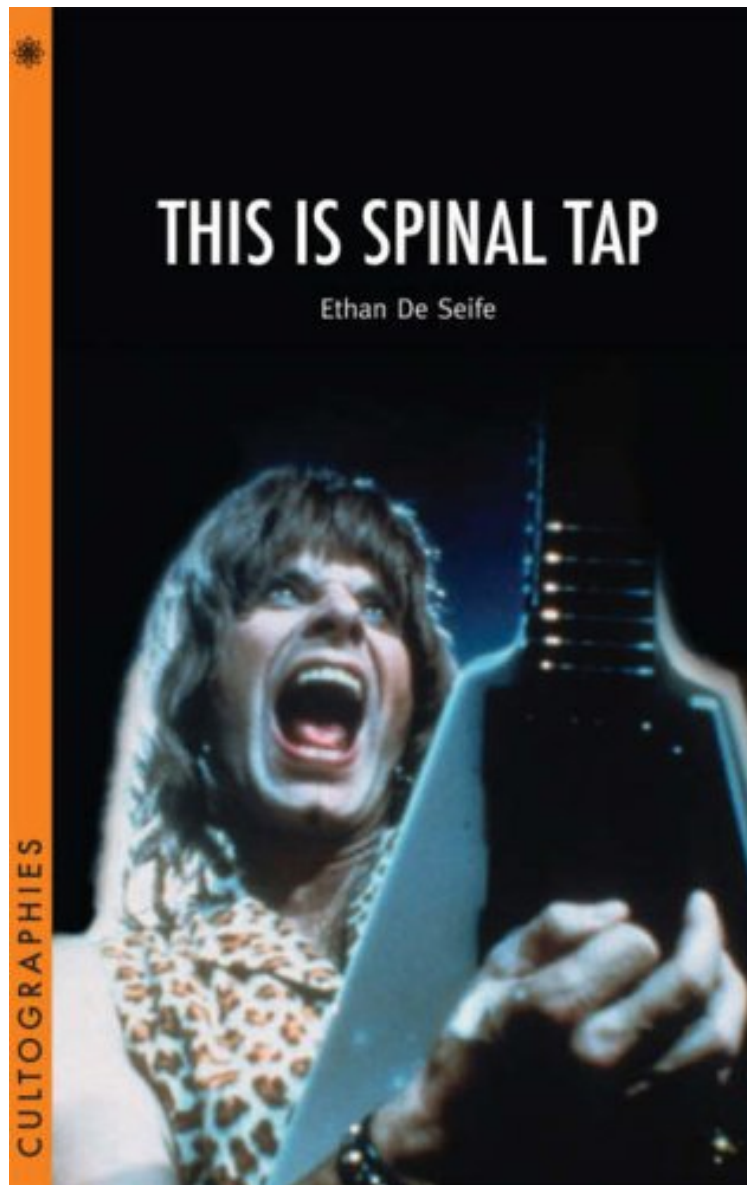


(Download pdf ebook) This Is Spinal Tap (Cultographies)

This Is Spinal Tap (Cultographies)

Ethan de Seife

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Ethan de Seife : This Is Spinal Tap (Cultographies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Is Spinal Tap (Cultographies):

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. That was spinal tap.By Jenny JennyI couldn't disagree more with the previous review, this book proves that people still really think about things. It's obvious that the author understands and appreciates art and the evolution of entertainment. Most books of this type can be very dry, but this isn't, de Seife

doesn't substitute humor for intelligence. His writing style is very academic but not unreadable. He provides interesting ideas and a valid analysis. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. 17 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Pretentious and ponderous

By Dan Amrich
Nobody can destroy the joy of movies quite like a film professor. For a short book, Ethan de Seife's analysis of *This is Spinal Tap* feels mind-numbingly long, mostly because it repeats itself. A handful of points (Tap owes a lot to cinema verite; Tap simultaneously uses and breaks the rules of both conventional and documentary filmmaking) get overexplained with new and fancier words, like a grade-school book report stretching to meet its minimum word count with the use of a very large thesaurus (A sample: "The formlessness of alleged actuality is rendered more cinematically palatable by the use of mechanisms of narrative"). There are some interesting insights -- the film's parallel with traditional Hollywood musicals was well presented, and the author does a good job of looking at the rock culture the film lampoons -- but many of the insights from the filmmakers are lifted straight from the DVD commentaries, and better told by them than regurgitated by a stuffy academic. Rarely engaging to the reader, it's simply too overwritten and self-important to be enjoyable.

A documentary, a mockumentary, indeed a rockumentary
Rob Reiner's phony road movie following the exploits of a fictional heavy metal band has long been celebrated as a comedy landmark. This book is the first attempt to provide a sustained critical appraisal of the film's success, addressing general cinephiles and devoted Tapheads alike. The study considers the film within the context of cult cinema, real and mock documentaries, Hollywood comedies and musicals, and the history of rock music. This detailed stylistic and comic analysis offers new insights into the ardent Cult of Tap.

About the Author
Ethan de Seife received his Ph.D. in film studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is currently working on a book about Frank Tashlin. He also plays stand-up bass in the Kansas City-based combo Four Jacks and a Jill.