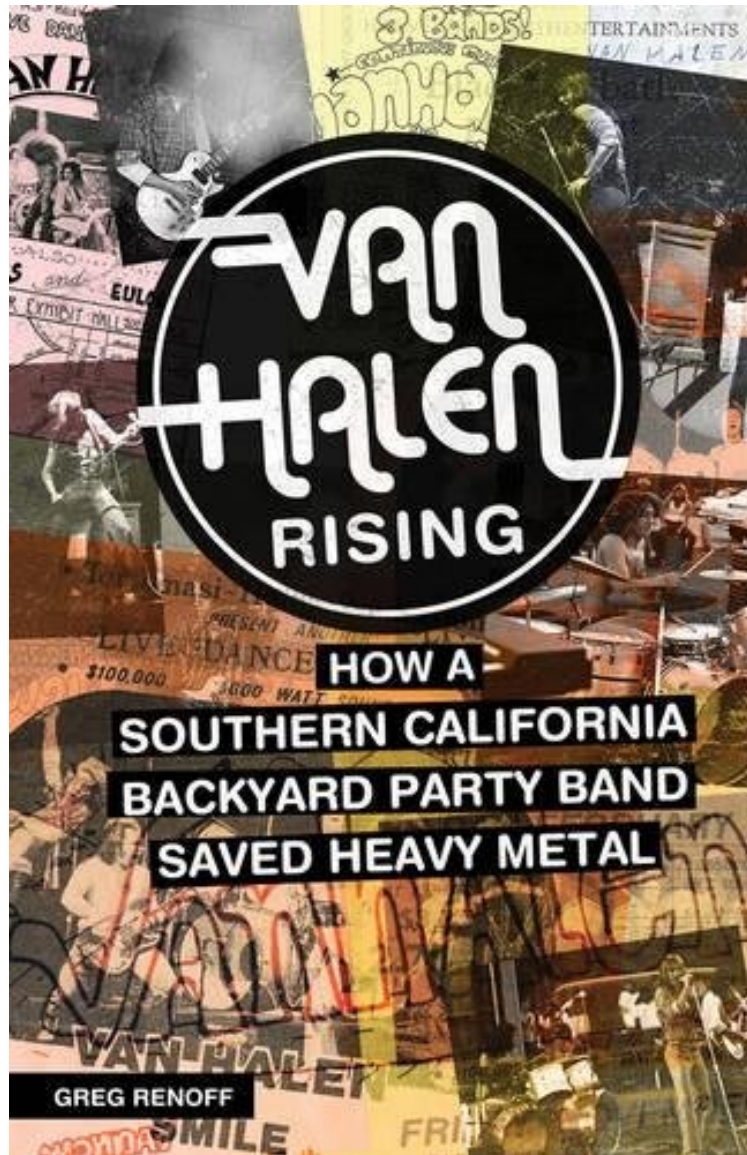


Van Halen Rising: How a Southern California Backyard Party Band Saved Heavy Metal

Greg Renoff

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Greg Renoff : Van Halen Rising: How a Southern California Backyard Party Band Saved Heavy Metal before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Van Halen Rising: How a Southern California Backyard Party Band Saved Heavy Metal:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reach Down Between Your Legs, Ease The Seat Back, And Enjoy

The Hell Out Of VAN HALEN RISING. By Cully Hamner Only got mine late last night, so I'm about halfway through it. Even at this point in reading it, it's the best book ever written about this band. If there were a Battle of the Bands between books about Van Halen, VAN HALEN RISING would actually BE Van Halen-- that's how much it destroys every other book. The level of new detail and never-before-revealed history is amazing, especially for a band everyone thought had been well-chronicled up to now. Greg Renoff has done an excellent job here, and even if you're not a VH super-fan, it's worth checking out from a pop-culture perspective. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Won't Take Long to Read This! By dsaladar Just finished this book earlier today. It took me a day and a half because it was really well written. I found Renoff's style very intriguing, beginning each chapter with a tease of what's to come and then flashing back to what led to that moment. I'm in my mid 40's and got into Van Halen with their album, 1984. I stayed with them through a few of Hagar's albums but lost interest. Before Hagar though, I went back as a kid, listening to all of their previous albums. Loved them! So getting to read about the band's history, how they got started - it was a nostalgic trip for me. I re-appreciated Eddie's ridiculous guitar playing, Alex's drumming, Michael's thumping/harmonies, and Dave's antics. It had been years since I listened to Van Halen's first album. Not long into reading this book, I went into my Apple Music and pulled up the album. I thought, "Holy cow, this album IS fantastic!" And getting to read about the details just made me appreciate the music all the more. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Find out what you DON'T know about VH By Marion G. Cuff Readable, couldn't put it down. Felt like I was one of the kids right there in the Pasadena backyards!. Having so much history in a page turner makes this a must read. Renoff shines a light on the masterful, intuitive marketing of David Lee Roth as a sexy, "play to the crowd, front man". Read how David Lee Roth "used" the police helicopter's flashlights as part of his show !!! Genius - to turn the police's "weapon" to his advantage. David Lee Roth and the Van Halens refused Renoff's request to be interviewed - no problem. Combining Sherlock Homes and Columbo mindsets, Renoff just sets out on another path and solves the case: interview anybody and everybody who ever had any contact with the band. Be right there as Renoff talks with people close to the band and asks questions that nobody had thought to ask before! More than that - there's an ethereal sense that Renoff has, maybe unknowingly, captured about VH - know what you want and never stop until either you die or you get success. That's Van Halen's story and, lucky for us rock fans, Greg had the same burning desire to write Van Halen Rising; he busted through adversity and was successful.....

A vivid and energetic history of Van Halens legendary early years

This prehistory is usually glossed over in accounts of the band, but in Van Halen Rising, author Greg Renoff devotes an entire book to it. It's the tale of hardworking kids with nothing in common learning to fuse pop and heavy metal into a new sound that completely changed the music world. It also vividly shows that the personality clashes that would later destroy the band were there from Day One. Rolling Stone In an excellent new book called Van Halen Rising, author Greg Renoff argues that, in the era of disco and punk, Van Halens arrival saved heavy metal. While that may be hyperbole, there's little arguing that the backyard party band from Pasadena put Los Angeles back at the center of American rock roll, where it largely stayed ever since. LA Weekly It's a rollicking roll through the life and times of a group that mowed through more groupies and drugs than could possibly be good for a young fella. . . a fascinating read. Pasadena Star News Renoff explores in depth Van Halens reluctant journey from back yard band to superstardom and, in particular, the role of David Lee Roths ambition and entrepreneurial skills. Forbes Fascinating (even for non-VH fans) . . . A book almost anthropological in its level of detail. Vulture Fans of Van Halens earliest days. . . are in for a treat next month with the release of Van Halen Rising by American author Greg Renoff. Georgia Straight Most Van Halen fans have heard about the notorious, alcohol-soaked backyard parties in the Pasadena area that the band played as they built a loyal following but never knew the details. This is where Renoffs exhaustive research and meticulous attention to detail truly pays off. Readers are treated to extensive accounts of these bashes. . . they can almost feel as if they were actually there. . . a book that's as entertaining as it is informative. Examiner.com Bravo, Mr. Renoff. . . This is a must-read reference, in the same sense that Women and Children First, Fair Warning, and Diver Down are mandatory listening. Cleveland Music Examiner Renoffs book is a thoroughly entertaining read that will appeal to every hard rock fan. Publishers Weekly The author draws on interviews with many key players to tell the bands story, and he does a fine job of showing what it must have been like for the members of Van Halen . . . The lack of interviews with Eddie Van Halen and David Lee Roth is notable, but not a serious drawback; many good music biographies have been written about stars who did not actively participate in the writing. And this is a very good one indeed. Booklist Let us guess you're one of those people who thinks they know everything about Van Halen, right? You don't. At least not until you've read Van Halen Rising: How a Southern California Backyard Party Band Saved Heavy Metal, the forthcoming book by historian and self-proclaimed Van Halen diehard Greg Renoff. Van Halen News Desk I had a blast reading Van Halen Rising. Throughout my teen years, there were few things that meant as much to me as the first six Van Halen albums and the original line up of the band. Greg Renoff takes us back to the beginning of all that, to how Dave, Eddie, Alex, and Michael came to form the group, to what the rock world looked like at the time, and to that grit and commitment it took for them to break through. He also puts us right there in Pasadena, at the

backyard parties where the big rock sound was born. If you are a Van Halen fan, a real Van Halen fan, this book is a must read. Brian Koppelman, screenwriter of Rounders and Oceans Thirteen, director of Solitary Man, and podcaster at The Moment I thought I knew a lot about Van Halen, until I read this book. Its exceedingly rare to find such a comprehensive portrait of any bands pre-history, even for canonical groups like the Beatles and Led Zeppelin. So to stumble across this level of research about the early days of VH is like hearing studio-quality demos of songs you did not even know existed. Chuck Klosterman, author of Fargo Rock City and Killing Yourself to Live From the outset of Van Halen Rising, its clear Greg Renoff reveres the mighty foursome as much as their most ardent fan. With devoted accuracy, Renoff takes us back to the early seventies, when Pasadena kids literally danced in the streets to get a glimpse of their home-town heroes, while music industry execs proclaimed Van Halen had no commercial potential. Van Halen Rising delves into the years of practice and perseverance that led to the overnight success of Van Halens debut album, one of the most successful in music history. Renoffs writing is consistently punchy and compelling, like Van Halen at its finest. If youve got it bad, got it bad, got it bad for Van Halen, get Van Halen Rising. Martha Quinn, original MTV VJ, Sirius XM host I really loved reading Van Halen Rising. I couldnt believe the insight Renoff has into the production process behind the making of Van Halens debut. He truly gets it! The book is fantastic. Ted Templeman, Grammy-winning music producer for Van Halen and David Lee Roth Greg Renoffs fantastic, immersive new book devotes 350 or so pages to [Van Halens] early years. . . Van Halen Rising is one of the best rock books to be published so far this year. Even if you arent a big Van Halen fan, its fascinating to read. AL.com This is a thoroughly engaging book and will fascinate and astound even those fans who thought they already knew everything there was to know about Van Halen. CurledUp.com Van Halen Rising is exactly what it promises, the story of an up and coming rock band. It takes you through the teenage rock scene in the LA suburbs of the 1970s, and up to Van Halens first album, first tours, and then it is done, leaving the rest of the story for others to pick up. And it doesnt disappoint in the process. A Home in Hespeler Reading it is like finding some lost demo tape every bit as awesome as Fair Warning, or stumbling on a bitchin Camaro time machine kegger where Jeff Spicoli shows up with his hand in the back pocket of Kim Kellys bell bottom jeans. The Weaklings Renoffs bio is replete with refreshing colour, details and heretofore unheard insight. . . If youre into the band, this book is a given; if youre into well-spun behind the scene. Hopscotch Friday Great quotes and stories abound. . . Greg Renoff penned one hell of a fun read. AllMusic Books VH fans should be sure to grab Van Halen Rising the book is absolutely loaded with details on Van Halens beginnings that even the most knowledgeable fans have never heard. The Van Halen News Desk Renoffs book has garnered rave reviews since its release earlier this month, and it illustrates just how long and hard the road to success for Van Halen actually was. The Canton Repository This book is absolutely loaded with wild and interesting details on Van Halens beginnings that even the most knowledgeable fans have never heard. A vivid and energetic history of Van Halens legendary early years. Its a must-have! Throttle Rock The book is very well researched; Renoffs dedication shows and is very impressive . . . 10/10. Medium.com Van Halen Rising is a wonderfully written trip through the pivotal early days of a band that would soon be swept up in a wave and become hard rock gods. Under the Radar Magazine Renoff writes in a thoughtful and conversational voice, one you might hear while talking to one of your buds while listening to the first VH album . . . Not only is Van Halen Rising well organized and researched, at times its also laugh out loud funny. PopDose.com The rags to riches tale, the music lessons, the raucous high school parties; later playing in seedy clubs of Hollywood before being discovered, all make for a fascinating read of the history of the boys in the band from our own backyard. Friends of the Sierra Madre Library Tremendous read. ESPNs Mike Mike The amount of research that Renoff has conducted is mind-blowing . . . I highly recommend this book. Whether you are a hardcore fan of the band or not is of little relevance. This is simply gripping. Eternal Terror Webzine Such an extensive look at a bands pre-fame days is rare. Renoff does a phenomenal job, and Van Halen fans all over the world will savor every word of Van Halen Rising. The Writers Journey The extent of Renoffs research reveals some incredible insight, the kind that fans savor, discuss, and share for years to come. . . You read Van Halen Rising, and you get a warmly written historical guide to one of Americas greatest rock bands. What more could one ask for? VintageRock.com