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I Am Ozzy



Synopsis

"They've said some crazy things about me over the years. I mean, okay: 'He bit the head off a bat.' Yes. 'He bit the head off a dove.' Yes. But then you hear things like, 'Ozzy went to the show last night, but he wouldn't perform until he'd killed fifteen puppies . . .' Now me, kill fifteen puppies? I love puppies. I've got eighteen of the f**king things at home. I've killed a few cows in my time, mind you. And the chickens. I shot the chickens in my house that night. It haunts me, all this crazy stuff. Every day of my life has been an event. I took lethal combinations of booze and drugs for thirty f**king years. I survived a direct hit by a plane, suicidal overdoses, STDs. I've been accused of attempted murder. Then I almost died while riding over a bump on a quad bike at f**king two miles per hour. People ask me how come I'm still alive, and I don't know what to say. When I was growing up, if you'd have put me up against a wall with the other kids from my street and asked me which one of us was gonna make it to the age of sixty, which one of us would end up with five kids and four grandkids and houses in Buckinghamshire and Beverly Hills, I wouldn't have put money on me, no f**king way. But here I am: ready to tell my story, in my own words, for the first time. A lot of it ain't gonna be pretty. I've done some bad things in my time. I've always been drawn to the dark side, me. But I ain't the devil. I'm just John Osbourne: a working-class kid from Aston, who quit his job in the factory and went looking for a good time."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Frank Skinner delivers a perfect performance of Osbourne's memoir of his long and

colorful career— from his humble beginnings to his days fronting Black Sabbath and rise as a successful solo artist. Skinner captures Osbourne's slurry drawl in an intimate performance that transports the listener to a quiet pub where Ozzy is holding court and swapping stories about family, factory jobs, stints in prison, drugs, sex, alcohol, guns, chickens, more drugs, band breakups. Equally compelling are Skinner's renditions of Osbourne's friends and bandmates— his Geezer Butler is a knockout. A must for fans of Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne, and the rock 'n' roll memoir; highly memorable and recommended. A Grand Central hardcover. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Frank Skinner delivers a perfect performance of Osbourne's memoir of his long and colorful career—from his humble beginnings to his days fronting Black Sabbath and rise as a successful solo artist...A must for fans of Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne, and the rock 'n' roll memoir; highly memorable and recommended." (Publishers Weekly) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I can't believe that Ozzy Osbourne isn't dead. Seriously. After reading this book I was reminded of the old saying - "God looks after drunks, fools, and children". Given that Ozzy could, at times, accurately have been described as all three, it's clear that he has never been in any real danger. Before reading this book, here is what I knew about Ozzy: he was in Black Sabbath (although they broke up long before I became musically aware), he bit the head off of a bat, Randy Rhodes was in his band and died young, he did a great duet with Lita Ford- "Close My Eyes" - in the 80's (after I had become musically aware), he and his family became huge stars on "The Osbournes" on MTV, it's really hard to understand him when he talks, and his wife Sharon is a judge on "America's Got Talent". After reading the book, I know a little more. "I Am Ozzy" follows the life Ozzy from a boy in England through his rise to rock superstardom. He grew up very poor, and he tells of the trouble he had finding work and staying out of jail. (He relates that his first job in the music business was as a car horn tuner - although that didn't last very long). You get to follow along as Black Sabbath forms, almost breaks up, and ultimately becomes a success. After they fire Ozzy, you see Sharon help him become a successful solo act in his own right. You hear about biting the head off of a dove, and a bat (he says that bat was an accident). You see the tragic early death of Randy Rhodes, and the birth of Ozzy's kids. You of course live through "The Osbournes" and how much it changed all of their lives. Throughout all of this, you see Ozzy's incredibly excessive drug

and alcohol abuse. He's very honest about his struggles and his shortcomings. That what brings me to the crux of my feelings about this book. I watched Ozzy a lot on "The Osbournes". I, like so many others, came to see him as a kind of lovable, if flawed, anti-dad for the new millennium. In reading the book I kept looking for a tale of redemption that would validate my hope for Ozzy to be a good guy. He is a good guy, but I was left feeling that, more than anything, he was just a very lucky SOB who could have very easily died numerous times due to his own excess. He was regretful for many of the things that happened in his life, but I never felt like he completed the journey. He's sober now (mostly), and appears to have gotten his act together with the help of medical professionals. Still, I was left feeling like I had only watched 45 minutes of the "Behind the Music" and never got to the last "after the break" where Ozzy made his triumphant return and recognized the error in his ways. Maybe I'm being too harsh. I enjoyed reading the book and will admit that I went back to listen to a few older Black Sabbath songs after reading about their genesis. It's hard not to hear Ozzy's voice when reading this book, so it was a fun read. Be warned - it's full of unrepentant sarcasm and scorn, heaps of profanity and sex, and bad parenting on a level hard to imagine. I learned a lot about Ozzy, but what I really want to know now is - how does Sharon feel about all that's happened? Now THAT'S a book that I would like to read.

Man, it's amazing how some ghost-writers nowadays are so good. When dealing with these authorized biographies, seldom I've read one that I disliked. This one from Ozzy is no exception. It's very good. Mind you, he does not even tries to make one like him or hate him. He just narrates his life. Man, I caught myself laughing alone at some passages! Of course, I think, at general, one must be an Ozzy fan and have a certain knowledge about his career to wants to read it, because a lot of it has been said before in other bands/artists biographies: sudden rise to stardom, dishonest managers, groupies by the hundreds, booze and drugs, broken marriages, paranoid ripping the band apart and, in the best scenarios, a reborn career. In the worst cases, death or oblivion by the market and fans. There's a freshness in this narrative that I can not exactly point what it is, but I really had a great time reading it. I would not go so far as other reviewer said that this was the best book he ever read, nowhere close to that, but I enjoyed it a lot. But, yes, there is a lot of "missing in action" information here... Jake Lee is barely mentioned (two times). There's nothing about auditioning Zakk Wylde; nothing about the late Randy Castillo, who drummed for him in two albums and died of cancer; nothing about guitarist Joe Holmes or drummer Dean Castronovo, or Geezer Butler going on board. The DOWN TO EARTH, BLACK RAIN and ULTIMATE SIN albums are not mentioned at all, and OZZMOSIS only one time.

What a character. What a life! I've never been a huge Black Sabbath fan (loved "Changes" and "Crazy Train" though), but became an Ozzy/Sharon fan when their MTV show was on. He was so sweet and loving to his family and for me, that was totally unexpected. How could you not love Ozzy Osbourne after seeing how he was with his family? This book tells us about his life growing up, when his career started, his stint in prison, when he got into drugs and alcohol, when and how he met Sharon and everything in-between. I cannot believe he's still living, but I am so happy he is. The man has a phenomenal sense of humor! He tells a story about chickens and their coop....OMG, it was just unbelievable. His adventure at the Alamo with the dressing gown...holy cow...I laughed 'til I cried and I never, in a million years, would have thought I'd laugh about a Colonoscopy! This book is HILARIOUS and sad at the same time because Ozzy is a VERY funny man, but very troubled emotionally and drugged himself to the extreme. Everything he did he did when he was high AND drunk. I really enjoyed reading about people and bands I listened to back in the day. Ten Years After and ELO. Tommy Lee (HELLO! I think I know more about Tommy's body parts than I needed to know! LOL!) and so many more bands from the 70s that I use to listen to and love. That was fun to read. They were all so young and just starting their careers too. Fun stuff. It brought back some great memories. I enjoyed this book SOOOOO much and if you like Ozzy, you will love this book. I'm just flabbergasted he could remember enough to fill an entire book. ;) Read it. You'll enjoy it.

Growing up in the 60's and 70's and being a church going little girl I remember all the hoopla surrounding groups such as Black Sabbath and KISS. Being told by well meaning preachers that they were Satan worshipers. If we listened to them we would all go to Hell. The same was also said about Jesus Christ Superstar. My 29 year old son loves Black Sabbath and I got him tickets for Christmas to see them last week in Dallas. He said they were great. I decided to read this book to learn more about him. It was a hilarious book, I literally couldn't stop laughing. I have a new respect for him and so glad that is mostly clean now and that his rock, Sharon is well. That is a real love story there. Definitely worth the time.

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