

Full Moon rises again: re-release of Keith Moon biography

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(l. to r.) Keith Moon with Dougal Butler
Dougal Butler

Full Moon (The Amazing Rock and Roll Life of Keith Moon)

Rating: ★★★★★

Many people believe that a [full moon](#) is associated with craziness and deviance, and while there's no scientific proof of any correlation, it's certainly fitting that [Peter "Dougal" Butler](#) titled his book about the 10 years he spent as [Keith Moon's](#) personal assistant *Full Moon*.

First published in 1981, Butler's candid look at the adventures and excesses of rock and roll's greatest drummer became an instant classic among Who fans, although original copies have been hard to come by. The book – paperback, Kindle, and audio versions – was re-released this summer, by Faber Finds. Butler noted that [The Who's](#) fan base has been growing in recent years, with "the biggest increase in the 35-45 age group," he said. "A lot of those fans

would've missed out on the book the first time around!"

Butler first met The Who in the mid-60s, and began working as a roadie for them. By 1967, he became the PA for Moon, whom he described (in the book, p. 213) as "a personal, mobile catastrophe."

Full Moon is an entertaining, sometimes poignant, account of the 10 years Butler spent "keep[ing] Moonie together – not just making sure that he arrives on time at the various gigs, but really helping him to keep a grip on what little reality there is for a geezer like him," (p. 213).

Instead of the chronologic format of most rock biographies, this one is grouped by topics and anecdotes – as if Butler is sitting with the reader and sharing his best stories. Among the many hilarious tales, you'll learn how he was nicknamed Dougal, some of Moon's most outrageous pranks, and the story behind the one physical fight he and Moon had.

Although Butler left Moon, to work in the film industry with Jeff Stein (who had directed the classic Who movie *The Kids Are Alright*), he'd do it all again. "Yes, I'd work with him again. I wouldn't do anything different with him," he said. "The only thing I would have done was to have been careful with money and invested wisely in the mid-70s."

The paperback and Kindle versions of the re-release can be found at [Amazon.com](#), and the audio version at [Talking Music](#). Occasionally, lucky fans will find a copy of the original version at [Strand Books](#) in Greenwich Village.

You can follow Dougal Butler on Twitter [@dougalwho](#).

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