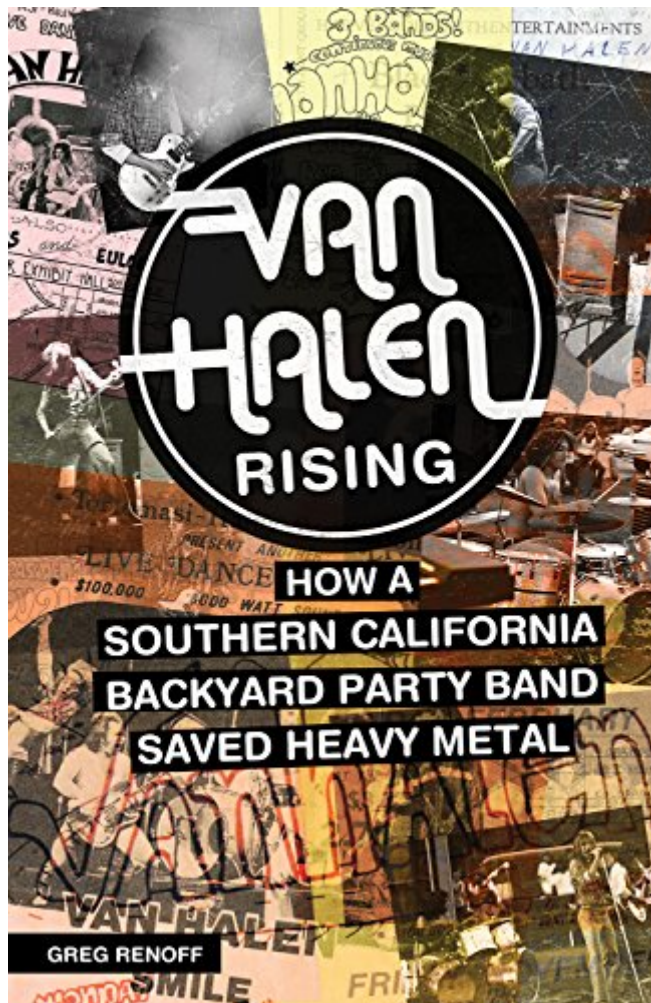


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Van Halen Rising



Synopsis

After years of gigging everywhere from suburban backyards to dive bars, Van Halen – led by frontman extraordinaire David Lee Roth and guitar virtuoso Edward Van Halen – had the songs, the swagger, and the talent to turn the rock world on its ear. The quartet's classic 1978 debut, *Van Halen*, sold more than a million copies within months of release and rocketed the band to the stratosphere of rock success. On tour, Van Halen's high-energy show wowed audiences and prompted headlining acts like Black Sabbath to concede that they'd been blown off the stage. By the year's end, Van Halen had established themselves as superstars and reinvigorated heavy metal in the process. Based on more than 230 original interviews – including with former Van Halen bassist Michael Anthony and power players like Pete Angelus, Marshall Berle, Donn Landee, Ted Templeman, and Neil Zlozower – *Van Halen Rising* is the first book to tell the untold story of how these rock legends made the unlikely journey from Pasadena, California, to the worldwide stage.

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Customer Reviews

As a music lover and miserable wannabe player I read a lot of this type of book. In fact I read

Sammy's and Valerie's works quite a while ago. I don't know what to even say about this effort. I've never seen anything like it. It's SO well-researched, and written by not just a fan but someone that knows something about music. I jumped on this because of the great reviews and never considered that it might not be a complete biography of the band. You click on this before all synapses are firing if you are some of us. I was in a world of book-reading where "it's too good to be true". Then we were done and it dawned on me that the title of the book indicated the scope. Bummer, but it is still one of the most fulfilling books about one of my music heroes that I have ever read and I am going to scour the landscape for another Renoff project.

This book is, quite simply, the best book ever written about the mighty Van Halen. Van Halen fans have waited decades for someone to write the definitive account of the origins of the band. Greg Renoff has done it. Van Halen Rising provides the reader with an astonishing barrage of information about the formative years of one of America's all-time greatest rock bands, delivering a nearly 400-page tome that blows away anything and everything that has been written before on the topic. Van Halen Rising is a fan's dream, taking the reader inside the production of the band's iconic debut album, chronicling the evolution of EVH's revolutionary guitar techniques, exploring the pre-Van Halen adventures of David Lee Roth in Red Ball Jet, and documenting Van Halen's ascent from backyard high school party band to world domination. Renoff's book is an important moment in the 40-year history of the band.

I did not want this book to end. Having been a fan of Van Halen pretty much all my life, I thought that I knew a lot about them but there was so much in this book that was completely new to me. This is well researched, well written, and really raises the bar for what music biographies should be. As scenes of backyard parties and the early club days are described, you can almost feel like you're there yourself. At all times it feels like a fly on the wall look at the origins of Van Halen. And you'll end up asking yourself if there's any instrument that Ed cannot play.

This book reads lightning fast. Yet, I found myself paused in thought often while reading it. Reading this book is like listening to an Alex van Halen jam / solo. You know where it's going, you know how it's going to end, but you can't help but listen to every sound, every beat, every pause... When it's over you are mind-blown, wishing for more. From 'someone who was there at the time': Right on, man! It's too much, it's too little, it's just enough and it jams. Read Van Halen Rising: It builds character.

For those of us who were kids listening to rock radio in the late 70s and through the 1980s, Van Halen was a defining part of the music of that era. And for those of us kids who picked up an electric guitar and tried to make sense of it in those years, Eddie Van Halen cast by far the most enormous shadow. But the problem was that information on the band was limited. This was in the pre-Google days so all we could do is hear the tunes on vinyl or tape, get a copy of Circus, Creem, Hit Parader, Guitar Player or one of those magazines, and scoop up any little morsel of info on the band. When MTV hit, Van Halen seemed tailor-made for it, with their catchy tunes that still rocked, their hilarious interviews, and outrageous shows and videos. It was rock to be sure, but it was fun! The party had indeed come to town. Now it's 30-40 years later, and we all might be a little older, but we remember those good times and great tunes. Author Greg Renoff has given us what I believe is really the best Van Halen book out there. This is a no-mere fanzine exercise, this is a major piece of research. At nearly 400 pages, this book is a must-read for any fan of Van Halen of the rock of that era. Greg gives us generous amounts of interviews with some of the band members, and lots of people who grew up with them and around them in Southern California. Renoff gives ample coverage to the major contributions of both David Lee Roth and Michael Anthony (Van Halen isn't just about the brothers!) You'll feel like you were there for every band practice, backyard party, bar gig, high school show, and event that Van Halen ever played at. You'll especially gain a brand-new appreciation about how each of the four members of Van Halen melded their influences together to create a sound that defined a generation. And Greg Renoff brings all those VH memories back with his book. This is the best Van Halen book out there written by someone who really love the music and the band. If you're a Van Halen fan or even a classic rock fan of the 70s and 80s, pick up this book. You won't be disappointed.

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