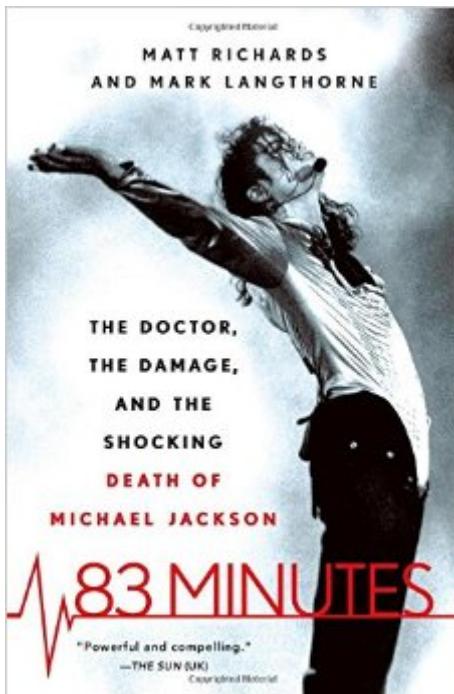


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83 Minutes: The Doctor, The Damage, And The Shocking Death Of Michael Jackson



Synopsis

A definitive look at Michael Jackson's final minutes, revealing for the first time the shocking details behind the tragic death of one of the world's biggest pop stars. On June 25th, 2009, the world was rocked by the tragic news that Michael Jackson—the biggest and most influential music icon since Elvis Presley—had died. He was only 50 years old when paramedics pronounced him dead on arrival at a Los Angeles hospital. For weeks after his death, speculation and rumor abounded concerning the drugs in Jackson's system and the role Conrad Murray, the singer's personal physician, had played in his death. In 2011, Murray was tried and convicted of involuntary manslaughter, for which he served two years in prison. Now, for the first time, readers have access to a comprehensive and truly horrifying account of the crucial moments leading up to Jackson's demise. Drawing on court documents and testimonials, 83 Minutes presents a multi-perspective tracking of every individual involved and the part they played as the tragedy unfolded, examining forensically the mystery of the 83 minutes that elapsed from the moment Dr. Murray suggested he found Jackson not breathing to the moment the singer's lifeless body was wheeled into hospital. Evenhanded and unbiased, Matt Richards and Mark Langthorne's account is rich with detail, including the specific cocktail of drugs employed in an attempt to keep Jackson alive and the harrowing conditions in which the troubled genius's life ended. Included as well is the story of the legal struggle for control of Jackson's assets that followed his death where Richards and Langthorne report that—the combined earnings of Jay Z, Taylor Swift, and Kanye West since Michael Jackson died come nowhere near the revenues Jackson has earned for his estate after his death. Written with documentary flair, this powerful and compelling book is already emerging as the definitive account of one of the darkest hours in music history.

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Customer Reviews

I spent too much on this book. It is full of conjecture and imaginary scenarios. The last 31% is end notes. The author repeats himself to make the book seem longer than it is. I'm so disappointed in myself for paying the ridiculous price of \$14.95. Spare yourself the suffering of buying this book.

I wasn't sure about this book at first as I really love Michael Jackson and thought it might be one of those 'exploitative' books that are so prevalent nowadays surrounding his death. It isn't at all. I would urge anyone who is a fan of him to read it. It is an incredibly well researched and deeply moving story, that reveals what happened to him and who was to blame. Of course it is sad but also incredibly sensitively written. Utterly brilliant.

The book does a pretty good job describing Michael Jackson's financial and legal problems, along with the frantic preparations for the upcoming O2 concert series and a description of his relations to his doctors, especially Dr. Murray. But it's marred by an astonishing and appalling collection of errors in the medical information. I started to get a bad feeling already on page 3, where we hear that Dr. Murray "felt a femoral pulse in Jackson's neck." Whatever your views on Murray's competence, or on MJ's supposed anatomical oddities, it's safe to say that he did not have a femoral pulse in his neck! (My guess is that the authors thought that "femoral" meant "feeble.") On page 291, the authors have confused micrograms (mcg) with milligrams (mg), leading the toxicology report to be hopelessly garbled (compare this with the information on p. 263). Not to mention the mention of "3.3mg/mg" (sic). This is just a sample. If you're going to write a medical whodunit, which this is, you should at least get the medical facts straight. The authors have show biz rather than medical expertise, but someone knowledgeable should at least have been called in to check the medical facts. Their conclusions about Jackson's death end up being unconvincing and speculative, alas.

My interest in this book was medical perspective of MJ's death. If you want to read about MJ's life, this may not be what you're looking for. We've all heard the axiom that the cover-up is worse than the crime, but never is that more apparent than in this account of the last hours of Michael

Jackson's life. Endless excuses and revised timelines by the doctor in the house are examined carefully and contrasted with evidence in the form of records showing that Dr. C's story as told by him (in multiple versions and reversions) fell far from meeting the evidence that showed he was not at the bedside, and not in attendance at the times claimed. It's a pretty sad commentary on all the people and agencies who stood to benefit from MJ's death. MJ was bankrupt and said himself that he was worth more dead than alive. The multiple doctors treating him apparently didn't communicate with one another. Anyone who's worked in the medical field knows propofol is strictly an inpatient therapy, but the quantities and purchases of this and many other drugs by Dr. C to treat MJ are startling. Polypharmacy to the extreme, mixed with a doctor who would only be paid if his patient performed (in a scheduled tour). Not defending anybody as there are no winners in this sad situation, but 83 Minutes makes a convincing case that this particular death was entirely predictable and totally preventable.

I just wanted to know how Michael Jackson died. First, I heard from my younger sister that his doctor tried hard to save him. Then, I heard from my older sister that he didn't try that hard. (For the record, I didn't ask for sources.) Several years would pass before I read somewhere that he been using a drug for some time. This novel confirmed that and explained why that started. In addition, this novel taught me much about his life. Despite my small bit of praise, there's one part that made me dislike this. I don't understand how Frank Dileo being insensitive about breaking the news about MJ to his children. That's how they cope with tragedies, not with songs about running away from their problems! (I had to experience a similar situation when I was a child, so I speak from experience this time.) That said, he shouldn't have announced a cause of death without a consensus. Of course, that's what TMZ.com does even though Jermaine just said that he was unsure. On another note, I recommend reading the endnotes. There are still opportunities to learn something.

I'm not a true fan but I am about the same age he was. I grew up listening to his music, seeing his videos and following him in the media. Heck, I used to think having a zoo was cool! I've read dozens of books about musicians who have flamed out so I needed to read this one. Just like Elvis, there is great danger when nobody will say no to you. I'm not a doctor but the idea of his personal doctor administering Propofol so MJ could sleep is terrible. The drug is meant for anesthesia for surgical procedures and requires careful monitoring. The book states that his doctor didn't have the proper equipment to monitor him nor the equipment to resuscitate him in an emergency. In addition to this,

another doctor was giving him frequent, large doses of Demerol. Michael's finances and health were crashing and instead of entering rehab, he was being pressured into a large commitment of concerts in London. I wish there would have been a family intervention or that his personal doctor would insist that he enter rehab instead of enabling him. It's truly sad that nobody could/would step in and help Michael. Someone who truly cared about him should have clearly seen his poor condition and taken action. His value to the corporations involved with him overshadowed his desperate need for help. I think that it was very fitting that every chapter began with a short, relevant quote from the book "Peter Pan". Michael, I hope you have finally found peace...

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