



All Of Me

Claire Richards

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All Of Me Details

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Rebecca says

I loved this read. Put a lot of things into perspective. I was and still am a massive steps fan and this made everything make sense. I do not blame her for the split and never did and I am glad she chose to get out when she did. The way the group made her feel so miserable. I hope this time round things are different.

With regard to the weight I hate how society perceives that if you are over a 12 your FAT. She is a true role model for embracing who she is.

Great book and a fantastic insight to her life. She has an amazing body, voice, mind and personality and is very honest in this book. Talking about her affair is not something you can do easily but she did.

Thank you. Great read

Lisa Bennett says

Really good book. Loved Claire before I read it. Still love her, but it's opened my eyes to her. She is slightly selfish, and incredibly emotional. She also comes across as a bit insensitive in that she didn't have a problem being the other woman, and she was fine with her fella being married to someone else and sleeping with her, thereby cheating on his wife with her. She seemed fine with this. I bet she wouldn't be if the boot was on the other foot, and Reece did that to her! That I didn't like!

Rachel Bustin says

I really loved reading Claire's story of her life so far. It describes her journey before Steps which was very interesting. It tells us exactly what the pressures of being in a pop band is like and how Claire found it very hard. It was a hard book to put down hence finishing it in 24 hrs!

A good autobiography if you have a few hours to kill.

Smelleykins says

Firstly you should know; I am a huge fan of steps. I've seen them many times on tour, I've met them various times and Claire has always been my favourite. I'm very protective of her if people are mean. I also have this vision of her that perhaps is clouded by what Claire has allowed us to see in the past and what I have wanted to see of her myself. I know she's no angel (she did leave steps duh!) and I also know she's human. But I had so many fears about reading her autobiography. I didn't want my view of Claire to change, I kinda didn't want to know all the juicy details behind the split. I just didn't want my idol, changing everything I grew up believing. Stupid isn't it? So I bought this book when it was released in paperback. I wanted it to add to my 'steps' collection. I never had any intention of reading it, I just didn't want to know. Obviously I changed my mind...

The book is very easy to read. It pretty much starts with Steps' being backstage in Belfast on the opening

night of their reunion tour. Then goes through the journey of Claire's life. From her first dreams of fame in the made up group 'Sindy Swingers' (Claire was a kid), to being in the girl group TSD (I own the singles too!) and then onto Steps. Her trials and tribulations in the group, splitting up, her marriages and her battle with food. It's jam packed with the lot.

From a personal level I could relate to a lot of what Claire said, only her personal life mind. Steps is a whole other ball game. But I realized I'm very much alike Claire. She's a leo (me too!), but whilst leo's are shown to be fierce and loud, there's another side to us, and that's the quiet, kinda uh-oh side. I hate confrontation, and I'm also very much happier to stay in rather than go out all the time. I'm very family orientated too. I reacted the exact same way that Claire did when my parents split up. And I felt so drawn to Claire and her experiences.

Okay there was some stuff I didn't want to know. I'm not prudish, but I don't really want to hear my favourite pop star talk about sex. I don't know why, it just seemed wrong haha! But heyho, it's natural. It's nice to know there are people out there who have morals. Plus I did have to giggle when she said *'i've only ever slept with two people in my life and I married them both!'* It tickled me.

If you are looking for any gossip on the split, it's not there. This is Claire's story. You read what built up to it, and why Claire handed in her resignation but there's not a lot of bitchiness in it. It does give you an insight to the struggles of a very successful British group. It's very scary. No matter what anyone thinks, we never know everything and we never will. Even with a tell all book. It's not about Steps. It's about Claire.

Claire's battle with food and her weight plays a huge part in the book. After her voice it's probably what she's known for which is stupid. It has to be very hard to go from one extreme, of feeling the biggest out of three girls (which is so wrong because I'd have done anything to have a tummy like Claire's!) to having everyone in the press writing utter crap about something that every woman battles with. Not technically to the same extremes, but god this world is cruel.

This book is honest. I never actually thought Claire would ever release something like this, because she always seemed the most private of the Steppers. And I kinda liked that. But perhaps releasing this, it's put a stop to all the stupid questions and shut some people up.

Claire will always be one of my idols. I have all the time in the world for her and I'm so very glad she's back singing. I've missed her voice so much. She's a huge inspiration to girls everywhere with her just 'i don't care anymore' attitude. Claire came out from everything she has been through, fighting, thanks to her family, gorgeous babies and even fans sticking by her. And I don't think anyone deserved it more. I only hope Ms Clara one day realizes just how wonderful she truly is.

You don't have to be a fan of Steps to read this. I'd say it's certainly more aimed at girls, who will relate to Claire more than they think.

Book Addict Shaun says

I loved this book. I only started reading it a few hours ago but I couldn't put it down. I have read a lot of autobiographies over the years and I always finish them thinking that that particular biography was one of my favourites but this one definitely is.

I was a **huge** Steps fan when I was younger (I still am if I'm honest). I had the tapes and the CDs every Christmas. However I was only 7 or 8 when the first single was released and so for me, Steps were just a pop band who sang songs that I loved. I had no idea what they were like as people, what was happening in the media or anything like that. What kid cares about that? It's not like today where a musician's life is more important to their fans than the music, perhaps it was for older fans, but for me as a kid I just loved their music and that was it.

So for that reason a lot of the stories in this book were completely new to me, however for older fans and for fans that followed Steps in the media all those years ago, these stories probably won't be all that new except that they are told from Claire's perspective in what I think is a very honest way. The book was a joy to read, funny in places and sad in others I really enjoyed it. Until the Steps documentary last year I had no idea about rivalries, arguments etc so I really enjoyed reading about it and was quite shocked at what went on.

As a child my only memory about hearing/reading about Steps in the media was when they split up and it is a vivid memory because I got the greatest hits album Gold for Christmas and then woke up the following day to find out that they had split up and I, like thousands of people across the UK, was devastated. All I remember is hearing people saying how they had released the CD for money over Christmas before telling the fans that they had split up however after reading this book I know that is not the case.

It was also an eyeopener reading about Claire's battle with weight. I have had and continue to have problems with weight and it's a shame that so many people place so much emphasis on it. The story about the Steps fans not recognising her was awful because she still looks like 'Claire from Steps' whether she's thin or not. Unfortunately nothing seems to have changed and the media's obsession with weight just seems to get worse not better.

Overall this was a fantastic read and one that every Steps or Claire fan should definitely read. As I said older fans may not discover anything new here but it is a very honest read and I hate it when people give books like this 1 or 2 stars, Claire has literally opened her heart up and talked about some difficult memories to write this book. It isn't like other autobiographies where the author may write it to cash in it is simply just an honest read and it must have been very therapeutic for her to get it all out in the open.

Emma says

Having been an avid Steps fan all my life, I had to buy this. I knew she had been struggling with her weight, having seen it rise and fall throughout Steps and then afterwards too. But I am quite shocked though at how bad Claire believes things had broken down between the band, yet they always had such a positive image. She puts just enough information in so that you can relate with her story, yet keeps enough of her details private, which is how it should be. Enjoyed it greatly :)

Louise Jones says

never was a huge steps fan but always get for a dance when on at a disco yer it was no surprise to see or read about the in fighting but as people always say u r only hearing claire and her side of the story !! i always think their are always a person on the up five side line in groups wether famous or not and the grout p steps is no exception !!! I t was interesting to hear abou and must be a milliont her weight in securities which we

all at some times suffer from and must be a million times worse when u are in the public eye It was a very quick read and so in that way was quite relaxiing but i believe most band group are the same !!! oooh 5678 song in mind now annoying

Lexy says

It was an interesting read as Claire battles her demons. I wonder if the steps reunion may have tamed down some of the steps stories. It was an honest read covering pressures of fame and body image. A good read. I feel like I've read a lot of autobiographies this year.

Lucy says

I adore Steps so I naturally had to read this book. While I did enjoy it and I found it hard to put down I did have some problems. I felt that it was very underdeveloped in alot of parts. I felt she could of elaborated more on certain experiences. I felt that alot of the Steps stuff was brushed over and she could of gone into alot more detail about that, put in some more quotes and facts about what went on behind the scenes because it would of been a much more interesting read.

Michelle says

Claire was never my favourite member of Steps, although she was definitely up there. But she's always the person I imagine to be when I sing along to the songs. I sing all of her lines. So I was shocked to read her biography and discover how ostracised she felt from the rest of the band at times.

I adored Steps, and no, I'm not ashamed to admit it. There was a time I had all their posters on my wall. The posters have now long gone, but I still have their music on my mp3 player. And I managed to do part of the dance to "5,6,7,8" in the pub, admittedly after a few drinks. OK, you caught me out, there is still one poster on my wall, but I'm not saying of who!!! I was shocked when they split up, as many people were, they were at the peak of their fame, doing really well, and bang it was all over.

Claire lifts the lid briefly on the problems which made her leave the band and some of the infighting, which led to the acrimonious split. I have a feeling she could have gone a lot deeper with some of the details - altogether, the book is very short, only 250 pages, so at times, it does feel incredibly rushed and certain parts glossed over. My attitude towards certain members of Steps have now changed, but I'd still like to read their side of things. A bit like the biographies of Alison Arngrim, Melissa Anderson and Melissa Gilbert. Three different sides of one TV show. (Little House On The Prairie for the people not in the know!)

Again, it's a very quick read. I read it in two days, and probably could have read it faster if it hadn't been for the dreaded WORK. I admire Claire for coming out and admitting some of her problems with her weight and her insecurity, I just wish there had been more. She has such a frank way of talking and it was a very enjoyable read. I just feel like it went too fast.

Rachel says

Really enjoyed this, gave me a whole new respect for Claire, and also made me realise we were not much different.

I think she revealed just enough information for us to understand her point of view while keeping some information for her family. That's the way that it should be, when celebrities tell you every single little detail classing it as some type of therapy I find it unnecessary.

Thank you Claire for sharing your story with us.

Mandi says

Even though I was never a real Steps fan, I picked this book up recently as it was being sold for quite cheap. I thought I would give it a go. It's not bad, doesn't really go into a lot of in-depth things, seems to gloss over a lot of the issues that Steps had. I was hoping for more behind the scenes scandal but never mind. I did feel for Claire though with her weight battle as it can't be easy being prone to weight gain whilst the other female members of your group can eat what they like.

Overall, not badly written. I expect that Steps fans will love this book.

Julie Haigh says

I always liked steps and was interested when I saw there was going to be a reunion documentary on tv. Watched the tv series which was ok but very repetitive and on this Claire announced she was writing a book about all this. I thought oh why are you doing this it might put a spanner in the works with regard to the reunion but I am glad I have read it as she has actually done a really good job. The book is just the right length, not too long and not too short. There is no dishing of dirt she just tells it like it was dealing with it sensitively and not badmouthing anyone. It is not just about the steps reunion it is all Claire's story, early life, family, relationships etc. I have really enjoyed it, it is a very warm book, happy and sometimes emotional. She also gives us an insight into her issues with food and weight but this book is about so much more. I would highly recommend it, a good all round read.

Laura Simpson says

The first biography I have read and truly inspiring. Having always loved steps, the book was a must read for me. And it has taught me so many life lessons and at times made me very close to tears. Really amazing!

Amy says

Finished this book in literally 3 days. Very easy reading and addictive, but maybe because im a massive steps fan rather than it being any good. If you love steps read, otherwise i think you may find her a bit annoying..
