

10 CAN'T STAND UP FOR FALLING DOWN

Allan Jones
BLOOMSBURY



Uncut's founding editor collated his war stories, many of which first appeared in his column for this magazine. Punchy, often inebriated encounters with Bowie, Reed, Costello, Cohen, Morrison et al ranged from the tragicomic to the comically tragic, with Jones' combative style extracting maximum yield from each bout.

9 FOLK SONG IN ENGLAND

FABER



Authoritative and immensely readable, at 800 pages, Roud's four-part study of the provenance, evolution and significance of the English folk-song tradition spanned the 1500s to the 1950s, taking in everything from drunken Dickensian choirs to Edwardian song collectors. The result was a colourfully evocative work of social history.

8 MUTE: A VISUAL DOCUMENT FROM 1978 → TOMORROW

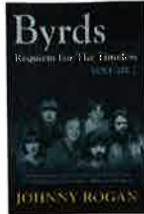
Terry Burrows with Daniel Miller
THAMES & HUDSON



A beautifully crafted celebration of "the accidental label" that brought us Nick Cave And The Bad Seeds and Depeche Mode, among other notables. Mute embraced both the margins and the mainstream while maintaining a genuinely adventurous identity. It was all here, in words and pictures.

7 THE BYRDS: REQUIEM FOR THE TIMELESS, VOLUME 2

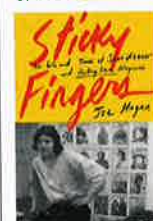
Johnny Rogan
ROGANHOUSE



Rogan's first volume on The Byrds was the definitive account of the band. Volume Two – all 1,200 pages – ventured into the shadowlands, exploring the lives of six deceased members – Gene Clark, Michael Clarke, Kevin Kelley, Gram Parsons, Clarence White and Skip Battin – with compassion, insight and forensic detail.

6 STICKY FINGERS: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JANN WENNER & ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE

Joe Hagan
CANONGATE



Anointed by Wenner to write the story of his eventful life, Joe Hagan was subsequently cast into outer darkness by his subject – a sign he probably got something right. Featuring a Who's Who of rock giants, it was both an entertaining portrait of a flawed, mercurial figure and a history of rock's glorious, grotesque pomp.

5 ART SEX MUSIC

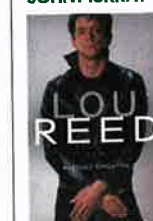
Cosey Fanni Tutti
FABER



Performance artist, pornographic actor and founding member of Throbbing Gristle, Christine Newby's uncompromising career straddled strip joints, auspicious rock venues and elite art galleries, not without pain and struggle. *Art Sex Music* was her fearless and frequently eye-popping account of it all.

4 LOU REED: A LIFE

Anthony De Curtis
JOHN MURRAY



An even-handed, scholarly study of Reed's life and art, assembled with insight by a writer who knew him well. Drawing on an impressive cast of contributors, De Curtis went deep

into the music and used his access wisely, humanising a much-mythologised man.

3 MEET ME IN THE BATHROOM

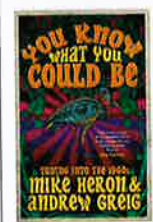
Lizzy Goldman
FABER



An exhaustive, contradictory and gossipy oral history of the NYC scene that coalesced around The Strokes' millennial notoriety. Interviewing everyone who mattered, and plenty who didn't, Goldman captured the youthful excitement of it all exploding – as well as hanging Ryan Adams out to dry.

2 YOU KNOW WHAT YOU COULD BE: TUNING INTO THE 1960S

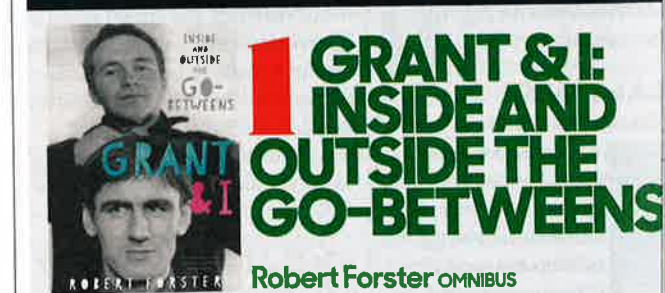
Mike Heron & Andrew Greig
QUERCUS



Psychedelic-folk progenitors The Incredible String Band were no conventional group, and this was no conventional biography. Written in sequence by Mike Heron and poet/novelist Andrew Greig, the complementary stories of bohemian rebirth captured not just the 1960s' exotic allure, but those free-spirited few years before the 1960s became 'The Sixties'.



BOOK OF THE YEAR



1 GRANT & I: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE GO-BETWEENS
Robert Forster OMNIBUS

THE Go-Betweens were a band to treasure, and Robert Forster wrote a memoir worthy not just of their music, but of the complex friendship between the author and his partner, Grant McLennan, which underpinned it. *Grant & I* was a poignant, thoughtful and elegantly written account of Forster's staid upbringing; his search for identity within a band clinging to the coat-tails of the music business and above all, his efforts to fathom McLennan's mercurial nature. As Forster settled into something approaching midlife stability, he watched in sadness and exasperation as his friend took the wrong road, ending in his premature death in 2006. A brave and beautiful attempt to comprehend the incomprehensible. **GRAEME THOMSON**