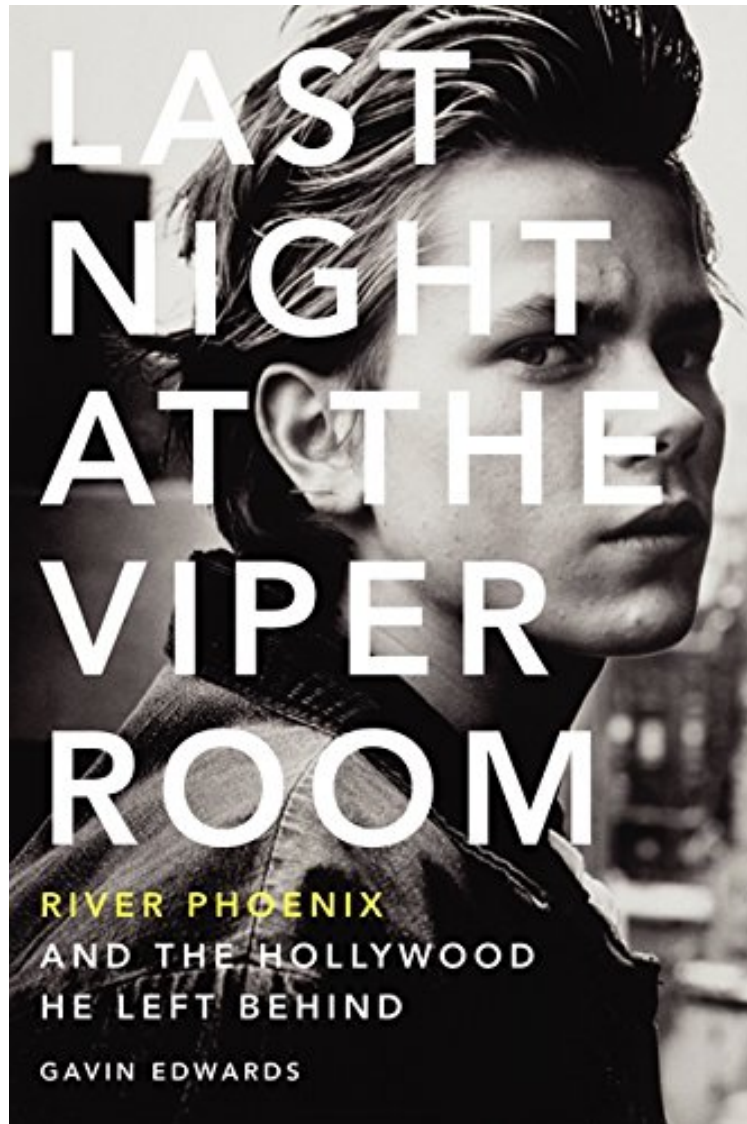


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# Last Night at the Viper Room: River Phoenix and the Hollywood He Left Behind

Gavin Edwards

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#47199 in Books Edwards Gavin 2014-10-21 2014-10-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062273175288 pages Last Night at the Viper Room River Phoenix and the Hollywood He Left Behind | File size: 20.Mb

Gavin Edwards : Last Night at the Viper Room: River Phoenix and the Hollywood He Left Behind before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Last Night at the Viper Room: River Phoenix and the Hollywood He Left Behind:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tragic and mysticBy Victoria NicholsonI dug the anagram the

author noticed. It was tragic and mystic. Phoenix had a interesting life. I admired what he did by buying up land and how sweet he was. Phoenix was a wonderful gullible idealistic hippie type . He made a good grunge era symbol alongside Soundgarden, Nirvana, Sharon Stone, and others. Yes, and if what happened to him does not hammer home the message not to do illegal drugs then I doubt anything much will. "Requiem for a Dream" also shows the immorality of parts of the drug culture. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An Uncomfortable Deja Vu By LAI have to give this only one star. Perhaps the author managed to come up with sources indential to the book, In Search of River Phoenix: The Truth Behind the Myth, by Barry C. Lawrence and Wm. Richert. It's hard to say. What's not hard to say is that while the latter book went off onto tangents that were at times rather bizarre, and felt as though they were there to 'pad' the book, it's also true that if you read that book, you'll feel an uncomfortable dj vu while reading this one, as far too many times it's word for word. In addition, a substantial portion of this slim text is in fact footnotes or annotations, making the substantive portion of the book even slimmer than it already is, and the price simply doesn't reflect that. Overall, it proved a disappointment. I'd say, save your money. Read the Lawrence book and skim or ignore the odd sections in it, if you wish. Almost verbatim any quotes or anecdotal information you find in this book, are already in the Lawrence book with a direct notation as to the source, and with more detail. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a decent read, really 3.5 stars - 3 stars as an overall book and 4 stars within its specific subject matter By Michael Hatmaker I am not a huge fan of River Phoenix (I barely knew of his films or his story to tell the truth), but this book is engaging nonetheless. It is a detailed account of his life and work, so if that's what you are looking for, it is a good read. Other than that, it also serves (in its latter portions) as a testament to the narcissism of Hollywood. It seemed that most involved in mourning River's death were really mourning themselves and their own mortality. The fact that his drug use was swept under the rug and his persona seemed to take on an angelic quality speaks volumes about the Hollywood elite and their failure to comprehend reality, even when it smacks them in the face.

In *Last Night at the Viper Room*, acclaimed author and journalist Gavin Edwards vividly recounts the life and tragic death of acclaimed actor River Phoenix, a teen idol on the fast track to Hollywood royalty who died of a drug overdose in front of West Hollywood's storied club, the Viper Room, at the age of 23. *Last Night at the Viper Room* explores the young star's life, including his childhood in Venezuela growing up under the aegis of the cultish Children of God. Putting him at the center of a new generation of leading men emerging in the early 1990s including Johnny Depp, Keanu Reeves, Brad Pitt, Nicolas Cage, and Leonardo DiCaprio, Gavin Edwards traces the Academy Award nominee's meteoric rise, couches him in an examination of the 1990s, and illuminates his lasting legacy on Hollywood and popular culture itself.

Twenty years after his death, River Phoenix remains as enigmatic and elusive as ever. *Last Night at the Viper Room* tells the heart-shredding story of how this haunted actor left such a big impression in such a brief time. (Rob Sheffield, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Love Is a Mix Tape*) What Edwards does so impeccably is reveal the life of an extraordinary young man, whose idealism and dedication to his family, despite crippling childhood conditions, set him apart from the rest of the rising star pack. (USA Today) From the Back Cover At the dawn of the 1990s, a new crew of leading men—Johnny Depp, Nicolas Cage, Keanu Reeves, and Brad Pitt—was rocketing toward stardom. River Phoenix, however, stood in front of the pack. But behind Phoenix's talent and beautiful public face was a young man who had been raised in a cult by nonconformist parents, who was burdened with supporting his family from a young age, and who eventually succumbed to addiction, dying of an overdose in front of the Viper Room, West Hollywood's storied club, at twenty-three. *Last Night at the Viper Room* is part biography, part cultural history of the 1990s, and part celebration of a Hollywood icon gone too soon. Full of interviews from his fellow actors, directors, friends, and family, *Last Night at the Viper Room* shows the role River Phoenix played in creating the place of the actor in our modern culture and the impact his work still makes today. About the Author Gavin Edwards is a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* who has written five articles for the magazine about Blink-182 for the magazine since 1999. He is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven books. He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife and their two sons.