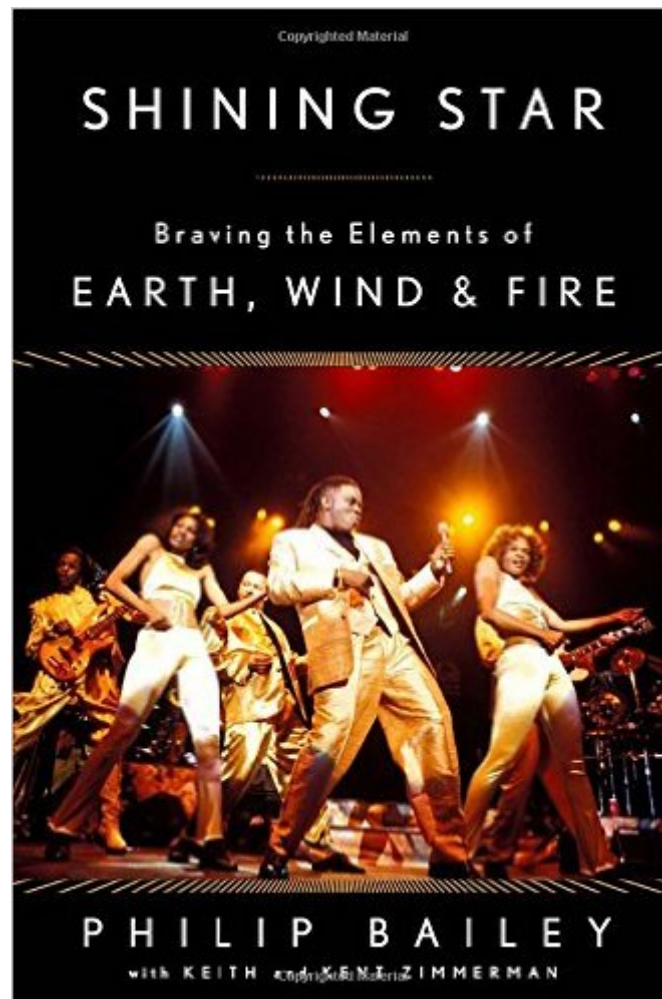


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Shining Star: Braving The Elements Of Earth, Wind & Fire



Synopsis

A revealing and heartfelt memoir from the lead singer of the legendary Earth, Wind & Fire. With more than ninety million records sold and eight Grammy awards throughout its forty-year history, Earth, Wind & Fire has staked its claim as one of the most successful, influential, and beloved acts in music history. Now, for the first time, its dynamic lead singer Philip Bailey chronicles the group's meteoric rise to stardom and his own professional and spiritual journey. Never before had a musical act crossed multiple styles and genres with a quixotic blend of astrology, Universalism, and Egyptology as Earth, Wind & Fire (EWF) did when it exploded into the public's conscience during the 1970s. The group's shows became sensory experiences with their dramatic staging, shimmering costumes, elaborate choreography, baffling magic tricks and a thumping backbeat. At the center of it the group was its charismatic founder Maurice White and Bailey, with his soaring multi-octave range and distinctive falsetto. After being signed by recording titan Clive Davis, EWF went on to produce a remarkable series of platinum and gold albums and headline stadiums around the world. As Philip and Maurice were profoundly influenced by genius producer Charles Stepney, as well as famed arranger David Foster, EWF elevated Sly Stone's multiethnic "I Wanna Take You Higher" message to an even higher level. Bailey hit the wall due to fame, fortune, and the excesses of global success. The constant touring and performing took its toll on him publicly and privately. While White and Bailey's relentless work ethic shot the band into the stratosphere, it also exhausted and emotionally gutted the group. In 1983, White abruptly dismantled the band, leaving Bailey and the rest of the members to fend for themselves. As a solo act, Bailey recorded "Easy Lover," a worldwide smash duet with Phil Collins, launching the next stage of his career until EWF reunited later that decade. *Shining Star* is the true story of what happens when real life exceeds your dreams, when the power and pain of building a legacy brings both joy and faith-testing challenges.

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Customer Reviews

An autobiography less than 250 pages seems skimpy, especially for someone who has been in the music business for over forty years. However, Philip Bailey packs SHINING STAR with so many interesting stories about himself, Maurice White and Earth, Wind & Fire without being long-winded. Like a good commercial song, the veteran singer/songwriter uses the "don't bore us, get to the chorus" approach in sharing his life on paper. As a result, SHINING STAR is a very entertaining read that reveals facts that would startle even a seasoned EWF fan. Bailey honestly writes about his complicated relationship with women and Maurice without resorting to melodrama. Die hard EWF fans will drool over Bailey's recollections on recording some of the group's best-known albums and songs as well as the financial challenges of a group trying to stay on top. The best part about this autobiography is that Bailey tells an intriguing story without sensationalism, unnecessary name-dropping or cursing. A great read for anybody who is interested in one of the best R&B bands ever.

Since I'm huge fan of EWF I was very excited about the book, and not disappointed after reading. Mr. Bailey is outstanding talent in genre, a lot of very personal info, very emotionally and easy reading. Thanks to all authors, I love it.

Thanks for writing your biography Philip! I am a long time fan and amateur singer who dreams about singing soprano as well as Philip Bailey some day! I always knew that you guys were different, and reading about the "concept" helped me to understand the spiritual side to Earth, Wind, and Fire. May the future bring nothing but good to you and yours...Jenny Hatch

I purchased this book so I could read during my commute back and forth to/from the office. I have to say, I was quite surprised (pleasantly so) of how transparent Mr. Bailey is here. As one of the millions of EWF fans, I wondered about the inspiration and the backstory of the groups successes musically. I grew up in the early 1970s Washington DC area listening to them. I have such fond

memories of the first time listening to Shining Star and the fact that my oldest brother introduced me to their music! Those good memories include seeing them at the Capital Center in Maryland. My husband regularly plays a CD in our car. Last year, we went to Atlantic City and saw them at the Borgata and even saw Mr. Bailey (in cognito) chillin' outside the hotel a few hours prior to the concert. Most of all, my husband and I are Christians and we share the same faith as Mr. Bailey. Reading about his conversion was so very powerful and I hope he knows that! The book is a testimony of sorts, which is done so tastefully and with a lot of respect for the current, and former band members, especially, Maurice. I now have the book in my family room on the coffee table for others to enjoy as well!

RIP Charles Stepney, Don Myrick, Roland Baustista, and Maurice White. EWF was my favorite group while I was in high school (I am now 52 y/old), I have their albums on vinyl. I saw them at two sold-out concerts at the Stadium in Chicago. I love music and I have read several biographies/autobiographies of different recording artists. I was excited to learn of Phillip Bailey's memoir. This is a good book. It is well-written and I could not put it down. It really goes behind-the-scenes, not just on the surface. Most bios I have read of recording artists do not go into, or barely scratch the business-end. The book gives insight into the business side of things. It also delves into the creative side. Mr. Bailey gives details about the the production of some of the classic hits, and why these songs are so great. If you are really into music, you would appreciate that. The book also goes into detail about the involvement of other recording industry figures in the EWF story. Mr. Bailey is also candid about personal and professional embarrassments and set-backs. He writes of his infidelities and failed marriages. He writes of record label broken promises and getting dropped by labels (as a solo artist and with EWF). He writes of the time EWF was up-staged by Parliament. He shares the story behind "Reasons." The band held Charles Stepney in such high regard. It is very respectful the way Mr. Bailey recalls Mr. Stepney. I would recommend this book to a EWF and music fan.

of a group that produced so many hits and an explosion of sound, i listened to their greatest hits night after night. Bailey gives us a fairly antiseptic rendering of that experience, with expressions of exuberance reserved for his wife's "booty ass." It's more of a family story than anything else, the brothers White, Maurice taciturn and creative, Verdine full speed, even while driving. I liked the story of seeing Genesis in concert then ending up doing Easy Lover with the same Phil Collins, as luck would have it, a fan of what is constantly referred to in this book as "EWF." It's a long and winding

road but ultimately it was hard to put this book down. His falsetto brought him into the group and kept him there all these years. Glad he wrote the book. I'm fairly sure he's much happier now than if he had stayed in Denver but if he's not, it's not for lack of trying.

This book is great. Earth Wind & Fire is a group that I have admired since I was about 9 years old, sneaking and listening to my older brothers records and it sure was nice to see how things really went back in those days. Thank you Phillip Bailey for writing this book. It answered a lot of questions I had always wondered about. "Wanna Thank You, Yeah....."

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