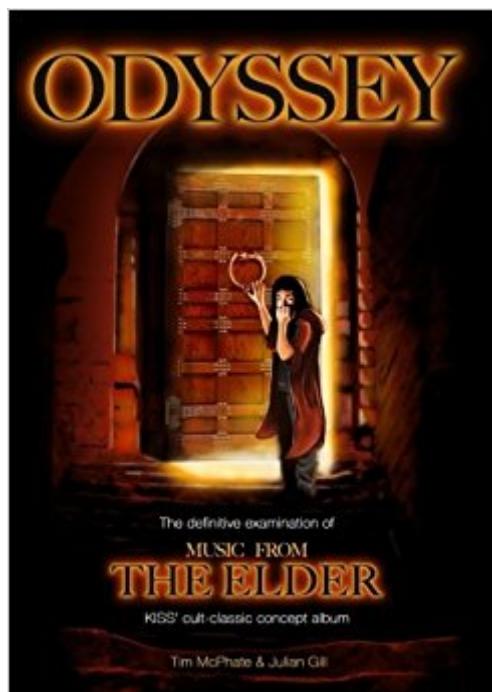


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# Odyssey: The Definitive Examination Of "Music From The Elder," KISS' Cult-classic Concept Album



## **Synopsis**

Shock people and throw them for a loop, "Music From The Elder" did. Upon its release in November 1981, the album was confusingly received by both KISS fans and the general public. By the time the calendar turned to 1982, the album was essentially a commercial failure. And KISS were already ready to move on. More than 30 years later, "Music From The Elder" has attained a cult-classic status among a segment of diehard KISS fans. A great part of the album's appeal lies in the mysterious conditions under which it was created. While "Music From The Elder" has been discussed in various music publications and KISS-related books, there has never been a concentrated effort to put this album under a historical microscope. Until now. Through a series of brand-new interviews, original features and related special content, KissFAQ will shine a spotlight on "Music From The Elder" like never before. More than 30 interviews were conducted with various individuals who either worked on the project or have a connection of sorts, including professionals who have never told their "Elder story." These interviews will provide interesting insights and unique perspectives regarding the album's creative process and this fascinating period in KISStory, in addition to fun anecdotes and personal recollections. A series of topical features will shed more light on KISS' activity in 1981 and early 1982 and dissect the album further with in-depth musical analysis, biographical information on the album's participants, a revised KissFAQ Album Focus, and much more...

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 536 pages

Publisher: KissFAQ Publishing (September 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0982253788

ISBN-13: 978-0982253786

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #357,527 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Heavy Metal #134 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Heavy Metal #6602 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature

## **Customer Reviews**

Awesome insight into a great album that unfortunately almost ended the KISS legacy. It was weird when it came out but if you listen to the songs in the intended order you get it and this even delves deeper. Maybe they will make a movie and do it right. It could use some updating but it might just work.

Tim and Julian hit another home run! They dig around to the people working with KISS to put into context what the band was doing to help paint a complete picture. This story needed to be told because the band will gloss over the era and band historians will just chalk it up to a "mistake" of an album. The phrase information overload always comes to mind with a Julian Gill book, but the research and thoroughness are all there. No shortcuts were taken in writing any of their (Tim and Julian's) books and this one is gold too!

What a superb, superb book. Every TRUE Kiss fan loves the Elder, and god bless Julian Gill and Tim McPhate for putting this epic monster book together. The time and effort to conduct such rigorous primary research is truly worthy of applause! The book is so detailed, it sets up the history of the project as well as defining the environment of the era when Kiss took a left turn in 1981 and embarked on a truly different project. I can't recommend this book enough. A++++ all the way!

Amazing time and effort put into a book about an Album few care about, besides myself.

This is a really great in depth look into the most bizarre album in the KISS catalog. Some fans love this album, some hate it. Musically it's the most diverse thing they ever did. But it was so out of the realm of what was expected from this band that it fell on deaf ears. There are some amazing interviews with all sorts of people who had a hand in the making, recording and promoting of this album. I personally enjoy this album very much but, at the time, I wish they didn't make it. It was the straw that broke the camels back for Ace Frehley and he left the band soon after. The book is filled with great stories that may have never been known to KISS fans before. It was an intriguing, tumultuous time in the bands history and this book covers it pretty well. My only complaint, and it's more of an observation, is that the band members themselves were not interviewed. An Ace Frehley interview solely about this album would have put this over the top for me. Gene & Paul would have been great but they say the same stuff over and over again anyway. Plus the Bob Ezrin interview desperately needed to be longer and more in depth. However it ends in classic Ezrin fashion. I would say you would need to be a fan of KISS to buy this book, not necessarily a fan of the album. If

you were fan and alive through all this in 1981/82 then this book is a must have. It is the perfect companion to an album that was confusing as hell back then.

This book is just - uncomfortable - for lack of any other word.. to read. The early reviews of it mislead me. I don't know if these people know the author or if they're such hardcore fans of the Elder they'll clamor or any information about it no matter how obscure but I don't think the book was as great as their reviews led me to believe by a long shot. The book starts as essentially a history essay from the KissFAQ people. Now, arguably, they would know a great deal - they're ardent fans of the band. Who else would have a website called KissFAQ? Then the opening history essay is followed by a batch of interviews by people, some of whom are only tangentially involved.. the guy who made the door for the album cover? Ok.. That's a stretch but OK... But Ty Tabor from King's X? Why? A fan who liked the record? What was the point? I like Ty - in fact I talked with him a couple of times on the old CompuServe Information Service when King's was at their peak.. but really? In the end this book is a bit like the how Bob Ezrin coined the experience of creating The Elder; 'Started with Great Expectations, but ended up like the car wreck at the end of Detroit Rock City'. I guess if you're a diehard fan of the Elder and just \*have\* to fill in some of the blanks in it's history then you might enjoy it. I just found it a rough read and I wouldn't recommended it to anyone unless you just \*have\* to learn every odd bit of minutia about the album.

I chose 4 stars because it is really for a die hard fan. I'm not sure what I expected from it. But. It's a must own and must read in anyone's world of kiss

I admit freely; I'm one of the fans that loved The Elder when it first came out. It hit in the middle of my D&D obsession so I was poised for such an album. All these years later; I still find it interesting to play every so often. That being said, I wondered how any author could find much to write about an album that was a commercial flop on release and has subsequently been buried by the band that recorded it. Turns out there's a lot to say about The Elder and this book finds most of it. Consisting of interviews with key people involved (not the band), vintage reviews and as much history as they could dredge up, the author's piece together the story of this cult album. It's a huge book but it reads really quickly. The overview is full of new information and a lot of insights regarding the project. There are a lot of KISS books out there. Some are great, some are terrible. *Odyssey* stands, like the album that inspired it, as a unique project that is worthy of the time it takes to read. I really enjoyed it and I'd think any fan of the album will as well. Haters of The Elder might read it and

reconsider the album now.

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