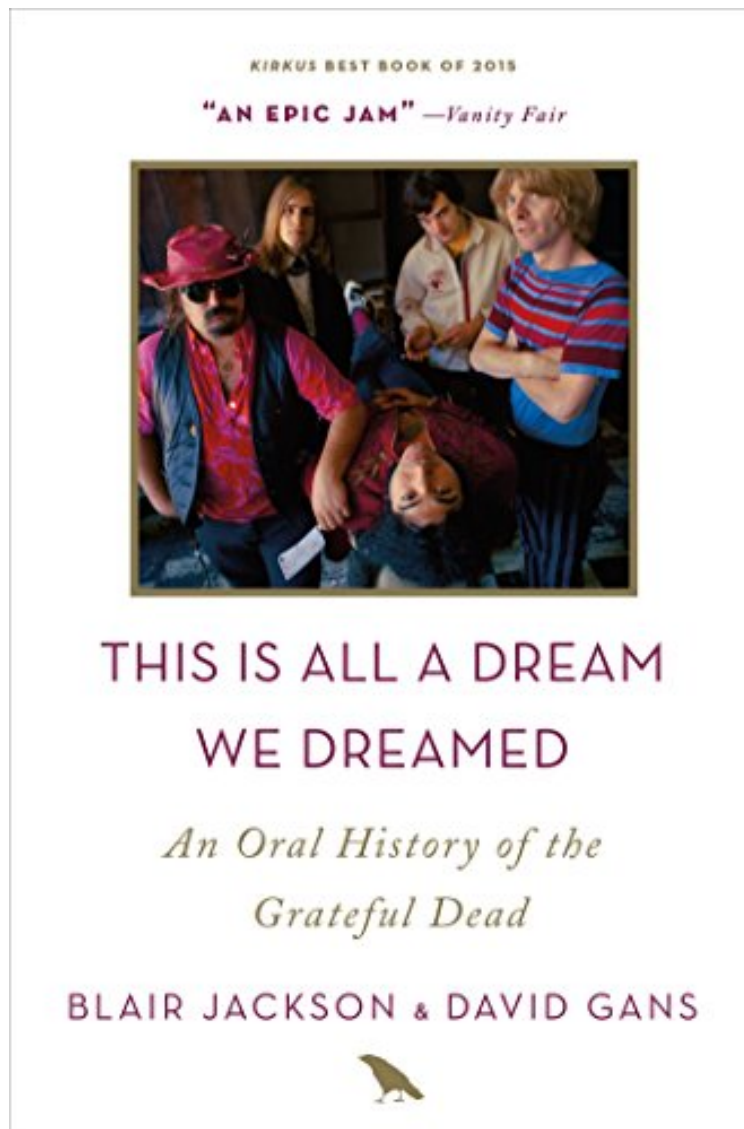


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# This Is All a Dream We Dreamed: An Oral History of the Grateful Dead

*Blair Jackson, David Gans*  
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**Blair Jackson, David Gans : This Is All a Dream We Dreamed: An Oral History of the Grateful Dead** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Is All a Dream We Dreamed: An Oral History of the Grateful Dead:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A good read By Steve Dossey An interesting approach: take all

known interviews with the band members and place the most interesting of them chronologically in a history of the band, plus context by the authors and as well as recollections of those in the Dead scene.....It reads well and brings back a lot of memories. Really would have liked to have more on the reactions to Garcia's death. And most of the late 70's, 80's/90's interviews with the band members were interviews they gave to promote their new albums....and a little too much print given to the albums Terrapin Station and Go To Heaven....the antidotes at the end of the book held no interest to me..... nonetheless a good retrospective on the band and their times. Glad it did not sink into a "tell all" book that is so in fashion in today's biographies....2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book - articulate, insightful, and told by those who were there(usually when they were there)By David WaiteAn outstanding book giving me a keen insight to the world of the Grateful Dead. The narrative from the inside circle and band members is woven into an articulate story of the events as they unfolded, buy the folks that share the story from very recent memories (eg: talking about 1970 in 1970) to recollections about events with a future spin (eg talking about 1970 in 1976). Buy this book if you want to know and feel like you are in the story and not an outsider looking in.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I'm ready for Volume TwoBy gbabaAll in all I found it to be a fantastic book. Very insightful and personable. I give it 4 stars because I'd already read a lot of the interviews in other publications, though "THIS IS ALL A DREAM...." put them together in a very nice and coherent manner. Truth be known, I'm mostly writing this review in an attempt to encourage Blair and David to do the same concerning the Acid Tests before everyone involved is dead. Could be a lot of fun gathering up interviews with those in on the 'Unspoken Thing', so I wish you the best of luck with that one. Personally, I feel the Acid Tests must have been the most amazing affair ( I was in junior high at the time). Young adults 'awakening' under the influence of LSD to God and beyond, partying their asses off. Damn! If I only had a time machine.

In *This Is All a Dream We Dreamed*, two of the most well-respected chroniclers of the Grateful Dead, Blair Jackson and David Gans, reveal the bands story through the words of its members, their creative collaborators and peers, and a number of diverse fans, stitching together a multitude of voices into a seamless oral tapestry. Capturing the ebullient spirit at the groups core, Jackson and Gans weave together a musical saga that examines the music and subculture that developed into its own economy, touching fans from all walks of life, from penniless hippies to celebrities, and at least one U.S. vice president. This definitive book traces the Deads evolution from its humble beginnings as a folk/bluegrass band playing small venues in Palo Alto to the feral psychedelic warriors and stadium-filling Americana jam band that blazed all the way through to the 90s. Along the way, we hear from many who were touched by the Dead from David Crosby and Miles Davis, to Ken Kesey, Carolyn Mountain Girl Garcia, and a host of Merry Pranksters, to legendary concert promoter Bill Graham, and others. Throughout their journey the Dead broke (and sometimes rewrote) just about every rule of the rock business, defying conventional wisdom and charting their own often unusual course, in the process creating a business model unlike any seen before. Musically, too, they were pioneers, fusing inspired ideas and techniques with intuition and fearlessness to craft an utterly unique and instantly recognizable sound. Their music centered on collective improvisation, spiritual and social democracy, trust, generosity, and fun. They believed that you can make something real, spontaneous, and compelling happen with other musicians if you trust and encourage each other, and jam as if your life depended on it. And when it worked, there was nothing else like it. Whether youre part of the new generation of Deadheads who are just discovering their music or a devoted fan who has traded Dead tapes for decades, you will want to listen in on the irresistible conversations and anecdotes shared in these pages. Youll hear stories you havent heard before, possibly from voices that may be unfamiliar to you, and the tales that unfold will shed a whole new light on a long and inspiring musical odyssey.

"This Is All A Dream We Dreamed is an epic jam." *Vanity Fair*"You could hardly ask for a more ideal configuration for a retelling of the Grateful Dead's story than an oral history, which is, after all, the jam band of biographical formats.... [T]he editors have pulled off the pretty neat hat trick of filling in plenty of cracks for the hard core while providing a basic education for novices. Best of all, they've provided a celebration that never feels remotely like hagiography. Even a nominal fan has to appreciate the wonder and unlikeliness of how the band sustained that first quarter-century or so of magic." *San Francisco Chronicle*Despite its title, what makes this book different from all other books on the Grateful Dead is that it is anything but dreamlike. It is down-to-earth, plainspoken, without special pleading or arguments for differing levels of awareness. You didn't have to be there. On many pages, this could be the story of any band-the story as it emerges here carries no pretensions-and elsewhere it is the story of people doing their work. And it is so full of the intensity and repetitions of ordinary life that it throws the work that was done into a new light. Greil Marcus, rock criticThis epic oral history of the 50-year-old band is a solid, engaging chronicle. Publishers Weekly[Jackson and Gans] know as much as nearly anyone alive about the storied band. Theres plenty of peace and love here and lots of smoke and psychedelia, as well as the usual Altamont regrets, all voiced by people in and close to the band. Worthy of Studs Terkel and an essential addition to the books of the Dead. Kirkus s, starred reviewThe Grateful Dead, when they were making music together, may have sometimes seemed more than human, but they were always the first to admit that they were less than perfect. Here they are, in all their cockeyed glory. Gans and Jackson

have orchestrated a shrewd, essential account of the band members lives and times, a tale as polyphonic as the electronic Dixieland they unperfected through the years, to our (and their) enduring delight and awe. Nick Paumgarten, staff writer, The New Yorker Jerry, Kesey, Bobby, Billy, Bearthis amazing book speaks to me out loud, inside my head, in all the voices of the Grateful Dead! Its an audio illumination of family, fans, and friends, and the long, strange trip. It leaps straight out of the tree-flesh to dance in our dreams. Wavy Gravy[A] high-demand backstory...lively oral history. Booklist"Readers will quickly become absorbed into the Dead's world and will feel that everyone is speaking directly to them.... There may currently be no better introduction to the Grateful Dead than this superior tome." Derek Sanderson, Library Journal, starred reviewAbout the AuthorBLAIR JACKSON penned Grateful Dead: The Music Never Stopped and wrote and published 27 issues of the acclaimed fanzine The Golden Road. He is also the author of the definitive biography Garcia: An American Life.DAVID GANS has published three books on the Dead. He is the producer and host of the nationally syndicatedGrateful Dead Hour, is cohost of SiriusXM's Tales from the Golden Road, and is a working musician who has incorporated Grateful Dead songs and improvisation into his own work.