



Birth School Metallica Death, Volume 1: The Biography

Paul Brannigan , Ian Winwood

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There has never been a hard rock band like Metallica. The California quartet has sold more than 100 million albums worldwide, won nine Grammy Awards, and had five consecutive albums hit number one on the *Billboard* charts. But Metallica's story, epic in scope, is a tale about much more than sales figures and critical acclaim, and their journey from scuzzy Los Angeles garages to the world's most storied stadiums has been dramatic and painful, their gigantic successes often shot through with tension, tragedy, loss, and controversy.

Birth School Metallica Death is the definitive story of the most significant rock band since Led Zeppelin. *Volume 1* covers the band's formation up to their breakthrough eponymous fifth album, aka "The Black Album." The intense and sometimes fraught relationship between aloof-yet-simmering singer, chief lyricist, and rhythm guitarist James Hetfield and the outspoken and ambitious drummer Lars Ulrich is the saga's emotional core. Their earliest years saw the release of three unimpeachable classics—*Kill 'Em All*, *Ride the Lightning*, and *Master of Puppets*—genre-defining masterpieces that took hard rock to a new level, both artistically and commercially. During these tumultuous times, the band persevered through line-up changes when guitarist Dave Mustaine was replaced by Kirk Hammet, and their bass player, the beloved Cliff Burton, was tragically killed in a bus crash while on tour in Europe.

But it was the breakthrough of ...*And Justice for All* that rent the fabric of the mainstream, hitting the top of the charts without benefit of radio airplay or the then-crucial presence on MTV. And finally in 1991, with the release of their fifth studio album, nicknamed "The Black Album," Metallica hit the next level—five hit singles including their best-known songs "Enter Sandman" and "Nothing Else Matters"—and their first album atop the *Billboard* charts.

In *Birth School Metallica Death*, veteran music journalists and Metallica confidants Paul Brannigan and Ian Winwood detail this meteoric rise to international fame in an epic saga of family, community, self-belief, the pursuit of dreams, and music that rocks. Told through first-hand interviews with the band and those closest to them, the story of Metallica's rise to the mainstream has never been so vividly documented.

Birth School Metallica Death, Volume 1: The Biography Details

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From Reader Review Birth School Metallica Death, Volume 1: The Biography for online ebook

Brian Lavis says

The book didn't reveal too much of the Metallica story that wasn't already known, and the authors really are fans , so the band can do no wrong.

Stick with the film Some kind of monster.

Gema Karina Molina says

4.5

El libro está muy bien escrito y es de ágil lectura. La traducción, sin embargo, me parece bastante irritante, porque tiene mucha jerga española en la traducción de expresiones coloquiales en inglés.

Annie Whittenham says

Loved it! An insightful biography with an underlying humour that helped make this book very enjoyable.

Zac Stojcevski says

It's very difficult to rate this book. From a literary perspective sections of this book are nothing more than a fanzine. There will be no Pulitzer in the pages contained in the appropriately liveried black jacket. However as a fan I struggled to dislike it. Reading this collaboration I found I hummed and rocked out quietly and aloud to songs and riffs both rehearsed and nearly forgotten. It was a wonderful journey back in time to pick up the new and reacquaint myself with the old. The most telling result has been the increase of iPod action for the old and ultimately of the Black Album which has in a convoluted and unforgettable way played a part in my marriage and spawning of a quartet of rocking offspring. Nothing else matters!

Steele Dimmock says

This book will make you listen to Metallica's first 5 albums with completely new ears.

I put this book down with a better understanding of the influence of Cliff Burton and chasm that Jason Newstead could never fill. I like finding out that Metallica were just like any other group of kids dreaming big, and that Lars Ulrich is really the linchpin of the band. His single minded focus is what broke the band through each progression milestone - and he also owns the rights to the name.

The authors write with the flair and grandiose effect often found in scene magazines, which is a little kitschy in book form, but works for the most part.

I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would. Get it if you want a new appreciation of some old school metal.

Allan says

This is a biography that I picked up in an Audible sale, and having been partial to a bit of Metallica in my youth - in fact still being partial to some of their early work while at the gym - I didn't think twice about purchasing.

The well written biography takes in the early years of the band - up to 1991, when they released their Black album and really hit the big time - more or less mirroring the time when I had an interest in the band. The best Rock biographies tend to be warts and all accounts and this one fits the bill, detailing the highs and lows of the band's rise to prominence, pulling no punches when it comes to detailing the single mindedness of its two main members, James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich, in propelling the band to leaders in their field, where they remain a generation later.

I doubt that I'll go out of my way to listen to Volume 2 (unless it's on sale of course) but definitely a biography worth checking out if you've even got a passing interest in the band.

Todd Janko says

Finally finishing Volume One of Birth, School, Metallica, Death by Paul Brannigan and Ian Winwood; now it's a wait until the fall for the second volume. I have probably to date have read every single book on these "heavy metal Gods", this first installment comes a close second to the great Mick Wall's biography on Metallica.

This book is probably focused on your serious Metallica audience with all its finite details and story telling involved. I believe your average Metallica fan (usually becoming a fan right at the end of this novel, when the Black Album is about to debut) may not find a lot of these stories as interesting or thought provoking. There was nothing new here really as far as new information goes from the early beginnings of the Ulrich, McGovney, Mustaine, Hetfield era to Cliff and Kirk, and ending off in the Newsted genre.

A few things that stick out of my mind while reading this, is Thank God Dave Mustaine went on to form Megadeth, and how he was never beaten to death by his fellow bandmates or went straight to prison for being drunk and rolling their truck on the way to New York to record "Kill em All" (eventually with Kirk Hammett) will always make me question just how crazy this band was in the early days. The other part being, I feel, is the great depth the authors take in with the creation (in my personal opinion, best album) of And Justice for All. I would LOVE to hear the correct remix of this album, with the bass parts being able to be heard. The authors go into great detail of the hazing of one Jason Newkid, and I think Metallica (still young, egocentric and developing) should of really let that aspect go when it came time to recording Justice. The other aspect I truly enjoyed (and I'm sure there is more to come in the 2nd half) is when Bob Rock steps in as the producer (5th member) of the band making claim that making the Black Album was the worst nine months of his life. The authors here hit in on spot, and know what aspects to add to make this quite an entertaining read. My favorite part of the Bob Rock era is when Bob says to Kirk (who is trying to figure out the precise guitar solo for The Unforgiven) 'Now that you've warmed up, let's hear the f**king Guitar Player

(magazine) guitarist of the year play.' Hammett replies, 'All right' and with hurt at his fingertips performs in just one take a guitar solo the magnificence of which would be heard by more than 20 million listeners. And off to races we go, as Metallica is made, going from dark horse to winning the triple crown in a matter of under 10 years.

Now, I wait for volume 2 as I cannot wait what the authors have in store and what they will say about the Load period. (Yes, real men don't get haircuts as Alice in Chains points out in their unplugged session with Metallica in the audience). Hopefully, the authors nail it in the next volume to get their 5 stars (as this volume one falls short do to some missing facts such as the Cliff Burton tragedy) respectively.

Jésus García Sancho says

Un libro que toda persona que le guste Metallica está obligado a leerse.
Lleno de vivencias, anécdotas, curiosidades, algunas mas conocidas y otras mas sorprendentes.
Deseando que traduzcan el segundo volumen lo antes posible. ?

Michelle says

I looked forward to reading this book, because I have listened to Metallica on and off through my entire life, and I wondered how the band members met and how the group got started and took over the world. That part of the book was loaded with information I never knew. This is the first book of a two-book series, written by two English music journalists who have written about Metallica and other such bands for their whole careers. If you are a Metallica fan, you might not find out new things you didn't know about. If you are considering reading this book, I have to warn you the sentences in the book are the longest ones I've ever come across. Some sentences are thirty-five or more words! I've never read a book with such long sentences in my life. And let me tell you, I've read a lot.
The second book in the series is slated to come out sometime late this year, and if I have a chance to read it, I'll read it, but I hope the sentences won't be as long. Or, at least, there will be a break-up of sentences, like long-short-short-long. I'm surprised their editor let them get away with it.

Estanteriadecho says

Nacer · Crecer · Metallica · Morir es algo más que una biografía del grupo Metallica hasta la creación de su Black Album, es un libro sobre la cruda realidad de la industria musical de la época y cómo unos jóvenes trabajaron duro y lo apostaron todo por conseguir su sueño. Sin duda alguna, un título que debería leer cualquier apasionado de la música, con independencia de si el grupo y su género está entre sus favoritos o no.

Reseña: <https://laestanteriadecho.blogspot.co...>

Carnivorous Mower says

An unauthorised biography of Metallica. Tried reading it initially when I got it for Christmas 2013, but the writing style was too annoying. Raced through it at second attempt though. I don't really like unauthorised biographies much, especially after reading the Ozzy Osbourne one, which really lacked any substance whatsoever. Being unauthorised only skirts over the surfaces, and you never get in touch with the real person.

This book was created from interviews these two had conducted with Metallica over the years, along with a few of fringe characters in the band's circle. Liked the interview with Flemming Rasmussen in particular. Learned a few facts and things (the tracklisting to No Life Til Leather), but overall, this was a bit light, and was padded like fuck. Somehow, these guys managed to stretch to a second volume, which I must get some time. However, the padding and editorialising just gets fucking ANNOYING! I'll get the second book but will probably dislike it as much as this one. Mick Wall's Enter Night is better, even though it's still unauthorised. The biographies by both the Megadeth Daves, and all the Gunner biographies are better than this one.

Sabine Kettschau says

Wo fange ich bloß an... Es handelt sich hierbei um ein Weihnachtsgeschenk meines Mannes an mich. Und ob mans glaubt oder nicht, ich habe geweint! Immerhin handelt es sich bei meinem Exemplar um ein nummeriertes, neben meinem gibt es SO nur noch 332 andere, die hoffentlich genauso glücklich sind mit ihrem Schmuckstück! Ein schwarzer Sarg, mit dem Titel bedruckt, schwarz in schwarz, dazu die Schlange, die es schon auf dem Cover des Black Album zu Weltruhm geschafft hat, das hat schon von Außen was! Und wenn man diesen Sarg dann seitlich öffnet, kommt das hochglänzende silberne Innenleben zum Vorschein, worin das Herzstück, das eigentliche Buch gebettet ist. Ebenfalls schwarz, mit silbernem Schnitt und silbernem Aufdruck, wieder der Titel und die Schlange... Ja, ich gestehe, ich kann mich nicht dran satt sehen! Wirklich äußerst ansprechend!

Lange habe ich mich nicht dran „getraut“, wollte mir Zeit und Muße nehmen, um in die Geschichte, so wie sie angekündigt wurde, rund um Metallica einzutauchen. Doch nun war es so weit. Ich war wirklich aufgeregt!

Meine eigene Geschichte mit Metallica fing ja schon 1986 an, also vor 31 Jahren. Mich hat es damals eisekalt erwischt. Von Hause aus sehr breit gefächert aufgewachsen, was den Musikgeschmack angeht, von der Seite meines Bruders auch mit Rock vertraut und er hat mich auch mit den Herren Metallica bekannt gemacht. Das heißt, mir „fehlten“ jetzt gar nicht sooo viele Jahre, um die Anfänge mitzubekommen. Aber dennoch, ich habe die Zeilen in dieser Biographie aufgesogen. Es fing auch alles wirklich gut erzählt an.

Man lernt den -nicht so tollen- Background (meines erklärten Lieblings!) von James Hetfield kennen, von Lars Ulrich... und alle anderen werden irgendwie nur angeschnitten. Vielleicht Cliff Burton noch, der leider viel zu früh von der Lebensbühne abtreten musste. Das große Manko für mich ist aber wirklich, dass es erst sehr persönlich anfängt und später im Buch davon nichts mehr zu spüren war. Die Querelen zwischen James und Lars, die kann ich nun glaub ich runterbeten, auch dass die beiden gern dann gemeinsam gegen andere schossen, andere echt gemobbt haben. Aber z.B. fehlt mir gänzlich das Privatleben der Musiker. Schön, irgendwann wurde geheiratet, es kamen Kinder...aber da hätte ich mir einfach mehr Tiefgang gewünscht.

Was das musikalische angeht, ich glaube, da muss jeder selbst entscheiden, was ihm zusagt oder nicht. Z.B. wird „St. Anger“ total verrissen. Nun, ich könnt die CD rauf und runter hören, mir gefällt sie! Genau wie Garage Inc. oder Load oder oder oder... Das ist etwas, was man denke ich nicht nicht verallgemeinern darf und sollte. Noch ein Manko dieser Biographie ;-)

Aber eigentlich hört sich das jetzt negativer an, wie es ist! Es war trotzdem aufregend zu lesen, welche Begegnungen mit anderen Musikern, richtigen Größen der Szene! es gab. Wie so mancher Auftritt zu stande kam.

Ganz besonders gut gefallen haben mir die Beschreibungen der Anfänge der Band, wie sich alles entwickelt hat.

Und denn nicht zu vergessen die Fotos im Inneren, schwarz-weiß-Aufnahmen, Farbfotos, Abbildungen der ersten Ankündigungs-Poster, da kann man sich drin verlieren! Als Fan!

Generell verleiten einen Beschreibungen in der Erzählung dazu, Google zu bemühen und Songs zu hören oder sich Fotos anzuschauen, um in der jeweiligen Zeit so richtig abzutauchen.

Bei allem, was mir hier fehlte, bleibt diese Biographie doch ein Schatz in meiner Sammlung und bekommt einen Ehrenplatz und wer weiß, vielleicht greif ich noch mal dazu und blätter drin, lese vielleicht das ein oder andere oder lege mal wieder eine CD ein :)

Während ich hier schreibe, läuft übrigens Hardwired to Self Destruct... als Untermalung unbezahlbar!

Fazit:

Für Fans ein Schmuckstück für die Sammlung mit Schwächen, die man hätte vermeiden können.

Bewertung:

3 von 5 Nilpferden

© Sabine Kettschau/Niliversum

Neil Quinney says

Great read, even if, like me, you've drifted away from them over the years. Brutally honest in places (Their treatment of Jason Newsted, the lousy mixing on "...And Justice For All"). Treads the line well between their enthusiasm for the band while most certainly not being a puff piece. Looking forward to volume 2.

Louie Reynolds says

Fantastic read, very informative yet really enjoyable at the same time. Quite surprised at the bad reviews, the authors have done a brilliant job at researching and interviewing over the last few decades and put together this great book of Metallica knowledge as well as some really funny stories. If your a fan well worth a read.

Marcos says

Mucho mejor leer este libro que escuchar el St. Anger, dónde va a parar.
