



# Hellraisers: A Complete Visual History of Heavy Metal Mayhem

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**Hellraisers: A Complete Visual History of Heavy Metal Mayhem** Axl Rosenberg , Chris Krovatin  
A pair of metalheads well versed in everything from Anthrax to Zeppelin take you through the metal halls of history in *Hellraisers*. Time to crank the volume and throw the horns!

Take a journey through the **history of metal music** from its earliest roots with **Led Zeppelin** and **Black Sabbath** to its popular modern incarnations like **experimental black metal**, **stoner doom**, and **djent**. Get incredible looks at modern prog metal musicians tearing up the fret board, or remember some of your favorite, old 38s from years gone by. Everything from **AC/DC** and **Anthrax** to **Meshuggah** and **Mastodon** is on display in this superfan's-eye-view exploration of metal's most innovative and hardcore sounds that can be heard around the world.

Co-authored by Axl Rosenberg and Chris Krovatin of the hugely popular blog metalsucks.com, this is a **visually dynamic history**, complete with exclusive **band interviews**, over 200 full **color photos**, **genre-by-genre playlists**, and plenty more to keep you throwing horns all night long.

## Hellraisers: A Complete Visual History of Heavy Metal Mayhem Details

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## From Reader Review Hellraisers: A Complete Visual History of Heavy Metal Mayhem for online ebook

### Ben says

Never thought I'd read a more contentious coffee table tome than Madonna's *Sex*, but here we are. *Hellraisers* is hilarious, enlightening, comprehensive and best of all, sure to provoke a lot of arguments and discussions. A must-own for any metalhead, with more than enough stories and pictures for metal devotees and dilettantes alike.

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### Dave says

Review originally published at Book of Bogan

The Heavy Metal genre of music is quite a broad church, and trying to capture even the current state of the industry, let alone the origins of it is an ambitious task the authors have set themselves. You may well argue that they have taken some missteps along the way, and not everyone is going to agree with their categorisation of various bands under the umbrella term "heavy metal", but I think they have done a sterling job at hitting the right notes along the way. This book is obviously written by people who are passionate about the topic, and their knowledge and appreciation of the music and bands really shines through.

As a fan of the genre, or probably more accurately, certain sub-genres of heavy metal, I found that the authors did an excellent job of hitting the key points of each phase in the development of the music. The book starts off as a history lesson of the birth of rock and roll, and wends its way through the history of hard rock, and how it developed into heavy metal. The latter half of the book is given over to the various sub-genres of metal, although inevitably I am sure it misses some of the more obscure. Some of the more entertaining parts were the descriptions of the starter kits required, which often described in painfully-accurate detail the fans of the period or sub-genre. For those readers looking for an introduction into a particular era or there are helpful lists of artists and songs suggested at the end of each chapter.

This is a book that you can easily drop in and out of, pick and choose what interests you or want to learn more about. Frank Zappa is often quoted as saying that writing about music is like dancing about architecture, and in some ways this book is trying to fill a number of spaces. It is part history, part encyclopedia, and part love letter to a genre of music which is often derided, and its fans mistreated or misunderstood.

Hellraisers is an attempt at writing a reasonably comprehensive history of Heavy Metal, and in that aim, I believe it has succeeded. As a fan of metal, I found myself nodding along to a lot of the descriptions, as this book is clearly written by authors who "get it" which I find is rare.

This is a very entertaining read, although not for everyone, and the latter third might well carry a warning of disturbing material, but that comes with the territory.

I received a review copy from the publisher through NetGalley.

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## Theediscerning says

A highly pictorial book portrays the entire history of heavy metal music in all its genres and forms, with sometimes scathing metaphors for how it sounds, which ramps up the entertainment value. It doesn't get as far as scientifically defining all the stupid sub-sub-genres and categories of metal, but what it does do is prove that 99% of people in the metal industry are either ugly, or stupid-as-fuck-looking. Seriously, you can never persuade me that any of Slipknot have ever got laid – and the same applies to Manowar. So while a lot of the music itself is ugly, and/or stupid-as-fuck, it's completely valid that a nuanced, academic and intelligent book be written about it. Here's giving it the goat...

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## Jessica White says

I am not a fan of heavy metal in any way (but why do I have heavy metal flags and band tshirts??)  
Oh yeah, because my husband is a metalhead.  
So I read Hellraisers for a few reasons:

I love music, any kind of music.  
I love my husband  
He wouldn't read the book so I had to summarize it to him

But it was actually really good. I was surprised at all of the different subgenres within the heavy metal genre. Some of them I don't 100% agree with because lets be real glam rock is NOT metal but it is definitely one of my favorites. Honestly, I learned a lot from this book. It kind of goes into the history of heavy metal and talks about bands who inspired other bands and how all the subgenres are connected to the main genre.

Now I will say, the last 100 pages or so were not really necessary.  
Now I'm not an expert or anything, but grouping Limp Bizkit, Kid Rock, and Linkin Park into the "nu-metal" genre seemed a bit off to me, but according to my husband that's exactly what the three of them are. So who knows.

Either way, I really enjoyed this book even though heavy metal is not quite my taste.  
If you enjoy this music, you'd definitely enjoy this book!

Huge thank you to NetGalley for providing me an advanced copy of Hellraisers!

This review and more like it can be found on A Reader's Diary!

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## Robb Bridson says

If you ever read the MetalSucks blog, you know what you are going to get here. If you're looking for a serious history of metal, I recommend "Sound of the Beast: The Complete Headbanging History of Heavy Metal". This one is more opinion and humor, with a few factoids mixed in, smashed into a nice-looking coffee table book.

Part of the appeal, if you like that sort of thing, is rather divisive opinions, and a biased sort of "evolutionary" theory of metal, heavily focused on now. Personally I don't buy it, but there are still good recommendations to either introduce you to or remind you of good music, and the tone is hilarious.

I don't think there is anyone alive in full agreement with Axl Rosenburg on metal. The most contentious thing, I think, is the way the book validates certain genres with full chapters while crunching some into mini-chapters. But beyond that, I think few will appreciate deathcore getting its own full chapter (separate from metalcore) while power metal and goth metal are given a couple pages. Again, it seems to be very "now" focused, and the book admits to not getting to every band. But as someone whose primary subgenres of interest are goth-metal and prog-metal, the book is occasionally infuriating. The authors sometimes magically pull bands that they find important from the neglected genres into the big chapters. While the neglected genres are often simplified to stereotypes and some of the biggest bands within them aren't mentioned.

But this is one of those books where arguing with it is part of the fun. And there are a lot of cool pictures, and the book is of high quality material, a nice thing to set out on a table or keep on a shelf.

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## Scarlet Cameo says

I've been a rock/heavy metal fan since I had like 12 years, but I don't consider myself as an expert, but I have a little knowledge of the theme and, based on that, I think that this book is a good read, especially if you're fan of the authors.

Yes, I don't think that is a must read, but when you're starting to know the genre and wish to learn about, this one is great for introduce yourself. The style is great for that purpose, is like a old friend talking to you about everything he lived and why love this music, and that's something great that I can appreciate.

I read this book super slowly, and that difficult me to create the review a little more long, so...here it ends.

*A digital copy of this book was provided by NetGalley*

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## Teresa says

Hellraisers by Axl Rosenberg, Christopher Krovatin In my teens and twenties and even today I loved Heavy Metal. Some of the bands depicted in this book are my favorites and I still listen to today, some of the bands I have to admit I had never heard of. Thank you to this book and YouTube I have heard of them now. This is an amazing book. It has tons of pictures, background, song titles, and more. I learned some things about some of my favorite bands even, and some of it was some pretty crazy stuff. The pictures in this book are awesome. Some of the pictures are on stage, some are from Photo shoots. I remember now why I was in love with some of these guys through the HOT photos in this book.

If you like any Heavy Metal at all or are just a huge fan of music in general grab a copy of this book. This book was like traveling down memory lane as well since I loved these bands from the 80's to date.

I received this book from the Author or Publisher via Netgalley.com to read and review.

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## **Beth says**

I wanted to like this book way more than I actually did. There were some funny one-liners (referring to weed as "Satan's broccoli" for example) and the pictures of sometimes old, usually ugly, often SUPER SERIOUS bands were generally hilarious. But this book didn't really break any new ground, and especially towards the last 1/3 of the book, the attempts at comedy started becoming just jaded and judgmental.

But my biggest problem with Hellraisers is this: Who is this book for? Its overview format, complete with "homework" playlists, seems to be aimed at someone who is not familiar with many (or all) of these genres or even the history of metal. Yet a lot of the chapters veer off into fan-boy-esque detail about obscure bands and scenes, which would make a non-scenester's eyes glaze over. The choices of which genres deserve "crash course" snippets verses lengthy sections seem bizarre as well - a 19-page chapter on doom/stoner metal, but only a three-page "crash course" on so-called "goth metal," comprised of some of the most well-known names in metal (Danzig, Type O Negative, Ghost)? What?

Finally, for a book that (rightly) bashes the morons of metal who've proven themselves to be racists and bigots, there's surprisingly still jokes at the expense of women (cause clearly we couldn't possibly like metal for the music, it must be the "hot" dudes). Get a clue.

\*Thanks to NetGalley for the ARC, provided by the author and/or the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Dave says**

This is the ultimate resource for everything you ever wanted to know about heavy metal and it's endless offspring of glam metal, prototype metal, thrash metal, goth metal, industrial metal, and so forth. It's a beautifully put-together book filled with lots of great full color photos and lots of tongue-in-cheek humor. The authors are huge fans of this music but see the humor in its outlandish expressions excesses and stereotypical dress. It traces the history of metal from its roots in Hendrix and Zeppelin to the early metal bands of Black Sabbath, Alice Cooper, etc, to all of its more modern offspring. Never realized there were so many different branches and hadn't heard of most of the bands listed, but found it enjoyable and interesting for someone who is a hard or classic rock fan rather than a pure metal fan.

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## **John Plowright says**

The conceit propelling Axl Rosenberg and Christopher Krovatin's 'Hellraisers' is that they are tenured professors providing a semester-long course in the history and culture of heavy metal; the fact that they are tenured allowing them to "say pretty much whatever" they want. This formula works surprisingly well, although a few references, such as to "AP Math Class" (and semesters, for that matter) show that the authors are firmly focused on the US market.

Each lavishly illustrated chapter provides information on a particular genre or subgenre of heavy metal from

proto-metal to deathcore and djent and includes an audio homework assignment comprising key tracks to which one should listen. The chapters are interspersed with free-standing mini-essays on topics such as heavy metal bass playing, festivals or yet more sub-genres.

Inevitably those 'studying' this book will challenge their teachers on certain points. If Black Sabbath are "the first heavy metal band" then why are they listed as one of the big four "proto-metal" bands? Why is Arthur Brown mentioned as a pioneer of shock rock but not Screaming Lord Sutch? Why is The Beatles' Come Together part of the homework for proto-rock but not Helter Skelter, especially given that there's a section on the Manson Family's murders?

In the big scheme of things, however, these are all minor quibbles. Both the heavy metal novice and the dedicated metalhead should find this book informative and entertaining because the authors communicate their knowledge and enthusiasm with a great deal of humour. The latter is apparent from the very start of the book, as it's dedicated "to the Birmingham sheet-metal machine that ripped off two of Tommy Iommi's fingers".

Heavy metal may be, as the authors claim, "antisocial and misanthropic by nature" but this book is one that anyone with any interest in heavy metal should warmly embrace.

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### **Chris Dauten says**

I really wanted to love this book but, in the end, I just liked it. Any time you attempt to plug bands into the myriad of sub-genres that have been established under the prolific "metal" umbrella, very few will agree 100% on where this or that band fits in. Honestly, the number of metal sub-genres has grown to such an idiotic number that almost any attempt at classification is, at best, a valiant effort. This book is no exception. The authors, for the most part, do a fine job of explaining the major sub-genres, a bit of their history, and some of the key players in each. I can't really argue too much with some nit-picking disagreement over where a particular band fits in, I can't excuse a few flagrant mis-steps, like including Motorhead and Judas Priest in the leading bands of the NWOBHM, when each band existed for a number of years prior to that movement. Judas Priest may have jumped on the NWOBHM bandwagon, but they were hardly pioneers. Lemmy, when asked if Motorhead was part of the NWOBHM said no, because they were around long before and never really tried to fit in to that category. Regardless, other than these, as I said, nit-picking disagreements, I found the authors' use of humor to be quite refreshing, especially considering the somber tone most books on the subject tend to adopt.

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### **Dustin says**

Well---I enjoyed this book a lot more than I thought I would. I say that mainly because I've read so many metal history and biography books over the past several years that I wasn't expecting to get a whole lot out of a general knowledge metal book geared primarily towards newcomers or those without a lot of previous knowledge of heavy metal and its many subgenres. Also, as a reader of "Rosenberg's" website for many years I've felt let down by the quality of content on that site for the past year or two—not because I disagree with his obvious politics as do most of his critics but because while I almost always agree with them I sometimes disagree with the execution or display of those politics. All of that preamble aside to say that this is a solid, on-point overview of metal today detailing entertainingly how it got here. While I didn't really learn much new I did constantly enjoy what I was reading and learn to potentially appreciate a few subgenres more than before (here's looking at you metalcore). While the authors do often state questionable opinions as

solid facts (a common habit for any book of this type) and occasionally posit a band as something many would contest (e.g. Judas Priest as NWOBHM) nothing is so glaring that it's eye-rolling (though another hand with the Black Metal chapter might have worked wonders). This is witty without being pretentious, light without being throwaway, and jam packed with lists, photos, and plenty of snark that should welcome anyone to the metal table that wants to be there. It's "anti-kvlt/trve" which I'm sure was wholly intentional. I'd hand this to anyone looking for an introduction to the complex, compelling, and head-banging world of metal. If they dug it I'd direct them next to "Louder than Hell" and "Choosing Death".

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## Wayne McCoy says

'Hellraisers: A Complete Visual History of Heavy Metal Mayhem' by Axl Rosenberg and Chris Krovatin is an irreverent journey through the different genres and evolution of heavy metal.

From the early days of proto-metal through the new wave of British heavy metal and glam metal and on in to deathcore and djent, this is a fun look at each sub-genre. I learned who listens, where the bands are generally from and who the main bands are. There are lists of songs to listen to, and pretty hilarious lists of what you should look like and wear if are into these genres. There are also shorter articles on smaller genres and things like the criminals of metal and things like drum triggers.

I haven't listened to heavy metal since the glam metal days, so I learned a lot about how things grew and changed in the music. There are lots of pictures, and tons of humor. I had a really fun time reading this!

I received a review copy of this ebook from Quarto Publishing Group and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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## Bunny says

*METAL IS FOR EVERYONE. It is a fan's record collection and tattoo choices that make him or her a poseur, not where they're from, what they look like, the god they worship, or the people they bang (or don't worship, or don't bang). Nazi punks fuck off.*

Full and complete credit to the authors of this book for finding the humor in heavy metal music. That is something severely lacking in any discussion of what I consider a beloved musical genre.

I didn't really know what to expect going into this. I've been a fan of heavy metal in one form or the other since I was a little girl in the 80's. My parents were 21 when I was born, so I listened to what they listened to growing up, plus the addition of my sister, who was four years older than me. Led Zeppelin was a constant, along with Prince and Creedence Clearwater and yes, New Kids on the Block. My music taste was handed to me and I ate it up.

I remember my sister, mother and I standing in the living room, watching the video for Welcome to the Jungle, and staring at each other like whaaaa. My first concert I remember going to was Poison, the Look What the Cat Dragged In tour, when I was around 6 years old (I fell asleep). I was too young for Iron Maiden, but Metallica was a constant.

When I was old enough to make my own choices music wise, it was still eclectic, Pantera mixed up with Garth Brooks and TLC. But there has always been something about pounding drums, heavy bass, and

screaming lyrics that soothed some savage part of my soul.

Reading this book was basically taking several long, head banging walks down memory lane. Paying homage to the blues background and working their way from Jimi Hendrix to Linkin Park, this book covers bands you've never heard of, bands you've forgotten about, one hit wonders, gods of metal, devils of metal, embarrassments of metal.

Each chapter is set up for you in a truly hilarious way, and no metal fan can be comfortable taking themselves too seriously. If you're a Megadeth fan and you're looking down on lovers of the big hair band metal fans, prepare yourselves, because you're going to get roasted, too. At the end of the chapter, there's a Starter Kit for baby metal fans, covering everything from required hair length to how many patches you'll need on your jean or leather jacket.

Seriously, you will laugh so hard working your way through this.

Not going to lie, I read this with my eyes peeled for one specific band. Sure, they disbanded 20 years ago when the bass guitarist died in a horrible unnecessary car accident. But they are major to ME, so they'd better be included. Sadly, there is only one, near throw-away reference to this band of my teenaged life, Acid Bath. But they reference Crowbar and Goatwhore, two bands former member Sammy was involved with. So. I don't have to yell.

This review is more about me than the book, you may notice. This is evidence that I really got into it, and it made me happy and nostalgic for my metal days. Such as they were.

In all seriousness, this is such a great book for anyone who has loved metal in their life. Funny, evocative, chock full of pictures, information and laughs. Thoroughly worth the read.

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## **Melissa says**

DNF

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