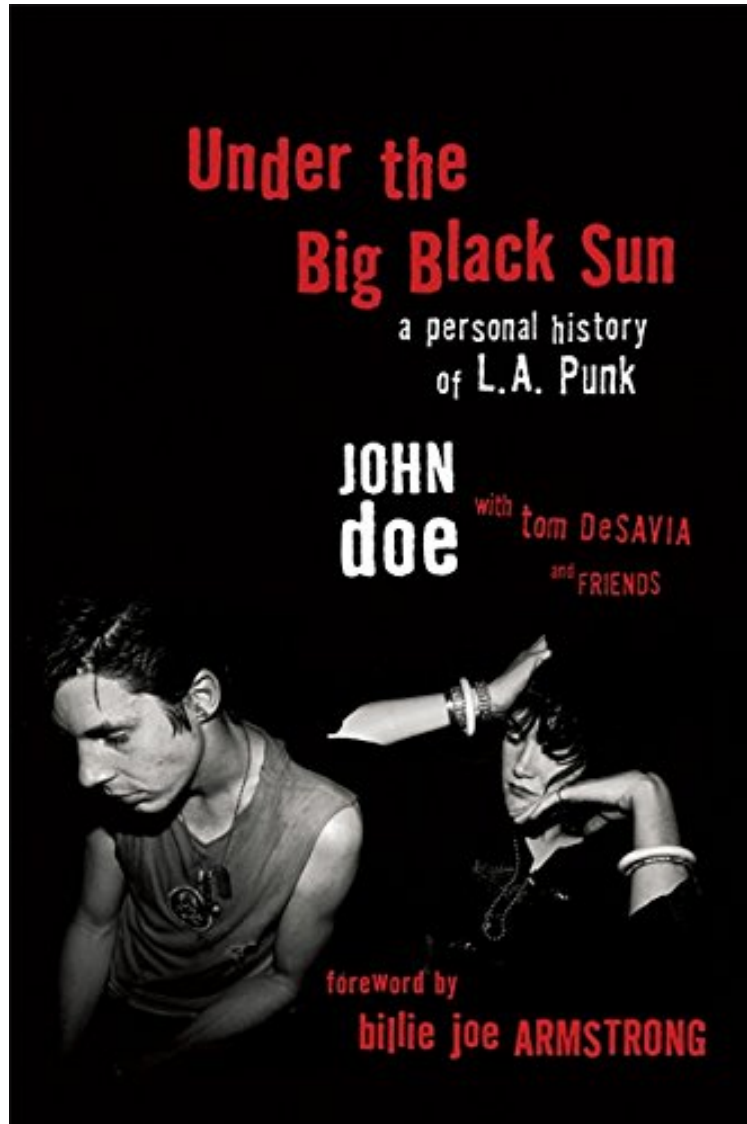


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Under the Big Black Sun: A Personal History of L.A. Punk

John Doe, Tom DeSavia

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John Doe, Tom DeSavia : Under the Big Black Sun: A Personal History of L.A. Punk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under the Big Black Sun: A Personal History of L.A. Punk:

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Under the Big Black Sun explores the nascent Los Angeles punk rock movement and its evolution to hardcore punk as it's never been told before. Authors John Doe and Tom DeSavia have woven together an enthralling story of the legendary West Coast scene from 1977-1982 by enlisting the voices of people who were there. The book shares chapter-length tales from the authors along with personal essays from famous (and infamous) players in the scene. Additional authors include: Exene Cervenka (X), Henry Rollins (Black Flag), Mike Watt (The Minutemen), Jane Wiedlin and Charlotte Caffey (Go-Go's), Dave Alvin (The Blasters), Chris D. (The Flesh Eaters), Robert Lopez (The Zeros, El Vez), Jack Grisham (T.S.O.L.), Teresa Covarrubias (The Brat), as well as scenesters and journalists Pleasant Gehman, Kristine McKenna, and Chris Morris. Through interstitial commentary, John Doe "narrates" this journey through the land of film noir sunshine, Hollywood back alleys, and suburban sprawl, the place where he met his artistic counterparts Exene, DJ Bonebrake, and Billy Zoom and formed X, the band that became synonymous with, and in many ways defined, L.A. punk.Focusing on punk's evolutionary years, Under the Big Black Sun shares stories of friendship and love, ambition and feuds, grandiose dreams and cultural rage, all combined with the tattered, glossy sheen of pop culture weirdness that epitomized the operations of Hollywood's underbelly. Readers will travel to the clubs that defined the scene, as well as to the street corners, empty lots, apartment complexes, and squats that served as de facto salons for the musicians, artists, and fringe players that hashed out what would become punk rock in Los Angeles.L.A. punk was born from rock 'n' roll, from country and blues and Latin music, the true next step in the evolution of rock 'n' roll music. It was born of art, culture, political, and economic frustration. It spoke of a Los Angeles that existed when regionalism still reigned in the USA. It sounded like Los Angeles.For the first time, the stories and photos from this now-fabled era are presented from those on the front lines. Stories that most have never heard about the art that was born under the big black sun.

LA Weekly, 7/28/16A collection of essays by a fraternity of key members of L.A.'s early punk scene between 1977 and 1982, before any of them experienced major-label interest and mainstream successStories of hardscrabble living, house parties and shambolic showsIncludes loads of photos and vintage gig fliers.Scanner Zine, 7/25/16Each chapter works in its own right, focusing on a specialized area from each writer. As a collection, they create a comprehensive narrative that takes in all of those early LA legendsAll of John Doe's pieces read like a noir film; his writing is incredibly stylized, panoramic and informativeThis is the most complete and in-depth look at that initial LA Punk scene yetDoe has collected a group of people who actually know how to write and write with flairAn informative and exciting bookIt's deftly written, beautifully presented and makes the reader yearn for a time machine.Red Dirt Report, 7/25/16[In] Under the Big Black Sun, we get a truckload of stories, mixed in with haphazard memories and hilarious situations, set against the angsty punk scene of Greater Los Angeles circa 1977-82, before everything was MTV-ized and sanitized for your protectionOffers a quick, 249-page peek into a scene that was so important to the music that would follow. A bloody good read.SLUG Magazine, May 2016Filled with the rich personal histories from participants of the L.A. punk movement, Under The Big Black Sun shares L.A.'s history with the worldThrough these tales, the enticing history of the first-wave era comes alive with each turn of the page[A] thorough exploration of the ins and outs of the L.A. sceneWell worth the readAn essential collection that explores a punk era that was rich, interesting and above all, unapologetically honest.Phoenix New Times, 5/6/16Chronicles the rough-and-tumble punk jungle of the L.A. underground scene that exploded between 1977 and 1982. Pretty heady stuff.Ground Control, 5/6/16Under The Big Black Sun breaks tradition and presents a different kind of story in so doingLike a brilliant mosaic, each piece fits togetherIn the end, what proves to be the coolest thing about Under The Big Black Sun is the fact that, no matter what tone the author employs for his or her contribution (be it heavy or dark or direct or folksy or sweet or sassy etc.), the tie that binds them all together is how obviously each of them adored their scene and how faithfully they wish to preserve it in this book. That love holds Under The Big Black Sun together and renders it a complete and satisfying read.Vegas Seven, 6/14/16Under the Big Black Sun captures a bit of a shining moment before mass media took over, where the underground was something you had to dig for.Austin Chronicle, 6/17/16A book as special as the scene it anthologizes.Waterbury Republican-American, 6/19/16All of the familiar names are here, as well as hundreds of bands many readers will wish they could have witnessed in person.Exclaim.ca, 6/21/16Punk rock can save your life, if it doesn't kill you first. That's the notion tying together Under the Big Black Sun: A Personal History of L.A. Punk, a collection of oral histories, war stories and elegiesIf it reads like a whirlwind pastiche of different styles and tones, that's because that's the way the scene really was. Besides, there's real delight in reading about the wild and often

unstable alliances forged between bands desperate to make it in unforgiving L.A. Valuable for not only giving us a glimpse into what punk rock looked like and sounded like, but also what it felt like. Music News, 6/20/16 Chronicles the early years of the frequently bleak and gritty scene through various contributors who were front and center. A brisk read. 24 unflinchingly real chapters. Esquire.com, 4/26/16 The new book from punk icon John Doe offers a history of the overlooked music scene. For anyone who thinks that punk rock was limited to the famed scenes in London and New York, Under the Big Black Sun offers hard evidence that the L.A. scene was just as important and perhaps created an even greater, lasting impact. A great story about the underappreciated music that came out of the City of Angels during that golden period of 1977-1982. The A.V. Club, 4/25/16 Under The Big Black Sun opens up L.A.'s punk-rock underbelly. Culled from the personal remembrances of roughly a dozen of the city's most prized punk-rock figures, the book digs deep into the ugly, dangerous, but nonetheless fraternal nature of the burgeoning L.A. punk scene of the late '70s and early '80s. From Hollywood over to East L.A. and south to San Pedro and Huntington Beach, Under The Big Black Sun covers the scene's considerable sprawl, from the sketchy clubs and apartment dwellings to the bands and the drug and booze-fueled chaos that followed them. The dirt dished on the bands and the music is great, but the book wisely casts a wider net to capture broader aspects of early L.A. punk culture. You-had-to-be-there style storytelling. Praise for Under the Big Black Sun. Vogue.com, 2/28/16 A candid look at one of rock's most exciting scenes. Publishers Weekly, 4/4/16 Doe, frontman for X, has gathered the testimonies of punk's progenitors in L.A., a scene only rivaled by those of New York and London for fecundity and influence. Q Magazine, June 2016 An excellent dissection of the unique cultural and sexual plurality of the LA scene. Compelling reading. Library Journal, 4/15/16 [A] fascinating collection of essays. Rolling Stone, 5/5/16 The true story of the Los Angeles punk scene. A set of vivid personal essays. The most artist-centered look yet at a scene that helped define the future of a music whose rallying cry was no future. John Evans, co-owner of California's Diesel: A Bookstore, on NPR's All Things Considered, 7/22/16 A great and generous memoir of L.A. punk. Booklist, 7/21/16 An entertaining, firsthand history that should appeal to punk fans everywhere. Record Collector, May 2016 A great read for anyone with even a passing interest in the U.S. underground of the time.