Most people that know me know that 80's music is the genre that I love most, and pop music of the 80's even more so. I can distinctly remember the first time I saw the video for Wake Me Up Before You Go Go, and though that song and video were a little hokey at the time, it didn't matter.
They instantly hit it off, and their boyhood escapades at Bushy Meads School built a bond that was never broken. George Michael has always been the one to receive the most attention. As the front man, lead singer and songwriter, that makes sense.

A lot of people, especially those younger than me, may not even know who Andrew Ridgeley is. Though Andrew seemed to be the one to initiate and be more serious about breaking out as a band initially, he had a much more laissez-faire attitude overall, whereas George started out insecure but evolved into someone obsessed with being the best and was a perfectionist. I'll admit that George is always the one I tended to follow, and I really didn't know much about Andrew as the other half, so reading things from his point of view in this book was refreshing.

This memoir goes into a little bit of Andrew's growing up years, but the emphasis is from the time the two met at school as pre-teens Andrew volunteered to be a mentor to George, the new kid in class up through the point where the band performed its last performance in Above all else, the recurring theme is that the two were best friends, both with a love for music. There were times, while reading, where I thought Andrew was trying a little too hard to convince readers that he wasn't just in the background, but he also repeatedly was quick to admit that George had the true gift of songwriting, with a voice to match, and that the band evolved to showcase George's talents, eventually setting him up to go solo. This was not the best memoir I've read -- at times it felt clunky -- but I raced through and enjoyed the nostalgia of it. There are also a lot of great photos included, both of Andrew's childhood and of candid shots during the band's rise to fame.

I had such mixed feelings while reading this: I loved going back to the 80's time period, but it also made me very sad that here we are, 35 years later already. How is that possible? Despite the title, I thought this would be more Andrew Ridgeley's own life story, but I think he wisely recognises that Wham! Still, the brief success of Wham! Andrew is both honest and humble in his reminiscing, proud and somewhat awestruck by what Georgios 'Yog' Panayiotou became, but also keen to point out that he was the one with the burning ambition and teenage self-confidence to start a band in the first place. George, Andrew, his brother Paul and a couple of friends started out as 'The Executive', trying to get gigs at local venues such as scout hails, before the number was whittled down to just two, with Shirlie Holliman joining as backing singer and dancer.

Andrew Ridgeley, now known as the 'forgotten' half of Wham! But curly-haired, bespectacled Yog was clearly the star in making, changing his name and perfecting his voice - a lot like Freddie - to become George Michael. The story starts at the end, with Wham! I've always loved Wham! Andrew even comments that he felt like a kid in nappies performing alongside the greats like Queen and Elton John at Live Aid. Andrew also touches on his friend's decision to hide his sexuality and keep his private life private, despite coming out to his friends when he was in his early twenties. George Michael only publicly acknowledged being gay in an interview with Oprah Winfrey, after being arrested for lewd behaviour in LA, but Andrew recognises that his decision to 'play it straight' was probably the right one, considering how the press treated him anyway. While the book is focused on Michael, it isn't an explosive tell-all — but that makes it a more enjoyable read. Ridgeley's motivations for writing the book seem as rooted in telling his side of the Wham!


Wham!, George Michael and Me by Andrew Ridgeley: | : Books

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The duo found themselves riding an astonishing roller coaster of success, taking them all over the world. They made and broke iconic records, they were treated like gods, but they stayed true to their friendship and ultimately to themselves. It was a party that seemed as if it would never end. And then it did, in front of tens of thousands of tearful fans at Wembley Stadium in Personal Memoirs.

About the author AR. Reviews What people think about Wham! Rate as 1 out of 5, I didn't like it at all. Rate as 2 out of 5, I didn't like it that much. Rate as 3 out of 5, I thought it was OK. Rate as 4 out of 5, I liked it. Rate as 5 out of 5, I loved it. Rating: 0 out of 5 stars.

Wham!, George Michael and Me by Andrew Ridgeley | Audiobook |

One of my biggest regrets was never seeing wham or George live. This book is a must read, Andrew telling their story from the beginning and was from the heart. What a beautiful friendship they had! Wh I loved wham from the age of 12, my life was always George. While I was reading the book and Andrew was describing each song and video they filmed, I stopped and would watch each one on u tube. This really brought the book and George and Andrew to life! Would defo recommend doing this! Like other reviews, this book made me laugh out loud and actually sob at the end, remembering that day when I heard that George had passed away. I still absolutely love their music, and play it regularly. Thank you to Andrew for letting us read all about wham from the start! Jan 07, Kimberly rated it it was ok. A disappointingly shallow recounting of their relationship from middle school onwards. This fact also need not be reiterated every 30 or so pages.

Emotional events about the direction of the group were skimmed over in a nonchalant way and then a dozen pages from the end, we leap from A disappointingly shallow recounting of their relationship from middle school onwards. Emotional events about the direction of the group were skimmed over in a nonchalant way and then a dozen pages from the end, we leap from recounting’s Live Aid concert to George's death in Nothing about their friendship in those 25 years is mentioned at all. I was hoping to read something new about the bandmates from the group I enjoyed so much in my youth, but there is little actual content here.

Ultimately, enabling him to stay on the path to greatness. So thank you, Andrew. I really wanted to love this book. As much as I love George Michael. However, as other reviewers have pointed out, this book did author Andrew Ridgeley no favors. I agree with reviewers who wrote that this book feels insistent, as if Ridgeley has a chip on his shoulder and needs others to understand that his input in Wham! On the plus side, this book is well-written and a quick read. The pictures are numerous I really wanted to love this book.

The pictures are numerous and great to see. Some reviewers pointed out that they wished the book had painted a more intimate picture of GM, given how close he and Ridgeley were. I think this type of friendship is quite common between young males and especially in the era in which GM and Ridgeley were that young. Bottom line: A quick, interesting read for anyone who was a fan of Wham! On the plus side, this book is well-written and a quick read. The pictures are numerous I really wanted to love this book.

His angle and his perception on how everything went down. Very interesting. Oct 22, Liberty rated it liked it Shelves: memoir , juicy-rock-star-tidbits. Admittedly, I'm the girl who would see the guy tagging along with George Michael on TV and videos, or in my teen magazines, and say, "Who's that guy that's always with George Michael?? I kind of still feel that way after reading this book. While it's fun to hear about the beginnings of the band, their high school years together, their friendship, and stories spanning their career, I probably would not Admittedly, I'm the girl who would see the guy tagging along with George Michael on TV and videos, or in my teen magazines, and say, "Who's that guy that's always with George Michael?? While it's fun to hear about the beginnings of the band, their high school years together, their friendship, and stories spanning their career, I probably would not have immediately dropped twenty bucks on this book were it not for George Michael's face on the cover and his name in the title.

This book kind of reminds me of the book Cured, by Lol Tolhurst, in which he tells the stories of the beginning of The Cure and his friendship during the band's very formative years between himself and Robert Smith. The two books are alike in that they come across as a means to justify the past and straighten out the public's perception of who they were and what part they played in the success of the band. Both books seem somewhat of a grasping effort to take the credit the authors feel they deserved but were never openly lavished with in the heyday of their careers. A lot of,"Well I helped write that song but I let George take all the credit I got my tasty fix of some juicy George details, and Andrew Ridgeley's book debuted number 3 on the UK's top 10 books this week.

I know from reading his book, that his position on the charts is very important to him, so congrats Mr. Ridgeley, on the success of your new book! And thank you for sharing your memories with George Michael fans everywhere. View 2 comments. Jan 07, Monique rated it it was amazing. Bursting with youthful exuberance and joyful energy, sparkling and effervescent, WHAM! I was never a rabid WHAM! But there was always the question: "What did Andrew do, really?" Andrew Ridgeley's prose is effortless, vibrant, fresh, modern, and dynamic. Andrew paints a vivid picture of the Thatcher years, the economic hopelessness that prevailed and the importance music played in the life of English youths. You experience the excitement of an exploding musical revolution as the author describes the clothes, the energy, the creativity that gave the young a reason to live and an escape from the dreary reality. Andrew Ridgeley and George Michael were childhood friends, that friendship was fierce, and Andrew takes the reader right where, when, and how it all happened.
He's candid, honest, very funny, cocky, confident, but not arrogant. He acknowledged his strengths but also his weaknesses; I knew very little about Andrew Ridgeley before reading this book, and now I can say that I admire him, his determination, his fire to succeed, and I wish I had known all that a long time ago. I found him very charming and sympathetic. I was a bit surprised how little there was post-WHAM! And let's not forget the dozens of fab photos in black and white and in colour. Andrew Ridgeley is such a gifted writer, I hope he doesn't stop at this book. Oct 15, Georgette rated it it was amazing Shelves: music-inspired-biographies. A quick read Wham! I really enjoyed the funny captions for Ridgeley's photos, many of which I had never seen before.

I also enjoyed reliving the 80's, even wondering if Ridgeley had a crush on the Durans. It seems like he mentions them a lot! Great book, though. Have your tissues ready. Oct 31, Jo added it Shelves: reviewed. Like most teenagers in the '80s, I remember listening to Wham. A chance to hear from the other half of Wham? Yes please! Andrew Ridgeley takes us from his early childhood, his school years where he met the boy who was to become George Michael that he affectionately called Yog, right through to the height of Wham's fame and beyond.

I absolutely loved reading this - it was a nostalgic trip through my preteen years with the music and the fashions. Ridgeley was always a shadowy sort of figure for me because of my all-encompassing George Michael crush so it was a chance to hear from the other half of Wham? Ridgeley was always a shadowy sort of figure for me because of my all-encompassing George Michael crush so it was nice to read his take on the Wham years. He comes across as so different to how the press made him out to be, he has a lovely acerbic wit when casting a critical eye over some of his sartorial choices in the 80s, and his genuine affection for George comes through the writing. It doesn't contain any earth-shattering revelations but I would recommend this to any Wham fans looking to learn more about the truth behind the band. Whizzed through this on a plane journey. And, like Wham, Ridgeley is well aware of his role as one of the luckiest men in pop.

He seems to have made his peace with it as long ago as Wham! I love George, I love Wham! I loved this. An interesting insight into the Wham! Oct 15, Sam rated it it was amazing. Absolutely loved this book, really well written with some lovely photos and stories. A fitting tribute to Wham! This book is such a lovely read. Absolute kudos to Andrew Ridgeley for writing a book full of warmth, love, humour, respect, appreciation and admiration of his best friend, George Michael. I am a fan of Wham! I have their first album tucked away in my stash of vinyl from my ever distant youth. I saw them live in eighth grade. I can recall the fervor they caused in their red satin hats and matching lounge jackets. To access other site content, visit our homepage. Free Access Account. Log In. Invalid email or password. Try again. Forgot password? Don't have a Library Journal Account? Register Now. Collection Management Fiction Media Nonfiction.

In Gentile on My Mind, Kim tells the complete, no-holds-barred story of their relationship, recounting the highest of highs - award shows, acclaimed performances, the birth of their children, encounters with Mick Fleetwood, Waylon Jennings, and others. By: Kim Campbell. Who but Carol Burnett herself has the timing, talent, and wit to pull back the curtain on the Emmy Award-winning show that made television history for 11 glorious seasons? In Such Good Company delves into little-known stories of the guests, sketches, and antics that made the show legendary as well as some favorite tales too good not to relive again. Carol lays it all out for us, from the show's original conception to its evolution into one of the most beloved prime-time programs of its generation. By: Carol Burnett. But before he created the perfect home for himself in a small patch of downtown New York, Eddie wandered the American wilderness looking for a place to call his own. By: Eddie Huang. For the first time, Andrew Ridgeley - one-half of one of the most famous bands in the world - tells the inside story of Wham! In Andrew took a shy new boy at school under his wing. They instantly hit it off, and their boyhood escapades at Bushy Meads School built a bond that was never broken. The duo found themselves riding an astonishing roller coaster of success, taking them all over the world. They made and broke iconic records, they were treated like gods, but they stayed true to their friendship and ultimately to themselves.

It was a party that seemed as if it would never end. And then it did, in front of tens of thousands of tearful fans at Wembley Stadium in While the book is focused on Michael, it isn't an explosive tell-all - but that makes it a more enjoyable read. Ridgeley's motivations for writing the book seem as rooted in telling his side of the Wham! Written in sepia hues that allow Wham! During Wham's heyday, it was pretty easy to write Andrew Ridgley off as a hanger-on who brought little to the table in light of George Michael's undeniable star power. Perhaps that's what I appreciated most about this memoir: getting some insight into the intelligent and kind man who gave George a springboard to become the pop virtuoso that he eventually became via the duo's introduction to the world as Wham.

Both by what he says, and by what he doesn't say, Ridgeley's respect and affection for George comes through loud and clear here. There's no deep
dive into George's fall from grace, untimely death, or anything particularly sordid revealed. True to its title, the book is primarily just about Ridgely and Michael's time in Wham, with some background on their childhood friendship and brief mentions of George's post-Wham solo career and their relationship afterward. Nothing here is that surprising or shocking, but Ridgely constructs his tale lovingly and engagingly, and does a fantastic job of reminding us just how exciting and, like this memoir, brief the Wham era was. All the way around, I was reminded what a smart and engaging piece of work this was, and what a surprisingly kind and classy fellow Ridgely must be. Loved it. Andrew is fabulous. He isn't just the other guy. This lovingly written memoir gives an insider's view of Wham! Ridgeley does a great job of providing insight into Michael's personality without overstepping or defaulting to pseudo-psychiatry.

My only complaint with this book is that it is too short. More on their relationship in the post-Wham! Well written, solid audio performance, and an all around pleasure. Thank you for bringing such a personal view of the relationship you and George had. Thank you Sir. This was my first audiobook. Neil S-. Getting an inside view of their adventures from their early school days through to the formation and success of Wham! I will definitely listen again! I will be listening to Wham as I always do but with a more colourful perspective.

I was never a screaming fan but I still love their music for what it is. For years, I had mistakenly thought that Andrew Ridgeley was simply a hanger on in the Wham duo. It wasn't until George Michael's untimely passing that I learned that--had it not been for Andrew Ridgeley--the world might never have had George Michael. In addition to being a huge fan of George Michael's voice and music, I am fascinated by his life, by what exceptional talent and fame do to people. I was, therefore, interested in Andrew's account of their friendship and of their rise to stardom in Wham. I ultimately found Andrew's story to be both melancholy and wistful. What do you do when your childhood best friend and your musical partner starts outpacing you with his talent?

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That 80's duo of George Michael and another guy? They wrote a couple of songs, made it big and then split up? Well, the other guy wrote a book about their beginnings, their fast friendship and pop stardom. It's actually a quiet good memoir. The other guy, Andrew Ridgeley, by the way, met Georgios Panayiotou in high school and soon discovered their mutual love of music. They each wrote lyrics and music and admired the same musicians. According to the author, he was instrumental in encouraging the apprehensive and far from confident Yog to form a band.

Their journey to the top of the charts is a fun read and offers a bit of a backstory to their rise and mutually agreed upon split which led to superstardom for one. Read the book for the great photos, listen to the audio for the story read in the authors own words. One of my regrets is that I never had the opportunity to see Wham! George died on Christmas Day, and as far as deaths of famous entertainers go, his has probably been the one that was most difficult for me to accept. Most people that know me know that 80's music is the genre that I love most, and pop music of the 80's even more so.

I can distinctly remember the first time I saw the video for Wake Me Up Before You Go Go, and though that song and video were a little hokey at the time, it didn't matter. It was catchy, and they were fun to look at, and I was a fan. I was sad to see them break up, but I continued to enjoy George Michael as his solo career took off as well. George Michael has always been the one to receive the most attention. As the front man, lead singer and songwriter, that makes sense. A lot of people, especially those younger than me, may not even know who Andrew Ridgeley is.

Though Andrew seemed to be the one to initiate and be more serious about breaking out as a band initially, he had a much more laissez-faire attitude overall, whereas George started out insecure but evolved into someone obsessed with being the best and was a perfectionist.
