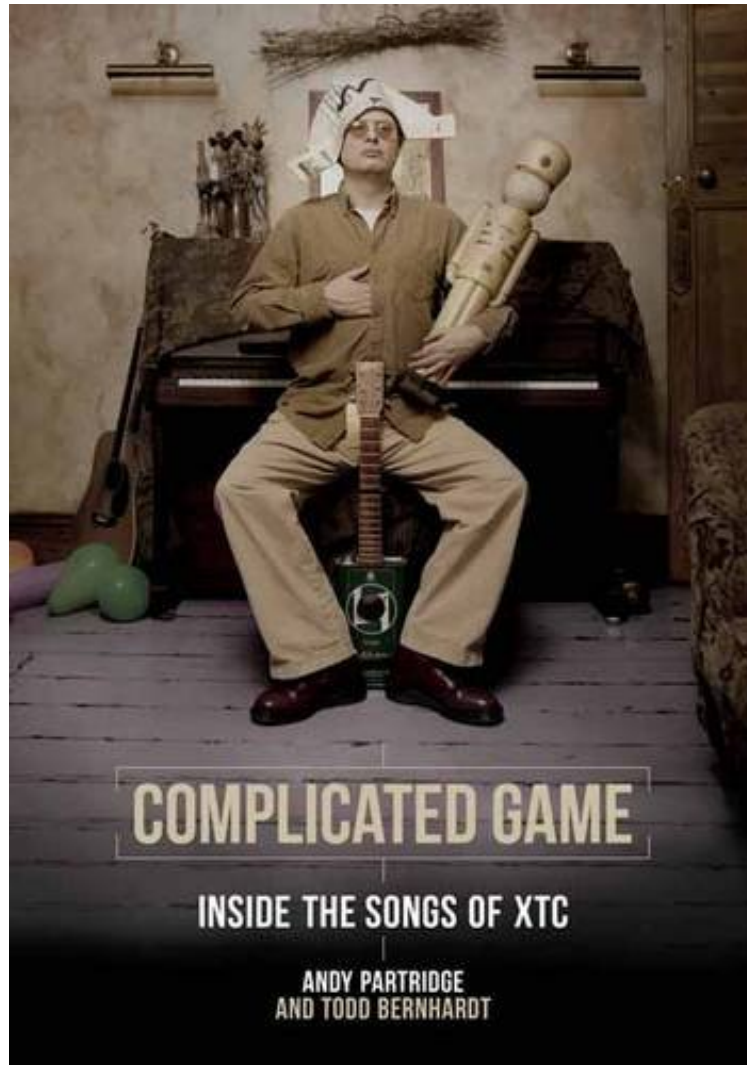


(Mobile book) Complicated Game: Inside the Songs of XTC

Complicated Game: Inside the Songs of XTC

Andy Partridge, Todd Bernhardt
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Andy Partridge, Todd Bernhardt : Complicated Game: Inside the Songs of XTC before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complicated Game: Inside the Songs of XTC:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Witty repartee, informative and energeticBy favoritethingAndy Partridge's enthusiasm for discussing his work is infectious, and he never fails to respond to Todd Bernhardt's questions with some combination of wit and self-effacing reflection and brutal honesty. He denies being too knowledgeable about the technical aspects of music-making and songwriting, but I think he underestimates himself on that.He's a songwriter and musician who thinks deeply about how to convey his ideas in words and music, and his memory of decades gone by serves him well. For me, it's a real page-turner.Great questions from Bernhardt that will

satisfy the most hardcore fan, and also an entertaining overview of Partridge's town of Swindon in the introduction by John Morrish. Some cool visuals, too, from Andy's notebook. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A unique insight into the mind of one of the ...By Ira LiemanA unique insight into the mind of one of the most influential songwriters of the last 40 years. This book takes the form of a conversation between a writer (and uber-fan) and the musician - and delves into the place and time that shaped each of a number of songs written and performed by XTC. A must-have for fans of the band. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Incredible insight into the life of Andy Partridge and the band. By TwistedPretzelIf you're an XTC fan or just a fan of the musical producing process, this is an incredible book. The book is incredibly easy to read as it is conducted in a question and answer format. Andy Partridge's friend Todd Bernhardt asks Andy a question (in bold) and Andy comments or answers in a free form reply. Todd seems quite familiar with XTC and Andy and knows which questions to ask Andy and the responses are often quite humorous and/or surprising. It's been a true joy to read this book as it makes Andy and the rest of the band (which Andy often heaps plenty of praise upon) more real to those of us who have never seen them in concert. (Especially important since XTC stopped touring in the early 80s)The only drawback to this book is that it left me wanting more. There are certain songs that I wanted to hear about which Todd and Andy never got to. But who knows? Maybe if this book is popular, they'll get around to writing "Complicated Game, Vol 2" :)

"I like accidents. I like to put myself in the way of musical harm. I like being at the wheel of that musical car, and aiming it at the wall, just to see what shape the car's going to come out. It might come out an interesting shape that would have taken me forever to decide on otherwise."Complicated Game offers unique insight into the work of XTC founder Andy Partridge, one of Britain's most original and influential songwriters. It is also an unprecedentedly revealing and instructive guide to how songs and records are made. Developed from a series of interviews conducted over many months, it explores in detail some thirty of Partridge's songs - including such well-known singles as 'Senses Working Overtime' and the controversial 'Dear God' - from throughout XTC's thirty-year career, as well as an extensive interview dedicated solely to the art and craft of songwriting. While the interviews cast new light on the writing of lyrics, the construction of melodies and arrangements, the process of recording, and the workings of the music industry, they are also filled with anecdotes about Partridge, his XTC bandmates, and their adventures around the world - all told with the songwriter's legendary humour. This fascinating book also includes pages from Partridge's songwriting notebooks and reproductions of his original artwork designs; a guided tour of his hometown of Swindon; and a foreword by Steven Wilson, the guitarist, songwriter, and record producer best known as the founder and leader of Porcupine Tree.

"Andy Partridge's body of work is the deepest, strongest, and most interesting of any songwriter of the last 40 years. He is intensely influential because he is a musician's musician. We, the faithful, know this to be fact, and now have this set of probing interviews to dig into, to perhaps get a sense of how this brilliant madman thinks, works, and creates. On behalf of XTC fans, Partridge fans, Music fans - thank you for this book. - DAVID YAZBEK (THE FULL MONTY, DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS, WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN)