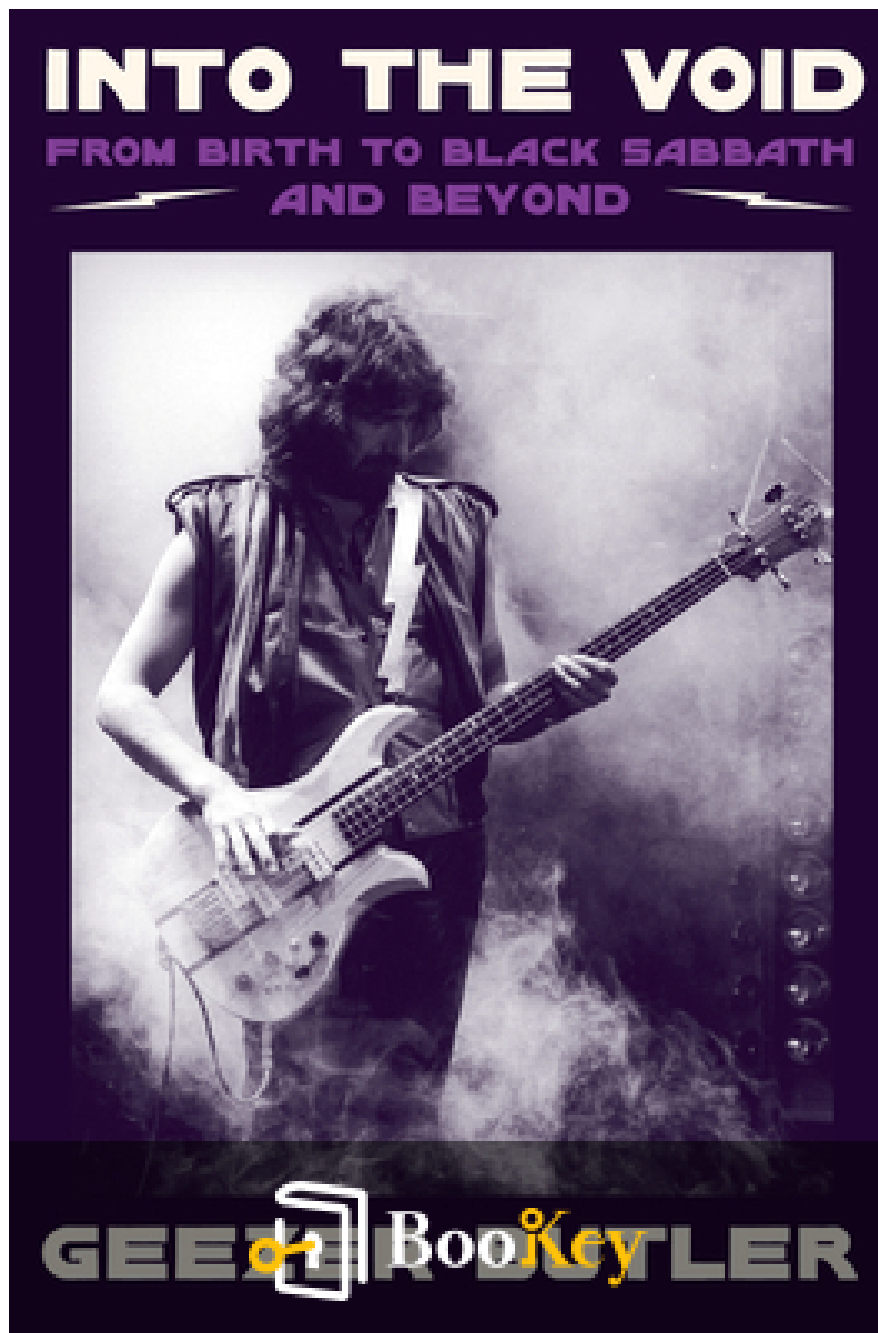


Into The Void PDF (Limited Copy)

Geezer Butler



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Into The Void Summary

Exploring the Darkness Within and Beyond.

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About the book

"Into the Void" by Geezer Butler is a mesmerizing journey into the psyche of one of rock music's most influential figures, offering fans a deeply personal glimpse of the man behind the legendary bass lines of Black Sabbath. With raw authenticity, Butler chronicles his tumultuous experiences, from the hedonistic highs of rock stardom to the profound lows that challenge one's very existence. Delving into the realms of spirituality, existentialism, and the artist's struggle for meaning amidst chaos, this book invites readers to accompany him as he navigates the shadows of fame and the illumination of self-discovery. Prepare to be captivated by a narrative that not only sheds light on the music that shaped a generation but also resonates with the universal quest for purpose in a world that often feels empty and void.

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About the author

Geezer Butler, born Terence Michael Butler on July 17, 1949, is a celebrated English musician, songwriter, and the co-founder of the pioneering heavy metal band Black Sabbath. Renowned for his intricate bass lines and profound lyrics that delve into themes of spirituality, politics, and existentialism, Butler has played a pivotal role in shaping the sound and trajectory of rock music. With a career spanning over five decades, he not only defined the heavy metal genre but also influenced countless artists across various musical styles. His distinctive voice and thoughtful songwriting have earned him recognition as one of the most important figures in rock history, solidifying his legacy through both his work with Black Sabbath and his solo endeavors.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Prologue

In the opening chapter of "Into the Void," Geezer Butler reflects on his journey from a young musician to a veteran in the world of rock and roll. A nostalgic photograph from his first gig in 1965 serves as a poignant reminder of how quickly time has passed. As he gazes at this moment captured in time, he realizes that the once-vibrant kid with a Hofner Colorama guitar has transformed into a seventy-year-old with white hair, yet the thrill of performing still courses through his veins.

Butler delves into the tumultuous experience of being part of Black Sabbath, a band defined by drama and excess. He describes the volatility of their early years, where the highs of fame were often accompanied by severe challenges—substance abuse, internal conflicts, and a lack of stability that often resembled the chaotic script of a soap opera. Despite the adversities, including a constant barrage of scrutiny from music critics and an ever-changing lineup, the original members somehow prevailed beyond the excesses of the 1970s, a testament to their resilience.

The narrative is laced with anecdotes about the camaraderie and creativity shared among the band members, painting a vivid picture of their on-stage synergy. He recalls the electrifying moments when they played together—Ozzy's unique stage presence, Tony's powerful riffs, Bill's rhythmic backbone, and his own thunderous bass lines. These moments,



filled with brotherhood and passion, defined their experience and cemented their legacy in rock history.

Butler expresses a deep-rooted love for music, emphasizing that, despite the chaos, performing was a joy that outweighed the frustrations. He likens the feeling of being on stage to a powerful rocket fueled by passion, a metaphor for their incredible journey that defied all odds. Reflecting on their evolution, he acknowledges that no one could have predicted their longevity or success, yet through all the challenges, they remained united, pursuing their dreams and cementing their place in music history. The chapter culminates with a heartfelt appreciation for the thrill of rock and roll that continues to resonate within him, embodying the spirit of that hopeful young musician in the photograph.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

In Chapter 2 of "Into the Void" by Geezer Butler, the author shares his early experiences growing up in a strict Catholic household and navigating the complexities of childhood, education, and the burgeoning music scene of the 1960s.

1. Raised in a devout Catholic environment, Butler fondly recalls enjoying Mass and the rituals surrounding it, despite his eventual belief that all religions are forms of brainwashing. His religious fervor was strong as a child, leading him to explore the concept of souls through morbid experiments with deceased pets. This intense curiosity for spirituality collided with the sobering realities of the Catholic doctrine, which often emphasized fear and damnation.
2. School played a significant role in Butler's formative years. Attending the Sacred Heart school, known for its strict discipline, he encountered harsh treatment from nuns and teachers alike, sometimes leading to physical punishment. This harsh educational environment contrasted starkly with his later experiences in grammar school, where he began to discover a more expansive and enriching curriculum that included literature, languages, and the arts.
3. Despite the oppressive atmosphere of his schooling, Butler embraced the



burgeoning music scene of the time, beginning with skiffle and later becoming entranced by rock and roll. The transformative power of music became evident through the excitement sparked by icons like Elvis Presley and eventually, the Beatles. Their sounds inspired Butler to invest in a guitar, setting him on a path toward a musical career.

4. Throughout his teenage years, Butler formed his first band, the Ruums, and experienced the thrill of performing and the camaraderie that came with it. However, he faced challenges, such as his awkwardness in fitting into the societal expectations of appearance and behavior, particularly with his long hair and non-conformist attitude.

5. As the music scene evolved, Butler's tastes deepened into blues, eventually leading to an awareness of influential artists like Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix. His growing fascination with music guided him through the highs and lows of youth, from playful band projects to life-changing concerts.

6. Despite the excitement in his musical journey, Butler's life outside music was tumultuous. He struggled with his job at a steel company, feeling trapped and increasingly disillusioned. The despair led him to contemplate escape through music, and after being fired, he sought to transition fully into a music career without a clear path forward.



7. Butler's experiences capture the clash of societal expectations, personal aspirations, and the liberating power of music. His memories of the stylistic evolution during the "Summer of Love" and the joy of concerts highlight a vibrant yet tumultuous youth poised between the pressures of working-class life and the allure of a more colorful existence.

In conclusion, Chapter 2 delves into Butler's relationship with religion, education, and music, illustrating how these forces shaped his identity and influenced his aspiration to pursue a career in rock music, despite the overwhelming challenges of adolescence. Through vivid anecdotes and heartfelt reflections, he paints a picture of the struggles that would ultimately fuel his creative expression and drive him toward a life in music.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The liberating power of music as an escape from societal constraints.

Critical Interpretation: Imagine yourself standing at the crossroads of your life, weighed down by the expectations and limitations imposed by the world around you. In Chapter 2 of 'Into the Void,' Geezer Butler illustrates how he navigated the stifling atmosphere of a strict upbringing and a rigid education system, only to find a profound sense of freedom and identity through music. This transformative power invites you to recognize that, though life may throw challenges your way—be it familial, societal, or professional—there exists an avenue for liberation that speaks directly to your soul. Music was Butler's refuge, igniting his passions and helping him break free from the chains of convention. Allow yourself to embrace your own unique passions as a means of self-discovery, resilience, and ultimately, personal liberation. No matter how difficult the journey may seem, remember that the melodies that resonate with your heart can lead you to your own symphony of freedom.



Chapter 3: 3. Something at the Door

In the third chapter of "Into the Void" by Geezer Butler, a sense of urgency and desperation permeates the narrative as Butler reflects on his quest to succeed as a musician amid personal struggles and a complicated band dynamic.

1. Desperation for Success: Faced with deepening depression and dwindling options in his music career, Butler decides to give his band, the Rare Breed, one last shot. In search of a vocalist, he stumbles upon a peculiar notice in a Birmingham music shop announcing that “Ozzy Zig needs a gig.” With little to lose, he sets out to connect with this Ozzy, who is essentially a wild card.

2. An Unexpected Encounter: The unexpected meeting with Ozzy Osbourne, who arrives at Butler's door looking unorthodox and somewhat wild, brings an instant mix of amusement and concern. Despite his unconventional appearance, including a sneaker on a dog leash, Ozzy's quirky demeanor piques Butler's interest. Their shared love for music and a

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Chapter 4 Summary: 4. Premonition

In Chapter 4 of "Into the Void" by Geezer Butler, the narrative unfolds with a rich tapestry of personal experiences steeped in childhood premonitions, ghostly encounters, and formative events that shaped his fascination with the occult and music.

1. The recounting begins with mystifying childhood memories that peak Butler's interest in the supernatural. A pivotal bus ride incident where he intuitively refuses to board, ultimately preventing a disastrous accident, illustrates his mysterious foresight. Other ghostly encounters, such as seeing an apparition at his grandmother's house, further amplify this theme of strange occurrences throughout his upbringing.
2. Local tragedies, like the Cannock Chase murders, and quirky community tales about alien encounters reveal the disturbing yet curious world Butler navigated in his youth. Such events foster his intrigue in darker subjects, which later influence his lyrical themes.
3. Growing up in a strict Irish Catholic environment constrains the exploration of the occult, strengthening his rebellion against familial and societal expectations during the burgeoning interest in Eastern mysticism and the occult prevalent in the late 1960s. Influenced by underground literature and other musicians, Butler and his band, originally named Earth,



search for an identity in the chaotic music scene.

4. The narrative progresses to the band's evolution into Black Sabbath, meant to reflect their heavier sound and thematic ambition while alluding to societal issues often overlooked by the mainstream. This transition leads to their gameplay on the stage as they refine their raw musical prowess.

5. The hardships faced during their initial touring and recording highlight the struggles of musicians at the time, from dealing with financial insecurity to confronting harsh critiques from the music industry. Butler's candid exploration of depression conveys the real human realities intertwined with the life of a burgeoning rock star, revealing the formative experiences underlying his songwriting.

6. The transformation into a well-recognized band with their self-titled debut album succeeds against the odds, despite critics' vitriolic reviews that fail to comprehend their distinct sound. The perception of Black Sabbath as not only a band but a cultural phenomenon begins to solidify, mischaracterized by associations with the occult and a misreading of their lyrical content.

7. As Black Sabbath reaches new heights, including unexpected acclaim from singles like "Paranoid," the narrative reflects on the band's dynamics, friendships, and conflicts with past management, ultimately illustrating a band evolving amidst chaos towards iconic status in rock history.

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Through vivid storytelling, Butler chronicles his journey from a haunted childhood to the vibrant emergence of Black Sabbath, blending personal history with the unfolding myths of rock, ensuring the reader gains a deeper understanding of how these experiences informed both his life and work in the music industry.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing Intuition and Instincts

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 4 of "Into the Void," you discover the power of intuition as Geezer Butler recounts a life-changing bus ride where he instinctively avoids a dangerous situation, a moment that serves as a stark reminder that sometimes, the most profound guidance comes from within. Imagine standing at a crossroads in your own life, faced with uncertainty where logic and reason fail to illuminate your path. This chapter nudges you to trust those inexplicable feelings that guide your choices, encouraging you to embrace your instincts, whether in personal relationships, career decisions, or creative pursuits. Just as Butler's foresight shaped his destiny and led him to explore the realms of the occult and music, so too can your intuition lead you toward your true calling, urging you to step boldly into the unknown and harness the unseen forces that could unfold before you.



Chapter 5 Summary: 5. America Calling

In the latter part of 1970, my band, Black Sabbath, embarked on our first trip to America, accompanied by our manager Wilf Pine and our roadies, Geoff Lucas and Richard "Spock" Wall. The anticipation was electric; it felt like we were launching into uncharted territory, much like Neil Armstrong's moon landing a year prior. On our flight, we shared space with the band Traffic, although they paid little attention to us. Our excitement was palpable, especially when we witnessed their bassist, Ric Grech, being arrested for an attempted breach of first class.

Upon landing in New York, however, our enthusiasm quickly faced reality. Our first hotel, the Lowes Midtown, was less than glamorous, with cockroaches infesting our beds. The cultural misunderstandings began immediately, largely stemming from our distinct Brummie accents. A simple request for "fags"—British slang for cigarettes—was mistakenly interpreted by an A&R man as something inappropriate, highlighting the language barrier we encountered. There were further amusing miscommunications, such as a girl commenting on Ozzy's tattoos and referencing her friend's "fanny," unaware of the differing meanings between the UK and US.

Our introduction to groupies unfolded shortly after, with excited fans storming our hotel room, further amplifying our introduction to the rock and roll lifestyle. Meanwhile, Wilf Pine had drifted into the clutches of the New



York branch of the Genovese crime family, a twist that added a layer of chaos to our already tumultuous arrival. On the day of our first performance, Wilf appeared in a feverish state, a side effect of his yellow fever vaccination, and after an unfortunate incident with a vibrating bed caused by Ozzy's quarters, he dislocated his arm, forcing him to return to England early.

1. The aspiration to succeed in America remains a goal for British bands, yet we mistakenly believed that making a splash in cities like New York or California meant instant recognition nationwide. Each state had its own culture and media, and our album "Paranoid" wasn't even released in America until January 1971. Thus began our painstaking journey, as we shuttled between Europe and the US, with each concert a new opportunity and challenge.

Our debut concert at a New Jersey university faced technical difficulties; our roadies were unaware of the differences in electrical systems between the UK and the US, resulting in blown amps. As we continued our tour, we played smaller venues, including Ungano's in Staten Island, which served as showcases for promoters eager to discover new talent. Despite initial setbacks, interest in our band began to surge after support gigs for Rod Stewart and the Faces and five successful nights at Whisky a Go Go in Los Angeles.

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2. Much of our experiences were surreal. From attending an Elvis show hosted by Warner Bros. to an unsettling encounter with a gun-wielding beggar, each moment compounded the sense of disorientation. A particularly strange moment occurred when I unwittingly consumed angel dust after accepting a dubious joint backstage, leading to a bizarre experience during a performance by the James Gang.

Our final show of that initial tour in Asbury Park culminated in a ridiculous altercation with members of the band Cactus, resulting in a wall collapse when Tony retaliated after being accused of stealing drugs. As the tour drew to a close, my health took a turn; I was informed I had syphilis, leading to a painful return flight home. My parents received alarming news from Georgina, who had alerted them to my condition. Upon returning to England, I was promptly treated for a kidney stone rather than the initially suspected illness, underscoring the misadventures common throughout our journey.

3. After a brief period back in the UK and Europe, we returned to America with heightened visibility, as our album "Paranoid" climbed to number twelve on the American charts. The stakes were higher this time, headlining at prominent venues like the Fillmore East and The Forum in LA, where we connected with influential bands like Mountain. The rock and roll lifestyle began to permeate our lives more intensely, with Bill gravitating towards heavy drinking, leading to reckless confrontations with Ozzy.



Incidents of chaos became commonplace, from Ozzy's altercations with fans to wild hotel behavior that left both our room and the motel's reputation in tatters. Groupies became a constant presence; they seemed more drawn to notoriety than beauty, while Tony charmingly attracted the few attractive ones among them.

4. Our engagement with the occult drew critique and bizarre reactions, as many preachers protested our performances, claiming we were spreading evil. Encounters with fans and eccentric characters, including witches and the Hells Angels, added a strange, almost surreal dimension to our lives. The aftermath of an American nurse's death linked to "Paranoid" ignited sensational media discourse, yet many assertions about our music were founded on misconceptions of our lyrics and intentions.

The tour concluded with misfortune as my wallet was stolen in Philadelphia, containing all manner of personal items. With that loss, my brief moment of rock star glamour subsequently gave way to an overwhelming sense of loss, leaving me with little to show for our ambitious break into America beyond memories and a few trinkets. The complexity of our experiences, both exhilarating and harrowing, reflected the tumultuous nature of breaking into the American music scene in a time when appearances were often misleading.

Event	Description
First Trip to America	Black Sabbath, accompanied by manager Wilf Pine and roadies, embarked on their first trip to America with high anticipation, akin to a space launch.
Arrival in New York	Upon landing, the band faced reality with an unpleasant hotel experience and cultural misunderstandings due to language differences.
First Performance Challenges	Technical difficulties plagued their debut concert due to unfamiliarity with American electrical systems, leading to blown amps.
Surreal Experiences	The band encountered odd situations, including a backstage incident with drugs and a bizarre encounter with a gun-wielding beggar.
Touring Chaos	Incidents with fans and chaotic behavior became common, particularly involving Ozzy and confrontations with groupies.
Musical Recognition	After their first tour, the band's visibility increased with "Paranoid" rising on the charts, leading to prominent performances and increased rock star lifestyle.
Media Scrutiny	Engagement with the occult attracted criticism from preachers and media misinterpretations of their music and lyrics.
Losses and Reflections	The tour ended with personal losses, including a stolen wallet, reflecting the tumultuous nature of their experience in America.



Chapter 6: 6. The Strain

In the turbulent chapter titled "The Strain" from “Into the Void” by Geezer Butler, the narrative encapsulates a pivotal time for the band Black Sabbath during the early 1970s. Overwhelmed by exhaustion and the chaos of fame, the band ultimately cancels their US tour in 1973, marking an extended hiatus from playing live shows. This decision, made during a fraught period in the music industry, led to a mere solitary performance in nine months—a stark contrast to their once-bustling schedules. As they regrouped in the du Pont mansion in Bel Air, the group grappled with stagnating creativity, largely attributed to their increasing reliance on cocaine, which stifled rather than inspired their musical process.

While in the studio, an awkward encounter with Stevie Wonder introduces a comedic yet humiliating moment for Butler, illustrating the insecurity and vulnerability that coexisted with their burgeoning fame. Against this backdrop of uncertainty, Butler feels constrained in contributing musically, often doubting his capabilities. Amidst their stop-and-start writing sessions, the band relocates to the haunting Clearwell Castle in the UK, where strange

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Chapter 7 Summary: 8. Between Heaven and Hell

The chapter delves into the tumultuous relationship and evolving dynamics within Black Sabbath following Ozzy Osbourne's departure due to his struggles with substance abuse. The emotional fallout is palpable, with feelings of betrayal being mutual among the band members. Both Geezer Butler and Ozzy express their dismay over the disbandment of their long-standing camaraderie, built over a decade of shared struggles and triumphs, as they navigated the music industry's relentless demands. During this turbulent transition, the band faces a critical juncture; they must decide whether to continue with Ozzy, who is spiraling out of control, or to seek new beginnings.

In what can be seen as a defining moment in their career, Tony Iommi contemplates the band's future by considering former Rainbow frontman Ronnie James Dio as a potential replacement. The urgency is intensified by the record label's pressure for new material, placing the band's survival at the forefront. As the band hangs in the balance, clandestine meetings and disagreements hint at a fractured foundation, with internal conflicts looming large.

As Dio joins the fold, he immediately invigorates the band's creative spirit. His impressive vocal range and fresh lyrical contributions generate a palpable sense of excitement, offering a stark contrast to Ozzy's declining



engagement. This evolution not only reinvigorates the band artistically but also generates conflict with their management, who resist the change and mourn the loss of the original lineup.

Amid the introspection and professional dilemmas, Butler grapples with personal challenges of his own. Having moved past substance abuse, he navigates the complexities of his personal life as he confronts the fallout of his marriage. The emotional toll is evident, but the amicable resolution of his divorce allows him to shed some of the burdens weighing him down, paving the way for his return to music.

Ultimately, as tensions with the previous management dissipate and the dynamics shift within the band, a sense of optimism begins to emerge. With Don Arden stepping aside, Butler is hopeful for a new chapter with Ronnie and the potential for fresh musical achievements. The seeds of what would become a significant revival for Black Sabbath are sown during this fraught but pivotal moment in their journey, illustrating the resilience and adaptability that have come to define their legacy.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embracing change and letting go of the past can lead to new beginnings.

Critical Interpretation: In the face of overwhelming uncertainty following Ozzy's departure, you may find yourself losing sight of the familiar, teetering on the edge of doubt about your path forward. Yet, it's crucial to embrace the transformative power of change. Just as Black Sabbath found rejuvenation and a fresh start with Ronnie James Dio, you can discover untapped potential within yourself by letting go of what no longer serves you. This chapter reminds you that every ending carries the seeds of a new beginning; sometimes, the toughest decisions can lead to the most rewarding endeavors. Embrace the unknown, for it may just be the catalyst for your own personal revival.



Chapter 8 Summary: 10. Tomorrow Never Knows

In Chapter 8 of "Into the Void" by Geezer Butler, the narrative unfolds against the backdrop of a heavy metal scene undergoing significant transformation in the mid-1980s. The chapter captures Butler's disillusionment with the emerging hair metal genre, which prioritized image over substance. He reflects on past experiences with fashion—wearing stiff leather pants—while emphasizing that his musical roots lay in genuine rock, as exemplified by the glam rock icons of the 1970s. As tensions arise within the band, the search for a new singer leads to numerous auditions that yield a mix of disappointing results, ultimately exposing a lack of direction for Black Sabbath.

Butler's personal life furthers the sense of uncertainty. While expecting his second child, he learns of his father's grave illness, prompting heartfelt visits back home. His father's refusal of medical treatment symbolizes a generational clash and adds emotional weight to Butler's struggles, culminating in the deep grief following his father's death. The stark contrast between this personal tragedy and the joyous expectation of fatherhood intensifies his feelings of guilt and helplessness.

The chapter also details Butler's departure from Black Sabbath, driven by familial responsibilities and a desire for a fresh start. Amidst the chaos of personal life, a call to action arises when he participates in Live Aid, an



event aimed at alleviating famine in Ethiopia. Despite initial reluctance, the reunion showcases the enduring bond between band members, even if only for a moment.

As Butler embarks on a solo journey, he faces the challenge of separating his identity from Black Sabbath, which carries its own legacy and challenges. He sells his stake in the band's name to Tony Iommi and focuses on family life and personal well-being. This chapter paints a vivid picture of Butler's journey—from grappling with loss and the chaos of his musical career to emerging gradually as a dedicated family man and a musician seeking to find his own voice outside the shadows of his past.

At several points, Butler wrestles with the commercialization of music and the implications of his former bandmates' decisions, particularly Iommi's direction with Black Sabbath post-Butler. The narrative encapsulates the tension between financial needs and artistic integrity, urging Butler to forge his own path rather than replicate the past. Ultimately, he embraces his family's importance as a foundation for new beginnings, symbolizing growth and resilience amid life's tumultuous changes.

1. Disillusionment with Hair Metal: Butler expresses disdain for the superficiality of hair metal, contrasting it with the authentic artistry of earlier rock music.



2. **Personal Tragedy:** The chapter centers around Butler's father's declining health and subsequent death, intertwining familial responsibility with professional upheaval.
3. **Life-Altering Decision:** Butler's need to reassess his priorities leads to his decision to step away from Black Sabbath, highlighting the conflict between career and family.
4. **Reunion for Charity:** Despite initial doubts, Butler finds a momentary unification with former bandmates through Live Aid, illustrating the enduring legacy of their musical bond.
5. **Solo Identity:** Butler's departure from Sabbath propels him toward self-discovery, highlighting the challenge of separating individual artistry from a preserved band identity.
6. **Navigating the New Landscape:** The chapter underscores the struggle against the commercialization of music and the search for authenticity in an evolving industry.
7. **Family as a Priority:** The commitment to family over fame and fortune emerges as a strong theme, shaping Butler's focus as he seeks stability and fulfillment in new endeavors.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Family as a Priority

Critical Interpretation: In Butler's narrative, you witness the profound importance of family as he navigates the tumultuous waters of loss and responsibility. This chapter powerfully illustrates that, in the face of life's chaotic shifts, prioritizing your loved ones can ground you and provide clarity amid uncertainty. Just as Butler must reevaluate his path in light of his father's illness, you too might find inspiration to reflect on your own relationships, recognizing their role as anchors in your journey. When you choose to prioritize those who matter most, you create a strong foundation that fosters resilience and encourages personal growth, ultimately guiding you through the inevitable storms of life.

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Chapter 9: 11. Bouncing Around

In chapter 9 of "Into the Void," Geezer Butler recounts the tumultuous period of Black Sabbath's journey during the late 1980s and early 1990s, outlining key events that shaped both his personal and professional life.

1. After the disappointing release of an album in 1988, Black Sabbath found itself dropped by its record labels. Rather than rejoining the band, Geezer chose to tour with Ozzy Osbourne on the No Rest for the Wicked tour. During this time, he reconnected with Ozzy, and their families enjoyed close ties, sharing personal moments together.
2. A visit to his ailing mother in the hospital proved poignant, as Geezer felt an unsettling premonition about her health. His fears were confirmed when, after a concert in Buffalo, he experienced a severe panic attack that led to a hospital visit, where he discovered his mother had passed away. This devastating loss influenced his subsequent decisions, including a quick return to the tour to avoid letting Ozzy down.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 12. So Low

In his reflective narrative from Chapter 10 of "Into the Void," Geezer Butler shares significant chapters of his musical journey following his departure from Black Sabbath.

- 1. The Transition to Solo Work** Upon returning to England, Butler embarked on creating his debut solo album. Collaborating with his nephew Pedro and Burton Bell of Fear Factory, he reveled in the liberating experience of cooperation, free from the conflicts that had marred previous band dynamics. The collaboration thrived on mutual approval and respect for creativity, enabling Butler to express himself fully and authentically.
- 2. Recording "Plastic Planet":** The creative process led to the formation of "Plastic Planet," released in October 1995. The album's notable heaviness garnered critical acclaim, landing spots on several top metal albums lists for the year. A standout track, "The Invisible," resonated with themes of homelessness and drug addiction, achieving further recognition by being featured on the platinum-selling "Mortal Kombat" movie soundtrack. A brief promotional tour followed, marked by memorable moments, including a visit from Ozzy Osbourne.
- 3. Ego Conflicts and Personal Strain:** Amid his burgeoning success, tensions escalated with Tony Iommi, catalyzed by Butler's track "Giving Up



the Ghost.” While the song aimed at illustrating the turmoil of his experiences within Black Sabbath, Iommi’s retaliatory actions, particularly involving personal jabs directed at Butler’s family, intensified the rift. This feud reflected deeper emotions about betrayal and the impact of stardom on personal relationships.

4. Struggles During Ozzmosis: As Butler transitioned to work on Ozzy’s “Ozzmosis,” he confronted a wave of depression, exacerbated by a prolonged stay in Los Angeles. His isolation and refusal to socialize escalated, leading to him being labeled a recluse. The challenging recording sessions were compounded by difficult interactions with the producer, Michael Beinhorn, whose domineering presence made the studio atmosphere oppressive. Butler’s relief came when he managed to re-record his bass parts under more favorable conditions.

5. Zakk Wylde’s Antics: The narrative introduces Zakk Wylde, Ozzy’s guitarist, whose outrageous personality and sense of humor provided a stark contrast to the tension surrounding the recording. Butler recounts the wild, comedic episodes that highlighted Wylde’s unpredictability, from drinking his own urine to rolling out of a moving taxi. Despite these bizarre moments, Wylde ultimately played a supportive role in Butler’s life during the Ozzmosis tour, exemplifying the unlikely camaraderie formed in the world of rock.



Through this chapter, Butler paints a vivid picture of his evolving career, marked by newfound artistic freedom, personal strife, and the peculiarities of life on the road, encapsulating the bittersweet nature of fame and the complexities of human relationships within the music industry.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 13. Beginning of the End

In November 2011, the original lineup of Black Sabbath announced their reunion to record a new studio album, marking their first collaborative effort since 1978. This decision came after discussions among the band, particularly following the death of Ronnie James Dio, and was framed as a fitting conclusion to their storied career. However, the reunion quickly faced turmoil as debates resurfaced regarding the use of the Sabbath name. Geezer Butler felt sidelined when it appeared that Tony Iommi and Ozzy Osbourne intended to retain exclusive rights to the band's name, leading him to leave the project temporarily. After legal intervention clarified that he would receive equitable treatment despite the name dispute, Butler rejoined the group.

As creative sessions commenced, the band learned that Iommi had been diagnosed with lymphoma. Despite the overwhelming nature of such a diagnosis, Iommi's tenacity shone through; he continued to write and record music while undergoing chemotherapy, displaying an extraordinary commitment to the band. Meanwhile, Butler took some time for personal enjoyment, even attending a football game, while Iommi dedicated himself to the studio.

Despite the creative momentum, circumstances forced the band to alter their plans for a full-blown tour. Instead, they opted for a performance under the



banner of Ozzy and Friends, bringing in various supporting musicians to facilitate the show, which served as a temporary solution to Iommi's inability to tour.

In a twist of fate, Bill Ward, the original drummer, encountered contract disputes that ultimately led to his departure from the reunion. Ward claimed he was presented with an "unsignable" contract, which he felt lacked respect and integrity. Internal strife deepened as disagreements about Ward's physical readiness and a charity event performance became public knowledge, significantly tainting the band's reunion narrative.

The reunion culminated in a highly anticipated performance at the Download Festival, already fraught with challenges, as weather conditions threatened to derail the event. Nonetheless, once the stage was set and the band took the stage, the energy of the performance electrified the atmosphere, converting initial nerves into a powerful connection with the audience. Their comeback setlist resonated deeply with the crowd, filled with iconic tracks, proving that even with the backstage drama and personal challenges faced by band members, Black Sabbath had not lost their legendary prowess.

In reflecting on this tumultuous time, it became evident that the legacy of Black Sabbath was built on more than just their music; it was also characterized by resilience, unity in overcoming adversity, and the deep,

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sometimes complicated interpersonal relationships that defined their journey. The essence of rock and roll was alive and well, as they delivered a performance that demonstrated the enduring power of their collective artistry.

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