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Swedish Death Metal



Synopsis

Sweden is a small country in freezing northern Europe, with less than nine million inhabitants and a reputation for Volvos, hockey players, cheap furniture, vodka, and blonde women. Since the late 1980s, however, Sweden has produced over a thousand extreme heavy metal bands, creating one of the most respected regional music scenes in the world. This is the improbable history of how a marginalized teen movement crawled from Sweden's small towns and suburbs, and found a lasting place on the world stage. Daniel Ekeroth captures the epic tale with enlightening detail, beginning with Sweden's violent loss of innocence in the 1980s, through the metal's virtual chokehold on the country during the 1990s, into the lasting legacy and global influence in the turbulent 2000s of the Sunlight guitar tone, the Gothenburg Sound, and the countless offshoots of Sweden's most lethal cultural export. Bazillion Points has extensively revised and updated a classic for this expanded edition. The ultimate insider's account of the rise of Sweden's legendary extreme metal scene, the book boasts over 450 pages, over 500 images, and scores of exclusive interviews with members of Nihilist/ Entombed, In Flames, At the Gates, Dismember, Grave, Hypocrisy, Opeth, Unleashed, Marduk, Morbid, Mob 47, Deranged, Edge of Sanity, Merciless, Therion, Liers in Wait, Carnage, Carcass, Tiamat/Treblinka, Afflicted, Repugnant, the Haunted, and other central characters. Original cover artwork by Nicke Andersson. Introduction by U.S. death metal pioneer Chris Reifert of Autopsy/Abscess/Death. Includes 120-page A-Z of Swedish Death Metal with hundreds of band histories and discographies. Rare photos and galleries of logos, band art, demo tapes, and classic Swedish death metal fanzines. Specs: 7 x 9.5 x 1.5 , 3lbs., 101% addictive.

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Customer Reviews

I purchased this book a few weeks ago, as the cover is simply amazing, and I love death metal. I am currently about half way through and it has been a goretastic ride. Daniel Ekeröth writes the book from his point of view as a kid growing up in Sweden as a death metalhead. It recounts the origins of extreme music in Sweden, starting with the hardcore/punk bands in the early 80's. The book segues into the early thrash scene in Southern California, and how it impacted the youngsters in Sweden. Daniel tells of a bunch of Swedish bands that I have never heard of, but he writes about them so well that I want to listen to all of them. There are hundreds of band/album/demo photos as well to illustrate the scene. If you are a seasoned metalhead, then you will enjoy this book and remember the good old days. If you are relatively young, like me, then you will get a fascinating look into how the old school Swedish death metal scene was like back then. Every respectable metalhead needs this book on their bookshelves. Really, get it, even if you haven't read anything since Left Hand Path came out, it's an awesome book.

This is a must-have for any Swedish metal fan, but I think it's pretty obvious with the title... Anyway, what makes the book really good is the approach of the research : contrary to most of books about metal, Swedish Death Metal doesn't focus on sales and biggest bands for the history, but on the underground and the whole demo/fanzine scene... which is in fact what metal is all about. The encyclopedia at the end of the book is pretty useful too, covering most of the Swedish death metal bands that rose in the early 90's/late 80's and some more recent acts. The only minus thing : sometimes, the views on bands and some history are a bit too subjective, but I think death metal addicts can easily correct. A great book !

Like any book on music there are a lot of parts in the book that are subjective. That being said this is the most in-depth, interesting, and well researched book not just on metal but on any topic I've read concerning music. The pictures and articles Ekeröth managed to scrape together for this amazing tome compliment the writing and history very well, and being that this is the most money I've spent for a book in a long time, it was worth every penny. A star gets deducted because, even though it is clarified in the introduction that there are a lot of parts that are subjective, there are areas where the author comes off "metal-er than thou." This is especially the case in the index of metal bands where bands that actually made money and became famous (see In Flames) are called "too commercial."

Shouldn't the listener/reader be the judge of that? And maybe they are too commercial in Scandinavia, but last I checked an In Flames album would not stand a chance to crack the Top 40 in the American market, which is way overproduced and manufactured. That aside it has to be one of the best things I've read in a long time and I'm hoping someone comes along and puts out a book about Children of Bodom and the Finnish metal scene sometime in the near future (preferably in the King's English and not Finnish).

With its diligent research, copious rare graphics, enthusiastic delivery and quality printing, this just may be the best book ever written on any aspect of heavy metal. It goes to show just how well the music can be documented when you have an author that really gives a damn! The author deserves our gratitude and praise for the amount of work and love put into this book, which is staggering in its exhaustive nature.

This is a great read that has input from just about every major Swedish Death Metal Band that were part of creating and defining Swedish Death Metal (At the Gates, Dismember, Entombed, etc). Lots of great quotes and historical "facts" of how it all began and how it changed metal forever. If you are a fan of this style of music you will not be disappointed. Highly recommended!!!

This is remarkably well written and goes into detail about the music itself instead of just the people and places involved in its creation. There are lots of great photos, too. If you love metal, this should be on your book shelf or coffee table! :) Sarah

Daniel Ekeröth gives an amazingly detailed account of the birth and rise of one of the most revered genres of metal music. It focuses on the seeds of the extreme movement and how it developed into the massive Sunlight sound and beyond. It basically leaves no stones unturned on the origins of these Swedish bands. The book includes first hand accounts from many people in those bands and people involved with zines, radioshow etc. This book is truly hard to put down. If you are looking for info about In Flames, Dark Tranquillity or other Gothenburg bands do not look here. The closest you will get is some info from Michael Amott from Arch Enemy but if you didn't know he was apart of the seminal band Carnage. Get it now!

This is the f++++g underground, the true born of the mighty Swedish death metal!!!!!!! Tons of demo covers that a lot of people in the underground like me, never saw.

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