Light & Shade: Conversations With Jimmy Page
More than 30 years after disbanding in 1980, Led Zeppelin continues to be celebrated for its artistic achievements, broad musical influence, and commercial success. The band's notorious exploits have been chronicled in bestselling books; yet none of the individual members of the band has penned a memoir nor cooperated to any degree with the press or a biographer. In Light and Shade, Jimmy Page, the band's most reticent and inscrutable member, opens up to journalist Brad Tolinski, for the first time exploring his remarkable life and musical journey in great depth and intimate detail. Based on extensive interviews conducted with the guitarist/producer over the past 20 years, Light and Shade encompasses Page's entire career, beginning with his early years as England's top session guitarist when he worked with artists ranging from Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, and Burt Bacharach to the Kinks, The Who, and Eric Clapton. Page speaks frankly about his decadent yet immensely creative years in Led Zeppelin, his synergistic relationships with band members Robert Plant, John Bonham, and John Paul Jones, and his notable post-Zeppelin pursuits. While examining every major track recorded by Zeppelin, including "Stairway to Heaven", "Whole Lotta Love", and "Kashmir", Page reflects on the band's sensational tours, the filming of the concert movie The Song Remains the Same, his fascination with the occult, meeting Elvis Presley, and the making of the rock masterpiece Led Zeppelin IV, about which he offers a complete behind-the-scenes account. Additionally, the book is peppered with conversations between Page and other guitar greats, including his childhood friend Jeff Beck and hipster icon Jack White. Through Page's own words, Light and Shade presents an unprecedented first-person view of one of the most important musicians of our era.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 7 hours and 53 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Tantor Audio
Audible.com Release Date: November 26, 2012
Language: English
ASIN: B00ADDLK80
Best Sellers Rank: #305 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Music #568 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians #1693
Laughably maligned by critics for most of its active career, a revision of Greek mythology may now include a 13th slot for the band on Mount Olympus as they are arguably the Zeus of rock and roll music (sorry Elvis, you had the mojo and the hip-swing, but didn’t bring the lightning and thunder). While Zeppelin’s career may have been relatively short-lived, it still managed to burn an indelible, mysterious mark in modern music history that is largely kept alive by its introverted, immensely talented and equally mysterious mastermind, Jimmy Page. Tabloid-like tell-alls aside, LIGHT AND SHADE gives Page a platform to speak somewhat openly about his musical life before, during and after Zeppelin ... a satisfyingly light meal for fans, but few others.

Guitar World magazine’s Editor-in-Chief, Brad Tolinski, provides a book’s worth of material that mainly includes transcriptions of his interviews with Page over the years. Straight-forward and somewhat narrow in scope, Page doesn’t reveal too much more that is already known or widely speculated. LIGHT AND SHADE is organized in chronological chapters that chart significant periods in the musician’s life. The chapters open with the author’s summary of the period being discussed and are supported with Q and A transcriptions that allow Page to elaborate. The interviews are fairly safe and it appears clear that Tolinski took great care in avoiding issues that may have irritated Page or made him defensive.

LIGHT AND SHADE is obviously a book written by a fan, for fans. But, considering Jimmy Page’s reclusive/guarded nature, I can’t fault Tolinski as he got the man to speak rather openly about his musical career (not to mention Tolinski surely wants to ensure future Page interviews).
public into their private life which is why I chose to read this book. In the interviews Light & Shade, Page talks about his early career, becoming one of England’s most admired session guitarist, to his work with The Who, Clapton, The Kinks, The Yardbirds and of course Led Zeppelin. The interviews continue past the Led Zeppelin era into other projects which Page was involved in. It was surprising to learn from the book how professional the members of Led Zeppelin were. Page and Bonham were at the top of their game before even starting the band, they didn’t hang out socially (unless on tour) and enjoyed each other’s company as pros and musicians. I also never realized that Jimmy Page, Jeff Beck and Eric Clapton were long-time friends.

Light & Shade: Conversations with Jimmy Page

Jimmy Page by Jimmy Page