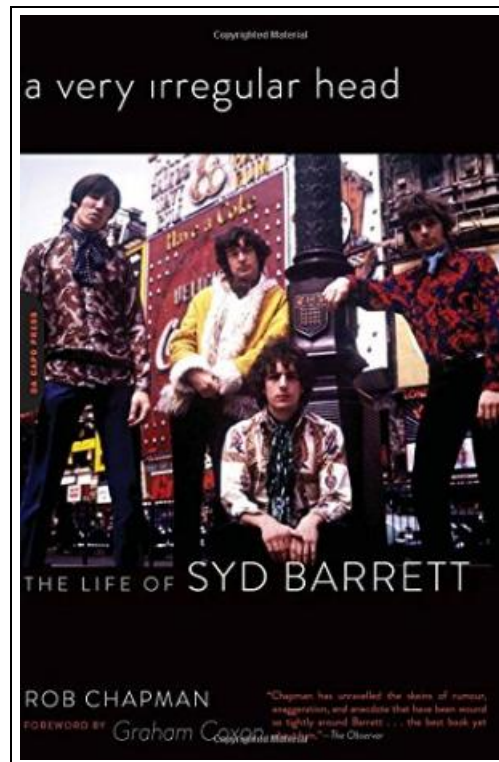


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A VERY IRREGULAR HEAD: THE LIFE OF SYD BARRETT (PAPERBACK)

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INGRAM PUBLISHER SERVICES US, United Kingdom, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. I don't think I'm easy to talk about. I've got a very irregular head. And I'm not anything that you think I am anyway. --Syd Barrett's last interview, Rolling Stone, 1971 Roger Keith Syd Barrett (1946-2006) was, by all accounts, the very definition of a golden boy. Blessed with good looks and a natural aptitude for painting and music, he was a charismatic, elfin child beloved by all, who fast became a teenage leader in Cambridge, England, where a burgeoning bohemian scene was flourishing in the early 1960s. Along with three friends and collaborators--Roger Waters, Richard Wright, and Nick Mason--he formed what would soon become Pink Floyd, and rock n roll was never the same. Starting as a typical British cover band aping approximations of American rhythm n blues, they soon pioneered an entirely new sound, and British psychedelic rock was born. With early, trippy, Barrett-penned pop hits such as Arnold Layne (about a clothesline-thieving cross-dresser) and See Emily Play (written specifically for the epochal Games For May concert), Pink Floyd, with Syd Barrett as their main creative visionary, captured the zeitgeist of Swinging London in all its Technicolor glory. But there was a dark side to all this new-found freedom. Barrett, like so many around him, began ingesting large quantities of a revolutionary new drug, LSD, and his already-fragile mental state--coupled with a personality inherently unsuited to the life of a pop star--began to unravel. The once bright-eyed lad was quickly replaced, seemingly overnight, by a glowering, sinister, dead-eyed shadow of his former self, given to erratic, highly eccentric, reclusive, and sometimes violent behavior. Inevitably sacked from the band, Barrett retreated from London to his mother's...

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