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Metalion: The Slayer Mag Diaries



Synopsis

Founded in 1985 in Sarpsborg, Norway, Slayer Magazine quickly rose to prominence by championing countless unsigned death metal pioneers. The pages of the magazine became a written gospel for the fledgling extreme metal underground, combining eye-ripping graphics, brutally honest writing, and a relentless and sick sense of humor. As black metal rose to prominence in Norway in the 1990s, Slayer Magazine remained the final word on the moods and motivations of those dark times. This book is densely illustrated with early candid photos of classic heavy metal bands including Kreator, Mayhem, Emperor, Darkthrone, Napalm Death, and Morbid Angel. In addition to rare archival material unseen in decades, the book includes unreleased and exclusive interviews and artwork, including historical photographs, and never-before-seen portrait photography by editor Jon "Metalion" Kristiansen.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are into the underground/extreme metal scene of the 80's through the early 2000's, this book is for you. This is a huge book. If you were to actually read every word in it, I'd have to conclude you were either insane or had a lot of time on your hands. Either way, hats off to you, because there is just so much content in this book. I wish I had the time, but I have no regrets from my purchase. As you can read from the description and table of contents, the foundation of this book is a reprinting of the full contents of several years worth of a metal zine called Slayer Mag (no relation to the band). So for hundreds of pages, you get the full effect of old school cut and paste layout--band logos,

photos, interviews, ads, reviews, everything you'd expect. Everything is very readable, owing to the large page size. The list of bands the publisher mentions in the book's description barely scratches the surface of the bands covered in all the zine issues. I have to stop myself from trying to describe it all. Trust me, the bands are in here, from interviews to reviews to photos to drawings to ads (the ads are almost the best part). In addition to the zine reprints, there is a bunch of other written and photographic content that is well produced and attractive. Some great photos. A lot of written commentary. Hours and hours of browsing here. The Slayer Mag zine content is DIY all the way, in the best sense. If nothing else, this book is an incredible value. The production quality is very high, from the cover, to the editing, to the layout, to the printing--everything. This publisher is doing essential work to document some important scenes, with some real investment and quality behind it.

The first thing you should know about The Slayer Mag Diaries is that this thing is huge. We're talking about an over sized tome which includes 700+ pages of enlightening information about the bands that span the Slayer Mag's time period ('80s-'2000s). What better way to learn about the sickest bands in history than to read their own words: if you're into music you know the value of reading interviews. Yeah, you might be able to find all the same information online but how much of it is reliable? You owe it to yourself to read the artists own words and Slayer Mag was a historical masterpiece which illuminated the metal scene in this way. You won't be able to put it down but you won't be able to read it cover to cover the first sitting either: this is one of those masterpieces you keep on your table for all your friends to check out for years to come. I don't know about most of those purchasing the book but I'm a huge metal fan and I don't even own every edition of Slayer Mag. What you get with this book is every *single* edition, commentaries by hundreds of musicians, lots of insight past and present by John Kristiansen regarding the music at the time and dozens of other cool features. The truth is no review could ever do this book justice seeing as how the book encompasses so much history and insight: each magazine itself spans a great deal of interviews, reviews and commentaries... times that by 20 issues of Slayer, Forwards by Ian Christie, Chris Reifert, Tomas Lindberg (At The Gates, Disfear, Napalm Death to name a few), Fenriz, Stephen O'Malley, Erik Danielsson and Tara G. Warrior PLUS lots commentaries by Kristiansen and edits to the Slayer Mag to make them clearer. Edits?

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