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Van Halen Rising: How A Southern California Backyard Party Band Saved Heavy Metal



Synopsis

After years of gigging everywhere from suburban backyards to dive bars, Van Halen - led by frontman extraordinaire David Lee Roth and guitar virtuoso Edward Van Halen - had the songs, the swagger, and the talent to turn the rock world on its ear. The quartet's classic 1978 debut, *Van Halen*, sold more than a million copies within months of release and rocketed the band to the stratosphere of rock success. On tour, Van Halen's high-energy show wowed audiences and prompted headlining acts like Black Sabbath to concede that they'd been blown off the stage. By the year's end, Van Halen had established themselves as superstars and reinvigorated heavy metal in the process. Based on more than 230 original interviews - including with former Van Halen bassist Michael Anthony and power players like Pete Angelus, Marshall Berle, Donn Landee, Ted Templeman, and Neil Zlozower - *Van Halen Rising* is the first book to tell the untold story of how these rock legends made the unlikely journey from Pasadena, California, to the worldwide stage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are many reasons to buy *Van Halen Rising*, but here are the top five: 1. This book is the only one written that tells the full story of the band's origin, starting in the late 60s. 2. Nearly all of the material in this book consists of stories, events, and histories never told, and they are all simply fascinating. 3. You truly will feel as though you are along on the ride, like a lucky little fly on the wall watching a backyard band grow into the influential group that reshapes the direction of rock music. 4. You'll remember (or discover) how awesome backyard parties actually were in the 70s. 5. You

will be beyond satisfied. Author Greg Renoff is a prolific writer who engages the reader from page 1. As a notable history professor, Renoff provides research documentation that is profound and detailed; he has done his homework and then some. As a die-hard Van Halen fan, Renoff satisfies his hunger (read: our hunger) to know more about how Van Halen came to be, a curiosity that has puzzled Van Halen fans over the years. But what sets Renoff aside from the rest of us is that he had the tenacity and steadfastness to dig deep, then deeper, into the local Pasadena folklore to research, unearth, and link together a chronological telling of the band's history in a manner that involves rich and impressive storytelling. That multi-year effort led to numerous interviews with countless people associated with the band during the band's most impressive and formative years. And each person shares a story that the rest of us living outside of Pasadena, California, have never heard.

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