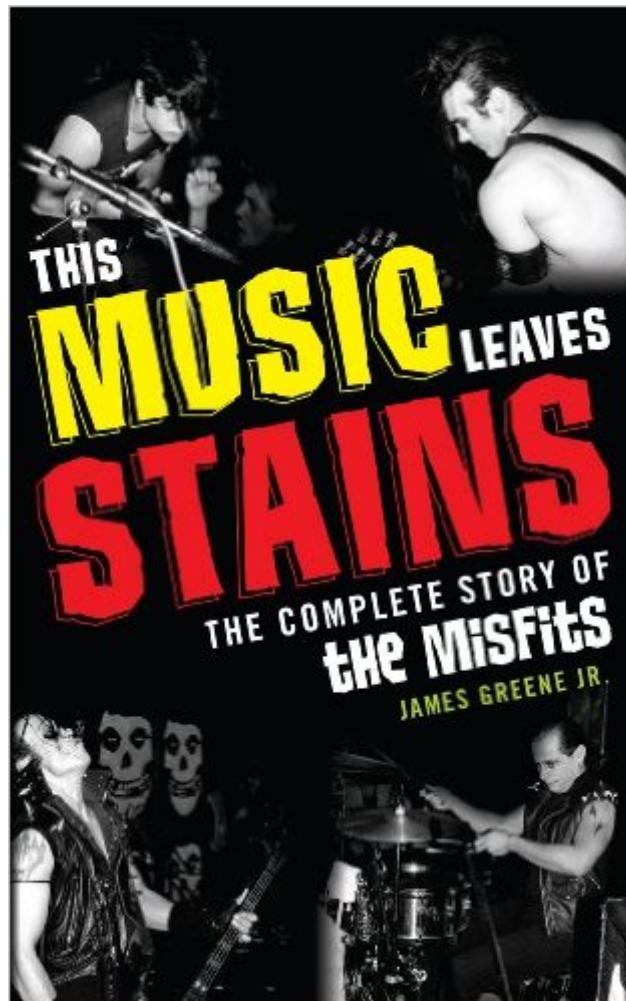


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This Music Leaves Stains: The Complete Story Of The Misfits



Synopsis

Few bands in the past three decades have proven as affecting or exciting as the Misfits, the ferocious horror punk outfit that lurked in the shadows of suburban New Jersey and released a handful of pivotal underground recordings during their brief, tumultuous time together. Led by Glenn Danzig, a singer possessed of vision and blessed with an incredible baritone, the Misfits pioneered a death rock sound that would reverberate through the various musical subgenres that sprung up in their wake. This *Music Leaves Stains* now presents the full story behind the Misfits and their ubiquitous, haunting skull logo, a story of unique talent, strange timing, clashing personalities, and incredible music that helped shape rock as we know it today. James Greene, Jr., maps this narrative from the band's birth at the tail end of the original punk movement through their messy dissolve at the dawn of the 1980s right on through the legal warring and inexplicable reunions that helped carry the band into the 21st century. Music junkies of any stripe will surely find themselves engrossed in this saga that finally pieces together the full story of the greatest horror punk band that ever existed, though Misfits fans will truly marvel at the thorough and detailed approach James Greene, Jr. has taken in outlining the rise, fall, resurrection, and influence of New Jersey's most frightening musical assembly.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you're considering this book, you're probably more than a casual fan of the Misfits. Information on the band's history has always been pretty meager, mostly due to Glenn's refusal to discuss it. What

little info that has been disseminated is rounded up here, along with a few anecdotes that some may not have heard. But the authors research doesn't seem to have turned up much. The book is only 120 pages long, if you don't count the 20 pages of exhaustive, annotated discography. The first 15 pages are a brief history of the band members childhoods, and the story of the Danzig-fronted lineup ends after 65 pages, 7 of which are black and white live shots. This means that the story that you're probably wanting to read is squeezed into about 45 pages. As I mentioned, those considering the book are probably more than casual fans, so those 45 pages don't tell you much that you didn't already know. Danzig is a control freak, Jerry is the image guy, and the rest of the band members seem to come and go, depending on who's mad at who. After that, you get histories of Samhain and the lawsuits, which led to the revamped Misfits. Then the eponymous Danzig band is covered, while also telling the simultaneous story of the new Misfits lineup. All of the source material comes from elsewhere. Neither Glenn nor Jerry were interviewed specifically for this book, as far as I can tell. Most of the original material here comes from the guitarists that were shown the door before Doyle took over. As far as the tone of the book, the author never hesitates to describe the backstabbing that occurred all the way up to Doyle's departure, and there's a lot of finger-pointing. Not that the guys don't deserve it, but some readers may prefer to make up their own minds.

I only found out about this book recently. As the only published work available (at least that I am aware) on the Misfits and/or Glenn Danzig specifically, I am surprised this hasn't garnered more attention. First thing I need to mention is that the book is short - 120 pages. I finished it in a weekend. As such, there's no way to justify the cost for the hard cover version. Even the author acknowledges this on his corresponding blog and recommends the paperback. The author, James Greene, is about my age and like me discovered the Misfits long after the original band broke up. Like many, I first heard Danzig when "Mother '93" broke. And while I had Metallica's "Garage Days" EP (and I saw Guns N Roses perform a Misfits song, "Attitude," at a 1991 show), I never knew Glenn was in the Misfits until the feature on him in Rolling Stone in the 90s. Flash forward several years and I went with some friends to a Gwar show where they co-headlined with the new Misfits that had Michale Graves as the singer. They had a rep for being awful but I thought they were great and I immediately started buying up all of their available recorded output, including the Danzig era. I became infatuated with all things Misfits and sought out whatever I could find out about them online. Discovering that this book existed naturally piqued my interest - now I would have access to the whole story of the Misfits all on the printed page, including (hopefully) some never-before-revealed stories on the band. Given that Greene was unable to speak with the two most crucial members of

the Misfits, namely Glenn Danzig and Jerry Only (I hope he at least tried to), the story presented here is crafted from those that knew the two (ex-bandmates, musicians, producers, former classmates, etc).

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