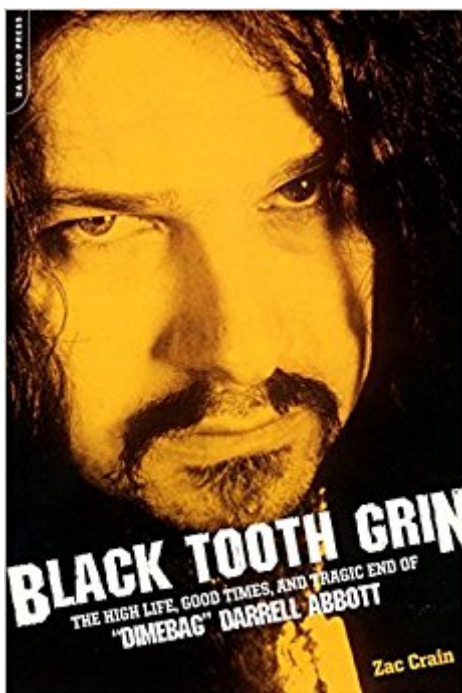


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Black Tooth Grin: The High Life, Good Times, And Tragic End Of ""Dimebag"" Darrell Abbott



Synopsis

Black Tooth Grin is the first biography of Dimebag Darrell Abbott, the Texas-bred guitarist of the heavy metal band Pantera, who was murdered onstage in 2004 by a deranged fan 24 years to the day after John Lennon met a similar fate. Darrell Abbott began as a Kiss-inspired teenage prodigy who won dozens of local talent contests. With his brother, drummer Vinnie Abbott, he formed Pantera, becoming one of the most popular bands of the '90s and selling millions of albums to an intensely devoted fan base. While the band's music was aggressive, Dimebag was outgoing, gregarious, and adored by everyone who knew him. From Pantera's heyday to their implosion following singer Phil Anselmo's heroin addiction to Darrell's tragic end, Black Tooth Grin is a moving portrait of a great artist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Darrell Abbott, known to fans of rock band Pantera as Dimebag Darrell, was shot to death by a deranged fan while playing a show in Columbus, Ohio, in 2004. This horrific event, recounted in nightmarish detail and replete with gratuitous comparisons to September 11, bookends Crain's reverential but superficial chronicle of the highly regarded heavy-metal guitarist's career. As narrated by Crain, Dallas Observer music editor, Darrell is a hard-drinking mama's boy who, growing up in Arlington, Tex., refined his guitar chops by walling himself up in his room for hours instead of going to high school. With his brother, Vince, and other neighborhood musicians, Darrell formed the band Pantera. Under the influence of Metallica and with the addition of a rough-edged

singer named Phil Anselmo, the band evolved into a major force on the metal scene with its original blend of technical skill and Southern attitude. Pantera achieved massive success in the '90s with the release of a few albums, including the heaviest album to hit No. 1 on the charts, *Far Beyond Driven*, and toured the world. Crain dutifully recounts the addictions and intra-band squabbling that inevitably shadow rock success, but the cheerful strangeness and decency of Dimebag, perhaps best exemplified by his collaboration with the eccentric country musician David Allen Coe, manages to shine through, even in the darker corners of the narrative. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The Bookseller, 3/2/09 • This long-awaited account of a hard rocking life cut short has real cult sleeper potential. • Booklist, 6/1/09 • Crain describes the career of an accomplished and influential guitarist. Crain's iteration of the man and his career is a fitting memorial. • Texas Monthly, June 2009 • [Crain] captures the essence of the band's virtuoso guitarist, who was revered by musicians and fans alike for his outrageous skills and everyman persona. • Dallas Morning News Texas Pages blog, 5/30/09 • Chronicle[s] Abbot's life and career with careful detail and just the right amount of appreciation. •

The book begins with a preamble describing the horrible events of the night Dime was murdered. We all know what happened, but not exactly HOW it happened, and the author does a great job of describing the events with edge of your seat tension. The rest of the book chronicles the rise of Dime/Pantera into the realm of Metal Gods. A couple of things stood out. Dime was such a gifted player, a veteran of the club circuit at the ripe age of 17, obliterating his competition, some of which were years older than him. Second it shows just how honest, unassuming and sincere Dime was in life. Not to mention how down to earth, he and Vinny lived with their mom well after Pantera became a national act, and one of their first acts of generosity was to make sure SHE was taken care of. Vinny and Dime were the perfect Yin/Yang. Dime represented the good time rock and roll, Vinny was the heady business type with very underrated savvy in a cutthroat business. A great deal of time is spent on the typical 'backstage' antics, but a lot of time is spent on the evolution of the band from a hair metal outfit to the bludgeoning juggernaut that Pantera became, all through it, we get glimpses of Dime's humanity through touching anecdotes that remind us just how special he was as a human being. Dime loved to party, but it never interfered with his true love: guitar shredding, and this theme is repeated throughout the book. My only criticism was that I would have liked a little more perspective from the "outcast" Phil Anselmo, his take, his thoughts etc...but then the book is

about DIME, really, and it's a minor criticism....well worth a read!

Cool book must read if your a pantera fan And want to know some insight about dime.....must read for the fan

The quality of the book itself was exactly how it was described. The content, however, is a little watered down, and the author repeats himself a lot. Still not a bad book for the price, just don't expect some awesome Pantera "tell-all" book.

Good story about a legend.

I loved this book, I'm a die-hard Pantera and Dimebag fan, so I wanted to know more about him and his life. Having already seen Dimevision and other documentaries/interviews on youtube, I knew what to expect, but I still loved the book. It doesn't really have interviews from Vinnie Paul or Phil, but still it's a good read, I enjoyed it. I think any Pantera fan should read this.

This biography by Crain is an unauthorized one, because of this there are a lot of details left out, it's still a worthy read for the hardcore Dimebag enthusiast. Much of the books content is taken from magazines, interviews, and the few friends of Dime who were willing to share their experiences. Nobody from the Abbot/Pantera camp makes any statements in the book, outside of quotes taken from different interviews. Due to this approach there are a lot of details left out, however most of the core details are intact. The book feels to at times skate over periods where there is little documentation of Dime or Pantera's history. It also feels as though it's content is stretched extremely thin at times. The author constantly reminds the reader how great a guitarist Dime was, or how much he liked to drink and party. While both of these statements are true, it feels as though the book reverts back to these reminders for the sole purpose of filling a few more pages. While the book does have many flaws, one must remember that it is an unauthorized biography, and with what Crain had to work with he did a fairly decent job. For a hardcore Dime or Pantera fan, it is definitely worth reading, however you will not get the full story from this, just an in depth overview.

Such a great book. easy to read and kept you interested. made you feel like you really knew Dime and like you were there his last night. I recommend this book for any Dimebag or Pantera fan.

I got this for my boyfriend that is in A Balance Of Power [...], he has always been a Pantera fan and loves autobiography! He shared that this is killer and every Pantera fan should read it![...]

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