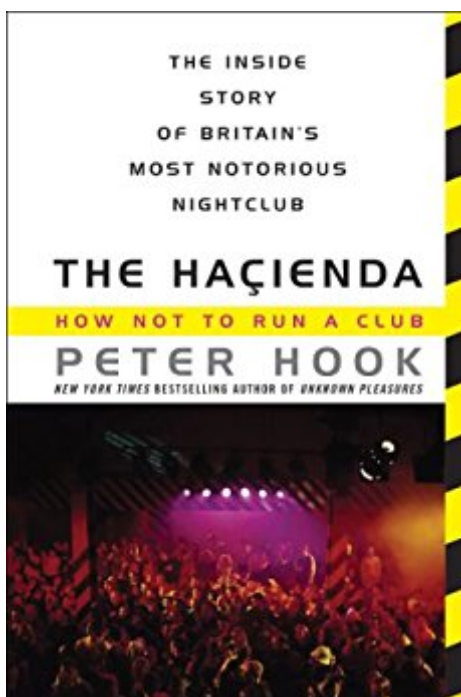


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The Hacienda: How Not To Run A Club



Synopsis

The acclaimed and wildly outlandish inside account of England's most notorious music club, The Hacienda, from Peter Hook, the New York Times bestselling author of *Unknown Pleasures* and co-founder of Joy Division and New Order—a story of music, gangsters, drugs, and violence, available for the first time in the United States. During the 1980s, The Hacienda would become one of the most famous venues in the history of clubbing—a celebrated cultural watershed alongside Studio 54, CBGBS, and The Whiskey—until its tragic demise. Founded by New Order and Factory Records, The Hacienda hosted gigs by such legendary acts as the Stone Roses, the Smiths, Bauhaus, Grandmaster Flash, Run DMC, Kurtis Blow, and Happy Mondays; gave birth to the "Madchester" scene; became the cathedral for acid house; and laid the tracks for rave culture and today's electronic dance music. But over the course of its fifteen-year run, "Madchester" descended into "Gunchester" as gangs, drugs, greed, and a hostile police force decimated the dream. Told in Hook's uproarious and uncompromising voice, *The Hacienda* is a funny, horrifying, and outlandish story of success, idealism, naïveté, and greed of an incredible time and place that would change the face and sound of modern music. The Hacienda includes 32 photographs in 16-page four-color insert.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a huge fan of New Order, Joy Division and the whole Factory Music world. That's why I would recommend this book only to the diehard fan. The book chronicles Peter Hook's (bassist New Order) experience of Manchester during the roaring '80s and early '90s. The book says it's about running a club, but even Hook is honest about not being much of a manager. The first half of the book is mostly about Hook being drugged out of his head and barely remembering the multiple times that his band was fleeced of money in order to keep the club open. Which gets me to the writing: fifth grade level. Hook writes in a stream of consciousness, conversational way. It's entertaining, but often difficult to understand. He uses a lot of incomplete sentences and phrases which allows the reader to try connect them into something resembling an idea. Having said that, for the true fan, you will love this book for the little stories that pop out.

This is one entertaining book: it recounts the problems Hooky and New Order and Tony Wilson, let's say everyboy in Factory, ran into by running one of the most famous clubs around. For those who do not know: Peter Hook is/was the bassplayer with Joy Division/New Order and their success financed Factory records and then the famous Hacienda. As he calls it: how not to run a club. Because despite being successful and legendary, the club not only went bankrupt but dragged all of New Order and Factory with it. Hook describes all this wonderfully; it is amazing that such a talented lot of people were actually not able to control their financial destiny in such a way. One has to read this book, really. I for one always loved Factory records and together with 24 hour party people this will partly make you understand what happened to that great record label.

Another saga in the glorious Manchester mythology. The year is 2010 and nothing new on the subject had appeared for a while. That was the reason I bought it (not to mention a transatlantic flight to endure). This beatification of Factory Records and their impact on Manchester (and world) music was started by Tony Wilson straight after Factory Records' bankruptcy in 1993, and Peter Hook seems to have picked up Wilson's baton following the latter's death in 2007. About the book. Hook is by no means a writer but he has a story to tell, admittedly a true story that would defy the myths surrounding The Hacienda. So the writing style aside, we are left with facts and myriad numbers - profits, sales, losses, taxes, etc., sometimes you feel like you're in an accountant's office. I liked some bits, like for example about New Order recording "Technique" on Ibiza, and how Rob Gretton (New Order's manager) was almost mysteriously bonded to The Hacienda: despite all ill, Gretton held to the club to the last second of its existence, when Factory Records and New Order

had been long gone. Basically the club existed solely at the expense of the young, carefree members of New Order who siphoned their money like chips into the fireplace. It's an OK book, strictly for Factory/Madchester fanatics. Sometimes I catch myself regretting about these tell-all books about Joy Division/New Order. When I grew up listening to New Order, there was no Internet, no books and barely any media coverage on the subject. You felt privileged to get a new record or get a bit of news on them. I mean they were really a cult band, which contributed to the charm to their fantastic music.

this is a great book, but I got to be honest, there are a lot of details which are only for hardcore fans of that era. I love all the details that Peter got into to explain and talk about many things. This is nice reading aside a detailed review of facts, people, attitudes and fashion. The Hacienda plays an important piece of the action of the 80's and 90's Manchester, if you love and want to learn more of this, this is the book. There are a lot of statistics, if you are into that.

Much preferred Hook's other book. This one ... focuses on the defunct club that New Order co-owned. Despite some really cool stories here and there... it didn't grab me like his other book on Joy Division. Hook is a good writer... but this one got a bit tedious. Printing the budgets, and the lists of every appearance... I didn't think it was necessary in the body of the book. Maybe as an appendix... but I didn't enjoy that part of it. Honestly... I haven't finished it yet... don't know if I will. I'm like 75% there, and I've gotten the point. If I do revisit the book (I bought the electronic version on my Kindle), then I'll come back and update this review. Essential buying if you're a fan of NEW ORDER or a HOOK completist... for some background info you get. Wish there had been MORE photos of the club.

This book is a padded out piece of s***. While the bits about being drunk and loaded on drugs 24/7 and getting away with crimes is mildly amusing, this "book" could have been a 30 page pamphlet and been just as effective. There are pages upon pages of totally pointless transcriptions of meeting minutes and (as Peter Hook admits and asserts again and again [and AGAIN] throughout the span) financial projections, statements, and receipts that are totally fake and 100% made up at the time he and the rest of New Order were pretending to run the club business. WHY even include this completely BORING and pointless crap?? Oh yeah, to be able to pad out a complete book, which they could then sell for twice the price! Of course! Natural geniuses, they are!! I'm pretty sure ol' "Hooky" would admit all this himself if you bought him a pint and asked him nicely.

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