



Scattershot Life, Music, Elton and Me

Bernie Taupin

Keynote

An evocative, clear-eyed, and revealing memoir by Bernie Taupin, the lyrical master and longtime collaborator of Elton John.

Description

'This is the most glorious of books. I am besotted by the life I never knew he had.' -Elton John

'Orgasmic. Every page of *Scattershot* is a delight, a joy, a name-dropper fan's delight. Divine. I couldn't put it down.' -Pete Townshend

'In Bernie Taupin's miraculous memoir *Scattershot* you'll meet legends, cowboys, geniuses, unforgettable faces in the night, shady purveyors of outrageous fortune, warriors of the heart, and most of all, Taupin himself. Hilarious and so emotionally true, *Scattershot* is like a letter from a cherished friend. You'll want to keep it close, so you can read it again and again.' - Cameron Crowe

'Taupin's words need no musical accompaniment. They sing with a poet's voice.' -Gary Oldman

'Eloquent and inspiring, *Scattershot* is a freewheeling memoir that is as warm and evocative as Bernie Taupin's most memorable lyrics. A born storyteller, Taupin gives us the life of an artist whose outlook was shaped by a rare but fascinating blend of lifelong innocence and endless intellectual curiosity.' - Robert Hilburn, author of *Johnny Cash: The Life*

"I loved writing, I loved chronicling life and every moment I was cogent, sober, or blitzed, I was forever feeding off my surroundings, making copious notes as ammunition for future compositions. . . . The thing is good, bad or indifferent I never stopped writing, it was as addictive as any drug."

This is the memoir music fans have been waiting for. Half of one of the greatest creative partnerships in popular music, Bernie Taupin is the man who wrote the lyrics for Elton John, who conceived the ideas that spawned countless hits, and sold millions and millions of records. Together, they were a duo, a unit, an immovable object. Their extraordinary, half-century-and-counting creative relationship has been chronicled in biopics (like 2019's *Rocketman*) and even John's own autobiography, *Me*. But Taupin, a famously private person, has kept his own account of their adventures close to his chest, until now.

Written with honesty and candour, *Scattershot* allows the reader to witness events unfolding from Taupin's singular perspective, sometimes front and center, sometimes from the edge, yet always described vibrantly, with an infectious energy that only a vivid songwriter's prose could offer. From his childhood in the East Midlands of England whose imagination was sparked and forever informed by the distinctly American mythopoeics of country music and cowboys, to the glittering, star-studded fishbowl of '70s and '80s Beverly Hills, *Scattershot* is simultaneously a *Tom Jones*-like picaresque journey across a landscape of unforgettable characters, as well as a striking, first-hand account of a creative era like no other and one man's experience at the core of it.

An exciting, multi-decade whirlwind, *Scattershot* whizzes around the world as we ride shotgun with Bernie on his extraordinary life. We visit New York with him and Elton on the cusp of global fame. We spend time with him in Australia almost in residency at an infamous rock 'n' roll hotel in an endless blizzard of drugs. And we spend late, late night hours with John Lennon, with Bob Marley, and hanging with Frank Sinatra. And beyond the world of popular music, we witness memorable encounters with writers like Graham Greene, painters like Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali, and scores of notable misfits, miscreants, eccentrics, and geniuses, known and unknown. Even if they're not famous in their own right, they are stars on the page, and we discover how they inspired the indelible lyrics to songs such as "Tiny Dancer," "Candle in the Wind," "Bennie and The Jets," and so many more.

Unique and utterly compelling, *Scattershot* will transport the reader across the decades and around the globe, along the way meeting some of the greatest creative minds of the 20th century, and into the vivid imaginings of one of music's most legendary lyricists.

Sales Points

- **A LIFE'S WORK:** Spanning over 50 years of Bernie's career, this book will feature many iconic moments in music history and evoke the heady party atmosphere that he so often inhabited.

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Podcast	Refer to Publisher
Translation	Refer to Publisher
Undramatised (straight) reading	Refer to Publisher
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- **LYRICIST BEHIND MANY CLASSIC HITS:** Taupin's memoir will include his recollections of writing the lyrics for dozens of Elton John's most beloved hits.
- **CLOSE CONNECTIONS:** Bernie and Elton are still working together to this day, they are close collaborators and personal friends.
- **ROCKETMAN:** Bernie was a prominent character in the Elton John Biopic, *Rocketman* (2019), portrayed by Jamie Bell.
- **IN THE PUBLIC EYE:** Bernie was awarded the CBE in the Queen's 2021 honour's list. Related press speculated on the detail of his rewriting of 'Candle In The Wind' for Diana's funeral.

Reviews

- 'Orgasmic. Every page of *Scattershot* is a delight, a joy, a name-dropper fan's delight. Divine. I couldn't put it down' - *Pete Townshend*
- 'In Bernie Taupin's miraculous memoir *Scattershot* you'll meet legends, cowboys, geniuses, unforgettable faces in the night, shady purveyors of outrageous fortune, warriors of the heart, and most of all, Taupin himself. Hilarious and so emotionally true, *Scattershot* is like a letter from a cherished friend. You'll want to keep it close, so you can read it again and again' - *Cameron Crowe*
- 'Taupin's words need no musical accompaniment. They sing with a poet's voice' - *Gary Oldman*
- 'Eloquent and inspiring, *Scattershot* is a freewheeling memoir that is as warm and evocative as Bernie Taupin's most memorable lyrics. A born storyteller, Taupin gives us the life of an artist whose outlook was shaped by a rare but fascinating blend of lifelong innocence and endless intellectual curiosity' - *Robert Hilburn, author of Johnny Cash: The Life*

Author Biography

Bernie Taupin is an English lyricist who has worked in partnership with legendary singer, composer, pianist, and worldwide icon Elton John since 1967 and has written the lyrics for most of John's famous hits, including "Rocket Man," "Candle in the Wind," "Crocodile Rock", "Your Song," "I'm Still Standing," and countless others. One of the most successful and long-running musical collaborations in music history, John and Taupin received the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame, a lifetime achievement Grammy, an Academy Award, and many more. In 2022, Taupin was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to music. He lives in Southern California.

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