



The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones

Rich Cohen

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones

Rich Cohen

The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones Rich Cohen

A panoramic narrative history of the Rolling Stones, viewed through the impassioned and opinionated lens of *Vanity Fair* contributor Rich Cohen, who traveled with the band in the 1990s as a reporter for *Rolling Stone*.

Rich Cohen enters the Stones epic as a young journalist on the road with the band and quickly falls under their sway—privy to the jokes, the camaraderie, the bitchiness, the hard living. Inspired by a lifelong appreciation of the music that borders on obsession, Cohen’s chronicle of the band is informed by the rigorous views of a kid who grew up on the music and for whom the Stones will always be the greatest rock ‘n’ roll band of all time.

The story begins at the beginning: the fateful meeting of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards on a train platform in 1961—and goes on to span decades, with a focus on the golden run—from the albums *Beggars Banquet* (1968) to *Exile on Main Street* (1972)—when the Stones were prolific and innovative and at the height of their powers. Cohen is equally as good on the low points as the highs, and he puts his finger on the moments that not only defined the Stones as gifted musicians schooled in the blues and arguably the most innovative songwriters of their generation, but as the avatars of so much in our modern culture.

In the end, though, after the drugs and the girlfriends and the rows, there is the music. *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones* makes you want to listen to every song in your library anew and search out the obscure gems that you’ve yet to hear. The music, together with Cohen’s fresh and galvanizing consideration of the band, will define, once and forever, why the Stones will always matter.

Praise for *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones*

“Cohen has arrived as one of the greatest social and cultural historians of postwar twentieth-century America. By gracefully blending fastidious reporting, lucid commentary, and an unabashed love for his subjects, Cohen has managed to write about gods and elevate them into human beings.”—**Richard Price**

“This is a completely fascinating book. Rich Cohen locks into everything that’s crazy and passionate about the Rolling Stones while never losing his clear-sighted presence of mind. Funny, soulful, impeccably reported, and beautifully written, this will be the book about the Stones that will last.”—**Ian Frazier**

“Cohen writes like Mick Jagger sings: He’s full of energy, swagger, and creativity. In one sense, this book is easy to categorize: File under ‘books that are awesome and delightful to read.’ But it’s also hard to categorize. It’s part memoir, part cultural history, part biography, part manifesto, part behind-the-scenes look at the joyful debauchery of one of the world’s greatest bands. However you label it, you’ll have a blast reading it.”—**A. J. Jacobs**

“Cohen is one of the select few to be invited behind the curtain of the Rolling Stones’ real-life rock ‘n’ roll circus, but he never loses the perspective of having once been a kid staring in awe at his brother’s poster of the band.”—**Alan Light**

“I have no interest in the lives of rock stars. I could not put down *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling*

Stones. Rich Cohen was born to write this book, and he waited just long enough to do it. Reporting the hell out of a lifelong obsession, he gives us the Rolling Stones in so many dimensions they stalk off the page. The fanboy becomes a man, with judgments seasoned, supple, razor-sharp, slyly funny, and still besotted. A great story, masterfully told.”—**William Finnegan**

The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones Details

Date : Published May 10th 2016 by Spiegel & Grau

ISBN : 9780804179232

Author : Rich Cohen

Format : Hardcover 368 pages

Genre : Music, Nonfiction, Biography, History, Biography Memoir, Culture, Pop Culture

 [Download The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones Rich Cohen

From Reader Review The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones for online ebook

Ammar says

3.5 stars

A good book about the Stones though it doesn't focus on the present. It talks about the beginnings the fame, the singing to almost empty venues and how slowly they become the greatest rock n roll band in the world.

Nothing in the book is new or revealing or even omg scandal and rumour time

It blends the writer's life with the Rolling Stones and how he met them and how he became friends with Mick and Keith

Mark Wold says

You would think when it came to the Rolling Stones that its all been said a long time ago. Author Rich Cohen somehow manages to write about the Stones in such an entertaining and passionate manner that even a committed Beatles fan (Guilty) found it rather difficult to put down. The author a committed Stones fan was able to take his passion for the band and insight from traveling with them back in '94 and present an exceptionally well written hybrid of biography, memoir, and behind the scenes all access pass to what it means to have the Rolling Stones in the world. Highly recommend it.

Susannah says

With *The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones*, Rich Cohen confirmed for me the adage that talking about music is like dancing about architecture. While that may sound flippant, it gets to the root of how hard it is to write about something as subjective as music, especially when the writer seems more interested in writing about how the music affected him/her than s/he is in writing about the circumstances surrounding the creation of the music (something that is arguably more based on facts than depictions of emotional reaction are).

For me, Cohen's book was, unfortunately, all over the place--not clearly a memoir of his experiences with a rock band whose music he very nearly worshipped, and not clearly a journalistic presentation of the creation and creations of that band. About the time I thought it was a memoir, it became a history of the Rolling Stones in its first 10 years; about the time I thought it was a history of the band in its first 10 years, it became a memoir again. While this combination of two types of story is not necessarily a bad thing, the book seemed not entirely committed to either. Extended band history sections ended with Cohen tossing out an opinion. Was that in an effort to keep him connected with those non-memoir sections?

I tried to read *The Doors: A Lifetime of Listening to Five Mean Years* a few years ago and was put off by what I thought to be author Greil Marcus's effort to write in a way that conveyed how he perceived the music; in other words, I felt like he was trying to write the music's sound. Rich Cohen does the same in *The*

Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones. It seems he's never met an analogy he didn't like, and he is exceptionally verbose when talking about the songs that he believes to epitomize the Rolling Stones. To provide my own analogy, reading this book's effort to convey the feeling the Rolling Stones' music created is like seeing something beautiful and trying to capture it in a picture. You take photo after photo, but you'll never quite capture and convey the thing you experienced.

My thanks to Netgalley for an opportunity to read and review this book.

Jill says

So the question is: do we really need another book about the Rolling Stones after so much has already been written about them...including the autobiography Life by Keith Richards in 2010?

After racing through the pages of The Sun and The Moon and The Rolling Stones, I must enthusiastically say, "yes!"

First of all, Rich Cohen is the real deal. He's written for Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, and the new HBO series Vinyl. For this author, it's not just about "what happened"; it's about "what did it feel like and what did it mean?" And it's also about more: "Why do soap-opera adventures of the Stones still fascinate?" Can rock save your soul? Is it a religion? If so, why did it go the way of Zoroastrianism? Should we worship the life or the message Is there a graceful way to grow old?"

Most of us Stones fans – and I've been one since I was a kid and saw them in New York, teaming with raw, unpolished, dangerous energy – know the highlights: the meltdown and suicide of Brian Jones, the drug bust, the Altamont and the Hel's Angels, the influences of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, the rift between Jagger and Richards. All this is revisited but what makes it special is that Rich Cohen had unique access and also provides the insights and perception to go beyond – way beyond – the "what happened."

He knows, for example, that the Stones were always "the alternative, the opposite, the anti" – certainly the anti-Beatles. He "gets" that the music did really die sometime in the early 90s and that there may never be a phenomenon like the Stones again – especially now that they've become self-perpetuating. And he recognizes that the stories, true and exaggerated, are the stuff that legends are made of.

For anyone who loves the Stones – read it. For music aficionados who remember their music as "the sound track of our lives" (certainly I remember exactly what phase of life I was at heard Satisfaction, or Sympathy for the Devil, or Honky Tonk Woman"), give it a try. And for those who simply want to read fascinating revelations about one of the very best bands ever, this is for you, too. To put it in Rich Cohen's own words: ""It's not just music. It's my nation. It's my country. It's where I've spent my life." Amen.

Diane says

3.5-4 stars bumped up to 4.

So I didn't learn much if anything new about the Stones, but I certainly did learn some details that I didn't know about others such as Marianne Faithful, Anita Pallenberg, etc. I did a lot of googling of some old Stones footage while reading, and that was excellent. Of course, I watched Altamont footage on youtube and got very creeped out (again) by the scene of the Hell's Angel standing so close to Mick "fighting some inner madness" (p. 247); and seeing the gun that Hunter had possessed and the flash of the Hell's Angel knife. And that question - WAS Hunter an assassin? (Also googled Hunter's gravesight). Page 263 gives an excellent account in simple terms of what a crook Allen Klein was.

I flagged a couple of what I thought were great lines in this book "If Mick Jagger teaches you how to stay young, Charlie Watts teaches you how to be old, how to remain elegant while being completely still" (p. 299).

A favorite gem of mine is "Memory Motel" and I loved the author's description of being at a Stones' rehearsal and how they create a set list at which this song was a chosen one (p. 92). And also what the author says about "the ups and downs of Mick and Keith, which embody friendship in general."

This started as a library book, and then my hubby/partner bought it for me for my collection! Sweet (Virginia)!

Stewart Tame says

I received an ARC of this from a Goodreads giveaway. See? People really do win those.

I really liked this book. Cohen knows how to tell a good story, and has done an excellent job of researching and interviewing to create it. He doesn't dwell much on the post 80's era--yes, the band continues to record and tour, but few would argue about their glory days being the 60's and 70's. Cohen was originally commissioned to write an article for Rolling Stone magazine about the Voodoo Lounge tour, and his access and relationship with the group led to this book. At least some of these stories may be familiar to longtime fans--this is the first Stones book I've read, so I've no idea how well - known they are. There's a section of notes on each chapter towards the end of the book that's worth browsing as Cohen provides a few quotes and other tidbits that didn't make it into the main text. Reading this book will set various songs going in your head, which is not a bad thing. I was also pleased to see, from the last chapter, that Cohen's take on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland is similar to my own. Having read this book, I find myself wondering what Mick's and Keith's and everyone's reactions to it will be ...

Mike says

The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones
by Rich Cohen

Rich Cohen, a twenty-six year old employed by Rolling Stone magazine has been assigned to report on the 1994 tour of The Rolling Stones. This nonfiction true to life experience captures shades of Almost Famous. Cohen describes his internal views and interactions with Mick, Keith, Ron and Charlie with an absorbing

entertaining approach. Reading this kind of literature leaves a permanent historic authenticity that only someone like Cohen can produce. The reader will once again acquire that emotion and passion when an arm needle is lowered onto shiny black vinyl, and the sounds of snaps, crackles and pops lead into "Gimme Shelter", "Satisfaction" or "Paint it Black".

Steven Peterson says

Do we absolutely need another book on the Rolling Stones? One would think not—given the array of publications focusing on “the greatest rock and roll band in the world.” There have been exposes, learned studies, autobiographies and biographies, video depictions of the group, and so on. And here they are in their “dotage” as a group. Three of the original Stones still play in the band (Bill Wyman retired, Ian Stewart was sacked by a manager many years ago, and Brian Jones died long ago). Still, the answer to the original rhetorical question is “yes.”

This book has a unique kind of perspective. The author covered a tour of theirs and developed relationships with members of the group and its entourage. Currently, he works with Martin Scorsese and Mick Jagger on a series—“Vinyl.” Rich Cohen’s book is well worth a read.

He does a number of standard things—a brief history of the band, relatively brief biological backgrounds on key people, a little on the music and the origin of certain songs, milestones—whether positive (a set of four great albums in a row in the late 1960s and early 1970s) or negative (drug busts and interpersonal feuds and disagreements and Altamont).

One of the most attractive aspects of this book is humanizing the cast—whether Brian Jones or Ronnie Wood or Bill Wyman or Mick Taylor or Charlie Watts (who comes across as a decent person with whom one might want to spend the evening over a beer or two [or more]) or Keith Richards or Mick Jagger. Or those who found themselves at one point or another in the Stones’ orbit, such as Marianne Faithfull or Anita Pallenberg or. . . .

It is also somewhat lugubrious. Cohen portrays the Stones as a band that can still play good music—but which has lost the ability to create powerful new music. After “Some Girls,” his view is that the band has done little quality work. A song here or there, but not a vibrant and vital work.

If you want to read a book on the Rolling Stones, this is a good place to start. It humanizes the group and those associated with it, but it retains a distance from its subject, allowing Cohen to place the group, its players, and those orbiting them into perspective.

Marti says

I did not know it going in, but the author of this book also wrote for the *Vinyl* TV show (which was produced by Mick Jagger). While I am more than familiar with almost every aspect of the Stones career, there are a few different perspectives and anecdotes contained within. We get more details on the early days with the Chris Barber band as well as the infamous Altamont concert which the author sums up as: Mick played at being the devil, but when the real Satan showed up (Sonny Barger), he went back to being Michael Jagger,

LSE student.

Cohen interviewed Sam Cutler who was in charge of setting up the stage on short notice. He claims he knew it would be a disaster from the beginning because the stage was only two feet off the ground. (Actually, everyone he interviewed claimed they knew it would be a disaster). He also says he was never paid for his work and was the only convenient scapegoat as far as the Hell's Angels were concerned because the band got out of Dodge as quickly as possible. Apparently, Barger and company were worried about the film which they thought could be used as evidence against them (it was). Cutler and the Maysles had to appear in front of a biker "Supreme Court" (who knew the Angels were so organized?) Cutler avoided a "stomping," but Maysle was not so lucky.

We also learn the true story of what happened to Keith Richard in Switzerland when he was supposedly undergoing blood transfusions to get the heroin out of his system. Hint: it's the closest he ever came to gratifying the Death Pool. The only living band member not interviewed was Bill Wyman who comes off as a lecherous old creep. But then, we kind of knew that anyway.

Julie says

The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones by Rich Cohen is a 2016 Spiegel & Grau publication.

When it comes to the Rolling Stones, I would think we have pretty much covered all there was to know about them by now. But, when I see a new book centered around this iconic rock band, I can't help but look at it.

Rich Cohen traveled with The Rolling Stones during the 90's, working for Rolling Stone Magazine. What a gig, right?

Cohen's enthusiasm and barely contained hero worship leaps off the pages, as he relates intimate conversations with band members, and shares his personal reflections about each member of the group, their history, and their music.

The book is a mix of personal observations while on the road with the band, and the band's history. Diehard fans already know much of the material covered in this book, but no matter how many times I've heard these stories, I still read them as though for the first time.

Those less familiar with the band's history will find their history does indeed live up to its mythic hype. It's amazing that this band has survived all that it has and the group keeps on ticking, performing well into their seventies!!

It's hard not to get wrapped up in Cohen's exuberance, as he manages to capture that magical place in time where the music and its stars were like Gods. Still, there were times when Cohen got a little carried away with the religious comparisons, making outrageous remarks, such as comparing Brian Jones' death to that of Jesus, who died so the other band members could live.

He also seemed to buy into the mythology of making pacts with the devil, such as with famed Delta blues artist Robert Johnson, who influenced everyone from Clapton to Aerosmith and beyond.

But, eventually, Cohen settles down and takes us through the Stone's illustrious and storied history, professional highs and lows, specific albums that were of significance, personal struggles, especially those of Keith Richards, who was center stage in Cohen's mind, stealing the spotlight away from Mick, in my opinion.

I enjoyed going back through the Stones' history, the conversations with band members, the interviews, and the musical memories, too.

Cohen's insights and opinions are interesting, even if I didn't always buy into them. Cohen was young when he toured with the Stones, and his awe is palpable, making objectivity a hard sell. Still, I found the book refreshing and I must say it gave me a little deeper insight into Keith's life, and I thought his observation that Cohen had always had the Sun & the Moon & the Rolling Stones made a fitting title for the book. It's true for me, too. They've been here my whole life and their music and legacy is still alive and well.

A nice personal account of time spent on the road with the one and only Rolling Stones, and a nice nostalgic trip through time, which was as poignant as it was fun.

4 stars

Jill says

Though The Rolling Stones are an unmatched cultural phenomenon, I've never really delved into their music or totally understood their appeal. Their "bad boy" druggie reputations probably kept me away in the 70's, and after that I was busy having a career and raising a family and didn't really pay much attention to the music scene. This wide-ranging narrative history comes to me at just the right time, since I now have time to pursue such interesting subjects as "just why did the Stones last so long when other rock bands have faded away?" While finishing up the last few chapters of the book, I found the "Exile on Main Street" album on Youtube and played it while reading. There are certainly some gems in that album, which Cohen considers their last good work.

Cohen certainly has the credentials in both writing and music to cover this subject better than most any other writer. He wrote for Rolling Stone and New Yorker and was even contracted by Scorsese to write a screenplay which eventually aired as the "Vinyl" series on HBO. Cohen has such a creative, free flowing writing style that I just had to stop and re-read (and highlight) some phrases. He refers to the Stones as the last of the great rock stars. "Those that survive are precious and strange, relics of an ancient dispensation, that era when the music mattered above all else..." "If you tell their story, you tell THE story." "...there is no time. Rock'n'Roll is quantum. The beginning is tangled up with the end, the exits are entrances, every moment is present in every other moment and it's always now." ..."the Stones were not the Beatles. They were nasty from the start, anarchic, delinquent." "The unknowability of Mick Jagger, who is not understood because he does not want to be understood; who gives only what needs to be given." "Murray had recognized a melancholy in the Stones, that place where the blues touched B-minor hillbilly twang." "Delta blues took on the sound of the city - the hum of the steel belt, the rattle of the elevated, Cadillacs and Fords throbbing in the early morning rush, steam hammer and factory whistle."

Cohen writes extensively about their early days in the 1960's and 1970's, but events and observations sort of

blur together after that, perhaps because he believes that most of their important work was done during that time. He also writes with brutal honesty and clarity about the many women who passed through their lives, the drug issues, particularly with Richards, and the drug-related deaths of former members and peripheral characters. Focusing mainly on Jagger and Richards, he gives short treatment to the other members of the band. This is no white-washed biography designed to make the Stones look like heroes. It's gritty and at times repulsive, and makes you wonder just why Richards is still alive. The drug use was not made to look glamorous or sophisticated or justifiable.

Cohen writes that "The Stones are a story that I've studied all my life. I've studied it as the ancients studied war. It's my Hemingway, Dickens, Homer. I've studied it in books, on vinyl and up close. Yet it keeps surprising me."

I did find the sequencing of the stories confounding at times, and it seemed that Cohen jumped around in time quite a bit - not that a biography needs to fold out in perfectly linear order. But I did get lost in the narrative from time, particularly when he reeled off names of unknown bands and immemorable former stars.

This may not be the last chapter in the saga of The Rolling Stones, and some may dispute the veracity of some of the scenes and conversations, but Cohen has brought a unique perspective to telling their story that is well worth reading. I highly recommend reading it with a Stones album playing in the background !

Melanie says

4 Stars! Did I learn anything new? Nope. Do I like reading about my favorite band? Yep. Most people have read/heard about all the goings-on of The Stones. The thing I enjoyed about this telling is reading about it from the perspective of Rich Cohen. He's been a true fan of The Stones since he was a kid. He got to travel with the band as a journalist for Rolling Stone magazine. He also wrote the script for the HBO series, Vinyl, with Martin Scorsese and Mick Jagger.

There's also a sadness in this telling as well. Mr. Cohen talks of how the band has seen it's better days (long ago). Everyone is getting older, including myself. I find myself thinking, how can I be 51 years old? I still love rock and roll though!

Michael Finocchiaro says

Well written and interesting, Rich Cohen's biography of the Stones is a good read. I think I am a little jealous of the author with all his intimacy with these rock'n'roll gods, but all the name-dropping was honestly a little annoying and distracting at the same time. Nonetheless, the book does capture what made the Stones the legendary and scandalous band that they remain over 50 years later. I don't put Some Girls on the same level of "great" Stone albums because for me, their run ended with Exile, but that is probably splitting hairs. As for a rock bio, I'd say this one was not as good as The Beatles by Bob Spitz or When Giants Walked the Earth by Mick Wall or Bob Dylan: Behind the Shades by Clinton Heylin because the author in those three did not try to share the stage with the band as much as Cohen does in this one. It was, however, very thoroughly researched and the section on Robert Johnson and Son House was probably my favorite part of the book - that and the treatment of Brian Jones.

Note that the most recent Stones album *Blue and Lonesome* is a welcome return to their blues roots with Eric Clapton on two tracks.

Devyn Duffy says

First, disclosures: while I've heard Stones songs on the radio for years, I've known little about them, and while I may have read some of Rich Cohen's past work for *Rolling Stone* magazine, I had never heard of him.

The Sun & The Moon & The Rolling Stones is part Wikipedia article, part fanboy memoir. According to other reviews, my own impression, and the actual Wikipedia article on the Stones, there probably isn't any information about the Stones in this book that you haven't seen or couldn't see elsewhere. And while Cohen adds details to the basic Wikipedia narrative, he stops with *Exile on Main Street* and makes little mention of the band's work in the last 45 years, as if they have just become a Stones cover band. Meanwhile, Cohen continually injects himself into the story as if the reader is expected to care about his history or his opinions. (I did not.) He liked the Stones from an early age and then got to interview them and tour with them for *Rolling Stone* magazine, which I'm sure was interesting, but is not something that Cohen had to remind the reader of for 300 pages. This book would have been a far better work if Cohen had removed himself and his opinions from it and had instead given the reader the full story of the Stones' entire career.

Worst of all, Cohen glorifies the drug use, nihilism, and violence that--even by Cohen's own account--irreparably harmed and even killed members of the group and people around them. While a great song or two may have been gained from the Stones' self-destruction, how much more has been lost? It's clear in the book that Cohen thinks that the posture of a "gangster" (his word) is cool, but the book makes just as clear that such posing is about as uncool as it gets. This is most vivid in Cohen's chapter on the Altamont concert, at which four people died and one was infamously murdered. The entire chapter is full of people playacting at being cool and dangerous--including the Hell's Angels themselves--and ultimately getting nothing out of it but suffering and death. In the end, nearly the whole book is like this: no matter how much Cohen finds the Stones to be glamorous, nearly all of their stories are ugly and sad. In one exchange, Keith Richards says that his life is better than that of an ad man sitting with him on a flight, because Richards is free. But nothing in this book makes a rock star look like a free man.

Also worth noting is that while Cohen had unusual access to Mick Jagger, even co-writing a screenplay with him, this book is a hatchet job on Jagger. Cohen liberally spreads negative opinions of a man who doesn't seem to have wronged Cohen in any way. Ironically, Cohen paints a picture of a man who has learned to distrust people around him and so becomes wary of granting access--a feeling that Cohen then validates by betraying Jagger's trust with this book.

Right before this book, I read Bruce Springsteen's phenomenal memoir *Born to Run*, a book that made me want to go back and listen to many of the old Springsteen songs that I had never heard. Cohen's book does not have the same effect. It doesn't make me want to listen to the Stones at all. Another, better book will have to do that, one more about the music and less about the writer's attempt at self-glorification.

Jason Coleman says

I knew we were in trouble long before Cohen confessed "Wild Horses" is his favorite Stones song. He cranks up that smooth *Vanity Fair* prose and hits every godforsaken box on the checklist—the bust at Redlands, the swimming-pool death of Brian Jones, Altamont, the long hot summer at Nellcôte, Keith's heroin odyssey, the open-G tuning, the feud between Mick and Keith (guess who he sides with). Unable to pass by a single beaten-to-death story, Cohen even drags out the Gram Parson funeral-pyre legend for a page and half. I half-expected the story of Hangar 18 to turn up here—I mean, there are a few people who've never heard that one, Rich.

I'm sorry, but this self-important, intolerably name-dropping book (has Charlie Watts ever given *you* his rare seal of approval? ever flown on Jann Wenner's private plane? ever cowritten a bad mini-series with Marty Scorsese?) and its upscale blurbs made me despair over whose hands this history has fallen into. Listen, just take a pass on this thing and read Stanley Booth's *The True Adventures of the Rolling Stones*, which is a masterpiece, or even Keith Richards' self-serving but immensely enjoyable *Life*, both of which I'm pretty sure Cohen wishes he had written.

I'm of half a mind to dock this thing to a single star for all the dissing of the Beatles, one of the dullest, most petty tropes in rock writing (the most galvanic event in pop history was "safe"?). But, you know, I'll control myself.
