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Sex, Drugs, Ratt & Roll: My Life In Rock



Synopsis

A jaw-dropping tell-all from the lead singer of the 1980s supergroup Ratt: the groupies, the trashed hotel rooms, the drugs—and just how much you can get away with when you’re one of the biggest hair metal stars of all time. Women. Spandex. Drugs. Hair spray... Welcome to heavy metal rock & roll, circa 1980, when all you needed was the right look, burning ambition, and a chance. Stephen Pearcy and supergroup Ratt hit the bullseye. What they did with their fame and fortune is a riotous tale of...SEX, DRUGS, RATT & ROLL Pearcy was a scrawny, horny, thrill-seeking teenager with an electric guitar who had graduated from backyard parties in San Diego to half-empty dives in Los Angeles before he and his band broke through at Whiskey a Go Go. Cranking out metal just as metal got hot, Ratt was the perfect band at the perfect time, and their hit single “Round and Round” became a top-selling anthem. The bigger Ratt got, the more excessive Pearcy and his “pussey pirates” became. There was nothing these guys wouldn’t snort, drink, bed, or break. And the fans were just as bad, as husbands and mothers offered up nubile wives and daughters as tribute to their rock & roll idols. On a journey that could happen only in America, Pearcy met everyone from Michael Jackson to Drew Barrymore (at age twelve, at a New York nightclub, at 2 a.m.) to Rodney Dangerfield. His infamous partner-in-crime, Ratt guitarist Robbin Crosby, a blond Viking with an unsurpassed appetite for drugs and women, cuts a towering and tragic figure throughout. As Ratt scrambled up a wall of fame and wealth, so they experienced the gut-wrenching free fall, after too many hours in buses, planes, and limos; too many women; too many drugs; and all the personality clashes and ego trips that marked the beginning of the end. Pearcy offers a stunningly honest selfportrait of a man running on the fumes of ambition and loneliness as the party crashed. His rock & roll confessional, by turns incredible, hilarious, and lyrical, is a story of survival—and a search for the things that matter most.

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Customer Reviews

First we had Ratt drummer Bobby Blotzer write a memoir and now singer and now frontman Stephen Pearcy releases in his own a few years later. Sex, Drugs, Ratt & Roll is exactly what the premise of the title indicates, if that suits you great, if it doesn't, that's fine too. The warning is right there in the title. First off, I think the most remarkable thing about Stephen is that he always had enough drive and luck, and was determined enough that he always knew his way around or people to help him along his path to rock stardom and success. The guy knew Van Halen before they were famous, hung out with Ozzy and Motley Crue and has a bunch of stories to tell that make you see that he had charisma or something about him to help make his ambitions come fruitful. I'll tell you right away, most of the book is focused on the glory days of Ratt, from their inception playing bars and their multiplatinum success throughout the 1980's with a large part of it centred on the excess of it all. I would have liked Stephen to go more into the process of writing and creating songs but since a lot of Ratt songs seem to celebrate excess in one way I suppose it all makes sense. Stephen Pearcy tells interesting tales, yet they're almost all based on excess, sex and drugs. Like when he talks about being in a hospital for months he's still dirty and manages to have a relationship with one of the nurses there. There isn't a whole lot of depth to his book to be honest, it's mostly a tale of Rock N Roll debauchery but a good one at that. Where the book works best is when Stephen talks about the early club days of Mickey Ratt and Ratt but especially when he talks about Robin Crosby.

Though I was a huge Ratt fan in the 80's, I was a young teen and therefore removed from the reality of the scene they lived. However, as an adult now, I thoroughly expected sexual conquest stories, drinking stories, etc. I am an avid fan of biographies, rock in particular, so it's kind of hard to shock me. The most disgusting book I ever read was The Dirt by Motley Crue, because they were mean

and destructive and gross just for the sake of it. They never learned anything, or grew as people, or had any regrets about all the people they hurt. With Stephens book, I enjoyed the stories of how the band came out, and the success. I didn't even mind many of the sexual conquests. But as this book went on, the stories got sickening and he doesn't even refer to them as girls or women, just chicks or "trim". He is obviously a sex addict which never even came up, and he never had one connection with a female throughout the whole book except for his mom and daughter. On page 189, what he describes would be considered sexual assault. It repulsed me. For someone to think this is a funny story says a lot. The girl was unconscious! I was disappointed in how little he discussed the death of Robbin, someone he cared about very much. He never mentioned it until the last few pages, he made one comment that he'd had HIV for years, but never mentioned it earlier at all (I assume it was from intravenous drug use) and after that Stephen launches into extreme drug use, with no revelation about cleaning up, despite allegedly wanting to be a dedicated dad. I came away from this book with a good idea of the scene and how the band formed and crashed, but with a low opinion of Stephen overall.

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