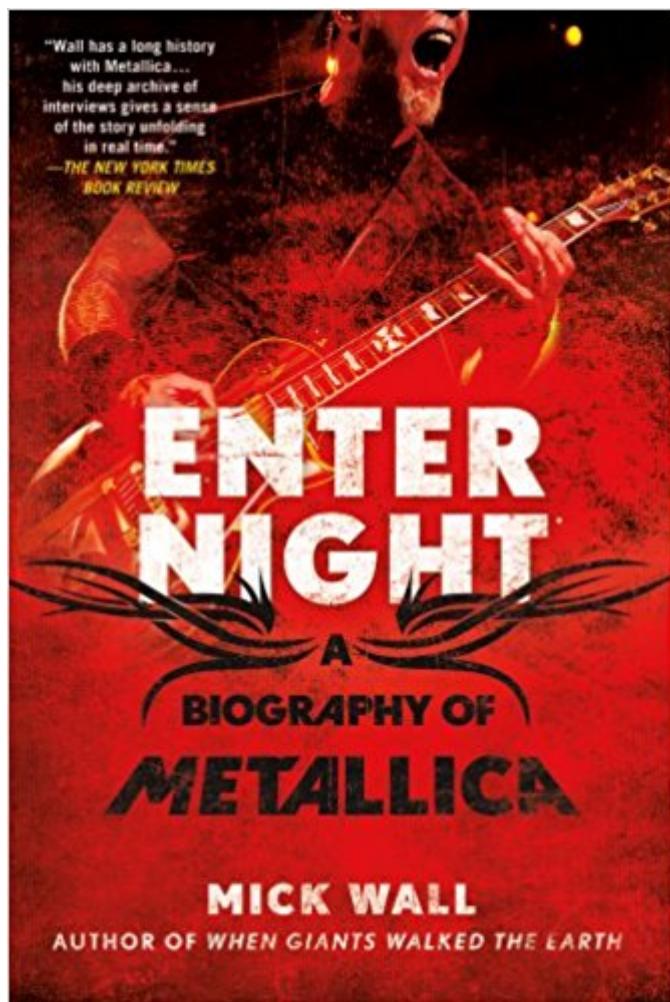


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Enter Night: A Biography Of Metallica



Synopsis

Sprung from the roots of 70s hard rock, Metallica defined the look and sound of 1980s heavy metal, just as Led Zeppelin had for hard rock and the Sex Pistols for punk before them. Inventors of thrash metal—Slayer, Anthrax and Megadeth followed—but it was always Metallica who led the way, who pushed to another level, who became the last of the superstar rockers. Though plagued by adversities, including the death of their bassist in a bus crash, infighting and substance abuse, they survived to become the biggest-selling band in the world. With 100 million records sold worldwide, their music has extended its reach beyond rock and metal, and into the pop mainstream, as they went from speed metal to MTV with their hit single "Enter Sandman". Until now there hasn't been a critical, authoritative, in-depth portrait of the band. Mick Wall's thoroughly researched, insightful work is enriched by his interviews with band members, record company execs, roadies, and fellow musicians. He tells the story of how a tennis-playing, music-loving Danish immigrant named Lars Ulrich created a band with singer James Hetfield and made his dreams a reality. Enter Night delves into the various incarnations of the band, and the personalities of all key members, past and present—especially Ulrich and Hetfield—to produce the definitive word on the biggest metal band on the planet

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Customer Reviews

"[Y]ou want this. You want Mick Wall's *Enter Night*. The Metallisaga is fascinating, almost an epic, and Wall is well up to the task of telling it."—Boston Phoenix "They may

be the greatest band of all time, but Metallica have been plagued by a load of artistic misfires and band-member squabbles. In this extensive biography by British rock journalist Mick Wall, no lowlight goes unnoticed...His narrative is straightforward and fast-paced - it's fun to see the band transform almost overnight from scruffy, MÃƒÂ¶torhead-loving teenagers to hard-partying gods of thunder.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢â€¢ Rolling Stone (3 and 1/2 stars)Ã¢â€¢â€¢ Wall has a long history with Metallica...his deep archive of interviews give a sense of the story unfolding in real time.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢ New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â€¢â€¢ Enter Night, Mick Wall's biography of Metallica confirms this grizzled veteran to be [an] engaged and waspishly authoritative chronicler of metal's most hirsute behemoths.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢ Independent on Sunday (UK)Ã¢â€¢â€¢ [A] flaming juggernaut of a heavy-metal biog... the author writes a deceptively casual-looking, sincere but half-amused prose.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢ Guardian (UK)Ã¢â€¢â€¢ It takes a writer of Mick Walls' pedigree and calibre... to present the whole wild, wonderful and emotionally draining tale all over again and make it as consistently fascinating and momentous as Enter Night...this is the definitive account of heavy metal's biggest band of all.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢ Classic RockÃ¢â€¢â€¢ Millions of words have been written on Metallica, but few journalists have been present at so many of the band's milestones... [Wall's] eye for detail through the early years makes the book truly enlightening in the way it captures the character of the major players.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢ Rock SoundÃ¢â€¢â€¢ A cinderblock of a bio, a worthy addition to the library of any self-respecting member of the Metal Militia...The writer clearly did his homework.Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢Ã¢â€¢ The Cleveland Sound

MICK WALL is one of England's best known music journalists: his work has appeared in Classic Rock, Mojo, the London Times and a variety of other publications, and his books include eleven rock Ã¢â€œn' roll biographies. He has also served as a trusted on-camera source for a number of BBC-TV music documentaries. He lives in England.

You don't need to read this book if you have already read Joel McIver's masterful books, JUSTICE FOR ALL: THE TRUTH ABOUT METALLICA and TO LIVE IS TO DIE: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF METALLICA'S CLIFF BURTON. If you have not read McIver's books, then be sure to read TO LIVE IS TO DIE for an account of Cliff. And before that, read Wall's ENTER NIGHT for an up-to-date biography of the band and for more even handed musical criticism. McIver doesn't like much of Metallica's work after AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. Wall sees more value in it, though he is unduly negative on DEATH MAGNETIC. Unlike McIver or any previous biographer, Wall spends some time discussing the rumor that shortly prior to Cliff's death, Cliff and James had seriously discussed

replacing Lars. The speculation that Dave Lombardo from Slayer would have been brought in to replace Lars seems spot on, as Lombardo was particularly unhappy with his bandmates at that time. What would have happened to Lars? Wall doesn't speculate, but I'd wager he would have gone to Dave and joined up with Megadeth. Now that really would have made for some bitter rivalries in the thrash world! Wall helped answer a question that always bothered me: When they got to be arena headliners, why did Metallica have Queensryche and The Cult open for them? Why didn't Metallica take a page from Ozzy's playbook and have an opening band that was more underground and extreme? The answer: both Queensryche and The Cult were represented by Metallica's management, QPrime. I really like both Queensryche and The Cult, and I enjoyed those shows. But it would have been great if Metallica challenged the audience with Death, Cannibal Corpse, or Morbid Angel as an opening band. And what a difference that could have made for Metallica's future development. Wall makes a couple of howling mistakes, both owing to his being from Britain: First, he claims that the GARAGE DAYS RE-REVISITED EP was released as THE \$9.98 EP in America. Incorrect. It was released as THE \$5.98 EP on cassette and record and was also released on CD as THE \$9.98 CD. Second, he claims the album AND JUSTICE FOR ALL takes its title from the final line of the Declaration of Independence. The phrase is actually found in the final line of the Pledge of Allegiance. But the more direct inspiration for the album title comes from 1979 Al Pacino movie AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. All in all, it's worth a read if this will be the first book on Metallica you pick up.

I love Metallica, and this book does give a very thorough history of the band and its members from day 1—or even earlier. The book is 443 pages long, and that is just too much for me personally. In my opinion, there is too much useless detail and way too much focus on every alcoholic binge the members engaged in. The book could have been shorter with less detail to things that do not seem relevant to the story. Great detail is given to the personalities of the characters and their many flaws. I would have loved to have seen more time given to the rehab, recovery, and growth of the members. I also did not like the author's writing style. It is not particularly polished but he gets an A+ for his research and enthusiasm. If you have lots of time to read and enjoy lots of detail, then this book is for you.

Wall knows how to write a story: if you know him for his great pieces and interviews in Kerrang!, you won't be surprised by how wonderfully this bio flows. Just like many of us out there, he clearly has a deeper love for old Metallica than he does for the modern day version, but his mix of music fan/critic

approach is nothing short of wonderful. You can divide the book into five chapters, and get lost in each of them: the Lars-centered phase, when our favorite Danish drumming troll morphs from obsessed fan into musician, the Mustaine beginning, that probably laid the foundations that built the true Titans of Thrash, the Burton years, when Metallica evolved into the monster we know and love, the Black Album phase, that turned them into rock stars, and...well, and the rest, when older fans like me sort of lost contact with the band, because - let's face it - from Load to Death Magnetic, we haven't really heard another top notch track from the gang. My personal favorites are the unfolding of the Burton years and the creation of Ride and Master, depicted by Wall with the necessary touch of melancholy, and the anticipation and subsequent explosion of the Black masterpiece. I liked this book so much I listened to Justice three times in a row...guess that says it all.

The book was okay. I wouldn't want to detract from the work Mick Wall put into it. You can tell he worked long and hard on it and it shows. After reading numerous biographies on many bands I find this one far less intimate than most. Sure, there are facts and observations over the course of many years in there but a majority of the book felt like it was somebody telling me a story who had heard it from a guy, who heard it from another guy. If you love Metallica, as I do, and want to know more of the backstory buy the book. It's worth it. If you're not a fanatic, you may be a bit disappointed.

Good side, you get a lot of detail of the business side of their career. Bad, Mick Wall gives a lot of personal opinions as fact and since Metallica's career is not yet over I think that any sentence starting with "they will never..." is presumptuous. In my opinion if you are only going to read one Metallica Biography I would choose "... And justice for All!"

It's a good book, however sometimes the author is lost in his own opinions, it's a biography, I'd love to know the histories and facts, not your opinions because you didn't like something. It has good histories anyway and it could be great but the author lets go his groupie attitude so many times that becomes annoying, if we want reviews, we can go to magazines, no to books.

Gift

If you already know a lot about the band then you won't learn much from this book. It was pretty well written and did have some interesting stories though.

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