

BOWIE

SIMON CRITCHLEY



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Simon Critchley first encountered David Bowie in the early seventies, when the singer appeared on Britain's most-watched music show, Top of the Pops. His performance of Starman mesmerized Critchley: it was so sexual, so knowing, so strange. Two days later Critchley's mum bought a copy of the single; she liked both the song and the performer's bright orange hair (she had previously been a hairdresser). The seed of a lifelong love affair was thus planted in the mind of her son, aged 12.

In this concise and engaging excursion through the songs of one of the world s greatest pop stars, Critchley, whose writings on philosophy have garnered widespread praise, melds personal narratives of how Bowie lit up his dull life in southern England s suburbs with philosophical forays into the way concepts of authenticity and identity are turned inside out in Bowie s work. The result is nearly as provocative and mind-expanding as the artist it portrays.



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Simon Critchley is Hans Jonas Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York. His previous books include *On Humour*, *The Book of Dead Philosophers*, *How to Stop Living and Start Worrying*, *Impossible Objects*, *The Mattering of Matter* (with Tom McCarthy), *The Faith of the Faithless*, and *Stay*, *Illusion!: The Hamlet Doctrine* (with Jamieson Webster). An experimental new work, *Memory Theatre*, is forthcoming. He is series moderator of The Stone, a philosophy column in *The New York Times*, to which he is a frequent contributor.

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