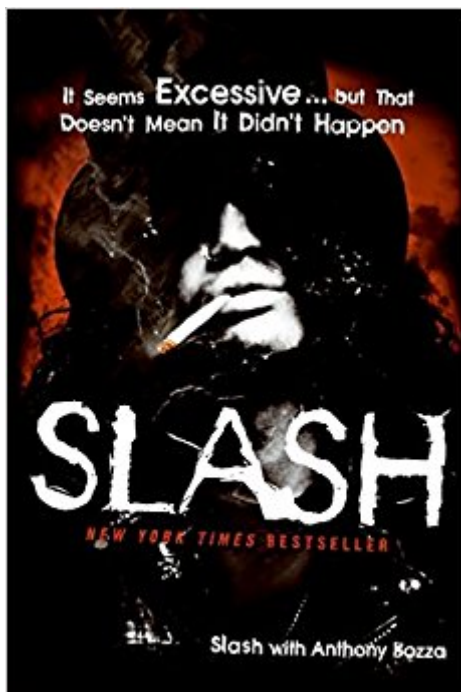


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Slash



Synopsis

From one of the greatest rock guitarists of our era comes a memoir that redefines sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. For the first time ever, Slash tells the tale that has yet to be told from the inside: how the legendary band Guns N' Roses came together, how they wrote the music that defined an era, how they survived insane, never-ending tours, how they survived themselves, and, ultimately, how it all fell apart. Slash is a window into the world of the notoriously private guitarist and a front seat on the roller-coaster ride that was one of history's greatest rock 'n' roll machines, always on the edge of self-destruction, even at the pinnacle of its success. Slash is everything Slash is: funny, honest, ingenious, inspiring, jaw-dropping . . . and, in a word, excessive.

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Customer Reviews

The story of Guns N' Roses is one of the most controversial in rock n' roll history. GNR has had a famously terse relationship with journalists and authors, and in recent years, former band members have publicly disagreed about the "real story" in the press. The band even threatened bodily harm to journalists in the lyrics of the Use Your Illusion albums! For the first time ever, someone on the inside has gone on record with to describe the genesis of the band, how they wrote and performed one of the most definitive rock albums of all time, the changes in the band's lineup, and finally, the implosion of all things GNR related. Who knew it would be the notoriously private lead guitarist, a soft-spoken man hidden behind a famous mop of hair, who would step up and tell the story? Slash's memoir is the diary of a dope fiend (released a month after the autobiography of his friend and former heroin-buddy Nikki Sixx). Well, the diary of a dope-, and women- and coke- and crack- and

alcohol-fiend. Have anything else debaucherous? The late 1980's and 1990's Slash would have tried it for sure. During one cocaine-induced hallucination of an attack by blue-gray Predator-like creatures with machine guns, Slash punched out his glass shower door and ran naked into the streets in terror. The incident got Slash into rehab, but no sooner than his limo driver picked up the "cured" ax man, he was downing half a liter of vodka in the backseat. What doesn't Slash want to talk about? Well, don't bother asking if GNR is getting back together (I'm not even going to acknowledge the current faux-lineup). Slash says it won't happen, ever. The ten-years-delayed release of Axl's Chinese Democracy album? Slash gets asked that question in every interview, and he leaves it out of his memoir.

I could not resist this book. I can't believe I dropped the cash, but I did, and then spent all day today reading it. I just finished it. First, a short history of my fandom--I was a GnR fan when I was a very young teenager, I lived for their videos coming up on MTV, I bought Rip magazine, I saw them at the LA coliseum with my parents. Even though I came from a hippie artsy background, something about them hooked me and I became a slutty wannabe rocker chick at 13. I still think they're awesome musically. OK so my review--a fun read. Full of crazy details about partying, debauchery, excess. Pretty much every detail of GnR's formation, life, and dissolution. Slash's voice is pretty brash and honest. I trusted him, I trusted that he was always telling his truth and trying to be objective, and he's pretty careful about not trying to paint W. Axl like an as***le, and even praising him quite a bit. I skimmed some parts at the end because I don't care that much about all the various boys and the details of their beefs, and Velvet Revolver is not interesting to me. I would have liked more personal stuff, more stuff about sex and romance and artistic inspiration and less about this and that manager. My main criticism is extremely lazy editing. I am not nitpicky about this stuff, but I swear man, there were some retarded sentences in this book, and a bunch of typos and inconsistencies, as well as structural issues. I was like, could they not pay someone an extra \$100 to do a final proofread? For god's sake, when I pay \$30 for a book I expect it to be coherent. I know, it's not fine literature, but sheesh.

If you dig reading about rock 'n' roll excess and the Guns n' Roses years as they really happened, then you won't be able to put this book down. While I read "Slash," I couldn't help but compare his exploits to Anthony Kiedis's in the book Scar Tissue. Kiedis probably has Slash beat in the debauchery department -- but only just slightly. As advertised, Slash's tales of excessive drugs, drinking, sexual conquests and all-around craziness are shared in the book big-time. What starts as

a tale of a sweet but troubled young kid turns into a monstrous, muddled life of dangerous drug use and plans gone awry. What's interesting is that the tone and writing style of the book is actually quite close to Kiedis's. And of course the tales Slash tells are the stuff of rock 'n' roll legend, either a total cliché or riveting reading, depending on your point of view. Guns n' Roses deserved someone who could tell the band's story as it truly happened, and who better to do that than Slash or one of the guys in the band? Save for Axl Rose, whose words one might not be able to fully trust (especially as the band evolved), the rest of G n' R were pretty down-to-earth fellows who just loved recording and playing music -- when they could stay sober and on top of things. For me, it was very interesting reading about original Guns drummer Steven Adler, whose major drug problem over the years has been worse than even Slash's (that's saying a lot). Adler was a happy-go-lucky guy who just couldn't control his habit for a long time, and sadly, the band was probably right to kick him out.

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