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Tragedy: The Ballad Of The Bee Gees



Synopsis

The rise and fall of the brothers Gibb--Barry, Robin, Maurice, and younger brother Andy--is perhaps the greatest saga in Australian music history. Although the Bee Gees enjoyed several rebirths in a career that spanned many decades, it seemed that tragedy followed the Gibbs like a curse. For every incredible career high there was a hefty personal downside: divorce, drunkenness, and death seemed as synonymous with the Gibbs as falsetto harmonies, flares, and multi-platinum record sales. Not long before his death, Robin made it clear that he believed the Gibbs had been forced to pay the highest possible cost for their success. "All the tragedies my family has suffered . . . is a kind of karmic price we are paying for all the fame and fortune we've had." This is the story of the brothers' incredible careers and an examination of the Gibb 'curse'--an all-too-human look at the rollercoaster ride of fame.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book I'm trying very hard to be fair with in reviewing. It's difficult because the theme is supposed to be about the tragedies that befell the Gibb brothers after all their amazing success. It doesn't really address that issue in a major way, the book is more of a recap of the Gibb history and what could be an interesting thesis to explore is only touched upon in a peripheral way. Not that the book isn't worth a read; the author does manage to include some information I hadn't read previously in other books. But, it misses the mark on why things started to go horribly wrong for the brothers, starting with the 1988 death of their brother Andy, just five days after turning 30 years old from a heart related ailment. Barry, Robin and Maurice were an amazingly creative musical force,

from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Had death not claimed brothers Maurice (in 2003) and Robin (in 2012), one suspects the brothers operating as the Bee Gees would still have been a musical force to be reckoned with, despite the personal troubles they experienced in the early 2000s. Whatever troubles befell the brothers, they always seem to rally and get past what it was that had created an impasse for them. Barry and Robin had a volatile relationship within the group as songwriters and singers, each of whom sought to have as many of their songs included as possible, as well as consideration for the A-side of singles. Maurice, the brother who was the man in the middle, was often the one who broke the tie. He was also described as the glue. His own creativity was often sacrificed for the good of the group and he didn't always get a vocal on every album, which he should have. He also never got an A-side, despite having sung the lead on a few songs that should've been considered.

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