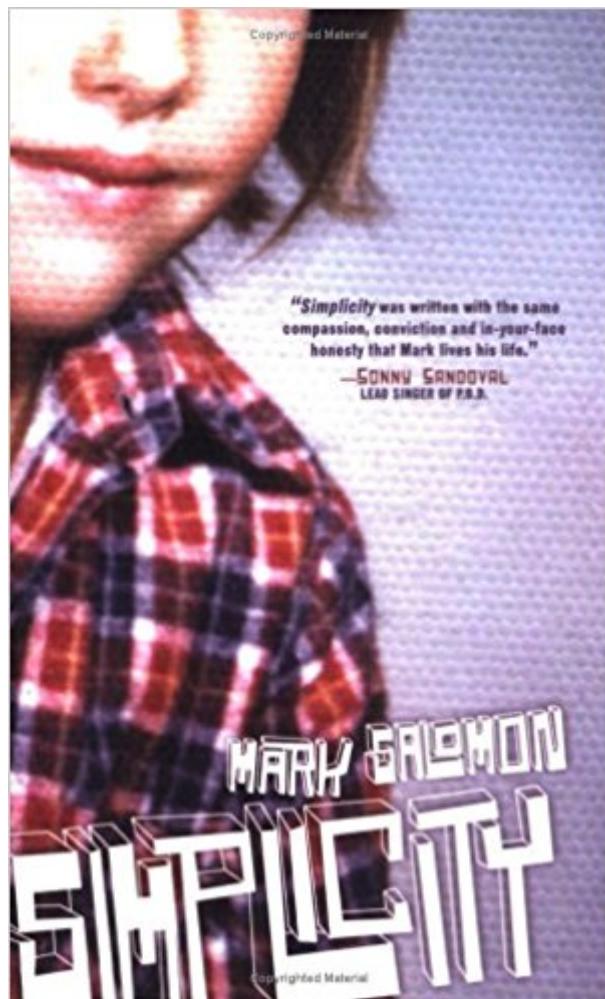


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# Simplicity



## Synopsis

Simplicity is the definitive book on being authentic. Written as a farewell letter to the Christian music industry, independent rock icon Mark Salomon offers a compelling memoir of his life as a musician and a Christian. As Salomon journeys through his experiences in indie rock bands playing churches and events, he exposes why he dropped the label of "Christian" in order to truly minister. He challenges pervading mindsets and shows that an authentic Christian life reaches beyond the traditions of religion.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Relevant Books (January 25, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0976035766

ISBN-13: 978-0976035763

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #702,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #420 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Religious & Sacred Music > Christian #2301 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Rock #3019 in Books > Deals in Books

## Customer Reviews

Mark Salomon is the lead vocalist for Stavesacre and the former vocalist/lyricist for The Crucified. The Huntington Beach, Calif., resident spends his days touring with Stavesacre and performing spoken word poetry across the country.

I read this book a few years ago and I'm getting ready to read it again. For any musician that is contemplating a career in music, you're already into the music scene or you simply want to see a sincere and honest look at what it's like to be in a struggling rock band read this! This book really made me take a serious look at myself and where my heart should really lie. It's a super great read and it will challenge you as well as lend some great laughs along the way.

I loved this book. Mark tells it like it is and sheds a lot of light on the issues some people may have with the band. I can seriously relate to a lot of the things he talks about, and he even made me

realize things about myself that I never realized before. A must read for any Stavesacre fans and/or people who have issues with what the band or band members stand for.

I found this book to be very readable and enjoyed the way Mark went through everything. He kept my attention and I hate to read.

Honest and amazing! Read in 2 days. Such a great read having followed the band for so long, finally getting to hear what's behind the music.

it took me a little longer than I expected, but it was well worth the read. It's a very honest look at the often blurred line between ministry and industry when it comes to Christian music and entertainment. Also the importance of working your faith into your personal life rather than just tacking it on to your business pursuits, regardless of the industry. I loved how Mark refused to pull punches or shelter himself from possible embarrassment or whatever by being completely open as he explained the struggles he has dealt with as he's walked through a life of faith. Very interesting read, thought-provoking, and engaging. I highly recommend it. This review was originally written on 8 July 2008 and was recovered from an astore before it disappeared forever. \*\*

In 2003, the guy who managed the music section at a local Christian bookstore passed on a rumor that Stavesacre had "gone secular" when I asked if there were any new releases by the band. To the cloistered, sheltered Christian-ese speakers this is like selling out but on the scale of high treason, and this inference stuck with me for years, causing me to doubt the suitability of the band's influence on me through music. Around 2006 I signed up for the official Stavesacre forum, and posted a simple question about whether Stavesacre considered themselves a Christian band anymore. Several forum members instantly came to the band's defense of what I hadn't considered to be an attack. I was flamed mercilessly, and sandwiched between pejoratives, one poster told me to read "Simplicity" for all the answers I might want. The book was very limited distribution at the time and there weren't any copies available. Several years later, and only after Stavesacre had called it quits I remembered the book, and easily found a copy. Firstly, this is an autobiography and Salomon isn't a professional writer, so the reviewers here expecting him to produce perfectly framed prose and to provide seamless topic transitions or progression are being overly critical. The book is written in conversational style with all of the minor asides and occasional tangents that are to be

expected in a natural conversation. Whether you prefer this style or not, it does not get in the way of the story, which is actually very compelling and insightful. After seeing the situation evolve through Mark's eyes, warts and all, it forced me to try to re-examine my view of Christian artists in general. Getting the complete picture was very sobering, and it's easy to see why those forum users dog-piled on me all those years ago when I asked what I thought was an innocent question, but was more akin to tossing a live grenade in the middle of the room. There is no good way to answer the question. If the band had answered "yes", they would have been drawn back under a hypocritical stereotype where listeners and labels felt entitled to dictate every aspect of their lives. If they had answered "no" they would have been labeled turncoats and reprobates. This book helped me to understand that, and the plight of other artists who have struggled with the Christian music industry like Klayton (Circle of Dust/Celldweller). Mark paints a hopeful and complete picture, and every Christian music fan should consider this a cautionary tale, and a call to be more fair in your judgments.

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