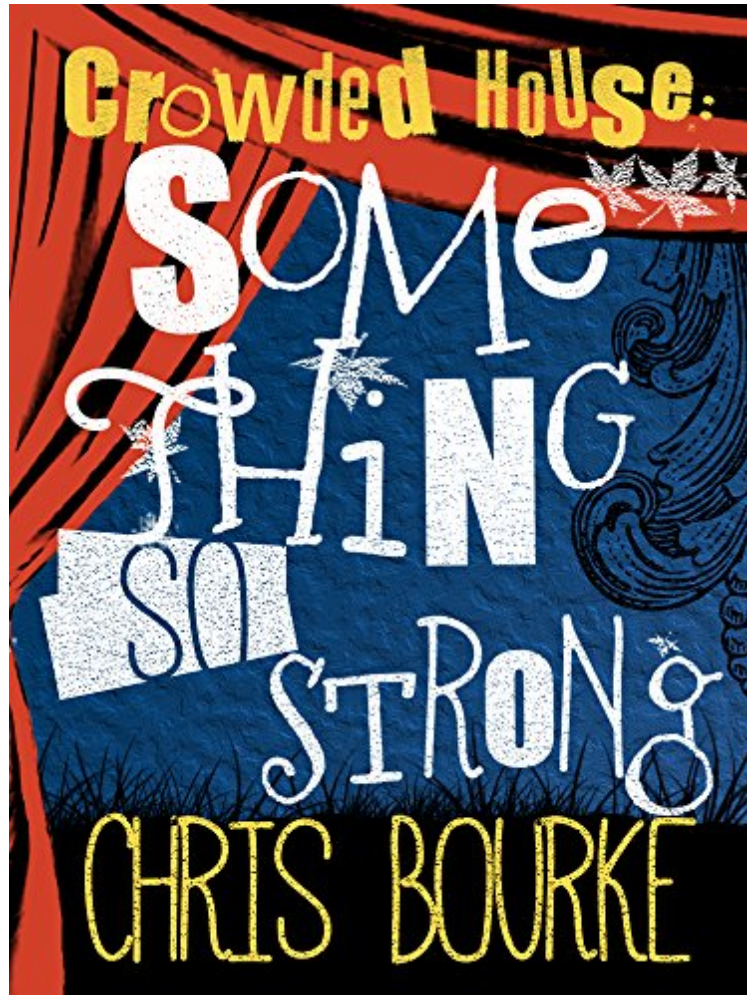


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Crowded House: Something So Strong

Chris Bourke

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Chris Bourke : Crowded House: Something So Strong before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crowded House: Something So Strong:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just what I was looking for...By D. H. SempeckThe not totally authorized "Authorized" history of CH (with nice pre-histories of the band members and Split Enz). It sets the order and details of Crowded House. As they weren't as dwelled on in the US after the first album, I didn't have a good grasp on the band outside of getting the albums/CD's and loving the music. This book allowed me to re-live and learn what the band was going through and shooting for while record and touring. I got a better understanding of Paul Hester (a drummer I aspired to be) and his inner workings and demons. This will make you want to go back and listen to everything again (I did) to get the feelings these great albums gave to me back when I (and to few of my friends) first adored them. Sometimes I get to come from behind the drumkit at shows and surprise the crowd by playing solo versions of 'Don't Dream It's Over' (which they know and love) or 'Better Be Home Soon' (which few know but always gets a great response). This book reiterated that my not-so-popular devotion to this band was well worth it.2 of 2

people found the following review helpful. Great read for fans and those curious about making records back in the day
By JimEddieI give 5 stars because I am a huge CH and all-things-Finn fan, but lesser fans may not find it as absorbing. However, apart from the focus on the sad yet glorious career, it is an insiders look at the torturous record business before it collapsed. The author has an interesting line somewhere about 'music has to be somewhat mediocre to be big in America' (I am paraphrasing). As an American I could not agree more, at least since the 70's and the total disintegration by the 90's. There are great artists in America for sure, but blockbuster success is reserved for the ear (and eye) candy, here-today gone tomorrow performers. But of course, we no longer live in the age of the artist. Thank God we can always turn to the Finn's for an escape.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Something So Excellent
By BlairI started reading this book not expecting much beyond a regurgitation of other people's work and a few personal anecdotes by the author attempting to put himself in the frame with his subject. What I discovered is possibly THE definitive telling of the life and times of Crowded House. A must-read not only for fans but also for anyone interested in the history of late 20th century pop music. Check it out!

'It's pretty stupid comparing us to the Beatles. There were four of them. There's only three of us.' — Paul Hester
Crowded House promised to become the most successful band ever to have come out of Australasia. When 'Don't Dream It's Over' and 'Something So Strong' exploded in the US charts, worldwide success looked inevitable. Critics compared them musically to the Beatles and fans adored them for their warmth and humour on stage. Four brilliant albums later, their rollercoaster ride of achievements and disappointments came to an end on the steps of the Sydney Opera House, in front of one of the largest audiences in Australian history. The dream was over, the band had finally broken up, their enormous promise was only partially fulfilled.
In this definitive account, New Zealand journalist Chris Bourke has written the true story of the first phase of Crowded House. With unparalleled access to all the band members, their families, friends, musical collaborators, managers, and record company personnel, he has captured their essence. It is a unique tale of musical chemistry, family bonds and the personal costs of pursuing an artistic vision. From the manic energy of the recording studio to the machinations of the record industry, this riveting account is a book for every Crowded House fan. This latest edition of Crowded House: Something So Strong includes new material from the author.

A strong and satisfyingly detailed portrait. --Peter Wilmoth, Sunday Age, Melbourne
An engaging book ... by which writing about popular music in Australasia will be measured for years to come. --Stuart Coupe, Australian Book
Something So Strong is definitive, amusing, brutally honest, and a stark reminder of just how special Crowded House were. --Peter Holder, Daily Telegraph, Sydney
About the Author
The author is one of New Zealand's leading music writers, and had complete access to the band for research and interviews.