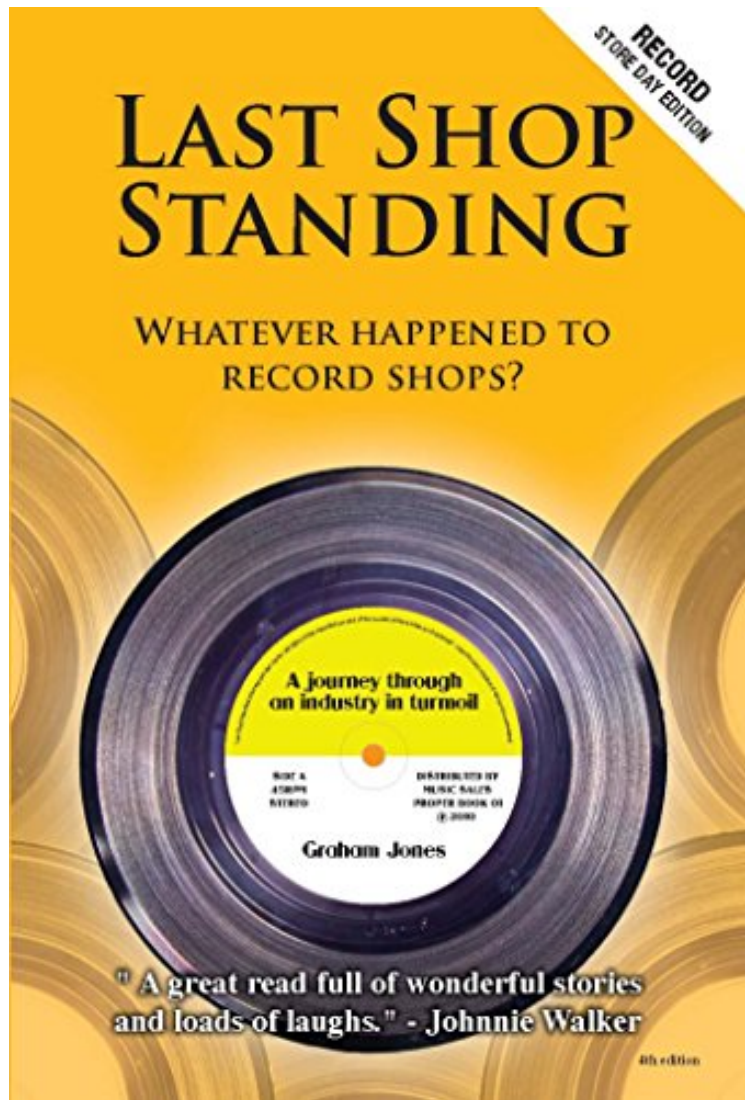


[E-BOOK] Last Shop Standing: Whatever Happened To Record Shops?

Last Shop Standing: Whatever Happened To Record Shops?

Graham Jones

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Graham Jones : Last Shop Standing: Whatever Happened To Record Shops? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Last Shop Standing: Whatever Happened To Record Shops?:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. LAST SHOP STANDINGBy Stuart JeffersonTrade size soft-cover,311 pages including 8 pages of record shops featured in the book,not including two pages of acknowledgements. There are also several pages of black and white photographs that,while interesting,don't add much to the book.This book is an entertaining read from the very beginning. Part of the reason is it's written by an Englishman about record shops,primarily in England. The author's style is informative yet his story is told in that somewhat dry,humorous

English manner. Since his style is very British, the humorous prose is that much more pronounced. However, the subject is not a laughing matter—the demise of the independent record shops throughout England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The author knows of what he writes about. Starting off selling used singles in our version of a flea market, he eventually becomes the founder of Proper Music Distribution. Besides releasing current music, he also releases a wide range of jazz, blues, rockabilly, and other genres of music from the past. Proper's box sets of legendary performers in the above areas are widely known and sought after by music listeners the world over. In an immediate fashion, the beginning of this book lists dozens and dozens of record retailers no longer in business. These are stores that the author knew well, being in the record business for a number of years. Jones states that from 2003, when he had the idea for this book, until 2007, more than two record shops a day went out of business in England and related areas. For anyone who loves browsing in record shops, especially independent retailers, this is serious indeed. This great book is filled with anecdotes of quirky shop owners and staff, and the sometimes even quirkier customers who inhabit them. The author tells many stories of his adventures in the music business, dealing with relatively unknown bands and managers, and other areas and people he came in contact with. There are also small tales of groups like THE BEATLES, LED ZEPPELIN, THE SEX PISTOLS and others. All of this is told with humor (especially if you're not British) yet the overall seriousness of the subject is never far from center. Jones explains why some retailers are still in business, and why many others are now just a memory. But this story is never dry reading. Admittedly, this book will probably appeal to only a select few, those who like/liked browsing in independent, sometimes esoteric record stores, sometimes staffed with quirky though knowledgeable people—something that has now passed into history, for the most part. However, the author's wit combined with his working knowledge of these establishments, and the music business, combine to forge a compelling picture of the "brick-and mortar" music retailing industry. Sadly, the term industry may not be the word to describe the few remaining shops left. After reading this book, you, too, may find yourself wishing for a store, where you can talk to people who are as excited about the music you like, as you are. And that is what this book is really about. The sad facts are told with humor, which makes this book a "cut above".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice idea, bit repetitive
By Jammer13
Things must be moving fast because some of this reads like eons ago. Some good anecdotes and interesting business insights become outweighed by the book's format. Visiting every store still standing is a good idea but loses its appeal after a short while. The author is enthusiastic and energetic but sometimes it's too close to an analysis of a customer portfolio. Could be pepped up with some data, ex. Top ten sales via indie channel, predictions for the future, the record label and supermarket chains point of view.

Not long ago there was one in every High Street. But an astonishing 540 of them closed down between 2004 and 2008. Last Shop Standing lifts the lid on an industry in tatters. Graham Jones has worked at the heart of record retailing since the golden era of the 1980s. He was there during the years of plenty and has witnessed the tragic decline of a business blighted by corruption and corporate greed. Undertaking a tour of the last remaining independent record shops in Britain, he has collected a wealth of entertaining stories that explain why the best are still standing, and how the worst of them blew it. In telling the tale of the industry's sad decline Graham Jones has unearthed wry anecdotes about dozens of rock stars and music industry figures, including The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Queen, David Bowie, The Sex Pistols, Joy Division, Oasis, John Peel and many others. Last Shop Standing is a hilarious yet harrowing account by a man who has been there and sold that. It is a book that will bring a wry smile to the face of anyone who has ever bought a CD or attended a concert, and still has the T-shirt to prove it.