

[PDF] "Kiss": Behind The Mask

David Leaf, Ken Sharp - pdf download free book



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Author: David Leaf, Ken Sharp
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly With its combination of cartoonish monster-movie makeup and oversized costumes, ear-splitting amplification and gleeful songs in praise of sex, heavy metal rock legend Kiss has never been accused of not being excessive, and this book is a great example of why it is still a multimillion-dollar profit-making machine. While this book covers much of the same biographical territory as Gene Simmons's *Kiss and Make-Up* and *Kisstory* (the band's self-published 440-page coffee-table-sized tome), the authorized bio presents more than enough new material to make it essential for hardcore fans. Much of the book's first half presents a previously unpublished work based on the only in-depth interviews the band gave in 1980. The result is a remarkably humanizing

look behind the heavy metal tomfoolery, with Simmons more honestly discussing his Jewish upbringing than he does in his autobiography, and the rest of the band disarmingly admitting to borrowing from the glam-rocker New York Dolls as well as the Harlem Globetrotters. The book's second half, however, is the true highlight for Kiss fans: a comprehensive look at all of the Kiss albums ever made. Among the surprises is the praise of noted producer Eddie Kramer, a close associate of Jimi Hendrix, for the band's no-nonsense work ethic. Of note are Kiss's hilariously guileless quotes, such as the admission that another producer "made a point of trying to get us to stop writing songs about getting laid, which was valid. But he needed to understand that's all we ever did."

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From Although dedicated rock readers familiar with previous KISS tell-alls--most notably, tongue-man Gene Simmons' *Kiss and Make-Up* (2001)--may question whether there is much behind the band's kabuki-ish make-up besides being an ace gimmick, this slobbering devotional is worthwhile. For one thing, it packs all the major elements of Kisstory into one breezy package. For another, the PowerPoint-ish organization of the text facilitates easy reading. Sure, Leaf and Sharp find incredible depth and talent where others might miss it (they particularly adore the platform-booted anthem, "Rock and Roll All Nite"), but they state right up front, "nonbelievers--this book isn't for them." There are enough believers--members of the "KISS Army"--to make this surefire bait for the elusive testosterone-infused demographic. *Mike Tribby*

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