and Fall of Prince" (2003), is a longtime friend, college roommate, and news collaborator so I readily vouch for his talent as well as his abiding and deep interest in Prince and his art. RE: That 1988 private party appearance by Prince in Boston that Hahn writes about in "The Rise of Prince: 1958-1988" "Well, I wasn't there but, it's safe to say, I heard about it before most of you did. The title may beg the question about a possible volume 2. I have no inside information but I think such a volume would not have the word "fall" in its title. Taking my cue from the work of Hahn and Tiebert, I say "The Consolidation of Prince: 1989-2016" would be more apt. Judging by the personal reflections on the life of the artist as well as the author himself (the book is dedicated to Hahn's mother, a female studies pioneer, who also died in 2016), it seems that American lives do have second acts (sorry, F. Scott Fitzgerald) and those acts are called synthesis.

Neatly synthesizing decades of journalism and scholarship with fresh interviews, THE RISE OF PRINCE is a handy overview of Prince's most fertile creative period. Much of the information will already be familiar to die-hard fans, but the presentation is lucid, thoughtful, and engaging. And it kept me going back to my Prince bootleg collection to enjoy the many unreleased songs referenced therein, which is always a pleasure unto itself. Recommended!

As a fan of Prince since the 80's, I thought I knew everything, until I read this book and was amazed at the depth of his life. How brilliant he was! Kind hearted, humbled, complex. I pre-ordered this book a few weeks ago. Didn't want to miss out on the exploration of Prince! I've learned so much more. So glad this was written, nice research.

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