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Encyclopedia Metallica: The Bible Of Heavy Metal



Synopsis

Book by Harrigan, Brian, Dome, Malcolm

Book Information

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The Encyclopedia Metallica (which was originally published in 1980 I think) was a book I kept hearing about especially in the early 80's and, probably in part, due to Metallica taking their name from it, a book that keeps popping up ever since. So I bought it at the start of the week and began reading it this evening. I can honestly say I've never read such a crappily researched, dull, sprawling, disjointed book in my life. Jesus - Malcolm Dome is one of the compilers ...how the hell did his career progress after this sack of s***? Its flaws are compounded by the unfortunate re-editing during later years, (up to now the latest date mentioned is 1983), this just makes the thing even more disjointed and ramshackle. There's massive flaws all through the book. Just one example is on page 23 of my copy which asserts glam rock was a dead duck by the early 70's. What glam rock is this you're talking about? because it certainly isn't the Bowie, T-Rex, Sweet, Slade etc. glam rock that was approaching its height at the start of the 70s. Many paragraphs and pages are completely confusing and I have to go to other books and online sources to decipher what the hell they're talking about which ends up making the experience even more painful. It's not even an Encyclopedia by my definition, it's a sprawling history of Metal that takes a number of dead end streets and non-sensical diversions. If you want a clearer picture of the history of heavy metal then

I'd start off with Wikipedia as a 101 primer and then branch off into "specialist" books that cover the many areas of metal such as NWoBHM, Thrash, Hair Metal, Death Metal, Nu-Metal etc. For those that know a bit about heavy metal's roots this book will be a massive disappointment and will annoy many "metal geeks". For those who don't know much about the genre it may appear a fair enough read until you repeat some of your newfound knowledge in metal circles or you read a book that is well researched, but dismiss it as it contradicts the text of this "Heavy Metal Bible".

Kick ass bible of the still-evolving genre of Metal. This book predicted the rise of Metallica a few years later too!

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