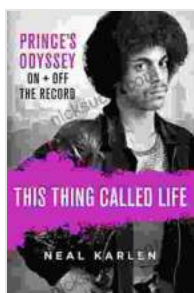


Prince Odyssey: On and Off the Record

Prince was one of the most enigmatic and influential musicians of all time. From his early days as a child prodigy to his global superstardom, he pushed the boundaries of music, fashion, and culture. This article takes a definitive look at Prince's life and career, exploring his groundbreaking music, his complex personal life, and his lasting impact on popular culture.



This Thing Called Life: Prince's Odyssey, On and Off the Record by Neal Karlen

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 25791 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 347 pages



Early Life and Career

Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson on June 7, 1958, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He began playing piano at the age of seven and wrote his first song, "Funk Machine," at the age of 12. In 1978, he signed a recording contract with Warner Bros. Records and released his debut album, *For You*. The album was a commercial failure, but it showcased Prince's prodigious talent and set the stage for his future success.

Prince's breakthrough came in 1982 with the release of the album *1999*. The album was a critical and commercial success, spawning the hit singles "1999" and "Little Red Corvette." Prince followed up *1999* with the even more successful album *Purple Rain* in 1984. The album was the soundtrack to the film of the same name, which starred Prince in his acting debut. *Purple Rain* won an Academy Award for Best Original Song Score and sold over 20 million copies worldwide.

Superstardom and Innovation

Purple Rain made Prince a global superstar. He continued to release groundbreaking albums throughout the 1980s and 1990s, including *Sign o' the Times* (1987), *Diamonds and Pearls* (1991), and *The Gold Experience* (1995). Prince was also a prolific collaborator, working with artists such as Michael Jackson, Madonna, and Stevie Wonder.

In addition to his music, Prince was known for his flamboyant fashion sense and his enigmatic persona. He often wore elaborate costumes and makeup, and he frequently changed his name. In 1993, he changed his name to an unpronounceable symbol, which he claimed represented "freedom" and "love." He later changed his name back to Prince in 2000.

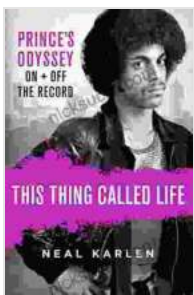
Personal Life and Legacy

Prince's personal life was often as tumultuous as his music. He was married and divorced twice, and he had several high-profile relationships. He was also a Jehovah's Witness, and his faith played a significant role in his life.

Prince died on April 21, 2016, at the age of 57, from an accidental overdose of fentanyl. His death was a shock to the world, and he was mourned by

fans and fellow musicians alike. Prince's legacy lives on through his music, which continues to inspire and influence artists around the world.

Prince was a true musical genius and one of the most iconic and influential figures in popular culture. His music was groundbreaking, his fashion was daring, and his persona was enigmatic. He was a true pioneer who pushed the boundaries of music and culture. Prince's legacy will continue to inspire and influence artists and fans for generations to come.

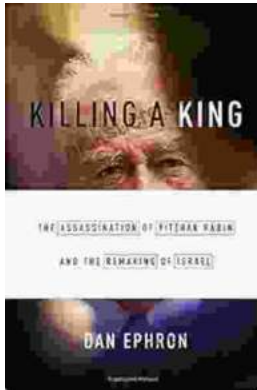


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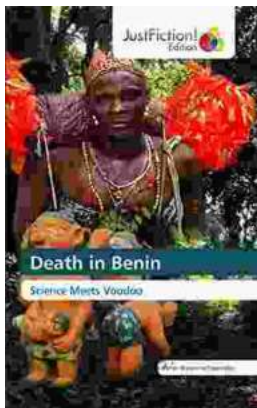
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