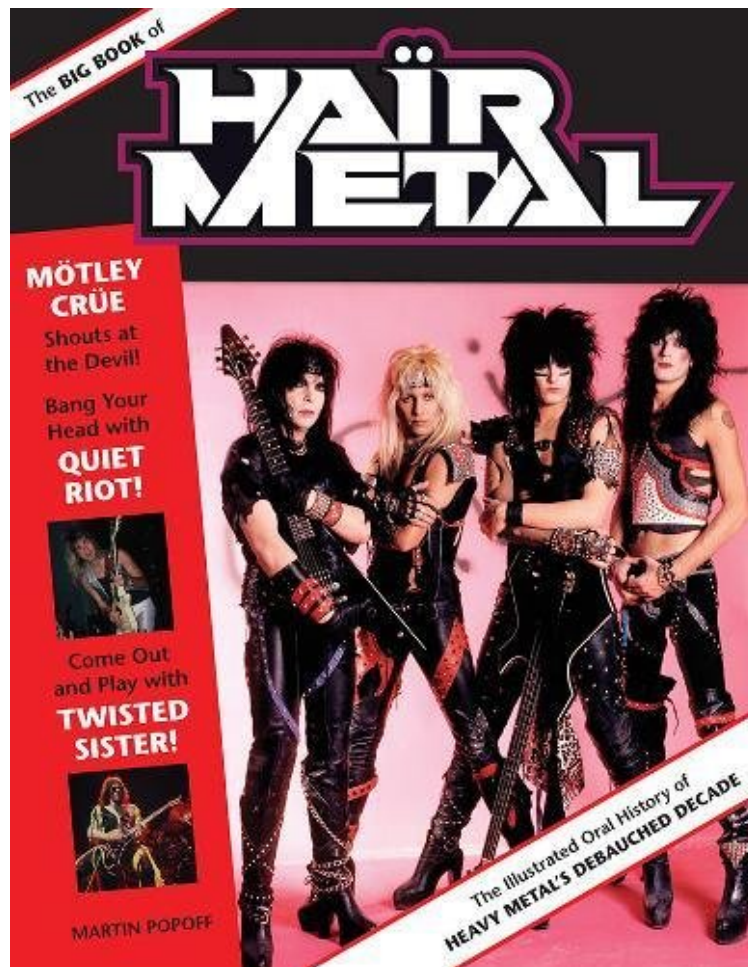


The Big Book of Hair Metal: The Illustrated Oral History of Heavy Metal's Debauched Decade

Martin Popoff

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#669011 in Books 2014-08-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.38 x 1.13 x 8.88l, .0 #File Name: 0760345465224 pages | File size: 41.Mb

Martin Popoff : The Big Book of Hair Metal: The Illustrated Oral History of Heavy Metal's Debauched Decade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Book of Hair Metal: The Illustrated Oral History of Heavy Metal's Debauched Decade:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I love this style of musicBy CurbsideLifeI love this style of music. I have about 600 cd's and 400 are hair metal. I have almost everything. Now the reason for 3 star rating. There are alot of "facts" that are totally incorrect. There are also alot of negative comments, implying this is just fluff garbage that nobody should give an F about. The numerous mentions of Nirvana and pearl Jam facts are not necessary either. To me nerdvana and puke jam sucked, and when I'm reading about bands I love I don't need to be constantly reminded that nerdvana put a crap cd. The constant mentioning of Seattle was not needed or wanted. The book could've and should've been a celebration of these bands instead I feel it was mostly mocking, and making fun of the music I love

most.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Just like its subject, this book has more style than substance. By Oliverio Casas Nobody who was alive in the 80s can argue that from 1983 to 1991, hair metal was, at least from a commercial point of view, the dominant rock style, and, in many cases, the hardest music you could casually find on the radio or MTV. Besides colorful costumes, drug abuse, big hair and videos featuring scantily clad girls air humping, hair metal left a huge legacy of unrestrained showmanship, impeccable pop songwriting, big beats, virtuoso guitar players, apocalyptic band feuds, irresistible party anthems and fun by the boatload. Being an MTV weaned, headbanging hesh who turned 12 in 1984, you can easily figure out I'm exactly the target audience for this book, that is, an adult who lived through this era and remembers it fondly. Compared to American Hair Metal, the other high profile book on the subject, IMO, The Big Book of Hair Metal is way more shallow despite having more actual written content, since it tends to waste too much space on trivial band stories and minutiae and fails to weave a cohesive narrative regarding the movement's development, a big problem considering it's timeline format. Basically, this is a collection of interviews the author had in his archives combined with period photos and memorabilia using a period teenybopper magazine like layout to great effect, but despite loving the book's overall look and feel, I still found too many annoying mistakes that should've been corrected before this book got into print, kind of baffling considering the author's pedigree. Another big issue is how the book ends abruptly in 1991. True, the rise of grunge killed hair metal dead, but it wasn't that fast, for some high profile bands, 1992 and 1993 were still good years business wise, IMO, 1994 should be the cutoff year, though examining some of the ridiculously tougher albums some bands put out well into 1998 while trying to adapt (very unsuccessfully, and in some cases, adopting a plain, grungier image I might add) to seismic music industry changes would've given the reader a much better view on the movement as a whole. Even if I really enjoyed the book and found it somewhat engaging, mostly out of nostalgia, it kind of disappoints because most of its content is recycled and there's way too much filler. Another big problem is that the majority of the featured material was culled from the author's interview archives, some third (or fourth) tier losers get as much (or in some cases even more) attention than some of the genre's top dogs, Billy Childs(*) being a particularly bothersome example of this. Hey, maybe that was the whole point behind this book, some kind of meta commentary about hair metal albums... I remember buying a lot of hair metal cassettes, back in the day, because I loved some video on MTV, only to find that outside one or two singles (which, btw, never sounded as good on my walkman as they did on MTV), most of them were just a waste of acetate... thank goodness mix tapes were a thing! (*) Britny Fox's bass player, not that anyone cares. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Almost perfect... with some caveats; where's Kix? By Derek Tatum "The Big Book of Hair Metal" is a long overdue history that takes its subject seriously. It's hard to believe that this is the first book specifically devoted to glam/pop-metal history; other books have had a strong focus on the subgenre, but were attempts at more general histories of heavy metal as a whole. With a topic that has been often-derided by the media, Popoff made the right call by presenting it as a "oral history," straight from the people who lived it. The book is also organized in a timeline format, with each chapter tracing a different year. While this is a great book, I did have a couple of problems with it. First off is the almost complete exclusion of Kix. While I realize that no book can be all things for all people, Kix has been at the forefront of listeners reevaluating the genre; their recent comeback album has done well for a genre that most left for dead. Historically, they were at the start of the pop-metal movement and their influence has been discussed elsewhere. They really should have been represented beyond a couple of brief "and those other guys" type mentions. My second issue is that what constitutes "hair metal" is ill-defined. It's a subgenre that we all have an image of, but the details become fuzzy under close inspection. I never quite understood how progressive rock bands like Kings' X or Queensryche fall under the "hair" umbrella. Other than that, "The Big Book of Hair Metal" belongs on the shelf of all hard rock libraries.

In the 1980s, heavy metal went mainstream. The dark themes and brain-busting riffage of bands like Black Sabbath and Deep Purple suddenly fell out of favor--replaced by a new legion of metalheads whose themes of girls, partying, girls, drugs, and girls were presented amid shredding solos and power ballads and who were, for some reason, more acceptable to the masses. In this ultimate guide to the subgenre, acclaimed heavy-metal journalist Martin Popoff examines hair metal in an all-encompassing oral history jacked up by a kaleidoscope of outrageous and previously unpublished quotes, anecdotes, photos, and memorabilia. The Big Book of Hair Metal features the observations of dozens of musicians, producers, promoters, label execs, and hanger-ons in examining hair metal's rise and fall as well as all the bands that kept Aqua Net in business through the Reagan recession: Twisted Sister, Bon Jovi, Poison, Mötley Crüe, Ratt, Warrant, Great White, Whitesnake, Cinderella, Vixen, Skid Row, L.A. Guns, Guns N' Roses, and dozens more. In crafting a narrative of hair metal, Popoff also examines the factors that contributed to the movement's rise (including MTV, Reagan's "morning in America," and a general move toward prudish morals); the bands that inspired it (the Sweet, New York Dolls, Alice Cooper, and KISS, for a start); and the scenes that nurtured it (the Sunset Strip, anyone?). The ride finally ended circa 1991, when hair metal was replaced by grunge, but what a ride it was. Here it is in all of its pimped-up glory.

"...a wildly diverse appreciation for some of the best in under the radar music" - New Noise Magazine