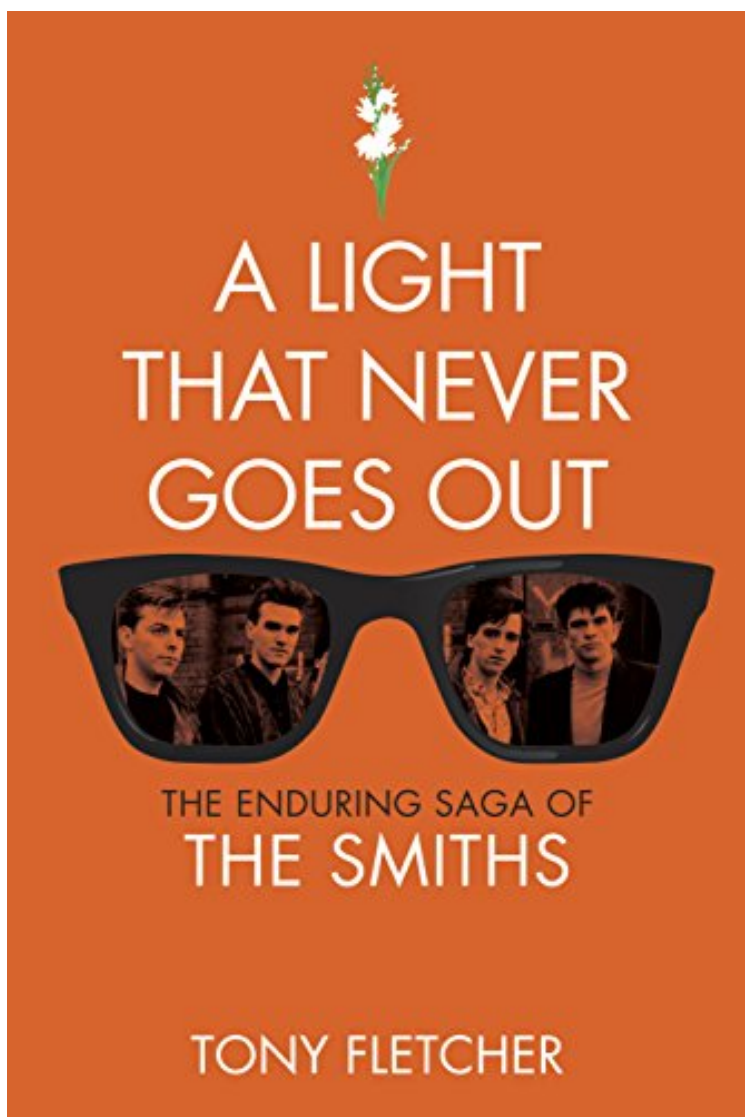




## A Light That Never Goes Out: The Enduring Saga of the Smiths

*Tony Fletcher*

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**Tony Fletcher : A Light That Never Goes Out: The Enduring Saga of the Smiths** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Light That Never Goes Out: The Enduring Saga of the Smiths:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tony Fletcher also has a lot of interesting takes on songs and albums that are pretty objective; there isn't much literary interBy A CustomerThis book is full of just about everything you wanted to know about The Smiths, from beginning to end. While I mostly wanted to hear about how the songs were written and the inter-band relationships, I also learned a ton of information about the nuances of band-label relationships, the dynamics of 1980s music press and industry at large, and so on.Tony Fletcher also has a lot of

interesting takes on songs and albums that are pretty objective; there isn't much literary interpretation of Morrissey's lyrics here, thank god. It makes me listen to The Smiths in a whole new way, and I gotta thank Fletcher for that. His perspective on Meat Is Murder is particularly enlightening; Fletcher admits that the album in part made him become a vegetarian. It should be noted that Fletcher got extensive interviews with Johnny Marr and Andy Rourke but not Mike Joyce and Morrissey, which is lacking at times. Fletcher tends to paint Morrissey in a particularly bad light, but it's hard to tell if that's Fletcher's bias or Morrissey just really is an a\*\*hole (from all the quotes from other people in the book, it probably is the latter). Sometimes there was too much information, though. It's true that Tony Fletcher was incredibly involved in the music industry at the time - from interviewing members of The Smiths to putting out records in his own band, but that doesn't necessarily mean that I want to hear about Fletcher's band or the fact that he was at this show or that show. Often there would be huge tangents about the music industry that had next to nothing to do with The Smiths. The sentences themselves would get so long with gigantic dependent clauses, parenthetical asides, and footnotes to the point of absurdity. There was even a parenthetical aside within a parenthetical aside that had its own footnote. The fact that the short Smiths quotes at the beginning of each chapter didn't necessarily encapsulate what Fletcher was going to talk about for that chapter showed that he lacked organization and conciseness. The fact that Fletcher doesn't always use a semicolon and other grammatical tools correctly really irks me. Overall, I really don't like Fletcher's writing style, and it made for a really slow read. But the information is too good to pass up, so I would say just plow through it and become a bigger Smiths fan in the process! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant, but obsessive, book about the Smiths By Michael A. Duvernois You probably need to be a serious fan before you go in on 700 pages about the band. Though I am going to try to loan this book to a friend who knows nothing of the Smiths to see if the obsession in the book, in the writing, in the backgrounds, in the details, is at all infectious. The Smiths are one of the great bands of the 1980s, and perhaps of popular music in the second half of the 20th century. If they're important, then the details are important as well, so you learn the backdrop, the pavement of Manchester, the UK music magazine scene, the post-punk era, and most of all the personalities of Marr and Morrissey. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sensational Smiths By Mrs Michelle Zebott I thought I knew a lot about one of my favorite bands, but I was wrong. This book is so in depth and so informative, I've learned so much. I'm already intending to purchase Tony Fletcher's Remarks Remade, about REM. I highly recommend this book for any true fan of The Smiths.

The definitive book about The Smiths, one of the most beloved, respected, and storied indie rock bands in music history. They were, their fans believe, the best band in the world. Hailing from Manchester, England, The Smiths--Morrissey, Johnny Marr, Andy Rourke, and Mike Joyce--were critical and popular favorites throughout their mid-1980s heyday and beyond. To this day, due to their unforgettable songs and lyrics, they are considered one of the greatest British rock groups of all time--up there with the Beatles, the Stones, the Who, and the Clash. Tony Fletcher paints a vivid portrait of the fascinating personalities within the group: Morrissey, the witty, literate lead singer whose loner personality and complex lyrics made him an icon for teenagers who felt forlorn and forgotten; his songwriting partner Marr, the gregarious guitarist who became a rock god for a generation of indie kids; and the talented, good-looking rhythm section duo of bassist Rourke and drummer Joyce. Despite the band's tragic breakup at the height of their success, *A Light That Never Goes Out* is a celebration: the saga of four working-class kids from a northern English city who come together despite contrasting personalities, find a musical bond, inspire a fanatical following, and leave a legacy that changed the music world--and the lives of their fans.

.com QA with Tony Fletcher