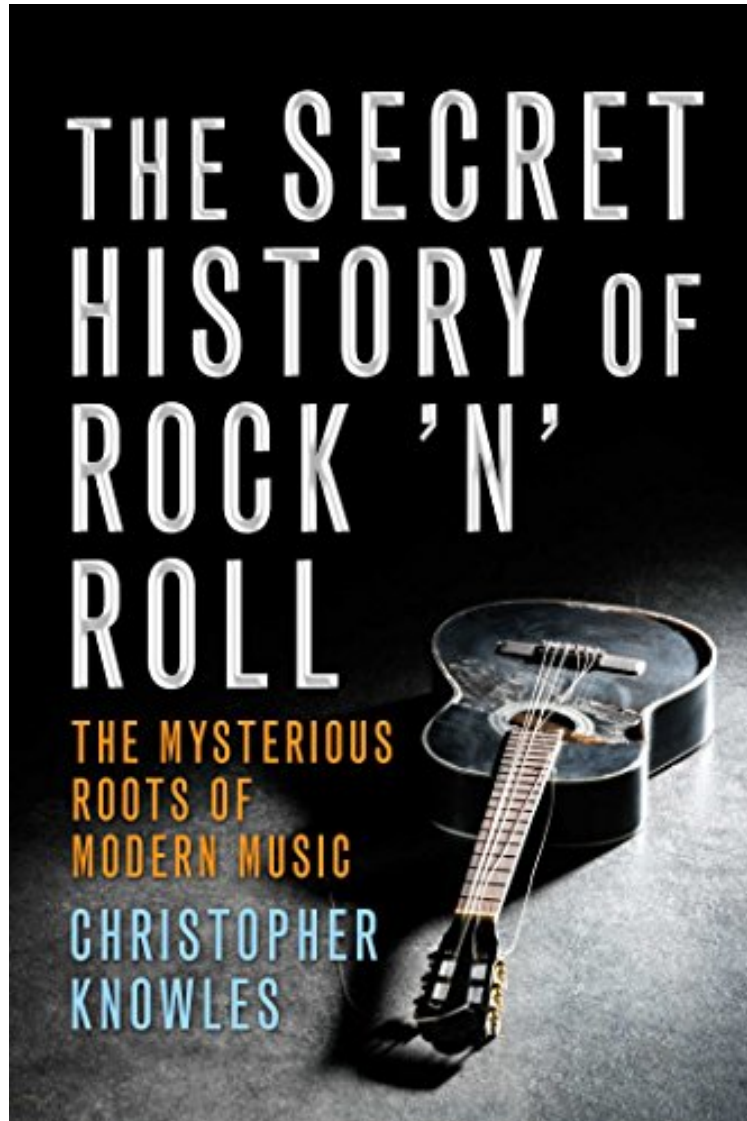


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## The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll

*Christopher Knowles*

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**Christopher Knowles : The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Feel the noiseBy Charles R. RumbergThis is a great book. What for many could be perceived as a giant leap from the debauchery of sex, drugs and rock n'roll to the sanctity of ancient (and not soancient) mystery cults which celebrated our essential connections with the "powers that be", is presentd as a seamless extention of our innate ability and "need" ashuman beings to participate in and enjoy life to the fullest. Music, by whatever form we experience it, is not a spectator sport but an invitation to join in the dance. When we FEEL the noise, we resonate with the harmony of the spheres, and are truly integrated within the unfathomable chain of being. I

must admit that when I first looked through the book, I thought "yech!". After reading "The Bushman Way of Tracking God" by Keeney, I felt I had to explore The Secret History. I found the two books to be a whole greater than the sum of its parts. This was a very enjoyable mind and body experience. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. High weirdness on the music scene. Enjoy. By zap henderson This writer does what most great thinkers accomplish, find the hidden associations between different ideas and makes the connection. I think this a highly original take on history, music, and culture. Bravo! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Pagan Rockers By S. Cranow One tour de force book that covers the real history of rock and roll all the way from its historic beginnings in Egypt. The cult of Isis and Osiris took on many forms as it moved to Greece. Ecstatic music and feasting occurred and it found its way in the Eleusinian mysteries and Dionysian mysteries. The book traces the evolution of these cults into the modern day rock and roll.

Sex. Drugs. Loud music. Wild costumes. Dazzling light shows. These words can all describe a great rock concert or a hot dance club, but they were also part and parcel of the ancient cultural phenomenon known as the "Mystery religions." In this book, author Christopher Knowles shows how the Mystery religions got a secular reincarnation when a new musical form called rock 'n' roll burst onto the scene. The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll traces the history of the Mysteries — their rise, their fall, and their survival through long centuries of repression. Knowles shows how the Mysteries prefigured subcultures as diverse as Santeria, Freemasonry, Mardi Gras and even the Holiness churches of the American frontier, and explains exactly how ancient rituals and music found their way to the New World. In the process, The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll traces the development of rock's most popular genres such as punk and heavy metal, and reveals how many of rock's most iconic artists play the same archetypal roles as the ancient gods. You'll see how many of the rituals and customs and even musical styles of our postmodern society have stunning ancient parallels. You'll meet history's first pop

"I found The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll: The Mysterious Roots of Modern Music to be a good read... entertaining and thought provoking. Anyone who's interested in rock and roll, especially its history, I expect will enjoy Christopher Knowles book." — soulofrocnroll.com "[Knowles] manages to capture the fascination and religious fervor that rock 'n' roll can inspire. Knowles manages to be both educational and juicy as he explores ancient cults and their counterparts in modern music. If this book is anything, it's fun." — Star Foster, patheos.com "Do you believe that rock music has only been around since last century, or do believe that is possible for it to have roots dating back to the Stone Age? Perhaps those alive during ancient times had their own rock stars. This theory is explored in the new book titled The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll: The Mysterious Roots of Modern Music... This book shows us a valid possibility worthy of checking out." — Lisa Rene Plumlee, metal.com "Rock 'n' roll music — that hip-gyrating, innocence-robbing, beat-driven racket that ate the world — is really an ecstatic heathen ritual. Tell us something we don't know. Author Christopher Knowles aims to do just that in his new book, The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll, which investigates the historic correlation between the pantheistic priests of yore and the gender-blurring, mutilation-prone avatars of rock. Everyone knows that Jim Morrison was the Lizard King and David Bowie the Starman, but were you aware that the Greek god of debauchery Dionysus "was also closely identified with various groups of long-haired, armored priests, whose thrashing musical performances were the headline act of Mystery rituals from Phrygia to Samothrace, from Eleusis to the Vatican Hill"? And there's even more to this ancient analog of glam and metal. Knowles has some persuasive evidence that tight trousers, trashy makeup and high decibels are hardly new under the sun." — Casey Rae-Hunter, thecontrarianmedia.com "Christopher Knowles's The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll is a hit... Christopher presents an intriguing case for his unusual observations and thesis. Because of his scholarly research, which I found illuminating, and of his clear and concise writing style, Knowles's argument is convincing... In the end, The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll is a "wish I'd read this when I was younger"-type book. Indeed, it is a well-written tome positing an unusual thesis not without precedent but uniquely expressed and detailed here in a learned yet friendly manner." — Acharya Sanning, truthbeknown.com "Knowles has done an excellent job of throwing light on the origins of mankind's myths and their rebirth in the rock 'n' roll era, with stories and concepts that transcend time and continue to exert their powerful hold on the nature of what people are." — UFO Magazine "Finally, someone with obsession, intelligence, and (most importantly) taste has placed the gods of rock against the backdrop of the ancient pagan mysteries, to establish what ecstatic fans have known all along: that the transports of rock are the transports of spirit." — Erik Davis, author of Led Zeppelin IV "Mr. Knowles always finds the hidden gnosis at the heart of the seemingly profane, from comics and cartoons to sci-fi, and now to his fascinating treatment of modern popular music. Knowles actually identifies the individual divine archetypes at work, the mystical personae embodied by each of our most widely worshiped rock and pop idols. The Secret History of Rock 'n' Roll elucidates the ancient mystery dramas that many of us were unwittingly initiated into during our youth by an industry merely looking to make a buck from the sale of these apples of forbidden wisdom. No wonder our parents instinctively felt threatened by the music we listened to." — Tracy R Twyman, The Merovingian Mythos and the Mystery of Rennes-le-Chateau "Christopher Knowles has done it again. Having traced for us the esoteric and mystical

roots of the superhero comic in *Our Gods Wear Spandex*, here he traces for us the ancient ecstatic and mystical roots of rock nrsquo; roll, all the way back to the Greek Mysteries and the archetypes of the ancient gods and goddesses, it turns out. Boldly speculative, beautifully written, and eerily onto something, this is a book that reaches out to recover, celebrate, and understand the musical geniuses who helped birth a colorful counterculture that is still with us, humming just under the surface of things." — Jeffrey J. Kripal, J. Newton Rayzor Professor of Religious Studies, Rice University, author of *Authors of the Impossible: The Paranormal and the Sacred*