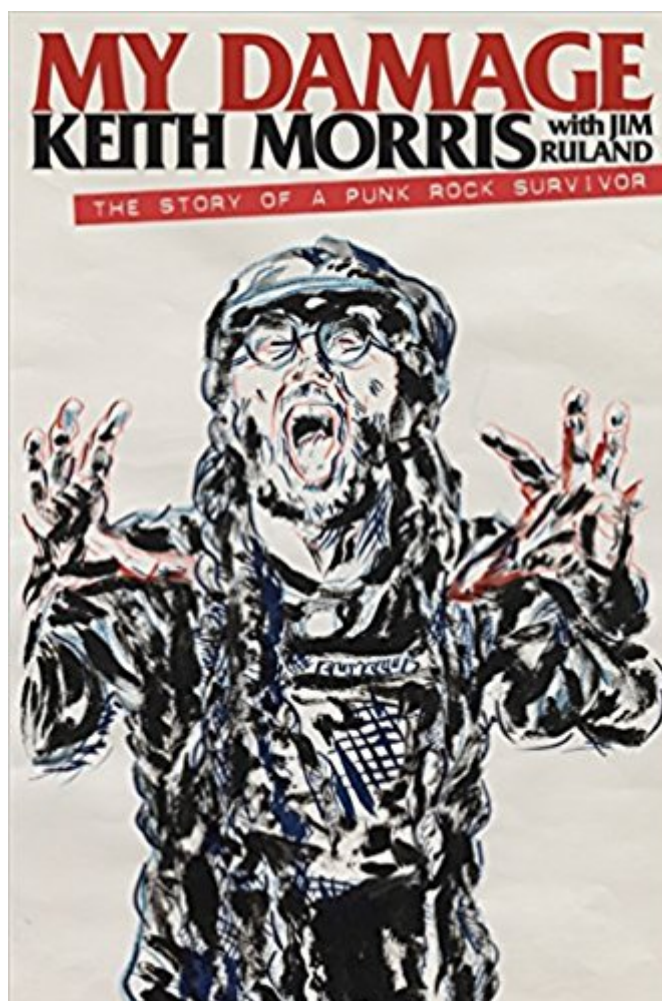


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My Damage: The Story Of A Punk Rock Survivor



Synopsis

Keith Morris is a true punk icon. No one else embodies the sound of Southern Californian hardcore the way he does. With his waist-length dreadlocks and snarling vocals, Morris is known the world over for his take-no-prisoners approach on the stage and his integrity off of it. Over the course of his forty-year career with Black Flag, the Circle Jerks, and OFF!, he's battled diabetes, drug and alcohol addiction, and the record industry...and he's still going strong. *My Damage* is more than a book about the highs and lows of a punk rock legend. It's a story from the perspective of someone who has shared the stage with just about every major figure in the music industry and has appeared in cult films like *The Decline of Western Civilization* and *Repo Man*. A true Hollywood tale from an L.A. native, *My Damage* reveals the story of Morris's streets, his scene, and his music-as only he can tell it.

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Customer Reviews

"I came late to Southern California and its Punk Rock scene, but after reading Keith Morris's memoir, feel I was there from the start. *My Damage* is like Neal Cassady's *The First Third* read aloud by William Burroughs for his private enjoyment: clear and unapologetic as a bell, fast as you can go, a rolling dumpster on fire, and a treasure trove for any student of West Coast Punk history. Lonely, funny, brave, tragic, anonymous, and famous all at once, until the moon disappears and everything goes to sleep. And wakes up again to dream a new song." —Viggo Mortensen "Kill your idols, please. Check that tired rock star shit at the door. Keith Morris is nothing less than a living, breathing symbol. He's a snot-voiced, Southern California archetype

and prototype, an influential fuckup whose ripple effect in punk has been felt every single day since he spat out, "I'm about to have a nervous breakdown" in 1979. Without My Damage's middle-finger-shaped piece snapped into place, no history of L.A.'s punk rock puzzle is complete.

• Todd Taylor, Razorcake Praise for Keith Morris and My Damage "Keith Morris is a human firecracker. You can literally hear his leg kicking under the table as you rip through the pages. If his life were the bars, these words are the file hidden in the cake. He is as truthful as funny, and if you don't read this book you might as well join an REO Speedwagon cover band."

• Ryan Adams "Keith Morris, survivor of bouncers and blacklists, thrown down the stairs yet still standing tall, damaged, patched up, last laughter of all, this is the punk rock story I've always wanted to hear."

• Exene Cervenka of X "In My Damage, Keith Morris lets loose with a shotgun blast of funny, often harrowing vignettes/opinions in every chapter, chronicling growing up in Los Angeles' South Bay and the evolution of not just Southern California punk (and his part), but rock music in general, from the late 1960s up to the present. I found it so readable I finished half the book in one night's sitting."

• Chris D., author, singer/songwriter of the bands The Flesh Eaters and Divine Horsemen, and in-house producer at Slash/Ruby Records (1980-1984) "Even though Keith was so wasted most of the time, that nebb'd up surfer who lived on The Strand made me want to be a punk singer."

• Greg Graffin of Bad Religion "Publishers Weekly, 8/15/16: [An] engaging autobiography; Morris puts the reader in the passenger seat as he details the wild and woolly early days of punk rock with plenty of debauchery and hijinks accompanied by police brutality and rampant drug use; Fans of punk rock will get the most out of the book, and those interested in the music industry in general will also appreciate Morris' candor as he details the machinations and manipulations he's encountered over the years; up to the present day, as he's still recording and touring; in this roller coaster of a book."

• LA Weekly, 8/26/16 "An illuminating read; The droll wisecracks and unexpected detours almost make it feel as though Morris is sitting next to you on the couch, telling his story to you himself."

• The A.V. Club, 8/29/16 "A winning memoir from a punk icon."

• Punknews.org, 9/6/16 "A portrait of a famed frontman that is complex but earnest."

• Record Collector, October 2016 "The trials and tribulations of a 70s fishing shop employee who goes on to front two of America's greatest punk bands; delivered via his astute observations on life and with an extra healthy dose of wit."

• "An insightful and expansive look at an unconventional life." Men's Journal, 10/27/16 "A wild tell-all told in a no-holds-barred style, My Damage is an epic autobiography told with humor, honesty, and courage." The Good Men Project, 11/15/16

Keith Morris is a cofounding member of Black Flag, the most recognizable name in West Coast punk, and the Circle Jerks, which cemented his reputation at the forefront of hardcore vocalists. He has recorded over fifteen albums, appeared on countless albums and compilations, and has a half-dozen film credits to his name. The intensity of the music produced by his latest bands OFF! and FLAG are equal to his best work from the '70s, '80s, and '90s, and add to a legendary career that is still being carved out one gig at a time. Jim Ruland caught the punk rock virus when his mom took him to see the Ramones when he was 15. He has been writing for punk rock zines like Flipside since the early '90s and has written for every issue of Razorcake, America's only non-profit independent music fanzine. He is the author of the award-winning novel Forest of Fortune and the short story collection Big Lonesome and is the curator of the irreverent reading series Vermin on the Mount.

Keith Morris's book, *My Damage: The Story of a Punk Rock Survivor* is Keith's contribution to setting the record straight about his involvement in the LA punk scene. The first thing you need to know about Keith is that first and foremost he loves music and that his passion for music led him to see Bowie, Iggy Pop and others at their creative peaks. His name-dropping at the beginning of the book let's you know he is as much of a fan as he is a bonafide punk rock persona. I was most interested in his re-telling of his involvement of the later Masque days and the beginnings Black Flag in Hermosa Beach. There are moments where Jim Ruland, Morris's semi-Ghost writer really captures that era of Hermosa Beach. To really take in the landscape of Hermosa Beach I would suggest Spot's photo book, *Sounds of Two Eyes Opening* that features HB and early Black Flag to really take it in. The biggest fault of the book is that Morris only briefly touches on what the early 80's LA punk/hardcore scene was like and doesn't talk enough about his relationship to its players. Instead he decides to go the predictable route of his fall into drinking, cocaine abuse and why the Circle Jerks never got it together. While many of the stories are entertaining and rightly solidify Morris as the true author of the historically contested song *Wasted*, the truth is, I wanted to read more about the early 80's punk scene and Morris's musings on his relationship with the players (well known or not) and less of his using stories (as entertaining as they are). The book loses steam when Morris recounts his involvement in the Hollywood scene of the 90's and his relationship with the Hangmen, Inger Lorre and the Nymphs and his bands outside of the Circle Jerks namely Bug Lamp and Midget Handjob. If you're a fan your like

me, you already bought the book. However, I can't help but think Morris missed an opportunity to go a little deeper and tell a few more stories about the early 80's punk rock scene and its players for those of us that weren't there.

Really cool look back on Keith Morris' life as told by Keith. He doesn't hold much back on himself and tastefully addresses some of the not-so-good people from his past (i.e., Ginn). Very easy read, lots of good stories and a look back at one of punk's great frontmen and lyricists.

Keith is a truth teller and like a canary in a Mine whose purpose is to not stop singing (or the miners die), he goes forth regardless of the risks! This book was a good read and I couldn't put it down. Good job and keep singing Keith Morris! Sincerely, A fan from the Pacific Northwest

I LOVED this book. I really liked his storytelling style, it felt very honest as he remembered it and he takes a lot of blame for things that went wrong in his life. The stories he tells are priceless! I also liked how he continues to evolve and grow as both a musician and a person. I bought this book on a whim cause I needed some new summer time reading (I devour books at an alarming rate) and I was NOT disappointed. Very entertaining!

This book was a very quick and easy read, and the price was right. For me, the problem is that I've read several interviews with Keith throughout the years. As such, there really wasn't much info here that I didn't already know. A lot of the Black Flag info is covered in the book "Spray Paint The Walls", and he doesn't really elaborate too much further here. Regarding his time in the Circle Jerks, he covers the early days pretty well, but doesn't seem to have too much else to say about the post-"Group Sex" days. All in all, the less you know about Keith Morris, the more you'll get out of it. Even if you've already read "SPTW" and seen the Circle Jerks documentary, it's still worth hearing about Keith's life straight from the man himself.

Keith is simply badass. If you dug the Circle Jerks back from the original hardcore days, this is a must read. I knew about him since I was once an acquaintance, but I didn't know THIS much about him. Thanks for still being alive Keith. You are a true American treasure to a lot of us old punkers.

Great story that chronicles Keith Morris and his journey through the early days of punk rock. Great for punk fans and any open minded music fan.

Well written auto-bio by Keith Morris. Tells it like it was and is. Not preachy, not full of crap. The L.A. hardcore punk scene always interested me even though I grew up a thousand miles to the east in Texas. Keith packs in the stories and anecdotes about life pre-Black Flag as well as all the trials and tribulations of being in a band. I also appreciate his honesty about overcoming his addictions as well as living with diabetes.

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