

Into the Abyss: The Life of George R.Sims



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(Audra King IV)

INTO THE ABYSS: THE LIFE OF GEORGE R.SIMS

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Elliott Thompson Limited, United Kingdom, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 210 x 150 mm. Language: N/A. Brand New Book. The chronicler of Sims life and career, William Fishman, is a masterly recorder of nineteenth century social history, and a true writer. In his hands Sims becomes far more than a bland character devoted to good works, indeed is revealed as an enthusiastic gambler, a frequenter of clubs, a lover of the theatre, a successful playwright and something of a drinker. Aspects of what he recorded are as relevant today as they were then. From Beryl Bainbridge's Preface. The social historian and academic, W J Fishman, has become world-renowned for his many accounts chronicling the working class history of London's East End. Now approaching his ninth decade, Bill Fishman has written yet another vivid account of the life and work of the Victorian journalist, George R Sims. The author believes that Sims writings and lectures did as much as the work of Charles and William Booth in laying the foundations of the movement to introduce government directed social welfare in the late 19th century, and beyond. Indeed, Beryl Bainbridge, in her Preface, argues that Sims did more to highlight the plight of the poor in Victorian London than Charles Dickens. Yet Sims was also a robust, controversial and thoroughly engaging individual. He even wrote the now some-what forgotten monologue, *Twas the Night before Christmas*, and Beryl Bainbridge's splendid Preface ends with remembering her annual recitation of the famous work, at the insistence of her Auntie Nellie, every Christmas Eve.

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