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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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Death Metal musician and author Ekeroth (Violent Italy) shows a true fan's dedication in this oral history/band index of the thunderous music scene that emerged from frozen, sparsely-populated Sweden in the '80s and early '90s. In his introduction, Ekeroth explains the youth phenomenon that was Swedish Death Metal (it sounds pretty much like you would think) as natural in a country "generally made up of extremely small and boring towns." He writes: "In the small and worthless town of Avesta where I grew up, there were metal bands in every garage, school, and youth center," he writes. Without sensationalizing SDM's dark, flamboyant lyrics, Ekeroth traces the movement that produced more than a thousand bands, from proto-genre "thrash metal" (more punk) to bastard offshoots like "black metal" (more makeup, less fun), through interviews with the musicians, tape-traders and fanzine writers who were there. The furious scene, made up almost entirely of frustrated and disaffected teenagers, would echo the '70s punk revolution in New York and explode with the same powder-keg intensity, before eventually spawning "ridiculously well established" years that meant the death of Death. Maybe worth the price alone is the appendix, an "A to Z of Swedish Death Metal Bands," which features brief profiles and discographies (with Ekeroth's opinions) of every known SDM band, from world-famous At the Gates ("all their albums are classic masterpieces") to Slakt (just one 2005 demo, "probably nerds"). More than 500 black and white photos and illus. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Finally, the true story of Swedish death metal! This book brought me back to the good old days. -- Tomas Lindberg, At the Gates/Grotesque/Disfear Death metal ruled my adolescent years. The problem is I don't remember half of it! This tome of dark recollections is the chance to set things straight. -- Nicke Andersson, Nihilist/Entombed/The Hellcopters Vastly entertaining -- Time Out New York Painstakingly researched...a true labor of love, and an addictive read. --Albert Mudrian, Decibel MagazineDaniel Ekeroth has impressively balanced a high level of raw data with a loving, subjective tone. Aspiring authors of such future volumes are advised to approach their subjects with the same care and passion. --Metal ManiacsSTARRED WEB EXCLUSIVE PICK OF THE WEEK: Death Metal musician and author Ekeroth (Violent Italy) shows a true fan's dedication in this oral history/band index of the thunderous music scene that emerged from frozen, sparsely-populated Sweden in the 80s and early 90s. In his introduction, Ekeroth explains the youth phenomenon that

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Daniel Ekeröth gives an amazingly detailed account of the birth and rise of one 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!

Good piece of social study on Swedish death metal. Can find some killer bands to check out too!

Very informative on the subject.

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).

Arrived in great condition

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

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.

omg!!! wow!!! this has got to be one of the greatest purchases of my life! if you love metal (like the entire world should ;p) you will not be disappointed! xo to the beautiful demented soul who put this together!!! ;p

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