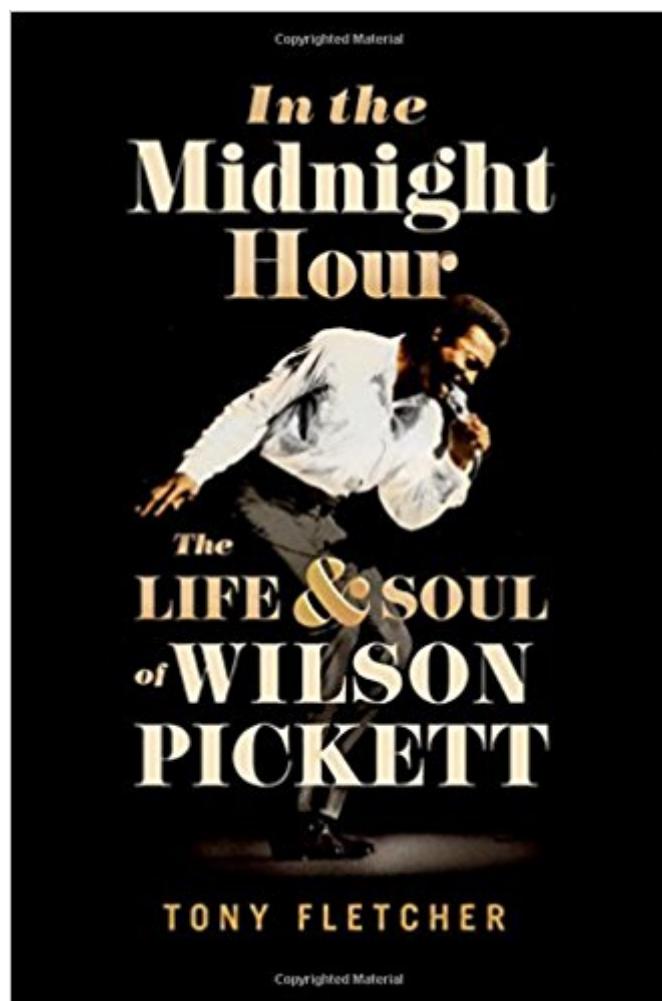


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# In The Midnight Hour: The Life & Soul Of Wilson Pickett



## Synopsis

He was the Wicked Wilson Pickett, the legendary soul man whose forty-plus hits included "In the Midnight Hour," "634-5789," "Land of 1000 Dances," "Mustang Sally," and "Don't Let the Green Grass Fool You." Remarkably handsome and with the charisma to match, Wilson Pickett was considered by many to be the greatest, the most visceral and sensual of the classic 1960s soul singers, and as a man who turned screaming into an art form, the most forceful of them all. He was the living embodiment of soul. More than that, Wilson Pickett's journey reads like a guide to popular black American music in the late 20th century. From the gospel-rich cotton fields of Alabama to the pre-Motown metropolis of Detroit, and throughout his career at Atlantic Records--he was the first artist on that label to record at Stax in Memphis, Fame in Muscle Shoals, and Sigma in Philadelphia, and rehabilitated an exiled Bobby Womack and introduced Duane Allman along the way--Wilson Pickett led the shifts in Rhythm and Blues and soul music. Pickett's downfall, precipitated by the move towards softer soul and then disco in the 1970s, proved equally dramatic, leading to a heavy alcohol and drug addiction, a reputation for violence and gun use, a no-show for his induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1991, and two jail terms later in the decade. Nonetheless, the "Wicked" Pickett climbed out of these depths to end his career with a Grammy-nominated album before his death in 2006. For this first-ever accounting of Wilson Pickett's life, bestselling biographer Tony Fletcher interviewed members of the singer's family, friends and partners, along with dozens of his studio and touring musicians. Offering equal attention to Pickett's personal and professional life, with detailed insight into his legendary studio sessions and his combative road style, *In the Midnight Hour: The Life and Soul of Wilson Pickett* is the essential telling of an epic life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fletcher's vibrant book brings Pickett and his music to glorious life."--Publishers Weekly"Throughout the book, Fletcher ably explores [the] dichotomy in Pickett's character... [In the *Midnight Hour* is] a layered portrait of the legendary singer."--Kirkus "This biography of soul singer Wilson Pickett is distinctive for its voluminous and nonjudgmental accounting of his life, from early childhood on, and of the complex early days of rhythm and-blues recording... In a book remarkable for its copious family research, Fletcher, a true devotee of the music, gives us the complete Pickett, more so than Mark Ribowsky did for Otis Redding, or James McBride has done for James Brown."--Booklist "[In the *Midnight Hour*] is biography at its best: anecdotal, comprehensive, captivating and concise."--Shelf Awareness "Fletcher's brilliant little book shines a light on the good, bad, and ugly of Pickett's life, as it illustrates just how vital his music is to the history of soul and rock and roll."--No Depression "Tony Fletcher has written the first full biography of Pickett, presenting his story with engaging prose rooted in solid research."--Shepherd Express"Journalists who write about sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll often find it easier to focus on the sensational aspects of the industry than on the music itself, but Mr. Fletcher... gets it right."--Wall Street Journal "[A] richly detailed new biography of the singer. This book is a reminder of just how powerful a presence Pickett was, especially throughout the 1960s, as African-American music migrated from churches and black radio stations into the mainstream, and as America itself underwent dramatic social changes."--Seattle Times "Insightful and informative."-Billy Heller, New York Post "From his fiery rise to fame to his slow sips to death, Tony Fletcher's *In the Midnight Hour* captures the essence of soul singer Wilson Pickett and tells a tale that reads with the anticipation of a murder mystery novel... [Fletcher] sets the detailed scene of an era in musical history that is filled with racism, segregation, violence, shady business dealings, and recordings that touched the world."--Chronogram Magazine "[Tony Fletcher] provides the most complete picture, warts and all, of this singular soul artist-and he doesn't pull any punches... [written] with clarity and a wealth of fascinating information."--Paste Magazine"Those curious about the dynamic tension that gave one of the great American soul men his unique sound and power will enjoy Tony Fletcher's thorough [book]."--Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "A compulsory read tinged with tragedy and triumph that resurrects the genius of a forgotten icon."--Alive Magazine"A vivid, detailed, and insightful portrait."--Popmatters"Tony Fletcher's research is impeccable, his sources are unimpeachable, and

his style is thoroughly engaging."--Arts Fuse "The unique performer, the complicated man and the brute bully all come together in one here. Wilson Pickett gets his R-E-S-P-E-C-T in book form, finally."--Houston Press "[In the Midnight Hour] has a subtle way with modern American history, and character, as well as great character studies of Duane Allman, James Brown, Solomon Burke, Aretha Franklin, Lloyd Price, Jerry Wexler, and the monumental Bobby Womack."--Woodstock Times "As any good biography of a musician should, In the Midnight Hour sends us back to the recordings, the best of which have not lost one iota of their power."--New York Times Book Review

Tony Fletcher is the bestselling author of major biographies on Keith Moon, the Smiths, and R.E.M., as well as a memoir, a novel, and a history of the New York City music scene. Born in northern England, and raised in South London, where he started his own music magazine at the age of thirteen, he emigrated to New York City in the late 1980s. When not traveling with his family, he makes his home near Woodstock in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. A contributor to Salon and the Wall Street Journal, his writing has also appeared in Mojo, Rolling Stone, the New York Times, Spin, and Newsday, and he has contributed to a host of other publications, radio, and television shows worldwide.

Wilson Pickett was a great amongst greats, and the life that informed his music was as volatile as his art. I knew Wilson pretty well and produced his last album. The parts of the story I witnessed are portrayed with great accuracy, and the rest has given me a terrific insight into the man I knew just a part of. I highly recommend this to anyone who's been touched by his music and wondered about the man behind it.

Fascinating biography by Tony Fletcher. Combining an understanding of music & musicians with a comprehensive social commentary of the times. Fletcher, unfortunately like Pickett himself, pulls no punches in highs and lows of life. Essential reading for anyone interested in music and American society in the 60s. Wicked!

Excellent read!! If you are interested in the music business and the performers who were the movers and shakers in the industry from the 60's on, you will enjoy this book. May the Wicked Pickett rest in peace!

Wilson Pickett was a hugely talented man and a hugely messed up man. We get it all in this book.

No one can accuse Fletcher of trying to gloss over the shortcomings. You definitely wanted to watch Pickett perform and not be with him before or after the performance. Nice bio about a not nice man.

Love it

Great book. Well written.

AUTHOR HIT THE HIGH NOTES...EXCELLENT UNDERSTANDING OF A COMPLICATED GUY..

finally a book about the Wicked Pickett ... what a time to be a star, hard times great times uncertain times... but Wilson Pickett is timeless

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