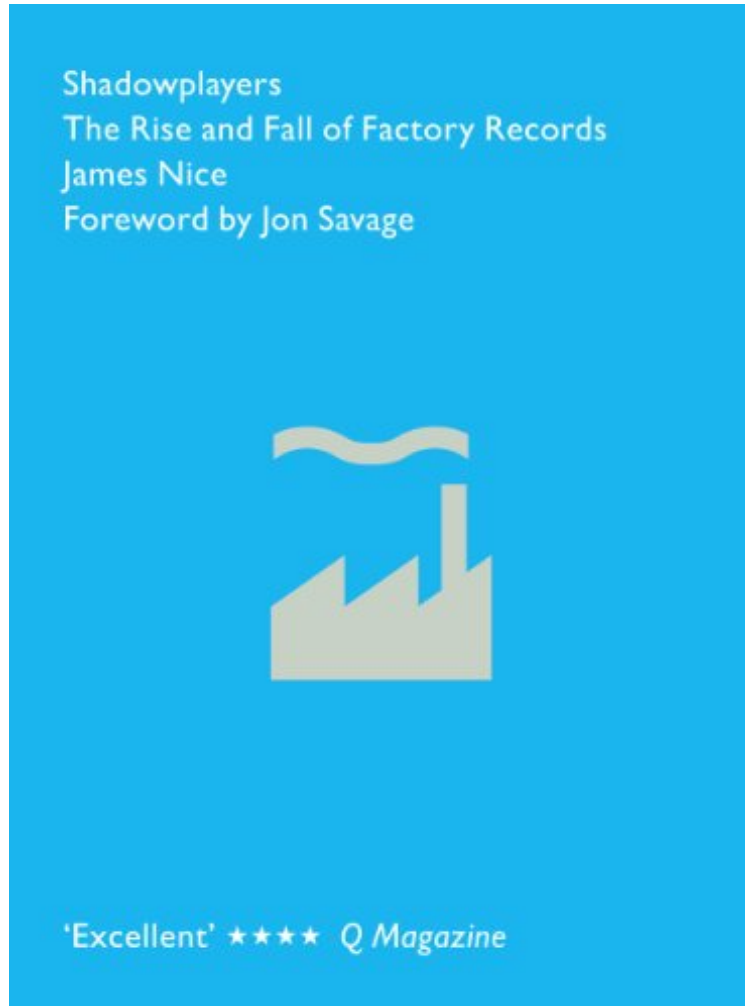


(Download pdf ebook) Shadowplayers: The Rise and Fall of Factory Records

Shadowplayers: The Rise and Fall of Factory Records

James Nice

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James Nice : Shadowplayers: The Rise and Fall of Factory Records before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadowplayers: The Rise and Fall of Factory Records:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. REALLY WELL WRITTEN, Informative, Entertaining, and CompleteBy thediamondseal read a lot of pop music histories/memoirs/biographies, and most are obviously rush jobs thrown together by busy journalists who lack the time or inclination to edit their work, with crappy punctuation and obvious mistakes and misquotes. The Brits are often the worst offenders: I don't know why, among other things, they render American voices into British slang--or why they love run on sentences and comma splices. Also, this genre of books usually employs a lot of recycled quotations and offers little new information. That's okay, sometimes, but not when the book presents itself as serious or definitive.Maybe because I had low expectations, I was shocked by what a great book this is. Part of Factory's mystique will probably always lie in the web of obfuscation that Tony Wilson successfully spun around its creation, along with the confused and sad hagiography of Ian Curtis. This book doesn't

claim to exactly set the record straight. Instead, I think its purpose is to tell the story of an interesting, complicated cultural phenomenon through the voices of as many of its creators and participants as possible--not just the Factory management team, a couple of superstar bands and Paul Morley, although of course they're all in here, too. The wealth of insight all of these smart, dedicated people have to offer about their experiences then and now is astonishing and entertaining as hell. Many of them are still active players in the cultural scene they helped create, and their continued commitment to their work may be the best argument for Factory's integrity and enduring legacy. The author writes witty prose to match the quality of his subject and his sources. He put time and love into this project, and it shows. Even if you don't care about Factory Records, you will probably enjoy this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Detailed
By Nathan L Rodenbeck
Very detailed account of an idea that couldn't be sustained unfortunately. Highly recommended along with Peter Hooks great book *The Hacienda: How Not to Run a Club*.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive History
By Lypo Suck
If you are rabidly obsessed with Factory Records and much of its output, you absolutely need this book. James Nice (who runs LTM, a label known for its extensive reissues of classic Factory albums) offers an extremely thorough and well researched biography on Tony Wilson's horribly mismanaged but very well-intentioned, legendary Mancunian indie label. This should be viewed as the definitive history, as it's not colored by Wilson's penchant for propagating colorful myths over the true story (however mundane or embarrassing it may be). Nice's attention to every last detail is commendable, as are the extensive and revealing quotes and interviews. Nice delves deep into the darkest corners of the Factory catalog, taking care to cover the many obscure artists, like the Wake, Stockholm Monsters, Crispy Ambulance, and Swamp Children/Kalima, etc, and sheds lots of light on Factory's sister labels, Factory Benelux, Operation Twilight, and Les Disques du Crepuscule. So, it's not merely a run through of the career trajectories of Joy Division, New Order, Durutti Column, and Happy Mondays, although obviously these artists figure prominently in the label's narrative. We also get the dirt on the Hacienda nightclub, as well as Wilson's other attempt at influencing Manchester's urban environment and youth culture, Dry Bar. Nice's writing style is a bit on the dry side, but the book itself is quite readable, and I honestly couldn't put it down. Additionally, a wonderful visual companion to Nice's book is *Factory Records: The Complete Graphic Album*, which displays album cover art in chronological order for every one of Factory's releases. Get both and ignore all your friends and family while you hole up and immerse yourself in Factory's rich, wild history!

In 1978, a 'Factory for Sale' sign gave Alan Erasmus and Tony Wilson a name for their fledgling Manchester club night. Though they couldn't have known it at the time, this was the launch of one of the most significant musical and cultural legacies of the late twentieth century. The club's electrifying live scene soon translated to vinyl, and Factory Records went on to become the most innovative and celebrated record label of the next thirty years. Always breaking new musical ground, Factory introduced the listening public to bands such as Joy Division, whose *Unknown Pleasures* was the label's first album release, New Order, Durutti Column and Happy Mondays. Propelled onwards by the inspirational cultural entrepreneur, Tony Wilson, Factory always sought new ways to energise the popular consciousness, such as the infamous Hacienda nightclub, which enjoyed a chequered 15-year history after opening in 1982. *Shadowplayers* is the most complete, authoritative and thoroughly researched account of how a group of provincial anarchists and entrepreneurs saw off bankers, journalists and gun-toting gangsters to create the most influential record label of modern times. Based on both archive and contemporary sources, the book tells the full story of Factory's heroic struggles, its complex web of inventive, idiosyncratic and tragic personalities, and ultimately, the acclaimed and much-loved music it produced.

About the Author James Nice is an author, journalist, and record-label owner. He once worked for Factory Benelux and now administers much of the former Factory catalogue.