my first guitar learn to play kids

My First Guitar Learn to Play Kids: A Joyful Journey into Music

My first guitar learn to play kids experiences are often some of the most memorable moments in childhood. Introducing children to the guitar not only sparks creativity but also fosters a lifelong appreciation for music. Whether your little one is strumming their first chord or exploring simple melodies, this journey is filled with excitement, discovery, and growth. In this article, we'll dive into everything you need to know about helping kids take their first steps in learning the guitar—from choosing the right instrument to effective practice tips and keeping motivation high.

Choosing the Perfect First Guitar for Kids

Before your child can start playing, selecting the right guitar is crucial. Kids' guitars are designed to be smaller, lighter, and easier to handle, which makes a huge difference in their comfort and learning experience.

Size Matters: Finding the Right Fit

Guitars come in various sizes, such as 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, and full-size. For young children, a 1/4 or 1/2 size guitar is often best. These smaller guitars have shorter necks and less string tension, which make finger placement easier and reduce fatigue.

If you're unsure about the size, consider the child's age and height:

• Under 5 years: A 1/4 size guitar

• 5 to 8 years: A 1/2 size guitar

• 9 to 12 years: A 3/4 size guitar, moving towards full size

Trying out guitars in a music store with your child can help find the best fit, ensuring they feel comfortable holding and playing the instrument.

Acoustic vs. Electric: Which One to Choose?

For beginners, acoustic guitars are often recommended because they're straightforward and don't require additional equipment like amplifiers. Plus,

the sound produced is rich and natural, which can be encouraging for kids.

However, some children might be more motivated by electric guitars, especially if they enjoy rock or pop music. Electric guitars have lighter strings and smaller bodies, making them easier to play for some kids. The choice ultimately depends on the child's musical interests and preferences.

Starting Out: How Kids Can Learn to Play Guitar

Once you have the right guitar, the next step is introducing your child to the basics of playing. This initial phase is all about making learning fun and accessible.

Simple Chords and Strumming Patterns

Kids often find it easier to begin with a few simple chords such as G, C, D, and Em. These chords open up a wide range of popular children's songs and beginner-friendly tunes. Teaching basic strumming patterns alongside these chords helps children develop rhythm and timing, enhancing their overall musicality.

Encouraging your child to practice switching between these chords smoothly is key. Start with slow transitions and gradually increase speed as they become more comfortable.

Using Visual Aids and Interactive Tools

Young learners benefit greatly from visual aids. Color-coded chord charts, guitar tablature with pictures, or apps designed for kids can make the learning process much more engaging. Many beginner guitar apps offer interactive lessons, games, and instant feedback, which can motivate kids to practice regularly.

Additionally, watching tutorial videos or playing along with favorite songs helps children connect their learning with real music, keeping their enthusiasm alive.

Motivating Kids to Practice: Tips for Parents and Teachers

Maintaining a child's interest in guitar can sometimes be challenging, but with the right approach, practice can become an enjoyable part of their

Setting Realistic Goals and Celebrating Progress

Breaking down learning into manageable goals—like mastering a new chord, playing a simple song, or performing for family—can give children a clear sense of achievement. Celebrate these milestones with praise or small rewards to reinforce their efforts.

Remember, progress in music is gradual. Patience and encouragement are essential to help kids stay motivated without feeling overwhelmed.

Incorporating Play and Creativity

Kids naturally love to play, so incorporating playful elements into guitar practice can make a huge difference. Encourage improvisation, songwriting, or creating their own melodies. Let them experiment with sounds and rhythms—it's a great way to nurture creativity and personal expression.

Group lessons or jam sessions with friends can also boost motivation by adding a social and fun dimension to learning.

Understanding the Benefits of Learning Guitar for Kids

Beyond the joy of making music, learning guitar offers numerous developmental advantages for children.

Enhancing Cognitive and Motor Skills

Playing guitar requires coordination between the hands, fingers, and eyes, improving fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Reading music or tablature stimulates brain functions related to memory, attention, and problem-solving.

Boosting Confidence and Emotional Expression

As children learn to play songs and perform, they gain confidence in their abilities. Music also provides an outlet for emotional expression, helping kids manage feelings and develop empathy.

Resources for Kids Learning Guitar

There are many resources available to support kids on their guitar journey. Some popular options include:

- Beginner Guitar Books for Kids: These often feature simple songs, colorful illustrations, and fun exercises.
- Online Video Lessons: Platforms like YouTube have countless tutorials tailored for young beginners.
- **Guitar Learning Apps:** Apps like Yousician or GuitarTuna make practice interactive and engaging.
- Local Music Schools: Professional instruction can provide personalized quidance and structure.

Combining these resources with regular practice and encouragement creates a supportive environment for kids to thrive.

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Embarking on the path of my first guitar learn to play kids is truly a special adventure. Watching a child discover the magic of music, strum their very first chord, and gradually build their skills is rewarding for both the child and those guiding them. With patience, the right tools, and a nurturing approach, playing guitar can become a lifelong source of joy and creativity for your child.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best type of guitar for kids who are learning to play for the first time?

The best type of guitar for kids learning to play for the first time is usually a smaller-sized acoustic guitar or a nylon-string classical guitar. These guitars have softer strings and a smaller body, making them easier for children to handle and play.

At what age can kids start learning to play the guitar?

Kids can start learning to play the guitar as early as 4 to 6 years old, depending on their interest, finger strength, and ability to follow

instructions. Smaller-sized guitars are recommended for younger children.

How can I keep my child motivated to practice their first guitar lessons?

To keep your child motivated, encourage regular short practice sessions, celebrate small achievements, incorporate fun songs they like, and consider enrolling them in engaging guitar classes or using interactive apps designed for kids.

What are some easy songs for kids to learn on their first guitar?

Some easy songs for kids to learn on their first guitar include "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," "Happy Birthday," "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," and "Mary Had a Little Lamb." These songs use simple chords and melodies.

Should kids learn guitar with or without lessons?

While some kids can learn guitar on their own using online resources, books, or apps, many benefit from structured lessons with a teacher who can provide personalized guidance, correct technique, and keep them motivated. Parents can choose based on the child's learning style and interest.

Additional Resources

My First Guitar Learn to Play Kids: A Guide to Starting Young Musicians on the Right Note

my first guitar learn to play kids is a phrase that encapsulates the exciting and often challenging journey parents and educators embark upon when introducing children to the world of music. Learning guitar at a young age can foster creativity, discipline, and cognitive development, but it requires thoughtful consideration regarding the choice of instrument, teaching methods, and practice routines. This article explores the essentials of selecting the first guitar for children, effective learning strategies, and the benefits and challenges associated with early guitar education.

The Importance of Choosing the Right First Guitar for Kids

The phrase "my first guitar learn to play kids" highlights the critical starting point: the instrument itself. Unlike adult learners who can typically handle full-sized guitars, children need smaller, more manageable

guitars designed specifically for their size and skill level. Selecting the right guitar not only influences comfort and playability but also impacts motivation and long-term engagement.

Size and Scale Length Considerations

Children's guitars come in various sizes, commonly ranging from 1/4 to 3/4 scale lengths. A 1/4 size guitar is generally suitable for toddlers and very young children (ages 3-6), while 1/2 and 3/4 sizes cater to older kids, typically around ages 7-11. These smaller instruments feature shorter necks and narrower fretboards, allowing young hands to navigate chords and scales with less strain.

Choosing an incorrectly sized guitar can lead to frustration, poor technique, or even physical discomfort. For example, a full-sized guitar with a 25.5-inch scale length may be too large for a child under 12, causing difficulty in fretting notes and strumming effectively.

Acoustic vs. Electric: Which is Better for Beginners?

The debate between acoustic and electric guitars as a first instrument for kids remains prevalent. Acoustic guitars are often recommended due to their simplicity—no need for amplifiers or additional equipment—and their robust sound that helps beginners learn finger strength and precision. However, electric guitars require less finger pressure on the strings, which can be beneficial for young beginners who may find thick acoustic strings challenging.

Pros of Acoustic Guitars for Kids:

- No need for extra gear like amplifiers or cables
- Durable and portable
- Encourages proper finger strength and technique

Pros of Electric Guitars for Kids:

- Softer strings and lower action reduce finger fatigue
- Variety of tones and effects can keep kids engaged
- Smaller body sizes available for younger players

Ultimately, the choice depends on the child's interest and exposure to guitar styles, as well as budget considerations.

Effective Learning Strategies for Kids' First Guitar Experience

Learning to play guitar as a child demands a tailored approach that balances instruction with play. The phrase "my first guitar learn to play kids" captures the essence of this initial learning phase—where fun and skill-building coexist.

Structured Lessons vs. Self-Learning

Formal lessons with a qualified instructor are often the most effective way to ensure proper technique and steady progress. Experienced teachers can adapt their methods to a child's learning style, introduce age-appropriate music, and maintain motivation through positive reinforcement.

Alternatively, self-learning via online tutorials and apps has grown in popularity. While these resources offer flexibility and often engaging visual aids, they may lack personalized feedback, which is crucial during the early stages of guitar education.

Incorporating Playful Practice Sessions

For children, practice should not feel like a chore. Incorporating games, familiar songs, and rewards can greatly enhance the learning experience. Short, frequent practice sessions (e.g., 10-15 minutes daily) are more effective than infrequent, lengthy ones, as they maintain focus and prevent fatigue.

Benefits and Challenges of Early Guitar Learning

Introducing guitar to children offers numerous cognitive and emotional benefits but also presents unique challenges that parents and educators should anticipate.

Benefits

- Improved Motor Skills: Finger dexterity and hand-eye coordination improve significantly through regular guitar practice.
- **Cognitive Development:** Reading music and understanding rhythms enhance memory and concentration.
- Emotional Expression: Playing music allows children to express themselves creatively and manage emotions.
- **Social Opportunities:** Group lessons and performances build confidence and social skills.

Challenges

- **Physical Limitations:** Young children may struggle with finger strength and reach, making correct guitar size critical.
- Attention Span: Maintaining interest without overwhelming the child requires careful lesson planning.
- **Consistency:** Regular practice depends heavily on parental support and encouragement.

Choosing the Best Beginner Guitar Brands for Kids

When considering "my first guitar learn to play kids," brand reputation and quality play a significant role. Reliable manufacturers offer guitars designed specifically for beginners with durable construction and child-friendly features.

Popular beginner-friendly brands include:

- 1. Yamaha: Known for consistent quality and affordable price points, Yamaha's FG Junior and JR series are excellent for kids.
- 2. Fender: Fender's Mustang and Squier Mini Stratocaster models are popular

electric options for young learners.

- 3. **Cordoba:** Offers nylon-string classical guitars that are gentle on young fingers and perfect for beginners.
- 4. **First Act:** Provides budget-friendly starter guitars with colorful designs appealing to children.

Each brand offers different tonal qualities and ergonomic designs, so testing guitars in person or consulting with a music teacher can help make the best choice.

Technology and Tools Enhancing Kids' Guitar Learning

The integration of technology into music education has transformed how children learn guitar. Apps, interactive platforms, and digital tuners designed for kids make the learning process more accessible and engaging.

Popular Learning Apps and Digital Tools

Applications such as Yousician, Simply Guitar, and Fender Play provide step-by-step lessons, real-time feedback, and gamified progress tracking. These tools align well with the modern child's affinity for technology, making practice sessions more enjoyable and measurable.

Electronic tuners, especially clip-on models, simplify the tuning process, which can be cumbersome for beginners. Additionally, metronomes and backing tracks help children develop timing and rhythm—essential skills for any quitarist.

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Embarking on the journey of "my first guitar learn to play kids" opens a path filled with musical discovery and personal growth. Selecting an appropriate guitar, adopting effective learning methods, and leveraging modern tools collectively form the foundation for a child's successful introduction to guitar playing. With patience and the right support, young learners can develop a lifelong passion for music that enriches their lives in countless ways.

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my first guitar learn to play kids: My First Guitar Julia Crowe, 2018-03-01 Julia Crowe interviews the world's leading guitarists, from Les Paul, Carlos Santana, Peter Frampton and Jimmie Vaughan, Joe Satriani, Melissa Etheridge, to Lee Ranaldo, George Benson and Jimmy Page. In interviews that offer an intimate insights into their beginnings as they recall their first instrument and share their memories of the inspiration, challenges, and successes of their early days. Collecting these tales has been admittedly addictive because each story is as unique, compelling and illuminating as the performer... My intent was simple - to ask the artists to speak for themselves. - Julia Crowe Crossing a vast array of genres, showing the common experience of all guitarists, Julia Crowe offers intimate and deeply human insights into a musician's beginnings as her interviewees recall their first instrument and share their memories of the inspiration, challenges, and successes of those early days.

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my first guitar learn to play kids: The Upgrade Paul Carr, 2011-05-12 The incredible true story of living as a modern-day nomad. Bored, broke and struggling to survive in one of the most expensive cities on earth, Paul Carr realises that it would actually be cheaper to live in a hotel in Manhattan than in his one-bedroom London flat. Inspired by that possibility, he decides to sell most of his possessions, abandon his old life and spend a year living entirely without commitments. Thanks to Paul's highly developed blagging skills, what begins as a one-year experiment soon becomes a permanent lifestyle - a life lived in luxury hotels and mountain-top villas. A life of fast cars, Hollywood actresses and Icelandic rock stars. And, most bizarrely of all, a life that still costs less than surviving on cold pizza in London. Yet, as word of Paul's exploits starts to spread - first online, then through a newspaper column and a book deal - he finds himself forced to up the stakes in order to keep things interesting. With his behaviour spiralling to dangerous levels, he is forced to ask the question: is there such a thing as too much freedom?

my first guitar learn to play kids: The Joys of Barnyard Music Jon Garate, 2009-06-22 So, what in thunder is Barnyard Music, anyway? Simply put, it is music for funmusic for amateursmusic for people who love music, but think they have no talent for singing or playing an instrument. Here comes Barnyard Music, to get you past the idea that because you think you have no talent, you cannot enjoy anything beyond listening. Within the pages of this little book, you will find at the very least, one inspiration to encourage you to go ahead and sing, or learn to play at the least, in some simple form, a musical instrument. This is not a book to teach you the mechanics of playing. It is not a book for those who wish to be rich and famous. It is not a book for those who wish to play refined, note perfect music. It is not a book about singing in perfect pitch, or even being able to carry a tune. What it is about, hopefully, is a book of inspirational stories, and Barnyard Music Theory that will encourage you to go ahead and enjoy musicyour own personal, internal musicat whatever level of

talent you possess. And it is my belief that anyone who can set aside any tendencies towards perfectionism, can enjoy making their own music, and just about everybody has a song inside. Hopefully you will find something in the pages of this book that will help you to set that song free.

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my first guitar learn to play kids: Some People are Crazy John Neil Munro, 2011-05-01 Described by Empire Magazine as 'Britain's best ever blues singer', John Martyn was one of rock music's last real mavericks. Despite chronic addiction to alcohol and drugs, he produced a string of matchless albums. Loved by fans and critics, loathed by ex-wives and managers, he survived the music business he despised for forty years. This book documents his upbringing in Glasgow and rise through the Scottish and London folk scenes of the 1960s, his many career highs and lows, and his friendships with the great lost souls of British rock music, Nick Drake and Paul Kossoff.

my first guitar learn to play kids: Transformed Lance Mosher, 2015-10-01

my first guitar learn to play kids: How I Met My Mother Charles Cornacchio, 2014-04-02 How I Met My Mother is the true story of how seemingly random and unrelated incidents nudged a son towards an amazing reunion with his biological mother. Living his life wondering who his real parents were while unaware that he was working directly across the street from his biological father is just one of the many uncanny coincidences described in this book. This is the story of a reunion that happened in the most unconventional way -- a reunion that answered years of questions and speculations, and changed several lives forever! Not knowing his history or heritage for almost four decades, Charles Cornacchio's past was suddenly revealed. For anyone who wonders what could have been if life took a different turn, this is a must-read! For anyone who has been adopted and

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my first guitar learn to play kids: JUST ONE MORE DRINK CHELSEA PAGE, 2013-11 Started thirteen years ago, while in a psychiatric hospital for suicide attempts, this book takes the reader through a long journey from an abusive childhood with a raging alcoholic father, into the crazy, insane world of alcoholism, drug addiction and mental illness. It is the life story of how one young woman who destroyed two marriages, many relationships, almost lost her children and eventually her sanity, chose to rise above her many difficulties and reach out for help. In taking the first step of admitting herself to a psychiatric hospital, she was able to admit that she was an alcoholic, drug addict, bipolar and depressed, and had been for many years. Eventually, it explained everything about her past behavior and why she did the things she did. The answer started to become clear. Hope became serenity, serenity turned into acceptance, acceptance developed into peace and the peace has led to an immense sense of joy and contentment. It took that one first step. I hope and pray that all who read this book can discover for themselves that anything is possible, that life is worth living, and you, too, can have this joy, today, and one day at a time.

my first guitar learn to play kids: GCSE Media Studies for WJEC Mandy Esseen, 2004 Offers coverage of the WJEC specification. Suitable for students of the WJEC exam, this title provides them with an understanding of and engagement with GCSE Media Studies. It also provides guidance on pre-production, practical production and the supporting account for their coursework folder.

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is lousy with superficial stars and glossy entertainment, the Replacements were as warts-and-all "real" as it got. In the first book to take on the jumble of facts, fictions, and contradictions behind the Replacements, veteran Minneapolis music journalist Jim Walsh distills hundreds of hours of interviews with band members, their friends, families, fellow musicians, and fans into an absorbing oral history worthy of the scruffy quartet that many have branded the most influential band to emerge from the '80s. Former manager Peter Jesperson, Paul Stark and Dave Ayers of Twin/Tone Records, Bob Mould and Grant Hart of rivals Hüsker Dü, the legendary Curtiss A, Soul Asylum's Dan Murphy, Lori Barbero of Babes in Toyland, R.E.M.'s Peter Buck, power-pop hero Alex Chilton, Craig Finn of The Hold Steady, and replacement Replacements Slim Dunlap and Steve Foley: all have something to say about the scene that spawned the band. These and dozens of others offer insights into the Replacement's workings--and the band's continuing influence more than fifteen years after their breakup. Illustrated with both rarely seen and classic photos, this, finally, is the rollicking story behind the turbulent and celebrated band that came on fast and furious and finally flamed out, chronicled by one eyewitness who was always at the periphery of the storm, and often at its eye. "[T]his consistently engaging and poignant work [is a] loving, appropriately ramshackle tribute to one of the most beloved rock-and-roll bands of the 1980s. . . . The band's story is an archetype of the joys and pitfalls of underground success."--Publishers Weekly "The Replacements were superheroes: They rescued a whole planet from '80s music. Jim Walsh's loving, engrossing oral history is the book they deserve."—Nick Hornby, author of High Fidelity

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my first guitar learn to play kids: *Love*, *Lucie* Marita Conlon-McKenna, 2012-08-30 Lucie is the middle child in a family that has been devastated by the death of her mother. Struggling to cope without Mum to guide them, Lucie, her brother Hugo, big sister Chloe and Dad are dealing with the emotional fallout of losing someone so close, as well as the practical realities of death - from clearing out a wardrobe to learning to cook. And, as if things weren't tough enough, Lucie is also trying to navigate the challenges of turning eleven: her first kiss is baffling, and her big sister's a total nightmare. How will she cope without Mum there to guide her? A heartbreaking story of love and loss, told through Lucie's own letters that are packed with emotion, humour and, ultimately, hope.

my first guitar learn to play kids: From the Minds of Jazz Musicians David Schroeder, 2017-11-22 From the Minds of Jazz Musicians: Conversations with the Creative and Inspired celebrates contemporary jazz artists who have toiled, struggled and succeeded in finding their creative space. The volume was developed through transcribing and editing selected interviews with 35 jazz artists, conducted by the author between 2009 and 2012 in New York City, with a historical essay on each artist to provide context. The interviews feature musicians from a broad range of musical styles and experiences, ranging from Gerald Wilson, born in 1918, to Chris Potter, born in 1971. Topics range from biographical life histories to artists' descriptions of mentor relationships, revealing the important life lessons they learned along the way. With the goal to discover the person behind the persona, the author elicits conversations that speak volumes on the creative process, mining the individualistic perspectives of seminal artists who witnessed history in the making. The interviews present the artists' candid and direct opinions on music and how they have succeeded in pursuing their unique and creative lives.

my first guitar learn to play kids: Why This Time When I Remember Homer Elias Calhoun Jr., 2024-09-30 The title of my book derives from a horrible criminal at that has taken place in my life over a span of almost four decades but now just coming into fruition. Unfortunately as children me, my brother and sisters, and also my parents were not aware of the criminal acts taking place in the family for it was kept hidden for years. Clearance and I were not able to process this criminal activity as it was happening over the years in our lifetime we watch quietly and silently always on the run. Now that we are young adults we remember. This is how the title of my book came to life.

Based on a true story for we were strangers in our town Sault after like a dangerous prey in my own home town.

my first guitar learn to play kids: Rez Metal Ashkan Soltani Stone, Natale A. Zappia, 2020-10 Rez Metal captures the creative energy of Indigenous youth culture in the twenty-first century. Bridging communities from disparate corners of Indian Country and across generations, heavy metal has touched a collective nerve on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona in particular. Many cultural leaders—including former Navajo president Russell Begaye—have begun to recognize heavy metal's ability to inspire Navajo communities facing chronic challenges such as poverty, depression, and addiction. Heavy metal music speaks to the frustrations, fears, trials, and hopes of living in Indian Country. Rez Metal highlights a seminal moment in Indigenous heavy metal: when Kyle Felter, lead singer of the Navajo heavy metal band I Dont Konform, sent a demo tape to Flemming Rasmussen, the Grammy Award-winning producer of several Metallica albums, including Master of Puppets. A few months later, Rasmussen, captivated by the music, flew from Denmark to Window Rock, Arizona, to meet the band. Through a series of vivid images and interviews focused on the venues, bands, and fans of the Navajo Nation metal scene, Rez Metal provides a window into this fascinating world.

my first guitar learn to play kids: Walk to Beautiful Mr. Jimmy Wayne, 2014-10-14 A New York Times bestseller! Imagine yourself a thirteen-year-old hundreds of miles away from home, in a strange city, and your mom leaves you at a bus station parking lot and drives off into the night with her lover. That's the real-life story of country music star Jimmy Wayne. It's a miracle that Jimmy survived being hungry and homeless, bouncing in and out of the foster care system, and sleeping in the streets. But he didn't just overcome great adversity in his life; he now uses his country music platform to help children everywhere, especially teenagers in foster care who are about to age out of the system. Walk to Beautiful is the powerfully emotive account of Jimmy's horrendous childhood and the love he received from Russell and Bea Costner, the elderly couple who gave him a stable home and provided the chance to complete his education. Jimmy says of Bea, "She changed every cell in my body." This moving memoir chronicles: Jimmy's life as a foster child and homeless teenager His adoption by Russell and Bea Costner, an elderly couple who gave him a stable home and provided the opportunities for him to thrive His surprising rise to fame in the music industry His tireless advocacy for children in the foster care system through his Meet Me Halfway awareness campaign, a 1,700 mile walk halfway across America from Nashville to Phoenix Join Jimmy on his walk to beautiful and see how one person really can make a difference.

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successfully used for the past thirty years for those who have suffered PTSD in the military. Recently it has been recognized as a useful therapy for other forms of trauma. For the author of this book, it was a lifesaving means of reprocessing painful experiences from her upbringing that continued to affect her life. Because "hurt people hurt people," Marie Pflugrad tells her story of pain and relief through EMDR to demonstrate how the past can be the past and not a shadow darkening the present.

my first guitar learn to play kids: Starting At Zero Jimi Hendrix, 2013-11-27 It didn't take long after Jimi Hendrix's death for the artist to become a myth of music. He has been surrounded by a shroud of intrigue since he first came into the public eye, and the mystery has only grown with time. Much has been written and said about him by experts and fans and critics, some of it true and some of it not; Starting at Zero will set the record straight. This is Hendrix in his own words. The lyricism and rhythm of Jimi Hendrix's writing will be of no surprise to his fans. Hendrix wrote prolifically throughout his life and he left behind a trove of scribbled-on hotel stationary, napkins and cigarette cartons. Starting at Zero weaves the scraps and bits together fluidly with interviews and lyrics revealing for the first time a continuous narrative of the artist's life, from birth through to the final four years of his life. The result is a beautifully poetic, charming and passionate memoir as smooth and memorable as Hendrix's finest songs. The pieces of Starting at Zero came together in large part because of the inspiration of Alan Douglas. Douglas first met Jimi Hendrix backstage at Woodstock, and soon after became Hendrix's producer and close friend. In creating the book he joined forces with Peter Neal, who edited Hendrix's writing with the reverence and light touch it deserved.

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